

Proposition 1. *As $N \rightarrow \infty$ and $t \rightarrow \infty$, the solution $\mathbf{X}(t)$ to the system with positive coefficients, and $B_i \neq B_j$ for all $i \neq j$*

$$\frac{d\mathbf{X}_i}{dt} = (A_i + B_i \mathbf{X}_i) \left(N - \sum_{j=1}^J \mathbf{X}_j \right) - \frac{sd_i \mathbf{X}_i}{K + L_i \mathbf{X}_i}, i \in 1, 2, \dots, J \quad (1)$$

and initial condition $\mathbf{X} = \mathbf{0}$ approaches $\mathbf{X}_b = N$ where b is the component of \mathbf{X} with the largest value of B_i in (1) and all other components of \mathbf{X} approach 0.

Proof. We begin by making the substitution $\mathbf{X} = N\mathbf{P}$. This yields

$$\frac{dN\mathbf{P}_i}{dt} = (A_i + B_i N\mathbf{P}_i) \left(N - \sum_{j=1}^J N\mathbf{P}_j \right) - \frac{sd_i N\mathbf{P}_i}{K + L_i N\mathbf{P}_i}. \quad (2)$$

Dividing both sides by N yields

$$\frac{d\mathbf{P}_i}{dt} = (A_i + B_i N\mathbf{P}_i) \left(1 - \sum_{j=1}^J \mathbf{P}_j \right) - \frac{sd_i \mathbf{P}_i}{K + L_i N\mathbf{P}_i}. \quad (3)$$

We next note that (3) is asymptotically equivalent to

$$\frac{d\mathbf{P}_i}{dt} = (A_i + B_i N\mathbf{P}_i) \left(1 - \sum_{j=1}^J \mathbf{P}_j \right) \quad (4)$$

as $N \rightarrow \infty$ because

$$\lim_{N \rightarrow \infty} \frac{(A_i + B_i N\mathbf{P}_i) \left(1 - \sum_{j=1}^J \mathbf{P}_j \right) - \frac{sd_i \mathbf{P}_i}{K + L_i N\mathbf{P}_i}}{(A_i + B_i N\mathbf{P}_i) \left(1 - \sum_{j=1}^J \mathbf{P}_j \right)} = 1 \quad (5)$$

Thus as $N \rightarrow \infty$, the solutions to (3) approach those of (4). Looking at (4), we see that each component has the common factor $1 - \sum_{j=1}^J \mathbf{P}_j$. Therefore, for $1 - \sum_{j=1}^J \mathbf{P}_j > 0$, the solution curve to (4) is the same as that of

$$\frac{d\mathbf{P}_i}{dt} = (A_i + B_i N\mathbf{P}_i). \quad (6)$$

When $1 - \sum_{j=1}^J \mathbf{P}_j = 0$, (4) becomes $\frac{d\mathbf{P}_i}{dt} = 0$. Thus solutions to (4) do not cross the hyperplane described by $1 - \sum_{j=1}^J \mathbf{P}_j = 0$. Using separation by parts, the solution to (6) with initial condition $\mathbf{P} = \mathbf{0}$ is

$$\mathbf{P}_i(t) = \frac{A_i}{NB_i} (e^{NB_i t} - 1) \quad (7)$$

Denote the component of $\mathbf{P}_i(t)$ with the largest value of B_i as component b . We next note that if $B_i > B_j$, the limit of the ratio between any two components $\mathbf{P}_i(t)$ and $\mathbf{P}_j(t)$ for any time t as $N \rightarrow \infty$ is

$$\lim_{N \rightarrow \infty} \frac{\frac{A_i}{NB_i} (e^{NB_i t} - 1)}{\frac{A_j}{NB_j} (e^{NB_j t} - 1)} = \infty \quad (8)$$

Therefore, the ratio between $\mathbf{P}_b(t)$ and any other component of $\mathbf{P}(t)$ must approach ∞ as $N \rightarrow \infty$ at any time t , regardless of the value of $1 - \sum_{j=1}^J \mathbf{P}_j$.

As (7) is always increasing in every component with t , it must eventually cross the hyperplane described by $1 - \sum_{j=1}^J \mathbf{P}_j = 0$ at some point. This is the same point that solutions to (4) with initial condition $\mathbf{P} = \mathbf{0}$ asymptotically approach. That is, solutions to (4) must approach a constant value and the sum of the components to that solution will approach 1 as $t \rightarrow \infty$.

As the sum of the components asymptotically approaches 1 as $t \rightarrow \infty$, all components besides b must approach 0 and component b must approach 1 as $N \rightarrow \infty$ and $t \rightarrow \infty$. If component b did not approach 1, one more other components would approach a non-zero value and the ratio between component b and any of those components would approach a constant value. From (8), we know that this is impossible. Thus, component b must approach 1 which implies that all other components must approach 0 because the sum of the components approaches 1.

As (3) is asymptotically equivalent to (4) as $N \rightarrow \infty$, the same holds true for solutions to (3) as $N \rightarrow \infty$. Using the relationship $\mathbf{X} = N\mathbf{P}$, we conclude that solutions to (1) with initial condition $\mathbf{X} = \mathbf{0}$ must then approach $\mathbf{X}_b = N$ and all other components equal to 0 as $N \rightarrow \infty$ and $t \rightarrow \infty$. □

Corollary 1. *As $N \rightarrow \infty$ and $t \rightarrow \infty$, the solution to (1) with initial condition $\mathbf{X} = \mathbf{0}$ where there exist two or more values of B_i such that $B_i \geq B_j$ for all $i \neq j$ approaches $\mathbf{X}_i = \frac{A_i}{\sum_{j=1}^J A_j} N$*