

Physiologically structured
population models:
Formulation, analysis
and ecological insights

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A central issue in ecology and evolution

Life history

Population growth & demography



The conceptual issue: Development like other complicating factors?

NO! Like reproduction and mortality, development is a constituent component of population dynamics

Unlike modulating factors such as:

- Spatial heterogeneity
 - Influence excluded through homogeneous mixing (*chemostats*)
- Intraspecific genetic variation
 - Influence excluded by using clonal or inbred individuals (parthenogenetic species, iso-female lines)

Development is next to mortality the most certain population dynamics process, reproduction is only secondary

Approaches to study impacts of life history



Commonly used approaches for analysis

Matrix models: discrete time, discrete individual states (*i*-states)

$$\begin{pmatrix} x_1(t+1) \\ \vdots \\ x_n(t+1) \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} a_{11} & \dots & a_{1n} \\ \vdots & \ddots & \vdots \\ a_{n1} & \dots & a_{nn} \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} x_1(t) \\ \vdots \\ x_n(t) \end{pmatrix}$$

H. Caswell, 2001. Matrix Population Models. Sinauer Associates

Integral projection models: discrete time, continuous i-states



Ellner, Child & Rees, 2016. Data-driven Modelling of Structured Populations: A Practical Guide to the Integral Projection Model. Springer

- Characteristics:
 - Data-driven, tight link with life history observations
 - Non-mechanistic, no functional individual life history description



A data-driven approach: IPMs

Life history



Non-mechanistic representation of life history based on data representative of **current** conditions



Structured population models



- Population rather than community dynamics (population growth rate)
- Fixed development rates (age, stage), independent of food
- Energetics ignored (maintenance costs, mass/energy conservation)

Life history's most prominent feature: Growth in body size (a doubling at least)



Intra-specific variation in body size!

Foto by Emma van der Woude

Structured population models



- Community dynamics (resources, consumers, predators)
- Food-dependent growth in body size
- Strict conservation of mass/energy including maintenance costs

Nonlinearity: population feedback on life history



B PPP

Physiologically Structured Population Models



Density dependent feedback

Types of population feedback on life history

Individual

Dynamic traits (*i*-state variables)

• Age, body size, energy reserves

Static traits (*i*-state variables)

• Sex, frailty, genotype

Environment

Number of conspecifics (direct density-dependence)

- Interference competition, e.g. for mates or nesting sites
- Phenomenological, non-mechanistic

Resource density (indirect)

Exploitative foraging on shared resource

Predation risk (indirect)

• Top-down control on prey population through shared predator

B PPP

Physiologically Structured Population Models



Density dependent feedback

Model ingredients and parameterization



On the basis of independent, individual-level data and experiments Dynamic energy budget models: Energy/mass conservation principle



- "Kappa-rule" models (Kooijman, 1993, 2002, 2009)
 Reproduction proportional to ingestion
- Net-production models
 Maintenance covered first

Energy intake (assimilation from food)

Energy expenditure (maintenance, growth, reproduction)



Kooijman's Dynamic Energy Budget theory



Estimating DEB parameters from individual data



Figure 3.2: Fits of the DEBkiss model to growth and reproduction data for the pond snail in three feeding regimes (data from [83]).





Figure 3.4: Data for snail embryo size and oxygen use over time [24]. Solid line represent model predictions with the parameters from last column of Table 3.1; broken lines are quick-fixes (not fitted) to get a closer correspondence to the data (see text Section 3.3).

A generic size-structured model

- Individuals are born with size (mass)
- Growth rate in body size: g(
- Reproduction rate: $\beta(s)$
- Resource intake rate:
- Mortality rate:

$$\frac{\partial c(t,s)}{\partial t} + \frac{\partial g(s,R) c(t,s)}{\partial s} = -\mu(s,R) c(t,s)$$

$$g(s_b, R) c(t, s_b) = \int_{s_b}^{s_m} \beta(s, R) c(t, s) ds$$

$$\frac{dR}{dt} = G(R) - \int_{s_b}^{s_m} \gamma(s, R) c(t, s) \, ds$$

 $egin{aligned} g(s,R) \ eta(s,R) \ \gamma(s,R) \ \mu(s,R) \end{aligned}$

 S_b

- "Sinko & Streifer model" (Ecology, 1967)
- VonFoerster (1959)
- Frederickson et al. (1967)
- Bell & Anderson (1967)
- Metz & Diekmann (1986) Springer Lecture Notes in Biomathematics 68

Integro-delay-differential equation formulation





Needed: $\Xi(a, E_t)$, the solution of

$$\frac{d\xi}{d\tau} = g(\xi(\tau), E(t-a+\tau)), \quad 0 < \tau < a, \quad \xi(0) \in \Omega_b$$

Functional life history representations

Kooijman's Dynamic Energy Budget model



How can we compute model equilibria given a mildly complex life history model?

Steady state analysis

NUMERICAL CONTINUATION OF EQUILIBRIA OF PHYSIOLOGICALLY STRUCTURED POPULATION MODELS. I. THEORY

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Available online at www.sciencedirect.com

SCIENCE DIRECT.

Theoretical Population Biology 63 (2003) 309-338



http://www.elsevier.com/locate/ytpbi

Steady-state analysis of structured population models O. Diekmann,^a M. Gyllenberg,^{b,*} and J.A.J. Metz^{c,d}

Equilibrium analysis

 Individuals are assumed to live in an environment characterized by a (finite) set of *environment variables*:

$$E=(E_1,\ldots,E_m)\in\mathbb{R}^m$$

Environment variables can include independent quantities like resource density and density of predators, but also densitydependent measures like total number of individuals or biomass in the population

Individuals are characterized by their *individual* or *i-state*, which is a (finite) set of physiological characteristics (traits such as age, size, sex, energy reserves):

$$x=(x_1,\ldots,x_k)\in\Omega\subset\mathbb{R}^k$$

 Individual and environmental state variables determine the individual life history (development, impact, reproduction, mortality)

The generic model for individual life history

 Development follows a deterministic process that is continuous in time:

$$\frac{dx}{da} = g(x, E)$$

- Individuals have an impact $\gamma(x, E)$ on their environment
- Reproduction is a function β(x, E) of individual and environment state
- Mortality is a function $\mu(x, E)$ of individual state and environment state
- Individuals are born with an *i-state* ϕ_b that is one of a finite set of possible states at birth:

$$\phi_b \in \{\phi_1, ..., \phi_m\}$$

with each potential state at birth ϕ_i a valid *i-state*:

$$oldsymbol{\phi}_j = (\phi_{j1}$$
 , $...$, $\phi_{jk}) \in \Omega \subset \mathbb{R}^k$

Environment dynamics

 Environment variables may in isolation follow autonomous dynamics:

$$\frac{dE}{dt} = G(E)$$

or may be functions of the population (to model direct density dependence):

$$E(t) = \int_{\Omega} \gamma(x, E) n(t, x) dx$$

Computing an equilibrium of a structured model

In equilibrium of the structured population the expected lifetime reproduction equals 1:

$$\underbrace{\int_{0}^{\infty} \beta(x(a,\tilde{E}),\tilde{E}) \mathcal{F}(a,\tilde{E}) \, da}_{0} = 1$$

Expected lifetime reproduction

 In addition, the dynamics of the environment should be balanced by the impact of the population:

$$\tilde{b} \underbrace{\int_{0}^{\infty} \gamma(x(a,\tilde{E}),\tilde{E}) \mathcal{F}(a,\tilde{E}) da}_{0} = G\left(\tilde{E}\right)$$

Lifetime impact on environment

or

$$\tilde{b} \underbrace{\int_{0}^{\infty} \gamma(x(a,\tilde{E}),\tilde{E}) \mathcal{F}(a,\tilde{E}) \, da}_{0} = \tilde{E}$$

Lifetime impact on environment

How to compute these integrals?

Computing an equilibrium of a structured model

Probability of survival up to age a:

$$\mathcal{F}(a, \tilde{E}) = \exp\left(-\int_0^a \mu\left(x(\alpha, \tilde{E})\right) d\alpha\right)$$

• Cumulative number of offspring up to age *a*:

$$H(a,\tilde{E}) = \int_0^a \beta(x(\alpha,\tilde{E}),\tilde{E}) \mathcal{F}(\alpha,\tilde{E}) \, d\alpha$$

Cumulative impact up to age a:

$$I(a, \tilde{E}) = \int_0^a \gamma(x(\alpha, \tilde{E}), \tilde{E}) \mathcal{F}(\alpha, \tilde{E}) \, d\alpha$$

BBD

Equilibrium conditions

$$H(\infty, \tilde{E}) = \int_0^\infty \beta(x(\alpha, \tilde{E}), \tilde{E}) \mathcal{F}(\alpha, \tilde{E}) \, d\alpha = 1$$

$$\tilde{b} I(\infty, \tilde{E}) = \tilde{b} \int_0^\infty \gamma(x(\alpha, \tilde{E}), \tilde{E}) \mathcal{F}(\alpha, \tilde{E}) d\alpha = G(\tilde{E})$$

The computational approach

• Differentiating the probability of survival up to age $\mathcal{F}(a, \tilde{E})$ leads to:

$$\frac{d\mathcal{F}}{da} = -\mu(x(a,\tilde{E}),\tilde{E})\mathcal{F}(a,\tilde{E}), \qquad \mathcal{F}(0,\tilde{E}) = 1$$

• Differentiating $H(a, \tilde{E})$ with respect to *a* yields:

$$\frac{dH}{da} = \beta(x(a, \tilde{E}), \tilde{E})\mathcal{F}(a, \tilde{E}), \qquad H(0, \tilde{E}) = 0$$

• Differentiating $I(a, \tilde{E})$ with respect to *a* yields:

$$\frac{dI}{da} = \gamma(x(a, \tilde{E}), \tilde{E})\mathcal{F}(a, \tilde{E}), \qquad I(0, \tilde{E}) = 0$$

Putting it all together

 The equilibrium of a non-linear structured population model is determined by:

$$H(\infty, \tilde{E}) = 1$$

 $\tilde{b} I(\infty, \tilde{E}) = G(\tilde{E})$

which has to be solved (*numerically and iteratively*) for the unknowns \tilde{E} and \tilde{b} .

• The values of $H(\infty, \tilde{E})$ and $I(\infty, \tilde{E})$ are evaluated by integration of the ODEs:

$$\begin{cases} \frac{dx}{da} = g(x(a, \tilde{E}), \tilde{E}), & x(0, \tilde{E}) = \phi_b \\ \frac{dF}{da} = -\mu(x(a, \tilde{E}), \tilde{E}) \mathcal{F}(a, \tilde{E}), & \mathcal{F}(0, \tilde{E}) = 1 \\ \frac{dH}{da} = \beta(x(a, \tilde{E}), \tilde{E}) \mathcal{F}(a, \tilde{E}), & H(0, \tilde{E}) = 0 \\ \frac{dI}{da} = \gamma(x(a, \tilde{E}), \tilde{E}) \mathcal{F}(a, \tilde{E}), & I(0, \tilde{E}) = 0 \end{cases}$$

Physiologically Structured Population Models: Analysis



A size-structured, tritrophic example





- Ingestion scales allometrically with size
- Adults continue growing, while reproducing
- Food-dependent growth and reproduction
- Maturation when reaching size threshold

A size-structured, tritrophic example



Predator per capita growth rate: $\frac{D}{1+aT_hB}-\delta$ Consumer growth rate in size: **Consumer fecundity:** $\beta(s,R) = r_m \frac{\kappa}{R_h + R} s^2 \qquad \text{if } s \ge s_j$ **Consumer mortality:** $\mu(s, P) = \begin{cases} \mu_b + \frac{aP}{1 + aT_hB} & \text{if } s < s_V \\ \mu_b & \text{otherwise} \end{cases}$ Consumer foraging: $\gamma(s,R) = I_m \frac{R}{R_h + R} s^2$ **Resource turnover:** $\rho \left(R_{max} - R \right)$

A size-structured, tritrophic example





1. Starting from a trivial equilibrium

>> [data1, rep1, bp1, bt1] = ...
PSPMequi('Test', 'EQ', [1.0E-06 1.0E-06],..);



 10^{-4}

1. Starting from a trivial equilibrium

>> [data1, rep1, bp1, bt1] = ...
PSPMequi('Test', 'EQ', [1.0E-06 1.0E-06],..);

2. Starting from the detected consumer invasion point

>> [data2, rep2, bp2, bt2] =
 PSPMequi('Test', 'EQ', bp1([1 2 5]),..);



 10^{-4}



- 1. Starting from a trivial equilibrium
- >> [data1, rep1, bp1, bt1] = ...
 PSPMequi('Test', 'EQ', [1.0E-06 1.0E-06],..);

2. Starting from the detected consumer invasion point

>> [data2, rep2, bp2, bt2] =
 PSPMequi('Test', 'EQ', bp1([1 2 5]),..);

3. Starting from the detected predator invasion point

```
>> [data3, rep3, bp3, bt3] =
    PSPMequi('Test', 'EQ', bp2([1 2 3 7 5]),..);
```



- 1. Starting from a trivial equilibrium
- >> [data1, rep1, bp1, bt1] = ...
 PSPMequi('Test', 'EQ', [1.0E-06 1.0E-06],..);

2. Starting from the detected consumer invasion point

>> [data2, rep2, bp2, bt2] =
 PSPMequi('Test', 'EQ', bp1([1 2 5]),..);

3. Starting from the detected predator invasion point

>> [data3, rep3, bp3, bt3] =
 PSPMequi('Test', 'EQ', bp2([1 2 3 7 5]),..);



1. Continuing consumer invasion boundary

>> [data4, rep4] = ...
PSPMequi('Test','BP',[bp1([1 2]) 0.01],..);

2. Continuing predator invasion boundary

>> [data5, rep5] =
 PSPMequi('Test','BPE',[bp2([1 2 5]) 0.01],..);

3. Continuing predator persistence boundary

>> [data6, rep6] =
 PSPMequi('Test','LP',[bp3([1:5] 0.01]),..);





Selection gradient:

$$\frac{d\mathcal{R}_0}{dq}\Big|_{q=q_{\rm res}} = \frac{d}{dq} \int_0^\infty \beta(s(a,\tilde{R}),\tilde{R}) p(a,s(\cdot,\tilde{R}),\tilde{R}) \, da \Big|_{q=q_{\rm res}}$$

(computed numerically, while computing ecological equilibrium as function of a life history parameter)

Evolutionary endpoint:

$$\left. \frac{d\mathcal{R}_0}{dq} \right|_{q=q_{\rm res}} = 0$$

Evolutionary dynamics: (Canonical equation of adaptive dynamics):

$$\frac{dq_{res}}{d\tau} \propto \mu \left(q_{res}\right) \left. \frac{\sigma_0 \left(q_{res}\right)}{2} \, \tilde{b} \left(q_{res}\right) \left. \frac{d\mathcal{R}_0}{dq} \right|_{q=q_{res}}$$

Adaptive Dynamics

- Evolution in environment set by ecological dynamics
 - **Resident-mutant interaction**: Resident sets the environment, $\tilde{R}(q_{\rm res})$, which determines the mutant's fitness
- Separation of evolutionary and ecological timescale
 - *Mutation limitation*: Convergence to (new) ecological equilibrium between mutation events
 - **Domination or demise**: Positive fitness (mutant growth) results in take-over, negative fitness leads to mutant disappearance





Life history functions:

$$\gamma(s,R) = I_{max} R s^{q}$$

$$g(s,R) = \kappa(s) \left(\sigma\gamma(s,R) - T s^{p}\right)$$

$$\beta(s,R) = \frac{\left(1 - \kappa(s)\right) \left(\sigma\gamma(s,R) - T s^{p}\right)}{s_{b}}$$

$$\kappa(s) = \begin{cases} 1 & \text{if } s \leq s_j \\ 1 - 3\left(\frac{s - s_j}{s_m - s_j}\right)^2 + 2\left(\frac{s - s_j}{s_m - s_j}\right)^3 & \text{otherwise} \end{cases}$$



Population-level model:

 $\frac{\partial c(t,s)}{\partial t} + \frac{\partial \left(g(s,R)c(t,s)\right)}{\partial s} = -\mu c(t,s)$ $g(s_b,R) c(t,s_b) = \int_{s_b}^{s_m} \beta(s,R) c(t,s) \, ds$ $\frac{dR}{dt} = \delta \left(R_{max} - R\right) - \int_{s_b}^{s_m} \gamma(s,R) c(t,s) \, ds$

Evolutionary analysis through adaptive dynamics



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Cell cycle control: Cyclin-dependent kinases



Tyson & Novak model for cell division

$$\frac{dm}{dt} = \mu m \left(1 - \frac{m}{m^*}\right) \frac{S}{\xi + S}$$

$$\frac{d[CycB_T]}{dt} = k_1 - (k'_2 + k''_2[Cdh1])[CycB_T]$$

$$\frac{d[Cdc20_T]}{dt} = k_5' + k_5'' \frac{\left([CycB_T]m\right)^n}{J_5^n + \left([CycB_T]m\right)^n} - k_6[Cdc20_T]$$

$$[Cdh1] = G(k'_3 + k''_3 [Cdc20_T], k_4 m [CycB], J_3, J_4)$$

With *G* the is the Goldbeter-Koshland function:

$$G(v_1, v_2, J_1, J_2) = \frac{2v_1 J_2}{(v_2 - v_1 + v_1 J_2 + v_2 J_1) + \sqrt{(v_2 - v_1 + v_1 J_2 + v_2 J_1)^2 - 4(v_2 - v_1)v_1 J_2}}$$

Cell division



A structured model for an entire cell population: Equilibrium states when competing for substrate

Single cell model (core of the population model):

$$\frac{dm}{dt} = \mu m \left(1 - \frac{m}{m^*}\right) \frac{S}{\xi + S}$$

$$\frac{d[CycB_T]}{dt} = k_1 - (k'_2 + k''_2[Cdh1])[CycB_T]$$

$$\frac{d[Cdc20_T]}{dt} = k_5' + k_5'' \frac{\left([CycB_T]m\right)^n}{J_5^n + \left([CycB_T]m\right)^n} - k_6[Cdc20_T]$$
$$[Cdh1] = G(k_3' + k_3''[Cdc20_T], k_4m[CycB], J_3, J_4)$$

Competing for a limiting substrate:

$$\frac{dS}{dt} = D(S_0 - S) - \int_0^\infty \mu m \left(1 - \frac{m}{m^*}\right) Q \frac{S}{\xi + S} n(t, s) \, ds$$

A structured model for an entire cell population: Computational approach

- Take a 40 x 40 grid of initial states at birth covering a range of masses at birth m = 0.3,...,1.0 and [Cdc20_T] = 0.7,...,1.4
- From each of these states of birth, compute the life history trajectory, including the contribution of daughter cells to potential states at birth

- Next-generation matrix A
 - Dominant eigenvalue should equal 1 (= R₀)
 - Stable distribution of states at birth
 - Stable cell size distribution



Competing for resources



High flow-through rate of medium: (D = 0.01)



[Cdc20]

High flow-through rate of medium: (D = 0.01)





Low flow-through rate of medium (D = 0.006)



Low flow-through rate of medium (D = 0.006)

