

## Description

`direxternal(pattern)` returns a column vector containing the names matching *pattern* of the existing external globals. `direxternal()` returns `J(0,1,"")` if there are no such globals.

*pattern* is interpreted by [\[M-5\] strmatch\(\)](#).

## Syntax

*string colvector*   `direxternal(string scalar pattern)`

## Remarks and examples

See [\[M-5\] findexternal\(\)](#) for the definition of a global.

A list of all globals can be obtained by `direxternal("*")`.

## Conformability

`direxternal(pattern)`:

*pattern*:         $1 \times 1$

*result*:         $n \times 1$

## Diagnostics

`direxternal(pattern)` returns `J(0,1,"")` when there are no globals matching *pattern*.

## Also see

[\[M-5\] findexternal\(\)](#) — Find, create, and remove external globals

[\[M-4\] Programming](#) — Programming functions

Stata, Stata Press, and Mata are registered trademarks of StataCorp LLC. Stata and Stata Press are registered trademarks with the World Intellectual Property Organization of the United Nations. StataNow and NetCourseNow are trademarks of StataCorp LLC. Other brand and product names are registered trademarks or trademarks of their respective companies. Copyright © 1985–2025 StataCorp LLC, College Station, TX, USA. All rights reserved.

For suggested citations, see the FAQ on [citing Stata documentation](#).

