

The **Kaplan-Meier** estimator, also known as the product limit estimator, is a non-parametric statistic used to estimate the survival function from lifetime data. In medical research, it is often used to measure the fraction of patients living for a certain amount of time after treatment. In other fields, Kaplan-Meier estimators may be used to measure the length of time people remain unemployed after a job loss, the time-to-failure of machine parts, or how long fleshy fruits remain on plants before they are removed by frugivores. The estimator is named after Edward L. Kaplan and Paul Meier, who each submitted similar manuscripts to the Journal of the American Statistical Association

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In economics, it can be used to measure the length of time people remain unemployed after a job loss. In engineering, it can be used to measure the time until the failure of machine parts. In ecology, it can be used to estimate how long fleshy fruits remain on plants before they are removed by frugivores. The estimator is named after Edward L. Kaplan and Paul Meier. Each submitted similar papers to the Journal of the American Statistical Association, but the editor then convinced them to combine their work into one paper, which has been cited about 34,000 times since its publication.

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