Nonparametric computation of survival functions in the presence of interval censoring

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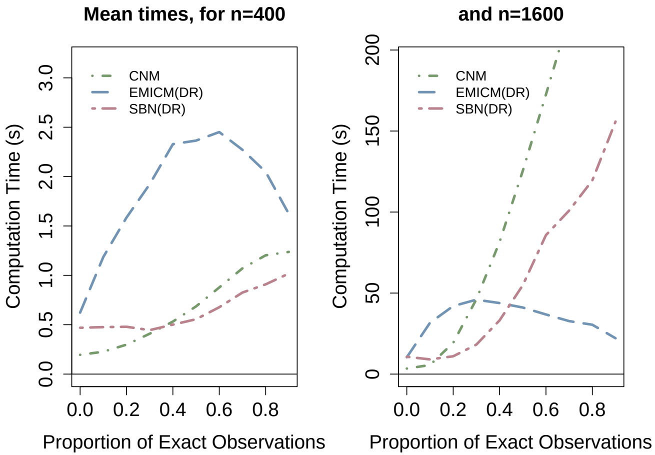
1 September 2008

Research Aims

- Create a robust algorithm for solving the NPMLE problem
- One that is fastest in all circumstances

Adaptive Constrained Newton Method (ACNM)


Mean times, for n=400
and n=1600
CNM
EMICM(DR)
SBN(DR)
Computation Time (s)
Proportion of Exact Observations
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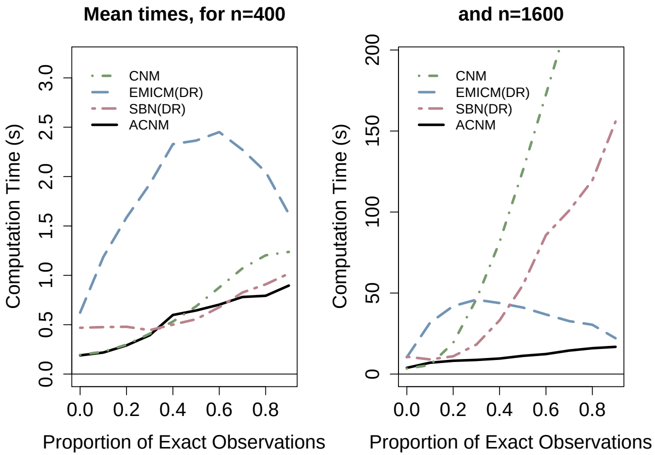
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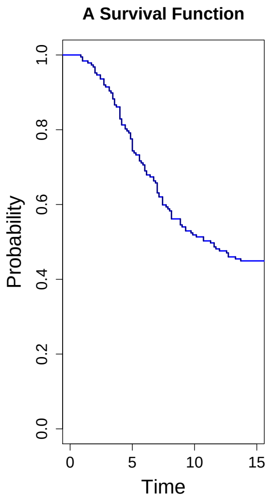

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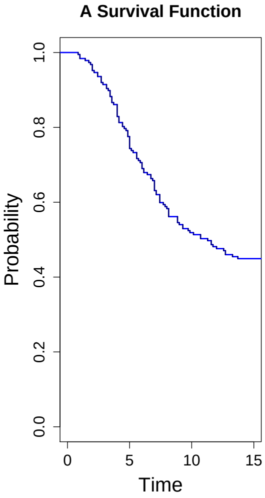

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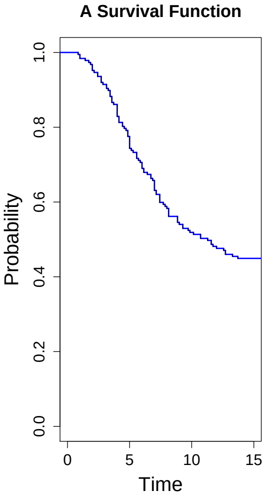

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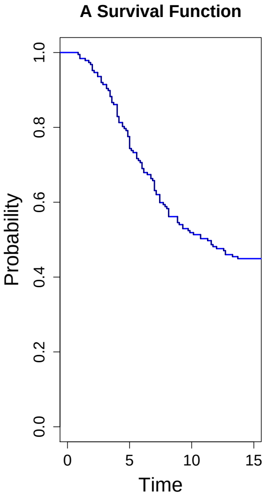
- Example: Time to healing



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- Example: end of study or "lost to followup"

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- Call these intervals O_i for $i = 1, \ldots, n$

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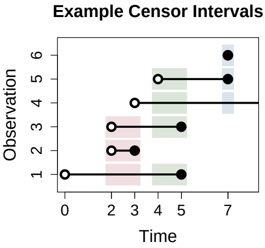
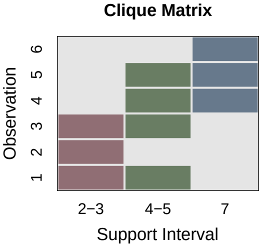
The NPMLE Survival Function with Interval Censored Data

- Partition the positive real line





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- Partition the positive real line
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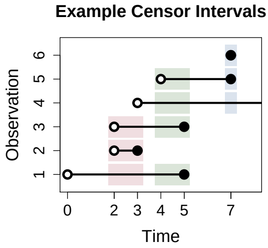

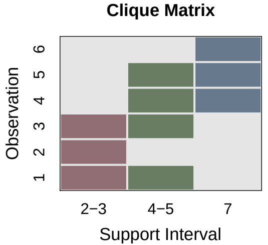

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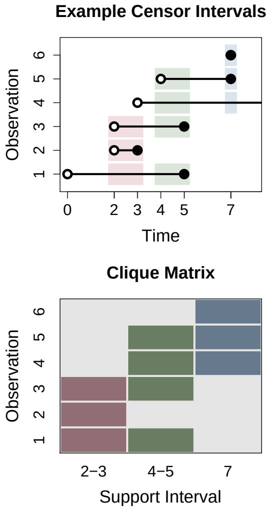

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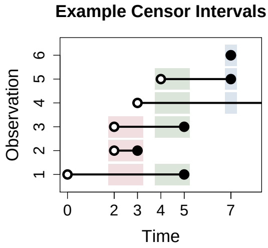

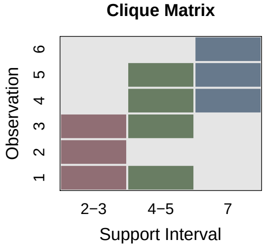

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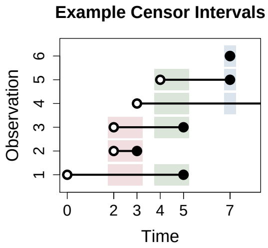

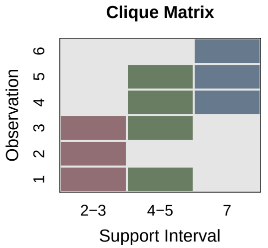

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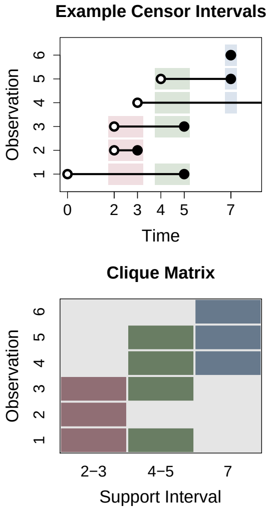

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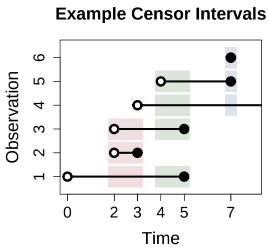
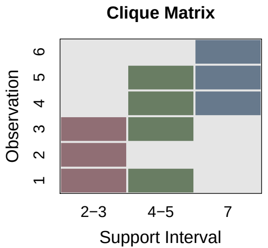
- NPMLE assigns probability mass to each support interval





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- Subject to: $\hat{\mathbf{p}} \geq \mathbf{0}$ and $\hat{\mathbf{p}}^T \mathbf{1} = 1$

Honey as Adjuvant Leg Ulcer Therapy (HALT)

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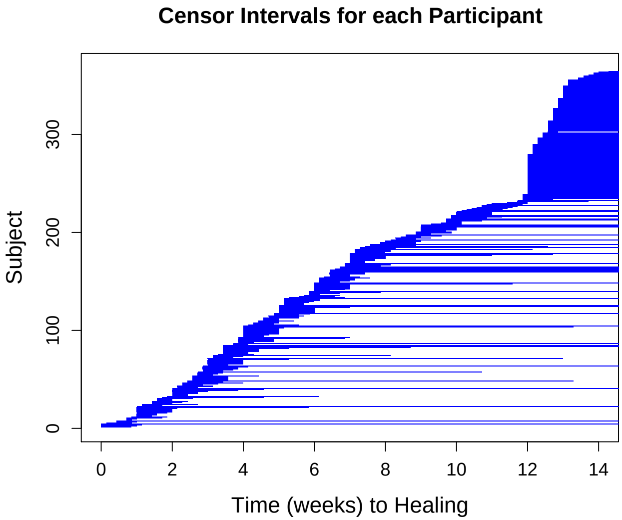
Censor Intervals for each Participant
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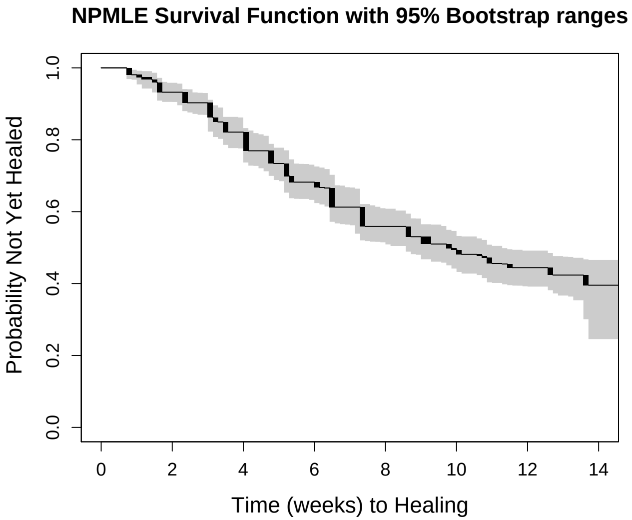
Time (weeks) to Healing


NPMLE Survival Function with 95% Bootstrap ranges
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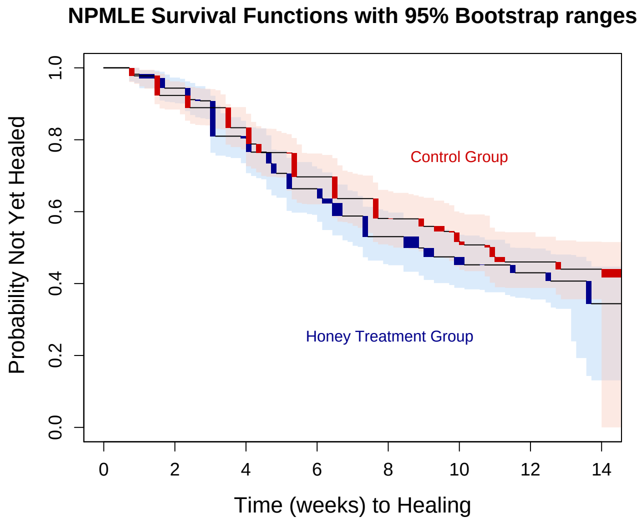
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- Wang (2008) introduced:
  - Constrained Newton Method
  - Dimension-reduced approach to improve any algorithm

Times to compute the NPMLE survival function for 100 Bootstrap samples of the HALT data using:

- EMICM, PGM and VEM from the Icens package
- Methods SBN(DR) and EMICM(DR) from Wang (2008)
- The new ACNM algorithm (and CNM)

	Time (s)
EMICM	113.03
PGM	791.00
VEM	610.42
SBN(DR)	14.34
EMICM(DR)	26.93
ACNM	9.41

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- Best choice depends on size of dataset and proportion of exact observations

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- Very fast for fully censored datasets
- Can be slow in cases with many exact observations

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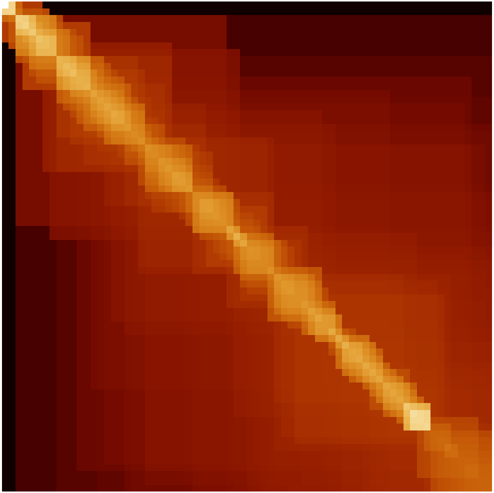
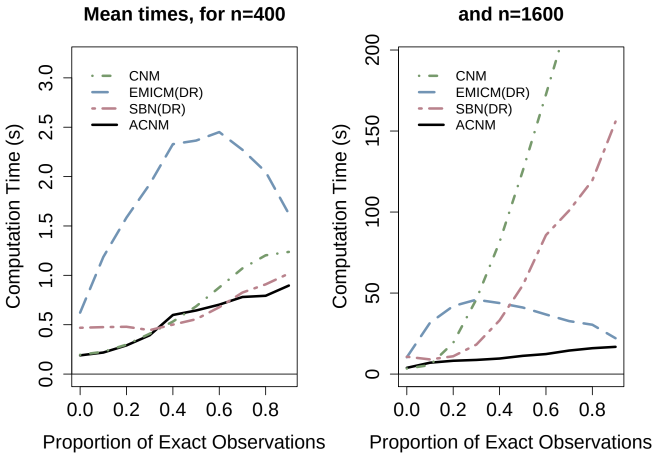
- Guaranteed convergence to the solution

Heatmap of HALT Hessian

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Proportion of Exact Observations

Conclusions

- Where Interval Censoring is present in survival data, it can be allowed for in the analysis.
- The NPMLE Survival Function combined with Bootstrap methods can create an informative picture of survival progression in such cases.
- The ACNM algorithm provides a fast and robust solution to this problem.

Thanks to:

- My supervisor, Dr Yong Wang
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