

About **Create Dataset**

This program allows you to enter a dataset by hand and save it into a file. The file is tab separated text, so may be edited with a spreadsheet program. The first row of the file contains the title of the dataset, and the second row the names of the variables; the remaining rows are the data, one datapoint per line.

Dataset Title

You need to give the dataset a title. We strongly recommend that you make the title as descriptive as possible.

Do NOT enter a title with a newline in it (by pressing the *Enter* key).

Number of Variables

This control allows you to set the number of variables in the dataset. Other programs assume that the data appear in a specific order depending on the number of the variables.

Number of Variables	Variables	Short Form
1	var1: the name and values of the dependent (y) variable The value of the independent (x) variable is assumed to be 1, 2, 3, ...	y
2	var1: the name and values of the independent (x) variable var2: the name and values of the dependent (y) variable	x y
3	var1: the name and values of the independent (x) variable var2: the name and values of the dependent (y) variable var3: the name and values of the error in the	x y erry

	dependent variable (err _y)	
4	var1: the name and values of the independent (x) variable var 2 the name and values of the error in the independent variable (err _x) var 3: the name and values of the dependent (y) variable var 4: the name and values of the error in the dependent variable (err _y)	x err _x y err _y

Entering the Variables Names and Values

You may use the Tab key to cycle through the fields.

Variable Names

We recommend that you choose names for the variables that are descriptive.

Good variable name: voltage (V)

Poor variable name: y

Do NOT enter a name with a newline in it (by pressing the *Enter* key).

Variable Values

Any of the following forms are equivalent:

1234.56

1.23456E3

To completely remove a value, right click on it and choose Delete Element from the popup menu.

Controls

The Stop button stops the program without exporting your data.

The Export button exports the dataset into a file whose name you will choose. This button is only active when:

- Variable names have been assigned to all the variables.
- At least one datapoint has been entered.

The number of values entered is the same for all the variables you are defining.

This Help page was written by David M. Harrison, Dept of Physics, Univ of Toronto in June 2007.