Sheldon writes:

> One more question David,
>
> My goal was to take the name of a file that may have varying lengths

I don't understand the question, sorry. :-(

Maybe you want something like FSC_BASE_FILENAME, which
can parse a filename into the base name, the directory,
and its file extension:

```
  IDL> file = 'some_ordinaryfile.h5'
  IDL> name = FSC_Base_Filename(file, Directory=d, Extension=e)
  IDL> Print, e
      h5
  IDL> file = 'some_ordinaryfile.hdf'
  IDL> name = FSC_Base_Filename(file, Directory=d, Extension=e)
  IDL> Print, e
      hdf
```

You can find it here.

  http://www.dfanning.com/programs/fsc_base_filename.pro

Cheers,

David

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Coyote's Guide to IDL Programming: http://www.dfanning.com/