
Subject: Vectorized STRMID (was Re: Selecting odd/even numbered files)

Posted by [Wayne Landsman](#) on Wed, 03 Apr 2002 20:37:28 GMT

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David Fanning wrote

> 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.

To extract the last 3 characters of a string array with arbitrary
(non-identical) lengths, I'd use the
reverse_offset keyword and count from the end.

```
numbers = fix(strmid(files,2,3,/reverse))
```

The reason you were getting 4x4 output arrays is that the vectorized STRMID is
sometimes **too** powerful -- it can both extract many substrings from a single
string, and extract substrings from many strings. Therefore, the position
parameter has to be REFORMed into a 2-d array. So to do the vectorized
extraction without the /reverse keyword...

```
n = N_elements(files)  
len = reform( strlen(files), 1, n)  
numbers = fix( strmid( files, len-3, 3))
```

Cheers, --Wayne
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