

MA42002

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Introduction

Welcome to MA42002 Mathematical Biology II.

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Lecture notes

You can find lecture notes for the module on this page. If you would like a pdf this can be easily generated by clicking on the pdf link on the top left of the webpages. I will occasionally edit/update the notes we proceed through lectures. If you spot any errors, typos or omissions please let me know.

Reading

Mathematical Biology II, James Dickson Murray (2003)

Python codes

I have provided Python codes for most of the figures in the notes (you can unfold code section by clicking 'Code'). Many of you have taken the Introduction to Programming module at Level 2 and have therefore some experience using Python. I strongly encourage you to use the provided codes as a tool to play around with numerical solutions of the various models that we will be working on. The codes should run as standalone Python codes.

References

1 Conservation equations

1.1 Introduction

Many biological systems are spatio-temporal, i.e. concentrations of biochemicals, densities of cells etc. depend on spatial position as well time. To describe such cases we must **relax** a major assumption that was made in Mathematical Biology I (MA32009): spatial homogeneity. We now model biological system using partial differential equations.

A conservation equation is the most fundamental statement through which changes in the distribution of the density (or concentration, temperature) is described.

$$\left(\begin{array}{c} \text{rate of change} \\ \text{in the population density} \end{array} \right) = (\text{spatial movement}) + \left(\begin{array}{c} \text{birth, growth, death,} \\ \text{production or degradation} \\ \text{due to chemical reactions} \end{array} \right)$$

1.1.1 Notation

We will consider $x \in \mathbb{R}^n$, $t \in [0, \infty)$ and functions $c : \mathbb{R}^n \times [0, \infty) \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$, where $n = 1, 2, 3$. For example:

- $c(x, t)$ - the density of a population [number per volume] at position x and time t (at (x, t))
- $c(x, t)$ - the concentration of a substance (chemicals, particles) [mass per volume] at position x and time t (at (x, t))
- $c(x, t)$ - the temperature at (x, t) .

1.2 Spatially homogeneous models

In this section, we neglect spatial movement and consider examples of growth/death and chemical reactions (i.e. revision from MA32009).

1.2.1 Population dynamics

1.2.1.1 Modelling the growth of bacteria in a petri dish (flask) containing nutrient medium

As an example let's consider a population of bacteria growing in a bounded domain (e.g. a petri dish).

Bacteria reproduce by undergoing successive cell divisions.

Let $N(t)$ represent bacterial density at time t (i.e. number of cells per volume).

Let K represent the *per capita* rate of reproduction. Over a period of time, Δt , $KN(t)\Delta t$ cells will be added. Hence

$$N(t + \Delta t) = N(t) + KN(t)\Delta t. \quad (1.1)$$

Assuming that N is differentiable, dividing Equation ?? by Δt and taking the limit as $\Delta t \rightarrow 0$

$$\frac{dN}{dt} = KN \quad (1.2)$$

Depending on the biological context, the growth rate K may take several forms e.g.

- $K = \text{constant}$
- $K = K(t)$ time-dependent
- $K = K(N(t))$ depends on bacterial density
- $K = K(c(t)) := \kappa c(t)$, (with $\kappa > 0$ a constant), which depends on the nutrient concentration $c(t)$ at time t i.e. K depends on the available resources.

1.2.1.2 Logistic growth via depleting nutrient source

Suppose that the population growth rate depends on nutrient availability. Suppose also that nutrient levels are depleted by population growth.

Let $c(t)$ represent the nutrient concentration at time, t . Based on the above assumptions we derive

$$\begin{aligned} \frac{dN}{dt} &= K(c)N = \kappa cN, \\ \frac{dc}{dt} &= -\alpha \frac{dN}{dt} = -\alpha \kappa cN, \end{aligned} \quad (1.3)$$

where κ and $\alpha \in \mathfrak{R}$. Consider the initial conditions

$$N(0) = N_0 \quad \text{and} \quad c(0) = c_0.$$

Noting the conserved quantity

$$\frac{dN}{dt} + \frac{dc}{dt} = 0,$$

integration yields

$$c(t) = -\alpha N(t) + c(0) + \alpha N(0) = -\alpha N(t) + \beta, \quad (1.4)$$

where $\beta = c_0 + \alpha N_0$. Using Equation ?? in Equation ?? we obtain the *logistic growth* equation

$$\frac{dN}{dt} = \kappa(\beta - \alpha N)N, \quad N(0) = N_0 \quad (1.5)$$

Here we have $K = K(N) = \kappa(\beta - \alpha N)$.

The last equation can be rewritten as

$$\frac{dN}{dt} = \rho N \left(1 - \frac{N}{B}\right) \quad N(0) = N_0, \quad (1.6)$$

where $\rho = \kappa\beta$ is the **intrinsic growth rate** and $B = \frac{\beta}{\alpha}$ is the **carrying capacity**. The solution of Equation ?? is given by

$$N(t) = \frac{N_0 K}{N_0 + (B - N_0)e^{-\rho t}}.$$

1.2.1.3 Death/decay

In addition to growth, we may assume that cells die at rate d and the simple growth Equation ?? can be generalised to

$$\frac{dN}{dt} = KN - dN,$$

where d is the mortality (death) rate.

1.2.1.4 Competition

The fact that individuals compete for food, habitat (i.e. space) or any limited resources, means that an increase in the net mortality of the population may be observed under crowded conditions. Hence we could obtain

$$\frac{dN}{dt} = KN - d_1 N^2,$$

where $d = d_1 N$ is the mortality (death) rate and is proportional to the population density.

1.2.2 SIR Model

Consider a model of infectious disease in which a population is split into three compartments:

- susceptible
- infected
- recovered

Suppose that interaction between susceptible and infected results in infection of susceptible. Suppose also that infected people only remain infectious for a limited time.

Let $S(t)$, $I(t)$ and $R(t)$ represent the population densities of susceptible, infected and recovered populations, respectively.

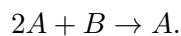
Consider the governing ODE

$$\begin{aligned}\frac{dS}{dt} &= -rIS, \\ \frac{dI}{dt} &= rIS - aI, \\ \frac{dR}{dt} &= aI,\end{aligned}$$

where r is the infection rate and a is the recovery rate.

1.2.3 Activator inhibitor kinetics

Consider a pair of interacting biochemical species, A and B. Suppose that both A and B are produced at a constant rate and that A undergoes linear degradation. Suppose also that A and B interact



Applying the law of mass action we obtain the ODEs

$$\begin{aligned}\frac{dA}{dt} &= k_1 - k_2A + k_3A^2B, \\ \frac{dB}{dt} &= k_4 - k_3A^2B,\end{aligned}$$

where k_1 and k_4 are production rates, k_2 is a degradation rate and k_3 is the reaction rate for the A and B interaction.

1.3 Spatial movement

Consider a spatial domain V . A conservation equation can be written either in terms of the mass or number of particles of a species as follows:

$$\left(\begin{array}{c} \text{rate of change of} \\ \text{number of particles} \\ \text{per unit time} \end{array} \right) = \left(\begin{array}{c} \text{rate of entry of} \\ \text{particles into } V \\ \text{per unit time} \end{array} \right) - \left(\begin{array}{c} \text{rate of exit of} \\ \text{particles from } V \\ \text{per unit time} \end{array} \right) + \left(\begin{array}{c} \text{rate of degradation} \\ \text{or creation of particles} \\ \text{in } V \text{ per unit time} \end{array} \right)$$

1.3.1 One-dimensional conservation equations

Assume

- motion takes place in a one-dimensional domain (e.g. a long very thin tube)
- the tube has a constant cross-section area

Let x be the distance along the tube relative to an origin. We shall consider the interval $(x + \Delta x, t)$, for some $\Delta x > 0$, and a domain $V = (x, x + \Delta x) \times S$, where S is the cross-section of the tube with the constant area $A = |S|$.

- $c(x, t)$ - concentration of particles (number of particles per unit volume) at time, t , and position, x
- $J(x, t)$ - flux of particles per unit time and unit area (number of particles crossing a unit area in the positive x -direction per unit time)
- $f(x, t, c(x, t))$ - source/sink (number of particles created or destroyed per unit volume and unit time)

We consider S to be very small and $c(x, t)$ is assumed to be constant in S (independent of y and z). We also assume that c is continuously differentiable with respect to t .

The volume of V is $A\Delta x$ and number of particles is given by

$$\int_x^{x+\Delta x} c(\tilde{x}, t) d\tilde{x} A.$$

Then the conservation equation for the number of particles in the volume V is given by

$$\frac{\partial}{\partial t} \int_x^{x+\Delta x} c(\tilde{x}, t) A d\tilde{x} = J(x, t) A - J(x + \Delta x, t) A + \int_x^{x+\Delta x} f(\tilde{x}, t, c(\tilde{x}, t)) A d\tilde{x}. \quad (1.7)$$

i.e. the flux that changes the total population in V is that entering through the cross-section at x and leaving through the cross-section at $x + \Delta x$ (it is assumed that there no flux through

the external surface of the tube). Assuming c and f to be sufficiently smooth (continuous in x) and applying The Mean Value Theorem in Equation ??, we obtain

$$\frac{\partial}{\partial t} c(\xi, t) A \Delta x = J(x, t) A - J(x + \Delta x, t) A + f(\eta, t, c(\eta, t)) A \Delta x, \quad \xi, \eta \in (x, x + \Delta x). \quad (1.8)$$

Dividing Equation ?? by $A \Delta x$ yields

$$\frac{\partial}{\partial t} c(\xi, t) = -\frac{J(x + \Delta x, t) - J(x, t)}{\Delta x} + f(\eta, t, c(\eta, t)), \quad \xi, \eta \in (x, x + \Delta x). \quad (1.9)$$

Assuming that J is differentiable with respect to x and taking the limit as $\Delta x \rightarrow 0$ (and using the definition of partial derivatives) we obtain a one-dimensional conservation (balance) equation:

$$\frac{\partial}{\partial t} c(x, t) = -\frac{\partial}{\partial x} J(x, t) + f(x, t, c(x, t)). \quad (1.10)$$

1.3.2 Conservation equations in \mathbb{R}^n

Let $V \subset \mathbb{R}^n$ be an arbitrary bounded domain (i.e. satisfying the conditions of the divergence theorem) and let S be the surface enclosing V , i.e $S = \partial V$.

- $c(x, t)$ – concentration of particles at $x \in V$ and $t > 0$ (number of particles per unit volume)
- $J(x, t)$ – flux vector of particles across V (number of particles per unit area and per unit time entering or leaving through S (the boundary of V)).
- $f(x, t, c(x, t))$ - source/sink term (number of particles created or destroyed per unit volume and per unit time)

Then the conservation equation reads

$$\frac{\partial}{\partial t} \int_V c(x, t) dx = - \int_S J(x, t) \cdot \mathbf{n} d\sigma + \int_V f(x, t, c),$$

where \mathbf{n} is the outward normal vector to S . The normal component of the flux J on S leads to a change of number of particles (of mass) in V . Applying the divergence theorem, i.e.

$$\int_S J \cdot \mathbf{n} d\sigma = \int_V \operatorname{div} J dx,$$

and using the fact that V is independent of time t we obtain

$$\int_V \left(\frac{\partial}{\partial t} c(x, t) + \nabla \cdot J(x, t) - f(x, t, c) \right) dx.$$

Since V can be chosen arbitrary we get the conservation equation in \mathbb{R}^n (or a subdomain $\Omega \subset \mathbb{R}^n$)

$$\frac{\partial}{\partial t} c(x, t) = -\nabla \cdot J(x, t) + f(x, t, c), \quad x \in \mathbb{R}^n \text{ (or } x \in \Omega), \quad t > 0. \quad (1.11)$$

1.3.3 Types of flux terms

- Fickian Diffusion

Diffusion is an important and ‘metabolically cheap’ transport mechanism in biological systems. It can be also viewed as the random motion of individual molecules.

$$\mathbf{J} = -D\nabla c, \quad (1.12)$$

where D is the diffusion coefficient. D depends on the size of the particles, the type of solvent, the temperature,

Then applying Equation ?? in Equation ?? we obtain reaction-diffusion equation

$$\frac{\partial}{\partial t}c = -\nabla \cdot (-D\nabla c(x, t)) + f(x, t, c) = \nabla \cdot (D\nabla c) + f(x, t, c), \quad x \in \mathbb{R}^n, \quad t > 0. \quad (1.13)$$

If D is a constant we can write

$$\frac{\partial}{\partial t}c(x, t) = D\Delta c(x, t) + f(x, t, c), \quad x \in \mathbb{R}^n \text{ (or } x \in \Omega), \quad t > 0,$$

where

$$\Delta c = \sum_{j=1}^n \frac{\partial^2 c}{\partial x_j^2}.$$

- Nonlinear diffusion

$$D = D(c), \quad \text{e.g. } D(c) = D_0 c^m, \quad D_0 > 0,$$

and

$$\frac{\partial}{\partial t}c = D_0 \nabla \cdot (c^m \nabla c) + f(x, t, c), \quad x \in \mathbb{R}^n, \quad t > 0. \quad (1.14)$$

- Convection or Advection

$$\mathbf{J} = \mathbf{v}c,$$

where \mathbf{v} is a velocity vector. Hence

$$\frac{\partial}{\partial t}c(x, t) = -\nabla \cdot (\mathbf{v}(x, t)c(x, t)) + f(x, t, c), \quad x \in \mathbb{R}^n, \quad t > 0. \quad (1.15)$$

If \mathbf{v} is constant or $\nabla \cdot \mathbf{v} = 0$, then

$$\frac{\partial}{\partial t}c = -\mathbf{v} \cdot \nabla c + f(x, t, c) \quad x \in \mathbb{R}^n, \quad t > 0.$$

- Taxis - directed movement in response to an external chemical or physical signal.
 - chemotaxis - movement directed by a chemical gradient
 - haptotaxis - movement directed by a gradient in density, adhesion

In the presence of some chemoattractant $a(x, t)$ we have

$$\mathbf{J} = \chi(a)c\nabla a,$$

where $\chi(a)$ is a ‘model-specific’ function of a defining the sensitivity to the signal, and the conservation equation reads

$$\frac{\partial}{\partial t}c(x, t) = -\nabla \cdot (\chi(a)c(x, t)\nabla a) + f(x, t, c), \quad x \in \mathbb{R}^n \quad t > 0. \quad (1.16)$$

1.3.4 Boundary conditions (B.C.)

- Infinite domain (e.g. $(-\infty, \infty)$, \mathbb{R}^2 , \mathbb{R}^3):

the density is not influenced by the boundary

$$c(x, t) \rightarrow 0 \quad \text{as} \quad \|x\| \rightarrow \infty \quad \text{decay at infinity}$$

- Periodic B.C.

L -periodic function: $c(x, t) = c(x, t + L)$ for any x in the domain

Consider a domain $(0, L)$.

$$c(t, 0) = c(t, L) \quad \text{periodic boundary conditions}$$

- Dirichlet B.C.

density (concentration) is fixed at the boundary

In the 1-dim domain $(0, L)$

$$c(t, 0) = c_1, \quad c(t, L) = c_2$$

can consider two reservoirs placed at the ends of the domain, that are held at constant densities (concentrations) c_1 and c_2 , respectively.

For a domain $\Omega \subset \mathbb{R}^n$ we have

$$c(x, t) = c_D(x, t) \quad x \in \partial\Omega, \quad t \geq 0.$$

- No-flux (homogeneous Neumann) B.C.

particles cannot escape from the domain

For a domain $\Omega \subset \mathbb{R}^n$

$$D\nabla c \cdot \mathbf{n} = 0 \quad \text{on} \quad \partial\Omega, \quad t > 0$$

In one-dimensional domain $(0, L)$

$$\frac{\partial c(x, t)}{\partial x} = 0 \quad \text{at} \quad x = 0 \text{ and } x = L, \quad t > 0,$$

- Non-homogeneous Neumann B.C.

For a domain $\Omega \subset \mathbb{R}^n$

$$D\nabla c \cdot \mathbf{n} = g(x, t) \quad \text{on} \quad \partial\Omega, \quad t > 0$$

with a given function g (g can also be a constant).

In one-dimensional domain $(0, L)$

$$D \frac{\partial c(x, t)}{\partial x} = g(x, t) \quad \text{at} \quad x = 0 \text{ and } x = L, \quad t > 0,$$

- Homogeneous Robin B.C.

$$D\nabla c(x, t) \cdot \mathbf{n} + kc(x, t) = 0 \quad \text{on} \quad \partial\Omega, \quad t > 0$$

with some constant $k \in \mathbb{R}$.

In one-dimensional domain $(0, L)$

$$D \frac{\partial c(x, t)}{\partial x} + kc(x, t) = 0 \quad \text{at} \quad x = 0 \text{ and } x = L, \quad t > 0,$$

- Non-homogeneous Robin B.C.

$$D\nabla c(x, t) \cdot \mathbf{n} + kc(x, t) = g(x, t) \quad \text{on} \quad \partial\Omega, \quad t > 0$$

with some constant $k \in \mathbb{R}$ and given function g (g can also be a constant).

In one-dimensional domain $(0, L)$

$$D \frac{\partial c(x, t)}{\partial x} + kc(x, t) = g(x, t) \quad \text{at} \quad x = 0 \text{ and } x = L, \quad t > 0,$$

Remark We can also have different types of boundary conditions at different parts of the boundary of the considered domain.

1.3.5 Initial conditions

For a conservation equation defined in a domain $\Omega \subset \mathbb{R}^n$, $n = 1, 2, 3$, additionally to boundary conditions we need to define an initial concentration, i.e. initial condition

$$c(0, x) = c_0(x), \quad x \in \Omega .$$

1.3.6 Formulating a model

The models that we will consider will comprise one or more partial differential equations together with boundary and initial conditions. The right-hand side of the PDEs will be derived based upon assumptions about a particular biological system under study. We will consider exploratory numerical solutions and then study qualitative behaviours of the solutions using analyses familiar from MA32009 (e.g. steady state analysis, linear stability analysis).

We can have any combination of fluxes, depending on the biological system. For example, chemotaxis and diffusion

$$\frac{\partial}{\partial t}c = D\Delta c - \nabla \cdot (\chi(a)c\nabla a) + f(x, t, c), \quad x \in \mathbb{R}^n \quad t > 0, \quad (1.17)$$

which can be augmented by an equation for the (diffusible) chemoattractant a

$$\frac{\partial}{\partial t}a = D\nabla^2 a + g(x, t, a, c), \quad x \in \mathbb{R}^n \quad t > 0. \quad (1.18)$$

Equation ?? and Equation ?? form a system of equations, a so-called chemotaxis system.

1.3.7 Nondimensionalization

The variables and parameters in a biological or physical model have units:

- #velocity = $\frac{\text{\#length}}{\text{\#time}}$
- #concentration = $\frac{\text{num.moles}}{\text{\#volume}}$
- #density = $\frac{\text{number of particles}}{\text{\#volume}}$
- #diffusion coefficient = $\frac{\text{\#length}^2}{\text{\#time}}$
- #source/sink (reaction term) = $\frac{\text{\#concentration (or density)}}{\text{\#time}}$
- #flux = $\frac{\text{mass (number) of particles}}{\text{\#area} \times \text{\#time}}$

It is standard to non-dimensionalize a system of differential equations by scaling or non-dimensionalizing both the dependent and independent variables in the model.

Part I

Single species

2 Linear reaction diffusion equations

We will now consider equations (and systems of such equations) of the general form:

$$\frac{\partial c}{\partial t} = D\nabla^2 c + f(c), \quad c \equiv c(\mathbf{x}, t), \quad \mathbf{x} \in \mathbb{R}^n, \quad t > 0.$$

Such an equation is known as a **reaction-diffusion equation**, being composed of a reaction term, $f(c)$, and a diffusion term, $D\nabla^2 c$. Reaction-diffusion equations have many applications in biological systems e.g. travelling waves of invasion, pattern formation, spread of infectious diseases. For most of the remainder of the course we will consider such systems in one-space dimension i.e. $x \in \mathbb{R}$.

Consider the one-dimensional reaction-diffusion equation with constant diffusion coefficient $D > 0$:

$$\frac{\partial c}{\partial t} = D \frac{\partial^2 c}{\partial x^2} + f(c), \quad x \in \mathbb{R}, \quad t > 0.$$

2.1 One-dimensional diffusion equations

In order to provide some insight into the structure of solutions of reaction-diffusion equations, we make an initial simplifying assumption i.e. we assume $f(c) = 0$, and obtain the linear diffusion equation (or heat equation):

$$\frac{\partial c}{\partial t} = D \frac{\partial^2 c}{\partial x^2}, \quad x \in \mathbb{R}, \quad t > 0. \quad (2.1)$$

This equation is used to model the evolution of the concentration of a chemical in a long thin tube, or the temperature of a long thin rod.

We assume that the initial condition for our species c is located in one point $x = 0$, i.e.

$$c(x_0, 0) = \delta_0(x) \quad x \in \mathbb{R}, \quad (2.2)$$

where δ_0 is a **Dirac delta distribution** (Dirac measure) satisfying

$$\int_{-\infty}^{+\infty} \delta_0(x) dx = 1 \quad \text{and} \quad \int_{-\infty}^{+\infty} f(x) \delta_0(x) dx = f(0), \quad \text{for continuous } f.$$

2.1.1 Fundamental solution

It can be shown that the sequence of functions $\{\phi_\varepsilon(x)\}$ given by

$$\frac{1}{\varepsilon\sqrt{\pi}}e^{-\frac{x^2}{\varepsilon^2}}$$

converges to $\delta_0(x)$ as $\varepsilon \rightarrow 0$ (in the sense of distributions or generalized functions).

Then for the diffusion Equation ?? with initial condition Equation ??, it can be shown that the explicit (analytic) solution is given by

$$c(x, t) = \frac{1}{\sqrt{4\pi Dt}} \exp\left(-\frac{x^2}{4Dt}\right). \quad (2.3)$$

This is known as **the fundamental solution** of the diffusion equation in \mathbb{R} .

We also have, for general initial condition $c(x, 0) = c_0(x)$ for $x \in \mathbb{R}$:

$$c(x, t) = \int_{-\infty}^{+\infty} \frac{c_0(y)}{\sqrt{4\pi Dt}} \exp\left(-\frac{(x-y)^2}{4Dt}\right) dy.$$

This result can be generalized to $\mathbb{R}^n \times (0, \infty)$ where the fundamental solution has the form

$$c(x, t) = \frac{1}{(4\pi Dt)^{n/2}} \exp\left(-\frac{(x_1^2 + x_2^2 + \dots + x_n^2)}{4Dt}\right).$$

2.1.2 Numerical solution

In Figure ?? we compute a numerical solution of the diffusion equation and compare it with the exact solution given by Equation ??.

2.1.3 Key properties of the (linear) diffusion equation (heat equation)

- The solution is infinitely smooth.
- The solution $c(x, t)$ stays positive for all $t > 0$ and $x \in \mathbb{R}$ if $c(x, 0) > 0$ for $x \in \mathbb{R}$.
- The solution “propagates” with infinite speed i.e. for any $t > 0$, the solution is everywhere in \mathbb{R} .
- If we change the initial data $c(x, 0)$ (continuously) then the solution also changes (continuously).

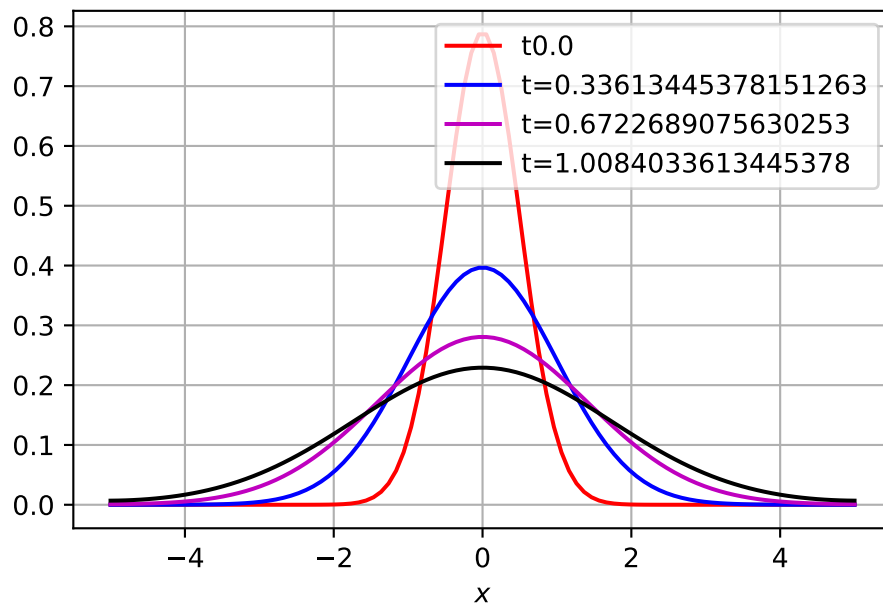


Figure 2.1: Numerical solution of diffusion equation.

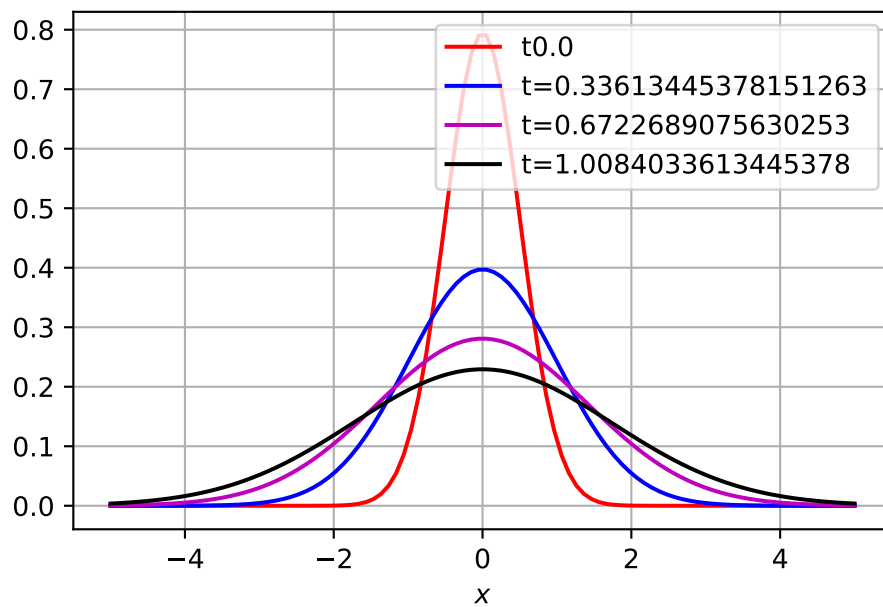


Figure 2.2: Exact solution of diffusion equation.

2.1.4 Diffusive transit time

We now demonstrate the connection between time and space in diffusion equations. Consider a domain $V \subset \mathbb{R}^n$, $n = 1, 2, 3$, and particles that are entering V and are being removed from V . Define

N - total number of particles in V

F - total number of particles entering V per unit time

λ - average removal rate of particles from V

$\tau = \frac{1}{\lambda}$ - transit time or average time of residency in V

Regardless of spatial variations, we can make the following general statement regarding the total number of particles in V , where we assume a constant entry rate F and a constant removal rate λ at some sink in V :

$$\frac{dN}{dt} = \text{entry rate} - \text{removal rate} = F - \lambda N.$$

At steady state ($dN/dt = 0$) we obtain

Missing content here. Check notes!

Consider particles of concentration $c(x, t)$ diffusing with constant diffusion D in a one-dimensional domain $(0, L)$, with a constant concentration at one boundary and removed by a sink at the other boundary. At steady-state, the equation governing the concentration is given by:

$$D \frac{d^2 c}{dx^2} = 0 \quad \text{in } (0, L), \quad c(0) = C_0, \quad c(L) = 0.$$

The solution (**Exercise**) is:

$$c(x) = C_0 \left(1 - \frac{x}{L}\right).$$

Then the number of particles entering at $x = 0$ due to diffusive flux (Fickian diffusion) is:

$$J = -D \frac{dc}{dx} = D \frac{C_0}{L},$$

and the total number of particles is given by:

$$N = \int_0^L c(x) dx = \frac{1}{2} L C_0.$$

If we assume a cross-section of unit area at $x = 0$, then

$$F = \text{flux} \times \text{area} = J \times 1 = D \frac{C_0}{L}$$

and

$$\tau = \frac{N}{F} = \frac{C_0 L}{2} \frac{L}{DC_0} = \frac{1}{2} \frac{L^2}{D}.$$

Thus the average time it takes a particle to diffuse a distance, L , is

$$\tau = \frac{L^2}{2D}$$

or viewed another way, the average distance through which diffusion transports a particle in a time τ is $L = \sqrt{2D\tau}$.

2.1.5 Diffusion as the limit of a random walk

Consider the **random walk** of particles in a one-dimensional domain. Suppose that the particles move randomly a distance, Δx , every time step, Δt . Assume that the particles move left with probability λ_L and right with probability λ_R .

In Figure Figure ?? a simulation of 400 random walking particles is presented. Each particle is initialised at the origin and can move one step left or right with equal probability at every time step of the simulation. As time evolves the particle density (histogram) disperses. The normalised particle density appears to be well described by the solution of the diffusion equation (solid lines, Equation ??).

Concider the concentration of particles $c(x, t)$ at spatial location x and time t , (or more precisely, the probability density function of the position of a particle performing a random walk) we have:

$$c(x, t + \Delta t) = c(x, t) + \lambda_R c(x - \Delta x, t) - \lambda_R c(x, t) + \lambda_L c(x + \Delta x, t) - \lambda_L c(x, t).$$

If we assume that $\lambda_R + \lambda_L = 1$ then

$$c(x, t + \Delta t) = \lambda_R c(x - \Delta x, t) + \lambda_L c(x + \Delta x, t).$$

Applying a Taylor series expansion about (x, t) implies

$$c(t, x) + \frac{\partial c}{\partial t} \Delta t + \frac{1}{2} \frac{\partial^2 c}{\partial t^2} (\Delta t)^2 + h.o.t. = \lambda_R \left(c(t, x) - \frac{\partial c}{\partial x} \Delta x + \frac{1}{2} \frac{\partial^2 c}{\partial x^2} (\Delta x)^2 + h.o.t. \right) + \lambda_L \left(c(t, x) + \frac{\partial c}{\partial x} \Delta x + \frac{1}{2} \frac{\partial^2 c}{\partial x^2} (\Delta x)^2 + h.o.t. \right)$$

Using $\lambda_R + \lambda_L = 1$ and assuming $\lambda_L = \lambda_R = \frac{1}{2}$ we obtain

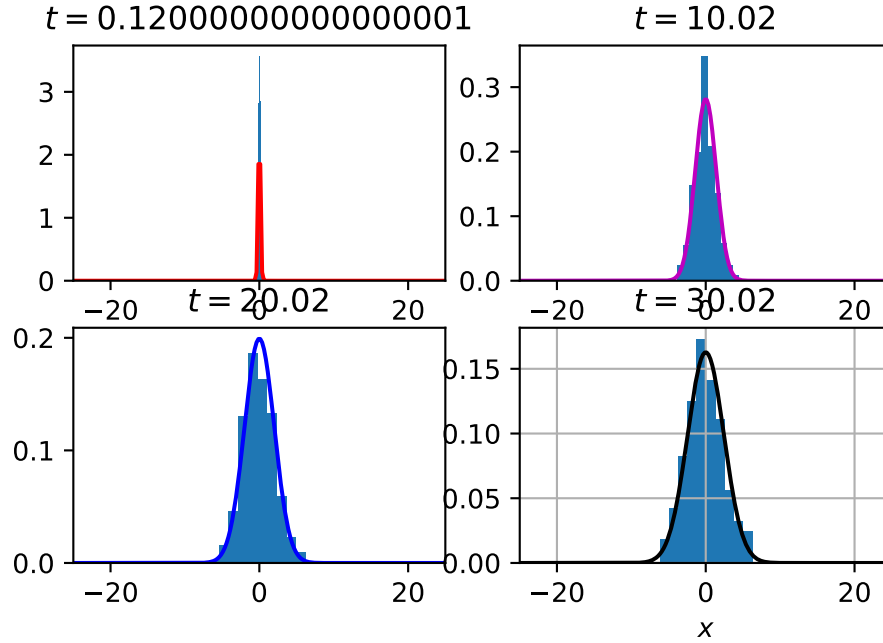


Figure 2.3: Numerical implementation of random walk

$$\frac{\partial c}{\partial t} \Delta t + \frac{1}{2} \frac{\partial^2 c}{\partial^2 t} (\Delta t)^2 + h.o.t. = \frac{1}{2} \frac{\partial^2 c}{\partial^2 x} (\Delta x)^2 + h.o.t.$$

Dividing by Δt gives

$$\frac{\partial c}{\partial t} + \frac{1}{2} \frac{\partial^2 c}{\partial^2 t} \Delta t + h.o.t. = \frac{\partial^2 c}{\partial^2 x} \frac{(\Delta x)^2}{2\Delta t} + h.o.t.$$

Considering the limit $\Delta t \rightarrow 0$ and $\Delta x \rightarrow 0$ in such way that

$$\frac{(\Delta x)^2}{2\Delta t} \rightarrow D,$$

yields the (one-dimensional) diffusion equation

$$\frac{\partial c}{\partial t} = D \frac{\partial^2 c}{\partial x^2}.$$

This approach can be extended to consider other types of movement e.g. convection. For example, if we assume that

$$\lambda_R + \lambda_L = 1,$$

and

$$\lambda_L - \lambda_R = \varepsilon,$$

the motion of the particles is biased and we may derive an appropriate **reaction-diffusion-convection** equation (see tutorial).

Finally we note that there is a connection between diffusion and the normal distribution function.

Recall The normal distribution function in one-dimension with zero mean and variance σ^2 is given by @#eq-fund_sol.

$$N(0, \sigma^2) \sim \frac{1}{\sqrt{2\pi\sigma^2}} \exp\left(-\frac{x^2}{2\sigma^2}\right).$$

Examining the formula for the fundamental solution of the diffusion Equation ?? in one-dimension, we see by inspection that the probability density function of the position of a particle performing a random walk in one-dimension starting at the origin is normally distributed with mean zero and variance

$$\sigma^2 = 2Dt.$$

2.2 Linear reaction-diffusion equations

Consider now the linear reaction term: $f(c) = \rho c$, so that our reaction-diffusion equation is:

$$\frac{\partial c}{\partial t} = D \frac{\partial^2 c}{\partial x^2} + \rho c, \quad x \in \mathbb{R}, \quad t > 0, \quad (2.4)$$

where $\rho \in \mathbb{R}$ is a constant.

Once again we consider the initial condition to be concentrated at the origin:

$$c(0, x) = \delta_0(x). \quad (2.5)$$

2.2.1 Exact solution

By considering a *separation of variables* approach, i.e. making the **ansatz**

$$c(x, t) = w(t)\tilde{c}(t, x),$$

it can be shown (**Exercise**) that the explicit solution for the linear reaction-diffusion Equation ?? with initial condition Equation ?? is given by

$$c(t, x) = \frac{1}{\sqrt{4\pi Dt}} \exp\left(\rho t - \frac{x^2}{4Dt}\right).$$

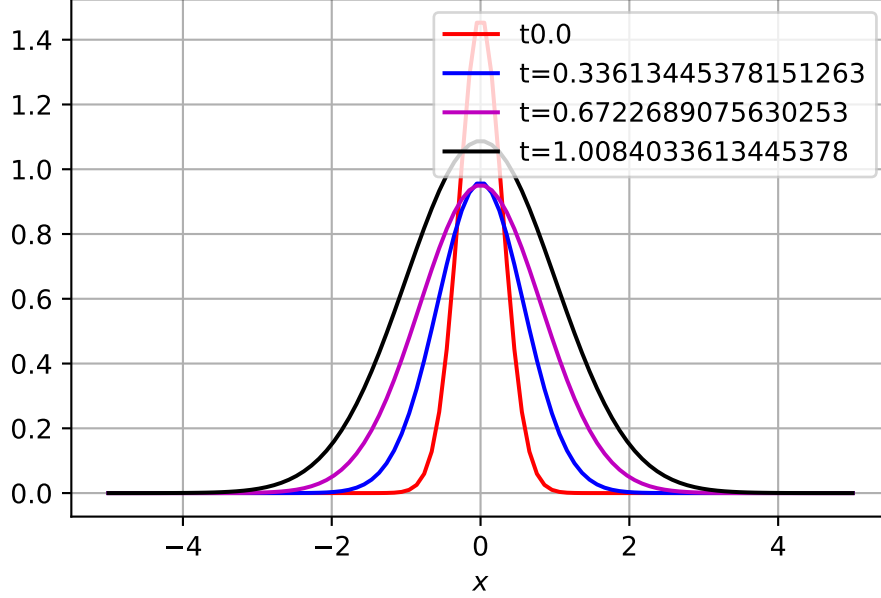


Figure 2.4: Numerical solution of linear reaction diffusion equation

2.2.2 Speed of a wave of invasion

Muskrats which were introduced in 1905 in Bohemia initially spread rapidly throughout Europe through a combination of random movement and proliferation (initially there were no predators and proliferation was rapid). A model for the initial spread can therefore be given by a two-dimensional diffusion equation combined with exponential growth and assuming that M individuals were released at the origin (i.e. in Bohemia). Considering the density of muskrats $u(\mathbf{x}, t)$, the equation is

$$\frac{\partial u}{\partial t} = D \left(\frac{\partial^2 u}{\partial x_1^2} + \frac{\partial^2 u}{\partial x_2^2} \right) + \rho u, \quad \mathbf{x} = (x_1, x_2) \in \mathbb{R}^2, \quad t > 0, \quad (2.6)$$

$$u(\mathbf{x}, 0) = M\delta_0(\mathbf{x}), \quad \mathbf{x} \in \mathbb{R}^2. \quad (2.7)$$

The solution of Equation ?? with initial conditions Equation ?? is equal to:

$$u(\mathbf{x}, t) = \frac{M}{4\pi Dt} \exp\left(\rho t - \frac{|\mathbf{x}|^2}{4Dt}\right) = \frac{M}{4\pi Dt} \exp\left(\rho t - \frac{(x_1^2 + x_2^2)}{4Dt}\right).$$

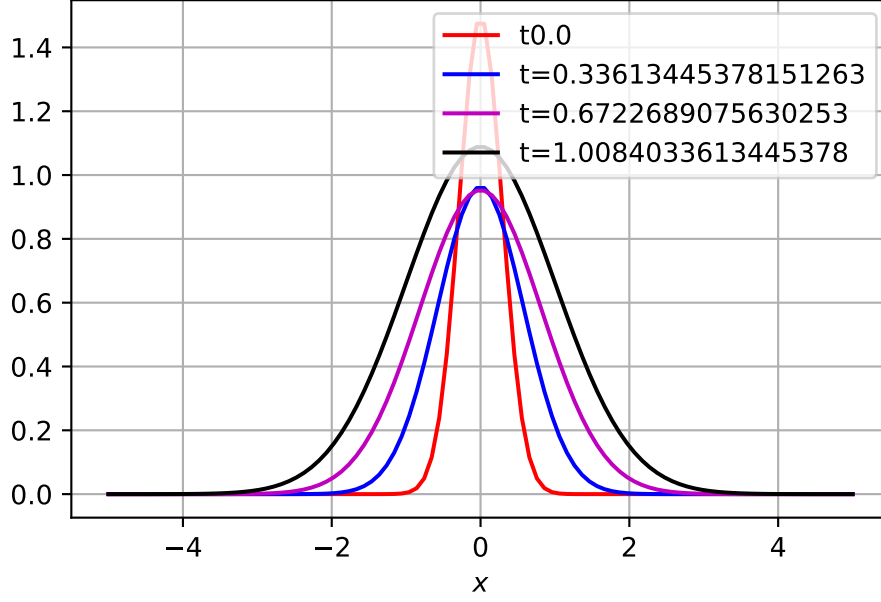


Figure 2.5: Exact solution of linear reaction diffusion equation

Transforming to polar coordinates $x_1 = r \cos \varphi$, $x_2 = r \sin \varphi$ we obtain

$$u(\mathbf{x}, t) = \frac{M}{4\pi Dt} \exp \left(\rho t - \frac{r^2}{4Dt} \right).$$

From the properties of the fundamental solution, the wave of invasion extends all the way to infinity if $t > 0$. Thus, for practical purposes, somehow we have to define the front of the wave.

Consider that there is some detection threshold for the muskrats i.e. some predetermined small value of the density u_1 , say, such that any changes in density for $u < u_1$ cannot be detected.

Because of the symmetry of the problem, then the leading edge of the invading wave front of muskrats is the circle of radius $r = r_1(t)$ where $u = u_1$, i.e. from the explicit solution of Equation ??,

$$u_1(\mathbf{x}, t) = \frac{M}{4\pi Dt} \exp \left(\rho t - \frac{r_1^2}{4Dt} \right).$$

Rearranging and solving for r_1 , using the fact that

$$\lim_{t \rightarrow \infty} \frac{\ln t}{t} = 0,$$

we obtain for large t that

$$r_1(t) \approx 2\sqrt{\rho Dt}.$$

Hence, the speed of invasion of the leading edge of the muskrats is given by:

$$v = \frac{r_1(t)}{t} = 2\sqrt{\rho D}.$$

3 Non linear reaction diffusion equations

We now consider the one-dimensional diffusion equation with a non-linear reaction term of “logistic growth”, to give the nonlinear reaction-diffusion equation:

$$\frac{\partial u}{\partial t} = D \frac{\partial^2 u}{\partial x^2} + \rho u \left(1 - \frac{u}{K}\right), \quad x \in \mathbb{R}, \quad t > 0, \quad (3.1)$$

with initial Condition

$$u(x, 0) = u_0(x).$$

This is known as **the Fisher equation**, and was introduced by Fisher in 1937 (“The Wave of Advance of Advantageous Genes” (1937)).

We can non-dimensionalize Equation ?? by considering the scaling

$$t^* = \rho t, \quad x^* = \sqrt{\frac{\rho}{D}} x, \quad u^* = \frac{u}{K}.$$

Dropping the asteriks we obtain the non-dimensionalized Fisher equation (**Exercise**):

$$\frac{\partial u}{\partial t} = \frac{\partial^2 u}{\partial x^2} + u(1 - u), \quad x \in \mathbb{R}, \quad t > 0$$

with initial condition

$$u(x, 0) = u_0(x). \quad (3.2)$$

3.1 Numerical solutions

In Figure ?? we have computed a numerical solution to Equation ?? together with no-flux boundary conditions. See Python code for further details. The key point to note is that the numerical solutions appear to be a *travelling wave*, at successive times the solution is translated along the x axis. At long times the solution tends to $u \sim 1$ (behind the wavefront). Ahead of the front, the solution is $u \sim 0$.

- Can we prove this is a travelling wave (e.g. the solution could be dynamic on a very slow time scale that is not captured by the numerical solution)?

- Can we derived a form for the travelling wave profile?
- Will we see a travelling wave for any initial data?
- How does the wave speed relate to model parameters?

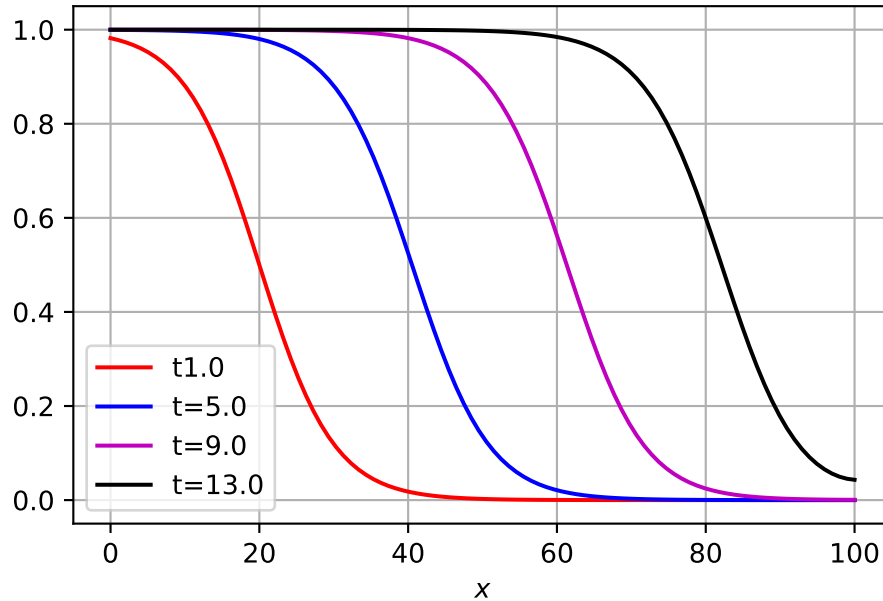


Figure 3.1: Numerical solution of Fisher's equation.

3.2 Travelling waves

It is known that the Fisher Equation ?? exhibits what are known as *travelling wave* solutions.

Definition 3.1. A travelling wave is a solution of a partial differential equation with a constant profile (shape) and a constant propagation speed.

3.2.1 Types of travelling waves

- Travelling pulse: $u(x, t) \rightarrow a$, as $x \rightarrow \pm\infty$.
- Travelling front : $u(x, t) \rightarrow a$, as $x \rightarrow -\infty$, $u(x, t) \rightarrow b$, as $x \rightarrow +\infty$ and $a \neq b$ (this is what we see in Figure ??)
- Travelling train: $u(x, t)$ is a periodic function in x .

A travelling wave solution of a PDE can be written in the form $u(x, t) = W(z)$, where $z = x - vt$. We shall consider $v > 0$, which describes a wave moving from left to right.

Consider first the *spatially uniform (homogeneous)* solution of Equation ??

$$\frac{\partial u}{\partial t} = u(1 - u), \quad t > 0. \quad (3.3)$$

Steady states of Equation ?? are

$$u = u_1 = 1$$

and

$$u = u_2 = 0.$$

To analyse the stability we consider

$$f(u) = u(1 - u) \quad \text{and} \quad \frac{df}{du}(u) = 1 - 2u.$$

Then

$$\frac{df}{du}(u_1) = -1 \quad \text{and} \quad \frac{df}{du}(u_2) = 1.$$

Thus $u_1 = 1$ is *stable* and $u_2 = 0$ is *unstable*.

This stability analysis suggests that for the spatially dependent situation we can have a travelling wave solution that connects the two steady states u_1 and u_2 i.e. a travelling front.

Consider the travelling wave *ansatz*

$$u(x, t) = W(z) = W(x - vt),$$

where v is a constant. Changing variables in Equation ?? and using

$$\begin{aligned} \frac{\partial u}{\partial t} &= \frac{dW}{dz} \frac{\partial z}{\partial t} = -v \frac{dW}{dz}, \\ \frac{\partial u}{\partial x} &= \frac{dW}{dz} \frac{\partial z}{\partial x} = \frac{dW}{dz}, \\ \frac{\partial^2 u}{\partial x^2} &= \frac{d^2 W}{dz^2} \left(\frac{\partial z}{\partial x} \right)^2 + \frac{dW}{dz} \frac{\partial^2 z}{\partial x^2} = \frac{d^2 W}{dz^2}, \end{aligned}$$

we obtain a second order ordinary differential equation for W

$$\frac{d^2 W}{dz^2} + v \frac{dW}{dz} + W(1 - W) = 0, \quad (3.4)$$

where

$$W(z) \rightarrow 1 \quad \text{as} \quad z \rightarrow -\infty, \quad W(z) \rightarrow 0 \quad \text{as} \quad z \rightarrow +\infty, \quad (3.5)$$

and

$$W(z) \in [0, 1]. \quad (3.6)$$

We can rewrite Equation ?? as a system of two first order ODEs

$$\begin{aligned}\frac{dW}{dz} &= P = F(W, P), \\ \frac{dP}{dz} &= -vP - W(1 - W) = G(W, P).\end{aligned}\tag{3.7}$$

3.2.2 Numerical solutions

In Figure ?? we plot the numerical solution to equations Equation ?? for different values of the wavespeed, v . Note that when the wavespeed is too small the solution spirals in towards the origin. This solution cannot be valid as it implies that $u < 0$ for some z .

Note that some problem will not have a travelling wave solution. In this situation we could still make the travelling wave ansatz but this would usually result in a contradiction. In such a case this tells us that a travelling wave solution is not possible.

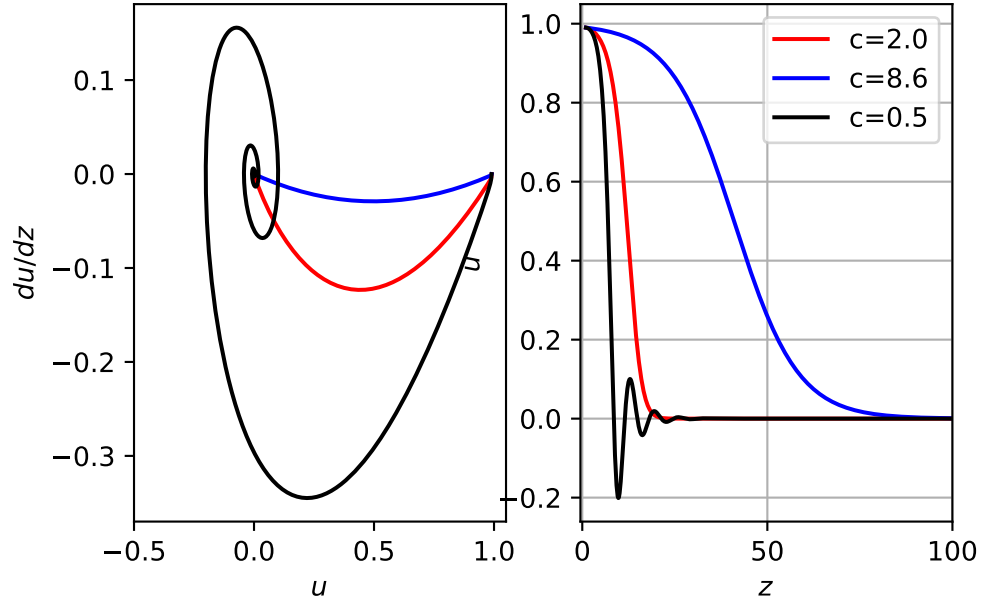


Figure 3.2: Proposed numerical solution of Equation ?? with prospective values of wavespeed c .

3.2.3 Steady state analysis

The steady states of Equation ?? are $(W_1, P_1) = (0, 0)$ and $(W_2, P_2) = (1, 0)$.

Using

$$\frac{dP}{dW} = \frac{dP}{dz} \frac{dz}{dW} = \frac{\frac{dP}{dz}}{\frac{dW}{dz}}$$

and Equation ?? we can write an equation for $P = P(W)$:

$$\frac{dP}{dW} = -v - \frac{W(1-W)}{P}, \quad (3.8)$$

together with

$$P(0) = 0, \quad P(1) = 0, \quad (3.9)$$

and

$$P(W) < 0 \quad \text{or} \quad W \in (0, 1). \quad (3.10)$$

The condition Equation ?? is given by the form of travelling front, which we would like to show that it exists

Lemma 3.1. *For every solution of Equation ?? satisfying Equation ?? and Equation ?? we have that $\frac{dW(z)}{dz} < 0$ for all finite z , i.e.*

$$P(W) < 0 \quad \text{for} \quad W \in (0, 1).$$

Thus in phase-plane we shall look for a trajectory connecting $(W_1, P_1) = (0, 0)$ and $(W_2, P_2) = (1, 0)$ and $P < 0$.

3.2.4 Connection between sign of P and sign of speed v

Consider Equation ?. Multiplying it by P and integrating over W from 0 to 1, we obtain

$$\int_0^1 \frac{dP}{dW} P(W) dW = -v \int_0^1 P(W) dW - \int_0^1 W(1-W) dW.$$

Using conditions Equation ?? we have

$$\int_0^1 \frac{dP}{dW} P dW = \frac{1}{2} \int \frac{d}{dW} (P^2) dW = \frac{1}{2} (P^2(1) - P^2(0)) = 0,$$

and

$$v \int_0^1 P(W) dW = - \int_0^1 W(1-W) dW < 0, \quad \text{since} \quad \int_0^1 W(1-W) dW > 0.$$

Thus for $v > 0$ we have $P = W' < 0$ and for $v < 0$ we have $P = W' > 0$.

Note: $u(x, t) = W(z)$, where $z = x - vt$ with $v < 0$ and $\frac{dW}{dz} > 0$ will also be a travelling wave for the Fisher Equation ??, i.e. a travelling wave front moving to the left.

Note: Instead of $z = x - vt$ we can also consider $z = x + vt$. The sign of v determines the direction of movement: If $z = x - vt$ for $v > 0$ we have travelling wave moving to the right and for $v < 0$ we have travelling wave moving to the left.

If $z = x + vt$ for $v > 0$ we have travelling wave moving to the left and for $v < 0$ we have travelling wave moving to the right.

3.2.5 Stability of steady states

The **Jacobian matrix** for Equation ?? is given by:

$$J(W, P) = \begin{pmatrix} \frac{\partial F}{\partial W} & \frac{\partial F}{\partial P} \\ \frac{\partial G}{\partial W} & \frac{\partial G}{\partial P} \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} 0 & 1 \\ -1 + 2W & -v \end{pmatrix}.$$

At $(W_1, P_1) = (0, 0)$ the eigenvalues of $J(0, 0)$ are solutions of the characteristic polynomial

$$\det(J(0, 0) - \lambda I) = \begin{vmatrix} -\lambda & 1 \\ -1 & -v - \lambda \end{vmatrix} = \lambda^2 + v\lambda + 1 = 0.$$

Thus

$$\lambda_1^\pm = \frac{1}{2}(-v \pm \sqrt{v^2 - 4})$$

and we have for $v > 0$ that $Re(\lambda_1^\pm) < 0$.

Therefore at $(0, 0)$

$$\begin{cases} \text{stable node if } v^2 \geq 4, \\ \text{stable focus if } v^2 < 4 \quad (\text{complex eigenvalues}) \end{cases}$$

At $(W_2, P_2) = (1, 0)$ the eigenvalues of $J(1, 0)$ are solutions of the characteristic polynomial

$$\det(J(1, 0) - \lambda I) = \begin{vmatrix} -\lambda & 1 \\ 1 & -v - \lambda \end{vmatrix} = \lambda^2 + v\lambda - 1 = 0.$$

Thus

$$\lambda_2^\pm = \frac{1}{2}(-v \pm \sqrt{v^2 + 4})$$

and we have for $v > 0$ that $\lambda_2^- < 0 < \lambda_2^+$. Therefore $(1, 0)$ is a saddle.

The eigenvectors are defined by

$$-\lambda W + P = 0.$$

Thus at $(W_1, P_1) = (0, 0)$ we have

$$\Phi_1 = \begin{pmatrix} W \\ \lambda_1^- W \end{pmatrix}, \quad \Phi_2 = \begin{pmatrix} W \\ \lambda_1^+ W \end{pmatrix}.$$

Consider that

$$\lambda_1^- \leq \lambda_1^+ < 0 \quad \text{and choose} \quad W = \pm 1.$$

At $(W_2, P_2) = (1, 0)$ we have

$$\Psi_1 = \begin{pmatrix} W \\ \lambda_2^- W \end{pmatrix}, \quad \Psi_2 = \begin{pmatrix} W \\ \lambda_2^+ W \end{pmatrix}.$$

Consider that

$$\lambda_2^- < 0 < \lambda_2^+ \quad \text{and choose} \quad W = \pm 1.$$

The eigenvectors are sketched in Figure ??.

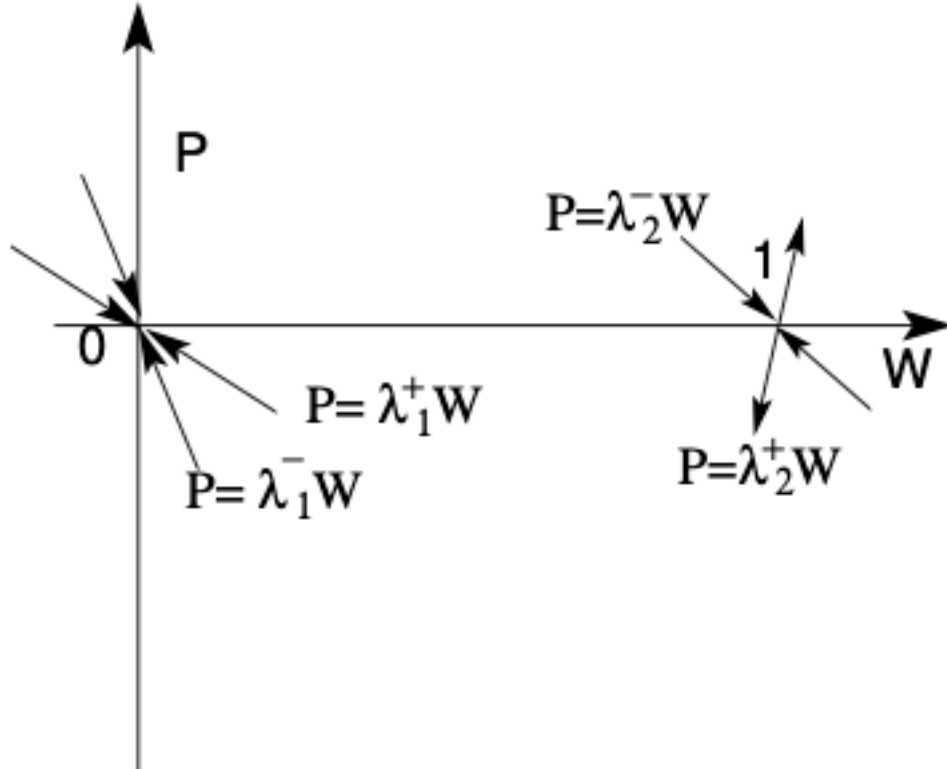


Figure 3.3: Schematic diagram of eigenvectors.

Definition 3.2. The trajectory that connects two different points is called a heteroclinic connection. The trajectory that connects a point with itself is called a homoclinic connection.

3.2.6 Minimal wave speed

It can be shown that for $v < 2$ a heteroclinic connection between $(0, 0)$ and $(1, 0)$ exists, but in this situation the steady state $(0, 0)$ is a stable focus and corresponds to an oscillatory front.

In the context of a model of a biological process W is the profile of a population density and $W \geq 0$. Hence, for $v < 2$ trajectories connecting $(0, 0)$ and $(1, 0)$ are not biologically realistic.

Thus we obtain the minimal speed $v_{\min}^* = 2$ (non-dimensionalized) for which we have a travelling wave front solution for Fisher's equation.

In the original dimensional variables we have:

$$z^* = x^* - v^* t^* = x \sqrt{\frac{\rho}{D}} - v^* t \rho, \quad \sqrt{\frac{D}{\rho}} z^* = x - \sqrt{D\rho} v^* t.$$

Thus for $z = x - vt$ we have

$$v = v^* \sqrt{D\rho},$$

and

$$v_{\min} = v_{\min}^* \sqrt{D\rho} = 2\sqrt{D\rho}.$$

3.2.6.1 The existence of a confined region

To show the existence of a travelling wave we will construct a **confined region** or **confined set** in \mathbb{R}^2 , which contains both steady states such that, once inside this region solution trajectories cannot escape from it (also known as an **invariant region** or **invariant set**).

Consider

$$T = \{(W, P) : 0 \leq W \leq 1, P \leq 0, P \geq \mu W\}$$

for some $\mu < 0$.

Consider normal vectors at each boundary of T :

$$\text{at } P = 0 : n_1 = \begin{pmatrix} 0 \\ -1 \end{pmatrix}, \quad \text{at } W = 1 : n_2 = \begin{pmatrix} -1 \\ 0 \end{pmatrix}, \quad \text{at } P = \mu W : n_3 = \begin{pmatrix} -\mu \\ 1 \end{pmatrix}.$$

Consider the scalar product between normal vectors and the **flow vector**

$$\begin{pmatrix} \frac{dW}{dz} \\ \frac{dP}{dz} \end{pmatrix},$$

of Equation ??.

At $P = 0$

$$\begin{pmatrix} \frac{dW}{dz} \\ \frac{dP}{dz} \end{pmatrix} \cdot n_1 = \begin{pmatrix} \frac{dW}{dz} \\ \frac{dP}{dz} \end{pmatrix} \cdot \begin{pmatrix} 0 \\ -1 \end{pmatrix} = (vP + W(1 - W)) \Big|_{P=0} = W(1 - W) \geq 0, \text{ for } W \in [0, 1].$$

At $W = 1$

$$\begin{pmatrix} \frac{dW}{dz} \\ \frac{dP}{dz} \end{pmatrix} \cdot n_2 = \begin{pmatrix} \frac{dW}{dz} \\ \frac{dP}{dz} \end{pmatrix} \cdot \begin{pmatrix} -1 \\ 0 \end{pmatrix} = -P \geq 0, \text{ since } P \leq 0.$$

At $P = \mu W$

$$\begin{aligned} \begin{pmatrix} \frac{dW}{dz} \\ \frac{dP}{dz} \end{pmatrix} \cdot n_3 &= \begin{pmatrix} \frac{dW}{dz} \\ \frac{dP}{dz} \end{pmatrix} \cdot \begin{pmatrix} -\mu \\ 1 \end{pmatrix} \\ &= (-\mu P - vP - W(1 - W)) \Big|_{P=\mu W} \\ &= -\mu^2 W - \mu v W - W(1 - W) = -W(\mu^2 + \mu v + 1) + W^2. \end{aligned}$$

Thus

$$\begin{pmatrix} \frac{dW}{dz} \\ \frac{dP}{dz} \end{pmatrix} \cdot n_3 \geq 0,$$

if

$$\mu^2 + \mu v + 1 \leq 0.$$

The last inequality is satisfied if we have real roots of the equation $\mu^2 + \mu v + 1 = 0$. We have that

$$\mu_{1,2} = \frac{-v \pm \sqrt{v^2 - 4}}{2}$$

are real if $v^2 \geq 4$.

Thus, since $v > 0$, for $v \geq 2$ and any

$$\mu \in \left[\frac{-v - \sqrt{v^2 - 4}}{2}, \frac{-v + \sqrt{v^2 - 4}}{2} \right]$$

we have

$$\begin{pmatrix} \frac{dW}{dz} \\ \frac{dP}{dz} \end{pmatrix} \cdot n_3 \geq 0 \quad \text{at} \quad P = \mu W.$$

Therefore we have shown that at the boundaries of T the flow vector points in to the region T and any trajectory approaching the boundaries from inside of T will return to T without crossing any of the boundaries of T . Thus we have constructed an invariant (trapping) triangular region containing the steady states $(0, 0)$ and $(1, 0)$.

If we can show that there no other steady states or periodic solutions of the system Equation ??, then a trajectory that leaves $(1, 0)$ must approach $(0, 0)$.

Theorem 3.1. *Bendixson's Negative Criterion, Dulac's Negative Criterion*

If there exists a function $\varphi(W, P)$, with $\varphi \in C^1(\mathbb{R}^2)$, such that

$$\frac{\partial(\varphi F)}{\partial W} + \frac{\partial(\varphi G)}{\partial P},$$

has the same sign ($\neq 0$) almost everywhere in a simply connected region (region without holes), then the system

$$\begin{aligned} \frac{dW}{dz} &= F(W, P), \\ \frac{dP}{dz} &= G(W, P), \end{aligned}$$

has no periodic solutions in this region.

We can apply Theorem ?? to our situation taking $\varphi(W, P) = 1$. Then using Equation ?? we have

$$\frac{\partial(\varphi F)}{\partial W} + \frac{\partial(\varphi G)}{\partial P} = -v < 0.$$

Thus we have no periodic solutions and also only two steady states $(0, 0)$ and $(1, 0)$ in the confined (invariant) simply-connected region T . Therefore the trajectory that leaves $(1, 0)$ will approach $(0, 0)$.

We have therefore shown that for any $v \geq 2$ there exist a heteroclinic trajectory $P(W)$ connecting $(0, 0)$ and $(1, 0)$.

Theorem 3.2. *For $P(W)$ satisfying Equation ??, Equation ?? and $P(W) < 0$ for $W \in (0, 1)$, there exists a solution $W(z)$ of Equation ?? satisfying Equation ?? and Equation ??.*

Thus for any wave speed v satisfying $v \geq 2$, we have the existence of travelling wave front $u(x, t) = W(x - vt)$ of Fisher's equation Equation ??.

3.2.7 Initial conditions

One final key question is: For which initial conditions $u(x, 0) = u_0(x)$ does the solution evolve to a travelling wave solution?

If we start with a travelling wave shape initial condition, i.e. $u_0(x) = W(z)|_{t=0} = W(x)$, then this simply propagates as a travelling wave. However if $u_0(x) \neq W(x)$, then it is not immediately obvious how the solution will evolve. This problem was considered by Kolmogorov et al. Kolmogorov, Petrovsky, and Piskunov (1937), who showed that for any initial data satisfying

$$u_0(x) \geq 0, \quad \text{with} \quad u_0(x) = \begin{cases} 1 & \text{if } x \leq x_1, \\ 0 & \text{if } x \geq x_2, \end{cases}$$

where $x_1 < x_2$ and u_0 is continuous in $[x_1, x_2]$, the solution of Fisher's Equation ?? evolves to a travelling wave with minimal speed

$$v_{\min} = 2\sqrt{\rho D}$$

and

$$u(t, x) \rightarrow 1 \quad \text{as} \quad x \rightarrow -\infty, \quad u(t, x) \rightarrow 0 \quad \text{and} \quad x \rightarrow +\infty.$$

3.3 Travelling waves in bistable equations

Consider now the reaction-diffusion equation:

$$\frac{\partial u}{\partial t} = \frac{\partial^2 u}{\partial x^2} + f(u) \quad x \in \mathbb{R}, \quad t > 0, \quad (3.11)$$

with initial condition

$$u(x, 0) = u_0(x) \quad x \in \mathbb{R},$$

where $f(0) = f(a) = f(1) = 0$ and $0 < a < 1$. There are three spatially uniform steady states $u_1 = 0$, $u_2 = a$, $u_3 = 1$.

The stability of the steady states is given by the sign of $f'(u_j)$ for $j = 1, 2, 3$.

If we have that $f'(0) < 0$, $f'(a) > 0$ and $f'(1) < 0$ then $u_1 = 0$ and $u_3 = 1$ are stable steady states and $u_2 = a$ is an unstable steady state of Equation ??.

An example of such a function is f is $f = u(u - a)(1 - u)$ which arises in the study of nerve action potentials along nerve fibres and other problems in **excitable media**.

The existence of two stable steady states gives rise to the name “bistable equation”.

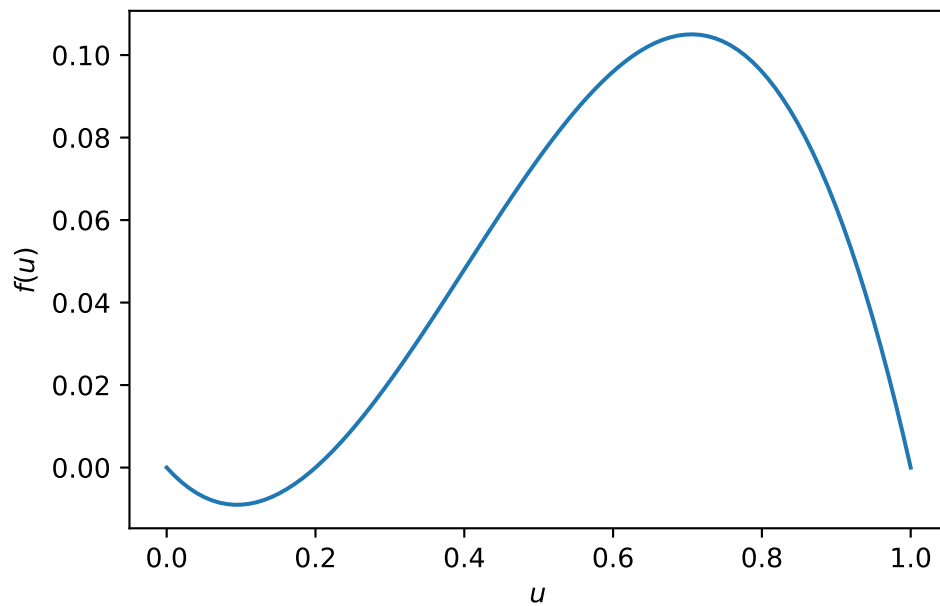


Figure 3.4: A plot of $f(u)$ against u .

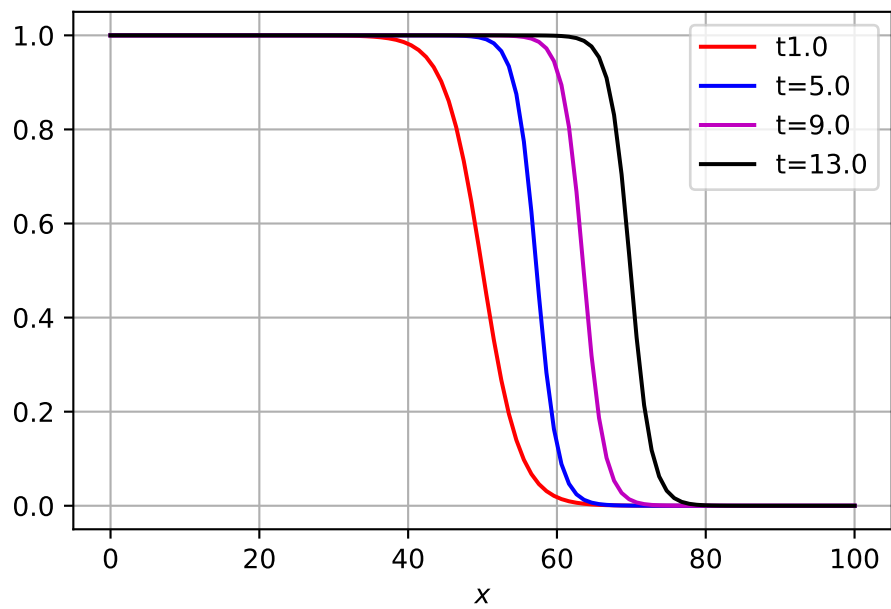


Figure 3.5: Numerical solution of bistable PDE.

3.4 Numerical solutions

3.5 General assumptions on f

- $f(0) = f(a) = f(1) = 0$,
- $f(u) < 0$ in $(0, a)$, $f(u) > 0$ in $(a, 1)$
- $f'(0) < 0$, $f'(1) < 0$

In a similar manner to the previous sections, we look for a travelling wave solution of the form $u(x, t) = W(z)$ with $z = x - vt$, yielding

$$\frac{d^2W}{dz^2} + v\frac{dW}{dz} + f(W) = 0, \quad (3.12)$$

We can rewrite Equation ?? as a system of two 1st order ODEs

$$\begin{aligned} \frac{dW}{dz} &= P = F(W, P), \\ \frac{dP}{dz} &= -vP - f(W) = G(W, P), \end{aligned} \quad (3.13)$$

3.5.1 Stability of the steady states

The steady states of Equation ?? are $(W_1, P_1) = (0, 0)$, $(W_2, P_2) = (a, 0)$, $(W_3, P_3) = (1, 0)$.

The Jacobian matrix is given by

$$J(W, P) = \begin{pmatrix} \frac{\partial F}{\partial W} & \frac{\partial F}{\partial P} \\ \frac{\partial G}{\partial W} & \frac{\partial G}{\partial P} \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} 0 & 1 \\ -f'(W) & -v \end{pmatrix}$$

At steady states (W_j, P_j) , the eigenvalues of $J(W_j, P_j)$ are solutions of the characteristic polynomial

$$\det(J(W_j, P_j) - \lambda I) = \begin{vmatrix} -\lambda & 1 \\ -f'(W_j) & -v - \lambda \end{vmatrix} = \lambda^2 + v\lambda + f'(W_j) = 0.$$

Therefore:

$$\lambda_j^\pm = \frac{-v \pm \sqrt{v^2 - 4f'(W_j)}}{2}.$$

At $(W_1, P_1) = (0, 0)$ since $f'(0) < 0$ we obtain $\lambda_1^- < 0 < \lambda_1^+$ and it is a saddle point.

At $(W_2, P_2) = (a, 0)$ since $f'(a) > 0$ we obtain

$$(a, 0) - \begin{cases} \text{focus} & \text{if } v^2 < 4f'(a) \text{ and is stable if } v > 0, \text{ unstable if } v < 0, \\ \text{node} & \text{if } v^2 \geq 4f'(a) \text{ and is stable if } v > 0, \text{ unstable if } v < 0, \\ \text{centre} & \text{if } v = 0. \end{cases}$$

\ At $(W_3, P_3) = (1, 0)$ since $f'(1) < 0$ we obtain $\hat{-}3\{-\} < 0 < \hat{-}3\{+\}$ and it is a saddle point. \

Eigenvectors are given by

$$P = \lambda W$$

and at each steady state we have two eigenvectors

$$\Psi_j^\pm = \begin{pmatrix} W \\ \lambda_j^\pm W \end{pmatrix}, \quad j = 1, 2, 3.$$

As we vary the wave speed v , the stable and unstable manifolds move and we wish to show that for some v the unstable manifold leaving one saddle point coincides with the stable manifold entering the other saddle point, i.e. we can choose a value for the wave speed v such that a heteroclinic connection between $(1, 0)$ and $(0, 0)$ is obtained. We shall use a “shooting argument” to prove this.

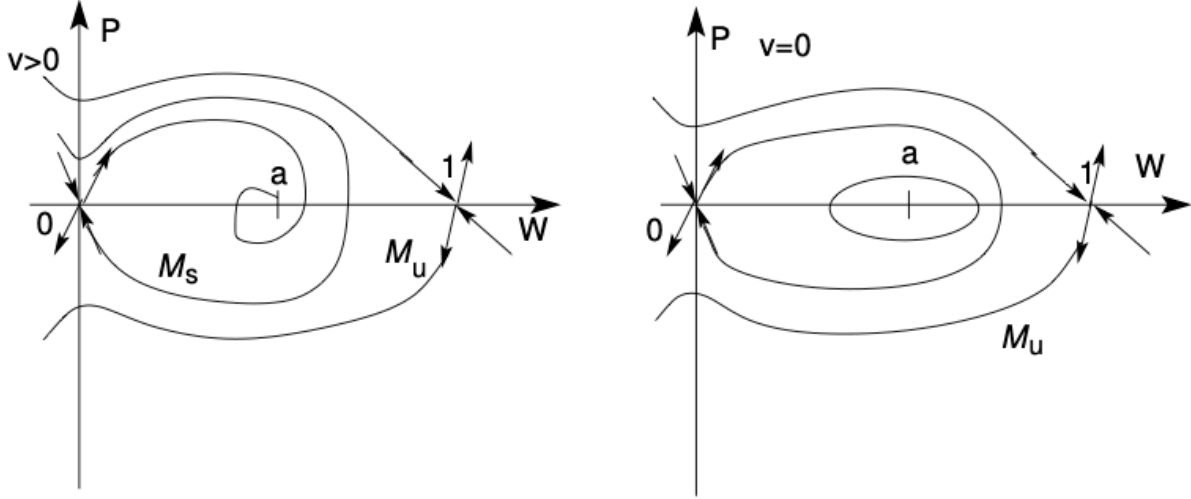


Figure 3.6: Schematic diagram of eigenvectors.

3.5.2 Relation between sign of v and sign of $\int_0^1 f(u) du$

Consider Equation ??, multiply it by $\frac{dW}{dz}$ and integrate over $(-\infty, +\infty)$:

$$\int_{-\infty}^{+\infty} \frac{d^2 W}{dz^2} \frac{dW}{dz} dz + v \int_{-\infty}^{+\infty} \left| \frac{dW}{dz} \right|^2 dz + \int_{-\infty}^{+\infty} f(W) \frac{dW}{dz} dz = 0.$$

Then

$$\frac{1}{2} \int_{-\infty}^{+\infty} \frac{d}{dz} \left(\left| \frac{dW}{dz} \right|^2 \right) dz + v \int_{-\infty}^{+\infty} \left| \frac{dW}{dz} \right|^2 dz + \int_{W(-\infty)}^{W(+\infty)} f(W) dW = 0$$

and since $W(z) \rightarrow 1$ as $z \rightarrow -\infty$ and $W(z) \rightarrow 0$ as $z \rightarrow +\infty$ we obtain

$$\frac{1}{2} \left(\left| \frac{dW(+\infty)}{dz} \right|^2 - \left| \frac{dW(-\infty)}{dz} \right|^2 \right) + v \int_{-\infty}^{+\infty} \left| \frac{dW}{dz} \right|^2 dz + \int_1^0 f(W) dW = 0.$$

The fact that W is constant at $\pm\infty$ implies that

$$\left. \frac{dW}{dz} \right|_{z=-\infty} = \left. \frac{dW}{dz} \right|_{z=+\infty} = 0.$$

Thus we have

$$v \int_{-\infty}^{+\infty} \left| \frac{dW}{dz} \right|^2 dz = \int_0^1 f(W) dW$$

and

$$v = \frac{\int_0^1 f(W) dW}{\int_{-\infty}^{+\infty} \left| \frac{dW}{dz} \right|^2 dz}.$$

Since $\int_{-\infty}^{+\infty} \left| \frac{dW}{dz} \right|^2 dz > 0$ we can conclude that

$$\int_0^1 f(u) du > 0 \implies v > 0, \int_0^1 f(u) du = 0 \implies v = 0, \int_0^1 f(u) du < 0 \implies v < 0.$$

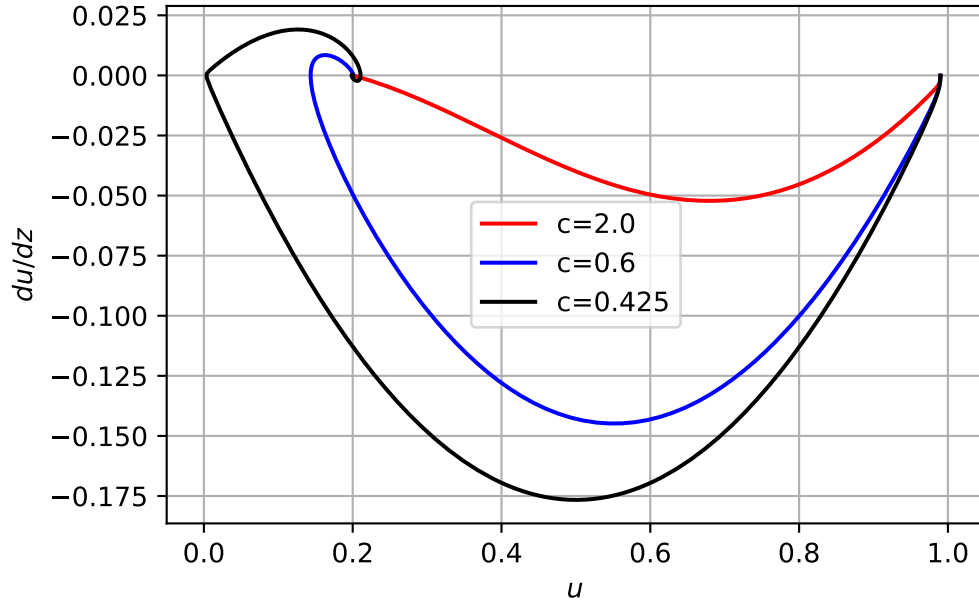


Figure 3.7: Numerical solution of bistable PDE

3.5.3 The shooting method proof of a heteroclinic connection

3.5.3.1 Numerical shooting method

Assume

$$\int_0^1 f(u) du > 0.$$

i.e. $v > 0$.

- Consider first $v = 0$.

From the equations in Equation ?? and the assumptions on the function f we have

- If $W \in (0, a)$

Using the fact that $f(W) < 0$ for $W \in (0, a)$ and $P < 0$ and $v = 0$ we have

$$\begin{cases} \frac{dW}{dz} = P < 0, \\ \frac{dP}{dz} = -f(W) > 0 \end{cases} \quad \rightarrow \quad \frac{dP}{dW} < 0$$

Thus the trajectory enters $(0,0)$ with

$$\frac{dP}{dW} < 0,$$

along the stable manifold $M_s^{(0,0)}$ and intersects the line $\{W = a\}$ at the point (a, P_0) .

– If $W \in (a, 1)$

Using the fact that $f(W) > 0$ for $W \in (a, 1)$ and $P < 0$ and $v = 0$ we have

$$\begin{cases} \frac{dW}{dz} = P < 0, \\ \frac{dP}{dz} = -f(W) < 0 \end{cases} \quad \rightarrow \quad \frac{dP}{dW} > 0$$

Thus the trajectory leaves $(1,0)$ with

$$\frac{dP}{dW} > 0$$

along the unstable manifold $M_u^{(1,0)}$ and intersects the line $\{W = a\}$ at the point (a, P_1) .

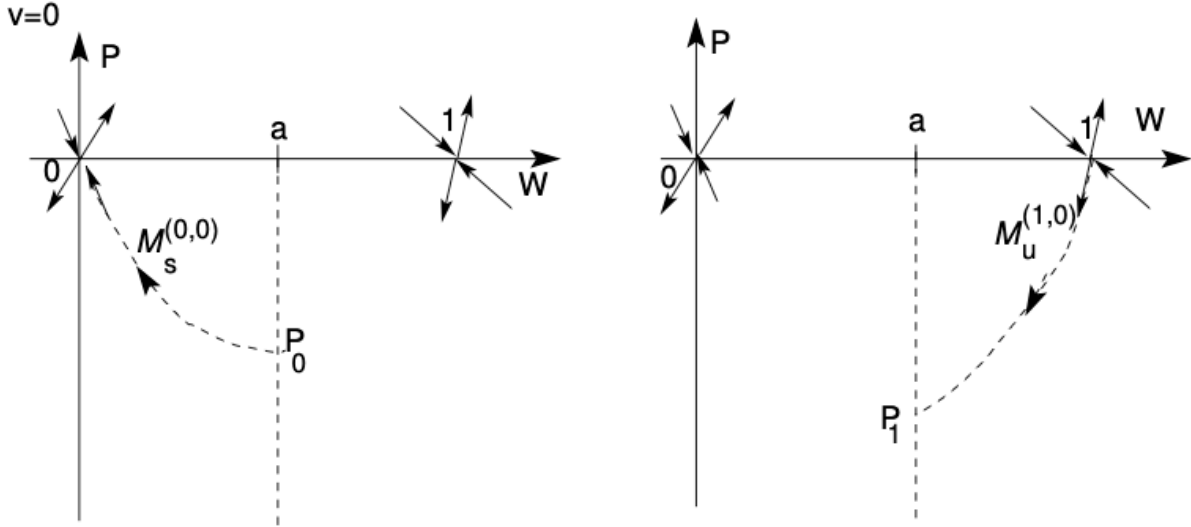


Figure 3.8: Schematic diagram of eigenvectors.

Now we shall compare P_0 and P_1 . For this we consider again equation Equation ??, multiply by $\frac{dW}{dz}$ and integrate first over $(-\infty, z^*)$ and then over $(z^*, +\infty)$, where $z^* \in (-\infty, +\infty)$ such that $W(z^*) = a$. Then since $v = 0$ we have first

$$\int_{-\infty}^{z^*} \frac{d^2W}{dz^2} \frac{dW}{dz} dz + \int_{-\infty}^{z^*} f(W) \frac{dW}{dz} dz = 0.$$

and

$$\frac{1}{2} \left| \frac{dW}{dz} \right|^2 \Big|_{z=-\infty}^{z=z^*} + \int_{W(-\infty)}^{W(z^*)} f(W) dW = 0 .$$

Since $W(-\infty) = 1$ we are moving along the unstable manifold $M_u^{(1,0)}$ and

$$\frac{dW(z^*)}{dz} = P(z^* + 0) = P_1 .$$

Thus using that $\frac{dW}{dz} \Big|_{z=-\infty} = 0$ we obtain

$$\frac{1}{2} P_1^2 + \int_1^a f(W) dW = 0 \quad \implies \quad P_1^2 = 2 \int_a^1 f(W) dW$$

Integration over $(z^*, +\infty)$ implies

$$\int_{z^*}^{+\infty} \frac{d^2 W}{dz^2} \frac{dW}{dz} dz + \int_{z^*}^{+\infty} f(W) \frac{dW}{dz} dz = 0 .$$

and

$$\frac{1}{2} \left| \frac{dW(+\infty)}{dz} \right|^2 - \frac{1}{2} \left| \frac{dW(z^*)}{dz} \right|^2 + \int_{W(z^*)}^{W(+\infty)} f(W) dW = 0 .$$

Since $W(+\infty) = 0$ we are moving along the stable manifold $M_s^{(0,0)}$ and $\frac{dW(z^*)}{dz} = P(z^* - 0) = P_0$. Thus using that $\frac{dW}{dz} \Big|_{z=+\infty} = 0$ we obtain

$$-\frac{1}{2} P_0^2 + \int_a^0 f(W) dW = 0 \quad \implies \quad P_0^2 = -2 \int_0^a f(W) dW .$$

Since

$$\int_0^1 f(u) du > 0$$

we obtain

$$P_1^2 - P_0^2 = 2 \int_0^1 f(W) dW > 0 \quad \implies \quad P_1^2 > P_0^2$$

Then since $P < 0$ we have

$$P_1 < P_0 .$$

- Consider $v > 0$ large.

From the equations in Equation ?? and the assumptions on the function f we have

* If $W \in (0, a)$

Using the fact that $f(W) < 0$ for $W \in (0, a)$, $P < 0$ and $v > 0$ we have

$$\begin{cases} \frac{dW}{dz} = P < 0, \\ \frac{dP}{dz} = -vP - f(W) > 0 \end{cases} \implies \frac{dP}{dW} < 0$$

Thus $P(W)$ is always decreasing for $W \in (0, a)$. * If $W \in (a, 1)$

Using the fact that $f(W) > 0$ for $W \in (a, 1)$, $P < 0$ and $v > 0$ we have

$$\frac{dW}{dz} = P < 0,$$

$$\begin{cases} \frac{dP}{dz} = -vP - f(W) < 0 & \text{for small } |P| \text{ and } \frac{dP}{dz} = -vP - f(W) > 0 & \text{for large } |P|. \end{cases}$$

Thus

$$\begin{cases} \frac{dP}{dW} > 0 & \text{for small } |P|, \\ \frac{dP}{dW} < 0 & \text{for large } |P|. \end{cases}$$

Therefore if $v > 0$ large we have that $P(W)$ is monotone increasing for small $|P|$ and monotone decreasing for large $|P|$.

Thus since for $v = 0$ we have $P_1 < P_0$ and for $v > 0$ we have that $P(W)$ is monotone decreasing for large $|P|$, due to the continuity of the phase trajectories with respect to the velocity v we obtain that there exists a travelling wave speed $v_0 > 0$ such that $P_0 = P_1$ and we have a heteroclinic connection between $(1, 0)$ and $(0, 0)$ in the phase plane. Hence for $v = v_0$ there exists a travelling wave front solution for the bistable Equation ??.

We can repeat the analysis for

$$\int_0^1 f(u) du < 0$$

and obtain a travelling wave solution with $v_0 < 0$.

If

$$\int_0^1 f(u) du = 0,$$

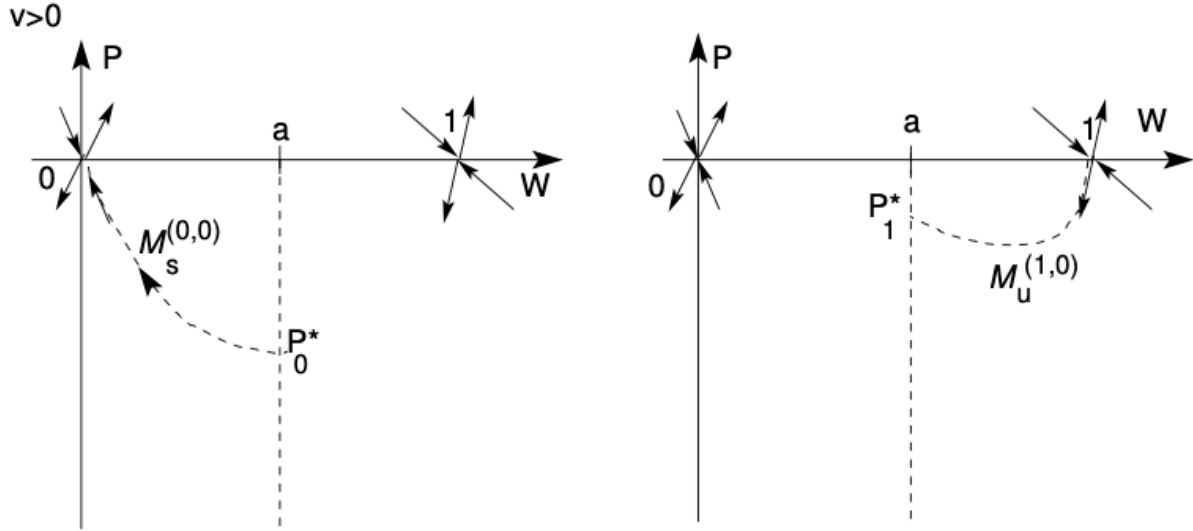


Figure 3.9: Schematic diagram.

then we have a standing wave with $v = 0$, since the calculations for P_0 and P_1 implies $P_0 = P_1$ and there exists a heteroclinic orbit between $(1, 0)$ and $(0, 0)$ in the phase space.

Note: There exists a unique travelling wave velocity v for which we have a travelling wave solution for bistable Equation ??.

3.6 References

Part II

Multi species

4 Lotka Voltera model

Consider a predator-prey system (modified Lotka-Volterra equations) with diffusion of both the prey and the predator species. Suppose that the reaction kinetics are given by:

- prey undergoes logistic growth in the absence of predator.
- the predation rate is proportional to the amount of predator
- predator growth rate is proportional to the amount of prey
- predator undergoes natural degradation

Suppose also that both predator and prey undergo random motion.

Let $u(x, t)$ and $n(x, t)$ represent the density of the prey and predator, respectively. The governing equations are:

$$\begin{aligned}\frac{\partial u}{\partial t} &= \rho u \left(1 - \frac{u}{K}\right) - \alpha u n + D_u \Delta u, \\ \frac{\partial n}{\partial t} &= \beta u n - \gamma n + D_n \Delta n,\end{aligned}\tag{4.1}$$

where

- ρ – prey growth rate,
- K – carrying capacity,
- βu – growth rate of the predator,
- α – rate at which the predator eats the prey,
- γ – death rate of the predator,
- D_u – diffusion coefficient of the prey
- D_n – diffusion coefficient for the predator .

We will consider one spatial dimension.

4.1 Nondimensionalization

Consider the scaling

$$x^* = x \sqrt{\frac{\rho}{D_n}}, \quad t^* = \rho t, \quad u^* = \frac{u}{K}, \quad n^* = n \frac{\alpha}{\rho}.$$

Upon dropping the asteriked notation, Equation ?? transform to

$$\begin{cases} \frac{\partial u}{\partial t} = u(1 - u - n) + D \frac{\partial^2 u}{\partial x^2} = f(u, n) + D \frac{\partial^2 u}{\partial x^2} & x \in \mathbb{R}, t > 0, \\ \frac{\partial n}{\partial t} = a n(u - b) + \frac{\partial^2 n}{\partial x^2} = g(u, n) + \frac{\partial^2 n}{\partial x^2} & x \in \mathbb{R}, t > 0, \end{cases} \quad (4.2)$$

where

$$D = \frac{D_u}{D_n}, \quad a = \frac{\beta K}{\rho}, \quad b = \frac{\gamma}{K\beta}.$$

4.2 Numerical solutions

In Figure ?? we plot numerical solution of Equation ??. No flux boundary conditions are imposed at $x = 0$ and $x = 150$.

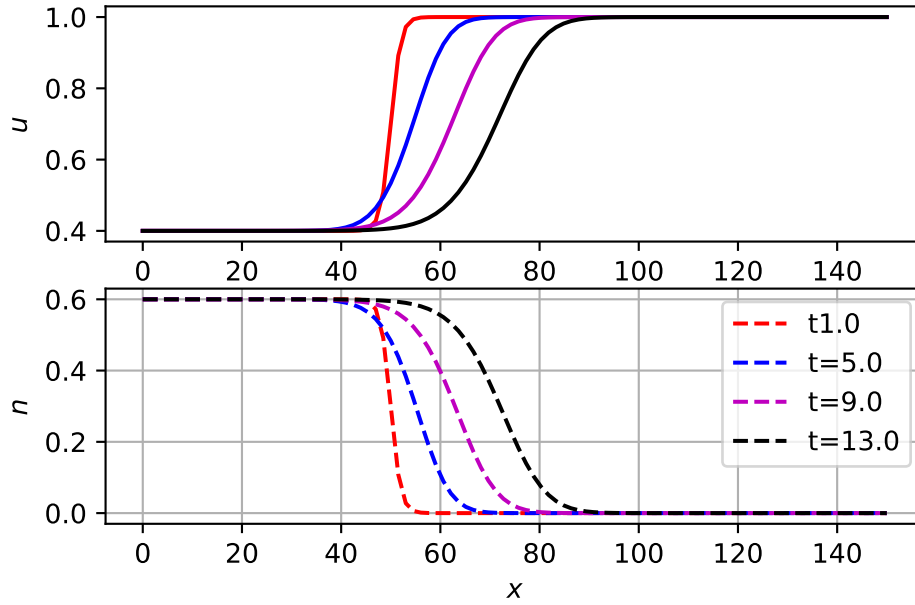


Figure 4.1: Numerical solution of LV model. $a=0.2$. $b=0.4$.

4.3 Spatially homogeneous steady states

We firstly consider spatially homogeneous steady states, i.e.

$$f(u, n) = 0, \quad g(u, n) = 0.$$

Thus

$$\begin{aligned} u(1 - u - n) &= 0, & u &= 0, & u + n &= 1, \\ an(u - b) &= 0, & n &= 0, & u &= b. \end{aligned}$$

Thus the steady states are

$$(u_1^*, n_1^*) = (0, 0), \quad (u_2^*, n_2^*) = (1, 0), \quad (u_3^*, n_3^*) = (b, 1 - b), \quad 0 \leq b < 1.$$

4.4 Stability of steady states to spatially homogeneous perturbations

The Jacobian matrix is

$$J(u_j^*, n_j^*) = \begin{pmatrix} 1 - 2u - n & -u \\ an & a(u - b) \end{pmatrix}_{(u_j^*, n_j^*)}, \quad j = 1, 2, 3.$$

At the steady state

$$(u_1^*, n_1^*) = (0, 0)$$

the characteristic equation is

$$\det(J(0, 0) - \lambda I) = -(1 - \lambda)(\lambda + ab) = 0.$$

The eigenvalues are

$$\lambda_1^+ = 1, \quad \lambda_1^- = -ab < 0.$$

Thus $(0, 0)$ is a saddle point.

At the steady state

$$(u_2^*, n_2^*) = (1, 0)$$

the characteristic equation is

$$\det(J(1, 0) - \lambda I) = -(1 + \lambda)(a(1 - b) - \lambda) = 0.$$

The eigenvalues are

$$\lambda_2^- = -1, \quad \lambda_2^+ = a(1 - b) > 0 \quad \text{for } 0 \leq b < 1.$$

Thus $(1, 0)$ is a saddle point.

At the steady state

$$(u_3^*, n_3^*) = (b, 1 - b)$$

the characteristic equation is

$$\det(J(b, 1 - b) - \lambda I) = \lambda^2 + b\lambda + ab(1 - b) = 0.$$

If

$$4ab(1 - b) \leq b^2 \implies \lambda_3^\pm < 0,$$

$(b, 1 - b)$ is a stable node.

If

$$4ab(1 - b) > b^2 \implies \Re(\lambda_{3\pm}) < 0, \Im(\lambda_3^\pm) \neq 0,$$

$(b, 1 - b)$ is a stable focus (spiral).

For $b > 0$, $1 - b > 0$ spiral oscillations are biologically realistic so long $u > 0$ and $n > 0$.

4.5 Existence of travelling wave profiles connection $(1, 0)$ and $(b, 1 - b)$

Consider the travelling wave *ansatz*

$$\begin{aligned} u(t, x) &= W(x + vt) = W(z), & v > 0, \\ n(t, x) &= N(x + vt) = N(z), & v > 0. \end{aligned}$$

We consider boundary conditions that connect $(1, 0)$ to $(b, 1 - b)$, i.e.

$$\begin{aligned} u(t, x) &\rightarrow 1 \text{ as } x \rightarrow -\infty, & W(z) &\rightarrow 1 \text{ as } z \rightarrow -\infty, \\ u(t, x) &\rightarrow b \text{ as } x \rightarrow +\infty, & W(z) &\rightarrow b \text{ as } z \rightarrow +\infty, \\ n(t, x) &\rightarrow 0 \text{ as } x \rightarrow -\infty, & N(z) &\rightarrow 0 \text{ as } z \rightarrow -\infty, \\ n(t, x) &\rightarrow 1 - b \text{ as } x \rightarrow +\infty, & N(z) &\rightarrow 1 - b \text{ as } z \rightarrow +\infty. \end{aligned}$$

Equation ?? transforms to

$$\begin{aligned} v \frac{dW}{dz} &= D \frac{d^2W}{dz^2} + W(1 - W - N), \\ v \frac{dN}{dz} &= \frac{d^2N}{dz^2} + aN(W - b), \end{aligned}$$

with boundary conditions given by

$$\begin{aligned} W(z) &\rightarrow 1 \text{ as } z \rightarrow -\infty, & W(z) &\rightarrow b \text{ as } z \rightarrow +\infty, \\ N(z) &\rightarrow 0 \text{ as } z \rightarrow -\infty, & N(z) &\rightarrow 1 - b \text{ as } z \rightarrow +\infty. \end{aligned} \quad (4.3)$$

Upon making the assumption that the prey moves much more slowly than the predator species, i.e.

$$D = \frac{D_u}{D_n} \ll 1,$$

Equation ?? simplify to

$$\begin{aligned} v \frac{dW}{dz} &= W(1 - W - N), \\ v \frac{dN}{dz} &= \frac{d^2 N}{dz^2} + aN(W - b). \end{aligned} \quad (4.4)$$

We can rewrite Equation ?? as a system of first order ODEs:

$$\begin{aligned} \frac{dW}{dz} &= \frac{1}{v} W(1 - W - N) = F(W, N, P), \\ \frac{dN}{dz} &= P = G(W, N, P), \\ \frac{dP}{dz} &= vP - aN(W - b) = R(W, N, P). \end{aligned} \quad (4.5)$$

The steady states of Equation ?? are

$$\begin{aligned} (W_1^*, N_1^*, P_1^*) &= (0, 0, 0), \\ (W_2^*, N_2^*, P_2^*) &= (1, 0, 0), \\ (W_3^*, N_3^*, P_3^*) &= (b, 1 - b, 0). \end{aligned}$$

The Jacobian matrix is

$$J(W, N, P) = \begin{pmatrix} \frac{1}{v} - \frac{2W}{v} - \frac{N}{v} & -\frac{W}{v} & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 \\ -aN & a(b - W) & v \end{pmatrix}.$$

At

$$(W_1^*, N_1^*, P_1^*) = (0, 0, 0)$$

we have

$$\det(J(0, 0, 0) - \lambda I) = \left(\frac{1}{v} - \lambda \right) (\lambda^2 - \lambda v - ab) = 0$$

and

$$\lambda_1^1 = \frac{1}{v} > 0, \quad \lambda_2^\pm = \frac{v \pm \sqrt{v^2 + 4ab}}{2}.$$

Thus $(0, 0, 0)$ is a saddle point with a 2-dim unstable manifold.

At $(W_2^*, N_2^*, P_2^*) = (1, 0, 0)$ we have

$$\det(J(1, 0, 0) - \lambda I) = \left(-\frac{1}{v} - \lambda\right) (\lambda^2 - \lambda v + a(1 - b)) = 0,$$

and

$$\lambda_1^1 = -\frac{1}{v} < 0, \quad \lambda_2^\pm = \frac{v \pm \sqrt{v^2 - 4a(1 - b)}}{2}.$$

Since

$$0 \leq b < 1 \text{ and } 4(1 - b) > 0,$$

- If $v^2 \geq 4a(1 - b)$, $(1, 0, 0)$ is a saddle with 2-dim unstable manifold.
- If $v^2 < 4a(1 - b)$ $(1, 0, 0)$ is an unstable focus

Thus for a travelling wave with $W \geq 0$ and $N \geq 0$ to exist we require

$$v^2 \geq 4a(1 - b)$$

and obtain a minimal wave speed

$$v_{\min} = 2\sqrt{a(1 - b)} \quad \text{with} \quad 0 \leq b < 1.$$

At

$$(W_3^*, N_3^*, P_3^*) = (b, 1 - b, 0)$$

we have

$$\det(J(b, 1 - b, 0) - \lambda I) = \lambda^3 - \lambda^2\left(v - \frac{b}{v}\right) - \lambda b - \frac{1}{v}ab(1 - b) = p(\lambda) = 0.$$

It can be shown that the extrema of $p(\lambda)$ are independent of the parameter a .

To identify extrema, we compute

$$p'(\lambda) = 3\lambda^2 - 2\lambda\left(v - \frac{b}{v}\right) - b = 0$$

and find that

$$\lambda_{m,M} = \frac{1}{3} \left[\left(v - \frac{b}{v}\right) \pm \sqrt{\left(v - \frac{b}{v}\right)^2 + 3b} \right].$$

If $a = 0$, the eigenvalues are

$$\lambda_3^1 = 0, \quad \lambda_3^\pm = \frac{1}{2} \left(v - \frac{b}{v} \pm \sqrt{\left(v - \frac{b}{v} \right)^2 + 4b} \right).$$

Thus there exists a critical value $a^* > 0$ such that for $a \in (0, a^*)$, we obtain two real negative eigenvalues and one positive real eigenvalue. Hence $(b, 1 - b, 0)$ is a saddle with 2-dim stable manifold and 1-dim unstable manifold

For $a > a^*$, we obtain a pair of complex conjugate eigenvalues with negative real part and one real positive eigenvalue corresponding to 1-dim unstable manifold.

This can be easily seen from a sketch of the cubic equation:

$$p(\lambda) = \lambda^3 - \lambda^2 \left(v - \frac{b}{v} \right) - \lambda b - \frac{1}{v} ab(1 - b).$$

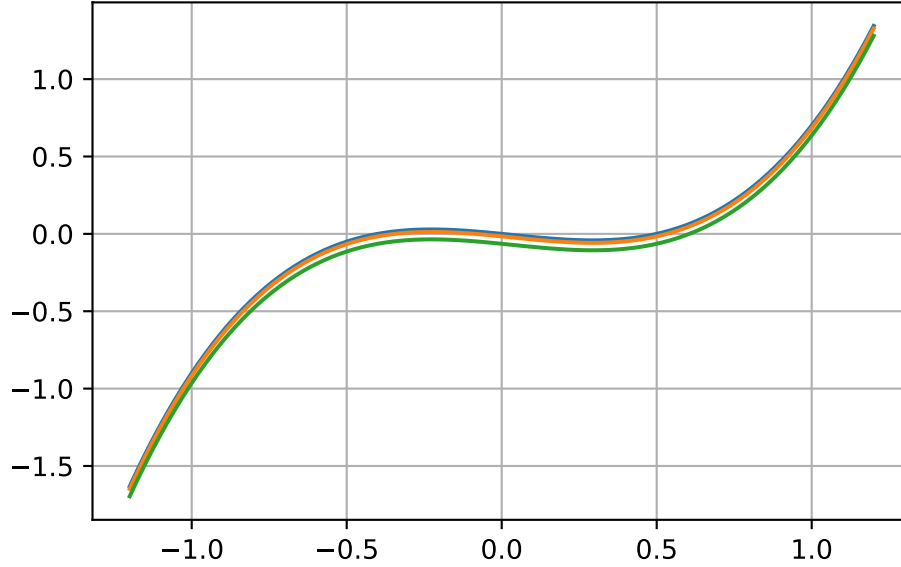


Figure 4.2: Plot of cubic.

Thus we have a possible heteroclinic connection between $(1, 0, 0)$ and $(b, 1 - b, 0)$, i.e. between 2-dim unstable manifold at $(1, 0, 0)$ and 2-dim stable manifold at $(b, 1 - b, 0)$, and therefore an existence of a travelling wave front solution for Equation ?? with

$$\begin{aligned} u(x, t) &\rightarrow 1 \text{ as } x \rightarrow -\infty, & u(x, t) &\rightarrow b \text{ as } x \rightarrow +\infty, \\ n(x, t) &\rightarrow 0 \text{ as } x \rightarrow -\infty, & n(x, t) &\rightarrow 1 - b \text{ as } x \rightarrow +\infty. \end{aligned}$$

4.6 Exercise

Use Python code to numerically investigate dependence of travelling wave solution on the parameter a .

5 Aggregation via Chemotaxis

Dictyostelium discoideum (Dicty) is a slime-mold that is widely studied experimentally as a model organism. The individual amoebae that constitute a slime-mold exhibit a range of phenomena also observed in mammalian cells e.g. differentiation, proliferation, migration.

Under nutrient starvation conditions, Dicty cells undergo complex collective behaviours. Individual amoebae secrete a diffusible chemical, cyclic AMP or cAMP. The amoebae respond chemotactically to cAMP and begin to migrate towards regions of high cAMP concentration via *chemotaxis*. As they migrate they generate a range of intricate patterns including *spiral waves* and *streaming* aggregation patterns (e.g. Figure ??).

The movie below depicts slime mold aggregation <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bkVhLJLG7ug>. Note the aggregation between 0:35 and 0:48.

In Figure ?? we can see still-shot images of spiral patterns. These spirals are dynamic as can be seen <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=OX5Yiz38fgY>. See spiral pattern at around 0:36.



Figure 5.1: Spiral wave patterns underlying Dictyostelium aggregation. Image from Durston (2013).

- can we simulate/model the mechanisms regulate that give rise to cellular aggregation?
- how do features of patterns that form (e.g. pattern wavelength, speed of aggregation) depend on individual cell properties?

5.1 Model derivation

We consider a model for Dicty aggregation through the secretion of and chemotactic response to cAMP. We denote by $n(\mathbf{x}, t)$ the density of amoebae and $a(\mathbf{x}, t)$ the concentration of cAMP. The general conservation equation for the amoebae can be written:

$$\frac{\partial n}{\partial t} + \nabla \cdot \mathbf{J} = f(n, a),$$

where $f(n, a)$ models any reaction terms for the amoebae e.g. proliferation, and the flux is given by

$$\mathbf{J} = \mathbf{J}_{diffusion} + \mathbf{J}_{chemotaxis}.$$

Assuming Fickian diffusion and the general chemotactic flux stated earlier (Section ??), the general *reaction-diffusion-chemotaxis* model for the amoebae responding to cAMP is given by:

$$\begin{aligned} \frac{\partial n}{\partial t} &= \underbrace{D_n \nabla^2 n}_{diffusion} - \underbrace{\nabla \cdot (\chi(a) n \nabla a)}_{chemotaxis} + f(n, a), \\ \frac{\partial a}{\partial t} &= D_a \nabla^2 a + g(n, a), \end{aligned}$$

where we have assumed Fickian diffusion for the cAMP and $g(a, n)$ represents the kinetics i.e. source/sink terms, of cAMP.

One simple model has the following assumptiond:

$$f(n, a) = 0, \quad g(n, a) = \mu n - \delta a, \quad \chi(a) = \chi_0$$

i.e.

- there are no kinetics for the amoebae - they simply move randomly via diffusion and undergo chemotaxis in response to cAMP;
- proliferation is neglected; - this is a reasonable assumption given the timescales involved, since they amoebae move on a faster timescale than they proliferate;
- the amoebae are assumed to produce cAMP in proportion to their density, which means the more amoebae there are, the more cAMP (a reasonable first approximation);
- the chemotactic function is taken to be a constant, again a reasonable first approximation;
- $D_a > D_n$ since chemicals diffuse faster than cells move randomly.

Under such assumptions we obtain the model equation

$$\begin{aligned} \frac{\partial n}{\partial t} &= D_n \nabla^2 n - \chi_0 \nabla \cdot (n \nabla a), \\ \frac{\partial a}{\partial t} &= D_a \nabla^2 a + \mu n - \delta a, \end{aligned}$$

which becomes, upon considering a 1-dimensional domain $[0, L]$,

$$\begin{aligned}\frac{\partial n}{\partial t} &= D_n \frac{\partial^2 n}{\partial x^2} - \chi_0 \frac{\partial}{\partial x} \left(n \frac{\partial a}{\partial x} \right), \\ \frac{\partial a}{\partial t} &= D_a \frac{\partial^2 a}{\partial x^2} + \mu n - \delta a,\end{aligned}\tag{†} \tag{5.1}$$

with zero flux boundary conditions:

$$\begin{aligned}D_a \frac{\partial a}{\partial x} &= 0, \quad x = 0, L, \\ D_n \frac{\partial n}{\partial x} - \chi_0 n \frac{\partial a}{\partial x} &= 0, \quad x = 0, L.\end{aligned}$$

These reduce to:

$$\frac{\partial a}{\partial x} = \frac{\partial n}{\partial x} = 0, \quad x = 0, L.$$

5.2 Numerical solutions

In Figure ?? we plot numerical solution of Equation ?? together with no-flux boundary condition. The initial data are uniformly sampled. Note the emergence of periodic spatial structure in both variables. These correspond to peaks and troughs of cell density. The cells produce chemoattractant, a , and this induces a chemotactic flux up the gradient in a . Hence more cells move towards regions where a is high, more chemoattractant is produced in this region etc.

- What is the long-time behaviour of these solutions
- For which parameters do we expect to see pattern formation?
- How does spatial pattern depend on the initial data?

5.3 Spatially Homogeneous Steady States

Define the total number of cells, N ,

$$N = \int_0^L n(x, t) dx$$

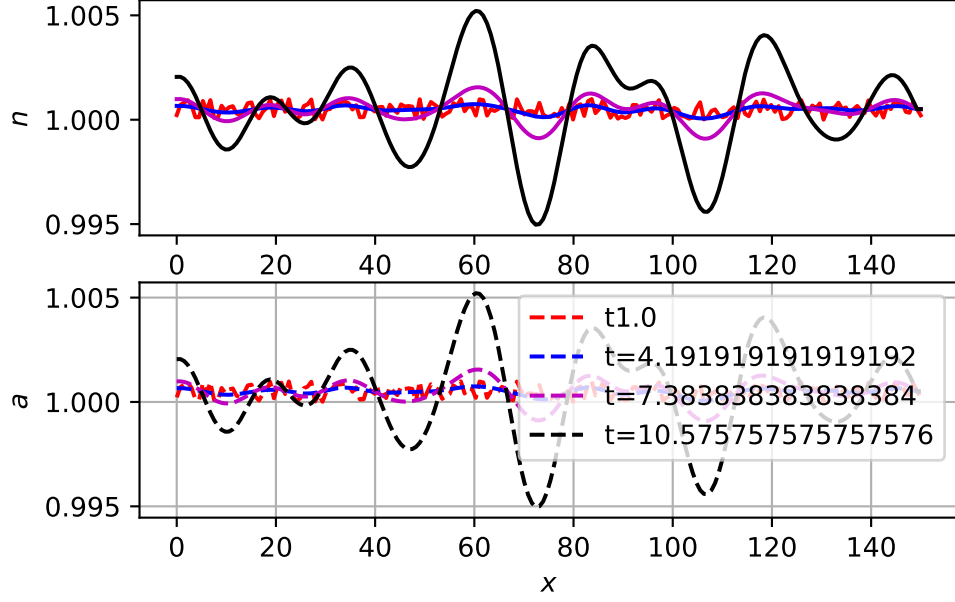


Figure 5.2: Numerical solution of bacterial chemotaxis model

Upon differentiation with respect to time

$$\frac{dN}{dt} = \int_0^L \frac{\partial n(x,t)}{\partial t} dx = \int_0^L D_n \frac{\partial^2 n}{\partial x^2} - \chi_0 \frac{\partial}{\partial x} \left(n \frac{\partial a}{\partial x} \right) dx.$$

Upon integration of the right-hand side w.r.t. x , subsequent application of the no-flux boundary condition implies

$$\frac{dN}{dt} = 0.$$

Hence the total number of cells in the domain is fixed by the initial data. For a spatially homogeneous solutions, the cells must be uniformly distributed in space, i.e.

$$n^* = N/L$$

Additionally, the spatially homogeneous steady state solution (n^*, a^*) satisfies:

$$a^* = \frac{\mu}{\delta} n^*.$$

We now undertake a linear stability analysis to determine whether this is stable or unstable. If the above spatially homogeneous steady state is unstable, this will indicate that aggregation patterns may arise in the system.

5.4 Stability Analysis

In a similar manner to previous stability analyses, we consider small perturbations around the spatially homogeneous steady state (n^*, a^*) , i.e.

$$n(x, t) = n^* + \tilde{n}(x, t), \quad a(x, t) = a^* + \tilde{a}(x, t)$$

where $\tilde{n}(x, t)$ and $\tilde{a}(x, t)$ are “small” so that higher order terms can be neglected.

NOTE Unlike previous stability analysis, these perturbations are both *time* and *space* dependent.

Substituting the above perturbations into equations (†), we neglect higher order terms and retain only linear terms. This is largely straightforward, but we provide some detail for the linearization of the chemotactic term i.e.

$$\frac{\partial}{\partial x} \left[(n^* + \tilde{n}) \frac{\partial}{\partial x} (a^* + \tilde{a}) \right] = \frac{\partial}{\partial x} \left[(n^* + \tilde{n}) \frac{\partial \tilde{a}}{\partial x} \right] \approx n^* \frac{\partial^2 \tilde{a}}{\partial x^2}.$$

The fully linearized system is then given by:

$$\begin{aligned} \frac{\partial \tilde{n}}{\partial t} &= D_n \frac{\partial^2 \tilde{n}}{\partial x^2} - \chi_0 n^* \frac{\partial^2 \tilde{a}}{\partial x^2} \\ \frac{\partial \tilde{a}}{\partial t} &= D_a \frac{\partial^2 \tilde{a}}{\partial x^2} + \mu \tilde{n} - \delta \tilde{a}. \end{aligned} \tag{5.2}$$

Although the above equations are linear, an explicit solution is non-trivial and we are required to make a further “separation of variables” *ansatz*. We seek solutions of the form

$$\tilde{n}(t, x) = u(t) \phi_1(x)$$

and

$$\tilde{a}(t, x) = v(t) \phi_2(x)$$

Upon substitution

$$\begin{aligned} \frac{\partial u}{\partial t} \phi_1 &= D_n u \frac{\partial^2 \phi_1}{\partial x^2} - \chi_0 n^* v \frac{\partial^2 \phi_1}{\partial x^2} \\ \frac{\partial v}{\partial t} \phi_2 &= D_a v \frac{\partial^2 \phi_2}{\partial x^2} + \mu u \phi_1 - \delta v \phi_2, \end{aligned}$$

with boundary conditions

$$u \frac{\partial \phi_1}{\partial x} = 0, \quad v \frac{\partial \phi_2}{\partial x} = 0 \quad \text{for } x = 0, x = L.$$

We assume that

$$\phi_1 = \phi_2 = \phi,$$

where ϕ is the solution of the elliptic problem

$$\begin{aligned} \frac{d^2\phi}{dx^2} &= -k^2\phi \quad \text{in } (0, L), \\ \frac{d\phi}{dx} &= 0 \quad \text{for } x = 0, x = L. \end{aligned}$$

We can compute that solution of the equation for ϕ are of the form

$$\phi(x) = A \cos(kx) + B \sin(kx).$$

Since ϕ satisfied zero Neumann boundary conditions we have that

$$\phi(x) = A \cos(kx),$$

where A is an arbitrary constant, and

$$k = \frac{m\pi}{L}, \quad m \in \mathbb{N}.$$

Then we have

$$\begin{aligned} \frac{\partial u}{\partial t} \phi &= -k^2 D_n u \phi + \chi_0 n^* k^2 v \phi, \\ \frac{\partial v}{\partial t} \phi &= -k^2 D_a v \phi + \mu u \phi - \delta v \phi, \end{aligned}$$

and since ϕ is not identically zero on $(0, L)$ we obtain a system of linear ODEs for $(u(t), v(t))$

$$\begin{aligned} \frac{\partial u}{\partial t} &= -k^2 D_n u + \chi_0 n^* k^2 v, \\ \frac{\partial v}{\partial t} &= -k^2 D_a v + \mu u - \delta v. \end{aligned}$$

We know that solutions of linear ODEs have the form

$$u(t) = C_1 e^{\lambda t} \quad \text{and} \quad v(t) = C_2 e^{\lambda t}$$

for some constant C_1, C_2 and λ are eigenvalues of the corresponding matrix.

Thus we obtain

$$\begin{aligned} \lambda C_1 &= -D_n k^2 C_1 + \chi_0 n^* k^2 C_2, \\ \lambda C_2 &= -D_a k^2 C_2 + \mu C_1 - \delta C_2, \end{aligned}$$

which can be written

$$\begin{pmatrix} -D_n k^2 - \lambda & \chi_0 n^* k^2 \\ \mu & -D_a k^2 - \delta - \lambda \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} C_1 \\ C_2 \end{pmatrix} = \mathbf{0}.$$

Remark Notice that we obtained that \tilde{n} and \tilde{a} are of the form

$$\tilde{n}(x, t) = C_1 e^{\lambda t} e^{i k x}, \quad \tilde{a}(x, t) = C_2 e^{\lambda t} e^{i k x}.$$

For a non-trivial solution (for non-trivial perturbations \tilde{n} , \tilde{a}), i.e. $C_1 \neq 0$ and $C_2 \neq 0$, the determinant of the above matrix must be zero, and this leads to the following quadratic equation to be solved for λ :

$$\lambda^2 + (D_n k^2 + D_a k^2 + \delta) \lambda + D_n k^2 (D_a k^2 + \delta) - \mu \chi_0 n^* k^2 = 0.$$

This is of the form

$$\lambda^2 + \alpha \lambda + \beta = 0,$$

and so has roots:

$$\lambda = \frac{-\alpha \pm \sqrt{\alpha^2 - 4\beta}}{2}.$$

NOTE This has two *real* roots, since

$$\alpha^2 - 4\beta > 0$$

(see Exercise/Tutorial).

For stability, we require both roots to be negative. Since both roots are real, this leads to:

$$\lambda < 0 \Leftrightarrow \alpha > 0 \quad \text{and} \quad \beta > 0.$$

Now

$$\alpha = D_n k^2 + D_a k^2 + \delta > 0,$$

and so for stability, we require $\beta > 0$ i.e.

$$\begin{aligned} D_n k^2 (D_a k^2 + \delta) - \mu \chi_0 n^* k^2 &> 0 \\ \Rightarrow \mu \chi_0 n^* &< D_n (D_a k^2 + \delta) \end{aligned}$$

Hence, we will have instability when this condition is not satisfied i.e.

$$\mu \chi_0 n^* > D_n (D_a k^2 + \delta).$$

The precise value of k^2 can be determined from the zero-flux boundary conditions i.e.

$$k = \frac{m\pi}{L}, \quad m = 1, 2, \dots$$

if we look for non-constant ϕ .

Hence, we will have instability whenever

$$\mu\chi_0 n^* > D_n \left(D_a \frac{m^2 \pi^2}{L^2} + \delta \right), \quad m = 1, 2, \dots$$

It can be shown (see Exercise/Tutorial), that $\lambda(k^2)$ (or $\lambda(m^2)$) is monotonic decreasing and hence the fastest growing mode is $m = 1$ i.e. we have an instability as long as

$$\mu\chi_0 n^* > D_n \left(\frac{D_a \pi^2}{L^2} + \delta \right).$$

In general, from the above inequality, we can say that there is a likelihood of instability (amoebae aggregation) if:

- D_a, D_n and δ are all “small”
- L is “large”
- χ_0, μ, n^* are “large”

Considering all other parameters to be fixed, in theory the above result states that it is possible to find a large enough value for the chemotactic coefficient χ_0 to satisfy the instability condition i.e. chemotaxis induces instability and leads to aggregation of the amoebae.

5.5 Exercise

From the results we have obtained we deduce that:

- chemotaxis has a destabilizing effect
- diffusion has a stabilizing effect on spatially homogeneous solutions

If this is true then one might expect the numerical results presented in Figure ?? to have spatially homogeneous solutions if the diffusion coefficient is made sufficiently large. * Can you test this by running the code for larger values of the parameter D ? * Alternatively, what happens if you make the chemotactic coefficient χ_0 smaller? * what kind of aggregation patterns do you see if the system is solved in two spatial dimensions?

However, there is one type of system where diffusion also has a destabilizing effect...

6 Diffusion driven instability

6.1 Spatial Pattern Formation via Reaction-Diffusion Mechanisms

** Insert human embryogenesis image **

6.1.1 Pattern in Developmental Biology

Embryology or developmental biology is that part of biology which is concerned with the formation, growth and development of the embryo from fertilization until birth. From the very moment of conception the embryo undergoes a process of dynamic change, brought about largely by cells responding to various chemical signalling cues e.g. migration, differentiation, proliferation. Figure ?? shows some of the major changes in embryonic development which occur up to a few weeks after fertilization. Many of the processes occurring at this early stage are vital for the successful subsequent development of the embryo and also lay down basic structures (e.g. [somites](#)) that form the foundation of major body structures later on (e.g. the vertebrae of the spine) cf. Professor Lewis Wolpert: ‘*It is not birth, marriage, or death, but gastrulation which is truly the most important time in your life.*’

There are two main theories which describe how pattern arises during embryogenesis - one is the **Turing pre-pattern theory**, the other is the **mechano-chemical** theory. In the Turing pre-pattern theory, chemicals, or [morphogens](#), react together and, if certain conditions concerning their reaction kinetics and diffusion rates are satisfied (to be derived in the next section), then a ## pre-pattern## of varying chemical concentrations is set up in the spatial domain. This means that throughout the spatial domain, the concentration levels of the chemicals will vary i.e. there will be a ##heterogeneous## distribution of chemical concentrations which is known as a pre-pattern. Any cells in the domain which subsequently encounter these varying levels of morphogens will then respond by, for example, proliferating differentially throughout the domain. In this way, the domain will then contain a {spatially heterogeneous} distribution of cell densities (i.e. a cellular pattern) which have responded to the morphogen pre-pattern. This pre-pattern theory was first proposed by Alan Turing (of Enigma Code fame) in his seminal 1952 paper, *The chemical basis of morphogenesis* Turing (1990). This was developed in more detailed manner by Alfred Gierer and Hans Meinhardt in another ground-breaking paper in 1972, *A theory of biological pattern formation* “A Theory of Biological Pattern Formation” (1972), where they introduced the concept of activating chemicals and inhibiting chemicals.

J.D. Murray then applied the theory as an explanation for the generation of patterns observed on animal coats J. Murray (1981).

In the mechano-chemical theory, cells interact with their surroundings and by exerting forces perturb their local environment. The combination of cell migration/proliferation and cell-generated forces is sufficient in certain circumstances to create a spatially heterogeneous distribution of cell densities i.e. the pattern is generated **simultaneously** with the cell migration/proliferation. This alternative pattern formation theory was proposed by Murray and Oster James D. Murray and Oster (1984) and is particularly appropriate for patterns generated in early embryogenesis by **mesenchymal cells** such as fibroblasts.

6.2 Reaction-diffusion (Turing) Pre-pattern Mechanisms

We now consider our general (dimensional) reaction-diffusion model for two chemicals or morphogens with concentrations $A(\mathbf{x}, t)$ and $B(\mathbf{x}, t)$ which react together and diffuse in some spatial domain:

$$\begin{aligned}\frac{\partial A}{\partial t} &= F(A, B) + D_A \nabla^2 A, \\ \frac{\partial B}{\partial t} &= G(A, B) + D_B \nabla^2 B,\end{aligned}$$

where $F(A, B)$ and $G(A, B)$ describe the reaction kinetics between the two morphogens and $D_A, D_B > 0$ are the diffusion coefficients. Turing's theory (Turing, 1952) *The chemical basis of morphogenesis* proposed that it was the diffusion of the substances A, B which led to the evolution of a spatially heterogeneous solution to arise i.e. a spatial pattern. This has given rise to the phrase *diffusion-driven instability*. This was a rather revolutionary and counter-intuitive proposal, since, as we have seen, diffusion normally has the opposite tendency i.e. to smooth or average out spatial heterogeneities, and to give rise to spatially homogeneous solutions.

Various forms can be considered for the kinetic functions F and G . However, we will focus mainly on three specific classes as follows:

6.2.1 Schnackenberg kinetics

$$F(A, B) = k_1 - k_2 A + k_3 A^2 B, \quad G(A, B) = k_4 - k_3 A^2 B$$

$k_1, k_2, k_3, k_4 > 0$. The term $k_3 A^2 B$ is *autocatalytic*, since the species A upregulates its own production.

6.2.2 Gierer and Meinhardt kinetics

Gierer and Meinhardt developed a model that describes activator-inhibitor kinetics. The total reaction rates are

$$F(A, B) = k_1 - k_2 A + \frac{k_3 A^2}{B}, \quad G(A, B) = k_4 A^2 - k_5 B$$

where $k_1, k_2, k_3, k_4, k_5 > 0$. The term $k_3 A^2/B$ is **autocatalytic**.

6.2.3 Thomas kinetics

Thomas developed a model of substrate inhibition in which

$$\begin{aligned} F(A, B) &= k_1 - k_2 A - H(A, B), \\ G(A, B) &= k_4 A^2 - k_4 B - H(A, B), \\ H(A, B) &= \frac{k_5 AB}{k_6 + k_7 + k_8 A^2}. \end{aligned}$$

with $k_i > 0$. In the original paper of Thomas (1975), A represents the concentration of oxygen (substrate) and B the concentration of uricase (enzyme). Substrate inhibition is evident in the term $k_8 A^2$.

6.3 Non-dimensionalization

Before proceeding with our analysis, it is prudent to non-dimensionalize each of the above systems.

6.3.1 Schnakenberg

We illustrate this process for the Schnakenberg kinetics. Using the scaling

$$u = A \left(\frac{k_3}{k_2} \right)^{1/2}, \quad v = B \left(\frac{k_3}{k_2} \right)^{1/2}, \quad t^* = \frac{D_A t}{L^2}, \quad x^* = \frac{x}{L},$$

where L is a typical length scale, the dimensionless reaction-diffusion system with Schnakenberg kinetics becomes (upon dropping the $*$ for notational convenience):

$$\begin{aligned} \frac{\partial u}{\partial t} &= \gamma(a - u + u^2 v) + \nabla^2 u = \gamma f(u, v) + \nabla^2 u, \\ \frac{\partial v}{\partial t} &= \gamma(b - u^2 v) + d \nabla^2 v = \gamma g(u, w) + d \nabla^2 v, \end{aligned} \tag{6.1}$$

where

$$d = \frac{D_B}{D_A}, \quad a = \frac{k_1}{k_2} \left(\frac{k_3}{k_2} \right)^{1/2}, \quad b = \frac{k_4}{k_2} \left(\frac{k_3}{k_2} \right)^{1/2}, \quad \gamma = \frac{L^2 k_2}{D_A}.$$

6.3.2 Gierer and Meinhardt

The Gierer-Meinhardt kinetics can be non-dimensionalized as follows:

$$f(u, v) = a - bu + \frac{u^2}{v}, \quad g(u, v) = u^2 - v,$$

where a and b are positive parameters (Exercise/Tutorial).

6.3.3 Thomas

The Thomas kinetics can be non-dimensionalized as follows:

$$\begin{aligned} f(u, v) &= a - u - h(u, v), \\ g(u, v) &= \alpha(b - v) - h(u, v), \\ h(u, v) &= \frac{\rho uv}{1 + u + Ku^2}, \end{aligned}$$

where a, b, α, ρ, K are positive parameters (see Exercise/Tutorial).

6.3.4 General

Any reaction-diffusion system can be non-dimensionalized and scaled following the above procedure to take the following general form:

$$\begin{aligned} \frac{\partial u}{\partial t} &= \gamma f(u, v) + \nabla^2 u, \\ \frac{\partial v}{\partial t} &= \gamma g(u, w) + d \nabla^2 v, \end{aligned}$$

where the parameter d is the ratio of the diffusion coefficients from the dimensional system and the parameter γ can be interpreted in any one of the following ways:

- $\gamma^{1/2}$ is proportional to the **linear size** of the spatial domain in one-dimension. In two-dimensions, γ is proportional to the area.
- γ represents the relative strength of the reaction terms – an increase in γ may represent an increase in the activity of some rate-limiting step in the reaction sequence.
- An increase in γ is equivalent to a decrease in the diffusion coefficient, d .

Note that in the case where the parameter $d > 1$, this means that the original diffusion coefficients are not equal. Specifically, in the case of the Gierer-Meinhardt activator-inhibitor system, $d > 1$ implies that the inhibitor *diffuses more quickly* than the activator [$d > 1 \Rightarrow D_B > D_A$]. The spatial implications of this are shown in (fig_ai?) – the inhibitor diffuses a greater distance than the activator, giving rise to what is known as *local activation, long-range inhibition*.

** Insert activator_inhibitor here **

6.4 Numerical solution

In Figure ?? we plot numerical solutions of Equation ?? with no flux boundary conditions.

In this numerical solution the initial condition are the spatially homogeneous steady state perturbed by uniformly sampled noise. As time evolves, a spatial pattern emerges. The main idea from a biological perspective is that an unpatterned region of an embryo could undergo chemical reactions, with the result being a patterned chemical field.

Some question that might arise:

- How does pattern formation depend on model parameters?
- How does pattern formation depend on domain size?
- How does the pattern wavelength depend on model parameters?
- How does the pattern depend on the initial conditions?
- How can we numerically solve the reaction diffusion PDEs?

In Figure Figure ?? we consider a numerical solution of the Schnackenberg model on a 2D square domain with no-flux boundary conditions. Note

6.5 Linear Stability Analysis and Evolution of Spatial Pattern: General Conditions for Diffusion-driven Instability

Let $\Omega \subset \mathbb{R}^n$ be a domain with smooth (sufficiently regular) boundary $\partial\Omega$, with outward unit normal \mathbf{n} . Our general, non-dimensional reaction-diffusion system is then:

$$\begin{aligned}\frac{\partial u}{\partial t} &= \gamma f(u, v) + \nabla^2 u, & x \in \Omega, \quad t > 0, \\ \frac{\partial v}{\partial t} &= \gamma g(u, v) + d \nabla^2 v, & x \in \Omega, \quad t > 0,\end{aligned}\tag{6.2}$$

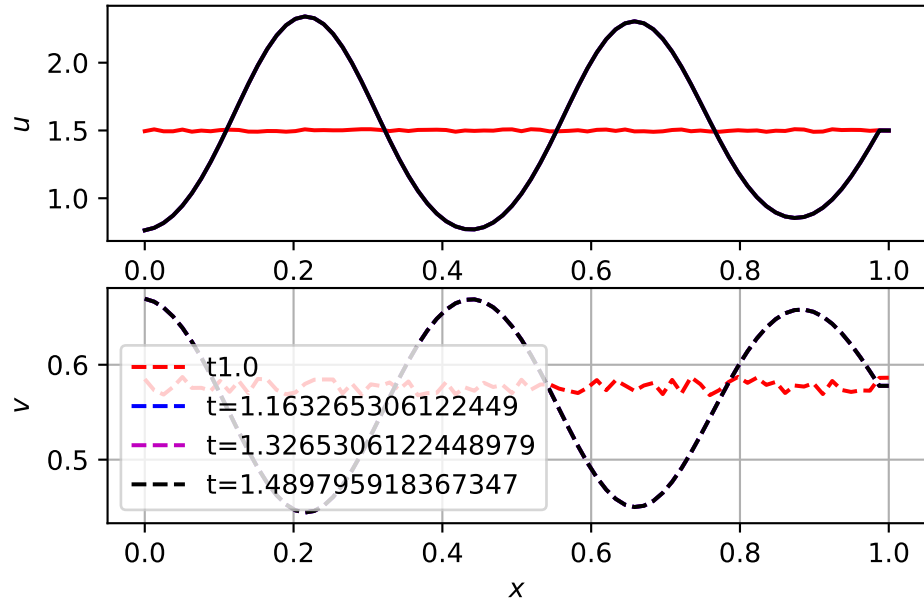


Figure 6.1: DDI with Schnackenberg kinetics

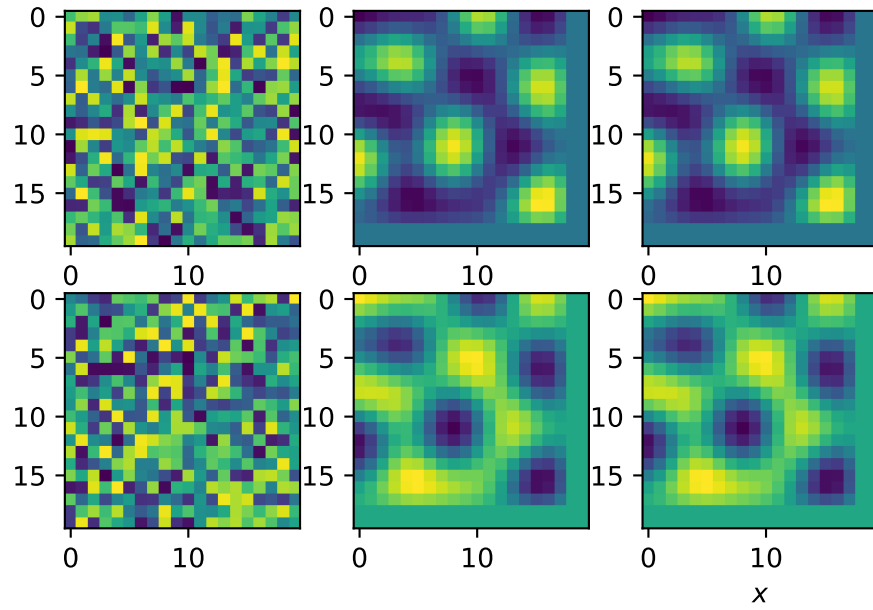


Figure 6.2: DDI with Schnackenberg kinetics in 2D

together with boundary and initial Conditions

$$\begin{aligned} \nabla u \cdot \mathbf{n} &= 0, & \nabla v \cdot \mathbf{n} &= 0, & x &\in \partial\Omega, & t > 0, \\ u(x, 0) &= u_0(x), & v(x, 0) &= v_0(x), & x &\in \Omega. \end{aligned} \quad (6.3)$$

A **spatially homogeneous steady-state** of Equation ?? and Equation ?? satisfies

$$f(u, v) = 0, \quad g(u, v) = 0$$

and we denote it by (u_0, v_0) .

6.5.1 Stability of spatially homogeneous steady states to spatially homogeneous perturbations

Before we consider the effect of the spatial terms (i.e. diffusion) in Equation ?? and Equation ??, we first of all explore the stability of the underlying spatially homogeneous steady state.

Consider the following perturbations to the steady state (u_0, v_0) :

$$u(x, t) = u_0 + \tilde{u}(t), \quad v(x, t) = v_0 + \tilde{v}(t), \quad \|\tilde{u}(t)\| \ll 1, \quad \|\tilde{v}(t)\| \ll 1.$$

Upon substitution into Equation ??

$$\begin{aligned} \frac{d\tilde{u}}{dt} &= \gamma f(u_0 + \tilde{u}, v_0 + \tilde{v}), \\ \frac{d\tilde{v}}{dt} &= \gamma g(u_0 + \tilde{u}, v_0 + \tilde{v}). \end{aligned} \quad (6.4)$$

Using a Taylor expansion of f and g about (u_0, v_0) we obtain the linearised system

$$\begin{pmatrix} \tilde{u}_t \\ \tilde{v}_t \end{pmatrix} = \gamma J \begin{pmatrix} \tilde{u} \\ \tilde{v} \end{pmatrix}, \quad (6.5)$$

where

$$J = J(u_0, v_0) = \begin{pmatrix} f_u & f_v \\ g_u & g_v \end{pmatrix}_{(u_0, v_0)}.$$

The general solution of Equation ?? is

$$\begin{pmatrix} \tilde{u}(t) \\ \tilde{v}(t) \end{pmatrix} = C_1 \phi_1 e^{\lambda_1 t} + C_2 \phi_2 e^{\lambda_2 t},$$

where C_1, C_2 are arbitrary constants, λ_1, λ_2 are the eigenvalues of γJ , i.e. solutions of characteristic equation

$$\det(\gamma J - \lambda I) = 0,$$

and ϕ_1, ϕ_2 are corresponding eigenvectors. It is easily seen that

$$\lambda_{1,2} = \frac{\gamma}{2} \left(\text{tr}(J) \pm \sqrt{\text{tr}(J)^2 - 4\det(J)} \right),$$

and thus a spatially homogeneous steady state (u_0, v_0) is **stable** to spatially homogeneous perturbations if

$$\text{Re}(\lambda_{1,2}) < 0,$$

i.e. if

$$\begin{aligned} \text{tr}(J) &= f_u + g_v < 0, \\ \det(J) &= f_u g_v - f_v g_u > 0. \end{aligned} \tag{6.6}$$

We shall be interested only in such parameter values for which conditions Equation ?? are satisfied (i.e. the spatially homogeneous steady state is linearly stable in the absence of diffusion).

6.5.2 Stability of spatially homogeneous steady states to spatially heterogeneous: spatially dependent, perturbations

We now consider perturbations about the spatially homogeneous steady state that are spatially dependent i.e.

$$u(x, t) = u_0 + \tilde{u}(x, t), \quad v(x, t) = v_0 + \tilde{v}(x, t), \quad \|\tilde{u}(x, t)\| \ll 1, \quad \|\tilde{v}(x, t)\| \ll 1.$$

Upon substitution in Equation ?? and apply a Taylor expansion about (u_0, v_0) to f and g to obtain the linearised problem

$$\begin{aligned} \frac{\partial \tilde{u}(x, t)}{\partial t} &= \gamma (f_u \tilde{u}(x, t) + f_v \tilde{v}(x, t)) + \nabla^2 \tilde{u}(x, t), \quad x \in \Omega, \quad t > 0, \\ \frac{\partial \tilde{v}(x, t)}{\partial t} &= \gamma (g_u \tilde{u}(x, t) + g_v \tilde{v}(x, t)) + d \nabla^2 \tilde{v}(x, t), \quad x \in \Omega, \quad t > 0, \end{aligned} \tag{6.7}$$

with boundary conditions

$$\mathbf{n} \cdot \nabla \tilde{u}(x, t) = 0, \quad \mathbf{n} \cdot \nabla \tilde{v}(x, t) = 0, \quad x \in \partial\Omega, \quad t > 0. \tag{6.8}$$

Defining

$$V(x, t) = \begin{pmatrix} \tilde{u}(x, t) \\ \tilde{v}(x, t) \end{pmatrix}$$

we rewrite Equation ?? as

$$\frac{\partial}{\partial t} V(x, t) = \gamma J V(x, t) + D \nabla^2 V(x, t),$$

where

$$D = \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 0 \\ 0 & d \end{pmatrix}.$$

We shall consider a separation of variables approach, i.e.

$$V(x, t) = \begin{pmatrix} \bar{u}(t)\varphi_1(x) \\ \bar{v}(t)\varphi_2(x) \end{pmatrix}$$

and obtain

$$\begin{aligned} \frac{d\bar{u}(t)}{dt} \varphi_1(x) &= \gamma (f_u \bar{u}(t)\varphi_1(x) + f_v \bar{v}(t)\varphi_2(x)) + \bar{u}(t) \nabla^2 \varphi_1(x), \quad x \in \Omega, \quad t > 0, \\ \frac{d\bar{v}(t)}{dt} \varphi_2(x) &= \gamma (g_u \bar{u}(t)\varphi_1(x) + g_v \bar{v}(t)\varphi_2(x)) + \bar{v}(t) \nabla^2 \varphi_2(x), \quad x \in \Omega, \quad t > 0, \end{aligned} \quad (6.9)$$

with boundary conditions

$$\mathbf{n} \cdot \nabla \varphi_1(x) = 0, \quad \mathbf{n} \cdot \nabla \varphi_2(x) = 0, \quad x \in \partial\Omega, \quad t > 0. \quad (6.10)$$

It is assumed that

$$\bar{u}(t) \not\equiv 0 \quad \text{and} \quad \bar{v}(t) \not\equiv 0$$

for $t > 0$.

Lemma 6.1. *Consider the spatial eigenvalue problem for the Laplacian ∇^2 with zero-Neumann boundary conditions i.e.*

$$\begin{aligned} \nabla^2 \psi(x) &= -k^2 \psi(x), \quad x \in \Omega, \\ \mathbf{n} \cdot \nabla \psi(x) &= 0, \quad x \in \partial\Omega. \end{aligned} \quad (6.11)$$

For a bounded domain Ω there exists a discrete set of eigenvalues

$$0 \leq k_1^2 < k_2^2 \leq k_3^2 \leq \dots \leq k_j^2 \leq \dots,$$

with

$$j \in \mathbb{N}, \quad \text{and} \quad k_j^2 \rightarrow \infty \quad \text{as} \quad j \rightarrow \infty.$$

Moreover, the eigenfunctions $\{\psi_k(x)\}$ form an **orthogonal set** of basis functions of the corresponding functional space (i.e. $L^2(\Omega)$, $H^1(\Omega)$).

Thus we can look for the spatial component of the solution of Equation ?? as follows:

$$\varphi(x) = \begin{pmatrix} \varphi_1(x) \\ \varphi_2(x) \end{pmatrix} = \sum_k C_k \psi_k(x), \quad C_k = \begin{pmatrix} C_k^1 \\ C_k^2 \end{pmatrix} \in \mathbb{R}^2$$

and

$$V(x, t) = \sum_k \hat{V}_k(t) \psi_k(x), \quad \text{where} \quad \hat{V}_k(t) = \begin{pmatrix} C_k^1 \bar{u}(t) \\ C_k^2 \bar{v}(t) \end{pmatrix}. \quad (6.12)$$

SEince $\nabla^2 \psi_k(x) = -k^2 \psi_k(x)$ we obtain

$$D\nabla^2 V(x, t) = D\nabla^2 \left[\sum_k \hat{V}_k(t) \psi_k(x) \right] = \sum_k D\hat{V}_k(t) \nabla^2 \psi_k(x) = - \sum_k k^2 D\hat{V}_k(t) \psi_k(x).$$

Hence

$$\sum_k \frac{d}{dt} \hat{V}_k(t) \psi_k(x) = \sum_k \gamma J \hat{V}_k(t) \psi_k(x) - \sum_k k^2 D \hat{V}_k(t) \psi_k(x).$$

Since $\{\psi_k(x)\}$ is a orthogonal basis we obtain that

$$\frac{d}{dt} \hat{V}_k(t) \psi_k(x) = \gamma J \hat{V}_k(t) \psi_k(x) - k^2 D \hat{V}_k(t) \psi_k(x),$$

for each k . Finally, since

$$\psi_k(x) \not\equiv 0$$

in Ω this implies for each k a system of ODEs:

$$\frac{d}{dt} \hat{V}_k(t) = (\gamma J - k^2 D) \hat{V}_k(t) = \tilde{J} \hat{V}_k(t), \quad (6.13)$$

where \tilde{J} is a “modified” Jacobian:

$$\tilde{J} = \begin{pmatrix} \gamma f_u - k^2 & \gamma f_v \\ \gamma g_u & \gamma g_v - dk^2 \end{pmatrix}.$$

Now solutions of Equation ?? are of the form

$$\hat{V}_k(t) = e^{\lambda t} P_k$$

with $P_k \in \mathbb{R}^2$, where, since $P_k \neq 0$ (looking for nontrivial solutions), we find that λ are the eigenvalues of \tilde{J} , i.e.