## Description

mata matsave saves the specified global matrices in *filename*.

mata matuse loads the matrices stored in *filename*.

mata matdescribe describes the contents of *filename*.

## Syntax

> : mata matsave *filename namelist* [ , replace ]

> : mata matuse *filename* [ , replace ]

> : mata <u>matd</u>escribe *filename*

where *namelist* is a list of matrix names as defined in [M-3] **namelists**.

If *filename* is specified without a suffix, .mmat is assumed.

These commands are for use in Mata mode following Mata's colon prompt. To use these commands from Stata's dot prompt, type

```
. mata: mata matsave ...
```

## Option for mata matsave

replace specifies that *filename* may be replaced if it already exists.

## Option for mata matuse

replace specifies that any matrices in memory with the same name as those stored in *filename* can be replaced.

## Remarks and examples

These commands are for interactive use; they are not for use inside programs. See [M-5] **fopen( )** for Mata's programming functions for reading and writing files. In the programming environment, if you have a matrix $X$ and want to write it to file mymatrix.myfile, you code

```
fh = fopen("mymatrix.myfile", "w")
fputmatrix(fh, X)
fclose(fh)
```

Later, you can read it back by coding

```
fh = fopen("mymatrix.myfile", "r")
X = fgetmatrix(fh)
fclose(fh)
```

mata matsave, mata matuse, and mata matdescribe are for use outside programs, when you are working interactively. You can save your global matrices

```
: mata matsave mywork *
(saving A, X, Z, beta)
file mywork.mmat saved
```

and then later get them back:

```
: mata matuse mywork
(loading A, X, Z, beta)
```

mata matdescribe will tell you the contents of a file:

```
: mata matdescribe mywork
file mywork.mmat saved on 4 Apr 2024 08:46:39 contains
X, X, Z, beta
```

## Diagnostics

mata matsave saves the contents of view matrices. Thus when they are restored by mata matuse, the contents will be correct regardless of the data Stata has loaded in memory.

## Also see

[M-3] **Intro** — Commands for controlling Mata