strlen() — Length of string in bytes

Description

strlen(s) returns the length of—the number of bytes contained in—the string s.

When s is not a scalar, strlen() returns element-by-element results.

Syntax

real matrix strlen(string matrix s)

Remarks and examples

Stata understands length() as a synonym for its strlen() function. Do not, however, use length() in Mata when you mean strlen(). Mata’s length() function returns the length (number of elements) of a vector.

Use ustrlen() to obtain the length of a string in Unicode characters. Use udstrlen() to obtain the length of a string in display columns.

Conformability

strlen(s):

\[
\begin{align*}
  s: & \quad r \times c \\
  \text{result:} & \quad r \times c
\end{align*}
\]

Diagnostics

strlen(s), when s is a binary string (a string containing binary 0), returns the overall length of the string, not the location of the binary 0. Use strpos(s, char(0)) if you want the location of the binary 0; see [M-5] strpos().

Also see

[M-5] fmtwidth() — Width of %fmt
[M-5] strpos() — Find substring in string
[M-5] udstrlen() — Length of Unicode string in display columns
[M-5] ustrlen() — Length of Unicode string in Unicode characters
[M-4] String — String manipulation functions