

A kinetic theory of age-structured populations

Tom Chou (UCLA) and Chris Greenman (UEA)

SIAM DS17, May 22, 2017

Tracking objects with age

cells have cycles - division is not a Poisson process

molecular aging - mRNA polyadenylation

- RBCs marked for removal (~ 120 days)

age-dependent processes cannot be described using constant rates

Ideal theory would:

- keep track of ages
- model organism interactions (*e.g.*, carrying capacity)
- capture stochasticity

Organisms with internal “age”

A classic paradigm to track age in population biology:

- Lieut.-Col. A. G. M’Kendrick, *Applications of Mathematics to Medical Problems*, Proc. Edinburgh Math. Soc., **44**, 98–130, (1926)
- H. von Foerster, *Some remarks on changing populations*, in F. Stohlman, ed., *The kinetics of cell proliferation*, (1959)

Define:

- $\rho(a, t)da$: expected number with age in $(a, a + da)$
- $\beta(a)$: age-dependent birth rate
- $\mu(a)$: age-dependent death+emigration-immigration rate

McKendrick-von Foerster Equation

Integral equation derivation:

- $N(a, t) = \int_0^a \rho(y, t) dy$: number with age in $(0, a)$
- $B(t) = \int_0^\infty \beta(y) \rho(y, t) dy$: births/time, at t , from all particles
- $D(a, t) = \int_0^a \mu(y) \rho(y, t) dy$: deaths/time of particles in age $(0, a)$

construct change in number

$$N(a + h, t + h) - N(a, t) = \int_t^{t+h} B(s) ds - \int_0^h D(a + s, t + s) ds$$

take $h \rightarrow 0$:

McKendrick-von Foerster Equation

$$\frac{\partial N(a, t)}{\partial t} + \frac{\partial N(a, t)}{\partial a} = \int_0^a \dot{\rho}(y, t) dy + \rho(a, t) = B(t) - \int_0^a \mu(y) \rho(y, t) dy$$

- McKendrick-von Foerster Eq. results from $\frac{\partial}{\partial a}$:

$$\frac{\partial \rho(a, t)}{\partial t} + \frac{\partial \rho(a, t)}{\partial a} = -\mu(a) \rho(a, t)$$

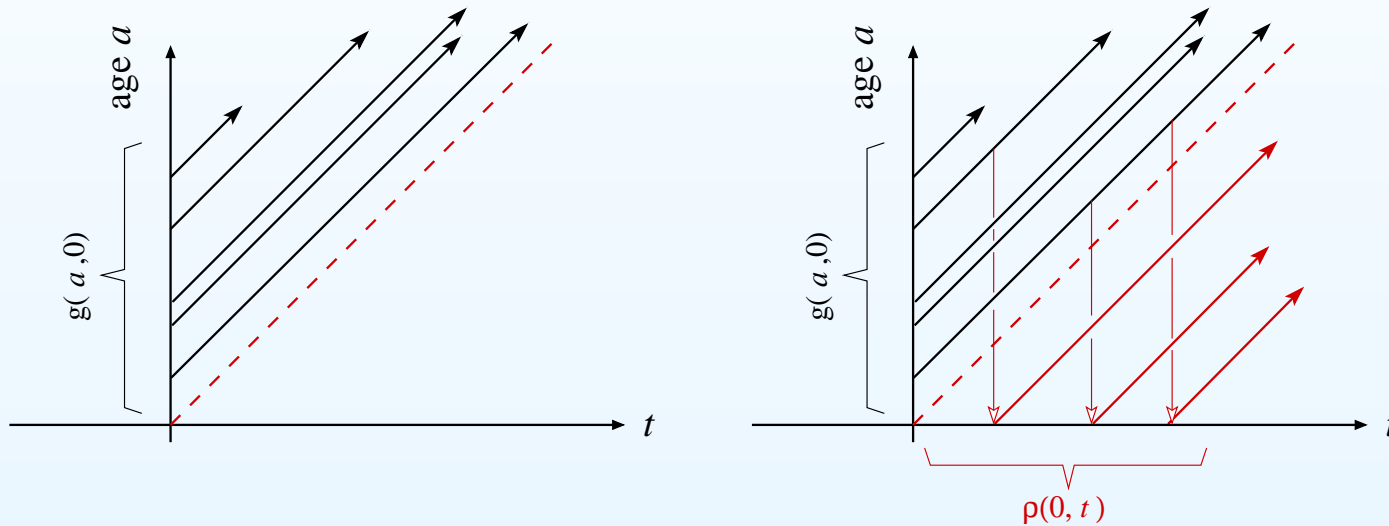
- “boundary condition” arises from setting $a = 0$:

$$\begin{aligned} \rho(a = 0, t) &= \int_0^\infty \beta(a) \rho(a, t) da \\ &\equiv B(t) \quad (\text{birth rate of age zero particles}) \end{aligned}$$

- separately specify initial condition $\rho(a, 0) \equiv g(a)$

Solution by characteristics

- characteristics: cohort at age a_0 at time t_0 : $\frac{d\bar{\rho}(h)}{dh} + \bar{\mu}(h)\bar{\rho}(h) = 0$, where $\bar{\rho}(h) = \rho(a_0 + h, t_0 + h)$ and $\bar{\mu}(h) = \mu(a_0 + h)$



$$\rho(a, t) = \begin{cases} g(a - t) \exp \left[- \int_{a-t}^a \mu(s) ds \right], & a \geq t. \\ \underbrace{B(t - a)}_{\text{depends on } \rho} \exp \left[- \int_0^a \mu(s) ds \right], & a < t. \end{cases}$$

Interactions?

- $\rho(a > t, t) = g(a - t) \exp \left[- \int_0^t \mu(a - t + h'; n(h')) dh' \right]$
- $\rho(a < t, t) = \rho(0, t - a) \exp \left[- \int_0^a \mu(h'; n(t - a + h')) dh' \right]$
 $= B(t - a; n(t - a)) \exp \left[- \int_0^a \mu(h'; n(t - a + h')) dh' \right]$

self-consistently solve using $n(t) = \int_0^\infty \rho(a, t) da$

- However, McKendrick-von Foerster equations are still *deterministic* and do not give probability distributions

Stochastic descriptions

- Master eqn: *probability* $P_n(t)$ of exactly n particles at time t :

$$\begin{aligned} \frac{\partial P_n(t)}{\partial t} = & \alpha_n(t) [P_{n-1} - P_n] + (n-1)\beta_{n-1}(t)P_{n-1} \\ & - n(\beta_n(t) + \mu_n(t))P_n + (n+1)\mu_{n+1}(t)P_{n+1} \end{aligned}$$

ME assumes event times are *exponentially distributed*.

In the rates $\alpha_n(t)$, $\beta_n(t)$, and $\mu_n(t)$, $t \equiv$ time, *not* age.

- hidden Markov states: requires many states
- age-binning: incompatible with large system-size expansion
- Bellman-Harris branching process: treats general waiting time distributions but assumes iid \rightarrow no interactions

New kinetic description

- Extend ideas of kinetic theory to higher dimensions
- Interactions affect birth-death rates, but no “collision” terms
- Assume age-ordering of n *distinguishable* individuals and define

$$f_n(x_1, x_2, x_3, \dots, x_n; t) dx_1 dx_2 \dots dx_n \equiv f_n(\mathbf{x}_n; t) d\mathbf{x}_n$$

probability that at time t , there are n distinguishable particles (e.g., by birth time) with youngest within age $(x_1, x_1 + dx_1)$, the second youngest within age $(x_2, x_2 + dx_2)$, and so on.

High-dimensional kinetic theory

Next, define an ordered cumulative probability:

$$Q_n(\mathbf{a}_n; t) = \int_0^{a_1} dx_1 \int_{x_1}^{a_2} dx_2 \cdots \int_{x_{n-2}}^{a_{n-1}} dx_{n-1} \int_{x_{n-1}}^{a_n} dx_n f_n(x_1, \dots, x_n; t),$$

where $\mathbf{a}_n = (a_1, a_2, \dots, a_n)$.

Q is the probability that the youngest has age x_1 between 0 and a_1 , the second youngest has age x_2 between x_1 and a_2 , and so on.

High-dimensional kinetic theory

Compute the change in $Q_n(\mathbf{a}_n; t)$ over a small time increment:

$Q_n(\mathbf{a}_n + \boldsymbol{\varepsilon}; t + \varepsilon) = Q_n(\mathbf{a}_n; t) + \int_t^{t+\varepsilon} J(t') dt'$. For $\varepsilon \rightarrow 0$:

$$\frac{\partial Q_n(\mathbf{a}_n; t)}{\partial t} + \sum_{i=1}^n \frac{\partial Q_n(\mathbf{a}_n; t)}{\partial a_i} = J^+(\mathbf{a}_n; t) - J^-(\mathbf{a}_n; t).$$

The probability fluxes can be decomposed into components representing birth (β) and death (μ):

$$J^\pm(\mathbf{a}_n; t) = J_\beta^\pm(\mathbf{a}_n; t) + J_\mu^\pm(\mathbf{a}_n; t).$$

\pm represent terms that enter or leave state

Probability fluxes

$$J_{\beta}^{-}(\mathbf{a}_n; t) = \int_0^{a_1} dx_1 \int_{x_1} \cdots \int_{x_{j-1}}^{a_j} dx_j \cdots \int_{x_{n-1}}^{a_n} dx_n \sum_{i=1}^n \beta_n(x_i) f_n(\mathbf{x}_n; t),$$

$$J_{\mu}^{-}(\mathbf{a}_n; t) = \int_0^{a_1} dx_1 \cdots \int_{x_{j-1}}^{a_j} dx_j \cdots \int_{x_{n-1}}^{a_n} dx_n \sum_{i=1}^n \mu_n(x_i) f_n(\mathbf{x}_n; t),$$

$$J_{\beta}^{+}(\mathbf{a}_{2,n}; t) = \int_0^{a_2} dx_1 \cdots \int_{x_{j-1}}^{a_{j+1}} dx_j \cdots \int_{x_{n-2}}^{a_n} dx_{n-1} \sum_{i=1}^{n-1} \beta_{n-1}(x_i) f_{n-1}(\mathbf{x}_{n-1}; t),$$

$$J_{\mu}^{+}(\mathbf{a}_n; t) = \sum_{j=0}^n \int_0^{a_1} dx_1 \cdots \int_{x_{j-1}}^{a_j} dx_j \int_{x_j}^{a_{j+1}} dy \int_y^{a_{j+1}} dx_{j+1} \cdots$$

$$\cdots \int_{x_{n-1}}^{a_n} dx_n \mu_{n+1}(y) f_{n+1}(x_1, \dots, x_j, y, x_{j+1}, \dots, x_n; t),$$

where $\mathbf{a}_{i,j} = (a_i, a_{i+1}, \dots, a_j)$, $x_0 \equiv 0$, and $a_{n+1} \equiv \infty$.

Kinetic equations: indistinguishable particles

- for n indistinguishable particles, define $\rho_n(x_1, x_2, \dots, x_n; t) = \frac{1}{n!} f_n(\mathbf{x}_n; t)$ as prob. first randomly chosen particle has age in $(x_1, x_1 + dx_1)$, and so on.

- define $\gamma_n(a_i) \equiv \beta_n(a_i) + \mu_n(a_i)$ and apply $\frac{\partial}{\partial a_1} \frac{\partial}{\partial a_2} \dots \frac{\partial}{\partial a_n}$:

$$\frac{\partial \rho_n(\mathbf{a}_n; t)}{\partial t} + \sum_{j=1}^n \frac{\partial \rho_n(\mathbf{a}_n; t)}{\partial a_j} = - \sum_{i=1}^n \gamma_n(a_i) \rho_n(\mathbf{a}_n; t) + (n+1) \int_0^\infty \mu_{n+1}(y) \rho_{n+1}(\mathbf{a}_n, y; t) dy$$

- set $a_\ell = 0$ and take $\frac{\partial}{\partial a_1} \dots / \dots \frac{\partial}{\partial a_n}$. BCs:

$$n \rho_n(a_1, \dots, a_\ell = 0, \dots, a_n; t) = \sum_{i=1}^n \beta_{n-1}(a_i) \rho_{n-1}(a_1, \dots, \hat{a}_\ell, \dots, a_n; t)$$

Equation hierarchies

Reduced dist: $\int_0^\infty da_{k+1} \dots \int_0^\infty da_n \rho_n(\mathbf{a}_n; t) \equiv \rho_n^{(k)}(\mathbf{a}_k; t)$

Integrating Eqs. for $\rho(\mathbf{a}_n; t)$ over $n - k$ ages and BC over $n - k - 1$ ages, kinetic equation becomes

$$\begin{aligned} \frac{\partial \rho_n^{(k)}(\mathbf{a}_k; t)}{\partial t} + \sum_{i=1}^k \frac{\partial \rho_n^{(k)}(\mathbf{a}_k; t)}{\partial a_i} = & \left(\frac{n-k}{n} \right) \sum_{i=1}^k \beta_{n-1}(a_i) \rho_{n-1}^{(k)}(\mathbf{a}_k; t) \\ & + \frac{(n-k)(n-k-1)}{n} \int_0^\infty \beta_{n-1}(y) \rho_{n-1}^{(k+1)}(\mathbf{a}_k, y; t) dy \\ & - \sum_{i=1}^k \gamma_n(a_i) \rho_n^{(k)}(\mathbf{a}_k; t) - (n-k) \int_0^\infty \gamma_n(y) \rho_n^{(k+1)}(\mathbf{a}_k, y; t) \\ & + (n+1) \int_0^\infty \mu_{n+1}(y) \rho_{n+1}^{(k+1)}(\mathbf{a}_k, y; t) dy. \end{aligned}$$

$\rho_n^{(k)}$ depends on $\rho_{n, n \pm 1}^{(k+1)} \Rightarrow$ equation hierarchy

Equation hierarchies

Reduced dist: $\int_0^\infty da_{k+1} \dots \int_0^\infty da_n \rho_n(\mathbf{a}_n; t) \equiv \rho_n^{(k)}(\mathbf{a}_k; t)$

Integrating Eqs. for $\rho(\mathbf{a}_n; t)$ over $n - k$ ages and BC over $n - k - 1$ ages, kinetic equation becomes

$$\begin{aligned} \frac{\partial \rho_n^{(k)}(\mathbf{a}_k; t)}{\partial t} + \sum_{i=1}^k \frac{\partial \rho_n^{(k)}(\mathbf{a}_k; t)}{\partial a_i} = & \left(\frac{n-k}{n} \right) \sum_{i=1}^k \beta_{n-1}(a_i) \rho_{n-1}^{(k)}(\mathbf{a}_k; t) \\ & + \frac{(n-k)(n-k-1)}{n} \int_0^\infty \beta_{n-1}(y) \rho_{n-1}^{(k+1)}(\mathbf{a}_k, y; t) dy \\ & - \sum_{i=1}^k \gamma_n(a_i) \rho_n^{(k)}(\mathbf{a}_k; t) - (n-k) \int_0^\infty \gamma_n(y) \rho_n^{(k+1)}(\mathbf{a}_k, y; t) dy \\ & + (n+1) \int_0^\infty \mu_{n+1}(y) \rho_{n+1}^{(k+1)}(\mathbf{a}_k, y; t) dy. \end{aligned}$$

$\rho_n^{(k)}$ depends on $\rho_{n, n \pm 1}^{(k+1)} \Rightarrow$ equation hierarchy

Lowest-order ($k = 0$) equation

$$\begin{aligned}\frac{\partial \rho_n^{(0)}(t)}{\partial t} &= (n-1) \int_0^\infty \beta_{n-1}(y) \rho_{n-1}^{(1)}(y; t) dy \\ &\quad - n \int_0^\infty [\beta_n(y) + \mu_n(y)] \rho_n^{(1)}(y; t) dy \\ &\quad + (n+1) \int_0^\infty \mu_{n+1}(y) \rho_{n+1}^{(1)}(y; t) dy\end{aligned}$$

If β_n and μ_n are age-independent,

$$\frac{\partial \rho_n^{(0)}(t)}{\partial t} = (n-1)\beta_{n-1}\rho_{n-1}^{(0)}(t) - n(\beta_n + \mu_n)\rho_n^{(0)}(t) + (n+1)\mu_{n+1}\rho_{n+1}^{(0)}(t),$$

\Rightarrow hierarchy in birth-death master equation

Expected density

$$\rho(a; t) \equiv \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} n \rho_n^{(1)}(a; t) \quad \text{expected density}$$

Multiply $k = 1$ eqn by n and summing:

$$\begin{aligned} \frac{\partial \rho(a; t)}{\partial t} + \frac{\partial \rho(a; t)}{\partial a} &= \sum_{n=2}^{\infty} (n-1) \beta_{n-1}(a) \rho_{n-1}^{(1)}(a; t) \\ &+ \sum_{n=3}^{\infty} (n-1)(n-2) \int_0^{\infty} \beta_{n-1}(y) \rho_{n-1}^{(2)}(a, y; t) dy \\ &- \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} n \gamma_n(a) \rho_n^{(1)}(a; t) - \sum_{n=2}^{\infty} n(n-1) \int_0^{\infty} \gamma_n(y) \rho_n^{(2)}(a, y; t) dy \\ &+ \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} n(n+1) \int_0^{\infty} \mu_{n+1}(y) \rho_{n+1}^{(2)}(a, y; t) dy, \end{aligned}$$

Deterministic limit

Eq. reduces to

$$\frac{\partial \rho(a; t)}{\partial t} + \frac{\partial \rho(a; t)}{\partial a} = - \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \mu_n(a) n \rho_n^{(1)}(a; t)$$

Integrating all but one age in BC and summing over all n :

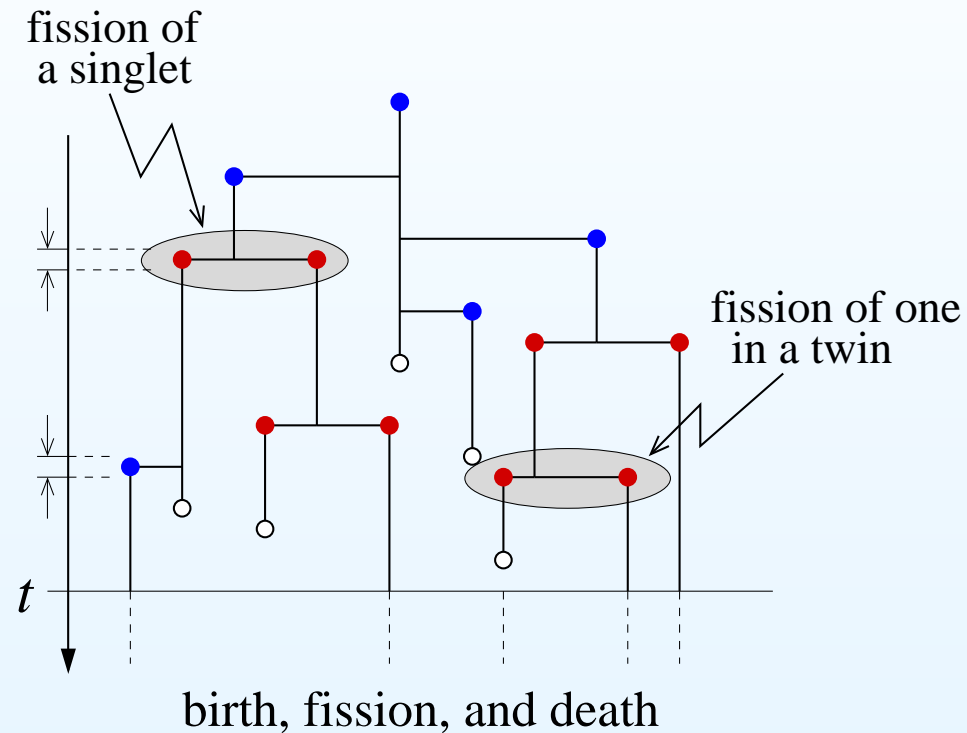
$$\sum_{n=1}^{\infty} n \rho_n^{(1)}(a=0; t) \equiv \rho(a=0; t) = \sum_{n=2}^{\infty} \int_0^{\infty} \beta_{n-1}(y) (n-1) \rho_{n-1}^{(1)}(y; t) dy$$

MCK eqn recovered if $\mu(a)$ and $\beta(a)$ are n -independent

n -dependent $\beta_n(a), \mu_n(a) \Rightarrow$ hierarchy in MCK eqn

Generalization to fission-death process

Branching process = birth + immediate renewal of parent



Density function needs to consider *pairs* of particles.

Define densities according to time of birth (TOB): $\mathbf{x} = t - \mathbf{a}$; $\mathbf{y} = t - \mathbf{a}'$

Fission: indistinguishable particles

Density for $\rho_{m,n}(\mathbf{x}_m; \mathbf{y}_n) = \frac{1}{m!n!} f_{m,n}(\mathbf{x}_m; \mathbf{y}_n)$ for m unordered singlets with TOB in $[\mathbf{x}, \mathbf{x} + d\mathbf{x}]$ and n unordered pairs with TOB in $[\mathbf{y}, \mathbf{y} + d\mathbf{y}]$ obeys:

$$\begin{aligned} \frac{\partial \rho_{m,n}}{\partial t} + \rho_{m,n} \sum_{i=1}^m \left[\sum_{j=1}^n \beta_{m,n}(a_i, a'_j) + \mu_{m,n}(a_i) \right] = \\ (m+1) \int_{-\infty}^t \rho_{m+1,n}(\mathbf{x}_m, z; \mathbf{y}_n) \mu_{m+1,n}(t-z) dz \\ + 2 \left(\frac{m+1}{n} \right) \sum_{i=1}^m \rho_{m-1,n+1}(\mathbf{x}_{i-1}, \mathbf{x}_{i+1,m}; \mathbf{y}_n, x_i) \mu_{m-1,n+1}(t-x_i) \end{aligned}$$

where BC's are $\rho_{m,n}(\mathbf{x}_{m-1}, t; \mathbf{y}) = 0$ and

$$\begin{aligned} \rho_{m,n}(\mathbf{x}_m; \mathbf{y}_{n-1}, t) = \frac{2}{m} \sum_{i=1}^m \rho_{m-1,n}(\mathbf{x}_{i-1}, \mathbf{x}_{i+1,m}; \mathbf{y}_{n-1}, x_i) \beta_{m-1,n}(t-x_i) \\ + \left(\frac{m+1}{n} \right) \int_{-\infty}^t \rho_{m+1,n-1}(\mathbf{x}_m, z; \mathbf{y}_{n-1}) \beta_{m+1,n-1}(t-z) dz \end{aligned}$$

Fission-death process: reduced distribution

$$\rho_{m,n}^{(k,\ell)}(\mathbf{x}_k; \mathbf{y}_\ell; t) \equiv \int_{-\infty}^t d\mathbf{x}'_{m-k} \int_{-\infty}^t d\mathbf{y}'_{n-\ell} \rho_{m,n}(\mathbf{x}_k, \mathbf{x}'_{m-k}; \mathbf{y}_\ell, \mathbf{y}'_{n-\ell}; t)$$

obeys a double hierarchy

lowest order marginals:

$$X(x, t) \equiv \sum_{m,n=0}^{\infty} m \rho_{m,n}^{(1,0)}(x; ; t) = \sum_{m,n=0}^{\infty} m \int_{-\infty}^t d\mathbf{x}_{m-1} \int_{-\infty}^t d\mathbf{y}_n \rho_{m,n}(\mathbf{x}_{m-1}, x; \mathbf{y}_n; t)$$

$$Y(y, t) \equiv \sum_{m,n=0}^{\infty} n \rho_{m,n}^{(0,1)}(; y; t) = \sum_{m,n=0}^{\infty} n \int_{-\infty}^t d\mathbf{x}_m \int_{-\infty}^t d\mathbf{y}_{n-1} \rho_{m,n}(\mathbf{x}_m; \mathbf{y}_{n-1}, y; t)$$

Fission-death: lowest order closure

If $\beta_{m,n}(a) = \beta(a)$ and $\mu_{m,n}(a) = \mu(a)$,

$$\frac{\partial X}{\partial t} = (2Y - X)\gamma(t - x), \quad \frac{\partial Y}{\partial t} = -2Y\gamma(t - x)$$

Similarly, boundary conditions become:

$$X(t, t) = 0, \quad Y(t, t) = \int_{-\infty}^t (X(z, t) + 2Y(z, t))\gamma(t - z)dz \equiv B(t)$$

Total population density $T(x, t) = X(x, t) + 2Y(x, t)$ reduces to McKendrick-von Foerster-like equation:

$$\frac{\partial T}{\partial t} = -\gamma(t - z)T, \quad T(t, t) = \int_{-\infty}^t T(z, t)\gamma(t - z)dz$$

which can be formally solved...

Fission model (pure birth)

mean field limit of fission model w/ birth time dist: $g(t) = \frac{\alpha^\alpha t^{\alpha-1} e^{-\alpha t}}{\Gamma(\alpha)}$

as $\alpha \rightarrow \infty$, $g(t) \rightarrow \delta(t - 1)$ (discrete-time Galton-Watson process)

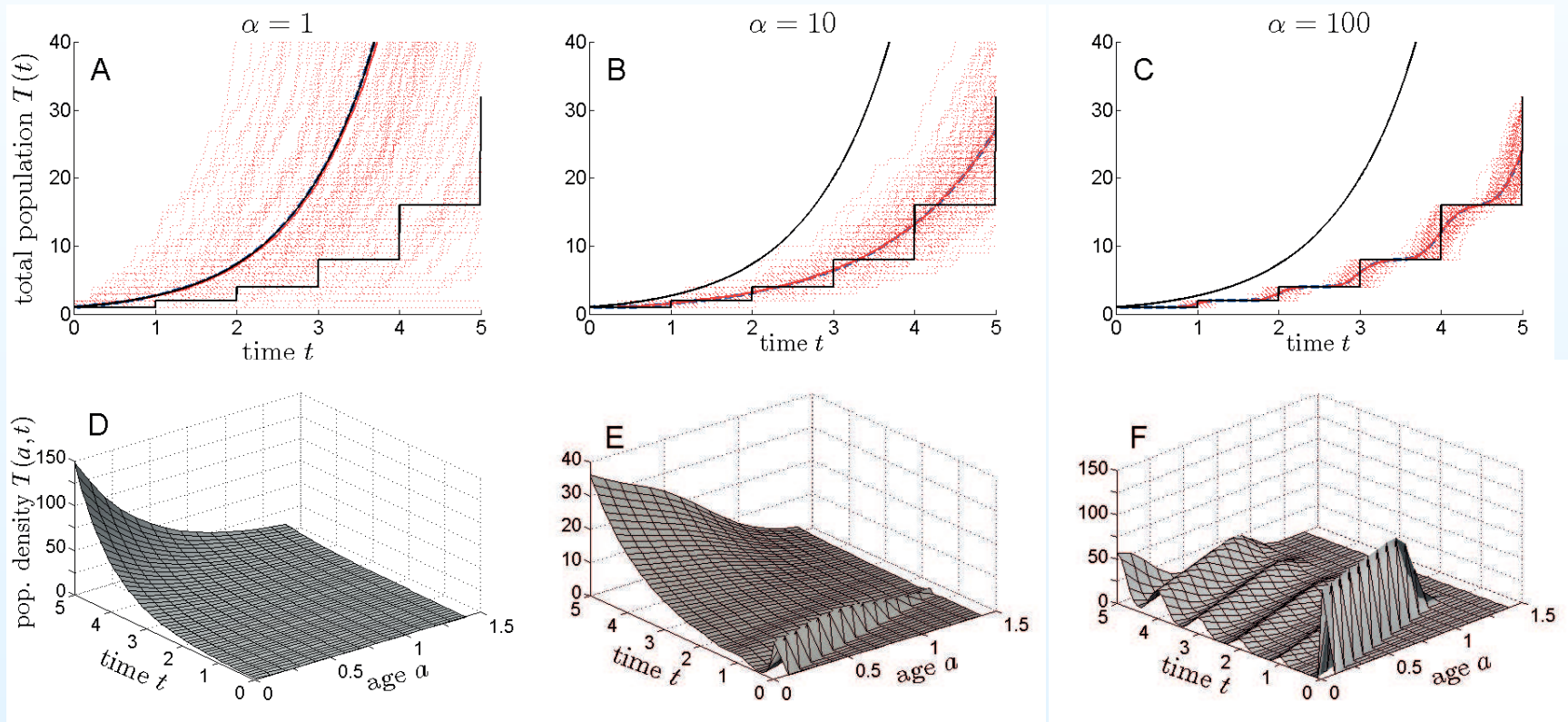


Table of pros and cons

Theory	stochastic	age-dep. rates	age-structured pop.	age-resolved	interactions	budding	fission
Logistic Eq.	✗	✗	✗	✗	✓	✗	✗
McKendrick	✗	✓	✓	✗	✓	✓	✗
Master Eq.	✓	✗	✗	✗	✓	✓	✓
Bellman-Harris	✓	✓	✗	✗	✗	✗	✓
Age bins	✗	✓	✓	✗	✓	✗	✗
Kinetic Theory	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓

Spatial dependence - simple diffusion

Define $\hat{\rho}_n(\mathbf{b}_n; \mathbf{q}_n; t)$: density for a population containing n randomly labelled individuals with TOBs \mathbf{b}_n and positions \mathbf{q}_n

$\hat{\rho}_n(\mathbf{b}_n; \mathbf{q}_n; t)$ is invariant under particle permutations, but relative orders of \mathbf{b}_n and \mathbf{q}_n must be preserved: $\hat{\rho}_2(b_1, b_2; q_1, q_2; t) = \hat{\rho}_2(b_2, b_1; q_2, q_1; t)$

$$\begin{aligned} \frac{\partial \hat{\rho}_n(\mathbf{b}_n; \mathbf{q}_n; t)}{\partial t} = & - \hat{\rho}_n(\mathbf{b}_n; \mathbf{q}_n; t) \sum_{i=1}^n \gamma_n(t - b_i, q_i) + D \sum_{i=1}^n \frac{\partial^2}{\partial q_i^2} \hat{\rho}_n(\mathbf{b}_n; \mathbf{q}_n; t) \\ & + (n + 1) \int_{-\infty}^t dy \int_{\mathbb{R}} dq' \hat{\rho}_{n+1}(\mathbf{b}_n, y; \mathbf{q}_n, q'; t) \mu_{n+1}(t - y, z). \end{aligned}$$

boundary condition

$$\rho_n(\mathbf{b}_{n-1}, t; \mathbf{q}_n; t) = \frac{1}{n} \sum_{i=1}^{n-1} \rho_{n-1}(\mathbf{b}_{n-1}; \mathbf{q}_{n-1}; t) \beta(t - b_i, q_i) \delta(q_n - q_i),$$

Spatial dependence: formal solution

$$\begin{aligned} \frac{\partial}{\partial t} [U_n^{-1}(\mathbf{b}_n; \mathbf{q}_n; t_0, t) \rho_n] = & D \sum_{j=1}^n \frac{\partial^2}{\partial q_j^2} [U_n^{-1} \rho_n] \\ & + (n+1) U_n^{-1} \int_{-\infty}^t dy \int_{\mathbb{R}} dz \rho_{n+1}(\mathbf{b}_n, y; \mathbf{q}_n, z; t) \mu_{n+1}(t-y, z), \end{aligned}$$

where

$$U_n(\mathbf{b}_n; \mathbf{q}_n; t_0, t) = \exp \left[- \sum_{i=1}^n \int_{t_0}^t \gamma_n(s - b_i, q_i) ds \right]$$

Summary & Conclusions

- Developed a new fully stochastic age-structured theory
- Kinetic theory for marginal densities leads to BBGKY hierarchy
- Theory handles both age- and population-dependent processes
- Branching/fission processes requires additional n dimensions:
 $\rho_{m,n}(\mathbf{x}_m; \mathbf{y}_n; t)$ and double hierarchy
- Generalizes McKendrick eqn to fission
- Spatial dynamics easily incorporated
- Many limiting analytic and asymptotic solutions accessible

More details in:

Greenman and Chou, PRE, **93**, 012112, (2016)

Chou and Greenman, J. Stat. Phys., **164**, 49-76, (2016)

Kinetic solutions: simplifying cases

- pure death ($\beta = 0$): $t_0 = 0$, $\rho_n(\mathbf{a}_n - t; 0) = \rho(n) \prod_{i=1}^n g(a_i - t)$, and $\mu_n(a) = \mu(a)$:

$$\rho_n(\mathbf{a}_n; t) = U(\mathbf{a}_n; 0; t) \prod_{i=1}^n g(a_i - t) \sum_{k=0}^{\infty} \binom{n+k}{k} \rho(n+k) \left[\int_0^t g(y-s) \int_s^{\infty} U(y; 0; s) \mu(y) dy ds \right]^k$$

- pure birth ($\mu = 0$). Use birth BC and use $U(\mathbf{a}_n; 0; t)$ between births:

$$\rho_n(\mathbf{a}_n; t) = \frac{1}{n} U_n(\mathbf{a}_n; b_n; t) \rho_{n-1}(\mathbf{a}_{n-1} - a_n; t - a_n) \sum_{i=1}^{n-1} \beta_{n-1}(a_i - a_n).$$

Assuming $\beta_n(a) = \beta(a)$, chose $t_0 > b_i$ and iterate back in time:

$$\rho_n(\mathbf{a}_n; t) = g_m(\mathbf{a}_m - t) U(\mathbf{a}_m; 0; t) \frac{m!}{n!} \prod_{k=m+1}^n U(a_k; b_k; t) \sum_{\ell=1}^{k-1} \beta(a_\ell - a_k)$$

Kinetic equations: solutions

Formally $\rho_n(t - \mathbf{b}_n; t)$ along characteristics starting from initial time t_0 :

$$\rho_n(\mathbf{a}_n; t) = U_n(\mathbf{a}_n; t_0; t) \rho_n(\mathbf{a}_n - (t - t_0); t_0) \\ + (n + 1) \int_{t_0}^t U_n(\mathbf{a}_n; t'; t) \left[\int_0^\infty \mu_{n+1}(y) \rho_{n+1}(\mathbf{a}_n - (t - t'), y; t') dy \right] dt',$$

in which

$$U_n(\mathbf{a}_m; t'; t) = \exp \left[- \sum_{i=1}^m \int_{t'}^t \gamma_n(a_i - (t - s)) ds \right] \\ \equiv U_n^{-1}(\mathbf{a}_m; t_0; t') U_n(\mathbf{a}_m; t_0; t)$$

is the propagator for any set of $m \leq n$ individuals from time t' to t .

Recursion can be “solved” and simplified in certain limits...