Recurrent events data analysis for product repairs, disease recurrences, and other applications

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Abstrak

Survival data consist of a single event for each population unit, namely, end of life, which is modeled with a life distribution. In contrast, many applications involve repeated-events data, where a unit may accumulate any number of events over time. Examples include the number and cost of repairs of products, the number and treatment costs of recurrent disease episodes in patients, and the number of childbirths to statisticians. This applied book provides practitioners with basic nonparametric methods for such data, particularly the plot of the estimate of the population mean cumulative function (MCF), which yields most of the information sought.

Recurrent Events Data Analysis for Product Repairs, Disease Recurrences, and Other Applications is the first book to present a simple, unified theory that includes data on costs or other "values" of discrete events, not just the number of events. It surveys computer programs that calculate and plot the MCF estimate with confidence limits, shows their output, and explains how to interpret such plots. Many such calculations can be easily done with a pocket calculator or spreadsheet program. Also, the book introduces basic Poisson and Cox regression models and parametric models, including homogeneous and nonhomogeneous Poisson processes and renewal processes.