

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 <i>name</i>

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

Conformability

`st_dir(cat, subcat, pattern, adorn):`
cat: 1 × 1
subcat: 1 × 1
pattern: 1 × 1
adorn: 1 × 1 (optional)
result: *k* × 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
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