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Description

`lincom` computes point estimates, standard errors, t or z statistics, p -values, and confidence intervals for linear combinations of parameters after any estimation command, including survey estimation. Results can optionally be displayed as odds ratios, hazard ratios, incidence-rate ratios, or relative-risk ratios.

Quick start

Point estimate and confidence interval for sum of coefficients of `x1` and `x2`

```
lincom x1 + x2
```

Same as above, but report results as a relative-risk ratio

```
lincom x1 + x2, rrr
```

Same as above, but use coefficients from second equation of a multiequation model

```
lincom [2]x1 + [2]x2, rrr
```

Difference between coefficients of first and third level of categorical variable `a`

```
lincom 1.a - 3.a
```

Sum of coefficients of `x1` and `x2` after a model adjusted for complex survey design

```
lincom x1 + x2
```

Menu

Statistics > Postestimation

Syntax

```
lincom exp [ , options ]
```

<i>options</i>	Description
<code>eform</code>	generic label; $\exp(b)$
<code>or</code>	odds ratio
<code>hr</code>	hazard ratio
<code>shr</code>	subhazard ratio
<code>irr</code>	incidence-rate ratio
<code>rrr</code>	relative-risk ratio
<code>level(#)</code>	set confidence level; default is <code>level(95)</code>
<code>display_options</code>	control column formats
<code>df(#)</code>	use t distribution with # degrees of freedom for computing p -values and confidence intervals

exp is any linear combination of parameters that is a valid syntax for `test`; see [R] `test`. *exp* must not contain an equal sign.

`collect` is allowed; see [U] 11.1.10 **Prefix commands**.

`df(#)` does not appear in the dialog box.

Options

`eform`, `or`, `hr`, `shr`, `irr`, and `rrr` all report coefficient estimates as $\exp(\hat{\beta})$ rather than $\hat{\beta}$. Standard errors and confidence intervals are similarly transformed. `or` is the default after `logistic`. The only difference in these options is how the output is labeled.

Option	Label	Explanation	Example commands
<code>eform</code>	<code>exp(b)</code>	Generic label	<code>cloglog</code>
<code>or</code>	<code>Odds ratio</code>	Odds ratio	<code>logistic, logit</code>
<code>hr</code>	<code>Haz. ratio</code>	Hazard ratio	<code>stcox, streg</code>
<code>shr</code>	<code>SHR</code>	Subhazard ratio	<code>stcrreg</code>
<code>irr</code>	<code>IRR</code>	Incidence-rate ratio	<code>poisson</code>
<code>rrr</code>	<code>RRR</code>	Relative-risk ratio	<code>mlogit</code>

exp may not contain any additive constants when you use the `eform`, `or`, `hr`, `irr`, or `rrr` option.

`level(#)` specifies the confidence level, as a percentage, for confidence intervals. The default is `level(95)` or as set by `set level`; see [U] 20.8 **Specifying the width of confidence intervals**.

`display_options`: `cformat(%fmt)`, `pformat(%fmt)`, and `sformat(%fmt)`; see [R] **Estimation options**.

The following option is available with `lincom` but is not shown in the dialog box:

`df(#)` specifies that the t distribution with # degrees of freedom be used for computing p -values and confidence intervals. The default is to use `e(df_r)` degrees of freedom or the standard normal distribution if `e(df_r)` is missing.

Remarks and examples

Remarks are presented under the following headings:

Using lincom
Odds ratios and incidence-rate ratios
Multiple-equation models

Using lincom

After fitting a model and obtaining estimates for coefficients $\beta_1, \beta_2, \dots, \beta_k$, you may want to view estimates for linear combinations of the β_i , such as $\beta_1 - \beta_2$. `lincom` can display estimates for any linear combination of the form $c_0 + c_1\beta_1 + c_2\beta_2 + \dots + c_k\beta_k$.

`lincom` works after any estimation command for which `test` works. Any valid expression for `test` syntax 1 (see [R] `test`) is a valid expression for `lincom`.

`lincom` is useful for viewing odds ratios, hazard ratios, etc., for one group (that is, one set of covariates) relative to another group (that is, another set of covariates). See the examples below.

► Example 1

We perform a linear regression:

```
. use https://www.stata-press.com/data/r19/regress
. regress y x1 x2 x3
```

Source	SS	df	MS	Number of obs	=	148
Model	3259.3561	3	1086.45203	F(3, 144)	=	96.12
Residual	1627.56282	144	11.3025196	Prob > F	=	0.0000
				R-squared	=	0.6670
				Adj R-squared	=	0.6600
Total	4886.91892	147	33.2443464	Root MSE	=	3.3619

y	Coefficient	Std. err.	t	P> t	[95% conf. interval]	
x1	1.457113	1.07461	1.36	0.177	-.666934	3.581161
x2	2.221682	.8610358	2.58	0.011	.5197797	3.923583
x3	-.006139	.0005543	-11.08	0.000	-.0072345	-.0050435
_cons	36.10135	4.382693	8.24	0.000	27.43863	44.76407

To see the difference of the coefficients of `x2` and `x1`, we type

```
. lincom x2 - x1
( 1) - x1 + x2 = 0
```

y	Coefficient	Std. err.	t	P> t	[95% conf. interval]	
(1)	.7645682	.9950282	0.77	0.444	-1.20218	2.731316

The expression can be any linear combination.

```
. lincom 3*x1 + 500*x3
( 1) 3*x1 + 500*x3 = 0
```

y	Coefficient	Std. err.	t	P> t	[95% conf. interval]	
(1)	1.301825	3.396624	0.38	0.702	-5.411858	8.015507

Nonlinear expressions are not allowed.

```
. lincom x2/x1
not possible with test
r(131);
```

For information about estimating nonlinear expressions, see [R] [nlcom](#).



□ Technical note

`lincom` uses the same shorthands for coefficients as does `test` (see [R] [test](#)). When you type `x1`, for instance, `lincom` knows that you mean the coefficient of `x1`. The formal syntax for referencing this coefficient is actually `_b[x1]`, or alternatively, `_coef[x1]`. So, more formally, in the last example we could have typed

```
. lincom 3*_b[x1] + 500*_b[x3]
```



Odds ratios and incidence-rate ratios

After logistic regression, the `or` option can be specified with `lincom` to display odds ratios for any effect. Incidence-rate ratios after commands such as `poisson` can be similarly obtained by specifying the `irr` option.

▷ Example 2

Consider the low birthweight dataset from [Hosmer, Lemeshow, and Sturdivant \(2013, 24\)](#). We fit a logistic regression model of low birthweight (variable `low`) on the following variables:

Variable	Description	Coding
<code>age</code>	age in years	
<code>race</code>	race	1 if white, 2 if black, 3 if other
<code>smoke</code>	smoking status	1 if smoker, 0 if nonsmoker
<code>ht</code>	history of hypertension	1 if yes, 0 if no
<code>ui</code>	uterine irritability	1 if yes, 0 if no
<code>lwd</code>	maternal weight before pregnancy	1 if weight < 110 lb., 0 otherwise
<code>ptd</code>	history of premature labor	1 if yes, 0 if no
<code>c.age##lwd</code>	age main effects, <code>lwd</code> main effects, and their interaction	
<code>smoke##lwd</code>	smoke main effects, <code>lwd</code> main effects, and their interaction	

We first fit a model without the interaction terms by using logit.

```
. use https://www.stata-press.com/data/r19/lbw3
(Hosmer & Lemeshow data)
. logit low age lwd i.race smoke ptd ht ui
Iteration 0: Log likelihood = -117.336
Iteration 1: Log likelihood = -99.3982
Iteration 2: Log likelihood = -98.780418
Iteration 3: Log likelihood = -98.777998
Iteration 4: Log likelihood = -98.777998
Logistic regression
Number of obs = 189
LR chi2(8) = 37.12
Prob > chi2 = 0.0000
Pseudo R2 = 0.1582
Log likelihood = -98.777998
```

low	Coefficient	Std. err.	z	P> z	[95% conf. interval]	
age	-.0464796	.0373888	-1.24	0.214	-.1197603	.0268011
lwd	.8420615	.4055338	2.08	0.038	.0472299	1.636893
race						
Black	1.073456	.5150753	2.08	0.037	.0639273	2.082985
Other	.815367	.4452979	1.83	0.067	-.0574008	1.688135
smoke	.8071996	.404446	2.00	0.046	.0145001	1.599899
ptd	1.281678	.4621157	2.77	0.006	.3759478	2.187408
ht	1.435227	.6482699	2.21	0.027	.1646414	2.705813
ui	.6576256	.4666192	1.41	0.159	-.2569313	1.572182
_cons	-1.216781	.9556797	-1.27	0.203	-3.089878	.656317

To get the odds ratio for black smokers relative to white nonsmokers (the reference group), we type

```
. lincom 2.race + smoke, or
( 1) [low]2.race + [low]smoke = 0
```

low	Odds ratio	Std. err.	z	P> z	[95% conf. interval]	
(1)	6.557805	4.744692	2.60	0.009	1.588176	27.07811

lincom computed $\exp(\beta_{2.race} + \beta_{smoke}) = 6.56$. To see the odds ratio for white smokers relative to black nonsmokers, we type

```
. lincom smoke - 2.race, or
( 1) - [low]2.race + [low]smoke = 0
```

low	Odds ratio	Std. err.	z	P> z	[95% conf. interval]	
(1)	.7662425	.4430176	-0.46	0.645	.2467334	2.379603

Now let's add the interaction terms to the model (Hosmer and Lemeshow 1989, table 4.10). This time, we will use logistic rather than logit. By default, logistic displays odds ratios.

```
. logistic low i.race ht ui ptd c.age##lwd smoke##lwd
Logistic regression                                Number of obs =   189
                                                    LR chi2(10)    =  42.66
                                                    Prob > chi2    =  0.0000
Log likelihood = -96.00616                          Pseudo R2     =  0.1818
```

low	Odds ratio	Std. err.	z	P> z	[95% conf. interval]	
race						
Black	2.95383	1.532789	2.09	0.037	1.068277	8.167465
Other	2.137589	.9919138	1.64	0.102	.8608708	5.307752
ht	3.893141	2.575201	2.05	0.040	1.064768	14.2346
ui	2.071284	.9931388	1.52	0.129	.8092926	5.301192
ptd	3.426633	1.615282	2.61	0.009	1.360252	8.632089
age	.9194513	.041896	-1.84	0.065	.8408967	1.005344
1.lwd	.1772934	.3312384	-0.93	0.354	.0045539	6.902367
lwd#c.age						
1	1.15883	.09602	1.78	0.075	.9851215	1.36317
smoke						
Smoker	3.168096	1.452378	2.52	0.012	1.289956	7.78076
smoke#lwd						
Smoker#1	.2447849	.2003996	-1.72	0.086	.0491956	1.217988
_cons	.599443	.6519163	-0.47	0.638	.0711271	5.051971

Note: **_cons** estimates baseline odds.

Hosmer and Lemeshow (1989, table 4.13) consider the effects of smoking (smoke = 1) and low maternal weight before pregnancy (lwd = 1). The effect of smoking among non-low-weight mothers (lwd = 0) is given by the odds ratio 3.17 for smoke in the logistic output. The effect of smoking among low-weight mothers is given by

```
. lincom 1.smoke + 1.smoke#1.lwd
( 1) [low]1.smoke + [low]1.smoke#1.lwd = 0
```

low	Odds ratio	Std. err.	z	P> z	[95% conf. interval]	
(1)	.7755022	.574951	-0.34	0.732	.1813465	3.316323

We did not have to specify the or option. After logistic, lincom assumes or by default.

The effect of low weight (lwd = 1) is more complicated because we fit an age × lwd interaction. We must specify the age of mothers for the effect. The effect among 30-year-old nonsmokers is given by

```
. lincom 1.lwd + 30*1.lwd#c.age
( 1) [low]1.lwd + 30*[low]1.lwd#c.age = 0
```

low	Odds ratio	Std. err.	z	P> z	[95% conf. interval]	
(1)	14.7669	13.5669	2.93	0.003	2.439264	89.39633

lincom computed $\exp(\beta_{1wd} + 30\beta_{age1wd}) = 14.8$. It may seem odd that we entered it as `1.1wd + 30*1.1wd#c.age`, but remember that these terms are just lincom's (and test's) shorthands for `_b[1.1wd]` and `_b[1.1wd#c.age]`. We could have typed

```
. lincom _b[1.1wd] + 30*_b[1.1wd#c.age]
( 1) [low]1.1wd + 30*[low]1.1wd#c.age = 0
```

	low	Odds ratio	Std. err.	z	P> z	[95% conf. interval]	
(1)		14.7669	13.5669	2.93	0.003	2.439264	89.39633



Multiple-equation models

lincom also works with multiple-equation models. The only difference is how you refer to the coefficients. Recall that for multiple-equation models, coefficients are referenced using the syntax

`[eqno]varname`

where *eqno* is the equation number or equation name and *varname* is the corresponding variable name for the coefficient; see [\[U\] 13.5 Accessing coefficients and standard errors](#) and [\[R\] test](#) for details.

▷ Example 3

Let's consider [example 4](#) from [\[R\] mlogit](#) (Tarlov et al. 1989; Wells et al. 1989).

```
. use https://www.stata-press.com/data/r19/sysdsn1
(Health insurance data)
. mlogit insure age male nonwhite i.site, nolog
(output omitted)
```

To see the estimate of the sum of the coefficient of `male` and the coefficient of `nonwhite` for the `Prepaid` outcome, we type

```
. lincom [Prepaid]male + [Prepaid]nonwhite
( 1) [Prepaid]male + [Prepaid]nonwhite = 0
```

	insure	Coefficient	Std. err.	z	P> z	[95% conf. interval]	
(1)		1.53647	.3272489	4.70	0.000	.8950741	2.177866

To view the estimate as a ratio of relative risks (see [\[R\] mlogit](#) for the definition and interpretation), we specify the `rrr` option.

```
. lincom [Prepaid]male + [Prepaid]nonwhite, rrr
( 1) [Prepaid]male + [Prepaid]nonwhite = 0
```

	insure	RRR	Std. err.	z	P> z	[95% conf. interval]	
(1)		4.648154	1.521103	4.70	0.000	2.447517	8.827451



Stored results

lincom stores the following in `r()`:

Scalars

<code>r(estimate)</code>	point estimate
<code>r(se)</code>	estimate of standard error
<code>r(df)</code>	degrees of freedom
<code>r(t)</code> or <code>r(z)</code>	<i>t</i> or <i>z</i> statistic
<code>r(p)</code>	<i>p</i> -value
<code>r(lb)</code>	lower bound of confidence interval
<code>r(ub)</code>	upper bound of confidence interval
<code>r(level)</code>	confidence level

References

- Hosmer, D. W., Jr., and S. A. Lemeshow. 1989. *Applied Logistic Regression*. New York: Wiley.
- Hosmer, D. W., Jr., S. A. Lemeshow, and R. X. Sturdivant. 2013. *Applied Logistic Regression*. 3rd ed. Hoboken, NJ: Wiley.
- Tarlov, A. R., J. E. Ware, Jr., S. Greenfield, E. C. Nelson, E. Perrin, and M. Zubkoff. 1989. The medical outcomes study. An application of methods for monitoring the results of medical care. *Journal of the American Medical Association* 262: 925–930. <https://doi.org/10.1001/jama.1989.03430070073033>.
- Wells, K. B., R. D. Hays, M. A. Burnam, W. H. Rogers, S. Greenfield, and J. E. Ware, Jr. 1989. Detection of depressive disorder for patients receiving prepaid or fee-for-service care. Results from the Medical Outcomes Survey. *Journal of the American Medical Association* 262: 3298–3302. <https://doi.org/10.1001/jama.1989.03430230083030>.

Also see

- [R] **nlcom** — Nonlinear combinations of parameters
- [R] **test** — Test linear hypotheses after estimation
- [R] **testnl** — Test nonlinear hypotheses after estimation
- [SVY] **svy postestimation** — Postestimation tools for svy
- [U] **13.5 Accessing coefficients and standard errors**
- [U] **20 Estimation and postestimation commands**

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