Description

/* and */ and // are how you place comments in Mata programs.

Syntax

    /* enclosed comment */
    
    // rest-of-line comment

Notes:

  1. Comments may appear in do-files and ado-files; they are not allowed interactively.
  2. Stata’s beginning-of-the-line asterisk comment is not allowed in Mata:

     . * valid in Stata but not in Mata

Remarks and examples

There are two comment styles: /* and */ and //. You may use one, the other, or both.

Remarks are presented under the following headings:

    The /* */ enclosed comment
    The // rest-of-line comment

The /* */ enclosed comment

Enclosed comments may appear on a line:

    /* What follows uses an approximation formula: */

Enclosed comments may appear within a line and even in the middle of a Mata expression:

    x = x + /*left-single quote*/ char(96)

Enclosed comments may themselves contain multiple lines:

    /*
       We use the approximation based on sin(x) approximately equaling x for small x; x measure in radians
    */
Enclosed comments may be nested, which is useful for commenting out code that itself contains comments:

```c
/*
   for (i=1; i<=rows(x); i++) { /* normalization */
      x[i] = x[i] /= value[i]
   }
/*
```

### The // rest-of-line comment

The rest-of-line comment may appear by itself on a line

```
// What follows uses an approximation formula:
```

or it may appear at the end of a line:

```
x = x + char(96)     // append single quote
```

In either case, the comment concludes when the line ends.

### Also see

[M-2] Intro — Language definition