THE STATA NEWS

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Introducing the Stata Journal

The Stata Journal will begin publication fourth quarter 2001. The quarterly publication will be a refereed journal that will focus on articles of interest to Stata users. Articles will include, but not be limited to,

- Expository papers which link the use of Stata commands or programs to associated principles, such as those which will serve as tutorials for those first encountering a new field of statistics or a major new technique.

- Papers which go "beyond the Stata manual" in explaining key features or uses of Stata which are of interest to intermediate or advanced users of Stata.

- Papers which 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, limited dependent variable modeling).

- Papers analyzing the statistical properties of new or existing estimators and tests in Stata. This includes topics such as simulations of bias, convergence, or small-sample properties of estimators and tests; power analyses; and comparisons of tests or estimators.

- Papers of interest or use to researchers, especially in fields which are of practical importance but not often written up in texts or other journals, e.g., the use of Stata in managing datasets, particularly large datasets, with advice from hard-won experience.

- Papers of interest to those teaching with Stata. Topics might include extended examples of techniques and interpretation of results, simulations of statistical concepts, and overviews of subject areas.

In addition, the Stata Journal will have columns, such as a column by Nicholas J. Cox on effective interactive and programming uses of the Stata language. Reviews of books, particularly books that use Stata or are about Stata, will also be featured.

The Stata Journal will be similar to the Stata manuals in appearance; that is, it will be the same height and width, will have a glossy, color cover, and will be a bound volume. There will also be an electronic version of the Stata Journal.

H. Joseph Newton is the Editor, and Nicholas J. Cox, the Executive Editor. The Associate Editors of the Stata Journal are

Christopher Baum, Boston College
Rino Bellocco, Karolinska Institutet
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Jeroen Weesie, Universiteit Utrecht

The Stata Journal is intended for all Stata users, from beginner to advanced. We believe that Stata users will find this to be a valuable publication, so we have dedicated a web site to the Journal. Visit **http://www.stata-journal.com** to follow the development of the Stata Journal.

To subscribe to the Stata Journal, use the enclosed order form or subscribe on-line at **http://www.stata.com/bookstore/sj.html**.

The Stata Journal is the product of the evolution of the Stata Technical Bulletin (STB). For the past ten years, the STB served as a means of distributing new commands and Stata updates, both user-written and "official". With the growth of the Internet, the STB was no longer being used as the primary vehicle to distribute user-written programs, and StataCorp stopped distributing official updates through the STB. A new publication was needed that was well-suited to the Internet era, so the Stata Journal was born.

If you were a subscriber to the STB and your subscription has not expired, your subscription will be converted to a subscription to the Stata Journal. Visit **http://www.stata-journal.com/subscription.html** for details.

Inside this issue:

Submissions to the Stata Journal

The editors welcome submissions to the Stata Journal. The editors prefer that articles be submitted in LaTeX, but ASCII and Word contributions will be accepted.

A Getting started with the Stata Journal section has been added to the Stata Journal web site at **http://www.stata-journal.com/author/**, and contains LaTeX style files to assist authors.

Submissions should be sent to **editor@stata-journal.com**. If you have questions about submissions, please contact

H. Joseph Newton, Texas A&M University
　　jnewton@stata-journal.com

or

Nicholas J. Cox, University of Durham
　　n.j.cox@stata-journal.com

From the Stata Bookstore

STB Reprints 10 now shipping

The tenth volume of the Stata Technical Bulletin Reprints is now shipping. The Reprints are bound books, each containing one year of the Stata Technical Bulletin (STB). Volume 10 contains one year plus one issue of the STB – STB-55 through STB-61. Because the STB is converting itself into the Stata Journal, this will be the last STB Reprints volume.
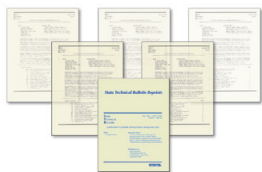
Although the STB has evolved into The Stata Journal, many articles that have appeared in the STB continue to be of value to users today, and the Reprints is a convenient way to acquire past issues of the Stata Technical Bulletin (STB).

If you are not familiar with the STB, please visit our web site at **http://www.stata.com/support/faqs/res/stb.html**.

STB Reprints Volume 10 is available for $30, plus shipping. The complete set of ten STB Reprint volumes, May 1991 through May 2001, is available for $195, plus shipping. To order, use the enclosed order form or order on-line at **http://www.stata.com/bookstore/stbr.html**.

The table of contents of all ten Reprint volumes can be found on the Stata web site at
http://www.stata.com/info/products/stb/stbvols.html.

Note to STB-55 through STB-61 authors: By now, you should have received a complimentary copy of STB Reprints Volume 10. If you have not, please email **stata@stata.com***.*
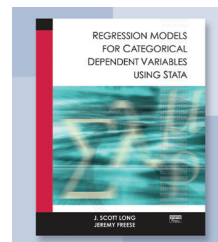
Regression Models for Categorical Dependent Variables using Stata

While regression models for categorical dependent variables are ubiquitous, a discussion of how to interpret these models has been sorely lacking. *Regression Models for Categorical Dependent Variables using Stata* fills this void. This book covers how to estimate and interpret regression models for categorical data with Stata, including some commands written by the authors. Hypothesis testing and goodness-of-fit statistics are also discussed.

The book begins with a lucid introduction to Stata and then provides a general treatment of estimation, testing, fit, and interpretation in this class of models. Binary outcomes, ordinal outcomes, nominal outcomes, and count outcomes are covered in detail in separate chapters. The final chapter discusses how to estimate and interpret models with special characteristics such as ordinal and nominal independent variables, interaction and nonlinear terms. One appendix discusses the syntax of the author-written commands and a second gives details of the datasets used by the authors in the book.

This book is filled with concrete examples. Since all the examples, datasets, and author-written commands are available from the authors at their web site, the examples can be easily replicated by the reader using Stata. This book is ideal for the student or applied researcher who wants to know how to estimate this type of model and understand what the output means.

A complete table of contents can be found at
http://www.stata.com/bookstore/regmodcdvs.html. To order, use the enclosed order form or order on-line at
http://www.stata.com/bookstore/regmodcdvs.html.

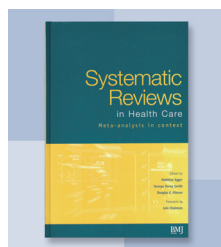|	
Title:	*Regression Models for Categorical Dependent Variables using Stata*
Authors:	J. Scott Long & Jeremy Freese
Publisher:	Stata Press
Copyright:	2001
ISBN:	1-881228-62-6
Pages:	341; paperback
Price:	$52.00

Systematic Reviews in Health Care: Meta-analysis in context (2d ed.)

Meta-analysis as a statistical and scientific tool has grown immensely in popularity over the last decade as a way to systematically present new research results in the proper context, given all previous related work. As such, this text is a collection of articles that serve to educate the reader on all the relevant terminology and to bring the reader up to speed on the continuously growing methodology in the field of meta-analysis. By using methods of meta-analysis, researchers may decrease bias and increase the precision of their treatment effects, thus reducing the probability of Type I and Type II errors and in the process making more timely the acceptance of new treatments.

The text begins with some history behind the rise in popularity of meta-analysis and a glossary of the relevant terminology, then proceeds with several chapters of contributed articles concerned primarily with the detection and elimination of bias in systematic reviews. The next part of the text deals with the analysis of variability within and between studies, followed by three chapters on the importance of systematic reviews. Computer software (in particular a chapter on meta-analysis in Stata) is covered next, followed by several contributed articles on the use of systematic reviews in practice. The book then closes with a status report on the Cochrane Collaboration, an international organization of health care professionals, physicians, researchers, and consumers devoted to maintaining and promoting the accessibility of systematic reviews.

Stata datasets and additional materials used in the text are available from the book's web site **http://www.systematicreviews.com**.

Additional information–including a detailed table of contents–on this book, as well as others, can be found on the Stata Bookstore at **http://www.stata.com/bookstore**. You may order books from the Bookstore web site or use the enclosed order form.

Title: *Systematic Reviews in Health Care: Meta-Analysis in context* (2d ed.)
Editors: Matthias Egger, George Davey Smith, & Douglas G. Altman
Publisher: BMJ Publishing Group
Copyright: 2001
ISBN: 0-7279-1488-X
Pages: 487; hardcover
Price: $74.75

Latest NetCourse™ schedule

The Stata NetCourses™ have been well-received by participants as is reflected in the following remarks:

- "I thought the material was excellent. I was also impressed by the opportunity the students had to ask questions and the efforts made by the Course Leaders to answer them regardless of how complicated the question."
- "I thought the NetCourse was superior because of the quality of the notes and the emphasis on intuition."

A NetCourse is a "lecture" posted to the NetCourse website on Friday. (Some NetCourses are email-based rather than web-based. In this case, lectures are emailed to the course participants.) After reading the lecture over the weekend or Monday, participants can post questions and comments to the course discussion area. Course Leaders respond to the questions and comments on Tuesday and Thursday. The other participants are encouraged to amplify or otherwise respond to the questions or comments as well. The next lecture is then posted on Friday, and the process repeats. After the last lecture, discussion continues for a few additional weeks until the course concludes.

A brief summary of the upcoming NetCourses is listed below. For more details on how NetCourses work and for course syllabi, visit **http://www.stata.com/info/products/netcourse**.

An enrollment form for each of the upcoming NetCourses has been enclosed with the Stata News. You can also enroll online at **http://www.stata.com/info/products/netcourse/enrollment.html**.

NC-101. Introduction to Stata

NC-101 is designed to take smart, knowledgeable people and turn them into proficient interactive users of Stata. The course covers not just the obvious such as getting data into Stata, but also covers lots of detailed techniques and tricks to make you a powerful Stata user. From web update features and match-merging to using `by` groups and explicit subscripting, many of Stata's key concepts are explored.

Introduction to Stata
Prerequisites
Stata 7
Dates offered
September 14 – October 26 — October 19 – November 30
Course Leaders
Kevin Crow and Pete Huckelba
Enrollment Deadlines
September 10 — October 15
Price
$95

NC-151. Introduction to Stata programming

NC-151 is intended for all Stata users. Through a combination of lectures, example applications, and carefully chosen problems, the course addresses the full range of methods and techniques necessary to be most productive in the Stata environment. Beginning with effective ways to organize both simple and complicated analyses in Stata, NetCourse 151 then moves into programming elements that can be used to work more efficiently. Key programming topics include macro processing, program flow of control, using do-files, programming ado-files, Monte-Carlo simulations, and bootstrapped standard errors.

Introduction to Stata programming
Prerequisites
Stata 7; basic knowledge of using Stata interactively
Date offered
October 19 – November 30
Course Leaders
Shannon Driver and Weihua Guan
Enrollment Deadline
October 15
Price
$125

NC-152. Advanced Stata programming

The goal of NC-152 is to turn knowledgeable Stata programmers into Stata programming masters. It is assumed that you know what needs programming and to some extent how. Now, you want to add your own commands to Stata and learn to produce professional-level tools for use by you and others.

NC-152 teaches you how to create and debug new commands that are indistinguishable from the commands in Stata. You will learn how to parse both standard and nonstandard Stata syntax using the intuitive `syntax` command, how to manage and process saved results, how to process `by` groups, and more.

Advanced Stata programming
Prerequisites
Stata 7; NC-151 or equivalent knowledge
Date offered
October 19 – December 7
Course Leaders
Jeff Pitblado and Allen McDowell
Enrollment Deadline
October 15
Price
$150

Have you subscribed to Statalist?

Do you know about the independently operated Stata listserver? Statalist is an active group of users who exchange information via email about using stata. For details about Statalist, see the Statalist FAQ at **http://www.stata.com/support/statalist/faq/**.

To subscribe (or unsubscribe), visit **http://www.stata.com/support/statalist/**.

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