

# Nonlinear Growth Models in the Age Measurement Of The European Rabbits In Australia in the Context of Alternative Models in Multivariate Statistics

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*Abstract:* Examining the special model

$$\text{Lens} = \alpha \exp\{-\beta / (\text{Age} + \gamma)\}$$

which belongs to Dudzinski and Mykytowycz (1961), and was used in a study made by them to find the age of *Oryctolagus Caniculus*, which lives in Europe and is known as the European rabbit, with live eye lens weight, we showed that similar results can be obtained with the Gompertz and Logistic nonlinear regression models. We determined that the results given by the models are showing the goodness of fit, as a result of a statistical analysis. Furthermore we showed that adding various parameters to Dudzinski and Mykytowycz model will not change the results.

**Key- Words:** nonlinear regression, logistic and gompertz model, gauss-newton iteration method, SPSS

**Table 1** Dry weight of eye lens and age

Data No	X(Age/Day)	Y(Eye lens weight(mg))	Data No	X(Age/Day)	Y(Eye lens weight(mg))	Data No	X(Age/Day)	Y(Eye lens weight(mg))
1	15	21.66	25	98	104.30	49	285	189.66
2	15	22.75	26	125	134.90	50	300	186.09
3	15	22.30	27	142	130.68	51	301	186.70
4	18	31.25	28	142	140.58	52	305	186.80
5	28	44.79	29	147	155.30	53	312	195.10
6	29	40.55	30	147	152.20	54	317	216.41
7	37	50.25	31	150	144.50	55	338	203.23
8	37	46.88	32	159	142.15	56	347	188.38
9	44	52.03	33	165	139.81	57	354	189.70
10	50	63.47	34	183	153.22	58	357	195.31
11	50	61.13	35	192	145.72	59	375	202.63
12	60	81.00	36	195	161.10	60	394	224.82
13	61	73.09	37	218	174.18	61	513	203.30
14	64	79.09	38	218	173.03	62	535	209.70
15	65	79.51	39	219	173.54	63	554	233.90
16	65	65.31	40	224	178.86	64	591	234.70
17	72	71.90	41	225	177.68	65	648	244.30
18	75	86.10	42	227	173.73	66	660	231.00
19	75	94.60	43	232	159.98	67	705	242.40
20	82	92.50	44	232	161.29	68	723	230.77
21	85	105.00	45	237	187.07	69	756	242.57
22	91	101.70	46	246	176.13	70	768	232.12
23	91	102.90	47	258	183.40	71	860	246.70
24	97	110.00	48	276	186.26			

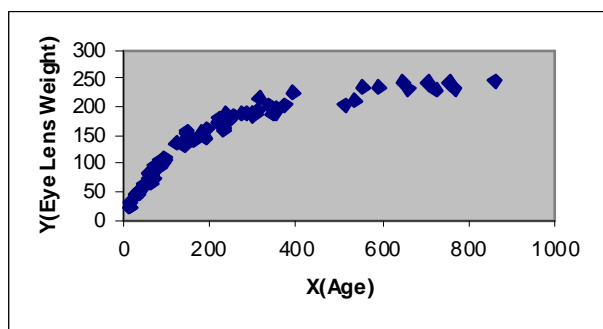
### 1 Introduction

In their study, Dudzinski and Mykytowycz [1], determining that eye lens weight tends much less to alter than the total body weight due to the environmental conditions, thought that life period of free living and wild European rabbit *Oryctolagus Cuniculus*, which is an important animal for Australia, can be an indicator of the age. 71 of the rabbits mentioned are chosen randomly and dry weight of their eye lenses are measured. And because they are under examination, beginning their ages from the youngest rabbit (Age / Day) the data table

below is prepared. Similarly it will be somewhat determined if ecological environmental factors have an effect on the lives of all the other animals which live in wild nature. To obtain similar data, we worked hard for a long time in Turkey. When we reached the responsible for both Government and Private wild animal living areas, it was revealed that they don't care such information. Thus, applying some data to various "nonlinear regression models", we thought that the results may be helpful to the ecological studies [1].

**Fig.1** Graph of the Table 1

The graph of Table 1 above is given below:



For each of the rabbits simple Logistic and Gompertz growth curve models which were denoted by equations [1] and [2] have thought

without a constant term, to use the measured live eye lens weight values. The mathematical equations belonging to the models which will be used are given below:

$$y = f(x) = \frac{\alpha}{1 + \beta e^{-\kappa x}} = \alpha(1 + \beta e^{-\kappa x})^{-1} \tag{1}$$

$$y = f(x) = \alpha e^{\{-e^{-\kappa(x-\gamma)}\}} \tag{2}$$

Here,  $f(x)$ : age in time { as day }  $x$ ,  $\alpha$ : asymptotic eye lens weight,  $\beta$ : a constant which defines the growth curve,  $\kappa$ : growth velocity,  $\gamma$ : a parameter about the distortion (twist) point,  $e$ : represents natural logarithm.

Least squares method normal equations for these models are given below:

$$\sum_{i=1}^{71} [y_i - \{\alpha / (1 + \beta e^{-\kappa x_i})\}] (1 / (1 + \beta e^{-\kappa x_i})) = 0$$

Table 2 The initial values of Gompertz model

sum\_{i=1}^{71} [y\_i - {alpha/1 + beta e^{-k x\_i}}] (-alpha e^{-k x\_i} / {1 + beta e^{-k x\_i}}^2) = 0

sum\_{i=1}^{71} [y\_i - {alpha/1 + beta e^{-k x\_i}}] (alpha beta x\_i e^{-k x\_i} / {1 + beta e^{-k x\_i}}^2) = 0

and

sum\_{i=1}^{71} [y\_i - alpha e^{-k(x\_i-gamma)}] (e^{-k(x\_i-gamma)}) = 0

sum\_{i=1}^{71} [y\_i - alpha e^{-k(x\_i-gamma)}] (alpha(x\_i-gamma) e^{-k(x\_i-gamma)} e^{-k(x\_i-gamma)}) = 0

sum\_{i=1}^{71} [y\_i - alpha e^{-k(x\_i-gamma)}] (-alpha gamma e^{-k(x\_i-gamma)} e^{-k(x\_i-gamma)}) = 0

Table with 5 columns and 28 rows of numerical values under the header x(1,i)

Table with 5 columns and 28 rows of numerical values under the header sigma\_x(1,i)

Table with 5 columns and 28 rows of numerical values under the header y(i)

Table with 5 columns and 28 rows of numerical values under the header sigma\_y(i)

INITIAL VALUES OF THE PARAMETERS

0.217700E+03 -2.80600E+01 -1.137100E-01

First of these normal equation systems is nonlinear to beta and kappa, and the latter is nonlinear to kappa and gamma. Thus there is no simple and closed-form solution. Using iterative methods is needed to reach the solution.

For Gauss-Newton method [2] if the initial vectors are taken as [200.8,12.9,-0.03] for logistic model and as [217.7,-2.8,-0.14] for Gompertz model (see Table II and III), Logistic model converges in iteration 11 and Gompertz model converges in iteration 9. The solution vectors are found as [alpha,beta,kappa] = [223.45,4.39,-0.01] for Logistic model and as [alpha,kappa,gamma] = [227.9,-1.98,-0.009] for Gompertz model.

Table with 5 columns and 28 rows of numerical values under the header x(1,i)

Table with 5 columns and 28 rows of numerical values under the header sigma\_x(1,i)

Table 3 The initial values for Logistic model

```

        y(i)
0.216600E+02 0.227500E+02 0.223000E+02 0.312500E+02 0.447900E+02
0.405500E+02 0.502500E+02 0.468800E+02 0.520300E+02 0.634700E+02
0.611300E+02 0.810000E+02 0.730900E+02 0.790900E+02 0.795100E+02
0.653100E+02 0.719000E+02 0.861000E+02 0.946000E+02 0.925000E+02
0.105000E+03 0.101700E+03 0.102900E+03 0.110000E+03 0.104500E+03
0.134900E+03 0.130680E+03 0.140580E+03 0.155300E+03 0.152200E+03
0.144500E+03 0.142150E+03 0.139810E+03 0.153220E+03 0.145720E+03
0.161100E+03 0.174180E+03 0.173030E+03 0.173540E+03 0.178860E+03
0.177680E+03 0.173730E+03 0.159980E+03 0.161290E+03 0.187070E+03
0.176130E+03 0.183400E+03 0.186260E+03 0.189660E+03 0.186090E+03
0.186700E+03 0.186800E+03 0.195100E+03 0.216410E+03 0.203230E+03
0.188380E+03 0.189700E+03 0.195310E+03 0.202630E+03 0.224820E+03
0.203300E+03 0.209700E+03 0.233900E+03 0.234700E+03 0.244300E+03
0.231000E+03 0.242400E+03 0.230770E+03 0.242570E+03 0.232120E+03
0.246700E+03

        sigmay(i)
0.100000E+01 0.100000E+01 0.100000E+01 0.100000E+01 0.100000E+01
0.100000E+01 0.100000E+01 0.100000E+01 0.100000E+01 0.100000E+01
0.100000E+01 0.100000E+01 0.100000E+01 0.100000E+01 0.100000E+01
0.100000E+01 0.100000E+01 0.100000E+01 0.100000E+01 0.100000E+01
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0.100000E+01 0.100000E+01 0.100000E+01 0.100000E+01 0.100000E+01
0.100000E+01 0.100000E+01 0.100000E+01 0.100000E+01 0.100000E+01
0.100000E+01 0.100000E+01 0.100000E+01 0.100000E+01 0.100000E+01

        INITIAL VALUES OF THE PARAMETERS
0.200800E+03 0.129000E+02 -.297100E-01
    
```

For each model the growth models constituted with the obtained parameter estimation results are given in Fig.2 and Fig.3.

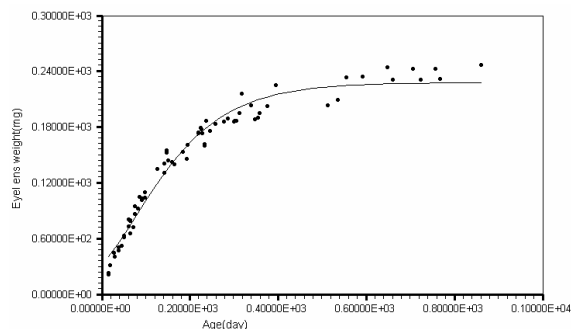


Fig.2 Logistic growth model for live eye lens weight of European rabbit

```

        THE CONVERGENCE HAPPENED IN THE ITERATION         9
proj_e.txt
N. 80: Y = A*EXP(B*EXP(C*X)) <--- Gompertz
PARAMETERS: Mean          UNCERTAINTIES: SD            t            P(t)
A = 0.22791665313E+03     SIGMAA = 0.3339755359E+01    0.682435E+02    0.000
B = -0.19809727482E+01    SIGMAB = 0.80239241358E-01    -246883E+02    0.000
C = -0.88862799166E-02     SIGMAC = 0.44268518325E-03    -2.00736E+02    0.000
Attention: SIGMA(p) = f * SIGMA
p=68.3%; f= 1.00          p=90%; f= 1.67          p=95.4%; f= 2.00          p=99%; f= 2.75
Chi-Square:
deg. Freed. = 68          chisq.=0.680000E+02          Red. Chisq.=0.100000E+01 => P(Red. Chisq.)=0.477
    
```

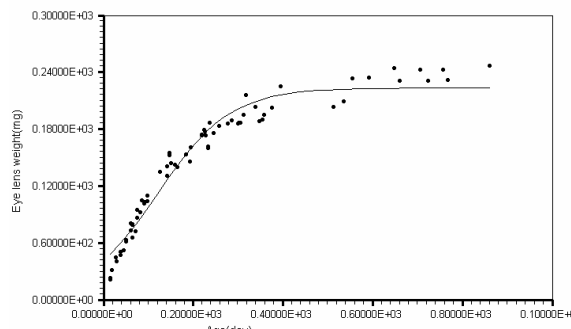


Fig.3 Gompertz growth model for live eye lens weight of European rabbit

```

        THE CONVERGENCE HAPPENED IN THE ITERATION         11
proj_e.txt
N. 81: Y = A/(1+B*EXP(C*X)) <--- Logistic
PARAMETERS: Mean          UNCERTAINTIES: SD            t            P(t)
A = 0.22344679745E+03     SIGMAA = 0.36701079241E+01    0.608829E+02    0.000
B = 0.43883422345E+01     SIGMAB = 0.31060363935E+00    0.123166E+02    0.000
C = -0.12296460845E-01    SIGMAC = 0.69956602499E-03    -1.75773E+02    0.000
Attention: SIGMA(p) = f * SIGMA
p=68.3%; f= 1.00          p=90%; f= 1.67          p=95.4%; f= 2.00          p=99%; f= 2.75
Chi-Square:
deg. Freed. = 68          chisq.=0.680000E+02          Red. Chisq.=0.100000E+01 => P(Red. Chisq.)=0.477
    
```

The resulting residual sum of squares is 12394 for logistic model and 8474.7 for Gompertz model.

Thus the fitted models are

$$\hat{y} = \frac{223.45}{1 + 4.39e^{-0.01x}} \text{ (Logistic Model)}$$

and (Gompertz Model)

```

Analysis of Variance:
F = (Sum Sq./Deg. Freed.)_reg / (Sum Sq./Deg. Freed.)_error =>
F = (0.28287E+06/2) / (0.84747E+04/ 68) = 0.1135E+04 => P(F) = 0.00
Standard Deviation of the Fitting: 0.111637E+02
Correlation Coefficient:
R^2yy(x) = 0.9718060E+00          adjR^2yy(x) = 0.9709768E+00
Ryy(x) = 0.985802E+00 => P(NP, |R|) = 0.300E-07
    
```

```

Analysis of Variance:
F = (Sum Sq./Deg. Freed.)_reg / (Sum Sq./Deg. Freed.)_error =>
F = (0.27279E+06/2) / (0.12394E+05/ 68) = 0.7484E+03 => P(F) = 0.00

Standard Deviation of the Fitting: 0.135003E+02

Correlation Coefficient:
R^2yy(x) = 0.9591523E+00      adjR^2yy(x) = 0.9579509E+00
Ryy(x) = 0.979363E+00 => P(NP,|R|) = 0.300E-07
    
```

An estimation of error variance

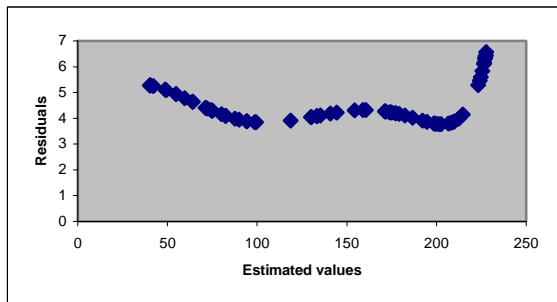
$$\hat{\sigma}^2 = RSS_E = \frac{\sum_{i=1}^n (y_i - \hat{y}_i)^2}{n - p} = \frac{\sum_{i=1}^n [y_i - f(x_i, b)]^2}{n - p} = \frac{S(b)}{n - p}$$

can be found as  $S(b) = 12394 / n - p = 71 - 3 = 182.27$  for logistic model and as

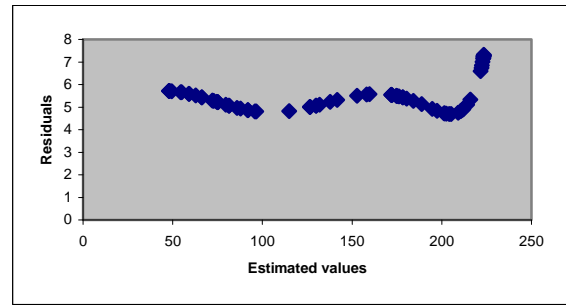
$S(b) = 8474.7 / n - p = 71 - 3 = 124.63$  for Gompertz model. Residuals can be obtained by

$$e_i = y_i - \hat{y}_i \quad (i = 1, 2, \dots, 71).$$

The plots of the estimated values against the residuals for each model are given in Fig.4 and Fig.5.



**Fig.4.** Estimated values versus residuals for Gompertz model



**Fig.5** Estimated values versus residuals for logistic model

The asymptotic (large-sample) [3] covariance matrix of the regression can be obtained by  $\text{var}(b) = \hat{\sigma}_e^2 (D'D)^{-1}$ . Here  $b$  is the parameter estimates vector,  $\hat{\sigma}_e^2$  is the error variance and  $D$  is the partial derivatives matrix.

If the numeric values put on their places, for Logistic model

$$D'D = \begin{bmatrix} 36.43 & -293.83 & -222855.04 \\ -293.83 & 5613.72 & 2995779.35 \\ -222855.04 & 2995779.35 & 2179116573 \end{bmatrix}$$

$$(D'D)^{-1} = \begin{bmatrix} 0.0739 & -0.00062 & 8.41 \times 10^{-6} \\ -0.00062 & 0.000674 & -9.9 \times 10^{-8} \\ 8.41 \times 10^{-6} & -9.9 \times 10^{-8} & 2.68 \times 10^{-9} \end{bmatrix}$$

$$\text{var}(b) = \hat{\sigma}_e^2 (D'D)^{-1} =$$

$$\begin{bmatrix} 13.47 & -0.1138 & 0.0015 \\ -0.1138 & 0.123 & -0.00018 \\ 0.0015 & -0.00018 & 4.9 \times 10^{-7} \end{bmatrix}$$

and for Gompertz model

$$D'D = \begin{bmatrix} 27.63 & 618.77 & -216251.33 \\ 618.77 & 52096.72 & -9646228.8 \\ -216251.33 & -9646228.8 & 2920767264 \end{bmatrix} \quad \gamma = -0.009/0.0004 = -20.07$$

$$(D'D)^{-1} = \begin{bmatrix} 0.09 & 0.0004 & 8.02 \times 10^{-6} \\ 0.0004 & 5.14 \times 10^{-5} & 2.01 \times 10^{-7} \\ 8.02 \times 10^{-6} & 2.01 \times 10^{-7} & 1.6 \times 10^{-9} \end{bmatrix} \quad S(h) = 136395/182.27 = 748.4$$

$$\text{var}(b) = \hat{\sigma}_e^2 (D'D)^{-1} = \begin{bmatrix} 11.154 & 0.0526 & 0.001 \\ 0.0526 & 0.0064 & 0.000025 \\ 0.001 & 0.000025 & 2 \times 10^{-7} \end{bmatrix}$$

By taking squareroots of the diagonal elements of these covariance matrices standart errors of the model parameters can be found

$$\text{ssh}(\alpha) = 3.67$$

$$\text{sh}(\beta) = 0.35$$

$$\text{sh}(\kappa) = 0.0007$$

for Logistic model and

$$\text{sh}(\alpha) = 3.34$$

$$\text{sh}(\kappa) = 0.08$$

$$\text{sh}(\gamma) = 0.0004$$

for Gompertz model. t-values of the parameters are

$$t(\alpha) = 223.45/3.67 = 60.88$$

$$t(\beta) = 4.39/0.35 = 12.52$$

$$t(\kappa) = -0.01/0.0007 = -17.58$$

for Logistic model and

$$t(\alpha) = 227.9/3.34 = 68.24$$

$$t(\kappa) = -1.98/0.08 = -24.69$$

for Gompertz model The F-test ratio which we will use to test the significance of the regression can be found by dividing the residual sum of squares of the model to mean of error squares and it is

$$S(h) = 136395/182.27 = 748.4$$

for Logistic model and

$$S(h) = 141435/124.63 = 1135$$

for Gompertz model. The test statistics are too big so  $H_0$ (null hypothesis) is rejected and we can conclude that at least one of the parameters of the both models is nonzero.

%95 confidence regions for the model parameters can be found with the inequalities below:

$$\alpha - z_{0.025} \text{sh}(\alpha) \leq \alpha \leq \alpha + z_{0.025} \text{sh}(\alpha)$$

$$\beta - z_{0.025} \text{sh}(\beta) \leq \beta \leq \beta + z_{0.025} \text{sh}(\beta)$$

$$\kappa - z_{0.025} \text{sh}(\kappa) \leq \kappa \leq \kappa + z_{0.025} \text{sh}(\kappa)$$

and

$$\alpha - z_{0.025} \text{sh}(\alpha) \leq \alpha \leq \alpha + z_{0.025} \text{sh}(\alpha)$$

$$\kappa - z_{0.025} \text{sh}(\kappa) \leq \kappa \leq \kappa + z_{0.025} \text{sh}(\kappa)$$

$$\gamma - z_{0.025} \text{sh}(\gamma) \leq \gamma \leq \gamma + z_{0.025} \text{sh}(\gamma).$$

The value of  $z_{0.025}$  is 1.96 so if the numerical values put on their places we find

$$223.45 - 1.96(3.67) \leq \alpha \leq 223.45 + 1.96(3.67)$$

$$4.39 - 1.96(0.35) \leq \beta \leq 4.39 + 1.96(0.35)$$

$$-0.01 - 1.96(0.0007) \leq \kappa \leq -0.01 + 1.96(0.0007)$$

$$227.9 - 1.96(3.34) \leq \alpha \leq 227.9 + 1.96(3.34)$$

$$-1.98 - 1.96(0.08) \leq \kappa \leq -1.98 + 1.96(0.08)$$

$$-0.009 - 1.96(0.0004) \leq \gamma \leq -0.009 + 1.96(0.0004)$$

$$216.2568 \leq \alpha \leq 230.6432$$

$$3.704 \leq \beta \leq 5.076$$

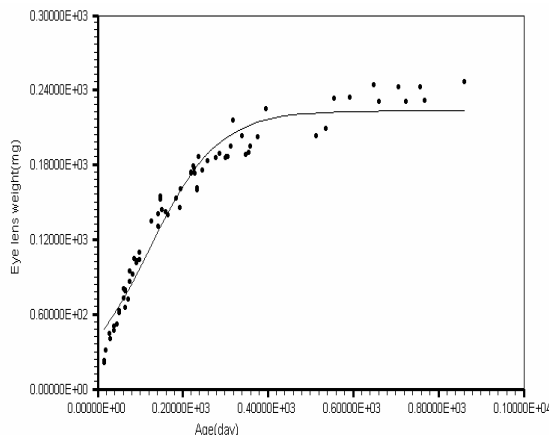
$$-0.011372 \leq \kappa \leq -0.008628$$

$$221.3536 \leq \alpha \leq 234.4464$$

$$-2.1368 \leq \kappa \leq -1.8232$$

$$-0.009784 \leq \gamma \leq -0.008216.$$

The growth curve of the model of Dudzinski and Mykytowycz is given in Fig.6



**Fig.6** Growth curve for the model of Dudzinski and Mykytowycz

### 4 Conclusion

If Fig.2 and Fig.3 are compared with Fig.6 the similarity between them can be seen clearly. This shows that the fitting level of Logistic and Gompertz models is very high and close to the original model. Furthermore the  $R^2$  values [2] are 0.96 for logistic model and 0.97 for Gompertz model and this values are very close to the  $R^2$  value of original model 0.99.

On the other hand if the Gompertz and logistic models are compared with each other, for both its  $R^2$  value is bigger and standart values of its parameters are smaller, we can say that Gompertz model fits the data better than logistic model.

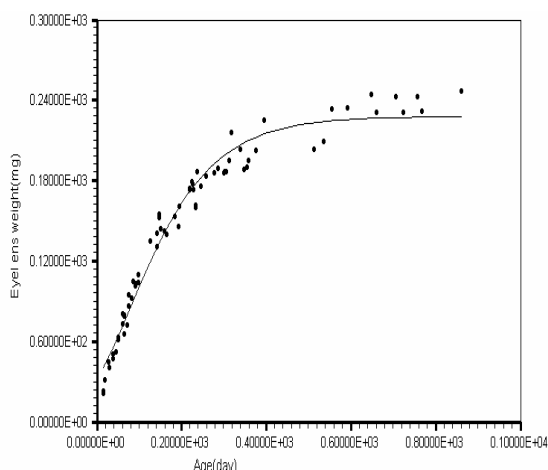
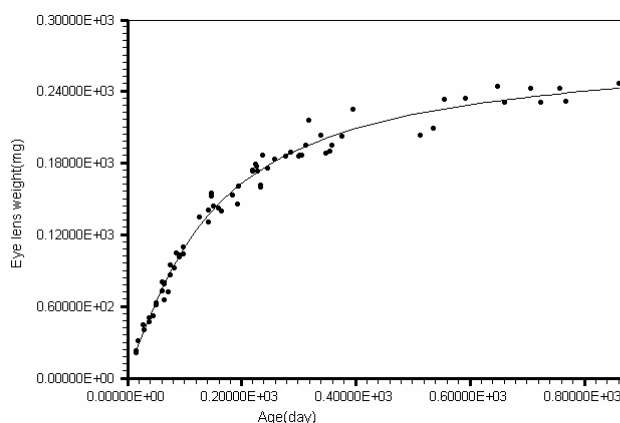
#### 4.1 Applying the Logistic Model to the Same Data With SPSS (Statistics Package for Social Sciences) and The Interpretation of the Results

GET

FILE='C:\Program Files\SPSS\adnan-reha.sav'.

DATASET NAME DataSet1  
WINDOW=FRONT.

- NonLinear Regression.
- The Initial vector for Logistic Model



MODEL PROGRAM a=200.8 b=12.9 c=-0.03 .

COMPUTE PRED\_ = a / (1 + b\*exp(-c\*Age)).

NLR Eyelens

/OUTFILE='C:\DOCUME~1\dente\LOCALS~1\Temp\spss3972\SPSSFNLR.TMP'

/PRED PRED\_

/CRITERIA SSSCONVERGENCE 1E-8 PCON 1E-8 .

### Nonlinear Regression Analysis

[DataSet1] C:\Program Files\SPSS\adnan-reha.sav

Iteration History<sup>b</sup>

Iteration Number <sup>a</sup>	Residual Sum of Squares	Parameter		
		a	b	c
1.0	1791260,4	200,800	12,900	-,030
1.1	3,3E+010	21699,075	1700,536	1,023
1.2	26009472	-456,570	54,269	,548
1.3	594946,14	319,456	4,771	,017
2.0	594946,14	319,456	4,771	,017
2.1	441099,41	310,569	5,134	,016
3.0	441099,41	310,569	5,134	,016
3.1	210324,39	291,738	5,732	,015
4.0	210324,39	291,738	5,732	,015
4.1	22161,922	243,014	5,560	,013
5.0	22161,922	243,014	5,560	,013
5.1	12559,780	224,060	4,136	,012
6.0	12559,780	224,060	4,136	,012
6.1	12393,828	223,565	4,391	,012
7.0	12393,828	223,565	4,391	,012
7.1	12393,604	223,460	4,387	,012
8.0	12393,604	223,460	4,387	,012
8.1	12393,602	223,454	4,388	,012
9.0	12393,602	223,454	4,388	,012
9.1	12393,602	223,451	4,388	,012
10.0	12393,602	223,451	4,388	,012
10.1	12393,602	223,450	4,388	,012

Derivatives are calculated numerically.

- a. Major iteration number is displayed to the left of the decimal, and minor iteration number is to the right of the decimal.
- b. Run stopped after 22 model evaluations and 10 derivative evaluations because the relative reduction between successive residual sums of squares is at most SSSCON = 1,00E-008.

Parameter Estimates

Parameter	Estimate	Std. Error	95% Confidence Interval	
			Lower Bound	Upper Bound
a	223,450	3,670	216,126	230,774
b	4,388	,351	3,689	5,088
c	,012	,001	,011	,014

Correlations of Parameter Estimates

	a	b	c
a	1,000	-,088	-,597
b	-,088	1,000	,734
c	-,597	,734	1,000



ANOVA<sup>a</sup>

Source	Sum of Squares	df	Mean Squares
Regression	1787899	3	595966,3
Residual	12393,602	68	182,259
Uncorrected Total	1800293	71	
Corrected Total	298613,0	70	

Dependent variable: Eyelens

a. R squared = 1 - (Residual Sum of Squares) / (Corrected Sum of Squares) = ,958.

We applied the same data with the SPSS computer program package and we obtained the lists below. It is obvious that there is a one-on-one perfect similarity with Fig.3, because that the correlation is  $R = 0.97$ .

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