design and generating data

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Design of simulation settings

We conducted simulation studies to assess the performance of three survival models. In total, we created 7 simulation settings by mixing the event time generated from the three specified baseline hazard function: exponential, Weibull, and Gompertz hazard function. Then the generated data were fitted to exponential, Weibull, and Cox proportional hazard models. The parameters we applied in the models are constants: $\alpha = 0.5$, $\gamma = 1.5$, $\beta = -0.5$. Since the shape of Weibull distribution has great difference between $\gamma > 1$ and $\gamma < 1$, thus we simulated in scenarios where $\gamma = 0.5$ and $\gamma = 1.5$,

We simulated 500 data sets in each simulation setting. After running the models, a set of β was extracted and used to calculate the mean bias, variance, and squared error. To evaluate the efficiency performances of models, we simulated data of different sample sizes: 20, 40, 60, 80, 100, 200, 400. Similarly, bias, variance, MSE are calculated.

All the simulation processes were performed in R.

Methods for generating data

The survival dataset contains treatment assignment, status indicator, and observed time. Treatment assignment variable X_i is generated from a Bernoulli distribution with p = 0.5. By utilizing the inverse transformation method, we can obtain event time T:

$T = H_0^{-1}\left(\frac{-\log(u)}{e^{x^T\beta}}\right)$, where $U \sim U(0,1)$

The followings are specific baseline hazard functions we applied:

1. Survival time under Exponential distribution: $T = -\frac{\log(u)}{\lambda e^{x^T\beta}}$
2. Survival time under Weibull distribution: $T = \left(-\frac{\log(u)}{\lambda e^{x^T\beta}}\right)^{\frac{1}{\gamma}}$
3. Survival time under Gompertz distribution: $T = \frac{1}{\alpha}\log\left(1 - \frac{\alpha\log(u)}{\lambda e^{x^T\beta}}\right)$

We simulated survival data by the event time generated from the mixtures of three baseline distributions.

Mixture of Exponential and Weibull distribution:

$$T = p * (-\frac{\log(u)}{\lambda e^{x^T\beta}}) + (1-p) * (-\frac{\log(u)}{\lambda e^{x^T\beta}})^{1/\gamma}$$

We take values of p as 0, 0.5 and 1. When `p = 1`, event time is generated from exponential baseline; when `p = 0`, event time is generated from Weibull distribution.

Mixture of Exponential and Gompertz distribution:

$$T = p * (-\frac{\log(u)}{\lambda e^{x^T\beta}}) + (1-p) * (\frac{1}{\alpha}\log\left(1 - \frac{\alpha\log(u)}{\lambda e^{x^T\beta}}\right))$$

Similary, we take values of p as 0, 0.5 and 1. When `p = 1`, event time is generated from exponential baseline; when `p = 0`, event time is generated from Gompertz distribution. Finally, make event indicator variable by applying administrative censoring at t = 5.

By repeating each of the above simulation process 500 times, we get survival datasets with sample size ranging from 20 to 400.