R you seriously saying we shouldn't use Excel?

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(With contributions by Andrea Berardi, Andrea Gabrio, Anna Heath, Christina Ding et al)

One-day workshop on R for trial and model-based cost-effectiveness analysis

University College London

Wednesday 11 July 2018

Objective: Combine costs & benefits of a given intervention into a rational scheme for allocating resources

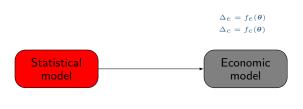
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Statistical model

- Estimates relevant population parameters θ
- Varies with the type of available data (& statistical approach!)



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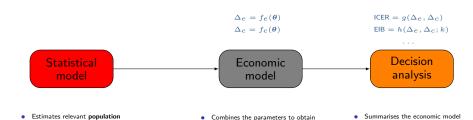


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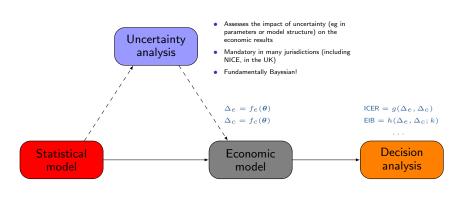
actions, given current evidence

Standardised process

"cost-effectiveness"

Dictates the best course of

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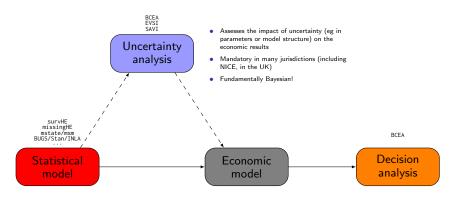


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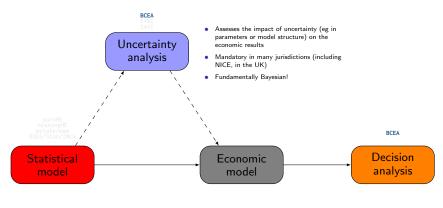
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BCEA & its use directly in R are designed with these objectives in mind

Checking the model assumptions

Throughout

Uncertainty analysis

- Do we mean what we mean (eg in terms of PSA simulations)?...
- Simulation error (especially, **but not only**, for a Bayesian approach)

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- Standard PSA (mandatory): Cost-effectiveness Plane, CEAC, ...
- Fairly easy (but not always used): CEAF
- More advanced/"too difficult" (rarely used): EVP(P)I/EVSI

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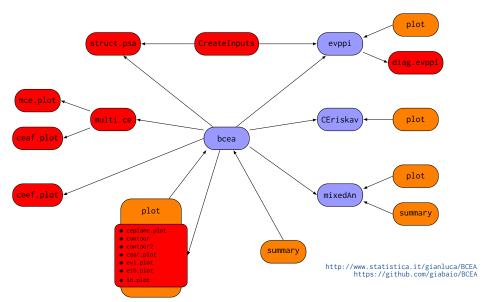
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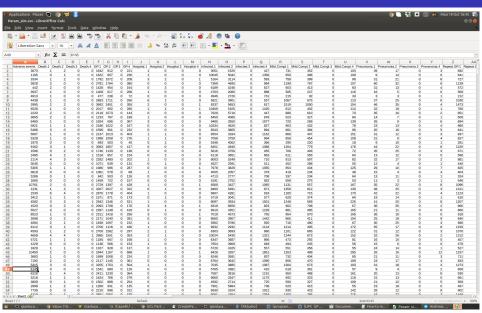
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Throughout

Graphical tools (use excellent R facilities)

⁺UCL





```
# Loads BCEA into the R workspace
> library(BCEA)
# Loads the PSA data from the R object "Vaccine"
> data(Vaccine)
# Uses BCEA to create suitable input
> inp = CreateInputs(vaccine)
# Shows the first few rows of the PSA matrix
> head(inp$mat)
  Adverse.events Death.1.1. Death.2.1. Death.2.2. GP.1.1. GP.2.1. GP.2.2. Hospital.1.1.
                                                                 958
                                                                         230
            1466
                                                       1664
            5329
                                                       1414
                                                                748
                                                                         276
3
            5203
                                                       809
                                                                489
                                                                          80
            2351
                                                       1761 1157
                                                                         261
            8303
                                                       2472
                                                                 964
                                                                         432
            3607
                                                       2224
                                                               1342
                                                                         260
 Hospital.2.1. Hospital.2.2. Infected.1.1. Infected.2.1. Infected.2.2. Mild.Compl.1.1.
                                         5992
                                                       3401
                                                                       876
                                                                                        691
                                         7471
                                                       4024
                                                                      1536
                                                                                        570
                                         6718
                                                       4300
                                                                       788
                                                                                        332
                                        4837
                                                                       702
                                                                                        739
                                                       3269
                                         4749
                                                       1894
                                                                       846
                                                                                       1049
                                         4938
                                                       2976
                                                                       596
                                                                                        915
(many more rows & variables!)
```

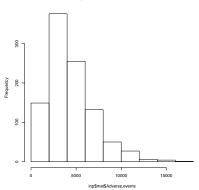
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```

- # Checks that the intended PSA distribution gives meaningful results
- > hist(inp\$mat\$\$Adverse.events)

Histogram of inp\$mat\$Adverse.events

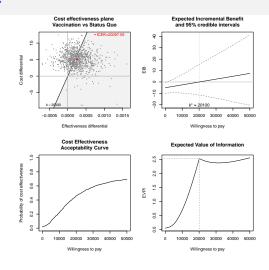


```
# Combines the model parameters to determine costs & effectiveness
> OALYs.inf <- OALYs.pne <- OALYs.hosp <- OALYs.adv <- OALYs.death <- matrix(0,n.sims,2)
> for (t in 1:2) {
   OALYs.inf[.t] = ((Infected[.t.1] + Infected[.t.2])*omega[.1]/365)/N
   OALYs.pne[,t] = ((Pneumonia[,t,1] + Pneumonia[,t,2])*omega[,4]/365)/N
   OALYs.hosp[,t] = ((Hospital[,t,1] + Hospital[,t,2])*omega[,5]/365)/N
   OALYs.death[.t] = ((Death[.t.1] + Death[.t.2])*omega[.6])/N
> QALYs.adv[,2] = (Adverse.events*omega[,7]/365)/N
> e = -(OALYs.inf + OALYs.pne + OALYs.adv + OALYs.hosp + OALYs.death)
# Displays the first few row of the matrix for (e,c) in the two treatment arms
> head(cbind(e.c))
      Status Quo Vaccination Status Quo Vaccination
[1.] -0.0010466668 -0.0008986026 10.409146 16.252537
[2.] -0.0008836105 -0.0007320416 5.834875 9.373437
[3,] -0.0008898137 -0.0006975327 5.784903 15.935623
[4.] -0.0016430238 -0.0011393237 12.208484 18.654250
[5.] -0.0013518841 -0.0009574948 9.786787 16.467321
Γ6. 7 -0.0014325715 -0.0009358231 6.560276
                                            9.689887
(many more rows!)
```

```
# Uses BCEA to perform the decision analysis
> m = bcea(e,c,ref=2,interventions=c("Status Quo","Vaccination"),...)
# Summarises the results
> summary(m)
Cost-effectiveness analysis summary
Reference intervention: Vaccination
Comparator intervention: Status Ouo
Optimal decision: choose Status Quo for k<20100 and Vaccination for k>=20100
Analysis for willingness to pay parameter k = 25000
           Expected utility
                   -36.054
Status Ouo
Vaccination
                 -34.826
                             FIR CFAC ICER
Vaccination vs Status Quo 1.2284 0.529 20098
Optimal intervention (max expected utility) for k=25000: Vaccination
EVPI 2.4145
```

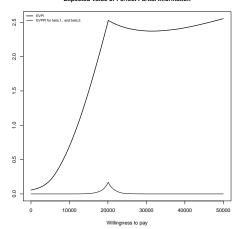
Uses BCEA to perform the decision analysis
> m = bcea(e,c,ref=2,interventions=c("Status Quo","Vaccination"),...)

Plots the results
> plot(m)



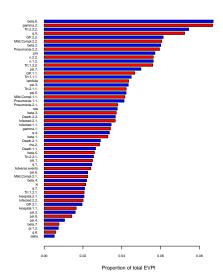
```
# Makes the analysis of the Expected Value of Partial Perfect Information
> x = evppi(c("beta.1.","beta.2."), inp$mat, m)
# Plots the outcome
> plot(x)
```

Expected Value of Perfect Partial Information

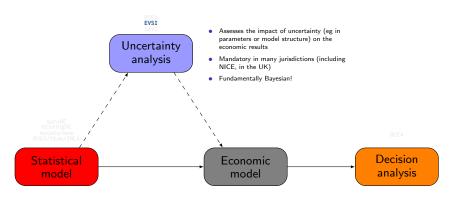


Summarises uncertainty in the decision making process by means of the "Info Rank" plot info.rank(inp\$parameters,inp\$mat,m)

Info-rank plot for willingness to pay=20100



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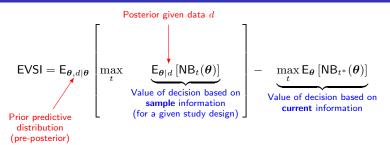


Vol: Basic idea

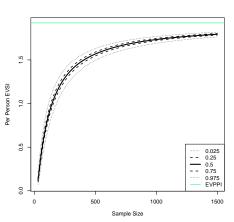
- A new study will provide new data
 - Reducing (or even eliminating) uncertainty in a subset of model parameters
- Update the cost-effectiveness model
 - If the optimal decision changes, gain in monetary net benefit (NB = utility) from using new optimal treatment
 - If optimal decision unchanged, no gain in NB
- Expected VOI is the average gain in NB

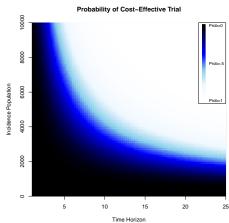
Vol: Basic idea and relevant measures

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 - If the optimal decision changes, gain in monetary net benefit (NB = utility) from using new optimal treatment
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- Expected VOI is the average gain in NB
- Expected Value of Perfect Information (EVPI)
 - Value of completely resolving uncertainty in all input parameters to decision mode
 - Infinite-sized long-term follow-up trial measuring everything!
 - Gives an upper-bound on the value of new study if EVPI is low, suggests we can make our decision based on existing information
- Expected Value of Partial Perfect Information (EVPPI)
 - Value of eliminating uncertainty in subset of input parameters to decision model
 - Infinite-sized trial measuring relative effects on 1-year survival
 - Useful to identify which parameters responsible for decision uncertainty
- Expected Value of Sample Information (EVSI)
 - Value of reducing uncertainty by conducting a study of given design
 - Can compare the benefits and costs of a study with given design
 - Is the proposed study likely to be a good use of resources? What is the optimal design?

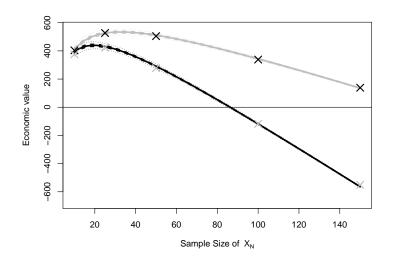


- Computationally complex
 - Requires specific knowledge of the model for (future/hypothetical) data collection
 - Again, recent methods have improved efficiency
- Can be used to drive design of new study (eg sample size calculations)
- The package EVSI can be used (with some knowledge of Bayesian modelling) to estimate the value of effectively any study design in reducing uncertainty in the corresponding decision-making process
 - Sample size calculations/study design
 - Research prioritisation

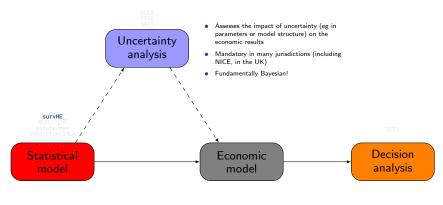




https://github.com/giabaio/EVSI https://egon.stats.ucl.ac.uk/projects/EVSI Heath et al (2018). https://arxiv.org/abs/1804.09590 Heath et al Medical Decision Making. 2017. 38(2): 163-173



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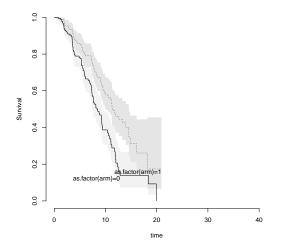
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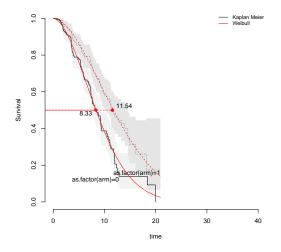
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- Survival data are often the main outcome in clinical studies relevant for HTA
 - Cancer drugs (progression-free/overall survival time): \approx 40% of NICE appraisals!
 - Need to extrapolate, for economic modelling purposes. BUT: Limited follow up from trials, not consistent with time horizon of economic model

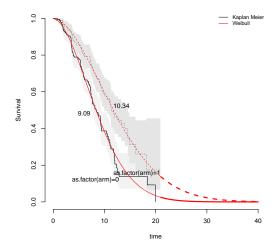


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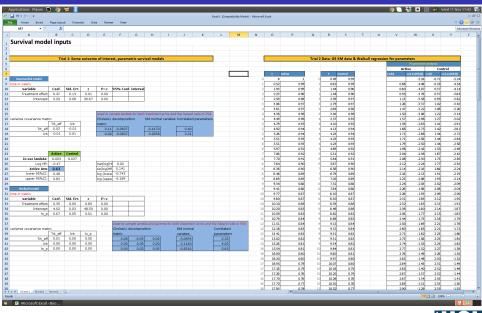




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("Standard") survival analysis in HTA





survHE: a R package for survival analysis in HTA

Objective: Simplify and standardise commands to fit survival analysis

- Can do MLE + bootstrap to get (possibly rough-ish!) estimates from the joint distribution of the parameters
- Can also do Bayesian models to get (usually better!) estimates from the joint posterior distribution of the parameters
 - INLA: Super fast (comparable to MLE), but currently supports only a restricted range of models
 - MCMC: Slower, but more generalisable survHE produces and saves the model code
 + data & initial values, so the user could then customise them

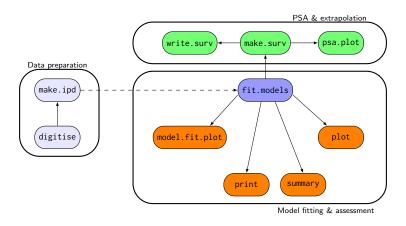
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- Automatically produce specialised graphs
 - Survival curves + model fitting statistics (AIC, BIC, DIC)
- Can produce a full PSA characterisation of the parameters and the survival curves
 - These can be directly used in the economic model!

survHE: a R package for survival analysis in HTA

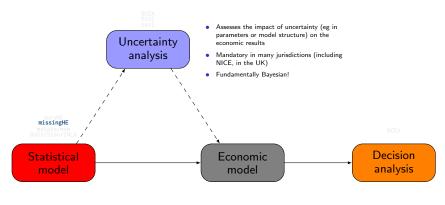
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Health technology assessment (HTA)

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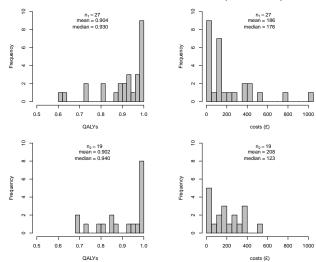


- The MenSS pilot RCT evaluates the cost-effectiveness of a new digital intervention to reduce the incidence of STI in young men with respect to the SOC
 - QALYs calculated from utilities (EQ-5D 3L)
 - Total costs calculated from different components (no baseline)

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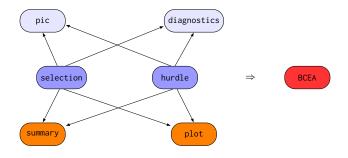
Time	Type of outcome	observed (%)	observed (%)
		Control $(n_1=75)$	Intervention (n_2 =84)
Baseline	utilities	72 (96%)	72 (86%)
3 months	utilities and costs	34 (45%)	23 (27%)
6 months	utilities and costs	35 (47%)	23 (27%)
12 months	utilities and costs	43 (57%)	36 (43%)
Complete cases	utilities and costs	27 (44%)	19 (23%)

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missingHE: a R package to deal with missing data in HTA

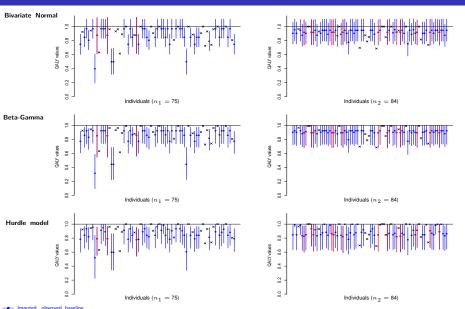
Objective: Run a set of complex models to account for different level of complexity & missingness



Gabrio et al. (2018). https://arxiv.org/abs/1801.09541 https://github.com/giabaio/missingHE



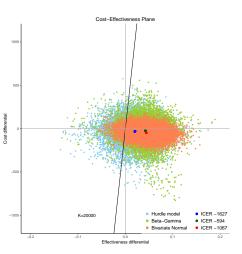
Bayesian multiple imputation (under MAR)

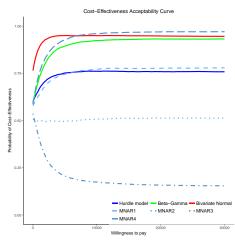


Imputed, missing baseline
 Observed



Cost-effectiveness analysis



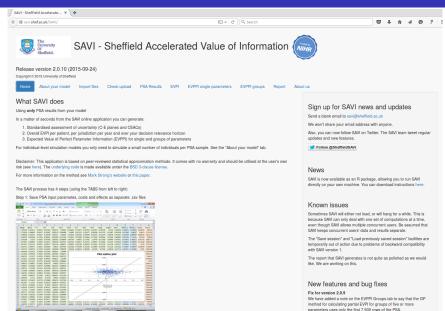




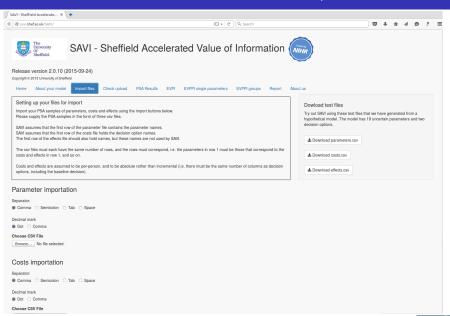




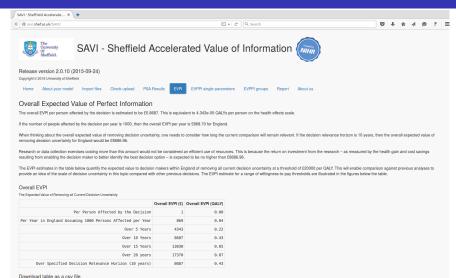








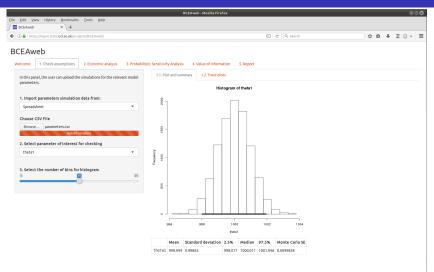


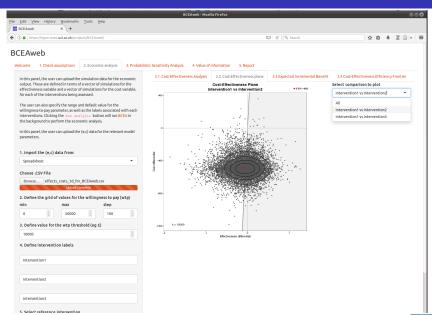


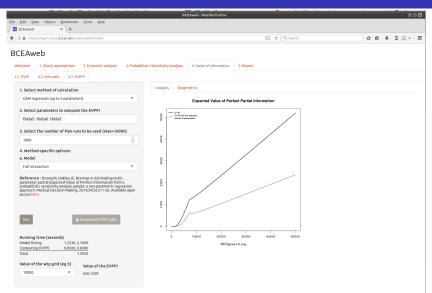


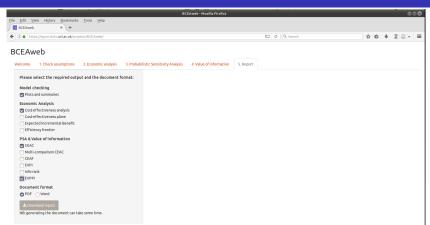
Overall EVPI (on costs scale) versus lambda

♣ Download table

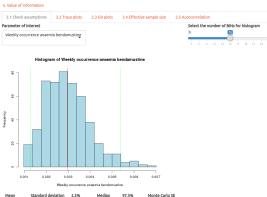












0.0029703 0.0010262

0.0012969 0.0028678 0.0053797

Escape (from Excel) to victory

