

**NAME**

ppmdotsiz - return the size of mdot and field buffer

**SYNOPSIS**

```
#include <ppsubs.h> /* pattern definitions and struct */
int pperrno; /* error type external */

unsigned ppmdotsiz(headptr)
struct PPHEAD *headptr;
```

**DESCRIPTION**

**ppmdotsiz(3L)** returns the size of the buffer (in bytes) required to store the pointers which are saved by the **mdot**, **deffld**, **startfld** and **endfld** built-in patterns which are included in the pattern whose header is pointed to by **headptr**. If **ppmdotsiz** return a **NULL** and **pperrno == NULL**, then the pattern does not need a buffer because no **mdot**, **deffld**, **startfld** or **endfld** built-in patterns were used. This is the only case where a **NULL** return value indicates a normal (no-error) termination.

**Ppsmdot(3L)** is used to tell the pattern matcher (**ppmatch(3L)**) the location of the buffer to be used to store the pointer values which are set by the **mdot**, **deffld**, **startfld** and **endfld** built-in patterns. If **ppsmdot** is never called or if the value of the **ppsmdot** argument is '(int \*) 0', then **mdot**, **deffld**, **startfld** and **endfld** primitives are ignored by the matcher.

**Ppgmdot(3L)** will return the address of the buffer (which was set by the last **ppsmdot**). If **ppsmdot** had not been called prior to **ppgmdot**, then **ppgmdot** will return a zero.

**SEE ALSO**

ppmatch(3L), ppsmdot(3L), ppgmdot(3L), pattern(5L)

**DIAGNOSTICS**

When an error occurs in **ppmdotsiz**, it will return a **NULL** value and will set **pperrno** to one of the following values:

- NULL** - As mentioned above, **NO ERROR EXISTS** a buffer is not needed because the pattern contains no **startfld**, **endfld** or **mdot** built-in patterns.
- PPBADPAT** - The pattern header has erroneous information in it (i.e., the pattern header is not a pattern header or has been scribbled or altered).
- PPNOMDOT** - This error occurs when the pattern format is not standard. Only standard format type patterns have the maximum **mdot** information.

**BUGS**

**Ppmdotsiz()** may return an erroneous (too small) value if one or more number variables are used in startfld, endfld, deffld or mdot built-in patterns. Ppmdotsiz() uses only built-in patterns without number variables when it determines the size of the buffer. This is normally not a problem because ppmatch(3L) and match(3L) will have many other problems if a variable pattern is used. They use only non-variable patterns (which includes variable patterns which have been compiled using specified arguments and default values into a non-variable pattern).