

# Transitory Mortality Jump Modeling with Renewal Process and Its Impact on Pricing of Catastrophic Bonds\*

Selin Özen<sup>1</sup> \*, Şule Şahin<sup>2</sup>

*Department of Actuarial Sciences and Risk Management, Karabük University, Karabük, Turkey*

*Department of Mathematical Sciences, Institute for Financial and Actuarial Mathematics, University of Liverpool, Liverpool, UK & Department of Actuarial Sciences, Hacettepe University, Ankara, Turkey*

---

## Abstract

A number of stochastic mortality models with transitory jump effects have been proposed for the securitisation of catastrophic mortality risks. Most of the studies on catastrophic mortality risk modeling assumed that the mortality jumps occur once a year or used a Poisson process for their jump frequencies. Although the timing and the frequency of catastrophic events are unknown, the history of the events might provide information about their future occurrences. In this paper, we propose a specification of the Lee-Carter model by using the renewal process and we assume that the mean time between jump arrivals is no longer constant. Our aim is to find a more realistic mortality model by incorporating the history of catastrophic events. We illustrate the proposed model with mortality data from the US, the UK, Switzerland, France, and Italy. Our proposed model fits the historical data better than the other jump models for all countries. Furthermore, we price hypothetical mortality bonds and show that the renewal process has a significant impact on the estimated prices.

---

\*Declarations of interest: none.

\*Corresponding author

*Email addresses:* [selindegirmenci@karabuk.edu.tr](mailto:selindegirmenci@karabuk.edu.tr) (Selin Özen<sup>1</sup>),  
[Sule.Sahin@liverpool.ac.uk](mailto:Sule.Sahin@liverpool.ac.uk) (Şule Şahin<sup>2</sup>)

<sup>1</sup> Address: Karabük University, Faculty of Business, 78000, Turkey

<sup>2</sup> Address: Mathematical Sciences Building, Liverpool, L69 7ZL, UK

*Keywords:* renewal process, mortality risks, jump-diffusion process, stochastic mortality, Merton model, catastrophic bonds

---

## 1. Introduction

Insurance companies and pension plans are exposed to the risk of uncertainty in future mortality. This risk may arise due to improvements in mortality or shocks such as catastrophic mortality events [26]. The latter is called catastrophic mortality risk, which is the risk that, over short periods of time, mortality rates are much higher than expected [9]. Due to a shorter lifetime of an individual or group than expected, an insurer or a pension plan may have to make sudden pay-outs to many policyholders. Hence, severe adverse financial consequences can potentially arise, such as breaches in regulatory solvency and capital requirements [25]. As a result, the management of catastrophic mortality risk is fundamental for insurance companies and pension plans.

Catastrophic events, such as infectious diseases/pandemics, natural disasters, terrorist attacks, wars, and accidents, may cause sudden increases in mortality curves, which are called mortality jumps. For instance, the Spanish flu virus killed 40 to 50 million people in 1918 and caused a huge jump in mortality rates. More recently, avian flu in 2006 and the Ebola virus in 2014 caused approximately 1 million deaths [3].

According to statistics from the Emergency Events Database (EM-DAT), the frequency, magnitude, and duration of natural disasters have increased since 1975. The World Disasters Report in 2016 stated that rising global temperatures caused global climate change and more natural disasters. These climate changes and natural disasters led to catastrophic events that caused many diseases and deaths in recent years. In the 1970s there were roughly 100 catastrophic events per year. This number has consistently increased more than three times in the last decade. Between 1994 and 2013, the EM-DAT recorded 6,873 natural disasters that claimed 1.35 million lives on average each year. Furthermore, in 2018, there were 348 climate-related and geophysical disaster events recorded

in International Disaster Database reports and 68 million people were affected around the world.

30 The occurrence of catastrophic events could cause a large number of deaths and hence a large number of unexpected death claims. Consequently, the financial impacts of catastrophic events on an insurer's solvency require effective risk management to eliminate and reduce the risk [27]. In the United States, the three largest natural disasters recorded before Hurricane Katrina in 2005  
35 caused a total insured loss of \$23 billion and a few reinsurers went insolvent to pay claims [56]. Moreover, a worst pandemic could result in approximately €45 billion of additional claim expenses in Germany according to the estimations of Stracke and Heinen (2006). This amount is equivalent to 100% of the policyholder bonus reserves in the German life insurance market. Some public health  
40 experts think that a pandemic is overdue and another will inevitably occur due to the nature of inter-species transmission, intra-species variation, and altered virulence [3].

The frequency of catastrophic events and the degree to which they are accurately priced are serious concerns in managing extreme mortality risks. In  
45 recent years, catastrophic bonds have been used by insurers as a risk management tool. The first catastrophic bond was issued by Swiss Re, called Vita I, in 2003 to reduce the impact of catastrophic events. Due to the great success of that bond, many other catastrophic mortality bonds are now being issued (see [6], [5]). Several stochastic models have been developed to capture these jump  
50 effects in mortality and to value catastrophic bonds. These models differ in the type of mortality jumps and the severity of jumps. For instance, Cox et al. (2006) combined a geometric Brownian motion and compound Poisson process to model age-adjusted rates. Cox et al. (2006) modelled permanent mortality jumps by considering Poisson jump counts. Chen and Cox (2009) used a normal  
55 distribution for jump severity, while Chen et al. (2010) combined two types of jumps in their model. Similarly, Deng et al. (2012) considered the mortality time index as a double-exponential jump process. In contrast to those studies, Liu and Li (2015) investigated the age pattern of jump effects on mortality.

All of these mentioned jump models in the literature assumed that mortality jumps occur once a year, or they used a Poisson process for their jump frequencies. Due to their low probability and high impact nature, the timing and the frequency of future catastrophic events and hence mortality jumps are unpredictable [12]. On the other hand, the history of events can give information about their future occurrences. In the Poisson process, inter-arrival times between events are independent and exponentially distributed. However, the Poisson process has a limitation arising from the memoryless property of the exponential distribution. In this paper, we aim to include the history of catastrophic events. One way to incorporate the history of the events is to use *duration dependence models*. Instead of the constant hazard function, these models have time-varying hazard functions. This property is important for duration analysis since the hazard function is used to capture the duration dependence. The hazard function reflects the waiting times between events. For instance, an increasing hazard function represents longer waiting times between events compared to a decreasing hazard function. In these models, events are dependent in the sense that the arrival of at least one event (in contrast to none) up to time  $t$  influences the probability of a further arrival in  $t + \Delta t$ . There is thus a link between the counting model and timing process. This class is known as renewal processes [28].

Winkelmann (1995) was the first to derive a counting process by using the renewal process with gamma distributed inter-arrival times. Many other models were derived by using different inter-arrival times afterwards. McShane et al. (2008) used the Weibull distribution for inter-arrival times while lognormal distribution was used by Bradlow et al. (2002), Everson and Bradlow (2002), and Miller et al. (2006) [31].

In this paper, we propose a new approach for modeling the arrivals of mortality jumps. Inter-arrival time implies the time between two jumps, and we use the renewal process for modeling. For this purpose, we detect jumps in the mortality time series and perform statistical tests for inter-arrival times of mortality jumps to show that we can use the renewal process as a counting process.

90 After that, we use the Lee-Carter model with a jump-diffusion process to model  
mortality and the lognormal renewal process to model jump count probabili-  
ties. We test our model with historical data and compare the goodness of fit  
of the models with jump sizes and jump count processes for the US, the UK,  
Switzerland, Italy, and France. To the best of the authors' knowledge, using the  
95 renewal process for jump counts is new in mortality modeling.

It is reasonable to assume that the renewal process has an impact on the  
pricing of catastrophic mortality bonds. To verify this impact, we use our mor-  
tality model to price a catastrophic mortality bond. In an incomplete market,  
the pricing problem is not explicit, although it might be met by no-arbitrage  
100 methods ([9]; [12]; [35]; [38]), insurance-based methods ([13]; [51]) or economic  
methods [54].

The no-arbitrage approach was often used in previous research on pricing  
mortality-linked securities. In the no-arbitrage condition, the market price of  
risks cannot uniquely be identified. As a result, an arbitrary assumption is neces-  
105 sary for pricing. One might also use canonical valuation to create a risk-neutral  
probability measure. Canonical valuation can be applied without making any  
arbitrary decisions [55]. For this reason, we use canonical valuation to cre-  
ate a risk-neutral probability measure and to obtain mortality risk premiums,  
which was first proposed by Stutzer (1996) and then applied to the market for  
110 insurance-linked securities by Chen et al. (2013), Li (2010), and Li and Ng  
(2010). In this paper, we use the Swiss Re mortality bond as a martingale  
constraint. This method identifies a risk-neutral probability measure, and thus  
the price of the hypothetical mortality bonds can be estimated. By using a  
risk-neutral measure, we price the hypothetical bonds in an incomplete market.

115 The rest of the paper is organized as follows. Section 2 defines the renewal  
count process. In Section 3, mortality data are presented. Section 4 provides  
the specifications of the proposed model and the statistical analysis of mortality  
jumps. Section 5 demonstrates a numerical example of pricing mortality-linked  
security. Finally, Section 6 concludes the paper.

120 **2. Renewal Process**

Since we want to include the history of the events in our jump frequency model, we need to use a renewal process. A renewal process is a stochastic model for events that occur randomly in time (generally called renewals or arrivals). The times between the successive arrivals are independent and identically distributed and the renewal process might be used as a foundation for building more realistic models.

125 A counting process  $\{N_t\}_{t \geq 0}$  is a renewal process with independent and identically distributed nonnegative inter-arrival times. The times between successive events are called waiting times or inter-arrival times, and for a renewal process we have  $N(t) = \max\{n : S_n \leq t\}$  and  $N(t) < \infty, t \geq 0$ , where  $S_0 = 0, S_n = Z_1 + Z_2 + \dots + Z_n$  for  $n \geq 0$ . In a renewal process  $Z_1, Z_2, \dots$  are independent inter-arrival times with a common distribution  $F$ . The process is called a renewal process because it starts over for each arrival period. The distribution function of the count process might be determined by using the inter-arrival times because they are independent and identically distributed. Let  $F$  be the distribution function of  $Z_i$  and  $F_n$  be the distribution function of  $S_n$ . Since  $S_n = \sum_{i=1}^n Z_i$  and  $Z_i$  are distributed as  $F$ , the distribution function of arrival times might be obtained by:

$$F_n(t) = P(S_n \leq t), \quad t \in [0, \infty). \quad (1)$$

By using the relationship between arrival times and count process,  $\{S_n \leq t\} = \{N(t) \geq n\}$ , distribution function of count process might be determined in terms of the distribution function of inter-arrival times. For  $t \geq 0$  and  $n \in \mathbf{N}$  [45]:

- 130
- $P(N(t) \geq n) = F_n(t)$ ,
  - $P(N(t) = n) = F_n(t) - F_{n+1}(t)$ .

$F_n(t)$  is  $n$ -fold convolution of the common inter-arrival time distribution and we can obtain renewal count probabilities by using  $R_n(t) = F_n(t) - F_{n+1}(t)$ . We need to evaluate convolutions of the form  $\int_0^t F(t-s)f(s)ds$ . To solve this

integral, we need to obtain the following recursive relationship:

$$\begin{aligned} R_n(t) &= \int_0^t F_{n-1}(t-s)f(s)ds - \int_0^t F_n(t-s)f(s)ds. \\ &= \int_0^t R_{n-1}(t-s)f(s)ds \end{aligned} \quad (2)$$

We note that  $F_0(t) = 1$  for all  $t$  and  $F_1(t) = F(t)$ . Then, we have  $R_0(t) = F_0(t) - F_1(t) = 1 - F(t)$ , which leads us to the survival function. Using Equation (2), we can compute  $R_1(t)$ :

$$R_1(t) = \int_0^t R_0(t)f(s)ds.$$

and we can obtain  $R_n(t)$  probabilities by using the recursive formula [43].

Let us now assume that  $m(t)$  is the expected value of the process,  $m(t) = E[N(t)]$  and can be expressed in terms of  $F$  as:

$$m(t) = \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} F_n(t) \quad (3)$$

which is used to calculate the expected number of arrivals per period.

### 3. Data Description

135 We use mortality data for the US, the UK, Switzerland, France, and Italy. The US mortality data is obtained from the National Center for Health Statistics (NCHS) for the period of 1900-2017 for all ages. The data from the UK, Switzerland, and France are obtained from the Human Mortality Database (HMD) for the period of 1922-2016 for all ages. The Italian mortality data is obtained  
140 from the HMD for the period of 1922-2014 for all ages. The data are arranged in 10-year age intervals as follows:  $< 1, 1 - 4, 5 - 14, 15 - 24, \dots, 75 - 84, 85+$ .

## 4. Transitory Mortality Jump Modeling with Renewal Process

### 4.1. The Lee-Carter Model

In the Lee-Carter model [34],  $m_{x,t}$  denotes the central death rate of age group  $x$  in year  $t$ . The model is expressed as

$$\ln(m_{x,t}) = a_x + b_x k_t + e_{x,t},$$

where  $a_x$  is an average of  $\ln m_{x,t}$  over time  $t$  and  $\exp(a_x)$  represents the general shape of the mortality rates. Mortality time index  $k_t$  which captures the variation of log mortality rates over time, is modulated by an age response  $b_x$  that represents how slowly or rapidly mortality at each age varies when the mortality index changes [20].  $e_{x,t}$  is the error term, which captures the age-specific effects not reflected in the model. Parameters of the model can be estimated by using a two-stage singular value decomposition (SVD) or the maximum likelihood method. As indicated by Brouhns et al. (2002), estimation results from both methods are almost the same. We use the SVD method with the following constraints:

$$\sum_x b_x = 1 \quad \text{and} \quad \sum_t k_t = 0.$$

Then  $a_x$  is the average value of  $\ln(m_{x,t})$  over time and given as:

$$a_x = \frac{1}{T} \sum_{t=1}^T \ln(m_{x,t}),$$

where  $T$  is the length of the time series of mortality data. The SVD method is applied to the matrix of  $\ln(m_{x,t}) - a_x$  to obtain the estimates of  $b_x$  and  $k_t$ . In the second stage, the time-varying terms are re-estimated by iteration, given the values of  $a_x$  and  $b_x$ . This makes the actual sum of death at time  $t$  equal the implied sum of deaths at time  $t$ :

$$D_t = \sum_x (P_{x,t} \exp(a_x + b_x k_t)),$$

where  $D_t$  is the actual sum of deaths at time  $t$ , and  $P_{x,t}$  is the population in  
145 age group  $x$  at time  $t$ .

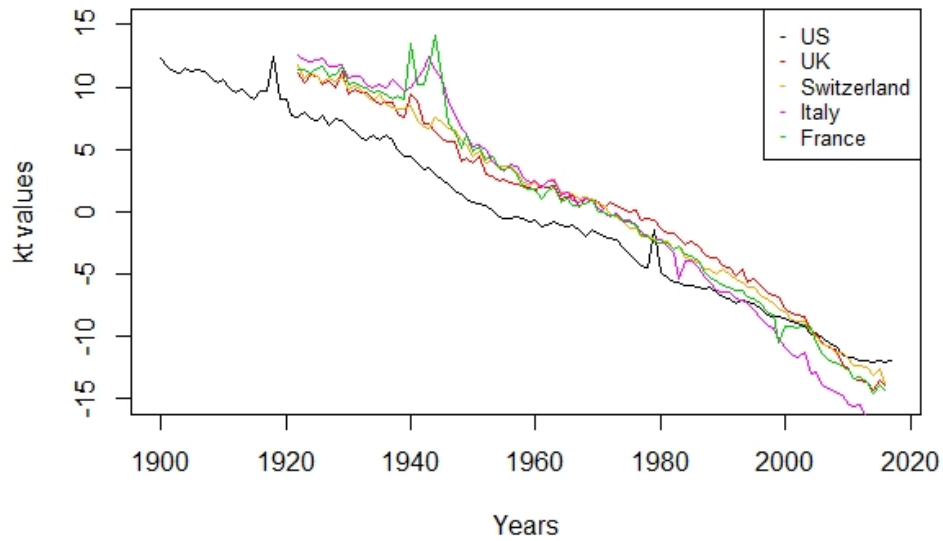
By implementing the SVD two-stage procedure on historical US, UK, Swiss, Italian, and French mortality data for their time periods, we obtain the fitted  $a_x$  and  $b_x$  values given in Table 1 and the time-varying mortality index  $k_t$  as in Figure 1. The decreasing trend of the time-varying mortality index  $k_t$  shows  
150 the improvement of mortality over time for all countries. Moreover, sudden increases that cause mortality jumps in the 1910s and 1970s may be seen from



Figure 1.

**Table 1** Fitted Values of  $a_x$  and  $b_x$  From the Lee-Carter Model

Age Group	US		UK		Switzerland		Italy		France	
	$a_x$	$b_x$	$a_x$	$b_x$	$a_x$	$b_x$	$a_x$	$b_x$	$a_x$	$b_x$
< 1	-3.593	0.146	-4.022	0.147	-4.204	0.133	-3.662	0.151	-3.947	0.152
1 - 4	-6.450	0.192	-6.968	0.193	-7.033	0.165	-6.520	0.206	-6.828	0.172
5 - 14	-7.401	0.153	-7.877	0.152	-7.846	0.136	-7.621	0.136	-7.781	0.135
15 - 24	-6.399	0.096	-7.037	0.106	-6.892	0.094	-6.785	0.106	-6.677	0.109
25 - 34	-6.085	0.097	-6.737	0.097	-6.678	0.094	-6.542	0.099	-6.344	0.103
35 - 44	-5.575	0.082	-6.105	0.077	-6.194	0.085	-6.061	0.079	-5.793	0.078
45 - 54	-4.858	0.061	-5.208	0.063	-5.341	0.073	-5.276	0.057	-5.036	0.057
55 - 64	-4.095	0.051	-4.285	0.051	-4.442	0.067	-4.414	0.046	-4.230	0.053
65 - 74	-3.317	0.048	-3.367	0.047	-3.514	0.066	-3.475	0.047	-3.492	0.057
75 - 84	-2.483	0.043	-2.459	0.041	-2.533	0.056	-2.470	0.043	-2.552	0.053
> 85	-1.661	0.029	-1.589	0.026	-1.575	0.031	-1.549	0.029	-1.597	0.032



**Fig.1.** Estimation of  $k_t$  for all Countries.

155 After estimating the parameters of the Lee-Carter model, we need a model  
to capture the features of the shape, trend, and jumps of the time-varying mor-  
tality index  $k_t$ . Although the Lee-Carter model is a long-term mortality model,  
its time-varying mortality index should capture these short-term effects for ef-  
fective mortality modeling. In the original Lee-Carter model, the  $k_t$  parameters  
160 are modeled by using a random walk with drift. However, we can model  $k_t$  as a  
stochastic process to deal with the uncertainty over mortality trends. Moreover,  
 $k_t$  includes both positive and negative values and geometric Brownian motion  
does not fit the process since it does not generate a negative value from the pos-  
itive starting value. Therefore, we will use standard Brownian motion. Besides,  
165 we need to model  $k_t$  as a jump-diffusion model due to the existence of transient  
mortality jumps in Figure 1. We need to choose an appropriate jump-diffusion  
process to capture the shape, the trend, and the jumps of the time-varying  
mortality index  $k_t$ .

The descriptive statistics of  $\Delta k_t = k_{t+1} - k_t$  indicate a leptokurtic distribu-  
170 tion for all countries, as shown in Table 2.

**Table 2** Skewness of  $\Delta k_t$  for all countries.

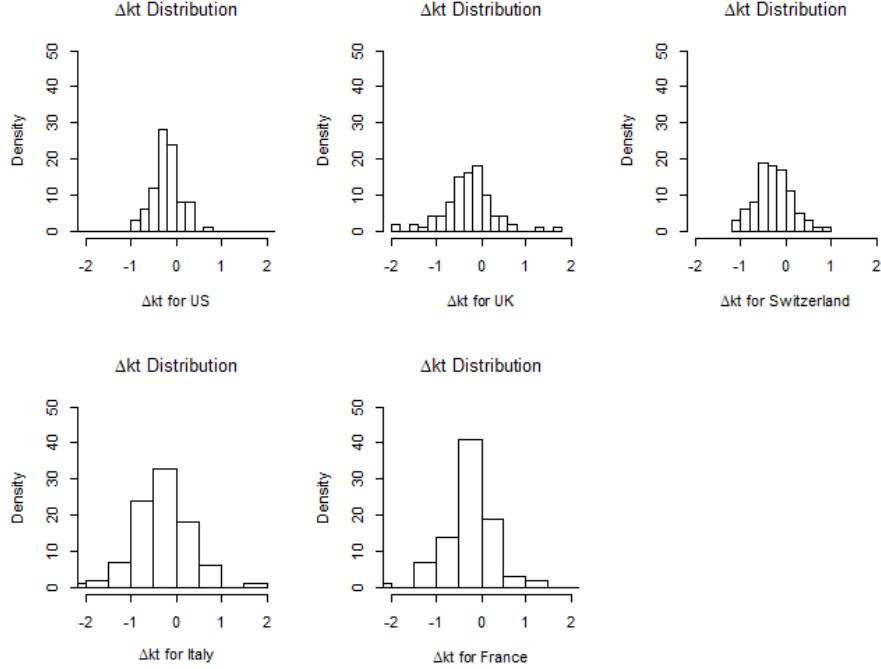
	US	UK	Switzerland	Italy	France
Skewness	-0.598	-1.061	-1.197	-1.237	-0.427

The  $\Delta k_t$  distributions are skewed to the left and have higher peaks and  
heavier tails than a normal distribution, as shown in Figure 2. Therefore, we  
175 need to consider a heavy-tailed distribution instead of the normal distribution  
for the jump severities.

We model  $k_t$  as a Merton jump-diffusion model to include the leptokurtic  
features of  $\Delta k_t$ . The model is specified as follows (Merton, 1976): [42]

$$dk_t = \mu dt + \sigma W_t + d\left(\sum_{i=1}^{N(t)} (V_i - 1)\right), \quad (4)$$

where  $W_t$  is standard Brownian motion,  $N(t)$  is a counting process and  $V_i$  is  
a squence of the independent and identically distributed nonnegative variables  
that represent the sizes of the jumps.



**Fig. 2.** Distribution of  $k_t$  for all countries.

By integrating Equation (4), we obtain (Deng et al., 2012):

$$k_t = k_0 + \left(\mu - \frac{1}{2}\sigma^2\right)t + \sigma W_t + \sum_{i=1}^{N(t)} Y_i, \quad (5)$$

180 where  $Y_i$  is defined as  $Y = \log(V)$ .

In the original Merton model, the jump sizes,  $Y = \log(V)$ , are normally distributed. However, the  $\Delta k_t$ s have higher peaks and heavier tails than the normal distribution for all countries. Thus, we consider that the jump sizes have exponential distribution. Although our aim is to introduce a renewal process to model the mortality jumps, we analyse different jump sizes and count processes to compare and choose the best model. Therefore, we propose four models: normal jump and Poisson process, exponential jump and Poisson process, normal jump and renewal process, and exponential jump and renewal process. The originality of our paper lies in introducing the renewal process in these models

185

190 for the mortality jump counts. We also compare the jump sizes by using normal  
and exponential distributions.

#### 4.2. *Jump Detection Process*

In order to use the renewal process, inter-arrival times between mortality  
jumps must be modeled. For this reason, the fitted  $k_t$  values should be ob-  
195 tained. After fitting the Lee-Carter model parameters, we can proceed to the  
outlier analysis of the mortality index,  $k_t$ , to detect the jumps in the mortality  
curve. We do this by using the method of Chen and Liu (1993) to search for  
outliers present in the mortality index and we show that the inter-arrival times  
between the outliers can be expressed as a renewal process. Finally, we find the  
200 distribution of the inter-arrival times of jumps to make predictions for future  
arrivals of outliers.

There are four types of outliers. These include an innovational outlier (IO),  
an additive outlier (AO), a level shift (LS), and a temporary change (TC) [14].  
In this paper, we use additive outliers, which have an immediate and one-shot  
205 effect on the observed series. We obtain the test statistics by applying the  
method of Chen and Liu (1993). The first step of this method is to find an  
appropriate time series model for mortality time index and AR(1) model fits  
best the datasets of all selected countries we used. The outlier is detected based  
on the test statistics obtained from the residuals of the fitted model and we  
210 employ the critical value as 2.5 as recommended by Liu and Hudak (1994) for  
a reasonable level of sensitivity. The obtained outliers in the mortality index  
for five countries and their test statistics are given in Table 3 (see [46] for more  
details).

Although we adopted the same outlier detection methodology as Li and  
215 Chan (2005) and Li and Chan (2007), the detected outliers are different for  
the US and the UK due to the use of different datasets and different periods.  
These differences affected the time series models selected for the mortality time  
indexes. We fitted AR(1) model to both data while Li and Chan (2007) fitted  
ARIMA(0,1,0) to the US data and Li and Chan (2005) fitted ARIMA(0,1,1) to

220 the England and Whales data. Therefore, the estimated parameters, residuals and the values of the test statistics for the outlier analysis are different.

**Table 3** The years of the detected outliers and test statistic values

<b>US</b>												
Year	1901	1918	1919	1920	1921	1937	1938	1941	1974	1975	1978	1980
Test statistic	-2.6	6.9	-8.3	-3.3	-3.5	-3.1	-3.2	-2.5	-3.1	-2.7	7.3	-9.8
<b>UK</b>												
Year	1929	1939	1941	1942	1952	2009						
Test statistic	3.9	2.7	-3.8	-2.9	-2.6	-2.5						
<b>Switzerland</b>												
Year	1941	1949	2016									
Test statistic	-3.4	-2.7	-4.5									
<b>France</b>												
Year	1939	1941	1943	1945	1946	1947	1998	2005				
Test statistic	6.2	-4.7	5.9	-9.9	-6.2	-2.8	-3.7	-3.2				
<b>Italy</b>												
Year	1945	1946	1947	1982								
Test statistic	-2.9	-3.2	-2.6	-3.2								

#### 4.2.1. Statistical Analysis of the Outliers

225 We need to analyse the inter-arrival times of the outliers that cause jumps in the mortality curves to show that the renewal process can be used to model jump frequencies. Several statistical tests should be performed to confirm that a renewal process is appropriate for the arrivals of the jumps. The first indicator that the process is not a Poisson process is the uniformity test and a formal statistical test on uniformity can be performed by using the Kolmogorov-Smirnov  
 230 test. All obtained p-values are lower than 0.05, so we reject the uniformity and constant mean for the process [2].

We need to analyse the inter-arrival times to check if they are stationary, independent, and identically distributed. Based on Ljung-Box test statistics  
 235 [30], the inter-arrival times are independent and stationary for all five countries.

After confirming that the inter-arrival times between outliers are stationary and independent, we need to determine the distribution of inter-arrival times. For this purpose, the properties of the inter-arrival times should be considered.

The distribution of inter-arrival times cannot be fitted for Switzerland and Italy  
 240 since the inter-arrival time counts between the outliers are less than four. The  
 estimated skewness coefficients of the inter-arrival times are 1.9, 2.1, and 2.6  
 for the US, the UK, and France respectively. Since they have positive skewness,  
 right-skewed distributions could be considered, such as Weibull, gamma, and  
 lognormal distributions. We fit these three distributions to the inter-arrival  
 245 times and the results are presented in Table 4.

The Bayesian information criterion (BIC) values indicate that lognormal dis-  
 tribution fits best the inter-arrival times for three countries. Due to Switzerland  
 and Italy having statistical properties similar to those of the other countries, we  
 assume that their inter-arrival times follow lognormal distribution as well [46].

250 After deciding the distribution for the inter arrival times, we can proceed to  
 construct and compare the mortality models.

**Table 4** Fitted Results

The US	Weibull Distribution	Gamma Distribution	Lognormal Distribution
Parameters	shape=0.78, scale=6.05	shape=0.73, rate=0.10	mean=1.15, sd=1.22
Log likelihood	-31.74	-32.09	-30.24
BIC	68.72	69.35	65.71

The UK	Weibull Distribution	Gamma Distribution	Lognormal Distribution
Parameters	shape=0.62, scale=9.34	shape=0.51, rate=0.04	mean=1.41, sd=1.56
Log likelihood	-16.99	-17.25	-16.37
BIC	37.20	37.71	35.95

France	Weibull Distribution	Gamma Distribution	Lognormal Distribution
Parameters	shape=0.62, scale=6.16	shape=0.50, rate=0.05	mean=1.05, sd=1.38
Log likelihood	-21.06	-21.73	-19.56
BIC	46.02	47.46	43.12

#### 4.3. A Model with Normal Jump and Poisson Process

In the original Merton model,  $N(t)$  is a Poisson process with rate  $\lambda t$  and  
 $Y = \log(V)$  follows a normal distribution with the following density:

$$f_Y(y) = \frac{1}{\sqrt{2\pi}s} e^{-\frac{(y-m)^2}{2s^2}}. \quad (6)$$

We need to find the density function of the one-period increments  $r_i = \Delta k_i = k_i - k_{i-1}$  to estimate parameters and make forecasts. If we consider the one-period increment for the Merton model, conditional on the event  $(N_t = n)$ , we can write  $X = Y_1 + Y_2 + \dots + Y_n$ , where  $Y_i \sim N(m, s^2)$  and  $Y_i$  are independent, and then  $X \sim N(nm, ns^2)$ . Then we obtain the conditional density for increments, which is the sum of  $N(m, s^2)$  and  $N((\mu - 0.5\sigma^2), \sigma^2)$ . By using the convolution technique, the density is found as  $N((\mu - 0.5\sigma^2) + mn, \sigma^2 + ns^2)$  [24]. Then the unconditional density of a one-period increment is:

$$f(r) = \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} Pr(N(t) = n) f(r|n). \quad (7)$$

Let  $C = k_0, k_1, \dots, k_T$  denote the time-varying mortality factors at equally spaced times  $t = 1, 2, \dots, T$ . Then the log-likelihood of the one-period increment observations is:

$$L(C; \mu, \sigma, m, s, \lambda) = \sum_{i=1}^T \log(f(r)).$$

255 We estimate the parameters by maximum likelihood estimation (MLE).

#### 4.4. A Model with Exponential Jump and Poisson Process

$\Delta k_t$  has a heavier tail than a normal distribution, as shown in Figure 2. Thus, we assume the jump sizes follow an exponential distribution with the following density:

$$f_Y(y) = \eta e^{-\eta y}. \quad (8)$$

The count process is a Poisson process with rate  $\lambda t$ . Conditional on the event  $(N_t = n)$ , we can write  $X = Y_1 + Y_2 + \dots + Y_n$ , where  $Y_i \sim \exp(\eta)$  and  $Y_i$  are independent, and then  $X \sim \Gamma(n, \eta)$ . The conditional density of  $X$  is:

$$f_X(X|n) = \frac{\eta^n}{(n-1)!} X^{n-1} e^{-\eta X}.$$

Now we can determine two conditional densities for the no-jump case and  $n$ -jump case. For the no-jump case the conditional density is:

$$f(r|0) = \frac{1}{\sqrt{2\pi}\sigma} e^{-\frac{(r-\mu+0.5\sigma^2)^2}{2\sigma^2}}.$$

For the  $n$ -jump case the conditional distribution is the independent sum of  $\Gamma(n, \eta)$  and  $N((\mu - 0.5\sigma^2), \sigma^2)$ . By convolution techniques, we obtain:

$$\begin{aligned} f(r|n) &= \int_0^\infty \frac{\eta^n}{(n-1)!} X^{n-1} e^{-\eta X} \frac{1}{\sqrt{2\pi}\sigma} e^{-\frac{(r-X-\mu+0.5\sigma^2)^2}{2\sigma^2}} dx \\ &= \frac{\eta^n}{(n-1)!\sqrt{2\pi}\sigma} \int_0^\infty X^{n-1} e^{-\eta X - \frac{1}{2\sigma^2}(r-X-\mu+0.5\sigma^2)^2} dx. \end{aligned}$$

The unconditional density of a one-period increment is [47]:

$$f(r) = P(0)f(r|0) + \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} P(n)f(r|n). \quad (9)$$

Thus, the log-likelihood function becomes:

$$L(C; \mu, \sigma, \eta, \lambda) = \sum_{i=1}^T \log(f(r)).$$

#### 4.5. A Model with Normal Jump and Renewal Process

Now we assume that our counting process,  $N(t)$ , is a renewal process and we consider the history of the catastrophic events to model  $k_t$ . Thus, the model has the information of the frequency of the events and we accomplish this by combining the Merton model and the renewal process. Jump sizes  $Y = \log(V)$  follow normal distribution as in the original Merton model with density as follows:

$$f_Y(y) = \frac{1}{\sqrt{2\pi}s} e^{-\frac{(y-m)^2}{2s^2}}.$$

Since the count process is a renewal process and conditional on  $(N_t = n)$ , we can write  $X = Y_1 + Y_2 + \dots + Y_n$ , where  $Y_i$  are independent and  $Y_i \sim N(m, s^2)$ . Then  $X \sim N(nm, ns^2)$ . Considering the jumps, we obtain the conditional density for increments as the sum of  $N(m, s^2)$  and  $N((\mu - 0.5\sigma^2), \sigma^2)$ . By using the convolution technique, the density is obtained as  $N((\mu - 0.5\sigma^2) + mn, \sigma^2 + ns^2)$  (Gugole, 2016). Letting  $R(n)$  be the renewal process which shows the probability of the  $n$ th jump, the unconditional density for  $f(r)$  is:

$$f(r) = \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} Pr(N(t) = n)f(r|n).$$



$C = k_0, k_1, \dots, k_T$  denote the time-varying mortality factors at equally spaced times  $t = 1, 2, \dots, T$ . Then the log-likelihood of the one-period increment observations is:

$$L(C; \mu, \sigma, m, s, \alpha, \beta) = \sum_{i=1}^T \log(f(r)).$$

#### 4.6. A Model with Exponential Jump and Renewal Process

As in Section 4.4, we assume that the jump sizes follow exponential distribution with density as follows:

$$f_Y(y) = \eta e^{-\eta y}.$$

To estimate the parameters and to make forecasts, we need to find the density function of the one-period increments, which might be shown by  $r_i = \Delta k_i = k_i - k_{i-1}$ . If we consider the one-period increments for the Merton model, conditional on the event  $(N_t = n)$ , we might write  $X = Y_1 + Y_2 + \dots + Y_n$ , where  $Y_i \sim \exp(\eta)$  and  $Y_i$  are independent, and then  $X \sim \Gamma(n, \eta)$ . The conditional density of  $X$  is:

$$f_X(X|n) = \frac{\eta^n}{(n-1)!} X^{n-1} e^{-\eta X}.$$

Now we might determine two conditional densities for the no-jump case and the  $n$ -jump case. For the no-jump case, the conditional density is:

$$f(r|0) = \frac{1}{\sqrt{2\pi}\sigma} e^{-\frac{(r-\mu+0.5\sigma^2)^2}{2\sigma^2}}.$$

For the  $n$ -jump case, the conditional distribution is the independent sum of  $\Gamma(n, \eta)$  and  $N((\mu - 0.5\sigma^2), \sigma^2)$ . By using the convolution technique, we obtain:

$$\begin{aligned} f(r|n) &= \int_0^\infty \frac{\eta^n}{(n-1)!} X^{n-1} e^{-\eta X} \frac{1}{\sqrt{2\pi}\sigma} e^{-\frac{(r-X-\mu+0.5\sigma^2)^2}{2\sigma^2}} dx \\ &= \frac{\eta^n}{(n-1)! \sqrt{2\pi}\sigma} \int_0^\infty X^{n-1} e^{-\eta X - \frac{1}{2\sigma^2}(r-X-\mu+0.5\sigma^2)^2} dx. \end{aligned}$$

Next we derive the unconditional density of the one-period increments,  $f(r)$  as:

$$f(r) = R(0)f(r|0) + \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} R(n)f(r|n). \quad (10)$$

Let  $C = k_0, k_1, \dots, k_T$  denote the time-varying mortality factors at equally spaced times  $t = 1, 2, \dots, T$ . Then the log-likelihood of the one-period increment observations is:

$$L(C; \mu, \sigma, \eta, \alpha, \beta) = \sum_{i=1}^T \log(f(r)).$$

Based on the observations  $C = k_0, k_1, \dots, k_T$ , we can estimate the parameters by maximising the following log-likelihood function:

$$\sum_{i=1}^T \log \left( R(0)f(r|0) + \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} R(n)f(r|n) \right) \quad (11)$$

#### 4.7. Estimation Results

260 Solving the jump process from the diffusion components is a serious challenge in the calibration of the underlying process. The independent increments of the underlying process are captured by the diffusion process with extreme increments captured by jumps. A calibration method is needed to generate the right parameters of low frequency and large severity for jumps. Ait-Sahalia  
 265 and Hansen (2004) demonstrated that MLE has advantages in solving jumps from diffusion. Meanwhile, jump-diffusion is a linear process with independent increments and an explicit transition density, which fortunately satisfies the requirement of a complete specification of the transition density for using MLE. Therefore, we choose the MLE method to calibrate the parameters.

270 We estimate the parameters of time-varying mortality factors for the jump-diffusion models introduced in the previous subsections for five countries. Following Cox et al. (2006), we take maximum jump counts of 10 for a year and the estimated parameters are given in Table 5.

As shown in Table 5, the expected rate of change in the mortality factor,  $\mu$ , is  
 275 -0.2637 for the renewal process with exponential jumps for the US. This implies that the mortality factor decreases by 0.2637 per year on average. The negative sign of  $\mu$  is consistent with the fact that the US population mortality improves over time. The volatility of the annual mortality rate of change is 0.1599 for the renewal process with the exponential jump model for the US. The average  
 280 severity of jumps is equal to 0.6757 ( $= 1/\eta$ ) in a year. Similar comments hold for

**Table 5** Estimated parameters for all countries.

The US	NJ with Poisson P.	EJ with Poisson P.	NJ with Renewal P.	EJ with Renewal P.
	$\mu = -0.2471$	$\mu = -0.2594$	$\mu = -0.2415$	$\mu = -0.2637$
	$\sigma = 0.1772$	$\sigma = 0.1448$	$\sigma = 0.1713$	$\sigma = 0.1599$
	$m = 0.0332$	$\eta = 1.4874$	$m = 0.0284$	$\eta = 1.4794$
	$s = 0.5292$	$\lambda = 1.0108$	$s = 0.4414$	$\alpha = 0.0190$
	$\lambda = 1.006$		$\alpha = 0.00031$	$\beta = 0.6051$
			$\beta = 0.6030$	
log(L)	-77.9282	-44.3847	-30.3421	-29.2499
BIC values	179.7098	107.8522	89.31	82.3532
The UK	NJ with Poisson P.	EJ with Poisson P.	NJ with Renewal P.	EJ with Renewal P.
	$\mu = -0.2369$	$\mu = -0.2189$	$\mu = -0.2389$	$\mu = -0.2364$
	$\sigma = 0.2874$	$\sigma = 0.1204$	$\sigma = 0.2195$	$\sigma = 0.1788$
	$m = 0.0322$	$\eta = 1.4794$	$m = -0.0355$	$\eta = 1.4963$
	$s = 0.6124$	$\lambda = 0.7435$	$s = 0.3640$	$\alpha = 0.00091$
	$\lambda = 0.6277$		$\alpha = 0.0029$	$\beta = 0.61345$
			$\beta = 0.6009$	
log(L)	-72.8151	-45.6658	-37.44246	-36.7632
BIC values	164.3995	109.5471	102.2082	96.2958
Switzerland	NJ with Poisson P.	EJ with Poisson P.	NJ with Renewal P.	EJ with Renewal P.
	$\mu = -0.2468$	$\mu = -0.2141$	$\mu = -0.2345$	$\mu = -0.2506$
	$\sigma = 0.3626$	$\sigma = 0.1641$	$\sigma = 0.4128$	$\sigma = 0.1887$
	$m = 0.0413$	$\eta = 1.4806$	$m = 0.0259$	$\eta = 1.4891$
	$s = 0.1778$	$\lambda = 1.0014$	$s = 0.0581$	$\alpha = 0.0118$
	$\lambda = 1.0472$		$\alpha = 0.0011$	$\beta = 0.6127$
			$\beta = 0.7038$	
log(L)	-48.6356	-44.3310	-35.7192	-33.5098
BIC values	120.0406	106.8775	98.7617	89.7889
Italy	NJ with Poisson P.	EJ with Poisson P.	NJ with Renewal P.	EJ with Renewal P.
	$\mu = -0.2293$	$\mu = -0.2243$	$\mu = -0.2498$	$\mu = -0.2232$
	$\sigma = 0.3694$	$\sigma = 0.0932$	$\sigma = 0.3359$	$\sigma = 0.1879$
	$m = -0.0232$	$\eta = 1.4759$	$m = -0.0116$	$\eta = 1.4858$
	$s = 0.4399$	$\lambda = 1.0942$	$s = 0.4346$	$\alpha = 0.0136$
	$\lambda = 1.0212$		$\alpha = 0.0019$	$\beta = 0.6078$
			$\beta = 0.6301$	
log(L)	-77.9737	-56.1175	-51.0489	-47.4151
BIC values	178.6105	130.3653	129.2334	117.4931
France	NJ with Poisson P.	EJ with Poisson P.	NJ with Renewal P.	EJ with Renewal P.
	$\mu = -0.2057$	$\mu = -0.2170$	$\mu = -0.2112$	$\mu = -0.2208$
	$\sigma = 0.2246$	$\sigma = 0.0970$	$\sigma = 0.1863$	$\sigma = 0.1384$
	$m = -0.0736$	$\eta = 1.4993$	$m = -0.0353$	$\eta = 1.4595$
	$s = 0.9114$	$\lambda = 1.1631$	$s = 0.5677$	$\alpha = 0.0194$
	$\lambda = 1.0019$		$\alpha = 0.0022$	$\beta = 0.5524$
		19	$\beta = 0.5304$	
log(L)	108.7111	-52.2698	-46.6672	-38.6063
BIC values	240.1916	122.7551	120.6577	99.3819

the other countries. Additionally, there are significant differences in the means and the variances of the jump frequency distributions of these two models. One can also see that the distribution of jump severities is important but the process for jump frequencies is more important.

285 For model selection, we use the Bayesian information criterion (BIC). The results in Table 5 show that the Merton model with the renewal process is the best model for all countries. The reasons for this can be summarised as below.

First, the outliers in the time series data cause fat tails and a high peak in the increment  $\Delta k_t$  distribution, which rules out normal distribution. The  
 290 Lee-Carter model treats outliers the same as other points in the mortality time-series evolution process. As a result, the outliers increase the volatility of the process and cause an overestimation of the standard deviation  $\sigma$ . Our model applies a renewal process separately from the Brownian motion diffusion process. This avoids the problem of mismatching the fat tail and high peak with  
 295 the normal distribution and hence provides a better fit. Second, the Poisson process does not include the history of jumps. However, the history of jumps could give information about the future occurrences of jumps. Besides, the non-constant hazard function property of the renewal process enables us to obtain more realistic models for the jump frequency.

We also conduct the likelihood ratio test to compare the renewal and Poisson processes. The null hypothesis and alternative hypothesis of the test are as follows:

$$H_0 = \theta = \theta_0 \quad \text{and} \quad H_1 = \theta = \theta_1,$$

where  $\theta_0$  represents the Poisson process and  $\theta_1$  represents the renewal process. The likelihood ratio test statistic LR is calculated as:

$$LR = 2 \times (\hat{l}_1 - \hat{l}_0),$$

300 where  $\hat{l}_0$  is the maximized log-likelihood of the Poisson process and  $\hat{l}_1$  is the maximized log-likelihood of the renewal process. The log-likelihood ratio test statistics are presented in Table 6. According to the test results for the models

with exponential jumps, all calculated statistics are higher than the chi-square value, 3.84, of the test. Therefore, the null hypothesis is rejected for all cases.

305

**Table 6** LR test statistics.

	US	UK	Switzerland	Italy	France
LR	30.28	17.81	21.64	17.41	27.93

In order to see the difference between the Poisson process and the renewal process in terms of the expected number of mortality jumps, we can calculate the expected values for the jump frequencies by using Equation (3) and the parameters estimated in Table 5. We present the results for the expected jump frequencies in a year for the Poisson process and the renewal process models with exponential jumps in Table 7.

310

**Table 7** Expected Jump Frequencies

Country	EJ with Poisson P.	EJ with Renewal P.
US	1.01	2.71
UK	0.74	2.43
Switzerland	1.00	1.40
Italy	1.09	1.43
France	1.16	1.90

As shown in Table 7, the expected jump frequencies are higher for the model with renewal process which is caused by the use of lognormal distribution and thus time-varying hazard function for the inter arrival times. Although renewal process produces higher values for all countries, the difference is particularly significant for the US and the UK.

315

## 320 **5. Swiss Re Mortality Bond**

We use the Swiss Re mortality bond to obtain a risk-neutral probability measure for pricing hypothetical bonds. The Swiss Re insurance company issued the first mortality risk contingent securitization in December 2003. When the bond

is triggered by a catastrophic evolution of death rates of a certain population,  
 325 the investors incur the loss in principal and interest. The bond provides the  
 investor higher yield as compensation for the mortality risk taken. The bond  
 was issued through a special purpose vehicle called Vita Capital, which enabled  
 Swiss Re to remove extreme catastrophic risk from its balance sheet.

The bond had a maturity of 3 years, a principal of \$400 million, and a  
 coupon rate of 135 basis points plus LIBOR rate. The mortality index,  $M_t$ , was  
 a weighted average of mortality rates over five countries, males and females, and  
 a range of ages. The principal was repayable in full only if the mortality index  
 did not exceed 1.3 times the 2002 base level during any year of the bond's life  
 and was otherwise dependent on the realised values of the mortality index. The  
 precise payment schedules were given by the following  $f_t$  function:

$$f_t = \left\{ \begin{array}{ll} \text{LIBOR} + \text{spread}, & t = 1, \dots, T - 1 \\ \text{LIBOR} + \text{spread} + \max[0, 100\% - \sum_t L_t], & t = T \end{array} \right\}$$

Here, the function  $L_t$  specifies the amount of payment that is lost due to mor-  
 tality experience [19]:

$$L_t = \left\{ \begin{array}{ll} 0, & M_t < 1.3M_0 \\ \frac{M_t - 1.3M_0}{0.2M_0}, & 1.3M_0 \leq M_t \leq 1.5M_0 \\ 1, & 1.5M_0 < M_t \end{array} \right\}.$$

### 5.1. Risk-Neutral Pricing

330 The market for catastrophic mortality bonds is incomplete because it is not  
 possible to price securities in this market by constructing a replicating portfolio.  
 A critical step in performing risk-neutral valuation is to identify a risk-neutral  
 probability measure under which prices of mortality bonds might be computed  
 in an incomplete market. The risk-neutral measure could be obtained in several  
 335 ways. One way to implement this is canonical valuation. This method identifies  
 a risk-neutral measure by minimizing the Kullback-Leibler information criterion,  
 subject to market price constraints.

The first step in implementing this pricing method is to generate a large  
 number of sample paths of future mortality rates from the assumed stochastic

mortality model, which is defined under the real-world probability measure. The generated sample paths represent a collection of states of nature, all of which are equally probable. Therefore, if  $N$  sample paths are generated, then the probability mass function for the state of nature  $w$  under the real-world probability measure  $\mathbf{P}$  is given by:

$$Pr(w = w_j) = \pi_j = \frac{1}{N}, \quad j = 1, 2, \dots, N.$$

Our aim is to determine the probability distribution of  $w$  under a risk-neutral probability measure  $\mathbf{Q}$  that is equivalent to  $\mathbf{P}$ . We use  $N = 10000$  in our  
340 calculations.

Suppose that the market contains  $m$  distinct primary securities, whose values evolve according to the state of nature  $w$ . The  $i$ th primary security, where  $i = 1, 2, \dots, m$ , has a time-0 price of  $F_i$  and, at the risk-free rate, a random discounted payoff of  $f_i(w)$ . It is necessary that all primary securities be priced correctly under  $\mathbf{Q}$ , so that the martingale constraints are:

$$E^{\mathbf{Q}}[f_i(w)] = \sum_{j=1}^N f_i(w) \pi_j^* = F_i, \quad i = 1, 2, \dots, m, \quad (12)$$

where  $\pi_j^*$ ,  $j = 1, 2, \dots, N$ , is the probability distribution of  $w$  under  $\mathbf{Q}$ .

In an incomplete market,  $m < N$  and hence there are multiple risk-neutral probability measures satisfying Equation (12). Let  $\mathcal{Q}$  be the set of all measures that are equivalent to  $\mathbf{P}$  and satisfies Equation (12); that is,  $\mathcal{Q}$  is the set of all equivalent martingale measures. The next step is to choose a measure in  $\mathcal{Q}$ . This choice is based on the Kullback-Leibler information criterion ([33]), which is defined by:

$$D(\mathbf{Q}, \mathbf{P}) = E^{\mathbf{P}} \left( \frac{d\mathbf{Q}}{d\mathbf{P}} \ln \frac{\mathbf{Q}}{d\mathbf{P}} \right) = \sum_{j=1}^N \pi_j^* \ln \frac{\pi_j^*}{\pi_j}.$$

We choose the equivalent martingale measure  $\mathcal{Q}_0$  that minimizes the Kullback-Leibler information criterion as:

$$\mathcal{Q}_0 = \arg \min_{\mathbf{Q} \in \mathcal{Q}} D(\mathbf{Q}, \mathbf{P}),$$

subject to  $\sum_{j=1}^N \pi_j^* = 1$ , and the martingale constraints are specified by Equation (12). We refer to  $\mathcal{Q}_0$  as the canonical measure.

From a statistical point of view, the justification of the canonical measure  
 345 is that it incorporates all information contained in the prices of the  $m$  primary  
 securities that are traded in the market but no other (irrelevant) information.  
 The canonical measure might also be justified from economic and geometric  
 viewpoints (see [22]; [38] for details).

Given the canonical measure, we might price security that has the same  
 350 underlying payoff structure. Let us consider the security that has a payoff,  
 discounted to time zero at the risk-free interest rate, of  $g(w_j)$  in the  $j$ th state  
 of nature. The price of this security implied by  $\mathcal{Q}_0$  is  $\sum_{j=1}^N g(w_j)\pi_j^*$ , where  $\pi_j^*$   
 $, j = 1, 2, \dots, N$ , is the probability distribution of  $w$  under  $\mathcal{Q}_0$  [41].

## 5.2. Derivation of the Canonical Measure

We consider the martingale constraint of  $m = 1$ , which is based on the price  
 (premium spread) of the Swiss Re mortality bond. The payment structure of  
 the Swiss Re bond was summarized in Section (5.1.). We might derive the  
 risk-neutral measure based on the actively traded mortality-linked securities on  
 the market whose fair price is known and then apply the same measure to the  
 unknown mortality-linked securities. Based on the Swiss Re mortality bond the  
 canonical risk measure might be expressed as:

$$E^{\mathcal{Q}}\left(\sum_{t=2004}^{t=2006} D_t \times f_t \times C\right), \quad (13)$$

355 where  $C = \$400$  million,  $f_t$  is defined as previously, and  $D_t$  is the risk free  
 discount factor. We assume that the coupon payments are paid annually and  
 the risk-free interest rate is 3% as in Zhou et al. (2013).

Let  $V(w_j)$  be the value of  $\sum_{t=2004}^{t=2006} D_t \times f_t \times C$  in the  $j$ th state of nature  
 (simulated mortality scenario). It can be shown that the distribution of  $w$  under  
 the resulting canonical measure is:

$$\hat{\pi}_j^* = \frac{\exp(\hat{\gamma}V(w_j))}{\sum_{j=1}^N \exp(\hat{\gamma}V(w_j))}, \quad j = 1, 2, \dots, N. \quad (14)$$



**Table 8** The age weights for all countries.

Age Group	US	UK	Switzerland	Italy	France
< 1	0.013818	0.011436	0.009806	0.009412	0.012336
1 – 4	0.055317	0.045715	0.040615	0.037047	0.049835
5 – 14	0.145565	0.126983	0.115676	0.095351	0.123835
15 – 24	0.138646	0.127065	0.117012	0.106701	0.129935
25 – 34	0.135573	0.136169	0.138486	0.150067	0.134373
35 – 44	0.162613	0.152864	0.167278	0.156862	0.144262
45 – 54	0.134834	0.127953	0.138976	0.131998	0.139694
55 – 64	0.087247	0.113205	0.116313	0.121131	0.102405
65 – 74	0.066037	0.083906	0.081884	0.103889	0.085608
75 – 84	0.044842	0.056444	0.054777	0.067138	0.059768
> 85	0.015508	0.018263	0.019177	0.020405	0.017948

Here, the Lagrangian multiplier  $\hat{\gamma}$  is given by [38]:

$$\hat{\gamma} = \arg \min_{\gamma} \sum_{j=1}^N \exp(\gamma(V(w_j) - 400,000,000)).$$

In our calculations, the mortality scenarios are obtained from 10000 simulations of the time-varying factor  $k_t$  for 2004-2006 based on the known 2003 mortality time-varying factor. We use the Merton jump-diffusion model given in Equation (4) to simulate the mortality time series with the exponential jump and count processes for all countries. We calculate the mortality rates for different age groups by the formula  $m_{x,t} = \exp(a_x + k_t b_x)$ . The year 2000 standard population and corresponding weights are used to compute the weighted average mortality index  $M_t$  for the US. The weights are based on the technique notes of NCHS report GMWK293R. The age weights are calculated based on exposure data for all five countries and are presented in Table 8. We then calculate the distribution of  $w$  under the canonical measure by using Equation (14) for the simulated scenarios. We use the same methodology for each mortality model and obtain the risk premiums.

### 5.3. Pricing Hypothetical Mortality Bonds

The important point about mortality-linked securities is the premium that investors might obtain from the transaction. Now we calculate the premium

spreads of the hypothetical mortality bonds by using the risk-neutral measure.

375 The premium spread might be expressed as the premium that compensates investors for taking on the extreme mortality risk.

We assume that our hypothetical bond has a payment structure similar to that of the Swiss Re mortality bond. The three-year bond was issued in 2003 and it is written on a mortality index  $M_t$  with base level in the year 2003. The mortality index depends on the US, the UK, Swiss, Italian, and French death rates, respectively. The index is a weighted average across age groups based on the weights for each country. We estimate parameters for 2003 mortality rates and the parameters are used for premium calculations of the proposed model.

In order to attract different types of investors, the bond is structured into two tranches with different lower and upper strikes  $M$  and  $U$  as shown in Table 9. The payment of each tranche follows the Swiss Re mortality bond payment structure. We calculate the premium spreads for each tranche based on our proposed model and the model with exponential jump and Poisson process.

**Table 9** Premium Spreads of Tranche I and II for all countries.

	US		UK		Switzerland		Italy		France	
	I	II	I	II	I	II	I	II	I	II
Tranche Size	\$100	\$100	\$100	\$100	\$100	\$100	\$100	\$100	\$100	\$100
390 Upper strike U	1.04	1.12	1.04	1.12	1.04	1.12	1.04	1.12	1.04	1.12
Lower strike M	1.02	1.10	1.02	1.10	1.02	1.10	1.02	1.10	1.02	1.10
Premium S. (Poisson P.)	45.41	43.10	65.04	63.74	50.03	47.97	21.52	20.21	73.23	71.24
Premium S. (Renewal P.)	107.53	106.34	106.09	104.80	157.51	155.72	44.14	42.85	93.52	90.93

Tranche I has smaller upper strike and lower strike, which means that the investors in Tranche I are exposed to higher risk of losing some or all of the principals they invested. The estimated premium spreads decrease while the lower and upper strikes increase. The reason for this decrease is that the investors earn less premium spread as the risk of the bond reduces. Therefore, Tranche I produces the higher premium spreads for all countries due to representing higher risk.

The results in Table 9 show that the premium spreads obtained from the renewal process are much higher than the ones obtained from the Poisson pro-

cess. Independent from the level of the lower and upper strikes of the Tranches, the renewal process indicates higher jump frequencies based on the expectations calculated for lognormally distributed inter arrival times and thus a time-varying hazard function compared to Poisson process which uses exponentially distributed inter arrival times which leads constant hazard function. In other words, considering the historical catastrophic events represented by the outliers detected in the mortality data, the renewal process produces higher jump frequencies and thus higher premium spreads. Although it is clear that the discrepancies between the premium spreads obtained from the Poisson process and renewal process are high, they are particularly significant for the US, Switzerland and Italy. The discrepancies in the premium spreads are important for the investors since obtaining lower premiums than they need might cause financial problems.

## 6. Conclusions

In this paper, we have investigated the impacts of the history of catastrophic events on mortality modelling. We use the lognormal renewal process with exponential jumps as the counting process for transitory mortality jumps. A specification of the Lee-Carter model has been proposed, which provides a better fit for different countries. We applied the proposed model to the mortality data for the US, the UK, Switzerland, France, and Italy. Our model turned out to be the best model for all countries compared to the models with normal jump with Poisson process and exponential jump with Poisson process.

Statistical analysis of the mortality jumps has shown that the inclusion of the history of events is significant for mortality modeling. These analyses have been done for the US, the UK, Switzerland, Italy and France. Since the mortality time indices have similar statistical properties, we can use the renewal process for jump count probabilities for other countries.

After showing the impact of the renewal process on mortality modeling, we calculated and compared the premium spreads of the hypothetical bonds for five countries. We conclude that the bond with the renewal process has a higher

430 risk premium than the bond with the Poisson process due to producing higher  
jump frequencies each year.

We have restricted our model to short-term mortality jumps only. One might  
also use a similar modeling approach to capture changes in long-term jumps  
which is discussed by Deng et al. (2012). They modelled long-term and short-  
435 term jumps together by using a double exponential jump process. Moreover,  
model risk is an important concern in mortality modeling, and it can be taken  
into account in future research.

## References

- [1] Y. Ait-Sahalia, L.P. Hansen, Handbook of Financial Econometrics, North  
440 Holland, 2004.
- [2] H. Albrecher, J. Beirlant, J.L. Teugels, Reinsurance: Actuarial and Statis-  
tical Aspects, Wiley, 2017.
- [3] R.J. Bahl, Mortality Linked Derivatives and Their Pricing, The PhD Thesis  
of the University of Edinburg, 2017.
- 445 [4] E. Biffis, Affine Process for Dynamic Mortality and Actual Valuations, In-  
surance: Mathematics and Economics 37 (2005) 443–468.
- [5] D. Blake, A.J.G. Cairns, K. Dowd, R. MacMinn, The new life market, Jour-  
nal of Risk and Insurance 80 (2013) 501–557.
- [6] D. Blake, A.J.G. Cairns, K. Dowd, Living with Mortality: Longevity bonds  
450 and other Mortality-Linked Securities, British Actuarial Journal 12 (2006)  
153–197.
- [7] E.T. Bradlow, B.G.S. Hardie, P.S. Fader, Bayesian Inference for the Negative  
Binomial Distribution via Polynomial Expansions, Journal of Computational  
and Graphical Statistics 11 (2002) 189–201.

- 455 [8] N. Brouhns, M. Denuit, J.K. Vermunt, A Poisson Log-Bilinear Regression Approach to the Construction of Projected Lifetables, *Insurance: Mathematics and Economics* 31 (2002) 373–393.
- [9] A.J.G. Cairns, D. Blake, K. Dowd, A Two-Factor Model for Stochastic Mortality with Parameter Uncertainty: Theory and Calibration, *Journal of Risk and Insurance* 73 (2006) 687–718.  
460
- [10] G. Carpenter, Tsunami: Indian Ocean Event and Investigation into Potential Global Risks, See the report release in March, 2005.
- [11] H. Chen, S.H. Cox, Modeling Mortality with Jumps: Transitory Effects and Pricing Implication to Mortality Securitization, *The Journal of Risk and Insurance* 76(3) (2007) pp. 727–751.  
465
- [12] H. Chen, S.H. Cox, Modeling Mortality with Jumps: Applications to Mortality Securitization, *Journal of Risk and Insurance* 76 (2009) pp. 727–751.
- [13] H. Chen, J.D. Cummins, Longevity Bond Premiums: The Extreme Value Approach and Risk Cubic Pricing, *Insurance: Mathematics and Economics* 46 (2010) 150–161.  
470
- [14] C. Chen, L-M. Liu, Joint Estimation of Model Parameters and Outlier Effects in Time Series, *Journal of the American Statistical Association*, (1993), 88, 284–297.
- [15] H. Chen, R.D. MacMinn, R. Sun, Multi-Population Mortality Models: A Factor Copula Approach, in: Presented at the Ninth International Longevity Risk and Capital Market Solutions Conference, Beijing, China, 2013.  
475
- [16] K. Clark, V. Manghani, H.M. Chang, *Catastrophe Risk*, IAA Risk Book, 2015.
- [17] S.H. Cox, Y. Lin, S. Wang, Multivariate Exponential Tilting and Pricing Implications for Mortality Securitization, *Journal of Risk and Insurance* 73  
480 (2006) 113–136.

- [18] A.W. Crosby, *Epidemic and Peace*, CT: Greenwood Press, Westford, 1976.
- [19] Y. Deng, P. Brockett, R. MacMinn, Longevity/Mortality Risk Modeling and Securities Pricing, *Journal of Risk and Insurance* 79(3) (2012) 697–721.
- 485
- [20] M. Denuit, An Index for Longevity Risk Transfer, *Journal of Computational and Applied Mathematics*, (2009), 411–417.
- [21] P.J. Everson, E.T. Bradlow, Bayesian Inference for the Beta binomial distribution via polynomial expansion, *Journal of Computational and Graphical*  
490 *Statistics* 11 (2002) 202–207.
- [22] M. Frittelli, The Minimal Entropy Martingale Measure and the Valuation Problem in Incomplete Market, *Mathematical Finance*, 10 (2000) 39–52.
- [23] J. Garvey, *Securitization of Extreme Mortality Risk*, 2011.
- [24] N. Gugole, Merton Jump-Diffusion Model Versus The Black and Scholes  
495 Approach for the Log>Returns and Volatility Smile Fitting, *International Journal of Pure and Applied Mathematics* 109 (2016) 719–736.
- [25] Y. Hu, S. H. Cox, Modeling Mortality Risk from Exposure to a Potential Future Extreme Event and Its Impact on Life Insurance.
- [26] A. Huynh, A. Bruhn, B. Browne, A Review of Catastrophic Risks for Life  
500 Insurers, *Risk Management and Insurance Review*, 16 (2013) 233–266.
- [27] Z. Jin, Y. Wang, G. Yin, Numerical solutions of quantile hedging for guaranteed minimum death benefits under a regime-switching jump-diffusion formulation, *Journal of Computational and Applied Mathematics*, (2010).
- [28] K.K. Jose, E. Abraham, A Counting Process with Gumbel Inter-arrival  
505 Times for Modeling Climate Data, *Journal of Environmental Statistics*, 4(5) (2013).

- [29] K.K. Jose, A. Bindu, A count model based on Mittag-Leffer inter arrival times, *Statistica* 4 (2011) 501–514.
- [30] T. Karagiannis, M. Molle, M. Faloutsos, A nonstationary poisson view of internet traffic, in: *IEEE INFOCOM*, 2004.
- [31] T. Kharrat, G.N. Boshnakov, I. McHale, R. Baker, Flexible Regression Models for Count Data Based on Renewal Process: The *Countr* Package, *Journal of Statistical Software* 10 (2016).
- [32] S.H. Kim, W. Whitt, Choosing Arrival Process Models for Service Systems: Tests for Nonhomogeneous Poisson Process, *Naval Research Logistics* 61(1) (2013).
- [33] S. Kullback, R.A. Leibler, On Information and Sufficiency, *Annals of Mathematical Statistics* 22 (1951) 79–86.
- [34] R. Lee, L. Carter, Modeling and Forecasting U.S. Mortality, *Journal of the American Statistical Association* 87 (1992) 659–671.
- [35] J.S.H. Li, Pricing Longevity Risk with the Parametric Bootstrap: a Maximum Entropy Approach, *Insurance: Mathematics and Economics* 47 (2010) 176–186.
- [36] S.H. Li, W.S. Chan, Outlier Analysis and Mortality Forecasting: The United Kingdom and Scandinavian Countries, *Scandinavian Actuarial Journal* 3 (2005) 187–211.
- [37] S.H. Li, W.S. Chan, The Lee-Carter Model for Forecasting Mortality, Revisited, *North American Actuarial Journal* 11 (2007) 68–89.
- [38] J.S.H. Li, A.C.Y. Ng, Canonical Valuation of Mortality-Linked Securities, *Journal of Risk and Insurance* 78(4) (2010) 853–884.
- [39] Y. Lin, S.H. Cox, Securitization of Catastrophe Mortality Risks, *Insurance: Mathematics and Economics* 42 (2008) 628–637.

- [40] L.M. Liu, G.B. Hudak, *Forecasting and Time Series Analysis Using the SCA Statistical System* (1994).
- 535 [41] Y. Liu, J.S.H. Li, The Age Pattern of Transitory Mortality Jumps and Its Impact on the Pricing of Catastrophic Mortality Bonds, *Insurance: Mathematics and Economics* 64 (2015) 135–150.
- [42] R.C. Merton, Option pricing when underlying stock returns are discontinuous, *Journal of Financial Economics* 3 (1976) 125–144.
- 540 [43] B. Mcshane, M. Adrian, E.T. Bradlow, P.S. Fader, Count models based on Weibull interarrival times, *Journal of Business and Economic Statistics* 26(3) (2008) 369–378.
- [44] S.J. Miller, E.T. Bradlow, K. Dayaratna, Closed form Bayesian inferences for the logit model via polynomial expansions, *Quantitative Marketing and Economics* 4 (2006) 173–206.
- 545 [45] P. Nebres, *Renewal Theory and Its Applications*, 2011.
- [46] S. Ozen, *Mortality Risk Modelling with Renewal Process and Optimal Hedging Strategy Under Basis Risk*, The Unpublished PhD Thesis of the Hacettepe University, 2020.
- 550 [47] C. Ramezani, Y. Zeng, An Empirical Assessment of the Double-Exponential Jump-Diffusion Process, Available at: <https://ssrn.com/abstract=606101> or <http://dx.doi.org/10.2139/ssrn.606101>, 2004.
- [48] A. Stracke, W. Heinen, Influenza Pandemic: The Impact on an Insured Lives Life Insurance Portfolio, *The Actuary* 2006.
- 555 [49] M. Stutzer, A Simple Nonparametric Approach to Derivative Security Valuation, *Journal of Finance* 51 (1996) 1633–1652.
- [50] P.J. Sweeting, A Trend Change Extension of the Cairns-Blake-Dowd Model, *Annals of Actuarial Science* 5 (2011) 143–162.



- [51] S. Wills, M. Sherris, Securitization, Structuring and Pricing of Longevity  
560 Risk, *Insurance: Mathematics and Economics* 46 (2010) 173–185.
- [52] R. Winkelmann, Duration dependence and dispersion in count data models,  
*Journal of Business and Economic Statistics* 13 (1995) 467–474.
- [53] World Natural Disasters Report, Yildiz Technical University, 2016.
- [54] R. Zhou, J.S.H. Li, K.S. Tan, Economic Pricing of Mortality-Linked Secu-  
565 rities in the Presence of Population Basis Risk, *Geneva Paper of Risk and  
Insurance: Issues and Practice* 36 (2011) 544–566.
- [55] R. Zhou, J.S.H. Li, K.S. Tan, Pricing Standardized Mortality Securitiza-  
tions: A Two-Population Model with Transitory Jump Effects, *Journal of  
Risk and Insurance* 80 (2013) 733–774.
- 570 [56] A.A. Zimbidis, N.E. Frangosi, A.A. Pantelous, Modeling Earthquake Risk  
via Extreme Value Theory and Pricing the Respective Catastrophe Bonds,  
*Astin Bulletin* 37 (2007) 163–183.