

The frames function makes it easy to work with multiple datasets from memory without having them stored locally. It allows subsetting datasets, saving and copying using different frame names, and switching between frames. It is also possible to merge frames using a common ID variable.

Here are the basic commands:

Printing the name of the current frame

```
. frame  
(current frame is default)
```

Renaming the current frame

```
. frame rename default df2  
  
. frame  
(current frame is df2)
```

Copy frame

```
. frame copy df2 df1
```

Switch to the new frame

```
. frame change df1  
  
. frame  
(current frame is df1)
```

Printing the list of frames

```
. frame dir  
df1  573 x 4; GSS 2016.dta  
df2  2867 x 960; GSS 2016.dta
```

Deleting frames

```
. frame drop df1
```

Which throws an error

```
may not drop current frame  
r(119);
```

Which means it is possible to drop a df currently not in use

```
. frame drop df2
```

Subsetting df1 and printing the new frame list

```
. sample 20  
(2,294 observations deleted)  
  
. frame dir  
* df1  573 x 4; GSS 2016.dta  
  df2 2867 x 960; GSS 2016.dta
```

Note: frames marked with * contain unsaved data

Summarise a specific frame

```
. frame df1: summarize
```

Variable	Obs	Mean	Std. Dev.	Min	Max
-----+-----					
chlds	571	1.992995	1.741129	0	8
cohort	570	1965.94	17.76482	1927	1998
coldeg1	96	2.34375	1.280034	1	8
conarmy	379	1.53562	.6177899	1	3

It is possible to execute a command from any frame without having to load it first.

```
. frame  
(current frame is df2)
```

```
. frame df1: tab child
```

number of	Freq.	Percent	Cum.
-----+-----			
0	797	27.88	27.88
1	459	16.05	43.93
2	733	25.64	69.57
3	467	16.33	85.90
4	213	7.45	93.35
5	92	3.22	96.57
6	51	1.78	98.36
7	25	0.87	99.23
eight or more	22	0.77	100.00
-----+-----			

```
Total | 2,859 100.00
```

Or just scanning the frame

```
. frame df1: v1 set
```

```
-----  
-----  
          | Macro's contents  
          |-----  
-----  
Macro      | # Vars  Description  
-----+-----  
-----  
System     |  
  $v1categorical | 3  categorical variables  
  $v1continuous  | 1  continuous variable  
  $v1uncertain   | 1  perhaps continuous, perhaps categorical  
variable  
  $v1other       | 0  all missing or constant variables  
-----  
-----
```

Joining two frames using a common ID variable

```
. frame  
  (current frame is df1)
```

