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# Supplementary file S3 (R codes example)
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#####  
# G-computation versus propensity score-based methods  
#  
# Establish a comparable control arm for a single-arm clinical trial  
# (Cope with baseline covariates only)  
#-----  
#Data set  
# C: fixed baseline covariate, e.g. age  
# L0: time-varying covariate at baseline, e.g. ECOG performance status 0-1 vs 2+  
# A0: time-varying covariate at baseline, e.g. treatment  
# Ya: continuous outcome, e.g. mobility score  
# Yb: binary outcome, e.g. treatment response  
# Yc: time-to-event outcome, e.g. overall survival  
# D: randomly censoring outcome, e.g. 1-Death  
#####
```

```
library(broom) # for making model summary tidy  
library(simstudy) # for simulation data set  
library(tidyverse) # multiple packages for visualize and manage data e.g. ggplot2, dplyr  
library(RISCA) # for g-computation with binary and time to event outcomes  
library(gfoRmula) # for g-computation for time-varying treatment  
library(plotly) # to plot interactive graphs  
library(simhelpers) # to summarize the simulation results  
library(kableExtra) # to create a kable table  
library(data.table) # for data manipulation operations  
library(SuperLearner) # to utilize super learning for estimation  
library(ltmle) # longitudinal Targeted Maximum Likelihood Estimation (doubly robust method)
```

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#-----  
#Step 1: Create a data set (with treatment effect)  
#consider as a target population  
#-----
```

```
set.seed(123)  
defMSM<- defData(varname = "U", formula = 0.5, variance = 1, dist = "normal")  
  
defMSM<- defData(defMSM, varname = "C", formula = 50, variance = 50, dist = "normal")  
  
defMSM<- defData(defMSM, varname = "e0", formula = 0, variance = 2, dist = "normal")  
defMSM<- defData(defMSM, varname = "L0", formula = "-2.66+ U*2 + e0",  
  dist = "binary", link = "logit")  
  
defMSM<- defData(defMSM, varname = "e1", formula = 0, variance = 1, dist = "normal")  
defMSM<- defData(defMSM, varname = "A0", formula = "-13.42 + L0*1.5 + C*0.25 + e1",  
  dist = "binary", link = "logit")  
  
defMSM<- defData(defMSM, varname = "e2", formula = 0, variance = 4, dist = "normal")  
defMSM<- defData(defMSM, varname = "Ya",  
  formula = "50 - C*0.1 - U*1.5 + A0*4 + e2",  
  dist = "nonrandom")
```

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defMSM<- defData(defMSM, varname = "e3", formula = 0, variance = 4, dist = "normal")
defMSM<- defData(defMSM, varname = "Yb",
  formula = "2.5 - C*0.05 - U*1 + A0*2 + e3",
  dist = "binary", link = "logit")

defMSM<- defData(defMSM, varname = "X", formula = "0;1", dist = "uniform")
defMSM<- defData(defMSM, varname = "e4", formula = 0, variance = 0.4, dist = "normal")
defMSM<- defData(defMSM, varname = "Yc",
  formula = "(-log(X)*exp(5.0 - C*0.03 - U*0.25 - A0*log(1/3) + e4))^(1/1.2)",
  dist = "nonrandom")
defMSM<- defData(defMSM, varname = "D",
  formula = 0.8,
  dist = "binary")

```

```

defMSM
dt <- genData(20000, defMSM)

```

```

#-----
#Step 2: set up the true effect
#-----

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```

# Mean difference
fit_ya <- glm(Ya ~ A0 + L0 + U + C, data=dt)
true_ya = matrix(fit_ya$coefficients)[2,1]

```

```

# Odds Ratio
fit_yb<- glm(Yb ~ A0 + L0 + U + C, family=quasibinomial("logit"), data=dt)
gc.yb<- gc.logistic(glm.obj=fit_yb, data=dt, group="A0", effect="ATE",
  var.method='bootstrap', iterations=2, n.cluster=1)
true_yb = gc.yb$logOR[1]

```

```

# Hazard ratio
fit_yc<- coxph(Surv(Yc, D) ~ A0 + U + C, data=dt)
gc.yc<- gc.survival(coxph.obj=fit_yc, data=dt, group="A0", time='Yc', failure='D', effect="ATE",
  max.time=max(dt$Yc), iterations=2, n.cluster=1)
true_yc = gc.yc$logHR[1]

```

```

#-----
#Step 3: sampling and calculation
#-----

```

```

#Initial value
n_sim = 3000
n_patients = 200
n_methods = 7
output_ya = data.frame(matrix(data=NA, n_sim*n_methods, 4))
output_yb = data.frame(matrix(data=NA, n_sim*n_methods, 4))
output_yc = data.frame(matrix(data=NA, n_sim*n_methods, 4))
colnames(output_ya)<- c("Model", "A0_est", "A0_lower", "A0_upper")
colnames(output_yb)<- c("Model", "A0_est", "A0_lower", "A0_upper")
colnames(output_yc)<- c("Model", "A0_est", "A0_lower", "A0_upper")
for (i in 1:n_sim){

```

```

sim = dt[dt$Sid %in% sample(dt$Sid, n_patients, replace = F),]
#Method 1: Multivariable linear regression
fit_ya = glm(Ya ~ A0 + L0 + C, data = sim)
output_ya[1+n_methods*(i-1), 1] = "MLR"
output_ya[1+n_methods*(i-1), 2] = fit_ya$coefficients[2]
output_ya[1+n_methods*(i-1), 3:4] = confint.default(fit_ya)[2, 1:2]
fit_yb = glm(Yb ~ A0 + L0 + C, family=quasibinomial("logit"), data = sim)
output_yb[1+n_methods*(i-1), 1] = "MLR"
output_yb[1+n_methods*(i-1), 2] = fit_yb$coefficients[2]
output_yb[1+n_methods*(i-1), 3:4] = confint.default(fit_yb)[2, 1:2]
fit_yc = coxph(Surv(Yc, D) ~ A0 + L0 + C, data = sim)
output_yc[1+n_methods*(i-1), 1] = "MLR"
output_yc[1+n_methods*(i-1), 2] = fit_yc$coefficients[1]
output_yc[1+n_methods*(i-1), 3:4] = confint.default(fit_yc)[1, 1:2]

#Method 2: Propensity score-based
# function to convert propensity scores to IPW
fitA0 <- glm(A0 ~ L0 + C, data = sim, family=binomial)
sim[, predA0 := predict(fitA0, type = "response")]
getWeight <- function(predA0, actA0, method) {
  if(method==1){
    wt <- 1/ (actA0*predA0 + (1-actA0)*(1-predA0)) # IPTW
  }else if(method==2){
    wt <- actA0*(1-predA0) + (1-actA0)*predA0 # Overlapping weighting
  }else if(method==3){
    wt <- actA0*1 + (1-actA0)*predA0/(1-predA0) # SMR
  }
  return(wt)
}
sim[, iptw:= getWeight(predA0, A0, 1)]
sim[, ow:= getWeight(predA0, A0, 2)]
sim[, smr:= getWeight(predA0, A0, 3)]
sim=data.table(sim)

#PS-IPTW
fit_ya = glm(Ya ~ A0, weights = iptw, data = sim)
output_ya[2+n_methods*(i-1), 1] = "PS_IPTW"
output_ya[2+n_methods*(i-1), 2] = fit_ya$coefficients[2]
output_ya[2+n_methods*(i-1), 3:4] = confint.default(fit_ya)[2, 1:2]
fit_yb = glm(Yb ~ A0, family=quasibinomial("logit"), weights = iptw, data = sim)
output_yb[2+n_methods*(i-1), 1] = "PS_IPTW"
output_yb[2+n_methods*(i-1), 2] = fit_yb$coefficients[2]
output_yb[2+n_methods*(i-1), 3:4] = confint.default(fit_yb)[2, 1:2]
fit_yc = coxph(Surv(Yc, D) ~ A0, weights = iptw, data = sim)
output_yc[2+n_methods*(i-1), 1] = "PS_IPTW"
output_yc[2+n_methods*(i-1), 2] = fit_yc$coefficients[1]
output_yc[2+n_methods*(i-1), 3:4] = confint.default(fit_yc)[1, 1:2]

#PS-OW
fit_ya = glm(Ya ~ A0, weights = ow, data = sim)
output_ya[3+n_methods*(i-1), 1] = "PS_OW"
output_ya[3+n_methods*(i-1), 2] = fit_ya$coefficients[2]
output_ya[3+n_methods*(i-1), 3:4] = confint.default(fit_ya)[2, 1:2]
fit_yb = glm(Yb ~ A0, family=quasibinomial("logit"), weights = ow, data = sim)

```

```

output_yb[3+n_methods*(i-1), 1] = "PS_OW"
output_yb[3+n_methods*(i-1), 2] = fit_yb$coefficients[2]
output_yb[3+n_methods*(i-1), 3:4] = confint.default(fit_yb)[2, 1:2]
fit_yc = coxph(Surv(Yc, D) ~ A0, weights = ow, data = sim)
output_yc[3+n_methods*(i-1), 1] = "PS_OW"
output_yc[3+n_methods*(i-1), 2] = fit_yc$coefficients[1]
output_yc[3+n_methods*(i-1), 3:4] = confint.default(fit_yc)[1, 1:2]

```

#### #PS-SMR

```

fit_ya = glm(Ya ~ A0, weights = smr, data = sim)
output_ya[4+n_methods*(i-1), 1] = "PS_SMR"
output_ya[4+n_methods*(i-1), 2] = fit_ya$coefficients[2]
output_ya[4+n_methods*(i-1), 3:4] = confint.default(fit_ya)[2, 1:2]
fit_yb = glm(Yb ~ A0, family=quasibinomial("logit"), weights = smr, data = sim)
output_yb[4+n_methods*(i-1), 1] = "PS_SMR"
output_yb[4+n_methods*(i-1), 2] = fit_yb$coefficients[2]
output_yb[4+n_methods*(i-1), 3:4] = confint.default(fit_yb)[2, 1:2]
fit_yc = coxph(Surv(Yc, D) ~ A0, weights = smr, data = sim)
output_yc[4+n_methods*(i-1), 1] = "PS_SMR"
output_yc[4+n_methods*(i-1), 2] = fit_yc$coefficients[1]
output_yc[4+n_methods*(i-1), 3:4] = confint.default(fit_yc)[1, 1:2]

```

#### #Method 3: G-computation

#Bootstrap (re-sampling) for Ya

```

ya_boots = matrix(NA, 100, 1)
for (j in 1:100) {
  id <- sort(sample(unique(sim$id), 1*length(unique(sim$id)), replace=T)) #Bootstrap (with replacement)
  id <- data.frame(cbind(id, IDNEW=c(1:length(id))))
  sim_ya <- merge(sim, id, by="id")

  fit_ya <- glm(Ya ~ A0 + L0 + C, data = sim_ya)
  sim1 = sim_ya
  sim1$A0 = 1
  sim0 = sim_ya
  sim0$A0 = 0
  ya_boots[j, 1] = mean(predict(fit_ya, sim1)) - mean(predict(fit_ya, sim0))
}
output_ya[5+n_methods*(i-1), 1] = "GC"
output_ya[5+n_methods*(i-1), 2] = mean(ya_boots)
output_ya[5+n_methods*(i-1), 3] = mean(ya_boots) - qnorm(0.975)*sqrt(cov(ya_boots))
output_ya[5+n_methods*(i-1), 4] = mean(ya_boots) + qnorm(0.975)*sqrt(cov(ya_boots))

```

```

fit_yb <- glm(Yb ~ A0 + L0 + C, family=quasibinomial("logit"), data = sim)
gc.yb <- gc.logistic(glm.obj=fit_yb, data = sim, group="A0", effect="ATE",
  var.method='bootstrap', iterations=100, n.cluster=1)
output_yb[5+n_methods*(i-1), 1] = "GC"
output_yb[5+n_methods*(i-1), 2] = gc.yb$logOR[,1]
output_yb[5+n_methods*(i-1), 3:4] = gc.yb$logOR[,3:4]

```

```

fit_yc <- coxph(Surv(Yc, D) ~ A0 + L0 + C, data = sim)
gc.yc <- gc.survival(coxph.obj=fit_yc, data = sim, group="A0", time='Yc', failure='D', effect="ATE",
  max.time=max(sim$Yc), iterations=100, n.cluster=1)
output_yc[5+n_methods*(i-1), 1] = "GC"
output_yc[5+n_methods*(i-1), 2] = gc.yc$logHR[,1]

```

```

output_yc[5+n_methods*(i-1), 3:4] = gc.yc$logHR[,3:4]

#Method 4: Doubly robust estimator (TMLE)
#Treatment at baseline: A0
Anodes = c("A0")
#Censoring indicator: D
Cnodes = c("Censor")
#Outcome: Y
Ynodes = c("Y")

sim_ya <- data.frame(W1=sim$C, W2=sim$L0, A0=sim$A0, Y=sim$Ya)
suppressWarnings(suppressMessages(
  fit_ya <- ltmle(sim_ya, Anodes = Anodes, Lnodes = NULL, Ynodes = Ynodes, abar =list(1,0), SL.library =
"default", gcomp = F)
))
output_ya[6+n_methods*(i-1), 1] = "TMLE"
output_ya[6+n_methods*(i-1), 2] = summary(fit_ya)[["effect.measures"]][["ATE"]][["estimate"]]
output_ya[6+n_methods*(i-1), 3:4] = summary(fit_ya)[["effect.measures"]][["ATE"]][["CI"]]

sim_yb <- data.frame(W1=sim$C, W2=sim$L0, A0=sim$A0, Y=sim$Yb)
suppressWarnings(suppressMessages(
  fit_yb <- ltmle(sim_yb, Anodes = Anodes, Lnodes = NULL, Ynodes = Ynodes, abar =list(1,0), SL.library =
'default', gcomp = F)
))
output_yb[6+n_methods*(i-1), 1] = "TMLE"
output_yb[6+n_methods*(i-1), 2] = log(summary(fit_yb)[["effect.measures"]][["OR"]][["estimate"]])
output_yb[6+n_methods*(i-1), 3:4] = log(summary(fit_yb)[["effect.measures"]][["OR"]][["CI"]])

sim_yc <- data.frame(W1=sim$C, W2=sim$L0, A0=sim$A0, Censor=sim$D)
sim_yc$Y1 = ifelse(sim$Yc<=22 & sim_yc$Censor==1, 1, 0) #create a new outcome at the primary time point (e.g.
median survival).
Ynodes = c("Y1")
suppressWarnings(suppressMessages(
  fit_yc <- ltmle(sim_yc, Anodes = Anodes, Lnodes = NULL, Cnodes = Cnodes, Ynodes = Ynodes, abar =list(1,0),
survivalOutcome=T, SL.library = 'default', gcomp = F)
))
output_yc[6+n_methods*(i-1), 1] = "TMLE"
output_yc[6+n_methods*(i-1), 2] = log(summary(fit_yc)[["effect.measures"]][["RR"]][["estimate"]]) #Use RR to
estimate HR
output_yc[6+n_methods*(i-1), 3:4] = log(summary(fit_yc)[["effect.measures"]][["RR"]][["CI"]])

#Method 5: Unadjusted (raw)
fit_ya = glm(Ya ~ A0, data = sim)
output_ya[7+n_methods*(i-1), 1] = "Raw"
output_ya[7+n_methods*(i-1), 2] = fit_ya$coefficients[2]
output_ya[7+n_methods*(i-1), 3:4] = confint.default(fit_ya)[2, 1:2]
fit_yb = glm(Yb ~ A0, family=quasibinomial("logit"), data = sim)
output_yb[7+n_methods*(i-1), 1] = "Raw"
output_yb[7+n_methods*(i-1), 2] = fit_yb$coefficients[2]
output_yb[7+n_methods*(i-1), 3:4] = confint.default(fit_yb)[2, 1:2]
fit_yc = coxph(Surv(Yc, D) ~ A0, data = sim)
output_yc[7+n_methods*(i-1), 1] = "Raw"
output_yc[7+n_methods*(i-1), 2] = fit_yc$coefficients[1]
output_yc[7+n_methods*(i-1), 3:4] = confint.default(fit_yc)[1, 1:2]

```

```

}

output_ya = cbind(output_ya, true_ya)
output_yb = cbind(output_yb, true_yb)
output_yc = cbind(output_yc, true_yc)

#-----
#Step 4: Plot and summary
#-----

#Convert RR to HR for yc
output_yc$A0_est = ifelse(output_yc$Model=="TMLE",
  log(log(1-0.4*exp(output_yc$A0_est))/log(1-0.4)),
  output_yc$A0_est)

output_yc$A0_lower = ifelse(output_yc$Model=="TMLE",
  log(log(1-0.4*exp(output_yc$A0_lower))/log(1-0.4)),
  output_yc$A0_lower)

output_yc$A0_upper = ifelse(output_yc$Model=="TMLE",
  log(log(1-0.4*exp(output_yc$A0_upper))/log(1-0.4)),
  output_yc$A0_upper)

#Plot
ggplotly(ggplot(output_ya, aes(x=A0_est, color=Model))
  + geom_density(aes(color=Model))
  + ylab("Density")+xlab("Estimate of effect: mean difference")
  + geom_vline(xintercept = true_ya)+theme_bw()
)
ggplot(output_ya[output_ya$Model!="MLR",], aes(x=A0_est, color=Model)) +
  geom_density(aes(color=Model), size=1) +
  ylab("Density")+xlab("Estimate of effect: mean difference") +
  geom_vline(xintercept = true_ya)+theme_bw() +
  scale_x_continuous(limits=c(1.5,6)) +
  geom_text(aes(x = 4.4, y = 1.1,
    label = "True effect"), size=4, colour="gray35")+
  geom_segment(aes(x=4.5, y=0.75, xend=6, yend=0.75), arrow=arrow(length=unit(0.2, "cm")),size=1.5,
  colour="gray60")+
  geom_text(aes(x = 5.2, y = 0.78, label = "Favors treatment"), size=4,colour="gray40") +
  scale_color_manual(values=c("red", "green", "blue", "purple", "yellow3", "black"))

ggplotly(ggplot(output_yb, aes(x=A0_est, color=Model))
  + geom_density()
  + ylab("Density")+xlab("Estimate of effect: log(odds ratio)")
  + geom_vline(xintercept = true_yb)+theme_bw()
  + scale_x_continuous(limits=c(-1,3))
  + geom_text(aes(x = 1.4, y = 1.5,
    label = "True effect"), size=3.5, colour="gray35")
)
ggplot(output_yb[output_yb$Model!="MLR",], aes(x=A0_est, color=Model)) +
  geom_density(aes(color=Model), size=1) +
  ylab("Density")+xlab("Estimate of effect: log(odds ratio)") +
  geom_vline(xintercept = true_yb)+theme_bw() +

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```

geom_vline(xintercept = 0, colour="gray40", linetype="dashed")+theme_bw() +
scale_x_continuous(limits=c(0,3.5)) +
geom_text(aes(x = 2.1, y = 1.3,
              label = "True effect"), size=4, colour="gray35")+
geom_segment(aes(x=0.02, y=1.45, xend=1, yend=1.45), arrow=arrow(length=unit(0.2, "cm")),size=1.5,
colour="gray60")+
geom_text(aes(x = 0.5, y = 1.5, label = "Favors treatment"), size=4,colour="gray40") +
scale_color_manual(values=c("red", "green", "blue", "purple", "yellow3", "black"))

ggplotly(ggplot(output_yc, aes(x=A0_est, color=Model))
+ geom_density()
+ ylab("Density")+xlab("Estimate of effect: log(hazard ratio)")
+ geom_vline(xintercept = true_yc)+theme_bw()
# + scale_x_continuous(limits=c(-1,3))
)
ggplot(output_yc[output_yc$Model!="MLR",], aes(x=A0_est, color=Model)) +
geom_density(aes(color=Model), size=1) +
ylab("Density")+xlab("Estimate of effect: log(hazard ratio)") +
geom_vline(xintercept = true_yc)+theme_bw() +
geom_vline(xintercept = 0, colour="gray40", linetype="dashed")+theme_bw() +
scale_x_continuous(limits=c(-2.0, 0)) +
geom_text(aes(x = -0.9, y = 2.5,
              label = "True effect"), size=4, colour="gray35")+
geom_segment(aes(x=-0.02, y=2.75, xend=-0.5, yend=2.75), arrow=arrow(length=unit(0.2, "cm")),size=1.5,
colour="gray60")+
geom_text(aes(x = -0.25, y = 2.85, label = "Favors treatment"), size=4,colour="gray40") +
scale_color_manual(values=c("red", "green", "blue", "purple", "yellow3", "black"))

```

#Summarize the simulation results

```

k_yc<- output_yc %>%
  group_by(Model) %>%
  do(calc_absolute(., estimates = A0_est, true_param = true_yc))
c_yc<- output_yc %>%
  group_by(Model) %>%
  do(calc_coverage(., lower_bound = A0_lower, upper_bound = A0_upper, true_param = true_yc))
kc_yc<- data.frame(Model=k_yc$Model, K=k_yc$K, bias=k_yc$bias,
                  var=k_yc$var, mse=k_yc$mse, rmse=k_yc$rmse, coverage=c_yc$coverage, width=c_yc$width)
kc_yc<-kc_yc %>%
  kable(digits =5, format="simple") #create a kable table
print(kc_yc)

k_yb<- output_yb %>%
  group_by(Model) %>%
  do(calc_absolute(., estimates = A0_est, true_param = true_yb))
c_yb<- output_yb %>%
  group_by(Model) %>%
  do(calc_coverage(., lower_bound = A0_lower, upper_bound = A0_upper, true_param = true_yb))
kc_yb<- data.frame(Model=k_yb$Model, K=k_yb$K, bias=k_yb$bias,
                  var=k_yb$var, mse=k_yb$mse, rmse=k_yb$rmse, coverage=c_yb$coverage, width=c_yb$width)
kc_yb<-kc_yb %>%
  kable(digits =5, format="simple") #create a kable table

```

```
print(kc_yb)
```

```
k_yc<- output_yc %>%  
  group_by(Model) %>%  
  do(calc_absolute(., estimates = A0_est, true_param = true_yc))  
c_yc<- output_yc %>%  
  group_by(Model) %>%  
  do(calc_coverage(., lower_bound = A0_lower, upper_bound = A0_upper, true_param = true_yc))  
kc_yc<- data.frame(Model=k_yc$Model, K=k_yc$K, bias=k_yc$bias,  
  var=k_yc$var, mse=k_yc$mse, rmse=k_yc$rmse, coverage=c_yc$coverage, width=c_yc$width)  
kc_yc<-kc_yc %>%  
  kable(digits =5, format="simple") #create a kable table  
print(kc_yc)
```