# Explicit formula for the net benefit

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# 1 Parameter of interest

Let consider two independent real valued random variables X and Y. We are interested in:

$$\Delta = \mathbb{P}\left[Y > X\right] - \mathbb{P}\left[X > Y\right]$$

In the examples we will use a sample size of:

n <- 1e4

and use the following R packages

library(BuyseTest)

library(riskRegression)

library(survival)

# 2 Binary variable

### 2.1 Relationship between $\Delta$ and the prevalence

$$\mathbb{P}\left[Y > X\right] = \mathbb{P}\left[Y = 1, X = 0\right]$$

Using the independence between Y and X:

$$\mathbb{P}\left[Y>X\right]=\mathbb{P}\left[Y=1\right]\mathbb{P}\left[X=0\right]=\mathbb{P}\left[Y=1\right]\left(1-\mathbb{P}\left[X=1\right]\right)=\mathbb{P}\left[Y=1\right]-\mathbb{P}\left[Y=1\right]\mathbb{P}\left[X=1\right]$$

By symmetry:

$$\mathbb{P}\left[X > Y\right] = \mathbb{P}\left[X = 1\right] - \mathbb{P}\left[Y = 1\right] \mathbb{P}\left[X = 1\right]$$

So

$$\Delta = \mathbb{P}\left[Y = 1\right] - \mathbb{P}\left[X = 0\right]$$

#### 2.2 In R

Settings:

```
prob1 <- 0.4
prob2 <- 0.2
```

Simulate data:

Buyse test:

```
BuyseTest(group \sim bin(tox), data = df, method.inference = "none", trace = 0)
```

```
endpoint threshold delta Delta
tox 0.5 -0.1981 -0.1981
```

Expected:

```
prob2 - prob1
```

[1] -0.2

# 3 Continuous variable

### 3.1 Relationship between $\Delta$ and Cohen's d

Let's consider two independent normally distributed variables with common variance:

- $X \sim \mathcal{N}\left(\mu_X, \sigma^2\right)$
- $Y \sim \mathcal{N}\left(\mu_Y, \sigma^2\right)$

Denoting  $d = \frac{\mu_Y - \mu_X}{\sigma}$ :

- $X^* \sim \mathcal{N}(0,1)$
- $Y^* \sim \mathcal{N}(d, 1)$

$$\mathbb{P}\left[Y > X\right] = \mathbb{E}\left[\mathbb{1}_{Y > X}\right] = \mathbb{E}\left[\mathbb{1}_{Y * > X *}\right] = \mathbb{E}\left[\mathbb{1}_{Z > 0}\right]$$

where  $Z \sim \mathcal{N}\left(d,2\right)$  so  $\mathbb{P}\left[Y > X\right] = \Phi\left(\frac{d}{\sqrt{2}}\right)$ 

By symmetry

$$\Delta = 2 * \Phi(\frac{d}{\sqrt{2}}) - 1$$

#### 3.2 In R

Settings:

```
meanY <- 0
meanY <- 2
sdXY <- 1
```

Simulate data:

Buyse test:

```
BuyseTest(group \sim cont(tox), data = df, method.inference = "none", trace = 0)
```

```
endpoint threshold delta Delta
tox 1e-12 0.8359 0.8359
```

Expected:

```
d <- (meanY-meanX)/sdXY
2*pnorm(d/sqrt(2))-1</pre>
```

[1] 0.8427008

### 4 Survival

#### 4.1 Relationship between $\Delta$ and the hazard ratio

For a given cumulative density function F(x) and a corresponding probability density function f(x) we define the hazard by:

$$\begin{split} \lambda(t) &= \left. \frac{\mathbb{P}\left[t \leq T \leq t + h | T \geq t\right]}{h} \right|_{h \to 0^+} \\ &= \left. \frac{\mathbb{P}\left[t \leq T \leq t + h\right]}{\mathbb{P}\left[T \geq t\right] h} \right|_{h \to 0^+} \\ &= \frac{f(t)}{1 - F(t)} \end{split}$$

Let now consider two times to events following an exponential distribution:

- $X \sim Exp(\alpha_1)$ . The corresponding hazard function is  $\lambda(t) = \alpha_1$ .
- $Y \sim Exp(\alpha_2)$ . The corresponding hazard function is  $\lambda(t) = \alpha_2$ .

So the hazad ratio is  $HR = \frac{\lambda_2}{\lambda_1}$ . Note that if we use a cox model we will have:

$$\lambda(t) = \lambda_0(t) \exp(\beta \mathbb{1}_{qroup})$$

where  $\exp(\beta)$  is the hazard ratio.

$$\mathbb{P}[Y > X] = \int_0^\infty \alpha_1 \exp(-\alpha_1 x) \int_x^\infty \alpha_2 \exp(-\alpha_2 y) dy dx$$

$$= \int_0^\infty \alpha_1 \exp(-\alpha_1 x) [\exp(-\alpha_2 y)]_\infty^x dx$$

$$= \int_0^\infty \alpha_1 \exp(-\alpha_1 x) \exp(-\alpha_2 x) dx$$

$$= \frac{\alpha_1}{\alpha_1 + \alpha_2} [\exp(-(\alpha_1 + \alpha_2)x)]_\infty^0$$

$$= \frac{\alpha_1}{\alpha_1 + \alpha_2}$$

$$= \frac{1}{1 + HR}$$

So:

$$\Delta = 2\frac{1}{1 + HR} - 1 = \frac{1 - HR}{1 + HR}$$

#### 4.2 Scoring rule in presence of censoring

Let's consider the following random variables:

- X the time to the occurrence of the event of interest in the treatment group.
- $C_X$  the censoring time in the treatment group.
- $X^* = X \wedge C_X$  the observed event time in the treatment group.
- $\varepsilon_X = \mathbb{1}_{X \leq C_X}$  the event time indicator in the treatment group.
- Y the time to the occurrence of the event of interest in the control group.
- $C_Y$  the censoring time in the control group.
- $Y^* = Y \wedge C_Y$  the observed event time in the control group.
- $\varepsilon_Y = \mathbb{1}_{Y \leq C_Y}$  the event time indicator in the control group.

We observe one realization  $(x^*, y^*, e_X, e_Y)$  of the random variables  $(X^*, Y^*, \varepsilon_X, \varepsilon_Y)$ . We use the short notation  $x \wedge y = min(x, y)$  and  $x \vee y = max(x, y)$ .

#### **4.2.1** Case: $e_X = 0, e_Y = 1$

#### Probability in favor of the treatment:

$$\begin{split} \mathbb{P}\left[x \geq y + \tau | x \geq x^*, y = y^*\right] &= \frac{\mathbb{P}\left[x \geq y^* + \tau, x \geq x^*\right]}{\mathbb{P}\left[x \geq x^*\right]} \\ &= \frac{\mathbb{P}\left[x \geq max(y^* + \tau, x^*)\right]}{\mathbb{P}\left[x \geq x^*\right]} \\ &= \frac{S_X(y^* + \tau \vee x^*)}{S_X(x^*)} \end{split}$$

In the case where  $x^* < y^* + \tau$ , we need an estimate of  $S_X(y^* + \tau)$  to compute the probability in favor of the treatment. If we can only have an estimate of  $S_X$  up to  $x_{max} < y^* + \tau$  then we can use the following inequality:

$$S_X(y^* + \tau) \ge 0$$

$$\mathbb{P}\left[x \ge y + \tau | x \ge x^*, y = y^*\right] \ge 0$$

#### Probability in favor of the control:

$$\mathbb{P}[y \ge x + \tau | x \ge x^*, y = y^*] = 1 - \frac{\mathbb{P}[x \ge y^* - \tau, x \ge x^*]}{\mathbb{P}[x \ge x^*]}$$

$$= 1 - \frac{\mathbb{P}[x \ge max(y^* - \tau, x^*)]}{\mathbb{P}[x \ge x^*]}$$

$$= 1 - \frac{S_X(y^* - \tau \lor x^*)}{S_X(x^*)}$$

In the case where  $x^* < y^* - \tau$ , we need an estimate of  $S_X(y^* - \tau)$  to compute the probability in favor of the control. If we can only have an estimate of  $S_X$  up to  $x_{max} < y^* - \tau$  then we can use the following inequality:

$$S_X(x_{max}) \ge S_X(y^* - \tau)$$
  
 $\mathbb{P}[x \ge y - \tau | x \ge x^*, y = y^*] \ge 1 - \frac{S_X(x_{max})}{S_X(x^*)}$ 

#### Probability of being neutral:

$$\mathbb{P}\left[|x - y| \le \tau | x \ge x^*, y = y^*\right] = 1 - \mathbb{P}\left[x \ge y + \tau | x \ge x^*, y = y^*\right] - \mathbb{P}\left[y \ge x + \tau | x \ge x^*, y = y^*\right] \\
= \frac{S_X(y^* - \tau \vee x^*) - S_X(y^* + \tau \vee x^*)}{S_X(x^*)}$$

Consider the case  $x^*$  If  $x_{max} > y^* - \tau$  then

$$\mathbb{P}[|x - y| \le \tau | x \ge x^*, y = y^*] \ge \frac{S_X(y^* - \tau) - S_X(x_{max})}{S_X(x^*)}$$

otherwise

$$\mathbb{P}\left[|x-y| \le \tau | x \ge x^*, y = y^*\right] \ge 0$$

**Probability of being uninformative**: It is computed as the complement to 1 of the sum of the probability of being in favor of the treatment, in favor of the control, and neutral.

EXAMPLE:

- when  $x^* > y^* + \tau$ , the probability of being favorable is 1 so the probability of being uninformative is 0.
- when  $|x^* y^*| < \tau$ , the probability of being in favor of the control is 0. If we know the survival in the treatment group up to time  $y^*$ , then we can only say that the probability of being favorable is bounded below by 0. The probability of being neutral bounded below by  $1 S_T(y^*)/S_T(x^*)$ . The probability of being uninformative is then  $S_T(y^*)/S_T(x^*)$ . Clearly this probability becomes small when  $S_T(y^*)$  is small. The approximation by the lower bound becomes exact when  $S_T(y^*)$  tends to 0.

#### 4.3 In R

Settings:

Simulate data:

Buyse test:

```
BuyseTest(group ~ tte(time, censoring = event), data = df,
method.inference = "none", trace = 0, method.tte = "Gehan")
```

```
endpoint threshold delta Delta time 1e-12 0.3403 0.3403
```

Expected:

```
e.coxph <- coxph(Surv(time,event)~group,data = df)
HR <- as.double(exp(coef(e.coxph)))
c("HR" = alphaY/alphaX, "Delta" = 2*alphaX/(alphaY+alphaX)-1)
c("HR.cox" = HR, "Delta" = (1-HR)/(1+HR))</pre>
```

```
HR Delta
0.5000000 0.3333333
HR.cox Delta
0.4918256 0.3406392
```

## 5 Competing risks

### 5.1 Theory

### 5.1.1 General case (no censoring)

Let consider:

- $X_E^*$  the time to the occurrence of the event of interest in the control group.
- $Y_E^*$  the time to the occurrence of the event of interest in the treatment group.
- $X_{CR}^*$  the time to the occurrence of the competing event of interest in the control group.
- $Y_{CR}^*$  the time to the occurrence of the competing event of interest in the treatment group.

Let denote  $\varepsilon_X = 1 + \mathbb{1}_{X_E^* > X_{CR}^*}$  the event type indicator in the control group and  $\varepsilon_Y = 1 + \mathbb{1}_{Y_E^* > Y_{CR}^*}$  the event type indicator in treatment group (= 1 when the cause of interest is realised first and 2 when the competing risk is realised first).

For each subject either the event of interest or the competing event is realized. We now define:

$$X = \left\{ \begin{array}{l} X_E^* \text{ if } \varepsilon_X = 1 \\ +\infty \text{ if } \varepsilon_X = 2 \end{array} \right. \text{ and } Y = \left\{ \begin{array}{l} Y_E^* \text{ if } \varepsilon_Y = 1 \\ +\infty \text{ if } \varepsilon_Y = 2 \end{array} \right.$$

i.e. when the event of interest is not realized we say that the time to event is infinite.

We thus have:

$$\begin{split} \mathbb{P}\left[Y > X\right] = & \mathbb{P}\left[Y > X|\varepsilon_X = 1, \varepsilon_Y = 1\right] \mathbb{P}\left[\varepsilon_X = 1, \varepsilon_Y = 1\right] \\ & + \mathbb{P}\left[Y > X|\varepsilon_X = 1, \varepsilon_Y = 2\right] \mathbb{P}\left[\varepsilon_X = 1, \varepsilon_Y = 2\right] \\ & + \mathbb{P}\left[Y > X|\varepsilon_X = 2, \varepsilon_Y = 1\right] \mathbb{P}\left[\varepsilon_X = 2, \varepsilon_Y = 1\right] \\ & + \mathbb{P}\left[Y > X|\varepsilon_X = 2, \varepsilon_Y = 2\right] \mathbb{P}\left[\varepsilon_X = 2, \varepsilon_Y = 2\right] \\ = & \mathbb{P}\left[Y > X|\varepsilon_X = 1, \varepsilon_Y = 1\right] \mathbb{P}\left[\varepsilon_X = 1, \varepsilon_Y = 1\right] \\ & + 1 * \mathbb{P}\left[\varepsilon_X = 1, \varepsilon_Y = 2\right] \\ & + 0 * \mathbb{P}\left[\varepsilon_X = 2, \varepsilon_Y = 1\right] \\ & + 0 * \mathbb{P}\left[\varepsilon_X = 2, \varepsilon_Y = 2\right] \end{split}$$

So 
$$\mathbb{P}[X > Y] = \mathbb{P}[X > Y | \varepsilon_X = 1, \varepsilon_Y = 1] \mathbb{P}[\varepsilon_X = 1, \varepsilon_Y = 1] + \mathbb{P}[\varepsilon_X = 1, \varepsilon_Y = 2]$$
 and:  

$$\Delta = (\mathbb{P}[X > Y | \varepsilon_X = 1, \varepsilon_Y = 1] - \mathbb{P}[X < Y | \varepsilon_X = 1, \varepsilon_Y = 1]) \mathbb{P}[\varepsilon_X = 1, \varepsilon_Y = 1]$$

$$+ \mathbb{P}[\varepsilon_X = 1, \varepsilon_Y = 2] - \mathbb{P}[\varepsilon_X = 2, \varepsilon_Y = 1]$$

#### 5.1.2 General case (censoring, method: Gehan)

In case of censoring we can use an inverse probability weighting approach. Let denote  $\delta_{c,X}$  (resp.  $\delta_{c,Y}$ ) the indicator of no censoring relative to  $\tilde{X}$  (resp.  $\tilde{Y}$ ),  $\tilde{X}_E$  and  $\tilde{Y}_E$  the censored event time. We can use inverse probability weighting to compute the net benefit:

$$\begin{split} \Delta^{IPW} &= \frac{\delta_{c,\tilde{X}} \delta_{c,\tilde{Y}}}{\mathbb{P}\left[\delta_{c,\tilde{X}}\right] \mathbb{P}\left[\delta_{c,\tilde{Y}}\right]} (\mathbb{1}_{\tilde{Y} > \tilde{X}} - \mathbb{1}_{\tilde{Y} < \tilde{X}}) \\ &= \begin{cases} \frac{1}{\mathbb{P}\left[\delta_{c,\tilde{X}}\right] \mathbb{P}\left[\delta_{c,\tilde{Y}}\right]} (\mathbb{1}_{Y > X} - \mathbb{1}_{Y < X}), \text{ if no censoring} \\ 0, \text{ if censoring} \end{cases} \end{split}$$

This is equivalent to weight the informative pairs (i.e. favorable, unfavorable and neutral) by the inverse of the complement of the probability of being uninformative. This is what is done by the argument correction.tte of BuyseTest. This works whenever the censoring mechanism is independent of the event times and we have a consistent estimate of  $\mathbb{P}\left[\delta_{c}\right]$  since:

$$\begin{split} \mathbb{E}\left[\Delta^{IPW}\right] &= \mathbb{E}\left[\mathbb{E}\left[\frac{\delta_{c,\tilde{X}}\delta_{c,\tilde{Y}}}{\mathbb{P}\left[\delta_{c,\tilde{X}}\right]\mathbb{P}\left[\delta_{c,\tilde{Y}}\right]}(\mathbb{1}_{\tilde{Y}>\tilde{X}} - \mathbb{1}_{\tilde{Y}<\tilde{X}})\middle|\tilde{X},\tilde{Y}\right]\right] \\ &= \mathbb{E}\left[\mathbb{E}\left[\frac{\delta_{c,\tilde{X}}\delta_{c,\tilde{Y}}}{\mathbb{P}\left[\delta_{c,\tilde{X}}\right]\mathbb{P}\left[\delta_{c,\tilde{Y}}\right]}\middle|\tilde{X},\tilde{Y}\right]\right]\mathbb{E}\left[\mathbb{1}_{Y>X} - \mathbb{1}_{Y$$

where we used the law of total expectation (first line) and the independence between the censoring mecanisms.

#### 5.1.3 Exponential distribution (no censoring)

Now let's assume that:

- $X_E \sim Exp(\alpha_{E,X})$ .
- $Y_E \sim Exp(\alpha_{E|Y})$ .
- $X_{CR} \sim Exp(\alpha_{CR,X})$ .
- $Y_{CR} \sim Exp(\alpha_{CR,Y})$ .

Then:

$$\mathbb{P}\left[Y_E > X_E\right] = \mathbb{P}\left[Y_E > X_E \middle| \varepsilon_X = 1, \varepsilon_Y = 1\right] \mathbb{P}\left[\varepsilon_X = 1, \varepsilon_Y = 1\right] + \mathbb{P}\left[\varepsilon_X = 1, \varepsilon_Y = 2\right]$$

$$= \frac{1}{(\alpha_{E,X} + \alpha_{CR,X})(\alpha_{E,Y} + \alpha_{CR,Y})} \left(\alpha_{E,X} \alpha_{E,Y} \frac{\alpha_{E,X}}{\alpha_{E,X} + \alpha_{E,Y}} + \alpha_{E,X} \alpha_{CR,Y}\right)$$

Just for comparison let's compare to the cumulative incidence. First we only consider one group and two competing events whose times to event follow an exponential distribution:

- $T_E \sim Exp(\alpha_E)$ . The corresponding hazard function is  $\lambda(t) = \alpha_E$ .
- $T_{CR} \sim Exp(\alpha_{CR})$ . The corresponding hazard function is  $\lambda(t) = \alpha_{CR}$ .

The cumulative incidence function can be written:

$$\begin{split} CIF_1(t) &= \int_0^t \lambda_1(s)S(s_-)ds \\ &= \int_0^t \alpha_E \exp(-(\alpha_E + \alpha_{CR}) * s_-)ds \\ &= \frac{\alpha_E}{\alpha_E + \alpha_{CR}} \left[ \exp(-(\alpha_E + \alpha_{CR}) * s_-) \right]_t^0 \\ &= \frac{\alpha_E}{\alpha_E + \alpha_{CR}} \left( 1 - \exp(-(\alpha_E + \alpha_{CR}) * t_-) \right) \end{split}$$

where S(t) denote the event free survival and  $s_{-}$  denotes the right sided limit.

Then applying this formula in the case of two groups gives:

$$CIF_1(t|group = X) = \frac{\alpha_{E,X}}{\alpha_{E,X} + \alpha_{CR,X}} \left( 1 - \exp(-(\alpha_{E,X} + \alpha_{CR,X}) * t_-) \right)$$
$$CIF_1(t|group = Y) = \frac{\alpha_{E,Y}}{\alpha_{E,Y} + \alpha_{CR,Y}} \left( 1 - \exp(-(\alpha_{E,Y} + \alpha_{CR,Y}) * t_-) \right)$$

#### 5.2 In R

#### 5.2.1 BuyseTest (no censoring)

Setting:

```
alphaE.X <- 2
alphaCR.X <- 1
alphaE.Y <- 3
alphaCR.Y <- 2</pre>
```

Simulate data:

BuyseTest:

#### Generalized pairwise comparison with 1 prioritized endpoint

Note that without censoring one can get the same results by treating time as a continuous variable that take value  $\infty$  when the competing risk is observed:

#### Generalized pairwise comparison with 1 prioritized endpoint

```
> statistic : net chance of a better outcome (delta: endpoint specific, Delta: global)
> null hypothesis : Delta == 0
> treatment groups: 1 (control) vs. 2 (treatment)
> results
endpoint threshold total favorable unfavorable neutral uninf delta Delta
   timeXX    1e-12    100    41.6    45.12    13.28    0 -0.0352 -0.0352
```

#### Expected:

```
favorable unfavorable neutral 42.66667 44.00000 13.33333
```

#### 5.2.2 BuyseTest (with censoring)

Simulate data:

```
df$eventC <- df$event
df$eventC[rbinom(n, size = 1, prob = 0.2)==1] <- 0</pre>
```

BuyseTest (biased):

Generalized pairwise comparison with 1 prioritized endpoint

Generalized pairwise comparison with 1 prioritized endpoint

#### 5.2.3 Cumulative incidence

summary(e.BTCC, percentage = TRUE)

Settings:

```
alphaE <- 2
alphaCR <- 1
```

Simulate data:

Cumulative incidence (via risk regression):

Expected vs. calculated:

```
time CSC manual
[1,] 0.00 0.0000 0.00000000
[2,] 0.01 0.0186 0.01970298
[3,] 0.02 0.0377 0.03882364
[4,] 0.05 0.0924 0.09286135
[5,] 0.14 0.2248 0.22863545
[6,] 0.42 0.4690 0.47756398
[7,] 1.24 0.6534 0.65051069
[8,] 3.70 0.6703 0.66665659
```

Could also be obtained treating the outcome as binary:

```
mean((df$time<=1)*(df$event==1))
```

[1] 0.6375