

P8108 Final Project

Group 6

2025-11-16

Data Import

```
lung_df <- survival::lung %>%
  janitor::clean_names() %>%
  mutate(
    inst = as.factor(inst),
    time = as.numeric(time),
    status = as.factor(status),
    event = status == 2,
    age = as.numeric(age),
    sex = factor(sex, levels = c(1, 2), labels = c("Male", "Female")),
    ph_ecog = factor(ph_ecog, ordered = TRUE),
    ph_karno = as.numeric(ph_karno),
    pat_karno = as.numeric(pat_karno),
    meal_cal = as.numeric(meal_cal),
    wt_loss = as.numeric(wt_loss)
  )
```

We create a new variable called `event` to indicate survival status, where 1 represents death and 0 represents censoring.

The variable `ph_ecog` (ECOG performance score, 0–3) is treated as an ordinal variable. For descriptive and Kaplan–Meier analyses, it is handled as a categorical factor to visualize group differences. It might be modeled as an ordinal numeric variable in Cox model.

Check NAs

```
summary(lung_df)
```

##	inst	time	status	age	sex	ph_ecog
##	1 : 36	Min. : 5.0	1: 63	Min. :39.00	Male :138	0 : 63
##	12 : 23	1st Qu.: 166.8	2:165	1st Qu.:56.00	Female: 90	1 :113
##	13 : 20	Median : 255.5		Median :63.00		2 : 50
##	3 : 19	Mean : 305.2		Mean :62.45		3 : 1
##	11 : 18	3rd Qu.: 396.5		3rd Qu.:69.00		NA's: 1
##	(0ther):111	Max. :1022.0		Max. :82.00		
##	NA's : 1					
##	ph_karno	pat_karno	meal_cal	wt_loss		
##	Min. : 50.00	Min. : 30.00	Min. : 96.0	Min. : -24.000		
##	1st Qu.: 75.00	1st Qu.: 70.00	1st Qu.: 635.0	1st Qu.: 0.000		
##	Median : 80.00	Median : 80.00	Median : 975.0	Median : 7.000		
##	Mean : 81.94	Mean : 79.96	Mean : 928.8	Mean : 9.832		
##	3rd Qu.: 90.00	3rd Qu.: 90.00	3rd Qu.:1150.0	3rd Qu.: 15.750		

```
## Max. :100.00 Max. :100.00 Max. :2600.0 Max. : 68.000
## NA's :1 NA's :3 NA's :47 NA's :14
## event
## Mode :logical
## FALSE:63
## TRUE :165
##
##
##
##
```

```
lung_cc <- lung_df %>%
  filter(complete.cases(time, event, age, sex, ph_ecog,
                        ph_karno, pat_karno, meal_cal, wt_loss, inst))
summary(lung_cc)
```

```
##      inst      time      status      age      sex      ph_ecog
## 1      :28  Min.    : 5.0    1: 47  Min.    :39.00  Male   :103  0:47
## 12     :16  1st Qu.: 174.5  2:120  1st Qu.:57.00  Female: 64  1:81
## 11     :13  Median : 268.0      Median :64.00      2:38
## 13     :13  Mean    : 309.9      Mean    :62.57      3: 1
## 22     :13  3rd Qu.: 419.5      3rd Qu.:70.00
## 3      :12  Max.    :1022.0      Max.    :82.00
## (Other):72
##      ph_karno      pat_karno      meal_cal      wt_loss
## Min.    : 50.00  Min.    : 30.00  Min.    : 96.0  Min.    :~24.000
## 1st Qu.: 70.00  1st Qu.: 70.00  1st Qu.: 619.0  1st Qu.: 0.000
## Median : 80.00  Median : 80.00  Median : 975.0  Median : 7.000
## Mean    : 82.04  Mean    : 79.58  Mean    : 929.1  Mean    : 9.719
## 3rd Qu.: 90.00  3rd Qu.: 90.00  3rd Qu.:1162.5  3rd Qu.: 15.000
## Max.    :100.00  Max.    :100.00  Max.    :2600.0  Max.    : 68.000
##
##      event
## Mode :logical
## FALSE:47
## TRUE :120
##
##
##
##
```

There are NAs in this data, so we will also create another dataset that observations with missing values will be excluded to ensure that all variables used in the analysis had complete information.

Both the original dataset and the complete-case dataset were retained for further analyses to allow comparisons and sensitivity checks.

EDA

Descriptive Table

```
lung_cc %>%
  select(time, event, age, sex, ph_ecog, ph_karno, pat_karno, meal_cal, wt_loss) %>%
  tbl_summary(
    by = sex,
    missing = "no",
```

Characteristic	Overall N = 167 ¹	Male N = 103 ¹	Female N = 64 ¹	p-value ²
Survival time (days)	310 (209)	291 (208)	340 (209)	0.069
Death indicator	120 (72%)	82 (80%)	38 (59%)	0.005
Age (years)	63 (9)	63 (9)	61 (9)	0.10
ECOG performance status				>0.9
0	47 (28%)	28 (27%)	19 (30%)	
1	81 (49%)	52 (50%)	29 (45%)	
2	38 (23%)	22 (21%)	16 (25%)	
3	1 (0.6%)	1 (1.0%)	0 (0%)	
Physician Karnofsky score				0.8
50	4 (2.4%)	3 (2.9%)	1 (1.6%)	
60	16 (9.6%)	8 (7.8%)	8 (13%)	
70	24 (14%)	16 (16%)	8 (13%)	
80	47 (28%)	28 (27%)	19 (30%)	
90	50 (30%)	32 (31%)	18 (28%)	
100	26 (16%)	16 (16%)	10 (16%)	
Patient Karnofsky score				0.3
30	2 (1.2%)	1 (1.0%)	1 (1.6%)	
40	2 (1.2%)	1 (1.0%)	1 (1.6%)	
50	3 (1.8%)	2 (1.9%)	1 (1.6%)	
60	23 (14%)	15 (15%)	8 (13%)	
70	30 (18%)	24 (23%)	6 (9.4%)	
80	37 (22%)	20 (19%)	17 (27%)	
90	44 (26%)	24 (23%)	20 (31%)	
100	26 (16%)	16 (16%)	10 (16%)	
Meal calories	929 (413)	985 (428)	840 (374)	0.027
Weight loss (kg)	10 (13)	12 (13)	7 (13)	0.015

¹Mean (SD); n (%)

²Wilcoxon rank sum test

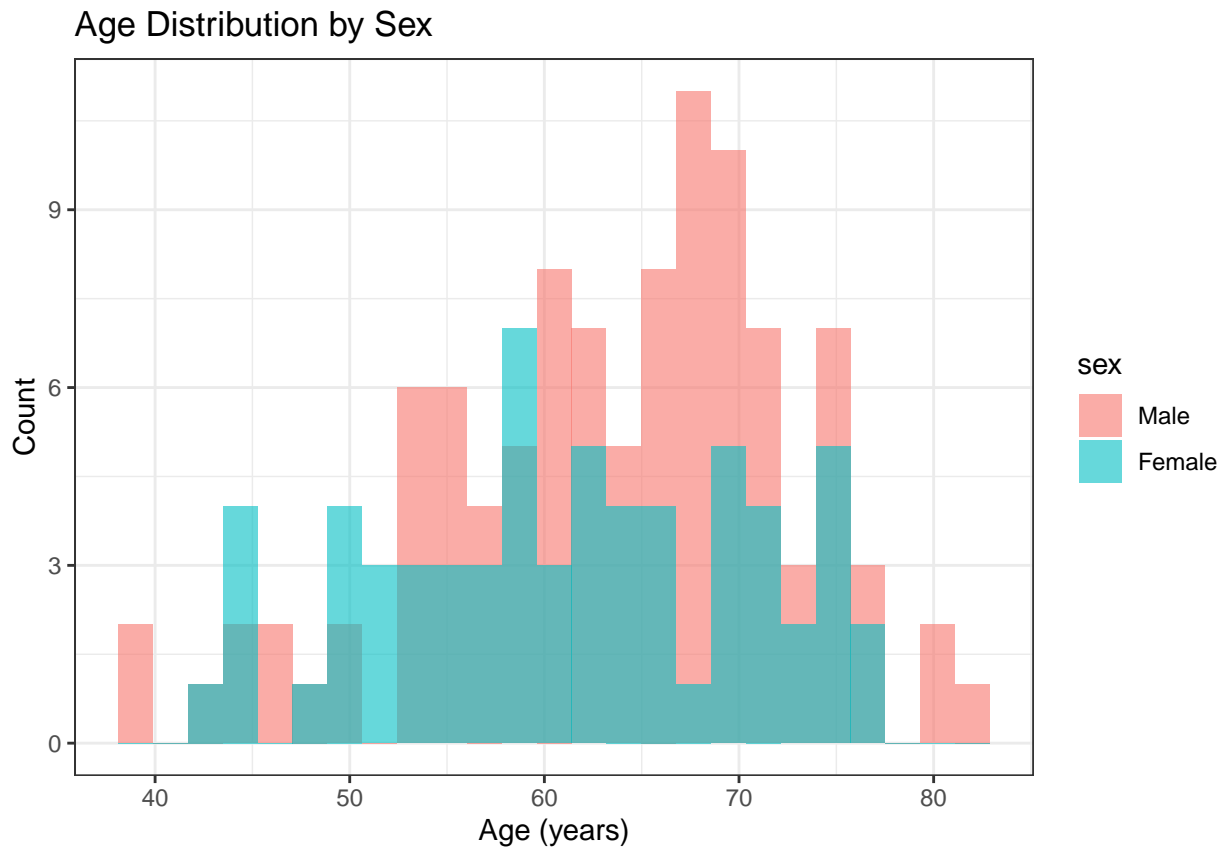
```

statistic = list(all_continuous() ~ "{mean} ({sd})", all_categorical() ~ "{n} ({p}%)" ),
label = list(
  time ~ "Survival time (days)",
  event ~ "Death indicator",
  age ~ "Age (years)",
  ph_ecog ~ "ECOG performance status",
  ph_karno ~ "Physician Karnofsky score",
  pat_karno ~ "Patient Karnofsky score",
  meal_cal ~ "Meal calories",
  wt_loss ~ "Weight loss (kg)"
)
) %>%
add_overall() %>%
add_p(test = everything() ~ "wilcox.test") %>%
bold_labels()

```

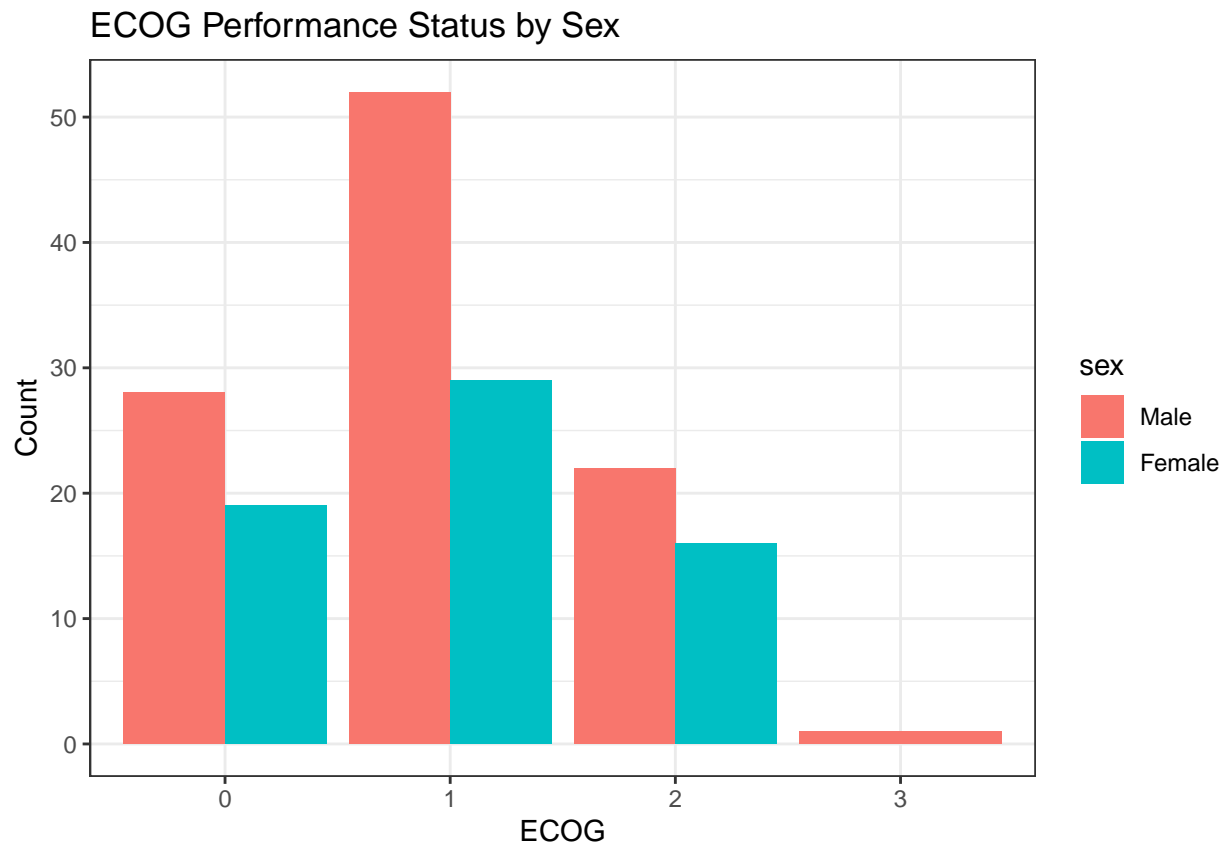
Age Distribution by Sex

```
ggplot(lung_cc, aes(x = age, fill = sex)) +  
  geom_histogram(bins = 25, position = "identity", alpha = 0.6) +  
  theme_bw() +  
  labs(title = "Age Distribution by Sex", x = "Age (years)", y = "Count")
```



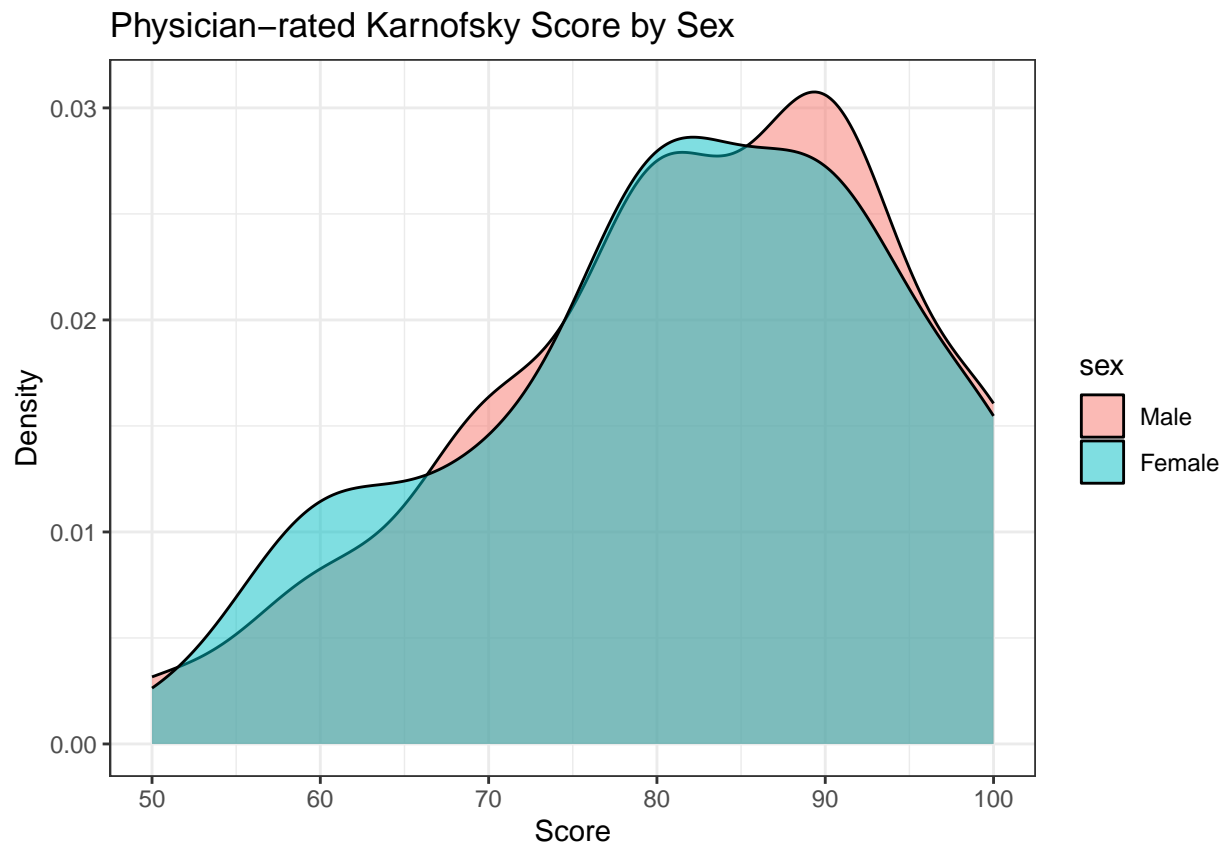
ECOG Performance Status by Sex

```
ggplot(lung_cc, aes(x = ph_ecog, fill = sex)) +  
  geom_bar(position = "dodge") +  
  theme_bw() +  
  labs(title = "ECOG Performance Status by Sex", x = "ECOG", y = "Count")
```



Physician-rated Karnofsky Score by Sex

```
ggplot(lung_cc, aes(x = ph_karno, fill = sex)) +  
  geom_density(alpha = 0.5) +  
  theme_bw() +  
  labs(title = "Physician-rated Karnofsky Score by Sex", x = "Score", y = "Density")
```

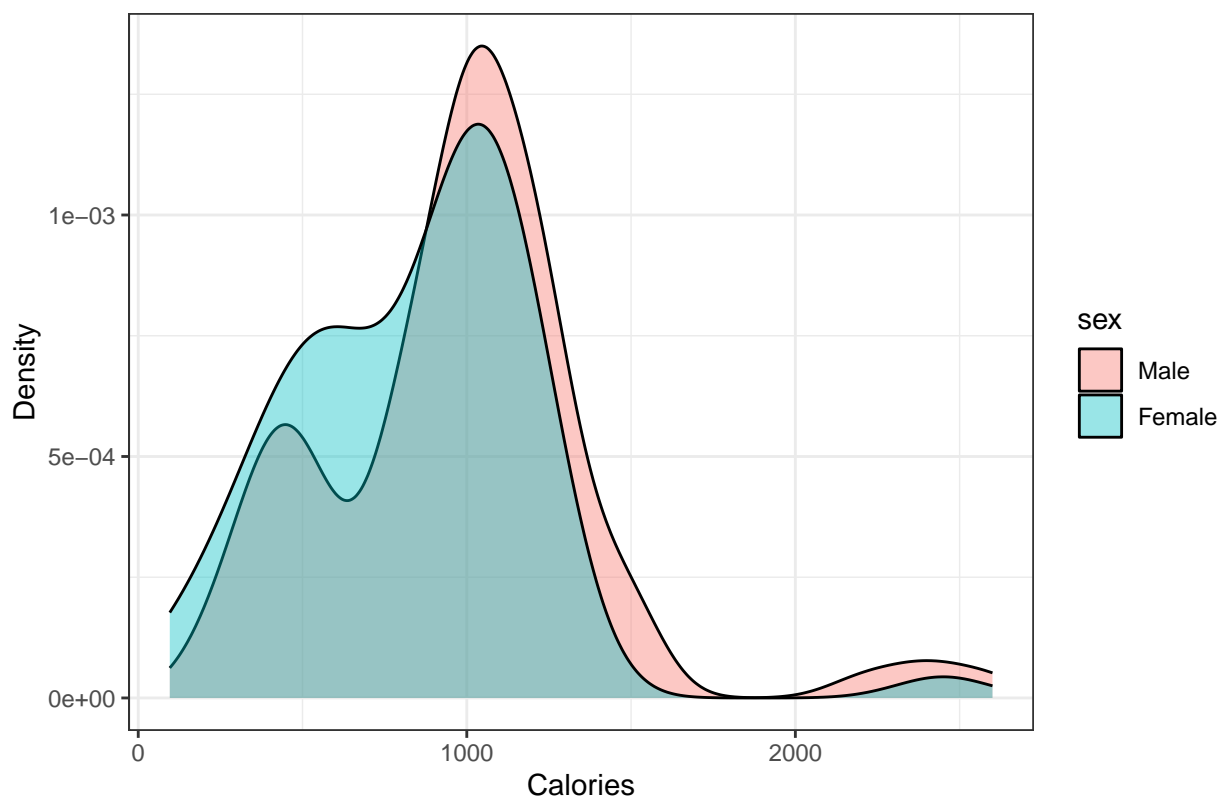


Meal Calories and Weight Loss Distributions

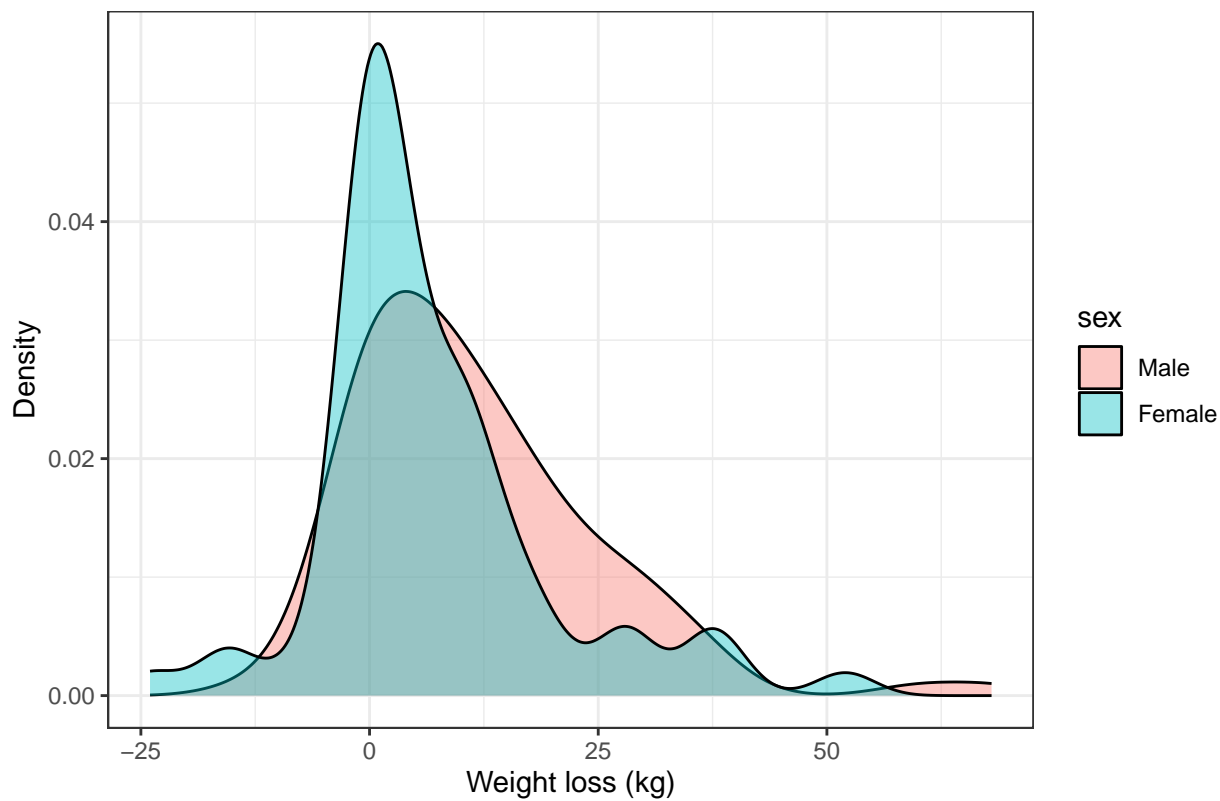
```
p1 <- ggplot(lung_cc, aes(x = meal_cal, fill = sex)) +  
  geom_density(alpha = 0.4) +  
  labs(title = "Meal Calories Distribution", x = "Calories", y = "Density") +  
  theme_bw()  
  
p2 <- ggplot(lung_cc, aes(x = wt_loss, fill = sex)) +  
  geom_density(alpha = 0.4) +  
  labs(title = "Weight Loss Distribution", x = "Weight loss (kg)", y = "Density") +  
  theme_bw()
```

p1; p2

Meal Calories Distribution

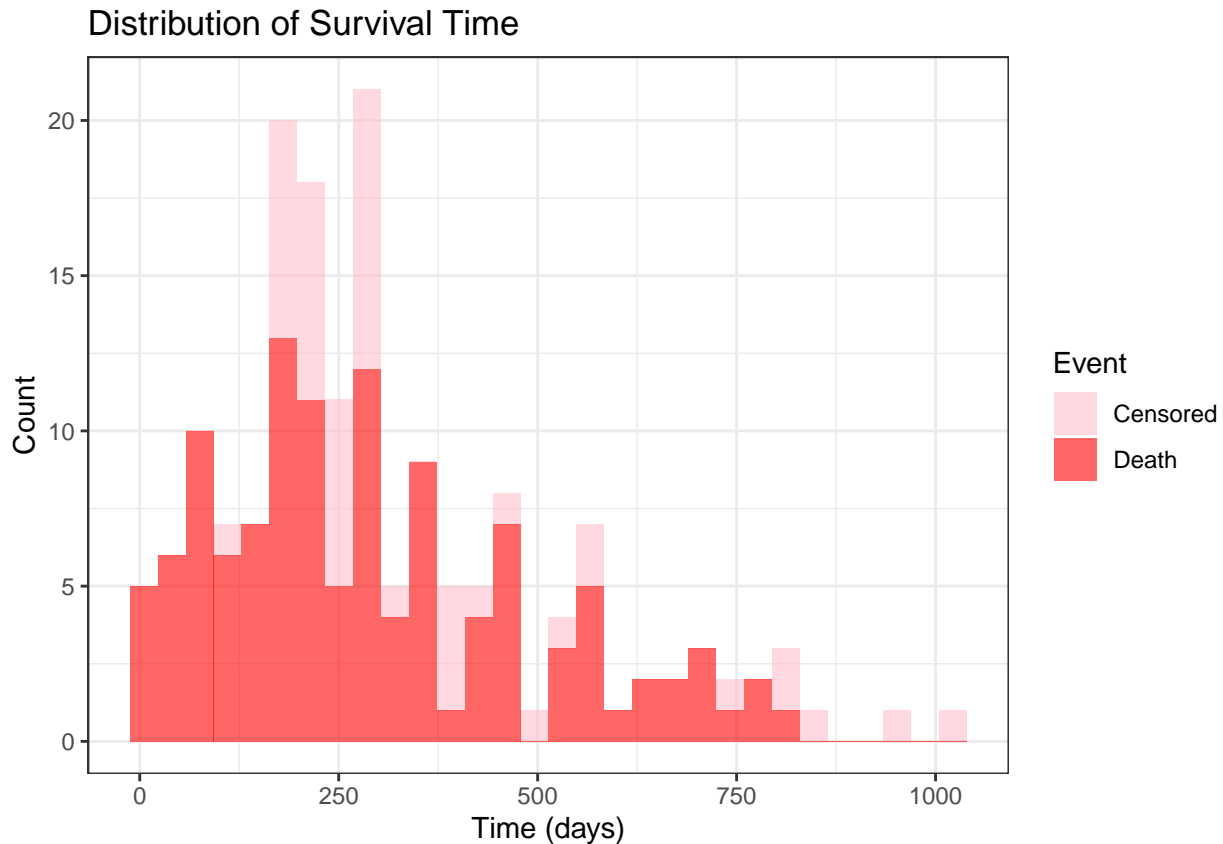


Weight Loss Distribution



Distribution of Survival Time

```
ggplot(lung_cc, aes(x = time, fill = event)) +  
  geom_histogram(bins = 30, alpha = 0.6) +  
  theme_bw() +  
  labs(title = "Distribution of Survival Time", x = "Time (days)", y = "Count") +  
  scale_fill_manual(values = c("PINK", "RED"), name = "Event", labels = c("Censored", "Death"))
```



Comparison of Survival Curves

```
# Create a survival object, which bundles the time and event data  
surv_object <- Surv(time = lung_cc$time, event = lung_cc$event)
```

```
# Fit the Overall Kaplan-Meier Model  
km_overall_fit <- survfit(surv_object ~ 1, data = lung_cc)  
  
print(km_overall_fit)
```

```
## Call: survfit(formula = surv_object ~ 1, data = lung_cc)  
##  
##          n events median 0.95LCL 0.95UCL  
## [1,] 167      120      310      285      371
```

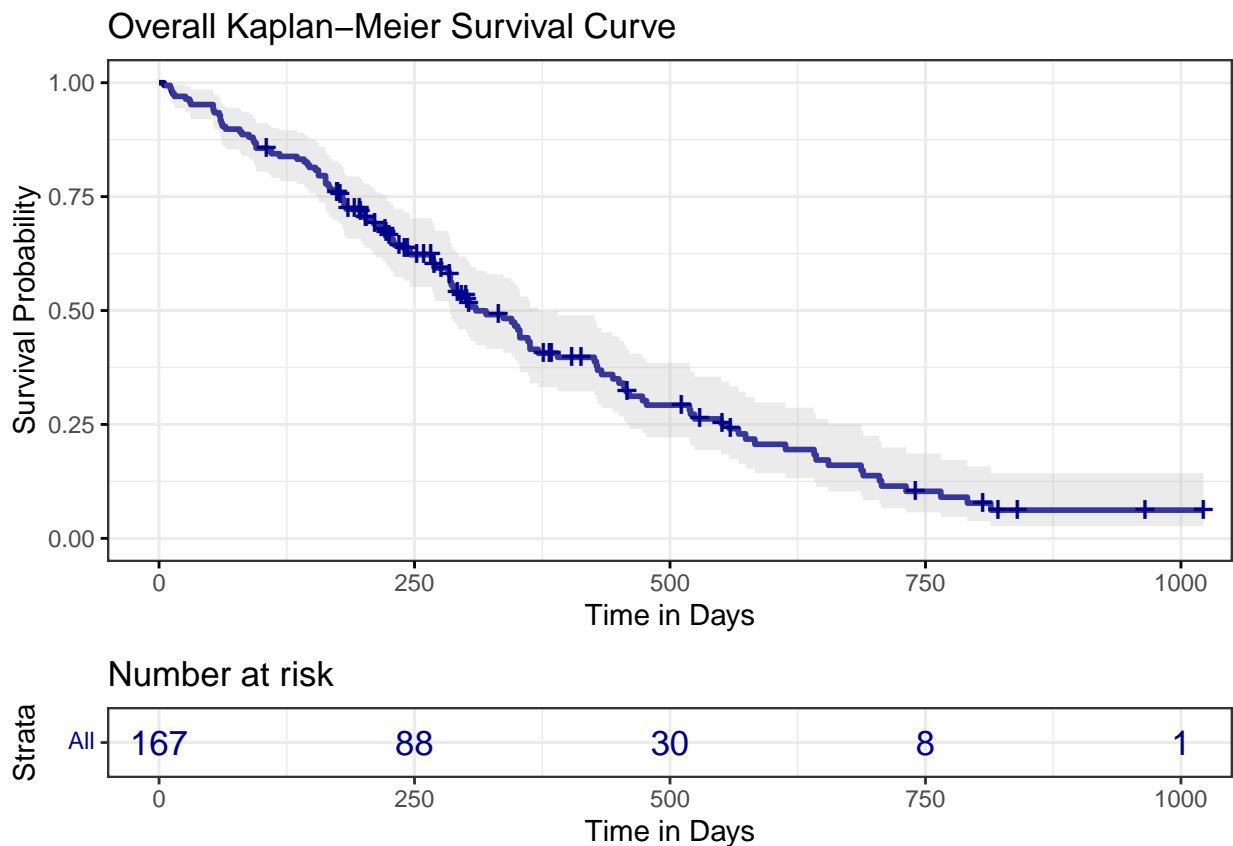
```
ggsurvplot(  
  km_overall_fit,  
  data = lung_cc,  
  conf.int = TRUE,  
  risk.table = TRUE,
```



```
risk.table.col = "strata",
title = "Overall Kaplan-Meier Survival Curve",
xlab = "Time in Days",
ylab = "Survival Probability",
ggtheme = theme_bw(),
palette = "darkblue",
legend = "none"
)
```

```
## Warning: Using `size` aesthetic for lines was deprecated in ggplot2 3.4.0.
## i Please use `linewidth` instead.
## i The deprecated feature was likely used in the ggpubr package.
##   Please report the issue at <https://github.com/kassambara/ggpubr/issues>.
## This warning is displayed once every 8 hours.
## Call `lifecycle::last_lifecycle_warnings()` to see where this warning was
## generated.

## Ignoring unknown labels:
## * fill : "Strata"
## Ignoring unknown labels:
## * fill : "Strata"
## Ignoring unknown labels:
## * fill : "Strata"
## Ignoring unknown labels:
## * fill : "Strata"
```



Sex

```
# Fit the Kaplan-Meier model to estimate survival curves for each group ('sex')  
km_sex_fit <- survfit(surv_object ~ sex, data = lung_cc)
```

```
summary(km_sex_fit)
```

```
## Call: survfit(formula = surv_object ~ sex, data = lung_cc)
```

```
##
```

```
##           sex=Male
```

##	time	n.risk	n.event	survival	std.err	lower 95% CI	upper 95% CI
##	11	103	1	0.9903	0.00966	0.9715	1.000
##	12	102	1	0.9806	0.01360	0.9543	1.000
##	13	101	1	0.9709	0.01657	0.9389	1.000
##	15	100	1	0.9612	0.01904	0.9246	0.999
##	26	99	1	0.9515	0.02118	0.9108	0.994
##	30	98	1	0.9417	0.02308	0.8976	0.988
##	31	97	1	0.9320	0.02480	0.8847	0.982
##	53	96	2	0.9126	0.02782	0.8597	0.969
##	54	94	1	0.9029	0.02917	0.8475	0.962
##	59	93	1	0.8932	0.03043	0.8355	0.955
##	60	92	1	0.8835	0.03161	0.8237	0.948
##	65	91	1	0.8738	0.03272	0.8119	0.940
##	88	90	1	0.8641	0.03377	0.8004	0.933
##	92	89	1	0.8544	0.03476	0.7889	0.925
##	93	88	1	0.8447	0.03569	0.7775	0.918
##	95	87	1	0.8350	0.03658	0.7663	0.910
##	110	86	1	0.8252	0.03742	0.7551	0.902
##	118	85	1	0.8155	0.03822	0.7440	0.894
##	135	84	1	0.8058	0.03898	0.7329	0.886
##	142	83	1	0.7961	0.03970	0.7220	0.878
##	147	82	1	0.7864	0.04038	0.7111	0.870
##	156	81	2	0.7670	0.04165	0.6895	0.853
##	163	79	3	0.7379	0.04333	0.6576	0.828
##	166	76	1	0.7282	0.04384	0.6471	0.819
##	170	75	1	0.7184	0.04432	0.6366	0.811
##	176	73	1	0.7086	0.04479	0.6260	0.802
##	179	72	1	0.6988	0.04523	0.6155	0.793
##	180	71	1	0.6889	0.04566	0.6050	0.784
##	181	70	2	0.6692	0.04642	0.5842	0.767
##	183	68	1	0.6594	0.04677	0.5738	0.758
##	197	64	1	0.6491	0.04716	0.5629	0.748
##	207	62	1	0.6386	0.04755	0.5519	0.739
##	210	61	1	0.6282	0.04791	0.5409	0.729
##	212	60	1	0.6177	0.04824	0.5300	0.720
##	218	59	1	0.6072	0.04855	0.5191	0.710
##	222	57	1	0.5966	0.04885	0.5081	0.700
##	223	55	1	0.5857	0.04915	0.4969	0.690
##	229	52	1	0.5745	0.04948	0.4852	0.680
##	230	51	1	0.5632	0.04977	0.4736	0.670
##	246	50	1	0.5519	0.05004	0.4621	0.659
##	267	48	1	0.5404	0.05030	0.4503	0.649
##	269	47	1	0.5289	0.05053	0.4386	0.638
##	270	46	1	0.5174	0.05072	0.4270	0.627

##	283	45	1	0.5059	0.05088	0.4154	0.616
##	284	44	1	0.4944	0.05101	0.4039	0.605
##	285	42	1	0.4827	0.05113	0.3922	0.594
##	286	41	1	0.4709	0.05122	0.3805	0.583
##	288	40	1	0.4591	0.05128	0.3689	0.571
##	291	39	1	0.4473	0.05129	0.3573	0.560
##	301	36	1	0.4349	0.05135	0.3451	0.548
##	303	34	1	0.4221	0.05141	0.3325	0.536
##	320	32	1	0.4089	0.05147	0.3195	0.523
##	337	31	1	0.3957	0.05147	0.3067	0.511
##	353	30	2	0.3694	0.05131	0.2813	0.485
##	363	28	1	0.3562	0.05114	0.2688	0.472
##	371	27	1	0.3430	0.05092	0.2564	0.459
##	390	26	1	0.3298	0.05064	0.2441	0.446
##	428	23	1	0.3154	0.05043	0.2306	0.432
##	429	22	1	0.3011	0.05014	0.2173	0.417
##	455	21	1	0.2868	0.04976	0.2041	0.403
##	457	20	1	0.2724	0.04929	0.1911	0.388
##	460	18	1	0.2573	0.04882	0.1774	0.373
##	477	17	1	0.2422	0.04824	0.1639	0.358
##	519	16	1	0.2270	0.04754	0.1506	0.342
##	524	15	1	0.2119	0.04672	0.1375	0.326
##	558	14	1	0.1968	0.04577	0.1247	0.310
##	567	13	1	0.1816	0.04468	0.1121	0.294
##	574	12	1	0.1665	0.04344	0.0998	0.278
##	583	11	1	0.1514	0.04205	0.0878	0.261
##	613	10	1	0.1362	0.04048	0.0761	0.244
##	643	9	1	0.1211	0.03870	0.0647	0.227
##	655	8	1	0.1059	0.03671	0.0537	0.209
##	689	7	1	0.0908	0.03444	0.0432	0.191
##	707	6	1	0.0757	0.03185	0.0332	0.173
##	791	5	1	0.0605	0.02886	0.0238	0.154
##	814	3	1	0.0404	0.02533	0.0118	0.138
##							
##							
				sex=Female			
##	time	n.risk	n.event	survival	std.err	lower 95% CI	upper 95% CI
##	5	64	1	0.984	0.0155	0.9545	1.000
##	60	63	1	0.969	0.0217	0.9270	1.000
##	61	62	1	0.953	0.0264	0.9027	1.000
##	62	61	1	0.938	0.0303	0.8800	0.999
##	79	60	1	0.922	0.0335	0.8584	0.990
##	81	59	1	0.906	0.0364	0.8376	0.981
##	95	58	1	0.891	0.0390	0.8174	0.970
##	107	56	1	0.875	0.0414	0.7972	0.960
##	145	55	1	0.859	0.0436	0.7774	0.949
##	153	54	1	0.843	0.0456	0.7581	0.937
##	167	53	1	0.827	0.0475	0.7390	0.925
##	199	50	1	0.810	0.0493	0.7194	0.913
##	201	49	1	0.794	0.0510	0.7000	0.900
##	226	45	1	0.776	0.0528	0.6794	0.887
##	239	43	1	0.758	0.0546	0.6584	0.873
##	245	40	1	0.739	0.0564	0.6366	0.859
##	268	37	1	0.719	0.0583	0.6136	0.843
##	285	34	1	0.698	0.0603	0.5894	0.827

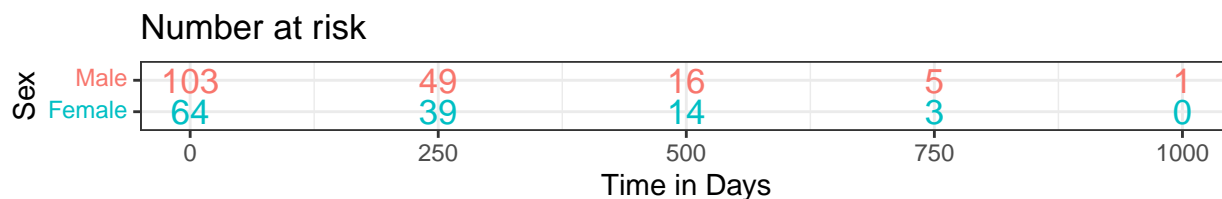
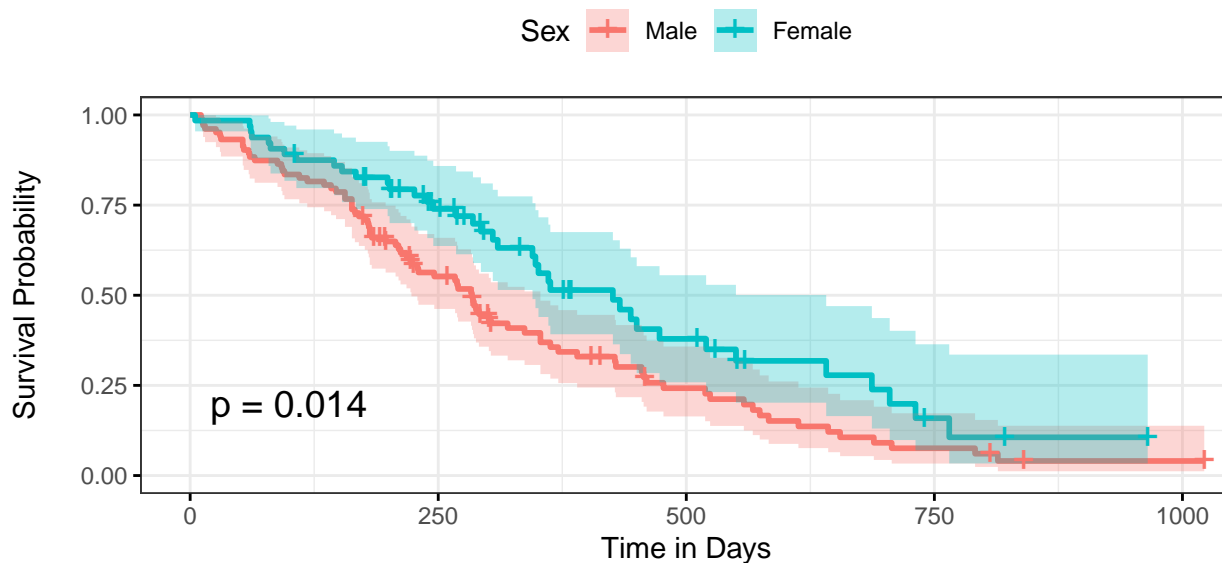
##	293	32	1	0.676	0.0623	0.5647	0.810
##	305	30	1	0.654	0.0641	0.5394	0.792
##	310	29	1	0.631	0.0658	0.5146	0.774
##	345	27	1	0.608	0.0674	0.4892	0.755
##	348	26	1	0.584	0.0687	0.4642	0.736
##	351	25	1	0.561	0.0698	0.4397	0.716
##	361	24	1	0.538	0.0707	0.4155	0.696
##	363	23	1	0.514	0.0714	0.3918	0.675
##	426	19	1	0.487	0.0726	0.3639	0.653
##	433	18	1	0.460	0.0734	0.3366	0.629
##	444	17	1	0.433	0.0739	0.3100	0.605
##	450	16	1	0.406	0.0741	0.2839	0.581
##	473	15	1	0.379	0.0739	0.2585	0.556
##	520	13	1	0.350	0.0738	0.2314	0.529
##	550	11	1	0.318	0.0736	0.2020	0.501
##	641	8	1	0.278	0.0744	0.1648	0.470
##	687	7	1	0.239	0.0736	0.1303	0.437
##	705	6	1	0.199	0.0713	0.0984	0.401
##	731	5	1	0.159	0.0672	0.0695	0.364
##	765	3	1	0.106	0.0623	0.0335	0.335

```
# --- Visualize the Estimated Survival Probabilities ---
```

```
# Generate the Kaplan-Meier plot using ggsurvplot
```

```
ggsurvplot(
  km_sex_fit,
  data = lung_cc,
  pval = TRUE,                # The p-value from the log-rank test will be displayed
  conf.int = TRUE,           # Display confidence intervals for the curves
  risk.table = TRUE,         # Add a table showing the number of subjects at risk
  risk.table.col = "strata",  # Color the risk table to match the curves
  legend.labs = c("Male", "Female"),
  legend.title = "Sex",
  xlab = "Time in Days",
  ylab = "Survival Probability",
  title = "Kaplan-Meier Survival Curves by Sex",
  ggtheme = theme_bw()      # Apply a clean theme
)
```

Kaplan–Meier Survival Curves by Sex



With rho = 0 this is the log-rank or Mantel-Haenszel test, and with rho = 1 it is equivalent to the P

```
log_rank_sex <- survdiff(surv_object ~ sex, data = lung_cc, rho = 0)
print(log_rank_sex)
```

```
## Call:
## survdiff(formula = surv_object ~ sex, data = lung_cc, rho = 0)
##
##           N Observed Expected (O-E)^2/E (O-E)^2/V
## sex=Male  103      82     68.7      2.57      6.05
## sex=Female 64      38     51.3      3.44      6.05
##
##  Chisq= 6  on 1 degrees of freedom, p= 0.01
```

```
wilcoxon_sex <- survdiff(surv_object ~ sex, data = lung_cc, rho = 1)
print(wilcoxon_sex)
```

```
## Call:
## survdiff(formula = surv_object ~ sex, data = lung_cc, rho = 1)
##
##           N Observed Expected (O-E)^2/E (O-E)^2/V
## sex=Male  103     51.0     41.8      2.01      6.76
## sex=Female 64     21.1     30.3      2.77      6.76
##
##  Chisq= 6.8  on 1 degrees of freedom, p= 0.009
```

The p-value is even smaller than the log-rank p-value. This not only confirms the result of the log-rank test but also suggests that the survival advantage for females is particularly pronounced at the beginning and middle of the follow-up period.

```
# Fleming-Harrington test statistic
fit_sex <- ten(surv_object ~ sex, data = lung_cc)
comp(fit_sex)
```

```
##           Q           Var           Z pNorm
## 1          -13.2826      29.2085 -2.4577     5
## n         -1424.0000 303810.1223 -2.5835     4
## sqrtN      -133.2089   2591.7008 -2.6166     1
## S1          -9.0659    12.2163 -2.5938     2
## S2          -8.9740    11.9825 -2.5925     3
## FH_p=1_q=1   -2.1759     1.0197 -2.1548     6
##           maxAbsZ           Var           Q pSupBr
## 1          1.3806e+01 2.9209e+01 2.5545     5
## n          1.4410e+03 3.0381e+05 2.6143     4
## sqrtN       1.3534e+02 2.5917e+03 2.6585     1
## S1          9.1529e+00 1.2216e+01 2.6187     2
## S2          9.0560e+00 1.1982e+01 2.6162     3
## FH_p=1_q=1 2.2505e+00 1.0197e+00 2.2287     6
```

```
lrt_mat <- attr(fit_sex, "lrt")
data.frame(
  test = c("Log-Rank", "Wilcoxon", "Tarone", "Peto", "Modified-Peto", "FH(1, 1)"),
  Z_squared = lrt_mat[, "Z"]^2
)
```

```
##           test           Z
## 1      Log-Rank 6.040270
## 2      Wilcoxon 6.674485
## 3        Tarone 6.846710
## 4         Peto 6.727883
## 5 Modified-Peto 6.720914
## 6      FH(1, 1) 4.643096
```

The final summary table (Z_squared) shows that regardless of the specific test used, the result is always highly significant (all Z^2 values correspond to p-values well below 0.05).

ECOG performance status (unstratified)

```
# --- Fit the Kaplan-Meier model for ph_ecog ---
km_ecog_fit <- survfit(surv_object ~ ph_ecog, data = lung_cc)

summary(km_ecog_fit)
```

```
## Call: survfit(formula = surv_object ~ ph_ecog, data = lung_cc)
##
##           ph_ecog=0
##  time n.risk n.event survival std.err lower 95% CI upper 95% CI
##    5     47      1   0.979  0.0210   0.9383    1.000
##   15     46      1   0.957  0.0294   0.9014    1.000
##   31     45      1   0.936  0.0357   0.8688    1.000
##   53     44      1   0.915  0.0407   0.8385    0.998
##   81     43      1   0.894  0.0450   0.8097    0.986
##  147     42      1   0.872  0.0487   0.7820    0.973
##  176     40      1   0.851  0.0521   0.7543    0.959
##  246     34      1   0.826  0.0563   0.7223    0.944
```

##	267	30	1	0.798	0.0607	0.6874	0.926
##	285	26	1	0.767	0.0657	0.6487	0.908
##	286	25	1	0.737	0.0699	0.6116	0.887
##	303	22	1	0.703	0.0743	0.5716	0.865
##	320	21	1	0.670	0.0779	0.5331	0.841
##	337	19	1	0.634	0.0814	0.4933	0.816
##	348	18	1	0.599	0.0842	0.4549	0.789
##	353	17	2	0.529	0.0878	0.3818	0.732
##	371	15	1	0.493	0.0887	0.3468	0.702
##	428	12	1	0.452	0.0904	0.3057	0.669
##	433	11	1	0.411	0.0910	0.2664	0.635
##	455	10	1	0.370	0.0907	0.2289	0.598
##	558	9	1	0.329	0.0895	0.1930	0.561
##	574	7	1	0.282	0.0882	0.1527	0.520
##	643	6	1	0.235	0.0851	0.1155	0.478
##	655	5	1	0.188	0.0800	0.0816	0.433
##	705	4	1	0.141	0.0725	0.0515	0.386
##	791	3	1	0.094	0.0617	0.0260	0.340
##	ph_ecog=1						
##	time	n.risk	n.event	survival	std.err	lower 95% CI	upper 95% CI
##	59	81	1	0.9877	0.0123	0.9639	1.000
##	60	80	2	0.9630	0.0210	0.9227	1.000
##	62	78	1	0.9506	0.0241	0.9046	0.999
##	79	77	1	0.9383	0.0267	0.8873	0.992
##	88	76	1	0.9259	0.0291	0.8706	0.985
##	92	75	1	0.9136	0.0312	0.8544	0.977
##	95	74	1	0.9012	0.0331	0.8385	0.969
##	110	73	1	0.8889	0.0349	0.8230	0.960
##	135	72	1	0.8765	0.0366	0.8078	0.951
##	142	71	1	0.8642	0.0381	0.7927	0.942
##	145	70	1	0.8519	0.0395	0.7779	0.933
##	156	69	1	0.8395	0.0408	0.7633	0.923
##	163	68	2	0.8148	0.0432	0.7345	0.904
##	167	66	1	0.8025	0.0442	0.7203	0.894
##	170	65	1	0.7901	0.0452	0.7062	0.884
##	179	62	1	0.7774	0.0463	0.6918	0.874
##	181	61	2	0.7519	0.0481	0.6632	0.852
##	197	57	1	0.7387	0.0491	0.6485	0.841
##	207	54	1	0.7250	0.0500	0.6333	0.830
##	210	53	1	0.7113	0.0509	0.6182	0.818
##	218	52	1	0.6977	0.0517	0.6033	0.807
##	223	49	1	0.6834	0.0526	0.5877	0.795
##	226	47	1	0.6689	0.0535	0.5719	0.782
##	229	46	1	0.6543	0.0542	0.5562	0.770
##	230	45	1	0.6398	0.0550	0.5407	0.757
##	245	43	1	0.6249	0.0557	0.5248	0.744
##	268	42	1	0.6100	0.0563	0.5091	0.731
##	269	41	1	0.5952	0.0568	0.4936	0.718
##	270	40	1	0.5803	0.0573	0.4781	0.704
##	283	39	1	0.5654	0.0578	0.4628	0.691
##	284	38	1	0.5505	0.0581	0.4476	0.677
##	293	37	1	0.5356	0.0584	0.4325	0.663
##	301	35	1	0.5203	0.0587	0.4171	0.649

##	305	32	1	0.5041	0.0591	0.4006	0.634
##	345	31	1	0.4878	0.0594	0.3843	0.619
##	363	30	2	0.4553	0.0597	0.3521	0.589
##	390	27	1	0.4384	0.0598	0.3355	0.573
##	426	24	1	0.4202	0.0601	0.3175	0.556
##	429	23	1	0.4019	0.0602	0.2997	0.539
##	450	22	1	0.3836	0.0601	0.2821	0.522
##	457	21	1	0.3654	0.0600	0.2648	0.504
##	460	19	1	0.3461	0.0598	0.2467	0.486
##	473	18	1	0.3269	0.0595	0.2288	0.467
##	477	17	1	0.3077	0.0590	0.2112	0.448
##	519	16	1	0.2884	0.0584	0.1940	0.429
##	520	15	1	0.2692	0.0576	0.1770	0.409
##	550	13	1	0.2485	0.0568	0.1588	0.389
##	567	12	1	0.2278	0.0557	0.1411	0.368
##	583	11	1	0.2071	0.0543	0.1238	0.346
##	613	10	1	0.1864	0.0527	0.1071	0.324
##	641	9	1	0.1657	0.0507	0.0909	0.302
##	687	8	1	0.1450	0.0484	0.0753	0.279
##	689	7	1	0.1243	0.0457	0.0604	0.256
##	731	6	1	0.1035	0.0425	0.0463	0.232
##	765	4	1	0.0777	0.0390	0.0290	0.208


```
##    444      6      1  0.1613  0.0640      0.0741      0.351
##    524      4      1  0.1210  0.0594      0.0462      0.317
##    707      2      1  0.0605  0.0521      0.0112      0.327
##    814      1      1  0.0000    NaN          NA          NA
##
##              ph_ecog=3
##      time      n.risk      n.event      survival      std.err lower 95% CI
##      118          1          1          0          NaN          NA
## upper 95% CI
##      NA
```

```
ggsurvplot(
  km_ecog_fit,
  data = lung_cc,

  # --- Add Key Statistical Information ---
  pval = TRUE,          # Display the log-rank test p-value
  conf.int = FALSE,     # Show 95% confidence intervals

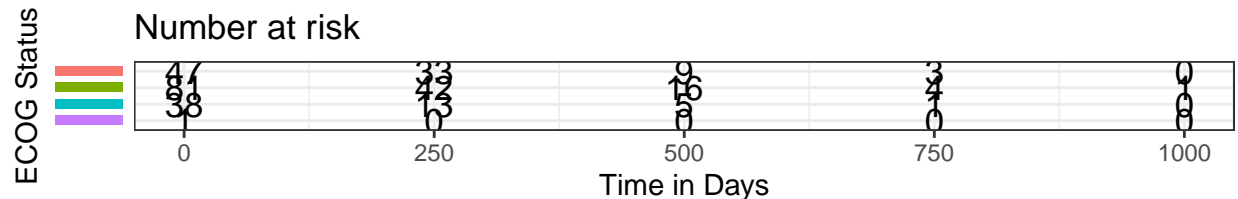
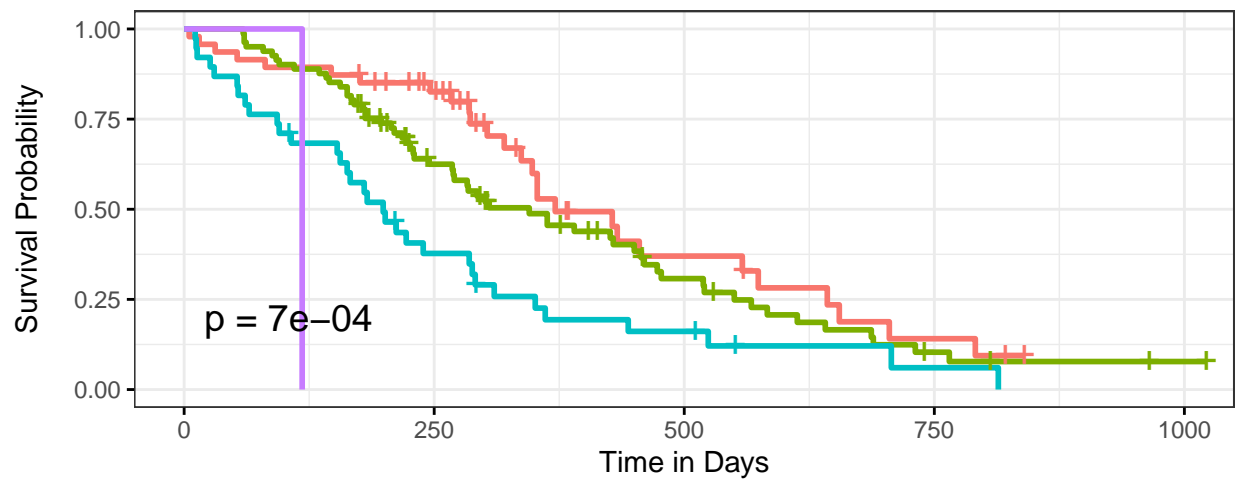
  # --- Add Contextual Information ---
  risk.table = TRUE,     # Include a table showing the number of patients at risk
  risk.table.y.text.col = TRUE, # Color the risk table text to match curves
  risk.table.y.text = FALSE, # Remove y-axis tick labels from the risk table

  # --- Customize Aesthetics and Labels ---
  title = "Kaplan-Meier Survival Curves by ECOG Performance Status",
  xlab = "Time in Days",
  ylab = "Survival Probability",
  legend.title = "ECOG Status",
  # Provide clear, descriptive labels for each group in the legend
  legend.labs = c(
    "0 (Asymptomatic)",
    "1 (Symptomatic, Ambulatory)",
    "2 (In bed <50% of day)",
    "3 (In bed >50% of day)"
  ),
  ggtheme = theme_bw()  # Use a clean black and white theme
)
```

```
## Ignoring unknown labels:
## * colour : "ECOG Status"
```

Kaplan–Meier Survival Curves by ECOG Performance Status

ECOG Status + 0 (Asymptomatic) + 1 (Symptomatic, Ambulatory) + 2 (In bed <50% of day) + 3 (In bed >50% of day)



```
# --- Perform the test ---
log_rank_ecog <- survdiff(surv_object ~ ph_ecog, data = lung_cc, rho = 0)
print(log_rank_ecog)
```

```
## Call:
## survdiff(formula = surv_object ~ ph_ecog, data = lung_cc, rho = 0)
##
##           N Observed Expected (O-E)^2/E (O-E)^2/V
## ph_ecog=0 47      27   38.054    3.211    4.737
## ph_ecog=1 81      59   62.376    0.183    0.383
## ph_ecog=2 38      33   19.394    9.546   11.483
## ph_ecog=3  1       1    0.176    3.864    3.895
##
##  Chisq= 17  on 3 degrees of freedom, p= 7e-04
```

```
wilcoxon_ecog <- survdiff(surv_object ~ ph_ecog, data = lung_cc, rho = 1)
print(wilcoxon_ecog)
```

```
## Call:
## survdiff(formula = surv_object ~ ph_ecog, data = lung_cc, rho = 1)
##
##           N Observed Expected (O-E)^2/E (O-E)^2/V
## ph_ecog=0 47   14.231   22.518    3.050    6.299
## ph_ecog=1 81   33.801   37.054    0.286    0.826
## ph_ecog=2 38   23.250   12.392    9.513   15.668
## ph_ecog=3  1    0.844    0.162    2.878    3.144
##
##  Chisq= 20.8  on 3 degrees of freedom, p= 1e-04
```

The fact that the Wilcoxon test yields a smaller p-value than the log-rank test suggests that the survival differences between the groups are particularly pronounced early in the follow-up period.

ECOG performance status (stratified by sex)

```
log_rank_ecog_bysex <- survdiff(surv_object ~ ph_ecog + strata(sex), data = lung_cc, rho = 0)
print(log_rank_ecog_bysex)
```

```
## Call:
## survdiff(formula = surv_object ~ ph_ecog + strata(sex), data = lung_cc,
##      rho = 0)
##
##              N Observed Expected (O-E)^2/E (O-E)^2/V
## ph_ecog=0 47      27   38.330     3.349     5.003
## ph_ecog=1 81      59   62.336     0.178     0.381
## ph_ecog=2 38      33   19.131    10.053    12.287
## ph_ecog=3  1       1    0.203     3.136     3.173
##
##  Chisq= 17.1  on 3 degrees of freedom, p= 7e-04
```

```
wilcoxon_ecog_bysex <- survdiff(surv_object ~ ph_ecog + strata(sex), data = lung_cc, rho = 1)
print(wilcoxon_ecog_bysex)
```

```
## Call:
## survdiff(formula = surv_object ~ ph_ecog + strata(sex), data = lung_cc,
##      rho = 1)
##
##              N Observed Expected (O-E)^2/E (O-E)^2/V
## ph_ecog=0 47   13.478   22.324     3.505     7.26
## ph_ecog=1 81   34.002   37.497     0.326     0.96
## ph_ecog=2 38   23.686   11.987    11.419    18.70
## ph_ecog=3  1    0.825    0.184     2.226     2.47
##
##  Chisq= 23.4  on 3 degrees of freedom, p= 3e-05
```

Log-rank: The result is virtually identical to the unstratified test. The Chi-square statistic and the p-value have barely changed. It means that the strong predictive power of ECOG status is independent of the patient's sex. The effect is not being confounded by sex.

Wilcoxon: After stratifying by sex, the Chi-square value increased (from 20.8 to 23.4) and the p-value became even smaller. This suggests that after controlling for the baseline survival differences between sexes, the effect of ECOG status on early deaths becomes even more pronounced and clear.

Final summary for stratified analysis: ECOG is an Independent Predictor: The effect of ECOG performance status on survival is not explained away by the patient's sex. It is a strong, independent prognostic factor. Sex is not acting as a major confounder in the relationship between ECOG status and survival. Whether a patient is male or female, having a worse ECOG score (e.g., a score of 2 vs. 0) is strongly associated with a significantly poorer survival outcome. The effect holds true within both groups.

Univariate Cox Regression (Single-variable screening)

```
# List of all predictor variables to test
predictors <- c("age", "sex", "ph_ecog", "ph_karno", "pat_karno", "meal_cal", "wt_loss")

# Create an empty list to store results
univariate_results <- list()
```

```

# Loop through each predictor and fit a univariate Cox model
for (var in predictors) {
  formula <- as.formula(paste("Surv(time, event) ~", var))
  cox_model <- coxph(formula, data = lung_cc)

  # Extract coefficients, HR, CI, and p-value
  summary_model <- summary(cox_model)

  univariate_results[[var]] <- data.frame(
    Variable = var,
    HR = summary_model$conf.int[1, "exp(coef)"],
    Lower_CI = summary_model$conf.int[1, "lower .95"],
    Upper_CI = summary_model$conf.int[1, "upper .95"],
    P_value = summary_model$coefficients[1, "Pr(>|z|)"]
  )
}

# Combine all results into one table
univariate_table <- do.call(rbind, univariate_results)
rownames(univariate_table) <- NULL

# Display the table
print(univariate_table)

##      Variable      HR Lower_CI Upper_CI  P_value
## 1      age 1.0200874 0.9988278 1.0417995 0.064195884
## 2      sex 0.6192558 0.4212238 0.9103896 0.014790685
## 3  ph_ecog 4.8252501 1.2331287 18.8812725 0.023758640
## 4  ph_karno 0.9878729 0.9749832 1.0009329 0.068635439
## 5 pat_karno 0.9812708 0.9694664 0.9932189 0.002199523
## 6 meal_cal 0.9998804 0.9994063 1.0003547 0.620970110
## 7  wt_loss 1.0001532 0.9871172 1.0133615 0.981737216

# Create a more detailed summary table using gtsummary
tbl_univariate <-
  tbl_uvregression(
    lung_cc %>% select(time, event, age, sex, ph_ecog, ph_karno, pat_karno, meal_cal, wt_loss),
    method = coxph,
    y = Surv(time, event),
    exponentiate = TRUE,
    pvalue_fun = ~style_pvalue(.x, digits = 3)
  ) %>%
  bold_p(t = 0.05) %>%
  bold_labels()

tbl_univariate

```

In univariable Cox models, female sex was associated with a substantially lower hazard of death compared with males (HR 0.62, 95% CI 0.42–0.91, $p=0.015$). Worse ECOG performance status showed a significant linear trend toward higher mortality risk (p for linear trend = 0.024). Higher patient-rated Karnofsky score was strongly protective (HR 0.98 per point, 95% CI 0.97–0.99, $p=0.002$). Age and physician-rated Karnofsky score exhibited borderline associations with survival, whereas meal calories and weight loss were not significantly associated with overall survival in univariable analyses.

Characteristic	N	HR	95% CI	p-value
age	167	1.02	1.00, 1.04	0.064
sex	167			
Male		—	—	
Female		0.62	0.42, 0.91	0.015
ph_ecog	167			
ph_ecog.L		4.83	1.23, 18.9	0.024
ph_ecog.Q		1.63	0.58, 4.57	0.356
ph_ecog.C		1.08	0.64, 1.85	0.765
ph_karno	167	0.99	0.97, 1.00	0.069
pat_karno	167	0.98	0.97, 0.99	0.002
meal_cal	167	1.00	1.00, 1.00	0.621
wt_loss	167	1.00	0.99, 1.01	0.982

Abbreviations: CI = Confidence Interval, HR = Hazard Ratio

Variable Selection

```
significant_vars <- univariate_table %>%
  filter(P_value < 0.10) %>%
  pull(Variable)

print("Variables selected for multivariable model (p < 0.10):")

## [1] "Variables selected for multivariable model (p < 0.10):"
print(significant_vars)
```

```
## [1] "age"      "sex"      "ph_ecog"  "ph_karno" "pat_karno"
```

Covariates with $p < 0.10$ in univariable Cox models were considered as candidates for the multivariable model. Given the strong clinical relevance, age and sex were retained a priori. Because physician- and patient-rated Karnofsky scores are highly correlated, we included only the patient-rated score (pat_karno), which showed a stronger univariable association ($p=0.002$), in the primary model.

Multivariable Cox Regression (Initial Model)

```
cox_multi_model <- coxph(Surv(time, event) ~ age + sex + ph_ecog + pat_karno,
  data = lung_cc)

summary(cox_multi_model)
```

```
## Call:
## coxph(formula = Surv(time, event) ~ age + sex + ph_ecog + pat_karno,
##       data = lung_cc)
##
##      n= 167, number of events= 120
##
##              coef exp(coef)  se(coef)      z Pr(>|z|)
## age           0.006488  1.006509  0.011276  0.575  0.5650
## sexFemale    -0.483159  0.616832  0.198121 -2.439  0.0147 *
## ph_ecog.L     1.325682  3.764752  0.711628  1.863  0.0625 .
```

```
## ph_ecog.Q 0.417938 1.518827 0.531404 0.786 0.4316
## ph_ecog.C 0.119441 1.126866 0.285060 0.419 0.6752
## pat_karno -0.006584 0.993438 0.008366 -0.787 0.4313
## ---
## Signif. codes:  0 '***' 0.001 '**' 0.01 '*' 0.05 '.' 0.1 ' ' 1
##
##          exp(coef) exp(-coef) lower .95 upper .95
## age          1.0065      0.9935   0.9845   1.0290
## sexFemale     0.6168      1.6212   0.4183   0.9095
## ph_ecog.L     3.7648      0.2656   0.9332  15.1871
## ph_ecog.Q     1.5188      0.6584   0.5360   4.3037
## ph_ecog.C     1.1269      0.8874   0.6445   1.9702
## pat_karno     0.9934      1.0066   0.9773   1.0099
##
## Concordance= 0.653 (se = 0.031 )
## Likelihood ratio test= 21.4 on 6 df,  p=0.002
## Wald test              = 22.47 on 6 df,  p=0.001
## Score (logrank) test = 24.29 on 6 df,  p=5e-04
```

In the initial multivariable Cox model including age, sex, ECOG performance status, and patient-rated Karnofsky score, the overall model was statistically significant (likelihood ratio test $p = 0.002$), with a concordance index of 0.65, indicating moderate discriminative ability. After adjustment for the other covariates, female patients had a substantially lower hazard of death compared with males (HR 0.62, 95% CI 0.42–0.91, $p = 0.015$). ECOG performance status showed a borderline linear trend toward higher mortality (HR 3.76 for a one-step worsening in ECOG, 95% CI 0.93–15.19, $p = 0.063$). In contrast, age and patient-rated Karnofsky score were not significantly associated with survival in this multivariable model (all $p > 0.40$).

Tied Events Handling + Model Simplification

```
cox_multi_efron <- coxph(
  Surv(time, event) ~ age + sex + ph_ecog + pat_karno,
  data = lung_cc,
  ties = "efron"
)

cox_multi_breslow <- coxph(
  Surv(time, event) ~ age + sex + ph_ecog + pat_karno,
  data = lung_cc,
  ties = "breslow"
)

summary(cox_multi_efron)
```

```
## Call:
## coxph(formula = Surv(time, event) ~ age + sex + ph_ecog + pat_karno,
##       data = lung_cc, ties = "efron")
##
## n= 167, number of events= 120
##
##              coef exp(coef) se(coef)      z Pr(>|z|)
## age           0.006488  1.006509  0.011276  0.575  0.5650
## sexFemale    -0.483159  0.616832  0.198121 -2.439  0.0147 *
## ph_ecog.L     1.325682  3.764752  0.711628  1.863  0.0625 .
## ph_ecog.Q     0.417938  1.518827  0.531404  0.786  0.4316
```

```

## ph_ecog.C 0.119441 1.126866 0.285060 0.419 0.6752
## pat_karno -0.006584 0.993438 0.008366 -0.787 0.4313
## ---
## Signif. codes:  0 '***' 0.001 '**' 0.01 '*' 0.05 '.' 0.1 ' ' 1
##
##          exp(coef) exp(-coef) lower .95 upper .95
## age          1.0065      0.9935      0.9845      1.0290
## sexFemale     0.6168      1.6212      0.4183      0.9095
## ph_ecog.L      3.7648      0.2656      0.9332     15.1871
## ph_ecog.Q      1.5188      0.6584      0.5360      4.3037
## ph_ecog.C      1.1269      0.8874      0.6445      1.9702
## pat_karno      0.9934      1.0066      0.9773      1.0099
##
## Concordance= 0.653 (se = 0.031 )
## Likelihood ratio test= 21.4 on 6 df, p=0.002
## Wald test              = 22.47 on 6 df, p=0.001
## Score (logrank) test = 24.29 on 6 df, p=5e-04
summary(cox_multi_breslow)

## Call:
## coxph(formula = Surv(time, event) ~ age + sex + ph_ecog + pat_karno,
##       data = lung_cc, ties = "breslow")
##
##      n= 167, number of events= 120
##
##              coef exp(coef) se(coef)      z Pr(>|z|)
## age          0.006475 1.006496 0.011274 0.574 0.5657
## sexFemale -0.482427 0.617284 0.198125 -2.435 0.0149 *
## ph_ecog.L  1.326123 3.766413 0.711627 1.864 0.0624 .
## ph_ecog.Q  0.418666 1.519933 0.531395 0.788 0.4308
## ph_ecog.C  0.119903 1.127388 0.285042 0.421 0.6740
## pat_karno -0.006594 0.993427 0.008361 -0.789 0.4303
## ---
## Signif. codes:  0 '***' 0.001 '**' 0.01 '*' 0.05 '.' 0.1 ' ' 1
##
##          exp(coef) exp(-coef) lower .95 upper .95
## age          1.0065      0.9935      0.9845      1.0290
## sexFemale     0.6173      1.6200      0.4186      0.9102
## ph_ecog.L      3.7664      0.2655      0.9337     15.1938
## ph_ecog.Q      1.5199      0.6579      0.5364      4.3067
## ph_ecog.C      1.1274      0.8870      0.6448      1.9711
## pat_karno      0.9934      1.0066      0.9773      1.0098
##
## Concordance= 0.653 (se = 0.031 )
## Likelihood ratio test= 21.37 on 6 df, p=0.002
## Wald test              = 22.45 on 6 df, p=0.001
## Score (logrank) test = 24.26 on 6 df, p=5e-04

```

To assess the impact of tied event times, we refit the multivariable Cox model using both the Efron and Breslow methods for handling ties. The estimated hazard ratios, confidence intervals, and p-values were nearly identical across the two approaches, and the concordance index remained 0.65 in both models. These findings suggest that ties had minimal influence on the results, and we therefore used the Efron method in all subsequent analyses.

Model Simplification

```
# Remove non-significant variables (age, pat_karno)
# Test 3 simplified models

# Model A: Sex only (most parsimonious)
cox_model_A <- coxph(Surv(time, event) ~ sex, data = lung_cc)

# Model B: Sex + ph_ecog (categorical)
cox_model_B <- coxph(Surv(time, event) ~ sex + ph_ecog, data = lung_cc)

# Model C: Sex + ph_ecog (as numeric/ordinal)
lung_cc <- lung_cc %>%
  mutate(ph_ecog_num = as.numeric(as.character(ph_ecog)))

cox_model_C <- coxph(Surv(time, event) ~ sex + ph_ecog_num, data = lung_cc)

# Display all models
cat("=====\n")

## =====

cat("Model A: Sex Only\n")

## Model A: Sex Only
cat("=====\n")

## =====

summary(cox_model_A)

## Call:
## coxph(formula = Surv(time, event) ~ sex, data = lung_cc)
##
##      n= 167, number of events= 120
##
##              coef exp(coef) se(coef)      z Pr(>|z|)
## sexFemale -0.4792    0.6193   0.1966 -2.437   0.0148 *
## ---
## Signif. codes:  0 '***' 0.001 '**' 0.01 '*' 0.05 '.' 0.1 ' ' 1
##
##      exp(coef) exp(-coef) lower .95 upper .95
## sexFemale    0.6193      1.615    0.4212    0.9104
##
## Concordance= 0.567 (se = 0.025 )
## Likelihood ratio test= 6.25 on 1 df,  p=0.01
## Wald test               = 5.94 on 1 df,  p=0.01
## Score (logrank) test = 6.05 on 1 df,  p=0.01
cat("\n=====\n")

##
## =====

cat("Model B: Sex + ECOG (Categorical)\n")

## Model B: Sex + ECOG (Categorical)
```



```

cat("=====\n")

## =====

summary(cox_model_B)

## Call:
## coxph(formula = Surv(time, event) ~ sex + ph_ecog, data = lung_cc)
##
##      n= 167, number of events= 120
##
##              coef exp(coef) se(coef)      z Pr(>|z|)
## sexFemale -0.49977   0.60667  0.19741 -2.532  0.0114 *
## ph_ecog.L  1.47356   4.36475  0.69684  2.115  0.0345 *
## ph_ecog.Q  0.37911   1.46098  0.52802  0.718  0.4728
## ph_ecog.C  0.04551   1.04657  0.27299  0.167  0.8676
## ---
## Signif. codes:  0 '***' 0.001 '**' 0.01 '*' 0.05 '.' 0.1 ' ' 1
##
##              exp(coef) exp(-coef) lower .95 upper .95
## sexFemale    0.6067    1.6483    0.4120    0.8933
## ph_ecog.L    4.3647    0.2291    1.1138   17.1045
## ph_ecog.Q    1.4610    0.6845    0.5190    4.1124
## ph_ecog.C    1.0466    0.9555    0.6129    1.7870
##
## Concordance= 0.646 (se = 0.03 )
## Likelihood ratio test= 20.39 on 4 df,  p=4e-04
## Wald test               = 21.86 on 4 df,  p=2e-04
## Score (logrank) test = 23.52 on 4 df,  p=1e-04

cat("\n=====\n")

##
## =====

cat("Model C: Sex + ECOG (Numeric)\n")

## Model C: Sex + ECOG (Numeric)

cat("=====\n")

## =====

summary(cox_model_C)

## Call:
## coxph(formula = Surv(time, event) ~ sex + ph_ecog_num, data = lung_cc)
##
##      n= 167, number of events= 120
##
##              coef exp(coef) se(coef)      z Pr(>|z|)
## sexFemale   -0.5101   0.6004   0.1969 -2.591 0.009579 **
## ph_ecog_num  0.4825   1.6201   0.1323  3.647 0.000266 ***
## ---
## Signif. codes:  0 '***' 0.001 '**' 0.01 '*' 0.05 '.' 0.1 ' ' 1
##
##              exp(coef) exp(-coef) lower .95 upper .95
## sexFemale    0.6004    1.6655    0.4082    0.8832

```

```

## ph_ecog_num    1.6201    0.6172    1.2501    2.0998
##
## Concordance= 0.641 (se = 0.031 )
## Likelihood ratio test= 19.48 on 2 df,    p=6e-05
## Wald test              = 19.35 on 2 df,    p=6e-05
## Score (logrank) test = 19.62 on 2 df,    p=5e-05

# Model comparison
cat("\n===== \n")

##
## =====

cat("MODEL COMPARISON SUMMARY\n")

## MODEL COMPARISON SUMMARY
cat("===== \n")

## =====

# Extract metrics
aic_A <- AIC(cox_model_A)
aic_B <- AIC(cox_model_B)
aic_C <- AIC(cox_model_C)

c_A <- summary(cox_model_A)$concordance[1]
c_B <- summary(cox_model_B)$concordance[1]
c_C <- summary(cox_model_C)$concordance[1]

cat("\nModel A (sex only):\n")

##
## Model A (sex only):
cat("  AIC =", round(aic_A, 2), "\n")

##    AIC = 1011.99
cat("  C-index =", round(c_A, 3), "\n")

##    C-index = 0.567
cat("\nModel B (sex + ph_ecog categorical):\n")

##
## Model B (sex + ph_ecog categorical):
cat("  AIC =", round(aic_B, 2), "\n")

##    AIC = 1003.84
cat("  C-index =", round(c_B, 3), "\n")

##    C-index = 0.646
cat("\nModel C (sex + ph_ecog numeric):\n")

##
## Model C (sex + ph_ecog numeric):

```

```

cat("  AIC =", round(aic_C, 2), "\n")

##  AIC = 1000.75
cat("  C-index =", round(c_C, 3), "\n")

##  C-index = 0.641
cat("\nNote: Lower AIC = Better fit\n")

##
## Note: Lower AIC = Better fit
cat("      Higher C-index = Better discrimination\n")

##      Higher C-index = Better discrimination
# Likelihood Ratio Tests
cat("\n===== \n")

##
## =====
cat("LIKELIHOOD RATIO TESTS\n")

## LIKELIHOOD RATIO TESTS
cat("===== \n")

## =====
cat("\n--- Test 1: Model A vs Model B ---\n")

##
## --- Test 1: Model A vs Model B ---
cat("(Does adding ph_ecog categorical improve the model?)\n")

## (Does adding ph_ecog categorical improve the model?)
lrt_AB <- anova(cox_model_A, cox_model_B, test = "Chisq")
print(lrt_AB)

## Analysis of Deviance Table
## Cox model: response is Surv(time, event)
## Model 1: ~ sex
## Model 2: ~ sex + ph_ecog
##      loglik  Chisq Df Pr(>|Chi|)
## 1 -504.99
## 2 -497.92 14.144  3  0.002715 **
## ---
## Signif. codes:  0 '***' 0.001 '**' 0.01 '*' 0.05 '.' 0.1 ' ' 1
cat("\n--- Test 2: Model A vs Model C ---\n")

##
## --- Test 2: Model A vs Model C ---
cat("(Does adding ph_ecog numeric improve the model?)\n")

## (Does adding ph_ecog numeric improve the model?)

```

```

lrt_AC <- anova(cox_model_A, cox_model_C, test = "Chisq")
print(lrt_AC)

## Analysis of Deviance Table
## Cox model: response is Surv(time, event)
## Model 1: ~ sex
## Model 2: ~ sex + ph_ecog_num
##      loglik  Chisq Df Pr(>|Chi|)
## 1 -504.99
## 2 -498.38 13.235  1  0.0002747 ***
## ---
## Signif. codes:  0 '***' 0.001 '**' 0.01 '*' 0.05 '.' 0.1 ' ' 1

cat("\n--- Test 3: Model B vs Model C ---\n")

##
## --- Test 3: Model B vs Model C ---

cat("(Is categorical or numeric ph_ecog better?)\n")

## (Is categorical or numeric ph_ecog better?)

lrt_BC <- anova(cox_model_C, cox_model_B, test = "Chisq")
print(lrt_BC)

## Analysis of Deviance Table
## Cox model: response is Surv(time, event)
## Model 1: ~ sex + ph_ecog_num
## Model 2: ~ sex + ph_ecog
##      loglik  Chisq Df Pr(>|Chi|)
## 1 -498.38
## 2 -497.92 0.9089  2    0.6348

```

Starting from a multivariable model including age, sex, ECOG performance status, and patient-rated Karnofsky score, we removed age ($p=0.565$) and patient-rated Karnofsky score ($p=0.431$) as they were not statistically significant after adjustment for other covariates. We then compared three reduced Cox models: (A) sex only, (B) sex plus ECOG treated as a categorical factor, and (C) sex plus ECOG treated as a numeric ordinal variable (0–3).

Adding ECOG status substantially improved model fit compared with the sex-only model. For model B, the likelihood ratio test versus model A yielded $\chi^2=14.14$ on 3 df ($p=0.003$), with concordance increasing from 0.567 to 0.646. For model C, the likelihood ratio test versus model A yielded $\chi^2=13.24$ on 1 df ($p<0.001$), with concordance of 0.641. Models B and C demonstrated similar performance (AIC=1003.84 vs 1000.75; C-index=0.646 vs 0.641), with no significant difference between them ($\chi^2=0.91$ on 2 df, $p=0.635$).

We selected model C (sex + ECOG as a numeric ordinal variable) as the final Cox model based on the principle of parsimony: it achieved similar predictive performance with fewer parameters (2 vs 4) and offered a simpler, more interpretable linear effect for ECOG performance status.

Check assumptions

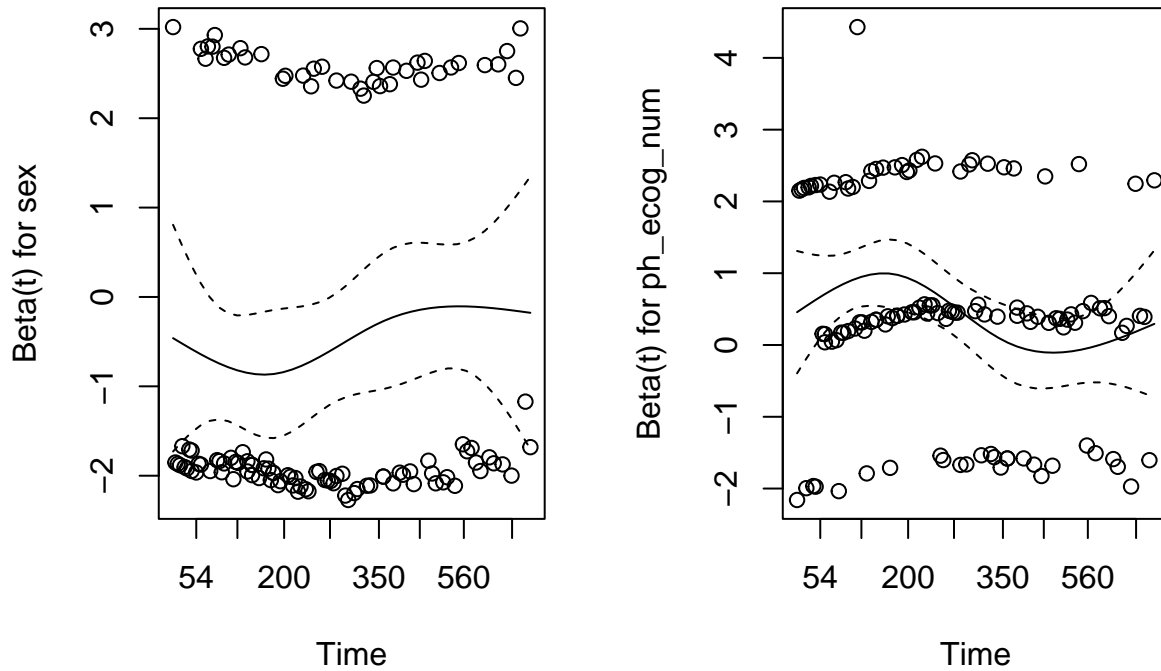
```

ph_test = cox.zph(cox_model_C)
ph_test

##           chisq df      p
## sex           1.24  1 0.266
## ph_ecog_num    5.27  1 0.022
## GLOBAL         6.19  2 0.045

```

```
par(mfrow = c(1,2))
plot(ph_test)
```



```
par(mfrow = c(1,1))
```

The proportional hazards assumption was evaluated using Schoenfeld residuals. The effect of sex met the PH assumption ($p = 0.266$), with residual plots showing no meaningful time trend. However, `ph_ecog_num` showed a statistically significant deviation from proportional hazards ($p = 0.022$), and its residual plot displayed a clear time-varying pattern. The global test was also statistically significant ($p = 0.045$), further indicating model-level violation of the PH assumption. These findings suggest that the effect of ECOG performance status may vary over time, and the current Cox model may not fully satisfy the PH assumption. Thus, we might considering remove the ECOG variable, and only include sex into our final survival model.