

Intraspecific Interactions

“Populační ekologie živočichů“

Stano Pekár

Density-dependent growth

- ▶ includes all mechanisms of population growth that change with density
 - population structure is ignored
 - extrinsic effects are negligible
 - response of r to N is immediate

- ▶ r decreases with population density either because natality decreases or mortality increases or both

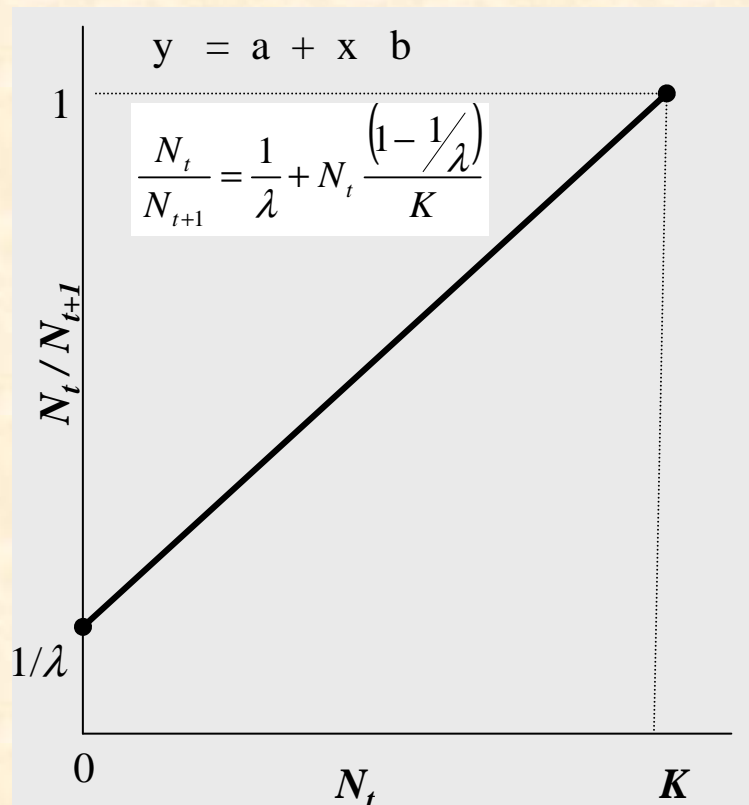
- ▶ K .. carrying capacity
 - upper limit of population growth
where $\lambda = 1$ or $r = 0$
 - is constant

Discrete (difference) model

- there is linear dependence of λ on N

$$N_{t+1} = N_t \lambda$$

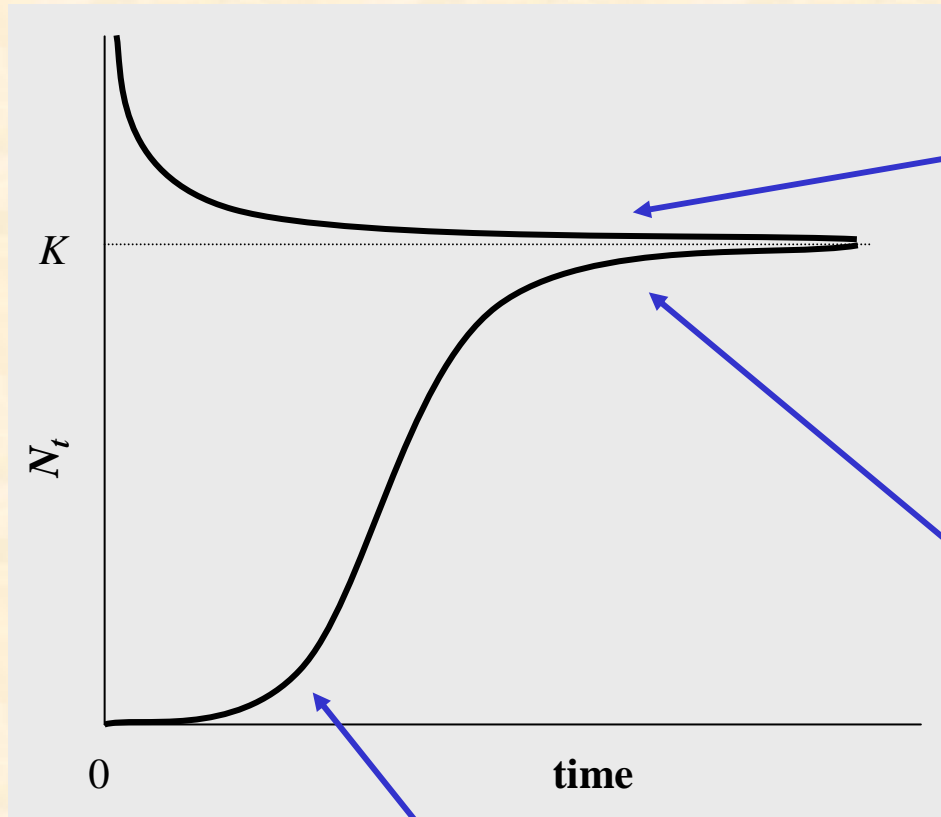
$$\frac{N_t}{N_{t+1}} = \frac{1}{\lambda}$$



$$N_{t+1} = \frac{N_t \lambda}{1 + \frac{(\lambda - 1)N_t}{K}}$$

if $a = \frac{\lambda - 1}{K}$ then

$$N_{t+1} = \frac{N_t \lambda}{1 + a N_t}$$



when $N_t > K$ then

$$\frac{\lambda}{1 + aN_t} < 1$$

- population returns to K

when $N_t \rightarrow K$ then

$$\frac{\lambda}{1 + aN_t} \approx 1$$

- density-dependent control
- S-shaped (sigmoid) growth

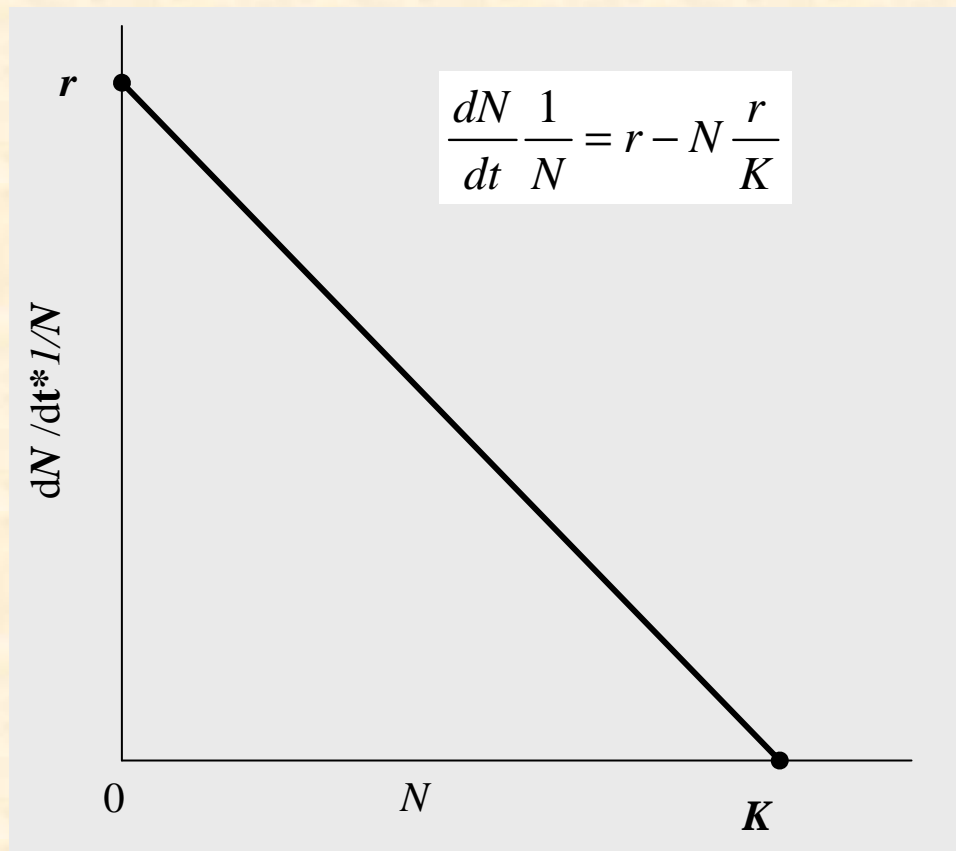
when $N_t \rightarrow 0$ then

$$\frac{\lambda}{1 + aN_t} \approx \lambda$$

- no competition
- exponential growth

Continuous (differential) model

- ▶ logistic growth
- ▶ first used by Verhulst (1838) to describe growth of human population
- there is linear dependence of r on N



$$\frac{dN}{dt} = Nr \rightarrow \frac{dN}{dt} \frac{1}{N} = r$$

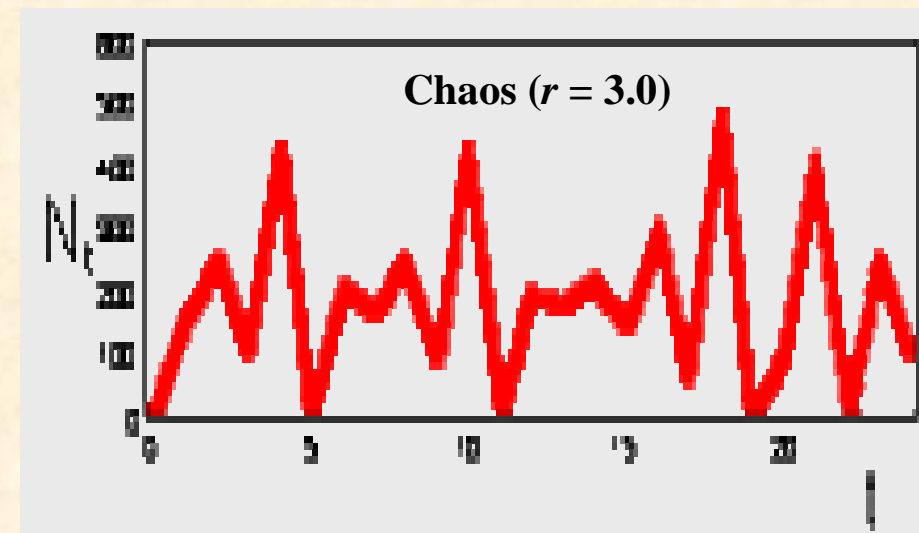
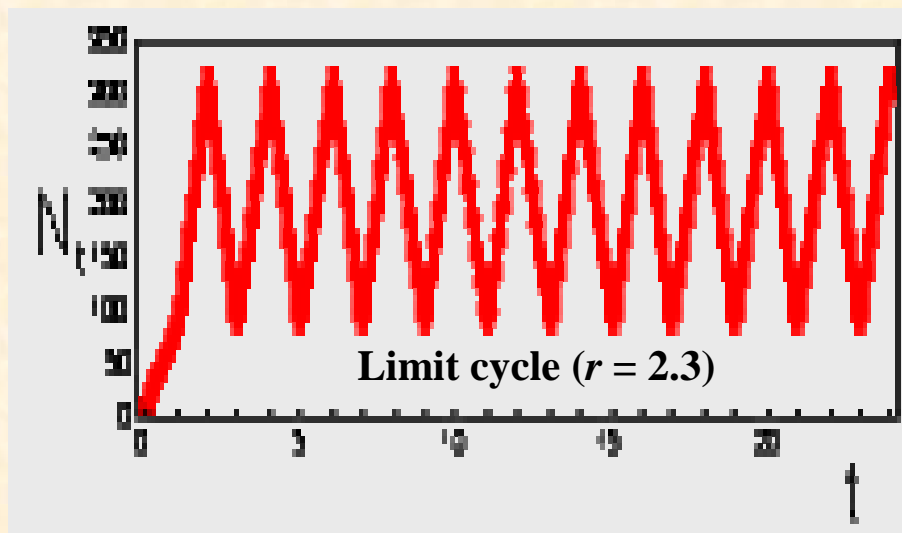
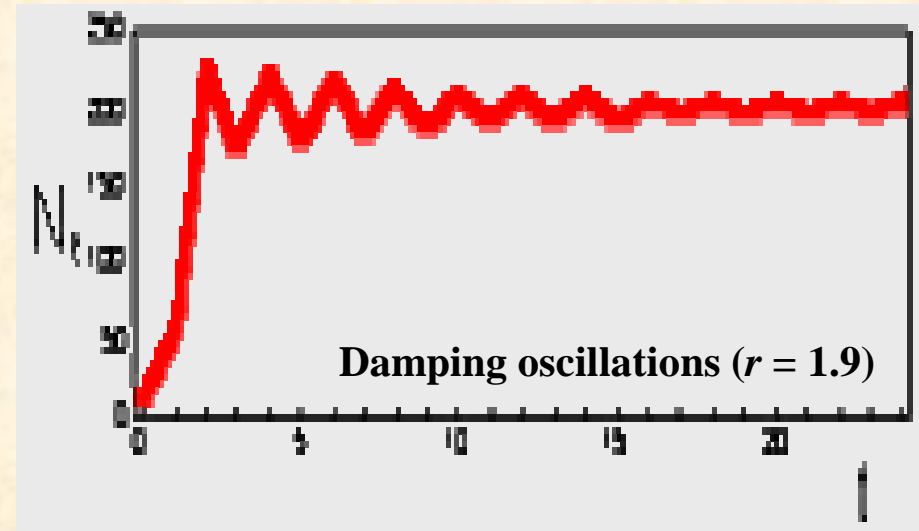
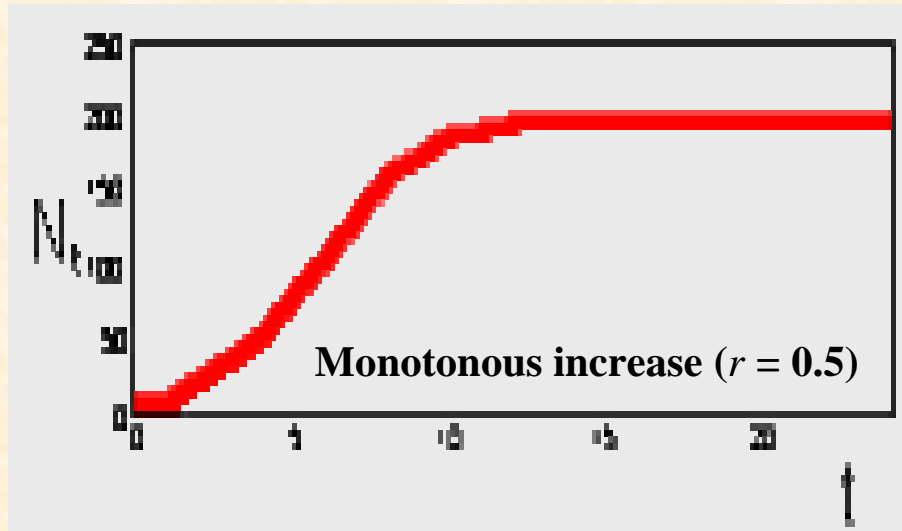
- when $N \rightarrow K$ then $r \rightarrow 0$

$$\frac{dN}{dt} = Nr \left(1 - \frac{N}{K} \right)$$

Solution of the differential equation

$$N_t = \frac{KN_0}{(K - N_0)e^{-rt} + N_0}$$

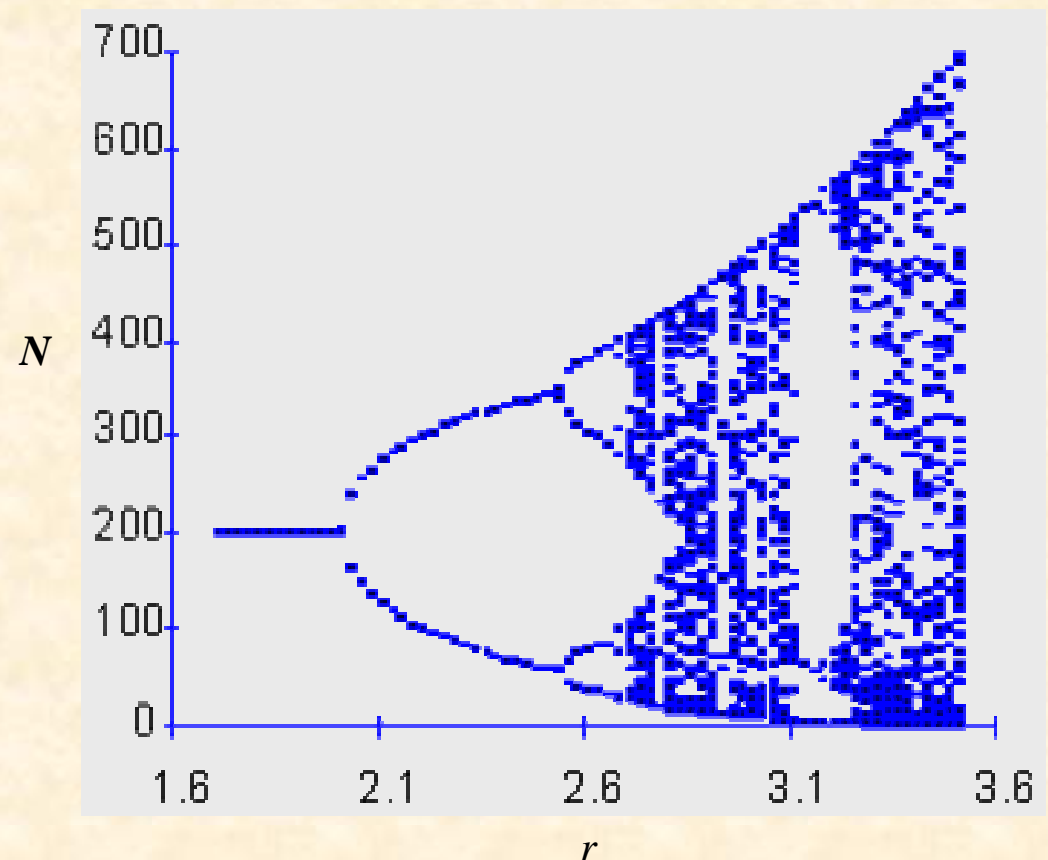
Examination of the logistic model



Model equilibria

1. $N = 0$.. unstable equilibrium
2. $N = K$.. stable equilibrium .. if $0 < r < 2$
 - ▶ “Monotonous increase” and “Damping oscillations” has a stable equilibrium
 - ▶ “Limit cycle” and “Chaos” has no equilibrium

- $r < 2$.. stable equilibrium
- $r = 2$.. 2-point limit cycle
- $r = 2.5$.. 4-point limit cycle
- $r = 2.692$.. chaos
 - ▶ chaos can be produced by deterministic process
 - ▶ density-dependence is stabilising only when r is rather low



Observed population dynamics

a) yeast (logistic curve)

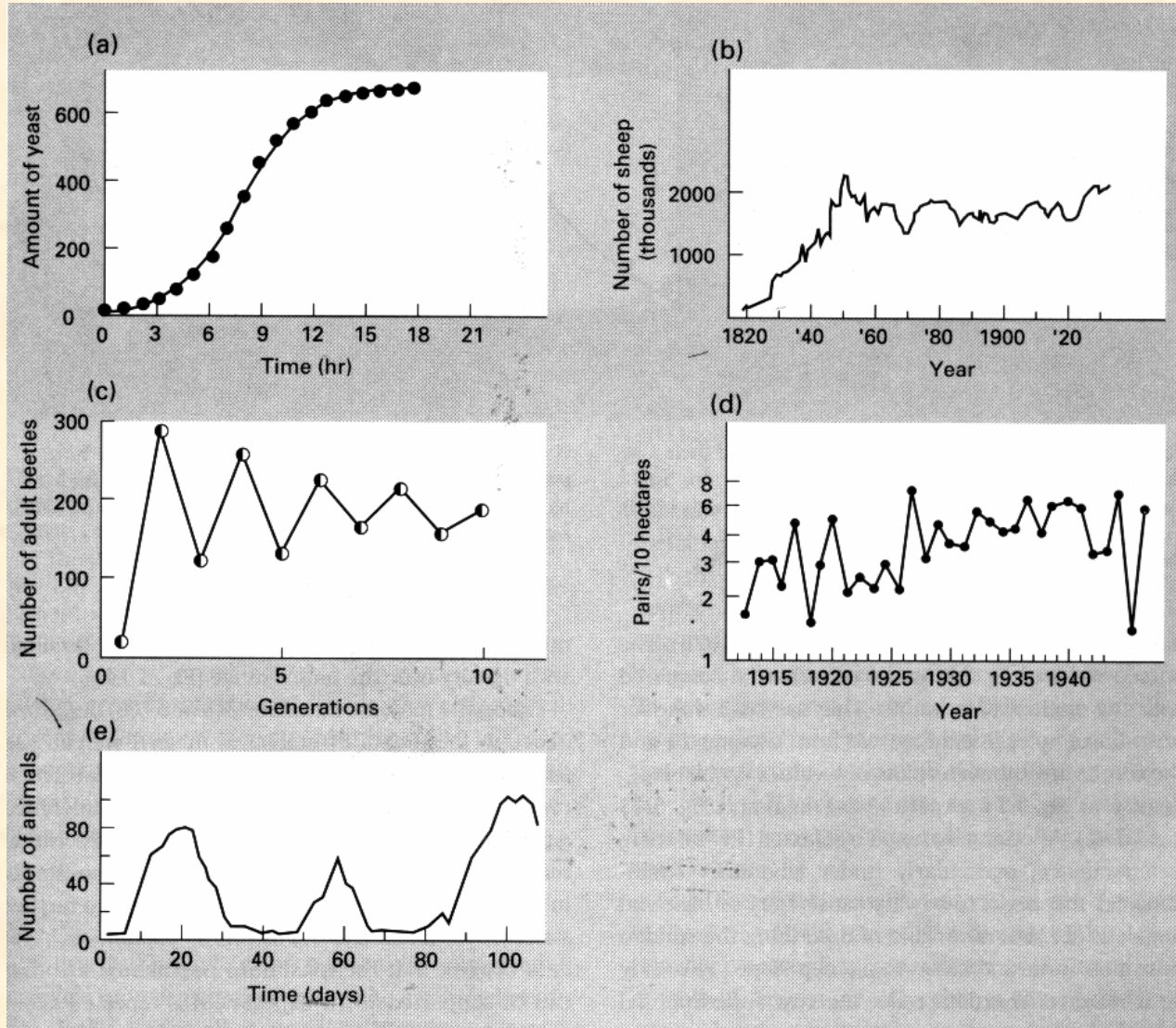
b) sheep (logistic curve with oscillations)

c) *Callosobruchus* (damping oscillations)

d) *Parus* (chaos)

e) *Daphnia*

▶ of 28 insect species in one species chaos was identified, one other showed limit cycles, all other were in stable equilibrium



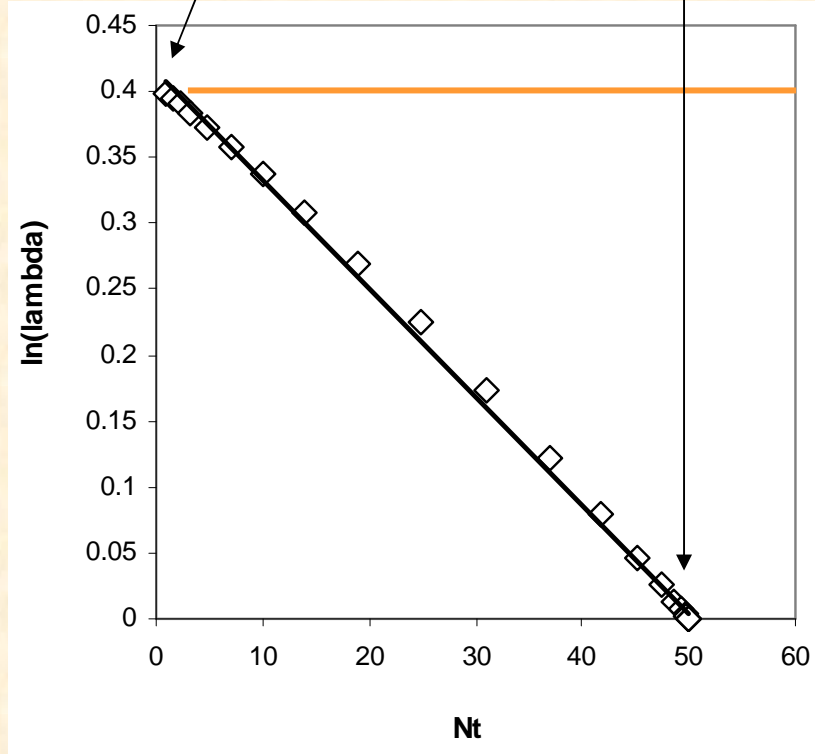
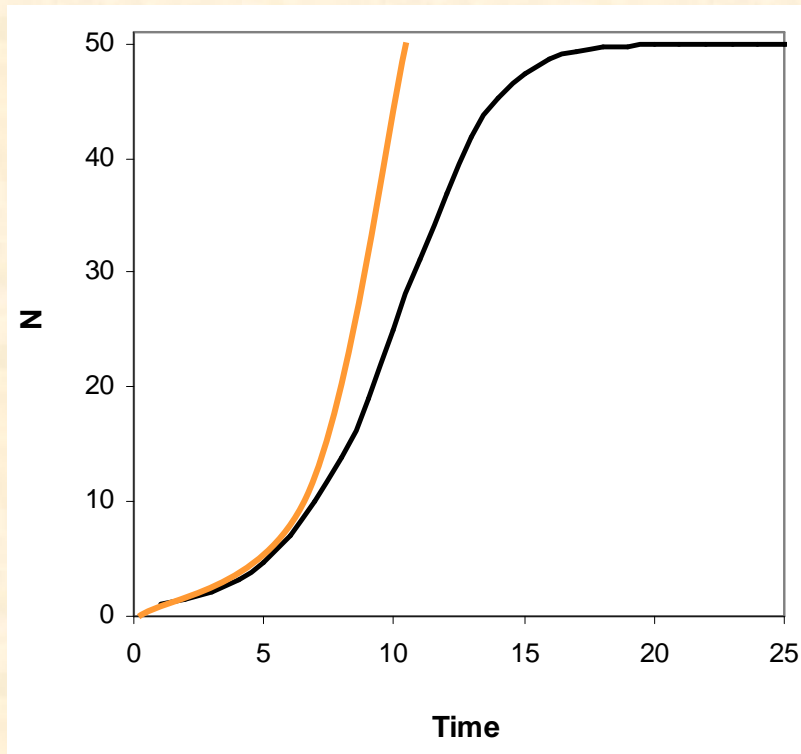
Estimation of lambda & K

- plot $\ln(\lambda)$ against N_t
- estimate λ and K using

$$\ln(\lambda) = a + bN_t$$

$$\lambda_{\max} = e^a$$

$$K = -\frac{a}{b}$$



General logistic model

► Hassell (1975) proposed general model for DD

- r is not linearly dependent on N

- where θ .. the strength of competition

$\theta \gg 1$.. scramble competition (over-compensation)

- strong DD, leads to fluctuations, oscillations around K

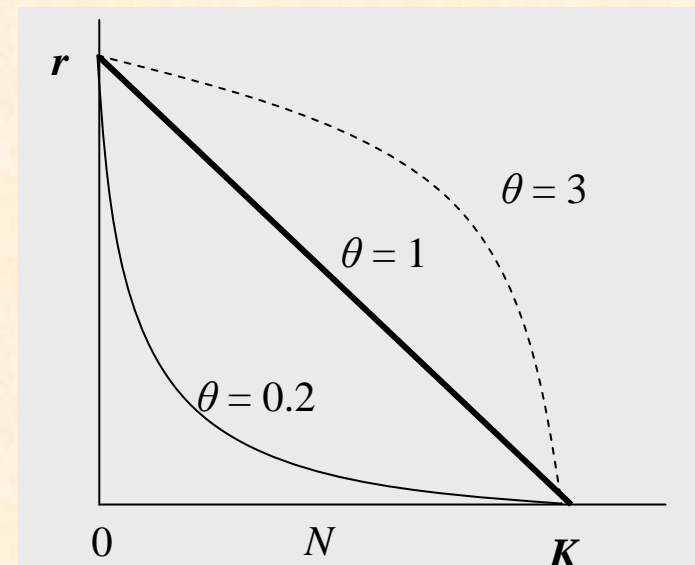
$\theta = 1$.. contest competition (exact compensation)

- stable density

$\theta < 1$.. under-compensation

- weak DD, population will return to K

$$N_{t+1} = \frac{N_t \lambda}{(1 + aN_t)^\theta}$$



Models with time-lags

- ▶ species response to resource change is not immediate but delayed due to maternal effect, seasonal effect, predator pressure
- ▶ appropriate for species with long generation time where reproductive rate is dependent on density of a previous generation
- ▶ time lag (d or τ) .. negative feedback of the 2nd order

discrete model

$$N_{t+1} = \frac{N_t \lambda}{1 + aN_{t-d}}$$

continuous model

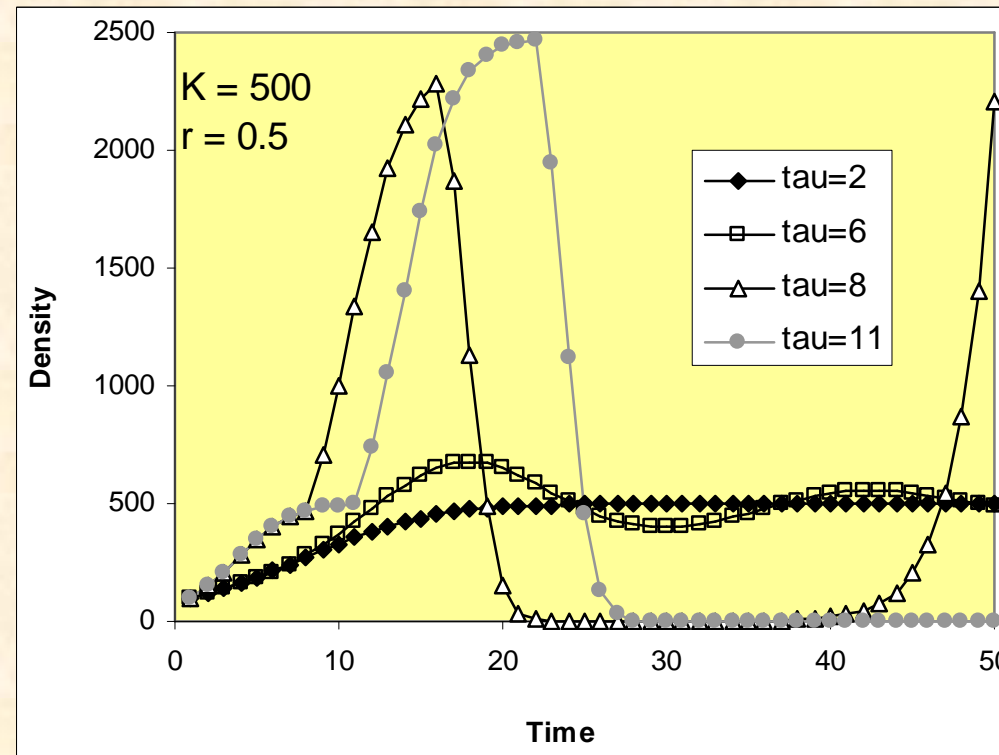
$$\frac{dN}{dt} = N_t r \left(1 - \frac{N_{t-\tau}}{K} \right)$$

- ▶ many populations of mammals cycle with 3-4 year periods
- ▶ time-lag provokes fluctuations of certain amplitude at certain periods
- ▶ period of the cycle in continuous model is always 4τ

Solution of the continuous model:

$$N_{t+1} = N_t e^{r \left(1 - \frac{N_{t-\tau}}{K} \right)}$$

- $r \tau < 1 \rightarrow$ monotonous increase
- $r \tau < 3 \rightarrow$ damping fluctuations
- $r \tau < 4 \rightarrow$ limit cycle fluctuations
- $r \tau > 5 \rightarrow$ extinction

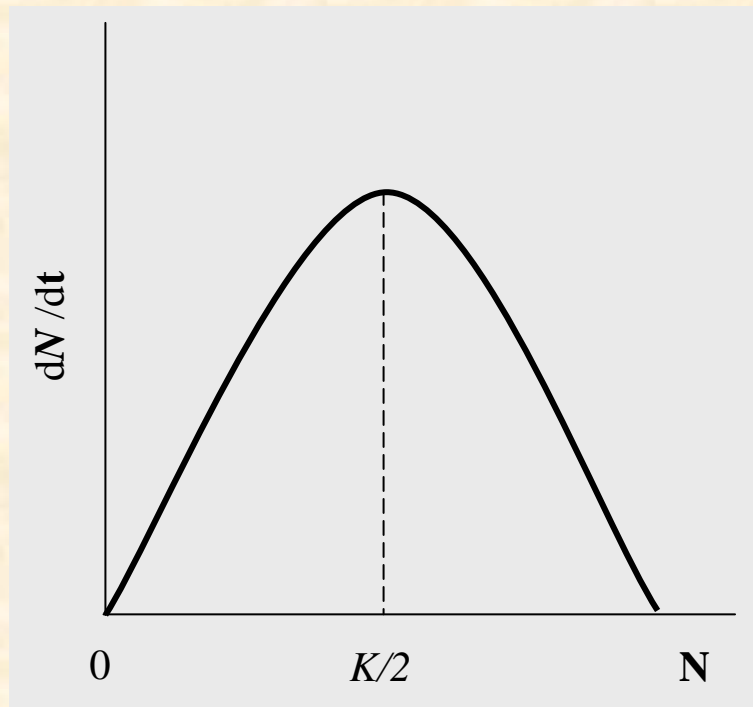


Harvesting

► Maximum Sustainable Harvest (*MSH*)

- to harvest as much as possible with the least negative effect on N
- ignore population structure
- ignore stochasticity

$$\frac{dN}{dt} = Nr \left(1 - \frac{N}{K} \right) = 0$$



$$N = \frac{K}{2}$$



$$MSH = \frac{rK}{4}$$

► Robinson & Redford (1991)

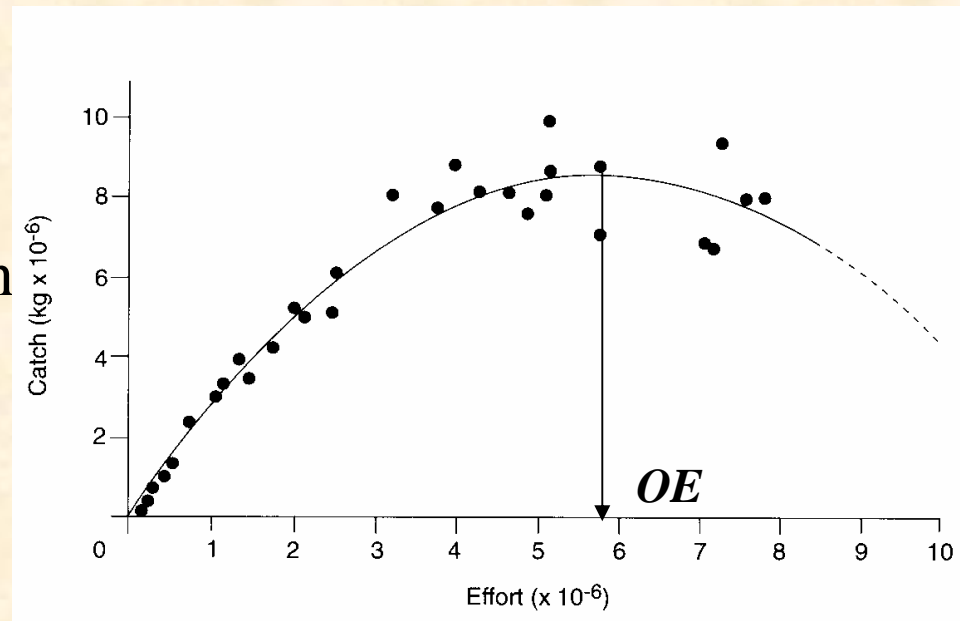
- Maximum Sustainable Yield (*MSY*)

$$MSY = a \left(\frac{\lambda K - K}{2} \right)$$

where $a = 0.6$ for longevity < 5
 $a = 0.4$ for longevity $= (5, 10)$
 $a = 0.2$ for longevity > 10

► Surplus production (catch-effort) models

- when r/λ and K are not known
- effort and catch over several years is known
- Schaefer quadratic model
- local maximum of the function identifies optimal effort



Alee effect

- ▶ individuals in a population may cooperate in hunting, breeding – positive effect on population increase
- ▶ Allee (1931) – discovered inverse DD
 - genetic inbreeding – decrease in fertility
 - demographic stochasticity – biased sex ratio
 - small groups – cooperation in foraging, defence, mating, thermoregulation
- ▶ K_2 .. extinction threshold,
 - unstable equilibrium
- ▶ population increase is slow at low density but fast at higher density

$$\frac{dN}{dt} = Nr \left(1 - \frac{N}{K_1} \right) \left(\frac{N}{K_2} - 1 \right)$$

