

# Matrix Population Models for Wildlife Conservation and Management

2-6 May 2022

Jean-Dominique LEBRETON, Jim HINES,  
Xavier LAMBIN, Chris SUTHERLAND, Madan OLI



1

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

## Matrix model formulation



Patrick "George" LESLIE,  
whose famous 1945 paper  
launched the development  
of « matrix models »

2

---

---

---

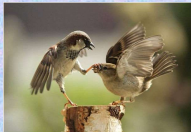
---

---

---

---

---



## Matrix model formulation

- Two simple examples
- Some numerical results
- A first look at different generalizations



3

---

---

---


---

---

---

---

---



**A simple example**

**QUANTITATIVE LIFE CYCLE**  
in a house sparrow *Passer domesticus* population

Diagram illustrating the life cycle stages and transitions:

```

    graph LR
      A[aged >=1] -- f --> B[newborn]
      B -- s0 --> C[aged >=1]
      A -- s1 --> C
  
```

One linear scalar equation  $N(t+1) = (s_0 f + s_1) N(t)$

4

---

---

---


---

---

---

---


---

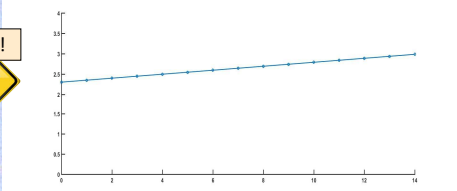


**A simple example**

**QUANTITATIVE LIFE CYCLE**  
in a house sparrow population

One linear scalar equation  $N(t+1) = (s_0 f + s_1) N(t)$   
 $s_0 = 0.2, f = 6/2, s_1 = 0.45 \Rightarrow s_0 f + s_1 = 1.05$

Log scale ! 



5

---

---

---


---

---

---

---

---



**A simple example**

**Discrete time vs Continuous time**

**Discrete time:**  $N(t+1) = (s_0 f + s_1) N(t) = \lambda N(t)$

**Continuous time:**  $N'(t) = r N(t) \Rightarrow$   
 $N(t) = N(0) \exp(rt)$   
 $N(t+1) = N(0) \exp(r(t+1)) = N(0) \exp(rt+r) = N(0) \exp(rt) \exp(r)$

Hence  $N(t+1) = \exp(r) N(t)$   
 $\exp(r) = \lambda$   
 or, equivalently  $r = \ln(\lambda)$

6

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---





### A simple example

#### Discrete time vs Continuous time Two different points of view

**Discrete time:**  $N(t+1) = (s_0 f + s_1) N(t) = \lambda N(t)$

- Uses only overall seasonal survival probabilities and fecundity

**Continuous time:**  $N(t+1) = \exp(r) N(t)$

- Based on constant  $r$  throughout (within as well as among years)
- Or, in presence of within year (seasonal) variation in demography, requires to integrate changes induced by variation in instantaneous rates to produce overall annual  $r$

**However, within year changes in, e.g., survival, most often inaccessible ... and not needed in discrete time models**

7

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---



### A simple example

#### Density Dependence

##### Density independent model

$$\lambda = 0.45 + 0.2 * 3 = 0.45 + 0.6 = 1.05$$

##### Density Dependent model

Assume fecundity decreases with population size as  $3 * \exp(-0.001 * N(t))$   
then

$$\lambda = 0.45 + 0.6 * \exp(-0.001 * N(t))$$

8

---

---

---

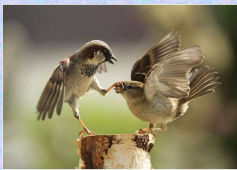
---

---

---

---

---



### A simple example

#### Density Dependence

##### Density Dependent model

$$\lambda = 0.45 + 0.6 * \exp(-0.001 * N(t))$$

- $\lambda$  is a monotonously decreasing function of  $N$
- Equals 1 iff  $\exp(-0.001 * N(t)) = (1 - 0.45) / 0.6 = 11/12$
- i.e. when  $N = -1000 * \ln(11/12) = 87.0114$

9

---

---

---

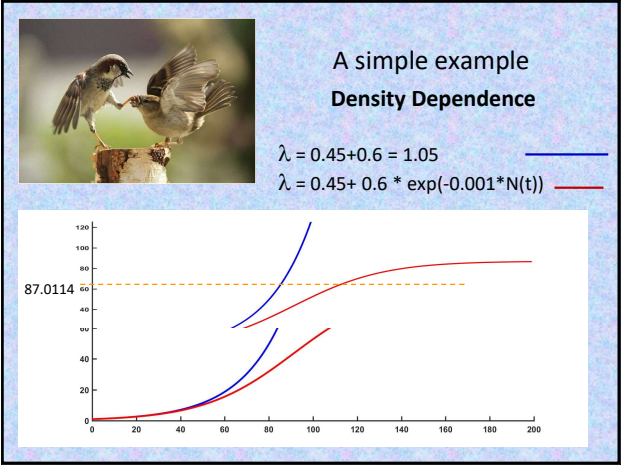
---

---

---

---

---



10

---

---

---

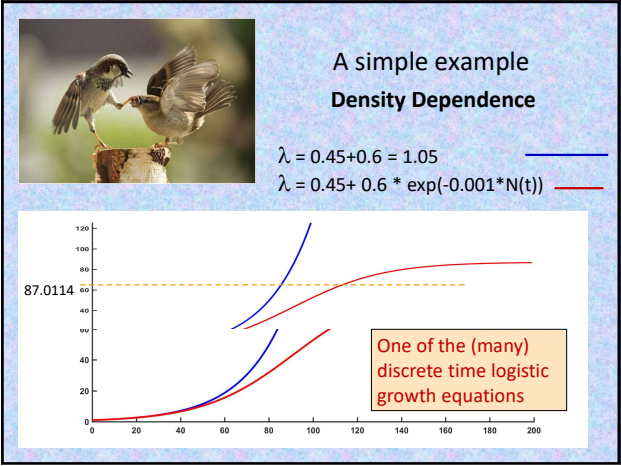
---

---

---

---

---



11

---

---

---

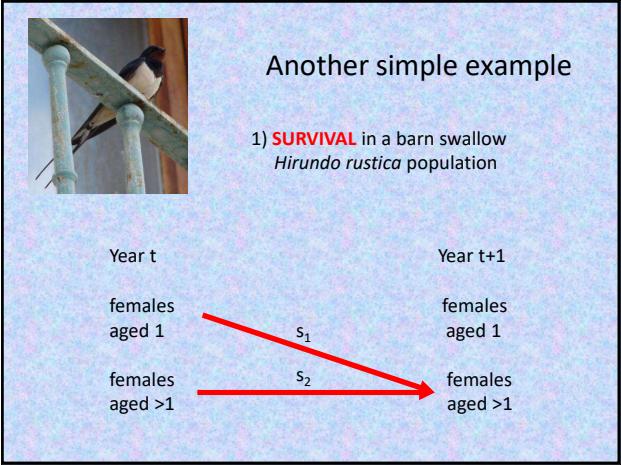
---

---

---

---

---



12

---

---

---

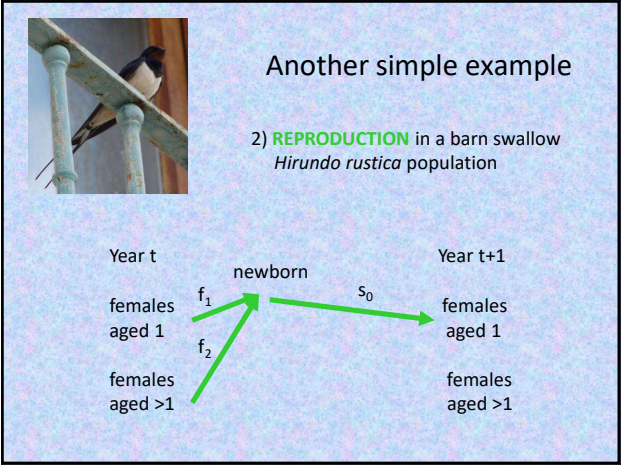
---

---

---

---

---



13

---

---

---

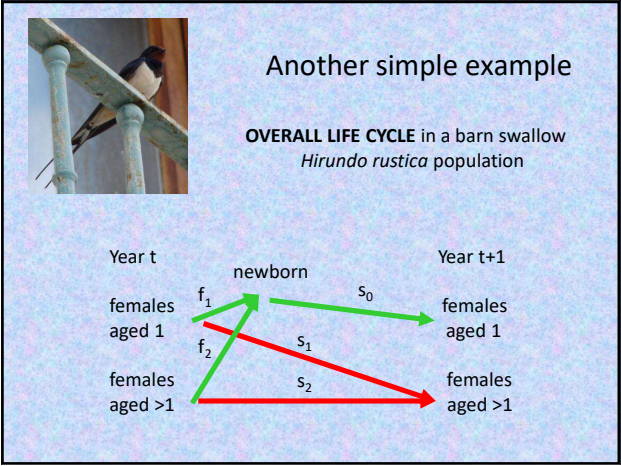
---

---

---

---

---



14

---

---

---

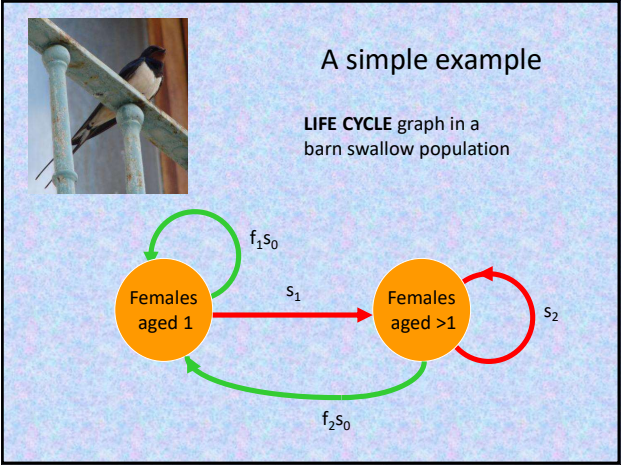
---

---

---

---

---



15

---

---

---

---

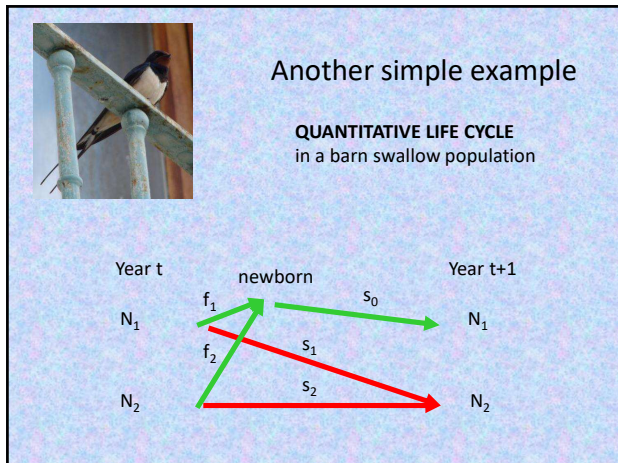
---

---

---

---





16

---

---

---

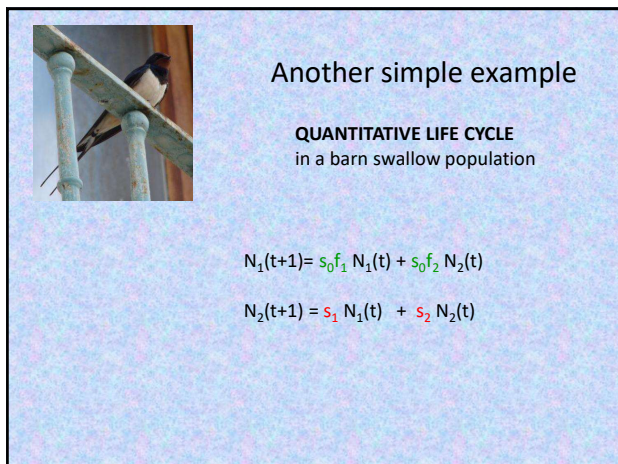
---

---

---

---

---



17

---

---

---

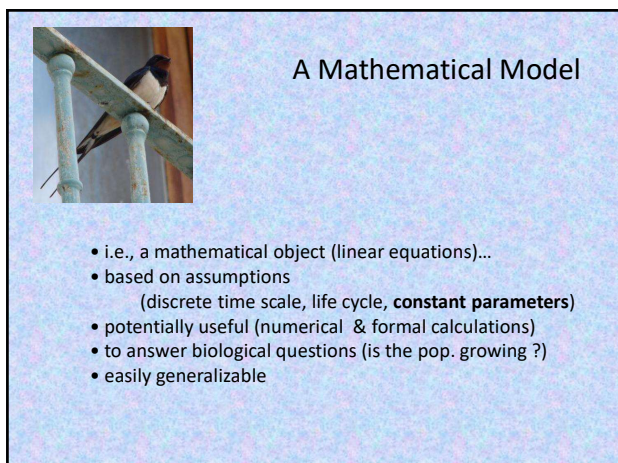
---

---

---

---

---



18

---

---

---


---

---

---

---

---



### Another simple example

**PARAMETER ESTIMATES**  
in a barn swallow population

$s_0 = 0.20$   $f_1 = 3/2$   $f_2 = 6/2$   
(50 % breed at age 1, 6 young produced,  
divide by 2 for balanced sex-ratio)

$s_1 = 0.50$   $s_2 = 0.65$   
(analysis of dead recoveries)

19

---

---


---

---

---

---

---



### A simple example

**QUANTITATIVE LIFE CYCLE**  
in a barn swallow population

Two linear Equations  $N_1(t+1) = 0.30 N_1(t) + 0.60 N_2(t)$   
 $N_2(t+1) = 0.50 N_1(t) + 0.65 N_2(t)$

One matrix Equation  $\begin{bmatrix} N_1 \\ N_2 \end{bmatrix}_{t+1} = \begin{bmatrix} 0.30 & 0.60 \\ 0.50 & 0.65 \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} N_1 \\ N_2 \end{bmatrix}_t$

$N_{t+1} = M N_t$ , alike a product of scalars

20

---

---


---

---

---

---

---



### Some Numerical Results

**QUANTITATIVE LIFE CYCLE**  
in a barn swallow population

Two linear Equations  $N_1(t+1) = 0.30 N_1(t) + 0.60 N_2(t)$   
 $N_2(t+1) = 0.50 N_1(t) + 0.65 N_2(t)$

t =	0	1	2	3	...
N =	0	6	5.7	6.05	...
	10	6.5	7.7	7.55	...

21

---

---

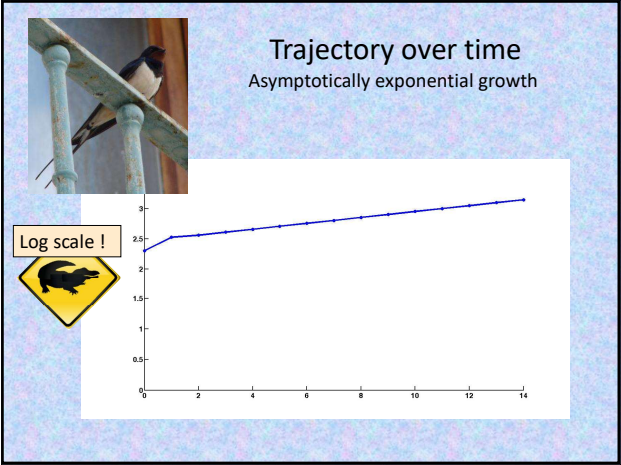
---

---

---

---

---



22

---

---

---

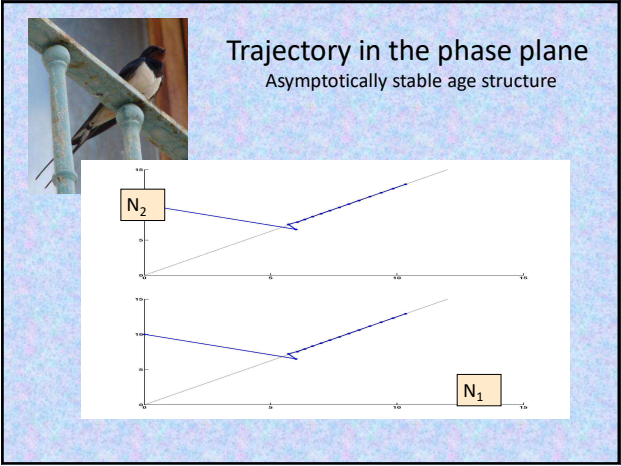
---

---

---

---

---



23

---

---

---

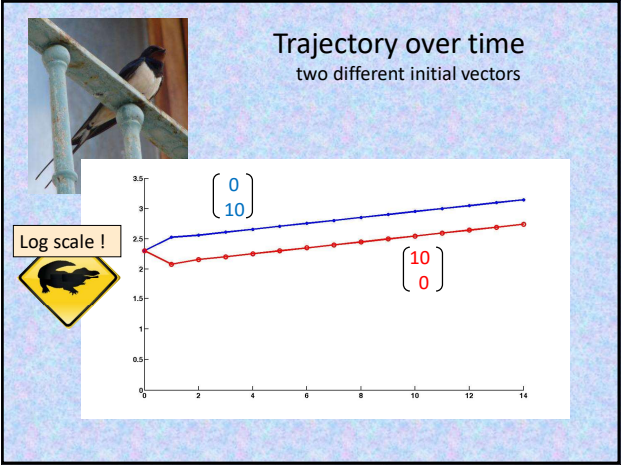
---

---

---

---

---



24

---

---

---

---

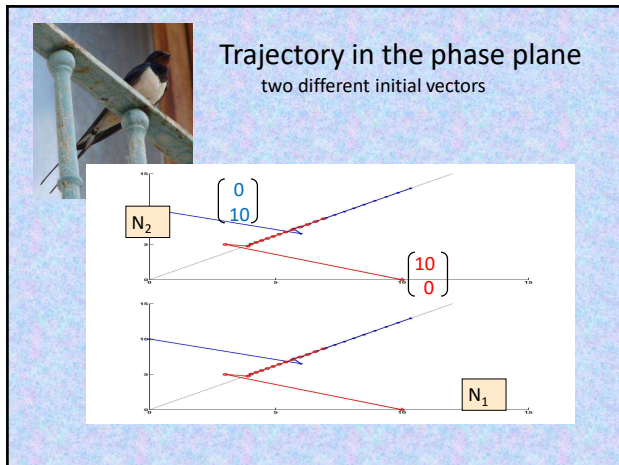
---

---

---

---





25

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

Another simple example

- Regular (asymptotic) behaviour
- Partially dependent on initial conditions
- Encourages formal analysis (next lecture)
- A key assumption: constant parameters

26

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

Model as a tool:  
use it to answer questions

- Growth ?
- Structure ?
- Change in parameters ?
- Sustainability of human induced action ?
- Effect of evolutionary change ?
- ...

27

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

### Model as a tool: suggested modeling process

- Biological Questions
- Review Information available
- Build model
- Translate biological Q. into technical Q.
- Proceed to parameter estimation (CMR)
- Use model to answer Biological Questions

28

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

### Matrix Models: the basic Leslie age-structured model

Pre birth-pulse matrix:  
fecundities x 1<sup>st</sup> year survival = "net fecundities"

$$M = \begin{pmatrix} f_1 s_1 & f_2 s_1 & \dots & f_i s_1 & \dots & f_n s_1 \\ s_2 & 0 & \dots & 0 & \dots & 0 \\ 0 & s_3 & \dots & 0 & \dots & 0 \\ \dots & \dots & \dots & \dots & \dots & \dots \\ 0 & \dots & \dots & s_{i+1} & \dots & \dots \\ \dots & \dots & \dots & \dots & \dots & \dots \\ 0 & 0 & \dots & \dots & s_n & 0 \end{pmatrix}$$

Aging + survival:  
survival probabilities  
on 1<sup>st</sup> sub-diagonal

note shift in  
survival indices



29

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

### Matrix Models: a first variation

Pre birth-pulse matrix:  
fecundities x 1<sup>st</sup> year survival = "net fecundities"

$$M = \begin{pmatrix} f_1 s_1 & f_2 s_1 & \dots & f_i s_1 & \dots & f_n s_1 \\ s_2 & 0 & \dots & 0 & \dots & 0 \\ 0 & s_3 & \dots & 0 & \dots & 0 \\ \dots & \dots & \dots & \dots & \dots & \dots \\ 0 & \dots & \dots & s_{i+1} & \dots & \dots \\ \dots & \dots & \dots & \dots & \dots & \dots \\ 0 & 0 & \dots & \dots & s_n & s_{n+1} \end{pmatrix}$$

Aging + survival:  
survival probabilities  
on 1<sup>st</sup> sub-diagonal

"n+" age class  $\longleftrightarrow$   
infinite matrix

30

---

---

---


---

---

---

---

---



### Matrix Models: a variety of structures

- Age classes and time scale
- Stages
- Sites
- Sexes
- Seasonal models
- Age x Sites ....

31

---

---


---

---

---

---

---



### Matrix Models: seasonal models

Spring t

Summer

Spring t+1

$N_1(t)$   
 $N_2(t)$

$\begin{matrix} \nearrow \\ \rightarrow \\ \rightarrow \end{matrix}$

$\begin{matrix} N'_0(t) \\ N'_1(t) \\ N'_2(t) \end{matrix}$

$\begin{matrix} \nearrow \\ \rightarrow \\ \rightarrow \end{matrix}$

$\begin{matrix} N_1(t+1) \\ N_2(t+1) \end{matrix}$

32

---

---


---

---

---

---

---



### Matrix Models: seasonal models

Spring t

Summer

Spring t+1

$N(t)$

$\xrightarrow{M_1}$

$N'(t)$

$\xrightarrow{M_2}$

$N(t+1)$

$M_1 = \begin{bmatrix} f_1 & f_2 \\ 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 \end{bmatrix}$

$M_2 = \begin{bmatrix} s_0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & s_1 & s_2 \end{bmatrix}$

33

---

---

---


---

---

---

---





**Matrix Models:  
seasonal models**

$$M_1 = \begin{bmatrix} f_1 & f_2 \\ 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 \end{bmatrix} \quad M_2 = \begin{bmatrix} s_0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & s_1 & s_2 \end{bmatrix}$$

$M_2 M_1 = [2 \times 3 \text{ matrix}] \times [3 \times 2 \text{ matrix}]$   
is a  $2 \times 2$  matrix

$$M_2 M_1 = \begin{bmatrix} s_0 f_1 & s_0 f_2 \\ s_1 & s_2 \end{bmatrix}$$

... the  $2 \times 2$  original matrix

34

---

---

---


---

---

---

---

---



**Matrix Models:  
post birth-pulse model**

Spring t      Summer      Spring t+1

$N(t)$        $N'(t)$        $N(t+1)$

$M_1$        $M_2$

$N'(t+1) = M_1 M_2 N'(t)$

$$M_1 M_2 = \begin{bmatrix} f_1 s_0 & f_2 s_1 & f_2 s_2 \\ s_0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & s_1 & s_2 \end{bmatrix}$$

35

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

**Matrix Models:  
a variety of generalizations**

Feature	Recurrence equation	Type of model	Math tools	Key reference
Constant parameters	$N_{t+1} = M N_t$	Matrix models <i>stricto sensu</i>	Linear Algebra	Caswell (2001) Matrix population models
Density-dependence	$N_{t+1} = M(N_t) N_t$	Density-dependent matrix models, Discrete time logistic growth	Nonlinear dynamics	Caswell (2001) Matrix population models
Random Environment	$N_{t+1} = \mathbf{M}_t N_t$	Random Environment models	Products of random matrices	Tuljapurkar (1990) Population dynamics in variable environments
Demographic stochasticity	$E(N_{t+1} / N_t) = M N_t$	Branching Processes	Applied Probability	Gosselin, Lebreton (2001) The potential of branching processes... in Ferson & Burgman (Eds)

36

---

---

---


---

---

---

---

---



### Matrix Models: Density-dependence

$$N_1(t+1) = s_0(N_1(t) + N_2(t)) \times [ f_1 N_1(t) + f_2 N_2(t) ]$$
$$N_2(t+1) = s_1 N_1(t) + s_2 N_2(t)$$

e.g.  $s_0(N_1(t) + N_2(t)) = 0.2 * \exp(-0.001 (N_1(t) + N_2(t)) )$

37

---

---

---


---

---

---

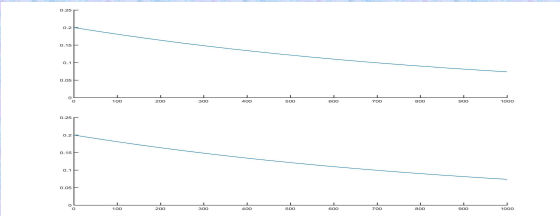
---

---



### Matrix Models: Density-dependence

$$s_0(N_1(t) + N_2(t)) = 0.2 * \exp(-0.001 (N_1(t) + N_2(t)) )$$



38

---

---

---


---

---

---

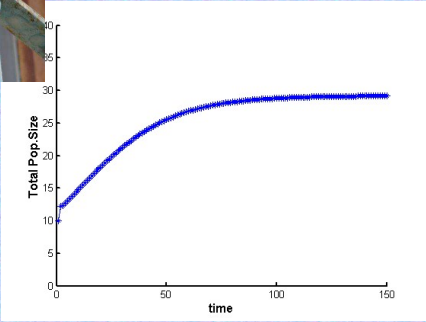
---

---



### Trajectory over time

Asymptotic stabilization



39

---

---

---

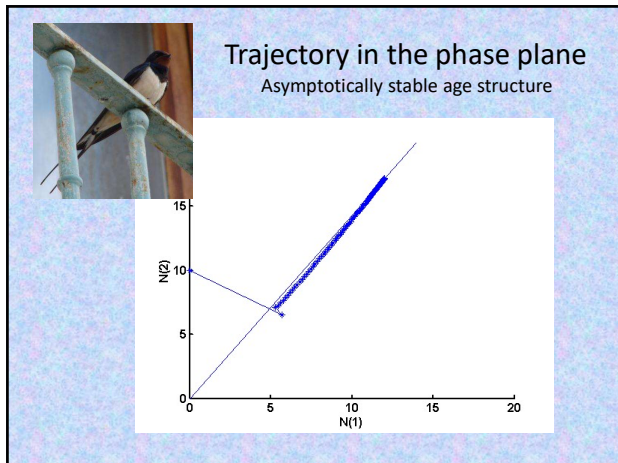
---

---

---

---

---



40

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

**Matrix Models:  
Density-dependence**

- Regular (asymptotic) behaviour too
- Formal analysis feasible too
- Transcribes "Logistic growth"  
in a realistic (demographic) context

41

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

**Matrix Models:  
Overview**

- Easily built from life cycle
- Easily generalized to consider relevant sources of variation in demographic parameters
- Easily generalized to any partition of individuals in mutually exclusive « classes » (« stages », « states »)
- Discrete seasons, matrix products, pre/post birth-pulse
- Parameter estimation often drives choice of generalization (e.g. random environment)
- Amenable to formal study (**not only asymptotics!**)

42

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---





43

---

---

---

---

---

---

---