

## Chapter IV-7 — Programming Techniques

```
DoLineFit("wave0;wave1;")
```

For most purposes, it is better to design the function to take wave reference parameters rather than a string list.

### Operating on Qualified Waves

This example illustrates how to operate on waves that match a certain criterion. It is broken into two functions - one that creates the list of qualified waves and a second that operates on them. This organization gives us a general purpose routine (ListOfMatrices) that we would not have if we wrote the whole thing as one function.

```
Function/S ListOfMatrices()
    String list = ""
    Variable index=0
    do
        WAVE/Z w=WaveRefIndexedDFR(:,index)    // Get next wave.
        if (WaveExists(w) == 0)
            break                               // No more waves.
        endif
        if (WaveDims(w) == 2)
            // Found matrix. Add to list with separator.
            list += NameOfWave(w) + ";"
        endif
        index += 1
    while(1)                                     // Loop till break above.
    return list
End

Function ChooseAndDisplayMatrix()
    String theList = ListOfMatrices()

    String theMatrix
    Prompt theMatrix, "Matrix to display:", popup theList
    DoPrompt "Display Matrix", theMatrix
    if (V_Flag != 0)
        return -1
    endif

    WAVE m = $theMatrix
    NewImage m
End
```

In the preceding example, we needed a list of wave names in a string to use in a Prompt statement. More often we want a list of wave references on which to operate. The next example illustrates how to do this using a general purpose routine that returns a list of wave references in a free wave:

```
// Returns a free wave containing wave references
// for each 2D wave in the current data folder
Function/WAVE GetMatrixWavesInCDF()
    Variable numWavesInCDF = CountObjects(":", 1)
    Make/FREE/WAVE/N=(numWavesInCDF) list

    Variable numMatrixWaves = 0
    Variable i
    for(i=0; i<numWavesInCDF; i+=1)
        WAVE w = WaveRefIndexedDFR(:,i)
        Variable numDimensions = WaveDims(w)
        if (numDimensions == 2)
            list[numMatrixWaves] = w
            numMatrixWaves += 1
        endif
    endfor
    return list
End
```