

# Prepare a python string for R using rpy2

Asked 4 years, 3 months ago   Active 4 years, 3 months ago   Viewed 707 times



This question relates to [python variable to R](#) and perhaps also to this [python objects to rpy2](#) but none of the two completely overlaps and the first one is actually unanswered.



My question is actually very simple. I have a string, say:



```
In [21]: strg
Out[21]: 'I want to go home'
```



and I want to pass it to R through `robjects.r(''')` like this, for example:

```
robjects.r(''')
test <- gsub("to", "",strg)
''')
```

but of course, when I run this I obtain: `Error in gsub("me", "", strg) : object 'strg' not found .`

I have not used `rpy2` much (as obvious) but I guess is related to the environments in which R and Python see the objects.

I have tried a few things, like transforming the string `strg` to an `object` first and then feed it to `robjects.r(''')` but I get the same error message. Overall, I do not know how do this so that `strg` is seen at the `R` environment.

Any help is much appreciated!

Thanks in advance for your time!

[python](#) [r](#) [string](#) [rpy2](#)

edited May 23 '17 at 12:14



1 1

asked Jun 10 '15 at 11:25



Javier

730 1 13 38

## 2 Answers



Just add the `strg` value to the command string:



```
robjects.r(''')
test <- gsub("to", "",'''+ strg + ''')
''')
```



or, by using `.format` :

```
robjects.r(''')
test <- gsub("to", "",%s)
''.format(strg))
```

Do note that you'll need to watch out for backslashes, see the question [here](#)

edited May 23 '17 at 11:58



1 1

answered Jun 10 '15 at 11:33



hajtos

433 2 5

Hi there hajtos. the two of them throw a parsing error: `ValueError: Error while parsing the string. The first at the last line ----> 5 ''')` coming from `--> 310 p = rinterface.parse(string)` and the second also at the last line: `----> 5 ''.format(strg))` coming again from the same function `--> 310 p = rinterface.parse(string)` at `def __call__(self, string):` — [Javier](#) Jun 10 '15 at 11:45

Hi hajtos, I found the reason of the error, which is the **quotes needed for the R expression to work**. so I simply have to define `strg = "I want to go home"` and it worked. THANKS! — [Javier](#) Jun 10 '15 at 11:58



I'd recommend you to create an function, as the R function exposed by `rpy2` can be called just as if it was a Python function.



```
my_func = robjects.r(''')
function(strg) {
  test <- gsub("to", "",strg)
  test
}
''')

my_func(strg)
```

answered Jun 12 '15 at 21:52



lgautier

9,284 21 39