

Description

`graph describe` describes the contents of a graph in memory or a graph stored on disk.

Quick start

Describe graph `mygraph` stored in memory

```
graph describe mygraph
```

Describe graph saved to disk as `mygraph.gph`

```
graph describe mygraph.gph
```

Same as above

```
graph describe "mygraph"
```

Menu

Graphics > Manage graphs > Describe graph

Syntax

```
graph describe [name]
```

<i>name</i>	Description
<i>simplename</i>	name of graph in memory
<i>filename</i> .gph	name of graph on disk
" <i>filename</i> "	name of graph on disk

If *name* is not specified, the graph currently displayed in the Graph window is described.

Remarks and examples

See [G-2] [graph manipulation](#) for an introduction to the graph manipulation commands.

`graph describe` describes the contents of a graph, which may be stored in memory or on disk. Without arguments, the graph stored in memory named `Graph` is described:

```
. use https://www.stata-press.com/data/r19/auto
(1978 automobile data)
. scatter mpg weight
  (graph omitted)
. graph describe
```

Graph stored in memory

```
      name:  Graph
    format:  live
   created:  9 May 2024 14:26:12
    scheme:  default
      size:  4.5 x 7.5
   dta file:  auto.dta dated 13 Apr 2024 17:45
  command:  twoway scatter mpg weight
```

In the above, the size is reported as $y\text{size} \times x\text{size}$, not the other way around.

When you type a name ending in `.gph`, the disk file is described:

```
. graph save myfile
. graph describe myfile.gph
```

myfile.gph stored on disk

```
      name:  myfile.gph
    format:  live
   created:  9 May 2024 17:45:09
    scheme:  default
      size:  4.5 x 7.5
   dta file:  auto.dta dated 13 Apr 2024 17:45
  command:  twoway scatter mpg weight
```

If the file is saved in `asis` format—see [G-4] [Concept: gph files](#)—only the name and format are listed:

```
. graph save picture, asis
. graph describe picture.gph
```

picture.gph stored on disk

```
      name:  picture.gph
    format:  asis
```

Stored results

graph describe stores the following in `r()`:

Macros

<code>r(fn)</code>	<i>filename</i> or <i>filename.gph</i>
<code>r(ft)</code>	“old”, “asis”, or “live”

and, if `r(ft) == “live”`,

Macros

<code>r(command)</code>	command
<code>r(family)</code>	subcommand; twoway, matrix, bar, dot, box, or pie
<code>r(command_date)</code>	date on which command was run
<code>r(command_time)</code>	time at which command was run
<code>r(scheme)</code>	scheme name
<code>r(ysize)</code>	<code>ysize()</code> value
<code>r(xsize)</code>	<code>xsize()</code> value
<code>r(dtadatafile)</code>	.dta file in memory at <code>command_time</code>
<code>r(dtadatafile_date)</code>	.dta file date

Any of `r(command)`, ..., `r(dtadatafile_date)` may be undefined, so refer to contents by using macro quoting.

Also see

[G-2] [graph manipulation](#) — Graph manipulation commands

[G-2] [graph dir](#) — List names of graphs in memory and on disk

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