

Boom, echo, pulse, flow

Tim Riffe*¹

¹Max Planck Institute for Demographic Research

June 19, 2018

Abstract

Human population renewal starts with births. Since births can happen at any time in the year and over a wide range of ages, demographers typically imagine the birth series as a continuous flow. Taking this construct literally, we visualize the birth series as a flow. A long birth series allows us to juxtapose the children born in a particular year with the children that they in turn had over the course of their lives, yielding a crude notion of cohort replacement. Macro patterns in generational growth define the meandering path of the flow, while temporal booms and busts echo through the flow with the regularity of a pulse.

1 Introduction

It has long been pointed out that human reproduction is a highly age-regulated process (e.g., Kuczynski 1932)

References

R.R. Kuczynski. *Fertility and reproduction: methods of measuring the balance of births and deaths*. Falcon Press, 1932.

*riffe@demogr.mpg.de