



GEORG-AUGUST-UNIVERSITÄT
GÖTTINGEN

Introduction to Programming in Stata

Stata Self-Learning Course



A quick look at the Stata manual

- “The real power of Stata is not revealed until you program it.”
Stata User’s Guide Release 16, p.184
- Two program languages:
 - ado
 - Mata
- Both languages can interact with each other
- Today, we will focus on the first, ado



What are programs?

- In Stata, programs look as follows:

program progname

commands

end

- You have to run the program definition once¹
- If you then type *progname*, the commands defined in the program are run
- All Stata commands you know from do-files can be used in programs

¹ or store the file with the definition as ado-file in the ado-directory



Why should you program Stata?

- Programs are routines which can be adjusted and applied to different situations
 - E.g., if you have your own table style, you could write a program for this instead of adjusting it to every dataset
- Sometimes, there are no good commands for the statistical problem you have
 - E.g., if you want to adjust your standard errors in a specific way
 - Very useful in combination with Mata
- In any case, you will understand better how Stata works, how commands are written, and how to solve errors