abbrev() — Abbreviate strings

Syntax

```
string matrix abbrev(string matrix s, real matrix n)
```

Description

`abbrev(s, n)` returns the `n`-character abbreviation of `s` such that the abbreviation uniquely identifies a variable in Stata, if there are variables in Stata. Otherwise, `abbrev(s, n)` returns the `n`-character abbreviation of `s`.

1. `n` is the abbreviation length and is assumed to contain integer values in the range 5, 6, . . . , 32.
2. If `s` contains a period, . , and `n` < 8, then the value `n` defaults to 8. Otherwise, if `n` < 5, then `n` defaults to 5.
3. If `n` is missing, the entire string (up to the first binary 0) is returned.

If there is a binary 0 in `s`, the abbreviation is derived from the beginning of the string up to but not including the binary 0.

When arguments are not scalar, `abbrev()` returns element-by-element results.

Conformability

```
abbrev(s, n):
   s: r1 × c1
   n: r2 × c2; s and n r-conformable
result: max(r1,r2) × max(c1,c2)
```

Diagnostics

`abbrev()` returns "" if `s` is "". `abbrev()` aborts with error if `s` is not a string.

Also see

[M-4] string — String manipulation functions