

Selecting this option will chain the program called INFER.

- (4) Analyse bivariate data. Selecting this option will chain the program called BIVAR.
- (5) Analyse multivariate data. Selecting this option will chain the program called POLYVAR.

7 How do I know what kind of data I have got?

First check whether your data are frequencies or measurements. *Frequencies* always takes the form of counts and relate to a classification. They do not have any unit of measurement. For example, you might have data for the numbers of butchers, bakers and candlestick makers in a group of towns, or the numbers of students with the grades A, B, and C in an examination.

Measurements are individual values or scores representing a variable such as distance or temperature. They are only meaningful if the scale of measurement is given. For example, distances can be interpreted only if the units are stated as miles, kilometres or whatever.

If your data are measurements, determine whether they are univariate, bivariate or multivariate. Univariate data are measurements relating to single variables, for example, the rainfall from a number of raingauges or the distances travelled by a number of commuters. Bivariate data are measurements on a pair of variables, for example, the heights and weights of a number of children or the discharges and suspended sediment loads of a set of streams. Multivariate data are measurements on three or more variables, for example, the heights, weights and ages of a number of children or the rainfall, runoff and soil moisture deficit of a number of catchments.