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Stata tip 11: The nolog option with maximum-likelihood modeling commands

Patrick Royston
MRC Clinical Trials Unit, London
patrick.royston@ctu.mrc.ac.uk

Many Stata commands fit a model by maximum likelihood, and in so doing, they include a report on the iterations of the algorithm towards (it is hoped) eventual convergence. There may be tens or even hundreds or thousands of such lines in a report, which are faithfully recorded in any log file you may have open. Suppose that you did this with `stcox`:

```
. use http://www.stata-press.com/data/r8/cancer, clear
. describe
. stset studytime, failure(died)
. xi: stcox i.drug age, nohr
```

You get six useless lines of output detailing the progress of the algorithm. This is a nice example, as sometimes progress is much slower or more complicated.

Those lines are of little or no statistical interest in most examples and may be omitted by adding the `nolog` option:

```
. xi: stcox i.drug age, nohr nolog
```

The `nolog` option works with many vital Stata commands, including `glm`, `logistic`, `streg`, and several more. My own view is that `nolog` should be the default in all of them. Be that as it may, you can compress your logs to good effect by specifying `nolog` routinely. It will remain obvious when your estimation fails to converge.

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