
Population Dynamics – Session 2

Coupling agent-based with equation-based models to study spatially explicit megapopulation dynamics

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Taking the spatial heterogeneity of real landscapes into account in population dynamics remains extremely difficult. We propose combining equation based modeling (EBM) and agent-based modeling (ABM) to overcome the difficulties classically raised. ABM allows describing entities that act according to specific rules evolving on various scales. However, a large number of entities may lead to computational difficulties (e.g. for populations of small mammals such as voles, that can exceed millions of individuals). Here, EBM handle aged-structured population growth and ABM represents the spreading of voles on large scales. Simulations applied to the spreading of a montane water vole population showed that our hybrid model is quite efficient in representing the reality observed and might help to highlight some key parameters during population expansion. This paves the way for further developments, including the introduction of density-dependent parameters (predation, diseases, etc.) capable of triggering population declines in an explicitly spatial context.

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Jens Jacob, Jana Eccard (Editors)

6th International Conference of Rodent
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and
16th Rodens et Spatium

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Book of Abstracts



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