**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 <em>name</em>.dta or <em>name</em>.shp.dta exists, replace them</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
| saving(name2) | create new files named *name2*.dta and *name2*.shp.dta instead of *
|              | *name*.dta and *name*.shp.dta                              |

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, \ldots, 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