

Challenging Question: Use the DELTA method to deduce Greenwood's formula

1. Remember the KM estimate $S_n(t) = \prod_{i: y_i \leq t} \left(\frac{r_i - S_i}{r_i} \right)$ and the corresponding estimator $S_n(t) = \prod_{i: y_i \leq t} \left(\frac{r_i - S_i}{r_i} \right)$. We will assume that y_i and r_i are known (not random).
2. Deduce the sampling distribution of S_i and show that $E(S_i) = r_i p_i$ and that $\text{var}(S_i) = r_i p_i (1 - p_i)$ where p_i is the probability of "dying" at time y_i assuming that the policyholder is "alive" immediately before y_i .
3. As it is difficult to deal with the variance of a product of random variables show that
$$\text{var}(\ln(S_n(t))) = \sum_{i: y_i \leq t} \text{var} \left(\ln \left(\frac{r_i - S_i}{r_i} \right) \right)$$
4. Use the DELTA method to show that
$$\text{var} \left(\ln \left(\frac{r_i - S_i}{r_i} \right) \right) \approx \frac{p_i}{r_i (1 - p_i)}$$
5. Use the DELTA method again to show that
$$\text{var}(S_n(t)) \approx S(t)^2 \text{var}(\ln(S_n(t)))$$
6. Summarize the previous findings showing that
$$\text{var}(S_n(t)) \approx S(t)^2 \sum_{i: y_i \leq t} \frac{p_i}{r_i (1 - p_i)}$$
7. Use the "natural" estimate of p_i , $\hat{p}_i = S_i / r_i$, to show that
$$\hat{\text{var}}(S_n(t)) \approx S_n(t)^2 \sum_{i: y_i \leq t} \frac{S_i}{r_i (r_i - S_i)}$$