

Work Comp Tail Reserving Using Mortality

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Based on:

Enhancements to the Shane-Morelli Method to Provide Technical Guidance in Implementation and Proposed Solutions for Challenges Encountered in the Application to a Workers Compensation Tail

CAS E-Forum, Winter 2019

Part 2 of 2

Agenda

- Intro – Dawn
- Background on the Shane Morelli approach - Dawn
- **Updates to the model - Shon**
- Business and updating model considerations – Dolph
- Walkthrough of tool - Shon
- Q & A - All

Enhancement 1: Curve Fit

Shane-Fowle method fits LDF-1 (v) using inverse power curve

$$\hat{v}(d) = ad^b$$

Why use inverse power?

- good fit to WC LDF's (Sherman, 1984)

But ...

- Fit is not always ideal
- Good fit to observed data does not mean good fit to future data

Maybe the choice of curve fit is not important since mortality is the dominant effect?

Mortality is not dominant until very late. In many cases, there are more than 10 years of projected development driven mainly by the curve fit.

Conclusion: It is worthwhile to understand what it means to use the inverse power (or any other) curve.

Key Question: What does the inverse power imply about the nature of future loss development?

Motivation for Enhancement 2

Areas for improvement in the truncation approach:

- More accurate estimate of group life expectancy
 - Using average life expectancy of the cohort underestimates the actual group life expectancy
 - Group ages more slowly than individual because oldest members have higher mortality rates
- Curve extrapolates observed mortality, but future mortality may be very different from the past
- Mortality is applied only at one point (at ultimate), but in reality the group experiences mortality continuously

Proposed: a gradual application of mortality



Gradual Mortality Application Example

Projection is done for one AY at a time

Male proportion for life table weighting

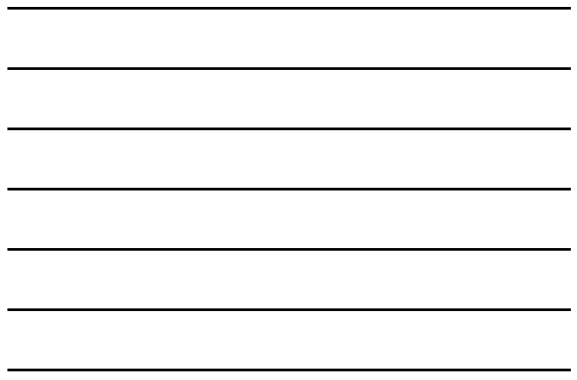
Diagonal

Loss Year	Dev Age (Yrs)	Prop Male	Open Claims	Avg Age	Life Exp	Cumul Loss
2005	13	0.76	191	55.76	30.64	3,504,668

y = Ax ^r (b+exp(-rx))		From	Life Exp Offset	Adj Life Exp
A	1.358624	ScatterFit	0	31
b	1.539219			
r	0.023330			

Curve fit has been done using data from all AY's

Avg Age and Life Exp are used for original truncation method



Loss Year	Dev Age (Yrs)	Prop Male	Open Claims	Avg Age	Life Exp	Cumul Loss
2005	13	0.76	191	55.76	30.64	3,504,668

y = Ax ^r (b+exp(-rx))		From	Life Exp Offset	Adj Life Exp
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Projection Yr	Avg Age	Dev Age	Fitted LDF	Cumul Loss	Incr Loss	Loss Decay	qx
1	55.8	13	1.019354	3,504,668	67,831		0.00342
2	56.7	14	1.016970	3,572,499	60,267	0.1115	0.00373
3	57.7	15	1.014820	3,632,766	53,839	0.1067	0.00409
4	58.6	16	1.013109	3,686,604	48,329	0.1023	0.00451
5	59.5	17	1.011666	3,734,933	43,572	0.0984	0.00498
6	60.5	18	1.010437	3,778,505	39,437	0.0949	0.00551

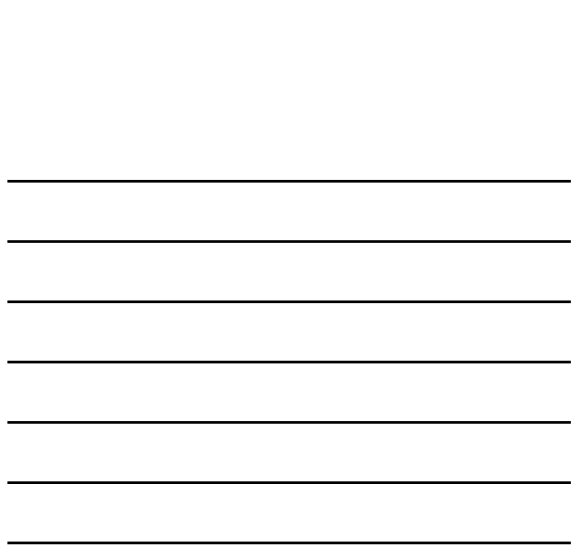
Step 1: Calculate average age of the AY for every year of projection

$$\text{group avg age}(t) = \frac{\sum_{k=1}^N \text{age}_k(t) S_k(t)}{\sum_{k=1}^N S_k(t)}$$

age_k(t): claimant k's future age at projection year t
 S_k(t): probability that claimant k is still alive at year t

Step 2: Projected group mortality rate

- Look up from life table using the group average age
- Weighted average between male & female tables
- Varies for each future year
- Best estimate of future mortality



Loss Year	Dev Age (Yrs)	Prop Mile	Open Claims	Avg Age	Life Exp	Cumul Loss
2005	13	0.76	191	55.76	30.64	3,504,668

y = Ax*(b)exp(-rx)		Life Exp Offset	Adj Life Exp
A	1.358624	From	0
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Step 3: Project future incremental losses

- Curve fit -> Fitted LDF -> Cumulative loss -> Incremental loss
- Remember these projected losses reflect observed mortality, not future mortality

Step 4: Calculate incremental loss decay rate.

Example:

$$0.0949 = \frac{43,572 - 39,437}{43,572}$$

Loss Year	Dev Age (Yrs)	Prop Mile	Open Claims	Avg Age	Life Exp	Cumul Loss	Proj Years	EOT	Ultimate
2005	13	0.76	191	55.76	30.64	3,504,668	20	4,112,549	4,228,156

y = Ax*(b)exp(-rx)		Life Exp Offset	Adj Life Exp
A	1.358624	From	0
b	1.539219	ScatterFit	31
r	0.023330		

Projection Yr	Avg Age	Dev Age	Fitted LDF	Cumul Loss	Incr Loss	Loss Decay	qx	Adj Decay	Adj Incr Loss	Adj Cumul
1	55.8	13	1.019354	3,504,668	67,831	0.1115	0.00342		67,831	3,504,668
2	56.7	14	1.016870	3,572,499	60,267	0.1067	0.00373	0.111817	60,266	3,572,499
3	57.7	15	1.014820	3,632,766	53,839	0.1023	0.00409	0.107338	53,779	3,632,740
4	58.6	16	1.013109	3,686,604	48,329	0.1023	0.00451	0.103425	48,217	3,686,524
5	59.5	17	1.011666	3,734,933	43,572	0.0984	0.00498	0.099597	43,366	3,734,142
6	60.5	18	1.010437	3,778,505	39,437	0.0949	0.00551	0.096995	39,187	3,778,137

Step 5: Calculate adjusted incremental loss decay rate

- First remove observed mortality rate
- Then add projected mortality rate (qx)
- i.e., Adjusted Decay = Loss Decay - 0.00342 + qx

Example:

$$0.096995 = 0.0949 - 0.00342 + 0.00551$$

Step 6: Calculate adjusted incremental loss.

Example:

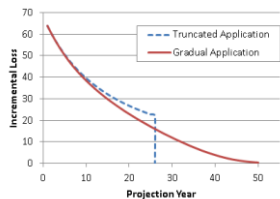
$$39,187 = 43,396(1 - 0.096995)$$

Step 7: Sum Adj Incr Loss column to get ultimate unpaid (or IBNR)

Simplifying assumption: current mortality rate is a sufficient proxy for observed mortality

- Not a bad assumption especially for younger claimants and current mortality << loss decay

Truncation vs. Gradual



Observations

- Gradual losses decrease at a faster rate due to continuous application of mortality
- Total unpaid for gradual is typically higher because gradual method predicts a longer group life expectancy
- Gradual method produces more realistic cash flow
- Truncation method appropriate for incurred with adequate case reserve

Business Considerations - Updating

Proposal – model parameters “locked in” for 3-5 years

- When do we “unlock”?

During annual/semi-annual review we go through both exercises:

- **Refreshing the model** - use “locked in” prior parameters, but update underlying data
 - Using latest claim info (financials and characteristics) generate a new indication
- **Updating the model** - go through entire process again, includes updating the data and refitting the curves to updated data (generating new parameters A , b , and r)
 - We then test to see if the newly created parameters have changed materially from the prior; in practice this may translate to testing indications rather than parameters

Business Considerations - Updating

Have the prior parameters changed materially?

Often a judgement call – benchmarks are helpful

Need to separate change in indication due to updated data vs. change in indication due to new parameters.

- Optimally, the change in indication due to new parameters hovers around “zero” cycle to cycle
- If change due to new parameters is increasing/decreasing your indications every cycle, likely something changing in your data
- Suggested thresholds to measure change in indications due to parameter update:
 - Percentage change off of initial indications
 - Percentage of overall reserves
 - Percentage of surplus

So when are we updating the parameters?

Business Considerations - Updating

Summary – When do we change model parameters?

Again, sometimes a judgement call...but general guidance identifies three scenarios:

1. The end of the predetermined “locked in” period has arrived. E.g. 3 years after original implementation.
2. The change in indication due to updating parameters has crossed some predetermined threshold. E.g. 10% of total reserves.
3. The change in indication over several cycles is moving in the same direction. E.g. +2% of reserves, then +3%, then +2%.

Remember, when parameters are updated...must re-lock

Business Considerations - Updating

Other items to consider when updating model parameters:

- How well has model performed against expectations, are we using the right data cuts?
- Is there a change to data aggregation that we should make?
 - More/less granular, more/less aggregated
 - Additional data attributes to use in creating homogenous groups
- Are we using the most appropriate, and most up to date, mortality table?
- Should we consider using more (or less) accident years in our data/fits?

Any changes to your model structure may drive changes in indications that must be explained

Business Considerations – Discussing Results

How does this model help the Actuary discuss results?

- **When the model is “refreshed”**: parameters are locked, but data is updated - drivers of change in indications should be fairly clear:
 - Changing distribution of claimant ages or genders
 - Relatively higher/lower level of payment/reserve activity on open claims

Ideally, an “actual vs. expected” framework is established and monitored regularly. This should help the results discussion and minimize “surprises”.
- **When the model is “updated”**: parameters are refit, **and** data is updated - drivers of change in indications can be messy:
 - Critical to bifurcate change due to data vs. change due to refit.
 - Certainly there will be overlap between the two
 - How much of the change is due to a distributional shift in data?
 - How did this distributional shift drive the new parameters?
 - What are the other internal and external forces in play?

Business Considerations – Discussing Results

Other Considerations – Internal/External Forces

- **Internal factors driving change in indications:**
 - Claim operational changes – change in personnel, case reserving strategy, settlement strategy, etc.
 - Underwriting operational changes – even if focusing on older cohort of claims, there may be growth/contraction in certain segments/jurisdictions, etc.
 - Cost containment strategy – change in nurse case management, change in pharmacy strategy, changing medical vendor usage, etc.
- **External factors driving change in indications:**
 - Medical inflation and or utilization
 - State specific reforms (fee schedules, benefit levels, etc.)
 - Change in legal environment
 - Changes in mortality expectations

Not an exhaustive list – many more considerations!

Excel Tool: Aging Table Tab

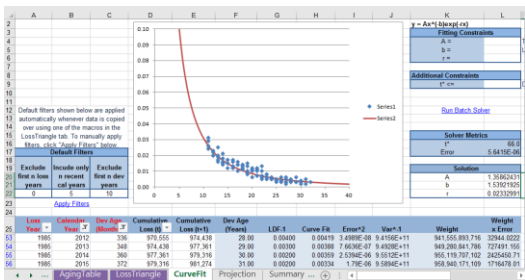
- Macro will compute projected average age for each AY (no manual input necessary)
- Done only once for a claimant pool

AY 1993

Excel Tool: Loss Triangle Tab

- Manually input for each loss triangle (paid, incurred, ALAE)
- Macros to assist copying link ratios to next tab

Excel Tool: Curve Fit Tab



- Solver add-in is required
- Batch Solver macro tries several different initial configurations
- Fitting by weighted minimum MSE (weights = inverse variance)
- Link ratios < 1 are ok

