

# Package: WH (via r-universe)

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**Type** Package

**Title** Enhanced Implementation of Whittaker-Henderson Smoothing

**Version** 2.0.0

**Description** An enhanced implementation of Whittaker-Henderson smoothing for the graduation of one-dimensional and two-dimensional actuarial tables used to quantify Life Insurance risks. 'WH' is based on the methods described in Biessy (2025) <[doi:10.48550/arXiv.2306.06932](https://doi.org/10.48550/arXiv.2306.06932)>. Among other features, it generalizes the original smoothing algorithm to maximum likelihood estimation, automatically selects the smoothing parameter(s) and extrapolates beyond the range of data.

**License** GPL (>= 3)

**Encoding** UTF-8

**LazyData** true

**URL** <https://github.com/GuillaumeBiessy/WH>

**BugReports** <https://github.com/GuillaumeBiessy/WH/issues>

**Depends** R (>= 4.2)

**Imports** Rcpp, stats

**Suggests** knitr, rmarkdown, spelling, testthat (>= 3.0.0)

**LinkingTo** Rcpp

**SystemRequirements** LAPACK

**Config/testthat/edition** 3

**RoxygenNote** 7.3.2

**VignetteBuilder** knitr

**Language** en-US

**NeedsCompilation** yes

**Author** Guillaume Biessy [aut, cre, cph] (ORCID:  
<<https://orcid.org/0000-0003-3756-7345>>)

**Maintainer** Guillaume Biessy <guillaume.biessy78@gmail.com>

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WH-package

*WH : Enhanced Implementation of Whittaker-Henderson Smoothing*

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## Description

An enhanced implementation of Whittaker-Henderson smoothing for the gradation of one-dimensional and two-dimensional actuarial tables used to quantify Life Insurance risks. WH is based on the methods described in Biessy (2025) [doi:10.48550/arXiv.2306.06932](https://doi.org/10.48550/arXiv.2306.06932). Among other features, it generalizes the original smoothing algorithm to maximum likelihood estimation, automatically selects the smoothing parameter(s) and extrapolates beyond the range of data.

## Author(s)

**Maintainer:** Guillaume Biessy <guillaume.biessy78@gmail.com> ([ORCID](https://orcid.org/)) [copyright holder]

## See Also

Useful links:

- <https://github.com/GuillaumeBiessy/WH>
- Report bugs at <https://github.com/GuillaumeBiessy/WH/issues>

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output_to_df	<i>Store WH model fit results in a data.frame</i>
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**Description**

Store WH model fit results in a data.frame

**Usage**

```
output_to_df(object, dim1 = "x", dim2 = "z")
```

**Arguments**

object	An object of class "WH_1d" or "WH_2d" returned by the <a href="#">WH()</a> function
dim1	The (optional) name to be given to the first dimension
dim2	The (optional) name to be given to the second dimension

**Value**

A data.frame gathering information about the fitted and predicted values, the model variance, residuals and effective degrees of freedom...

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plot.WH_1d	<i>Plot 1D WH fit</i>
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**Description**

Plot 1D WH fit

**Usage**

```
## S3 method for class 'WH_1d'
plot(x, what = "fit", trans, ...)
```

**Arguments**

x	An object of class "WH_1d" returned by the <a href="#">WH()</a> function
what	What should be plotted. Should be one of fit (the default), res for residuals and edf for the effective degrees of freedom.
trans	An (optional) transformation to be applied to the data. By default the identity function
...	Not used

**Value**

A plot representing the desired element of the fit

**Examples**

```
d <- portfolio_mort$d
ec <- portfolio_mort$ec
```

```
WH(d, ec) |> plot()
WH(d, ec) |> plot("res")
WH(d, ec) |> plot("edf")
```

---

plot.WH\_2d

*Plot 2D WH fit*

---

**Description**

Plot 2D WH fit

**Usage**

```
## S3 method for class 'WH_2d'
plot(x, what = "y_hat", trans, ...)
```

**Arguments**

x	An object of class "WH_2d" returned by the <a href="#">WH()</a> function
what	What should be plotted (y_hat, std_y_hat, res, edf)
trans	An (optional) transformation to be applied to the data
...	Not used

**Value**

A plot representing the given element of the fit...

**Examples**

```
d <- portfolio_LTC$d
ec <- portfolio_LTC$ec
```

```
WH(d, ec) |> plot()
WH(d, ec) |> plot("std_y_hat")
```

---

portfolio_LTC	<i>Aggregated Long-Term Care Dataset</i>
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**Description**

Aggregated dataset built from a simulated long-term care portfolio

**Usage**

portfolio\_LTC

**Format**

An synthetic aggregated dataset with death and exposure counts from a simulated long-term care portfolio with 100,000 contributors on a 20-year observation period (only deaths following long-term care claims are counted). The dataset is supplied as a list with two components :

- d** A matrix containing the portfolio number of observed deaths for each combination of age from 70 to 100 (excluded) and duration in LTC from 0 to 15 (excluded)
- ec** A matrix containing the portfolio central exposure in person-years for each combination age from 70 to 100 (excluded) and duration in LTC from 0 to 15 (excluded)

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portfolio_mort	<i>Aggregated Mortality Dataset</i>
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---

**Description**

Aggregated dataset built from a simulated mortality portfolio

**Usage**

portfolio\_mort

**Format**

An synthetic aggregated dataset with death and exposure counts from a simulated annuity portfolio with 100,000 contributors on a 20-year observation period. The dataset is supplied as a list with two components :

- d** A vector containing the portfolio number of observed deaths for each age from 50 to 95 (excluded)
- ec** A vector containing the portfolio central exposure in person-years for each age from 50 to 95 (excluded)

---

predict.WH\_1d                    *Predict new values using a fitted 1D WH model*

---

### Description

Extrapolate the model for new observations.

### Usage

```
## S3 method for class 'WH_1d'
predict(object, newdata = NULL, ...)
```

### Arguments

object	An object of class "WH_1d" returned by the <code>WH()</code> function
newdata	A vector containing the position of new observations. Observations from the fit will automatically be added to this, in the adequate order
...	Not used

### Value

An object of class "WH\_1d" with additional components for model prediction.

### Examples

```
object <- WH(portfolio_mort$d, portfolio_mort$ec)
object_extra <- predict(object, newdata = 40:99)
plot(object_extra)
```

---

predict.WH\_2d                    *Predict new values using a fitted 2D WH model*

---

### Description

Extrapolate the model for new observations in a way that is consistent with the fitted values

### Usage

```
## S3 method for class 'WH_2d'
predict(object, newdata = NULL, ...)
```

### Arguments

object	An object of class "WH_2d" returned by the <code>WH()</code> function
newdata	A list containing two vectors indicating the new observation positions
...	Not used

**Value**

An object of class "WH\_2d" with additional components for model prediction.

**Examples**

```
object <- WH(portfolio_LTC$d, portfolio_LTC$ec)
object_extra <- predict(object, newdata = list(age = 60:109, duration = 0:19))
plot(object_extra)
```

---

`print.WH_1d`                      *Display of 1D WH object*

---

**Description**

Display of 1D WH object

**Usage**

```
## S3 method for class 'WH_1d'
print(x, ...)
```

**Arguments**

- `x`                      An object of class "WH\_1d" returned by the `WH()` function
- `...`                    Not used

**Value**

Invisibly returns `x`.

**Examples**

```
WH(portfolio_mort$d, portfolio_mort$ec)
```

---

print.WH_2d	<i>Display of 2D WH object</i>
-------------	--------------------------------

---

**Description**

Display of 2D WH object

**Usage**

```
## S3 method for class 'WH_2d'
print(x, ...)
```

**Arguments**

x	An object of class "WH_2d" returned by the <code>WH()</code> function
...	Not used

**Value**

Invisibly returns x.

**Examples**

```
WH(portfolio_LTC$d, portfolio_LTC$ec)
```

---

vcov.WH_1d	<i>Compute variance-covariance matrix of fitted 1D WH model</i>
------------	---

---

**Description**

The variance-covariance matrix may be useful in case confidence intervals are required for quantities derived from the fitted values.

**Usage**

```
## S3 method for class 'WH_1d'
vcov(object, pred = TRUE, ...)
```

**Arguments**

object	An object of class "WH_1d" returned by the <code>WH()</code> function
pred	Should the variance-covariance matrix include the extrapolated values as well (if any) ?
...	Not used

**Value**

The variance-covariance matrix for the fitted values

**Examples**

```
object <- WH(portfolio_mort$d, portfolio_mort$ec)
vcov(object)

object_extra <- predict(object, newdata = 40:99)
V <- vcov(object_extra)
```

---

vcov.WH\_2d

*Compute variance-covariance matrix of fitted 1D WH model*


---

**Description**

The variance-covariance matrix may be useful in case confidence intervals are required for quantities derived from the fitted values.

**Usage**

```
## S3 method for class 'WH_2d'
vcov(object, pred = TRUE, ...)
```

**Arguments**

object	An object of class "WH_2d" returned by the <code>WH()</code> function
pred	Should the variance-covariance matrix include the extrapolated values as well (if any) ?
...	Not used

**Value**

The variance-covariance matrix for the fitted values

**Examples**

```
object <- WH(portfolio_LTC$d, portfolio_LTC$ec)
V <- vcov(object)

object_extra <- predict(object, newdata = list(age = 60:109, duration = 0:19))
V <- vcov(object_extra)
```

**Description**

Main package function to apply Whittaker-Henderson Smoothing in a survival analysis framework. It takes as input two vectors / matrices of observed events and associated central exposure and estimate a smooth version of the log-hazard rate. Smoothing parameters may be supplied or automatically chosen according to a specific criterion such as "REML" (recommended), "AIC", "BIC" or "GCV". Whittaker-Henderson Smoothing may be applied in a full maximum likelihood framework (strongly recommended) or an asymptotic (approximate) Gaussian framework.

**Usage**

```
WH(d, ec, lambda = NULL, q = 2, criterion, reg, y, wt, verbose = 1, ...)
```

**Arguments**

d	Vector / matrix of observed events whose elements should be named.
ec	Vector / matrix of central exposure. The central exposure corresponds to the sum of the exposure period over the insured population. An individual experiencing an event of interest during the year will no longer be exposed afterwards and the exposure should be reduced accordingly.
lambda	Smoothing parameter. If missing, an optimization procedure will be used to find the optimal smoothing parameter.
q	Order of penalization. Polynomials of degrees $q - 1$ are considered smooth and therefore unpenalized. The default of 2 should be suitable for most practical applications. Higher orders may cause numerical issues.
criterion	Criterion to be used for the selection of the optimal smoothing parameter. Default is "REML" which stands for restricted maximum likelihood. Other options include "AIC", "BIC" and "GCV".
reg	Should an approximate regression framework be used ? framework.
y	Optional vector of observations whose elements should be named. Used only in the regression framework and even in this case will be automatically computed from the d and ec arguments if those are supplied. May be useful when using Whittaker-Henderson smoothing outside of the survival analysis framework.
wt	Optional vector / matrix of weights. As for the observation vector / matrix y, used only in the regression framework and even in this case will be automatically computed if the d argument is supplied. May be useful when using Whittaker-Henderson smoothing outside of the survival analysis framework.
verbose	Integer between 0 and 3. Control the level of informations that will be printed on screen during fitting.
...	Additional parameters passed to the smoothing function called.

**Value**

An object of class WH\_1d i.e. a list containing, among other things :

- `y` The observation vector/matrix, either supplied or computed as  $y = \log(d) - \log(ec)$
- `y_hat` The vector/matrix of fitted value
- `std_y_hat` The vector/matrix of standard deviation associated with the fitted value
- `res` The vector/matrix of model deviance residuals
- `edf` The vector/matrix of effective degrees of freedom associated with each observation
- `diagnosis` A data.frame with one row containing the effective degrees of freedom of the model, the deviance of the fit as well as the AIC, BIC, GCV and REML criteria

**Examples**

```
d <- portfolio_mort$d
ec <- portfolio_mort$ec

y <- log(d / ec)
y[d == 0 | ec == 0] <- NA
wt <- d

# Maximum likelihood
WH(d, ec) # automatic smoothing parameter selection via REML
WH(d, ec, lambda = 1e2) # fixed smoothing parameter
WH(d, ec, criterion = "GCV") # alternative criterion for smoothing parameter selection

# Regression
WH(y = y, wt = wt) # regression framework is default when y is supplied
WH(d, ec, reg = TRUE, lambda = 1e2) # forces computation of y from d and ec
```

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