

Introduction to Stata

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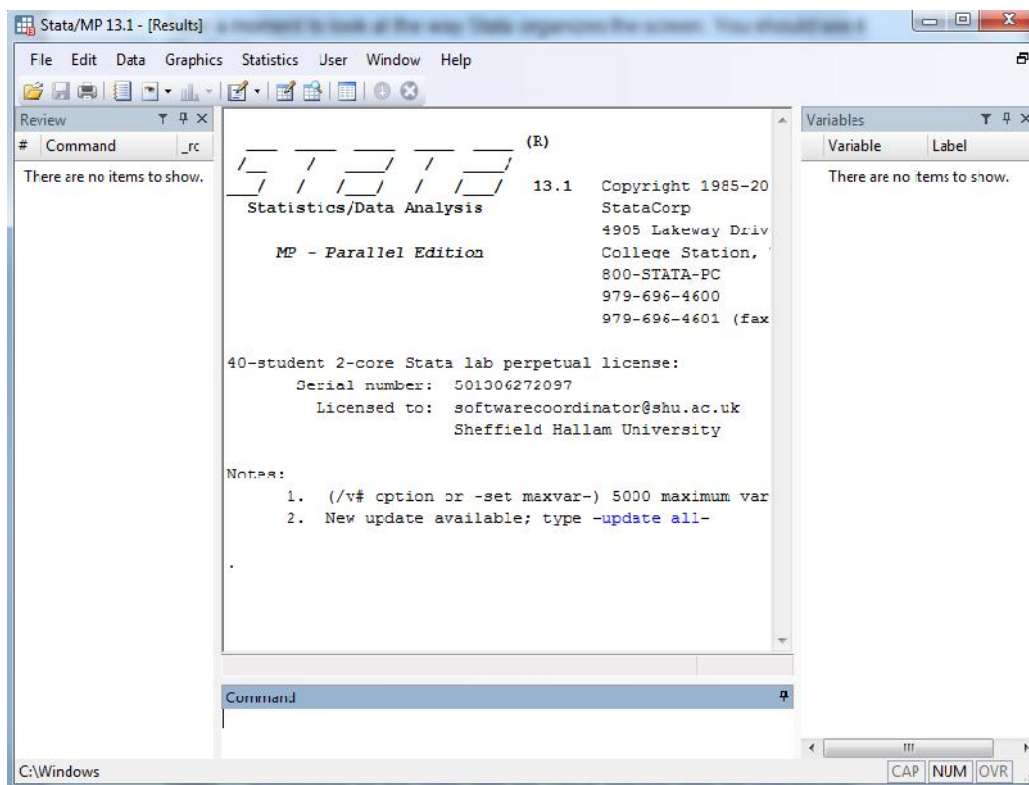
Starting Stata:

Using the Windows menu, click the **Start** button, then type **Stata** in 'search programs and file' box. Alternatively, locate a Stata data file, with ***.dta** extension, and double click.

The opening display:

Take a moment to look at the way Stata organizes the screen. You should see 4 Windows:

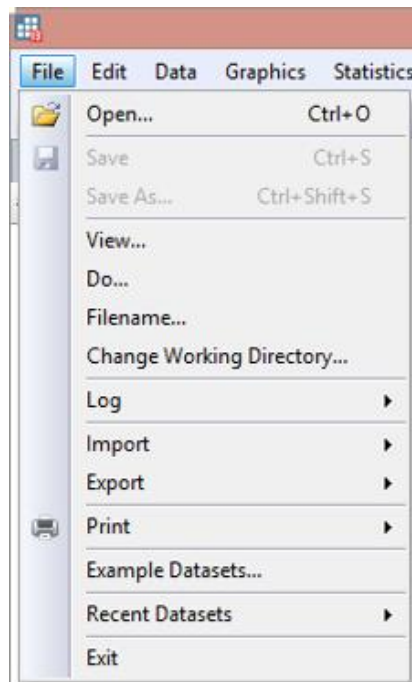
1. **Variables:** This window will show the variables you are using;
2. **Command:** The long window in the bottom is where you can type commands;
3. **Results:** The larger main window is where you will see the commands that are given, and the corresponding outputs;
4. **Review:** This window keeps a history of the commands you (will) type.



Also, across the top you will see the **drop-down menus** and some useful icons.



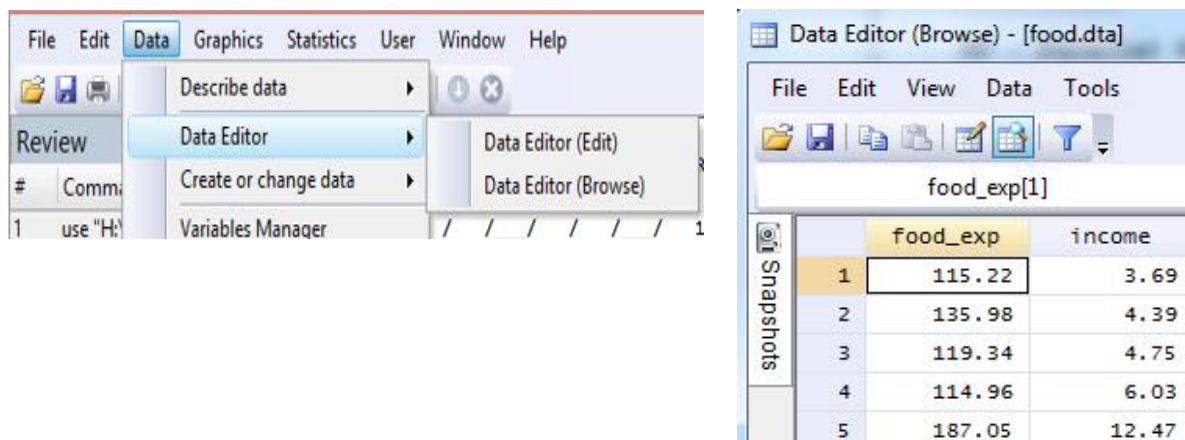
Download the Stata data file with *.dta extension on the desktop. In Stata, go to **File, Open...**, and browse for the Stata data file.



Once the data file is opened into Stata, you can see a description of the variables in the variables window.

Variable	Label
food_exp	household food expenditure per week
income	weekly household income

You can see the data by going to **Data, Data Editor**, and then choosing **Edit** (if you want to make changes to the data) or **Browse** (if you just want to see it).



Notice that when you opened the data file using the drop-down menus, Stata printed the corresponding commands `use` in the main window.

You can now use Stata in essentially three different ways:

1. You can continue to use drop-down menus (this is useful if you do not know the commands, if you want to use the help facility, or if you want to see the options available);
2. You can type the commands in the command window (note that Stata is case sensitive);
3. You can write a ***.do** file with the commands and execute them.

We will use a mixture of the first two modes throughout this course.

(End)