set — Overview of system parameters

Description

This entry provides a reference to Stata’s set commands. For many entries, more thorough information is provided elsewhere; see the Reference field in each entry below for the location of this information.

To reset system parameters to factory defaults, see [R] set defaults.

Syntax

```stata
set [ setcommand . . . ]
```

set typed without arguments is equivalent to query typed without arguments.

Remarks and examples

set adosize

Syntax: `set adosize # [, permanently]`

Default: 1,000

Description: sets the maximum amount of memory that automatically loaded do-files may consume. $10 \leq \# \leq 10000$.

Reference: [P] sysdir

set autotabgraphs (Windows only)

Syntax: `set autotabgraphs {on | off} [, permanently]`

Default: off

Description: determines whether graphs are created as tabs within one window or as separate windows.

set cformat

Syntax: `set cformat [fmt] [, permanently]`

Description: specifies the output format of coefficients, standard errors, and confidence limits in coefficient tables. `fmt` is a numerical format; see [D] format.

Reference: [R] set cformat

set clevel

Syntax: `set clevel # [, permanently]`

Default: 95

Description: sets the default credible level for credible intervals for all commands that report credible intervals. $10.00 \leq \# \leq 99.99$, and # can have at most two digits after the decimal point.

Reference: [BAYES] set clevel
set coeftabresults
Syntax: set coeftabresults {on | off}
Default: on
Description: determines whether coefficient table results are stored in r().
There is no permanently option because permanently is implied.

set conren (Unix console only)
Syntax 1: set conren
Syntax 2: set conren clear
Syntax 3: set conren [sf | bf | it] {result | [txt | text] | input | error | link | hilite} [char[char...]]
Syntax 4: set conren {ulon | uloff} [char [char ...]]
Syntax 5: set conren reset [char [char ...]]
Description: can possibly make the output on your screen appear prettier.
set conren displays a list of the currently defined display codes.
set conren clear clears all codes.
set conren followed by a font type (bf, sf, or it) and display context (result,
error, link, or hilite) and then followed by a series of space-separated
characters sets the code for the specified font type and display context. If the font
type is omitted, the code is set to the same specified code for all three font types.
set conren ulon and set conren uloff set the codes for turning on and off
underlining.
set conren reset sets the code that will turn off all display and underlining codes.
Reference: [GSU] conren

set copycolor (Mac and Windows only)
Syntax: set copycolor {automatic | asis | gs1 | gs2 | gs3} [, permanently]
Default: automatic
Description: determines how colors are handled when graphs are copied to the Clipboard.
Reference: [G-2] set printcolor

set dockable (Windows only)
Syntax: set dockable {on | off} [, permanently]
Default: on
Description: determines whether to enable the use of dockable window characteristics,
including the ability to dock or tab a window into another window.

set docx_hardbreak
Syntax: set docx_hardbreak {on | off}
Default: off
Description: determines whether spaces are added after hard line breaks within text blocks
Reference: [RPT] set docx
set docx_paramode
Syntax: set docx_paramode {on|off}
Default: off
Description: determines whether empty lines in a text block signal the beginning of a new paragraph
Reference: [RPT] set docx

set dots
Syntax: set dots {on|off} [, permanently]
Default: on
Description: enables or disables commands that support the dots() option from reporting a dot each time statistics are computed from a sample or resample of the dataset.

set doublebuffer (Windows only)
Syntax: set doublebuffer {on|off} [, permanently]
Default: on
Description: enables or disables double buffering of the Results, Viewer, and Data Editor windows. Double buffering prevents the windows from flickering when redrawn or resized. Users who encounter performance problems such as the Results window outputting very slowly should disable double buffering.

set dp
Syntax: set dp {comma|period} [, permanently]
Default: period
Description: determines whether a period or a comma is to be used as the decimal point.
Reference: [D] format

set emptycells
Syntax: set emptycells {keep|drop} [, permanently]
Default: keep
Description: sets what to do with empty cells in interactions.
Reference: [R] set emptycells

set etable_style
Syntax: set etable_style {etable|style} [, permanently]
Default: etable
Description: controls the default styles used in tables created by etable.
Reference: [TABLES] set etable_style

set fastscroll (Unix and Windows only)
Syntax: set fastscroll {on|off} [, permanently]
Default: on
Description: sets the scrolling method for new output in the Results window. Setting fastscroll to on is faster but can be jumpy. Setting fastscroll to off is slower but smoother.
set floatwindows (Windows only)
  Syntax:    set floatwindows {on | off}
  Default:   off
  Description: determines whether to enable floating window behavior for dialog boxes and dockable window. The term “float” in this context means that a window will always float over the main Stata window; these windows cannot be placed behind the main Stata window. There is no permanently option because permanently is implied.

set fredkey
  Syntax:    set fredkey key [, permanently]
  Description: sets the API key for importing data from the Federal Reserve Economic Data.
  Reference: [D] import fred

set fvbase
  Syntax:    set fvbase {on | off}
  Description: specifies whether to automatically determine the default base level for factor variables.

set fvlabel
  Syntax:    set fvlabel {on | off} [, permanently]
  Description: specifies whether to display factor-variable value labels in coefficient tables.
  Reference: [R] set showbaselevels

set fvtrack
  Syntax:    set fvtrack {term | factor} [, permanently]
  Description: allows you to control how Stata keeps track of factor levels when you use factor-variables notation.

set fvwrap
  Syntax:    set fvwrap # [, permanently]
  Description: specifies that long value labels wrap # lines in coefficient tables.
  Reference: [R] set showbaselevels

set fvwrapon
  Syntax:    set fvwrapon {word | width} [, permanently]
  Description: specifies whether value labels that wrap will break at word boundaries or break based on available space.
  Reference: [R] set showbaselevels

set graphics
  Syntax:    set graphics {on | off}
  Default:   on; default is off for console Stata
  Description: determines whether graphs are displayed on your monitor.
  Reference: [G-2] set graphics
set haverdir
Syntax: set haverdir "path" [ , permanently ]
Description: specifies the directory where the Haver databases are stored.
Reference: [D] import haver

set httpproxy
Syntax: set httpproxy { on | off } [ , init ]
Default: off
Description: turns on/off the use of a proxy server. There is no permanently option because permanently is implied.
Reference: [R] netio

set httpproxyauth
Syntax: set httpproxyauth { on | off }
Default: off
Description: determines whether authorization is required for the proxy server. There is no permanently option because permanently is implied.
Reference: [R] netio

set httpproxyhost
Syntax: set httpproxyhost [ " ] name [ " ]
Description: sets the name of a host to be used as a proxy server. There is no permanently option because permanently is implied.
Reference: [R] netio

set httpproxyport
Syntax: set httpproxyport #
Default: 8080 if Stata cannot autodetect the proper setting for your computer.
Description: sets the port number for a proxy server. There is no permanently option because permanently is implied.
Reference: [R] netio

set httpproxypw
Syntax: set httpproxypw [ " ] password [ " ]
Description: sets the appropriate password. There is no permanently option because permanently is implied.
Reference: [R] netio

set httpproxyuser
Syntax: set httpproxyuser [ " ] name [ " ]
Description: sets the appropriate user ID. There is no permanently option because permanently is implied.
Reference: [R] netio
set include_bitmap (Mac only)
Syntax: \texttt{set include\_bitmap \{on|off\} [, permanently]} 
Default: \texttt{on}
Description: sets the output behavior when copying an image to the Clipboard.

set iterlog
Syntax: \texttt{set iterlog \{on|off\} [, permanently]} 
Description: specifies whether to display an iteration log.
Reference: \texttt{[R] set iter}

set java_heapmax
Syntax: \texttt{set java\_heapmax \{default|\#[m|g]\}} 
Description: sets the maximum amount of heap memory allocated for the Java Virtual Machine.
Reference: set java\_heapmax is a synonym for java set heapmax; see \texttt{[P] Java utilities}

set java_home
Syntax: \texttt{set java\_home \{default|"path\_to\_java\_home\_dir"\}} 
Description: sets the path to the Java Runtime Environment.
Reference: set java\_home is a synonym for java set home; see \texttt{[P] Java utilities}

set lapack_mkl
Syntax: \texttt{set lapack\_mkl \{on|off\} [, permanently]} 
Default: \texttt{on}
Description: specifies whether to use Intel MKL LAPACK routines
Reference: \texttt{[M-1] LAPACK}

set lapack_mkl_cnr
Syntax: \texttt{set lapack\_mkl\_cnr \{default|auto|compatible|off\}} 
Default: \texttt{on}
Description: sets the conditional numerical reproducibility mode for Intel MKL LAPACK routines
Reference: \texttt{[M-1] LAPACK}

set level
Syntax: \texttt{set level \# [, permanently]} 
Default: \texttt{95}
Description: sets the default confidence level for confidence intervals for all commands that report confidence intervals. $10.00 \leq \# \leq 99.99$, and \# can have at most two digits after the decimal point.
Reference: \texttt{[R] level}

set linegap
Syntax: \texttt{set linegap \#} 
Default: \texttt{1}
Description: sets the space between lines, in pixels, in the Results window. There is no permanently option because permanently is implied.
set linesize
Syntax:    set linesize #
Default:   1 less than the full width of the screen
Description: sets the line width, in characters, for both the screen and the log file.
Reference: [R] log

set locale_functions
Syntax:    set locale_functions locale
Default:   en_US
Description: sets the locale to be used by functions that take locale as an optional argument.
Reference: [P] set locale_functions

set locale_ui
Syntax:    set locale_ui locale
Default:   en_US
Description: sets the locale that Stata uses for the user interface.
Reference: [P] set locale_ui

set locksplitters (Windows only)
Syntax:    set locksplitters {on|off} [, permanently]
Default:   off
Description: determines whether splitters should be locked so that docked windows cannot be resized.

set logtype
Syntax:    set logtype {text|smcl} [, permanently]
Default:   smcl
Description: sets the default log filetype.
Reference: [R] log

set lstretch
Syntax:    set lstretch [on|off] [, permanently]
Description: specifies whether to automatically widen the coefficient table up to the width of the Results window to accommodate longer variable names.
Default:   on

set matacache, set matafavor, set matalibs, set matalnum, set matamofirst,
set mataoptimize, set matasolvetoI, and set matastrict; see [M-3] mata set.

set maxbezierpath (Mac only)
Syntax:    set maxbezierpath # [, permanently]
Default:   0
Description: sets the maximum number of lines that can be added to a Bézier path when rendering a Stata graph to the screen.
set maxdb
Syntax: set maxdb # [ , permanently ]
Default: 50
Description: sets the maximum number of dialog boxes whose contents are remembered from one invocation to the next during a session. $5 \leq # \leq 1000$
Reference: [R] db

set maxiter
Syntax: set maxiter # [ , permanently ]
Default: 16000
Description: sets the default maximum number of iterations for estimation commands. $0 \leq # \leq 16000$
Reference: [R] set iter

set max_memory
Syntax: set max_memory # [ b | k | m | g ] [ , permanently ]
Default: . (all the memory the operating system will supply)
Description: specifies the maximum amount of memory Stata can use to store your data. $2 \times \text{segmentsize} \leq # \leq .$
Reference: [D] memory

set max_preservemem
Syntax: set max_preservemem # [ b | k | m | g ] [ , permanently ]
Default: 1g (1 gigabyte)
Description: controls the maximum amount of memory preserve will use to store preserved datasets in memory.
Reference: [P] preserve

set maxvar
Syntax: set maxvar # [ , permanently ]
Default: 5000 for Stata/MP and Stata/SE and 2048 for Stata/BE
Description: sets the maximum number of variables. This can be changed only in Stata/MP and Stata/SE. $2048 \leq # \leq 32767$
Reference: [D] memory

set min_memory
Syntax: set min_memory # [ b | k | m | g ] [ , permanently ]
Default: 0
Description: specifies an amount of memory Stata will not fall below. This setting affects efficiency, not the size of datasets you can analyze. $0 \leq # \leq \text{max_memory}$
Reference: [D] memory

set more
Syntax: set more { on | off } [ , permanently ]
Default: off
Description: pauses when —more— is displayed, continuing only when the user presses a key.
Reference: [R] more
set niceness
Syntax: set niceness # [, permanently]
Default: 5
Description: affects how soon Stata gives back unused segments to the operating system. 
0 ≤ # ≤ 10
Reference: [D] memory

set notifyuser (Mac only)
Syntax: set notifyuser {on|off} [, permanently]
Default: on
Description: sets the default Notification Manager behavior in Stata.

set obs
Syntax: set obs #
Default: current number of observations
Description: changes the number of observations in the current dataset. # must be at least as large as the current number of observations. If there are variables in memory, the values of all new observations are set to missing.
Reference: [D] obs

set odbcdriver
Syntax: set odbcdriver {unicode|ansi} [, permanently]
Default: unicode
Description: determines whether Unicode or ANSI is your ODBC driver.
Reference: [D] odbc

set odbcmgr (Mac and Unix only)
Syntax: set odbcmgr {iodbc|unixodbc} [, permanently]
Default: iodbc
Description: determines whether iODBC or unixODBC is your ODBC driver manager.
Reference: [D] odbc

set output
Syntax: set output {proc|inform|error}
Default: proc
Description: specifies the output to be displayed. proc means display all output; inform suppresses procedure output but displays informative messages and error messages; error suppresses all output except error messages. set output is seldom used.
Reference: [P] quietly

set pagesize
Syntax: set pagesize #
Default: 2 less than the physical number of lines on the screen
Description: sets the number of lines between —more— messages.
Reference: [R] more
set pformat
Syntax: set pformat [fmt] [, permanently]
Description: specifies the output format of \( p \)-values in coefficient tables.
fmt is a numerical format; see [D] format.
Reference: [R] set cformat

set pinnable (Windows only)
Syntax: set pinnable \{on|off\} [, permanently]
Default: on
Description: determines whether to enable the use of pinnable window characteristics for certain windows in Stata.

set playsnd (Mac only)
Syntax: set playsnd \{on|off\} [, permanently]
Default: on
Description: sets the sound behavior for the Notification Manager behavior in Stata.

set printcolor
Syntax: set printcolor \{automatic|asis|gs1|gs2|gs3\} [, permanently]
Default: automatic
Description: determines how colors are handled when graphs are printed.
Reference: [G-2] set printcolor

set processors
Syntax: set processors #
Description: sets the number of processors or cores that Stata/MP will use. The default is the number of processors available on the computer, or the number of processors allowed by Stata/MP’s license, whichever is less.

set python_exec
Syntax: set python_exec pyexecutable [, permanently]
Description: sets which version of Python to use.
Reference: set python_exec is a synonym for python set exec; see [P] PyStata integration

set python_userpath
Syntax: set python_userpath path [path ...] [, permanently prepend]
Description: sets the user’s own module search paths in addition to the system search paths.
Reference: set python_userpath is a synonym for python set userpath; see [P] PyStata integration

set reventries
Syntax: set reventries # [, permanently]
Default: 5000
Description: sets the number of scrollbar lines available in the History window.
\( 5 \leq \# \leq 32000 \).
set revkeyboard (Mac only)
Syntax:    set revkeyboard {on | off} [, permanently]
Default:   on
Description: sets the keyboard navigation behavior for the History window. on indicates that you can use the keyboard to navigate and enter items from the History window into the Command window. off indicates that all keyboard input be directed at the Command window; items can be entered from the History window only by using the mouse.

set rmsg
Syntax:    set rmsg {on | off} [, permanently]
Default:   off
Description: indicates whether a return message telling the execution time is to be displayed at the completion of each command.
Reference: [P] rmsg

set rng
Syntax:    set rng {default | mt64 | mt64s | kiss32}
Default:   default
Description: determines which random-number generator Stata’s random-number functions and commands will use.
Reference: [R] set rng

set rngstate
Syntax:    set rngstate statecode
Description: resets the state of the random-number generator to the value specified.
Reference: [R] set seed

set rngstream
Syntax:    set rngstream #
Description: specifies the stream from which Stata’s stream random-number generator should draw random numbers.
Reference: [R] set rngstream

set scheme
Syntax:    set scheme schemename [, permanently]
Default:   s2color
Description: determines the overall look for graphs.
Reference: [G-2] set scheme

set scrollbufsize
Syntax:    set scrollbufsize #
Default:   200000
Description: sets the scrollback buffer size, in bytes, for the Results window; may be set between 10,000 and 2,000,000.
set searchdefault
Syntax: \texttt{set searchdefault \{local|net|all\} [\texttt{, permanently}]}
Default: \texttt{local}
Description: sets the default behavior of the \texttt{search} command. \texttt{set searchdefault local}
restricts \texttt{search} to use only Stata's keyword database. \texttt{set searchdefault net}
restricts \texttt{search} to searching only the Internet. \texttt{set searchdefault all}
indicates that both the keyword database and the Internet are to be searched.
Reference: [R] \texttt{search}

set seed
Syntax: \texttt{set seed \#}
Default: \texttt{123456789}
Description: specifies initial value of the random-number seed used by the
random-number functions, such as \texttt{runiform()} and \texttt{rnormal()}.
Reference: [R] \texttt{set seed}

set segmentsize
Syntax: \texttt{set segmentsize \[#\{b|k|m|g\}\] [\texttt{, permanently}]}
Default: \texttt{32m} for 64-bit machines
Description: Stata allocates memory for data in units of \texttt{segmentsize}. This setting changes the
amount of memory in a single segment.
\texttt{1m} \leq \# \leq \texttt{32g} for 64-bit machines
Reference: [D] \texttt{memory}

set sformat
Syntax: \texttt{set sformat \[fmt\] [\texttt{, permanently}]}
Description: specifies the output format of test statistics in coefficient tables.
\texttt{fmt} is a numerical format; see [D] \texttt{format}.
Reference: [R] \texttt{set sformat}

set showbaselevels
Syntax: \texttt{set showbaselevels \{on|off|all\} [\texttt{, permanently}]}
Description: specifies whether to display base levels of factor variables and their interactions
in coefficient tables.
Reference: [R] \texttt{set showbaselevels}

set showemptycells
Syntax: \texttt{set showemptycells \{on|off\} [\texttt{, permanently}]}
Description: specifies whether to display empty cells in coefficient tables.
Reference: [R] \texttt{set showbaselevels}

set showomitted
Syntax: \texttt{set showomitted \{on|off\} [\texttt{, permanently}]}
Description: specifies whether to display omitted coefficients in coefficient tables.
Reference: [R] \texttt{set showbaselevels}
set smoothfonts (Mac only)
Syntax: set smoothfonts \{on|off\}
Default: on
Description: determines whether to use font smoothing (antialiased text) in the Results, Viewer, and Data Editor windows.

set sortmethod
Syntax: set sortmethod \{default|fsort|qsort\}
Default: default
Description: determines which sorting method will be used by sort, gsort, and any other commands that use sorting as part of their computation.
Reference: [P] set sortmethod

set sortrngstate
Syntax: set sortrngstate #
Default: 1001XZA112210f4b16c1cb10507a1f38cb440c40003c9a83566fa1201b69...
Description: specifies the initial value of the state used for the random-number generator that randomizes data before they are sorted. This value is used by sort, gsort, and any other commands that use sorting as part of their computation.
Reference: [P] set sortrngstate

set table_style
Syntax: set table_style \{table|style\} [, permanently]
Default: table
Description: controls the default styles used in tables created by table.
Reference: [TABLES] set table_style

set trace
Syntax: set trace \{on|off\}
Default: off
Description: determines whether to trace the execution of programs for debugging.
Reference: [P] trace

set tracedepth
Syntax: set tracedepth #
Default: 32000 (equivalent to \(\infty\))
Description: if trace is set on, traces execution of programs and nested programs up to tracedepth. For example, if tracedepth is 2, the current program and any subroutine called would be traced, but subroutines of subroutines would not be traced.
Reference: [P] trace

set traceexpand
Syntax: set traceexpand \{on|off\} [, permanently]
Default: on
Description: if trace is set on, shows lines both before and after macro expansion. If traceexpand is set off, only the line before macro expansion is shown.
Reference: [P] trace
set tracehilite
Syntax: set tracehilite "pattern" [, word]
Default: ""
Description: highlights pattern in the trace output.
Reference: [P] trace

set traceindent
Syntax: set traceindent {on | off} [, permanently]
Default: on
Description: if trace is set on, indents displayed lines according to their nesting level. The lines of the main program are not indented. Two spaces of indentation are used for each level of nested subroutine.
Reference: [P] trace

set tracenumber
Syntax: set tracenumber {on | off} [, permanently]
Default: off
Description: if trace is set on, shows the nesting level numerically in front of the line. Lines of the main program are preceded by 01, lines of subroutines called by the main program are preceded by 02, etc.
Reference: [P] trace

set tracesep
Syntax: set tracesep {on | off} [, permanently]
Default: on
Description: if trace is set on, displays a horizontal separator line that displays the name of the subroutine whenever a subroutine is called or exits.
Reference: [P] trace

set type
Syntax: set type {float | double} [, permanently]
Default: float
Description: specifies the default storage type assigned to new variables.
Reference: [D] generate

set update_interval (Mac and Windows only)
Syntax: set update_interval #
Default: 7
Description: sets the number of days to elapse before performing the next automatic update query.
Reference: [R] update

set update_prompt (Mac and Windows only)
Syntax: set update_prompt {on | off}
Default: on
Description: determines whether a dialog is to be displayed before performing an automatic update query. There is no permanently option because permanently is implied.
Reference: [R] update
**set update_query** (Mac and Windows only)
Syntax: `set update_query {on | off}
Default: on
Description: determines whether `update_query` is to be automatically performed when Stata is launched. There is no `permanently` option because `permanently` is implied.
Reference: [R] `update`

**set varabbrev**
Syntax: `set varabbrev {on | off} [, permanently]`
Default: on
Description: indicates whether Stata should allow variable abbreviations.
Reference: [P] `varabbrev`

**set varkeyboard** (Mac only)
Syntax: `set varkeyboard {on | off} [, permanently]`
Default: on
Description: sets the keyboard navigation behavior for the Variables window. `on` indicates that you can use the keyboard to navigate and enter items from the Variables window into the Command window. `off` indicates that all keyboard input be directed at the Command window; items can be entered from the Variables window only by using the mouse.

**Also see**
[R] `query` — Display system parameters
[R] `set defaults` — Reset system parameters to original Stata defaults
[M-3] `mata set` — Set and display Mata system parameters
[P] `creturn` — Return c-class values