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Demographic translation and tempo effects An accelerated failure time perspective

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Abstract

In this paper I review the concept of tempo effects in demography, focusing on the tempo adjustments proposed by Bongaarts and Feeney and drawing on the work of Ryder and Zeng and Land. I show that the period-shift model that underlies the proposed adjustments can be motivated from an accelerated failure time cohort perspective. I propose alternative measures of tempo under changing fertility and mortality that share a synthetic cohort interpretation with the adjusted measure of quantum. I stress similarities between the results for fertility and mortality, particularly in terms of mean age of childbearing and mean age at death, but also note some important distinctions. I conclude that the fertility adjustments can help distinguish quantum and tempo effects, but argue that in the case of mortality the Bongaarts-Feeney measure of tempo-adjusted life expectancy differs from conventional estimates because it reflects past mortality.

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Keywords

[age at death](#), [age of childbearing](#), [alternative measures of tempo](#), [childbearing](#), [death](#), [fertility](#), [fertility adjustments](#), [measurements](#), [mortality](#), [period-shift model](#), [tempo adjustments](#), [tempo effects](#)

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