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# Open Population Mark-Recapture Models Including Ancillary Sightings

A thesis presented in partial  
fulfilment of the requirements  
for the degree of  
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in Statistics  
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1995

BARKER

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## Abstract

A model is proposed for a mark-recapture experiment with ancillary observations obtained from marked animals any time between capture periods and throughout the geographic range of the animals. The model allows three types of emigration from the site where recaptures are made: (1) random emigration, where the probability an animal is at risk of capture at  $i$  does not depend on whether it was at risk of capture at  $i - 1$ , (2) permanent emigration where animals can leave the area where they are at risk of capture but not return, and (3) Markov emigration, where the probability an animal is at risk of capture at  $i$  depends on whether it was at risk of capture at  $i - 1$ . Under random emigration the likelihood function can be factored into a set of conditionally independent binomial terms used to estimate the parameters and a set of conditionally independent multihypergeometric terms that do not involve the parameters. Closed-form maximum likelihood estimators are derived under random emigration for models with age-dependence and a temporary marking effect. Contingency table based goodness-of-fit tests are derived from the multihypergeometric terms in the likelihood function. Contingency table tests of the age-dependence and temporary marking effect models are also derived. Explicit estimators do not appear to exist for permanent or Markov emigration.

It is shown that the estimator suggested by Jolly (*Biometrika* 52:239, 1965), and as a consequence the estimator suggested by Buckland (*Biometrics* 36:419-435, 1980), is only valid if there is no emigration from the study area or if emigration is random. The estimator suggested by Mardekian and McDonald (*Journal of Wildlife Management* 45:484-488, 1981) for joint analysis of recapture and tag-recovery data is also only valid under no emigration or random emigration.

By making appropriate constraints on parameters the models reduce to previously published models including the Jolly-Seber model (with age-dependence and a temporary marking effect), tag-resight models, tag-recovery models, and joint live-recapture/tag-recovery models. Thus, the model provides a common framework for most widely-used mark-recapture models and allows simultaneous analysis of data obtained in several ways. Advantages of the new models include improved

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precision of parameter estimates, and the ability to distinguish between different type of emigration. FORTRAN programmes are developed for fitting the models to data with an application to a data set for brown trout (*Salmo trutta*) tagged in spawning tributaries of Lake Brunner, Westland between 1987 and 1991.

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To John,  
whose life's work has made this work possible.

# Contents

<b>1</b>	<b>Mark-Recapture Overview</b>	<b>1</b>
1.1	Closed-Population Mark-Recapture Models . . . . .	3
1.1.1	Petersen estimator . . . . .	3
1.1.2	Multiple recaptures . . . . .	4
1.1.3	Generalizations . . . . .	6
1.1.4	Log-linear models . . . . .	10
1.1.5	Martingale estimators . . . . .	11
1.2	Open Populations . . . . .	11
1.3	Jolly-Seber Model . . . . .	12
1.3.1	Assumptions and notation . . . . .	13
1.3.2	Intuitive estimators . . . . .	15
1.3.3	The Jolly-Seber likelihood . . . . .	16
1.4	Hypergeometric Formulation of the Jolly-Seber Model . . . . .	22
1.4.1	Log-linear models . . . . .	23
1.4.2	Small sample bias . . . . .	24
1.4.3	Accuracy of Jolly-Seber variance estimates . . . . .	25
1.4.4	Heterogeneous capture and survival probabilities . . . . .	26
1.4.5	Special cases of the Jolly-Seber model . . . . .	28
1.5	Generalizations of the Jolly-Seber Model . . . . .	31
1.5.1	Stationary Markov movement model . . . . .	35
1.6	General Multi-Strata Movement Models . . . . .	36
1.6.1	The Petersen estimator for $s$ strata . . . . .	36

1.6.2	Open population movement models . . . . .	37
<b>2</b>	<b>Tag Recovery Models</b>	<b>42</b>
2.1	Seber-Robson-Youngs Model . . . . .	42
2.1.1	Notation, assumptions, and data structure . . . . .	43
2.1.2	Intuitive estimators . . . . .	45
2.1.3	The tag-return model likelihood . . . . .	46
2.1.4	Heterogeneous survival and recovery rates . . . . .	47
2.1.5	Restricted and generalized tag-return models . . . . .	49
2.1.6	Models allowing heterogeneous survival . . . . .	53
2.1.7	Ultrastructural models . . . . .	54
2.2	Joint Live-Recapture and Tag-Return Models . . . . .	57
2.2.1	The Mardekian-McDonald analysis . . . . .	57
2.3	Burnham's Model . . . . .	63
2.4	Live-Recapture Analyses Augmented with Sightings . . . . .	64
<b>3</b>	<b>Single-Stratum Mark-Recapture Models with Ancillary Observations</b>	<b>66</b>
3.1	Background . . . . .	66
3.2	The Experimental Situation, Notation, and Assumptions . . . . .	67
3.2.1	Notation . . . . .	68
3.2.2	Assumptions . . . . .	71
3.2.3	Data structure . . . . .	72
3.2.4	Random emigration model . . . . .	76
3.2.5	The likelihood function under random emigration . . . . .	81
3.2.6	Parameter estimation . . . . .	92
3.2.7	Asymptotic variances and covariances . . . . .	94
3.2.8	Goodness-of-fit tests under random emigration . . . . .	98
3.3	Permanent emigration . . . . .	104
3.4	Stationary Markov Movement . . . . .	109
3.5	Losses On Capture . . . . .	111

3.6	Comparison with Jolly's Solution . . . . .	114
<b>4</b>	<b>Multi-Strata Mark-Recapture Models with Ancillary Observations</b>	<b>117</b>
4.1	Background . . . . .	117
4.2	The Age-Dependence Model . . . . .	117
4.2.1	Assumptions, notation and data structure . . . . .	118
4.2.2	Random emigration model . . . . .	120
4.2.3	Distribution of the MSS . . . . .	127
4.2.4	Maximum likelihood estimators . . . . .	134
4.2.5	Asymptotic variances and covariances . . . . .	135
4.2.6	Goodness-of-fit tests under random emigration . . . . .	138
4.2.7	Testing for age-dependence . . . . .	141
4.2.8	Age-dependent permanent emigration and Markov movement models . . . . .	144
4.3	Marking Effect Models . . . . .	147
4.3.1	Notation and general model under random emigration . . . . .	147
4.3.2	Test for marking effect . . . . .	154
4.4	Joint Age-Dependence and Marking Effect Model . . . . .	155
4.4.1	The probability structure under random emigration . . . . .	156
4.4.2	The likelihood under random emigration . . . . .	157
4.4.3	Parameter estimates . . . . .	163
4.5	Observations Obtained After $t$ . . . . .	168
4.5.1	Probability structure under random emigration . . . . .	168
4.5.2	Additional components to the likelihood under random emigration . . . . .	169
4.5.3	Additional parameter estimates under random emigration . . . . .	172
4.5.4	Additional components to the goodness-of-fit tests . . . . .	174
4.5.5	Age-dependence and marking effect models under permanent and Markov emigration with $v > t$ . . . . .	175

<b>5</b>	<b>Modified and Reduced Parameter Models</b>	<b>176</b>
5.1	Models with No Resightings . . . . .	176
5.1.1	Benefit of including ancillary observations . . . . .	182
5.2	Tag-Resight Model . . . . .	198
5.3	Tag-Resight when Only Young Animals Are Captured . . . . .	203
5.3.1	Tag-return models . . . . .	204
5.4	Models with Recaptures and 100% Losses on Observation . . . . .	207
5.5	Fitting Less than Full Rank Models . . . . .	211
<b>6</b>	<b>Application - Lake Brunner Trout Tagging 1987-1990</b>	<b>215</b>
6.1	One-age Model with no Marking Effect . . . . .	216
6.1.1	Females . . . . .	216
6.1.2	Males . . . . .	218
6.1.3	Comments on the one-age model with no marking effect . . . . .	220
6.2	Age-Dependence and Marking Effect Models . . . . .	222
6.2.1	Females . . . . .	223
6.2.2	Males . . . . .	230
6.3	Discussion . . . . .	245
<b>7</b>	<b>Discussion</b>	<b>247</b>
7.1	Benefits of the New Models and Implications for Existing Methods . . . . .	247
7.2	Implication for the Design of New Studies . . . . .	250
7.3	Future Research . . . . .	251
7.3.1	Direct modelling of capture histories . . . . .	251
7.3.2	Alternative handling effect models . . . . .	252
7.3.3	General multi-strata movement model . . . . .	253
7.3.4	Models with different resighting assumptions . . . . .	258
7.3.5	Investigations concerning underlying assumptions . . . . .	259
7.4	Concluding Remarks . . . . .	260
	<b>Bibliography</b>	<b>262</b>



## List of Tables

1.1	Reduced m-array summary of a mark-recapture data set with $t$ years of capture. . . . .	17
1.2	Probability structure for the reduced m-array of Table 1.1 . . . . .	18
1.3	Multivariate reduced m-array for a study with $t$ years of capture. . . . .	39
1.4	Multinomial cell probabilities corresponding to the multivariate m-array of Table 1.3 . . . . .	40
2.1	Recovery array for a tag-recovery experiment with 4 years of release and 6 years of recovery, where $M_{i,j}$ is the number of tag recoveries at time $j$ from animals released at time $i$ . . . . .	45
2.2	Probability structure for the recovery array in Table 2.1 . . . . .	45
2.3	Recovery array for a 2-age tag-recovery experiment with 4 years of release and 5 years of recovery. . . . .	50
2.4	Probability structure for the 2-age tag recovery array of Table 2.3 . . . . .	51
2.5	Reduced m-array for a mark-recapture study carried out with $t$ years of capture and $t$ years of recovery . . . . .	63
3.1	Live-recapture reduced m-array for brown trout <i>Salmo trutta</i> captured and tagged in Lake Brunner 1987-1990 . . . . .	66
3.2	Capture history codes -adapted from Pollock et al. (1990). . . . .	73
3.3	Contributions to the reduced m-array by an animal with capture history 05013 in a study with $t = 5$ . . . . .	74

3.4	Reduced m-array for a mark-recapture study carried out with $t$ years of capture and ancillary observations of marked animals obtained during the interval $1, t + 1$ . . . . .	75
3.5	Reduced m-array for a hypothetical $t = 4$ mark-recapture study with ancillary observations of animals in the interval $i, i + 1$ . . . . .	76
3.6	Summary statistics for the hypothetical reduced m-array. . . . .	76
3.7	Probability structure for animals last released following capture in a mark-recapture study with $t$ years of capture, ancillary observations of marked animals obtained during the interval $(1, t + 1)$ , and random movement into and out of the area where they are at risk of capture. In this parameterization $p_i^* = F_{i-1}p_i$ and $q_i^* = 1 - p_i^*$ . . . . .	78
3.8	Probability structure for animals last released following observation in a mark-recapture study with $t$ years of capture, ancillary observations of marked animals obtained during the interval $(1, t + 1)$ , and random movement into and out of the area where they are at risk of capture. In this parameterization $p_i^* = F_{i-1}p_i$ and $q_i^* = 1 - p_i^*$ , and $\delta_i = \frac{1-\theta_i}{\theta_i f_i \rho_i}$ . . . . .	79
3.9	Parameter estimates and associated standard errors for the hypothetical mark-recapture data. . . . .	94
3.10	Example of a $2 \times 2$ contingency table for the component 1 goodness-of-fit test . . . . .	100
3.11	Example of a contingency table for the component 2 goodness-of-fit test at time $i$ . . . . .	102
3.12	Example of a $2 \times 2$ contingency table for the alternative component 2 goodness-of-fit test. This contingency table tests the random emigration assumption. Note observed after $i$ includes observed in the interval $i, i + 1$ . . . . .	116

4.1	Probability structure under random emigration for age-class 0 animals last released following capture in a 2-age mark-recapture study with $t$ years of capture and ancillary observations of marked animals obtained during the interval $(1, t + 1)$ . Note $p_i^{*(\nu)} = F_{i-1}^{(\nu)} p_i^{(1)}$ and $q_i^{*(\nu)} = 1 - p_i^{*(\nu)}$ . . . . .	123
4.2	Probability structure under random emigration for age class 0 animals last released following observation in a 2-age mark-recapture study with $t$ years of capture, and ancillary observations of marked animals obtained during the interval $(1, t + 1)$ . Note $p_i^{*(\nu)} = F_{i-1}^{(\nu)} p_i^{(1)}$ and $q_i^{*(\nu)} = 1 - p_i^{*(\nu)}$ , and $\delta_i^{(\nu)} = \frac{1 - \theta_i^{(\nu)}}{\theta_i^{(\nu)} f_i^{(\nu)} \rho_i^{(\nu)}}$ . . . . .	124
4.3	Probability structure under random emigration for age-class 1 animals last released following capture in a 2-age mark-recapture study with $t$ years of capture, ancillary observations of marked animals obtained during the interval $(1, t + 1)$ . Note $p_i^{*(\nu)} = F_{i-1}^{(\nu)} p_i^{(1)}$ and $q_i^{*(\nu)} = 1 - p_i^{*(\nu)}$ . . . . .	125
4.4	Probability structure under random emigration for age class 1 animals last released following observation in a 2-age mark-recapture study with $t$ years of capture, ancillary observations of marked animals obtained during the interval $(1, t + 1)$ . Note $p_i^{*(\nu)} = F_{i-1}^{(\nu)} p_i^{(1)}$ and $q_i^{*(\nu)} = 1 - p_i^{*(\nu)}$ , and $\delta_i^{(\nu)} = \frac{1 - \theta_i^{(\nu)}}{\theta_i^{(\nu)} f_i^{(\nu)} \rho_i^{(\nu)}}$ . . . . .	126
4.5	Example of a contingency table for the component 1 goodness-of-fit test for animals of age $l + 1$ at time $i + 1$ . . . . .	139
4.6	Example of a contingency table for the component 2 goodness-of-fit test for animals of age $\nu$ at time $i$ ( $\nu < l$ ). . . . .	142
4.7	Example of a contingency table forming one component of the overall tests for age-dependence. . . . .	144

4.8	Probability structure under random emigration for mark class 0 animals last released following capture in a mark-recapture study with $t$ years of capture, ancillary observations of marked animals obtained during the interval $(1, t + 1)$ , and temporary marking effect. Note $p_i^{*(\nu)} = F_{i-1}^{(\nu)} p_i^{(\nu)}$ and $q_i^{*(\nu)} = 1 - p_i^{*(\nu)}$ . . . . .	150
4.9	Probability structure under random emigration for mark class 0 animals last released following observation (in the first resighting interval) in a mark-recapture study with $t$ years of capture, ancillary observations of marked animals obtained during the interval $(1, t + 1)$ , and a temporary marking effect. Note $p_i^{*(\nu)} = F_{i-1}^{(\nu)} p_i^{(\nu)}$ and $q_i^{*(\nu)} = 1 - p_i^{*(\nu)}$ , and $\delta_i^{(\nu)} = \frac{1 - \theta_i^{(\nu)}}{\theta_i^{(\nu)} f_i^{(\nu)} \rho_i^{(\nu)}}$ . . . . .	151
4.10	Probability structure under random emigration for mark class 1 animals last released following capture in a mark-recapture study with $t$ years of capture, ancillary observations of marked animals obtained during the interval $(1, t + 1)$ , and temporary marking effect. Note $p_i^{*(\nu)} = F_{i-1}^{(\nu)} p_i^{(\nu)}$ and $q_i^{*(\nu)} = 1 - p_i^{*(\nu)}$ . . . . .	152
4.11	Probability structure under random emigration for mark class 1 animals last released following observation in a 2-age mark-recapture study with $t$ years of capture, ancillary observations of marked animals obtained during the interval $(1, t + 1)$ , and temporary marking effect. Note $p_i^{*(\nu)} = F_{i-1}^{(\nu)} p_i^{(\nu)}$ and $q_i^{*(\nu)} = 1 - p_i^{*(\nu)}$ , and $\delta_i^{(\nu)} = \frac{1 - \theta_i^{(\nu)}}{\theta_i^{(\nu)} f_i^{(\nu)} \rho_i^{(\nu)}}$ . . . . .	153
5.1	Probability structure for a $t = 4$ two-age Jolly-Seber model with no marking effect under random emigration where $p_i^{*(1)} = F_{i-1}^{(1)} p_i^{(1)}$ and $p_i^{*(0)} = F_{i-1}^{(0)} p_i^{(1)}$ . . . . .	178
5.2	Probability structure for a $t = 4$ two-age Jolly-Seber model with no marking effect under permanent emigration where $S_i^{*(\nu)} = S_i^{(\nu)} F_i^{(\nu)}$ . . . . .	179
5.3	Contingency table used to test the “random” vs “permanent” emigration models . . . . .	180

5.4	Average bias of the capture ( $\bar{p}_i - \bar{p}$ ) and survival ( $\bar{S}_i - \bar{S}$ ) rate estimators for a $t = 5$ one-age mark recapture experiment with ancillary observations and a population made up of high ( $p_h$ ) and low ( $p_l$ ) capture probability individuals ( $p_l = \bar{p} - \frac{\Delta p}{2}$ and $p_h = \bar{p} + \frac{\Delta p}{2}$ ), and with $S_i = 0.3$ . . . . .	194
5.5	Average bias of the capture ( $\bar{p}_i - \bar{p}$ ) and survival ( $\bar{S}_i - \bar{S}$ ) rate estimators for a $t = 5$ one-age mark recapture experiment with ancillary observations and a population made up of high ( $p_h$ ) and low ( $p_l$ ) capture probability individuals ( $p_l = \bar{p} - \frac{\Delta p}{2}$ and $p_h = \bar{p} + \frac{\Delta p}{2}$ ), and with $S_i = 0.8$ . . . . .	196
5.6	Probability structure for a $t = 4$ one-age tag-resight model. All observations are obtained exactly at sampling time $i$ , and observations at $i$ of animals released at $i$ ignored. . . . .	198
5.7	Probability structure for a $t = 4$ one-age tag-resight study with a temporary marking response. For animals released at $i$ , class 0 animals are those animals marked at $i$ and class 1 animals are those animals marked before $i$ . Note: $\delta_i^{(\nu)} = \frac{(1-\theta_i^{(\nu)})}{\theta_i^{(\nu)} f_i^{(\nu)}}$ . . . . .	201
5.8	Probability structure for a $t = 4$ tag-resight study for animals tagged only as young and with observations obtained throughout the interval $i, i + 1$ . Class 0 animals are young, class 1 animals are adult. . . . .	205
5.9	Statistics used by Brownie et al. (1985) for the one-age model without a marking effect and the equivalent ancillary observations model statistics. . . . .	206
5.10	Joint live-recapture and tag-recovery array for paradise shelduck tagged in the Wanganui area 1987-1991. . . . .	209
5.11	Summary statistics for Wanganui paradise shelduck tagging program 1987-1991. . . . .	210
5.12	Parameter estimates for the Wanganui paradise shelduck tagging data	210

5.13	4×2 contingency table testing whether the probability that a member of $r_{88}$ is ever captured or recovered is influenced by whether it was captured in 1988. . . . .	211
6.1	Live-recapture and observation array for female brown trout tagged in Lake Brunner spawning tributaries, 1987-1990 and observed by angler captures 1987-1991. . . . .	216
6.2	Summary statistics for female brown trout tagged in spawning tributaries of Lake Brunner 1987-1990 and observed by anglers 1987-1991.	217
6.3	Parameter estimates for female brown trout under the one-age model with random emigration and no marking effect. . . . .	217
6.4	Live-recapture and observation array for male brown trout tagged in Lake Brunner spawning tributaries, 1987-1990 and observed by angler captures 1987-1991. . . . .	218
6.5	Summary statistics for male brown trout tagged in spawning tributaries of Lake Brunner 1987-1990 and observed by anglers 1987-1991.	219
6.6	Parameter estimates for male brown trout under the one-age model with no marking effect. . . . .	219
6.7	Observed and expected values for the 1988 component 2 contingency table of the random emigration model goodness-of-fit test for males.	221
6.8	Observed and expected values for the 1990 component 2 contingency table of the random emigration goodness-of-fit test for males. . . . .	221
6.9	Length classes used to assign Lake Brunner brown trout to age-classes.	222
6.10	Age-class 0 component of the 4-age reduced m-array with temporary marking effect for female brown trout tagged in Lake Brunner 1987 - 1990. . . . .	223
6.11	Age-class 1 component of the 4-age reduced m-array with temporary marking effect for female brown trout tagged in Lake Brunner 1987 - 1990. . . . .	224

6.12	Age-class 2 component of the 4-age reduced m-array with temporary marking effect for female brown trout tagged in Lake Brunner 1987 - 1990. . . . .	225
6.13	Age-class 3 component of the 4-age reduced m-array with temporary marking effect for female brown trout tagged in Lake Brunner 1987 - 1990. . . . .	226
6.14	Summary statistics for age-class 0 female brown trout tagged in spawning tributaries of Lake Brunner 1987-1990 and observed by anglers 1987-1991. . . . .	227
6.15	Summary statistics for age-class 1 female brown trout tagged in spawning tributaries of Lake Brunner 1987-1990 and observed by anglers 1987-1991. . . . .	228
6.16	Summary statistics for age-class 2 female brown trout tagged in spawning tributaries of Lake Brunner 1987-1990 and observed by anglers 1987-1991. . . . .	228
6.17	Summary statistics for age-class 3 female brown trout tagged in spawning tributaries of Lake Brunner 1987-1990 and observed by anglers 1987-1991. . . . .	229
6.18	Parameter estimates for age class 0 females in the 4-age model with temporary marking effect under random emigration. . . . .	229
6.19	Parameter estimates for age class 1 females in the 4-age model with temporary marking effect under random emigration. . . . .	230
6.20	Parameter estimates for age class 2 females in the 4-age model with temporary marking effect under random emigration. . . . .	231
6.21	Parameter estimates for age class 3 females in the 4-age model with temporary marking effect under random emigration. . . . .	232
6.22	Parameter estimates, standard errors in parentheses, for age classes 1,2, and 3 from the four age random emigration model with no temporary marking effect for female brown trout tagged in Lake Brunner 1987-1990 . . . . .	233

6.23	Results of contingency table tests for age- dependence and temporary marking effect. Model 1: no age-dependence and no marking effect; Model 2a marking effect but no age-dependence; Model 2b: age-dependence but no marking effect; Model 3: age-dependence and marking effect. . . . .	234
6.24	Reduced m-array with temporary marking effect for age-class 0 male brown trout tagged in Lake Brunner 1987 - 1990. . . . .	235
6.25	Reduced m-array with temporary marking effect for age-class 1 male brown trout tagged in Lake Brunner 1987 - 1990. . . . .	236
6.26	Reduced m-array with temporary marking effect for age-class 2 male brown trout tagged in Lake Brunner 1987 - 1990. . . . .	237
6.27	Reduced m-array with temporary marking effect for age-class 3 male brown trout tagged in Lake Brunner 1987 - 1990. . . . .	238
6.28	Summary statistics for age-class 0 male brown trout tagged in spawning tributaries of Lake Brunner 1987-1990 and observed by anglers 1987-1991. . . . .	239
6.29	Summary statistics for age-class 1 male brown trout tagged in spawning tributaries of Lake Brunner 1987-1990 and observed by anglers 1987-1991. . . . .	239
6.30	Summary statistics for age-class 2 male brown trout tagged in spawning tributaries of Lake Brunner 1987-1990 and observed by anglers 1987-1991. . . . .	240
6.31	Summary statistics for age-class 3 male brown trout tagged in spawning tributaries of Lake Brunner 1987-1990 and observed by anglers 1987-1991. . . . .	240
6.32	Parameter estimates for age-class 0 males under the 4-age model with temporary marking effect under random emigration fitted to the male data. . . . .	241

6.33	Parameter estimates for age-class 1 males under the 4-age model with temporary marking effect under random emigration fitted to the male data. . . . .	241
6.34	Parameter estimates for age-class 2 males under the 4-age model with temporary marking effect under random emigration fitted to the male data. . . . .	242
6.35	Parameter estimates for age-class 3 males under the 4-age model with temporary marking effect under random emigration fitted to the male data. . . . .	243
6.36	Results of contingency table tests for age- dependence and temporary marking effect for males. Model 1: no age- dependence and no marking effect; Model 2a marking effect but no age-dependence; Model 2b: age-dependence but no marking effect; Model 3: age-dependence and marking effect. . . . .	243
6.37	Parameter estimates, standard errors in parentheses, for the age-independent random emigration model with temporary marking effect in capture probabilities for male brown trout tagged in Lake Brunner 1987-1990 . . . . .	244
7.1	Multivariate reduced m-array for a mark-recapture study beginning at time 1 with $t$ capture periods and ancillary observations of marked animals obtained during the interval $1, t + 1$ . . . . .	256

## List of Figures

- 1.1 Overview of the main classes of mark-recapture models and their inter-relationships. Adapted from Pollock et al. (1990). . . . . 2
- 5.1 Relative asymptotic efficiency of the survival rate estimator of the one-age mark recapture model with ancillary observations relative to the Jolly-Seber model with  $t = 5$  and  $S_i = 0.3$  (Relative efficiency =  $\frac{\text{Var}(\hat{S}_i^{JS})}{\text{Var}(\hat{S}_i)}$ ). . . . . 184
- 5.2 Relative asymptotic efficiency of the survival rate estimator of the one-age mark recapture model with ancillary observations relative to the Jolly-Seber model with  $t = 5$  and  $S_i = 0.5$  (Relative efficiency =  $\frac{\text{Var}(\hat{S}_i^{JS})}{\text{Var}(\hat{S}_i)}$ ). . . . . 185
- 5.3 Relative asymptotic efficiency of the survival rate estimator of the one-age mark recapture model with ancillary observations relative to the Jolly-Seber model with  $t = 5$  and  $S_i = 0.8$  (Relative efficiency =  $\frac{\text{Var}(\hat{S}_i^{JS})}{\text{Var}(\hat{S}_i)}$ ). . . . . 186
- 5.4 Relative asymptotic efficiency of the survival rate estimator of the one-age mark recapture model with ancillary observations relative to the Jolly-Seber model with  $t = 10$  and various survival and capture probabilities (Relative efficiency =  $\frac{\text{Var}(\hat{S}_i^{JS})}{\text{Var}(\hat{S}_i)}$ ). . . . . 187

- 5.5 Average asymptotic bias of  $\hat{p}_i^*$  relative to the Jolly-Seber model in a one-age study where the population comprises high ( $p_h$ ) and low ( $p_l$ ) capture probability individuals.  $\Delta_p = p_h - p_l$ ,  $t=5$ ,  $S_i = 0.3$ , and  $f = 0.2$  (A), 0.4 (B), 0.6 (C), and 0.8 (D). (Relative bias =  $\frac{\hat{p}_i^* - \bar{p}}{\hat{p}_i^{*JS} - \bar{p}}$ ,  $P = \bar{p}$ ). . . . . 190
- 5.6 Average asymptotic bias of  $\hat{p}_i^*$  relative to the Jolly-Seber model in a one-age study where the population comprises high ( $p_h$ ) and low ( $p_l$ ) capture probability individual.  $\Delta_p = p_h - p_l$ ,  $t=5$ ,  $S_i = 0.8$ , and  $f = 0.2$  (A), 0.4 (B), 0.6 (C), and 0.8 (D). (Relative bias =  $\frac{\hat{p}_i^* - \bar{p}}{\hat{p}_i^{*JS} - \bar{p}}$ ,  $P = \bar{p}$ ). . . . . 191
- 5.7 Average asymptotic bias of  $\hat{S}_i^*$  relative to the Jolly-Seber model in a one-age study where the population comprises high ( $p_h$ ) and low ( $p_l$ ) capture probability individual.  $\Delta_p = p_h - p_l$ ,  $t=5$ ,  $S_i = 0.3$ , and  $f = 0.2$  (A), 0.4 (B), 0.6 (C), and 0.8 (D). (Relative bias =  $\frac{\hat{S}_i^* - \bar{p}}{\hat{S}_i^{*JS} - \bar{p}}$ ,  $P = \bar{p}$ ). . . . . 192
- 5.8 Average asymptotic bias of  $\hat{S}_i^*$  relative to the Jolly-Seber model in a one-age study where the population comprises high ( $p_h$ ) and low ( $p_l$ ) capture probability individual.  $\Delta_p = p_h - p_l$ ,  $t=5$ ,  $S_i = 0.8$ , and  $f = 0.2$  (A), 0.4 (B), 0.6 (C), and 0.8 (D). (Relative bias =  $\frac{\hat{S}_i^* - \bar{p}}{\hat{S}_i^{*JS} - \bar{p}}$ ,  $P = \bar{p}$ ). . . . . 193