

texdoc 2.0

An update on creating LaTeX documents from within Stata

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Outline

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Motivation

- As Stata users, we create many documents that include pieces of Stata output, graphs, or other Stata results in one way or the other.
- Manual inclusion of such elements in documents can be tedious and error prone.
- Good—and efficient—practice is to automate such tasks.
- Some candidates for automation:
 - ▶ Yearly reports with a given structure but changing results
 - ▶ Research articles containing tables and graphs
 - ▶ Documentations of datasets or data analyses
 - ▶ Stata Journal articles illustrating the use of Stata commands
 - ▶ Stata Press books or other textbooks
 - ▶ Solutions to Stata exercises
 - ▶ Presentations and class notes

Motivation

- There are two main reasons for automation.

1. Efficiency

- ▶ Do manual work only once.

2. Reproducibility

- ▶ As scientists, we want complete documentation of data production and data analysis.
- ▶ Automation makes errors less likely (and makes the detection of errors more likely).
- ▶ As a side effect, automation leads to standardization, which is usually a good idea for high quality and reliable science.

The texdoc command

- `texdoc` is a command that supports such automation.
- With `texdoc` you can maintain a single do-file that contains
 - ▶ the Stata code of your data analysis and
 - ▶ the text for your report/article/book etc.
- Processing the do-file with `texdoc` will run the analysis and create the source file of your document, containing text and results.
- `texdoc` is for use with $\text{L}^{\text{A}}\text{T}_{\text{E}}\text{X}$.
 - ▶ $\text{L}^{\text{A}}\text{T}_{\text{E}}\text{X}$ has a somewhat steep learning curve, but is very flexible once you master it.
 - ▶ The end product usually is a PDF. Hence, `texdoc` is not a tool, for example, for producing websites.
- `texdoc` has been around for some time.
 - ▶ Earlier versions, however, were only useful for small/simple documents.
 - ▶ The new version has many improvements and additional features.
 - ▶ The most important new feature is the possibility to turn Stata code on an off.

The texdoc do command

- The basic procedure is to write a do-file including Stata commands and sections of L^AT_EX code and then process the do-file by:

```
texdoc do filename [, options ]
```

- The output of `texdoc do` will be a source file that can then be processed by a L^AT_EX compiler to generate the final document.
- To facilitate the workflow, a good idea is to set up a keyboard shortcut in your text editor, say Ctrl+R, that grabs the current do-file and processes it by `texdoc do`.
- `texdoc do` can be nested. In complex documents it may be desirable to include parts of the code in separate files. Use `texdoc do` to call these files within your master do-file. This also works if the master do-file itself is processed by `texdoc do`.

Structure of a texdoc do-file

- The basic structure of a do-file to be processed by texdoc do is

```
texdoc init docname [, options]  
... Stata commands ...  
/**/  
... LATEX section ...  
***/  
... Stata commands ...  
/**/  
... LATEX section ...  
***/  
... etc. ...  
texdoc close
```

Structure of a texdoc do-file

- The command

```
texdoc init docname [, options]
```

initializes the \LaTeX document and specifies general settings.

- ▶ *docname* is the name of the \LaTeX file be written to
- ▶ *options* may be used, e.g., to specify folders for log files and graphs and determine the rules for naming the files. Furthermore, the default behavior of the `texdoc stlog` (see below) can be set.
- ▶ `texdoc init` can be applied repeatedly within a do-file (omitting *docname*) to change the settings between different sections of the do-file.

- The command

```
texdoc close
```

closes the \LaTeX document. As `texdoc do` automatically closes the \LaTeX document, `texdoc close` is usually not needed.

Structure of a texdoc do-file

- Use

```
/**  
... LATEX section ...  
**/
```

to included a section of text and $L^A T_E X$ code in the document. You may also type

```
/*tex  
... LATEX section ...  
tex*/
```

The text within such a section will not be interpreted by Stata. That is, you cannot use Stata macros within such a section.

Including output from Stata commands

- The syntax to include output from Stata commands in the $\text{L}^{\text{A}}\text{T}^{\text{E}}\text{X}$ document is

```
texdoc init docname
...
texdoc stlog [name] [, options]
... Stata commands ...
texdoc stlog close
...
texdoc close
```

- ▶ All output from the commands between `texdoc stlog` and `texdoc stlog close` will be written to a separate log file that is then included, with proper formatting, in the $\text{L}^{\text{A}}\text{T}^{\text{E}}\text{X}$ document.
- ▶ You may provide a stable `name` for the output section or have `texdoc` make a name up on the fly.

Including output from Stata commands

- The *options* of `texdoc stlog` determine what exactly is done with the commands in the output section.
- Some options are:
 - ▶ `nodo` to skip executing the commands. This is an extremely useful option as it allows you to skip rerunning the commands once an output section is all set.
 - ▶ `cmdstrip` to remove the command lines from the output (i.e. only print the output without commands).
 - ▶ `cmdlog` to print only the commands without output.
 - ▶ etc.
- All options can also be specified with `texdoc init` to set the default behavior. Each option has a complementary form so that the chosen defaults can be overridden.
 - ▶ For example, specify option `nodo` with `texdoc init` to turn all commands off, but then specify option `do` with `texdoc stlog` to turn the commands back on in a specific output section.

Including graphs

- Graphs created within a `texdoc stlog` section can be included in the document as follows:

```
texdoc stlog
... Stata commands creating a graph ...
texdoc stlog close
texdoc graph [, graph_options]
```

- ▶ By default, `texdoc graph` exports the graph from the topmost graph window and includes code in the \LaTeX document to display the graph.
- ▶ `texdoc graph` takes account of the settings of `texdoc stlog`. For example, if the `nodo` option has been specified (and, hence, no graph was created), `texdoc graph` only includes appropriate code in the \LaTeX document without trying to export the graph.

Including graphs

- *graph_options* determine how the graph is exported and how it is embedded in the \LaTeX document. Default graph options can also be specified with `texdoc init`.
- Some options are:
 - ▶ `as(fileformats)` to set the output format(s). The default is `as(pdf)`.
 - ▶ `name(name)` to specify the name of the graph window to be exported.
 - ▶ `optargs(args)` to pass optional arguments through to the \LaTeX graph command.
 - ▶ `figure[(args)]` to include the graph in a (floating) figure environment.
 - ▶ `caption(string)` to provide a caption for the figure.
 - ▶ `label(string)` to provide a cross-reference label for the figure.
 - ▶ etc.

Some further commands

- \LaTeX :
 - ▶ `texdoc write textline` to write a single line of \LaTeX code. Stata macros within *textline* will be interpreted.
 - ▶ `texdoc append filename` to include \LaTeX code from an external file.
- Output sections:
 - ▶ `texdoc stlog [name] using do-file [, options]` to include Stata output from an external do-file.
 - ▶ `texdoc stlog oom command` to suppress output from a command and include an output-omitted tag.
 - ▶ `texdoc stlog cnp` to include a continued-on-next-page tag.
- Other:
 - ▶ `// texdoc exit` to exit a texdoc do-file.
 - ▶ `texdoc strip filename newname` to remove all texdoc elements from a do-file.

Examples

Some limitations

- Much effort has been put into making `texdoc` general and robust (for example, inline comments or commands such as `cd` or `clear all` do not disturb `texdoc`).
- Nonetheless, there are a number of limitations. Some of these limitations are:
 - ▶ `texdoc` commands should always start on a new line, with `texdoc` being the first (non-comment) word on the line.
 - ▶ `texdoc` only provides limited support for the semicolon command delimiter. Do not use semicolons to delimit `texdoc` commands.
 - ▶ `texdoc` processes the do-file piece by piece, from one \LaTeX block to the next. Therefore, local macros will only be available until the next \LaTeX block.
 - ▶ `texdoc` does not parse the contents of a do-file that is called from the main do-file using the `do` command. Use `texdoc do` to include nested do-files.
 - ▶ `texdoc` closes the default log if it is on. Use a named log to log a Stata session in which `texdoc` is applied.

Paper and Software

- Working paper (forthcoming in the Stata Journal)
 - ▶ <http://ideas.repec.org/p/bss/wpaper/14.html>
- Software (SSC archive)
 - ▶ <http://ideas.repec.org/c/boc/bocode/s457021.html>
- Installation:
 - ▶ In Stata type:

```
. ssc install texdoc  
. net install sjlatex, from(http://www.stata-journal.com/production)
```
 - ▶ To compile a \LaTeX document containing Stata output you also need to install the Stata \LaTeX files on your system and load the stata package in your \LaTeX document (`\usepackage{stata}`).
 - ▶ In Stata, use the `sjlatex install` command to download and install the Stata \LaTeX files (either to the working directory or to the local search tree of your \LaTeX installation).