

Phenomenological vs Mechanistic models: what are the best fits for empirical Functional Response data

MRes. Computational Methods in Ecology and Evolution

Miniproject

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2019-2020

1 Abstract

2 not decided ye will write finally

3 2 Introduction

4 In nature, the food consumption rate of would respond to the changing density of accessible resources.
5 This feeding relationship was termed as the Functional response. In 1959, the pioneer in this field
6 Holling suggested the model of functional response arise from an experiment of the small mammal's
7 predation behaviour of the European Pine Saw fly [1]. It addressed different influential components
8 of predation and parametrized them to form mechanistic models. Since then,

9 The functional responses were classified into three types: Type I described a linear relationship
10 between resource density and consumption rate. It is neglecting the handling process in the entire
11 progress. Only one parameter, the capture rate(a), was considered in this model. It is constant across
12 the entire predation behaviour. As the type I response has only one parameter and linearly described
13 the relationships, it is commonly applied on the explanation of passive feeder [2], such as spider which
14 capture prey with web, and oyster, a sessile filter feeder that solely rely on the resource density to
15 increase the consumption rate.

16 References

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- 20 [2] Jeschke, J. M., Kopp, M. and Tollrian, R. [2004], 'Consumer-food systems: Why type I functional
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