st_addalias( ) — Add alias variable to current Stata dataset

Description Syntax Remarks and examples Conformability Diagnostics Also see

Description

`st_addalias(`*name*`,` *linkname*`,` *varname*`)` adds new variable *name* to the Stata dataset as an alias to variable *varname* in another frame linked with the current frame by *linkname*. Returned is the scalar variable index of the new variable. `st_addalias()` aborts with error (and adds no variable) if the variable already exists or cannot be added for other reasons.

`_st_addalias()` does the same thing as `st_addalias()` except that, rather than aborting with error if the new variable cannot be added, returned is a scalar containing the negative of the appropriate Stata return code.

If you do not know what a frame is, see [D] **frames intro**.

Syntax

real scalar `st_addalias(`*name*`,` *linkname*`,` *varname*`)`

real scalar `_st_addalias(`*name*`,` *linkname*`,` *varname*`)`

where

name:	*string scalar* containing a new variable name
linkname:	*string scalar* containing the name of a Stata variable in the current frame that identifies a linked frame
varname:	*string scalar* containing the name of a Stata variable in the linked frame

Remarks and examples

Remarks are presented under the following headings:

Creating a new alias variable

To create an alias variable, you must have already established a link between two frames. If you do not know about linking frames, see [D] **frlink**. Suppose the linkage variable created by `frlink` is named `linkage` and a variable in the linked frame is named `targvar`. To create an alias variable named `myvar` linked to `targvar`, code

```
idx = st_addalias("myvar", "linkage", "targvar")
```

or

```
(void) st_addalias("myvar", "linkage", "targvar")
```

You use the first form if you will subsequently need the variable's index number, or you use the second form otherwise.

Handling errors

There are many common reasons why `st_addalias()` might fail: the variable name is invalid, a variable under that name already exists, the linkage variable is invalid or does not exist, or the target variable is invalid or does not exist. If there is a problem adding a variable, `st_addalias()` will abort with error. If you wish to avoid the traceback log and just have Stata issue an error, use `_st_addalias()` and code

```
idx = _st_addalias("myvar", "linkage", "targvar")
if (idx<0) exit(-idx)
```

Conformability

`st_addalias(`*name*`,` *linkname*`,` *varname*`)`:

name:	1×1
linkname:	1×1
varname:	1×1
result:	1×1

`_st_addalias(`*name*`,` *linkname*`,` *varname*`)`:

name:	1×1
linkname:	1×1
varname:	1×1
result:	1×1

Diagnostics

`st_addalias(`*name*`,` *linkname*`,` *varname*`)` aborts with error if

1. *name* is not a valid variable name;
2. a variable named *name* already exists;
3. *linkname* is not a valid link variable in the current dataset;
4. *varname* is not a variable in the linked dataset.

`_st_addalias(`*name*`,` *linkname*`,` *varname*`)` returns the negative value of the appropriate Stata return code.

If a variable is created, `st_updata()` (see [M-5] **st_updata( )**) is set unless *name* is temporary; see [M-5] **st_tempname( )**.

Also see

[M-5] **st_addvar( )** — Add variable to current Stata dataset

[M-5] **st_isalias( )** — Properties of alias variable

[M-4] **Stata** — Stata interface functions

[D] **fralias** — Alias variables from linked frames

[D] **frlink** — Link frames

[D] **frunalias** — Change storage type of alias variables