

**Lmatrix()** — Elimination matrix

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## Description

`Lmatrix(n)` returns the  $n(n+1)/2 \times n^2$  elimination matrix *L* for which  $L \cdot \text{vec}(X) = \text{vech}(X)$ , where *X* is an  $n \times n$  symmetric matrix.

## Syntax

*real matrix* `Lmatrix(real scalar n)`

## Remarks and examples

[stata.com](#)

Elimination matrices are frequently used in computing derivatives of functions of symmetric matrices. Section 9.6 of [Lütkepohl \(1996\)](#) lists many useful properties of elimination matrices.

## Conformability

`Lmatrix(n)`:  
*n*:  $1 \times 1$   
*result*:  $n(n+1)/2 \times n^2$

## Diagnostics

`Lmatrix(n)` aborts with error if *n* is less than 0 or is missing. *n* is interpreted as `trunc(n)`.

## Reference

Lütkepohl, H. 1996. *Handbook of Matrices*. New York: Wiley.

## Also see

[M-5] [Dmatrix\(\)](#) — Duplication matrix

[M-5] [Kmatrix\(\)](#) — Commutation matrix

[M-5] [vec\(\)](#) — Stack matrix columns

[M-4] [standard](#) — Functions to create standard matrices