## Flexible hazard-based Mixed-effects Models for the Excess Mortality Hazard Practical

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#### Abstract

In this practical, we use data of men diagnosed with a Lip-Oral Cavity-Pharynx cancer between 1997 and 2010 in a French region (Basse Normandie), and followed up to the  $30^{th}$  of June 2013.

In the first exercise of the practical, the objective is to describe the association between the age at diagnosis and the excess mortality hazard, and we will focus on interpreting the results of the different models and their underlying assumption.

In the **second exercise**, you'll describe the association between an ecological deprivation index and the excess mortality hazard, adjusting on age at diagnosis and accounting for the hierarchical structure of the data. The practical will be mainly using the package mexhaz

### Introduction

The file is called fakeLOCP.dat, and is a tabulate delimited text file. It contains the following columns:

- sex: 1 for man, 2 for woman
- ydiag : year of diagnosis (continuous)
- agediag: age at diagnosis (continuous)
- EDI: European Deprivation Index (rounded with 2 decimals) associated to an IRIS (see below)
- quintile: Deprivation quintile of the French population
- timesurv : survival time in years
- status: Indicator of the event (0=alive, 1=dead)
- myclus: IRIS of residence at diagnosis (character)
- expectedrate: Population (Expected) mortality rate at the time of the last known vital status (and the corresponding age and year)

## Data preparation

#### Import the data in R and explore the data

Start by loading the package mexhaz and by defining the path in mypath below to indicate where your datafile is located.

- > # Load necessary package
- > library(mexhaz)
- > mypath <- "C:/Users/Aurel/Dropbox/WorkStat/Teaching/Corte2019/FPMM/Practicals/"
- > mydat <- read.delim(paste0(mypath, "fakeLOCP.dat"))</pre>

Then we have to do some data management. To do so, copy and paste the R-code given below to

- Select only men
- Create a survival time variable by censoring patients at 10 years, with the corresponding vital status
- Create the dummy variables called Iagecat\*\*, corresponding to the following age classes [15-45], [45-55], [55-65], [65-75] and [75-++]. For example, Iagecat1545 will equal 1 for patients aged between 15 and 45 years old, and 0 otherwise.
- Create the variables corresponding to the age at diagnosis (centred at 70 years old) expressed in a Truncated Power Basis spline of degree 3 with one knot at 0 (i.e. 70 years old as it has been already centred). The same is done but with the age centred at 70 years and rescaled (by dividing by 10).

- Summarize the available information (number of events/censored before 10 years) by deprivation quintiles
- Summarize the continuous variable agediag and EDI

```
> # select only men
 > mydat <- subset(mydat, sex==1)</pre>
 > summary(mydat)
        sex
                   ydiag
                                   agediag
                                                        EDI
                                                                           quintile
  Min. :1 Min. :1997 Min. :16.49 Min. :-7.830 Min. :1.000
  1st Qu.:1 1st Qu.:2000 1st Qu.:52.51 1st Qu.:-1.280 1st Qu.:3.000
  Median: 1 Median: 2003 Median: 60.14 Median: 0.410 Median: 4.000
  Mean :1 Mean :2003 Mean :61.06 Mean :1.078 Mean :3.542
  3rd Qu.:1 3rd Qu.:2007 3rd Qu.:69.21 3rd Qu.: 2.390 3rd Qu.:5.000
  \label{eq:max.max.} \mbox{Max.} : 1 \ \ \mbox{Max.} : 2010 \ \ \mbox{Max.} : 95.41 \ \ \mbox{Max.} : 17.400 \ \ \mbox{Max.} : 5.000
     timesurv status myclus expectedrate
  Min. : 0.001747 Min. :0.0000 Min. : 1.0 Min. :0.000446
  1 \\ \text{st Qu.: } 0.727183 \\ \hspace{0.5cm} 1 \\ \text{st Qu.:} 1.0000 \\ \hspace{0.5cm} 1 \\ \text{st Qu.:} 135.0 \\ \hspace{0.5cm} 1 \\ \text{st Qu.:} 0.008523 \\ \hspace{0.5cm} \\
  Median: 1.936618 Median: 1.0000 Median: 379.0 Median: 0.013475

      Mean
      : 3.445450
      Mean
      :0.8008
      Mean
      :398.7
      Mean
      :0.026127

      3rd Qu.: 5.101770
      3rd Qu.:1.0000
      3rd Qu.:632.0
      3rd Qu.:0.027092

      Max.
      :16.456786
      Max.
      :1.0000
      Max.
      :976.0
      Max.
      :0.364189

 > # create survival time and corresponding vital status
 > mydat$timesurv10y <- pmin(mydat$timesurv, 10)</pre>
 > mydat$status10y <- ifelse(mydat$timesurv10y==mydat$timesurv,mydat$status,0)</pre>
 > # Creation of useful variables
 > mydat$Iagecat1545 <- ifelse(mydat$agediag>=15 & mydat$agediag<45,1,0)
 > mydat$Iagecat4555 <- ifelse(mydat$agediag>=45 & mydat$agediag<55,1,0)</pre>
 > mydat$Iagecat5565 <- ifelse(mydat$agediag>=55 & mydat$agediag<65,1,0)</pre>
 > mydat$Iagecat6575 <- ifelse(mydat$agediag>=65 & mydat$agediag<75,1,0)</pre>
 > mydat$Iagecat75pp <- ifelse(mydat$agediag>=75 ,1,0)
 > # Alternative coding:
 > # mydat$agecat <- cut(mydat$agediag, breaks=c(15, 45, 55, 65, 75, 150), right = FALSE)</pre>
 > # table(mydat$agecat)
 > # Creation of the variable for a spline of age (deg 3, knot 70) in a truncated power basis
 > # not reduced
 > mydat$agediagc=mydat$agediag-70
 > mydat$agediagc2 <- mydat$agediagc^2</pre>
 > mydat$agediagc3 <- mydat$agediagc^3</pre>
 > mydat$agediagc3plus <- (mydat$agediagc-0)^3*(mydat$agediagc>0)
 > # redcued
 > mydat$agediagcr=(mydat$agediag-70)/10
 > mydat$agediagcr2 <- mydat$agediagcr^2</pre>
 > mydat$agediagcr3 <- mydat$agediagcr^3</pre>
 > mydat$agediagcr3plus <- (mydat$agediagcr-0)^3*(mydat$agediagcr>0)
Briefly summarize the information available (R-code given below):
• Tabulate the number of events observed before 10 years by deprivation quintiles
• Summarize the continuous variable agediag and EDI
 > # Number of events by deprivation quintiles
 > with(mydat, table(quintile, status10y))
          status10y
 quintile 0 1
         1 101 224
         2 129 338
         3 150 498
         4 208 809
         5 175 807
 > # Distribution of EDI and agediag in the population
 > summary(mydat$EDI)
```

Min. 1st Qu. Median Mean 3rd Qu. Max. -7.830 -1.280 0.410 1.078 2.390 17.400

```
> summary(mydat$agediag)
```

```
Min. 1st Qu. Median Mean 3rd Qu. Max. 16.49 52.51 60.14 61.06 69.21 95.41
```

## Exercise 1

# Model 1: Excess mortality hazard regression model with time-fixed effects of age at diagnosis in categories

1. Using mexhaz, fit an excess mortality hazard regression model, assuming an exponential of a cubic B-spline with 2 knots located at 1 and 5 years for the baseline hazard, and time-fixed effects for the covariables age-groups (reference category 65-75). Save the model in an object called FPM1

```
\lambda_E(t, \mathbf{x}) = \lambda_0(t) \exp\left(\sum_{i=1, i \neq 4}^5 \beta_i Iagecat_i\right)
> FPM1 <- mexhaz(Surv(timesurv10y, status10y)~ Iagecat1545 + Iagecat4555 + Iagecat5565 + Iagecat75pp,
                expected="expectedrate", degree=3, knots = c(1,5), base="exp.bs", data=mydat, verbose = 0)
> summary(FPM1)
mexhaz(formula = Surv(timesurv10y, status10y) ~ Iagecat1545 +
    Iagecat4555 + Iagecat5565 + Iagecat75pp, data = mydat, expected = "expectedrate",
    base = "exp.bs", degree = 3, knots = c(1, 5), verbose = 0)
Coefficients:
            Estimate
                        StdErr t.value p.value
Intercept -0.999687 0.096820 -10.3252 < 2.2e-16 ***
                                1.7077 0.087790 .
            0.228656 0.133900
BS3.1
           -0.367664 0.126097 -2.9157 0.003572 **
BS3.2
BS3.3
           -1.903339 0.276768 -6.8770 7.232e-12 ***
BS3.4
           -1.732011 0.359464 -4.8183 1.510e-06 ***
Iagecat1545 -0.325472 0.099345
                                -3.2762 0.001063 **
                                -1.6301 0.103171
Iagecat4555 -0.097581 0.059862
Iagecat5565 -0.060875 0.058401
                                -1.0424 0.297320
Iagecat75pp 0.127271 0.079306
                                1.6048 0.108629
Signif. codes: 0 '*** 0.001 '** 0.01 '* 0.05 '.' 0.1 ' ' 1
Hazard ratios (for proportional effect variables):
              Coef
                       HR CI.lower CI.upper
Iagecat1545 -0.3255 0.7222
                            0.5944
                                      0.8775
Iagecat4555 -0.0976 0.9070
                            0.8066
                                      1.0200
Iagecat5565 -0.0609 0.9409
                             0.8391
                                      1.0551
Iagecat75pp 0.1273 1.1357
                             0.9722
                                      1.3268
log-likelihood: -5898.2098 (for 10 degree(s) of freedom)
```

1.1 Quantify and interpret the effects of the covariable age-group on the excess mortality hazard by writing 2 sentences suitable to an epidemiological journal, based on the Excess Hazard Ratios.

number of observations: 3439, number of events: 2676

Patients from the age-group [15,45] have an excess mortality hazard (EMH) which is about 30% lower than patients in the age-group [65,75] (EHR 0.72, 95% CI (0.59, 0.88)).

Patients aged 75 years old and more have an EMH which is 1.14 times the one for patients aged between 65 and 75 years.

1.2 Predict and plot the baseline excess mortality hazard and the corresponding net survival

#### Model 1 (Age-category) **Baseline excess Net survival** mortality hazard (Reference group) S $\infty$ 4 Ö o 0.3 ဖ Hazard Survival 0.2 9.4 0.1 Ż 10 6 8 2 8 0 10 0 4 6 Time Time

1.3 Predict the net survival at 10 years for each age-group

```
> datatopred <- data.frame(rbind(c(1,0,0,0), c(0,1,0,0), c(0,0,1,0), c(0,0,0,0), c(0,0,0,1) ))
> names(datatopred) <- c("Iagecat1545", "Iagecat4555", "Iagecat5565", "Iagecat75pp")
> predFPM1ageall <- predict(FPM1, time.pts = 10, data.val = datatopred)
> predFPM1ageall$results$surv
```

[1] 0.3022862 0.2225523 0.2103943 0.1907846 0.1523685

# Model 2: Excess mortality hazard regression model with linear and time-fixed effects of age at diagnosis

2. Create a variable corresponding to the agediag centered, called agediagc, agediagc=agediag-70, fit the following model (the baseline being parametrised in the same way as model FPM1), and save it in an object called FPM2

```
\lambda_E(t,\mathbf{x}) = \lambda_0(t) \exp\left(\beta_1 agediagc\right) > FPM2 <- mexhaz(Surv(timesurv10y, status10y)~ agediagc , expected="expectedrate", degree=3, knots = c(1,5), base="exp.bs", data=mydat, verbose = 0)  
> summary(FPM2)  
Call: mexhaz(formula = Surv(timesurv10y, status10y)~ agediagc, data = mydat, expected = "expectedrate", base = "exp.bs", degree = 3, knots = c(1, 5), verbose = 0)
```

```
Coefficients:
        Estimate
                 StdErr t.value p.value
Intercept -0.9663932 0.0898646 -10.7539 < 2.2e-16 ***
BS3.1
       0.2305179 0.1337747
                       1.7232 0.084946 .
BS3.2
      BS3.3
       BS3.4
       BS3.5
       agediagc
       0.0092191 0.0019062
                       4.8363 1.381e-06 ***
Signif. codes: 0 '*** 0.001 '** 0.01 '* 0.05 '.' 0.1 ' ' 1
Hazard ratios (for proportional effect variables):
           HR CI.lower CI.upper
[1,] 0.0092 1.0093
              1.0055
log-likelihood: -5896.7752 (for 7 degree(s) of freedom)
number of observations: 3439, number of events: 2676
```

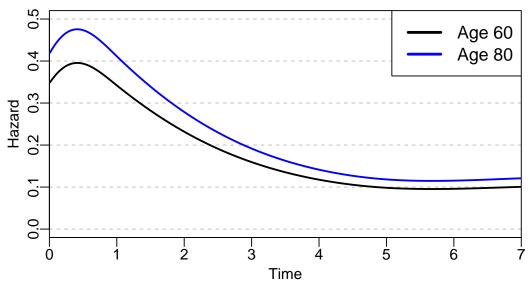
**2.1** Interpret the effect of age at diagnosis on the excess mortality hazard by writing 1 sentence suitable to an epidemiological journal.

For one unit increase of age at diagnosis, the EMH is increased by 1 % (the EMH is multiplied by 1.01 -EHR-)

2.2 Predict and plot the excess mortality hazard for men aged 60 and 80 years old (Make sure you use the correct value for the agediag, as it was centred)

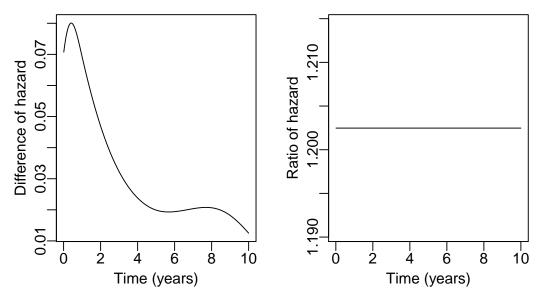
## Model 2 (Age-linear)

## **Excess mortality hazard**



**2.3** Is the difference between the 2 hazards constant over time? and what about their ratio? Check your answer using the objects predFPM2age60 and predFPM2age80.

```
> diffhaz <- predFPM2age80$results$hazard-predFPM2age60$results$hazard
> ratiohaz <- predFPM2age80$results$hazard/predFPM2age60$results$hazard
> par(mfrow=c(1,2), oma = c(0, 0, 2, 0), mgp=c(1.5,0.4,0), mar=c(3, 3, 2.5, 1))
> plot(mytime, diffhaz, type="l", xlab="Time (years)", ylab="Difference of hazard")
> plot(mytime, ratiohaz, type="l", xlab="Time (years)", ylab="Ratio of hazard")
```



Check that you can obtain the value of the Hazard ratio from the results provided after fitting FPM2

> exp((80-60)\*FPM2\$coefficients["agediagc"])

agediagc 1.202474

- **2.4** Calculate the ratio between the excess mortality hazard at 5 years of a 56 years old men and the excess mortality hazard at 5 years of a 55 years old men. Repeat the calculation for two men of 83 and 82 years old. Was it expected, and why?
  - > (Ratio5y56vs55 <- predict(FPM2, time.pts = 5, data.val = data.frame(agediagc=56-70))\$results\$hazard/ predict(FPM2, time.pts = 5, data.val = data.frame(agediagc=55-70))\$results\$hazard)

[1] 1.009262

> (Ratio5y83vs82 <- predict(FPM2, time.pts = 5, data.val = data.frame(agediagc=83-70))\$results\$hazard/
 predict(FPM2, time.pts = 5, data.val = data.frame(agediagc=82-70))\$results\$hazard)</pre>

[1] 1.009262

# Model 3: Excess mortality hazard regression model with non-linear and time-fixed effect of age at diagnosis

**3.** Create the 3 variables useful to model the agediage effect with a cubic spline defined in a Truncated Power Basis (i.e. the quadratic, cubic and cubic plus basis term) with a knot at 0 (i.e. 70 years old).

$$\lambda_E(t,\mathbf{x}) = \lambda_0(t) \exp\left(f(agediagc)\right)$$
 > FPM3w <- mexhaz(Surv(timesurv10y, status10y)~ agediagc + agediagc2 + agediagc3 + agediagc3plus, expected="expectedrate", degree=3, knots = c(1,5), base="exp.bs", data=mydat, verbose = 0)

> summary(FPM3w)

```
Call:
   mexhaz(formula = Surv(timesurv10y, status10y) ~ agediagc + agediagc2 +
       agediagc3 + agediagc3plus, data = mydat, expected = "expectedrate",
       base = "exp.bs", degree = 3, knots = c(1, 5), verbose = 0)
   Coefficients:
                     Estimate
                                   StdErr t.value p.value
                 -1.0000e+00 1.0524e-01 -9.5020 < 2.2e-16 ***
   Intercept
                 -1.0000e+00 1.7340e-01 -5.7671 8.778e-09 ***
-1.0000e+00 1.5376e-01 -6.5036 8.977e-11 ***
-1.0000e+00 2.6873e-01 -3.7212 0.0002015 ***
   BS3.1
   BS3.2
   BS3.3
                 -1.0000e+00 2.5051e-01 -3.9919 6.691e-05 ***
   BS3.4
                 -1.0000e+00 2.5798e-01 -3.8763 0.0001080 ***
   BS3.5
                 -3.9925e-08 4.3434e-03 0.0000 0.9999927
   agediagc
   agediagc2
                 7.6171e-07 1.3980e-04 0.0054 0.9956529
   agediagc3 -6.1377e-06
                                     NA
                                              NA
   agediagc3plus 1.3322e-06 1.7740e-05 0.0751 0.9401419
   Signif. codes: 0 '***' 0.001 '**' 0.01 '*' 0.05 '.' 0.1 ' ' 1
   Hazard ratios (for proportional effect variables):
                 Coef HR CI.lower CI.upper
   agediagc
                   0 1 0.9915 1.0086
   agediagc2
                   0 1 0.9997 1.0003
   agediagc3
                  0 1 NaN
                                    NaN
                    0 1 1.0000
                                   1.0000
   agediagc3plus
   log-likelihood: -6296.2157 (for 10 degree(s) of freedom)
   number of observations: 3439, number of events: 2676
3.1 What do you observe? Check FPM3w$code.
   > FPM3w$code
   [1] 2
3.2 Try now to fit the same model, but using the variable agediag centered AND rescaled (divided by 10)
   > FPM3 <- mexhaz(Surv(timesurv10y, status10y)~ agediagcr + agediagcr2 + agediagcr3 + agediagcr3plus,
                    expected="expectedrate", degree=3, knots = c(1,5), base="exp.bs", data=mydat, verbose = 0)
   > summary(FPM3)
   Call:
   mexhaz(formula = Surv(timesurv10y, status10y) ~ agediagcr + agediagcr2 +
       agediagcr3 + agediagcr3plus, data = mydat, expected = "expectedrate",
       base = "exp.bs", degree = 3, knots = c(1, 5), verbose = 0)
   Coefficients:
                   Estimate StdErr t.value p.value
                  -0.994164  0.092221  -10.7803 < 2.2e-16 ***
   Intercept
   BS3.1
                  0.229640 0.133790 1.7164 0.086175 .
-0.364248 0.126024 -2.8903 0.003873 **
   BS3.2
                  BS3.3
   BS3.4
   BS3.5
                  -1.722550 0.359110 -4.7967 1.682e-06 ***
   agediagcr 0.087667 0.051063 1.7168 0.086101 . agediagcr2 0.049912 0.050142 0.9954 0.319606
   agediagcr3 0.018932 0.012632 1.4987 0.134047
   agediagcr3plus -0.036187 0.053532 -0.6760 0.499100
   Signif. codes: 0 '*** 0.001 '** 0.01 '* 0.05 '.' 0.1 ' ' 1
   Hazard ratios (for proportional effect variables):
                     Coef
                             HR CI.lower CI.upper
   agediagcr
                    0.0877 1.0916 0.9876 1.2066
```

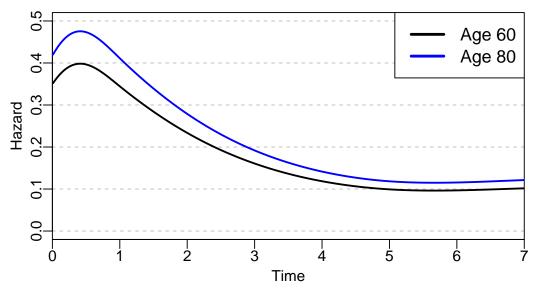
```
agediagcr2 0.0499 1.0512 0.9528 1.1598 agediagcr3 0.0189 1.0191 0.9942 1.0447 agediagcr3plus -0.0362 0.9645 0.8684 1.0712 log-likelihood: -5894.5212 (for 10 degree(s) of freedom) number of observations: 3439, number of events: 2676
```

**3.3** Predict and plot the excess mortality hazard for men aged 60 and 80 years old (Make sure you use the correct value for the agediag, as it was centred AND reduced)

```
> myagediag <- 60
> myagediagc <- myagediag-70; myagediagcr <- (myagediag-70)/10;</pre>
> myagediagcr2 <- myagediagcr^2; myagediagcr3 <- myagediagcr^3;</pre>
> myagediagcr3plus <- (myagediagcr-0)^3*(myagediagcr>0)
> predFPM3age60 <- predict(FPM3, time.pts = mytime,</pre>
                      data.val = data.frame(agediagcr=myagediagcr, agediagcr2=myagediagcr2,
                                             agediagcr3=myagediagcr3, agediagcr3plus=myagediagcr3plus))
> myagediag <- 80
> myagediagc <- myagediag-70; myagediagcr <- (myagediag-70)/10;</pre>
> myagediagcr2 <- myagediagcr^2; myagediagcr3 <- myagediagcr^3;</pre>
> myagediagcr3plus <- (myagediagcr-0)^3*(myagediagcr>0)
> predFPM3age80 <- predict(FPM3, time.pts = mytime,</pre>
                      data.val = data.frame(agediagcr=myagediagcr, agediagcr2=myagediagcr2,
                                             agediagcr3=myagediagcr3, agediagcr3plus=myagediagcr3plus))
> par(oma = c(0, 0, 2, 0), mgp=c(1.5, 0.4, 0), mar=c(3, 3, 2.5, 1))
> plot(predFPM3age60, which="hazard", xlim=c(0,7), ylim=c(0,0.5),
      conf.int = F, main="Excess mortality hazard", lwd=2,
      panel.first=abline(h=seq(0,0.5,by=0.1), tck=1, lty=8, col="grey"))
> lines(predFPM3age80, which="hazard", conf.int = F, col="blue", lwd=2)
> legend("topright", c("Age 60", "Age 80"), col=c("black", "blue"), lwd=3, cex=1.2, bg="white")
> mtext("Model 3 (Age non-linear)", outer = TRUE, cex = 1.5)
```

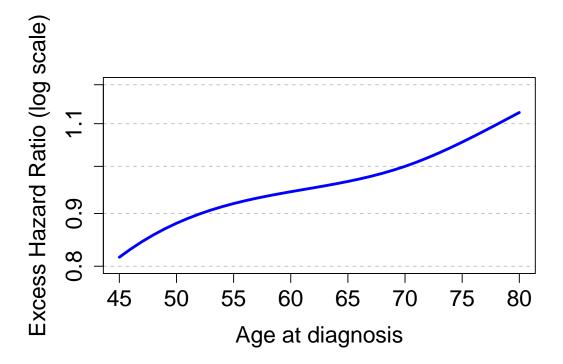
## Model 3 (Age non-linear)

## **Excess mortality hazard**



**3.4** Calculate the ratio between the excess mortality hazard at 5 years of a 56 years old men and the excess mortality hazard at 5 years of a 55 years old men. Repeat the calculation for two men of 83 and 82 years old. Was it expected and why?

```
agediagcr3=myagediagcr3,
                                               agediagcr3plus=myagediagcr3plus))$results$hazard
   > myagediag <- 55
    > myagediagc <- myagediag-70; myagediagcr <- (myagediag-70)/10; myagediagcr2 <- myagediagcr2
    > myagediagcr3 <- myagediagcr^3; myagediagcr3plus <- (myagediagcr-0)^3*(myagediagcr>0)
    > haz5y55 <- predict(FPM3, time.pts = 5,</pre>
                        data.val = data.frame(agediagcr=myagediagcr, agediagcr2=myagediagcr2,
                                               agediagcr3=myagediagcr3,
                                               agediagcr3plus=myagediagcr3plus))$results$hazard
    > haz5y56/haz5y55
    [1] 1.006257
    > myagediag <- 83
    > myagediagc <- myagediag-70; myagediagcr <- (myagediag-70)/10; myagediagcr2 <- myagediagcr^2
    > myagediagcr3 <- myagediagcr^3; myagediagcr3plus <- (myagediagcr-0)^3*(myagediagcr>0)
    > haz5y83 <- predict(FPM3, time.pts = 5,</pre>
                        data.val = data.frame(agediagcr=myagediagcr, agediagcr2=myagediagcr2,
                                               agediagcr3=myagediagcr3,
                                               agediagcr3plus=myagediagcr3plus))$results$hazard
    > myagediag <- 82
    > myagediagc <- myagediag-70; myagediagcr <- (myagediag-70)/10; myagediagcr2 <- myagediagcr^2
    > myagediagcr3 <- myagediagcr^3; myagediagcr3plus <- (myagediagcr-0)^3*(myagediagcr>0)
    > haz5y82 <- predict(FPM3, time.pts = 5,</pre>
                        data.val = data.frame(agediagcr=myagediagcr, agediagcr2=myagediagcr2,
                                               agediagcr3=myagediagcr3,
                                               agediagcr3plus=myagediagcr3plus))$results$hazard
    > haz5y83/haz5y82
    [1] 1.013239
3.5 Plot the non-linear EHR according to age, limiting the range value of age to the 5^{th} and 95^{th} percentiles
    > quantile(mydat$agediag, na.rm=T, probs = c(0, 0.025, 0.05, 0.25, 0.5, 0.75, 0.95, 0.975, 1))
                                              50%
                                                       75%
                                                                95%
                                                                       97.5%
    16.48645 41.65726 44.20541 52.50768 60.14140 69.21228 80.95031 84.60489
        100%
    95.41242
    > ageplot=(seq(45,80)-70)/10
    > HRage <- exp(ageplot*FPM3$coefficients[c("agediagcr")] +</pre>
                    ageplot^2*FPM3$coefficients[c("agediagcr2")] +
                    ageplot^3*FPM3$coefficients[c("agediagcr3")] +
                    ageplot^3*FPM3$coefficients[c("agediagcr3plus")]*(ageplot>0))
    > plot(10*ageplot+70, HRage, log="y", type="l", xlim=c(45,80), ylim=c(0.8,1.2),
          xlab="Age at diagnosis", ylab="Excess Hazard Ratio (log scale)",
          lwd=3, cex.lab=1.5, cex.axis=1.5, col="blue",
          panel.first=abline(h=seq(0,2,by=0.1), tck=1, lty=8, col="grey"))
```



Model 4: Excess mortality hazard regression model with non-linear and timedependent effects of age at diagnosis

4. Fit the model including now non-linear effect of age, assuming non-proportional hazard for age at diagnosis:

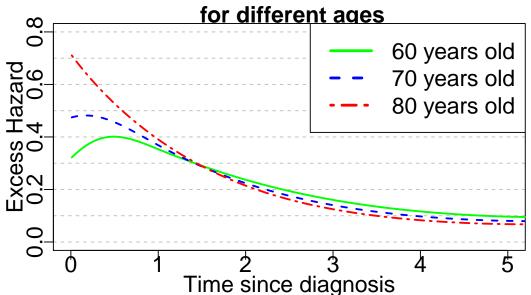
```
\lambda_E(t, \mathbf{x}) = \lambda_0(t) \exp \left(\beta(t) \cdot agediagc + f(agediagc)\right)
> FPM4 <- mexhaz(Surv(timesurv10y, status10y)~ agediagcr + agediagcr2 + agediagcr3
              + agediagcr3plus + nph(agediagcr),
              expected="expectedrate", degree=3, knots = c(1,5), base="exp.bs",
              data=mydat, verbose = 0)
> summary(FPM4)
mexhaz(formula = Surv(timesurv10y, status10y) ~ agediagcr + agediagcr2 +
   agediagcr3 + agediagcr3plus + nph(agediagcr), data = mydat,
   expected = "expectedrate", base = "exp.bs", degree = 3, knots = c(1,
       5), verbose = 0)
Coefficients:
              Estimate
                         StdErr t.value
                                        p.value
Intercept
              -0.747659  0.100826  -7.4153  1.522e-13 ***
BS3.1
              0.070822 0.158254 0.4475 0.6545282
BS3.2
             -0.716351 0.175904 -4.0724 4.758e-05 ***
BS3.3
              BS3.4
             BS3.5
              0.410230 0.089717
                                4.5725 4.990e-06 ***
agediagcr
agediagcr2
              0.032534 0.050985
                               0.6381 0.5234469
              0.019078 0.012721
agediagcr3
                               1.4997 0.1337890
agediagcr3plus -0.049602 0.055369 -0.8958 0.3703996
agediagcr*BS3.3 -0.726026  0.274943 -2.6406  0.0083124 **
agediagcr*BS3.4 -0.339405 0.293767 -1.1554 0.2480264
agediagcr*BS3.5 -0.347759 0.376874 -0.9227 0.3562052
Signif. codes: 0 '***' 0.001 '**' 0.01 '*' 0.05 '.' 0.1 ' ' 1
Hazard ratios (for proportional effect variables):
                       HR CI.lower CI.upper
               Coef
```

```
agediagcr 0.4102 1.5072 1.2641 1.7970 agediagcr2 0.0325 1.0331 0.9348 1.1417 agediagcr3 0.0191 1.0193 0.9942 1.0450 agediagcr3plus -0.0496 0.9516 0.8537 1.0607 log-likelihood: -5868.0992 (for 15 degree(s) of freedom) number of observations: 3439, number of events: 2676
```

**4.1** Predict and plot the excess mortality hazard for patients aged 60, 70 and 80 years old. What would you conclude from this plot?

```
> myagediag <- 60
> myagediagc <- myagediag-70; myagediagcr <- (myagediag-70)/10; myagediagcr2 <- myagediagcr^2
> myagediagcr3 <- myagediagcr^3; myagediagcr3plus <- (myagediagcr-0)^3*(myagediagcr>0)
> predFPM4age60 <- predict(FPM4, time.pts = mytime,</pre>
                      data.val = data.frame(agediagcr=myagediagcr, agediagcr2=myagediagcr2,
                                            agediagcr3=myagediagcr3, agediagcr3plus=myagediagcr3plus))
> myagediag <- 70
> myagediagc <- myagediag-70; myagediagcr <- (myagediag-70)/10; myagediagcr2 <- myagediagcr^2
> myagediagcr3 <- myagediagcr^3; myagediagcr3plus <- (myagediagcr-0)^3*(myagediagcr>0)
> predFPM4age70 <- predict(FPM4, time.pts = mytime,
                      data.val = data.frame(agediagcr=myagediagcr, agediagcr2=myagediagcr2,
                                            agediagcr3=myagediagcr3, agediagcr3plus=myagediagcr3plus))
> myagediag <- 80
> myagediagc <- myagediag-70; myagediagcr <- (myagediag-70)/10; myagediagcr2 <- myagediagcr^2
> myagediagcr3 <- myagediagcr^3; myagediagcr3plus <- (myagediagcr-0)^3*(myagediagcr>0)
> predFPM4age80 <- predict(FPM4, time.pts = mytime,
                      data.val = data.frame(agediagcr=myagediagcr, agediagcr2=myagediagcr2,
                                            agediagcr3=myagediagcr3, agediagcr3plus=myagediagcr3plus))
> par(oma = c(0, 0, 2, 0), mgp=c(1.5, 0.4, 0), mar=c(3, 3, 2.5, 1))
> plot(0,1, xlim=c(0,5), ylim=c(0,0.8), type="n",
     xlab="Time since diagnosis",ylab="Excess Hazard", cex.lab=1.5, cex.axis=1.5, cex=1.5,
     panel.first=abline(h=seq(0,0.8,by=0.1), tck=1, lty=8, col="grey"))
> lines(predFPM4age60, which="hazard", lwd=2, col="green",lty.pe=1, conf.int = F)
> lines(predFPM4age70, which="hazard", lwd=2, col="blue",lty.pe=2, conf.int = F)
> lines(predFPM4age80, which="hazard", lwd=2, col="red",lty.pe=6, conf.int = F)
> title("Estimates of the excess hazard \n for different ages", cex.main=1.5)
> legend("topright",c("60 years old", "70 years old", "80 years old"),
        col=c("green", "blue", "red"), lty=c(1,2,6), lwd=3,cex=1.5, bg="white")
```

## Estimates of the excess hazard



## Comparison

5. Calculate the Akaike Information Criterion for the 4 models to assess their fit. Which model would you favor?

```
> res <- t(sapply(list(FPM1, FPM2, FPM3, FPM4),</pre>
                  function(x) {
                    round( rbind(x$loglik, x$n.par, -2 * x$loglik +2 * x$n.par), 3)} ))
> res <- as.data.frame(res)</pre>
> rownames(res) <- c("Age cat", "Age lin", "Age Nlin", "Age Nlin TD")</pre>
> colnames(res) <- c("log-lik", "N Param", "AIC")</pre>
               log-lik N Param
                                     AIC
            -5898.210 10 11816.42
Age cat
Age lin
            -5896.775
                             7 11807.55
                        7 11807.55
10 11809.04
15 11766.20
Age Nlin
            -5894.521
Age Nlin TD -5868.099
```

### Exercise 2

In this part, we are now interested in quantifying the impact of the EDI (an ecological continuous measure of deprivation) on the excess mortality hazard in men with LOCP cancers. AS we have seen during the lecture, it's recommended to account for the hierarichal structure of the data. Here, patients are nested in cluster (denoted by the variable myclus). Our interest here is to describe how the EDI is associated to the EMH, so by default in all our models, we will assume a non-linear and time-dependent effect of age.

# Mixed-effects Model for the Excess mortality hazard: example of an analysis studying the association between deprivation and cancer survival

**6.1** Fit a mixed-effect excess hazard model with non-linear and time-dependent effect of agediag, and linear and time-fixed effect of the EDI, and including a random effect for the cluster level. For the log of the baseline excess hazard, assume a cubic B-spline with 2 knots located at 1 and 5 years. Parametrise the non linear effect of age using a spline defined in the Truncated Power Basis, with one knot at 70 years. Hint: use the centred and reduced version of age for avoiding convergence issues.

```
\lambda_E(t, \mathbf{x} \mid w_d) = \lambda_0(t) \exp \left(\beta_1(t) \cdot agediagc + f(agediagc) + \beta_2 \cdot EDI + w_d\right)
> FPMixM1 <- mexhaz(Surv(timesurv10y, status10y)~ agediagcr + agediagcr2 + agediagcr3 +
                   agediagcr3plus + EDI + nph(agediagcr), expected="expectedrate",
                  degree=3, knots = c(1,5), base="exp.bs", random="myclus", data=mydat, verbose = 0)
> summary(FPMixM1)
mexhaz(formula = Surv(timesurv10y, status10y) ~ agediagcr + agediagcr2 +
   agediagcr3 + agediagcr3plus + EDI + nph(agediagcr), data = mydat,
   expected = "expectedrate", base = "exp.bs", degree = 3, knots = c(1,
       5), random = "myclus", verbose = 0)
Coefficients:
                             StdErr t.value p.value
                 Estimate
               Intercept
BS3.1
               0.0816080 0.1583314 0.5154 0.6062894
               BS3.2
BS3.3
               -2.5511923   0.4329093   -5.8931   4.157e-09 ***
BS3.4
               -0.9143514  0.4737267  -1.9301  0.0536740 .
BS3.5
               agediagcr
               0.4145444 0.0904554 4.5829 4.750e-06 ***
               0.0336922 0.0519711 0.6483 0.5168433
agediagcr2
                0.0197883 0.0128946 1.5346 0.1249687
agediagcr3
agediagcr3plus -0.0522282 0.0567544 -0.9202 0.3575071
                0.0199766 0.0064031 3.1198 0.0018245 **
agediagcr*BS3.1 -0.2733748 0.1190096 -2.2971 0.0216742 *
agediagcr*BS3.2 -0.4726560 0.1224240 -3.8608 0.0001151 ***
agediagcr*BS3.3 -0.7327744 0.2751726 -2.6630 0.0077819 **
agediagcr*BS3.4 -0.3230596 0.2939296 -1.0991 0.2717994
agediagcr*BS3.5 -0.3776726 0.3814777 -0.9900 0.3222316
```

```
myclus [log(sd)] -1.3873554  0.1717392 -8.0783  9.016e-16 ***
Signif. codes: 0 '***' 0.001 '**' 0.01 '*' 0.05 '.' 0.1 ' ' 1
Hazard ratios (for proportional effect variables):
                Coef HR CI.lower CI.upper
                                      1.8074
agediagcr
               0.4145 1.5137
                             1.2677
                             0.9341
              0.0337 1.0343
agediagcr2
                                       1.1452
agediagcr3
              0.0198 1.0200
                              0.9945
                                       1.0461
agediagcr3plus -0.0522 0.9491
                              0.8492
                                       1.0608
                             1.0074
               0.0200 1.0202
                                       1.0331
log-likelihood: -5856.7251 (for 17 degree(s) of freedom)
number of observations: 3439, number of events: 2676
```

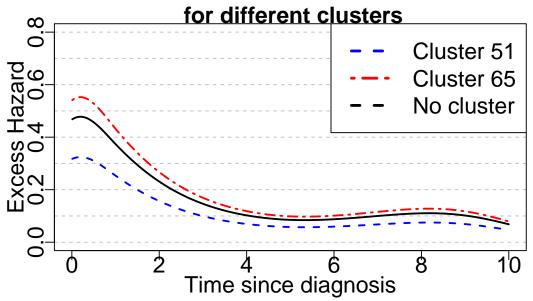
#### **6.2** Interpret the EDI's effec

For one unit increase of the EDI, the EMH is increased by 2 % conditional on the random effect (i.e. the comparison is done in clusters with the same level of the Random effect  $w_d$ )

**6.3** Predict and plot the excess mortality hazard for a 70 years old men, with EDI equals to 2 and from the cluster 51. Repeat the same operation for cluster 65, and for an individual not among the observed cluster.

```
> myagediag <- 70
> myagediagc <- myagediag-70; myagediagcr <- (myagediag-70)/10;</pre>
> myagediagcr2 <- myagediagcr^2; myagediagcr3 <- myagediagcr^3;</pre>
> myagediagcr3plus <- (myagediagcr-0)^3*(myagediagcr>0)
> predFPMixM1Clus51 <- predict(FPMixM1, time.pts = mytime,
                       data.val = data.frame(agediagcr=myagediagcr, agediagcr2=myagediagcr2,
                                               agediagcr3=myagediagcr3, agediagcr3plus=myagediagcr3plus,
                                               EDI=2), cluster="51")
> predFPMixM1Clus65 <- predict(FPMixM1, time.pts = mytime,</pre>
                       data.val = data.frame(agediagcr=myagediagcr, agediagcr2=myagediagcr2,
                                               agediagcr3=myagediagcr3, agediagcr3plus=myagediagcr3plus,
                                               EDI=2), cluster="65")
> predFPMixM1Noclus <- predict(FPMixM1, time.pts = mytime,
                       data.val = data.frame(agediagcr=myagediagcr, agediagcr2=myagediagcr2,
                                               agediagcr3=myagediagcr3, agediagcr3plus=myagediagcr3plus,
                                               EDI=2), cluster=NULL)
> par(oma = c(0, 0, 2, 0), mgp=c(1.5, 0.4, 0), mar=c(3, 3, 2.5, 1))
> plot(0,1, xlim=c(0,10),ylim=c(0,0.8), type="n",
      xlab="Time since diagnosis",ylab="Excess Hazard", cex.lab=1.5, cex.axis=1.5, cex=1.5,
      panel.first=abline(h=seq(0,0.8,by=0.1), tck=1, lty=8, col="grey"))
> lines(predFPMixM1Clus51, which="hazard", lwd=2, col="blue", lty.pe=2, conf.int = F)
> lines(predFPMixM1Clus65, which="hazard", lwd=2, col="red", lty.pe=6, conf.int = F)
> lines(predFPMixM1Noclus, which="hazard", lwd=2, col="black", conf.int = F)
> title("Estimates of the excess hazard \n for different clusters", cex.main=1.5)
> legend("topright",c("Cluster 51", "Cluster 65", "No cluster"),
        col=c("blue", "red", "black"), lty=c(2,6), lwd=3,cex=1.5, bg="white")
```

## Estimates of the excess hazard



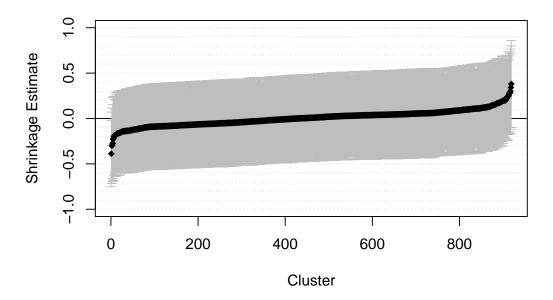
- **6.4** Extract the values of the shrinkage estimates for these 2 clusters using the ranef function. Are those values coherent with the previous graph? Explain why.
  - > ranef(FPMixM1)[ranef(FPMixM1)\$cluster %in% c(51,65),]

```
cluster mu.hat se.mu.hat
51 51 -0.3880077 0.1858356
65 65 0.1452619 0.2503849
```

- **6.5** Do you think that a fixed-effect model would be suitable? and a stratified model? Why? Check the numbers of patients/events in clusters 51 and 65 to justify your answer
  - > with(mydat[mydat\$myclus %in% c(51,65),], table(status10y, myclus))

```
myclus
status10y 51 65
0 9 0
1 18 3
```

- ${f 6.6}$  Plot the values of the shrinkage estimates



6.7 Complexify the model by adding a non-linear effect of the EDI, and compare the estimated standard deviation of the random effect. How (intuitively) would you explain this?

```
> mydat$EDI2 <- mydat$EDI^2</pre>
> mydat$EDI2plus <- (mydat$EDI-0)^2*(mydat$EDI>0)
> FPMixM2 <- mexhaz(Surv(timesurv10y, status10y)~ agediagcr + agediagcr2 + agediagcr3 +
                   agediagcr3plus + EDI + EDI2 + EDI2plus+ nph(agediagcr),
                  expected="expectedrate", degree=3, knots = c(1,5), base="exp.bs",
                  random="myclus", data=mydat, verbose = 0)
> summary(FPMixM2)
Call:
mexhaz(formula = Surv(timesurv10y, status10y) ~ agediagcr + agediagcr2 +
   agediagcr3 + agediagcr3plus + EDI + EDI2 + EDI2plus + nph(agediagcr),
   data = mydat, expected = "expectedrate", base = "exp.bs",
   degree = 3, knots = c(1, 5), random = "myclus", verbose = 0)
Coefficients:
                              StdErr t.value
                  Estimate
                                              p.value
Intercept
                BS3.1
                0.0802849 0.1584113 0.5068 0.6123186
BS3.2
                BS3.3
                -2.5547264   0.4327148   -5.9039   3.896e-09 ***
BS3.4
                -0.9366500
                           0.4741604 -1.9754 0.0483046 *
BS3.5
                -1.9308659
                           0.6264792 -3.0821 0.0020719 **
agediagcr
                0.4089900 0.0903621
                                     4.5261 6.212e-06 ***
agediagcr2
                0.0254311
                           0.0516362
                                     0.4925 0.6223941
agediagcr3
                0.0177126
                           0.0127818 1.3858 0.1659080
                           0.0563966 -0.8262 0.4087753
agediagcr3plus
                -0.0465922
EDI
                0.0538287
                           0.0160961
                                     3.3442 0.0008341 ***
EDI2
                0.0013163
                           0.0063655
                                     0.2068 0.8361942
EDI2plus
                -0.0052176
                           0.0072452 -0.7201 0.4714830
agediagcr*BS3.1 -0.2742676
                           0.1190873 -2.3031 0.0213341 *
                           0.1224081 -3.8896 0.0001023 ***
agediagcr*BS3.2
               -0.4761123
agediagcr*BS3.3
               -0.7323613
                           0.2752552 -2.6607 0.0078351 **
               -0.3312902
                          0.2945010 -1.1249 0.2607016
agediagcr*BS3.4
agediagcr*BS3.5 -0.3784073 0.3819032 -0.9908 0.3218308
myclus [log(sd)] -1.5227607 0.2163002 -7.0400 2.312e-12 ***
Signif. codes: 0 '***' 0.001 '**' 0.01 '*' 0.05 '.' 0.1 ' ' 1
```

```
Hazard ratios (for proportional effect variables):
                   Coef HR CI.lower CI.upper
   agediagcr
                  0.4090 1.5053 1.2609 1.7971
   agediagcr2 0.0254 1.0258 0.9270 1.1350 agediagcr3 0.0177 1.0179 0.9927 1.0437
   agediagcr3plus -0.0466 0.9545 0.8546 1.0661
         0.0538 1.0553
                                 1.0225 1.0891
   EDI2
                  0.0013 1.0013
                                 0.9889
                                          1.0139
   EDI2plus
                 -0.0052 0.9948
                                 0.9808 1.0090
   log-likelihood: -5850.6971 (for 19 degree(s) of freedom)
   number of observations: 3439, number of events: 2676
6.8 Complexify the model by adding a time-dependent effect of the EDI in addition to the non-linear effect of
the EDI (save it as FPMixM3).
   > FPMixM3 <- mexhaz(Surv(timesurv10y, status10y)~ agediagcr + agediagcr2 + agediagcr3 +
                       agediagcr3plus + EDI + EDI2 + EDI2plus + nph(agediagcr + EDI),
                     expected="expectedrate", degree=3, knots = c(1,5), base="exp.bs",
                     random="myclus", data=mydat, verbose = 0)
   iteration = 0
   Step:
    Parameter:
    [1] -1.0 -1.0 -1.0 -1.0 -1.0 -1.0 0.0 0.0 0.0 0.0 0.0 0.0 0.0 0.0 0.0
   [16] 0.0 0.0 0.0 0.0 0.0 0.0 0.0 0.1
   Function Value
   [1] 6204.889
   Gradient:
    [1] -126.33192 -231.37816 -80.34857 60.45167 51.92336 20.83247
    [7] -107.12074 285.41492 -1740.38304 -104.63506 -184.73075 -1445.09006
   [13] -1349.99072 119.47591 77.53900 -59.59098 -63.53493 -30.68888
   [19] -300.80588 -132.56937 73.38056 48.65408 20.77480 165.43047
   iteration = 254
   Parameter:
     \hbox{\tt [1]} \ \ \hbox{\tt -0.750835626} \ \ \ \hbox{\tt 0.059557037} \ \ \hbox{\tt -0.728821437} \ \ \hbox{\tt -2.540743074} \ \ \hbox{\tt -1.062822107} 
    [6] -1.919444794   0.403940983   0.025319259   0.017513734 -0.044794130
   [11] 0.024880258 0.001692035 -0.005803558 -0.272795469 -0.460439679
   [16] -0.747674389 -0.289089546 -0.380474844 0.019698454 0.062719557
   Function Value
   [1] 5847.647
   Gradient:
    [1] 5.293259e-04 -2.592060e-04 -1.396984e-03 1.544257e-03 -3.867925e-04
    [6] -3.932807e-04 6.402843e-04 2.228262e-04 1.382432e-04 -2.182787e-05
   [11] -2.819434e-05 1.195986e-03 7.721610e-04 -8.176357e-04 -9.895302e-04
   [16] 7.003109e-05 -4.620233e-04 -2.743946e-03 1.164153e-04 5.911716e-05
   [21] -7.821654e-05 -1.446097e-04 -2.964953e-04 -2.182925e-04
   Gradient relatif proche de z.
   L'ittion courante est probablement la solution.
   Computation of the Hessian
   Computation of the covariance matrix of the shrinkage estimators
   Data
     Name N.Obs.Tot N.Obs N.Events N.Clust
    mydat 3439 3439 2676 919
    Iter Eval Base Nb.Leg Nb.Aghq Optim Method Code LogLik Total.Time
     254 4390 exp.bs 20 10 nlm --- 1 -5847.647 398.34
```

> summary(FPMixM3)

```
Call:
    mexhaz(formula = Surv(timesurv10y, status10y) ~ agediagcr + agediagcr2 +
        agediagcr3 + agediagcr3plus + EDI + EDI2 + EDI2plus + nph(agediagcr +
        EDI), data = mydat, expected = "expectedrate", base = "exp.bs",
        degree = 3, knots = c(1, 5), random = "myclus", verbose = 0)
    Coefficients:
                       Estimate
                                      StdErr t.value p.value
   Intercept
                  -0.7508356 0.1057101 -7.1028 1.481e-12 ***
    BS3.1
                      0.0595570 0.1621036 0.3674 0.7133426
                   BS3.2
   BS3.3
                    -2.5407431 0.4376720 -5.8051 7.019e-09 ***
   BS3.4
BS3.5
                     -1.0628221 0.4772506 -2.2270 0.0260143 *
                    -1.9194448 0.6239013 -3.0765 0.0021109 **
   agediagcr 0.4039410 0.0904939 4.4637 8.315e-06 agediagcr2 0.0253193 0.0516158 0.4905 0.6237880 agediagcr3 0.0175137 0.0127948 1.3688 0.1711456
                     0.4039410 0.0904939 4.4637 8.315e-06 ***
    agediagcr3plus -0.0447941 0.0561501 -0.7978 0.4250668
            0.0248803 0.0295249 0.8427 0.3994623
   EDI2 0.0016920 0.0063888 0.2648 0.7911455
EDI2plus -0.0058036 0.0072739 -0.7979 0.4250080
    agediagcr*BS3.1 -0.2727955 0.1193887 -2.2849 0.0223777 *
    agediagcr*BS3.2 -0.4604397 0.1225260 -3.7579 0.0001742 ***
    agediagcr*BS3.3 -0.7476744 0.2758594 -2.7103 0.0067549 **
    agediagcr*BS3.4 -0.2890895 0.2946554 -0.9811 0.3266076
    agediagcr*BS3.5 -0.3804748 0.3790808 -1.0037 0.3156052
   EDI*BS3.1 0.0196985 0.0379489 0.5191 0.6037395
EDI*BS3.2 0.0627196 0.0343327 1.8268 0.0678145
EDI*BS3.3 -0.0246699 0.0727633 -0.3390 0.7345984
                      0.0627196 0.0343327 1.8268 0.0678145 .
   EDI*BS3.4 0.1376291 0.0722048 1.9061 0.0567219 .
EDI*BS3.5 -0.0082443 0.0943828 -0.0873 0.9303991
    myclus [log(sd)] -1.5207373 0.2128578 -7.1444 1.100e-12 ***
    Signif. codes: 0 '*** 0.001 '** 0.01 '* 0.05 '.' 0.1 ' ' 1
    Hazard ratios (for proportional effect variables):
                      Coef HR CI.lower CI.upper
    agediagcr
                    0.4039 1.4977 1.2542 1.7885
   agediagcr2 0.0253 1.0256 0.9269 1.1349 agediagcr3 0.0175 1.0177 0.9925 1.0435
    agediagcr3plus -0.0448 0.9562 0.8565 1.0675
    EDI
                  0.0249 1.0252 0.9675 1.0863
    EDI2
                    0.0017 1.0017 0.9892 1.0143
                   -0.0058 0.9942 0.9801 1.0085
    EDI2plus
    log-likelihood: -5847.647 (for 24 degree(s) of freedom)
    number of observations: 3439, number of events: 2676
6.9 Compare the fit of the 4 models (with and without a non-linear and a time-dependent effect of the EDI) using
Akaike criterion
    > res <- t(sapply(list(FPMixM1, FPMixM2, FPMixM3),</pre>
                      function(x) {
                        round( rbind(x$loglik, x$n.par, -2 * x$loglik +2 * x$n.par), 3)} ))
   > res <- as.data.frame(res)</pre>
    > rownames(res) <- c("EDI lin", "EDI Nlin", "EDI Nlin-TD")</pre>
    > colnames(res) <- c("log-lik", "N Param", "AIC")</pre>
    > res
                  log-lik N Param
                                        ATC
    EDI lin
                -5856.725 17 11747.45
                               19 11739.39
    EDI Nlin
                -5850.697
```

6.10 Plot the non linear effect of the EDI using the model with the better fit according to the Akaike criterion

24 11743.29

EDI Nlin-TD -5847.647

