# Package 'msprog'

### January 9, 2025

Type Package

Title Compute MS Progression from Longitudinal Data	
Version 0.1.0	
<b>Description</b> msprog provides tools for exhaustive and reproducible analysis of disability progression in multiple sclerosis (MS) from longitudinal data.	
Encoding UTF-8	
LazyData true	
Roxygen list(markdown = TRUE)	
RoxygenNote 7.3.2	
Imports stats, dplyr	
<b>Depends</b> R (>= 3.5.0)	
VignetteBuilder knitr	
Suggests knitr, rmarkdown	
License MIT + file LICENSE	
Contents	
compute_delta	2
is_event	2
MSprog	4
	و 10
• - • -	11
	12
• –	12
Index	15

is\_event

compute\_delta

Definition of minimum valid shift for different tests.

#### Description

compute\_delta() returns the minimum delta to be considered as a valid change from baseline of an outcome measure (EDSS, NHPT, T25FW, or SDMT).

#### Usage

```
compute_delta(baseline, outcome = "edss")
```

#### Arguments

baseline

Outcome value at baseline.

outcome

One of:

- 'edss' (Extended Disability Status Scale, default);
- 'nhpt' (Nine-Hole Peg Test);
- 't25fw' (Timed 25-Foot Walk);
- 'sdmt' (Symbol Digit Modalities Test).

#### Value

Minimum shift corresponding to a valid change from the provided baseline value. Specifically:

- EDSS: 1.5 if baseline==0, 1 if 0<baseline<=5, 0.5 if baseline>=5.5;
- NHPT and T25FW: 20% of baseline;
- SDMT: either 3 points or 10% of baseline.

#### **Examples**

```
compute_delta(4.5) # default outcome is 'edss'
compute_delta(55, outcome='sdmt')
```

is\_event

Compare value to reference.

#### Description

is\_event() checks if an outcome value determines a valid worsening, or improvement, or change, from a given reference value.

is\_event 3

#### Usage

```
is_event(
    X,
    baseline,
    type,
    outcome = "edss",
    worsening = NULL,
    delta_fun = NULL,
    sub_threshold = FALSE
)
```

Outcome value to test.

#### **Arguments**

baseline Outcome value at baseline. One of: type • 'wors' (worsening); • 'impr' (improvement); • 'change' (any valid change). outcome One of: • 'edss' (Extended Disability Status Scale, default); • 'nhpt' (Nine-Hole Peg Test); • 't25fw' (Timed 25-Foot Walk); • 'sdmt' (Symbol Digit Modalities Test); • NULL (only accepted when specifying the direction of worsening). The direction of worsening ('increase' if higher values correspond to worse worsening disease course, 'decrease' otherwise). This argument is only used when outcome is set to NULL. If outcome is specified, worsening is automatically set to 'increase' for EDSS, NHPT, T25FW, and to 'decrease' for SDMT. delta\_fun Custom function specifying the minimum shift corresponding to a valid change from the provided baseline value. If none is specified (default), compute\_delta()

If TRUE, any confirmed worsening, or improvement, or change in the outcome

#### Value

sub\_threshold

A boolean value specifying if a valid event was found.

#### Examples

```
is_event(x=4.5, baseline=4, type='wors', outcome='edss')
is_event(x=50, baseline=57, type='wors', outcome='sdmt')
```

for the specified outcome is used.

measure is valid, regardless of delta\_fun.

MSprog

Assess multiple sclerosis disability course from longitudinal data.

#### **Description**

MSprog() detects and characterises the confirmed disability worsening (CDW) or improvement events of an outcome measure (EDSS, NHPT, T25FW, or SDMT; or any custom outcome) for one or more subjects, based on repeated assessments through time (and on the dates of acute episodes, if any). Several qualitative and quantitative options are given as arguments that can be set by the user and reported as a complement to the results to ensure reproducibility.

#### Usage

```
MSprog(
  data,
  subj_col,
  value_col,
  date_col,
  outcome,
  relapse = NULL,
  rsubj_col = NULL,
  rdate_col = NULL,
  renddate_col = NULL,
  subjects = NULL,
  delta_fun = NULL,
  worsening = NULL,
  event = "firstCDW",
  baseline = "fixed",
  proceed_from = "firstconf",
  sub_threshold_rebl = "none",
  bl_geq = F,
  relapse_rebl = F,
  skip_local_extrema = F,
  validconf_col = NULL,
  conf_days = 12 * 7,
  conf_tol_days = c(7, 2 * 365.25),
  conf_unbounded_right = F,
  require_sust_days = 0,
  check_intermediate = T,
  relapse_to_bl = 30,
  relapse_to_event = 0,
  relapse_to_conf = 30,
  relapse_assoc = 90,
  relapse_indep = NULL,
  impute_last_visit = 0,
  date_format = NULL,
  include_dates = F,
  include_value = F,
  include_stable = T,
  verbose = 1
)
```

#### **Arguments**

data.frame containing longitudinal data, including: subject ID, outcome value, data

date of visit.

Name of data column with subject ID. subj\_col

value\_col Name of data column with outcome value.

date col Name of data column with date of visit.

outcome Specifies the outcome type. Must be one of the following:

- 'edss' (Expanded Disability Status Scale);
- 'nhpt' (Nine-Hole Peg Test);
- 't25fw' (Timed 25-Foot Walk);
- 'sdmt' (Symbol Digit Modalities Test);
- NULL (only accepted when specifying a custom delta\_fun)

data.frame containing longitudinal data, including: subject ID and relapse

date.

rsubj\_col Name of subject ID column for relapse data, if different from outcome data.

Name of onset date column for relapse data, if different from outcome data. rdate\_col

renddate\_col Name of end date column for relapse data (if present).

subjects Subset of subjects (list of IDs). If none is specified, all subjects listed in data are

included.

is set to 'sdmt'.

delta\_fun Custom function specifying the minimum shift in the outcome measure that counts as a valid change from the provided reference value. The function pro-

vided must take a numeric value (reference score) as input, and return a numeric value corresponding to the minimum shift from baseline, see example 3 below. If none is specified (default), the user must provide a non-NULL value for the

outcome argument (see above) in order to use the built-in function compute\_delta().

The direction of worsening ('increase' if higher values correspond to worse disease course, 'decrease' otherwise). This argument is only used when outcome is set to NULL. Otherwise, worsening is automatically set to 'increase' if outcome is set to 'edss', 'nhpt', 't25fw', and to 'decrease' if outcome

Specifies which events to detect. Must be one of the following:

• 'firstCDW' (first confirmed disability worsening (CDW), default);

- 'first' (only the very first confirmed event improvement or worsening);
- 'firsteach' (first confirmed disability improvement and first CDW in chronological order);
- 'firstCDWtype' (first CDW of each kind PIRA, RAW, and undefined, in chronological order);
- 'firstPIRA' (first PIRA);
- 'firstRAW' (first RAW);
- 'multiple' (all events in chronological order).

baseline Specifies the baseline scheme. Must be one of the following:

- 'fixed' (first valid outcome value, default);
- 'roving\_impr' (updated after every confirmed disability improvement to the visit determined by proceed\_from; suitable for a first-CDW setting to discard fluctuations around baseline);

relapse

worsening

event

• 'roving' (updated after each improvement or worsening event to the visit determined by proceed\_from; suitable for a multiple-event setting – i.e., when event is set to 'multiple', 'firsteach', or 'firstCDWtype' – or when searching for a specific type of CDW – i.e., when event is set to 'firstPIRA' or 'firstRAW').

proceed\_from Afte

After detecting a confirmed disability event, continue searching:

- from the next visit after the first qualifying confirmation visit if proceed\_from='firstconf';
- from the next visit after the event if proceed\_from='event'.

If baseline='roving' or baseline='roving\_impr', when rebaselining after a confirmed disability event, the baseline is moved to:

- the first qualifying confirmation visit if proceed\_from='firstconf';
- the event visit if proceed\_from='event'.

#### sub\_threshold\_rebl

This argument is only used if baseline='roving' or baseline='roving\_impr'. Must be one of the following:

- 'event': any confirmed sub-threshold event (i.e. any confirmed change in the outcome measure, regardless of delta\_fun) can potentially trigger a re-baseline;
- 'improvement': any confirmed sub-threshold improvement (i.e. any *confirmed* improvement in the outcome measure, regardless of delta\_fun) can potentially trigger a re-baseline;
- 'worsening': any confirmed sub-threshold worsening (i.e. any confirmed worsening in the outcome measure, regardless of delta\_fun) can potentially trigger a re-baseline;
- 'none': only use valid confirmed events (as per delta\_fun) for rebaseline.

bl\_geq

This argument is only used if the baseline is moved. If TRUE, the new reference value must always be greater or equal than the previous one; when it is not, the old reference value is assigned to it [2].

relapse\_rebl If TRUE, re-baseline after every relapse.

skip\_local\_extrema

If TRUE, the baseline cannot be placed at a local minimum or maximum. A visit i is a local minimum point for outcome if outcome(i+1)-outcome(i)>=delta\_fun(outcome(i)) and outcome(i-1)-outcome(i)>=delta\_fun(outcome(i)). Local maxima are defined similarly.

validconf\_col

Name of data column specifying which visits can (T) or cannot (F) be used as confirmation visits. The input data does not necessarily have to include such a column. If validconf\_col=NULL, all visits are potentially used as confirmation visits.

 $conf\_days$ 

Period before confirmation (days). Can be a single value or list-like of any length if multiple windows are to be considered.

conf\_tol\_days

Tolerance window for confirmation visit (days); can be an integer (same tolerance on left and right) or list-like of length 2 (different tolerance on left and right). In all cases, the right end of the interval is ignored if conf\_unbounded\_right is set to TRUE.

conf\_unbounded\_right

If TRUE, confirmation window is unbounded on the right (regardless of the right end indicated by conf\_tol\_days).

require\_sust\_days

Minimum number of days over which a confirmed change must be sustained (i.e., confirmed at *all* visits occurring in the specified period) to be retained as an event. Events sustained for the remainder of the follow-up period are always retained regardless of follow-up duration. Setting require\_sust\_days=Inf, events are retained only when sustained for the remainder of the follow-up period. (Warning: if check\_intermediate is set to FALSE, sustained change will be established based *only on the end* of the specified period.)

check\_intermediate

If TRUE (default), events are confirmed *over all intermediate visits* up to the confirmation visit. If set to FALSE (not recommended in most cases, as it may discard meaningful fluctuations), events will be confirmed *only at* the specified confirmation visit (and *only at the end* of the period defined by require\_sust\_days, if any).

relapse\_to\_bl

Minimum distance from a relapse (days) for a visit to be used as baseline. Can be an integer (minimum distance from *last* relapse) or list-like of length 2 (minimum distance from *last* relapse, minimum distance from *next* relapse). Note that setting the distance to zero means keeping the baseline where it is regardless of surrounding relapses. If relapse end dates are available (renddate\_col), the minimum distance from last relapse is overwritten by the relapse duration, unless it was set to zero (in which case it stays 0). If the designated baseline does not respect this constraint, the baseline is moved to the next available visit.

relapse\_to\_event

Minimum distance from a relapse (days) for an event to be considered as such. Can be an integer (minimum distance from *last* relapse) or list-like of length 2 (minimum distance from *last* relapse, minimum distance from *next* relapse). Note that setting the distance to zero means retaining the event regardless of surrounding relapses. If relapse end dates are available (renddate\_col), the minimum distance from last relapse is overwritten by the relapse duration, unless it was set to zero (in which case it stays 0).

relapse\_to\_conf

Minimum distance from a relapse (days) for a visit to be a valid confirmation visit. Can be an integer (minimum distance from *last* relapse) or list-like of length 2 (minimum distance from *last* relapse, minimum distance from *next* relapse). Note that setting the distance to zero means using any visit for confirmation regardless of surrounding relapses. If relapse end dates are available (renddate\_col), the minimum distance from last relapse is overwritten by the relapse duration, unless it was set to zero (in which case it stays 0).

relapse\_assoc

Maximum distance from a relapse (days) for a CDW event to be classified as RAW. Can be an integer (maximum distance from *last* relapse) or list-like of length 2 (maximum distance from *last* relapse, maximum distance from *next* relapse). If relapse end dates are available (renddate\_col), the maximum distance from last relapse is overwritten by the relapse duration.

relapse\_indep

Specifies relapse-free intervals for PIRA definition. Must be given in the form produced by function relapse\_indep\_from\_bounds() by calling relapse\_indep\_from\_bounds(b0, b1, e0, e1, c0, c1) to specify the intervals around baseline (b0 and b1), event (e0 and e1), and

confirmation (c0 and c1). For instance:

• No relapses within event-90dd->event+30dd and within confirmation-90dd->confirmation+30dd [1]: relapse\_indep <- relapse\_indep\_from\_bounds(0,0,90,30,90,30) (default);

 No relapses between baseline and confirmation (high-specificity definition from [1]):
 relapse\_indep <- relapse\_indep\_from\_bounds(0,NULL,NULL,NULL,NULL,0);</li>

No relapses within baseline->event+30dd and within confirmation+-30dd
 [2]:

relapse\_indep <- relapse\_indep\_from\_bounds(0,NULL,NULL,30,30,30)</pre>

If relapse end dates are available (renddate\_col), it is possible to define PIRA based on those by setting use\_end\_dates=T in relapse\_indep\_from\_bounds().

#### impute\_last\_visit

Imputation probability for worsening events occurring at last visit (i.e. with no confirmation). Unconfirmed worsening events occurring at the last visit are never imputed if impute\_last\_visit=0; they are always imputed if impute\_last\_visit=1; they are imputed with probability p, 0<p<1, if impute\_last\_visit=p. If a value N>1 is passed, unconfirmed worsening events are imputed only if occurring within N days of follow-up (e.g., in case of early discontinuation).

date\_format Format of dates in the input data. If not specified, it will be inferred by function

as.Date().

include\_dates If TRUE, output\$results will include the date of each event ('date' column)

and the date of the corresponding baseline ('bldate' column).

include\_value If TRUE, output\$results will include the outcome value at each event ('value'

column) and at the corresponding baseline ('blvalue' column).

include\_stable If TRUE, subjects with no confirmed events are included in output\$results,

with time2event = total follow up.

verbose One of:

• 0 (print no info);

• 1 (print concise info, default);

• 2 (print extended info).

#### **Details**

The events are detected sequentially by scanning the outcome values in chronological order. Valid time windows for confirmation visits are determined by arguments conf\_days, conf\_tol\_days, conf\_unbounded\_right, relapse\_to\_conf. CDW events are classified as relapse-associated or relapse-independent based on their relative timing with respect to the relapses. Specifically, relapse-associated worsening (RAW) events are defined as CDW events occurring within a specified interval (relapse\_assoc argument) from a relapse; the definition of progression independent of relapse activity (PIRA) is established by specifying relapse-free intervals around the baseline, CDW event, and confirmation visits (relapse\_indep argument).

#### Value

An object of class 'MSprogOutput' with the following attributes:

- event\_count: a data.frame containing the event sequence detected for each subject, and the counts for each event type
- results: a data. frame with extended info on each event for all subjects
- settings: a list containing all the arguments used to compute the output.

print.MSprogOutput 9

#### References

[1] Müller J, Cagol A, Lorscheider J, Tsagkas C, Benkert P, Yaldızlı Ö, et al. Harmonizing definitions for progression independent of relapse activity in multiple sclerosis: A systematic review. JAMA Neurol. 2023;80:1232–45.

[2] Kappos L, Wolinsky JS, Giovannoni G, Arnold DL, Wang Q, Bernasconi C, et al. Contribution of relapse-independent progression vs relapse-associated worsening to overall confirmed disability accumulation in typical relapsing multiple sclerosis in a pooled analysis of 2 randomized clinical trials. JAMA Neurol. 2020;77:1132–40.

#### **Examples**

```
# 1. EDSS course
output_edss <- MSprog(toydata_visits, 'id', 'EDSS', 'date', 'edss',</pre>
    relapse=toydata_relapses, conf_days=12*7, conf_tol_days=30,
    event='multiple', baseline='roving', verbose=1)
print(output_edss$results) # extended info on each event for all subjects
print(output_edss$event_count) # summary of event sequence for each subject
# 2. SDMT course
output_sdmt <- MSprog(toydata_visits, 'id', 'SDMT', 'date', 'sdmt',</pre>
    relapse=toydata_relapses, conf_days=12*7, conf_tol_days=30,
    event='multiple', baseline='roving', verbose=1)
print(output_sdmt$results) # extended info on each event for all subjects
print(output_sdmt$event_count) # summary of event sequence for each subject
# 3. SDMT course, with a custom delta function
my_sdmt_delta <- function(reference_value) {min(c(reference_value/5, 4))}</pre>
output_sdmt <- MSprog(toydata_visits, 'id', 'SDMT', 'date', NULL,</pre>
    delta_fun=my_sdmt_delta,
    relapse=toydata_relapses, conf_days=12*7, conf_tol_days=30,
    event='multiple', baseline='roving', verbose=1)
print(output_sdmt$results) # extended info on each event for all subjects
print(output_sdmt$event_count) # summary of event sequence for each subject
```

print.MSprogOutput

Textual description of criteria used to assess disability course.

#### Description

print method for class 'MSprogOutput'.

#### Usage

```
## S3 method for class 'MSprogOutput'
print(x, ...)
```

#### **Arguments**

```
x An object of class 'MSprogOutput' (result of a call to MSprog()).... Optional arguments for print methods. They are ignored in this function.
```

#### **Details**

The method prints out a short paragraph describing the set of criteria used to obtain the output.

#### **Examples**

```
output <- MSprog(toydata_visits, 'id', 'EDSS', 'date', 'edss',
    relapse=toydata_relapses, conf_days=7*12, conf_tol_days=30,
    event='multiple', baseline='roving', verbose=2)
print(output) # textual description of parameters used to obtain output</pre>
```

```
relapse_indep_from_bounds
```

Define relapse-free intervals for PIRA definition.

#### **Description**

relapse\_indep\_from\_bounds() organises the given interval bounds around baseline, event, and confirmation into a named list to be given as argument relapse\_indep to function MSprog().

#### Usage

```
relapse_indep_from_bounds(
  b0 = 0,
  b1 = 0,
  e0 = 90,
  e1 = 30,
  c0 = 90,
  c1 = 30,
  use_end_dates = F
)
```

#### **Arguments**

b0	Days before baseline (>=0).
b1	Days after baseline (>=0), or NULL.
e0	Days before event (>=0), or NULL.
e1	Days after event (>=0), or NULL.
с0	Days before confirmation (>=0), or NULL.
c1	Days after confirmation (>=0).
use_end_dates	If TRUE, only the right bounds (e1, c1) are used, as the right bounds will be defined by the onset-to-end interval of each relapse. This option is only relevant when relapse end dates are available.

#### **Details**

If the right end is NULL, the interval is assumed to extend up to the left end of the next interval. If the left end is NULL, the interval is assumed to extend up to the right end of the previous interval.

#### Value

A named list to be given as argument relapse\_indep to function MSprog()

toydata\_relapses 11

#### References

[1] Müller J, Cagol A, Lorscheider J, Tsagkas C, Benkert P, Yaldızlı Ö, et al. Harmonizing definitions for progression independent of relapse activity in multiple sclerosis: A systematic review. JAMA Neurol. 2023;80:1232–45.

[2] Kappos L, Wolinsky JS, Giovannoni G, Arnold DL, Wang Q, Bernasconi C, et al. Contribution of relapse-independent progression vs relapse-associated worsening to overall confirmed disability accumulation in typical relapsing multiple sclerosis in a pooled analysis of 2 randomized clinical trials. JAMA Neurol. 2020;77:1132–40.

#### **Examples**

```
# No relapses between baseline and confirmation (high-specificity definition from [1]):
relapse_indep <- relapse_indep_from_bounds(0,NULL,NULL,NULL,NULL,0)
# No relapses within event-90dd->event+30dd
# and within confirmation-90dd->confirmation+30dd [1]:
relapse_indep <- relapse_indep_from_bounds(0,0,90,30,90,30)
# No relapses within baseline->event+30dd and within confirmation+-30dd [2]:
relapse_indep <- relapse_indep_from_bounds(0,NULL,NULL,30,30,30)</pre>
```

toydata\_relapses

Synthetic Relapse Data

#### **Description**

Artificially generated relapse dates for some example patients in toydata\_visits to illustrate the use of the package.

#### Usage

```
data(toydata_relapses)
```

#### **Format**

An object of class data.frame

date The relapse date

id Subject ID

#### References

This data set was artificially created for the msprog package.

#### **Examples**

```
data(toydata_relapses)
head(toydata_relapses)
```

12 value\_milestone

toydata\_visits

Synthetic Longitudinal EDSS and SDMT Data

#### **Description**

Small, artificially generated toy data set providing Extended Disability Status Scale (EDSS) and Symbol Digit Modalities Test (SDMT) information on 4 example patients to illustrate the use of the package.

#### Usage

```
data(toydata_visits)
```

#### **Format**

An object of class data.frame

id Subject ID

date The visit date

**EDSS** A value between 0 and 10

**SDMT** A value between 0 and 110

#### References

This data set was artificially created for the msprog package.

#### **Examples**

head(toydata\_visits)

value\_milestone

Time to disability milestone.

#### Description

value\_milestone() scans the visits in chronological order to detect the first outcome value exceeding a specified disability milestone (e.g., EDSS>=6), with confirmation. Note: "exceeding" means either value>=milestone or value<=milestone, depending on the outcome measure (see arguments outcome and worsening).

value\_milestone 13

#### Usage

```
value_milestone(
 data,
 milestone,
 value_col,
 date_col,
  subj_col,
 outcome,
 worsening = NULL,
  relapse = NULL,
  rsubj_col = NULL,
  rdate_col = NULL,
  conf_{days} = 24 * 7,
  conf_tol_days = c(7, 365),
  conf_unbounded_right = F,
  require_sust_days = 0,
  relapse_to_event = 0,
  relapse_to_conf = 30,
  impute_last_visit = F,
  verbose = 0
)
```

#### **Arguments**

data

value, date of visit. milestone Disability milestone (outcome value to check data against). Name of data column with outcome value. value\_col date\_col Name of data column with date of visit. subj\_col Name of data column with subject ID. Specifies the outcome type. Must be one of the following: outcome • 'edss' (Expanded Disability Status Scale); • 'nhpt' (Nine-Hole Peg Test); • 't25fw' (Timed 25-Foot Walk); • 'sdmt' (Symbol Digit Modalities Test); • NULL (only accepted when specifying argument worsening) The direction of worsening ('increase' if higher values correspond to worse worsening disease course, 'decrease' otherwise). This argument is only used when outcome is set to NULL. Otherwise, worsening is automatically set to 'increase' if outcome is set to 'edss', 'nhpt', 't25fw', and to 'decrease' if outcome is set to 'sdmt'. data.frame containing longitudinal data, including: subject ID and relapse relapse date. Name of subject column for relapse data, if different from outcome data. rsubj\_col Name of date column for relapse data, if different from outcome data. rdate\_col conf\_days Period before confirmation (days).

a data.frame containing longitudinal data, including: subject ID, outcome

14 value\_milestone

conf\_tol\_days

Tolerance window for confirmation visit (days); can be an integer (same tolerance on left and right) or list-like of length 2 (different tolerance on left and right). In all cases, the right end of the interval is ignored if conf\_unbounded\_right is set to TRUE.

conf\_unbounded\_right

If TRUE, confirmation window is unbounded on the right (regardless of the right end indicated by conf\_tol\_days).

require\_sust\_days

Minimum number of days over which the milestone must be sustained (i.e., confirmed at *all* visits occurring in the specified period). If the milestone is sustained for the remainder of the follow-up period, it is considered reached regardless of follow-up duration. Setting require\_sust\_days=Inf, values are retained only when sustained for the remainder of the follow-up period.

relapse\_to\_event

Minimum distance from a relapse (days) for the milestone to be considered reached.

relapse\_to\_conf

Minimum distance from a relapse (days) for a valid confirmation visit.

impute\_last\_visit

If TRUE, impute milestone occurring at last visit (i.e. with no confirmation). If FALSE, censor it.

verbose One of:

- 0 (print no info);
- 1 (print concise info, default);
- 2 (print extended info).

#### **Details**

An event is only retained if **confirmed**, i.e., if all values *up to* the confirmation visit exceed the milestone. Valid time windows for confirmation visits are determined by arguments conf\_days, conf\_tol\_days, conf\_unbounded\_right, relapse\_to\_conf.

#### Value

A data.frame containing the following columns:

- date\_col: the date of first reaching a value >= milestone (or last date of follow-up if milestone is not reached);
- value\_col: the first value >= milestone, if present, otherwise no value;
- 'time2event': the time to reach a value >= milestone (or total follow-up length if milestone is not reached);
- 'observed': whether the milestone was reached (1) or not (0).

## **Index**