set 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/r16/auto
(1978 Automobile Data)
. ci means mpg

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Variable</th>
<th>Obs</th>
<th>Mean</th>
<th>Std. Err.</th>
<th>[95% Conf. Interval]</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>mpg</td>
<td>74</td>
<td>21.2973</td>
<td>.6725511</td>
<td>19.9569 22.63769</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
```

To obtain 90% confidence intervals, we would type

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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Variable</th>
<th>Obs</th>
<th>Mean</th>
<th>Std. Err.</th>
<th>[90% Conf. Interval]</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>mpg</td>
<td>74</td>
<td>21.2973</td>
<td>.6725511</td>
<td>20.17683 22.41776</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
```
or

```
. set level 90
. ci means mpg
```

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Variable</th>
<th>Obs</th>
<th>Mean</th>
<th>Std. Err.</th>
<th>[90% Conf. Interval]</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>mpg</td>
<td>74</td>
<td>21.2973</td>
<td>.6725511</td>
<td>20.17683  22.41776</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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