

# Análisis de datos longitudinales

Grado en Estadística

Tema 2 – Sesión 7

**Análisis de Supervivencia**

**Eventos recurrentes (II)**

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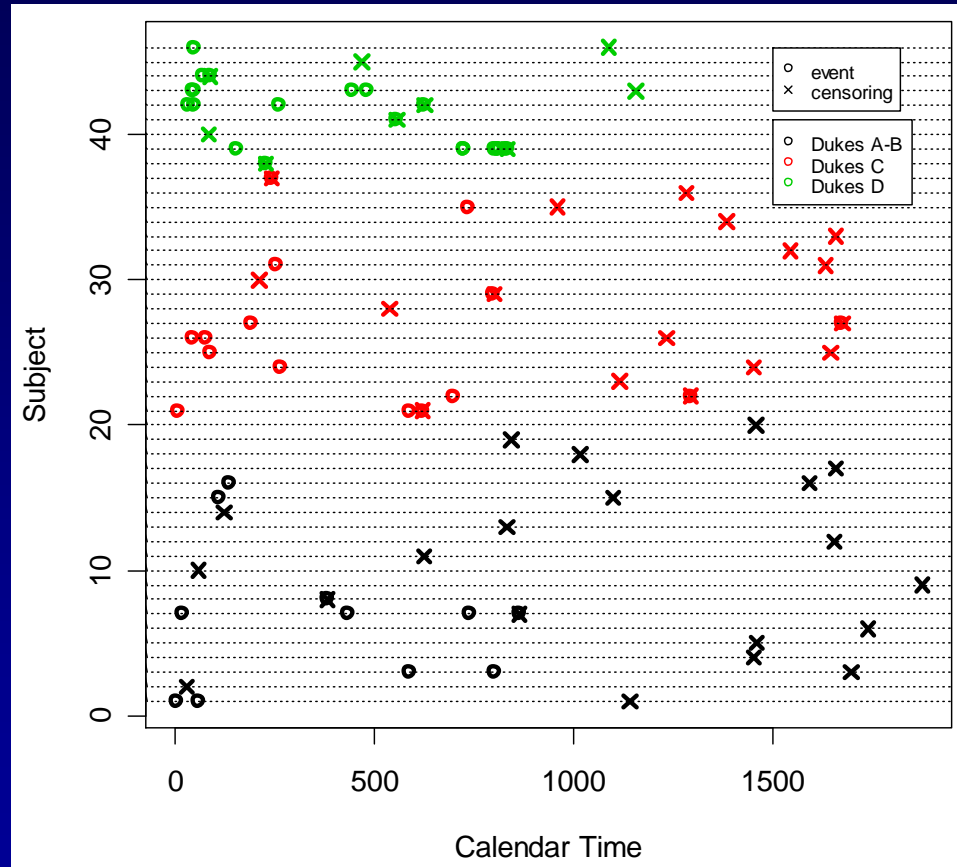
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# Problem 1: Colorectal cancer hospital readmissions

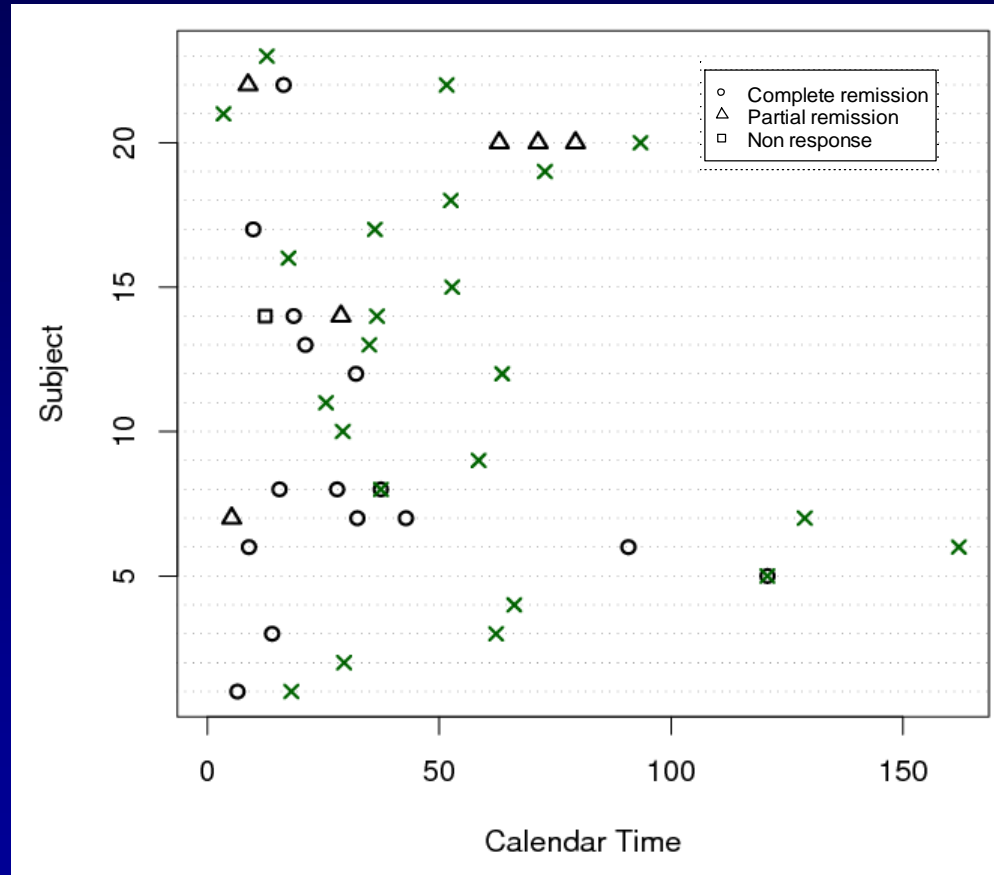
Time to next hospital readmission after surgery in colorectal patients



Are there any differences between tumor stages?  
How do we consider the heterogeneity?  
What is the impact of number of events?

## Problem 2: Non-Hodgkin lymphomas

Time to next hospital relapse after diagnosis in cancer patients

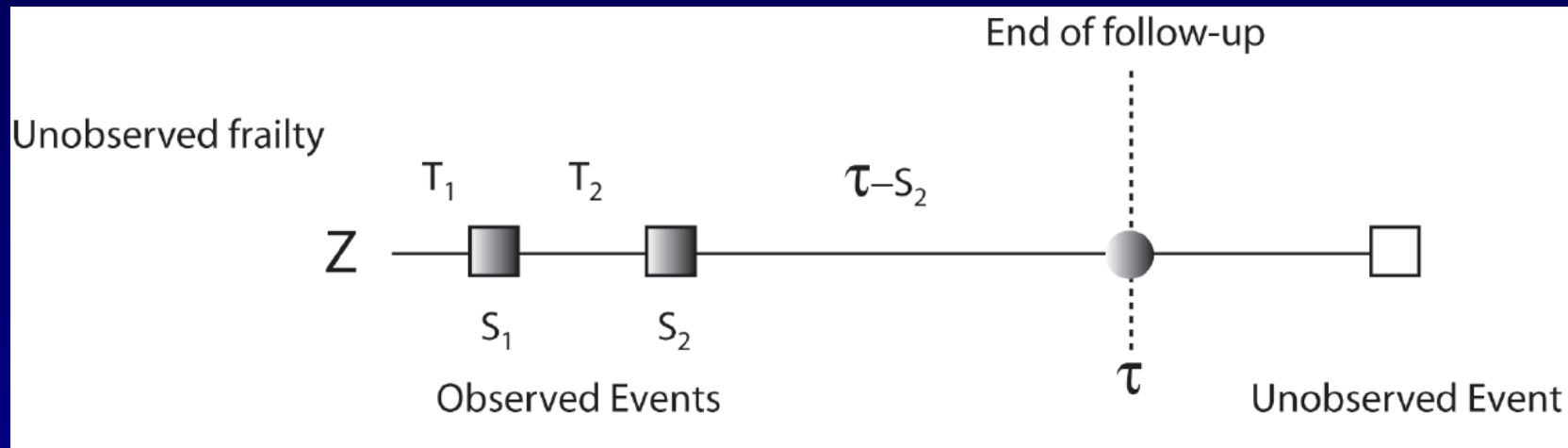


What is the effect of the **response to the treatment** on the time of next relapse?

In biomedical settings ...

- MacLaughlin (2002), in the context of non-indolent lymphomas, pointed out that:  
*"it is necessary a model designed specifically for relapsing patients"*
- Duchateau et al. (2003) stated that:  
*"Little attention, however, has been given to the timescale that is used for subsequent events and the interpretation attached to it."*

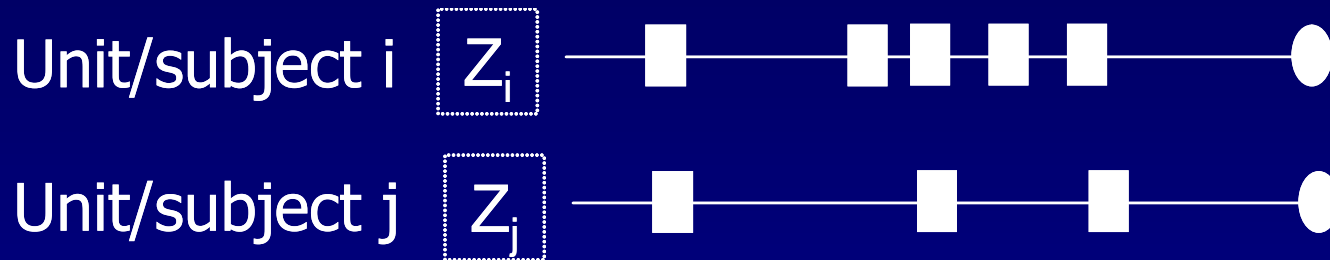
## Data with recurrent events



- $T_1, T_2, \dots$  = inter-event or gap times
- $S_1, S_2, \dots$  = calendar times of event occurrences
- $\tau$  = end of observation period
- $Z$  = unobserved frailty variable

- Accrued History:  $F = \{F(s) : 0 \leq s\}$
- $N(s)$  = number of events in  $[0, s]$
- $Y(s)$  = at-risk indicator at time  $s$
- $X(s)$  = covariate vector, possibly time-dependent

## Heterogeneity



- Biomedical data (unobserved variables, uncontrolled variables, non-measurable variables: genetic susceptibility, ...)
- There exists a random variable  $Z$  with known distribution. If we condition to  $Z=z$  the inter-occurrence times are i.i.d.

## Frailty Models

- Cox model must satisfy baseline proportional hazards assumption
  - What if have a mixture of hazards in the population or heterogeneity of the hazards?
- Frailty models are basically random effect survival models
- The random effects or frailty, described unexplained heterogeneity, the influence of unobserved risk factors in the model
- The concept of frailty may be used to explain the unaccounted for heterogeneity which leads to the differential survival patterns of members of a population (Keiding et al., 1997, Vaupel et al., 1997)



Frailty model:  $\lambda(s|x) = Z \lambda_0(s|x) \exp(\beta'X)$

- The term  $Z$ , called frailty, varies from individual to individual and is not observable
- The distribution of  $z$  of the population,  $G(z)$ , must be specified
- Hazard function is non-negative, hence,  $z$ , must be defined using a positive distribution (gamma, log-normal)
- Another way of looking at frailty model formulation is:

$$\lambda(t|x) = \lambda_0(t|x) \exp(\beta'X + e)$$

con  $e = \log(z)$

## Example: unobserved variable

- Consider a situation with the following population:

Group	Proportion of Population	Hazard Rate with placebo	Hazard Rate with Drug A
1	40%	1	.5
2	40%	2	1
3	20%	10	8

- Obviously Drug A is effective for the entire population.
- But what happens in the Cox Model if the group is unobservable?

## Example: unobserved variable

- Let's perform a simulation study
- Simulate  $k$  measurements for 100 people according to the previous table probabilities and randomly assign them to treatment or placebo
- For each person, have  $k$  simulate # of incidents within period of length 1. At the end of period of length 1 right-censoring occurs.

## COX MODEL

	coef	exp(coef)	se(coef)	z	p
treat	-0.206	0.814	0.135	-1.53	0.13

Likelihood ratio test=2.37 on 1 df, **p=0.124**

## FRAILTY COX MODEL

```
coxph(Surv(time,status)~ treat + frailty(id), datos)
```

	coef	se(coef)	se2	Chisq	DF	p
treat	-0.275	0.198	0.136	1.94	1.0	1.6e-01
frailty(id)				117.60	44.3	1.4e-08

Variance of random effect= 0.462 I-likelihood = -1201.4  
 Degrees of freedom for terms= 0.5 44.3  
 Likelihood ratio test=131 on 44.7 df, **p=2.37e-10** n=  
 332117.44 47.5 7.5e-08

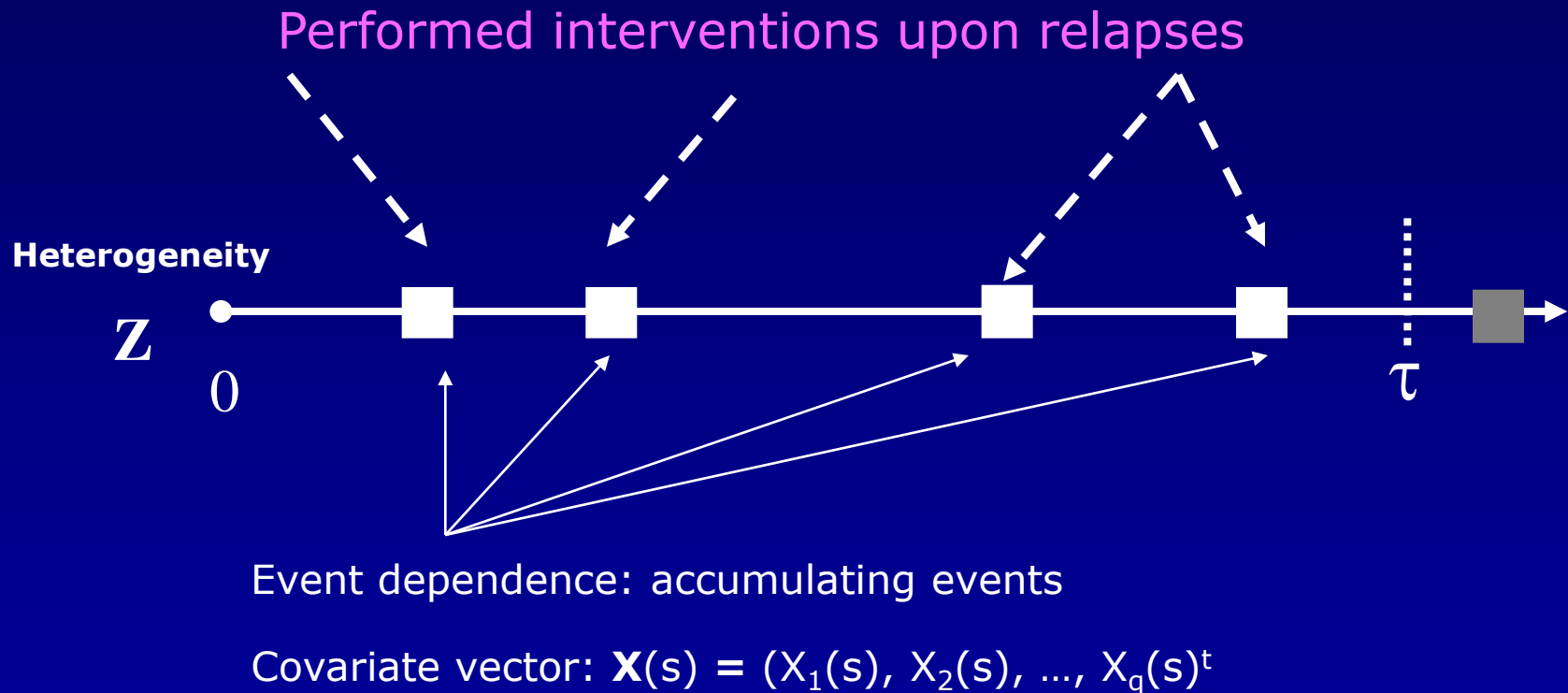
Frailty model:  $\lambda(s|x) = Z \lambda_0(s|x) \exp(\beta'X)$

- Univariate frailty (per subject basis)
- Multivariate frailty (grouping factor)
  - families
  - siblings
  - countries/regions
  - ...
- Repeated measurements (per subject basis)
  - Recurrent events
- Repeated measurements/grouping (2 nested groups)

Frailty model:  $\lambda(s|x) = Z \lambda_0(s|x) \exp(\beta'X)$

- EM algorithm has some drawbacks
  - do not provide direct estimates of the variance of the parameters
  - jackknife estimation (time-consuming)
- Penalized likelihood inference
  - Penalized **partial likelihood** (Therneau et al.'s, 2003)
    - the penalty incorporates a regression coefficient
    - do not provide estimates of variance of frailty variance
  - Penalized **full likelihood** (Rondeau et al.'s, 2003)
    - gives an smooth estimates of baseline hazard function
    - obtains an estimation of variance of frailty variance
    - smoothing parameter

## General class of models



Peña and Hollander (2004)

# Inference for the general class of models

## Intensity process

$$\lambda_i(s|\mathbf{Z}, \mathbf{X}_i) = Z_i \lambda_0[\mathcal{E}_i(s)] \rho[N_i^\dagger(s-); \alpha] \psi[\beta^t \mathbf{X}_i(s)]$$

Frailty:  
**Heterogeneity**

Baseline  
hazard

Models the  
**intervention** after  
events (Effective Age)

Models the event  
**dependence** ( $\alpha^k$ ):

Models the effect of  
**covariates**

Peña and Hollander (2004)



## Effective age process

- Model I: Patient always achieves complete remission after each treatment (perfect repair). Gap time formulation (**superficial bladder cancer**)

$$\mathcal{E}_i(s) = s - S_{N^\dagger}(s-)$$

- Model II: Patient does not (always) improve after each treatment, e.g. stable disease after each treatment (minimal repair). Calendar time formulation

$$\mathcal{E}_i(s) = s$$

# Inference for the general class of models

- Model without frailties
  - Partial Likelihood process

$$L_p(s|\alpha, \beta) = \prod_{i=1}^n \prod_{j=1}^{N_i^\dagger(s)} \left[ \frac{\rho(j-1; \alpha) \psi[\beta^t \mathbf{X}_i(S_{ij})]}{S_0[s, \mathcal{E}_i(S_{ij})|\alpha, \beta]} \right]^{\Delta N_i^\dagger(S_{ij})}$$

- $\alpha$  and  $\beta$  are estimated using Newton-Raphson iterative procedure
- Model with frailties
  - EM algorithm Penalized
  - Penalized **partial likelihood**
  - Penalized **full likelihood**

# Inference for the general class of models

## EM algorithm

Assuming  $\rho(.;k)=\alpha^k$ , the intensity for the general class of models becomes

$$\lambda_i(s|Z_i, \mathbf{X}_i) = Z_i \lambda_0[\mathcal{E}_i(s)] \alpha^{N_i^\dagger(s-)} \exp[\beta' \mathbf{X}_i]$$

- Frailties  $Z_1, Z_2, \dots, Z_n$  are unobserved and are IID  $\text{Gamma}(\xi, \xi)$
- Unknown parameters:  $(\alpha, \beta, \xi, \lambda(\cdot))$
- Use of the EM-type algorithm (Dempster, et al; Nielsen, et al), with frailties as missing observations.
- Standard errors via Jackknife

# Inference for the general class of models

## EM algorithm (Peña, Slate, González, 2006)

Step 0: (Initialization) Seed values  $\hat{\xi}, \hat{\alpha}, \hat{\beta}$ ; no-frailty estimator  $\hat{\Lambda}_0$ .

Step 1: (E-step) Compute  $\hat{Z}_i = E(Z_i | \text{data}, \hat{\xi}, \hat{\alpha}, \hat{\beta}, \hat{\Lambda}_0)$

Step 2: (M-step 1) New estimate of  $\Lambda_0(\cdot)$  Form: analogous to the no-frailty case with  $\hat{Z}_i$ 's

Step 3: (M-step 2) New estimates of  $\alpha$  and  $\beta$ .

Step 4: (M-step 3) New estimate of  $\xi$ ; maximize marginal likelihood for  $\xi$ .

Step 5: Check for convergence.

# Inference for the general class of models

## Penalized partial likelihood

Assuming  $\rho(.;k)=\alpha^k$ , the intensity for the general class of models becomes

$$\lambda_i(s|Z_i, \mathbf{X}_i) = Z_i \lambda_0[\mathcal{E}_i(s)] \alpha^{N_i^\dagger(s-)} \exp[\beta' \mathbf{X}_i]$$

With the parameterization  $Z_i=\exp(z_i)$

$$\lambda_i(s|z_i, \mathbf{X}_i) = \lambda_0[\mathcal{E}_i(s)] \alpha^{N_i^\dagger(s-)} \exp[\beta' \mathbf{X}_i + z' \mathbf{M}_i]$$

Where  $\mathbf{M}$  is a matrix of  $n$  indicator variables such as  $M_{ij}=1$  when observation  $i$  is a re-occurrence of individual  $j$  and 0 otherwise

Instead of maximize the partial likelihood we maximize the penalized partial likelihood

$$pl_P(s|\alpha, \beta, z) = l_P(s|\alpha, \beta, z) - g(z; \nu)$$

where  $g$  is a penalty function to restrict the values of  $z$  and  $\nu$  is a constant

## Penalized partial likelihood (cont.)

$$pl_P(s|\alpha, \beta, z) = l_P(s|\alpha, \beta, z) - g(z; \nu)$$

- To estimate  $\alpha$ ,  $\beta$  and  $z$  we may use a Newton-Raphson (N-R) procedure.
  - The scores for  $\alpha$ , and  $\beta$  are similar to those obtained for the general class of models with  $z$  as an offset
  - The score for  $z$  is similarly developed
  - The Hessian is now

$$H = H(\alpha, \beta, w) = \mathcal{I} + \begin{pmatrix} 0 & 0 \\ 0 & g'' \end{pmatrix}$$

- The algorithm consists in an inner and outer loop
  - For a fixed  $\nu$  N-R is used to solve the penalized likelihood
    - Usually a few steps (5 or 6)
    - The information matrix has many parameters
  - The outer loop chooses  $\nu$  to maximize the profile likelihood

## Penalized full likelihood

- To penalize the full log-likelihood

$$pl_F(\alpha, \beta, \Lambda_0(\cdot), z) = l_F(\alpha, \beta, \Lambda_0(\cdot), z) - \kappa \int_0^\infty (\lambda_0'')^2(t) dt$$

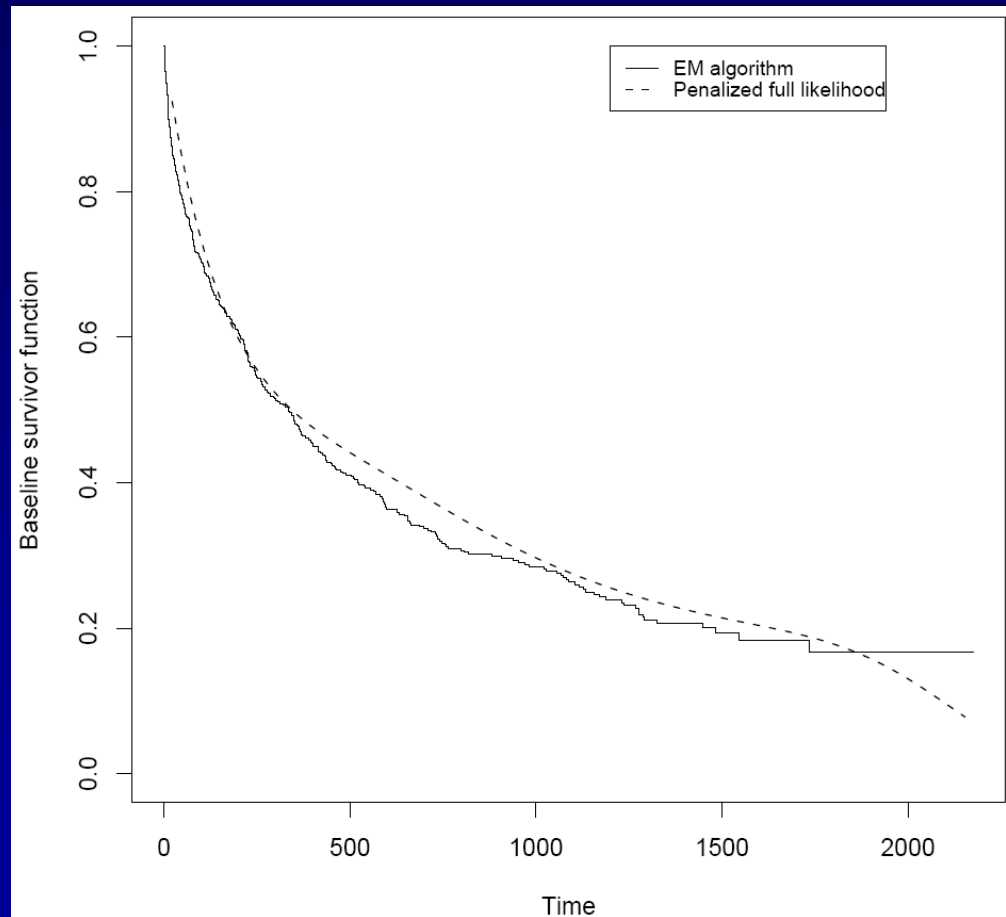
- $\kappa$  is a positive smoothing parameter which control the trade-off between the data fit and the smoothness of the function
- $\lambda_0$  is approximated by a linear combination of  $m$  cubic M-splines

$$\tilde{\lambda}(\cdot) = \sum_{j=1}^m \eta_j M_j(\cdot)$$

- We need to estimate  $\eta$  as well as  $\alpha$  and  $\beta$
- In that case, neither the score nor the hessian have a simple analytical form: Marquart algorithm
- Smoothing parameter: cross-validation
- This method provides an estimation of **variance of frailty variance**

# Inference for the general class of models

## Application to hospital readmission data set





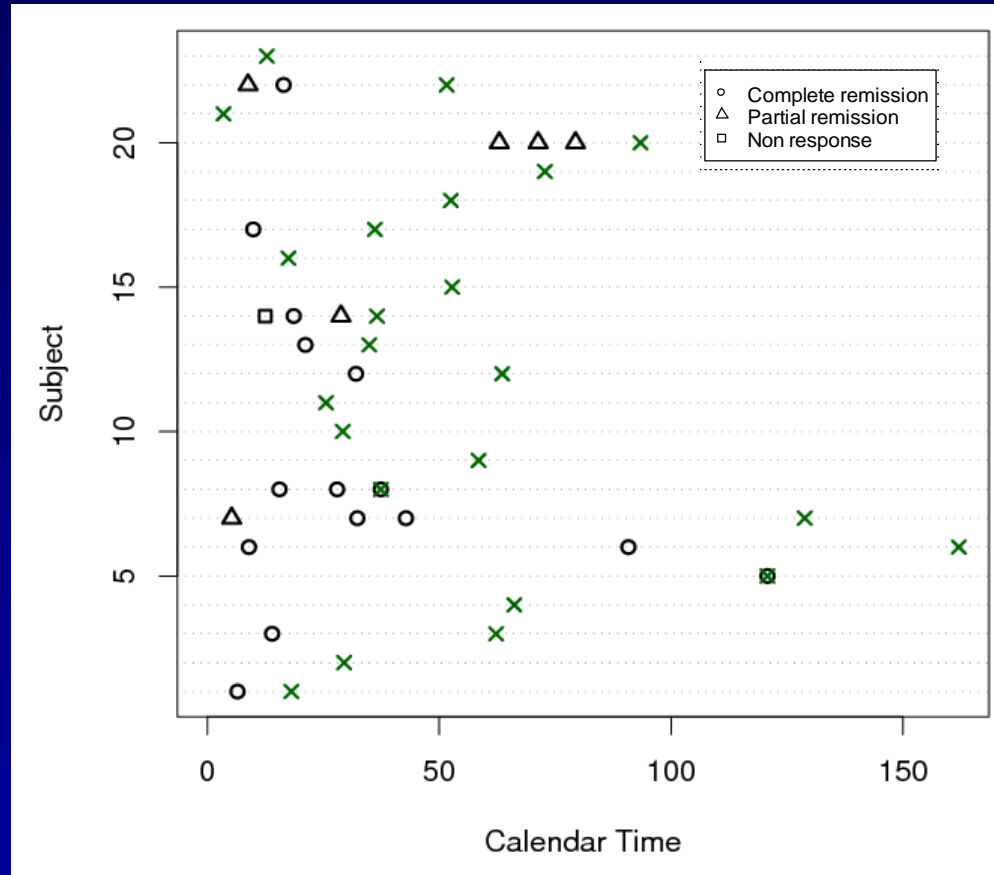
# Inference for the general class of models

## Application to hospital readmission data set

Covariate	Penalized approach		EM approach
	Partial Likelihood HR (95%CI)	Full Likelihood HR (95%CI)	Jackknife HR (95%CI95)
<b>Gender</b>			
Female	1	1	1
Male	1.56 (1.17-2.09)	1.63 (1.25-2.13)	1.56 (1.20-2.03)
<b>Dukes stage</b>			
A-B	1	1	1
C	1.49 (1.11-2.00)	1.51 (1.14-2.01)	1.49 (1.08-2.05)
D	3.06 (2.14-4.39)	3.41 (2.39-4.86)	3.06 (2.04-4.58)
<b>log N(s-) <math>\alpha</math></b>	1.08 (0.97-1.19)	1.14 (1.03-1.24)	1.08 (0.81-1.35)
<b>Frailty <math>\nu</math></b>	0.40	0.58	0.40
(SE $\nu$ )	(NA)	(0.15)	(NA)
$\xi$	2.50	1.72	2.50
$\kappa$		$3.36 \times 10^{11}$	

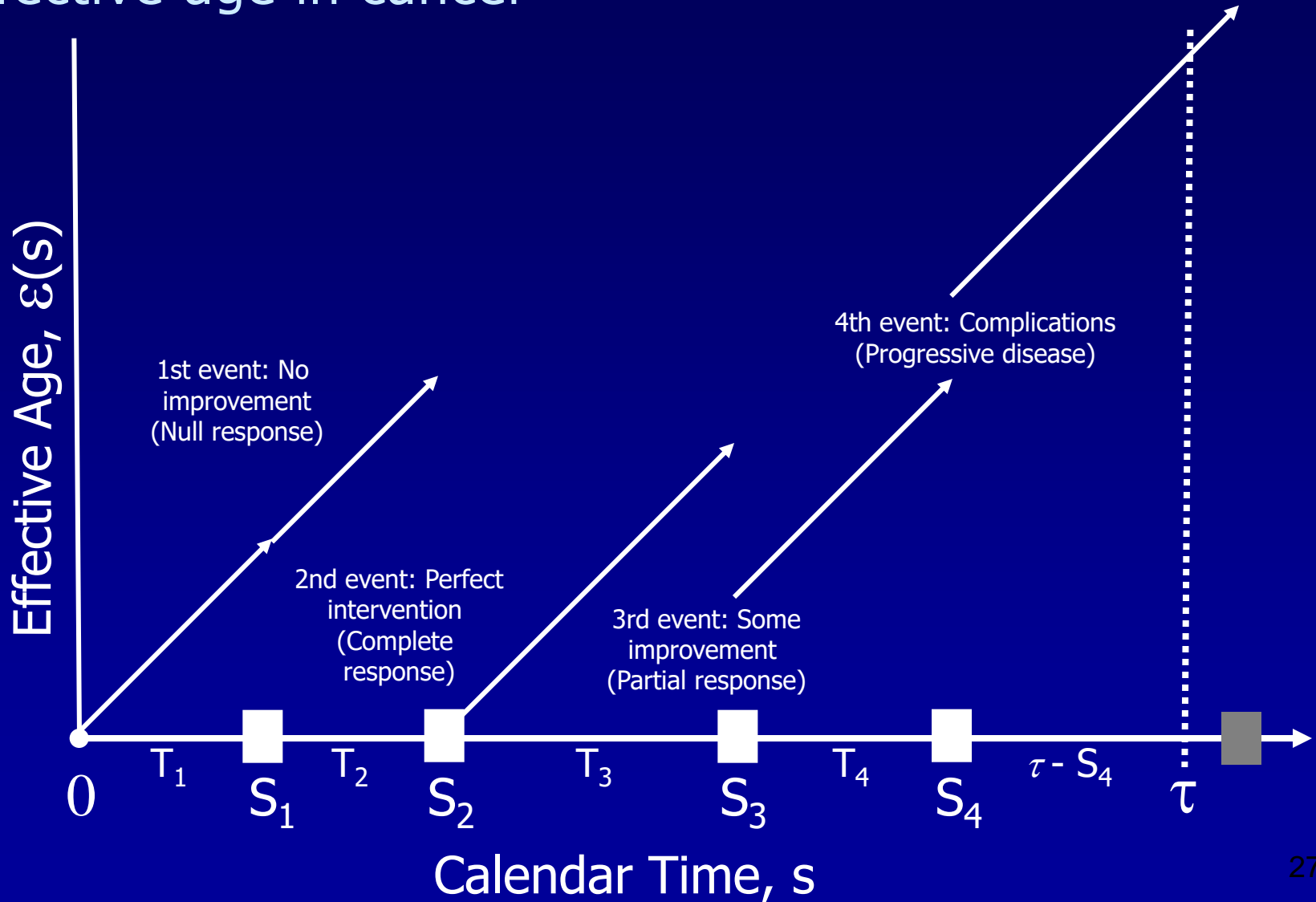
## Example 2: Non-Hodgkin lymphomas

Time to next hospital relapse after diagnosis in cancer patients



What is the effect of the **response to the treatment** on the time of next relapse?

## Effective age in cancer



## Possible effective ages in cancer data

- Model I: Patient always achieves complete remission after each treatment (perfect repair). Gap time formulation (superficial bladder cancer)

$$\mathcal{E}_i(s) = s - S_{N^\dagger(s-)}$$

- Model II: Patient does not (always) improve after each treatment, e.g. stable disease after each treatment (minimal repair). Calendar time formulation

$$\mathcal{E}_i(s) = s$$

## Possible effective ages in cancer data

- Model III: Patient achieves null, partial or complete response in different recurrences

$$A_0 = 0, A_j = (1 - \psi_j)(A_{j-1} + T_j)$$

$$\psi_{i \geq 1} = \{0, 0.5, 1\}$$

NR

PR

CR

$$\mathcal{E}(s) = A_{N^\dagger(s-)} + (s - S_{N^\dagger(s-)})$$

## Simulation study

- Design

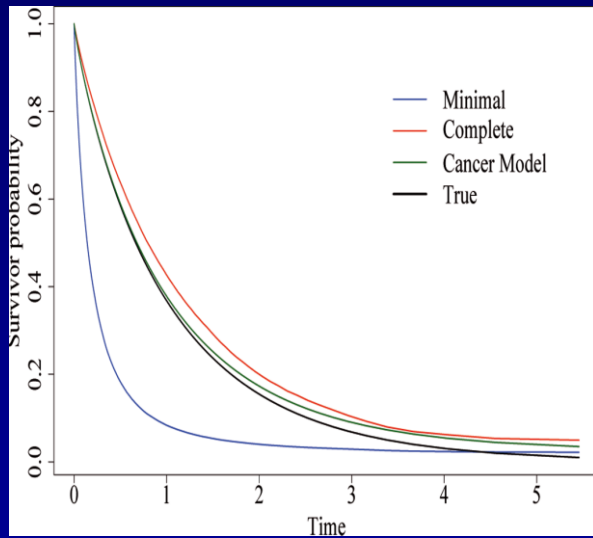
- Different sample sizes
- Censoring variables
- Baseline hazard function
- Impact of accumulating events
- Effect of covariates
- Heterogeneity
- Effective age: patient achieves complete, partial or null response depending on the vector  $\psi$  taking values in the set  $\{1=CR, 0.5=PR, 0=NR\}$ :  
 $\{(.8,.1,.1), (.3,.5,.2), (.1,.2,.7)\}$

- Aim

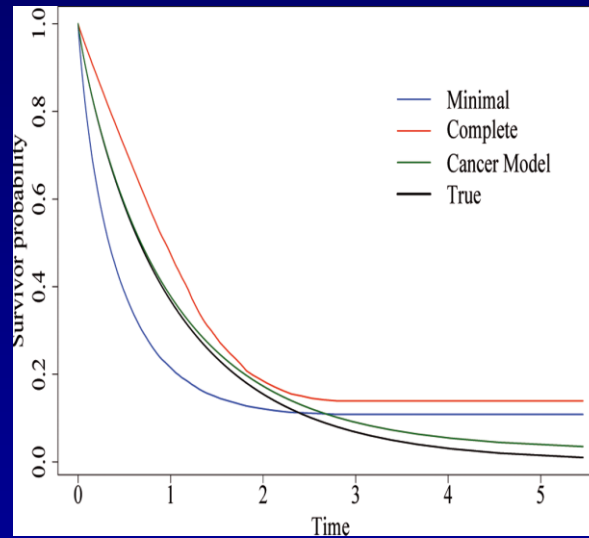
- The effect of sample size
- Bias and variance of the estimators
- The performance of the estimators of the  $\lambda_0$  in terms of bias and RMSE
- The consequences of miss-specifying the effective age function

Simulation study. Miss-specifying effective age,  $\lambda_0$  estimates

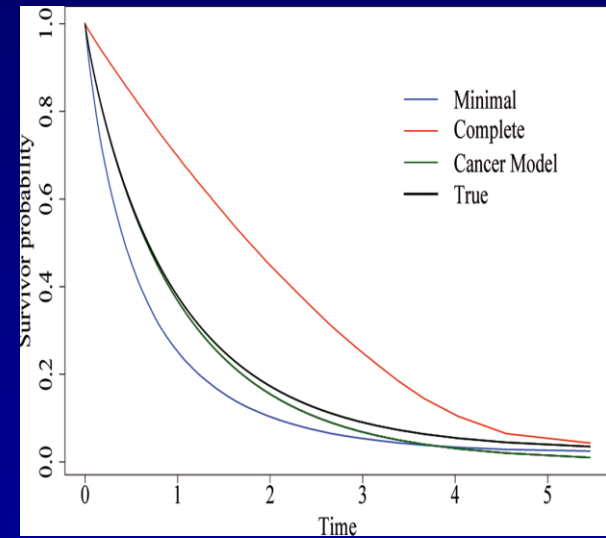
$P(\psi) = (0.8, 0.1, 0.1)$



$P(\psi) = (0.3, 0.5, 0.2)$



$P(\psi) = (0.1, 0.2, 0.7)$



## Application to non-Hodgkin's lymphoma data set

	Minimal <sup>a</sup>	Perfect <sup>b</sup>	Cancer <sup>c</sup>
$\alpha$	0.72 (.37)	0.90 (.15)	0.68 (0.21)
<b>Frailty</b> $\xi$	2.24	$\infty$	1.36
$\nu$	0.45	$8.97 \times 10^{-8}$	0.73
<b>Lesions</b>			
Single	1	1	1
Localized	2.48 (0.93-6.60)	2.42 (0.90-6.50)	2.59 (0.88-7.62)
>1 nodal site	4.47 (1.64-12.15)	3.26 (1.20-8.87)	4.55 (1.22-16.93)
Generalized	3.24 (0.70-14.95)	2.69 (0.59-12.31)	3.09 (1.01-9.37)

<sup>a</sup>Effective Age is  $\mathcal{E}(s) = s$ .

<sup>b</sup>Effective Age is  $\mathcal{E}(s) = s - S_{N^\dagger(s-)}$ .

<sup>c</sup>Effective Age is  $A_{N^\dagger(s-)} + (s - S_{N^\dagger(s-)}).$



Application to non-Hodgkin's lymphoma data set. Single lesions (solid lines) versus multiple lesions (dotted lines)

