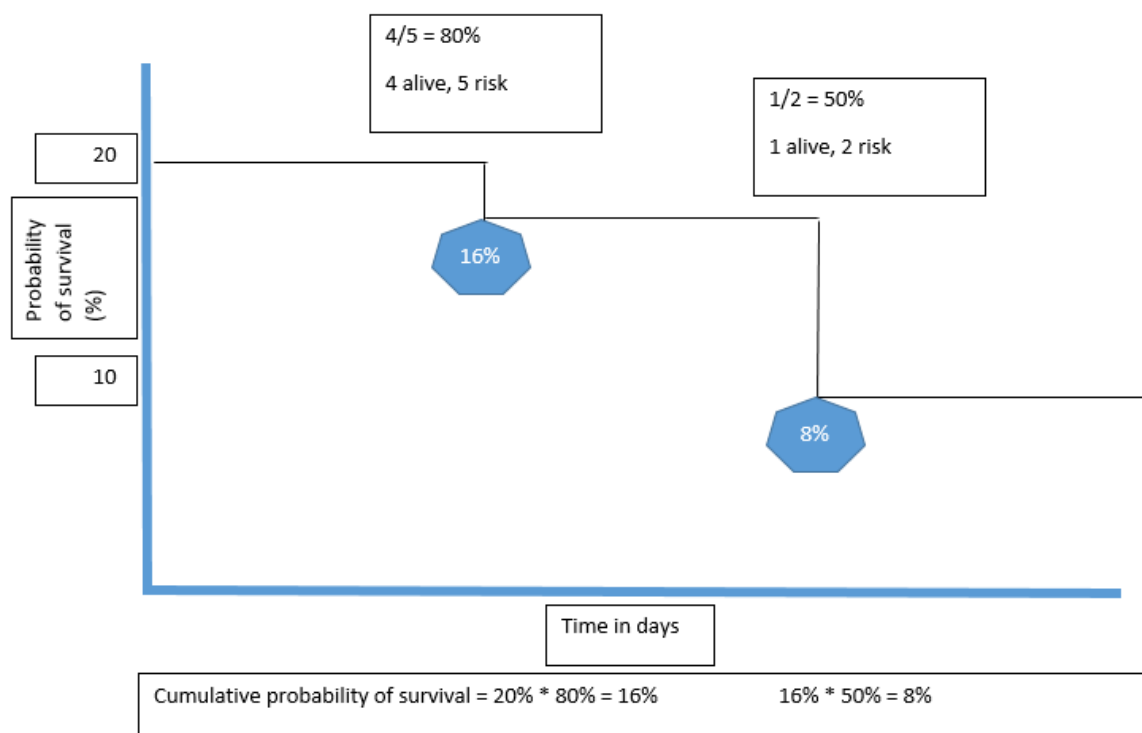# 1 R programming (6900) Basics of NGS and Micro-array analysis
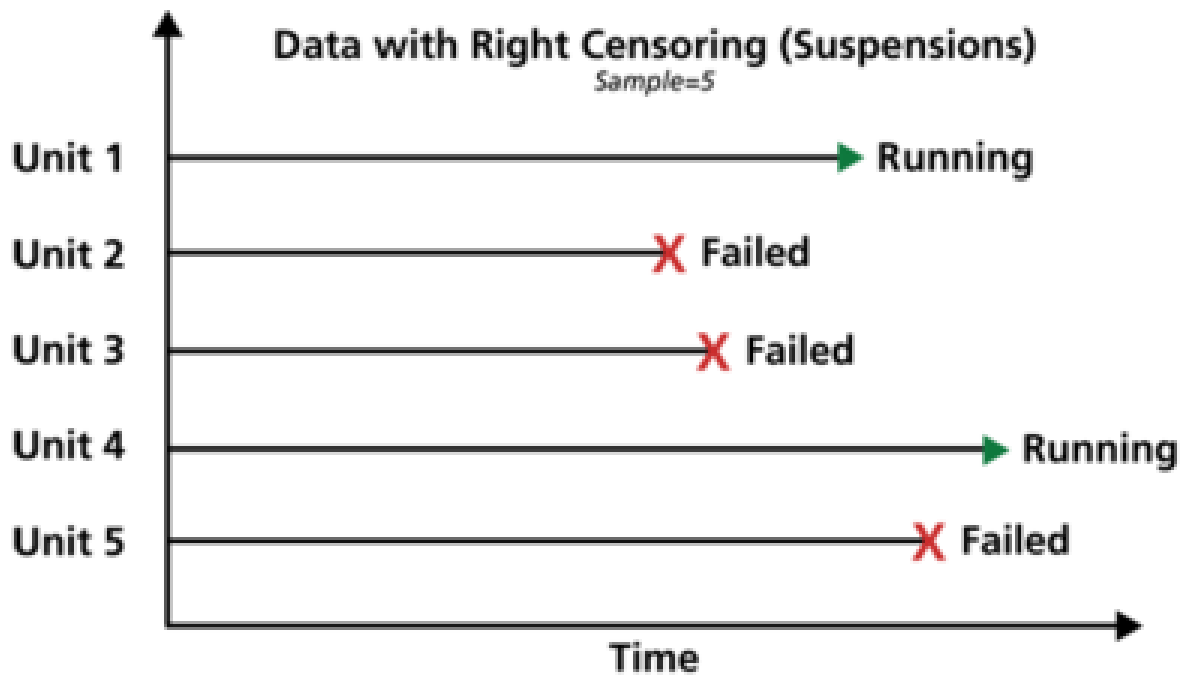
2 Survival Plots: Kaplan Meier Analysis

The first thing to do is to use function Surv() to build the standard survival object. The variable t1 records the time to death or the censored time. A plus sign after the time in the print out indicates censoring. The formula instructs the survfit() function to fit a model with intercept only.
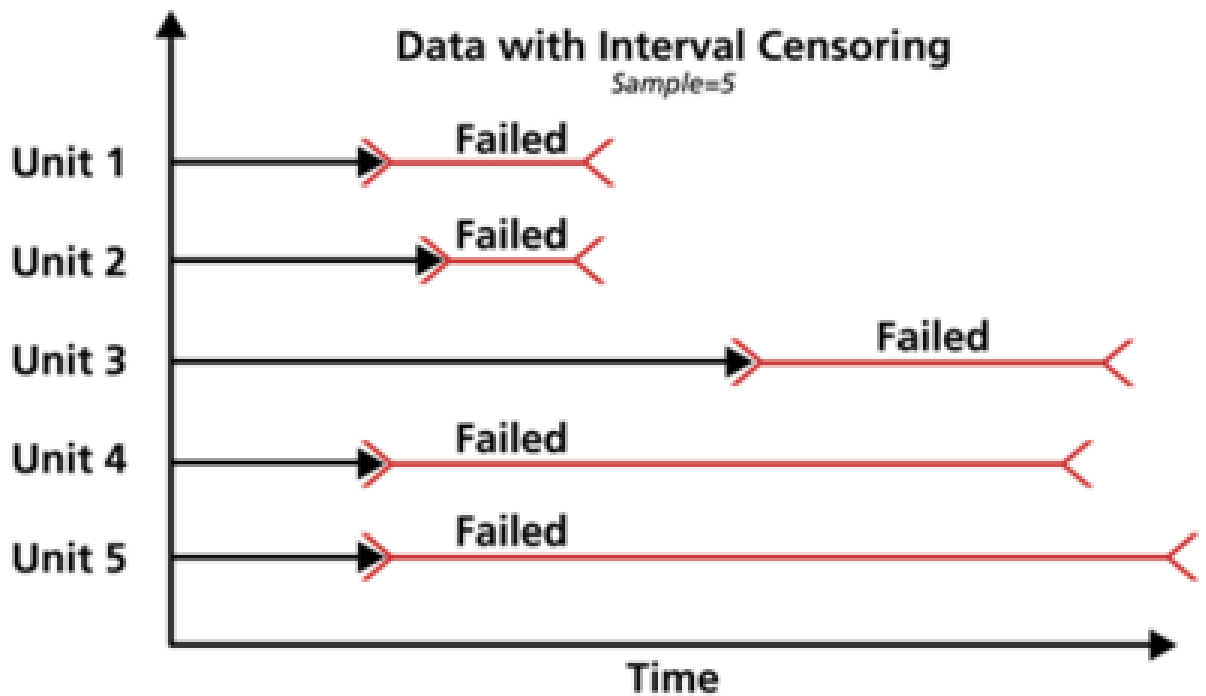
3 What is censoring? Understanding your data is extremely important
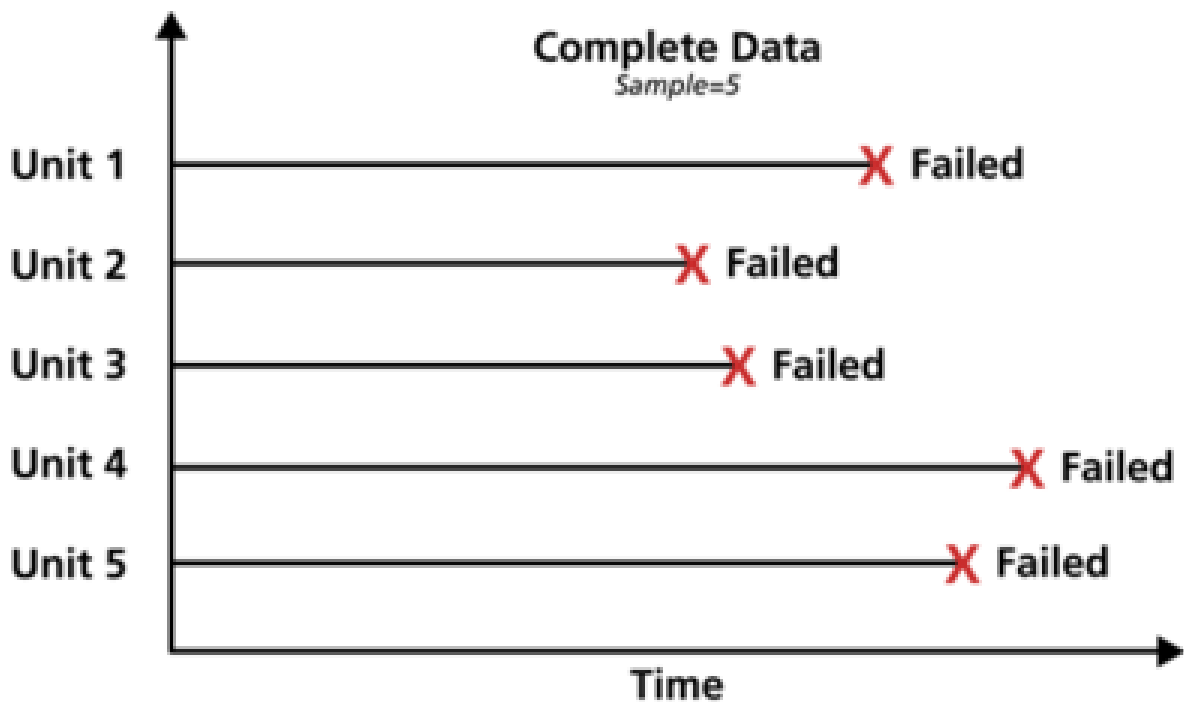
Complete data means that the value of each sample unit is observed or known. For example, if we had to compute the average test score for a sample of ten students, complete data would consist of the known score for each student. Likewise in the case of life data analysis, our data set (if complete) would be composed of the times-to-failure of all units in our sample. For example, if we tested five units and they all failed (and their times-to-failure were recorded), we would then have complete information as to the time of each failure in the sample.

Data with Right Censoring (Suspensions)
Sample=5

Unit 1 ————————————————▶ Running
Unit 2 ——————————— ✗ Failed
Unit 3 ———————————— ✗ Failed
Unit 4 ————————————————————▶ Running
Unit 5 ———————————————————— ✗ Failed

Time

The most common case of censoring is what is referred to as right censored data, or suspended data. In the case of life data, these data sets are composed of units that did not fail. For example, if we tested five units and only three had failed by the end of the test, we would have right censored data (or suspension data) for the two units that did not failed. The term right censored implies that the event of interest (i.e., the time-to-failure) is to the right of our data point. In other words, if the units were to keep on operating, the failure would occur at some time after our data point (or to the right on the time scale).

Data with Interval Censoring
Sample=5

Unit 1 — Failed

Unit 2 — Failed

Unit 3 — Failed

Unit 4 — Failed

Unit 5 — Failed

Time

The second type of censoring is commonly called interval censored data. Interval censored data reflects uncertainty as to the exact times the units failed within an interval. This type of data frequently comes from tests or situations where the objects of interest are not constantly monitored. For example, if we are running a test on five units and inspecting them every 100 hours, we only know that a unit failed or did not fail between inspections. Specifically, if we inspect a certain unit at 100 hours and find it operating, and then perform another inspection at 200 hours to find that the unit is no longer operating, then the only information we have is that the unit failed at some point in the interval between 100 and 200 hours. This type of censored data is also called inspection data by some authors.

4

Data with Left Censoring
Sample=5
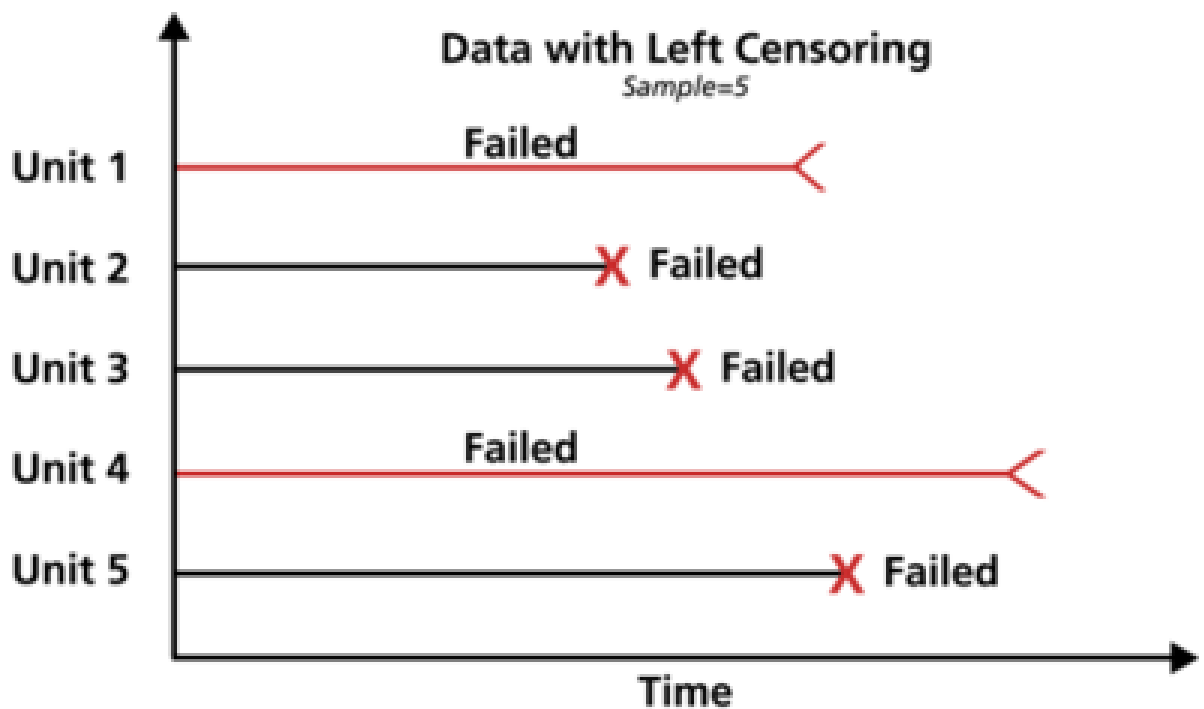
The third type of censoring is similar to the interval censoring and is called left censored data. In left censored data, a failure time is only known to be before a certain time. For instance, we may know that a certain unit failed sometime before 100 hours but not exactly when. In other words, it could have failed any time between 0 and 100 hours. This is identical to interval censored data in which the starting time for the interval is zero.

5

4   Using Intercepts?

Actual and predicted -vs- Observation # with 95.0% confidence limits
Mean model for X1_ (0 variables, n=30)