

## §8 From discrete to continuum models

### 8.1 Population growth models

#### 8.1.1 Exponential growth

$P_n(t)$  = IP (  $n$  individuals in the population at time  $t$ ,  
given  $N_0$  individuals at time 0 )

Individuals - constant proliferation rate  $b > 0$   
[units eg.  $s^{-1}$ ]

For each individual:

IP (proliferates once in  $[t, t+dt)$ ) =  $bdt + o(dt^2)$

IP (doesn't proliferate in  $[t, t+dt)$ ) =  $1 - bdt + o(dt^2)$

IP (proliferates more than once  
in  $[t, t+dt)$ ) =  $o(dt^2)$ .

$$P_n(t+dt) = P_n(t) [1 - bndt] + P_{n-1}(t) \cdot (n-1)bdt + o(dt^2).$$

↗ discrete conservation equation.

$$\frac{P_n(t+dt) - P_n(t)}{dt} = (n-1)bP_{n-1}(t) - nbP_n(t)$$

$$\lim_{dt \rightarrow 0} : \left[ \frac{dP_n}{dt} = (n-1)bP_{n-1} - nbP_n \right]$$

MASTER  
EQUATION

$$\left[ \frac{dP_{N_0}}{dt} = -bN_0P_{N_0}(t) \right]$$

Initial conditions  $P_n(0) = \begin{cases} 1 & n = N_0 \\ 0 & \text{o/w} \end{cases}$

$(P_n(t) \equiv 0 \text{ if } n < N_0)$

Evolution of the moments

$$\frac{d}{dt} \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} n P_n(t) = \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} n(n-1) b P_{n-1}(t) - \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} n^2 b P_n(t)$$

↙  $\tilde{n} = n-1$

$\frac{d}{dt} \langle n(t) \rangle$   
 $= \frac{dM}{dt}$

$$= \sum_{\tilde{n}=0}^{\infty} b \tilde{n}(\tilde{n}+1) P_{\tilde{n}}(t) - \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} n^2 b P_n(t)$$

$$= b \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} n P_n(t)$$

$$= bM$$

i.e.  $\frac{dM}{dt} = bM \Rightarrow M(t) = N_0 e^{bt}$

Variance:  $v(t) = \langle n^2 \rangle - \langle n \rangle^2$

$$\frac{d}{dt} \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} n^2 P_n(t) = \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} b n^2 (n-1) P_{n-1} - \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} b n^3 P_n$$

↙  $\tilde{n} = n-1$

$$= \sum_{\tilde{n}=0}^{\infty} b \tilde{n}(\tilde{n}+1)^2 P_{\tilde{n}} - \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} b n^3 P_n$$

$$= \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} b (n^3 + 2n^2 + n - n^3) P_n$$

$$= 2b \langle n^2 \rangle + bM$$

$$\frac{dV}{dt} = \frac{d \langle n^2 \rangle}{dt} - 2 \langle n \rangle \frac{d \langle n \rangle}{dt} \quad \leftarrow \frac{dM}{dt} = bM$$

$$= 2b \langle n^2 \rangle + bM - 2bM^2$$

$$= 2bV + bM$$

$$= 2bV + bN_0 e^{bt}$$

$$\Rightarrow \boxed{v(t) = N_0 e^{bt} (e^{bt} - 1)}$$

Generating functions

$$G: [-1, 1] \times (0, \infty) \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$$

$$G(s, t) = \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} P_n(t) s^n$$

$$M(t) = \frac{\partial G}{\partial s}(1, t), \quad V(t) = \frac{\partial^2 G}{\partial s^2}(1, t) + M(t) - M^2(t)$$

Multiply the Master eqn by  $s^n$  and sum:

$$\frac{\partial G}{\partial t} = \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} \frac{dP_n}{dt} s^n = b \left[ \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} (n-1) P_{n-1} s^n - \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} n P_n s^n \right]$$

$$= b \left[ \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} n P_n s^{n+1} - \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} n P_n s^n \right]$$

$$\frac{\partial G}{\partial t} = b \left[ \underbrace{s^2 \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} n P_n S^{n-1}}_{\frac{\partial G}{\partial S} \uparrow} - \underbrace{S \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} n P_n S^{n-1}}_{\uparrow} \right]$$

$$\therefore \boxed{\frac{\partial G}{\partial t} = b s (s-1) \frac{\partial G}{\partial S}} \quad G(s, 0) = S^{N_0}$$

characteristic eqns:  $\frac{dt}{d\tau} = 1, \frac{ds}{d\tau} = -bs(s-1),$

$$\frac{\partial G}{\partial \tau} = 0$$

data:  $t(z, 0) = 0, S(z, 0) = z, G(z, 0) = z^{N_0}$

$$|z| \leq 1.$$

$$t = \tau + A(z)$$

$$G = C(z) = z^{N_0}$$

$$\frac{ds}{d\tau} = -bs(s-1)$$

$$\Rightarrow \int \frac{1}{s(s-1)} ds = -b\tau + B(z)$$

$$\Rightarrow - \int \left( \frac{1}{s} - \frac{1}{s-1} \right) ds = \ln \left( \frac{s-1}{s} \right)$$

$$\tau = 0 \quad B(z) = \ln \left( \frac{z-1}{z} \right)$$

$$\Rightarrow z = \frac{S e^{-b\tau}}{S e^{-b\tau} - (s-1)} = \frac{S}{s - (s-1)e^{b\tau}}$$

substitute

$$\therefore G(s, t) = \left( \frac{s}{s - (s-1)e^{-bt}} \right)^{N_0} = \left( \frac{se^{-bt}}{1 - (1 - e^{-bt})s} \right)^{N_0}$$

Generating fn of negative binomial.

i.e.  $P_n(t) \sim NB(N, p)$

$N_0$        $e^{-bt}$

verify       $m(t) = N_0 e^{bt}$   
 $v(t) = N_0 (e^{bt} - 1) e^{bt}$

## 8.1.2 A stochastic model of logistic growth

Assume popn of  $n$  individuals

$$P(\text{a birth in } [t, t+dt]) = \lambda_n dt + o(dt^2)$$

$$P(\text{a death in } [t, t+dt]) = \mu_n dt + o(dt^2)$$

$$P(\text{no births or deaths in } [t, t+dt]) = 1 - (\lambda_n + \mu_n)dt + o(dt^2)$$

$$P(\text{more than one birth or death in } [t, t+dt]) = o(dt^2)$$

Discrete conservation equations

$$\begin{aligned} P_n(t+dt) &= \lambda_{n-1} dt P_{n-1}(t) \\ &\quad + (1 - \lambda_n dt - \mu_n dt) P_n(t) \\ &\quad + \mu_{n+1} dt P_{n+1}(t) \end{aligned} \quad (\text{MASTER EQN})$$

$$\Rightarrow \frac{dP_n}{dt} = \lambda_{n-1} P_{n-1}(t) - (\lambda_n + \mu_n) P_n(t) + \mu_{n+1} P_{n+1}(t)$$

specify:  $P_{-1}(t) \equiv 0$

initial conditions

$$P_n(0) = \begin{cases} 1 & n = N_0 \\ 0 & \text{o/w} \end{cases}$$

Evolution of the mean

$$\begin{aligned} \frac{d}{dt} \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} n P_n(t) &= \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} \lambda_{n-1} n P_{n-1}(t) \quad \leftarrow \tilde{n} = n-1 \\ &\quad - \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} (\lambda_n + \mu_n) n P_n(t) \\ &\quad + \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} \mu_{n+1} n P_{n+1}(t) \end{aligned}$$

$$\uparrow \hat{n} = n+1$$

$$= \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} (n+1) \lambda_n P_n - \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} (\lambda_n + \mu_n) n P_n + \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} (n-1) \mu_n P_n$$

$$\frac{dM}{dt} = \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} \lambda_n P_n - \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} \mu_n P_n$$

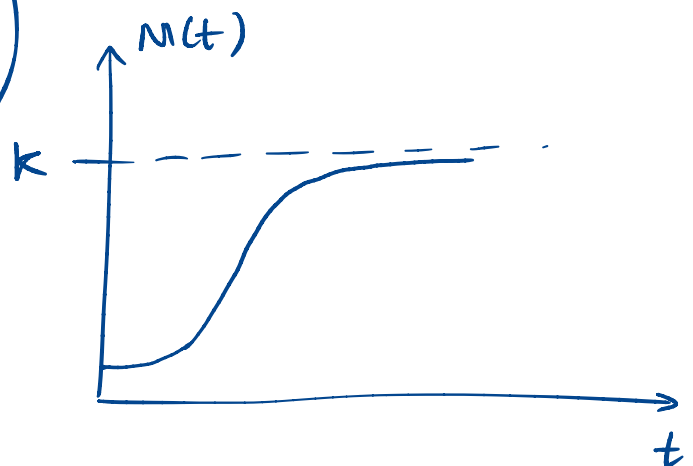
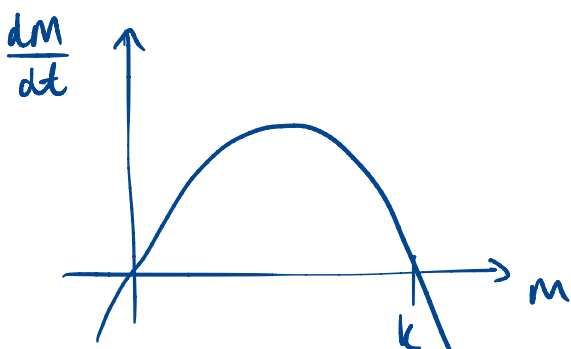
Assume:  $\lambda_n = \begin{cases} b_1 n + b_2 n^2 & n > 0 \\ 0 & n = 0 \end{cases}$

$$\mu_n = \begin{cases} d_1 n + d_2 n^2 & n > 0 \\ 0 & n = 0 \end{cases}$$

$$\frac{dM}{dt} = \underbrace{(b_1 - d_1)}_r M + \underbrace{(b_2 - d_2)}_{\uparrow \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} n^2 P_n(t)} \langle n^2 \rangle$$

Moment closure approximation:  $\langle n^2 \rangle = M^2 (= \langle n \rangle^2)$

$$\begin{aligned} \therefore \frac{dM}{dt} &= (b_1 - d_1) M + (b_2 - d_2) M^2 \\ &= \underbrace{(b_1 - d_1)}_r M \left( 1 - \underbrace{\frac{(d_2 - b_2)}{(b_1 - d_1)}}_{= \frac{1}{K}} M \right) \\ &= r M \left( 1 - \frac{M}{K} \right) \end{aligned}$$



$$\frac{d}{dt} \langle n^2 \rangle = (b_1 + d_1) m + \{ 2(b_1 - d_1) + (b_2 + d_2) \} \langle n^2 \rangle + 2(b_2 - d_2) \langle n^3 \rangle$$

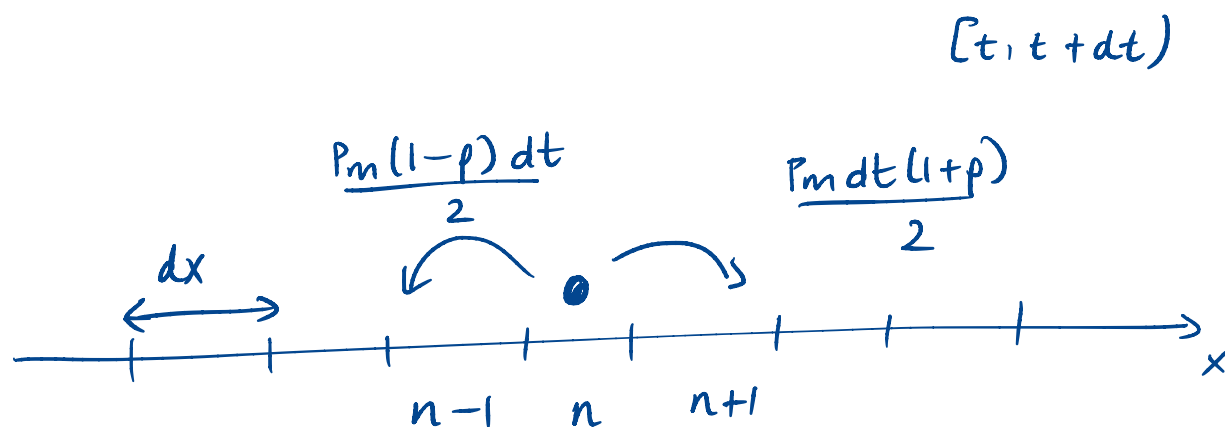
not closed.

Need a moment closure  
approx. to make progress.



## 8.2 Individual-based models for cell motility

### 8.2.1 A simple model of biased cell motility



$P_m$  - movement rate

⇒  $P_m dt$  = probability cell jumps left or right in  $[t, t+dt)$

$$IP(\text{right}) = \frac{1+p}{2}, \quad IP(\text{left}) = \frac{1-p}{2}$$

$P_n(t) = IP(\text{particle at site } n \text{ at time } t)$

$$P_n(t+dt) = \frac{1}{2}(1+p)P_m dt P_{n-1}(t) - (1-P_m dt)P_n(t) + \frac{1}{2}(1-p)P_m dt P_{n+1}(t)$$

Want to relate  $P_n(t)$  with  $p(x,t)$

$$P_n(t) = p(ndx, t)$$

$$\frac{P(\text{ndx}, t+dt) - P(\text{ndx}, t)}{dt} = \frac{1}{2}(1+p) P_m P(\text{(n-1)dx}, t) - P_m P(\text{ndx}, t) + \frac{1}{2}(1-p) P_m P(\text{(n+1)dx}, t)$$

LHS

$$P(\text{ndx}, t) + dt \frac{\partial P}{\partial t}(\text{ndx}, t) + o(dt^2) - P(\text{ndx}, t)$$


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$$dt$$

$$= \frac{\partial P}{\partial t}(\text{ndx}, t) + O(dt)$$

RHS

$$P(\text{(n±1)dx}, t) = P(\text{ndx}, t) \pm dx \frac{\partial P}{\partial x}(\text{ndx}, t)$$

substitute  $\rightarrow$

$$+ \frac{1}{2} dx^2 \frac{\partial^2 P}{\partial x^2}(\text{ndx}, t) + O(dx^3)$$

$$\frac{\partial P}{\partial t} + o(dt) = \overbrace{\left( \frac{1}{2}(1+p) P_m - P_m + \frac{1}{2}(1-p) P_m \right)}^{=0} P + \left( -\frac{1}{2}(1+p) P_m + \frac{1}{2}(1-p) P_m \right) dx \frac{\partial P}{\partial x} + \left( \frac{1}{4}(1+p) P_m + \frac{1}{4}(1-p) P_m \right) dx^2 \frac{\partial^2 P}{\partial x^2} + O(dx^3)$$

Take the limit  $dx, dt \rightarrow 0$ :

$$\frac{\partial p}{\partial t} = D \frac{\partial^2 p}{\partial x^2} - v \frac{\partial p}{\partial x}$$

advection-diffusion  
PDE

$$\lim_{dx \rightarrow 0} \frac{P_m dx^2}{2}$$

$$\lim_{dx \rightarrow 0} \frac{P_m p dx}{p \sim dx}$$

$$P_m \sim \frac{1}{dx^2}$$

$$P(x, 0) = p^0(x)$$

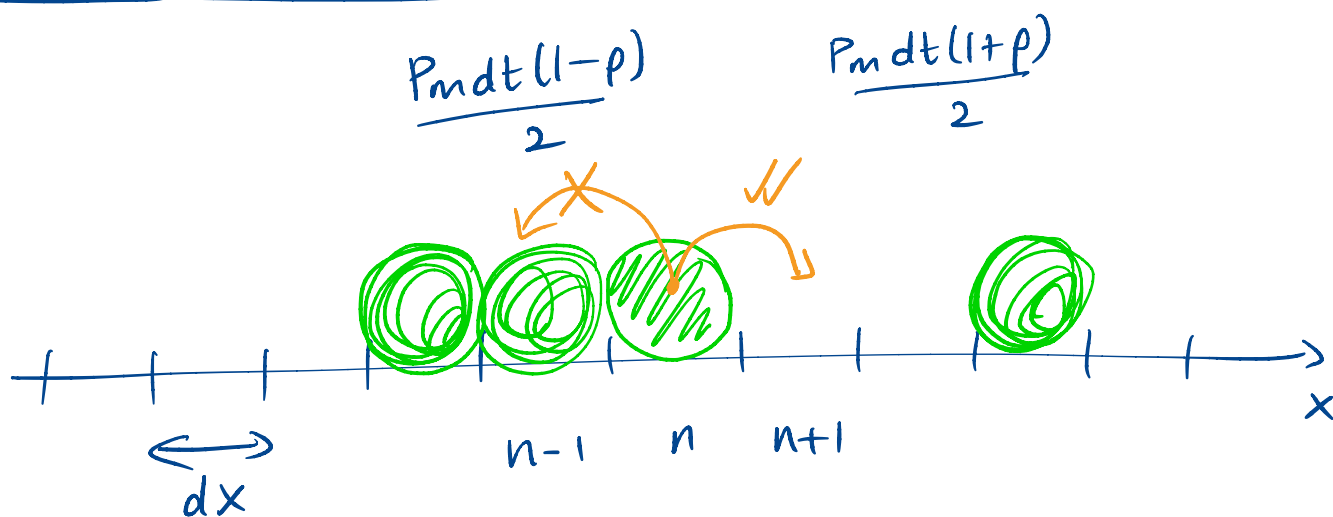
①  $p = 0$  :  $v = 0$        $\frac{\partial p}{\partial t} = D \frac{\partial^2 p}{\partial x^2}$  (diffusion eqn.)

② units of  $P_m = s^{-1}$  } units of  $D$   
 $dx = m$  } are  $m^2 s^{-1}$  ✓

$p = \text{non-dimensional}$

$\Rightarrow$  units of  $v$  are  $ms^{-1}$  ✓

## 8.2.2 A model of biased cell motility with competition for space



$$P(A_{n,t}) = \text{IP}(\text{cell in site } n \text{ at time } t)$$

$$P(O_{n,t}) = \text{IP}(\text{site } n \text{ empty at time } t) \\ = 1 - P(A_{n,t}).$$

$$P(A_n, O_m, t) = \text{IP}(\text{site } n \text{ occupied,} \\ + \text{site } m \text{ empty at time } t)$$

$$P(A_n, t+dt) - P(A_n, t) = \frac{1}{2}(1+p)P_m dt P(A_{n-1}, O_n, t) \\ - \frac{1}{2}(1-p)P_m dt P(O_{n-1}, A_n, t) \\ + \frac{1}{2}(1-p)P_m dt P(O_n, A_{n+1}, t) \\ - \frac{1}{2}(1+p)P_m dt P(A_n, O_{n+1}, t) \\ = \left\{ \frac{P_m}{2} dt [P(A_{n-1}, O_n, t) - P(O_{n-1}, A_n, t)] \right. \\ \left. + \frac{P_m}{2} dt [P(O_n, A_{n+1}, t) - P(A_n, O_{n+1}, t)] \right. \\ \left. + \frac{P_m}{2} p dt [P(A_{n-1}, O_n, t) - P(O_{n-1}, A_n, t)] \right. \\ \left. - \frac{P_m}{2} p dt [P(O_n, A_{n+1}, t) - P(A_n, O_{n+1}, t)] \right.$$

For the terms w/o  $p$ : use conservation statements of the form:

$$P(A_n, A_m, t) + P(A_n, O_m, t) = P(A_n, t)$$

Substitute into  $\{$

$$\Rightarrow \frac{P_m}{2} dt \left[ P(A_{n-1}, t) - 2P(A_n, t) + P(A_{n+1}, t) \right]$$

For the terms with  $p$ : need an approximation to close the system:

$$\left\{ \begin{aligned} P(A_n, O_{n\pm 1}, t) &= P(A_n, t) P(O_{n\pm 1}, t) \\ &= P(A_n, t) [1 - P(A_n, t)] \end{aligned} \right.$$

### MEAN-FIELD APPROXIMATION

Substitute back into discrete conservation eqn.

Identify with a continuous probability

$$P(A_n, t) = p(n dx, t)$$

$\uparrow$  probability of occupancy.

$$\begin{aligned} \frac{p(n dx, t+dt) - p(n dx, t)}{dt} &= \frac{P_m}{2} \left[ p((n-1) dx, t) - 2p(n dx, t) \right. \\ &\quad \left. + p((n+1) dx, t) \right] \\ &\quad + \frac{P_m}{2} p \left\{ (1 - p(n dx, t)) \times \right. \\ &\quad \left. [p((n-1) dx, t) - p((n+1) dx, t)] \right. \\ &\quad \left. + p(n dx, t) [(1 - p((n-1) dx, t)) \right. \\ &\quad \left. (1 - p((n+1) dx, t))] \right\} \end{aligned}$$

Take the limit as  $dx, dt \rightarrow 0$

$$\frac{\partial p}{\partial t} = D \frac{\partial^2 p}{\partial x^2} - v \frac{\partial}{\partial x} (p(1-p))$$

$$\lim_{dx \rightarrow 0} \frac{D p dx^2}{2}$$

$$\lim_{dx \rightarrow 0} D p dx$$

cf without competition for space:

$$\frac{\partial p}{\partial t} = D \frac{\partial^2 p}{\partial x^2} - v \frac{\partial p}{\partial x}$$

diff. advection terms.