

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
```