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Data Translation Software

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Transferring data files from one statistical software package to another has never been easier. Significant progress has been made regarding choices and flexibility in the data transfer process. Software exist whose unique function is to transfer data from one software format to another. One such package is Stat/Transfer. Stat/Transfer is issued by the STATA Corporation (1-800-782-8272 or <http://www.stata.com/info/products/transfer.html>) for \$69.

Most of the statistical software packages will now allow you to open or save a data file in Excel format. Many software packages are also able to read and write files from other statistical software packages. It is very tempting to use Excel to transfer files between statistical packages, but if you do, check your data thoroughly once they are imported. On several different occasions, I experienced errors creeping into the data during the process. For example, I noticed that under certain conditions a variable could be completely set to missing if the first observation of this variable is missing in the Excel file.

If you cannot justify purchasing Stat/Transfer because your need to transfer data files is only occasional, the Cornell Statistical Consulting Unit will gladly help you translate your files or let you use a computer with the required software. If you wish to experiment with this software package before deciding if you want to purchase it, or for any additional information, do not hesitate to contact CSCU..

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