

Multi-agent learning

The replicator dynamic

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- Properties of the replicator dynamic, connection with Nash equilibria.

Symmetric games in normal form

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- As a bi-matrix.
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Hawk vs. Dove



Symmetric normal-form games

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Definition. A game is **symmetric** when players have equal actions and payoffs:

$$u_i(a_1, \dots, a_i, \dots, a_j, \dots, a_n) = u_j(a_1, \dots, a_j, \dots, a_i, \dots, a_n).$$

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So a 2-player game $G = (A, B)$ is symmetric iff $m = n$ and $B = A^T$.

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Two pure asymmetric equilibria and one symmetric equilibrium $(1/3, 1/3)$.

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- So $p_i \propto q_i$ and $p_1 + \dots + p_n = 1$.

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- Species **2** and **3** have fitness **2.4** and **2.3**, respectively.

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Example 1. Suppose the proportion of species 7 at time t is $p_7(t) = 0.2$, the fitness of species 7 at time t is $f_7(t) = 6$, and the average fitness at time t is $\bar{f}(t) = 9$. How fast does p_7 grow at time t ?

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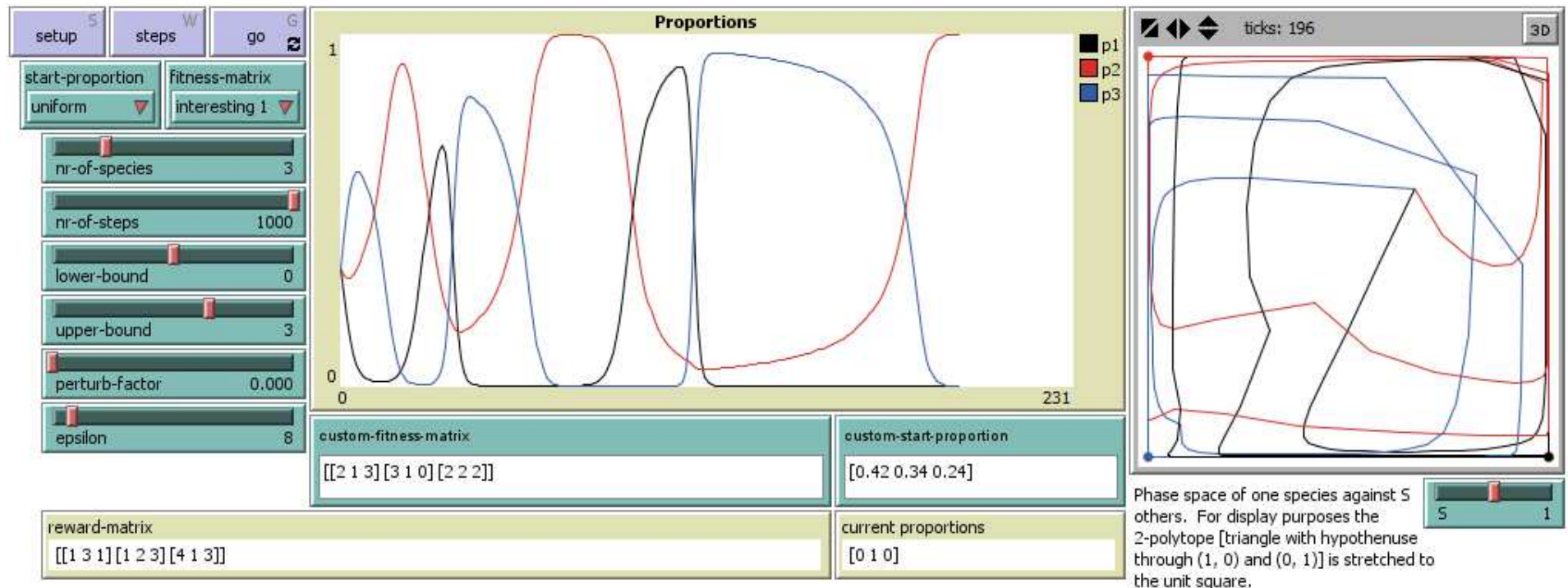
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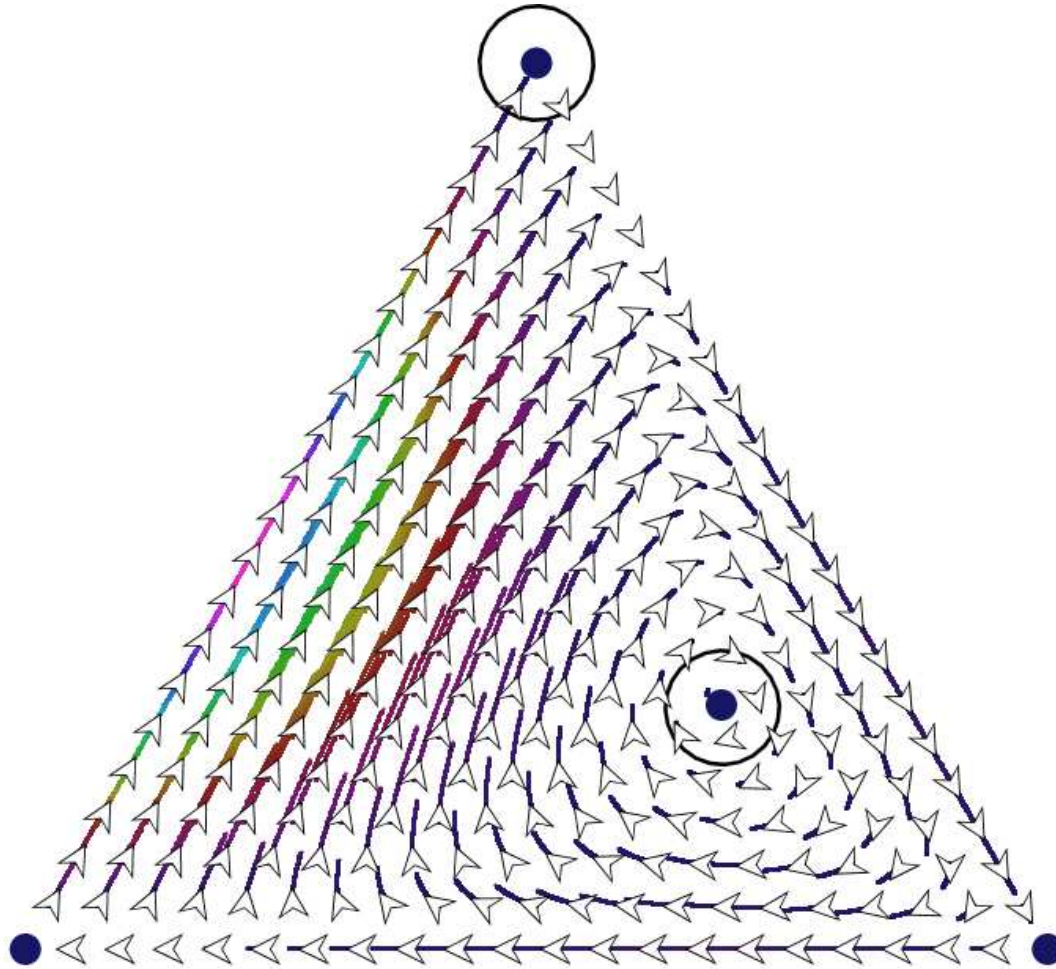
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The dynamics of the replicator equation



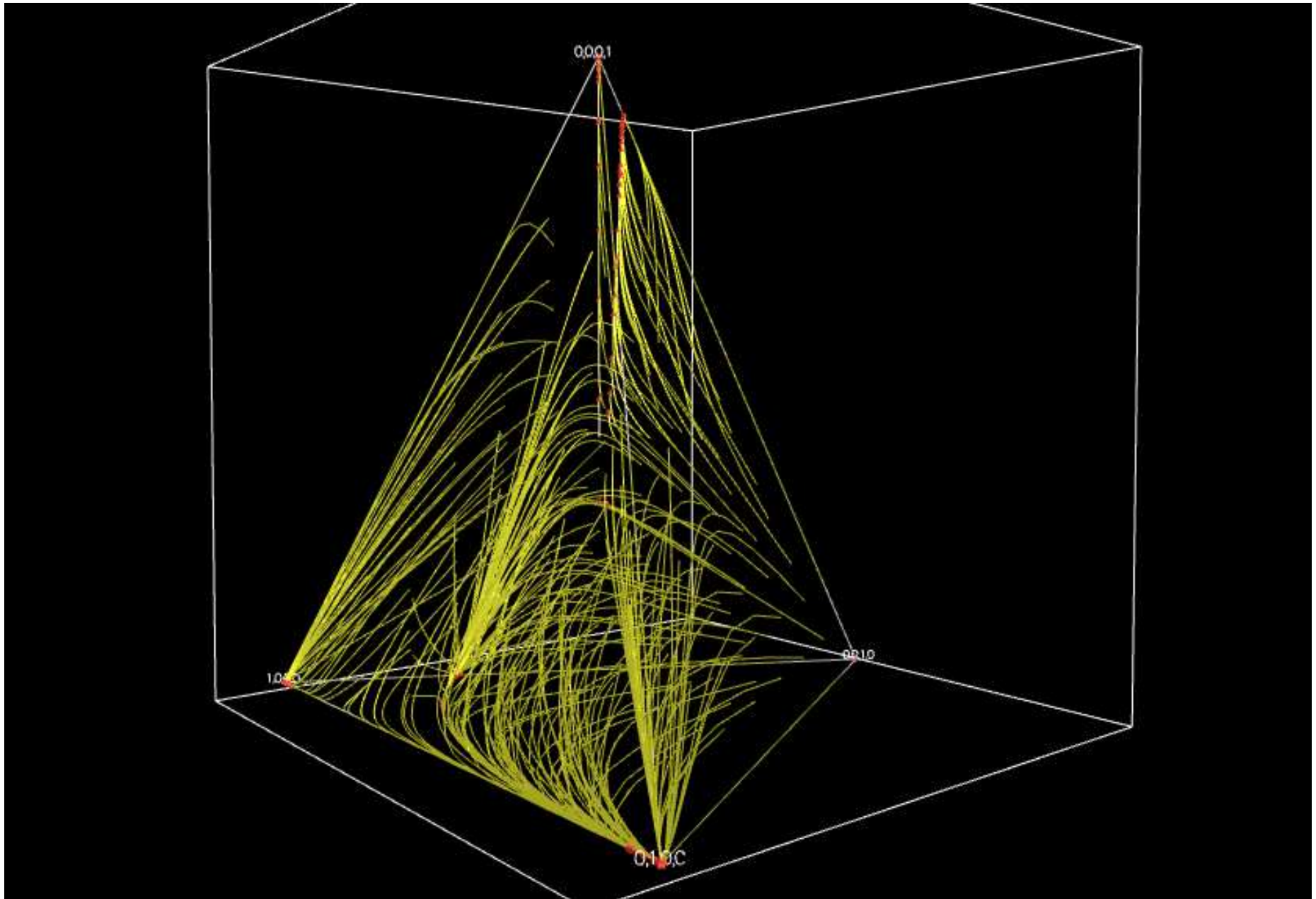
Relative score matrix $A = \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 3 & 1 \\ 1 & 2 & 3 \\ 4 & 1 & 3 \end{pmatrix}$, start proportions $p = \begin{pmatrix} 1/3 \\ 1/3 \\ 1/3 \end{pmatrix}$.

Phase space of the replicator on the previous page



Circled rest points indicate Nash equilibria of the score-matrix, interpreted as the payoff matrix of a symmetric game in normal form.

A replicator dynamic in a higher dimension



Rest point, stable point, asymptotically stable point

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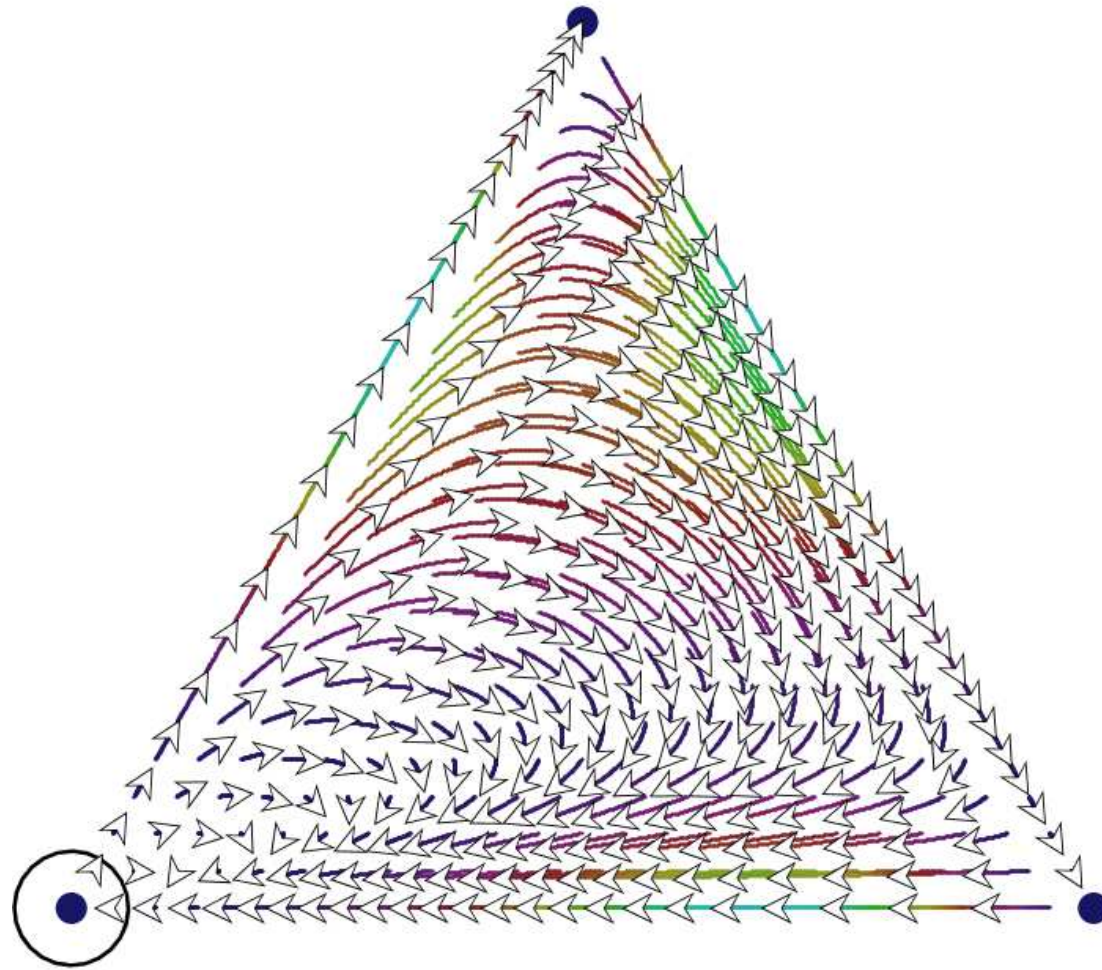
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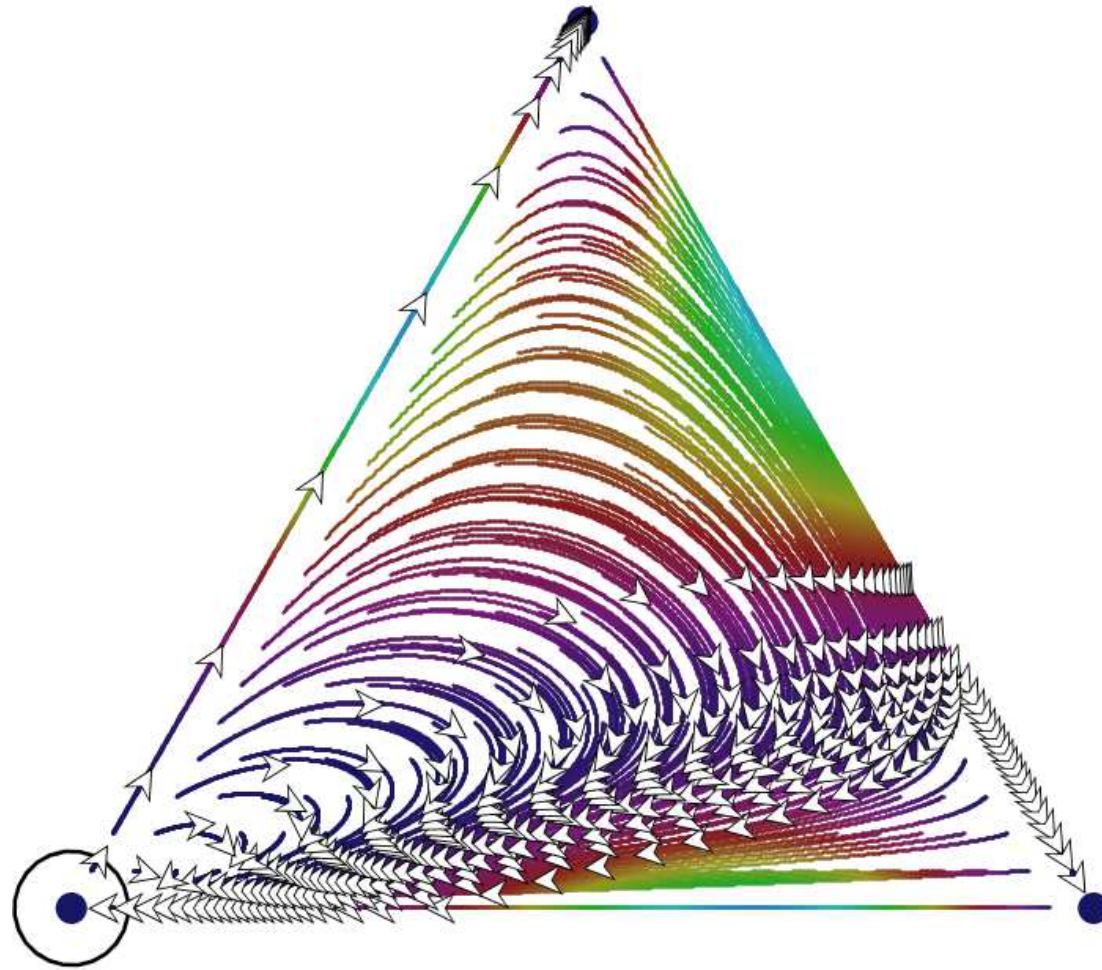
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The discrete step equation

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$$q_i(t + 1) =_{Def} q_i(t)[1 + \beta + f_i(t)],$$

where 1 is the reproduction factor, β is the birth and death rate, and $f_i(t)$ indicates the percentage that is added / subtracted due to fitness.

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- The **absolute growth** of species i is

$$\begin{aligned}\Delta q_i(t) &= q_i(t + 1) - q_i(t) \\ &= q_i(t)[1 + \beta + f_i(t)] - q_i(t) = q_i(t)[\beta + f_i(t)].\end{aligned}$$

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- The DRE follows from the discrete step equation:

$$q_i(t+1) \stackrel{\text{Def}}{=} q_i(t)[1 + \beta + f_i(t)].$$

Derivation of the DRE from the DSE

$$\begin{aligned} p_i(t+1) &= \frac{q_i(t+1)}{\sum_{j=1}^n q_j(t+1)} = \frac{q_i(t)[1 + \beta + f_i(t)]}{\sum_{j=1}^n q_j(t)[1 + \beta + f_j(t)]} \\ &= \frac{\frac{1}{q(t)} q_i(t)[1 + \beta + f_i(t)]}{\frac{1}{q(t)} \sum_{j=1}^n q_j(t)[1 + \beta + f_j(t)]} \\ &= \frac{p_i(t)[1 + \beta + f_i(t)]}{\sum_{j=1}^n p_j(t)[1 + \beta + f_j(t)]} \\ &= \frac{p_i(t)[1 + \beta + f_i(t)]}{\sum_{j=1}^n p_j(t) + \beta \sum_{j=1}^n p_j(t) + \sum_{j=1}^n p_j(t) f_j(t)} \\ &= \frac{p_i(t)[1 + \beta + f_i(t)]}{1 + \beta + \bar{f}(t)} \\ &= p_i(t) \frac{1 + \beta + f_i(t)}{1 + \beta + \bar{f}(t)}. \end{aligned}$$

Properties of the DRE

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Claim. If a species is present, it was present and will remain present forever. Same for absent.

Proof. Just look at the discrete replicator equation:

$$p_i(t+1) = p_i(t) \frac{1 + \beta + f_i(t)}{1 + \beta + \bar{f}(t)}$$

and recall that $1 + \beta + f_i(t) > 0$ for all t and i , hence $1 + \beta + \bar{f}(t) > 0$ for all t . So all the p_i are always multiplied by a positive number.

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■ If p_i was 0 it remains 0.

Properties of the DRE

Claim. If a species is present, it was present and will remain present forever. Same for absent.

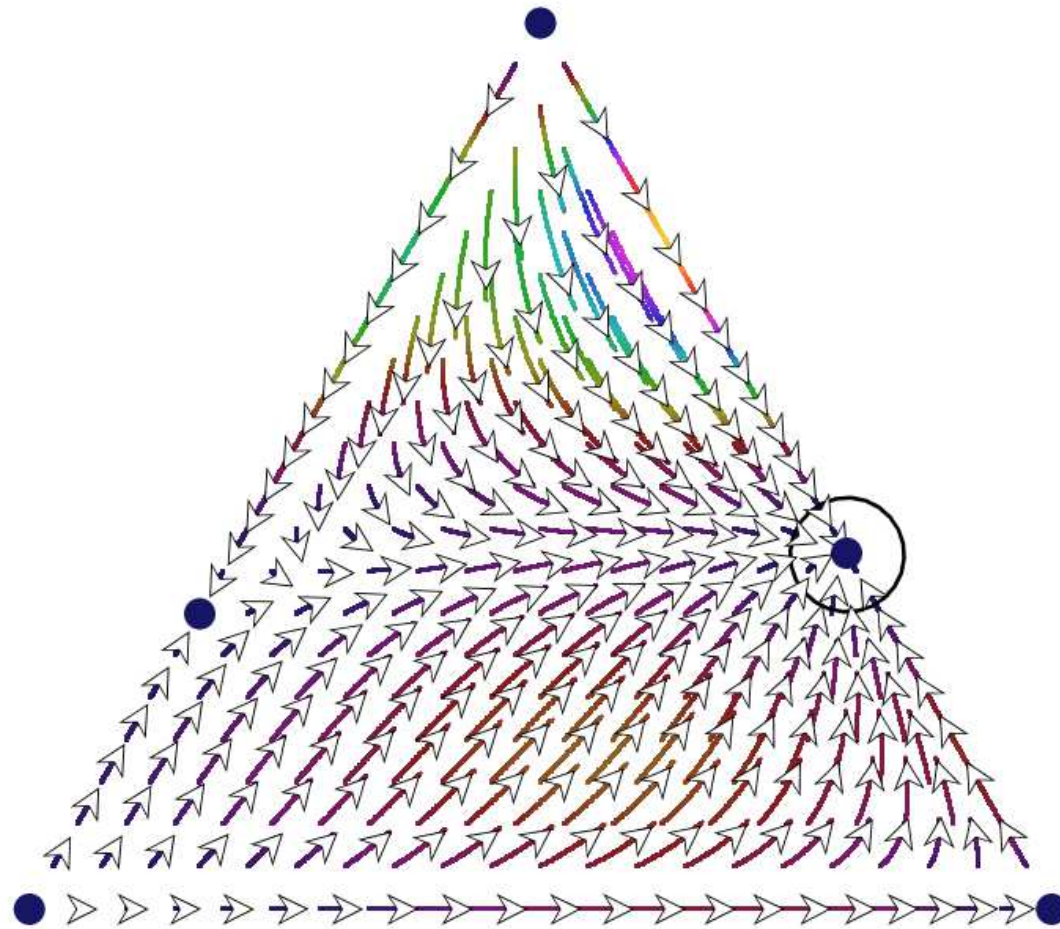
Proof. Just look at the discrete replicator equation:

$$p_i(t+1) = p_i(t) \frac{1 + \beta + f_i(t)}{1 + \beta + \bar{f}(t)}$$

and recall that $1 + \beta + f_i(t) > 0$ for all t and i , hence $1 + \beta + \bar{f}(t) > 0$ for all t . So all the p_i are always multiplied by a positive number.

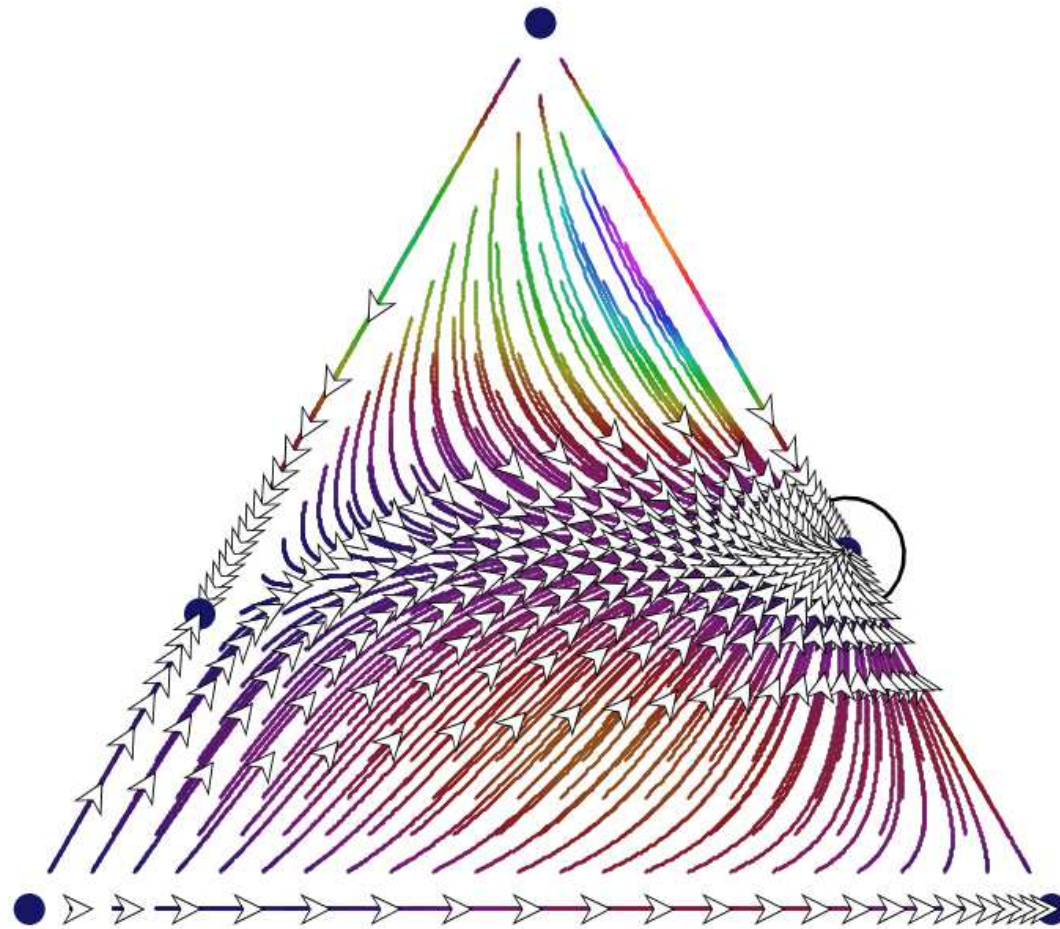
- If p_i was 0 it remains 0.
- If p_i was positive it remains positive.

If a species is absent, it will remain absent forever



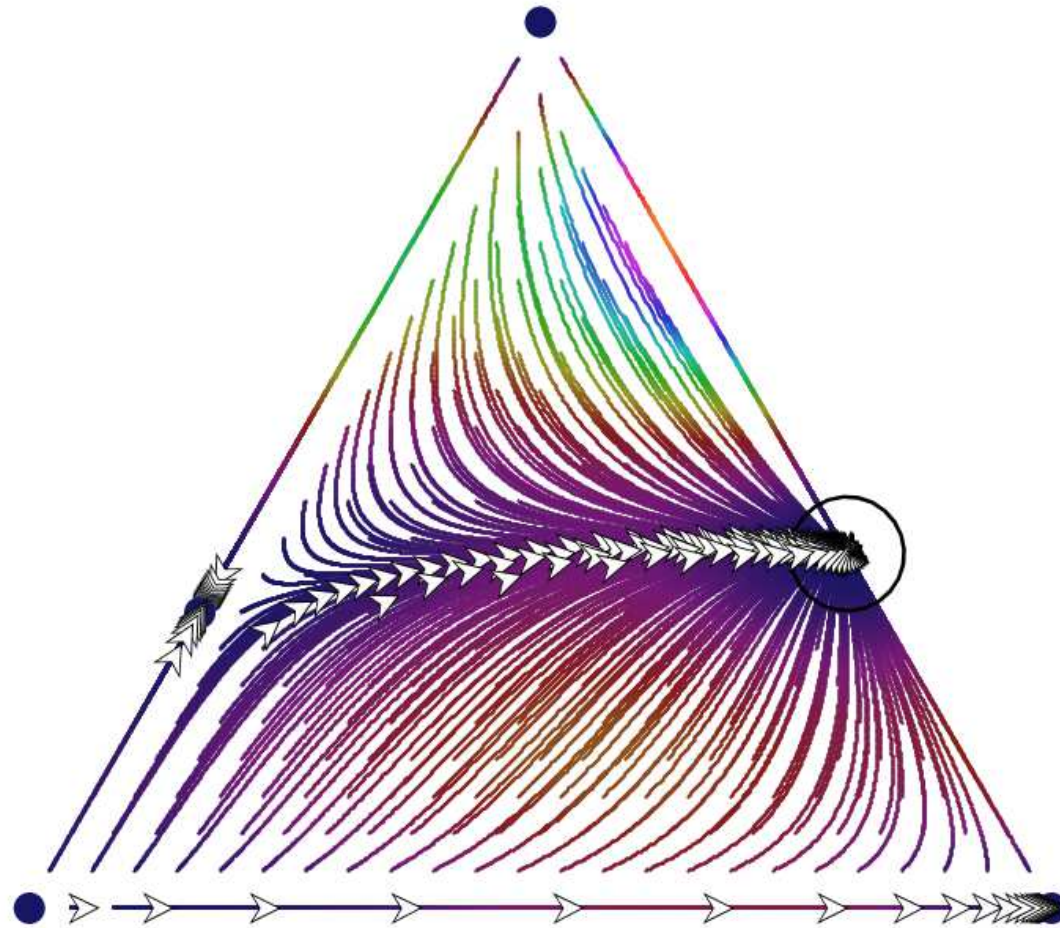
Phase space of a replicator. Notice that corners, edges, and the interior map into themselves. This is always the case.

If a species is absent, it will remain absent forever



Phase space of a replicator. Notice that corners, edges, and the interior map into themselves. This is always the case.

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Properties of the DRE

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Proof.

$$\begin{aligned} & p_i(t+1) > p_i(t) \\ \Leftrightarrow & p_i(t) \frac{1 + \beta + f_i(t)}{1 + \beta + \bar{f}(t)} > p_i(t) \\ \Leftrightarrow & 1 + \beta + f_i(t) > 1 + \beta + \bar{f}(t), & p_i(t) > 0 \\ \Leftrightarrow & f_i(t) > \bar{f}(t), & p_i(t) > 0 \end{aligned}$$

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Question. What if β is large?

Properties of the DRE

Claim. Species i grows if and only if $p_i(t) > 0$ and it has above average fitness.

Proof.

$$\begin{aligned} p_i(t+1) &> p_i(t) \\ \Leftrightarrow p_i(t) \frac{1 + \beta + f_i(t)}{1 + \beta + \bar{f}(t)} &> p_i(t) \\ \Leftrightarrow 1 + \beta + f_i(t) &> 1 + \beta + \bar{f}(t), & p_i(t) > 0 \\ \Leftrightarrow f_i(t) &> \bar{f}(t), & p_i(t) > 0 \end{aligned}$$

Question. What if β is large? **Answer.** If β is large then the differences in growth among species is smaller, and the dynamics is slower (“bluer”).

The continuous replicator equation

Derivation of the CRE from the DRE

Discrete step equation:

$$q_i(t+1) = q_i(t)[1 + \beta + f_i(t)]$$

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- The idea is the following:

Per small step $t = \delta$ the largest part $1 - \delta$ of species i remains unchanged, while a smaller part δ of species i does change:

$$q_i(t + \delta) = (1 - \delta) \underbrace{q_i(t)}_{\text{remains}} + \delta \underbrace{q_i(t)(1 + \beta + f_i(t))}_{\text{changes}}.$$

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- What if $\delta = 0$? What if $\delta = 1$?

Derivation of the CRE from the DRE

We have:

$$\begin{aligned}\frac{q_i(t + \delta) - q_i(t)}{\delta} &= \frac{(1 - \delta)q_i(t) + \delta q_i(t)(1 + \beta + f_i(t)) - q_i(t)}{\delta} \\ &= \dots \\ &= q_i(\beta + f_i(t)).\end{aligned}$$

So:

$$\begin{aligned}\dot{q}_i &= \frac{dq_i(t)}{dt} \\ &= \lim_{\delta \rightarrow 0} \frac{q_i(t + \delta) - q_i(t)}{\delta} \\ &= \lim_{\delta \rightarrow 0} q_i(\beta + f_i(t)) \\ &= q_i(\beta + f_i(t)).\end{aligned}$$

Derivation of the CRE from the DRE

$$\begin{aligned}
 p_i(t + \delta) &= \frac{q_i(t + \delta)}{\sum_{j=1}^n q_j(t + \delta)} \\
 &= \frac{(1 - \delta)q_i(t) + \delta q_i(t)(1 + \beta + f_i(t))}{\sum_{j=1}^n [(1 - \delta)q_j(t) + \delta q_j(t)(1 + \beta + f_j(t))]} && (/q(t)) \\
 &= \frac{(1 - \delta)p_i(t) + \delta p_i(t)(1 + \beta + f_i(t))}{\sum_{j=1}^n [(1 - \delta)p_j(t) + \delta p_j(t)(1 + \beta + f_j(t))]} && (\text{yields proportions}) \\
 &= \frac{p_i(t)[1 + \delta(\beta + f_i(t))]}{\sum_{j=1}^n p_j(t)[1 + \delta(\beta + f_j(t))]} && (\sum p_i(t) = 1) \\
 &= p_i(t) \frac{1 + \delta(\beta + f_i(t))}{1 + \delta(\beta + \bar{f}(t))}.
 \end{aligned}$$

Derivation of the CRE from the DRE

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 &= p_i(t) \frac{1 + \delta(\beta + f_i(t))}{1 + \delta(\beta + \bar{f}(t))}.
 \end{aligned}$$

■ What if $\delta = 0$? What if $\delta = 1$?

Derivation of the CRE from the DRE

$$\begin{aligned}
 \text{Now } \frac{p_i(t + \delta) - p_i(t)}{\delta} &= \frac{p_i(t) \frac{1 + \delta((\beta + f_i(t))}{1 + \delta(\beta + \bar{f}(t))} - p_i(t)}{\delta} \\
 &= p_i(t) \frac{\frac{1 + \delta((\beta + f_i(t))}{1 + \delta(\beta + \bar{f}(t))} - 1}{\delta} \quad \text{multiply w. } 1 + \delta(\beta + \bar{f}(t)) \\
 &= p_i(t) \frac{1 + \delta((\beta + f_i(t)) - (1 + \delta(\beta + \bar{f}(t))))}{\delta(1 + \delta(\beta + \bar{f}(t)))} \\
 &= p_i(t) \frac{f_i(t) - \bar{f}(t)}{1 + \delta(\beta + \bar{f}(t))}.
 \end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned}
 \text{So } \dot{p}_i &= \lim_{\delta \rightarrow 0} \frac{p_i(t + \delta) - p_i(t)}{\delta} \\
 &= \lim_{\delta \rightarrow 0} p_i(t) \frac{f_i(t) - \bar{f}(t)}{1 + \delta(\beta + \bar{f}(t))} = p_i(t) \frac{f_i(t) - \bar{f}(t)}{1 + 0 \cdot C} = p_i(t) [f_i(t) - \bar{f}(t)].
 \end{aligned}$$

Calculating stationary points of the replicator

Finding stationary points of the replicator: example

Consider the replicator with

$$A = \begin{pmatrix} 6 & 1 & 6 \\ 4 & 10 & 1 \\ 8 & 5 & 1 \end{pmatrix} \text{ and } p = \begin{pmatrix} x \\ y \\ z \end{pmatrix}.$$

Finding stationary points of the replicator: example

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Stationary points (fixed points, rest points):

$$\begin{cases} p \in \Delta_2 \\ x((Ap)_x - p(Ap)) = 0 \\ y((Ap)_y - p(Ap)) = 0 \\ z((Ap)_z - p(Ap)) = 0. \end{cases}$$

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Solve with Maple / Mathematica / SciPy / ...

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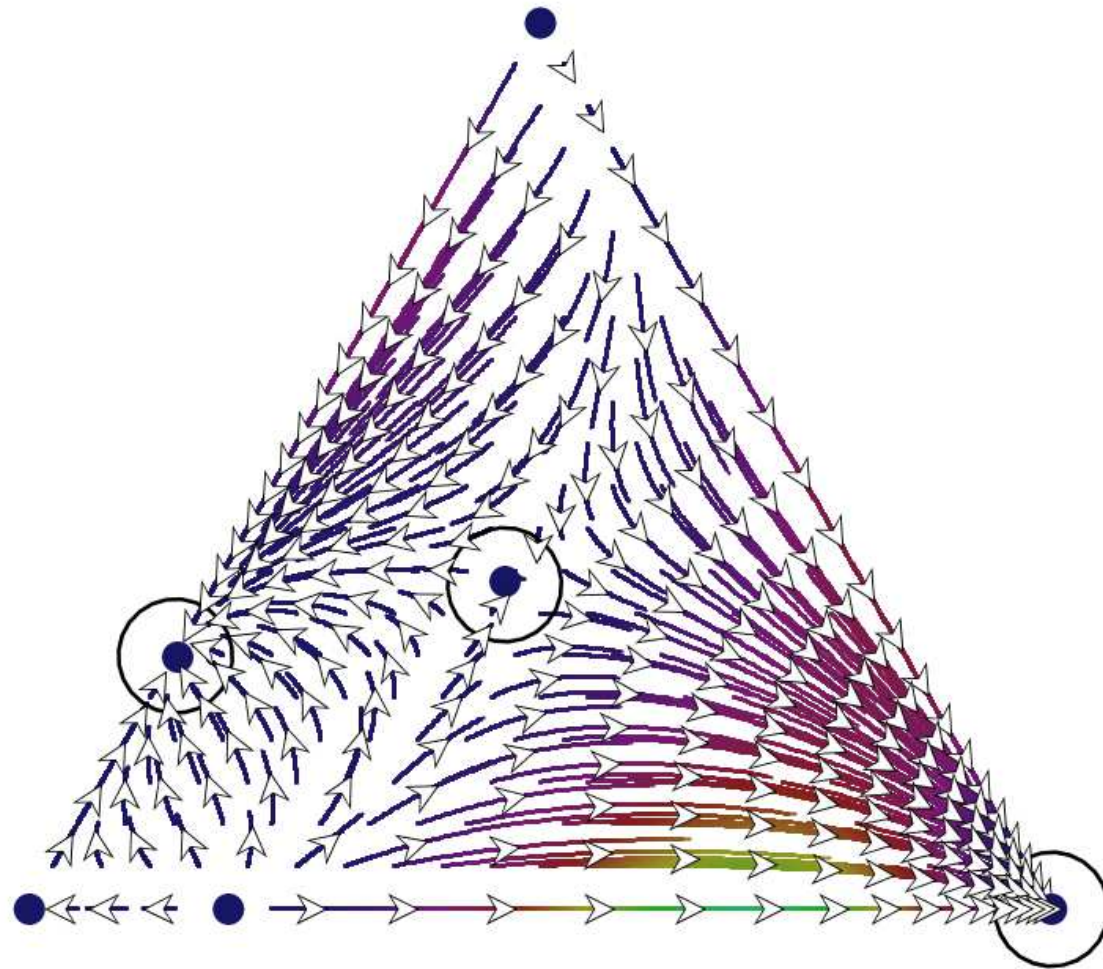
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Solve with Maple / Mathematica / SciPy / ... (Nash equilibria are blue):

$$\left\{ (1, 0, 0), (0, 1, 0), (0, 0, 1), \left(\frac{25}{71}, \frac{20}{71}, \frac{26}{71}\right), \left(\frac{5}{7}, 0, \frac{2}{7}\right), \left(\frac{9}{11}, \frac{2}{11}, 0\right) \right\}.$$

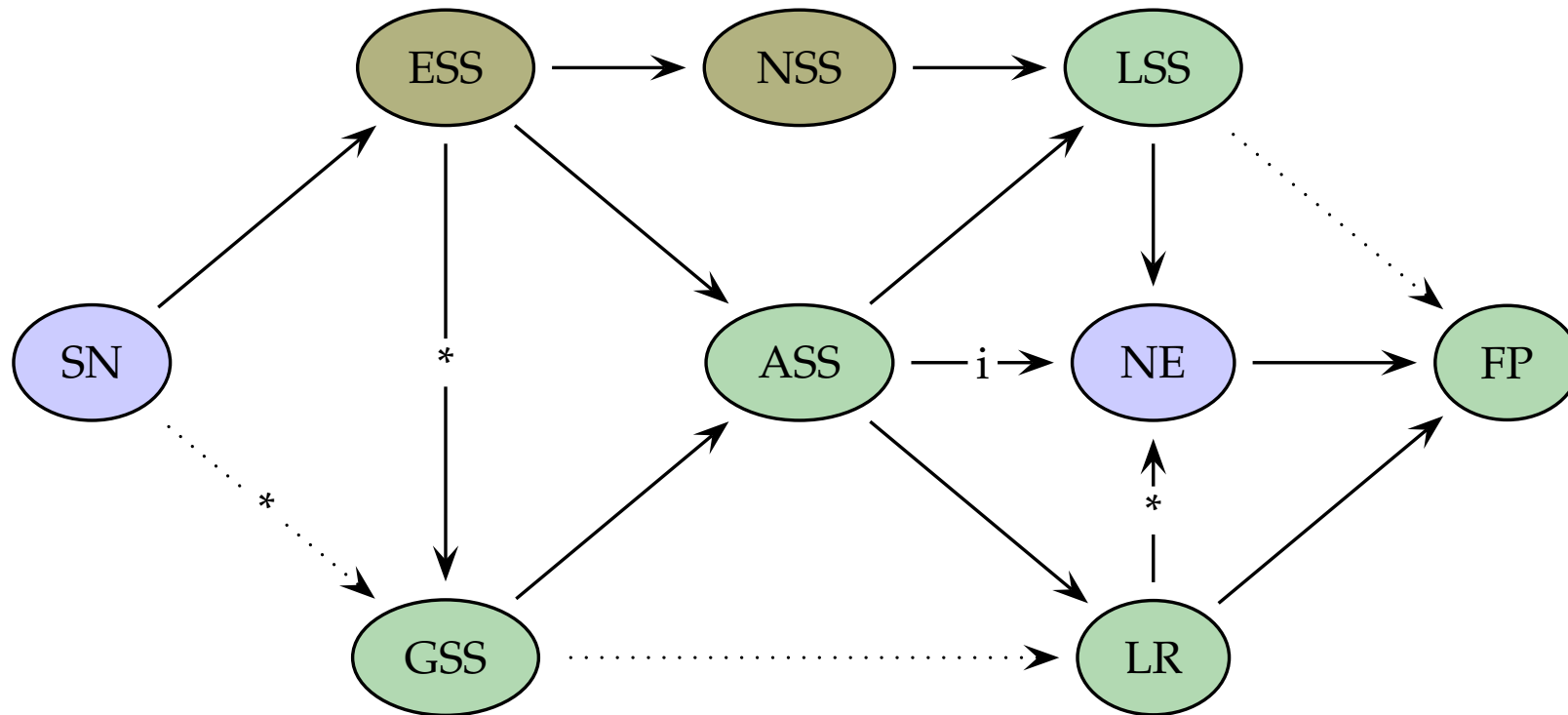
Finding stationary points of the replicator: example



Phase space of the replicator as discussed. Circled rest points indicate Nash equilibria in the corresponding symmetric game.

Summary

Implications



SN = strict Nash, ESS - evol'y stable strategy, GSS = glob'y stable state, ASS = asymp'y stable state, NSS = neutrally stable strategy, LR = limit of replicator, LSS = Lyapunov stable state, FP = fixed point, * = only if fully mixed, i = isolated NE. Dotted: indirect implication.

Blue: game theory; olive: evolutionary game theory; green: the replicator dynamic.

Justifications of the implications

- $SN \Rightarrow ESS$: cf. slides evolutionary games and, e.g., Th 7.7.12 of Sh&LB.
- $ESS \Rightarrow NSS$: cf. slides evolutionary games and, e.g., Game Theory Evolving (2nd ed.) by H. Gintis.
- $ESS \Rightarrow NE$: cf. slides evolutionary games and, e.g., Sh&LB Th 7.7.11.
- $ESS \Rightarrow_* GSS$: cf., e.g., Th. 12.7 Gintis.
- $ESS \Rightarrow ASS$: cf., e.g., Th. 7.7.13 Sh&LB, Th. 12.7 Gintis, Sec. 3.5 (begin) of Evol. Game Theory by J.G. Weibull.
- $NSS \Rightarrow LSS$: cf. Sec. 3.5 Weibull.
- $GSS \Rightarrow ASS$: by definition of the two concepts.
- $ASS \Rightarrow LSS$: by definition of the two concepts.
- $ASS \Rightarrow LR$: by definition of the two concepts.
- $ASS \Rightarrow_i NE$: Th 7.7.8 Sh&LB, Th. 12.6 Gintis.
- $LSS \Rightarrow NE$: Th 7.7.6 Sh&LB, 7.2.1(c) Hofbauer & Sigmund.
- $LR \Rightarrow_* NE$: Th. 7.2.1(b) H&S.
- $NE \Rightarrow FP$: Th. 7.2.1(a) H&S, Th 7.7.5 Sh&LB, Th. 12.6 Gintis.
- $LR \Rightarrow FP$: Ch. 6 Weibull.

Sources referred to

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Some problems

Examples

Examples

Problem (Discrete replicator).

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Suppose the proportion of
species 7 at time t is $p_7(t) = 0.5$

Examples

Problem (Discrete replicator).

Suppose the proportion of species 7 at time t is $p_7(t) = 0.5$,
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Examples

Problem (Discrete replicator).

Suppose the proportion of species 7 at time t is $p_7(t) = 0.5$, the fitness of species 2 at time t is $f_7(t) = 5$, the average fitness at time t is $\bar{f}(t) = 2$

Examples

Problem (Discrete replicator).

Suppose the proportion of species 7 at time t is $p_7(t) = 0.5$, the fitness of species 2 at time t is $f_7(t) = 5$, the average fitness at time t is $\bar{f}(t) = 2$, and the death and birth rate is $\beta = 0$.

Examples

Problem (Discrete replicator).

Suppose the proportion of species 7 at time t is $p_7(t) = 0.5$, the fitness of species 2 at time t is $f_7(t) = 5$, the average fitness at time t is $\bar{f}(t) = 2$, and the death and birth rate is $\beta = 0$. Compute $p_7(t + 1)$.

Examples

Problem (Discrete replicator).

Suppose the proportion of species 7 at time t is $p_7(t) = 0.5$, the fitness of species 2 at time t is $f_7(t) = 5$, the average fitness at time t is $\bar{f}(t) = 2$, and the death and birth rate is $\beta = 0$. Compute $p_7(t + 1)$.

Solution.

Examples

Problem (Discrete replicator).

Suppose the proportion of species 7 at time t is $p_7(t) = 0.5$, the fitness of species 2 at time t is $f_7(t) = 5$, the average fitness at time t is $\bar{f}(t) = 2$, and the death and birth rate is $\beta = 0$. Compute $p_7(t + 1)$.

Solution.

$$\begin{aligned} p_7(t + 1) &= p_7(t) \frac{1 + \beta + f_7(t)}{1 + \beta + \bar{f}(t)} \\ &= 0.5 \frac{1 + 0 + 5}{1 + 0 + 2} \\ &= 1. \end{aligned}$$

Examples

Problem (Discrete replicator).

Suppose the proportion of species 7 at time t is $p_7(t) = 0.5$, the fitness of species 2 at time t is $f_7(t) = 5$, the average fitness at time t is $\bar{f}(t) = 2$, and the death and birth rate is $\beta = 0$. Compute $p_7(t + 1)$.

Solution.

$$\begin{aligned} p_7(t + 1) &= p_7(t) \frac{1 + \beta + f_7(t)}{1 + \beta + \bar{f}(t)} \\ &= 0.5 \frac{1 + 0 + 5}{1 + 0 + 2} \\ &= 1. \end{aligned}$$

Problem (Continuous replicator).

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Same question, approximate $p_7(t + 0.01)$.

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So

$$\begin{aligned} p_7(t + \Delta t) &\approx p_7(t) + \frac{d}{dt} p_7(t) \cdot \Delta t \\ &= 0.5 + 1.5 \cdot 0.01 \\ &= 0.5015. \end{aligned}$$