Package 'msprog'

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Type Package

Version 0.1.0 Description 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 Depends R (>= 3.5.0) VignetteBuilder knitr Suggests knitr, rmarkdown License MIT + file LICENSE Contents compute_delta
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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.

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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 = "none",
  validconf_col = NULL,
  conf_{days} = 12 * 7,
  conf_tol_days = c(7, 2 * 365.25),
  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 data.frame containing longitudinal data, including: subject ID, outcome value,

date of visit.

subj_col Name of data column with subject ID.

value_col Name of data column with outcome value.

date_col Name of data column with date of visit.

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 a custom delta_fun)

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

date.

Name of subject ID column for relapse data, if different from outcome data. rsubj_col

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.

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 provided 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

is set to 'sdmt'.

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).

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

- '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 - not recommended for randomised data;

relapse

worsening

event

• 'roving_wors': updated after every CDW (to the visit determined by proceed_from); suitable when searching for a specific type of CDW (i.e., when event is set to 'firstPIRA' or 'firstRAW');

• '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') – not recommended for randomised data.

proceed_from

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 is set to 'roving', 'roving_impr', or 'roving_wors', 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 is not set to 'fixed'. 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

This argument is only used if the baseline is moved. It controls function behaviour in the presence of local minima or maxima. A visit i is a local minimum point for outcome [i+1]>outcome[i] and outcome[i-1]>outcome[i]; local maxima are defined similarly. A visit i is a *strict* local minimum point for outcome if outcome[i+1]-outcome[i]>=delta_fun(outcome[i]); outcome[i-1]-outcome[i]>: Strict local maxima are defined similarly. When outcome[i]=outcome[i-2], visit i is *not* considered a local extremum point even if the above conditions hold. This controls for cases where the outcome has an undulating course. The following argument values are accepted.

- 'none': local extrema are always accepted as valid baseline values.
- 'delta': the baseline cannot be placed at a strict local minimum or maximum
- 'all': the baseline cannot be placed at a local minimum or maximum.

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). The right end of the interval can be set to Inf (confirmation window unbounded on the right – e.g., "confirmation at 12 *or more* weeks").

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(p0, p1, e0, e1, c0, c1) to specify the intervals around (any subset of) three checkpoints: (i) a preceding visit, e.g., baseline or last visit before the event (p0 and p1), (ii) the event (e0 and e1), and (iii) the first available confirmation visit (c0 and c1). 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().

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

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, 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.

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.

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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 <- MSprog(toydata_visits, subj_col='id', value_col='EDSS', date_col='date', outcome='edss',</pre>
    relapse=toydata_relapses, conf_days=12*7, conf_tol_days=30,
    event='multiple', baseline='roving', verbose=1)
print(output$results) # extended info on each event for all subjects
print(output$event_count) # summary of event sequence for each subject
# 2. SDMT course
output <- MSprog(toydata_visits, subj_col='id', value_col='SDMT', date_col='date', outcome='sdmt',</pre>
    relapse=toydata_relapses, conf_days=12*7, conf_tol_days=30,
    event='multiple', baseline='roving', verbose=1)
print(output$results) # extended info on each event for all subjects
print(output$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 <- MSprog(toydata_visits, subj_col='id', value_col='SDMT', date_col='date', outcome='sdmt',</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$results) # extended info on each event for all subjects
print(output$event_count) # summary of event sequence for each subject
```

print.MSprogOutput

Textual description of criteria used to assess disability course.

Description

```
\verb|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 into a named list to be given as argument relapse_indep to function MSprog(). The relapse-free intervals may be anchored to (any subset of) the following three data-driven checkpoints.

- 'prec': a visit preceding the event: can be (i) the current baseline, (ii) the last visit before the event, or (iii) the last pre-worsening visit (i such that outcome[event] outcome[i] >= delta_fun(outcome[i]));
- 'event': the disability worsening event;
- 'conf': the (first) confirmation visit.

Usage

```
relapse_indep_from_bounds(
  p0 = 0,
  p1 = 0,
  e0 = 0,
  e1 = 0,
  c0 = 0,
  c1 = 0,
  prec_type = "baseline",
  use_end_dates = F
)
```

Arguments

p0	Days before preceding visit (>=0).
p1	Days after preceding visit (>=0), or NULL.
e0	Days before event (>=0), or NULL.
e1	Days after event (>=0), or NULL.
c0	Days before confirmation (>=0), or NULL.
c1	Days after confirmation (>=0).
prec_type	Which visit to use as "preceding visit". Must be one of:

• 'baseline': the current baseline;

- 'last': the last visit before the event;
- 'last_lower': the last pre-worsening visit, i.e., the last visit i where outcome[event] outcome[i] >= delta_fun(outcome[i]).

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.

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Details

If both ends of an interval are 0 (e.g., if both p0=0 and p1=0), the checkpoint is ignored. 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. Here are some examples:

• No relapses from 90dd before to 30dd after the event, and from 90dd before to 30dd after the confirmation [1]:

```
relapse_indep_from_bounds(e0=90,e1=30,c0=90,c1=30);
```

- No relapses between baseline and confirmation (high-specificity definition from [1]): relapse_indep_from_bounds(p0=0,p1=NULL,e0=NULL,e1=NULL,c0=NULL,c1=0);
- No relapses from baseline to 30dd after the event, and within confirmation+-30dd [2]: relapse_indep_from_bounds(p0=0,p1=NULL,e0=NULL,e1=30,c0=30,c1=30).

Value

A named list to be given as argument relapse_indep to function MSprog()

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.

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

id Subject ID

date The relapse date

References

This data set was artificially created for the msprog package.

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Examples

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

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).

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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

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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).

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