Title

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mata matsave — Save and restore matrices

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Syntax

```
: mata matsave filename namelist [ , replace ]

: mata matuse filename [ , replace ]

: mata matdescribe 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 ...
```

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*.

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

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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 2013 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