

## **Are Delays in Academic Publishing Necessary?**

By DEREK LESLIE

The data shown in Figure 3 are generated by a Stata program.

This is written in VERSION 6, so it will run on Stata VERSIONS 6 and upwards.

The program was written for my own purpose and is not in any way 'elegant' but it should work if you follow these instructions. If you are familiar with Stata programming you are welcome to adjust for your own ad hoc purposes. I have left some fairly terse notes on the programme mainly as reminders for myself.

This is the original programme but I do have some subsequent refinements. See my web page or contact me. The paper on exam marking drops the assumption of referee omniscience and there is an associated Stata program. Contact me at [d.leslie@mmu.ac.uk](mailto:d.leslie@mmu.ac.uk) if you want this.

My web page

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### INSTRUCTIONS

THE SOURCE CODE IS IN THE PDF FILE LESLIE.PDF

LOAD UP STATA

COPY AND PASTE THE SOURCE CODE INTO THE DO FILE EDITOR

(YOU CAN SAVE THIS AS A DO FILE, E.G. AER.DO)

RUN THE DO FILE

This loads the program called try

To produce the data shown in Figure 3 you then type the line below in the Stata command window

```
try 4 .01 .001
```

Then press ENTER

Interpretation

4 is the assumed standard deviation of the  $z$  distribution which has an arbitrary mean 100

.01 is the assumed breakeven acceptance probability, which the paper assumes to be 1 percent, hence 0.01.

.001 is the journal's objective, which the paper assumes is to publish the top .1 percent of papers

(Obviously you can enter whatever mix you want here; try 4 .03 .001 for example raises the breakeven acceptance probability to 3 percent)

You should the see the following output

try 4 .01 .001

b	prsub	jtp	acpr	sucpr	qcrit	Ez	Exst	Exacc
1.000	0.1000	0.1000	100.0000	100.0000	112.36	112.36	113.47	113.74
0.990	0.1455	0.0974	66.9430	97.4303	111.97	111.85	112.98	113.53
0.980	0.1649	0.0957	58.0259	95.6777	111.87	111.64	112.77	113.49
0.970	0.1794	0.0940	52.3984	94.0036	111.83	111.47	112.61	113.47
0.960	0.1912	0.0923	48.3049	92.3494	111.81	111.34	112.48	113.47
0.950	0.2011	0.0907	45.1102	90.6959	111.80	111.21	112.35	113.47
0.940	0.2095	0.0890	42.5070	89.0349	111.81	111.11	112.24	113.47
0.930	0.2167	0.0874	40.3222	87.3629	111.83	111.00	112.14	113.48
0.920	0.2228	0.0857	38.4486	85.6783	111.86	110.91	112.04	113.49
0.910	0.2281	0.0840	36.8149	83.9806	111.89	110.82	111.95	113.50
0.900	0.2326	0.0823	35.3714	82.2701	111.93	110.74	111.86	113.51
0.890	0.2363	0.0805	34.0822	80.5473	111.98	110.66	111.78	113.52
0.880	0.2394	0.0788	32.9204	78.8130	112.03	110.59	111.70	113.53
0.870	0.2419	0.0771	31.8653	77.0681	112.08	110.51	111.62	113.54

ETC  
THEN  
zt      critp      aimprob      exp standZ>zt  
112.36      1.000      0.10      113.47

b is the value of the uncertainty parameter which starts at 1 (complete certainty) and drops in 0.01 decrements.

prsub is the submission probability (all these are expressed in percentage terms)

jtp is the probability that you submit and the paper is of acceptable standard

acpr is the probability that the paper will be accepted

sucpr is the journal's success rate in capturing the target number of top papers

qcrit is the breakeven  $q^*$  value

Ez is the expected standard of the marginal paper, i.e. the paper with  $q=q^*$

Exst is the expected standard of submitted papers

Exacc is the expected standard of accepted papers

The last row gives some summary stats that do not vary with b

zt is the critical value of z above which a paper will be accepted

critp is just the .01 probability expressed as a percentage

aimprob is just the .001 probability expressed as a percentage

exp standZ>zt is the expected standard of all papers above the acceptance standard

NOTE ALSO

Many lines have been commented out (with a \* beforehand). So if you want the relevant information just delete the \*and the line will then be operational.

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