

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> : | 1×1 | |
| <i>subcat</i> : | 1×1 | |
| <i>pattern</i> : | 1×1 | |
| <i>adorn</i> : | 1×1 | (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