Estimation of California Sea Otter's finite rate of growth

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The goal of this exercise is to estimate the finite growth rate of the sea otter population in the Monterey bay from the historical time series of population abundance. Specifically, wit this exercise, we will learn how:

- Read the data from a file
- Plot the data as a function of time in a natural and logarithmic scale
- Estimate the finite growth rate of this population
- Estimate how many years it takes for the population to double

Premise*

*excerpt from Ludina and Levin (1988)

> The California sea otter has recovered only recently (and dramatically) from years of overharvesting, although the population is still considered vulnerable to significant pollution events (VanBlaricom and Jameson 1982). In the eastern Pacific Ocean, fur traders hunted the sea otter to near extinction in the early 1900s. When relict populations were protected in 1911 by international treaty, the California sea otter was thought to be extinct (Kenyon 1969; Wild and Ames 1974). However, in 1914, a small population of about 50 otters was discovered near Point Sur on the central California coast (Bryant 1915; Bolin 1938; Wild and Ames 1974). Since that time, the otters have increased their population size and expanded their range to reoccupy portions of the habitat from which they had been extirpated (fig. 1; Kenyon 1969; Peterson and Odemar 1969; Wild and Ames 1974).

In the original paper, the authors gathred data from published and unpublished information graciously provided by the California Department of Fish and Game (CFG), the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS), and the Institute of Marine Sciences at the University of California, Santa Cruz (Carlisle 1966; Peterson and Odemar 1969; Wild and Ames 1974; Geibel and Miller 1984; Riedman and Estes, MS; E. Ebert, pers. comm.). These data reflect the historical process of sea otter range expansion through 1984. The data are of three types:

- descriptions of the extent of the otters' range over time

- estimates of the total otter population size

- and CFG flight reports of aerial surveys containing distributional data.

For the sake of this exercise, we will use the data on population size from 1914 to 1974.

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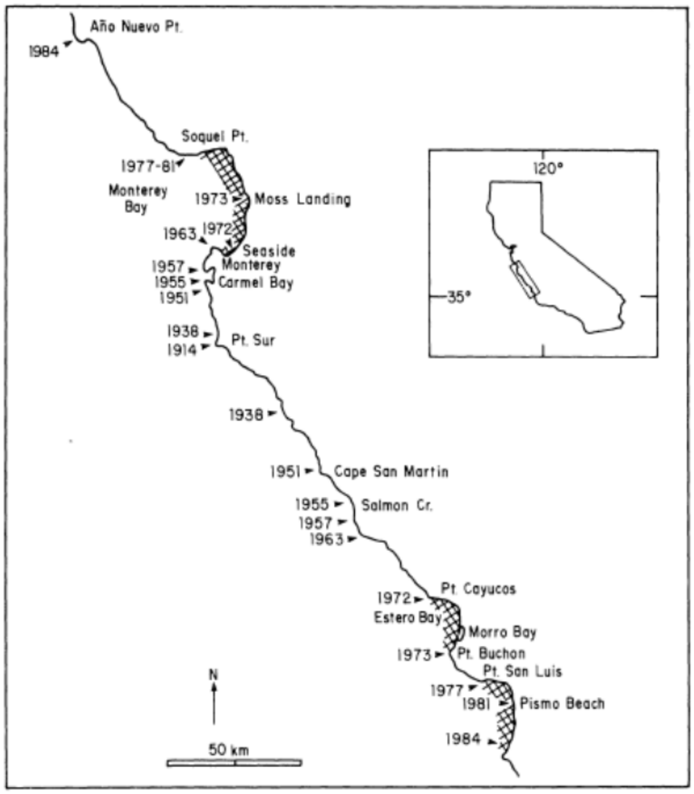


FIG. 1.—Expansion of the range of the California sea otter along the central California coast. Only representative locations of the position of the range boundaries are shown. Point Sur is the traditional location of the division of the range into northern and southern halves. *Crosshatching*, the approximate location of sandy or soft-bottom habitats. Data are taken from table 1. (Map after Wild and Ames 1974.)

Figure 1: from Ludina and Levin (1988)

Exercise

Let's read the file and, as it is a short one, just print screen its content:

```
df = as.data.frame(read.table("data/California_Sea_otters.csv", sep=",", header=T, na.string="-9.99"))
head(df)
```

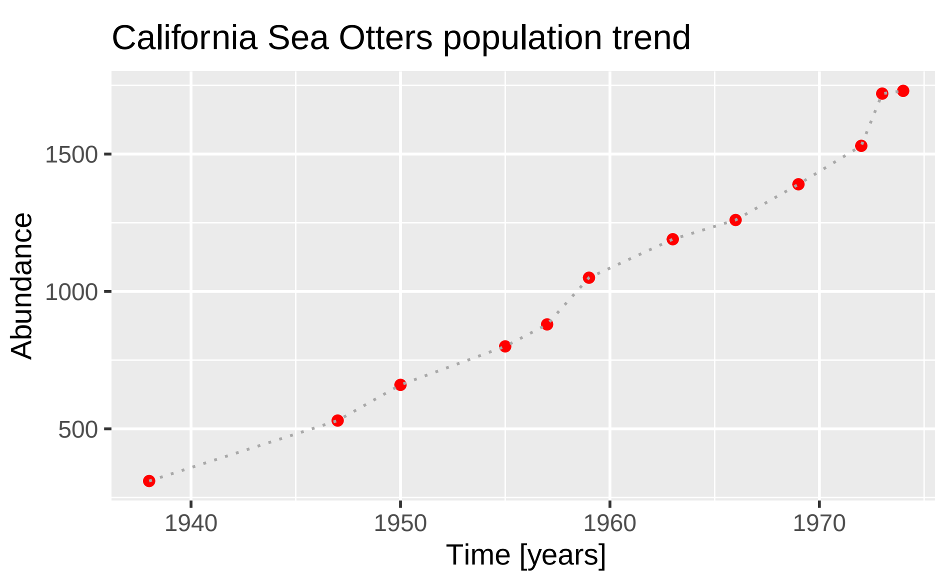
year	abundance
1938	310
1947	530
1950	660
1955	800
1957	880
1959	1050

To plot the result, let's load the *ggplot2()* package

```
if (!require("ggplot2")) install.packages("ggplot2")
library(ggplot2)
```

and then "build up" the plot:

```
ggplot() +
geom_point(data=df, mapping=aes(x=year, y=abundance ), color="red") + #the red points
geom_line( data=df, mapping=aes(x=year, y=abundance ), color = "darkgrey", linetype=3) + # a dotted lin
  ggtitle("California Sea Otters population trend") +  # the tite
  xlab("Time [years]") + ylab("Abundance") # the axis label
```



To estimate average growth rate, we assume here Malthusian growth. Accordingly:

$$N_{t+1} = \lambda N_t$$

which lead to:

$$N_t = N_0 \lambda^t$$

Let's take the logarithm of both the righ and left hand sides:

$$\log N_t = \log N_0 \lambda^t = \log N_0 + \log \lambda^t = \log N_0 + t \cdot \log \lambda$$

which is the equation of a straight line:

$$y = a + b \cdot x$$

with $y \equiv \log N_t$, $a \equiv \log N_0$, $b \equiv \log \lambda$, and $x \equiv t$.

In *R* it is straightforward to estimate the finite growth rate through linear regression, namely:

```
LogModel=lm(data = df, log(abundance)~year);
summary(LogModel)
```

```
##
## Call:
## lm(formula = log(abundance) ~ year, data = df)
##
## Residuals:
##       Min        1Q    Median        3Q       Max
## -0.141000 -0.045938 -0.009272  0.049430  0.128191
##
## Coefficients:
##               Estimate Std. Error t value Pr(>|t|)
## (Intercept) -81.866017   4.085515  -20.04 2.11e-09 ***
## year          0.045275   0.002084   21.72 9.55e-10 ***
## ---
## Signif. codes:  0 '***' 0.001 '**' 0.01 '*' 0.05 '.' 0.1 ' ' 1
##
## Residual standard error: 0.0786 on 10 degrees of freedom
## Multiple R-squared:  0.9792, Adjusted R-squared:  0.9772
## F-statistic: 471.9 on 1 and 10 DF,  p-value: 9.551e-10
```

We can extract intercept and slope

```
coef(LogModel)
```

```
##  (Intercept)         year
## -81.86601684   0.04527533
```

Now, assign the slope to a new parameter, say *igr* (*instantaneous growth rate*):

```
igr <- coef(LogModel)[2]; igr
```

```
##       year
## 0.04527533
```

derive confident intervals

```r
confint(LogModel, 'year', level=0.95)
```

```
##           2.5 %    97.5 %
## year 0.04063156 0.0499191
```

... and the the corresponding finite growth rate

```r
lambda <- exp(igr); lambda
```

```
##     year
## 1.046316
```

Here we create a new data frame to plot the results

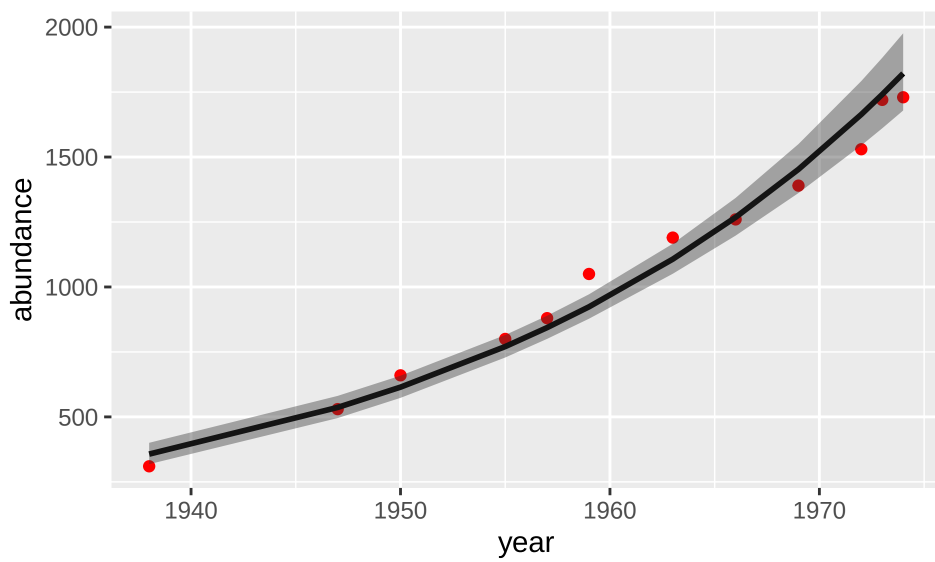
```r
temp.mat <-  predict(LogModel, newdata = df, interval = "confidence"); as.data.frame(temp.mat)
```

fit	lwr	upr
5.877572	5.762543	5.992602
6.285050	6.205415	6.364686
6.420876	6.351439	6.490313
6.647253	6.591126	6.703380
6.737804	6.685043	6.790564
6.828354	6.777467	6.879242
7.009456	6.957312	7.061599
7.145282	7.088108	7.202455
7.281108	7.216247	7.345968
7.416934	7.342549	7.491319
7.462209	7.384354	7.540064
7.507484	7.426042	7.588927

```r
conf.int <-  data.frame(year = df$year, abundance = df$abundance, fit = exp(fitted(LogModel)),
                        lwr = exp(temp.mat[,'lwr']), upr = exp(temp.mat[,'upr']) ); conf.int
```

year	abundance	fit	lwr	upr
1938	310	356.9417	318.1565	400.4550
1947	530	536.4913	495.4245	580.9622
1950	660	614.5414	573.3174	658.7297
1955	800	770.6644	728.6009	815.1564
1957	880	843.7057	800.3455	889.4149
1959	1050	923.6695	877.8421	971.8894
1963	1190	1107.0517	1050.8054	1166.3087
1966	1260	1268.1084	1197.6396	1342.7236
1969	1390	1452.5961	1361.3703	1549.9350
1972	1530	1663.9235	1544.6439	1792.4140
1973	1720	1740.9896	1610.5864	1881.9511
1974	1730	1821.6251	1679.1476	1976.1920

```r
ggplot(conf.int, aes(year,abundance)) + geom_point(color = 'red') +
  geom_line(aes(year, fit), size = 1, linetype = 1) + # fitted lines
  geom_ribbon(aes(ymin = lwr, ymax = upr), alpha=0.4) # confidence intervals
```



Now, compute the number of years this population took to double in size

```r
# report the script and result here
```

Assignment

Estimate population growth rate for the grayseal puppy abundance in Sable island, use the following file in the "data" folder:

- Grey_seal_puppy_production_Sable_Island_time_trend_data.csv

Likewise for the loggerhead turtle population in the Great Barrier Reef in Australia, use the following file in the "data" folder:

- australian_gbr_Loggerhead_sea_turtle_data.csv