

Math 211

Lecture #9
Population Models

September 17, 2001

Modeling Population

- Assume population changes due to births and deaths only.
- Births are roughly proportional to population, $B = bP$
 - ♦ b is the *birth rate*. It is the probability that any one individual will give birth in a fixed period of time.
- Deaths are roughly proportional to population, $D = dP$.
 - ♦ d is the *death rate*. It is the probability that any one individual will die in a fixed period of time.

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Modeling Population

- Rate of change = births – deaths

$$\begin{aligned}\frac{dP}{dt} &= B - D \\ &= bP - dP \\ &= (b - d)P \\ &= rP\end{aligned}$$

- $r = b - d$ is the *reproductive rate*.

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[Definitions](#)

The Malthusian Model

- In general, b and d are not necessarily constants.
 - ♦ Can depend on P , and perhaps also on t .
- If there exist sufficient resources in term of nutrients and space, b and d will be almost constant. Then the reproductive rate $r = b - d$ is also a constant.
- This is the *Malthusian model*.

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Basic model

The Malthusian Model

$$\frac{dP}{dt} = rP \quad \text{with} \quad P(0) = P_0$$

- Solution: $P(t) = P_0 e^{rt}$
 - ♦ If $r = b - d > 0$, $P(t)$ grows exponentially.
 - ♦ If $r = b - d < 0$, $P(t)$ decays exponentially.

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Basic model

Malthus

The Malthusian Model

Under what circumstances could the Malthusian model be a good model?

- Requires unlimited resources.
- Laboratory experiments with small populations.
- Populations always outgrow the Malthusian model. This was the point that was made by Malthus.

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Basic model

The Logistic Model

- As the population increases individuals compete for resources — for food and for space.
- This causes the birth rate b to decrease, and the death rate d to increase.

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[Basic model](#)

[Malthusian model](#)

- Birth rate b = probability of an individual producing offspring in a fixed period of time.
- As $P \nearrow$, $b \searrow$ because of competition .
 - ♦ Competition results from encounters.
 - ♦ The number of encounters by one individual is roughly proportional to P .
 - ♦ \Rightarrow decrease in the birth rate is $\sim P$
- $\Rightarrow b = b_0 - b_1 P$

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The Logistic Model

- Increase in the death rate d is $\sim P$
- $\Rightarrow d = d_0 + d_1 P$
- The reproductive rate is

$$\begin{aligned}
 r &= b - d \\
 &= (b_0 - b_1 P) - (d_0 + d_1 P) \\
 &= (b_0 - d_0) - (b_1 + d_1) P \\
 &= r_0 - r_1 P
 \end{aligned}$$

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[Birth rate](#)

The Logistic Model

$$\begin{aligned}\frac{dP}{dt} &= rP = (r_0 - r_1 P)P \\ &= r_0 \left(1 - \frac{r_1}{r_0} P\right) P \\ &= r_0 \left(1 - \frac{P}{K}\right) P\end{aligned}$$

- r_0 is the *reproductive rate at small populations*.
- $K = r_0/r_1$ is the *carrying capacity*.

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[Defintions](#)

[Reproductive rate](#)

Analysis of the Logistic Model

$$\frac{dP}{dt} = r \left(1 - \frac{P}{K}\right) P$$

- Equation is autonomous.
- Equilibrium points are 0 & K .
- 0 is unstable, K is stable.
- $P(t) \rightarrow K$ as $t \rightarrow \infty$.
 - ♦ K is the *carrying capacity*.

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[Logistic model](#)

Solution of The Logistic Model

$$\frac{dP}{dt} = r \left(1 - \frac{P}{K}\right) P \quad \text{with } P(0) = P_0$$

- Solution:

$$P(t) = \frac{K P_0}{P_0 + (K - P_0)e^{-rt}}$$

[Qualitative analysis](#)

Estimating Parameters

- Malthusian model $P' = rP$

$$P(t) = P_0 e^{rt}$$

- ♦ Two parameters P_0 and r .
- ♦ Two measurements or observations needed to find the values of P_0 and r .
- ♦ It is better to use all of the data and use least squares (linear regression).

Estimating Parameters

- Logistic model $P' = r(1 - P/K)P$

$$P(t) = \frac{KP_0}{P_0 + (K - P_0)e^{-rt}}$$

- ♦ Three parameters, P_0 , r , and K .
- ♦ Three measurements or observations needed to find the values of P_0 , r , and K .
- ♦ It is better to use all of the data and use least squares. (Nonlinear regression)

Modelling

- Two ways to write the rate of change of something, e.g., of a population P
- ♦ The mathematical way is the derivative,

$$\frac{dP}{dt}.$$

- ♦ The scientific way involves modelling, e.g.

$$r \left(1 - \frac{P}{K} \right) P.$$

Modelling

- Setting the two equal gives a differential equation model

$$\frac{dP}{dt} = r \left(1 - \frac{P}{K} \right) P$$

- An equation says that two distinct mathematical expressions are equal.

Logistic Model

- Does a very good job of modeling the growth of populations under controlled circumstances.
 - ♦ In laboratory experiments.
 - ♦ In other circumstances when the situation does not change.

Logistic Model

- For human populations the model always breaks down.
 - ♦ Other factors become important, such as immigration.
 - ♦ Advance of technology.
 - ♦ Changing habits of life.