The Stata Journal

Editor
H. Joseph Newton
Department of Statistics
Texas A&M University
College Station, Texas 77843
979-845-8817; fax 979-845-6077
jnewton@stata-journal.com

Editor
Nicholas J. Cox
Department of Geography
Durham University
South Road
Durham City DH1 3LE UK
n.j.cox@stata-journal.com

Associate Editors
Christopher F. Baum
Boston College
Nathaniel Beck
New York University
Rino Bellocco
Karolinska Institutet, Sweden, and University of Milano-Bicocca, Italy
Maarten L. Buis
Vrije Universiteit, Amsterdam
A. Colin Cameron
University of California–Davis
Mario A. Cleves
Univ. of Arkansas for Medical Sciences
William D. Dupont
Vanderbilt University
David Epstein
Columbia University
Allan Gregory
Queen’s University
James Hardin
University of South Carolina
Ben Jann
ETH Zürich, Switzerland
Stephen Jenkins
University of Essex
Ulrich Kohler
WZB, Berlin
Frauke Kreuter
University of Maryland–College Park

Jens Lauritsen
Odense University Hospital
Stanley Lemeshow
Ohio State University
J. Scott Long
Indiana University
Thomas Lumley
University of Washington–Seattle
Roger Newson
Imperial College, London
Austin Nichols
Urban Institute, Washington DC
Marcello Pagano
Harvard School of Public Health
Sophia Rabe-Hesketh
University of California–Berkeley
J. Patrick Royston
MRC Clinical Trials Unit, London
Philip Ryan
University of Adelaide
Mark E. Schaffer
Heriot-Watt University, Edinburgh
Jeroen Weesie
Utrecht University
Nicholas J. G. Winter
University of Virginia
Jeffrey Wooldridge
Michigan State University

Stata Press Editorial Manager
Stata Press Copy Editors
Lisa Gilmore
Jennifer Neve and Deirdre Patterson
The *Stata Journal* publishes reviewed papers together with shorter notes or comments, regular columns, book reviews, and other material of interest to Stata users. Examples of the types of papers include 1) expository papers that link the use of Stata commands or programs to associated principles, such as those that will serve as tutorials for users first encountering a new field of statistics or a major new technique; 2) papers that go “beyond the Stata manual” in explaining key features or uses of Stata that are of interest to intermediate or advanced users of Stata; 3) papers that discuss new commands or Stata programs of interest either to a wide spectrum of users (e.g., in data management or graphics) or to some large segment of Stata users (e.g., in survey statistics, survival analysis, panel analysis, or limited dependent variable modeling); 4) papers analyzing the statistical properties of new or existing estimators and tests in Stata; 5) papers that could be of interest or usefulness to researchers, especially in fields that are of practical importance but are not often included in texts or other journals, such as the use of Stata in managing datasets, especially large datasets, with advice from hard-won experience; and 6) papers of interest to those who teach, including Stata with topics such as extended examples of techniques and interpretation of results, simulations of statistical concepts, and overviews of subject areas.

For more information on the *Stata Journal*, including information for authors, see the web page

http://www.stata-journal.com

The *Stata Journal* is indexed and abstracted in the following:

- CompuMath Citation Index®
- RePEc: Research Papers in Economics
- Science Citation Index Expanded (also known as SciSearch®)

**Copyright Statement:** The *Stata Journal* and the contents of the supporting files (programs, datasets, and help files) are copyright © by StataCorp LP. The contents of the supporting files (programs, datasets, and help files) may be copied or reproduced by any means whatsoever, in whole or in part, as long as any copy or reproduction includes attribution to both (1) the author and (2) the *Stata Journal*.

The articles appearing in the *Stata Journal* may be copied or reproduced as printed copies, in whole or in part, as long as any copy or reproduction includes attribution to both (1) the author and (2) the *Stata Journal*.

Written permission must be obtained from StataCorp if you wish to make electronic copies of the insertions. This precludes placing electronic copies of the *Stata Journal*, in whole or in part, on publicly accessible web sites, file servers, or other locations where the copy may be accessed by anyone other than the subscriber.

Users of any of the software, ideas, data, or other materials published in the *Stata Journal* or the supporting files understand that such use is made without warranty of any kind, by either the *Stata Journal*, the author, or StataCorp. In particular, there is no warranty of fitness of purpose or merchantability, nor for special, incidental, or consequential damages such as loss of profits. The purpose of the *Stata Journal* is to promote free communication among Stata users.

The *Stata Journal* (ISSN 1536-867X) is a publication of Stata Press. Stata and Mata are registered trademarks of StataCorp LP.
Stata tip 75: Setting up Stata for a presentation

Kevin Crow
StataCorp
College Station, TX
kcrow@stata.com

If you plan to use Stata in a presentation, you might consider changing a few settings so that Stata is easy for your audience to view. How you set up Stata for presenting will depend on several factors like the size and layout of the room, the length of the Stata commands you will issue, the datasets you will use, the resolution of the projector, etc. Changing the settings and saving those settings as a custom preference before you present can save you time and frustration. Also having a custom layout preference allows you to restore your setup should something happen in the middle of your presentation.

How you manipulate Stata’s settings is platform dependent. This article assumes you are using Windows. If you use Stata for Macintosh or Unix, the advice is the same but the manipulations are slightly different.

First, make Stata’s windows fill the screen. The maximize button is in the top right-hand corner of Stata (the maximize button is in the same place for all windows in Stata). After maximizing Stata, you will also want to maximize the Results window.

Once Stata is maximized, you will probably want to move the Command window. For most room layouts, you will want the Command window at the top of Stata so that your audience can see the commands you are typing. You achieve this by changing your windowing preferences to allow docking. In Stata, select Edit > Preferences > General Preferences..., and then select the Windowing tab in the dialog box that appears. Make sure that the check box for Enable ability to dock, undock, or tab windows is checked, and then click on the OK button. Next double-click on the blue title bar of the Command window and drag the window to the top docking button. Once the Command window is docked on top, it is a good idea to go back to the General Preferences dialog box and uncheck the box you changed. Doing this will ensure that your Command window stays at the top of Stata and does not accidentally undock.

Depending on the projector resolution, you will probably want to change the font, font style, and font size of the Command window. To change the font settings of a window in Stata, right-click within the window and select Font.... The font you choose is up to you, but we recommend Courier New as a serif font or Lucida Console as a sans serif font. You will also want to change the font size (14 is a good starting size) and change the font style to bold. Finally, we recommend that you resize the Command window so that you can see two lines (with the font and font size changed, you might find that long Stata commands do not fit on one line).
Once the Command window is set, you now want to change the font and font size of the Results window. After you have the font and font size selected, be sure that the line size in the Results window is at least 80 characters long to prevent wrapping of output. You can check your line size by typing the following command in Stata.

```
    . display c(linesize)
```

Another setting to consider changing is the color scheme of the Results window from the default black background scheme to the white background scheme. To do this, bring up the General Preferences dialog box and, in the Results color tab, change the Color scheme drop-down box to White background. Switching to this color scheme will help people in the audience who are color-blind.

Next change the font and font size of the Review and Variables windows. For the Variables window, you might want to resize the Name, Label, Type, or Format columns depending on your dataset. For example, if your dataset has long variable names but does not have variable labels, you would want to drag the Name column wider in the Variables window. If you plan to use the Viewer, Graph window, Do-file Editor, or Data Editor in your presentation, you will probably also want to resize the window and change the font and font size to make them easier to view.

You can do far more advanced Stata layouts by enabling some windowing preferences in Stata. For example, if you would like more room in the Results window, you might consider pinning the Review and Variables windows to the side of Stata. Again bring up the General Preferences dialog box in Stata and go to the Windowing tab. Check the box labeled Enable ability to pin or unpin windows and then close the dialog. You should now see a pin button in the blue title bars of the Review and Variables windows. Clicking on this button makes the windows a tab on the left side of Stata. To view the windows, simply click on the tab.

Finally, save your settings as a preference. In Stata, select Edit > Preferences > Manage Preferences > Save Preferences > New Preferences Set.... A dialog box will prompt you to name your preference. To load this saved preference, select Edit > Preferences > Manage Preferences > Load Preferences, and then select your preference listed in the menu.