

# Package ‘genvar’

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**Title** An Imperative Library for Data Manipulation in R

**Version** 0.0.1.4

## Description

Implements tools for manipulating data sets and performing regressions in a way that is familiar to users of a popular, but proprietary, statistical package commonly used in the social sciences. Loads a single dataset into memory and implements a set of imperative commands to modify that data and perform regressions and other analysis on the dataset. Offers an alternative to standard R's function-based approach to data manipulation.

**Depends** R (>= 3.5.1.0)

**Imports** Formula, foreign, readstata13, sandwich, plm, clubSandwich, lattice

**License** GPL-3

**Encoding** UTF-8

**LazyData** true

**RoxygenNote** 6.1.1

**BugReports** <https://github.com/flynnzac/genvar>

**NeedsCompilation** no

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## R topics documented:

addobs . . . . .	2
assert_loaded . . . . .	3
bigraph . . . . .	3
builddata . . . . .	5
capture . . . . .	5
clear . . . . .	6
collapse . . . . .	6
count . . . . .	7
describe . . . . .	7
destring . . . . .	8
do . . . . .	9
dropif . . . . .	9
dropvar . . . . .	10

estimates_print . . . . .	10
estimates_restore . . . . .	11
estimates_save . . . . .	11
estimates_store . . . . .	12
estimates_use . . . . .	12
fillin . . . . .	13
forval . . . . .	13
forvar . . . . .	14
gen . . . . .	14
getdata . . . . .	15
headdata . . . . .	15
is_loaded . . . . .	16
keepif . . . . .	16
keepvar . . . . .	17
L . . . . .	17
listif . . . . .	18
logit . . . . .	18
pred . . . . .	19
preserve . . . . .	20
probit . . . . .	20
reg . . . . .	21
rename . . . . .	22
restore . . . . .	22
savedata . . . . .	23
shape . . . . .	23
subset.varlist . . . . .	24
summarize . . . . .	25
taildata . . . . .	25
tostring . . . . .	26
use . . . . .	26
varlist . . . . .	27
xtset . . . . .	27
<b>Index</b>	<b>29</b>

---

addobs	<i>add observations to the data set</i>
--------	---

---

## Description

Add observations to the data set, similar in functionality to Stata's `append` command

## Usage

`addobs(obs)`

## Arguments

- `obs` one of three possible input types:
- An R data frame with the same columns as the current dataset.
  - A comma-separated string in the following format: "var1=1,var2=2,var3=3" which inputs a single observation.

**Value**

returns NULL, invisibly

**Examples**

```
library(plm)
data(Produc)
use(Produc, clear=TRUE)
keepvar("state year emp unemp")
addobs("state='Puerto Rico',year=1990,emp=100,unemp=5")
listif()
df <- data.frame(state=rep("Puerto Rico", times=2), year=1991:1992,emp=c(102,104),unemp=c(4.9,5.1))
addobs(df)
listif()
```

---

assert\_loaded

*assert a dataset is loaded in genvar and error otherwise*


---

**Description**

assert a dataset is loaded in genvar and error otherwise

**Usage**

```
assert_loaded()
```

**Value**

returns NULL, invisibly

---

bigraph

*command to graph bivariate relationships*


---

**Description**

bigraph plots bivariate relationships. it can plot multiple relationships on the same graph. It's a very simple command designed to make it easy to get basic plots up and going in an imperative way like the other genvar commands. For more advanced graphics, use either lattice or ggplot2.

**Usage**

```
bigraph(type, xvars, yvars, xlines = NULL, ylines = NULL,
        title = NULL, xlabel = NULL, ylabel = NULL, xrange, yrange,
        style = NULL, color = NULL, size = NULL, output = "screen",
        resolution = "480x480", file, ...)
```

**Arguments**

type	a quoted list of plot types ("line" for line graphs, "connected" for line graphs with points indicating data points, and "scatter" for graphs with points for the data points). For example, to plot two lines and one scatter plot on the same graph: "line line scatter".
xvars	a varlist in "x1 x2 x3" form giving the variables to plot on the horizontal axis.
yvars	a varlist in "y1 y2 y3" form giving the variables to plot on the vertical axis
xlines	a list of numbers in the form "1 2 3" which gives the location on the x-axis to draw vertical lines
ylines	a list of numbers in the form "1 2 3" which gives the location on the y-axis to draw horizontal lines
title	the title of the graph
xlabel	the label to use for the horizontal axis
ylabel	the label to use for the vertical axis
xrange	a list of numbers in the form "0 1" which gives the left and right end points of the horizontal axis. If omitted, the end points will be selected automatically to fit the data.
yrange	a list of numbers in the form "0 1" which gives the bottom and top end points of the vertical axis. If omitted, the end points will be selected automatically to fit the data.
style	a list of style options, one for each line or scatter on the graph, in the form "solid dashed dotted points". Can be any of the lty values from plot, like "solid", "dashed", "dotted", or just "points". If omitted, "solid" or "points" will be used for all, as appropriate.
color	a list of color options, one for each line or scatter on the graph in the form "black red blue". If omitted, the default option of the lattice package will be used (a blue color).
size	the line width or size of the points in the form "5 10 2". If omitted, default size will be used.
output	which kind of output to use. Currently, either "screen" for plotting to the screen or "png" for plotting to a png graphics file.
resolution	the resolution to use for the plot in the form "WxH" where W is width and H is height. The default is "480x480" for 480 pixels by 480 pixels.
file	the file to write to if using output="png".
...	other options passed to directly to xyplot from the lattice package

**Value**

returns NULL, invisibly

---

builddata	<i>creates a dataset of a given number of observations</i>
-----------	--

---

### Description

Creates a dataset of a given number of observations. Does so by creating a variable called "v1" with all missing values.

### Usage

```
builddata(n, replace = FALSE)
```

### Arguments

n	the number of observations to make the new dataset
replace	if TRUE, replace a dataset in memory, if FALSE, error if a dataset is already loaded

### Value

returns NULL, invisibly

### Examples

```
builddata(100, replace=TRUE)
listif()
```

---

capture	<i>captures an expression, setting getret("error") to TRUE if there was an error and FALSE otherwise</i>
---------	--

---

### Description

captures an expression, setting getret("error") to TRUE if there was an error and FALSE otherwise

### Usage

```
capture(expr, silent = FALSE)
```

### Arguments

expr	an expression to be evaluated
silent	if TRUE, suppress error messages from printing (default: FALSE)

### Value

FALSE if the expression successfully ran and TRUE otherwise

**Examples**

```
capture({log(1)})
capture({log(-1)})
```

---

clear	<i>clears the dataset in memory</i>
-------	-------------------------------------

---

**Description**

removes a dataset from memory, errors if no dataset is loaded

**Usage**

```
clear()
```

**Value**

returns NULL invisibly

**Examples**

```
use(cars, clear=TRUE)
listif()
clear()
listif()
```

---

collapse	<i>collapses a data set by variables using arbitrary aggregation functions</i>
----------	--

---

**Description**

collapse a data set to produce summary statistics possibly by a set of variables as in the Stata code: collapse (fun1) var1 (fun2) var2, by(byvar1 byvar2). But this function is more flexible than the Stata version because any arbitrary function can be used in collapse not just traditional aggregation functions.

**Usage**

```
collapse(values, byvar = NULL)
```

**Arguments**

values	an argument with the form fun1(var1) fun2(var2) fun3(var3,var4) describe the aggregations to be performed where fun1, fun2, fun3 are most likely aggregation functions like "sum", "mean", "max", "median", etc. But could also be "reg" to perform regressions on different subsets, for example.
byvar	a variable list giving the variables to collapse by. The resulting dataset will have as many rows as there are unique levels of the byvar variable list.

**Value**

returns NULL, invisibly

**Examples**

```
library(plm)
data(Produc)
use(Produc, clear=TRUE)
listif()
collapse("sum(emp)", "year")
listif()
```

---

count	<i>Counts how many observations (optionally, satisfying a condition)</i>
-------	--

---

**Description**

Counts how many observations (optionally, satisfying a condition)

**Usage**

```
count(ifstmt = NULL)
```

**Arguments**

ifstmt	an optional argument which gives an condition that must be met for the observation to be counted
--------	--

**Value**

returns NULL, invisibly

**Examples**

```
use(cars, clear=TRUE)
count()
count("speed <= 20")
```

---

describe	<i>lists the names of the variables in the dataset</i>
----------	--

---

**Description**

lists the names of the variables in the dataset

**Usage**

```
describe(pattern = NULL)
```

**Arguments**

pattern            an optional regular expression which only returns variable names that match the expression

**Value**

A vector of names of variables with an attribute called "type" giving the types of the variables. The class of the object is "varlist".

**Examples**

```
use(cars, clear=TRUE)
describe()
describe("s*")
```

---

destring	<i>convert a variable with string type into a numeric value</i>
----------	---

---

**Description**

convert a variable with string type into a numeric value

**Usage**

```
destring(varlist)
```

**Arguments**

varlist            variables to convert, either in the form "var1 var2 var3" or in the form ~var1+var2+var3.

**Value**

returns NULL, invisibly

**Examples**

```
use(cars, clear=TRUE)
tostring("speed")
listif()
describe()
destring("speed")
listif()
describe()
```



---

do	<i>Executes R code on the dataset</i>
----	---------------------------------------

---

### Description

Executes an R expression using variables from the dataset, possibly separately for each level of a given varlist (like the by prefix in Stata).

### Usage

```
do(expr, by = NULL)
```

### Arguments

expr	an R expression which can use any of the variable names in the current dataset
by	a variable list in either "var1 var2 var3" format or in ~var1+var2+var3 format. The R expression will be applied separately for the data subsetted to each level of the variable list.

### Value

returns whatever the expression expr returns

### Examples

```
use(cars, clear=TRUE)
do("{coef(lm(speed~dist))}")
```

---

dropif	<i>drops rows from the dataset</i>
--------	------------------------------------

---

### Description

drops rows from the dataset

### Usage

```
dropif(x)
```

### Arguments

x	a condition like (ex: "var1==2") describing the observations that should be removed from the data set.
---	--

### Value

returns NULL, invisibly

**Examples**

```
use(cars, clear=TRUE)
listif()
dropif("speed <= 20")
listif()
```

---

dropvar

*drops variables in varlist format from the dataset*

---

**Description**

drops variables in varlist format from the dataset

**Usage**

```
dropvar(x)
```

**Arguments**

x a varlist either in "var1 var2 var3" format or ~var1+var2+var3 format.

**Value**

returns NULL, invisibly

**Examples**

```
use(cars, clear=TRUE)
listif()
dropvar("speed")
listif()
use(cars, clear=TRUE)
dropvar(~speed)
listif()
```

---

estimates\_print

*display estimation results*

---

**Description**

display estimation results

**Usage**

```
estimates_print(name = NULL)
```

**Arguments**

name name of estimates to be replaced. If unspecified, print current estimates.

---

estimates_restore	<i>restore</i> genvar <i>estimates</i>
-------------------	--

---

**Description**

restore genvar estimates

**Usage**

estimates\_restore(name)

**Arguments**

name	name of estimates to be restored
------	----------------------------------

**Value**

returns NULL, invisibly

---

estimates_save	<i>save</i> genvar <i>estimates</i>
----------------	-------------------------------------

---

**Description**

save genvar estimates

**Usage**

estimates\_save(file)

**Arguments**

file	file to save current estimates to.
------	------------------------------------

**Value**

returns NULL, invisibly

---

estimates_store	<i>store genvar estimates</i>
-----------------	-------------------------------

---

**Description**

store genvar estimates

**Usage**

estimates\_store(name)

**Arguments**

name	name to use to store current estimates from a genvar estimation function like reg, logit, or probit.
------	--

**Value**

returns NULL, invisibly

---

estimates_use	<i>loads genvar estimates from file</i>
---------------	---

---

**Description**

loads genvar estimates from file

**Usage**

estimates\_use(file)

**Arguments**

file	file to load estimates from.
------	------------------------------

**Value**

returns NULL, invisibly

---

fillin	<i>Fully rectangularize a dataset</i>
--------	---------------------------------------

---

**Description**

Make the dataset have one observation for every possible interaction of a list of variables.

**Usage**

```
fillin(varlist)
```

**Arguments**

varlist	a variable list in "var1 var2 var3 x*" format where "*" matches zero or more of any character and "?" matches one of any character (or a varlist in formula format, ~var1+var2+var3+x1+x2+...). On exit, the data set will contain one observation for every possible interaction of variables with missing values filled in where appropriate.
---------	---

**Value**

returns NULL, invisibly

---

forval	<i>Execute code in the datasets environment for all values of a vector, replacing a macro with the value in each iteration</i>
--------	--

---

**Description**

Execute code in the datasets environment for all values of a vector, replacing a macro with the value in each iteration

**Usage**

```
forval(values, expr, macro = "%val")
```

**Arguments**

values	the vector of values to loop over. For example, specifying 1:5 would loop over integers from 1 to 5.
expr	a quoted expression to evaluate in the loop which (presumably) uses the macro expression
macro	a word to replace in the quoted expression with the values we are looping over (default: "%val")

**Value**

returns NULL, invisibly

**Examples**

```
use(cars, clear=TRUE)
listif()
forval (2:4, "gen('speed%val', 'speed^%val')")
listif()
```

---

forvar	<i>apply a function to each of a list of variables</i>
--------	--

---

**Description**

apply a function to each of a list of variables

**Usage**

```
forvar(varlist, action, macro = "%var")
```

**Arguments**

varlist	a list of variables in the format ~var1+var2+var3+... or as a vector of names like "var1 var2 var3".
action	a quoted expression to apply to each variable where the variable is represented in the expression by macro.
macro	an expression that will be replaced in action for each variable, by default %var.

**Value**

returns NULL, invisibly

**Examples**

```
use(cars, clear=TRUE)
forvar("speed dist", "gen('%var2', '%var^2')")
listif()
```

---

gen	<i>generates a new variable that is a transformation of existing variables in the dataset or replaces one</i>
-----	---

---

**Description**

generates a new variable that is a transformation of existing variables in the dataset or replaces one

**Usage**

```
gen(var, value, byvar = NULL, subset = NULL, replace = FALSE)
```

**Arguments**

var	the name of the variable to be generated
value	the transformation of the dataset to replace the "newvar" in option form with. For example, value="sum(wage*female)" to get a variable which has total female wages. In Stata, the same command would be: "egen femalewage = total(wage*female)".
byvar	apply the value for each level of the by variables, specified either as a formula, like ~byvar1+byvar2+... or as a varlist "byvar1 byvar2 byvar3...".
subset	only generate values if the condition provided in subset is true. Make sure to enclose the expression in quotes, like so: subset="female==1 & highschool==1" to generate the values only for women who graduated from highschool. This option is used like the "if" in Stata.
replace	either TRUE or FALSE. If FALSE (default), the code refuses to alter the variable if the variable already exists. Otherwise, if replace=TRUE, then the values will be replaced.

**Value**

returns NULL, invisibly

---

getdata	<i>exports data frame from genvar environment to R environment</i>
---------	--

---

**Description**

exports data frame from genvar environment to R environment

**Usage**

```
getdata()
```

**Value**

the data frame currently in the genvar environment

---

headdata	<i>get first few observations</i>
----------	-----------------------------------

---

**Description**

get first few observations

**Usage**

```
headdata(num)
```

**Arguments**

num	how many of the first observations to get
-----	---

**Value**

returns the first num rows of data

---

is\_loaded

*a command to determine whether data is loaded*

---

**Description**

a command to determine whether data is loaded

**Usage**

is\_loaded()

**Value**

returns TRUE if dataset is loaded in genvar and FALSE otherwise

---

keepif

*keeps some rows in the dataset and drops the rest*

---

**Description**

keeps some rows in the dataset and drops the rest

**Usage**

keepif(x)

**Arguments**

x                      a condition like: "var1==2" in which case observations that satisfy the condition are kept and all others are removed.

**Value**

returns NULL, invisibly

**Examples**

```
use(cars, clear=TRUE)
keepif("speed <= 20")
listif()
```



---

keepvar	<i>keeps some variables in the dataset and drops the others</i>
---------	---

---

**Description**

keeps some variables in the dataset and drops the others

**Usage**

```
keepvar(x)
```

**Arguments**

x a varlist either of the form "var1 var2 var3" or in the form ~var1+var2+var3.

**Value**

returns NULL, invisibly

**Examples**

```
use(cars, clear=TRUE)
keepvar("speed")
listif()
use(cars, clear=TRUE)
keepvar(~speed)
listif()
```

---

L	<i>a function to take lags and leads with panel data</i>
---	--

---

**Description**

a function to take lags and leads with panel data, mostly a wrapper for plm's lag function.

**Usage**

```
L(x, k = 1, ...)
```

**Arguments**

x	variable to lag
k	how many lags to take? If a negative number, leads will be generated.
...	other options to pass to plm: : lag, does not need to be specified

**Value**

returns lag of the variable as a data frame

**Examples**

```
library(plm)
data(Produc)
use(Produc, clear=TRUE)
xtset("year", "state")
gen("Lemp", "L(emp)")
gen("L2emp", "L(emp,2)")
headdata(10)
```

---

<code>listif</code>	<i>prints the part of the dataset that satisfies certain conditions</i>
---------------------	---

---

**Description**

prints the part of the dataset that satisfies certain conditions

**Usage**

```
listif(cond = NULL, vars = NULL, ...)
```

**Arguments**

<code>cond</code>	a conditional expression; only observations that satisfy the condition will be returned.
<code>vars</code>	a variable list; only variables in the list will be returned.
<code>...</code>	other options, currently ignored

**Value**

the part of the dataset that satisfies the condition and contains the specified columns

---

<code>logit</code>	<i>estimate a logistic regression</i>
--------------------	---------------------------------------

---

**Description**

estimate a logistic regression

**Usage**

```
logit(y, x, subset = NULL, weights = NULL, linkfunc = "logit", ...)
```

**Arguments**

<code>y</code>	name of the dependent variable
<code>x</code>	names of the independent variables in varlist format, either "x1 x2 x3" or ~x1+x2+X3 format.
<code>subset</code>	conditions to run the command only of a subset of the data (analogous to "if" statements in Stata)
<code>weights</code>	the name of a variable to use for weights in estimation
<code>linkfunc</code>	specify the linking function (logit, by default). Can set to "probit" to do probit estimation or use <code>probit</code> (which is equivalent).
<code>...</code>	other options to pass to <code>glm</code>

**Value**

<code>b</code>	coefficient vector
<code>V</code>	covariance matrix of coefficients

---

<code>pred</code>	<i>gets fitted values from a genvar regression object</i>
-------------------	---

---

**Description**

Gets fitted values from a genvar regression object. For panel models, this predicts the non-fixed effects part of the regression.

**Usage**

```
pred()
```

**Details**

Operates on the loaded estimation object, see `estimates_use`.

**Value**

returns predictions from model

**Examples**

```
use(cars, clear=TRUE)
listif()
reg("dist", "speed")
gen("fit", "pred()")
listif()
```

---

preserve	<i>preserve a data set before modification</i>
----------	--

---

**Description**

preserve a data set before modification

**Usage**

```
preserve(data = NULL)
```

**Arguments**

data                      a data set to preserve

**Value**

a value that can be passed to restore to restore the data set later

**Examples**

```
require(stats)
use(cars, clear=TRUE)
p <- preserve()
collapse("mean(dist)", "speed")
list()
restore(p, replace=TRUE)
list()
```

---

probit	<i>estimate a probit regression</i>
--------	-------------------------------------

---

**Description**

probit(...) is equivalent to logit(..., linkfunc="probit").

**Usage**

```
probit(...)
```

**Arguments**

...                      options to pass to logit

---

reg	<i>regress y on x with robust standard errors, clustered standard errors, HAC standard errors, panel fixed effects, etc</i>
-----	---

---

## Description

regress y on x with robust standard errors, clustered standard errors, HAC standard errors, panel fixed effects, etc.

## Usage

```
reg(y, x, subset = NULL, effect = NULL, robust = TRUE, hac = NULL,
    cluster = NULL, rtype = 1)
```

## Arguments

y	name of the dependent variable
x	names of the independent variables in either "x1 x2 x3" format or ~x1+x2+x3 format. To include a variable as a categorical variable (when you would use "i.state" to get state dummies in Stata), include it as "factor(state)".
subset	conditions to subset the data
effect	either "twoways", "individual", or "time" for fixed effects. Dataset must already have been xtset.
robust	whether to use robust standard errors
hac	which variable to order by to compute heteroskedastic and auto correlation standard errors (if unspecified, do not do HAC correction)
cluster	a variable list giving the names of the variables to cluster by in producing clustered standard errors
rtype	gives the type of heteroskedasticity correction to make. By default, it is "1" to implement HC1 which is the same as Stata's small sample corrected standard errors. rtype can be any integer from 0 to 3 with each value corresponding to a different heteroskedastic correction (HCx). See documentation for vcovHC in package sandwich.

## Value

b coefficient vector

V covariance matrix of coefficients

---

rename	<i>renames variables in the dataset</i>
--------	---

---

**Description**

renames variables in the dataset

**Usage**

```
rename(var, newvar)
```

**Arguments**

var	the name of the variable to rename
newvar	the new name of the variable

**Value**

returns NULL, invisibly

**Examples**

```
use(cars, clear=TRUE)
listif()
rename("speed", "velocity")
listif()
```

---

restore	<i>restore a dataset from a previous preserve to be currently used</i>
---------	--

---

**Description**

restore a dataset from a previous preserve to be currently used

**Usage**

```
restore(envir, replace = FALSE)
```

**Arguments**

envir	a previous preserve value.
replace	if TRUE, restore even if another dataset is in memory. If FALSE, do not.

**Value**

the preserved data set

**Examples**

```
require(stats)
use(cars, clear=TRUE)
p <- preserve()
collapse("mean(dist)", "speed")
list()
restore(p, replace=TRUE)
list()
```

---

savedata	<i>saves data to a CSV or RDS file</i>
----------	--

---

**Description**

saves data to a CSV or RDS file

**Usage**

```
savedata(file, rds = FALSE)
```

**Arguments**

file	a file name to save the current data to
rds	whether to save the file to an RDS file (default: FALSE)

**Value**

returns NULL, invisibly

**Examples**

```
use(cars, clear=TRUE)
savedata(file.path(tempdir(), "cars.csv"))
savedata(file.path(tempdir(), "cars.rds"), rds=TRUE)
```

---

shape	<i>reshapes a data set from wide to long or from long to wide formats</i>
-------	---

---

**Description**

reshapes a data set from wide to long or from long to wide formats

**Usage**

```
shape(form, direction = "long")
```

**Arguments**

form	<p>if direction="long", then the argument should have the form:  id1+id2+...~newvarlstub  where there are variables in the data set named "stubXXXX" and "newvar" is the name of the new variable that will be added to the data set which will contain the various values of "stubXXXX" on exit. The variable "stub" on exit will contain the value of "XXXX". Variables (id1,id2,...) will also be included in the dataset on exit. The command behaves like "reshape long stub, i(id1 id2 ...) j(newvar)" in Stata.</p> <p>If direction="wide", then the argument should have the form,  id1+id2+...~values1+values2+...lbyvar1+byvar2+...  The variables (id1,id2,...,byvar1,byvar2,...) should uniquely identify observations in the data. On exit the dataset will contain (id1,id2,...) in addition to values1byvar1.byvar2, values2byvar1.byvar2, ... for each unique value of (byvar1,byvar2,...). The command behaves like "reshape wide values1 values2 ..., i(id1 id2 ...) j(byvar1...)"</p>
direction	either "long" or "wide" to indicate the direction to reorient the data set

**Value**

returns NULL, invisibly

---

subset.varlist	<i>generate a varlist that is a subset of another</i>
----------------	---

---

**Description**

generate a varlist that is a subset of another

**Usage**

```
## S3 method for class 'varlist'
subset(x, vars, ...)
```

**Arguments**

x	a varlist
vars	a set of variable names
...	currently ignored

**Value**

returns the subset of variable names with attribute "type" giving the types. The vector is of class "varlist"



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summarize	<i>summarize a variable list, giving basic descriptive statistics</i>
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**Description**

summarize a variable list, giving basic descriptive statistics

**Usage**

```
summarize(varlist, detail = FALSE)
```

**Arguments**

varlist	a variable list either in "var1 var2 x*" form or ~var1+var2+x1+x2+x3 form.
detail	if TRUE, provide a more detailed output for each variable

**Value**

returns NULL, invisibly

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taildata	<i>get last few observations</i>
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**Description**

get last few observations

**Usage**

```
taildata(num)
```

**Arguments**

num	how many of the last few observations to get
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**Value**

returns last num rows of data

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tostring	<i>convert a variable of another type into a string variable</i>
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**Description**

convert a variable of another type into a string variable

**Usage**

```
tostring(varlist)
```

**Arguments**

varlist                variables to convert, either in the form "var1 var2 var3" or in the form ~var1+var2+var3.

**Value**

returns NULL, invisibly

**Examples**

```
use(cars, clear=TRUE)
tostring("speed")
listif()
```

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use	<i>uses a dataset, marking it as the active dataset</i>
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**Description**

uses a dataset, marking it as the active dataset

**Usage**

```
use(x, clear = FALSE, type = NULL, ...)
```

**Arguments**

x	usually either a data.frame or a csv/dta filename to be imported. An R function which returns a data.frame can also be specified.
clear	if TRUE, erase current data if it already exists (default: FALSE).
type	either "csv" or "dta" for loading csv or dta data set
...	other options to pass to read.csv in case x is a csv file or to read.dta or read.dta13 depending on the type of file being loaded

**Value**

returns NULL invisibly

**Examples**

```
library(plm)
data(Produc)
use(Produc, clear=TRUE)
listif()
dropvar(".*")
```

---

varlist	<i>creates a formula object from a varlist, mostly for internal use.</i>
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**Description**

A varlist in `genvar` is either a space-separated string with wildcard characters, "var1 var2 var3 x\*", or an R formula object `~var1+var2+var3+x1+x2....`. This function converts from the more user-friendly space-separated string format to the formula format or to a vector of strings.

**Usage**

```
varlist(x, type = "formula")
```

**Arguments**

x	the varlist to be converted in "var1 var2 var3" format. Can be specified using the <i>globbing</i> characters "*" (match zero or more of any character) or "?" (match any single character) like "var*" or "var?" for "var1 var2 var3" or using regular expressions if <code>regex=TRUE</code> ("var[0-9]+" = "var1 var2 var3").
type	if "formula", return a varlist in formula format; if "vector", return a varlist in character vector format.

**Value**

a formula object which can be passed to `model.frame` or a character vector giving the name of each variable

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xtset	<i>prepares a panel dataset for lag operations</i>
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**Description**

prepares a panel dataset for lag operations. The lag function in R is simply "lag(var,numlags)". After calling `xtset`, this lag function will work on the panel in the way you would expect.

**Usage**

```
xtset(timevar, obsvar)
```

**Arguments**

timevar	the name of the variable to for the time dimension
obsvar	the name of the variable to use for the observation dimension

**Value**

returns NULL, invisibly

**Examples**

```
library(plm)
data(Produc)
use(Produc, clear=TRUE)
xtset("year", "state")
gen("Lemp", "lag(emp)")
listif(vars="emp Lemp")
reg("emp", "unemp", effect="twoway")
reg("emp", "unemp", effect="individual")
reg("emp", "unemp", effect="time")
```

# Index

addobs, [2](#)  
assert\_loaded, [3](#)  
  
bigraph, [3](#)  
builddata, [5](#)  
  
capture, [5](#)  
clear, [6](#)  
collapse, [6](#)  
count, [7](#)  
  
describe, [7](#)  
destring, [8](#)  
do, [9](#)  
dropif, [9](#)  
dropvar, [10](#)  
  
estimates\_print, [10](#)  
estimates\_restore, [11](#)  
estimates\_save, [11](#)  
estimates\_store, [12](#)  
estimates\_use, [12](#)  
  
fillin, [13](#)  
forval, [13](#)  
forvar, [14](#)  
  
gen, [14](#)  
getdata, [15](#)  
  
headdata, [15](#)  
  
is\_loaded, [16](#)  
  
keepif, [16](#)  
keepvar, [17](#)  
  
L, [17](#)  
listif, [18](#)  
logit, [18](#)  
  
pred, [19](#)  
preserve, [20](#)  
probit, [20](#)  
  
reg, [21](#)  
  
rename, [22](#)  
restore, [22](#)  
  
savedata, [23](#)  
shape, [23](#)  
subset.varlist, [24](#)  
summarize, [25](#)  
  
taildata, [25](#)  
tostring, [26](#)  
  
use, [26](#)  
  
varlist, [27](#)  
  
xtset, [27](#)