



ABSTRACT:

Whereas the rise in human life expectancy has been extensively studied, the evolution of maximum life expectancies i.e. the rise in best practice life expectancy in a group of populations has not been examined to the same extent. Extreme Value Theory has been used previously to examine the potential maximum human life span by studying ages at death. However, it has not yet been applied to the analysis of life expectancies. This paper examines best practice life expectancies directly through Extreme Value Statistics. This well established framework enables the fitting of extreme value distributions to time series of maximum life expectancies and facilitates projections and probabilistic inferences based on the fitted distributions. We also explore the potential of using Extreme Value Distributions as the innovations distribution in classical time series models.