


[Join Now](#) >

Board ▾

[Search](#)[Find a Community](#)[Home](#) / [SAS Programming](#) / [General Programming](#) / Difference between strip, compress and trim

## Difference between strip, compress and trim SOLVED

[Reply](#)[Topic Options](#)[« Message Listing](#) [« Previous Topic](#) [Next Topic »](#)

 pooja215  
New Contributor



Posts: 4

### Difference between strip, compress and trim


01-09-2017 03:49 AM

Hi ,

Could you tell me which function i cannot use for removing leading and trailing spaces from a character text.?

Regards,  
Pooja.Message 1 of 10  
(130,312 Views)

0 Likes

 This topic is **solved** and locked.Need further help from the community? Please [ask a new question](#).

### Recommended by SAS

- ★ [Statistical Programming in for Clinical Trials](#)
- ★ [Example which uses ODS create SUGI paper?](#)
- ★ [Using SAS beyond safety : efficacy reporting](#)
- ★ [how can I specify text to display during the page load?](#)
- ★ [Listing output lines longer than 256 characters?](#)

These recommendations are generated [using AI from SAS](#). For a personalized recommendation, [log in with your SAS profile](#).

### Accepted Solutions

#### SOLUTION


06-27-2017 08:34 AM

 Shmuel  
Respected Advisor



Posts: 2,317

#### Re: Difference between strip, compress and trim [ Edited ]

[Posted in reply to pooja215](#)01-09-2017 04:16 AM - last edited on 06-27-2017 08:34 AM by  ChrisHemedinger






Run next code and learn the result of each function:

```
data _null_;
  length text $15;
  format text $char15.;
  text = '  ab  cde f  ';
  trim = '*'||trim(text)||'*';
  compress = '*'||compress(text)||'*';
  strip = '*'||strip(text)||'*';
  put trim= ;
  put compress= ;
  put strip= ;
run;
```

Here's the output:

Spoiler

### Related topics

-  [Difference between NODUPKEY and NODUPREC](#)
-  [Differences between trim and strip](#)
-  [3 steps to building a model temperature strip plot](#)
-  [Get the character from mix of symbols using COMP](#)
-  [Compress or Strip](#)

### Discussion stats

9 replies

01-09-2017 03:49 AM

130313 views

See also the doc:

Go to [SAS Functions - General SAS Programming](#)

- [TRIM function](#) - removes all *trailing* blanks
- [COMPRESS function](#) - removes **all** blanks (by default - specify options to remove other chars)

*Editor's note: modified this reply to include helpful info from [@RW9](#) and others.*

[View solution in original post](#)

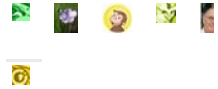
Message 5 of 10  
(177,813 Views)

12 Likes

15 likes

[Register](#) [Sign In](#)

6 in conversation



## All Replies



**LinusH**

Esteemed Advisor



Posts: 6,208

### Re: Difference between strip, compress and trim

[Posted in reply to pooja215](#)

01-09-2017 03:53 AM

The documentation is quite clear IMO. What is your doubt?

This can be quite easily tested by using hard coded string in a data step, with comparisons/putting using \$HEX. format.

Data never sleeps

Message 2 of 10  
(130,309 Views)

1 Like



**pooja215**

New Contributor



Posts: 4

### Re: Difference between strip, compress and trim

[Posted in reply to LinusH](#)

01-09-2017 03:58 AM

Thanks for such an early response!

Which of the following cannot be used to "just" remove the leading and trailing spaces from character data?

\* Strip

\* Compress

\* Trim

Regards,

Pooja.

Message 3 of 10  
(130,304 Views)

0 Likes



**draycut**

Super User



Posts: 3,773

### Re: Difference between strip, compress and trim

[Posted in reply to pooja215](#)

01-09-2017 04:12 AM

```
data test;
  string = '  AB C D  ';

  strip_var   = strip(string);
  compress_var = compress(string);
  trim_var    = trim(string);
run;
```

Message 4 of 10  
(130,302 Views)

1 Like

**Shmuel**

Respected Advisor



Posts: 2,317

**Re: Difference between strip, compress and trim [ Edited ]**[Posted in reply to pooja215](#)01-09-2017 04:16 AM - last edited on 06-27-2017 08:34 AM by **ChrisHemedinger**

Run next code and learn the result of each function:

```
data _null_;
  length text $15;
  format text $char15.;
  text = '  ab  cde f  ';
  trim = '*'||trim(text)||'*';
  compress = '*'||compress(text)||'*';
  strip = '*'||strip(text)||'*';
  put trim= ;
  put compress= ;
  put strip=;
run;
```

Here's the output:

Spoiler

See also the doc:

- [STRIP function](#) - removes all *leading* and *trailing* blanks
- [TRIM function](#) - removes all *trailing* blanks
- [COMPRESS function](#) - removes **all** blanks (by default - specify options to remove other chars)

*Editor's note: modified this reply to include helpful info from @RW9 and others.*Message 5 of 10  
(177,814 Views)

12 Likes

**pooja215**

New Contributor



Posts: 4

**Re: Difference between strip, compress and trim**[Posted in reply to Shmuel](#)

01-09-2017 04:31 AM

Thanks it really helped!!

Message 6 of 10  
(130,297 Views)

0 Likes

**Patrick**

Esteemed Advisor



Posts: 6,215

**Re: Difference between strip, compress and trim**[Posted in reply to pooja215](#)

01-09-2017 05:37 AM

[@pooja215](#)

I guess this was in interview question. So now with all the information you've got, what would be your answer and why?

Message 7 of 10  
(130,286 Views)

0 Likes

**pooja215**

New Contributor



Posts: 4



**Re: Difference between strip, compress and trim**[Posted in reply to Patrick](#)

01-09-2017 05:43 AM

It wasn't an interview question. I got the information about trim, strip and compress in more detail.  
The answer to my question was to use compress() to remove trailing space from my text.  
Regards,  
Pooja.

Message 8 of 10  
(130,285 Views)

0 Likes

 **Patrick**  
Esteemed Advisor  
  
Posts: 6,215

#### Re: Difference between strip, compress and trim



*Posted in reply to pooja215*  
01-09-2017 05:53 AM

If you're using the question as you've formulated it the 2nd time "*Which of the following cannot be used to "just" remove the leading and trailing spaces from character data?*" then also compress() couldn't get used as it removes ALL blanks and not only the leading and trailing ones.

The two ways that's normally done:  
strip(<string>)  
trim(left(<string>))

Message 9 of 10  
(130,284 Views)

0 Likes

 **RW9**  
Grand Advisor  
  
Posts: 11,173

#### Re: Difference between strip, compress and trim

*Posted in reply to pooja215*  
01-09-2017 04:52 AM

And what does the manual say? This is not a "question" as such, but asking someone to repeat what is clearly written in the manual. I will paste them below for you:

Strip:

<http://support.sas.com/documentation/cdl/en/lrdict/64316/HTML/default/viewer.htm#a002295689.htm>

Trim:

<http://support.sas.com/documentation/cdl/en/lrdict/64316/HTML/default/viewer.htm#a000212226.htm>

Compress:

<http://support.sas.com/documentation/cdl/en/lrdict/64316/HTML/default/viewer.htm#a000212246.htm>

Each page actually gives you examples of the use of each of them. And links to other string compress/stripping functions which may be of use.

Message 10 of 10  
(130,290 Views)

1 Like