

**st\_dir()** — Obtain list of Stata objects
[Description](#)[Syntax](#)[Conformability](#)[Diagnostics](#)[Also see](#)

## 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.

## 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 <code>r()</code>
"r()"	"numscalar"	numeric scalars in <code>r()</code>
"r()"	"matrix"	matrices in <code>r()</code>
"e()"	"macro"	macros in <code>e()</code>
"e()"	"numscalar"	numeric scalars in <code>e()</code>
"e()"	"matrix"	matrices in <code>e()</code>
"s()"	"macro"	macros in <code>s()</code>
"char"	"_dta"	characteristics in <code>_dta[]</code>
"char"	"name"	characteristics in variable <code>name[]</code>

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

## Conformability

`st_dir(cat, subcat, pattern, adorn):`

<i>cat</i> :	$1 \times 1$	
<i>subcat</i> :	$1 \times 1$	
<i>pattern</i> :	$1 \times 1$	
<i>adorn</i> :	$1 \times 1$	(optional)
<i>result</i> :	$k \times 1$	

## 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