

Announcing the Release of Version 1.1 of the Compleat ELEFAN Software Package

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Introduction

Here is Izaak Walton (1593-1683), introducing his "Compleat Angler", "...I did neither undertake, nor write, nor publish, and much less own, this Discourse to please myself; and, having been too easily drawn to do all to please others, as I propose not the gaining of credit by this undertaking, so I would not willingly lose any of that to which I had a just title before I began it; and do therefore desire and hope, if I deserve not commendations, yet I may obtain pardon."

It is in this spirit that we present Version 1.1 of the Compleat ELEFAN program package.

Initiated in January 1986 as a joint project of ICLARM, the College of Fisheries, University of the Philippines in the Visayas (CF-UPV) and the German Agency for Technical Cooperation (GTZ), the Compleat ELEFAN was intended to assemble all ELEFAN-related routines and improvements presented in earlier issues of Fishbyte and elsewhere, as well as other approaches for length-based fish stock assessment (see contributions in Pauly and Morgan 1987), in form of a single, user-friendly software package.

An earlier "draft" version of this software was made available for the participants of the FAO/DANIDA course in Tropical Fish Stock Assessment held in Manila on January/February 1987, which provided a first opportunity for assessing users' responses to the high-resolution interactive graphics of the package (Venema et al 1988). Later in 1987, we distributed a dozen sets of a "test version" to colleagues throughout the world, then used their feedback to produce Version 1.0 of the Compleat ELEFAN, released in June 1988. As of now, there are over 200 registered users of this package on top of 168 registered users of the one-diskette "Kiel Version" of ELEFAN 0, I and II (see Brey et al. 1987).

Version 1.1 of the Compleat ELEFAN is now ready for shipment. It includes the routines, subroutines and options in Fig. 1 and differs from Version 1.0 in having its function keys well standardized and in supporting:

- CGA and Hercules graphic card;
- a (Microsoft or compatible) mouse;
- a mathematical co-processor ("8087").

Also, no routine requires more than 512 K of RAM, and all problems (bugs, misspellings, ambiguities) we noticed were resolved, as were those of which we were made aware by users of Version 1.0. [The new version contains over 100,000 lines of program, and unfortunately, we must expect that programming errors remain; we will appreciate receiving notices of problems with Version 1.1.]

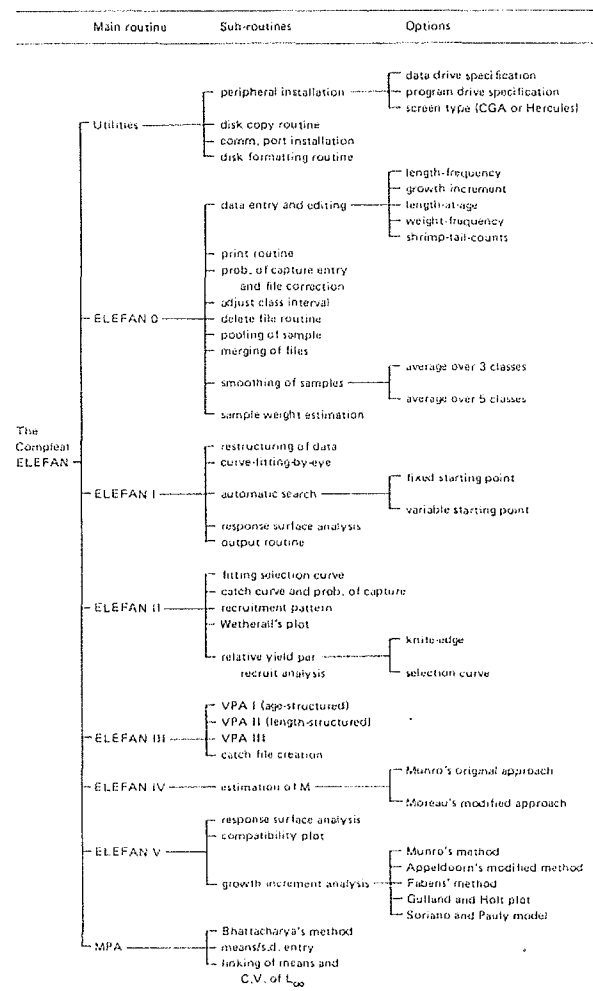


Fig. 1. Main routines, subroutine and options in version 1.1 of the Compleat ELEFAN (see also text).

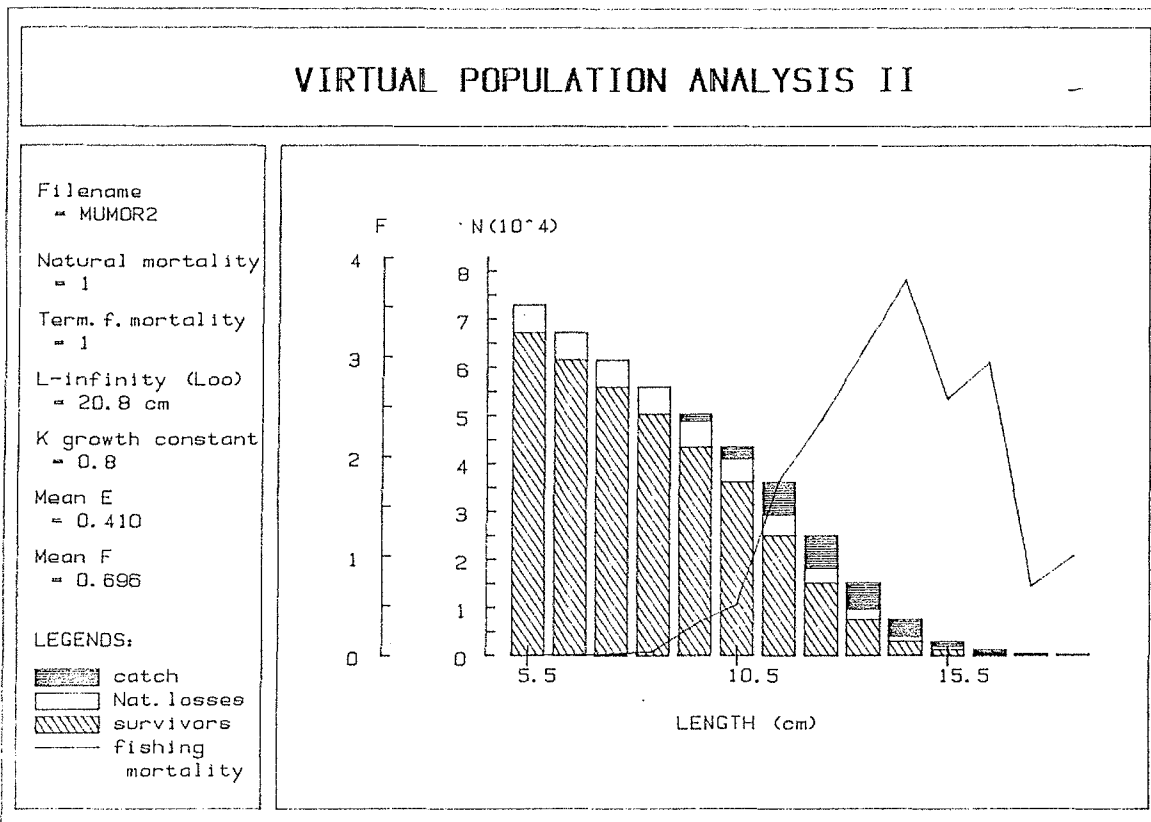


Fig. 2. Facsimile of an ELEFAN III output (via plotter) showing a fish population, as reconstructed using a form of length-structured virtual population analysis (VPA II).

Minimum hardware requirements are as before: an IBM PC/XT or AT or compatible computer with two 5 1/4"-disk drives or one disk drive and a hard disk (3 Mbytes of disk space are now required). A graphic-capable, e.g., EPSON FX or compatible printer and a two-pen plotter (e.g., IBM 7371 or HP 7470A) are useful peripherals (especially the printer). Fig. 2 shows an example of the camera-ready plots that can be generated with the plotter. Software requirements are DOS 3.0 or higher.

The manual available with this software is still a bit short but the package is largely self-documenting.

The Compleat ELEFAN Version 1.1 is shipped in the form of 11 5 1/4" diskettes, 1 sample data diskette, and a 67-page manual (Gayaniilo et al. 1988) for US\$50 (cheques drawn from a US-based bank). Registered users of Version 1.0 may obtain the new Version for US\$20 if they send their original diskettes with their order.

References

Brey, T., M. Soriano and D. Pauly. 1987. Electronic length-frequency analysis: a revised and expanded user's guide to ELEFAN 0, 1 and 2 (2nd edition). *Berichte des Instituts für Meereskunde an der Universität Kiel* No. 177, 31 p.

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Pauly, D. and G.R. Morgan. 1987. Length-based methods in fisheries research. ICLARM Conf. Proc. 13, International Center for Living Aquatic Resources Management, Manila, Philippines and Kuwait Institute for Scientific Research, Safat, Kuwait, 468 p.

Venema, S, J. Möller-Christensen and D. Pauly. 1988. Training in tropical fish stock assessment: a narrative of experiences, p. 1-15. In S. Venema, J. Möller-Christensen and D. Pauly (eds.) *Contributions to Tropical Fisheries Biology: Papers by the Participants of FAO/DANIDA Follow-Up Training Courses*. FAO Fish. Rep. No. 389.

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