swap() — Interchange contents of variables

Description Syntax Remarks and examples Conformability Diagnostics Also see

#### Description

swap (A, B) interchanges the contents of A and B. A and B are not required to be of the same type or dimension.

## Syntax

void swap(transmorphic matrix A, transmorphic matrix B)

### **Remarks and examples**

There is no faster way than swap(A, B) to assign A=B when you do not care about the contents of B after the assignment. For instance, you have the code

```
A = B

B = \dots (matrix expression) \dots
```

Faster is

swap(A, B) $B = \dots (matrix expression) \dots$ 

The execution time of swap() is independent of the size of A and B, and swap() conserves memory to boot. Pretend that B is a 900  $\times$  900 matrix. After A=B is executed, but before B is reassigned, two copies of the 900  $\times$  900 matrix exist. That does not happen with swap().

# Conformability

```
swap(A, B):
input:
A: \quad r_1 \times c_1
B: \quad r_2 \times c_2
output:
A: \quad r_2 \times c_2
B: \quad r_1 \times c_1
```

# **Diagnostics**

swap (A, B) works only with variables. Do not code, for instance, swap (A[i, j], A[j, i]). It is not an error, but it will have no effect.

#### Also see

[M-4] **Programming** — Programming functions

Stata, Stata Press, and Mata are registered trademarks of StataCorp LLC. Stata and Stata Press are registered trademarks with the World Intellectual Property Organization of the United Nations. StataNow and NetCourseNow are trademarks of StataCorp LLC. Other brand and product names are registered trademarks or trademarks of their respective companies. Copyright © 1985–2025 StataCorp LLC, College Station, TX, USA. All rights reserved.



For suggested citations, see the FAQ on citing Stata documentation.