

SA: Simple 3-state Markov model in R

The DARTH workgroup

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- Jalal H, Pechlivanoglou P, Krijkamp E, Alarid-Escudero F, Enns E, Hunink MG. An Overview of R in Health Decision Sciences. *Med Decis Making*. 2017; 37(3): 735-746. <https://journals.sagepub.com/doi/abs/10.1177/0272989X16686559>
- Alarid-Escudero F, Krijkamp EM, Enns EA, Yang A, Hunink MGM, Pechlivanoglou P, Jalal H. Cohort State-Transition Models in R: A Tutorial. *arXiv:200107824v2*. 2020:1-48. <http://arxiv.org/abs/2001.07824>
- Krijkamp EM, Alarid-Escudero F, Enns EA, Jalal HJ, Hunink MGM, Pechlivanoglou P. Microsimulation modeling for health decision sciences using R: A tutorial. *Med Decis Making*. 2018;38(3):400-22. <https://journals.sagepub.com/doi/abs/10.1177/0272989X18754513>
- Krijkamp EM, Alarid-Escudero F, Enns E, Pechlivanoglou P, Hunink MM, Jalal H. A Multidimensional Array Representation of State-Transition Model Dynamics. *Med Decis Making*. Online First <https://doi.org/10.1177/0272989X19893973>

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Change `eval` to `TRUE` if you want to knit this document.

```
rm(list = ls())      # clear memory (removes all the variables from the workspace)
```

01 Load packages

```
if (!require('pacman')) install.packages('pacman'); library(pacman) # use this package to conveniently
# load (install if required) packages from CRAN
p_load("here", "dplyr", "devtools", "scales", "ellipse", "ggplot2", "lazyeval", "igraph", "truncnorm",
# install_github("DARTH-git/dampack", force = TRUE) Uncomment if there is a newer version
# install_github("DARTH-git/darthtools", force = TRUE) Uncomment if there is a newer version
p_load_gh("DARTH-git/dampack", "DARTH-git/darthtools")
```

02 Load functions

```
# No function needed
```

03 Input model parameters

```
# Strategy names
v_names_str <- c("Standard of Care", "Treatment")

# Markov model parameters
v_n  <- c("Healthy", "Sick", "Dead") # state names
n_t  <- 60                          # number of cycles

v_init <- c("Healthy" = 1,
            "Sick"    = 0,
            "Dead"    = 0)           # initial cohort distribution (everyone allocated to the
                                     # "healthy" state)

# Transition probabilities
p_HD <- 0.02                         # probability of dying when healthy
p_HS <- 0.05                         # probability of becoming sick when healthy, under standard of care
p_HS_trt <- 0.03                     # probability of becoming sick when healthy, under treatment
p_SD <- 0.1                          # probability of dying when sick

# Costs and utilities
c_H <- 400                           # cost of one cycle in healthy state
c_S <- 1000                           # cost of one cycle in sick state
c_D <- 0                             # cost of one cycle in dead state
c_trt <- 800                         # cost of treatment (per cycle)
u_H <- 0.8                           # utility when healthy
u_S <- 0.5                           # utility when sick
u_D <- 0                             # utility when dead
```

```

d_e      <- d_c <- 0.03           # discount rate per cycle equal discount of costs and QALYs by 3%

n_str     <- length(v_names_str)   # Number of strategies
n_states  <- length(v_n)           # number of states

# Discount weights for costs and effects
v_dwc <- 1 / (1 + d_c) ^ (0:n_t)
v_dwe <- 1 / (1 + d_e) ^ (0:n_t)

```

Draw the state-transition cohort model

```

m_P_diag <- matrix(0, nrow = n_states, ncol = n_states, dimnames = list(v_n, v_n))
m_P_diag["Healthy", "Sick" ]      = ""
m_P_diag["Healthy", "Dead" ]      = ""
m_P_diag["Healthy", "Healthy" ]   = ""
m_P_diag["Sick" , "Dead" ]        = ""
m_P_diag["Sick" , "Sick" ]        = ""
m_P_diag["Dead" , "Dead" ]        = ""
layout.fig <- c(2, 1)
plotmat(t(m_P_diag), t(layout.fig), self.cex = 0.5, curve = 0, arr.pos = 0.8,
        latex = T, arr.type = "curved", relsize = 0.85, box.prop = 0.8,
        cex = 0.8, box.cex = 0.7, lwd = 1)

```

04 Define and initialize matrices and vectors

04.1 Cohort trace

```

# create the cohort trace
m_M <- m_M_trt <- matrix(NA,
                        nrow = n_t + 1, # create Markov trace (n.t + 1 because R doesn't
                                         # understand Cycle 0)
                        ncol = n_states,
                        dimnames = list(0:n_t, v_n))

m_M[1, ] <- m_M_trt[1, ] <- v_init      # initialize first cycle of Markov trace

```

04.2 Transition probability matrix

```

# create the transition probability matrices
m_P <- m_P_trt <- matrix(0,
                        nrow = n_states, ncol = n_states,
                        dimnames = list(v_n, v_n)) # name the columns and rows of the transition
                                                    # probability matrices

m_P

```

Fill in the transition probability matrix:

```

# from Healthy
m_P["Healthy", "Healthy"] <- (1 - p_HD) * (1 - p_HS)
m_P["Healthy", "Sick"] <- (1 - p_HD) * p_HS
m_P["Healthy", "Dead"] <- p_HD

# from Sick
m_P["Sick", "Sick"] <- 1 - p_SD
m_P["Sick", "Dead"] <- p_SD

# from Dead
m_P["Dead", "Dead"] <- 1

# Under treatment
m_P_trt <- m_P
m_P_trt["Healthy", "Healthy"] <- (1 - p_HD) * (1 - p_HS_trt)
m_P_trt["Healthy", "Sick"] <- (1 - p_HD) * p_HS_trt

# Check that transition probabilities are in [0, 1]
check_transition_probability(m_P, verbose = TRUE)
check_transition_probability(m_P_trt, verbose = TRUE)
# Check that all rows sum to 1
check_sum_of_transition_array(m_P, n_states = n_states, n_cycles = n_t, verbose = TRUE)
check_transition_probability(m_P_trt, verbose = TRUE)

```

05 Run Markov model

```

for (t in 1:n_t){
  m_M[t + 1, ] <- m_M[t, ] %*% m_P # loop through the number of cycles # estimate the state vector for the next cycle (t + 1)
  m_M_trt[t + 1, ] <- m_M_trt[t, ] %*% m_P_trt # for treatment
}

```

06 Compute and Plot Epidemiological Outcomes

06.1 Cohort trace

Standard of Care:

```

matplot(m_M, type = 'l',
        ylab = "Probability of state occupancy",
        xlab = "Cycle",
        main = "Cohort Trace - standard of care", lwd = 3) # create a plot of the data
legend("right", v_n, col = c("black", "red", "green"),
      lty = 1:3, bty = "n") # add a legend to the graph

abline(v = which.max(m_M[, "Sick"]), col = "gray") # plot a vertical line that helps identifying

```

Treatment:

```

matplot(m_M_trt, type = 'l',
        ylab = "Probability of state occupancy",
        xlab = "Cycle",
        main = "Cohort Trace - treatment", lwd = 3)      # create a plot of the data
legend("right", v_n, col = c("black", "red", "green"),
       lty = 1:3, bty = "n")                            # add a legend to the graph

abline(v = which.max(m_M[, "Sick"]), col = "gray")      # plot a vertical line that helps identifying a

```

06.2 Overall Survival (OS)

Standard of Care:

```

v_os <- 1 - m_M[, "Dead"]      # calculate the overall survival (OS) probability
v_os <- rowSums(m_M[, 1:2])    # alternative way of calculating the OS probability

plot(v_os, type = 'l',
     ylim = c(0, 1),
     ylab = "Survival probability",
     xlab = "Cycle",
     main = "Overall Survival") # create a simple plot showing the OS

# add grid
grid(nx = n_t, ny = 10, col = "lightgray", lty = "dotted", lwd = par("lwd"),
     equilogs = TRUE)

```

Treatment:

```

v_os_trt <- 1 - m_M_trt[, "Dead"]      # calculate the overall survival (OS) probability
v_os_trt <- rowSums(m_M_trt[, 1:2])    # alternative way of calculating the OS probability

plot(v_os_trt, type = 'l',
     ylim = c(0, 1),
     ylab = "Survival probability",
     xlab = "Cycle",
     main = "Overall Survival") # create a simple plot showing the OS

# add grid
grid(nx = n_t, ny = 10, col = "lightgray", lty = "dotted", lwd = par("lwd"),
     equilogs = TRUE)

```

06.2.1 Life Expectancy (LE)

```

v_le      <- sum(v_os)      # summing probability of OS over time (i.e. life expectancy)
v_le_trt  <- sum(v_os_trt)  # summing probability of OS over time (i.e. life expectancy), treatment

```

06.3 Disease prevalence

Standard of Care:

```
v_prev <- m_M[, "Sick"]/v_os
plot(v_prev,
     ylim = c(0, 1),
     ylab = "Prevalence",
     xlab = "Cycle",
     main = "Disease prevalence")
```

Treatment:

```
v_prev_trt <- m_M_trt[, "Sick"]/v_os_trt
plot(v_prev_trt,
     ylim = c(0, 1),
     ylab = "Prevalence",
     xlab = "Cycle",
     main = "Disease prevalence")
```

07 Compute Cost-Effectiveness Outcomes

07.1 Mean Costs and QALYs

```
# per cycle
# calculate expected costs by multiplying m_M with the cost vector for the different
# health states
v_tc      <- m_M      %*% c(c_H, c_S, c_D)      # Standard of Care
v_tc_trt  <- m_M_trt %*% c(c_H, c_S + c_trt, c_D) # Treatment
# calculate expected QALYs by multiplying m_M with the utilities for the different
# health states
v_tu      <- m_M      %*% c(u_H, u_S, u_D)      # Standard of Care
v_tu_trt  <- m_M_trt %*% c(u_H, u_S, u_D)      # Treatment
```

07.2 Discounted Mean Costs and QALYs

```
# Discount costs by multiplying the cost vector with discount weights
tc_d      <- t(v_tc)      %*% v_dwc      # Standard of Care
tc_d_trt  <- t(v_tc_trt) %*% v_dwc      # Treatment
# Discount QALYs by multiplying the QALYs vector with discount weights
tu_d      <- t(v_tu)      %*% v_dwe      # Standard of Care
tu_d_trt  <- t(v_tu_trt) %*% v_dwe      # Treatment

# store them into a vector
v_tc_d    <- c(tc_d, tc_d_trt)
v_tu_d    <- c(tu_d, tu_d_trt)

# Dataframe with discounted costs and effectiveness
df_ce     <- data.frame(Strategy = v_names_str,
                        Cost      = v_tc_d,
                        Effect    = v_tu_d
                        )

df_ce
```

07.3 Compute ICERs of the Markov model

```
df_cea <- calculate_icers(cost      = df_ce$Cost,
                          effect    = df_ce$Effect,
                          strategies = df_ce$Strategy
                          )
df_cea
```

07.4 Plot frontier of the Markov model

```
plot(df_cea, effect_units = "QALYs", xlim = c(10, 12))
```

08 Deterministic Sensitivity Analysis

08.1 List of input parameters

Create list `l_params_all` with all input probabilities, cost and utilities.

```
l_params_all <- as.list(data.frame(
  p_HD      = 0.02, # probability of dying when healthy
  p_HS      = 0.05, # probability of becoming sick when healthy, conditioned on not dying
  p_HS_trt  = 0.03, # probability of becoming sick when healthy, conditioned on not dying
  p_SD      = 0.1,  # probability of dying when sick
  c_H       = 400,  # cost of one cycle in healthy state
  c_S       = 1000, # cost of one cycle in sick state
  c_D       = 0,    # cost of one cycle in dead state
  c_trt     = 800,  # cost of treatment (per cycle)
  u_H       = 0.8,  # utility when healthy
  u_S       = 0.5,  # utility when sick
  u_D       = 0,    # utility when dead
  d_e       = 0.03, # discount factor for effectiveness
  d_c       = 0.03  # discount factor for costs
))

# store the parameter names into a vector
v_names_params <- names(l_params_all)
```

08.2 Load Sick-Sicker Markov model function

```
source("Functions_markov_3state.R")
# Test function
calculate_ce_out(l_params_all)
```

08.3 One-way sensitivity analysis (OWSA)

```
options(scipen = 999) # disabling scientific notation in R
# dataframe containing all parameters, their base case values, and the min and
# max values of the parameters of interest
df_params_owsa <- data.frame(pars = c("c_trt", "c_S", "u_H"),
                             min = c(300, 500, 0.7), # min parameter values
                             max = c(1200, 2000, 0.9) # max parameter values
                             )

owsa_nmb <- run_owsa_det(params_range = df_params_owsa, # dataframe with parameters for OWSA
                        params_basecase = l_params_all, # list with all parameters
                        nsamp = 100, # number of parameter values
                        FUN = calculate_ce_out, # function to compute outputs
                        outcomes = c("NMB"), # output to do the OWSA on
                        strategies = v_names_str, # names of the strategies
                        n_wtp = 2000) # extra argument to pass to FUN
```

08.3.1 Plot OWSA

```
plot(owsa_nmb, txtsize = 10, n_x_ticks = 4,
     facet_scales = "free") +
  theme(legend.position = "bottom")
```

08.3.2 Optimal strategy with OWSA

Only useful if we have more than one strategies to compare.

```
owsa_opt_strat(owsa = owsa_nmb, txtsize = 10)
```

08.3.3 Tornado plot

```
owsa_tornado(owsa = owsa_nmb, txtsize = 11)
```

08.4 Two-way sensitivity analysis (TWSA)

```
# dataframe containing all parameters, their basecase values, and the min and
# max values of the parameters of interest
df_params_twsa <- data.frame(pars = c("c_trt", "u_H"),
                             min = c(300, 0.7), # min parameter values
                             max = c(1200, 0.9) # max parameter values
                             )

twsa_nmb <- run_twsa_det(params_range = df_params_twsa, # dataframe with parameters for TWSA
                        params_basecase = l_params_all, # list with all parameters
```



```

nsamp      = 40,           # number of parameter values
FUN        = calculate_ce_out, # function to compute outputs
outcomes   = "NMB",       # output to do the TWSA on
strategies = v_names_str,  # names of the strategies
n_wtp      = 2000)        # extra argument to pass to FUN

```

08.4.1 Plot TWSA

Only useful if we have more than one strategies to compare.

```
plot(twsa_nmb)
```

09 Probabilistic Sensitivity Analysis (PSA)

```

# Function to generate PSA input dataset
gen_psa <- function(n_sim = 1000, seed = 071818){
  set.seed(seed) # set a seed to be able to reproduce the same results
  df_psa <- data.frame(
    # Transition probabilities (per cycle)
    # probability to become sick when healthy
    p_HS = rbeta(n_sim, shape1 = 24, shape2 = 450),
    p_HS_trt = rbeta(n_sim, shape1 = 9, shape2 = 281), # under treatment
    # probability of dying when healthy
    p_HD = rbeta(n_sim, shape1 = 16, shape2 = 767),
    # probability of dying when sick
    p_SD = rbeta(n_sim, shape1 = 22.4, shape2 = 201.6),

    # Cost vectors with length n_sim
    # cost of remaining one cycle in state H
    c_H = rgamma(n_sim, shape = 16, scale = 25),
    # cost of remaining one cycle in state S1
    c_S = rgamma(n_sim, shape = 100, scale = 10),
    # cost of being in the death state
    c_D = 0,
    # cost of treatment (per cycle)
    c_trt = rgamma(n_sim, shape = 64, scale = 12.5),

    # Utility vectors with length n_sim
    # utility when healthy
    u_H = rbeta(n_sim, shape1 = 50.4, shape2 = 12.6),
    # utility when sick
    u_S = rbeta(n_sim, shape1 = 49.5, shape2 = 49.5),
    # utility when dead
    u_D = 0
  )
  return(df_psa)
}
# Try it
gen_psa(10)

```

```

# Number of simulations
n_sim <- 1000

# Generate PSA input dataset
df_psa_input <- gen_psa(n_sim = n_sim)
# First six observations
head(df_psa_input)

# Histogram of parameters
ggplot(melt(df_psa_input, variable.name = "Parameter"), aes(x = value)) +
  facet_wrap(~Parameter, scales = "free") +
  geom_histogram(aes(y = ..density..)) +
  theme_bw(base_size = 16) +
  theme(axis.text = element_text(size=8))

# Initialize dataframes with PSA output
# Dataframe of costs
df_c <- as.data.frame(matrix(0,
                             nrow = n_sim,
                             ncol = n_str))
colnames(df_c) <- v_names_str
# Dataframe of effectiveness
df_e <- as.data.frame(matrix(0,
                             nrow = n_sim,
                             ncol = n_str))
colnames(df_e) <- v_names_str

```

09.1 Conduct probabilistic sensitivity analysis

```

# Run Markov model on each parameter set of PSA input dataset
for(i in 1:n_sim){
  l_out_temp <- calculate_ce_out(df_psa_input[i, ])
  df_c[i, ] <- l_out_temp$Cost
  df_e[i, ] <- l_out_temp$Effect
  # Display simulation progress
  if(i/(n_sim/10) == round(i/(n_sim/10), 0)) { # display progress every 10%
    cat('\r', paste(i/n_sim * 100, "% done", sep = " "))
  }
}

```

09.2 Create PSA object for dampack

```

l_psa <- make_psa_obj(cost      = df_c,
                     effectiveness = df_e,
                     parameters  = df_psa_input,
                     strategies  = v_names_str)

```

09.2.1 Save PSA objects

```
save(df_psa_input, df_c, df_e, v_names_str, n_str, l_psa,  
     file = "markov_3state_PSA_dataset.RData")
```

Vector with willingness-to-pay (WTP) thresholds.

```
v_wtp <- seq(0, 5000, by = 1000)
```

09.3.1 Cost-Effectiveness Scatter plot

```
plot(l_psa)
```

09.4 Conduct CEA with probabilistic output

```
# Compute expected costs and effects for each strategy from the PSA  
df_out_ce_psa <- summary(l_psa)  
  
# Calculate incremental cost-effectiveness ratios (ICERs)  
df_cea_psa <- calculate_icers(cost      = df_out_ce_psa$meanCost,  
                             effect    = df_out_ce_psa$meanEffect,  
                             strategies = df_out_ce_psa$Strategy)  
  
df_cea_psa  
  
# Save CEA table with ICERs  
# As .RData  
save(df_cea_psa,  
     file = "markov_3state_probabilistic_CEA_results.RData")  
# As .csv  
write.csv(df_cea_psa,  
          file = "markov_3state_probabilistic_CEA_results.csv")
```

09.4.1 Plot cost-effectiveness frontier

```
plot(df_cea_psa)
```

09.4.2 Cost-effectiveness acceptability curves (CEACs) and frontier (CEAF)

```
ceac_obj <- ceac(wtp = v_wtp, psa = l_psa)  
# Regions of highest probability of cost-effectiveness for each strategy  
summary(ceac_obj)  
# CEAC & CEAF plot  
plot(ceac_obj)
```

09.4.3 Expected Loss Curves (ELCs)

The expected loss is the the quantification of the foregone benefits when choosing a suboptimal strategy given current evidence.

```
elc_obj <- calc_exp_loss(wtp = v_wtp, psa = l_psa)
elc_obj
# ELC plot
plot(elc_obj, log_y = FALSE)
```

09.4.4 Expected value of perfect information (EVPI)

```
evpi <- calc_evpi(wtp = v_wtp, psa = l_psa)
# EVPI plot
plot(evpi, effect_units = "QALY")
```