

## mi import flong — Import flong-like data into mi

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## Description

`mi import flong` imports flong-like data, that is, data in which  $m = 0, m = 1, \dots, m = M$  are all recorded in one `.dta` dataset.

`mi import flong` converts the data to `mi flong` style. The data are `mi set`.

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## Syntax

```
mi import flong, required_options [true_options]
```

<i>required_options</i>	Description
<code>m(<i>varname</i>)</code>	name of variable containing $m$
<code>id(<i>varlist</i>)</code>	identifying variable(s)

<i>true_options</i>	Description
<code>imputed(<i>varlist</i>)</code>	imputed variables to be registered
<code>passive(<i>varlist</i>)</code>	passive variables to be registered
<code>clear</code>	okay to replace unsaved data in memory

## Options

`m(varname)` and `id(varlist)` are required. `m(varname)` specifies the variable that takes on values  $0, 1, \dots, M$ , the variable that identifies observations corresponding to  $m = 0, m = 1, \dots, m = M$ .  $varname = 0$  identifies the original data,  $varname = 1$  identifies  $m = 1$ , and so on.

`id(varlist)` specifies the variable or variables that uniquely identify observations within `m()`.

`imputed(varlist)` and `passive(varlist)` are truly optional options, although it would be unusual if `imputed()` were not specified.

`imputed(varlist)` specifies the names of the imputed variables.

`passive(varlist)` specifies the names of the passive variables, if any.

`clear` specifies that it is okay to replace the data in memory even if they have changed since they were saved to disk. Remember, `mi import flong` starts with flong-like data in memory and ends with `mi flong` data in memory.

## Remarks and examples

The procedure to convert flong-like data to mi flong is this:

1. use the unset data.
2. Issue the `mi import flong` command.
3. Perform the checks outlined in *Using mi import nhanes1, ice, flong, and flongsep* of [MI] **mi import**.
4. Use `mi convert` (see [MI] **mi convert**) to convert the data to a more convenient style, such as wide or mlong.

For instance, you have the following unset data:

```
. use https://www.stata-press.com/data/r17/ourunsetdata
(mi prototype)
. list, separator(2)
```

	m	subject	a	b	c
1.	0	101	1	2	3
2.	0	102	4	.	.
3.	1	101	1	2	3
4.	1	102	4	4.5	8.5
5.	2	101	1	2	3
6.	2	102	4	5.5	9.5

You are told that these data contain the original data ( $m = 0$ ) and two imputations ( $m = 1$  and  $m = 2$ ), that variable `b` is imputed, and that variable `c` is passive and in fact equal to  $a + b$ . These are the same data discussed in [MI] **Styles** but in unset form.

The fact that these data are nicely sorted is irrelevant. To import these data, type

```
. mi import flong, m(m) id(subject) imputed(b) passive(c)
(1 m=0 obs now marked as incomplete)
```

These data are short enough that we can list the result:

```
. list, separator(2)
```

	m	subject	a	b	c	_mi_m	_mi_id	_mi_miss
1.	0	101	1	2	3	0	1	0
2.	0	102	4	.	.	0	2	1
3.	1	101	1	2	3	1	1	.
4.	1	102	4	4.5	8.5	1	2	.
5.	2	101	1	2	3	2	1	.
6.	2	102	4	5.5	9.5	2	2	.

We will now perform the checks outlined in *Using mi import nhanes1, ice, flong, and flongsep* of [MI] **mi import**, which are to run `mi describe` and `mi varying` to verify that variables are registered correctly:

```
. mi describe
Style: flong
      last mi update 30apr2021 22:49:43, 0 seconds ago
Observations:
  Complete           1
  Incomplete         1 (M = 2 imputations)
-----
  Total              2
Variables:
  Imputed: 1; b(1)
  Passive: 1; c(1)
  Regular: 0
  System: 3; _mi_m _mi_id _mi_miss
  (there are 3 unregistered variables; m subject a)
. mi varying
```

Possible problem	Variable names
imputed nonvarying:	(none)
passive nonvarying:	(none)
unregistered varying:	(none)
*unregistered super/varying:	(none)
unregistered super varying:	m

\* super/varying means super varying but would be varying if registered as imputed; variables vary only where equal to soft missing in  $m=0$ .

We discover that unregistered variable `m` is [super varying](#) (see [\[MI\] Glossary](#)). Here we no longer need `m`, so we will drop the variable and rerun `mi varying`. We will find that there are no remaining problems, so we will convert our data to our preferred wide style:

```
. drop m
. mi varying
```

Possible problem	Variable names
imputed nonvarying:	(none)
passive nonvarying:	(none)
unregistered varying:	(none)
*unregistered super/varying:	(none)
unregistered super varying:	(none)

\* super/varying means super varying but would be varying if registered as imputed; variables vary only where equal to soft missing in  $m=0$ .

```
. mi convert wide, clear
. list
```

	subject	a	b	c	_mi_miss	_1_b	_1_c	_2_b	_2_c
1.	101	1	2	3	0	2	3	2	3
2.	102	4	.	.	1	4.5	8.5	5.5	9.5

## Also see

[\[MI\] Intro](#) — Introduction to mi

[\[MI\] mi import](#) — Import data into mi