Vol. 9

Series in
Mathematical Biology
and Medicine

HANDBOOK OF CANCER MODELS WITH APPLICATIONS

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Mathematical Biology
and Medicine

HANDBOOK OF CANCER MODELS WITH APPLICATIONS

edited by

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World Scientific

NEW JERSEY • LONDON • SINGAPORE • BEIJING • SHANGHAI • HONG KONG • TAIPEI • CHENNAI

Published by

World Scientific Publishing Co. Pte. Ltd.

5 Toh Tuck Link, Singapore 596224

USA office: 27 Warren Street, Suite 401-402, Hackensack, NJ 07601

UK office: 57 Shelton Street, Covent Garden, London WC2H 9HE

British Library Cataloguing-in-Publication Data

A catalogue record for this book is available from the British Library.

Series in Mathematical Biology and Medicine — Vol. 9

HANDBOOK OF CANCER MODELS WITH APPLICATIONS

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ISBN-13 978-981-277-947-2

ISBN-10 981-277-947-7

Typeset by Stallion Press

Email: enquiries@stallionpress.com

Printed in Singapore.

CONTENTS

Contributors	xvii
Preface	xxiii
1. Oncogenetic Trees	1
<i>Aniko Szabo and Kenneth M. Boucher</i>	
1. Introduction	1
2. Definitions and Basic Results	2
2.1. Description of the Data	2
2.2. The Oncogenetic Tree Model	3
2.2.1. Error model	5
3. Reconstruction	5
4. Sample Size Estimation	11
5. Parameter Estimation	13
6. Example: Renal Carcinoma Development	14
7. Properties of the Oncogenetic Tree Estimator: A Simulation Study	15
7.1. Simulating Data Based on a Given Tree	16
7.2. Probability of Correct Reconstruction	16
7.3. Sample Size for High Probability of Reconstruction	17
8. Goodness of Fit	19
8.1. Bootstrap Estimate of Reconstruction Confidence .	19
8.2. Analysis of the Stable Portions	19
9. Discussion	22
References	23

2.	Stochastic Multistage Cancer Models: A Fresh Look at an Old Approach	25
	<i>Qi Zheng</i>	
1.	Introduction	25
2.	Basic Definitions and Notation	26
3.	Mathematical Details	32
4.	Concluding Remarks	41
	Acknowledgments	42
	References	42
3.	Cancer Biology, Cancer Models and Some New Approaches to Carcinogenesis	45
	<i>Wai Y. Tan, Chao W. Chen and Li J. Zhang</i>	
1.	Introduction	45
2.	Some Recent Cancer Biology for Modeling Carcinogenesis	47
2.1.	The Multi-Staging Nature of Carcinogenesis	49
2.2.	The Sequential Nature	50
2.3.	The Genetic Changes and Cancer Genes	53
2.4.	Cell Cycle and Carcinogenesis	55
2.5.	Epigenetic and Cancer	57
2.6.	Telomere, Immortalization and Cancer	60
2.7.	Single Pathway versus Multiple Pathways of Carcinogenesis	61
3.	Some General Stochastic Models of Carcinogenesis	64
3.1.	The Extended Multi-Event Model of Carcinogenesis	64
3.2.	The Mixed Models of Carcinogenesis	65
4.	Some New Approaches for Analyzing Stochastic Models of Carcinogenesis	66
4.1.	Stochastic Differential Equations	67
4.2.	The Probability Distribution of $T(t)$	69
4.3.	Probability Distribution of the State Variables	69

5.	A State Space Model for the Extended Multi-Event Model of Carcinogenesis	70
5.1.	The Stochastic System Model, the Augmented State Variables and Probability Distribution	71
5.2.	The Observation Model and the Probability Distribution of Cancer Incidence	72
5.3.	The Posterior Distribution of the Unknown Parameters and State Variables	74
5.4.	The Generalized Bayesian Method for Estimating Unknown Parameters and State Variables	75
6.	Analysis of British Physician Data of Lung Cancer and Smoking	76
7.	Conclusions and Summary	83
	Acknowledgments	83
	References	84
4.	Modeling the Effects of Radiation on Cell Cycle Regulation and Carcinogenesis	91
	<i>William D. Hazelton</i>	
1.	Introduction	92
1.1.	Multistage Carcinogenesis Models	92
1.2.	Analyses of Environmentally Exposed Cohorts	93
2.	Modeling Biological Mechanisms	95
2.1.	A Combined Cell Cycle and Multistage Clonal Expansion Model	95
3.	Summary	102
	Acknowledgments	103
	References	103
	Appendix	104
5.	Cancer Models, Ionizing Radiation, and Genomic Instability: A Review	109
	<i>Mark P. Little</i>	
1.	Introduction	109
2.	Armitage-Doll Multi-Stage Model	113

3.	Two-Mutation Model	119
4.	Generalized MVK and Multi-Stage Models	123
5.	Multiple Pathway Models	128
5.1.	Multiple Pathway Models Incorporating Genomic Instability	129
6.	Discussion and Conclusions	133
	Acknowledgments	138
	References	138
6.	Distribution of the Sizes of Metastases: Mathematical and Biomedical Considerations	149
	<i>Leonid Hanin</i>	
1.	Introduction	149
2.	The Model	155
2.1.	Tumor Latency	155
2.2.	Primary Tumor Growth	155
2.3.	Metastasis Formation	155
2.4.	Timeline of the Natural History of Metastatic Cancer and Observables	156
2.5.	Secondary Metastasis	157
2.6.	Metastasis Growth	157
2.7.	Metastasis Detection	158
2.8.	Effects of Treatment	158
3.	Distribution of the Sizes of Detectable Metastases	158
4.	Distribution of the Sizes of Detectable Metastases for Exponentially Growing Tumors	162
4.1.	Model Specification and Results	162
4.2.	Model Identification	165
	Acknowledgments	167
	References	168
7.	Mathematical Models of Cancer and their Relevant Insights	173
	<i>Evans Afenya</i>	
1.	Introduction	173
2.	Cancer Models	176

2.1.	Models of Leukemia	177
2.2.	Cell Kinetics	195
3.	Cancer Treatment Models	200
3.1.	Optimal Control Models	201
4.	Parameter Estimation	210
5.	Concluding Remarks	211
	References	213
8.	Major Epigenetic Hypotheses of Carcinogenesis Revisited	225
	<i>King-Thom Chung</i>	
1.	Introduction	226
2.	Why are Epigenetic Factors Important?	230
3.	The Warburg's Hypothesis	232
4.	The Linus Pauling Hypothesis: Vitamin C and Cancer	233
5.	Szent-Györgyi (Bioelectronic) Hypothesis	236
6.	Micronutrients and Cancer	238
7.	NAD Deficiency as a Factor in Carcinogenesis	242
8.	GAP Junction Intercellular Communication (GJIC) and Cancer	251
9.	Viral Infections and Cancer	254
10.	Other Epigenetic Hypotheses	259
11.	Concluding Remarks and Perspectives	262
	Acknowledgments	265
	References	266
9.	Induction and Repair of DNA Damage Formed by Energetic Electrons and Light Ions	291
	<i>Robert D. Stewart and Vladimir A. Semenenko</i>	
1.	Dosimetric Quantities and Units	291
1.1.	Absorbed Dose	291
1.2.	Linear Energy Transfer (LET)	292
1.3.	Microdosimetry	294
2.	Induction of DNA Damage	297
2.1.	Classification of DNA Damage	297
2.2.	Mechanisms	297
2.3.	Initial Yield and Characteristics	300

3.	Repair of Base Damage and Single-Strand Breaks	303
3.1.	Mechanisms	303
3.2.	Excision Repair Outcomes and Kinetics	304
3.3.	Point Mutations Arising from Base Damage and Single-Strand Breaks	307
4.	Repair of Double-Strand Breaks	308
4.1.	Mechanisms	308
4.2.	Repair Kinetics, Chromosome Aberrations and Small-Scale Mutations	310
	Acknowledgments	314
	References	314
	Appendix	319
10.	Radiation-Induced Bystander Effects	323
	<i>Linda C. DeVeaux</i>	
1.	Bystander Effects	323
1.1.	Introduction	323
1.2.	Definition of Bystander Effects	325
1.3.	History of Bystander Effects	326
1.4.	Bystander Endpoints	328
1.5.	Transmission of Signal	330
1.6.	Identification of Signal	331
1.7.	Status of Sending and Receiving Cells	333
1.8.	Dependence on Radiation Type	335
1.9.	Bystander Effects and Cancer Risk	336
1.10.	Evolutionary Considerations of Bystander Effects	336
2.	Summary	338
	Acknowledgments	338
	References	338
11.	A Stochastic Model of Human Colon Cancer Involving Multiple Pathways	345
	<i>Wai Y. Tan, Li J. Zhang, Chao W. Chen and J. M. Zhu</i>	
1.	Introduction	345
2.	A Brief Summary of Colon Cancer Biology	347

2.1.	The LOH Pathway of Human Colon Cancer (The APC- β – Catenin – Tcf – myc Pathway) . . .	347
2.2.	The MSI (Micro-Satellite Instability) Pathway of Human Colon Cancer	349
3.	The Stochastic Multi-Stage Model of Carcinogenesis . . .	352
3.1.	Stochastic Equations of State Variables	353
3.2.	The Expected Number of $I_j(t)$	354
3.3.	The Probability Distribution of the Number of Detectable Tumors	355
4.	A Statistical Model and the Probability Distribution of Cancer Incidence Data	356
4.1.	Data Augmentation and the Expanded Model . . .	358
4.2.	The Genetic Parameters	359
5.	The State Space Model and the Generalized Bayesian Approach for Estimating the Unknown Parameters	361
5.1.	The Prior Distribution of the Parameters	361
5.2.	The Posterior Distribution of the Parameters Given $\{Y, Z\}$	362
5.3.	The Multi-Level Gibbs Sampling Procedure for Estimating Parameters	363
5.4.	The Genetic Algorithm	364
6.	Application and Results	364
7.	Conclusions and Discussion	370
	Acknowledgments	371
	References	371
12.	Cancer Risk Assessment of Environmental Agents by Stochastic and State Space Models of Carcinogenesis <i>Wai Y. Tan, Chao W. Chen and Li J. Zhang</i>	375
1.	Introduction	375
2.	A General Stochastic Model of Carcinogenesis	377
2.1.	The Stochastic Difference Equations for State Variables	380
2.2.	The Probability of Developing Cancer Tumors . . .	381
2.3.	Probability Distribution of the State Variables . . .	381
3.	The Data for Risk Assessment of Environmental Agents .	382

4.	State Space Models of Carcinogenesis and the Prediction of State Variables	383
5.	A State Space Model for Cancer Risk Assessment	384
5.1.	The Stochastic System Model and Probability Distributions	384
5.2.	The Observation Model	385
6.	The Genetic Algorithm and the Predicted Inference Procedures	386
6.1.	The Genetic Algorithm	386
6.2.	The Predictive Inference Procedures	387
7.	Developing Confidence Intervals for Probabilities of Developing Cancer by Genetic Algorithm	388
8.	Developing Dose-Response Curves of Environmental Agents by Genetic Algorithm	388
9.	An Application and Illustration	389
10.	Conclusions	394
	Acknowledgments	394
	References	394
13.	Stochastic Models for Preneoplastic Lesions and Their Application for Cancer Risk Assessment	397
	<i>Annette Kopp-Schneider, Iris Burkholder, Jutta Groos and Lutz Edler</i>	
1.	Introduction	397
2.	Modeling Preneoplastic Lesions	401
2.1.	The Multistage Model with Clonal Expansion of Intermediate Cells	401
2.2.	A Geometric Model for Colonies of Intermediate Cells	405
2.3.	Comparison of Multistage and Color-Shift Model	406
3.	Application of Carcinogenesis Models to Preneoplastic Lesion Data	408
3.1.	Mouse Skin Carcinogenesis: Testing Biological Hypotheses about Papilloma and Carcinoma Formation	408

3.2.	Liver Focal Lesion Data: Testing Hypotheses about FAH Formation and Phenotype Change	411
3.3.	Liver Focal Lesion Data: Dose-Response Analyses	412
4.	Discussion	416
	Acknowledgments	418
	References	418
	Appendix A: Basic Ideas of the Color-Shift Model	422
	Appendix B: Likelihood Functions	423
	Appendix B(1): Likelihood Function for Skin Papilloma and Carcinoma Data	423
	Appendix B(2): Likelihood Function for Liver Focal Lesion Data	424
14.	Drug Resistance in Cancer Models	425
	<i>Jaroslav Smieja</i>	
1.	Introduction	425
2.	Biological Background	426
3.	Preliminaries for Mathematical Models	429
4.	Drug Resistance and a Single Chemotherapeutic Agent	431
4.1.	A Simple, Two-Compartmental Model	431
4.2.	Evolution of Drug Resistance Stemming from Gene Amplification	434
4.3.	Partial Sensitivity of the Resistant Subpopulation	439
4.4.	Phase-Specific Chemotherapy	440
4.5.	General Compartmental Model	442
5.	Multidrug Therapy and Drug Resistance	447
5.1.	A Two-Compartmental Model	448
5.2.	A Four-Compartmental Model	448
6.	Concluding Remarks	449
	Acknowledgments	451
	References	452
15.	Bladder Cancer Screening by Magnetic Resonance Imaging	457
	<i>Lihong Li, Zigang Wang and Zhengrong Liang</i>	
1.	Introduction	458

2.	Methods	459
2.1.	MR Image Protocols	459
2.2.	Image Segmentation	461
2.3.	Interactive Visualization System	462
2.4.	Detection of Bladder Lesions	463
3.	Results	465
4.	Discussion and Conclusions	466
	Acknowledgments	467
	References	468
16.	Mathematical Framework and Wavelets Applications in Proteomics for Cancer Study <i>Don Hong and Yu Shyr</i>	471
1.	Introduction	471
2.	Mathematical Representation and Preprocessing of Maldi MS Data	475
2.1.	Mathematical Model for MALDI-TOF MS Data . .	476
2.1.1.	Baseline correction and normalization . .	479
2.1.2.	Spectra registration and peak alignment .	480
3.	Multiscale Tools	482
3.1.	Wavelets and WaveSpec Software	483
3.2.	Diffusion Maps	488
4.	Clustering and Cancer Data Classifications	489
	Acknowledgments	496
	References	496
17.	Advanced Statistical Methods for the Design and Analysis of Tumor Xenograft Experiments <i>Ming Tan and Hong-Bin Fang</i>	501
1.	Introduction	502
2.	Design of Experiments for Combination Studies	504
2.1.	Fixed-Ratio Design and Ray Design	506
2.2.	Abdelbasit-Plackett Optimal Experimental Design .	506
2.3.	Uniform Experimental Design	507
3.	Statistical Analysis for Tumor Growth	509

3.1.	Statistical Models	510
3.2.	Parameter Estimation via the ECM Algorithm . . .	512
4.	Comparison of Treatment Effects	514
4.1.	Quasi t -Test Based on the EM Algorithm	515
4.2.	Bayesian Test	516
5.	Summary and Discussion	516
	Acknowledgments	518
	References	518
18.	Analysis of Occult Tumor Studies	521
	<i>Shesh N. Rai</i>	
1.	Introduction	521
2.	A Review of the Literature	523
3.	Preliminary Considerations	527
3.1.	Constructing the Likelihood Function	530
3.2.	Non-Parametric Settings	531
3.3.	Fitting the Semi-Parametric Model	534
4.	Interval Estimation	539
5.	Testing Tumor Lethality and Carcinogenic Effect	543
6.	Two Examples	546
7.	Discussion	556
	References	560
	Index	563

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PREFACE

In the past 15 years, molecular biologists and geneticists have uncovered some of the most basic mechanisms by means of which normal stem cells in a certain organ or tissue develop into cancerous tumors. This biological knowledge serves as a basis for various models of carcinogenesis. Furthermore, in order for biological findings to be tested quantitatively against human epidemiological data and animal experimental data and in order to develop efficient diagnostic, controlling, curative and preventive strategies for cancer, it is essential that these biological theories be transformed into adequate mathematical models supported by relevant methods of statistical data analysis. With this in mind, the goal of this book is to present review papers on most recent and advanced cancer models and their applications from world experts in cancer modelling.

The book contains 18 chapters and is organized into two parts. Part I consists of 11 chapters giving detailed treatment of an assortment of cancer models whereas Part II consists of 7 chapters dealing with applications of various cancer models. In Part I, oncogenetic trees, stochastic multi-stage models of carcinogenesis, models of cancer metastasis, cell cycle regulation by radiation, genomic instability, DNA damage and repair, bystander effects of radiation as well as epigenetic hypotheses and multiple pathways of colon cancer are extensively discussed. Also, Part I reviews the most recent discoveries in cancer biology and the ways they are transformed into stochastic models of carcinogenesis. Among topics dealt with in Part II the reader will find bladder cancer screening by MRI (Magnetic Resonance Imaging), models of drug resistance in cancer chemotherapy, and applications of stochastic and state space models to the assessment of cancer risks associated with environmental agents. Part II of the book also contains chapters on applications of wavelets to proteomics, design and analysis of tumor xenograft experiments, and analysis of occult tumor trial data.

Cancer models presented in the book include deterministic, stochastic, statistical, and state space models. They provide the reader with a state-of-the-art overview of the rapidly evolving field of cancer modelling. Our aspiration when putting together this volume was to bring the best of modern science to bear on biomedical problems related to the study of cancer. We hope that the book will be a useful source of information and references for scientists working in cancer research, biomathematics, biostatistics and bioinformatics as well as for biologists, cancer epidemiologists, clinical investigators and medical doctors at various stages of their career. We also hope that graduate students and their instructors will find it beneficial to their learning and teaching. The chapters of the book should not be viewed as a fixed compendium of methods and results but rather as a source of ideas inspiring further research by those who use (or wish to learn how to use) quantitative methods in cancer studies.

We are well aware that selection of topics for the book reflected our research interests and that our desire to cover a broad range of cancer models and their applications made the book to a certain degree heterogeneous. Through reviewing and editing process we encouraged clarity of exposition; however, it is up to the reader to judge the measure of our success. Finally, the reader should be advised that several chapters require some proficiency in mathematics and statistics.

We would like to express our sincere appreciation to all contributors who have made this book possible. We wish also to thank Ms. J. Quek, senior editor of World Scientific Publication Company, for her assistance in the publication of this book. Finally, it is acknowledged that the work by Wai-Yuan Tan was supported by a research grant from National Cancer Institute of NIH, grant number R15 CA113347-01, and the work by Leonid Hanin was supported by grant # 974 awarded on May 1, 2006 by the Faculty Research Committee at Idaho State University.

Wai-Yuan Tan and Leonid Hanin
July 23, 2007