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Subject: Re: Selecting odd/even numbered files

Posted by [David Fanning](#) on Wed, 03 Apr 2002 20:06:14 GMT

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Wayne Landsman (landsman@mpb.gsfc.nasa.gov) writes:

```
> A minor footnote to the little program: In IDL V5.3 or later, the 5 lines
>
> numbers = IntArr(N_Elements(files))
> FOR j=0,N_Elements(files)-1 DO BEGIN
>   stringpart = StrMid(files[j], 5, 3)
>   numbers[j] = Fix(stringpart)
> ENDFOR
>
> can be replaced by the single vectorized line:
>
> numbers = fix(strmid(files,5,3))
```

Humm. That is what I wrote originally, but I kept getting the wrong thing. I had already wasted too much time on this, so I didn't follow up to see *\*why\** it didn't work. I was expecting an array of 4 elements, and the numbers kept coming out as 4x4 arrays. :-(

Of course, now I substitute this in my code and it works perfectly. :-(

I think what I was doing in my original code (before I cleaned it up to send to the newsgroup, and yes I *\*know\** I could have cleaned it up even more) was trying to make it even more general. I had something like this:

```
slen = StrLen(files)

IF Keyword_Set(even) THEN BEGIN
  numbers = fix(strmid(files,slen-5,3))
  index = Where(numbers MOD 2 EQ 0, count)
  IF count GT 0 THEN RETURN, files[index] ELSE RETURN, ""
ENDIF
```

where I was trying to use the slen array to select a different length for each possible filename (assuming they weren't all the same length, but that they all had 3 character extensions). In that case, the numbers variable kept coming out as a 4x4 element array, rather than the expected 4-element array.

So, although these things have been made *\*slightly\**

more vectorizable (is that a word?), they are not  
totally there yet.

Cheers,

David

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