<div style="border:1px solid">

spshape2dta — Translate shapefile to Stata format

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Description

spshape2dta *name* reads files *name*.shp and *name*.dbf and creates Sp dataset *name*.dta and translated shapefile *name*_shp.dta. The translated shapefile will be linked to the Sp dataset *name*.dta.

Quick start

Create myfile.dta and myfile_shp.dta from myfile.shp and myfile.dbf

  spshape2dta myfile

Create newfile.dta and newfile_shp.dta from oldfile.shp and oldfile.dbf

  spshape2dta oldfile, saving(newfile)

Menu

Statistics > Spatial autoregressive models

Syntax

  spshape2dta *name* [, *options*]

options	Description
clear	clear existing data from memory
replace	if *name*.dta or *name*_shp.dta exists, replace them
saving(*name2*)	create new files named *name2*.dta and *name2*_shp.dta instead of *name*.dta and *name*_shp.dta

spshape2dta translates files *name*.shp and *name*.dbf. They must be in the current directory.

spshape2dta creates files *name*.dta and *name*_shp.dta. They will be created in the current directory. The data in memory, if any, remain unchanged.

Options

clear specifies to clear any data in memory.

replace specifies that if the new files being created already exist on disk, they can be replaced.

saving(*name2*) specifies that rather than the new files being named *name*.dta and *name*_shp.dta, they be named *name2*.dta and *name2*_shp.dta.

Remarks and examples

spshape2dta is the first step in preparing data to be used with shapefiles. See [SP] **Intro 4** for step-by-step instructions.

spshape2dta creates two files:

> *name*.dta
> *name*_shp.dta

name.dta is an ordinary Stata dataset. The dataset will have N observations, one for each spatial unit. The dataset will be spset.

```
. use name
. spset
      Sp dataset: name.dta
 Linked shapefile: name_shp.dta
            Data: Cross sectional
  Spatial-unit ID: _ID
      Coordinates: _CY, _CX (latitude-and-longitude, miles)
```

name.dta will contain the variables

_ID	values $1, 2, \ldots, N$. This variable links observations in the data to observations in the Stata-format shapefile, *name*_shp.dta.
_CX, _CY	contain the centroids for the places (spatial units)

name.dta will include the other variables defined in *name*.dbf. Usually, there will be five or ten. What they contain varies but can usually be determined from their names and by looking at their values.

name.dta will be linked to *name*_shp.dta, which is called the Stata-format shapefile. It contains the map. It too is an ordinary Stata dataset, but you ignore it. Sp will use *name*_shp.dta behind the scenes when you construct contiguity spatial weighting matrices using spmatrix create contiguity or when you graph choropleth maps using grmap.

Also see

[SP] **Intro 3** — Preparing data for analysis

[SP] **Intro 4** — Preparing data: Data with shapefiles