

Stata Help and Resources

Prepared by Bernie Black for 2013 “Main” Workshop on Research Design for Causal Inference

Reminder on accessing materials on the Causal Inference Workshop website:

<https://share.law.northwestern.edu/faculty/ciw>.

Please use:

username: law\ciwxx [where xx is a number from 1 to 50, password (case sensitive): CIWxx [for example, username ciw7, password CIW7]

[Note: you need to use the “law” domain]

Once in, select “all readings” along the left hand margin.

Getting Stata 12

We will provide a temporary license for Stata 12. If you have an earlier version on your computer, that is fine.

Stata texts and resources for learning it

In increasing order of complexity, I recommend:

Stata, *Getting Started with Stata for Windows* (most recent edition)

Alan Acock, *A Gentle Introduction to Stata* (revised 3d ed. 2012)

A. Colin Cameron and Pravin Trivedi, *Microeconometrics Using Stata* (2d ed. 2010)

Note: This is a different book than Cameron and Trivedi, *Microeconometrics: Methods and Applications* (2005)

See also the introductory notes prepared by my coauthor, Woochan Kim (these should still work with Stata 12): *How to Use Stata 11* (included on the readings “page”)

The UCLA computing center has prepared a series of primers on Stata: <http://www.ats.ucla.edu/stat/stata/>

Princeton provides an online Stata tutorial: <http://data.princeton.edu/stata/>

The Stata review sessions on Monday will be divided into “basic” and “advanced” sessions. The basic session will provide an introduction to some of the basics of using Stata.

A recurring question is how to export results from Stata log files to word or Excel. For some guidance, see Mathew McCubbins, *How to Make Publishable Tables* (prepared 2012, included on the readings page)

You can also try a web search, using a *very* specific query about what you want to do, and see what comes up.

If others efforts have failed, a **detailed** email to stata@stata.com, that says [here is what I want to do, here is my dataset, here is what I have tried] can work wonders. They won’t respond

instantly, but will respond, usually reasonably promptly, and in my experience are often very helpful.

Installing Stata “ado” files

Stata is self-contained for many things, but users have developed a number of “plugins”, known as “ado” files, that you can download and install. Some useful plugins:

dlogit2 [produces marginal effects for logit and probit in a single step]

tab3way [varlist]: allows 3-way tabulation [Stata: tabulate provides two-way tabulation]

nnmatch.ado [matching program developed by Alberto Abadie and Guido Imbens]

To generate tables in Excel and word:

outreg2.ado

estout.ado

To directly get a count of missing values

mdesc.ado

mdesc -- gives the number of missing values for all variables in the data set
mdesc var1 var2 will do this for the indicated variables.

xtoverid.ado

Allows Hausman test for fixed v random effects to allow for clustered standard errors

ivreg29.ado

Update to Stata’s ivreg command. Needed to run xtoverid

xtgraph.ado

helpful for graphing panel data

An overview on how to find and install .ado files:

<http://www.stata.com/support/faqs/resources/statalist-faq/#adofaq>

But a quick way for most commands: in Stata command line:

findit commandname

For example: findit nnmatch

Direct installation for the ado files housed in the extensive library at Boston University:

ssc install adofilename [you don’t need.ado at the end]