

## mfp postestimation — Postestimation tools for mfp

Postestimation commands  
Methods and formulas

fracplot and fracpred  
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## Postestimation commands

The following postestimation commands are of special interest after `mfp`:

Command	Description
<code>fracplot</code>	plot data and fit from most recently fit fractional polynomial model
<code>fracpred</code>	create variable containing prediction, deviance residuals, or SEs of fitted values

The following standard postestimation commands are also available if available after `regression_cmd`:

Command	Description
<code>estat ic</code>	Akaike's, consistent Akaike's, corrected Akaike's, and Schwarz's Bayesian information criteria (AIC, CAIC, AICc, and BIC)
<code>estat summarize</code>	summary statistics for the estimation sample
<code>estat vce</code>	variance-covariance matrix of the estimators (VCE)
<code>estimates</code>	cataloging estimation results
<code>etable</code>	table of estimation results
<code>lincom</code>	point estimates, standard errors, testing, and inference for linear combinations of coefficients
<code>linktest</code>	link test for model specification
<code>lrtest</code>	likelihood-ratio test
<code>nlcom</code>	point estimates, standard errors, testing, and inference for nonlinear combinations of coefficients
<code>test</code>	Wald tests of simple and composite linear hypotheses
<code>testnl</code>	Wald tests of nonlinear hypotheses

## fracplot and fracpred

### Description for fracplot and fracpred

`fracplot` plots the data and fit, with 95% confidence limits, from the most recently fit fractional polynomial (FP) model. The data and fit are plotted against *varname*, which may be *xvar*<sub>1</sub> or another of the covariates (*xvar*<sub>2</sub>, ..., or a variable from *xvarlist*). If *varname* is not specified, *xvar*<sub>1</sub> is assumed.

`fracpred` creates *newvar* containing the fitted index or deviance residuals for the whole model, or the fitted index or its standard error for *varname*, which may be *xvar*<sub>1</sub> or another covariate.

### Menu for fracplot and fracpred

#### fracplot

Statistics > Linear models and related > Fractional polynomials > Multivariable fractional polynomial plot

#### fracpred

Statistics > Linear models and related > Fractional polynomials > Multivariable fractional polynomial prediction

### Syntax for fracplot and fracpred

*Plot data and fit from most recently fit fractional polynomial model*

```
fracplot [varname] [if] [in] [, fracplot_options]
```

*Create variable containing the prediction, deviance residuals, or SEs of fitted values*

```
fracpred newvar [, fracpred_options]
```

<i>fracplot_options</i>	Description
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Plot

<i>marker_options</i>	change look of markers (color, size, etc.)
<i>marker_label_options</i>	add marker labels; change look or position

Fitted line

<u>lineopts</u> ( <i>cline_options</i> )	affect rendition of the fitted line
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CI plot

<u>ciopts</u> ( <i>area_options</i> )	affect rendition of the confidence bands
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Add plots

<u>addplot</u> ( <i>plot</i> )	add other plots to the generated graph
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Y axis, X axis, Titles, Legend, Overall

<i>twoway_options</i>	any options other than <code>by()</code> documented in [G-3] <i>twoway_options</i>
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<i>fracpred_options</i>	Description
<code>for(<i>varname</i>)</code>	compute prediction for <i>varname</i>
<code>dresid</code>	compute deviance residuals
<code>stdp</code>	compute standard errors of the fitted values <i>varname</i>

`fracplot` is not allowed after `mfp` with `clogit`, `mlogit`, or `stcrreg`. `fracpred`, `dresid` is not allowed after `mfp` with `clogit`, `mlogit`, or `stcrreg`.

## Options for fracplot

### Plot

`marker_options` affect the rendition of markers drawn at the plotted points, including their shape, size, color, and outline; see [G-3] [marker\\_options](#).

`marker_label_options` specify if and how the markers are to be labeled; see [G-3] [marker\\_label\\_options](#).

### Fitted line

`lineopts(cline_options)` affect the rendition of the fitted line; see [G-3] [cline\\_options](#).

### CI plot

`ciopts(area_options)` affect the rendition of the confidence bands; see [G-3] [area\\_options](#).

### Add plots

`addplot(plot)` provides a way to add other plots to the generated graph. See [G-3] [addplot\\_option](#).

### Y axis, X axis, Titles, Legend, Overall

`twoway_options` are any of the options documented in [G-3] [twoway\\_options](#), excluding `by()`. These include options for titling the graph (see [G-3] [title\\_options](#)) and for saving the graph to disk (see [G-3] [saving\\_option](#)).

## Options for fracpred

`for(varname)` specifies (partial) prediction for variable *varname*. The fitted values are adjusted to the value specified by the `center()` option in `mfp`.

`dresid` specifies that deviance residuals be calculated.

`stdp` specifies calculation of the standard errors of the fitted values *varname*, adjusted for all the other predictors at the values specified by `center()`.

## Remarks and examples

[stata.com](http://www.stata.com)

`fracplot` actually produces a component-plus-residual plot. For normal-error models with constant weights and one covariate, this amounts to a plot of the observations with the fitted line inscribed. For other normal-error models, weighted residuals are calculated and added to the fitted values.

For models with additional covariates, the line is the partial linear predictor for the variable in question ( $xvar_1$  or a covariate) and includes the intercept  $\beta_0$ .

For generalized linear and Cox models, the fitted values are plotted on the scale of the “index” (linear predictor). Deviance residuals are added to the (partial) linear predictor to give component-plus-residual values. These values are plotted as small circles.

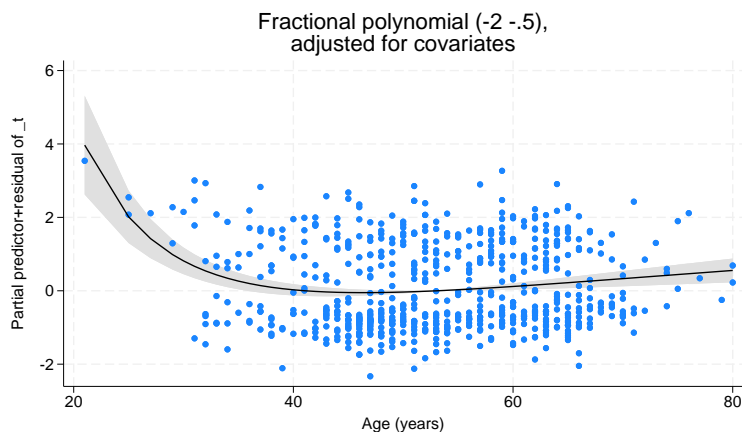
### ▷ Example 1

In [example 1](#) of [\[R\] mfp](#), we used Cox regression to predict the log hazard of breast cancer recurrence from prognostic factors of which five are continuous ( $x_1$ ,  $x_3$ ,  $x_5$ ,  $x_6$ ,  $x_7$ ) and three are binary ( $x_2$ ,  $x_{4a}$ ,  $x_{4b}$ ). We also controlled for hormonal therapy ( $hormon$ ). We used `mfp` to build a model from the initial set of eight predictors by using the backfitting model-selection algorithm. The nominal  $p$ -value for variable and FP selection was set to 0.05 for all variables except  $hormon$ , which is set to 1.

```
. use https://www.stata-press.com/data/r18/brcancer
(German breast cancer data)
. stset rectime, fail(censrec)
(output omitted)
. mfp, alpha(.05) select(.05, hormon:1): stcox x1 x2 x3 x4a x4b x5 x6 x7 hormon,
> nohr
(output omitted)
```

We can use `fracplot` to produce component-plus-residual plots of the continuous variables. We produce the component-plus-residual plot for  $x_1$  with `fracplot` by specifying  $x_1$  after the command name.

```
. fracplot x1
```



We use `fracpred` with the `stdp` option to predict the standard error of the fractional polynomial prediction for  $x_1$ . The standard error prediction will be stored in variable `sepx1`. We specify that prediction is made for  $x_1$  with the `for()` option. After prediction, we use `summarize` to show how the standard error estimate varies over different values of  $x_1$ .

```
. fracpred sepx1, stdp for(x1)
. summarize sepx1
```

Variable	Obs	Mean	Std. dev.	Min	Max
sepx1	686	.0542654	.0471993	.0003304	.6862065

◀

## Methods and formulas

The general definition of an FP, accommodating possible repeated powers, may be written for functions  $H_1(x), \dots, H_m(x)$  as

$$\beta_0 + \sum_{j=1}^m \beta_j H_j(x)$$

where  $H_1(x) = x^{(p_1)}$  and for  $j = 2, \dots, m$ ,

$$H_j(x) = \begin{cases} x^{(p_j)} & \text{if } p_j \neq p_{j-1} \\ H_{j-1}(x) \log x & \text{if } p_j = p_{j-1} \end{cases}$$

For example, an FP of degree 3 with powers (1, 3, 3) has  $H_1(x) = x$ ,  $H_2(x) = x^3$ , and  $H_3(x) = x^3 \log x$  and equals  $\beta_0 + \beta_1 x + \beta_2 x^3 + \beta_3 x^3 \log x$ .

The component-plus-residual values graphed by `fracplot` are calculated as follows: Let the data consist of triplets  $(y_i, x_i, \mathbf{z}_i)$ ,  $i = 1, \dots, n$ , where  $\mathbf{z}_i$  is the vector of covariates for the  $i$ th observation, after applying possible fractional polynomial transformation and adjustment as described earlier. Let  $\hat{\eta}_i = \hat{\beta}_0 + \{\mathbf{H}(x_i) - \mathbf{H}(x_0)\}' \hat{\beta} + \mathbf{z}_i' \hat{\gamma}$  be the linear predictor from the FP model, as given by the `fracpred` command or, equivalently, by the `predict` command with the `xb` option, following `mfp`. Here  $\mathbf{H}(x_i) = \{H_1(x_i), \dots, H_m(x_i)\}'$  is the vector of FP functions described above,  $\mathbf{H}(x_0) = \{H_1(x_0), \dots, H_m(x_0)\}'$  is the vector of adjustments to  $x_0$  (often,  $x_0$  is chosen to be the mean of the  $x_i$ ),  $\hat{\beta}$  is the estimated parameter vector, and  $\hat{\gamma}$  is the estimated parameter vector for the covariates. The values  $\hat{\eta}_i^* = \hat{\beta}_0 + \{\mathbf{H}(x_i) - \mathbf{H}(x_0)\}' \hat{\beta}$  represent the behavior of the FP model for  $x$  at fixed values  $\mathbf{z} = \mathbf{0}$  of the (adjusted) covariates. The  $i$ th component-plus-residual is defined as  $\hat{\eta}_i^* + d_i$ , where  $d_i$  is the deviance residual for the  $i$ th observation. For normal-errors models,  $d_i = \sqrt{w_i}(y_i - \hat{\eta}_i)$ , where  $w_i$  is the case weight (or 1, if `weight` is not specified). For logistic, Cox, and generalized linear regression models, see [R] [logistic](#), [R] [probit](#), [ST] [stcox](#), and [R] [glm](#) for the formula for  $d_i$ . The formula for `poisson` models is the same as that for `glm` with `family(poisson)`. For `stcox`,  $d_i$  is the partial martingale residual (see [ST] [stcox postestimation](#)).

`fracplot` plots the values of  $d_i$  and the curve represented by  $\hat{\eta}_i^*$  against  $x_i$ . The confidence interval for  $\hat{\eta}_i^*$  is obtained from the variance–covariance matrix of the entire model and takes into account the uncertainty in estimating  $\beta_0$ ,  $\beta$ , and  $\gamma$  (but not in estimating the FP powers for  $x$ ).

`fracpred` with the `for(varname)` option calculates the predicted index at  $x_i = x_0$  and  $\mathbf{z}_i = \mathbf{0}$ ; that is,  $\hat{\eta}_i = \hat{\beta}_0 + \{\mathbf{H}(x_i) - \mathbf{H}(x_0)\}' \hat{\beta}$ . The standard error is calculated from the variance–covariance matrix of  $(\hat{\beta}_0, \hat{\beta})$ , again ignoring estimation of the powers.

## Also see

[R] **mfp** — Multivariable fractional polynomial models

[U] **20 Estimation and postestimation commands**

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