frames use — Load a set of frames from disk

Description

`frames use` loads into memory a set of frames from a Stata frameset (`.dtas`) file previously saved by `frames save`.

Quick start

Load all frames in file `myframeset.dtas`

```
frames use myframeset
```

Load frames `A` and `B` in file `myframeset.dtas`

```
frames use myframeset, frames(A B)
```

Menu

Data > Frames Manager

Syntax

`frames use` *filename* [, *options*]

If *filename* is specified without an extension, `.dtas` is assumed. If *filename* contains embedded spaces or other special characters, it has to be enclosed in double quotes.

options	Description
`frames(`*framelist*`)`	specify frames to be used
`clear`	clear all frames in memory and replace them with the frames from disk
`replace`	overwrite existing frames in memory with frames of the same name from *filename*

Options

frames(*framelist*) specifies the frames to be loaded into memory. *framelist* is a list of frame names separated by a space. If frames() is not specified, all frames are loaded. The frames() option does not change the current working frame; to change the working frame after frames use, use frame change.

clear clears all frames in memory and replaces them with frames from disk. The new working frame will be the first frame that was specified in the frames(*framelist*) option with frames save.

If both clear and frames(*framelist*) are specified with frames use, the new working frame will be the first one listed in *framelist*.

replace replaces frames in memory with frames from *filename* if the frame names are the same. This option does not drop from memory existing frames with different names.

Remarks and examples

frames use is used to load a frameset previously saved with frames save. A frameset is a single file with data from multiple frames. By loading a frameset with frames use, you can resume the work you were doing with the frames saved with frames save.

frames use will load all the data frames stored in the .dtas file, unless you specify a list with the frames() option. Additionally, when no other options are specified, the frames will be loaded into memory, but the current working frame will not be changed, even if it is empty. When frames use is specified with both the frames() and clear options, the new working frame will be the first frame listed in the frames() option. When frames use is specified with the clear option but without the frames() option, the new working frame will be the first frame that was specified in the frames() option with frames save. Note that the first frame of a .dtas file is stored in r(first) after the frameset is described with frames describe using.

▷ Example 1

To demonstrate how to load a frameset, we first need to create a frameset. Below, we create frames census and housing with data from the 1980 census. We then use frames save to store both of these frames in a file named myframeset.dtas.

```
. clear frames
. sysuse census
(1980 Census data by state)
. frame rename default census
. frame create housing
. frame change housing
. webuse hsng
(1980 Census housing data)
. frames save myframeset, frames(census housing) replace
(file myframeset.dtas not found)
file myframeset.dtas saved
```

Suppose that at a later time we would like to load the frames in myframeset.dtas. We first clear any data and frames and then use frames use.

```
. clear all
. frames use myframeset
  census   50 x 13; 1980 Census data by state
  housing  50 x 12; 1980 Census housing data
```

We see in the output above that both frames were loaded into memory. If there is no dataset in memory, frames use loads the frames from the .dtas file, but the default frame remains the current working frame, as shown below:

```
. pwf
  (current frame is default)
```

The output from pwf shows that the current frame is default. frames describe below lists the frames in alphabetical order and shows that the default frame (labeled Frame: default) is empty:

```
. frames describe
-------------------------------------------------------------------------------
Frame: census
Contains data
 Observations:            50                  1980 Census data by state
    Variables:            13                  28 Mar 2025 19:42
-------------------------------------------------------------------------------
Variable      Storage   Display    Value
    name         type    format    label      Variable label
-------------------------------------------------------------------------------
state            str14   %-14s                State
state2           str2    %-2s                 Two-letter state abbreviation
region           int     %-8.0g     cenreg    Census region
pop              long    %12.0gc              Population
poplt5           long    %12.0gc              Pop, < 5 year
pop5_17          long    %12.0gc              Pop, 5 to 17 years
pop18p           long    %12.0gc              Pop, 18 and older
pop65p           long    %12.0gc              Pop, 65 and older
popurban         long    %12.0gc              Urban population
medage           float   %9.2f                Median age
death            long    %12.0gc              Number of deaths
marriage         long    %12.0gc              Number of marriages
divorce          long    %12.0gc              Number of divorces
-------------------------------------------------------------------------------
Sorted by:
-------------------------------------------------------------------------------

-------------------------------------------------------------------------------
Frame: default
Contains data
 Observations:             0
    Variables:             0
Sorted by:
-------------------------------------------------------------------------------
```

```
Frame: housing

Contains data
 Observations:            50                  1980 Census housing data
    Variables:            12                  28 Mar 2025 19:42
-------------------------------------------------------------------------------
Variable      Storage   Display    Value
    name         type    format    label      Variable label
-------------------------------------------------------------------------------
state           str14   %14s                  State
division        int     %8.0g      division   Census division
region          int     %8.0g      region     Census region
pop             long    %10.0g                Population in 1980
popgrow         float   %6.1f                 Pop. growth 1970-80
popden          int     %6.1f                 Pop/sq. mile
pcturban        float   %8.1f                 Percent urban
faminc          long    %8.2f                 Median family inc., 1979
hsng            long    %10.0g                Hsng units 1980
hsnggrow        float   %8.1f                 % housing growth
hsngval         long    %9.2f                 Median hsng value
rent            long    %6.2f                 Median gross rent
-------------------------------------------------------------------------------
Sorted by: state
-------------------------------------------------------------------------------
```

If there are frames in memory, frames `census` and `housing` in `myframeset.dtas` will be loaded into memory, in addition to the frames already in memory. If there is already a frame in memory with the same name as the frame you are loading, `frames use` issues an error message. For example, below we rename the `default` frame to `census` and then run our `frames use` command once more:

```
. clear frames
. sysuse census, clear
(1980 Census data by state)
. frame rename default census
. frames use myframeset.dtas
frames in memory are in conflict with frames on disk
    Frame census is already in memory.  Specify option clear to clear all
    frames or option replace to replace only the frames in conflict.
r(4);
```

To successfully load the frames from `myframeset.dtas`, we can either use the `clear` option to clear all frames from memory,

```
. frames use myframeset, clear
```

or use the `replace` option to replace the frames in conflict:

```
. frames use myframeset, replace
```

Stored results

`frames use` stores the following in `r()`:

Macros

`r(fn)`	pathname of frameset
`r(frames)`	list of frames loaded

Also see

[D] **frames describe** — Describe frames in memory or in a file

[D] **frames modify** — Modify a set of frames on disk

[D] **frames save** — Save a set of frames on disk

[D] **frames** — Data frames

[D] **sysuse** — Use shipped dataset

[D] **use** — Load Stata dataset

[D] **webuse** — Use dataset from Stata website