A BAYESIAN CREDIBILITY FORMULA FOR IBNR COUNTS DR. IRA ROBBIN

Abstract

A formula for IBNR counts is derived as the credibility weighted average of three standard actuarial estimates:

	IBNR
Estimate	Formula
Pegged	Initial Estimate of Ultimate – Reported to Date
LDF	(Reported to Date) \times (LDF - 1)
Bornhuetter-Ferguson	Initial Estimate of Ultimate \times (1 – 1/LDF)

Here LDF denotes the age-to-ultimate development factor. The credibility weights vary by age of development in a methodical fashion reflecting prior belief in the reporting pattern and the estimate of ultimate.

To derive the formula, IBNR is modelled as a parametrically dependent random variable. Bayes Theorem leads to a natural revision of the prior distribution of the parameters based on the data to date. Using the best least squares linear approximation to the true Bayesian estimate, and performing some algebraic manipulations, the credibility formula is obtained. While the formula could be applied in many ways, for demonstration purposes a fully automatic procedure is applied to three hypothetical triangles of data.

I. INTRODUCTION

This paper will present a formula which estimates IBNR (Incurred But Not Reported) claim counts in terms of a credibility weighted average of more traditional actuarial estimates. The formula will be derived from a theoretical foundation using Bayesian analysis methods applied to claim count development models.

Before presenting the formula, it is instructive to review the traditional actuarial estimates under discussion. In the usual context, we are estimating IBNR counts for an exposure period at a certain stage of development. We are given, or can obtain some preliminary estimate of ultimate counts that does not depend on the count data reported to date. For instance, the preliminary estimate could be the product of expected frequency times exposures, where the expected frequency is calculated with data from prior exposure periods. We also have count data reported to date and a set of expected age-to-ultimate count loss development factors (LDF). With all this information, three different IBNR count estimates may be obtained for the exposure period in question at its current stage of development.

- - **IBNR** = Counts Reported to Date \times (*LDF* 1)
- 3. Bornhuetter-Ferguson Method IBNR = Preliminary Estimate of Ultimate Counts \times (1 - 1/LDF)

To decide amongst these, the actuary has heretofore been forced to rely on qualitative reasoning. Such "actuarial judgement" is not necessarily the arbitrary Delphic process one might suppose. For instance, if the actuary knows from long experience that reporting patterns are generally stable, the *LDF* method would be preferred. If reporting patterns have characteristically been erratic and the preliminary estimate of ultimate counts is generally near the mark, the pegged estimate would be favored. Such qualitative reasoning involves implicit non-quantified assumptions regarding the stochastic variability of ultimate claim counts and reporting patterns. It also reflects the degree of confidence in the prelimary estimate of expected ultimate counts and in the expected *LDF*.

By constructing an explicitly stochastic claims development model, and making Bayesian prior assumptions on the parameters defining the model, one advances the art of reserving beyond the realm of qualitative guesswork. Theoretically, Bayes Theorem leads to revised IBNR estimates reflecting prior belief appropriately modified by the data to date. Unfortunately, the mathematics often becomes intractable. Thus, one is led to considering linear estimators with least squared error.

The simplest general estimator one obtains can be expressed as a credibility weighted average of the three traditional estimates. The credibility weights vary with the stage of development, so that, for instance, the pegged estimate might receive the most weight initially, the Bornhuetter-Ferguson estimate might predominate for a few subsequent periods, and the loss development estimate could have the most weight thereafter. This methodical evolution of credibility weights is perhaps the key practical advantage of the Bayesian approach. Based on our initial beliefs, we are able to decide when to give each method credence.

The object of this paper is to present the formula and demonstrate one method of applying it to a triangle of data. The method of application uses the data to approximate needed parameters, so that, in the end, one has an automated procedure for estimating IBNR counts. Other methods of application are possible.

Finally, it should be noted that the theory leads naturally to an estimate of the variance of the IBNR counts. This variance reflects both process and parameter uncertainty.

II. BAYESIAN ANALYSIS OF COUNT DEVELOPMENT MODELS

Let N denote the ultimate number of claims for a fixed set of exposures and write N_j for the counts reported in the jth development period. Set $M_j = N_1 + \dots + N_j$ so that M_j denotes the counts reported to date as of the end of the jth period. Define the IBNR count as of the end of the jth period as R_j . Thus, R_j can be written as the sum, $N_{j+1} + N_{j+2} + \dots + N_u$, where u is the number of periods until ultimate, or one can write $R_j = N - M_j$.

Assume the N_j are (conditionally) independent Poisson random variables whose parameters we denote as n_j . It follows that N, M_j , and R_j are also Poisson distributed, since the sum of independent Poisson variables is Poisson. Let n = $n_1 + \ldots + n_u$ and define $p_j = n_j/n$. Thus, the sum of the p_j is unity. Also, set $q_j = p_{j+1} + \ldots + p_u$. We summarize the random variables thus far defined:

II.1. Conditional Poisson Random Variables

Variable	Description	Poisson Parameter
N_{j}	Counts Reported During Period j	$n_j = np_j$
M,	Counts Reported as of Period j	$m_j = n(1 - q_j)$
R_{j}	IBNR Counts as of Period j	$r_j = nq_j$
Ν	Ultimate Counts	n

subject to constraints

(i)
$$0 \le p_j \le 1$$

(ii) $p_1 + p_2 + \ldots + p_u = 1$

Next we define $LDF_j = N/M_j$ when M_j is strictly positive. Though not strictly true mathematically, we may from time to time estimate $E(LDF_j)$ as $1/(1 - q_j)$.

It should be further noted that the parameter p_j is distinct from, but related to, the ratio random variable, N_j/N . Maintaining the assumption that the parameters n and p_j are fixed, one can show:

II.2. Relation of p_i to N_i/N

 $p_i = \operatorname{E}(N_i/N \mid N > 0)$

Proof

See Appendix A.

Next, we allow the parameters n and p_j to vary according to some prior distribution whose density we write as f(n,p). Unconditional expectation and variance formulas for N, N_j , M_j , and R_j can then be derived in terms of expectations and variances involving n, p_j , and q_j .

II.3. Expectation and Variance Formulas

(i) N E(N) = E(n) Var(N) = E(n) + Var(n)(ii) N_j $E(N_j) = E(p_jn)$ $Var(N_j) = E(p_jn) + Var(p_jn)$ (iii) M_j $E(M_j) = E[(1 - q_j)n]$ $Var(M_j) = E[1 - q_j)n] + Var((1 - q_j)n)$ (iv) R_j $E(R_j) = E(q_jn)$ $Var(R_j) = E(q_jn) + Var(q_jn)$

Proof

We prove only (ii) and leave the rest as an exercise for the reader. Consider

$$E(N_j) = E_{n,p}(E(N_j|n,p)) = E_{n,p}(np_j) = E(np_j) E(N_j^2) = E_{n,p}(E(N_j^2|n,p)) = E((np_j)^2) + E(np_j)$$

Thus,

$$Var(N_j) = E(N_j^2) - (E(N_j))^2 = E((np_j)^2) + E(np_j) - (E(np_j))^2 = Var(p_jn) + E(p_jn)$$

Before providing a simple example demonstrating these concepts, it should be noted that in writing f(n,p) we have implicitly incorporated the constraints on the p parameters. In applications, these restrictions must be explicitly reflected. One way to do this is to define the p_j as functions of some other parameters in such a way that the constraints are automatically satisfied. Letting g denote these generating parameters, we may write f(n,p(g)) or f(n,g).

Now, for a simple example to demonstrate these concepts suppose:

II.4. Assumptions for Example

(i) The prior distribution for *n* is a gamma with a mean of 1,000 and a variance of 10,000.

$$f(n) = \left(\frac{1}{10}\right)^{100} \frac{1}{99!} n^{99} e^{-n/10}$$

E(n) = 1,000 E(n²) = 1,010,000

(ii) (a) \tilde{p} and \tilde{q} are given via:

$p_1 = 1 - g_1$	$q_1 = g_1$
$p_2 = g_1(1 - g_2)$	$q_2 = g_1 g_2$
$p_3 = g_1 g_2$	$q_3 = 0$

where $g_j \in (0,1)$. (Observe that the constraints on the p_j are automatically satisfied.)

(b) The prior joint distribution for g_1 and g_2 is

$$f(g_1,g_2) = 2(1-g_2)$$

We compute the first and second moments of the p, 1 - q, and q variables: II.5. First and Second Moments of p, 1 - q, and q Variables in Example

	F	First Moment	ts	S	econd Momen	ts
<u>j</u>	$\frac{\mathbf{E}(p_j)}{2}$	$\underline{\mathrm{E}(1-q_j)}$	$\frac{\mathrm{E}(q_i)}{2}$	$\frac{\mathrm{E}(p_j^2)}{2}$	$\frac{\mathrm{E}((1-q)^2)}{2}$	$\frac{\mathrm{E}(q_j^2)}{2}$
1	1/2	1/2	1/2	1/3	1/3	1/3
2	1/3	5/6	1/6	1/6	13/18	1/18
3	1/6	1	0	1/18	1	0

To show how these figures were obtained, we calculate $E(p_2^2)$ in detail.

$$E(p_2^2) = \int_0^1 \int_0^1 g_1^2 (1 - g_2)^2 2(1 - g_2) \, dg_1 \, dg_2$$

= $\left(g_1^3/3\Big|_0^1\right) \left(-2(1 - g_2)^4/4\Big|_0^1\right)$
= $(1/3)(1/2) = 1/6$

We are now in a position to compute the means, variances, and standard deviations of the various count random variables.

II.6. Means, Variances, and Standard Deviations of N, N_j , M_j , and R_j in Example

$\frac{\text{Means}}{\text{E}(N) = 1,000}$						
j	$E(N_j)$	$\mathbf{E}(\boldsymbol{M}_j)$	$\mathbf{E}(\mathbf{R}_j)$			
1	500	500	500			
2	333	833	167			
3	167	1,000	0			

Variances

Var(N) = 11,000						
j	$Var(N_j)$	$\operatorname{Var}(M_j)$	$Var(R_j)$			
1	87,167	87,167	87,167			
2	57,558	35,889	28,502			
3	28,502	11,000	0			

$\frac{\text{Standard Deviations}}{\text{Var}^{1/2}(N) = 105}$							
j	$\operatorname{Var}^{1/2}(N_j)$	$\operatorname{Var}^{1/2}(M_j)$	$\operatorname{Var}^{1/2}(R_j)$				
1	295	295	295				
2	240	189	169				
3	169	105	0				

Again demonstrating one of the calculations in more detail, we compute:

$$Var(N_2) = Var(np_2) + E(np_2)$$

= $E(n^2)E(p_2^2) - E(n)E(p_2)^2 + E(np_2)$
= $(1,010,000)(1/6) - (333)^2 + 333 = 57,556$

We return now to the general presentation and follow the Bayesian approach by modifying our beliefs about the parameter distribution, f(n,p), as more data becomes available. Let $f^{(0)}$ denote the prior density before any development has occurred, and let $f^{(j)}$ denote the revised density as of the end of the j^{th} period of development. Given development data $(N_1 = x_1, N_2 = x_2, \ldots, N_j = x_j)$, Bayes Theorem allows one to derive the modified belief density, $f^{(j)}$, in sequential fashion.

II.7 Bayes Revised Belief Density

 $f^{(j)}(n,p) = c \operatorname{Prob}(N_j = x_j/n,p) f^{(j-1)}(n,p)$

where c is a normalization constant, and

$$\operatorname{Prob}(N_j = x/n, p) = \exp(-np_j)(np_j)^{x/x}!$$

Equivalently, one can write

$$f^{(0)}(n,p) = c L(n,p|x_1, x_2, \ldots, x_j)f^{(0)}(n,p)$$

where c is some normalization constant and L is the likelihood function,

$$L = \prod_{i=1}^{j} \operatorname{Prob}(N_i = x_i/n, p)$$

The revised belief density yields revised IBNR count estimates via II.3.

Thus, the IBNR count estimation problem is theoretically solved. Further, the variance equation in II.3 (iv) could be used to calculate the standard deviation of the IBNR estimate. This deviation would reflect both process and parameter uncertainty.

Returning to our example, our prior density is:

$$f^{(0)}(n,g_1,g_2) = 2(1 - g_2) \frac{1}{10^{100}} \frac{1}{99!} n^{99} e^{-n/10}$$

If we observe $N_1 = 400$, the revised parameter density would be

 $f^{(1)}(n, g_1, g_2) = c e^{-n(1-g_1)} (n(1 - g_1))^{400} (1 - g_2) n^{99} e^{-n/10}$

where c is a normalizing constant. This density is rather inconvenient to work with.

Such difficulties are not peculiar to this example. Indeed, the computations become intractable in most interesting models. Thus, the formulas are difficult to apply and consequently of limited practical use. As is usually the case in Bayesian analysis, one is led to consider linear estimators.

III. LINEAR APPROXIMATION OF THE BAYESIAN ESTIMATOR

We first recall some general results of Bayesian credibility theory. Let X and Y be (possibly vector-valued) random variables, each parameterized by a common (vector) parameter. Assume the distribution of the parameter is governed by some underlying structure function. We consider linear estimators of Y given results for X. It is known that the linear estimator, Y^* , with least mean square error (against the Bayesian estimator) is given via:

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III.1. General Least Squares Linear Approximation

$$Y^* = E(Y) + C(X, Y')V(X)^{-1}(X - E(X))$$

where

X and Y are column vectors

X' = transpose of XC(X,Y) = Cov(X,Y) = E(XY') - E(X)E(Y')

$$V(X) = C(X, X')$$

Applying this result with $X = (N_1, \ldots, N_j)'$ and $Y = R_j$, we obtain:

III.2. General Linear IBNR Count Estimator $R_j^* = E(R_j) + (C(N_1, R_j), \dots, C(N_j, R_j)) \begin{bmatrix} C(N_1, N_1) & \dots & C(N_1, N_j) \\ & \dots & \\ C(N_j, N_1) & \dots & C(N_j, N_j) \end{bmatrix}^{-1} \begin{bmatrix} N_1 - E(N_1) \\ & \dots \\ N_j - E(N_j) \end{bmatrix}$

The quantities in the above equation can be expressed in terms of expectations, variances, and covariances of the n, p, and q.

III.3. Expectation Variance and Covariance Formulas

(i)
$$E(R_i) = E(n) E(q_i)$$

(ii) For $i \ge j$
 $C(N_j, R_i) = E(p_j) E(q_i) V(n) + E(n^2) C(p_j, q_i)$
(iii) $C(N_i, N_j) = E(n^2) C(p_i, p_j) + E(p_i) E(p_j) V(n) + \delta_{ij} E(n) E(p_i)$
where $V(X) = Var(X)$
 $\delta_{ij} = \begin{cases} 1 \text{ if } i = j \\ 0 \text{ otherwise} \end{cases}$

Formula III.2 is thus reasonable to apply in practice and there is no necessity for further simplification due to computational considerations. However, with one additional simplification, we achieve a formula expressing the estimator as a credibility weighted average of the traditional actuarial estimators as discussed in the introduction.

Applying III.1 with $X = M_j$ and $Y = R_j$, and grouping terms appropriately (as shown in Appendix B), we obtain

III.4. Credibility Weighting Formula for IBNR Counts

$$R_j^* = Z_{nj}(E(n) - M_j) + Z_{pj} \frac{M_j E(q_j)}{1 - E(q_j)} + (1 - Z_{nj} - Z_{pj}) E(n)E(q_j)$$

where

$$Z_{nj} = E(n^2)V(1 - q_j)/D_j$$
$$Z_{pj} = E(1 - q_j)^2V(n)/D_j$$

and

$$D_j = E(n^2)V(1 - q_j) + E(1 - q_j)^2V(n) + E(n)E(1 - q_j)$$

Approximating $E(q_i)$ via $(1 - 1/LDF_j)$, we have:

III.5. Credibility Weighting Formula for IBNR Counts - LDF Notation

$$R_j^* = Z_{nj} (E(n) - (M_j)) + Z_{pj} (M_j) (LDF_j - 1) + (1 - Z_{nj} - Z_{pj}) E(n) (1 - 1/LDF_j)$$

This is the formula promised at the outset since in this notation the traditional estimates may be expressed as:

IBNK	
Estimate	Expression
Pegged	$\mathbf{E}(n) = \boldsymbol{M}_j$
LDF	$M_j(LDF_j=1)$
Bornhuetter-Ferguson	$= \mathbf{E}(n) (1 - 1/LDF_j)$

There are several qualitative conclusions that can be drawn from the formula. First, if there is no parameter uncertainty with respect to both ultimate counts and reporting patterns, then the data to date is given no credibility. In that case, the formula reduces to a Bornhuetter-Ferguson type estimate.

If there is some parameter uncertainty regarding counts, but none regarding reporting patterns, then the formula become a weighted average of loss development factor and Bornhuetter-Ferguson estimates. As the count parameter uncertainty increases, the formula approaches a loss development factor estimate. Finally, if there is some parameter uncertainty about reporting patterns, but none regarding counts, then the formula becomes a weighted average of pegged and Bornhuetter-Ferguson estimates.

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IV. APPLICATION

In this section, the formula will be applied to three triangles of hypothetical data. The first triangle was constructed so that the Bornhuetter-Ferguson method will work almost exactly. The second triangle was generated to have nearly constant age-to-age factors. The last triangle is obtained by averaging the counts from the original triangles.

The formula could be applied in many different ways. For instance, a pure Bayesian approach would entail making explicit assumptions for the forms and parameters of the prior distributions. The resulting system would then require actuarial judgement in setting the parameters appropriately each time it was run. While this would be the most theoretically pure method of application, it might be regarded as somewhat impractical.

In order to provide a reasonably convincing demonstration that the formula is of practical use, we proceed now to present a fully automatic method of application. Under this particular approach, we let the data dictate parameter values to the degree possible. We introduce explicit forms for prior distributions if needed, but let the data determine the parameters of the priors.

To begin the application in detail, assume that a triangle of data is given. Let N_{ij} denote the counts reported in the j^{th} development period for the i^{th} accident period, where $i = 1, 2, \ldots, u$ and $j = 1, 2, \ldots, u - i + 1$. Define M_{ij} and R_{ij} in a fashion analogous to the definitions of M_j and R_j in II.

Assume N_{ij} is (conditionally) Poisson distributed with parameter $n_{ij} = B_i w_{ij}$, where B_i denotes the exposures for the *i*th accident year.

Define:

 $n_i = \sum_j n_{ij}$ $w_i = \sum_j w_{ij}$ $p_{ii} = w_{ij}/w_i$

so that $n_{ij} = B_i w_i p_{ij}$

Now assume that each of the frequency parameters, w_i , is, in effect, drawn from a common distribution. Thus, a priori, we have $E(w_i) = E(w)$. Similar assumptions are made for the set of p_{ij} and the set of q_{ij} when *i* is fixed. Thus, we may write $E(p_{ij}) = E(p_j)$ and $E(q_{ij}) = E(q_j)$.

We next find maximum likelihood estimators, w_i^* and p_j^* , for w_i and p_j . The likelihood function is:

IV.1. Likelihood Function

$$L(\bar{p}, w|\bar{N}) = \prod_{i=1}^{u} \prod_{j=1}^{u-i+1} e^{-B_i w p_j} (B_i w_i p_j)^{N_{ij}} N_{ij}!$$

subject to $p_1 + p_2 + ... + p_n = 1$

We maximize as usual by taking the natural log and then the necessary partial derivatives.

IV.2. "Log Likelihood" and Partials

$$\ln L = \sum_{i=1}^{u} \sum_{j=1}^{u-i+1} - B_i w_i p_j + N_{ij} \ln(w_i p_j)$$

+ independent terms of w_i and p_j

$$\frac{\partial \ln L}{\partial w_i} = \sum_{j=1}^{u-i+1} - B_i p_j + N_{ij} / w_i$$
$$\frac{\partial \ln L}{\partial p_j} = \sum_{i=1}^{u-j+1} - B_i w_i + N_{ij} / p_j$$

Utilizing the constraint, we solve the equations via numerical iteration to obtain w_i^* and p_i^* which satisfy:

IV.3. Maximum Likelihood Estimates

$$w_i^* = M_{i,u-i+1}/B_i(1 - q_{u^-i+1}^*)$$
$$p_j^* = \left(\sum_{i=1}^{u-j+1} N_{ij}\right) / \left(\sum_{i=1}^{u-j+1} w_i^* B_i\right)$$

Using the maximum likelihood estimates just obtained, we approximate the frequency mean and frequency variance.

IV.4. Frequency Mean and Variance Estimators

$$E(w) \approx \bar{w} = \left[\frac{\sum B_{i}w_{i}^{*}(1 - q_{u-i+1}^{*})}{\sum B_{i}(1 - q_{u-i+1}^{*})}\right]$$
$$Var(w) \approx S_{w}^{2} = \left[\frac{\sum B_{i}(1 - q_{u-i+1}^{*})(w_{i}^{*} - \bar{w})^{2}}{\sum B_{i}(1 - q_{u-i+1}^{*})}\right]$$

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While this seems intuitively reasonable, the properties of this variance estimator need further investigation in the future. Perhaps it is biased.

To estimate the required second moments of the reporting pattern parameters, we assume that p_{ij} is Beta distributed with parameters $(Hp_j^*, H(1 - p_j^*))$. We further have that q_{ij} is Beta distributed with parameters $(Hq_j^*, H(1 - q_j^*))$. Note the use of the maximum likelihood estimates in defining the parameters of these Betas. Under these assumptions, we can obtain convenient expressions for the mean and variance of the reporting pattern parameters.

IV.5. Mean and Variance of p_{ij} and q_{ij}

$$E(p_{ij}) = p_j^* \qquad \text{Var}(p_{ij}) = p_j^*(1 - p_j^*)/(1 + H)$$
$$E(q_{ij}) = q_j^* \qquad \text{Var}(q_{ij}) = q_j^*(1 - q_j^*)/(1 + H)$$

Observe that the parameters of the reporting pattern have variances inversely proportional to H. To use the data to solve for H, we first estimate p_{ij} via:

 $\hat{p}_{ij} = N_{ij}/(M_{i,u-i+1} + B_i w_i^* q_j^*)$ and define

IV.6. Estimator For Variance of Reporting Pattern Parameters

$$S_p^2 = \left[\sum_{i=1}^{u} \sum_{j=1}^{u-i+1} B_i (\hat{p}_{ij} - p_j^*)^2 \right] / \sum_i \sum_j B_i$$

Plugging the Var (p_{ij}) formula of IV.5 in place of $(\hat{p}_{ij} - p_j^*)^2$, we obtain the approximation

$$E(S_p^2) = \sum_{ij} B_i p_j^* (1 - p_j^*) / \sum_{ij} B_i (1 + H).$$

Thus we derive an estimator for H:

IV.7. Estimator for H

$$H^* = \frac{\sum_{ij} B_i p_j^* (1 - p_j^*)}{S_p^2 \sum_{ij} B_i} - 1$$

As before, the author must caution that the theoretical vices or virtues of this estimator have not been investigated. It is probably biased toward overstating H and thus understating $Var(1 - q_j)$. This will tend to give too much credibility to the *LDF* method.

At this point, we have enough to estimate all the terms required in the credibility formulas.

IV.8. Estimators for Terms in Credibility Formulas

Notation Us	ed in Chapter				
II	IV	Estimator			
E(<i>n</i>)	$\mathbf{E}(n_i)$	$B_i \bar{w}$			
Var(n)	$Var(n_i)$	$B_\ell^2 S_w^2$			
$E(n^2)$	$\mathrm{E}(n_i^2)$	$B_t^2 S_w^2 + B_t^2 \bar{w}^2$			
$E(1 - q_j)$	$\mathbf{E}(1-q_{ij})$	$1 - q_{\prime}^{*}$			
$Var(1 - q_j)$	$Var(1 - q_{ij})$	$(1 - q_j^*)q_j^*/(H^* + 1)$			

These were used to obtain the Bayesian credibility IBNR estimates shown in the attached exhibits. While the credibilities are not 100% for the "right" method in the "pure" cases, they nonetheless show that the application methodology is at least somewhat responsive. The credibility estimated IBNR is in all cases reasonably close to the correct answer. Further, the correct answer is well within one standard deviation of the estimate. Finally, considered over all three examples, the credibility formula approach appears to perform better than any one of the methods alone. The reader will, of course, arrive at his or her own judgement.

V. CONCLUSION

To conclude, it is hoped that the proposed IBNR count formula will not only advance reserving theory, but will also prove of practical use. It settles old arguments about which of three traditional actuarial estimates should be employed by showing how they may be credibility weighted in a methodical fashion to obtain a final estimate. The credibility weights differ depending on the development period. Thus, the Bayesian credibility approach provides a far more subtle method than simply picking one set of credibility weights which would apply at every development period. The formula could be applied in many ways, but at least one practical application has been demonstrated with fairly good results.

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APPENDIX A

Let N_1 and N_2 be two independent Poisson random variables with parameters n_1 and n_2 , respectively. Set $n = n_1 + n_2$ and $p = n_1/n$. We consider the ratio random variable $N_1/(N_1 + N_2)$.

A.1. Proposition on Expectation

$$E(N_1/(N_1 + N_2)/N_1 + N_2 > 0) = p$$

Proof

$$E(N_1/(N_1 + N_2)/N_1 + N_2 > 0) \text{ Prob } (N_1 + N_2 > 0)$$

$$= e^{-n} \sum_{x=1}^{\infty} \sum_{y=0}^{\infty} (x/(x + y))n_1^x n_2^y/(x!y!)$$

$$= e^{-n} \sum_{x=1}^{\infty} \sum_{z=x}^{\infty} (x/z)n_1^x n_2^{z-x}/(x!(z - x)!)$$

$$= e^{-n} \sum_{z=1}^{\infty} z^{-1}(z!)^{-1}(n)^z \sum_{x=1}^{z} {2 \choose x} x p^x (1 - p)^{z-x}$$

$$= e^{-n} \sum_{z=1}^{\infty} z^{-1}(z!)(n)^z z_p = p e^{-n}(e^n - 1)$$

$$= p(1 - e^{-n})$$

The result follows since

Prob $(N_1 + N_2 > 0) = 1 - e^{-n}$

APPENDIX B DERIVATION OF CREDIBILITY WEIGHTING FORMULA FROM GENERAL LINEAR LEAST SQUARE ERROR BAYESIAN APPROXIMATION

Applying the general formula yields

B.1. $R_j^* = \mathbf{E}(R_j) + C(M_j, R_j)C(M_j)^{-1}(M_j - \mathbf{E}(M_j))$

Expressing the terms of B.1 using terms involving n and q_i ,

B.2.

$$E(M_j) = E(n)E(1 - q_j)$$

$$E(R_j) = E(n)E(q_j)$$

$$C(M_j, R_j) = E(n^2) E((1 - q_j)q_j) - E(n)^2 E(1 - q_j)E(q_j)$$

$$C(M_j) = E(n^2) E((1 - q_j)^2) + E(n)E(1 - q_j) - E(n)^2 E(1 - q_j)^2$$

Simplify the second order terms as follows

B.3.

Plugging into B.1 one finds

B.4.

 $R_j^* = \mathbf{E}(n)\mathbf{E}(q_j) +$

$$\frac{V(n)E(q_j)E(1-q_j)-E(n^2)V(1-q_j)}{E(n^2)V(1-q_j)+E(1-q_j)^2V(n)+E(n)E(1-q_j)} (M_j - E(n)E(1-q_j))$$

$$= (E(n) - M_{j}) (E(n^{2})V(1 - q_{j})) / D + (M_{j} V(n) E(q_{j}) E(1 - q_{j})) / D$$

- (E(n) V(n) E(q_{j}) E(1 - q_{j})) / D
+ E(n)E(q_{j}) (1 + (V(n)E(q)E(1 - q_{j}))) / D)
= (E(n) - M_{j})(E(n^{2})V(1 - q_{j}) / D) + M_{j} \frac{E(q_{j})}{E(1 - q_{j})} \times \frac{V(n)E(1 - q_{j})^{2}}{D}
+ E(n)E(q_{j}) (1 - (V(n)E(1 - q_{j}) (E(q_{j}) - 1) - E(n^{2})V(1 - q_{j}))/D)

which simplifies immediately to III.4.

CREDIBILITY FOR IBNR COUNTS

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SHEET 1 Bornhuetter-Ferguson Data

BAYESIAN CREDIBILITY FORMULA IBNR ESTIMATION HYPOTHETICAL DATA

N(I,J) Counts Reported During Development Period J

ACCIDENT

(<i>I</i>)	Exposures	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8_
1	100	50	150	450	225	100	50	25	5
2	100	25	150	450	225	100	50	25	
3	100	75	150	450	225	100	50		
4	100	15	150	450	225	100			
5	100	50	150	450	225				
6	100	25	150	450					
7	100	75	150						
8	100	15							

M(I,J)Counts Reported To Date Development Period J

Accident Year									
(I)	Exposures	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
		-	~	_	_	-		-	_
1	100	50	200	650	875	975	1,025	1,050	1,055
2	100	25	175	625	850	950	1,000	1,025	
3	100	75	225	675	900	1,000	1,050		
4	100	15	165	615	840	940			
5	100	50	200	650	875				
6	100	25	175	625					
7	100	75	225						
8	100	15							

SHEET 2 Bornhuetter-Ferguson Data

N(I,J)/B(I)Development Period J

Accident Year								
(1)	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
1	0.500	1.500	4 500	2 250	1.000	0.500	0.250	0.050
1	0.500	1.500	4.500	2.230	1.000	0.500	0.250	0.050
2	0.250	1.500	4.500	2.250	1.000	0.500	0.250	
3	0.750	1.500	4.500	2.250	1.000	0.500		
4	0.150	1.500	4.500	2.250	1.000			
5	0.500	1.500	4.500	2.250				
6	0.250	1.500	4.500					
7	0.750	1.500						
8	0.150							

Age-to-Age Factors Development Period J

Accident Year							
(1)	1-2	2-3	3-4	4-5	5-6	6-7	7-8
1	4.000	3.250	1.346	1.114	1.051	1.024	1.005
2	7.000	3.571	1.360	1.118	1.053	1.025	
3	3.000	3.000	1.333	1.111	1.050		
4	11.000	3.727	1.366	1.119			
5	4.000	3.250	1.346				
6	7.000	3.571					
7	3.000						

SHEET 3 Bornhuetter-Ferguson Data

IBNR ESTIMATES

Accident Year	Report Period	Reported to Date	Pegged Method	LDF Method	Bornhuetter- Ferguson Method	Bayesian Credibility Method	Standard Dev. of Bayesian Cred. IBNR
1	8	1,055	-10	0	0	0	0
2	7	1,025	20	5	5	5	3
3	6	1,050	-5	31	30	31	8
4	5	940	105	77	80	78	13
5	4	875	170	181	179	181	22
6	3	625	420	393	404	398	38
7	2	225	820	1,009	855	897	67
8	1	<u> 15</u>	1,030	341	<u>1,001</u>	948	76
TOTAL		5.810	2.551	2.038	2,553	2.537	

SHEET 4 Bornhuetter-Ferguson Data

ESTIMATES OF ULTIMATE

Accident Year	Pegged Method	<i>LDF</i> Method	Bornhuetter- Ferguson Method	Bayesian Credibility Method
1	1,045	1,055	1,055	1,055
2	1,045	1,030	1,030	1,030
3	1.045	1.081	1.080	1,081
4	1,045	1,017	1,020	1,018
5	1,045	1,056	1,054	1,056
6	1,045	1,018	1,029	1,023
7	1.045	1,234	1,080	1,122
8	1.045	356	1.016	963

CREDIBILITIES

Report	PEGGED		B-F
I	0.43193	0.09885	0.46923
2	0.29120	0.33820	0.37060
3	0.08355	0.69136	0.22509
4	0.03106	0.78064	0.18830
5	0.01283	0.81165	0.17552
6	0.00468	0.82550	0.16981
7	0.00076	0.83218	0.16706
8	0.00000	0.83347	0.16653

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SHEET 5

BORNHUETTER-FERGUSON DATA

MAXIMUM LIKELIHOOD ESTIMATES

Accident Year	MLE Frequency W(1)	$\frac{Exposures}{B(I)}$	INITIAL ESTIMATED COUNT PARAMETER $(B(I) \times W(I)*$	
1	10.550	100	1,055	
2	10.299	100	1,030	
3	10.810	100	1,081	
4	10.173	100	1,017	
5	10.560	100	1,056	
6	10.175	100	1,017	
7	12.274	100	1,227	

ESTIMATED FREQUENCY MEAN ESTIMATED FREQUENCY VARIANCE

10.45106

Report Period	$\frac{MLE}{P(J)}$	PERCENT REPORTED $E(P_t)$	Percent Reported to Date $E(1 - Q_j)$	Percent Unreported E(Q _j)	Age-to-Age Factors	Factors to Ultimate
1	0.042	4.2	4.2	95.8	4.332	23.759
2	0.140	14.0	18.2	81.8	3.366	5.484
3	0.431	43.1	61.4	38.6	1.350	1.629
4	0.215	21.5	82.8	17.2	1.115	1.207
5	0.096	9.6	92.4	7.6	1.051	1.082
6	0.047	4.7	97.1	2.9	1.025	1.030
7	0.024	2.4	99.5	0.5	1.005	1.005
8	0.005	0.5	100.0	0.0	1.000	1.000
TOTAL	1.000					

SHEET 6 Bornhuetter-Ferguson Data

REPORT PATTERN PARAMETERS

				Expected Pct	Expected Pct	EXPECTED	Expected Pct	Рст	Рст	Pct Reported	Рст
REPORT	BETA Param (A)	Beta Param (B)	$\frac{\text{Beta}}{\text{Mean}}$ $\frac{A \div (A + B)}{A \div (A + B)}$	Reported During Period	REPORTED TO DATE $E(1 - Q_i)$	PCT UNREP. $E(Q_j)$	UNREP. Squared $E(Q_j^2)$	UNREP. VAR. VAR (Q_j)	UNREP. Stand Dev SD	to Date CV SD ÷ Mean	UNREP. CV SD ÷ Mfan
1	45.95	1.045.83	0.042	4.2	4.2	95.8	91.8	0.004	0.607	14.431	0.634
2	153.11	938.67	0.140	14.0	18.2	81.8	66.9	0.014	1.168	6.406	1.428
3	470.96	620.82	0.431	43.1	61.4	38.6	14.9	0.022	1.473	2.400	3.813
4	234.34	857.44	0.215	21.5	82.8	17.2	3.0	0.013	1.141	1.377	6.645
5	104.36	987.43	0.096	9.6	92.4	7.6	0.6	0.006	0.802	0.868	10.542
6	51.71	1,040.07	0.047	4.7	97.1	2.9	0.1	0.003	0.505	0.520	17.595
7	26.17	1,065.61	0.024	2.4	99.5	0.5	0.0	0.000	0.208	0.209	43,846
8	5.17	1,086.61	0.005	0.5	100.0	0.0	0.0	0.000	0.000	0.000	

H = 1,091.8

SHEET 1 LDF Data

BAYESIAN CREDIBILITY FORMULA IBNR Estimation Hypothetical Data

N(I,J) Counts Reported During Development Period J

Accident Year									
(I)	EXPOSURES	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
ı	100	50	217	730	986	1,100	1,128	1,134	1.139
2	100	25	109	366	494	551	565	568	
3	100	75	325	1,094	1,477	1,647	1,689		
4	100	15	65	219	296	330			
5	100	50	217	730	986				
6	100	25	109	366					
7	100	75	325						
8	100	15							

M(I,J)Counts Reported To Date Development Period J

Accident Year (1)	Exposures	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8_
1	100	50	167	513	256	114	28	6	5
2	100	25	84	257	128	57	14	3	
3	100	75	250	769	383	170	42		
4	100	15	50	154	77	34			
5	100	50	167	513	256				
6	100	25	84	257					
7	100	75	250						
8	100	15							

SHEET 2 LDF DATA

N(I,J)/B(I)Development Period J

Accident Year								
(1)	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
I	0.500	1.670	5.130	2.560	1.140	0.280	0.060	0.050
2	0.250	0.840	2.570	1.280	0.570	0.140	0.030	
3	0.750	2.500	7.690	3.830	1.700	0.420		
4	0.150	0.500	1.540	0.770	0.340			
5	0.500	1.670	5.130	2.560				
6	0.250	0.840	2.570					
7	0.750	2.500						
8	0.150							

Age-to-Age Factors Development Period J

Accident Year							
(1)	1-2	2-3	3 4	4 5	5_6	6-7	7-8
ł	4.340	3.364	1.351	1.116	1.025	1.005	1.004
2	4.360	3.358	1.350	1.115	1.025	1.005	
3	4.333	3.366	1.350	1.115	1.026		
4	4.333	3.369	1.352	1.115			
5	4.340	3.364	1.351				
6	4.360	3.358					
7	4.333						

SHEET 3

LDF DATA

IBNR ESTIMATES

Accident Year	Report Period	Reported to Date	Pegged Method	LDF Method	Bornhuetter- Ferguson Method	Bayesian Credibility Method	Standard Dev. of Bayesian Cred. IBNR
1	8	1,139	-187	0	0	0	0
2	7	568	384	3	4	3	3
3	6	1,689	-737	16	9	16	6
4	5	330	622	12	33	12	18
5	4	986	-34	153	128	153	66
6	3	366	586	205	341	206	176
7	2	325	627	1,380	770	1,368	395
8	1	15	937	327	910	375	467
TOTAL		5,418	2,196	2,095	2,195	2,132	

SHEET 4 LDF Data

ESTIMATES OF ULTIMATE

Accident Year	Pegged Method	LDF Method	Bornhuetter- Ferguson Method	BAYESIAN Credibility Method
1	952	1,139	1,139	1,139
2	952	571	572	571
3	952	1,705	1,698	1,705
4	952	342	363	342
5	952	1.139	1,114	1,139
6	952	571	707	572
7	952	1,705	1,095	1,693
8	952	342	925	390

CREDIBILITIES

Report Period	Pegged	LDF	B-F
1	0.00004	0.91622	0.08374
2	0.00001	0.97936	0.02063
3	0.00000	0.99378	0.00622
4	0.00000	0.99539	0.00461
5	0.00000	0.99586	0.00414
6	0.00000	0.99596	0.00404
7	0.00000	0.99598	0.00402
8	0.00000	0.99600	0.00400

SHEET 5 LDF DATA

MAXIMUM LIKELIHOOD ESTIMATES

Accident Year	MLE Frequency <i>W(I)</i>	Exposures B(I)	Initial Estimated Count Param $B(I) \times W(I)^*$
1	11.390	100	1,139
2	5.705	100	571
3	17.055	100	1,705
4	3.417	100	342
5	11.390	100	1,139
6	5.711	100	571
7	17.059	100	1,706

ESTIMATED FREQUENCY MEAN ESTIMATED FREQUENCY VARIANCE

9.51743 23.70887

Report Period	MLE <u>P(J)</u>	Percent Reported E(P _j)	Percent Reported to Date $E(1 - Q_j)$	Percent Unreported $E(Q_j)$	Age-to-Age Factors	Factors to Ultimate
1	0.044	4.4	4.4	95.6	4.340	22.768
2	0.147	14.7	19.1	80.9	3.364	5.246
3	0.451	45.1	64.1	35.9	1.350	1.560
4	0.225	22.5	86.6	13.4	1.115	1.155
5	0.100	10.0	96.6	3.4	1.025	1.035
6	0.025	2.5	99 .0	1.0	1.005	1.010
7	0.005	0.5	99.6	0.4	1.004	1.004
8	<u>0.004</u>	0.4	100.0	0.0	1.000	1.000
TOTAL	1.000					

SHEET 6

LDF DATA

REPORT PATTERN PARAMETERS

				EXPECTED	EXPECTED		EXPECTED			Рст	
	Beta	Beta	Beta	Рст Reported	Pct Reported	Expected Pct	Pct Unrep.	Pct Unrep.	PC1 Unrep.	REPORTED TO DATE	Pct Unrep.
REPORT	PARAM	PARAM	MEAN	DURING	TO DATE $E(1 - Q)$	UNREP.	SQUARED	VAR.	STAND DEV	CV	CV
			$\frac{\mathbf{A} + (\mathbf{A} + \mathbf{b})}{$	F ERIOD	$\underline{\mathbf{E}(1 - \mathbf{Q}_{j})}$	=E(Q)	E(Q;)	$\frac{\mathbf{v} \mathbf{AR}(\mathbf{Q}_{j})}{\mathbf{v}}$		SD = MEAN	$\frac{50 - \text{MEAN}}{$
1	97,715.43	2,127,084.44	0.044	4.4	4.4	95.6	91.4	0.000	0.014	0.313	1.4×10^{-7}
2	326,344.90	1.898,454.97	0.147	14.7	19.1	80.9	65.5	0.000	0.026	0.138	6.2×10^{-8}
3	1,002,477-70	1.222,322.16	0 451	45.1	64.1	35.9	12.9	0.000	0.032	0.050	2.3×10^{-8}
4	499,940.66	1,724,859.21	0.225	22.5	86.6	13.4	1.8	0.000	0.023	0.026	1.2×10^{-8}
5	222,108.92	2.002,690.95	0.100	10.0	96.6	3.4	0.1	0.000	0.012	0.013	5.7×10^{-9}
6	54,730.59	2.170.069.28	0.025	2.5	99.0	1.0	0.0	0.000	0.007	0.007	3.0×10^{-9}
7	11,714.15	2,213,085.72	0.005	0.5	99.6	0.4	0.0	0.000	0.004	0.004	1.9×10^{-9}
8	9,767.53	2,215,032.34	0.004	0.4	100.0	0.0	0.0	0.000	0.000	0.000	

H = 2,224,799.9

CREDIBILITY FOR IBNR COUNTS

SHEET 1 MIXED DATA

BAYESIAN CREDIBILITY FORMULA IBNR Estimation Hypothetical Data

N(I,J) Counts Reported During Development Period J

Accident Year									
(1)	Exposures	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
1	100	50	159	482	241	107	39	16	5
2	100	25	117	354	177	79	32	14	
3	100	75	200	610	304	135	46		
4	100	15	100	302	151	67			
5	100	50	159	482	241				
6	100	25	117	354					
7	100	75	200						
8	100	15							

M(*I*,*J*) Counts Reported To Date Development Period *J*

Accident Year (I)	Exposures	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
1	100	50	209	691	932	1,039	1,078	1,094	1,099
2	100	25	142	496	673	752	784	798	
3	100	75	275	885	1,189	1,324	1,370		
4	100	15	115	417	568	635			
5	100	50	209	691	932				
6	100	25	142	496					
7	100	75	275						
8	100	15							

SHEET 2 Mixed Data

N(I,J)/B(I)Development Period J

Accident Year								
(/)	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
1	0.500	1.590	4.820	2.410	1.070	0.390	0.160	0.050
2	0.250	1.170	3.540	1.770	0.790	0.320	0.140	
3	0.750	2.000	6.100	3.040	1.350	0.460		
4	0.150	1.000	3.020	1.510	0.670			
5	0.500	1.590	4.820	2.410				
6	0.250	1.170	3.540					
7	0.750	2.000						
8	0.150							

Age-to-Age Factors Development Period J

Accident Year							
(1)	1-2	2-3	3-4	4-5	5-6	6-7	7-8
1	4.180	3.306	1.349	1.115	1.038	1.015	1.005
2	5.680	3.493	1.357	1.117	1.043	1.018	
3	3.667	3.218	1.344	1.114	1.035		
4	7.667	3.626	1.362	1.118			
5	4.180	3.306	1.349				
6	5.680	3.493					
7	3,667						

SHEET 3 Mixed Data

IBNR ESTIMATES

Accident Year	Report Period	Reported to Date	Pegged Method	LDF Method	Bornhuetter- Ferguson Method	Bayesian Credibility Method	Standard Dev. of Bayesian Cred. IBNR
i	8	1,099	-100	0	0	0	0
2	7	798	201	4	5	4	3
3	6	1,370	-371	28	20	28	8
4	5	635	364	38	56	38	17
5	4	932	67	169	153	169	43
6	3	496	503	295	373	297	102
7	2	275	724	1,201	813	1,165	219
8	1	15	<u>984</u>	<u> </u>	956	522	258
TOTAL		5,620	2,375	2,069	2,376	2,224	

SHEET 4 Mixed Data

ESTIMATES OF ULTIMATE

Accident Year	Pegged Method	LDF Method	Bornhuetter- Ferguson Method	BAYESIAN Credibility Method
1	999	1,099	1,099	1,099
2	999	802	803	802
3	999	1,398	1,390	1,398
4	999	673	691	673
5	999	1,101	1.085	1,101
6	999	791	869	793
7	999	1,476	1.088	1,440
8	999	349	971	537

CREDIBILITIES

Report Period	Pegged	LDF	B-F
1	0.07101	0.70066	0.22833
2	0.01814	0.91327	0.06859
3	0.00264	0.97558	0.02178
4	0.00081	0.98294	0.01625
5	0.00026	0.98513	0.01460
6	0.00009	0.98582	0.01408
7	0.00002	0.98611	0.01386
8	0.00000	0.98620	0.01380

SHEET 5 Mixed Data

MAXIMUM LIKELIHOOD ESTIMATES

Accident Year	MLE Frequency W(1)	$\frac{Exposures}{B(I)}$	Initial Estimated Count Param $B(I) \times W(I)^*$		
1	10.990	100	1,099		
2	8.016	100	802		
3	13.984	100	1,398		
4	6.725	100	672		
5	11.007	100	1,101		
6	7.907	100	791		
7	14.711	100	1,471		

ESTIMATED FREQUENCY MEAN ESTIMATED FREQUENCY VARIANCE

9.99352 7.14026

Report Period	$\frac{MLE}{P(J)}$	Percent Reported $E(P_{i})$	Percent Reported to Date $E(1 - Q_i)$	PERCENT UNREPORTED $E(Q_j)$	Age-to-Age Factors	Factors to Ultimate
1	0.043	4.3	4.3	95.7	4.339	23.284
2	0.143	14.3	18.6	81.4	3.364	5.366
3	0.441	44.1	62.7	37.3	1.350	1.595
4	0.220	22.0	84.7	15.3	1.115	1.181
5	0.098	9.8	94.4	5.6	1.038	1.059
6	0.035	3.5	98.0	2.0	1.016	1.021
7	0.016	1.6	99.5	0.5	1.005	1.005
8	<u>0.005</u>	0.5	100.0	0.0	1.000	1.000
TOTAL	1.000					

SHEET 6

MIXED DATA

REPORT PATTERN PARAMETERS

				EXPECTED	Expected	EXPECTED				Рст	
Report Period	Beta Param (A)	Beta Param (B)	$\begin{array}{c} \text{Beta}\\ \text{Mean}\\ \text{A} \div (\text{A} + \text{B}) \end{array}$	Pct Reported During Period	PCT Reported to Date $E(1 - Q_i)$	Expected Pct Unrep. E(Q _i)	PCT UNREP. SQUARED $E(Q_{1}^{2})$	Pct Unrep. Var. Var(Q _j)	PCT Unrep. Stand Dev SD	REPORTED TO DATE CV SD ÷ MEAN	Pct Unrep. CV SD ÷ Mean
1	141.48	3,152.57	0.043	4.3	4.3	95.7	91.6	0.001	0.353	8.224	0.369
2	472.38	2,821.66	0.143	14.3	18.6	81.4	66.2	0.005	0.678	3.640	0.834
3	1,451.43	1,842.62	0.441	44.1	62.7	37.3	13.9	0.007	0.842	1.344	2.259
4	723.27	2,570.77	0.220	22.0	84.7	15.3	2.4	0.004	0.628	0.742	4.092
5	321.73	2,972.31	0.098	9.8	94.4	5.6	0.3	0.002	0.400	0.423	7.167
6	116.79	3.177.25	0.035	3.5	98.0	2.0	0.0	0.001	0.246	0.251	12.094
7	51.98	3.242.06	0.016	1.6	99.5	0.5	0.0	0.000	0.117	0.118	25.772
8	14.98	3,279.06	0.005	0.5	100.0	0.0	0.0	0.000	0.000	0.000	

H = 3.294.0