strlen( ) — Length of string

Syntax

real matrix strlen(string matrix s)

Description

strlen(s) returns the length of—the number of characters contained in—the string s.

When s is not a scalar, strlen() returns element-by-element results.

Remarks and examples

Stata understands strlen() as a synonym for its own length() function, so you can use the function named strlen() in both your Stata and Mata code. Do not, however, use length() in Mata when you mean strlen(). Mata’s length() function returns the length (number of elements) of a vector.

Conformability

strlen(s):

\[
\begin{align*}
\text{s:} & \quad r \times c \\
\text{result:} & \quad r \times c
\end{align*}
\]

Diagnostics

strlen(s), when s is a binary string (a string containing binary 0), returns the overall length of the string, not the location of the binary 0. Use strpos(s, char(0)) if you want the location of the binary 0; see [M-5] strpos().

Also see

[M-5] strpos() — Find substring in string

[M-5] fmtwidth() — Width of %fmt

[M-4] string — String manipulation functions