



Elimination-Minimization Principle: Fitting of Gompertz Curve to Numerical Data

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ABSTRACT: The elimination-minimization approach of fitting of mathematical curve to numerical data, introduced by Chakrabarty in 2011, where the usual principle of least squares is applied in estimating each of the parameters involved in the curve to be fitted separately has already been applied successfully in fitting of polynomial curve and exponential curve to numerical data. In this study, attempt has been made on fitting of a non-polynomial curve namely Gompertz curve to numerical data by the same approach. This paper describes the derivation of the method of fitting of Gompertz curve by the approach and numerical example in order to show the application of the method to numerical data.

KEYWORDS: Elimination-minimization principle, Gompertz curve, fitting to numerical data.

I. INTRODUCTION

The method of least squares is indispensable and is widely used method of curve fitting to numerical data. The method of *Mansfield* (1877a, 1877b), *Stigler* (1977, 1981) et al and it has been established with the works of the renowned statistician *Adrian* (1808), the German Astronomer *Gauss* {*Gauss* (1809a, 1809b, 1929), *Hall* (1970), *Buhler* (1981), *Sheynin* (1979), *Sprott* (1978), *Stigler* (1977), et al], the mathematicians viz. *Ivory* (1825), *Hagen* (1837), *Bassel* (1838), *Donkim* (1857), *Herscel* (1850), *Crofton* (1870) etc..

In fitting of a curve by the method of least squares, the parameters of the curve are estimated by solving the normal equations which are obtained by applying the principle of least squares with respect to all the parameters associated to the curve jointly (simultaneously). However, for a curve of higher degree polynomial and/or for a curve having many parameters, the calculation involved in the solution of the normal equations becomes more complicated as the number of normal equations then becomes larger. Moreover, in many situations, it is not possible to obtain normal equations by applying the principle of least squares with respect to all the parameters simultaneously. These lead to think of searching for some other approach of estimation of parameters. For this reason, an approach of estimation of parameters that can be termed as **elimination-minimization approach** had been introduced (Chakrabarty, 2011) where the usual principle of least squares is applied to each parameter separately. This is done, for each parameter, by obtaining one model, containing the single parameter to be estimated. Later on, this approach was termed as stepwise least squares method (Chakrabarty, 2014). The principle involved in the approach has been termed in 2015 as elimination-minimization principle (Rahman & Chakrabarty, 2015a). The approach has already been applied successfully in fitting of polynomial curve to numerical data {Rahman & Chakrabarty (2015a, 2015b, 2015c, 2015d), Chakrabarty (2016a)}. Moreover, the same has also been applied successfully in fitting of exponential curve to numerical data Chakrabarty (2016b). In this study, attempt has been made on fitting of a non-polynomial curve namely Gompertz curve to numerical data by the same approach. This paper describes the derivation of the method of fitting of Gompertz curve by the approach and numerical example in order to show the application of the method to numerical data.

II. FITTING OF GOMPERTZ CURVE

Let

$$Y_1, Y_2, Y_3, \dots, Y_n$$

be the observed values assumed by the dependent variable Y corresponding to the values

$$X_1, X_2, X_3, \dots, X_n$$

of the independent variable X .

Hence forward, one operator namely Δ is used with the following definition:

$$\begin{aligned} \Delta Y_i &= Y_{i+1} - Y_i \\ &\& \Delta X_i = X_{i+1} - X_i \\ &\text{(for } i = 1, 2, 3, \dots \text{)}. \end{aligned}$$

Before discussing the method of fitting of Gompertz curve, let us discuss the method of fitting of the two forms of modified exponential curve.

First form of the modified exponential curve:

The first form of the modified exponential curve is expressed as

$$Y = \mu + \alpha \cdot \exp(\beta X) \tag{2.1}$$

where μ , α and β are the three parameters.

First, let us consider the situation where the observations perfectly follow the modified exponential law described by equation (2.1)

In this situation,

$$Y_i = \mu + \alpha \cdot \exp(\beta X_i), \quad (i = 1, 2, \dots, n) \tag{2.2}$$

which implies

$$\begin{aligned} \Delta Y_i &= \alpha \Delta \exp(\beta X_i) \\ &= [\exp\{(\beta \cdot (X_i + h))\} - \exp(\beta X_i)] \end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned} \text{i.e. } \Delta Y_i &= \alpha \cdot \exp(\beta X_i) \{ \exp(\beta h) - 1 \} \\ \text{i.e. } Z_i &= A \cdot \exp(\beta X_i), \quad (i = 1, 2, \dots, n-1) \end{aligned} \tag{2.3}$$

where $Z_i = \Delta Y_i$, $A = \alpha \cdot \{ \exp(\beta h) - 1 \}$ & h is the interval of the values of X .

Taking logarithm of both side of (2.3),

$$\log Z_i = \log A + \beta \cdot X_i$$

$$\text{i.e. } Z_i' = A' + \beta X_i, \quad (i = 1, 2, \dots, n-1) \tag{2.4}$$

where $Z_i' = \log Z_i$ and $A' = \log A$.

From (2.4),

$$\begin{aligned} \Delta Z_i' &= \beta \cdot \Delta X_i \\ \text{i.e. } \beta &= (\Delta Z_i') / (\Delta X_i), \quad (i = 1, 2, \dots, n-2) \end{aligned} \tag{2.5}$$

Since the observed values perfectly follow the modified exponential law, all the values of

$$(\Delta Z_i') / (\Delta X_i), \quad (i = 1, 2, \dots, n-2)$$

are equal and the common value is the value of the parameter β .

Substituting this value of β in (3.4) one obtains $(n-1)$ equations in $A' = \log A$.

Solving any one of these equations, the value of $A' = \log A$ can be found out and then taking the antilogarithm of it the value of A can be obtained.

Consequently, α can be obtained from

$$A = \alpha \cdot \{ \exp(\beta h) - 1 \} \tag{2.6}$$

Finally, the parameter μ can be obtained from any one of the equations (3.2).

Now, let us consider the situation where the observations do not perfectly follow the modified exponential law described by equation (2.1)

It may be the situation that the observed values may not perfectly follow the exponential law described by equation (2.1) and the observations may suffer from error.

In the situation, where either or both of the two possibilities do influence, the observed values will follow the model

$$Y_i = \mu + \alpha \cdot \exp(\beta X_i) \delta_i, \quad (i = 1, 2, \dots, n) \tag{2.7}$$

where δ_i is the error associated to Y_i .
This implies,

$$Z_i = A \cdot \exp(\beta X_i) \times \epsilon_i' \quad , \quad (i = 1, 2, \dots, n-1) \quad (2.8)$$

where ϵ_i' is the error associated to Z_i .
Taking logarithm of both side of (2.8)

$$\begin{aligned} \log Z_i &= \log A + \beta \cdot X_i + \epsilon_i \\ \text{i.e. } Z_i' &= A' + \beta X_i + \epsilon_i \quad , \quad (i = 1, 2, \dots, n-2) \end{aligned} \quad (2.9)$$

where $Z_i' = \log Z_i$, $A' = \log A$ & $\epsilon_i = \log \epsilon_i'$.
From (2.9)

$$\Delta Z_i' = \beta \cdot \Delta X_i + \Delta \epsilon_i \quad , \quad (i = 1, 2, \dots, n-2) \quad (2.10)$$

Applying the elimination-minimization principle the estimate of the parameters β and A' can be obtained as

$$\hat{\beta}_{(EM)} = \frac{1}{h(n-2)} \sum_{i=1}^{n-2} \Delta Z_i' \quad (2.11)$$

$$\& \quad \hat{A}' = \bar{Z}' - \hat{\beta}_{(EM)} \bar{X} \quad (2.12)$$

Accordingly,

$$\begin{aligned} A &= \text{antilog}(\hat{A}') \\ \text{i.e. } A &= \text{anti log}(\bar{Z}' - \hat{\beta}_{(EM)} \bar{X}) \end{aligned} \quad (2.13)$$

Consequently, estimate of α is obtained as

$$\begin{aligned} \hat{\alpha}_{(EM)} &= \frac{A}{(e^{\hat{\beta}_{(EM)} \cdot h} - 1)} \\ \text{i.e. } \hat{\alpha}_{(EM)} &= \frac{\text{anti log}(\bar{Z}' - \hat{\beta}_{(EM)} \bar{X})}{(e^{\hat{\beta}_{(EM)} \cdot h} - 1)} \end{aligned} \quad (2.14)$$

Finally from the equations (3.7), one can obtain the estimates of the parameter μ as

$$\hat{\mu}_{(EM)} = \bar{Y} - \frac{\hat{\alpha}_{(EM)}}{n} \sum_{i=1}^n e^{\hat{\beta}_{(EM)} \cdot X_i} \quad (2.15)$$

Second form of the modified exponential curve:

The second form of the modified exponential curve is expressed as

$$Z = P + Q \cdot S^X \quad (2.15)$$

where (i) Z is the dependent variable which depends upon the variable X
and (ii) P, Q & R are the parameters.

Let

$$Z_1, Z_2, Z_3, \dots, Z_n$$

be the values assumed by the dependent variable Z corresponding to the values

$$X_1, X_2, X_3, \dots, X_n$$

of the independent variable X.

Then

$$Z_i = P + Q \cdot S^{X_i} \quad (2.16)$$

The equation (2.15) can be expressed as

$$Z' = M \cdot S^X \quad (2.17)$$

where $Z' = \Delta Z$ & $M = Q \cdot (S^h - 1)$.

Again, equation (2.17) can be written as

$$Z'' = M' + S'.X \tag{2.18}$$

where $Z'' = \log Z'$, $M' = \log M$ & $S' = \log S$.

In order to obtain estimated value of Y_{i+1} from the observed value of Y_i , the equation that can describes the dependence of Y_{i+1} on Y_i is to be known.

From equation (2.18)

$$Z_i'' = M' + S'.X_i \tag{2.19}$$

Which implies $Z_{i+1}'' - Z_i'' = S'(X_{i+1} - X_i)$

$$\text{i.e. } Z_{i+1}'' = Z_i'' + S'.\Delta X_i \tag{2.20}$$

where $\Delta X_i = X_{i+1} - X_i$
($i = 1, 2, \dots, n - 1$).

Equation (2.20) is the recurrence relation whose application can provide estimate of Z_{i+1}'' from observed Z_i'' .

This equation consists of the single parameter S' . The estimate of S' obtained by applying the step-wise method [(Chakrabarty (2011 , 2014))] is given by

$$\hat{S}'_{(EM)} = \frac{\sum_{i=1}^{n-1} \Delta Z_i''}{n-1} \tag{2.21}$$

Note:

If the values of the independent variable are at equal interval of length h , the estimate of S' becomes

$$\hat{S}'_{(EM)} = \frac{\sum_{i=1}^{n-1} \Delta Z_i''}{h.(n-1)}$$

Using this estimate in equation (2.18), estimate of the parameter M' can be obtained by the same method. The estimate, so obtained, is found to be

$$\hat{M}' = \bar{Z}'' - \hat{S}'_{(EM)}. \bar{X} \tag{2.22}$$

Now,

$$M' = \log M \quad \& \quad S' = \log S .$$

Therefore, estimates of the parameters S and M are obtained as

$$\hat{S} = \text{anti log}(S') \quad \& \quad \hat{M} = \text{anti log}(M') \tag{2.23}$$

Consequently, estimates of the parameters Q & B are found to be

$$\hat{Q} = \frac{M}{S^h - 1} \quad \& \quad \hat{B} = \text{anti log}(Q) \tag{2.24}$$

Finally, estimate of the parameter P can be obtained from equation (2.16) by the same method and it is found to be

$$\hat{P} = \bar{Z} - \hat{Q}.\hat{S}^{\bar{X}} \tag{2.25}$$

from which estimate of K is found as

$$\hat{K} = \text{anti log}(P) \tag{2.26}$$

Equation (2.6) yields the recurrence relation

$$Z_{i+1} = Z_i + Q.(S^{X_{i+1}} - S^{X_i}) \tag{2.27}$$

The fitted recurrence relation becomes

$$Z_{i+1} = Z_i + \hat{Q} \cdot (\hat{S}^{X_{i+1}} - \hat{S}^{X_i}) \tag{2.28}$$

Estimated value of Z_{i+1} can be calculated using the observed value of Z_i in this fitted regression equation. The estimated value of Y_{i+1} then can be obtained on taking antilog of Z_{i+1} .

Note: In the case of usual method of estimation, estimated values of Z_i are computed from equation (2.16) putting the corresponding values of X_i in the equation and then the estimated values of Y_i are obtained by taking the antilog of Z_i .

Fitting of Gompertz curve:

Let a variable Y be dependent on another variable X and the dependence follow the rule that can be represented by the Gompertz curve which is of the form

$$Y = K \cdot B \cdot S^X \tag{2.29}$$

where K , B and S are the parameters. This can be expressed as

$$Z = P + Q \cdot S^X \tag{2.30}$$

where $Z = \log Y$, $\log K = P$, $Q = \log B$. The equation (2.2) can be expressed as

$$Z' = M \cdot S^X \tag{2.31}$$

where $Z' = \Delta Z$ & $M = Q \cdot (S^h - 1)$.

Again, equation (2.31) can be written as

$$Z'' = M' + S' \cdot X \tag{2.32}$$

where $Z'' = \log Z'$, $M' = \log M$ & $S' = \log S$.

Let

$$Y_1, Y_2, Y_3, \dots, Y_n$$

be the values assumed by the dependent variable Y corresponding to the values

$$X_1, X_2, X_3, \dots, X_n$$

of the independent variable X .

In order to obtain estimated value of Y_{i+1} from the observed value of Y_i , the equation that describes the dependence of Y_{i+1} on Y_i is to be known.

From equation (2.32)

$$Z_i'' = M' + S' \cdot X_i \tag{2.34}$$

which implies

$$Z_{i+1}'' - Z_i'' = S'(X_{i+1} - X_i)$$

$$\text{i.e. } Z_{i+1}'' = Z_i'' + S' \cdot \Delta X_i \tag{2.35}$$

where $\Delta X_i = X_{i+1} - X_i$
($i = 1, 2, \dots, n - 1$).

Equation (2.6) is the recurrence relation whose application can provide estimate of Z_{i+1}'' from observed Z_i'' .

This equation consists of the single parameter S' . The estimate of S' obtained by applying the step-wise method [(Chakrabarty (2011, 2014))] is given by

$$\hat{S}'_{(EM)} = \frac{\sum_{i=1}^{n-1} \frac{\Delta Z_i''}{\Delta X_i}}{n-1} \tag{2.36}$$

Note:

If the values of the independent variable are at equal interval of length h , (say), the estimate of S' becomes

$$\hat{S}'_{(EM)} = \frac{\sum_{i=1}^{n-1} \Delta Z_i''}{h.(n-1)}$$

Using this estimate in equation (2.34), estimate of the parameter M' can be obtained by the same method. The estimate, so obtained, is found to be

$$\hat{M}' = \bar{Z}'' - \hat{S}'_{(EM)}. \bar{X} \tag{2.37}$$

Now,

$$M' = \log M \quad \& \quad S' = \log S .$$

Therefore, estimates of the parameters S and M are obtained as

$$\hat{S} = \text{anti log}(S') \quad \& \quad \hat{M} = \text{anti log}(M') \tag{2.38}$$

Consequently, estimates of the parameters Q & B are found to be

$$\hat{Q} = \frac{M}{S^h - 1} \quad \& \quad \hat{B} = \text{anti log}(Q) \tag{2.39}$$

Finally, estimate of the parameter P can be obtained from equation (2.30) by the same method and it is found to be

$$\hat{P} = \bar{Z} - \hat{Q}.\hat{S}^{\bar{X}} \tag{2.40}$$

from which estimate of K is found as

$$\hat{K} = \text{anti log}(P) \tag{2.41}$$

Equation (2.30) yields the recurrence relation

$$Z_{i+1} = Z_i + Q.(S^{X_{i+1}} - S^{X_i}) \tag{2.42}$$

The fitted recurrence relation becomes

$$Z_{i+1} = Z_i + \hat{Q} . (\hat{S}^{X_{i+1}} - \hat{S}^{X_i}) \tag{2.42}$$

Estimated value of Z_{i+1} can be calculated using the observed value of Z_i in this fitted regression equation.

The estimated value of Y_{i+1} then can be obtained on taking antilog of Z_{i+1} .

III. Numerical Application:

The method described here has been applied to estimate the total population of India from the data on total population of India (collected for the years from 1951 to 2001 from the census report published by the Registrar General of India) as shown in the following table (**Table-3.1**).

Table-3.1
(Observed Total Population of India)

Year	1951	1961	1971	1981	1991	2001
Total Population	361088090	439234771	548159652	683329097	846302688	1027015247

First, Gompertz curve [equation (2.29)] has been fitted to these data by the method explained in section II.

The estimated total population of India obtained from the fitted Gompertz curve, fitted by this method, has been shown in **Table-3.2**.

Next, the same has been fitted to these data by the usual least squares method

(i.e. estimation by solving normal equations, explained in section II).

The estimated total population of India obtained from the fitted Gompertz curve has been shown in in **Table-3.2**.

Table-3.2
(Estimated Population of India by Gompertz curve)

(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)
Year	Observed Total Population	Estimated Total Population (by the recurrence relation)	Estimated Total Population (by usual least squares method)
1951	361088090	361834305	361395576
1961	439234771	445966754	446383775
1971	548159652	549661386	550668147
1981	683329097	677466732	678470320
1991	846302688	834988930	834899510
2001	1027015247	1029137639	1026131373

Test of Significance of Difference between Observed and Estimated Values

Next, two statistical tests namely **Sandler’s A-Test** and **Paired sample t-test** have been applied to test the significance of the difference between the observed values and the corresponding estimated values.

To test the **null hypothesis**

H₀: There is no significance difference between the observed population and the estimated population.

Sandler’s A-statistic is given by

$$A = \frac{\sum_{i=1}^{11} D_i^2}{\left[\sum_{i=1}^{11} D_i \right]^2} \quad \text{with (n-1) 4 degrees of freedom}$$

and the **paired sample t-statistic** is given by

$$t\text{-test} = \frac{\bar{D}}{\frac{S}{\sqrt{n}}} \quad \text{with (n-1) degrees of freedom}$$

where \bar{D} = Mean difference,

S = Standard deviation

& n = Size of sample

The observed values of **A** are **12888.81829** and **4.109739923** for the method discussed in section II and for the usual least squares method respectively while the corresponding theoretical value of **A** is **0.30351431** for 4 degrees of freedom at 5% level of significance.

The observed value of the statistic **A** is greater than that of corresponding tabulated value of **A** at 5% level of significance for 4 degrees of freedom Therefore the null hypothesis is not rejected. This means, there is no significance difference between the observed values and the corresponding estimated values in the case of both the methods of fitting.

Similarly, the observed values of **t** are 0.008 and 0.460 for the method discussed in section II and for the usual least squares method respectively while the corresponding theoretical value of **t** is 2.78 for 4 degrees of freedom at 5% level of significance.



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The observed value of the statistic t is less than that of corresponding tabulated value of t at 5% level of significance for 4 degrees of freedom Therefore the null hypothesis is not rejected. This means, there is no significance difference between the observed values and the corresponding estimated values in the case of both the methods of fitting.

IV. CONCLUSION

- (1) The elimination-minimization approach has already been found suitable for finding of method of fitting of a polynomial curve of any finite order to numerical data.
- (2) This study establishes that this approach can be suitable for fitting of Gompertz curves to numerical data.
- (3) It is yet to be investigated whether this approach can be applicable in finding of suitable method of fitting of other types of curves to numerical data.
- (4) It is yet to be search for whether the estimates of parameter obtained by this method and those obtained by usual method of least squares are identical.

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