

Quick-start guide to the Stat-JR 1.0.7 TREE interface

This document provides a ‘quick-start’ guide to using Stat-JR, via its *TREE (Template Reading and Execution Environment)* interface. The development of Stat-JR was a collaborative project, funded by the UK’s ESRC, between the Universities of Bristol and Southampton. More details about Stat-JR can be found on its webpage <http://www.bristol.ac.uk/cmm/software/statjr/>.

TREE is one of the interfaces available for Stat-JR, alongside an eBook-reading interface (*DEEP*), a workflow system (*LEAF*; first released as a beta version with Stat-JR 1.0.4), and also a command line interface. For more detailed instructions on how to use *TREE*, together with worked point-and-click examples, see the *Beginner’s Guide to Stat-JR’s TREE interface* and also the *Advanced User’s Guide to Stat-JR*; the *DEEP* and *LEAF* interfaces also have their own user guides; all manuals are available via the Stat-JR website.

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This documentation was written by Richard Parker* with additional updates from Christopher M.J. Charlton*

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The initials of Stat-JR are taken from those of the late Jon Rasbash, whose vision was instrumental to its conception. The Stat-JR software system has been primarily developed by Chris Charlton* and Danius Michaelides**, with algebra system development by Bruce Cameron*, and with additional input from William Browne* and Richard Parker*. Core template development by Chris Charlton*, William Browne*, Richard Parker*, Camille Szmaragd* and Zhengzheng Zhang*.

The Stat-JR:TREE software interface was primarily developed by Chris Charlton* and Danius Michaelides**, with additional input from Richard Parker* and William Browne*.

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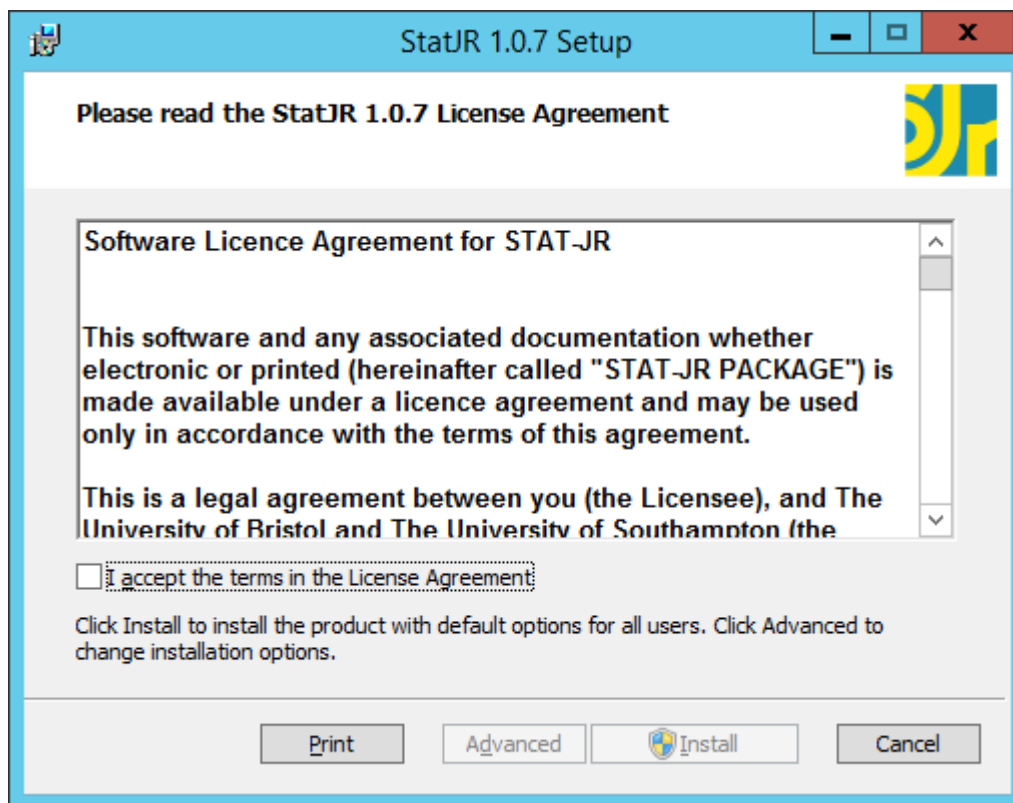
Installing the software

Downloading & installing Stat-JR

Details of how to order a copy of Stat-JR can be found on its website:

<http://www.bristol.ac.uk/cmm/software/statjr/order-statjr/>.

To install it, you need to start the *StatJR.msi* file that you will have been asked to download; on doing so, you will be greeted by the following screen:

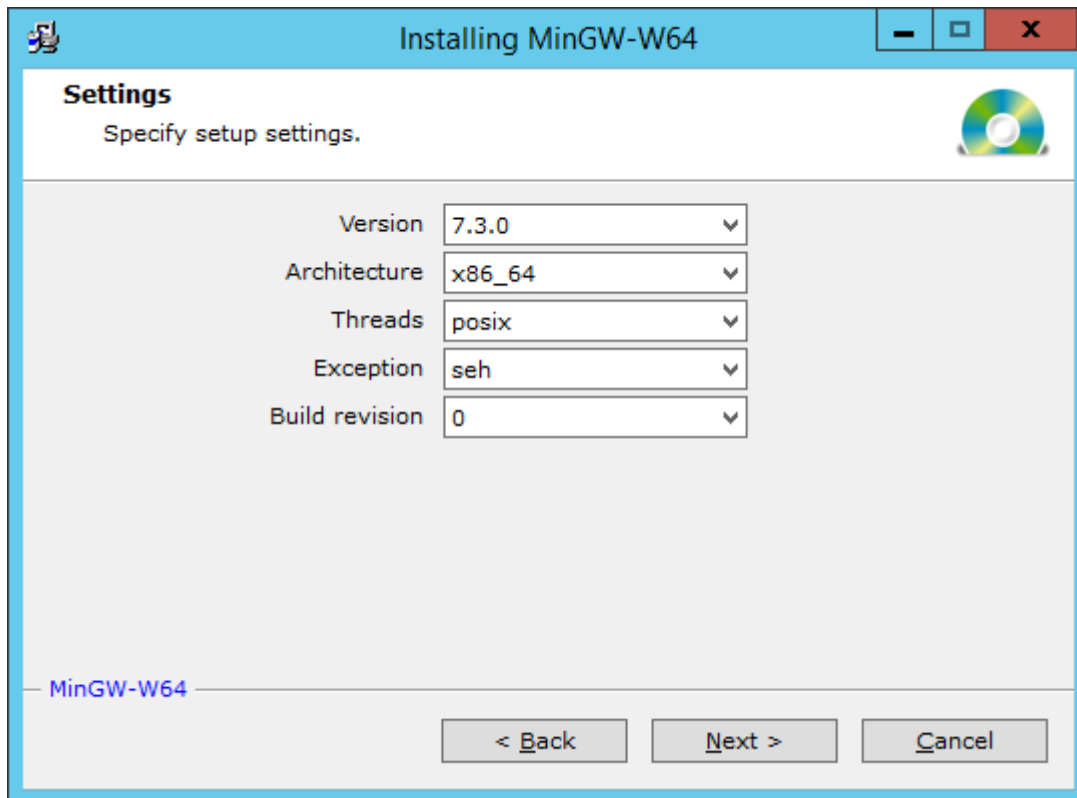


Assuming that you want to use the default settings, tick **Accept** and click **Install**; the software installation will then begin.

Installing a C++ compiler

Once the Stat-JR software is installed you will also need to install a C++ compiler. We recommend MinGW-w64: to download it, open the page <https://sourceforge.net/projects/mingw-w64/> in a web browser and click the **Download** button for *mingw-w64-install.exe*.

Running this file will open another installation program. After clicking **Next** on the initial page, you will be presented with a screen asking which version of the compiler you want to install:



Note that we have set the details in the screenshot above to match those expected, by default, by Stat-JR, so if you use these settings then Stat-JR should find the C++ compiler automatically. If you wish, though, you can use a newer version, or a different build revision, than that displayed here, but doing so will mean that you will need to adjust Stat-JR's settings accordingly (we will describe how to do this shortly). Avoid installing version 8.1.0, revision 0 as this contains changes that prevent it from working with the supplied BLAS/LAPACK libraries.

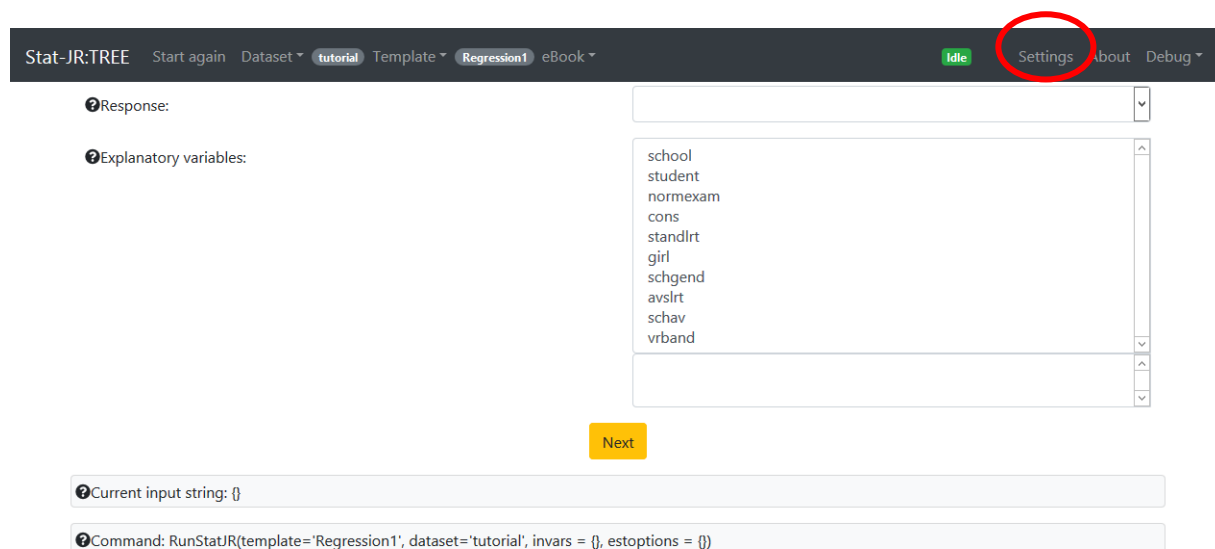
Having made your choices, click the **Next** button (repeatedly), and then **Finish**, to begin the installation.

Opening Stat-JR & modifying the settings

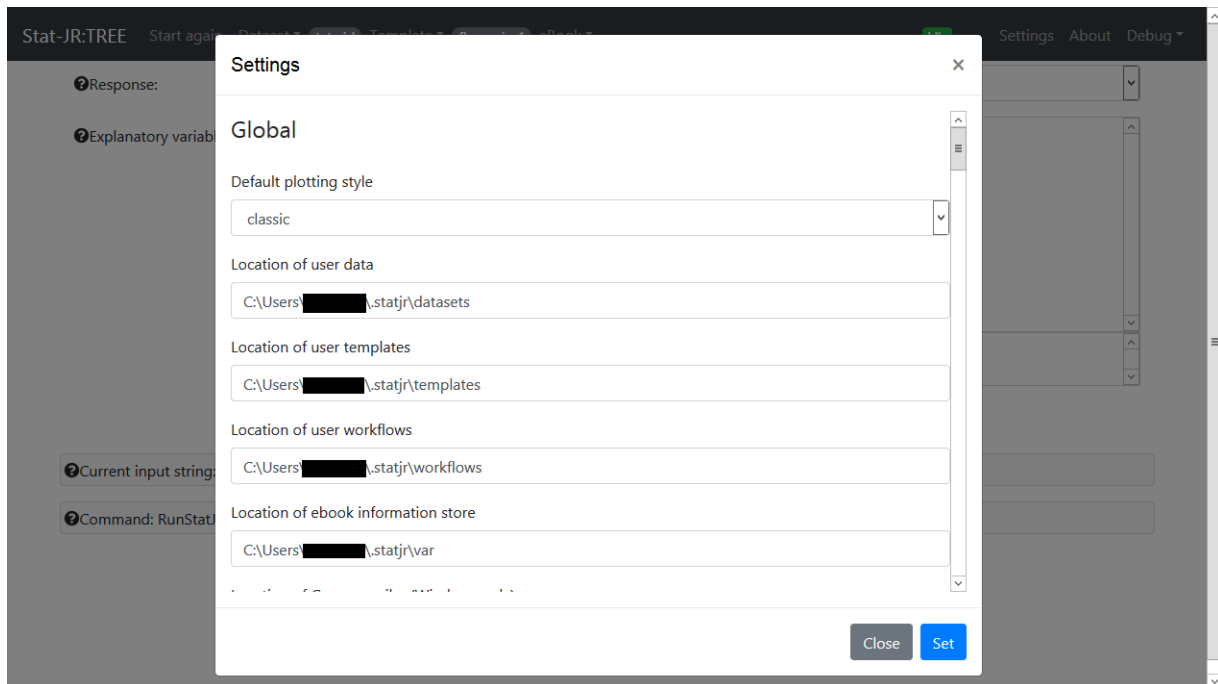
Now that you have installed the necessary software it is time to start Stat-JR:TREE up and ensure that the settings are correct for your machine. To do this, click on the Windows **Start** button and choose:

All Programs > Centre for Multilevel Modelling > StatJR – TREE

Initially a command output window will open (you may want to refer back to this as the software runs, as messages relating to the current progress will appear here; if you encounter any problems with the software, the information here is also useful when requesting technical support). Then, after a short while, your default web browser will start-up (**Chrome or Firefox are recommended**), and the following page will be displayed:



We will outline the various options on this page in detail further below, but for present purposes note the **Settings** button towards the top-right of the screen (circled above). Clicking on this brings up the following:



Here you can change a number of details regarding how Stat-JR operates, as well as how it links to other third party software packages.

The first option, **Default plotting style**, allows you to set the style of plots created by the Stat-JR system. By default this is set to **classic** for backwards compatibility with previous Stat-JR versions, however you can easily change to another provided style (see https://matplotlib.org/gallery/style_sheets/style_sheets_reference.html?highlight=style%20sheets%20reference for details of individual styles) or define your own (although this has to be done for each of the included Stat-JR modules – see the `mpl-data\stylelib` directory within each module).

The next three options – **Location of user data / templates / workflows** – tell Stat-JR where to search for these respective objects. You should not need to change these, however the locations are worth noting if you plan to add any of your own resources to the system.

The next option (**Location of eBook information store**) defines where temporary files used by the DEEP system are stored; again, you should not need to change this.

The final system-wide setting (**Location of G++ compiler**), allows you to specify where Stat-JR will locate the C++ compiler. If you have used the C++ compiler recommended earlier in this document, you will not need to change this, however if you have installed a different version, or installed it into a different location, then you will need to adjust this to match.

The remaining options relate to specific estimation packages (e.g. R, MLwiN, Win/OpenBUGS, JAGS, Stata, etc.), usually defining where Stat-JR can find the necessary files to run the related software. If you want to use any of these you will need to adjust these locations to match the version on your machine (assuming you have these packages installed). Note that if you change these paths, and want to use the packages immediately in the current session, then you will need to select **Reload Packages** from the **Debug** drop-down menu (circled below). If you look in the command window after doing so you can determine whether or not the new software has been located.

Response:

Explanatory variables:

- school
- student
- normexam
- cons
- standlrt
- girl
- schgend
- avslrt
- schav
- vrband

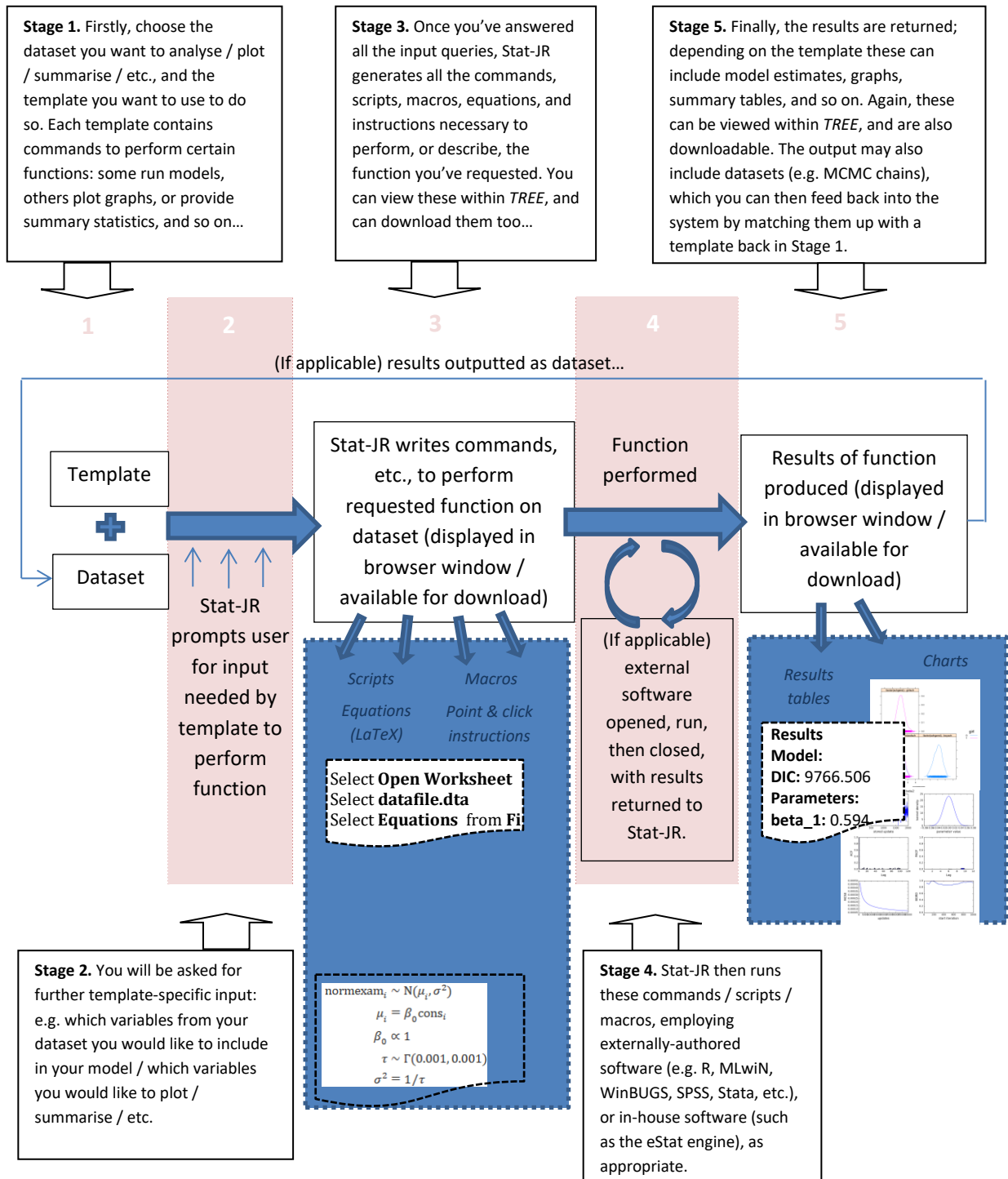
Next

Current input string: {}

Command: RunStatJR(template='Regression1', dataset='tutorial', invars = {}, estoptions = {})

Everyday operation of Stat-JR:TREE – an overview

Now we've got the settings sorted, we next provide an overview of everyday operation of Stat-JR:TREE, in which you generally proceed through the following five stages:



We briefly highlight the main features, with screenshots, of each of these five stages below.

Stage 1: Selecting a template & dataset

- You have seen this opening screen in an earlier section, but here we provide further notes on the various options it presents:

This link allows you to change settings such as paths to user data and user template folders, paths to interoperating software, and optimisation settings for generated code.

*If you have modified any files in the **templates**, **datasets** or **packages** folders, then you can reload their contents into the current session via the Debug menu.*

Here you can see which dataset and template are currently selected. Hovering your cursor over these names will reveal a description of each (if available).

Response:

Explanatory variables:
Wherever you see these (question mark) symbols, context-specific help is revealed if you hover your cursor over them. Hover-over help can appear elsewhere too: e.g. describing the options along the top navigation bar.

Current input string: {}

Command: RunStatJR(template='Regression1', dataset='tutorial', invars = {}, estoptions = {})

*Clicking on the down arrow symbol just to the right of the **Dataset** heading in the top bar will bring up a menu. Select **Choose** to bring up the window, below, allowing you to nominate a dataset other than that currently selected...*

*...and likewise for the **Template**...*

This button opens author information (including details of how to cite Stat-JR), with a link to Stat-JR webpages which contain further support, including frequently asked questions & a user forum

You can select one or more of these terms to help you find relevant templates; the blue tags describe the functional aspects of a template, whilst the red terms describe the engines / packages supported by a template. To unselect terms, press [reset]

Clicking the 'label' symbol brings up a list of tags, whilst clicking the 'cog' symbol brings up a list of supported engines / packages.

- Note that on this page, and on other screens, wherever you see the question mark symbols, **context-specific help** is revealed if you hover your cursor over them. Hover-over help can appear elsewhere too: e.g. describing the options along the top navigation bar.
- Selecting **Dataset > Choose** or **Template > Choose** from the top bar will reveal lists of available datasets and templates. For each, find the one you want from the list, and then press **Use**.
- Once you have specified the **template** and **dataset** you want to use, you can begin to specify your **inputs**.
- Note, when choosing a template, you can use the **cloud terms to help your search**: the blue tags describe functional aspects of the templates, whilst the red terms describe which engines / packages the templates support (you can combine search terms by clicking on more than one, and cancel your selections by pressing **[reset]**).

Stage 2: Providing template-specific input

- Once your desired **Dataset** and **Template** are selected, you can start answering the input questions. These are required by Stat-JR to allow the template to perform the appropriate executions with your dataset; these inputs vary between templates, and also within templates too, depending on your earlier choices as you progress through the screens.
- For multi-choice lists you can de-select variables by simply clicking on their name in the list of selected items.
- Press **Next** each time you've completed the input questions on the current page.
- Then, if applicable, more inputs will be revealed for you to specify, although you can still change your previous input choices via the **remove** button which you'll see next to each one. Alternatively, to re-specify *all* your inputs, press **Start again** (in the top bar).
- When asked for the **Name of the output results**, this will be the name given to any outputted dataset which results from running the template (see Stage 5).

The screenshot shows the Stat-JR interface with the following elements:

- Top bar: Stat-JR:TREE Start again Dataset **bang1** Template **2LevelMod** eBook **Idle** Settings About Debug
- Input fields:
 - Response: [text input]
 - Level 2 ID: [dropdown menu]
 - Specify distribution: [dropdown menu]
- Buttons: A yellow **Next** button is circled in red.
- Annotations: Red arrows point from the **Next** button to the input fields. A red note says "Choose your inputs". Another red note says "Once you're happy with your choices, press Next...".
- Current input string: {}
- Command: RunStatJR(template='2LevelMod', dataset='bang1', invars = {}, estoptions = {})

Stat-JR:TREE Start again Dataset bang1 Template 2LevelMod eBook

Response: use remove
 Level 2 ID: district remove
 Specify distribution: Binomial remove
 Denominator: cons
 Specify link function: logit
 Explanatory variables: woman, district, use, lc, urban, educ, hindu, d_illit, d_pray, cons, age
 treat cons as categorical
 treat age as categorical
 Yes
 No
 Next

Store level 2 residuals?

Current input string: {y: 'use', 'L2ID': 'district', 'D': 'Binomial'}
 Command: RunStatJR(template='2LevelMod', dataset='bang1', invars = {y: 'use', 'L2ID': 'district', 'D': 'Binomial'}, estoptions = {})

*If, at any point, you want to re-specify all your inputs, then press **Start again***

For multi-select lists, you can de-select variables by clicking on their name here

You can remove specific inputs via these buttons here

*As you progress through the screens, you can see your choices reflected in the input string and the RunStatJR command, at the bottom; a record of your inputs is also kept under **Template > Set inputs** (via the black bar at the top), allowing you to automatically populate the inputs boxes with your previous choices (see later section); the RunStatJR command, on the other hand, can be used to call Stat-JR via a command line*

*Again, once you're happy with your inputs, press **Next***

Response:	use	remove
Level 2 ID:	district	remove
Specify distribution:	Binomial	remove
Denominator:	cons	remove
Specify link function:	logit	remove
Explanatory variables:	cons,age	remove
Store level 2 residuals?	Yes	remove
Choose estimation engine:	eStat	remove
Number of chains:	4	remove
Random Seed:	1	remove
Length of burnin:	1000	remove
Number of iterations:	2500	remove
Thinning:	1	remove
Use default algorithm settings:	Yes	remove
Generate prediction dataset:	No	remove
Use default starting values:	Yes	remove
Name of output results:	<input type="text" value="my_output"/>	remove

(We've skipped a screen or two where we were asked about this input – some have default values, and we've changed a few...) →

This is the name given to any outputted dataset (e.g. MCMC chains produced by the model run)

*We've now completed all the inputs, and so we press **Next** for the final time...*

Next

Current input string: {'D': 'Binomial', 'storeretid': 'Yes', 'nchains': '4', 'link': 'logit', 'defaultalg': 'Yes', 'iterations': '2500', 'seed': '1', 'defaultsv': 'Yes', 'Engine': 'eStat', 'L2ID': 'district', 'burnin': '1000', 'n': 'cons', 'thinning': '1', 'y': 'use', 'x': 'cons,age', 'makepred': 'No'}

Command: RunStatJR(template='2LevelMod', dataset='bang1', invars = {'L2ID': 'district', 'D': 'Binomial', 'storeretid': 'Yes', 'n': 'cons', 'link': 'logit', 'y': 'use', 'x': 'cons,age'}, estoptions = {'Engine': 'eStat', 'burnin': '1000', 'defaultsv': 'Yes', 'thinning': '1', 'nchains': '4', 'defaultalg': 'Yes', 'iterations': '2500', 'seed': '1', 'makepred': 'No'})

Stage 3: Outputting the files to run the desired execution

- Once you're pressed **Next** after the final input, Stat-JR returns a number of initial outputs which you can view in the output pane at the bottom of the window.
- Note that Stat-JR hasn't done everything you want it to do yet: it's just producing preliminary files telling you what it's going to do, and how it's going to do it.
- To select particular content to view in the output pane, use the drop-down menu just above it.
- The **Popout** button, just above the output pane, allows you to view its contents in a new browser tab.
- Pressing **Run** performs the executions described by the scripts, etc., returned in the output pane.

*Via the **Edit** button, you can directly edit scripts and macros, e.g. to change model specification, plot characteristics, etc...*

*Press **Run** to perform the executions...*

Click here to view the contents of the output pane, below, in a new browser tab...

You can choose what to view in the output panel (here we've chosen to view the equation for the model we've specified), via this selection box

Stat-JR:TREE Start again Dataset **bang1** Template **2LevelMod** eBook Ready (5s) Settings About Debug

Generate prediction dataset: No [remove](#)

Use default starting values: Yes [remove](#)

Name of output results: my_output [remove](#)

Current input string: {'D': 'Binomial', 'storeresid': 'Yes', 'nchains': '4', 'link': 'logit', 'defaultalg': 'Yes', 'iterations': '2500', 'outdata': 'my_output', 'seed': '1', 'defaultsv': 'Yes', 'Engine': 'eStat', 'L2ID': 'district', 'burnin': '1000', 'n': 'cons', 'thinning': '1', 'y': 'use', 'x': 'cons,age', 'makepred': 'No'}

Command: RunStatJR(template='2LevelMod', dataset='bang1', invars = {'L2ID': 'district', 'D': 'Binomial', 'storeresid': 'Yes', 'n': 'cons', 'link': 'logit', 'y': 'use', 'x': 'cons,age'}, estoptions = {'Engine': 'eStat', 'burnin': '1000', 'defaultsv': 'Yes', 'thinning': '1', 'nchains': '4', 'defaultalg': 'Yes', 'iterations': '2500', 'outdata': 'my_output', 'seed': '1', 'makepred': 'No'})

Edit equation.tex **Popout**

$$\begin{aligned}
 & use_i \sim \text{Binomial}(cons, \pi_i) \\
 & \text{logit}(\pi_i) = \beta_0 cons_i + \beta_1 age_i + u_{\text{district}[i]} \\
 & u_{\text{district}[i]} \sim N(0, \sigma_u^2) \\
 & \beta_0 \propto 1 \\
 & \beta_1 \propto 1 \\
 & \tau_u \sim \Gamma(0.001, 0.001) \\
 & \sigma_u^2 = 1/\tau_u
 \end{aligned}$$

Stage 4: Running the execution

- Once you've pressed **Run**, the executions specified by you are performed.
- Depending on your choices, this may take anything from a second or two (e.g. to produce a simple plot, fit a model using certain methods of estimation, produce summary data, etc.), to many minutes (e.g. to run MCMC chains for a large number of iterations).
- If appropriate (e.g. if the template supports inter-operability, and if you have chosen to employ it when prompted), externally-authored software packages (e.g. R, MLwiN, WinBUGS, SPSS, etc.) are opened, run, then closed, and the results are returned to Stat-JR (note that you will need these third-party software packages installed to exploit this feature; once you have installed the third-party packages of interest to you, you can tell Stat-JR where to find them by specifying the path via the **Settings** button in the black bar at the top: once you have done so press **Set**, and then **Debug > Reload packages**).
- Whilst the execution runs, you may see a lot of activity in the black command window, which may help you keep a track of progress.

The screenshot shows the Stat-JR interface with the following elements:

- Top Bar:** Stat-JR: TREE, Start again, Dataset: bang1, Template: 2LevelMod, eBook, Working (26s), Settings, About, Debug.
- Output Name:** my_output remove. A red arrow points to the 'Working (26s)' gauge with the text: *Whilst it performs these executions, the progress gauge indicates that Stat-JR is still working...*
- Extra Iterations:** A field with a 'More' button.
- Buttons:** Download, Make workflow.
- Current input string:** {'D': 'Binomial', 'storeretid': 'Yes', 'nchains': '4', 'link': 'logit', 'defaultalg': 'Yes', 'iterations': '2500', 'outdata': 'my_output', 'seed': '1', 'defaultsv': 'Yes', 'Engine': 'eStat', 'L2ID': 'district', 'burnin': '1000', 'n': 'cons', 'thinning': '1', 'y': 'use', 'x': 'cons.age', 'makepred': 'No'}
- Command:** RunStatJR(template='2LevelMod', dataset='bang1', invars = {'L2ID': 'district', 'D': 'Binomial', 'storeretid': 'Yes', 'n': 'cons', 'link': 'logit', 'y': 'use', 'x': 'cons.age'}, estoptions = {'Engine': 'eStat', 'burnin': '1000', 'defaultsv': 'Yes', 'thinning': '1', 'nchains': '4', 'defaultalg': 'Yes', 'iterations': '2500', 'outdata': 'my_output', 'seed': '1', 'makepred': 'No'})
- Equation Editor:** equation.tex, Popout. The equation is:

$$use_i \sim \text{Binomial}(cons_i, \pi_i)$$

$$\text{logit}(\pi_i) = \beta_0 cons_i + \beta_1 age_i + u_{\text{district}i}$$
- Command Window:** A terminal window titled 'StatJR - TREE' showing MCMC progress logs. A red arrow points to it with the text: *You may see a lot of activity in the command window as the execution is performed...*

Stage 5: The results

- Once the executions have run, the progress gauge, in the top-right corner, will change from “Working” to “Ready”, and the drop-down list, just above the output pane, will now be populated with more results.
- Depending on the template, a range of buttons / boxes appear above the output pane allowing you to e.g. **Download** the results, **Make workflow**, and run chains for **Extra iterations**.
- If applicable, an outputted dataset now appears in the list of datasets (see **Dataset > Choose**, via the top bar).

The screenshot shows the Stat-JR: TREE interface. At the top, there is a navigation bar with 'Dataset' and 'eBook' dropdown menus. The status 'Ready (34s)' is displayed in the top right. Below the navigation bar, there are several settings sections: 'Use default algorithm settings', 'Generate prediction dataset', and 'Use default starting values'. A section for 'Extra iterations' contains 'Download' and 'Make workflow' buttons. Below this, there is a 'Current input string' and a 'Command' section. A dropdown menu is set to 'ModelResults', and a 'Results' section displays a table of parameters.

Annotations:

- Top Bar:**
 - Dataset > bang1**: The outputted dataset (which we earlier chose to call 'my_output') will now appear in the list of datasets (see **Dataset > Choose**) allowing us to investigate it further by matching it up with another template ...
 - eBook**: Here you can add, to an eBook, selected aspects of the template execution you have just run (see Stat-JR:DEEP).
 - Ready (34s)**: Stat-JR indicates it has finished running these executions, by being "Ready" again...
- Extra Iterations:**
 - Download**: You can Download results, and run for Extra iterations ...
 - Make workflow**: Using this button, you can choose to generate a workflow based on your template execution (see Stat-JR:LEAF).
- Results:**
 - ModelResults**: The results (e.g. plots, model estimates, etc.) are added to the list of outputs; here we've chosen to display a summary table of results...

parameter	mean	sd	ESS	variable
sigma2_u	0.269406474316	0.089387391158	850	
beta_0	-0.539822657478	0.0856270762827	507	cons
beta_1	0.00853908304127	0.00552257842808	2421	age

This ends the quick-start guide to *TREE*; for a more detailed overview, see the *Beginner's Guide to Stat-JR's TREE interface* and also the *Advanced User's Guide to Stat-JR*, plus further information and guidance on the Stat-JR website, <http://www.bristol.ac.uk/cmm/software/statjr/>.