

7 Space

8 Space II



Mathematics
and Statistics

$$\int_M d\omega = \int_{\partial M} \omega$$

Mathematics 4MB3/6MB3 Mathematical Biology

Instructor: David Earn

Lecture 7

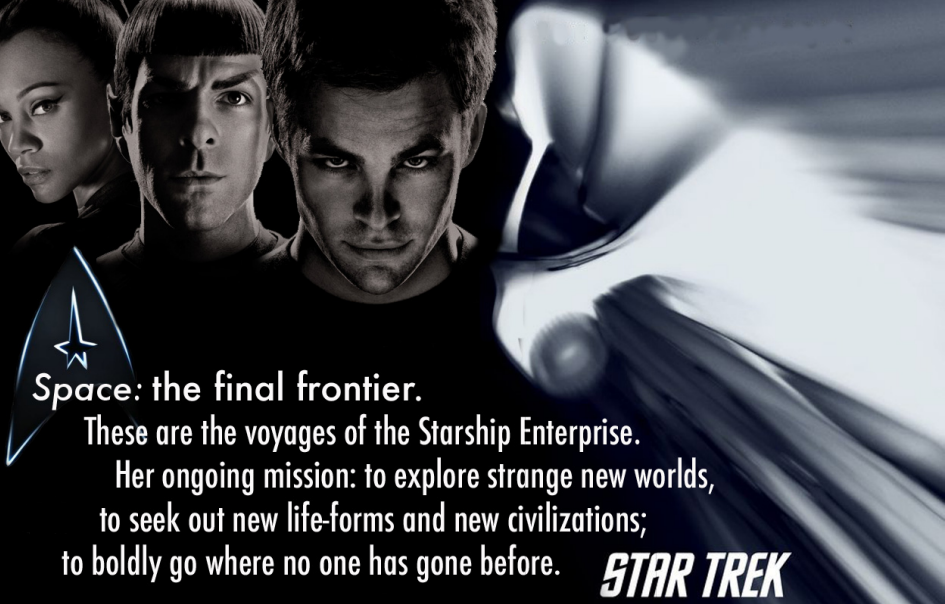
Space

Tuesday 27 October 2026

Announcements

- Three of you still have not done the contributions survey for Assignment 2. Did you receive my repeated e-mail reminders?
- **Midterm test:**
 - *Date:* Tuesday 17 November 2026 (tentative)
 - *Time available:* 2:30–5:20 p.m. (test duration: 90 minutes)
 - *Location:* in class, ETB 227
 - Test structure will be discussed in the class before the test.
- **Assignment 3** is due Thursday 29 October 2026 at 11:59 p.m.
- **Assignment 4** is due Thursday 12 November 2026 at 11:59 p.m.
 - Make sure you personally can do the question on calculating $\mathcal{R}_0$ on this assignment before the midterm test.

Spatial Epidemic Dynamics



Space: the final frontier.

These are the voyages of the Starship Enterprise.

Her ongoing mission: to explore strange new worlds,
to seek out new life-forms and new civilizations;
to boldly go where no one has gone before.

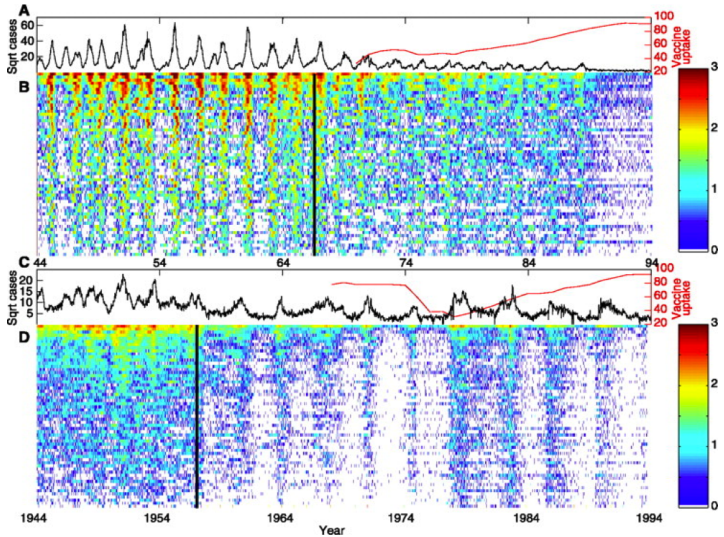
STAR TREK

Something to think about

- All of our analysis has been of temporal patterns of epidemics
- What about spatial patterns?
- What problems are suggested by observed spatial epidemic patterns?
- Can spatial epidemic data suggest improved strategies for control?
- Can we reduce the eradication threshold below $p_{\text{crit}} = 1 - \frac{1}{\mathcal{R}_0}$?

Measles and Whooping Cough in 60 UK cities

Measles



Whooping
Cough

Rohani, Earn & Grenfell (1999) *Science* 286, 968–971

Better Control? Eradication?

- The term-time forced SEIR model successfully predicts past patterns of epidemics of childhood diseases
- Can we manipulate epidemics predictably so as to increase probability of eradication?
- Can we eradicate measles?

Idea for eradicating measles

- Try to re-synchronize measles epidemics in the UK and, moreover, synchronize measles epidemics worldwide: synchrony is good
- Devise new vaccination strategy that tends to synchronize...
- Avoid spatially structured epidemics...
- Time to think about the mathematics of synchrony...
- But analytical theory of synchrony in a periodically forced system of differential equations is mathematically demanding...
- So let's consider a much simpler biological model...

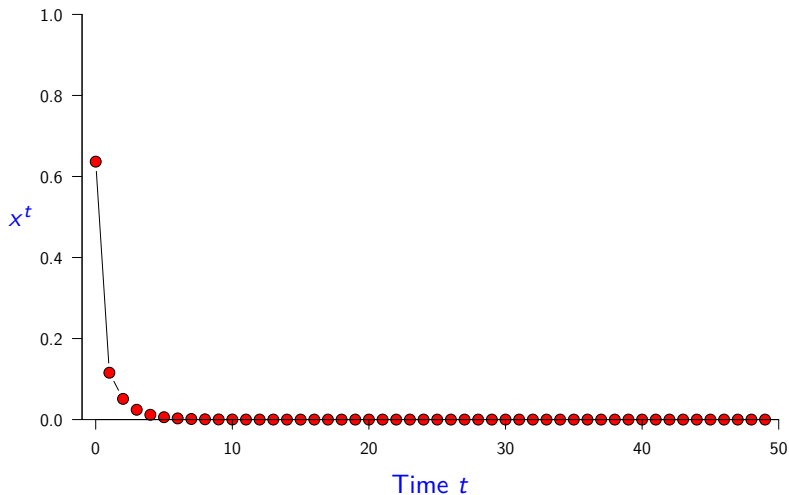
The Logistic Map

Logistic Map

- Simplest non-trivial *discrete time* population model for a single species (with *non-overlapping generations*) in a *single habitat patch*.
- Time: $t = 0, 1, 2, 3, \dots$
- State: $x \geq 0$ (population density)
- Population density at time t is x^t . Solutions are sequences:
$$x^0, x^1, x^2, \dots$$
- $x^{t+1} = F(x^t)$ for some *reproduction function* $F(x)$.
- For *logistic map*: $F(x) = rx(1 - x)$, so $x^{t+1} = rx^t(1 - x^t)$.
 $x^{t+1} = [r(1 - x^t)]x^t \implies r$ is *maximum fecundity* (which is achieved in limit of very small population density).
Also: $x^0 \in [0, 1] \implies F(x^0) \in [0, 1] \implies x^t \in [0, 1] \forall t \in \mathbb{N}$.
- What kinds of dynamics are possible for the Logistic Map?

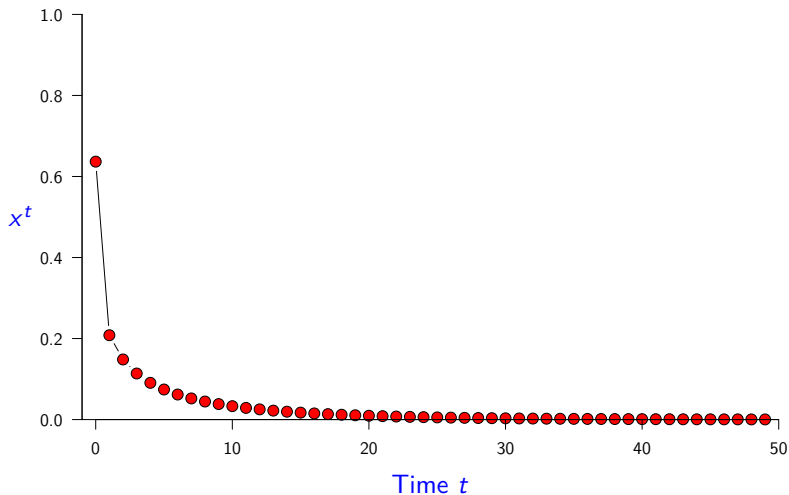
Logistic Map Time Series, $r = 0.5$

$$x^{t+1} = rx^t(1 - x^t), \quad r = 0.5, \quad x_0 = 0.63662$$



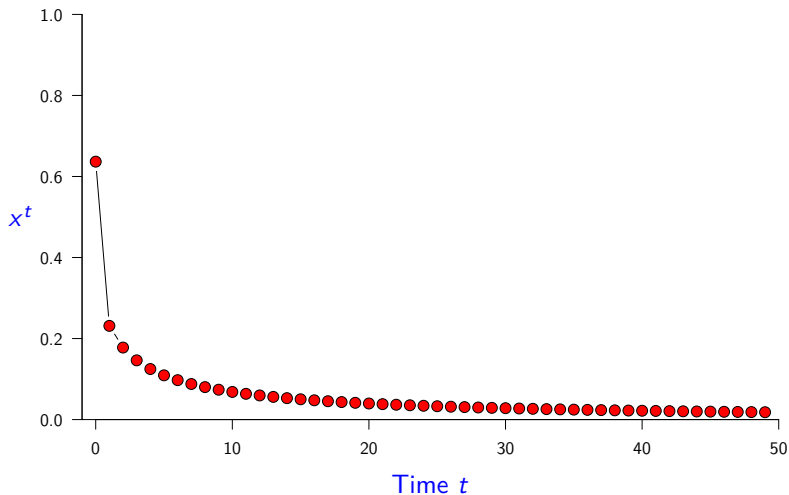
Logistic Map Time Series, $r = 0.9$

$$x^{t+1} = rx^t(1 - x^t), \quad r = 0.9, \quad x_0 = 0.63662$$



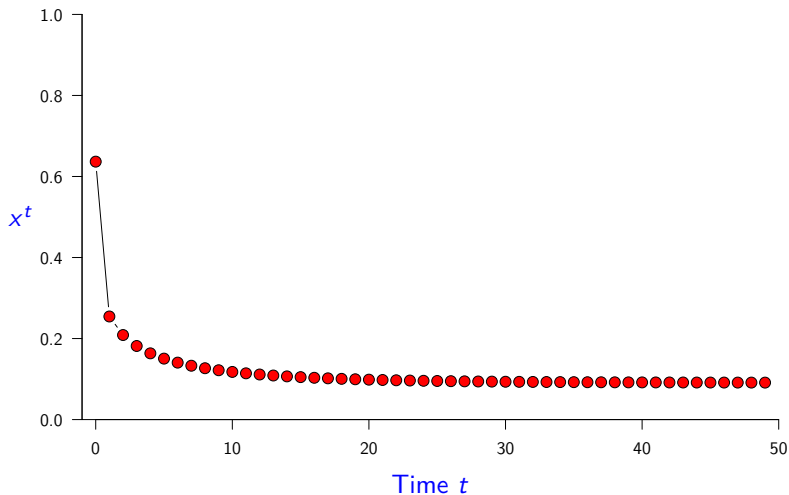
Logistic Map Time Series, $r = 1$

$$x^{t+1} = rx^t(1 - x^t), \quad r = 1, \quad x_0 = 0.63662$$



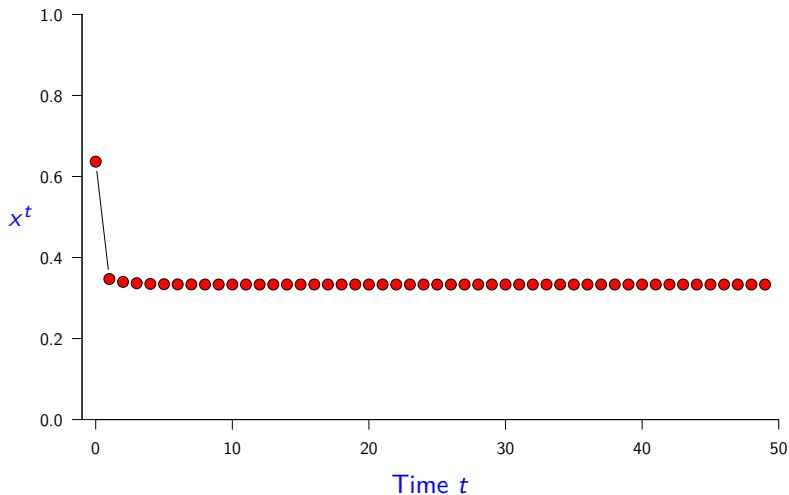
Logistic Map Time Series, $r = 1.1$

$$x^{t+1} = rx^t(1 - x^t), \quad r = 1.1, \quad x_0 = 0.63662$$



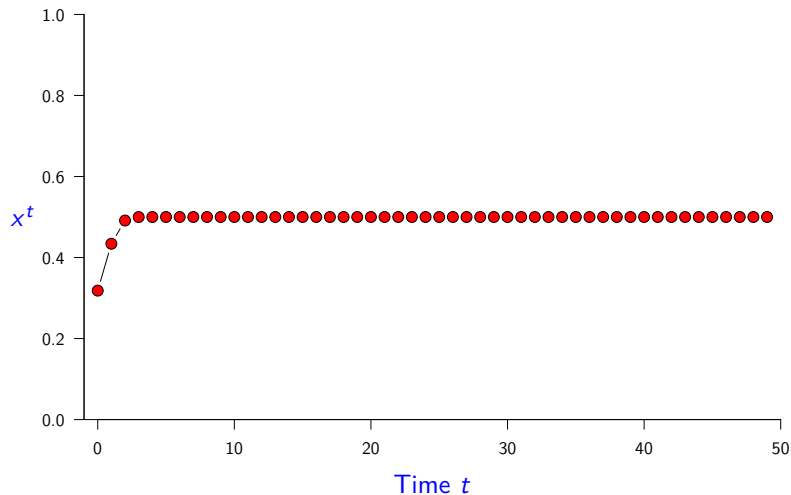
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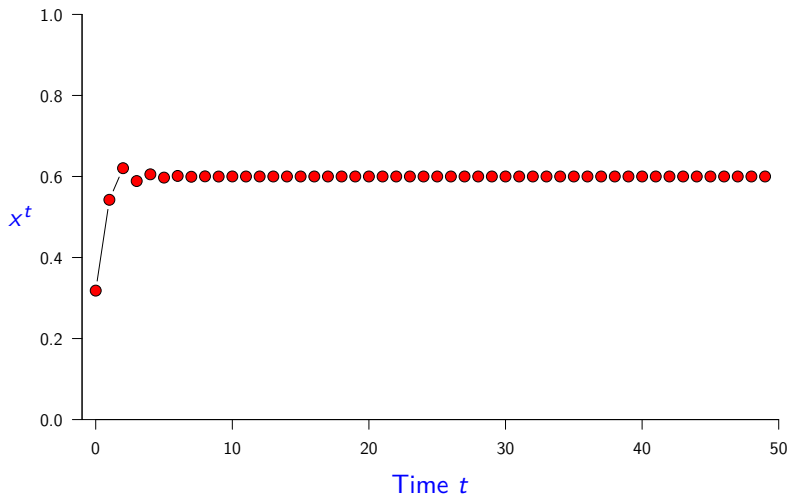
Logistic Map Time Series, $r = 2$

$$x^{t+1} = rx^t(1 - x^t), \quad r = 2, \quad x_0 = 0.31831$$



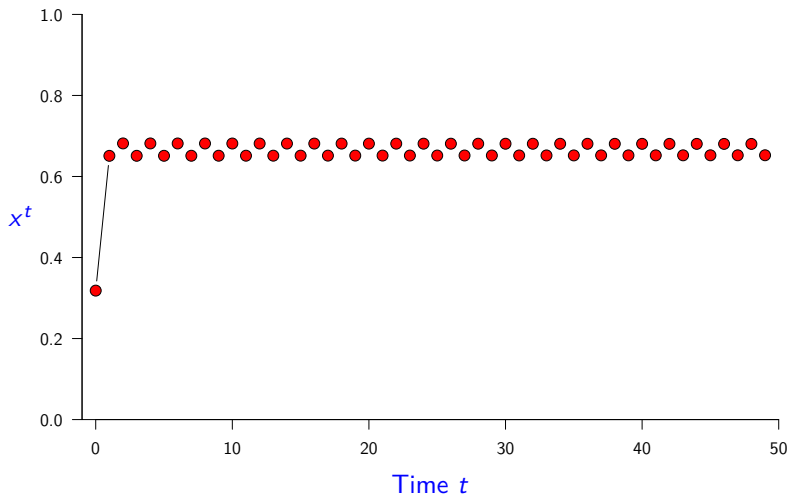
Logistic Map Time Series, $r = 2.5$

$$x^{t+1} = rx^t(1 - x^t), \quad r = 2.5, \quad x_0 = 0.31831$$



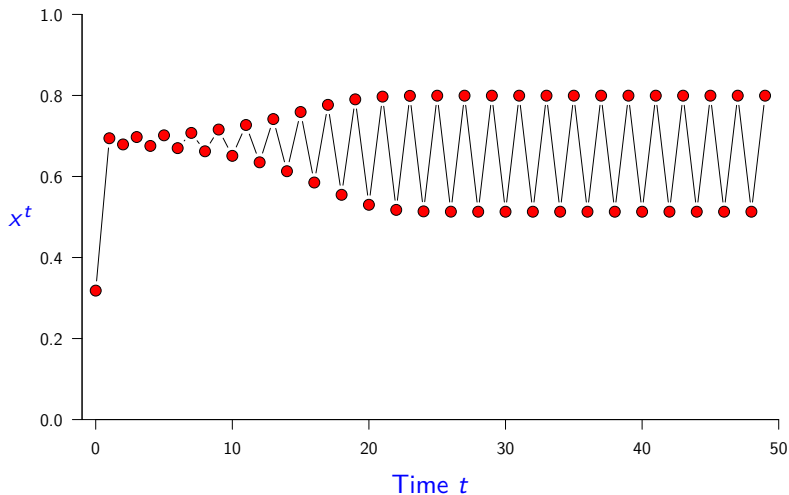
Logistic Map Time Series, $r = 3$

$$x^{t+1} = rx^t(1 - x^t), \quad r = 3, \quad x_0 = 0.31831$$



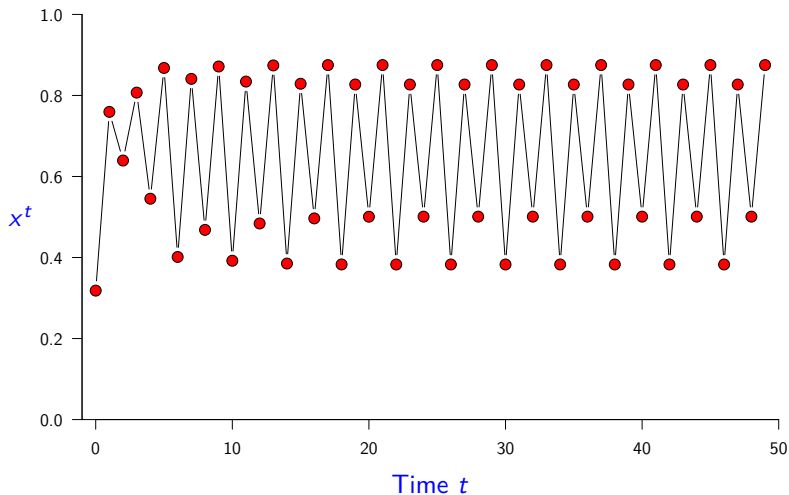
Logistic Map Time Series, $r = 3.2$

$$x^{t+1} = rx^t(1 - x^t), \quad r = 3.2, \quad x_0 = 0.31831$$



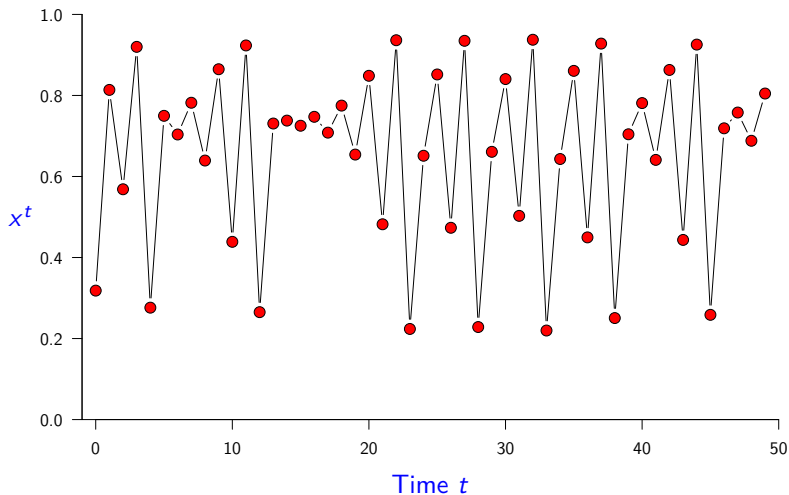
Logistic Map Time Series, $r = 3.5$

$$x^{t+1} = rx^t(1 - x^t), \quad r = 3.5, \quad x_0 = 0.31831$$



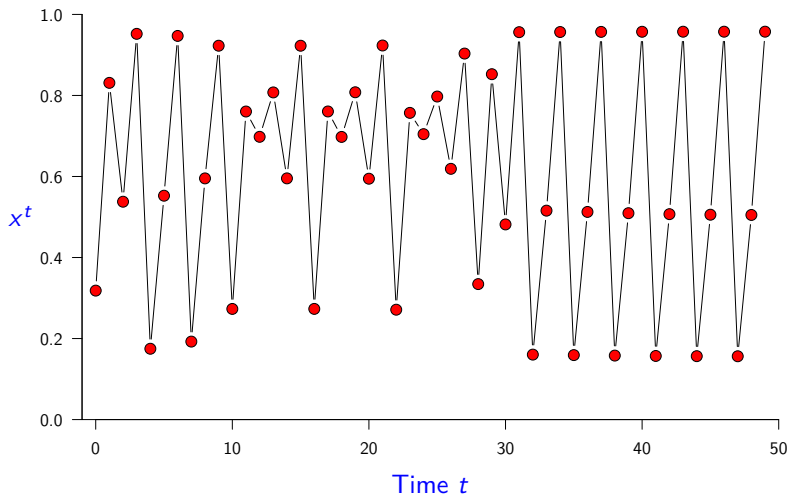
Logistic Map Time Series, $r = 3.75$

$$x^{t+1} = rx^t(1 - x^t), \quad r = 3.75, \quad x_0 = 0.31831$$



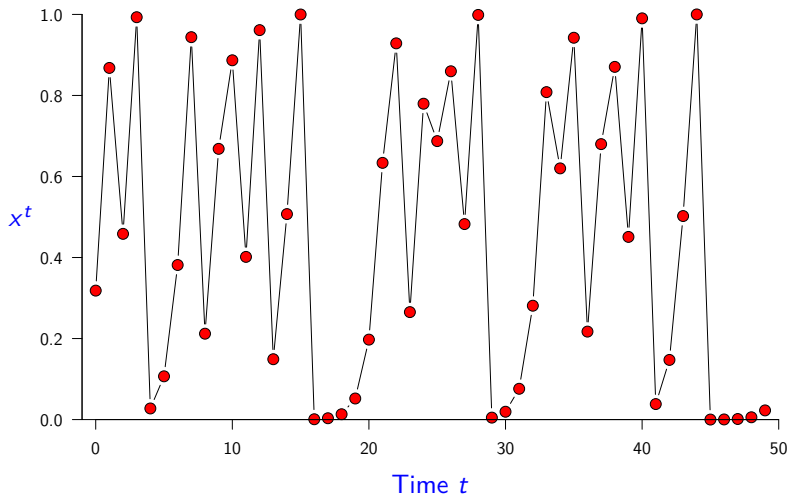
Logistic Map Time Series, $r = 3.83$

$$x^{t+1} = rx^t(1 - x^t), \quad r = 3.83, \quad x_0 = 0.31831$$



Logistic Map Time Series, $r = 4$

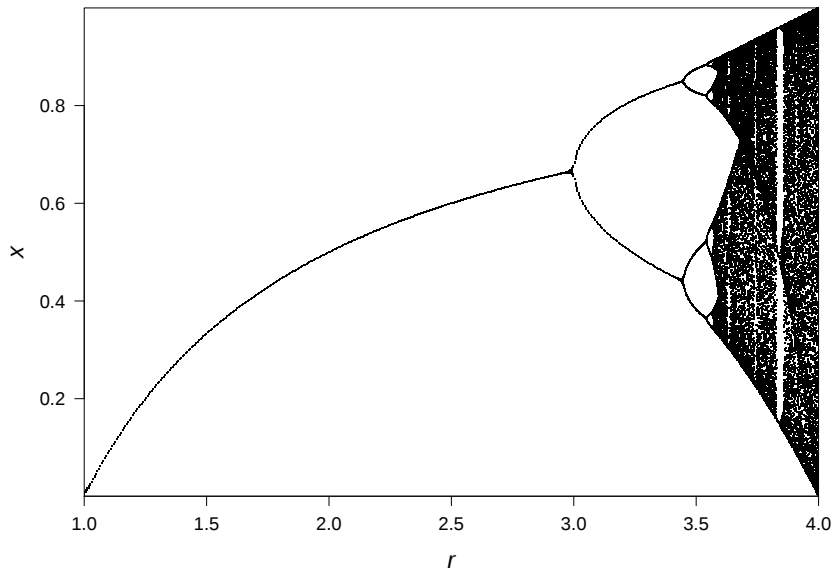
$$x^{t+1} = rx^t(1 - x^t), \quad r = 4, \quad x_0 = 0.31831$$



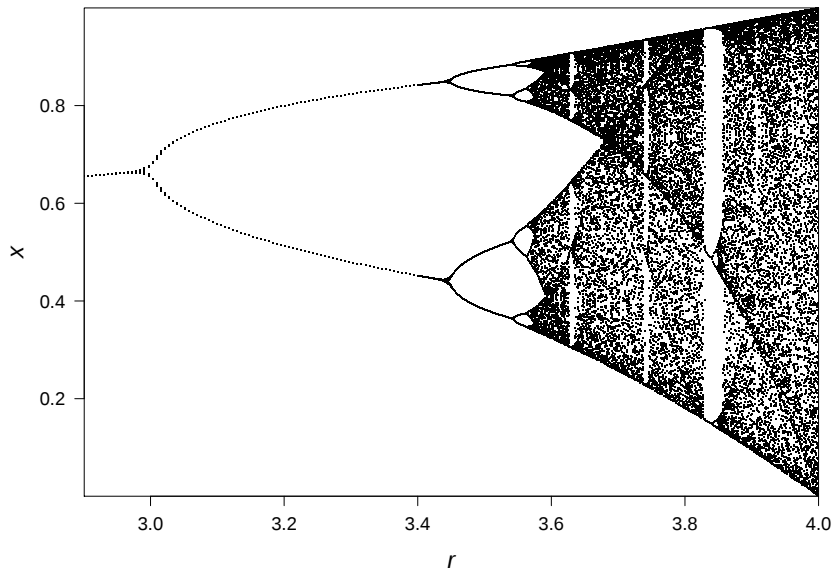
Logistic Map Summary

- Time series show:
 - $r \leq 1 \implies$ Extinction.
 - $1 < r < 3 \implies$ Persistence at equilibrium.
 - $r > 3 \implies$ period doubling cascade to chaos, then appearance of cycles of all possible lengths, and more chaos, ...
- How can we summarize this in a diagram?
 - Bifurcation diagram (wrt r).
 - Ignore transient behaviour: just show attractor.

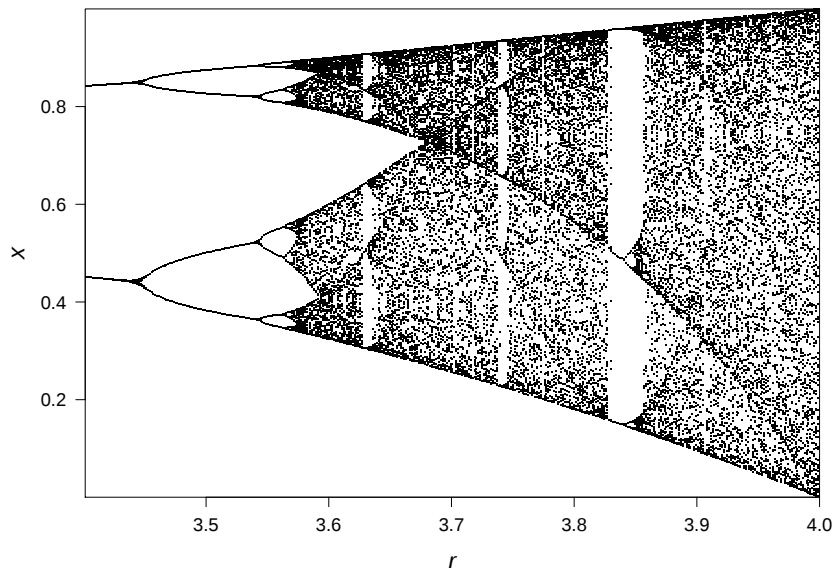
Logistic Map, $F(x) = rx(1 - x)$, $1 \leq r \leq 4$



Logistic Map, $F(x) = rx(1 - x)$, $2.9 \leq r \leq 4$



Logistic Map, $F(x) = rx(1 - x)$, $3.4 \leq r \leq 4$



Logistic Map as a Tool to Investigate Synchrony

- Very simple single-patch model: only one state variable.
- Displays **all kinds of dynamics** from GAS equilibrium, to periodic orbits, to chaos.
 - This was *extremely surprising* to population biologists and mathematicians in the 1970s.

May RM (1976) "Simple mathematical models with very complicated dynamics" *Nature* **261**, 459–467

- Easier to work with logistic map as single patch dynamics than SIR or SEIR model.
- Can still understand how synchrony works conceptually.
- Now we are ready for the ...

... *Mathematics of Synchrony* ...

Mathematics of Synchrony

- System comprised of isolated *patches*
e.g., cities, labelled $i = 1, \dots, n$
- *State* of system in patch i specified by $\mathbf{x}_i$
e.g., $\mathbf{x}_i = (S_i, E_i, I_i, R_i)$
- Connectivity of patches specified by a *dispersal matrix*
 $M = (m_{ij})$
- System is *coherent* (perfectly synchronous) if the state is the same in all patches
i.e., $\mathbf{x}_1 = \mathbf{x}_2 = \dots = \mathbf{x}_n$

Illustrative example: logistic metapopulation

- *Single patch model:* $x^{t+1} = F(x^t)$
- *Reproduction function:* $F(x) = rx(1 - x)$
- *Multi-patch model:* $x_i^{t+1} = \sum_{j=1}^n m_{ij} F(x_j^t)$

$$\text{i.e.,} \quad \begin{pmatrix} x_1^{t+1} \\ \vdots \\ x_n^{t+1} \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} m_{11} & \cdots & m_{1n} \\ \vdots & \ddots & \vdots \\ m_{n1} & \cdots & m_{nn} \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} F(x_1^t) \\ \vdots \\ F(x_n^t) \end{pmatrix}$$

where $M = (m_{ij})$ is *dispersal matrix*.

- *Colour coding of matrix indices:*
 - row indices are red
 - column indices are cyan

Basic properties of dispersal matrices $M = (m_{ij})$

Discrete-time *metapopulation* model:

$$x_i^{t+1} = \sum_{j=1}^n m_{ij} F(x_j^t), \quad i = 1, 2, \dots, n.$$

- m_{ij} = *proportion* of population in patch j that disperses to patch i .
- $\therefore 0 \leq m_{ij} \leq 1$ for all i and j
(*each m_{ij} is non-negative and at most 1*)
- Total proportion that leaves or stays in patch j : $\sum_{i=1}^n m_{ij}$
(*sum of column j*)
- $\therefore \sum_{i=1}^n m_{ij} \leq 1$ (*every column sums to at most 1*)

Could be < 1 if some individuals are lost (die) while dispersing.

Basic properties of dispersal matrices $M = (m_{ij})$

Discrete-time *metapopulation* model:

$$x_i^{t+1} = \sum_{j=1}^n m_{ij} F(x_j^t), \quad i = 1, 2, \dots, n.$$

Definition (No loss dispersal matrix)

An $n \times n$ matrix $M = (m_{ij})$ is said to be a **no loss dispersal matrix** if all its entries are non-negative ($m_{ij} \geq 0$ for all i and j) and its column sums are all 1, i.e.,

$$\sum_{i=1}^n m_{ij} = 1, \quad \text{for each } j = 1, \dots, n.$$

- The dispersal process is “conservative” in this case.
- A no loss dispersal matrix is also said to be “column stochastic”.

Notation for coherent states

Discrete-time *metapopulation* model:

$$x_i^{t+1} = \sum_{j=1}^n m_{ij} F(x_j^t), \quad i = 1, 2, \dots, n.$$

- State at time t is $\mathbf{x}^t = (x_1^t, \dots, x_n^t) \in \mathbb{R}^n$.
- If state $\mathbf{x}$ is *coherent*, then for some $x \in \mathbb{R}$ we have

$$\begin{aligned} \mathbf{x} &= (x_1, x_2, \dots, x_n) \\ &= (x, x, \dots, x) = x(1, 1, \dots, 1) \end{aligned}$$

- For convenience, define

$$\mathbf{e} = (1, 1, \dots, 1) \in \mathbb{R}^n$$

so any coherent state can be written $x\mathbf{e}$, for some $x \in \mathbb{R}$.

Constraint on row sums of dispersal matrix M

Lemma (Row sums are the same)

If all initially coherent states remain coherent then the row sums of the dispersal matrix are all the same.

Proof.

Suppose initially coherent states remain coherent, i.e.,

$\mathbf{x}^t = \mathbf{a}e \implies \mathbf{x}^{t+1} = \mathbf{b}e$ for some $\mathbf{b} \in \mathbb{R}$.

Choose $\mathbf{a}$ such that $F(\mathbf{a}) \neq 0$. Then

$$\begin{aligned} x_i^{t+1} = b &= \sum_{j=1}^n m_{ij} F(x_j^t) = \sum_{j=1}^n m_{ij} F(\mathbf{a}) = F(\mathbf{a}) \sum_{j=1}^n m_{ij} \\ \implies \sum_{j=1}^n m_{ij} &= \frac{b}{F(\mathbf{a})} \quad (\text{independent of } i) \end{aligned}$$



Constraint on row sums of dispersal matrix M

Lemma (Row sums are all 1)

If every solution $\{x^t\}$ of the single patch map $F(x)$ yields a coherent solution $\{x^t e\}$ of the full map then the row sums of the dispersal matrix are all 1.

Proof.

Suppose $x^t = a e \implies x^{t+1} = F(a)e$ and $F(a) \neq 0$. Then

$$\begin{aligned}
 x_i^{t+1} &= F(a) = \sum_{j=1}^n m_{ij} F(x_j^t) = \sum_{j=1}^n m_{ij} F(a) = F(a) \sum_{j=1}^n m_{ij} \\
 &\implies \sum_{j=1}^n m_{ij} = 1 \quad (\text{independent of } i)
 \end{aligned}$$



Project

Project

You should be thinking about your **Project**...

- Settle on project topic ASAP...
- Remember your group must give an oral presentation of your project as well (in the last class).
- Classes after the midterm are NOT optional. Your group is expected to meet in class and take advantage of the instructor's presence to solve issues with your project.
- Project Notebook template is posted on [project](#) page.
- Feedback on project draft...
- Movie night?

Back to Space and Synchrony

Let's review what we've done so far on spatial models...

- Logistic metapopulation model
- Notion of coherence
- No-loss dispersal matrix M : column sums are all 1
- To retain homogeneous solutions: row sums are all 1

Simple examples of no loss dispersal matrices

- *Equal coupling*: a proportion m from each patch disperses uniformly among the other $n - 1$ patches:

$$m_{ij} = \begin{cases} 1 - m & i = j \\ m/(n - 1) & i \neq j \end{cases}$$

- *Nearest-neighbour coupling on a ring*: a proportion m go to the two nearest patches:

$$m_{ij} = \begin{cases} 1 - m & i = j \\ m/2 & i = j - 1 \text{ or } j + 1 \pmod{n} \\ 0 & \text{otherwise} \end{cases}$$

- Real dispersal patterns generally between these two extremes

Key Question

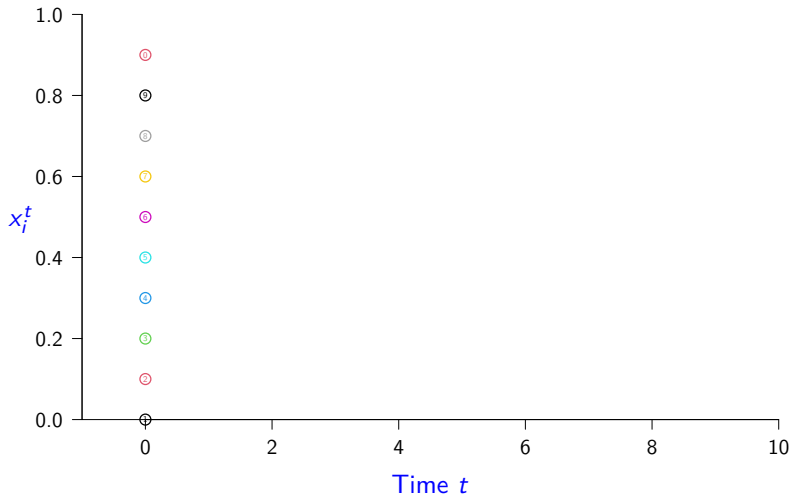
- Can we find conditions on the dispersal matrix M , and/or the single patch reproduction function F , that guarantee (or preclude) coherence asymptotically (as $t \rightarrow \infty$)?
 - If so, then this sort of analysis should help to identify synchronizing vaccination strategies.

Exploratory simulations

- Let's try to build up some intuition by running simulations of a **logistic metapopulation**
 - Reproduction function $F(x) = r x (1 - x)$
 - various levels of fecundity: $1 \leq r \leq 4$
 - $n = 10$ patches with **equal coupling**
 - various levels of connectivity: $0 \leq m \leq 1$

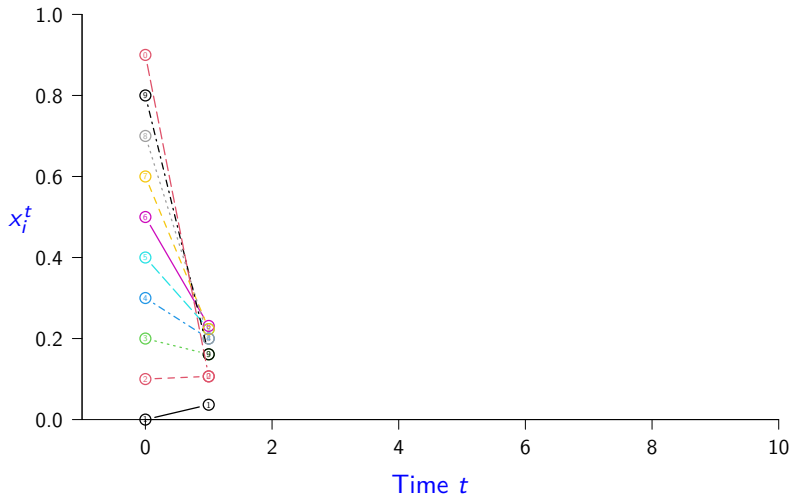
Logistic Metapopulation Simulation ($r = 1$, $m = 0.2$)

$$n = 10, \quad r = 1, \quad m = 0.2, \quad \lambda = 0.778$$



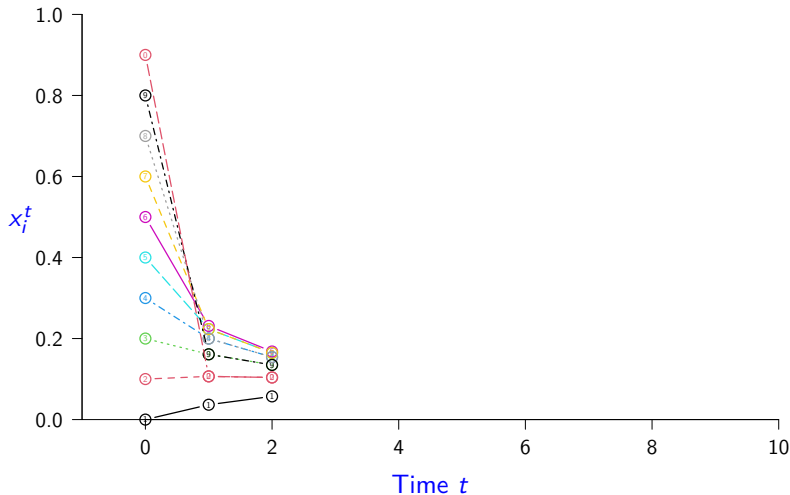
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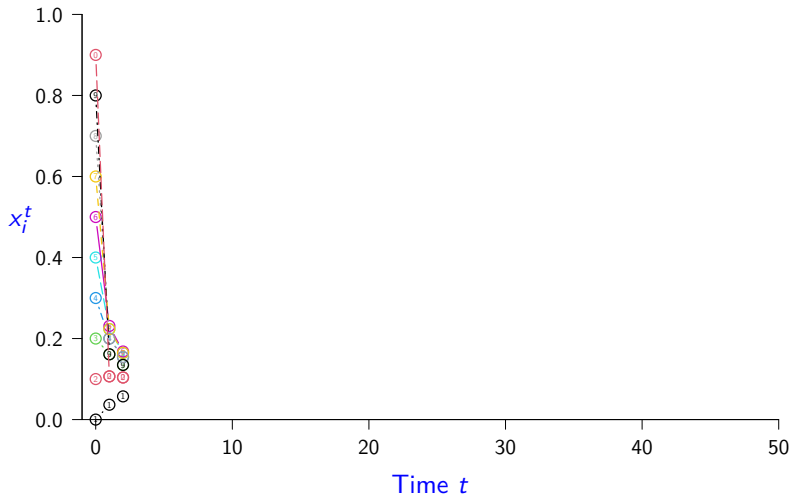
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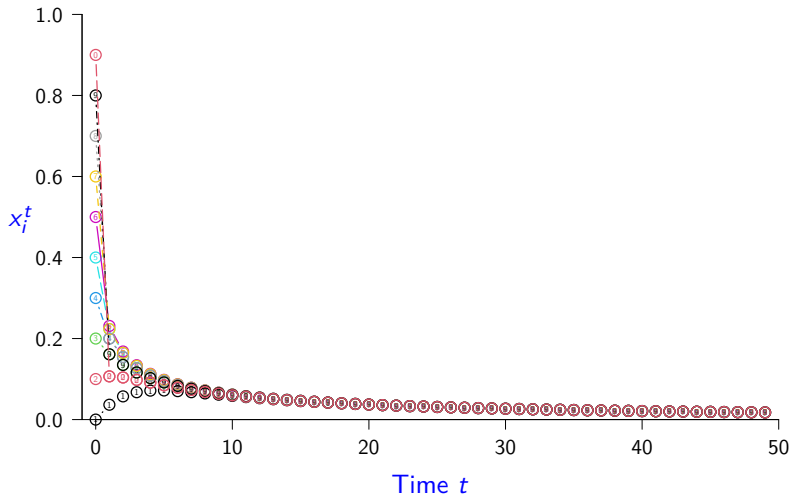
Logistic Metapopulation Simulation ($r = 1$, $m = 0.2$)

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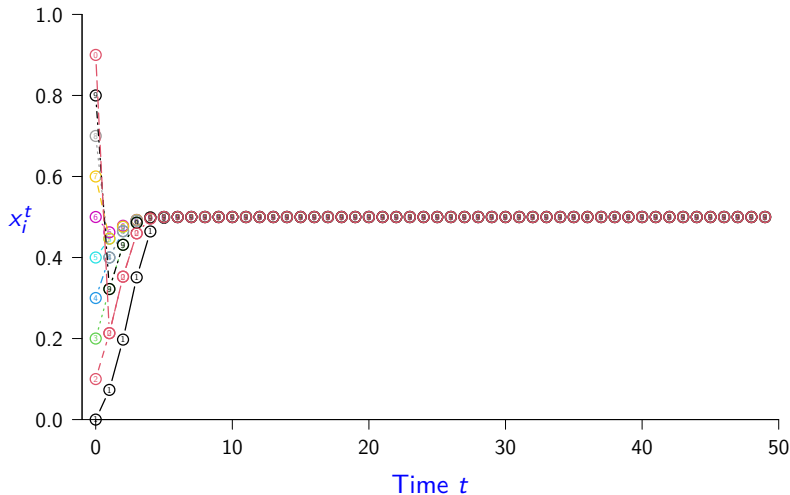
Logistic Metapopulation Simulation ($r = 1$, $m = 0.2$)

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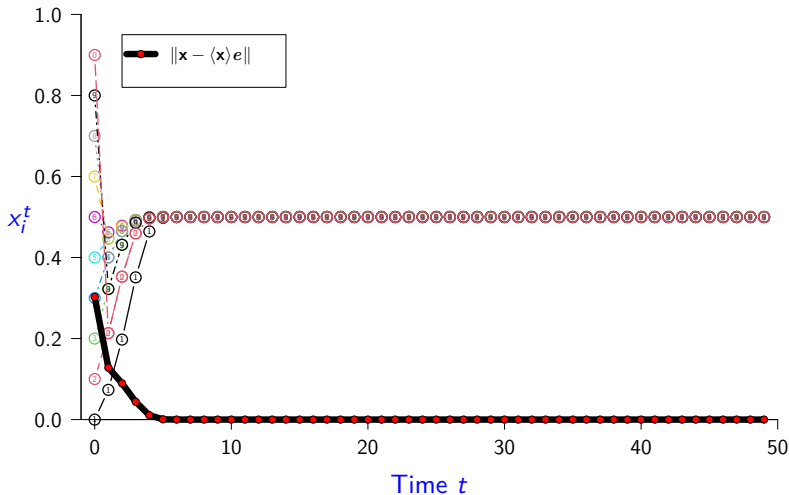
Logistic Metapopulation Simulation ($r = 2, m = 0.2$)

$$n = 10, \quad r = 2, \quad m = 0.2, \quad \lambda = 0.778$$



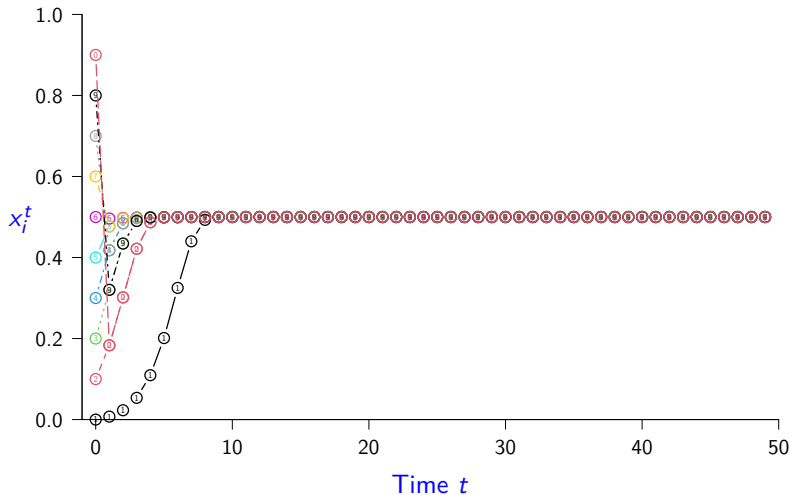
Logistic Metapopulation Simulation ($r = 2, m = 0.2$)

$$n = 10, \quad r = 2, \quad m = 0.2, \quad \lambda = 0.778$$



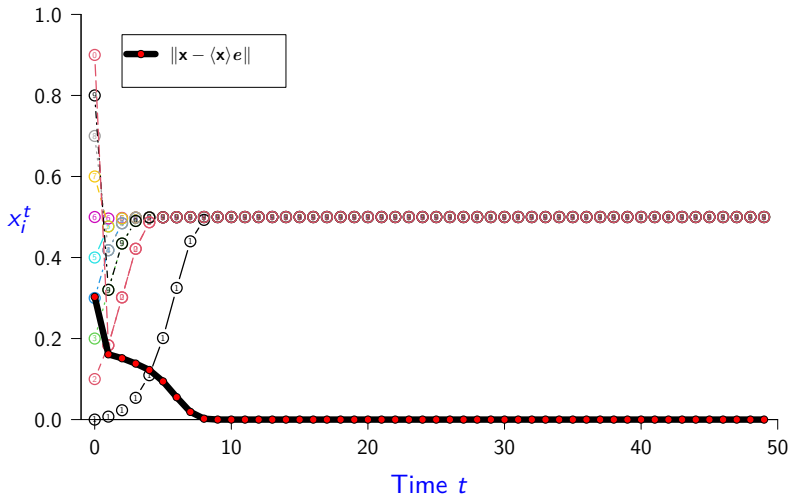
Logistic Metapopulation Simulation ($r = 2$, $m = 0.02$)

$$n = 10, \quad r = 2, \quad m = 0.02, \quad \lambda = 0.978$$



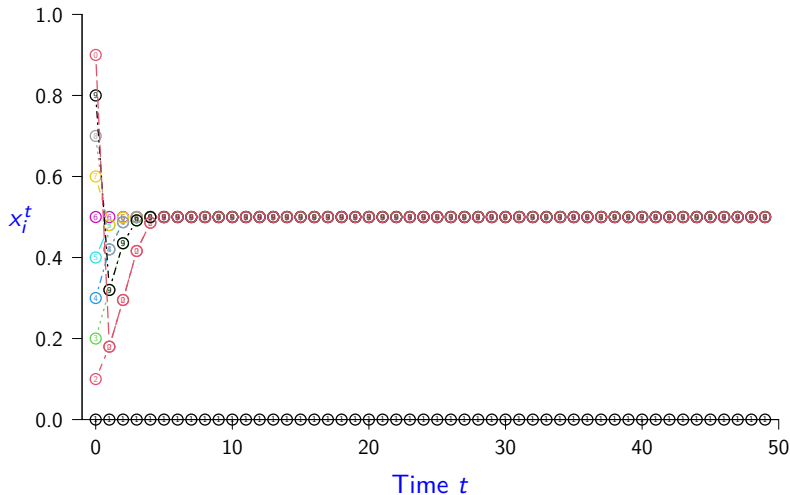
Logistic Metapopulation Simulation ($r = 2$, $m = 0.02$)

$$n = 10, \quad r = 2, \quad m = 0.02, \quad \lambda = 0.978$$



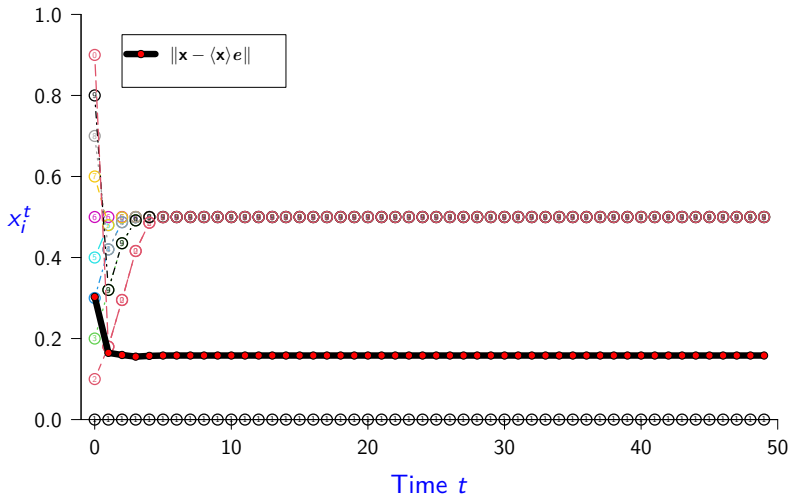
Logistic Metapopulation Simulation ($r = 2, m = 0$)

$$n = 10, \quad r = 2, \quad m = 0, \quad \lambda = 1$$



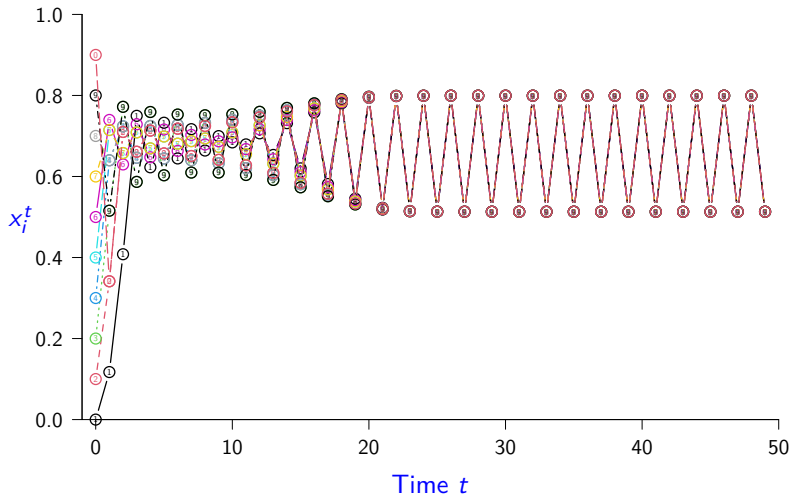
Logistic Metapopulation Simulation ($r = 2, m = 0$)

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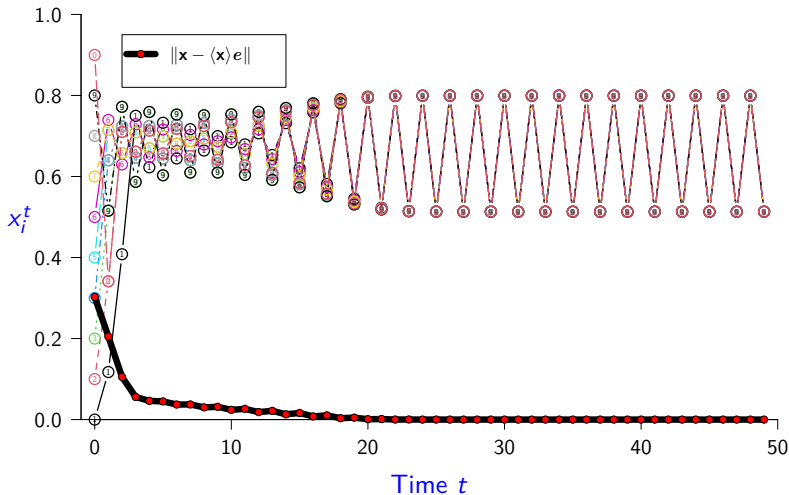
Logistic Metapopulation Simulation ($r = 3.2$, $m = 0.2$)

$$n = 10, \quad r = 3.2, \quad m = 0.2, \quad \lambda = 0.778$$



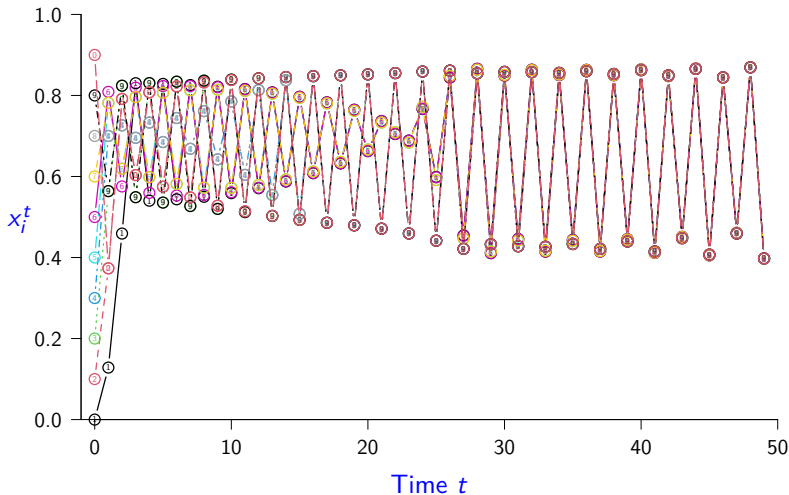
Logistic Metapopulation Simulation ($r = 3.2$, $m = 0.2$)

$n = 10$, $r = 3.2$, $m = 0.2$, $\lambda = 0.778$



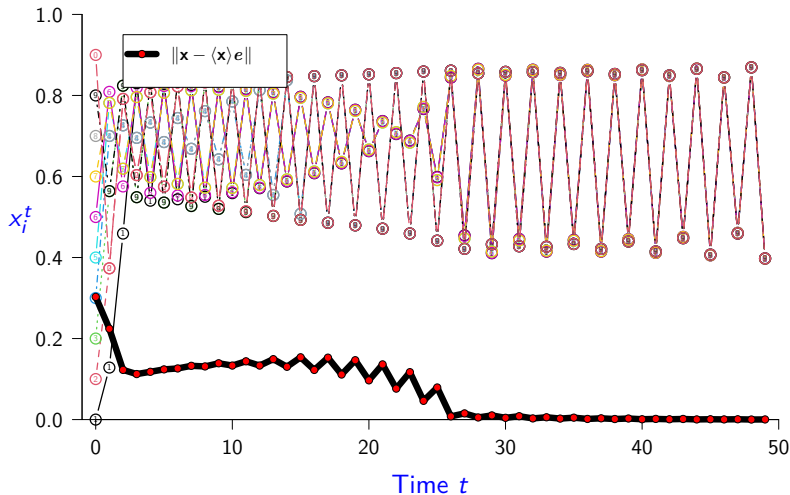
Logistic Metapopulation Simulation ($r = 3.5$, $m = 0.2$)

$n = 10$, $r = 3.5$, $m = 0.2$, $\lambda = 0.778$



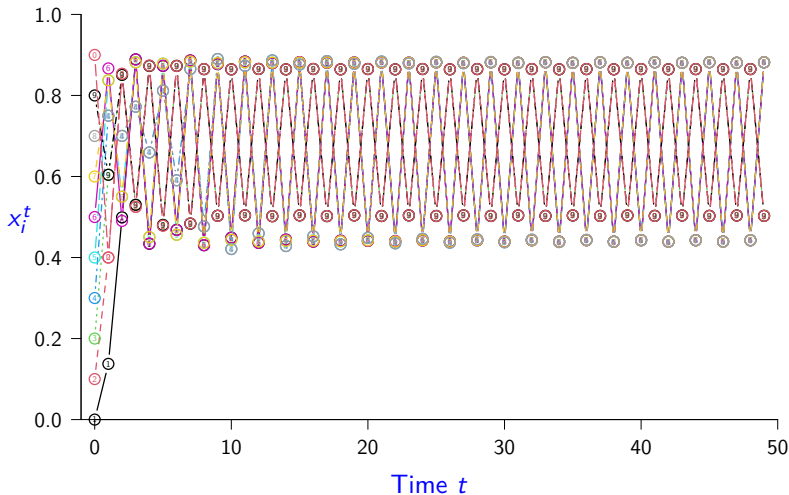
Logistic Metapopulation Simulation ($r = 3.5$, $m = 0.2$)

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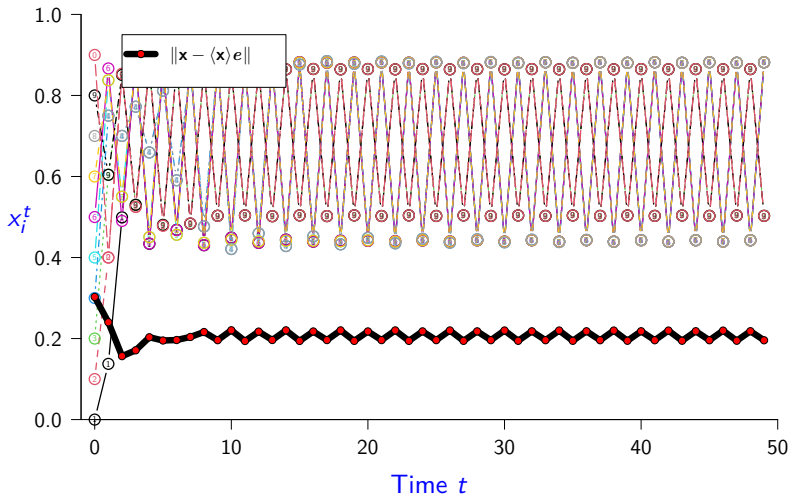


Logistic Metapopulation Simulation ($r = 3.75$, $m = 0.2$)

$n = 10$, $r = 3.75$, $m = 0.2$, $\lambda = 0.778$

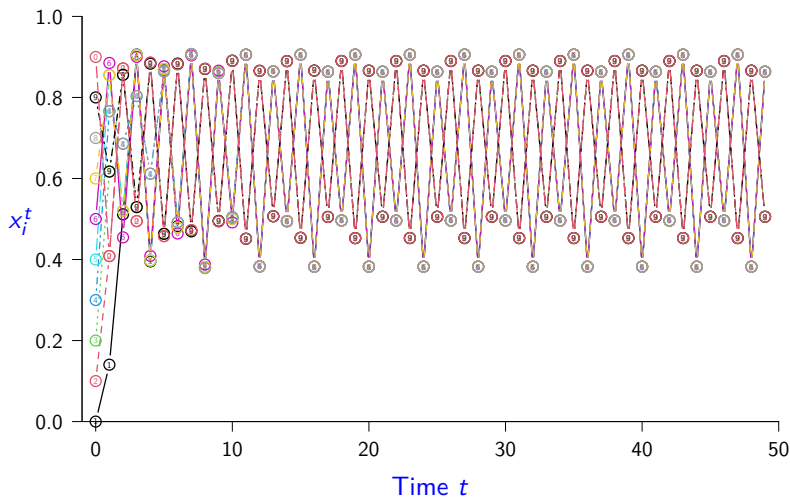


Logistic Metapopulation Simulation ($r = 3.75$, $m = 0.2$)

$$n = 10, \quad r = 3.75, \quad m = 0.2, \quad \lambda = 0.778$$


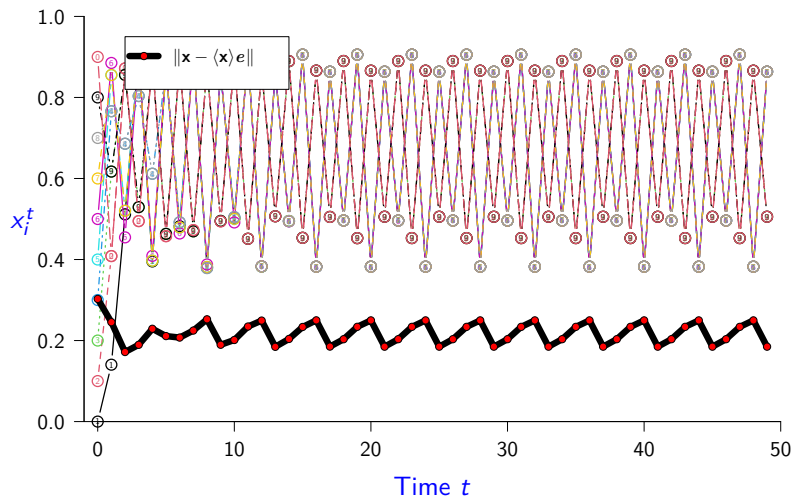
Logistic Metapopulation Simulation ($r = 3.83$, $m = 0.2$)

$n = 10$, $r = 3.83$, $m = 0.2$, $\lambda = 0.778$



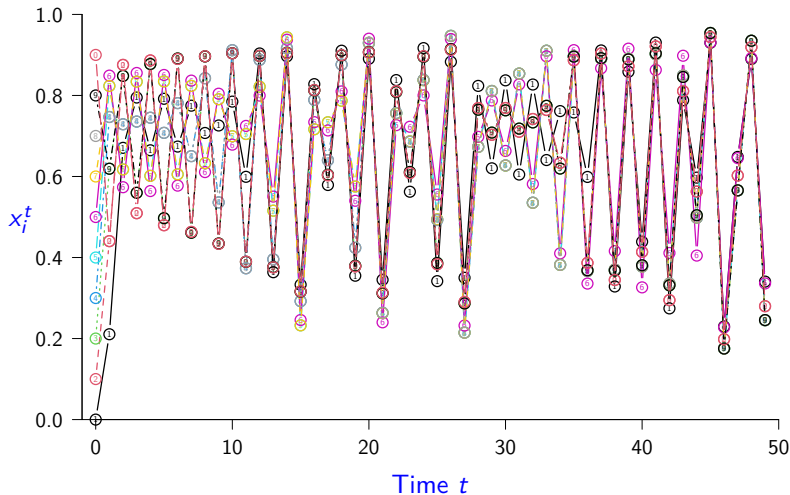
Logistic Metapopulation Simulation ($r = 3.83$, $m = 0.2$)

$$n = 10, \quad r = 3.83, \quad m = 0.2, \quad \lambda = 0.778$$



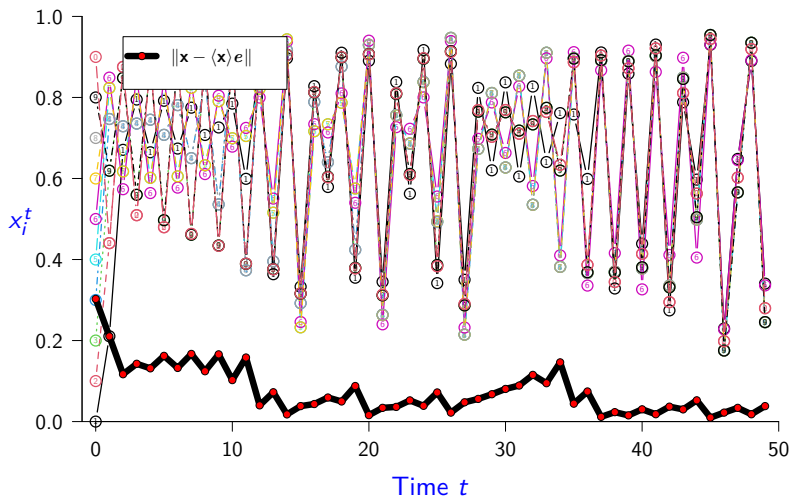
Logistic Metapopulation Simulation ($r = 3.83$, $m = 0.3$)

$n = 10$, $r = 3.83$, $m = 0.3$, $\lambda = 0.667$



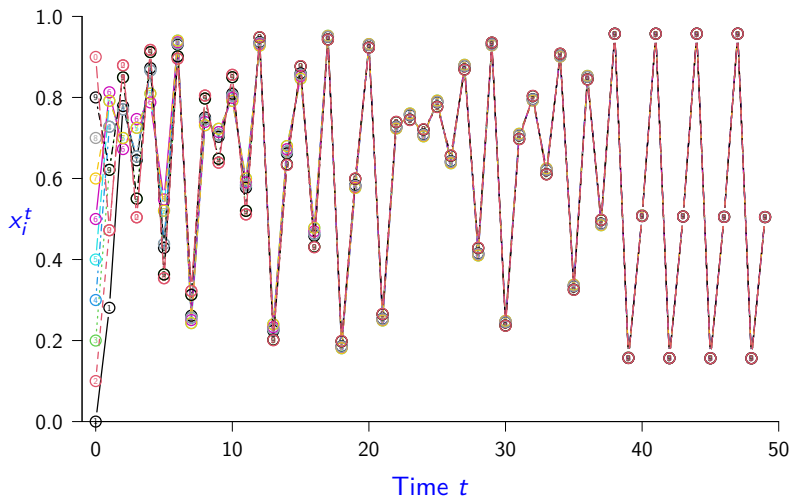
Logistic Metapopulation Simulation ($r = 3.83$, $m = 0.3$)

$n = 10$, $r = 3.83$, $m = 0.3$, $\lambda = 0.667$



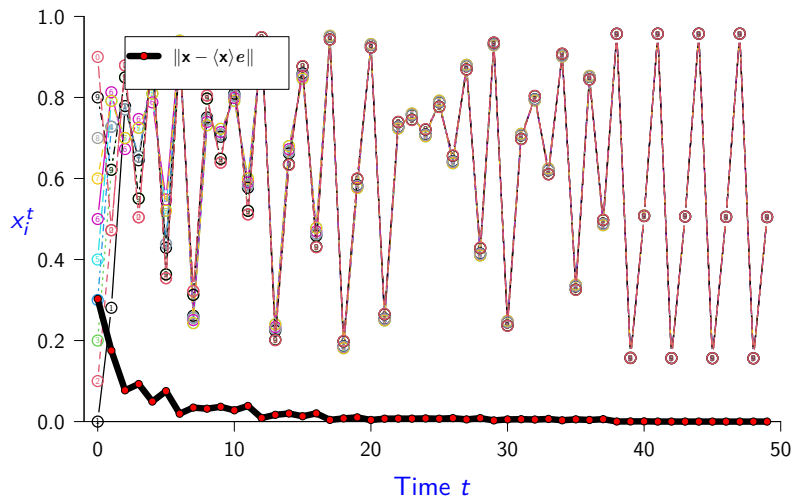
Logistic Metapopulation Simulation ($r = 3.83$, $m = 0.4$)

$n = 10$, $r = 3.83$, $m = 0.4$, $\lambda = 0.556$



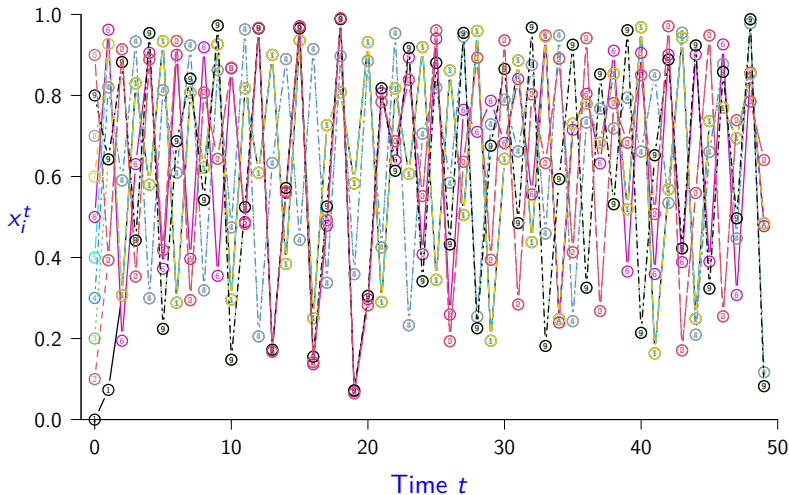
Logistic Metapopulation Simulation ($r = 3.83$, $m = 0.4$)

$n = 10$, $r = 3.83$, $m = 0.4$, $\lambda = 0.556$



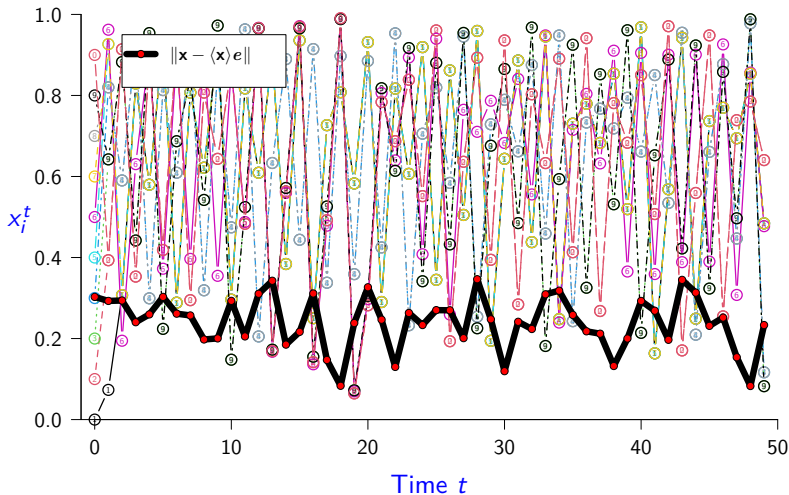
Logistic Metapopulation Simulation ($r = 4, m = 0.1$)

$n = 10, \quad r = 4, \quad m = 0.1, \quad \lambda = 0.889$



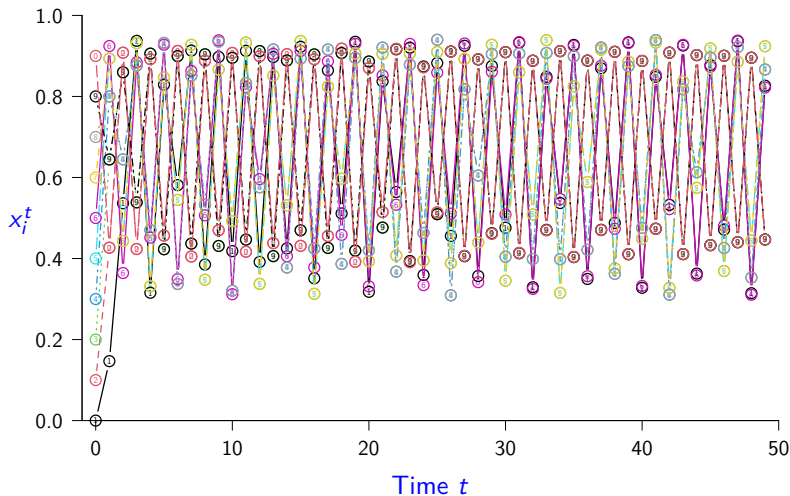
Logistic Metapopulation Simulation ($r = 4, m = 0.1$)

$n = 10, \quad r = 4, \quad m = 0.1, \quad \lambda = 0.889$



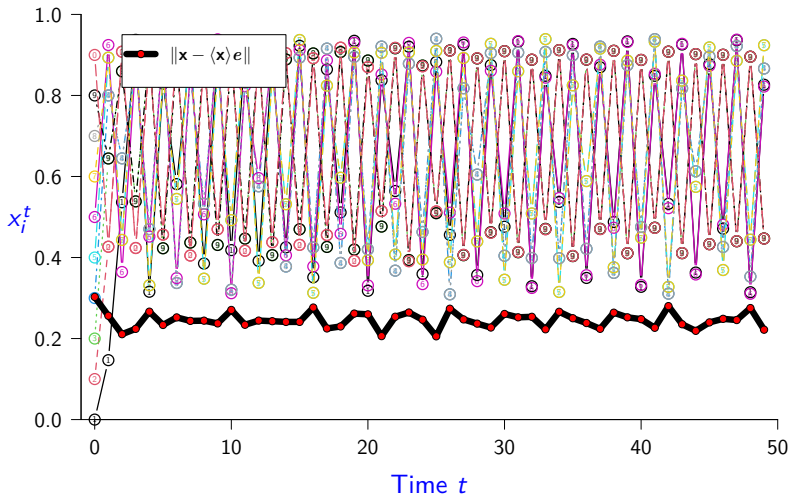
Logistic Metapopulation Simulation ($r = 4, m = 0.2$)

$n = 10, \quad r = 4, \quad m = 0.2, \quad \lambda = 0.778$



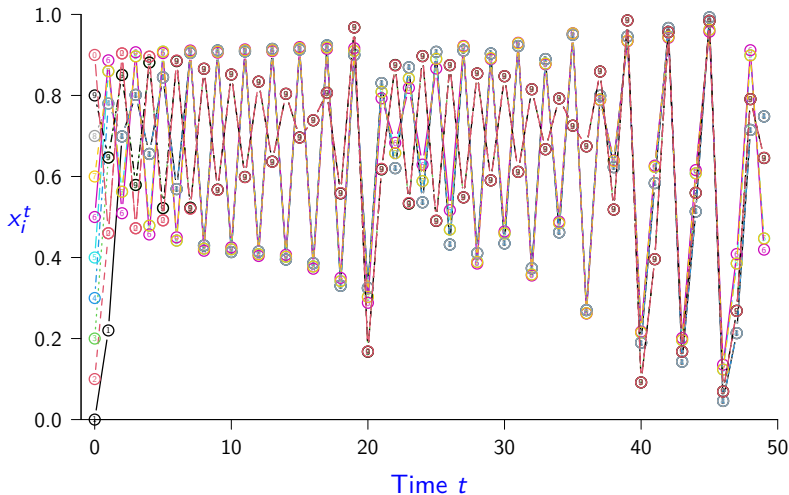
Logistic Metapopulation Simulation ($r = 4, m = 0.2$)

$n = 10, \quad r = 4, \quad m = 0.2, \quad \lambda = 0.778$



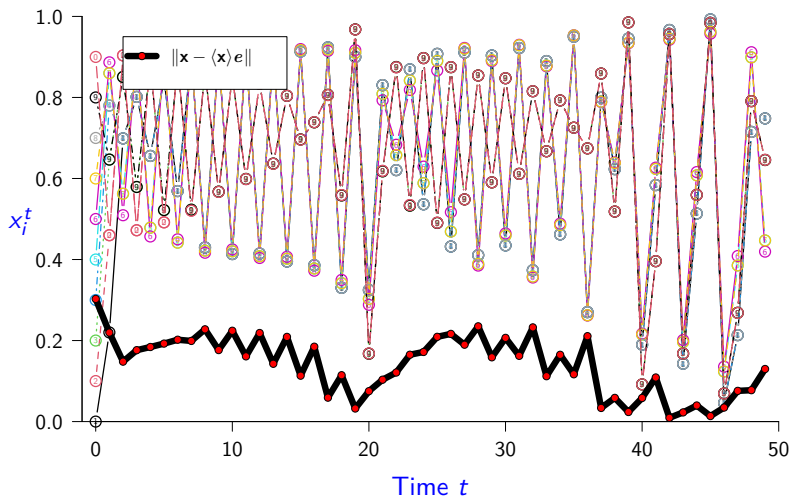
Logistic Metapopulation Simulation ($r = 4, m = 0.3$)

$n = 10, \quad r = 4, \quad m = 0.3, \quad \lambda = 0.667$

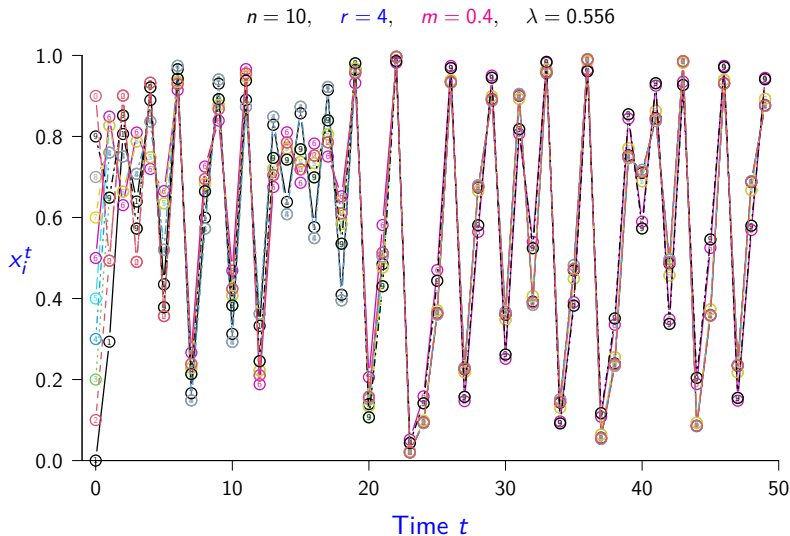


Logistic Metapopulation Simulation ($r = 4, m = 0.3$)

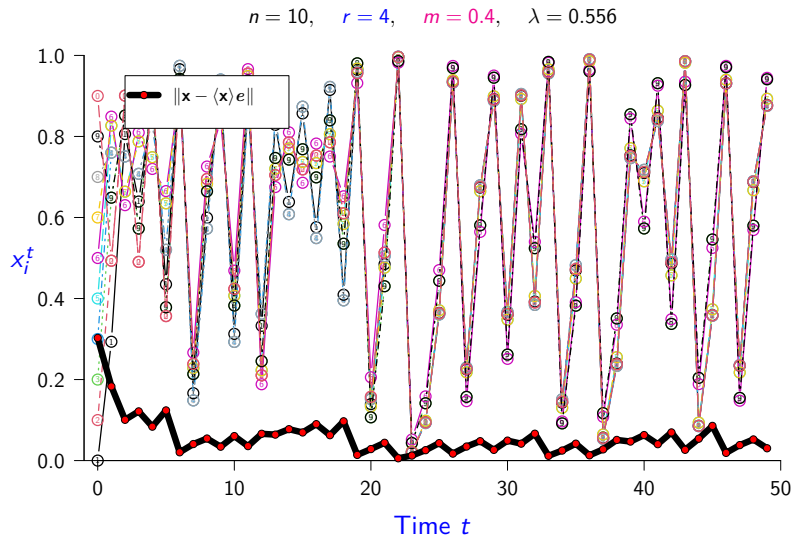
$n = 10, \quad r = 4, \quad m = 0.3, \quad \lambda = 0.667$



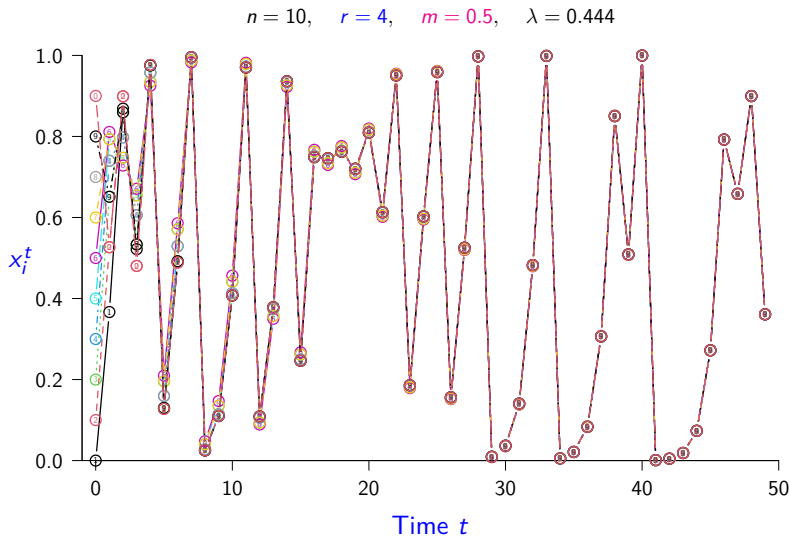
Logistic Metapopulation Simulation ($r = 4, m = 0.4$)



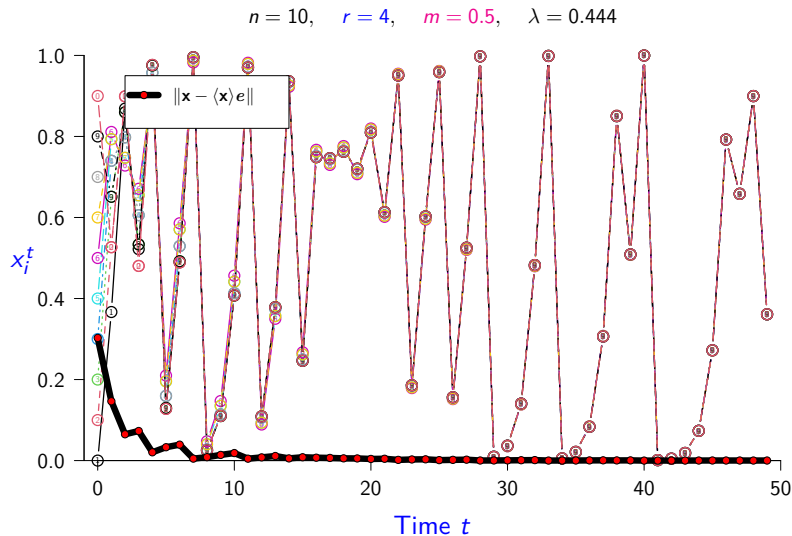
Logistic Metapopulation Simulation ($r = 4, m = 0.4$)



Logistic Metapopulation Simulation ($r = 4, m = 0.5$)



Logistic Metapopulation Simulation ($r = 4, m = 0.5$)



Metapopulation dynamics: what we've seen so far

- Examples of connectivity matrices

- equal coupling
- nearest-neighbour coupling on a ring

- Logistic Metapopulation Simulations (10 patches)

- $r = 1, m = 0.2$

- $r = 2, m = 0.2$

- $r = 2, m = 0.02$

- $r = 2, m = 0$

- $r = 3.2, m = 0.2$

- $r = 3.5, m = 0.2$

- $r = 3.75, m = 0.2$

- $r = 3.83, m = 0.2$

- $r = 3.83, m = 0.3$

- $r = 3.83, m = 0.4$

- $r = 4, m = 0.1$

- $r = 4, m = 0.2$

- $r = 4, m = 0.3$

- $r = 4, m = 0.4$

- $r = 4, m = 0.5$

Quantities that affect coherence

Degree of spatial coupling:

- Determined by dispersal matrix $M = (m_{ij})$.
- Do we need to worry about about all matrix entries?
 n^2 parameters?
- Are eigenvalues enough?
- Dominant eigenvalue is always 1. Why?
 - Next slide...
- Coherence is affected by magnitude $|\lambda|$ of *subdominant eigenvalue* λ .

Dominant eigenvalue of dispersal matrix M is always 1

Definition (Positive vector)

A vector is **positive** if each of its components is positive.

Definition (Dominant eigenvalue)

λ is a **dominant eigenvalue** of a matrix A if no other eigenvalue of A has larger magnitude.

Theorem

Let A be a nonnegative matrix. If A has a positive eigenvector then the corresponding eigenvalue λ is nonnegative and dominant, i.e., $\rho(A) = \lambda$.

Proof.

See Horn & Johnson (2013) *Matrix Analysis*, Corollary 8.1.30, p. 522. $\square$

Dominant eigenvalue of dispersal matrix M is always 1

Corollary

Consider a discrete-time metapopulation map,

$$x_i^{t+1} = \sum_{j=1}^n m_{ij} F(x_j^t), \quad i = 1, \dots, n. \quad (\heartsuit)$$

If solutions of the single patch system, $x^{t+1} = F(x^t)$, yield coherent solutions of $(\heartsuit)$ then 1 is a dominant eigenvalue of M .

Proof.

We found earlier that if solutions of the single patch map yield coherent solutions of $(\heartsuit)$ then all row sums are 1, i.e., $\sum_{j=1}^n m_{ij} = 1$ for all i .

This is equivalent to the statement that $Me = e$, i.e., 1 is an eigenvalue of M with eigenvector e .

But e is a positive vector, hence by the [theorem](#) on the previous slide, 1 is a dominant eigenvalue of M . $\square$

Quantities that affect coherence

Maximum “reproductive rate”:

- Maximum fecundity = maximum reproduction per individual per time step.
- For (single patch) logistic map, $F(x) = rx(1 - x)$, maximum fecundity is r . Note: $r = \max_x (F'(x))$.
- Maximum fecundity for any one-dimensional single species map F is $r = \max_x (F'(x))$.
- More generally, single patch map can be multi-dimensional: could represent multiple species (e.g., predator, prey, ...) and/or multiple states per species (e.g., S , E , I , R).
- We can think of $r = \max_x \|D_x F\|$ as the maximum “reproductive rate” for a multi-dimensional single-patch map.
- r is relevant to coherence.



Mathematics
and Statistics

$$\int_M d\omega = \int_{\partial M} \omega$$

Mathematics 4MB3/6MB3 Mathematical Biology

Instructor: David Earn

Lecture 8

Space II

Tuesday 3 November 2026

Quantities that affect coherence

Average “reproductive rate”:

- Mean “reproductive rate” over T time steps is $\frac{1}{T} \sum_{t=0}^{T-1} \|D_{\mathbf{x}_t} F\|$.
- Geometric mean turns out to be more important:

$$\begin{aligned}
 \left[\prod_{t=0}^{T-1} \|D_{\mathbf{x}_t} F\| \right]^{1/T} &= [\|D_{\mathbf{x}_0} F\| \|D_{\mathbf{x}_1} F\| \cdots \|D_{\mathbf{x}_{T-1}} F\|]^{1/T} \\
 &= [\|D_{\mathbf{x}_0} F \cdot D_{\mathbf{x}_1} F \cdots D_{\mathbf{x}_{T-1}} F\|]^{1/T} \\
 &= [\|D_{\mathbf{x}_0} F^T\|]^{1/T} \\
 \therefore \log \left[\prod_{t=0}^{T-1} \|D_{\mathbf{x}_t} F\| \right]^{1/T} &= \frac{1}{T} \log \|D_{\mathbf{x}_0} F^T\|
 \end{aligned}$$

Quantities that affect coherence

Average “reproductive rate”:

- We actually want the average over the entire trajectory, so we would like to consider

$$\begin{aligned}\lim_{T \rightarrow \infty} \frac{1}{T} \log \|D_{x_0} F^T\| &= \lim_{T \rightarrow \infty} \frac{1}{T} \log \left\| \prod_{t=0}^{T-1} D_{x_t} F \right\| \\ &= \lim_{T \rightarrow \infty} \frac{1}{T} \sum_{t=0}^{T-1} \log \|D_{x_t} F\| .\end{aligned}$$

- But this limit may not exist! So consider **lim sup**:

$$\chi_{x_0} = \limsup_{T \rightarrow \infty} \frac{1}{T} \sum_{t=0}^{T-1} \log \|D_{x_t} F\| .$$

which always exists if $\|D_x F\|$ is bounded
(true for us because we assume $r = \max_x \|D_x F\|$ exists).

Quantities that affect coherence: Summary

- *Degree of spatial coupling:*

Magnitude $|\lambda|$ of *subdominant eigenvalue* λ of dispersal matrix M

- *Maximum “reproductive rate”:*

$$r = \max_{\mathbf{x}} \|D_{\mathbf{x}} F\|$$

- *Average “reproductive rate”:*

$$\chi_{x_0} = \limsup_{T \rightarrow \infty} \frac{1}{T} \sum_{t=0}^{T-1} \log \|D_{x_t} F\| .$$

This is called the maximum (Lyapunov) *characteristic exponent* of the single patch map.

Criteria for asymptotic coherence

■ *Coherence inevitable:*

Global asymptotic coherence: system will eventually synchronize regardless of initial conditions:

$$r|\lambda| < 1$$

■ *Coherence possible:*

Local asymptotic coherence: system will synchronize if sufficiently close to a coherent attractor:

$$e^{\chi}|\lambda| < 1 \quad \text{i.e., } \chi + \log |\lambda| < 0$$

Note: χ is the same for “almost all” initial states $\mathbf{x}$ (non-trivial to prove)

■ *Coherence impossible:*

$$e^{\chi}|\lambda| > 1 \quad \text{i.e., } \chi + \log |\lambda| > 0$$

Coherence: what we've seen so far

- Quantities that affect coherence
- Coherence criteria

Global asymptotic coherence (GAC) for equal coupling

Theorem: $r|\lambda| < 1 \implies \text{GAC}.$

Proof in case of equal coupling:

Dispersal matrix:

$$m_{ij} = \begin{cases} 1 - m & i = j \\ m/(n-1) & i \neq j \end{cases}$$

Subdominant eigenvalue:

$$\lambda = 1 - \left(\frac{n}{n-1}\right)m$$

General map:

$$x'_i = \sum_{j=1}^n m_{ij} F(x_j)$$

Equal coupling case in terms of λ :

$$= \lambda F(x_i) + (1 - \lambda) \langle F(x_j) \rangle$$

Global asymptotic coherence (GAC) for equal coupling

Difference in density between any two patches at next iteration:

$$\begin{aligned} x'_i - x'_k &= \lambda[F(x_i) - F(x_k)] \\ &= \lambda F'(\xi)(x_i - x_k) \quad (\text{Mean Value Theorem}) \end{aligned}$$

Hence $|x'_i - x'_k| \leq r|\lambda||x_i - x_k|$ *because* $r = \max_x |F'(x)|$.

Therefore, $r|\lambda| < 1$ *implies* $|x_i - x_k| \rightarrow 0$.

Q.E.D.

Note: Actually true for very general connectivity matrices M and multi-dimensional single-patch dynamics $F(\mathbf{x})$.

Earn & Levin (2006) *PNAS* **103**, 3968–3971

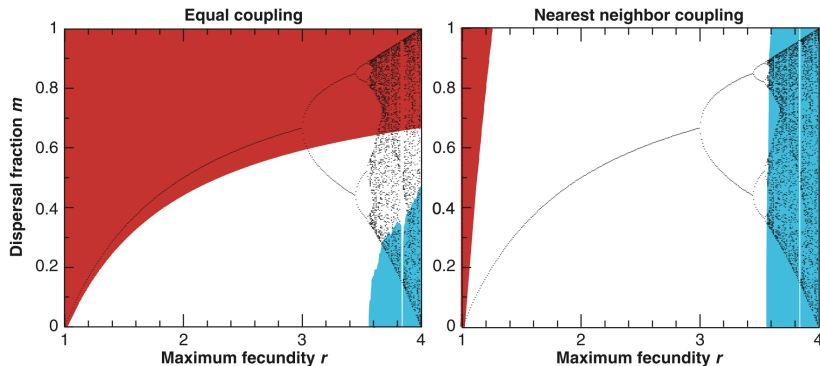
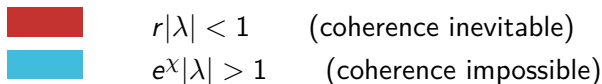
Theory of local asymptotic coherence (LAC)

- Requires measure theory (e.g., Math 4A03), which allows us to make precise statements like “ χ is the same for almost all initial states”.
- More significant theoretically than practically, because it yields only *possibility* rather than *probability* of coherence.
- Quasi-global theory attempts to bridge the gap between “probability = 1” and “probability > 0 ”.

McCluskey & Earn (2011) *J. Math. Biol.* **62**, 509–541

Application of simple coherence criteria

10 patch logistic metapopulation



Earn, Levin & Rohani (2000) *Science* **290**, 1360–1364

Comments on coherence theory

Global theory is limited in applicability:

- Nice theorem guarantees global asymptotic coherence (GAC)

Earn & Levin (2006) *PNAS* 103, 3968-3971

- But hypotheses quite restrictive

Local theory is limited in practical power:

- Applies very generally and aids understanding
- But coherence *possible* doesn't tell how *probable*

Quasi-global theory promising:

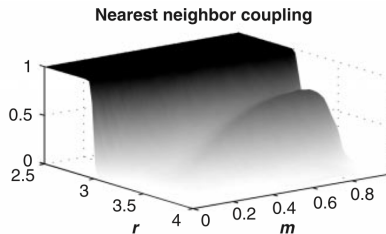
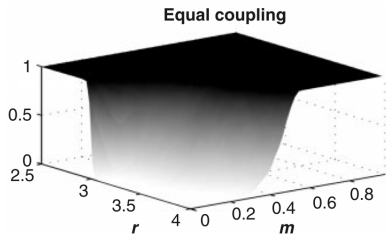
- Show asymptotic approach to coherent manifold from anywhere nearby (rather than just near attractor)
- Via Lozinskii measures

McCluskey & Earn (2011) *J. Math. Biol.* 62, 509-541

Coherence in “numerical experiments” (simulations)

10 patch logistic metapopulation

- Systematically explore representative set of initial conditions and determine probability of coherence within some tolerance, within some specified time
 - e.g., coherence to within 10% within 10 iterations



Earn, Levin & Rohani (2000) *Science* **290**, 1360–1364

- *Extremely demanding computationally...*

Connecting coherence to extinction

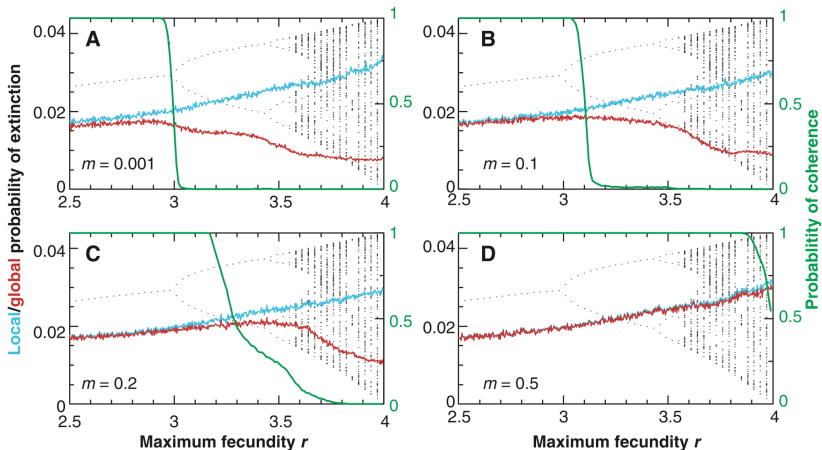
- Strictly deterministic simulations reveal conditions (model parameter regions) that tend to lead to coherence.
- Coherence $\neq$ extinction, but intuitively predict:

higher probability of coherence $\implies$

- higher probability of global extinction
 - smaller difference between probabilities of local and global extinction
- Test these predictions by adding *global noise* (randomly occurring events that affect all patches equally) to the deterministic simulations.
 - Global noise models *environmental stochasticity* (e.g., weather), which presents a large risk of global extinction because the noise is correlated across all patches.

Effects of global events that affect all patches equally

10 patch logistic metapopulation subject to "global noise"



Earn, Levin & Rohani (2000) *Science* **290**, 1360–1364

Comments on coherence “experiments”

10 patch logistic metapopulation

- Relationship between model parameters (r , m) and **probability of coherence** is complicated.
- Predicted relationship between probabilities of coherence and extinction verified.
- Experiments we've discussed ignore *demographic stochasticity*:
 - number of individuals in a population is always an integer.
 - number of offspring an individual produces is a stochastic process.
- Better model would use a stochastic demographic process rather than a deterministic map based on population densities.
- Population models like logistic metapopulation are most relevant to species with non-overlapping generations, but qualitative results provide insights relevant more generally for causing or preventing extinctions (e.g., eradication of pathogens or conservation of endangered species).

Relationship to conservation

- For species that we want to conserve, *synchrony is bad!*
- Synchrony prevents *rescue effects*
- Coherence criteria yield method for estimating *risk of synchronization* in ecological systems

Earn, Levin & Rohani (2000) "Coherence and Conservation" *Science* **290**, 1360–1364

Current Coherence Research

Mathematical challenges

- Strengthen theorems
- Work out details of illustrative examples

Biological goals

- Why do measles and whooping cough have opposite patterns of synchrony?
- What kinds of vaccination strategies can synchronize epidemics worldwide?
- Are such strategies practical to implement?
- Example: global pulse vaccination

Global pulse vaccination

Basic idea

- International vaccination day each year (or in alternate years, etc.)
- Probably combined with continuous vaccination in countries that already have almost complete coverage

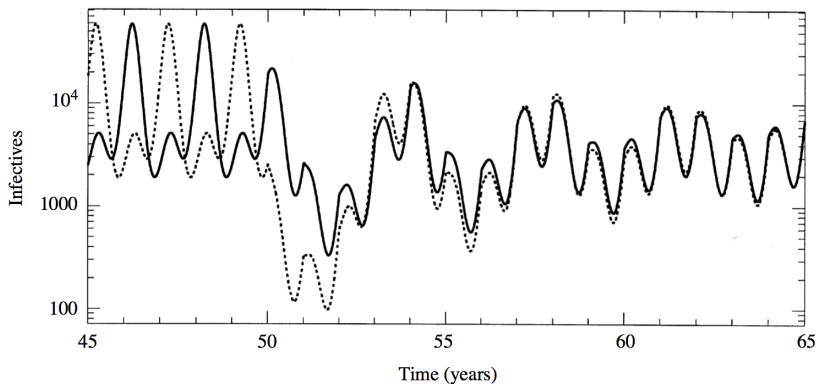
Why might this help?

- Introduce a synchronized periodic forcing
- Has potential to synchronize epidemic troughs
- Pathogen more likely to go extinct globally during synchronized trough

Why might this fail?

- Periodic forcing can have complex dynamical effects...

Example of Synchronization via Pulse Vaccination



SEIR model: $N_1 = N_2 = 5 \times 10^7$, $\mathcal{R}_0 = 17$, $\sigma^{-1} = 8$ days, $\gamma^{-1} = 5$ days, $\alpha = 0.15$, $\epsilon = 0.001$.

- Immunization started in year 50. Then 20% of susceptible population vaccinated on 1 January each year.

Earn, Rohani & Grenfell (1998) *Proc. R. Soc. Lond.* **265**, 7–10