Subject: Dealing with list created by STRSPLIT?
Posted by BLesht on Fri, 20 May 2011 02:44:42 GMT

I have an array of full-path filenames from which I need to extract some substrings. The array consists of a large number of strings of the form

diskname/maindir/subdir1/subdir2/subdir3/filename
diskname/maindir/subidr1/subdir2/subdir3/filename etc.

The lengths of the subdirXs can be different. What I wanted to do was create some arrays the elements of which would be the subdirXs. I thought this would be simple now that STRSPLIT allows arrays as input. I had the array of n filenames in a string array and I used

splitnames = STRSPLIT(filenames, '/', /EXTRACT).

The result 'splitnames' is a list with n elements and each element is of the form

diskname maindir subdir1 subdir2 subdir3 filename as it should be. Each element is a string array.

What I can't seem to figure out is how to now extract one of these terms from the list element. That is, I'd like to end up with arrays that have the n subdir2s (for example). I've tried using the LIST::TOARRAY () feature but this fails for some mysterious reason with the message

IDL> namearray=splitnames.ToArray()
% LIST::TOARRAY: Unable to convert to type STRING: Element 798
% Error occurred at: LIST::TOARRAY
% $MAIN$
% Execution halted at: $MAIN$

Element 798 is no different from any of the elements in the list, by the way, but this is not the real problem (at least I don't think it is)

There must be an easy way to do this; I'm not seeing it. Any help would be much appreciated.