CASAL² User Manual

S. Rasmussen, I. Doonan, A. Dunn, K. Large, C. Marsh, S. Mormede



NIWA Technical Report xxx ISSN 1174-2631 2016

CASAL² User Manual (modified: 2016-03-18) for use with casal2 2016-03-18 (rev. 47475cd)



Contents

1	Intr	oduction	1
	1.1	Version	1
	1.2	Citing CASAL ²	1
	1.3	Software license	1
	1.4	System requirements	1
	1.5	Necessary files	2
	1.6	Getting help	2
	1.7	Technical details	2
2	Mod	lel overview	5
	2.1	Introduction	5
	2.2	The population section	6
	2.3	The estimation section	6
	2.4	The observation section	6
	2.5	The report section	7
3	Run	ning CASAL ²	9
	3.1	Using CASAL ²	9
	3.2	The input configuration file	9
	3.3	Redirecting standard output	0
	3.4	Command line arguments	0
	3.5	Constructing an CASAL ² input configuration file	1
		3.5.1 Commands	1
		3.5.2 Subcommands	2
		3.5.3 The command-block format	3
		3.5.4 Commenting out lines	3
		3.5.5 Determining parameter names	4
	3.6	CASAL ² exit status values	4
4	The	population section 1	5
	4.1	Introduction	5
	4.2	Population structure	5
	4.3	The state object and the partition	7
	4.4	Time sequences	9
		4.4.1 Annual cycle	9
		4.4.2 Initialisation	9
		4.4.3 Projections	1
	4.5	Population processes	1
		4.5.1 Recruitment	2
		4.5.2 Ageing	3
		4.5.3 Mortality	4

		4.5.4	ransition	By Catego	ory							 • •		. 26
		4	.5.4.1	Tag events								 		. 27
		4	.5.4.2	Tag sheddi	ing rate							 		. 27
	4.6	Derived of	quantities	3								 		. 27
	4.7	Age-leng	th relatio	onship								 		. 27
	4.8	Weightle	ss model									 		. 29
	4.9	Maturity,	in mode	ls without	maturing	in the	partit	ion				 		. 29
	4.10	Selectivit	ies									 		. 30
		4.10.1 C	Constant									 		. 30
		4.10.2 K	Knife-edg	ge								 		. 31
		4.10.3 A	All-values	8								 		. 31
		4.10.4 A	All-values	s-bounded								 		. 31
		4.10.5 In	ncreasing	g								 		. 31
		4.10.6 L	ogistic .									 		. 31
		4.10.7 I	nverse lo	gistic								 		. 31
		4.10.8 L	ogistic p	roducing								 		. 32
		4.10.9 D	ouble-no	ormal								 		. 32
		4.10.10 E	ouble-ex	xponential								 		. 32
		4.10.11 S	pline									 		. 32
	4.11	Time Var	ying Par	ameters .								 		. 32
		4.11.1 C	Constant									 		. 33
		4.11.2 R	Random V	Walk								 		. 33
		4.11.3 E	Exogenou	ıs								 		. 33
5	Tho	estimatio	n soction											35
3	5.1			ntion section	n									
	5.2			ction										
	5.3	•		rameters to										
			-											
	Э. т			rical differ										
				ential evolu										
				ninimiser										
				minimiser										
				ninimiser										
				miser										
	5.5													
	5.6		-	on										
	5.7	•												
	5.8													
	5.9													_
				mations .										
	0	5 10 1 16				. • • •	- •		• •	- • •	. •	 . •	• •	44

		5.10.2 Inverse	44
		5.10.3 Log odds	44
		5.10.4 Simplex	44
6	The	observation section	45
	6.1	Observations and likelihoods	45
	6.2	Proportions-at-age observations	45
		6.2.1 Likelihoods for proportions-at-age observations	48
	6.3	Proportions-by-category observations	49
		6.3.1 Likelihoods for proportions-by-category observations	50
	6.4	Abundance or biomass observations	51
		6.4.1 Likelihoods for abundance observations	53
	6.5	Process error	53
	6.6	Ageing error	54
	6.7	Simulating observations	54
	6.8	Pseudo-observations	55
7	The	report section	57
	7.1	Print the partition	57
	7.2	Print the partition at the end of an initialisation	57
	7.3	Print a process summary	58
	7.4	Print derived quantities	58
	7.5	Print the estimated parameters	58
	7.6	Print the estimated parameters in a vector format	58
	7.7	Print the objective function	58
	7.8	Print the covariance matrix	58
	7.9	Print observations, fits, and residuals	58
	7.10	Print simulated observations	58
	7.11	Print the ageing error misclassification matrix	59
	7.12	Print selectivities	59
	7.13	Print the random number seed	59
	7.14	Print the results of an MCMC	59
	7.15	Print the MCMC samples as they are calculated	59
	7.16	Print the MCMC objective function values as they are calculated	59
	7.17	Tabular reporting	59
8	Popu	ulation command and subcommand syntax	61
	8.1		61
	8.2	Initialisation	62
		8.2.1 Cinitial	62
		8.2.2 Derived	62
		8.2.3 Iterative	63
		8.2.4 State Category Ry. Age	63

8.3	Catego	ries	3
8.4	Time-s	teps	4
8.5	Process	ses	4
	8.5.1	Ageing	5
	8.5.2	Growth	5
	8.5.3	Maturation	5
	8.5.4	Mortality Constant Rate	6
	8.5.5	Mortality Event	6
	8.5.6	Mortality Event Biomass	7
	8.5.7	Mortality Holling Rate	7
	8.5.8	Mortality Instantaneous	9
	8.5.9	Mortality Prey Suitability	9
	8.5.10	Nop	0
	8.5.11	Recruitment Beverton Holt	0
	8.5.12	Recruitment Constant	2
	8.5.13	Tag By Age	2
	8.5.14	Tag By Length	3
	8.5.15	Transition Category	5
	8.5.16	Transition Category By Age	5
8.6	Time v	arying parameters	6
	8.6.1	Annual Shift	6
	8.6.2	Constant	7
	8.6.3	Exogenous	7
	8.6.4	Random Walk	8
8.7	Derive	d quantities	8
	8.7.1	Abundance	9
	8.7.2	Biomass	0
8.8	Age-le	ngth relationship	0
	8.8.1	Data	1
	8.8.2	None	2
	8.8.3	Schnute	2
	8.8.4	Von Bertalanffy	3
8.9	Length	-weight	4
	8.9.1	Basic	5
	8.9.2	None	5
8.10	Selecti	vities	5
	8.10.1	All Values	5
	8.10.2	All Values Bounded	6
		Constant	6
		Double Exponential	
		Double Normal	
		Increasing	

		8.10.7	Inverse Logistic	9
		8.10.8	Knife Edge	9
		8.10.9	Logistic	0
		8.10.10	Logistic Producing	0
9	Estir	nation c	command and subcommand syntax 9	1
	9.1	Estimat	tion methods	1
		9.1.1	Beta	2
		9.1.2	Lognormal	3
		9.1.3	Normal	4
		9.1.4	Normal By Stdev	5
		9.1.5	Normal Log	6
		9.1.6	Uniform	7
		9.1.7	Uniform Log	7
	9.2	Point e	stimation	8
		9.2.1	Callback A D O L C	8
		9.2.2	Engine A D O L C	9
		9.2.3	FMMADOLC 100	0
		9.2.4	Beta Diff	0
		9.2.5	CPPAD 10	1
		9.2.6	Call Back D E Solver	1
		9.2.7	Engine D E Solver	2
		9.2.8	Call Back D Lib	2
		9.2.9	Dummy	3
		9.2.10	Callback Gamma Diff	3
		9.2.11	Engine Gamma Diff	3
		9.2.12	F M M Gamma Diff	4
	9.3	Monte	Carlo Markov Chain (MCMC)	5
		9.3.1	Independence Metropolis	5
	9.4	Profiles	3	6
	9.5	Definin	g catchability constants	7
		9.5.1	Free	7
	9.6	Definin	g penalties	7
		9.6.1	Process	8
	9.7	Definin	g priors on parameter ratios, differences and means	8
		9.7.1	Beta	8
		9.7.2	Vector Average	9
		9.7.3	Vector Smoothing	9
10	Obse	ervation	command and subcommand syntax 110	0
	10.1	Observ	ation types	0
		10.1.1	Process Abundance	1

		10.1.2	Time Step Abundance	 . 112
		10.1.3	Process Biomass	 . 113
		10.1.4	Time Step Biomass	 . 115
		10.1.5	Process Proportions At Age	 . 116
		10.1.6	Time Step Proportions At Age	 . 118
		10.1.7	Proportions At Age For Fishery	 . 119
		10.1.8	Process Proportions At Length	 . 121
		10.1.9	Time Step Proportions At Length	 . 122
		10.1.10	0 Proportions At Length For Fishery	 . 123
		10.1.11	1 Process Proportions By Category	 . 125
		10.1.12	2 Time Step Proportions By Category	 . 126
		10.1.13	3 Proportions Migrating	 . 128
		10.1.14	4 Tag Recapture By Age	 . 129
		10.1.15	5 Tag Recapture By Length	 . 131
	10.2	Likelih	hoods	 . 132
		10.2.1	Binomial	 . 133
		10.2.2	Binomial Approx	 . 133
		10.2.3	Dirichlet	 . 133
		10.2.4	Log Normal	 . 133
		10.2.5	Log Normal With Q	 . 133
		10.2.6	Multinomial	 . 133
		10.2.7	Normal	 . 133
		10.2.8	Pseudo	 . 133
	10.3	Definin	ng ageing error	 . 133
		10.3.1	Data	 . 133
		10.3.2	Normal	 . 133
		10.3.3	Off By One	 . 134
11	Done	ont com	nmand and subcommand syntax	134
11	-		t commands and subcommands	
	11.1	-	Ageing Error Matrix	
			Category Info	
			Category List	
			Covariance Matrix	
			Derived Quantity	
			•	
			Estimable	
			Estimate Value	
			Initialisation Partition	
			0 M C M C Covariance	
			1 M C M C Objective	
		11.1.12	∠ 1v1 € 1v1 € Ballipi€	 . 130

	11.1.13 M P D	138
	11.1.14 Objective Function	138
	11.1.15 Observation	139
	11.1.16 Output Parameters	139
	11.1.17 Partition	139
	11.1.18 Partition Biomass	140
	11.1.19 Partition Mean Weight	140
	11.1.20 Process	141
	11.1.21 Random Number Seed	141
	11.1.22 Selectivity	141
	11.1.23 Simulated Observation	142
	11.1.24 Standard Header	142
12	Other commands and subcommands	142
13	Examples	143
	13.1 An example of a simple model	143
	13.2 In line declaration	144
14	Post processing output using R	147
15	Troubleshooting	149
	15.1 Introduction	149
	15.2 Reporting errors	149
	15.3 Guidelines for reporting a problem with CASAL ²	149
16	Acknowledgements	151
17	Quick reference	153
18	References	177
19	CASAL ² license (GNU LESSER GENERAL PUBLIC LICENSE)	179
20	Index	181

1. Introduction

KL comment: This paragraph wants re writting Alistair

CASAL² (casal2) is a generalised age- or length-structured fish stock assessment model that allows flexibility in specifying population dynamics, paramaeter estimation and model outputs. CASAL² can model population dynamics for an age- or length-structured population using a range of observations, including tagging, relative abundance, and age frequency data. CASAL² implements an age-structured population which can have user defined categories (e.g., immature, mature, male, female, predator, prey etc.), and age range.

This manual describes how to use CASAL², including how to run CASAL², how to set up an input configuration file. Further, we describe the population dynamics and estimation methods, and describe how to specify and interpret output.

1.1. Version

This document (last modified 2016-03-18) describes CASAL² 2016-03-18 (rev. 47475cd). The CASAL² version number is suffixed with a date/time (yyyy-mm-dd) and revision number, giving the revision control system UTC date and revision number for the most recent modification of the source files. User manual updates will usually be issued for each minor version or date release of CASAL², and can be obtained, on request, from the authors.

1.2. Citing CASAL²

A suitable reference for CASAL² and this document is:

S. Rasmussen, I. Doonan, A. Dunn, K. Large, C. Marsh, S. Mormede (2016) CASAL² User Manual, 2016-03-18 (rev. 47475cd). National Institute of Water & Atmospheric Research Ltd. *NIWA Technical Report*. 195 p.

1.3. Software license

This program and the accompanying materials are made available under the terms of the LGPL v3.0 which accompanies this software (see Section 19).

Copyright ©2008-2016, National Institute of Water & Atmospheric Research Ltd. and the New Zealand Ministry for Primary Industries. All rights reserved.

1.4. System requirements

CASAL² is available for most IBM compatible machines running 64-bit Linux and Microsoft Windows operating systems.

Several of CASAL²s tasks are highly computer intensive and a fast processor is recommended. Depending on the model implemented, some of CASAL²s tasks can take a considerable amount of time (minutes to hours), and in extreme cases can even take several days to estimate a model fit. Multi-core machines are necessary when running CASAL²

The program itself requires only a few megabytes of hard-disk space but output files can consume large amounts of disk space. Depending on number and type of user output requests, the output

could range from a few hundred kilobytes to several hundred megabytes. When estimating model fits, several hundred megabytes of RAM may be required, depending on the spatial size of the model, number of categories, and complexity of processes and observations. For extremely large models, several gigabytes of RAM may be required.

1.5. Necessary files

For both 64-bit Linux and Microsoft Windows, only the binary file casal2 or casal2.exe is required to run $CASAL^2$. No other software is required. We do not compile a version for 32-bit operating systems.

CASAL² offers little in the way of post-processing of the output, and a package available that allows tabulation and graphing of model outputs is recommended. We suggest software such as \mathbf{R} (R Development Core Team 2007) to assist in the post processing of CASAL² output. We provide the CASAL2 \mathbf{R} package for importing the CASAL² output into \mathbf{R} (see Section 14).

1.6. Getting help

CASAL² is distributed as unsupported software, however we would appreciate being notified of any problems or errors in CASAL². See Section 15.2 for how to report errors, for reporting errors and further information on CASAL² contact the development team at casal2@niwa.co.nz.

1.7. Technical details

CASAL² was compiled on Linux using gcc, the C/C++ compiler developed by the GNU Project. The 64-bit Linux version was compiled using gcc version 5.2.1 20151010 (Ubuntu Linux). The Microsoft Windows version was compiled using Mingw32 gcc (tdm64-1) 5.1.0. The Microsoft Windows installer was built using the Inno Setup 5 application.

CASAL² six two minimisers — the first is closely based on the main algorithm of Dennis Jr and Schnabel (1996), and which which uses finite difference gradients, and the second is an implementation of the differential evolution solver (Storn and Price, 1995), and based on code by Lester E. Godwin of PushCorp, Inc.. The third and last non auto differential algorithm is the Dlib (King, 2009). ADOLC is an auto differential minimiser more information can be found at Walther et al. (1996), CPPAD is another auto differential minimiser that can be used in CASAL² and more information can be found at Wächter and Biegler (2006) and BETADIFF which is a modified version of ADOL-C v1.8.4 by Brian Bull, and is the only auto differential library form the predecessor CASAL.

The random number generator used by CASAL² 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).

Note that the output from $CASAL^2$ may differ slightly on the different platforms due to different precision arithmetic or other platform dependent implementation issues. The source code for $CASAL^2$ is available in the windows bundle or on the github repository at https://github.com/alistairdunn1/CASAL2

Unit tests of the underlying CASAL² code are carried out at build time, using the GOOGLE mock and unit testing framework. The unit test framework aims to cover a significant proportion of the key functionality within the CASAL² code base. The unit test code for CASAL² is available as a

part of the underlying source code.

2. Model overview

2.1. Introduction

check and confirm text

 ${\rm CASAL^2}$ is an age-structured population dynamics model. It implements a statistical catch-at-age population dynamics, using a discrete time-step state-space model that represents a cohort-based population age structure .

CASAL² is run from the console window on Microsoft Windows or from a terminal window on Linux. CASAL²gets its information from input data files, the main one of which is the *input configuration file*. 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 CASAL². Command line switches tell CASAL² the run mode and where to direct its output. See Section sec:running-sam for the details.

We define the model in terms of the *state*. The state consists of two parts, the *partition*, and any *derived quantities* or *derived quantities by cell*. The state will typically change one or more times in every *time-step* of every year, depending on the *processes* defined for each model.

The partition is a representation of the population at an instance in time, and is a matrix of the numbers of individuals within each age, and category. A derived quantity is a cumulative summary of the partition (over all cells) at some point in time. A derived quantity by cell is a cumulative summary of the partition in each of the cells at some point in time. Unlike the partition (which is updated as each new process is applied), each derived quantity records a single value for each year of the model run, and each derived quantity by cell records a layer of values for each year of the model run. Hence, derived quantities build up a vector of values over the model run years. For example, the total number of individuals in a category labelled mature at some point in the annual cycle may be a derived quantity and the total number of individuals in a category labelled mature in each cell of the model at some point in the annual cycle may be a derived quantity by cell. The state is the combination of the partition and any derived quantities or derived quantities by cell at some instance in time. Changes to the state occur by the application of processes. Additions to the vectors of derived quantities occur when a model is requested to add a value to each derived quantity vector.

Running of the model consists of two main parts — first the model state is initialised for a number of iterations (years), then the model runs over a range of predefined years.

The application of processes within each year is controlled by the *annual cycle*. This defines what processes happen in each model year, and in what sequence. Initialisation can be phased, and for each phase, the user need to define the processes that occur in each year, and the order in which they are applied.

For the run years, each year is split up into one or more time-steps (with at least one process occurring in each time-step). You can think of each time-step as representing a particular part of the calendar year, or you can just treat them as an abstract sequence of events.

The division of the year into an arbitrary number of time-steps allows the user to specify the exact order in which processes occur and when observations are evaluated. The user specifies the time-steps, their order, and the processes within each time-step. If more than one process occurs in the same time-step, then the occur in the order that they are specified. Observations are always evaluated at the end of the time-step in which they occur. Hence, time-steps can be used to break processes into groups, and assist in defining the timing of the observations within the annual cycle.

The population structure of CASAL² follows the usual population modelling conventions and is similar to those implemented in other population models, for example CASAL (Bull et al., 2012). The model records the numbers of individuals by age and category (e.g., male, female). In general, cohorts are added via a recruitment event, are aged annually, and are removed from the population via various forms of mortality. The population is assumed to be closed (i.e., no immigration or emigration from the modelled area)

A model is implemented in CASAL² using an input configuration file, which is a complete description of the model structure (i.e., spatial and population processes), observations, estimation methods, and reports (outputs) requested. CASAL² runs from a console window on Microsoft Windows or from a text terminal on Linux. A model can be either *run*, estimable parameters can be *estimated* or *profiled*, *MCMC* distributions calculated, and these estimates can be used by CASAL² as parameters of an operating model to *simulate* observations.

A model in CASAL² is specified by an input configuration file, and comprises of four main components. These are the population section (model structure, population dynamics, etc.), the estimation section (methods of estimation and the parameters to be estimated), the observation section (observational data and associated likelihoods), and the report section (printouts and reports from the model). The input configuration file completely describes a model implemented in CASAL². See Sections 8, 9, 10, and 11 for details and specification of CASAL²s command and subcommand syntax within the input configuration file.

2.2. The population section

check and confirm text

The population section (Section 4) defines the model of the population dynamics. It describes the model structure (i.e. the population structure), initialisation and run years (model period), population processes (for example, recruitment, migration, and mortality), selectivities, and key population parameters.

2.3. The estimation section

check and confirm text

The estimation section (Section 5) specifies the parameters to be estimated, estimation methods, penalties and priors. Estimation is based on an objective function (e.g., negative log posterior). Depending on the run mode, the estimation section is used to specify the methods for finding a point estimate (i.e., the set of parameter values that minimizes the objective function), doing profiles, or MCMC methods and options, etc.

Further, the estimation section specifies the parameters to be estimated within each model run and the estimation methods. The estimation section specifies the choice of estimation method, which model parameters are to be estimated, priors, starting values, and minimiser control values.

Penalties and priors act as constraints on the estimation. They can either encourage or discourage (depending on the specific implementation) parameter estimates that are 'near' some value, and hence influence the estimation process. For example, a penalty can be included in the objective function to discourage parameter estimates that lead to models where the recorded catch was unable to be fully taken.

2.4. The observation section

check and confirm text

Types of observations, their values, and the associated error structures are defined in the observation section (Section 6). Observations are data which allow us to make inferences about unknown parameters. The observation section specifies the observations, their errors, likelihoods, and when the observations occur. Examples include relative or absolute abundance indices, proportions-at-age frequencies, tag recapture observations, etc. Estimation uses the observations to find values for each of the estimated parameters so that each observation is 'close' (in some mathematical sense) to a corresponding expected value.

2.5. The report section

The report section (Section 7) specifies the model outputs. It defines the quantities and model summaries to be output to external files or to the standard output. While CASAL² will provide informational messages to the screen, CASAL² will only produce model estimates, population states, and other data as requested by the report section. Note that if no reports are specified, then no output will be produced.

3. Running CASAL²

check and confirm text

CASAL² is run from the console window (i.e., the DOS command line) on Microsoft Windows or from a terminal window on Linux. CASAL² gets its information from input data files, the key one of which is the input configuration file.

The input configuration file is compulsory and defines the model structure, processes, observations, parameters (both the fixed parameters and the parameters to be estimated), and the reports (outputs) requested. The following sections describe how to construct the CASAL² configuration file. By convention, the name of the input configuration file ends with the suffix .csl², however, any file name is acceptable.

Other input files can, in some circumstances, be supplied to define the starting point for an estimation or as a point estimate from which to simulate observations.

Simple command line arguments are used to determine the actions or *tasks* of CASAL², i.e., to run a model with a set of parameter values, estimate parameter values (either point estimates or MCMC), project quantities into the future, simulate observations, etc., Hence, the *command line arguments* define the *task*. For example, -r is the *run*, -e is the *estimation*, and -m is the *MCMC* task. The *command line arguments* are described in Section 3.4.

3.1. Using CASAL²

check and confirm text

To use CASAL², 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 type casal2 with any arguments (see Section 3.4 for the the list of possible arguments). CASAL²will print output to the screen and return you to the command prompt when it completes its task. Note that the CASAL² executable (binary) must be either in the directory where you run it or somewhere in your PATH. Note that an automated installer is available for CASAL² on Microsoft Windows. If you use the installer, then it will give you the option of modifying your PATH for you (as well a a number of other options to make using the program a little easier). Otherwise, see your operating system documentation for help on identifying or modifying your PATH.

need an example here...a small example of directory navigation and casal2 with arguments as would be typed in the command prompt window

3.2. The input configuration file

check and confirm text

The input configuration file is made up of four broad sections; the description of the population structure and parameters (the population section), the estimation methods and variables (the estimation section), the observations and their associated likelihoods (the observation section), and the outputs and reports that CASAL² 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. 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 — but be careful that you do not set up a recursive state. See Section 12 for more detail.

3.3. Redirecting standard output

check and confirm text

CASAL² uses the standard output stream standard output to display run-time information. The standard error stream is used by CASAL² 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,

```
(casal2 [arguments] > out) >& err &
```

It may be useful to redirect the standard input, especially is you're using CASAL² inside a batch job software, i.e.

```
(casal2 [arguments] > out < /dev/null) >& err &
```

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

```
casal2 [arguments] > out
```

And, on some Microsoft Windows systems (e.g., Windows7), you can redirect to both standard output and standard error, using the syntax,

```
casal2 [arguments] > out 2> err
```

Note that CASAL² outputs a few lines of header information to the output. The header consists of the program name and version, the arguments passed to CASAL² 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 CASAL² used to run the model.

3.4. Command line arguments

```
check and confirm text
```

The call to $CASAL^2$ is of the following form.:

```
casal2[-c config_file] [task] [options]
```

-c config_file Define the input configuration file for CASAL². If omitted, then CASAL² looks for a file named casal2.txt.

and where task is one of;

-h Display help (this page).

- **-1** Display the reference for the software license (LGPL).
- **-v** Display the CASAL² version number.
- **-r** 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.
- **-e** Do a point *estimate* using the values in the input configuration file as the starting point for the parameters to be estimated, or optionally, with the start values from the file denoted with the command line argument -i file.
- **-p** Do a likelihood *profile* using the parameter values in the input configuration file as the starting point, or optionally, with the start values from the file denoted with the command line argument -i file.
- -m Do an *MCMC* estimate using the values in the input configuration file as the starting point for the parameters to be estimated, or optionally, with the start values from the file denoted with the command line argument -i file.
- **-f** Project the model *forward* in time using the parameter values in the input configuration file as the starting point for the estimation, or optionally, with the start values from the file denoted with the command line argument -i file.
- **-s** *number Simulate* the *number* of observation sets using values in the input configuration file as the parameter values, or optionally, with the values for the parameters denoted as estimated from the file with the command line argument -i file.

In addition, the following are optional arguments [options],

- -i *file Input* one or more sets of free (estimated) parameter values from *file*. See Section ?? for details about the format of *file*.
- -o **file** Output a report of the free (estimated) parameter values in a format suitable for -i file. See Section ?? for details about the format of file.
- -g seed Seed the random number generator with seed, a positive (long) integer value. Note, if -g is not specified, then CASAL² will generate a random number seed based on the computer clock time.
- **--loglevel** arg = {trace, finest, fine, medium} See Section 7.
- --tabular Run with -r or -f command it will print @report in tabular format. See Section 7.
- **--single-step** Run with -r, this additional option will pause the model and ask the user to specify parameters and their values to use for the next iteration. See Section ??.

3.5. Constructing an CASAL² input configuration file

The model definition, parameters, observations, and reports are specified in an input configuration file. The population section is described in Section 4 and the population commands in Section 8. Similarly, the estimation section is described in Section 5 and its commands in Section 9, and in Section 7 and Section 11 for the report and report commands.

3.5.1. Commands

CASAL² 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 <code>@model</code>)

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 must start with a letter or underscore, can contain letters, underscores, or numbers. Labels must not contain white-space, a full-point ('.'), or other characters that are not letters, numbers, or an underscore. For example,

```
@process BH_Recruitment
or
!include MyModel
```

3.5.2. Subcommands

Subcommands in CASAL² are for defining options and parameter values for commands. They always take an argument which is one of a specific *type*. The types acceptable for each subcommand are defined in Section 12, 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. CASAL² 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 arguments for a subcommand are either:

switch true/false

integer an integer number,

integer vector a vector of integer numbers,

integer range a range of integer numbers separated by a hyphen (-), e.g. 1994-1996 2000 is

expanded to an integer vector of values 1994 1995 1996 2000),

constant a real number (i.e. double),

constant vector a vector of real numbers (i.e. vector of doubles),

estimable a real number that can be estimated (i.e. estimable double),

estimable vector a vector of real numbers that can be estimated (i.e. vector of estimable doubles),

string a categorical (string) value, or **string vector** 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, estimable vector, or categorical vector contain one or more entries on a row, separated by white space (tabs or spaces).

Estimable parameters are those parameters that $CASAL^2$ can estimate, if requested. If a particular parameter is not being estimated in a particular model run, then it acts as a constant. Within $CASAL^2$ only estimable parameters can be estimated. And, you have to tell $CASAL^2$ those that are to be

estimated in any particular model. Estimable parameters that are being estimated within a particular model run are called the *estimated parameters*.

3.5.3. The command-block format

check and confirm text

Each command-block either 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.,

```
@command, or
@command argument, or
@command label
and then
subcommand argument
subcommand argument
etc..
```

Blank lines are ignored, as is extra white space (i.e., tabs and spaces) between arguments. But don't put extra white space before a @ character (which must also be the first character on the line), and make sure the file ends 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 12) for details of the use of !include.

Note that in the input configuration file, commands, sub-commands, and arguments are not case sensitive. However, labels and variable values are case sensitive. Also note that if you are on a Linux system then external calls to files are case sensitive (i.e., when using !include file, the argument file will be case sensitive).

Characters used in labels must be alphanumeric and can include underscores (_). Other characters will result in an error.

3.5.4. Commenting out lines

check and confirm text

Text that follows a # on a line are considered to be comments and are ignored. If you want to remove a group of commands or subcommands using #, then comment out all lines in the block, not just the first line.

Alternatively, you can comment out an entire block or section by placing curly brackets around the text that you want to comment out. Put in 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. (These should ideally be the first character on a line. But if not, then the entire line will be treated as part of the comment block.)

```
\#\# This is a comment and will be ignored by CASAL2 @process BH_Recruitment
```

```
r0 3000000
{ This
block of code
will also be ignored by CASAL2
}
```

3.5.5. Determining parameter names

check and confirm text

When CASAL² processes a input configuration file, it translates each command and each subcommand into a parameter with a unique name. For commands, this parameter name is simply the command name. 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 ith element of that vector.
```

The unique parameter name is used to reference the parameter when estimating, applying a penalty, or applying a profile. For example, the parameter name of subcommand r0 of the command @process with the label MyRecruitment is

```
process[MyRecruitment].r0
```

3.6. CASAL² exit status values

When CASAL² 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 and if it is a configuration error. It will print the line number and file the error has been identified at

4. The population section

4.1. Introduction

The population section specifies the model structure, population dynamics, and other associated parameters. It describes the model structure (population structure), defines the population processes (e.g., recruitment, migration, and mortality), selectivities, and model parameters.

The population section consists of several components, including;

- The population structure;
- Model initialisation (i.e., the state of the model 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 specifications and parameters of the population processes (i.e. processes that add, remove individuals to or from the partition, or shift numbers between ages and categories in the partition);
- Selectivities:
- Parameter values and their definitions;
- Derived quantities, required as parameters for some processes (e.g. spawning stock biomass to resolve the spawner-recruit relationship in a recruitment process).

4.2. Population structure

The basic structure of a CASAL² population 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. (In line with the New Zealand fisheries management framework, CASAL² 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 you can just treat them as an abstract sequence of events. In every time step, there exists a mortality block, this is a block where individuals are removed from the partition. If there are no mortality processes then the mortality block is empty (nothing happens) and occurs at the end of a time step . maybe the user doesn't need to know this more of a code base statement

The state is the current status of the population, at any given time. The state can change one or more times in every time step of every year. The state object must contain sufficient information to figure out the future course of the fishery (given a model and a complete set of parameters).

There are a number of possible changes in the state, which are called transitions. These include processes such as recruitment, natural mortality, fishing mortality, ageing, migration, tagging events, and maturation.

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. The user needs to specify the time step in which each process occurs. If more than one process occurs in the same time step, they will be applied in the order specified in the <code>@time_step</code> block.

The key element of the state is the partition. This is a broadly applicable concept that can be used to describe many different kinds of population model. The partition is simply a breakdown of the total number of fish in the current population into different kinds of fish (Note that the partition records numbers of fish, not biomass). The fish are categorised by various characters. Traditionally these characters have been: length class or age class, sex, maturity, area, stock, tag, and growthpath. However CASAL² has no predefined characters in the partition. This is a major extension on CASAL where users can extend on traditional problems, for example incorporating predator, prey, and in the case of some shellfish species a clock(dead) category.

When defining the partition the user must choose:

- whether the partition is subdivided by length class or age class (not both)
- which of the other characters are included in the partition, e.g., the number of areas, stocks, tagging events, or growth paths (if any of these characters are included in the partition).

The resulting partition can be conceptualised as a matrix, where the columns are length or age classes and the rows represent combinations of the other characters. Then the number in each cell of the matrix is the number of fish with the corresponding combination of characters.

Craigs attempt

The resulting partition can be conceptualised as a group of vectors, where each category is represented as a vector and the size of the vector is the number of age or length classes, shown in Figure 4.1. Each element in a vector represents the number of individuals for that category in that age or length bin. splitting the partition up into separate categories allows categories to have different age or length structures.

The names and number of categories are user defined, but there must be at least one category defined for a model. The ages are defined as a sequence from age_{min} to age_{max} , with the last age optionally a plus group. In order to calculate biomass, the age-length relationship for each category must also be defined. An example of how this is specified for four categories based on sex and area is as follows,

```
@categories
format mature.sex
names spawn.male spawn.female nonspawn.male nonspawn.female
age_lengths male_AL female_AL male_AL female_AL
```

For an example of these ideas, consider a model of a single stock with a spawning and non-spawning fishery. The non-spawning fishery happens over most of the year (say 10 months) in the home area. The mature fish then migrate to the spawning area, where the spawning fishery operates. At the end of spawning, these fish, along with the recruits from the previous year, migrate back to the home area. The modeller decides that fish will be divided in the partition by age, sex, maturity, and area (spawning and home grounds). So the partition has 8 rows (2 sexes (mature or immature) 2 areas) and one column per age class.

For an example of these ideas, consider a model of a single stock with a spawning and non-spawning fishery. The non-spawning fishery happens over most of the year (say 10 months) in the home area. The mature fish then migrate to the spawning area, where the spawning fishery operates. At the end of spawning, these fish, along with the recruits from the previous year, migrate back to the home area. The modeller decides that fish will be divided in the partition by age, sex, maturity, and area (spawning and home grounds). So the partition has 8 rows (2 sexes (mature or immature) 2 areas) and one column per age class.

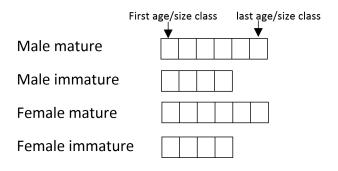


Figure 4.1: A visual representation of a partition

So they define four time steps, labelled 1 through 4. Step 1 includes the non-spawning fishery. Step 2 includes the migration to the spawning area. Step 3 includes the spawning fishery. Step 4 includes recruitment and the migration back to the home area. (In fact, they could have used only 3 time steps, by using a single step in place of their steps 2 and 3. Because the default order of processes within a time step places migrations before fisheries, the processes would still have occurred in the right order.) There are other details to be sorted out, such as the proportion of natural mortality occurring in each time step, but this gives the basic idea.

This structure can be used to implement complex models, with intermingling of separate stocks, with complex migration patterns over multiple areas, and multiple fisheries using different fishing methods and covering different areas and times. Note that there is little point in using a complex structure to model a stock when there are no observations to support that structure. In other words, use a structure for your model that is compatible with the data available.

The model is run from an initial year up to the final(current) year. It can also be run past the final year to make projections things that happen in the future up to the final projection year.

An example, to specify a model with 2 categories (male and female) with ages 1-20 (with the last age a plus group) and an age-length relationship defined with the label male_growth and female_growth, then the @model example from above becomes,

```
@model
start_year
final_year
min_age 1
max_age 20
age_plus_group True
initialisation_phases iphase
time_steps step1 step2
```

4.3. The state object and the partition

The key component of the state object is the partition, a matrix of numbers of fish by combinations of characters. The columns can either be age or length classes, the rows are combinations of the following characters:

The key component of the state object is the partition, a group of vectors that store numbers of fish at age or length for a specific category. A category represents a group of fish that have specific attributes, examples of such attributes include life histories and growth paths. Characters in a population that display different attributes and that can make up a category or seperate categories are:

- Sex (male or female);
- Area (any number of areas, named by the user);
- Stock (any number of stocks, named by the user);
- Maturity (immature or mature);
- Growth-path (any number of growth-paths);
- Tag. (any number of tagging events).

A stock is defined as a subpopulation of fish which recruits separately. See Section 4.9 for the treatment of maturity when it is not a character in the partition.

Growth-paths are a feature used to implement some persistence of length at age in an age-based model that uses some length/size data. Each growth-path has its own growth curve, and the length-based model features will consequently have different effects on different growth-paths. So, you need to tell CASAL² the following:

- Whether the model is age- or length-based.
- The number and nature of length classes in a length-based model.
- The minimum and maximum age classes in an age-based model.
- Whether there is a plus group.
- The names of all categories and there corresponding growth path labels.
- Whether the partition is divided by sex.
- Whether the partition is divided by maturity.
- Whether the partition has growth-paths, and, if so, how many.
- Whether the partition has multiple stocks, and, if so, how many, and their names.
- Whether the partition has multiple areas, and, if so, how many, and their names.
- Whether the partition includes tagged fish, and, if so, how many, and the names of the tag partitions.

Age classes are always 1 year wide, except that the maximum age group can optionally be a plus group. Users need to choose the minimum and maximum age classes. Length classes are defined by the user, and you need to specify how many length classes there are, the lower bound of each length class, and whether the last length class is a plus group, or if not, what its upper bound is. The relevant parameters are class_mins and plus_group. The class_mins parameter contains the lower bound of each class, and concludes with the upper bound of the last class if it is not a plus group. If, for example, length classes of 30-40, 40-50, 50-60, and 60-70+ cm were desired, you would set class_mins 30 40 50 60 and plus_group true. Whereas if 30-40, 40-50, 50-60, and 60-70 cm were desired, you would set class_mins 30 40 50 60 70 and plus_group false.

CASAL 2 allows categories of the partition to exist for certain years of the model. This is added for computational efficiency, when models contain a large number of categories that do not persist for all model years. Situations where this is beneficial is when a model contains a process that transitions fish into a category that has otherwise not been used, for example tagging events. Excluding categories for certain years saves initialising empty categories. This can be a big time saver if initialisation is run for 50 years and there are many tagging events. (When the ross sea model is up and running % differences would be a nice insert here)

Another important component of the state object in casal² are derived quantities. This includes quantities such as spawning stock biomasses (SSBs, mid-spawning season biomasses of

spawning fish) for each or a combination of categories. Casal² derives through the command @derived_quantity, this is needed if there is a stock-recruitment relationship.

4.4. Time sequences

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

- Initialisation
- Run years
- Projection years

4.4.1. 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 sets of processes. Any number of processes can occur within each time-step, in any order 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 be different from that which is applied during the model years.

4.4.2. Initialisation

There are multiple methods to initialise a partition in CASAL². These methods are: iterative, fixed, derived and Cinitial. Model initialisation can occur in several phases, each of which can be a different type. At the end of the initialisation step, CASAL² runs through the model years carrying out processes in the order defined in the annual cycle, and can evaluate expected values of observations in order to calculate likelihoods, project forward to determine future states, or simulate observations from the current state.

Iterative Intitialisation

One of CASAL² methods for initialising the initial equilibrium state as an iterative process: a general solution that initialises complex structured models can be difficult to implement using analytic techniques. However, initialising via iteration for a long-lived species with complex transitions can take many iterations and be slow to run. In CASAL², we allow for user-defined multi-phased initialisation using iteration to allow the user to optimize models for speed. Each phase of the initialisation can involve any number of processes. Note that the length of the initialisation period may affect the model outputs, and that a period should be chosen to allow the population state to converge.

In addition, each initialisation process can optionally be stopped early if a user defined convergence criteria is met. For a set of user defined years in the initialisation phase, convergence is defined as met if the proportional absolute summed difference between the the state in year t - 1 and the state in year $t (\hat{\lambda})$ is less than $\hat{\lambda}$ where,

$$\widehat{\lambda} = \frac{\sum_{i} \sum_{j} |\operatorname{element}(i, j)_{t} - \operatorname{element}(i, j)_{t-1}|}{\sum_{i} \sum_{j} \operatorname{element}(i, j)_{t}}$$
(4.1)

In each initialisation phase, the processes defined for that phase are carried out and used as the starting point for the following phase or, if it is the last phase, then the years that the model is run over. The first phase is always initialised with each element (i.e., each age and category) set at zero. Note that this means that recruitment processes where the numbers of recruits is based on a stock recruitment or density dependant relationship will likely fail if used in the first phase of an initialisation.

The multi-phase iteration allows the user to determine if the initialisation has converged in a particular model run. Here, add an additional initialisation phase for, say, 1 year as the last initialisation phase (with the same processes applied). Then, using the initialisation reports (@report[label].type=initialisation_partition), print a copy of the partition just before and just after that phase. If the initialisation has converged to an equilibrium state, then the partition at both these time intervals will be the same.

Hence, for an iterative initialisation you need to define;

- The initialisation phases.
- The number of years in each phase and the processes to apply in each (default is the annual cycle).

Derived Intitialisation

An analytical solution to the iterative initialisation phase. It can be solved in max_age - min_age +1 years.

Cinitial Intitialisation

This phase can only be applied once a derived or iterative intialisation phases has been implemented. It works off an equilibrium state and usese Cinitial factors that can be estimated to shift the intial population away from equilibrium prior to start year. This is implemented in teh Southern Blue Whiting assessment a FAR reference would be nice (AListair)

Fixed Intitialisation

This is a user defined table that is taken to be the initial partition prior to start year.

Model years

Following initialisation, the model then runs over a number of user-defined years. For this part of the model, the annual cycle can be broken into separate time-steps, and observations can be associated with the state of the model at the end of any time-step, i.e., likelihoods for particular observations are evaluated, if required, at the end of each time-step.

Processes are carried out in the order specified within each time-step, and can be the same or different to processes in other initialisation phases of the model. The run years define the years over which the model is to run and the annual cycle within each year. The model runs from the start of year initial and runs to the end of year current. The projection part then extends the run time up to the end of year final.

• The time-steps and the processes applied in each

- The initial year (i.e., the model start year)
- The final year (i.e., the model end year)
- The projection final year (i.e., the model projection end year)

4.4.3. Projections

CASAL² can project, from a set of parameter estimates, the state of the model into the future. In a projection run, the model is initialised and run through the model years from initial to the final. Then, the model is re run from initial to projection_final_year, where any parameter can be projected between this time period. CASAL² does not have default projections. Users must specify them using the @project blocks. This is important for parameters that are year specific such as year class parameters. If there is no @project for these parameters, they will not exist after final_year processes that call them will cause nonsensical output. In theory any parameter can be projected forward. The types of @project blocks in CASAL² are: constant, LogNormal and empirical sampling.

Constant

A value is set for the entire model run

Empirical Sampling

Parameters that are of type vector or map can be re sampled with replacement between a year range for projected years

LogNormal

The randomised parameter are lognormally distributed, with mean 1, and specified standard deviation and autocorrelation on the log-scale. YCSi=exp(Xi), where (Xi) are generated as a Gaussian AR(1) process with standard deviation σ_R and mean-0.5 σ_R (so that the mean of YCSi is 1), and autocorrelation ρ . Set $\rho=0$, the default, if you dont want autocorrelation. If the randomised parameter are modified by an arbitrary multiplier, then the only change is that parameter will have mean μ , where μ is the recruitment multiplier.

4.5. Population processes

check and confirm text

Population processes are those processes that change the population state of individuals. Processes produce changes in the model partition, by adding, removing or moving individuals between ages or categories. The population processes include recruitment, ageing, mortality events (e.g., natural and exploitation) and category transition processes (i.e., processes that move individuals between categories, while preserving their age structure). See Section 4 for a complete list of available processes.

There are two types of processes, processes that occur across multiple time steps in the annual cycle e.g Natural Mortality and Instantaneous Mortality. There are also processes that only occur within the time step they are defined. Each of these processes is carried out in the user-defined prescribed order when initialising the model, and then for a user-defined order in each year in the annual cycle.

4.5.1. Recruitment

check and confirm text

Recruitment processes are defined as process that introduces new individuals into the model. CASAL² implements two types of recruitment process, constant recruitment and Beverton-Holt recruitment (Beverton and Holt, 1957).

In the recruitment processes, the number of individuals are added to a single age class within the partition, with the amount defined by the type of recruitment process and its function. If more than one category is defined, then the proportion of recruiting individuals to be added to each category is specified by the proportions parameter. For example, if recruiting to categories labelled male and female, then you might set the proportions as 0.5 and 0.5 respectively to denote that half of the recruits recruit to the male category and the remaining half to the female category.

For the constant and Beverton-Holt recruitment processes, the number of individuals following recruitment in year y is,

$$N_{i,j} \leftarrow N_{i,j-1} + p_j(R_y) \tag{4.2}$$

where $N_{i,j}$ is the numbers in category j at age i, p_k is the proportion to category j, and R_y is the number of recruits for year y. See below for how R_y is determined in each of these cases.

Constant Recruitment

check and confirm text

In the constant recruitment process the total number of recruits added each year is R_y , and is simply R_0 , i.e.

$$R_{\mathbf{y}} = R_0 \tag{4.3}$$

It is equivalent to a Beverton-Holt recruitment process where steepness is set equal to one (h = 1).

For example, to specify a constant recruitment process, where individuals are added to the category 'immature' at age = 1, and the number to add is $R_0 = 5 \times 10^5$, then the syntax is

@process Recruitment
type constant_recruitment
categories immature
proportions 1.0
r0 500000
age 1

Beverton-Holt recruitment

check and confirm text

In the Beverton-Holt recruitment process the total number of recruits added each year is R_y , and is the product of the average recruitment R_0 , the annual year class strength multiplier, YCS, and the stock-recruit relationship i.e.,

$$R_{\nu} = R_0 \times YCS_{\nu-\text{offset}} \times SR(SSB_{\nu-\text{offset}}) \tag{4.4}$$

where offset is the number of years offset to link the year class with the year of spawning y, and SR is the Beverton-Holt stock-recruit relationship parametrised by the steepness h,

$$SR(SSB_y) = \frac{SSB_y}{B_0} / \left(1 - \frac{5h - 1}{4h} \left(1 - \frac{SSB_y}{B_0}\right)\right)$$
 (4.5)

Note that the Beverton-Holt recruitment process requires a value for B_0 and SSB_y to resolve the stock-recruitment relationship. Here, a derived quantity (see Section 4.6) must be defined that provides the annual SSB_y for the recruitment process. B_0 is then defined as the value of the SSB at the end of one of the initialisation phases. During initialisation the YCS multipliers are assumed to be equal to one, and recruitment that happens in the initialisation phases that occur before and during the phase when B_0 is determined is assumed to have steepness h = 1 (i.e. in those initialisation phases, recruitment is simply equal to R_0). Recruitment in the initialisation phases after the phase where B_0 was determined follow the Beverton-Holt stock-recruit relationship defined above. Recruits are then distributed across cells in proportion to the values in a numeric layer.

For example, assume a Beverton-Holt recruitment process, where individuals are added to the category 'immature' at age = 1, the number to add is $R_0 = 5 \times 10^5$. Then SSB_Biomass is a derived quantity that specifies the total spawning stock biomass, with B_0 the value of the derived quantity at the end of the initialisation phase labelled phase1. The YCS are standardised to have mean one in the period 1994 to 2004, and recruits enter into the model two years following spawning. Then the command specification is

```
@process Recruitment
type recruitment_beverton_holt
categories immature
proportions 1.0
r0 500000
steepness 0.75
age 1
ssb SSB_Biomass
standardise_ycs_years 1994-2004
ycs_years 1994 1995 1996 1997 1998 1999 2000 2001 2002 2003 2004 2005 2006
YCS_values 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1
```

- If recruitment then ageing then spawning, then ssb_offset should equal min_age + 1.
- If spawning then ageing then recruitment, then ssb_offset should equal min_age 1.
- If any other order is used, then ssb_offset should equal min_age.

If you have more than one ageing process and a bevertonholt recruitment process you will be warned to set your own ssb_offset as CASAL² will set ssb_offset based upon the first ageing process which may be not want the user desires.

4.5.2. **Ageing**

check and confirm text

The ageing process simply moves all individuals in the named categories i to the next age class j+1. The ageing process is defined as,

$$element(i, j) \leftarrow element(i, j - 1) \tag{4.6}$$

except that in the case of the plus group (if defined),

```
element(i, age_{max}) \leftarrow element(i, age_{max}) + element(i, age_{max-1}). \tag{4.7}
```

For example, to apply ageing to the categories immature and mature, then the syntax is,

```
@process Ageing
type ageing
categories immature mature
```

Note that ageing is *not* applied by CASAL² by default. As with other processes, CASAL² will not apply a process unless its defined and specified as a process within the annual cycle. Hence, it is possible to specify a model where a category is not aged. CASAL² will not check or otherwise warn if there is a category defined where ageing is not applied.

4.5.3. Mortality

check and confirm text

Four types of mortality processes are permissible in CASAL², constant rate, event, biomass-event and instantaneous. These processes remove individuals from the partition, either as a rate, as a total number (abundance), as a biomass of individuals or as a mixture of these. CASAL² does not implement the Baranov catch equation **YET**. To apply both natural and biomass-event mortality, users can use mortality_instantaneous.

Constant mortality rate

To specify a constant annual mortality rate (M = 0.2) for categories 'male' and 'female', then,

```
@process NaturalMortality
type mortality_constant_rate
categories male female
selectivities One One
M 0.2 0.2
```

Note that the mortality rate process requires a selectivity. To apply the same mortality rate over all age classes, use a selectivity defined as $S_j = 1.0$ for all ages j, e.g.

```
@selectivity One
type constant
c 1
```

Event and biomass-event mortality

The event mortality process and biomass mortality processes act in a similar manner, except that they remove a specified abundance (number of individuals) or biomass respectively, rather than applying mortality as a rate. However, the maximum abundance or biomass to remove is constrained by a maximum exploitation rate.

CASAL² removes as many individuals or as much biomass as it can while not exceeding the maximum exploitation rate. Event mortality processes require a penalty function to discourage

parameter values that do not allow the defined number of individuals to be removed. Here, the model penalises those parameter estimates that result in an insufficient number of individuals in defined categories (after applying selectivities). See Section 5.8 for more information on specifying penalties.

For example, the event mortality applied to user-defined categories i, with the numbers removed at age j determined by a selectivity-at-age S_i is applied as follows:

First, calculate the vulnerable abundance for each category i in 1...I for ages j = 1...J that are subject to event mortality,

$$V(i,j) = S(j)N(i,j)$$

$$(4.8)$$

And hence define the total vulnerable abundance V_{total} as,

$$V_{total} = \sum_{i} \sum_{j} V(i, j) \tag{4.9}$$

Hence the exploitation rate to apply is

$$U = \begin{cases} C/V_{total}, & \text{if } C/V_{total} \le U_{max} \\ U_{max}, & \text{otherwise} \end{cases}$$
 (4.10)

And the number removed R from each age j in category i is,

$$R(i,j) = UV(i,j) \tag{4.11}$$

For example, to specify fishing mortality based on catches given for each year, over categories 'immature' and 'mature', with selectivity 'FishingSel' and assuming a maximum possible exploitation rate of 0.7, then the syntax is

@process Fishing
type event_mortality
categories immature mature
years 2000 2001 2002 2003
U_max 0.70
selectivities FishingSel FishingSel
penalty event_mortality_penalty

Instantaneous mortality

The instantaneous mortality process is a combination of natural mortality and event biomass mortality that occurs across multiple time steps. This process applies half the natural mortality, then to apply the mortalities from all the fisheries instantaneously, then to apply the remaining half of the natural mortality.

When Instantaneous mortality is applied the following equations are used. Steal the rest from CASAL manual

```
@process instant_mort
type mortality_instantaneous
m 0.19
time step ratio 0.42 0.25 0.33
```

```
selectivities One
categories stock
table catches
year FishingWest FishingEest
1975 80000 111000
1976 152000 336000
1977 74000 1214000
end table

table fisheries
fishery category selectivity u_max time_step penalty
FishingWest stock westFSel 0.7 step1 CatchPenalty
FishingEest stock eastFSel 0.7 step1 CatchPenalty
end_table
```

Baranov Mortality

Coming Soon!

4.5.4. Transition By Category

This process covers two major processes being, Maturation and Migration. Because CASAL²has not constraints on maturity or area in the partition. This processes moves individuals from one category to another, for the case of maturity that is moving individuals form immature category to mature category. For migration this is moving individuals from one area defined category to another.

Maturation

Maturation is the process in which immature fish become mature and are moved accordingly in the partition. See Section 5.11 for how to treat maturity when it is not a character in the partition.

You can specify a single maturation episode in each year, or you can have multiple maturations. Each episode can apply to one stock, or all stocks equally, and can be applied in one area, or all areas equally. Maturation rates are expressed as an ogive (and note that this ogive contains the rates of maturation, not the proportions of mature fish).

If you try to mature fish in an area where fish are constrained to be immature, CASAL will issue a warning, and will not mature those fish.

So, to specify each maturation episode, the following information is required:

- If it applies to only one stock, which is it?
- If it applies to only one area, which is it?
- The maturation rates, as an ogive, optionally by sex.

Migration

Migration is the process of moving fish from one area to another. For this to be sensibly applied in CASAL²there needs to be a category for the source area and a category for the target area. If two or

more migrations are specified in the same time step, then they take place in the order in which they are given.

long as there is one to one category relationship. That is for every source category there is one target category. You can state that a given proportion of these fish migrate (constant across all age or length classes), or provide a selectivity of proportions migrating by age or length class.

An example, to specify a simple spawning migration of mature males and females moving from a western area to an eastern (spawning) area, then the syntax is

```
@process Spawning_migration
type category_transition
from West.males West.females
to East.males West.females
selectivities MatureSel matureSel
```

Where MatureSel is a selectivity that describes the proportion of age or length classes that are mature and move to the eastern area.

4.5.4.1. Tag events

Tagging processes can be age or length based processes, where by numbers of fished are moved from an untagged category to a tagged category that the user has defined in the @Categories block. Alistair details...

4.5.4.2. Tag shedding rate

4.6. Derived quantities

Derived quantities represent a snap shot of abundance or biomass of the partition at a specified point in time. The most common use of derived quantities is to calculate spawning stock biomasses. Derived quantities are associated with the **mortalty block** of that time step. This allows you to specify whether the quantity should be at the beginning of mortality, at the end or part-way through a mortality event.

4.7. Age-length relationship

The age-length relationship defines the length at age (and the weight at length, see Section 4.7) of individuals at age/category within the model. There are three length-age relationships available in CASAL². The first is the naive no relationship (where each individual has length 1 irrespective of age). The second and third are the von-Bertalanffy and Schnute relationships respectively. The length-at-age relationship is used to determine the length frequency, given age, and then with the length-weight relationship, a weight-at-age of individuals within an age/category.

The three age-length relationships are,

None: where the length of each individual is exactly 1 for all ages, in which case the none length-weight relationship must also be used.

von Bertalanffy: where length at age is defined as,

$$\bar{s}(age) = L_{\infty} (1 - \exp(-k(age - t_0))) \tag{4.12}$$

Schnute: where length at age is defined as,

$$\bar{s}(age) = \begin{cases} \left[y_1^b + (y_2^b - y_1^b) \frac{1 - \exp(-a(age - \tau_1))}{1 - \exp(-a(\tau_2 - \tau_1))} \right]^{1/b}, & \text{if } a \neq 0 \text{ and } b \neq 0 \\ y_1 \exp\left[\ln(y_2/y_1) \frac{1 - \exp(-a(age - \tau_1))}{1 - \exp(-a(\tau_2 - \tau_1))} \right], & \text{if } a \neq 0 \text{ and } b = 0 \\ \left[y_1^b + (y_2^b - y_1^b) \frac{age - \tau_1}{\tau_2 - \tau_1} \right]^{1/b}, & \text{if } a = 0 \text{ and } b \neq 0 \end{cases}$$

$$y_1 \exp\left[\ln(y_2/y_1) \frac{age - \tau_1}{\tau_2 - \tau_1} \right], & \text{if } a = 0 \text{ and } b = 0$$

$$y_1 \exp\left[\ln(y_2/y_1) \frac{age - \tau_1}{\tau_2 - \tau_1} \right], & \text{if } a = 0 \text{ and } b = 0$$

The von Bertalanffy curve is parameterised by L_{∞} , k, and t_0 ; the Schnute curve (Schnute, 1981) by y_1 and y_2 , which are the mean lengths at reference ages τ_1 and τ_2 , and a and b (when b=1, this reduces to the von Bertalanffy with k=a).

When defining length-at-age in CASAL², you must also define a length-weight relationship (see Section 4.7 below).

Calculation of length-at-age (in an age-based model)

Interpolation of length-at-age

Size-weight relationship

There are two length-weight relationship,s available in CASAL². The first is the naive no relationship. Here, the weight of an individual, regardless of length, is always 1. The second is the basic relationship.

The two length-weight relationships are,

• None: The length-weight relationship where

$$mean weight = 1 (4.14)$$

• Basic: The length-weight relationship where the mean weight w of an individual of length l is

$$w = al^b (4.15)$$

Note that if a distribution of length-at-age is specified, then the mean weight is calculated over the distribution of lengths, and is

$$w = (al^b)(1+cv^2)^{\frac{b(b-1)}{2}}$$
(4.16)

where the cv is the c.v. of lengths-at-age. This adjustment is exact for lognormal distributions, and a close approximation for normal distributions if the c.v. is not large (Bull et al., 2012).

Be careful about the scale of a — this can easily be specified incorrectly. If the catch is in tonnes and the growth curve in centimetres, then a should be on the right scale to convert a length in centimetres to a weight in tonnes. Note that there are reports available that can be used to help check that the units specified are plausible (see Section 7).

Calculation of mean weight

- 4.8. Weightless model
- 4.9. Maturity, in models without maturing in the partition

4.10. Selectivities

A selectivity is a function that can have a different value for each age class. Selectivities are used throughout CASAL² to interpret observations (Section 5) or to modify the effects of processes on each age class (Section 4). CASAL² 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, you might have an age-based selectivity that was logistic with 50% selected at age 5 and 95% selected at age 7. This would be defined by the type=logistic with parameters $a_{50} = 5$ and $a_{t095} = (7-5) = 2$. Then the value of the selectivity at age x = 7 is 0.95 and the selectivity at x = 3 is 0.05. Note selectivities can be length based, However Caution, more testing is needed for this functionality.

Note that the function values for some choices of parameters for some selectivities can result in an 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). CASAL² 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 $(a50 - x)/ato_95 > 5$ then the value of the selectivity at x = 0, i.e., for a50 = 5, $ato_95 = 0.1$, then the value of the selectivity at x = 1, without range checking would be 7.1×10^{-52} . With range checking, that value is 0 (as $(a50x)/ato_95 = 40 > 5$).

The available selectivities are;

- Constant
- Knife-edge
- All values
- All values bounded
- Increasing
- Logistic
- Inverse logistic
- Logistic producing
- Double normal
- Double exponential
- Cubic spline (Not yet implemented)

The available selectivities are described below.

4.10.1. constant

$$f(x) = C (4.17)$$

The constant selectivity has the estimable parameter C.

4.10.2. knife_edge

$$f(x) = \begin{cases} 0, & \text{if } x < E \\ \alpha, & \text{if } x \ge E \end{cases}$$
 (4.18)

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

4.10.3. all_values

$$f(x) = V_x \tag{4.19}$$

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

4.10.4. all_values_bounded

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

$$(4.20)$$

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

4.10.5. increasing

$$f(x) = \begin{cases} 0, & \text{if } x < L \\ f(x-1) + \pi_x(\alpha - f(x-1)), & \text{if } L \le x \le H \\ f(\alpha), & \text{if } x \ge H \end{cases}$$
 (4.21)

The increasing ogive has non-estimable parameters L and H. The estimable parameters are π_L , π_{L+1} ... π_H (but if these are estimated, they should always be constrained to be between 0 and 1). α 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.

4.10.6. logistic

$$f(x) = \alpha/[1 + 19^{(a_{50} - x)/a_{to95}}]$$
(4.22)

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

4.10.7. inverse_logistic

$$f(x) = \alpha - \alpha/[1 + 19^{(a_{50} - x)/a_{to95}}]$$
(4.23)

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

4.10.8. logistic_producing

$$f(x) = \begin{cases} 0, & \text{if } x < L \\ \lambda(L), & \text{if } x = L \\ (\lambda(x) - \lambda(x - 1)) / (1 - \lambda(x - 1)), & \text{if } L < x < H \\ 1, & \text{if } x \ge H \end{cases}$$
(4.24)

The logistic-producing selectivity has the non-estimable parameters L and H, and has estimable parameters a_{50} and a_{to95} . α 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_{to95} .

4.10.9. double_normal

$$f(x) = \begin{cases} \alpha 2^{-[(x-\mu)/\sigma_L]^2}, & \text{if } x \le \mu \\ \alpha 2^{-[(x-\mu)/\sigma_R]^2}, & \text{if } x \ge \mu \end{cases}$$
 (4.25)

The double-normal selectivity has estimable parameters a_1 , s_L , and s_R . α is a scaling parameter, with default value of $\alpha = 1$. It has values α at $x = a_1$, and 0.5α at $x = a_1 - s_L$ and $x = a_1 + s_R$.

4.10.10. double_exponential

$$f(x) = \begin{cases} \alpha y_0 (y_1/y_0)^{(x-x_0)/(x_1-x_0)}, & \text{if } x \le x_0 \\ \alpha y_0 (y_2/y_0)^{(x-x_0)/(x_2-x_0)}, & \text{if } x > x_0 \end{cases}$$
(4.26)

The double-exponential selectivity has non-estimable parameters x_1 and x_2 , and estimable parameters x_0 , y_0 , y_1 , and y_2 . α 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) .

4.10.11. spline

The spline selectivity implements a cubic spline that has non-estimable knots, and an estimable value for each knot. The cubic spline is either (i) a natural splines where the second derivatives are set to 0 at the boundaries, i.e., the values at the boundaries are horizontal, (ii) a spline with a fixed first derivative at the boundaries (linear, but not necessarily horizontal) and (iii) spline which turns into a parabola at the boundaries.

4.11. Time Varying Parameters

CASAL² has the functionality to vary a parameter between the start and final year of a model run. This can be for blocks of years or specific years if chosen. For years that are not specified the parameter will default to the input or if in a iterative state such as estimation mode, the value being trialled at that iteration. Available methods for time varying a parameter.

4.11.1. Constant

Allows a parameter to have an alternative values during the certain years, which is estimable.

4.11.2. Random Walk

A random deviate added into the last value drawn from a standard normal distribution. This has an estimable parameter σ . Caution although this has been crudely implemented it may not be a good idea to use as this is a random process, replicating it is not doable at current.

4.11.3. Exogenous

parameters are shifted based on an exogenous variable, an example of this is fishing selectivity parameters that may vary between years based on known changed fishing behaviours such as fishing season start time.

$$\delta_{v} = a(E_{v} - \bar{E}) \tag{4.27}$$

where δ_y is the shift in parameter X in year 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 (2003)

5. The estimation section

5.1. Role of the estimation section

The role of the estimation section is to define the tasks carried out by CASAL²:

- 1. Define the objective function (see Section 5.2)
- 2. Define the parameters to be estimated (see Section 5.3)
- 3. Calculate a point estimate, i.e., the maximum posterior density estimate (MPD) (see Section 5.4).
- 4. Calculate a posterior profile selected parameters, i.e., find, for each of a series of values of a parameter, allowing the other estimated parameters to vary, the minimum value of the objective function (see Section 5.5).
- 5. Generate an MCMC sample from the posterior distribution (see Section 5.6).
- 6. Calculate the approximate covariance matrix of the parameters as the inverse of the minimizer's approximation to the Hessian, and the corresponding correlation matrix (see Section 5.4).

The estimation section defines the objective function, parameters of the model, and the method of estimation (point estimates, Bayesian posteriors, profiles, etc.). The objective function is based on a goodness-of-fit measure of the model to observations, priors and penalties. See the observation section for a description of the observations, likelihoods, priors and penalties.

5.2. The objective function

check and confirm text

KL comment: This text from SPM. Does not cover all text in S6.7 of CASAL, e.g. max likelihood. OK to use? Additions required?

In Bayesian estimation, the objective function is a negative log-posterior,

$$Objective(p) = -\sum_{i} \log [L(\mathbf{p}|O_i)] - \log [\pi(\mathbf{p})]$$
(5.1)

where π is the joint prior density of the parameters p.

The contribution to the objective function from the likelihoods are defined in Section 6.1. In addition to likelihoods, priors (see Section 5.7) and penalties (see Section 5.8) are components of the objective function.

Penalties can be used to ensure that the exploitation rate constraints on mortality events (i.e., fisheries) are not breached (otherwise there is nothing to prevent the model from having abundances so low that the recorded mortalities could not have been taken), penalties on category transitions (to ensure there are enough individuals to move), and possibly penalties to encourage estimated values to be similar or smooth, etc.

5.3. Specifying the parameters to be estimated

The estimable parameters that will be estimated are defined using @estimate commands (see Section 9). An @estimate command-block looks like,

@estimate process[MyRecruitment].r0
lower_bound 1000
upper_bound 100000
type uniform

See Section 3.5.5 for instructions on how to generate the parameter name. At least one parameter to be estimated if doing an estimation, profile, or MCMC run. Initial values for the parameters to be estimated will still need to be provided, and these are used as the starting values for the minimiser. However, these may be overwritten if you provide a set of alternative starting values (i.e., using casal2 -i, see Section 3.4).

All parameters are estimated within bounds. For each parameter to be estimated, you need to specify the bounds and the prior (Section 5.7). Note that the bounds and prior for each parameter refer to the values of the parameters, not the actual values resulting from the application of the parameter to an equation. Bounds should be carefully chosen as they effect the space in which the minimisers search over. Minimisers convert lower and upper bound to -1,1 space. Needs to be referenced. If estimating only some elements of a vector, either define the elements of the vector to be estimated (see 3.5.5) or fix the others by setting the bounds equal.

The estimation of parameters can be phased. Here, some of the estimated parameters are initially held fixed, and a minimisation is carried out. Next, some or all of the remaining parameters that were initially held fixed are freed, and another minimisation is carried out. This process continues until all phases have been carried out.

5.4. Point estimation

Point estimation is invoked with casal2 -e. Mathematically, it is an attempt to find a minimum of the objective function. CASAL²has multiple algorithms for solving (minimising) the optimisation problem. There are three non auto differential minimisers: numerical differences, differential evolution minimiser, and the dlib minimiser. There are also three auto differential minimisers being: ADOL-C, CPPAD, and BETADIFF. For references see section 1.7

5.4.1. The numerical differences minimiser

The minimiser has three kinds of (non-error) exit status:

- 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. You can also specify an alternative starting point of the minimiser using casal 2 -i.

We want to stress that this is a local optimisation algorithm 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 than the original point estimate.

The approximate covariance matrix of the estimated parameters can be calculated as the inverse of the minimiser's approximation to the Hessian, and the corresponding correlation matrix is also calculated. Be aware that

- the Hessian approximation develops over many minimiser steps, so if the minimiser has only run for a small number of iterations the covariance matrix can be a very poor approximation
- the inverse Hessian is not a good approximation to the covariance matrix of the estimated parameters, and may not be useful to construct, for example, confidence intervals.

Also note that if an estimated parameter has equal lower and upper bounds, it will have entries of '0' in the covariance matrix and NaN or -1.#IND (depending on the operating system) in the correlation matrix.

5.4.2. The differential evolution minimiser

The differential evolution minimiser is a simple population based, stochastic function minimizer, but is claimed to be quite powerful in solving minimisation problems. It is a method of mathematical optimization of multidimensional functions and belongs to the class of evolution strategy optimizers. Initially, the procedure randomly generates and evaluates a number of solution vectors (the population size), each with p parameters. Then, for each generation (iteration), the algorithm creates a candidate solution for each existing solution by random mutation and uniform crossover. The random mutation generates a new solution by multiplying the difference between two randomly selected solution vectors by some scale factor, then adding the result to a third vector. Then an element-wise crossover takes place with probability P_{cr} , to generate a potential candidate solution. If this is better than the initial solution vector, it replaces it, otherwise the original solution is retained. The algorithm is terminated after either a predefined number of generations (max_generations) or when the maximum difference between the scaled individual parameters from the candidate solutions from all populations is less than some predefined amount tolerance.

The differential evolution minimiser can be good at finding global minimums in surfaces that may have local minima. However, the speed of the minimiser, and the ability to find a good minima depend on the number of initial 'populations'. Some authors recommend that the number of populations be set at about 10*p, where p is the number of free parameters. However, depending on your problem, you may find that you may need more, or that less will suffice.

We note that there is no proof of convergence for the differential evolution solver, but several papers have found it to be an efficient method of solving multidimensional problems. Our (limited) experience suggests that it can often find a better minima and may be faster or longer (depending on the actual model specification) at finding a solution when compared with the numerical differences minimiser. Comparisons with auto-differentiation minimisers or other more sophisticated algorithms have not been made.

5.4.3. Betadiff minimiser

An auto-differentiable minimiser for non-linear models.

5.4.4. ADOL-C minimiser

An auto-differentiable minimiser for non-linear models.

5.4.5. CPPAD minimiser

An auto-differentiable minimiser for non-linear models.

5.4.6. Dlib minimiser

Non auto-diff minimiser

5.5. Posterior profiles

If profiles are requested casal2 -p, $CASAL^2$ will first calculate a point estimate. For each scalar parameter or, in the case of vectors or selectivities, the element of the parameter to be profiled, $CASAL^2$ will fix its value at a sequence of n evenly spaced numbers (step) between a specified lower and upper bounds l and u, and calculate a point estimate at each value.

By default step = 10, and (l,u) = (lower bound on parameter plus <math>(range/(2n)), upper bound on parameter less (range/(2n)). Each minimisation starts at the final parameter values from the previous resulting value of the parameter being profiled. CASAL² will report the objective function for each parameter value. Note that an initial point estimate should be compared with the profile, not least to check that none of the other points along the profile have a better objective function value than the initial 'minimum'.

You specify which parameters are to be profiled, and optionally the number of steps, lower bound, and upper bound for each. In the case of vector parameters, you will also need to specify the element of the vector being profiled.

You can also supply the initial starting point for the estimation using casal2 -i file — this may improve the minimiser performance for the profiles.

If you get an implausible profile, it may be a result of not using enough iterations in the minimiser or a poor choice of minimiser control variables (e.g., the minimiser tolerance). It also may be useful to try both if the minimisers in CASAL² and compare the results.

5.6. Bayesian estimation

check and confirm text

KL comment: This text is from SPM and is nearly verbatim S6.5 in CASASL, but two large sections exluded: ...request covariate matrix change adaptively... and from ...multivariate t dist... onwards. OK to use/ Additions required?

CASAL² can use a Monte Carlo Markov Chain (MCMC) to generate a sample from the posterior distribution of the estimated parameters casal² -m and output the sampled values to a file (optionally keeping only every nth set of values).

As CASAL² has no post-processing capabilities. CASAL² cannot produce MCMC convergence diagnostics (use a package such as BOA) or plot/summarize the posterior distributions of the output quantities (for example, using a general-purpose statistical or spreadsheet package such as S-Plus, **R**, or Microsoft Excel).

Bayesian methodology and MCMC are both large and complex topics, and we do not describe either properly here. See Gelman et al. (1995) and Gilks et al. (1994) for details of both Bayesian analysis and MCMC methods. In addition, see Punt & Hilborn (2001) for an introduction to quantitative fish stock assessment using Bayesian methods.

This section only briefly describes the MCMC algorithms used in CASAL². See Section 9.3 for a better description of the sequence of CASAL² commands used in a full Bayesian analysis.

CASAL² uses a straightforward implementation of the Metropolis-Hastings algorithm (Gelman et al., 1995, Gilks et al., 1994). The Metropolis-Hastings algorithm attempts to draw a sample from a Bayesian posterior distribution, and calculates the posterior density π , scaled by an unknown constant. The algorithm generates a 'chain' or sequence of values. Typically the beginning of the chain is discarded and every Nth element of the remainder is taken as the posterior sample. The chain is produced by taking an initial point x_0 and repeatedly applying the following rule, where x_i is the current point:

- Draw a candidate step s from a proposal distribution J, which should be symmetric i.e., J(-s) = J(s).
- Calculate $r = min(\pi(x_i + s)/\pi(x_i), 1)$.
- Let $x_i + 1 = x_i + s$ with probability r, or x_i with probability 1 r.

An initial point estimate is produced before the chain starts, which is done so as to calculate the approximate covariance matrix of the estimated parameters (as the inverse Hessian), and may also be used as the starting point of the chain.

The user can specify the starting point of the point estimate minimiser using casal2 -i. Don't start it too close to the actual estimate (either by using casal2 -i, or by changing the initial parameter values in input configuration file) as it takes a few iterations to form a reasonable approximation to the Hessian.

There are two options for the starting point of the Markov Chain:

- Start from the point estimate.
- Start from a random point near the point estimate (the point is generated from a multivariate normal distribution, centred on the point estimate, with covariance equal to the inverse Hessian times a user-specified constant). This may be useful if the chain gets 'stuck' at the point estimate, or if you wish to generate multiple chains from for later MCMC diagnostic tests.
- Start from a point specified by the user with casal2 -i (was NYI, to be included?)

The chain moves in natural space, i.e., no transformations are applied to the estimated parameters. The default proposal distribution is a multivariate t centred on the current point, with covariance matrix equal to a matrix based on the approximate covariance produced by the minimiser, times some stepsize factor. The following steps define the initial covariance matrix of the proposal distribution:

- The covariance matrix is taken as the inverse of the approximate Hessian from the quasi-Newton minimiser.
- The covariance matrix is modified so as to decrease all correlations greater than <code>@mcmc.max_correlation</code> down to <code>@mcmc.max_correlation</code>, and similarly to increase all correlations less than <code>-@mcmc.max_correlation</code> up to <code>-@mcmc.max_correlation</code> (the <code>@mcmc.max_correlation</code> parameter defaults to 0.8). This should help to avoid getting 'stuck' in a lower-dimensional subspace.

- The covariance matrix is then modified either by,
 - if @mcmc.adjustment_method=covariance: that if the variance of the ith parameter is non-zero and less than @mcmc.min_difference times the difference between the parameters' lower and upper bound, then the variance is changed, without changing the associated correlations, to $k = \min_d \inf(upper_bound_i lower_bound_i)$. This is done by setting

$$Cov(i, j)' = sqrt(k) Cov(i, j)/sd(i)$$

for $i \neq j$, and var(i)' = k

- if @mcmc.adjustment_method=correlation: that if the variance of the ith parameter is non-zero and less than @mcmc.min_difference times the difference between the parameters' lower and upper bound, then its variance is changed to $k = min_diff(upper_bound_i - lower_bound_i)$. This differs from (i) above in that the effect of this option is that it also modifies the resulting correlations between the ith parameter and all other parameters.

This allows each estimated parameter to move in the MCMC even if its variance is very small according to the inverse Hessian. In both cases, the @mcmc.min_difference parameter defaults to 0.0001.

• The @mcmc.stepsize (a scalar factor applied to the covariance matrix to improve the acceptance probability) is chosen by the user. The default is $2.4d^{-0.5}$ where d is the number of estimated parameters, as recommended by Gelman et al. (Gelman et al., 1995). However, you may find that a smaller value may often be better.

The proposal distribution can also change adaptively during the chain, using two different mechanisms. Both are offered as means of improving the convergence properties of the chain. It is important to note that any adaptive behaviour must finish before the end of the burn-in period, i.e., the proposal distribution must be finalised before the kept portion of the chain starts. The adaptive mechanisms are as follows:

- 1. You can request that the stepsize change adaptively at one or more sample numbers. At each adaptation, the stepsize is doubled if the acceptance rate since the last adaptation is more than 0.5, or halved if the acceptance rate is less than 0.2. (See Gelman et al. (Gelman et al., 1995) for justification.)
- 2. You can request that the entire covariance matrix change adaptively at one or more sample numbers. At each adaptation, it is replaced with a matrix based on the sample covariance of an earlier section of the chain. The theory here is that the covariance of a portion of chain could potentially be a better estimate of the covariance of the posterior distribution than the inverse Hessian. (was NYI, to be included?)

The procedure used to choose the sample of points is as follows. First, all points on the chain so far are taken. All points in an initial user-specified period are discarded. The assumption is that the chain will have started moving during this period - if this is incorrect and the chain has still not moved by the end of this period, it is a fatal error and CASAL² stops. The remaining set of points must contain at least some user-specified number of transitions - if this is incorrect and the chain has not moved this often, it is again a fatal error. If this test is passed, the set of points is systematically sub-sampled down to 1000 points (it must be at least this long to start with). (was NYI, to be included?)

The variance-covariance matrix of this sub-sample of chain is calculated. As above, correlations greater than <code>@mcmc.max_correlation</code> are reduced to <code>@mcmc.max_correlation</code>, correlations less than <code>@mcmc.max_correlation</code> are increased to <code>@mcmc.max_correlation</code>, and very small non-zero variances are increased (<code>@mcmc.covariance_adjustment</code> and <code>@mcmc.min_difference</code>. The result is the new variance-covariance matrix of the proposal distribution. (<code>was NYI</code>, to be included?)

The stepsize parameter is now on a completely different scale, and must be reset. It is set to a user-specified value (which may or may not be the same as the initial stepsize). We recommend that some of the stepsize adaptations are set to occur after this, so that the stepsize can be readjusted to an appropriate value which gives good acceptance probabilities with the new matrix. (was NYI, to be included?)

All modified versions of the covariance matrix are printed to the standard output, but only the initial covariance matrix (inverse Hessian) is saved to the objectives file. The number of covariance modifications by each iteration is recorded as a column on the objectives file. (*was NYI*, to be included?)

The probability of acceptance for each jump is 0 if it would move out of the bounds, or 1 if it improves the posterior, or (new posterior/old posterior) otherwise. You can specify how often the position of the chain is recorded using the keep parameter. For example, with keep 10, only every 10th sample is recorded.

You have the option to specify that some of the estimated parameters are fixed during the MCMC. If the chain starts at the point estimate or at a random location, these fixed parameters are set to their values at the point estimate.

If you specify the start of the chain using casal2 -i, these fixed parameters are set to the values in the file. (was NYI, to be included?)

The posterior sample can be used for (projections (Section 4.4.3)(was NYI, to be included?)) or simulations (Section 6.7) with the values supplied using casal 2 -i file.

(following from CASAL, to be included?)

A multivariate t distribution is available as an alternative to the multivariate normal proposal distribution. If you request multivariate t proposals, you may want to change the degrees of freedom from the default of 4. As the degrees of freedom decrease, the t distribution becomes more heavy tailed. This may lead to better convergence properties.

Having produced one or more Markov chains and looked at the diagnostics, reload all the chain output files into CASAL and use them to generate a single posterior sample (using -C). At this stage, the first burn_in iterations for each chain are discarded (so, with keep 10, burn_in 1000, the first 1000 recorded samples are discarded for each chain). Unless a very large value of keep was originally chosen, it will be necessary to further reduce the size of the posterior sample (possibly down to several hundred) such that it can be analysed in a reasonable amount of time. This is done by sub-sampling. You specify the size of the sub-sample to be produced (or else no sub-sampling is done). You have the option to generate a systematic sub-sample (i.e., every nth point is kept) or a random sub-sample (the former is recommended except with prior re-weighting, when the latter must be used).

Given a posterior (sub)sample, CASAL can calculate a list of output quantities for each sample point (see Section 7.2). These quantities can be dumped into a file (using casal -v) and read into an external software package where the posterior distributions can be plotted and/or summarised.

The posterior sample can also be used for projections (Section 7.3) and stochastic yield calculations (Section 7.5). The advantage of this is that the parameter uncertainty, as expressed in your posterior distribution, can be included into the risk and yield estimates.

It is possible to investigate the results that would have been obtained if a different prior had been specified This is called prior re-weighting and is done by calculating the ratio of the new prior to the original prior for each point in the posterior sample, then using these ratios as probability weights when generating a random (not systematic) sub-sample with casal -C. Prior re-weighting is applicable only if the new prior is zero in every part of the parameter space for which the original prior was zero. Also, it is likely to be numerically unstable unless the new prior is very small in every part of the parameter space for which the original prior was very small.

5.7. Priors

In a Bayesian analysis, you need to give a prior for every parameter that is being estimated. There are no default priors.

Note that when some of these priors are parameterised in terms of mean, c.v., and standard deviation, these refer to the parameters of the distribution before bounds are applied. The moments of the prior after the bounds are applied may differ.

CASAL² has the following priors (expressed in terms of their contribution to the objective function):

1. Uniform

$$-\log(\pi(p)) = 0 \tag{5.2}$$

2. Uniform-log (i.e., $log(p) \sim uniform$)

$$-\log(\pi(p)) = \log(p) \tag{5.3}$$

3. Normal with mean μ and c.v. c

$$-\log\left(\pi(p)\right) = 0.5 \left(\frac{p-\mu}{c\mu}\right)^2 \tag{5.4}$$

4. Normal with mean μ and standard deviation σ

$$-\log(\pi(p)) = 0.5 \left(\frac{p-\mu}{\sigma}\right)^2 \tag{5.5}$$

5. Lognormal with mean μ and c.v. c

$$-\log(\pi(p)) = \log(p) + 0.5\left(\frac{\log(p/\mu)}{s} + \frac{s}{2}\right)^2$$
 (5.6)

where *s* is the standard deviation of $\log(p)$ and $s = \sqrt{\log(1+c^2)}$. (following from CASAL, to be included?)

- 6. Normal-log with log(p) having mean m and standard deviation s,
- 6. Beta with mean μ and standard deviation σ , and range parameters A and B

$$-\log(\pi(p)) = (1-m)\log(p-A) + (1-n)\log(B-p)$$
(5.7)

where $v = \frac{\mu - A}{B - A}$, and $\tau = \frac{(\mu - A)(B - \mu)}{\sigma^2} - 1$ and then $\mu = \tau v$ and $n = \tau(1 - v)$. Note that the beta prior is undefined when $\tau \le 0$.

(following from CASAL, to be included?)

Vectors of parameters can be independently (but not necessarily identically) distributed according to any of the above forms, in which case the joint negative-log-prior for the vector is the sum of the negative-log-priors of the components. Values of each parameter need to be specified for each element of the vector.

In addition, for a vector p of n identically distributed parameters (for example, YCS) the following priors are allowed:

```
1. Multivariate normal from a stationary \ensuremath{\mathsf{AR}}(1) process with parameters .
```

2. Multivariate normal-log, where $\log(p)$ forms a stationary AR(1) process as per 1. above, with parameters

3. Multivariate normal-log with mean 1, where E(pi)=1 and log(p) forms a stationary AR(1) process as for the multivariate normal above, with parameters

.

5.8. Penalties

Penalties are associated with processes and can be used to encourage or discourage parameter values or model outputs that are unlikely to be sensible, by adding a penalty to the objective function. For example, parameter estimates that do not allow a known mortality event to remove enough individuals from the population can be discouraged with an event mortality penalty. CASAL² requires penalty functions for processes that move or shift a *number* of individuals between categories or from the partition.

For most penalties, you need to specify a multiplier, and the objective function is increased by this multiplier times the penalty value as described below. In some cases you will need to make the multiplier quite large to prohibit some model behaviour.

Currently, the penalties for the processes <code>@process[label].type=event_mortality</code>, <code>@process[label].type=tag_by_length</code> and <code>@process[label].type=category_transition</code> are the only penalties implemented.

For these processes, two types of penalty can be defined, natural scale (the default) and log scale. Both of these types add a penalty value of the squared difference between the observed value (i.e., the actual number of individuals to be removed in an event mortality process or the actual number of individuals to shift in a category transition process), and the number that were moved (if less than or equal), times the penalty multiplier.

The natural scale penalty just uses at the squared difference on a natural scale, while the log scale penalty uses the squared difference of the logged values.

5.9. Additional Priors

Additional priors are the inverse

5.10. Estimate Transformations

CASAL² has the untested functionality of transforming an estimated parameter in a new space. This may be done to remove correlation for other convergence or optimisation purposes. This functionality transforms the estimate and the bounds to the transformed space along with the prior. To account for the change variable a Jacobian is added to the objective function. For more information uses are asked to read the STAN manual **REFERENCE**. The user must supply the type, bounds for the transformed variable can be supplied by the user, but if not CASAL² will work them out. NOTE must be used with caution. May be buggy!!!

- 5.10.1. log
- 5.10.2. Inverse
- 5.10.3. Log odds
- 5.10.4. Simplex

6. The observation section

6.1. Observations and likelihoods

Observations are typically supplied as observations at an instance in time, over some spatially aggregated area. Time series of observations can be supplied as separate observations for each year or point in time.

CASAL² allows the following types of observations;

- Observations of proportions by age class within categories
- Observations of proportions between categories within age classes
- Relative and absolute abundance/biomass observations

The definitions for each type of observation are described below, including how the observed values should be supplied, how CASAL² calculates the expected values, and the likelihoods that are available for each type of observation.

CASAL² evaluates the observations at the end of a time-step (i.e., after all of the processes for that time-step have been applied). However, the observation can be applied to the abundance at the start of a time-step or part-way through a time-step by the use of the proportion_time_step subcommand.

By default (i.e., if proportion_method = mean), the partition at some point p during the time-step is then evaluated as the weighted sum between the start and end of the time-step, i.e., for any element i in the partition, $n_i = (1-p)n_i^{start} + pn_i^{end}$. Note that it may not be sensible to use a value other than one, depending on the processes that happen during the time-step (for example, if the time-step contains an ageing process).

If the proportion_method = difference, then the observation is of the difference between the population state at the start of the time-step and the end. This can be used to generate expected values for observations of, for example removals due to a mortality event, by only having a single process in the time-step. In this case, the proportion_time_step is simply a multiplier of the population state.

6.2. Proportions-at-age observations

Proportions-at-age observations are observations of either the relative number of individuals at age or relative biomass at age, via some selectivity.

The observation is supplied for a given year and time-step, for some selected age classes of the population (i.e., for a range of ages multiplied by a selectivity), for categories aggregated over a set of spatial cells. Note that the categories defined in the observations must have an associated selectivity, defined by selectivities.

The age range must be ages defined in the partition (i.e., between <code>@model.min_age</code> and <code>@model.max_age</code> inclusive), but the upper end of the age range can optionally be a plus group — which must be either the same or less than the plus group defined for the partition.

Proportions-at-age observations can be supplied as;

- 1. a set of proportions for a single category,
- 2. a set of proportions for multiple categories, or
- 3. a set of proportions across aggregated categories.

For example, for a model with the two categories *male* and *female*, we might supply either (i) a set of proportions for a single category (i.e., males) within each age class; (ii) a set of proportions describing the proportions of individuals within each age class across multiple categories (i.e., males and females) simultaneously, or (iii) a set of proportions for the total number of individuals over the aggregated categories (i.e., males + females) combined, within each age class.

The way the categories of the observation are defined specifies which of these alternatives are used. It is also possible to have an observation with multiple and aggregated categories simultaneously.

Proportions-at-age for a single category

This form of defining the observation is the simplest, and is used to model a set of proportions of a single category by age class. For example, to specify that the observations are of the proportions of male within each age class, then the subcommand categories for the <code>@observation[label].type=proportion_by_age command is,</code>

```
categories male
```

CASAL² then expects that there will be a single vector of proportions supplied, with one proportion for each age class within the defined age range, and that these proportions sum to one.

For example, if the age range was 3 to 10, then 8 proportions should be supplied (one proportion for each of the the ages 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, and 10). The expected values will be the expected proportions of males within each of these age classes (after ignoring any males aged less than 3 or older than 10), after applying a selectivity at the year and time-step specified. The supplied vector of proportions (i.e., in this example, the 8 proportions) must sum to one, which is evaluated with a default tolerance of 0.001.

The observations must be also supplied using all or some of the the values of defined by some *categorical* layer. CASAL² calculates the expected values by summing over the defined ages (via the age range and selectivity) and categories for those spatial cells where the categorical layer has the same value as defined for each vector of observations.

For example, in a 2×2 spatial model a categorical layer (e.g., with label Area) may define that cells (1,1) and (1,2) have value A and cells (2,1) and (2,2) have value B, i.e.,

```
@layer Area
type categorical
data A A
data B B
```

The observations for those spatial cells where the categorical layer has value A would be,

```
@observation MyProportions
type proportions_at_age
layer Area
...
categories male
min_age 1
max_age 5
obs A 0.01 0.09 0.20 0.30 0.40
...
```

Or, for both A and B as,

```
@observation MyProportions
type proportions_at_age
layer Area
...
categories male
min_age 1
max_age 5
obs A 0.01 0.09 0.20 0.30 0.40
obs B 0.02 0.06 0.12 0.25 0.55
...
```

Note that to have an observation for each individual spatial cell in a model, then define a categorical layer that has a single, unique value for each spatial cell for use in the observation.

Proportions-at-age for multiple categories

This form of the observation extends the idea above for multiple categories. It is used to model a set of proportions over several categories by age class. For example, to specify that the observations are of the proportions of male or females within each age class, then the subcommand categories for the <code>@observation[label].type=proportion_by_age command is</code>,

```
categories male female
```

CASAL² then expects that there will be a single vector of proportions supplied, with one proportion for each category and age class combination, and that these proportions sum to one.

For example, if there were two categories and the age range was 3 to 10, then 16 proportions should be supplied (one proportion for each of the the ages 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, and 10, for each category male and female). The expected values will be the expected proportions of males and within each of these age classes (after ignoring those aged less than 3 or older than 10), after applying a selectivity at the year and time-step specified. The supplied vector of proportions (i.e., in this example, the 16 proportions) must sum to one, which is evaluated with a default tolerance of 0.001.

For example, using the earlier spatial model with a categorical layer that has label Area, the observations for those spatial cells where the categorical layer has value A would be,

```
@observation MyProportions
type proportions_at_age
layer Area
...
categories male female
min_age 1
max_age 5
obs A 0.01 0.05 0.10 0.20 0.20 0.01 0.05 0.15 0.20 0.03
obs B 0.02 0.06 0.10 0.21 0.18 0.02 0.05 0.15 0.20 0.01
...
```

Proportions-at-age across aggregated categories

This form of the observation extends the idea above, but allows categories to be aggregated before the proportions are calculated. It is used to model a set of proportions from several categories that have been combined by age class. To indicate that two (or more) categories are to be aggregated,

separate them with a '+' symbol. For example, to specify that the observations are of the proportions of male and females combined within each age class, then the subcommand categories for the @observation[label].type=proportion_by_age command is,

```
categories male + female
```

CASAL² then expects that there will be a single vector of proportions supplied, with one proportion for each age class, and that these proportions sum to one.

For example, if there were two categories and the age range was 3 to 10, then 8 proportions should be supplied (one proportion for each of the the ages 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, and 10, for the sum of males and females within each age class). The expected values will be the expected proportions of males + females within each of these age classes (after ignoring those aged less than 3 or older than 10), after applying a selectivity at the year and time-step specified. The supplied vector of proportions (i.e., in this example, the 16 proportions) must sum to one, which is evaluated with a default tolerance of 0.001.

For example, using the earlier spatial model with a categorical layer that has label Area, the observations for those spatial cells where the categorical layer has value A would be,

```
@observation MyProportions
type proportions_at_age
layer Area
...
categories male + female
min_age 1
max_age 5
obs A 0.02 0.13 0.25 0.30 0.30
obs B 0.02 0.06 0.18 0.35 0.39
...
```

The later form can then be extended to include multiple categories, or multiple aggregated categories. For example, to describe proportions for the three groups: immature males, mature males, and all females (immature and mature females added together) for ages 1–4, a total of 12 proportions are required

```
@observation MyProportions
type proportions_at_age
layer Area
...
categories male_immature male_mature female_immature + female_mature
min_age 1
max_age 4
obs A 0.05 0.15 0.15 0.05 0.02 0.03 0.08 0.04 0.05 0.15 0.15 0.08
```

6.2.1. Likelihoods for proportions-at-age observations

CASAL² implements two likelihoods for proportions-at-age observations, the multinomial likelihood and the lognormal likelihood.

The multinomial likelihood

For the observed proportions at age O_i for age classes i, with sample size N, and the expected proportions at the same age classes E_i , the negative log-likelihood is defined as;

$$-\log(L) = -\log(N!) + \sum_{i} \log((NO_{i})!) - NO_{i} \log(Z(E_{i}, \delta))$$
(6.1)

where $\sum_{i} O_{i} = 1$ and $\sum_{i} E_{i} = 1$. $Z(\theta, \delta)$ is a robustifying function to prevent division by zero errors, with parameter $\delta > 0$. $Z(\theta, \delta)$ is defined as,

$$Z(\theta, \delta) = \begin{cases} \theta, & \text{where } \theta \ge r \\ \delta/(2 - \theta/\delta), & \text{otherwise} \end{cases}$$
 (6.2)

The default value of δ is 1×10^{-11} .

The lognormal likelihood

For the observed proportions at age O_i for age classes i, with c.v. c_i , and the expected proportions at the same age classes E_i , the negative log-likelihood is defined as;

$$-\log(L) = \sum_{i} \left(\log(\sigma_i) + 0.5 \left(\frac{\log(O_i/Z(E_i, \delta))}{\sigma_i} + 0.5\sigma_i \right)^2 \right)$$

$$(6.3)$$

where

$$\sigma_i = \sqrt{\log\left(1 + c_i^2\right)} \tag{6.4}$$

and the c_i 's are the c.v.s for each age class i, and $Z(\theta, \delta)$ is a robustifying function to prevent division by zero errors, with parameter $\delta > 0$. $Z(\theta, \delta)$ is defined as,

$$Z(\theta, \delta) = \begin{cases} \theta, & \text{where } \theta \ge r \\ \delta/(2 - \theta/\delta), & \text{otherwise} \end{cases}$$
 (6.5)

The default value of δ is 1×10^{-11} .

6.3. Proportions-by-category observations

Proportions-by-category observations are observations of either the relative number of individuals between categories within age classes, or relative biomass between categories within age classes.

The observation is supplied for a given year and time-step, for some selected age classes of the population (i.e., for a range of ages multiplied by a selectivity), for categories aggregated over a set of spatial cells.

The age range must be ages defined in the partition (i.e., between <code>@model.min_age</code> and <code>@model.max_age</code> inclusive), but the upper end of the age range can optionally be a plus group — which may or may not be the same as the plus group defined for the partition.

Proportions-by-category observations can be supplied for any set of categories as a proportion of themselves and any set of additional categories. For example, for a model with the two categories *male* and *female*, we might supply observations of the proportions of males in the population at each age class. The subcommand categories defines the categories for the numerator in the calculation of the proportion, and the subcommand categories2 supplies the additional categories to be used in the denominator of the calculation. In addition, each category must have an associated selectivity, defined by selectivities for the numerator categories and selectivities2 for the additional categories used in the denominator, e.g.,

categories male

```
categories2 female
selectivities male-selectivity
selectivities2 female-selectivity
```

defines that the proportion of males in each age class as a proportion of males + females. CASAL² then expects that there will be a vector of proportions supplied, with one proportion for each age class within the defined age range, i.e., if the age range was 3 to 10, then 8 proportions should be supplied (one proportion for each of the the ages 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, and 10). The expected values will be the expected proportions of male to male + female within each of these age classes, after applying the selectivities at the year and time-step specified.

The observations must be supplied using all or some of the values defined by a categorical layer. CASAL² calculates the expected values by summing over the ages (via the age range and selectivity) and categories for those spatial cells where the categorical layer has the same value as defined for each vector of observations.

For example, in a 2×2 spatial model a categorical layer (e.g., with label Area) may define that cells (1,1) and (1,2) have value A and cells (2,1) and (2,2) have value B, i.e.,

```
@layer Area
type categorical
data A A
data B B
```

Here we supply observations for those spatial cells where the categorical layer has value A as,

```
@observation MyProportions
type proportions_by_category
layer Area
...
categories male
categories2 female
min_age 1
max_age 5
obs A 0.01 0.05 0.10 0.20 0.20
...
```

Or, for both A and B as,

```
@observation MyProportions
type proportions_by_category
layer Area
...
categories male
categories2 female
min_age 1
max_age 5
obs A 0.01 0.05 0.10 0.20 0.20
obs B 0.02 0.06 0.10 0.21 0.18
...
```

To supply an observation for individual spatial cells, then you will need to define a categorical layer with a single, unique value for each spatial cell.

6.3.1. Likelihoods for proportions-by-category observations

CASAL² implements two likelihoods for proportions-by-category observations, the binomial likelihood, and the normal approximation to the binomial (binomial-approx).

The binomial likelihood

For observed proportions O_i for age class i, where E_i are the expected proportions for age class i, and N_i is the effective sample size for age class i, then the negative log-likelihood is defined as;

$$-\log(L) = -\sum_{i} [\log(N_{i}!) - \log((N_{i}(1 - O_{i}))!) - \log((N_{i}O_{i})!) + N_{i}O_{i}\log(Z(E_{i}, \delta)) + N_{i}(1 - O_{i})\log(Z(1 - E_{i}, \delta))]$$
(6.6)

where $Z(\theta, \delta)$ is a robustifying function to prevent division by zero errors, with parameter $\delta > 0$. $Z(\theta, \delta)$ is defined as,

$$Z(\theta, \delta) = \begin{cases} \theta, & \text{where } \theta \ge r \\ \delta/(2 - \theta/\delta), & \text{otherwise} \end{cases}$$
 (6.7)

The default value of δ is 1×10^{-11} .

The normal approximation to the binomial likelihood

For observed proportions O_i for age class i, where E_i are the expected proportions for age class i, and N_i is the effective sample size for age class i, then the negative log-likelihood is defined as;

$$-\log\left(L\right) = \sum_{i} \log\left(\sqrt{Z(E_{i},\delta)Z(1-E_{i},\delta)/N_{i}}\right) + \frac{1}{2} \left(\frac{O_{i} - E_{i}}{\sqrt{Z(E_{i},\delta)Z(1-E_{i},\delta)/N_{i}}}\right)^{2}$$
(6.8)

where $Z(\theta, \delta)$ is a robustifying function to prevent division by zero errors, with parameter $\delta > 0$. $Z(\theta, \delta)$ is defined as,

$$Z(\theta, \delta) = \begin{cases} \theta, & \text{where } \theta \ge r \\ \delta/(2 - \theta/\delta), & \text{otherwise} \end{cases}$$
 (6.9)

The default value of δ is 1×10^{-11} .

6.4. Abundance or biomass observations

Abundance (or biomass) observations are observations of either a relative or absolute number (or biomass) of individuals from a set of categories after applying a selectivity. The observations classes are the same, except that a biomass observation will use the biomass as the observed (and expected) value (calculated from mean weight of individuals within each age and category) while an abundance observation is just the number of individuals.

Each observation is for a given year and time-step, for some selected age classes of the population (i.e., for a range of ages multiplied by a selectivity), for categories aggregated over a set of spatial cells. Further, you need to provide the label of the catchability coefficient q, which can either be estimated of fixed. For absolute abundance or absolute biomass observations, define a catchability where q = 1.

The observations can be supplied for any set of categories. For example, for a model with the two categories *male* and *female*, we might supply an observation of the total abundance/biomass (male + female) or just male abundance/biomass. The subcommand categories defines the categories used to aggregate the abundance/biomass. In addition, each category must have an associated selectivity, defined by selectivities. For example,

```
categories male
selectivities male-selectivity
```

defines an observation for males after applying the selectivity male-selectivity. CASAL² then expects that there will be a single observation supplied. The expected values for the observations will be the expected abundance (or biomass) of males, after applying the selectivities, at the year and time-step specified.

The observations must be supplied using all or some of the the values of defined by a categorical layer. CASAL² calculates the expected values by summing over the defined ages (via the age range and selectivity) and categories for those spatial cells where the categorical layer has the same value as defined for each vector of observations.

For example, in a 2×2 spatial model a categorical layer (e.g., with label Area) may define that cells (1,1) and (1,2) have value A and cells (2,1) and (2,2) have value B, i.e.,

```
@layer Area
type categorical
data A A
data B B
```

Here we supply abundance observations for those spatial cells where the categorical layer has value A as,

```
@observation MyAbundance
type abundance
layer Area
...
categories male
obs A 1000
...
```

Or, for both A and B as,

```
@observation MyAbundance
type abundance
layer Area
...
categories male
obs A 1000
obs B 1200
...
```

To supply an observation for individual spatial cells, then you will need to define a categorical layer with a single, unique value for each spatial cell.

Note that, to define a biomass observation instead of an abundance observation, use

```
@observation MyBiomass
type biomass
...
```

6.4.1. Likelihoods for abundance observations

The lognormal likelihood

For observations O_i , c.v. c_i , and expected values qE_i , the negative log-likelihood is defined as;

$$-\log(L) = \sum_{i} \left(\log(\sigma_i) + 0.5 \left(\frac{\log(O_i/qZ(E_i, \delta))}{\sigma_i} + 0.5\sigma_i \right)^2 \right)$$

$$(6.10)$$

where

$$\sigma_i = \sqrt{\log\left(1 + c_i^2\right)} \tag{6.11}$$

and $Z(\theta, \delta)$ is a robustifying function to prevent division by zero errors, with parameter $\delta > 0$. $Z(\theta, \delta)$ is defined as.

$$Z(\theta, \delta) = \begin{cases} \theta, & \text{where } \theta \ge r \\ \delta/(2 - \theta/\delta), & \text{otherwise} \end{cases}$$
 (6.12)

The default value of δ is 1×10^{-11} .

The normal likelihood

For observations O_i , c.v. c_i , and expected values qE_i , the negative log-likelihood is defined as;

$$-\log\left(L\right) = \sum_{i} \left(\log\left(c_{i}E_{i}\right) + 0.5\left(\frac{O_{i} - E_{i}}{Z\left(c_{i}E_{i}, \delta\right)}\right)^{2}\right) \tag{6.13}$$

and $Z(\theta, \delta)$ is a robustifying function to prevent division by zero errors, with parameter $\delta > 0$. $Z(\theta, \delta)$ is defined as,

$$Z(\theta, \delta) = \begin{cases} \theta, & \text{where } \theta \ge r \\ \delta/(2 - \theta/\delta), & \text{otherwise} \end{cases}$$
 (6.14)

The default value of δ is 1×10^{-11} .

6.5. Process error

Additional 'process error' can be defined for each set of observations. Additional process error has the effect of increasing the observation error in the data, and hence of decreasing the relative weight given to the data in the fitting process.

For observations where where the likelihood is parameterised by the c.v., you can specify the process error for a given set of observations as a c.v., in which case all the c.v.s c_i are changed to

$$c_i' = \sqrt{c_i^2 + c_{process_error}^2} \tag{6.15}$$

Note that $c_{process_error} \ge 0$, and that $c_{process_error} = 0$ is equivalent to no process error.

Similarly, if the likelihood is parameterised by the effective sample size N,

$$N_i' = \frac{1}{1/N_i + 1/N_{process_error}} \tag{6.16}$$

Note that this requires that $N_{process_error} > 0$, but we allow the special case of $N_{process_error} = 0$, and define $N_{process_error} = 0$ as no process error (i.e., defined to be equivalent to $N_{process_error} = \infty$).

For both the c.v. and *N* process errors, the process error has more effect on small errors than on large ones. Be clear that a large value for the *N* process error means a small process error.

6.6. Ageing error

CASAL² can apply ageing error age frequency observations. Ageing error is applied to the expected values for proportions-at-age observations. The ageing error is applied as a misclassification matrix, which has the effect of 'smearing' the age frequencies. These are used in calculating the fits to the observed values, and hence the contribution to the total objective function.

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 7.11 for reporting the misclassification matrix.

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 values (fits) reported by CASAL² for observations with ageing error will have had the ageing error applied.

6.7. Simulating observations

CASAL² can generate simulated observations for a given model with given parameter values (using spm -s). Simulated observations are randomly distributed values, generated according to the error assumptions defined for each observation, around fits calculated from one or more sets of the 'true' parameter values. Simulating from a set of parameters can be used to generate observations from an operating model or as a form of parametric bootstrap.

The procedure CASAL² uses for simulating observations is to first run using the 'true' parameter values and generate the expected values. Then, if a set of observations uses ageing error, ageing error is applied. Finally a random value for each observed value is generated based on (i) the expected values, (ii) the type of likelihood specified, and (iii) the variability parameters (e.g., error_value and process_error).

Methods for generating the random error, and hence simulated values, depend on the specific likelihood type of each observation.

1. Normal likelihood parameterised by c.v.: Let E_i be the fitted value for observation i, and c_i be the corresponding c.v. (adjusted by the process error if applicable). Each simulated observation value S_i is generated as an independent normal deviate with mean E_i and standard deviation E_ic_i .

- 2. Log-normal likelihood: Let E_i be the fitted value for observation i and c_i be the corresponding c.v. (adjusted by the process error if applicable). Each simulated observation value S_i is generated as an independent lognormal deviate with mean and standard deviation (on the natural scale, not the log-scale) of E_i and E_ic_i respectively. The robustification parameter δ is ignored.
- 3. Multinomial likelihood: Let E_i be the fitted value for observation i, for i between 1 and n, and let N be the sample size (adjusted by process error if applicable, and then rounded up to the next whole number). The robustification parameter δ is ignored. Then,
 - a) A sample of N values from 1 to n is generated using the multinomial distribution, using sample probabilities proportional to the values of E_i .
 - b) Each simulated observation value S_i is calculated as the proportion of the N sampled values equalling i
 - c) The simulated observation values S_i are then rescaled so that their sum is equal to 1
- 4. Binomial and the normal approximation to the binomial likelihoods: Let E_i be the fitted value for observation i, for i between 1 and n, and N_i the corresponding equivalent sample size (adjusted by process error if applicable, and then rounded up to the next whole number). The robustification parameter δ is ignored. Then,
 - a) A sample of N_i independent binary variates is generated, equalling 1 with probability E_i
 - b) The simulated observation value S_i is calculated as the sum of these binary variates divided by N_i

Note that $CASAL^2$ will report simulated observations using the usual observation report (@report[label].type=observation). The report @report[label].type=simulated_observation will generate simulated observations in a form suitable for use as input within a $CASAL^2$ input configuration file. See Section 7 for more detail.

6.8. Pseudo-observations

CASAL² can generate expected values for observations without them contributing to the total objective function. These are called pseudo-observations, and can be used to either generate the expected values from CASAL² for reporting or diagnostic purposes. To define an observation as a pseudo-observation, use the command @observation[label].likelihood=none. Any observation type can be used as a pseudo-observation. CASAL² can also generate simulated observations from pseudo-observations. Note that;

- Output will only be generated if a report command @report[label].type=observation is specified.
- The observed values should be supplied (even if they are 'dummy' observation). These will be processed by CASAL² as if they were actual observation values, and must conform to the validations carried out for the other types of likelihood.
- The subcommands likelihood, obs, error_value and process_error have no effect when generating the expected values for the pseudo-observation.
- When simulating observations, CASAL² needs the subcommand simulation_likelihood to tell it what sort of likelihood to use. In this case, the obs, error_value and process_error are used to determine the appropriate terms to use for the likelihood when simulating.

7. The report section

The report section specifies the printouts and other outputs from the model. CASAL² does not, in general, produce any output unless requested by a valid @report block.

Reports from CASAL² 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, and an example of an observation report.

```
@report observation_age ## label of report
type observation ## Type of report
observation age_1990 ## label corresponding to an @observation report, shown below
@observation age_1990
type proportion_at_age
year 1990
plus_group
etc ...
```

Reports from CASAL² all conform to a standard style (with one exception — the output_parameters report, see below). The standard style is that reports are prefixed with an asterix followed by a user-defined label and type of report in brackets (e.g., *label (type)), with the report ending with the line *end. For example,

```
*My_report(type)
...
*end
```

This syntax should make it easier for external packages to be configured to read $CASAL^2$ output. The extract functions in the ${\bf R}$ CASAL2 package uses this information to identify and read $CASAL^2$ output.

Note that the output_parameters report does not print either a header or *end at the end of the report. This is as the output_parameters report is designed to provide a single line (or multi-line for more than one set) vector of the estimated parameter values, suitable for reading by CASAL² (with the command casal2 -i). This is a specialised report for casal2 -o command. For estimate values in standard output users are recommended to use type=estiamte_value.

Note that reports can be defined that may not be generated. For example printing the partition for a year and/or time-step that does not exist or reporting the covariance matrix when not estimating. Such reports are ignored by CASAL² and the program will not generate any output for these reports — although they must still conform to CASAL²s syntax requirements.

Not all reports will be generated in all run modes. Some reports are only available in some run modes. For example, when simulating, only simulation reports will be output.

7.1. Print the partition

Print the partition for a given year or given years and time-step. This prints out, the numbers of individuals in each age class and category in the partition for each year. Note that this report is evaluated at the end of the time-step in the given year(s).

7.2. Print the partition at the end of an initialisation

Print the partition following an initialisation phase. This prints out, the numbers of individuals in each age class and category in the partition following an initialisation phase.

7.3. Print a process summary

Print a summary of a process. Depending on the process, different summaries are produced. These typically detail the type of process, its parameters and other options, and any associated details.

7.4. Print derived quantities

Print out the description of the derived quantity, and the values of the derived quantity as recorded in the model state, for each year of the model. and for all years in the initialisation phases.

7.5. Print the estimated parameters

Print a summary of the estimated parameters, including the parameter name, lower and upper bounds, the label of the prior, and its value.

7.6. Print the estimated parameters in a vector format

Print the estimated parameter values out as a vector. The estimate_values report prints the name of the parameter, followed by the value of that run.

7.7. Print the objective function

Print the total objective function value, and the value of all observations, the values of all priors, and the value of any penalties that have been incurred in the model. Note that if an individual model run does not incur a penalty, then the penalty will not be reported.

7.8. Print the covariance matrix

Print the Hessian and covariance matrices if estimating and if the covariance has been requested by@minimiser[label].covariance=true.

7.9. Print observations, fits, and residuals

Prints out for each category or combination of categories, expected values as calculated by the model, residuals (observed — expected), the error value, process error, and the total error (i.e., the error value as modified by any additional process error), and the contribution to the total objective function of that individual point in the observation.

Note that constants in likelihoods are often ignored in the objective function score of individual points. Hence, the total score from an observation equals the contribution of the objective function scores from each individual point plus a constant term (if applicable). In likelihoods without a constant term, then the total score from an observation will equal the contribution of the objective function scores from each individual point.

If simulating, then the contribution to the objective function of each observation is reported as zero.

7.10. Print simulated observations

Prints out a complete observation definition (i.e., in the form defined by @report[label].type=observation), but with observed values replaced by randomly generated simulated values. The output is in a form suitable for use within a CASAL² input configuration file, reproducing the command and subcommands from the input configuration file.

7.11. Print the ageing error misclassification matrix

Prints out the ageing error misclassification matrix.

7.12. Print selectivities

Prints the values of a selectivity for each age in the partition, for a given year and at then end of a given time-step.

7.13. Print the random number seed

Prints the random number seed used by CASAL² to generate the random number sequence. Future runs made with the same random number seed and the same model will produce identical outputs.

7.14. Print the results of an MCMC

Print the MCMC samples, objective function values, and proposal covariance matrix following an MCMC.

7.15. Print the MCMC samples as they are calculated

Print the MCMC samples for each new *i*th sample as they are calculated while doing an MCMC. The output file will be updated with each new sample as it is calculated by $CASAL^2$.

7.16. Print the MCMC objective function values as they are calculated

Print the MCMC objective function values (along with the proposal covariance matrix) for each new *i*th sample as they are calculated while doing an MCMC. The output file will be updated with each new set of objective function values as it is calculated by CASAL².

7.17. Tabular reporting

An alternative reporting framework to the standard output is the tabular reporting. Tabular reporting is used with multiline -i input files (like the MCMC reports). Tabular reports will print out a row that will correspond with each row of the -i input files. Tabular reporting is is in invoked at the command line using the following command casal2 -r --tabular -i file_name. Currently derived quantities and estimate_values are the only report types that are within this framework. For each input file the output will begin with the names of each column followed by a multiline report ending with the *end syntax. These tables can be easily read into **R** using the CASAL2 package and for the example of MCMC multi-line files posteriors of derived quantities can be plotted.

For ease of reading CASAL² files in text editors, there exists a syntax highlighter CASAL². syn

8.1. Model structure

@model label Define an object type Model

age_plus Define the oldest age as a plus group

Type: boolean Default: false Value: true, false

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

 ${\tt initialisation_phases} \qquad {\tt Define~the~labels~of~the~phases~of~the~initialisation}$

Type: string vector Default: true

Value: A list of valid labels defined by @initialisation_phase

label

Type: string

Default: No Default

length_bins

Type: constant vector

Default: true

max_age Maximum age of individuals in the population

Type: non-negative integer

Default: 0

Value: $0 \le age_{min} \le age_{max}$

min_age Minimum age of individuals in the population

Type: non-negative integer

Default: 0

Value: $0 \le age_{min} \le age_{max}$

Type: non-negative integer

Default: 0

Value: Defines the last year of the projection period, i.e., the projection period runs from final_year+1

to $projection_final_year$. For the default, 0, no projections are run.

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, ≥ 1 , e.g. 1990

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

type Type of model (the partition structure). Either age, length or hybrid

Type: string Default: age

8.2. Initialisation

@initialisation_phase label Define an object type Initialisation_Phase

label Label Type: string

Default: No Default

type Type
Type: string
Default: iterative

8.2.1. @initialisation_phase[label].type=cinitial

categories List of categories to use

Type: string vector Default: No Default

8.2.2. @initialisation_phase[label].type=derived

exclude_processes The processes to exclude from all time steps

Type: string vector Default: true

insert_processes The processes to insert in to target time steps

Type: string vector Default: true

8.2.3. @initialisation_phase[label].type=iterative

convergence_years The years to test for convergence

Type: non-negative integer vector

Default: true

exclude_processes The processes to exclude from all time steps

Type: string vector Default: true

insert_processes The processes to insert in to target time steps

Type: string vector Default: true

1ambda Lambda
Type: constant
Default: Double(0.0

years The number of iterations to execute this phase for

Type: non-negative integer Default: No Default

8.2.4. @initialisation_phase[label].type=state_category_by_age

categories List of categories to use

Type: string vector Default: No Default

max_age Maximum age to use for this process

Type: non-negative integer Default: No Default

min_age Minimum age to use for this process

Type: non-negative integer Default: No Default

8.3. Categories

@categories label Define an object type Categories

age_lengths The labels of age_length objects that are assigned to categories

Type: string vector Default: true

format The format that the category names should adhere too

Type: string

Default: No Default

names The names of the categories to be used in the model

Type: string vector Default: No Default

years The years that individual categories will be active for. This overrides the model values

Type: string vector Default: true

8.4. Time-steps

@time_step label Define an object type Time_Step

label Label
Type: string

Default: No Default

processes Processes

Type: string vector Default: No Default

type

Type: string

Default: No Default

8.5. Processes

@process label Define an object type Process

Type: boolean Default: false

label Label Type: string

Default: No Default

type Type
Type: string
Default: ""

8.5.1. @process[label].type=ageing

categories Categories

Type: string vector Default: No Default

Type: boolean Default: false

8.5.2. @process[label].type=growth

Type: boolean Default: false

8.5.3. @process[label].type=maturation

Type: boolean Default: false

from List of categories to mature from

Type: string vector Default: No Default

rates The rates to mature for each year

Type: constant vector Default: No Default

selectivities List of selectivities to use for maturation

Type: string vector Default: No Default

to List of categories to mature too

Type: string vector Default: No Default

years The years to be associated with rates

Type: non-negative integer vector

8.5.4. @process[label].type=mortality_constant_rate

categories List of categories

Type: string vector Default: No Default

Type: boolean Default: false

Mortality ratesType: constant vectorDefault: No Default

time_step_ratio Time step ratios for M

Type: constant vector

Default: true

selectivities Selectivities

Type: string vector Default: No Default

8.5.5. @process[label].type=mortality_event

catches Catches

Type: constant vector Default: No Default

categories Categories

Type: string vector Default: No Default

Type: boolean Default: false

penalty Penalty label

Type: string
Default: ""

selectivities List of selectivities

Type: string vector Default: No Default

u_max U Max

Type: constant Default: 0.99

years Years

Type: non-negative integer vector

Default: No Default

8.5.6. @process[label].type=mortality_event_biomass

catches Catches for each year

Type: constant vector Default: No Default

categories Category labels

Type: string vector Default: No Default

Type: boolean Default: false

penalty Penalty label

Type: string Default: ""

selectivities Selectivity labels

Type: string vector Default: No Default

u_max U Max
Type: constant
Default: 0.99

years Years to apply mortality
Type: non-negative integer vector

Default: No Default

8.5.7. @process[label].type=mortality_holling_rate

a parameter aType: constant

Default: No Default

Lower Bound: 0.0 (inclusive)

b parameter b
Type: constant

Default: No Default

Lower Bound: 0.0 (inclusive)

Type: boolean Default: false

penalty Label of penalty to be applied

Type: string Default: ""

Type: string vector Default: No Default

Type: string vector Default: No Default

Type: string vector Default: No Default

prey_selectivities Selectivities for prey categories

Type: string vector Default: No Default

u_max Umax
Type: constant

Default: No Default

Lower Bound: 0.0 (inclusive) Upper Bound: 1.0 (inclusive)

x parameter x

Type: constant Default: No Default

Lower Bound: 0.0 (inclusive)

years Year to execute in

Type: non-negative integer vector

8.5.8. @process[label].type=mortality_instantaneous

categories Categories for natural mortality

Type: string vector Default: No Default

Type: boolean Default: false

m Mortality rates

Type: constant vector Default: No Default

Lower Bound: 0.0 (inclusive) Upper Bound: 1.0 (inclusive)

selectivities Selectivities for Natural Mortality

Type: string vector Default: No Default

time_step_ratio Time step ratios for M

Type: constant vector

Default: true

Lower Bound: 0.0 (inclusive) Upper Bound: 1.0 (inclusive)

8.5.9. @process[label].type=mortality_prey_suitability

Type: constant
Default: No Default

Lower Bound: 0.0 (inclusive) Upper Bound: 1.0 (inclusive)

Type: boolean Default: false

electivities Prey Electivities

Type: constant vector Default: No Default

Lower Bound: 0.0 (inclusive) Upper Bound: 1.0 (inclusive)

penalty Label of penalty to be applied

Type: string Default: ""

predator_categories **Predator Categories labels**

Type: string vector Default: No Default

predator_selectivities Selectivities for predator categories

Type: string vector Default: No Default

prey_categories Prey Categories labels

Type: string vector Default: No Default

Selectivities for prey categories prey_selectivities

Type: string vector Default: No Default

u_max Umax Type: constant Default: No Default

Lower Bound: 0.0 (inclusive) Upper Bound: 1.0 (inclusive)

years Year that process occurs Type: non-negative integer vector

Default: No Default

8.5.10. @process[label].type=nop

print_report Generate parameter report

Type: boolean Default: false

8.5.11. @process[label].type=recruitment_beverton_holt

Age to recruit at age

Type: non-negative integer

Default: true

categories Category labels

Type: string vector Default: No Default

Type: boolean Default: false

b0 B0 Label

Type: string Default: ""

values

Type: boolean Default: true

proportions Proportions

Type: constant vector Default: No Default

r0 **R0**

Type: constant
Default: No Default

ssb SSB Label (derived quantity

Type: string

Default: No Default

Type: integer Default: 0

standardise_ycs_years Years that are included for year class standardisation

Type: non-negative integer vector

Default: true

steepness Steepness

Type: constant Default: 1.0

ycs_values YCS Values

Type: constant vector Default: No Default

8.5.12. @process[label].type=recruitment_constant

age **Age**

Type: non-negative integer Default: No Default

categories Categories

Type: string vector Default: No Default

Type: boolean Default: false

proportions Proportions

Type: constant vector

Default: true

r0 R0

Type: constant Default: No Default

Lower Bound: 0.0 (exclusive)

8.5.13. @process[label].type=tag_by_age

Type: boolean Default: false

from Categories to transition from

Type: string vector Default: No Default

initial_mortality

Type: constant
Default: Double(0

initial_mortality_selectivity

Type: string Default: ""

loss_rate

Type: constant vector Default: No Default

loss_rate_selectivities

Type: string vector Default: true

max_age Maximum age to transition

Type: non-negative integer Default: No Default

min_age Minimum age to transition

Type: non-negative integer Default: No Default

n

Type: constant vector

Default: true

penalty Penalty label

Type: string Default: ""

selectivities

Type: string vector Default: No Default

to Categories to transition to

Type: string vector Default: No Default

u_max U Max
Type: constant
Default: 0.99

years Years to execute the transition in

Type: non-negative integer vector

Default: No Default

8.5.14. @process[label].type=tag_by_length

Type: boolean Default: false

from Categories to transition from

Type: string vector Default: No Default

```
initial_mortality
  Type: constant
  Default: Double(0
initial_mortality_selectivity
  Type: string
  Default: ""
loss_rate
  Type: constant vector
 Default: No Default
loss_rate_selectivities
  Type: string vector
  Default: true
maximum_length
                     The upper length when there is no plus group
  Type: constant
 Default: Double(0
n
  Type: constant vector
  Default: true
penalty
             Penalty label
 Type: string
 Default: ""
plus_group
                Use plus group for last length bin
  Type: boolean
  Default: false
selectivities
  Type: string vector
 Default: No Default
       Categories to transition to
  Type: string vector
  Default: No Default
          U Max
u_max
  Type: constant
 Default: 0.99
```

years Years to execute the transition in

Type: non-negative integer vector

Default: No Default

8.5.15. @process[label].type=transition_category

Type: boolean Default: false

from From
Type: string vector
Default: No Default

proportions Proportions

Type: constant vector Default: No Default

selectivities Selectivity names

Type: string vector Default: No Default

to To

Type: string vector Default: No Default

8.5.16. @process[label].type=transition_category_by_age

print_report Generate parameter report

Type: boolean Default: false

from Categories to transition from

Type: string vector Default: No Default

max_age Maximum age to transition

Type: non-negative integer Default: No Default

min_age Minimum age to transition

Type: non-negative integer

penalty Penalty label

Type: string Default: ""

to Categories to transition to

Type: string vector Default: No Default

u_max U Max
Type: constant
Default: 0.99

years Years to execute the transition in

Type: non-negative integer vector

Default: No Default

8.6. Time varying parameters

@time_varying *label* Define an object type Time_Varying

label Label Type: string

Default: No Default

parameter Parameter to vary

Type: string

Default: No Default

type Type
Type: string

Default: ""

years Years to recalculate the values

Type: non-negative integer vector

Default: No Default

8.6.1. @time_varying[label].type=annual_shift

а

Type: constant Default: No Default

b

Type: constant
Default: No Default

С

Type: constant
Default: No Default

parameter Parameter to vary

Type: string

Default: No Default

scaling_years

Type: non-negative integer vector

Default: true

values

Type: constant vector Default: No Default

years Years to recalculate the values

Type: non-negative integer vector

Default: No Default

8.6.2. @time_varying[label].type=constant

parameter Parameter to vary

Type: string

Default: No Default

value Value to assign to estimable

Type: constant
Default: No Default

years Years to recalculate the values

Type: non-negative integer vector

Default: No Default

8.6.3. @time_varying[label].type=exogenous

a Shift parameter

Type: constant Default: No Default

exogeneous_variable Values of exogeneous variable for each year

Type: constant vector Default: No Default parameter Parameter to vary

Type: string

Default: No Default

years Years to recalculate the values

Type: non-negative integer vector

Default: No Default

8.6.4. @time_varying[label].type=random_walk

distribution distribution

Type: string
Default: normal

mean Mean
Type: constant
Default: 0

parameter Parameter to vary

Type: string

Default: No Default

sigma Standard deviation

Type: constant Default: 1

years Years to recalculate the values

Type: non-negative integer vector

Default: No Default

8.7. Derived quantities

@derived_quantity label Define an object type Derived_Quantity

categories The list of categories to use when calculating the derived quantity

Type: string vector Default: No Default

label Label
Type: string

Default: No Default

time_step_proportion_method

Type: string

Default: weighted_sum

Allowed Values: weighted_sum, weighted_product

selectivities The list of selectivities to use when calculating the derived quantity. 1 per

category

Type: string vector Default: No Default

Type: string

Default: No Default

time_step_proportion

Type: constant
Default: Double(1.0

type Type
Type: string

Default: No Default

8.7.1. @derived_quantity[label].type=abundance

categories The list of categories to use when calculating the derived quantity

Type: string vector Default: No Default

time_step_proportion_method

Type: string

Default: weighted_sum

Allowed Values: weighted_sum, weighted_product

selectivities The list of selectivities to use when calculating the derived quantity. 1 per

category

Type: string vector Default: No Default

time_step The time step to calculate the derived quantity after

Type: string

Default: No Default

time_step_proportion

Type: constant
Default: Double(1.0

8.7.2. @derived_quantity[label].type=biomass

categories The list of categories to use when calculating the derived quantity

Type: string vector Default: No Default

time_step_proportion_method

Type: string

Default: weighted_sum

Allowed Values: weighted_sum, weighted_product

selectivities The list of selectivities to use when calculating the derived quantity. 1 per

category

Type: string vector Default: No Default

time_step The time step to calculate the derived quantity after

Type: string

Default: No Default

time_step_proportion

Type: constant
Default: Double(1.0

8.8. Age-length relationship

@age_length label Define an object type Age_Length

Type: constant
Default: Double(0.0)

Lower Bound: 0.0 (inclusive)

Type: constant
Default: Double(0.0)

Lower Bound: 0.0 (inclusive)

distribution TBA

Type: string
Default: normal

label Label Type: string

time_step_proportions

Type: constant vector

Default: true

type Type
Type: string

Default: No Default

8.8.1. @age_length[label].type=data

by_length Specifies if the linear interpolation of CV's is a linear function of mean length at

age. Default is just by age

Type: boolean Default: true

Type: constant
Default: Double(0.0

Lower Bound: 0.0 (inclusive)

Type: constant
Default: Double(0.0

Lower Bound: 0.0 (inclusive)

distribution TBA

Type: string
Default: normal

 $external_gaps$

Type: string
Default: mean

Allowed Values: mean, nearest_neighbour

internal_gaps

Type: string Default: mean

Allowed Values: mean, nearest_neighbour, interpolate

length_weight TBA

Type: string

Default: No Default

time_step_proportions

Type: constant vector

Default: true

8.8.2. @age_length[label].type=none

Type: constant
Default: Double(0.0

Lower Bound: 0.0 (inclusive)

Type: constant
Default: Double(0.0)

Lower Bound: 0.0 (inclusive)

distribution TBA

Type: string
Default: normal

time_step_proportions

Type: constant vector

Default: true

8.8.3. @age_length[label].type=schnute

a **TBA**

Type: constant Default: No Default

Lower Bound: 0.0 (inclusive)

b TBA

Type: constant Default: No Default

Lower Bound: 0.0 (exclusive)

by_length TBA

Type: boolean Default: true

cv_first CV for the first age class

Type: constant
Default: Double(0.0

Lower Bound: 0.0 (inclusive)

Type: constant
Default: Double(0.0

Lower Bound: 0.0 (inclusive)

distribution TBA

Type: string
Default: normal

length_weight TBA

Type: string

Default: No Default

tau1 TBA

Type: constant
Default: No Default

tau2 TBA

Type: constant
Default: No Default

time_step_proportions

Type: constant vector

Default: true

y1 TBA

Type: constant Default: No Default

y2 TBA

Type: constant
Default: No Default

8.8.4. @age_length[label].type=von_bertalanffy

by_length Specifies if the linear interpolation of CV's is a linear function of mean length at age. Default is just by age

Type: boolean Default: true

Type: constant
Default: Double(0.0)

Lower Bound: 0.0 (inclusive)

Type: constant
Default: Double(0.0

Lower Bound: 0.0 (inclusive)

distribution TBA

Type: string
Default: normal

k TBA

Type: constant Default: No Default

Lower Bound: 0.0 (inclusive)

length_weight TBA

Type: string

Default: No Default

linf TBA

Type: constant Default: No Default

Lower Bound: 0.0 (inclusive)

t0 TBA

Type: constant
Default: No Default

time_step_proportions

Type: constant vector

Default: true

8.9. Length-weight

@length_weight label Define an object type Length_Weight

label Label
Type: string

Default: No Default

type Type

Type: string

8.9.1. @length_weight[label].type=basic

a A

Type: constant
Default: No Default

b B

Type: constant
Default: No Default

units Units of measure (tonnes, kgs, grams

Type: string

Default: No Default

8.9.2. @length_weight[label].type=none

8.10. Selectivities

@selectivity label Define an object type Selectivity

label Label
Type: string

Default: No Default

Type: boolean Default: false

intervals Number of quantiles to evaluate a length based selectivity over the age length distribution

Type: non-negative integer

Default: 5

type Type
Type: string

Default: No Default

8.10.1. @selectivity[label].type=all_values

length_based Is the selectivity length based

Type: boolean Default: false

intervals Number of quantiles to evaluate a length based selectivity over the age length

distribution

Type: non-negative integer

Default: 5

v V

Type: constant vector Default: No Default

8.10.2. @selectivity[label].type=all_values_bounded

h H

Type: non-negative integer Default: No Default

length_based Is the selectivity length based

Type: boolean Default: false

1 L

Type: non-negative integer Default: No Default

intervals Number of quantiles to evaluate a length based selectivity over the age length

distribution

Type: non-negative integer

Default: 5

v V

Type: constant vector Default: No Default

8.10.3. @selectivity[label].type=constant

C

Type: constant
Default: No Default

length_based Is the selectivity length based

Type: boolean Default: false

intervals Number of quantiles to evaluate a length based selectivity over the age length

distribution

Type: non-negative integer

Default: 5

8.10.4. @selectivity[label].type=double_exponential

alpha Alpha
Type: constant

Default: 1.0

length_based Is the selectivity length based

Type: boolean Default: false

intervals Number of quantiles to evaluate a length based selectivity over the age length

distribution

Type: non-negative integer

Default: 5

x0 **X0**

Type: constant
Default: No Default

x1 X1

Type: constant Default: No Default

x2 **X2**

Type: constant Default: No Default

y0 **Y0**

Type: constant
Default: No Default

y1 Y1

Type: constant
Default: No Default

y2 **Y2**

Type: constant
Default: No Default

8.10.5. @selectivity[label].type=double_normal

alpha Alpha
Type: constant
Default: 1.0

length_based Is the selectivity length based

Type: boolean Default: false

mu MuType: constantDefault: No Default

intervals Number of quantiles to evaluate a length based selectivity over the age length

distribution

Type: non-negative integer

Default: 5

sigmal Sigma L

Type: constant Default: No Default

sigma_r Sigma R

Type: constant
Default: No Default

8.10.6. @selectivity[label].type=increasing

alpha Alpha
Type: constant
Default: 1.0

h **High**

Type: non-negative integer Default: No Default

length_based Is the selectivity length based

Type: boolean Default: false

1 Low

Type: non-negative integer Default: No Default intervals Number of quantiles to evaluate a length based selectivity over the age length distribution

Type: non-negative integer

Default: 5

v V

Type: constant vector Default: No Default

8.10.7. @selectivity[label].type=inverse_logistic

a50 **A50**

Type: constant Default: No Default

alpha Alpha
Type: constant
Default: 1.0

ato95 aTo95
Type: constant
Default: No Default

length_based Is the selectivity length based

Type: boolean Default: false

intervals Number of quantiles to evaluate a length based selectivity over the age length distribution

Type: non-negative integer

Default: 5

8.10.8. @selectivity[label].type=knife_edge

alpha Alpha
Type: constant
Default: 1.0

e Edge Type: constant

Default: No Default

Type: boolean Default: false

intervals Number of quantiles to evaluate a length based selectivity over the age length distribution

Type: non-negative integer

Default: 5

8.10.9. @selectivity[label].type=logistic

a50 **A50**

Type: constant
Default: No Default

alpha Alpha
Type: constant
Default: 1.0

ato95 Ato95
Type: constant
Default: No Default

Type: boolean Default: false

intervals Number of quantiles to evaluate a length based selectivity over the age length

distribution

Type: non-negative integer

Default: 5

8.10.10. @selectivity[label].type=logistic_producing

a50 **A50**

Type: constant
Default: No Default

alpha Alpha
Type: constant
Default: 1.0

ato95 Ato95

Type: constant
Default: No Default

h High

Type: non-negative integer

Default: No Default

length_based Is the selectivity length based

Type: boolean Default: false

1 Low

Type: non-negative integer Default: No Default

intervals Number of quantiles to evaluate a length based selectivity over the age length

distribution

Type: non-negative integer

Default: 5

9. Estimation command and subcommand syntax

9.1. Estimation methods

@estimate label Define an object type Estimate

estimation_phase TBA

Type: non-negative integer

Default: 1u

label Label Type: string

Default: ""

lower_bound The lowest value the parameter is allowed to have

Type: constant
Default: No Default

mcmc TBA
Type: boolean
Default: false

parameter The name of the variable to estimate in the model

Type: string

Default: No Default

prior The name of the prior to use for the parameter

9 Estimation command and subcommand syntax

Type: string Default: "" A list of parameters that are bound to the value of this estimate Type: string vector Default: "" type Type Type: string Default: No Default upper_bound The highest value the parameter is allowed to have Type: constant Default: No Default 9.1.1. @estimate[label].type=beta A Type: constant Default: No Default В Type: constant Default: No Default estimation_phase **TBA** Type: non-negative integer Default: 1u The lowest value the parameter is allowed to have lower_bound Type: constant Default: No Default **TBA** mcmc Type: boolean Default: false

mu Mu
Type: constant
Default: No Default

parameter The name of the variable to estimate in the model

Type: string

prior The name of the prior to use for the parameter

Type: string Default: ""

same A list of parameters that are bound to the value of this estimate

Type: string vector

Default: ""

sigma Sigma
Type: constant
Default: No Default

Lower Bound: 0.0 (exclusive)

upper_bound The highest value the parameter is allowed to have

Type: constant Default: No Default

9.1.2. @estimate[label].type=lognormal

cv Cv

Type: constant
Default: No Default

Lower Bound: 0.0 (exclusive)

estimation_phase TBA

Type: non-negative integer

Default: 1u

lower_bound The lowest value the parameter is allowed to have

Type: constant Default: No Default

mcmc TBA

Type: boolean Default: false

mu **Mu**

Type: constant
Default: No Default

Lower Bound: 0.0 (exclusive)

parameter The name of the variable to estimate in the model

Type: string

prior The name of the prior to use for the parameter

Type: string Default: ""

same A list of parameters that are bound to the value of this estimate

Type: string vector

Default: ""

upper_bound The highest value the parameter is allowed to have

Type: constant
Default: No Default

9.1.3. @estimate[label].type=normal

cv Cv

Type: constant
Default: No Default

Lower Bound: 0.0 (exclusive)

estimation_phase TBA

Type: non-negative integer

Default: 1u

lower_bound The lowest value the parameter is allowed to have

Type: constant Default: No Default

mcmc TBA

Type: boolean Default: false

mu **Mu**

Type: constant
Default: No Default

parameter The name of the variable to estimate in the model

Type: string

Default: No Default

prior The name of the prior to use for the parameter

Type: string Default: ""

same A list of parameters that are bound to the value of this estimate

Type: string vector

Default: ""

upper_bound The highest value the parameter is allowed to have

Type: constant Default: No Default

9.1.4. @estimate[label].type=normal_by_stdev

estimation_phase TBA

Type: non-negative integer

Default: 1u

lower_bound The lowest value the parameter is allowed to have

Type: constant Default: No Default

mcmc TBA
Type: boolean
Default: false

mu Mu

Type: constant Default: No Default

parameter The name of the variable to estimate in the model

Type: string

Default: No Default

prior The name of the prior to use for the parameter

Type: string Default: ""

same A list of parameters that are bound to the value of this estimate

Type: string vector

Default: ""

sigma Sigma
Type: constant
Default: No Default

Lower Bound: 0.0 (exclusive)

upper_bound The highest value the parameter is allowed to have

Type: constant
Default: No Default

9.1.5. @estimate[label].type=normal_log

estimation_phase TBA
Type: non-negative integer

Default: 1u

lower_bound The lowest value the parameter is allowed to have

Type: constant
Default: No Default

mcmc TBA
Type: boolean
Default: false

mu MuType: constantDefault: No Default

parameter The name of the variable to estimate in the model

Type: string

Default: No Default

prior The name of the prior to use for the parameter

Type: string Default: ""

same A list of parameters that are bound to the value of this estimate

Type: string vector

Default: ""

sigma Sigma
Type: constant
Default: No Default

Lower Bound: 0.0 (exclusive)

upper_bound The highest value the parameter is allowed to have

Type: constant
Default: No Default

9.1.6. @estimate[label].type=uniform

estimation_phase TBA
Type: non-negative integer

Default: 1u

lower_bound The lowest value the parameter is allowed to have

Type: constant
Default: No Default

mcmc TBA
Type: boolean
Default: false

parameter The name of the variable to estimate in the model

Type: string

Default: No Default

prior The name of the prior to use for the parameter

Type: string Default: ""

same A list of parameters that are bound to the value of this estimate

Type: string vector

Default: ""

upper_bound The highest value the parameter is allowed to have

Type: constant
Default: No Default

9.1.7. @estimate[label].type=uniform_log

estimation_phase TBA

Type: non-negative integer

Default: 1u

lower_bound The lowest value the parameter is allowed to have

Type: constant
Default: No Default

meme TBA
Type: boolean
Default: false

parameter The name of the variable to estimate in the model

9 Estimation command and subcommand syntax

Type: string

Default: No Default

prior The name of the prior to use for the parameter

Type: string Default: ""

same A list of parameters that are bound to the value of this estimate

Type: string vector

Default: ""

upper_bound The highest value the parameter is allowed to have

Type: constant
Default: No Default

9.2. Point estimation

@minimiser label Define an object type Minimiser

active True if this minimiser is active

Type: boolean Default: false

covariance True if a covariance matrix should be created

Type: boolean Default: true

label Label
Type: string

Default: No Default

type Type of minimiser to use

Type: string

Default: No Default

9.2.1. @minimiser[label].type=callback_a_d_o_l_c

active True if this minimiser is active

Type: boolean Default: false

covariance True if a covariance matrix should be created

Type: boolean Default: true tolerance Tolerance of the gradient for convergence

Type: constant Default: 0.02

evaluations Maximum number of evaluations

Type: integer Default: 4000

iterations Maximum number of iterations

Type: integer Default: 1000

step_size Minimum Step-size before minimisation fails

Type: constant Default: 1e-7

9.2.2. @minimiser[label].type=engine_a_d_o_l_c

active True if this minimiser is active

Type: boolean Default: false

covariance True if a covariance matrix should be created

Type: boolean Default: true

tolerance Tolerance of the gradient for convergence

Type: constant Default: 0.02

evaluations Maximum number of evaluations

Type: integer Default: 4000

iterations Maximum number of iterations

Type: integer Default: 1000

step_size Minimum Step-size before minimisation fails

Type: constant Default: 1e-7

9.2.3. @minimiser[label].type=f_m_m_a_d_o_l_c

active True if this minimiser is active

Type: boolean Default: false

covariance True if a covariance matrix should be created

Type: boolean Default: true

tolerance Tolerance of the gradient for convergence

Type: constant Default: 0.02

evaluations Maximum number of evaluations

Type: integer Default: 4000

iterations Maximum number of iterations

Type: integer Default: 1000

step_size Minimum Step-size before minimisation fails

Type: constant Default: 1e-7

9.2.4. @minimiser[label].type=beta_diff

active True if this minimiser is active

Type: boolean Default: false

covariance True if a covariance matrix should be created

Type: boolean Default: true

tolerance Tolerance of the gradient for convergence

Type: constant Default: 2e-3

evaluations Maximum number of evaluations

Type: integer Default: 4000

iterations Maximum number of iterations

Type: integer Default: 1000

9.2.5. @minimiser[label].type=c_p_p_a_d

active True if this minimiser is active

Type: boolean Default: false

covariance True if a covariance matrix should be created

Type: boolean Default: true

9.2.6. @minimiser[label].type=call_back_d_e_solver

active True if this minimiser is active

Type: boolean Default: false

covariance True if a covariance matrix should be created

Type: boolean Default: true

crossover_probability TBA

Type: constant Default: 0.9

Type: constant Default: 0.02

max_generations The maximum number of iterations to run

Type: non-negative integer Default: No Default

method The type of candidate generation method to use

Type: string Default: ""

Value: not_yet_implemented

Type: non-negative integer

tolerance The total variance between the population and best candidate before acceptance

Type: constant Default: 0.01

9.2.7. @minimiser[label].type=engine_d_e_solver

active True if this minimiser is active

Type: boolean Default: false

covariance True if a covariance matrix should be created

Type: boolean Default: true

crossover_probability TBA

Type: constant Default: 0.9

Type: constant Default: 0.02

max_generations The maximum number of iterations to run

Type: non-negative integer Default: No Default

method The type of candidate generation method to use

Type: string Default: ""

Value: not_yet_implemented

9.2.8. @minimiser[label].type=call_back_d_lib

active True if this minimiser is active

Type: boolean Default: false

covariance True if a covariance matrix should be created

Type: boolean Default: true

9.2.9. @minimiser[label].type=dummy

active True if this minimiser is active

Type: boolean Default: false

covariance True if a covariance matrix should be created

Type: boolean Default: true

9.2.10. @minimiser[label].type=callback_gamma_diff

active True if this minimiser is active

Type: boolean Default: false

covariance True if a covariance matrix should be created

Type: boolean Default: true

tolerance Tolerance of the gradient for convergence

Type: constant Default: 0.02

evaluations Maximum number of evaluations

Type: integer Default: 4000

iterations Maximum number of iterations

Type: integer Default: 1000

step_size Minimum Step-size before minimisation fails

Type: constant Default: 1e-7

9.2.11. @minimiser[label].type=engine_gamma_diff

active True if this minimiser is active

Type: boolean Default: false

covariance True if a covariance matrix should be created

9 Estimation command and subcommand syntax

Type: boolean Default: true

tolerance Tolerance of the gradient for convergence

Type: constant Default: 0.02

evaluations Maximum number of evaluations

Type: integer Default: 4000

iterations Maximum number of iterations

Type: integer Default: 1000

step_size Minimum Step-size before minimisation fails

Type: constant Default: 1e-7

9.2.12. @minimiser[label].type=f_m_m_gamma_diff

active True if this minimiser is active

Type: boolean Default: false

covariance True if a covariance matrix should be created

Type: boolean Default: true

tolerance Tolerance of the gradient for convergence

Type: constant Default: 0.02

evaluations Maximum number of evaluations

Type: integer Default: 4000

iterations Maximum number of iterations

Type: integer Default: 1000

 $\verb|step-size| & \textbf{Minimum Step-size before minimisation fails}|\\$

Type: constant Default: 1e-7

9.3. Monte Carlo Markov Chain (MCMC)

@mcmc *label* Define an object type MCMC

active Is this the active MCMC algorithm

Type: boolean Default: true

label Label
Type: string

Default: No Default

length The number of chain links to create

Type: non-negative integer Default: No Default

print_default_reports

Type: boolean Default: true

type Type
Type: string
Default: ""

9.3.1. @m_c_m_c[label].type=independence_metropolis

active Is this the active MCMC algorithm

Type: boolean Default: true

Type: non-negative integer vector

Default: true

correlation_adjustment_diff TBA

Type: constant Default: 0.0001

covariance_adjustment_method Method for adjusting small variances in the covariance

proposal matrix
Type: string
Default: covariance

df Degrees of freedom of the multivariate t proposal distribution

Type: non-negative integer

Default: 4

keep Spacing between recorded values in the chain

Type: non-negative integer

Default: 1u

length The number of chain links to create

Type: non-negative integer Default: No Default

distribution
Type: constant
Default: 0.8

print_default_reports

Type: boolean Default: true

Type: string Default: t

start Covariance multiplier for the starting point of the Markov chain

Type: constant Default: 0.0

Type: constant Default: 0.02

9.4. Profiles

@profile *label* Define an object type Profile

label Label
Type: string
Default: ""

lower_bound
The lower bounds

Type: constant
Default: No Default

parameter The system parameter to profile

Type: string

steps The number of steps to take between the lower and upper bound

Type: non-negative integer Default: No Default

type

Type: string

Default: No Default

upper_bound The upper bounds

Type: constant Default: No Default

9.5. Defining catchability constants

@catchability label Define an object type Catchability

label Label Type: string

Default: No Default

type

Type: string

Default: No Default

9.5.1. @catchability[label].type=free

q The catchability amount

Type: constant
Default: No Default

9.6. Defining penalties

@penalty *label* Define an object type Penalty

label Label Type: string

Default: No Default

type Type
Type: string

9.6.1. @penalty[label].type=process

log_scale Log scale

Type: boolean Default: false

multiplier Multiplier

Type: constant Default: 1.0

9.7. Defining priors on parameter ratios, differences and means

@additional_prior label
Define an object type Additional_Prior

label Label
Type: string

Default: No Default

type Type
Type: string

Default: No Default

9.7.1. @additional_prior[label].type=beta

a A

Type: constant
Default: No Default

b B

Type: constant
Default: No Default

 $\quad \text{mu} \quad Mu$

Type: constant Default: No Default

sigma Sigma
Type: constant
Default: No Default

Lower Bound: 0.0 (inclusive)

9.7.2. @additional_prior[label].type=vector_average

k K Value to use in the calculation

Type: constant Default: No Default

method What calculation method to use (k, l, m

Type: string Default: k

multiplier Multiplier for the penalty amount

Type: constant Default: 1

parameter Label of the estimate to generate penalty on

Type: string

Default: No Default

9.7.3. @additional_prior[label].type=vector_smoothing

log_scale Log scale

Type: boolean Default: false

lower_bound First element to apply the penalty to in the vector

Type: non-negative integer

Default: 0u

multiplier Multiplier for the penalty amount

Type: constant Default: 1

parameter Label of the estimate to generate penalty on

Type: string
Default: No Default

r Penalty applied to rth differences

Type: non-negative integer

Default: 2u

Type: non-negative integer

Default: 0u

10. Observation command and subcommand syntax

10.1. 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 type Observation

categories Category labels to use

Type: string vector Default: true

Type: constant
Default: Double(1.0

label Label Type: string

Default: No Default

likelihood_multiplier Likelihood score multiplier

Type: constant
Default: Double(1.0

likelihood Type of likelihood to use

Type: string
Default: No Default

Type: string Default: ""

type Type of observation

Type: string

10.1.1. @observation[label].type=process_abundance

catchability Abundance catchability

Type: string
Default: No Default

categories Category labels to use

Type: string vector Default: true

Type: constant
Default: Double(1e-10

Type: constant
Default: Double(1.0

error_value The error values to use against the observation values

Type: constant vector Default: No Default

likelihood_multiplier Likelihood score multiplier

Type: constant
Default: Double(1.0

likelihood Type of likelihood to use

Type: string
Default: No Default

obs Observation values

Type: string vector Default: No Default

process_error Process error

Type: constant
Default: Double(0.0

process Process label

Type: string
Default: No Default

process_proportion
Process proportion

Type: constant
Default: Double(0.5

10 Observation command and subcommand syntax

selectivities Selectivity labels to use

Type: string vector Default: true

Type: string Default: ""

time_step Time step to execute in

Type: string

Default: No Default

years Years to execute in

Type: non-negative integer vector

Default: No Default

10.1.2. @observation[label].type=time_step_abundance

catchability TBA

Type: string
Default: No Default

categories Category labels to use

Type: string vector Default: true

Type: constant

Default: Double(1e-10

Type: constant
Default: Double(1.0

error_value The error values to use against the observation values

Type: constant vector Default: No Default

likelihood_multiplier Likelihood score multiplier

Type: constant Default: Double(1.0

likelihood Type of likelihood to use

Type: string

obs Observation values

Type: string vector Default: No Default

process_error Process error

Type: constant
Default: Double(0.0

selectivities Selectivity labels to use

Type: string vector Default: true

Type: string Default: ""

time_step Time step to execute in

Type: string

Default: No Default

time_step_proportion Proportion through the time step to analyse the partition from

Type: constant
Default: Double(0.5

years Years to execute in

Type: non-negative integer vector

Default: No Default

10.1.3. @observation[label].type=process_biomass

Type: string
Default: No Default

categories Category labels to use

Type: string vector Default: true

delta Delta value for error values

Type: constant

Default: Double(1e-10

10 Observation command and subcommand syntax

Type: constant
Default: Double(1.0

error_value The error values to use against the observation values

Type: constant vector Default: No Default

Type: constant
Default: Double(1.0

likelihood Type of likelihood to use

Type: string

Default: No Default

obs Observation values

Type: string vector Default: No Default

process_error Process error

Type: constant
Default: Double(0.0)

process Process label

Type: string

Default: No Default

Type: constant
Default: Double(0.5

selectivities Selectivity labels to use

Type: string vector Default: true

Type: string Default: ""

Type: string

Default: No Default

years Years to execute in

Type: non-negative integer vector

Default: No Default

10.1.4. @observation[label].type=time_step_biomass

Type: string
Default: No Default

categories Category labels to use

Type: string vector
Default: true

Type: constant

Default: Double(1e-10

Type: constant
Default: Double(1.0

error_value The error values to use against the observation values

Type: constant vector Default: No Default

likelihood_multiplier Likelihood score multiplier

Type: constant
Default: Double(1.0

likelihood Type of likelihood to use

Type: string

Default: No Default

obs Observation values

Type: string vector Default: No Default

process_error Process error

Type: constant
Default: Double(0.0

selectivities Selectivity labels to use

Type: string vector Default: true

10 Observation command and subcommand syntax

Type: string Default: ""

Type: string

Default: No Default

time_step_proportion Proportion through the time step to analyse the partition from

Type: constant
Default: Double(0.5

years Years to execute in

Type: non-negative integer vector

Default: No Default

10.1.5. @observation[label].type=process_proportions_at_age

Type: boolean Default: true

ageing_error Label of ageing error to use

Type: string Default: ""

categories Category labels to use

Type: string vector Default: true

delta Delta
Type: constant
Default: DELTA

Type: constant Default: Double(1.0

likelihood_multiplier Likelihood score multiplier

Type: constant
Default: Double(1.0

likelihood Type of likelihood to use

Type: string

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

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

process_errors Process error

Type: constant vector

Default: true

process Process label

Type: string

Default: No Default

Type: constant
Default: Double(0.5

selectivities Selectivity labels to use

Type: string vector Default: true

Type: string Default: ""

time_step Time step to execute in

Type: string

Default: No Default

tolerance Tolerance

Type: constant

Default: Double(0.001

years Year to execute in

Type: non-negative integer vector

10.1.6. @observation[label].type=time_step_proportions_at_age

Type: boolean Default: true

ageing_error Label of ageing error to use

Type: string Default: ""

categories Category labels to use

Type: string vector Default: true

delta Delta
Type: constant
Default: DELTA

Type: constant
Default: Double(1.0

likelihood_multiplier Likelihood score multiplier

Type: constant
Default: Double(1.0

likelihood Type of likelihood to use

Type: string
Default: No Default

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

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

process_errors Process error

Type: constant vector Default: true

selectivities Selectivity labels to use

Type: string vector Default: true

Type: string Default: ""

time_step Time step to execute in

Type: string

Default: No Default

time_step_proportion Proportion through the time step to analyse the partition from

Type: constant
Default: Double(0.5

tolerance Tolerance

Type: constant

Default: Double(0.001

years Year to execute in

Type: non-negative integer vector

Default: No Default

10.1.7. @observation[label].type=proportions_at_age_for_fishery

Type: boolean Default: true

ageing_error Label of ageing error to use

Type: string Default: ""

categories Category labels to use

Type: string vector Default: true

delta Delta
Type: constant
Default: DELTA

Type: constant Default: Double(1.0

fishery Label of fishery the observation is from

Type: string vector

Default: ""

Type: constant
Default: Double(1.0

likelihood Type of likelihood to use

Type: string
Default: No Default

max_age Maximum age
Type: non-negative integer

Default: No Default

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

process_errors Process error

Type: constant vector

Default: true

process Process label

Type: string

Default: No Default

Type: string Default: ""

time_step Time steps that the fisheries are in

Type: string vector Default: No Default

tolerance Tolerance

Type: constant

Default: Double(0.001

years Year to execute in

Type: non-negative integer vector

10.1.8. @observation[label].type=process_proportions_at_length

categories Category labels to use

Type: string vector Default: true

delta Delta
Type: constant
Default: DELTA

Type: constant
Default: Double(1.0

length_bins Length bins

Type: constant vector Default: No Default

Type: boolean Default: true

likelihood_multiplier Likelihood score multiplier

Type: constant
Default: Double(1.0

likelihood Type of likelihood to use

Type: string
Default: No Default

process_errors Process error

Type: constant vector

Default: true

process Process label

Type: string

Default: No Default

Type: constant
Default: Double(0.5

selectivities Selectivity labels to use

Type: string vector Default: true

10 Observation command and subcommand syntax

Type: string Default: ""

time_step Time step to execute in

Type: string

Default: No Default

tolerance Tolerance for rescaling proportions

Type: constant

Default: Double(0.001

years Year to execute in

Type: non-negative integer vector

Default: No Default

10.1.9. @observation[label].type=time_step_proportions_at_length

categories Category labels to use

Type: string vector Default: true

delta Delta
Type: constant
Default: DELTA

Type: constant
Default: Double(1.0

length_bins Length bins

Type: constant vector Default: No Default

length_plus_group Is the last bin a plus group

Type: boolean Default: true

likelihood_multiplier Likelihood score multiplier

Type: constant Default: Double(1.0

likelihood Type of likelihood to use

Type: string

process_errors Process error

Type: constant vector

Default: true

selectivities Selectivity labels to use

Type: string vector Default: true

Type: string Default: ""

time_step Time step to execute in

Type: string

Default: No Default

time_step_proportion Proportion through the time step to analyse the partition from

Type: constant
Default: Double(0.5

tolerance Tolerance for rescaling proportions

Type: constant

Default: Double(0.001

years Year to execute in

Type: non-negative integer vector

Default: No Default

10.1.10. @observation[label].type=proportions_at_length_for_fishery

categories Category labels to use

Type: string vector Default: true

delta Delta
Type: constant
Default: DELTA

Type: constant
Default: Double(1.0

fishery Label of fishery the observation is from

Type: string Default: ""

length_bins Length bins

Type: constant vector Default: No Default

length_plus_group Is the last bin a plus group

Type: boolean Default: true

Type: constant
Default: Double(1.0

likelihood Type of likelihood to use

Type: string
Default: No Default

process_errors Process error

Type: constant vector

Default: true

process Process label

Type: string

Default: No Default

Type: constant
Default: Double(0.5

Type: string Default: ""

time_step Time step to execute in

Type: string

Default: No Default

tolerance Tolerance for rescaling proportions

Type: constant

Default: Double(0.001

years Year to execute in

Type: non-negative integer vector

Default: No Default

10.1.11. @observation[label].type=process_proportions_by_category

Type: boolean Default: true

categories Category labels to use

Type: string vector
Default: true

delta Delta
Type: constant
Default: DELTA

Lower Bound: 0.0 (exclusive)

Type: constant
Default: Double(1.0

likelihood_multiplier Likelihood score multiplier

Type: constant
Default: Double(1.0

likelihood Type of likelihood to use

Type: string
Default: No Default

max_age Maximum age
Type: non-negative integer

Default: No Default

min_age Minimum age
Type: non-negative integer

Default: No Default

process_errors Process error

Type: constant vector

Default: true

process Process label

Type: string

Type: constant
Default: Double(0.5

selectivities Selectivity labels to use

Type: string vector Default: true

Type: string Default: ""

categories 2 Target Categories

Type: string vector Default: No Default

selectivities2 Target Selectivities

Type: string vector Default: No Default

Type: string

Default: No Default

years Year to execute in

Type: non-negative integer vector

Default: No Default

10.1.12. @observation[label].type=time_step_proportions_by_category

Type: boolean Default: true

categories Category labels to use

Type: string vector Default: true

delta Delta

Type: constant
Default: DELTA

Lower Bound: 0.0 (exclusive)

Type: constant
Default: Double(1.0

Type: constant
Default: Double(1.0

likelihood Type of likelihood to use

Type: string
Default: No Default

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

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

process_errors Process error

Type: constant vector

Default: true

selectivities Selectivity labels to use

Type: string vector Default: true

Type: string Default: ""

categories2 Target Categories

Type: string vector Default: No Default

 ${\tt selectivities2} \qquad {\tt Target \ Selectivities}$

Type: string vector Default: No Default

Type: string

Default: No Default

time_step_proportion Proportion through the time step to analyse the partition from

Type: constant
Default: Double(0.5

years Year to execute in

Type: non-negative integer vector

Default: No Default

10.1.13. @observation[label].type=proportions_migrating

Type: boolean Default: true

ageing_error Label of ageing error to use

Type: string Default: ""

categories Category labels to use

Type: string vector Default: true

delta Delta
Type: constant
Default: DELTA

Type: constant
Default: Double(1.0

Type: constant
Default: Double(1.0

likelihood Type of likelihood to use

Type: string
Default: No Default

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

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

process_errors Process error

Type: constant vector

Default: true

process Process label

Type: string

Default: No Default

Type: constant
Default: Double(0.5

Type: string Default: ""

Type: string

Default: No Default

years Year to execute in

Type: non-negative integer vector

Default: No Default

10.1.14. @observation[label].type=tag_recapture_by_age

Type: boolean Default: true

categories Category labels to use

Type: string vector Default: true

delta Delta
Type: constant
Default: DELTA

Lower Bound: 0.0 (exclusive)

detection Detection probability

Type: constant Default: No Default

 Type: constant
Default: Double(1.0

likelihood_multiplier Likelihood score multiplier

Type: constant
Default: Double(1.0

likelihood Type of likelihood to use

Type: string
Default: No Default

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

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

process_errors Process error

Type: constant vector

Default: true

selectivities Selectivity labels to use

Type: string vector Default: true

Type: string Default: ""

categories2 Target Categories

Type: string vector Default: No Default

selectivities 2 Target Selectivities

Type: string vector Default: No Default

time_step Time step to execute in

Type: string

Default: No Default

time_step_proportion Proportion through the time step to analyse the partition from

Type: constant
Default: Double(0.5

years Year to execute in

Type: non-negative integer vector

Default: No Default

10.1.15. @observation[label].type=tag_recapture_by_length

categories Category labels to use

Type: string vector
Default: true

delta Delta
Type: constant
Default: DELTA

Lower Bound: 0.0 (exclusive)

detection Detection probability

Type: constant
Default: No Default

Type: constant
Default: Double(1.0

length_bins Length Bins

Type: constant vector Default: No Default

likelihood_multiplier Likelihood score multiplier

Type: constant
Default: Double(1.0

likelihood Type of likelihood to use

Type: string
Default: No Default

plus_group Last length bin a plus group

Type: boolean Default: true

process_errors Process error

Type: constant vector

Default: true

selectivities Selectivity labels to use

Type: string vector Default: true

Type: string Default: ""

categories2 Target Categories

Type: string vector Default: No Default

selectivities2 Target Selectivities

Type: string vector Default: No Default

Type: string

Default: No Default

time_step_proportion Proportion through the time step to analyse the partition from

Type: constant
Default: Double(0.5

years Year to execute in

Type: non-negative integer vector

Default: No Default

10.2. Likelihoods

@likelihood label Define an object type Likelihood

label

Type: string

Default: No Default

type

Type: string

- 10.2.1. @likelihood[label].type=binomial
- 10.2.2. @likelihood[label].type=binomial_approx
- 10.2.3. @likelihood[label].type=dirichlet
- 10.2.4. @likelihood[label].type=log_normal
- 10.2.5. @likelihood[label].type=log_normal_with_q
- 10.2.6. @likelihood[label].type=multinomial
- 10.2.7. @likelihood[label].type=normal
- 10.2.8. @likelihood[label].type=pseudo

10.3. Defining ageing error

Three methods for including ageing error into estimation with observations are,

- None
- Normal
- Off-by-one

Each type of ageing error requires a set of subcommands and arguments specific to its type.

@ageing_error label Define an object type Ageing_Error

label Label

Type: string

Default: No Default

type Type

Type: string

Default: No Default

- 10.3.1. @ageing_error[label].type=data
- 10.3.2. @ageing_error[label].type=normal
- CV CV for Misclassification matrix

Type: constant

Default: No Default

Lower Bound: 0.0 (inclusive)

k TBA

Type: non-negative integer

Default: 0u

10.3.3. @ageing_error[label].type=off_by_one

The minimum age of fish which can be missclassified

Type: non-negative integer

Default: 0u

Lower Bound: 0.0 (inclusive) Upper Bound: 1.0 (inclusive)

proprtion of misclassification up by an age, i.e. how proportion of age 3 that are actually age

4

Type: constant
Default: No Default

p2 proprtion of misclassification down by an age

Type: constant Default: No Default

Lower Bound: 0.0 (inclusive) Upper Bound: 1.0 (inclusive)

11. Report command and subcommand syntax

11.1. Report commands and subcommands

@report label Define an object type Report

file_name File Name

Type: string Default: ""

label Label Type: string

Default: No Default

type Type
Type: string

Default: No Default

write_mode Write mode

Type: string
Default: overwrite

Allowed Values: overwrite, append, incremental_suffix

11.1.1. @report[label].type=ageing_error_matrix

ageing_error Ageing Error label

Type: string
Default: No Default

file_name File Name

Type: string Default: ""

write_mode Write mode

Type: string
Default: overwrite

Allowed Values: overwrite, append, incremental_suffix

11.1.2. @report[label].type=category_info

file_name File Name

Type: string Default: ""

Type: string
Default: overwrite

Allowed Values: overwrite, append, incremental_suffix

11.1.3. @report[label].type=category_list

file_name File Name

Type: string Default: ""

Type: string
Default: overwrite

Allowed Values: overwrite, append, incremental_suffix

11.1.4. @report[label].type=covariance_matrix

file_name File Name

Type: string
Default: ""

write_mode Write mode

Type: string
Default: overwrite

Allowed Values: overwrite, append, incremental_suffix

11.1.5. @report[label].type=derived_quantity

file_name File Name

Type: string Default: ""

write_mode Write mode

Type: string
Default: overwrite

Allowed Values: overwrite, append, incremental_suffix

11.1.6. @report[label].type=estimable

file_name File Name

Type: string Default: ""

parameter Parameter to print

Type: string

Default: No Default

Type: string Default: ""

Type: string
Default: overwrite

Allowed Values: overwrite, append, incremental_suffix

years Years to print the estimable for

Type: non-negative integer vector

Default: No Default

11.1.7. @report[label].type=estimate_summary

file_name File Name

Type: string Default: ""

write_mode Write mode

Type: string
Default: overwrite

Allowed Values: overwrite, append, incremental_suffix

11.1.8. @report[label].type=estimate_value

file_name File Name

Type: string Default: ""

Type: string
Default: overwrite

Allowed Values: overwrite, append, incremental_suffix

11.1.9. @report[label].type=initialisation_partition

file_name File Name

Type: string Default: ""

Type: string
Default: overwrite

Allowed Values: overwrite, append, incremental_suffix

11.1.10. @report[label].type=mcmc_covariance

file_name File Name

Type: string Default: ""

Type: string
Default: overwrite

Allowed Values: overwrite, append, incremental_suffix

11.1.11. @report[label].type=mcmc_objective

file_name File Name

Type: string Default: ""

write_mode Write mode

Type: string
Default: overwrite

Allowed Values: overwrite, append, incremental_suffix

11.1.12. @report[label].type=mcmc_sample

file_name File Name

Type: string Default: ""

write_mode Write mode

Type: string
Default: overwrite

Allowed Values: overwrite, append, incremental_suffix

11.1.13. @report[label].type=m_p_d

file_name File Name

Type: string Default: ""

write_mode Write mode

Type: string
Default: overwrite

Allowed Values: overwrite, append, incremental_suffix

11.1.14. @report[label].type=objective_function

file_name File Name

Type: string Default: ""

write_mode Write mode

Type: string
Default: overwrite

Allowed Values: overwrite, append, incremental_suffix

11.1.15. @report[label].type=observation

file_name File Name

Type: string Default: ""

observation Observation label

Type: string
Default: No Default

Type: string
Default: overwrite

Allowed Values: overwrite, append, incremental_suffix

11.1.16. @report[label].type=output_parameters

file_name File Name

Type: string Default: ""

write_mode Write mode

Type: string
Default: overwrite

Allowed Values: overwrite, append, incremental_suffix

11.1.17. @report[label].type=partition

file_name File Name

Type: string Default: ""

Type: string Default: ""

Type: string
Default: overwrite

Allowed Values: overwrite, append, incremental_suffix

years Years

Type: non-negative integer vector

Default: true

11.1.18. @report[label].type=partition_biomass

file_name File Name

Type: string Default: ""

Type: string Default: ""

units Units (Default Kgs

Type: string Default: kgs

Type: string
Default: overwrite

Allowed Values: overwrite, append, incremental_suffix

years Years

Type: non-negative integer vector

Default: true

11.1.19. @report[label].type=partition_mean_weight

file_name File Name

Type: string Default: ""

Type: string Default: ""

Type: string Default: overwrite

Allowed Values: overwrite, append, incremental_suffix

years Years

Type: non-negative integer vector

Default: true

11.1.20. @report[label].type=process

file_name File Name

Type: string Default: ""

process Process label that is reported

Type: string Default: ""

write_mode Write mode

Type: string
Default: overwrite

Allowed Values: overwrite, append, incremental_suffix

11.1.21. @report[label].type=random_number_seed

file_name File Name

Type: string Default: ""

write_mode Write mode

Type: string
Default: overwrite

Allowed Values: overwrite, append, incremental_suffix

11.1.22. @report[label].type=selectivity

file_name File Name

Type: string Default: ""

selectivity Selectivity name

Type: string
Default: No Default

Type: string
Default: overwrite

Allowed Values: overwrite, append, incremental_suffix

11.1.23. @report[label].type=simulated_observation

file_name File Name

Type: string Default: ""

observation Observation label

Type: string

Default: No Default

Type: string
Default: overwrite

Allowed Values: overwrite, append, incremental_suffix

11.1.24. @report[label].type=standard_header

file_name File Name

Type: string Default: ""

write_mode Write mode

Type: string
Default: overwrite

Allowed Values: overwrite, append, incremental_suffix

12. Other commands and subcommands

@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.txt"

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

commands

13. Examples

13.1. An example of a simple model

This example implements a very simple single species and area model, with recruitment, maturation, natural and fishing mortality, and an annual age increment. The population structure has ages $1-30^+$ with a single category.

CASAL² default file to search for in your current working directory is casal2.txt. In this example, casal2.txt specifies all the files necessary to run your CASAL² model from your current working directory. This is done using the !include command as follows.

```
!include "population.cs12
!include "reports.cs12"
!include "Observation.cs12"
!include "estimation.cs12"
```

Breaking up a CASAL² model into sections is recommended, as it aids in readability and error checking. population.csl2 contains the population information. The model runs from 1975-2012 and is initialised over a 120 year period prior to 1975, which applies the following processes,

- 1. A Beverton-Holt recruitment process, recruiting a constant number of individuals to the first age class (i.e., age = 1).
- 2. A constant mortality process representing natural mortality (M). This process is repeated in all three time steps, so that each with its own time step proportion of M applied.
- 3. An ageing process, where all individuals are aged by one year, and with a plus group accumulator age class at age = 30.

Following initialisation, the model runs from the years 1975 to 2012 iterating through two time-steps. The first time-step applies processes of recruitment, and $\frac{1}{2}M_1 + F + \frac{1}{2}M_1$ processes, where M_1 is the proportion of M applied in the first time step. The exploitation process (fishing) is applied in the years 1975–2012. Catches are defined in the catches table and attribute information on each fishery such as selectivity and time-step they are implemented are in the fisheries table in the @process block.

The second time-step applies an age increment and the remaining natural mortality.

The first 28 lines of the main section of the population.cs12 are,

```
## Model Block
@model
start_year 1975
final_year 2012
min age 1
max_age 30
age_plus true
initialisation_phases iphase1
time_steps step1 step2
## Category Block
@categories
format
names stock
age_lengths age_size
## Initialisation block
@initialisation_phase iphase1
type iterative
years 120
## Annual Cycle definition
@time_step step1
processes Recruitment instant_mort
@time_step step2
processes Ageing instant_mort
```

To carry out a run of the model (to verify that the model runs without any syntax errors), use the command casal2 - r. Note that as $CASAL^2$ looks for a file named casal2.txt by default, we can override this. Hypothetically speaking if our model was all written in Mymodel.txt we could call it using the -c command like casal2 - r -c Mymodel.txt.

To run an estimation, and hence estimate the parameters defined in the file estimation.cs12 (the catchability constant q, recruitment R_0 , and the selectivity parameters a_{50} and a_{t095}), use casal2 -e. Here, we have piped the output to estimate.log using the command casal2 -e > estimate.log, reports the user defined reports reports.cs12 from the final iteration of the estimation, and successful convergence printed to screen,

```
Total elapsed time: 1 second Completed
```

The main part of the output from the estimation run is summarised in the file estimate.log, and the final MPD parameter values can be piped out as a separate report, in this case named paramaters.out, using the command casal2 -e -o paramaters.out > estimate.log.

A profile on the R_0 parameter can also be run, using casal2 -p > profile.log. See the examples folder for an example of the output.

KATH note below, will be useful to copy that document across. Examples on Input file specification go to the file Input File Specification.odt found in CASAL2/Documentation/Software Development

13.2. In line declaration

In line declarations can help shorten models by by passing @ blocks, for example

```
@observation chatCPUE
type biomass
```

```
catchability [q=6.52606e-005]
time_step one
categories male+female
selectivities chatFselMale chatFselFemale
likelihood lognormal
years 1992:2001
time_step_proportion 1.0
obs 1.50 1.10 0.93 1.33 1.53 0.90 0.68 0.75 0.57 1.23
error_value 0.35

@estimate
parameter catchability[chatTANbiomass.one].q
type uniform_log
lower_bound 1e-2
upper_bound 1
In line declaration tips
```

In the above code we are defining and estimating catchabbility without explicitely 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
```

if there were 10 categories all with there own selectivity the $10^t h$ selectivity would be labelled;

@selectivity halfm.10

14. Post processing output using R

In the downloaded bundle is a R-package that reads $CASAL^2$ output into R. The $CASAL^2$ package has only one function <code>extract()</code>, which will read in the entire file. The reporting framework is set up so the each @report will start with * and end with *end. If this is not the case the <code>extract()</code> function will most likely fail. A post processing package is being developed to then create plots and process the raw input from the <code>extract()</code> function.

15. Troubleshooting

15.1. Introduction

15.2. Reporting errors

When reporting a bug or problem to the CASAL² development team at casal2@niwa.co.nz, please address the following points.

15.3. Guidelines for reporting a problem with CASAL²

- 1. Detail the version of CASAL² are you using? e.g., "CASAL² 2016-03-18 (rev. 47475cd)Microsoft Windows executable"
- 2. What operating system or environment are you using? e.g., "IBM-PC Intel CPU running Microsoft Windows 8.1 Enterprise, Service Pack 1".
- 3. Give a brief one-line description of the problem, e.g., "a segmentation fault was reported".
- 4. If the problem is reproducible, please list the exact steps required to cause it, remembering to include the relevant CASAL² 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."
- 5. 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., "CASAL² crashed, but I cannot reproduce how I did it. It seemed to be related to a local network crash but I cannot be sure."
- 6. If the problem causes any error messages to appear, please give the *exact* text displayed, e.g., segmentation fault (core dumped).
- 7. Remember to attach all relevant input and output files so that the problem can be reproduced (it can helpful to compress these into a single 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.

16. Acknowledgements

17. Quick reference

```
Define an object type Ageing_Error
@ageing_error label
         Label
type
        Type
@ageing_error[label].type=data
@ageing_error[label].type=normal
     CV for Misclassification matrix
    TBA
@ageing_error[label].type=off_by_one
    The minimum age of fish which can be missclassified
     proprtion of misclassification up by an age, i.e. how proportion of age 3 that are actually age
р1
4
p2
     proprtion of misclassification down by an age
                        Define an object type Age_Length
@age_length label
cv_first
            CV for the first age class
cv_last
           CV for last age class
                TBA
distribution
label Label
time_step_proportions
type Type
@age_length[label].type=data
             Specifies if the linear interpolation of CV's is a linear function of mean length at
by_length
age. Default is just by age
            CV for the first age class
cv_first
cv_last
           CV for last age class
distribution
                 TBA
external_gaps
internal_gaps
                 TBA
length_weight
time_step_proportions
```

@age_length[label].type=none

@age_length[label].type=schnute

a **TBA**

time_step_proportion

```
TBA
             TBA
by_length
            CV for the first age class
cv_first
cv_last
           CV for last age class
distribution
                 TBA
length_weight
                  TBA
tau1
        TBA
       TBA
tau2
time_step_proportions
y1
     TBA
      TBA
y2
@age_length[label].type=von_bertalanffy
by_length
             Specifies if the linear interpolation of CV's is a linear function of mean length at age.
Default is just by age
            CV for the first age class
cv_first
           CV for last age class
cv_last
distribution
                 TBA
    TBA
length_weight
                  TBA
linf
        TBA
t0
     TBA
time_step_proportions
@catchability label
                            Define an object type Catchability
label
         Label
type
@catchability[label].type=free
    The catchability amount
@derived_quantity label
                                 Define an object type Derived_Quantity
               The list of categories to use when calculating the derived quantity
categories
label
       Label
time_step_proportion_method
selectivities
                  The list of selectivities to use when calculating the derived quantity. 1 per
category
             The time step to calculate the derived quantity after
time_step
time_step_proportion
        Type
type
@derived_quantity[label].type=abundance
               The list of categories to use when calculating the derived quantity
categories
time_step_proportion_method
                  The list of selectivities to use when calculating the derived quantity. 1 per
selectivities
category
             The time step to calculate the derived quantity after
time_step
```

@derived__quantity[label].type=biomass

categories The list of categories to use when calculating the derived quantity

time_step_proportion_method

selectivities The list of selectivities to use when calculating the derived quantity. 1 per category

 ${\tt time_step} \qquad \textbf{The time step to calculate the derived quantity after}$

time_step_proportion

@estimate label Define an object type Estimate

estimation_phase TBA

label Label

lower_bound The lowest value the parameter is allowed to have

mcmc TBA

parameter The name of the variable to estimate in the model

prior The name of the prior to use for the parameter

same A list of parameters that are bound to the value of this estimate

type Type

upper_bound The highest value the parameter is allowed to have

@estimate[label].type=beta

a A

b B

estimation_phase TBA

lower_bound The lowest value the parameter is allowed to have

mcmc TBA

mu **M**u

parameter The name of the variable to estimate in the model

prior The name of the prior to use for the parameter

same A list of parameters that are bound to the value of this estimate

sigma Sigma

upper_bound The highest value the parameter is allowed to have

@estimate[label].type=lognormal

cv Cv

estimation_phase TBA

lower_bound The lowest value the parameter is allowed to have

mcmc TBA

mu **Mu**

parameter The name of the variable to estimate in the model

prior The name of the prior to use for the parameter

same A list of parameters that are bound to the value of this estimate

upper_bound The highest value the parameter is allowed to have

@estimate[label].type=normal

cv Cv

estimation_phase **TBA** The lowest value the parameter is allowed to have lower_bound **TBA** mcmc Mu m11 The name of the variable to estimate in the model parameter The name of the prior to use for the parameter prior A list of parameters that are bound to the value of this estimate same The highest value the parameter is allowed to have upper_bound

@estimate[label].type=normal_by_stdev

TBA estimation_phase The lowest value the parameter is allowed to have lower_bound mcmc **TBA** Mu The name of the variable to estimate in the model parameter The name of the prior to use for the parameter prior same A list of parameters that are bound to the value of this estimate Sigma sigma upper_bound The highest value the parameter is allowed to have

@estimate[label].type=normal_log

TBA estimation_phase lower_bound The lowest value the parameter is allowed to have mcmc **TBA** Mu mu The name of the variable to estimate in the model parameter The name of the prior to use for the parameter A list of parameters that are bound to the value of this estimate same sigma Sigma The highest value the parameter is allowed to have upper_bound

@estimate[label].type=uniform

estimation_phase TBA
lower_bound The lowest value the parameter is allowed to have
mcmc TBA
parameter The name of the variable to estimate in the model
prior The name of the prior to use for the parameter
same A list of parameters that are bound to the value of this estimate
upper_bound The highest value the parameter is allowed to have

@estimate[label].type=uniform_log

estimation_phase TBA

lower_bound The lowest value the parameter is allowed to have mcmc **TBA** The name of the variable to estimate in the model parameter The name of the prior to use for the parameter A list of parameters that are bound to the value of this estimate The highest value the parameter is allowed to have upper_bound @initialisation_phase label Define an object type Initialisation_Phase Label label Type type @initialisation_phase[label].type=cinitial List of categories to use categories @initialisation_phase[label].type=derived exclude_processes The processes to exclude from all time steps The processes to insert in to target time steps insert_processes @initialisation_phase[label].type=iterative convergence_years The years to test for convergence exclude_processes The processes to exclude from all time steps insert_processes The processes to insert in to target time steps lambda Lambda The number of iterations to execute this phase for vears @initialisation_phase[label].type=state_category_by_age List of categories to use categories Maximum age to use for this process max_age min_age Minimum age to use for this process @likelihood label Define an object type Likelihood label type @likelihood[label].type=binomial @likelihood[label].type=binomial_approx @likelihood[label].type=dirichlet @likelihood[label].type=log_normal @likelihood[label].type=log_normal_with_q @likelihood[label].type=multinomial @likelihood[label].type=normal @likelihood[label].type=pseudo @derived_quantity label Define an object type Derived_Quantity The list of categories to use when calculating the derived quantity categories

label Label
time_step_proportion_method
selectivities The list of selectivities to use when calculating the derived quantity. 1 per
category
time_step The time step to calculate the derived quantity after
time_step_proportion
type Type

@derived_quantity[label].type=abundance

categories The list of categories to use when calculating the derived quantity
time_step_proportion_method
selectivities The list of selectivities to use when calculating the derived quantity. 1 per
category
time_step The time step to calculate the derived quantity after
time_step_proportion

@derived__quantity[label].type=biomass

The list of categories to use when calculating the derived quantity categories time_step_proportion_method The list of selectivities to use when calculating the derived quantity. 1 per selectivities category The time step to calculate the derived quantity after time_step time_step_proportion @mcmc label Define an object type MCMC active Is this the active MCMC algorithm label Label The number of chain links to create length print_default_reports Type type

@m_c_m_c[label].type=independence_metropolis

Is this the active MCMC algorithm active Iterations in the chain to check and resize the MCMC stepsize adapt_stepsize_at correlation_adjustment_diff **TBA** Method for adjusting small variances in the covariance covariance_adjustment_method proposal matrix df Degrees of freedom of the multivariate t proposal distribution keep Spacing between recorded values in the chain The number of chain links to create length max_correlation Maximum absolute correlation in the covariance matrix of the proposal distribution print_default_reports The shape of the proposal distribution (either t or normal proposal_distribution Covariance multiplier for the starting point of the Markov chain Initial stepsize (as a multiplier of the approximate covariance matrix step_size @minimiser label Define an object type Minimiser active True if this minimiser is active

covariance True if a covariance matrix should be created

label Label

type Type of minimiser to use

@minimiser[label].type=callback_a_d_o_l_c

active True if this minimiser is active

covariance True if a covariance matrix should be created tolerance of the gradient for convergence evaluations
iterations Maximum number of evaluations

Maximum number of iterations

step_size Minimum Step-size before minimisation fails

@minimiser[label].type=engine_a_d_o_l_c

active True if this minimiser is active

covariance True if a covariance matrix should be created tolerance of the gradient for convergence evaluations
iterations Maximum number of evaluations

Maximum number of iterations

step_size Minimum Step-size before minimisation fails

@minimiser[label].type=f_m_m_a_d_o_l_c

active True if this minimiser is active

covariance True if a covariance matrix should be created tolerance of the gradient for convergence evaluations
iterations Maximum number of evaluations

Maximum number of iterations

step_size Minimum Step-size before minimisation fails

@minimiser[label].type=beta_diff

active True if this minimiser is active

covariance tolerance tolerance evaluations
iterations

True if a covariance matrix should be created Tolerance of the gradient for convergence

Maximum number of evaluations

Maximum number of iterations

@minimiser[label].type=c_p_p_a_d

active True if this minimiser is active

covariance True if a covariance matrix should be created

@minimiser[label].type=call_back_d_e_solver

active True if this minimiser is active

covariance True if a covariance matrix should be created
crossover_probability TBA
difference_scale The scale to apply to new solutions when comparing candidates
max_generations The maximum number of iterations to run
method The type of candidate generation method to use
population_size The number of candidate solutions to have in the population
tolerance The total variance between the population and best candidate before acceptance

@minimiser[label].type=engine_d_e_solver

active True if this minimiser is active
covariance True if a covariance matrix should be created
crossover_probability TBA
difference_scale The scale to apply to new solutions when comparing candidates
max_generations The maximum number of iterations to run
method The type of candidate generation method to use

@minimiser[label].type=call_back_d_lib

active True if this minimiser is active covariance True if a covariance matrix should be created

@minimiser[label].type=dummy

active True if this minimiser is active covariance True if a covariance matrix should be created

@minimiser[label].type=callback_gamma_diff

active True if this minimiser is active
covariance True if a covariance matrix should be created
tolerance evaluations Tolerance of the gradient for convergence
evaluations Maximum number of evaluations
step_size Minimum Step-size before minimisation fails

@minimiser[label].type=engine_gamma_diff

active True if this minimiser is active

covariance True if a covariance matrix should be created
tolerance Tolerance of the gradient for convergence
evaluations Maximum number of evaluations
iterations Maximum number of iterations
step_size Minimum Step-size before minimisation fails

@minimiser[label].type=f_m_m_gamma_diff

active True if this minimiser is active

covariance True if a covariance matrix should be created tolerance Tolerance of the gradient for convergence Maximum number of evaluations evaluations iterations Maximum number of iterations Minimum Step-size before minimisation fails step_size Define an object type Model @model label Define the oldest age as a plus group age_plus Define the final year of the model, excluding years in the projection period final_year initialisation_phases Define the labels of the phases of the initialisation label length_bins Maximum age of individuals in the population max_age min_age Minimum age of individuals in the population Define the final year of the model in projection mode projection_final_year Define the first year of the model, immediately following initialisation start_year Define the labels of the time steps, in the order that they are applied, to form the time_steps annual cycle Type of model (the partition structure). Either age, length or hybrid type @observation label Define an object type Observation Category labels to use categories error_value_multiplier Error value multiplier for likelihood label Label likelihood_multiplier Likelihood score multiplier Type of likelihood to use likelihood Simulation likelihood to use simulation_likelihood Type of observation type

@observation[label].type=process_abundance

Abundance catchability catchability Category labels to use categories Delta value for error values delta error_value_multiplier Error value multiplier for likelihood error_value The error values to use against the observation values likelihood_multiplier Likelihood score multiplier likelihood Type of likelihood to use Observation values process_error Process error process Process label Process proportion process_proportion selectivities Selectivity labels to use simulation_likelihood Simulation likelihood to use Time step to execute in time_step years Years to execute in

@observation[label].type=time_step_abundance

catchability TBA

```
Category labels to use
categories
delta
          Delta value for error values
                             Error value multiplier for likelihood
error_value_multiplier
                The error values to use against the observation values
error_value
                             Likelihood score multiplier
likelihood_multiplier
               Type of likelihood to use
likelihood
       Observation values
obs
process_error
                   Process error
selectivities
                   Selectivity labels to use
simulation_likelihood
                             Simulation likelihood to use
              Time step to execute in
time_step_proportion
                           Proportion through the time step to analyse the partition from
         Years to execute in
years
```

@observation[label].type=process_biomass

```
Catchability of Biomass
catchability
categories
               Category labels to use
         Delta value for error values
delta
error_value_multiplier
                             Error value multiplier for likelihood
              The error values to use against the observation values
error_value
likelihood_multiplier
                            Likelihood score multiplier
likelihood
               Type of likelihood to use
       Observation values
                  Process error
process_error
process Process label
                         Process proportion
process_proportion
selectivities
                   Selectivity labels to use
simulation_likelihood
                            Simulation likelihood to use
              Time step to execute in
time_step
         Years to execute in
years
```

@observation[label].type=time_step_biomass

```
Catchability of Biomass
catchability
               Category labels to use
categories
         Delta value for error values
delta
                             Error value multiplier for likelihood
error_value_multiplier
error_value
                The error values to use against the observation values
likelihood_multiplier
                            Likelihood score multiplier
               Type of likelihood to use
likelihood
       Observation values
obs
                   Process error
process_error
                   Selectivity labels to use
selectivities
simulation_likelihood
                            Simulation likelihood to use
time_step Time step to execute in
time_step_proportion
                           Proportion through the time step to analyse the partition from
years
         Years to execute in
```

@observation[label].type=process_proportions_at_age

age_plus Use age plus group Label of ageing error to use ageing_error Category labels to use categories delta Delta Error value multiplier for likelihood error_value_multiplier likelihood_multiplier Likelihood score multiplier likelihood Type of likelihood to use max_age Maximum age min_age Minimum age process_errors Process error Process label process process_proportion Process proportion Selectivity labels to use selectivities simulation_likelihood Simulation likelihood to use time_step Time step to execute in Tolerance tolerance years Year to execute in

@observation[label].type=time_step_proportions_at_age

Use age plus group age_plus Label of ageing error to use ageing_error categories Category labels to use delta Delta error_value_multiplier Error value multiplier for likelihood likelihood_multiplier Likelihood score multiplier likelihood Type of likelihood to use max_age Maximum age Minimum age min_age Process error process_errors Selectivity labels to use selectivities simulation_likelihood Simulation likelihood to use time_step Time step to execute in Proportion through the time step to analyse the partition from time_step_proportion Tolerance tolerance Year to execute in years

@observation[label].type=proportions_at_age_for_fishery

Label of ageing error to use ageing_error categories Category labels to use delta Delta error_value_multiplier Error value multiplier for likelihood Label of fishery the observation is from likelihood_multiplier Likelihood score multiplier Type of likelihood to use likelihood Maximum age max_age min_age Minimum age Process error process_errors Process label process simulation_likelihood Simulation likelihood to use Time steps that the fisheries are in time_step tolerance Tolerance Year to execute in vears

@observation[label].type=process_proportions_at_length

Category labels to use categories delta Delta error_value_multiplier Error value multiplier for likelihood length_bins Length bins length_plus_group Is the last bin a plus group likelihood_multiplier Likelihood score multiplier Type of likelihood to use likelihood process_errors Process error Process label process process_proportion Process proportion Selectivity labels to use selectivities Simulation likelihood to use simulation_likelihood Time step to execute in time_step tolerance Tolerance for rescaling proportions Year to execute in vears

@observation[label].type=time_step_proportions_at_length

Category labels to use categories delta Delta error_value_multiplier Error value multiplier for likelihood length_bins Length bins Is the last bin a plus group length_plus_group likelihood_multiplier Likelihood score multiplier Type of likelihood to use likelihood process_errors Process error selectivities Selectivity labels to use Simulation likelihood to use simulation_likelihood Time step to execute in time_step time_step_proportion Proportion through the time step to analyse the partition from Tolerance for rescaling proportions Year to execute in years

@observation[label].type=proportions_at_length_for_fishery

categories Category labels to use delta Delta Error value multiplier for likelihood error_value_multiplier fishery Label of fishery the observation is from length_bins Length bins length_plus_group Is the last bin a plus group likelihood_multiplier Likelihood score multiplier Type of likelihood to use likelihood process_errors Process error Process label process process_proportion Process proportion simulation_likelihood Simulation likelihood to use Time step to execute in time_step Tolerance for rescaling proportions tolerance Year to execute in years

@observation[label].type=process_proportions_by_category

age_plus Use age plus group Category labels to use categories delta Delta Error value multiplier for likelihood error_value_multiplier likelihood_multiplier Likelihood score multiplier likelihood Type of likelihood to use max_age Maximum age min_age Minimum age Process error process_errors Process label process **Process proportion** process_proportion selectivities Selectivity labels to use Simulation likelihood to use simulation_likelihood **Target Categories** categories2 selectivities2 **Target Selectivities** Time step to execute in time_step Year to execute in years

@observation[label].type=time_step_proportions_by_category

```
categories
               Category labels to use
delta
          Delta
                             Error value multiplier for likelihood
error_value_multiplier
likelihood_multiplier
                            Likelihood score multiplier
likelihood
               Type of likelihood to use
           Maximum age
max_age
           Minimum age
min_age
process_errors
                   Process error
selectivities
                   Selectivity labels to use
                            Simulation likelihood to use
simulation_likelihood
                 Target Categories
categories2
selectivities2
                    Target Selectivities
              Time step to execute in
time_step
time_step_proportion
                          Proportion through the time step to analyse the partition from
years
         Year to execute in
```

@observation[label].type=proportions_migrating

```
Use age plus group
age_plus
ageing_error
                 Label of ageing error to use
               Category labels to use
categories
delta
          Delta
                             Error value multiplier for likelihood
error_value_multiplier
likelihood_multiplier
                            Likelihood score multiplier
likelihood
               Type of likelihood to use
max_age
           Maximum age
           Minimum age
min_age
process_errors
                    Process error
            Process label
process
process_proportion
                        Process proportion
                            Simulation likelihood to use
simulation_likelihood
              Time step to execute in
time_step
          Year to execute in
years
```

@observation[label].type=tag_recapture_by_age

```
categories
              Category labels to use
delta
         Delta
             Detection probability
detection
error_value_multiplier
                         Error value multiplier for likelihood
likelihood_multiplier
                          Likelihood score multiplier
              Type of likelihood to use
likelihood
          Maximum age
max_age
min_age Minimum age
process_errors
                  Process error
selectivities
                  Selectivity labels to use
                          Simulation likelihood to use
simulation_likelihood
categories2
               Target Categories
selectivities2
                   Target Selectivities
time_step Time step to execute in
time_step_proportion
                         Proportion through the time step to analyse the partition from
        Year to execute in
years
@observation[label].type=tag_recapture_by_length
```

```
Category labels to use
categories
         Delta
delta
              Detection probability
detection
                            Error value multiplier for likelihood
error_value_multiplier
length_bins Length Bins
likelihood_multiplier
                           Likelihood score multiplier
likelihood Type of likelihood to use
              Last length bin a plus group
plus_group
process_errors
                   Process error
                  Selectivity labels to use
selectivities
                           Simulation likelihood to use
simulation_likelihood
                Target Categories
categories2
                   Target Selectivities
selectivities2
time_step Time step to execute in
                          Proportion through the time step to analyse the partition from
time_step_proportion
         Year to execute in
@penalty label
                      Define an object type Penalty
        Label
label
        Type
type
```

@penalty[label].type=process

```
log_scale    Log scale
multiplier    Multiplier
@process label    Define an object type Process
print_report    Generate parameter report
label    Label
type    Type
```

@process[label].type=ageing

categories Categories
print_report Generate parameter report

@process[label].type=growth

@process[label].type=maturation

print_report Generate parameter report
from List of categories to mature from
rates The rates to mature for each year
selectivities List of selectivities to use for maturation
to List of categories to mature too
years The years to be associated with rates

@process[label].type=mortality_constant_rate

categories List of categories
print_report Generate parameter report
m Mortality rates
time_step_ratio Time step ratios for M
selectivities Selectivities

@process[label].type=mortality_event

catches Catches
categories Categories
print_report Generate parameter report
penalty Penalty label
selectivities List of selectivities
u_max U Max
years Years

@process[label].type=mortality_event_biomass

catches Catches for each year
categories Category labels
print_report Generate parameter report
penalty Penalty label
selectivities Selectivity labels
u_max U Max
years Years to apply mortality

@process[label].type=mortality_holling_rate

a parameter a

parameter b print_report Generate parameter report penalty Label of penalty to be applied Predator Categories labels predator_categories Selectivities for predator categories predator_selectivities Prey Categories labels prey_categories Selectivities for prey categories prey_selectivities u_max Umax parameter x Year to execute in vears

@process[label].type=mortality_instantaneous

@process[label].type=mortality_prey_suitability

consumption_rate Predator consumption rate print_report Generate parameter report **Prey Electivities** electivities Label of penalty to be applied penalty predator_categories **Predator Categories labels** predator_selectivities Selectivities for predator categories prey_categories **Prey Categories labels** prey_selectivities Selectivities for prey categories u_max Umax Year that process occurs years

@process[label].type=nop

@process[label].type=recruitment_beverton_holt

Age to recruit at aσe categories Category labels Generate parameter report print_report B0 Label Priors for year class strength on yes values (not standardised yes prior_standardised_vcs values proportions **Proportions** r0R0SSB Label (derived quantity ssb SSB Offset (year offset ssb_offset Years that are included for year class standardisation standardise_ycs_years steepness Steepness ycs_values YCS Values

@process[label].type=recruitment_constant

age Age categories Categories print_report $Generate\ parameter\ report$ proportions Proportions r0 R0

@process[label].type=tag_by_age

Generate parameter report print_report from Categories to transition from initial_mortality initial_mortality_selectivity loss_rate loss_rate_selectivities max_age Maximum age to transition Minimum age to transition min_age penalty Penalty label selectivities Categories to transition to U Max u_max Years to execute the transition in years

@process[label].type=tag_by_length

Generate parameter report print_report from Categories to transition from initial_mortality initial_mortality_selectivity loss_rate loss_rate_selectivities Penalty label penalty Use plus group for last length bin plus_group selectivities Categories to transition to U Max u_max Years to execute the transition in years

@process[label].type=transition_category

print_report Generate parameter report from From proportions Proportions selectivities Selectivity names to To

@process[label].type=transition_category_by_age

from Categories to transition from

max_age Maximum age to transition

min_age Minimum age to transition

penalty Penalty label

to Categories to transition to

u_max U Max

years Years to execute the transition in

@profile *label* Define an object type Profile

label Label

lower_bound The lower bounds

parameter The system parameter to profile

steps The number of steps to take between the lower and upper bound

type

upper_bound The upper bounds

@report label Define an object type Report

file_name File Name

label Label

type Type

write_mode Write mode

@report[label].type=ageing_error_matrix

ageing_error Ageing Error label

file_name File Name

@report[label].type=category_info

file_name File Name

write_mode Write mode

@report[label].type=category_list

file_name File Name

write_mode Write mode

@report[label].type=covariance_matrix

file_name File Name

write_mode Write mode

@report[label].type=derived_quantity

file_name File Name

write_mode Write mode

@report[label].type=estimable

17 Quick reference

file_name File Name

parameter Parameter to print
time_step Time Step label
write_mode Write mode

years Years to print the estimable for

@report[label].type=estimate_summary

file_name File Name
write_mode Write mode

@report[label].type=estimate_value

file_name File Name write_mode Write mode

@report[label].type=initialisation_partition

file_name File Name
write_mode Write mode

@report[label].type=mcmc_covariance

file_name File Name
write_mode Write mode

@report[label].type=mcmc_objective

file_name File Name
write_mode Write mode

@report[label].type=mcmc_sample

file_name File Name
write_mode Write mode

@report[label].type=m_p_d

file_name File Name
write_mode Write mode

@report[label].type=objective_function

file_name File Name write_mode Write mode

@report[label].type=observation

file_name File Name

observation Observation label

@report[label].type=output_parameters

file_name File Name
write_mode Write mode

@report[label].type=partition

file_name File Name
time_step Time Step label
write_mode Write mode
years Years

@report[label].type=partition_biomass

file_name File Name
time_step Time Step label
units Units (Default Kgs
write_mode Write mode
years Years

@report[label].type=partition_mean_weight

file_name File Name
time_step Time Step label
write_mode Write mode
years Years

@report[label].type=process

file_name File Name
process Process label that is reported
write_mode Write mode

@report[label].type=random_number_seed

file_name File Name
write_mode Write mode

@report[label].type=selectivity

file_name File Name
selectivity Selectivity name
write_mode Write mode

@report[label].type=simulated_observation

file_name File Name
observation Observation label
write_mode Write mode

@report[label].type=standard_header

file_name File Name
write_mode Write mode

@selectivity label Define an object type Selectivity

label Label

intervals Number of quantiles to evaluate a length based selectivity over the age length

distribution
type Type

@selectivity[label].type=all_values

intervals Number of quantiles to evaluate a length based selectivity over the age length

distribution

v V

@selectivity[label].type=all_values_bounded

h H

length_based Is the selectivity length based

l L

intervals Number of quantiles to evaluate a length based selectivity over the age length

distribution

v V

@selectivity[label].type=constant

c (

length_based Is the selectivity length based

intervals Number of quantiles to evaluate a length based selectivity over the age length

distribution

@selectivity[label].type=double_exponential

alpha Alpha

length_based Is the selectivity length based

intervals Number of quantiles to evaluate a length based selectivity over the age length

distribution

x0 **X**0

x1 X1

x2 **X2**

y0 **Y0**

y1 Y1

y2 **Y2**

@selectivity[label].type=double_normal

alpha Alpha

mu **Mu**

intervals Number of quantiles to evaluate a length based selectivity over the age length

distribution

 $\begin{array}{ll} \text{sigma-l} & \textbf{Sigma} \, L \\ \text{sigma-r} & \textbf{Sigma} \, R \end{array}$

@selectivity[label].type=increasing

alpha Alpha

h **High**

length_based Is the selectivity length based

1 Low

intervals Number of quantiles to evaluate a length based selectivity over the age length

distribution

v V

@selectivity[label].type=inverse_logistic

a50 **A50**

alpha Alpha

ato95 aTo95

length_based Is the selectivity length based

intervals Number of quantiles to evaluate a length based selectivity over the age length

distribution

@selectivity[label].type=knife_edge

alpha Alpha

e Edge

length_based Is the selectivity length based

intervals Number of quantiles to evaluate a length based selectivity over the age length

distribution

@selectivity[label].type=logistic

a50 A50

alpha Alpha

ato95 Ato95

intervals Number of quantiles to evaluate a length based selectivity over the age length

distribution

@selectivity[label].type=logistic_producing

a50 A50

```
Alpha
alpha
        Ato95
ato95
   High
length_based
               Is the selectivity length based
    Low
             Number of quantiles to evaluate a length based selectivity over the age length
intervals
distribution
                           Define an object type Length_Weight
@length_weight label
        Label
type
       Type
@length_weight[label].type=basic
    A
    В
b
units
        Units of measure (tonnes, kgs, grams
@length_weight[label].type=none
@time_step label Define an object type Time_Step
        Label
label
             Processes
processes
type
```

18. References

- R.J.H. Beverton and S.J. Holt. *On the dynamics of exploited fish populations*. Fishery investigations. HMSO, London, 1957.
- B. Bull, R.I.C.C. Francis, A. Dunn, A. McKenzie, D.J. Gilbert, M.H. Smith, R. Bian, and D. Fu. CASAL C++ Algorithmic Stock Assessment Laboratory): CASAL user manual v2.30-2012/03/21. Technical Report 135, NIWA, 2012.
- J. E. Dennis Jr and R.B. Schnabel. *Numerical methods for unconstrained optimisation and nonlinear equations*. Classics in Applied Mathematics. Prentice Hall, 1996.
- V.; Bull B Francis, R.I.C.C.; Haist. Assessment of hoki (macruronus novaezelandiae) in 2002 using a new model. *New Zealand Fisheries Assessment Report*, 6, 2003.
- A B Gelman, J S Carlin, H S Stern, and D B Rubin. *Bayesian data analysis*. Chapman and Hall, London, 1995.
- W R Gilks, A Thomas, and D J Spiegelhalter. A language and program for complex Bayesian modelling. *The Statistician*, 43(1):169–177, 1994.
- Davis E. King. Dlib-ml: A machine learning toolkit. *Journal of Machine Learning Research*, 10: 1755–1758, 2009.
- Makoto Matsumoto and Takuji Nishimura. Mersenne twister: a 623-dimensionally equidistributed uniform pseudo-random number generator. *ACM Transactions on Modeling and Computer Simulation: Special Issue on Uniform Random Number Generation*, 8(1):3–30, January 1998.
- Andre E. Punt and Ray Hilborn. *BAYES-SA. Bayesian stock assessment methods in fisheries. User's manual. FAO Computerized information series (fisheries) 12.* Food and Agriculture Organisation of the United Nations, Rome (Italy)., 2001.
- J Schnute. A versatile growth model with statistically stable parameters. *Canadian Journal of Fisheries and Aquatic Sciences*, 38(9):1128–1140, 1981.
- Rainer Storn and Kenneth Price. Differential evolution a simple and efficient adaptive scheme for global optimization over continuous spaces. Technical Report TR-95-012, International Computer Science Institute, Berkeley, CA, 1995. URL http://citeseer.ist.psu.edu/182432.html.
- Andreas Wächter and Lorenz T Biegler. On the implementation of an interior-point filter line-search algorithm for large-scale nonlinear programming. *Mathematical programming*, 106(1): 25–57, 2006.
- Andrea Walther, Andreas Kowarz, and Andreas Griewank. Adol-c: a package for the automatic differentiation of algorithms written in c/c++. *ACM TOMS*, 22(2):131–167, 1996.

19. CASAL² license (GNU LESSER GENERAL PUBLIC LICENSE)

Copyright © 2007 Free Software Foundation, Inc. http://fsf.org/

Everyone is permitted to copy and distribute verbatim copies of this license document, but changing it is not allowed.

This version of the GNU Lesser General Public License incorporates the terms and conditions of version 3 of the GNU General Public License, supplemented by the additional permissions listed below.

0. Additional Definitions.

As used herein, "this License" refers to version 3 of the GNU Lesser General Public License, and the "GNU GPL" refers to version 3 of the GNU General Public License.

"The Library" refers to a covered work governed by this License, other than an Application or a Combined Work as defined below.

An "Application" is any work that makes use of an interface provided by the Library, but which is not otherwise based on the Library. Defining a subclass of a class defined by the Library is deemed a mode of using an interface provided by the Library.

A "Combined Work" is a work produced by combining or linking an Application with the Library. The particular version of the Library with which the Combined Work was made is also called the "Linked Version".

The "Minimal Corresponding Source" for a Combined Work means the Corresponding Source for the Combined Work, excluding any source code for portions of the Combined Work that, considered in isolation, are based on the Application, and not on the Linked Version.

The "Corresponding Application Code" for a Combined Work means the object code and/or source code for the Application, including any data and utility programs needed for reproducing the Combined Work from the Application, but excluding the System Libraries of the Combined Work.

1. Exception to Section 3 of the GNU GPL.

You may convey a covered work under sections 3 and 4 of this License without being bound by section 3 of the GNU GPL.

2. Conveying Modified Versions.

If you modify a copy of the Library, and, in your modifications, a facility refers to a function or data to be supplied by an Application that uses the facility (other than as an argument passed when the facility is invoked), then you may convey a copy of the modified version:

- a) under this License, provided that you make a good faith effort to ensure that, in the event an Application does not supply the function or data, the facility still operates, and performs whatever part of its purpose remains meaningful, or
- b) under the GNU GPL, with none of the additional permissions of this License applicable to that copy.
- 3. Object Code Incorporating Material from Library Header Files.

The object code form of an Application may incorporate material from a header file that is part of the Library. You may convey such object code under terms of your choice, provided that, if the incorporated material is not limited to numerical parameters, data structure layouts and accessors, or small macros, inline functions and templates (ten or fewer lines in length), you do both of the following:

- a) Give prominent notice with each copy of the object code that the Library is used in it and that the Library and its use are covered by this License.
- b) Accompany the object code with a copy of the GNU GPL and this license document.

4. Combined Works.

You may convey a Combined Work under terms of your choice that, taken together, effectively do not restrict modification of the portions of the Library contained in the Combined Work and reverse engineering for debugging such modifications, if you also do each of the following:

- a) Give prominent notice with each copy of the Combined Work that the Library is used in it and that the Library and its use are covered by this License.
- b) Accompany the Combined Work with a copy of the GNU GPL and this license document.
- c) For a Combined Work that displays copyright notices during execution, include the copyright notice for the Library among these notices, as well as a reference directing the user to the copies of the GNU GPL and this license document.
- d) Do one of the following:
 - Onvey the Minimal Corresponding Source under the terms of this License, and the Corresponding Application Code in a form suitable for, and under terms that permit, the user to recombine or relink the Application with a modified version of the Linked Version to produce a modified Combined Work, in the manner specified by section 6 of the GNU GPL for conveying Corresponding Source.
 - 1) Use a suitable shared library mechanism for linking with the Library. A suitable mechanism is one that (a) uses at run time a copy of the Library already present on the user's computer system, and (b) will operate properly with a modified version of the Library that is interface-compatible with the Linked Version.
- e) Provide Installation Information, but only if you would otherwise be required to provide such information under section 6 of the GNU GPL, and only to the extent that such information is necessary to install and execute a modified version of the Combined Work produced by recombining or relinking the Application with a modified version of the Linked Version. (If you use option 4d0, the Installation Information must accompany the Minimal Corresponding Source and Corresponding Application Code. If you use option 4d1, you must provide the Installation Information in the manner specified by section 6 of the GNU GPL for conveying Corresponding Source.)

5. Combined Libraries.

You may place library facilities that are a work based on the Library side by side in a single library together with other library facilities that are not Applications and are not covered by this License, and convey such a combined library under terms of your choice, if you do both of the following:

- a) Accompany the combined library with a copy of the same work based on the Library, uncombined with any other library facilities, conveyed under the terms of this License.
- b) Give prominent notice with the combined library that part of it is a work based on the Library, and explaining where to find the accompanying uncombined form of the same work.

6. Revised Versions of the GNU Lesser General Public License.

The Free Software Foundation may publish revised and/or new versions of the GNU Lesser General Public License from time to time. Such new versions will be similar in spirit to the present version, but may differ in detail to address new problems or concerns.

Each version is given a distinguishing version number. If the Library as you received it specifies that a certain numbered version of the GNU Lesser General Public License "or any later version" applies to it, you have the option of following the terms and conditions either of that published version or of any later version published by the Free Software Foundation. If the Library as you received it does not specify a version number of the GNU Lesser General Public License, you may choose any version of the GNU Lesser General Public License ever published by the Free Software Foundation.

If the Library as you received it specifies that a proxy can decide whether future versions of the GNU Lesser General Public License shall apply, that proxy's public statement of acceptance of any version is permanent authorization for you to choose that version for the Library.

20. Index

CASAL ² source code, 2	Command line arguments, 9, 10
	Commands, 11
About CASAL ² , 5	Commands
Abundance or biomass observations, 35	Subcommands, 12
Age-length relationship, 11, 66	Commenting out lines, 13
Ageing, 4, 6	Comments, 13
Ageing error, 38	Common Public License, 1
Annual cycle, 2, 4, 5, 15	Constant mortality, 7
Available reports, 119	Constant Recruitment, 5
D 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1	Convergence failure, 21
Basic length-weight relationship, 12	Correlation matrix, 21
Bayesian estimation, 22, 23	Covariance matrix, 19, 21
Beta prior, 27	
Beverton-Holt recruitment, 4, 5	Defining ageing error, 118
Binomial likelihood	Defining catchability constants, 96
proportions-by-category, 35	Defining penalties, 96
Binomial likelihood (normal approximation)	Defining priors on parameter ratios, differences and
proportions-by-category, 35	means, 97
BOOST C++ library, 2	Derived quantities, 5, 11, 64
Bounds, 20	Derived quantities by cell, 5
	Determining parameter names, 13
Calculation of length-at-age (in an age-based model),	Differential evolution minimiser, 2, 20
12	
Calculation of mean weight, 13	Estimable parameters, 9
CASAL, 6	Estimate Transformations, 28
Categories, 46	Inverse, 28
Category transition, 4	log, 28
Citation, 1	Log odds, 28
Citing CASAL ² , 1	Simplex, 28
Command	Estimated parameters, 6, 12
additional_prior, 97	Estimating parameters, 20
age_length, 66, 141	Estimation methods, 80
ageing_error, 118, 141	Estimation section, 6
catchability, 96, 142	Event mortality, 7
categories, 46	Examples, 133
derived_quantity, 64, 142, 147	Exit status value, 14
estimate, 80, 143	,
include, 132	Finite differences minimiser, 2, 20
Include files, 13	
initialisation_phase, 44, 145	Getting help, 2
length_weight, 71, 165	
likelihood, 115, 146	Hessian, 19, 21
mcmc, 93, 148	T 1 1 101 100
minimiser, 88, 148	Include an external file, 132
model, 43, 150	Including external files, 10
observation, 100, 150	Initialisation, 2, 3, 15, 44
penalty, 96, 155	phases, 3
process, 47, 155	Input configuration file, 6, 9
profile, 95, 159	Input configuration file syntax, 11
report, 120, 159	Instantaneous mortality, 8
selectivity, 72, 163	Interpolation of length-at-age, 12
time_step, 47, 166	Towards of the 71
time_varying, 61	Length-weight, 71
Command block format, 12	Likelihoods, 29, 115
	Linux, 1, 2, 6, 9

	•
Local minimums, 21	Priors, 20
Lognormal likelihood	Priors
abundance, 37	Beta, 27
biomass, 37	Lognormal, 26
proportions-at-age, 33	Normal, 26
Lognormal prior, 26	Uniform, 26
	Uniform-log, 26
Maturation, 9	Process error, 37
Maturity, in models without maturing in the partition,	Processes, 5, 47
13	Profiles, 19, 95
Maximum exploitation rate, 8	Projection year, 2
Maximum posterior density estimate (MPD), 19	Projections, 4
MCMC, 19, 23	Proportions-at-age across aggregated categories, 31
Microsoft Windows, 1, 2, 6, 9	Proportions-at-age for a single category, 30
Migration, 9	Proportions-at-age for multiple categories, 31
Mingw, 2	
Model	Proportions-at-age observations, 29
annual cycle, 5	Proportions-by-category observations, 33
	Pseudo-observations, 39
derived quantities, 5	Oussi Navyton iterations 21
derived quantities by cell, 5	Quasi-Newton iterations, 21
initialisation, 15	Random number generator, 2
partition, 5	Recruitment, 4
processes, 5	
state, 5	Recruitment
time-steps, 5	Beverton-Holt, 4
Model overview, 5	Constant, 4
Model structure, 43	Redirecting standard error, 10
Model years, 4	Redirecting standard out, 10
Monte Carlo Markov Chain (MCMC), 19, 23, 93	Redirecting standard output, 10
Mortality, 4, 7	Report commands and subcommands, 120
MPD (Maximum posterior density estimate), 19	Report section, 6, 7
Multi-phase iteration, 3	Reports, 41
Multinomial likelihood	Reports section, 41
proportions-at-age, 32	Run years, 2
	Running CASAL ² , 9
Necessary files, 2	
Normal likelihood	Schnute growth curve, 12
abundance, 37	Selectivities, 14, 72
biomass, 37	All-values, 15
Normal prior, 26	All-values-bounded, 15
Notifying errors, 2	Constant, 14
	Double-exponential, 16
Objective function, 20	Double-normal, 16
Objective function evaluations, 21	Increasing, 15
Observation section, 6, 7	Inverse-logistic, 15
Observation types, 99	Knife-edge, 15
Observations, 29	Logistic, 15
Optional command line arguments, 11	Logistic-producing, 16
Output header information, 10	Spline, 16
out it items in the internation, to	Setting the number of threads, 11
Parameter names, 13	Simulating observations, 38
Partition, 5	
Point estimation, 20, 88	Size-weight relationship, 12
Population processes, 4	Software license, 1
Population section, 6, 15	Specifying the parameters to be estimated, 20
Population structure, 15	standard error, 10
	standard output, 10
Posterior profiles, 22	State, 5

```
Subcommand argument type, 12
Successful convergence, 21
System requirements, 1
Tag release events, 11
Tag shedding rate, 11
Tasks, 9
Technical specifications, 2
The Betadiff minimiser, 22
The differential evolution minimiser, 21
The estimation section, 6, 19
The numerical differences minimiser, 20
The objective function, 19
The observation section, 6
The population section, 6, 15
The report section, 7, 41
The state object and the partition, 17
Threads
    setting, 11
Time sequences, 0, 2
Time Varying Parameters, 16
    Constant, 17
    Exogenous, 17
    Random Walk, 17
Time varying parameters, 61
Time-steps, 47
time-steps, 5
Uniform prior, 26
Uniform-log prior, 26
User assistance, 2
Using CASAL^2, 9
Version number, 1
von Bertalanffy growth curve, 12
```

Weightless model, 13