

st_dir() — Obtain list of Stata objects
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Syntax

string colvector `st_dir(cat, subcat, pattern)`

string colvector `st_dir(cat, subcat, pattern, adorn)`

where

cat: *string scalar* containing "local", "global", "r()", "e()", "s()", or "char"

subcat: *string scalar* containing "macro", "numscalar", "strscalar", "matrix", or, if *cat*=="char", "_dta" or a name.

pattern: *string scalar* containing a pattern as defined in [M-5] [strmatch\(\)](#)

adorn: *string scalar* containing 0 or non-0

The valid *cat*–*subcat* combinations and their meanings are

<i>cat</i>	<i>subcat</i>	Meaning
"local"	"macro"	Stata's local macros
"global"	"macro"	Stata's global macros
"global"	"numscalar"	Stata's numeric scalars
"global"	"strscalar"	Stata's string scalars
"global"	"matrix"	Stata's matrices
"r()"	"macro"	macros in r()
"r()"	"numscalar"	numeric scalars in r()
"r()"	"matrix"	matrices in r()
"e()"	"macro"	macros in e()
"e()"	"numscalar"	numeric scalars in e()
"e()"	"matrix"	matrices in e()
"s()"	"macro"	macros in s()
"char"	"_dta"	characteristics in _dta[]
"char"	"name"	characteristics in variable <i>name</i> []

`st_dir()` returns an empty list if an invalid *cat*–*subcat* combination is specified.

Description

`st_dir(cat, subcat, pattern)` and `st_dir(cat, subcat, pattern, adorn)` return a column vector containing the names matching *pattern* of the Stata objects described by *cat*–*subcat*.

Argument *adorn* is optional; not specifying it is equivalent to specifying *adorn* = 0. By default, simple names are returned. If *adorn* ≠ 0 is specified, the name is adorned in the standard Stata way used to describe the object. Say that one is listing the macros in `e()` and one of the elements is `e(cmd)`. By default, the returned vector will contain an element equal to "cmd". With *adorn* ≠ 0, the element will be "e(cmd)".

For many objects, the adorned and unadorned forms of the names are the same.

Conformability

```
st_dir(cat, subcat, pattern, adorn):  
    cat:      1 × 1  
    subcat:   1 × 1  
    pattern:  1 × 1  
    adorn:    1 × 1 (optional)  
    result:   k × 1
```

Diagnostics

`st_dir(cat, subcat, pattern)` and `st_dir(cat, subcat, pattern, adorn)` abort with error if *cat* or *subcat* is invalid. If the combination is invalid, however, `J(0,1,"")` is returned. *subcat*==*name* is considered invalid unless *cat*=="char".

`st_dir()` aborts with error if any of its arguments are views.

Also see

[M-4] [stata](#) — Stata interface functions