

**intro** — Introduction and advice

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Introductory material

<b>first</b>	Introduction and first session
<b>interactive</b>	Using Mata interactively
<b>ado</b>	Using Mata with ado-files
<b>help</b>	Obtaining help in Stata

How Mata works & finding examples

<b>how</b>	How Mata works
<b>source</b>	Viewing the source code

Special topics

<b>returnedargs</b>	Function arguments used to return results
<b>naming</b>	Advice on naming functions and variables
<b>limits</b>	Limits and memory utilization
<b>tolerance</b>	Use and specification of tolerances
<b>permutation</b>	An aside on permutation matrices and vectors
<b>LAPACK</b>	The LAPACK linear-algebra routines

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## Description

This section provides an introduction to Mata along with reference material common to all sections.

## Remarks and examples

[stata.com](#)

The most important entry in this section is [M-1] **first**. Also see [M-6] **Glossary**.

The Stata commands `putmata` and `getmata` are useful for moving data from Stata to Mata and back again; see [D] **putmata**.

Those looking for a textbook-like introduction to Mata may want to consider [Baum \(2009\)](#), particularly chapters 13 and 14.

## Reference

Baum, C. F. 2009. *An Introduction to Stata Programming*. College Station, TX: Stata Press.

## Also see

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

[D] [putmata](#) — Put Stata variables into Mata and vice versa