

mi import flongsep — Import flongsep-like data into mi

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Description

`mi import flongsep` imports flongsep-like data, that is, data in which $m = 0$, $m = 1$, ..., $m = M$ are each recorded in separate `.dta` datasets.

`mi import flongsep` converts the data to `mi flongsep` and `mi` sets the data.

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Syntax

```
mi import flongsep name, required_options [true_options]
```

where *name* is the name of the flongsep data to be created.

<i>required_options</i>	Description
<code>using(filenamelist)</code>	input filenames for $m = 1$, $m = 2$, ...
<code>id(varlist)</code>	identifying variable(s)

Note: use the input file for $m=0$ before issuing `mi import flongsep`.

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

Options

`using(filenamelist)` is required; it specifies the names of the `.dta` datasets containing $m = 1$, $m = 2$, ..., $m = M$. The dataset corresponding to $m = 0$ is not specified; it is to be in memory at the time the `mi import flongsep` command is given.

The filenames might be specified as

```
using(ds1 ds2 ds3 ds4 ds5)
```

which states that $m = 1$ is in file `ds1.dta`, $m = 2$ is in file `ds2.dta`, ..., and $m = 5$ is in file `ds5.dta`. Also, `{#-#}` is understood, so the above could just as well be specified as

```
using(ds{1-5})
```

The braced numeric range may appear anywhere in the name, and thus

```
using(ds{1-5}imp)
```

would mean that `ds1imp.dta`, `ds2imp.dta`, ..., `ds5imp.dta` contain $m = 1$, $m = 2$, ..., $m = 5$.

Alternatively, a comma-separated list can appear inside the braces. Filenames `dsfirstm.dta`, `dssecondm.dta`, ..., `dsfifthm.dta` can be specified as

```
using(ds{first,second,third,fourth,fifth}m)
```

Filenames can be specified with or without the `.dta` suffix and may be enclosed in quotes if they contain special characters.

`id(varlist)` is required; it specifies the variable or variables that uniquely identify the observations in each dataset. The coding must be the same across datasets.

`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.

`clear` specifies that it is okay to replace the data in memory even if they have changed since they were saved to disk.

Remarks and examples

[stata.com](https://www.stata.com)

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

1. use the dataset corresponding to $m = 0$.
2. Issue the `mi import flongsep name` command, where *name* is the name of the mi flongsep data to be created.
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`, `mlong`, or `flong`.

For instance, you have been given the unset datasets `imorig.dta`, `im1.dta`, and `im2.dta`. You are told that these datasets contain the original data and two imputations, that variable `b` is imputed, and that variable `c` is passive and in fact equal to `a + b`. Here are the datasets:

```
. use https://www.stata-press.com/data/r17/imorig
. list
```

	subject	a	b	c
1.	101	1	2	3
2.	102	4	.	.

```
. use https://www.stata-press.com/data/r17/im1
. list
```

	subject	a	b	c
1.	101	1	2	3
2.	102	4	4.5	8.5

```
. save im1
file im1.dta saved
```

```
. use https://www.stata-press.com/data/r17/im2
. list
```

	subject	a	b	c
1.	101	1	2	3
2.	102	4	5.5	9.5

```
. save im2
file im2.dta saved
```

These are the same data discussed in [\[MI\] Styles](#) but in unset form.

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

```
. use https://www.stata-press.com/data/r17/imorig
. mi import flongsep mymi, using(im1 im2) id(subject) imputed(b) passive(c)
```

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: flongsep mymi
      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: 2; _mi_id _mi_miss
  (there are 2 unregistered variables; subject a)
. 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 varying reported no problems. We finally convert to our preferred wide style:

```
. 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

We are done with the converted data in flongsep format, so we will erase the files:

```
. mi erase mymi  
(files mymi.dta _1_mymi.dta _2_mymi.dta erased)
```

Also see

[MI] [Intro](#) — Introduction to mi

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