

Math in Microbiology

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Outline

- 1 Math in Microbiology
- 2 Microbial Growth
 - Exponential Growth
 - The Logistic Equation: Verhulst(1845)
 - Growth under nutrient limitation
- 3 Continuous Culture
 - Microbial Growth in the Chemostat
 - Competition for Nutrient
- 4 Bacteriophage and Bacteria in Chemostat
- 5 Food Chain

Where's the Math?

- quantify microbial growth
- population biology-mixed cultures
 - waste treatment
 - bio-remediation
 - biofilms, quorum sensing
 - mammalian gut microflora
 - food, beverage (beer,wine)
- gene regulatory networks
 - lac-operon
 - genetic engineering, synthetic biology
- disease modeling
 - Viral infections: HIV, HBV, Influenza
 - Bacterial infections: TB,
 - antibiotic treatment, antibiotic resistance

Malthusian Growth

N = biomass of bacteria

r = maximum growth rate

$$\text{per capita growth rate} = \frac{\Delta N}{N \Delta t} = r$$

or

$$\frac{dN}{dt} = rN$$

Solution is exponential growth

$$N(t) = N(0)e^{rt}$$

with doubling time: $N(T) = 2N(0)$

$$T = \ln(2)/r$$

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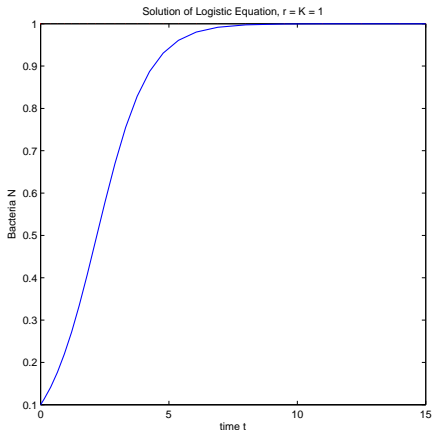
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The Logistic Equation

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

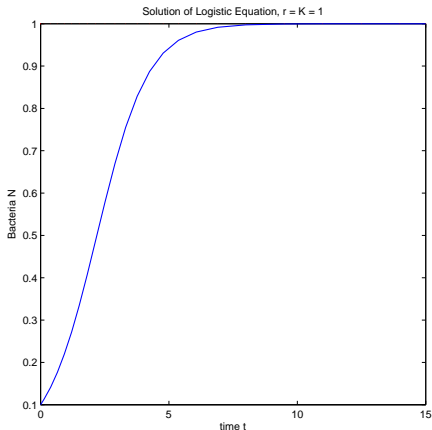
No change in N : $\frac{dN}{dt} = 0$ when $N = K$, equilibrium value of biomass.



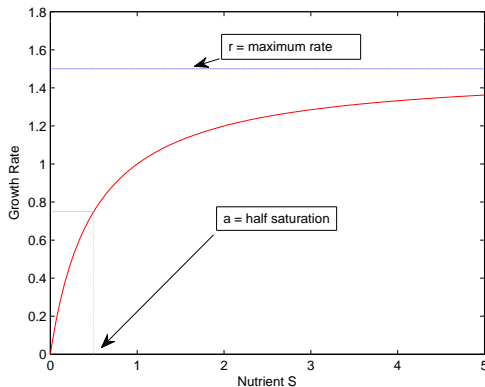
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Growth under nutrient limitation, Monod(1942)

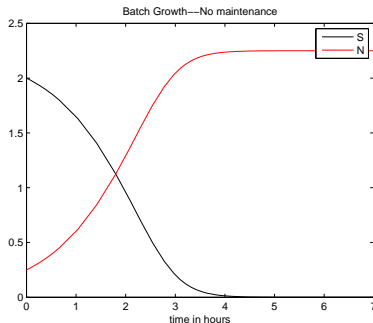


$$\frac{dN}{Ndt} = r \frac{S}{a + S}, \quad \frac{dN}{-dS} = \text{yield constant} = \gamma$$

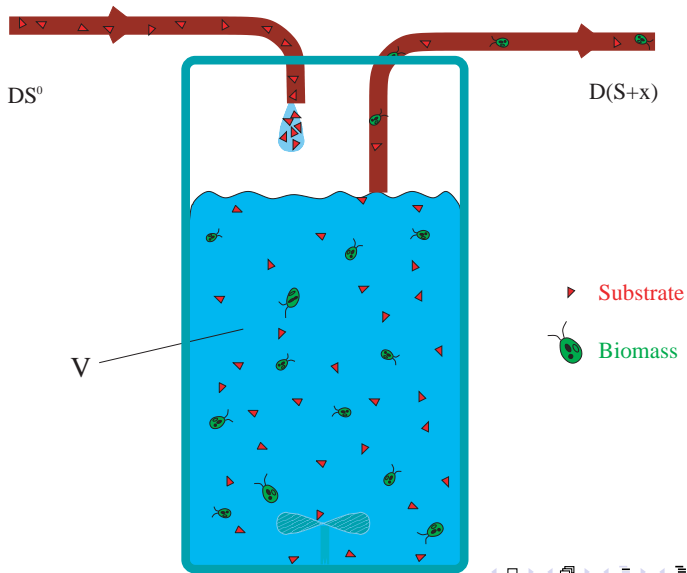
Growth in Batch Culture

$$\frac{dS}{dt} = -\frac{1}{\gamma} \frac{rSN}{a+S}, \quad S(0) = 2$$

$$\frac{dN}{dt} = \frac{rSN}{a+S}, \quad N(0) = 0.25$$



The Chemostat



The Old Tank Problem-No Bacteria

V = Volume of chemostat(ml)

F = Inflow = Outflow rate (ml/hr)

S^0 = Concentration of Substrate in Feed (gm/ml).

S = Concentration of Substrate in Chemostat (gm/ml).

Rate of change of Substrate (gm/hr)= INFLOW(gm/hr) - OUTFLOW(gm/hr)

$$\frac{d}{dt}(VS) = FS^0 - FS$$

Let $D = F/V$ be the Dilution Rate. Then

$$\frac{dS}{dt} = D(S^0 - S).$$

Mean Residence Time of chemostat is $\frac{1}{D} = \frac{V}{F}$.

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Classical Chemostat Model

Novick & Szilard, 1950.

$$\begin{aligned}\frac{dS}{dt} &= D(S^0 - S) - \frac{1}{\gamma} \frac{rSN}{a + S} \\ \frac{dN}{dt} &= \frac{rSN}{a + S} - DN\end{aligned}$$

Environmental parameters: $D = F/V$, S^0

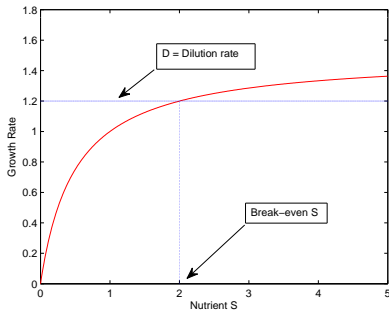
Biological parameters: r , a , γ

Break-even nutrient level

$$\frac{dN}{Ndt} = \frac{rS}{a+S} - D = 0$$

when

$$S = \lambda = \frac{aD}{r-D}$$



Survival or Washout

If flow rate is not too large:

$$D = \frac{F}{V} < r$$

and if the nutrient supply exceeds the break-even level:

$$\lambda < S^0$$

then bacteria survive:

$$N(t) \rightarrow \gamma(S^0 - \lambda)$$

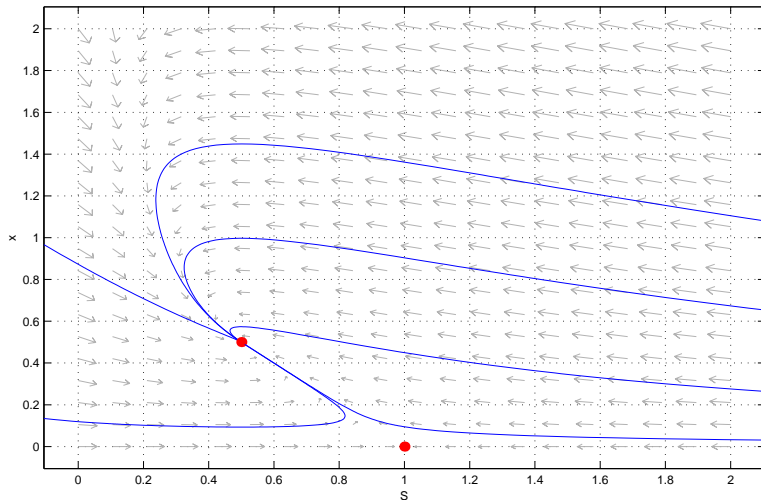
Otherwise, they are washed out:

$$N(t) \rightarrow 0$$

Phase Plane

$$S' = 1 - S - m S x / (a + S)$$
$$x' = x (m S / (a + S) - 1)$$

$$m = 2$$
$$a = 0.5$$



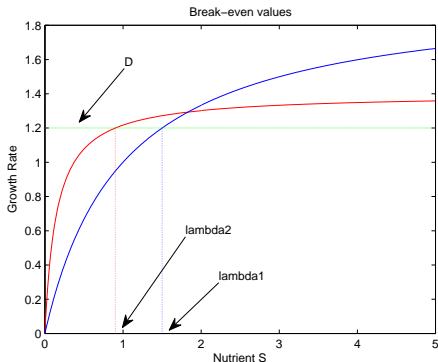
Competing Strains of Bacteria

$$\begin{aligned}\frac{dS}{dt} &= D(S^0 - S) - \frac{1}{\gamma_1} \frac{r_1 N_1 S}{a_1 + S} - \frac{1}{\gamma_2} \frac{r_2 N_2 S}{a_2 + S} \\ \frac{dN_1}{dt} &= \left(\frac{r_1 S}{a_1 + S} - D \right) N_1 \\ \frac{dN_2}{dt} &= \left(\frac{r_2 S}{a_2 + S} - D \right) N_2\end{aligned}$$

Break-even concentrations

$$\frac{dN_1}{N_1 dt} = \frac{r_1 S}{a_1 + S} - D = 0 \Leftrightarrow S = \lambda_1 = \frac{a_1 D}{r_1 - D}$$

$$\frac{dN_2}{N_2 dt} = \frac{r_2 S}{a_2 + S} - D = 0 \Leftrightarrow S = \lambda_2 = \frac{a_2 D}{r_2 - D}$$



Competitive Exclusion Principle

Hsu, Hubbell, Waltman (1977); Aris, Humphrey (1977), Powell (1958), Stewart, Levin (1973), Tilman (1982)

Assume that both species can survive in the absence of competition. If

$$\lambda_1 < \lambda_2 < S^0$$

Then N_1 wins:

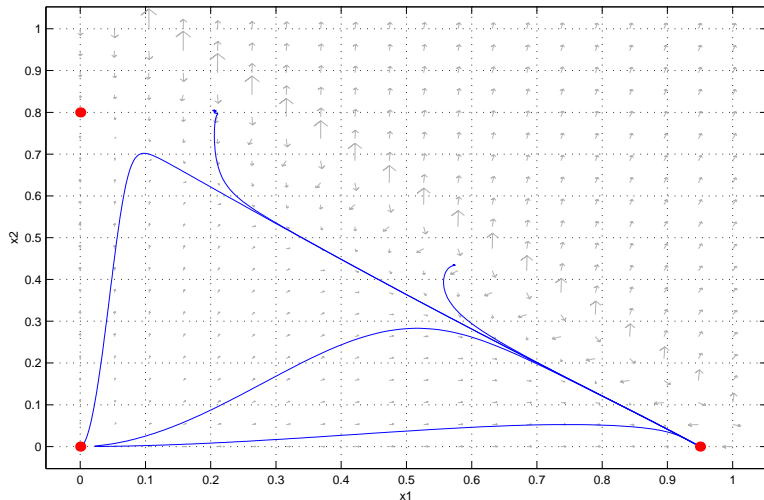
$$N_1(t) \rightarrow \gamma_1(S^0 - \lambda_1), \quad N_2(t) \rightarrow 0$$

Winner is the organism that can grow at the lowest nutrient level.

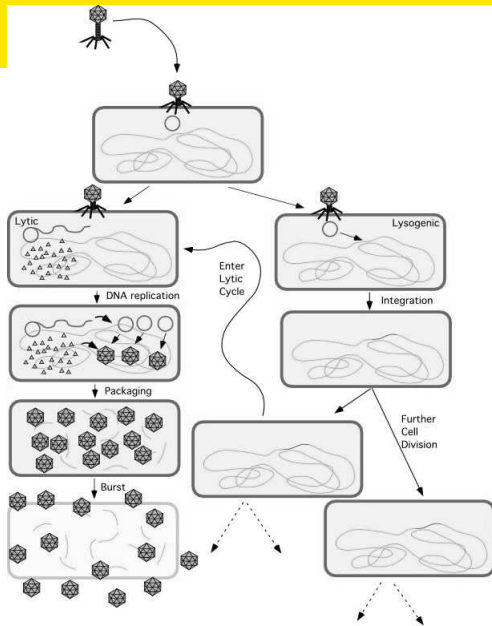
Winner grows at lowest substrate level

$$x_1' = 1.2 x_1 (1 - x_1 - x_2) / (1.01 - x_1 - x_2) - x_1$$

$$x_2' = 1.5 x_2 (1 - x_1 - x_2) / (1.1 - x_1 - x_2) - x_2$$



Life Cycle of Phage



Stewart, Levin, Chao, The American Naturalist (1977)

S = glucose, N = E. coli, P = T4 Phage, N_I = infected E. coli
 τ = 0.6hrs phage latent period, b = 80 burst size

$$\frac{dS}{dt} = D(S^0 - S) - \frac{1}{\gamma} \frac{rSN}{a + S}$$

$$\frac{dN}{dt} = \left(\frac{rS}{a + S} - D \right) N - kNP$$

$$\frac{dN_I}{dt} = kNP - e^{-D\tau} kN(t - \tau)P(t - \tau) - DN_I$$

$$\frac{dP}{dt} = be^{-D\tau} kN(t - \tau)P(t - \tau) - kN(t)P(t) - DP(t)$$

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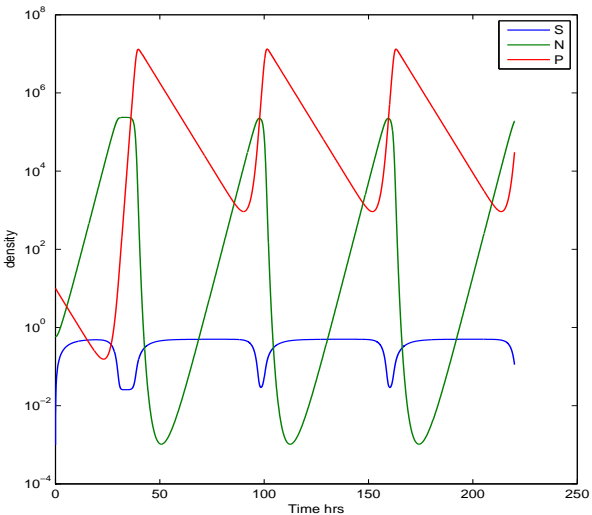
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Phage-Bacteria cycles



Food Chain: Z eats Y eats X

$$\begin{aligned}\frac{dX}{dt} &= X(1 - X) - \frac{r_1XY}{a_1 + X} \\ \frac{dY}{dt} &= \frac{r_1XY}{a_1 + X} - d_1Y - \frac{r_2YZ}{a_2 + Y} \\ \frac{dZ}{dt} &= \frac{r_2YZ}{a_2 + Y} - d_2Z\end{aligned}$$

A. Hastings, Chaos in a 3-species food chain, Ecol. Soc. Amer. 72 (1991)

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Teacup attractor for Food Chain

