Some Common Commands

Command	Explanation	Abbreviation
help	access documentation	
pwd	shows the present working directory	
cd	changes the working directory	
use file.dta	opens the file.dta data set	
list	lists the data points	
summarize	shows summary statistics for all variables	sum
summarize x	shows summary statistics for variable x	sum x
regress y x	explains variable y as a function of variable x	reg y x
correlate y x	shows correlation between variables y and x	corr x y
twoway	plots variable y as a function of variable x	
graph export	exports the preceding graph as a .png file	
generate	generates a new random variable	gen
log	creates a log of subsequent Stata output	
cls	clears the output window	
clear	clears everything from Stata	

Examples

help twoway

Opens a window explaining the twoway command and list its options.

twoway (scatter cars hhsize) (lfit cars hhsize)

Plots the number of cars as the dependent variable and household size as the independent variable as a scatterplot; and will also plot the regression.

graph export carsdata.png

Exports the graph as carsdata.png into the working directory.

gen lx = log(x)

Creates a new random variable lx by taking the natural log of the random variable x.

log using carsdata.txt, text replace

Creates a log of any proceeding output, saved to carsdata.txt (erasing the older version if it already exists). End the logging with log close.