level — Set default confidence level

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.

Syntax

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

# is any number between 10.00 and 99.99 and may be specified with 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 means` command to obtain the confidence interval for the mean of mpg:

```
. use https://www.stata-press.com/data/r17/auto
   (1978 automobile data)
. ci means mpg
```

```
  Variable |     Obs  |    Mean    |  Std. err.  |  [95% conf. interval]
----------|----------|------------|-------------|----------------------
   mpg     |       74 |  21.2973   |  .6725511   |  19.9669   22.63769 |
```

To obtain 90% confidence intervals, we would type

```
  . ci means mpg, level(90)
```

```
  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] 20.8 Specifying the width of confidence intervals