1 Jupyter Notebooks (with STATA?!)

1.1 What are Jupyter Notebooks?

- A way to do literate programming
- Provide code and writing/analysis, on a language agnostic platform
 - Meaning that it is not restricted to just one language
 - Currently there are so-called kernels for many languages
 - Including Stata, Python, R, C, Golang, C++, Fortran and more coming!
- Uses the power of Markdown/Latex Math and Code to tell a story and provide an efficient workflow
- Convert into several different formats including Latex, HTML, Presentations etc...
- The Jupyter engine is also available in other text editors such as Atom and VS Code.
- And now available in STATA!

1.2 Under the Hood

- Jupyter Notebooks are written in python and are themselves a JSON document
- Which makes them suited for working on in a browser

1.3 Extensions

- Jupyter can be made to be a full featured IDE (Integrated Development Environment)
- · Which really means you can get all kinds of nifty things
 - Autocompletion
 - Multi-cursor support
 - Scratchpad
 - Highlighting a selected word
 - Translation
 - Spellcheck

1.4 Installing Extensions

• In order to do this, we need to go to our conda console and type:

conda install -c conda-forge jupyter_contrib_nbextensions

And restart Jupyter

1.5 Markdown

• Using the same idea as in markstat that Oscar showed you before.

1.6 Showing Math

• It is possible to show math

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$$y_{it} = \alpha + \beta \cdot X$$

1.7 The Stata Kernel

- This is a relatively new kernel that is implemented by Kyle Barron, Mauricio Cáceres, and other contributors
 - It provides the ability to run code and show graphics, which was previously unavailable for Stata in Jupyter.
- Ironically, even though we are using Stata in these presentations, there are other, free, open-source languages that are just as good (if not more powerful) for which dynamic documents have existed for over a decade.
- As a small nudge towards getting you to try something like R or Python, here's an addendum that Kyle Barron wrote on this State_kernel page:

As an ardent open-source advocate and someone who actively dislikes using Stata, it somewhat pains me that my work creates value for a proprietary, closed-source program. I hope that this program improves research in a utilitarian way, and shows to new users the scope of the open-source tools that have existed for upwards of a decade.

1.8 Running Code

• In this case we will be using the Stata kernel, so we will have Stata running in the background.

1.9 Stata Kernel Magics

- Many Jupyter kernels have something called magics
 - A way to make certain actions easy without having to write too much code
 - Stata has some magics that make things a little easier

1.10 %browse, %head, %tail

• This has the ability to choose varlist, the number of observations and with if statements as well

1.11 %html and %latex

• This allows the rendering of table during export into html or latex, as well as rendering in the notebook (with HTML only)

1.12 %help

• You can use this to get a help file

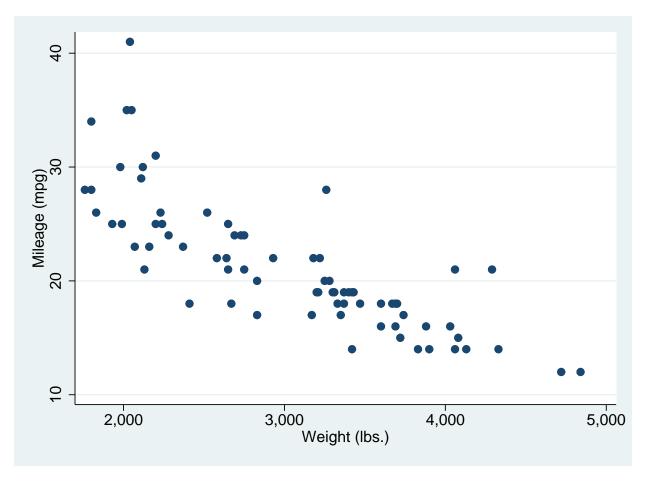


Figure 1.1: A scatter plot

1.13 Exporting

1.14 Using ipypublish to Get Publication Ready PDFs

- ipypublish is a utility developed for Jupyter Notebooks to make nice looking documents
- To get this working, we need to use pip
 - In the conda console, type pip install ipypublish
 - Hopefully it'll work
- Doing this requires playing with the JSON code of a cell itself (called the metadata).
- This allows a subsequent PDF output to be processed through latex, without any code cells and with figure and table environments.

1.15 Port-forwarding and setting up Jupyter to work on a server

- Many people might have servers in their universities/organizations that are more powerful than a laptop.
- Jupyter allows the ability to run a notebook locally (on your laptop screen), but using the power of the server.
 - This requires jupyter being installed on the server
 - This isn't a difficult thing to do for a sysadmin, so it's worth finding out whether that's possible

1.16 Setting up jupyter on a server

• The first thing you need to do is log on to the server and start a jupyter instance:

jupyter notebook --no-browser --port=8888

- This tells the server to start an instance of jupyter, without a browser (we won't need it, nor can a server open up a browser window), in port 8888 (this will be important later)
- For Mac users, you can use ssh to finish the process. Just type: ssh username@host -L 8888:localhost:8888
- Which will forward your computer 8888 port, to the server's 8888 port.
- For Windows, ssh also exists, but you will need to enable it.
 - head to Settings > Apps and click "Manage optional features" under Apps & features.
 - Click Add a Feature, and find OpenSSH
- Then use the same command as for Macs: ssh username@host -L 8888:localhost:8888
- Then go to your browser:
 - localhost: 8888 and you should be taken to a Jupyter page and prompted for a token.
 - You can find this token in the window where you started Jupyter on the server
 - * Copy and paste this token into the prompt, and VOILA!
- Now you have Jupyter running on your computer's browser window, but with the power of the server!

1.17 Advanced Techniques

- Jinja Templates
 - Allows the control of how a notebook is exported using the Jinja templating language
- Downloading new kernals (R, Python)
 - All the above applies (with even more features with Python)

1.18 The Next Frontier

- Although Jupyter Notebooks are very popular and much science has been done with them (including an economics textbook: more here)
- the next generation Jupyter is Jupyter Lab, while allows extensions to be made better, and for the environment to be even better for data analysis.