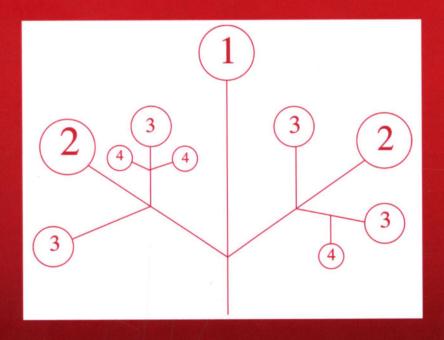
Applied Stochastic Modelling Second Edition



Byron J. T. Morgan



Statistics

Highlighting modern computational methods, Applied Stochastic Modelling, Second Edition provides you with the practical experience of scientific computing in applied statistics through a range of interesting real-world applications. It also successfully revises standard probability and statistical theory. Along with an updated bibliography and improved figures, this edition offers numerous updates throughout.

New to the Second Edition

- An extended discussion on Bayesian methods
- · A large number of new exercises
- A new appendix on computational methods

The book covers both contemporary and classical aspects of statistics, including survival analysis, Kernel density estimation, Markov chain Monte Carlo, hypothesis testing, regression, bootstrap, and generalised linear models. Although the book can be used without reference to computational programs, the author provides the option of using powerful computational tools for stochastic modelling. All of the data sets and MATLAB® programs found in the text are also available online.

Continuing in the bestselling tradition of its predecessor, this book remains an excellent resource for understanding how to fit stochastic models to data.

Features

- · Covers important advances in the theory and practice of statistics
- Explains how to construct, fit, and evaluate statistical and stochastic models for use in diverse areas, such as geology, sociology, biology, and economics
- Incorporates traditional statistical and probability theory with modern computational methods
- Offers the data sets from the book, the latest MATLAB computer programs, and corresponding versions in R on a supplementary Web site





Second

Edition



Texts in Statistical Science

Applied Stochastic Modelling

Second Edition

Byron J. T. Morgan

University of Kent UK



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Second Edition

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Preface to the Second Edition

The structure of the second edition of this book is very similar to that of the first edition; however, there have been numerous changes throughout. In particular, a large number of new exercises have been added, there is a new appendix on computational methods, and the discussion of Bayesian methods has been extended. The bibliography has been updated, throughout figures have been improved, and, where necessary, errors have been corrected. I am grateful for the many positive comments that the first version of the book received, and to those who have written to point out mistakes, and ways in which the book might be improved. I thank especially Ted Catchpole, Rachel Fewster, Ruth King, Rachel McCrea, David Miller, Karen Palmer and Martin Ridout. I thank MATLAB® for providing the latest version of the package, and I am also grateful for the help and patience of Rob Calver and colleagues at CRC Chapman & Hall. The book continues to be the set text for final year under-graduate and post-graduate courses in respectively Applied Stochastic Modelling and Data Analysis, and Computational Statistics in the University of Kent. The book successfully revises and integrates the probability and statistics methods of earlier lecture courses. At the same time it brings students into contact with modern computational methods; it provides students with practical experience of scientific computing at use in applied statistics, in the context of a range of interesting real-life applications. The book Web Site contains the data sets from the book, the MATLAB computer programs, as well as corresponding versions in R. There is a solutions manual for the exercises and the computer practical sheets that are used in Kent. The book has been the basis for a course on Applied Stochastic Modelling held at Pfizer Central Research in Sandwich, Kent, during 2007, and also for a Continuing Professional Development course with the same name, to be held at the Royal Statistical Society, London, in 2008. The slides for these courses are also available on the book Web site.

Canterbury

Preface

This book is being completed at the end of a millenium, the last 30 years of which have seen many exciting major developments in the theory and practice of statistics. The book presents many of the most important of these advances. It has its origins in a series of talks on aspects of modern statistics for fitting stochastic models to data, commissioned by statisticians at Pfizer Central Research in Sandwich in Kent. These talks gave rise to a 30-hour lecture course given to third year undergraduates, statistics MSc students and first-year statistics PhD students at the University of Kent, and this book has grown from the notes for that lecture course. These students have found that even the most recently developed statistical methods may be readily understood and successfully applied in practice. As well as covering modern techniques, the material of the book integrates and revises standard probability and statistical theory. Much modern statistical work is implemented using a computer. Thus it is necessary in a book of this nature to include computer instructions of some kind. The integrated computer language MATLAB has been selected for this purpose, and over 50 short MATLAB programs are included throughout the book. Their distribution and purpose are described in the index of Matlab programs. They may all be accessed from the book site on the World Wide Web. They are designed to be illustrative, rather than completely efficient. Often doubts concerning theory are dissipated when one can see computer code for the theory. Students of the book material have certainly found the MATLAB programs to be a useful aid to learning. It has been uplifting to observe the satisfaction that students have gained from running the Matlab programs of the book. Often the students had no previous knowledge of Matlab and also little prior experience of scientific computing. The material of Appendix B, which summarises important features of MATLAB, and tutorial assistance were all that was needed by these students. However it should be stressed that while the computer programs are included as an aid to learning, the book may be read and used without reference to the programs. S-plus versions of the programs are available on the book site on the World Wide Web. There are also some references to the use of symbolic algebra packages such as MAPLE, as these provide powerful tools for stochastic modelling.

The target student audience for the book is final-year undergraduate and MSc students of mathematics and statistics. The book is also intended as a single convenient source of reference for research scientists and post-graduate students, using modern statistical methods which are currently described in

xiv PREFACE

depth in a range of single-topic textbooks. Prior knowledge is assumed at the level of a typical second-year university course on probability and statistics. Appendix A summarises a number of important formulae and results from probability and statistics. A small fraction of the book sections and exercises contain more advanced material, and these are starred. Kernel density estimation is a central aspect of modern statistics, and therefore the basic ideas are summarised in Appendix C. While a limited number of exercises have solutions included in the book, a more extensive set of solutions is to be found on the World Wide Web book site.

Statistical methods are all-pervasive, contributing significantly to subjects as diverse as geology, sociology, biology and economics. The construction, fitting and evaluation of statistical and stochastic models are not only vitally important in areas such as these, but they are also great fun. It is hoped that some of the enjoyment and fascination of the subject will be gained by readers of this book.

The book is motivated by real data and problems. The examples and exercises are often chosen from my own experience and, as can be seen from the index of data sets, many have arisen from biology. The areas covered are sometimes atypical, and sometimes classical, such as survival analysis, quantal assay and capture-recapture. Several of the examples recur at various points throughout the book. The data are available on the book site on the World Wide Web.

Acknowledgments

I owe a great debt of gratitude to the many scientists and statisticians with whom I have collaborated, and with whom I continue to collaborate. I am especially grateful to my MATLAB mentor, Ted Catchpole, who with Paul Terrill, contributed some of the MATLAB programs. The original proposal for a set of lectures at Pfizer Central Research was agreed with Trevor Lewis, Group Executive Director, Biometrics, at Pfizer. The Pfizer audience was typically challenging, with Ken Martin and John Parrott in particular regularly asking probing questions. Steve Brooks, Steve Buckland, Martin Ridout, and Paul Terrill all commented helpfully on draft chapters. At Arnold, Nicki Dennis, and Kirsty Stroud were patient and encouraging. Three years of Kent students provided a sympathetic test bed and launching pad. The many drafts of the book were typed enthusiastically by Lilian Bond, Julie Snook, and Mavis Swain.

Canterbury

'For the things we have to learn before we can do them, we learn by doing them' $\,$

Aristotle



Contents

Preface to the Second Edition				
Preface				
1	Int	roduction and Examples	1	
	1.1	Introduction	1	
	1.2	Examples of data sets	3	
	1.3	Discussion	11	
	1.4	Exercises	12	
2	Bas	sic Model-Fitting	17	
	2.1	Introduction	17	
	2.2	Maximum-likelihood estimation for a geometric model	17	
	2.3	Maximum-likelihood for the beta-geometric model	22	
	2.4	Modelling polyspermy	26	
	2.5	Which model?	31	
	2.6	What is a model for?	32	
	2.7	*Mechanistic models	32	
	2.8	Discussion	34	
	2.9	Exercises	34	
3	Function Optimisation			
	3.1	Introduction	45	
	3.2	Matlab; graphs and finite differences	46	
	3.3	Deterministic search methods	48	
	3.4	Stochastic search methods	60	
	3.5	Accuracy and a hybrid approach	67	
	3.6	Discussion	68	
	3.7	Exercises	69	
4	Basic Likelihood Tools			
	4.1	Introduction	77	
	4.2	Estimating standard errors and correlations	80	
	4.3	Looking at surfaces: profile log-likelihoods	84	
	4.4	Confidence regions from profiles	89	
	4.5	Hypothesis testing in model selection	94	

vii	i		CONTENTS
	4.6	Score and Wald tests	101
	4.7	Classical goodness of fit	106
	4.8	Model selection bias	106
	4.9	Discussion	107
	4.10	Exercises	108
5	Gen	eral Principles	123
	5.1	Introduction	123
	5.2	Parameterisation	123
	5.3	*Parameter redundancy	130
	5.4	Boundary estimates	135
	5.5	Regression and influence	136
	5.6	The EM algorithm	137
	5.7	Alternative methods of model-fitting	148
	5.8	*Non-regular problems	152
	5.9	Discussion	153
	5.10	Exercises	154
6	Simulation Techniques		169
	6.1	Introduction	169
	6.2	Simulating random variables	170
	6.3	Integral estimation	175
	6.4	Verification	177
	6.5	*Monte Carlo inference	179
	6.6	Estimating sampling distributions	180
	6.7	Bootstrap	183
	6.8	Monte Carlo testing	190
	6.9	Discussion	192
	6.10	Exercises	193
7	Bay	esian Methods and MCMC	199
	7.1	Basic Bayes	199
	7.2	Three academic examples	200
	7.3	The Gibbs sampler	201
	7.4	The Metropolis-Hastings algorithm	213
	7.5	A hybrid approach	218
	7.6	The data augmentation algorithm	220
	7.7	Model probabilities	220
	7.8	Model averaging	223
	7.9	Reversible jump MCMC: RJMCMC	225
		Discussion	226
	7.11	Exercises	228
8	Gen	eral Families of Models	237
	8 1	Common structure	237