# The Illness-Death Model in Family Studies 

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2018 BIRS
Banff, Calgary, Canada
August 9, 2018

## The Hereditary Nature of Disease

Inference regarding the hereditary nature of disease is initially based on the nature and extent of the within-family association in some feature of the disease process

Analysis are typically based on correlated (within-families) responses on disease status

Families are typically selected through identification of an affected individual called the proband resulting in a biased sampling scheme

Much work has been carried out for the analysis of biased samples of clustered binary responses

Cannings and Thompson (1977); Burton et al. (2000)

Illness-Death Models


Illness-Death Models


Offers a natural and helpful frame for joint modeling of disease onset and death

## Notation and Selection Conditions

Here we consider the selection conditions for the proband in a family study

- $B$ is calendar time of birth
- $R_{0}$ is date of screening and recruitment to a prevalent cohort study
- $R_{1}$ is date of proband sub-sampling for family study


## Sampling Conditions for Proband

Let $C_{0}=R_{0}-B$ denote the age at screening for a prevalent cohort and $A_{0}=R_{1}-B$ denote the age at proband sampling from the prevalent cohort

- Proband must be alive and diseased at age $C_{0}$ and $A_{0}$

Selection of Family Members to Proband


1. Clustered Illness-Death Model


## Notation

$X_{i j 1}$ is the age at disease onset for member $j$ of family $i$
$X_{i j 2}$ is the age at post-disease death for member $j$ of family $i$
$X_{i j 3}$ is the age at disease-free death for member $j$ of family $i$
$j=0, \ldots, m_{i}, i=1, \ldots, n_{F}$

## Family Data

$B_{i j}$ is birth data of member $j$ of family $i$, individual $(i, j)$
$V_{i j}$ are fixed covariates
$X_{i j k}$ is age at entry to state k for individual $(i, j)$
$Z_{i j}(s)$ is the state occupied for individual $(i, j)$ at age s

$$
\begin{aligned}
H_{i j}(a) & =\left\{Z_{i j}(s), 0<s<a, B_{i j}, V_{i j}\right\} \\
& \quad \lim _{\Delta a \downarrow 0} \frac{P\left(Z_{i j}\left(a+\Delta a^{-}\right)=k \mid Z_{i j}\left(a^{-}\right)=h, H_{i j}(a)\right)}{\Delta a}=\lambda_{i j k}\left(t, a \mid H_{i j}(a)\right)
\end{aligned}
$$

with $t=B_{i j}+a$ and $(h, k) \in\{(0,1),(0,3),(1,2)\}$

## A Markov Proportional Intensity Model

Assume the disease process is Markov given $\left(B_{i j}, V_{i j}\right)$ so

$$
\lambda_{i j k}\left(t, a \mid H_{i j}(a)\right)=\lambda_{k}\left(t, a \mid b_{i j}, v_{i j}\right), \quad k=1,2,3
$$

## Disease Intensity

$$
\lambda_{1}\left(t, a \mid b_{i j}, v_{i j}\right)=\lambda_{1}(a) \exp \left(v_{i j}^{\prime} \beta_{1}\right)
$$

## Mortality

Allow calendar time trends and set

$$
\begin{aligned}
\lambda_{3}\left(t, a \mid b_{i j}, v_{i j}\right) & =\lambda_{3}\left(t, a \mid b_{i j}\right) \\
\lambda_{2}\left(t, a \mid b_{i j}, v_{i j}\right) & =\lambda_{3}\left(t, a \mid b_{i j}\right) \nu_{0}(a) \exp \left(v_{i j}^{\prime} \beta_{2}\right)
\end{aligned}
$$

## Joint Models for Age at Disease Onset

Let $\boldsymbol{B}_{i}=\left(B_{i 0}, \ldots, B_{i m_{i}}\right)^{\prime}$ and $\boldsymbol{V}_{i}=\left(V_{i 0}, \ldots, V_{i m_{i}}\right)^{\prime}$

Copula Models with Latent Variable Framework

$$
P\left(X_{i 01}>a_{0}, \ldots, X_{i m_{i} 1}>a_{m_{i}} \mid \boldsymbol{V}_{i} ; \varphi\right)=\mathcal{C}\left(\mathcal{F}\left(a_{0} \mid V_{i 0} ; \phi_{1}\right), \ldots, \mathcal{F}\left(a_{m_{i}} \mid V_{i m_{i}} ; \phi_{1}\right) ; \rho\right)
$$

where $\varphi=\left(\phi_{1}^{\prime}, \rho\right)^{\prime}$
Let $\phi=\left(\phi_{1}^{\prime}, \phi_{2}^{\prime}\right)^{\prime}$ where $\phi_{2}$ is a parameter vector for the transition from the disease to the death state and $\psi=\left(\phi^{\prime}, \rho\right)$

The Cross Ratio for Age at Onset with Pair $j$ and $k$

$$
\theta\left(a_{j}, a_{k}\right)=\frac{\lambda_{1}\left(a_{k} \mid X_{i j 1}=a_{j} ; \boldsymbol{V}_{i}, \varphi\right)}{\lambda_{1}\left(a_{k} \mid X_{i j 1}>a_{j} ; \boldsymbol{V}_{i}, \varphi\right)}
$$

## Cause-specific Cross Ratio for Age at Onset

We are really in a semi-competing risk setting, so make two additional assumptions:
A. 1 Independent semi-competing risks: $X_{i j 1} \perp X_{i j 3} \mid V_{i j}$
A. $2 X_{i j 3} \perp\left\{Z_{i k}(s), 0<s\right\} \mid \boldsymbol{B}_{i}, \boldsymbol{V}_{i}$ for $j \neq k$

Then

$$
\theta_{1}\left(a_{j}, a_{k}\right)=\frac{\lambda_{1}\left(a_{k} \mid X_{i j 1}=a_{j}, X_{i j 3}>a_{j} ; \boldsymbol{B}_{i}, \boldsymbol{V}_{i}, \varphi\right)}{\lambda_{1}\left(a_{k} \mid X_{i j 1}>a_{j}, X_{i j 3}>a_{j} ; \boldsymbol{B}_{i}, \boldsymbol{V}_{i}, \varphi\right)}=\theta\left(a_{j}, a_{k}\right)
$$

Cross-Odds Ratio

$$
\pi(a)=\frac{O D D S\left(X_{i k 1} \leq a, X_{i k 1}<X_{i k 3} \mid X_{i j 1} \leq a, X_{i j 1}<X_{i j 3} ; \boldsymbol{B}_{i}, \boldsymbol{V}_{i}, \varphi\right)}{O D D S\left(X_{i k 1} \leq a, X_{i k 1}<X_{i k 3}, B_{i k}, V_{i k}, \phi_{1}\right)}
$$

## 2. Biased Sampling and Likelihood Construction

Family studies are recruited through affected individuals (the proband); subscript 0

## Lexis Diagram for Family Data


$B_{i 0}$ : Date of birth for the proband
$C_{i 0}$ : Age of the proband at registry selection
$T_{i 0}$ : Age at onset of the proband
$A_{i 0}$ : Age of the proband at family selection
$B_{i j}$ : Date of birth for non-proband
$A_{i j}$ : Age of non-proband at family selection
$\boldsymbol{A}_{i}=\left(A_{i 0}, \ldots, A_{i m_{i}}\right)$ for family size $m_{i}+1$

## Likelihood Construction

$\boldsymbol{Z}_{i}\left(\boldsymbol{s}_{i}\right)=\left(Z_{i 0}\left(s_{i 0}\right), Z_{i 1}\left(s_{i 1}\right), \ldots, Z_{i m_{i}}\left(s_{i m_{i}}\right)\right)^{\prime}$ with $\boldsymbol{s}_{i}=\left(s_{i 0}, \ldots, s_{i m_{i}}\right)^{\prime}$
$\bar{Z}_{i j}(s)=\left\{Z_{i j}(u), 0<u<s ; B_{i j}\right\}$
$\overline{\boldsymbol{Z}}_{i}\left(s_{i}\right)=\left\{Z_{i j}(u), 0<u<s_{i j}, j=0, \ldots, m_{i} ; \boldsymbol{B}_{i}\right\}$

## Biased selection (ALIVE AND Diseased) of Proband

Left truncated death and right-truncated disease onset time

$$
L_{i 0}(\phi)=P\left(\bar{Z}_{i 0}\left(A_{i 0}\right) \mid Z_{i 0}\left(C_{i 0}\right)=1, C_{i 0}, B_{i 0}, V_{i 0} ; \phi\right)
$$

P (proband's history I proband alive and diseased at RO)

## Biased selection (alive) of non-Probands

$L_{i}^{I I}(\psi) \propto L_{i 0}(\phi) P\left(\overline{\boldsymbol{Z}}_{i}^{-}\left(\boldsymbol{A}_{i}^{-}\right) \mid \bar{Z}_{i 0}\left(A_{i 0}\right), Z_{i 0}\left(A_{i 0}\right)=1, \boldsymbol{Z}_{i}^{-}\left(\boldsymbol{A}_{i}^{-}\right) \in\{0,1\}^{m_{i}}, \boldsymbol{A}_{i}, \boldsymbol{B}_{i}, \boldsymbol{V}_{i} ; \psi\right)$

> P(non-probands' histories I proband alive and diseased at R0)

## Pairwise Conditional Composite Likelihood Construction

We wish to avoid calculating

$$
P\left(\bar{Z}_{i 0}\left(A_{i 0}\right), Z_{i 0}\left(A_{i 0}\right)=1, \boldsymbol{Z}_{i}\left(\boldsymbol{A}_{i}\right) \in\{0,1\}^{m_{i}}, \boldsymbol{A}_{i}, \boldsymbol{B}_{i}, \boldsymbol{V}_{i}\right)
$$

The composite likelihood is
Varin et al. (2011)

$$
\begin{equation*}
C L(\psi) \propto \prod_{i=1}^{n_{F}} L_{i 0}(\phi) \prod_{1 \leq j<l \leq m_{i}}\left\{L_{i j l}^{I I}(\psi)\right\}^{\frac{1}{m_{i}-1}} \tag{1}
\end{equation*}
$$

where

$$
L_{i j l}^{I I}(\psi)=P\left(\overline{\boldsymbol{Z}}_{i j l}^{-}\left(\boldsymbol{A}_{i j l}^{-}\right) \mid \bar{Z}_{i 0}\left(A_{i 0}\right), Z_{i 0}\left(A_{i 0}\right)=1, \boldsymbol{Z}_{i j l}^{-}\left(\boldsymbol{A}_{i j l}^{-}\right) \in\{0,1\}^{2}, \boldsymbol{A}_{i j l}, \boldsymbol{B}_{i j l}, \boldsymbol{V}_{i j l} ; \psi\right)
$$

- $\overline{\boldsymbol{Z}}_{i j l}\left(s_{i j l}\right)=\left\{Z_{i h}(u), 0<u<s_{i h}, h=0, j, l ; \boldsymbol{B}_{i j l}\right\}$

$$
\begin{gathered}
\boldsymbol{A}_{i j l}=\left(A_{i 0}, A_{i j}, A_{i l}\right)^{\prime} \\
\boldsymbol{V}_{i j l}=\left(V_{i 0}^{\prime}, V_{i j}^{\prime}, V_{i l}^{\prime}\right)^{\prime}
\end{gathered}
$$

## 3. Use of Auxiliary Data to Augment likelihood

Auxiliary data are critical because

- proband simply gives a right-truncated onset time
- low incidence of disease among non-probands
- $\lambda_{3}(\cdot, \cdot)$ and $\lambda_{2}(\cdot, \cdot)$ are inestimable from the family data alone

The combination of data from different sources have been suggested

- for case-control studies

Pfeiffer et al (2008), Zheng et al (2010)

- for twin-based studies

We consider

- a registry data (with follow-up) $\longrightarrow \lambda_{2}($ )
- a cross-sectional survey yielding current status data $\longrightarrow \lambda_{1}()$
- a national statistics for mortality rate $\longrightarrow \lambda_{3}()$


## Augmented Likelihood Construction

$\mathcal{A}_{1}, \mathcal{A}_{2}$ is the set of individuals in the registry and the cross-sectional survey
$X_{r 1}$ is the age at onset, $X_{r 2}$ is the age at death following disease (if available)
$C_{r}$ is the age at recruitment and $A_{r}^{*}=\min \left(C_{r}^{*}, X_{r 2}\right)$ with $C_{r}^{*}$ the last assessment time

We multiply $C L(\psi)$ in (1) by $L_{\mathcal{A}_{1}} \times L_{\mathcal{A}_{2}}$ where

$$
\begin{aligned}
L_{\mathcal{A}_{1}} \propto & \prod_{r}^{n_{R}} P\left(\bar{Z}_{r}\left(A_{r}^{*}\right) \mid Z_{r}\left(C_{r}\right)=1, C_{r}, B_{r}, V_{r}\right) \\
L_{\mathcal{A}_{2}} \propto & \prod_{r}^{n_{S}} P\left(Z_{r}\left(C_{r}\right)=0 \mid Z_{r}\left(C_{r}\right) \in\{0,1\}, B_{r}, V_{r}\right)^{I\left(Z_{r}\left(C_{r}\right)=0\right)} \\
& \quad \times P\left(Z_{r}\left(C_{r}\right)=1 \mid Z_{r}\left(C_{r}\right) \in\{0,1\}, B_{r}, V_{r}\right)^{I\left(Z_{r}\left(C_{r}\right)=1\right)}
\end{aligned}
$$

## Canadian National Mortality Rates over $(t, a)$

Assume $\lambda_{3}(\cdot, \cdot)$ are given by the population mortality rates (Statistics Canada and Robert, 2017)


Figure 1: Age-specific population mortality rates by calender period, Canada, 1921-2011
4. Assessment of Genetic Risk Factors

## Genotype Variable

$G_{i j}$ are genotype (gene carrier indicator)
$P\left(G_{i j}=0\right)=(1-p)^{2}, P\left(G_{i j}=1\right)=p^{2}+2 p(1-p)$ with the allele frequency $p$
$\boldsymbol{G}_{i}=\left(G_{i 0}, \ldots, G_{i m_{i}}\right)^{\prime}$
$W_{i j}=\left(V_{i j}^{\prime}, G_{i j}\right)^{\prime}$ and $\boldsymbol{W}_{i}=\left(\boldsymbol{V}_{i}^{\prime}, \boldsymbol{G}_{i}^{\prime}\right)^{\prime}$
The transition intensities are given as

$$
\lambda_{l}\left(t, a \mid b_{i j}, w_{i j}\right) \quad \text { for } l=1,2,3
$$

| Assumptions | Population satisfies |
| :---: | :--- |
| 1 | Hardy-Weinberg Equilibrium and Mendel's law |
| 2 | $G_{i j} \perp V_{i j}$ |
| 3 | $\bar{Z}_{i j}(s) \perp G_{i k} \mid G_{i j}$ for $j \neq k$ |
| 4 | $\lambda_{3}\left(t, a \mid b_{i j}, w_{i j}\right)=\lambda_{3}\left(t, a \mid b_{i j}\right), \quad \lambda_{2}\left(t, a \mid b_{i j}, w_{i j}\right)=\lambda_{2}\left(t, a \mid b_{i j}, v_{i j}\right)$ |

## Missing Genotype

- No genetic information in the current status data
- No available genotype data for non-probands who died before study

With missing genotype, we model $G_{i j}$ with allele frequency $p$

## Pairwise Conditional Composite Likelihood

$$
\begin{gathered}
L_{i 0}(\phi)=P\left(\bar{Z}_{i 0}\left(A_{i 0}\right), G_{i 0} \mid Z_{i 0}\left(C_{i 0}\right)=1, C_{i 0}, B_{i 0}, V_{i 0} ; \phi\right) \\
L_{i j l}^{I I}(\psi)=P\left(\overline{\boldsymbol{Z}}_{i j l}^{-}\left(\boldsymbol{A}_{i j l}^{-}\right), \boldsymbol{G}_{i j l}^{-} \mid \bar{Z}_{i 0}\left(A_{i 0}\right), Z_{i 0}\left(A_{i 0}\right)=1, G_{i 0}, \boldsymbol{Z}_{i j l}^{-}\left(\boldsymbol{A}_{i j l}^{-}\right) \in\{0,1\}^{2}, \boldsymbol{A}_{i j l}, \boldsymbol{B}_{i j l}, \boldsymbol{V}_{i j l} ; \psi\right)
\end{gathered}
$$

where $\boldsymbol{G}_{i j l}=\left(G_{i 0}, G_{i j}, G_{i l}\right)^{\prime}$

## Auxiliary Data

$G_{r}$ denote genotype of individual $r$ in $\mathcal{A}_{1}$ or $\mathcal{A}_{2}$

$$
\begin{aligned}
& L_{\mathcal{A}_{1, r}} \propto P\left(\bar{Z}_{r}\left(A_{r}^{*}\right), G_{r} \mid Z_{r}\left(C_{r}\right)=1, C_{r}, B_{r}, V_{r}\right) \\
& L_{\mathcal{A}_{2, r}} \propto \prod_{h \in\{0,1\}} E_{G_{r} \mid Z_{r}\left(C_{r}\right) \in\{0,1\}}\left[P\left(Z_{r}\left(C_{r}\right)=h \mid Z_{r}\left(C_{r}\right) \in\{0,1\}, B_{r}, G_{r}, V_{r}\right)\right]^{I\left(Z_{r}\left(C_{r}\right)=h\right)}
\end{aligned}
$$

## Simulations with Genotype

## Family Data

Family size: 4 or 6 members with 2 parents and 2 or 4 children; $P\left(m_{i}+1=4\right)=2 / 3$

The date of birth: the uniform dist $(1920,1950)$ if a parent or $(1950,1980)$ otherwise
The affected individual recruitment date: the uniform dist (1980, 2010)

The family sampling date on July 1st of 2010
$G_{i j}$ is the gene mutation with the allele frequency $p=0.06$
Generate $G_{i}$ based on the family structure
$\lambda_{1}\left(a \mid W_{i j}\right)=\lambda_{01} \exp \left(G_{i j} \alpha\right)$ with $\lambda_{01}=0.01$ and $\alpha=\log (1.5)$
$\lambda_{02}(t, a)=\nu \lambda_{03}(t, a)$ with $\nu=1.1$

## Auxiliary Data

Registry data: follow-up by July 1st of 2010 with the record of death post disease Current status survey data: the date of birth from the uniform dist $(1930,1980)$ and the sampling date as July 1st of 2000

SAmple Size
$n_{F}=1000, n_{R}=2000, n_{S}=1000$

Design
Not Modeling $G_{i}$ :
(i) Family studies + Registry (All genotype is available)

Modeling $G_{i}$ :
(ii) Family studies + Registry + Survey w/ missing genotype

## Empirical Properties of Estimates

TABLE 1: Two sources of auxiliary data: the registry follow-up data and the current status survey data; Clayton copula with Kendall's $\tau=0.2,0.4 ; n_{F}=1000, n_{R}=2000, n_{S}=1000$, and $n s i m=1000$

| $\tau$ | PARAMETER | Registry Data |  |  |  | Registry + Current Status Data |  |  |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  |  | EBIAS | ESE | ASE | ECP | EBIAS | ESE | ASE | ECP |
| 0.2 | $\log \left(\lambda_{01}\right)$ | 0.001 | 0.061 | 0.064 | 0.951 | -0.000 | 0.042 | 0.042 | 0.941 |
|  | $\alpha$ | -0.003 | 0.070 | 0.071 | 0.953 | -0.003 | 0.065 | 0.065 | 0.949 |
|  | $\log (\nu)$ | -0.001 | 0.047 | 0.046 | 0.951 | -0.001 | 0.046 | 0.046 | 0.949 |
|  | $\log (p)$ | - | - | - | - | 0.002 | 0.055 | 0.055 | 0.949 |
|  | $\tau$ | 0.000 | 0.030 | 0.032 | 0.956 | 0.001 | 0.024 | 0.024 | 0.952 |
| 0.4 | $\log \left(\lambda_{01}\right)$ | 0.004 | 0.081 | 0.082 | 0.955 | 0.001 | 0.046 | 0.045 | 0.951 |
|  | $\alpha$ | -0.001 | 0.063 | 0.062 | 0.949 | -0.002 | 0.059 | 0.058 | 0.948 |
|  | $\log (\nu)$ | -0.002 | 0.047 | 0.046 | 0.948 | -0.002 | 0.046 | 0.046 | 0.950 |
|  | $\log (p)$ | - | - | - | - | 0.002 | 0.053 | 0.053 | 0.942 |
|  | $\tau$ | -0.001 | 0.035 | 0.035 | 0.949 | 0.001 | 0.023 | 0.023 | 0.941 |

## 5. Application to Psoriatic Arthritis (PsA) Family Studies

PsA is an immune-mediated inflammatory disease occurring commonly in patients with psoriasis

The Centre for Prognosis Studies in Rheumatic Disease at the University of Toronto was established in 1976 and has been following patients since its formation

To date in April of 2017, a total of 1436 patients in the Toronto Registry include a number of 150 proband sampled for the family study

We have 168 pseudo families where two-generation families are considered with a total of 532 individuals for the family study

Patients with PsA are at higher risk for death compared to the general population of Ontario with a standardised mortality ratio of 1.36

Gladman (2008)
A total of 15307 respondents are sampled for a U.S. national survey of the National Psoriasis Foundation in 2001

## Lexis Diagram for a family

Family: One proband with parents


Figure 2: Lexis diagram for a family with 3 members; one proband and parents

TABLE 2: Estimates of parameters based on the augmented pairwise likelihood; auxiliary data include the University of Toronto Psoriatic Arthritis Registry and the survey from Gelfand et al. (2005) without/with genotype variable under the Exponential model and piecewise constant marginal model for age at PsA onset with a cut point 40.

| MARKER | $\alpha_{\text {marker }}$ | $\nu$ | $\tau$ | $p_{\text {marker }}$ |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| - | - | $1.152(0.016)$ | $0.362(0.083)$ | - |
| B27 | $0.605(0.239)$ | $1.155(0.080)$ | $0.345(0.085)$ | $0.054(0.012)$ |
| C06 | $0.117(0.086)$ | $1.155(0.060)$ | $0.362(0.089)$ | $0.115(0.011)$ |

- $\hat{\nu}=1.152$; the ratio of the hazard of death post-PsA to PsA-free death is 1.152
- $\hat{\tau}=0.362$ ( $95 \%$ CI: 0.199, 0.525; p value $<0.001$ )
- $\hat{\theta}=2.134$ ( $95 \%$ CI: 1.354, 2.914; p value $<0.001$ )
- HLA-B27 effect on PsA onset

$$
R R=1.831 ; 95 \% \text { CI: } 0.137,1.073 ; \mathrm{p}=0.011
$$

Figure 3: The cross-odds ratio for two siblings born at the same year 1930, 1940, 1950, 1960 (the right panel) and a child born at 1930, 1940, 1950, 1960 given a parent born at 1905, 1915, 1925, 1935 (the left panel) based on the fitted model with no genetic marker



Figure 4: The marginal probability of death and the cumulative incidence function of PsA by the year of birth at 1930, 1940, 1950, 1960 based on the fitted model with no genetic marker

## Concluding Remarks

Within family dependence in disease process must be modeled to account for selection bias

Less well-studied is the survival bias from requiring individuals (probands and nonprobands) to live until the conduct of the family study if they must be examined for disease status

Modeling dependencies in the context of the illness death model is challenging

Identifiability issues require auxiliary data which enable one to fit appropriate models

Tests for genetic associations with disease onset perform well

Score tests are being developed for genetic associations

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