

## Notes on germination model for Dan

*By Lizzie & Megan so far*

Megan and I discussed the changes needed to do simulations for Dan's germination questions. Specifically, Dan is interested in building from the data from his germination trials and competition experiment to do some forecasting of how climate change could shift competitive outcomes due to priority effects.

## 1 What needs to change?

We need a model that has priority effects (where species can switch their order across years), and to add 'chilling' somehow to the model. Specifically we want a model where with maximum chilling you get your maximum germination at the earliest time. This means that lower chilling will have two effects: lower germination, and later germination.

**How it compares to previous model:** (1) In our previous model both species start at the same time ( $\delta T = 0$ ). Now we will explicitly include the time-lag (but we may be able to make that within year part an equivalence) and now changes in timing become a  $f(x)$  of chilling and how that connects to resource pulse (so how the cues connect to the resource pulse timing).

In our original model, we had a start of season parameter ( $\tau_p$ ) that determined the germination amount for each species (depending on how close  $\tau_i$  was to  $\tau_p$ ) and changed each year. Here, (2) we will keep  $\tau_p$  constant and effectively allow the start of season to always be the same—what Lizzie is thinking of as a biological start of season—and species will germinate after that date depending on their species-level parameters + chilling that year.

Another way to put this ... last time we assumed  $\tau_i$  was fixed and moved around  $\tau_p$  (and what mattered was the distance); now we assume  $\tau_p$  is fixed and species move around depending on chilling. **Do we need this?** we asked ourselves. Yes, because we need germination to not be instantaneous with  $\tau_p$ . Also, Lizzie adds—it's nice as it's more equivalent to there being a biological start of the season and that there are 'early' and 'late' species relative to that.

One more important outcome of these changes—in our previous model tracking put you closer to pulse and you germinated more, here you can have a priority effect and get a big benefit without using so many seeds (before, with tracking, you germinated at a high fraction every year).

## 2 Some obvious outcomes...

... that we discussed.

1. If (1) species vary by their start times, (2) all start times occur after the pulse (meaning there is no negative outcome of ever being too early), and (3) species cannot switch their order across years ... then the earliest species will generally win as it's first to the party

(the resource party). If you're thinking—wait, maybe we should model a cost to being too early! Then Lizzie (and Megan of years past) replies: that's the main thing you'll model then and it may be more useful in an evolutionary model perhaps. In our current model trade-offs such as between timing and competitiveness represent the ghost of these costs.

2. One potential way out of this problem above (earliest wins) is to have the chilling positively correlated with resource, such that lower chilling years are low resource years (smaller pulse). In this case species that delay also germinate less (so they use up less of their seedbank) and if the resource is low maybe this will be a good decision (bet-hedging wins the day?)! However, this means that high resource years are high interspecific competition years (in those years all species germinate early and at max germination) so you get positive  $covar(E, C)$ , which is what you need for the storage effect—as then it dampens the benedit any one species could get from a good environmental year.... but it still seems unlikely that germinating less and later in low chill years will be a good strategy.
3. One way out of this is to covary chilling delay species with competitiveness (if you delay, you are also a superior competitor under low resource conditions). This is what Megan and I looked at in our paper. It makes sense, but it may not be the only way to get coexistence, and it may not be what we want to focus on here.

### 3 How to vary germination timing, new!

How to vary germination time (relative to pulse) with more chilling?

This is harder than you think, and makes you realize why abstracting within-season time the way the storage effect model does may be a great idea. We went through several iterations of how to do this. Here's our current thought process:

1. No trade-off with chilling delay and  $R^*$  for now.
2. There is variation across species in their 'natural start time,' which is currently called  $\tau_i$  (though for a bit of June we called it  $\tau_{g,i}$  or)
3. Chilling (or chilling/heating combo) does two major things ...
  - (a) Chilling (or chilling/heating combo) impacts the delay, and that delay can **switch the order of species** such that some some years species 1 is ahead of species 2 and some years that is reversed.
  - (b) Chilling (or chilling/heating combo) also impacts the germination fraction
  - (c) We set up parameters such that these two effects (delay and germination fraction) to be independent (that is, they don't covary to the point that you cannot separate the impact of each, which is an alternative idea we discussed).
4. The season starts with the first species. So we set the pulse of  $R$  to occur at the timing of the first species. Just like empirical ecologists we define the start of the season biotically (not abiotically).

Also ... smaller things (SKIP reading for meetings)

1. All species do not go at same time with max chilling. (If we wanted them to all go at once with max, the chilling  $f(x)$  would have to be fairly complicated to get species to switch order.)

## 4 Start here.

**Next meeting:** One more meeting on parameter space. Then we should have a meeting that is longer and ‘tactical’ — figuring out how to edit the code.

*8 December 2021* We mainly edited the R code (`getEnvvt.R` – semi-done, may someday add copula; and `getSpecies.R` made some progress but not done – we stopped around line 23 where we need to think about how to add within-season stuff, see ‘`##NEXT`’), talking about the distance between timepoints and DR curves along the way. We did not review the other code and we did not adjust the timestep issue in the ODE.

*12 November 2021 meeting* We need make a strategic decision about what to vary: with germination parameters, with the environment (changing or not) and then how long are the runs. And, anything else to vary?

Dan’s interests: (1) all species with no cold stratification requirement; (2) some species have a cold stratification requirement and the other species do not (and this means the germination pulse is both a different max and happens with a different amount of delay); (3) some species have a low cold stratification requirement and the others have high cold stratification (one has a mild response and one has a strong response such that they cross). And trade-off between competitive effect, so that early-active are competitively inferior.

Megan says we can do this all continuously.

So things that need to vary: max germination, germination delay (and maybe a correlation between the delay and max), competition coefficient, Environment: chilling (is a distribution, that someday we could change, but not now), but maybe the size and time of resource pulse is constant (instead of a distribution).

Dan should: (a) think on a distribution of chilling (an environmentally relevant one) to use. We discussed chilling as best done in units of days (or we can do weeks, and fractions of weeks). (b) Choose parameters for range of chilling sensitivity ‘rate at which max germination changes as a  $f(x)$  of chilling’ ... Megan suggests: look at the range you have, and maybe other literature-based scenarios you’re interested in and come up with a range. (c) Delay – Megan says play around with underlying equations and come up with some parameters that work. And when we say ‘underlying equations’ we mean the dose response curve.

Long discussion about changing germination equation to be sigmoidal. A sigmoid is a 4-parameter model, we agreed all species go as pulse so steepness of curve is the same (that’s

one parameter done—the same for all species), we have max germination ( $e_{max}$ ) already, we have discussed delay already ... so we can translate this type of curve to what we're doing, which would be useful for the literature. **Dan seemed to follow this, so I suggest he adds notes here.**

*2 November 2021 meeting* We looked at some non-linear plots from Dan. All three parameters vary; so we probably need to build the code to do that, but we can start with the two  $g_0$  extremes (also need some  $\gamma$  values and  $g_{max}$ ). We started going through the code; I think `getSpecies.R` could be a good place to start editing.

*13 October meeting* (jamboard):

We will have  $g$  vary with chilling ( $C$  here).  $g$  has three parameters,  $g_0$  (the amount of germination without chilling),  $g_{max}$  and  $\gamma$ . Do we want all to vary? We discussed:

- Maybe  $g_{max}=1$  (is always 100%). Why not! That's how we calculated it in the data, and we could think of this as a model for viable seeds, and all seeds would germinate with enough chilling. But we miss species that seem similar but only differ towards the very extremes of chilling at their  $g_{max}$  (Dan said this happens a lot in his data, I think?).
- $g_0$  the amount of germination without chilling; this varies by species, since some species germinate without chilling
- $\gamma_g$  rate at which germination increases from min to max with chilling

$$g = g_0 + (g_{max} - g_0)(1 - e^{-\gamma_g * C})$$

So maybe best to explore the data and model before deciding? Using some least squares or such non-linear cheap R package (and do some good initial conditions). Lizzie notes: I would just put chilling in as weeks.

Other part we need is the delay due to chilling.

- $\tau_{nc}$  – delay with no chilling
- $\tau_{min}$  – minimum delay with maximum chilling.

We think the shape could be a linear model (instead of exponential), with some species constant (slope of delay vs. chilling=0),  $y$ -intercept represents maximum delay with no chilling. If we do linear, we have to build in a stop for cases where you end up with negative delay values (e.g., low intercept, high slope).

Then we talked about whether we should switch to a dose-response curve (DRC). Handy in many ways, but does not allow us to separately vary timing from germination in the same way; it does not really estimate delay. We'd have to create one for each level of chilling. *We decided that what we have is simpler and thus better.*

*27 September 2021:* We decided to vary only chilling at this meeting. And we decided on instantaneous chilling (not trying to have a curve through time).

*Update from 22 September 2021:* We realized we need to decide how to model germination: is it a germination curve each season (can we do this in the ODE solver? Might be more realistic and similar to data, but not how we want the model to be) or is it an amount you go one day (in which case we can use that info in the initial conditions of the ODE solver)?

*Update from 7 September 2021:* Megan is busy working away in R to look at functional forms of equations (see `R/checks/checkFunctionForms_priorityeffs.R`), ended on discussing integrals of germination curves (an important possible constraint we might impose: have all species go the same amount? Or not, since it varies in the experiment a lot; or at least need to calculate this). One point she stressed (31 Aug 2021): remember that our  $g$  equation this time will **not** mean the same thing as it did in our storage effect model; this time it is representing the germination curves within a season (e.g., as we see them in an experiment). **For the next meeting: keep working on equations and editing R code**

**Plan to get Dan up to speed! Meet with him, tell him what we've done (focusing just on this model), and set up some next steps.**

Update from 17 August 2021: Megan worked on equations based on all the new figures... (see 2021JAug17MDnotes1.jpeg).

Update from 13 August 2021: We're going with chilling and forcing! It doesn't really add parameters. Because we only have two levels of forcing it's a multiplicative constant, it doesn't really matter how we parameterize it ... but we could just parameterize it as we know it works in other systems (i.e., woody tree leafout) and then it's more generalizable.

There's basically three things we can adjust ... Megan is working on an equation that allows all three to be adjusted and then we can use Dan's data to decide what we should adjust.

End of 13 August 2021 update.

Now, we need:

1. Decide: are we switching to chilling and heating units? Can we get them both in without more parameters? (See above, yes and yes as of 13 August 2021.)
2. To help with this decision Lizzie should make some plots ...
  - (a) Total % germinated by chilling (by species) – two panels: one for ambient and one for warm
  - (b) Germination day by chilling units – two panels (or two symbols): one for ambient and one for warm (one graph for each species)

3. a firm  $f(x)$  to define how chilling (or chilling/heating combo) impacts delay and ...
4. how chilling impacts germination fraction and ...
5. how we model chilling as an environmental parameter (do we model chill units? Or amount of chill below max? Or ...?).

Related to this, we also have not answered (have we?):

1. What aspects of chilling (or chilling/heating combo) response are unique to species? What could vary ... (Megan's notes from 17 Jul 2021)
  - (a) Required chilling for timing
  - (b) Sensitivity of timing to chilling (unit delay per unit reduced chilling)
  - (c) Sensitivity of germination fraction to chilling
  - (d) Correlation of sensitivity to chilling for germination and timing
  - (e) Assume: All species have same max germination
2. What aspects of the environment will vary in simulations?
3. What aspects of species will vary in the simulations?

## 5 How to vary germination timing, old...

This is from June 2021 meetings; can likely delete once we finalize new parameters etc. in July 2021 (hopefully will finish in July, we'll see!).

Season starts at resource pulse (that's within-season  $t = 0$ ). And we introduce some new parameters...

- $\tau_{g,i}$  - **species-specific germination timing** given maximum chilling (must be after pulse)
- $\tau_{g,i}$  can be delayed due to chilling with  $\tau_{c,i}$  - **species-specific delay** given less than maximum chilling
- So,  $\tau_{g,i} + \tau_{c,i}$  would be **the realized germination date**, which we refer to as  $\hat{\tau}_{g,i}$ .

This model allows the following trade-offs:

- $R^*$  versus  $\tau_{g,i}$
- $R^*$  versus  $\tau_{c,i}$

Constraint: Species that do not delay with chilling should have a higher germination fraction.

We'll have a new germination equation, that depends on **chilling** ( $\xi$ ):  $g_i = g_{max,i} e^{(-\xi)^2/h}$   
 $\tau_c = f(\xi)$  [could just be linear with threshold, or exponential etc.]

While we agreed that  $g_{max}$  likely varies by species, and will generally be lower for species with later  $\tau_{g,i}$ , we decided not to vary this as we have enough to vary already.

Trade-offs inherent in the model:

- $R^*$  vs.  $\tau_{g,i}$
- $R^*$  vs.  $\tau_{c,i}$

## 6 Equations

We keep the year to year dynamics ...

$$N_i(t+1) = s_i(N_i(t)(1 - g_i(t)) + \phi_i B(t + \delta)) \quad (1)$$

And the production of new biomass each season still follows a basic  $R^*$  competition model: new biomass production depends on its resource uptake ( $f_i(R)$  converted into biomass at rate  $c_i$ ) less maintenance costs ( $m_i$ ), with uptake controlled by  $a_i$  and  $u_i$ :

$$\frac{\partial B_i}{\partial t} = [c_i f_i(R) - m_i] B_i \quad (2)$$

$$f_i(R) = \frac{a_i R^{\theta_i}}{1 + a_i u_i R^{\theta_i}} \quad (3)$$

The resource ( $R$ ) itself declines across a growing season due to uptake by all species and abiotic loss ( $\epsilon$ ):

$$\frac{dR}{dt} = - \sum_{i=1}^n f_i(R) B_i - \epsilon R \quad (4)$$

With the initial condition (**second line is new**):

$$B(t+0) = N_i(t) g_i(t) b_{0,i} \quad (5)$$

$$B_i(t = \tau_{g,i}) = N_i(t) g_i(t) b_{0,i} \quad (6)$$

And germination is now dependent on chilling ...

$$g_i(t) = g_{max} e^{-\xi^2/h} \quad (7)$$

Though we have not defined the chilling function yet.

## 7 How to implement

Use a two-stage ODE: solve for the first species and resource for a fixed number of days, then use that as the initial conditions for the second stage, where you add the other species.

Stuff we do no longer need:

- tracking
- $\tau_i$

## 8 Next steps

See `_READMEpriorityeff.txt`

- Adding in two-step ODE (Megan says this is very straightforward)
- Build an environment with heating, cooling and resource pulse and relate back to  $\tau_i$ 
  - Try species with same germination fraction no matter the environment
  - Try species with increasing fraction with more chilling
- Think on two strategies versus continuous (or is continuous low warming).
- Stick with our old parameters?

covar(pulse size, chill units) – discussed in relation to what happens in years when one species is early and draws down the resource below later species'  $R^*$  (we think that they still go but hopefully they don't germinate too much) or change covar(epsilon, chill units)