

ST338-15 Actuarial Models

24/25

Department

Statistics

Level

Undergraduate Level 3

Module leader

Martyn Parker

Credit value

15

Module duration

10 weeks

Assessment

Multiple

Study location

University of Warwick main campus, Coventry

Description

Introductory description

This module introduces the modelling techniques employed by actuaries. This module brings together a range of statistical techniques including stochastic processes, Markov chains, Survival models, estimation, maximum likelihood estimators and life tables to cover actuarial areas such as risk modelling, survival analysis and actuarial mathematics. It thus offers the opportunity to see how statistics is employed in an actuarial and thus authentic setting.

This module is available for students on a course where it is a listed option and as an Unusual Option to students who have completed the prerequisite modules.

Pre-requisites:

- Statistics Students:
 - ST218 Mathematical Statistics A AND ST219 Mathematical Statistics B; or
 - ST228 Mathematical Methods for Statistics and Probability, and ST229 Probability for Mathematical Statistics, and ST230 Mathematical Statistics.
- Non-Statistics Students:
 - ST104 Statistical Laboratory and ST220 Introduction to Mathematical Statistics; or,
 - ST121 Statistical Laboratory. and ST232/ST233 Introduction to Mathematical Statistics.

- All students are advised to take ST333 Applied Stochastic Processes.

Results from this module may be partly used to determine exemption eligibility in the Institute and Faculty of Actuaries (IFoA) modules CS2 and CM1. (Independent application with the IFoA may be required to receive the exemption.)

[Module web page](#)

Module aims

To cover part of the syllabus for Institute of Actuaries exam CS2 and CM1.

Outline syllabus

This is an indicative module outline only to give an indication of the sort of topics that may be covered. Actual sessions held may differ.

This module covers the following actuarial areas:

- Principles of actuarial modelling
- Principles of stochastic processes
- Markov chains and Markov jump processes
- Survival models: lifetimes, curtate future lifetime, expected value and variance.
- Estimation procedures for lifetime distributions: Kaplan—Meier estimate, Cox model
- Multi-state Markov models.
- Maximum likelihood estimators for transition intensities in multi-state models.
- Estimation in the Markov Model.
- Estimating mortality rates by age: exact methods, census approximations
- Process of graduation.
- Statistical tests for life tables.

Learning outcomes

By the end of the module, students should be able to:

- Describe the principles of actuarial modelling
- Describe the general principles of stochastic processes and their classification into different types.
- Define and apply a Markov chain.
- Define and apply a Markov jump process.
- Explain the concept of survival models.
- Describe estimation procedures for lifetime distributions
- Derive maximum likelihood estimators for the transition intensities in models of transfers between states with piecewise constant transition intensities.
- Describe the two-state model of a single decrement and compare its assumptions with those of the random lifetime model, derive maximum likelihood estimators for transition intensities and state the Poisson approximation to the estimator in the case of a single decrement.
- Describe how to estimate transition intensities depending on age, exactly or using the

census approximation.

- Describe how to test crude estimates for consistency with a standard table or set of graduated estimates and describe the process of graduation.

Indicative reading list

[View reading list on Talis Aspire](#)

Interdisciplinary

Students learn beyond the boundary of statistics and probability connecting their learning with the professional expectations of the chartered professional body dedicated to educating, developing and regulating actuaries based both in the UK and internationally.

Subject specific skills

- Demonstrate facility with mathematical, probabilistic and statistical methods.
- Select and apply appropriate mathematical and/or statistical techniques.
- Demonstrate knowledge of key mathematical and statistical concepts, both explicitly and by applying them to the solution of finance and financial problems.
- Create structured and coherent arguments communicating them in written form.
- Reason critically, carefully, and logically and derive judgements to support recommendations.

Transferable skills

- **Problem solving:** Use rational and logical reasoning to deduce appropriate and well-reasoned conclusions. Retain an open mind, optimistic of finding solutions, thinking laterally and creatively to look beyond the obvious. Know how to learn from failure.
 - **Self awareness:** Reflect on learning, seeking feedback on and evaluating personal practices, strengths and opportunities for personal growth.
 - **Communication:** Present arguments, knowledge and ideas, in a range of formats.
 - **Professionalism:** Prepared to operate autonomously. Aware of how to be efficient and resilient. Manage priorities and time. Self-motivated, setting and achieving goals, prioritising tasks.
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Study

Study time

Type	Required	Optional
Lectures	28 sessions of 1 hour (14%)	2 sessions of 1 hour
Seminars	8 sessions of 1 hour (4%)	
Tutorials	(0%)	
Private study	112 hours (56%)	
Assessment	52 hours 30 minutes (26%)	
Total	200.5 hours	

Private study description

Weekly revision of lecture notes and materials, wider reading of actuarial syllabus, practice exercises and preparing for class tests and the examination.

Costs

No further costs have been identified for this module.

Assessment

You do not need to pass all assessment components to pass the module.

Students can register for this module without taking any assessment.

Assessment group D5

	Weighting	Study time
Computer Based Assessment 1	10%	15 hours
Computer based assessment which will take place at a fixed time during the term that the module is delivered.		
Computer Based Assessment 2	10%	15 hours
Computer based assessment which will take place at a fixed time during the term that the module is delivered.		
Assessment	10%	22 hours 30 minutes
A computer-based assessment of practical aspects of the module covering CS2B exemption.		
In-person Examination	70%	
You will be required to answer all questions on this examination paper.		

- Answerbook Pink (12 page)

Weighting

Study time

- Students may use a calculator
- Formulae & Tables for Examinations (Inst of Actuaries 2002) GOLD HARDBACK BOOK
- Cambridge Statistical Tables (blue)

Assessment group R4

Weighting

Study time

In-person Examination - Resit

100%

You will be required to answer all questions on this examination paper.

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- Answerbook Pink (12 page)
 - Students may use a calculator
 - Formulae & Tables for Examinations (Inst of Actuaries 2002) GOLD HARDBACK BOOK
 - Cambridge Statistical Tables (blue)

Feedback on assessment

Solutions and cohort level feedback will be provided for the class tests within 4 weeks of the test. Your paper will not be returned as it must be retained for the external examiners but you may make an appointment with the module leader to view your script and receive individual feedback.

Solutions and cohort level feedback will be provided after the Summer examination.

[Past exam papers for ST338](#)

Availability

Courses

This module is Optional for:

- USTA-G300 Undergraduate Master of Mathematics, Operational Research, Statistics and Economics
 - Year 3 of G300 Mathematics, Operational Research, Statistics and Economics
 - Year 4 of G300 Mathematics, Operational Research, Statistics and Economics
- USTA-G1G3 Undergraduate Mathematics and Statistics (BSc MMathStat)
 - Year 3 of G1G3 Mathematics and Statistics (BSc MMathStat)
 - Year 4 of G1G3 Mathematics and Statistics (BSc MMathStat)
- USTA-G1G4 Undergraduate Mathematics and Statistics (BSc MMathStat) (with Intercalated Year)

- Year 4 of G1G4 Mathematics and Statistics (BSc MMathStat) (with Intercalated Year)
- Year 5 of G1G4 Mathematics and Statistics (BSc MMathStat) (with Intercalated Year)

This module is Option list A for:

- Year 3 of USTA-G300 Undergraduate Master of Mathematics, Operational Research, Statistics and Economics
- USTA-G301 Undergraduate Master of Mathematics, Operational Research, Statistics and Economics (with Intercalated
 - Year 3 of G30E Master of Maths, Op.Res, Stats & Economics (Actuarial and Financial Mathematics Stream) Int
 - Year 4 of G30E Master of Maths, Op.Res, Stats & Economics (Actuarial and Financial Mathematics Stream) Int

This module is Option list B for:

- USTA-Y602 Undergraduate Mathematics, Operational Research, Statistics and Economics
 - Year 3 of Y602 Mathematics, Operational Research, Stats, Economics
 - Year 3 of Y602 Mathematics, Operational Research, Stats, Economics