
Subject: David: for your book ?

Posted by [Martin Schultz](#) on Tue, 15 Aug 2000 07:00:00 GMT

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Hi,

Testing IDL's capabilities is always dangerous: you might get more than you ask for!

What would you expect to get out of the following:

```
test = [ 'dir1/', 'directory2/', 'another_directory/' ]
print, strmid(test, 0, strlen(test)-1)
```

??

Well, I at least had expected to get the directory names without the trailing '/'.

But, no!

```
help, strmid(test, 0, strlen(test)-1)
reveals that the result is a 3x3 array!! To print it nicely, use a
format statement:
print, strmid(test, 0, strlen(test)-1), format='(3( ">", A, "< "), /)'
```

So, to achieve what I had in mind I either have to loop or extract the matrix diagonale!

Does this make any sense, or is IDL simply overachieving here?

Cheers,
Martin

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```
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