

# Pre-screening comments

*The Authors*

*March 6, 2016*

JSS 2513: Beger, Hill, Metternich, Minhas, Ward

Splitting it up: the `spdur` split-population duration regression package

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For further instructions on JSS style requirements please see the Style Files (in particular section 2.1 Style Checklist of `jss.pdf`) and FAQ at <http://www.jstatsoft.org/about/submissions>.  
For further examples please see RECENT JSS papers.

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From the editorial team:

o The style instructions have not been taken into account appropriately. An `\AND` rather than `\And` is needed somewhere in `\author`. Code is not formatted correctly. The bibliography must be produced via BibTeX. (See additional comments below.)

*Changed `\And` to `\AND`, added `R>` and `+` where needed to code formatting, and bibliography is now via BibTeX.*

o The `xtable` for Figure 2 lacks math markup for negative numbers. Also row labels need `\code` markup for JSS and column labels could be formatted better.

*Changed `-` to `$-$`, and the column names in `xtable.spdur` now match those output by the `xtable` internal methods, e.g. `xtable.lm`.*

o There should be some discussion of software for related purposes (including references), pointing out relative (dis)advantages.

*Added discussion of `smcure`, which is the only alternative implementation for R that we could find, as well `survival`, which handles non-mixture duration models.*

o Some standard methods are available for `spdur` objects but more would be desired, e.g., `coef`, `vcov`, possibly fitted, residuals, `model.matrix` etc.

*We have added methods for these to a new package version, which is up on CRAN.*

o The replication material does not seem to be complete. Please provide all additional files needed to successfully run the code. It should then also be stated how these data files could be generated / how they were obtained.

*The two included data sets are documented in the package, e.g. `?coups`. We added some code and examples to the paper describing the data in some more details.*

o The source package (`.tar.gz`) rather than the `git .zip` should be included in the submission.

Manuscript style comments:

o Title should be in title style (do capitalize all principal words and the first word after a colon).

*Done, and the same for all citations.*

o For the code layout in R publications, we typically distinguish input/output using `Sinput/Soutput` (or equivalently `CodeInput/CodeOutput`). Unless there are special reasons to format it differently, the input should use the “R>” command prompt and the text width (up to 76 or 77 characters), and be indented by two spaces, e.g.,

```
begin{Sinput}
R> example_model <- lm(response ~ variable1 + variable2 + variable3,
+   weights = w, data = mydata)
\end{Sinput}
```

*Adjusted code accordingly.*

- o Code should have enough spaces to facilitate reading. Please include spaces before and after operators and after commas (unless spaces have syntactical meaning).

*The code examples have spaces before/after operators and after commas.*

- o If using “e.g.” and “i.e.” add a comma after the period to keep LaTeX from interpreting them as the end of a sentence, i.e.: “e.g.,” and “i.e.,”.

*Done*

- o All captions should appear below the corresponding figure/table. The captions should be in sentence style and end with a period.

*All captions are below figure/table, in sentence case, and end with period now.*

- o As a reminder, please make sure that: - `\proglang`, `\pkg` and `\code` have been used for highlighting throughout the paper (including titles and references), except where explicitly escaped.

*Checked and added where needed, including in the references.*

References:

- o Journal of the Royal Statistical Society B (not: Journal of the Royal Statistical Society. Series B)
- o Please make sure that all software packages are []’d properly.
- o All references should be in title style.
- o See FAQ for specific reference instructions.

Code:

- o As mentioned above, please make sure that the files needed to replicate all code/examples within the manuscript are included in a standalone replication script.