

# ML for Survival Analysis and Dynamic Survival Analysis

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# Goals

- How to approach survival analysis (time-to-event)
  - Preprocessing
  - ML
  - DL
- Longitudinal covariates (time series)
  - How this changes the setting
  - Techniques
- A bit of historical overview
- Domain specific loss functions

# Summary

## **ML for Survival Analysis:**

- Boosting
- Survival Random Forests
- DeepSurv

## **Dynamic Survival Analysis:**

- Motivation: longitudinal data / trajectories
- Time dependent concordance Index
- Methods for dynamic survival analysis: the old days
  - 2 stage approach, joint models
- Methods for dynamic survival analysis: today
  - Deep Learning
    - MatchNet
    - RNN-Surv
    - Dynamic-deephit

# Davide Morelli



## Academia

- PhD Computer Science @ Pisa
- Lecturer @ Pisa
- Research and Teaching Fellow @ Surrey
- DPhil candidate Biomedical Engineering @ Ox

## Industry

- CTO @ BioBeats
- ML Lead @ Huma Therapeutics

# ML for Survival Analysis

penalised Cox regression models
boosted survival models
random survival forests



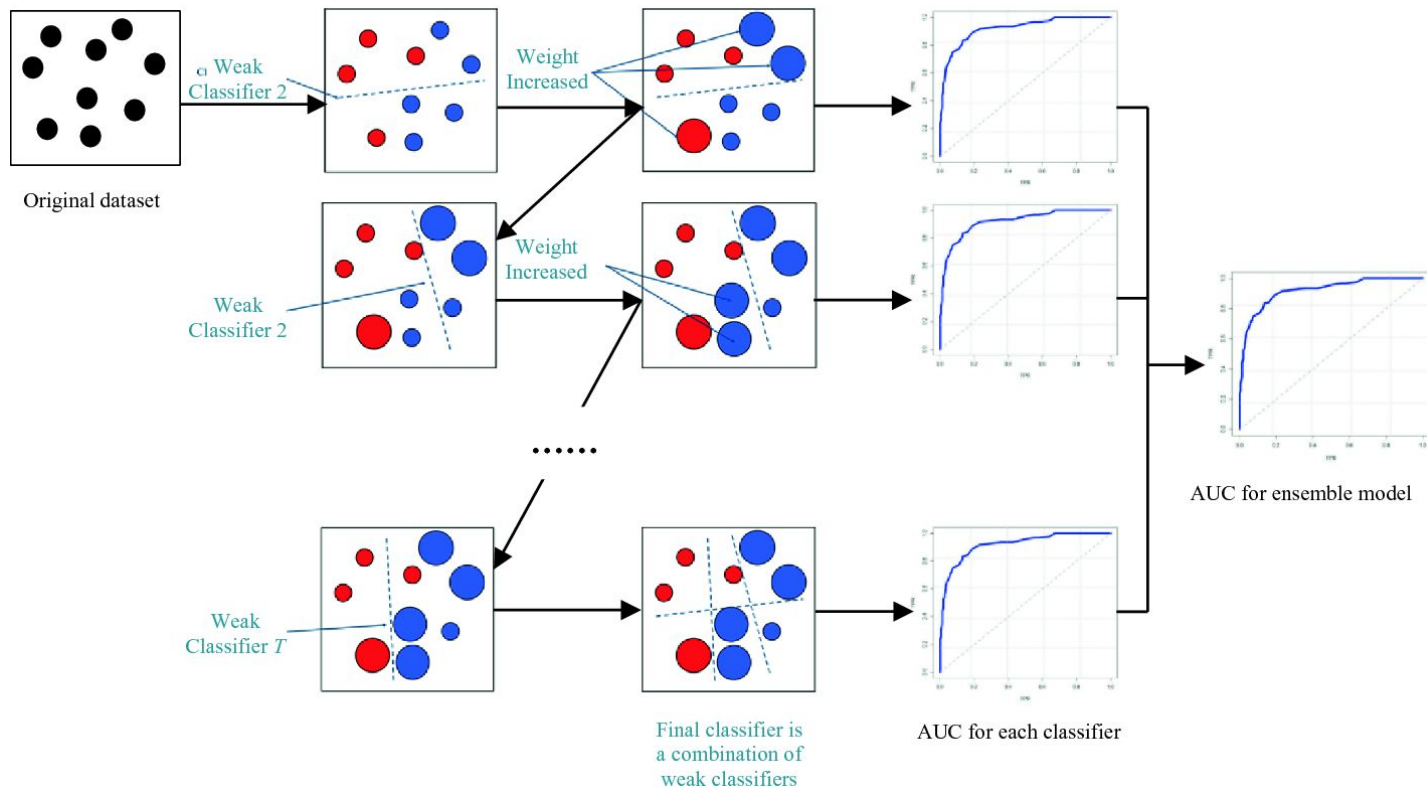
From [A comparison of machine learning methods for survival analysis of high-dimensional clinical data for dementia prediction](#)

# Feature selection

- Filter Methods:
  - [Univariate, Recursive feature elimination](#)
  - [Random forest variable importance](#)
  - [Random forest minimal depth](#)
  - [Maximally Selected Rank Statistics](#)
  - MRMR: [Maximum Relevance — Minimum Redundancy](#)
- Wrapper Method:
  - [Sequential forward selection](#)
- Also:
  - [Surrogate minimal depth](#)
  - [Permutation feature importance](#)
  - [Drop Column feature importance](#)

See [Supplementary Materials](#) of “A comparison of machine learning methods for survival analysis of high-dimensional clinical data for dementia prediction”

# ML for Survival Analysis: Boosting



# ML for Survival Analysis: Boosting

## Boosting:

- Combine weak learners
- Sequential: next weak learner will “focus on the mistakes” of the current model
- The final model uses all weak learners

## Models:

- XGBoost, CoxBoost

## Still a active research area:

- E.g.: A combination of XGBoost, Cox, and ElasticNet: [Wang, 2021](#)



# ML for Survival Analysis: Random Survival Forests

- See [Random survival forests](#) original paper (Ishwaran et al., 2008)
- Modification of Random Forest.
  - Draw B bootstraps of data
  - Grow a tree from each bootstrap
  - For every node select p random features, split using the feature that maximises difference in cumulative hazard function (CHF)
- CHF is Nelson–Aalen estimator

$$\hat{H}_h(t) = \sum_{t_{l,h} \leq t} \frac{d_{l,h}}{Y_{l,h}}.$$

Hazard at time t

Deaths

Total subjects

# DL for Survival Analysis

To fit CoxPH you minimise the partial log likelihood:

$$L(\beta, X) = - \sum_{i \in U} \left( \beta^T X_i - \log \sum_{j \in \Omega_i} e^{\beta^T X_j} \right)$$

For each subject  $i$  who had an event

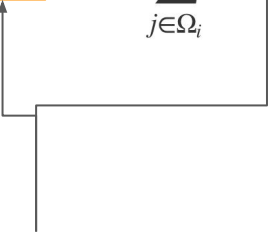
Hazard ratio of patient  $i$

Hazard ratio of every subject who had event after  $i$  or no event

Where's the baseline hazard function?



# DL for Survival Analysis

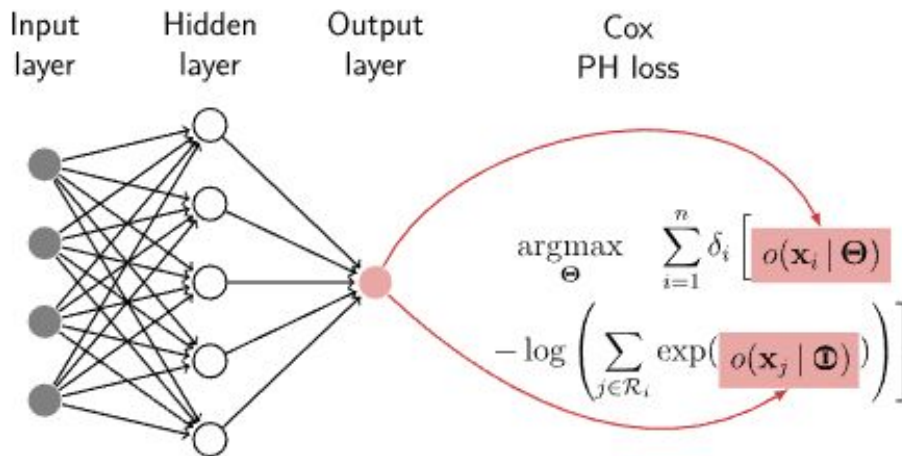
$$L(\beta, X) = - \sum_{i \in U} \left( \boxed{\beta^T X_i} - \log \sum_{j \in \Omega_i} e^{\boxed{\beta^T X_j}} \right)$$


They don't **have** to be linear...

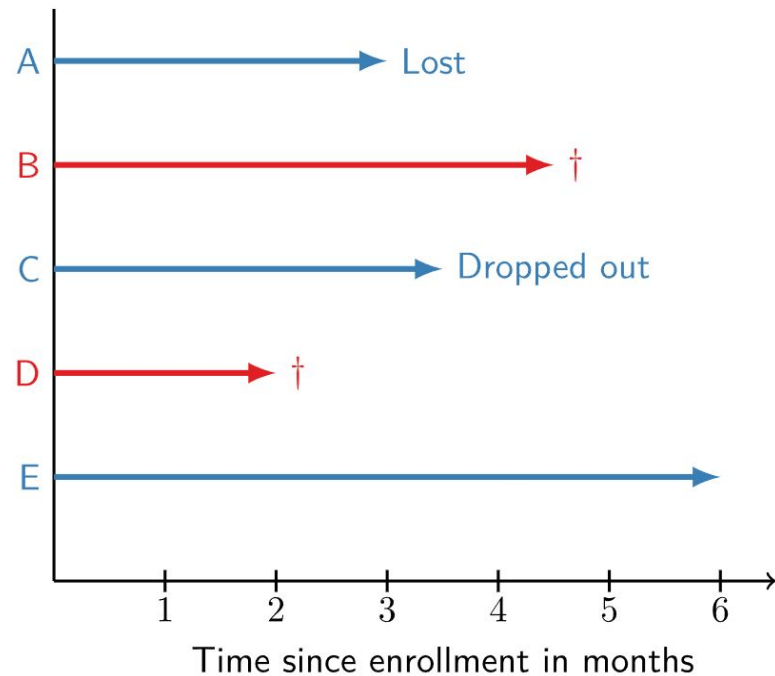
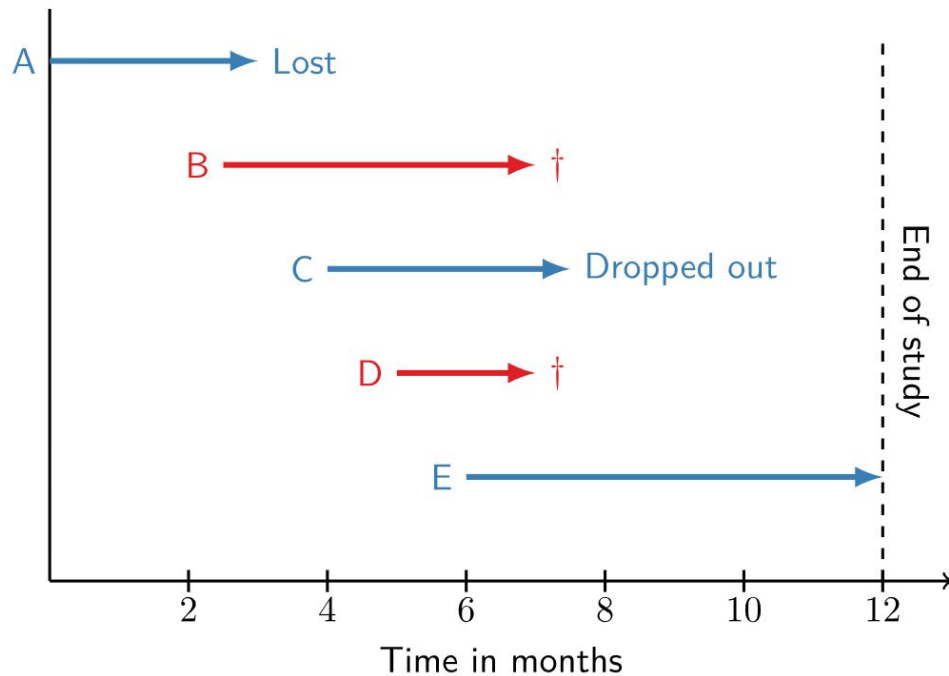
# DL for Survival Analysis

## Deep Surv:

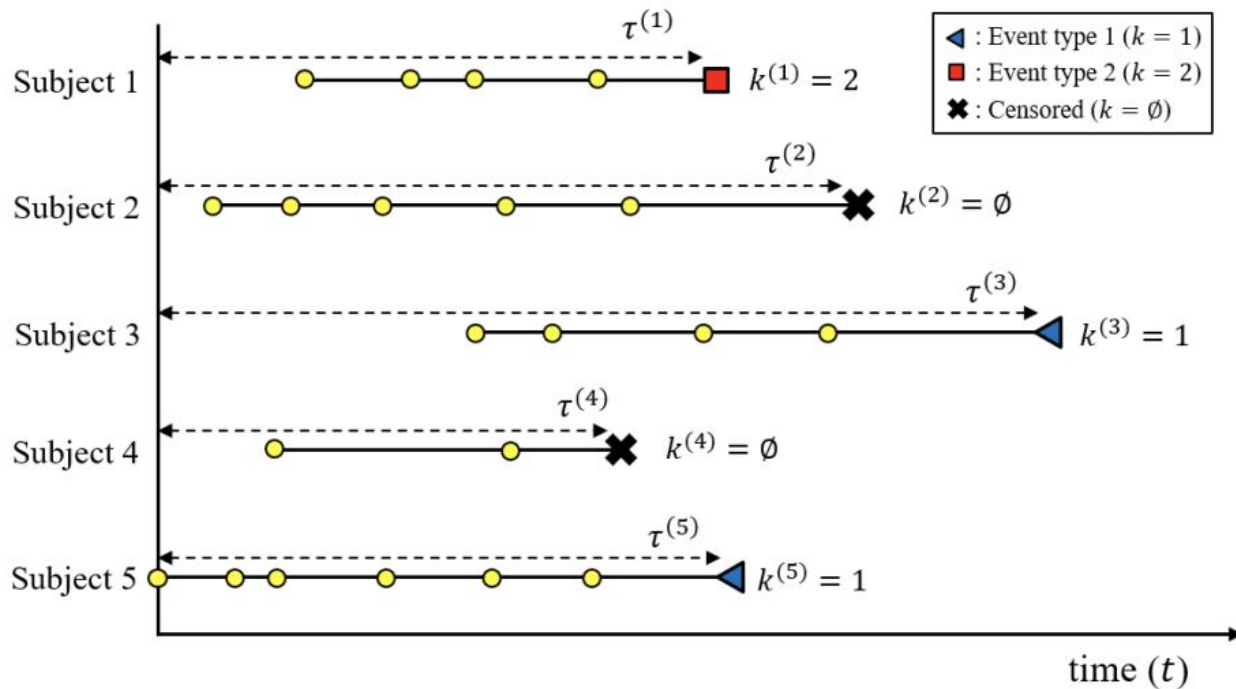
- Idea originally proposed in the work of [Faraggi and Simon](#) back in 1995
- Used in many papers since then: [example1](#), [example2](#), etc...
- [PyTorch implementation](#)



# Static vs dynamic survival analysis



# Static vs **dynamic** survival analysis



# Metric

## **C(t) : Time Dependent Concordance Index (CI)**

- Proposed in [Estimating a time-dependent concordance index for survival prediction models with covariate dependent censoring](#) (2012)

# Metric

**C(t) : Time Dependent Concordance Index (CI)**

$$C_t(t) = E_{ij} \{ 1\{M_n(t, X_i) > M_n(t, X_j)\} \mid T_i < T_j, T_i \leq t, D_n^{\text{train}} \}$$

CI is now a function of t

Consider only pairs where subject i had an event before time t, and time of event for subject j is > i



# Metric

**C(t) : Time Dependent Concordance Index (CI)**

$$C_t(t) = E_{ij} \{ 1\{M_n(t, X_i) > M_n(t, X_j)\} \mid T_i < T_j, T_i \leq t, D_n^{\text{train}} \}$$



Indicator function: is 1 if risk of i is higher than risk of j

# Metric

**C(t) : Time Dependent Concordance Index (CI)**

$$C_t(t) = E_{ij} \{1\{M_n(t, X_i) > M_n(t, X_j)\} \mid T_i < T_j, T_i \leq t, D_n^{\text{train}}\}$$



Expected value

### C(t)-INDEX CALCULATION

```
def c_index(Prediction, Time_survival, Death, Time):
```

```
    N = len(Prediction)
```

```
    A = np.zeros((N,N))
```

```
    Q = np.zeros((N,N))
```

```
    N_t = np.zeros((N,N))
```

```
    Num = 0
```

```
    Den = 0
```

```
    for i in range(N):
```

```
        A[i, np.where(Time_survival[i] < Time_survival)] = 1
```

```
        Q[i, np.where(Prediction[i] > Prediction)] = 1
```

```
        if (Time_survival[i]<=Time and Death[i]==1):
```

```
            N_t[i,:] = 1
```

```
    Num = np.sum(((A)*N_t)*Q)
```

```
    Den = np.sum((A)*N_t)
```

```
    if Num == 0 and Den == 0:
```

```
        result = -1 # not able to compute c-index!
```

```
    else:
```

```
        result = float(Num/Den)
```

```
    return result
```

This is a cause-specific c(t)-index

- Prediction : risk at Time (higher --> more risky)

- Time\_survival : survival/censoring time

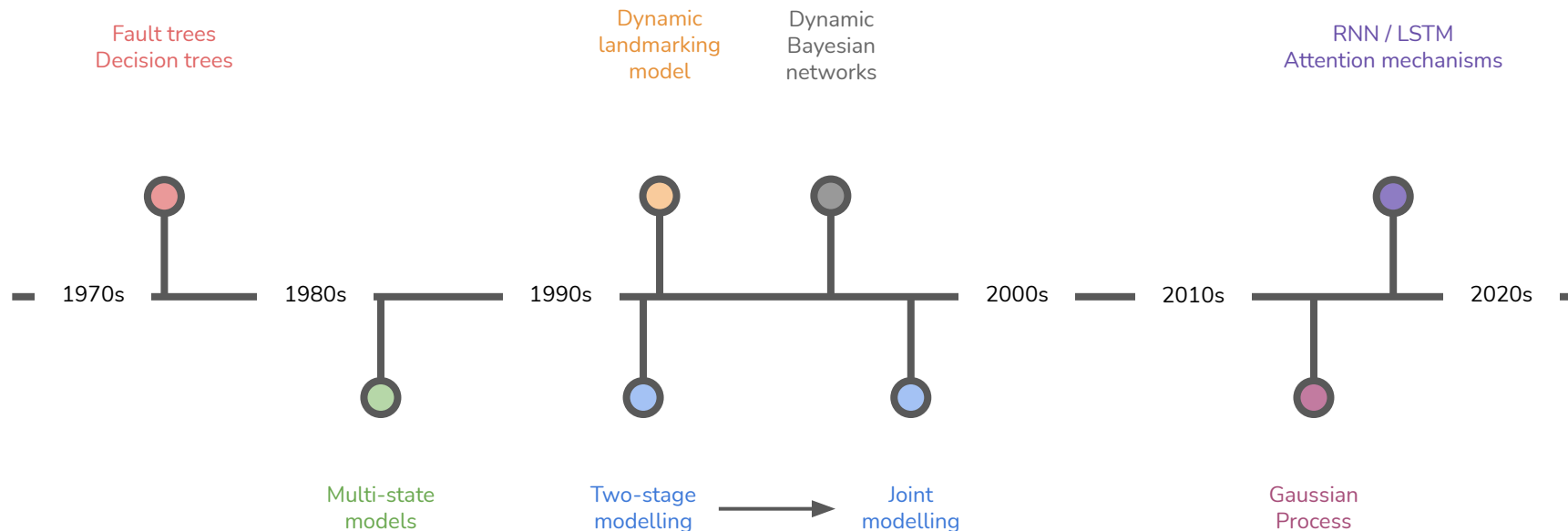
- Death :

> 1: death

> 0: censored (including death from other cause)

- Time : time of evaluation (time-horizon when evaluating C-index)

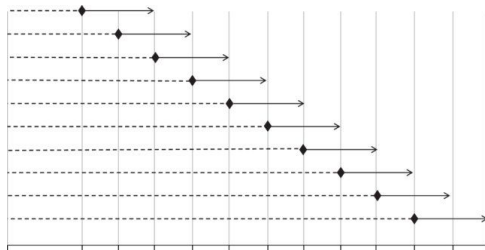
# Evolution of approaches to dynamic risk analysis



# Evolution of approaches to dynamic risk analysis

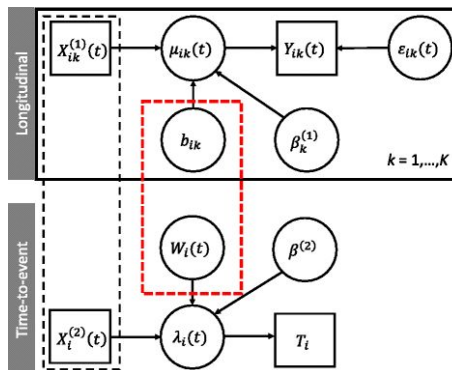
## Landmark models

- Timescale is divided into a discrete set of landmark times
- Separate model is trained at each landmark time for those who are still at risk of the event, as the horizon of the prediction moves forward



## Two-stage modelling

- First, longitudinal model is fitted (usually a linear mixed model)
- Next, time-to-event model (Cox PH) is fitted using the parameters of the longitudinal model

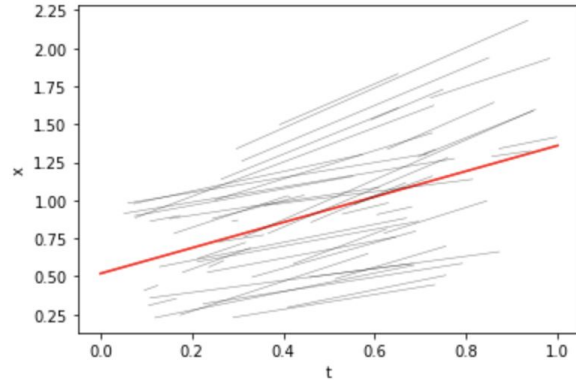


## Joint modelling

- Requires model for the survival outcome, model for the dynamic marker process and method to link them (often shared random effects)
- Defining joint distribution of the two associated processes
- Can be computationally demanding

## 2 stage approach: stage 1 - linear mixed model

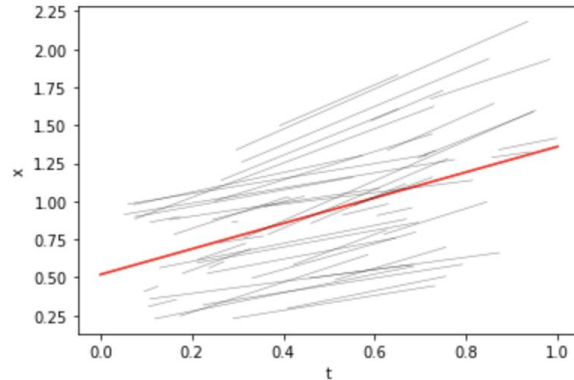
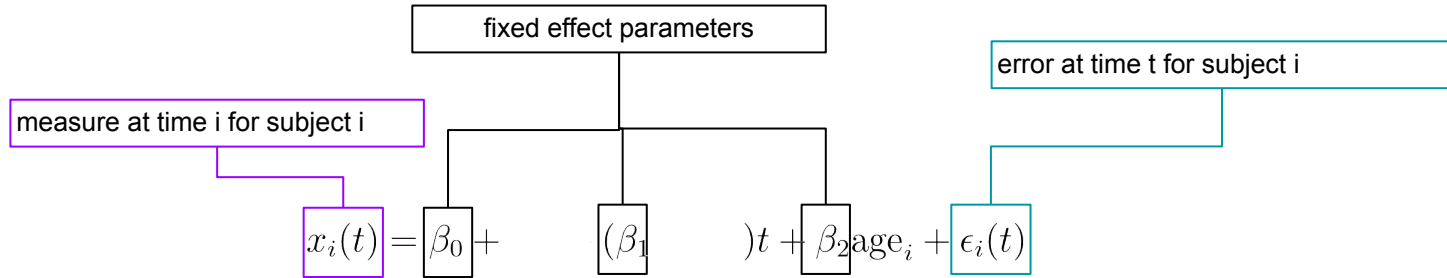
Stage 1:



Example: each vital sign has a “typical trajectory” over time (e.g. blood pressure increases), i.e. the red line

## 2 stage approach: stage 1 - linear mixed model

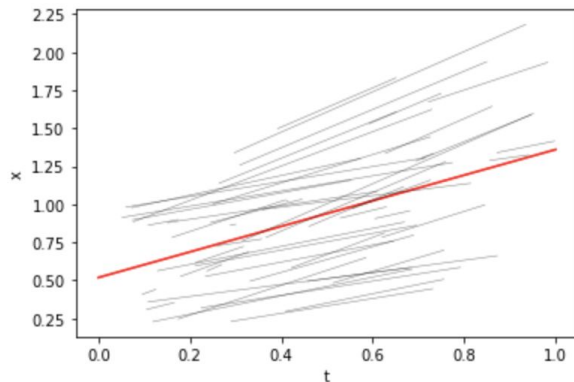
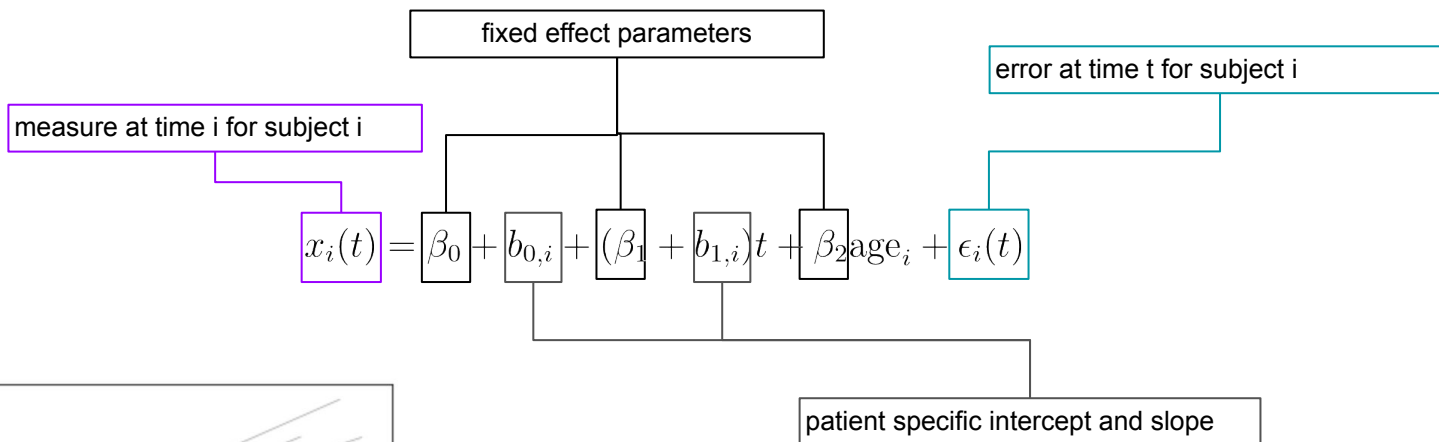
Stage 1:



Example: each vital sign has a “typical trajectory” over time (e.g. blood pressure increases), i.e. the red line

## 2 stage approach: stage 1 - linear mixed model

Stage 1:

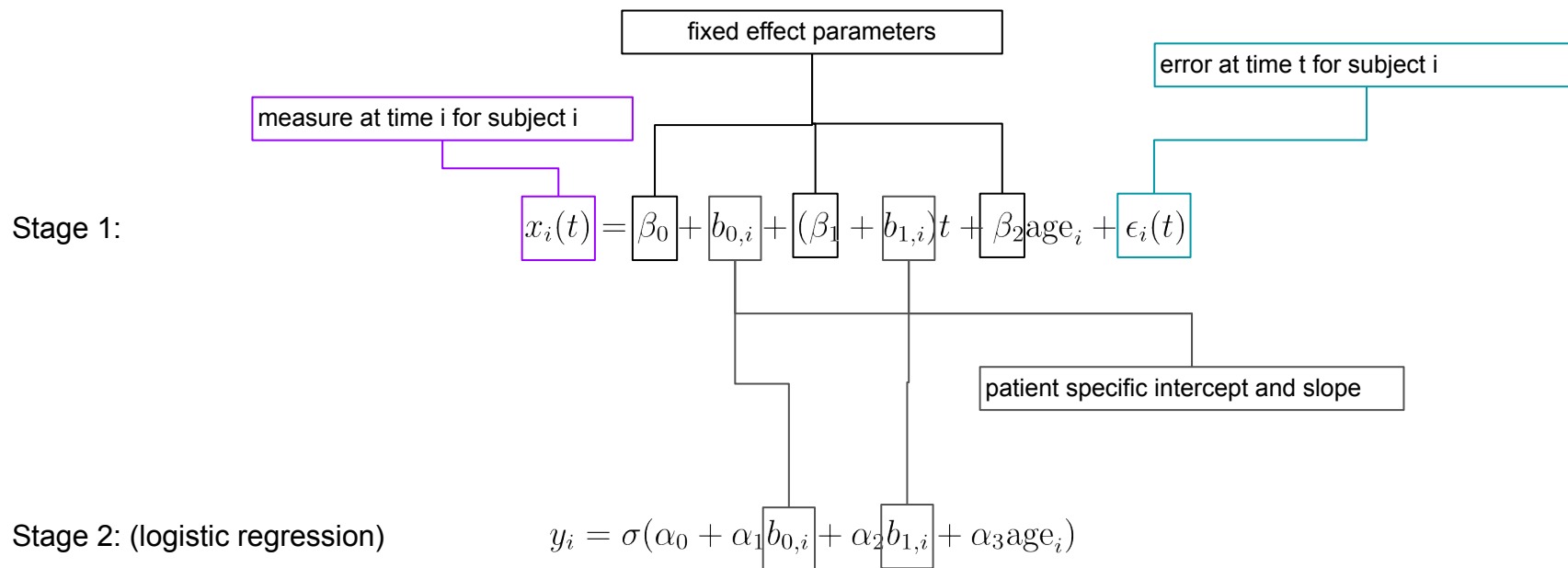


Example: each vital sign has a “typical trajectory” over time (e.g. blood pressure increases), i.e. the red line

We build a parametric model of how each subject deviates from that typical trajectory, i.e. the grey lines



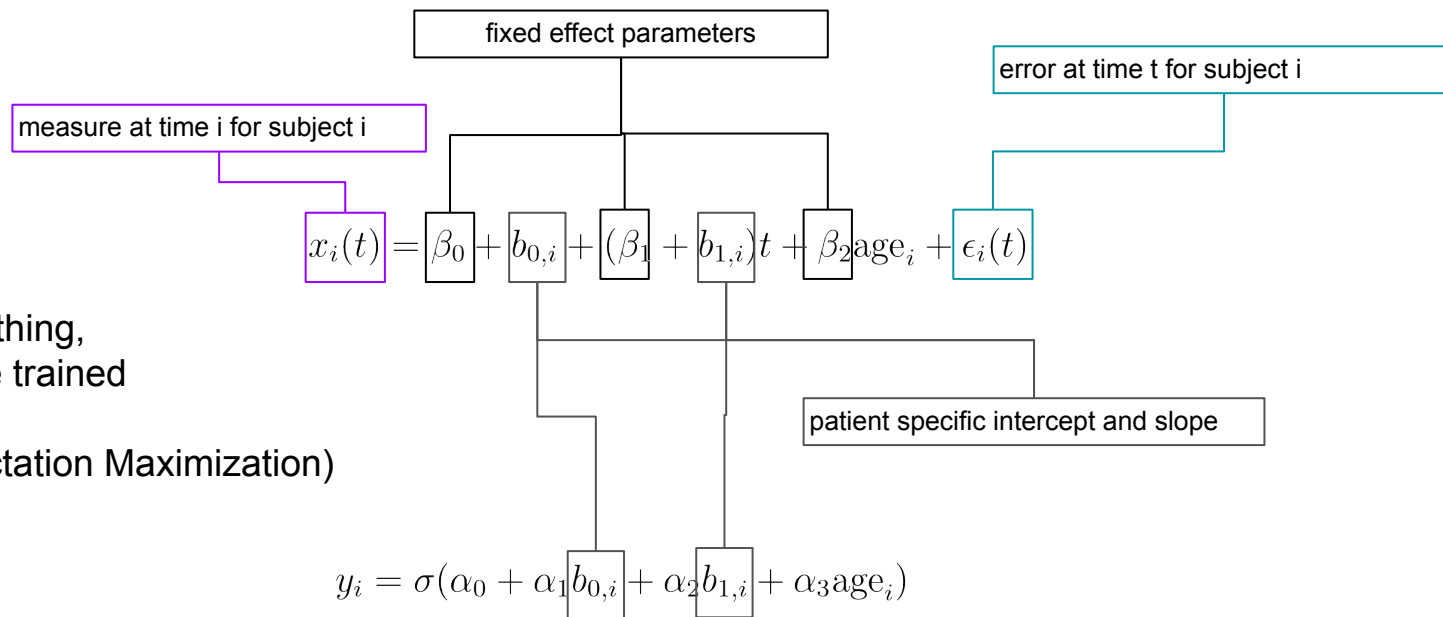
## 2 stage approach: stage 2 - regression



We use parameters of “deviation from normal trajectory” to inform a logistic regression model (or cox).

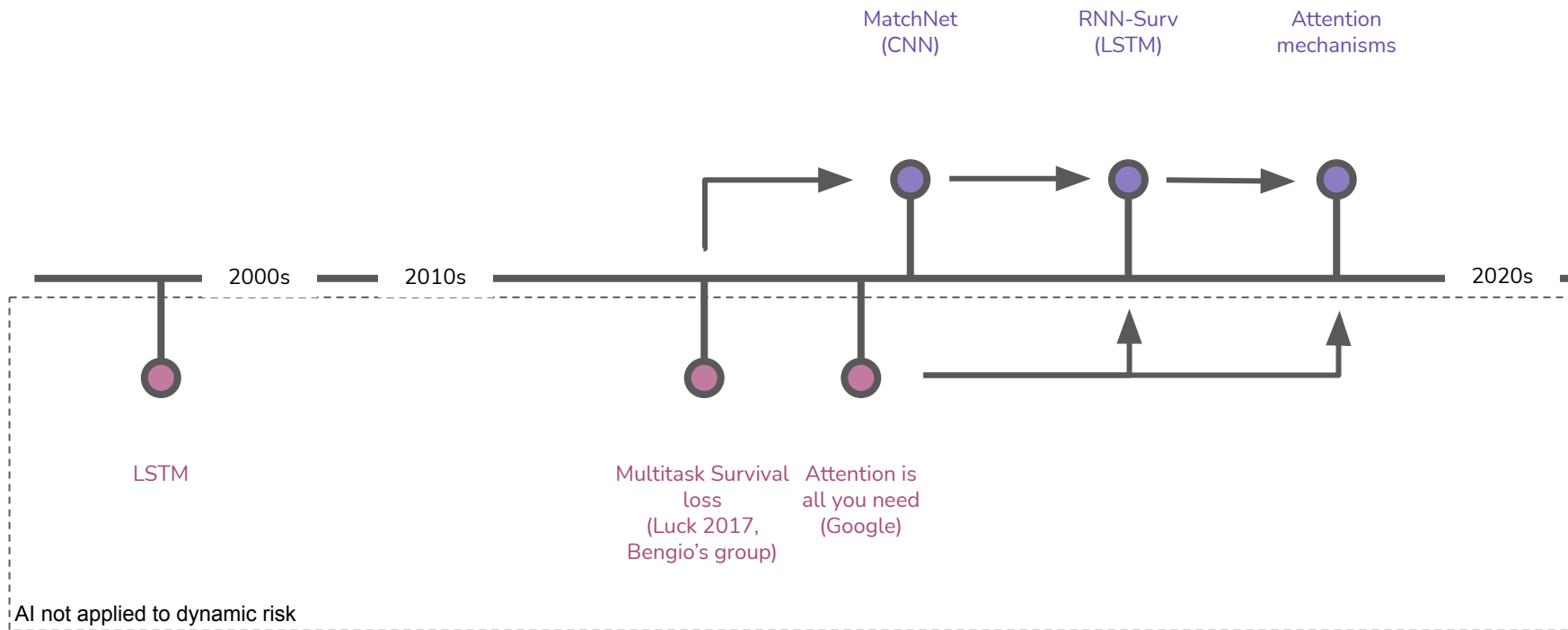
Play with the [interactive version](#)

# Joint Model



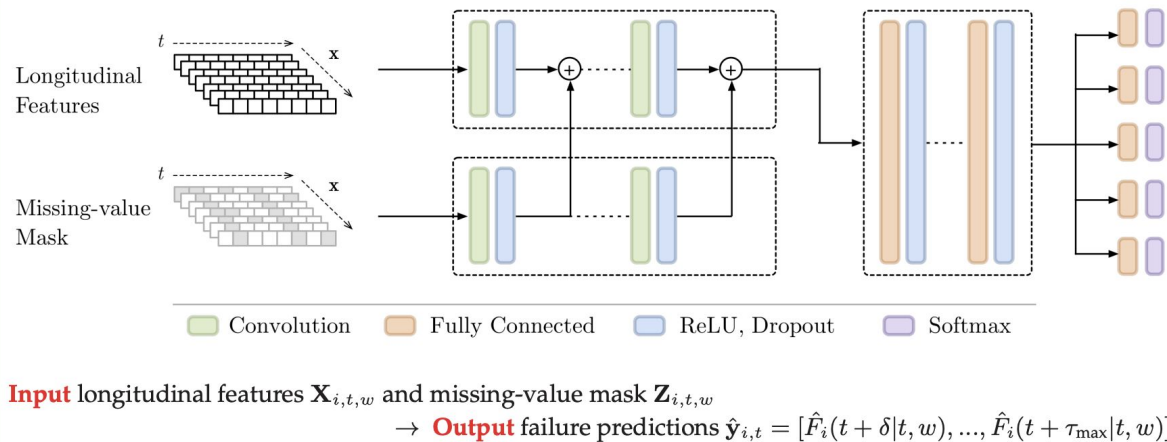
Basically the same thing,  
but the 2 stages are trained  
simultaneously  
(Monte Carlo Expectation Maximization)

# Evolution of approaches to dynamic risk analysis: DL

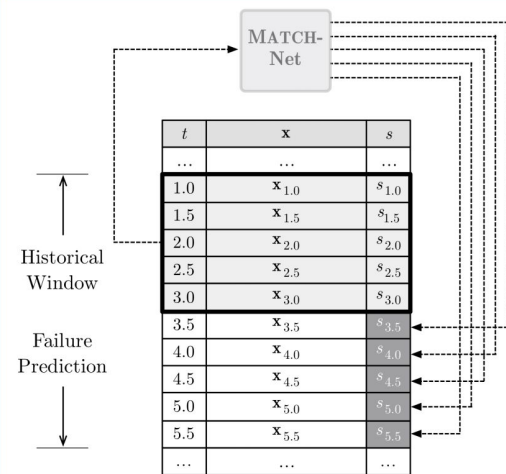


# Evolution of approaches to dynamic risk analysis: MatchNet

## MATCH-NET ARCHITECTURE



## SLIDING WINDOWS



We want to estimate the failure function  $F$ :

$$F_i(t + \tau | t, w) = \mathbb{P}(T_{i,\text{surv}} \leq t + \tau | T_{i,\text{surv}} > t, \mathbf{X}_{i,t,w})$$

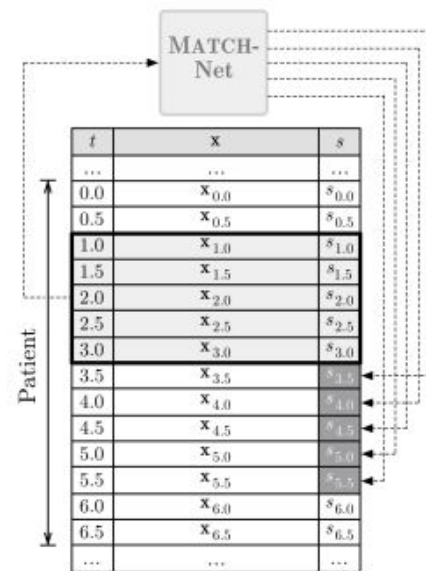
Probability that failure will happen before  $t + \tau$ ,  
given that:

- it hasn't happened at time  $t$  yet
- The predictors are known at time  $t$

# Evolution of approaches to dynamic risk analysis: MatchNet

The output layer gives us failure estimates for a window of timepoints:

$$\hat{\mathbf{y}}_{i,t} = [\hat{F}_i(t + \delta | t, w), \dots, \hat{F}_i(t + \tau_{\max} | t, w)]$$



(c) Sliding windows

# Evolution of approaches to dynamic risk analysis: MatchNet



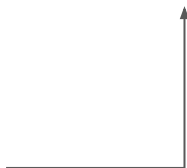
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The total loss:

$$l(\boldsymbol{\theta}) = \frac{\delta^2}{\sum_{i=1}^N \sum_{j=1}^{t_i} \tau_i} \sum_{i=1}^N \sum_{j=1}^{t_i/\delta} \sum_{k=1}^{\tau_i/\delta} \alpha(i, (j-1)\delta, k\delta) \cdot l_{i, (j-1)\delta, k\delta}$$

For all subjects  $i$



# Evolution of approaches to dynamic risk analysis: MatchNet

The total loss:

$$l(\boldsymbol{\theta}) = \frac{\delta^2}{\sum_{i=1}^N \sum_{j=1}^{t_i} \tau_i} \sum_{i=1}^N \sum_{j=1}^{t_i/\delta} \sum_{k=1}^{\tau_i/\delta} \alpha(i, (j-1)\delta, k\delta) \cdot l_{i, (j-1)\delta, k\delta}$$

For all times  $j$





# Evolution of approaches to dynamic risk analysis: MatchNet



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The total loss:

$$l(\boldsymbol{\theta}) = \frac{\delta^2}{\sum_{i=1}^N \sum_{j=1}^{t_i} \tau_i} \sum_{i=1}^N \sum_{j=1}^{t_i/\delta} \sum_{k=1}^{\tau_i/\delta} \alpha(i, (j-1)\delta, k\delta) \cdot l_{i, (j-1)\delta, k\delta}$$



For all prediction horizons  $k$

# Evolution of approaches to dynamic risk analysis: MatchNet



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The total loss:


$$l(\boldsymbol{\theta}) = \frac{\delta^2}{\sum_{i=1}^N \sum_{j=1}^{t_i} \tau_i} \sum_{i=1}^N \sum_{j=1}^{t_i/\delta} \sum_{k=1}^{\tau_i/\delta} \alpha(i, (j-1)\delta, k\delta) \cdot l_{i, (j-1)\delta, k\delta}$$

Every subject has a weight  
that depends on survival  
duration

# Evolution of approaches to dynamic risk analysis: MatchNet

The total loss:

$$l(\boldsymbol{\theta}) = \frac{\delta^2}{\sum_{i=1}^N \sum_{j=1}^{t_i} \tau_i} \sum_{i=1}^N \sum_{j=1}^{t_i/\delta} \sum_{k=1}^{\tau_i/\delta} \alpha(i, (j-1)\delta, k\delta) \cdot l_{i, (j-1)\delta, k\delta}$$



The negative log likelihood  
of a single estimate

# Evolution of approaches to dynamic risk analysis: MatchNet

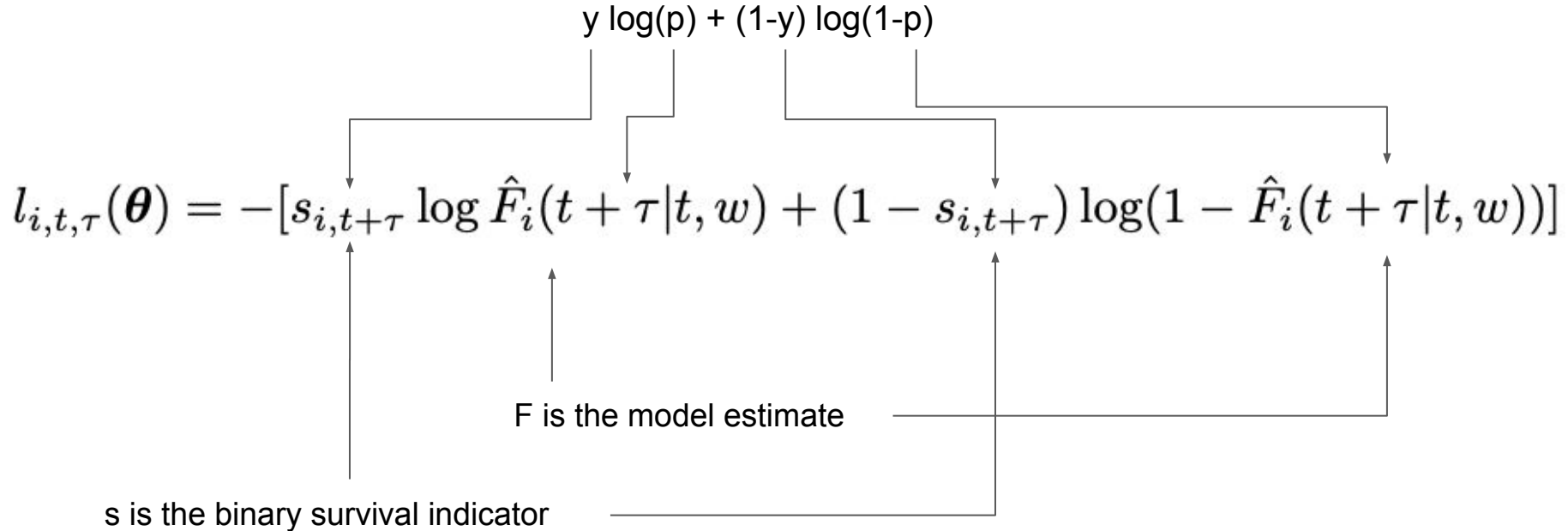
the negative log likelihood for a single estimate is just binary cross entropy:

$$l_{i,t,\tau}(\boldsymbol{\theta}) = -[s_{i,t+\tau} \log \hat{F}_i(t + \tau | t, w) + (1 - s_{i,t+\tau}) \log(1 - \hat{F}_i(t + \tau | t, w))]$$

$y \log(p) + (1-y) \log(1-p)$

$F$  is the model estimate

$s$  is the binary survival indicator



# Evolution of approaches to dynamic risk analysis: MatchNet

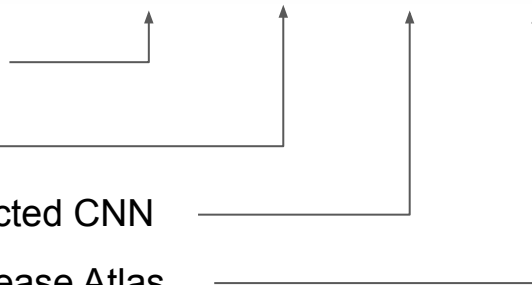
	$\tau$	MATCH-Net	S-TCN	S-MLP	FCN	D-Atlas	RNN	MLP	JM	LM
AUROC	0.5	<b>0.962</b>	0.961	0.959	0.954	0.959	0.949*	0.948*	0.913*	0.909*
	1.0	<b>0.942</b>	0.941	0.932	0.930	0.929	0.930	0.930	0.917*	0.914*
	1.5	<b>0.902</b>	<b>0.902</b>	0.897	0.895	0.892	0.891	0.890	0.881	0.878
	2.0	<b>0.909</b>	0.908	0.904	0.903	0.896	0.901	0.895	0.894	0.890
	2.5	<b>0.886</b>	0.884	0.881	0.883	0.884	0.883	0.874	0.883	0.878
AUPRC	0.5	<b>0.594</b>	0.580	0.500	0.536	0.517	0.464*	0.469*	0.473*	0.469*
	1.0	<b>0.513</b>	0.505	0.447	0.453	0.423	0.410*	0.435	0.415*	0.412*
	1.5	<b>0.373</b>	0.367	0.354	0.357	0.364	0.340	0.340	0.319	0.325
	2.0	<b>0.390</b>	0.380	0.364	0.375	0.352	0.355	0.359	0.362	0.367
	2.5	<b>0.384</b>	0.381	0.371	0.365	0.360	0.365	0.356	0.366	0.363

MatchNet without clinical input

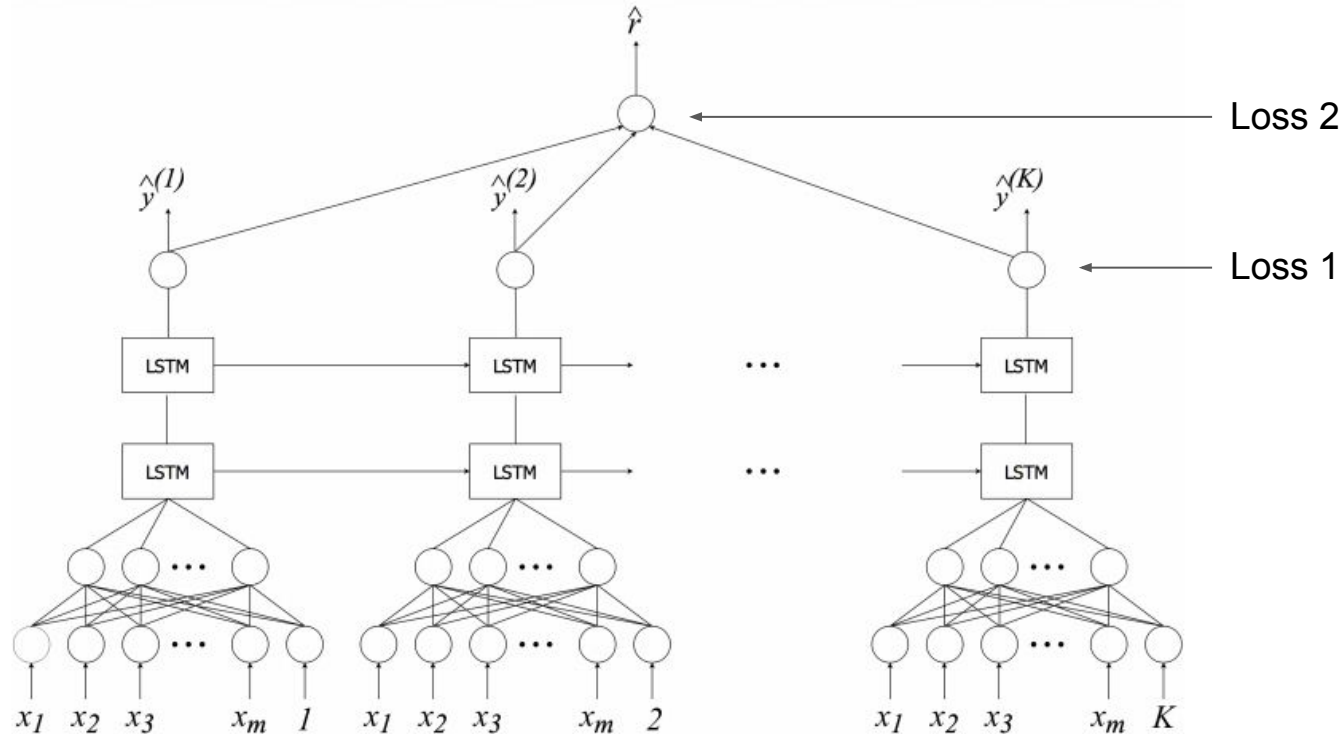
MLP instead of CNN

Fully connected CNN

Disease Atlas



# Evolution of approaches to dynamic risk analysis: RNN-Surv



## Multitask learning

$$\mathcal{L}_1 = - \sum_{k=1}^K \sum_{i \in U_k} [\mathbb{I}(Y_i > t_k) \log \hat{y}_i^{(k)} + (1 - \mathbb{I}(Y_i > t_k)) \log(1 - \hat{y}_i^{(k)})]$$

Cross entropy to predict time to event,  
modified to support censoring

For each time

## Multitask learning

$$\mathcal{L}_1 = - \sum_{k=1}^K \sum_{i \in U_k} [\mathbb{I}(Y_i > t_k) \log \hat{y}_i^{(k)} + (1 - \mathbb{I}(Y_i > t_k)) \log(1 - \hat{y}_i^{(k)})]$$

Cross entropy to predict time to event,  
modified to support censoring

For each admissible subject



Multitask learning

$$\mathcal{L}_1 = - \sum_{k=1}^K \sum_{i \in U_k} [\mathbb{I}(Y_i > t_k) \log \hat{y}_i^{(k)} + (1 - \mathbb{I}(Y_i > t_k)) \log(1 - \hat{y}_i^{(k)})]$$


Cross entropy to predict time to event,  
modified to support censoring

Binary cross entropy



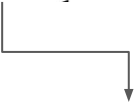
## Multitask learning

Maximise, for every admissible couple  $i$  and  $j$ , where  $T_i < T_j$

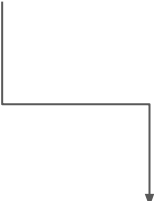

$$\mathcal{L}_2 = -\frac{1}{|\mathcal{C}|} \sum_{(i,j) \in \mathcal{C}} \left[ 1 + \left( \frac{\log \sigma(\hat{r}_j - \hat{r}_i)}{\log 2} \right) \right]$$

$$\sigma(z) = 1/(1+e^{-z})$$

Sigmoid

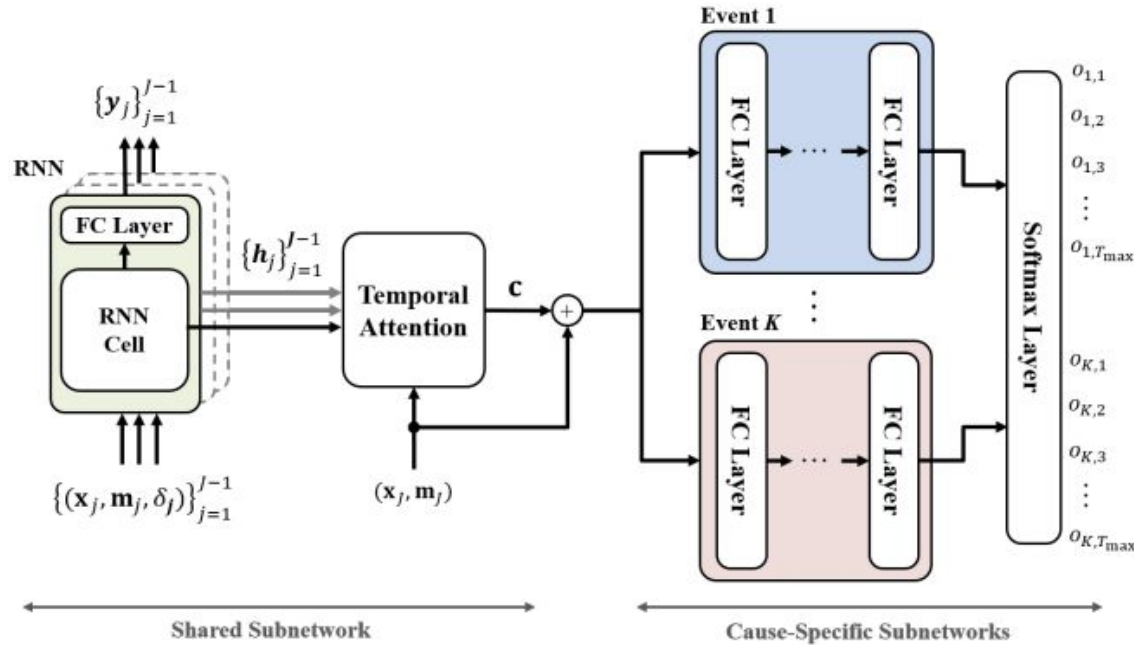

$$\mathbf{1}_{z>0} \geq 1 + (\log \sigma(z)/\log 2)$$

Lower bound to the indicator function


$$\mathcal{L}_2 = -\frac{1}{|\mathcal{C}|} \sum_{(i,j) \in \mathcal{C}} \left[ 1 + \left( \frac{\log \sigma(\hat{r}_j - \hat{r}_i)}{\log 2} \right) \right]$$

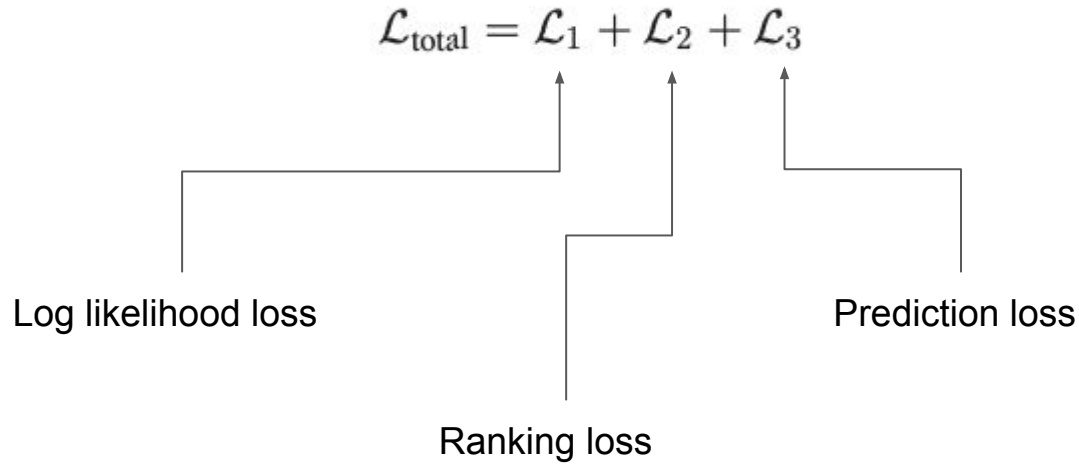
Upper bound to negative c-index,  
see [this paper](#)

# Evolution of approaches to dynamic risk analysis: Dynamic-DeepHit



(a) The network architecture with  $K$  competing risks.

# Evolution of approaches to dynamic risk analysis: Dynamic-DeepHit



# Evolution of approaches to dynamic risk analysis: Dynamic-DeepHit

$$\mathcal{L}_{\text{total}} = \mathcal{L}_1 + \mathcal{L}_2 + \mathcal{L}_3$$

$\mathcal{L}_1 =$

Log likelihood loss:

If not censored: captures the event, and the time of the event.

If censored: captures the time of censoring

# Evolution of approaches to dynamic risk analysis: Dynamic-DeepHit

$$\mathcal{L}_{\text{total}} = \mathcal{L}_1 + \mathcal{L}_2 + \mathcal{L}_3$$

$$\mathcal{L}_1 = - \sum_{i=1}^N \left[ \mathbb{1}(k^i \neq \emptyset) \cdot \log \left( \frac{o_{k^i, \tau^i}^i}{1 - \sum_{k \neq \emptyset} \sum_{n \leq t_{j^i}^i} o_{k,n}^i} \right) + \mathbb{1}(k^i = \emptyset) \cdot \log \left( 1 - \sum_{k \neq \emptyset} \hat{F}_k(\tau^i | \mathcal{X}^i) \right) \right]$$

For all subjects

We want to  
maximise the sum

# Evolution of approaches to dynamic risk analysis: Dynamic-DeepHit

$$\mathcal{L}_{\text{total}} = \mathcal{L}_1 + \mathcal{L}_2 + \mathcal{L}_3$$

$$\mathcal{L}_1 = - \sum_{i=1}^N \left[ \mathbb{1}(k^i \neq \emptyset) \cdot \log \left( \frac{o_{k^i, \tau^i}^i}{1 - \sum_{k \neq \emptyset} \sum_{n \leq t_{J^i}^i} o_{k,n}^i} \right) + \mathbb{1}(k^i = \emptyset) \cdot \log \left( 1 - \sum_{k \neq \emptyset} \hat{F}_k(\tau^i | \mathcal{X}^i) \right) \right]$$

Indicator function for risk k.  
1 if event k happened

o: output prob for risk k at time t  
This is the Cumulative Incidence  
Function



# Evolution of approaches to dynamic risk analysis: Dynamic-DeepHit

$$\mathcal{L}_{\text{total}} = \mathcal{L}_1 + \mathcal{L}_2 + \mathcal{L}_3$$


$$\mathcal{L}_1 = - \sum_{i=1}^N \left[ \mathbb{1}(k^i \neq \emptyset) \cdot \log \left( \frac{o_{k^i, \tau^i}^i}{1 - \sum_{k \neq \emptyset} \sum_{n \leq t_{J^i}^i} o_{k,n}^i} \right) + \mathbb{1}(k^i = \emptyset) \cdot \log \left( 1 - \sum_{k \neq \emptyset} \hat{F}_k(\tau^i | \mathcal{X}^i) \right) \right]$$

Event didn't happen (censored subject)

1 - estimated Cumulative Incidence Function

# Evolution of approaches to dynamic risk analysis: Dynamic-DeepHit

$$\mathcal{L}_{\text{total}} = \mathcal{L}_1 + \mathcal{L}_2 + \mathcal{L}_3$$



$\mathcal{L}_2 =$  Ranking loss: Cumulative Incidence Function at different times

# Evolution of approaches to dynamic risk analysis: Dynamic-DeepHit

$$\mathcal{L}_{\text{total}} = \mathcal{L}_1 + \mathcal{L}_2 + \mathcal{L}_3$$

$\mathcal{L}_2 =$  Acceptable pairs:  $(i, j)$  where  
i: experiences event  $k$  at time  $i$   
j: does not experience any event until  $i$

We want our risk estimate for  $i$  larger than for  $j$

# Evolution of approaches to dynamic risk analysis: Dynamic-DeepHit

$$\mathcal{L}_{\text{total}} = \mathcal{L}_1 + \mathcal{L}_2 + \mathcal{L}_3$$

Hyperparameter for risk k

$$\mathcal{L}_2 = \sum_{k=1}^K \alpha_k \sum_{i \neq j} A_{kij} \cdot \eta(\hat{F}_k(s^i + t_{J^i}^i | \mathcal{X}^i), \hat{F}_k(s^i + t_{J^j}^j | \mathcal{X}^j))$$

For all types of event

For all acceptable pairs (A is the indicator function for acceptable pairs). If the pair is not acceptable this becomes 0 and is ignored

# Evolution of approaches to dynamic risk analysis: Dynamic-DeepHit

$$\mathcal{L}_{\text{total}} = \mathcal{L}_1 + \mathcal{L}_2 + \mathcal{L}_3$$

$$\mathcal{L}_2 = \sum_{k=1}^K \alpha_k \sum_{i \neq j} A_{kij} \cdot \eta\left(\hat{F}_k(s^i + t_{Ji}^i | \mathcal{X}^i), \hat{F}_k(s^i + t_{Jj}^j | \mathcal{X}^j)\right)$$

$$\eta(a, b) = \exp\left(-\frac{a-b}{\sigma}\right)$$

Estimated Cumulative Incidence  
Functions for i and j

Differentiable loss function that grows exponentially if risk of j is > risk of i

Play with the [interactive version](#)

# Evolution of approaches to dynamic risk analysis: Dynamic-DeepHit

$$\mathcal{L}_{\text{total}} = \mathcal{L}_1 + \mathcal{L}_2 + \mathcal{L}_3$$



$\mathcal{L}_3 =$  Prediction loss: step-ahead prediction of covariates

# Evolution of approaches to dynamic risk analysis: Dynamic-DeepHit

$$\mathcal{L}_{\text{total}} = \mathcal{L}_1 + \mathcal{L}_2 + \mathcal{L}_3$$

$$\mathcal{L}_3 = \beta \cdot \sum_{i=1}^N \sum_{j=0}^{J^i-1} \sum_{d \in \mathcal{I}} (1 - m_{j+1,d}^i) \cdot \zeta(x_{j+1,d}^i, y_{j,d}^i)$$

hyperparameter

For all subjects

# Evolution of approaches to dynamic risk analysis: Dynamic-DeepHit

$$\mathcal{L}_{\text{total}} = \mathcal{L}_1 + \mathcal{L}_2 + \mathcal{L}_3$$

$$\mathcal{L}_3 = \beta \cdot \sum_{i=1}^N \sum_{j=0}^{J^i-1} \sum_{d \in \mathcal{I}} (1 - m_{j+1,d}^i) \cdot \zeta(x_{j+1,d}^i, y_{j,d}^i)$$

For all times





# Evolution of approaches to dynamic risk analysis: Dynamic-DeepHit

$$\mathcal{L}_{\text{total}} = \mathcal{L}_1 + \mathcal{L}_2 + \mathcal{L}_3$$


$$\mathcal{L}_3 = \beta \cdot \sum_{i=1}^N \sum_{j=0}^{J^i-1} \sum_{d \in \mathcal{I}} (1 - m_{j+1,d}^i) \cdot \zeta(x_{j+1,d}^i, y_{j,d}^i)$$

If next measure is missing this  
becomes 0 (therefore ignored)


# Evolution of approaches to dynamic risk analysis: Dynamic-DeepHit

$$\mathcal{L}_{\text{total}} = \mathcal{L}_1 + \mathcal{L}_2 + \mathcal{L}_3$$


Measure at time  $j+1$       Predicted measure at time  $j$


$$\mathcal{L}_3 = \beta \cdot \sum_{i=1}^N \sum_{j=0}^{J^i-1} \sum_{d \in \mathcal{I}} (1 - m_{j+1,d}^i) \cdot \zeta(x_{j+1,d}^i, y_{j,d}^i)$$

If continuous:

$$\zeta(a, b) = |a - b|^2$$


If binary:

$$\zeta(a, b) = -a \log b - (1 - a) \log(1 - b)$$


# Summary

## Goals:

- How to approach survival analysis (time-to-event)
  - Preprocessing
  - ML
  - DL
- Handling longitudinal covariates (time series)
  - How this changes the setting
  - Techniques
- A bit of historical overview
- Domain specific loss functions

## **Preprocessing:**

- Understand your data
- One-hot-encoding
- Cross validation
- Normalisation
- Mean-imputation

## **ML for Survival Analysis:**

- CoxBoost
- Survival Random Forests
- Survival Support Vector Machines

## **Dynamic Survival Analysis:**

- Add censoring to known loss
- Where's the bug?
- Write hyper-parameter search code

# Questions?

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