Cox Models & Model Evaluation

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COX MODELS

Using the stepwise selection model: age + edema + bilirubin + albumin + copper + sgot + prothrombin + stage will be used

```
## Rows: 418 Columns: 20
## -- Column specification ------
## Delimiter: ","
## chr (7): Status, Drug, Sex, Ascites, Hepatomegaly, Spiders, Edema
## dbl (13): ID, N_Days, Age, Bilirubin, Cholesterol, Albumin, Copper, Alk_Phos...
##
## i Use 'spec()' to retrieve the full column specification for this data.
## i Specify the column types or set 'show_col_types = FALSE' to quiet this message.
```

```
cirrhosis = cirrhosis |>
mutate(
   status = case_when(
     status == "D" ~ 1, # Event of interest (death)
   status == "C" | status == "CL" ~ 0, # Censored data
   TRUE ~ as.numeric(status)))
```

```
## Warning: There was 1 warning in 'mutate()'.
## i In argument: 'status = case_when(...)'.
## Caused by warning:
## ! NAs introduced by coercion
```

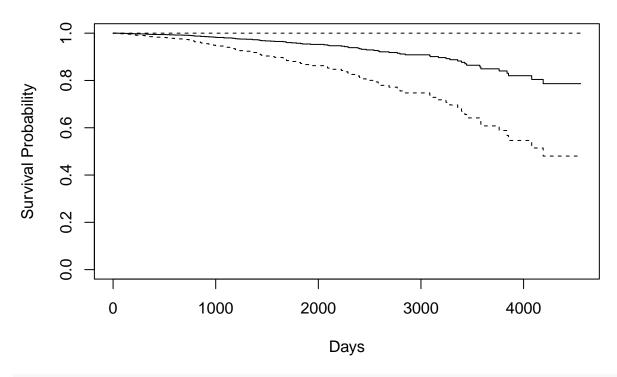
Table 1: Multivariate Cox Proportional Hazards Analysis

Characteristic	$\mathbf{H}\mathbf{R}^1$	$\mathbf{95\%} \mathbf{CI}^{1}$	p-value
drug			
drug.L	1.05	0.79, 1.39	0.7
age	1.03	1.01, 1.05	0.004
edema			
No	_		
Yes	1.47	0.88, 2.47	0.14
bilirubin	1.09	1.05, 1.13	< 0.001
albumin	0.47	0.28, 0.82	0.007
copper	1.00	1.00, 1.00	0.002
sgot	1.00	1.00, 1.01	0.015
prothrombin	1.33	1.07, 1.64	0.010
stage			
1	_		
2	3.88	$0.47,\ 32.1$	0.2
3	5.29	0.68, 41.1	0.11
4	8.02	1.04, 61.8	0.046

¹HR = Hazard Ratio, CI = Confidence Interval

```
surv_fit_cox_a = survfit(cox_model_a)
plot(surv_fit_cox_a, xlab = "Days", ylab = "Survival Probability", main = "Survival Curves - Unadjusted")
```

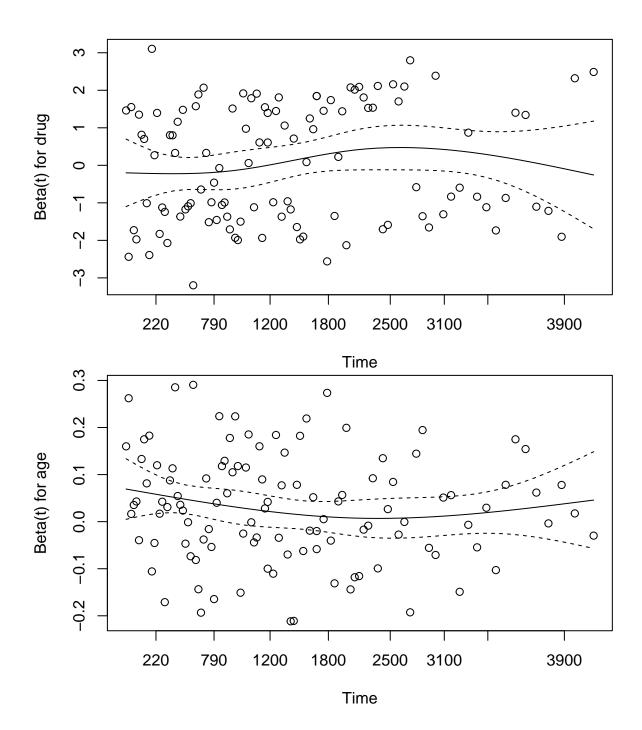
Survival Curves – Unadjusted

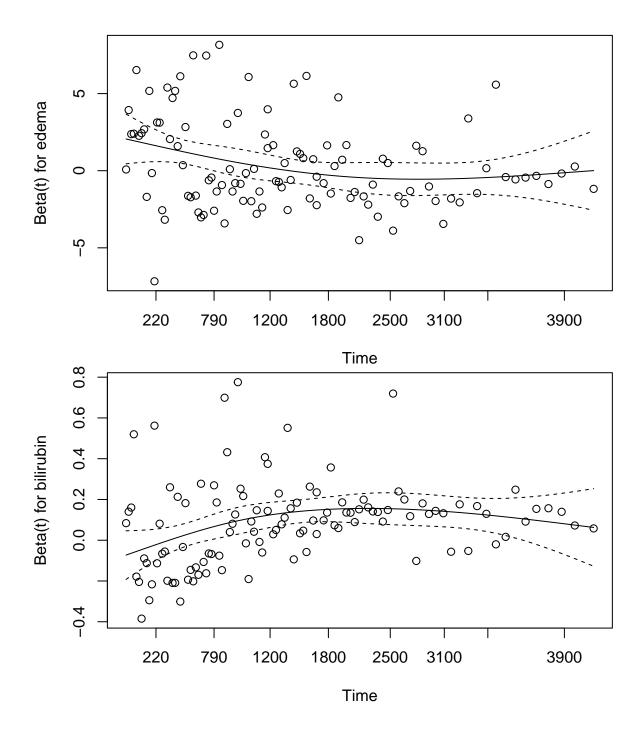


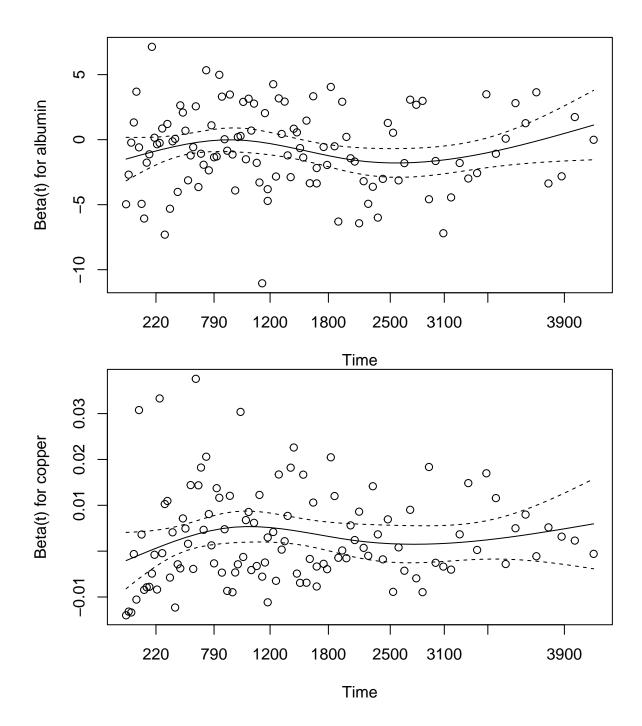
#ggforest(cox_model_a, data = cirrhosis, main = "Hazard Ratios for Cox Model")

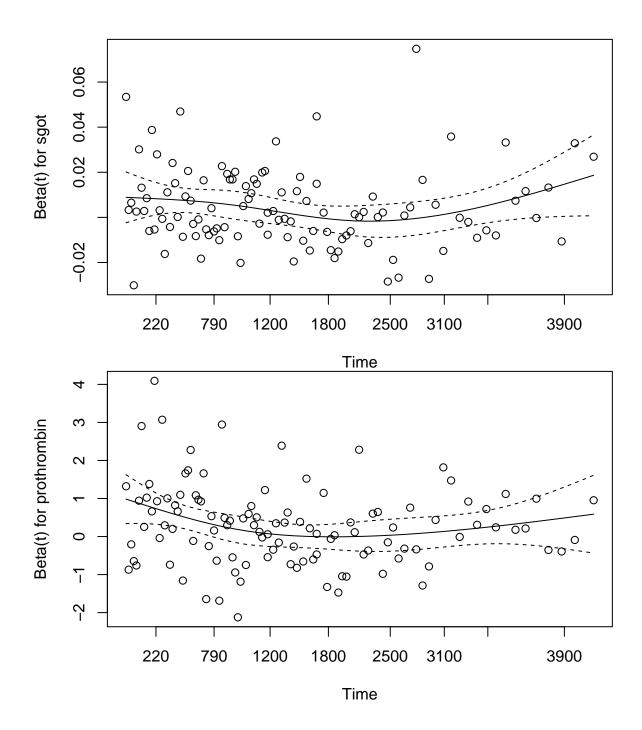
Check PH Assumption

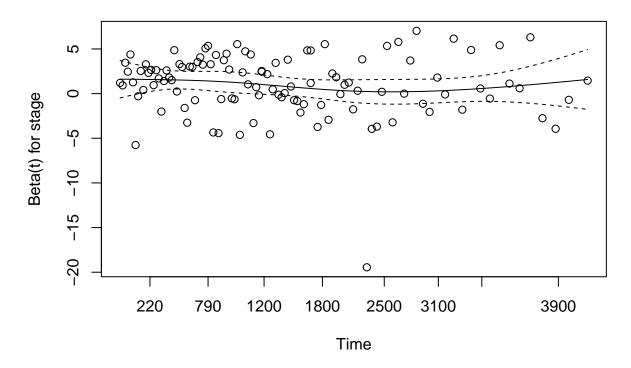
```
ph_assumption_a = cox.zph(cox_model_a)
plot(ph_assumption_a)
```











ph_assumption_df = as.data.frame(ph_assumption_a\$table)
knitr::kable(ph_assumption_df, caption = "Proportional Hazards Assumption Test for Cox PH Model Unadjus

Table 2: Proportional Hazards Assumption Test for Cox PH Model Unadjusted

	chisq	df	p
drug	0.1600772	1	0.6890854
age	2.6909476	1	0.1009198
edema	6.1134319	1	0.0134158
bilirubin	8.3071868	1	0.0039489
albumin	0.6258766	1	0.4288719
copper	0.1021024	1	0.7493211
sgot	1.3384725	1	0.2473035
prothrombin	5.0189196	1	0.0250718
stage	4.5185052	3	0.2106456
GLOBAL	24.6087203	11	0.0103973

edema pval=0.0165; varies over time violating the proportional hazards assumption. bilirubin pval=0.0038; varies over time violating the proportional hazards assumption. prothrombin pval=0.0211; varies over time violating the proportional hazards assumption. global pval=0.0037; varies over time violating the proportional hazards assumption for overall model.

If assumptions not met: - do a stratified analysis - include a time-varying covariate to allow changing hazard ratios over time - include interactions with time

Checking Drug Variation

```
#checking if drug is actually useful for the model
summary(cirrhosis$drug)
##
           Placebo D-penicillamine
##
               140
table(cirrhosis$drug)
##
##
           Placebo D-penicillamine
               140
cox_model_drug = coxph(Surv(n_days, status) ~ drug, data = cirrhosis, id=id)
summary(cox model drug)
## coxph(formula = Surv(n_days, status) ~ drug, data = cirrhosis,
       id = id
##
##
    n= 276, number of events= 111
##
##
##
             coef exp(coef) se(coef)
                                         z Pr(>|z|)
                    1.08942 0.13445 0.637
## drug.L 0.08564
##
##
          exp(coef) exp(-coef) lower .95 upper .95
              1.089
                        0.9179
                                   0.837
                                             1.418
## drug.L
##
## Concordance= 0.508 (se = 0.026)
## Likelihood ratio test= 0.41 on 1 df,
                                           p=0.5
## Wald test
                        = 0.41 on 1 df,
                                           p = 0.5
## Score (logrank) test = 0.41 on 1 df,
                                           p = 0.5
```

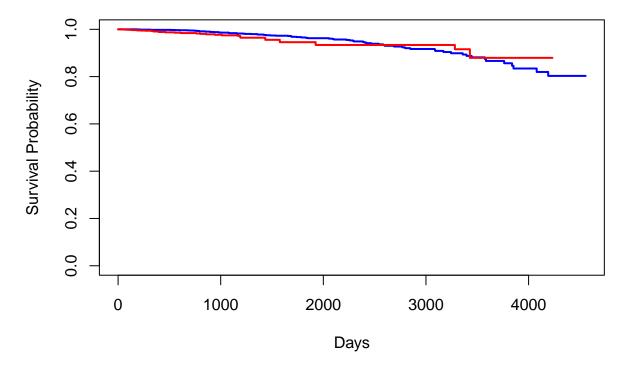
pval=0.5 drug does not have a significant impact on survival outcomes, and we might consider removing it.

Stratification of Edema

Table 3: Proportional Hazards Assumption Test COX PH Model Stratified for Edema

	chisq	df	p
drug	1.4344763	1	0.2310353
age	1.8937409	1	0.1687806
bilirubin	11.5075689	1	0.0006931
albumin	0.0049180	1	0.9440915
copper	0.3914633	1	0.5315312
sgot	1.0484233	1	0.3058705
prothrombin	2.6117691	1	0.1060734
stage	3.0850010	3	0.3787045
GLOBAL	18.9514038	10	0.0408843

Survival Curves - Edema Stratified



 $\#ggforest(cox_model_edema_strat,\ data = cirrhosis,\ main = "Hazard\ Ratios\ for\ Cox\ Model\ Edema\ Stratified = Cox\ Model$

bilirubin pval=0.0006; varies over time violating the proportional hazards assumption. global pval=0.0153; varies over time violating the proportional hazards assumption for overall model.

Time-varying covariate to allow changing hazard ratios over time

```
# checking if the dataset allows for time-varying covariates
table(cirrhosis$id)
```

```
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```

```
sum(table(cirrhosis$id) > 1)
```

[1] 0

Only one observation per id therefore can not to time-varying model.

Rescaling bilirubin and prothrombin

Try to see if rescaling helps.

```
#ggforest(cox_model_logs, data = cirrhosis, main = "Hazard Ratios for Cox Model Log(bilirubin) and log(
cox.zph(cox_model_logs) # violation in edema, log(pro)
##
                    chisq df
## age
                    2.042 1 0.1530
                    6.869 1 0.0088
## edema
## log(bilirubin)
                    0.920 1 0.3374
## albumin
                    0.577 1 0.4477
## copper
                    0.147 1 0.7019
                    0.679 1 0.4100
## sgot
## log(prothrombin) 5.613 1 0.0178
## stage
                    3.817 3 0.2819
## GLOBAL
                   14.920 10 0.1350
cox_model_logpro = coxph(Surv(n_days, status) ~ age + edema +
                        bilirubin + albumin + copper + sgot +
                         log(prothrombin) + stage,
                        data = cirrhosis, id=id)
#ggforest(cox_model_logpro, data = cirrhosis, main = "Hazard Ratios for Cox Mode log(prothrombin)")
cox.zph(cox_model_logpro) # violation in edema, bili, log(pro)
##
                     chisq df
## age
                    2.6154 1 0.1058
## edema
                    5.7796 1 0.0162
## bilirubin
                    8.2124 1 0.0042
                    0.6331 1 0.4262
## albumin
## copper
                    0.0983 1 0.7538
                    1.3957 1 0.2374
## sgot
## log(prothrombin) 5.2746 1 0.0216
## stage
                   4.6281 3 0.2011
## GLOBAL
                   21.7343 10 0.0165
cox_model_logbili = coxph(Surv(n_days, status) ~ age + edema +
                        log(bilirubin) + albumin + copper + sgot +
                         prothrombin + stage,
                       data = cirrhosis, id=id)
#ggforest(cox_model_logbili, data = cirrhosis, main = "Hazard Ratios for Cox Mode log(bilirubin)")
cox.zph(cox_model_logbili) # violation in edema, log(pro)
##
                  chisq df
                  2.092 1 0.1481
## age
## edema
                  6.967 1 0.0083
## log(bilirubin) 0.938 1 0.3328
## albumin
                  0.612 1 0.4342
```

0.137 1 0.7110 0.678 1 0.4102

5.538 1 0.0186

3.814 3 0.2823

15.125 10 0.1276

copper

stage

GLOBAL

prothrombin

sgot

Violations still occur with re scaling. But for log(bilirubin) and log(prothrombin) global pval=0.09 so ok model?

Interactions with Time

Warning in coxph(Surv(n_days, status) ~ drug + age + strata(edema) + bilirubin
+ : a variable appears on both the left and right sides of the formula

```
#ggforest(cox_model_timeint_all, data = cirrhosis, main = "Hazard Ratios for Cox Model Time Interaction
ph_assumption_bili_pro = cox.zph(cox_model_timeint_all) # violation in bilirubin, but global pval > 0.0
ph_assumption_bp= as.data.frame(ph_assumption_bili_pro$table)
knitr::kable(ph_assumption_bp, caption = "Proportional Hazards Assumption Test COX PH Model - Time Interaction
```

Table 4: Proportional Hazards Assumption Test COX PH Model - Time Interaction for Bilirubin and Prohrombin

	chisq	df	p
drug	0.0000954	1	0.9922070
age	5.6872539	1	0.0170886
bilirubin	33.8750626	1	0.0000000
albumin	4.4234600	1	0.0354481
copper	4.5102704	1	0.0336919
sgot	0.6776265	1	0.4104052
prothrombin	223.2379810	1	0.0000000
stage	3.9806497	3	0.2635612
bilirubin:n_days	7.0520026	1	0.0079177
prothrombin:n_days	94.3126489	1	0.0000000
GLOBAL	241.8746701	12	0.0000000

```
## Warning in coxph(Surv(n_days, status) ~ age + strata(edema) + bilirubin + : a
## variable appears on both the left and right sides of the formula
```

```
#ggforest(cox_model_timeint_bil, data = cirrhosis, main = "Hazard Ratios for Cox Model Time Interaction
ph_assumption_bili = cox.zph(cox_model_timeint_bil) # violation in bilirubin, but global pval > 0.05
ph_assumption_b = as.data.frame(ph_assumption_bili$table)
knitr::kable(ph_assumption_b, caption = "Proportional Hazards Assumption Test COX PH Model - Time Inter-
```

Table 5: Proportional Hazards Assumption Test COX PH Model - Time Interaction for Bilirubin

	chisq	df	p
age	2.1727589	1	0.1404740
bilirubin	156.4489525	1	0.0000000
albumin	0.2287249	1	0.6324709
copper	7.8506692	1	0.0050802
sgot	3.9551455	1	0.0467283
prothrombin	0.2988300	1	0.5846169
stage	1.7545923	3	0.6248657
bilirubin:n_days	66.5972171	1	0.0000000
GLOBAL	160.5633738	10	0.0000000

```
## Warning in coxph(Surv(n_days, status) ~ age + strata(edema) + bilirubin + : a
## variable appears on both the left and right sides of the formula
```

```
#ggforest(cox_model_timeint_pro, data = cirrhosis, main = "Hazard Ratios for Cox Model Time Interaction
ph_assumption_pro = cox.zph(cox_model_timeint_pro) # no violation
ph_assumption_p = as.data.frame(ph_assumption_pro$table)
knitr::kable(ph_assumption_p, caption = "Proportional Hazards Assumption Test COX PH Model - Time Inter
```

Table 6: Proportional Hazards Assumption Test COX PH Model - Time Interaction for Prothrombin

	chisq	df	p
age	4.4256842	1	0.0354019
bilirubin	9.3485413	1	0.0022316
albumin	3.7384028	1	0.0531753
copper	6.7691484	1	0.0092747
sgot	0.0015555	1	0.9685394
prothrombin	220.7119921	1	0.0000000
stage	3.7539572	3	0.2892873
prothrombin:n_days	90.8223488	1	0.0000000
GLOBAL	238.1570909	10	0.0000000

```
tibble(
  Model = c(
    "Plain",
    "Stratified by Edema",
    "Time Interaction Bilirubin and Prothrombin",
    "Time Interaction Bilirubin",
    "Time Interaction Prothrombin"
),
  AIC = c(
  AIC(cox_model_a),
```

Table 8: Multivariate Cox Proportional Hazards Analysis

Characteristic	$\mathbf{H}\mathbf{R}^{1}$	95% CI 1	p-value
drug			
drug.L	1.22	0.86, 1.72	0.3
age	1.02	0.99, 1.05	0.15
bilirubin	0.98	0.89, 1.07	0.7
albumin	1.14	0.58, 2.24	0.7
copper	1.00	1.00, 1.01	0.066
sgot	1.00	1.00, 1.01	0.2
prothrombin	6.48	4.21, 9.97	< 0.001
stage			
1	_	_	
2	2.24	0.27, 18.5	0.5
3	4.48	0.53, 37.7	0.2
4	6.74	0.79, 57.5	0.081
bilirubin * n_days	1.00	1.00, 1.00	0.083
prothrombin * n_days	1.00	1.00, 1.00	< 0.001

¹HR = Hazard Ratio, CI = Confidence Interval

```
AIC(cox_model_edema_strat),
  AIC(cox_model_timeint_all),
  AIC(cox_model_timeint_bil),
  AIC(cox_model_timeint_pro)
)
) |> knitr::kable(caption = "AIC Comparison between Different Models")
```

Table 7: AIC Comparison between Different Models

Model	AIC
Plain	960.1851
Stratified by Edema	849.5708
Time Interaction Bilirubin and Prothrombin	415.2000
Time Interaction Bilirubin	818.6991
Time Interaction Prothrombin	415.6481

We use the model stratified by Edema and with the interaction with time for bilirubin and prothrombin. The coefficients are:

```
tbl_regression(cox_model_timeint_all, exponentiate = TRUE) |>
modify_caption("Multivariate Cox Proportional Hazards Analysis")
```

It can be concluded that prothrombin and stage are significantly associated with survival risk. As we stratified by edema, edema is also a potential significant factor. The result complies with what was discovered in the KM model.

Interaction between Convariates

```
cox_init = coxph(Surv(n_days, status) ~ drug + age + strata(edema) +
                                bilirubin + albumin + copper + sgot +
                                prothrombin + stage + bilirubin : n_days,
                         id = id,
                        data = cirrhosis |> na.omit())
variables = c("drug", "age", "albumin", "copper", "sgot",
              "prothrombin", "stage")
vars_df = tibble()
for(var in variables[1 : (length(variables) - 1)])
 left_vars = variables[(which(variables == var) + 1) : length(variables)]
  for(var2 in left_vars)
    cox_fit = coxph(Surv(n_days, status) ~ drug + age + strata(edema) +
                                bilirubin + albumin + copper + sgot +
                                prothrombin + stage + bilirubin : n_days +
                      eval(parse(text = var2)) : eval(parse(text = var)),
                         id = id.
                        data = cirrhosis |> na.omit())
     # aic_vec= c(aic_vec, AIC(model_four))
     chisq_stat=-2 * (logLik(cox_init)-logLik(cox_fit))
    p_val = 1 - pchisq(chisq_stat,
                        attr(logLik(cox_fit), "df") -
                          attr(logLik(cox_init),"df"))
     if(p_val < 0.05)</pre>
       vars_df = vars_df |> rbind(c(round(p_val, 4), var, var2))
 }
}
colnames(vars_df) = c("p_value", "variable1", "variable2")
 mutate(interaction = paste0(variable1, " * ", variable2)) |>
  select(interaction, p value) |>
 knitr::kable(col.names = c("Interaction Term", "P Value"),
   caption = "Siginificant Interaction term")
```

Table 9: Siginificant Interaction term

Interaction Term	P Value
age * copper	0.031
albumin * copper	5e-04
copper * sgot	0.0082
copper * prothrombin	0.0238
copper * stage	0.0015

We first add the albumin*copper term into the model and evaluate again.

```
cox_fit2 = coxph(Surv(n_days, status) ~ drug + age + strata(edema) +
                   bilirubin + albumin + copper + sgot + prothrombin + stage +
                   bilirubin : n_days + albumin * copper,
                 id = id, data = cirrhosis)
vars_df = tibble()
for(var in variables[1 : (length(variables) - 1)])
{
 left vars = variables[(which(variables == var) + 1) : length(variables)]
 for(var2 in left vars)
    cox_fit = coxph(Surv(n_days, status) ~ drug + age + strata(edema) +
                      bilirubin + albumin + copper + sgot + prothrombin +
                      stage + bilirubin : n days + albumin * copper +
                      eval(parse(text = var2)) : eval(parse(text = var)),
                         id = id,
                        data = cirrhosis)
     # aic_vec= c(aic_vec, AIC(model_four))
     chisq_stat=-2 * (logLik(cox_fit2)-logLik(cox_fit))
    p_val = 1 - pchisq(chisq_stat,
                        attr(logLik(cox_fit), "df") -
                          attr(logLik(cox_fit2), "df"))
     if(p_val < 0.05)
      vars_df = vars_df |> rbind(c(round(p_val, 4), var, var2))
 }
}
```

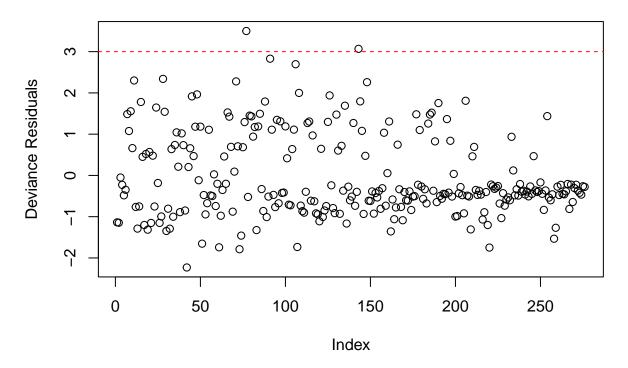
This is our final model.

Table 10: Final Model Parameter Results

	Estimate	Hazard Ratio	p value	Sig.
drug.L	0.2406	1.2720	0.1124	
age	0.0337	1.0343	0.0025	**
bilirubin	0.2467	1.2798	0.0000	***
albumin	-1.4627	0.2316	0.0001	***
copper	-0.0224	0.9779	0.0020	**
sgot	0.0065	1.0065	0.0010	***
prothrombin	0.2819	1.3257	0.0168	*
stage2	1.3093	3.7034	0.2228	
stage3	1.6975	5.4604	0.1058	
stage4	2.0812	8.0139	0.0467	*
bilirubin:n_days	-0.0002	0.9998	0.0000	***
albumin:copper	0.0076	1.0076	0.0004	***

Model Evaluation

Deviance Residuals Scatterplot



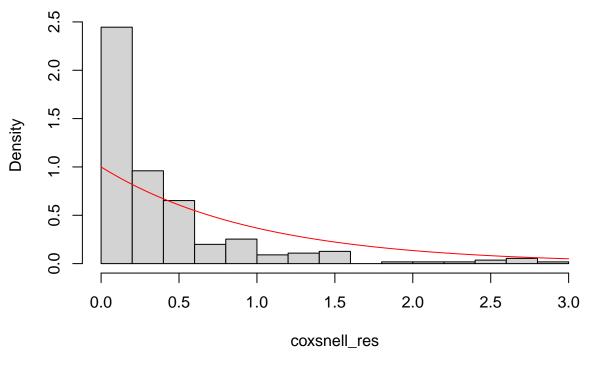
```
which(deviance_res > 3)

## 77 143

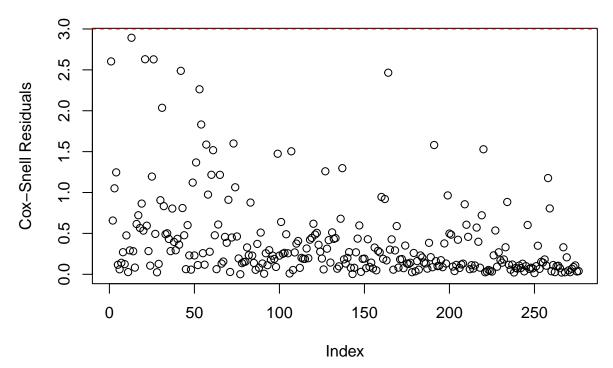
## 77 143

coxsnell_res = - (predict(cox_final, type = "survival") |> log())
hist(coxsnell_res, main = "Cox-Snell Residuals Histogram", freq = F, breaks = 15)
curve(exp(- x), add = T, col = "red")
```

Cox-Snell Residuals Histogram



Cox-Snell Residuals Scatterplot

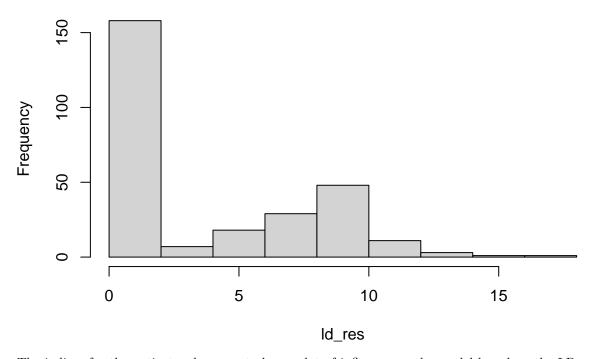


Based on the plot, the Cox-Snell residuals approximately follow exponential (1) distribution, which indicates

good fit of the model.

For influence diagnostics, we use the LD option. We calculate it manually and select the individuals that provide the 5 largest absolute differences.

Histogram of Id_res



The indices for the patients who seem to have a lot of influence on the model based on the LD option are 82, 100, 108, 129, 210.

```
digits = 4, caption = "Model Parameter Results Comparison") |>
add_header_above(header = c(" " = 1, "Original Model" = 3, "New Model" = 3))
```

Table 11: Model Parameter Results Comparison

		Original Model			New Model	
	Estimate	Hazard Ratio	p value	Estimate	Hazard Ratio	p value
drug.L	0.2406	1.2720	0.1124	0.2907	1.3374	0.0662
age	0.0337	1.0343	0.0025	0.0303	1.0308	0.0098
bilirubin	0.2467	1.2798	0.0000	0.3033	1.3543	0.0000
albumin	-1.4627	0.2316	0.0001	-1.5639	0.2093	0.0001
copper	-0.0224	0.9779	0.0020	-0.0226	0.9777	0.0021
sgot	0.0065	1.0065	0.0010	0.0063	1.0063	0.0024
prothrombin	0.2819	1.3257	0.0168	0.3428	1.4089	0.0063
stage2	1.3093	3.7034	0.2228	1.4232	4.1505	0.1921
stage3	1.6975	5.4604	0.1058	1.7935	6.0104	0.0930
stage4	2.0812	8.0139	0.0467	2.1404	8.5030	0.0440
bilirubin:n_days albumin:copper	-0.0002 0.0076	0.9998 1.0076	$0.0000 \\ 0.0004$	-0.0002 0.0078	0.9998 1.0078	$0.0000 \\ 0.0003$