### Notes on IMF Stata Test - Research Assistant

* Best way to learn any language: hands-on projects - learning is not hard, but getting better needs time
* Bottomline of data analytical work: know the codes
* Lecture based on the completeness of the work:
  + Finish most of the parts: go to the details
  + Most not finished: Q&A session

**Relevant Commands**

1. foreach loop
   1. Structure
   2. Function
2. local and global **(... and be extended ...)**
   1. What’s the difference?
   2. Why use one instead of another?
   3. When to use local: in do file for temporarily macro creation

When to use global: for the whole project storage (much less frequently used)

1. to quote the observation: varname[]

to quote it in your do file `=`varname[]’’

(... and then this comes to the problem of multiple level of quotes … )

1. merge
   1. Exactly same variable names
   2. Merge type: 1:1 or 1:m or m:1
   3. Discrepancies keep: (... comes to the problem of manipulating multiple data sets)
   4. Remember to check and drop \_merge afterwards for future merges
2. reshape: good and bad things about long and wide format
3. xtset and tsset
4. Levelsof
   1. levelsof and local()
   2. topic variable labels ()
5. scalars

**General Recommendations**

1. Use help and google
2. Make sure your dofile runs
3. Save intermediate datasets in the process, and do change the name of each one

(try your best to organize)

1. Things can get more complicated than what you’ve think, but will just be a small case of cake if you focus, and go step by step with a clear mind **(show IMF EBA-lite project)**

Notes on World Bank Excel Exam - Portfolio Analyst

Standard test time: 1 and half hours

Mock time: 45 minutes

1. This is just a “taste” of the basic functions; more powerful functions of excel can help saving time and to achieve more complicated data purposes;
2. Always more than one solution, choose the easiest for you;

Excel problem

1. find and select function (delete multiple rows)
2. get the unique values

Major topics:

1. Right bottom corner
2. Strings: &, “&A2&”, MID, NUMBERVALUE
3. VLOOKUP and lock cells