Washington Statistical Society

WSS Newsletter – December 1982

CALENDAR

WSS Sponsored

Topic:	Randomization, Why It Should Not Be Done!
Speaker:	Dennis Lindley, Visiting Professor, Department of Operations Research, SEAS, George Washington University
Date and Time:	Thursday, December 2, 1982, 12:30-2:00 p.m.
Location:	G. W. University Academic Center, Room T206, 21st and J Street, N. W.

Topic:	Interactive Graphical Display and Analysis Techniques
Speaker:	James J. Filliben, National Bureau of Standards
Date and Time:	Thursday, December 9, 1982, 12:30-2:00 p.m.
Location:	Main Commerce Building, Room 6802

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Topic:	Bayesian and Non-Bayesian Methods of Estimating the Failure Rate Function, with Critical Comments
Speaker:	Professor Nozer Singpurwalla, George Washington U.
Date and Time:	Thursday, December 9, 1982, 12:30-2:00 p.m.
Location:	G. W. University Academic Center, Room T206, 21st and J Street, N. W.

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Topic:	Interpreting Statistics on the Money Supply
Speaker:	Lloyd C. Atkinson, Deputy Asst. Director for Fiscal Analysis, Congressional Budget Office
Date and Time:	Postponed until February

SPECIAL CHRISTMAS PARTY

Sponsors:	Washington Statistical Society
	Washington Women Economists
	National Association of Business Economists
	National Economists Club
	Society of Government Economists
Date and Time:	Tuesday, December 14, 1982, 6:30 p.m.
Location:	Empress Restaurant, 1018 Vermont Avenue, N. W.
Cost:	$5.00 by mail, $6.00 after December 7, payable to WWE
Reservations:	Carol Meeks, USDA/ERS/EDD, 500 12th Street, S. W. Washington, D.C. 20250 For last minute reservations, call 293-2698

Topic:	Bootstrapping a Regression Equation: Some Empirical Results
Speaker:	David A. Freedman, Chairman, Department of Statistics, University of California at Berkeley
Date and Time:	Wednesday, December 15, 1982, 12:30-2:00 p.m.
Location:	Forrestal Building, 1000 Independence Avenue, S. W., Room GJ015

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Other Sponsors

Sponsor:	Statistics of Income Division, Internal Revenue Service
Topic:	Methodological Advances in the Corporation Statistics of Income Program
Speakers:	Karen Cys, Timothy Wheeler, Susan Hinkins, and Jim Harte, Internal Revenue Service
Date and Time:	Tuesday, December 7, 1982, 12:30-2:30 p.m.
Location:	1201 E Street, N. W., Room 806A, Washington, D. C. (Metro Center - Metro Stop)

DETAILED INFORMATION ON THE MEETINGS

Topic: Randomization, Why It Should Not Be Done!
Chair: Joseph L. Gastwirth, President, Washington Statistical Society
Abstract: There are two forms of randomization in inference, before and after the data. Arguments will be presented to show that post data randomization is not sensible. Predata randomization is only a disguise for a property of haphazardness.
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Topic: Interactive Graphical Display and Analysis Techniques
Chair: Karen Kafadar, National Bureau of Standards
Discussant: David Desjardens, Bureau of the Census
Abstract: The purpose of this paper is to examine various commonly-occurring data analysis problems, and to present graphical solutions to these problems. Several of the solutions presented are new and so may serve as additional tools to the growing arsenal of graphical techniques at the disposal of the practicing data analyst.

The graphical approach is an important and necessary complement to the "classical" techniques for data analysis. For a wide variety of problems, graphics has proven to be the fastest, most direct, and most insightful approach for attacking and solving data analysis problems. Further, the use of such graphics in an interactive environment has given the analyst more power than ever before for carrying out exploratory data analysis, for testing assumptions, and for uncovering underlying structure.

The problems to be addressed are as follows:
    Testing for randomness and autocorrelation
    Testing for normality
    Determining best transformation to normality
    Determining best distribution for the data
    Testing for homoscedasticity
    Determining best transformation to homoscedasticity
    Examining 1-factor models
    Examining 2-factor models
    Examining 3-factor models
    Examining 4-factor models
    Examining general multi-factor models
    Examining dichotomous response
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Topic: Bayesian and Non-Bayesian Methods of Estimating the Failure Rate Function, With Critical Comments
Discussants: Professor Dennis V. Lindley and Dr. Kent Bailey
Abstract: Recently developed non-Bayesian approaches for estimating the failure rate function will be presented and some weaknesses of these methods will be discussed. Alternative Bayesian methods are proposed.
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Topic: Bootstrapping a Regression Equation: Some Empirical Results
Chair: Will Gersch, University of Hawaii, ASA Census Bureau Fellow
Discussants: Larry Thibodeau and Glenn Galfond, Applied Management Sciences
Abstract: The bootstrap, like the jackknife, is a procedure for estimating standard errors. The idea is to use Monte Carlo simulations based on a nonparametric estimate of the underlying error distribution. The bootstrap will be applied to an econometric equation describing the demand for energy by industry. The name finding is that the conventional asymptotic formulas for estimating standard errors are too optimistic by factors of nearly three. This is joint work with Stephen Peters.

SHISKIN AWARD FOR ECONOMIC STATISTICS

Nominations are invited for the fourth annual Julius Shiskin Award in recognition of outstanding achievement in the field of economic statistics. The Award has been established by the Washington Statistical Society Chapter of the American Statistical Association and will be presented, with an honorarium of $250, at the WSS Annual Dinner in June 1983.

The Award is designed to honor an unusually original and important contribution in the development of economic statistics or in the use of economic statistics in interpreting the economy. The contribution could be in statistical research, in the development of statistical tools, in the application of computers, in the use of economic statistics to analyze and interpret the economy, in the management of statistical programs, or in developing public understanding of measurement issues, to all of which Mr. Shiskin contributed. Either individuals or groups can be nominated.

Previous winners of the Award have been Estella Dagum of Statistics Canada, James Bonnen for his work chairing the President's Reorganization Project for the Federal Statistical System, and Edward Denison for his work at the Bureau of Economic Analysis and the Brookings Institution.

A nomination form may be obtained by writing to the Julius Shiskin Award Committee, c/o American Statistical Association, 806 - 15th Street, N. W., Washington, D. C. 20005. Completed nomination forms must be received by April 1, 1983.

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INTERNAL REVENUE SERVICE, STATISTICS OF INCOME DIVISION SEMINAR

Topic: Methodological Advances in the Corporation Statistics of Income Program
Chair: Lillie B. Dorsey, Internal Revenue Service
Abstract: This session contains four presentations which briefly introduce recent methodological changes in the Internal Revenue Service's Statistics of Income (SOI) Corporation income tax program. First, improvements in SOI processing will be discussed, with emphasis on data capture and testing techniques. Then, some pilot work involving imputation of missing balance sheet items will be described. The last paper will present some post-stratification approaches being explored to improve the efficiency of the Corporate SOI sample.

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WSS PROGRAM SESSIONS

The Washington Statistical Society attempts to offer sponsorhsip of a well balanced program of sessions each year of interest to its members and the Washington area statistical community. Sessions vary from topics of general interest to technical presentations of new developments in statistical methodology. Many sessions during the year are cosponsored with other organizations. The chairpersons for WSS program areas this year include:

Methodology	Karen Kafadar
Agriculture and Natural Resources	Fred Vogel
Economics	Eva E. Jacobs
	Nancy M. Gordon
Physical Sciences and Engineering	Seymour Selig
Public Health and Biostatistics	Mitchell H. Gail
Social and Demographic Statistics	Lee-Ann C. Hayek
Statistical Computing	David Morganstein
	John J. Miller
Interprogrammatic	Fritz Scheuren
Short Courses	Jim Carpenter

For general information about the Washington Statistical Society, details on upcoming program sessions, or to make suggestions concerning the Society and its activities, contact Rich Allen, P. O. Box 23502, Washington, D. C. 20024 (202) 447-4557.

EMPLOYMENT COLUMN

JOB OPENINGS

Mathematical Statistician GS 1529-5/7/9 — The Agriculture Division, Bureau of the Census, is interested in applicants for two anticipated positions. Individuals may work on sampling plans, estimates, variance estimation, nonresponse imputation, quality control, or special evaluation studies related to the Census of Agriculture and associated sample surveys. A sound statistical background and interest in sampling, agriculture, and programming is required. Interested individuals should send a SF 171 to Dr. David D. Chapman, Agriculture Division, Bureau of the Census, Washington, D. C. 20233.

Mathematical Statisticians GS-1531-7/12 — The Statistical Methods Division is responsible for the application of mathematical statistical techniques in the design, conduct, and evaluation of the results of demographic sample surveys and censuses conducted by the Census Bureau. The Division presently has about 100 mathematical statisticians. Some examples of projects include: Preparing an optimum sample design and developing estimation and variance estimation techniques; developing methods for evaluating results of censuses; and teaching statistics courses to foreign students. Send SF 171 and/or call Maurice Kniceley, Statistical Methods Division, Federal Building 3, U. S. Bureau of the Census, Suitland, Maryland 20233, telephone (301) 763-1102.
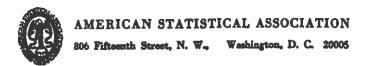
Mathematical Statistician GS-1529-13 — A supervisory position is available for an applicant with experience in household surveys. Responsibilities include evaluation and research of alternative sample designs, weighting and data adjustment procedures. Familiarity with SAS useful. Send SF 171 to Cathryn S. Dippo, Bureau of Labor Statistics, Office of Survey Design, 441 G Street, Room 2122, Washington, D. C. 20212.

Mathematical Statistician GS-1529-9/11/12 — Multiple positions are available in survey design on major BLS programs. Applicants should have at least a Master's degree or equivalent experience. Send SF 171 to Cathryn S. Dippo, Bureau of Labor Statistics, Office of Survey Design, 441 G Street, Room 2122, Washington, D. C. 20212.

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