

Mathematics and Statistics Undergraduate Handbook

Supplement to the Handbook

Honour School of Mathematics and Statistics Syllabus and Synopses for Part A 2010–2011 for examination in 2011

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Notice of misprints or errors of any kind, and suggestions for improvements in this booklet should be addressed to the Academic Administrator in the Department of Statistics.

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1. Honour School of Mathematics and Statistics

Please see the current edition of the [Examination Regulations](#) for the full regulations governing these examinations.

In Part A each candidate shall be required to offer the 4 written papers from the schedule of papers for Part A (below).

Part A shall be taken on one occasion only (there will be no resits). At the end of the Part A examination, a candidate will be awarded four 'University Standardised Marks' (USMs) for their performance in Part A – one USM for each paper taken in Part A. These USMs will be carried forward into the classification awarded at the end of the third year. In this classification, each paper mark in Part A will be given a 'weighting' of 2, and each unit paper mark in Part B will be given a 'weighting' of 3. All students who complete the first three years of the course will be classified, and those wishing to graduate at this point may supplicate for a BA.

Students wishing to take the four-year course should register to do so at the beginning of their third year. They will take Part C in their fourth year, be awarded a separate classification and, if successful, be allowed to supplicate for an MMath.

The schedule of papers

Paper AC1 Algebra, Analysis and Differential Equations

This paper will contain questions set on the CORE material, and will contain 9 short questions (3 for each course), attracting 10 marks each, all of which should be answered.

Paper AC2 Algebra, Analysis and Differential Equations

The paper AC2 contains 9 questions in total with 3 questions in each section, namely 3 on Algebra, 3 on Analysis and 3 on Differential Equations. Candidates may submit answers to as many questions as they wish. The best 4 questions will count for the total mark for this paper, with at least 1 from each section. That is, the best answer from each section together with the next best answer will count for the total mark for this paper.

Paper AS1 Probability, Statistics and Options

This paper will contain short questions, worth 10 marks each, set on the CORE material in Probability and Statistics, and on the OPTIONAL material. There will be 3 questions on each of Probability and Statistics, and on the options there will be 1 question for each 8 lecture course and 2 questions for each 16 lecture course. Candidates may submit answers to as many questions as they wish: the best 5 answers on Probability and Statistics, and the best 4 answers on options will be counted.

Paper AS2 Probability, Statistics and Options

This paper will contain longer questions, worth 25 marks each, set on the CORE material in Probability and Statistics, and on the OPTIONAL material. There will be 2 questions on each 16-lecture course and 1 question on each 8-lecture course. Candidates may submit answers to as many questions as they wish, at least 2 of which should be on Probability and Statistics. The best 2 answers on Probability and Statistics,

and the best 2 other answers (which may include further Probability and Statistics questions) will be counted.

On papers AS1 and AS2, *Statistical Programming* counts as an 8-lecture course: on each of AS1 and AS2, there will be 1 question on *Statistical Programming*.

Papers AC1 and AC2 are identical to those taken by candidates in Mathematics. Papers AS1 and AS2 are similar but not identical to the options papers (AO1 and AO2) taken by candidates in Mathematics.

Syllabus and Synopses

The syllabus details in this booklet are those referred to in the Examination Regulations and have been approved by the Statistics Academic Committee for examination in Trinity Term 2010. The synopses in this booklet give some additional detail, and show how the material is split between the different lecture courses. They also include details of recommended reading.

2. CORE MATERIAL

2.1 Syllabus

2.1.1 Algebra

2.1.2 Analysis

2.1.3 Differential Equations

These three subjects (Algebra, Analysis and Differential Equations) are also core subjects for Part A of the Honour School of Mathematics. For the syllabuses and synopses, see those for Part A of the Honour School of Mathematics, which are available on the web at <http://www.maths.ox.ac.uk/current-students/undergraduates/handbooks-synopses/maths>

2.1.4 Probability

Random variables and their distribution; joint distribution, conditional distribution; functions of one or more random variables. Generating functions and applications. Characteristic functions, definition only. Statements of the continuity and uniqueness theorems for moment generating functions. Chebychev and Markov inequalities. The weak law of large numbers and central limit theorem for independent identically distributed variables with a second moment. Discrete-time Markov chains: definition, transition matrix, n-step transition probabilities, communicating classes, absorption, irreducibility, calculation of hitting probabilities and mean hitting times, recurrence and transience. Invariant distributions, mean return time, positive recurrence, convergence to equilibrium (proof not examinable).

Examples of applications in areas such as: genetics, branching processes, Markov chain Monte Carlo. Poisson processes in one dimension: exponential spacings, Poisson counts, thinning and superposition.

2.1.5 Statistics

Order statistics, probability plots.

Estimation: observed and expected information, statement of large sample properties of maximum likelihood estimators in the regular case, methods for calculating maximum likelihood estimates, large sample distribution of sample estimators using the delta method.

Hypothesis testing: simple and composite hypotheses, size, power and p-values, Neyman-Pearson lemma, distribution theory for testing means and variances in the normal model, generalized likelihood ratio, statement of its large sample distribution under the null hypothesis, analysis of count data.

Confidence intervals: exact intervals, approximate intervals using large sample theory, relationship to hypothesis testing.

Regression: correlation, least squares and maximum likelihood estimation, use of matrices, distribution theory for the normal model, hypothesis tests and confidence intervals for linear regression problems, examining assumptions by plotting residuals. Examples: statistical techniques will be illustrated with relevant datasets in the lectures.

2.2 Synopses of Lectures

2.2.1 Algebra — 24 lectures MT

2.2.2 Analysis — 24 lectures MT

2.2.3 Differential Equations — 24 lectures MT

These three subjects (Algebra, Analysis and Differential Equations) are also core subjects for Part A of the Honour School of Mathematics. For the syllabuses and synopses, see those for Part A of the Honour School of Mathematics, which are available on the web at <http://www.maths.ox.ac.uk/current-students/undergraduates/handbooks-synopses/maths>

2.2.4 **Probability** — 16 lectures HT

Aims and Objectives

The first half of the course takes further the probability theory that was developed in the first year. The aim is to build up a range of techniques that will be useful in dealing with mathematical models involving uncertainty. The second half of the course is concerned with Markov chains in discrete time and Poisson processes in one dimension, both with developing the relevant theory and giving examples of applications.

Synopsis

Continuous random variables. Jointly continuous random variables, independence, conditioning, bivariate distributions, functions of one or more random variables. Moment generating functions and applications. Characteristic functions, definition only. Examples to include some of those which may have later applications in Statistics.

Basic ideas of what it means for a sequence of random variables to converge in probability, in distribution and in mean square. Chebychev and Markov inequalities. The weak law of large numbers and central limit theorem for independent identically distributed variables with a second moment. Statements of the continuity and uniqueness theorems for moment generating functions.

Discrete-time Markov chains: definition, transition matrix, n-step transition probabilities, communicating classes, absorption, irreducibility, calculation of hitting probabilities and mean hitting times, recurrence and transience. Invariant distributions, mean return time, positive recurrence, convergence to equilibrium (proof not examinable). Examples of applications in areas such as: genetics, branching processes, Markov chain Monte Carlo. Poisson processes in one dimension: exponential spacings, Poisson counts, thinning and superposition.

Reading

G R GRIMMETT and D R STIRZAKER, Probability and Random Processes, 3rd edition, OUP (2001) Chapters 4, 6.1-6.5, 6.8

G R GRIMMETT and D R STIRZAKER, One Thousand Exercises in Probability, OUP (2001)

G R GRIMMETT and D J A WELSH, Probability: An Introduction, OUP (1986) Chapters 6, 7.4, 8, 11.1-11.3

J R NORRIS, Markov Chains, CUP (1997) Chapter 1

D R STIRZAKER, Elementary Probability, CUP 2nd Edition (2003) Chapters 7-9 excluding 9.9

2.2.5 **Statistics** — 16 lectures HT

Statistics — 16 lectures HT

Aims and Objectives

Building on the first year course, this course develops statistics for mathematicians, emphasising both its underlying mathematical structure and its application to the logical interpretation of scientific data. Advances in theoretical statistics are generally driven by the need to analyse new and interesting data which come from all walks of life.

Synopsis

Order statistics, probability plots.

Estimation: observed and expected information, statement of large sample properties of maximum likelihood estimators in the regular case, methods for calculating maximum likelihood estimates, large sample distribution of sample estimators using the delta method.

Hypothesis testing: simple and composite hypotheses, size, power and p-values, Neyman-Pearson lemma, distribution theory for testing means and variances in the normal model, generalized likelihood ratio, statement of its large sample distribution under the null hypothesis, analysis of count data.

Confidence intervals: exact intervals, approximate intervals using large sample theory, relationship to hypothesis testing.

Regression: correlation, least squares and maximum likelihood estimation, use of matrices, distribution theory for the normal model, hypothesis tests and confidence intervals for linear regression problems, examining assumptions by plotting residuals.

Examples: statistical techniques will be illustrated with relevant datasets in the lectures.

Reading

F DALY, D J HAND, M C JONES, A D LUNN and K J McCONWAY, Elements of Statistics, Addison Wesley (1995) Chapters 7-10 (and Chapters 1-6 for background)
J A RICE, Mathematical Statistics and Data Analysis, 2nd edition, Wadsworth (1995) Sections 8.5, 8.6, 9.1-9.7, 9.9, 10.3-10.6, 11.2, 11.3, 12.2.1, 13.3, 13.4.

Further Reading

G CASELLA and R L BERGER, Statistical Inference, 2nd edition, Wadsworth (2001)

3 OPTIONS

3.1 Syllabus

3.1.1 Graph Theory

Finite graphs and digraphs. Eulerian and Hamiltonian graphs. Trees and their characterisation, Cayley's theorem. Planar graphs, Euler's formula, dual graphs. Vertex and face colourings, Brooks' theorem. Matchings, Hall's theorem, Menger's theorem.

3.1.2 Simulation

Motivation. Inversion. Transformation methods. Rejection. Variance reduction via Importance sampling. The Metropolis algorithm (finite space), reversibility, ergodicity. Applications: conditioned and extreme events, likelihood and missing data, sampling uniformly at random.

3.1.3 Linear Programming

Standardisation of problems, slack variables. The simplex method, excluding procedures to cope with degeneracy. The dual problem, duality theorem (proof by analysing the simplex method), complementary slackness. Economic interpretation of dual variables, sensitivity analysis. Two person zero-sum games.

3.1.4 Statistical Programming

Basic introduction to using R to carry out basic numerical calculations, how numbers are represented and different data storage types used in R. Reading data into R and how to plot and summarize data. Writing functions and programs in R. Program control and debugging. Solving equations and numerical optimization. Carrying out statistical tests in R. Simulation of stochastic processes.

3.1.5 Other optional subjects

The other optional subjects are drawn from Part A of the Honour School of Mathematics and are as follows:

- Group Theory
- Introduction to Fields
- Number Theory
- Integration
- Topology
- Multivariable Calculus
- Calculus of Variations
- Classical Mechanics
- Quantum Theory
- Fluid Dynamics and Waves
- Numerical Analysis

For the syllabuses and synopses, see those for Part A of the Honour School of Mathematics, which are available on the web at

<http://www.maths.ox.ac.uk/current-students/undergraduates/handbooks-synopses>

3.2 Synopses of Lectures

3.2.1 Graph Theory — 8 lectures HT

Aims and Objectives

The aim of the course is to introduce students to this central part of Discrete Mathematics, dating back to Euler and now important in theoretical computer science and the mathematics of operational research. For example, an attractive part of the theory concerns colouring the vertices of a graph so that adjacent vertices get distinct colours. Perhaps the vertices here correspond to examinations and two vertices are adjacent if some student sits both examinations: a colouring then corresponds to a timetable.

Synopsis

We start with basic definitions of graph, path, connected, tree, and so on: many of these definitions should come as no surprise. Trees are an important class of graphs: we consider some characterisations of trees, and how to count trees: in particular, we prove Cayley's theorem that there are n^{n-2} trees on the vertices $1, \dots, n$.

Then we consider traversing graphs and digraphs. When can we walk along each edge exactly once? This is where Euler came in, and gave a neat answer. When is there a path passing through each vertex exactly once? This question (associated with Hamilton) is far harder: we find some sufficient conditions.

Some graphs sit naturally in the plane: we meet Euler's formula $v - e + f = 2$ relating the numbers of vertices, edges and faces, and we meet the dual graph. Concerning colouring the vertices of a graph, we prove for example Brooks' Theorem relating the number of colours needed to the maximum degree of a vertex; and the result that any planar graph needs at most 5 colours (we do not prove the 4-colour theorem!).

Finally we consider matchings and disjoint paths in graphs. We prove Hall's 'marriage theorem' and Menger's theorem on disjoint paths, together with various related results. The discussions on trees, matchings and disjoint paths link particularly closely with combinatorial optimisation.

Reading

R J WILSON, Introduction to Graph Theory, 4th edition, Longman (1996).
D B WEST, Introduction to Graph Theory, 2nd edition, Prentice Hall (2001).

3.2.2 **Simulation** — 8 lectures TT

Aims and Objectives

Building on Part A probability and Mods statistics, this course introduces Monte Carlo methods, collectively one of the most important analytical tools of modern statistical inference.

Synopsis

Motivation. Inversion. Transformation methods.

Rejection.

Variance reduction via Importance sampling.

The Metropolis algorithm (finite space), reversibility, ergodicity.

Applications: conditioned and extreme events, likelihood and missing data, sampling uniformly at random.

Problem sheets in classes will include a separate section with some examples of simulation using R.

Reading

S.M Ross, *Simulation*, Elsevier, 4th edition, 2006

J.R Norris, *Markov Chains*, CUP, 1997

C.P. Robert and G Casella, *Monte Carlo Statistical Methods*, Springer, 2004

B.D Ripley, *Stochastic Simulation*, Wiley, 1987

3.2.3 **Linear Programming** — 8 lectures TT

Aims and Objectives

Linear programming is about making the most of limited resources. Specifically, it deals with maximising a linear function of variables subject to linear constraints. Applications range from economic planning and environmental management to the diet problem. The aim is to provide a simple introduction to the subject.

Synopsis

Linear programming problems, examples. Standardisation of problems, slack variables. Sufficiency of basic feasible solutions; equivalence of basic feasible solutions and extreme points. The simplex method, excluding procedures to cope with degeneracy. The dual problem, duality theorem (proof by analysing the simplex method), complementary slackness. Economic interpretation of dual variables, sensitivity analysis. Two person zero-sum games.

Reading

V CHVATAL, *Linear Programming*, Freeman (1983), Chapters 1–5, 15.

K TRUSTRUM, *Linear Programming*, RKP (1971) – out of print, but available in college libraries, Chapters 1–5.

D G LUENBERGER, *Linear and Nonlinear Programming*, Addison-Wesley (1984), Chapters 2–4.

D G LUENBERGER, *Linear and Nonlinear Programming*, Addison-Wesley (1984), Chapters 2–4.

3.2.4 Statistical Programming – 6 lectures and associated practicals HT

The workload of this course is equivalent to an 8-lecture course.

Aims and Objectives

The aim of the course is to introduce students to how to carry out statistical analysis using a computer and the theory of statistical programming and its related techniques. The course will be based on the R programming language which is now widely used in all branches of applied statistics.

Synopsis

(1) A basic introduction to using R to carry out basic numerical calculations, how numbers are represented and different data storage types used in R.

(2) Reading data into R and how to plot and summarize data.

(3) Writing functions and programs in R. Program control and debugging.

(4) Solving equations and numerical optimization.

(5) Carrying out statistical tests in R.

(6) Simulation of stochastic processes.

Course Structure

The course will consist of 6 lectures, each followed by an associated practical session. There will also be up to 2 classes covering the theory of statistical programming

Reading

W.J. Braun and D.J. Murdoch, *A First Course in Statistical Programming with R*. CUP 2007

3.2.5 Other optional subjects

For synopses of the other optional subjects listed in Section 3.1.4, including details of recommended reading, see those for Part A of the Honour School of Mathematics, which are available on the web at <http://www.maths.ox.ac.uk/current-students/undergraduates/handbooks-synopses/math>