

1 Last updated: December 9, 2020

2 Resource allocation models

3 The plant growth model developed by Cohen (1971) and later elaborated by King and
4 Roughgarden (1982) represents resources allocated to vegetative and reproductive pools. I
5 summarize the model in equations 1 and 2 and state diagram 1. In the model, x_1 and x_2 are
6 the weights of the vegetative and reproductive parts of the plant, respectively. Photosynthesis
7 is assumed to be linearly related to the weight of the vegetative part of the plant. The control
8 function $u(t)$ is the proportion of photosynthate that is allocated to the vegetative pool.

King and Roughgarden (1982) propose that the long-term, optimal reproductive strategy
will maximize the geometric mean of reproductive success. They propose that the function
that should be optimized is the expectation of the log of fitness, $J = (1/T) \int_0^T \log(x_2) dt$.
They used the following system of equations:

$$\begin{aligned} \dot{x}_1 &= u(t)x_1 \\ \dot{x}_2 &= (1 - u(t))x_1 \end{aligned} \tag{1}$$

subject to

$$\begin{aligned} 0 &\leq u(t) \leq 1 \\ 0 &< x_1, 0 \leq x_2 \end{aligned} \tag{2}$$

9 Describe some key results from this paper.

King and Roughgarden (1982) discuss how the model can be transformed to include a

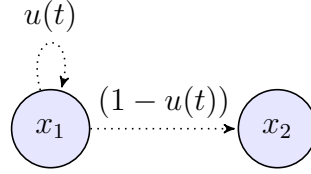


Figure 1: State diagram describing the photosynthate allocation model.

rate of growth (r) by substituting $t' = rt$. The differential equations are then

$$\begin{aligned} \dot{x}_1 &= u(t)rx_1 \\ \dot{x}_2 &= (1 - u(t))rx_1 \end{aligned} \tag{3}$$

The growth rate constant r in equation 3 summarizes birth and death processes, $r = b - d$.

The resource allocation model can be shown to be a subset of models that represent development with meristems (compare Figure 1 and 2). First, primary meristems divide into primary meristems and vegetative meristems. This is the process of vegetative growth. The second kind of division is when primary meristems divide into primary meristems and inflorescence meristems. So we can write the growth rate constant as the difference between meristem ‘birth’ rate (β_1) and ‘death’ rate (α): $r = \beta_1 - \alpha$. In plants with a determinate inflorescence, all inflorescence meristems are converted to floral meristems. So if we only consider the vegetative and inflorescence meristem pools (Figure ??), we obtain a model analogous to the resource allocation model. In the resource allocation model, flowering draws on vegetative biomass accumulated during vegetative growth but does not deplete vegetative biomass.

UPDATE EVERYTHING BELOW THIS LINE

A model in which $r = 1$ is one (for example) in which two primary meristems are produced and one is removed during each division (through death or quiescence). From a meristem perspective, this means accumulating meristems along an axis. From a resource perspective,

this means accumulating a pool of photosynthetically active material. When $p(t) < 1$, the interpretation would be that either some of those meristems begin to flower (and having more meristems means more flowering) or that resources are available to support reproduction.

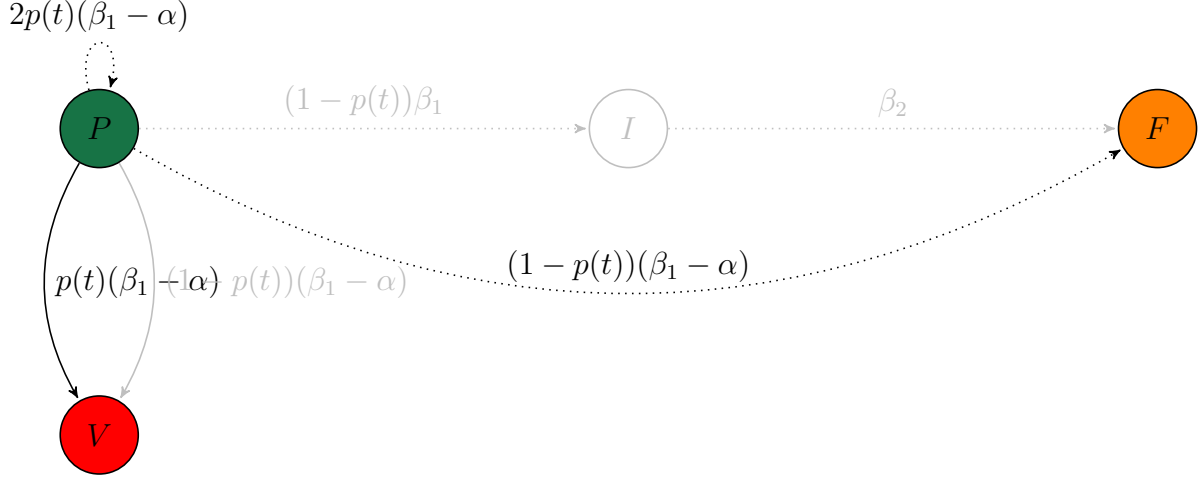


Figure 2: State diagram describing the dynamics for plants with determinate inflorescences reduced to resource allocation model.

Figure 2 shows how the meristem allocation model contains the resource allocation model. By removing inflorescence meristems I limit the system to two types of divisions. In the first, primary meristems divide and produce more primary meristems (and leave behind a vegetative meristem). This division happens with probability $p(t)$. In the second, primary meristems divide and produce floral meristems. This happens with probability $1 - p(t)$.

The goal of this optimization problem is to maximize F . The variable in the model is T , the length of the season. The model is described by the following system of differential equations:

$$\begin{aligned}
 \dot{P} &= 2rp(t)P - rp(t)P \\
 \dot{V} &= rp(t)P \\
 \dot{F} &= r(1 - p(t))P
 \end{aligned} \tag{4}$$

34 The differential equations describe the dynamics of three state variables: P , V , and F .

35 I'm not sure where to go from here.

36 SPE: To make meristem-based models into resource-allocation models, say that each
37 division requires a certain amount of resources, so the rate at which they can happen is
38 limited by the rate of photosynthesis. Instead of being parameters, β_1 and β_2 would be control
39 variables, with the additional constraint that the total resource investment in meristem
40 divisions can't exceed the rate of photosynthesis, something like

$$41 \quad c_1\beta_1pP + c_2\beta_1(1-p)P + c_3\beta_2I \leq \text{constant} \times \text{total leaf area}$$

42 and maybe upper limits on the maximum possible division rate. Not sure how total leaf
43 area would be determined in this model - proportional to total number of primary meristems?

44 GS: My thought is to have a fourth pool that is not dynamic (it is just added to in the same
45 way as F) but accumulates parent meristems after divisions. This pool of parent meristems
46 can set the total leaf area. New question: are the betas now proportions or free controls?

References

- Cohen, D. 1971. Maximizing final yield when growth is limited by time or by limiting resources. *Journal of Theoretical Biology*, **33**:299–307. Tex.isbn: 0022-5193 tex.mendeley-tags: optimal control.
- King, D. and J. Roughgarden. 1982. Graded allocation between vegetative and reproductive growth for annual plants in growing seasons of random length. *Theoretical Population Biology*, **22**:1–16. Tex.isbn: Alphabetical tex.mendeley-tags: optimal control.