



GEORG-AUGUST-UNIVERSITÄT
GÖTTINGEN

Introduction to Mata

Stata Self-Learning Course



Basic characteristics of Mata

- Mata does not have any commands, only variables and functions
- Mata does not know what a dataset is
 - “Observations” and “variables” as in Stata are unknown
 - “Variables” in Mata are similar to “locals” in Stata
- Mata is separate from Stata
 - What is done in Mata does not influence Stata
 - Specific functions allow communication between Mata and Stata



Working with Mata

- Clear Mata content in Stata

`clear mata`

- Open Mata

`mata`

- Perform calculations in Mata

- Close Mata

`end`

- Running single operations from a do-file only works in Stata
- Mata in dofile: run the entire set of operations from opening (`mata`) to closing mata (`end`) or type `mata:` in front of each line
- Comment only with `//`



Mata help file

- In Stata: **help mata**



Calculating in Mata

- Creating a matrix
- Calculating with matrices
- Shortcuts
- `Select()`