

November 17th, 2017

Multimarker-based subgroups in time-to-event randomized clinical trials

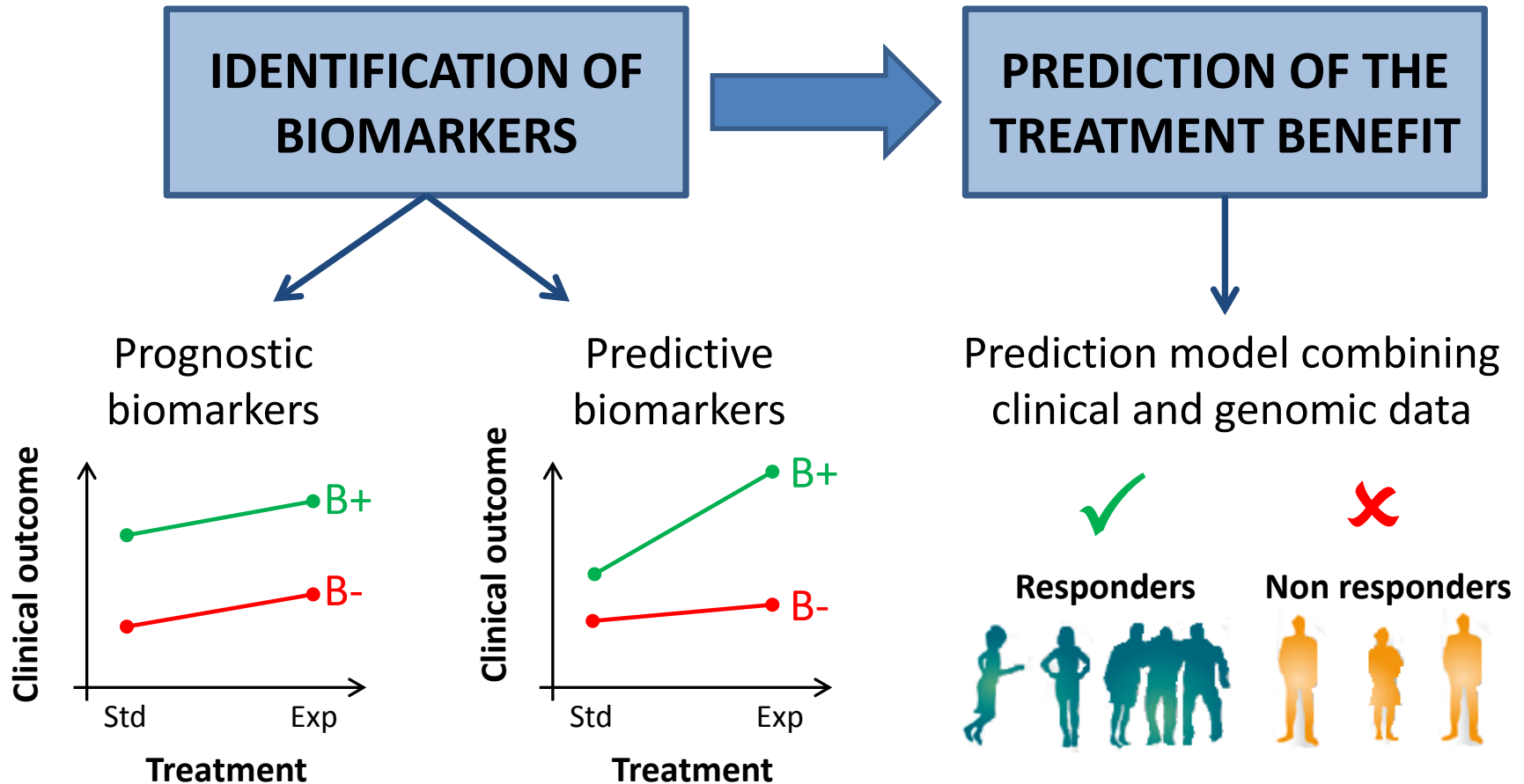
Federico Rotolo

joint work with

Nils Ternès and Stefan Michiels

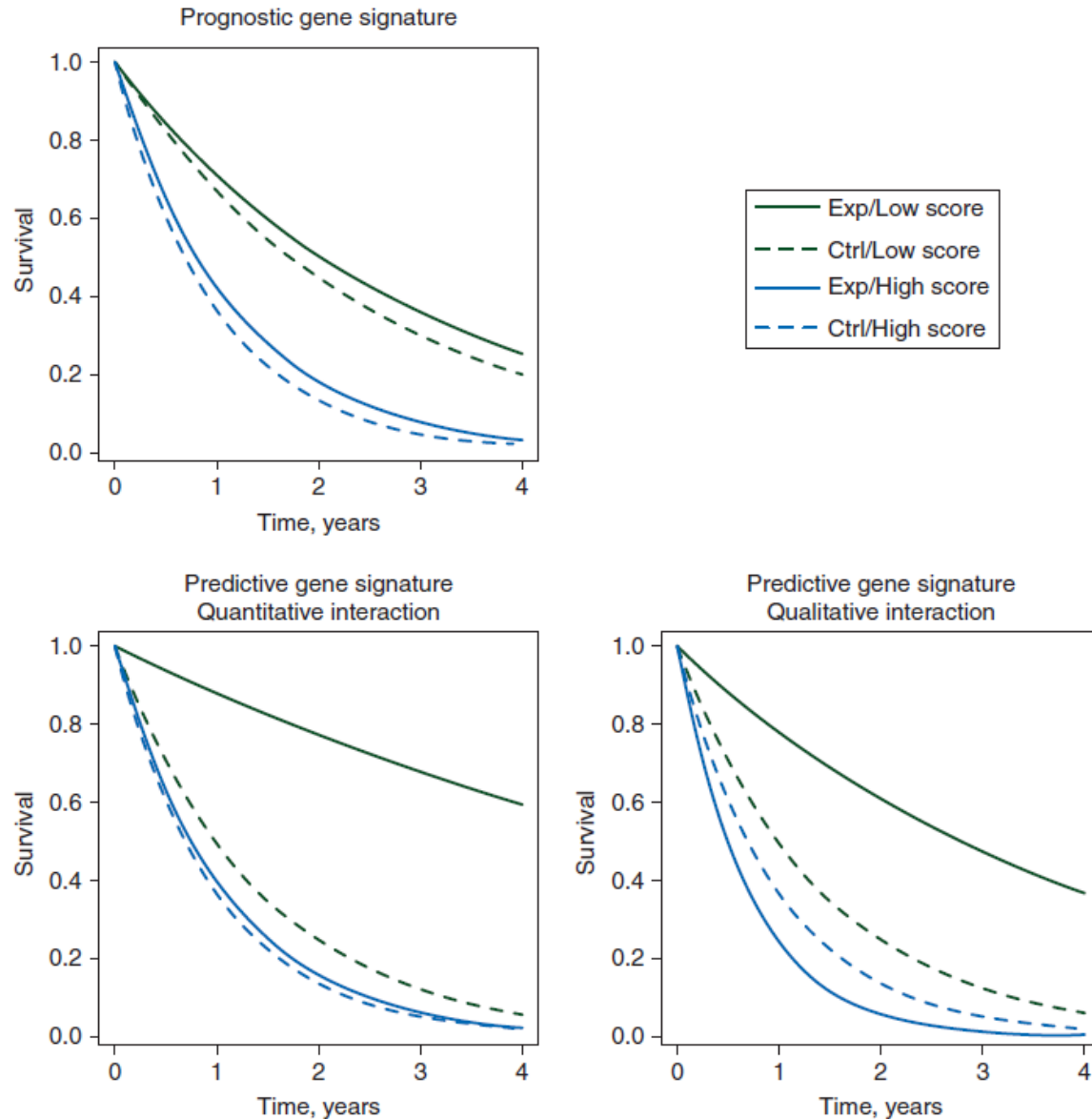
Stratified medicine

Individualized treatment based on tumor characteristics



Stratified medicine – survival outcome

Michiels, Ternès, Rotolo (2016)



Statistical framework

Proportional hazard model

$$h(t; \mathbf{X}_i) = h_0(t) \exp\{\boldsymbol{\beta}^\top \mathbf{X}_i\}$$

with

- $h_0(t)$ the baseline hazard function at times $t > 0$
- \mathbf{X}_i the p -dimensional vector of biomarkers

Partial log-likelihood

$$l(\boldsymbol{\beta}; \mathbf{X}) = \sum_{t^{(i)}=t_{(1)}}^{t^{(n_e)}} \left\{ \boldsymbol{\beta}^\top \mathbf{X}_{(i)} - \log \sum_{j \geq i} \boldsymbol{\beta}^\top \mathbf{X}_{(i)} \right\}$$

Statistical issues

More and more (high-dimensional) data available:
mutations, gene expression, copy number aberrations, etc.

High-dimensional data

Number of biomarkers (p) \gg Sample size (n)

Issues raised

- Non-identifiability of the models
- Collinearity
- Instability of the estimated coefficients
- Sparse model selection
- Multiple testing

Alternative estimation strategies

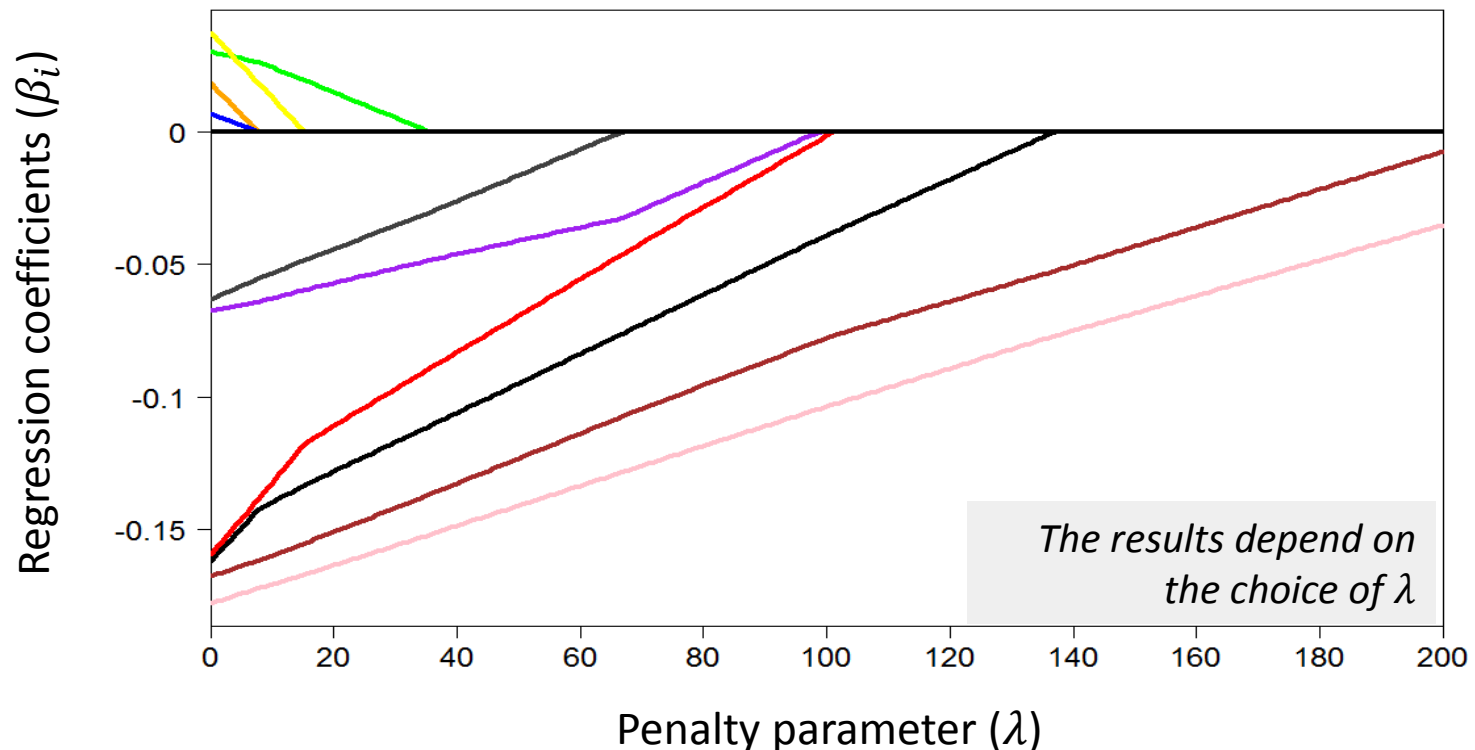
Univariate and stepwise multivariate regressions, dimension reduction, machine learning, penalized regression, ...

Penalized regression: the LASSO

Aim: Introduction of a penalty term into the likelihood to shrink regression coefficients

$$l_p(\boldsymbol{\beta}) = l(\boldsymbol{\beta}; \mathbf{X}) - p_\lambda(\boldsymbol{\beta})$$

The LASSO penalty (Tibshirani, 1996): $p_\lambda(\boldsymbol{\beta}) = \lambda \mathbf{1}^\top |\boldsymbol{\beta}|$



The adaptive LASSO

$$l_p(\boldsymbol{\beta}) = l(\boldsymbol{\beta}; \mathbf{X}) - p_\lambda(\boldsymbol{\beta})$$

LASSO penalty (Tibshirani, 1996)

$$p_\lambda(\boldsymbol{\beta}) = \lambda \mathbf{1}^\top |\boldsymbol{\beta}|$$

Adaptive LASSO penalty (Zou, 2006 ; Zhang and Lu, 2007)

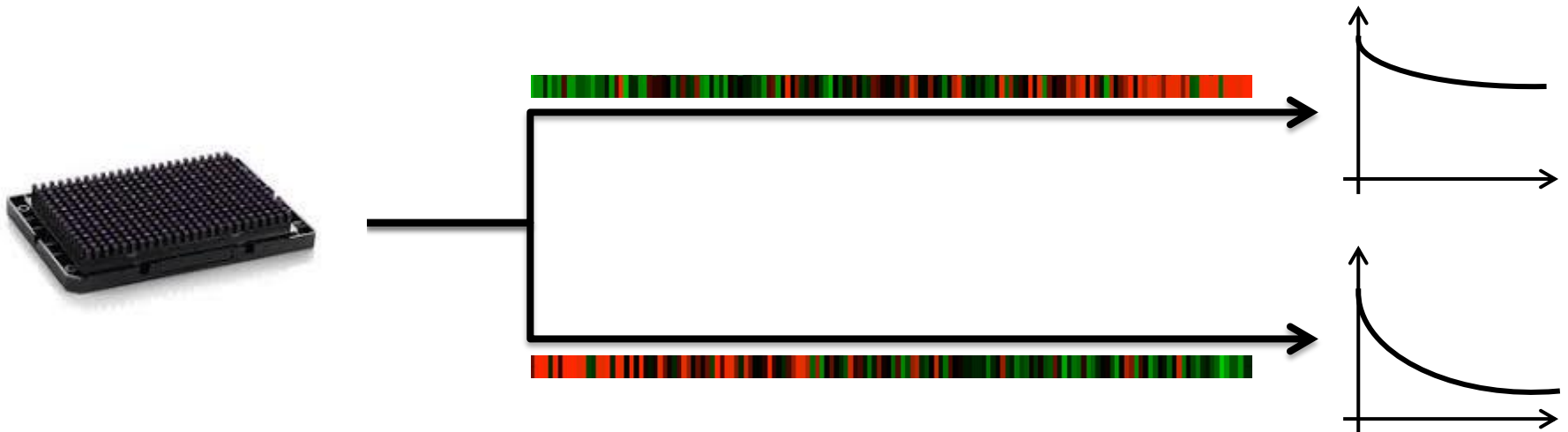
$$p_\lambda(\boldsymbol{\beta}) = \lambda \mathbf{w}^\top |\boldsymbol{\beta}|$$

with weights $w_j = 1/|\hat{\beta}_j|$ based on

- univariate estimates
- simple lasso
- ridge regression: $l_p(\boldsymbol{\beta}) = l(\boldsymbol{\beta}; \mathbf{X}) - \lambda_2 \boldsymbol{\beta}^\top \boldsymbol{\beta}$
- full model (when identifiable)
- ...

How to reliably identify prognostic biomarkers?

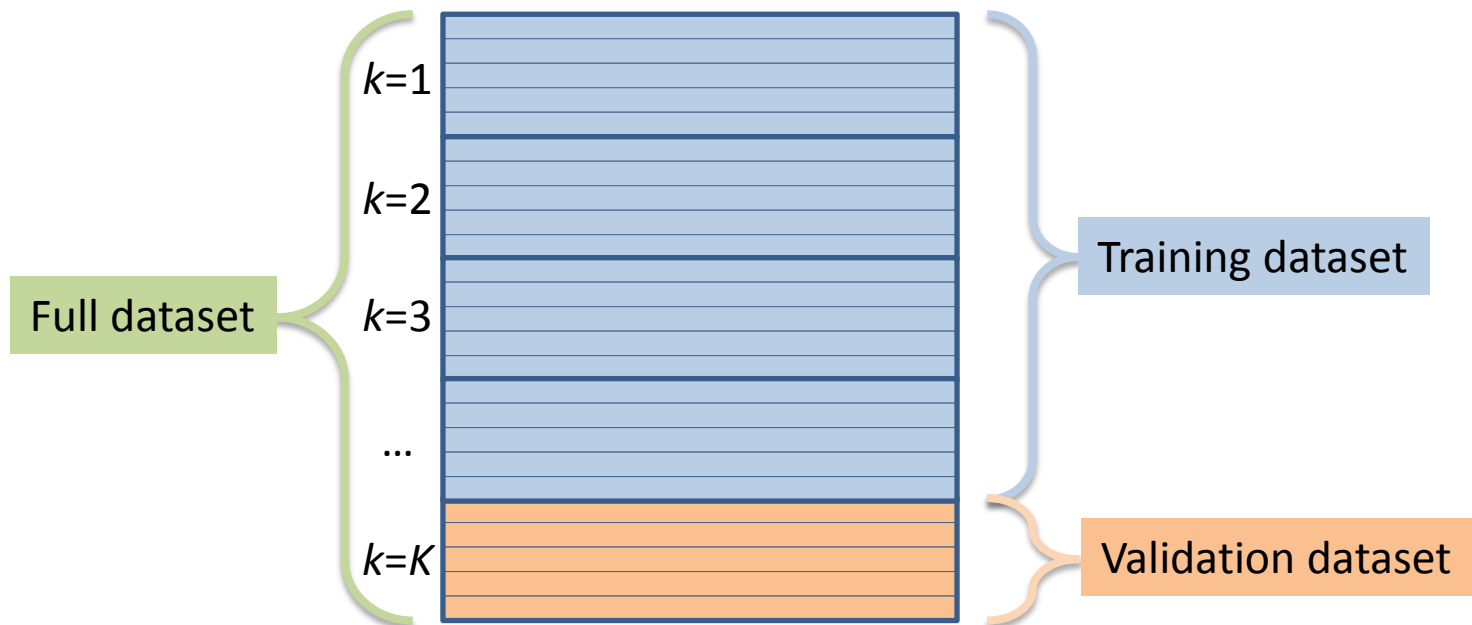
(i.e. associated to patient survival)



The choice of the penalty λ

The usual choice of λ is the value maximizing the **cross-validated penalized likelihood** (Tibshirani, 1997)

$$cvl(\lambda) = \sum_{k=1}^K \left(l_p \left(\hat{\beta}_{tr,k}, X_{full} \right) - l_p \left(\hat{\beta}_{tr,k}, X_{tr,k} \right) \right)$$

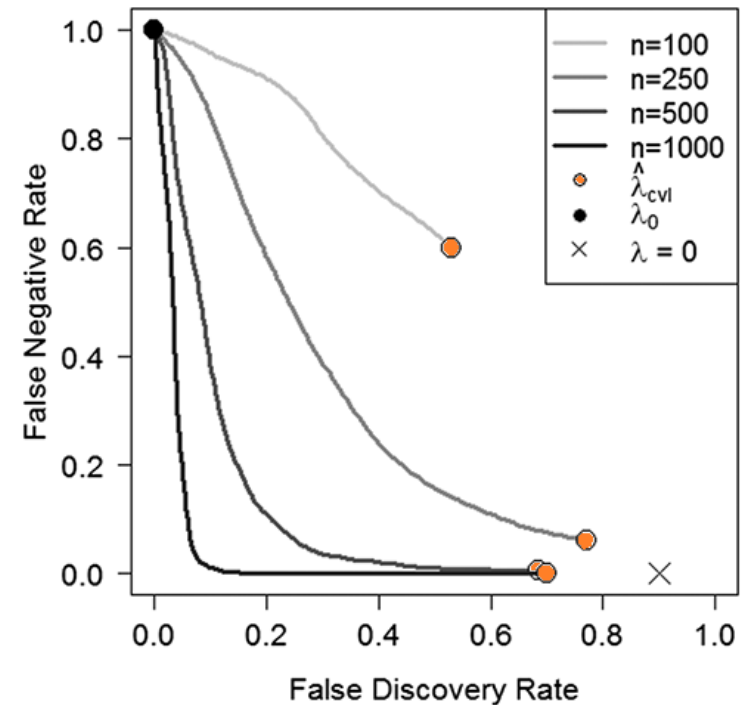
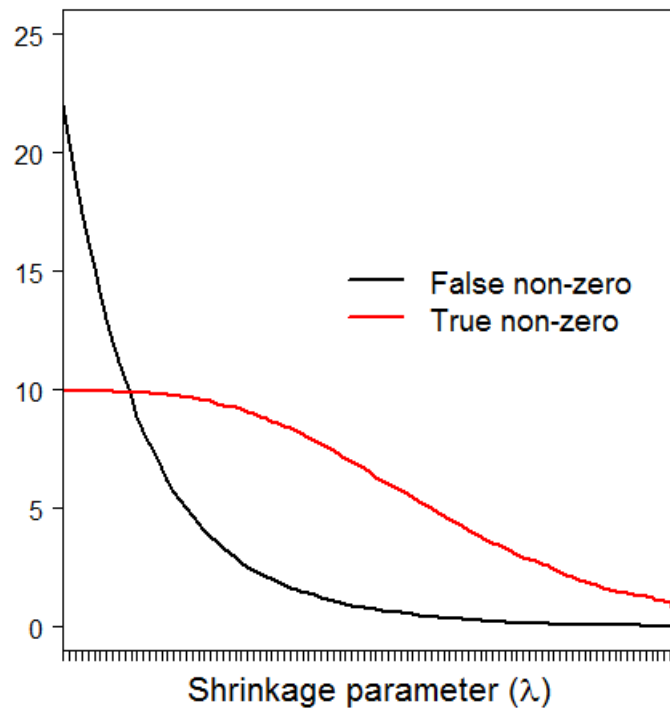


The choice of the penalty λ

Ternès, Rotolo, Michiels (2016)

Selection performed with λ chosen by max-cv1 ends up with a high proportion of false positives

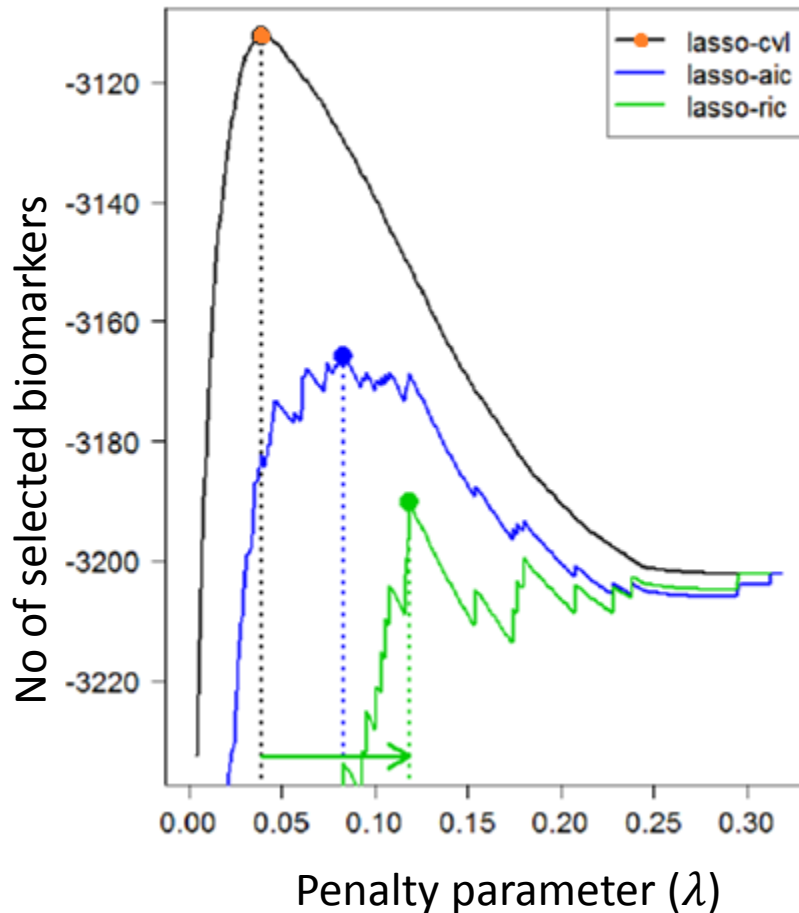
(Meinshausen and Bühlmann 2006, Benner et al. 2010, Roberts and Nowak 2014)



⇒ Need to increase the penalty λ to select fewer biomarkers

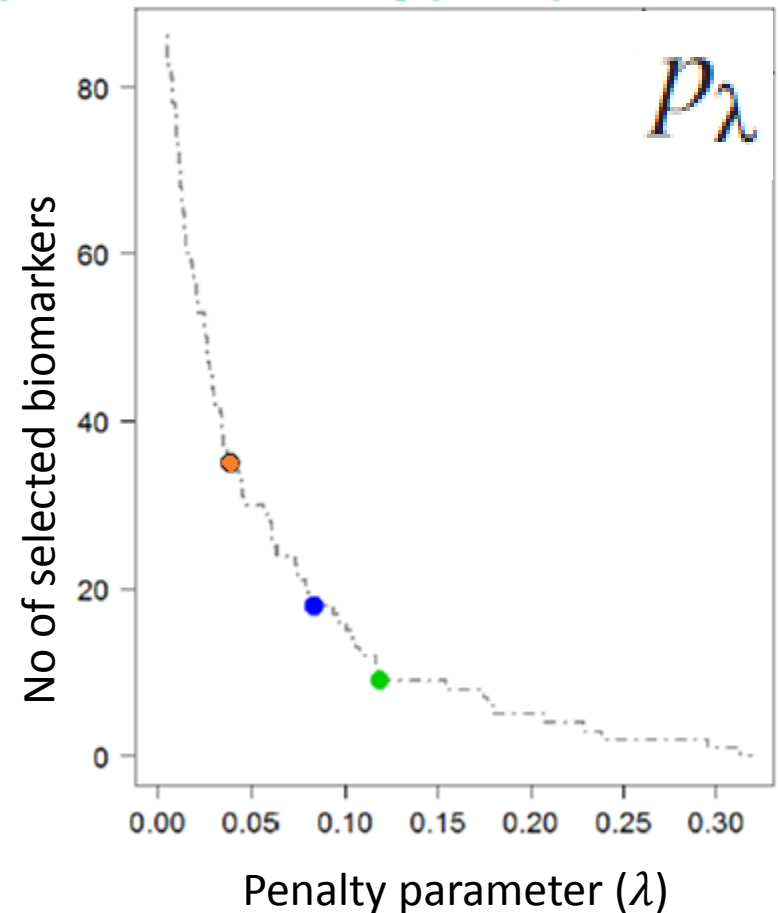
Penalized cross-validated likelihood

$\operatorname{argmax}_{\lambda}(cvl - pen)$



$$pen_{AIC}(\lambda) = 2 \times p_{\lambda}$$

$$pen_{RIC}(\lambda) = 2 \times \log(p_{\lambda}) \times p_{\lambda}$$

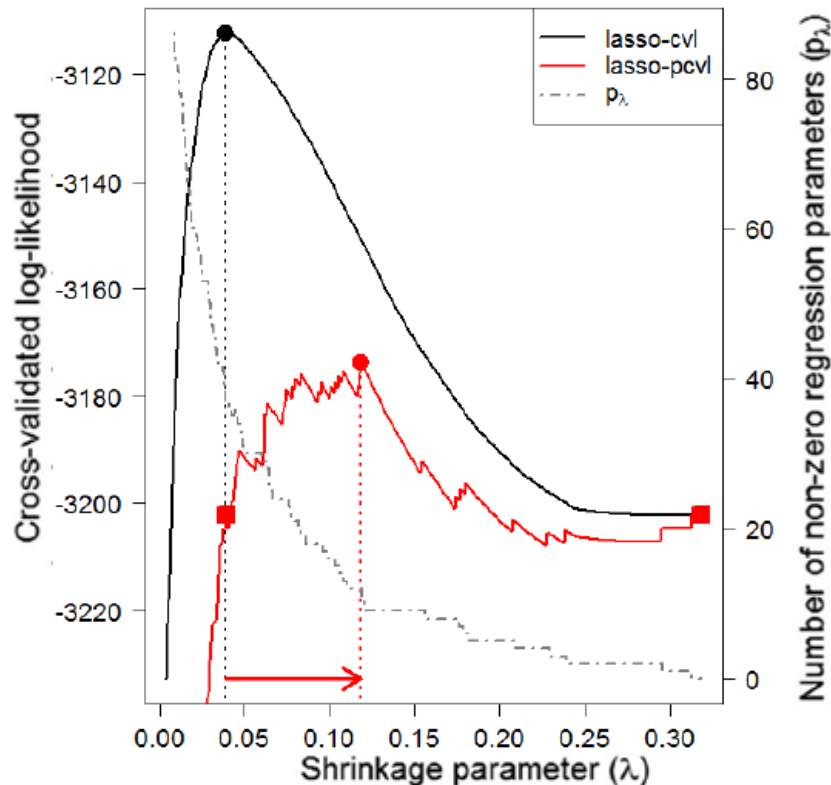


Penalized cross-validated likelihood

Ternès, Rotolo, Michiels (2016)

Lasso with penalized cvl

$$pcvl(\lambda) = cvl(\lambda) - (cvl_{\lambda_{cvl}} - cvl_{\lambda_0}) \frac{p_\lambda}{p_{\lambda_{cvl}}}$$

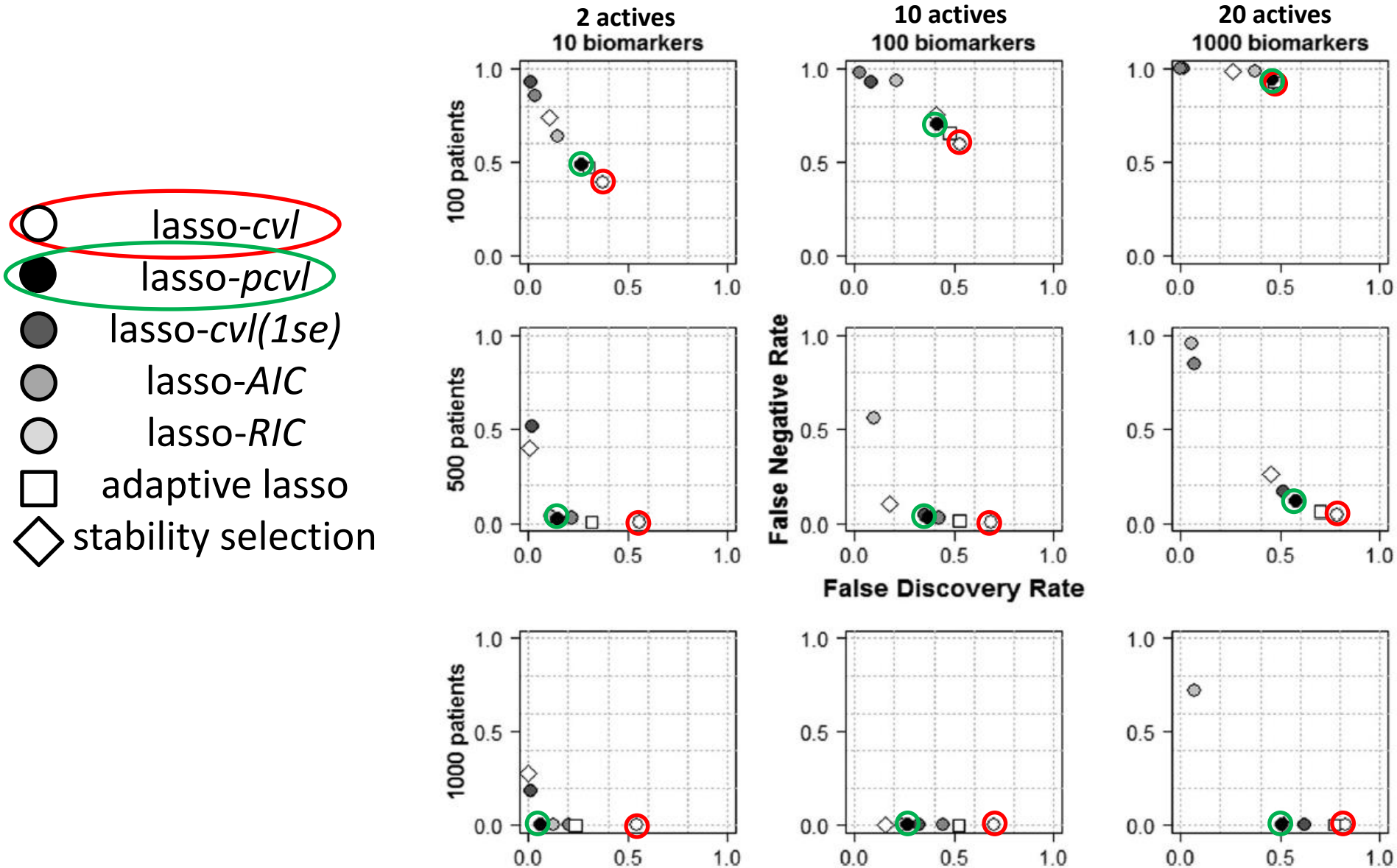


$\lambda \geq \lambda_{cvl} \rightarrow p_\lambda \leq p_{\lambda_{cvl}}$
i.e. selection of fewer biomarkers

$pcvl(\lambda_{cvl}) = pcvl(\lambda_0)$
i.e. the model selected by cvl is
penalized as much as the empty model
 \rightarrow trade-off between goodness of fit
(max cvl) and parcimony (small p_λ)

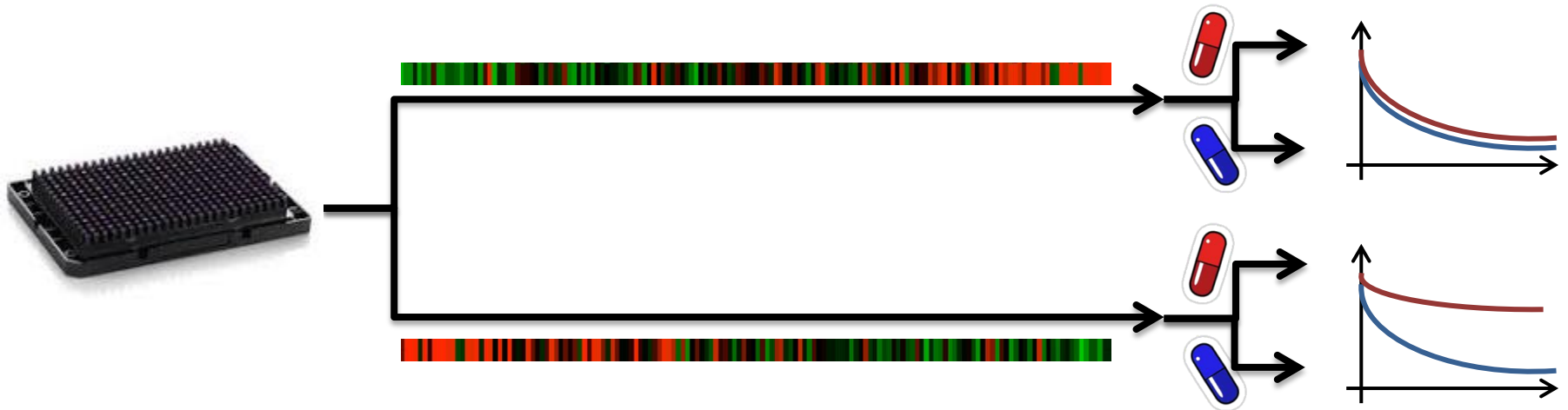
Simulation results

Ternès, Rotolo, Michiels (2016)



How to reliably identify predictive biomarkers?

(i.e. associated to the magnitude of the treatment effect)



Statistical framework

Proportional hazard model

$$h(t; T_i, \mathbf{X}_i) = h_0(t) \exp\{\alpha T_i + \boldsymbol{\beta}^\top \mathbf{X}_i + \boldsymbol{\gamma}^\top T_i \mathbf{X}_i\}$$

with

- $h_0(t)$ the baseline hazard function at times $t > 0$
- T_i the treatment arm
- \mathbf{X}_i the p -dimensional vector of biomarkers

and with $\boldsymbol{\gamma}^\top T_i \mathbf{X}_i$ accounting for the
treatment-by-biomarkers interaction

Statistical issues

$$h(t; T_i, \mathbf{X}_i) = h_0(t) \exp\{\alpha T_i + \boldsymbol{\beta}^\top \mathbf{X}_i + \boldsymbol{\gamma}^\top T_i \mathbf{X}_i\}$$

Aim: selection of the relevant interactions $T_i \mathbf{X}_i$

Issue: The model with all the main effects $\boldsymbol{\beta}^\top \mathbf{X}_i$ is not identifiable or at least very DoF-consuming

→ **How to select the relevant interactions while properly accounting for the main effects?**

(A)LASSO

Full LASSO.

$$l_p(\alpha, \boldsymbol{\beta}, \boldsymbol{\gamma}) = l(\alpha, \boldsymbol{\beta}, \boldsymbol{\gamma}; \mathbf{T}, \mathbf{X}) - \lambda(\mathbf{1}^\top |\boldsymbol{\beta}| + \mathbf{1}^\top |\boldsymbol{\gamma}|)$$

Adaptive LASSO.

$$l_p(\alpha, \boldsymbol{\beta}, \boldsymbol{\gamma}) = l(\alpha, \boldsymbol{\beta}, \boldsymbol{\gamma}; \mathbf{T}, \mathbf{X}) - \lambda(\mathbf{w}_\beta^\top |\boldsymbol{\beta}| + \mathbf{w}_\gamma^\top |\boldsymbol{\gamma}|)$$

Pros. Simple. Sparse models, easy interpretation

Cons. Selection with same penalty, irrespective of parameter meaning → No hierarchy constraint

Group LASSO

Yuan and Lin (2006)

$$l_p(\alpha, \boldsymbol{\beta}, \boldsymbol{\gamma}) = l(\alpha, \boldsymbol{\beta}, \boldsymbol{\gamma}; \mathbf{T}, \mathbf{X}) - \lambda \sum_{j=1}^p \left\| (\beta_j, \gamma_j)^\top \right\|_2$$

Either selects both β_j and γ_j or none of them,

Pros. Hierarchy constraint fulfilled:
no interaction (with treatment) without main effect

Cons. Interactions (with treatment)
of strongly prognostic biomarker are likely selected

Ridge + LASSO

$$l_p(\alpha, \beta, \gamma) = l(\alpha, \beta, \gamma; T, X) - \lambda_2 \beta^\top \beta - \lambda \mathbf{1}^\top |\gamma|$$

All the **main effects** are selected, with **ridge** penalization
Lasso selection on the **interactions**

Pros. Hierarchy constraint fulfilled.

Adjustment for prognostic factors, predictive or not

Cons. Model not sparse at all.

Two shrinkage parameters λ and λ_2

Modified covariate model

Tian et al (2014)

$$h(t; T_i, \mathbf{X}_i) = h_0(t) \exp\{\boldsymbol{\gamma}^\top \mathbf{M}_i\}, \mathbf{M}_i = T_i \mathbf{X}_i / 2$$

$$l_p(\boldsymbol{\alpha}, \boldsymbol{\beta}, \boldsymbol{\gamma}) = l(\boldsymbol{\alpha}, \boldsymbol{\beta}, \boldsymbol{\gamma}; \mathbf{T}, \mathbf{X}) - \lambda \mathbf{1}^\top |\boldsymbol{\gamma}|$$

No **main effects** in the model. **Lasso** selection on the **modified covariates** \mathbf{M}_i

Pros. Only one set of covariates to make selection on.
Shown to perform well in linear model

Cons. No explicit prognostic effects

Other methods

Other methods (among many possible)

- **Dimension reduction** (PCA or PLS)
for main effects + LASSO on interactions
- **Univariate**: Wald test for interaction in the
biomarker-specific model with FDR control
- **Boosting**
- ...

Simulation results

Ternès, Rotolo, Heinze, Michiels (2017)

Data generation.

- Gaussian biomarkers with autoregressive correlation ($\sigma_{ij} = 0.7^{|i-j|}$) within 50-biomarker blocks, respectively
- Randomly assignment (1:1) to experimental or control arm
- Exponential survival times
- Independent censoring from a $U(2, 5)$ distribution (i.e. 3-y accrual and 2-y follow-up)

Treatment effect: $\alpha = \log(0.5)$

Prognostic biomarker effect: $\beta_j = \log(0.5)$ for $X_j = 1$ vs $X_j = 0$

Predictive biomarker effect: $\gamma_j = \log(0.5)$ for $X_j = 1$ vs $X_j = 0$

Results in the null scenarios (no predictive biomarker)

Type-1 error rate	Univariate + FDR	Modified Covariates	PCA + LASSO	Ridge + LASSO	Group LASSO	Full LASSO	Adaptive LASSO	Gradient Boosting
n=500, p=1000								
No effect at all	0.06	0.38	0.35	0.38	0.52	0.01	0.12	0.68
Treatment effect	0.04	0.41	0.43	0.38	0.52	0.02	0.16	0.69
Prognostic effects	0.08	0.45	0.27	0.58	1.00	0.98	0.32	1.00

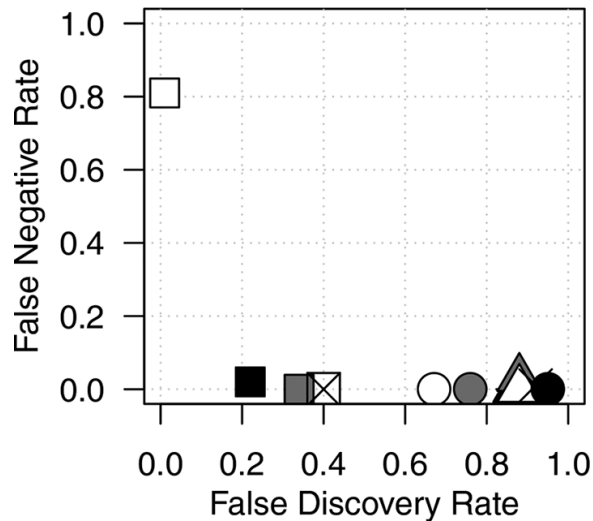
Simulation results

Ternès, Rotolo, Heinze, Michiels (2017)

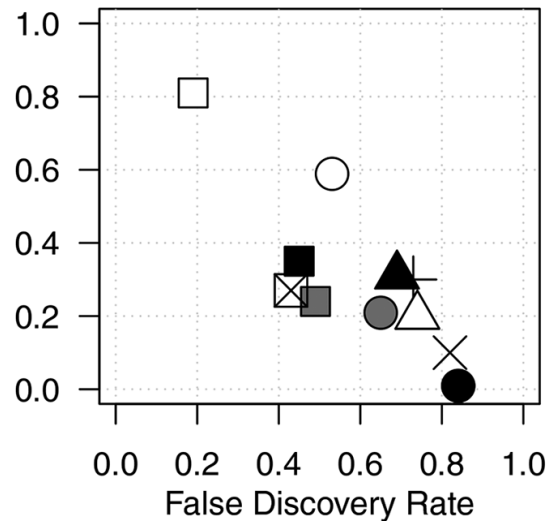
Results in the alternative scenarios (1+ predictive biomarkers)

- + modified covariates
- ▲ PCA+lasso
- ▲ PLS+lasso
- △ ridge+lasso
- full-lasso
- alasso (Sw)
- alasso (Gw)
- group-lasso
- gradient boosting
- univariate
- × two-l model
- ⊠ alasso (Aspw)

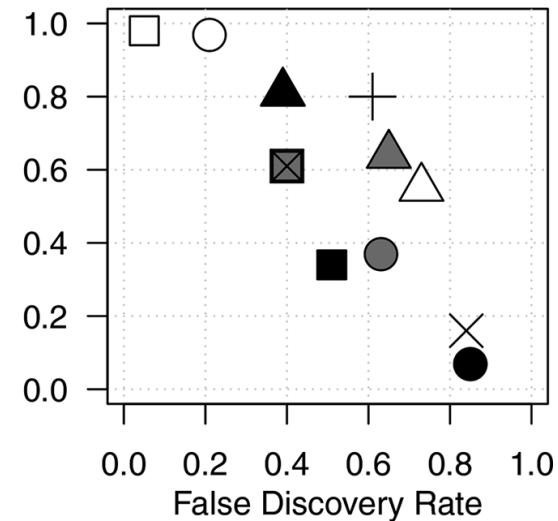
1 predictive biomarker



10 predictive biomarkers

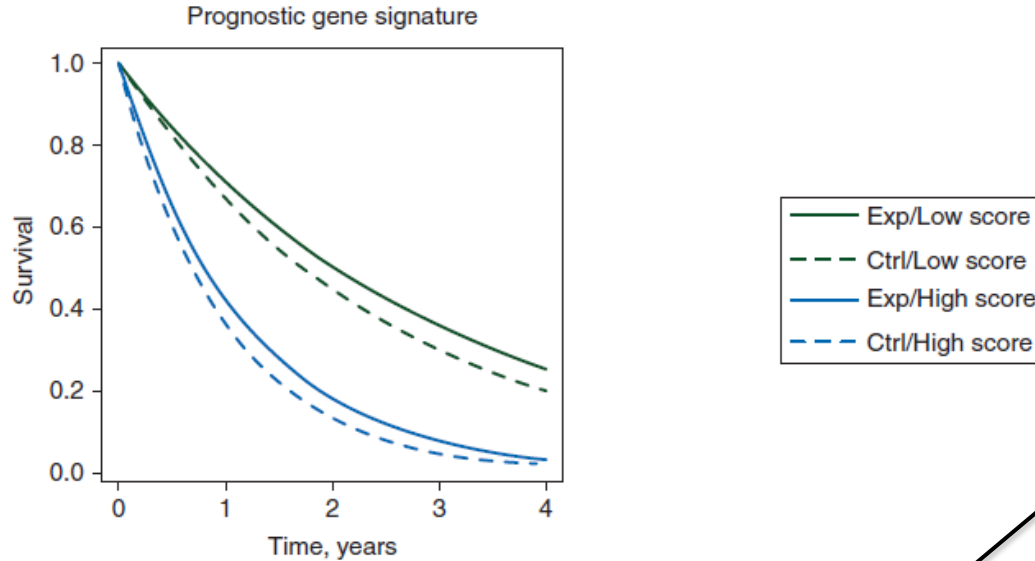


10 predictive + 10 prognostic



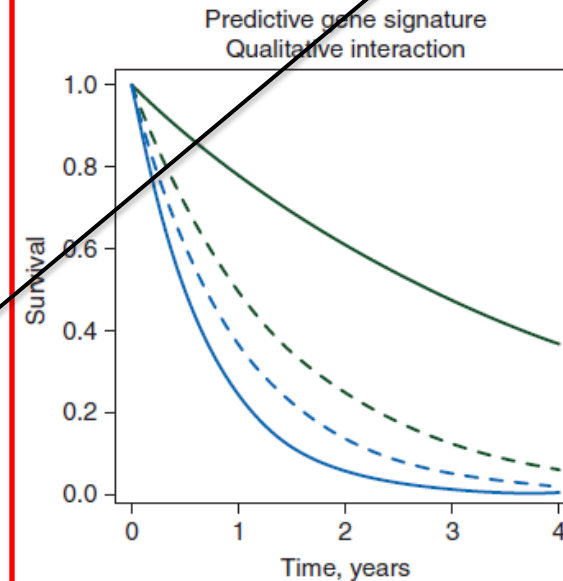
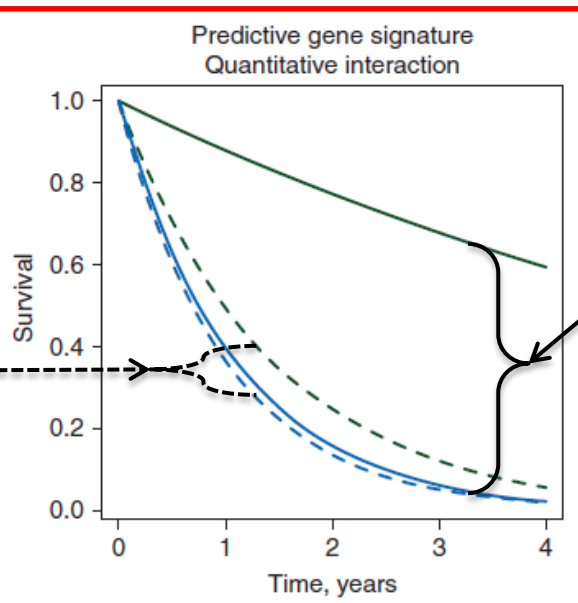
Stratified medicine – survival outcome

Michiels, Ternès, Rotolo (2016)



Gene signature is very discriminant in the experimental arm

Gene signature is little discriminant in the control arm

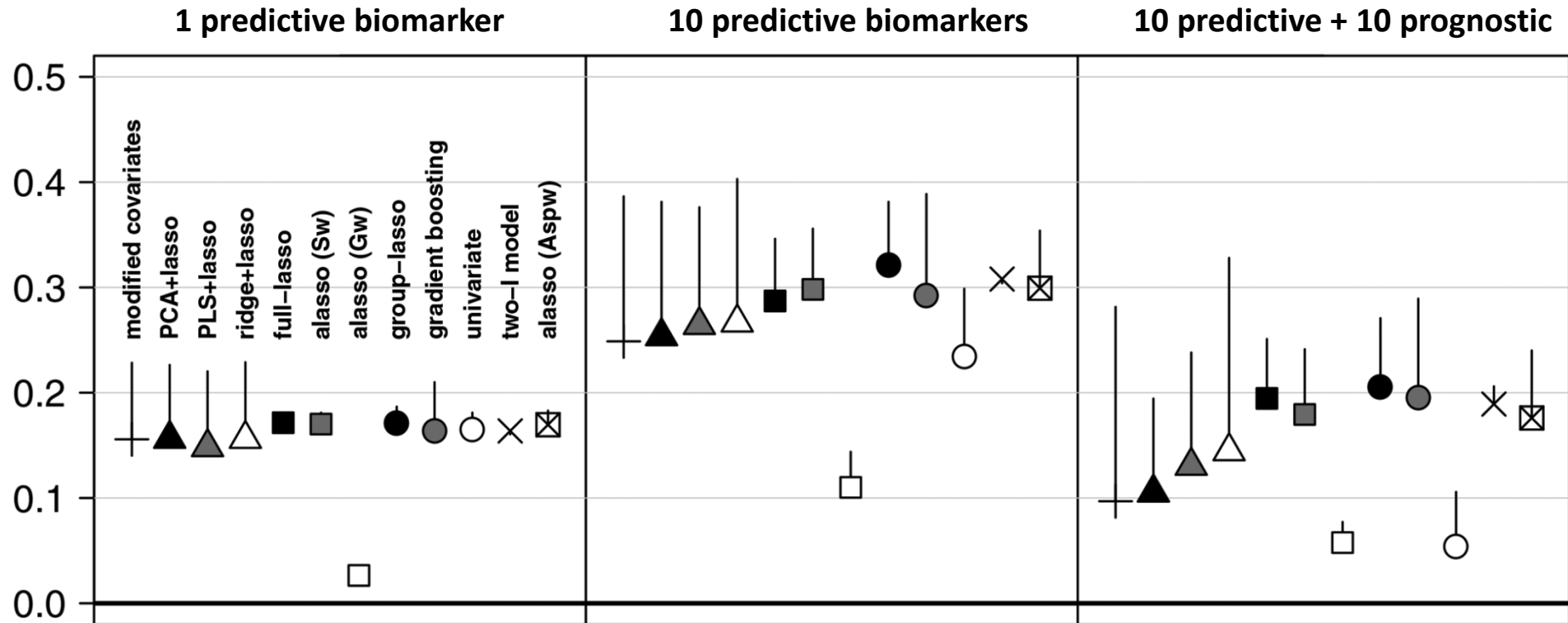


Simulation results

Ternès, Rotolo, Heinze, Michiels (2017)

Results in the alternative scenarios (1+ predictive biomarkers)

Between-arms difference in Uno C-statistics (ΔC)



Points: ΔC computed in an independent validation dataset

Vertical segments go up to the values of the ΔC computed in the training dataset

GEO early breast cancer data

Publicly available data in breast cancer patients (GEO Database)
(Desmedt et al, 2011; Hatzis et al, 2011)

Clinical data

n = 614 patients

Gr. A: anthracycline only (**n** = 107)

Gr. AT: anthracycline + taxane-based (**n** = 507)

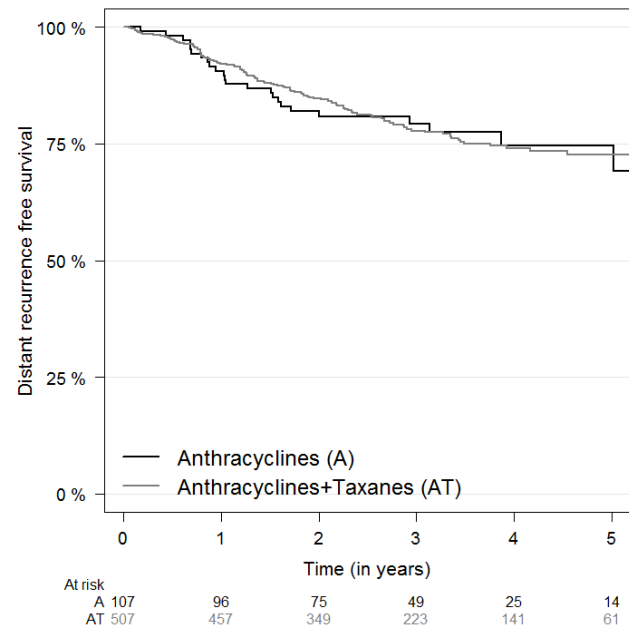
Gene expression data

Initially, 22,277 normalized genes

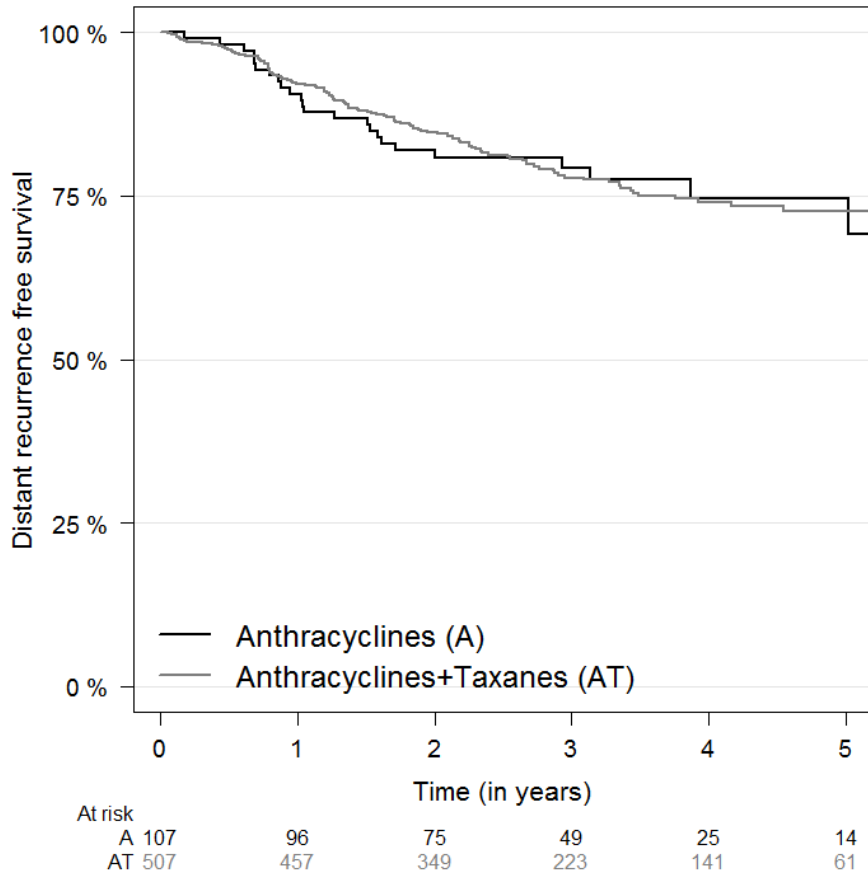
Filtering step: Only genes with the largest variability (IQR > 1)

p = 1689 standardized genes

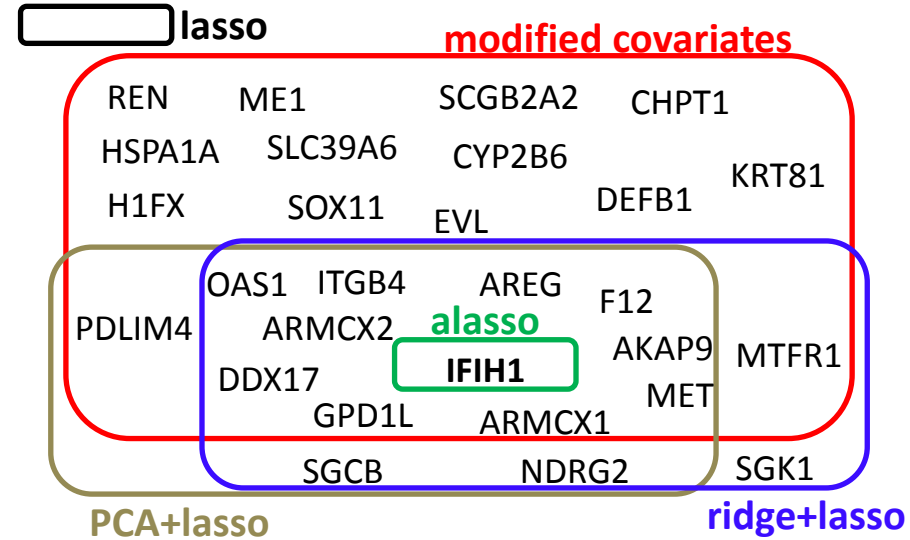
Aim: Identify treatment-modifiers for taxane in tumors biopsies from breast cancer



GEO early breast cancer data



Training set (315 patients)



Validation set (299 patients)

	# selected biomarkers	ΔC -statistics
modified covariates	25	0.11
PCA+lasso	14	0.07
ridge+lasso	15	0.06
lasso	0	0
adapative lasso	1	0.11

Knowledge on IFIH1 gene: associated with recurrence in non-responders to taxane CT in early Breast K; is part of 2 patents for predicting the benefit of taxanes in K; its expression is associated with resistance to taxane in prostate K cell lines

How to translate a predictive signature into survival probabilities to support the therapeutic decision?



From a statistical viewpoint

- How can we **estimate** accurately the **survival probability** for a new patient starting **from a penalized regression** model?
- How can we **compute confidence intervals** for such estimation?
- How can we **control for overfitting** in the case no external validation data is available?

Estimation of the survival probability

Ternès, Rotolo, Michiels (2017a)

$$h(t; T_i, \mathbf{X}_i) = h_0(t) \exp\{\alpha T_i + \boldsymbol{\beta}^\top \mathbf{X}_i + \boldsymbol{\gamma}^\top T_i \mathbf{X}_i\}$$

$$l_p(\boldsymbol{\beta}) = l(\boldsymbol{\beta}; \mathbf{X}) - p_\lambda(\boldsymbol{\beta})$$



Cross-validation (k_1 -folds, 1CV)



λ

$$\{\hat{h}_0(t), \hat{\alpha}, \hat{\boldsymbol{\beta}}, \hat{\boldsymbol{\gamma}}\}$$

Prognostic scores

$$\hat{\boldsymbol{\phi}}_i = \hat{\boldsymbol{\beta}}^\top \mathbf{X}_i$$

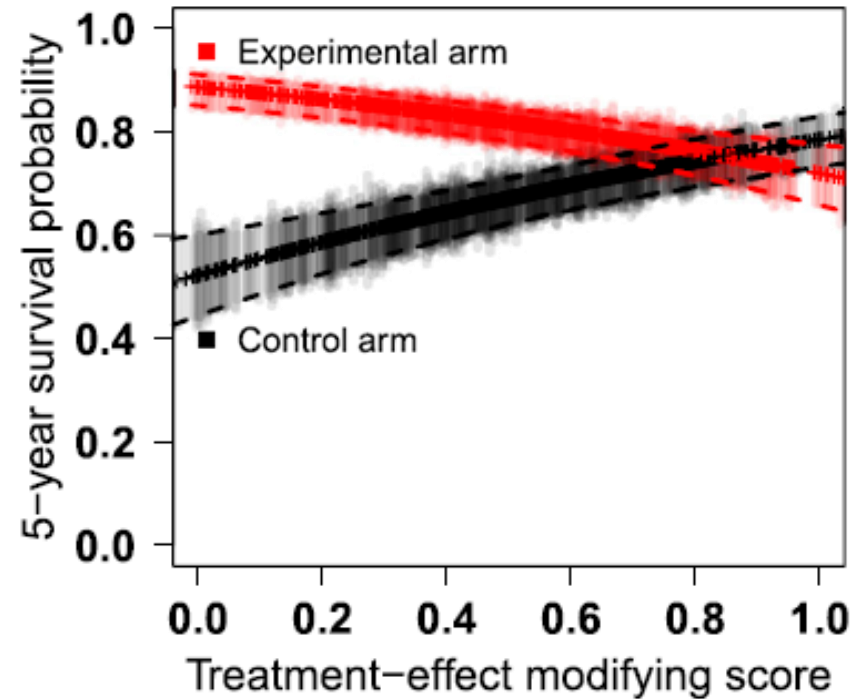
Interaction scores

$$\hat{\boldsymbol{\eta}}_i = \hat{\boldsymbol{\gamma}}^\top \mathbf{X}_i$$

Point estimates of expected survival

$$\hat{S}_1(t), \dots, \hat{S}_n(t)$$

Multiple treatment-effect modifiers
No prognostic effect



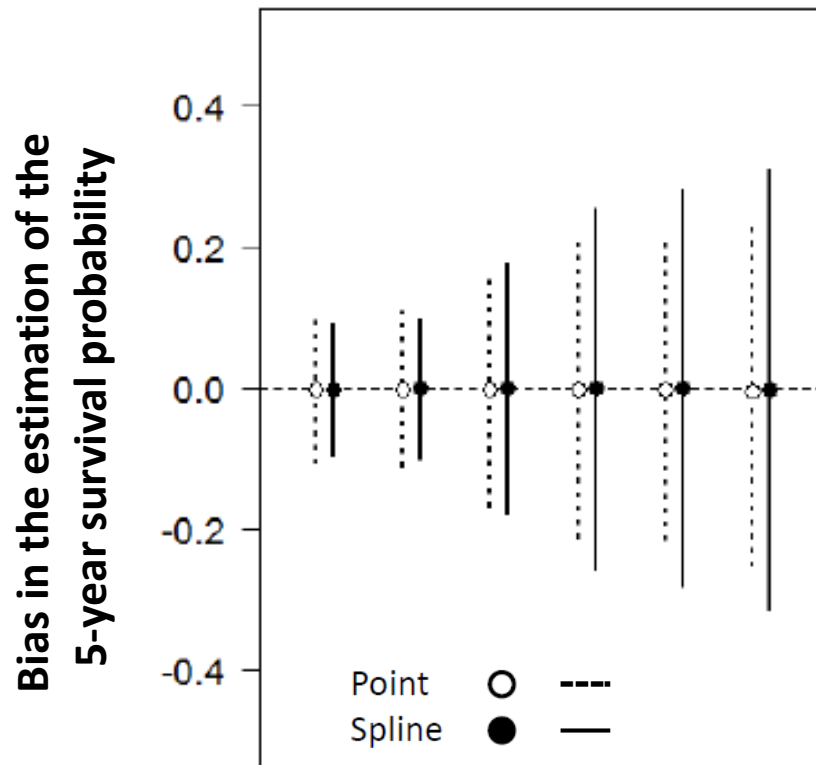
$$\hat{\boldsymbol{\eta}}_i = \hat{\boldsymbol{\gamma}}^\top \mathbf{X}_i$$

Estimation of the survival probability

Ternès, Rotolo, Michiels (2017a)

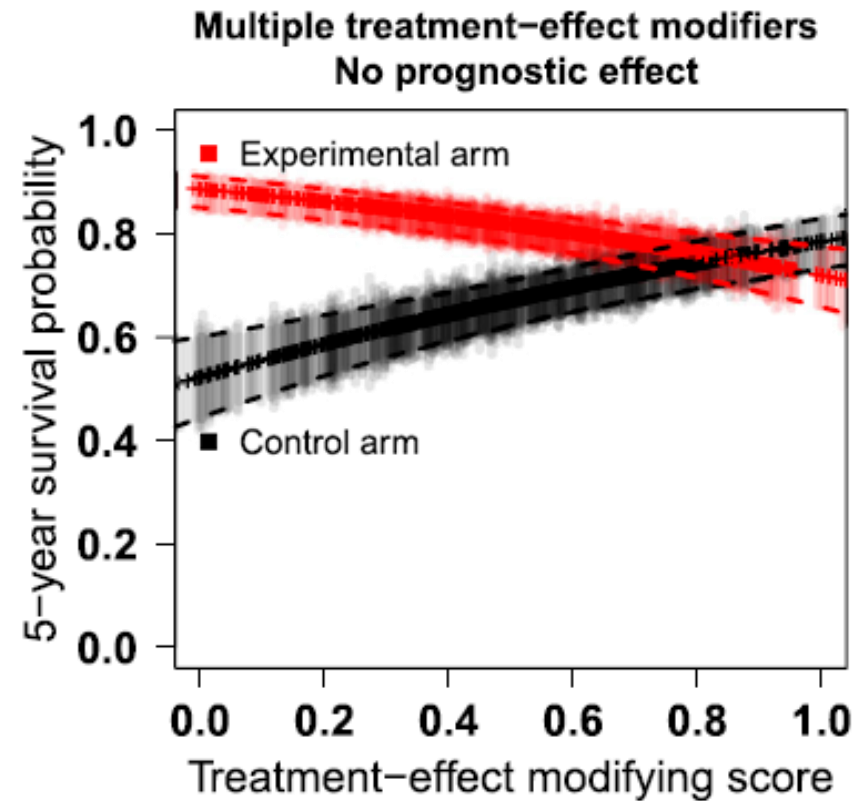
Confidence interval estimation:

- Analytic $IC_{1-\theta}(\hat{S}_k(t)) = \exp\left(-\hat{H}_k(t) \pm z_{1-\frac{\theta}{2}}\sqrt{\widehat{\text{var}}(\hat{H}_k(t))}\right)$
- Smoothed by B-splines



Treatment effect
Prognostic bmk
Predictive bmk

(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)
N	Y	N	N	Y	Y
0	0	20	0	0	20
0	0	0	15	15	15

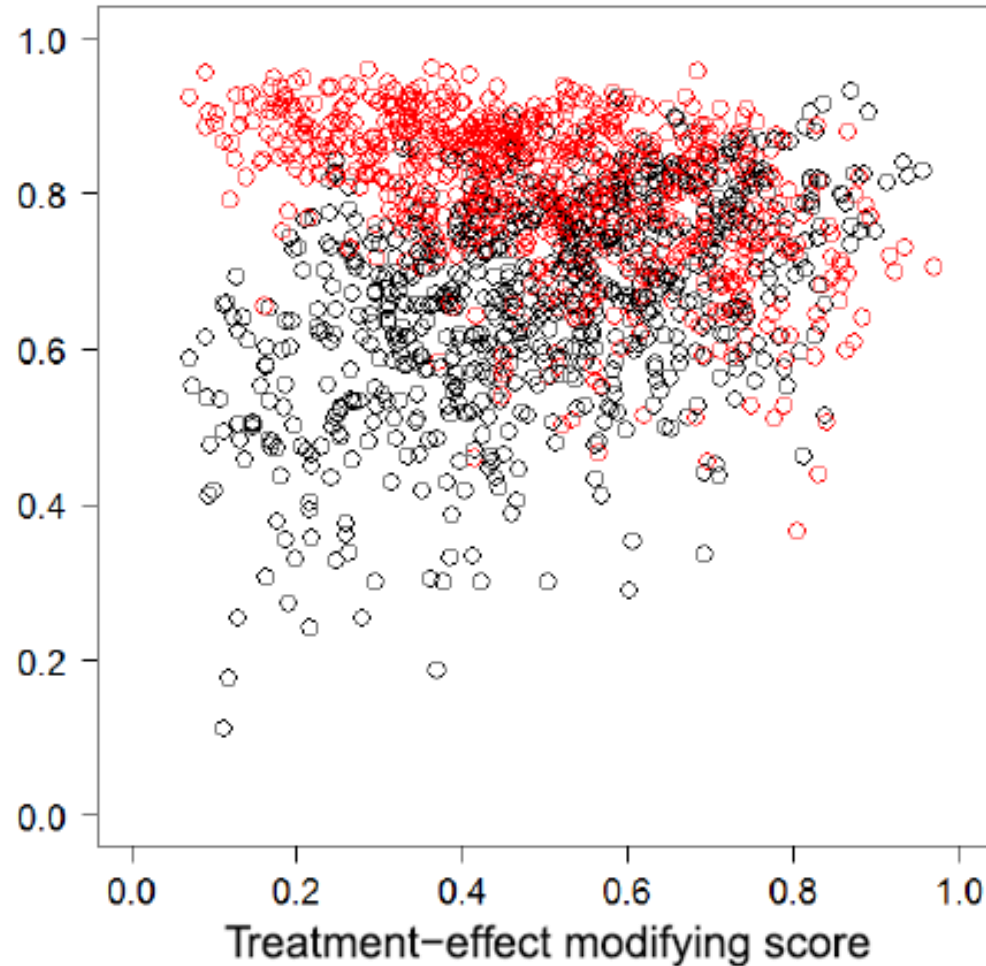


$$\hat{\eta}_i = \hat{\gamma}^\top X_i$$

Accounting for prognostic biomarkers

Ternès, Rotolo, Michiels (2017a)

$$h(t; T_i, \mathbf{X}_i) = h_0(t) \exp\{\alpha T_i + \beta^\top \mathbf{X}_i + \gamma^\top T_i \mathbf{X}_i\}$$

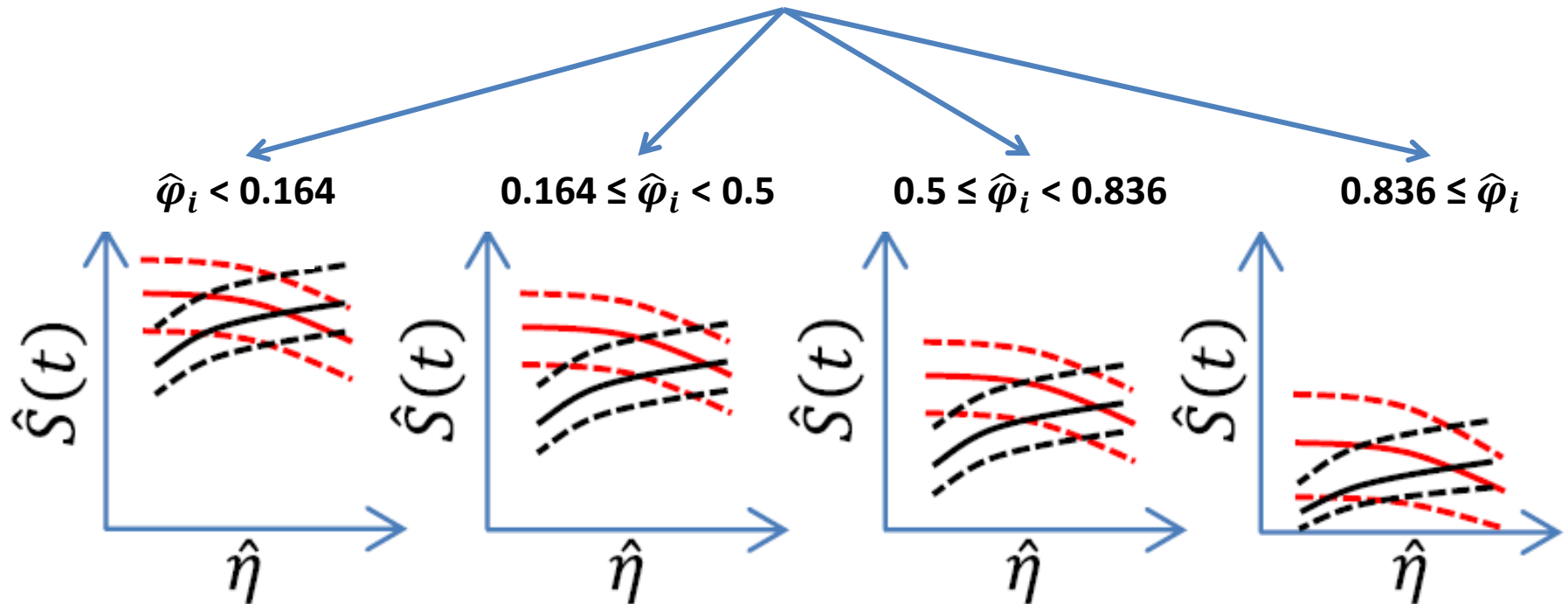


$$\hat{\eta}_i = \hat{\gamma}^\top \mathbf{X}_i$$

Accounting for prognostic biomarkers

$$h(t; T_i, \mathbf{X}_i) = h_0(t) \exp\{\alpha T_i + \boldsymbol{\beta}^\top \mathbf{X}_i + \boldsymbol{\gamma}^\top T_i \mathbf{X}_i\}$$

Prognostic classes based on $\hat{\varphi}_i = \hat{\boldsymbol{\beta}}^\top \mathbf{X}_i$
using percentiles 16.4%, 33.6%, 33.6%, 16.4% (Cox 1957)



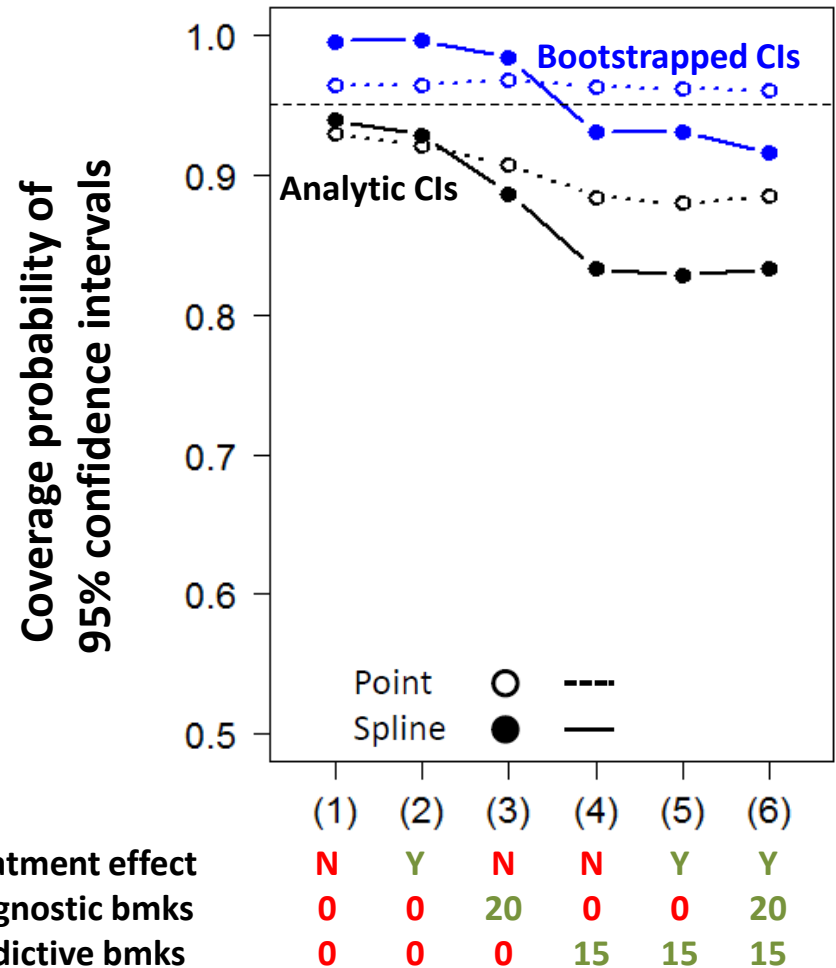
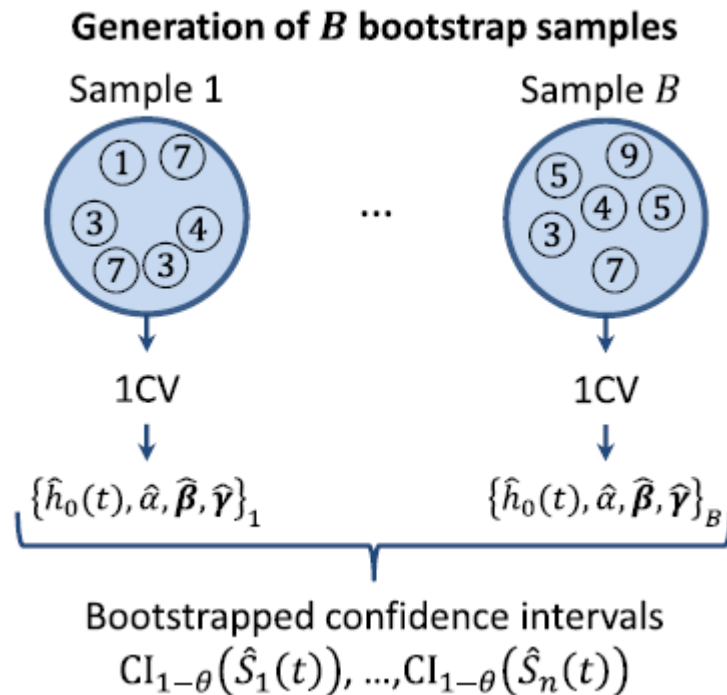
Estimation of the survival probability

Ternès, Rotolo, Michiels (2017a)

Confidence interval estimation:

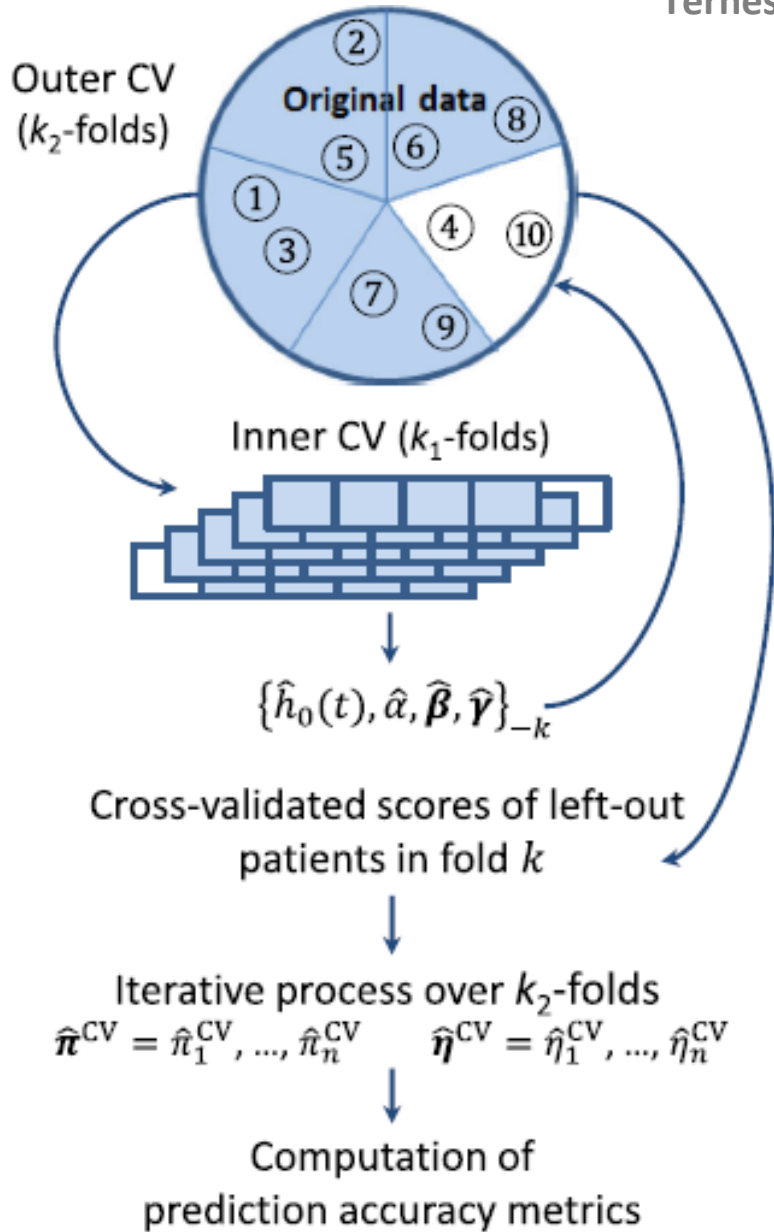
- Analytic $IC_{1-\theta}(\hat{S}_k(t)) = \exp\left(-\hat{H}_k(t) \pm z_{1-\frac{\theta}{2}}\sqrt{\widehat{\text{var}}(\hat{H}_k(t))}\right)$
- Smoothed by splines

either in the original data or
in bootstrap samples

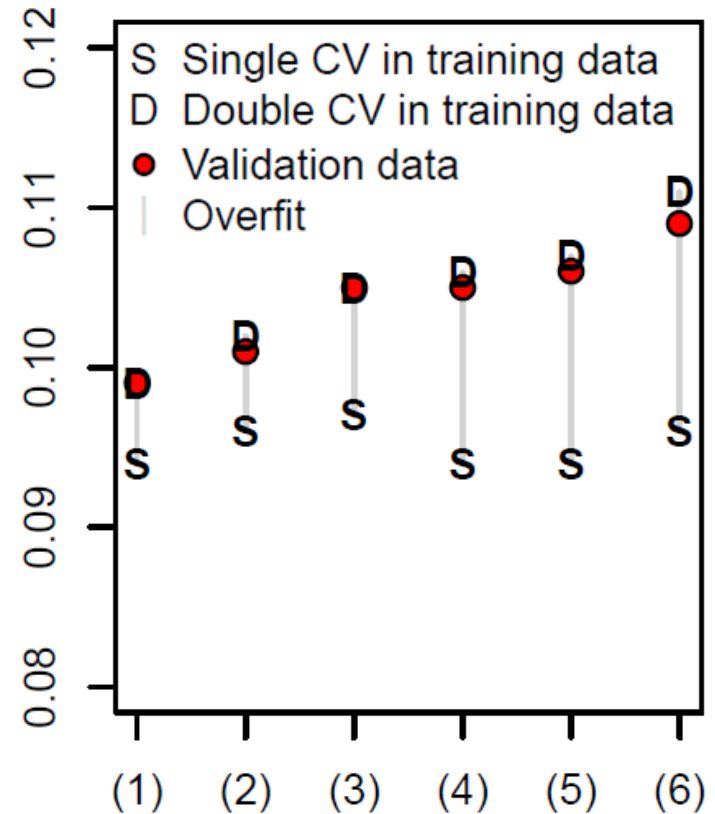


Controlling for overfitting

Ternès, Rotolo, Michiels (2017a)



Integrated Brier Score



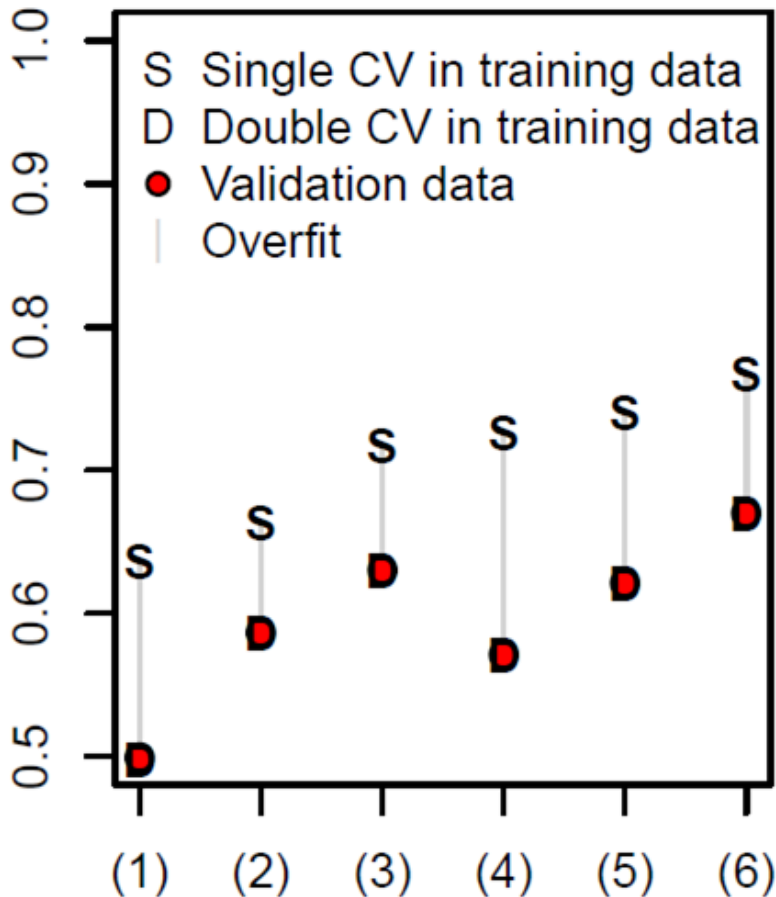
Treatment effect
Prognostic bmks
Predictive bmks

(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)
N	Y	N	N	Y	Y
0	0	20	0	0	20
0	0	0	15	15	15

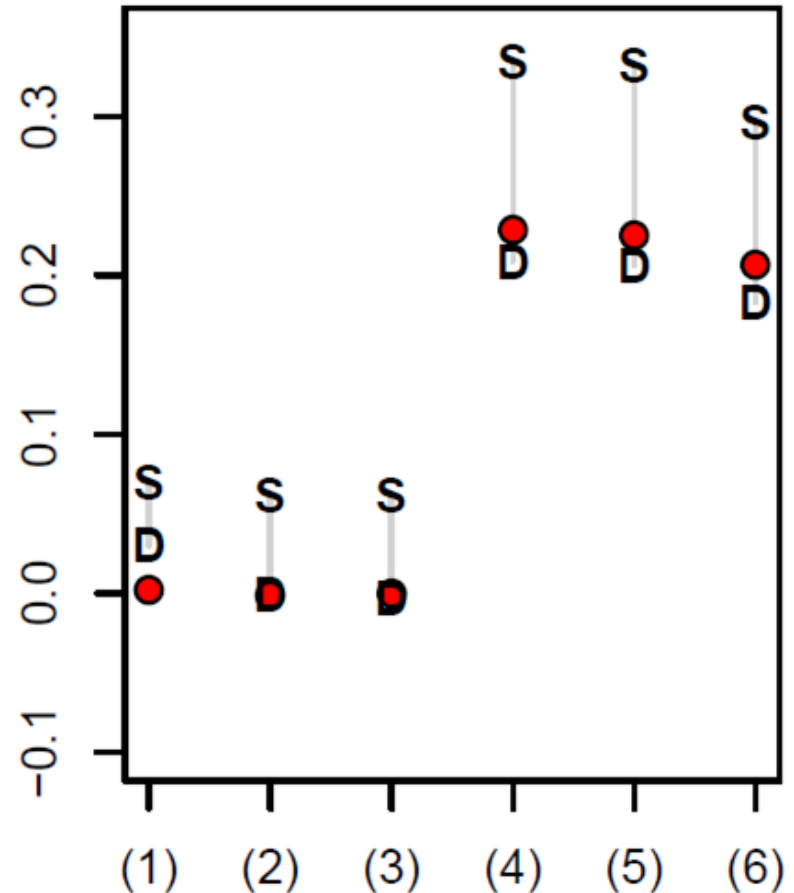
Controlling for overfitting

Ternès, Rotolo, Michiels (2017a)

Uno C-index



Delta C-index



Scenario	(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)	Treatment effect	Prognostic bmks	Predictive bmks			
Treatment effect	N	Y	N	N	Y	Y	N	Y	N	Y	Y	
Prognostic bmks	0	0	20	0	0	20	0	0	20	0	0	20
Predictive bmks	0	0	0	15	15	15	0	0	0	15	15	15

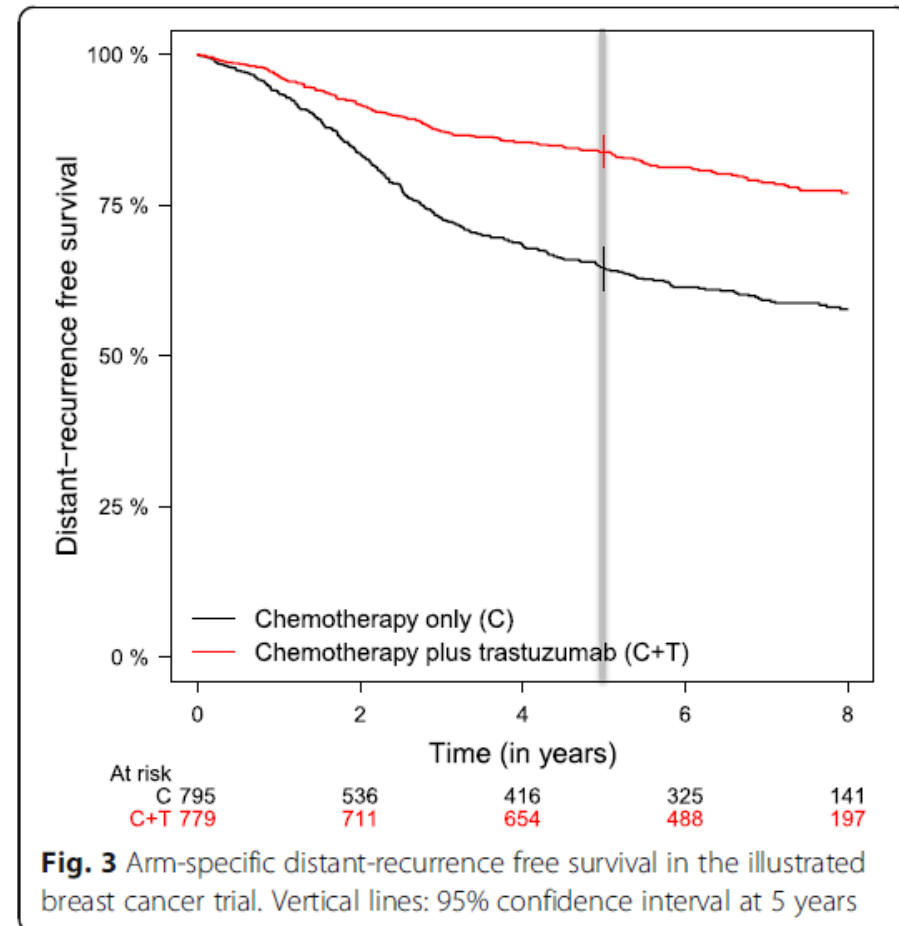
RCT in early breast cancer

Pogue-Geile et al (2013)

Retrospective biomarker study in RCT of early breast K patients

⇒ Randomized clinical trial (**n** = 1574 patients, **p** = 462 genes)

Characteristics	Chemotherapy only	Chemotherapy + adj. trastuzumab
Overall	795	779
Nodal status		
1 – 3 positive	444 (56%)	448 (57%)
4 – 9 positive	238 (30%)	232 (30%)
≥ 10 positive	113 (14%)	99 (13%)
ER status		
Negative	360 (45%)	375 (48%)
Positive	435 (55%)	404 (52%)
Tumor size (cm)		
Mean (SD)	2.9 (1.7)	2.9 (1.8)

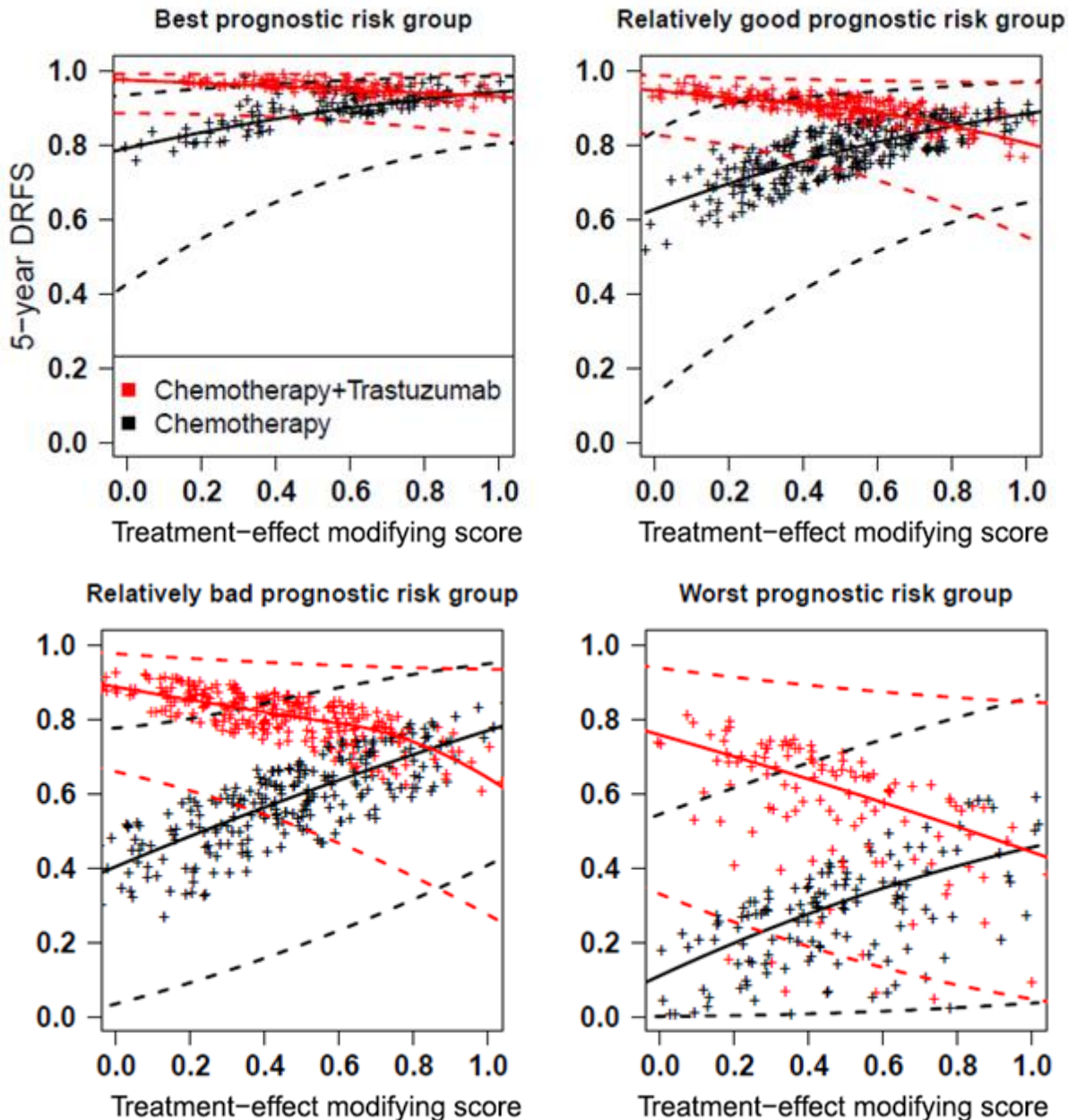


Developed signature

with the ALASSO penalty

Prognostic component	
Clinical variables (4)	Treatment, ER status, Tumor size, Nodal status
Genomic variables ($p = 98$)	ACTB, ADCYAP1, ANGPTL4, ARL8A, BBC3, BDH2, CAPS, CASC3,CCDC74A, CDC6,CDH3, CFLP1, CSNK1A1, <i>CSNK1D</i> , CXXC5,DHPS, DNAJC4, DPY19L4, ELAVL4, ELN, ENO1, ERBB4, FABP5,FAM84B, FBXW11,FKSG30, FLJ22659, FLJ22795, FLJ35390, FRAG1,FRMD4A, GHR, GPRIN1, GSN, HIST1H2AA,HIST2H2BE, IDUA, IGJ,IGKV2.24, ILF2,KCNE4, KIAA1920, KIF2C, KRT81, L3MBTL2,LCE3E, LOC400590, MAD2L2, MAP3K13,MBOAT2, MED13L , METTL3, MSI2, MTCH2, MVP, NAT1, NAT10, NDC80, NECAB3,NXPH3, OGFR, PCK2,PGM5, PHGDH,PITPNC1, PRPF40A, PTTG1, RBM14, RELB, RHBDD1, RND3, RPL34, RPS2, SFRP1,SLC25A28, SLC25A31,SLC25A5, SLC30A10,SLC6A19, SMCP, <i>SOX4</i> , <i>SPDEF</i> , SPP1, ST6GALNAC4, STEAP3, STK11IP,SULT1A2,TBXAS1, TCEB2, TFRC,TMSB10, TRABD, TUBB2C, UBE2W, UGDH, XYLT1, ZNF592, ZNF609
Treatment-effect modifying component	
Genomic variables ($p = 24$)	ATAD3A, C16orf14, C1orf93, <i>CCL21</i> , <i>CD9</i> , <i>CIAPIN1</i> , CLIC1, DKFZP434A0131, FAM148A,FNDCC4, FURIN, KRTAP2.4, MED13L , MIA, MMD, ORMDL3, RPLP0,SIAH2, SLC39A14, SSBP2, THOP1, THRAP1,TMEM45B, UNC119
Prediction measures	
C-statistic (C)	0.80 (1CV), 0.67 (2CV)
Δ C-statistic (Δ C)	0.23 (1CV), 0.02 (2CV)

Graphical illustration



R package biospear

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Applications Note

OXFORD

Genome analysis

biospear: an R package for biomarker selection in penalized Cox regression

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Abstract

Summary: The R package `biospear` allows selecting the biomarkers with the strongest impact on survival and on the treatment effect in high-dimensional Cox models, and estimating expected survival probabilities. Most of the implemented approaches are based on penalized regression techniques.

Availability and implementation: The package is available on the CRAN. (<https://CRAN.R-project.org/package=biospear>)

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Supplementary information: [Supplementary data](#) are available at *Bioinformatics* online.

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