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st_macroexpand() — Expand Stata macros in string

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

\[ \text{string scalar \hspace{3em}} \text{st_macroexpand(string scalar s)} \]
\[ \text{real scalar \hspace{3em}} \text{st_macroexpand(S, string scalar s)} \]

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

\[ s = \text{st_macroexpand("regress 'varlist'")} \]

'varlist' will be substituted with its value at compile time. What you probably want is

\[ s = \text{st_macroexpand("regress " + "'" + "varlist" + "'")} \]

Conformability

\[ \text{st_macroexpand(s):} \]
\[ s: \hspace{3em} 1 \times 1 \]
\[ \text{result:} \hspace{3em} 1 \times 1 \]

\[ \text{_st_macroexpand(S, s):} \]
\[ \text{input:} \]
\[ s: \hspace{3em} 1 \times 1 \]
\[ \text{output:} \]
\[ S: \hspace{3em} 1 \times 1 \]
\[ \text{result:} \hspace{3em} 1 \times 1 \]
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