

Decline Analysis of Oil field production data from the NCS

Prepared as part of Python preparatory course

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Abstract

In this exercise we will look closer at some of the data that is available at the Norwegian Petroleum Department (NPD¹) website. We will use simple models to analyze the production data from some of the fields. Learning outcomes:

- read data from files, and visualize them
- use Python to automatically determine parameters in a mathematical model
- use a model to interpret observed production data
- get familiar with the NPD web site and some of the Norwegian oil fields.

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¹<http://factpages.npd.no/factpages/Default.aspx?culture=no>

1 Introduction to Decline Analysis

An idealized behavior of an oil field is shown in figure 1. On the web site (NPD²), it is possible to select different type of Norwegian oil fields and compare the historical production with that of figure 1. By selecting e.g. Norne or Draugen one can easily see similarities with figure 1. The main differences might be the size of each of the phases, many of the fields does not have a clear plateau, and the decline phase might be shorter or longer. In this problem we focus on the last phase of the oil production; the decline. We define the decline rate D as:

$$\lambda = -\frac{\frac{dq}{dt}}{q} = Cq^\beta. \quad (1)$$

q is the field oil rate, C and β are constants that needs to be found by comparing the model to data.

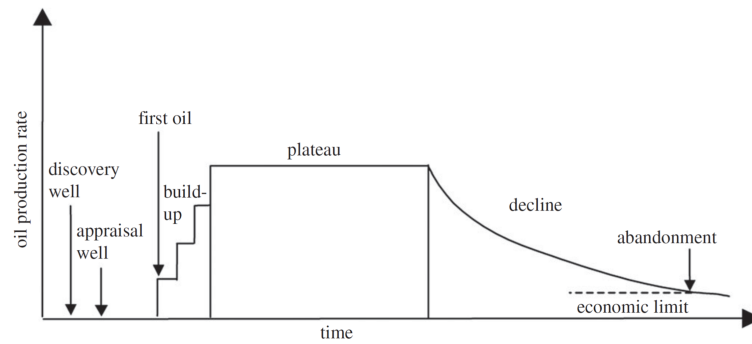


Figure 1: An idealized behavior of an oil field, from [1].

2 Exercise 1: Import data into a database and access them

- Import data from `field_production_gross_monthly.xls`, in the catalog or from the NPD web site³, into a database
- Extract production data from the Draugen field, and store them in a text file called `draugen.txt`. The format should be: **Year** (first column), **Month** (second column), and **OilProd** (third column).

²<http://factpages.npd.no/factpages/Default.aspx?culture=no>

³<http://factpages.npd.no/factpages/>

3 Exercise 2: Importing and plotting data with Python

Step 1. In the cell below, use the `loadtxt` function to load the data file `draugen.txt` into an array. The data file should be saved to the same folder as this notebook. Refer to the official documentation to reference how to use this function if you are unfamiliar: `loadtxt`⁴.

```
# import data from draugen.txt
```

- Note: you can use *array slicing* to access the individual columns of a 2D array

Step 2. It is more practical to have the production data to start at $t = 0$. In the following we will assume that you have organized the oil production data from Draugen into Numpy arrays, e.g. `Year` (first column), `Month` (second column), and `OilProd` (third column).

```
import numpy as np
import matplotlib.pyplot as plt

#Assume 30 days in each month and 365 in year
Year = Year + Month*30/365
ProdStart = Year[0]

#Year now starts at 0
Year = Year-ProdStart

#Calculate the cumulative oil production
CumOilProd = ...

fig, ax1 = plt.subplots()

plt.title('Draugen production profile')
ax1.set_ylabel(r'MSm$~3$/month')
ax1.set_xlabel('Years of production')

ax1.plot(Year,OilProd, 'b--o')
ax2 = ax1.twinx() # second axes that shares the same x-axis
ax2.set_ylabel(r'Cumulative production [MSm$~3$]')
ax2.plot(Year,CumOilProd, 'r--o')
plt.show()
```

The Python script should generate the output in figure 1.

⁴<https://docs.scipy.org/doc/numpy/reference/generated/numpy.loadtxt.html>

Step 3. Compare your plot with the one that is reported under Draugen at the NPD web site⁵, why is it different?

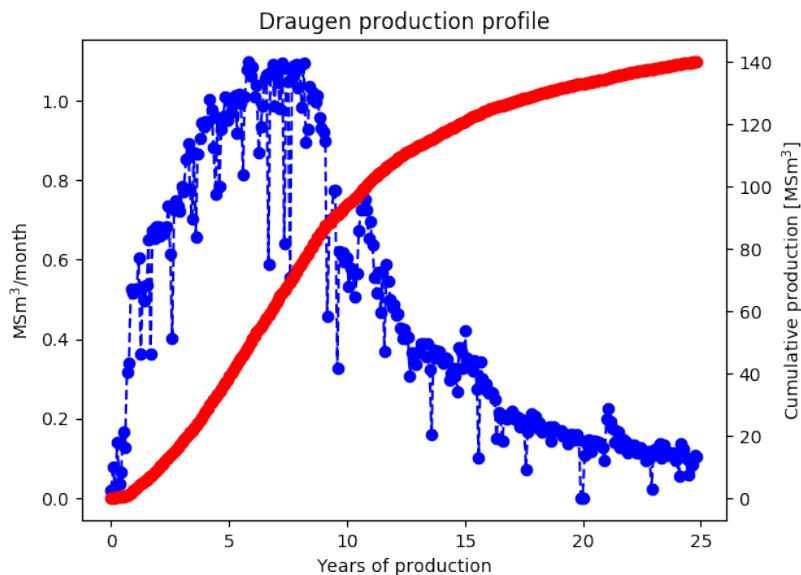


Figure 2: Draugen production profile.

Step 4. Get data from Norne, Oseberg Øst, and Jotun in the file and make similar plot for them, i.e. production rate and cumulative oil production vs years of production

Step 5. For the same fields plot the production vs the cumulative production

4 Exercise 3: Decline analysis, exponential case: $\beta = 0$

Step 1. Use equation (1), to show that the oil rate is:

$$q(t) = q_0 \exp\{-\lambda_0 t\}. \quad (2)$$

for $\beta = 0$.

Now we will use this model to analyze the production data from the fields in the previous exercise.

⁵<http://factpages.npd.no/factpages/>

Step 2. Define a function that calculates the production rate given in equation (2):

```
def exp_decline(x,q0,lam):
    # enter function here
    return ...
```

Step 3. Next, we want to fit our model to the data. Python have several functions to fit a model to data, we will use `curve_fit` from SciPy⁶. It is important to only use data from the decline phase (after approximately 8 years):

```
from scipy.optimize import curve_fit
# only choose data from the decline phase (i.e. after approx. 8 years)
T0 = 8
# extract indexes
ind = Year > T0;
# cooresponding X and Y-value
NewY = Year[ind]-T0; #important to start at 0
NewP = OilProd[ind];
# call the curve_fit function:
popt, pcov = curve_fit( ... ) # enter correct code
# evaluate function with the best fit and visual inspect the quality
```

A successful fit should produce a similar result as shown in figure 3.

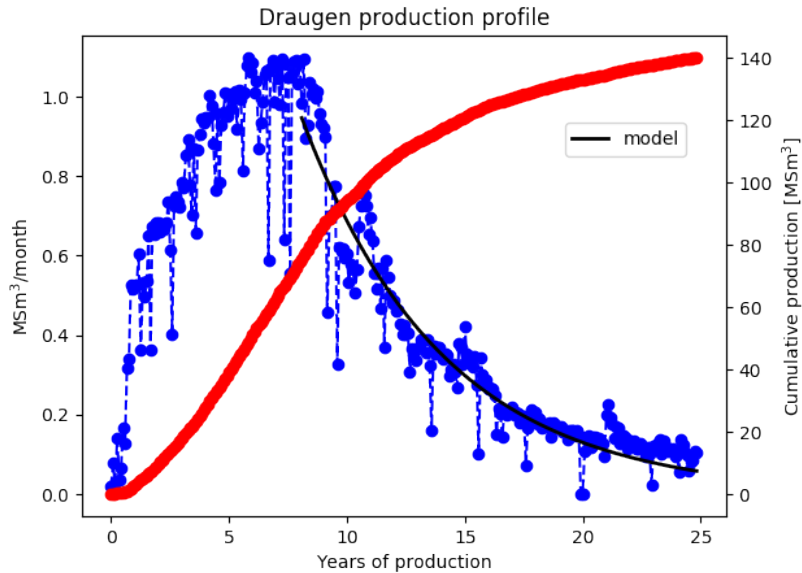


Figure 3: Production and exponential decline curve for the Draugen field.

⁶https://docs.scipy.org/doc/scipy/reference/generated/scipy.optimize.curve_fit.html

Step 4. Use data from Norne, Oseberg Øst, and Jotun, fit the model to the decline phase of the production. Report the values for the decline parameter, compare them.

5 Exercise 4: Decline analysis, hyperbolic case: $\beta \in < 0, 1 >$

Step 1. Use equation (1), to show that the oil rate is:

$$q(t) = q_0 [\beta \lambda_0 t + 1]^{-1/\beta} \quad (3)$$

for $\beta > 0$. Note that λ_0 is the decline rate at $t = 0$: $\lambda_0 = C q_0^\beta$.

Step 2. Follow the procedure outlined in the previous exercise, but this time with equation (3). You need to make a new Python function, e.g.:

```
def hyp_decline(x,A,D,b):
    return # enter function here
```

Step 3. Use data from Norne, Oseberg Øst, and Jotun and fit the hyperbolic model to the data. Report the values for the decline parameter. How does these values compare with the values you found for the exponential model? Which model is the best and why?

Observe:

To fit a function to data is not straight forward. The result can be very sensitive to the initial guess of the variables, it also a good idea to constrain the values of the parameters. In our case it is also important to choose the right starting point for the decline, for Draugen we used $T_0=8$, for the Jotun field $T_0=1.8$ is a good value. We can force Python to constrain the parameters in `curve_fit`, by the use of the `bounds` keyword.

6 Exercise 5: The Jotun field, hyperbolic case: $\beta \in < 0, 1 >$

In this exercise we will take a closer look at the Jotun field. Use the hyperbolic decline function with the parameters you found in the previous exercise. The original drilling program of the Jotun field was finished in 2000. After producing the field for approximately 3 years, it was decided to drill 4 infill wells. By inspecting the Jotun production history, it is easy to spot an increase in the production rate around 2002-2003.

Step 1. Why can we use our decline model to estimate the production without the infill wells?

Step 2. Use the decline model to estimate the recovery at the end of 2017 (use e.g. the cumulative production). Compare this recovery with the ultimate recovery from the field data.

Step 3. Assume an oil price of 50\$ per barrel, was it a good decision to drill these infill wells? (Hint: On the NPD web site⁷ you can find information about the yearly field investments)

References

- [1] M. Hook, S. Davidsson, S. Johansson, and X. Tang. Decline and depletion rates of oil production: a comprehensive investigation. *Phil. Trans. R. Soc. A*, 372(20120448), 2014.

⁷<http://factpages.npd.no/factpages/>