

Fisheries example integrating FLR

GMSE: an R package for generalised management strategy evaluation (Supporting Information 5)

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Integration and simulation with fisheries

Early development of management strategy evaluation (MSE) models originated in fisheries (Polacheck et al., 1999; Smith et al., 1999; Sainsbury et al., 2000). Consequently, fisheries-focused software for MSE has been extensively developed, including R libraries that focus on the management of species of exceptional interest, such as the Atlantic Bluefin Tuna (*Thunnus thynnus*) (ABFTMSE; Carruthers and Butterworth, 2018a,b), and Indian Ocean Bigeye (*T. obesus*) and Yellowfin (*T. albacares*) Tuna (MSE-IO-BET-YFT; Kolody and Jumppanen, 2016). The largest of all such libraries is the Fisheries Library in R (FLR), which includes an extensive collection of tools targeted for fisheries science. The FLR library has been used in over a hundred publications (recent publications include Jardim et al., 2018; Mackinson et al., 2018; Utizi et al., 2018), and includes an MSE framework for evaluating different harvest control rules.

As part of the ConFooBio project, a central focus of GMSE is on simulating the management of animal populations of conservation interest, with a particular emphasis on understanding conservation conflict; further development of GMSE is expected to continue with this as a priority, further building upon the decision-making algorithms of managers and users to better understand how conflict arises and can be managed and mitigated. Hence, GMSE is not intended as a substitute for packages such as FLR, but the integration of these packages with GMSE could make use of GMSE's current and future simulation capabilities, and particularly the genetic algorithm. Such integration might be possible using the `gmse_apply` function, which allows for custom defined sub-models to be used within the GMSE framework, and with default GMSE sub-models. Hence, GMSE might be especially useful for modelling the management of fisheries under conditions of increasing competing stakeholder demands and conflicts. We do not attempt such an ambitious project here, but instead show how such a project could be developed through integration of FLR and `gmse_apply`.

Here we follow a Modelling Stock-Recruitment with FLSR example, then integrate this example with `gmse_apply` to explore the behaviour of a number of simulated fishers who are goal-driven to maximise their own harvest and a manager that aims to keep the fish stocks at a predefined target level. The core concept in GMSE is that manager can only incentivise fishers to harvest less or more by varying the cost of fishing (through e.g. taxes) given a set manager budget; please note that the manager cannot force the fisher to follow any policy. Based on the cost of fishing, the fisher can then given their own budget decide whether to invest in fishing or keep the budget. This concepts represents a natural resource management and conservation conflict, where one party aims to maximise their livelihood (fisher) and the other aims to keep a population at a sustainable level and prevent it from going extinct. Importantly, the manager does not have full control over fishers but can set policies to incentivise sustainable behaviour. We emphasise that this example is provided only as demonstration of how GMSE can potentially be integrated with already developed fisheries models, and is not intended to make recommendations for management in any population.

Integrating with the Fisheries Library in R (FLR)

The FLR toolset includes a series of packages, with several tutorials for using them. For simplicity, we focus on a model of stock recruitment to be used as the population model in `gmse_apply`. This population model will use sample data and one of the many available stock-recruitment models available in FLR, and a custom function will be written to return a single value for stock recruitment. Currently, `gmse_apply` requires that sub-models return subfunction results either as scalar values or data frames that are structured in the same way as GMSE sub-models. But interpretation of scalar values is left up to the user (e.g., population model results could be interpreted as abundance or biomass; manager policy could be interpreted as cost of harvesting or as total allowable catch). For simplicity, the observation (i.e., estimation) model will be the stock reported from the population model with error. The manager and user models, however, will employ the full power of the default GMSE functions to simulate management and user actions. We first show how a custom function can be made that applies the FLR toolset to a population model.

Modelling stock-recruitment for the population model

Here we closely follow a tutorial from the FLR project. To build the stock-recruitment model, the `FLCore` package is needed (Kell et al., 2007).

```
install.packages("FLCore", repos="http://flr-project.org/R");
```

To start, we need to read in the `FLCore` and `GMSE` libraries.

```
library(FLCore);
```

```
## Loading required package: lattice
```

```
## FLCore (Version 2.6.7, packaged: 2018-04-17 09:12:42 UTC)
```

```
library(GMSE);
```

For a simplified example in GMSE, we will simulate the process of stock recruitment over multiple time steps using an example stock-recruitment model. The stock-recruitment model describes the relationship between stock-recruitment and spawning stock biomass. The sample that we will work from is a recreation of the North Sea Herring (`nsher`) dataset available in the `FLCore` package (Kell et al., 2007). This data set includes recruitment and spawning stock biomass data between 1960 and 2004. First, we initialise an empty `FLSR` object and read in the recreated herring data files from GMSE, which contains recruitment (`rec.n`) and spawning stock biomass (`ssb.n`)

```
newFL <- FLSR(); # Initialises the empty FLSR object
data(nsher_data); # Called from GMSE library (not from FLCore)
```

The recruitment (`rec.n`) and spawning stock biomass (`ssb.n`) data need to be in the form of a vector, array, matrix to use them with `FLQuant`. We will convert `rec.n` and `ssb.n` into matrices.

```
rec.m      <- as.matrix(rec.n);
ssb.m      <- as.matrix(ssb.n);
```

We can then construct two `FLQuant` objects, specifying the relevant years and units.

```
Frec.m      <- FLQuant(rec.m, dimnames=list(age=1, year = 1960:2004));
Fssb.m      <- FLQuant(ssb.m, dimnames=list(age=1, year = 1960:2004));
Frec.m@units <- "10^3";
Fssb.m@units <- "t*10^3";
```

We then place the recruitment and spawning stock biomass data into the `FLSR` object that we created.

```
rec(newFL) <- Frec.m;
ssb(newFL) <- Fssb.m;
range(newFL) <- c(0, 1960, 0, 2004);
```

The FLCore package offers several stock-recruitment models. Here we use a Ricker model of stock recruitment (Ricker, 1954), and insert this model into the FLSR object below.

```
model(newFL) <- ricker();
```

Parameters for the Ricker stock-recruitment model can be estimated with maximum likelihood.

```
newFL <- fmle(newFL);
```

Diagnostic plots, identical to those of the modelling stock-recruitment tutorial for the nsher_ri example, are shown below. We note that these plots are made using the FLCore package, and are not produced by, nor available in, the GMSE package.

```
plot(newFL, cex = 0.7);
```

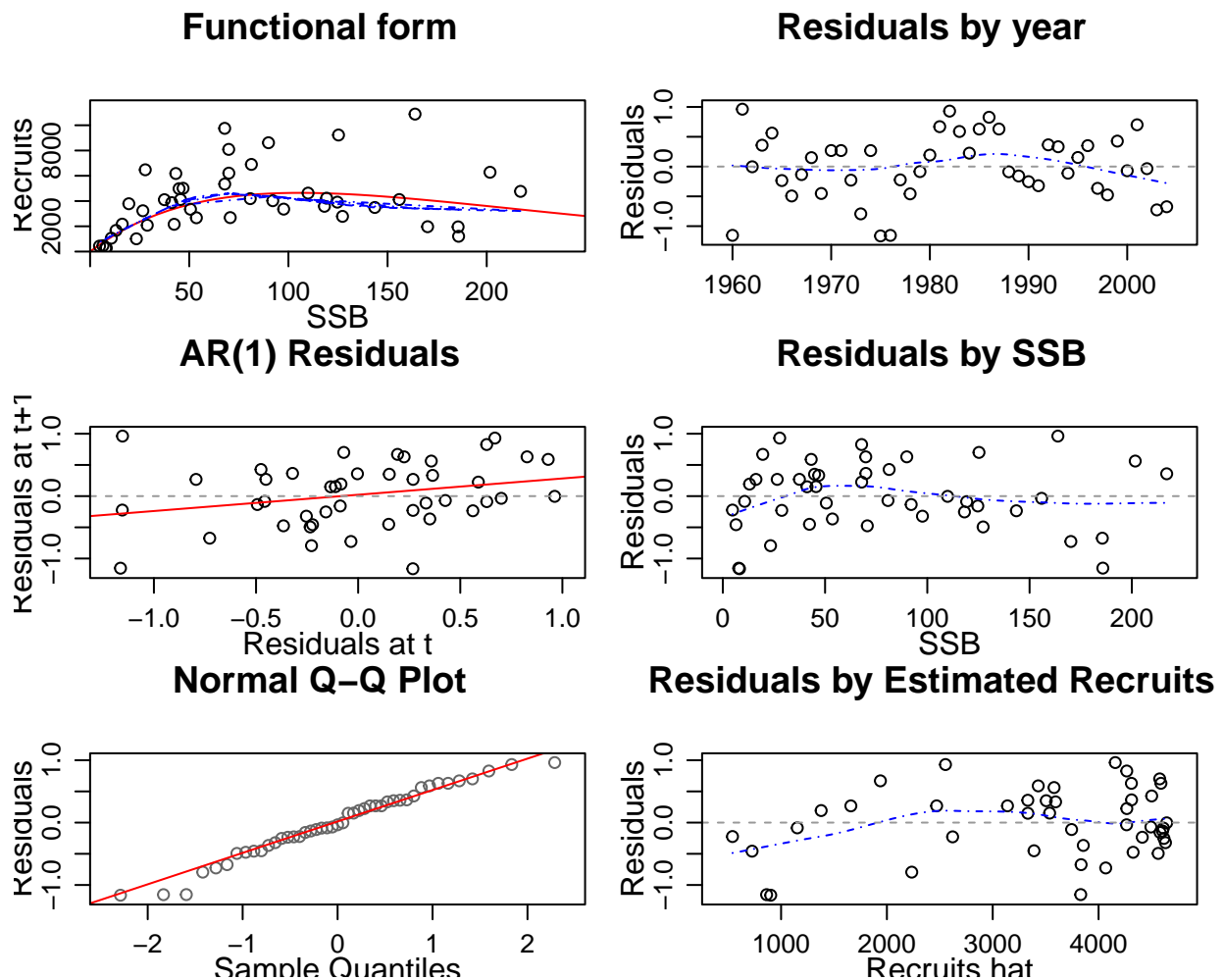


Figure 1: Output of the FLR plot function for an example Ricker model of stock recruitment on North Sea Herring data.

We now have a working example of a stock-recruitment model, but for our integration with gmse_apply, we will want a function that automates the above to simulate the process of updating the stock-recruitment

model. We do this using the custom function created below.

```
update_SR_model <- function(rec_m, ssb_m, years){
  Frec_m      <- FLQuant(rec_m, dimnames=list(age = 1, year = years));
  Fssb_m      <- FLQuant(ssb_m, dimnames=list(age = 1, year = years));
  Frec_m@units <- "10^3";
  Fssb_m@units <- "t*10^3";
  rec(newFL)   <- Frec_m;
  ssb(newFL)   <- Fssb_m;
  range(newFL) <- c(0, years[1], 0, years[length(years)]);
  model(newFL) <- ricker();
  newFL        <- fmle(newFL);
  return(newFL);
}
```

The above function will be used within another custom function to predict the next time step of recruitment.

```
predict_recruitment <- function(rec_m, ssb_m, years, new_ssb){
  newFL <- update_SR_model(rec_m, ssb_m, years);
  a      <- params(newFL)[[1]] # Extract 'a' parameter of the Ricker model
  b      <- params(newFL)[[2]] # Extract 'b' parameter of the Ricker model
  rec    <- a * new_ssb * exp(-b * new_ssb); # Predict the new recruitment
  return(rec)
}
```

In `gmse_apply`, we will use the `predict_recruitment` function above as the resource (i.e., operational) model. The `new_ssb` reads in the new spawning stock biomass, which will be calculated from the built-in GMSE user model.

Integrating `predict_recruitment` with `gmse_apply`

The `FLR` project includes libraries that can be used to perform a management strategy evaluation (MSE) under fisheries-focused observation, manager, and user models. We will not recreate this approach, or integrate any other sub-models into GMSE as was done for the population model above, although such integration of sub-models should be possible using similar techniques. Our goal here is to instead show how the `predict_recruitment` model created above can be integrated with `gmse_apply`, which can then make use of the genetic algorithm to predict the fishers' behaviour.

We will use a custom observation model, which will simply estimate recruitment with some fixed error.

```
obs_ssb <- function(resource_vector){
  obs_err <- rnorm(n = 1, mean = 0, sd = 100);
  the_obs <- resource_vector + obs_err;
  return(the_obs);
}
```

Hence, we can now feed the data from `rec.m` and `ssb.m` through `predict_recruitment`, which will return a value for new recruitment, and this new value can in turn be fed into `obs_ssb` to predict recruitment with some error. We also need a new spawning stock biomass `new_ssb`, which we can just initialise with the biomass from the last year in `ssb.m`

```
ssb_ini <- ssb.m[length(ssb.m)];
new_rec <- predict_recruitment(rec_m = rec.m, ssb_m = ssb.m, years = 1960:2004,
                              new_ssb = ssb_ini);
obs_rec <- obs_ssb(new_rec);
```

97 An initial run of these models gives values of 3835.21 for `new_rec` and 3830.89 for `obs_rec`. We are now ready
 98 to use the built-in manager and user sub-models in `gmse_apply`. We will assume that managers attempt to
 99 keep a recruitment of 5000, and that there are 10 independent fishers who attempt to maximise their catch.
 100 We assign a user budget of `manager_budget = 10000`, and all other values are set to GMSE defaults. In the
 101 built-in GMSE functions, the manager will use the estimate of recruitment based on `obs_rec` and use it to
 102 set the cost of harvesting (culling in GMSE).

```
yrspan      <- 1960:2004;
rec.m       <- as.matrix(rec.n);
ssb.m       <- as.matrix(ssb.n);

sim <- gmse_apply(res_mod = predict_recruitment, obs_mod = obs_ssb,
                  rec_m = rec.m, ssb_m = ssb.m, years = yrspan,
                  new_ssb = ssb_ini, manage_target = 5000, stakeholders = 10,
                  manager_budget = 10000);

print(sim);
```

```
103 ## $resource_results
104 ## [1] 3835
105 ##
106 ## $observation_results
107 ## [1] 3799.907
108 ##
109 ## $manager_results
110 ##           resource_type scaring culling castration feeding help_offspring
111 ## policy_1             1      NA    434           NA      NA           NA
112 ##
113 ## $user_results
114 ##           resource_type scaring culling castration feeding help_offspring
115 ## Manager              1      NA      0           NA      NA           NA
116 ## user_1                1      NA      2           NA      NA           NA
117 ## user_2                1      NA      2           NA      NA           NA
118 ## user_3                1      NA      2           NA      NA           NA
119 ## user_4                1      NA      2           NA      NA           NA
120 ## user_5                1      NA      2           NA      NA           NA
121 ## user_6                1      NA      2           NA      NA           NA
122 ## user_7                1      NA      2           NA      NA           NA
123 ## user_8                1      NA      2           NA      NA           NA
124 ## user_9                1      NA      2           NA      NA           NA
125 ## user_10              1      NA      2           NA      NA           NA
126 ##           tend_crops kill_crops
127 ## Manager            NA      NA
128 ## user_1             NA      NA
129 ## user_2             NA      NA
130 ## user_3             NA      NA
131 ## user_4             NA      NA
132 ## user_5             NA      NA
133 ## user_6             NA      NA
134 ## user_7             NA      NA
135 ## user_8             NA      NA
136 ## user_9             NA      NA
137 ## user_10            NA      NA
```

138 The resource and observation results above are interpreted in terms of recruitment, while the manager results
 139 are interpreted in terms of the cost of harvesting a unit of spawning stock biomass and the user results are

140 interpreted in terms of how much biomass was harvested. Note in the run of `gmse_apply` that the arguments
 141 for our custom resource and observation models (`predict_recruitment` and `obs_ssb`, respectively) are read
 142 directly in as arguments of `gmse_apply` itself. The `gmse_apply` function will figure out which subfunctions
 143 custom arguments should go to, then update these arguments as needed over the course of a single run of
 144 `gmse_apply`.

145 Simulation with `gmse_apply` over multiple time steps

146 We are now ready to loop the `gmse_apply` function over multiple time steps. To do this, we will update the
 147 `rec.m` and `ssb.m` matrices after each time step, simulating 20 years into the future. The population model
 148 `predict_recruitment` will use these data to dynamically update parameters of the Ricker model, as might
 149 occur in an empirical fishery that is being monitored. We will use the results from the observation model to
 150 update recruitment for the new year in `rec.m`. For simplicity, spawning stock biomass prior to harvest will
 151 be randomly sampled from a value in the last 10 years (i.e., from `ssb.m` between 1994 and 2004), but more
 152 realistic models could relate this spawning stock biomass to recruitment and environmental variables from a
 153 previous year; spawning stock biomass will be decreased after harvest based on user actions. The GMSE
 154 initialisation and simulation is below.

```
# This code initialises the simulation -----
yrspan      <- 1960:2004;
rec.m       <- as.matrix(rec.n);
ssb.m       <- as.matrix(ssb.n);
ssb_ini     <- ssb.m[length(ssb.m)];
sim_old     <- gmse_apply(res_mod = predict_recruitment, obs_mod = obs_ssb,
                          rec_m = rec.m, ssb_m = ssb.m, years = yrspan,
                          new_ssb = ssb_ini, manage_target = 3500,
                          stakeholders = 10, manager_budget = 10000,
                          get_res = "Full");

# The code below simulates 20 time steps -----
sim_sum <- matrix(data = NA, nrow = 20, ncol = 6); # Hold results here
for(time_step in 1:20){
  # Update the relevant parameter values as necessary -----
  rand_ssb      <- sample(x = ssb.m[35:45], size = 1);
  harvest       <- sum(sim_old$basic_output$user_results[,3]);
  new_rec_m     <- c(sim_old$rec_m, sim_old$observation_vector);
  new_ssb_m     <- c(sim_old$ssb_m, rand_ssb - harvest);
  sim_old$rec_m <- matrix(data = new_rec_m, nrow = 1);
  sim_old$ssb_m <- matrix(data = new_ssb_m, nrow = 1);
  sim_old$years <- c(sim_old$years, time_step + 2004);
  sim_old$new_ssb <- sim_old$ssb_m[length(sim_old$ssb_m)];
  # Run a new simulation in the loop: custom functions are always specified -
  sim_new <- gmse_apply(get_res = "Full", old_list = sim_old,
                        res_mod = predict_recruitment, obs_mod = obs_ssb);

  # Record the results in sim_sum -----
  sim_sum[time_step, 1] <- time_step + 2004;
  sim_sum[time_step, 2] <- sim_new$basic_output$resource_results[1];
  sim_sum[time_step, 3] <- sim_new$basic_output$observation_results[1];
  sim_sum[time_step, 4] <- sim_new$basic_output$manager_results[3];
  sim_sum[time_step, 5] <- harvest;
  sim_sum[time_step, 6] <- sim_new$new_ssb;
  # Redefine the old list -----
  sim_old      <- sim_new;
}
```

```
colnames(sim_sum) <- c("Year", "Recruitment", "Recruit_estim", "Harvest_cost",
                      "Harvested", "SSB");
print(sim_sum);
```

	##	Year	Recruitment	Recruit_estim	Harvest_cost	Harvested	SSB
155	##						
156	##	[1,]	2005	4491	4617.8046	220	20 135.9025
157	##	[2,]	2006	1146	1250.0754	697	40 10.6133
158	##	[3,]	2007	3303	3329.9932	883	10 40.6133
159	##	[4,]	2008	4328	4272.0185	223	10 70.7603
160	##	[5,]	2009	4541	4291.5710	228	40 130.1926
161	##	[6,]	2010	1146	1261.3994	688	40 10.6133
162	##	[7,]	2011	4208	4310.0029	229	10 160.1926
163	##	[8,]	2012	1146	1119.0459	693	40 10.6133
164	##	[9,]	2013	4328	4595.0339	214	10 70.7603
165	##	[10,]	2014	1427	1497.0687	679	40 13.5966
166	##	[11,]	2015	3988	4203.9828	200	10 175.5799
167	##	[12,]	2016	415	400.9187	696	50 3.5966
168	##	[13,]	2017	4629	4619.0916	232	10 115.2627
169	##	[14,]	2018	1146	1093.2634	697	40 10.6133
170	##	[15,]	2019	3303	3463.6476	867	10 40.6133
171	##	[16,]	2020	4629	4537.0339	215	10 115.2627
172	##	[17,]	2021	3310	3264.8933	689	40 40.7603
173	##	[18,]	2022	2994	2922.4478	908	10 34.8673
174	##	[19,]	2023	4208	4203.4756	198	10 160.1926
175	##	[20,]	2024	415	429.1337	680	50 3.5966

The above output from `sim_sum` reports the recruitment (resource or operational model), recruitment estimate (observation error model), management set harvest cost (harvest control model), user harvested numbers (implementation model) and spawning stock biomass (SSB) simulation results. This example simulation demonstrates the ability of GMSE to integrate with fisheries libraries such as [FLR](#) through `gmse_apply`. In addition to being a useful wrapping function for MSE sub-models, `gmse_apply` can therefore be used to take advantage of the genetic algorithm in the GMSE default manager and user models. This flexibility will be retained in future versions of `gmse_apply`, allowing custom resource and observation models that are built for specific systems to be integrated with an increasingly complex genetic algorithm simulating various aspects of human decision-making.

Conclusions

GMSE is a general, flexible, tool for simulating the management of resources under situations of uncertainty and conflict. Management Strategy Evaluation ([Bunnefeld et al., 2011](#); [Punt et al., 2016](#)), the framework upon which GMSE is based, had its origin in fisheries management ([Polacheck et al., 1999](#); [Smith et al., 1999](#); [Sainsbury et al., 2000](#)), and here we showed one example of how GMSE could be integrated with the core package of the [Fisheries Library in R](#).

Future versions of GMSE will continue to be open-source and developed to avoid unnecessary dependencies (GMSE v.0.4.0.3 requires only base R). Key goals including (1) providing highly general and useful default `resource`, `observation`, `manager`, and `user` sub-models for a variety of MSE modelling tasks, (2) keeping these sub-models highly modular so that they can be developed in isolation given standardised data structures, and (3) allowing these modular sub-models to be integrated with custom defined sub-models as flexibly as possible using `gmse_apply`. Contributions in line with these goals, and suggestions for new features, can be made on [GitHub](#).

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