

432 Class 05

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2026-01-27

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Today's Agenda

- The HELP trial, again
- Incorporating Non-Linearity into our models
 - Polynomial terms
 - Restricted Cubic Splines

Today's R Setup

```
1 knitr::opts_chunk$set(comment = NA)
2
3 library(janitor)
4 library(naniar)
5 library(broom); library(gt); library(patchwork)
6
7 library(haven)          ## for zapping labels
8 library(mosaic)         ## auto-loads mosaicData - data source
9
10 library(rms)            ## auto-loads Hmisc
11 library(easystats)
12 library(tidyverse)
13
14 theme_set(theme_bw())
```

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Reminders: The HELP Study

Health Evaluation and Linkage to Primary Care (HELP) was a clinical trial of adult inpatients recruited from a detoxification unit.

- We have baseline data for each subject on several variables, including two outcomes:

Variable	Description
----------	-------------

<code>cesd</code>	Center for Epidemiologic Studies-Depression
-------------------	---

<code>cesd_hi</code>	<code>cesd</code> above 15 (indicates high risk)
----------------------	--

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Potential Predictors in `help1`

Variable	Description
<code>age</code>	subject age (in years)
<code>sex</code>	female (n = 107) or male (n = 346)
<code>subst</code>	substance abused (alcohol, cocaine, heroin)
<code>mcs</code>	SF-36 Mental Component Score
<code>pcs</code>	SF-36 Physical Component Score
<code>pss_fr</code>	perceived social support by friends

- See <https://nhorton.people.amherst.edu/help/> for more.

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`help1` data load

```
1 help1 <- tibble(mosaicData::HELPrct) |>
2   select(id, cesd, age, sex, subst = substance, mcs, pcs, pss_fr) |>
3   zap_label() |>
4   mutate(across(where(is.character), as_factor),
5           id = as.character(id),
6           cesd_hi = factor(as.numeric(cesd >= 16)))
7
8 dim(help1); n_miss(help1)
```

```
[1] 453  9
```

```
[1] 0
```

```
1 head(help1, 5)
```

```
# A tibble: 5 × 9
```

	id	cesd	age	sex	subst	mcs	pcs	pss_fr	cesd_hi
	<chr>	<int>	<int>	<fct>	<fct>	<dbl>	<dbl>	<int>	<fct>
1	1	49	37	male	cocaine	25.1	58.4	0	1
2	2	30	37	male	alcohol	26.7	36.0	1	1
3	3	39	26	male	heroin	6.76	74.8	13	1
4	4	15	39	female	heroin	44.0	61.9	11	0
5	5	39	32	male	cocaine	21.7	37.3	10	1

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Can we use **pcs** to predict **cesd**?

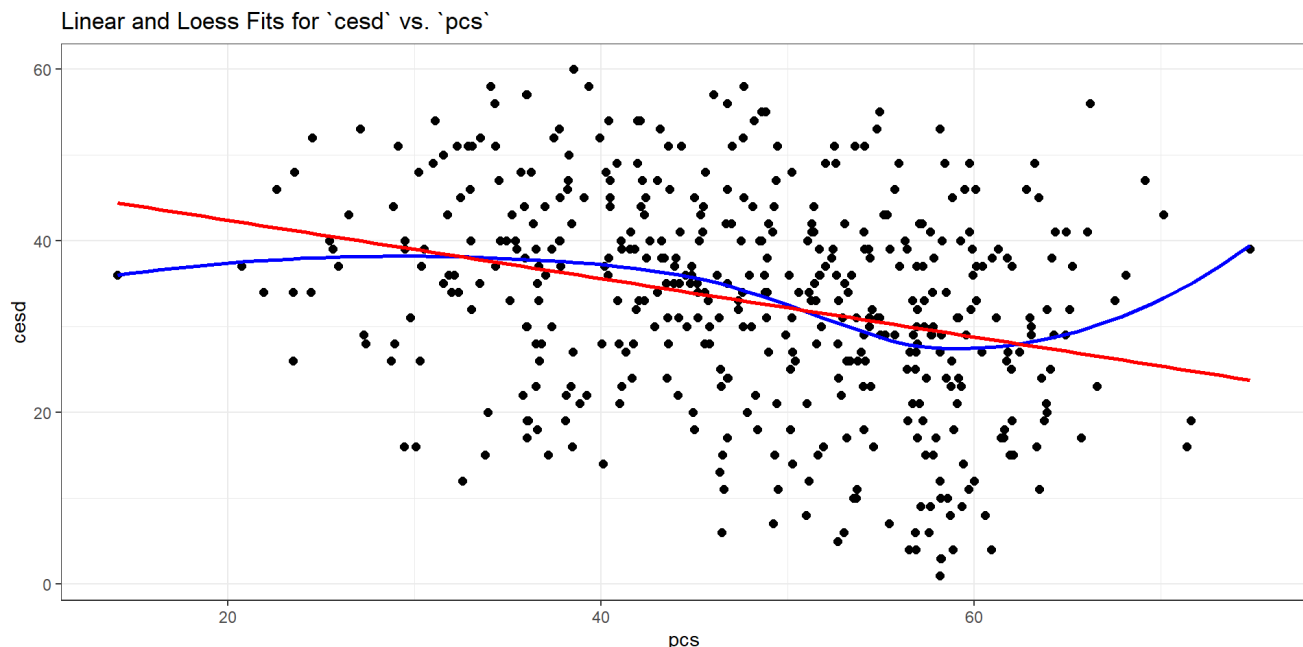
Does the **loess** smooth match up well with the linear fit?

```
1 ggplot(help1, aes(x = pcs, y = cesd)) +  
2   geom_point(size = 2) +  
3   geom_smooth(method = "loess", formula = y ~ x, se = FALSE, col = "blue") +  
4   geom_smooth(method = "lm", formula = y ~ x, se = FALSE, col = "red") +  
5   labs(title = "Linear and Loess Fits for `cesd` vs. `pcs`")
```

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Can we use **pcs** to predict **cesd**?



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A simple linear regression: `fitA`

```
1 dd <- datadist(help1); options(datadist = "dd")
2
3 fitA <- ols(cesd ~ pcs, data = help1, x = TRUE, y = TRUE)
4
5 fitA$coefficients
```

```
Intercept      pcs
49.1673458 -0.3396495
```

Our simple linear regression

```
1 fitA
```

Linear Regression Model

```
ols(formula = cesd ~ pcs, data = help1, x = TRUE, y = TRUE)
```

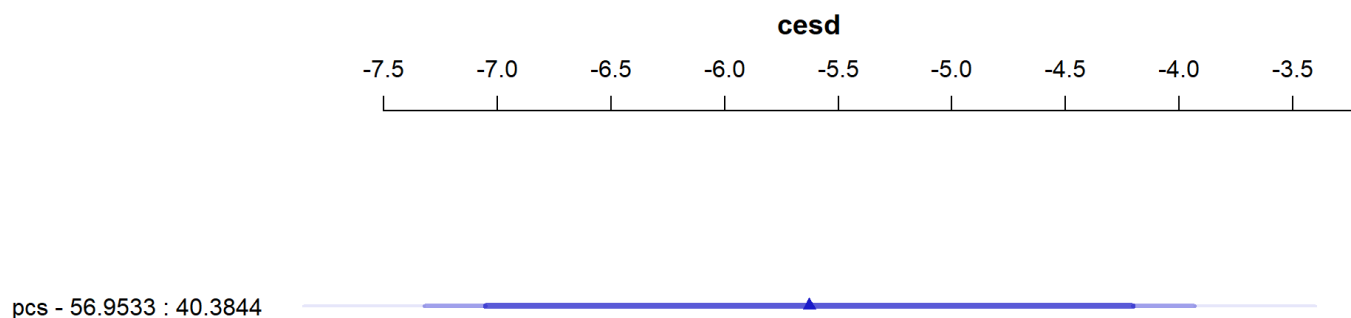
		Model Likelihood		Discrimination	
		Ratio Test		Indexes	
Obs	453	LR chi2	40.57	R2	0.086
sigma	11.9796	d.f.	1	R2 adj	0.084
d.f.	451	Pr(> chi2)	0.0000	g	4.177

Residuals

	Min	1Q	Median	3Q	Max
	-28.4116	-7.8036	0.6846	8.7917	29.3281

Effect Sizes in `fitA`

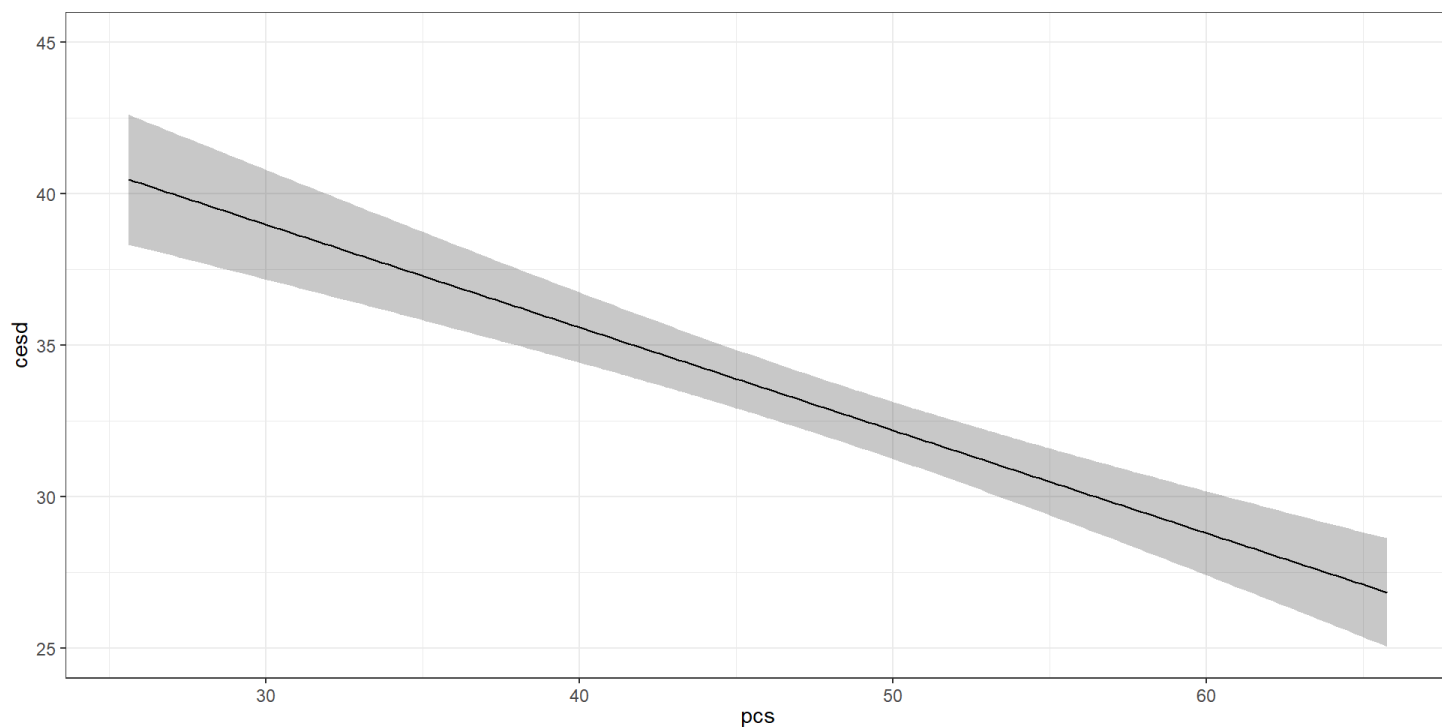
```
1 plot(summary(fitA))
```



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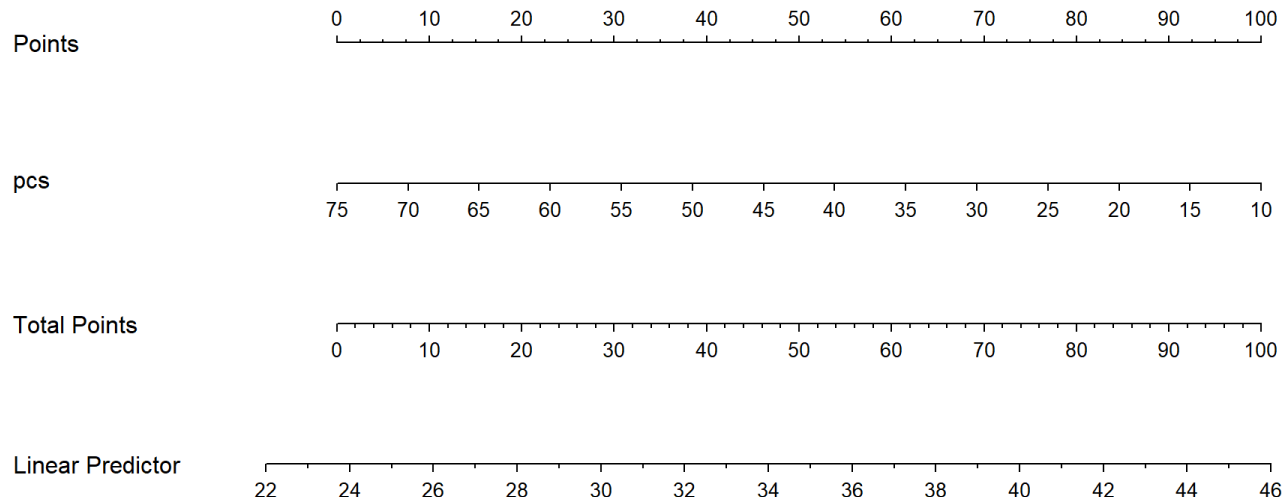
```
1 ggplot(Predict(fitA, conf.int = 0.90))
```



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```
1 plot(nomogram(fitA))
```



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Using `ols` to fit a larger model

```
1 dd <- datadist(help1)
2 options(datadist = "dd")
3
4 fitB <- ols(cesd ~ pcs + subst + pss_fr + sex,
5            data = help1, x = TRUE, y = TRUE)
6
7 fitB$coefficients
```

```
Intercept      pcs subst=cocaine  subst=heroin      pss_fr
53.7511151  -0.2574023   -3.8664109    0.2322071   -0.5370221
sex=male
-4.8446977
```

- Can use `model_parameters()` and `model_performance()` with `fitB` or other `ols()` fits.
- We could also fit this model, naturally, using `lm()` instead.

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Contents of `fitB`?

```
1 fitB
```

Linear Regression Model

```
ols(formula = cesd ~ pcs + subst + pss_fr + sex, data = help1,  
     x = TRUE, y = TRUE)
```

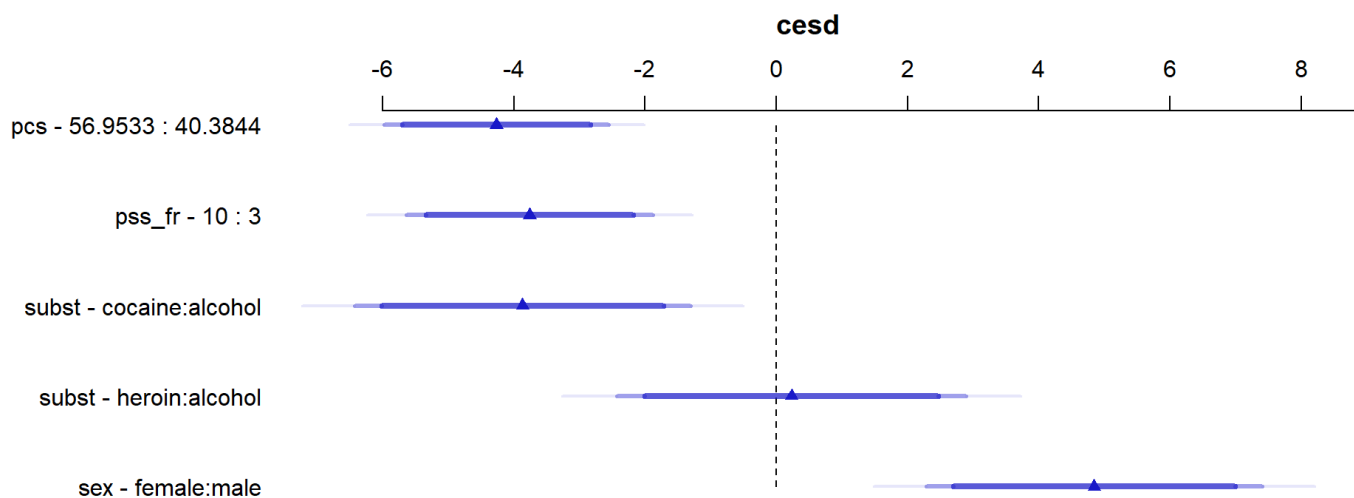
		Model Likelihood	Discrimination
		Ratio Test	Indexes
Obs	453	LR chi2	76.43
sigma	11.5662	d.f.	5
d.f.	447	Pr(> chi2)	0.0000
			R2
			0.155
			R2 adj
			0.146
			g
			5.625

Residuals

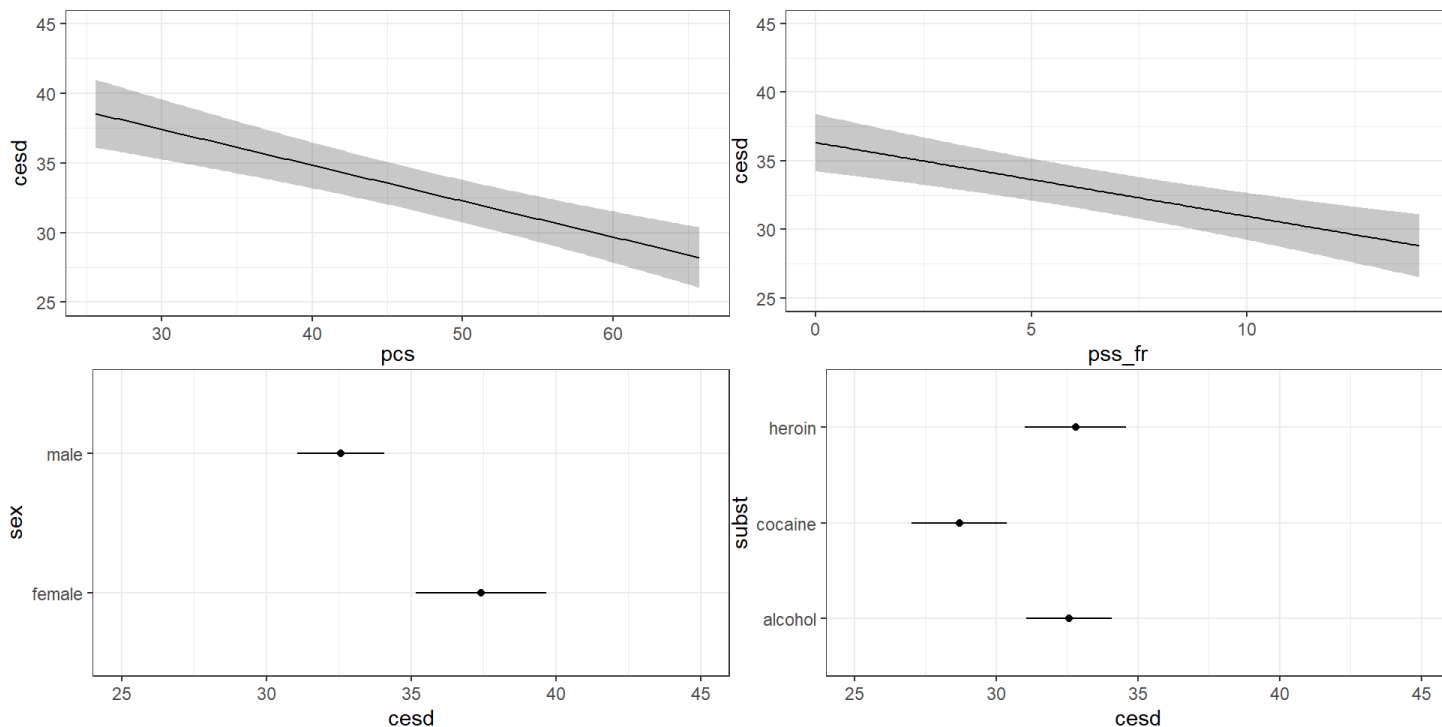
Min	1Q	Median	3Q	Max
-----	----	--------	----	-----

Effect Sizes in `fitB`

```
1 plot(summary(fitB))
```

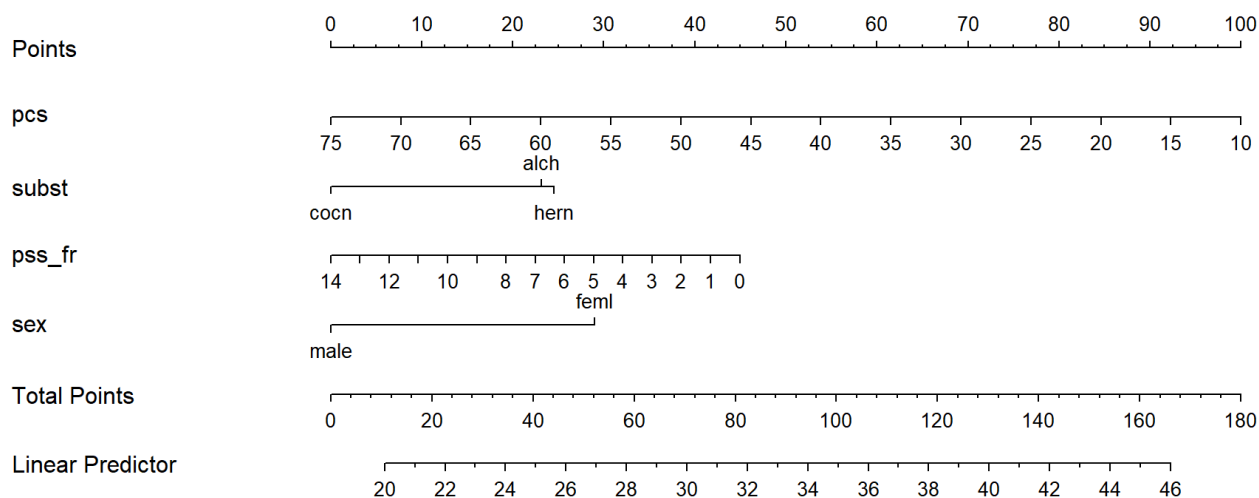



```
1 ggplot(Predict(fitB, conf.int = 0.90))
```



A Nomogram for `fitB`

```
1 plot(nomogram(fitB, abbrev = TRUE))
```



Non-Linear Terms

In building a linear regression model, we're most often going to be thinking about:

- for quantitative predictors, some curvature...
 - perhaps polynomial terms
 - but more often restricted cubic splines
- for any predictors, possible interactions
 - between categorical predictors
 - between categorical and quantitative predictors
 - between quantitative predictors

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Non-Linear Terms: Polynomials

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Polynomial Regression

A polynomial in the variable x of degree D is a linear combination of the powers of x up to D . For example:

- Linear: $y = \beta_0 + \beta_1 x$
- Quadratic: $y = \beta_0 + \beta_1 x + \beta_2 x^2$
- Cubic: $y = \beta_0 + \beta_1 x + \beta_2 x^2 + \beta_3 x^3$
- Quartic: $y = \beta_0 + \beta_1 x + \beta_2 x^2 + \beta_3 x^3 + \beta_4 x^4$

Fitting such a model creates a **polynomial regression**.

Plotting the Polynomials

```
1 p1 <- ggplot(help1, aes(x = pcs, y = cesd)) +  
2   geom_point(alpha = 0.3) +  
3   geom_smooth(formula = y ~ x, method = "lm",  
4               col = "red", se = FALSE) +  
5   labs(title = "Linear Fit")  
6  
7 p2 <- ggplot(help1, aes(x = pcs, y = cesd)) +  
8   geom_point(alpha = 0.3) +  
9   geom_smooth(formula = y ~ poly(x, 2), method = "lm",  
10              col = "blue", se = FALSE) +  
11   labs(title = "2nd order Polynomial")  
12  
13 p3 <- ggplot(help1, aes(x = pcs, y = cesd)) +  
14   geom_point(alpha = 0.3) +  
15   geom_smooth(formula = y ~ poly(x, 3), method = "lm",  
16              col = "purple", se = FALSE) +  
17   labs(title = "3rd order Polynomial")  
18
```

Plotting the Polynomials



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Adding a polynomial in `pcs`

Can we predict `cesd` with a polynomial in `pcs`?

Yes, with `ols()` and `pol()`, as follows:

```
fitA <- ols(cesd ~ pcs, data = help1, x = TRUE, y = TRUE)
fitA_2 <- ols(cesd ~ pol(pcs,2), data = help1, x = TRUE, y = TRUE)
fitA_3 <- ols(cesd ~ pol(pcs,3), data = help1, x = TRUE, y = TRUE)
```

With `lm()`, we use `poly()` instead of `pol()`...

```
lmfitA <- lm(cesd ~ pcs, data = help1)
lmfitA_2 <- lm(cesd ~ poly(pcs,2), data = help1)
lmfitA_3 <- lm(cesd ~ poly(pcs,3), data = help1)
```

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Raw vs. Orthogonal Polynomials

Predict `cesd` using `pcs` with a “raw polynomial of degree 2.”

```
1 (temp1 <- lm(cesd ~ pcs + I(pcs^2), data = help1))
```

Call:

```
lm(formula = cesd ~ pcs + I(pcs^2), data = help1)
```

Coefficients:

(Intercept)	pcs	I(pcs^2)
46.400713	-0.213627	-0.001356

Predicted `cesd` for `pcs` = 40 is

```
cesd = 46.400713 - 0.213627 (40) - 0.001356 (40^2)
      = 46.400713 - 8.545080 - 2.169600
      = 35.686
```

Does the raw polynomial match our expectations?

```
1 temp1 <- lm(cesd ~ pcs + I(pcs^2), data = help1)
2
3 augment(temp1, newdata = tibble(pcs = 40)) |>
4   gt() |> tab_options(table.font.size = 24)
```

pcs	.fitted
40	35.6856

This matches our “by hand” calculation.

- But it turns out most regression models use *orthogonal* rather than raw polynomials...

Fitting an Orthogonal Polynomial

Predict `cesd` using `pcs` with an *orthogonal* polynomial of degree 2.

```
1 (temp2 <- lm(cesd ~ poly(pcs,2), data = help1))
```

Call:

```
lm(formula = cesd ~ poly(pcs, 2), data = help1)
```

Coefficients:

```
(Intercept) poly(pcs, 2)1 poly(pcs, 2)2
      32.848      -77.876      -3.944
```

This looks very different from our previous version of the model. What happens when we make a prediction, though?

Orthogonal Polynomial Model Prediction

Remember that in our raw polynomial model, our “by hand” and “using R” calculations each predicted `cesd` for a subject with `pcs` = 40 to be 35.686.

What happens with the orthogonal polynomial model `temp2`?

```
1 augment(temp2, newdata = data.frame(pcs = 40)) |>
2   gt() |> tab_options(table.font.size = 24)
```

pcs	.fitted
40	35.6856

- No change in the prediction.

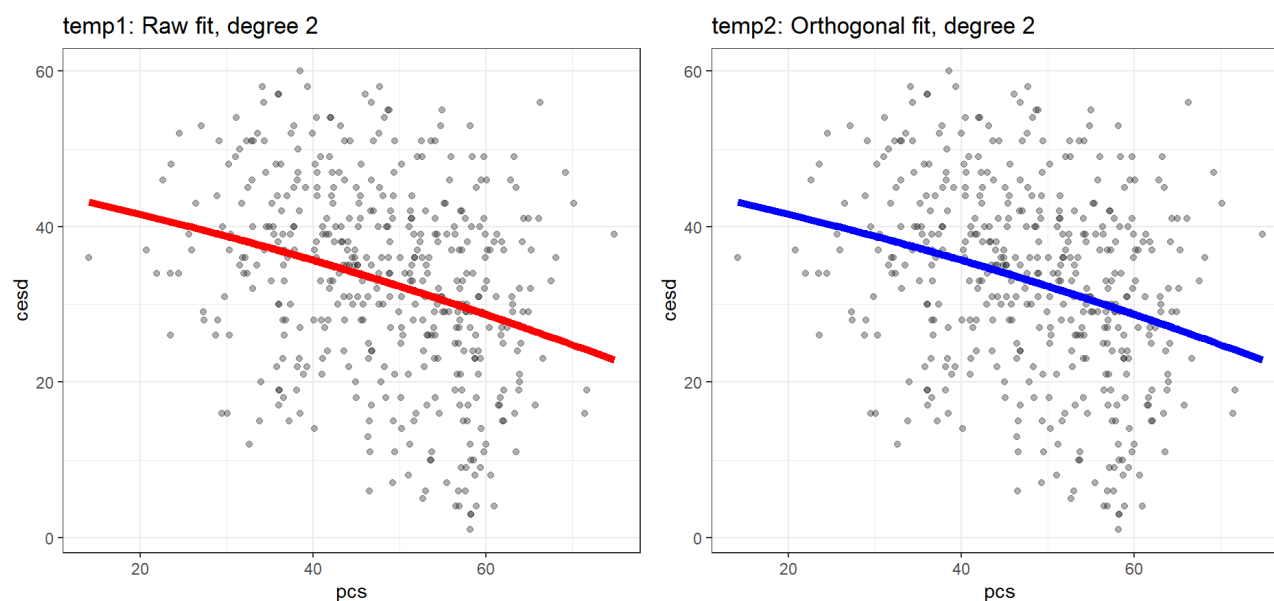
Fits of raw vs orthogonal polynomials

```
1 temp1_aug <- augment(temp1, help1)
2 temp2_aug <- augment(temp2, help1)
3
4 p1 <- ggplot(temp1_aug, aes(x = pcs, y = cesd)) +
5   geom_point(alpha = 0.3) +
6   geom_line(aes(x = pcs, y = .fitted), col = "red", linewidth = 2) +
7   labs(title = "temp1: Raw fit, degree 2")
8
9 p2 <- ggplot(temp2_aug, aes(x = pcs, y = cesd)) +
10  geom_point(alpha = 0.3) +
11  geom_line(aes(x = pcs, y = .fitted), col = "blue", linewidth = 2) +
12  labs(title = "temp2: Orthogonal fit, degree 2")
13
14 p1 + p2 +
15   plot_annotation(title = "Comparing Two Methods of Fitting a Quadratic Polynomi
```

- The two models are, in fact, identical.

Fits of raw vs orthogonal polynomials

Comparing Two Methods of Fitting a Quadratic Polynomial



Why use orthogonal polynomials?

- The main reason is to avoid having to include powers of our predictor that are highly collinear.
- Variance Inflation Factor assesses collinearity...

```
1 rms::vif(temp1)      ## from rms package
      pcs I(pcs^2)
54.66793 54.66793
```

- Orthogonal polynomial terms are uncorrelated...

```
1 rms::vif(temp2)
poly(pcs, 2)1 poly(pcs, 2)2
           1           1
```

Why orthogonal polynomials?

An **orthogonal polynomial** sets up a model design matrix and then scales those columns so that each column is uncorrelated with the others. The tradeoff is that the raw polynomial is a lot easier to explain in terms of a single equation in the simplest case.

Actually, we'll often use splines instead of polynomials, which are more flexible and require less maintenance, but at the cost of pretty much requiring you to focus on visualizing their predictions rather than their equations.

fitA with a cubic polynomial

```
1 dd <- datadist(help1); options(datadist = "dd")
2
3 fitA_3 <- ols(cesd ~ pol(pcs,3), data = help1, x = TRUE, y = TRUE)
4
5 fitA_3$coefficients
```

	Intercept	pcs	pcs^2	pcs^3
	-1.340758e+01	4.132348e+00	-1.009667e-01	7.268386e-04

Our model `fitA_3`

```
1 fitA_3
```

Linear Regression Model

```
ols(formula = cesd ~ pol(pcs, 3), data = help1, x = TRUE, y = TRUE)
```

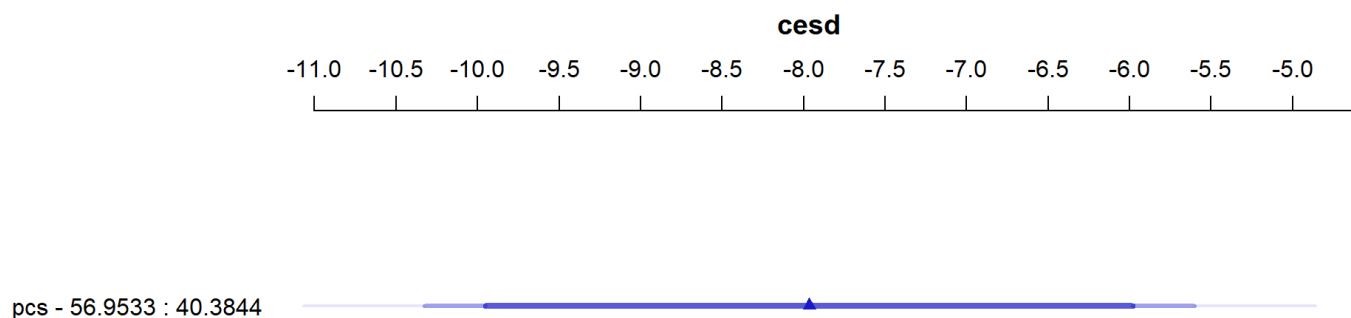
		Model Likelihood		Discrimination	
		Ratio Test		Indexes	
Obs	453	LR chi2	48.70	R2	0.102
sigma	11.8991	d.f.	3	R2 adj	0.096
d.f.	449	Pr(> chi2)	0.0000	g	4.556

Residuals

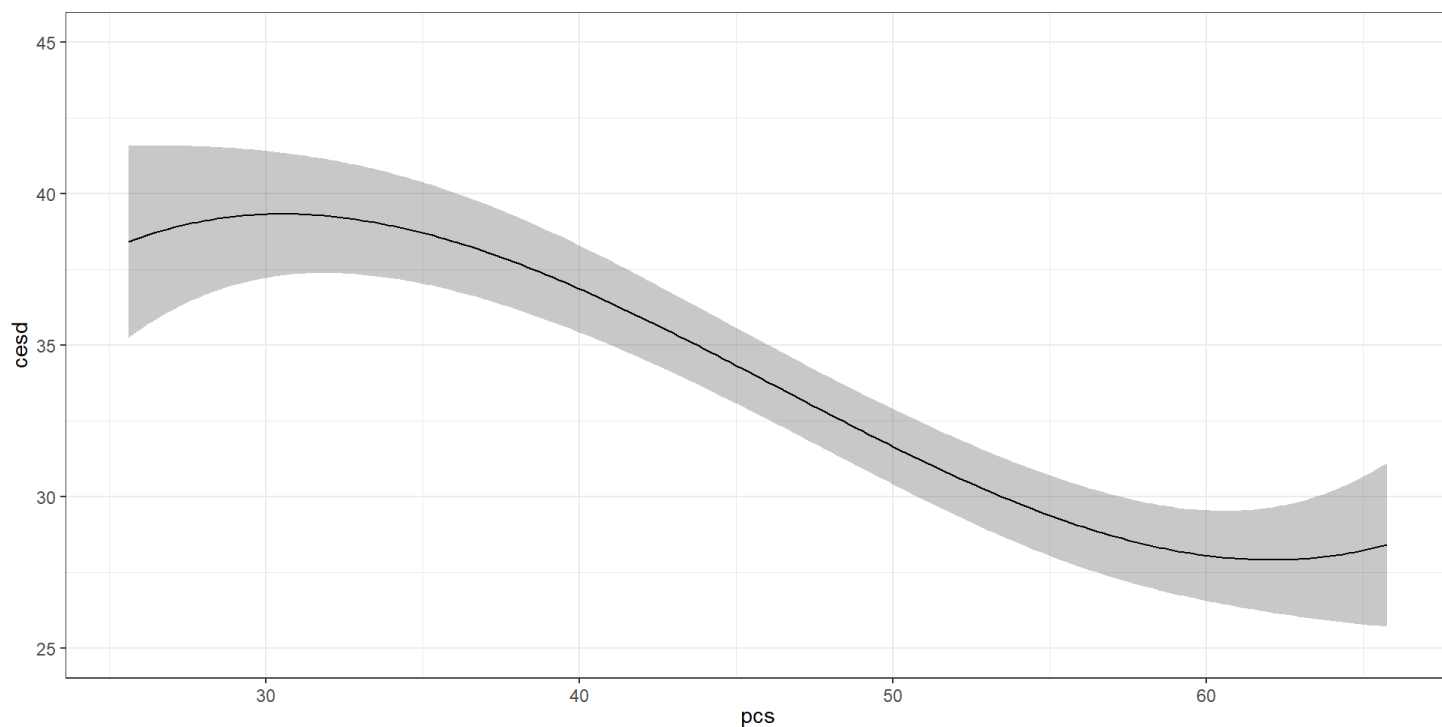
	Min	1Q	Median	3Q	Max
	-27.5245	-8.2651	0.7988	8.9004	27.4480

Effect Sizes in `fitA_3`

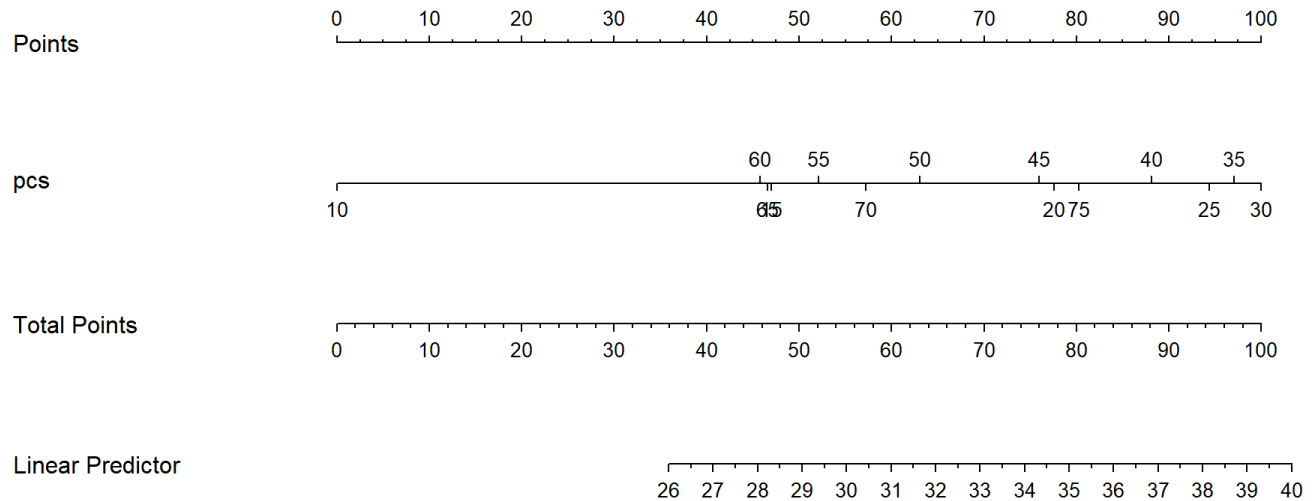
```
1 plot(summary(fitA_3))
```



```
1 ggplot(Predict(fitA_3, conf.int = 0.90))
```



```
1 plot(nomogram(fitA_3))
```



Fitting `fitB` including a polynomial

```
1 dd <- datadist(help1)
2 options(datadist = "dd")
3
4 fitB_3 <- ols(cesd ~ pol(pcs,3) + subst + pss_fr + sex,
5               data = help1, x = TRUE, y = TRUE)
6
7 fitB_3$coefficients
```

Intercept	pcs	pcs^2	pcs^3	subst=cocaine
5.2983256376	3.2271532761	-0.0794837993	0.0005770243	-3.8581390102
subst=heroin	pss_fr	sex=male		
0.0455051022	-0.5127744954	-4.5981834492		

Contents of `fitB_3`?

```
1 fitB_3
```

Linear Regression Model

```
ols(formula = cesd ~ pol(pcs, 3) + subst + pss_fr + sex, data = help1,  
     x = TRUE, y = TRUE)
```

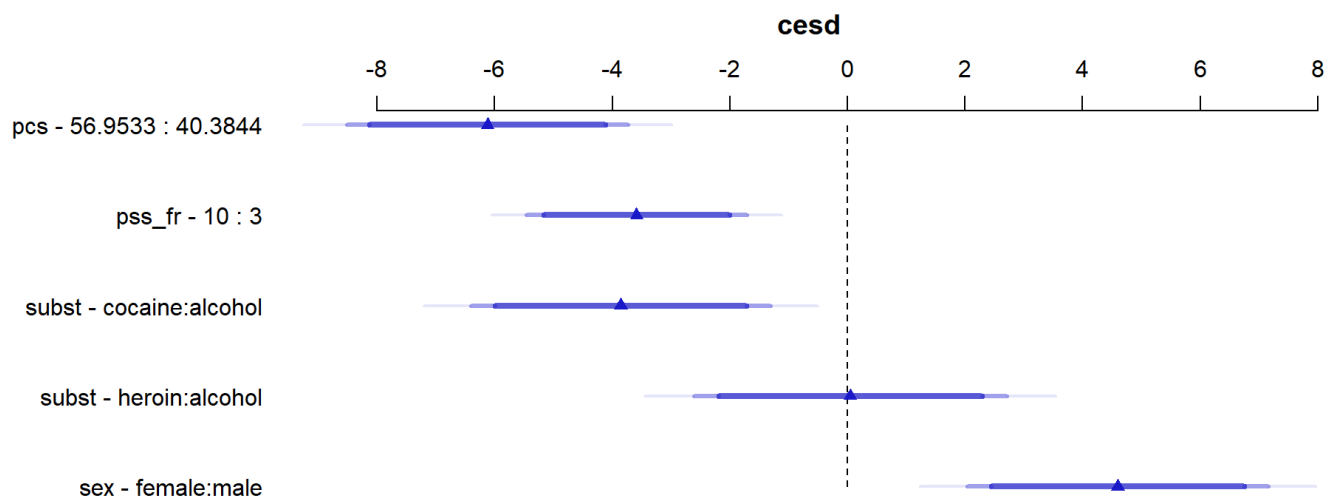
		Model Likelihood	Discrimination
		Ratio Test	Indexes
Obs	453	LR chi2	81.80
sigma	11.5236	d.f.	7
d.f.	445	Pr(> chi2)	0.0000
			R2
			0.165
			R2 adj
			0.152
			g
			5.808

Residuals

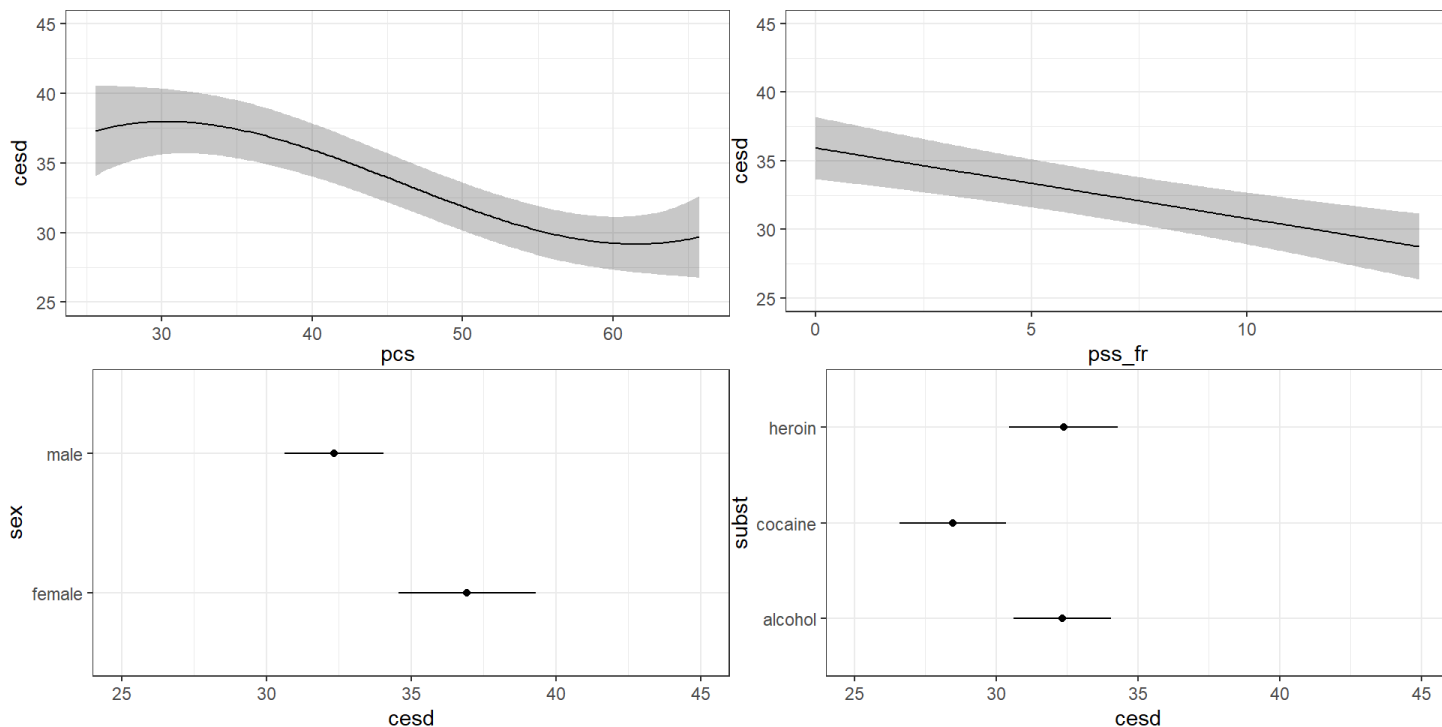
Min	1Q	Median	3Q	Max
-----	----	--------	----	-----

Effect Sizes in `fitB_3`

```
1 plot(summary(fitB_3))
```

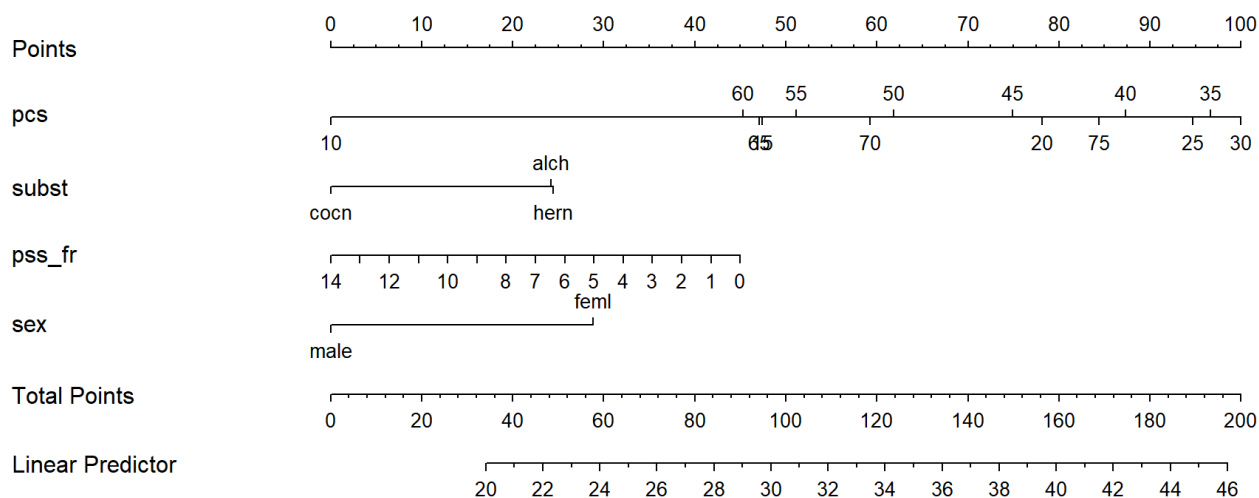


```
1 ggplot(Predict(fitB_3, conf.int = 0.90))
```



A Nomogram for `fitB_3`

```
1 plot(nomogram(fitB_3, abbrev = TRUE))
```



Standing Break

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Non-Linear Terms: Splines

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Types of Splines

- A **linear spline** is a continuous function formed by connecting points (called **knots** of the spline) by line segments.
- A **restricted cubic spline** is a way to build highly complicated curves into a regression equation in a fairly easily structured way.
- A restricted cubic spline is a series of polynomial functions joined together at the knots.
 - Such a spline gives us a way to flexibly account for non-linearity without over-fitting the model.

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How complex should our spline be?

Restricted cubic splines can fit many types of non-linearity. Specifying the number of knots (usually 3, 4 or 5) is all you must do in R to get a reasonable result from a restricted cubic spline.

- 3 Knots, 2 degrees of freedom, allows the curve to “bend” once.
- 4 Knots, 3 degrees of freedom, lets the curve “bend” twice.
- 5 Knots, 4 degrees of freedom, lets the curve “bend” three times.

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Restricted Cubic Splines with `ols`

Let's consider a restricted cubic spline model for `cesd` based on `pcs` with:

- 3 knots in `fitC3`, 4 knots in `fitC4`, and 5 knots in `fitC5`

```
1 dd <- datadist(help1)
2 options(datadist = "dd")
3
4 fitC3 <- ols(cesd ~ rcs(pcs, 3),
5             data = help1, x = TRUE, y = TRUE)
6 fitC4 <- ols(cesd ~ rcs(pcs, 4),
7             data = help1, x = TRUE, y = TRUE)
8 fitC5 <- ols(cesd ~ rcs(pcs, 5),
9             data = help1, x = TRUE, y = TRUE)
```

Model `fitC3` (3-knot spline in `pcs`)

```
1 fitC3
```

Linear Regression Model

```
ols(formula = cesd ~ rcs(pcs, 3), data = help1, x = TRUE, y = TRUE)
```

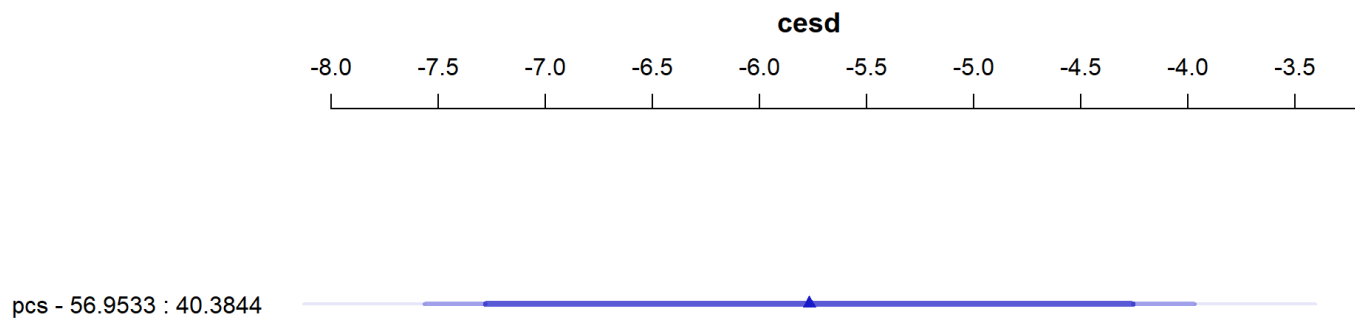
		Model Likelihood Ratio Test		Discrimination Indexes	
Obs	453	LR chi2	40.79	R2	0.086
sigma	11.9901	d.f.	2	R2 adj	0.082
d.f.	450	Pr(> chi2)	0.0000	g	4.206

Residuals

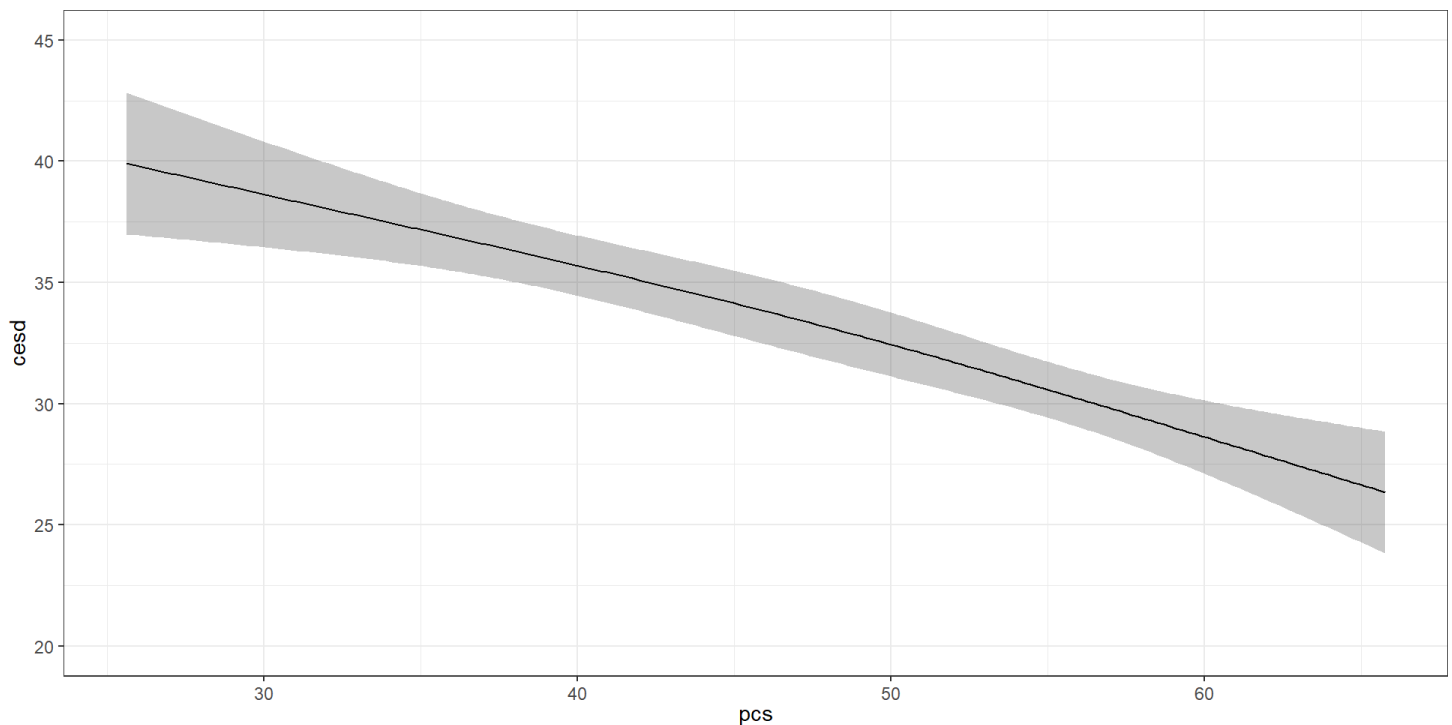
	Min	1Q	Median	3Q	Max
	-28.3462	-7.7005	0.5098	8.6376	29.8454

Effect Sizes in `fitC3`

```
1 plot(summary(fitC3))
```

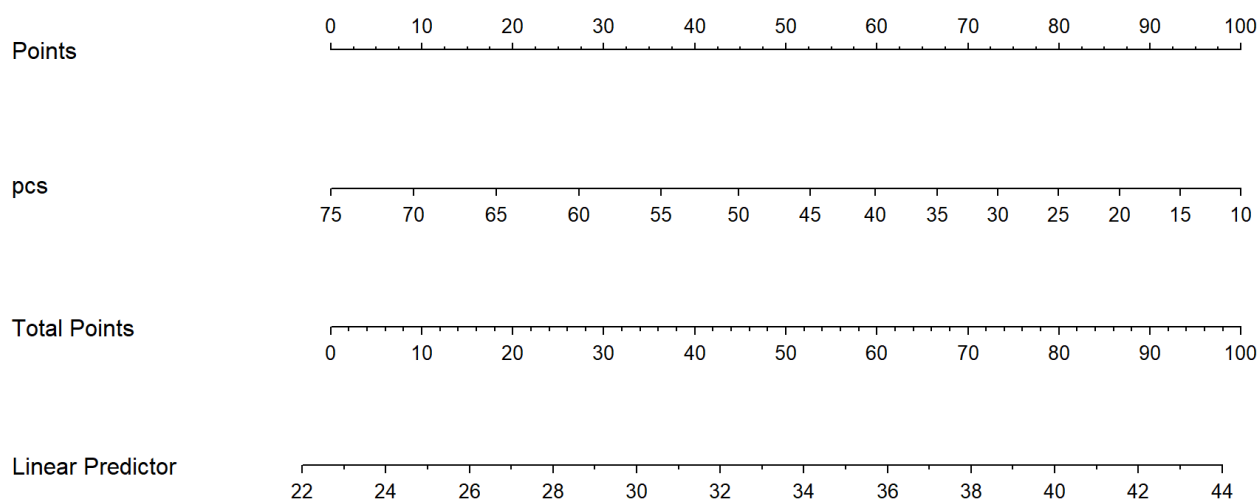


```
1 ggplot(Predict(fitC3, conf.int = 0.90))
```



A Nomogram for `fitC3`

```
1 plot(nomogram(fitC3, abbrev = TRUE))
```



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Model `fitC4` (4-knot spline in `pcs`)

```
1 fitC4
```

Linear Regression Model

```
ols(formula = cesd ~ rcs(pcs, 4), data = help1, x = TRUE, y = TRUE)
```

		Model Likelihood	Discrimination
		Ratio Test	Indexes
Obs	453	LR chi2	51.31
		R2	0.107
sigma	11.8648	d.f.	3
		R2 adj	0.101
d.f.	449	Pr(> chi2)	0.0000
		g	4.590

Residuals

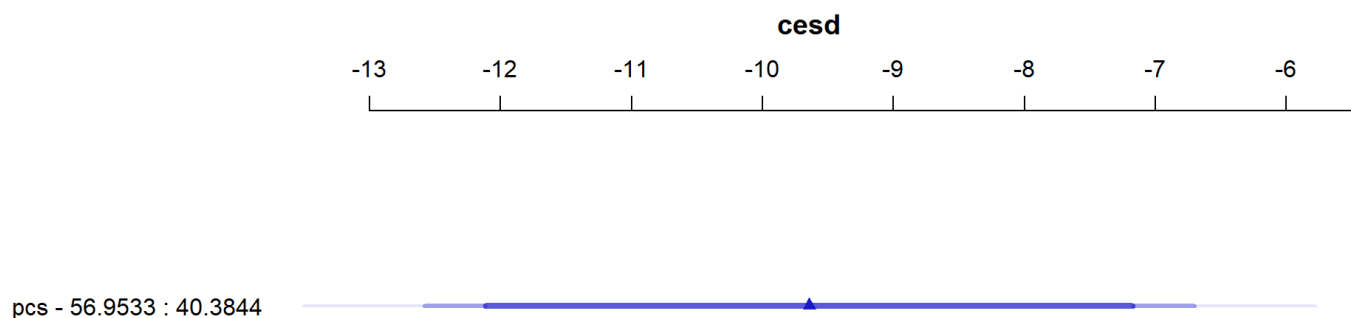
Min	1Q	Median	3Q	Max
-28.3147	-8.2830	0.8559	8.8866	26.5458

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Effect Sizes in `fitC4`

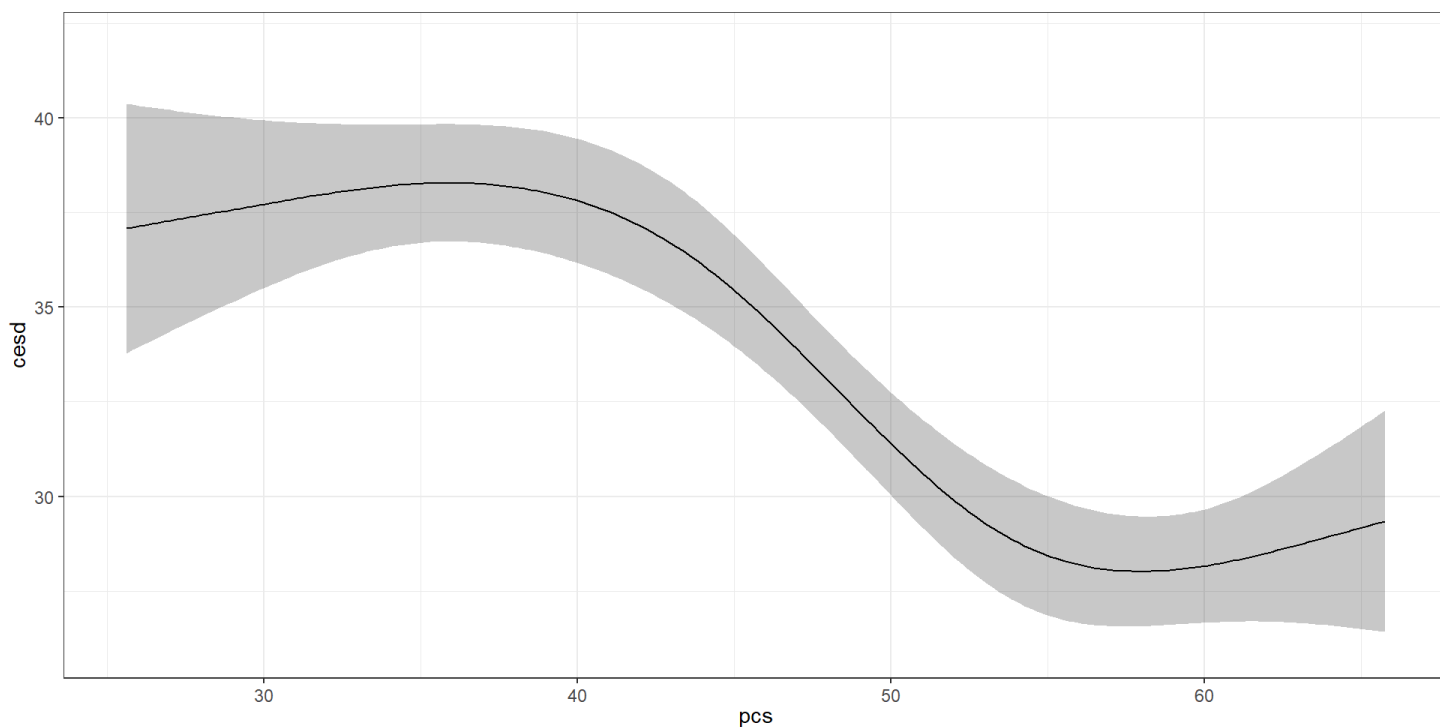
```
1 plot(summary(fitC4))
```



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```
1 ggplot(Predict(fitC4, conf.int = 0.90))
```

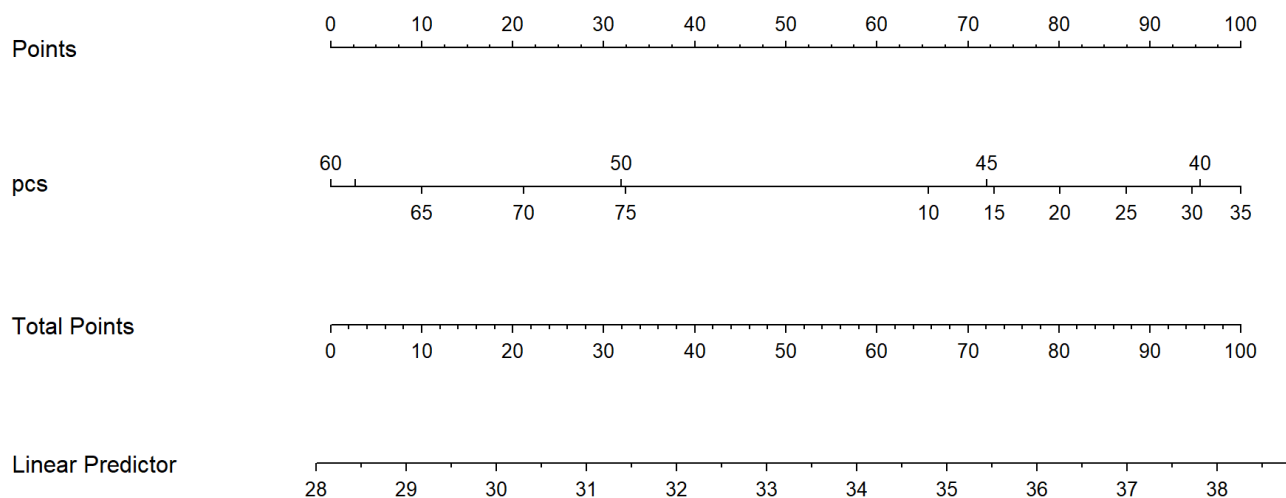


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A Nomogram for `fitC4`

```
1 plot(nomogram(fitC4, abbrev = TRUE))
```



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Model `fitC5` (5-knot spline in `pcs`)

```
1 fitC5
```

Linear Regression Model

```
ols(formula = cesd ~ rcs(pcs, 5), data = help1, x = TRUE, y = TRUE)
```

		Model Likelihood		Discrimination	
		Ratio Test		Indexes	
Obs	453	LR chi2	54.64	R2	0.114
sigma	11.8345	d.f.	4	R2 adj	0.106
d.f.	448	Pr(> chi2)	0.0000	g	4.744

Residuals

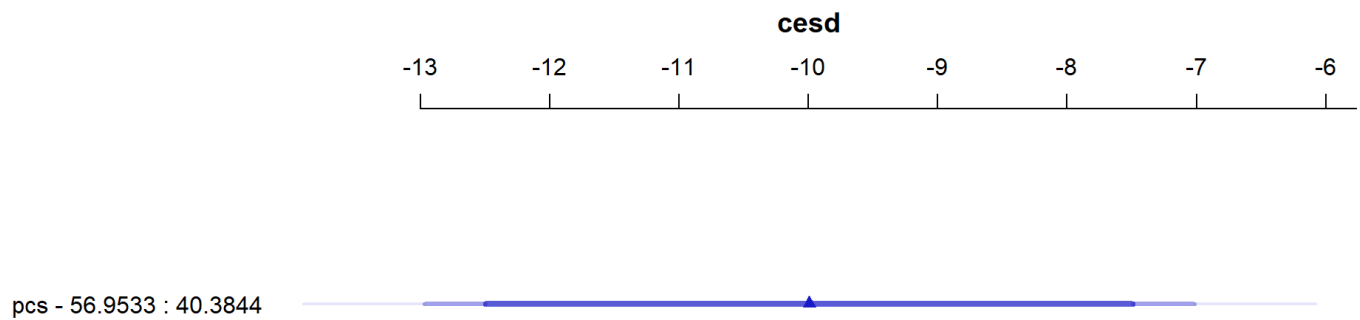
	Min	1Q	Median	3Q	Max
	-29.396	-7.928	1.016	8.762	26.974

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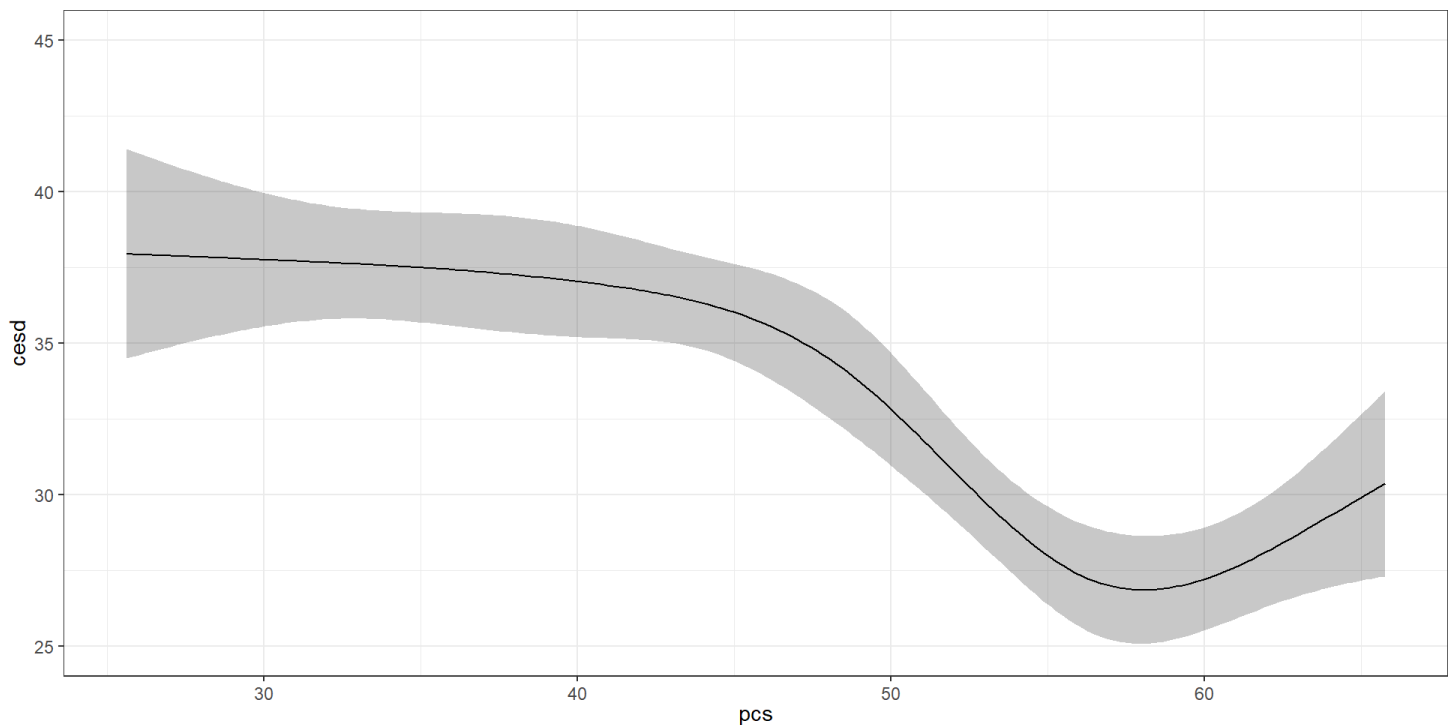
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Effect Sizes in `fitC5`

```
1 plot(summary(fitC5))
```

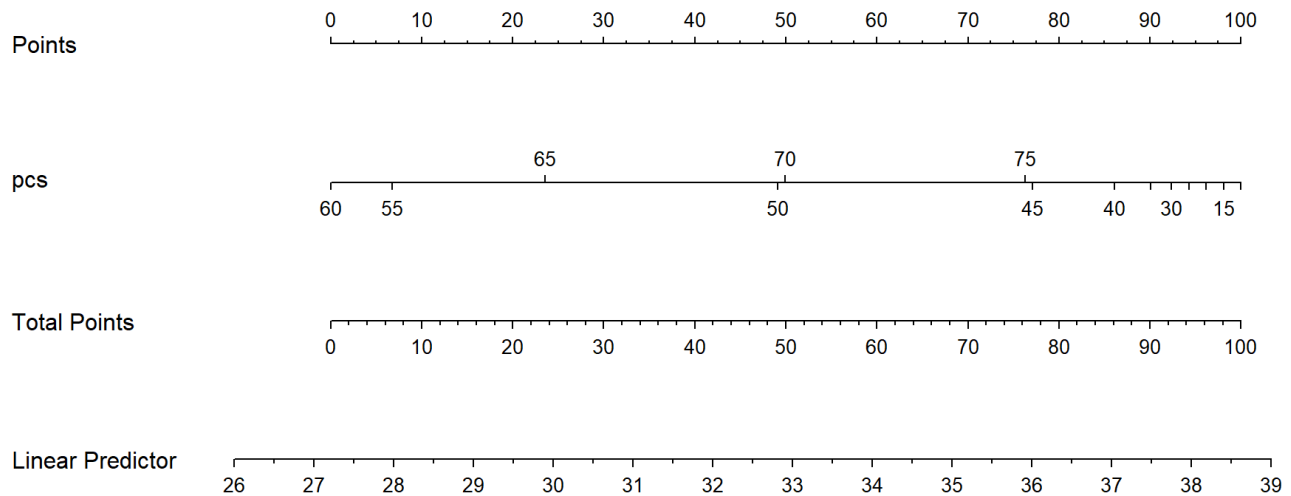


```
1 ggplot(Predict(fitC5, conf.int = 0.90))
```



A Nomogram for `fitC5`

```
1 plot(nomogram(fitC5, abbrev = TRUE))
```



Fitting `fitB` including a 5-knot RCS

```
1 dd <- datadist(help1)
2 options(datadist = "dd")
3
4 fitB5 <- ols(cesd ~ rcs(pcs,5) + subst + pss_fr + sex,
5             data = help1, x = TRUE, y = TRUE)
6
7 fitB5$coefficients
```

Intercept	pcs	pcs'	pcs''	pcs'''
48.4263870	-0.1151961	0.2519557	-4.9683530	15.6487400
subst=cocaine	subst=heroin	pss_fr	sex=male	
-3.7580871	-0.1528491	-0.4985050	-4.7527659	

Contents of `fitB5`?

```
1 fitB5
```

Linear Regression Model

```
ols(formula = cesd ~ rcs(pcs, 5) + subst + pss_fr + sex, data = help1,  
     x = TRUE, y = TRUE)
```

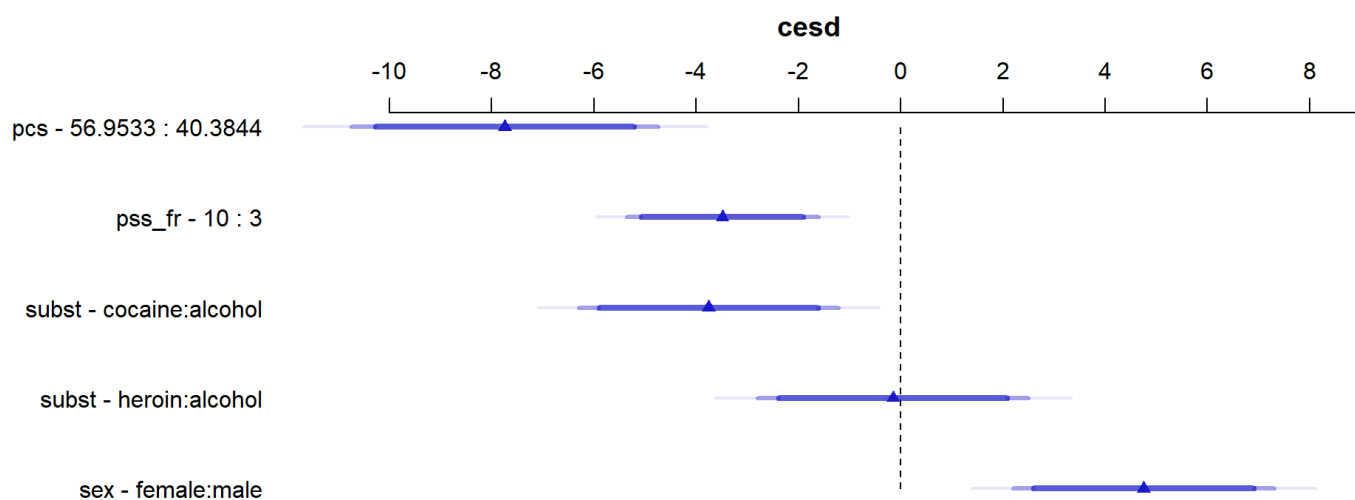
		Model Likelihood	Discrimination
		Ratio Test	Indexes
Obs	453	LR chi2	86.99
sigma	11.4707	d.f.	8
d.f.	444	Pr(> chi2)	0.0000
			R2
			0.175
			R2 adj
			0.160
			g
			5.991

Residuals

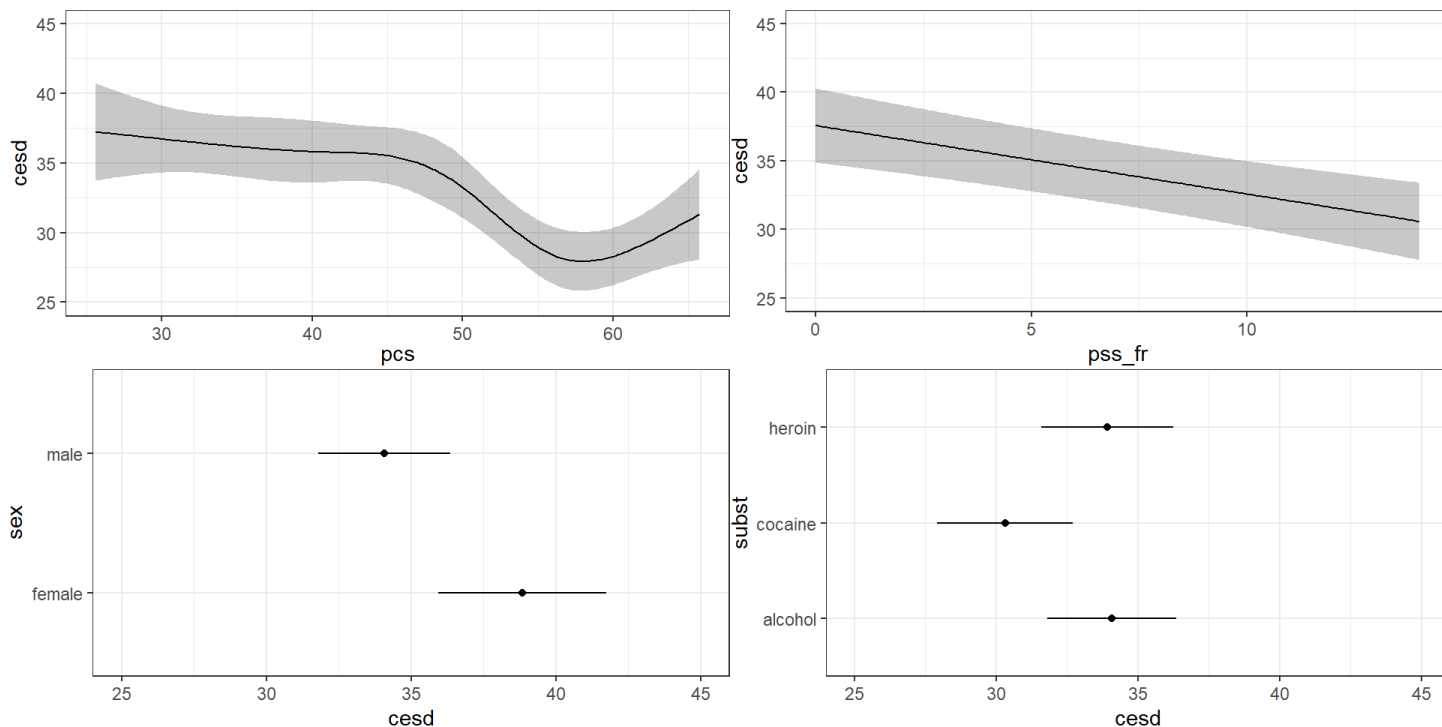
Min	1Q	Median	3Q	Max
-----	----	--------	----	-----

Effect Sizes in `fitB5`

```
1 plot(summary(fitB5))
```

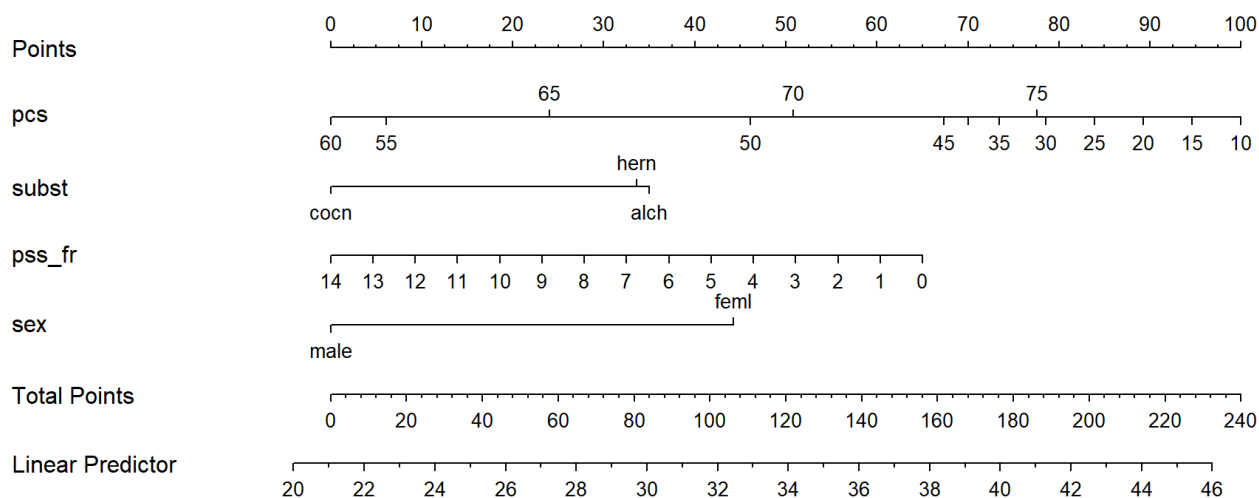


```
1 ggplot(Predict(fitB5, conf.int = 0.90))
```



A Nomogram for `fitB5`

```
1 plot(nomogram(fitB5, abbrev = TRUE))
```



What if you're doing a logistic regression?

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Predicting $\Pr(\text{CESD} > 15)$ with a spline

```
1 dd <- datadist(help1)
2 options(datadist = "dd")
3
4 fitD5 <- lrm(cesd_hi ~ rcs(pcs,5) + subst + pss_fr + sex,
5               data = help1, x = TRUE, y = TRUE)
6
7 fitD5$coefficients
```

Intercept	pcs	pcs'	pcs''	pcs'''
6.62332347	-0.05399131	0.03371332	-0.87238631	3.36265431
subst=cocaine	subst=heroin	pss_fr	sex=male	
-1.10386515	-0.40683747	-0.08278496	-0.22546869	

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Contents of fitD5?

1 fitD5

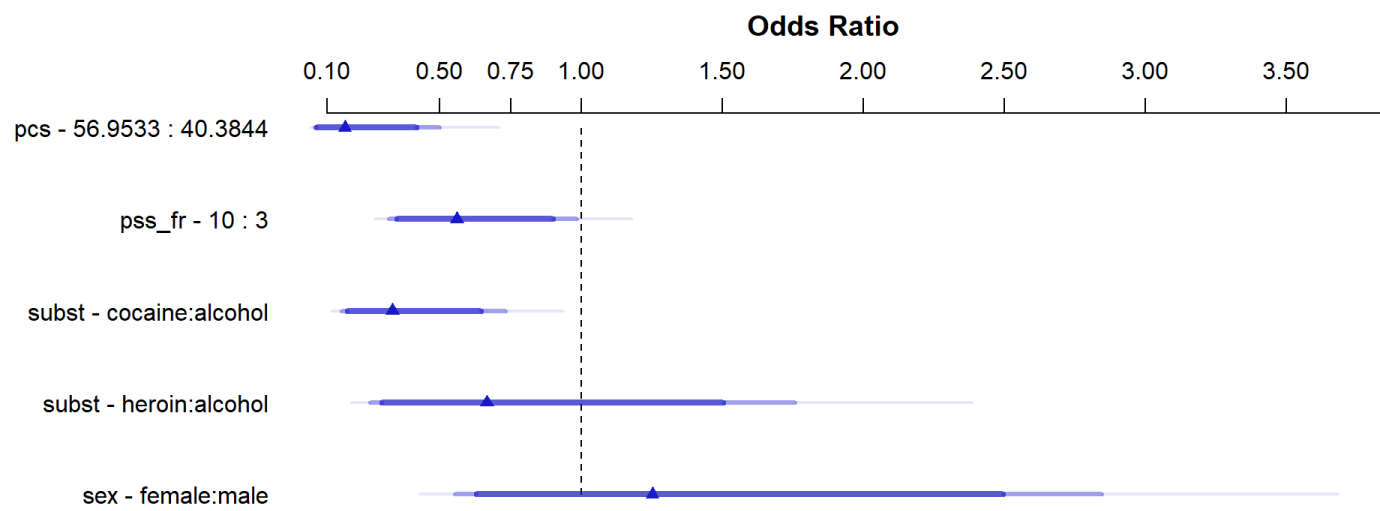
Logistic Regression Model

```
lrm(formula = cesd_hi ~ rcs(pcs, 5) + subst + pss_fr + sex, data = help1,
    x = TRUE, y = TRUE)
```

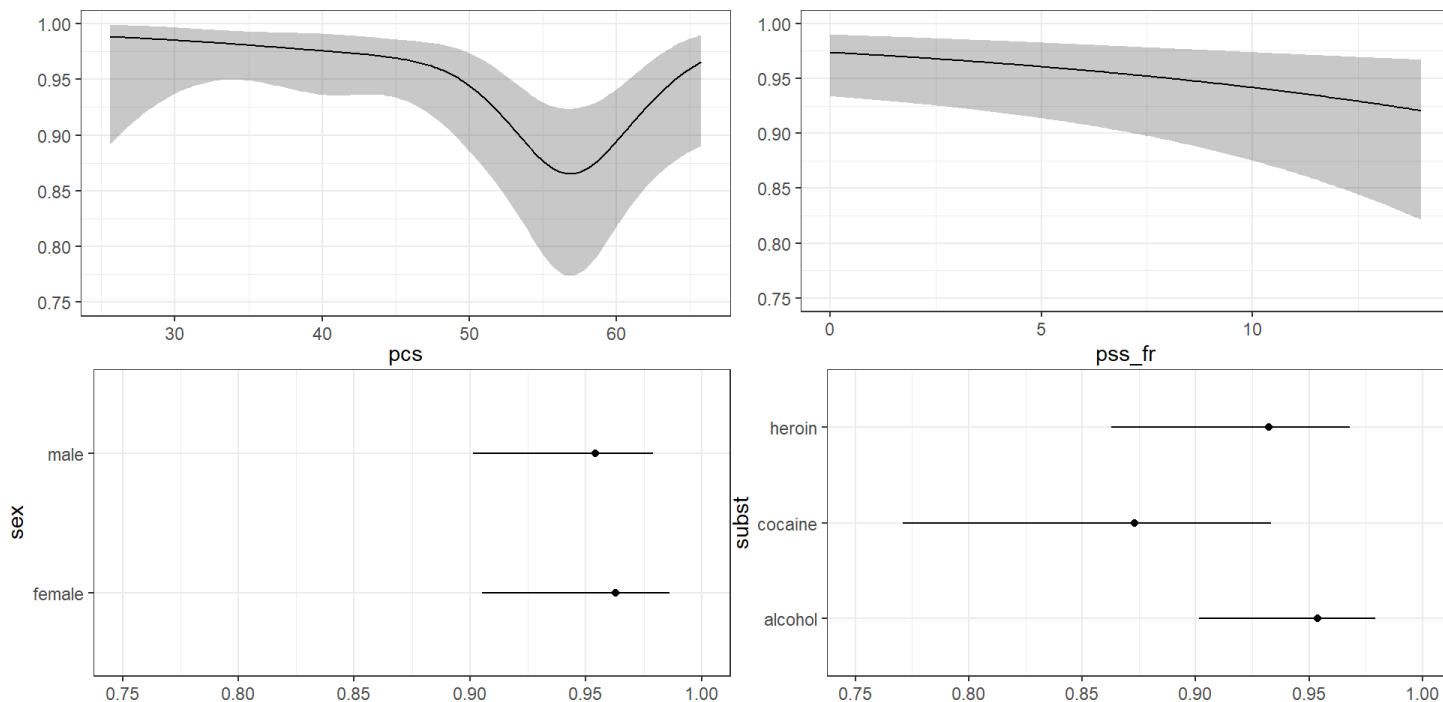
		Model Likelihood		Discrimination		Rank	Discrim.
		Ratio Test		Indexes			Indexes
Obs	453	LR chi2	42.01	R2	0.184	C	0.778
0	46	d.f.	8	R2(8,453)	0.072	Dxy	0.555
1	407	Pr(> chi2)	<0.0001	R2(8,124)	0.240	gamma	0.555
max deriv	3e-05			Brier	0.083	tau-a	0.102

	Coef	S.E.	Wald Z	Pr(> Z)
Intercept	6.6233	4.8970	1.35	0.1762

Effect Sizes in fitD5

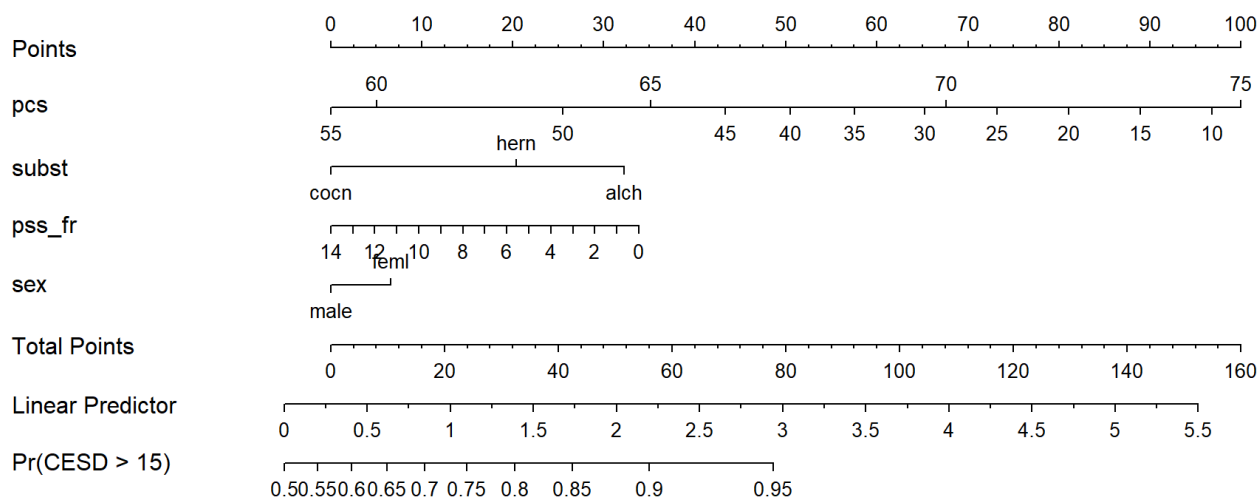


```
1 ggplot(Predict(fitD5, conf.int = 0.90, fun = plogis))
```



A Nomogram for **fitD5**

```
1 plot(nomogram(fitD5, abbrev = TRUE, fun = plogis, funlabel = "Pr(CESD > 15)"))
```



What's next?

- Spearman's ρ^2 plot: exploring non-linearity
 - Spending degrees of freedom on non-linearity wisely
- Model Calibration
- Making Predictions with `ols()` models
- Using both `ols()` and `lm()` as fitters