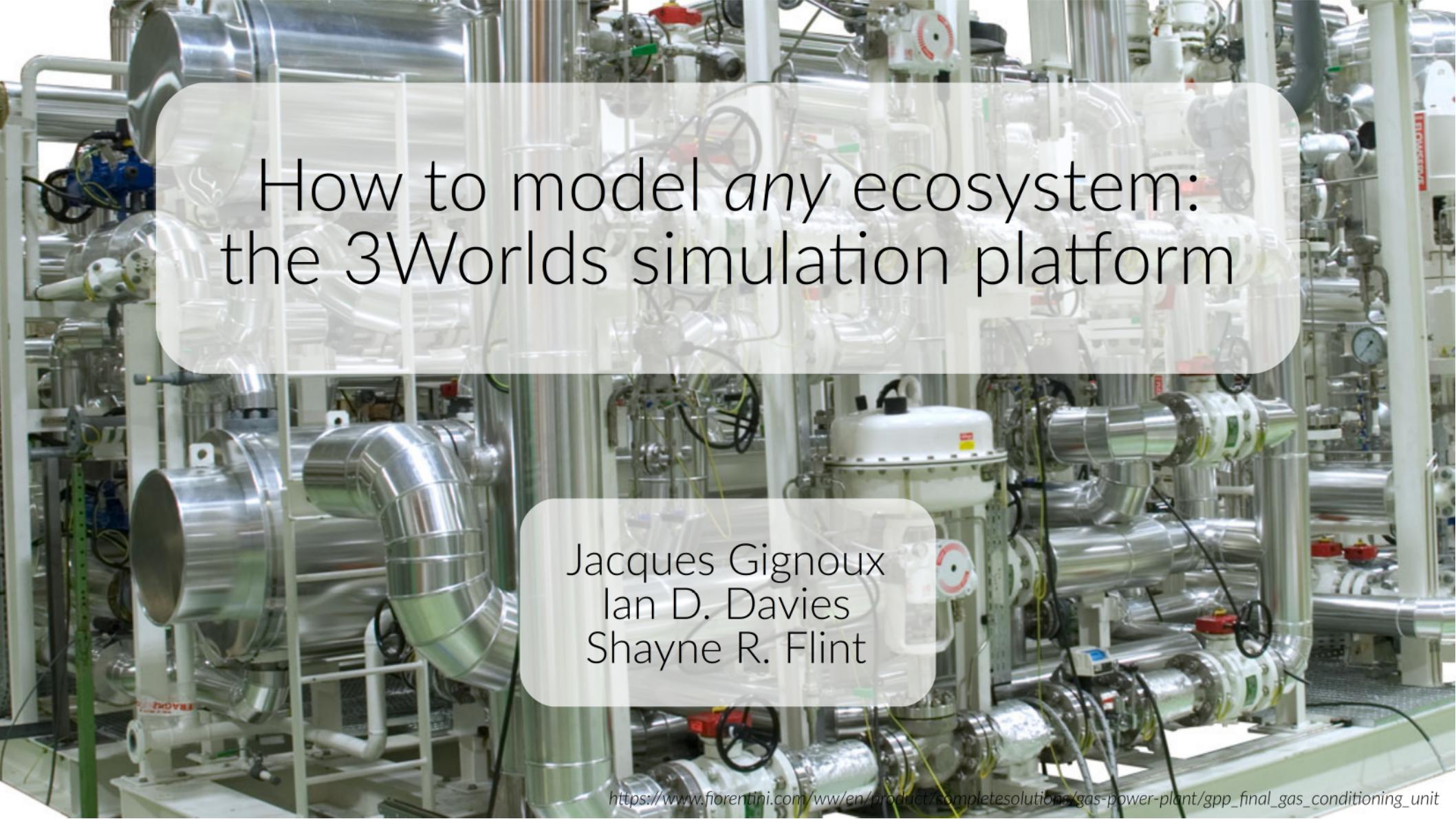




Australian  
National  
University



# How to model *any* ecosystem: the 3Worlds simulation platform

Jacques Gignoux  
Ian D. Davies  
Shayne R. Flint

# Three difficulties of Ecology

Ecology:

- studies very different objects
- addresses very difficult questions
- uses many different methods

A dramatic photograph of a massive ocean wave crashing. The wave's face is a bright white spray and foam, contrasting with the deep blue-grey of the surrounding water. The spray is billowing upwards and outwards. The wave itself is a dark, textured mass of water, with smaller waves visible in the background.

Ecology looks at incredibly  
different objects

Southern  
Ocean

*photo Michel de Saint Blanquat*



Central  
Australia

photo Jacques Gignoux

Indonesia





Southern  
Australia

photo Jacques Gignoux



Deep in  
some ocean



Brazil

<https://news.bloomberg.com/environment-and-energy/soy-and-the-cerrado-exports-ecology-collide-in-brazils-savanna>

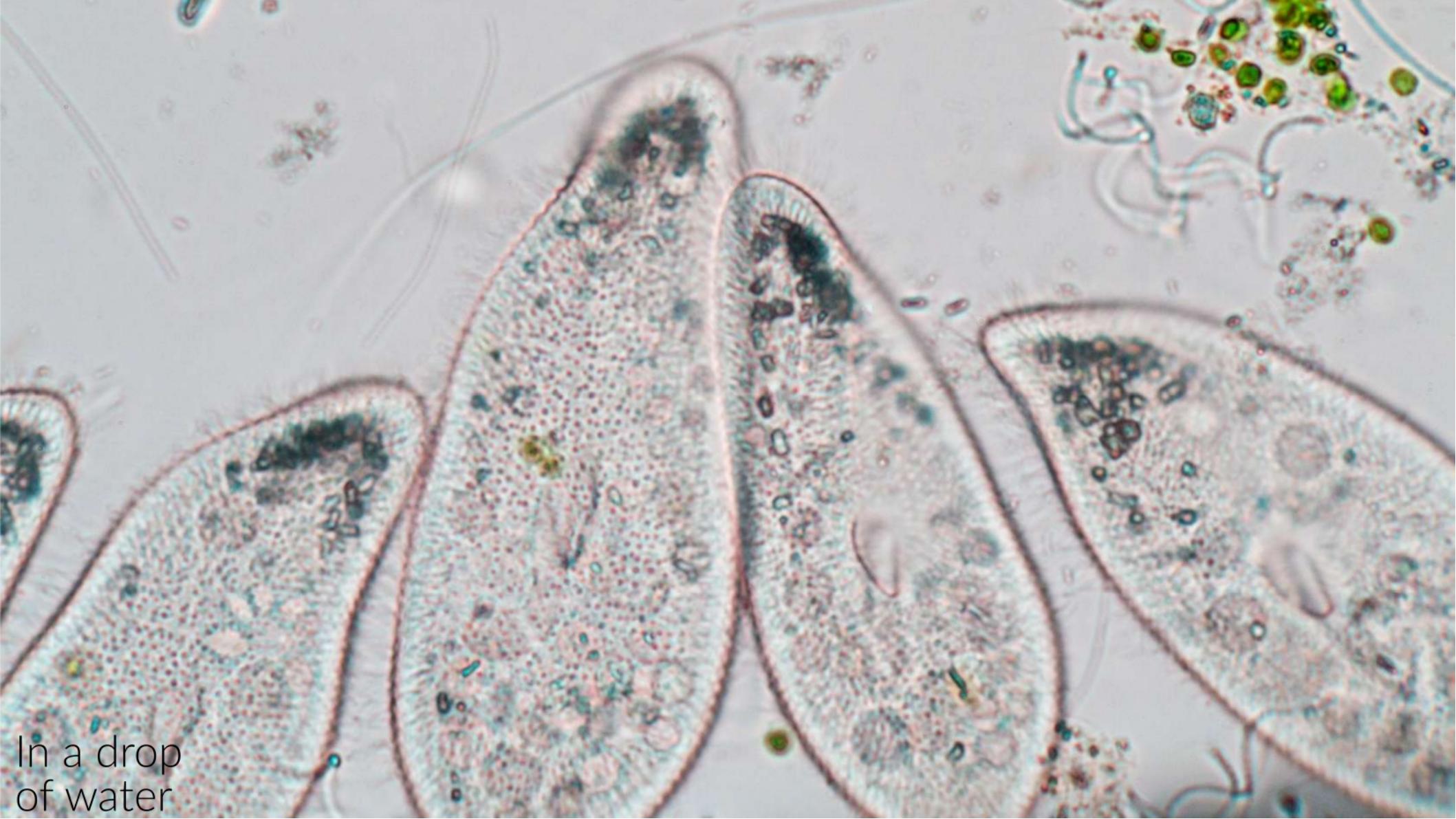


a puddle in  
Germany

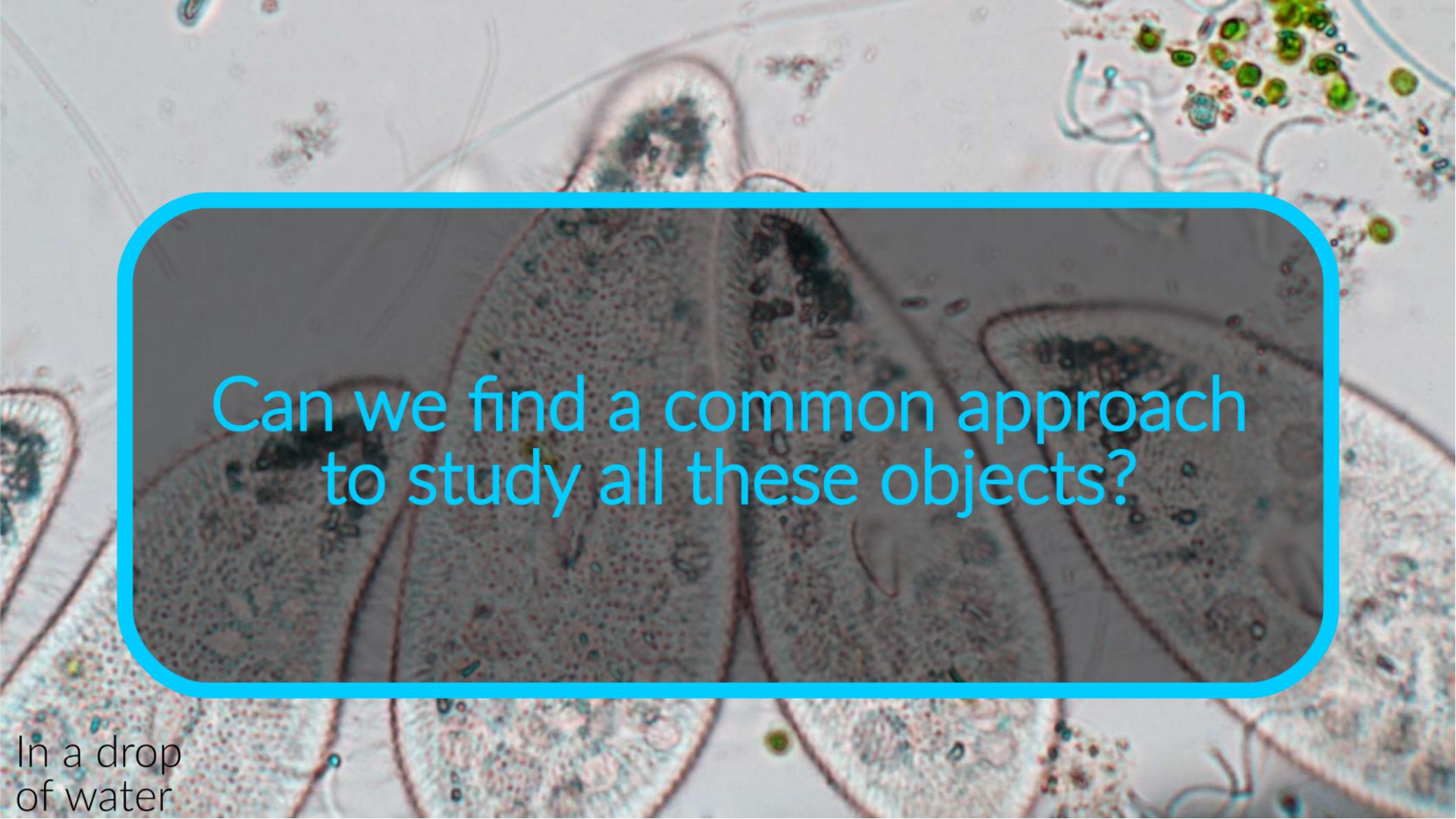
<https://atoptics.wordpress.com/tag/bacteria-colours/>



Local group,  
The Galaxy,  
Orion arm,  
Solar system



In a drop  
of water

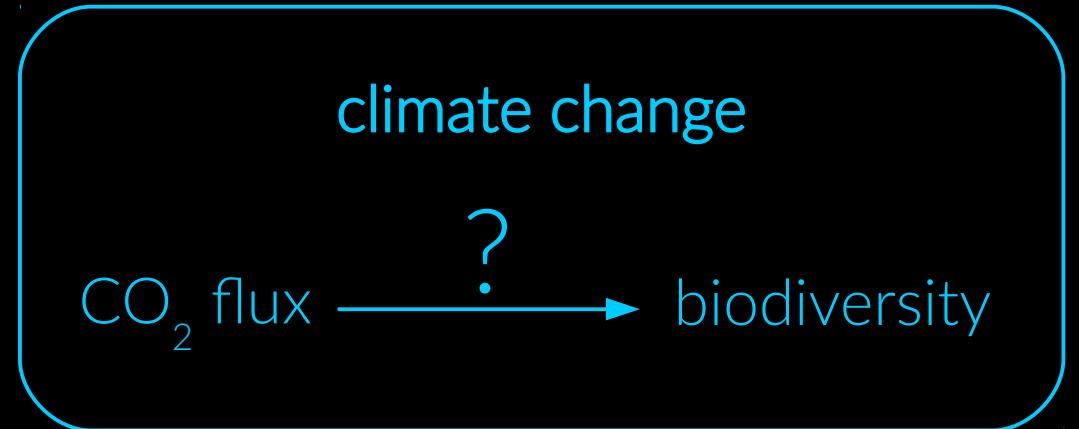
A microscopic image showing various microorganisms in a drop of water. In the center, a large, elongated ciliate with cilia along its body and internal organelles is visible. To its right, several smaller, oval-shaped microorganisms with internal structures are present. In the top right corner, there is a cluster of green, spherical phytoplankton. The background is a light grey, representing the water. A prominent feature is a large, irregular blue rectangular box that covers most of the central and lower-left areas of the image, containing the text.

Can we find a common approach  
to study all these objects?

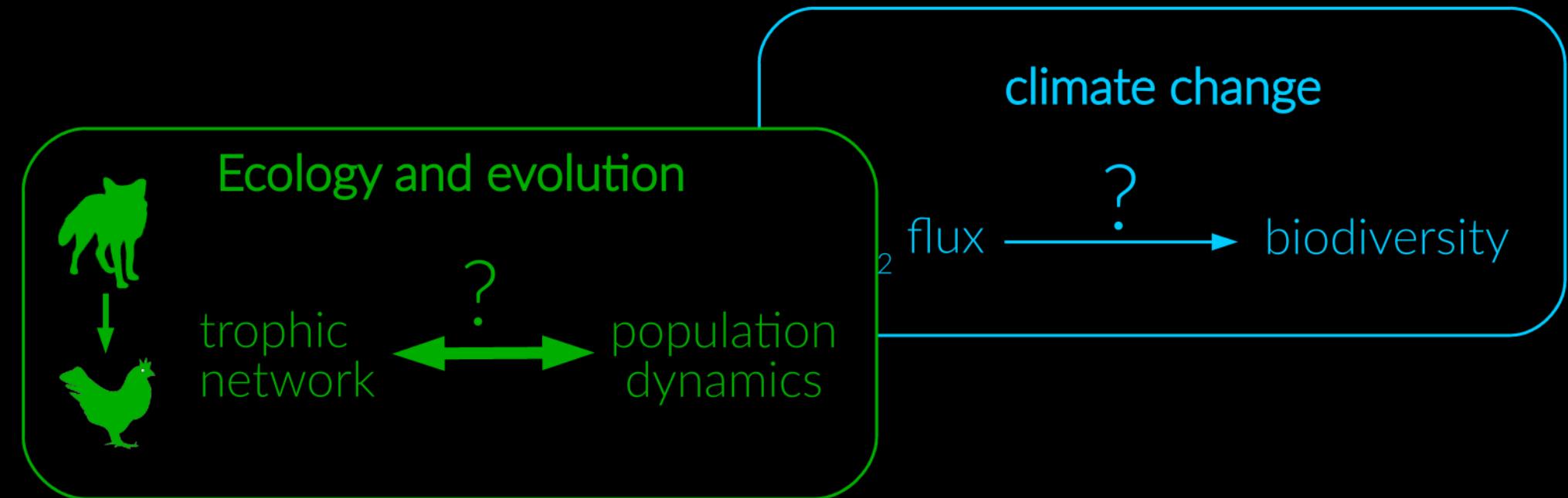
In a drop  
of water

Ecology addresses *difficult* questions:

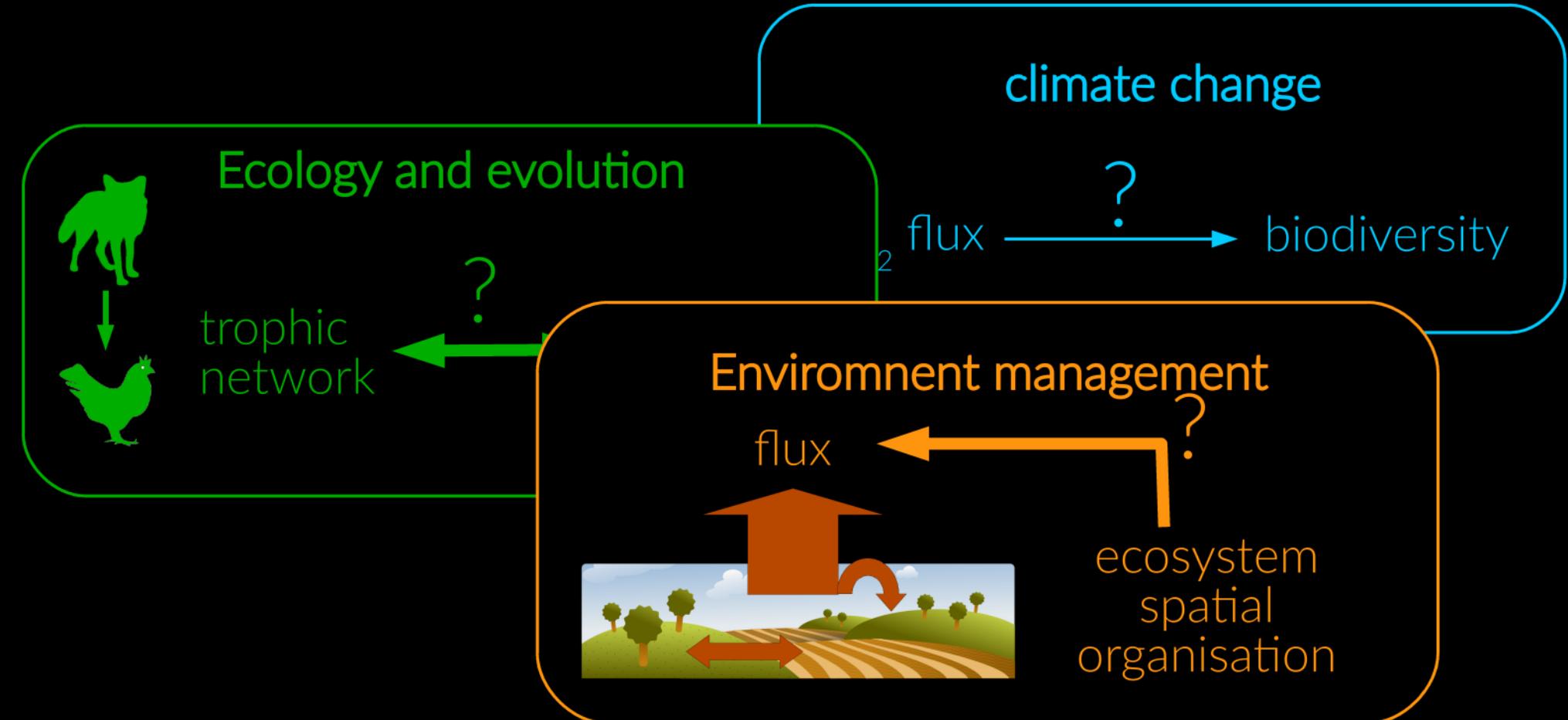
# Ecology addresses *difficult* questions:



# Ecology addresses difficult questions:



# Ecology addresses difficult questions:



# Ecology addresses difficult questions:

Ecology and evolution



trophic  
network

These questions require  
a coupling between  
different ecological approaches

climate change

flux

?

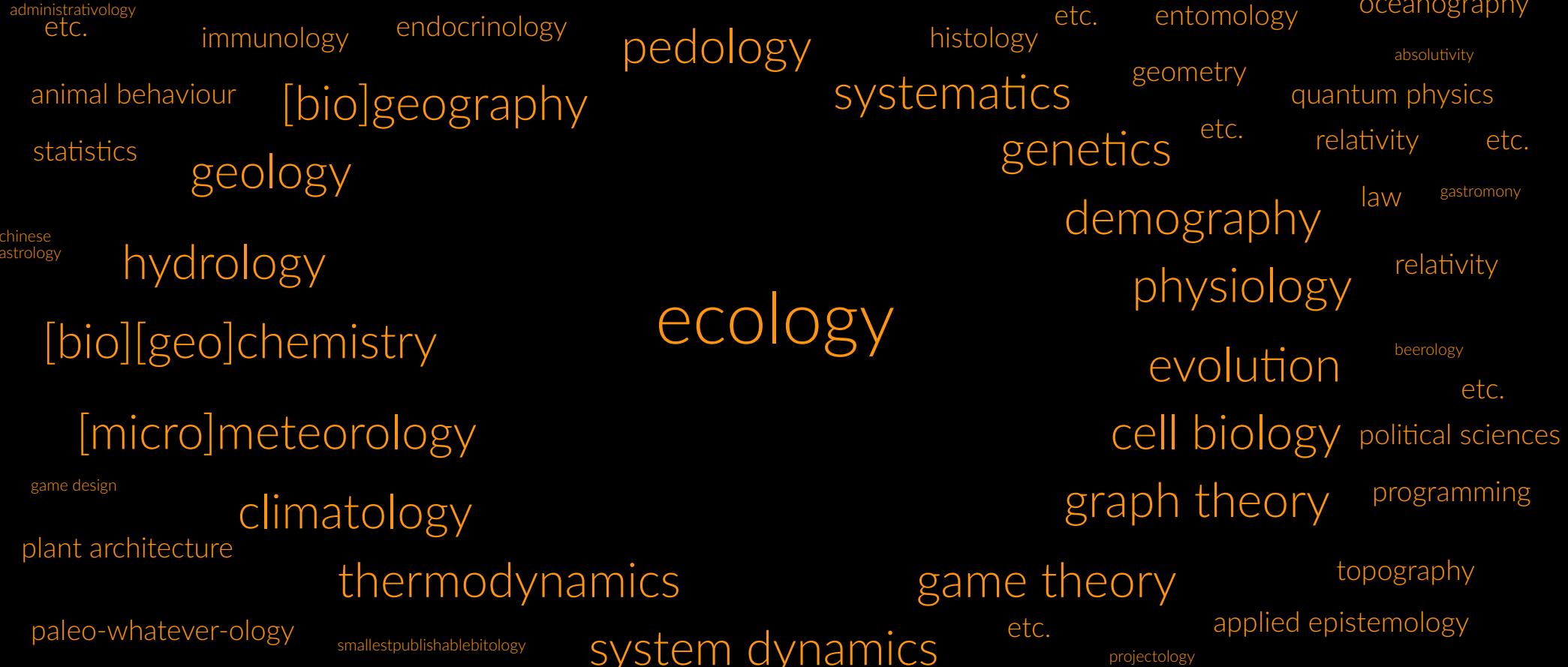
biodiversity

environment management

ecosystem  
spatial  
organisation



# Ecology is an *integrative* science:



... borrowing methods from other sciences

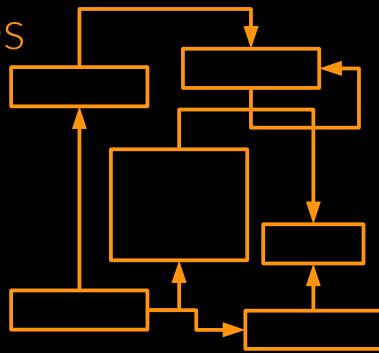
# Ecological sub-fields use poorly compatible representations:

Matter and energy fluxes

Ecophysiology

Ecosystems

Dynamic systems

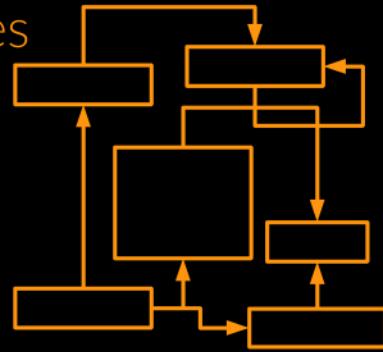


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Ecophysiology  
Ecosystems



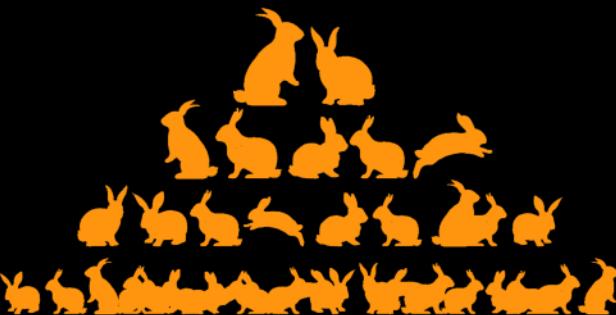
Dynamic systems



Demography  
Genetics  
Evolution

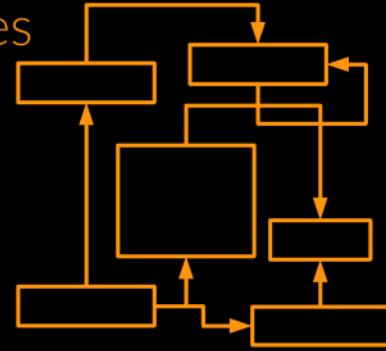


Population models  
Individual-based models



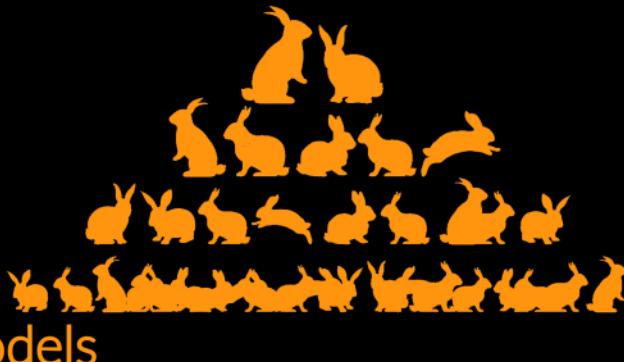
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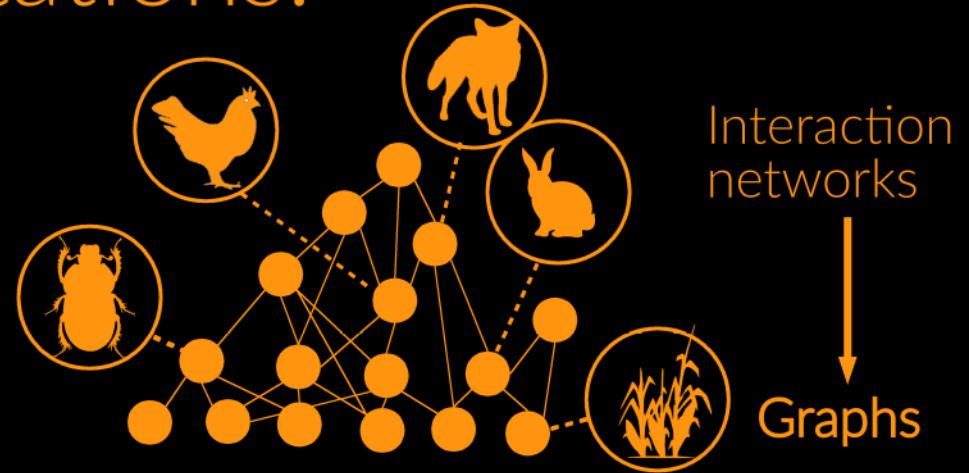


Dynamic systems

Demography  
Genetics  
Evolution



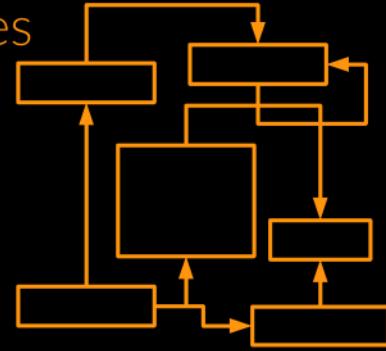
Population models  
Individual-based models



Interaction networks  
Graphs

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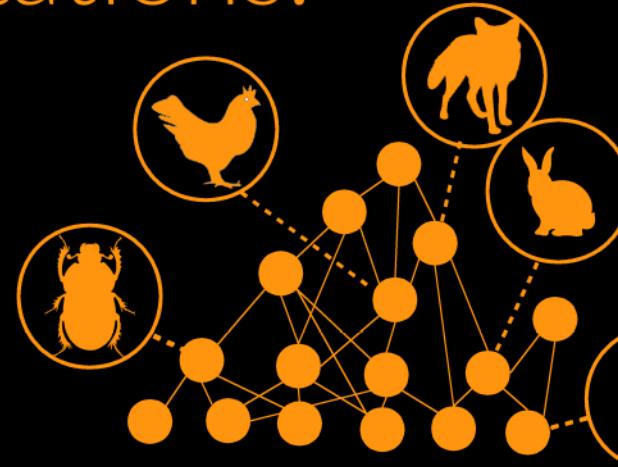


Dynamic systems

Demography  
Genetics  
Evolution

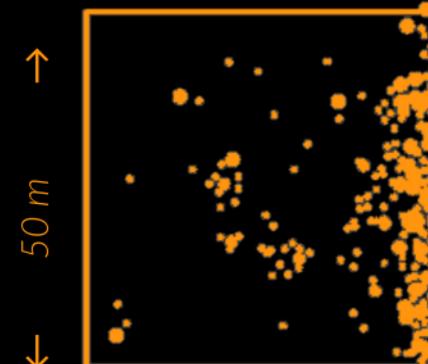


Population models  
Individual-based models



Interaction networks

Graphs



Landscape ecology  
Ecosystem structure

Cellular automata

# Ecological sub-fields use poorly compatible representations:

Matter and energy fluxes  
Eco-physiology  
Ecosystems

Dynamic systems

Demography  
Genetics  
Evolution

Population models  
Individual-based models



How can we make  
these work together?



Interaction networks  
Graphs  
Landscape ecology  
Ecosystem structure

Cellular automata

# I. The solution to the diversity of objects

# The ecosystem concept (Tansley, 1935)

*'Though the organisms may claim our primary interest, when we are trying to think fundamentally we cannot separate them from their special environment, with which they form one physical system.'*

## Ecosystems

- combine physics and biology into a single object
- are scale-independent
- are observer-dependent



# The ecosystem concept (Tansley, 1935)

## Ecosystems

- combine physics and biology into a single object
- are scale-independent
- are observer-dependent

**Ecology consists in viewing everything as an ecosystem**



even this:



or this:



## II. The solution to the difficulty of these questions



We don't care!

Impossible is  
not French.

It's more fun if questions are not easy!

Plus, practical environmental problems are *always* going to be *difficult, complex, wicked, multi-faceted*, without a unique clear definite solution. **We must get used to this.**



We don't care!

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huh... maybe a method would help

# Systems thinking

Churchman, C. W., 1968; Kramer, N., 1977; Checkland, P. & J. Scholes, 1999; Senge, P., 1992.



Shayne Flint



Australian  
National  
University

- a set of approaches that can be used to learn about / make decisions on *dynamically complex systems*
- focuses on *the whole* and the *interactions* among the *parts* of a system
- this way we can understand *emergent properties* of an entire system

# Systems thinking

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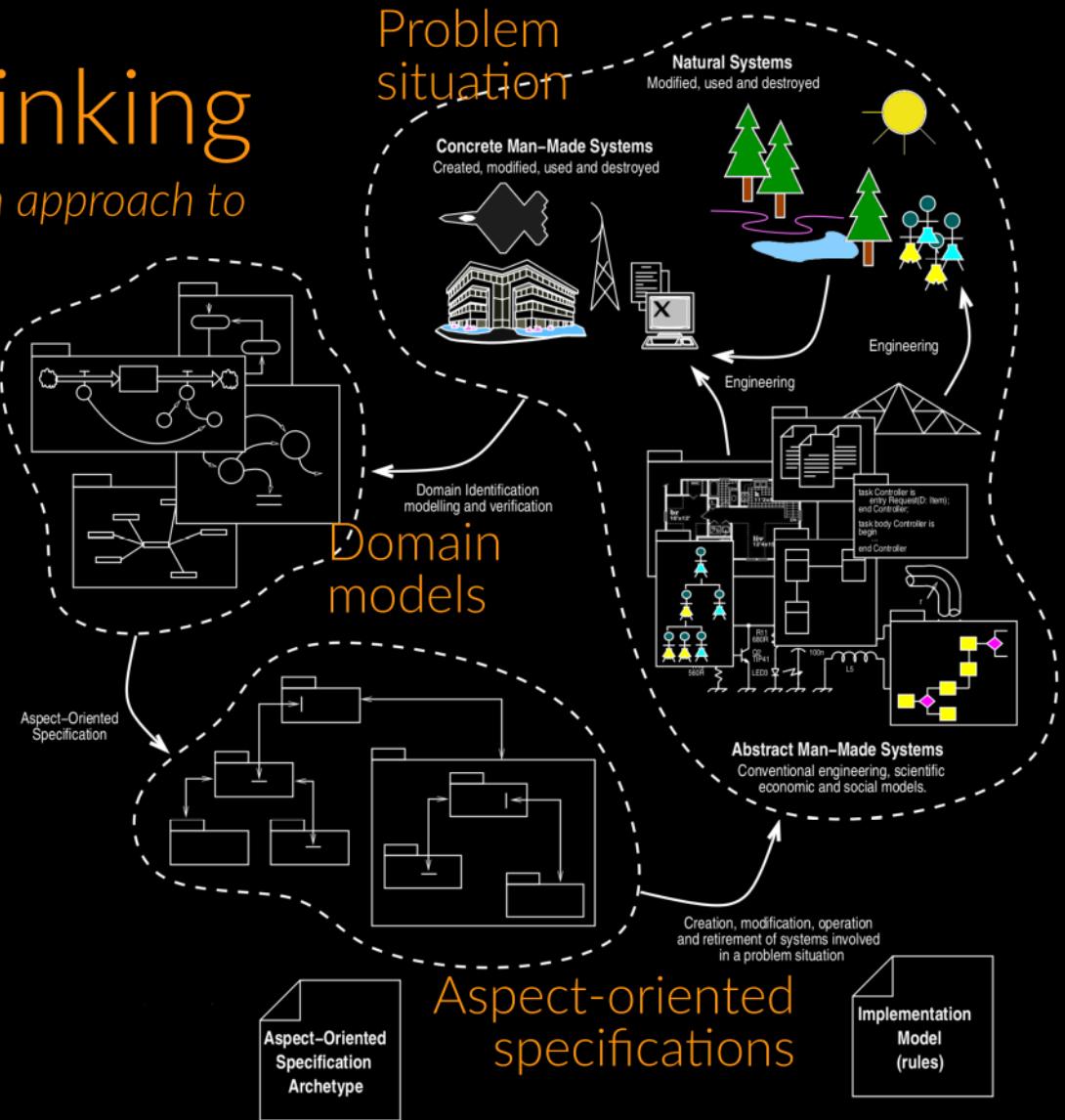
- a set of approaches that can be used to learn about / make decisions on *dynamically complex systems*
- focuses on *the whole* and the *interactions* among the *parts* of a system
- this way we can understand *emergent properties* of an entire system

sorry... do you call *this* a method?

# Aspect-oriented thinking

Flint SR, 2006. Aspect-Oriented Thinking - An approach to bridging the disciplinary divides. PhD, ANU.

- independently model *aspects* of a system describing a problem
  - e.g. any ecosystem complies to physics and biology
- use rules for combining these aspects into a new system
  - e.g. an *ecophysiology* x *population* model of **my favourite ecosystem**
- that is used to improve the problem situation
  - e.g. test if **my favourite ecosystem** is stable or resilient



# Aspect-oriented thinking

Flit SR, 2006. Aspect-Oriented Thinking - An approach to bridging the disciplinary divides. PhD ANU.

## 1. We will not build the ultimate synthesis of all ecological knowledge rather,

- independently model aspects of a system describing a problem  
e.g. any ecosystem complies to physics and biology

## 2. We provide a method to specify an ecological model addressing any particular problem

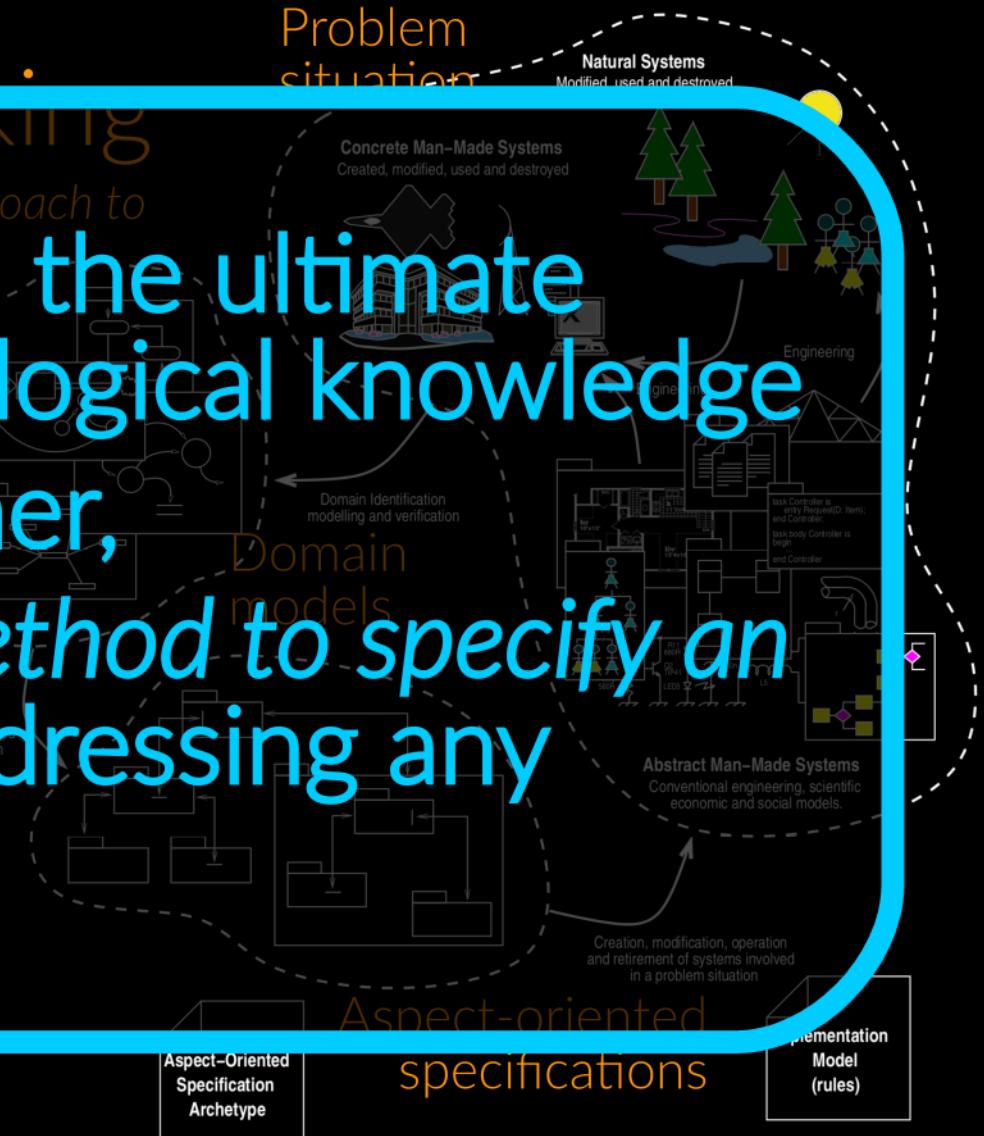
- that is used to improve the problem situation

e.g. test if **my favourite ecosystem** is stable or resilient

Aspect-Oriented Specification Archetype

Aspect-oriented specifications

Implementation Model (rules)





### III. The solution to the incompatibility of methods

# Make them compatible!

Use good concepts that can be shared

e.g. the system, the ecosystem, etc...

... easy !  
(with a steam hammer?)



1. Ecosystems are commonly considered as *complex systems*
2. Complex systems are assumed to display *emergent properties*

But what is an...

emergent  
property?

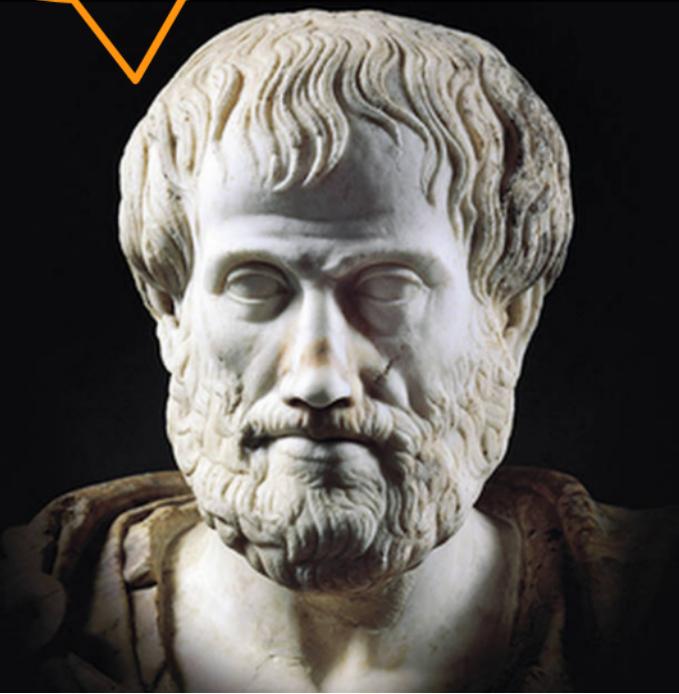


What does that mean?  
(does it hurt?)

Not much:

The whole is  
more than the  
sum of its parts

Αριστοτέλης (-335)



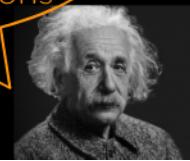
Not much:

The whole is  
more than the  
sum of its parts

Αριστοτέλης (-335)



Einstein (1915): 'the  
mass of an atom is *smaller*  
than the sum of the  
masses of its nucleons'



Thank you, old chap, but this is not very helpful.  
Modern specialists have much better definitions:

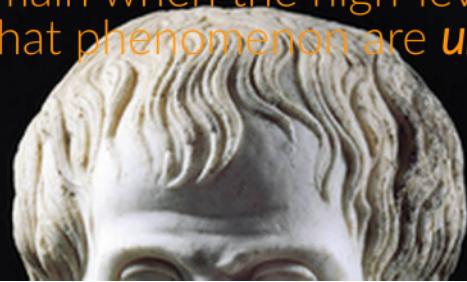
**Bedau 1997**: Macrostate P of S with microdynamic D is weakly emergent iff P can be derived from D and S's external conditions but **only by simulation**.

**Ryan 2007**: A property is weakly emergent iff it is present in a macrostate but it is not apparent in the microstate, and this macrostate differs from the microstate only in resolution. A weak emergent property is **a limitation of the observer**, not a property of the system.

**Müller 2003**: A phenomenon is emergent iff we have (1) a system of entities in interaction whose expression of the states and dynamics is made in an ontology or theory *D* ; (2) the production of a phenomenon [...] which is necessarily **global** regarding the system of entities ; (3) the interpretation of this global phenomenon **by an observer** [...] in another ontology or theory *D'* ; (4) *D'* is **irreducible** to *D*.

**Chalmers 2006**: We can say that a high-level phenomenon is weakly emergent with respect to a low-level domain when the high-level phenomenon arises from the low-level domain, but truths concerning that phenomenon are **unexpected** given the principles governing the low-level domain.

...



[gurgling]

1. Ecosystems are commonly considered as *complex systems*
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3. There are dozens of definitions of emergence (*Chérel G. 2013, PhD*)

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1. Ecosystems are commonly considered as *complex systems*
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3. There are dozens of definitions of emergence (Chérel G. 2013, PhD)
4. This because they do not clearly define the system
5. All emergence definitions imply a system with a *microscopic* and a *macroscopic* level of description
6. With a formal definition of the system, we may be able to clearly define emergence.

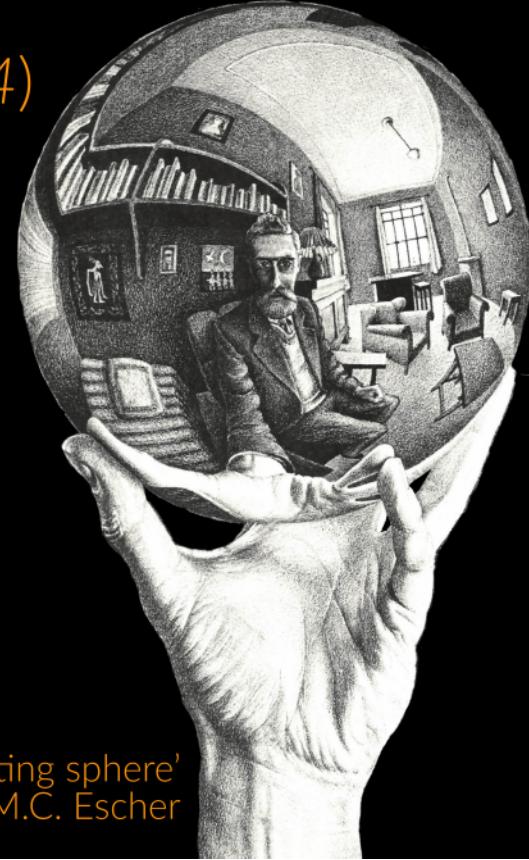
# The hierarchical system

A **system** is

- a part of the world under consideration (Carnot 1824)
- composed of identifiable entities *and their relationships* (Jordan 1981)

Let's call **Hierarchical System** a  
system ('macro'-scale)

made of  
*inter-related parts* ('micro'-scale)



A hierarchical system is best represented by a mathematical graph

A hierarchical system  $S$  is defined as the graph:

$$S := (C, R, \gamma)$$

where  $C$  is the set of components (nodes) of the system:

$$C := \{c_u\} \quad u \leq n_c < \infty, c_u \in W$$

$R$  is the set of relations (edges) between components of the system:

$$R := \{r_v\} \quad v \leq n_r < \infty, r_v \in W^2$$

and  $\gamma$  is the incidence function, which assigns a relation to a pair of components:

$$\begin{aligned} \gamma : R &\rightarrow C \times C \\ r_v &\rightarrow (c_i, c_j) \quad i \leq n_c, j \leq n_c \end{aligned}$$

$n_c$  is the number of components and  $n_r$  the number of relations of the system;  $W^2$  is the set of applications from  $W$  to  $W$ .

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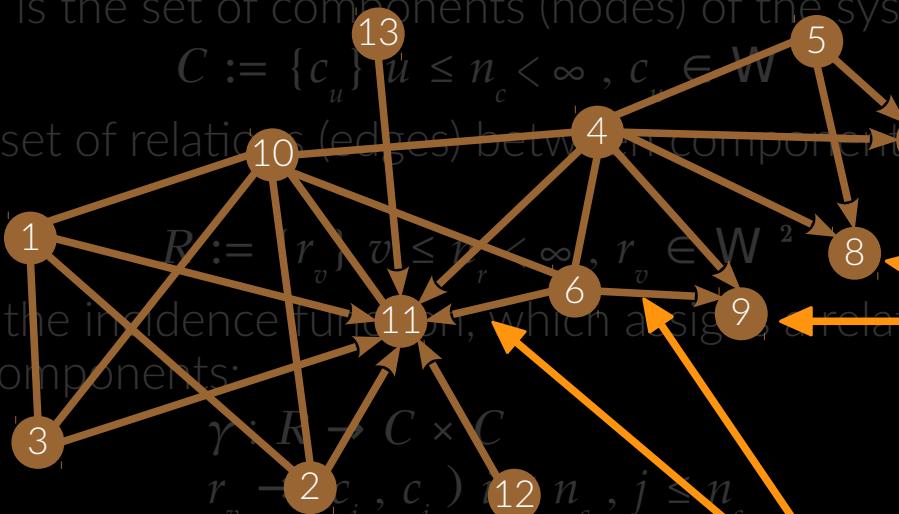
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$$\gamma: R \rightarrow C \times C$$

$$r_v = (c_i, c_j) \cup \{n_c, j \leq n_c\}$$

the  
system



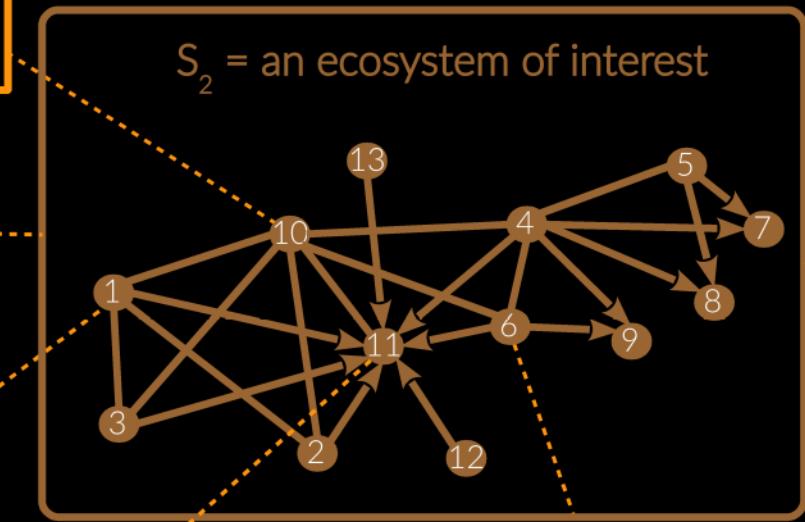
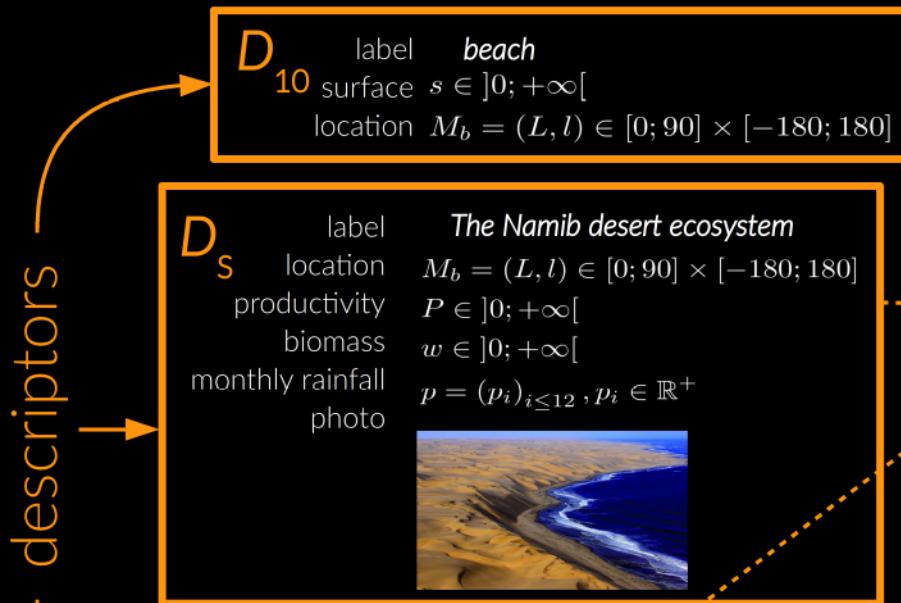
the  
components

$n_c$  is the number of components and  $n_r$  the number of relations of the system;  $W^2$  is the set of applications from  $W$  to  $W$ .

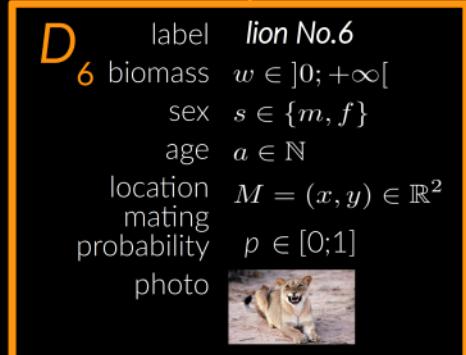
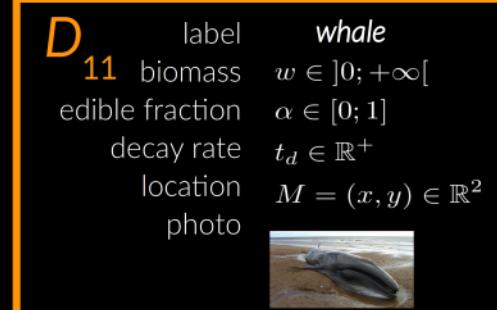
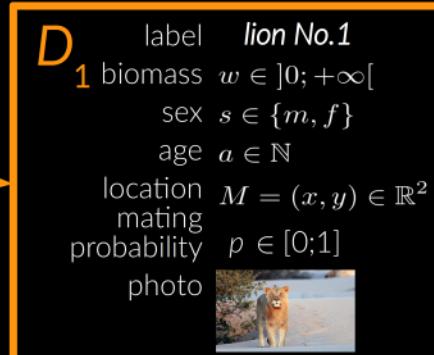
the  
interactions

A hierarchical system is best represented by a mathematical graph

state =

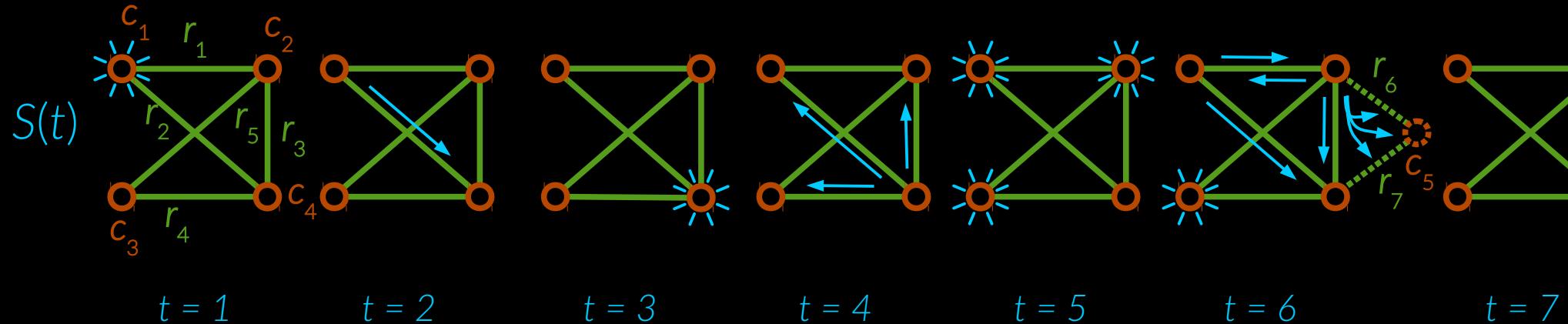


structure  
= graph



# A dynamic graph

Harary & Gupta 1997. Dynamic graph models, Math. Comp. Model. 7:79-87



Changes propagate locally  
State changes may be continuous  
Structural changes are always discrete  
Causality may be analysed

# A dynamic graph

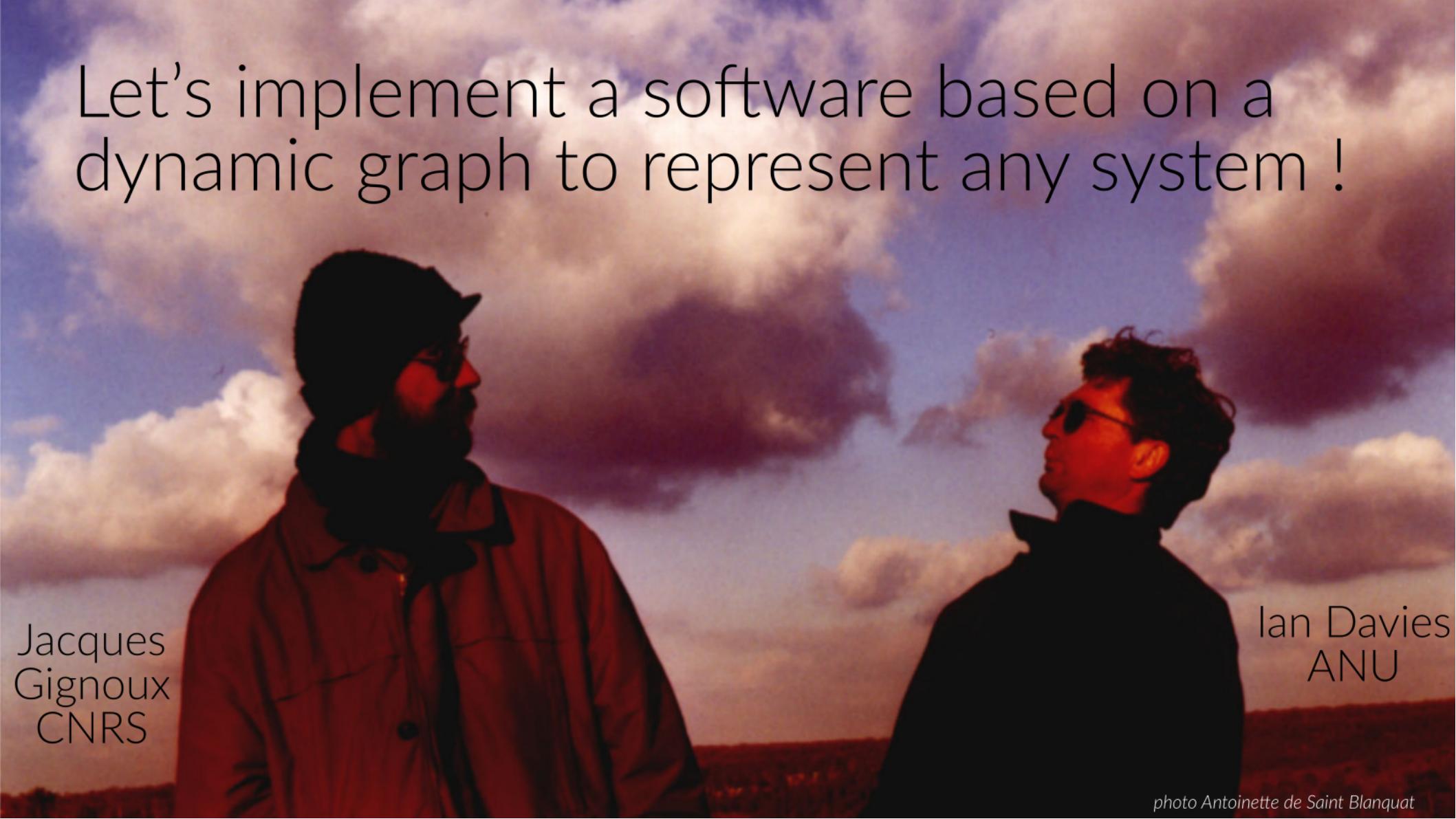
Harary & Gupta 1997. Dynamic graph models, Math. Comp. Model. 7:79-87



Changes propagate locally  
State changes may be continuous

Structural changes are always discrete  
Causality may be analysed

# Let's implement a software based on a dynamic graph to represent any system !



Jacques  
Gignoux  
CNRS

Ian Davies  
ANU

# Let's implement a software based on a dynamic graph to represent any system !



Gotlib, M. (1971)  
Incorrígibles rêveurs,  
Rubrique à brac, 2:26-27

FYC, automatic translation:  
*'Then my dear, you are in the middle of science fiction!'*

My translation:  
*'Sorry my dear, this is pure science-fiction!'*

Or, more direct:  
*'Bullshit!'*

# Let's implement a software based on a dynamic graph to represent any system !



Gotlib, M. (1971)  
*Incorrígibles rêveurs*,  
Rubrique à brac, 2:26-27

Fundings:

PHC 2003-2004  
CNRS LIA 2003-2006  
ANR 2007-2011  
CNRS 2008-2009

Nananèreuh...

# IV. The 3Worlds simulation platform

'Three worlds'  
lithograph by  
M.C. Escher  
1955



# Aims of 3Worlds

To provide ecological modellers with a simulation tool able to :

1. Deal equally well with physics and biology
2. Handle multiple spatial and temporal scales
3. Play with the level of detail in system description
4. Enable modelling of any ecological problem one can think of
5. Provide quick feedback while building a model
6. Smoothly scale up to large scale simulation experiments
7. Facilitate model intercomparison

...all this without reinventing the wheel too many times, if possible

# Aspect-oriented approach

The system to model: the Ecosystem

A selection of aspects: the ecosystem as...

...a hierarchical system

...a set of taxonomic (=classifiable) entities

...a dynamic system at all sorts of time scales

...a (possibly spatially) organised system

...an abstract representation at different levels of detail

...an easy-to-use functional concept

...a scientific object (that can be experimented on)

a *specification archetype*

+

code to interpret it

The built system: a **software** that can be further specialised for particular problems

# Aspect 1: a hierarchical system

The modelled system is a *dynamic graph* =  
{ components, relations }

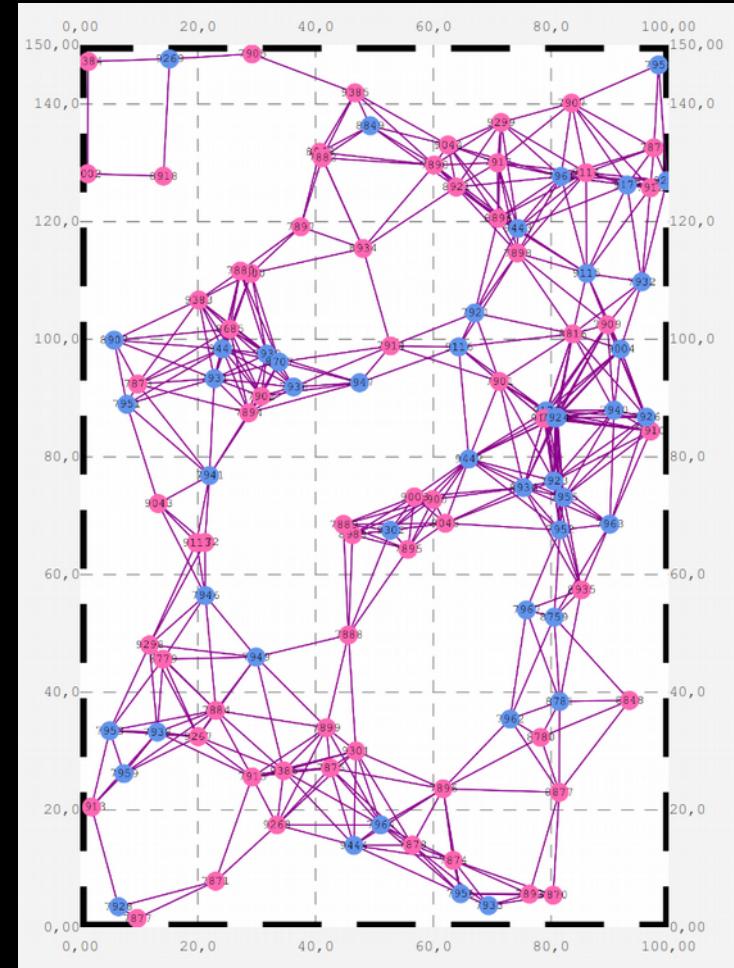
a generalisation for  
**individual-based models** (IBMs)

Grimm V. & Railsback S. 2005. *Individual-based modelling and ecology*. Princeton U.P.

**multi-agent systems** (MASs)

Bousquet F. & Le Page C. 2004. *Multi-agent simulations and ecosystem management: a review*. *Ecol. Model.* 176:313-332.

...but with **explicit** relations



3Worlds screen capture

# Aspect 2: classification

Categories to group components ‘that look like each other’

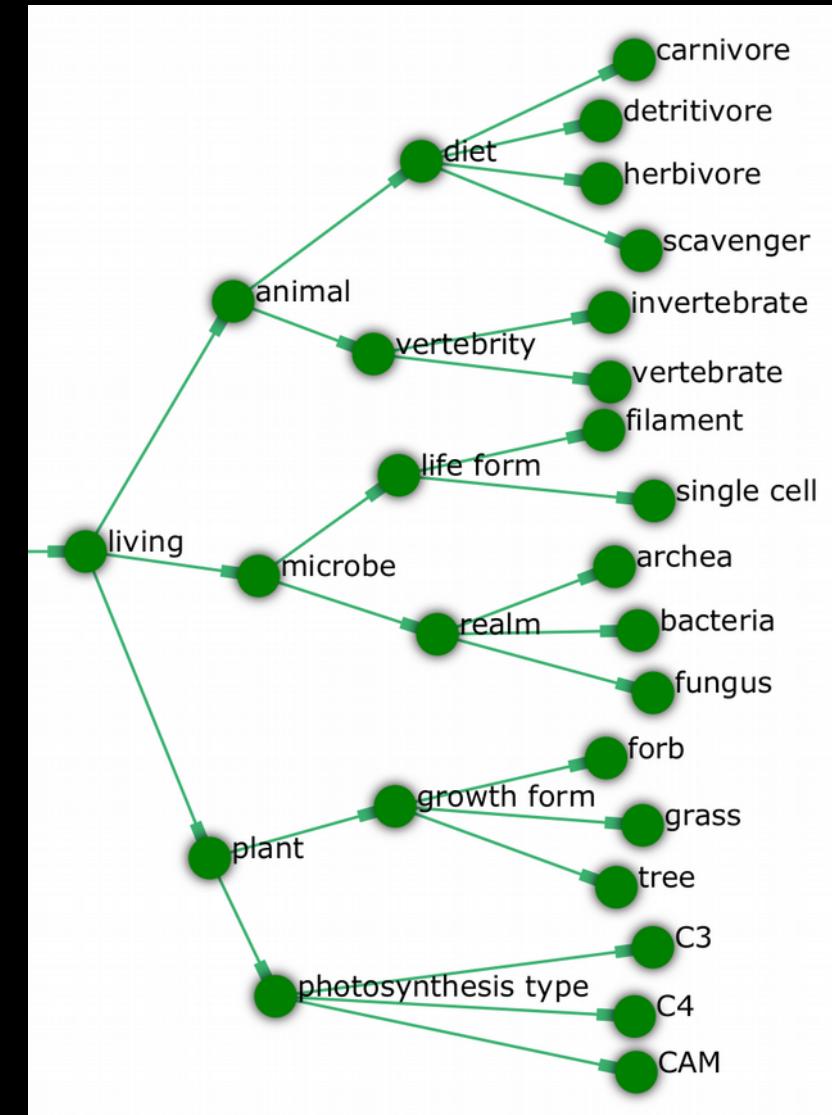
Members of a category:

- have the same descriptors
- are affected by the same processes

cf. the *class* concept in UML and OOP

<http://uml.org/what-is-uml.htm>

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Object-oriented\\_programming](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Object-oriented_programming)



# Aspect 3: a dynamic system

Every possible *local* change in the graph state or structure is modelled by a specific function that can be modified to suit user needs:

- → ☀ **changeState & setInitialState**: changes the descriptor values of a component
- → ⚡ **deleteDecision**: a component decides to delete itself
- → ○ **createOther**: a component creates other components
- → ○ **changeCategoryDecision**: a component becomes member of other categories

# Aspect 3: a dynamic system

Every possible *local* change in the graph state or structure is modelled by a specific function that can be modified to suit user needs:

- ○ → ○ — ○ **relateTo**: component establishes a relation to another component
- — ○ → ○ ⚡ ○ **maintainRelationDecision**: a component decides to keep/delete a relation
- — ○ → ○ — ○ **changeOtherState & setOtherInitialState**: a component changes the descriptor values of another component to which it is related
- — ○ → ○ ⚡ ○ — ○ **changeRelationState**: components at both ends of a relation change their descriptor values

# Aspect 3: a dynamic system

Multiple *time models*

Simultaneous events as the rule  
(contrary to MASS)

**MONO\_UNIT**

single time unit, calendar-compatible (default value)

**GREGORIAN**

real calendar time

**YEAR\_365D**

365-day years, no weeks, no months

**YEAR\_13M**

28-day months, 13-month/52-week years

**WMY**

28-day months, 12-month/48-week years

**MONTH\_30D**

30-day months, weeks replaced by 15-day fortnights

**YEAR\_366D**

366-day year, months replaced by 61-day bi-months

**LONG\_TIMES**

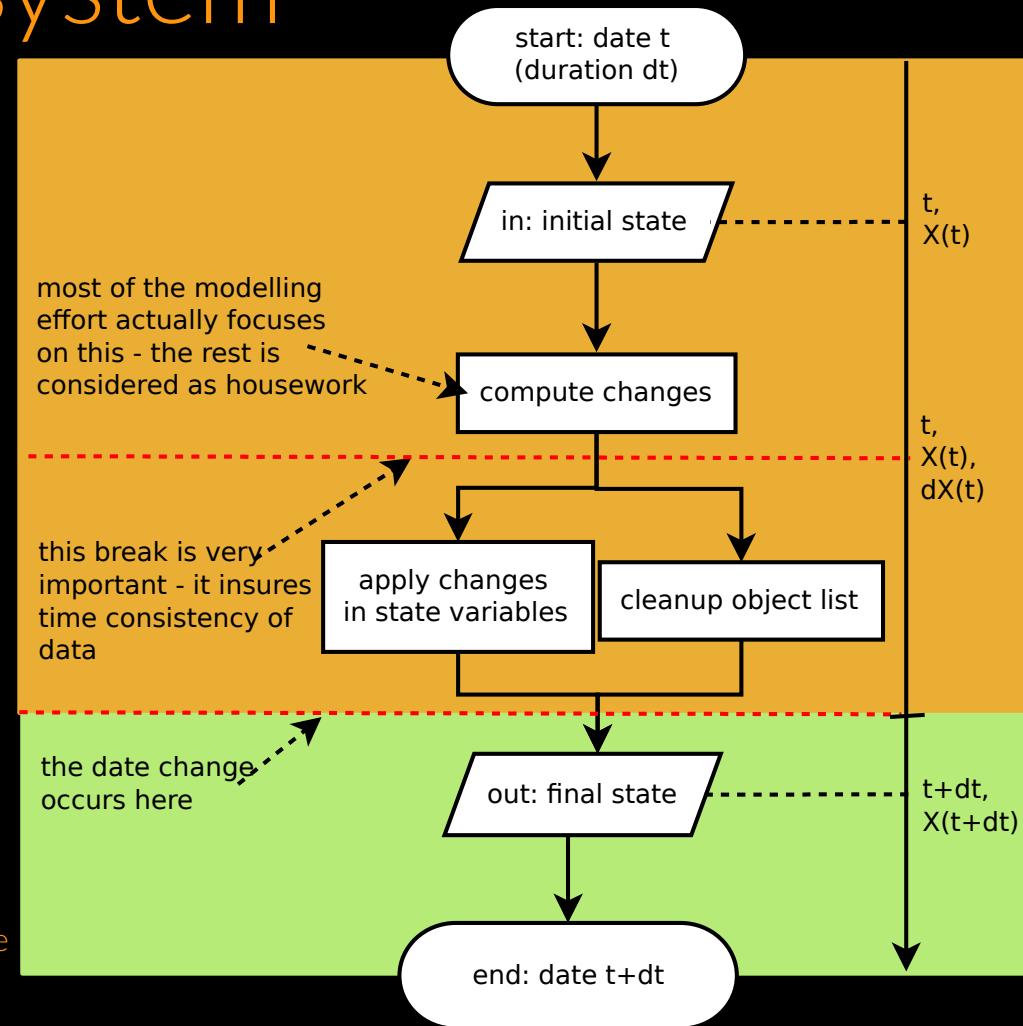
long time units only (month or longer), calendar-compatible

**SHORT\_TIMES**

short time units only (week or shorter), calendar-compatible

**ARBITRARY**

arbitrary time units with no predefined name



# Aspect 4: a (spatially) organised system

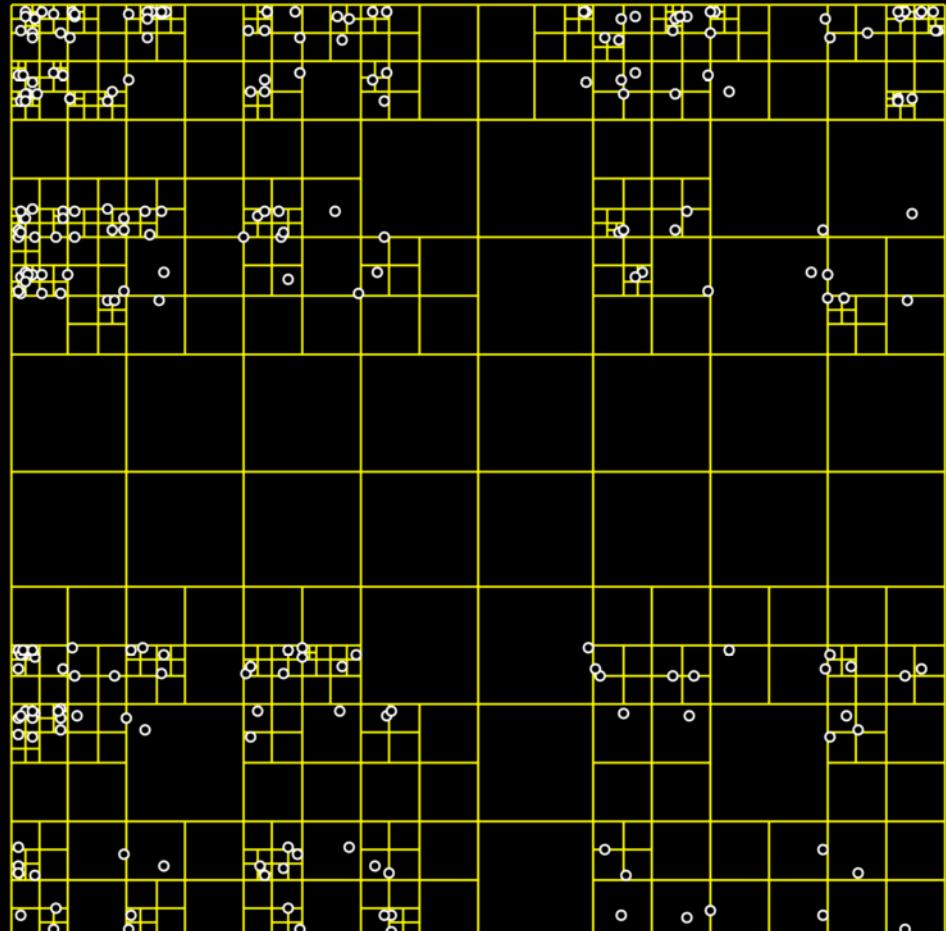
Space optional

Uses Kd-trees to optimize searches  
for establishing relations

Samet H. 1984. *The Quadtree and Related  
Hierarchical Data Structures*. Computing Surveys  
16:187-260

6 different types of edge-effect  
correction

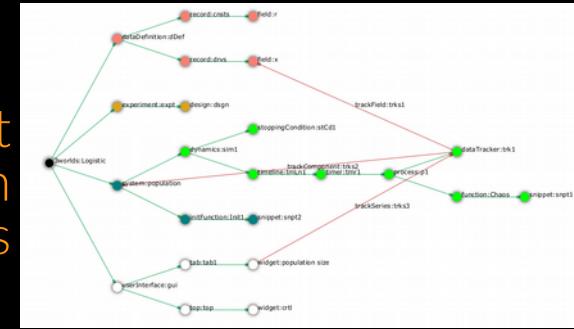
2 different types of space  
[many more to come!]



# Aspect 5: a representation of a system

the smallest  
configuration  
graph in 3Worlds

a bigger one

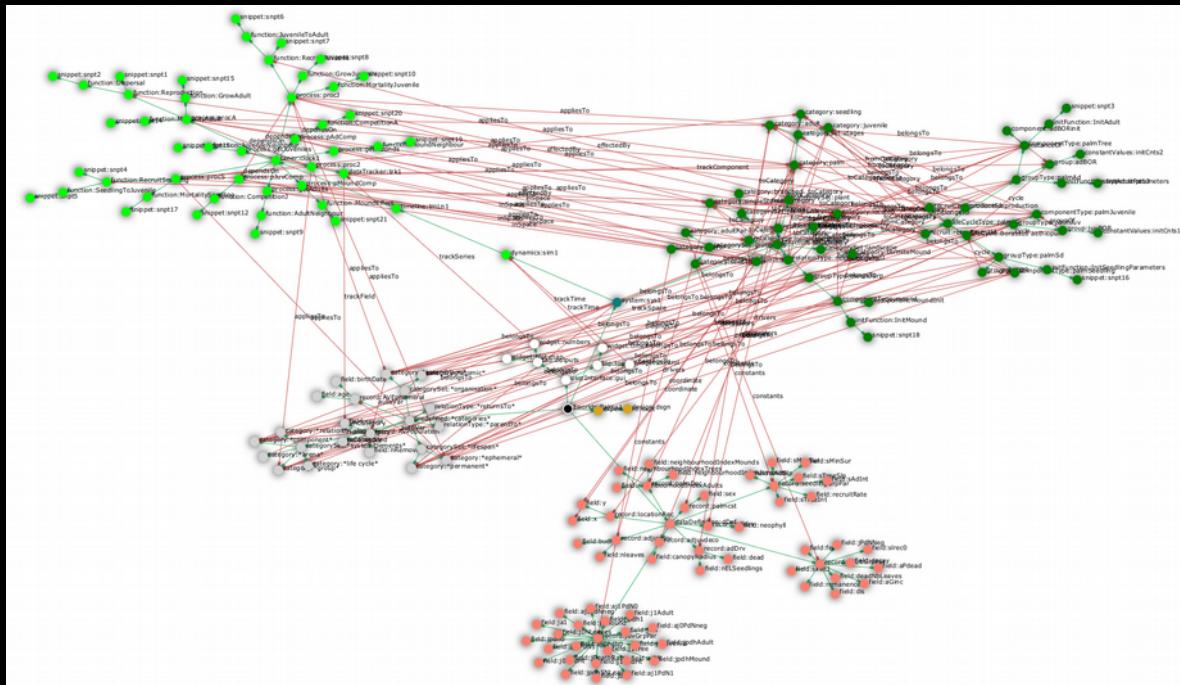


# Configuration

- is a *graph* (static but editable)
  - is checked against an archetype

Flint S.R. 2006. Aspect-Oriented Thinking - An approach to bridging the disciplinary divides. PhD, Australian National University

- 's can be compared

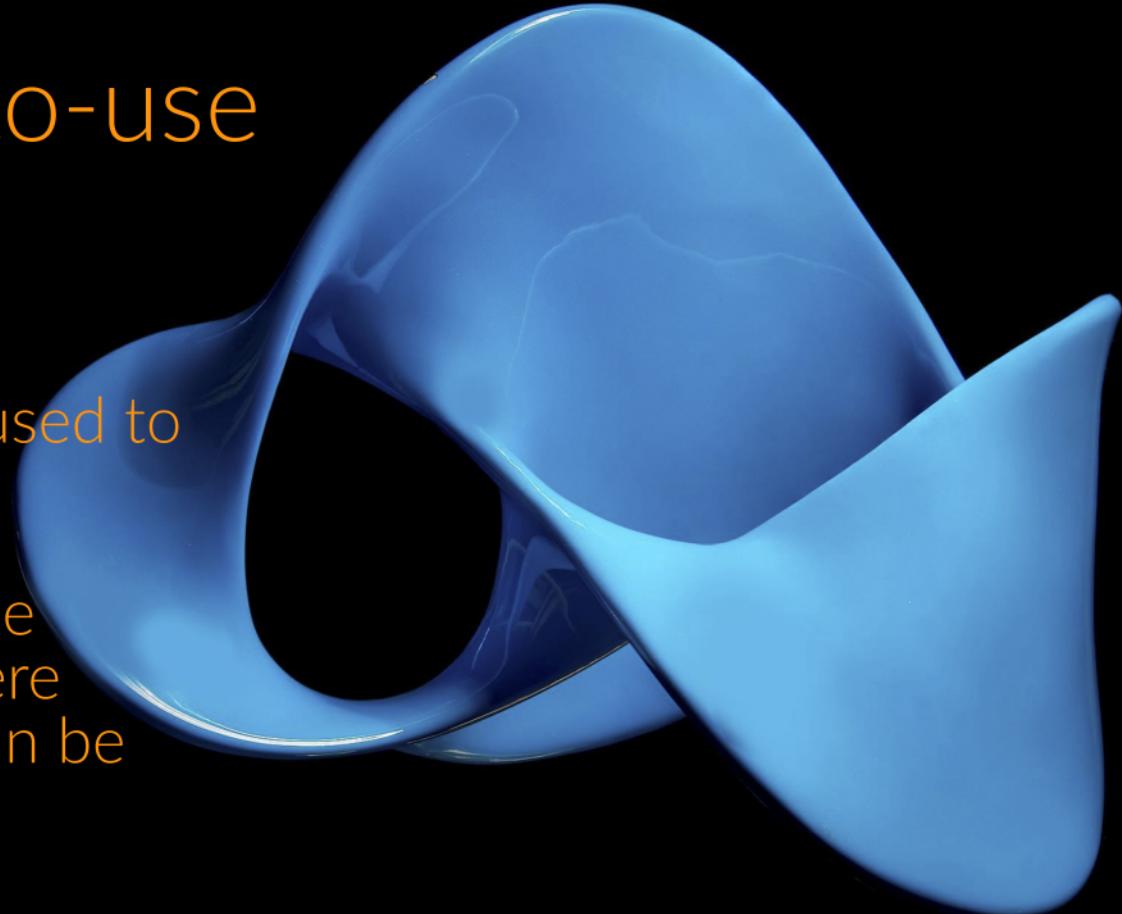


# Aspect 6: an easy-to-use functional concept

Flexibility: any function can be used to represent an ecological process

For each 3Worlds model, a single 'user-code' file is generated where code for ecological processes can be edited

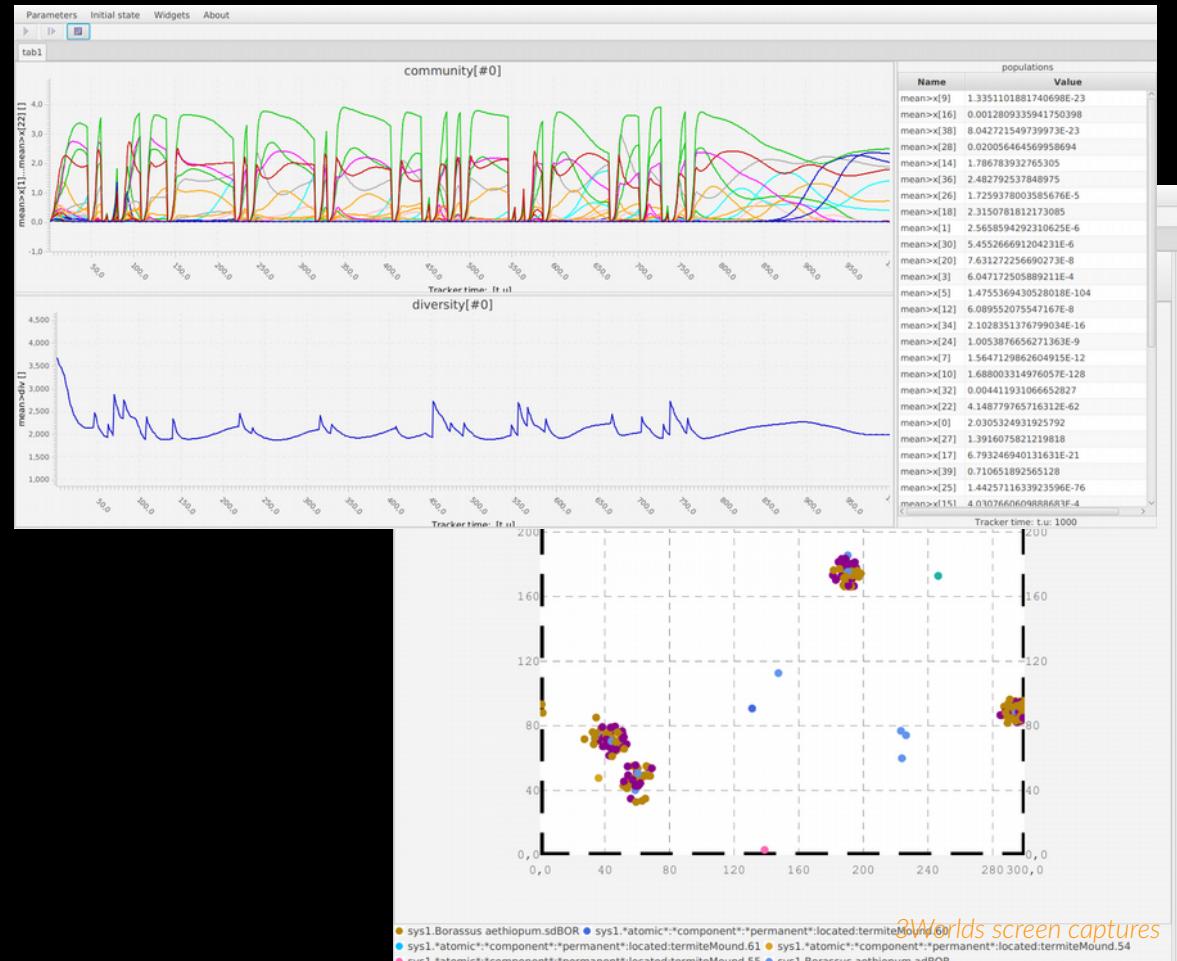
A complex IBM can be setup in one week of work.



this magnificent illustration of a 'figure eight knot' symbolizes the perfection and elegance of the 3Worlds software solutions.  
Of course it has nothing to do here

# Aspect 7: a scientific object

Use case 1 :  
developing model  
quick feedback on outputs



# Aspect 7: a scientific object

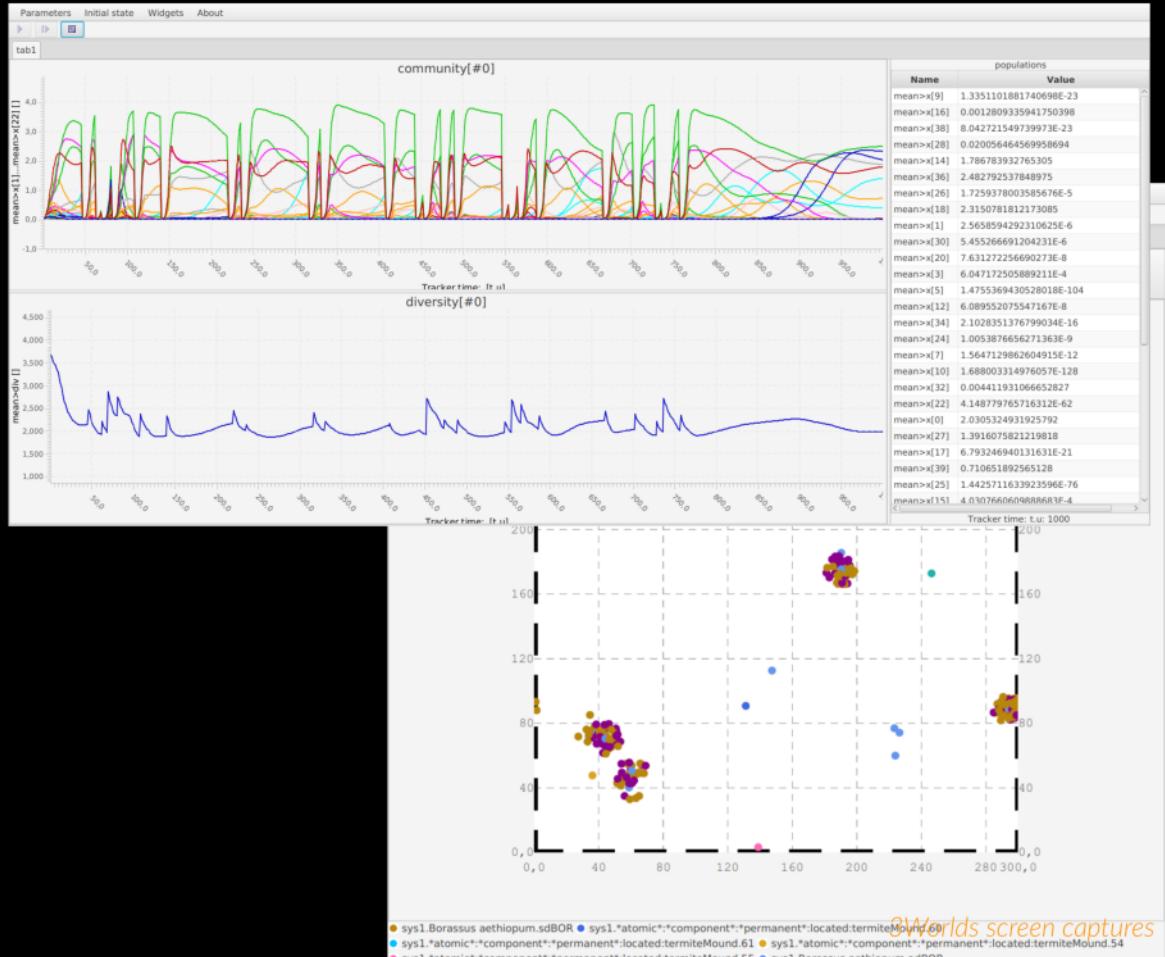
Use case 1 :  
**developing model**  
quick feedback on outputs

Use case 2 :  
**simulation experiment**  
parallel computing

[coming soon :  
OpenMole integration  
<https://openmole.org/>]



**OpenMOLE**  
the model exploration software



©Worlds screen captures

# Aspect 7: a scientific object

```
edge factory = java.lang.String(au.edu.anu.twcore.root.TwConfigFactory)
node factory = java.lang.String(au.edu.anu.twcore.root.TwConfigFactory)
// TREE
3worlds Palms
authors = au.edu.anu.rscs.aot.collections.tables.StringTable(([1] ""))
PUBLISHER = java.lang.String("Gignoux (21 déc. 2020)")
contacts = au.edu.anu.rscs.aot.collections.tables.StringTable(([1] ""))
precis = java.lang.String()
publication = au.edu.anu.rscs.aot.collections.tables.StringTable(([1] ""))
version = java.lang.String()
predefined *categories*
    categorySet *organisation*
        category *assemblage*
        category *atomic*
record AVEphemeral
    field birthDate
        interval = fr.ens.biologie.generic.utils.Interval()[-∞,+∞[)
        precision = java.lang.Double(0.0)
        type = fr.cnrs.iees.twcore.constants.DataElementType(Double)
        units = java.lang.String()
    field age
        interval = fr.ens.biologie.generic.utils.Interval([0.0,+∞[)
        precision = java.lang.Double(0.0)
        type = fr.cnrs.iees.twcore.constants.DataElementType(Double)
        units = java.lang.String()
record AVPopulation
    field count
        range = au.edu.anu.rscs.aot.util.IntegerRange(0..*)
        type = fr.cnrs.iees.twcore.constants.DataElementType(Integer)
        units = java.lang.String(#)
    field nRemoved-
```

## Provenance made easy:

2 files fully describe a model (possibly more if input data): the configuration graph and the user java code

# Aspect 7: a scientific object

```

edge factory = java.lang.String(au.edu.anu.twcore.root.TwConfigFactory)
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        range = au.edu.anu.rscs.aot.util.IntegerRange(0...*)
        .it doesn't yet write the article, though.
        type = fr.cnrs.iees.twcore.constants.DataElementType
        units = java.lang.String(#)
field nRemoved-

```

## Provenance made easy:

2 files fully describe a model (possibly more if input data): the configuration graph and the user java code

**ODD** (Overview, Design, Details): a standard for model description

Grimm et al. 2006. *Ecol. Model.* 198:115–126.

Grimm et al. 2010. *Ecol. Model.* 221:2760–2768.

3Worlds automatically generates an ODD skeleton for any model as an OpenOffice file

### Overview

1. Purpose
2. Entities, state variables, and scales
3. Process overview and scheduling

### Design concepts

4. Design concepts
  - Basic principles
  - Emergence
  - Adaptation
  - Objectives
  - Learning
  - Prediction
  - Sensing
  - Interaction
  - Stochasticity
  - Collectives
  - Observation

### Details

5. Initialization
6. Input data
7. Submodels

.it doesn't yet write the article, though.

# In practice so far...

**java** language for portability

~125,000 lines of code (GCMs 50-750,000)

2 applications:

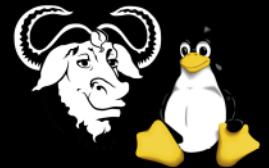
**ModelMaker** to edit configurations

**ModelRunner** to launch a simulation experiment  
a **java IDE\***, e.g. **eclipse** to write function details

runs on Linux, Mac, Windows

currently 15+ models [many more to come]

[optimisation to come]



We couldnt reproduce  
the Windows and  
MacOS logos because  
they are not free

\* integrated development  
environment. A 'user friendly'  
software to write code

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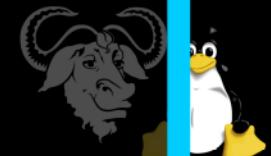
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\* integrated development  
environment. A 'user friendly'  
software to write code

## V. Some applications

'The garden of earthly delights'  
triptych (closed) by  
H. Bosch, 1503





The starling (*Sturnus vulgaris*).  
Flies.  
Loves being in a (huge) group.  
Is very noisy and shits while perching.

# A flock of starlings



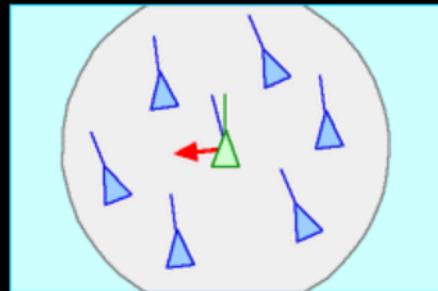
Fish also do it  
(so one need not be very smart)



And it's very easy to model with only 3 rules:

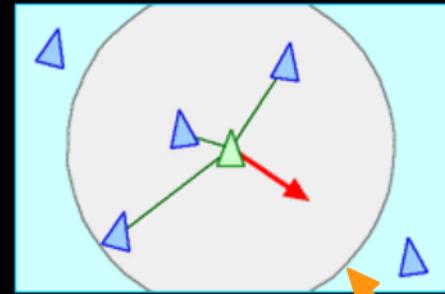
1

**separation:** avoid flockmates (close neighbours)



2

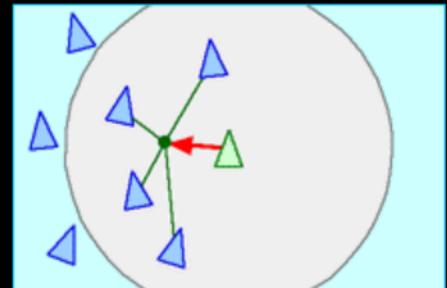
**alignment:** follow average heading of flockmates



visual field

3

**cohesion:** move towards barycentre of local flockmate group



Reynolds, 1987. Computer Graphics 21:25-34

figures from <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Boids>

Configuration:	
size	153
drivers	5
constants	3
decorators	8
component types	1

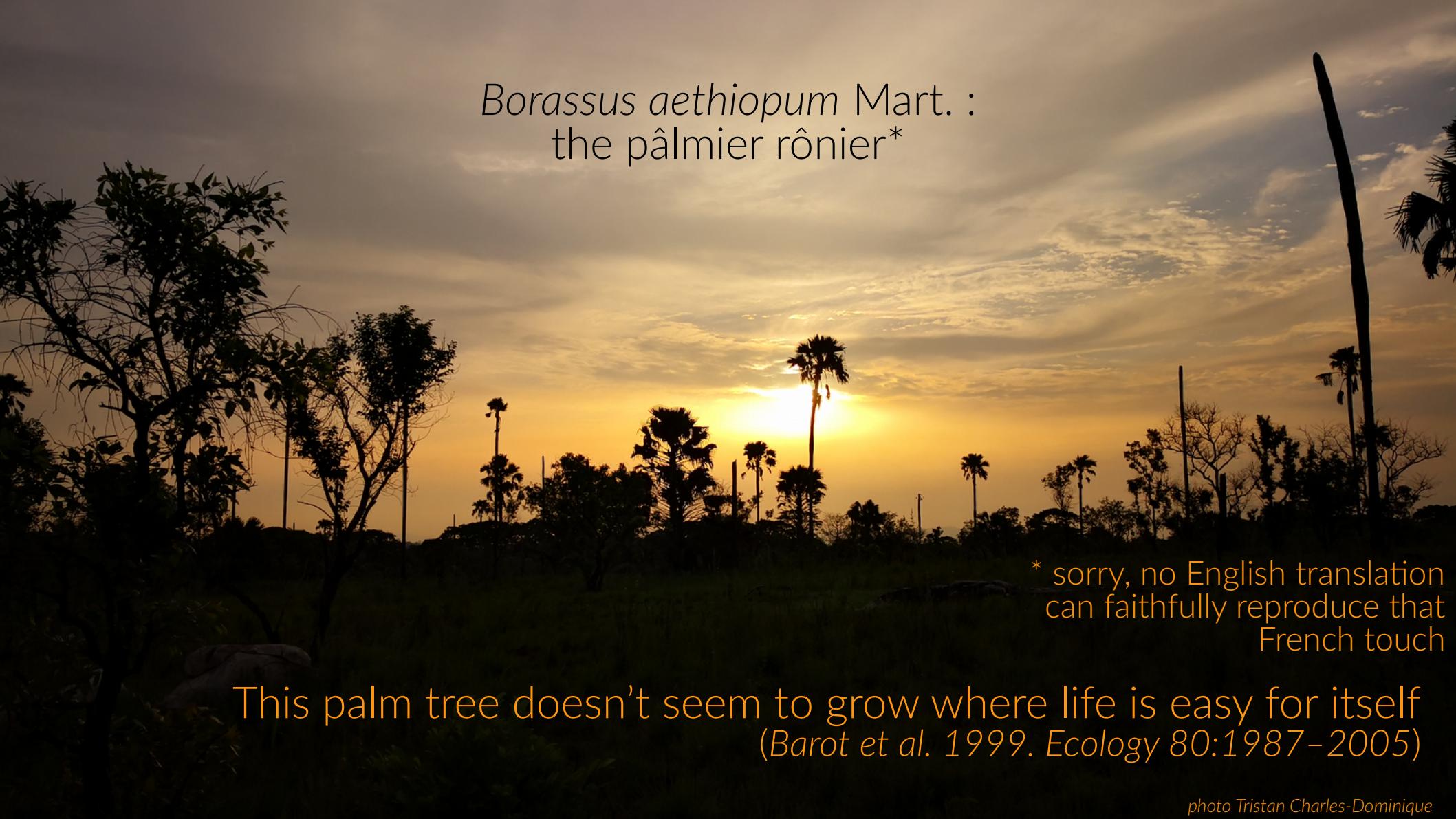
User code: 97 lines

```

move(...)
double x = xx;
double y = yy;
double incR = 0.0;
double incT = 0.0;
// default movement based on inertia, ie in the same direction as before + some random tilt
incR = speed;
incT = (random.nextDouble()*PI/4 - PI/8)/speed;
double radHeading = heading*PI/180+incT;
double moveX = incR*cos(radHeading);
double moveY = incR*sin(radHeading);
// if there are visible birds, add corrections:
if (nLocal>0){
    // rule 1: cohesion - flying towards the barycentre of the local group
    // move 1% towards the centre
    moveX += (avgX/nLocal-x)/100;
    moveY += (avgY/nLocal-y)/100;
    // rule 2: separation - avoid collision with other boids
    moveX += focalDec.avoidX/nLocal;
    moveY += focalDec.avoidY/nLocal;
    // rule 3: match movement to others
    moveX += (avgdX/nLocal-dX)/8;
    moveY += (avgdY/nLocal-dY)/8;
}
focalDrv.xx = x+moveX;
focalDrv.yy = y+moveY;
focalDrv.dX = moveX;
focalDrv.dY = moveY;
focalDrv.heading = acos(moveX/euclidianDistance(0.0,0.0,moveX,moveY))*180/PI;
if (moveY<0.0)
    focalDrv.heading = 360-focalDrv.heading;

prepareMove(...)
focalDec.avgHeading += other_heading;
focalDec.avgX += other_xx;
focalDec.avgY += other_yy;
focalDec.avgdX += other_dX;
focalDec.avgdY += other_dY;
focalDec.nLocal++;
// rule 2: avoid collisions
if (squaredEuclidianDistance(xx,yy,other_xx,other_yy)<safetyRange*safetyRange) {
    focalDec.avoidX -= (other_xx-xx);
    focalDec.avoidY -= (other_yy-yy);
}
focalDrv.xx = xx;
focalDrv.yy = yy;
otherDrv.xx = other_xx;
otherDrv.yy = other_yy;

```

A photograph showing the silhouettes of various trees, including palm trees, against a vibrant sunset or sunrise sky. The sky is filled with warm orange, yellow, and blue hues, with scattered clouds. The foreground is dark, making the tree silhouettes stand out.

# *Borassus aethiopum* Mart. : the pâlmier rônier\*

\* sorry, no English translation  
can faithfully reproduce that  
French touch

This palm tree doesn't seem to grow where life is easy for itself  
(Barot et al. 1999. Ecology 80:1987–2005)

# A data-supported model

3 stages : seedling, juvenile, adult (categories)  
adults reduce seedling and juvenile survival  
termite mounds increase growth  
reproduction starts at adult stage  
seed dispersal is very short ranged  
spatial pattern gets less aggregated with palm age

Barot & Gignoux 1999, *Biotropica*  
Barot et al. 1999, *Oikos*  
Barot & Gignoux 2003, *JVS*  
Barot & Gignoux 1999, *Biotropica*  
Barot et al. 1999, *Oikos*  
Barot et al. 1999, *Ecology*

## Hypotheses

1. *B. aethiopum* is lacking former dispersers (elephants and baboons) and its spatial pattern will change
2. Without termite mounds there will be no more palm trees in Lamto



photo Jacques Gignoux

# Hypotheses

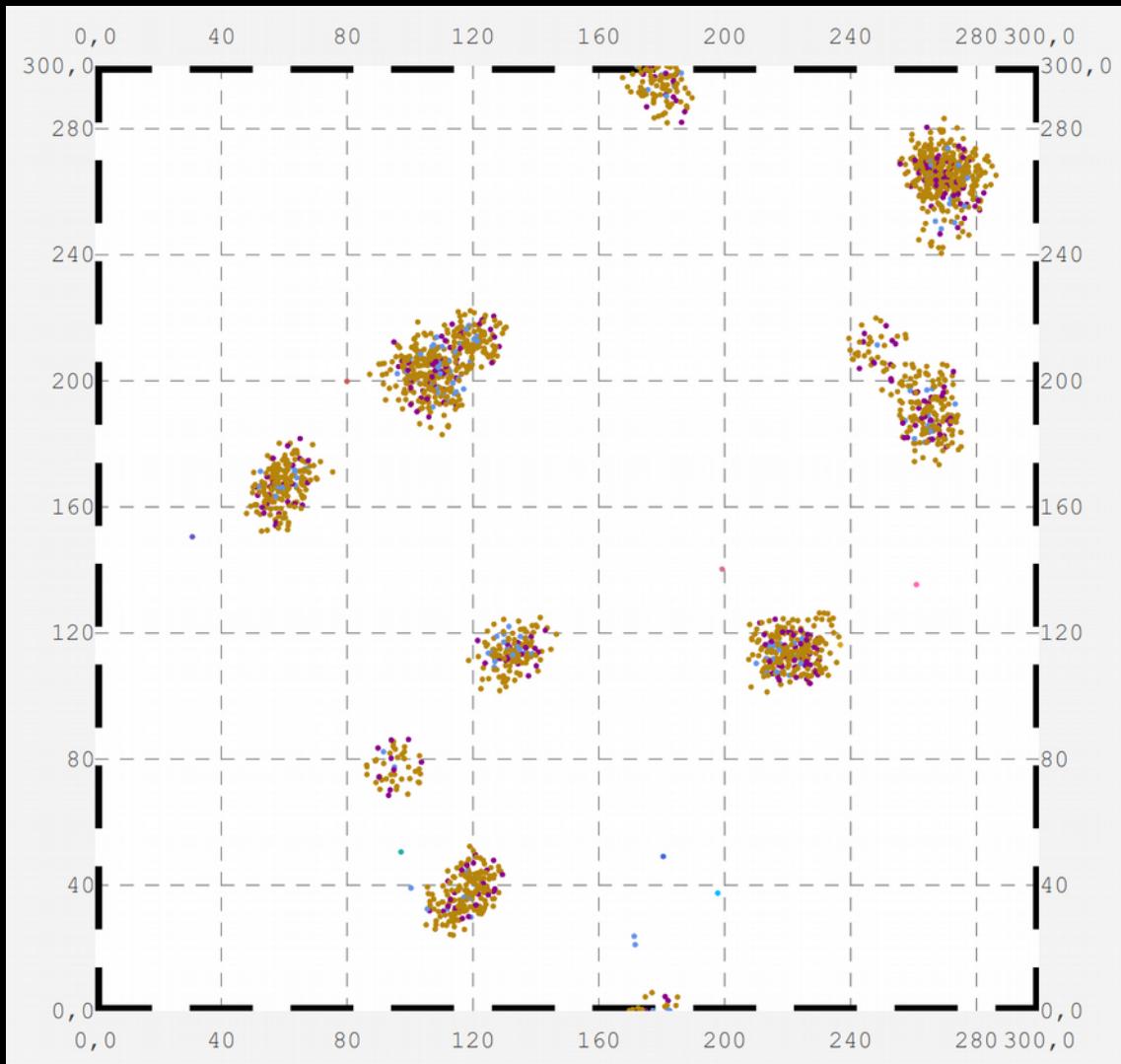
1. *B. aethiopum* is lacking former dispersers (elephants and baboons) and its spatial pattern will change

...

seedling and juveniles are still clumped around adults,

but

adults are much more clumped than in reality

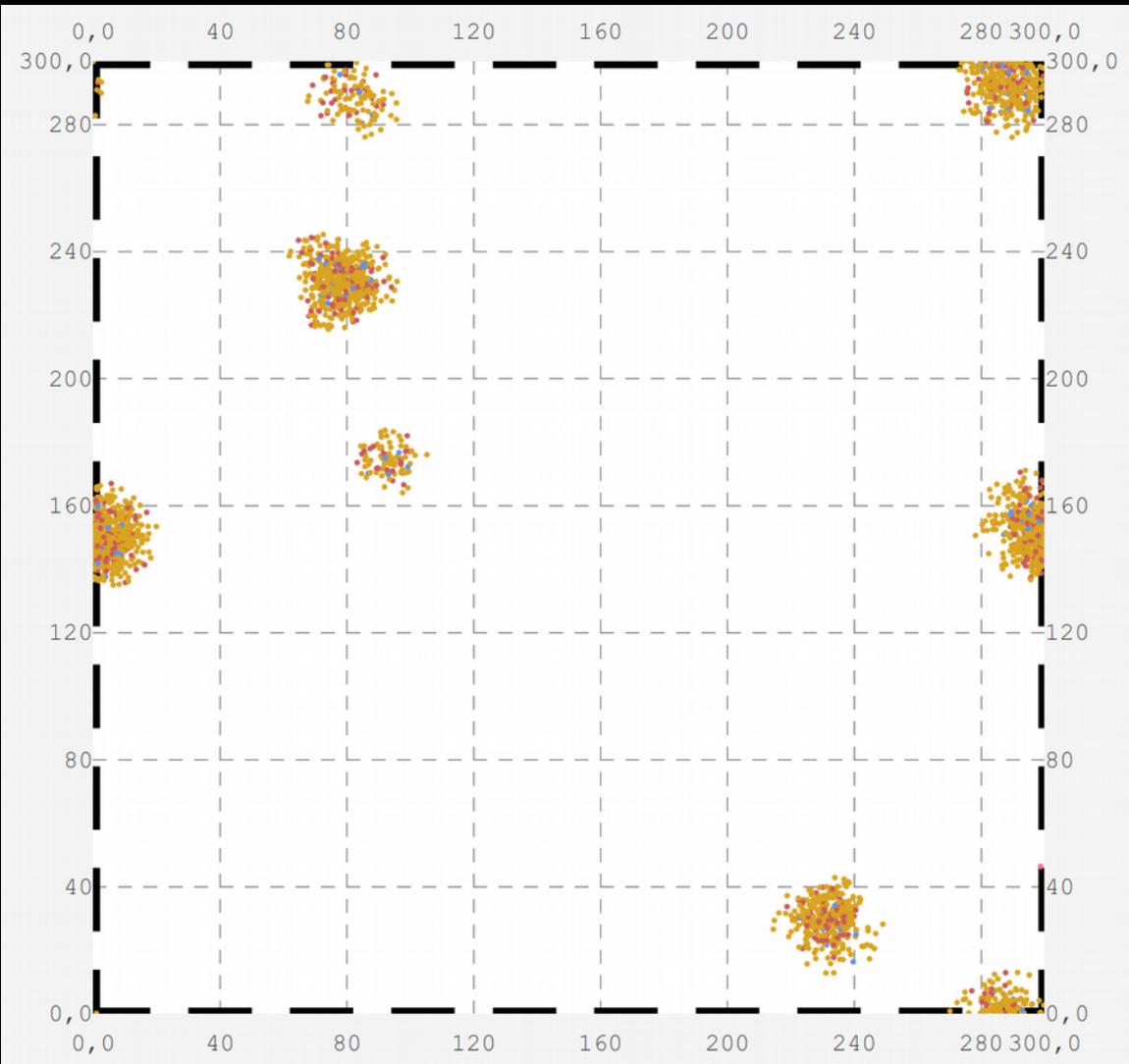


# Hypotheses

2. Without termite mounds  
there will be no more palm  
trees in Lamto

...

The difference is not obvious.  
A formal simulation  
experiment is needed.



Configuration:

size	627
drivers	5
constants	43
decorators	5
component types	4
relation types	3

User code: 217 lines

```
moundEffect(...)
// relative distance weight, ie = 1 if at focal location, =0 at searchRadius distance
double weight = 1-euclidianDistance(x,y,other_x,other_y)/searchRadius;
focalDec.neighbourhoodIndexMounds += weight;

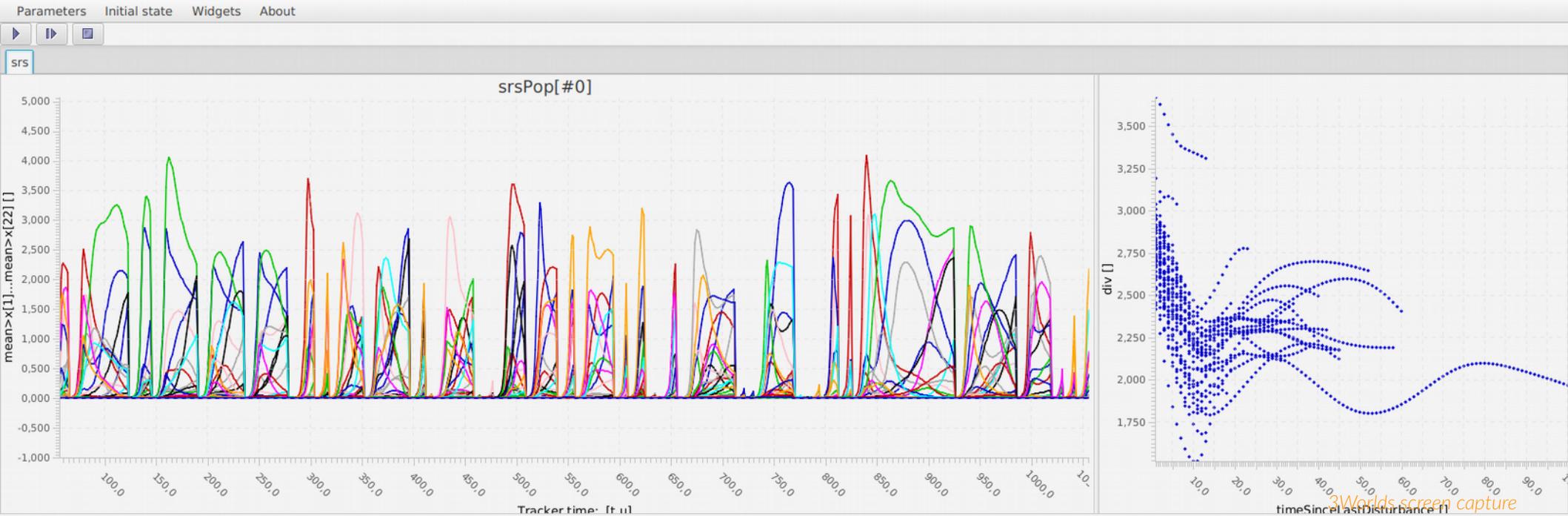
mortalityAdult(...)
if (dead>=group_remanence)
    return true;
else
    return false;

juvenileNeighbour(...)
return true;

growJuvenile(...)
double crownSurface = PI*sqr(canopyRadius);
double niMound = neighbourhoodIndexMounds/crownSurface; // TODO: replace by
neighbourhood index
double niTree=0;
double niAdult = neighbourhoodIndexAdults/crownSurface;
double niJuv = neighbourhoodIndexJuveniles/crownSurface;
// increment in number of leaves
double[] proba = new double[3];
if (budHt>0.0) {
    double neighb = group_j0Mound*niMound + group_j0NLeaves*nleaves;
    double logit = neighb + group_aj0PdNneg;
    proba[0] = 1/(1+exp(-logit));
    logit = neighb + group_aj0PdNO;
    proba[1] = 1/(1+exp(-logit));
    logit = neighb + group_aj0PdN1;
    proba[2] = 1/(1+exp(-logit));
}
else {
    double neighb = group_j1Tree*niTree + group_j1Adult*niAdult +
group_j1Juvenile*niJuv + group_j1BudHt*budHt;
    double logit = neighb + group_aj1PdNneg;
    proba[0] = 1/(1+exp(-logit));
    logit = neighb + group_aj1PdNO;
    proba[1] = 1/(1+exp(-logit));
    logit = neighb + group_aj1PdN1;
    proba[2] = 1/(1+exp(-logit));
}
double real = random.nextDouble();
int result = 3;
for (int i=0; i<3; i++)
    if (real<proba[i]) {
        result = i;
        break;
}
int dN = result-1; // possible outcomes: 1,0,1,2
```

# Testing the intermediate disturbance hypothesis

40 species following Lotka-Volterra competition model (random parameters), 2 disturbances.



## Configuration:

size	127
drivers	41
constants	122
decorators	2
component types	2

## User code: 57 lines

```
effects(...)  
for (int i=0; i<other_x.size(); i++) {  
    if (other_x.getByInt(i)>other_K.getByInt(i)*intensity/100000)  
        otherDrv.x.setByInt(otherDrv.x.getByInt(i)*other_K.getByInt(i)*intensity/  
10000, i);  
}  
otherDrv.lastDistT = t;  
  
initComm(...)  
double initfreq = 1.0/x.size();  
focalDrv.x.fillWith(initfreq);  
for (int i=0; i<r.size(0); i++) {  
    focalCnt.r.setByInt(random.nextDouble(),i);  
    focalCnt.K.setByInt(5.0+initfreq+random.nextDouble(),i);  
    for (int j=0; j<alpha.size(1); j++) {  
        if (i==j)            focalCnt.alpha.setByInt(1.0,i,j);  
        else                  focalCnt.alpha.setByInt(max(0.0001,random.nextDouble()),i,j);  
    }  
}  
focalDrv.lastDistT = 0.0;  
  
setup(...)  
return true;  
  
growth(...)  
// population growth  
double[] dxdt = new double[x.size(0)];  
for (int i=0; i<x.size(0); i++) {  
    double sum = 0;  
    for (int j=0; j<alpha.size(1); j++)  
        sum += alpha.getByInt(i,j) * x.getByInt(j);  
    dxdt[i] = r.getByInt(i) * x.getByInt(i) * (1-sum/K.getByInt(i));  
}  
for (int i=0; i<dxdt.length; i++)  
    focalDrv.x.setByInt(max(x.getByInt(i)+dxdt[i]*dt,0.0), i);  
// compute diversity  
double xtot = 0.0;  
for (int i=0; i<focalDrv.x.size(0);i++)  
    xtot += focalDrv.x.getByInt(i);  
focalDec.div = 0.0;  
for (int i=0; i<focalDrv.x.size(0);i++)  
    if (focalDrv.x.getByInt(i)>0.0)  
        focalDec.div -= (focalDrv.x.getByInt(i)/xtot) *  
log(focalDrv.x.getByInt(i)/xtot);  
// compute time since last disturbance  
focalDec.timeSinceLastDisturbance = t-lastDistT;  
  
initDict(...)
```

## VI. Conclusions

1. to couple approaches of a complex system, use aspect-oriented thinking
2. any ecosystem can be modelled with a dynamic graph
- 3Worlds is there\*, use it!

\*Well... come and see me after the talk

# VII. Needs & future plans

testers:

- develop models
- check GUIs
- check checks

programmers:

- space library
- openMole integration
- optimisation
- graph analysis



## VII. Needs & future plans

testers:

develop models

check GUIs

check checks

programmers

space library

openMole integration

optimisation

graph analysis

**And, anyway, what do you  
have against science-fiction  
when people spend billions  
to grow tomatoes on Mars?**