A statistical approach for the multi-stage model of carcinogenesis

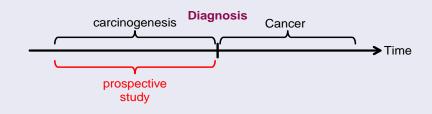
Sandra Plancade, University of Tromso, Norway. Gregory Nuel, University Paris-Descartes Eiliv Lund, University of Tromso.

28 February 2012



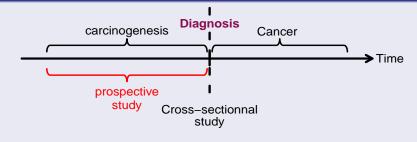
• Carcinogenesis: prior to diagnosis

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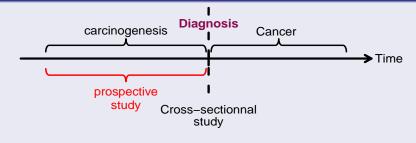
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- NOWAC: Prospective study

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- NOWAC: Prospective study
- Usually: gene expression studied in cross-sectional design.

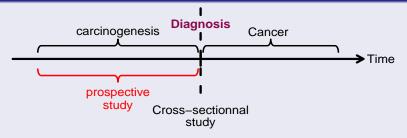
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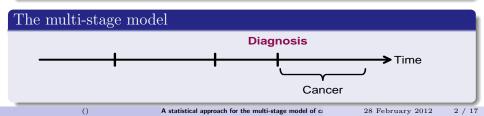
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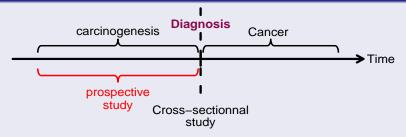
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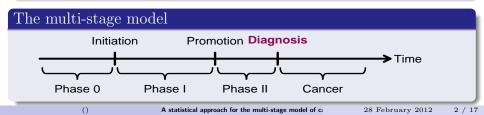


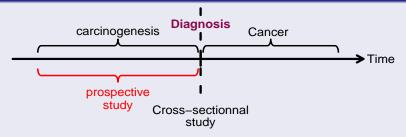
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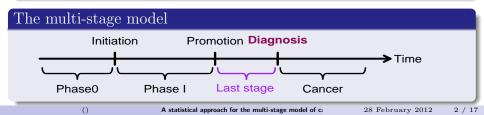


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- General statistical methods: survival analysis (e.g. Cox), gene-by-gene tests.
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- Causal modeling: complex system approach.
 - \hookrightarrow Recently developed
 - $\hookrightarrow {\sf Precise \ parametrization \ of \ biological/epidemiological \ phenomenons.}$
 - \hookrightarrow Use of prior information

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The results from these different approaches can be compared and reinforce/validate the biological model.







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2 The NOWAC data

3 The latent variable statistical model

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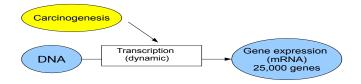
Transcription

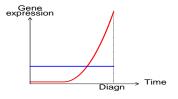


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Transcription

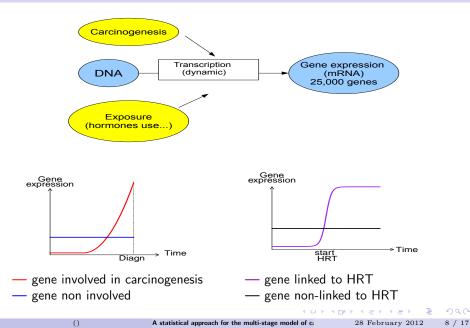


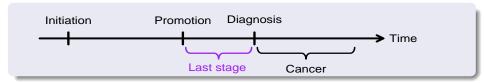


- gene involved in carcinogenesis
- gene non involved

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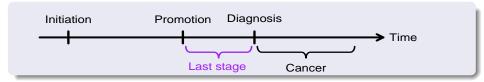
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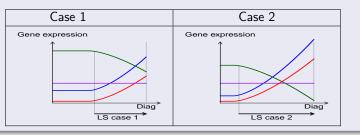
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Multi-stage model and gene expression

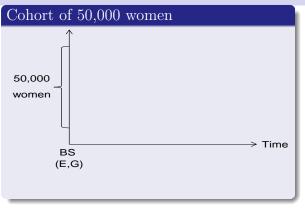
- At beginning of last stage, the genes involved in carcinogenesis start to over/under express.
- Random last stage length (=LS)

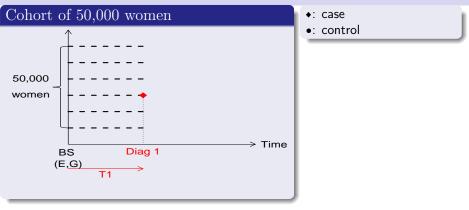




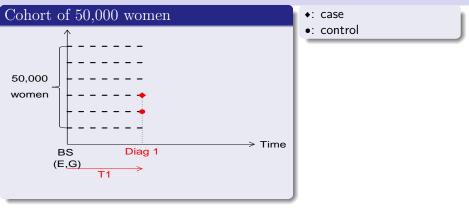
3 The latent variable statistical model

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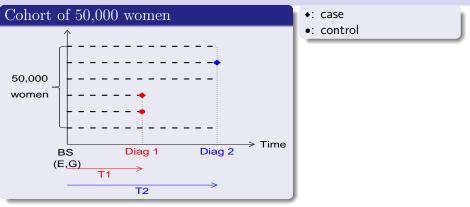




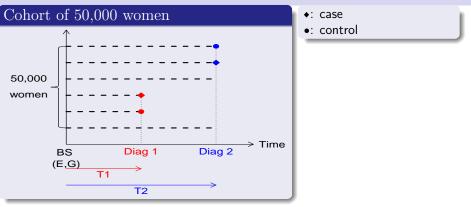
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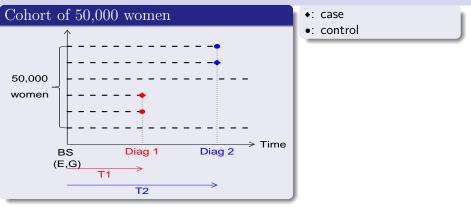
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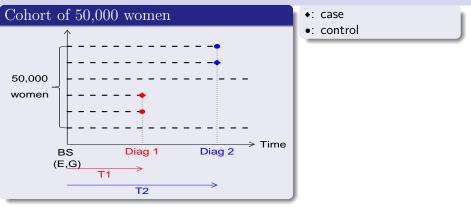
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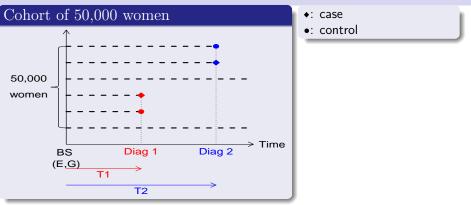
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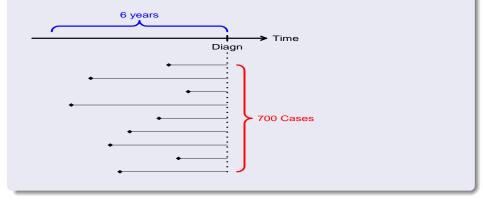


For each case-control pair:

- $(E^{\text{case}}, E^{\text{ctl}}) = \text{Exposure at time of BS}.$
- T = Follow-up time.
- DG = Difference of gene expression at time T before diagnosis (25,000 genes).

Set of data

- 6 years of follow-up.
- 700 case-control pairs.
- only one measurement by pair.



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3 The latent variable statistical model

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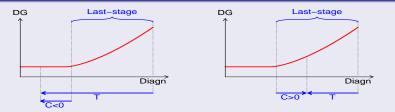
Gene expression



• Linear dependence on time.

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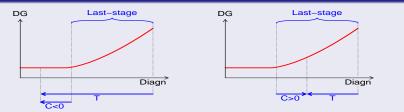
Gene expression



- Linear dependence on time.
- Let C = LS T, DG depends on C iif C > 0

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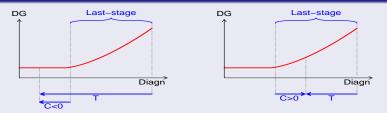
Gene expression



- Linear dependence on time.
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- The genes can be constantly differentially expressed before last stage.

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Gene expression



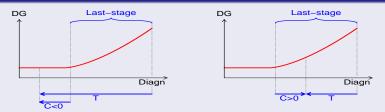
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The latent last-stage statistical model

Gene expression

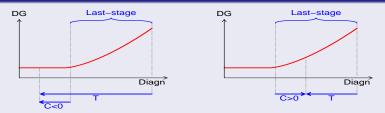


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- For each gene $g, \ DG^g \ = \ \beta_0^g \ + \ \langle \beta_1^g, DE \rangle + \beta_2^g C \mathbb{I}(C>0) \ + \ \varepsilon_g$

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The latent last-stage statistical model

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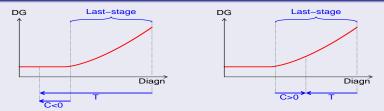
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The latent last-stage statistical model

Gene expression



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Last-stage length

 $LS \sim \Gamma(k,\theta) \text{, with } (k,\theta)$ dependent on the exposures of the case E^{case}

Estimation of the model

- Algorithm SEM (Simulated Expectation Maximization)
- Validation on simulated data

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Estimation of the model

- Algorithm SEM (Simulated Expectation Maximization)
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Primary goals

- Detect genes involved in the last stage (multiple testing).
- Estimate the distribution of the last stage depending on the exposures.

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Modeling of $P[DG|\overline{C, DE}]$

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Modeling of P[DG|C, DE]

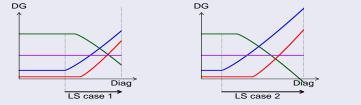
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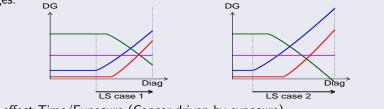
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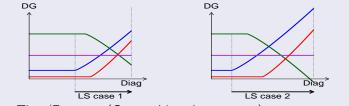


• Cross-effect Time/Exposure (Cancer driven by exposure).

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Modeling of P[DG|C, DE]

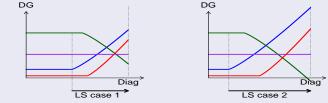
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- Dependence between genes: Statistical inference
 - A priori knowledge (Gene Ontology,...)

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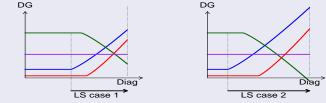


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Subgroups

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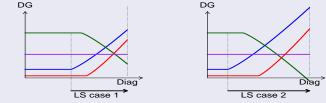
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Subgroups

- Classification by exposure/type of cancer
- Stratification/hierarchical model.

- Goal: study gene expression through the multi-stage model of carcinogenesis.
- Conceptual model based on biological modeling
- Good results on simulations but require development to be applied on experimental data.

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