

Introduction to Data Analysis and Education Research using Stata

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Table of contents

Preface	3
Acknowledgements	4
1 Introduction to Stata	5
1.1 Stata window components	7
2 Introduction to Data and Univariate Descriptive Statistics	10
2.1 2.1 Types of Variables	10
2.2 2.2 Mean, Median, Mode	10
2.3 2.3 Spread: Range, IQR, SD	10
2.4 2.4 Visualizing Univariate Data	10
3 Summary	11
References	12

Preface

This book aims to teach you applied statistics in the context of education research. The goal of this book is to serve as an interactive introduction to quantitative analysis of educational data using Stata. The topics covered include descriptive statistics, correlation, statistical inference and hypothesis testing, and multiple regression. The content includes both a description of the concepts, and coding to implement the analyses using Stata.

There are already many books and other resources to learn statistics, or Stata. Why should you read this one (and why should we write it)? The aim of this book is to introduce statistics, from foundational concepts to sophisticated models, in an applied context, and focused on educational data.

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Acknowledgements

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1 Introduction to Stata

This chapter introduces you to Stata, how to install it and the different ways to use it for statistical analysis. Stata is a powerful tool, but it remains a tool. The statistical concepts you learn are more important, and you will likely have to change the tools you use throughout your career. As a Brown University affiliate, you can download and install the software following instructions on this page. There are many versions of Stata, and you should install the latest version available. The code included in this book will work for version 17 and those more recent. Stata / IC should be sufficient for most of the

1.1 Stata window components

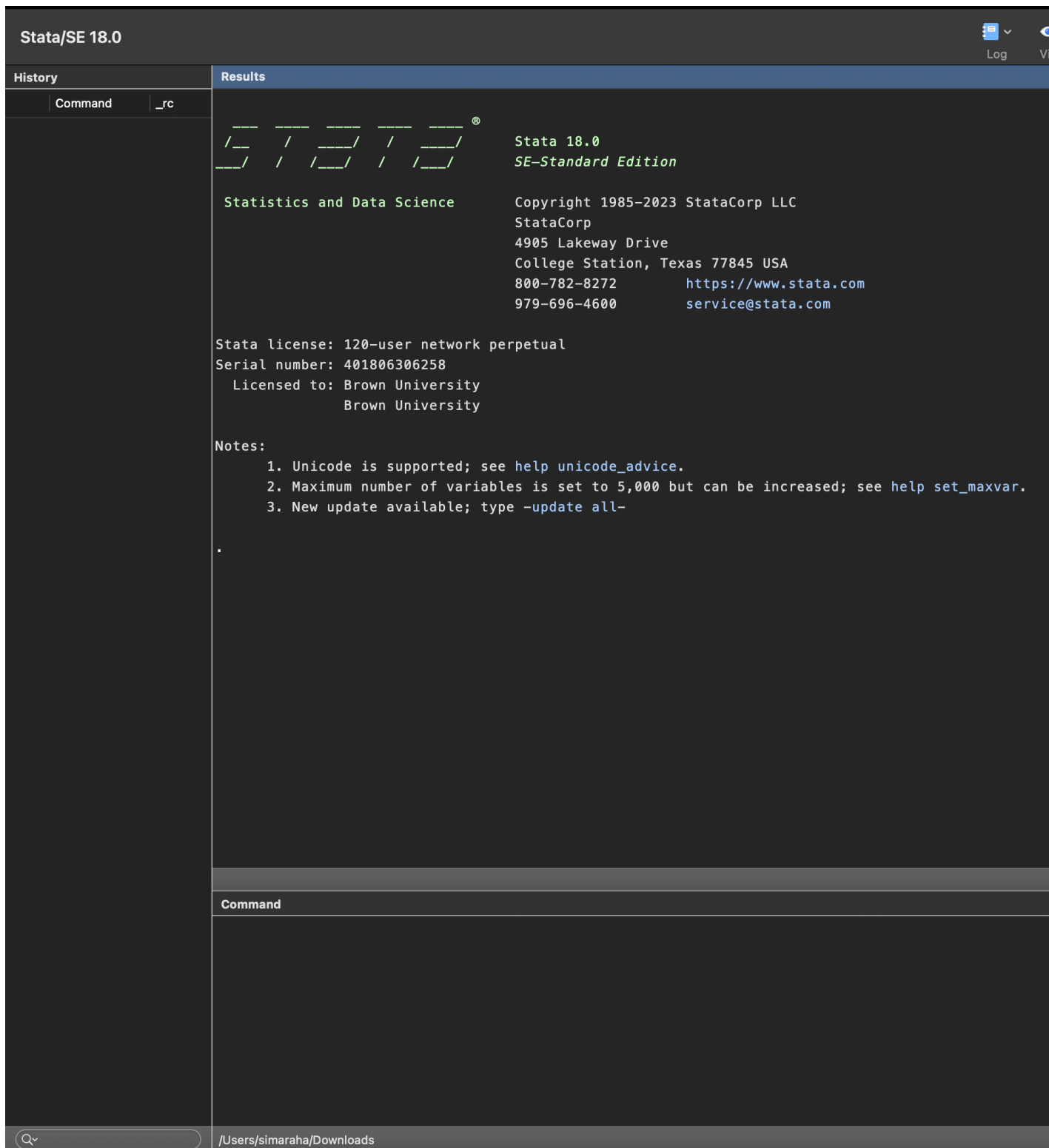


Figure 1.1: Stata Window

1.2 Stata syntax and Naming conventions

1.3 Using the command prompt

```
* -----
* CLASS EXERCISE - UNIT 1
* Dataset: mcas_final_updated.dta
* Main task: practice basic Stata commands, descriptive
* statistics, and graphing distributions.
* -----

* Load the dataset (adjust folder path if needed)
use "mcas_final_updated.dta", clear

* -----
* 1. BASIC COMMANDS FOR VARIABLE: mathscore
* -----

* Browse dataset (opens Data Browser)
browse

* Summary statistics: mean, sd, min, max
summarize mathscore

* Detailed summary: percentiles, variance, skewness, kurtosis, etc.
summarize mathscore, detail

* Stem-and-leaf plot
stem mathscore

* Boxplot
graph box mathscore, name(mathscorebox, replace)

* Histogram with frequencies
histogram mathscore, frequency name(mathscore, replace)

* -----
* Saving graphs
* -----

* Save graph in Stata's .gph format
graph save mathscore "dotmathscore.gph", replace
```



```
* Export histogram as .png
graph export "mathscore_hist.png", as(tif) width(2000) replace

* -----
* End of Part 1
* -----
```

1.3.1 Make students use it as a calculator

1.4 Loading data

1.4.1 Introduce an educational dataset – maybe OECD, NCES, open dataset Working Directory

1.4.2 Stata code count, describe, labels, etc.

1.5 Installing Packages

1.5.1 Give some examples to do

1.6 Tips and resources

1.6.1 Give some links to pages

1 + 1 + 5

[1] 7

2 Introduction to Data and Univariate Descriptive Statistics

2.1 2.1 Types of Variables

Numerical Vs Categorical

Numerical: Continuous VS Discrete

Continuous: Interval VS Scale

Categorical: ordinal vs nonminimal

Include definitions, examples

Load the data from Chapter 1

2.2 2.2 Mean, Median, Mode

2.3 2.3 Spread: Range, IQR, SD

2.4 2.4 Visualizing Univariate Data

Bar Chart

Histograms & Density Plots

3 Summary

In summary, this book has no content whatsoever.

1 + 1

[1] 2

References