

Joint Modelling of Longitudinal and Survival Data: Tools to Evaluate Exposures and Predict Outcome Across the Lifespan

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What is this Course About

- Often in follow-up studies different types of outcomes are collected
- **Explicit** outcomes
 - ▷ multiple longitudinal responses (e.g., biomarkers, blood values)
 - ▷ time-to-event(s) of particular interest (e.g., death, treatment)

What is this Course About (cont'd)

- Methods for the separate analysis of such outcomes are well established in the literature
- **Longitudinal data:**
 - ▷ mixed effects models, GEE, ...
- **Survival data:**
 - ▷ Cox model, accelerated failure time models, ...

What is this Course About (cont'd)

Purpose of this workshop is to present the state of the art in

**Joint Modeling Framework
for Longitudinal and Survival Data**

Learning Objectives

- **Goals:** After this workshop participants will be able to
 - ▷ identify settings in which a joint modeling approach is required,
 - ▷ construct and fit an appropriate joint model, and
 - ▷ correctly interpret the obtained results
- The workshop will be explanatory rather than mathematically rigorous
 - ▷ emphasis is given on applications

- **Part I:** Introduction

- ▷ Data sets that we will use throughout the course
- ▷ Categorization of possible research questions

- **Part II:** (brief) Review of Linear Mixed Models

- ▷ Features of repeated measurements data
- ▷ Linear mixed models

Agenda (cont'd)

- **Part III:** (brief) Review of Relative Risk Models

- ▷ Features of survival data
- ▷ Relative risk models
- ▷ Time-dependent covariates

- **Part IV:** The Basic Joint Model

- ▷ Definition
- ▷ Estimation & Inference

Agenda (cont'd)

- **Part V:** Extensions of the Basic Joint Model

- ▷ Parameterizations
- ▷ Variable selection
- ▷ Time-varying effects

- **Part VI:** Dynamic Predictions

- ▷ Individualized predictions for the survival

Structure of the Course & Material

- Lectures & short software practicals using R package **JMbayes**
- Material (also available in <http://www.github.....>):
 - ▷ Course Notes
 - ▷ R code in soft format

- Joint modeling sources
 - ▷ Rizopoulos, D. (2012). *Joint Models for Longitudinal and Time-to-Event Data, with Applications in R*. Boca Raton: Chapman & Hall/CRC.
 - ▷ Fitzmaurice, G., Davidian, M., Verbeke, G. and Molenberghs, G. (2009). *Longitudinal Data Analysis*. Handbooks of Modern Statistical Methods. Boca Raton: Chapman & Hall/CRC, Chapter 15.
 - ▷ Wu, L. (2009). *Mixed Effects Models for Complex Data*. Boca Raton: Chapman & Hall/CRC, Chapter 8.
 - ▷ Ibrahim, J., Chen, M.-H. and Sinha, D. (2001). *Bayesian Survival Analysis*. New York: Springer-Verlag, Chapter 7.

References (cont'd)

- Useful material for package **JMbayes**
 - ▷ a paper describing the current capabilities of the package is available on JSS
<http://dx.doi.org/10.18637/jss.v072.i07>

References (cont'd)

- Standard texts in **longitudinal** data analysis
 - ▷ Verbeke, G. and Molenberghs, G. (2000). *Linear Mixed Models for Longitudinal Data*. New York: Springer-Verlag.
 - ▷ Molenberghs, G. and Verbeke, G. (2005). *Models for Discrete Longitudinal Data*. New York: Springer-Verlag.
 - ▷ Fitzmaurice, G., Laird, N., and Ware, J. (2004). *Applied Longitudinal Analysis*. Hoboken: Wiley.
 - ▷ Diggle, P., Heagerty, P., Liang, K.-Y., and Zeger, S. (2002). *Analysis of Longitudinal Data*, 2nd edition. New York: Oxford University Press.

References (cont'd)

- Standard texts in **survival** analysis
 - ▷ Kalbfleisch, J. and Prentice, R. (2002). *The Statistical Analysis of Failure Time Data, 2nd Ed.*. New York: Wiley.
 - ▷ Therneau, T. and Grambsch, P. (2000). *Modeling Survival Data: Extending the Cox Model*. New York: Springer-Verlag.
 - ▷ Cox, D. and Oakes, D. (1984). *Analysis of Survival Data*. London: Chapman & Hall.
 - ▷ Andersen, P., Borgan, O., Gill, R. and Keiding, N. (1993). *Statistical Models Based on Counting Processes*. New York: Springer-Verlag.
 - ▷ Klein, J. and Moeschberger, M. (2003). *Survival Analysis - Techniques for Censored and Truncated Data*. New York: Springer-Verlag.

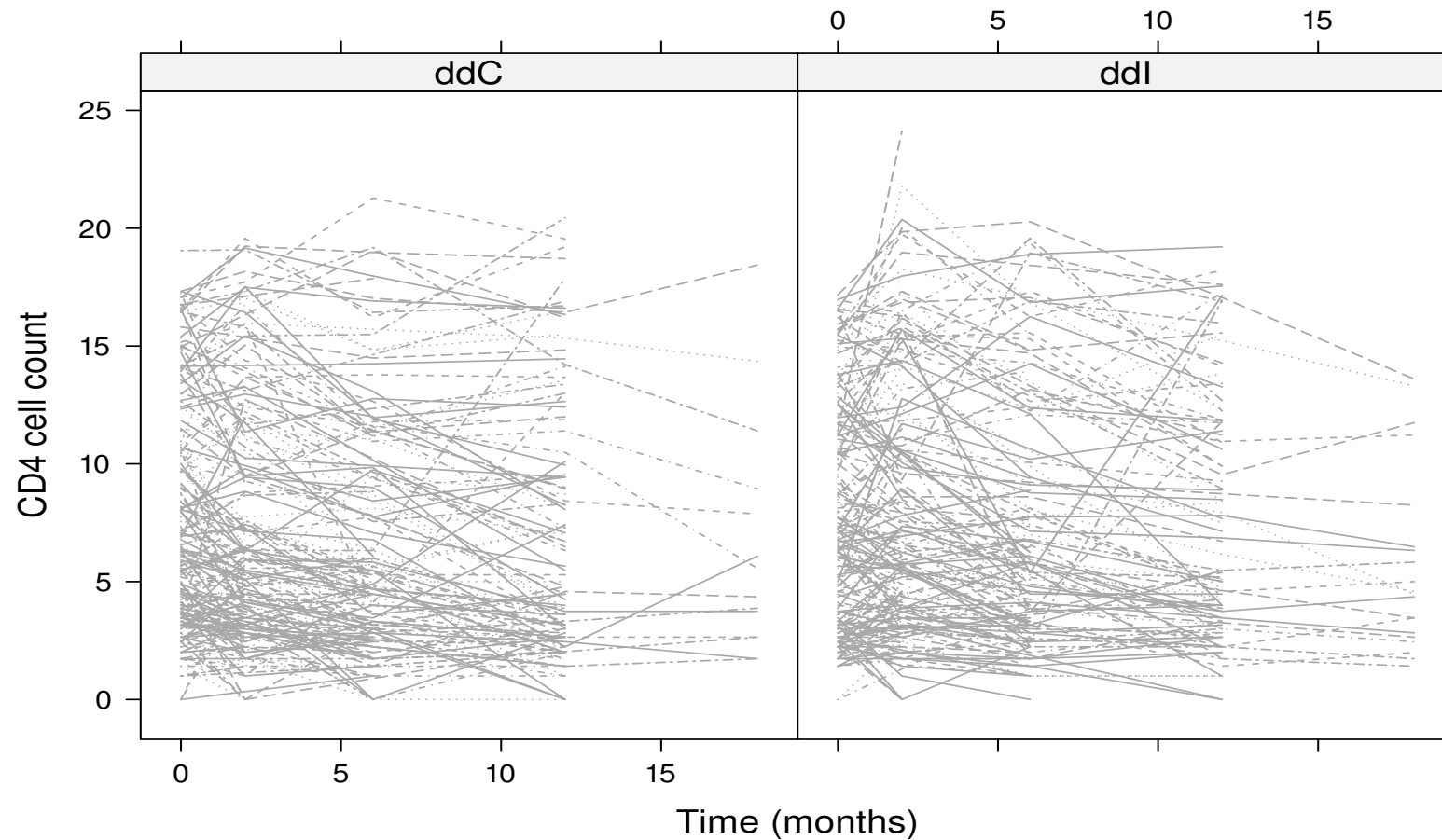
Chapter 1

Introduction

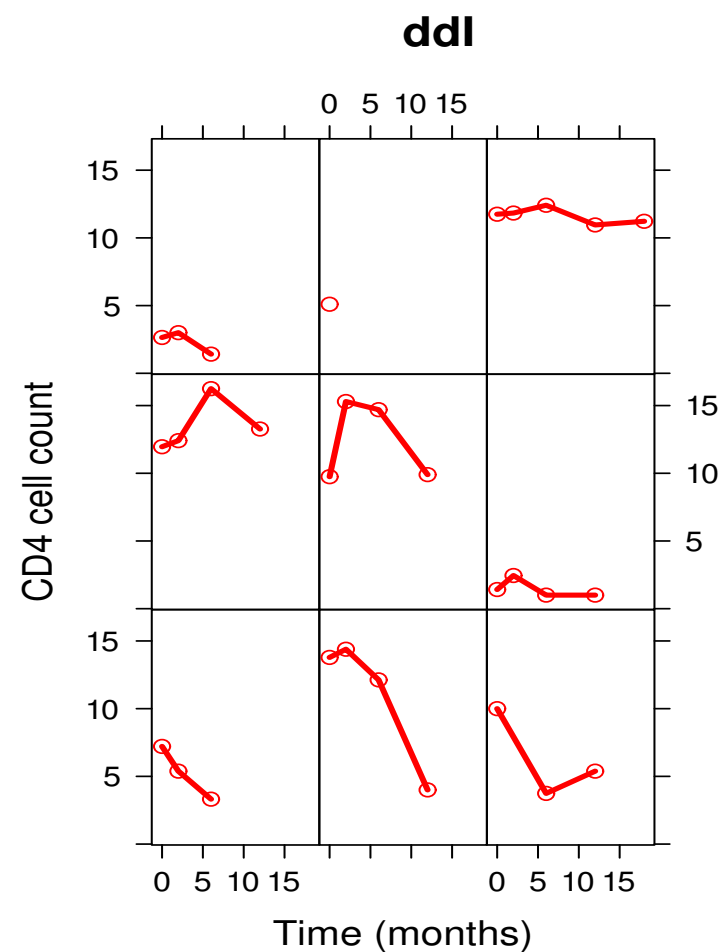
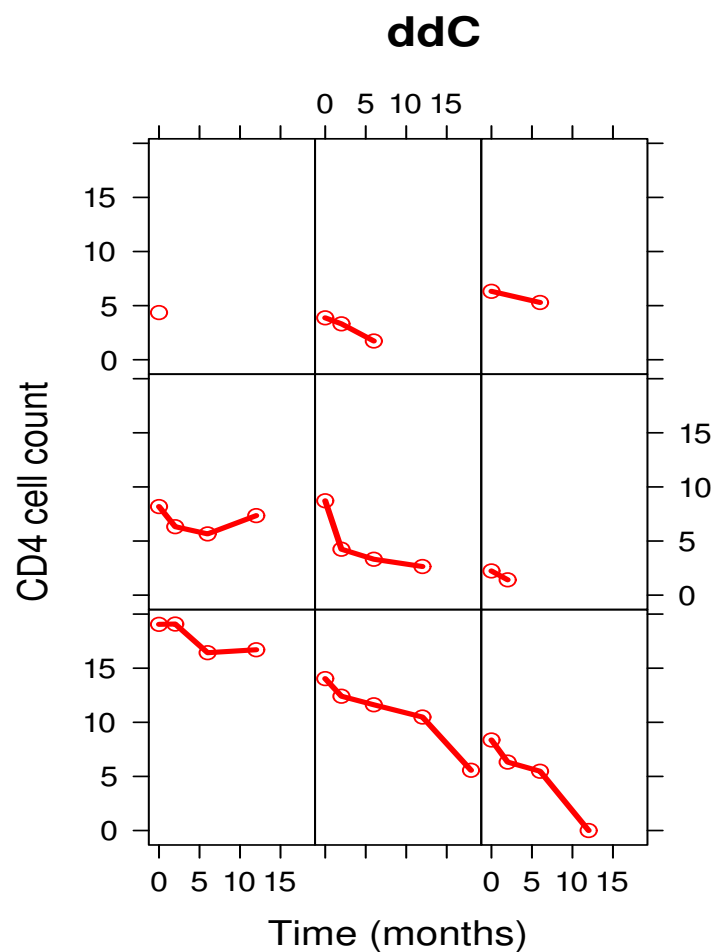
1.1 Motivating Studies

- **AIDS:** 467 HIV infected patients who had failed or were intolerant to zidovudine therapy (AZT) (Abrams et al., NEJM, 1994)
- The aim of this study was to compare the efficacy and safety of two alternative antiretroviral drugs, didanosine (ddI) and zalcitabine (ddC)
 - ▷ Randomized treatment: 230 patients ddI and 237 ddC
- Outcomes of interest:
 - ▷ **time-to-death**
 - ▷ **CD4 cell count** at baseline, 2, 6, 12 and 18 months

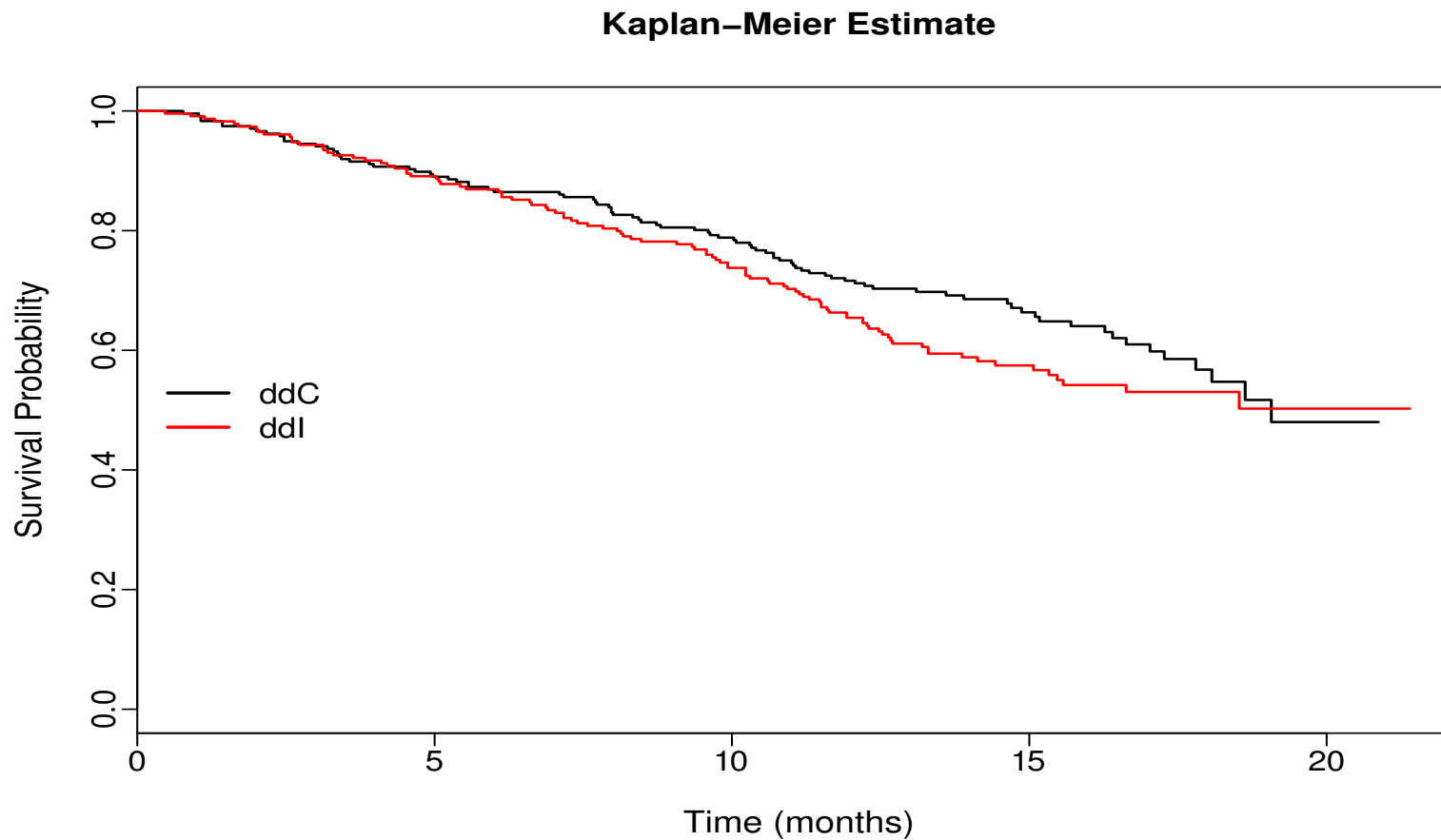
1.1 Motivating Studies (cont'd)



1.1 Motivating Studies (cont'd)



1.1 Motivating Studies (cont'd)



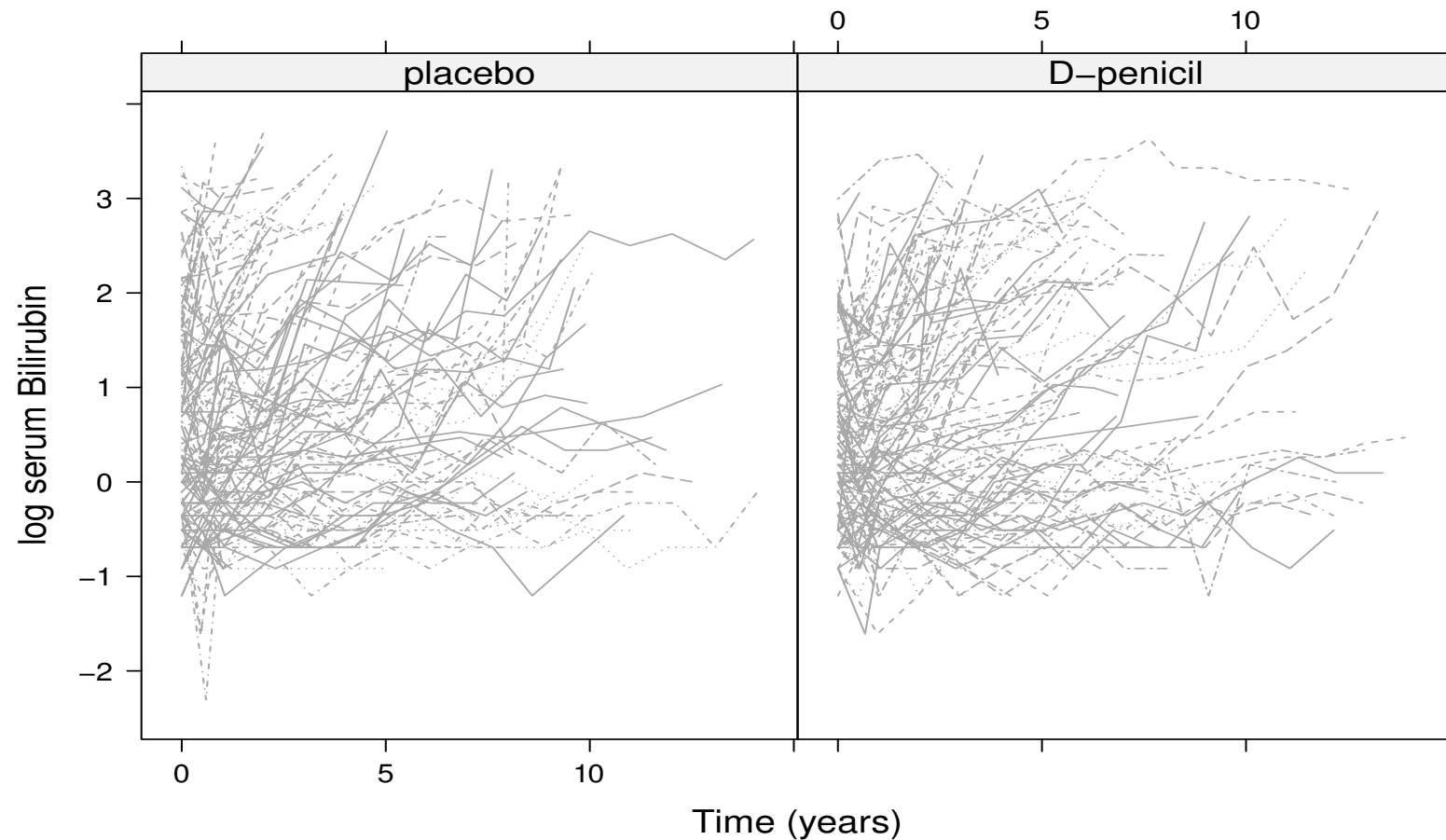
1.1 Motivating Studies (cont'd)

- Research Questions:
 - ▷ How strong is the association between CD4 cell count and the risk of death?
 - ▷ Is CD4 cell count a good biomarker?
 - * if treatment improves CD4 cell count, does it also improve survival?

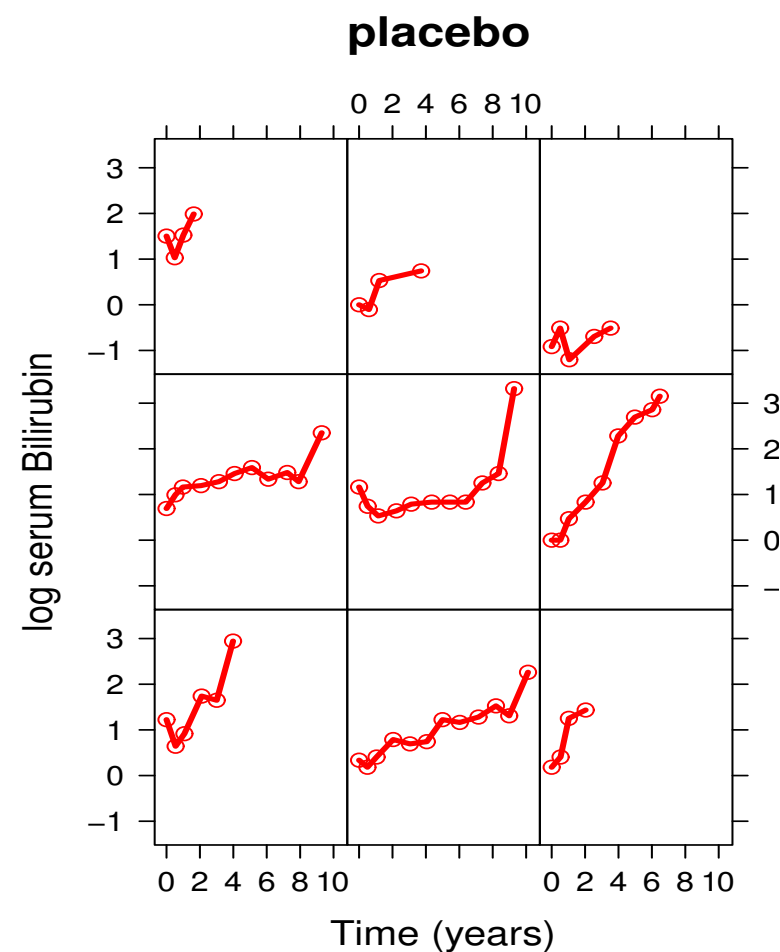
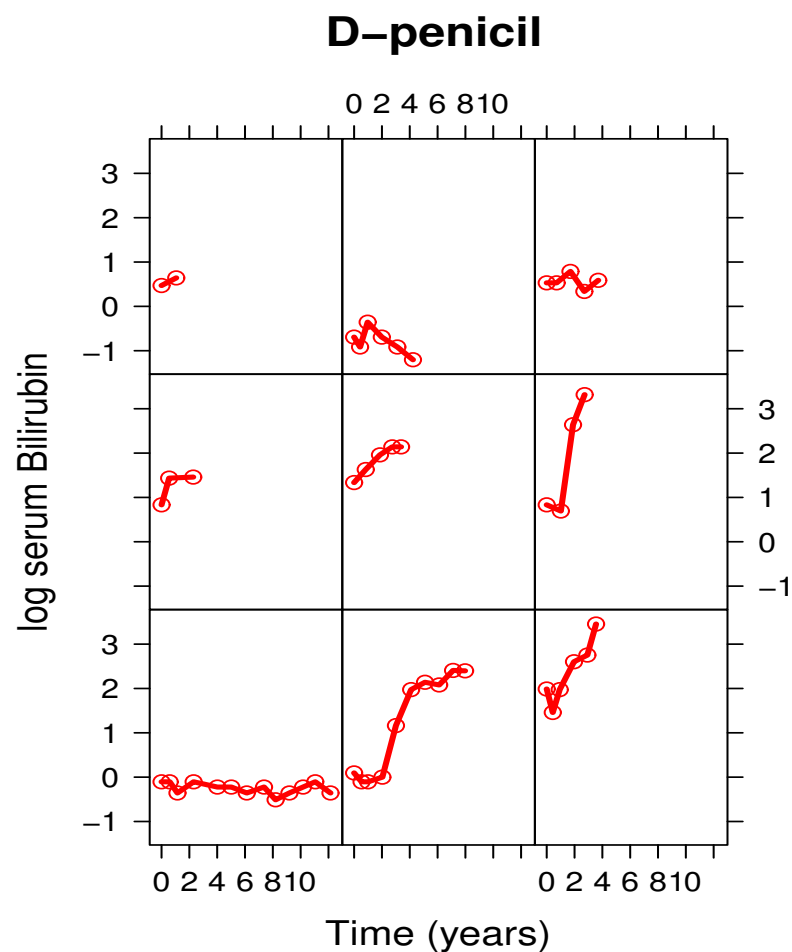
1.1 Motivating Studies (cont'd)

- **PBC:** 312 patients with Primary Biliary Cirrhosis which is a chronic, fatal but rare liver disease
- Data collected by Mayo Clinic from 1974 to 1984 (Murtaugh et al., Hepatology, 1994)
 - ▷ Randomized treatment: 158 patients received D-penicillamine and 154 placebo
- Outcomes of interest:
 - ▷ **time-to-death** and/or **time-to-liver transplantation**
 - ▷ **longitudinal serum bilirubin levels**
 - ▷ **longitudinal serum cholesterol levels**

1.1 Motivating Studies (cont'd)

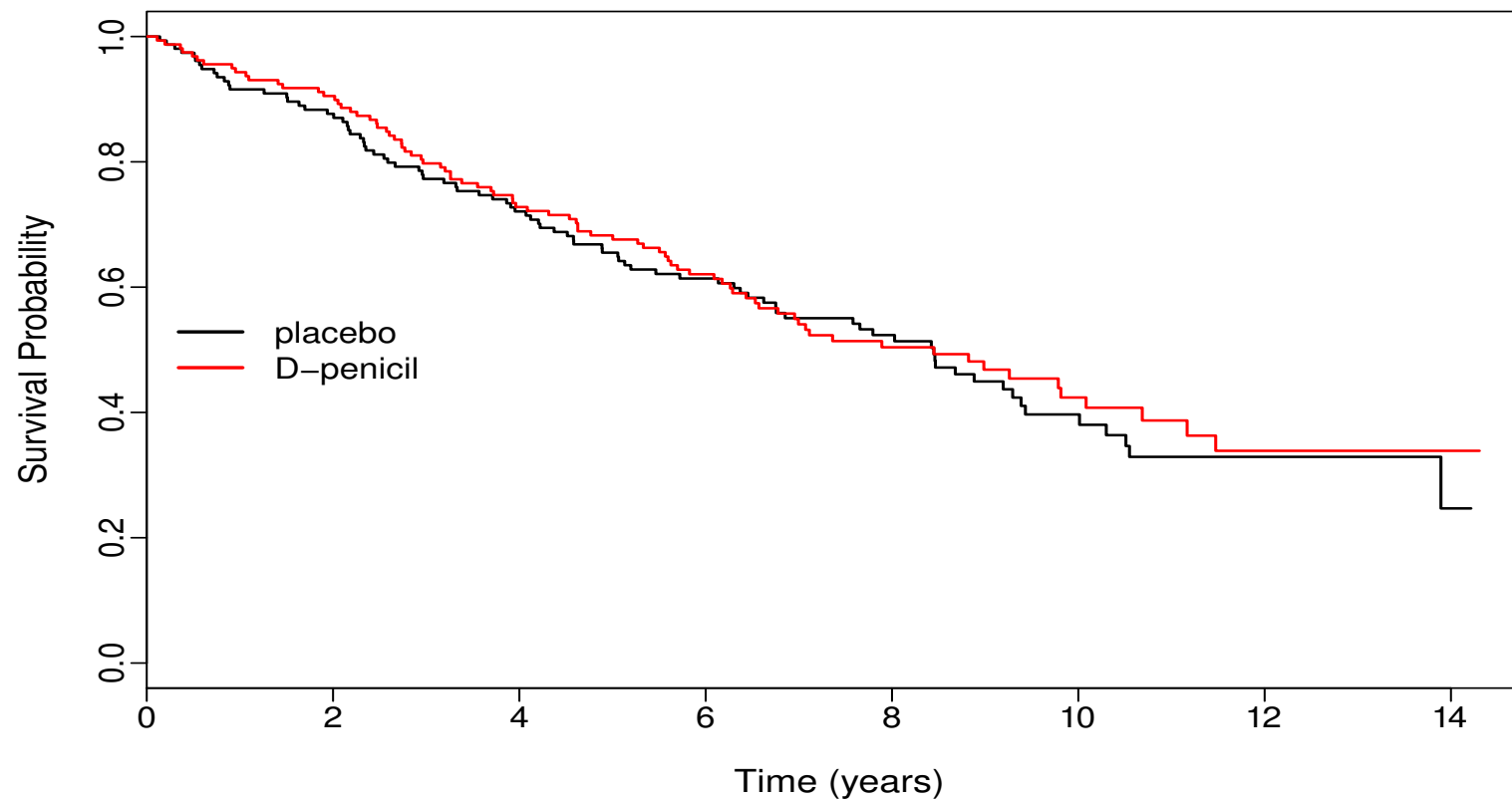


1.1 Motivating Studies (cont'd)



1.1 Motivating Studies (cont'd)

Kaplan–Meier Estimate



1.1 Motivating Studies (cont'd)

- Research Questions:
 - ▷ How strong is the association between bilirubin and cholesterol with the risk of death?
 - ▷ How could be utilized the observed serum bilirubin levels to provide predictions of survival probabilities?
 - ▷ Can bilirubin and cholesterol discriminate between patients of low and high risk?

1.2 Research Questions

- Depending on the questions of interest, different types of statistical analysis are required
- We will distinguish between two general types of analysis
 - ▷ separate analysis per outcome
 - ▷ joint analysis of outcomes
- Focus on each outcome separately
 - ▷ does treatment affect survival?
 - ▷ are the average longitudinal evolutions different between the two treatments or between males and females?

1.2 Research Questions (cont'd)

- Focus on multiple outcomes
 - ▷ How strong is the association between the longitudinal evolution of the biomarkers and the hazard rate of death?
 - ▷ Association structures:
 - * which feature of the biomarker(s) is associated with the hazard of death?
 - * how marker-specific evolutions are related to each other
 - ▷ Prediction: can we improve prediction for the time to death by considering all available information simultaneously?

1.3 Recent Developments

- Up to now emphasis has been
 - ▷ *restricted* or *coerced* to separate analysis per outcome
 - ▷ or given to naive types of joint analysis (e.g., last observation carried forward, mean or slope of the repeated covariate, ...)
- Main reasons
 - ▷ lack of appropriate statistical methodology
 - ▷ lack of efficient computational approaches & software

1.3 Recent Developments (cont'd)

- However, recently there has been an explosion in the statistics and biostatistics literature of joint modeling approaches
- Many different approaches have been proposed that
 - ▷ can handle different types of outcomes
 - ▷ can be utilized in pragmatic computing time
 - ▷ can be rather flexible
 - ▷ **most importantly:** can answer the questions of interest

Chapter 2

Linear Mixed-Effects Models

2.1 Features of Longitudinal Data

- Repeated evaluations of the same outcome in each subject over time
 - ▷ CD4 cell count in HIV-infected patients
 - ▷ serum bilirubin and cholesterol in PBC patients
- Longitudinal studies allow to investigate
 1. how treatment means differ at specific time points, e.g., at the end of the study (*cross-sectional effect*)
 2. how treatment means or differences between means of treatments change over time (*longitudinal effect*)

2.1 Features of Longitudinal Data (cont'd)

Measurements on the same subject are expected to be (positively) correlated

- This implies that standard statistical tools, such as the t -test and simple linear regression that assume independent observations, are not optimal for longitudinal data analysis.

2.2 The Linear Mixed Model

- The direct approach to model correlated data \Rightarrow *linear regression*

$$y_i = X_i\beta + \varepsilon_i, \quad \varepsilon_i \sim \mathcal{N}(0, V_i),$$

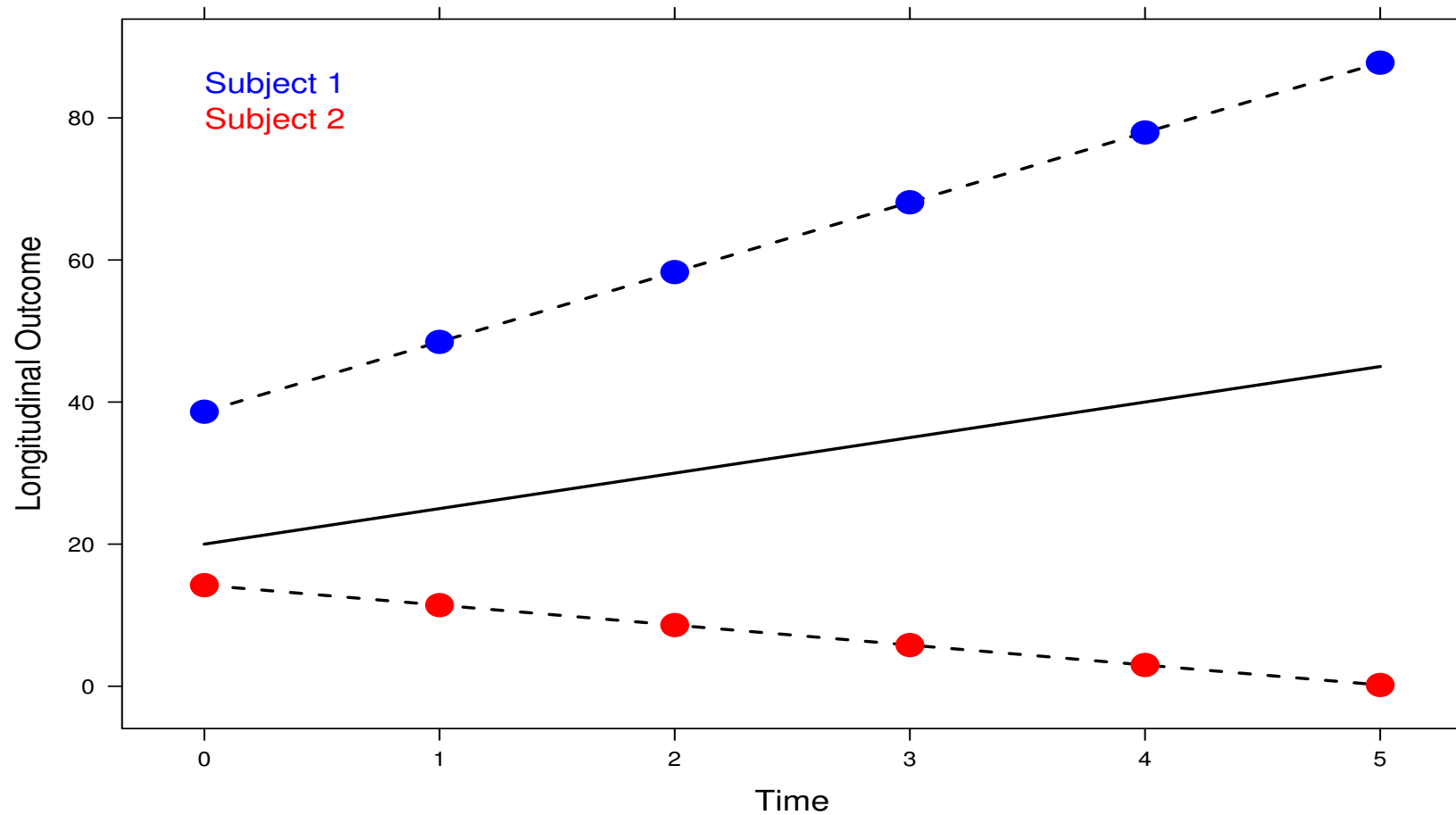
where

- ▷ y_i the vector of responses for the i th subject
 - ▷ X_i design matrix describing structural component
 - ▷ V_i covariance matrix describing the correlation structure
- There are several options for modeling V_i , e.g., compound symmetry, autoregressive process, exponential spatial correlation, Gaussian spatial correlation, ...

2.2 The Linear Mixed Model (cont'd)

- **Alternative intuitive approach:** Each subject in the population has her own subject-specific mean response profile over time

2.2 The Linear Mixed Model (cont'd)



2.2 The Linear Mixed Model (cont'd)

- The evolution of each subject over time can be described by a linear model

$$y_{ij} = \tilde{\beta}_{i0} + \tilde{\beta}_{i1}t_{ij} + \varepsilon_{ij}, \quad \varepsilon_{ij} \sim \mathcal{N}(0, \sigma^2),$$

where

- ▷ y_{ij} the j th response of the i th subject
- ▷ $\tilde{\beta}_{i0}$ is the intercept and $\tilde{\beta}_{i1}$ the slope for subject i

2.2 The Linear Mixed Model (cont'd)

- We can reformulate the model as

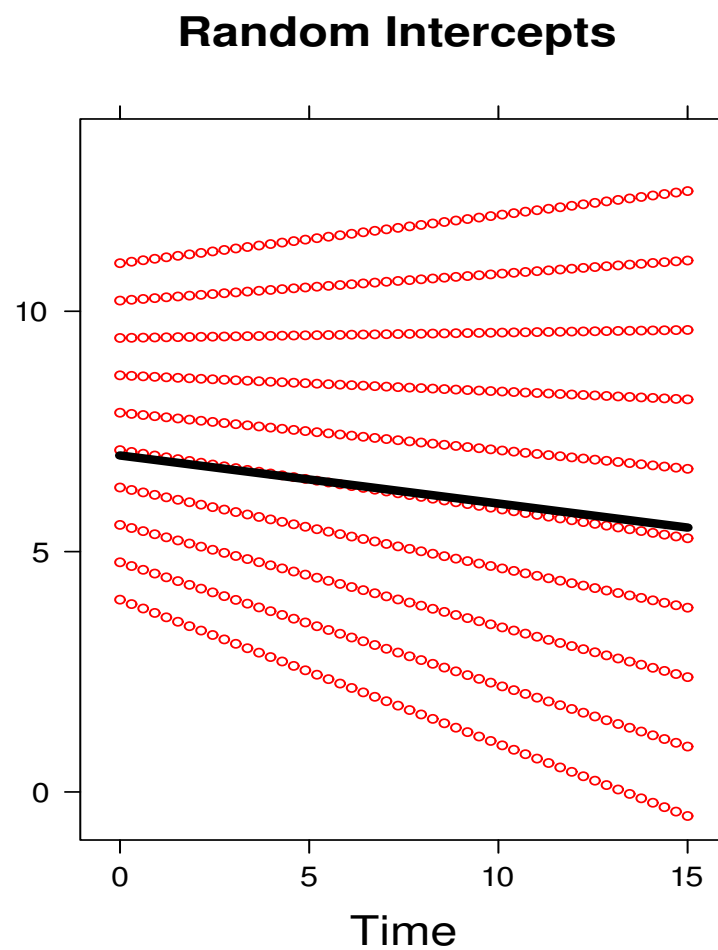
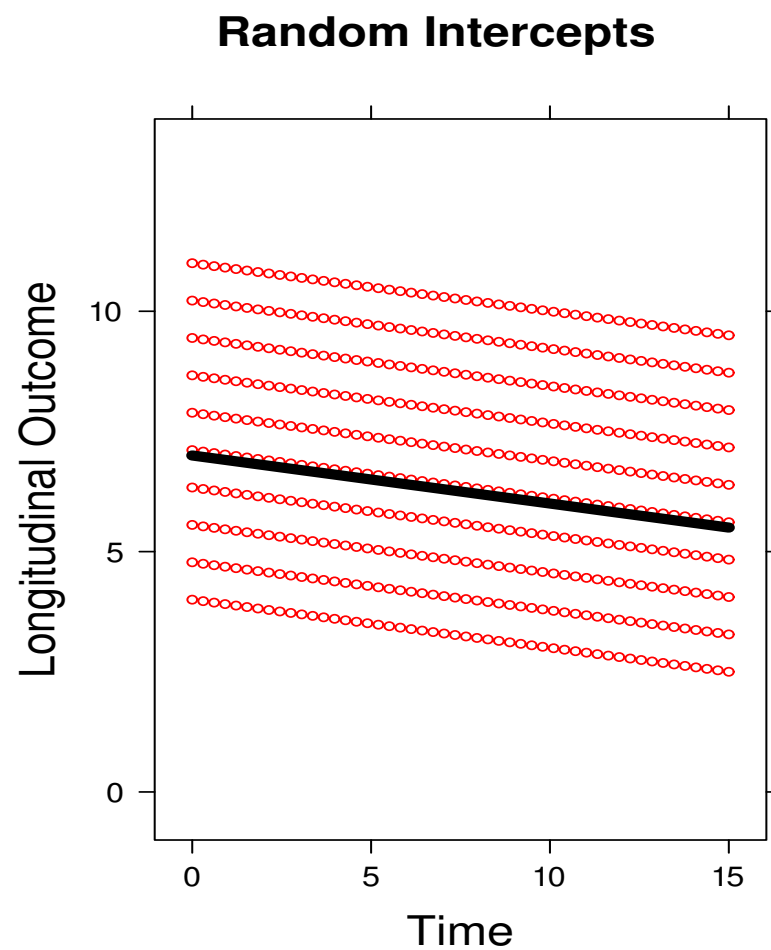
$$y_{ij} = (\beta_0 + b_{i0}) + (\beta_1 + b_{i1})t_{ij} + \varepsilon_{ij},$$

where

- ▷ β s are known as the *fixed effects*
 - ▷ b_i s are known as the *random effects*
- In accordance for the random effects we assume

$$b_i = \begin{bmatrix} b_{i0} \\ b_{i1} \end{bmatrix} \sim \mathcal{N}(0, D)$$

2.2 The Linear Mixed Model (cont'd)



2.2 The Linear Mixed Model (cont'd)

- Put in a general form

$$\begin{cases} y_i = X_i\beta + Z_ib_i + \varepsilon_i, \\ b_i \sim \mathcal{N}(0, D), \quad \varepsilon_i \sim \mathcal{N}(0, \sigma^2 I_{n_i}), \end{cases}$$

with

- ▷ X design matrix for the fixed effects β
- ▷ Z design matrix for the random effects b_i
- ▷ $b_i \perp\!\!\!\perp \varepsilon_i$

2.2 The Linear Mixed Model (cont'd)

- Interpretation:
 - ▷ β_j denotes the change in the average y_i when x_j is increased by one unit
 - ▷ b_i are interpreted in terms of how a subset of the regression parameters for the i th subject deviates from those in the population
- Advantageous feature: population + subject-specific predictions
 - ▷ β describes mean response changes in the population
 - ▷ $\beta + b_i$ describes individual response trajectories

2.2 The Linear Mixed Model (cont'd)

- Estimation \rightarrow maximum likelihood (MLE)
- The log-likelihood of a linear mixed model takes the form

$$\ell(\theta) = \sum_{i=1}^n \log \int p(y_i | b_i; \theta_y) p(b_i; \theta_b) db_i,$$

where $p(\cdot)$ the density function

2.2 The Linear Mixed Model (cont'd)

- Example: We fit a linear mixed model for the AIDS dataset assuming
 - ▷ different average longitudinal evolutions per treatment group (**fixed part**)
 - ▷ random intercepts & random slopes (**random part**)

$$\left\{ \begin{array}{l} y_{ij} = \beta_0 + \beta_1 t_{ij} + \beta_2 \{\text{ddI}_i \times t_{ij}\} + b_{i0} + b_{i1} t_{ij} + \varepsilon_{ij}, \\ b_i \sim \mathcal{N}(0, D), \quad \varepsilon_{ij} \sim \mathcal{N}(0, \sigma^2) \end{array} \right.$$

- Note: We did not include a main effect for treatment due to randomization

2.2 The Linear Mixed Model (cont'd)

	Value	Std.Err.	<i>t</i> -value	<i>p</i> -value
β_0	7.189	0.222	32.359	< 0.001
β_1	-0.163	0.021	-7.855	< 0.001
β_2	0.028	0.030	0.952	0.342

- No evidence of differences in the average longitudinal evolutions between the two treatments

2.3 Mixed-Effects Models in R

R> There are two primary packages in R for mixed models analysis:

▷ Package **nlme**

- * fits linear & nonlinear mixed effects models, and marginal models for normal data
- * allows for both random effects & correlated error terms
- * several options for covariances matrices and variance functions

▷ Package **lme4**

- * fits linear, nonlinear & generalized mixed effects models
- * uses only random effects
- * allows for nested and crossed random-effects designs

2.3 Mixed-Effects Models in R (cont'd)

- R> We will only use package **nlme** because package **JMbayes** accepts as an argument a linear mixed model fitted by **nlme**
- R> The basic function to fit linear mixed models is `lme()` and has three basic arguments
- ▷ `fixed`: a formula specifying the response vector and the fixed-effects structure
 - ▷ `random`: a formula specifying the random-effects structure
 - ▷ `data`: a data frame containing all the variables

2.3 Mixed-Effects Models in R (cont'd)

R> The data frame that contains all variables should be in the *long format*

Subject	y	time	gender	age
1	5.1	0.0	male	45
1	6.3	1.1	male	45
2	5.9	0.1	female	38
2	6.9	0.9	female	38
2	7.1	1.2	female	38
2	7.3	1.5	female	38
⋮	⋮	⋮	⋮	⋮

2.3 Mixed-Effects Models in R (cont'd)

R> Using formulas in R

▷ CD4 = Time + Gender

⇒ `cd4 ~ time + gender`

▷ CD4 = Time + Gender + Time*Gender

⇒ `cd4 ~ time + gender + time:gender`

⇒ `cd4 ~ time*gender` (the same)

▷ CD4 = Time + Time²

⇒ `cd4 ~ time + I(time^2)`

R> Note: the intercept term is included by default

2.3 Mixed-Effects Models in R (cont'd)

R> The code used to fit the linear mixed model for the AIDS dataset (p. 28) is as follows

```
lmeFit <- lme(CD4 ~ obstime + obstime:drug, data = aids,  
             random = ~ obstime | patient)
```

```
summary(lmeFit)
```

2.3 Mixed-Effects Models in R (cont'd)

R> The same fixed-effects structure but only random intercepts

```
lme(CD4 ~ obstime + obstime:drug, data = aids,  
    random = ~ 1 | patient)
```

R> The same fixed-effects structure, random intercepts & random slopes, with a diagonal covariance matrix (using the `pdDiag()` function)

```
lme(CD4 ~ obstime + obstime:drug, data = aids,  
    random = list(patient = pdDiag(form = ~ obstime)))
```

Chapter 3

Relative Risk Models

3.1 Features of Survival Data

- The most important characteristic that distinguishes the analysis of time-to-event outcomes from other areas in statistics is **Censoring**
 - ▷ the event time of interest is not fully observed for all subjects under study
- Implications of censoring:
 - ▷ standard tools, such as the sample average, the t -test, and linear regression **cannot** be used
 - ▷ inferences may be sensitive to misspecification of the distribution of the event times

3.1 Features of Survival Data (cont'd)

- Several types of censoring:
 - ▷ Location of the true event time wrt the censoring time: *right*, *left* & *interval*
 - ▷ Probabilistic relation between the true event time & the censoring time: *informative* & *non-informative*

Here we focus on non-informative right censoring

- Note: Survival times may often be truncated; analysis of truncated samples requires similar calculations as censoring

3.1 Features of Survival Data (cont'd)

- Notation (i denotes the subject)
 - ▷ T_i^* 'true' time-to-event
 - ▷ C_i the censoring time (e.g., the end of the study or a random censoring time)
- Available data for each subject
 - ▷ observed event time: $T_i = \min(T_i^*, C_i)$
 - ▷ event indicator: $\delta_i = 1$ if event; $\delta_i = 0$ if censored

Our aim is to make valid inferences for T_i^* but using only $\{T_i, \delta_i\}$

3.2 Relative Risk Models

- **Relative Risk Models** assume a multiplicative effect of covariates on the hazard scale, i.e.,

$$h_i(t) = h_0(t) \exp(\gamma_1 w_{i1} + \gamma_2 w_{i2} + \dots + \gamma_p w_{ip}) \Rightarrow$$

$$\log h_i(t) = \log h_0(t) + \gamma_1 w_{i1} + \gamma_2 w_{i2} + \dots + \gamma_p w_{ip},$$

where

- ▷ $h_i(t)$ denotes the hazard of an event for patient i at time t
- ▷ $h_0(t)$ denotes the baseline hazard
- ▷ w_{i1}, \dots, w_{ip} a set of covariates

3.2 Relative Risk Models (cont'd)

- Standard MLE can be applied based on the log-likelihood function

$$\ell(\theta) = \sum_{i=1}^n \delta_i \log p(T_i; \theta) + (1 - \delta_i) \log S_i(T_i; \theta),$$

which also can be re-expressed in terms of the hazard function

$$\ell(\theta) = \sum_{i=1}^n \delta_i \log h_i(T_i; \theta) - \int_0^{T_i} h_i(s; \theta) ds$$

where $p(\cdot)$ density function; $S(\cdot)$ survival function

Sensitivity to distributional assumptions due to censoring

3.2 Relative Risk Models (cont'd)

- **Cox Model:** We make no assumptions for the baseline hazard function
- Parameter estimates and standard errors are based on the log partial likelihood function

$$p\ell(\gamma) = \sum_{i=1}^n \delta_i \left[\gamma^\top w_i - \log \left\{ \sum_{j: T_j \geq T_i} \exp(\gamma^\top w_j) \right\} \right],$$

where only patients who had an event contribute

3.2 Relative Risk Models (cont'd)

- Example: For the PBC dataset we are interested in the treatment effect while correcting for sex and age effects

$$h_i(t) = h_0(t) \exp(\gamma_1 \text{D-penic}_i + \gamma_2 \text{Female}_i + \gamma_3 \text{Age}_i)$$

	Value	HR	Std.Err.	z-value	p-value
γ_1	-0.138	0.871	0.156	-0.882	0.378
γ_2	-0.493	0.611	0.207	-2.379	0.017
γ_3	0.021	1.022	0.008	2.784	0.005

3.3 Relative Risk Models in R

- R> The primary package in R for the analysis of survival data is the **survival** package
- R> A key function in this package that is used to specify the available event time information in a sample at hand is `Surv()`
- R> For right censored failure times (i.e., what we will see in this course) we need to provide the observed event times `time`, and the event indicator `status`, which equals 1 for true failure times and 0 for right censored times

`Surv(time, status)`

3.3 Relative Risk Models in R (cont'd)

R> Cox models are fitted using function `coxph()`. For instance, for the PBC data the following code fits the Cox model that contains the main effects of 'drug', 'sex' and 'age':

```
coxFit <- coxph(Surv(years, status2) ~ drug + sex + age,  
               data = pbc2.id)
```

```
summary(coxFit)
```

R> The two main arguments are a formula specifying the design matrix of the model and a data frame containing all the variables

3.4 Time Dependent Covariates

- Often interest in the association between a time-dependent covariate and the risk of an event
 - ▷ treatment changes with time (e.g., dose)
 - ▷ time-dependent exposure (e.g., smoking, diet)
 - ▷ markers of disease or patient condition (e.g., blood pressure, PSA levels)
 - ▷ ...
- **Example:** In the PBC study, are the longitudinal bilirubin measurements associated with the hazard of death?

3.4 Time Dependent Covariates (cont'd)

- To answer our questions of interest we need to postulate a model that relates
 - ▷ the serum bilirubin with
 - ▷ the time-to-death
- The association between **baseline** marker levels and the risk of death can be estimated with standard statistical tools (e.g., Cox regression)
- When we move to the time-dependent setting, a more **careful consideration** is required

3.4 Time Dependent Covariates (cont'd)

- There are two types of time-dependent covariates

(Kalbfleisch and Prentice, 2002, Section 6.3)

- ▷ Exogenous (aka external): the future path of the covariate up to any time $t > s$ is not affected by the occurrence of an event at time point s , i.e.,

$$\Pr\{\mathcal{Y}_i(t) \mid \mathcal{Y}_i(s), T_i^* \geq s\} = \Pr\{\mathcal{Y}_i(t) \mid \mathcal{Y}_i(s), T_i^* = s\},$$

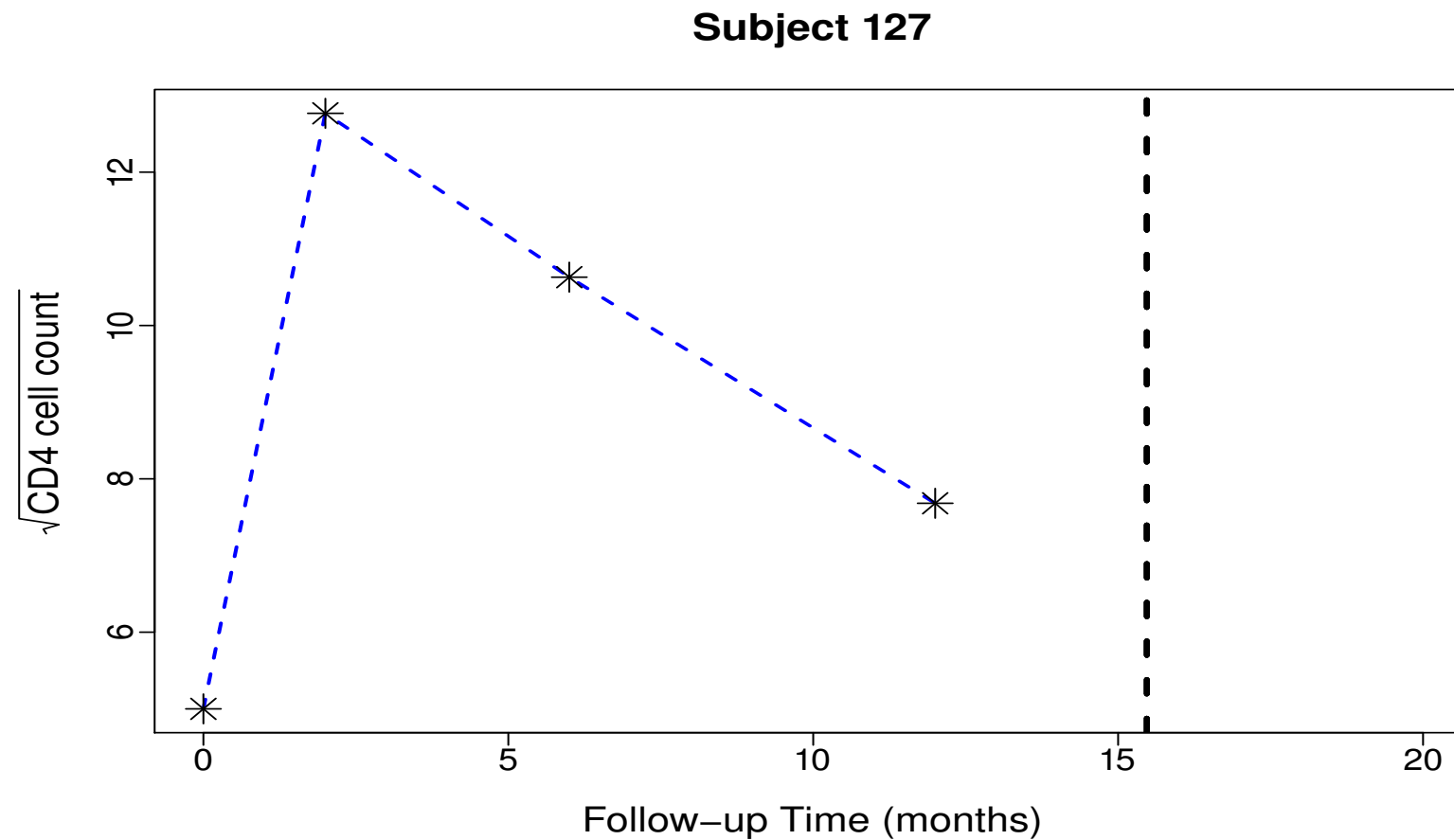
where $0 < s \leq t$ and $\mathcal{Y}_i(t) = \{y_i(s), 0 \leq s < t\}$

- ▷ Endogenous (aka internal): not Exogenous

3.4 Time Dependent Covariates (cont'd)

- It is **very important** to distinguish between these two types of time-dependent covariates, because the type of covariate dictates the appropriate type of analysis
- In our motivating examples all time-varying covariates are **Biomarkers** \Rightarrow These are always **endogenous** covariates
 - ▷ measured with error (i.e., biological variation)
 - ▷ the complete history is not available
 - ▷ existence directly related to failure status

3.4 Time Dependent Covariates (cont'd)



3.5 Extended Cox Model

- The Cox model presented earlier can be extended to handle time-dependent covariates using the counting process formulation

$$h_i(t \mid \mathcal{Y}_i(t), w_i) = h_0(t) \exp\{\gamma^\top w_i + \alpha y_i(t)\},$$

where

▷ $y_i(t)$ denotes the value of the time-varying covariate at t

3.5 Extended Cox Model (cont'd)

- Interpretation:

$$h_i(t \mid \mathcal{Y}_i(t), w_i) = h_0(t) \exp\{\gamma^\top w_i + \alpha y_i(t)\}$$

$\exp(\alpha)$ denotes the relative increase in the risk of an event at time t that results from one unit increase in $y_i(t)$ at the same time point

3.5 Extended Cox Model (cont'd)

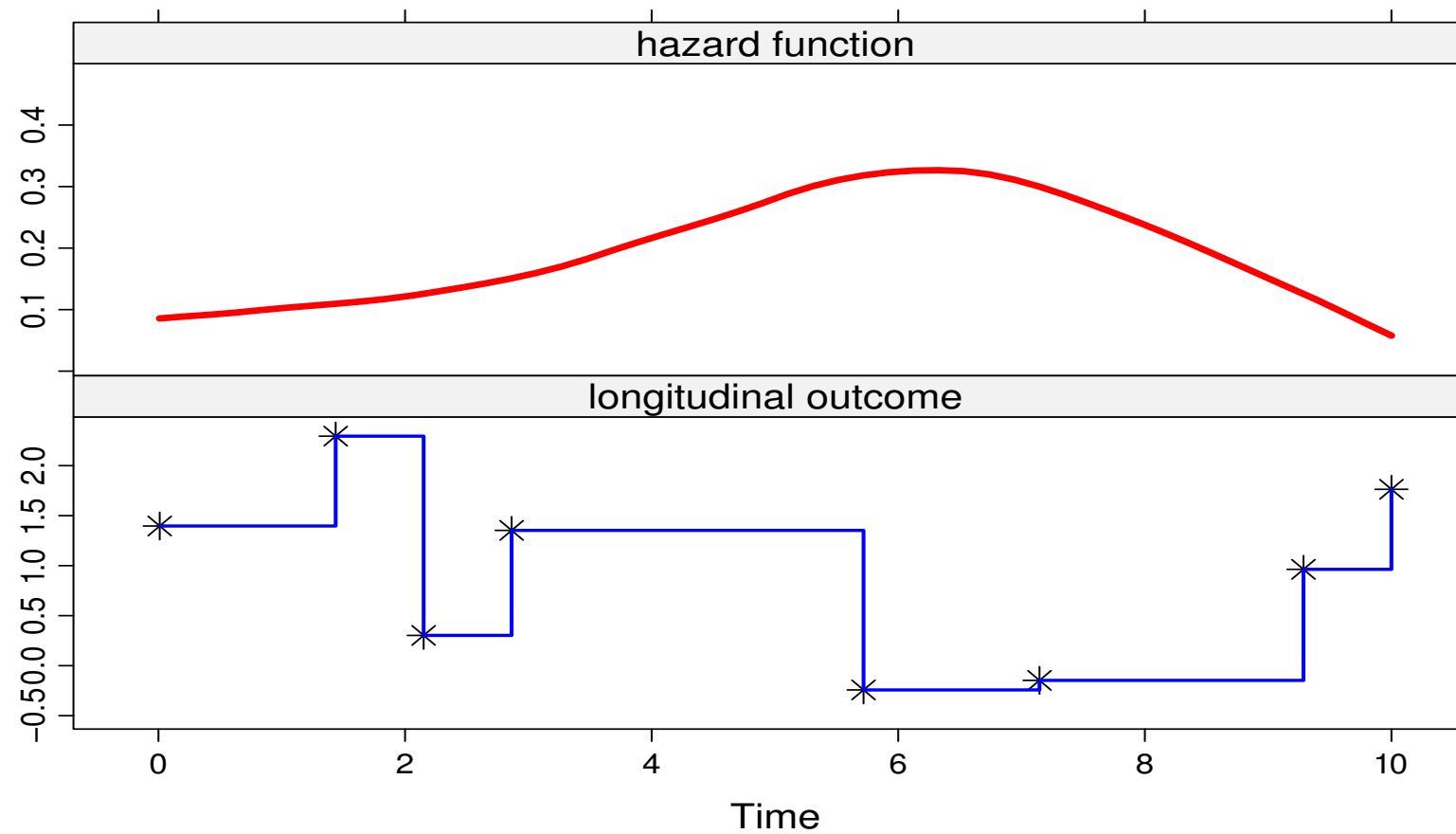
- Typically, data must be organized in the long format

Patient	Start	Stop	Event	$y_i(t)$	Age
1	0	135	1	5.5	45
2	0	65	0	2.2	38
2	65	120	0	3.1	38
2	120	155	1	4.1	38
3	0	115	0	2.5	29
3	115	202	0	2.9	29
⋮	⋮	⋮	⋮	⋮	⋮

3.5 Extended Cox Model (cont'd)

- How does the extended Cox model handle time-varying covariates?
 - ▷ assumes no measurement error
 - ▷ step-function path
 - ▷ existence of the covariate is not related to failure status

3.5 Extended Cox Model (cont'd)



3.5 Extended Cox Model (cont'd)

- Therefore, the extended Cox model is only valid for exogenous time-dependent covariates

**Treating endogenous covariates as exogenous may
produce spurious results!**

Chapter 4

The Basic Joint Model

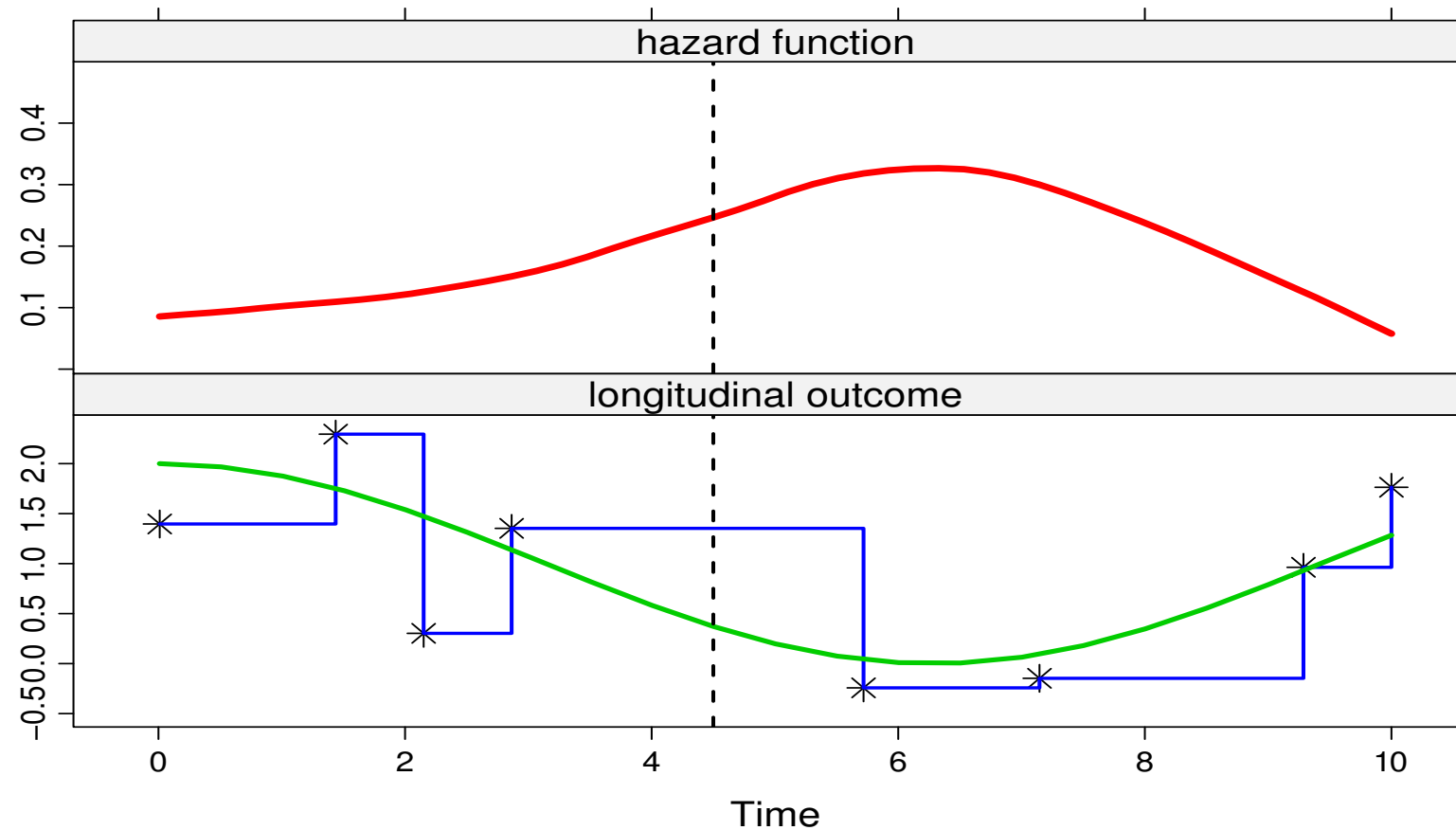
4.1 Joint Modeling Framework

- To account for the special features of endogenous covariates a new class of models has been developed

Joint Models for Longitudinal and Time-to-Event Data

- Intuitive idea behind these models
 1. use an appropriate model to describe the evolution of the marker over time for each patient
 2. the estimated evolutions are then used in a Cox model
- Feature: Marker level's are **not** assumed constant between visits

4.1 Joint Modeling Framework (cont'd)



4.1 Joint Modeling Framework (cont'd)

- Some notation
 - ▷ T_i^* : True event time for patient i
 - ▷ T_i : Observed event time for patient i
 - ▷ δ_i : Event indicator, i.e., equals 1 for true events
 - ▷ y_i : Longitudinal responses
- We will formulate the joint model in 3 steps – in particular, ...

4.1 Joint Modeling Framework (cont'd)

- **Step 1:** From the observed longitudinal response $y_i(t)$ reconstruct the covariate history for each subject
- Then, we can define a mixed effects model (we focus, for now, on continuous markers)

$$\begin{aligned} y_i(t) &= m_i(t) + \varepsilon_i(t) \\ &= x_i^\top(t)\beta + z_i^\top(t)b_i + \varepsilon_i(t), \quad \varepsilon_i(t) \sim \mathcal{N}(0, \sigma^2), \end{aligned}$$

where

- ▷ $x_i(t)$ and β : Fixed-effects part
- ▷ $z_i(t)$ and b_i : Random-effects part, $b_i \sim \mathcal{N}(0, D)$

4.1 Joint Modeling Framework (cont'd)

- Step 2: Let's assume that we know $m_i(t)$, i.e., the *true & unobserved* value of the marker at time t
- Then, we can define a standard relative risk model

$$h_i\{t \mid \mathcal{M}_i(t)\} = h_0(t) \exp\{\gamma^\top w_i + \alpha m_i(t)\},$$

where

- ▷ $\mathcal{M}_i(t) = \{m_i(s), 0 \leq s < t\}$ longitudinal history
- ▷ α quantifies the strength of the association between the marker and the risk of an event
- ▷ w_i baseline covariates

4.1 Joint Modeling Framework (cont'd)

- **Step 3:** The two processes are associated \Rightarrow define a model for their joint distribution
- Joint Models (JM) for such joint distributions are of the following form
(Tsiatis & Davidian, Stat. Sinica, 2004)

$$p(y_i, T_i, \delta_i) = \int p(y_i | b_i) \{h(T_i | b_i)^{\delta_i} S(T_i | b_i)\} p(b_i) db_i,$$

where

- ▷ b_i a vector of random effects that explains the interdependencies
- ▷ $p(\cdot)$ density function; $S(\cdot)$ survival function

4.1 Joint Modeling Framework (cont'd)

- Key assumption: **Full Conditional Independence** \Rightarrow random effects explain all interdependencies
 - ▷ the longitudinal outcome is independent of the time-to-event outcome
 - ▷ the repeated measurements in the longitudinal outcome are independent of each other

$$p(y_i, T_i, \delta_i \mid b_i) = p(y_i \mid b_i) p(T_i, \delta_i \mid b_i)$$

$$p(y_i \mid b_i) = \prod_j p(y_{ij} \mid b_i)$$

4.1 Joint Modeling Framework (cont'd)

- The survival function, which is a part of the likelihood of the model, depends on the whole longitudinal history

$$S_i(t \mid b_i) = \exp\left(-\int_0^t h_0(s) \exp\{\gamma^\top w_i + \alpha m_i(s)\} ds\right)$$

- Therefore, care in the definition of the design matrices of the mixed model
 - ▷ when subjects have nonlinear profiles \Rightarrow
 - ▷ use splines or polynomials to model them flexibly

4.1 Joint Modeling Framework (cont'd)

- Assumptions for the baseline hazard function $h_0(t)$
 - ▷ parametric \Rightarrow possibly restrictive
 - ▷ unspecified \Rightarrow within JM framework underestimates standard errors
- It is advisable to use parametric but flexible models for $h_0(t)$
 - ▷ splines

$$\log h_0(t) = \gamma_{h_0,0} + \sum_{q=1}^Q \gamma_{h_0,q} B_q(t, v),$$

where

- * $B_q(t, v)$ denotes the q -th basis function of a B-spline with knots v_1, \dots, v_Q
- * γ_{h_0} a vector of spline coefficients

4.1 Joint Modeling Framework (cont'd)

- It is advisable to use parametric but flexible models for $h_0(t)$
 - ▷ step-functions: piecewise-constant baseline hazard often works satisfactorily

$$h_0(t) = \sum_{q=1}^Q \xi_q I(v_{q-1} < t \leq v_q),$$

where $0 = v_0 < v_1 < \dots < v_Q$ denotes a split of the time scale

4.1 Joint Modeling Framework (cont'd)

- The censoring and visiting* processes are assumed non-informative:
- Decision to withdraw from the study or appear for the next visit
 - ▷ **may depend** on observed past history (baseline covariates + observed longitudinal responses)
 - ▷ **no additional dependence** on underlying, latent subject characteristics associated with prognosis

*The visiting process is defined as the mechanism (stochastic or deterministic) that generates the time points at which longitudinal measurements are collected.

4.2 Estimation

- Mainly maximum likelihood but also Bayesian approaches
- The log-likelihood contribution for subject i :

$$\ell_i(\theta) = \log \int \left\{ \prod_{j=1}^{n_i} p(y_{ij} \mid b_i; \theta) \right\} \left\{ h(T_i \mid b_i; \theta)^{\delta_i} S_i(T_i \mid b_i; \theta) \right\} p(b_i; \theta) db_i,$$

where

$$S_i(t \mid b_i; \theta) = \exp \left(- \int_0^t h_0(s; \theta) \exp \{ \gamma^\top w_i + \alpha m_i(s) \} ds \right)$$

4.3 Introduction to Bayesian*

- Bayes theorem

$$p(B | A) = \frac{p(A | B) * p(B)}{p(A)}$$

4.3 Introduction to Bayesian* (cont'd)

- Bayes theorem

$$p(\text{hypothesis} \mid \text{data}) = \frac{p(\text{data} \mid \text{hypothesis}) * p(\text{hypothesis})}{p(\text{data})}$$

where hypothesis is typically something unobserved or unknown. It's what you want to learn about using the data.

For regression models, the "hypothesis" is a parameter (intercept, slopes or error terms).

Bayes theorem tells you the probability of the hypothesis given the data.

4.3 Introduction to Bayesian* (cont'd)

- How plausible is some hypothesis given the data?

$$p(\text{hypothesis} \mid \text{data}) = \frac{p(\text{data} \mid \text{hypothesis}) * p(\text{hypothesis})}{p(\text{data})}$$
$$\propto p(\text{data} \mid \text{hypothesis}) * p(\text{hypothesis})$$

- Renaming...

$$\text{posterior} \propto \text{data} * \text{prior}$$

Bayes' theorem provides a systematic way to update our knowledge as we encounter new data.

4.3 Introduction to Bayesian* (cont'd)



4.4 Bayesian Estimation

- Bayesian estimation
 - ▷ under the Bayesian paradigm both θ and $b_i \{i = 1, \dots, n\}$ are regarded as parameters
- Inference is based on the full posterior distribution

$$p(\theta, b \mid T, \delta, y) = \frac{\prod_i p(T_i, \delta_i \mid b_i; \theta) p(y_i \mid b_i; \theta) p(b_i; \theta) p(\theta)}{\prod_i p(T_i, \delta_i, y_i)}$$
$$\propto \prod_{i=1}^n \left\{ p(T_i, \delta_i \mid b_i; \theta) p(y_i \mid b_i; \theta) p(b_i; \theta) \right\} p(\theta)$$

4.4 Bayesian Estimation (cont'd)

- No closed-form solutions for the integrals in the normalizing constant \Rightarrow **MCMC**
- For the standard joint model we have defined thus far, the majority of the parameters can be updated using Gibbs sampling (or slice sampling)
 - ▷ when no closed-form posterior conditionals are available, we can use the Metropolis-Hastings algorithm
- Good proposal distributions can be obtained from the separate fits of the two submodels

4.4 Bayesian Estimation (cont'd)

- Inference then proceeds in the usual manner from the MCMC output, e.g.,
 - ▷ posterior means, variances, and standard errors
 - ▷ credible intervals
 - ▷ Bayes factors
 - ▷ DIC, CPO
 - ▷ ...

4.5 Comparison with the TD Cox

- **Example:** To illustrate the virtues of joint modeling, we compare it with the standard time-dependent Cox model for the AIDS data

$$\left\{ \begin{array}{l} y_i(t) = m_i(t) + \varepsilon_i(t) \\ \quad = \beta_0 + \beta_1 t + \beta_2 \{t \times \text{ddI}_i\} + b_{i0} + b_{i1} t + \varepsilon_i(t), \quad \varepsilon_i(t) \sim \mathcal{N}(0, \sigma^2), \\ h_i(t) = h_0(t) \exp\{\gamma \text{ddI}_i + \alpha m_i(t)\}, \end{array} \right.$$

where

▷ $h_0(t)$ is assumed piecewise-constant

4.5 Comparison with the TD Cox (cont'd)

	JM	Cox
	log HR (std.err)	log HR (std.err)
Treat	0.33 (0.16)	0.31 (0.15)
CD4 ^{1/2}	−0.29 (0.04)	−0.19 (0.02)

- Clearly, there is a considerable effect of ignoring the measurement error, especially for the CD4 cell counts

4.5 Comparison with the TD Cox (cont'd)

- A unit decrease in $CD4^{1/2}$, results in a
 - ▷ **Joint Model**: 1.3-fold increase in risk (95% CI: 1.24; 1.43)
 - ▷ **Time-Dependent Cox**: 1.2-fold increase in risk (95% CI: 1.16; 1.27)
- Which one to believe?
 - ▷ a lot of theoretical and simulation work has shown that the Cox model underestimates the true association size of markers

4.6 Joint Models in R

R> Joint models are fitted using function `jointModelBayes()` from package **JMbayes**. This function accepts as main arguments a linear mixed model and a Cox PH model based on which it fits the corresponding joint model

```
lmeFit <- lme(CD4 ~ obstime + obstime:drug,  
             random = ~ obstime | patient, data = aids)
```

```
coxFit <- coxph(Surv(Time, death) ~ drug, data = aids.id, x = TRUE)
```

```
jointFit <- jointModelBayes(lmeFit, coxFit, timeVar = "obstime",  
                           baseHaz = c("P-splines"))
```

```
summary(jointFit)
```

4.6 Joint Models in R (cont'd)

- R> As before, the data frame given in `lme()` should be in the long format, while the data frame given to `coxph()` should have one line per subject*
- ▷ the ordering of the subjects needs to be the same
- R> In the call to `coxph()` you need to set `x = TRUE` (or `model = TRUE`) such that the design matrix used in the Cox model is returned in the object fit
- R> Argument `timeVar` specifies the time variable in the linear mixed model

* Unless you want to include exogenous time-varying covariates or handle competing risks

4.6 Joint Models in R (cont'd)

R> Argument `baseHaz` specifies the type of relative risk model

Available options are:

- ▷ `"regression-splines"`: B-spline basis function
- ▷ `"P-splines"`: B-spline basis function with penalties (P-splines)

4.6 Joint Models in R (cont'd)

R> details about **JMbayes**:

- ▷ directly implements the MCMC
- ▷ allows for categorical longitudinal data as well
- ▷ allows for general transformation functions
- ▷ penalized B-splines for the baseline hazard function
- ▷ ...

4.6 Joint Models in R (cont'd)

R> In both packages methods are available for the majority of the standard generic functions + extras

- ▷ `summary()`, `anova()`, `vcov()`, `logLik()`
- ▷ `coef()`, `fixef()`, `ranef()`
- ▷ `fitted()`, `residuals()`
- ▷ `plot()`
- ▷ `xtable()` (you need to load package **xtable** first)

Chapter 5

Extensions of Joint Models

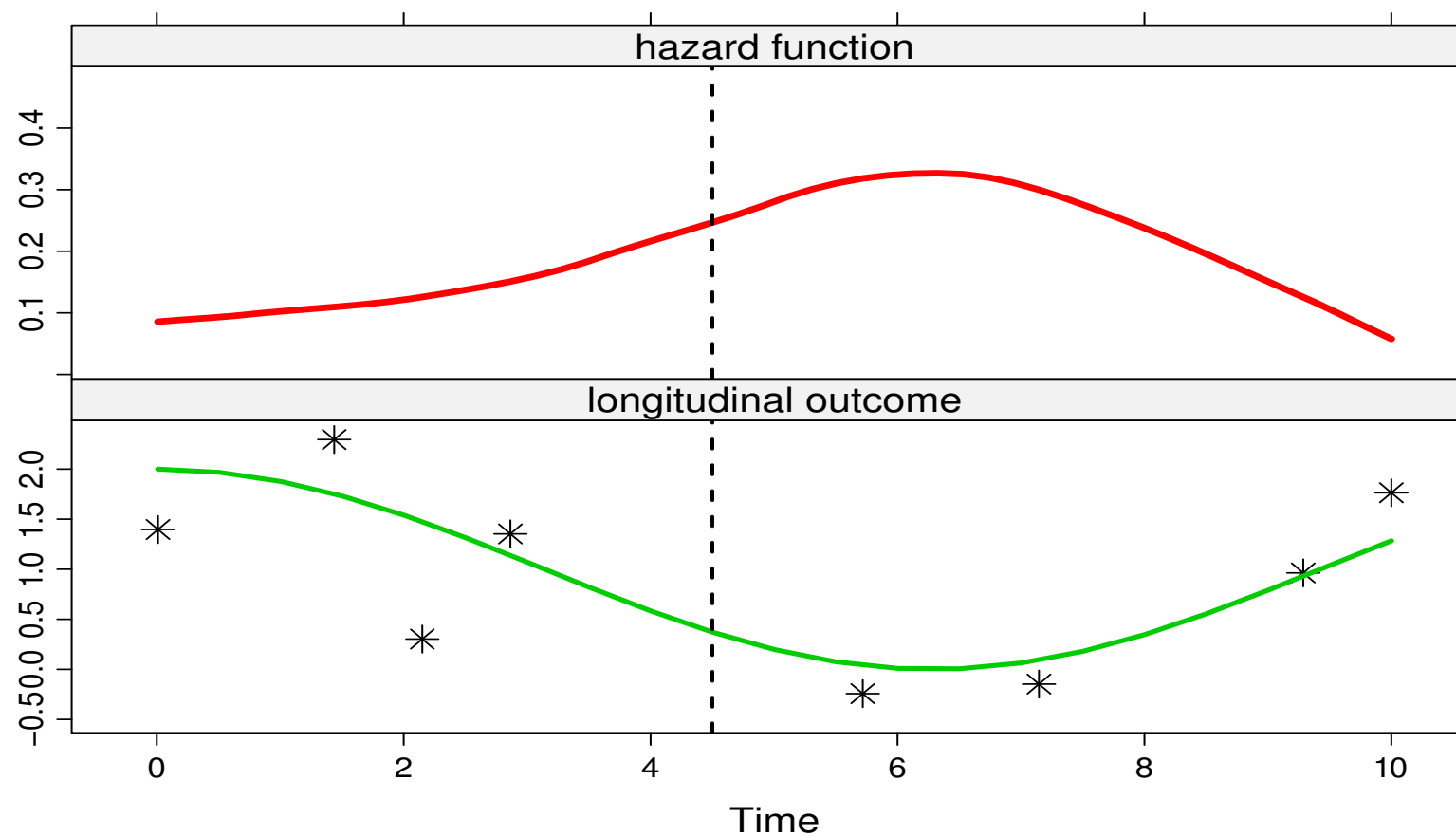
5.1 Parameterizations

- The standard joint model

$$\left\{ \begin{array}{l} h_i\{t \mid \mathcal{M}_i(t)\} = h_0(t) \exp\{\gamma^\top w_i + \alpha m_i(t)\}, \\ y_i(t) = m_i(t) + \varepsilon_i(t) \\ y_i(t) = x_i^\top(t)\beta + z_i^\top(t)b_i + \varepsilon_i(t), \end{array} \right.$$

where $\mathcal{M}_i(t) = \{m_i(s), 0 \leq s < t\}$

5.1 Parameterizations (cont'd)



5.1 Parameterizations (cont'd)

- The standard joint model

$$\left\{ \begin{array}{l} h_i\{t \mid \mathcal{M}_i(t)\} = h_0(t) \exp\{\gamma^\top w_i + \alpha m_i(t)\}, \\ y_i(t) = m_i(t) + \varepsilon_i(t) \\ y_i(t) = x_i^\top(t)\beta + z_i^\top(t)b_i + \varepsilon_i(t), \end{array} \right.$$

where $\mathcal{M}_i(t) = \{m_i(s), 0 \leq s < t\}$

Is this the only option? Is this the most optimal choice?

5.1 Parameterizations (cont'd)

- Note: Inappropriate modeling of time-dependent covariates may result in surprising results
- Example: Cavender et al. (1992, J. Am. Coll. Cardiol.) conducted an analysis to test the effect of cigarette smoking on survival of patients who underwent coronary artery surgery
 - ▷ the estimated effect of current cigarette smoking was positive on survival although not significant (i.e., patients who smoked had higher probability of survival)
 - ▷ most of those who had died were smokers but many stopped smoking at the last follow-up before their death

5.1 Parameterizations (cont'd)

We need to carefully consider the functional form of time-dependent covariates

- Let's see some possibilities. . .

5.1 Parameterizations (cont'd)

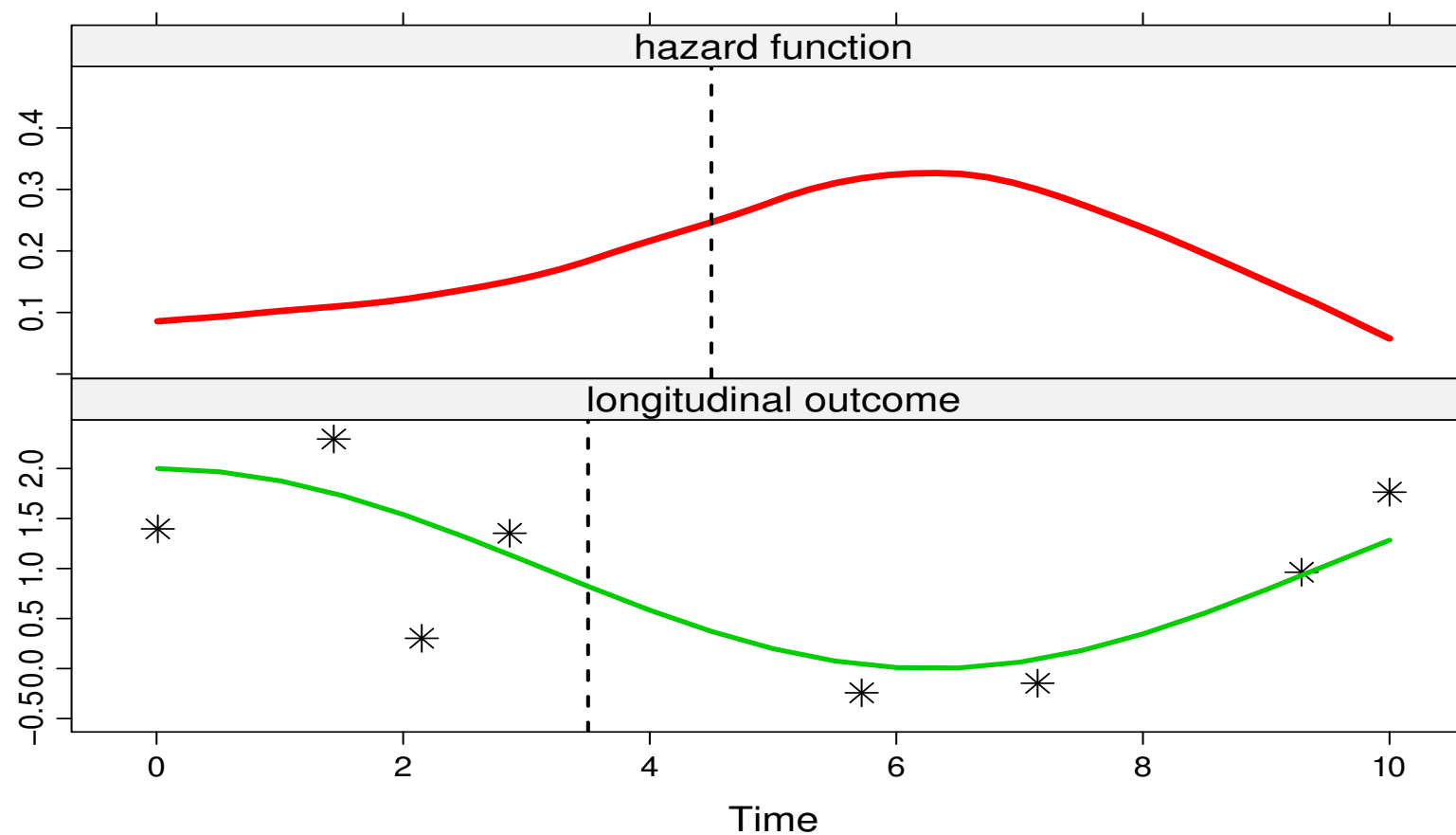
- *Lagged Effects*: The hazard of an event at t is associated with the level of the marker at a previous time point:

$$h_i\{t \mid \mathcal{M}_i(t)\} = h_0(t) \exp\{\gamma^\top w_i + \alpha m_i(t_+^c)\},$$

where

$$t_+^c = \max(t - c, 0)$$

5.1 Parameterizations (cont'd)



5.1 Parameterizations (cont'd)

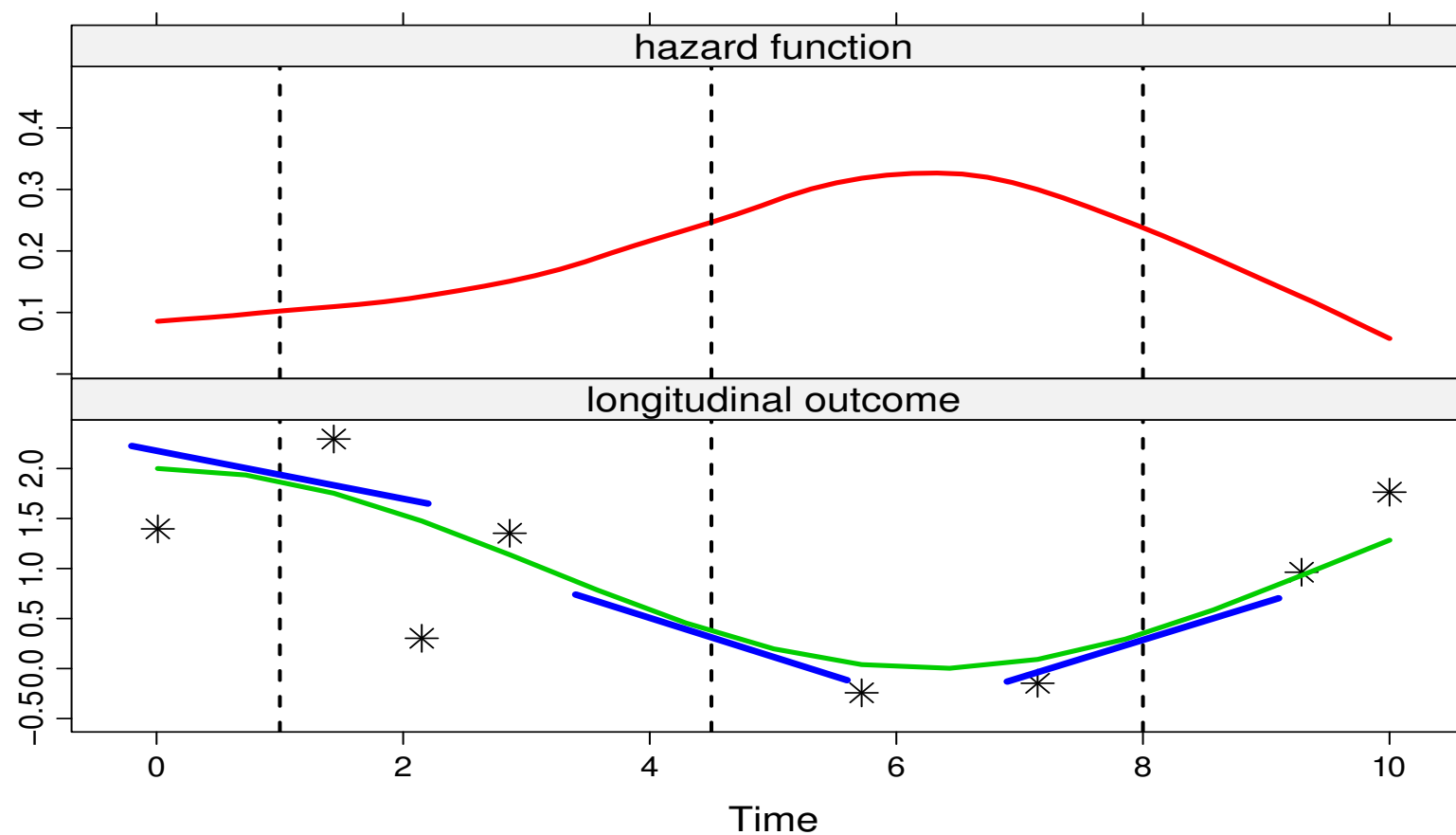
- *Time-dependent Slopes*: The hazard of an event at t is associated with both the current value and the slope of the trajectory at t (Ye et al., 2008, Biometrics):

$$h_i\{t \mid \mathcal{M}_i(t)\} = h_0(t) \exp\{\gamma^\top w_i + \alpha_1 m_i(t) + \alpha_2 m'_i(t)\},$$

where

$$m'_i(t) = \frac{d}{dt}\{x_i^\top(t)\beta + z_i^\top(t)b_i\}$$

5.1 Parameterizations (cont'd)



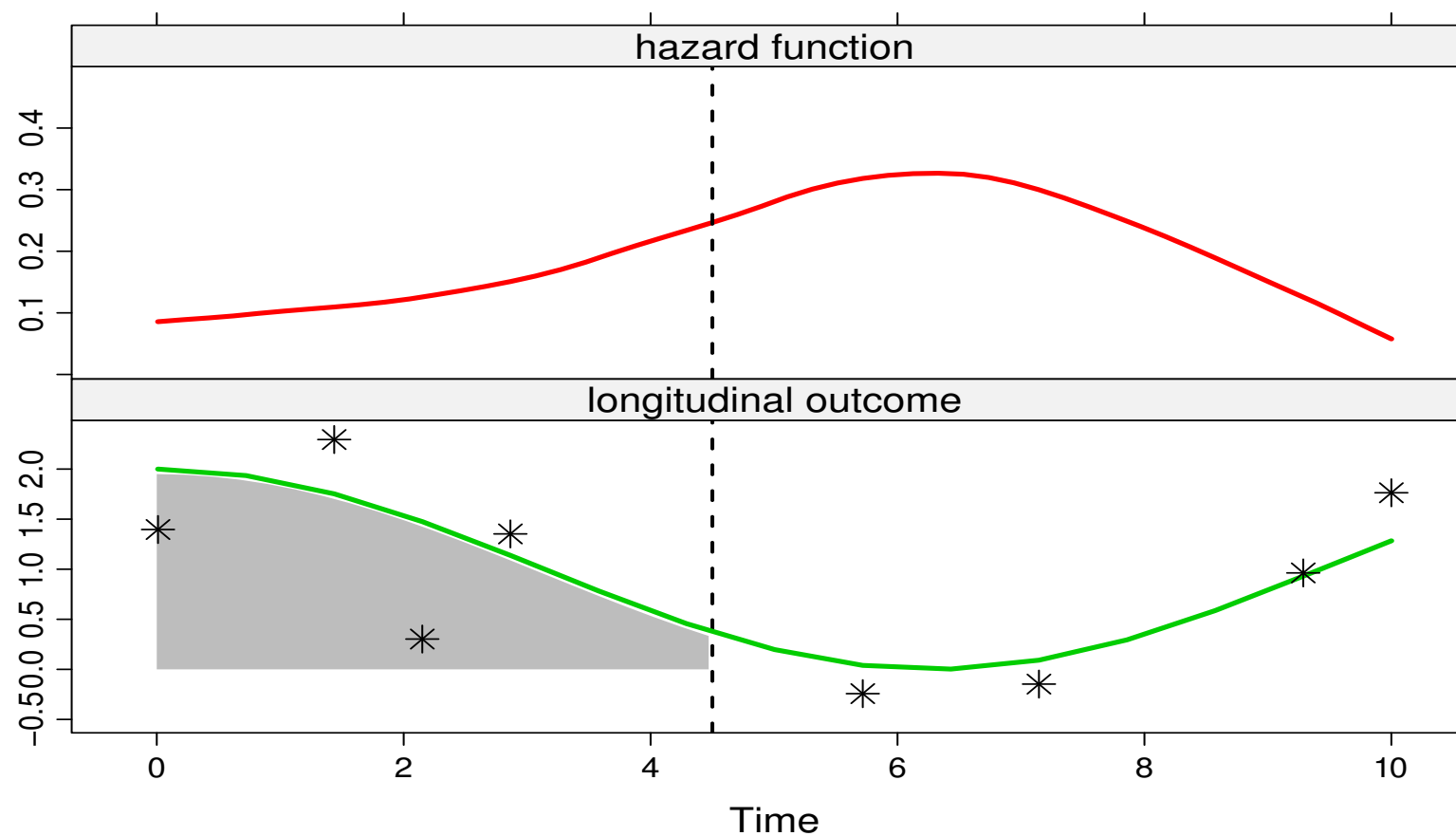
5.1 Parameterizations (cont'd)

- *Cumulative Effects*: The hazard of an event at t is associated with the whole area under the trajectory up to t :

$$h_i\{t \mid \mathcal{M}_i(t)\} = h_0(t) \exp\left\{\gamma^\top w_i + \alpha \int_0^t m_i(s) ds\right\}$$

- Area under the longitudinal trajectory taken as a summary of $\mathcal{M}_i(t)$

5.1 Parameterizations (cont'd)



5.1 Parameterizations (cont'd)

- *Weighted Cumulative Effects (convolution)*: The hazard of an event at t is associated with the area under the weighted trajectory up to t :

$$h_i\{t \mid \mathcal{M}_i(t)\} = h_0(t) \exp\left\{\gamma^\top w_i + \alpha \int_0^t \varpi(t-s) m_i(s) ds\right\},$$

where $\varpi(\cdot)$ an appropriately chosen weight function, e.g.,

- ▷ Gaussian density
- ▷ Student's- t density
- ▷ ...

5.1 Parameterizations (cont'd)

- *Random Effects*: The hazard of an event at t is associated only with the random effects of the longitudinal model:

$$h_i\{t \mid \mathcal{M}_i(t)\} = h_0(t) \exp(\gamma^\top w_i + \alpha^\top b_i)$$

- Features:
 - ▷ avoids numerical integration for the survival function
 - ▷ interpretation of α more difficult, especially in high-dimensional random-effects settings

5.1 Parameterizations (cont'd)

- Example: Sensitivity of inferences for the longitudinal process to the choice of the parameterization for the AIDS data
- We use the same mixed model as before, i.e.,

$$\begin{aligned}y_i(t) &= m_i(t) + \varepsilon_i(t) \\ &= \beta_0 + \beta_1 t + \beta_2 \{t \times \text{ddI}_i\} + b_{i0} + b_{i1} t + \varepsilon_i(t)\end{aligned}$$

and the following four survival submodels

5.1 Parameterizations (cont'd)

- Model I (current value)

$$h_i(t) = h_0(t) \exp\{\gamma \text{ddI}_i + \alpha_1 m_i(t)\}$$

- Model II (current value + current slope)

$$h_i(t) = h_0(t) \exp\{\gamma \text{ddI}_i + \alpha_1 m_i(t) + \alpha_2 m'_i(t)\},$$

where

$$\triangleright m'_i(t) = \beta_1 + \beta_2 \text{ddI}_i + b_{i1}$$

5.1 Parameterizations (cont'd)

- Model III (random slope)

$$h_i(t) = h_0(t) \exp\{\gamma \text{ddI}_i + \alpha_3 b_{i1}\}$$

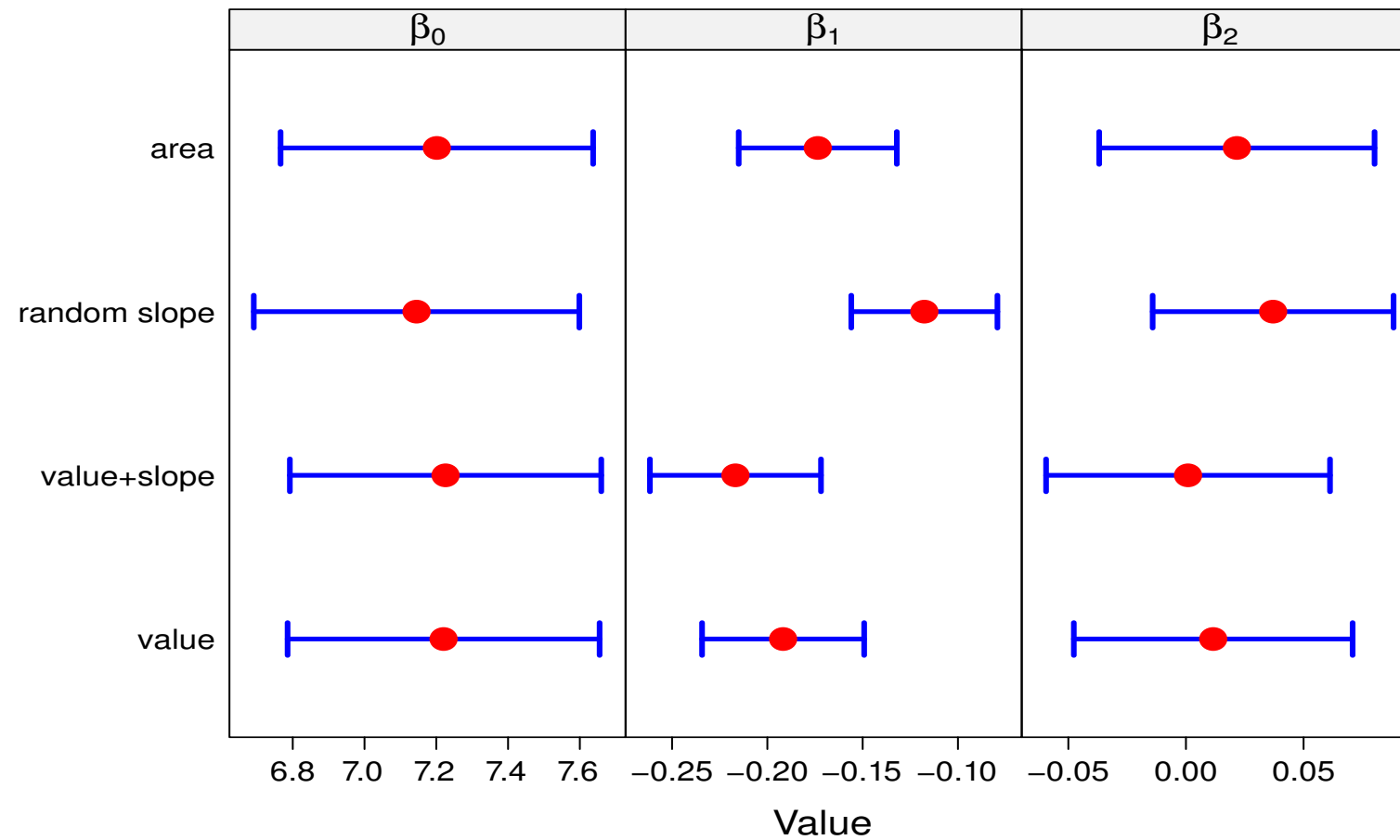
- Model IV (area)

$$h_i(t) = h_0(t) \exp\left\{\gamma \text{ddI}_i + \alpha_4 \int_0^t m_i(s) ds\right\},$$

where

$$\triangleright \int_0^t m_i(s) ds = \beta_0 t + \frac{\beta_1}{2} t^2 + \frac{\beta_2}{2} \{t^2 \times \text{ddI}_i\} + b_{i0} t + \frac{b_{i1}}{2} t^2$$

5.1 Parameterizations (cont'd)



5.1 Parameterizations (cont'd)

- There are noticeable differences between the parameterizations
 - ▷ especially in the slope parameters
- Therefore, a sensitivity analysis should not stop at the standard joint model parameterization but also consider alternative association structures

5.2 Parameterizations in R

- R>** Lagged effects can be fitted using the `lag` argument of `jointModelBayes()`. For example, the following code fits a joint model for the PBC dataset with
- ▷ random intercepts and random slopes for log serum bilirubin, and
 - ▷ a relative risk model with P-splines baseline hazard and the *true effect at the previous year*

```
lmeFit <- lme(log(serBilir) ~ year, random = ~ year | id, data = pbc2)
```

```
coxFit <- coxph(Surv(years, status2) ~ 1, data = pbc2.id, x = TRUE)
```

```
jointFit <- jointModelBayes(lmeFit, coxFit, timeVar = "year",  
  baseHaz = "P-splines", lag = 1)
```

```
summary(jointFit)
```

5.2 Parameterizations in R (cont'd)

R> For the time-dependent slopes and cumulative effects parameterizations, arguments `param` and `extraForm` of `jointModelBayes()` should be used

▷ Options are

- * `param = "td-value"`
- * `param = "td-extra"`
- * `param = "td-both"`
- * `param = "shared-betasRE"`
- * `param = "shared-RE"`

5.2 Parameterizations in R (cont'd)

R> Include also the slope of the longitudinal biomarker

```
dform = list(fixed = ~ 1, random = ~ 1,  
             indFixed = 2, indRandom = 2)
```

```
jointFit2 <- jointModelBayes(lmeFit, coxFit, timeVar = "year",  
                             param = "td-both", extraForm = dform, baseHaz = "P-splines")
```

```
summary(jointFit2)
```

5.3 Multiple Biomarkers

- So far we have concentrated on a single continuous marker
- But very often we may have several markers we wish to study, some of which could be categorical
- **Example:** In the PBC dataset we have used serum bilirubin as the most important marker, but during follow-up several other markers have been recorded
 - ▷ serum cholesterol (continuous)
 - ▷ edema (3 categories)
 - ▷ ascites (2 categories)
 - ▷ ...

5.3 Multiple Biomarkers (cont'd)

We need to extend the basic joint model!

- To handle multiple longitudinal markers of different types we use Generalized Linear Mixed Models
 - ▷ We assume Y_{i1}, \dots, Y_{iJ} for each subject, each one having a distribution in the exponential family, with expected value

$$m_{ij}(t) = E(y_{ij}(t) \mid b_{ij}) = g_j^{-1}\{x_{ij}^\top(t)\beta_j + z_{ij}^\top(t)b_{ij}\},$$

with $g(\cdot)$ denoting a link function

5.3 Multiple Biomarkers (cont'd)

- ▷ Correlation between the outcomes is built by assuming a multivariate normal distribution for the random effects

$$b_i = (b_{i1}^\top, \dots, b_{iJ}^\top)^\top \sim \mathcal{N}(0, D)$$

- The expected value of each longitudinal marker is incorporated in the linear predictor of the survival submodel

$$h_i\{t \mid \mathcal{M}_i(t)\} = h_0(t) \exp\left\{\gamma^\top w_i + \sum_{j=1}^J \alpha_j m_{ij}(t)\right\},$$

where $\mathcal{M}_i(t) = \{m_{ij}(s), 0 \leq s < t, 1 \leq j \leq J\}$

5.4 Multiple Biomarkers in R

R> Joint models for multiple longitudinal outcomes can be fitted with function `mvJointModelBayes()` from package **JMbayes**

- The use of this function mimics the one of `jointModelBayes()` but with some small differences, namely
 - ▷ we fit a *multivariate* mixed model using `mvglmer()`,
 - ▷ following we fit a Cox model using `coxph()`, and
 - ▷ and we give the resulting objects as input in `mvJointModelBayes()`

5.4 Multiple Biomarkers in R (cont'd)

R> An example for the PBC dataset using serum bilirubin (continuous) and spiders (binary)

```
multMixedFit <- mvglmer(list(log(serBilir) ~ year + (year | id),  
                             spiders ~ year + (1 | id)), data = pbc2,  
                        families = list(gaussian, binomial))
```

```
coxFit <- coxph(Surv(years, status2) ~ drug + age, data = pbc2.id,  
               model = TRUE)
```

```
multJMFit <- mvJointModelBayes(multMixedFit, coxFit, timeVar = "year")  
summary(multJMFit)
```


5.4 Multiple Biomarkers in R (cont'd)

- R> Function `mvJointModelBayes()` also allows for
- ▷ right, left, interval censored data
 - ▷ left truncated data
 - ▷ exogenous time-varying covariates

5.5 Variable Selection

- Note: In the previous extension of joint models,

- ▷ multiple longitudinal markers

we used the default parameterization that includes the current value term $m_i(t)$ in the linear predictor of the survival submodel(s)

Nonetheless, all the other parameterizations we have seen earlier are also applicable

5.5 Variable Selection (cont'd)

- For example in the case of multiple longitudinal outcomes

$$g_j[E\{y_{ij}(t) \mid b_{ij}\}] = m_{ij}(t) = x_{ij}^\top(t)\beta_j + z_{ij}^\top(t)b_{ij}$$

$$h_i\{t \mid \mathcal{M}_i(t)\} = h_0(t) \exp\left\{\gamma^\top w_i + \sum_{j=1}^J \sum_{l=1}^L f_{jl}(m_{ij}(t), \alpha_{jl})\right\}$$

where $\mathcal{M}_i(t) = \{m_{ij}(s), 0 \leq s < t, 1 \leq j \leq J\}$

5.5 Variable Selection (cont'd)

- In this case we face a challenging model selection problem
- Different possible solutions
 - ▷ lasso
 - ▷ ridge
 - ▷ horseshoe
 - ▷ ...

5.6 Variable Selection in R

R> Function `mvJointModelBayes()` also allows to consider multiple parameterization per outcome in a similar manner as `jointModelBayes()` does

R> It also implements a global-local ridge-type prior for the association parameters

$$\alpha_{jl} \sim \mathcal{N}(0, \tau\psi_{jl})$$

$$\tau^{-1} \sim \text{Gamma}(0.1, 0.1)$$

$$\psi_{jl}^{-1} \sim \text{Gamma}(1, 0.01)$$

5.6 Variable Selection in R (cont'd)

R> An example for the PBC dataset using serum bilirubin (continuous) and spiders (binary)

```
Forms <- list("log(serBilir)" = "value",  
             "log(serBilir)" = list(fixed = ~ 1, random = ~ 1,  
                                   indFixed = 2, indRandom = 2, name = "slope"),  
             "spiders" = list(fixed = ~ 0 + year + I(year^2/2), random = ~ 0 + year,  
                              indFixed = 1:2, indRandom = 1, name = "area"))
```

```
multJMFit2 <- update(multJMFit, Formulas = Forms)  
summary(multJMFit2)
```

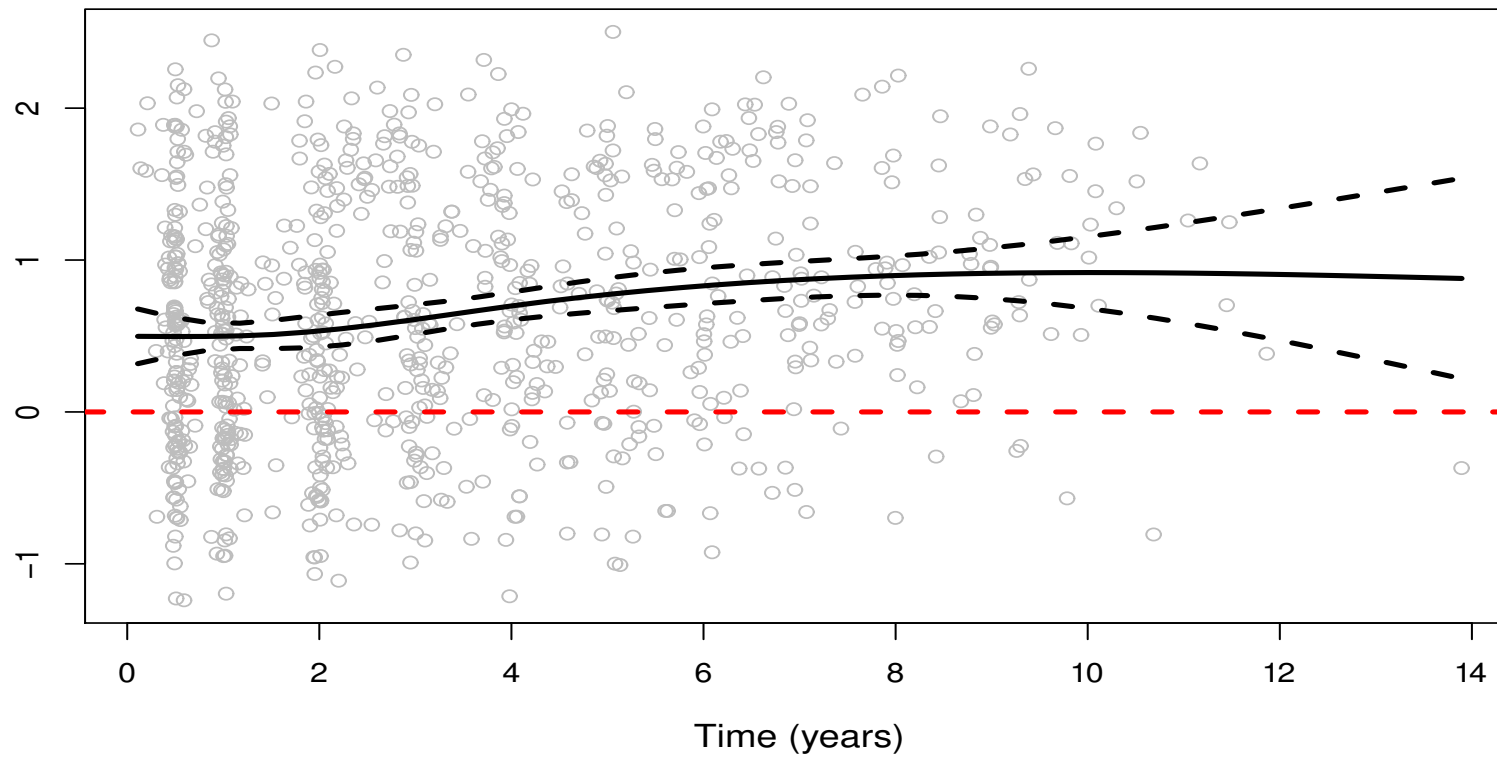
```
Ints <- list("log(serBilir)" = ~ drug, "log(serBilir)_slope" = ~ drug,  
            "spiders_area" = ~ drug)  
multJMFit3 <- update(multJMFit2, Interactions = Ints,  
                    priors = list(shrink_alphas = TRUE))  
summary(multJMFit3)
```

5.7 Time-Varying Association

- Standard joint models assume a constant regression coefficient for the effect of the covariates.
 - ▷ when treatment is initiated, the strength of the association between the longitudinal and survival outcomes may also change

5.7 Time-Varying Association (cont'd)

Time-varying coefficient for log Serum Bilirubin



5.7 Time-Varying Association (cont'd)

A time-varying coefficient joint model (VCJM)

5.7 Time-Varying Association (cont'd)

Specifically,

$$h_i\{t \mid \mathcal{M}_i(t)\} = h_0(t) \exp[\gamma^\top w_i + \sum_{j=1}^J \sum_{l=1}^L f_{j\ell}\{m_{ij}(t), \lambda_{j\ell}(t)\}],$$

where

- w_i is a vector of baseline covariates with a corresponding vector of regression coefficients γ
- $f_{j\ell}\{m_{ij}(t), \lambda_{j\ell}(t)\}$ is the outcome ($j = 1, \dots, J$) and the form of association ($\ell = 1, \dots, L$) between the longitudinal and the survival outcomes

5.7 Time-Varying Association (cont'd)

- We consider estimation of the function $\lambda_{j\ell}(t)$ using the regression P-spline method, where

$$\lambda_{j\ell}(t) = \sum_{u=1}^U \alpha_u B_u(t, \nu),$$

where

- α_u is a set of parameters that capture the strength of association between the longitudinal and survival outcomes
 - $B_u(t, \nu)$ denotes the q -th basis function of a B-spline with knots ν_1, \dots, ν_Q
- The idea behind the P-spline method is to assume a high number of knots and penalize the coefficients to tackle the problem of the large number of parameters.

5.8 Time-Varying Association in R

R> An example for the PBC dataset using serum bilirubin (continuous) and spiders (binary)

```
Ints_tveffect <- list("log(serBilir)_value" = ~ 0 + tve(years, df = 8))
JMFit_tveffect <- mvJointModelBayes(multMixedFit, coxFit, timeVar = "year",
                                   Interactions = Ints_tveffect)

plot(JMFit_tveffect, which = "tv_effect")
```

Chapter 6

Dynamic Predictions

6.1 Survival Probabilities

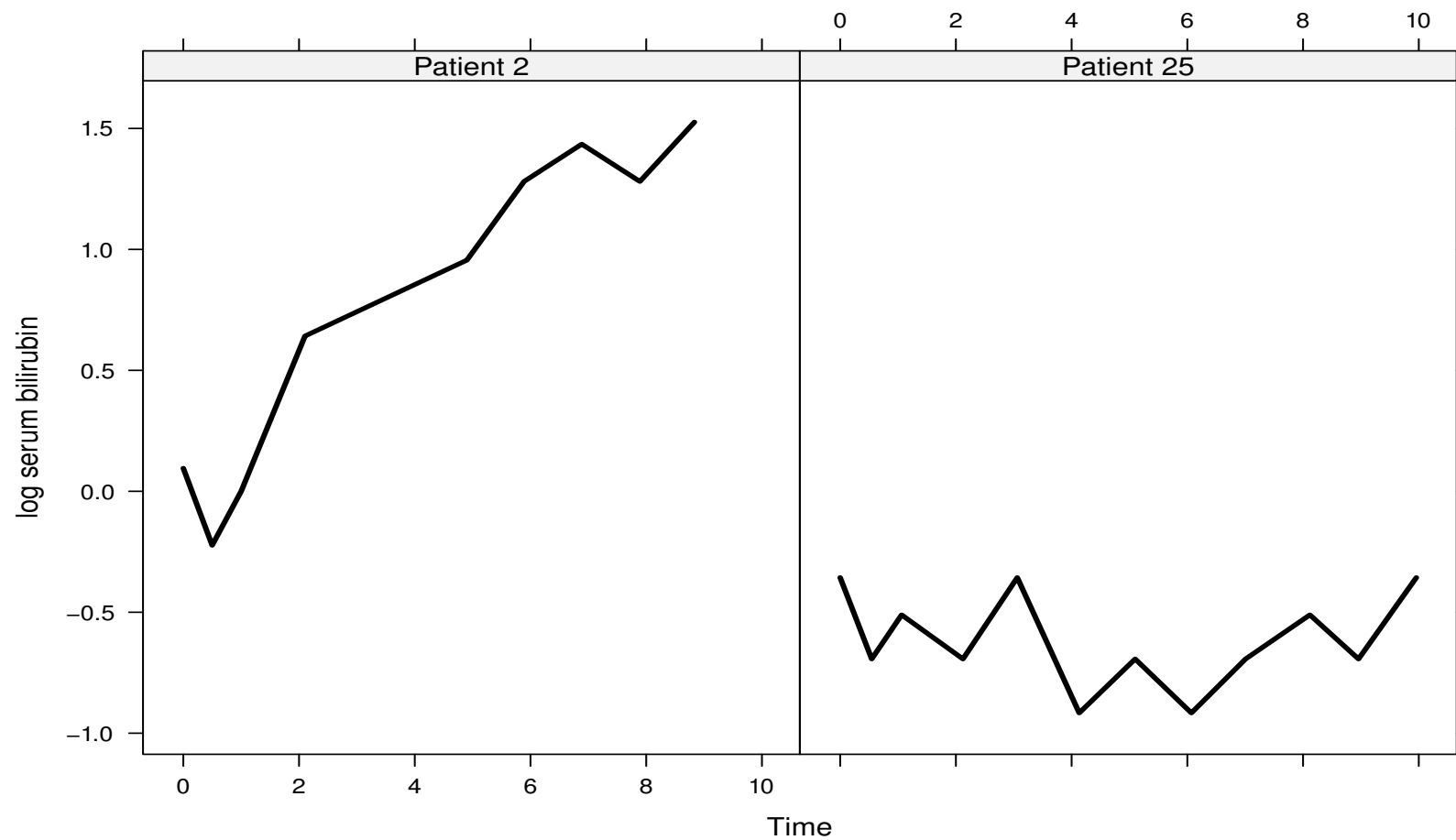
- Nowadays there is great interest for prognostic models and their application to personalized medicine
- Examples are numerous
 - ▷ cancer research, cardiovascular diseases, HIV research, ...

Physicians are interested in accurate prognostic tools that will inform them about the future prospect of a patient in order to adjust medical care

6.1 Survival Probabilities (cont'd)

- We are interested in predicting survival probabilities for a new patient j that has provided a set of serum bilirubin measurements up to a specific time point t
- Example: We consider Patients 2 and 25 from the PBC dataset that have provided us with 9 and 12 serum bilirubin measurements, respectively
 - ▷ **Dynamic Prediction** survival probabilities are dynamically updated as additional longitudinal information is recorded
- We need to account for the endogenous nature of the marker
 - ▷ providing measurements up to time point $t \Rightarrow$ the patient was still alive at time t

6.1 Survival Probabilities (cont'd)



6.1 Survival Probabilities (cont'd)

- More formally, for a new subject j we have available measurements up to time point t

$$\mathcal{Y}_j(t) = \{y_j(s), 0 \leq s \leq t\}$$

and we are interested in

$$\pi_j(u \mid t) = \Pr\{T_j^* \geq u \mid T_j^* > t, \mathcal{Y}_j(t), \mathcal{D}_n\},$$

where

- ▷ where $u > t$, and
- ▷ \mathcal{D}_n denotes the sample on which the joint model was fitted

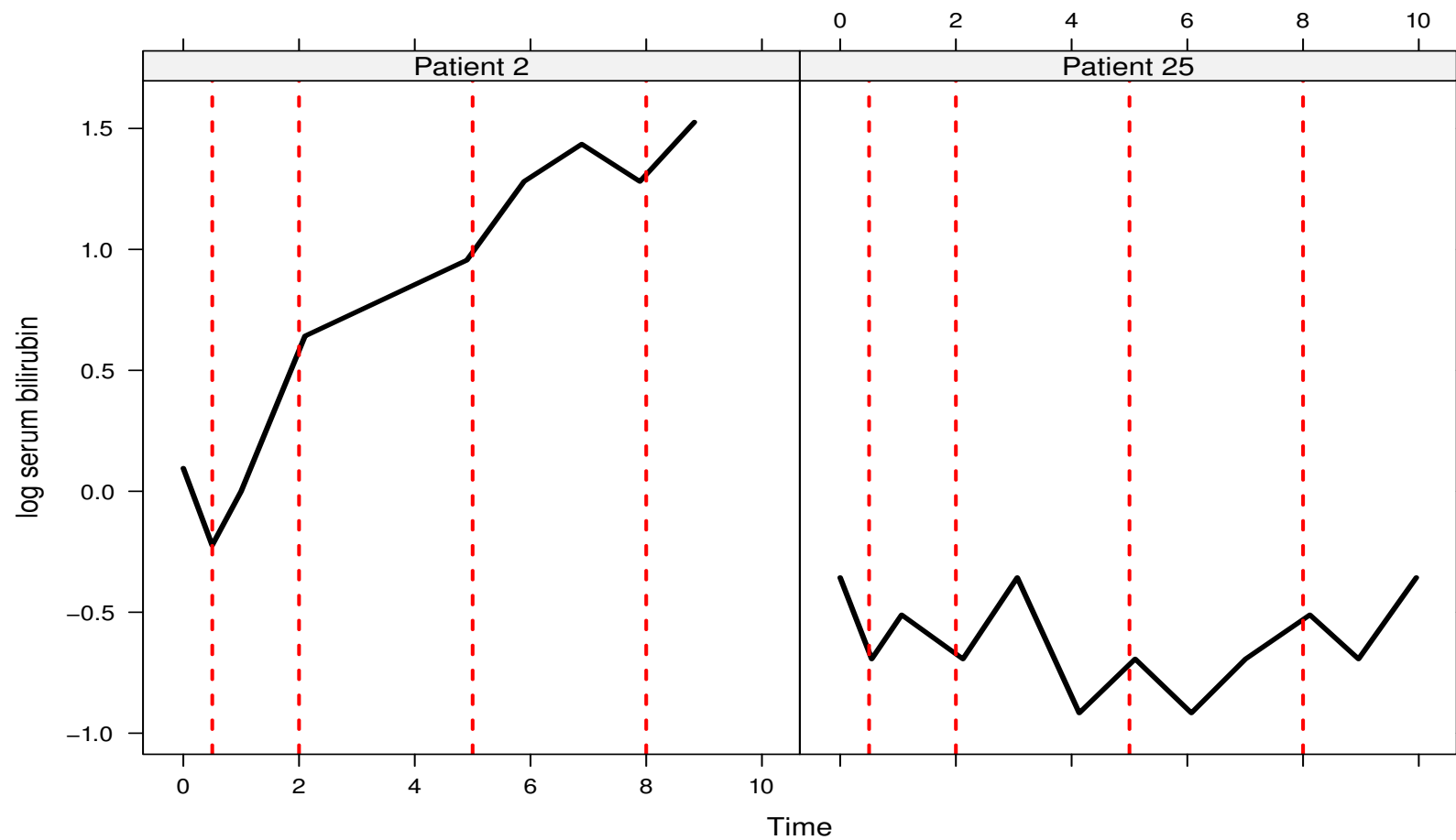
6.1 Survival Probabilities (cont'd)

- We assume that the joint model has been fitted to the data at hand
- Based on the fitted model we can estimate the conditional survival probabilities
(Rizopoulos, 2011, Biometrics)

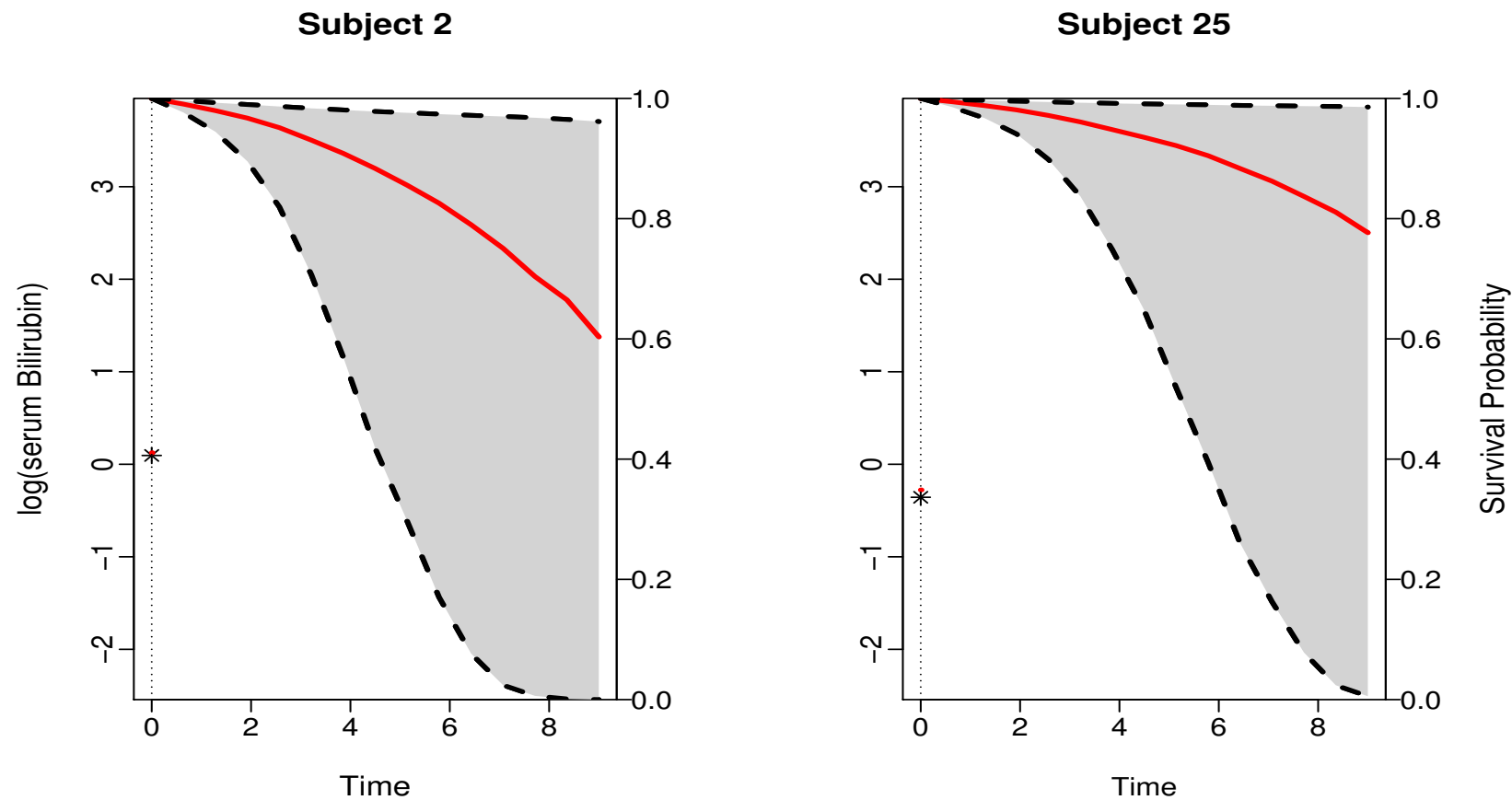
6.2 Dynamic Predictions in R

- Example: Dynamic predictions of survival probabilities for Patients 2 and 25 from the PBC dataset: We fit the joint model
- Longitudinal submodel
 - ▷ fixed effects: Linear & quadratic time, treatment and their interaction
 - ▷ random effects: Intercept, linear & quadratic time effects
- Survival submodel
 - ▷ treatment effect + *underlying* serum bilirubin level
 - ▷ P-splines

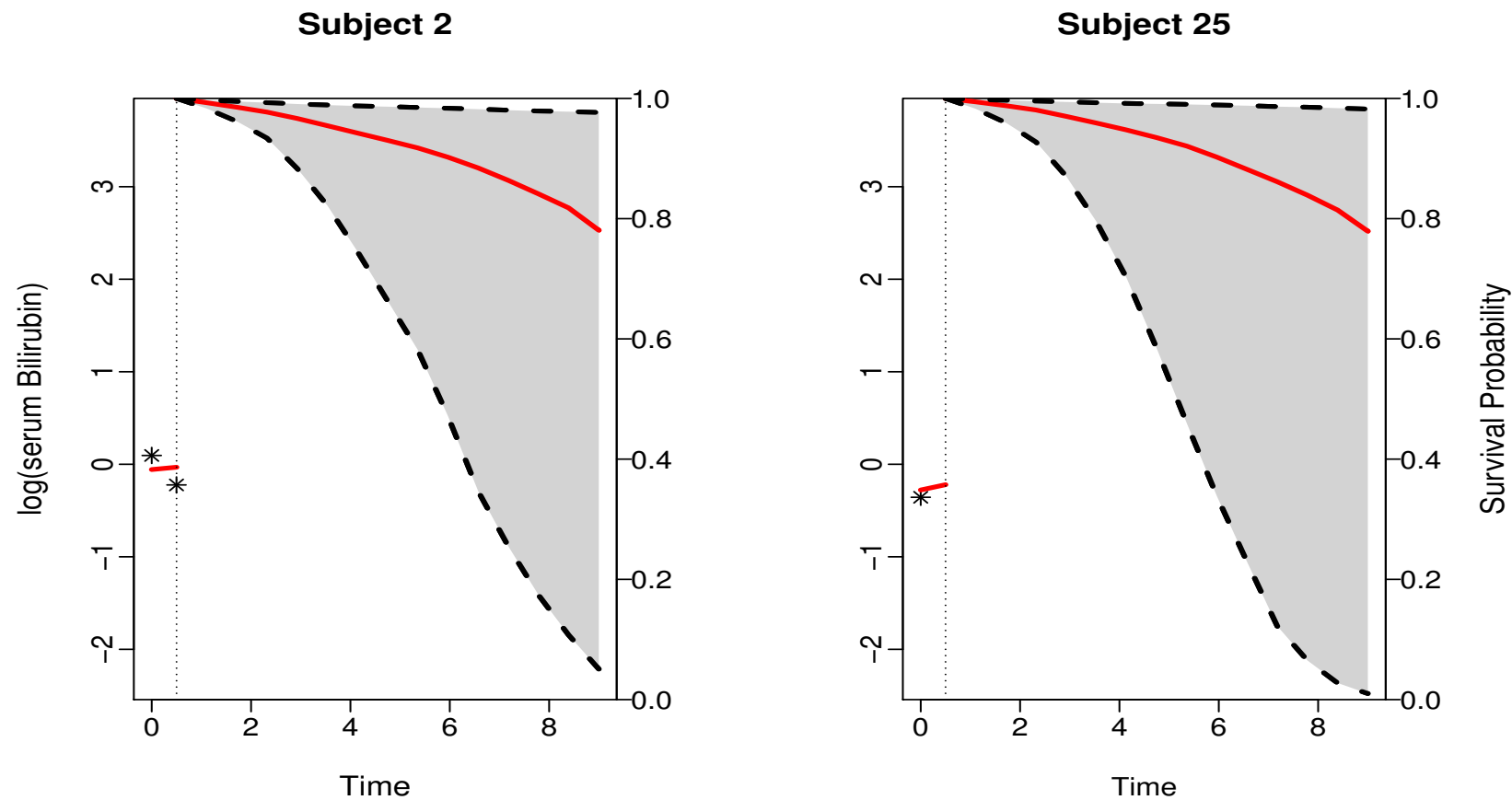
6.2 Dynamic Predictions in R (cont'd)



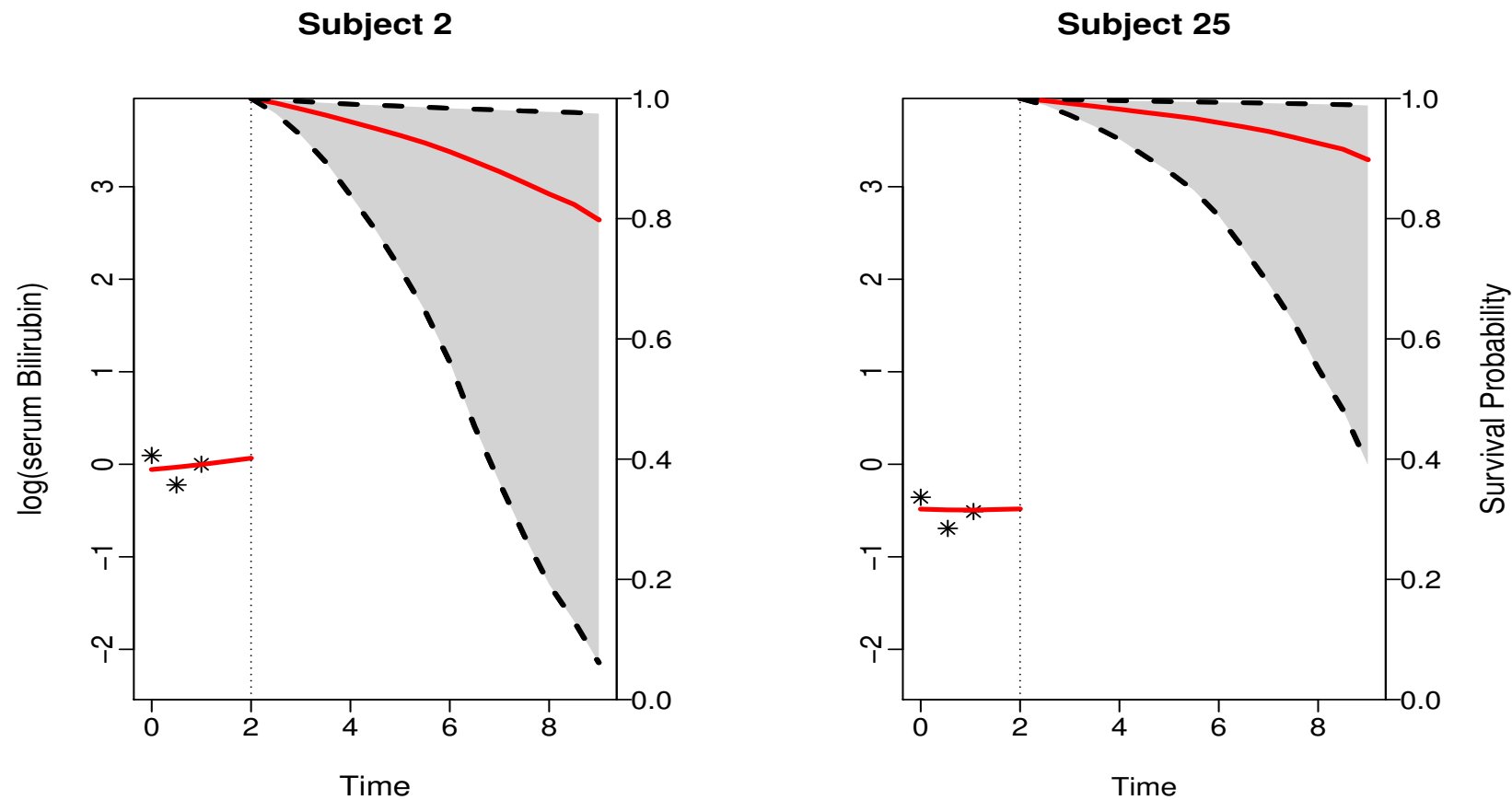
6.2 Dynamic Predictions in R (cont'd)



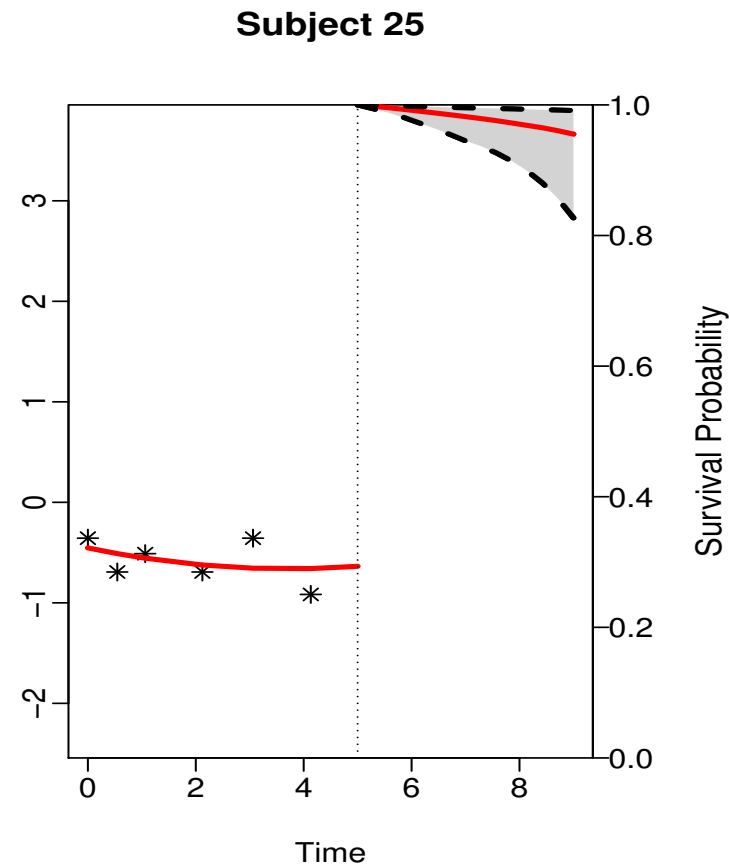
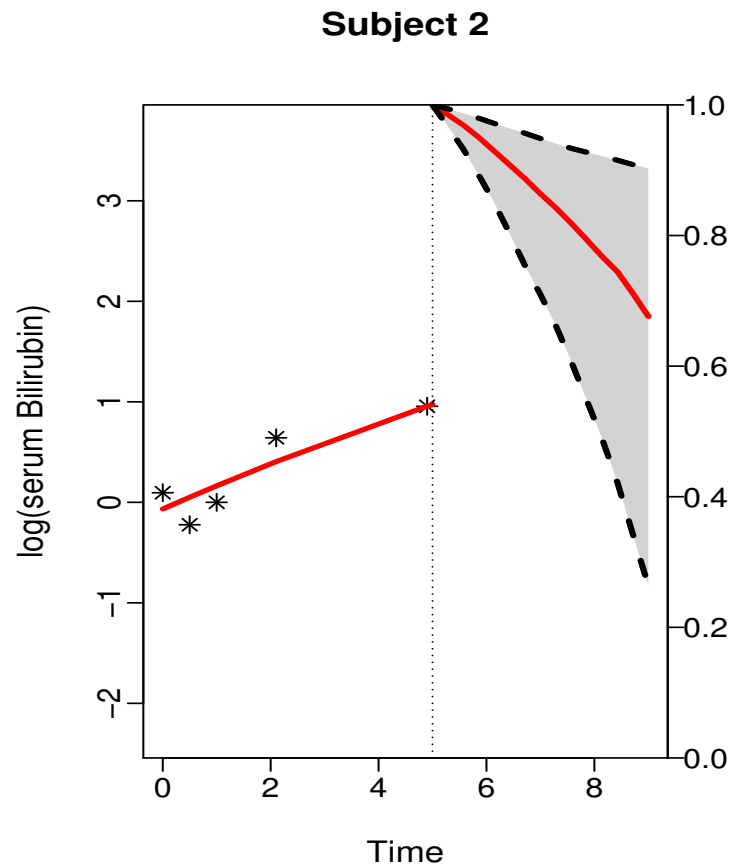
6.2 Dynamic Predictions in R (cont'd)



6.2 Dynamic Predictions in R (cont'd)

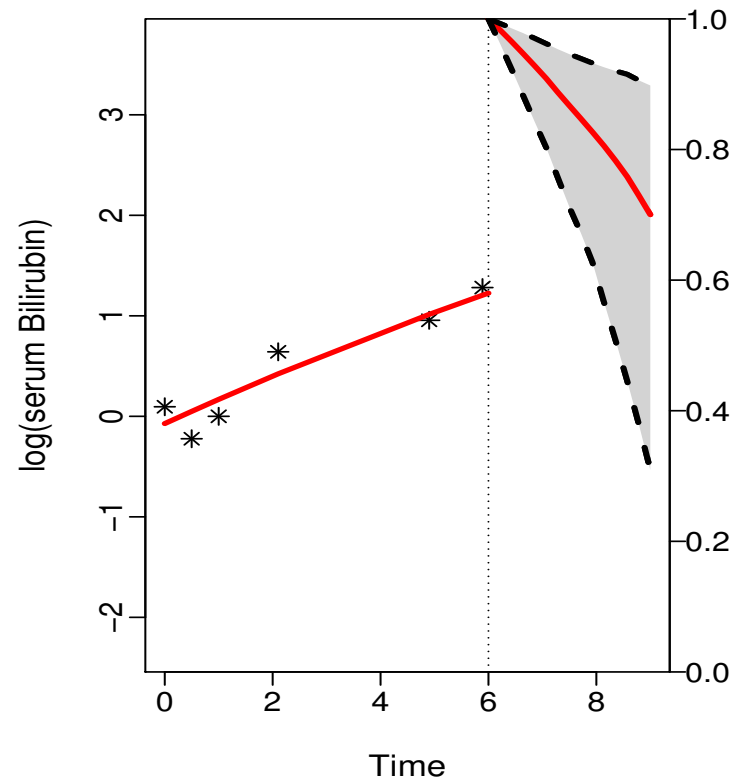


6.2 Dynamic Predictions in R (cont'd)

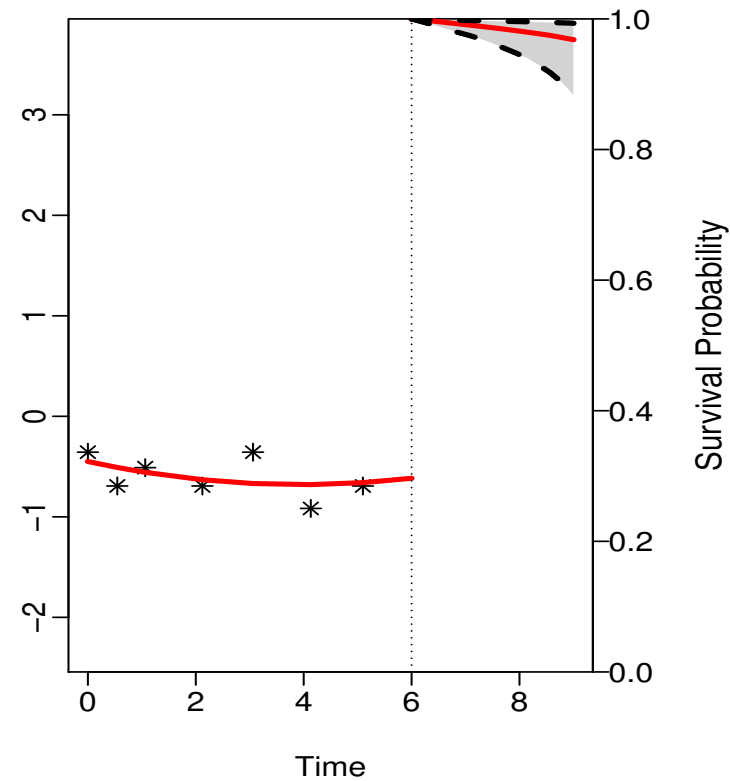


6.2 Dynamic Predictions in R (cont'd)

Subject 2

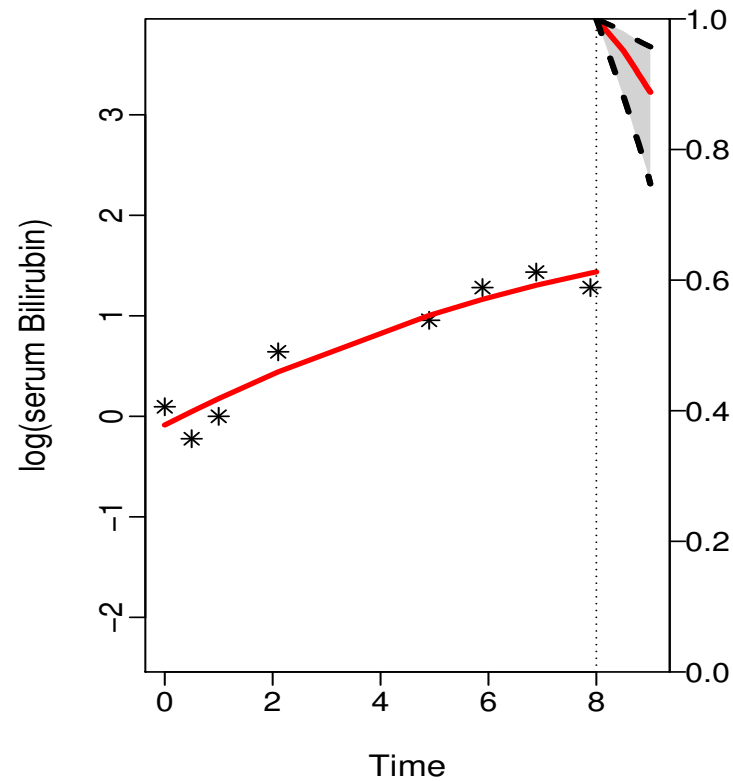


Subject 25

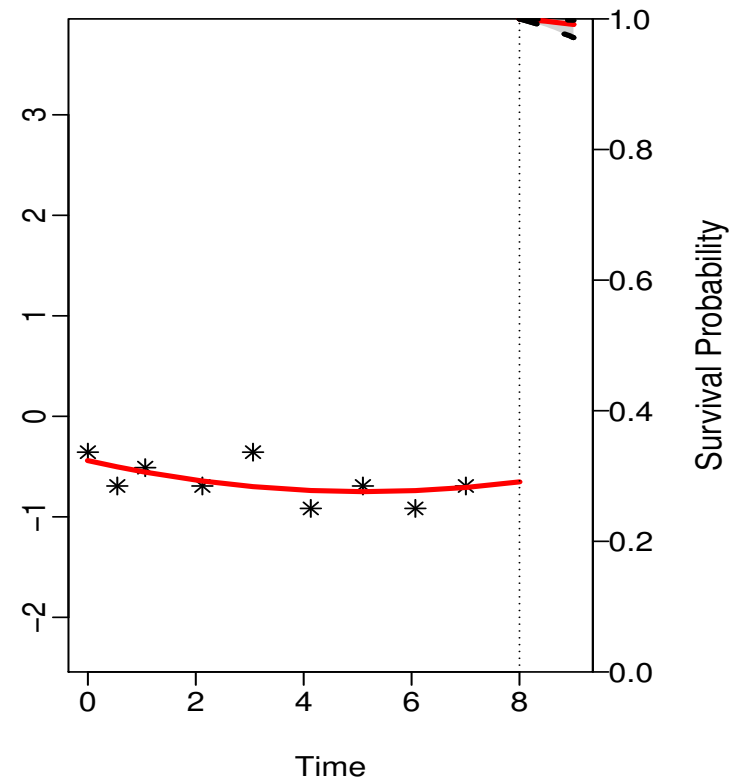


6.2 Dynamic Predictions in R (cont'd)

Subject 2



Subject 25



6.2 Dynamic Predictions in R (cont'd)

R> Individualized predictions of survival probabilities are computed by function `survfitJM()` – for example, for Patient 2 from the PBC dataset we have

```
lmeFit <- lme(log(serBilir) ~ year*drug + I(year^2)*drug,  
             random = ~ year + year^2 | id, data = pbc2)
```

```
coxFit <- coxph(Surv(years, status2) ~ drug, data = pbc2.id, x = TRUE)
```

```
jointFit <- jointModelBayes(lmeFit, coxFit, timeVar = "year",  
                           baseHaz = "P-splines")
```

```
sfit <- survfitJM(jointFit, newdata = pbc2[pbc2$id %in% c(2, 25), ])
```

```
plot(sfit)
```

```
plot(sfit, include.y = TRUE)
```

Chapter 7

Closing

7.1 Concluding Remarks

- **When we need joint models for longitudinal and survival outcomes?**
 - ▷ to investigate the association between the longitudinal and the survival outcome
 - ▷ to handle endogenous time-varying covariates in a survival analysis context
 - ▷ to account for nonrandom dropout in a longitudinal data analysis context
- **How joint models work?**
 - ▷ a mixed model for the longitudinal outcome
 - ▷ a relative risk model for the event process
 - ▷ explain interrelationships with shared random effects

7.1 Concluding Remarks (cont'd)

- **Where to pay attention when defining joint models?**
 - ▷ model flexibly the subject-specific evolutions for the longitudinal outcome
 - ▷ use parametric but flexible models for the baseline hazard function
 - ▷ consider how to model the association structure between the two processes
⇒ Parameterization
- **Extensions**
 - ▷ under the full conditional independence assumption we can easily extend the basic joint model
 - ▷ multiple longitudinal outcomes / different association parameters / time-varying effects
 - ▷ though more computationally intensive

7.1 Concluding Remarks (cont'd)

- **Individualized predictions**

- ▷ joint models can provide subject-specific predictions for the longitudinal and survival outcomes
- ▷ these are dynamically updated as extra information is recorded for the subjects
- ▷ \Rightarrow joint models constitute an excellent tool for personalized medicine

- **What we did not cover**

- ▷ assessment of predictive performance
- ▷ diagnostics for joint models using residuals
- ▷ ...

The End!

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