

graph describe — Describe contents of graph in memory or on disk

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Description

`graph describe` describes the contents of a graph in memory or a graph stored on disk.

Quick start

Describe graph `mygraph` stored in memory

```
graph describe mygraph
```

Describe graph saved to disk as `mygraph.gph`

```
graph describe mygraph.gph
```

Same as above

```
graph describe "mygraph"
```

Menu

Graphics > Manage graphs > Describe graph

Syntax

```
graph describe [name]
```

<i>name</i>	Description
<i>simplename</i>	name of graph in memory
<i>filename.gph</i>	name of graph on disk
" <i>filename</i> "	name of graph on disk

If *name* is not specified, the graph currently displayed in the Graph window is described.

Remarks and examples

[stata.com](#)

See [\[G-2\] graph manipulation](#) for an introduction to the graph manipulation commands.

`graph describe` describes the contents of a graph, which may be stored in memory or on disk.

Without arguments, the graph stored in memory named `Graph` is described:

```
. use https://www.stata-press.com/data/r18/auto
(1978 automobile data)
. scatter mpg weight
(graph omitted)
```

```
. graph describe
Graph stored in memory
  name: Graph
  format: live
  created: 9 May 2022 14:26:12
  scheme: default
  size: 4.5 x 7.5
  dta file: auto.dta dated 13 Apr 2022 17:45
  command: twoway scatter mpg weight
```

In the above, the size is reported as $y\text{size} \times x\text{size}$, not the other way around.

When you type a name ending in `.gph`, the disk file is described:

```
. graph save myfile
. graph describe myfile.gph
myfile.gph stored on disk
  name: myfile.gph
  format: live
  created: 9 May 2022 17:45:09
  scheme: default
  size: 4.5 x 7.5
  dta file: auto.dta dated 13 Apr 2022 17:45
  command: twoway scatter mpg weight
```

If the file is saved in `asis` format—see [G-4] **Concept: gph files**—only the name and format are listed:

```
. graph save picture, asis
. graph describe picture.gph
picture.gph stored on disk
  name: picture.gph
  format: asis
```

Stored results

`graph describe` stores the following in `r()`:

Macros

```
r(fn)          filename or filename.gph
r(ft)          "old", "asis", or "live"
```

and, if `r(ft)=="live"`,

Macros

```
r(command)    command
r(family)     subcommand; twoway, matrix, bar, dot, box, or pie
r(command_date) date on which command was run
r(command_time) time at which command was run
r(scheme)     scheme name
r(yysize)     ysize() value
r(xysize)     xsize() value
r(dtfile)     .dta file in memory at command_time
r(dtfile_date) .dta file date
```

Any of `r(command)`, `...`, `r(dtfile_date)` may be undefined, so refer to contents by using macro quoting.

Also see

[G-2] [graph manipulation](#) — Graph manipulation commands

[G-2] [graph dir](#) — List names of graphs in memory and on disk

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