

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

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
------------	-------

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

Stata, Stata Press, Mata, NetCourse, and NetCourseNow are registered trademarks of StataCorp LLC. Stata and Stata Press are registered trademarks with the World Intellectual Property Organization of the United Nations. StataNow is a trademark of StataCorp LLC. Other brand and product names are registered trademarks or trademarks of their respective companies. Copyright © 1985–2025 StataCorp LLC, College Station, TX, USA. All rights reserved.



For suggested citations, see the FAQ on [citing Stata documentation](#).