

Proposed course time allocation: 50% Lectures/Readings, 50% Projects/Discussion

Class Plan: Organization of Lectures:

- 1) Section I: Empirical Dynamics (aka Nonlinear State Space Reconstruction)
 - Introductory lecture on empirical dynamics to set the stage:
 - Empirical Dynamics (EDM) A Minimalist Inductive Approach to Scientific Inquiry.
 - Using Data to Inform Theory (Induction)
 - Static versus Dynamic?
 - Finding Determinism in Data
 - Out of Sample Prediction
 - Identifying Causal Mechanisms
 - Measuring and Understanding Nonlinear Associations
 - Identify Research Project/Problem related to thesis interests – find time series data.
 - Lab Practicum on rEDM: Acquire literacy in rEDM tools (required for student projects)
 - 3 class periods to acquire familiarity with computational tools needed for projects)
 - rEDM package on CRAN: <https://cran.r-project.org/web/packages/rEDM/index.html>
 - Make certain data are available to answer Research Problem – find time series data asap!!!
- 2) Section II: Foundations of Population Dynamics
 - Overview of Classical Theory
 - Technical Background for EDM
- 3) Section III: Student Presentations

Outline for Section I -Empirical Dynamics (aka. Nonlinear state space reconstruction)

- 1) Deducing Dynamics with Empirical Dynamics
 - Taken's Theorem
 - Lagged coordinate embeddings
 - Nonlinear Forecasting
 - Simplex Projection
 - S-maps
 - Measuring and understanding nonlinear state dependence
 - Distinguishing regime shifts from noise
 - Time varying episodic interactions
 - larval reef fish example
- 2) Deducing Structure and Understanding Causality
 - distinguishing mirage correlation from causation
 - convergent cross mapping
 - identifying key drivers
 - identifying functionally coupled species groups.
 - ecosystem based management
 - understanding variable interactions

Proposed Outline for Section II: Foundations of Population Dynamics:

- 1) Objectives:
 - Provide an understanding of the foundations and origins of population models
 - Survey of population dynamical behaviors in nature and the lab.
 - Survey of population dynamical behaviors in simple models and field examples.
 - Insights into nature gained from simple models.
 - Multiple time scales as a source of richness in dynamical behavior.
 - Critical review of assumptions underlying classical models.
 - Real time/out-of-sample prediction as a rigorous measure of scientific merit of models.
 - Evidence for the classical assumption of a stable balance of nature.
 - The conflict between classical stable dynamics and the actual empirical evidence.

- The implications of constant-linear versus unstable nonlinear systems for understanding nature and doing experiments.

- (i) Foundations and Origins of Population Models
 - historical reasons for interest in population regulation (pestilence).
 - intellectual roots
- (ii) Quantitative Population Biology and Dynamical Systems Theory
 - fundamental problem: finding a sufficient dynamical description
 - model complexity: measurement error vs detail (systematic) error
- (iii) State Space and the Niche
 - full knowledge state space
 - fundamental nice, n-dimensional hyper-volume (an intellectual cornerstone).
 - How to reduce complexity?
- (iv) Understanding Assumptions Used to Reduce a Full Knowledge State Space to The Single Species Case
 - Taylor's formula
 - Ockum's Razor
 - simplifying assumptions
- (v) Unrestricted Growth: Geometric versus Exponential Growth
 - discrete time vs. continuous time
- (vi) Introduction to Second Order Growth

2) Properties and Behaviors of Higher Order Systems: Part I

- (i) Reducing Dimensionality: Review
- (ii) Expanding r in the Laboratory: Algal Growth in a Chemostat
- (iii) Population Regulation Debate: Biotic versus Climate School
 - Historical Roots: a central debate with many names.
 - biotic / climatic
 - density dependent / density dependent
 - equilibrium / non-equilibrium
 - stability / instability
 - biological / physical
 - chaos / noise
- (iv) Testing for Density Dependence
 - field examples (Tanner 1966)
 - lab examples (Gause 1934)
- (v) Property I: Equilibrium N^*
- (vi) Property II: Attractor
 - phase portraits
 - omega limit set
- (vii) Property III: Stability
 - local stability defined
 - local linear stability analysis (theory and practice)
 - Taylor approximation in the nbhd of an equilibrium point
 - Lambda (slope of $F(N)$ with respect to N , at N^*).

- characteristic return time

(viii) Property IV: Thresholds (Allee Effect)

- 3rd order
- separatrix
- phase portrait
- domains of attraction
- calculation of stability

3) Properties and Behaviours of Higher Order Systems: Part II

(i) Review of Local Linear Stability Analysis

(ii) Property V: Multiple Stable States

- allee and model examples

(iii) Property VI: Fold Catastrophe

- fishing example

(iv) Tychenoff Theorem and Center Manifold Theory for Analysing Systems

Having Different Time Scales

- the importance of characteristic return time

(v) Fold Catastrophe: Models Meet Data

- spruce budworm example
- resource control vs. predator control
- review of examples from nature (fisheries, corals, lakes, etc)
- what constitutes sufficient evidence?

4) Properties and Behaviors of Higher Order Systems: Part III

(i) Property VII: Smoothing and Tracking Environmental Variation

- field examples (daphnia and algae etc)

(ii) r and K Selection

- Size and cycle: time scales and body size

(iii) Property VIII: Intrinsic Oscillations with Time Lags in Regulatory Mechanisms (Continuous Time)

- the relationship between characteristic return time and time delay in feedback
- stable points and stable limit cycles

(iv) Evidence and Insights:

- Nicholson's sheep blowfly study
- nature's 4-year cycle
- storage product beetles
- etc.

(v) Property IX: Intrinsic Oscillations with Discrete-Time Models

- derivation of discrete time logistic

(vi) Analysis of The Discrete-Time Logistic

- return map
- equilibria
- stability analysis (discrete time analogue to local linear nbhd method)

5) Properties and Behaviours of Higher Order Systems: Part IV

(i) Analysis of The Discrete-Time Logistic

- return map
- equilibria
- stability analysis (discrete time analogue to local linear nbhd method)

(ii) Review of Destabilizing Factors
-paradox of enrichment

(iii) Property X: Chaos
-implications
-applications

(iv) Property XI: Stability and Complexity from Models