The University of York   Department of Computer Science

Submitted in part fulfilment for the degree of BEng.

Evolutionary agent-based simulation modelling of human life-history evolution

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Version 0.01, 2016-November-15

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Number of words = 2001, as counted by wc -w.
This includes the body of the report only.

Abstract

This is an abstract. Should be about 500 words long.

Contents

List of Figures

List of Tables

1 Introduction

This should be about 1000 words long.

2 Literature Review

This should be about 3000 words long.

2.1 What is Menopause?

2.2 Modelling techniques

Deterministic vs stochastic – computers provide new methods

2.2.1 Deterministic Models

2.2.2 Stochastic Models

2.3 Theories to explain evolution of menopause

The evolution of prolonged life after reproduction. [1]

Overview paper reviewing previous research into the presence of and theories for the existence of long post reproductive lifespans (PRLS).

Found in Humans, Killer Whales/Orcas and Short finned pilot whales.

Non-adaptive hypotheses:

- extended lifespans caused by improvements in medicine

- males preferring younger females

Adaptive hypotheses:

- mother hypothesis - to look after previous offspring rather than having new ones.

- grandmother hypothesis - to look after grandchildren to enable daughter(in law) to have more children.

- reproductive conflict hypothesis - grandmothers children competing with children

2.3.1 Mother Hypothesis

Patriarch hypothesis. [2]
Notes
My Thoughts

Patriarch hypothesis. [2]
Notes
My Thoughts

2.3.2 Grandmother Hypothesis

Grandmothering drives the evolution of longevity in a probabilistic model [3]
Looks into how postreproductive females improve the inclusive fitness of the group by caring for their children's offspring (grandmother hypothesis).

The model uses agent based model instead of traditional deterministic population model. This has the following benefits:

- No zigzagging or sudden jumps - this is due to not having a fixed time interval

- No need for fixed ages

- Two local equilibria - great ape like and human like - co-exist with grandmothering

My Thoughts

Patriarch hypothesis. [2]
  Notes
My Thoughts

2.3.3 Male Preference

Why Men Matter: Mating Patterns Drive Evolution of Human Lifespan [4]
  There is a lack of a wall of death - females dying immediately after menopause - when using a two-sex model opposed to a one-sex model.
  Older males prefer younger females in the model as females their own age may be post-reproductive.
  This preference reinforces post-reproductive lifespans as females are not reproducing due to the lack of male interest - thus the biological need for them to remain reproductive is diminished.
My Thoughts
  There seems to be no accounting for the fact that male preference for younger females could have developed after the evolution of long post-reproductive females.
  Indeed it seems that the evolution of a longer period of female reproduction would occur as those who remained fertile for longer would likely be still reproduced with, producing offspring with genes that can reproduce for longer. This extended period of reproduction would also probably result in more offspring than those who stopped reproducing at a younger age.
  The statistical model is poorly explained - it is unclear how male preference has been implemented.
  Various features are also fixed – such as the last age of reproduction – even though part of the point of the model is discover why it occurs naturally and fixing the age would prevent this.

Patriarch hypothesis. [2]
   Notes
My Thoughts

Mate Choice and the Origin of Menopause. [5]
   Provides explanation of other hypotheses and why it feels male preference is more important.
   Uses a stochastic, agent based model rather than the statistical one used in [4]. It also does not fix the ages of anything and accounts for random mutations of the genes.
My Thoughts
   There seems to be no good reason why they have implemented a multi-agent system in C, rather than using a object-oriented language such as Python, Java, Ruby, R etc. Their code spends many lines implementing features present in modern programming languages (i.e. strings) and is difficult to read. It also fails to compile.
   They do not provide proper input files to their model either, instead presenting their input data as tables in word documents. Sample output files are also not provided for those unable to run the software.
   Although the last age of reproduction is not fixed, the model makes thechoice of using fertility and chance of death over a 5 year period, which is strange considering it is possible for females to have several pregnancies over this time. Multi-agent systems are also capable of having non-fixed time intervals so this seems like a definite shortcoming of the model as having non-fixed time intervals helps avoid zig-zagging or sudden jumps in population size as not everyone is dying or reproducing at the same time.

2.3.4 Reproductive Conflict

Reproductive Conflict and the Evolution of Menopause in Killer Whales [6]
   Notes
My Thoughts

Patriarch hypothesis. [2]
   Notes
My Thoughts

3 Problem Description/Analysis

This should be about 1500 words long.

4 Design and Implemenation

This should be about 2500 words long.

5 Results and Evaluation

This should be about 2500 words long.

6 Conclusion

This should be about 1000 words long.

Bibliography

[1] D. P. Croft, L. J. Brent, D. W. Franks, and M. A. Cant, "The evolution of prolonged life after reproduction," *Trends in Ecology & Evolution*, 2015. [Online]. Available: http://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S0169534715001044

[2] F. Marlowe, "The patriarch hypothesis," *Human Nature*, 2000. [Online]. Available: http://dx.doi.org/10.1007/s12110-000-1001-7

[3] P. S. Kim, J. S. McQueen, J. E. Coxworth, and K. Hawkes, "Grandmothering drives the evolution of longevity in a probabilistic model," 2014. [Online]. Available: http://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S0022519314001465

[4] S. D. Tuljapurkar, C. O. Puleston, and M. D. Gurven, "Why men matter: Mating patterns drive evolution of human lifespan," *PLOS ONE*, 2007. [Online]. Available: http://dx.doi.org/10.1371%2Fjournal.pone.0000785

[5] R. A. Morton, J. R. Stone, and R. S. Singh, "Mate choice and the origin of menopause," *PLOS Computational Biology*, 2013. [Online]. Available: http://dx.doi.org/10.1371%2Fjournal.pcbi.1003092

[6] D. P. Croft, R. A. Johnstone, S. Ellis, S. Nattrass, D. W. Franks, L. J. N. Brent, S. Mazzi, K. C. Balcomb, J. K. B. Ford, and M. A. Cant, 2017.