namelists — Specifying matrix and function names

Description

Namelists appear in syntax diagrams.

Syntax

Many mata commands allow or require a namelist, such as

```plaintext
: mata describe [ namelist ] [, all]
```

A namelist is defined as a list of matrix and/or function names, such as

```
alpha beta foo()
```

The above namelist refers to the matrices `alpha` and `beta` along with the function named `foo()`.

Function names always end in `()`, hence

```
alpha refers to the matrix named alpha
alpha() refers to the function of the same name
```

Names may also be specified using the `*` and `?` wildcard characters:

```
* means zero or more characters go here
?
? means exactly one character goes here
```

hence,

```
* means all matrices
*() means all functions
* *() means all matrices and all functions
s* means all matrices that start with s
s*() means all functions that start with s
*e means all matrices that end with e
*e() means all functions that end with e
s*e means all matrices that start with s and end with e
s*e() means all functions that start with s and end with e
and have one character in between
s?e means all matrices that start with s and end with e
and have one character in between
```

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Remarks and examples

Some namelists allow only matrices, and some allow only functions. Even when only functions are allowed, you must include the ( ) suffix.

Also see

[M-3] Intro — Commands for controlling Mata