spshape2dta — Translate shapefile to Stata format

Description

spshape2dta name reads files name.shp and name.dbf and creates Sp dataset name.dta and translated shapefile name_shp.dta. The translated shapefile will be linked to the Sp dataset name.dta.

Quick start

Create myfile.dta and myfile_shp.dta from myfile.shp and myfile.dbf

spshape2dta myfile

Create newfile.dta and newfile_shp.dta from oldfile.shp and oldfile.dbf

spshape2dta oldfile, saving(newfile)

Menu

Statistics > Spatial autoregressive models

Syntax

spshape2dta name [, options]

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>options</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>clear</td>
<td>clear existing data from memory</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>replace</td>
<td>if name.dta or name_shp.dta exists, replace them</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>saving(name2)</td>
<td>create new files named name2.dta and name2_shp.dta instead of name.dta and name_shp.dta</td>
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</table>

spshape2dta translates files name.shp and name.dbf. They must be in the current directory.

spshape2dta creates files name.dta and name_shp.dta. They will be created in the current directory. The data in memory, if any, remain unchanged.
Options

clear specifies to clear any data in memory.

replace specifies that if the new files being created already exist on disk, they can be replaced.

saving(name2) specifies that rather than the new files being named name.dta and name_shp.dta, they be named name2.dta and name2_shp.dta.

Remarks and examples

spshape2dta is the first step in preparing data to be used with shapefiles. See [SP] Intro 4 for step-by-step instructions.

spshape2dta creates two files:

    name.dta
    name_shp.dta

name.dta is an ordinary Stata dataset. The dataset will have N observations, one for each spatial unit. The dataset will be spset.

    . use name
    . spset
    Sp dataset
    data: cross sectional
    spatial-unit ID: _ID
    coordinates: _CY, _CX (latitude-and-longitude, miles)
    linked shapefile: name_shp.dta

name.dta will contain the variables

    _ID values 1,2,...,N. This variable links observations in the
    data to observations in the Stata-format shapefile, name_shp.dta.
    _CX, _CY contain the centroids for the places (spatial units)

name.dta will include the other variables defined in name.dbf. Usually, there will be five or ten. What they contain varies but can usually be determined from their names and by looking at their values.

name.dta will be linked to name_shp.dta, which is called the Stata-format shapefile. It contains the map. It too is an ordinary Stata dataset, but you ignore it. Sp will use name_shp.dta behind the scenes when you construct contiguity spatial weighting matrices using spmatrix create contiguity or when you graph choropleth maps using grmap.

Also see

[SP] Intro 3 — Preparing data for analysis
[SP] Intro 4 — Preparing data: Data with shapefiles