

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