



Universiteit
Leiden
The Netherlands

Advances in Survival Analysis and Optimal Scaling Methods

Willemse, S.J.W.

Citation

Willemse, S. J. W. (2020, March 19). *Advances in Survival Analysis and Optimal Scaling Methods*. Retrieved from <https://hdl.handle.net/1887/87058>

Version: Publisher's Version

License: [Licence agreement concerning inclusion of doctoral thesis in the Institutional Repository of the University of Leiden](#)

Downloaded from: <https://hdl.handle.net/1887/87058>

Note: To cite this publication please use the final published version (if applicable).

Cover Page



Universiteit Leiden



The handle <http://hdl.handle.net/1887/87058> holds various files of this Leiden University dissertation.

Author: Willems, S.J.W.

Title: Advances in Survival Analysis and Optimal Scaling Methods

Issue Date: 2020-03-19

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

I would like to begin by thanking my supervisors Prof. dr. Jacqueline Meulman and Dr. Marta Fiocco for their guidance and advice during my research. Jacqueline, thank you for supporting me in pursuing different aspects of statistics. I am very grateful that you gave me time to explore what I am interested in, allowed me to do a research project in the communication of statistics, and supported me in participating in committees, boards, and other organizational activities. Marta, thank you for pushing me to work harder when needed, for reading the many versions of my articles very thoroughly (usually at night) and giving numerous useful comments on them, and for introducing me to researchers in your network.

Furthermore, I would like to thank my co-authors Prof. dr. Ionica Smeets and Prof. dr. Casper Albers for our collaboration on the communication project. Ionica, thank you for involving me in your research group and for introducing me to Casper when he proposed an interesting research topic to you. Thank you both for your prompt replies to my many questions during our project.

I would also like to thank my colleagues at the MI for creating the relaxed atmosphere at our institute. I appreciate that initiatives as the PhD colloquium and Mathletico soccer team are supported by the management. These activities have strengthened the bond between PhD students and resulted in many joined activities outside of the institute. I would like to thank all my colleagues with whom I enjoyed sports classes, dancing lessons, Mathletico matches, movie nights, drinks, dinners, et cetera. Special thanks go to my office mates Maarten and Stéphanie who gave me both support for and distraction from my research. Maarten, thank you for your advice on many different topics, for climbing the office chairs to hang up our postcards, and for tolerating our excessive Christmas decorations and the occasional “foute” music. Stéphanie, thank you for the cocktail, movie, theater, and wellness nights, office celebrations, as well as your advice on career issues, dating, books, and time management theories and tools. I also want to thank Anna for providing the template for the design of this thesis.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Annemarie, Moniek, Maxwell, jullie wil ik bedanken voor onze vriendschap. Met jullie heb ik de reis van het studentenleven naar het “echte” werkende leven gemaakt, waarbij de vele late avonden in de sportkantine transformeerden in filmavonden en etentjes, de feestoutfits veranderden in chillpants met sloffen, en Hertog Jan Pilsener werd vervangen door speciaalbier, cocktails of thee. Sinds het einde van onze Helios-taken en we verder uit elkaar wonen zien we elkaar minder vaak, maar met de ingevoerde tradities zal onze vriendschap waarschijnlijk nog lang voortduren. Jelle, jou wil ik bedanken voor al onze leuke gesprekken onder het genot van, bij voorkeur, sushi. Ingrid, bedankt voor al onze gezellige dates.

Julian, jou wil ik ook enorm bedanken. Jij lijkt mij eigenlijk al beter te kennen en te snappen dan ik mezelf. Jij merkt dan ook eerder dan ik wat ik nodig heb; van basisbehoeften als eten en slaap tot schildercursussen en Kaodokus-puzzels. Vooral jouw kennis over hoe je mij, ondanks een eventuele afstand, weer rustig krijgt in tijden van stress en onzekerheid is in de laatste maanden van mijn promotie erg goed van pas gekomen.

Ik wil ook van deze gelegenheid gebruik maken om iedereen van Willems 50, met Jan en Nanny in het bijzonder, nog te bedanken voor alle steun die wij vroeger van hen hebben gekregen. Ik vind het erg fijn dat wij zo vaak bij jullie over de vloer kwamen om samen te eten of te kletsen. Onze gezinnen zijn destijds eigenlijk een beetje samengesmolten en gelukkig is dat altijd zo gebleven.

Ook wil ik Jorine, Johan en mijn ouders bedanken. Jorine, jouw voorbeeldpad naar een PhD heeft mij doen volgen, en Johan jouw zichtbare trots op je zussen werkt nog altijd erg aanmoedigend. Mama, ook al was jij er al niet meer toen ik voor de wiskunde koos, jouw stem heeft altijd in mijn hoofd herhaald dat school en studie belangrijk zijn en dat heeft vast bijgedragen aan de keuzes die geleid hebben tot een PhD-onderzoek. Papa, jou wil ik bedanken voor het altijd klaar staan om ons met van alles te helpen en om advies te geven. Of je het er nou helemaal mee eens bent of niet, jij steunt ons in wat wij ook bedenken.

CURRICULUM VITAE

Sanne Willems was born in Ravenstein, the Netherlands, on February 19th 1989. Upon completion of her pre-university education at the Maaslandcollege in Oss in 2007 she continued her studies at Utrecht University. In addition to the curriculum of the Mathematics & Applications bachelor program she took extra courses to broaden her knowledge in economics, computer science, biology, and psychology. A few months into the Mathematical Science master in Utrecht Sanne switched to the Statistical Science master program at Leiden University to pursue her growing interest in applied statistics. She obtained her master's degree with a thesis project on survival analysis supervised by Dr. M. Fiocco.

Her master project led to the idea to combine the topics of survival analysis and optimal scaling transformation into a PhD research project supervised by Prof. dr. J. J. Meulman and Dr. M. Fiocco at the Mathematical Institute at Leiden University. During her PhD research she was appointed part-time lecturer in the Statistical Science master program.

In anticipation of her appointment as an assistant professor at the Mathematical Institute after her graduation she intensified her involvement in the master program by becoming a study advisor.

During her studies in Utrecht Sanne enjoyed her duties as a board member of her student badminton association and she continued to take up responsibilities within several organizations and societies. For example, she was a board member of the Dutch chapter of European Women in Mathematics and organized the conference Survival Analysis for Junior Researchers in 2018. She has also been an active member of the Netherlands Society for Statistics and Operations Research as a board member of the Young Statisticians, editor of the society's magazine STAtOR, and founding chair of the Statistics Communication section. These last two activities reflect her strong interest in the communication of statistics.