level — Set default confidence level

Syntax

```
set level # [, permanently]
```

Description

`set level` specifies the default confidence level for confidence intervals for all commands that report confidence intervals. The initial value is 95, meaning 95% confidence intervals. `#` may be between 10.00 and 99.99, and `#` can have at most two digits after the decimal point.

Option

`permanently` specifies that, in addition to making the change right now, the `level` setting be remembered and become the default setting when you invoke Stata.

Remarks and examples

To change the level of confidence intervals reported by a particular command, you need not reset the default confidence level. All commands that report confidence intervals have a `level(#)` option. When you do not specify the option, the confidence intervals are calculated for the default level set by `set level`, or for 95% if you have not reset `set level`.

Example 1

We use the `ci` command to obtain the confidence interval for the mean of `mpg`:

```
. use http://www.stata-press.com/data/r13/auto
(1978 Automobile Data)
. ci mpg

Variable |    Obs  Mean    Std. Err.   [95% Conf. Interval]
---------|---------|-------------|-----------------------------
    mpg   |      74 21.2973    .6725511   19.9569 22.63769
```

To obtain 90% confidence intervals, we would type

```
. ci mpg, level(90)

Variable |    Obs  Mean    Std. Err.   [90% Conf. Interval]
---------|---------|-------------|-----------------------------
    mpg   |      74 21.2973    .6725511   20.17683 22.41776
```

or

```
. set level 90
. ci mpg

Variable |    Obs  Mean    Std. Err.   [90% Conf. Interval]
---------|---------|-------------|-----------------------------
    mpg   |      74 21.2973    .6725511   20.17683 22.41776
```
If we opt for the second alternative, the next time that we fit a model (say, with `regress`), 90% confidence intervals will be reported. If we wanted 95% confidence intervals, we could specify `level(95)` on the estimation command, or we could reset the default by typing `set level 95`.

The current setting of `level()` is stored as the c-class value `c(level)`; see [P] `creturn`.

Also see

[R] `query` — Display system parameters
[P] `creturn` — Return c-class values
[U] 20 Estimation and postestimation commands
[U] 20.7 Specifying the width of confidence intervals