

spshape2dta — Translate shapefile to Stata format

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## 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*]

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

`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

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

**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