



DEQUOTE ME ON THAT

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John Hendrickx
Danone Nutricia Research

**NUTRICIA
RESEARCH**



INTRODUCTION

No need for macro quoting in macro calls

Use quotation marks

Use dequote in the macro

EXAMPLE

Patterson and
Remigio
(2007)

Original

Problem

```
%Ex_3(%NRQUOTE(Rice & Beans));
```

Modified

Solution

```
%Ex_3a('Rice & Beans');
```

Alternative

DEQUOTE IN MACROS

Original

```
%MACRO Ex_3 (Food) ;  
    %IF (&Food EQ %NRSTR(Rice & Beans)) %THEN  
        %PUT Try the House Special - &Food;  
    %ELSE %PUT &Food - a tasty snack!;  
%MEND Ex_3;
```

Modified

```
%MACRO Ex_3a (Food) ;  
    %IF (%qsysfunc(dequote(&Food)) EQ %NRSTR(Rice & Beans)) %THEN  
        %PUT Try the House Special - %qsysfunc(dequote(&Food)) ;  
    %ELSE %PUT %qsysfunc(dequote(&Food)) - a tasty snack!;  
%MEND ;
```

SPECIAL CHARACTERS

Mask special characters

- `& % ' " ( ) - * / < > = ~ ^ ~ ; , # blank`
- `AND OR NOT EQ NE LE LT GE GT IN`

Several macro quoting functions

- `%str, %nrstr, %quote, %nrquote, %bquote, %nrquote, %superq`

Usage depends on

- Balanced quotation marks?
- Compile time or execution time?
- Expand macro variables

DEQUOTE FUNCTION

Data step function

Removes quotation marks from a string

Use with %sysfunc in macros

Also masks special characters

Standard SAS syntax rules apply to use of quotation marks

- Single or double quotes allowed
- For embedded quotes, use two consecutive quotation marks
- Use double quotation marks to expand macro variables
- Use single quotation marks to prevent expansion

CONCLUSION

Macro users shouldn't have to use macro quoting

Quotation marks can mask special characters

Leverage knowledge of quotation marks in titles, footnotes

Easier to explain

Easier to read

Easier to use

Questions?
Comments?