

*An Introduction to Stata Programming* covers three types of programming that may be used in working with Stata: do-file programming, ado-file programming and writing Mata functions that work in conjunction with do- and ado-files. Emphasis is placed on how you may usefully automate your work with Stata, and how programming on one or more of these levels can help you use Stata more effectively. The introductory chapters discuss *why* you should invest time and effort in learning Stata programming, and present elementary concepts of the command-line interface and some commonly-used tools for working with programs and datasets.

The format of the book is unique among Stata-oriented texts. Beginning with Chapter 3, each odd-numbered chapter is followed by a *cookbook* chapter containing several recipes: 41 in total. Each recipe poses a problem: how may I perform a certain task with Stata programming? The recipe provides a complete worked solution to the problem, and discusses how the features presented in the previous chapter may be put to best use. The major focus of the book is do-file programming, with coverage of ado-file programming and writing Mata functions in the last two chapters. The book provides a complete, concise introduction to Mata, Stata's matrix programming language, with numerous examples of its usefulness.

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