

Lecture 2a: Model building I

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● Exercises

★ Today - Review Exercise 1

★ Home work for Friday

➔ Exercise 2 in "Linear Regression Exercises"

★ Quizz #1

Predictors (X variables)

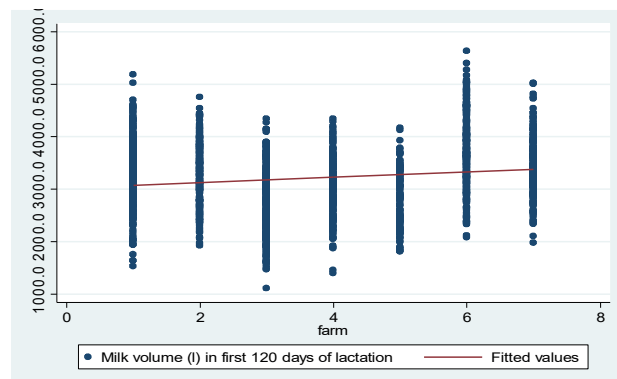
- categorical
 - ★ nominal / ordinal - must be recoded
 - ➔ indicator or dummy variables
- continuous (quantitative)
 - ★ scaling
 - ★ assumption of linearity

Categorical predictors

- Nominal predictors with more than two levels should not be used as numeric (eg. Not meaning of the numbers)

```
. table farm, c(mean milk120)
```

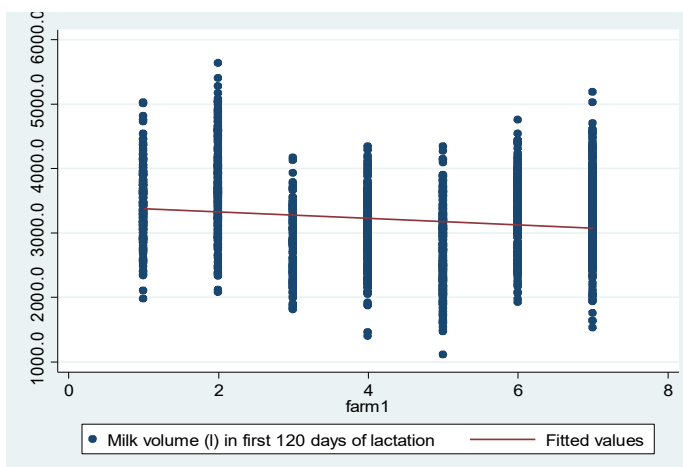
farm	mean(milk120)
1	3357.8
2	3279.3
3	2778.6
4	3032.5
5	2838.2
6	3730.6
7	3435.8



milk120	Coef.	Std. Err.	t	P> t	[95% Conf. Interval]
farm	50.90872	8.848643	5.75	0.000	33.552 68.26543
_cons	3026.143	37.27521	81.18	0.000	2953.028 3099.259

```
list farm milk120 farm1
```

	farm	milk120	farm1
1.	1	3357.8	7
2.	2	3279.3	6
3.	3	2778.6	5
4.	4	3032.5	4
5.	5	2838.2	3
6.	6	3730.6	2
7.	7	3435.8	1



milk120	Coef.	Std. Err.	t	P> t	[95% Conf. Interval]
farm1	-50.90872	8.848643	-5.75	0.000	-68.26543 -33.552
_cons	3433.413	41.84204	82.06	0.000	3351.339 3515.487

Indicator variables

- convert nominal or ordinal variables to a set of dichotomous variables or indicator variables
- one level is referent (or baseline) level

herd	hrd1	hrd2	hrd3
1	1	0	0
2	0	1	0
3	0	0	1

- choice of referent level
 - ★ biological sense
 - ★ reasonable sample size
 - ★ ease of interpretation
 - ★ Stata by default selects first category
 - ➔ see *fvvarlist*
 - ➔ contrasts command
- all in / all out
- changing coding - no effect on overall model fit
 - ★ same R^2 etc.

● example - parity as an ordinal variable

★ convert parity to 4 indicator variables (parity_c4)

parity	parity_c4	parity_c4_0	parity_c4_1	parity_c4_2	parity_c4_3
1	0	1	0	0	0
2	1	0	1	0	0
3	2	0	0	1	0
4	3	0	0	0	1
5	3	0	0	0	1
6	3	0	0	0	1
7	3	0	0	0	1

★ regress milk120 parity_c4_1 parity_c4_2 parity_c4_3

★ or regress milk120 i.parity_c4

	Avg milk120	Indicator variables
parity_c4_0	2639.7	
parity_c4_1	3347.9	708.2
parity_c4_2	3429.5	789.8
parity_c4_3	3471.4	831.8
intercept		2639.7

Continuous predictors

Improving “interpretability” of X variables

- scaling X variables

 - ★ limited range of plausible values

 - ➔ effects only the constant (not the coefficient for the variable - slope)

 - ➔ subtract min. plausible value (e.g. parity)

```
. regress milk120 parity  
...output omitted
```

milk120	Coef.	Std. Err.	t	P> t	[95% Conf. Interval]	
parity	178.347	11.01266	16.19	0.000	156.7455	199.9484
_cons	2727.08	34.33991	79.41	0.000	2659.722	2794.438

```
. gen parity_1=parity-1
```

```
. reg milk120 parity_1  
....output omitted
```

milk120	Coef.	Std. Err.	t	P> t	[95% Conf. Interval]	
parity_1	178.347	11.01266	16.19	0.000	156.7455	199.9484
_cons	2905.427	25.23474	115.14	0.000	2855.928	2954.925

 - ★ subtract the central value (eg. mean) (centring)

 - ➔ helps with quadratic and interaction terms

```
. reg milk120 c.herd_size#c.herd_size, vsquish
```

Source	SS	df	MS	Number of obs = 1536		
Model	94747175.1	2	47373587.5	F(2, 1533)	= 111.15	
Residual	653393017	1533	426218.537	Prob > F	= 0.0000	
Total	748140192	1535	487387.748	R-squared	= 0.1266	
				Adj R-squared	= 0.1255	
				Root MSE	= 652.85	

milk120	Coef.	Std. Err.	t	P> t	[95% Conf. Interval]	
herd_size	28.73126	1.993023	14.42	0.000	24.82192	32.6406
c.herd_size#c.herd_size	-.0608255	.0041101	-14.80	0.000	-.0688875	-.0527634
_cons	66.06488	231.8877	0.28	0.776	-388.7858	520.9155

```
. estat vce, corr
...output omitted
// correlation = -0.9907
. reg milk120 c.hrdsz_ctr##c.hrdsz_ctr, vsquish
```

Source	SS	df	MS	Number of obs =	1536
Model	94747175.1	2	47373587.5	F(2, 1533) =	111.15
Residual	653393017	1533	426218.537	Prob > F =	0.0000
Total	748140192	1535	487387.748	R-squared =	0.1266
				Adj R-squared =	0.1255
				Root MSE =	652.85

milk120	Coef.	Std. Err.	t	P> t	[95% Conf. Interval]
hrdsz_ctr	-1.803116	.2847073	-6.33	0.000	-2.361573 -1.244659
c.hrdsz_ctr#c.hrdsz_ctr	-.0608255	.0041101	-14.80	0.000	-.0688875 -.0527634
_cons	3445.547	22.80494	151.09	0.000	3400.815 3490.279

```
. estat vce, corr
...output omitted
// correlation = 0.3115
```

- ★ scale of measurement (eg grams or kg)
 - ➔ avoid very small regression coefficients
- ★ Example: herd size (mean=251; min=125; max=333)

```
. reg milk120 herd_size
```

milk120	Coef.	Std. Err.	t	P> t	[95% Conf. Interval]
herd_size	-.49048	.2891242	-1.70	0.090	-1.057601 .0766405
_cons	3338.164	74.69789	44.69	0.000	3191.643 3484.685

```
. gen herdsz_100=herd_size/100 /*rescale herd_size so coef are larger*/
. reg milk120 herdsz_100
```

milk120	Coef.	Std. Err.	t	P> t	[95% Conf. Interval]
herdsz_100	-49.04796	28.91242	-1.70	0.090	-105.76 7.664098
_cons	3338.164	74.69789	44.69	0.000	3191.643 3484.685

Linearity

- assumption about nature of relationship between X and Y

★ Note: the following are all discussed in more detail under Model Building (Chapter 15)

Detecting non-linearity – in final model

- plot residuals vs fitted values (see L1a)
 - ★ simultaneous evaluation of all predictors
- plot of residuals vs predictor (see L1a)

Detecting non-linearity – before / during model building

- smoothed scatter plot of outcome vs predictor
- explore polynomial functions of X
- transformation of X
- categorization of predictor
 - ★ indicator dummy variable
 - ★ compare categorical and linear variables
 - see example with parity (L1b-page 10)

Detecting confounding (VER 13.5)

● review

★ components: Y (outcome), E (exposure) and Z (measured or unmeasured confounder)

★ criteria

→ Z must be a risk factor of Y (in E-, because risk must not be caused by E→Y)

→ Z must be associated with E

• cohort - start follow up period

• if constant during follow up → look for unconditional assoc. Z→E

• case-control - in controls (represent source population if no selection bias)

→ Z must not be the result of E or the result of Y

★ causal model

Vaginal
Discharge

Herd

WPC

● assessment of confounding

★ when three criteria are met

★ difference between crude and adjusted effect/association changes substantially

➔ $(\text{crude} - \text{adjusted}) / \text{crude}$

➔ eg. 20-30%

● example - change in regression coefficient

```
. reg wpc vag_disch          /* vag_disch adds 12 days, P=0.04 */
```

wpc	Coef.	Std. Err.	t	P> t	[95% Conf. Interval]	
vag_disch	11.99647	5.846716	2.05	0.040	.5282858	23.46465
_cons	68.17426	1.334494	51.09	0.000	65.55669	70.79184

```
. reg wpc i.herd if vag_disch==0 /*herd is associated with WPC*/
```

Source	SS	df	MS	Number of obs	=	1,492
Model	223706.812	6	37284.4686	F(6, 1485)	=	14.92
Residual	3711781.88	1,485	2499.51642	Prob > F	=	0.0000
				R-squared	=	0.0568
				Adj R-squared	=	0.0530
Total	3935488.69	1,491	2639.4961	Root MSE	=	49.995

wpc	Coef.	Std. Err.	t	P> t	[95% Conf. Interval]	
herd						
2	-7.455598	4.572715	-1.63	0.103	-16.42527	1.51407
3	12.30396	4.184586	2.94	0.003	4.095636	20.51229
4	-20.0733	4.70619	-4.27	0.000	-29.30479	-10.84181
5	-21.78125	5.489853	-3.97	0.000	-32.54994	-11.01256
106	-15.40129	4.618509	-3.33	0.001	-24.46079	-6.341796
119	-17.26021	5.05679	-3.41	0.001	-27.17942	-7.341
_cons	75.1583	3.106548	24.19	0.000	69.06461	81.25199

```
. tab herd vag_disch, chi row /* herd is associated with vag_disc*/
```

Herd Number	Vaginal discharge observed		Total
	no	yes	
3	318 98.76	4 1.24	322 100.00
...output omitted			
106	214 84.58	39 15.42	253 100.00
Total	1,492 94.79	82 5.21	1,574 100.00

Pearson chi2(6) = 74.2267 Pr = 0.000

```
. reg wpc vag_disch i.herd
```

Source	SS	df	MS	Number of obs	=	1,574
Model	252509.59	7	36072.7985	F(7, 1566)	=	14.35
Residual	3935580.97	1,566	2513.14238	Prob > F	=	0.0000
				R-squared	=	0.0603
				Adj R-squared	=	0.0561
Total	4188090.56	1,573	2662.48605	Root MSE	=	50.131

wpc	Coef.	Std. Err.	t	P> t	[95% Conf. Interval]	
vag_disch	17.81936	5.825177	3.06	0.002	6.393393	29.24533
herd						
2	-8.178615	4.509228	-1.81	0.070	-17.02338	.6661455
3	11.71303	4.133611	2.83	0.005	3.605039	19.82103
4	-20.74627	4.653654	-4.46	0.000	-29.87432	-11.61823
5	-22.15954	5.359351	-4.13	0.000	-32.6718	-11.64728
106	-18.18881	4.422295	-4.11	0.000	-26.86305	-9.514562
119	-17.85657	4.920293	-3.63	0.000	-27.50763	-8.205518
_cons	75.97555	3.052377	24.89	0.000	69.98837	81.96272

Confounding and collinearity

- confounding => collinearity
 - ★ example: bwt - smoking (only for example, not for model building)
 - ➔ cig_2, cig_3 on bwt
 - ★ two models
 - ➔ 1) $E = \text{cig_2}$
 - ➔ 2) $E = \text{cig_3}$
 - ★ causal diagrams / criteria

- Model 1
 - ★ cig_3 is not a confounder
 - ★ cig_3 intervening variable
 - ★ cig_3 highly correlated with cig_2 -> keep cig_2
- Model 2
 - ★ cig_2 meets (partially) confounding criteria
 - ★ change of coefficient?

Detecting and modeling interaction

- cross-product term
 - ★ eg. `retpla` and `vag_disch`
 - ★ `retpla*vag_disch`

- interpreting coefficients (VER 14.7)

- examples 14.9, 14.10 and 14.11

Interaction between 2 dichotomous predictors

```
. reg wpc i.vag_disch##rp
```

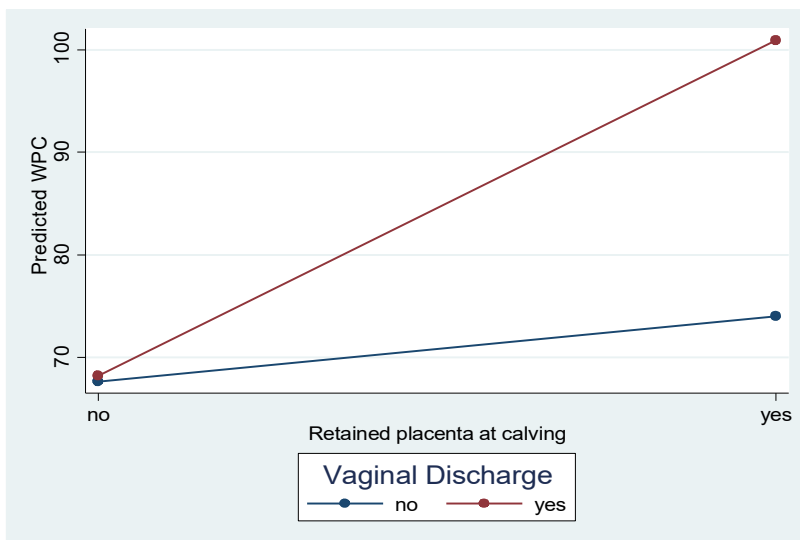
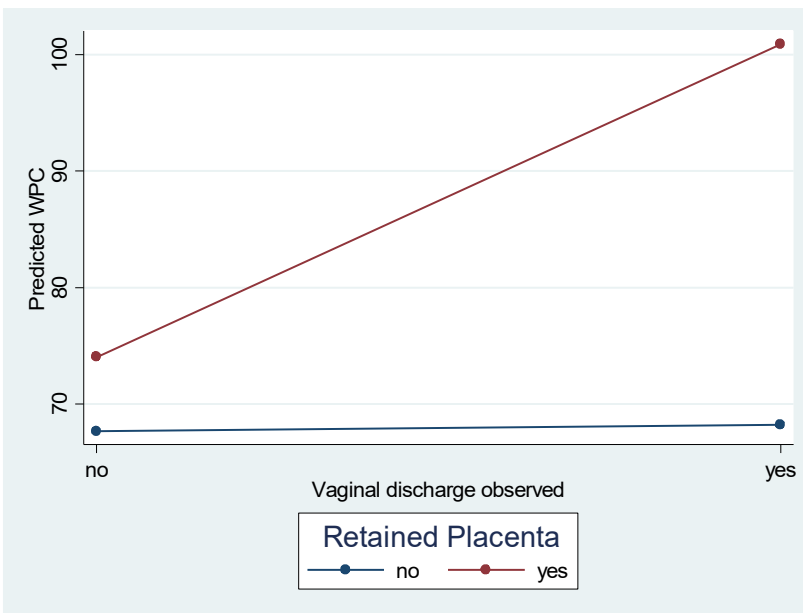
Source	SS	df	MS			
Model	35915.9774	3	11971.9925	Number of obs =	1574	
Residual	4152174.58	1570	2644.69719	F(3, 1570) =	4.53	
Total	4188090.56	1573	2662.48605	Prob > F =	0.0036	
				R-squared =	0.0086	
				Adj R-squared =	0.0067	
				Root MSE =	51.427	

wpc	Coef.	Std. Err.	t	P> t	[95% Conf. Interval]	
1.vag_disch	.5429296	7.265382	0.07	0.940	-13.70794	14.7938
1.rp	6.339794	4.914322	1.29	0.197	-3.299531	15.97912
vag_disch#rp						
1 1	26.34867	12.77367	2.06	0.039	1.293414	51.40392
_cons	67.66861	1.387883	48.76	0.000	64.94631	70.39091

```
. table vag_disch rp, c(mean wpc) // display wpc means by vag_dich and rp
```

Vaginal discharge observed	Retained placenta at calving	
	no	yes
no	67.66861	74.0084
yes	68.21154	100.9

```
. marginsplot, legend(title("Retained Placenta")) noci ytitle("Predicted WPC")  
title("")
```

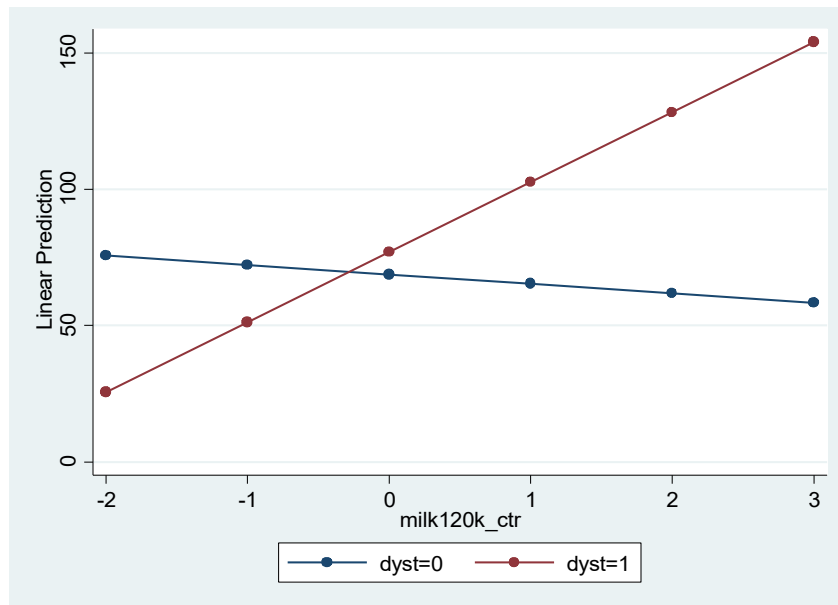


Interaction between a dichotomous and a continuous predictor

```
. reg wpc i.dyst#c.milk120k_ctr
```

Source	SS	df	MS	Number of obs = 1536		
Model	30572.8752	3	10190.9584	F(3, 1532)	=	3.83
Residual	4073791.78	1532	2659.13302	Prob > F	=	0.0095
				R-squared	=	0.0074
				Adj R-squared	=	0.0055
				Root MSE	=	51.567

wpc	Coef.	Std. Err.	t	P> t	[95% Conf. Interval]	
dyst						
yes	8.20714	5.718528	1.44	0.151	-3.00983	19.42411
milk120k_ctr	-3.446531	1.928535	-1.79	0.074	-7.229379	.3363161
dyst#c.milk120k_ctr						
yes	29.14238	9.468101	3.08	0.002	10.57057	47.71419
_cons	68.75682	1.357147	50.66	0.000	66.09475	71.41888

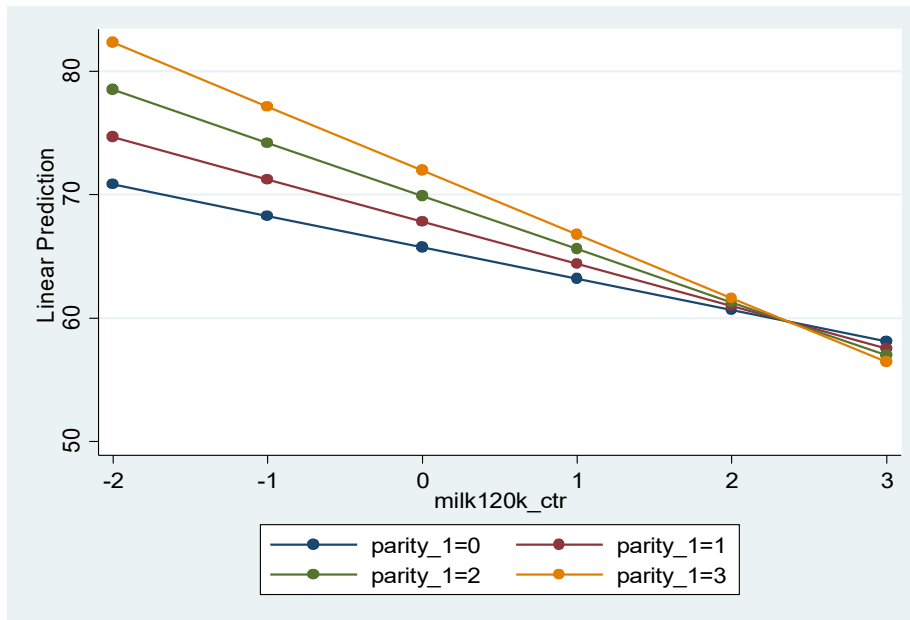


Interaction between 2 continuous predictors

```
.reg wpc c.parity_1##c.milk120k_ctr
```

Source	SS	df	MS				
Model	18084.1899	3	6028.06329	Number of obs =	1536		
Residual	4086280.47	1532	2667.2849	F(3, 1532) =	2.26		
Total	4104364.66	1535	2673.8532	Prob > F =	0.0797		
				R-squared =	0.0044		
				Adj R-squared =	0.0025		
				Root MSE =	51.646		

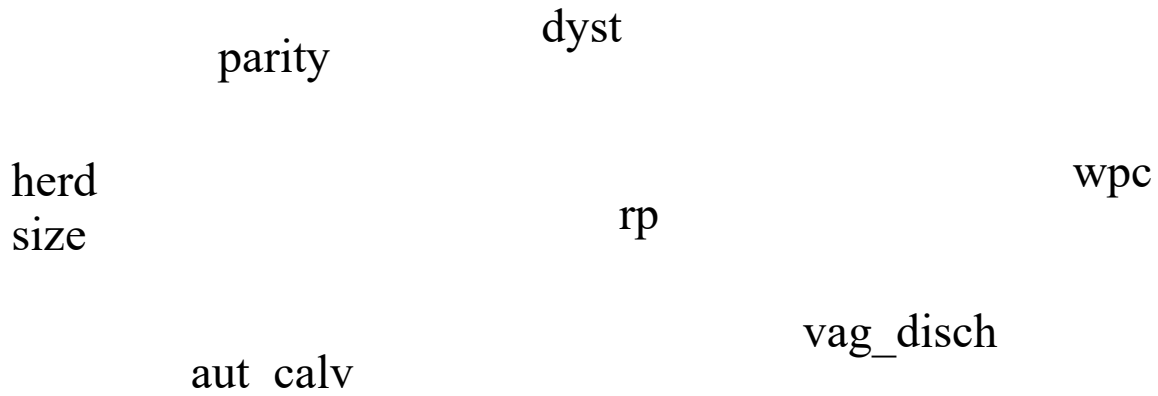
	wpc	Coef.	Std. Err.	t	P> t	[95% Conf. Interval]	
	parity_1	2.072164	.9549532	2.17	0.030	.1990103	3.945318
	milk120k_ctr	-2.542834	3.091716	-0.82	0.411	-8.607278	3.521609
	c.parity_1#c.milk120k_ctr	-.8764358	1.363504	-0.64	0.520	-3.550968	1.798096
	_cons	65.73655	2.207989	29.77	0.000	61.40555	70.06755



- Two way interactions between continuous predictors are difficult to interpret, and, whenever significant, should be evaluated by fitting a range of possible values for both predictors.

★ be sure that predictions are within range of the data

Causal interpretation (VER 14.7)



- graphical assessment confounding
 - ★ identify potential confounder variables in complex causal models
 - ★ steps
 - ➔ draw causal diagram
 - nodes-> variables; arrows-> causal relations
 - time on horizontal axis (right most recent)
 - intermediate variables
 - ➔ delete all arrows from E->Y
 - ➔ identify potential confounders
 - unblocked paths E->Y
 - ➔ identify collider variables

```
.reg wpc c.hs100#c.hs100 parity_1 i.aut_calv twin dyst i.rp##vag_disch , vsquish
```

Source	SS	df	MS	Number of obs	=	1,574
Model	296062.681	9	32895.8535	F(9, 1564)	=	13.22
Residual	3892027.88	1,564	2488.50887	Prob > F	=	0.0000
				R-squared	=	0.0707
				Adj R-squared	=	0.0653
Total	4188090.56	1,573	2662.48605	Root MSE	=	49.885

wpc	Coef.	Std. Err.	t	P> t	[95% Conf. Interval]
hs100	-36.05705	15.05032	-2.40	0.017	-65.57798 -6.53612
c.hs100#c.hs100	11.13827	3.111145	3.58	0.000	5.035818 17.24073
parity_1	1.13721	.8583103	1.32	0.185	-.54635 2.82077
1.aut_calv	-8.263839	2.537751	-3.26	0.001	-13.24159 -3.286086
twin	20.68314	9.845165	2.10	0.036	1.37203 39.99425
dyst	11.70041	5.462576	2.14	0.032	.9856659 22.41516
rp					
yes	5.98687	4.811976	1.24	0.214	-3.451734 15.42547
vag_disch					
yes	1.228195	7.161395	0.17	0.864	-12.81875 15.27514
rp#vag_disch					
yes#yes	22.85194	12.51605	1.83	0.068	-1.698056 47.40194
_cons	84.66125	17.61671	4.81	0.000	50.10639 119.2161

➤ herd_size

➤ parity

➤ aut_calv

➤ twin

➤ dyst

➤ rp

➤ vag_disch