Title

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nl postestimation — Postestimation tools for nl

Postestimation commands

The following postestimation commands are available after `nl`:

Command	Description
`estat ic`	Akaike's, consistent Akaike's, corrected Akaike's, and Schwarz's Bayesian information criteria (AIC, CAIC, AICc, and BIC)
`estat summarize`	summary statistics for the estimation sample
`estat vce`	variance–covariance matrix of the estimators (VCE)
`estat` (svy)	postestimation statistics for survey data
`estimates`	cataloging estimation results
`etable`	table of estimation results
* `forecast`	dynamic forecasts and simulations
* `hausman`	Hausman's specification test
`lincom`	point estimates, standard errors, testing, and inference for linear combinations of coefficients
* `lrtest`	likelihood-ratio test
† `margins`	marginal means, predictive margins, marginal effects, and average marginal effects
`marginsplot`	graph the results from margins (profile plots, interaction plots, etc.)
`nlcom`	point estimates, standard errors, testing, and inference for nonlinear combinations of coefficients
`predict`	fitted values, residuals, etc.
`predictnl`	point estimates, standard errors, testing, and inference for generalized predictions
`test`	Wald tests of simple and composite linear hypotheses
`testnl`	Wald tests of nonlinear hypotheses

* `forecast`, `hausman`, and `lrtest` are not appropriate with `svy` estimation results.

† You must specify the `variables()` option with `nl`.

predict

Description for predict

`predict` creates a new variable containing predictions such as fitted values, residuals, probabilities, and expected values.

Menu for predict

Statistics > Postestimation

Syntax for predict

`predict` [*type*] *newvar* [*if*] [*in*] [`,` *statistic*]

`predict` [*type*] *stub*`*` [*if*] [*in*]`,` `scores`

where k is the number of parameters in the model.

statistic	Description
Main	
`yhat`	fitted values; the default
`residuals`	residuals
`pr(`*a*`,`*b*`)`	$\Pr(y_j \mid a < y_j < b)$
`e(`*a*`,`*b*`)`	$E(y_j \mid a < y_j < b)$
`ystar(`*a*`,`*b*`)`	$E(y_j^*)$, $y_j^* = \max\{a, \min(y_j, b)\}$

These statistics are available both in and out of sample; type `predict ... if e(sample) ...` if wanted only for the estimation sample.

Options for predict

Main

`yhat`, the default, calculates the fitted values.

`residuals` calculates the residuals.

`pr(`*a*`,`*b*`)` calculates $\Pr(a < \mathbf{x}_j\mathbf{b} + u_j < b)$, the probability that $y_j|\mathbf{x}_j$ would be observed in the interval (a, b).

a and *b* may be specified as numbers or variable names; *lb* and *ub* are variable names;
`pr(20,30)` calculates $\Pr(20 < \mathbf{x}_j\mathbf{b} + u_j < 30)$;
`pr(`*lb*`,`*ub*`)` calculates $\Pr(lb < \mathbf{x}_j\mathbf{b} + u_j < ub)$; and
`pr(20,`*ub*`)` calculates $\Pr(20 < \mathbf{x}_j\mathbf{b} + u_j < ub)$.

a missing ($a \geq .$) means $-\infty$; `pr(.,30)` calculates $\Pr(-\infty < \mathbf{x}_j\mathbf{b} + u_j < 30)$;
`pr(`*lb*`,30)` calculates $\Pr(-\infty < \mathbf{x}_j\mathbf{b} + u_j < 30)$ in observations for which $lb \geq .$
and calculates $\Pr(lb < \mathbf{x}_j\mathbf{b} + u_j < 30)$ elsewhere.

b missing ($b \geq .$) means $+\infty$; `pr(20,.)` calculates $\Pr(+\infty > \mathbf{x}_j\mathbf{b} + u_j > 20)$; `pr(20,`*ub*`)` calculates $\Pr(+\infty > \mathbf{x}_j\mathbf{b} + u_j > 20)$ in observations for which $ub \geq .$ and calculates $\Pr(20 < \mathbf{x}_j\mathbf{b} + u_j < ub)$ elsewhere.

`e(`*a*`,`*b*`)` calculates $E(\mathbf{x}_j\mathbf{b} + u_j \mid a < \mathbf{x}_j\mathbf{b} + u_j < b)$, the expected value of $y_j|\mathbf{x}_j$ conditional on $y_j|\mathbf{x}_j$ being in the interval (a, b), meaning that $y_j|\mathbf{x}_j$ is truncated. *a* and *b* are specified as they are for `pr()`.

`ystar(`*a*`,`*b*`)` calculates $E(y_j^*)$, where $y_j^* = a$ if $\mathbf{x}_j\mathbf{b} + u_j \leq a$, $y_j^* = b$ if $\mathbf{x}_j\mathbf{b} + u_j \geq b$, and $y_j^* = \mathbf{x}_j\mathbf{b} + u_j$ otherwise, meaning that y_j^* is censored. *a* and *b* are specified as they are for `pr()`.

`scores` calculates the scores. The *j*th new variable created will contain the score for the *j*th parameter in `e(b)`.

margins

Description for margins

`margins` estimates margins of response for fitted values.

Menu for margins

Statistics > Postestimation

Syntax for margins

`margins` [*marginlist*] [`,` *options*]

`margins` [*marginlist*] `, predict(`*statistic* ...`)` [*options*]

statistic	Description
`yhat`	fitted values; the default
`pr(`*a*`,`*b*`)`	not allowed with `margins`
`e(`*a*`,`*b*`)`	not allowed with `margins`
`ystar(`*a*`,`*b*`)`	not allowed with `margins`
`residuals`	not allowed with `margins`

Statistics not allowed with `margins` are functions of stochastic quantities other than `e(b)`.

For the full syntax, see [R] **margins**.

Remarks and examples

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Example 1

Obtaining predictions after fitting a nonlinear regression model with `nl` is no more difficult than obtaining predictions after fitting a linear regression model with `regress`. Here we fit a model of `mpg` on `weight`, allowing for a nonlinear relationship:

```
. use https://www.stata-press.com/data/r18/auto
(1978 automobile data)
. nl (mpg = {b0} + {b1}*weight^{gamma=-.5}), variables(weight) nolog
```

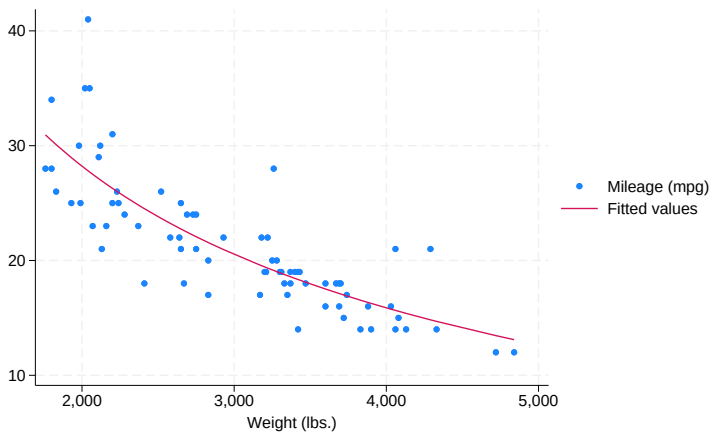
Source	SS	df	MS		
				Number of obs =	74
Model	1646.4376	2	823.218806	R-squared =	0.6738
Residual	797.02185	71	11.2256598	Adj R-squared =	0.6646
				Root MSE =	3.350472
Total	2443.4595	73	33.4720474	Res. dev. =	385.8874

mpg	Coefficient	Std. err.	t	P>|t|	[95% conf.	interval]
/b0	-18.17583	60.61762	-0.30	0.765	-139.0439	102.6923
/b1	1377.267	5292.379	0.26	0.795	-9175.436	11929.97
/gamma	-.4460916	.6763641	-0.66	0.512	-1.794723	.9025401

Note: Parameter **b0** is used as a constant term during estimation.

Now, we obtain the predicted values of `mpg` and plot them in a graph along with the observed values:

```
. predict mpghat
(option yhat assumed; fitted values)
. scatter mpg weight || line mpghat weight, sort
```



Suppose we wanted to know how sensitive mpg is to changes in weight for cars that weigh 3,000 pounds. We can use margins to find out:

```
. margins, eyex(weight) at(weight = 3000)
Conditional marginal effects                                    Number of obs = 74
Model VCE: GNR

Expression: Fitted values, predict()
ey/ex wrt:  weight
At: weight = 3000
```

	ey/ex	Delta-method std. err.	z	P>|z|	[95% conf.	interval]
weight	-.8408119	.0804339	-10.45	0.000	-.9984594	-.6831644

With the eyex() option, margins reports elasticities. These results show that if we increase weight by 1%, then mpg decreases by about 0.84%.

◁

❑ Technical note

Observant readers will notice that margins issued a warning message stating that it could not perform its usual check for estimable functions. In the case of nl, as long as you do not specify the predict() option of margins or specify the default predict(yhat), you can safely ignore that message. The predicted values that nl produces are suitable for use with margins. However, if you specify any predict() options other than yhat, then the output from margins after using nl will not be correct.

❑

Also see

[R] **nl** — Nonlinear least-squares estimation

[U] 20 Estimation and postestimation commands