

Two-treatment response adaptive Group-Sequential Allocation Design For Count data

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- **Need for Count Data Models:** Real-world medical studies increasingly yield count-type outcomes (e.g., seizure counts, readmissions), which are better modeled by Poisson-type distributions rather than classical ones.
- **Our Contribution:** We develop a two-treatment response-adaptive GSD specifically for count data, bridging a significant methodological gap in biostatistics and clinical trial design.

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- **Efficiency:** Compared to fixed-sample designs, GSDs improve statistical and ethical efficiency by lowering the Average Sample Number (ASN) needed to reach a decision.
- **Relevance for Count Data:** Count outcomes naturally arise in settings such as: Number of seizures (epilepsy), Asthma attacks per patient, 30-day hospital re-admissions, Number of ulcers healed.
- **Proposed Approach:** We develop a two-treatment response-adaptive GSD that dynamically updates patient allocation based on interim outcomes—ensuring both efficiency and ethical consideration.

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- In our study, we want to test,

$$\begin{array}{ll} H_0 & : A \preceq B \text{ i.e. } \lambda_A \geq \lambda_B \\ \text{against} & H_1 : A \succ B \text{ i.e. } \lambda_A < \lambda_B \end{array}$$

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- With equal observations, let, m_{A_k} be the number of patients receiving treatment A in k^{th} interim and m_{B_k} be the number of patients receiving treatment B in k^{th} interim such that $m_{A_k} + m_{B_k} = r = n_k = \text{size of } k^{th} \text{ group} ; k = 1(1)K$.

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- We also define, $n_{A_k} = m_{A_1} + m_{A_2} + \dots + m_{A_k} = \text{cumulative sample size upto } k^{th} \text{ group with treatment A}$ and $n_{B_k} = m_{B_1} + m_{B_2} + \dots + m_{B_k} = \text{cumulative sample size upto } k^{th} \text{ group with treatment B}$; $k = 1(1)K$.

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- Now, we want to check for which transformation, the poisson data more effectively exhibits asymptotic normality.

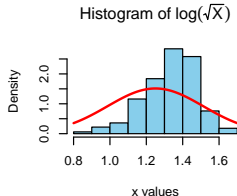
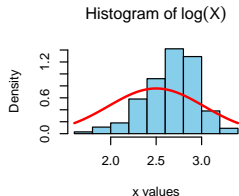
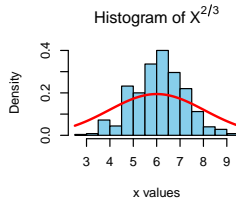
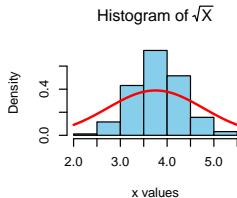
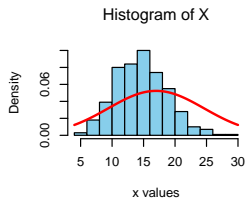
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- Suppose $X \sim \text{poisson}(\lambda = 15)$

P-Values for Kolmogorov-Smirnov under suitable transformations

Transformation	P_Value
OrgSample	0.0245251871
sqrt	0.0337430991
two_thirds	0.0877515261
log	0.0005209938
log_of_sqrt	0.0005209938

Histograms of the Data under Different Transformations



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$$Z_k = \frac{\bar{X}_{A_k}^{2/3} - \bar{X}_{B_k}^{2/3}}{\sqrt{\frac{4}{9} \hat{\lambda}_k^{1/3} \left(\frac{1}{n_{A_k}} + \frac{1}{n_{B_k}} \right)}} ; k = 1, 2, \dots, K$$

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- where,

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- (ii) If, $a_k \leq Z_k \leq b_k$
- \Rightarrow inconclusive about acceptance of $H_i; i = 0, 1$ and we go for the next stage.

Boundary Points

- Let, $\alpha = \alpha_1 + \alpha_2 + \dots + \alpha_K =$ the total size of the test procedure and $\beta = \beta_1 + \beta_2 + \dots + \beta_K =$ the total type-II error probability spent in the test.

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- So, we will consider $a_3 = b_3$ for the third stage.

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- i.e.

$$ASN = n_1 p_1 + n_2 p_2 + n_3 p_3$$

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- We allocate equal number of treatment A and treatment B to the patients, i.e. $m_{A_k} = m_{B_k} = 50$; $k = 1, 2, 3$.
- We choose $\alpha = 0.05$ and $\beta = 0.05$ such that $\alpha_1 = 0.02$, $\alpha_2 = 0.02$, $\alpha_3 = 0.01$ and $\beta_1 = 0.015$, $\beta_2 = 0.015$, $\beta_3 = 0.02$, for now.

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- Then, in second and third stage, we simulate data from $\text{poisson}(\hat{\lambda}_A)$ and $\text{poisson}(\hat{\lambda}_B)$; where $\hat{\lambda}_A = \bar{X}_{A_1}$ and $\hat{\lambda}_B = \bar{X}_{B_1}$.

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- We fix $\lambda_A = 2$.

ASN for Different λ 's

	lambda_B	ASN_H0	ASN_H1
1	2.0	291.3	287.8
2	2.2	290.0	274.4
3	2.4	288.1	245.6
4	2.6	282.6	201.4
5	2.8	273.8	154.0
6	3.0	259.7	123.1
7	3.2	237.3	107.3
8	3.4	220.9	100.9
9	3.6	209.5	100.3
10	3.8	203.6	100.0
11	4.0	197.4	100.0

Different Choices of Error Spendings

- Now, we will find and plot ASN for different choices of the error spending (α_k, β_k) ; $k = 1, 2, 3$ (keeping the total size $\alpha = 0.05$ and total type II probability $\beta = 0.05$ fixed) in multiple line diagrams against different $\lambda'_B s$.

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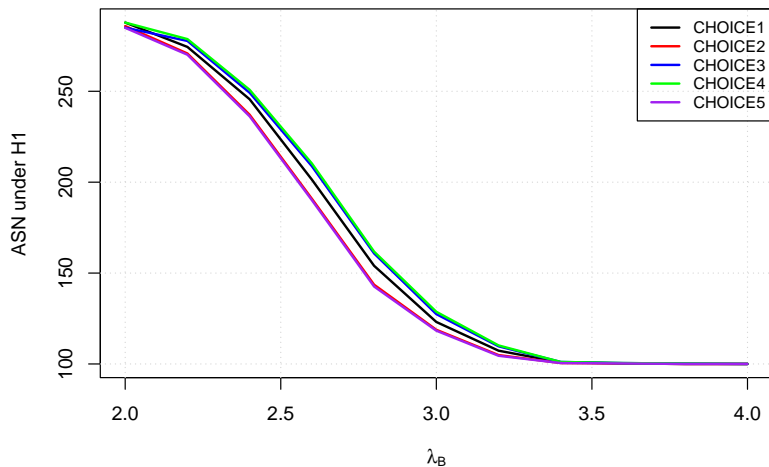
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- We take the choices of (α, β) as,

Choices	α_1	α_2	α_3	β_1	β	β_3
1	0.02	0.02	0.01	0.015	0.015	0.02
2	0.03	0.01	0.01	0.02	0.02	0.01
3	0.015	0.025	0.01	0.03	0.01	0.01
4	0.015	0.015	0.02	0.025	0.01	0.015
5	0.03	0.015	0.005	0.02	0.025	0.005

ASN for Different (α_k, β_k) and Different $\lambda's$

ASN Comparison Across Different Choices



ASN table for $\alpha = (0.03, 0.015, 0.005)$, $\beta = (0.02, 0.025, 0.005)$

	lambda_B	ASN_H0	ASN_H1
1	2.0	287.9	284.9
2	2.2	286.6	270.1
3	2.4	282.2	236.2
4	2.6	275.8	190.1
5	2.8	261.4	142.6
6	3.0	239.4	118.3
7	3.2	222.8	104.5
8	3.4	210.1	100.5
9	3.6	202.6	100.3
10	3.8	197.7	100.0
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- **Dynamic Allocation:** Instead of static equal randomization, treatment probabilities are updated based on accumulating evidence, ensuring more patients receive the potentially better treatment over time.
- **Practical Impact:** Enhances patient welfare, improves trial efficiency, and maintains rigorous Type I/II error control—especially vital in trials involving serious or life-threatening conditions.

Entry Stage Adaptive Group Sequential Design

- **In the first stage**, we simulate 50 samples X_{A_1} from $\text{poisson}(\lambda_A)$ and 50 samples X_{B_1} from $\text{poisson}(\lambda_B)$ and we carry out the sequential test procedure for first stage as described in the group sequential design.

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- **In second stage**, we simulate 50 samples X_{A_2} from $\text{poisson}(\hat{\lambda}_A)$ and 50 samples X_{B_2} from $\text{poisson}(\hat{\lambda}_B)$ and carry out GSD; where,

$$\hat{\lambda}_A = \bar{X}_{A_1} = \frac{1}{50} \sum_{j=1}^{50} X_{A_1}^{(j)} \text{ and } \hat{\lambda}_B = \bar{X}_{B_1} = \frac{1}{50} \sum_{j=1}^{50} X_{B_1}^{(j)}$$

Entry Stage Adaptive Group Sequential Design

- **In the first stage**, we simulate 50 samples X_{A_1} from $\text{poisson}(\lambda_A)$ and 50 samples X_{B_1} from $\text{poisson}(\lambda_B)$ and we carry out the sequential test procedure for first stage as described in the group sequential design.
- **In second stage**, we simulate 50 samples X_{A_2} from $\text{poisson}(\hat{\lambda}_A)$ and 50 samples X_{B_2} from $\text{poisson}(\hat{\lambda}_B)$ and carry out GSD; where,

$$\hat{\lambda}_A = \bar{X}_{A_1} = \frac{1}{50} \sum_{j=1}^{50} X_{A_1}^{(j)} \text{ and } \hat{\lambda}_B = \bar{X}_{B_1} = \frac{1}{50} \sum_{j=1}^{50} X_{B_1}^{(j)}$$

- **In third stage**, we simulate 50 samples X_{A_3} from $\text{poisson}(\hat{\lambda}_A^*)$ and 50 samples X_{B_3} from $\text{poisson}(\hat{\lambda}_B^*)$ and carry out GSD; where,

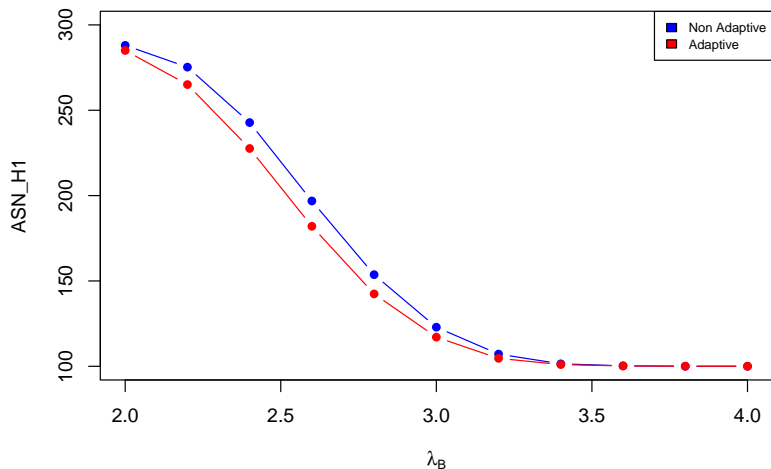
$$\hat{\lambda}_A^* = \bar{X}_{A_2} = \frac{1}{50} \sum_{j=1}^{50} X_{A_2}^{(j)} \text{ and } \hat{\lambda}_B^* = \bar{X}_{B_2} = \frac{1}{50} \sum_{j=1}^{50} X_{B_2}^{(j)}$$

ASN table for Entry Stage Adaptive Group Sequential Design

	lambda_B	ASN_H0	ASN_H1
1	2.0	289.23	283.74
2	2.2	288.14	262.65
3	2.4	278.54	223.19
4	2.6	251.82	175.71
5	2.8	218.46	136.37
6	3.0	199.60	112.70
7	3.2	195.02	102.83
8	3.4	195.02	100.67
9	3.6	195.02	100.10
10	3.8	195.02	100.04
11	4.0	195.02	100.02

Comparison of ASN between Non-Adaptive and Entry Stage Adaptive GSD For different λ_B

Comparison between GSD and Adaptive GSD



Fully Adaptive Group Sequential Design

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- Here, we have discussed two methods of allocating treatments in fully adaptive group sequential design.

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Adaptive Allocation (R_A)

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- where, $\lambda_A < \lambda_B \Rightarrow$ treatment A is better than treatment B

- We generate few samples (say, 4)
 $X_{A_k}^{[4]} = (X_{A_k}^{(1)}, X_{A_k}^{(2)}, X_{A_k}^{(3)}, X_{A_k}^{(4)})$ from $\text{poisson}(\lambda_{A_k})$ and same number of samples $X_{B_k}^{[4]}$ from $\text{poisson}(\lambda_{B_k})$; $k = 1, 2, \dots, K$

Allocation Procedure

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- Then, if $r_{i_k} \leq R_{A_k}^{(i-1)}$, we draw $X_{A_k}^{(i)}$ from $\text{poisson}(\lambda_{A_k})$;
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- otherwise, we draw $X_{B_k}^{(i)}$ from $\text{poisson}(\lambda_{B_k})$;
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ASN Table for Fully Adaptive GSD under Adaptive Allocation (R_A)

	lambda_B	ASN_H0	ASN_H1	RA	Prop_A	Prop_A_SE
1	2.0	289.1	282.9	0.5063556	0.5053500	0.1340708
2	2.2	288.9	277.2	0.5212328	0.5203600	0.1304991
3	2.4	289.1	276.9	0.5356348	0.5329733	0.1296204
4	2.6	288.8	269.6	0.5501091	0.5482433	0.1368455
5	2.8	288.2	269.4	0.5658189	0.5615400	0.1271016
6	3.0	288.5	262.1	0.5774070	0.5726267	0.1283543
7	3.2	287.3	255.0	0.5907565	0.5841400	0.1251406
8	3.4	286.4	250.6	0.6090878	0.6012033	0.1220593
9	3.6	288.2	237.5	0.6184434	0.6081033	0.1281298
10	3.8	282.7	233.6	0.6287941	0.6201900	0.1185039
11	4.0	284.2	214.3	0.6432668	0.6331767	0.1211721

Adaptive Allocation (R_A^*)

- In the response adaptive allocation as described in the previous part, we can clearly see the RA values and the proportion of patients receiving treatment A ($Prop(A)$) is increasing as we move away from the null.

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- So, we introduce another version of R_A (say, R_A^*); which can be defined as follows,

$$R_A^* = P(X_A < X_B) + \left(\frac{1}{2}\right) \times P(X_A = X_B)$$

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- Here, the first term $P(X_A < X_B)$ allocates positive probability when the treatment A is perform better than the treatment B; and the second term $\left(\frac{1}{2}\right) \times P(X_A = X_B)$ allocates equal probabilities when treatment A and treatment B performs similar.

Allocation Procedure

- we generate few samples (say, 4) $X_{A_k}^{[4]}$ from $\text{poisson}(\lambda_{A_k})$ and same number of samples $X_{B_k}^{[4]}$ from $\text{poisson}(\lambda_{B_k})$;
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- We draw a random number say r_{i_k} ($i = 9, \dots, n_k; k = 1, 2, \dots, K$) from 0 to 1 (i.e. we generate a sample from $\text{Uniform}(0, 1)$)
- The R_A^* is to be calculated empirically.
- We simulate 50 samples from $\text{poisson}(\lambda_{A_k})$ and 50 samples from $\text{poisson}(\lambda_{B_k})$.

Allocation Procedure

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- The R_A^* is to be calculated empirically.
- We simulate 50 samples from $\text{poisson}(\lambda_{A_k})$ and 50 samples from $\text{poisson}(\lambda_{B_k})$.
- So, we get total 2500 pair of observations $(X_{A_k}^{(i)}, X_{B_k}^{(j)})$.

Allocation Procedure

- Then, we can calculate,

$$P(X_{A_k} < X_{B_k}) = \frac{\text{number of } X_{A_k}^{(i)} < X_{B_k}^{(j)}}{2500} ; i, j = 1(1)50; k = 1(1)K$$

and

$$P(X_{A_k} = X_{B_k}) = \frac{\text{number of } X_{A_k}^{(i)} = X_{B_k}^{(j)}}{2500} ; i, j = 1(1)50; k = 1(1)K$$

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- Then, if $r_{i_k} \leq R_{A_k}^{*(i-1)}$, we draw $X_{A_k}^{(i)}$ from $\text{poisson}(\lambda_{A_k})$;
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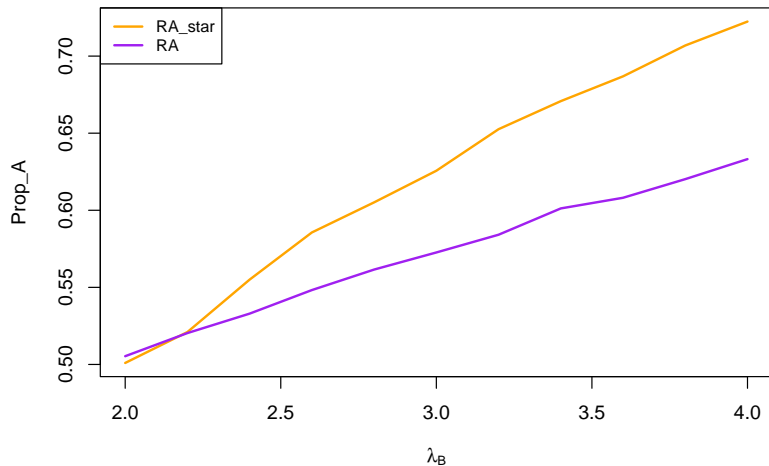
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ASN Table for Fully Adaptive GSD under Adaptive Allocation (R_A^*)

	lambda_B	ASN_H0	ASN_H1	RA_Star	Prop_A	Prop_A_SE
1	2.0	288.7	282.0	0.5005146	0.5009600	0.2144455
2	2.2	288.7	279.0	0.5221844	0.5210067	0.2098777
3	2.4	288.8	275.3	0.5566484	0.5550300	0.2162207
4	2.6	287.9	276.7	0.5938794	0.5856133	0.2052927
5	2.8	288.3	266.0	0.6148290	0.6051300	0.2031611
6	3.0	287.6	260.7	0.6385272	0.6256400	0.1997961
7	3.2	286.6	256.6	0.6620340	0.6525900	0.1978750
8	3.4	284.3	256.9	0.6886046	0.6707867	0.1896226
9	3.6	284.2	253.7	0.7017788	0.6868700	0.1856287
10	3.8	283.5	237.2	0.7242718	0.7068800	0.1843832
11	4.0	276.5	230.0	0.7403032	0.7224000	0.1797703

Allocation comparison for R_A and R_A^*

Allocation comparison for RA and RA_star

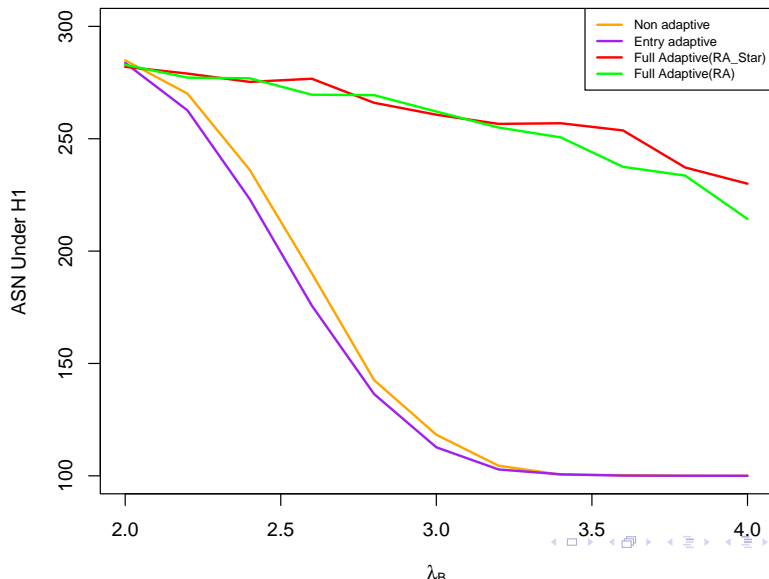


Comparison of ASN for all methods

	Lambda_B	Non Ada	Entry Ada	RA	RA_star
[1,]	2.0	284.9	283.74	282.9	282.0
[2,]	2.2	270.1	262.65	277.2	279.0
[3,]	2.4	236.2	223.19	276.9	275.3
[4,]	2.6	190.1	175.71	269.6	276.7
[5,]	2.8	142.6	136.37	269.4	266.0
[6,]	3.0	118.3	112.70	262.1	260.7
[7,]	3.2	104.5	102.83	255.0	256.6
[8,]	3.4	100.5	100.67	250.6	256.9
[9,]	3.6	100.3	100.10	237.5	253.7
[10,]	3.8	100.0	100.04	233.6	237.2
[11,]	4.0	100.0	100.02	214.3	230.0

Comparison of ASN for all methods

Comparison of ASN for different allocation methods



Group Sequential Design Under Bivariate Setup

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- **Bivariate GSD Advantage:** Allows interim evaluations and early stopping based on joint outcomes, maintaining both statistical rigor and ethical patient treatment allocation.
- **Examples:** Asthma attacks & inhaler use, seizures & ER visits, infections & antibiotic prescriptions, ulcers healed & follow-up visits — all naturally modeled as bivariate counts.

- Let, for treatment A, $U_A \sim \text{Poisson}(\lambda_A)$, $V_A \sim \text{Poisson}(\theta_A)$ and $W_A \sim \text{Poisson}(\phi_A)$ and U_A , V_A and W_A are independently distributed.

Objective

- Let, for treatment A, $U_A \sim \text{Poisson}(\lambda_A)$, $V_A \sim \text{Poisson}(\theta_A)$ and $W_A \sim \text{Poisson}(\phi_A)$ and U_A , V_A and W_A are independently distributed.
- Then,

$$X_A = U_A + W_A \overset{\text{marginally}}{\sim} \text{Poisson}(\lambda_A + \phi_A)$$

$$Y_A = V_A + W_A \overset{\text{marginally}}{\sim} \text{Poisson}(\theta_A + \phi_A)$$

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- Then,

$$X_A = U_A + W_A \overset{\text{marginally}}{\sim} \text{Poisson}(\lambda_A + \phi_A)$$

$$Y_A = V_A + W_A \overset{\text{marginally}}{\sim} \text{Poisson}(\theta_A + \phi_A)$$

- Then, jointly, (X_A, Y_A) follows a probability distribution called $BVPoisson(\lambda_A, \theta_A, \phi_A)$ with pmf,

$$e^{-(\lambda_A + \theta_A + \phi_A)} \lambda_A^{x_A} \theta_A^{y_A} \sum_{r=0}^{\min\{x_A, y_A\}} \left(\frac{\phi_A}{\lambda_A \theta_A} \right)^r \frac{1}{(x_A - r)!(y_A - r)!r!}$$

- Here, $\text{Cov}(X_A, Y_A) = \phi_A$

- Here, $\text{Cov}(X_A, Y_A) = \phi_A$
- We are interested to test,

$$H_0 : B \succeq A \quad \text{vs} \quad H_1 : B \prec A$$

$$\begin{aligned} \text{i.e. } H_0 : \lambda_A + \phi_A \geq \lambda_B + \phi_B \quad &\text{vs} \quad H_1 : \lambda_A + \phi_A < \lambda_B + \phi_B \\ \text{or, } \theta_A + \phi_A \geq \theta_B + \phi_B \quad &\text{and, } \theta_A + \phi_A < \theta_B + \phi_B \end{aligned}$$

- Let, $Z_1 = \bar{X}_A^{2/3} - \bar{X}_B^{2/3}$ and $Z_2 = \bar{Y}_A^{2/3} - \bar{Y}_B^{2/3}$

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-

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(i) if, $T_k^{(s)} < a_k \Rightarrow$ We reject H_0 i.e. we accept H_1

(ii) if, $T_k^{(s)} > b_k \Rightarrow$ We accept H_0

(ii) if, $a_k \leq T_k^{(s)} \leq b_k \Rightarrow$ go for next group

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- - (i) if, $T_k^{(s)} < a_k \Rightarrow$ We reject H_0 i.e. we accept H_1
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 - (ii) if, $a_k \leq T_k^{(s)} \leq b_k \Rightarrow$ go for next group
- We calculate the boundary points and the ASN similarly as univariate setup.

Justification of The Statistic

- Here, we have defined the statistic $T^{(2)}$ in such a way that it will prioritize the alternative hypothesis more since when the maximum of Z_1 and Z_2 will be small, then the alternative is accepted (i.e., $\max\{Z_1, Z_2\} < a_1 \iff Z_1 < a_1, Z_2 < a_1$).
- Unlike $T^{(2)}$, the other test statistic $T^{(1)}$ will prioritize the null hypothesis more since when the minimum of Z_1 and Z_2 will be large enough, then the null hypothesis will be accepted (i.e., $\min\{Z_1, Z_2\} > b_1^* \iff W_1 > b_1^*, W_2 > b_1^*$).
- The statistic $T^{(3)}$ should perform equally good for null and alternative, as we have taken the average of the other two statistics.

- We fix the sample of each group $n_1 = n_2 = n_3 = 100$. So, $N = 300$.

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- We allocate equal number of treatment A and treatment B to the patients, i.e. $m_{A_k} = m_{B_k} = 50$; $k = 1, 2, 3$.
- As, directly simulation from bivariate poisson is difficult, so we simulate 50 samples each from $\text{poisson}(\lambda_A)$, $\text{poisson}(\lambda_B)$, $\text{poisson}(\theta_A)$ and $\text{poisson}(\theta_B)$ seperately for the first interim and carry out the procedure to find the boundary points.

- We fix the sample of each group $n_1 = n_2 = n_3 = 100$. So, $N = 300$.
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- Then, in second and third stage, we simulate data from $poisson(\hat{\lambda}_A)$, $poisson(\hat{\lambda}_B)$, $poisson(\hat{\theta}_A)$ and $poisson(\hat{\theta}_B)$; where $\hat{\lambda}_A = \bar{X}_{A_1}$ and $\hat{\lambda}_B = \bar{X}_{B_1}$.

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- We fix the nuisance parameter $\phi_A = \phi_B = \phi$ for our computational purposes.

ASN for Different λ 's and θ 's (for $T^{(1)}$)

	lambda_B	theta_B	ASN_H0	ASN_H1
1	2.0	2.5	290.9	291.4
2	2.2	2.7	272.7	274.2
3	2.4	2.9	232.4	236.4
4	2.6	3.1	171.2	178.9
5	2.8	3.3	127.0	131.0
6	3.0	3.5	105.9	106.1
7	3.2	3.7	100.0	100.0
8	3.4	3.9	100.0	100.0
9	3.6	4.1	100.0	100.0
10	3.8	4.3	100.0	100.0
11	4.0	4.5	100.0	100.0

ASN for Different λ 's and θ 's (for $T^{(2)}$)

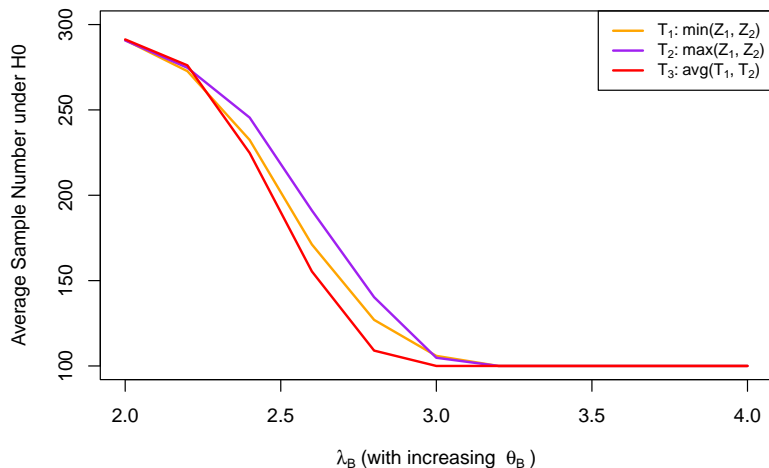
	lambda_B	theta_B	ASN_H0	ASN_H1
1	2.0	2.5	290.7	288.5
2	2.2	2.7	274.7	263.7
3	2.4	2.9	245.5	212.8
4	2.6	3.1	191.1	162.8
5	2.8	3.3	140.3	120.7
6	3.0	3.5	104.8	103.4
7	3.2	3.7	100.0	100.0
8	3.4	3.9	100.0	100.0
9	3.6	4.1	100.0	100.0
10	3.8	4.3	100.0	100.0
11	4.0	4.5	100.0	100.0

ASN for Different λ 's and θ 's (for $T^{(3)}$)

	lambda_B	theta_B	ASN_H0	ASN_H1
1	2.0	2.5	291.3	290.2
2	2.2	2.7	276.1	259.7
3	2.4	2.9	224.8	205.1
4	2.6	3.1	155.4	140.5
5	2.8	3.3	109.0	107.9
6	3.0	3.5	100.0	100.0
7	3.2	3.7	100.0	100.0
8	3.4	3.9	100.0	100.0
9	3.6	4.1	100.0	100.0
10	3.8	4.3	100.0	100.0
11	4.0	4.5	100.0	100.0

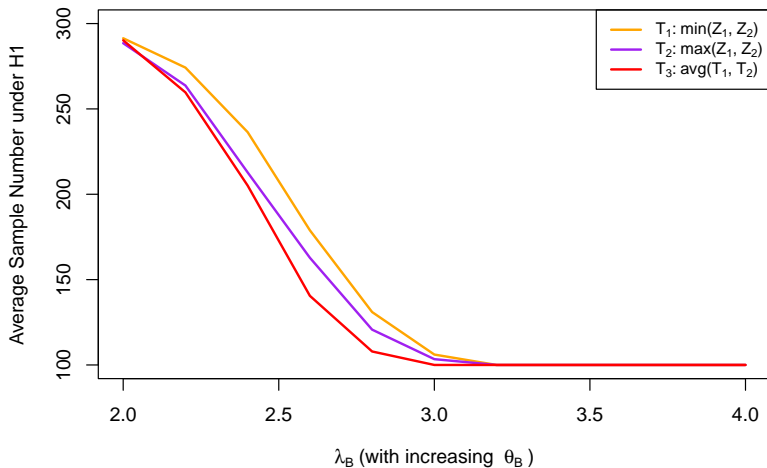
ASN Under H_0 for Different statistics

Comparison of ASN under H_0 for Different Statistics



ASN Under H_1 for Different statistics

Comparison of ASN under H_1 for Different Statistics



Different Choices of Error Spendings

- We fix $\lambda_A = 2, \theta_A = 2.5$. Now, we will find and plot ASN for different choices of the error spending (α_k, β_k) .

Different Choices of Error Spendings

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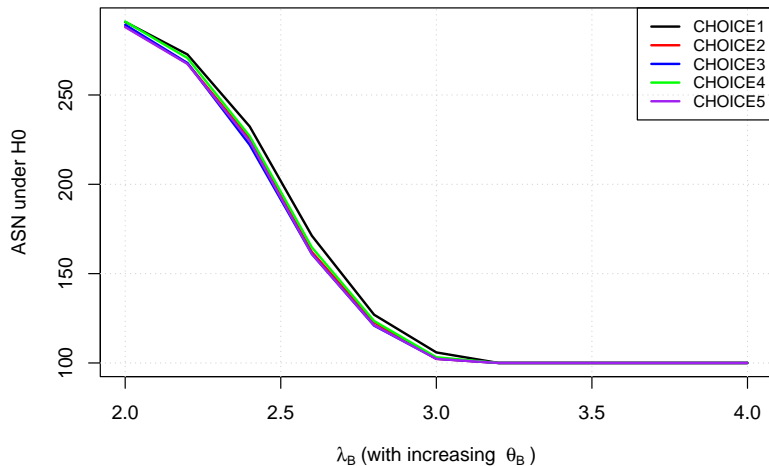
Different Choices of Error Spendings

- We fix $\lambda_A = 2, \theta_A = 2.5$. Now, we will find and plot ASN for different choices of the error spending (α_k, β_k) .
- We take the choices of (α, β) as,

Choices	α_1	α_2	α_3	β_1	β	β_3
1	0.02	0.02	0.01	0.015	0.015	0.02
2	0.03	0.01	0.01	0.02	0.02	0.01
3	0.015	0.025	0.01	0.03	0.01	0.01
4	0.015	0.015	0.02	0.025	0.01	0.015
5	0.03	0.015	0.005	0.02	0.025	0.005

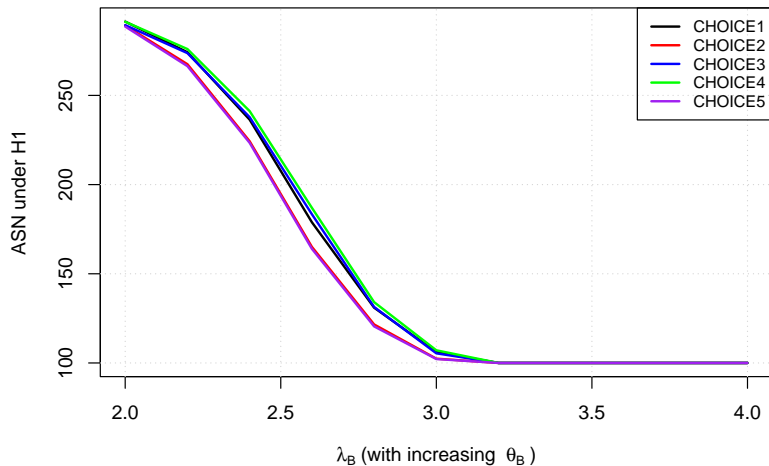
ASN Under H_0 for Different (α_k, β_k)

ASN under H_0 across Different Alpha/Beta Choices



ASN Under H_1 for Different (α_k, β_k)

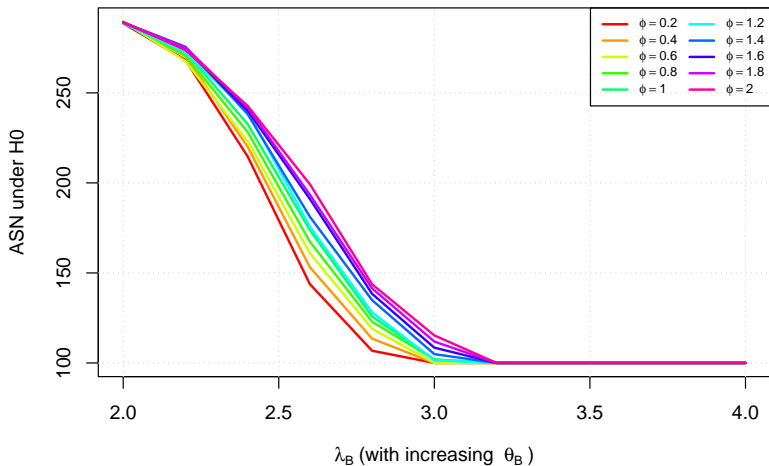
ASN under H1 across Different Alpha/Beta Choices



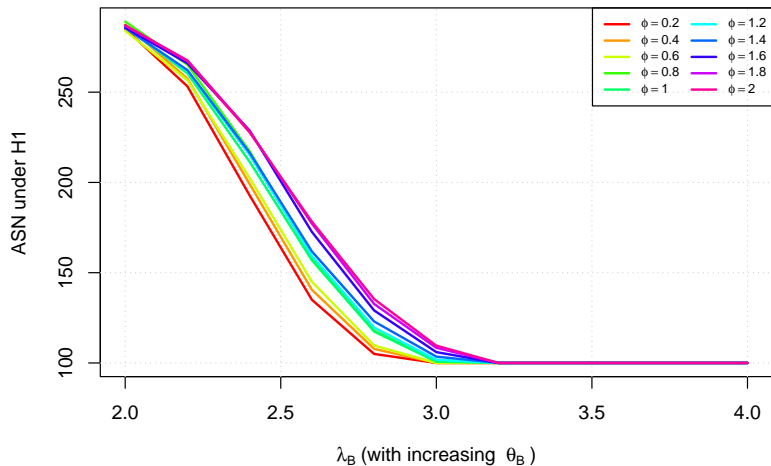
ASN table for $\alpha = (0.03, 0.015, 0.005)$, $\beta = (0.02, 0.025, 0.005)$

	lambda_B	theta_B	ASN_H0	ASN_H1
1	2.0	2.5	287.6	287.5
2	2.2	2.7	268.4	256.0
3	2.4	2.9	214.0	195.5
4	2.6	3.1	146.4	134.1
5	2.8	3.3	104.8	105.3
6	3.0	3.5	100.0	100.0
7	3.2	3.7	100.0	100.0
8	3.4	3.9	100.0	100.0
9	3.6	4.1	100.0	100.0
10	3.8	4.3	100.0	100.0
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ASN under H_0 for Different ϕ Values



ASN under H1 for Different phi Values



Adaptive Group Sequential Designs Under Bivariate Setup

- **Motivation:** Many modern trials involve two correlated count outcomes that must be evaluated jointly for clinical insight and patient safety.

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- **Motivation:** Many modern trials involve two correlated count outcomes that must be evaluated jointly for clinical insight and patient safety.
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- **Sequential Framework:** Interim analyses still maintain statistical rigor, allowing for early stopping based on combined treatment effects.
- **Ethical and Efficient:** Ensures more patients receive the superior treatment across both outcomes, balancing ethical responsibility and inferential accuracy in complex trials.

Entry Stage Adaptive Group Sequential Design

- **In the first stage**, we simulate 50 samples of $\begin{pmatrix} X_{A_1} \\ Y_{A_1} \end{pmatrix}$ from $BVPoisson(\lambda_A, \theta_A, \phi_A)$ and 50 samples of $\begin{pmatrix} X_{B_1} \\ Y_{B_1} \end{pmatrix}$ from $BVPoisson(\lambda_B, \theta_B, \phi_B)$. Then we carry out the sequential test procedure for first stage as described in the group sequential design.

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- **In second stage**, we simulate 50 samples $\begin{pmatrix} X_{A_2} \\ Y_{A_2} \end{pmatrix}$ from $BVPoisson(\hat{\lambda}_A, \hat{\theta}_A, \phi_A)$ and 50 samples $\begin{pmatrix} X_{B_2} \\ Y_{B_2} \end{pmatrix}$ from $BVPoisson(\hat{\lambda}_B, \hat{\theta}_B, \phi_B)$ where,

$$\begin{pmatrix} \hat{\lambda}_A \\ \hat{\theta}_A \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} \bar{X}_{A_1} \\ \bar{Y}_{A_1} \end{pmatrix} \quad \text{and} \quad \begin{pmatrix} \hat{\lambda}_B \\ \hat{\theta}_B \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} \bar{X}_{B_1} \\ \bar{Y}_{B_1} \end{pmatrix}$$

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- **In second stage**, we simulate 50 samples $\begin{pmatrix} X_{A_2} \\ Y_{A_2} \end{pmatrix}$ from $BVPoisson(\hat{\lambda}_A, \hat{\theta}_A, \phi_A)$ and 50 samples $\begin{pmatrix} X_{B_2} \\ Y_{B_2} \end{pmatrix}$ from $BVPoisson(\hat{\lambda}_B, \hat{\theta}_B, \phi_B)$ where,

$$\begin{pmatrix} \hat{\lambda}_A \\ \hat{\theta}_A \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} \bar{X}_{A_1} \\ \bar{Y}_{A_1} \end{pmatrix} \quad \text{and} \quad \begin{pmatrix} \hat{\lambda}_B \\ \hat{\theta}_B \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} \bar{X}_{B_1} \\ \bar{Y}_{B_1} \end{pmatrix}$$

- Then we carry out the group sequential test procedure.

- **In third stage**, we simulate 50 samples $(X_{A_3})_{Y_{A_3}}$ from $BVPoisson(\hat{\lambda}^*_A, \hat{\theta}^*_A, \phi_A)$ and 50 samples of $(X_{B_3})_{Y_{B_3}}$ from $BVPoisson(\hat{\lambda}^*_A, \hat{\theta}^*_A, \phi_B)$; where,

$$\begin{pmatrix} \hat{\lambda}^*_A \\ \hat{\theta}^*_A \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} \bar{X}_{A_2} \\ \bar{Y}_{A_2} \end{pmatrix} \text{ and } \begin{pmatrix} \hat{\lambda}^*_B \\ \hat{\theta}^*_B \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} \bar{X}_{B_2} \\ \bar{Y}_{B_2} \end{pmatrix}$$

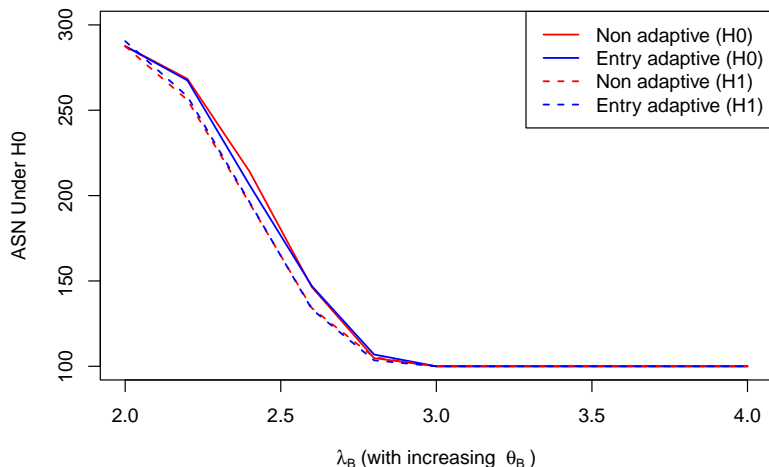
- Then we carry out the group sequential test procedure.

ASN table for Entry Stage Adaptive Group Sequential Design

	lambda_B	theta_B	ASN_H0	ASN_H1
1	2.0	2.5	287.5	290.5
2	2.2	2.7	267.5	258.1
3	2.4	2.9	206.1	196.1
4	2.6	3.1	147.0	133.4
5	2.8	3.3	106.9	103.5
6	3.0	3.5	100.0	100.0
7	3.2	3.7	100.0	100.0
8	3.4	3.9	100.0	100.0
9	3.6	4.1	100.0	100.0
10	3.8	4.3	100.0	100.0
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Comparison of ASN between Non-Adaptive GSD and Entry Stage Adaptive GSD

ASN Comparison between non adaptive and adaptive



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- But still we have ethical concerns.
- To deal with that, also in bivariate setup, we introduce fully adaptive group sequential design under bivariate setup.
- We will discuss two methods to work with this.

Adaptive Allocation (R_A)

- When we get stronger evidence against the null hypothesis, we wish to allocate treatment A to the i^{th} ($i = 1, \dots, n_k; k = 1, 2, \dots, K$) patient with higher probability.

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- We propose,

$$R_A = \frac{\lambda_B + \theta_B}{\lambda_A + \theta_A + \lambda_B + \theta_B}$$

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$$R_A = \frac{\lambda_B + \theta_B}{\lambda_A + \theta_A + \lambda_B + \theta_B}$$

- where, $(\frac{\lambda_A}{\theta_A}) < (\frac{\lambda_B}{\theta_B}) \Rightarrow$ treatment A is better than treatment B

Allocation Procedure

- We generate few samples (say, 4)

$$\begin{pmatrix} X_{A_k}^{[4]} \\ Y_{A_k}^{[4]} \end{pmatrix} = \left(\begin{pmatrix} X_{A_k}^{(1)} \\ Y_{A_k}^{(1)} \end{pmatrix}, \begin{pmatrix} X_{A_k}^{(2)} \\ Y_{A_k}^{(2)} \end{pmatrix}, \begin{pmatrix} X_{A_k}^{(3)} \\ Y_{A_k}^{(3)} \end{pmatrix}, \begin{pmatrix} X_{A_k}^{(4)} \\ Y_{A_k}^{(4)} \end{pmatrix} \right) \text{ from}$$

$BVPoisson(\lambda_{A_k}, \theta_{A_k}, \phi_A)$ and same number of samples $\begin{pmatrix} X_{B_k}^{[4]} \\ Y_{B_k}^{[4]} \end{pmatrix}$
from $BVPoisson(\lambda_{B_k}, \theta_{B_k}, \phi_B)$

Allocation Procedure

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$$\begin{pmatrix} X_{A_k}^{[4]} \\ Y_{A_k}^{[4]} \end{pmatrix} = \left(\begin{pmatrix} X_{A_k}^{(1)} \\ Y_{A_k}^{(1)} \end{pmatrix}, \begin{pmatrix} X_{A_k}^{(2)} \\ Y_{A_k}^{(2)} \end{pmatrix}, \begin{pmatrix} X_{A_k}^{(3)} \\ Y_{A_k}^{(3)} \end{pmatrix}, \begin{pmatrix} X_{A_k}^{(4)} \\ Y_{A_k}^{(4)} \end{pmatrix} \right) \text{ from}$$

$BVPoisson(\lambda_{A_k}, \theta_{A_k}, \phi_A)$ and same number of samples $\begin{pmatrix} X_{B_k}^{[4]} \\ Y_{B_k}^{[4]} \end{pmatrix}$
from $BVPoisson(\lambda_{B_k}, \theta_{B_k}, \phi_B)$

- We draw a random number say r_{i_k} ($i = 9, \dots, n_k; k = 1, 2, \dots, K$) from 0 to 1 (i.e. we generate a sample from $Uniform(0, 1)$)

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$BVPoisson(\lambda_{A_k}, \theta_{A_k}, \phi_A)$ and same number of samples $\begin{pmatrix} X_{B_k}^{[4]} \\ Y_{B_k}^{[4]} \end{pmatrix}$
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- We draw a random number say

r_{i_k} ($i = 9, \dots, n_k; k = 1, 2, \dots, K$) from 0 to 1 (i.e. we generate a sample from $Uniform(0, 1)$)

- Then, if $r_{i_k} \leq R_{A_k}^{(i-1)}, \begin{pmatrix} X_{A_k}^{(i)} \\ Y_{A_k}^{(i)} \end{pmatrix}$ from $BVPoisson(\lambda_{A_k}, \theta_{A_k}, \phi_A)$;
 $i = 9, \dots, n_k ; k = 1, 2, \dots, K$

Allocation Procedure

- We generate few samples (say, 4)

$$\begin{pmatrix} X_{A_k}^{[4]} \\ Y_{A_k}^{[4]} \end{pmatrix} = \left(\begin{pmatrix} X_{A_k}^{(1)} \\ Y_{A_k}^{(1)} \end{pmatrix}, \begin{pmatrix} X_{A_k}^{(2)} \\ Y_{A_k}^{(2)} \end{pmatrix}, \begin{pmatrix} X_{A_k}^{(3)} \\ Y_{A_k}^{(3)} \end{pmatrix}, \begin{pmatrix} X_{A_k}^{(4)} \\ Y_{A_k}^{(4)} \end{pmatrix} \right) \text{ from}$$

$BVPoisson(\lambda_{A_k}, \theta_{A_k}, \phi_A)$ and same number of samples $\begin{pmatrix} X_{B_k}^{[4]} \\ Y_{B_k}^{[4]} \end{pmatrix}$
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- Then, if $r_{i_k} \leq R_{A_k}^{(i-1)}, \begin{pmatrix} X_{A_k}^{(i)} \\ Y_{A_k}^{(i)} \end{pmatrix}$ from $BVPoisson(\lambda_{A_k}, \theta_{A_k}, \phi_A)$;
 $i = 9, \dots, n_k ; k = 1, 2, \dots, K$
- otherwise, we draw $\begin{pmatrix} X_{B_k}^{(i)} \\ Y_{B_k}^{(i)} \end{pmatrix}$ from $BVPoisson(\lambda_{B_k}, \theta_{B_k}, \phi_B)$;
 $i = 9, \dots, n_k ; k = 1, 2, \dots, K$

ASN for Fully Adaptive GSD under Adaptive Allocation (R_A)

	lambda_B	theta_B	ASN_H0	ASN_H1	RA	Prop_A	Prop_A_SE
1	2.0	2.5	288.9	282.0	0.50	0.50	0.11
2	2.2	2.7	289.0	276.2	0.52	0.52	0.10
3	2.4	2.9	288.3	274.5	0.54	0.53	0.10
4	2.6	3.1	288.2	266.2	0.55	0.55	0.10
5	2.8	3.3	287.3	255.2	0.57	0.57	0.10
6	3.0	3.5	287.3	246.5	0.58	0.58	0.10
7	3.2	3.7	281.4	238.0	0.60	0.59	0.09
8	3.4	3.9	281.3	224.0	0.61	0.60	0.10
9	3.6	4.1	280.2	217.8	0.63	0.61	0.09
10	3.8	4.3	273.3	201.7	0.63	0.62	0.09
11	4.0	4.5	273.2	199.9	0.64	0.63	0.09

Adaptive Allocation (R_A^*)

- Now, we introduce another version of R_A (say, R_A^*); which can be defined as follows,

$$\begin{aligned} R_A^* = & (1/4)\{P(X_A = X_B, Y_A > Y_B) \\ & + P(X_A > X_B, Y_A = Y_B)\} \\ & + (3/4)\{P(X_A = X_B, Y_A < Y_B) \\ & + P(X_A < X_B, Y_A = Y_B)\} \\ & + (1/2)\{P(X_A > X_B, Y_A < Y_B) \\ & + P(X_A < X_B, Y_A > Y_B) \\ & + P(X_A = X_B, Y_A = Y_B)\} + P(X_A < X_B, Y_A < Y_B) \end{aligned}$$

- we generate few samples (say, 4)

$$\begin{pmatrix} X_{A_k}^{[4]} \\ Y_{A_k}^{[4]} \end{pmatrix} = \left(\begin{pmatrix} X_{A_k}^{(1)} \\ Y_{A_k}^{(1)} \end{pmatrix}, \begin{pmatrix} X_{A_k}^{(2)} \\ Y_{A_k}^{(2)} \end{pmatrix}, \begin{pmatrix} X_{A_k}^{(3)} \\ Y_{A_k}^{(3)} \end{pmatrix}, \begin{pmatrix} X_{A_k}^{(4)} \\ Y_{A_k}^{(4)} \end{pmatrix} \right) \text{ from}$$

$BVPoisson(\lambda_{A_k}, \theta_{A_k}, \phi_A)$ and same number of samples $\begin{pmatrix} X_{B_k}^{[4]} \\ Y_{B_k}^{[4]} \end{pmatrix}$
from $BVPoisson(\lambda_{B_k}, \theta_{B_k}, \phi_B)$

Allocation Procedure

- we generate few samples (say, 4)

$$\begin{pmatrix} X_{A_k}^{[4]} \\ Y_{A_k}^{[4]} \end{pmatrix} = \left(\begin{pmatrix} X_{A_k}^{(1)} \\ Y_{A_k}^{(1)} \end{pmatrix}, \begin{pmatrix} X_{A_k}^{(2)} \\ Y_{A_k}^{(2)} \end{pmatrix}, \begin{pmatrix} X_{A_k}^{(3)} \\ Y_{A_k}^{(3)} \end{pmatrix}, \begin{pmatrix} X_{A_k}^{(4)} \\ Y_{A_k}^{(4)} \end{pmatrix} \right) \text{ from}$$

$BVPoisson(\lambda_{A_k}, \theta_{A_k}, \phi_A)$ and same number of samples $\begin{pmatrix} X_{B_k}^{[4]} \\ Y_{B_k}^{[4]} \end{pmatrix}$
from $BVPoisson(\lambda_{B_k}, \theta_{B_k}, \phi_B)$

- We simulate 50 samples from $poisson(\lambda_{A_k})$ and 50 samples from $poisson(\lambda_{B_k})$.

- we generate few samples (say, 4)

$$\begin{pmatrix} X_{A_k}^{[4]} \\ Y_{A_k}^{[4]} \end{pmatrix} = \left(\begin{pmatrix} X_{A_k}^{(1)} \\ Y_{A_k}^{(1)} \end{pmatrix}, \begin{pmatrix} X_{A_k}^{(2)} \\ Y_{A_k}^{(2)} \end{pmatrix}, \begin{pmatrix} X_{A_k}^{(3)} \\ Y_{A_k}^{(3)} \end{pmatrix}, \begin{pmatrix} X_{A_k}^{(4)} \\ Y_{A_k}^{(4)} \end{pmatrix} \right) \text{ from}$$

$BVPoisson(\lambda_{A_k}, \theta_{A_k}, \phi_A)$ and same number of samples $\begin{pmatrix} X_{B_k}^{[4]} \\ Y_{B_k}^{[4]} \end{pmatrix}$
from $BVPoisson(\lambda_{B_k}, \theta_{B_k}, \phi_B)$

- We simulate 50 samples from $poisson(\lambda_{A_k})$ and 50 samples from $poisson(\lambda_{B_k})$.
- Then we calculate the probability terms in $R_{A_k}^*$ empirically by simulation as in the univariate setup.

Allocation Procedure

- We draw a random number say r_{i_k} ($i = 1, \dots, n_k; k = 1, 2, \dots, K$) from 0 to 1 (i.e. we generate a sample from $Uniform(0, 1)$)

Allocation Procedure

- We draw a random number say r_{i_k} ($i = 1, \dots, n_k; k = 1, 2, \dots, K$) from 0 to 1 (i.e. we generate a sample from $Uniform(0, 1)$)
- Then, if $r_{i_k} \leq R_{A_k}^{*(i-1)}, \binom{X_{A_k}^{(i)}}{Y_{A_k}^{(i)}}$ from $BVPoisson(\lambda_{A_k}, \theta_{A_k}, \phi_A);$
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 $i = 1, \dots, n_k; k = 1, 2, \dots, K$
- otherwise, we draw $\binom{X_{B_k}^{(i)}}{Y_{B_k}^{(i)}}$ from $BVPoisson(\lambda_{B_k}, \theta_{B_k}, \phi_B);$
 $i = 1, \dots, n_k; k = 1, 2, \dots, K$

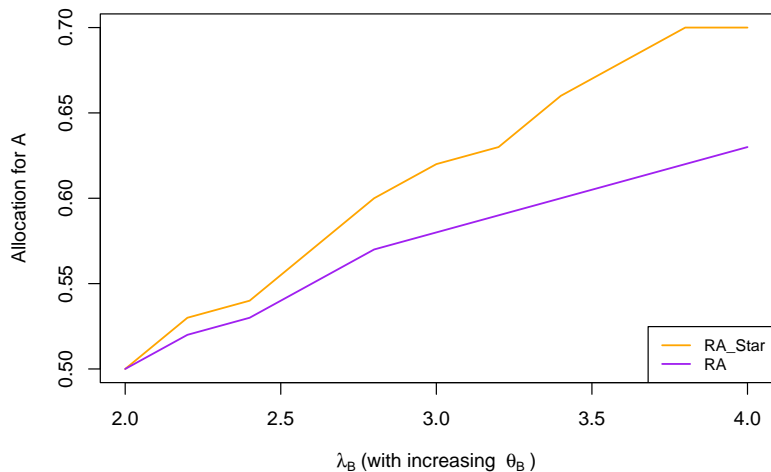
ASN for Fully Adaptive GSD under Adaptive Allocation

(R_A^*)

	lambda_B	theta_B	ASN_H0	ASN_H1	RA	Prop_A	Prop_A_SE
1	2.0	2.5	289.1	283.5	0.51	0.50	0.15
2	2.2	2.7	289.0	278.2	0.53	0.53	0.15
3	2.4	2.9	288.3	276.0	0.54	0.54	0.15
4	2.6	3.1	288.2	266.0	0.58	0.57	0.15
5	2.8	3.3	287.7	252.1	0.60	0.60	0.15
6	3.0	3.5	288.4	241.8	0.62	0.62	0.15
7	3.2	3.7	284.4	238.9	0.64	0.63	0.15
8	3.4	3.9	285.8	227.6	0.66	0.66	0.14
9	3.6	4.1	284.7	216.9	0.68	0.68	0.14
10	3.8	4.3	262.9	188.6	0.70	0.70	0.13
11	4.0	4.5	272.9	191.3	0.70	0.70	0.13

Allocation Comparison for R_A and R_A^*

Allocation Comparison for RA and RA_star



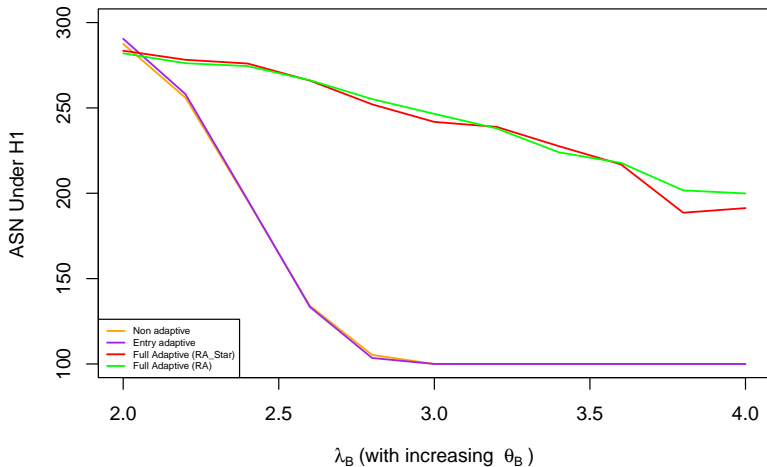
Comparison of ASN for All Methods

Comparison of ASN for different methods :

	Lambda_B	Theta_B	Non Ada	Entry Ada	RA	RA_star
[1,]	2.0	2.5	287.5	290.5	282.0	283.5
[2,]	2.2	2.7	256.0	258.1	276.2	278.2
[3,]	2.4	2.9	195.5	196.1	274.5	276.0
[4,]	2.6	3.1	134.1	133.4	266.2	266.0
[5,]	2.8	3.3	105.3	103.5	255.2	252.1
[6,]	3.0	3.5	100.0	100.0	246.5	241.8
[7,]	3.2	3.7	100.0	100.0	238.0	238.9
[8,]	3.4	3.9	100.0	100.0	224.0	227.6
[9,]	3.6	4.1	100.0	100.0	217.8	216.9
[10,]	3.8	4.3	100.0	100.0	201.7	188.6
[11,]	4.0	4.5	100.0	100.0	199.9	191.3

Comparison of ASN for All Methods

ASN H1 Comparison for different allocation methods



- Developed and compared univariate and bivariate group sequential designs (GSDs) for count data, incorporating adaptive allocation rules to improve ethical treatment assignment.
- Adaptive designs improved patient allocation toward better treatments but led to increased average sample number (ASN) compared to non-adaptive methods — highlighting a trade-off between ethics and efficiency.
- Extended the framework to bivariate Poisson models capturing correlated outcomes (e.g., seizures & hospital visits); observed similar trade-offs, especially as correlation (φ) increased.

- **Covariate-Adaptive Extensions:** Incorporate patient-specific covariates to guide allocation and improve personalized treatment strategies.
- **Estimating ϕ :** Develop methods to estimate and update ϕ during interim analyses for improved modeling accuracy.
- **Multi-Arm and Multi-Endpoint Trials:** Extend the framework to trials involving more than two treatments or multiple outcomes (e.g., include quality-of-life measures).
- **Utility-Based or Bayesian Approaches:** Integrate utility functions or Bayesian priors that align with clinical priorities to guide ethical and efficient decision-making.

Thank You

All R codes are accessible from the following GitHub repository:

<https://github.com/Sahil01S/STAT1092-Research-Project>

Happy to take any questions.