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This is a guide for formatting Stata output using emacs. The desired output is a PDF that clearly shows the commands run in Stata, along with the output from those commands. We'll be using Emacs org-babel to run code inside .org files. This makes it possible to re-run analyses, and also add nicely formatted prose to the same file.

1 Dependencies

| Program | My Version | Free |
|----------|---|------|
| Stata | 15 | No |
| Emacs | $28.0.50 \; \mathrm{GNU} \; \mathrm{Emacs}$ | Yes |
| Latex | pdfTeX 3.14159265-2.6-1.40.21 | Yes |
| Git | 2.27.0 | Yes |
| Homebrew | | Yes |

This guide is specifically for Stata .do files—much of the information here will work for other languages that are supported by org-babel and emacs-ESS, but some of the export options may be different. You will need a working version of Stata with a license; I have Stata 15 and I assume that newer versions will be backwards-compatible, but I'm not sure about older versions. You will need a local copy of Stata; this approach will not work with a remote copy on a university's servers.

You will also need a version of Emacs; I'm using the development version 28, but this should work for versions 24 or higher. You will also need a latex distribution to compile the final document.

2 Setting up Emacs

This guide assumes you have never used Emacs, but have working installs of both latex and Stata. We will also be using Homebrew; if you don't have Homebrew installed and want to learn more, please visit https://brew.sh/ and follow the installation instructions. I will also include installation instructions in this guide, so you can just run the command I list. The next step is to open a terminal. It's okay if you haven't used the terminal before; I'll list all the commands you'll need to run—you can just copy and paste them into the terminal. To launch the Terminal app on Mac, use the system tray to navigate to Apps > Utilites > Terminal and open Terminal.

2.1 Install Homebrew

If you don't have Homebrew installed, copy the following command into your terminal and run it.

/bin/bash -c "\$(curl -fsSL https://raw.githubusercontent.com/Homebrew/install/master/install.sh)"

2.2 Install git

If you don't have git installed, run brew install git from your terminal. If you already have git installed, you will get a message to that effect. You can also check directly by running which git you get a filepath as output, that means that you already have git installed.

2.3 Install Emacs

brew install emacs