

# Cluster Modeling Overview

## Liabilities and Assets

Presented by:

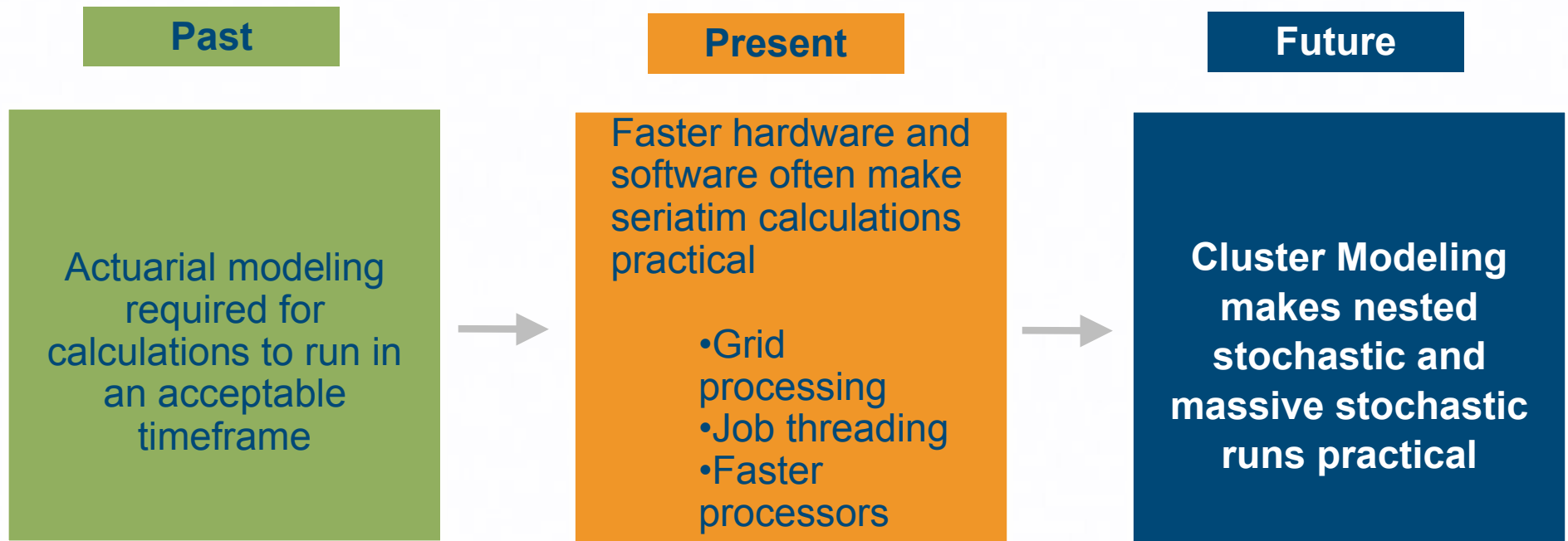
Craig Reynolds, FSA, MAAA  
Consulting Actuary

November 13, 2008

Actuaries Club of the Southwest

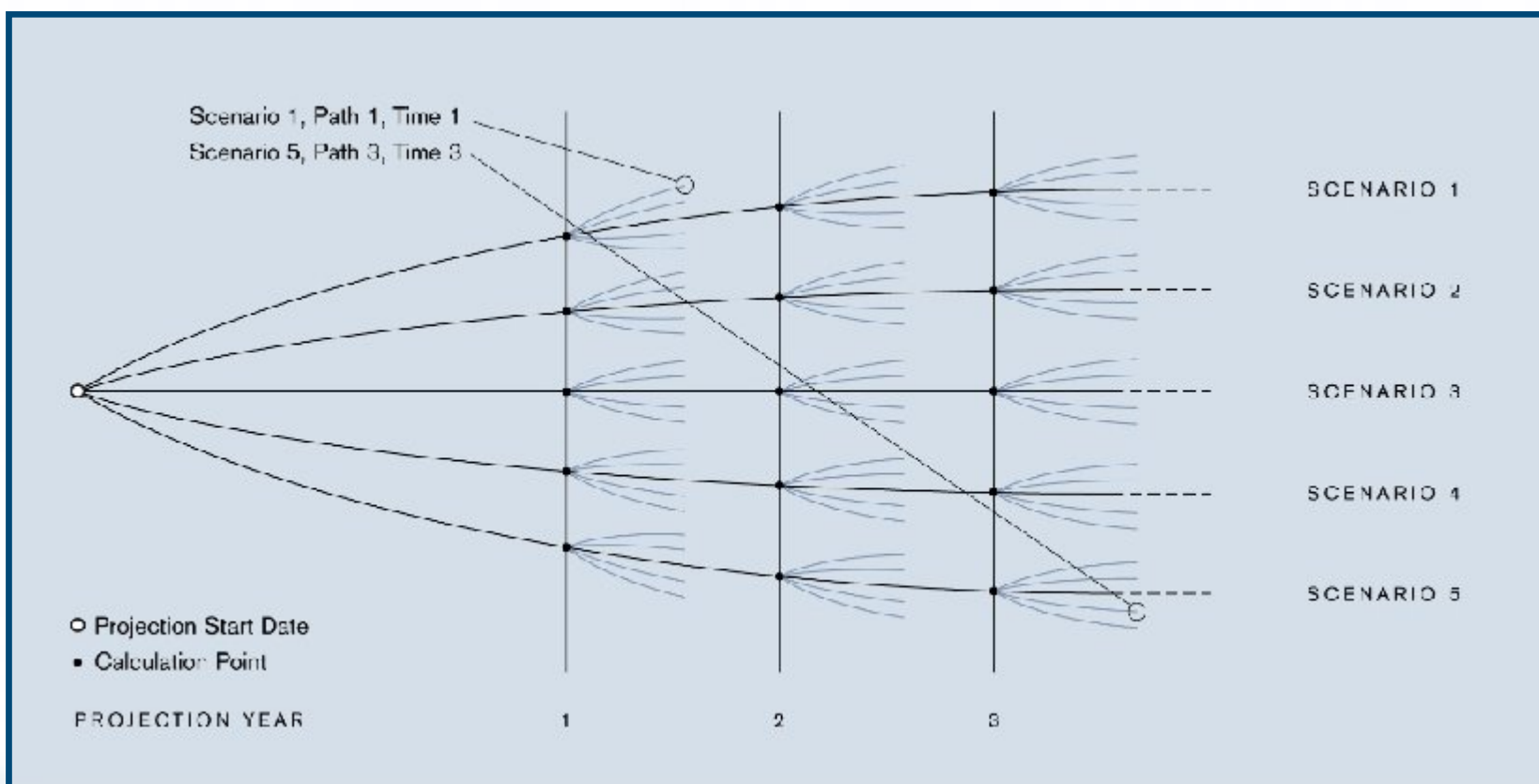


# Trends in Actuarial Modeling



# Modeling May Always be Necessary

- Particularly nested stochastics (stochastic in stochastic)
- Examples: IFRS, FAS 133, SOP 03-1, Dynamic Hedging, PBA, Option Pricing, VA CARVM, C-3 Phase 2



# Nested Stochastic Runtimes

- Sample calculation specifications
  - 1 million policies
  - 30-year projections
  - Quarterly calculations of IFRS or other stochastic reserves across 500 paths
  - 10,000 scenarios
- Implications-Sometimes seriatim cannot be done
  - 600 trillion policy-path projections
    - At 1000 cell paths per second, this is still:
      - 600 billion seconds
  - 19 thousand years
- Clearly we cannot rely on hardware or software alone!

# Cluster Modeling Does it Better

- Do not ask: **To model or not to model?**
- Instead ask: **When you have to model, how to do it best?**

# Living in a World With Modeling

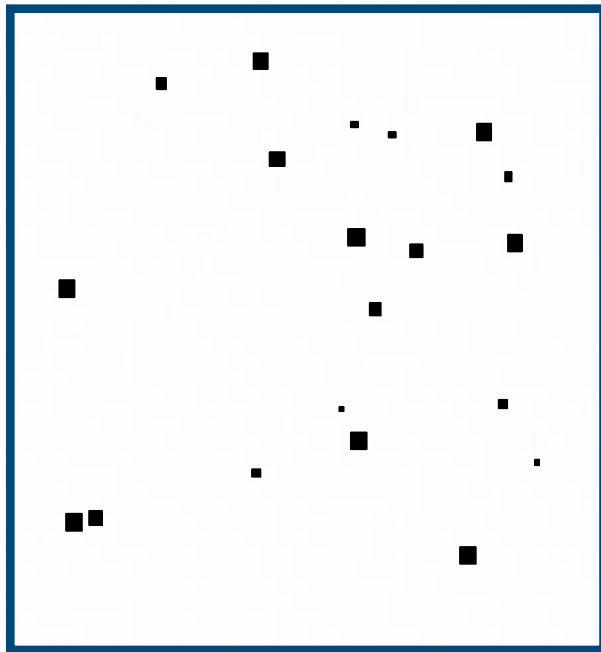
- Classic Modeling Techniques
  - Some rule-based (age modeling, issue-date modeling)
  - Some judgment-based (minor plans to major plans)
  - Focused on validation of initial balance sheet
  - Assumes that reproduction of initial amounts implies good reproduction of future earnings
- Challenges
  - Keeping up-to-date with new plans
  - Managing and measuring model noise
  - Making auditors happy

# Cluster Modeling Diagram-Two Dimensions

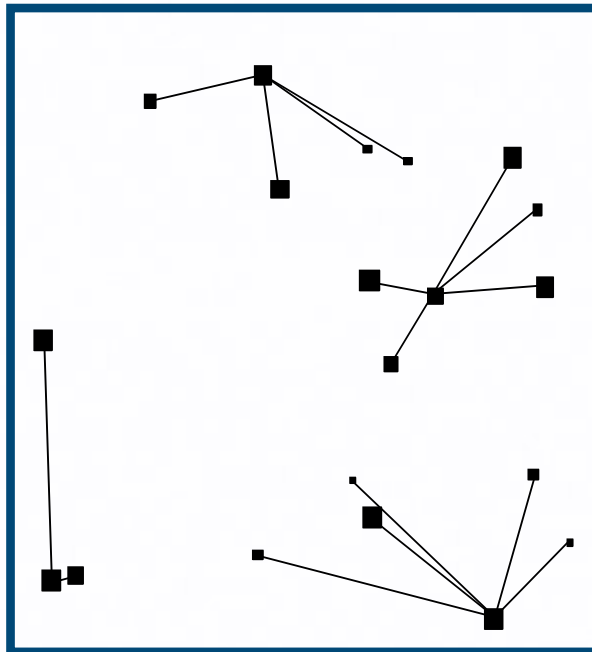
(Liability Example: Opening reserve and FY premium)

(Asset Example: Book/Par Ratio and Yield to Maturity)

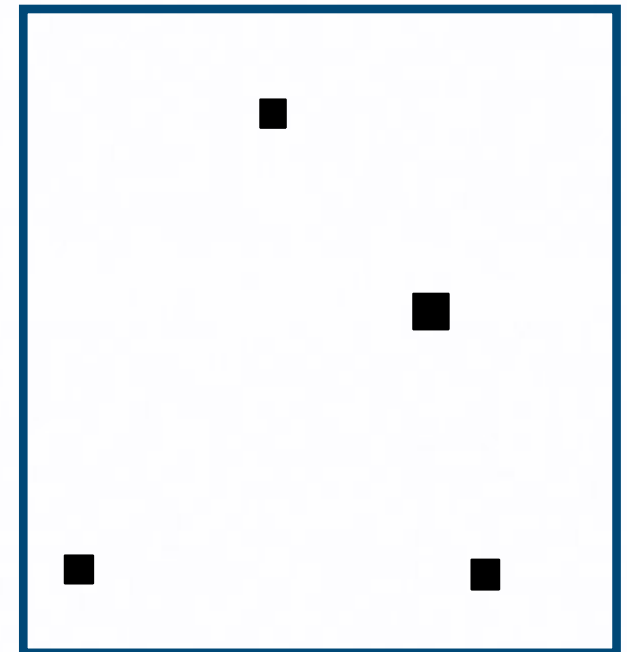
Two Dimensional Plot of Policies of Various Sizes



Assign Policies to Clusters



Gross up Central Points



# Cluster Modeling Eases Challenges

- Any product or asset type
- Better compression ratios for a given model-to-actual fit
- Easily automated with little upfront effort
- Maintained and applied in similar ways at later valuation dates
- Allows customization to place different priorities on different measures of model fit
- Can be applied to seriatim or modeled in-force
- Allows easy adjustment to the number of model points to produce more or less model granularity, depending on the application
- Allows easy on-the-fly analysis of model fit for differing levels of model granularity, without rerunning a model



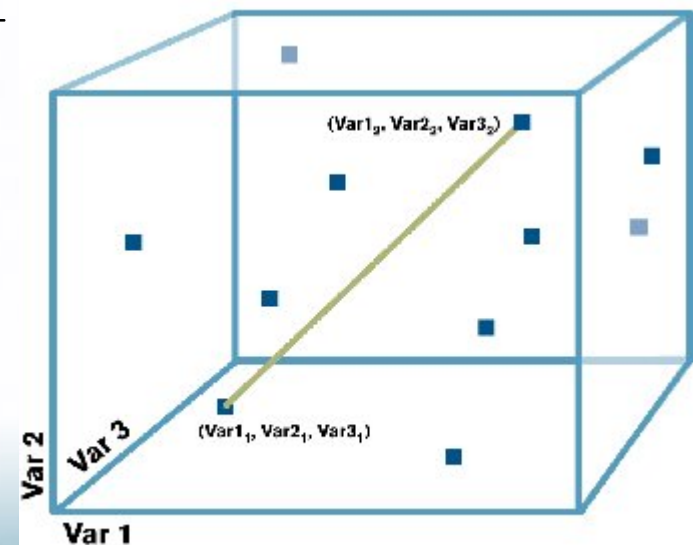
# Key Cluster Modeling Concepts

- *Location Variable*: Any value that you want the model to closely reproduce, e.g.,
  - Opening reserves or premiums in-force
  - First-year premiums
  - First-year claims
  - Net-liability cash flow in each of the first five years
  - Asset coupon rate
  - Book / Par ratio
  - Present value of profits
- Values may be normalized by dividing by sample standard deviation
- Users define the list of variables and capture their values in an inventory report

# Key Cluster Modeling Concepts

- *Distance Function*: A measure to show how “far away” any two policies or cusips are from each other in n-dimensional space
- Euclidean distance operating on normalized location-variable values, with each variable representing one spatial dimension
- May assign weights to scale up or down distances in certain dimensions to be consistent with importance of this dimension

$$\sqrt{(Var1_1 - Var1_2)^2 + (Var2_1 - Var2_2)^2 + (Var3_1 - Var3_2)^2}$$



# Key Cluster Modeling Concepts

- *Size*: One component of the *importance* of each policy
  - Typically face amount or units in-force
  - Might also be account value in-force, annuity benefit amount, or some other user-defined quantity
- $Importance = (Size) * (Distance\ to\ nearest\ neighbor)$

# Key Cluster Modeling Concepts

- *Segment*: A group that each policy belongs in, such that no policy will be mapped outside of its group
- LOB or asset class will always be a segment
- Can also be things like premium period, insurance period, GAAP era, reserve basis, issue year, or plan code
- Use of segments shrinks compression time and may improve model mapping results across other scenarios

# Cluster Modeling Algorithm

- Compute the distance of every policy from every other in its segment
- Compute the *Importance* of each policy as the product of (size) \* (distance to nearest neighbor) for each policy.
- Identify the policy with the least importance. Map it to its nearest neighbor within the same segment.
- Repeat until the desired number of cells is obtained
- For each resulting cluster, pick the point in the cluster that is closest to the average location of all cells in that cluster. Use this point to represent the cluster.
- Gross up or add up all in-force data associated with the destination cell
- Review model fit
- Refine location variables and weights as desired and repeat

# Case Study 1: A Life / Health Model

- 120,000 model points in original model
- Mix of traditional life and health products
- 200 model points in cluster “model of model”
- Liability focused—but could just as easily have been assets

# Case Study 1: Location Variables

- Initial reserve (weight 1)
- First projection year premiums (weight 1)
- First projection year claims (weight 1)
- PV of proxy profits (weight 8)
- PV of proxy profits through 10 projection years (weight 6)
- PV of proxy profits through 20 projection years (weight 6)

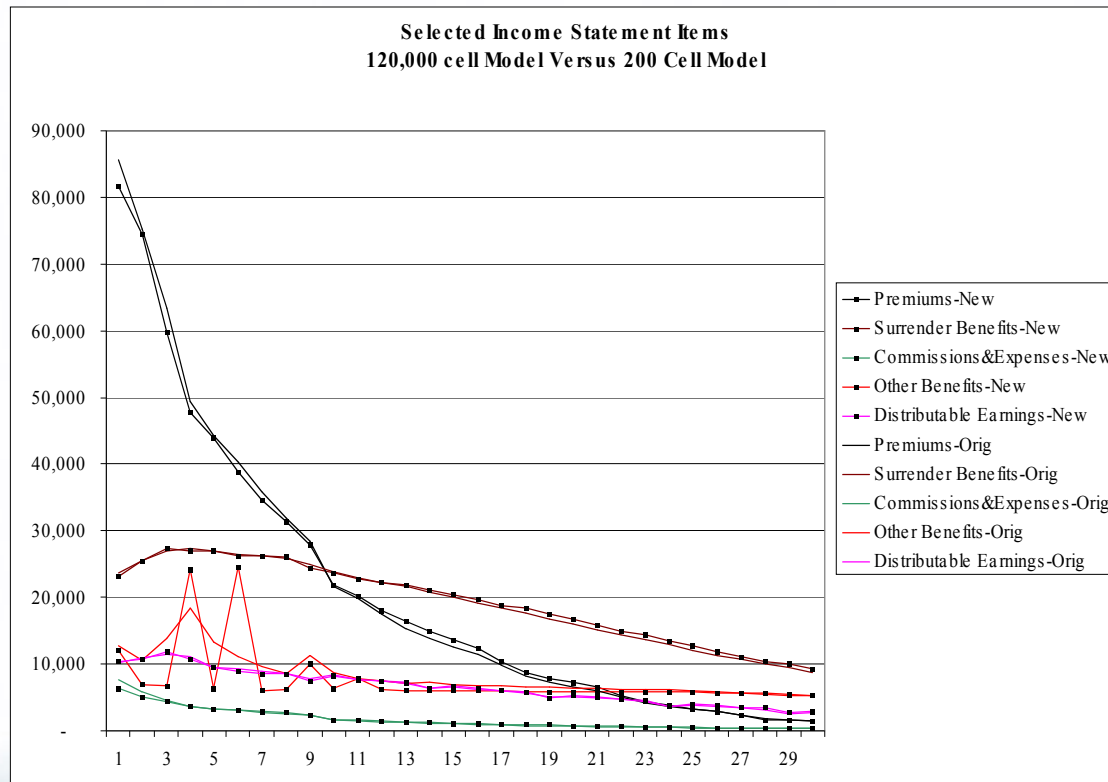
# Case Study 1: Results

	<b>Original</b>	<b>New</b>	<b>Difference</b>	<b>Ratio</b>
Initial Reserve	372,911	371,605	(1,306)	99.65%
First-Year Premiums	85,708	81,645	(4,063)	95.26%
First-Year Claims	36,485	35,162	(1,322)	96.38%
PV of Profits	154,467	154,444	(23)	99.99%
PV of Profits—10 years	77,808	77,634	(174)	99.78%
PV of Profits—20 years	119,924	120,001	77	100.06%



# Case Study 1: More Results

- Excellent match on profit and most income statement items
- Limited noise is related to timing of maturity benefits—with no material bottom line impact



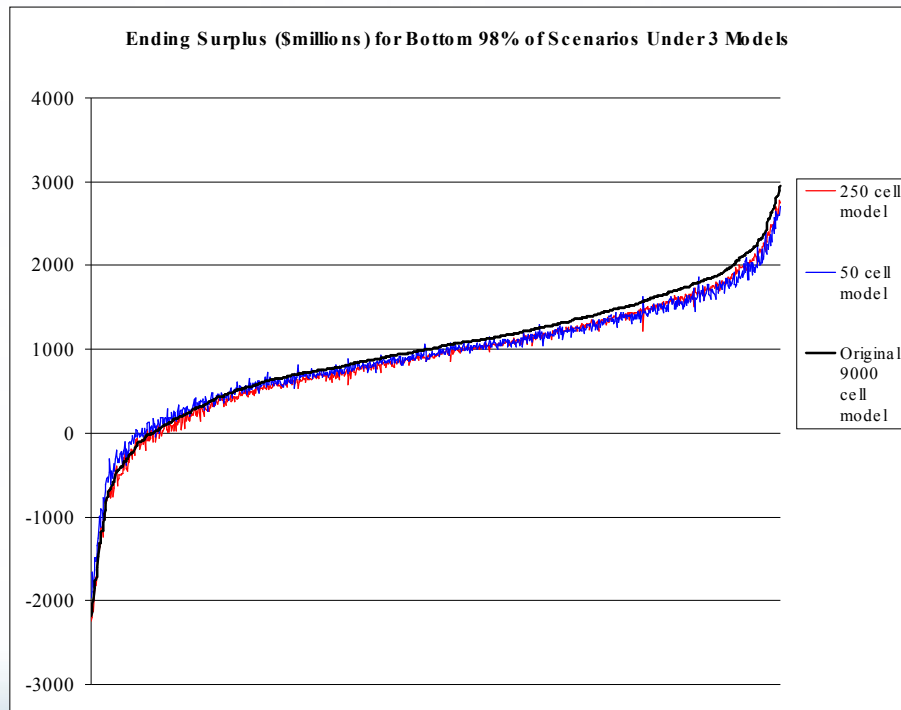
## Case Study 2: A Large Seriatim Term Model

- Only the base scenario is used for calibration
- Despite this, we have excellent model fit for other scenarios with 4000 to 1 compression!

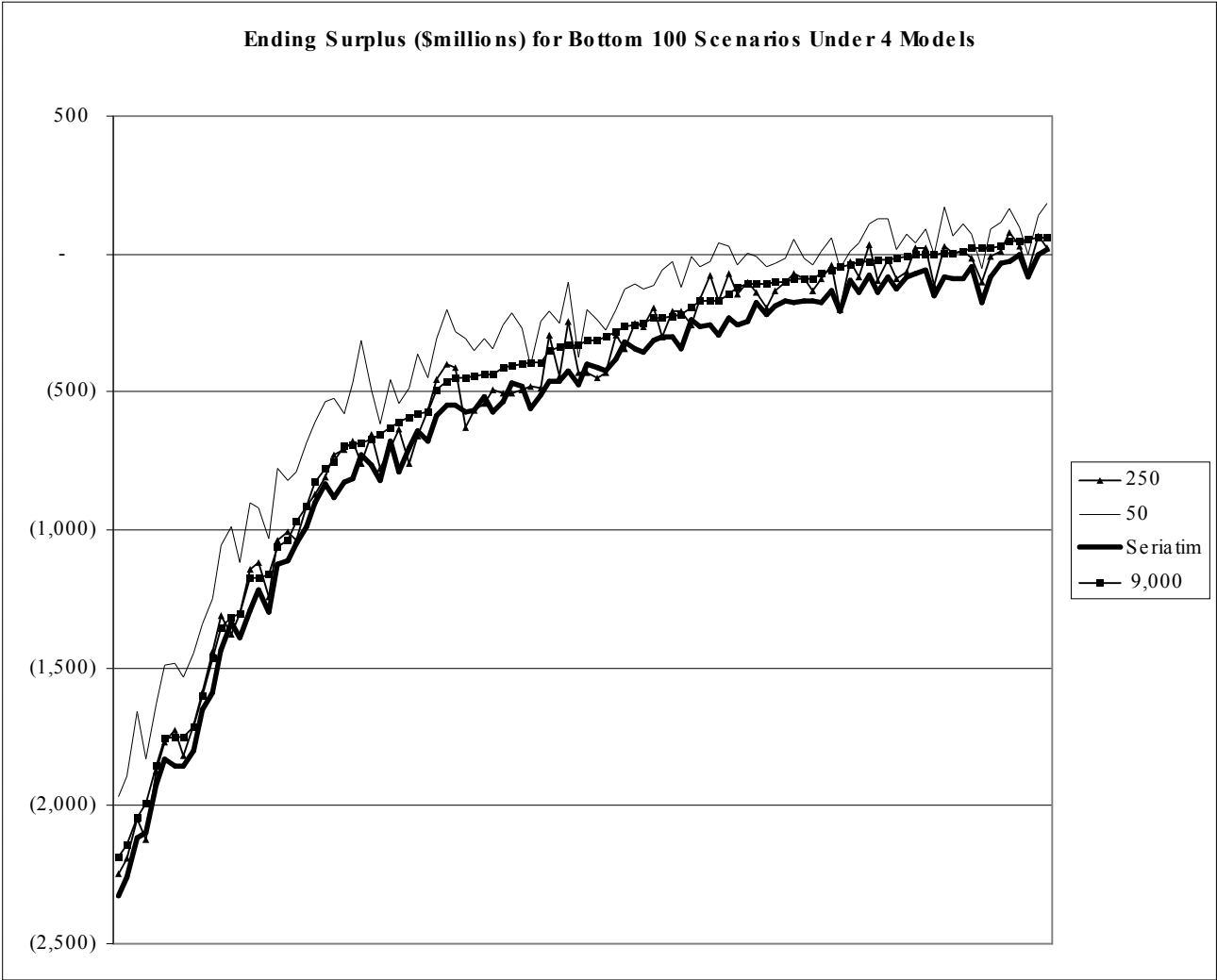
Scenario	300 Cell		Difference	Ratio
	Seriatim	Model		
Base	4,309	4,295	14	100.3%
Mortality*115%	3,649	3,651	(3)	99.9%
Mortality*85%	4,978	4,945	33	100.7%
Lapse*115%	3,714	3,685	29	100.8%
Lapse*85%	5,251	5,266	(15)	99.7%

# Case Study 3: A Variable Annuity Model

- 200,000 policies with GMDB, GMAB, GMWB, GMIB
- Original company classic model was 9,000 cells
- Excellent fit of cluster model to original model across scenarios, despite using only two scenarios for calibration

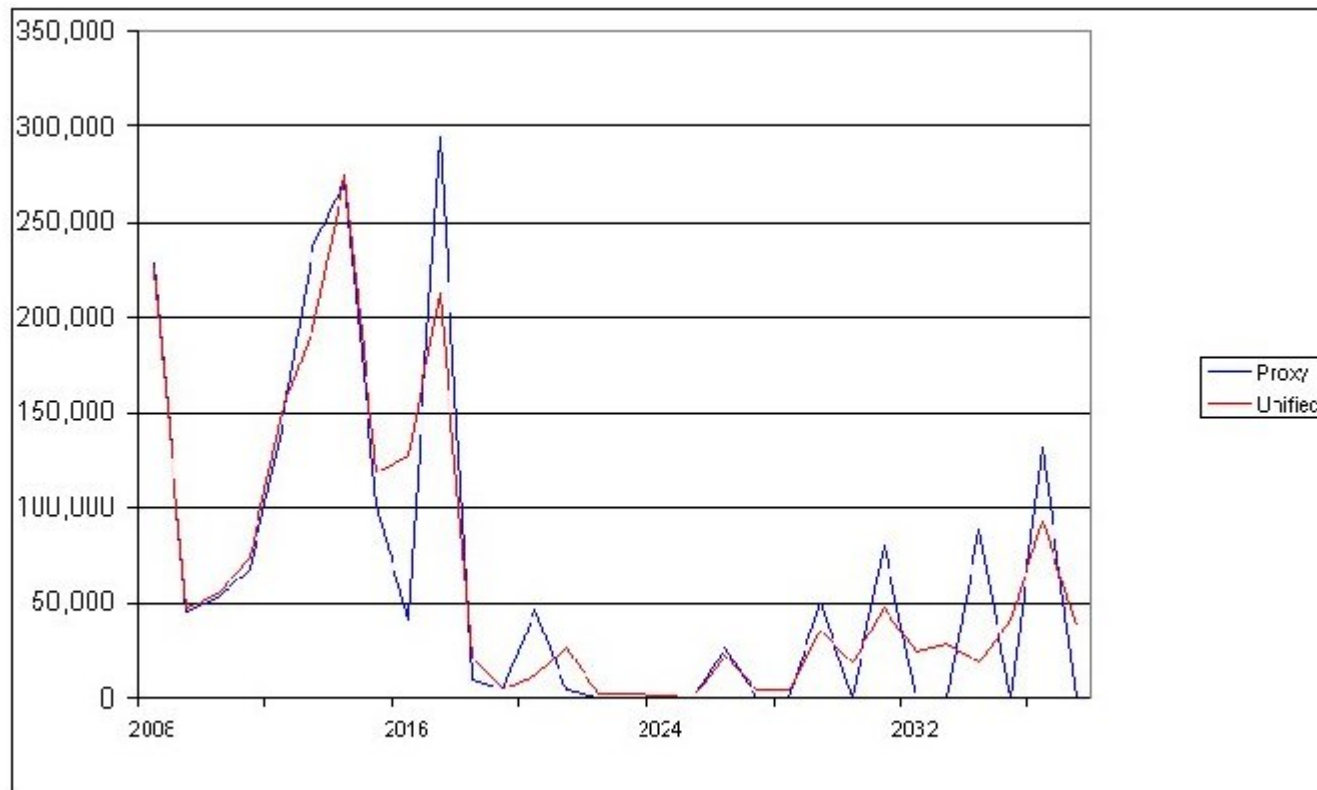


# Good Fit For Tail Analysis as Well



# Case Study 4: An Existing Asset Model

- First attempt. 8-1 compression on runoff MBS and Bonds

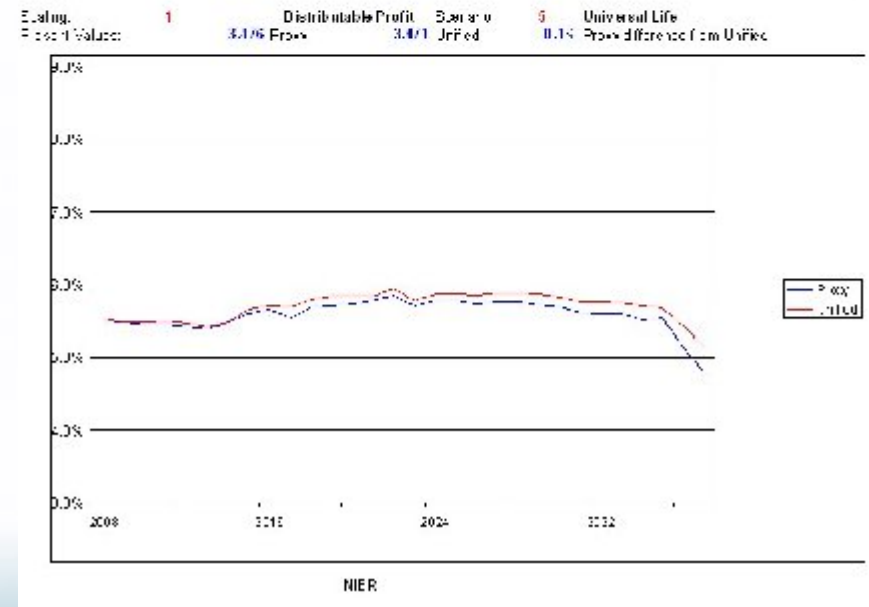
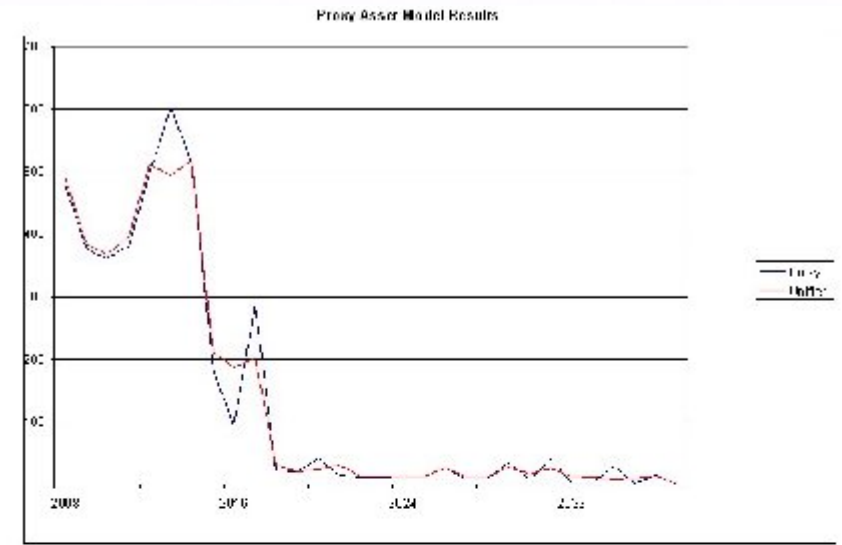


Scaling: **1,000** Principal Cash Flows Scenario 5 EEV-type projection: 30 yrs, annual

# Case Study 4: An Existing Asset Model

## Proxy Asset Model March 2008 Universal Life 1st Proxy Inforce

EEV08Q1 Stochastic Scenario	Present Value of Distributable Profits		Proxy diff from Unified	SSE as % of PVDP
	Proxy	Unified		
1	3,429	3,423	0.2%	0.7%
2	3,359	3,359	0.0%	0.7%
3	3,120	3,127	-0.2%	1.5%
4	3,616	3,595	0.6%	2.8%
5	3,476	3,471	0.1%	0.7%
6	3,310	3,308	0.1%	0.7%
7	3,545	3,541	0.1%	0.8%
98	3,619	3,602	0.5%	2.9%
99	2,730	2,752	-0.8%	1.0%
100	3,783	3,767	0.4%	2.3%
Averages	3,356	3,351	0.1%	1.2%
Max	3,813	3,799	1.1%	3.1%
Min	2,619	2,629	-0.8%	0.6%



# Next Key Development Steps

- Further validation
- Testing to determine optimal location variables and weights
- Extension to use for scenario reduction as well

# Implementation Steps

- Define location variables, calibration scenarios, and inventory reports
- Identify target number of cells and assign weights to calibration variables
- Identify validation criteria
- Implement compression
- Validate
- Refine as needed
- Works with MG-ALFA® or with data from other systems