Hello Serena!

I have prepared some forest data for you. Try and see if it works, if it doesn’t, then we will at least have learned something about the data.

We decided to scrap the distinction between deciduous and coniferous trees and go just by total volume, age and coverage.

The forest in Sweden has been measured during three years: 2000, 2005, and 2010. Since your data varies in time, and the forest does too (it grows, gets cut, etc), I have tried to match each fishing occasion to the corresponding forest data that is likely to be the best fit. Most of your data is post 1995, which is perfect. I assigned the data as below:

* All electrofishing occasions before and including 2000 will be assigned 2000-data.
* All electrofishing occasions from 2001 to 2005 will be assigned 2005-data.
* All electrofishing occasions 2006 and onwards will be assigned 2010-data.

Forest data was assigned to a specific site by creating a circular buffer of 700m radius around the point, corresponding to an area of ca 154 hectares. The reason for choosing an area as huge as 150 hectares is to decrease the error. The document supplied with the data shows a figure with the error magnitude in relation to the studied area. Errors seem pretty high below 50-100 hectares and flatten out at areas larger than that, see the figure at the end of this document.

Within each circle the following info was extracted:

* Coverage (how much of the circle that consisted of forest in hectares).
* Mean age of the forest within the circle
* Total volume of forest within the circle (m3)

We noticed that there were some empty patches in the data layers (in less than 5% of the instances). I e-mailed the person responsible for the database and asked why. I was told that in rare instances clouds can be in the way of the satellites which cause these data gaps. In those cases, I used the mean value from the other two years to fill in the gap. You can identify these cases (and exclude them if you want) by the variable “clouds=1”.

Some sites don’t have any data at all, maybe they are outside the data range for the forest data (in fjällen maybe); these are just specified as “NA”.

If you have any questions or if something feels off – just ask.

Mvh Calle och Erik

