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Command for invoking Mata from Stata:

| [M-3] Entry | Command | Description |
|----------------------|---------|-------------|
| mata | . mata | invoke Mata |

Once you are running Mata, you can use the following commands from the colon prompt:

| [M-3] Entry | Command | Description |
|-------------------------------|--------------------|---------------------------------------|
| mata help | : mata help | execute help command |
| mata clear | : mata clear | clear Mata |
| mata describe | : mata describe | describe contents of Mata's memory |
| mata memory | : mata memory | display memory-usage report |
| mata rename | : mata rename | rename matrix or function |
| mata drop | : mata drop | remove from memory matrix or function |
| mata mosave | : mata mosave | create object file |
| mata mlib | : mata mlib | create function library |
| mata matsave | : mata matsave | save matrices |
| mata matsave | : mata matuse | restore matrices |
| mata matsave | : mata matdescribe | describe contents of matrix file |
| mata which | : mata which | identify function |
| mata set | : mata query | display values of settable parameters |
| mata set | : mata set | set parameters |
| mata stata | : mata stata | execute Stata command |
| end | : end | exit Mata and return to Stata |

Description

When you type something at the Mata prompt, it is assumed to be a Mata statement—something that can be compiled and executed—such as

```
: 2+3  
5
```

The `mata` command, however, is different. When what you type is prefixed by the word `mata`, think of yourself as standing outside of Mata and giving an instruction that affects the Mata environment and the way Mata works. For instance, typing

```
: mata clear
```

says that Mata is to be cleared. Typing

```
: mata set matastrict on
```

says that Mata is to require that programs explicitly declare their arguments and their working variables; see [\[M-2\] declarations](#).

Remarks and examples

stata.com

The `mata` command cannot be used inside functions. It would make no sense to code

```
function foo(...)  
{  
    ...  
    mata query  
    ...  
}
```

because `mata query` is something that can be typed only at the Mata colon prompt:

```
: mata query  
(output omitted)
```

See [\[M-1\] how](#).

Also see

[\[M-0\] intro](#) — Introduction to the Mata manual