

# THE IBM User Manual

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## 1. Introduction

THE IBM is a project I am currently working on during my PhD and I hope that it will be useful to some one out in the wide world. THE IBM is a program that simulates a generalised agent based model that allows a great deal of choice in specifying agent dynamics i.e spatial resolution, timing of events and model outputs. THE IBM is designed for flexibility and is spatially explicit. The term Individual in this document also means agent or super individual. A modelled entity (an agent) can represent many entities with identical characteristics. Unfortunately I have used these terms interchangeably through out this document and the code. I am hoping to tidy this up for consistency in the future, apologies if this adds confusion.

THE IBM may not be as fast as specific Individual based models as generality usually comes at a cost of computational speed, but I hope that this program is fast enough to do most tasks the users desire. The bonus in generality is if it gets uptake in the community you can have a little more faith in the underlying dynamics, also because of the syntax and error handling it should be easy to set up models than it would be to code your own (always pros and cons).

The time period and annual cycle of THE IBM is completely defined by the user. It can simulate many different user defined quantities, for example removals-at-length or -age from an anthropogenic or exploitation event (e.g. fishery or other human impact), scientific survey and other biomass indices, and mark-recapture data.

The real power of THE IBM I hope will be when it used in management strategy evaluation and population assessment model investigation.

### 1.1. Where to get THE IBM

THE IBM source code is hosted on github, and can be found at <https://github.com/Craig44/IBM>.

Currently you can either compile the code using the BuildSystem, or download a pre-compiled version from <https://github.com/Craig44/IBM/releases>. This repository is self contained with all the required thirdparty libraries and has been developed for ease of compilation (it is very easy see the github page for information).

### 1.2. System requirements

THE IBM is available for most IBM compatible machines running 64-bit Linux and Microsoft Windows operating systems, unfortunately Mac has not been tested.

Several of THE IBM's tasks are highly computer intensive and a fast processor is recommended. Depending on the model implemented, some of the THE IBM tasks can take a considerable amount of processing time.

The program itself can require anywhere from a few gigs to 10's of gigs of hard-disk space, depending on the size and complexity of the model. Output files can also consume large amounts of disk space. Depending on the number and type of user output requests, the output could range from a few hundred kilobytes to several hundred megabytes. Several hundred megabytes of RAM may be required, depending on the spatial size of the model, number of agents, and complexity of processes and observations. For extremely large models, several gigabytes of RAM may occasionally be required.

### 1.3. Necessary files

For both 64-bit Linux and Microsoft Windows, only the binary executable `ibm` or `ibm.exe` is required to run THE IBM.

THE IBM comes with an **R** (R Core Team, 2014) package to assist in the post processing of THE IBM output. We provide the `ibm` **R** package for importing the THE IBM output into **R** (see Section 12).

### 1.4. Getting help

THE IBM is distributed as 'officially' unsupported software although I am always happy to help any user who wants to give this a crack. The Development Team would appreciate being notified of any problems or errors in THE IBM, please use the github page to post issues, see Section 14.2 for the recommended template for reporting issues.

### 1.5. Technical details

THE IBM was compiled on Linux using `gcc` (<http://gcc.gnu.org>), the C/C++ compiler developed by the GNU Project (<http://gcc.gnu.org>). **note** this program uses OpenMP which is an option that you should tick if you want to compile the code. The 64-bit Linux version was compiled using `gcc` version 5.1.0 20151010 Ubuntu Linux (<http://www.ubuntu.com/>). The Microsoft Windows (<http://www.microsoft.com>) version was compiled using MingW (<http://www.mingw.org>) `gcc (tdm64-1) 5.1.0` (<http://gcc.gnu.org>). The Microsoft Windows(<http://www.microsoft.com>) installer was built using the Inno Setup 5 (<http://www.jrsoftware.org/isdl.php>).

The random number generator used by THE IBM uses an implementation of the Mersenne twister random number generator (Matsumoto and Nishimura, 1998). This, the command line functionality, matrix operations, and a number of other functions use the BOOST C++ library (Version 1.58.0). The threading capabilities are done using [OpenMP library]

### 1.6. The future for THE IBM

I still have 2.5 years of my PhD to go so I am hoping to maintain and continue development during that period. Things that are not in the Beta version that would be great to add one day (The dream-list)

- Make it faster...
- ~~Add multiple fisheries at the same time, often we have multiple fleets fishing e.g trawler and long-liners, currently we can have multiple fishing events but they do not occur simultaneously. This would have issues on data generation because the order of operations would be important and would get a bit fidgety.~~
- test on a high performance computer (HPC) to see the capabilities if a user has access to this. how spatial can we go if we have threads of cores available, it would be cool to have 1000x1000 model. or alternatively use the threads in another space such as run multiple species in parallel and synchronise threads when they interact.

- see it used in practice other than by my self, I am hoping that this could be used as a management strategy evaluation (MSE) tool. This has the ability to test management actions on a large scale such as test structural uncertainty in our models for MSE. Include the possible effects of climate change in the future etc



## 2. Model overview

### 2.1. Introduction

THE IBM is run from the console window in Microsoft Windows or from a terminal window in Linux. THE IBM gets its information from input configuration files, the default file THE IBM will look for is *config.ibm*, although you can override this using the `-c` command line parameter (See Section 3.4). Commands and subcommands in the input configuration file are used to define the model structure, provide observations, define parameters, and define the outputs (reports) for THE IBM. Command line switches tell THE IBM the run mode and where to direct its output. See Section 3 for details.

We define the model in terms of the *state*. The state consists of a few key components the agents that collectively make up the *partition*, and any *derived quantities* and the spatial resolution. The state will typically change in each *time-step* of every year, depending on the *processes* defined for those time-steps in the model.

### 2.2. The population section

This section discusses how to set up the process model, which controls how agents move, die and get created through out the model time frame. It also give details on what each process does and how the syntax looks in a configuration file.

### 2.3. The observation section

This section talks about what observations THE IBM can create and then simulate from. This give likelihood information and syntax examples.

### 2.4. The report section

This section discusses how to print output from the model, no reports are printed by default so it is important that you look at this section.





### 3. Running THE IBM

THE IBM is run from the console window (i.e., the command line) on Microsoft Windows or from a terminal window on Linux. THE IBM uses information from input data files – the *input configuration file* being the key file.

The input configuration file is compulsory and defines the model structure, processes, observations, parameters, and the reports (outputs) requested. The following sections describe how to construct the THE IBM configuration file. By convention, the name of the input configuration file ends with the suffix `.ibm`. However, any file name is acceptable. Note that the input configuration file can ‘include’ other files as a part of its syntax. Collectively, these are called the input configuration file.

Other input files can, in some circumstances, be supplied depending on what is required. For example adding additional layers so you do not clutter a single file and improve readability.

#### 3.1. Using THE IBM

To use THE IBM, open a console (i.e. the command prompt) window (Microsoft Windows) or a terminal window (Linux). Navigate to a directory of your choice, where your input configuration files are located. Then enter `ibm` with any arguments (see Section 3.4 for the the list of possible arguments) to start your THE IBM job running. THE IBM will print output to the screen and return you to the command prompt when the job has completed. Note that the THE IBM executable (binary) and shared libraries (extension `.dll`) must be either in the same directory as the input configuration files or in your systems `PATH`. The THE IBM installer (**doesn’t exist yet**) should update your path on Windows in any case, but see your operating system documentation for help identifying or modifying your `PATH`.

#### 3.2. The input configuration file

It is advised to view input configuration files, using Text Pad 8 (<https://www.textpad.com/download/>). We provide a syntax highlighter for this program which can be found in the Documentation/UserManual called `ibm.syn`, this makes viewing input configuration files a lot easier.

The input configuration file is made up of three broad sections; the description of the population structure and parameters (the population section), the observations and their associated likelihoods (the observation section), and the outputs and reports that THE IBM will return (the report section). The input configuration file is made up of a number of commands (many with subcommands) which specify various options for each of these components.

The command and subcommand definitions in the input configuration file can be extensive (especially when you have a model that has many observations), and can result in a input configuration file that is long and difficult to navigate. To aid readability and flexibility, we can use the input configuration file command `!include file` (e.g. Figure 3.1). The command causes an external file, *file*, to be read and processed, exactly as if its contents had been inserted in the main input configuration file at that point. The file name must be a complete file name with extension, but can use either a relative or absolute path as part of its name. Note that included files can also contain `!include` commands. See Section 11 for more detail. I often use the file extension name `.ibm` to help me identify files associated with this program, and also to associate syntax highlighters to ease

readability. You do not have to do this, you can name your files `.txt`, `.afile` or whatever

```
1 !include "population.ibm"
2 !include observation.ibm
3 !include "../Estimation.ibm"
```

**Figure 3.1:** Example of using the input configuration file command `!include file`.

### 3.3. Redirecting standard output

THE IBM uses the standard output stream to display run-time information. The standard error stream is used by THE IBM to output the program exit status and run-time errors. We suggest redirecting both the standard output and standard error into files. With the bash shell (on Linux systems), you can do this using the command structure,

```
(ibm [arguments] > out) >& err &
```

It may be useful to redirect the standard input, especially if you're using THE IBM inside a batch job software, i.e.

```
(ibm [arguments] > out < /dev/null) >& err &
```

On Microsoft Windows systems, you can redirect to standard output using,

```
ibm [arguments] > out
```

e.g.

```
ibm -r > out
```

And, on some Microsoft Windows systems (e.g., Windows10), you can redirect to both standard output and standard error, using the syntax,

```
ibm [arguments] > out 2> err
```

Note that THE IBM outputs a few lines of header information to the output (e.g. Figure ??). The header consists of the program name and version, the arguments passed to THE IBM from the command line, the date and time that the program was called (derived from the system time), the user name, and the machine name (including the operating system and the process identification number). These can be used to track outputs as well as identifying the version of THE IBM used to run the model.

### 3.4. Command line arguments

The call to THE IBM is of the following form:

```
ibm[-c config_file] [task] [options]
```

where,

**-c *config\_file*** Define the input configuration file for THE IBM (if omitted, THE IBM looks for a file named `config.ibm`)

and where *task* must be one of the following ([] indicates a secondary label to call the task, e.g. **-h** will execute the same task as **--help**),

**-h [--help]** Display help (this page)

**-l [--licence]** Display the reference for the software license (GPL v2)

**-s [--simulation] *number*** for a single set of parameters generate *n* number of simulated observations.

**-i [--input] *file\_name*** an input file-name where users can update/overwrite parameters in the system

**-v [--version]** Display the THE IBM version number

**-r [--run]** Run the model once using the parameter values in the input configuration file, or optionally, with the values from the file denoted with the command line argument **-i *file***

and where the following optional arguments [*options*] may be specified,

**-g [--seed] *seed*** Seed the random number generator with *seed*, a positive (long) integer value (note, if **-g** is not specified, then THE IBM will generate a random number seed based on the computer clock time)

**--loglevel** *arg* = {trace, finest, fine, medium} (see Section 7)

### 3.5. Constructing the THE IBM input configuration files

The model definition, parameters, observations, and reports are specified in input configuration files:

Population input (Section 4) specifies the model structure, population dynamics, and other associated parameters;

Observation input (Section 6) contains all the observations data available to the model and describes how the observed values should be formatted, how THE IBM calculates the expected values, and the likelihoods available for each type of observation; and

Report input (Section 7) specifies any output required.

The command and subcommand syntax to be used in each of these configuration files are listed in Sections 8 (Population), 9 (Observation) and 10 (Report).

#### 3.5.1. Commands

THE IBM has a range of commands that define the model structure, processes, observations, and how tasks are carried out. There are three types of commands,

1. Commands that have an argument and do not have subcommands (for example, `!include file`)
2. Commands that have a label and subcommands (for example `@process` must have a label, and has subcommands)
3. Commands that do not have either a label or argument, but have subcommands (for example `@model`)

Commands that have a label must have a unique label, i.e., the label cannot be used on more than one command of that type. The labels can contain alpha numeric characters, period ('.'), underscore ('\_') and dash ('-'). Labels must not contain white-space, or other characters that are not letters, numbers, dash, period or an underscore. For example,

```
@process NaturalMortality
or
!include MyModelSpecification.csl2
```

### 3.5.2. Subcommands

THE IBM subcommands are used for defining options and parameter values related to a particular command. Subcommands always take an argument which is one of a specific *type*. The argument *types* acceptable for each subcommand are defined in Section 11, and are summarised below.

Like commands (`@command`), subcommands and their arguments are not order specific — except that that all subcommands of a given command must appear before the next `@command` block. THE IBM may report an error if they are not supplied in this way. However, in some circumstances a different order may result in a valid, but unintended set of actions, leading to possible errors in your expected results.

The argument type for a subcommand can be either:

<b>switch</b>	true/false
<b>integer</b>	an integer number,
<b>integer vector</b>	a vector of integer numbers,
<b>integer range</b>	a range of integer numbers separated by a colon, e.g. 1994:1996 is expanded to an integer vector of values (1994 1995 1996),
<b>constant</b>	a real number (i.e. double),
<b>real vector</b>	a vector of real numbers (i.e. vector of doubles),
<b>real</b>	a real number that can be estimated (i.e. float),
<b>addressable</b>	a real number that can be referenced but not estimated (i.e. addressable double),
<b>addressable vector</b>	a vector of real numbers that can be referenced but not estimated (i.e. vector of addressable doubles),
<b>string</b>	a categorical (string) value, or
<b>string vector</b>	a vector of categorical values.

Switches are parameters which are either true or false. Enter *true* as `true` or `t`, and *false* as `false` or `f`.

Integers must be entered as integers (i.e., if `year` is an integer then use 2008, not 2008.0)

Arguments of type integer vector, integer range, constant vector, real vector, addressable vector, or categorical vector must contain one or more entries on a row, separated by white space (tabs or spaces).

Note that parameters defined as addressable with the subcommand type `addressable` or `addressable vector` are usually derived IBM and are not directly estimable. As such, they can be acted upon by the model (e.g. called by various processes; have priors and/or penalties assigned to them), but they do not directly contribute to any estimation within the model

### 3.5.3. The command-block format

Each command-block consists of a single command (starting with the symbol `@`) and, for most commands, a unique label or an argument. Each command is then followed by its subcommands and their arguments, e.g.,

<code>@command, or</code>	<code>@command argument, or</code>	<code>@command label</code>
<code>subcommand argument</code>	<code>subcommand argument</code>	<code>subcommand argument</code>
<code>subcommand argument</code>	<code>subcommand argument</code>	<code>subcommand argument</code>
<code>.</code>	<code>.</code>	<code>.</code>
<code>.</code>	<code>.</code>	<code>.</code>
<code>etc.</code>	<code>etc.</code>	<code>etc.</code>

Blank lines are ignored, as is extra white space (i.e., tabs and spaces) between arguments. However, to start command block the `@` character must be the first character on the line and must not be preceded by any white space. Each input file must end with a carriage return.

There is no need to mark the end of a command block. This is automatically recognized by either the end of the file, section, or the start of the next command block (which is marked by the `@` on the first character of a line). Note, however, that the `!include` is the only exception to this rule (see Section 11 for details of the use of `!include`).

Commands, sub-commands and arguments in the input configuration files are not case sensitive. Labels and variable values are case sensitive. Also, on a Linux system, external calls to files are case sensitive (i.e., when using `!include file`, the argument `file` will be case sensitive).

### 3.5.4. Commenting out lines

Text on a line that follows an `#` is considered to be a comment and is ignored. To comment out a group of commands or subcommands, use a `#` at the beginning of each line to be ignored.

Alternatively, to comment out an entire block or section place a `/*` as the first character on the line to start the comment block, then end it with `*/`. All lines (including line breaks) between `/*` and `*/` inclusive are ignored.

```
# This is a comment and will be ignored
@process NaturalMortality
m 0.2
/*
This block of code
is a comment and
will be ignored
*/
```

### 3.5.5. Determining THE IBM parameter names

When THE IBM processes an input configuration file it translates each command block and each subcommand block into a unique THE IBM object, each with a unique parameter name. For commands, this parameter name is simply the command label. For subcommands, the parameter name format is either:

`command[label].subcommand` if the command has a label, or

`command.subcommand` if the command has no label, or

`command[label].subcommand{i}` if the command has a label and the subcommand arguments are a vector, and we are accessing the  $i$ th element of that vector.

`command[label].subcommand{i:j}` if the command has a label, and the subcommand arguments are a vector, and we are accessing the elements from  $i$  to  $j$  (inclusive) of that vector.

The unique parameter name is used to reference that unique parameter when, for example, estimating, applying a penalty, projecting, time varying or applying a profile. For example, the parameter name of the Natural mortality rates subcommand `m` of the command `@process` with the label `NaturalMortality` is category related and so, the syntax to reference all `m` related categories is,

`process[NaturalMortality].m`

Or, the syntax to specify a single category for which to apply the natural mortality process is,

`process[NaturalMortality].m`

All labels (parameter names) are user specified. As such, naming conventions are non-restrictive and can be model specific.

### 3.6. THE IBM exit status values

Whether THE IBM completes its task successfully or errors out gracefully, it returns a single exit status value 'completed' to the standard output. Error messages will be printed to the console. When configuration errors are found THE IBM will print error messages, along with the associated files and line numbers where the errors were identified, for example,

```
#1: At line 15 in Reports.ibm: Parameter '{' is not supported
```

## 4. The population section

### 4.1. Introduction

The population section (Section 4) specifies the dynamics that occur to agents in a population over time. They are labelled as population level processes such as death, birth, migration and growth but all occur at an agent level. For each process we will define the algorithm and mathematical representation and an example of the syntax for how you would incorporate in your own model. This section also discusses how to define the temporal and spatial resolution, which are completely user defined albeit some are computationally limited.

The population section consists of several components, including:

- The spatial structure (Section 4.2);
- The population structure;
- Model initialisation (i.e., the state of the partition at the start of the first year);
- The years over which the model runs (i.e., the start and end years of the model)
- The annual cycle (time-steps and processes that are applied in each time-step);
- The specification and parameters of the population processes (i.e., processes that add, remove individuals to or from the partition, or shift numbers between ages areas);
- Selectivities;
- Layers (used by processes, observations and reports) and their definitions
- Parameter values and their definitions; and
- Derived quantities, required as parameters for some processes (e.g. mature biomass to resolve any density dependent processes, such as the spawner-recruit relationship in a recruitment process).

### 4.2. Spatial structure

The spatial structure of THE IBM is represented by an  $n_{rows} \times n_{cols}$  grid, with rows  $i = 1 \dots n_{rows}$  and columns  $j = 1 \dots n_{cols}$ . Each cell of this matrix records the population structure at that point in space, where the population structure is represented by a vector of agents. Locations where agents can and cannot potentially be present using a *layer*.

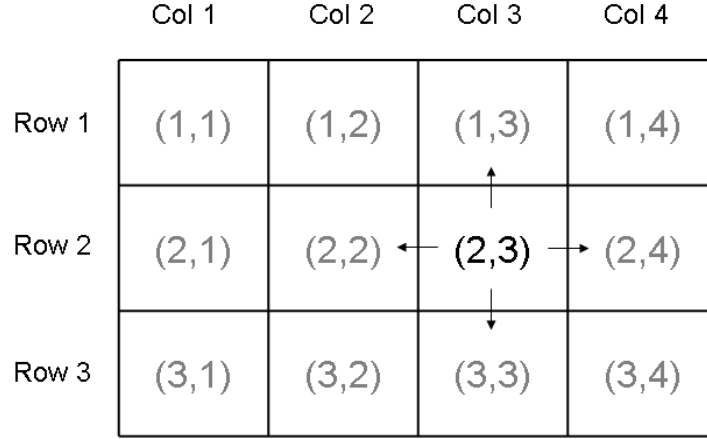
THE IBM implements a single spatial structure, a grid of *square* cells (Figure 4.1). The spatial grid can be of an arbitrary size, but must be rectangular.

The dimensions of the spatial grid are user defined but must be at least a  $1 \times 1$  grid (i.e., a single spatial cell), and the largest spatial structure currently allowed by THE IBM is a grid of  $1000 \times 1000$  cells – although we note that models of this size are untested and will probably have very long run times.

Associated with the  $n_{rows} \times n_{cols}$  spatial structure is the one compulsory layer (see Section 4.5), the *base layer*. This defines the locations where agents can and cannot be present (e.g., in a marine model, the locations associated with the sea and not land). These are defined as the cells where the base layer has a value greater than zero. There must be at least one cell in the spatial grid where the

population can be present. In addition, the base layer also defines the relative *area* of each spatial cell that is used for density calculations within THE IBM.

	Col 1	Col 2	Col 3	Col 4
Row 1	(1,1)	(1,2)	(1,3)	(1,4)
Row 2	(2,1)	(2,2)	(2,3)	(2,4)
Row 3	(3,1)	(3,2)	(3,3)	(3,4)



**Figure 4.1: An illustration of the spatial structure**

Models are implemented as a grid of square cells making up a rectangular matrix.

Hence, the definition of the spatial structure includes;

- The type of spatial grid and its dimensions,  $n_{rows}$  and  $n_{cols}$
- The label of a numeric layer to be used as the base layer (defining the locations where the population can be present as well as the area of each cell)

For example, to specify a model with 3 rows and 4 columns (i.e., 12 spatial cells) with a base layer called `base`, then the syntax for `@model` would include,

```
@model
nrows 3
ncols 4
layer base
```

See Section 4.5 for how to define a layer using `@layer`. Some processes reports require the user to define latitude and longitude bounds for cells. As they are cell bounds the model expects one more bound than rows or columns. The format of latitude and longitude are 0-180 and 0-360, respectively.

### 4.3. Population structure

The basic structure of the population section of a THE IBM model is defined in terms of an annual cycle, time steps, states, and transitions.

The annual cycle defines what processes happen in each model year, and in what sequence. THE IBM runs on an annual cycle rather than, for example, a 6-monthly cycle.

Each year is split into one or more time steps, with at least one process occurring in each time step. Each time step can be thought of as representing a particular part of the calendar year, or time steps can be treated as an abstract sequence of events. In every time step, there exists a mortality



block: a group of consecutive mortality-based processes, where individuals are deleted from the population (see Section 4.6.2). This is an important concept to understand as derived quantities and some observations are associated with mortality blocks.

The division of the year into an arbitrary number of time steps allows the user to specify the exact order in which processes and observations occur throughout the year. The user needs to specify the time step in which each process occurs. If more than one process occurs in the same time step, the order in which to apply each process is specified in the `@time_step` block.

The state is the current status of the population which is made of a collection of agents at any given time. The state can change one or more times in each time step of every year. The state object must contain sufficient information to figure out how the underlying population changes over time (given a model and a complete set of parameters).

The state can undergo a number of possible changes, called transitions. Transitions are accomplished by processes, including: recruitment, natural mortality, anthropogenic mortality, movement, tagging events, growth, and maturation.

The key element of the state is the spatial world view, which holds all the entities, and is described earlier in Section 4.2.

An example of syntax, to specify a model with the the above concepts is done using the `@model` block is specified as:

```
@model
start_year 1970
final_year 2018
min_age 1
max_age 20
nrows 2
ncols 4
age_plus_group True
initialisation_phases iterative
time_steps Summer Autumn Winter Spring

@time_step Summer
processes recruitment summer_fishery

@time_step Autumn
processes migrate_off_shore
...
```

#### 4.4. Agents

An agent is the core object in the state that everything manipulates or summarises. An individual has a list of predefined attributes that the user can choose to incorporate in the model or ignore, the list is below.

- age
- length
- weight
- sex

- maturity
- current area, birth area
- lat and long
- population scalar how many individuals does this agent represent = 1 means an individual based model (scalar)
- natural mortality parameter
- growth parameters
- scalar (if  $\neq 1$  then this individual represents more than one is a stock specific attribute)

An important attribute, if the model contains super individuals (agents) where a single agent represents many individuals with the same characteristics is the scalar parameter. This parameter is associated with a recruitment event as we use the scalars to scale up a  $SSB$  to  $B_0$  for a given recruitment event. This makes the scalar more of a meta-population parameter or a stock parameter in fisheries. The way a scalar is applied is through the subcommand `recruitment_layer_label` where you link a cell to a recruitment process (for more information see Section 4.6.3). This link says that any individual that was created by that recruitment dynamic gets a stock or recruitment scalar from that cell.

Maturity is an attribute that is activated by the maturity process (see Section 4.7.2), it is tied to some specific derived quantities such as the type `mature_biomass`. You could also calculate the mature biomass on the fly, using the other derived quantities and selectivities, an example of this is shown in the maturity process section.

Sex is hard coded into the model and at this point the only way that sex effects model outcomes is through selectivities. So sex can have different maturation by age or length, and different vulnerability to mortality processes. The next additions are to have sex specific growth, which is a common occurrence in fish populations.

Lengths in the model are all defined by the length bins in on the `@model`, it is important to note that all calculations that are made via length are via the mid points of the bins supplied. Users supply lower and upper bins for the length classes and all calculations are based on the mid-points.

The other attributes don't need any explanations are usually modified by processes, such as growth, movement and mortality. The attribute that I will dig into a little bit more is the scalar parameter which is calculated at the end of an initialisation phase, and assumes the initialisation phase has had a long in burn-in time to represent the correct age and length distribution.

$$S_s = \frac{\sum_{s=1}^{n_s} B0_s}{\sum_{s=1}^{n_s} SSB_s} \quad (4.1)$$

Where  $S_s$  is the global scalar that is associated to all new individuals in the system from stock  $s$ ,  $B0_s$  is the  $B_0$  parameter (user defined) for stock  $s$   $SSB_s$  is the related spawning stock biomass. There are processes that do modify this, and that usually consists of processes or observations that truly involve a single entity such as tagging, when this occurs adjustments are made to this scalar.

## 4.5. Layers

Layers are a key underlying concept in THE IBM. They comprise of a grid of known values, with a value for every spatial cell in the model. Layers are used by processes, observations, and outputs commands to supply spatially explicit covariates and any categorical groupings required.

Layers are used by THE IBM to evaluate locations where the population may be present (via the *base layer*), to provide sets of known attributes or values of each spatial location (for some processes and for preference based movements), and to group or categorise cells for use by processes and observations. Layers consist of an  $n_{rows} \times n_{cols}$  matrix and can be either *numeric* or *categorical*.

Every model must define at least one layer, the base layer  $L_B$ . A layer is defined as a  $n_{rows} \times n_{cols}$  matrix of values (albeit with the exception of layers that describe distance — these are described in detail below), where the value in each cell represents a known quantity. For example layers may represent classifications, physical attributes, or some other known or assumed quantity. Typically they are provided by the user as a matrix of values, although some layers (e.g., abundance or distance layers) can be calculated by THE IBM during a model run.

Within THE IBM, layers are used in the following contexts:

1. The base layer: The base layer  $L_B$  is a special layer (there must be exactly one base layer defined within the model) that defines the locations where the population can and cannot potentially be present (e.g., locations associated with the sea and not land in a marine model). Here, we define that a cell may potentially have part of the population present if every element  $L_B(i, j) \geq 0$ . Further, positive values of the base layer  $L_B$  represent the *area* represented by that spatial cell. Note, the values in the base layer must be numeric, but cannot be a meta-layer (*see below*).
2. Covariate layers: A model may have many covariate layers, and these are used as covariates of some population or movement process (e.g., the sea floor depth may be a covariate of some movement process). The values in layers used as covariates can be either numeric or categorical.
3. Classification layers: A model may have many classification layers, and these are used as a classification or grouping variable for aggregating data over individual spatial cells  $(i, j)$ , e.g., statistical areas or management areas. Such layers are typically used to aggregate the population within cells into groups so-as to allow comparison with observations. The values in layers used as classification layers must be categorical.

THE IBM defines the following types of layer;

1. Numeric layers: A model may have many numeric layers, and these can be used as covariates of a population or movement process (e.g., depth may be a covariate of some movement process), and/or locations of event mortality. Numeric layers can contain only continuous (numeric) variables. Values for a numeric layer must be supplied for each cell by the user. Numeric layers can be rescaled to sum to some user-defined value, and unlike other layers, the values for each cell can be estimated.

For example, to specify a numeric layer for a spatial model with  $3 \times 4$  cells called, say `base`, with the top left and bottom right cells set to zero and all other cells set to one and not rescaled, use,

```
@layer base
type numeric
```

```
data 0 1 1 1
data 1 1 1 1
data 1 1 1 0
```

2. Categorical layers: A model may have many categorical layers, and these can be used as a classification or grouping variable for aggregating data over individual cells, e.g., management areas; or as covariates of a population or movement process. Such layers are typically used to aggregate the population within cells into groups for comparing with observations, or to apply specific movement characteristics. The values in layers used as categorical layers can contain any characters (except white space), and are interpreted as categorical values. Values for a categorical layer must be supplied for each cell by the user.

For example, to specify a categorical layer for a spatial model with  $3 \times 4$  cells called, say zone, with the top left cells allocated as zone A, the bottom right allocated as zone C, and the rest as zone B, then use,

```
@layer zone
type categorical
data A A B B
data A A C C
data B B C C
```

3. Abundance layers: The abundance layer is the sum of the number of individuals within cell  $a$  in categories  $k$  and with selectivity  $S_l$  at age  $l$ .

$$N(a) = \sum_k \sum_l S_l \text{ element}(i, j, k, l) \quad (4.2)$$

THE IBM calculates the values of the layer when running the model at the point in time where the value is required.

For example, to specify an abundance layer of all individuals who are categorised as mature, use,

```
@layer Abundance
type abundance
categories mature
selectivities One
```

4. Biomass layers: The biomass layer is the sum of the biomass of individuals within cell  $a$  in categories  $k$ , with selectivity  $S_l$  at age  $l$ , and mean weight  $w_{kl}$

$$N(a) = \sum_k \sum_l w_{k,l} S_l \text{ element}(i, j, k, l) \quad (4.3)$$

THE IBM calculates the values of the layer when running the model at the point in time where the value is required.

For example, to specify a biomass layer of all individuals who are categorised as mature, use,

```
@layer Biomass
type biomass
categories mature
selectivities One
```

5. Abundance-density layers: The abundance density layer is the density of the number of individuals within cell  $a$  with area  $A_a$  in categories  $k$ , with selectivity  $S_l$  at age  $l$ ,

$$N(a) = \frac{1}{A_a} \sum_k \sum_l S_l \text{element}(i, j, k, l) \quad (4.4)$$

THE IBM calculates the values of the layer when running the model at the point in time where the value is required.

For example, to specify an abundance density layer of all individuals who are categorised as mature, use,

```
@layer AbundanceDensity
type abundance_density
categories mature
selectivities One
```

6. Biomass-density layers: The biomass-density layer is the density of the biomass of individuals within cell  $a$  with area  $A_a$  in categories  $k$ , with selectivity  $S_l$  at age  $l$ , and mean weight  $w_{kl}$ ,

$$N(a) = \frac{1}{A_a} \sum_k \sum_l w_{kl} S_l \text{element}(i, j, k, l) \quad (4.5)$$

THE IBM calculates the values of the layer when running the model at the point in time where the value is required.

For example, to specify a biomass density layer of all individuals who are categorised as mature, use,

```
@layer BiomassDensity
type biomass_density
categories mature
selectivities One
```

7. Meta-layers: THE IBM defines a special type of layer known as a *meta-layer*. Meta-layers allows individual layers to be indexed by year and applied as an annually varying layer within the model. For example, assume a model that uses Sea Surface Temperature (SST) as a layer, perhaps to drive some movement process. The SST values for each year of the model would be defined as individual layers, each with a unique label. A meta-layer could be defined that indexed the individual annual SST layers by year, and used as a covariate layer in the movement process. Meta-layers have a *default* layer that is used for time periods that are not specifically defined. Meta layers can be used wherever ordinary layers are used (except that they cannot be used as the base layer), with THE IBM extracting the appropriate layer value corresponding to the year or the initialisation phase.

- a) Numeric meta-layers: Numeric meta-layers are a meta layer of numeric layers — the individual ordinary layers that make up the meta-layer must all be of numeric type. For example, assuming that the layers SST and SST1990, SST1995, etc., are defined elsewhere, then to specify a numeric meta-layer with specific values for the years 1990-1995, and a default for all other years (including the initialisation phases), use,

```
@layer AnnualSST
type numeric_meta
default_layer SST
years      1990    1991    1992    1993    1994    1995
layers SST1990 SST1991 SST1992 SST1993 SST1994 SST1995
```

- b) Categorical meta-layers: Categorical meta-layers are a meta layer of categorical layers — the individual ordinary layers that make up the meta-layer must all be of categorical type. Categorical meta-layers are specified in the same way as numeric meta-layers. For example, assuming that the layers `zones` and `zone1990`, `zone1995`, etc., are defined elsewhere, then to specify a categorical meta-layer with specific values for the years 1990-1995, and a default for all other years (including the initialisation phases), use,

```
@layer AnnualCategoricalLayer
type categorical_meta
default_layer zones
years      1990      1991      1992      1993      1994      1995
layers zone1990 zone1991 zone1992 zone1993 zone1994 zone1995
```

## 4.6. Time sequences

The time sequence of the model is defined in the following parts;

- Annual cycle
- Mortality blocks
- Initialisation
- Model run years

### 4.6.1. Annual cycle

The annual cycle is implemented as a set of processes that occur, in a user-defined order, within each year. Time-steps are used to break the annual cycle into separate components, and allow observations to be associated with different time periods and processes. Any number of processes can occur within each time-step, in any order (although there are limitations around mortality based processes - see Section 4.6.2) and can occur multiple times within each time-step. Note that time-steps are not implemented during the initialisation phases (effectively, there is only one time-step), and that the annual cycle in the initialisation phases can, optionally, be different from that which is applied during the model years.

### 4.6.2. Mortality blocks

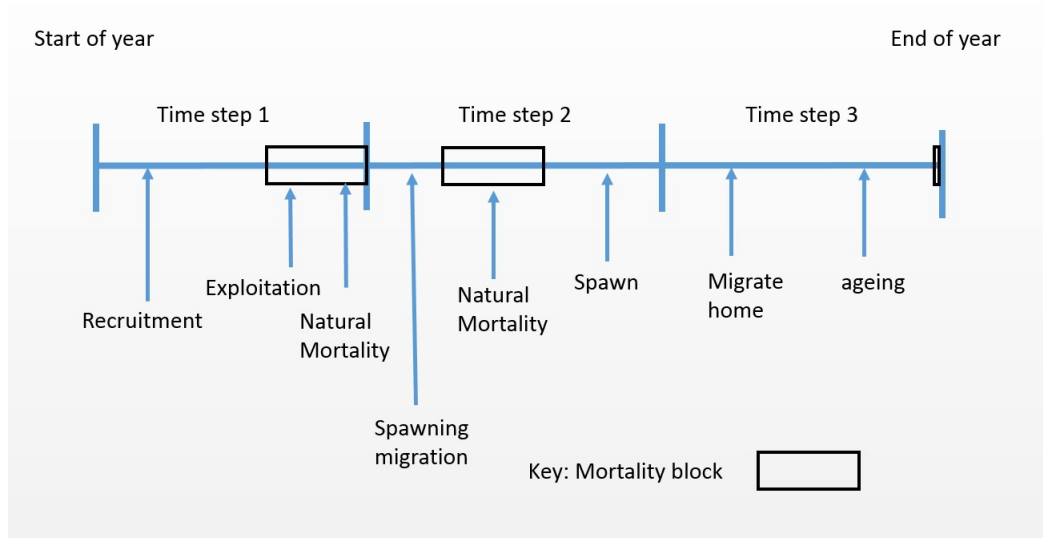
For every time step in an annual cycle there is an associated *mortality block*. Mortality blocks are a key concept in THE IBM.

Mortality blocks are used to define the ‘point’ in the model time sequence when observations (see Section 6) are evaluated, and derived quantities (see Section 4.8) are calculated.

A mortality block is defined as a consecutive sequence of mortality processes within a time step. The processes that are mortality processes are all pre-defined in THE IBM, and cannot be modified. These mortality processes are described in subsection 4.7.4.

THE IBM requires that each time step has exactly one mortality block. To achieve this, either all the mortality processes in a time step must be sequential (i.e., there can not be a non-mortality process between any two mortality processes within any one time step); or if no mortality processes occur in a time step then the mortality block is defined to occur at the end of the time step.

THE IBM will error out if more than one mortality block occurs in a single time step. The consequence of a mortality block is derived quantities and observations that wrap mortality blocks get executed before and after. This can be a costly exercise, if it is important that the model attributes accounts for some mortality then this is a cost that must be taken, but if, there will usually be a parameter that you could set to 0 or one and so THE IBM will only calculate the quantity once (either before or after). For example the parameter in the derived quantities class `proportion_through_mortality`.



**Figure 4.2: A visual representation of a hypothetical sequence for an annual cycle, with mortality blocks over multiple time steps.**

#### 4.6.3. Initialisation

Initialisation is the process of determining the world's state just before `start_year`, whether it be equilibrium/steady state or some other initial state for the model (e.g exploited), prior to the start year of the model. This can be computationally expensive if a plus group is present in the partition.

Currently users can only initialise the partition via an iterative method. THE IBM does a few tricks to help speed up the initialisation. The first thing THE IBM does is gets the parameter `number_of_agents` and spits that number of agents uniformly, over the spatial domain, alternatively the user could supply a layer `layer_label` of proportions to seed the initial spatial distribution. This layer should sum to one so that the model initially seeds `number_of_agents`. When the THE IBM seeds the initial number of agents it also randomly assigns the agents an age based on an exponential distribution where the parameter  $\lambda$  of the exponential distribution is set by the command on the `@model, natural_mortality_process_label`. We suggest setting this command to the assumed natural mortality of the model. To see what age structure this would look like you can quickly use **R** to visualise. by running the following code in an **R** terminal you could see.

```
Z_param = 0.2;
agents_per_cell = 1000;
hist(rexp(agents_per_cell,Z_param), breaks = 30, xlab = "age", ylab = "frequency", main = "
  Initial age structure in each cell")
```

Once THE IBM has seeded the agents, it iterates over the annual cycle to change an approximated initialisation state to one that is more like what would occur for your annual cycle, this is controlled by the `years` command in the `@initialisation` block. The number of iterations in the iterative

initialisation can effect the model output, and these should be chosen to be large enough to allow the population state to fully converge see Section 4.12 for some tips on initialising models.

Hence, for an iterative initialisation you need to define:

- The initialisation phases,
- The number of years in each phase
- the number of individuals that you want to represent the population
- The initial spatial distribution of seeded agents
- The stock\recruitment regions for setting the scalar.

Because the initialisation phase is responsible for seeding the initial agents, users must specify processes that the initialisation phase can seed parameters to agents. To see how parameters are set for each individual agent, users should see the individual processes in this Section 4.7.

An example of the syntax to implement this would be,

```
@model
...
initialisation_phases Iterative_initialisation

@initialisation_phase Iterative_initialisation
type iterative
initial_numbers_of_agents 1500000
years 50
layer_label initial_values_distribution
recruitment_layer_label recruitment_layer
```

For an example of setting an initialisation block with multiple stocks see the 3area example.

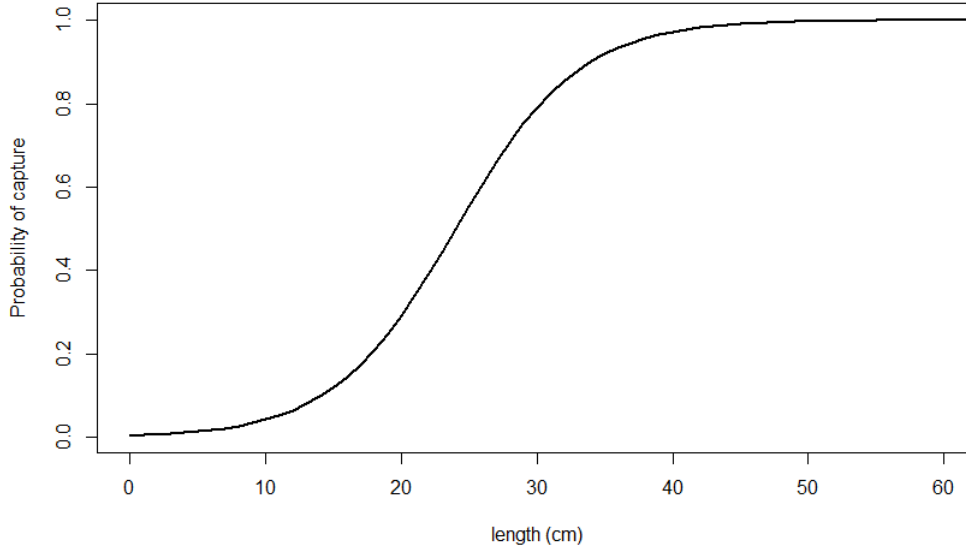
## 4.7. Processes

Processes are a set of classes that get access to agents parameters and either modifies them (growth), moves them (to another cell), adds new agents (recruitment) or removes them (mortality). The other thing to note is that most processes are dictated by agent specific parameters such as natural mortality and growth see specific process for more information, and usually involve a Bernoulli trial to add stochastic error. An example of this is evaluating whether an agent is caught by a fishing method, lets say that a fishing method has a length based vulnerability associated with it as shown in figure ??

So if we were to iterate over all the spatially available agents to this process we would calculate the probability of capture by taking the vulnerability curve and a specific agents length and compare that capture probability ( $P_l$ ) to random number drawn from a *uniform*(0,1) distribution denoted as  $U()$ , and so many of the algorithms include the term,

if  $U() \leq P_l$  agent is captured and removed  
else it survives the event





**Figure 4.3: An example of a length based logistic vulnerability curve that describes the probability of capture when an interaction occurs.**

#### 4.7.1. Ageing

Ageing is an implicit process in the model. Each agent that is created or recruited gets assigned a birth year. This means that when ever we want to ask for the agent we just calculate `current_year - birth_year`, thus there is no explicit ageing process. Note that we do return the `max_age` of the model, if the agent is older than that age (so we only work with the truncated age distribution).

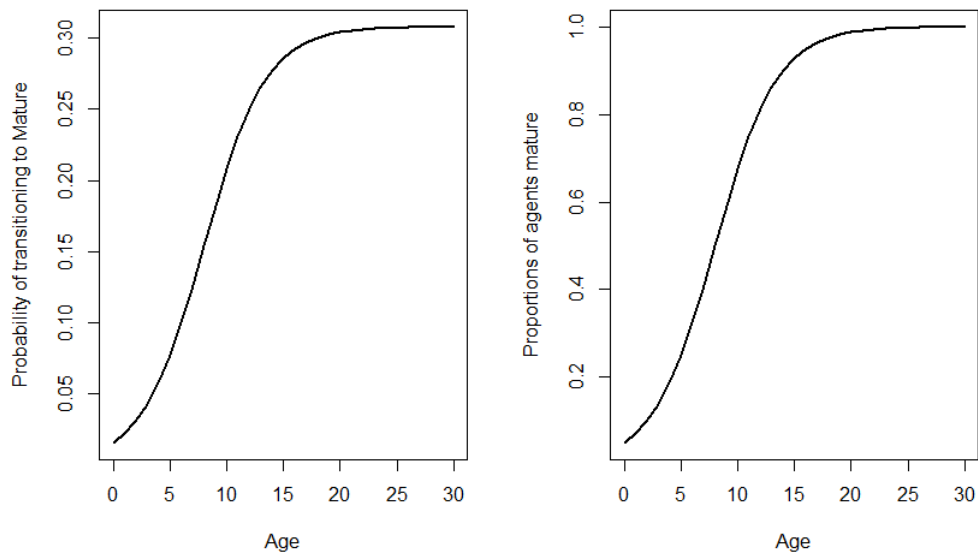
This means every fish automatically ages by one at the end of the year, or you could think of ageing a fish at the very beginning of the year (tomayto, tomahto), just be aware that you don't have control over this process. Something to keep in mind is that growth is not directly tied with ageing, that is a individual that ages one year does not also get a years worth of growth. This unlike most population based models that will usually have an implicit assumption of growth with ageing. Although if one puts a growth process at the beginning or end of an annual cycle this can be achieved. This is just a side note to keep in mind when trying to align this model with others you may want to test against.

#### 4.7.2. Maturity

The process of converting an agent from immature to mature, only should be used if you link it to a mature-biomass derived quantity (Section 4.8). This process only changes the internal state of an agent i.e. no material change happens to the agent. This could be useful down the track if we have dynamics that only occur to mature agents and so this internal flag can be checked against for use in a different algorithm. Maturity is applied using the ogive defined in the subcommand `maturity_ogive_label` in the `@model` block, and is applied for a single agent (assuming the agent is not already mature)

$$\text{maturity} \begin{cases} = 1, & \text{if } U() \leq P_a \\ = 0, & \text{if } U() > P_a \end{cases} \quad (4.6)$$

where,  $P_a$  is the probability of an immature agent at age  $a$  becoming a mature agent. Currently maturity can only be an age based process, although this is not difficult to make a length based probability statement if someone in the future wanted this. A note about creating a logistic based maturity schedule, we recommend users use the selectivity type = `logistic_producing` (Section 4.9) or a similar style of selectivity. The results will not be as expected if you use a normal logistic selectivity. This is because this is only applied to the non-mature agents and so the selectivity needs more thought than other situations where a selectivity is needed



**Figure 4.4:** A comparison of maturity schedules, on the left we have used a logistic producing ogive, and on the right if we apply the maturity ogive over and over you get the resulting proportion mature in the right hand panel (which is logistic).

An alternative way and perhaps more efficient method for capturing a snap shot of the mature biomass or abundance of all individuals in the population is by using the generic biomass or abundance derived quantities (Section 4.8 4.8). Where we calculate what is mature at the time of the derived quantity, rather than having an explicit process that allows users to separate the maturation process from the summarising of abundance of biomass of the mature component. Examples of how you would set up the two methods in THE IBM are below, firstly with maturity as an explicit process and secondly as it being implicit.

```
@model
...
maturity_ogive_label mature_ogive # define maturity selectivity: male female (order is important!!)

@time_step Annual
processes Maturation

@time_step Spawn
processes no_process

@process Maturation # This will use the maturity ogive on the @model
type maturation
```

```
@derived_quantitiy SSB # get a snap shot of mature biomass
type mature_biomass
time_step Spawn
biomass_layer_label SSB_areas
proportion_through_mortality_block 0.0
```

The above model setup will have agents in the system that are mature and immature and we can call the specialised `mature_biomass` derived quantity to get a snap shot at any point in the system to view the biomass or abundance. The other way of dealing with maturity is implicitly as shown below.

```
@model
...
maturity_ogive_label One // define a constant selectivity here, just to keep the model happy

@time_step Annual
processes Other_processes

@time_step Spawn
processes no_process

@derived_quantitiy SSB // get a snap shot of mature biomass
type biomass
time_step Spawn
selectivity maturity_ogive // Define mature selectivity here
biomass_layer_label SSB_areas
proportion_through_mortality_block 0.0
```

So just to re-iterate the difference, you can have an explicit maturing process that is not associated with a derived quantity, or you could purely associate a derived quantity to the maturing process. This brings up a useful point in that, given the generality of the program there are more than one way to approximate dynamics and some will be more computationally quicker than others. So have a play around but try and keep the number of times we iterate over the state as small as possible, as you will get significant time saving.

### 4.7.3. Recruitment

Recruitment is the process where new agents are created in the system. It is also the process that defines stock structure in the model. Stocks are not an explicit attribute of THE IBM so consideration on this process is important. How the stock is defined using the recruitment dynamic surrounds where we calculate Spawning Stock Biomass (*SSB*) and where the resulting recruits are first seeded. This means that for all recruitment types you will need to specify a  $B_0$  or  $R_0$  parameter and an associated derived quantity that defines the spatial resolution of the stock (*SSB*) for that event. This is how an  $R_0$  value is calculated from the initialisation phase.

$$X = \sum_{a=0}^{4A} \exp^{-Ma} \quad (4.7)$$

Where,  $M$  is the average natural mortality rate as defined by the `natural_mortality_process_label` in the `@model` block.  $A$  is the maximum age of the

population, 4 is an arbitrary scalar to make sure that we cover the entire age distribution. Once we have our multiplier ( $X$ ), we then

$$R_{0,s} = \frac{N_a}{X} \frac{B_{0,s}}{\sum_s B_{0,s}} \quad (4.8)$$

where,  $R_{0,s}$  is the stock specific initial/equilibrium number of agents to seed,  $N_a$  is the number of agents in the model world defined in the @initialisation\_phase using the subcommand number\_of\_individuals and  $B_{0,s}$  is the user defined stock specific equilibrium spawning stock biomass.

#### 4.7.3.1. Constant recruitment

$$R_{y,s} = R_{0,s} \quad (4.9)$$

```
# Constant
@process Recruitment_const
type recruitment_constant
recruitment_layer_label recruit_layer
b0 29924.6
ssb SSB

@derived_quantity SSB
type mature_biomass
biomass_layer_label SSB_areas
time_step Annual
proportion_through_mortality_block 0.5

# proportion of where recruits are spatially distributed
@layer recruit_layer
type numeric
table layer
0.2 0.2 0.2
0.2 0.2 0
0 0 0
0 0 0
end_table

# define areas where SSB calculations are made
@layer SSB_areas
type numeric
table layer
1 1 1
1 1 0
0 0 0
0 0 0
end_table
```

#### 4.7.3.2. Beverton-Holt recruitment

We have taken the parametrisation akin to Mace and Doonan (1988) that is a population based formula. There is room to make this a more pure agent based model where we look at probability of

finding a mate and etc, but for know this is all we have.

$$R_{y,s} = R_{0,s} \times \frac{SSB_{y-ssboffset,s}}{B_{0,s}} / \left( 1 - \frac{5h-1}{4h} \left( 1 - \frac{SSB_{y-ssboffset,s}}{B_{0,s}} \right) \right) \times YCS_y \quad (4.10)$$

where  $h$  is the compensation parameter known as the steepness parameter that represents the number of agents when the stock SSB is at 20% of  $B_0$ ,  $YCS_y$  is the year class strength parameter also termed the stock recruitment residual that accounts for any deviation of the deterministic Beverton Holt relationship due to things like predation, environment etc. If there are multiple spatial cells that are associated with a recruitment event then the allocation to a single cell is a simple multiplication with a proportion e.g.

$$R_{y,s,c} = R_{y,s} \times p_c \quad (4.11)$$

where  $R_{y,s,c}$  is the resulting agents in cell  $c$  with proportion  $p_c$  there is no stochastic behaviour in this process unlike other processes.

```
# Recruitment Beverton Holt
@process Recruitment
type recruitment_beverton_holt
recruitment_layer_label recruit_layer
b0 100000
steepness 0.85
yca_values 1*53
ssb SSB
```

#### 4.7.4. Mortality

Mortality processes remove agents from the model domain, and do not allow them to be available to processes or summaries. Mortality that are associated with fishing or anthropogenic removals are also responsible for tag-recaptures.

Mortality types that can be used to search for tag-recaptures are, `mortality_event_biomass`, `mortality_baranov` and `mortality_effort_based`. I will describe how this is handled in THE IBM here as the method is the same through out all three mortality processes. The inputs that will control how we sample for tag-recaptures are `scanning_years` and `scanning_proportion`. These basically just say what years we are scan for tags and what proportion of the F-mortality do we check for tags. One thing to note that has been plaguing me a little bit is the recapture probability. If you have an agent based model where an agent represents multiple individuals and you have tagging process (sub-section 4.7.7) which splits out a true individual. THE IBM does not change the probability statements on how many individuals an agent represents i.e. all agents have equal probability. This means we may have the same probability of recapturing an agent that represents 10000 fish as we do an agent that represents a single individual. I haven't come up with a clever way around this, so this is purely a reminder to users to consider this before going crazy on any analysis. To extract information on tag-recaptures you will have to generate a report for the specific mortality process, as well as that you will have to specify the subcommand `print_extra_info` in the `@process mortality` block.

**4.7.4.1. Constant mortality rate**

Apply an instantaneous mortality rate, and we remove the individual if the following condition is met which compares the survivorship ( $1 - e^{-M_i * S_a}$ ) with a draw from a uniform random variable ( $U()$ ).

$$\text{if } U() \leq 1 - e^{-M_i * S_a} \text{ agent dies} \quad (4.12)$$

where,  $M_i$  is the individuals instantaneous mortality rate and  $S_a$  is a selectivity at age allowing the process to be age based (but can be length based).  $M_i$  the individuals instantaneous mortality rate is assigned from generating a random value from either a normal or lognormal distribution by using the subcommand `distribution`

$$M_i \sim N(M * M_{row,col}, CV \times M * M_{row,col}) \text{ with syntax } \sim N(\mu, \sigma) \quad (4.13)$$

or

$$M_i \sim LN(M * M_{row,col}, CV) \text{ with syntax } \sim LN(E[X], CV) \quad (4.14)$$

where  $M$  is the parameter `m` and  $M_{row,col}$  is the multiplier layer value in row `row` and column `col`. For the lognormal parametrisation we make users define the expectation rather than the  $\mu$  parameter as it seems more intuitive and this follows that  $E[X] = e^{\mu + 0.5\sigma^2}$ . Users can also set a flag (`update_mortality_parameters`) that says if individuals move they will take on a new mortality rate parameter of the new area, if not they will retain their mortality rate assigned to them at birth.

An example of how you could set up a constant mortality rate process that varied through time, space and by age is below

```
@process natural_mortality
type mortality_constant_rate
update_mortality_parameters true
m_multiplier_layer_label M_layer
m 0.15
distribution lognormal
cv 0.1
selectivity_label natural_mortality_by_age

@layer M_layer
type numeric
table layer
1 1.2 1.1 # 0.15 0.18 0.165
1 0.9 0.8 # 0.15 0.135 0.12
0.8 0.8 0.7 # 0.12 0.12 0.105
end_table

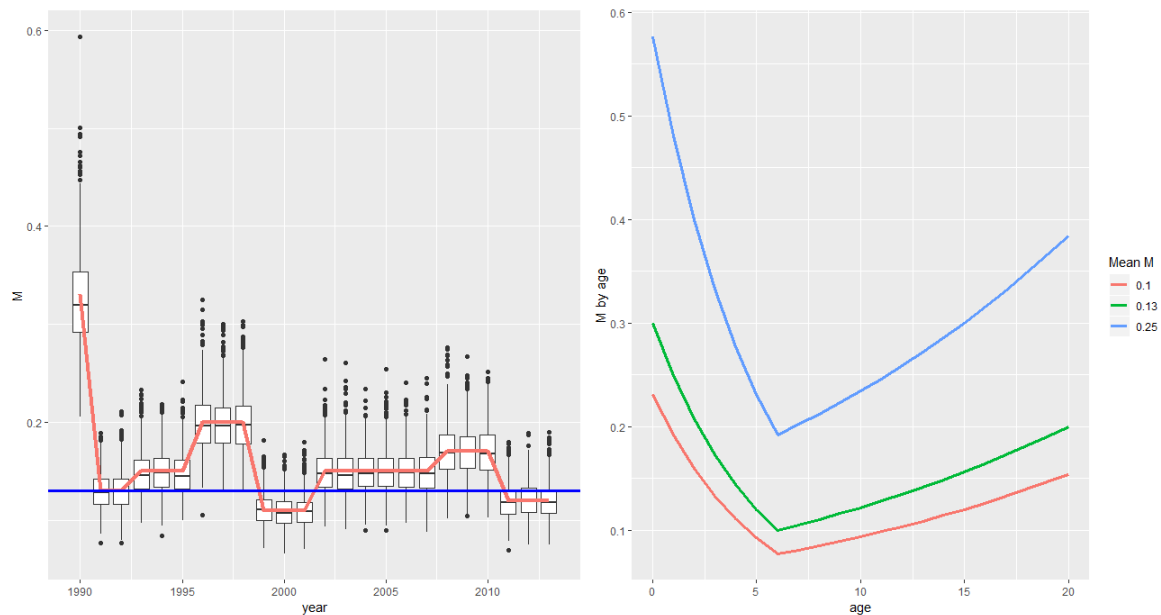
@selectivity natural_mortality_by_age
type double_exponential
x1 0
x0 6
```

```

x2 30
y1 0.6
y0 0.1
y2 0.4

@time_varying m_by_year
type constant
parameter process[natural_mortality].m
values 0.134 0.153 0.106 0.1833
years 1990 1991 1992 1993

```



**Figure 4.5:** The left plot show how users can vary the Mean  $M$  by year, with the blue line being the value used to initialise the agents, the red value is the input and the box and whisker's represent the actual  $M$  assigned to each agent from a random sample of 1000. In the right plot we see how using selectivities the user can also have age varying  $M$ , here we use a double exponential curve which is demonstrated with a range of mean  $M$  values that could occur in a year.

#### 4.7.4.2. Event-Biomass

This is a removal event such as fishing, where we iterate over a range of cells and remove agents based on some selectivity or spatial vulnerability. This is the simplest way to remove individuals from an anthropogenic process, however it is quite annoying to set up for a spatial model with a fine spatial resolution as you need to specify a catch for each cell. An example of how this process is set up is specified below, if you want an alternative fishing process that is based in theoretical spatial fishing distributions see the next section (Section 4.7.4.4). Advantages using this mortality process say over the Baranov method (next paragraph 4.7.4.3) is that it allows for agents to have multiple encounters with a fishery and it can deal with multiple fisheries with different selectivities and spatial patterns, but the negatives is that you cannot simply incorporate simultaneously natural mortality processes, and may be more suited for a pulse like fishery.

#### The algorithm

- randomly select an agent, **with replacement**
- randomly select a fishery (if more than one), **with replacement**
- check to see if this agent is vulnerable to the fishery either age or length based process, by comparing a uniform random draw with a ogive
- if we are scanning fish for tag-recaptures check for tags
- if we have minimum legal size (MLS) check to see if the fish will be returned this is a true or false statement, if agent length  $<$  MLS return with some handling mortality probability that will be again checked with a uniform random variable
- if not MLS check then we remove this agent from the population and add it to the catch (all agents are removed, this must be remembered)
- repeat the above steps until we have removed a desired biomass or if there are not enough fish to remove we exit with an error.

The key here is that an agent can interact with fishery many times during a fishing event, but there is no natural mortality.



```

@process Fishing_Mortality
type mortality_event_biomass
print_extra_info true ## this may print too much information and slow down model
table catch ## these are labels for @layer that describe catch over space.
year FishingTrwl FishingLine
1972 1972_Trwl 1972_Line
1973 1973_Trwl 1973_Line
1974 1974_Trwl 1974_Line
end_table

table scanning ## proportion of catch scanned for tags
year FishingTrwl FishingLine
1972 0.3 0.5
1973 0.6 0.7
1974 0.2 0.4
end_table

## describe fishery specific parameters
table method_info
method      male_selectivity    female_selectivity    minimum_legel_length    handling_mortality
FishingTrwl    trwlFSel_m            trwlFSel_f 0 0
FishingLine    Sel_Line              Sel_Line 0 0
end_table
## if single sex model only have one column called selectivity
table method_info
method      selectivity    minimum_legel_length    handling_mortality
FishingTrwl    trwlFSel        0                        0
FishingLine    Sel_Line        0                        0
end_table

```

#### 4.7.4.3. Baranov

This process applies both natural mortality and fishing mortality

##### The algorithm

- iterate over every individual in the partition or spatial cell
- See if the fish dies by comparing total mortality survivor ship  $U() \leq 1 - e^{-M_a + F_a}$  assuming  $M$  and  $F$  are both age based, but they can be length based ( $M_l, F_l$ ) or a combination
- If fish dies see if it was from  $M_a$  or  $F_a$  if  $(U() < \frac{F_a}{F_a + M_a})$  then it was removed from an fishing event and is included in fishing specific observations.
- we also can apply MLS and handling survivor ship
- we can also choose to check for tag-recaptures

So from the algorithm above we can see that agents are exposed to both M and F, however the negative is that this assumes only a single interaction with the fishery which is an unlikely assumption. However I added this process because it both takes M and F simultaneously and may actually be faster than an event biomass dynamic (previous paragraph 4.7.4.2).

#### 4.7.4.4. Effort-Based F

A lot of this process was inspired by Truesdell et al. (2017), where users can specify some theoretical fishing distribution, currently only Ideal Free Distribution is allowed (but I am hoping to add a weighted ideal free distribution with user defined weights) and a total catch. THE IBM applies this process by calculating the vulnerable biomass over all spatial cells ( $V_{row,col}$ ), where each individual contributing to the vulnerable biomass is done deterministically **unlike** most other systems in the model (the stochastic nature comes later Equation 4.16),

$$V_{row,col} = \sum_{i \in (row,col)} \bar{w}_i \times s_i \times P_c \quad (4.15)$$

where,  $P_c$  is the probability of capture which can be length or age based,  $i$  indexes all the available agents in cell  $row, col$ , and  $\bar{w}_i s_i$  are the weight and scalar of the agent respectively,  $()I$  is the identity function based on the outcome of the Bernoulli trial. Once we have the vulnerable biomass by cell we want to allocate our theoretical effort. The user can specify effort two ways. The user can specify a vector of expected effort one for each enabled cell, this would mean that effort was time-invariant. The second is that user could specify a numeric layer of efforts for each year (the order is not important because THE IBM will align them based on the theoretical distribution). **Note** units of effort could be important for solving  $\lambda$  look at the end of this section to see technical details on this. Once we have effort ( $E_{row,col}$ ) and vulnerable ( $V_{row,col}$ ), the THE IBM will align the highest effort value with the cell with the highest biomass, for the ideal free distribution. Once we have effort and vulnerable biomass we need to estimate a parameter  $\lambda_y$  so that we solve for catch.

$$\hat{C}_{y,row,col} = \sum_{i \in (row,col)} (U() \leq 1 - e^{\lambda_y E_{row,col} P_c}) I \bar{w}_i \times s_i \quad (4.16)$$

A note from the above equation the uniform random draw  $U()$  is set once for all agents and is not re-drawn every time we iterate over this equation to minimise the Equation 4.18 below to solve for  $\lambda_y$ .

$$\hat{C}_y = \sum_{row} \sum_{col} \hat{C}_{y,row,col} \quad (4.17)$$

We then minimise the sum of square of the following expression to solve for  $\lambda_y$ ,

$$\hat{\lambda}_y = \operatorname{argmin}_{\lambda} (C_y - \hat{C}_y)^2 \quad (4.18)$$

where,  $C_y$  is the user catch, in this case  $\hat{F}_y = \hat{\lambda}_y E_{row,col}$ . We finally removals with our estimated  $F$  using the normal survivor ship process, Bernoulli trial if  $U() \leq 1 - e^{\hat{F}_y P_c}$  then the agent dies.

A technical note to consider, is that the  $\lambda$  parameter is assumed to  $\lambda \in (0.0000001, 100)$ . So you will need to scale and check your Effort units so that, with the above constraint and your effort we can solve for the Catch in that year. Also there is an option to specify the starting value when solving for  $\lambda$  using the subcommand `starting_value_for_lambda`. If you print this process it should tell you how long it takes in seconds to solve for lambda for each year. See Section 5.1 for information on the minimiser used in the optimisation routine.

```

@process summer_fishery
type mortality_effort_based
years 1991
catches 2234
selectivity trawl_selectivity
minimiser minimiser_for_summer_fishery
effort_values 0.076 0.089 0.219 0.104 ## for 4 cell model

@minimiser minimiser_for_summer_fishery
type numerical_differences
## play with these if you have trouble minimising or starting value
iterations 20
evaluations 30
tolerance 0.03
step_size 0.003

```

#### 4.7.4.5. Tag Recaptures

Because the underlying model entity is an agent than often represents many individuals and a tagged entity is an individual careful consideration is needed not to introduce bias quantities. The first thing to note that users must specify a tagging event Section 4.7.7 so that tagged fish exist in the partition. Otherwise this will be a computational burden. The algorithm for observing tag recaptures during a removal process follows;

1. Calculate proportion of tagged **individuals** from the vulnerable population, denoted  $P_t$ . Note vulnerable is a stochastic evaluation see the above mortality processes e.g.  $U() \leq P_a$
2. When in a removal process and we are scanning catch for tags, randomly draw from a Bernoulli distribution.

select tagged fish =  $Binomial(1, P_a)$

3. In most mortality processes users must specify the proportion of the catch scanned for tags ( $P_{scan}$ ). So if a tagged fish is selected. THE IBM then does a check to see if we observed that recapture i.e.  $U() \leq P_{scan}$ .

There is two ways to get THE IBM to report information on tag-recaptures. You can either generate a tag\_recapture\_by\_length or tag\_recapture\_by\_age observation class (See sections 6.1.8 & 6.1.7), or generate a report class from the mortality process that the recaptures occurred in.

#### 4.7.5. Movement

##### 4.7.5.1. Box Transfer

The box transfer movement process is a simple movement process that is commonly applied in stock assessments. It describes a proportion of individuals moving from a cell to all other cells. This is applied by drawing from a multinomial distribution where an individual will end up. There are two types of movement that users can select for this method; markovian and natal\_homing. The difference is with markovian movement the origin\_cell refers to the cell an individual is

currently in, where as if the movement type is natal homing the `origin_cell` refers to the cell that the individual was born in. These are subtle in application but a quite different movement assumptions. A practical note about the two methods natal homing is difficult to thread so may be quite a lot slower (disclaimer I haven't tested it, but I have turned off threading in this process). The probability is not age or length specific and so applies equally to all individuals in a cell. An example of syntax of how you would set this process up for a 3 area model is below.

```
@process Movement
  type movement_box_transfer
  origin_cell 1-1 2-1 3-1
  probability_layers move_from_cell_1 move_from_cell_2 move_from_cell_3
  movement_type markovian

@layer move_from_cell_1
  type numeric
  proportions true
  table layer
  0.3 0.2 0.5
  end_table

@layer move_from_cell_2
  type numeric
  proportions true
  table layer
  0.1 0.6 0.3
  end_table

@layer move_from_cell_3
  type numeric
  proportions true
  table layer
  0.55 0.25 0.2
  end_table
```

The above assumes that the probability of movement from one cell to another doesn't change over time. Time varying movement can be applied by using the numeric meta layers see Section 4.5 for more information. A quick example of how you can apply this following the above example

```
@layer move_from_cell_1
  type numeric_meta
  years 1990:2000
  layer_labels pre_2000_movement post_2000_movement
  default_layer pre_2000_movement

@layer pre_2000_movement
  type numeric
  proportions true
  table layer
  0.1 0.6 0.3
  end_table

@layer post_2000_movement
  type numeric
  proportions true
```

```
table layer
0.55 0.25 0.2
end_table
```

You can see from the above example that the movement from cell 1 to all other cells has different probabilities from before 2000 and after 2000. The above example could be generalised further having a different probability matrix for every year, I kept it simple for illustration.

#### 4.7.5.2. Preference Based movement

The preference in cell  $i$  for preference variable  $x$  can be described as,

$$P_i^x = f(x_i; \theta) \quad (4.19)$$

where  $f(x_i; \theta)$  is a preference function (see Section 4.10). The overall preference in cell  $i$  can be denoted as the accumulation of all these preference functions.

$$P_i = \left( \prod_{n=1}^n P_i^x \right)^{1/n} \quad (4.20)$$

where  $n$  is the number of preference variables that you want to include in the movement process. Once we have the preference for all cells in the spatial domain, we need to calculate the gradient or velocity field in both the **X** and **Y** axis. Currently THE IBM uses the forward, backwards, and central difference approximation. This obviously sucks as coarse resolution but as we get fine scale models the approximation more accurately will describe the change in preference in each direction. The central approximation has been used in other habitat based preference calculations (Phillips et al., 2018) and is applied like this

$$u_i = \frac{P_{j,i+h} - P_{j,i-h}}{2} \quad (4.21)$$

where  $h$  is some distance or neighbour cell, this yields us gradient or velocity in both directions then we use a bias random walk to move individuals in space.

$$x_j \sim N(u_i, \sigma_i) \quad (4.22)$$

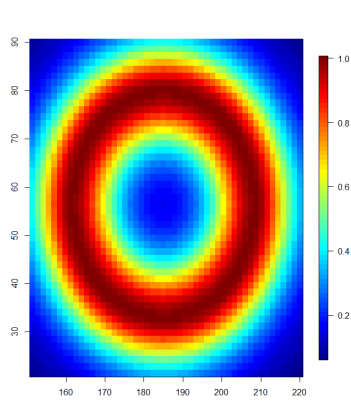
Where  $u_i$  is the gradient in the **X** direction,  $D_i$  is the diffusion parameter that is scaled based on the habitat preference and  $x_j$  is the future location on the **X** axis of the individual.  $D_i$  inversely relates to the quality of the preference habitat and a parameter  $D_{max}$ .

$$D_i = D_{max} \left( 1 - \frac{P_i}{\zeta + P_i} \right) \quad (4.23)$$

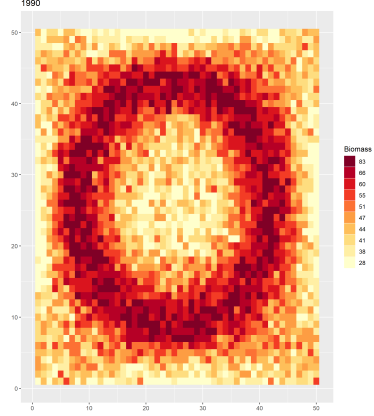
where  $\zeta$  is an arbitrary constant controlling the curvature of the function, following Bertignac et al. (1998).

$$\sigma_i = \sqrt{2 * D_i * t} \quad (4.24)$$

Where  $t$  is the time steps we have applied the preference movement in annual cycle. This process works well for stationary preference see (Figure ??) The problem with this implementation is that when an individual is in a cell with low preference and no gradient signal, it will randomly jump in any direction (is this biologically sensible?). For example Tuna



(a) Preference over the spatial domain.



(b) biomass of population with the preference on the left after 30 time steps

#### 4.7.6. Growth

Growth is the process where THE IBM updates both length and weight for an agent, and the same growth process can be applied over multiple time steps.

##### 4.7.6.1. Von Bertalanffy with Basic

This process assumes that weight is an allometric function of length (Equation 4.28) and that length is an incremental function of time that follows the Von Bertalanffy growth formula. Currently it is also the default growth function used to initialise the equilibrium partition structure. The length from going from one year to the next ( $t$  represents a year) follows,

$$\Delta L_{t,i} = p_t((L_{i,\infty} - L_i)(1 - e^{-k_i})) \quad (4.25)$$

$$L_{t+1,i} = L_{t,i} + \Delta L_{t,i} \quad (4.26)$$

If you have multiple time steps in a year and you want growth over all of them, say for example you have monthly time steps and you want to apply  $\frac{1}{12}$  of that increment in each year, this can be done by adding the process to all time steps and using the subcommand `time_step_proportions`. So the growth increment within a time step ( $k$ ) multiplies the annual growth increment by a user defined proportion.

$$L_{t,k+1,i} = L_{t,k,i} + \Delta L_{t,i} P_k \quad (4.27)$$

Where  $i$  indexes each agents own length and growth parameters. If the basic length weight formulation is used, then an agents weight follows the following formula.

$$\bar{w}_i = a_i L_i^{b_i} \quad (4.28)$$

THE IBM also allow users to seed variability into agent specific growth, two parameters that are allow to vary based on an underlying **lognormal** distribution are  $L_{i,\infty}$  and  $k_i$ .

$$E[L_{i,\infty}] = \text{configuration value}$$

the same goes with  $k_i$  and the variability is defined by the CV note that the same cv gets used for randomly drawing both parameters. Aswell as individual variability you can also seed spatial variability in these two parameters. This is done by specifying a layer in the subcommand `k_layer_label` or `linf_layer_label`. Then the expectation of the growth parameter assigned to an individual in cell  $j, k$  is

$$E[L_{i,\infty,j,k}] = \text{configuration value} \times \text{linf\_layer\_label}_{j,k}$$

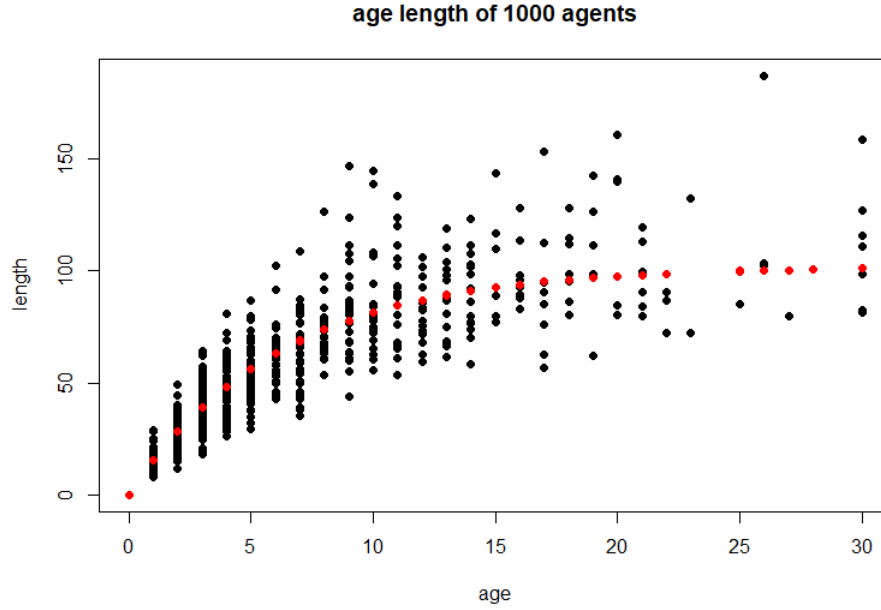
So obviously if the layer pointed to by `linf_layer_label` are all = 1 then the expectation is the same as in the configuration file.

When an agent is created (either in initialisation or through a recruitment process) or moves cell, it gets assigned new growth parameters that relate to that cell. This allows for spatial growth, one could hypothesis that environment may explain growth and so different environments over cells will cause different rates of growth. For the growth process you must specify either a spatial layer for mean values of each growth parameter or a single value (if growth doesn't change through space), a distribution and Coefficient of variation (CV). This randomly generates an agent a parameter from that distribution, an example of the syntax in a four area model,

```
@process von_bert
type growth_von_bertalanffy_with_basic_weight
#linf_layer_label L_infinity_layer
linf 101.8
#k_layer_label k_layer
k 0.161
a 2.0e-6
b 3.288
distribution lognormal
cv 0.15
time_step_proportions 1 ## if growth occurs in multiple
#time step how much growth in each time step
update_growth_parameters false ## if a individual moves area
#do we need to update its growth parameters.
```

#### 4.7.7. Tagging

Tagging is a process where by agents get tagged and is a tag release event. This is a simple process where a user defines a selectivity that describes the probability of being captured for tagging, and



**Figure 4.6: An example of the age length relationship from 1000 randomly sampled agents (black dots), red dots signify the assumed deterministic age length relationship.**

also a number of tags that are released in each spatial cell. I have usually applied tagging before a mortality process which is where tag recaptures occur (Section 4.7.4). Also you will need to specify mortality processes to scan for tagged fish if you want any information on recapture probabilities. This will be printed in the process information.

```
@process Tagging_event
type tagging
years 1990
selectivities Sel_LL
tag_release_layer tag_1990
handling_mortality 0.12

@layer tag_1990
type integer
table layer
12314
9854
4686
end_table
```

The algorithm for this process follows

1. randomly select an agent with replacement if it is not already tagged ( $U() \leq S_a$ )
2. assign tag, and meta information, when it was tagged, where it was tagged etc.
3. if the agent represents multiple individuals strip it out and assign its scalar  $s_i = 1$
4. See if it died from handling mortality if ( $U() \leq H$ ) where  $H$  is the subcommand `handling_mortality`



#### 4.8. Derived Quantities

Derived quantities surround a mortality block and so the value of the derived quantity is calculated twice, once before the mortality block (Pre-Execute), and once after (Execute). The final value is an interpolation based on how much mortality the user wants to take into account when calculating derived quantities. If users set the `proportion_through_mortality_block` parameter equal to one or zero then only one calculation is taken, and can reduce the run time of some models, so it is worth exploring.

$$B_p = (1 - p)B + pB' \quad (4.29)$$

where  $B_p$  is the interpolated derived quantity after  $p$  proportion through the mortality block,  $B$  is the quantity at the beginning of the mortality block and  $B'$  is the derived quantity at the end of the mortality block.

Derived quantities can be used either to report the state of a particular components of the population, or used in populations. For example in the Beverton Holt recruitment process (Section 4.7.3.2) users must define a subcommand `ssb` which is a derived quantity. So this can be a useful tool to incorporate density dependence based processes.

##### Biomass

Users must specify cells in which to calculate the derived quantity over using the subcommand `biomass_layer_label`

$$B = \sum_i \text{if}(U() \leq S_a) I \bar{w}_i \times s_i \quad (4.30)$$

where for an age based selectivity where  $S_a$  is the probability of being included in this derived quantity, if the summary is age based,  $I$  is a 0 or 1 depending on the condition of the if statement,  $\bar{w}_i$  is the weight of the agent and  $s_i$  is the scalar of the agent i.e. how many individuals that agent represents.

```
@derived_quantity Total_biomass_in_Summer
type biomass
biomass_layer_label Base
selectivity All
time_step Summer
proportion_through_mortality_block 0.0

@selectivity All
type constant
c 1
```

##### Mature Biomass

$$B = \sum_i \text{if}(mature = 1) I \bar{w}_i \times s_i \quad (4.31)$$

where  $s_i$  is the scalar of the agent i.e. how many individuals that agent represents.

```
@derived_quantity SSB
type mature_biomass
biomass_layer_label SSB_layer
time_step time_step_one
proportion_through_mortality_block 0.0
```

## Abundance

$$B = \sum_i \text{if } (U() \leq S_a) I s_i \quad (4.32)$$

where for an age based selectivity where  $S_a$  is the probability of being included in this derived quantity, if the summary is age based,  $I$  is a 0 or 1 depending on the condition of the if statement,  $s_i$  is the scalar of the agent i.e. how many individuals that agent represents.

```
@derived_quantity Total_abundance_in_Summer
type abundance
layer_label Base
selectivity All
time_step Summer
proportion_through_mortality_block 0.0

@selectivity All
type constant
c 1
```

## 4.9. Selectivities

A selectivity is a function that can have a different value for each age class or length bin. Selectivities are used throughout THE IBM to interpret observations or to modify the effects of processes on each age class or length bins (Section 4). THE IBM implements a number of different parametric forms, including logistic, knife edge, and double normal selectivities. Selectivities are defined in there own command block (@selectivity), where the unique label is used by observations or processes to identify which selectivity to apply.

Selectivities are indexed by age, with indices from `min_age` to `max_age`. For example, for a logistic age-based selectivity with 50% selected at age 5 and 95% selected at age 7, would be defined by the `type=logistic` with parameters  $a_{50} = 5$  and  $a_{t095} = (7 - 5) = 2$ . The value of the selectivity at age  $x = 7$  is 0.95, and the value at age  $x = 3$  is 0.05. Note, while selectivities can be length based, use with caution as more testing is needed for this functionality.

The function values for some choices of parameters, for some selectivities, can result in a computer numeric overflow error (i.e., the number calculated from parameter values is either too large or too small to be represented in computer memory). THE IBM implements range checks on some parameters to test for a possible numeric overflow error before attempting to calculate function values. For example, the logistic selectivity is implemented such that if  $(a_{50} - x)/a_{t095} > 5$  then the value of the selectivity at  $x = 0$ , i.e., for  $a_{50} = 5$ ,  $a_{t095} = 0.1$ , then the value of the selectivity at  $x = 1$ , without range checking would be  $7.1 \times 10^{-52}$ . With range checking, that value is 0 (as  $(a_{50} - x)/a_{t095} = 40 > 5$ ).

The available selectivities are;

- Constant
- Knife-edge

- All values
- All values bounded
- Increasing
- Logistic
- Inverse logistic
- Logistic producing
- Double normal
- Double exponential

The available selectivities are described below.

#### 4.9.1. constant

$$f(x) = C \quad (4.33)$$

The constant selectivity has the parameter C.

#### 4.9.2. knife\_edge

$$f(x) = \begin{cases} 0, & \text{if } x < E \\ \alpha, & \text{if } x \geq E \end{cases} \quad (4.34)$$

The knife-edge ogive has the estimable parameter E and a scaling parameter  $\alpha$ , where the default value of  $\alpha = 1$ .

#### 4.9.3. all\_values

$$f(x) = V_x \quad (4.35)$$

The all-values selectivity has parameters  $V_{low}, V_{low+1} \dots V_{high}$ . Here, you need to provide the selectivity value for each age class.

#### 4.9.4. all\_values\_bounded

$$f(x) = \begin{cases} 0, & \text{if } x < L \\ V_x, & \text{if } L \leq x \leq H \\ V_H, & \text{if } x > H \end{cases} \quad (4.36)$$

The all-values-bounded selectivity has parameters  $L, H, V_L, V_{L+1} \dots V_H$ . Here, you need to provide an selectivity value for each age class from  $L \dots H$ .

#### 4.9.5. increasing

$$f(x) = \begin{cases} 0, & \text{if } x < L \\ f(x-1) + \pi_x(\alpha - f(x-1)), & \text{if } L \leq x \leq H \\ f(\alpha), & \text{if } x \geq H \end{cases} \quad (4.37)$$

The increasing ogive has parameters  $L$  and  $H$ ,  $\pi_L, \pi_{L+1} \dots \pi_H$  (but if these are estimated, they should always be constrained to be between 0 and 1).  $\alpha$  is a scaling parameter, with default value of  $\alpha = 1$ . Note that the increasing ogive is similar to the all-values-bounded ogive, but is constrained to be non-decreasing.

#### 4.9.6. logistic

$$f(x) = \alpha / [1 + 19^{(a_{50}-x)/a_{t095}}] \quad (4.38)$$

The logistic selectivity has parameters  $a_{50}$  and  $a_{t095}$ .  $\alpha$  is a scaling parameter, with default value of  $\alpha = 1$ . The logistic selectivity takes values  $0.5\alpha$  at  $x = a_{50}$  and  $0.95\alpha$  at  $x = a_{50} + a_{t095}$ .

#### 4.9.7. inverse\_logistic

$$f(x) = \alpha - \alpha / [1 + 19^{(a_{50}-x)/a_{t095}}] \quad (4.39)$$

The inverse logistic selectivity has parameters  $a_{50}$  and  $a_{t095}$ .  $\alpha$  is a scaling parameter, with default value of  $\alpha = 1$ . The logistic selectivity takes values  $0.5\alpha$  at  $x = a_{50}$  and  $0.95\alpha$  at  $x = a_{50} - a_{t095}$ .

#### 4.9.8. logistic\_producing

$$f(x) = \begin{cases} 0, & \text{if } x < L \\ \lambda(L), & \text{if } x = L \\ (\lambda(x) - \lambda(x-1)) / (1 - \lambda(x-1)), & \text{if } L < x < H \\ 1, & \text{if } x \geq H \end{cases} \quad (4.40)$$

The logistic-producing selectivity has the parameters  $L$  and  $H$ ,  $a_{50}$  and  $a_{t095}$ .  $\alpha$  is a scaling parameter, with default value of  $\alpha = 1$ . For category transitions,  $f(x)$  represents the proportion moving, not the proportion that have moved. This selectivity was designed for use in an age-based model to model maturity. In such a model, a logistic-producing maturation selectivity will (in the absence of other influences) make the proportions mature follow a logistic curve with parameters  $a_{50}$ ,  $a_{t095}$ .

#### 4.9.9. double\_normal

$$f(x) = \begin{cases} \alpha 2^{-[(x-\mu)/\sigma_L]^2}, & \text{if } x \leq \mu \\ \alpha 2^{-[(x-\mu)/\sigma_R]^2}, & \text{if } x \geq \mu \end{cases} \quad (4.41)$$

The double-normal selectivity has parameters  $\mu$ ,  $\sigma_L$ , and  $\sigma_R$ .  $\alpha$  is a scaling parameter, with default value of  $\alpha = 1$ . It has values  $\alpha$  at  $x = \mu$

#### 4.9.10. double\_exponential

$$f(x) = \begin{cases} \alpha y_0 (y_1/y_0)^{(x-x_0)/(x_1-x_0)}, & \text{if } x \leq x_0 \\ \alpha y_0 (y_2/y_0)^{(x-x_0)/(x_2-x_0)}, & \text{if } x > x_0 \end{cases} \quad (4.42)$$

The double-exponential selectivity has parameters  $x_1$ ,  $x_2$ ,  $x_0$ ,  $y_0$ ,  $y_1$ , and  $y_2$ .  $\alpha$  is a scaling parameter, with default value of  $\alpha = 1$ . It can be ‘U-shaped’. Bounds for  $x_0$  must be such that  $x_1 < x_0 < x_2$ . With  $\alpha = 1$ , the selectivity passes through the points  $(x_1, y)$ ,  $(x_0, y_0)$ , and  $(x_2, y_2)$ . If both  $y_1$  and  $y_2$  are greater than  $y_0$  the selectivity is ‘U-shaped’ with minimum at  $(x_0, y_0)$ .

Selectivities `all_values` and `all_values_bounded` can be addressed in additional priors using the following syntax,

```
@selectivity maturity
type all_values
v 0.001 0.1 0.2 0.3 0.4 0.3 0.2 0.1

## encourage ages 3-8 to be smooth.
@additional_prior smooth_maturity
type vector_smooth
parameter selectivity[maturity].values{3:8}
```

#### 4.10. Preference Functions

Preference functions are a class of equations that describe the preference for of agents to a covariate used to describe movement in the preference based movement process (Section 4.7.5.2). Currently there are only three options

1. Double normal
2. Logistic
3. Normal

These are the same equations as in the selectivities (Section 4.9), but that instead of specifying the vulnerability for age or length they describe the preference for a user defined covariate or explanatory variable so the units are completely user defined.

##### 4.10.1. double\_normal

$$f(x) = \begin{cases} \alpha 2^{-[(x-\mu)/\sigma_L]^2}, & \text{if } x \leq \mu \\ \alpha 2^{-[(x-\mu)/\sigma_R]^2}, & \text{if } x \geq \mu \end{cases} \quad (4.43)$$

The double-normal preference function has parameters  $\mu$ ,  $\sigma_L$ , and  $\sigma_R$ .  $\alpha$  is a scaling parameter, with default value of  $\alpha = 1$ . It has values  $\alpha$  at  $x = \mu$ .

**4.10.2. logistic**

$$f(x) = \alpha / [1 + 19^{(a_{50} - x)/a_{to95}}] \quad (4.44)$$

The logistic preference function has parameters  $a_{50}$  and  $a_{to95}$ .  $\alpha$  is a scaling parameter, with default value of  $\alpha = 1$ . The logistic selectivity takes values  $0.5\alpha$  at  $x = a_{50}$  and  $0.95\alpha$  at  $x = a_{50} + a_{to95}$ .

**4.10.3. double normal**

$$f(x) = \alpha 2^{-[(x-\mu)/\sigma]^2} \quad (4.45)$$

The normal preference function has parameters  $\sigma$ , and  $\mu$ .  $\alpha$  is a scaling parameter, with default value of  $\alpha = 1$ . It has values  $\alpha$ .

**4.11. Time Varying Parameters**

THE IBM has the functionality to vary some parameters annually between the start and final year of a model run. This can be for blocks of years or specific years. For years that are not specified the parameter will default to the input. Method types for time varying a parameter are; `constant`, `random_walk`, `exogenous`, `linear`, `annual_shift`, `random_draw`. This allows users to let a parameter be known in a year, be the result of a deterministic equation, or stochastic.

When allowing removals to have annual varying, selectivities and other more realistic model components, simulated observations more closely model real data and associated conclusions become more useful. Another driver for implementing time-varying parameters was allowing mean or location parameters of selectivities to change between years based on an explanatory variable. An example of this is in the New Zealand Hoki fishery where we allow the  $\mu$  and  $a_{50}$  parameters to shift depending on when the fishing season occurs. Descriptive analysis showed that when fishing was earlier relative to other years smaller fish were caught and vice versa.

**4.11.1. constant**

Allows a parameter to have an alternative value during certain years, which can be estimated.

```
@time_varying m_time_var
type constant
parameter process[natural_mortality].m
years 1975:1988
values 0.123
```

**4.11.2. random\_walk**

A random deviate is added into the last value drawn from a standard normal distribution. This has an estimable parameter  $\sigma_p$  for each time varying parameter  $p$ . For reproducible modelling, it is highly recommended that users set the seed (see Section 3.4) when using stochastic functionality like this, otherwise reproducing models becomes almost impossible.

```
@time_varying m_time_var
type random_walk
parameter process[natural_mortality].m
```

```
distribution normal
mean 0.123
sigma 0.05
```

A constraint whilst using this functionality is that a parameter cannot be less than 0.0, if it is THE IBM sets it equal to 0.01.

#### 4.11.3. annual\_shift

A parameter generated in year  $y$  ( $\theta'_y$ ) depends on the value specified by the user ( $\theta_y$ ) along with three coefficients  $a, b$  and  $c$  as follows,

$$\bar{\theta}_y = \frac{\sum_y^Y \theta_y}{Y} \quad (4.46)$$

$$\theta'_y = a\bar{\theta}_y + b\bar{\theta}_y^2 + c\bar{\theta}_y^3 \quad (4.47)$$

#### 4.11.4. exogenous

Parameters are shifted based on an exogenous variable, an example of this is an exploitation selectivity parameters that may vary between years based on known changes in exploitation behaviour such as season, start time, and average depth of exploitation.

$$\delta_y = a(E_y - \bar{E}) \quad (4.48)$$

$$\theta'_y = \theta_y + \delta_y \quad (4.49)$$

where  $\delta_y$  is the shift or deviation in parameter  $\theta_y$  in year  $y$  to generate the new parameter value in year  $y$  ( $\theta'_y$ ).  $a$  is an estimable shift parameter,  $E$  is the exogenous variable and  $E_y$  is the value of this variable in year  $y$ . For more information readers can see Francis et al. (2003).

### 4.12. Tips setting up configuration files

THE IBM can take a while if you have a complex spatial model and complex life history. So there are some tips and tricks that I have come found can be useful when setting up configuration files.

#### Debugging a model

When initially setting up a model set initialisation years low and number of agents low, because there is a lot going on in this model it is best to get up and run (which is a good feeling). Also I would advice setting up the population and report components, only once you are happy with that that I would suggest bringing in Observations. Advice I always struggle to keep to is, start very basic and build complexity, otherwise say good bye to time and hello to frustration. Once you are happy with your model then I would suggest increase initialisation years and number of agents.

## The initialisation Phase

The first thing you want to nail down before getting gun hoe on the configuration and complex dynamics you want to get a model that reaches an appropriate initialisation state *quickly!*. So my suggestion is to not worry about fishing in the first instance, set the `start_year` and `final_year` one year apart and play with the initialisation phase commands to see how to efficiently reach a desired initial state. The parameters I am talking about are the subcommands `years` and `layer_label`. The `years` parameter sets how many annual cycles to run through to set your initialisation state, you want this as small as possible. So my advice is run the model with a range of `years` say 5, 10, 20, 30, 40, 50 and 100 to find out how sensitive your initial state is to this. You find that you have to make a compromise between speed and accuracy, unfortunately life is full of such compromises. To see some example **R** code on how I compare initialisation see Section 12.

Along with the `years` parameter you can also set the spatial distribution of the initial seeding of agents through the `layer_label`, if you have a spatial model with movement this would be an interesting one to play with. So pretty much my advice is tweak these initialisation parameters as much as you can before you move onto fishing and generate observations, it will be well worth your while if you treasure time.

## The number of agents in the system

This one should be obvious and we suggest that you play with the initialisation parameter `number_of_agents` to see how sensitive model outputs are to this parameter. The less agents in the system the faster your model will run, however the less agents the more coarse your model becomes because then an entity all of a sudden represents 1000 if not 10000 entities, so once again we return to a compromise.

## The number of threads available

**Disabled** was not implemented correctly the first time, still too many shared resources..

## more ways than one to skin a cat

Hopefully throughout the process and derived quantities I have discussed alternative ways to set up a similar model. Given the generality of the program there are more than one way to approximate dynamics and some will be more computationally quicker than others. So have a play around but try and keep the number of times we iterate over the state as small as possible, as you will get significant time saving. It is also possible to make your own specific process that does a range of processes at one time, thus saving a lot of time. This can be easily done by looking over the current processes and taking the functionality that has been tested and copy them in to a new file.



## 5. The estimation section

### 5.1. The numerical differences minimiser

The minimiser has three kinds of (non-error) exit status, depending on the minimiser:

1. Successful convergence (suggests you have found a local minimum, at least).
2. Convergence failure (you have not reached a local minimum, though you may deem yourself to be ‘close enough’ at your own risk).
3. Convergence unclear (the minimiser halted but was unable to determine if convergence occurred. You may be at a local minimum, although you should check by restarting the minimiser at the final values of the estimated parameters).

You can choose the maximum number of quasi-Newton iterations and objective function evaluations allotted to the minimiser. If it exceeds either limit, it exits with a convergence failure. We recommend large numbers of evaluations and iterations (at least the defaults of 300 and 1000) unless you successfully reach convergence with less.

We want to stress that the minimisers are local optimisation algorithms trying to solve a global optimisation problem. What this means is that, even if you get a ‘successful convergence’ message, your solution may be only a local minimum, not a global one. To diagnose this problem, try doing multiple runs from different starting points and comparing the results, or doing profiles of one or more key parameters and seeing if any of the profiled estimates finds a better optimum than the original point estimate.

```
@minimiser numerical_diff
type numerical_differences
tolerance 1e-6
iterations 2500
evaluations 4000
```



## 6. The observation section

This section describes the observations that THE IBM can generate during run time. THE IBM calculates expectations of all the agents that are user defined, and then adds observation error via simulating through a distribution with a user defined observation error value.

### 6.1. Observations

#### 6.1.1. Process Removals By Age

This observation class aggregates age frequency over a user defined spatial area from a `mortality_event_biomass` and `mortality_baranov` process. This class can add ageing error onto the expectation, to account for ageing error which is a source of uncertainty in ageing fish. An example of how you would set this observation up and show some of the flexibilities in the spatial resolution see the syntax below for a 6 area model.

```
@process fishing
type mortality_event_biomass
years 2000
catch_layers catch_2000
selectivity fishing_selectivity

@layer catch_2000
type numeric
table_layer
600 500 400
1034 601 200
903 450 100
end_table

@layer cells
type categorical
table_layer
r1-c1 r1-c2 r1-c3
r2-c1 r2-c2 r2-c3
r3-c1 r3-c2 r3-c3
end_table

@observation fishery_age
type process_removals_by_age
cell_layer cells
cells r1-c1 r1-c2 r1-c3 r2-c1 r2-c2 r2-c3 r3-c1 r3-c2 r3-c3
simulation_likelihood multinomial
process_label fishing
years 2000
min_age 0
max_age 28
plus_group true
table error_values
2000 10000
end_table
```

The above syntax asks for an age frequency for each cell in the spatial domain through the link to

the categorical layer. You could easily summarise the age frequency over the whole spatial domain by changing the categorical layer as shown below

```
@layer cells
type categorical
table_layer
single_cell single_cell single_cell
single_cell single_cell single_cell
single_cell single_cell single_cell
end_table

@observation fishery_age
type process_removals_by_age
cell_layer cells
cells single_cell
simulation_likelihood multinomial
process_label fishing
years 2000
min_age 0
max_age 28
plus_group true
table error_values
2000 10000
end_table
```

Hopefully the above example illustrates how much control the user has in specifying what information they want to extract.

### 6.1.2. Biomass

This observation summarises the biomass over a selected number of agents in a time step over the mortality block (Section 4.6.2), for user defined spatial areas. THE IBM does an interpolation similar to the derived quantities if the user wishes to extract a biomass observation that represents a proportion of mortality being taken.

```
@observation survey_index
type biomass
years 1990:2013
time_step Summer
catchability 0.342
proportion_through_mortality_block 1.0 ## take snapshot at the end of timestep
simulation_likelihood lognormal
error_value 0.2 * 24
selectivities Sel_survey
cell_layer cells
cells r1-c1 r2-c1 r3-c1
```

### 6.1.3. Proportions at age

This observation summarises the proportions at age for selected number of agents in a time step over the mortality block (Section 4.6.2)

```

@observation survey_age_comp
type proportions_at_age
simulation_likelihoood multinomial
years 1990:1995
min_age 0
max_age 20
plus_group true
ageing_error none
table error_values
1990 300
1991 300
1992 300
1993 300
1994 300
1995 300
end_table
cell_layer cells
cells r1-c1 r2-c1 r3-c1

```

#### 6.1.4. Age frequency from scaled length frequency

This observation class, generates an age frequency by getting all agents removed by an F method in user defined stratum, and returns a sub-sample of age and lengths that is used to generate an age length key. The user can ask for ageing-error to be applied to when generating an age length key, using the @ageing\_error block (see Section 6.2). Calculations currently follow the following algorithm for each spatial stratum,

1. randomly sub sample fishery to calculate length frequency
2. within the sampled fish for length frequency, sub sample ages based on the age\_allocation\_method command
3. apply ageing error to the ages.

$$N_{n,a} = \sum_l K_{a,l,n} N_{l,n} \quad (6.1)$$

where  $K_{a,l,n}$  is the age length key for stratum  $n$ ,  $N_{l,n}$  is the numbers at length which can be a sub sample of the fishery, this is controlled by the input table `proportion_lf_sampled`. There are three methods for allocating ages for a single age length key, these are `random`, `equal`, `proportional`. Random will uniformly sample without replacement, Equal will put equal amount of ages in each length bin that is non-zero, and proportional will distribute the number of ages, proportional to the length frequency.

$$N_a = \sum_n \sum_s N_{n,a,s} \quad (6.2)$$

At some point when I return to this I wont add sex if sexual dimorphism is evident among agents, see below for more improvements that I will be adding to this class.

```
@observation scaled_age_freq
type mortality_scaled_age_frequency
years 1991
process_label summer_fishery
ageing_error none
stratum_weighting_method biomass
layer_of_stratum_definitions summery_fishery_catch_at_age_stratum
stratums_to_include Inshore Offshore
age_allocation_method proportional

table samples ## number of individuals randomly selected to calculate age-length key
year    Inshore    Offshore
1991    400        200
end_table

table proportion_lf_sampled ## proportion of catch that is sampled for Length frequency
year    Inshore    Offshore
1991    0.8        0.7
end_table
simulation_likelihood multinomial

@layer summery_fishery_catch_at_age_stratum
type categorical
table layer
Inshore Inshore Offshore Offshore Offshore
Inshore Inshore Offshore Offshore Offshore
Inshore Inshore Offshore Offshore Offshore
Inshore Inshore Offshore Offshore Offshore
end_table
```

#### 6.1.5. Age frequency from scaled length frequency for Mortality Event Biomass process

This observation class, is an extension of the class Age frequency from scaled length frequency (Section 6.1.4) and is the recommended age-length method when generating mortality based age-frequencies from process of type `mortality_event_biomass`. This is mainly because the process `mortality_event_biomass` allows for multiple fisheries (gear types/vulnerabilities) and so generally we want to generate an age-frequency for a specific fishery. The algorithm is similar to that of the class is derives from with the following steps run.

For each Stratum identify all agents that are measured for Length frequency.

1. randomly sub sample cells that are within each stratum (can have many)
2. For each cell randomly select all available agents for measuring length frequency (denoted by `table proportion_lf_sampled`)

For all agents measured for length within the stratum ( $N_n$ ) sub-sample agents available for otolith reading with a length based probability according to the subcommand `age_allocation_method`. Where the probabilities are defined for an agent of length  $l$  as,

1. random  $\frac{1}{N_n}$
2. proportional  $\frac{N_{l,n}}{N_n}$

3. equal  $\frac{1}{n_l}$

where  $N_{l,n}$  is the numbers measured for length in length bin  $l$  in stratum  $n$  and  $n_l$  is the number of length bins that are non zero. When sub-sampling for age occurs this sampling is **without** replacement. The algorithm will do it's best to allocate ages according to these probabilities, if after so many attempts it can't fully allocate the number of otoliths according to these probabilities. It will abandon random methods and try systematically find fish to complete the distribution. This will occur when is a low probability that by its very definition will take a long time to randomly generate a sample of. Once we have randomly sub-sampled ages we calculate an Age Length Key (ALK) (represented as proportions) and calculate final ages following. Ageing error is applied in the age-length key, so if an agent is of age 3 but misclassified as age 4 then it is put in the ALK as age 4.

$$N_{n,a} = \sum_l K_{a,l,n} N_{l,n} \quad (6.3)$$

$$N_a = \sum_n \sum_s N_{n,a,s} \quad (6.4)$$

```
@observation scaled_age_freq
type mortality_event_biomass_scaled_age_frequency
years 1991
process_label summer_fishery
fishery_label fisheryTrwl
ageing_error none
stratum_weighting_method biomass
layer_of_stratum_definitions summery_fishery_catch_at_age_stratum
stratums_to_include Inshore Offshore
age_allocation_method proportional

table samples ## number of individuals randomly selected to calculate age-length key
year   Inshore   Offshore
1991   400       200
end_table

table proportion_lf_sampled ## proportion of catch that is sampled for Length frequency
year   Inshore   Offshore
1991   0.8       0.7
end_table
simulation_likelihoood multinomial

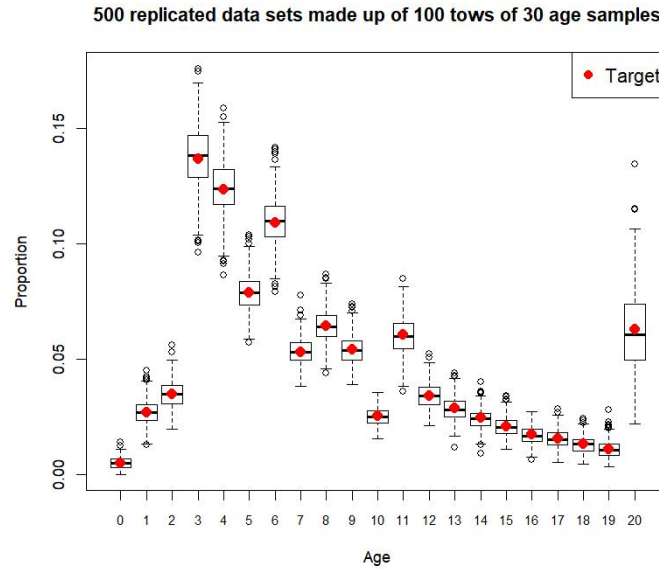
@layer summery_fishery_catch_at_age_stratum
type categorical
table layer
Inshore Inshore Offshore Offshore Offshore
Inshore Inshore Offshore Offshore Offshore
Inshore Inshore Offshore Offshore Offshore
Inshore Inshore Offshore Offshore Offshore
end_table
```

### Cool things I will plan to do with this observation class

This will be a great class for investigating catch at age inputs, I will have to return to this as this is not yet in my scope of project but things you would need to add before this observation is useful or representative of applied protocol,

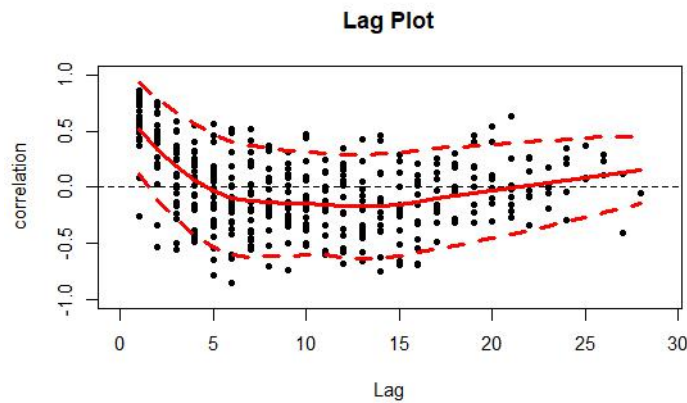
- Add sex in these equations.
- currently we only get spatial stratum based information, but somehow structuring fishery data to represent tows and fleets might be quite handy in this type of investigation.
- different methods for weighting, to generate scaled length frequency you would want to add the options to weight stratum by biomass, area, numbers or proportion
- Bootstrap estimates, we could boot strap ALK and Scaled length frequencies to get CV for each age bin in the frequency, and calculate an effective sample size.

where,  $u$  is a random number generated from uniform random variable on  $[0, 1]$ . This algorithm is shown to generate unbiased estimates of the target distribution (Figure 6.2).

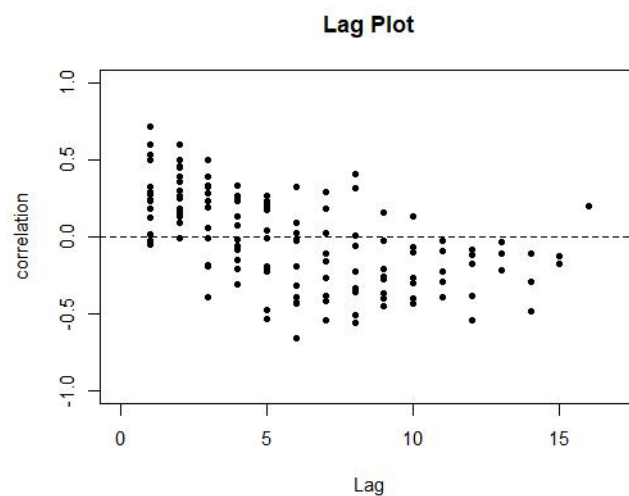


**Figure 6.1: Boxplots of simulated age frequency using the algorithm described in the methods, with  $n_a = 30$  (number of otoliths per cluster),  $n_c = 100$  (number of clusters) and  $\sigma_c = 2.5$ , showing that on average they generate unbiased proportions at age.**





(a)



(b)

**Figure 6.2:** Top panel (a) are, Pearson residuals from a stock assessment assuming a multinomial distribution, with data simulated from the IBM with this cluster algorithm. The bottom panel (b) are Pearson residuals, from the HAK 3&4 stock assessment from the Chatham Rise Age composition data set.

#### 6.1.6. Age frequency from Mortality Event Biomass process with clustering

In this observation, you specify the number of clusters which can be thought of as hauls you want to sample from a fishing event (specific fishery and time), as well as some attributes of clusters i.e. `average_cluster_weight` in tonnes average weight of haul to sample, the `cv_cluster_cv` which describes the variance around the mean weight of hauls to sample from (distribution assumed is log normal). Within each cluster you can specify, how many otoliths will be sampled from each haul, and how correlated the ages will be within a haul, this is defined by the `cluster_sigma`. As this parameter goes to zero the hauls are highly homogeneous, compared to a large value, where the ages become uncorrelated. You can ask for the observation to be normalised as proportions (`composition_type proportions`) or as numbers.

The other neat thing regarding this observation class, is you can weight each haul,

## The algorithm

- Iterate over each stratum, calculating weight in each stratum, and associated cells with their weights
  - for each stratum
    - iterate over all cells within each strata
    - with in each cell
      - randomly select a cluster/haul, number of hauls per cell are weighted by how much biomass was in the cell compared to all cells within strata
      - Randomly select a cluster size (weight based quantity)
      - Calculate that to abundance using a simple mean weight per agent in the cell.
      - Randomly select on agent in available in the current cell, this is the starting agent, and all other agents in the cluster are conditional on this first agent (thus creating a school effect)
      - We implement a Metropolis Hastings algorithm (steps 6.1.6) to select the number agents that the user desires for this cluster.
      - Can apply ageing error at this point
        - weight each aged fish's contribution by the weight of the cluster e.g. an aged fish from a cluster of 100 tonnes will have more 'weight' than an aged fish from a cluster of 1 tonne.
1. Randomly select an individual  $x_0$  from the population (all individuals have equal probability of capture)
  2. generate a proposal individual from  $x'_i \sim \mathcal{N}(x_{i-1}, \sigma_c^2)$
  3. calculate the acceptance ratio  $\alpha = \frac{\pi(x'_i)}{\pi(x_{i-1})}$
  4. accept if  $u \leq \alpha$   $x_i = x'_i$  or reject if  $u > \alpha$   $x_i = x_{i-1}$
  5. repeat steps 2-4 until an adequate sample size is reached denoted by  $n_a$ .
  6. repeat steps 1-5 to generate multiple clusters  $n_c$

### 6.1.7. Tag-recaptures by length

### 6.1.8. Tag-recaptures by age

## 6.2. Ageing error

THE IBM can apply ageing error to an expected age frequency generated by the model. The ageing error is applied as a misclassification matrix, which has the effect of 'smearing' the expected age frequencies. This is mimicking the error involved in identifying the age of individuals. For example fish species are aged by reading the ear bones (otoliths) which can be quite difficult depending on the species. These are used in generating age based observations.

Ageing error is optional, and if it is used, it may be omitted for any individual time series. Different ageing error models may be applied for different observation commands. See Section ?? for reporting the misclassification matrix at the end of model run.

The ageing error models implemented are,

1. None: The default model is to apply no ageing error.
2. Off by one: Proportion  $p_1$  of individuals of each age  $a$  are misclassified as age  $a - 1$  and proportion  $p_2$  are misclassified as age  $a + 1$ . Individuals of age  $a < k$  are not misclassified. If there is no plus group in the population model, then proportion  $p_2$  of the oldest age class will 'fall off the edge' and disappear.
3. Normal: Individuals of age  $a$  are classified as ages which are normally distributed with mean  $a$  and constant c.v.  $c$ . As above, if there is no plus group in the population model, some individuals of the older age classes may disappear. If  $c$  is high enough, some of the younger age classes may 'fall off the other edge'. Individuals of age  $a < k$  are not misclassified.

Note that the expected and simulated observations reported by THE IBM for observations with ageing error will have had the ageing error applied.



## 7. The report section

The report section specifies the printouts and other outputs from the model. THE IBM does **not** produce any output unless requested by a valid `@report` block. This is important to note, as model runs can take a few minutes to run it will be in vain if there are no reports.

Reports from THE IBM can be defined to print partition and states objects at a particular point in time, observation summaries, estimated parameters and objective function values. See below for a more extensive list of report types, and an example of an observation report.

Also remember because this is a terminal run program to write pipe out the output to file like `ibm -r > run.out` else it would print to the terminal and be fairly useless. Once you have THE IBM output in a text file like the above example `run.out`, go to Section 12 for how to use the R-library for reading in and plotting information in the **R** environment.

### 7.0.1. Initialisation Partition

A very useful report for looking at the initialisation partition. This report prints two instances of the partition. The first is right after we do an exponential approximation in each cell, and the second is after we have run the initial annual cycle for `years` and are about to enter the actual annual cycle.

```
@report init
type initialisation_partition
```

### 7.0.2. Age Frequency

There are two reports for printing the age frequency, you can print it for the all cells the total age frequency at the end of a time step using the `type world_age_frequency`. Or you could choose to print the age frequency for each cell using the `type age_frequency_by_cell`.

```
# print age frequency by cell
@report age_freq
type age_frequency_by_cell
#years 1990:2018 ## defaults to model years
time_step Annual
```

```
# print age frequency for all cells
@report world_age_freq
type world_age_frequency
#years 1990:2018 ## defaults to model years
time_step Annual
```

### 7.0.3. Observation

This prints a summary of an observation and simulated values, for each year and cell.

```
@observation fishery_age
```

```
type process_removals_by_age
simulation_likelihood multinomial
process_label fishing
years 2000
min_age 0
max_age 28
#plus_group true
ageing_error None
table error_values
2000 10000
end_table
cell_layer cells
cells r1-c1

@report fisher_age_freq
type observation
observation fishery_age
```

### 7.0.4. Model Attributes

This pretty much just prints the global scalar used to convert numbers and biomass from agent space to population level.

```
@report model_attributes
type model_attributes
```

### 7.0.5. Derived Quantities

This report will print all the derived quantities for all years in the model.

```
@report derived_quants
type derived_quantity
```

### 7.0.6. Process

This report will print all parameters that were set for a specific process and any auxiliary information that you want from the specific process. Many of the processes will print extra information such as some of the mortality processes that are responsible for tag recaptures.

```
@report M_report
type process
process natural_mort
```

### 7.0.7. Numeric Layer

This report will print out the model derived numeric layers such Abundance and biomass. Useful for showing the spatial distribution of all the agents over time.

```
@report biomass_by_cell
type numeric_layer
layer_label biomass_by_cell
years 1990:2018
time_step Summer
```

### **7.0.8. Time varying**

This report will print out all the time varying parameters and the values assumed in each year

```
@report time_varying_parameters  
type time)varying
```

### **7.0.9. Summarise Agents**

This report will randomly print all the attributes from a user defined number of agents that can be viewed at the end of each time step. Useful looking at length weight by area, tagged fish etc.

```
@report agents  
type summarise_agents  
years 1990:2018  
time_step Summer  
number_of_individuals 1000
```





## 8. Population command and subcommand syntax

### 8.1. Model structure

**@model** *label*     Define an object of type *model*

**start\_year**     Define the first year of the model, immediately following initialisation

Type: non-negative integer

Default: No Default

Value: Defines the first year of the model,  $\geq 1$ , e.g. 1990

**final\_year**     Define the final year of the model, excluding years in the projection period

Type: non-negative integer

Default: No Default

Value: Defines the last year of the model, i.e., the model is run from start\_year to final\_year

**min\_age**     Minimum age of individuals in the population

Type: non-negative integer

Default: 0

Value:  $0 \leq \text{age}_{\min} \leq \text{age}_{\max}$

**max\_age**     Maximum age of individuals in the population

Type: non-negative integer

Default: 0

Value:  $0 \leq \text{age}_{\min} \leq \text{age}_{\max}$

**age\_plus**     Define the oldest age or extra length midpoint (plus group size) as a plus group

Type: boolean

Default: false

Value: true, false

**initialisation\_phase\_labels**     Define the labels of the phases of the initialisation

Type: string vector

Default: false

Value: A list of valid labels defined by @initialisation\_phase

**time\_steps**     Define the labels of the time steps, in the order that they are applied, to form the annual cycle

Type: string vector

Default: No Default

Value: A list of valid labels defined by @time\_step

**length\_bins**

Type: non-negative integer vector

Default: false

**length\_plus**     Is the last bin a plus group

Type: boolean

Default: false

`base_layer_label`      Label for the base layer

Type: std::string

Default: No Default

`latitude_bounds`      Latitude bounds for the spatial domain, should include lower and upper bound, so there should be rows + 1 values

Type: constant-float vector

Default: true

`longitude_bounds`      Longitude bounds for the spatial domain, should include lower and upper bound, so there should be columns + 1 values

Type: constant-float vector

Default: true

`nrows`      number of rows in spatial domain

Type: non-negative integer

Default: No Default

Lower Bound: 1 (inclusive)

`ncols`      number of columns in spatial domain

Type: non-negative integer

Default: No Default

Lower Bound: 1 (inclusive)

`sexed`      Is sex an attribute of then agents?

Type: boolean

Default: false

`growth_process_label`      Label for the growth process in the annual cycle

Type: std::string

Default: No Default

`natural_mortality_process_label`      Label for the natural mortality process in the annual cycle

Type: std::string

Default: No Default

## 8.2. Initialisation

**@initialisationphase** *label*      Define an object of type *initialisationphase*

`label`      The label of the initialisation phase

Type: std::string  
Default: No Default

`type`      The type of initialisation  
Type: std::string  
Default: iterative

### 8.2.1. `@initialisation_phase[label].type=iterative`

`years`      The number of iterations (years) over which to execute this initialisation phase  
Type: non-negative integer  
Default: No Default

`initial_number_of_agents`      The number of agents to initially seed in the partition  
Type: non-negative integer  
Default: No Default

`layer_label`      The label of a layer that you want to seed a distribution by.  
Type: std::string  
Default: ""

`recruitment_layer_label`      The label of a layer has a recruitment process label in each cell to see how to set scalars  
Type: std::string  
Default: ""

`initialisation_mortality_rate`      The instantaneous mortality rate to use to approximate a crude initial age-structure  
Type: float  
Default: 0.2

## 8.3. Time-steps

`@timestep label`      Define an object of type *timestep*

`label`      The label of the timestep  
Type: std::string  
Default: No Default

`processes`      The labels of the processes for this time step in the order that they occur  
Type: string vector  
Default: No Default

## 8.4. Processes

**@process** *label* Define an object of type *process*

*label* The label of the process

Type: std::string

Default: No Default

*type* The type of process

Type: std::string

Default: ""

### 8.4.1. @process[label].type=growth\_schnute\_with\_basic

*distribution* the distribution to allocate the parameters to the agents

Type: std::string

Default: normal

Allowed Values: normal, lognormal

*update\_growth\_parameters* If an agent/individual moves do you want it to take on the growth parameters of the new spatial cell

Type: boolean

Default: No Default

*cv* The cv of the distribution

Type: float

Default: No Default

*alpha\_layer\_label* Label for the numeric layer that describes mean  $L_{inf}$  by area

Type: string vector

Default: true

*beta\_layer\_label* Label for the numeric layer that describes mean  $k$  by area

Type: string vector

Default: true

*t0\_layer\_label* Label for the numeric layer that describes mean  $t_0$  by area

Type: string vector

Default: true

*a\_layer\_label* Label for the numeric layer that describes mean  $a$  in the weight calculation through space

Type: string vector

Default: true

*b\_layer\_label* Label for the numeric layer that describes mean  $b$  in the weight calculation

through space

Type: string vector

Default: true

t0      The value for t0 default = 0

Type: constant-float vector

Default: true

alpha      alpha value for schnute growth curve

Type: Addressable vector

Default: true

beta      beta value for schnute growth curve

Type: Addressable vector

Default: true

a      alpha value for weight at length function

Type: constant-float vector

Default: true

b      beta value for weight at length function

Type: constant-float vector

Default: true

tau1      reference age for y1

Type: Addressable vector

Default: No Default

tau2      reference age for y2

Type: Addressable vector

Default: No Default

y1      mean size at reference ages tau1

Type: constant-float vector

Default: No Default

y2      mean size at reference ages tau2

Type: constant-float vector

Default: No Default

alpha

Type: Addressable vector

Default: No Default

beta

Type: Addressable vector  
Default: No Default

tau1

Type: Addressable vector  
Default: No Default

tau2

Type: Addressable vector  
Default: No Default

#### **8.4.2. @process[label].type=growth\_von\_bertalanffy\_with\_basic**

distribution      the distribution to allocate the parameters to the agents

Type: std::string  
Default: normal  
Allowed Values: normal, lognormal

update\_growth\_parameters      If an agent/individual moves do you want it to take on the growth parameters of the new spatial cell

Type: boolean  
Default: No Default

cv      The cv of the distribution

Type: float  
Default: No Default

linf\_layer\_label      Label for the numeric layer that describes mean L inf by area

Type: string vector  
Default: true

k\_layer\_label      Label for the numeric layer that describes mean k by area

Type: string vector  
Default: true

t0\_layer\_label      Label for the numeric layer that describes mean t0 by area

Type: string vector  
Default: true

t0      The value for t0 default = 0

Type: constant-float vector  
Default: true

a\_layer\_label      Label for the numeric layer that describes mean a in the weight calculation

through space  
Type: string vector  
Default: true

`b_layer_label`      Label for the numeric layer that describes mean `b` in the weight calculation through space  
Type: string vector  
Default: true

`linf`      Value of mean `L inf` multiplied by the layer value if supplied  
Type: Addressable vector  
Default: true

`k`      Value of mean `k` multiplied by the layer value if supplied  
Type: Addressable vector  
Default: true

`a`      alpha value for weight at length function  
Type: constant-float vector  
Default: true

`b`      beta value for weight at length function  
Type: constant-float vector  
Default: true

`linf`  
Type: Addressable vector  
Default: No Default

`k`  
Type: Addressable vector  
Default: No Default

### 8.4.3. `@process[label].type=maturity`

### 8.4.4. `@process[label].type=mortality_baranov`

`years`      years to apply the fishery process in  
Type: non-negative integer vector  
Default: No Default

`fishing_mortality_layers`      Spatial layer describing catch by cell for each year, there is a one to one link with the year specified, so make sure the order is right  
Type: string vector  
Default: No Default

`minimum_legal_length`      The minimum legal length for this fishery, any individual less than this will be returned using some discard mortality

Type: float

Default: 0

`handling_mortality`      if discarded due to being under the minimum legal length, what is the probability the individual will die when released

Type: float

Default: 0.0

`print_extra_info`      if you have process report for this process you can control the amount of information printed to the file.

Type: boolean

Default: true

`scanning_proportion_of_catch`      The proportion of catch scanned in each year

Type: constant-float vector

Default: true

`cv`      The cv of the distribution for the M distribution

Type: float

Default: No Default

`m_multiplier_layer_label`      Label for the numeric layer that describes a multiplier of M through space

Type: std::string

Default: ""

`natural_mortality_selectivity_label`      Selectivity label for the natural mortality process

Type: string vector

Default: No Default

`m`      Natural mortality for the model

Type: estimable

Default: No Default

#### 8.4.5. `@process[label].type=mortality_constant_rate`

`distribution`      the distribution to allocate the parameters to the agents

Type: std::string

Default: normal

Allowed Values: normal, lognormal

`cv`      The cv of the distribution



Type: float  
Default: No Default

`m_multiplier_layer_label`      Label for the numeric layer that describes a multiplier of M through space  
Type: `std::string`  
Default: ""

`m`      Natural mortality for the model  
Type: Addressable  
Default: No Default

`update_mortality_parameters`      If an agent/individual moves do you want it to take on the natural mortality parameters of the new spatial cell  
Type: boolean  
Default: No Default

`time_step_ratio`      Time step ratios for the mortality rates to apply in each time step. See manual for how this is applied  
Type: constant-float vector  
Default: No Default

`m`  
Type: Addressable  
Default: No Default

#### 8.4.6. `@process[label].type=mortality_effort_based`

`selectivity`      Selectivity label  
Type: string vector  
Default: No Default

`minimiser`      Label of the minimiser to solve the problem  
Type: `std::string`  
Default: No Default

`years`      years to apply the process  
Type: non-negative integer vector  
Default: No Default

`catches`      Total catch by year  
Type: constant-float vector  
Default: No Default

`effort_values`      A vector of effort values, one for each enabled cell of the model, these should

represent the variability of effort of the fishery mimicking

Type: constant-float vector

Default: true

`effort_layer_label` A layer label that is a numeric layer label that contains effort values for each year.

Type: std::string

Default: ""

`starting_value_for_lambda` Total catch by year

Type: constant vector

Default: true

#### 8.4.7. `@process[label].type=mortality_event_biomass`

`print_census_info` if you have process report for this process you can control the amount of information printed to the file.

Type: boolean

Default: true

`print_tag_recapture_info` if you have process report for this process you can control the amount of information printed to the file.

Type: boolean

Default: true

#### 8.4.8. `@process[label].type=movement_box_transfer`

`origin_cell` The origin cell associated with each spatial layer (should have a one to one relationship with specified layers), format follows row-col (1-2)

Type: string vector

Default: No Default

`probability_layers` Spatial layers (one layer for each origin cell) describing the probability of moving from an origin cell to all other cells in the spatial domain.

Type: string vector

Default: No Default

`movement_type` What type of movement are you applying?

Type: std::string

Default: markovian

Allowed Values: markovian, natal\_homing

`selectivity_label` Label for the selectivity block

Type: string vector

Default: No Default

**8.4.9. @process[label].type=movement\_preference**

d\_max      The maximum diffusion value

Type: constant

Default: No Default

Lower Bound: 0.0 (exclusive)

time\_intervals      The time interval that this movement process occurs over (k) in the documentation formula's

Type: constant

Default: 1.0

Lower Bound: 0.0 (exclusive)

zeta      An arbitrary parameter that controls curvature between preference and diffusion

Type: constant

Default: 1.0

Lower Bound: 0.0 (exclusive)

brownian\_motion      Just apply random movement, undirected movement

Type: boolean

Default: false

preference\_functions      The preference functions to apply

Type: string vector

Default: true

preference\_layers      The preference functions to apply

Type: string vector

Default: true

selectivity\_label      Label for the selectivity block

Type: string vector

Default: No Default

**8.4.10. @process[label].type=nop****8.4.11. @process[label].type=recruitment\_beverton\_holt**

b0      B0

Type: Addressable

Default: false

recruitment\_layer\_label      A label for the recruitment layer, that describes spatial distribution

of recruits.

Type: std::string

Default: No Default

ssb      A label for the SSB derived quantity

Type: std::string

Default: No Default

proportion\_male      Proportion of recruits male

Type: Addressable vector

Default: 1.0

b0

Type: Addressable

Default: No Default

proportion\_male

Type: Addressable vector

Default: No Default

steepness      Steepness

Type: float

Default: 1.0

ycs\_values      YCS (Year-Class-Strength) Values

Type: estimable vector

Default: No Default

### 8.4.12. @process[label].type=recruitment\_constant

b0      B0

Type: Addressable

Default: false

recruitment\_layer\_label      A label for the recruitment layer, that describes spatial distribution of recruits.

Type: std::string

Default: No Default

ssb      A label for the SSB derived quantity

Type: std::string

Default: No Default

proportion\_male      Proportion of recruits male

Type: Addressable vector  
Default: 1.0

b0

Type: Addressable  
Default: No Default

proportion\_male

Type: Addressable vector  
Default: No Default

#### 8.4.13. @process[label].type=tag\_shedding

selectivity\_label      Label for the selectivity block  
Type: string vector  
Default: No Default

time\_step\_ratio      Time step ratios for the Shedding rates to apply in each time step. See manual for how this is applied  
Type: constant-float vector  
Default: No Default

shedding\_rates      Shedding rate per Tag release event  
Type: constant-float vector  
Default: No Default

tag\_release\_region      The Release region for the corresponding shedding rate, in the format 1-1 for the first row and first column, and '5-2' for the fifth row and second column  
Type: string vector  
Default: No Default

tag\_release\_year      The Release Year for the corresponding shedding rate  
Type: non-negative integer vector  
Default: No Default

years      Years to execute the tag shedding process  
Type: non-negative integer vector  
Default: No Default

#### 8.4.14. @process[label].type=tagging

`tag_release_layer` Spatial layer describing catch by cell for each year, there is a one to one link with the year specified, so make sure the order is right

Type: string vector

Default: true

`selectivities` selectivity used to capture agents

Type: string vector

Default: ""

`handling_mortality` What is the handling mortality assumed for tagged fish, sometimes called initial mortality

Type: float

Default: 0

`years` Years to execute the transition in

Type: non-negative integer vector

Default: No Default

### 8.5. Time varying parameters

**@timevarying** *label* Define an object of type *timevarying*

`label` The time-varying label

Type: std::string

Default: No Default

`type` The time-varying type

Type: std::string

Default: ""

`years` Years in which to vary the values

Type: non-negative integer vector

Default: No Default

`parameter` The name of the parameter to time vary

Type: std::string

Default: No Default

#### 8.5.1. @time\_varying[label].type=annual\_shift

`values`

Type: constant-float vector

Default: No Default

a

Type: float  
Default: No Default

b

Type: float  
Default: No Default

c

Type: float  
Default: No Default

scaling\_years

Type: non-negative integer vector  
Default: true

### 8.5.2. @time\_varying[label].type=constant

values      Value to assign to addressable

Type: estimable vector  
Default: No Default

### 8.5.3. @time\_varying[label].type=exogenous

a      Shift parameter

Type: estimable  
Default: No Default

exogeneous\_variable      Values of exogeneous variable for each year

Type: constant-float vector  
Default: No Default

### 8.5.4. @time\_varying[label].type=linear

slope      The slope of the linear trend (additive unit per year)

Type: estimable  
Default: No Default

intercept      The intercept of the linear trend value for the first year

Type: estimable  
Default: No Default

### 8.5.5. `@time_varying[label].type=random_draw`

mean      Mean

Type: estimable

Default: 0

sigma      Standard deviation

Type: estimable

Default: 1

distribution      distribution

Type: std::string

Default: normal

Allowed Values: normal, lognormal

### 8.5.6. `@time_varying[label].type=random_walk`

mean      Mean

Type: estimable

Default: 0

sigma      Standard deviation

Type: estimable

Default: 1

upper\_bound      Upper bound for the random walk

Type: float

Default: 1

upper\_bound      Lower bound for the random walk

Type: float

Default: 1

rho      Auto Correlation parameter

Type: float

Default: 1

distribution      distribution

Type: std::string

Default: normal

## 8.6. Derived quantities

`@derivedquantity label`      Define an object of type *derivedquantity*



label      Label of the derived quantity

Type: std::string

Default: No Default

type      Type of derived quantity

Type: std::string

Default: No Default

time\_step      The time step in which to calculate the derived quantity after

Type: std::string

Default: No Default

proportion\_through\_mortality\_block      Proportion through the mortality block of the time  
step when calculated

Type: float

Default: float(0.5)

Lower Bound: 0.0 (inclusive)

Upper Bound: 1.0 (inclusive)

#### **8.6.1. @derived\_quantity[label].type=abundance**

selectivity      A label for the selectivity

Type: string vector

Default: No Default

layer\_label      A label for the layer that indicates which cells to calculate abundance in over

Type: std::string

Default: No Default

#### **8.6.2. @derived\_quantity[label].type=biomass**

selectivity      A label for the selectivity

Type: string vector

Default: No Default

biomass\_layer\_label      A label for the layer that indicates which cells to calculate biomass over

Type: std::string

Default: No Default

### 8.6.3. `@derived_quantity[label].type=biomass_by_cell`

### 8.6.4. `@derived_quantity[label].type=mature_biomass`

`biomass_layer_label`      A label for the layer that indicates which cells to calculate biomass over  
 Type: `std::string`  
 Default: No Default

## 8.7. Selectivities

**`@selectivity label`**      Define an object of type *selectivity*

`label`      The label for this selectivity  
 Type: `std::string`  
 Default: No Default

`type`      The type of selectivity  
 Type: `std::string`  
 Default: No Default

`length_based`      Is the selectivity length based  
 Type: `boolean`  
 Default: `false`

`include_age_zero`      Include 0 aged fish in selectivity (more for comparing with population models that start modelling fish at age = 1)  
 Type: `boolean`  
 Default: `false`

### 8.7.1. `@selectivity[label].type=all_values`

`v`      `V`  
 Type: constant-float vector  
 Default: No Default

### 8.7.2. `@selectivity[label].type=all_values_bounded`

`l`      `L`  
 Type: non-negative integer  
 Default: No Default

`h`      `H`  
 Type: non-negative integer  
 Default: No Default

v      V  
Type: constant-float vector  
Default: No Default

### 8.7.3. @selectivity[label].type=constant

c      C  
Type: float  
Default: No Default

### 8.7.4. @selectivity[label].type=double\_exponential

x0      X0  
Type: estimable  
Default: No Default

x1      X1  
Type: float  
Default: No Default

x2      X2  
Type: float  
Default: No Default

y0      Y0  
Type: estimable  
Default: No Default

y1      Y1  
Type: estimable  
Default: No Default

y2      Y2  
Type: estimable  
Default: No Default

alpha      Alpha  
Type: estimable  
Default: 1.0

### 8.7.5. @selectivity[label].type=double\_normal

mu      Mu  
Type: estimable  
Default: No Default

sigma\_l      Sigma L  
Type: estimable  
Default: No Default

sigma\_r      Sigma R  
Type: estimable  
Default: No Default

alpha      Alpha  
Type: estimable  
Default: 1.0

### 8.7.6. @selectivity[label].type=increasing

l      Low  
Type: non-negative integer  
Default: No Default

h      High  
Type: non-negative integer  
Default: No Default

v      V  
Type: constant-float vector  
Default: No Default

alpha      Alpha  
Type: float  
Default: 1.0

### 8.7.7. @selectivity[label].type=inverse\_logistic

a50      A50  
Type: estimable  
Default: No Default

ato95      aTo95

Type: estimable  
Default: No Default

alpha     Alpha  
Type: estimable  
Default: 1.0

#### **8.7.8. @selectivity[label].type=knife\_edge**

e     Edge  
Type: float  
Default: No Default

alpha     Alpha  
Type: float  
Default: 1.0

#### **8.7.9. @selectivity[label].type=logistic**

a50     A50  
Type: estimable  
Default: No Default

ato95     Ato95  
Type: estimable  
Default: No Default

alpha     Alpha  
Type: estimable  
Default: 1.0

#### **8.7.10. @selectivity[label].type=logistic\_producing**

l     Low  
Type: non-negative integer  
Default: No Default

h     High  
Type: non-negative integer  
Default: No Default

a50     A50

Type: float  
Default: No Default

ato95      Ato95  
Type: float  
Default: No Default

alpha      Alpha  
Type: float  
Default: 1.0

## 8.8. Preference Functions

**@preferencefunction** *label*      Define an object of type *preferencefunction*

*label*      The label for this selectivity  
Type: std::string  
Default: No Default

*type*      The type of selectivity  
Type: std::string  
Default: No Default

*alpha*      The alpha value  
Type: float  
Default: 1.0

### 8.8.1. @preference\_function[label].type=double\_normal

*mu*  
Type: float  
Default: No Default

*sigma\_l*  
Type: float  
Default: No Default

*sigma\_r*  
Type: float  
Default: No Default

**8.8.2. @preference\_function[label].type=inverse\_logistic**

a50      the a50 parameter of the logistic function

Type: float

Default: No Default

ato95    the ato95 parameter of the logistic function

Type: float

Default: No Default

**8.8.3. @preference\_function[label].type=logistic**

a50      the a50 parameter of the logistic function

Type: float

Default: No Default

ato95    the ato95 parameter of the logistic function

Type: float

Default: No Default

**8.8.4. @preference\_function[label].type=normal**

mu

Type: float

Default: No Default

sigma

Type: float

Default: No Default

**8.9. Layers**

**@layer** *label*    Define an object of type *layer*

*label*      The label for this layer

Type: string

Default: No Default

*type*      The type of layer

Type: string

Default: No Default

### 8.9.1. @layer[label].type=numeric

```
table layer
  Table contents here
end_table
Type: table
Default: No Default
```

```
proportions    is the table proportions
Type: boolean
Default: false
```

### 8.9.2. @layer[label].type=numeric meta

```
years    The year to apply the layer in
Type: string
Default: No Default
```

```
default_layer    The layer to apply in initialisation phase
Type: string
Default: No Default
```

```
layer_labels    The labels for corresponding numeric layers to apply in the above years
Type: string
Default: No Default
```

### 8.9.3. @layer[label].type=integer

```
table layer
  Table contents here
end_table
Type: table
Default: No Default
```

### 8.9.4. @layer[label].type=categorical

```
table layer
  Table contents here
end_table
Type: table
Default: No Default
```

For Categorical layers do not add " or ' to make strings.

An example of how to specify a table in the layers for an Int-layer or integer layer you could specify



```
@layer base_layer
type integer
table layer
1 1 1 1
1 1 0 1
1 1 1 1
end_table
```

for a Numeric layer you could have decimal and negative values

```
table layer
2.2 3.2 -23
6.4 -4.5 2.3
end_table
```

## 9. Observation command and subcommand syntax

### 9.1. Observation types

The observation types available are,

Observations of proportions of individuals by age class

Observations of proportions of individuals between categories within each age class

Relative and absolute abundance observations

Relative and absolute biomass observations

Each type of observation requires a set of subcommands and arguments specific to that process.

**@observation** *label*     Define an object of type *observation*

**label**     Label  
Type: std::string  
Default: No Default

**type**     Type of observation  
Type: std::string  
Default: No Default

#### 9.1.1. @observation[label].type=age\_length

**time\_step**     The label of time-step that the observation occurs in  
Type: std::string  
Default: No Default

**years**     The years of the observed values  
Type: non-negative integer vector  
Default: No Default

`selectivities`      Labels of the selectivities

Type: string vector

Default: true

`cell_layer`      The layer that indicates what area to summarise observations over.

Type: std::string

Default: No Default

`cells`      The cells we want to generate observations for from the layer of cells supplied

Type: string vector

Default: No Default

`number_of_samples`      The number of samples to collect from each cell

Type: non-negative integer vector

Default: No Default

`simulation_likelihood`      Simulation likelihood to use

Type: std::string

Default: No Default

### 9.1.2. `@observation[label].type=biomass`

`catchability`      The Catchability multiplier

Type: estimable

Default: // TODO not sure if neccessarystring

`years`      The years of the observed values

Type: non-negative integer vector

Default: No Default

`error_value`      The error values of the observed values (note the units depend on the likelihood)

Type: constant-float vector

Default: No Default

`selectivities`      Labels of the selectivities

Type: string vector

Default: true

`proportion_through_mortality_block`      Proportion through the mortality block of the time step to infer observation with

Type: float

Default: float(0.5)

Lower Bound: 0.0 (inclusive)

Upper Bound: 1.0 (inclusive)

`cell_layer`     The layer that indicates what area to summarise observations over.

  Type: `std::string`

  Default: No Default

`cells`     The cells we want to generate observations for from the layer of cells supplied

  Type: `string` vector

  Default: No Default

`simulation_likelihood`     Simulation likelihood to use

  Type: `std::string`

  Default: No Default

`abundance`     Is the index biomass (`abundance = false`) or abundance (`abundance = true`)

  Type: `boolean`

  Default: `false`

### 9.1.3. `@observation[label].type=mortality_event_biomass_age_clusters`

`years`     The years of the observed values

  Type: non-negative integer vector

  Default: No Default

`ageing_error`     Label of ageing error to use

  Type: `std::string`

  Default: `none`

`process_label`     Label of of removal process

  Type: `std::string`

  Default: `""`

`fishery_label`     Label of of removal process

  Type: `std::string`

  Default: No Default

`cluster_cv`     CV for randomly selecting clusters

  Type: `float`

  Default: No Default

`composition_type`

  Type: `std::string`

  Default: `proportions`

  Value: Do you want observation as proportions (normalised to sum to one, or as numbers?)

  Allowed Values: `proportions`, `numbers`

`cluster_sigma`     Standard deviation for the M-H proposal distribution

Type: float  
 Default: No Default  
 Lower Bound: 0.0 (exclusive)

`age_samples_per_cluster`      Number of age samples available to be aged per cluster  
 Type: non-negative integer  
 Default: No Default

`stratum_weighting_method`      Method to weight stratum estimates by  
 Type: std::string  
 Default: biomass  
 Allowed Values: biomass, area, none

`sexed`      You can ask to 'ignore' sex (only option for unsexed model), or generate composition for a particular sex, either 'male' or 'female'  
 Type: boolean  
 Default: false

`layer_of_stratum_definitions`      The layer that indicates what the stratum boundaries are.  
 Type: std::string  
 Default: No Default

`strata_to_include`      The cells which represent individual stratum to be included in the analysis, default is all cells are used from the layer  
 Type: string vector  
 Default: true

### 9.1.4. `@observation[label].type=mortality_event_biomass_clusters`

`years`      The years of the observed values  
 Type: non-negative integer vector  
 Default: No Default

`ageing_error`      Label of ageing error to use  
 Type: std::string  
 Default: none

`process_label`      Label of of removal process  
 Type: std::string  
 Default: ""

`fishery_label`      Label of of removal process  
 Type: std::string  
 Default: No Default

`min_age`      Minimum age  
 Type: non-negative integer  
 Default: No Default

`max_age`      Maximum age  
 Type: non-negative integer  
 Default: No Default

`cluster_cv`    CV for randomly selecting clusters  
 Type: float  
 Default: No Default

`cluster_sigma`    Standard deviation for the M-H proposal distribution  
 Type: float  
 Default: No Default  
 Lower Bound: 0.0 (exclusive)

`age_samples_per_cluster`    Number of age samples available to be aged per cluster  
 Type: non-negative integer  
 Default: No Default

`length_samples_per_cluster`    Number of age samples available to be aged per cluster  
 Type: non-negative integer  
 Default: No Default

`final_age_protocol`    What method do you want to use to calculate final age composition  
 Type: std::string  
 Default: `age_length_key`  
 Allowed Values: `direct_ageing`, `age_length_key`

`age_allocation_method`    The method used to allocate aged individuals across the length distribution  
 Type: std::string  
 Default: `random`  
 Allowed Values: `random`, `equal`, `proportional`

`stratum_weighting_method`    Method to weight stratum estimates by  
 Type: std::string  
 Default: `biomass`  
 Allowed Values: `biomass`, `area`, `none`

`sex`      You can ask to 'ignore' sex (only option for unsexed model), or generate composition for a particular sex, either 'male' or 'female'  
 Type: std::string  
 Default: `ignore`  
 Allowed Values: `male`, `female`, `ignore`

`layer_of_stratum_definitions`      The layer that indicates what the stratum boundaries are.  
 Type: `std::string`  
 Default: No Default

`strata_to_include`      The cells which represent individual stratum to be included in the analysis,  
 default is all cells are used from the layer  
 Type: string vector  
 Default: true

### 9.1.5. `@observation[label].type=mortality_event_biomass_clusters_original`

`years`      The years of the observed values  
 Type: non-negative integer vector  
 Default: No Default

`ageing_error`      Label of ageing error to use  
 Type: `std::string`  
 Default: none

`process_label`      Label of of removal process  
 Type: `std::string`  
 Default: ""

`fishery_label`      Label of of removal process  
 Type: `std::string`  
 Default: No Default

`cluster_cv`      CV for randomly selecting clusters  
 Type: float  
 Default: No Default

`cluster_attribute`      What attribute do you want to link clusters by, either age or length  
 Type: `std::string`  
 Default: age  
 Allowed Values: age, length

`cluster_correlation_lambda`      The probability of being associated to a cluster based on  
 distance from attribute  
 Type: float  
 Default: No Default  
 Lower Bound: 0.0 (inclusive)  
 Upper Bound: 1.0 (inclusive)

`age_samples_per_cluster`      Number of age samples available to be aged per cluster

Type: non-negative integer

Default: No Default

`length_samples_per_cluster`      Number of age samples available to be aged per cluster

Type: non-negative integer

Default: No Default

`minimum_cluster_weight_to_sample`      The minimum weight (tonnes) threshold to consider sampling, should be well in the distribution of cluster sizes

Type: float

Default: No Default

`final_age_protocol`      What method do you want to use to calculate final age composition

Type: std::string

Default: `age_length_key`

Allowed Values: `direct_ageing`, `age_length_key`

`age_allocation_method`      The method used to allocate aged individuals across the length distribution

Type: std::string

Default: `random`

Allowed Values: `random`, `equal`, `proportional`

`sex`      You can ask to 'ignore' sex (only option for unsexed model), or generate composition for a particular sex, either 'male' or 'female'

Type: std::string

Default: `ignore`

Allowed Values: `male`, `female`, `ignore`

`layer_of_stratum_definitions`      The layer that indicates what the stratum boundaries are.

Type: std::string

Default: No Default

`strata_to_include`      The cells which represent individual stratum to be included in the analysis, default is all cells are used from the layer

Type: string vector

Default: `true`

#### 9.1.6. `@observation[label].type=mortality_event_biomass_clusters_second_cut`

`years`      The years of the observed values

Type: non-negative integer vector

Default: No Default

`ageing_error`      Label of ageing error to use

	Type: std::string Default: none
process_label	Label of of removal process Type: std::string Default: ""
fishery_label	Label of of removal process Type: std::string Default: No Default
min_age	Minimum age Type: non-negative integer Default: No Default
max_age	Maximum age Type: non-negative integer Default: No Default
cluster_cv	CV for randomly selecting clusters Type: float Default: No Default
cluster_attribute	What attribute do you want to link clusters by, either age or length Type: std::string Default: age Allowed Values: age, length
cluster_correlation_lambda	The probability of being associated to a cluster based on distance from attribute Type: float Default: No Default Lower Bound: 0.0 (inclusive) Upper Bound: 1.0 (inclusive)
age_samples_per_cluster	Number of age samples available to be aged per cluster Type: non-negative integer Default: No Default
length_samples_per_cluster	Number of age samples available to be aged per cluster Type: non-negative integer Default: No Default
minimum_cluster_weight_to_sample	The minimum weight (tonnes) threshold to consider



sampling, should be well in the distribution of cluster sizes

Type: float

Default: No Default

`final_age_protocol` What method do you want to use to calculate final age composition

Type: std::string

Default: age\_length\_key

Allowed Values: direct\_ageing, age\_length\_key

`age_allocation_method` The method used to allocate aged individuals across the length distribution

Type: std::string

Default: random

Allowed Values: random, equal, proportional

`sex` You can ask to 'ignore' sex (only option for unsexed model), or generate composition for a particular sex, either 'male' or 'female'

Type: std::string

Default: ignore

Allowed Values: male, female, ignore

`layer_of_stratum_definitions` The layer that indicates what the stratum boundaries are.

Type: std::string

Default: No Default

`strata_to_include` The cells which represent individual stratum to be included in the analysis, default is all cells are used from the layer

Type: string vector

Default: true

### 9.1.7. `@observation[label].type=mortality_event_biomass_length_clusters`

`years` The years of the observed values

Type: non-negative integer vector

Default: No Default

`process_label` Label of of removal process

Type: std::string

Default: ""

`fishery_label` Label of of removal process

Type: std::string

Default: No Default

`cluster_cv` CV for randomly selecting clusters

Type: float  
Default: No Default

composition\_type  
Type: std::string  
Default: proportions  
Value: Do you want observation as proportions (normalised to sum to one, or as numbers?)  
Allowed Values: proportions, numbers

cluster\_sigma      Standard deviation for the M-H proposal distribution  
Type: float  
Default: No Default  
Lower Bound: 0.0 (exclusive)

length\_samples\_per\_cluster      Number of age samples available to be aged per cluster  
Type: non-negative integer  
Default: No Default

stratum\_weighting\_method      Method to weight stratum estimates by  
Type: std::string  
Default: biomass  
Allowed Values: biomass, area, none

sexed      You can ask to 'ignore' sex (only option for unsexed model), or generate composition for a particular sex, either 'male' or 'female'  
Type: boolean  
Default: false

layer\_of\_stratum\_definitions      The layer that indicates what the stratum boundaries are.  
Type: std::string  
Default: No Default

strata\_to\_include      The cells which represent individual stratum to be included in the analysis, default is all cells are used from the layer  
Type: string vector  
Default: true

### 9.1.8. @observation[label].type=mortality\_event biomass\_scaled\_age\_frequen

years      The years of the observed values  
Type: non-negative integer vector  
Default: No Default

ageing\_error      Label of ageing error to use

- Type: std::string  
Default: none
- process\_label      Label of of removal process  
Type: std::string  
Default: ""
- fishery\_label      Label of of removal process  
Type: std::string  
Default: No Default
- age\_allocation\_method      The method used to allocate aged individuals across the length distribution  
Type: std::string  
Default: random  
Allowed Values: random, equal, proportional
- sex      You can ask to 'ignore' sex (only option for unsexed model), or generate composition for a particular sex, either 'male' or 'female'  
Type: std::string  
Default: ignore  
Allowed Values: male, female, ignore
- layer\_of\_stratum\_definitions      The layer that indicates what the stratum boundaries are.  
Type: std::string  
Default: No Default
- strata\_to\_include      The cells which represent individual stratum to be included in the analysis, default is all cells are used from the layer  
Type: string vector  
Default: true

#### **9.1.9. @observation[label].type=mortality\_event\_composition**

- years      The years of the observed values  
Type: non-negative integer vector  
Default: No Default
- ageing\_error      Label of ageing error to use  
Type: std::string  
Default: none
- process\_label      Label of of removal process  
Type: std::string  
Default: ""

fishery_label	Label of of removal process
Type: std::string	
Default: No Default	
stratum_weighting_method	Method to weight stratum estimates by
Type: std::string	
Default: biomass	
Allowed Values: biomass, area, none	
sexed	You can ask to 'ignore' sex (only option for unsexed model), or generate composition for a particular sex, either 'male' or 'female'
Type: boolean	
Default: false	
composition_type	Is the composition Age or Length
Type: std::string	
Default: age	
Allowed Values: age, length	
normalise	Are the compositions normalised to sum to one
Type: boolean	
Default: true	
simulation_likelihood	Simulation likelihood to use
Type: std::string	
Default: No Default	
min_age	Minimum age
Type: non-negative integer	
Default: No Default	
max_age	Maximum age
Type: non-negative integer	
Default: No Default	
plus_group	max age is a plus group
Type: boolean	
Default: true	
layer_of_stratum_definitions	The layer that indicates what the stratum boundaries are.
Type: std::string	
Default: No Default	
strata_to_include	The cells which represent individual stratum to be included in the analysis,

default is all cells are used from the layer

Type: string vector

Default: true

#### **9.1.10. @observation[label].type=mortality\_scaled\_age\_frequency**

years      The years of the observed values

Type: non-negative integer vector

Default: No Default

ageing\_error      Label of ageing error to use

Type: std::string

Default: none

process\_label      Label of of removal process

Type: std::string

Default: ""

age\_allocation\_method      The method used to allocate aged individuals across the length distribution

Type: std::string

Default: random

Allowed Values: random, equal, proportional

layer\_of\_stratum\_definitions      The layer that indicates what the stratum boundaries are.

Type: std::string

Default: No Default

strata\_to\_include      The cells which represent individual stratum to be included in the analysis, default is all cells are used from the layer

Type: string vector

Default: true

#### **9.1.11. @observation[label].type=process\_removals\_by\_age**

min\_age      Minimum age

Type: non-negative integer

Default: No Default

max\_age      Maximum age

Type: non-negative integer

Default: No Default

plus\_group      Use age plus group

Type: boolean

Default: true

years      Years for which there are observations

Type: non-negative integer vector

Default: No Default

ageing\_error      Label of ageing error to use

Type: std::string

Default: ""

process\_label      Label of of removal process

Type: std::string

Default: ""

normalise      Are the compositions normalised to sum to one

Type: boolean

Default: true

cell\_layer      The layer that indicates what area to summarise observations over.

Type: std::string

Default: No Default

cells      The cells we want to generate observations for from the layer of cells supplied

Type: string vector

Default: No Default

sex      You can ask to 'ignore' sex (only option for unsexed model), or generate composition for a particular sex, either 'male' or 'female'

Type: std::string

Default: ignore

Allowed Values: male, female, ignore

simulation\_likelihood      Simulation likelihood to use

Type: std::string

Default: No Default

### 9.1.12. @observation[label].type=process\_removals\_by\_length

years      Years for which there are observations

Type: non-negative integer vector

Default: No Default

process\_label      Label of of removal process

Type: std::string

Default: ""

`cell_layer`      The layer that indicates what area to summarise observations over.

Type: std::string

Default: No Default

`cells`      The cells we want to generate observations for from the layer of cells supplied

Type: string vector

Default: No Default

`simulation_likelihood`      Simulation likelihood to use

Type: std::string

Default: No Default

### 9.1.13. `@observation[label].type=proportions_at_age`

`min_age`      Minimum age

Type: non-negative integer

Default: No Default

`max_age`      Maximum age

Type: non-negative integer

Default: No Default

`sexed`      Observation split by sex

Type: boolean

Default: false

`normalise`      Are the compositions normalised to sum to one

Type: boolean

Default: true

`selectivities`      Labels of the selectivities

Type: string vector

Default: No Default

`proportion_through_mortality_block`      Proportion through the mortality block of the time step to infer observation with

Type: float

Default: float(0.5)

Lower Bound: 0.0 (inclusive)

Upper Bound: 1.0 (inclusive)

`plus_group`      max age is a plus group

Type: boolean

Default: true

years      Years for which to calculate an observation

Type: non-negative integer vector

Default: No Default

ageing\_error      Label of ageing error to use

Type: std::string

Default: ""

cell\_layer      The layer that indicates what area to summarise observations over.

Type: std::string

Default: No Default

cells      The cells we want to generate observations for from the layer of cells supplied

Type: string vector

Default: No Default

time\_step      The label of time-step that the observation occurs in

Type: std::string

Default: No Default

simulation\_likelihood      Simulation likelihood to use

Type: std::string

Default: No Default

### 9.1.14. @observation[label].type=tag-recapture-by-age

years      The years of the observed values

Type: non-negative integer vector

Default: No Default

tag\_release\_year      The years that the tagged fish were released

Type: non-negative integer

Default: No Default

ageing\_error      Label of ageing error to use

Type: std::string

Default: none

process\_label      Label of of removal process

Type: std::string

Default: ""



`release_stratum`      Stratum that individuals were released in  
Type: `std::string`  
Default: No Default

`recapture_stratum`      Stratum to record recaptures, that were released in this year and in the  
release stratum  
Type: string vector  
Default: true

### 9.1.15. `@observation[label].type=tag_recapture_by_length`

`years`      The years of the observed values  
Type: non-negative integer vector  
Default: No Default

`tag_release_year`      The years that the tagged fish were released  
Type: non-negative integer  
Default: No Default

`sexed`      Seperate observation by sex  
Type: boolean  
Default: true

`process_label`      Label of of removal process  
Type: `std::string`  
Default: ""

`layer_of_strata_definitions`      The layer that indicates what the stratum boundaries are.  
Type: `std::string`  
Default: No Default

`release_stratum`      Stratum that individuals were released in  
Type: `std::string`  
Default: No Default

`recapture_stratum`      Stratum to record recaptures, that were released in this year and in the  
release stratum  
Type: string vector  
Default: true

## 9.2. Likelihoods

`@likelihood label`      Define an object of type *likelihood*

- 9.2.1. @likelihood[label].type=binomial**
- 9.2.2. @likelihood[label].type=binomial\_approx**
- 9.2.3. @likelihood[label].type=dirichlet**
- 9.2.4. @likelihood[label].type=log\_normal**
- 9.2.5. @likelihood[label].type=log\_normal\_with\_q**
- 9.2.6. @likelihood[label].type=logistic\_normal**

**label**      Label for Logisitic Normal Likelihood  
 Type: std::string  
 Default: No Default

**type**      Type of likelihood  
 Type: std::string  
 Default: No Default

**rho**      The auto-correlation parameter  $\rho$   
 Type: estimable vector  
 Default: No Default

**sigma**      Sigma parameter in the likelihood  
 Type: estimable  
 Default: No Default

**arma**      Defines if two rho parameters supplied then covar is assumed to have the correlation matrix of an ARMA(1,1) process  
 Type: boolean  
 Default: No Default

**bin\_labels**      If no covariance matrix parameter then list a vector of bin labels that the covariance matrix will be built for, can be ages or lengths.  
 Type: non-negative integer vector  
 Default: false

**sexed**      Will the observation be split by sex?  
 Type: boolean  
 Default: false

**robust**      Robustification term for zero observations  
 Type: boolean  
 Default: false

**seperate\_by\_sex**      If data is sexed, should the covariance matrix be seperated by sex?

Type: boolean

Default: false

`sex_lag` if T and data are sexed, then the AR(n) correlation structure ignores sex and sets  $\text{lag} = -i-j+1$ , where i and j index the age or length classes in the data. Ignored if data are not sexed.

Type: boolean

Default: false

**9.2.7. `@likelihood[label].type=multinomial`**

**9.2.8. `@likelihood[label].type=normal`**

**9.2.9. `@likelihood[label].type=pseudo`**

## **10. Report command and subcommand syntax**

### **10.1. Report commands and subcommands**

**@report** *label* Define an object of type *report*

*label* The label for the report

Type: std::string

Default: No Default

*type* The type of report

Type: std::string

Default: No Default

*file\_name* The File Name if you want this report to be in a separate file

Type: std::string

Default: ""

*write\_mode* The write mode

Type: std::string

Default: overwrite

Allowed Values: overwrite, append, incremental\_suffix

#### **10.1.1. `@report[label].type=age_frequency_by_cell`**

*years* Years

Type: non-negative integer vector

Default: true

*time\_step* Time Step label

Type: std::string  
Default: ""

do\_length\_frequency      Print the report as length frequency not age.  
Type: boolean  
Default: false

### **10.1.2. @report[label].type=age\_length\_matrix\_by\_cell**

years      Years  
Type: non-negative integer vector  
Default: true

time\_step      Time Step label  
Type: std::string  
Default: ""

### **10.1.3. @report[label].type=ageing\_error\_matrix**

ageing\_error      Ageing Error label  
Type: std::string  
Default: No Default

### **10.1.4. @report[label].type=derived\_quantity**

### **10.1.5. @report[label].type=initialisation\_partition**

do\_length\_frequency      Print the report as length frequency not age.  
Type: boolean  
Default: false

### **10.1.6. @report[label].type=likelihood**

likelihood      Likelihood label that is reported  
Type: std::string  
Default: ""

**10.1.7. @report[label].type=model\_attributes****10.1.8. @report[label].type=numeric\_layer**

layer\_label     The Numeric Layer label that is reported  
Type: std::string  
Default: ""

years     Years  
Type: non-negative integer vector  
Default: true

time\_step     Time Step label  
Type: std::string  
Default: ""

**10.1.9. @report[label].type=observation**

observation     Observation label  
Type: std::string  
Default: No Default

**10.1.10. @report[label].type=process**

process     Process label that is reported  
Type: std::string  
Default: ""

**10.1.11. @report[label].type=selectivity**

selectivity     Selectivity name  
Type: std::string  
Default: No Default

**10.1.12. @report[label].type=simulated\_observation**

observation     Observation label  
Type: std::string  
Default: No Default

cells     Cells to aggregate the observaton over.  
Type: string vector  
Default: true

### 10.1.13. `@report [label] .type=standard_header`

### 10.1.14. `@report [label] .type=summarise_agents`

`years`      Years  
Type: non-negative integer vector  
Default: true

`time_step`      Time Step label  
Type: std::string  
Default: No Default

`number_of_agents`      Number of agents to summarise  
Type: non-negative integer  
Default: No Default  
Lower Bound: 1 (inclusive)

### 10.1.15. `@report [label] .type=time_varying`

### 10.1.16. `@report [label] .type=world_age_frequency`

`years`      Years  
Type: non-negative integer vector  
Default: true

`time_step`      Time Step label  
Type: std::string  
Default: ""

## 11. Including commands from other files

**`@include`** *file*      Include an external file

*file*      The name of the external file to include

Type: string

Default: No default

Value: A valid external file

Condition: The file name must be enclosed in double quotes

Example: `!include "my_file.ibm"`

Note: `!include` does not denote the end of the previous command block as is the case for all other commands

## 12. Post processing output using **R**

Hopefully when you get the bundle for this program there will be an **R** package, this section describes how you can use that package to read in and view output from THE IBM. A list of the **R** package functions are below.

- `extract.run()` imports the model's output into the **R** environment.
- `extract.ibm.file()` imports the model's configuration file into the **R** environment as a list where you can change inputs. Useful in simulation based studies
- `write.ibm.file()` prints the a list object (that has the same characteristics as the `extract.ibm.file()`) to a text file.
- `reformat.compositional.data()` converts THE IBM compositional observation reports into a more traditional matrix.
- `plot.derived_quantities()` plot or extract derived quantities from a model run.
- `create_ibm_layer` A function that creates a file consists of @layer block with a user input matrix, useful function for setting up highly spatial models.
- `csl2_bio` turn a ibm biomass observation into a casal2 style observation
- `csl2_fishery_age` turn a ibm fishery age observation into a casal2 style observation
- `csl2_prop_age` turn a ibm proportions at age observation into a casal2 style observation
- `ssb_multiple_runs` A plotting function to plot multiple Derived Quantities in ggplot style
- `plot_numeric_layer` a plotting function that generates a snapshot of biomass from a numeric\_layer report. It generated the Figure ??
- `plot_overall_age_freq` A plotting function to plot age frequency at a point in time of the world vs the fishery

Comparing different initialisation starts, as mentioned in the Tips section 4.12 we highly recommend that you reduce the initialisation phase as much as possible. Below is some **R** code that I often use when looking at the effects of different initialisation phase burn-ins.

```
library(ibm) ## for extracting
library(ggplot2) ## for plotting
library(reshape2) ## for reshaping data so its ggplot friendly

## read in a reported output from a ibm-r runs
## -----
## An important note before running the models below.
## if you do not include the following report in your configuration files
##
## @report init_2
## type initialisation_partition
##
## this code will not work
## -----
ibm_30 = extract.run("output_30.log")
ibm_50 = extract.run("output_50.log")
ibm_80 = extract.run("output_80.log")
```

```
ibm_120 = extract.run("output_120.log")

names(ibm_50)
mat = ibm_50$init_2$`1`$values

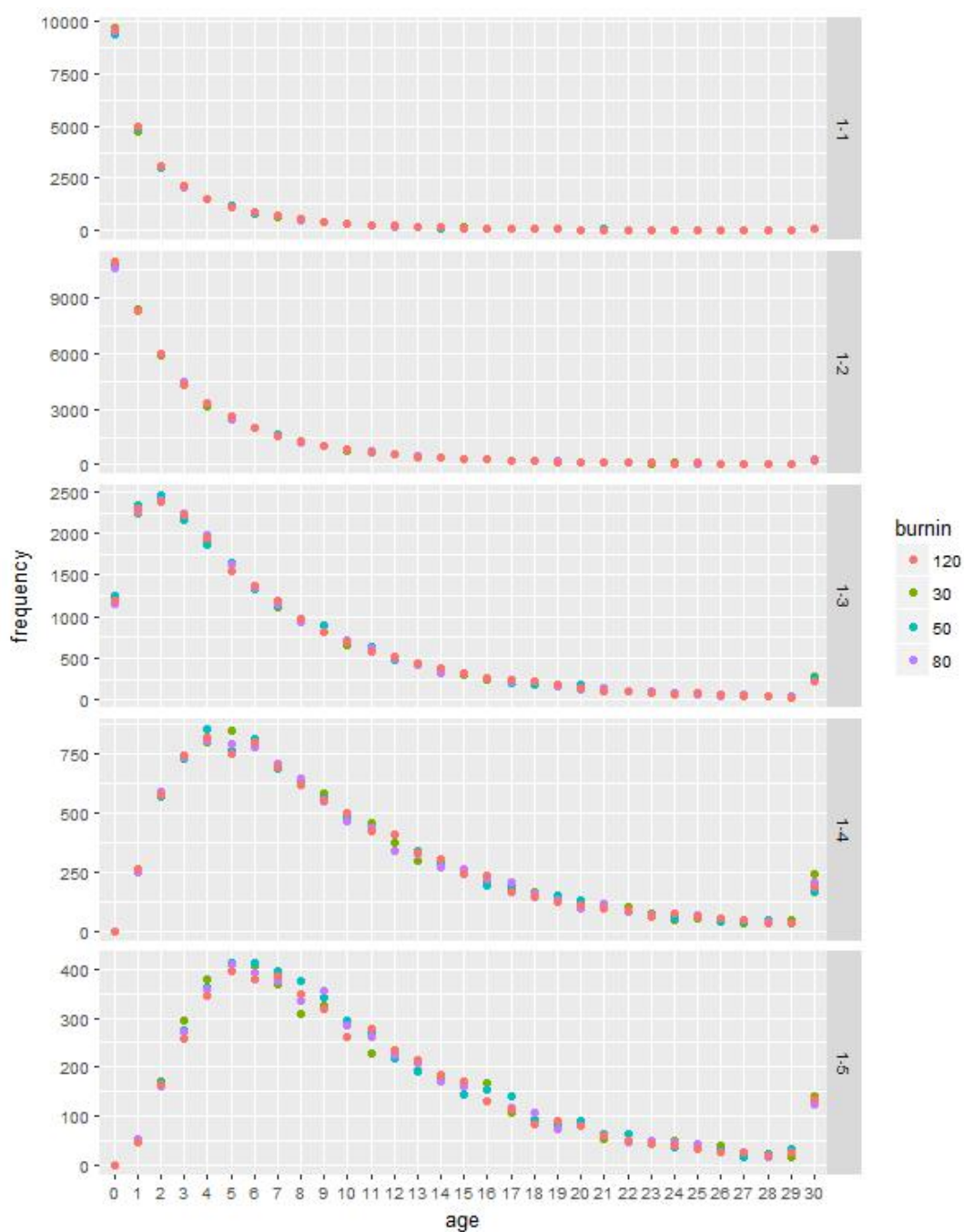
temp = rbind(ibm_30$init_2$`1`$values, ibm_50$init_2$`1`$values, ibm_80$init_2$`1`$values,
             ibm_120$init_2$`1`$values)
temp$burnin = c(rep("30", nrow(mat)), rep("50", nrow(mat)), rep("80", nrow(mat)), rep("120",
                                             nrow(mat)))

merged = melt(temp)
colnames(merged) = c("cell", "burnin", "age", "frequency")

## plot age frequency for each row of spatial grid
for (i in 1:5) {
  temp_data = merged[substring(merged$`cell`, 0, 1) == as.character(i),]
  p <- ggplot(temp_data, aes(x = age, y = frequency, color = burnin)) + geom_point()
  p + facet_grid(cell ~ ., scales="free_y")
  print(p)
  Sys.sleep(2);
}
```

This should generate figures like in Figure 12.1





**Figure 12.1:** An example of plot that looks at the age frequency of different initial burn-in periods



## 13. Syntax conventions, examples and niceties

### 13.1. Input File Specification

The file format used for THE IBM is based on the formats used for Casal2, CASAL and SPM. It's a standard text file that contains definitions organised into blocks.

Without exception, every object specified in a configuration file is part of a block. At the top level blocks have a one-to-one relationships with components in the system.

Some general notes about writing configuration files:

1. Whitespace can be used freely. Tabs and spaces are both accepted
2. A block ends only at the beginning of a new block or end of final configuration file
3. You can include another configuration file from anywhere
4. Included files are placed inline, so you can continue a block in a new file
5. The configuration files support inline declarations of objects

#### 13.1.1. Keywords And Reserved Characters

In order to allow efficient creation of input files ibms file format contains special keywords and characters that cannot be used for labels etc.

##### @Block Definitions

Every new block in the configuration file must start with a block definition character. The reserved character for this is the @ character

Example:

```
@block1 <label>  
type <type>
```

```
@block2 <label>  
type <type>
```

##### 'type' Keyword

The 'type' keyword is used for declaring the sub-type of a defined block. Any block object that has multiple sub-types will use the type keyword.

Example:

```
@block1 <label>  
type <sub_type>
```

```
@block2 <label>  
type <sub_type>
```

### # (Single-Line Comment)

Comments are supported in the configuration file in either single-line (to end-of-line) or multi-line  
Example:

```
@block <label>
type <sub_type> #Descriptive comment
#parameter <value_1> This whole line is commented out
parameter <value_1> #<value_2>(value_2 is commented out)
```

### /\* \*/ (Multi-Line Comment)

Multiple line comments are supported by surrounding the comments in /\* and \*/  
Example:

```
@block <label>
type <sub_type>
parameter <value_1>
parameter <value_1> <value_2>

\*
Do not load this process
@block <label>
type <sub_type>
parameter <value_1>
parameter <value_1> <value_2>
*\
```

### { } (Indexing Parameters)

Users can reference individual elements of a map using the { } syntax, for example when estimating `ycs_values` you may only want to estimate a block of YCS not all of them say between 1975 and 2012. Example:

```
@time_varying YCS
parameter process[Recruitment].ycs_values{1975:2012}
type constant
value 1
```

### ':' (Range Specifier)

The range specifier allows you to specify a range of values at once instead of having to input them manually. Ranges can be either incremental or decremental.  
Example:

```
@process my_recruitment_process
type constant_recruitment
years_to_run 1999:2009 #With range specifier

@process my_mortality_process
type natural_mortality
years_to_run 2000 2001 2002 2003 2004 2005 2006 2007 #Without range specifier
```

### **'table' and 'end\_table' Keyword**

The table keyword is used to define a table of information used as a parameter. The line following the table declaration must contain a list of columns to be used. Following lines are rows of the table. Each row must have the same number of values as the number of columns specified. The table definition must end with the 'end\_table' keyword on it's own line. The first row of a table will be the name of the columns if required.

Example:

```
@block <label>
type <sub_type>
parameter <value_1>
table <table_label>
<column_1> <column_2> <column_n>
<row1_value1> <row1_value2> <row1_valueN>
<row2_value1> <row2_value2> <row2_valueN>
end_table
```

### **[ ] (Inline Declarations)**

When an object takes the label of a target object as a parameter this can be replaced with an inline declaration. An inline declaration is a complete declaration of an object one 1 line. This is designed to allow the configuration writer to simplify the configuration writing process.

Example:

```
#With inline declaration with label specified for time step
@model
time_steps step_one=[type=iterative; processes=recruitment ageing]

#With inline declaration with default label (model.1)
@model
time_steps [type=iterative; processes=recruitment ageing]

#Without inline declaration
@model
time_steps step_one

@time_step step_one
processes recruitment ageing
```

### **Parameters**

This syntax can be applied to parameters that are of type map as well, for information on what type a parameter is see the syntax section. An example of a parameter that is of type map is @time\_varying[label].type=constant. For the following @time\_varying block,

```
@time_varying q_step1
type constant
parameter catchability[Fishq].q
years 1992 1993 1994 1995
value 0.2 0.2 0.2 0.2
```

### **In line declaration**

In line declarations can help shorten models by passing @ blocks, for example

```
@observation chatCPUE
type biomass
catchability [q=6.52606e-005]
...
```

In the above code we are defining and estimating catchability without explicitly creating an `@catchability` block.

When you do an inline declaration the new object will be created with the name of the creator's `label.index` where `index` will be the word if it's one-nine and the number if it's 10+, for example,

```
@mortality halfm
selectivities [type=constant; c=1]

would create
@selectivity halfm.one
```

### 13.2. Processes

Processes are special in how they can be defined, all throughout this document we have been referring to specifying a process as follows,

```
@process Recruitment
type recruitment_beverton_holt
```

However for convenience and for file clarity you could equally specify this block as follows,

```
@recruitment Recruitment
type beverton_holt
```

The trick is that you can replace the keyword `process` with the first word of the process type, in the example above this is the `recruitment` this can be away of creating more reader friendly/lay term configuration scripts. More examples follow;

```
@mortality Fishing_and_M
type instantaneous
```

```
@movement Migration
type box_transfer
```

### 13.3. An Example Configuration input

I will add this as the project matures, but I suggest users go and look at the Example models. There are a range of models displaying a range of configurations. Especially the `SpatialModel` that has 100 cells with quarterly time steps and runs for about 30 years. On my computer that runs in about 3.2 minutes.

## 14. Troubleshooting

### 14.1. Introduction

This section is to aid users in debugging models, if you cannot resolve an issue using these guidelines then don't hesitate to contact the development team. To report an issue please follow the format described in Section 14.3. We are hoping that most user errors will be well documented and that THE IBM will produce informative error messages. In the case where this doesn't happen, there are some quick and easy tactics that users can do to attempt to resolve or at least isolate an error/bug. Using THE IBM's internal logging out system, this is invoked at the command line with the `--loglevel` parameter followed by one of these arguments; `trace`, `finest`, `fine`, `medium`. An example of implementing logging with trace level at the command line is,

```
ibm -r --loglevel trace > output.log 2> log.out
```

The above command will output THE IBM normal reports into the file "output.log" where as the `2>` syntax will print the error logged out information into the file "log.out". You should be able to see where THE IBM is exiting by going to the end of the "log.out" file.

```
LOG_FINE() << "Model: State change to Execute";
```

taken from line 349, of `Model.cpp`

### 14.2. Reporting errors

If you find a bug or problem in THE IBM, please email the IBM Development Team submit an issue on the github repository found at <https://github.com/Craig44/IBM/issues>. The latter is preferred as it will automatically document the issue which is better than depending on the development team, who may be forgetful. Please follow the guidelines below, as they will enhance the debugging process which can be quite time consuming.

### 14.3. Guidelines for reporting a problem with THE IBM

1. Check to ensure you are using the most recent version of THE IBM. Its possible that the error or problem you are having may have ready been resolved.
2. Describe the version of THE IBM are you using? e.g., "THE IBM v2020-05-25 (rev. ad302a8) Microsoft Windows executable". The version is provided by THE IBM with the following command `ibm -v`.
3. What operating system or environment are you using? e.g., "IBM-PC Intel CPU running Microsoft Windows 10 Enterprise".
4. Give a brief one-line description of the problem, e.g., "a segmentation fault was reported".
5. If the problem is reproducible, please list the exact steps required to cause it, remembering to include the relevant THE IBM configuration file, other input files, and any out generated. Specify the *exact* command line arguments that were used, e.g., "Using the command `***. -*` reports a segmentation fault. The input configuration files are attached."
6. If the problem is not reproducible (only happened once, or occasionally for no apparent reason), please describe the circumstances in which it occurred and the symptoms observed (but note it is much harder to reproduce and hence fix non-reproducible bugs, but if several

reports are made over time that relate to the same thing, then this may help to track down the problem), e.g., “THE IBM crashed, but I cannot reproduce how I did it. It seemed to be related to a local network crash but I cannot be sure.”

7. If the problem causes any error messages to appear, please give the *exact* text displayed, e.g.,  
segmentation fault (core dumped).
8. Remember to attach all relevant input and output files so that the problem can be reproduced (it can be helpful to compress these into a single file e.g. zip file). Without these, it is usually not possible to determine the cause of the problem, and we are unlikely to provide any assistance. Note that it is helpful to be as specific as possible when describing the problem.



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# Appendices

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