
Subject: IDL_STRING.split vs strsplit
Posted by [trishb](#) on Mon, 02 Oct 2017 10:11:43 GMT
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Hi everyone,

I have the following string

```
mystring = "MY.NESTED.FILENAME.ARGH"
```

What I want to do is split the string into substrings with the dot as the dividing character. Two methods are available but only one delivers:

This works:

```
IDL> out = strsplit(mystring,'./extract)
IDL> help,out
OUT      STRING   = Array[4]
IDL> print,out
MY NESTED FILENAME ARGH
```

This doesn't:

```
IDL> out = mystring.split('.')
IDL> help,out
OUT      STRING   = Array[24]
IDL> print,out
```

Any clue as to why the second one behaves that way? Note that this only happens with the dot, so I must be missing something fundamental.

Thanks,
F.

Subject: Re: IDL_STRING.split vs strsplit
Posted by [Burch](#) on Mon, 02 Oct 2017 12:14:37 GMT
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On Monday, October 2, 2017 at 5:11:45 AM UTC-5, trishb wrote:

```
> Hi everyone,
>
> I have the following string
>
> mystring = "MY.NESTED.FILENAME.ARGH"
```

```

>
> What I want to do is split the string into substrings with the dot as the dividing character. Two
methods are available but only one delivers:
>
> This works:
>
> IDL> out = strsplit(mystring, '.', /extract)
> IDL> help, out
> OUT          STRING   = Array[4]
> IDL> print, out
> MY NESTED FILENAME ARGH
>
>
> This doesn't:
>
> IDL> out = mystring.split('.')
> IDL> help, out
> OUT          STRING   = Array[24]
> IDL> print, out
>
>
> Any clue as to why the second one behaves that way? Note that this only happens with the dot,
so I must be missing something fundamental.
>
> Thanks,
> F.

```

Unlike STRSPLIT() the SPLIT method requires the argument to be in the format of a regular expression. Try this instead:

```

IDL> out = mystring.split('\.')
IDL> help, out
OUT          STRING   = Array[4]
IDL> print, out
MY NESTED FILENAME ARGH

```

More on regular expressions: https://www.harrisgeospatial.com/docs/learning_about_regular_e.html

-Jeff

Subject: Re: IDL_STRING.split vs strsplit
 Posted by [trishb](#) on Mon, 02 Oct 2017 20:05:25 GMT
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Thanks for the swift reply and explanation, Jeff. Much appreciated.
