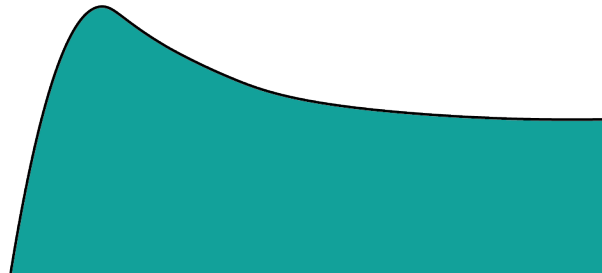


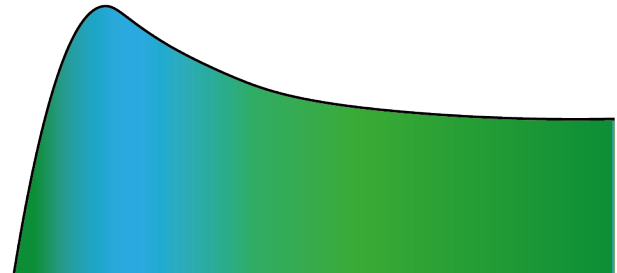
Neutral

Naive T cells have equal fitness and obey a simple random birth–death process.



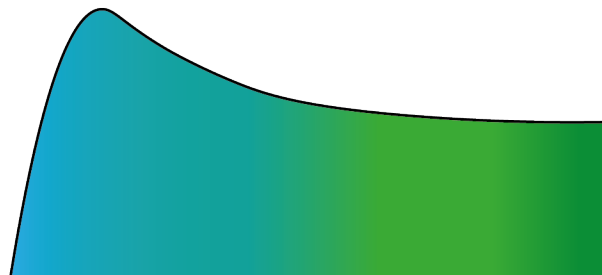
Competition

Regulation of pool size via limiting resources (quorum-sensing).



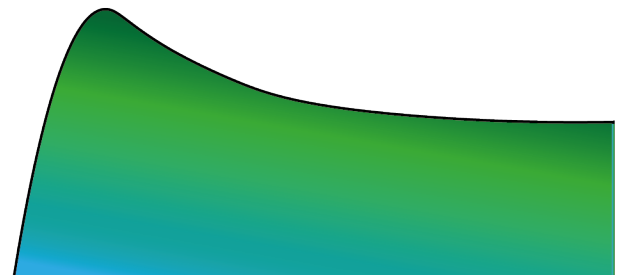
Adaptation

Cell intrinsic changes in homeostatic fitness over time — age before beauty.



Selection

Loss or outgrowth of cell populations deriving from intercellular fitness.



Fitness

Counts

Time