

## Description

`findfile(fn, dirlist)` looks for file *fn* along the semicolon-separated list of directories *dirlist* and returns the fully qualified path and filename if *fn* is found. `findfile()` returns "" if the file is not found.

`findfile(fn)` is equivalent to `findfile(fn, c("adopath"))`. `findfile()` with one argument looks along the official Stata ado-path for file *fn*.

## Syntax

```
string scalar findfile(string scalar fn, string scalar dirlist)
```

```
string scalar findfile(string scalar fn)
```

## Remarks and examples

For instance,

```
findfile("kappa.ado")
```

might return C:\Program Files\Stata19\ado\base\k\kappa.ado.

## Conformability

```
findfile(fn, dirlist):
```

```
fn:      1 × 1
dirlist: 1 × 1 (optional)
result:  1 × 1
```

## Diagnostics

`findfile(fn, dirlist)` and `findfile(fn)` return "" if the file is not found. If the file is found, the returned fully qualified path and filename is guaranteed to exist and be readable at the instant `findfile()` concluded.

## Also see

### [M-4] **IO** — I/O 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](#).

