

PROBLEMS IN SURVIVAL AND EVENT HISTORY ANALYSIS ARISING FROM INTERMITTENT FOLLOW-UP OF INDIVIDUALS

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When individuals in a follow-up study can only be observed intermittently, information on events between successive observation times is ascertained retrospectively, and information may often be incomplete, or reported with a delay. In addition, persons may become lost to follow-up. This talk will discuss some problems that may arise, including the assessment and treatment of non-independent losses to follow-up in studies with widely spaced observation times; the treatment of censoring, delayed reporting of events, and loss to follow-up in observational studies based on registry or clinic data bases; and inference problems requiring modeling of the observation process. Examples from disease follow-up studies and from longitudinal surveys will be considered.