The adequacy of aging techniques in vertebrates for rapid estimation of population mortality rates from age distributions

Zhao, M.; Klaassen, C.A.J.; Lisovski, S.; Klaassen, M.

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Appendix S6: Key mathematical notation

General notation

\( F \): distribution functions
\( f \): (probability) density functions
\( \Phi(z) \): standard normal distribution function
\( \varphi(z) \): standard normal density function

Birth and survival related notation

\( S \): survival time
\( F_S(s) \): the distribution function of survival time \( S \)
\( f_S(s) \): the density function of survival time \( S \)
\( T \): time of birth of a random individual from the population
\( f_T(t) \): the density function of time of birth \( T \)
\( \tau \): the maximum possible age an individual from the population can attain

Linear regression related notation

\( X \): age proxy
\( X_1, ..., X_n \): independent and identically distributed copies of \( X \)
\( x_1, ..., x_n \): realization of the random variables \( X_1, ..., X_n \)
\( Y \): age
\( f_Y(y) \): density function of the age of an individual at time 0
\( g(y) \): regression function relating age proxy to age
\( \alpha \): intercept for linear regression of age proxy against age
\( \beta \): slope for linear regression of age proxy against age
\( \sigma \): standard deviation of the error in the regression model
\( \varepsilon \): standardized error in the regression model
\( f_\varepsilon(z) \): density function for \( \varepsilon \)
\( F_\varepsilon(z) \): distribution function for \( \varepsilon \)
\( n \): sample size, i.e., the number of sampled individuals of which the age proxy is measured

**Mortality rate related notation**

\( m \): mortality rate

\[ \lambda = -\ln(1 - m) \]: rate parameter of exponential distribution

\( \beta / \sigma \): the crucial indicator for the variation in estimated mortality rate

\[ \mu = \sigma \lambda / |\beta| \]: proxy coefficient

\( \hat{\mu}_n \): asymptotically efficient estimator of \( \mu \)

\( I(m) \): Fisher information for mortality rate \( m \)

\( J(\mu) \): Fisher information for \( \mu \)

\( CR(95) \): 95% confidence range

\( EP(95) \): theoretical 95% error percentage for mortality rate \( m \)

\( EEP(95) \): empirical 95% error percentage for mortality rate \( m \)

\( \hat{m}_n \): efficient estimator for mortality rate \( m \)

\[ \frac{1}{m \sqrt{I(m)}} \]: the basic factor used in the calculation of 95% error percentage \( EEP(95) \)