

# Package ‘semicmprskcoxmsm’

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**Type** Package

**Title** Use Inverse Probability Weighting to Estimate Treatment Effect  
for Semi Competing Risks Data

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**Description** Use inverse probability weighting methods to estimate treatment effect under marginal structure model for the transition hazard of semi competing risk data, i.e. illness death model. We implement two specific such models, the usual Markov illness death structural model and the general Markov illness death structural model. We also provide the estimates of three cumulative incidence function of the potential outcomes.

**License** GPL (>= 2)

**Imports** ggplot2, survival, stats, twang, graphics, fastGHQuad, Rcpp

**Suggests** knitr, rmarkdown

**NeedsCompilation** no

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cif_est_usual	<i>Estimating Three Cumulative Incidence Functions Using the Usual Markov Model</i>
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**Description**

cif\_est\_usual estimates the cumulative incidence function (CIF, i.e.risk) based on the MSM illness-death usual Markov model.

**Usage**

```
cif_est_usual(data,X1,X2,event1,event2,w,Trt,
              t1_star = t1_star)
```

**Arguments**

data	The dataset, includes non-terminal events, terminal events as well as event indicator.
X1	Time to non-terminal event, could be censored by terminal event or lost to follow up.
X2	Time to terminal event, could be censored by lost to follow up.
event1	Event indicator for non-terminal event.
event2	Event indicator for terminal event.
w	IP weights.
Trt	Treatment variable.
t1_star	Fixed non-terminal event time for estimating CIF function for terminal event following the non-terminal event.

**Details**

After estimating the parameters in the illness-death model  $\lambda_j^a$  using IPW, we could estimate the corresponding CIF:

$$\hat{P}(T_1^a < t, \delta_1^a = 1) = \int_0^t \hat{S}^a(u) d\hat{\Lambda}_1^a(u),$$

$$\hat{P}(T_2^a < t, \delta_1^a = 0, \delta_2^a = 1) = \int_0^t \hat{S}^a(u) d\hat{\Lambda}_2^a(u),$$

and

$$\hat{P}(T_2^a < t_2 | T_1^a < t_1, T_2^a > t_1) = 1 - e^{-\int_{t_1}^{t_2} d\hat{\Lambda}_{12}^a(u)},$$

where  $\hat{S}^a$  is the estimated overall survival function for joint  $T_1^a, T_2^a$ ,  $\hat{S}^a(u) = e^{-\hat{\Lambda}_1^a(u) - \hat{\Lambda}_2^a(u)}$ . We obtain three hazards by fitting the MSM illness-death model  $\hat{\Lambda}_j^a(u) = \hat{\Lambda}_{0j}(u)e^{\hat{\beta}_j^* a}$ ,  $\hat{\Lambda}_{12}^a(u) = \hat{\Lambda}_{03}(u)e^{\hat{\beta}_3^* a}$ , and  $\hat{\Lambda}_{0j}(u)$  is a Breslow-type estimator of the baseline cumulative hazard.

**Value**

Returns a table containing the estimated CIF for the event of interest for control and treated group.

**References**

Meira-Machado, Luis and Sestelo, Marta (2019). “Estimation in the progressive illness-death model: A nonexhaustive review,” *Biometrical Journal* 61(2), 245–263.

doPS

*Generate the Inverse Probability Treatment Weights***Description**

doPS calculates the unstabilized and stabilized inverse probability treatment weights (IPW) for average treatment effect using propensity score. The propensity score is calculated by twang package using the boosted logistic regression.

**Usage**

```
doPS(data,Trt,Trt.name,VARs.,logistic = FALSE)
```

**Arguments**

<code>data</code>	The dataset, includes treatment assignment as well as covariates.
<code>Trt</code>	The name of the treatment variable in the dataset.
<code>Trt.name</code>	The treated group name of the treatment variable in the dataset.
<code>VARs.</code>	The vector of the name of potential confounding variables in the dataset.
<code>logistic</code>	A logical value indicating whether use logistic regression (TRUE) or non-parametric boosted tree (FALSE).

**Details**

The treatment variable should only contain 2 levels of treatment, and one should be viewed as treated group and another is control group.

For stabilized weights:

For the treated individuals, we assign the IPW:  $w = \Pr(T=1)/\Pr(T=1|X=x)$ , for control individuals, the stabilized weight is:  $w = (1-\Pr(T=1))/(1-\Pr(T=1|X=x))$ .

**Value**

doPS returns an object of class "PS". An object of class "PS" is a list containing the following components:

<code>Data</code>	A new dataset which excludes all the missing value on the potential confounders from input data, add the propensity score and IPW into the new dataset.
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**ps\_ate** The estimated propensity scores with estimand of interest as ATE.  
**ipw\_ate\_unstab** Unstabilized ipw calculated from ps\_ate.  
**ipw\_ate\_stab** Stabilized ipw calculated from ps\_ate.  
**ps** an object of class ps, See the help for [ps](#) for details of the ps class.

### See Also

[ps](#)

### Examples

```
n <- 500
set.seed(1234)
Cens = runif(n,0.7,0.9)
set.seed(1234)
OUT1 <- sim_cox_msm_semicmrsk(beta1 = 1,beta2 = 1,beta3 = 0.5,
                             sigma_2 = 1,
                             alpha0 = 0.5, alpha1 = 0.1, alpha2 = -0.1, alpha3 = -0.2,
                             n=n, Cens = Cens)

data_test <- OUT1$data0

## Get the PS weights
vars <- c("Z1","Z2","Z3")
ps1 <- doPS(data = data_test,
            Trt = "A",
            Trt.name = 1,
            VARS. = vars,
            logistic = TRUE)
w <- ps1$Data$ipw_ate_stab
```

---

em\_illness\_death\_phmm\_weight

*Using EM Type Algorithm for MSM Illness-death General Markov Model*

---

### Description

Under the general Markov illness-death model, with normal frailty term which is a latent variable. We use the EM type algorithm to estimate the coefficient in the MSM illness-death general Markov model.

### Usage

```
em_illness_death_phmm_weight(data,X1,X2,event1,event2,w,Trt,
                             EM_initial,sigma_2_0)
```

**Arguments**

data	The dataset, includes non-terminal events, terminal events as well as event indicator.
X1	Time to non-terminal event, could be censored by terminal event or lost to follow up.
X2	Time to terminal event, could be censored by lost to follow up.
event1	Event indicator for non-terminal event.
event2	Event indicator for terminal event.
w	IP weights.
Trt	Treatment variable.
EM_initial	Initial value for the EM algorithm, the output of OUT_em_weights.
sigma_2_0	Initial value for $\sigma^2$ , the variance of zero-mean normal frailty, usually starts with 1.

**Details**

Similar as the usual Markov model. We postulate the semi-parametric Cox models with a frailty term for three transition rates in marginal structural illness-death model:

$$\lambda_1(t_1; a) = \lambda_{01}(t)e^{\beta_1 a + b}, t_1 > 0;$$

$$\lambda_2(t_2; a) = \lambda_{02}(t)e^{\beta_2 a + b}, t_2 > 0;$$

and

$$\lambda_{12}(t_2 | t_1; a) = \lambda_{03}(t_2)e^{\beta_3 a + b}, 0 < t_1 < t_2,$$

where  $b \sim N(0, 1)$ . Since  $b$  is not observed in the data, we use the IP weighted EM type algorithm to estimate all the parameters in the MSM illness-death general Markov model.

**Value**

beta1	The EM sequence for estimating $\beta_1$ at each iteration.
beta2	The EM sequence for estimating $\beta_2$ at each iteration.
beta3	The EM sequence for estimating $\beta_3$ at each iteration.
Lambda01	List of two dataframes for estimated $\Lambda_{01}$ and $\lambda_{01}$ when EM converges.
Lambda02	List of two dataframes for estimated $\Lambda_{02}$ and $\lambda_{02}$ when EM converges.
Lambda03	List of two dataframes for estimated $\Lambda_{03}$ and $\lambda_{03}$ when EM converges.
sigma_2	The EM sequence for estimating $\sigma^2$ at each iteration.
loglik	The EM sequence for log-likelihood at each iteration.
em.n	Number of EM steps to converge.
data	Data after running the EM.

**Examples**

```

n <- 500
set.seed(1234)
Cens = runif(n,0.7,0.9)
set.seed(1234)
OUT1 <- sim_cox_msm_semicmrsk(beta1 = 1,beta2 = 1,beta3 = 0.5,
                             sigma_2 = 1,
                             alpha0 = 0.5, alpha1 = 0.1, alpha2 = -0.1, alpha3 = -0.2,
                             n=n, Cens = Cens)

data_test <- OUT1$data0

## Get the PS weights
vars <- c("Z1","Z2","Z3")
ps1 <- doPS(data = data_test,
            Trt = "A",
            Trt.name = 1,
            VARS. = vars,
            logistic = TRUE)
w <- ps1$Data$ipw_ate_stab

### Fit the General Markov model
EM_initial <- OUT_em_weights(data = data_test,
                             X1 = "X1",
                             X2 = "X2",
                             event1 = "delta1",
                             event2 = "delta2",
                             w = w,
                             Trt = "A")

res1 <- em_illness_death_phmm_weight(data = data_test,
                                     X1 = "X1",
                                     X2 = "X2",
                                     event1 = "delta1",
                                     event2 = "delta2",
                                     w = w,
                                     Trt = "A",
                                     EM_initial = EM_initial,
                                     sigma_2_0 = 2)

print(paste("The estimated value for beta1 is:", round(res1$beta1[res1$em.n],5) ) )

```

---

get\_hazard

---

*Compute the (Cumulative) Baseline Hazard from Cox Model*


---

**Description**

Compute the Breslow type baseline hazard and cumulative baseline hazard at each event time from a Cox model.

**Usage**

```
get_hazard(fit)
```

**Arguments**

`fit`                    The results of a coxph fit.

**Details**

See also `basehaz`, we only extract the estimated baseline hazard and baseline cumulative hazard from the results of a coxph fit.

**Value**

A list contains two dataframes.

`Lambda`                See also `basehaz`, returns the Breslow type cumulative baseline hazard.

`lambda`                Returns the Breslow type baseline hazard.

**See Also**

`basehaz`

---

```
get_hazard_offset_weights
```

*Compute the (Cumulative) Baseline Hazard from Cox Model with Offsets*

---

**Description**

Compute the Breslow type baseline hazard and cumulative baseline hazard at each event time from a weighted Cox model with offsets.

**Usage**

```
get_hazard_offset_weights(fit,data,time1= NULL,time2,w)
```

**Arguments**

`fit`                    The results of a weighted coxph fit.

`data`                   The original data for fitting the weighted Cox model.

`time1`                  The default is NULL. For left truncation data, which refers to transition rate for terminal event following non-terminal events, this argument is the time to non-terminal event.

`time2`                  For right censored data, this is the event time or censoring time. For left truncation data, the argument is the time to terminal event or the censoring time.

`w`                        IP weights.

**Details**

See also `get_hazard`, handles the offset term in coxph for predicting the baseline hazard.

**Value**

A list contains two dataframes.

`Lambda` See also `get_hazard`, returns a step function for cumulative baseline hazard.

`lambda` Returns a dataframe for baseline hazard.

`cum_base_haz` Returns a dataframe for cumulative baseline hazard.

**See Also**

`get_hazard`, `basehaz`

---

`initial_fit_em_weights`

*Fit the MSM Cox Model with IP Weights*

---

**Description**

Fit the MSM cox model with IPW as the initial value for EM algorithm to fit the illness-death general Markov model

**Usage**

```
initial_fit_em_weights(data,X1,X2,event1,event2,w,Trt)
```

**Arguments**

<code>data</code>	The dataset, includes non-terminal events, terminal events as well as event indicator.
<code>X1</code>	Time to non-terminal event, could be censored by terminal event or lost to follow up.
<code>X2</code>	Time to terminal event, could be censored by lost to follow up.
<code>event1</code>	Event indicator for non-terminal event.
<code>event2</code>	Event indicator for terminal event.
<code>w</code>	IP weights.
<code>Trt</code>	Treatment variable.

**Details**

As initial values we use for  $\beta_j$ ,  $j = 1, 2, 3$ , the estimates from IP weighted Cox regression without the offsets, i.e. from the usual Markov model.



**Value**

A list of objects from survival package:

event1	An object of class Surv for non-terminal event.
event2	An object of class Surv for terminal event without non-terminal event.
event3	An object of class Surv for terminal event following non-terminal event.
fit1	An object of class coxph representing the fit for time to non-terminal event. See coxph.object for details.
fit2	An object of class coxph representing the fit for time to terminal event without non-terminal event.
fit3	An object of class coxph representing the fit for time to terminal event following non-terminal event.

**See Also**

Surv, coxph

---

initial_lambda_em	<i>Compute the Initial (Cumulative) Baseline Hazard From the MSM Illness-death Model</i>
-------------------	--

---

**Description**

Compute the Breslow type baseline hazard and cumulative baseline hazard at each event time from the MSM illness-death model.

**Usage**

```
initial_lambda_em (OUT)
```

**Arguments**

OUT            The results of a initial\_fit\_em\_weights fit.

**Details**

See also get\_hazard

**Value**

A list contains six dataframes: including baseline hazard and cumulative baseline hazard for non-terminal event, terminal event without non-terminal event, and terminal event following non-terminal event.

**See Also**

get\_hazard

---

OUT\_em\_weights      *Initial Value For Fitting the General Markov Model*

---

### Description

Compute the initial value for fitting the MSM illness-death general Markov model using EM type algorithm

### Usage

```
OUT_em_weights(data,X1,X2,event1,event2,w,Trt)
```

### Arguments

data	The dataset, includes non-terminal events, terminal events as well as event indicator.
X1	Time to non-terminal event, could be censored by terminal event or lost to follow up.
X2	Time to terminal event, could be censored by lost to follow up.
event1	Event indicator for non-terminal event.
event2	Event indicator for terminal event.
w	IP weights.
Trt	Treatment variable.

### Details

See usual\_illness\_death\_weight

### Value

A list of vectors and dataframes:

beta1	Initial value for $\beta_1$ , the coefficient for the non-terminal event model.
beta2	Initial value for $\beta_2$ , the coefficient for the terminal event without non-terminal event model.
beta3	Initial value for $\beta_3$ , the coefficient for the terminal event following non-terminal event model.
lambda1	Initial value for $\lambda_{01}$ , the estimated baseline hazard for the non-terminal event model.
lambda2	Initial value for $\lambda_{02}$ , the estimated baseline hazard for the terminal event without non-terminal event model.
lambda3	Initial value for $\lambda_{03}$ , the estimated baseline hazard for the terminal event following non-terminal event model.

Lambda1	Initial value for $\Lambda_{01}$ , the estimated cumulative baseline hazard for the non-terminal event model.
Lambda2	Initial value for $\Lambda_{02}$ , the estimated cumulative baseline hazard for the terminal event without non-terminal event model.
Lambda3	Initial value for $\Lambda_{03}$ , the estimated cumulative baseline hazard for the terminal event following non-terminal event model.
event1	An object of class Surv for non-terminal event.
event2	An object of class Surv for terminal event without non-terminal event.
event3	An object of class Surv for terminal event following non-terminal event.

**See Also**

usual\_illness\_death\_weight

**Examples**

```
n <- 500
set.seed(1234)
Cens = runif(n,0.7,0.9)
set.seed(1234)
OUT1 <- sim_cox_msm_semicmrsk(beta1 = 1,beta2 = 1,beta3 = 0.5,
                             sigma_2 = 1,
                             alpha0 = 0.5, alpha1 = 0.1, alpha2 = -0.1, alpha3 = -0.2,
                             n=n, Cens = Cens)

data_test <- OUT1$data0

## Get the PS weights
vars <- c("Z1","Z2","Z3")
ps1 <- doPS(data = data_test,
            Trt = "A",
            Trt.name = 1,
            VARS. = vars,
            logistic = TRUE)
w <- ps1$Data$ipw_ate_stab

### Get the initial value
EM_initial <- OUT_em_weights(data = data_test,
                             X1 = "X1",
                             X2 = "X2",
                             event1 = "delta1",
                             event2 = "delta2",
                             w = w,
                             Trt = "A")
```

---

plot.PS	<i>Plotting Histogram of Propensity Score and Balancing Plot for Covariates in the Propensity Score Model</i>
---------	---

---

**Description**

Displays a the histogram plots for the propensity score, stratified by treated and control group and a graph of standardized mean difference of potential confounders before and after weighing.

**Usage**

```
## S3 method for class 'PS'
plot(x, ...)
```

**Arguments**

x	The results of doPS function.
...	the other arguments you want to put in the built-in plot function.

**Details**

Only available when logistic = FALSE in doPS. The standardized mean difference (SMD), defined as the (weighted) treatment group mean minus the (weighted) control group mean divided by the (weighted) pooled sample (treatment and control) standard deviation. SMD between -0.1 and 0.1 typically indicates good balance.

**Value**

Histogram of propensity score and balancing plot for covariates in the propensity score model corresponding to the output from doPS.

**See Also**

[bal.table](#)

---

sim_cox_msm_semicmrsk	<i>Simulating Semi-competing Risks with Right-censored Survival Data under Marginal Structural Illness-death Cox Model</i>
-----------------------	--

---

**Description**

The function to simulate semi-competing risk with right-censored survival data under marginal structural illness-death Cox model.

**Usage**

```
sim_cox_msm_semicmrsk(beta1, beta2, beta3, sigma_2,
                      alpha0, alpha1, alpha2, alpha3,
                      n, Cens)
```

**Arguments**

beta1	True value of $\beta_1$ in the illness-death model.
beta2	True value of $\beta_2$ in the illness-death model.
beta3	True value of $\beta_3$ in the illness-death model.
sigma_2	True value of variance of normal frailty $\sigma^2$ in the illness-death model, if $\sigma^2 = 0$ , then there is no frailty term.
alpha0	True value of $\alpha_0$ in the propensity score model.
alpha1	True value of $\alpha_1$ in the propensity score model.
alpha2	True value of $\alpha_2$ in the propensity score model.
alpha3	True value of $\alpha_3$ in the propensity score model.
n	Sample size.
Cens	Censoring distribution.

**Details**

We simulate data followed by Xu(2010) to generate semi-competing risk data under illness-death model, where we have baseline hazard  $\lambda_{01}(t) = \lambda_{02}(t) = 2exp(-t)I(0 \leq t \leq 3) + 2exp(-3)I(t \geq 3)$ , and  $\lambda_{03}(t) = 2\lambda_{01}(t)$ .

We also have the propensity score model to generate treatment assignment  $P_A = \text{logit}^{-1}(\alpha_0 + \alpha_1 Z_1 + \alpha_2 Z_2 + \alpha_3 Z_3)$ .

**Value**

Returns a data frame that contains time to non-terminal event, T1, terminal event, T2 and censoring time C with their event indicator, delta1 and delta2. Three covariates Z1, Z2, Z3, and treatment assignment A are also included.

**Examples**

```
n <- 500
set.seed(1234)
Cens = runif(n, 0.7, 0.9)
set.seed(1234)
OUT1 <- sim_cox_msm_semicmrsk(beta1 = 1, beta2 = 1, beta3 = 0.5,
                             sigma_2 = 1,
                             alpha0 = 0.5, alpha1 = 0.1, alpha2 = -0.1, alpha3 = -0.2,
                             n=n, Cens = Cens)
data_test <- OUT1$data0
```

---

usual\_illness\_death\_weight

*Fit MSM Illness-death Usual Markov Model For Semi-competing Risks Data*

---

### Description

Fit the marginal structural three-state illness-death model with Cox representation and IP weights for semi-competing risks data. Inference under this model can be carried out using estimating equations with IP weights.

### Usage

```
usual_illness_death_weight(data, X1, X2, event1, event2, w, Trt)
```

### Arguments

data	The dataset, includes non-terminal events, terminal events as well as event indicator.
X1	Time to non-terminal event, could be censored by terminal event or lost to follow up.
X2	Time to terminal event, could be censored by lost to follow up.
event1	Event indicator for non-terminal event.
event2	Event indicator for terminal event.
w	IP weights.
Trt	Treatment variable.

### Details

Let  $T_1, T_2$  be the time to non-terminal event and terminal event,  $A$  be the treatment assignment. We postulate the semi-parametric Cox models for three transition rates in marginal structural illness-death model:

$$\lambda_1(t_1; a) = \lambda_{01}(t) e^{\beta_1 a}, t_1 > 0;$$

$$\lambda_2(t_2; a) = \lambda_{02}(t) e^{\beta_2 a}, t_2 > 0;$$

and

$$\lambda_{12}(t_2 | t_1; a) = \lambda_{03}(t_2) e^{\beta_3 a}, 0 < t_1 < t_2.$$

The coefficients as well as Breslow type baseline hazards can be estimated by fitting the IP weights Cox proportional hazards models. Meanwhile, if we assume the estimated weights as known, then the robust sandwich variance estimator can be used to obtain the estimated variance.

The usual Markov model is also the same as the initial value for the general Markov model.

**Value**

A list of values and dataframes:

beta1	Estimated $\beta_1$ , the coefficient for the non-terminal event model.
beta2	Estimated $\beta_2$ , the coefficient for the terminal event without non-terminal event model.
beta3	Estimated $\beta_3$ , the coefficient for the terminal event following non-terminal event model.
sd_beta1	Model based standard error for $\beta_1$ .
sd_beta2	Model based standard error for $\beta_2$ .
sd_beta3	Model based standard error for $\beta_3$ .
Lambda01	See also get_hazard. List of two dataframes for estimated $\Lambda_{01}$ and $\lambda_{01}$ , the estimated (cumulative) baseline hazard for the non-terminal event model.
Lambda02	List of two dataframes for estimated $\Lambda_{02}$ and $\lambda_{02}$ , the estimated (cumulative) baseline hazard for the terminal event without non-terminal event model.
Lambda03	List of two dataframes for estimated $\Lambda_{03}$ and $\lambda_{03}$ , the estimated (cumulative) baseline hazard for the terminal event following non-terminal event model.

**Examples**

```
n <- 500
set.seed(1234)
Cens = runif(n,0.7,0.9)
set.seed(1234)
OUT1 <- sim_cox_msm_semicmrsk(beta1 = 1,beta2 = 1,beta3 = 0.5,
                             sigma_2 = 1,
                             alpha0 = 0.5, alpha1 = 0.1, alpha2 = -0.1, alpha3 = -0.2,
                             n=n, Cens = Cens)

data_test <- OUT1$data0

## Get the PS weights
vars <- c("Z1","Z2","Z3")
ps1 <- doPS(data = data_test,
            Trt = "A",
            Trt.name = 1,
            VARS. = vars,
            logistic = TRUE)
w <- ps1$Data$ipw_ate_stab

### Fit the Usual Markov model
res1 <- usual_illness_death_weight(data = data_test,
                                   X1 = "X1",
                                   X2 = "X2",
                                   event1 = "delta1",
                                   event2 = "delta2",
                                   w = w,
                                   Trt = "A")

print(paste("The estimated value for beta1 is:", round(res1$beta1,5) ) )
```

---

`var_em_illness_death_phmm`*Variance of parameters in MSM Illness-death General Markov Model*

---

**Description**

Use bootstrap to obtain the variance estimator for parameters in MSM illness-death general markov model.

**Usage**

```
var_em_illness_death_phmm(data, sigma_2_0, VARS.)
```

**Arguments**

<code>data</code>	The output dataset from <code>em_illness_death_phmm_weight</code> .
<code>sigma_2_0</code>	Initial value for $\sigma^2$ , the variance of zero-mean normal frailty, usually starts with 1.
<code>VARs.</code>	Confounder sets.

**Details**

See `em_illness_death_phmm_weight`. In each bootstrap, the propensity score model needs to be re-fitted, and fit the MSM illness-death general markov model with new IP weights.

**Value**

List of bootstrap SE for all the parameters in the general Markov model



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