



Curve shapes

Useful
equations

Andrea Onofri

Introduzione

Forme
funzionali

Conoscere le
funzioni

- POLYNOMIALS

- ① Straight Line
- ② 2nd order polynomial

- CONVEX/CONCAVE CURVES

- ① Exponential model
- ② Power curve
- ③ Logarithmic equation
- ④ Rectangular hyperbola
- ⑤ Asymptotic regression

- SIGMOID CURVES

- ① Logistic symmetric
- ② Gompertz
- ③ Extreme value
- ④ Log-logistic (Hill function)
- ⑤ Weibull-1 (log-Gompertz)
- ⑥ Weibull-2 (log-Extreme)

- PEACKED CURVES

- ① Brain-Cousens model



Linear model

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$$Y = a + b \cdot X$$

- PARAMETERS: a is the value of Y when $X=0$; b is the growth rate (constant; unit increase in y when x increases of one unit)
- SHAPE: Straight line
- USAGE: local approximation of biological processes
- Very simple to parameterise!!!



2nd order polynomial

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$$Y = a + b \cdot X + c \cdot X^2$$

- PARAMETERS: a is the value of Y when $X=0$; b is the initial growth rate (when $X = 0$). The slope is $b + 2cX$. The maximum (minimum) is reached when $b + 2cX = 0$, i.e. at $X = -b/(2c)$.
- SHAPE: local approximation of curvilinear biological processes.
- USAGE: degradation kinetics, exponential growth
- Very simple to parameterise!!!



Exponential model

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$$Y = a \cdot b^X = a \cdot \exp(cX) = \exp(d + cX)$$

- PARAMETERS: A is the value of Y when X=0; b is the relative growth rate (constant)
- SHAPE: Exponential growth (concave increasing; $c > 0$) and exponential decay (concave decreasing $c < 0$)
- USAGE: degradation kinetics, exponential growth
- SELF STARTER FUNCTIONS: `NLSexponential.1()`, `NLSexponential.2()`, `DRCexponential.1()`, `DRCexponential.2()`



Rectangular hyperbola

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Definition

$$y = \frac{a \cdot x}{b + x}$$

- ALSO KNOWN AS: Michaelis-Menten model
- PARAMETERS: a : maximum value of the response; b x value at which half the maximum response is attained
- SHAPE: convex increasing
- USAGE: species-area curves, enzyme kinetics
- SELF STARTER FUNCTIONS: `SSmicmen()`; `MM.2()`



Rectangular hyperbola - 2

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Definition

$$y = \frac{i \cdot x}{1 + \frac{i \cdot x}{A}}$$

- PARAMETERS: i : initial slope; A maximum value
- SHAPE: convex increasing
- USAGE: competition studies (Cousens, 1985)
- SELF STARTER FUNCTIONS: DRCcousens85, NLScousens85



Power curve

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Definition

$$y = a \cdot X^b = a \cdot \exp[(b \cdot \log(X))]$$

- ALSO KNOWN AS: Allometric function, Freundlich equation
- PARAMETERS: X must be > 0 , b dictates the shape
- SHAPE: concave increasing ($b > 1$), concave decreasing ($b < 0$) or convex increasing ($0 < b < 1$).
- USAGE: sorption of pesticides, species-area curves
- SELF STARTER FUNCTIONS: `NLSpowerCurve()`; `DRCpowerCurve()`



Logarithmic equation

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IT IS A LINEAR MODEL (on log-transformed x)!

Definition

$$y = a + b \cdot \log(x)$$

- PARAMETERS: X must be > 0 , b dictates the shape
- SHAPE: concave increasing ($b > 0$), concave decreasing ($b < 0$)
- USAGE: species-area curves and many others
- SELF STARTER FUNCTIONS: `NLSlogCurve()`;
`DRClogCurve()`



Asymptotic regression

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Definition

$$plateau - (plateau - init) \cdot e^{-m \cdot x}$$

$$plateau - range \cdot e^{-m \cdot x}$$

$$plateau(1 - b \cdot e^{-m \cdot x})$$

- ALSO KNOWN AS: monomolecular growth, Mitscherlich law, negative exponential
- PARAMETERS: *plateau*: maximum attainable *y*; *init* *y* at *x*=0; *range* equals to *plateau* - *init*; *b* is the ratio *range*/*plateau* *m* relates to the RGR
- SHAPE: convex increasing
- USAGE: growth studies
- SELF STARTER FUNCTIONS: DRCmonoGrowth.1, DRCmonoGrowth.2, DRCmonoGrowth.3



Asymptotic regression - other parameterisations

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Definition

$$plateau - range \cdot e^{-m \cdot x}$$

$$plateau(1 - b) \cdot e^{-m \cdot x}$$

- PARAMETERS: *plateau*: maximum attainable *y*; *range*: *plateau* – *init*; *b*: *range*/*plateau*; *m* relates to the RGR
- SELF STARTER FUNCTIONS: DRCmonoGrowth.1, NLSmonoGrowth.1, DRCmonoGrowth.3, NLSmonoGrowth.3



Logistic Curve

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COUNTLESS PARAMETERISATIONS!

Definition

$$c + \frac{d - c}{1 + \exp(b(x - a))}$$

- PARAMETERS: d : maximum attainable y , c : minimum attainable y a X50, b slope at $x50$;
- SHAPE: symmetric sigmoid increasing ($b > 0$) or decreasing ($b < 0$)
- USAGE: growth studies and bioassay work (log-logistic o Hill's function)
- SELF STARTER FUNCTIONS SSfpl(), SSlogis ($d = 0$) (they give $1/b$, instead of b)



Gompertz Curve

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COUNTLESS PARAMETERISATIONS!

Definition

$$c + (d - c) * \exp(-\exp(b(x - e)))$$

- PARAMETERS: d : maximum attainable y , c : minimum attainable y a X_{50} , b slope around inflection;
- SHAPE: asymmetric sigmoid increasing ($b > 0$) or decreasing ($b < 0$)
- USAGE: growth studies and bioassay work (log-Gompertz or Weibull-1 function)
- SELF STARTER FUNCTION: SSGompertz ($d = 0$)



Model parameterisation

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A model is parameterised when its parameters are known. This is possible by using:

- local experience
- literature information
- measurements in appropriately planned experiments