



AgEcon SEARCH

RESEARCH IN AGRICULTURAL & APPLIED ECONOMICS

The World's Largest Open Access Agricultural & Applied Economics Digital Library

This document is discoverable and free to researchers across the globe due to the work of AgEcon Search.

Help ensure our sustainability.

Give to AgEcon Search

AgEcon Search

<http://ageconsearch.umn.edu>

aesearch@umn.edu

*Papers downloaded from **AgEcon Search** may be used for non-commercial purposes and personal study only. No other use, including posting to another Internet site, is permitted without permission from the copyright owner (not AgEcon Search), or as allowed under the provisions of Fair Use, U.S. Copyright Act, Title 17 U.S.C.*

No endorsement of AgEcon Search or its fundraising activities by the author(s) of the following work or their employer(s) is intended or implied.

THE STATA JOURNAL

Guest Editor

David M. Drukker
StataCorp

Editor

H. Joseph Newton
Department of Statistics
Texas A & M University
College Station, Texas 77843
979-845-3142; FAX 979-845-3144
jnewton@stata-journal.com

Editor

Nicholas J. Cox
Geography Department
Durham University
South Road
Durham City DH1 3LE UK
n.j.cox@stata-journal.com

Associate Editors

Christopher Baum
Boston College

Rino Bellocco
Karolinska Institutet, Sweden and
Univ. degli Studi di Milano-Bicocca, Italy

David Clayton
Cambridge Inst. for Medical Research

Mario A. Cleves
Univ. of Arkansas for Medical Sciences

William D. Dupont
Vanderbilt University

Charles Franklin
University of Wisconsin, Madison

Joanne M. Garrett
University of North Carolina

Allan Gregory
Queen's University

James Hardin
University of South Carolina

Ben Jann
ETH Zurich, Switzerland

Stephen Jenkins
University of Essex

Ulrich Kohler
WZB, Berlin

Jens Lauritsen
Odense University Hospital

Stanley Lemeshow
Ohio State University

J. Scott Long
Indiana University

Thomas Lumley
University of Washington, Seattle

Roger Newson
Imperial College, London

Marcello Pagano
Harvard School of Public Health

Sophia Rabe-Hesketh
University of California, Berkeley

J. Patrick Royston
MRC Clinical Trials Unit, London

Philip Ryan
University of Adelaide

Mark E. Schaffer
Heriot-Watt University, Edinburgh

Jeroen Weesie
Utrecht University

Nicholas J. G. Winter
Cornell University

Jeffrey Wooldridge
Michigan State University

Stata Press Production Manager**Stata Press Copy Editor**

Lisa Gilmore
Gabe Waggoner

Copyright Statement: The Stata Journal and the contents of the supporting files (programs, datasets, and help files) are copyright © by StataCorp LP. The contents of the supporting files (programs, datasets, and help files) may be copied or reproduced by any means whatsoever, in whole or in part, as long as any copy or reproduction includes attribution to both (1) the author and (2) the Stata Journal.

The articles appearing in the Stata Journal may be copied or reproduced as printed copies, in whole or in part, as long as any copy or reproduction includes attribution to both (1) the author and (2) the Stata Journal.

Written permission must be obtained from StataCorp if you wish to make electronic copies of the insertions. This precludes placing electronic copies of the Stata Journal, in whole or in part, on publicly accessible web sites, file servers, or other locations where the copy may be accessed by anyone other than the subscriber.

Users of any of the software, ideas, data, or other materials published in the Stata Journal or the supporting files understand that such use is made without warranty of any kind, by either the Stata Journal, the author, or StataCorp. In particular, there is no warranty of fitness of purpose or merchantability, nor for special, incidental, or consequential damages such as loss of profits. The purpose of the Stata Journal is to promote free communication among Stata users.

The *Stata Journal*, electronic version (ISSN 1536-8734) is a publication of Stata Press, and Stata is a registered trademark of StataCorp LP.

Stata tip 32: Do not stop

Stephen P. Jenkins
Institute for Social and Economic Research
University of Essex
Colchester, UK
stephenj@essex.ac.uk

The `do` command, for executing commands from a file, has one (and only one) option: `nostop`. As the online help file for `do` indicates, the option “allows the do-file to continue executing even if an error occurs. Normally, Stata stops executing the do-file when it detects an error (nonzero return code).”

This option can be useful in a variety of circumstances. For example,

1. You wish to apply, in a do-file, the same set of commands to data referring to different groups of subjects or different periods. The commands for each dataset might fail with an error because, say, there are no relevant observations or an `ml` problem may not converge. Running the do-file with the `nostop` option will allow you to get the desired results for all datasets that do not produce an error and, at the same time, identify the potential source of error in the others. The `nostop` option is most useful in initial analyses. Error sources in particular datasets, once identified, can be trapped by using `capture`; if necessary, alternative action may be taken.
2. You have written a command and want to produce a script certifying that using incorrect syntax leads to an appropriate error. There may be several options and several ways in which syntax may be incorrect. With `nostop`, you can test that each of many incorrectly specified options works as expected, while having the do-file containing the test commands run to completion.