Title

st_tempname( ) — Temporary Stata names

Description	Syntax	Remarks and examples	Conformability
Diagnostics	Also see		

Description

st_tempname( ) returns a Stata temporary name, the same as would be returned by Stata's tempvar and tempname commands; see [P] **macro**.

st_tempname(*n*) returns *n* temporary Stata names, $n \geq 0$.

st_tempfilename( ) returns a Stata temporary filename, the same as would be returned by Stata's tempfile command; see [P] **macro**.

st_tempfilename(*n*) returns *n* temporary filenames, $n \geq 0$.

Syntax

> *string scalar*   st_tempname( )
>
> *string rowvector* st_tempname(*real scalar n*)
>
> *string scalar*   st_tempfilename( )
>
> *string rowvector* st_tempfilename(*real scalar n*)

Remarks and examples stata.com

Remarks are presented under the following headings:

> Creating temporary objects
> When temporary objects will be eliminated

Creating temporary objects

st_tempname( )s can be used to name Stata's variables, matrices, and scalars. Although in Stata a distinction is drawn between tempvars and tempnames, there is no real distinction, and so st_tempname( ) handles both in Mata. For instance, one can create a temporary variable by coding

```
idx = st_addvar("double", st_tempname())
```

See [M-5] **st_addvar( )**.

One creates a temporary file by coding

```
fh = fopen(st_tempfilename(), "w")
```

See [M-5] **fopen( )**.

When temporary objects will be eliminated

Temporary objects do not vanish when the Mata function ends, nor when Mata itself ends. They are removed when the ado-file (or do-file) calling Mata terminates.

Forget Mata for a minute. Stata eliminates temporary variables and files when the program that created them ends. That same rule applies to Mata: Stata eliminates them, not Mata, and that means that the ado-file or do-file that called Mata will eliminate them when that ado-file or do-file ends. Temporary variables and files are not eliminated by Mata when the Mata function ends. Thus Mata functions can create temporary objects for use by their ado-file callers, should that prove useful.

Conformability

st_tempname(), st_tempfilename():
$\qquad$ *result*: 1×1

st_tempname(*n*), st_tempfilename(*n*):
$\qquad\qquad$ *n*: 1×1
$\qquad$ *result*: $1 \times n$

Diagnostics

st_tempname(*n*) and st_tempfilename(*n*) abort with error if $n < 0$ and return J(1,0,"") if $n = 0$.

Also see

[M-5] **st_addvar( )** — Add variable to current Stata dataset

[M-4] **Stata** — Stata interface functions