

Washington Statistical Society

CHAPTER • AMERICAN STATISTICAL ASSOCIATION

WSS Newsletter – April 1982

WSS Open Board Meeting
Tuesday, May 4, 1982, 12:30–2:00 P.M. in Room 3000, at 400 Maryland Ave., SW

Calendar

WSS-Sponsored:

Topic: The Use of Health Statistics to Formulate Health Policy.
Speaker: Dr. Edward Brandt, Asst. Secretary for Health, U.S. Dept. of Health and Human Services
Date and Time: Tuesday, April 13, 1982, 12:30–2:00 PM.
Location: IRS Auditorium, Room 7132, 1111 Constitution Ave., NW, Washington, D.C.

Topic: The Distribution of the Portion of a Curve in the Plane Which is the Shadows Cast by a Poisson Field.
Speaker: Shelemyahu Zacks
Date and Time: Thursday, April 15, 1982, 12:00–1:00 PM.
Location: George Washington Univ., Ross Hall, Room 105, 2300 23rd St., NW (23rd and I Streets)

Topic: Estimation of Total Petroleum Imports: Application of Time-Series Methods
Speaker: Nancy J. Kirkendall, Energy Information Administration
Date and Time: Thursday, April 22, 1982, 12:30–2:00 PM.
Location: Room 5E-069, Forrestal Building (Independence Avenue)

Topic: "Strategies for Assuring Confidentiality in Public Use Business Microdata Files"
Speaker: Dr. Nancy Spruill, Consultant
Date and Time: Wednesday, April 28, 1982, 1:00 PM
Location: 1201 E Street, Room 806B, Washington, DC (Northwest)

Topic: An Energy Model for Producing Year by Year Forecasts for the Next 8 Years
Speaker: Frederic Murphy, Energy Information Administration (EIA)
Date and Time: Thursday, April 29, 1982; 12:30–2 PM.
Location: 12th and Pennsylvania, Federal Building, Room 3000A (Northwest Wash., D.C.)

NATIONAL CENTER FOR HEALTH STATISTICS SEMINAR

April 15, 1982 – 1:30 P.M. – 2:30 P.M.

Center Building, Room 2-19, 3700 East-West Highway, Hyattsville, Maryland

Topic: A Generalized Computer Program for Calculating Sampling Variances Using Balanced Repeated Replication: What It Does and How To Use It
Speaker: Gretchen Jones, Statistical Methods Staff, Office of Research and Methodology
National Center for Health Statistics

For further information, call Office of Research and Methodology (301) 436-7111

DETAILED INFORMATION ON THE MEETINGS

TOPIC: The Use of Health Statistics to Formulate Health Policy
CHAIR: Dr. Marvin Schneiderman
ABSTRACT: Dr. Brandt will discuss the contribution of the research conducted by HHS to several critical issues facing the health field today.

TOPIC: The Distribution of the Portion of a Curve in the Plane which is in the Shadows Cast by a Poisson Field
CHAIR: William H. Marlow
Director, Institute for Management Science and Engineering,
The George Washington University
ABSTRACT: Consider a "target" curve in the plane, which is star-shaped. A source of light is put in the origin and disks of random diameter are randomly placed in a region between the origin and the target curve to form a Poisson field. The shadows of the disks on the target curve are their central projections. The problem of determining the moments of the random part of the curve which is visible from the origin is studied. In a forthcoming paper (JAP, 1982) an analytic method is given for the determination of moments of all orders on arcs on a circle. This result is now generalized for arbitrary star-shaped curves. There are possible applications of this work to military-surveillance satellite communications, astronomy and other fields. A few examples will be shown and applications will be discussed.

TOPIC: Estimation of Total Petroleum Imports: Application of Time-Series Methods
CHAIR: John Pearson, EIA
ABSTRACT: The Energy Information Administration collects data on weekly imports of petroleum products from the largest petroleum importers, and monthly imports of petroleum products from all petroleum importers of record. The weekly data are available within a week of importation. The monthly data are available with a lag of two or three months. The problem is to estimate total weekly imports of various petroleum products.

Imports of petroleum are highly variable. Because of this variability the standard ratio estimator frequently leads to large errors. The following alternative estimators are discussed and compared; 1) Ratio estimators using base periods of varying lengths; 2) Ratio estimators based on smoothing monthly ratios via a Kalman filter; 3) Estimates based on the sum of the data from the sampled companies and forecasts for the nonsampled companies.

SPONSOR: Internal Revenue Service, Statistics Division, Center for Naval Analyses, Small Business Administration Office of Advocacy, and WSS

TOPIC: Strategies for Assuring Confidentiality in Public Use Business Microdata Files

CHAIR: Mr. William J. Smith, Jr., Internal Revenue Service
ABSTRACT: Researchers propose to provide confidentiality of microdata by using one of several strategies, such as microaggregation of introducing random error. However, special problems exist for economic microdata of businesses--a large amount of data is available for each business, often the individual data elements are zero, and there are publicly available economic data bases. The meeting will look at how likely several strategies are to preserve confidentiality of business data generated from the 1977 IRS publication for partnerships.

TOPIC: An Energy Model for Producing Year by Year Forecasts for the Next 8 Years

CHAIR: Wray Smith, EIA

ABSTRACT: The Energy Information Administration is developing a simplified modeling procedure for extending short-term projections several years into the future. This system is designed to provide year-by-year projections of energy markets and eventually, energy-economy interactions.

The new model contains representations of coal, oil, gas and electricity supply and demand. Each of the individual sectors is represented using the most natural techniques for capturing its economic processes. There are reduced form and structural econometric components as well as operations research-based processes. The submodels are combined using techniques for solving simultaneous, nonlinear equations. This model is unique among energy market models in that the overall solution procedure does not require the submodels representing individual fuels to fit into a specific form. The potential difficulties and implications of using psuedo-data in the model on the quality of the estimates will also be discussed.

ANNUAL "OPEN" BOARD MEETING MAY 4, 1982 - The Constitution of the Washington Statistical Society requires that at least one meeting of the Board of Directors each year be advertised as an "OPEN" meeting with participation invited from the membership at large. This year's open meeting will be held May 4, 1982, at 12:30 p.m. in Room 3000 at 400 Maryland Avenue, SW (FOB 6). The meeting is expected to last until approximately 2:00 p.m. While thoughts and opinions on any subject relating to WSS are invited, the Board would particularly appreciate any suggestions dealing with membership, such as how to attract more members from the statistical community and how to better serve members. Contact Rich Allen at 447-4557 for more details.

TOPIC: WSS ANNUAL DINNER
SPEAKER: Dr. Jerry L. Jordan, Council of Economic Advisors
LOCATION: Fort McNair
DATE & TIME: Wednesday, June 16, 1982, 6:00 p.m.
Cash bar with dinner to follow
SPECIAL FEATURE: Presentation of Shiskin Award for Economic Statistics and recognition of outstanding graduate students in local universities.

The election of new officers for the 1982-83 program year will be conducted in conjunction with the May Newsletter. The following persons have agreed to run for offices in the Washington Statistical Society.

FOR VICE PRESIDENT AND PRESIDENT ELECT:

Maria Gonzalez, Office of Management and Budget
Statistical Policy Branch
Charles D. Jones, Bureau of the Census
Statistical Methods Division

FOR SECRETARY:

Richard Allen, USDA
Economics and
Statistics Service

FOR REPRESENTATIVES-AT-LARGE (Three to be elected):

Charles Cowan, Bureau of the Census
Don King, King Research
Mary Grace Kovar, National Center for Health Statistics
David Morganstein, Westat
David Pierce, Federal Reserve Board
Wes Schaible, Bureau of Labor Statistics

FOR TREASURER:

Bennie Clemmer,
Social Security
Administration

FOR METHODOLOGY SECTION PROGRAM CHAIR

Brian Greenberg,
Bureau of the
Census
Karen Kafadar,
National Bureau
of Standards

Candidates other than these may be nominated by petition of at least 40 members of WSS, provided that such a petition is received by the Nominations and Elections Committee at least two weeks before balloting. Any petitions must be received by Thomas McKenna, Westat Inc., 1650 Research Blvd., Rockville, MD 20550, by April 14, 1982.

EMPLOYMENT COLUMN - JOB OPENING

MATHEMATICAL STATISTICIAN GS-1529-9/11/12

In the Mathematics and Statistics Division, Food Safety and Inspection Service, USDA. Candidates with a strong interest in computer applications are sought. The selected individual will typically be given major responsibility for the statistical design and analysis, and the computer aspects of assigned projects. Minimum requirements include a bachelor's degree or equivalent, including 24 semester hours in mathematics and statistics and 2 years of professional experience. Applicants should also have knowledge of sampling, regression, ANOVA, and experimental design; and experience with computing packages and languages. Send SF-171 and OPM Form 1170-17 College Course List) to Donna Shirey, U.S. Department of Agriculture, Personnel Division, Room 3438 South Building, Washington, D.C. 20250, Area Code 202 447-4815, no later than May 21, 1982. Refer to Announcement FSIS-82-27, EEO/AA.

AMERICAN STATISTICAL ASSOCIATION

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