Exercise 2: Decomposing the crude death rate following Canudas-Romo & Vaupel 2002

Let the function $v(x, y)$ be equivalent to the force of mortality $\mu(a, t)$ at age a and time t and let the weighting function be the age-specific population size. Then it follows directly from equation (5) that

$$\dot{\bar{\mu}} = \bar{\dot{\mu}} + Cov(\mu, r) \tag{1}$$

where $\bar{\mu}(t)$ is the crude death rate (CDR) of the population.

The file Data__Exercise__2.RData contains mortality and exposure data for Danish females from 1991 to 1997. The exercise consists in decomposing the changes in CDR following Vaupel & Canudas-Romo (2002) or equation (5)

You'll need the package 'data.table' to follow this handout. Start by loading the data.

```
#install.packages('data.table')
library(data.table)
load('Data_Exercise_2.RData')
```

To compute the CDR we need age-specific mortality and the population structure to calculate the weighted average.

```
#get the age-specific mortality rates
Denmark.data$mx <- Denmark.data$Deaths/Denmark.data$Exposures

#get the population structure
Denmark.data <- Denmark.data[,Nx := Exposures/sum(Exposures), by = list(Year)]

head(Denmark.data)
```

```
##    Year Age Deaths Exposures           mx         Nx
## 1: 1991   0    471  64045.18 0.0073541834 0.01242440
## 2: 1991   1     46  62578.94 0.0007350716 0.01213995
## 3: 1991   2     18  60531.68 0.0002973650 0.01174280
## 4: 1991   3     15  57826.77 0.0002593954 0.01121806
## 5: 1991   4     13  56531.29 0.0002299611 0.01096675
## 6: 1991   5      7  55455.50 0.0001262273 0.01075805
```

```
#get CDR by year
CDR <- Denmark.data[,list(CDR = sum(mx*Nx, na.rm = T)*1000), by = list(Year)]
CDR
```

```
##    Year      CDR
## 1: 1991 11.55837
## 2: 1992 11.76037
## 3: 1993 12.10314
## 4: 1994 11.73601
## 5: 1995 12.06028
## 6: 1996 11.59864
## 7: 1997 11.33746
```

Now we need an approximation from continuous to descrete of the derivative od the CDR:

```r
# mean change from 1991 to 1997 centered in 1994
mu.bar.dot <- mean(diff(CDR$CDR))
mu.bar.dot
```

```
## [1] -0.03681899
```

To get $\bar{\dot{\mu}}$ we need an approximation for the age-pecific mortality change over time and the population structure to compute the weighted average:

```r
# get change of age specific mortality over time
mu.dot.x <- Denmark.data[, list(mu.dot = mean(diff(mx,na.rm = T),na.rm = T)), by = list(Age)]

# population structure of 1994
structure.1994 <- Denmark.data[Denmark.data$Year==1994,]$Nx

# get the average applying the structure of 1994
# This is the direct effect
direct.effect <- sum(mu.dot.x$mu.dot*structure.1994)*1000
direct.effect
```

```
## [1] -0.06905885
```

Now we need to calculate the $Cov(\mu, r)$. We wil use the formula:

$$Cov(w, \acute{w}) = E(v\acute{w}) - E(v)E(\acute{w}) \tag{2}$$

First, we need r, the growth rate, as the relative derivative of the population structure. Then we need the change in age specific mortality and apply to both the weights.

```r
#get the poulation growth rate for each age over time
r <- Denmark.data[,list(r = mean(unlist(lapply(1:(length(Exposures)-1),function(x){
  y <- log(Exposures[x+1]/Exposures[x])
  y
})))), by = list(Age)]

#get the average of age specific mortality rates
mean.mu.x <- Denmark.data[, list(mu.x = mean(mx,na.rm = T)), by = list(Age)]

#get the weighted average
mean.r.mu <- sum(mean.mu.x$mu.x*r$r*structure.1994, na.rm = T)*1000

#get the weighted average growth rate
mean.r    <- sum(r$r*structure.1994,na.rm = T)

#get the weighted average mortality rate
mean.mu   <- sum(mean.mu.x$mu.x*structure.1994 ,na.rm = T)
```

Finally, we calculate the covariance, or compositional effect, as in equation (2) and compare the decomposition result with the approximation of the change in the CDR.

```r
#get the covariance (compositional effect)
Compositional.effect <- mean.r.mu - mean.r*mean.mu*1000

#get total from decomposition
round(direct.effect + Compositional.effect,3)
```

```
## [1] -0.037
```

```r
#original approximation
round(mu.bar.dot,3)
```

```
## [1] -0.037
```