

**st\_macroexpand()** — Expand Stata macros in string

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## Description

`st_macroexpand(s)` returns *s* with any quoted or dollar sign–prefixed macros expanded.

`_st_macroexpand(S, s)` places in *S* the contents of *s* with any quoted or dollar sign–prefixed macros expanded and returns a Stata return code (it returns 0 if all went well).

## Syntax

*string scalar*    `st_macroexpand(string scalar s)`

*real scalar*    `_st_macroexpand(S, string scalar s)`

Note: The type of *S* does not matter; it is replaced and becomes a string scalar.

## Remarks and examples

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Be careful coding string literals containing quoted or prefixed macros because macros are also expanded at compile time. For instance, consider

```
s = st_macroexpand("regress 'varlist'")
```

'varlist' will be substituted with its value at compile time. What you probably want is

```
s = st_macroexpand("regress " + "'" + "varlist" + "'")
```

## Conformability

`st_macroexpand(s)`:

<i>s</i> :	1 × 1
<i>result</i> :	1 × 1

`_st_macroexpand(S, s)`:

*input*:

<i>s</i> :	1 × 1
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*output*:

<i>S</i> :	1 × 1
<i>result</i> :	1 × 1

## Diagnostics

`st_macroexpand(s)` aborts with error if *s* is too long (exceedingly unlikely) or if macro expansion fails (also unlikely).

`_st_macroexpand(S, s)` aborts with error if *s* is too long.

## Also see

[M-4] [stata](#) — Stata interface functions