Computer Handout 1: EViews Basics Diego Escobari Econ 3342

The goals in this Computer Handout are:

- 1) To get you familiar with EViews basics.
- 2) Learn how to import data to EViews.
- 3) Learn some basic commands to obtain summary statistics, line graphs, histograms.

EViews is a general purpose statistical software package. It is relatively easy for beginners who are starting with econometrics/time-series, but has some many more advance built-in procedures you may want to consider studying in the future.¹

Once you open EViews, you will get the following screen:



¹ These include time series analysis, panel data models, survival analysis, nonparametric methods, limited dependent variables and more.

This screen has two basic windows. The upper white portion is to type the commands and the lower portion of the screen is for the output.

How to create a Workfile

EViews			
<u>File</u> <u>E</u> dit <u>O</u> bject	<u>V</u> iew	<u>Proc</u> Quick Options	<u>W</u> indow <u>H</u> elp
New	•	Workfile	
Open	•	Database	
Save		Program	
Save As		Text File	
Close			
Import	+		
Export	+		
Print			
Print Setup			
Run			
Exit			
	-	,	

Before you are able to perform any operation, you need to create an EViews "Workfile."

Recall the types of data econometricians work with? (1) Cross-section, (2) Time-series, and (3) Panel data. This class is all about time-series data, so you have to select "Dated - regular frequency."²

Workfile Create	×
Workfile structure type Dated - regular frequency Unstructured / Undated Dated - regular frequency Balanced Panel Workfiles may be made from Unstructured workfiles by later specifying date and/or other identifier series.	Date specification Frequency: Annual Start date: End date: Names (optional) WF:
OK Cancel	Page:

Let's say we will be working with 21 yearly observations from 1985 to 2005.

² Different versions of EViews may have a different outlay, but the essence is the same.

Workfile Create	
Workfile structure type Dated - regular frequency	Date specification Frequency: Annual
Irregular Dated and Panel workfiles may be made from	End date: 2005
Unstructured workfiles by later specifying date and/or other identifier series.	Names (optional)
OK Cancel	Page: Handout01

Workfile: ECON33	42 - (c:\users\	escobari∖	document	s\ec [- • ×
View Proc Object Print	Save Details+,	/- Show	Fetch Store	Delete	Genr Sample
Range: 1985 2005 Sample: 1985 2005	21 obs 21 obs	;			Display Filter: *
₿ C	09/09/10 2	3:19			
✓ resid	09/09/10 2	3:19			
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	New Page /	_ • □□			4

In order to create a series, let's say GDP, you need to go to "Object" and select "New Object."

		N	ew Object	
Workfile: I View Proc Dbj Range: Sample: C C resid	ECON3342 - (c:\users\escobari\docum iect Print Save Details+/- Show Fetch S New Object Generate Series Break Links Fetch from DB Update selected from DB Store selected to DB		Type of object Series Equation Graph Group LogL Matrix-Vector-Coef Model Pool Sample Series Series Link Series Alpha SSpace System Table	Name for object

Then the new (empty) series named GDP will be created. If you click twice in the newly created series you will be able to see its content. Editing the series is simple and can be done by simply clicking the icon "edit." Then, typical features like "copy" and "paste" will be allowed, making it very easy to import data from any webpage or, for example, MS Excel.

Workfile: ECON3342 - (c:\users\esc	Serie:	s: GDP Workfile: ECON3342\Hand	lout01			
View Proc Object Print Save Details+/- Show Fetch Store Dele	View Pro	Object Properties Print Name Free	ze Default 🔻 Sor	t Edit+/- Sm		
Range: 1985 2005 21 obs Display Filter: *		GDP				
Sample: 1985 2005 21 obs						
B c 09/09/10 23:19		Last updated: 09	/09/10 - 23:52			
gdp 09/09/10 23:52				=		
resid 09/09/10 23:19	1985	NA				
	1986	NA				
	1987	NA				
	1988	NA				
	1989	NA				
	1990	NA				
	1991	NA				
	1992	NA		-		
Handout01 / New Pa	1993		III	h.		

Let's get some real data! The Bureau of Economic Analysis website has a MS Excel file with real GDP data since the Great Depression. You can get the file directly from the following link:

http://www.bea.gov/national/xls/gdplev.xls

🔄 🖾 gdplev [Read-Only] [Compatibility M						
	А	В	С			
64	1984	3,930.9	6,577.1			
65	1985	4,217.5	6,849.3			
66	1986	4,460.1	7,086.5			
67	1987	4,736.4	7,313.3			
68	1988	5,100.4	7,613.9			
69	1989	5,482.1	7,885.9			
70		E 000 E	0.000.0			

To get the GDP series into EViews go to "File", then to "Import" and select "Read Text-Lotus-Excel..."

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l		New		•							
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I.		Import	t	÷		Fet	tch from	DB			- 1
		Export		•	TSD File Import					-1	
	Print Print Setup				DF	AI Basic	Economics	s Database		_	
					Re	ad Text	-Lotus-Exc	el			
				-21	obs				_		

Beside selecting any MS Excel (or text) file from your computer, notice that you can download directly from the internet.

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👢 Fax	📙 Fax						
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My Web Sites	8/17/2010 10:						
Scanned Documents	👢 Scanned Documents						
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File <u>n</u> ame: http://www	bea.gov/national/xls/gdplev.xls	<u>O</u> pen					
Files of type: Text-ASC	▼ Cancel						
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The only key thing you have to keep track is the cell where the series starts. In our case is cell B65 in the MS Excel file (see previous page). Click OK and you are done importing.

Excel Spreadsheet Import	X
Data order By Observation - series in columns C By Series - series in rows	Excel 5+ sheet name
Names for series or Number <u>i</u> f named in file	
GDP	 Write <u>d</u>ate/obs C EViews date format C Eirst calendar day C Last calendar day
Import sample 1985 2005 Workfile range To end of range	∏ <u>W</u> rite series names
	<u>O</u> K <u>C</u> ancel

Once you have the GDP series in EViews, the rest is all about experimenting and getting familiar with the options. Try getting the summary statistics table or a line graph:





Series: GDP Sample 1985 2005 Observations 21					
Mean	7816.424				
Median	7414.700				
Maximum	12638.40				
Minimum	4217.500				
Std. Dev.	2559.924				
Skewness	0.310378				
Kurtosis	1.911778				
Jarque-Bera	1.373370				
Probability	0.503242				