

# 851-0585-04L – Modeling and Simulating Social Systems with MATLAB

## Lecture 3 – Dynamical Systems

Karsten Donnay and Stefano Ballestti

Chair of Sociology, in particular of  
Modeling and Simulation



# Schedule of the course

Introduction to MATLAB	{	20.02.	Introduction to social-science modeling and simulations
		27.02.	
Working on projects (seminar thesis)	{	05.03.	
		12.03.	
		19.03.	
		26.03.	
		02.04.	
		23.04.	
		30.04.	
		07.05.	
	{	14.05.	
		21.05.	Handing in seminar thesis and giving a presentation
		28.05.	

# Schedule of the course

Introduction to  
MATLAB

20.02.

27.02.

05.03.

12.03.

19.03.

26.03.

02.04.

23.04.

30.04.

07.05.

14.05.

21.05.

28.05.

Create and Submit a  
Research Plan

Working on  
projects  
(seminar  
thesis)

Introduction to  
social-science  
modeling and  
simulations

Handing in seminar thesis  
and giving a presentation

## Goals of Lecture 3: students will

1. Consolidate knowledge acquired during lecture 2, through *brief* repetition of the main points and revision of the exercises.
2. Understand *fully* the importance and the **role** of a **Research Plan** and its main standard components.
3. Learn the *basic* definition of **Dynamical Systems** and Differential Equations.
4. Implement Dynamical System in MATLAB a series of examples from Physics and Social Science Literature (Pendulum, Lorenz attractor, Lotka-Volterra equations, Epidemics: Kermack-McKendrick model)

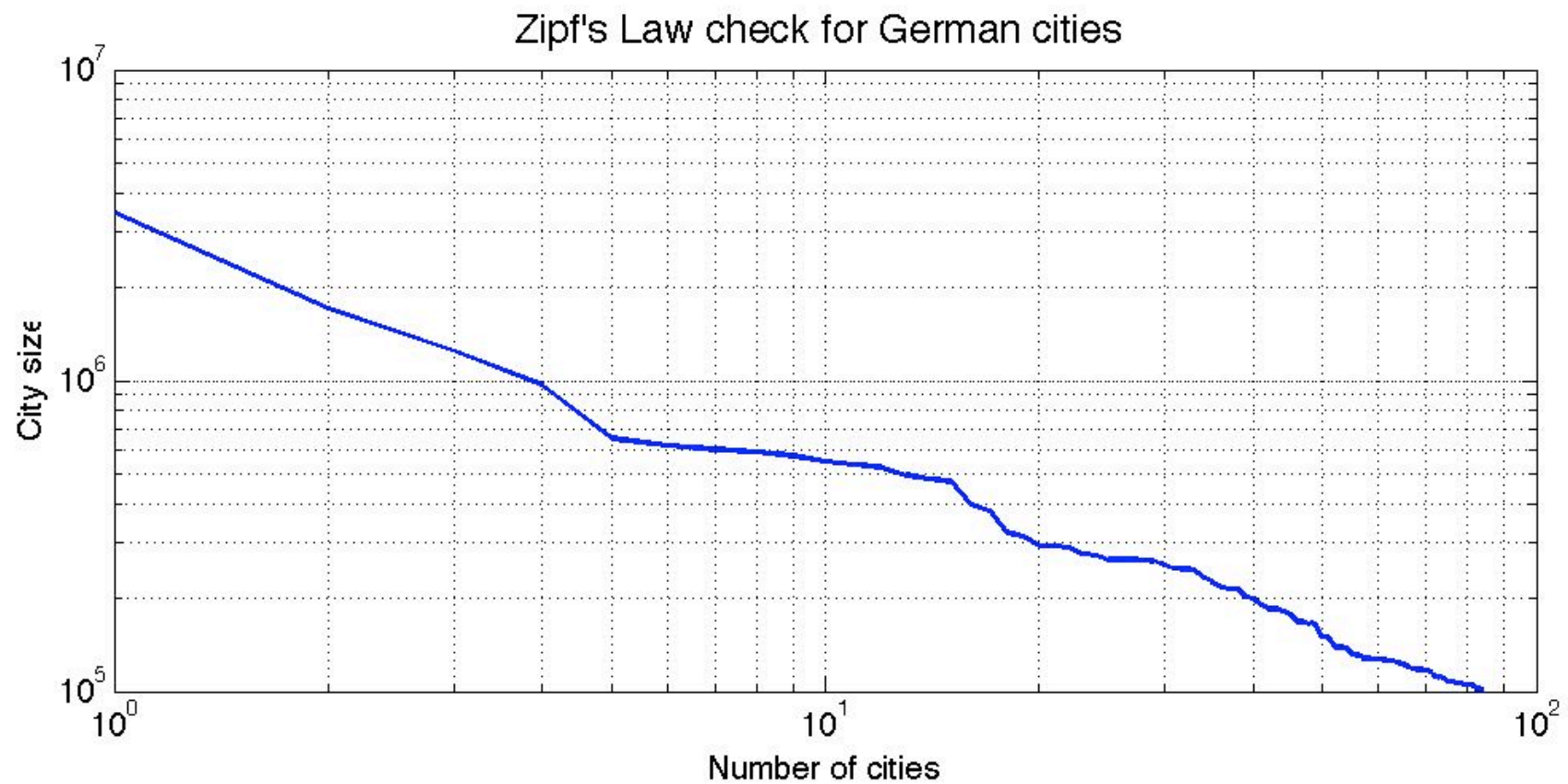


# Repetition

- `plot()` , `loglog()` , `semilogy()` , `semilogx()`
- `hist()` , `sort()`
- `subplot()` vs `figure()`
- Log-scale plots reduce the complexity of some functional forms and fit well to draw large range of values
- The amplitude of the sample matters! **law of large numbers – LLN.** (Ex.1)
- Outlier observations can significantly skew the distribution, e.g. mean  $\neq$  median. (Ex. 2)
- `Cov()` and `corrcoef()` can measure correlation among variables. (Ex. 3)



# Repetition – Ex. 4



```
>> loglog(germany(:,2), 'LineWidth', 3);
```

# Project

- Implementation of a model from the Social Science literature in MATLAB
  
- During the next two weeks:
  - Form a group of two to four persons
  - Choose a topic among the project suggestions (available on line) or propose your own idea
  - Set up a GitHub repository for your group
  - Complete the research proposal (It is the readme file of your GitHub repository)



# Research Plan Structure

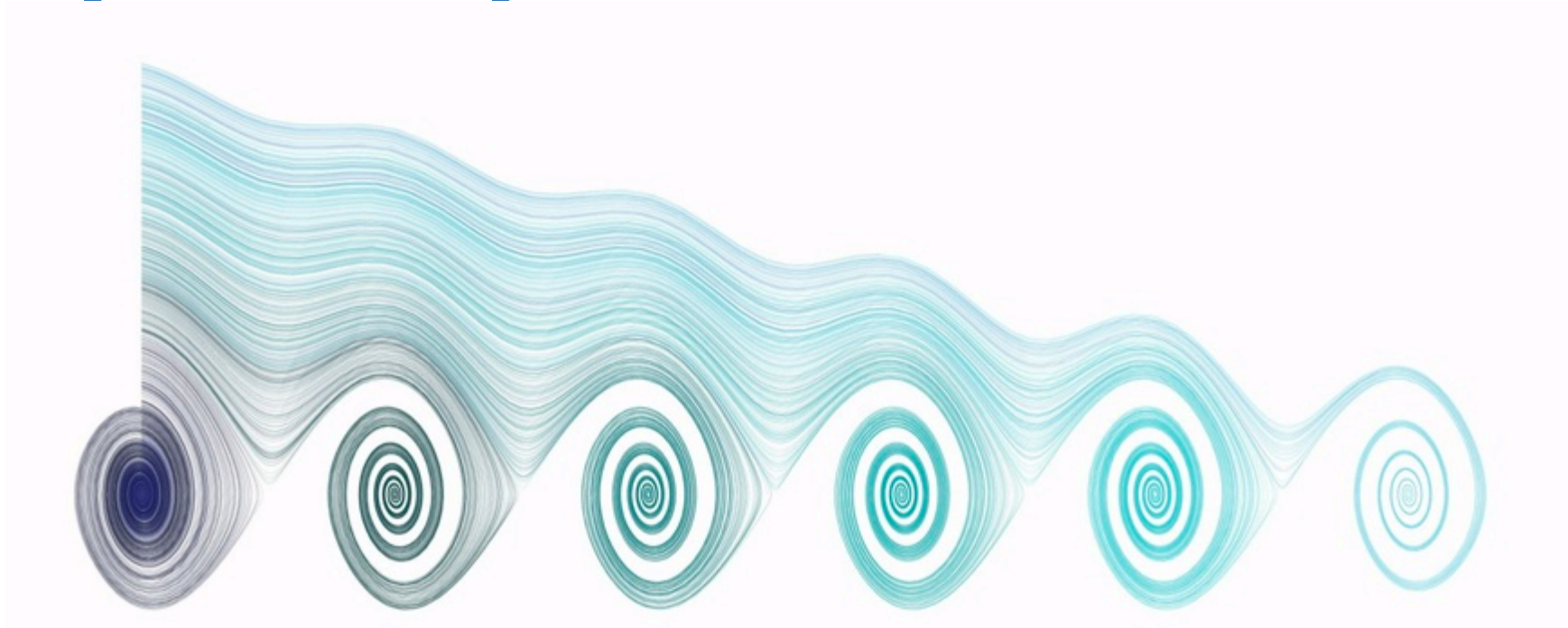
- 1-2 (not more!) pages stating:
  - Brief, general **introduction** to the problem
  - How you **abstract** the problem with a model
  - **Fundamental questions** you want to try to answer
  - Existing **literature** you will base your model on and possible extensions
  - Research **methods** you are planning to use
- Keep track of the changes



# Research Plan

- Upon submission, the Research Plan can:
  - be accepted
  - be accepted under revision
  - be modified later on only if change is justified (create new version)
- Talk to us if you are not sure
- Final deadline for signing-up for a project is:  
**March 19<sup>th</sup> 2012**

# Dynamical systems



- Mathematical description of the time dependence of variables that characterize a given problem/scenario in its state space.



# Dynamical systems

- A dynamical system is described by a set of linear/non-linear differential equations.
- Even though an analytical treatment of dynamical systems is usually very complicated, obtaining a numerical solution is (often) straight forward.
- **Differential** equation and **difference** equation are two different tools for operating with Dynamical Systems

# Differential Equations

- A **differential equation** is a mathematical equation for an *unknown function* (dependent variable) of one or more (independent) *explicative variables* that relates the values of the function itself and its derivatives of various orders

- Ordinary (ODE) :  $\frac{df(x)}{dx} = f(x)$

- Partial (PDE) :  $\frac{\partial f(x,y)}{\partial x} + \frac{\partial f(x,y)}{\partial y} = f(x,y)$

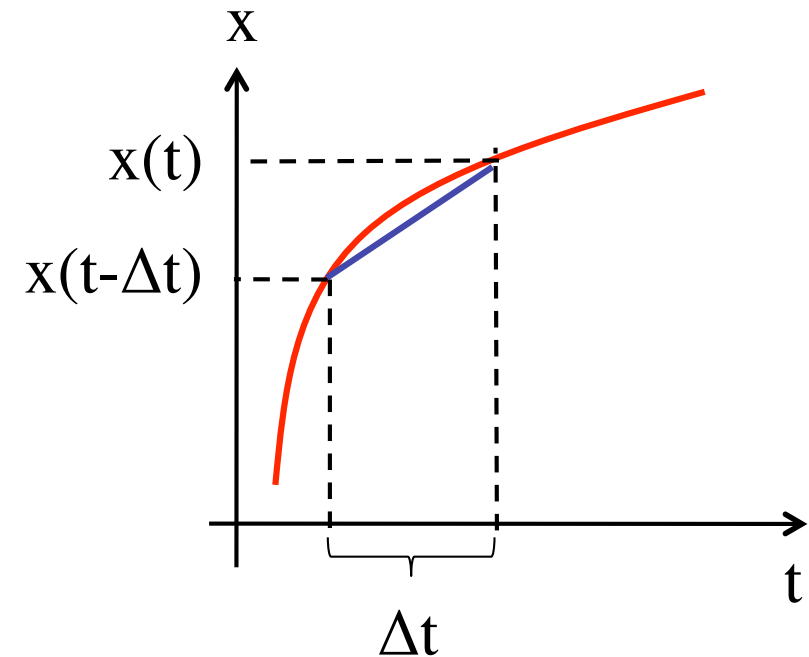
# Numerical Solutions for Differential Equations

- Solving differential equations numerically can be done by a number of schemes. The easiest way is by the 1<sup>st</sup> order Euler's Method:

$$\frac{dx}{dt} = f(x, \dots)$$

$$\frac{x(t) - x(t - \Delta t)}{\Delta t} = f(x, \dots)$$

$$x(t) = x(t - \Delta t) + \Delta t f(x, \dots)$$



# A famous example: Pendulum

- A pendulum is a simple dynamical system:

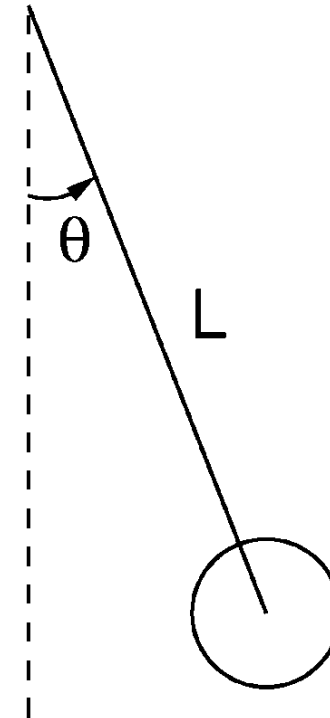
$L$  = length of pendulum (m)

$\theta$  = angle of pendulum

$g$  = acceleration due to gravity ( $\text{m/s}^2$ )

The motion is described by:

$$\theta'' = -\frac{g}{L} \sin(\theta)$$





# Pendulum: MATLAB code

```
dt=0.01;           % time step
g=9.81;            % gravity
L=1.0;             % pendulum length

% initial condition
theta=0.5;         % angle
thetaPrime=0;      % angular velocity

% simulation loop
for t=0:dt:5
    thetaBis=-g/L*sin(theta);
    thetaPrime=thetaPrime+dt*thetaBis;
    theta=theta+dt*thetaPrime;
    plot([0 cos(theta-pi/2)], [0 sin(theta-pi/2)]);
    xlim([-1 1]);
    ylim([-1 0]);
    xlabel('x');
    ylabel('y');
    pause(0.01);
end
```

# Set time step

```
dt=0.01;           % time step
g=9.81;            % gravity
L=1.0;             % pendulum length

% initial condition
theta=0.5;         % angle
thetaPrime=0;      % angular velocity

% simulation loop
for t=0:dt:5
    thetaBis=-g/L*sin(theta);
    thetaPrime=thetaPrime+dt*thetaBis;
    theta=theta+dt*thetaPrime;
    plot([0 cos(theta-pi/2)], [0 sin(theta-pi/2)]);
    xlim([-1 1]);
    ylim([-1 0]);
    xlabel('x');
    ylabel('y');
    pause(0.01);
end
```

# Set constants

```
dt=0.01;           % time step
g=9.81;            % gravity
L=1.0;             % pendulum length

% initial condition
theta=0.5;         % angle
thetaPrime=0;      % angular velocity

% simulation loop
for t=0:dt:5
    thetaBis=-g/L*sin(theta);
    thetaPrime=thetaPrime+dt*thetaBis;
    theta=theta+dt*thetaPrime;
    plot([0 cos(theta-pi/2)], [0 sin(theta-pi/2)]);
    xlim([-1 1]);
    ylim([-1 0]);
    xlabel('x');
    ylabel('y');
    pause(0.01);
end
```

# Set starting point of pendulum

```
dt=0.01;           % time step
g=9.81;            % gravity
L=1.0;             % pendulum length

% initial condition
theta=0.5;         % angle
thetaPrime=0;      % angular velocity

% simulation loop
for t=0:dt:5
    thetaBis=-g/L*sin(theta);
    thetaPrime=thetaPrime+dt*thetaBis;
    theta=theta+dt*thetaPrime;
    plot([0 cos(theta-pi/2)], [0 sin(theta-pi/2)]);
    xlim([-1 1]);
    ylim([-1 0]);
    xlabel('x');
    ylabel('y');
    pause(0.01);
end
```

# Time loop: Simulate the pendulum

```
dt=0.01;           % time step
g=9.81;            % gravity
L=1.0;             % pendulum length

% initial condition
theta=0.5;         % angle
thetaPrime=0;      % angular velocity

% simulation loop
for t=0:dt:5
    thetaBis=-g/L*sin(theta);
    thetaPrime=thetaPrime+dt*thetaBis;
    theta=theta+dt*thetaPrime;
    plot([0 cos(theta-pi/2)], [0 sin(theta-pi/2)]);
    xlim([-1 1]);
    ylim([-1 0]);
    xlabel('x');
    ylabel('y');
    pause(0.01);
end
```



# Perform 1<sup>st</sup> order Euler's method

```
dt=0.01;           % time step
g=9.81;            % gravity
L=1.0;             % pendulum length

% initial condition
theta=0.5;         % angle
thetaPrime=0;      % angular velocity

% simulation loop
for t=0:dt:5
    thetaBis=-g/L*sin(theta);
    thetaPrime=thetaPrime+dt*thetaBis;
    theta=theta+dt*thetaPrime;
    plot([0 cos(theta-pi/2)], [0 sin(theta-pi/2)]);
    xlim([-1 1]);
    ylim([-1 0]);
    xlabel('x');
    ylabel('y');
    pause(0.01);
end
```



# Plot pendulum

```
dt=0.01;           % time step
g=9.81;            % gravity
L=1.0;             % pendulum length

% initial condition
theta=0.5;         % angle
thetaPrime=0;      % angular velocity

% simulation loop
for t=0:dt:5
    thetaBis=-g/L*sin(theta);
    thetaPrime=thetaPrime+dt*thetaBis;
    theta=theta+dt*thetaPrime;
    plot([0 cos(theta-pi/2)], [0 sin(theta-pi/2)]);
    xlim([-1 1]);
    ylim([-1 0]);
    xlabel('x');
    ylabel('y');
    pause(0.01);
end
```

# Set limits of window

```
dt=0.01;           % time step
g=9.81;            % gravity
L=1.0;             % pendulum length

% initial condition
theta=0.5;         % angle
thetaPrime=0;      % angular velocity

% simulation loop
for t=0:dt:5
    thetaBis=-g/L*sin(theta);
    thetaPrime=thetaPrime+dt*thetaBis;
    theta=theta+dt*thetaPrime;
    plot([0 cos(theta-pi/2)], [0 sin(theta-pi/2)]);
    xlim([-1 1]);
    ylim([-1 0]);
    xlabel('x');
    ylabel('y');
    pause(0.01);
end
```

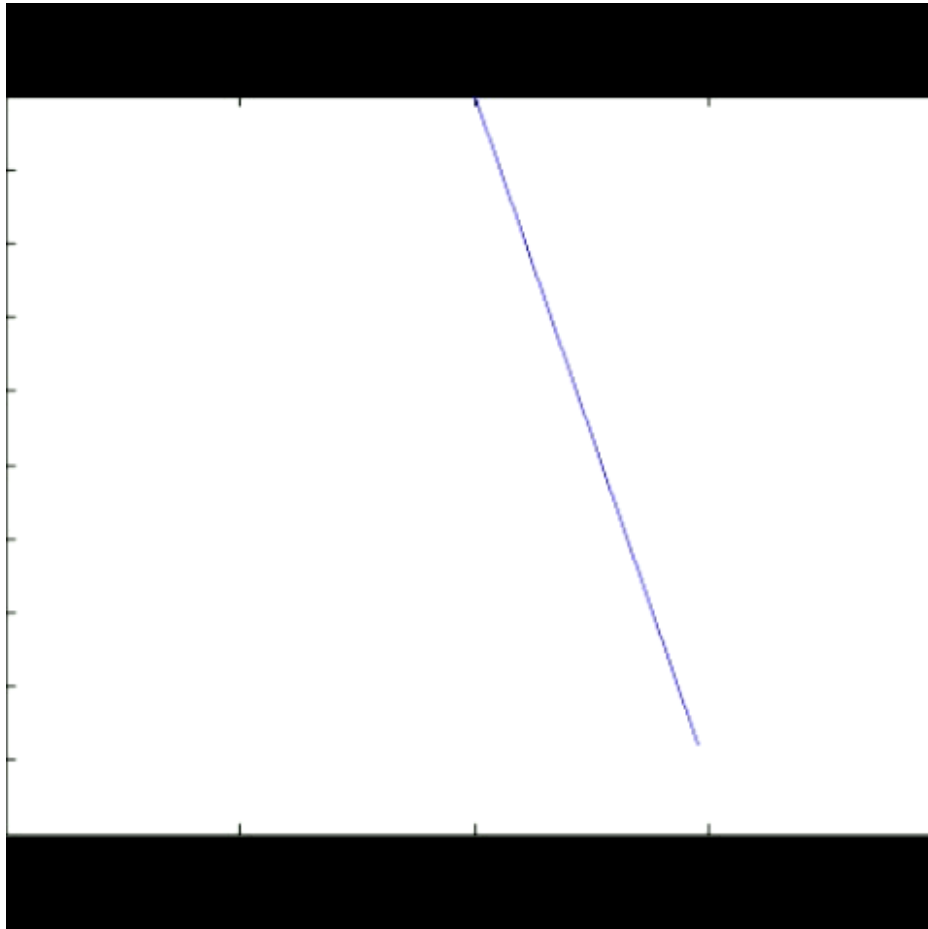
# Make a 10 ms pause

```
dt=0.01;           % time step
g=9.81;            % gravity
L=1.0;             % pendulum length

% initial condition
theta=0.5;         % angle
thetaPrime=0;      % angular velocity

% simulation loop
for t=0:dt:5
    thetaBis=-g/L*sin(theta);
    thetaPrime=thetaPrime+dt*thetaBis;
    theta=theta+dt*thetaPrime;
    plot([0 cos(theta-pi/2)], [0 sin(theta-pi/2)]);
    xlim([-1 1]);
    ylim([-1 0]);
    xlabel('x');
    ylabel('y');
    pause(0.01);
end
```

# Pendulum: Executing MATLAB code



```
dt=0.01;           % time step
g=9.81;            % gravity
L=1.0;             % pendulum length

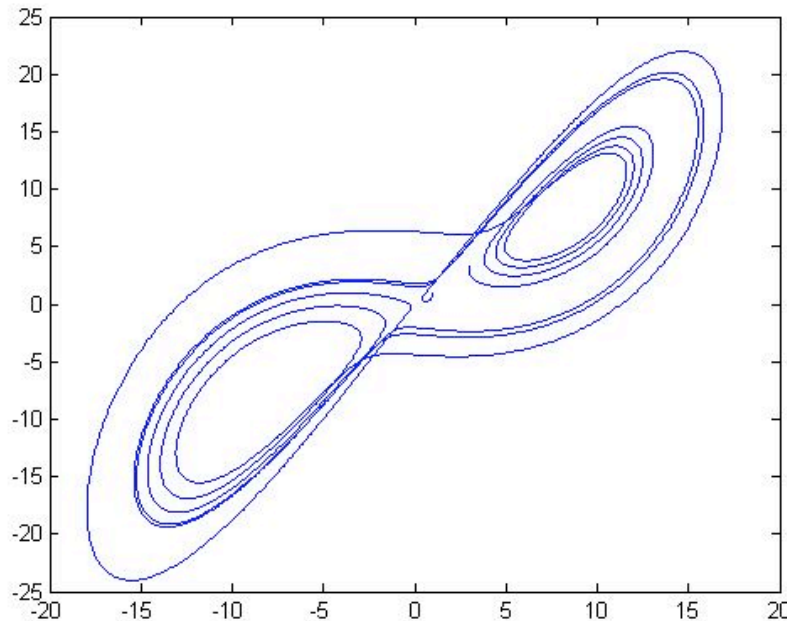
% initial condition
theta=0.5;         % angle
thetaPrime=0;      % angular velocity

% simulation loop
for t=0:dt:5
    thetaBis=-g/L*sin(theta);
    thetaPrime=thetaPrime+dt*thetaBis;
    theta=theta+dt*thetaPrime;
    plot([0 cos(theta-pi/2)], [0 sin(theta-pi/2)]);
    xlim([-1 1]);
    ylim([-1 0]);
    xlabel('x');
    ylabel('y');
    pause(0.01);
end
```

The file `pendulum.m` may be found on the website!

# Lorenz attractor

- The Lorenz attractor defines a 3-dimensional trajectory by the differential equations:



- $\sigma$ ,  $r$ ,  $b$  are parameters.

$$\frac{dx}{dt} = \sigma(y - x)$$

$$\frac{dy}{dt} = rx - y - xz$$

$$\frac{dz}{dt} = xy - bz$$



# Lorenz attractor: MATLAB code

```
dt=0.001;    % timestep
iter=5000;   % iterations
x(1)=1; y(1)=1; z(1)=40; t(1)=0;    % starting point
sigma=10; r=28; b=8/3; % parameters
```

```
for i=2:iter
    dx = sigma*(y(i-1)-x(i-1));
    dy = r*x(i-1) - y(i-1) - x(i-1)*z(i-1);
    dz = x(i-1)*y(i-1) - b*z(i-1);
    x(i) = x(i-1) + dt*dx;
    y(i) = y(i-1) + dt*dy;
    z(i) = z(i-1) + dt*dz;
    t(i) = t(i-1) + dt;
    xlim([-20 20]);
    ylim([-25 25]);
end

plot (x,y);
```



# Set time step

```
dt=0.001; % timestep
iter=5000; % iterations
x(1)=1; y(1)=1; z(1)=40; t(1)=0; % starting point
sigma=10; r=28; b=8/3; % parameters
```

```
for i=2:iter
    dx = sigma*(y(i-1)-x(i-1));
    dy = r*x(i-1) - y(i-1) - x(i-1)*z(i-1);
    dz = x(i-1)*y(i-1) - b*z(i-1);
    x(i) = x(i-1) + dt*dx;
    y(i) = y(i-1) + dt*dy;
    z(i) = z(i-1) + dt*dz;
    t(i) = t(i-1) + dt;
    xlim([-20 20]);
    ylim([-25 25]);
end

plot (x,y);
```

# Set number of iterations

```
dt=0.001; % timestep
iter=5000; % iterations
x(1)=1; y(1)=1; z(1)=40; t(1)=0; % starting point
sigma=10; r=28; b=8/3; % parameters

for i=2:iter
    dx = sigma*(y(i-1)-x(i-1));
    dy = r*x(i-1) - y(i-1) - x(i-1)*z(i-1);
    dz = x(i-1)*y(i-1) - b*z(i-1);
    x(i) = x(i-1) + dt*dx;
    y(i) = y(i-1) + dt*dy;
    z(i) = z(i-1) + dt*dz;
    t(i) = t(i-1) + dt;
    xlim([-20 20]);
    ylim([-25 25]);
end

plot (x,y);
```

# Set initial values

```
dt=0.001;    % timestep
iter=5000;   % iterations
x(1)=1; y(1)=1; z(1)=40; t(1)=0;    % starting point
sigma=10; r=20; b=8/3;    % parameters
```

```
for i=2:iter
    dx = sigma*(y(i-1)-x(i-1));
    dy = r*x(i-1) - y(i-1) - x(i-1)*z(i-1);
    dz = x(i-1)*y(i-1) - b*z(i-1);
    x(i) = x(i-1) + dt*dx;
    y(i) = y(i-1) + dt*dy;
    z(i) = z(i-1) + dt*dz;
    t(i) = t(i-1) + dt;
    xlim([-20 20]);
    ylim([-25 25]);
end

plot (x,y);
```

# Set parameters

```
dt=0.001;    % timestep
iter=5000;   % iterations
x(1)=1; y(1)=1; z(1)=40; t(1)=0;    % starting point
sigma=10; r=28; b=8/3; % parameters
```

```
for i=2:iter
    dx = sigma*(y(i-1)-x(i-1));
    dy = r*x(i-1) - y(i-1) - x(i-1)*z(i-1);
    dz = x(i-1)*y(i-1) - b*z(i-1);
    x(i) = x(i-1) + dt*dx;
    y(i) = y(i-1) + dt*dy;
    z(i) = z(i-1) + dt*dz;
    t(i) = t(i-1) + dt;
    xlim([-20 20]);
    ylim([-25 25]);
end

plot (x,y);
```

# Solve the Lorenz-attractor equations

```
dt=0.001;    % timestep
iter=5000;   % iterations
x(1)=1; y(1)=1; z(1)=40; t(1)=0;    % starting point
sigma=10; r=28; b=8/3; % parameters
```

```
for i=2:iter
    dx = sigma*(y(i-1)-x(i-1));
    dy = r*x(i-1) - y(i-1) - x(i-1)*z(i-1);
    dz = x(i-1)*y(i-1) - b*z(i-1);
    x(i) = x(i-1) + dt*dx;
    y(i) = y(i-1) + dt*dy;
    z(i) = z(i-1) + dt*dz;
    t(i) = t(i-1) + dt;
    xlim([-20 20]);
    ylim([-25 25]);
end
```

```
plot (x,y);
```



# Compute gradient

```
dt=0.001;    % timestep
iter=5000;   % iterations
x(1)=1; y(1)=1; z(1)=40; t(1)=0;    % starting point
sigma=10; r=28; b=8/3; % parameters
```

```
for i=2:iter
```

```
    dx = sigma*(y(i-1)-x(i-1));
    dy = r*x(i-1) - y(i-1) - x(i-1)*z(i-1);
    dz = x(i-1)*y(i-1) - b*z(i-1);
```

```
    x(i) = x(i-1) + dt*dx;
    y(i) = y(i-1) + dt*dy;
    z(i) = z(i-1) + dt*dz;
    t(i) = t(i-1) + dt;
    xlim([-20 20]);
    ylim([-25 25]);
```

```
end
```

```
plot (x,y);
```



# Perform 1<sup>st</sup> order Euler's method

```
dt=0.001;    % timestep
iter=5000;   % iterations
x(1)=1; y(1)=1; z(1)=40; t(1)=0;    % starting point
sigma=10; r=28; b=8/3; % parameters
```

```
for i=2:iter
    dx = sigma*(y(i-1)-x(i-1));
    dy = r*x(i-1) - y(i-1) - x(i-1)*z(i-1);
    dz = x(i-1)*y(i-1) - b*z(i-1);
    x(i) = x(i-1) + dt*dx;
    y(i) = y(i-1) + dt*dy;
    z(i) = z(i-1) + dt*dz;
    t(i) = t(i-1) + dt;
    xlim([-20 20]);
    ylim([-25 25]);
end

plot (x,y);
```

# Update time

```
dt=0.001;    % timestep
iter=5000;   % iterations
x(1)=1; y(1)=1; z(1)=40; t(1)=0;    % starting point
sigma=10; r=28; b=8/3; % parameters
```

```
for i=2:iter
    dx = sigma*(y(i-1)-x(i-1));
    dy = r*x(i-1) - y(i-1) - x(i-1)*z(i-1);
    dz = x(i-1)*y(i-1) - b*z(i-1);
    x(i) = x(i-1) + dt*dx;
    y(i) = y(i-1) + dt*dy;
    z(i) = z(i-1) + dt*dz;
    t(i) = t(i-1) + dt;
    xlim([-20 20]);
    ylim([-25 25]);
end

plot (x,y);
```

# Plot the results

```
dt=0.001;    % timestep
iter=5000;   % iterations
x(1)=1; y(1)=1; z(1)=40; t(1)=0;    % starting point
sigma=10; r=28; b=8/3; % parameters
```

```
for i=2:iter
    dx = sigma*(y(i-1)-x(i-1));
    dy = r*x(i-1) - y(i-1) - x(i-1)*z(i-1);
    dz = x(i-1)*y(i-1) - b*z(i-1);
    x(i) = x(i-1) + dt*dx;
    y(i) = y(i-1) + dt*dy;
    z(i) = z(i-1) + dt*dz;
    t(i) = t(i-1) + dt;
    xlim([-20 20]);
    ylim([-25 25]);
end
```

```
plot (x,y);
```

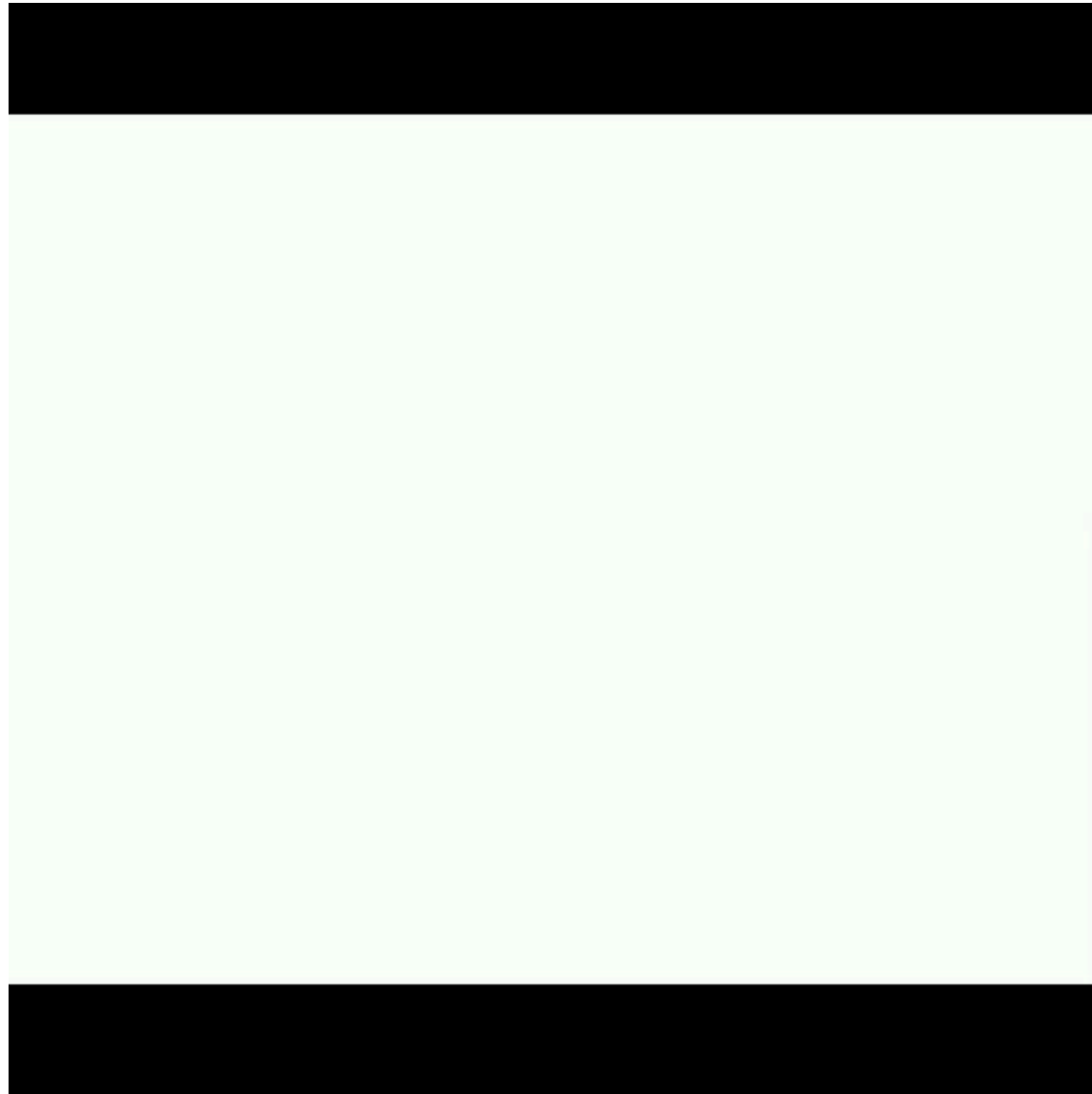
# Animation

```
dt=0.001;    % timestep
iter=5000;   % iterations
x(1)=1; y(1)=1; z(1)=40; t(1)=0;    % starting point
sigma=10; r=28; b=8/3; % parameters
```

```
for i=2:iter
    dx = sigma*(y(i-1)-x(i-1));
    dy = r*x(i-1) - y(i-1) - x(i-1)*z(i-1);
    dz = x(i-1)*y(i-1) - b*z(i-1);
    x(i) = x(i-1) + dt*dx;
    y(i) = y(i-1) + dt*dy;
    z(i) = z(i-1) + dt*dz;
    t(i) = t(i-1) + dt;
    xlim([-20 20]);
    ylim([-25 25]);
end
```

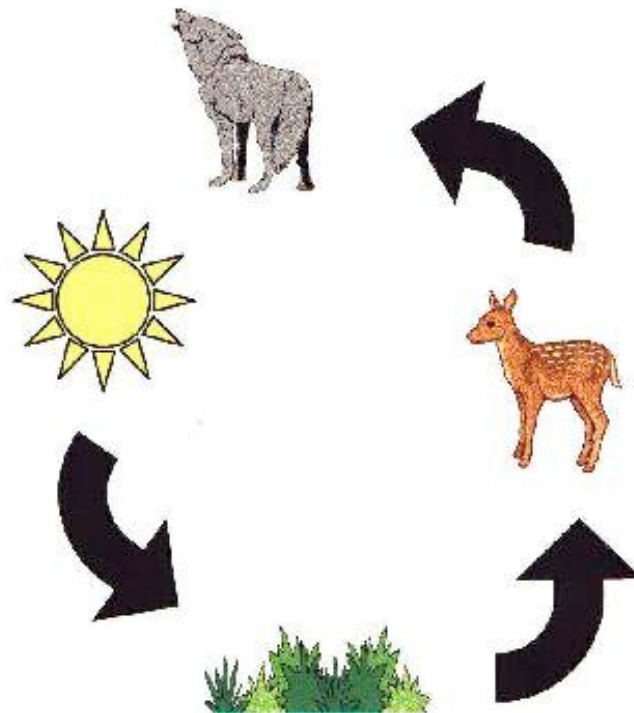
```
plot (x,y);
```

The file `lorenzattractor.m`  
may be found on the website!





# Food chain



# Lotka-Volterra equations

- The Lotka-Volterra equations describe the interaction between two species, prey vs. predators, e.g. rabbits vs. foxes.

$x$ : number of prey

$y$ : number of predators

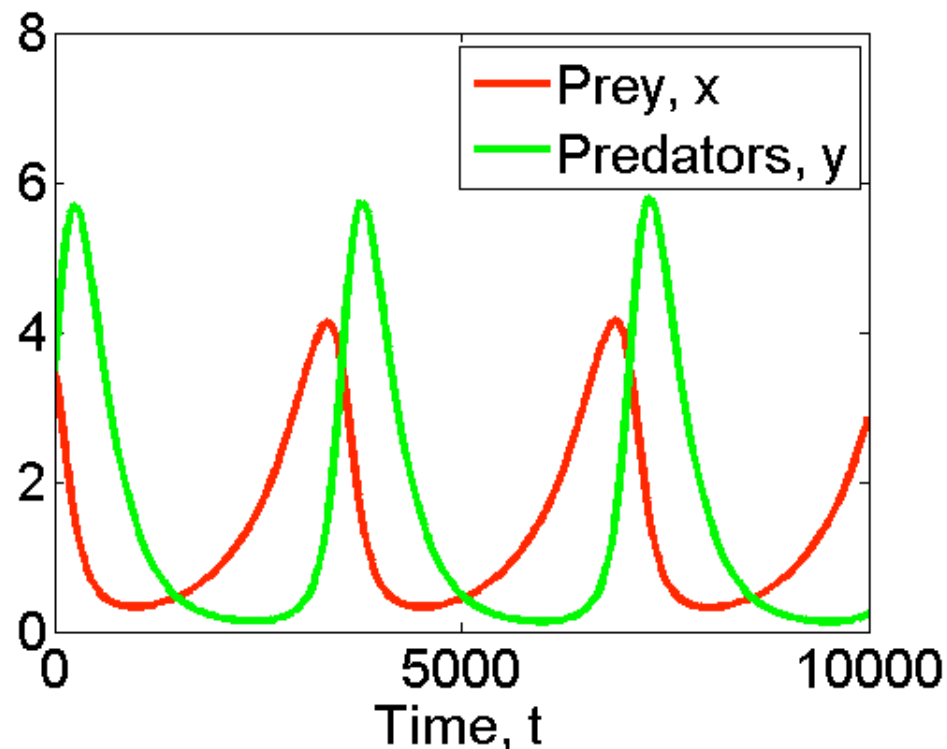
$\alpha$ ,  $\beta$ ,  $\gamma$ ,  $\delta$ : parameters

$$\frac{dx}{dt} = x(\alpha - \beta y)$$

$$\frac{dy}{dt} = -y(\gamma - \delta x)$$

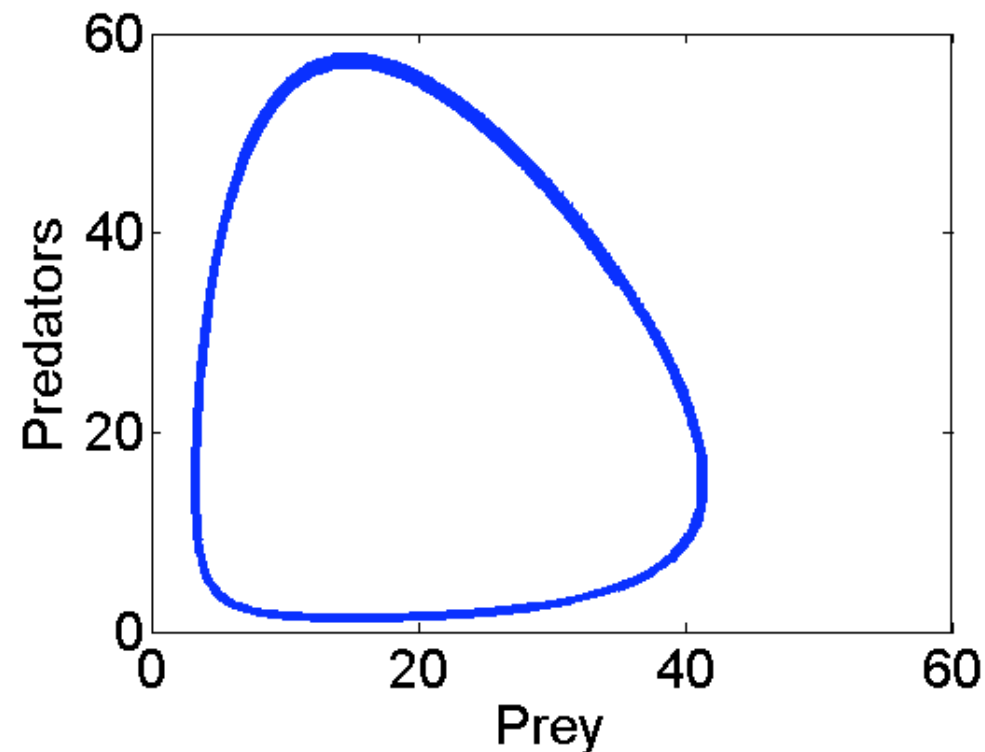
# Lotka-Volterra equations

- The Lotka-Volterra equations describe the interaction between two species, prey vs. predators, e.g. rabbits vs. foxes.

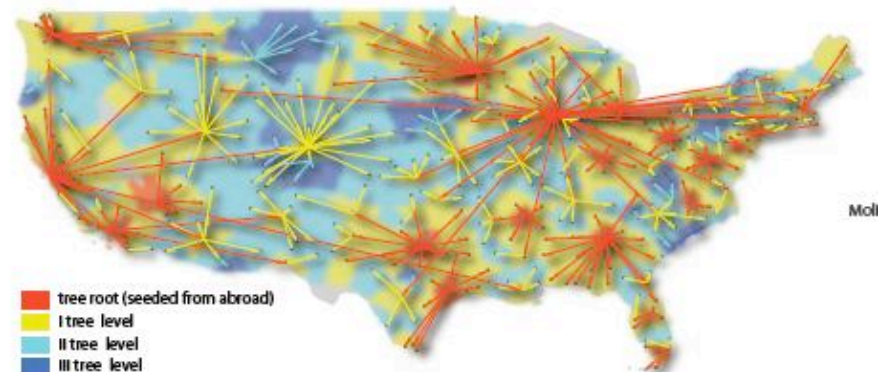
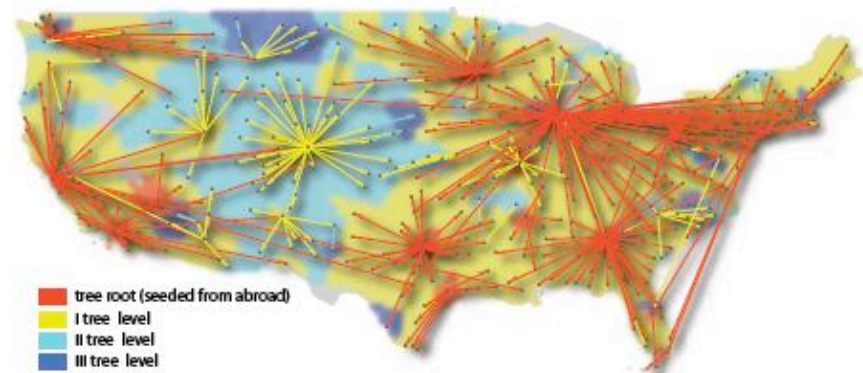
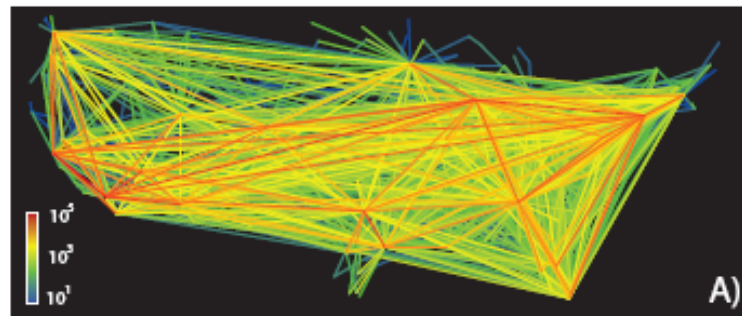


# Lotka-Volterra equations

- The Lotka-Volterra equations describe the interaction between two species, prey vs. predators, e.g. rabbits vs. foxes.



# Epidemics



Source: Balcan, et al. 2009



# SIR model

- A general model for epidemics is the SIR model, which describes the interaction between **S**usceptible, **I**nfectious and **R**emoved (immune) persons, for a given disease.

# Kermack-McKendrick model

- Spread of diseases like the plague and cholera?  
A popular SIR model is the Kermack-McKendrick model.
- The model assumes:
  - A constant population size.
  - A zero incubation period.
  - The duration of infectivity is as long as the duration of the clinical disease.

# Kermack-McKendrick model

- The Kermack-McKendrick model is specified as:

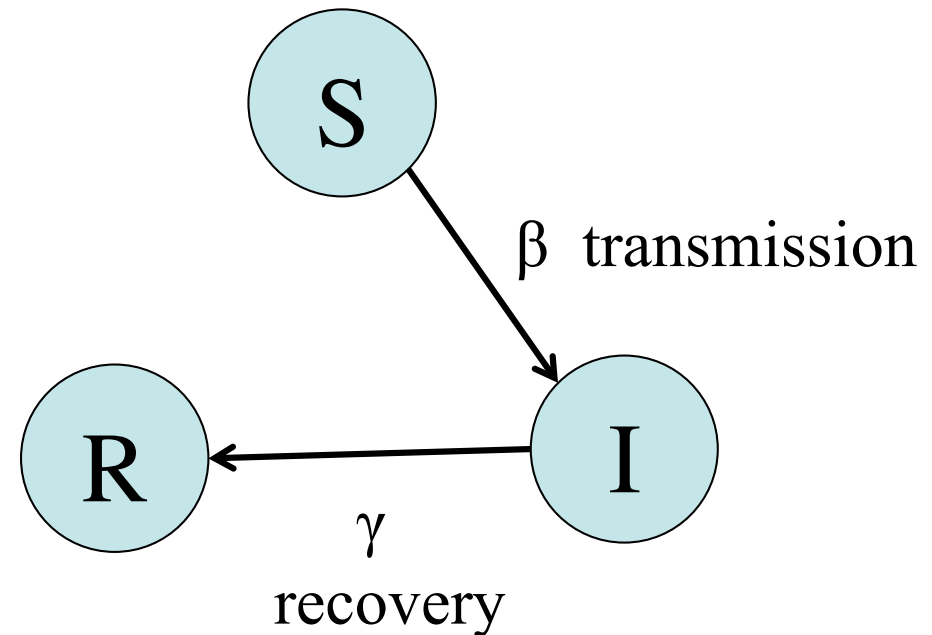
S: Susceptible persons

I: Infected persons

R: Removed (immune)  
persons

$\beta$ : Infection rate

$\gamma$ : Immunity rate



# Kermack-McKendrick model

- The Kermack-McKendrick model is specified as:

S: Susceptible persons

I: Infected persons

R: Removed (immune)  
persons

$\beta$ : Infection rate

$\gamma$ : Immunity rate

$$\frac{dS}{dt} = -\beta I(t)S(t)$$

$$\frac{dI}{dt} = \beta I(t)S(t) - \gamma I(t)$$

$$\frac{dR}{dt} = \gamma I(t)$$

# Kermack-McKendrick model

- The Kermack-McKendrick model is specified as:

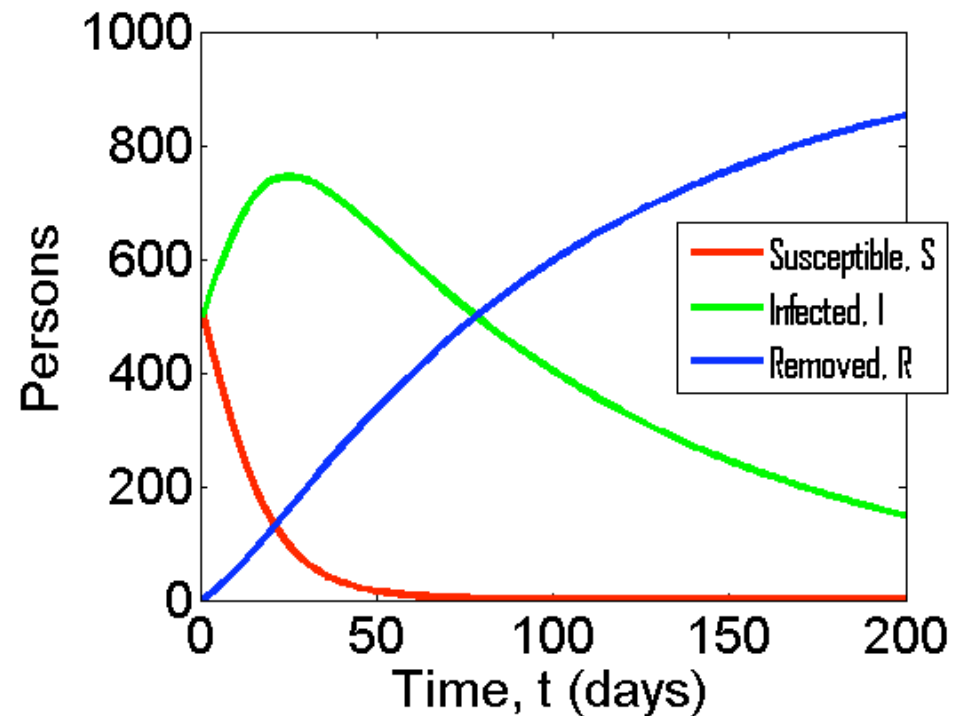
S: Susceptible persons

I: Infected persons

R: Removed (immune)  
persons

$\beta$ : Infection rate

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# Exercise 1

- Implement and simulate the Kermack-McKendrick model in MATLAB.

Use the starting values:

$$S=I=500, R=0, \beta=0.0001, \gamma=0.01$$

## Exercise 2

- A key parameter for the Kermack-McKendrick model is the epidemiological threshold,  $\beta S/\gamma$ .

Plot the time evolution of the model and investigate the influence of the epidemiological threshold, in particular the cases:

1.  $\beta S/\gamma < 1$
2.  $\beta S/\gamma > 1$

Starting values:  $S=I=500$ ,  $R=0$ ,  $\beta=0.0001$

## Exercise 3 - optional

- Implement the Lotka-Volterra model and investigate the influence of the timestep,  $\Delta t$ .
- How small must the timestep be in order for the 1<sup>st</sup> order Euler's method to give reasonable accuracy?
- Check in the MATLAB help how the functions `ode23`, `ode45` etc, can be used for solving differential equations.



# References

- Matlab and Art: [http://vlab.ethz.ch/ROM/DBGT/MATLAB\\_and\\_art.html](http://vlab.ethz.ch/ROM/DBGT/MATLAB_and_art.html)
- Kermack, W.O. and McKendrick, A.G. "A Contribution to the Mathematical Theory of Epidemics." *Proc. Roy. Soc. Lond. A* **115**, 700-721, 1927.
- "Lotka-Volterra Equations".  
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