

# Life expectancy: a global health index

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- M1 MIDS MA7BY020
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## Objectives

## Loading

```
datafile <- 'tamed_life_table.Rds'
fpath <- str_c("./DATA/", datafile) # here::here('DATA', datafile) # check getwd() if problem

if (! file.exists(fpath)) {
  download.file("https://stephane-v-boucheron.fr/data/tamed_life_table.Rds",
               fpath,
               mode="wb")
}

life_table <- readr::read_rds(fpath)
```

### **i** References

For definitions of column, check on <http://www.mortality.org> the meaning of the different columns.

See also *Demography: Measuring and Modeling Population Processes* by SH Preston, P Heuveline, and M Guillot. Blackwell. Oxford. 2001.

Document [Tables de mortalité françaises pour les XIXe et XXe siècles et projections pour le XXIe siècle](#) contains detailed information on the construction of Life Tables for France.

In the sequel, we denote by  $F_t$  the *cumulative distribution function* for year  $t$ . We agree on  $\overline{F}_t = 1 - F_t$  and  $F_t(-1) = 0$ . Henceforth,  $\overline{F}$  is called the *survival* function.

**qx** (age-specific) risk of death at age  $x$ , or mortality quotient at given age  $x$  for given year  $t$ .

**i** About the definition of  $q_{t,x}$

Defining and computing  $q_{t,x}$  does not boil down to knowing the number of people at age  $x$  at the beginning of year  $t$  and knowing how many of them died during year  $t$ . If we want to be rigorous, we need to know all life lines in the Lexis diagram, or equivalently, how many people at Age  $x$  were alive on each day of Year  $t$ .

**🔥** Mortality quotients define a probability distribution

For a given year  $t$ , the sequence of mortality quotients define a survival function  $\overline{F}_t$  using the following recursion:

$$q_{t,x} = \frac{\overline{F}_t(x) - \overline{F}_t(x+1)}{\overline{F}_t(x)}$$

with boundary condition  $\overline{F}_t(-1) = 1$ .

This recursion can also be read as:

$$\overline{F}_t(x+1) = \overline{F}_t(x) \times (1 - q_{t,x+1}).$$

This artificial probability distribution is used to define and compute life expectancies.



$q_{t,x}$  is the *hazard rate* of  $\overline{F}_t$  at age  $x$ .

**ex:** Residual Life Expectancy at age  $x$  and year  $t$

This is the expectation of  $X - x$  for a random variable  $X$  distributed according to  $\overline{F}_t$  conditionally on the event  $\{X \geq x\}$ . That is  $e_{t,x}$  is the expectation of the probability distribution defined by  $\overline{F}_t(\cdot + x - 1) / \overline{F}_t(x - 1)$ .

## Rearrangement

### **i** Question

From dataframe `life_table`, compute another dataframe called `life_table_pivot` with primary key `Country`, `Gender` and `Year`, with a column for each `Age` from 0 up to 110. For each age column, the entry should be the central death rate at the age defined by column, for `Country`, `Gender` and `Year` identifying the row.

You may use functions `pivot_wider`, `pivot_longer` from `tidyr::` package.

The resulting schema should look like:

Column Name	Type
Country	factor
Gender	factor
Year	integer
0	double
1	double
2	double
3	double
:	:

### **i** Question

Using `life_table_pivot` compute life expectancy at birth for each `Country`, `Gender` and `Year` using formula

$$e_{t,0} = \sum_{x=0}^{\infty} \bar{F}_t(x)$$

## Life expectancy and window functions

### **i** Question

Write a function that takes as input a vector of mortality quotients, as well as an age, and returns the residual life expectancy corresponding to the vector and the given age.

### **i** Question

Write a function that takes as input a dataframe with the same schema as `life_table` and returns a data frame with columns `Country`, `Gender`, `Year`, `Age` defining a primary key and a column `res_lex` containing *residual life expectancy* corresponding to the primary key.

In order to compute residual life expectancies, you may consider using `window` functions over appropriately defined windows. The next window function suffices to compute life expectancy at birth. It computes the logarithm of survival probabilities for each `Country`, `Year`, `Gender` (partition)

at each **Age**. Note that the expression mentions an aggregation function **sum** and that the correction of the result is ensured by a correct design of the **frame** argument.

**i** Question

Compute residual life expectancies at all ages using window functions  
You can use `slider::slide()`.

## Computing residual life expectancies using window functions and `accumulate`

**💡** The official calculation of residual life expectancies assumes that except at age 0 and great age, people die uniformly at random between age  $x$  and  $x + 1$ :

$$e_{t,x} = (1 - q_{t,x}) \times (1 + e_{t,x+1}) + \frac{1}{2} \times q_{t,x}$$

This recursion suggests a more efficient to compute *residual life expectancies* at all ages. Indeed, `purrr::accumulate()` allows to compute all values for  $e_{t,x}$  using exactly one pass over the table.

See <https://purrr.tidyverse.org/reference/accumulate.html>

**i** Question

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**i** Question

Compute and display residual life expectancies for ages 0 to 9 for year 1972

**i** Question

Plot residual life expectancy as a function of **Year** at ages 60 and 65, facet by **Gender** and **Country**.

**i** Question