

regress postestimation diagnostic plots — Postestimation plots for regress

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Description

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

Command	Description
<code>rvfplot</code>	residual-versus-fitted plot
<code>avplot</code>	added-variable plot
<code>avplots</code>	all added-variables plots in one image
<code>cprplot</code>	component-plus-residual plot
<code>acprplot</code>	augmented component-plus-residual plot
<code>rvpplot</code>	residual-versus-predictor plot
<code>lvr2plot</code>	leverage-versus-squared-residual plot

These commands are not appropriate after the `svy` prefix.

For a discussion of the terminology used in this entry, see the [Terminology](#) section of *Remarks and examples for predict* in [R] [regress postestimation](#).

rvfplot

Description for rfvplot

`rvfplot` graphs a residual-versus-fitted plot, a graph of the residuals against the fitted values.

Menu for rfvplot

Statistics > Linear models and related > Regression diagnostics > Residual-versus-fitted plot

Syntax for rfvplot

```
rvfplot [ , rfvplot_options ]
```

<i>rvfplot_options</i>	Description
Plot	
<i>marker_options</i>	change look of markers (color, size, etc.)
<i>marker_label_options</i>	add marker labels; change look or position
Add plots	
<code>addplot(plot)</code>	add plots to the generated graph
Y axis, X axis, Titles, Legend, Overall	
<i>twoway_options</i>	any options other than <code>by()</code> documented in [G-3] twoway_options

Options for rvfplot

Plot

marker_options affects 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*.

Add plots

`addplot(plot)` provides a way to add 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*).

Remarks and examples for rvfplot

`rvfplot` graphs the residuals against the fitted values.

► Example 1

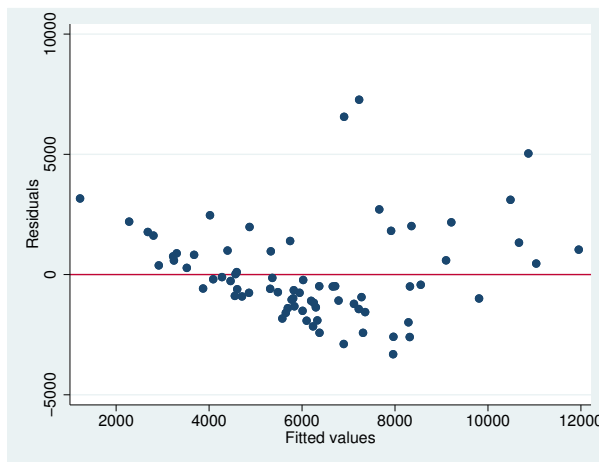
Using `auto.dta` described in [U] 1.2.2 **Example datasets**, we will use `regress` to fit a model of price on weight, mpg, foreign, and the interaction of foreign with mpg. We specify `foreign#c.mpg` to obtain the interaction of foreign with mpg; see [U] 11.4.3 **Factor variables**.

```
. use http://www.stata-press.com/data/r15/auto
(1978 Automobile Data)
. regress price weight foreign#c.mpg
```

Source	SS	df	MS	Number of obs	=	74
Model	350319665	4	87579916.3	F(4, 69)	=	21.22
Residual	284745731	69	4126749.72	Prob > F	=	0.0000
				R-squared	=	0.5516
				Adj R-squared	=	0.5256
Total	635065396	73	8699525.97	Root MSE	=	2031.4
price	Coef.	Std. Err.	t	P> t	[95% Conf. Interval]	
weight	4.613589	.7254961	6.36	0.000	3.166263	6.060914
foreign						
Foreign	11240.33	2751.681	4.08	0.000	5750.878	16729.78
mpg	263.1875	110.7961	2.38	0.020	42.15527	484.2197
foreign#c.mpg						
Foreign	-307.2166	108.5307	-2.83	0.006	-523.7294	-90.70368
_cons	-14449.58	4425.72	-3.26	0.002	-23278.65	-5620.51

Once we have fit a model, we may use any of the regression diagnostics commands. `rvfplot` (read residual-versus-fitted plot) graphs the residuals against the fitted values:

```
. rvfplot, yline(0)
```



All the diagnostic plot commands allow the `graph twoway` and `graph twoway scatter` options; we specified a `yline(0)` to draw a line across the graph at $y = 0$; see [G-2] [graph twoway scatter](#).

In a well-fitted model, there should be no pattern to the residuals plotted against the fitted values—something not true of our model. Ignoring the two outliers at the top center of the graph, we see curvature in the pattern of the residuals, suggesting a violation of the assumption that price is linear in our independent variables. We might also have seen increasing or decreasing variation in the residuals—heteroskedasticity. Any pattern whatsoever indicates a violation of the least-squares assumptions.

avplot

Description for avplot

`avplot` graphs an added-variable plot (a.k.a. partial-regression leverage plot, partial regression plot, or adjusted partial residual plot) after `regress`. *indepvar* may be an independent variable (a.k.a. predictor, carrier, or covariate) that is currently in the model or not.

Menu for avplot

Statistics > Linear models and related > Regression diagnostics > Added-variable plot

Syntax for avplot

```
avplot indepvar [ , avplot_options ]
```

<i>avplot_options</i>	Description
Plot	
<i>marker_options</i>	change look of markers (color, size, etc.)
<i>marker_label_options</i>	add marker labels; change look or position
Reference line	
<code>rlopts(<i>cline_options</i>)</code>	affect rendition of the reference line
Add plots	
<code>addplot(<i>plot</i>)</code>	add other plots to the generated graph
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>

Options for avplot

Plot

marker_options affects 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*.

Reference line

`rlopts(cline_options)` affects the rendition of the reference line. See [G-3] *cline_options*.

Add plots

`addplot(plot)` provides a way to add 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*).

Remarks and examples for avplot

avplot graphs an added-variable plot, also known as the partial-regression leverage plot.

One of the wonderful features of one-regressor regressions (regressions of y on one x) is that we can graph the data and the regression line. There is no easier way to understand the regression than to examine such a graph. Unfortunately, we cannot do this when we have more than one regressor. With two regressors, it is still theoretically possible—the graph must be drawn in three dimensions, but with three or more regressors no graph is possible.

The added-variable plot is an attempt to project multidimensional data back to the two-dimensional world for each of the original regressors. This is, of course, impossible without making some concessions. Call the coordinates on an added-variable plot y and x . The added-variable plot has the following properties:

- There is a one-to-one correspondence between (x_i, y_i) and the i th observation used in the original regression.
- A regression of y on x has the same coefficient and standard error (up to a degree-of-freedom adjustment) as the estimated coefficient and standard error for the regressor in the original regression.
- The “outlierness” of each observation in determining the slope is in some sense preserved.

It is equally important to note the properties that are not listed. The y and x coordinates of the added-variable plot cannot be used to identify functional form, or, at least, not well (see [Mallows \[1986\]](#)). In the construction of the added-variable plot, the relationship between y and x is forced to be linear.

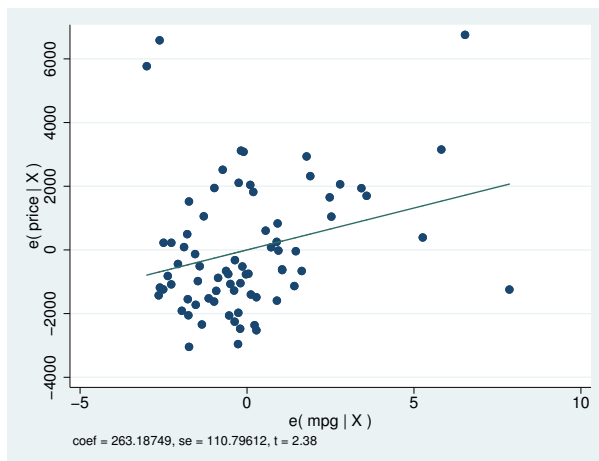
▷ Example 2

Let’s use the same model as we used in [example 1](#).

```
. use http://www.stata-press.com/data/r15/auto
(1978 Automobile Data)
. regress price weight foreign##c.mpg
(output omitted)
```

We can now examine the added-variable plot for mpg.

```
. avplot mpg
```



This graph suggests a problem in determining the coefficient on mpg. Were this a one-regressor regression, the two points at the top-left corner and the one at the top right would cause us concern, and so it does in our more complicated multiple-regressor case. To identify the problem points, we retyped our command, modifying it to read `avplot mpg, mlabel(make)`, and discovered that the two cars at the top left are the Cadillac Eldorado and the Lincoln Versailles; the point at the top right is the Cadillac Seville. These three cars account for 100% of the luxury cars in our data, suggesting that our model is misspecified. By the way, the point at the lower right of the graph, also cause for concern, is the Plymouth Arrow, our data entry error.

◀

□ Technical note

Stata's `avplot` command can be used with regressors already in the model, as we just did, or with potential regressors not yet in the model. In either case, `avplot` will produce the correct graph. The name “added-variable plot” is unfortunate in the case when the variable is already among the list of regressors but is, we think, still preferable to the name “partial-regression leverage plot” assigned by [Belsley, Kuh, and Welsch \(1980, 30\)](#) and more in the spirit of the original use of such plots by [Mosteller and Tukey \(1977, 271–279\)](#). [Welsch \(1986, 403\)](#), however, disagrees: “I am sorry to see that [Chatterjee and Hadi \[1986\]](#) endorse the term ‘added-variable plot’ when X_j is part of the original model” and goes on to suggest the name “adjusted partial residual plot”.

□

avplots

Description for avplots

`avplots` graphs all the added-variable plots in one image.

Menu for avplots

Statistics > Linear models and related > Regression diagnostics > Added-variable plot

Syntax for avplots

```
avplots [ , avplots_options ]
```

<i>avplots_options</i>	Description
Plot	
<i>marker_options</i>	change look of markers (color, size, etc.)
<i>marker_label_options</i>	add marker labels; change look or position
<i>combine_options</i>	any of the options documented in [G-2] graph combine
Reference line	
<code>rlopts</code> (<i>cline_options</i>)	affect rendition of the reference line
Y axis, X axis, Titles, Legend, Overall	
<i>twoway_options</i>	any options other than <code>by()</code> documented in [G-3] twoway_options

Options for avplots

Plot

marker_options affects 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](#).

combine_options are any of the options documented in [G-2] [graph combine](#). These include options for titling the graph (see [G-3] [title_options](#)) and for saving the graph to disk (see [G-3] [saving_option](#)).

Reference line

rlopts(*cline_options*) affects the rendition of the reference line. See [G-3] [cline_options](#).

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](#)).

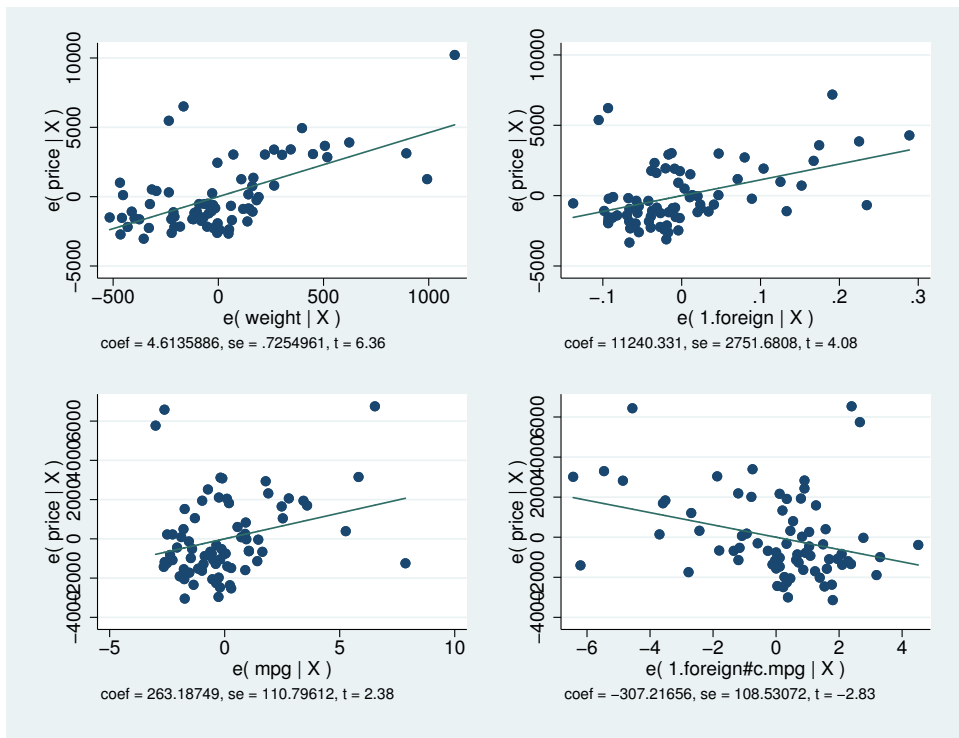
Remarks and examples for avplots

► Example 3

In [example 2](#), we used `avplot` to examine the added-variable plot for `mpg` in our regression of `price` on `weight` and `foreign##c.mpg`. Now let's use `avplots` to graph an added-variable plot for every regressor in the data.

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```
. avplots
```



cprplot

Description for cprplot

`cprplot` graphs a component-plus-residual plot (a.k.a. partial residual plot) after `regress`. *indepvar* must be an independent variable that is currently in the model.

Menu for cprplot

Statistics > Linear models and related > Regression diagnostics > Component-plus-residual plot

Syntax for cprplot

```
cprplot indepvar [, cprplot_options]
```

cprplot_options

Description

Plot

marker_options

change look of markers (color, size, etc.)

marker_label_options

add marker labels; change look or position

Reference line

rlopts(*cline_options*)

affect rendition of the reference line

Options

lowess

add a lowess smooth of the plotted points

lsopts(*lowess_options*)

affect rendition of the lowess smooth

mspline

add median spline of the plotted points

msopts(*mspline_options*)

affect rendition of the spline

Add plots

addplot(*plot*)

add other plots to the generated graph

Y axis, X axis, Titles, Legend, Overall

twoway_options

any options other than `by()` documented in [G-3] *twoway_options*

Options for cprplot

Plot

marker_options affects 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*.

Reference line

rlopts(*cline_options*) affects the rendition of the reference line. See [G-3] *cline_options*.

Options

`lowess` adds a lowess smooth of the plotted points to assist in detecting nonlinearities.

`lsopts(lowess_options)` affects the rendition of the lowess smooth. For an explanation of these options, especially the `bwidth()` option, see [R] [lowess](#). Specifying `lsopts()` implies the `lowess` option.

`mspline` adds a median spline of the plotted points to assist in detecting nonlinearities.

`msopts(mspline_options)` affects the rendition of the spline. For an explanation of these options, especially the `bands()` option, see [G-2] [graph twoway mspline](#). Specifying `msopts()` implies the `mspline` option.

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](#)).

Remarks and examples for `crplot`

Added-variable plots are successful at identifying outliers, but they cannot be used to identify functional form. The component-plus-residual plot (Ezekiel 1924; Larsen and McCleary 1972) is another attempt at projecting multidimensional data into a two-dimensional form, but with different properties. Although the added-variable plot can identify outliers, the component-plus-residual plot cannot. It can, however, be used to examine the functional form assumptions of the model. Both plots have the property that a regression line through the coordinates has a slope equal to the estimated coefficient in the regression model.

► Example 4

We illustrate component-plus-residual plots using a variation of `auto.dta`.

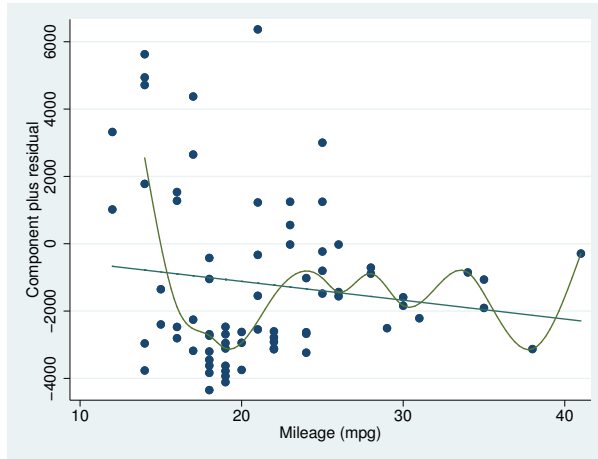
```
. use http://www.stata-press.com/data/r15/auto1
(Automobile Models)
. regress price mpg weight
```

Source	SS	df	MS	Number of obs	=	74
				F(2, 71)	=	14.90
Model	187716578	2	93858289	Prob > F	=	0.0000
Residual	447348818	71	6300687.58	R-squared	=	0.2956
				Adj R-squared	=	0.2757
Total	635065396	73	8699525.97	Root MSE	=	2510.1
price	Coef.	Std. Err.	t	P> t	[95% Conf. Interval]	
mpg	-55.9393	75.24136	-0.74	0.460	-205.9663	94.08771
weight	1.710992	.5861682	2.92	0.005	.5422063	2.879779
_cons	2197.9	3190.768	0.69	0.493	-4164.311	8560.11

In fact, we know that the effects of `mpg` in this model are nonlinear—if we added `mpg squared` to the model, its coefficient would have a t statistic of 2.38, the t statistic on `mpg` would become -2.48 , and `weight`'s effect would become about one-third of its current value and become statistically insignificant. Pretend that we do not know this.

The component-plus-residual plot for `mpg` is

```
. cprplot mpg, mspline msopts(bands(13))
```



We are supposed to examine the above graph for nonlinearities or, equivalently, ask if the regression line, which has slope equal to the estimated effect of `mpg` in the original model, fits the data adequately. To assist our eyes, we added a median spline. Perhaps some people may detect nonlinearity from this graph, but we assert that if we had not previously revealed the nonlinearity of `mpg` and if we had not added the median spline, the graph would not overly bother us.

acprplot

Description for acprplot

`acprplot` graphs an augmented component-plus-residual plot (a.k.a. augmented partial residual plot) as described by [Mallows \(1986\)](#). This seems to work better than the component-plus-residual plot for identifying nonlinearities in the data.

Menu for acprplot

Statistics > Linear models and related > Regression diagnostics > Augmented component-plus-residual plot

Syntax for acprplot

```
acprplot indepvar [ , acprplot_options ]
```

<i>acprplot_options</i>	Description
Plot	
<i>marker_options</i>	change look of markers (color, size, etc.)
<i>marker_label_options</i>	add marker labels; change look or position
Reference line	
<code>rlopts(<i>cline_options</i>)</code>	affect rendition of the reference line
Options	
<code>lowess</code>	add a lowess smooth of the plotted points
<code>lsopts(<i>lowess_options</i>)</code>	affect rendition of the lowess smooth
<code>mspline</code>	add median spline of the plotted points
<code>msopts(<i>mspline_options</i>)</code>	affect rendition of the spline
Add plots	
<code>addplot(<i>plot</i>)</code>	add other plots to the generated graph
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>

Options for acprplot

Plot

marker_options affects 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*.

Reference line

`rlopts(cline_options)` affects the rendition of the reference line. See [G-3] *cline_options*.

Options

`lowess` adds a lowess smooth of the plotted points to assist in detecting nonlinearities.

`lsopts` (*lowess_options*) affects the rendition of the lowess smooth. For an explanation of these options, especially the `bwidth()` option, see [R] [lowess](#). Specifying `lsopts()` implies the `lowess` option.

`mspline` adds a median spline of the plotted points to assist in detecting nonlinearities.

`msopts` (*mspline_options*) affects the rendition of the spline. For an explanation of these options, especially the `bands()` option, see [G-2] [graph twoway mspline](#). Specifying `msopts()` implies the `mspline` option.

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](#)).

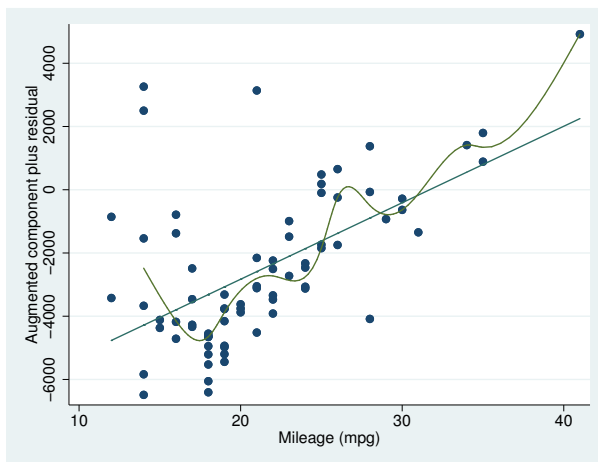
Remarks and examples for `acrplot`

In the [cprplot](#) section above, we discussed the component-plus-residual plot. Mallows (1986) proposed an augmented component-plus-residual plot that is often more sensitive to detecting nonlinearity.

► Example 5

Let's compare the augmented component-plus-residual plot with the component-plus-residual plot of [example 4](#).

```
. use http://www.stata-press.com/data/r15/auto
(1978 Automobile Data)
. regress price weight foreign##c.mpg
(output omitted)
. acrplot mpg, mspline msopts(bands(13))
```



It does do somewhat better.

rvpplot

Description for rvpplot

`rvpplot` graphs a residual-versus-predictor plot (a.k.a. independent variable plot or carrier plot), a graph of the residuals against the specified predictor.

Menu for rvpplot

Statistics > Linear models and related > Regression diagnostics > Residual-versus-predictor plot

Syntax for rvpplot

```
rvpplot indepvar [ , rvpplot_options ]
```

<i>rvpplot_options</i>	Description
Plot	
<i>marker_options</i>	change look of markers (color, size, etc.)
<i>marker_label_options</i>	add marker labels; change look or position
Add plots	
<code>addplot(<i>plot</i>)</code>	add plots to the generated graph
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>

Options for rvpplot

Plot

marker_options affects 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*.

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*).

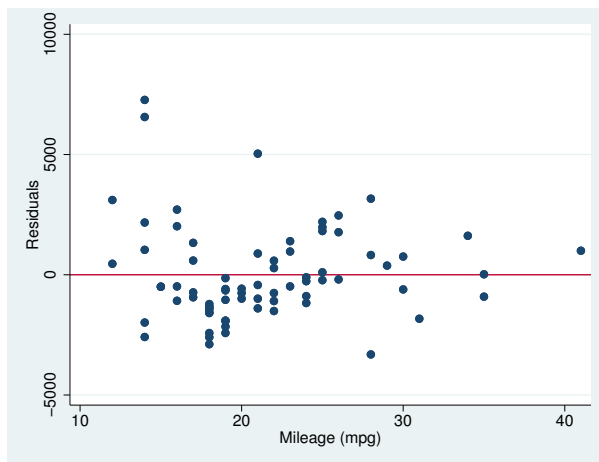
Remarks and examples for rvpplot

The residual-versus-predictor plot is a simple way to look for violations of the regression assumptions. If the assumptions are correct, there should be no pattern on the graph.

▷ Example 6

Let's use our model of price on mpg and weight.

```
. use http://www.stata-press.com/data/r15/auto
(1978 Automobile Data)
. regress price weight foreign##c.mpg
(output omitted)
. rvpplot mpg, yline(0)
```



Remember, any pattern counts as a problem, and in this graph, we see that the variation in the residuals decreases as mpg increases.



lvr2plot

Description for lvr2plot

`lvr2plot` graphs a leverage-versus-squared-residual plot (a.k.a. L-R plot).

Menu for lvr2plot

Statistics > Linear models and related > Regression diagnostics > Leverage-versus-squared-residual plot

Syntax for lvr2plot

```
lvr2plot [ , lvr2plot_options ]
```

<i>lvr2plot_options</i>	Description
Plot	
<i>marker_options</i>	change look of markers (color, size, etc.)
<i>marker_label_options</i>	add marker labels; change look or position
Add plots	
<code>addplot(<i>plot</i>)</code>	add other plots to the generated graph
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>

Options for lvr2plot

Plot

marker_options affects 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*.

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*).

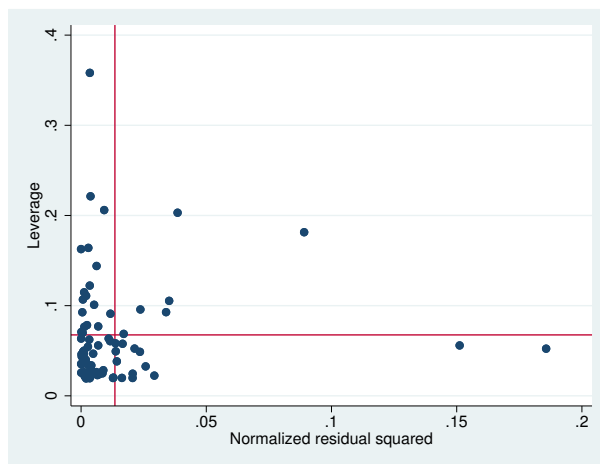
Remarks and examples for lvr2plot

One of the most useful diagnostic graphs is provided by `lvr2plot` (leverage-versus-residual-squared plot), a graph of leverage against the (normalized) residuals squared.

▷ Example 7

We illustrate `lvr2plot` using our model in [example 1](#).

```
. use http://www.stata-press.com/data/r15/auto
(1978 Automobile Data)
. regress price weight foreign##c.mpg
(output omitted)
. lvr2plot
```

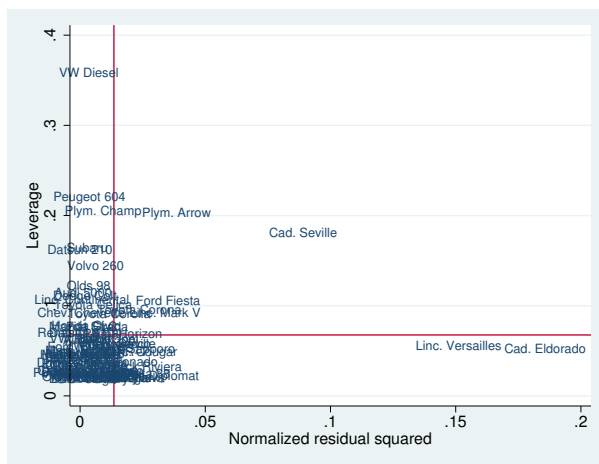


The lines on the chart show the average values of leverage and the (normalized) residuals squared. Points above the horizontal line have higher-than-average leverage; points to the right of the vertical line have larger-than-average residuals.

One point immediately catches our eye, and four more make us pause. The point at the top of the graph has high leverage and a smaller-than-average residual. The other points that bother us all have higher-than-average leverage, two with smaller-than-average residuals and two with larger-than-average residuals.

A less pretty but more useful version of the above graph specifies that make be used as the symbol (see [G-3] [marker_label_options](#)):

```
. lvr2plot, mlabel(make) mlabp(0) m(none) mlabsz(smll)
```



The VW Diesel, Plymouth Champ, Plymouth Arrow, and Peugeot 604 are the points that cause us the most concern. When we further examine our data, we discover that the VW Diesel is the only diesel in our data and that the data for the Plymouth Arrow were entered incorrectly into the computer. No such simple explanations were found for the Plymouth Champ and Peugeot 604.

◀

Methods and formulas

See [Hamilton \(2013, 209–214\)](#) and [Kohler and Kreuter \(2012, sec. 9.3\)](#) for a discussion of these diagnostic graphs.

The `lvr2plot` command plots leverage against the squares of the normalized residuals. The normalized residuals are defined as $\hat{e}_{n_j} = \hat{e}_j / (\sum_i \hat{e}_i^2)^{1/2}$.

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Also see

[R] **regress** — Linear regression

[R] **regress postestimation** — Postestimation tools for regress

[R] **regress postestimation time series** — Postestimation tools for regress with time series

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