

Calibration of Assessors

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Objective: Apply a method for calibrating assessors to undergraduate mathematics examination results. The method is described in calibassessors.pdf in the lefthand column on

http://www2.warwick.ac.uk/fac/sci/maths/people/staff/robert_mackay

The head of the Mathematics department has offered to provide (anonymised) examination results from past years.

Interest: In many situations, scores are assigned to objects (grant proposals, research publications, submissions to conferences, students...) by a panel of assessors, none of whom have examined all the objects. Calibration of the assessors is often minimal. There is an urgent need for a reliable method of calibration to achieve robust end scores.

Background required: Ability to programme a computer, in particular to do elementary linear algebra.

Deliverables: A computer programme to implement the method, documentation of its application to the test data, a discussion of the outcome, and preferably a joint article for submission to Mathematics Today.

Beneficiaries: Examination Boards, Interview panels, Research Assessment Panels, Grant panels, Conference Organising Committees.

Prospects for PhD: There is sure to be scope for refinements of the method, wider testing, and development of easy to use software. We would need to identify an appropriate second supervisor, perhaps from the business school.

If you would like to discuss, send me an email: R.S.MacKay@warwick.ac.uk. To supervise miniprojects, I expect to be in Warwick 18 Mar, 11-14 Apr, 26-29 Apr, 9 May – 18 July, 28-29 July, 8-26 Aug, 5-9 Sep, 19-30 Sep.