

## mi import flongsep — Import flongsep-like data into mi

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## Description

`mi import flongsep` imports flongsep-like data, that is, data in which  $m = 0$ ,  $m = 1$ , ...,  $m = M$  are each recorded in separate `.dta` datasets.

`mi import flongsep` converts the data to `mi flongsep` and `mi` sets the data.

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## Syntax

```
mi import flongsep name, required_options [true_options]
```

where *name* is the name of the flongsep data to be created.

<i>required_options</i>	Description
<code>using(filenamelist)</code>	input filenames for $m = 1$ , $m = 2$ , ...
<code>id(varlist)</code>	identifying variable(s)

Note: use the input file for  $m=0$  before issuing `mi import flongsep`.

<i>true_options</i>	Description
<code>imputed(varlist)</code>	imputed variables to be registered
<code>passive(varlist)</code>	passive variables to be registered
<code>clear</code>	okay to replace unsaved data in memory

## Options

`using(filenamelist)` is required; it specifies the names of the `.dta` datasets containing  $m = 1$ ,  $m = 2$ , ...,  $m = M$ . The dataset corresponding to  $m = 0$  is not specified; it is to be in memory at the time the `mi import flongsep` command is given.

The filenames might be specified as

```
using(ds1 ds2 ds3 ds4 ds5)
```

which states that  $m = 1$  is in file `ds1.dta`,  $m = 2$  is in file `ds2.dta`, ..., and  $m = 5$  is in file `ds5.dta`. Also, `{#-#}` is understood, so the above could just as well be specified as

```
using(ds{1-5})
```

The braced numeric range may appear anywhere in the name, and thus

```
using(ds{1-5}imp)
```

would mean that `ds1imp.dta`, `ds2imp.dta`, ..., `ds5imp.dta` contain  $m = 1$ ,  $m = 2$ , ...,  $m = 5$ .

Alternatively, a comma-separated list can appear inside the braces. Filenames `dsfirstm.dta`, `dssecondm.dta`, ..., `dsfifthm.dta` can be specified as

```
using(ds{first,second,third,fourth,fifth}m)
```

Filenames can be specified with or without the `.dta` suffix and may be enclosed in quotes if they contain special characters.

`id(varlist)` is required; it specifies the variable or variables that uniquely identify the observations in each dataset. The coding must be the same across datasets.

`imputed(varlist)` and `passive(varlist)` are truly optional options, although it would be unusual if `imputed()` were not specified.

`imputed(varlist)` specifies the names of the imputed variables.

`passive(varlist)` specifies the names of the passive variables.

`clear` specifies that it is okay to replace the data in memory even if they have changed since they were saved to disk.

## Remarks and examples

[stata.com](http://www.stata.com)

The procedure to convert flongsep-like data to mi flongsep is this:

1. use the dataset corresponding to  $m = 0$ .
2. Issue the `mi import flongsep name` command, where *name* is the name of the mi flongsep data to be created.
3. Perform the checks outlined in *Using mi import nhanes1, ice, flong, and flongsep* of [\[MI\] mi import](#).
4. Use `mi convert` (see [\[MI\] mi convert](#)) to convert the data to a more convenient style such as `wide`, `mlong`, or `flong`.

For instance, you have been given the unset datasets `imorig.dta`, `im1.dta`, and `im2.dta`. You are told that these datasets contain the original data and two imputations, that variable `b` is imputed, and that variable `c` is passive and in fact equal to `a + b`. Here are the datasets:

```
. use http://www.stata-press.com/data/r15/imorig
. list
```

	subject	a	b	c
1.	101	1	2	3
2.	102	4	.	.

```
. use http://www.stata-press.com/data/r15/im1
. list
```

	subject	a	b	c
1.	101	1	2	3
2.	102	4	4.5	8.5

```
. save im1
file im1.dta saved
. use http://www.stata-press.com/data/r15/im2
. list
```

	subject	a	b	c
1.	101	1	2	3
2.	102	4	5.5	9.5

```
. save im2
file im2.dta saved
```

These are the same data discussed in [\[MI\] styles](#) but in unset form.

The fact that these datasets are nicely sorted is irrelevant. To import these datasets, you type

```
. use http://www.stata-press.com/data/r15/imorig
. mi import flongsep mymi, using(im1 im2) id(subject) imputed(b) passive(c)
```

We will now perform the checks outlined in [Using mi import nhanes1, ice, flong, and flongsep](#) of [\[MI\] mi import](#), which are to run `mi describe` and `mi varying` to verify that variables are registered correctly:

```
. mi describe
Style:  flongsep mymi
      last mi update 21jan2017 12:52:19, 0 seconds ago

Obs.:  complete      1
      incomplete     1  (M = 2 imputations)
      -----
      total          2

Vars.:  imputed:    1; b(1)
      passive:     1; c(1)
      regular:     0
      system:      2; _mi_id _mi_miss
      (there are 2 unregistered variables; subject a)
```

```
. mi varying
      Possible problem  variable names
```

---

```
      imputed nonvarying: (none)
      passive nonvarying: (none)
      unregistered varying: (none)
*unregistered super/varying: (none)
      unregistered super varying: (none)
```

---

\* super/varying means super varying but would be varying if registered as imputed; variables vary only where equal to soft missing in  $m=0$ .

`mi varying` reported no problems. We finally convert to our preferred wide style:

```
. mi convert wide, clear  
. list
```

	subject	a	b	c	_mi_miss	_1_b	_1_c	_2_b	_2_c
1.	101	1	2	3	0	2	3	2	3
2.	102	4	.	.	1	4.5	8.5	5.5	9.5

We are done with the converted data in `flongsep` format, so we will erase the files:

```
. mi erase mymi  
(files mymi.dta _1_mymi.dta _2_mymi.dta erased)
```

### Also see

[MI] [intro](#) — Introduction to `mi`

[MI] [mi import](#) — Import data into `mi`