### Mathematical modelling applied to biology and medicine

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# Mathematical modelling applied to biology and medicine

# **modelling** *noun* [U] (MATHEMATICS, COMPUTING)

 the activity of using mathematical models (simple descriptions of a system or process) to make calculations or predict what might happen (Cambridge dictionary)

-the work of making a simple description of a system or a process that can be used to explain it, etc. (Oxford dictionary)



### Modelling

- Modelling is a scientific approach that allows a model elaboration,
- It the most known part of modelling is based on mathematics, and more particularly, on a part of mathematics that deals with variables and parameters taking values in the real numbers



In this lecture, we will only deal with mathematical modelling

### **Modelling and theorising**

 we can theorise without modelling, and we can model without theorising. However, a model is often a precious tool in a theoretical approach,
 in practice: modelling may be useful in the 3 big steps of a scientific process:

1- detect and ask questions,
2- set up the problem and collect data and knowledge,
3- define actions and study the consequences

### Modeler

- is the specialist of a strategy to design and use the models,
- knows how to efficiently model in a field in which he or his team has some expertise,
- knows a large variety of tools and methods,
- is inspired by the biological problem to propose a method and not the reverse,
- is involved in the biological knowledge improvement. In research project he would play a central role.



### A model

- is a symbolic representation of some aspects of an object, a phenomenon from the real world, in biology, ecology or medicine in our case,
- is not THE answer to a problem, but AN answer to the problem,
- ✓ is an instrument in the modeler toolbox,
- is strongly coupled with experiment and observation,



### A model

 is often integrated in a general framework dealing with the systems analysis

 even if the data are often right, in some cases, the model can validate them or not, it can be a control instrument,

 the model cannot be the excuse to a priori decisions, it can be used as a technical or political decisions



#### **Characteristics of a model**



To be efficient, a model needs to be operative, that is

Answering the modelling goals,
be able to interpret in terms of biology,
be able to be translated into simple terms that everyone can understand,

### **Choice of the formalism**



#### what kind of model should we choose?

### ✓ ode models,

- Iogic models
- simulations models (random number generators,...)
- ✓geometric models (curves, maps, surfaces,...)
- data structured models (pde)
- vobject centered models (agent based models, ...)

### **Elaborating a model**

to elaborate a model, we need to take into account:

the object or the biological phenomenon to represent,  $\checkmark$  the formalism, the goals (that is how we want to use the model) data and a priori biological knowledge available or reachable by experiment or observation



### **Elaborating a model**

#### the modeller should



formulate the problem (that is write the model), simplify the model to be able to study its properties, relate it to other representations (graph, numerical code,) **interpret** the model and confront the obtained results with biological reality (most of the time seen throughout experimental data)

#### Some well known models

In biology and ecology

 enzymology: the Michaelis-Menten model,
 genetics: the Mendel laws,
 population genetics: Hardy-Weinberg law
 molecular biology: circadian

clocks,...

In medicine epidemiology models,
cancer development models,...



Leonor Michaelis 1875–1949

Maud Menten 1879–1960



### One of the simplest examples: population growth model



Thomas Robert Malthus (1766-1834) British economist

### Example of the rabbit population growth in Australia





1850, Thomas Austin released 24 rabbits in the countryside of Australia. 1950 rabbit population was estimated to be 600 millions!

L(t) = number of rabbits at time t

= birth rate

b

- d = death rate
- L'(t) = rate of changes of population with time



b<d



b>d



**b** = birth rate

d

= death rate

#### L'(t) = variation of population with time



b>d









#### How do we study such a problem?

### The secret?





### Equilibria!



#### What is an equilibrium ?

#### it is a steady state: it does not vary with time!





#### Equilibrium: a point that does not vary in time!

Example with rabbits L(t)' = a.L(t) Equilibria? Denote them L\*



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variation is null with time: L\*'= 0 S0 a.L\*=0 and if  $a \neq 0$  then L\*=0

### One single equilibrium: L\*=0 !

#### Two images to illustrate this: a marble and love



A\*=0 unstable

### **A(t)' = a.A(t)**



A\*=0 stable





# More generally







## Problem with the Malthus model

L(t) = number of rabbits at time t

= birth rate

b

- d = death rate
- L'(t) = rate of changes of population with time



b<d



b>d

### A too simple model...



Pierre François Verhulst (1804-1849) Belgian mathematician

- L(t) = number of rabbits at time t
  - = birth rate

b

d

- = death rate
- L'(t) = rate of changes of population with time



# L(t)' = a.L(t)

#### Malthus

Verhulst suggests that a is not a constant!



a>0

Growth (or decay) would depend on the L population itself 1-maximal growth rate r for small populations

2-null growth rate when the population is too large (reaching a value K called the carrying capacity)

We would then change a to a(L) ...



### How should we choose a(L)? One solution: the simplest curve: the straight line !

**a(L)** 





## a(L) = -rL/K +r = r(1-L/K)

#### Verhulst

# L(t)' = r(1-L/K).L(t)

### r: maximal growth rate K: carrying capacity
## **Difference** between the two models



a>0

## Even if more realistic, Verhulst model is still not appropriate...





## Even if initial population is close to 0, repopulating the species is not a problem...

## this seemed a big issue...

Suppose that 2 wild tigers remain in the world,

one male and one female... one in India, the other one in China

#### Wild Tiger Population of the World (Last 100 Years)





### <mark>2013</mark>



▲ Espace Santé Nutrition Nature Animaux High-tech Archéo/ TEMPS FORTS ► COP21 "Coywolf" Empreinte de l'eau L'arbre transexuel Risques industr

#### À LA UNE

Sciences > Nature & environnement > Les tigres sont proches de l'extinction

#### Les tigres sont proches de l'extinction



Par Erwan Lecomte Voir tous ses articles Publié le 29-07-2013 à 18h40



La journée internationale du tigre est l'occasion de rappeler les menaces qui pèsent sur cette espèce.



## Repopulating the species is almost impossible...

## Verhulst model is not exact in this case

## How should we solve it?



### Warder Clyde Allee (1885-1955) American zoologist et ecologist



## Allee effect

### Malthus



#### Verhulst







## L'effet Allee





## Interpretation



## Everything may not be totally lost for tigers?

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## 2016

#### Big News: Wild Tiger Populations are Increasing for the First Time in a Century

The number of wild tigers has risen to nearly 3,900, thanks to enhanced protections and

conservation commitments

#### **M Biodiversité**

By John R. Platt on April 10, 2016 🛛 📮 1

PLANÈTE BIODIVERSITÉ

ARTICLE SÉLECTIONNÉ DANS LA MATINALE DU 12/04/2016 > Découvrir l'application

#### Le nombre de tigres sauvages augmente pour la première fois en 100 ans

Le Monde I 11.04.2016 à 17h36 • Mis à jour le 12.04.2016 à 16h19 l Par Aurélie Sipos



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Photo: Roderick Elme. Used under Creative Commons license

#### **Tiger populations on the rise**

**Russia:** In the 10 years to 2018 the number of Amur tigers increased by **15%** - to about **540** animals.

#### Bhutan:

Population up from **10** tigers a decade ago to **22** in 2019.

**Nepal:** In 2018 the tiger population estimate had nearly doubled to **235**, up from **121** in 2009.

@**İNEWSGRAPHICS** SOURCE: WWF India: From 2006 to 2018, tiger numbers more than doubled to between **2,600** and **3,350** individuals. **China:** In 2015, evidence of breeding Amur tigers was found for the first time in 10 years.

## More complex models

## Prey predator models

## A model with data



## **Snow shoe hares versus Lynxes**



## **Snow shoe hares versus Lynxes**











### Lotka-Volterra (1925 - 1926)



## L(t)' = -L(t)(a-b.H(t))H(t)' = H(t)(c - d.L(t))

#### **Alfred Lotka** (american) 1880-1949



**Vito Volterra** (italian) 1860-1940



Hares

Year 1900 1902 1904 1906 1908 1910 1912 1914 1916 1918 1920



## Nodels of species invasion



## Red squirrels versus grey squirrels



## THE RED HAS LOST - SO ACCEPT THE GREY



## Even more complex models Reaction diffusion models







FIGURE 5.18 – Répartition des écureuils au Royaume-Uni en 1990.







FIGURE 5.20 – Prévision de la répartition des écureuils au Royaume-Uni en 2030



# These reaction diffusion models describe many biological phenomena



Alan Turing (1912-1954) British mathematician







"L'UN DES MEILLEURS FILMS DE L'ANNÉE" THE NEW YORK OBSERVER

"BENEDICT CUMBERBATCH TRIOMPHE"



VOUS NE CONNAISSEZ PAS CET HOMME. POURTANT, IL A CHANGÉ NOS VIES.

CUMBERBATCH KNIGHTLEY IMITATION GAME

> UN FILM DE MORTEN TYLDUM

BLACK BEAR PICTURES PRESENTE HA ASSOCIATION AND FILMMATION ENTERTAINMENT INF PROJECTION BLACK BEAR PICTURES INF PROJECTION BRISTOL AUTOMOTIVE THE INITIATION GAME' BENEDICT CUMBERBATCH KERA KNIGHTLEY MATTHEW GOODE RORY KINNEAR AND CHARLES DANCE & MARK STRONG DESK MINA GOLD. BERKE NANA PRIMORAC IRINE SAMMY SHELDON DIFFER INTER CHARLES DANCE & MARK STRONG DESK MINA GOLD. BERKE NANA PRIMORAC IRINE SAMMY SHELDON DIFFER INTER CHARLES DANCE & MARK STRONG DESK MINA GOLD. BERKE NANA PRIMORAC IRINE SAMMY SHELDON DIFFER INTER CHARLES DANCE IN MARK ALEXANORE DESPLAT WANK WILLIAM GOLDENBERG ALE. INTERER OSCAR FAURA INTEREM PETER HESLOP THE GRAHAM MOORE THE MORA GROSSMAN P.G.A. IDO OSTROWSKY P.A. TEDDY SCHWARZMAN PLA. INTERER OSCAR FAURA INTERICE INTERER INTERICTION
























Get

ALL RAFE





High resolution, anatomically-detailed rabbit heart geometry

# **Even evolution theory**

## Adaptative dynamics

$$\frac{\partial u}{\partial t}(t,x) = \alpha u(t,x) \left(\kappa - \int_{\Omega} \varphi(x-y)u(t,y)dy\right) + d\Delta u(t,x)$$
$$= \alpha u(t,x) \left(\kappa - (\varphi * u)(t,x)\right) + d\Delta u(t,x),$$
"evolution"

### Charles Robert Darwin (1809-1882) British Naturalist

## Darwin's notebooks







#### Populational adaptive evolution, chemotherapeutic resistance and multiple anti-cancer therapies

Alexander Lorz, Tommaso Lorenzi, Michael E. Hochberg, Jean Clairambault, Benoît Perthame



Thèse présentée pour l'obtention du grade de Docteur de l'université Paris Est-Créteil

Spécialité : Virologie

Par Christophe RODRIGUEZ

Dynamique adaptative des virus hautement variables à un nouvel environnement réplicatif

Adaptive dynamics of highly variable viruses to new replicative environment



# And so many other models

#### Edward Norton Lorenz (1917-2008) American meteorologist

$$\begin{split} \frac{\mathrm{d}x}{\mathrm{d}t} &= \sigma(y-x), \\ \frac{\mathrm{d}y}{\mathrm{d}t} &= x(\rho-z)-y, \\ \frac{\mathrm{d}z}{\mathrm{d}t} &= xy-\beta z. \end{split}$$





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