تقدیر نموذج الانحدار المعلمی بالاعتماد علی توزیع وقت البقاء علی قید الحیاة (وقت الحدث) مع التطبیق

**Estimate Parametric Regression Models Depend on (Time-To-Event) Survival Time Distributions with Application**

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**الملخص**

هدفت الدراسة الى المقارنة بين نماذج الانحدار المعلمية المقدرة وفقًا لتوزيعات وقت البقاء واختيار أفضل الانموذج الملائم لتوزيع وقت البقاء على قيد الحياة وتقدير معلماتها .واستعمال نماذج الانحدار المعلمی لبیانات و مدی تحدید العوامل التي تؤثر في وقت بقاء المرضی .وتم تطبیق الدراسة علی عینة بحجم (١٢٠) مرضا، المصابون بسرطان بروستات/ مستشفی هیوا فی محافظة السلیمانیة لمدة من 1 يناير 2019 حتى 1 نوفمبر 2021.

وتم تحدید افضل انموذج بالاعتماد علی کل من المقایس ((AIC,BIC وباستعمال البرامج (Mat-lab, Stata 15.1, Easy Fit 5.6). وتبین ان افضل انموذج هو ((Weibull- AFT والعوامل (Age, PSA, Stage, metastasis )هي التي تؤثر في مدة البقاء المریض.

**الكلمات الافتتاحية** : تحليل البقاء على قيد الحياة، نماذج الانحدار المعلمية، وقت الفشل المعجل (AFT)، MLE، سرطان بروستات.

**Abstract:**

The aim of this study is to compare between the parametric regression models estimated according to the distributions of survival time and select the best appropriate model for the distribution of survival time and estimate its parameters. Use parametric regression models for data and determine the factors that affect the survival time of patients. The study was applied to a sample size of (120) patients with prostate cancer / Hiwa Hospital in Sulaymaniyah Governorate for a period from January 1, 2019 to November 1, 2021.

The best model was determined based on each of the criteria AIC and BIC and using the applications (Mat-lab, Stata 15.1, Easy Fit 5.6). The result show that the best model is (Weibull-AFT) and the factors (Age, PSA, Stage, metastasis) are that affect the patient's survival time.

**Keywords:** Survival Analysis, parametric regression models, Accelerated Failure Time (AFT), Maximum likelihood estimation (MLE), prostate Cancer.

**1: Introduction**

Survival analysis is a statistical tools analysis that focuses on the influence of predictors on the time until an event happens, rather than the chance of an event occurring. It is used to examine data that contains information about the time remaining until an event occurs. As the name suggests, this approach was usually used in medical research to evaluate the effect of drugs or medical therapy on the time before death. In the engineering field is called reliability analysis, it's also called duration analysis in the economics field, and it’s called event history analysis in the sociology field. This method was used to measure the survival rate of patients in the medical field. In survival analysis models, the process and paradigms that can be used to deal with data classification can be used. Survival analysis may be studied using a variety of methods, including( Life tables, Kaplan-Meier analysis, Survivor and hazard function rates, Cox proportional hazards regression analysis, parametric survival analytic models, Survival trees, Survival random forest) (Abbas, Subramanian et al. 2019).

In scientific and organic studies, the analysis of event time data or (survival statistics) aimed to describe the hazard (risk) function of event times in population. Survival analysis is used in a lot of different fields, like biology, epidemiology, medicine, and public health. Survival data is often examined by simulating event timing data, such as the amount of time till death. Survival time or failure time is the term used to describe the amount of time before a particular occurrence occurs(Zhao 2008).

Survival analysis is a method for analyzing time-to-event data, data where the outcome variable is time elapsed from a time origin until the occurrence of a chosen event of interest. This type of data is common in medical studies where often the time origin corresponds to entry into the study and the event of interest to death, thus the name survival analysis (Christiansson 2020).At the begging survival used only to investigate mortality and morbidity in vital statistics. . The first mathematical examination of human survival processes dates all the way back to the seventeenth century, when John Graunt, an English statistician, produced the first life table in 1662(Liu 2012).

**2: Literature review**

**Jiezhi Qi (2009),** Compared Proportional Hazards and Accelerated Failure Time Models, In the study of some survival data, the AFT model was considered as an alternative to the PH model(Qi 2009).

**Yiu Ming Chan (2013),** this investigation gave a correlation of survival between White and African American men at the four key stages of cancer for patients under a similar treatment. Moreover, to understand the hazard factors (age, tumor estimate, and tumor size connected with survival time, a system of accelerated disappointment time was made. Finally, the results of parametric survival examination and the system of accelerated disappointment time model are looked at among white men experiencing a similar treatment(Chan 2013) .

**Minh Hoang Pham (2014),** this study observed the cancer patients' survival time using the Weibull probability distribution. In this study, the researcher made use of the parametric survival method for analysis of the survival time cancer patients. The results of the study prove consistency of the parametric method in relation with the theoretical approach more than the semi-parametric approach(Pham 2014)

**Montaseri, Charati, and Espahbodi (2016),** the purpose of this research was to examine the performance of several parametric models in a survival analysis of patients undergoing hemodialysis. Parametric models were compared using the Akaike information criterion (AIC). It was shown that the mean serum albumin and attendance at a clinic were the most significant predictors of hemodialysis patient. According to the findings of the parametric models evaluated, the Weibull model had the best performance(Montaseri, Charati et al. 2016)

**Emmert-Streib and Dehmer (2019),** in this research, reviewed the theoretical foundations of survival analysis, including estimators for survival and hazard functions, have been discussed in this study. They used the Cox Proportional Hazard Model, and also stratified Cox models was used for when the PH assumption doesn't hold. (Emmert-Streib and Dehmer 2019).

**Salinas-Escudero…etal (2020),** the purpose of this investigation is to use survival analysis to determine the risk variables related with COVID-19 mortality in the Mexican population. They used this analysis to make Kaplan-Meier curves and a Cox proportional hazard model.Concluded that men had a higher risk of dying at any time during follow-up than women with the patients over the age of 65, adults with chronic renal disease. (Salinas-Escudero, Carrillo-Vega et al. 2020).

**3: Methodology**

This section discussed the some basic definitions of survival analysis, including the nature of data (typed of censoring), survival function and the hazard function, as well as several tests and techniques for analyzing survival data.

**3.1: Survival Analysis**

Survival analysis is a collection of methods for studying data in which the outcome variable is the time until an event of interest occurs. The occurrence might be death, divorce, the onset of a sickness, marriage, and so on. Years, months, weeks, Days, and so on can be used to calculate the time to event or survival time(Ekman 2017).

**3.2: The nature of survival data (Censoring data)**

In Survival analysis there are several types of data was used to analysis, below definitions of these different types of censoring:

**3.2.1: Type I Censoring**

In this type the study comes to an end at a certain time point or, if the participants are tested at multiple times during the research, when a specific amount of time has passed from the beginning of the experiment(Ekman 2017)**.**

**3.2.2: Type II Censoring**

The censoring of failure time data sets it apart from other data types. Assume we study the mortality rates of individuals with a certain condition. It is normal that some patients be still alive at the conclusion of the trial. So their failure times are known to be larger than the duration from patient enrollment to study completion. As a result of this censoring, survival analysis requires statistical techniques other than simple linear regression. There are three kinds of censoring: right, left, and interval(Dey, Mukherjee et al. 2020).

# 3.2.2.1: Right Censoring

If failure happens after the documented follow-up period, a subject is right censored(Stevenson and EpiCentre 2009)

# 3.2.2.2: Left censoring

Left censoring occurs when the event is already past. This is an uncommon occurrence. Assume that some individuals in the stroke clinical trial experienced a stroke before the research began. These subjects are left-censored observations, where the “failure” (stroke) happened prior to a certain time. A subject is left censored it is known that the failure occurs some time before the recorded follow-up period(Dey, Mukherjee et al. 2020).

**3.2.2.3: Interval censoring**

It is described as interval censored when the event happens between two times, but the actual moment of failure is unknown. In other words, I can tell that the event happened between the dates A and B(Alhasawi 2015).

**3.3: Failure Time**

Usually the failure time of a survival depends on time, with the rate varying over the life cycle of the survival. It is interested in the effect of a risk factor or therapy on the time required to develop a disease or other occurrence(Vittinghoff, Glidden et al. 2006).

**3.4: Function Related to Survival Analysis.**

**3.4.1: Cumulative distribution**

The cumulative distribution is defined as follows:

# The time interval is expected to be between 0 and t. (Abbas, Subramanian et al. 2019).

# 3. 4.2: Survival function

Survival probability is produced by the survival function, **S (t)**, approximately to time **t**. for survival analysis, survival function has an important role to play. **T** is a random variable that refers to the survival time, whereas **S(t)** refers to the survival function and **(T)** is a non-negative random variable referring to the time when an event occurs, The definition of the survival function appears to be as follows(Emmert-Streib and Dehmer 2019) :

# 3.4.3: Hazard Function

We define the hazard

function and the relationship between it and the survival function in this section of the paper. The following is the definition of the hazard function(Lee and Wang 2003):

(3)

3.5: Models of Survival Analysis

**3.5.1: Parametric Models**

Parametric approaches are based on the assumption that the fundamental distribution of survival times follows well-known probability distributions. Including(exponential ,Weibull, and lognormal distributions ), with Accelerated Failure Time **(AFT)** model (Wang, Li et al. 2019).

**3.5.1.1: Accelerated Failure Time (AFT)**

It is another popular regression model, often, used to analyze survival data, also, AFT model relate the lifetime distribution to the explanatory variable (stress, covariate). This distribution can be defined by the survival, cumulative distribution, or probability density functions(Bogaerts, Komárek et al. 2017).

Regarding as a random variable representing the (possibly unobserved) survival time of the ith unit, since must be non-negative value, and it should be considered modeling its logarithm using a customary linear model:

(4)

Where:

is advisable error term and is covariate factor, is survival time.

The distribution of survival time to be specified (exponential, Weibull, log-normal and gamma AFT model) (Cleves, Gould et al. 2008).

**3.5.1.1.1: Weibull distribution**(Lee and Wang 2003)

The probability density function (**p.d.f**) and cumulative distribution functions (**C.D.F**) are, respectively:

And

The survival function is, therefore,

And the hazard function, the ratio of (5) to (7), is

The mean of the Weibull distribution is

And the variance is

Where

(11)

Value of be found in Abramowitz and Stegun (1964). The coefficient of variation is then

(12)

**3.6: Maximum likelihood estimation (MLE)**

Now we are using MLE to estimate to parameters of Weibull distribution

Now we get derivative by :-

(13)

And we get derivative with respect :-

We can now assume that is the function of its partial derivative where

Because of the difficulty of solving the equation (14) in the usual methods, we will use iterative methods, including Newton-Raphson-method, to obtain an estimate of the steps of the method depend on the assumption of an (initial value) of the required root () using the OLS method and be (**=**) and then determine the roots approximate to () as in the following equation:

(15)

Where represent equation (14) and

At first we impose an initial value which is () where and then apply an equation (15) to get a new value to and be and then assume that is the initial value and apply the equation (15) again to get a new value which is and so until we reach the stage (**i+1**) then approach the required degree of accuracy specified by the researcher and thus we get the estimation of which represents the greatest value

(16)

We stop when:-

Equal to a very small value and then in order to get an initial value to apply the Newton-Ravson method. I will use the method of OLS to obtain this value, but the way to find this value depends on the function of the cumulative distribution function of Weibull and its formula is as follows:

And take to the both side of the equation:-

[]

[

And again to the both side

(

(

(

( (17)

And by comparing the equation (17) with the equation of simple linear regression:-

i=1,2,3,…,n (18)

Where represents random error

=

(

Cumulative distribution values can be obtained from empirical distribution and according to the following formula:-

, J=1,2,…,N ( 19)

(20)

(21)

And then we can get Weibull distribution from the following relationships:-

, (22)

, (23)

**3.7: Measures of the Model Selection**

Two criteria were used in this research to determine the best model. Which are (**AIC**) and (**BIC**) criteria, we prefer lowest value to choose the best model. The two criteria we use are the following:

**3.7.1: Akaikke’s Infirmation Criterion (AIC)**

Comparing the quality of various statistical models is done using the Akaike Information Criterion (AIC). In comparison to other models, the model with a lower AIC fits the data better.

Akaike's Information Criterion calculating as follows:

AIC=-2(log-likelihood) + 2K or AIC= 2K-2ln (L) (24)

Where:

**K** the number of parameters in the model (the model's total number of variables, plus the intercept).

**Log-likelihood** is a measure of model fit, this is usually found in the statistical output(Moore 2016).

**3.7.2: The Bayesian Information Criterion (BIC)**

The Bayesian information criterion (BIC) is a well-known and commonly used tool for selecting statistical models. Bayesian information criterion calculate as follows:

BIC=-2\*InL+2\*InN\*k (25)

Where: **L**=is the value of the likelihood

**N**=the number of observations, or equivalently, the sample size.

**K=** number of model parameters.

the model with the lowest BIC is chosen as the best model(Ibrahim, Chen et al. 2001).

**4: Description and Analysis of data:**

**4.1: Data description:**

The data for this paper of prostate cancer have been collected from Hiwa Hospital. The data consisted of 120 cases which are collected during 3 years period; beginning from 1th January 2019 through 1th November 2021 on all prostate cancer patients. Out of those patients there are 120 patients are survived or still alive. The survival time are measured in day.

# Table 1. The explanatory variables measured for these data at diagnosis:

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Name variables** | **Description** | **Percentage (%)** |
| Age | <60=(1)  60-69=(2)  70-80=(3)  >80=(4) | %7.5  %32.5  %43.3  %16.7 |
| Smoker | Yes=(1)  No=(2) | %27.5  %22.5 |
| Blood group | A+=(1)  A-=(2)  B+=(3)  B+=(4)  O+=(5)  O=(6)  AB+=(7)  AB=(8) | %24.1  %1.7  %14.2  %3.3  %47.5  %2.5  %6.7  %0 |
| Occupation | Employee=(1)  No employee=(2)  retired=(3) | %5.8  %42.5  %51.7 |
| stage | Lowe-risk=(1)  intermediate-risk=(2)  high-risk=(3) | %1.7  %17.5  %80.8 |
| Volume | 40 =(1)  41-60=(2)  >60 =(3) | %38.3  %27.5  %34.2 |
| BMI | Underweight=(1)  normal weight=(2)  overweight=(3) | %1.7  %42.2  %45.2 |
| PSA | 10 =(1)  10-20 =(2)  20> =(3) | %7.5  %20.8  %71.7 |
| Metastasis | Yes=(1)  No=(2) | %66.7  %33.3 |
| Genetic | Yes=(1)  No=(2) | %20  %80 |

And the **response variable** is survival (Time-To-Event)

**4.2: Data Analysis:**

**First of all we test the data to know that if this data Weibull distribution or not, we use the goodness of fit, which is Kolmogorov**-Smirnov, Anderson-Darling, Chi-Squared test, according to our hypothesis. Table below show the result of this test Hypothesis test:

The data distributed Weibull distribution

Weibull distribution

**Table 2**: Test data for parametric regression Weibull distribution.

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  |  | | |  | | |
|  | Chi-Squared | Anderson-Darling | Kolmogorov-Smirnov | Chi-Squared | Anderson-Darling | Kolmogorov-Smirnov |
| Statistic | 8.0823 | 0.5173 | 0.06426 | 8.0823 | 0.5173 | 0.06426 |
| Critical Value | 16.812 | 3.9074 | 0.14871 | 12.592 | 2.5018 | 0.12397 |

The table above show that the critical value of Chi-Squared, Anderson-Darling and Kolmogorov-Smirnov (16.812, 3.9074, 0.14871) greater than their statistics (8.0823, 0.5173, 0.06426) with and (12.592, 2.5018, 0.12397) greater than (8.0823, 0.5173, 0.06426) therefore accept and the survival time follows the Weibull distribution.

**Second step: fitting the accelerated Failure time (AFT)** model with **(**Weibull, Log normal, exponential) distribution.

**Table 3:** The (BIC) and (AIC) tests, for comparing AFT Model.

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Distribution | NO. parameter | AIC | BIC |
| Weibull | 2 | 232.695 | 266.1449 |
| Log normal | 2 | 267.4484 | 300.8983 |
| exponential | 1 | 303.9187 | 334.5811 |

According to the **Table (3)** compared AFT models by statistics criterion Bayesian information criterion (BIC) and Akaike information criterion (AIC). The smaller BIC and AIC is the better, each of the BIC and the AIC are tools for choosing between two or more models.in the above table explained that the Weibull AFT model is better model according to AIC=232.695 and BIC=266.1449 compared with models.

**Third step:** Finding the initial value for Weibull distribution

To obtain the initial value by use equation (18) and the equation = and

( .

By using ordinary least square (OLS) to estimate of values ( we get the value of

5.962, = 0.72

**Table 4:** show that the transformation for the explanatory variable **(** and

Response variable (

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| J | t |  |  | 1- |  | - |  |  |  |
| 1 | 219 | 5.38907 | 0.00417 | 0.99583 | -0.00418 | 0.00418 | -5.47855 | 30.01453 | -29.5243 |
| 2 | 221 | 5.39816 | 0.01250 | 0.98750 | -0.01258 | 0.01258 | -4.37574 | 19.14713 | -23.621 |
| 3 | 224 | 5.41165 | 0.02083 | 0.97917 | -0.02105 | 0.02105 | -3.86069 | 14.90495 | -20.8927 |
| 4 | 227 | 5.42495 | 0.02917 | 0.97083 | -0.02960 | 0.02960 | -3.51997 | 12.39015 | -19.0956 |
| 5 | 227 | 5.42495 | 0.03750 | 0.96250 | -0.03822 | 0.03822 | -3.26436 | 10.65608 | -17.709 |
| . | . | . | . | . | . | . | . | . | . |
| . | . | . | . | . | . | . | . | . | . |
| . |  | . | . | . | . | . | . | . | . |
| 118 | 972 | 6.87936 | 0.97917 | 0.02083 | -3.87120 | 3.87120 | 1.35356 | 1.83214 | 9.3117 |
| 119 | 164 | 5.09987 | 0.98750 | 0.01250 | -4.38203 | 4.38203 | 1.47751 | 2.18304 | 7.5351 |
| 120 | 164 | 5.09987 | 0.99583 | 0.00417 | -5.48064 | 5.48064 | 1.70122 | 2.89416 | 8.6760 |

The coefficient of ordinary least square (OLS) method confirmed by use Stata program and then we applied the equation (22) and (23) to obtain the initial values of two parameters and the results were as follows:

1.389

388.39

**At the end** to find the value of Estimate shape and scale parameter of Weibull distribution:-

To find the values of the shape and scale parameters of Weibull distribution, we have used the method of (Newton-Raphson-method) with error (0.00001) to apply this method we use equation (14, 15, 16) the results of which were as follows:

1.6717

= 517.4

**Table 5:** The survival model according to AFT Weibull distribution when the survival time followed the Weibull distribution.

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Variables | Coef . | Std. Err. | Z | P>|z| | [99% Conf. Interval] | | Haz. Ratio |
| Lower bound | Upper bound |
| Blood | 0.0295271 | 0.0243332 | 1.21 | 0.225 | -0.0331511 | 0.0922053 | 1.029967 |
| Occupation | 0 .1183633 | 0.0819883 | 1.44 | 0.149 | -0.0928246 | 0.3295513 | 1.125653 |
| Genetic | 0.2437352 | 0.112841 | 2.16 | 0.031 | -0.0469239 | 0.5343944 | 1.276006 |
| Smoker | 0.1203131 | 0.1040558 | 1.16 | 0.248 | -0.1477169 | 0.3883431 | 1.12785 |
| Stage | -0.6486137 | 0.167121 | -3.88 | 0.000 | -1.079089 | -0.2181386 | 0.52277 |
| Metastasis | -0.2950418 | 0.1113833 | -2.65 | 0.008 | -0.5819462 | 0.0081374 | 0.7445 |
| Age | -0.0165876 | 0.0061613 | -2.69 | 0.007 | -0.0324581 | -0.0007171 | 0.983549 |
| PSA | 0.3031847 | 0.106703 | 2.84 | 0.004 | 0.0283361 | 0.5780333 | 1.354165 |
| Volume | -0.0010022 | 0.0011729 | -0.85 | 0.393 | -0.0040234 | 0.002019 | 0.998998 |
| BMI | 0.0176229 | 0.0106489 | 1.65 | 0.098 | -0.0098067 | 0.0450526 | 1.017779 |

From the above table we notice the following:

Age variable will be one of the highly significant factors in our study; because the p-value of the variable is (0.007) less than the level of significance ( 0.01). Stage is the variable is significance because the p-value of the variable is less than the level of significance ( 0.01).

The p-value of variable (Metastasis=0.008) also is significance it is less than the level of significance ( 0.01).last significance variable ( PSA) the p-value of the variable is (0.004) less than the level of significance ( 0.01).

Above table show that the PSA has the highest risk in prostate cancer which (1.354165) and stage has the lowest risk with rate (0.52277)

The variables (Blood, volume, BMI, genetic, occupation and smoker) are not significance factors while the P-value are greater than level significance (0.01) ,meaning that this variables are not affecting this type of cancer .

We can write the Weibull AFT model as follows:

= -0.0165876Age −0.3031847PSA-0.6486137stage-0.2950418metatastis

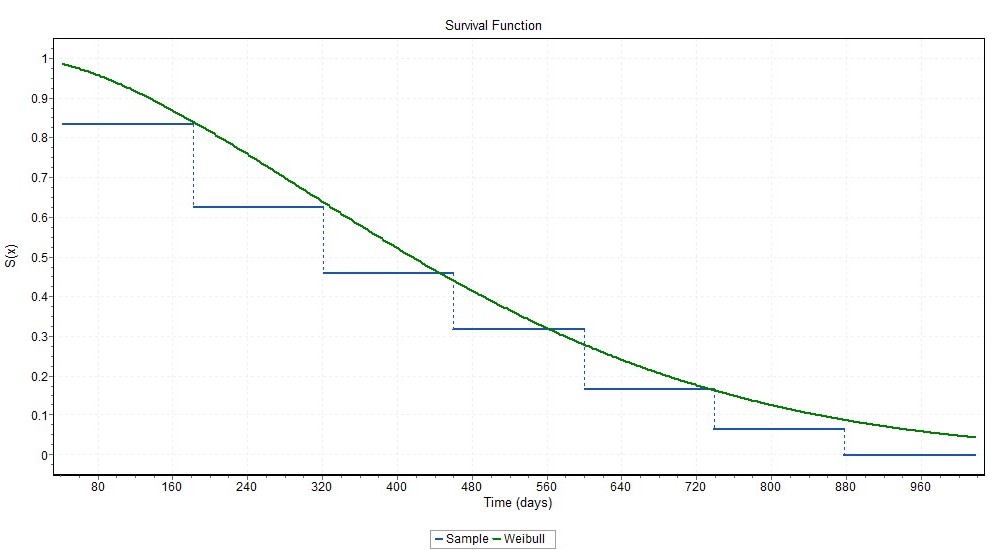
|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Time** | **f(t)** | **F(t)** | **h(t)** | **S(t)** |
| 42 | 0.00059 | 0.01491 | 0.00060 | 0.98509 |
| 43 | 0.00060 | 0.01551 | 0.00061 | 0.98449 |
| 45 | 0.00062 | 0.01672 | 0.00063 | 0.98328 |
| 55 | 0.00070 | 0.02331 | 0.00072 | 0.97669 |
| 57 | 0.00072 | 0.02473 | 0.00073 | 0.97527 |
| . | . | . | . | . |
| . | . | . | . | . |
| . | . | . | . | . |
| 1005 | 0.00024 | 0.95188 | 0.00505 | 0.04812 |
| 1018 | 0.00023 | 0.95495 | 0.00509 | 0.04505 |

**Table 6:** Show that survival rate, hazard rate probability density function and cumulative of Weibull distribution.

The above table show that the value of survival function opposite with patients' stay in the hospital, and this means that the values ​​of the survival function gradually decrease with the increase patients' stay in the hospital. If the patient's stay time is (42) days in the hospital, the probability of his survival is (0.98509), but if the patient's stay time is (1018) days in the hospital, the probability of his survival is (0.04505).

The values ​​of the hazard function are positive and probabilistic values, and that the hazard function increases with the increase in the time patients stay in the hospital. Conversely, the longer the patient stays in hospital, the higher the risk of death. If the patient's stay time is (42) days in the hospital, the probability of death is (0.00060), but if the patient's stay time is (1018) days in the hospital, the probability of death is (0.00509).

The following two figure show the same results.



Figuer 1.Represent survival rate

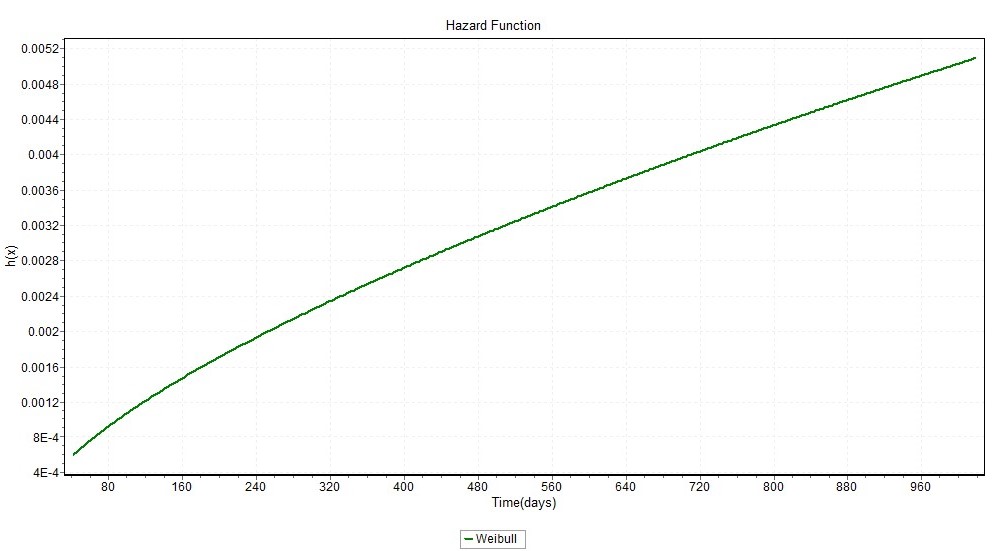
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Figure 2 Represent hazard rate

**5. Conclusion** & **Recommendation:**

**5.1: Conclusion:**

During conducting the survival data and according to the results from the practical part the following conclusions have been shown:

1. Comparing the AFT models based on the AIC and BIC it is concluded that (Weibull AFT model) is the most suitable model for our data set that was used in this study.

2. According to the results of the Weibull AFT model of this study indicates the most popular factors that affected on the prostate cancer are (Age, PSA, Stage, metastasis) with level.

3. Determine the survival function and hazard function for each patients on prostate cancer. The results we get survival function gradually decrease with the increase patients' stay in the hospital. If the patient's stay time is (42) days in the hospital, the probability of his survival is (0.98509), but if the patient's stay time is (1018) days in the hospital, the probability of his survival is (0.04505). Hazard function increases with the increase in the time patients stay in the hospital which mean that the longer the patient stays in hospital, the higher the risk of death. If the patient's stay time is (42) days in the hospital, the probability of death is (0.00060), but if the patient's stay time is (1018) days in the hospital, the probability of death is (0.00509).

**5.1: Recommendation**

1. Using non-parametric models and comparing these models which we have achieved this study.
2. The variables we have achieved in this study should be considered by those who have a specialist in medicine in this field.
3. More studies should be done in this field because such studies are important and related to people’s lives.
4. Data should be recorded in health places so that the researcher can conduct the research in detail.

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