

III Southern-Summer School on Mathematical Biology

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Lecture I

São Paulo, February 2014



Outline

1 Populations



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- 2 Simple Models I: Malthus



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- 4 Generalizations



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- 5 Comments
 - Scales
 - More Species



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 - Difference equations
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- 7 Bibliography



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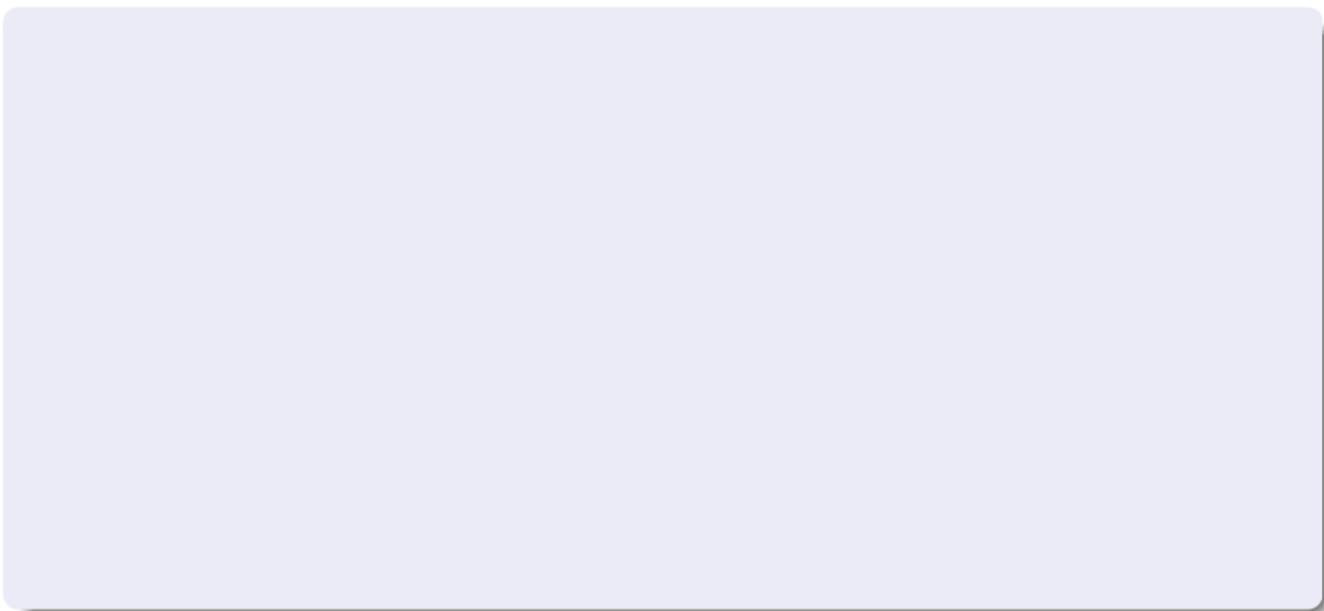
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This school is about understanding the dynamical behavior of populations (how the change in size, how they use space) by means of mathematical formulations.



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Simple Models I: Malthus



Figura : Thomas Malthus, *circa* 1830

Simple Models I: Malthus

The simplest law

- The simplest law governing the time variation of the size of a population



$$\frac{dN(t)}{dt} = rN(t)$$

- where $N(t)$ is the number of individuals in the population and r is the **intrinsic growth rate of the population**, sometimes called the *Malthusian parameter*.



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Back-of-the-Envelope calculation

How long would take to cover the whole earth with a thin film of *E. coli*?

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Examples

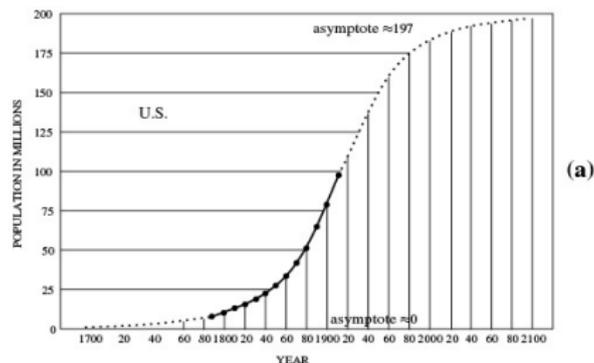


Figura : The population of USA . Until 1920, the growth is well approximated by an exponential.

Examples

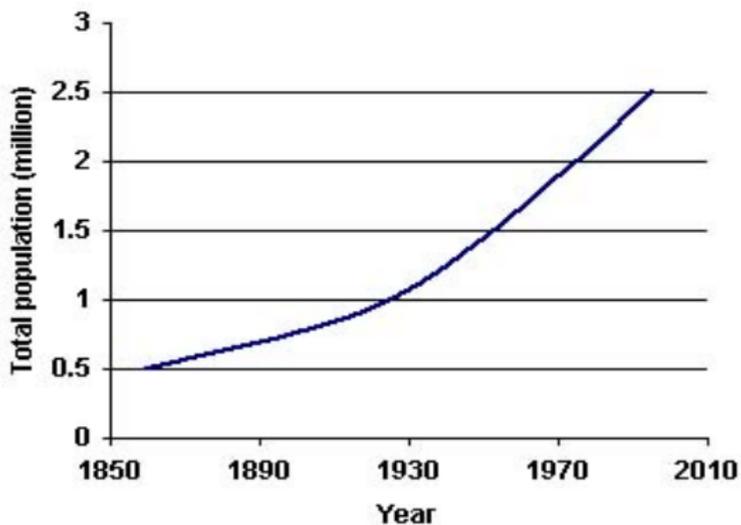


Figura : The population of Jamaica, between 1860 e 1951.

Examples

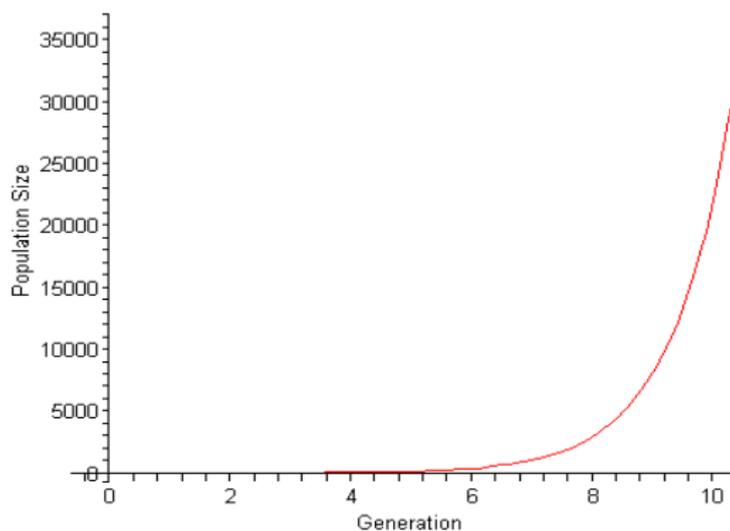


Figura : (*Escherichia coli*) on a Petri dish

Simple Models II: the logistic equation



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- The term $-N^2/K$ is always negative (we assume $K > 0$), \Rightarrow it contributes negatively to $\frac{dN}{dt} \Rightarrow$ it tends to slow down growth.
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- This equation is called the **logistic equation**, or **Verhulst's**.

Logistic equation

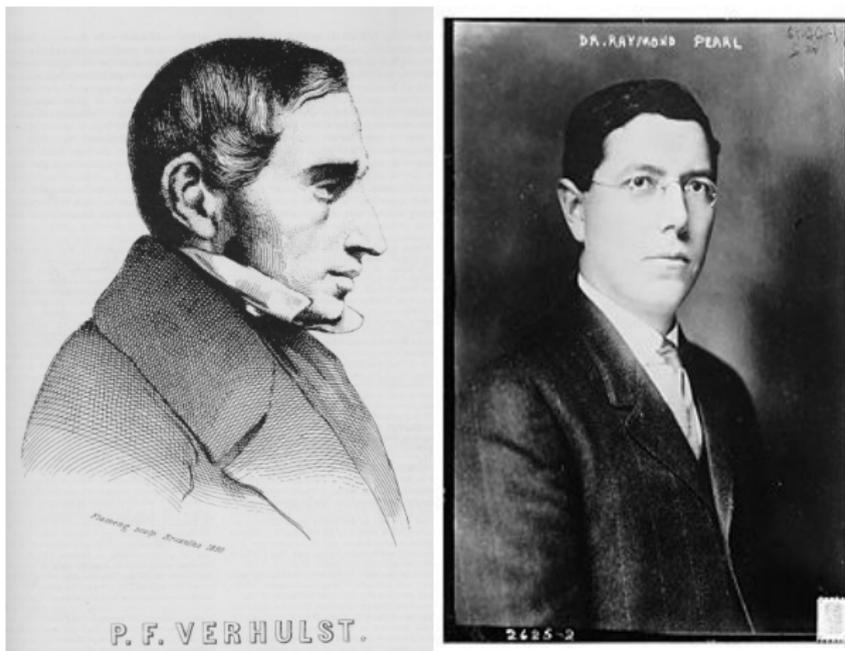


Figura : Pierre-François Verhulst, first introduced the logistic em 1838: “*Notice sur la loi que la population poursuit dans son accroissement*”. On the right side, , Raymond Pearl, who “rediscovered” Verhulst’s work.



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- Here is a plot of the solution, for different values of N_0 :

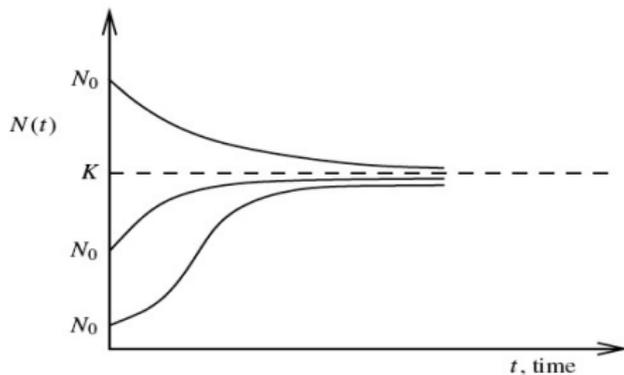


Figura : Temporal evolution of a population described by solution of the logistic equation. Each curve corresponds to a different initial condition. For all initial conditions , $t \rightarrow \infty$, we have $N \rightarrow K$

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 - Or still: K is an attractor.

More on the logistic equation

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- ▶ Space,
 - ▶ Food .
- This is called *intra-specific competition*



Logistic equation

Water lilies on a pond, compete for space:



Logistic equation

Trees in the Amazonian forest compete for light:



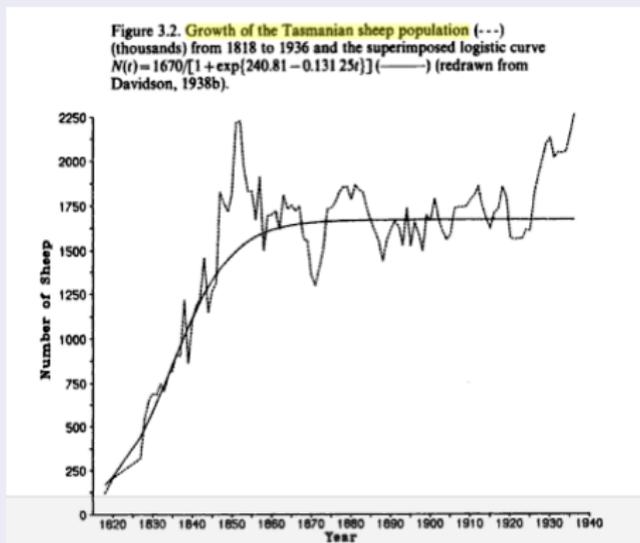
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But in semi-arid regions, competition is for water



Logistic equation

Here is a plot of the Tasmanian sheep population



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- As we already saw, the population takes the value K for large times.



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- Gompertz growth in tumors (see Kot)

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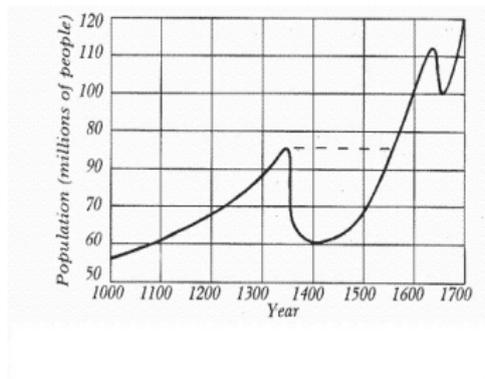


Figura : Europe's population between 1000 e 1700

Comments: Human population

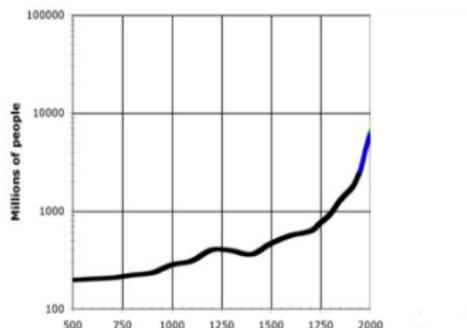


Figura : Earth population between 500 and 2000

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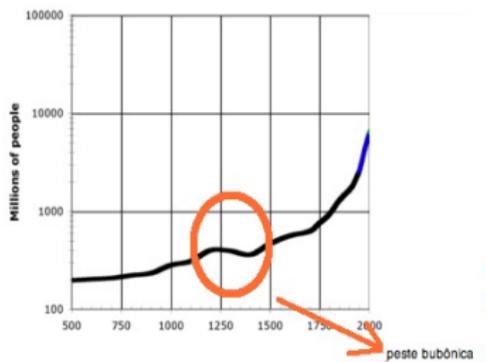


Figura : Earth population between 500 and 2000 , highlighting the effects of bubonic plague .

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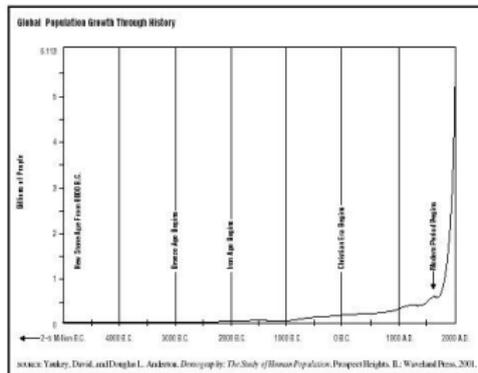


Figura : Estimated Earth's population between -4000 e 2000

Comments: Human population

- As we look at the Human population at different space and time scales, we see different traits...
- Every mathematical model has limited validity.

Comments II

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 - ▶ Different animals compete for resources
 - ▶ Some species are prey on others

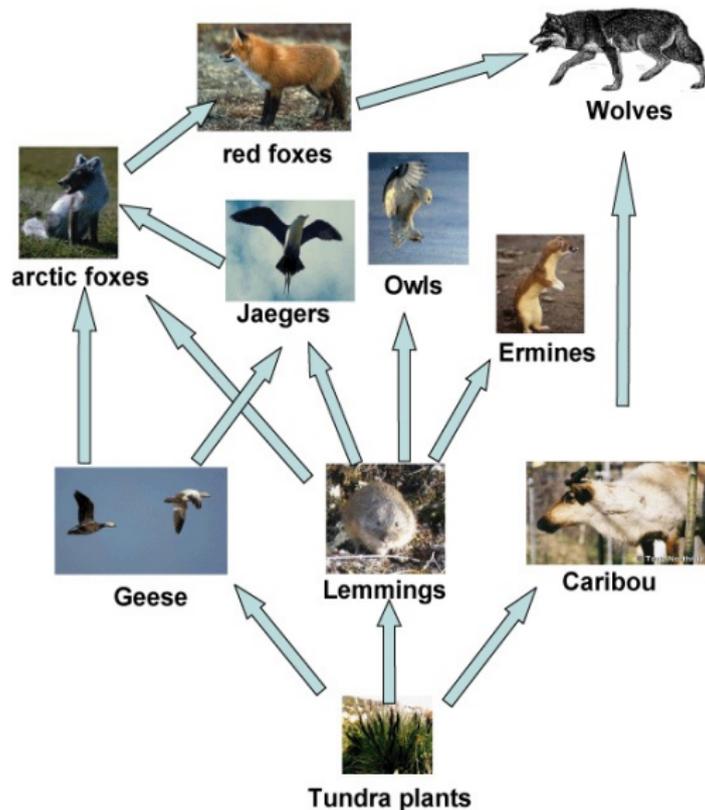
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- The networks involved can be quite complex.

Trophic network, Arctic region



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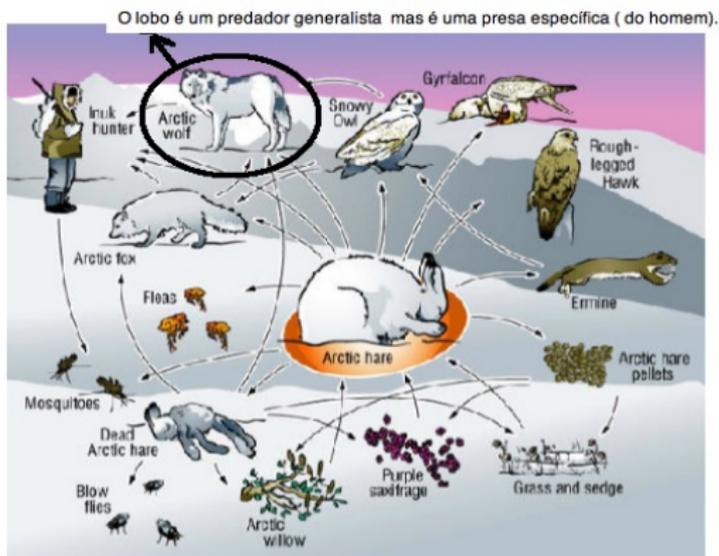


Figura : The wolf preys on many species, but its is itself a prey of a specialist predator. The coupling with human population can be strong.

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Figura : The gyrfalcon depends essentially on the the artice hare.

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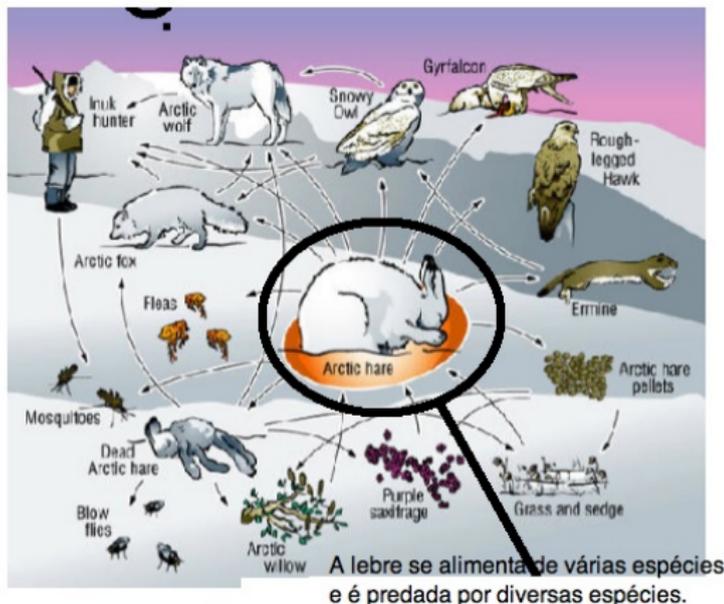


Figura : The Arctic hare is a generalist that is prey to other generalists. Single species models may apply.

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Bibliography

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Online Resources

- <http://www.ictp-saifr.org/mathbio3>
- <http://ecologia.ib.usp.br/ssmb/>

Thank you for your attention