

Stata Instruction for the Empirical Sequence

Week 1

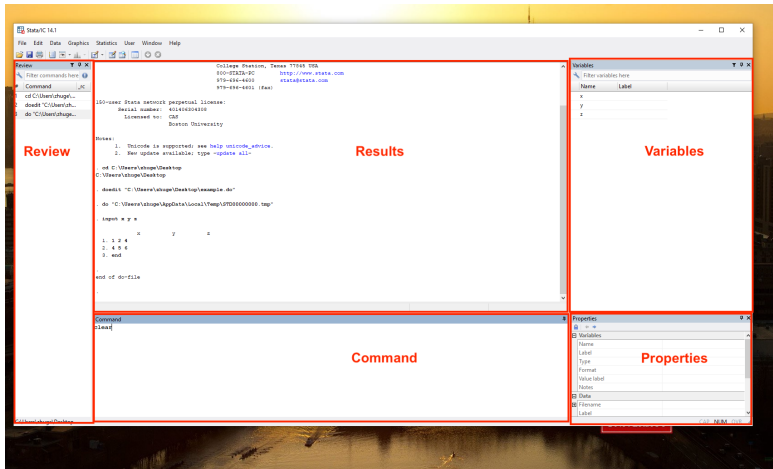
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The Stata user interface

Five main windows: Review, Results, Command, Variables, Properties



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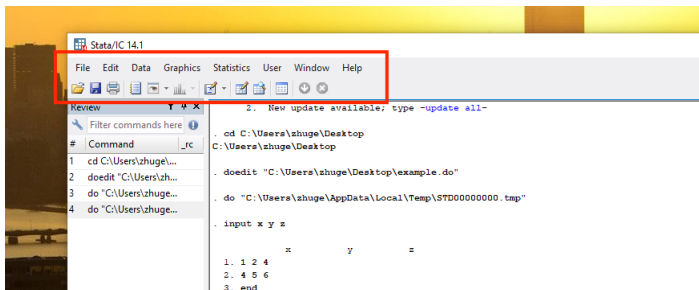
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- A brief introduction of tool bar here.

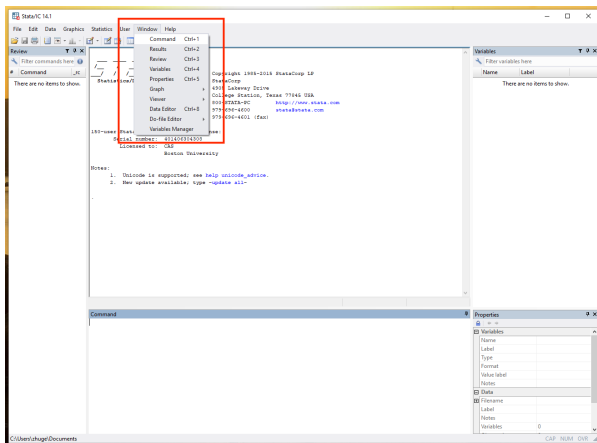
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The Stata user interface

Open/close main windows: Review, Results, Command, Variables, Properties



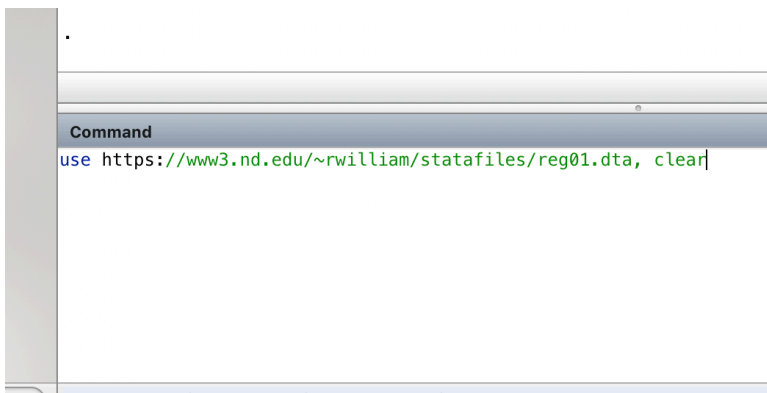
Command Window, Result Window, Review Window

- Command Window: Page up; Page Down; tab
- Result Window:
 - How to search in results: Edit → find;
 - Clear the result window: right click → clear results [not undoable]
- Review window:
 - Display successful result in black and unsuccessful result in red;
 - Filter button;
 - Single click on a previous command (move to Command); double click on a previous command (run again);
 - Right clicking in the review gives more options: Cut, Copy, Delete...

Variable Window

- Variable Window:

Enter: *use https://www3.nd.edu/~rwilliam/statafiles/reg01.dta, clear*



Variable Window

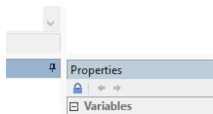
- Variable Window:
 - Choose what to display by left clicking the row;
 - Double Left Click to select the variable
 - right click to find keep; drop options
 - Filter field
 - Click any column header will change the display order but not the order of the variables in the data set

Properties Window

- If multiple variables are selected, common properties displayed;
- Lock sign: Ability to alter properties of the selected variable
- Arrow sign

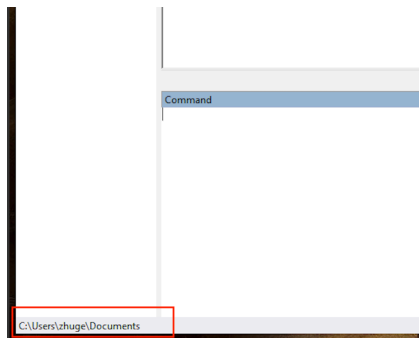
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Working directory

- Current Working Directory, where graphs and data set will be saved when typing "save ..."
- Command: `cd NEW DIRECTORY`



Fine control

Drag the title bars of windows to reposition them

Basics of STATA—An example

- Example: auto.dta
- open auto.dta
sysuse auto
- Try commands:
summarize
summarize mpg
summarize mpg weight
summarize if mpg > 20
summarize mpg weight if mpg > 20
describe
notes
browse
browse if missing(rep78)

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- Example: auto.dta
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- viewing a subset of the data:
list make if missing(rep78)
- try menu option: Data → Describe data → list data → use main and by/if/in tabs → use submit to try out different restrictions with the dialogue window open
- storage types: string(text), numeric
- . default numerical missing value

Basics of STATA

- Two general kinds of operations: menu choices and dialogs (faster for opt-used commands; command window (faster when building up complex commands, eg. graphs)

Getting Help

- Help → Search...
- An example: Help → Search (Search all is checked)
→ type "dataset contents" ok → try codebook describe
- Help-Search. → display relevant materials
Help-Stata Command → display help file for the code you entered
- Other resources: Help → Resources

Saving and printing results by using logs

- A log file is a record of your Results window. It records all commands and all textual output as it happens. It can protect you from disastrous failures. Start a log file whenever you begin any serious work in Stata
- Two formats: SMCL (Default format, recommended): Transformable(File → Log → Translate...); plain text file
- How to start a log: Click notebook icon...
- How to close a log: Click the log button again or simply type log close

Saving and printing results by using logs

- Use * to add comments into the log file;
- View log files: File > Log > View >...Browse
Reload page
print
- cmdlog file—contains only commands and comments and could be used as do files: Try cmdlog using filename.do cmdlog close