Stata Instruction for the Empirical Sequence

Week 1

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September 8, 2019
The Stata user interface

Five main windows: Review, Results, Command, Variables, Properties
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- Right-clicking to find more options: copy, select,...
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Open/close main windows: Review, Results, Command, Variables, Properties
Command Window, Result Window, Review Window

- Command Window: Page up; Page Down; tab
- Result Window:
  - How to search in results: Edit → find;
  - Clear the result window: right click → clear results [not undoable]
- Review window:
  - Display successful result in black and unsuccessful result in red;
  - Filter button;
  - Single click on a previous command (move to Command);
  - double click on a previous command (run again);
  - Right clicking in the review gives more options: Cut, Copy, Delete...
Variable Window

Variable Window:

Enter: use https://www3.nd.edu/~rwilliam/statafiles/reg01.dta, clear
Variable Window

- Choose what to display by left clicking the row;
- Double Left Click to select the variable
- right click to find keep; drop options
- Filter field
- Click any column header will change the display order but not the order of the variables in the data set
Properties Window

- If multiple variables are selected, common properties displayed;
- Lock sign: Ability to alter properties of the selected variable
- Arrow sign
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Working directory

- Current Working Directory, where graphs and data set will be saved when typing "save ..."
- Command: `cd NEW DIRECTORY`
Fine control

Drag the title bars of windows to reposition them
Example: auto.dta

open auto.dta
sysuse auto

Try commands:
summarize
summarize mpg
summarize mpg weight
summarize if mpg > 20
summarize mpg weight if mpg > 20
describe
notes
browse
browse if missing(rep78)
Basics of STATA—An example

- Example: auto.dta
- open auto.dta
  ```
  sysuse auto
  ```
- Try commands:
- viewing a subset of the data:
  ```
  list make if missing(rep78)
  ```
Example: auto.dta

open auto.dta

\texttt{sysuse auto}

Try commands:

viewing a subset of the data:

\texttt{list make if missing(rep78)}

try menu option: Data $\rightarrow$ Describe data $\rightarrow$ list data $\rightarrow$ use main and by/if/in tabs $\rightarrow$ use submit to try out different restrictions with the dialogue window open

storage types: string(text), numeric

. default numerical missing value
Basics of STATA

Two general kinds of operations: menu choices and dialogs (faster for opt-used commands; command window (faster when building up complex commands, eg. graphs)
Getting Help

- Help → Search...

- An example: Help → Search (Search all is checked)
  → type "dataset contents" ok → try codebook describe

- Help-Search. → display relevant materials
  Help-Stata Command → display help file for the code you entered

- Other resources: Help → Resources
A log file is a record of your Results window. It records all commands and all textual output as it happens. It can protect you from disastrous failures. Start a log file whenever you begin any serious work in Stata.

Two formats: SMCL (Default format, recommended): Transformable (File → Log → Translate...); plain text file.

How to start a log: Click notebook icon...

How to close a log: Click the log button again or simply type log close.
Saving and printing results by using logs

- Use * to add comments into the log file;
- View log files: File > Log > View >...Browse
  Reload page
  print
- cmdlog file—contains only commands and comments and could be used as do files: Try cmdlog using filename.do cmdlog close