

Introduction to Compartmental Models

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Jessica Metcalf, Princeton University

How are we doing?

Good! 😊 ✅ ❤️ 👍

Bad! 👎 😬 ❌ 🤯

(or ask a question in the chat)

Question:

What is your favorite animal?

Type answers into the chat.

Goals for this lecture

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- Understand the difference between **statistical** and **compartmental models**
- Understand the difference between **parameters** and **state variables**
- Understand the difference between **discrete-time** and **continuous time** models
- Understand how to formalize and conceptualize compartmental models

Schedule

- Today: simple population growth, age structured population growth
- Wednesday: predator prey, SIR models

Compartmental Models

Compartmental Models

1. Populations are divided into compartments

Les populations sont subdivisées en compartiments

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2. Individuals within a compartment are homogeneously mixed
Les individus d'un compartiment sont mélangés de manière homogène

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Les individus d'un compartiment sont mélangés de manière homogène
3. Compartments and transition rates are determined by biological systems
Les compartiments et les taux de transition sont déterminés par les systèmes biologiques

Compartmental Models

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Les populations sont subdivisées en compartiments
2. Individuals within a compartment are homogeneously mixed
Les individus d'un compartiment sont mélangés de manière homogène
3. Compartments and transition rates are determined by biological systems
Les compartiments et les taux de transition sont déterminés par les systèmes biologiques
4. Rates of transferring between compartments are expressed mathematically
Taux de transition entre les compartiments sont exprimés mathématiquement

How are these different from statistical models?

En quoi sont-ils différents des modèles statistiques?

How are these different from statistical models?

En quoi sont-ils différents des modèles statistiques?

Most statistical models (e.g. regressions, ANOVAs, t tests, glms) describe static relationships:

They describe relationships between independent and dependent variables, without explicitly modeling changes over time.

La plupart des modèles statistiques (par exemple, régressions, ANOVA, t tests, glms) décrivent des relations statiques:

Ils décrivent les relations entre les variables indépendantes et dépendantes, sans modéliser explicitement les changements dans le temps.

How are these different from statistical models?

En quoi sont-ils différents des modèles statistiques?

Compartmental models are dynamical models:

They track changes over time in a biological system.

They make explicit hypothesis about the biological forces that cause these changes.

Les modèles compartimentés sont des modèles dynamiques:

Ils suivent les changements au fil du temps dans un système biologique.

Ils font des hypothèses explicites sur les forces biologiques qui causent ces changements.

How are these different from statistical models?

En quoi sont-ils différents des modèles statistiques?

Compartmental models are dynamical models:

Compartmental models have two main kinds of variables:

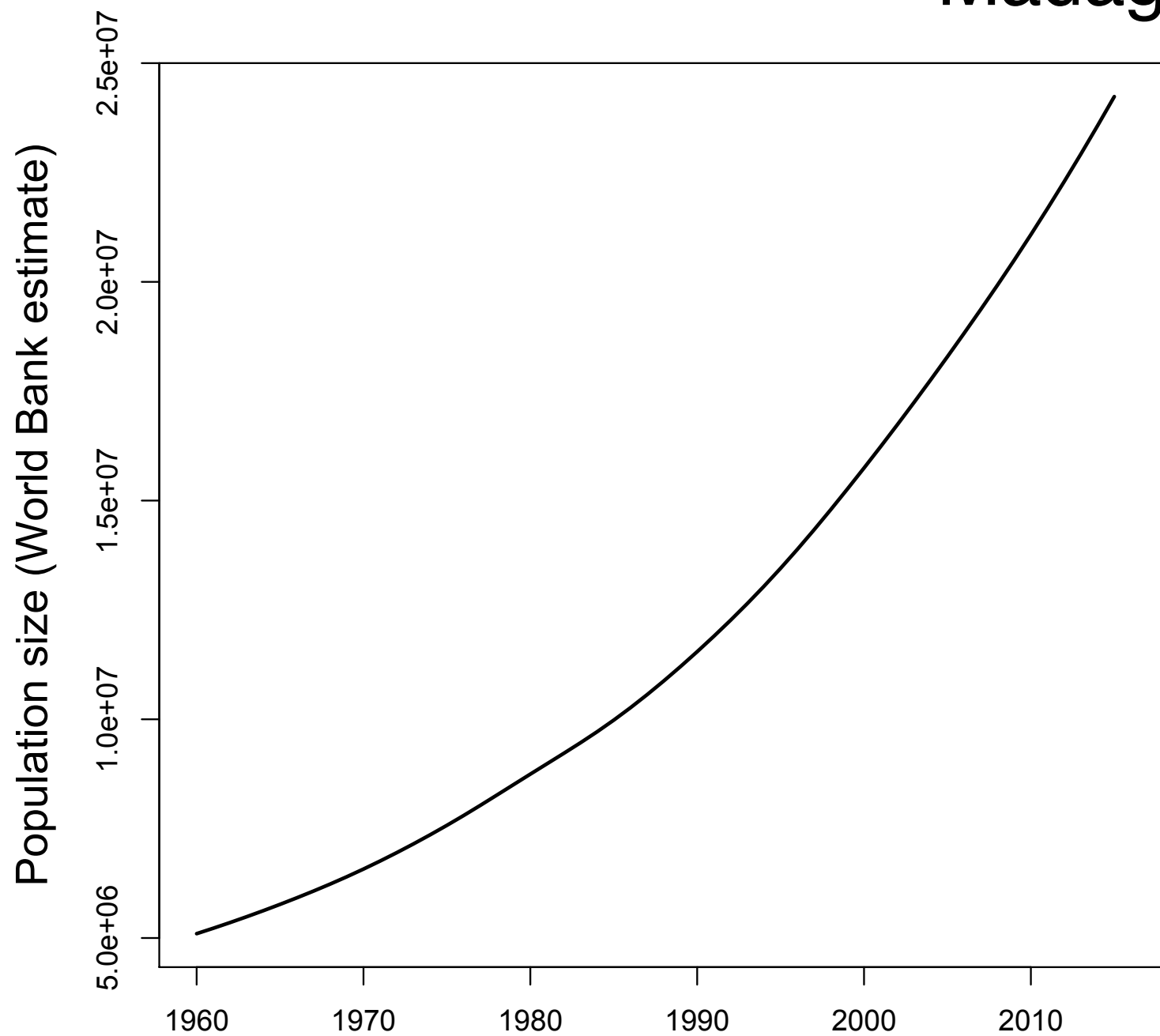
1. State variables – track the number of individuals in each compartment over time
2. Parameters – affect rates at which individuals transition between compartments, or interact



1. Simple Population Models

1. Modèles simples de population

Madagascar



The basic population model

Compartmental models (Mechanistic Models)

1. Populations are divided into compartments
2. Compartments and transition rates are determined by biological systems
3. Rates of transferring between compartments are expressed mathematically
4. Individuals within a compartment are homogenously mix


How does the population of Madagascar grow over time?

Comment est-ce que la population de Madagascar s'augmente avec le passage du temps?

The basic population model

Compartmental models (Mechanistic Models)

1. Populations are divided into compartments
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Madagascar
(N)

The basic population model

Compartmental models (Mechanistic Models)

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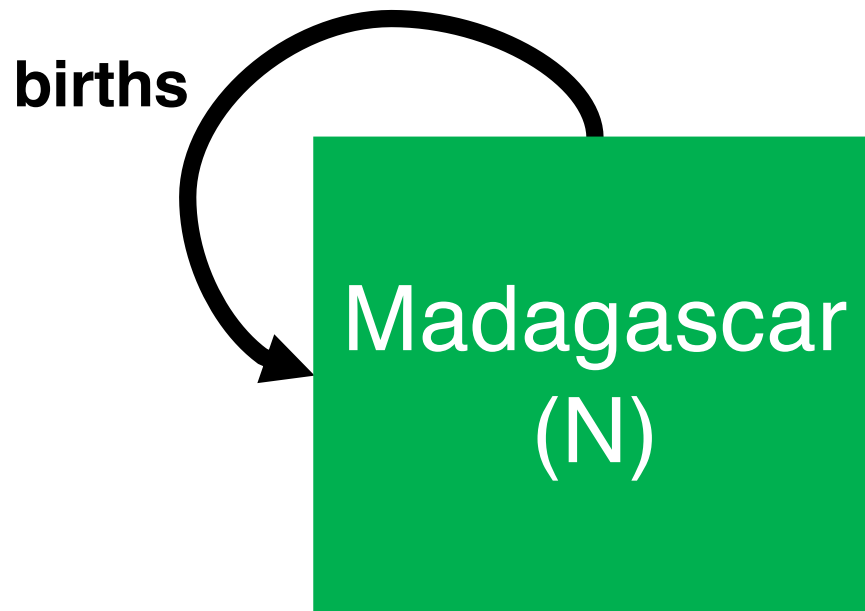
Madagascar
(N)

How does the population grow?

The basic population model

Compartmental models (Mechanistic Models)

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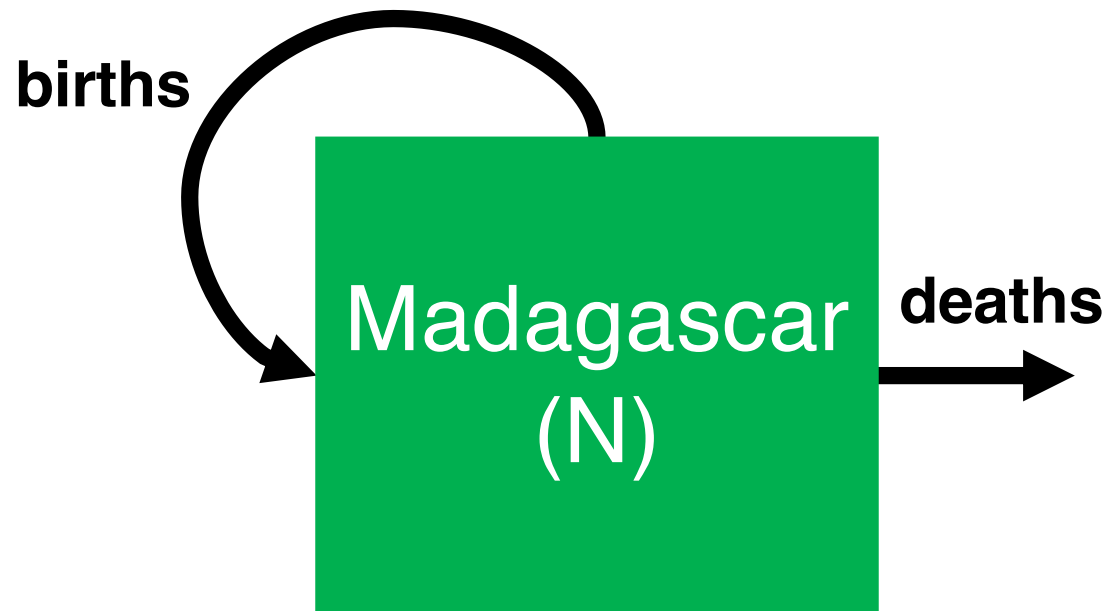


How does the population grow?

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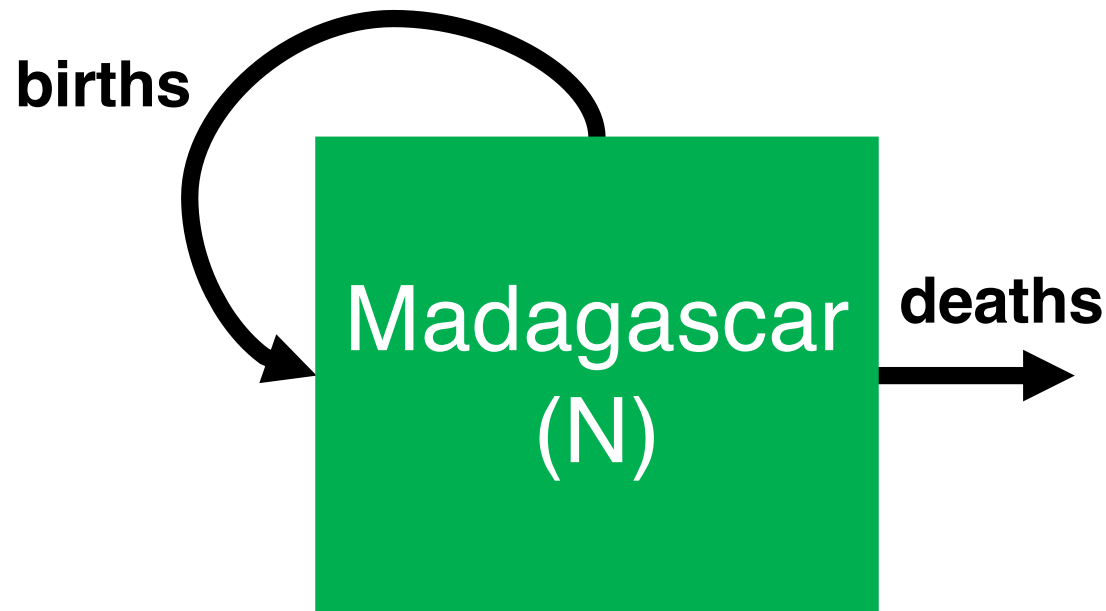


How does the population decrease?

The basic population model

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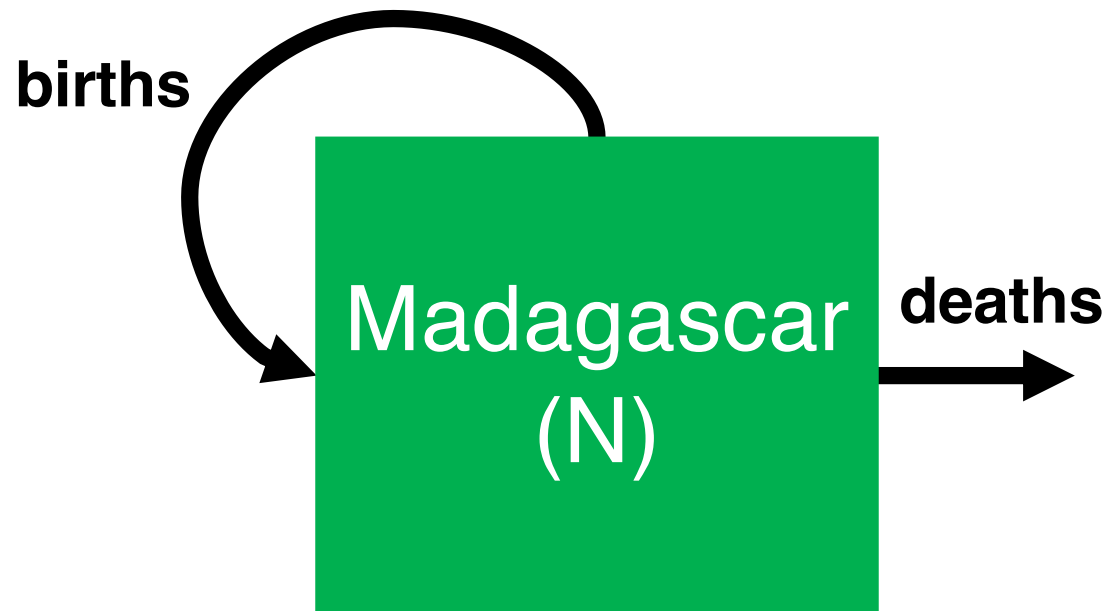


$$N_{t+1} =$$

The basic population model

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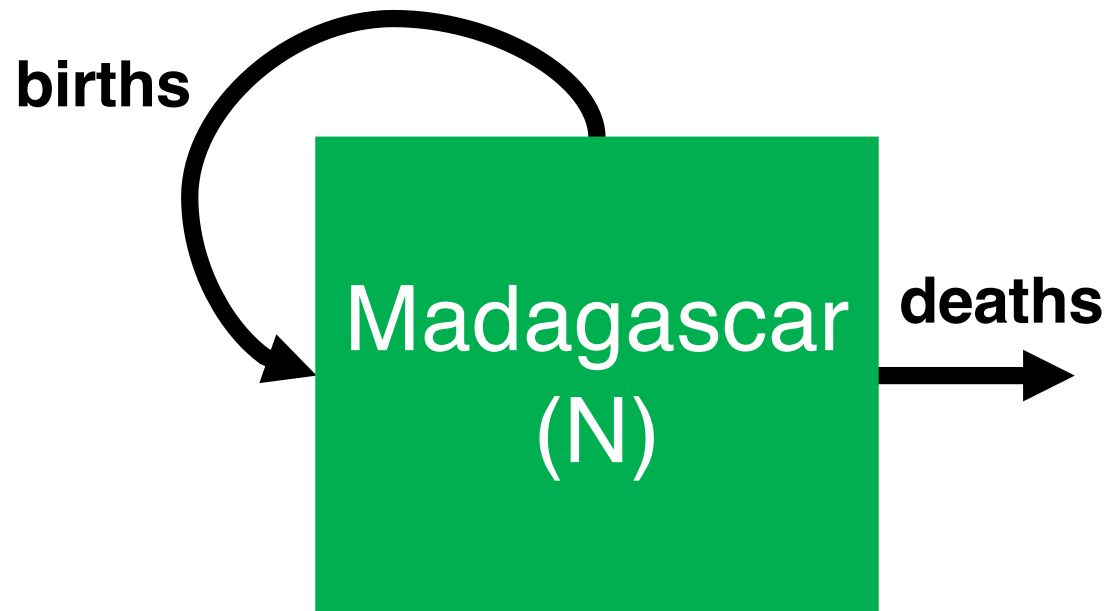


$$N_{t+1} = \text{births} * N_t$$

The basic population model

Compartmental models (Mechanistic Models)

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$$N_{t+1} = \text{births} * N_t - \text{deaths} * N_t$$

The basic population model

Compartmental models (Mechanistic Models)

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$$N_{t+1} = \text{births} * N_t - \text{deaths} * N_t$$

$$N_{t+1} = (\text{births} - \text{deaths}) * N_t$$

$$N_{t+1} = \lambda * N_t$$

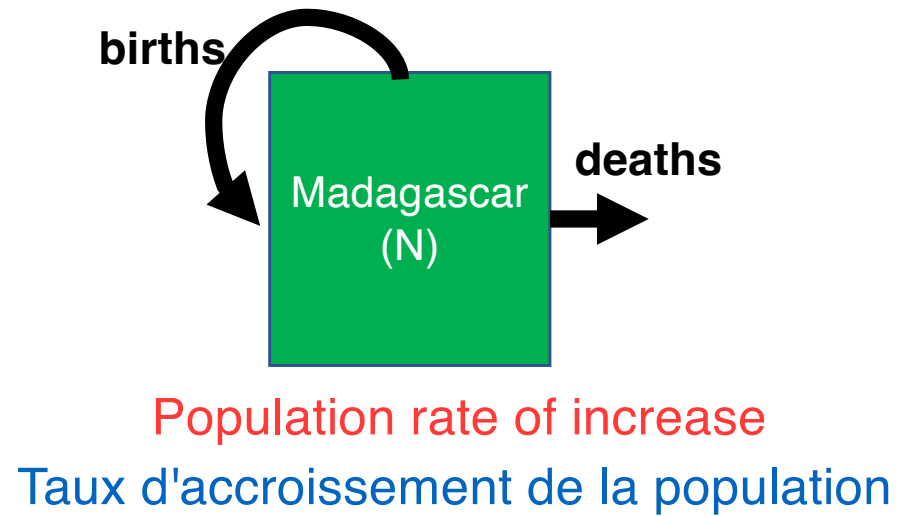
λ = pop intrinsic growth rate

The basic population model

$$\lambda = N_{t+1} / N_t$$

pop size at t+1

pop size at t



Discrete time

Change equation

$$N_{t+1} = \lambda * N_t$$

The basic population model

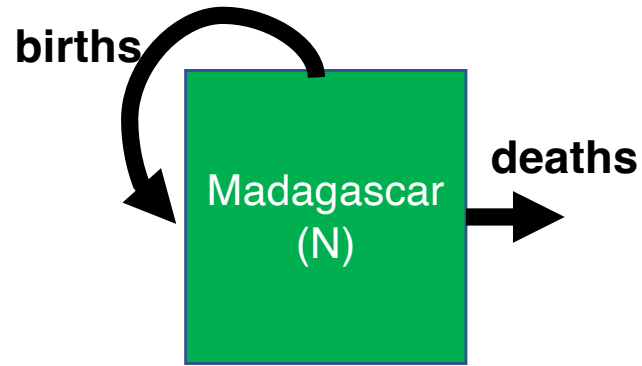
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Change equation

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Population rate of increase
Taux d'accroissement de la population

How are we doing?

Good! 😊 ✅ ❤️ 👍

Bad! 👎 😬 ❌ 🤮

(or ask a question in the chat)

The basic population model

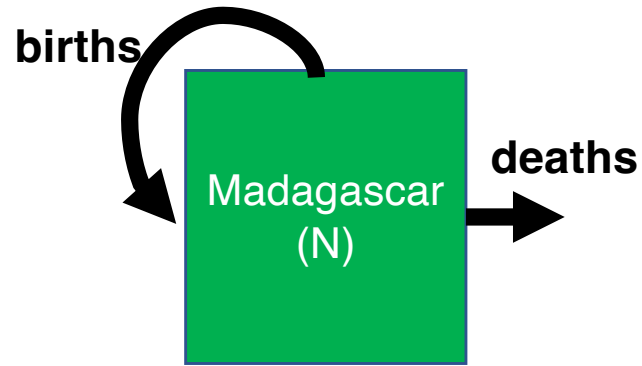
$$\lambda = N_{t+1} / N_t$$

pop size at t+1

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Change equation

$$N_{t+1} = \lambda * N_t$$



Population rate of increase
Taux d'accroissement de la population

Question:

In this change equation, is λ a parameter or a state variable?

Dans cette équation de changement, λ est-il un paramètre ou une variable d'état ?

Type answers into the chat.

The basic population model

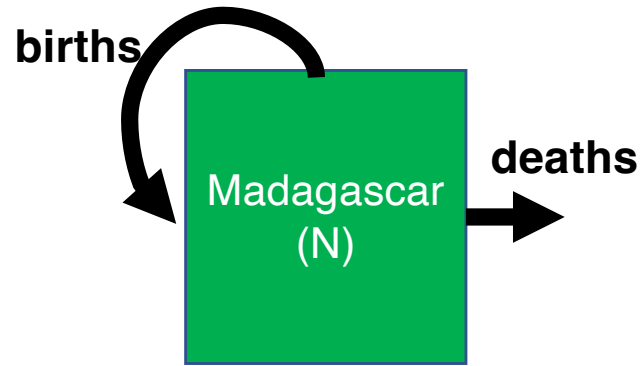
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Change equation

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Population rate of increase
Taux d'accroissement de la population

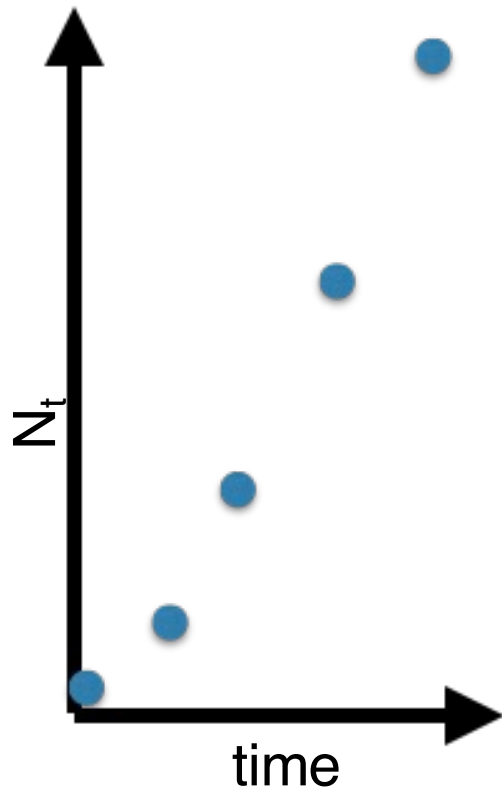
Question:

If $\lambda=0.7$, is the population growing or shrinking?

Si $\lambda=0,7$, la population augmente-t-elle ou diminue-t-elle ?

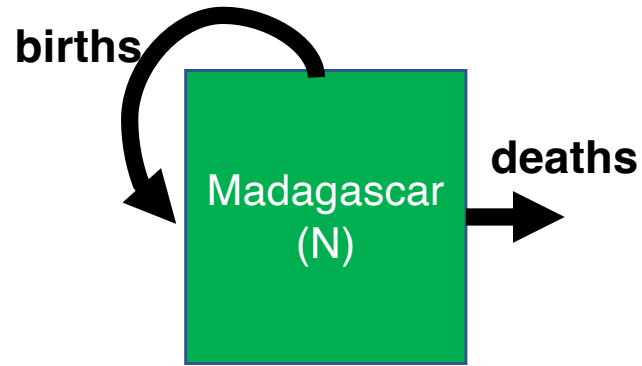
(Type answers into the chat)

The basic population model



Change equation

$$N_{t+1} = \lambda * N_t$$

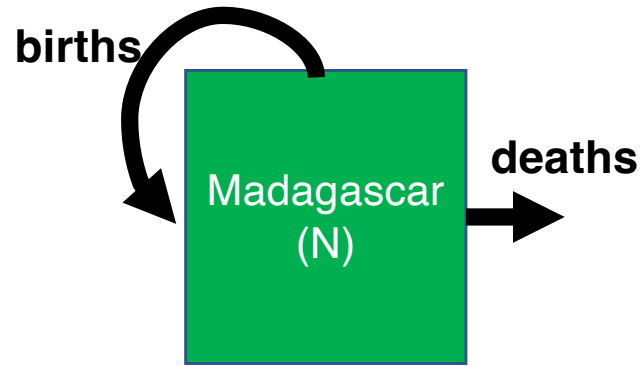


Population rate of increase
Taux d'accroissement de la population

If we start with N_0 individuals at time 0, how many individuals will we have at time 1?



The basic population model



Population rate of increase
Taux d'accroissement de la population

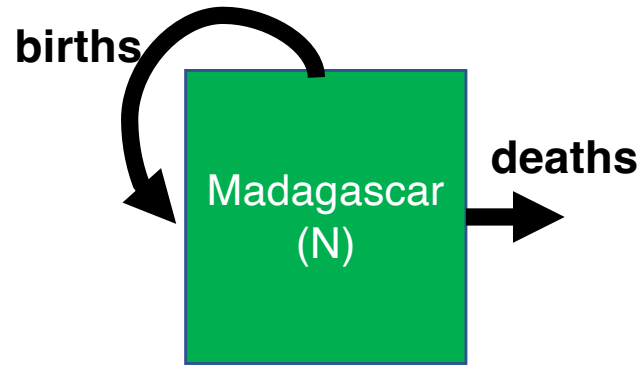
If we start with N_0 individuals at time 0, how many individuals will we have at time 1?

$$N_1 = \lambda * N_0$$

Change equation

$$N_{t+1} = \lambda * N_t$$

The basic population model



Population rate of increase
Taux d'accroissement de la population

If we start with N_0 individuals at time 0, how many individuals will we have at time 1?

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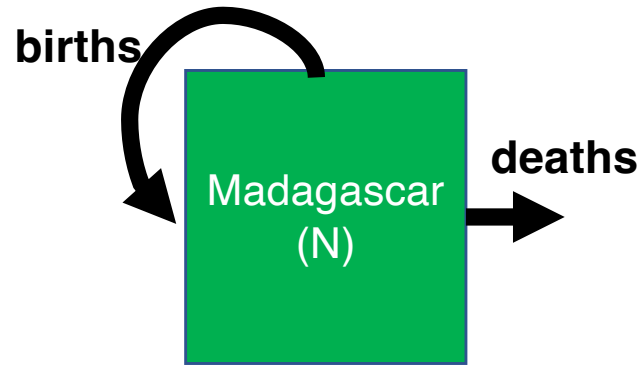
Then how many individuals will there be at $t=2$?

Change equation

$$N_{t+1} = \lambda * N_t$$



The basic population model



Population rate of increase

Taux d'accroissement de la population

If we start with N_0 individuals at time 0, how many individuals will we have at time 1?

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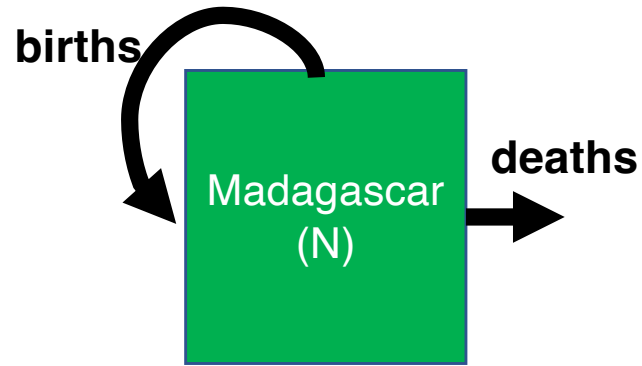
Then how many individuals will there be at $t=2$?

Change equation

$$N_{t+1} = \lambda * N_t$$

$$N_2 = \lambda * N_1$$

The basic population model



Population rate of increase
Taux d'accroissement de la population

If we start with N_0 individuals at time 0, how many individuals will we have at time 1?

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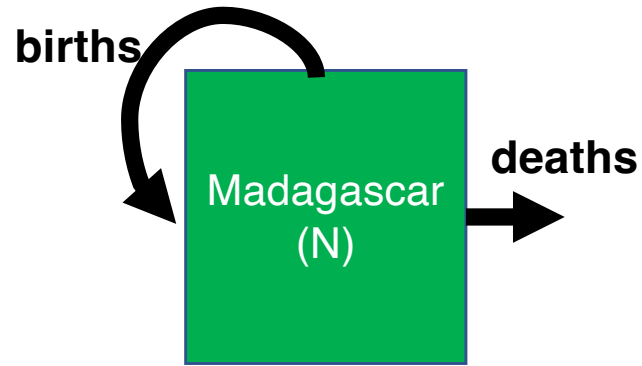
Then how many individuals will there be at $t=2$?

$$N_2 = \lambda * N_1$$

Change equation

$$N_{t+1} = \lambda * N_t$$

The basic population model



Population rate of increase

Taux d'accroissement de la population

If we start with N_0 individuals at time 0, how many individuals will we have at time 1?

$$N_1 = \lambda * N_0$$

Then how many individuals will there be at $t=2$?

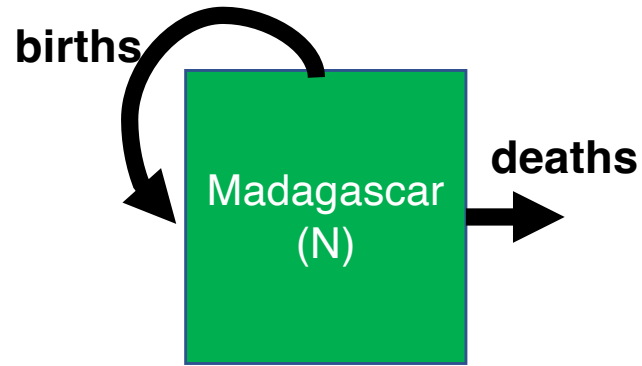
Change equation

$$N_{t+1} = \lambda * N_t$$

$$N_2 = \lambda * N_1$$

$$N_2 = \lambda * [\lambda * N_0] = \lambda^2 N_0$$

The basic population model



Population rate of increase

Taux d'accroissement de la population

If we start with N_0 individuals at time 0, how many individuals will we have at time 1?

$$N_1 = \lambda * N_0$$

Then how many individuals will there be at $t=3$?

Change equation

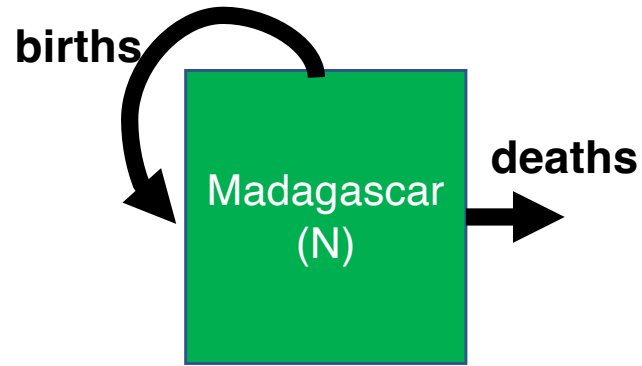
$$N_{t+1} = \lambda * N_t$$

$$N_2 = \lambda * N_1 = \lambda^2 N_0$$

$$N_3 = \lambda * N_2 = \lambda^3 N_0$$

...

The basic population model



Population rate of increase
Taux d'accroissement de la population

If we start with N_0 individuals at time 0, how many individuals will we have at time t ?

$$N_1 = \lambda * N_0$$

$$N_2 = \lambda * N_1 = \lambda^2 N_0$$

$$N_3 = \lambda * N_2 = \lambda^3 N_0$$

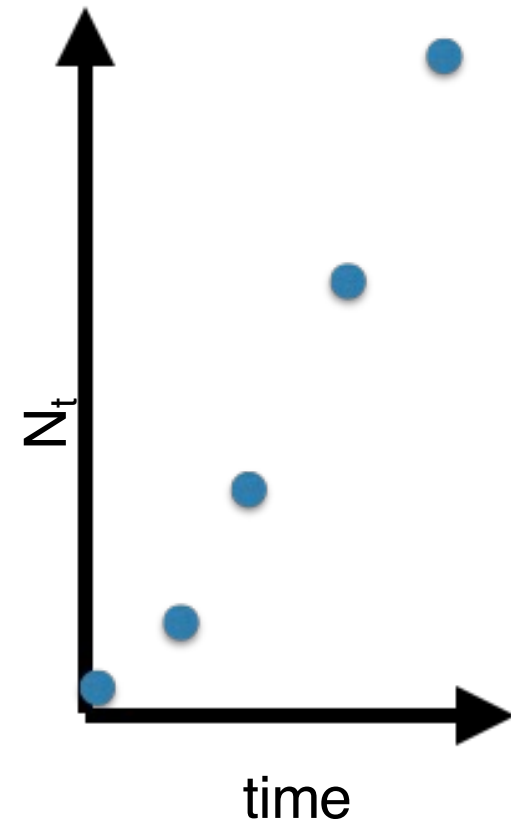
...

$$N_t = \lambda^t N_0$$

Summary: discrete time



Discrete time



Two ways to write down this model:

1. Change equation

→ To find N_t , start from N_0 and solve iteratively

$$N_{t+1} = \lambda * N_t$$

Solve iteratively

$$N_1 = \lambda * N_0$$

$$N_2 = \lambda * N_1 = \lambda^2 N_0$$

$$N_3 = \lambda * N_2 = \lambda^3 N_0$$

...

2. State equation

→ To find N_t , we can plug in t and solve

$$N_t = \lambda^t N_0$$

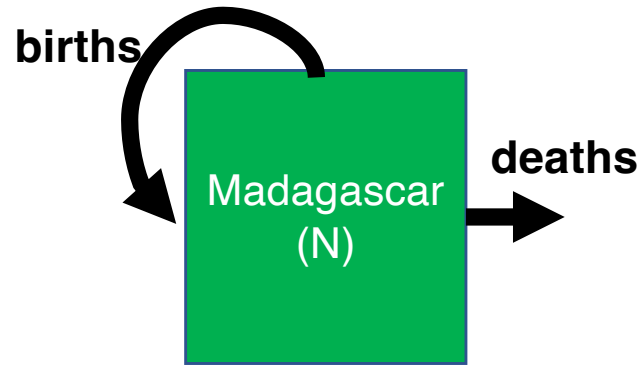
The basic population model

How are we doing?

Good! 😊 ✅ ❤️ 👍

Bad! 👎 😬 ❌ 🤯

(or ask a question in the chat)



Population rate of increase

Taux d'accroissement de la population

$$N_1 = \lambda * N_0$$

$$N_2 = \lambda * N_1 = \lambda^2 N_0$$

$$N_3 = \lambda * N_2 = \lambda^3 N_0$$

...

Change equation

$$N_{t+1} = \lambda * N_t$$

State equation

$$N_t = \lambda^t N_0$$

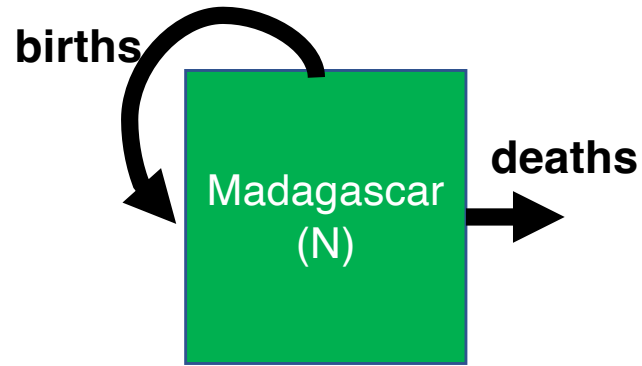
The basic population model

Question:

In what situations would we want a time step NOT equal to one year?

Dans quelles situations souhaiterions-nous un pas de temps NON égal à un an ?

(Type answers into the chat)



Population rate of increase

Taux d'accroissement de la population

$$N_1 = \lambda * N_0$$

$$N_2 = \lambda * N_1 = \lambda^2 N_0$$

$$N_3 = \lambda * N_2 = \lambda^3 N_0$$

...

Change equation

$$N_{t+1} = \lambda * N_t$$

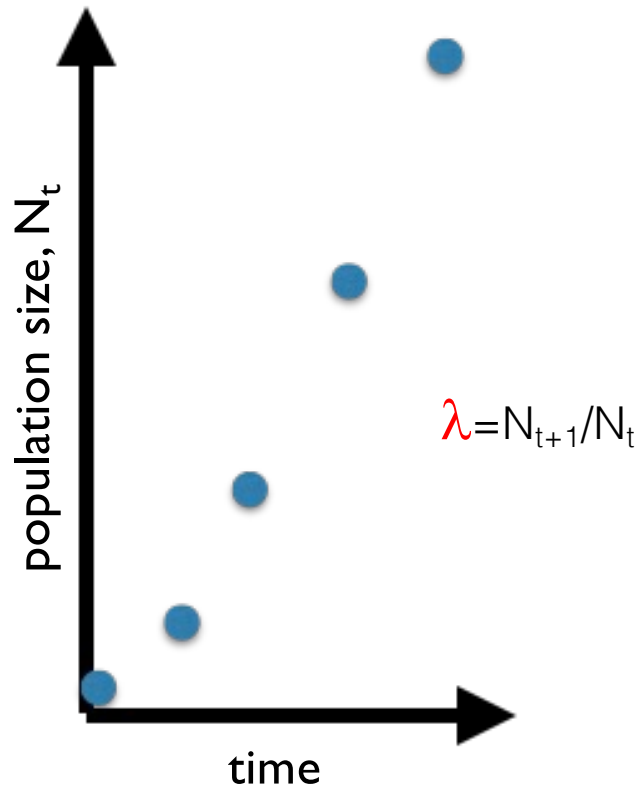
State equation

$$N_t = \lambda^t N_0$$

The basic population model



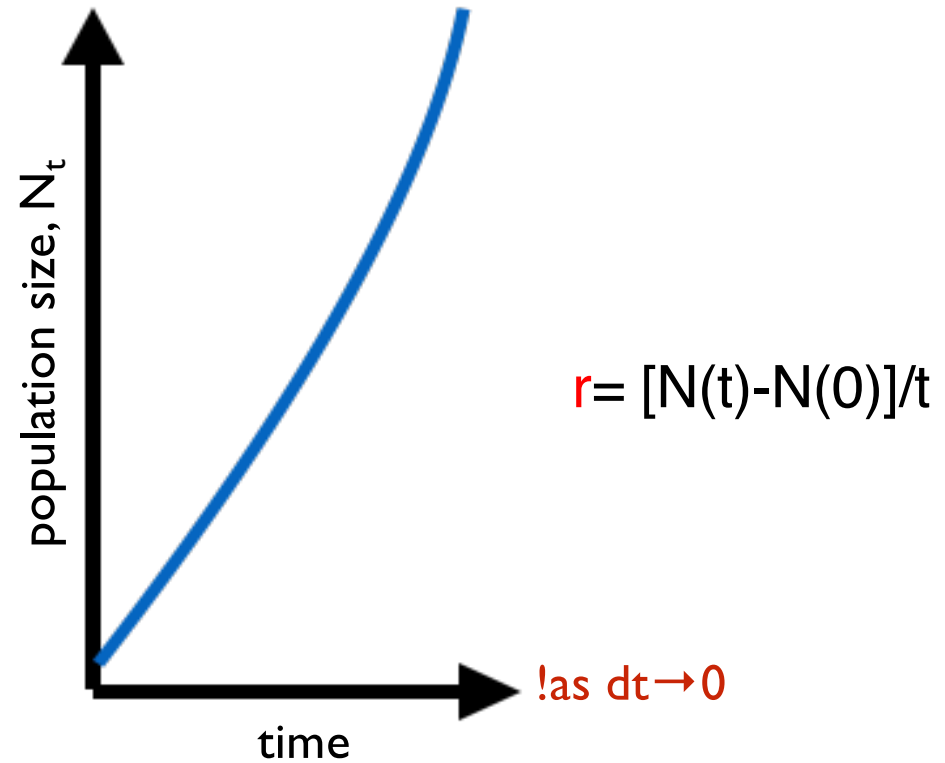
Discrete time



Change equation

$$N_{t+1} = \lambda * N_t$$

Continuous time



$$\frac{dN(t)}{dt} = rN(t)$$

**Solve for the
state equation**



Continuous time

$$\frac{dN(t)}{dt} = rN(t)$$

Solve for the state equation



Continuous time

$$\frac{dN(t)}{dt} = rN(t)$$

1. Separation of variables:

$$\frac{dN(t)}{N(t)} = rdt$$

Solve for the state equation



Continuous time

$$\frac{dN(t)}{dt} = rN(t)$$

1. *Separation of variables:*

$$\frac{dN(t)}{N(t)} = r dt$$

2. *Integrate both sides:*

$$\int \frac{dN(t)}{N(t)} = \int r dt$$

Solve for the state equation



Continuous time

$$\frac{dN(t)}{dt} = rN(t)$$

1. *Separation of variables:*

$$\frac{dN(t)}{N(t)} = r dt$$

2. *Integrate both sides:*

$$\int \frac{1}{N(t)} dN(t) = \int r dt$$

By definition:

$$\log(N(t)) + C = rt + C$$

The basic population model



Continuous time

$$\frac{dN(t)}{dt} = rN(t)$$

1. *Separation of variables:*

$$\frac{dN(t)}{N(t)} = r dt$$

2. *Integrate both sides:*

$$\int \frac{1}{N(t)} dN(t) = \int r dt$$

By definition:

$$\log(N(t)) = rt + \underline{(C_2 - C_1)}$$

the difference of
constants is a
constant

The basic population model



Continuous time

$$\frac{dN(t)}{dt} = rN(t)$$

1. Separation of variables:

$$\frac{dN(t)}{N(t)} = r dt$$

2. Integrate both sides:

$$\int \frac{1}{N(t)} dN(t) = \int r dt$$

By definition:

$$\log(N(t)) = rt + C$$

Solve for the state equation



Continuous time

$$\frac{dN(t)}{dt} = rN(t)$$

1. *Separation of variables:*

$$\frac{dN(t)}{N(t)} = r dt$$

2. *Integrate both sides:*

$$\int \frac{1}{N(t)} dN(t) = \int r dt$$

By definition:

$$\log(N(t)) = rt + C$$

Take exponentials:

$$N(t) = e^{rt + C} = Ce^{rt}$$

$$N(t) = N_0 e^{rt}$$

The basic population model



Continuous time

$$\frac{dN(t)}{dt} = rN(t)$$

1. Separation of variables:

$$\frac{dN(t)}{N(t)} = r dt$$

2. Integrate both sides:

$$\int \frac{1}{N(t)} dN(t) = \int r dt$$

By definition:

$$\log(N(t)) = rt + C$$

Take exponentials to solve for $N(t)$:

$$N(t) = e^{rt+C} = C e^{rt}$$

Substitute $[t=0, N=N_0]$ to show that $C = N_0$:

$$N(t) = N_0 e^{rt}$$

Detailed math

The basic population model



Continuous time

$$\frac{dN(t)}{dt} = rN(t)$$

1. Separation of variables:

$$\frac{dN(t)}{N(t)} = r dt$$

2. Integrate both sides:

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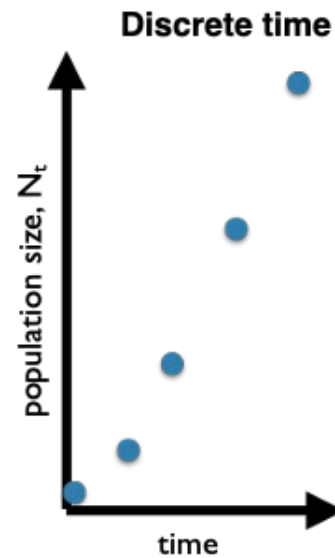
$$N(t) = e^{rt+C} = C e^{rt}$$

Substitute $[t=0, N=N_0]$ to show that $C = N_0$:

$$N(t) = N_0 e^{rt}$$

Detailed math

The basic population model



Rate of change

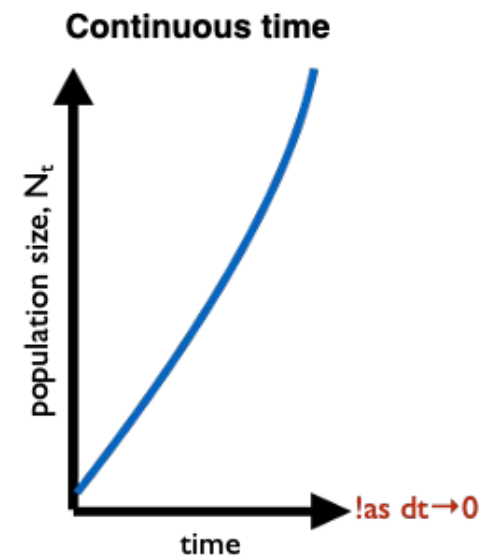
$$\lambda = N_{t+1}/N_t$$

Change equation
(Can be solved iteratively)

$$N_{t+1} = \lambda N_t$$

State equation
(Can plug in t to solve for N_t)

$$N_t = \lambda^t N_0$$



$$r = [N(t) - N(0)]/t$$

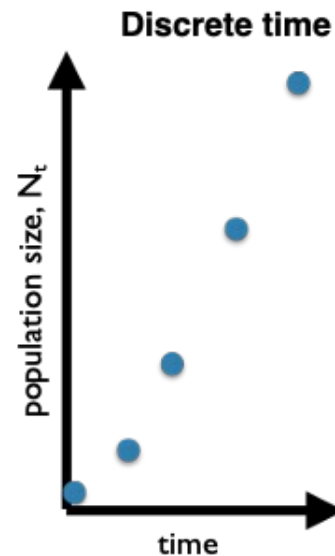
$$dN(t)/dt = rN(t)$$

$$N(t) = N(0)e^{rt}$$

The basic population model



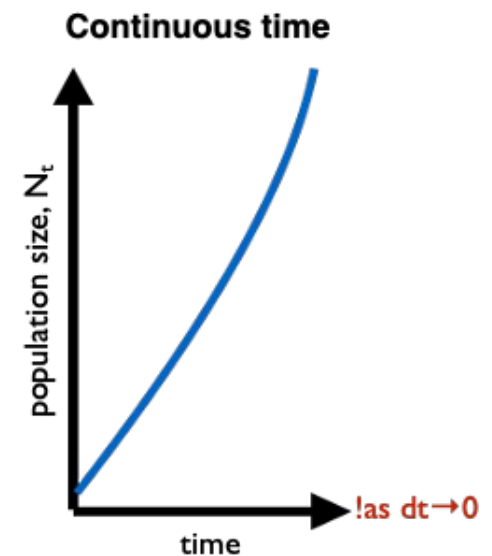
!!
In more complicated
models, we cannot
always solve for the state
equation.
!!



$$\lambda = N_{t+1}/N_t$$

$$N_{t+1} = \lambda N_t$$

$$N_t = \lambda^t N_0$$



$$r = [N(t) - N(0)]/t$$

$$dN(t)/dt = rN(t)$$

$$N(t) = N(0)e^{rt}$$

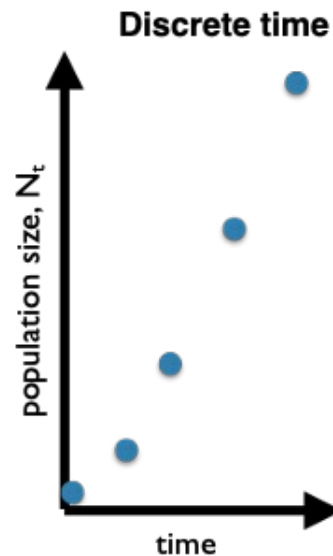
Rate of change

Change equation
(Can be solved iteratively)

State equation
(Can plug in t to solve for Nt)

The basic population model

Continuous models can be discretized; discrete models can be approximated by continuous ones. The appropriate framing may depend on the data / question.



Rate of change

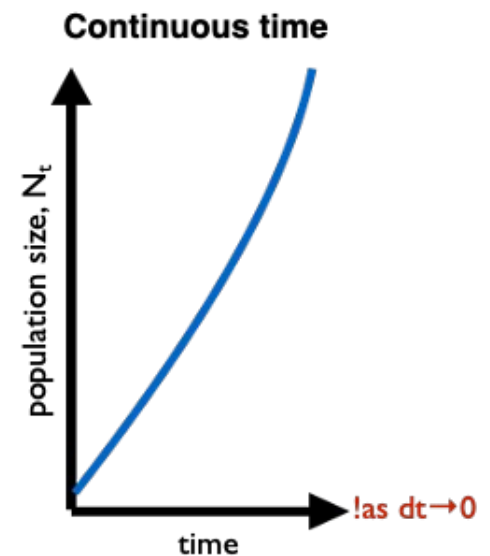
$$\lambda = N_{t+1}/N_t$$

Change equation
(Can be solved iteratively)

$$N_{t+1} = \lambda N_t$$

State equation
(Can plug in t to solve for N_t)

$$N_t = \lambda^t N_0$$



$$r = [N(t) - N(0)]/t$$

$$dN(t)/dt = rN(t)$$

$$N(t) = N(0)e^{rt}$$

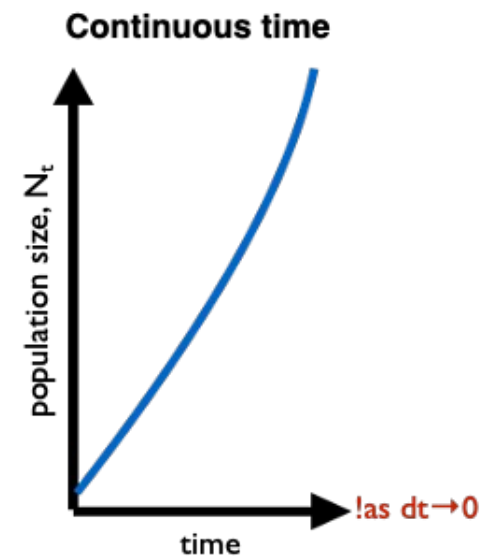
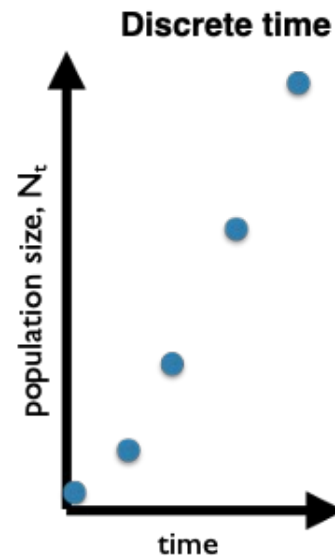
The basic population model

How are we doing?

Good! 😊 ✅ ❤️ 👍

Bad! 👎 😬 ❌ 🤯

(or ask a question in the chat)



Rate of change

$$\lambda = N_{t+1}/N_t$$

$$r = [N(t) - N(0)]/t$$

Change equation

→ Can be solved iteratively

$$N_{t+1} = \lambda N_t$$

$$dN(t)/dt = rN(t)$$

State equation

→ Can plug in t to solve for N(t)

$$N_t = \lambda^t N_0$$

$$N(t) = N(0)e^{rt}$$

The basic population model

Question:

Exponential growth models assume that the population growth rate, r , is constant. What is the problem with this assumption?

Les modèles de croissance exponentielle supposent que le taux de croissance de la population, r , est constant. Quel est le problème avec cette hypothèse ?

(Answer in the chat)

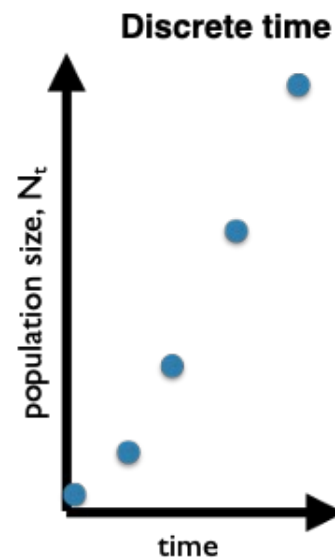
Rate of change

Change equation

→ Can be solved iteratively

State equation

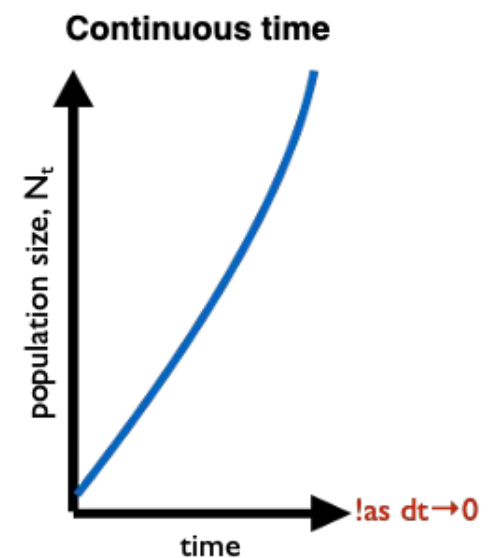
→ Can plug in t to solve for $N(t)$



$$\lambda = N_{t+1}/N_t$$

$$N_{t+1} = \lambda N_t$$

$$N_t = \lambda^t N_0$$



$$r = [N(t) - N(0)]/t$$

$$dN(t)/dt = rN(t)$$

$$N(t) = N(0)e^{rt}$$

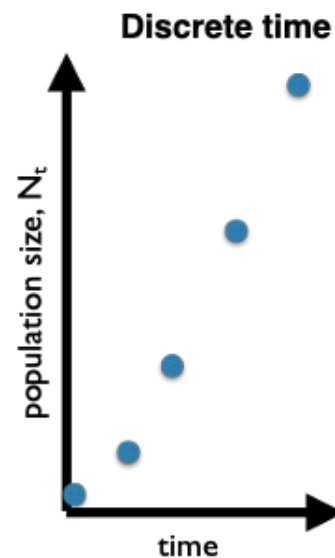
The basic population model

Question:

In what situations is exponential growth a reasonable model?

Dans quelles situations la croissance exponentielle est-elle un modèle raisonnable ?

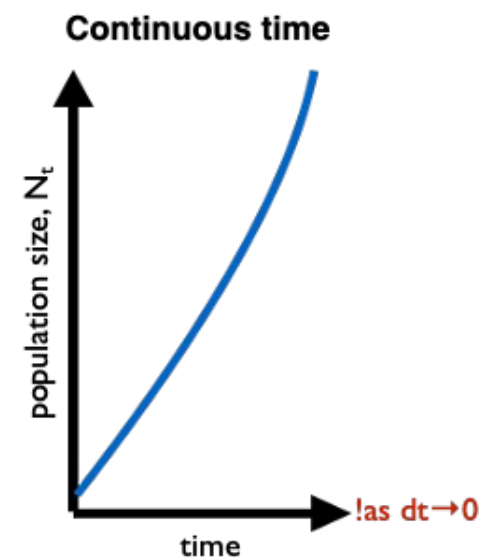
(Answer in the chat)



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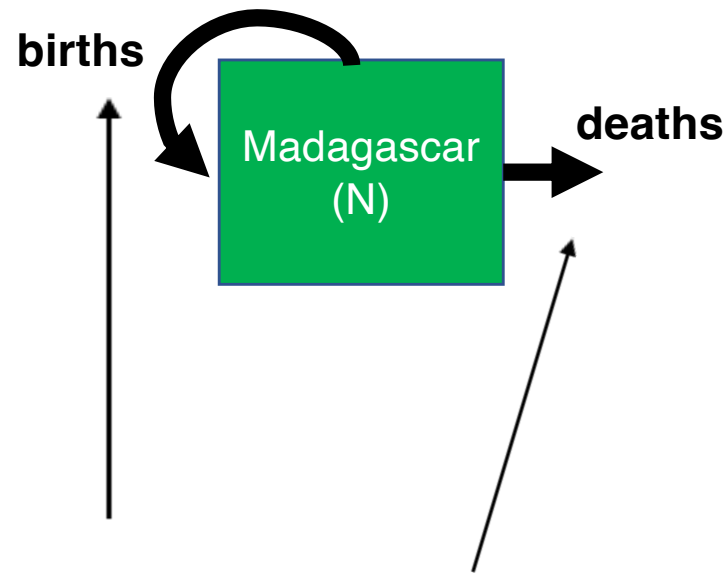
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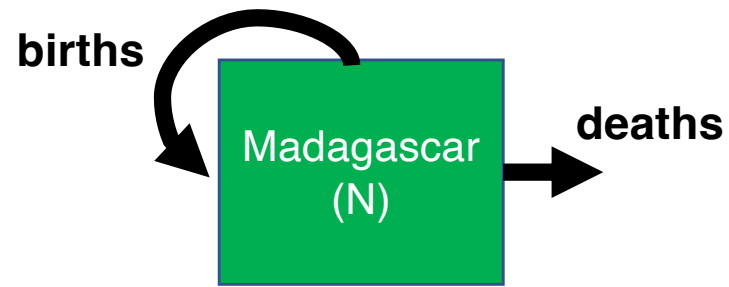
→ Can plug in t to solve for N(t)

The basic population model

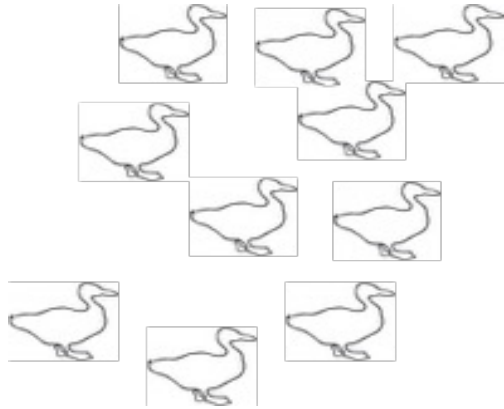


What about those rates?
Are they the same every year?
And in every person?

The basic population model



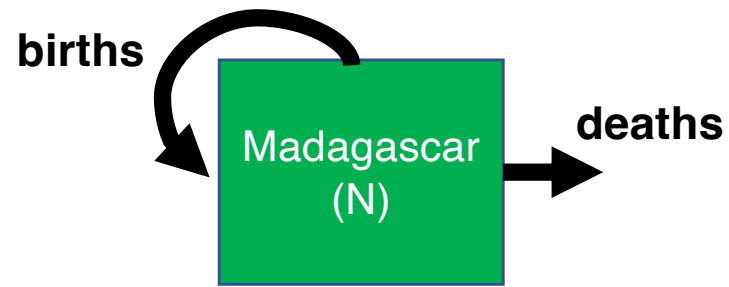
starting population



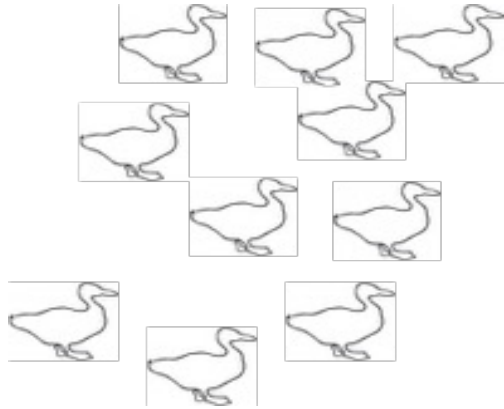
probability of
death = 0.5

if **deterministic** "always the same"

The basic population model

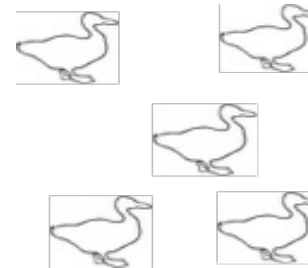


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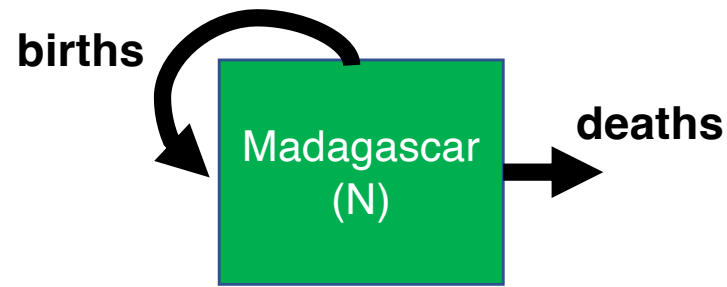


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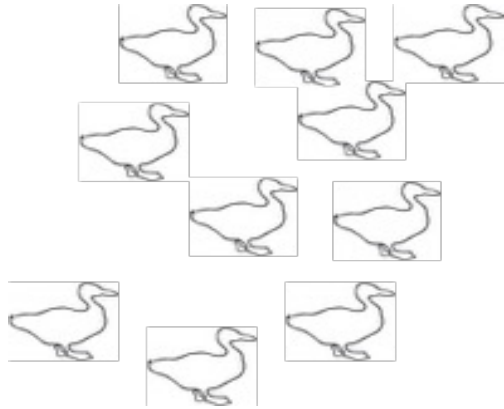
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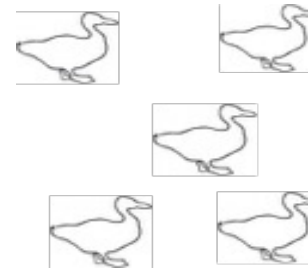


starting population

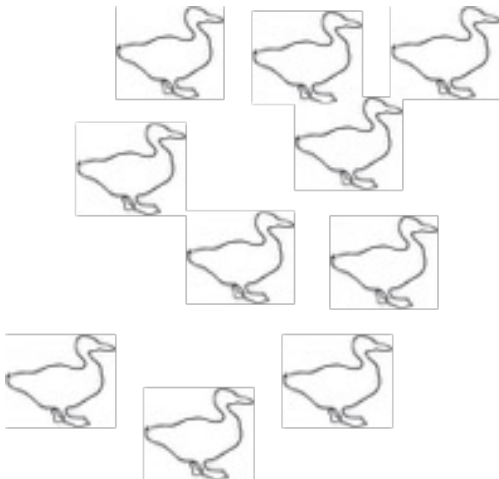


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starting population



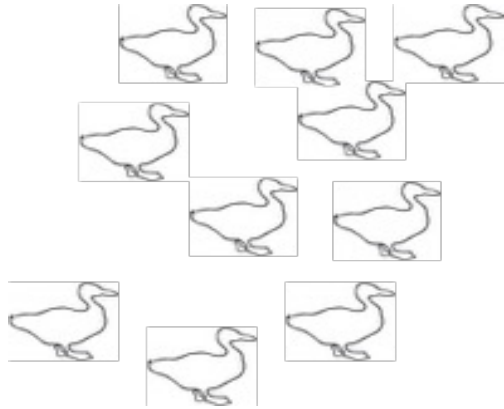
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if **stochastic?** “up to chance”

The basic population model

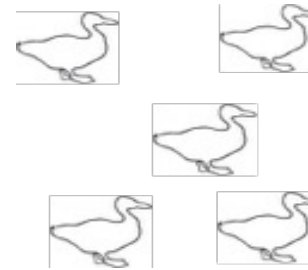


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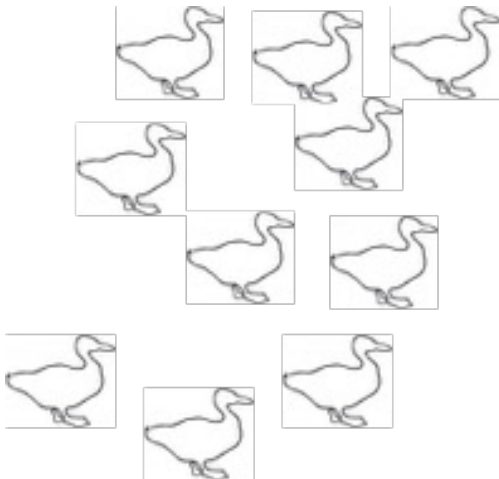


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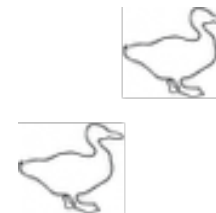


starting population



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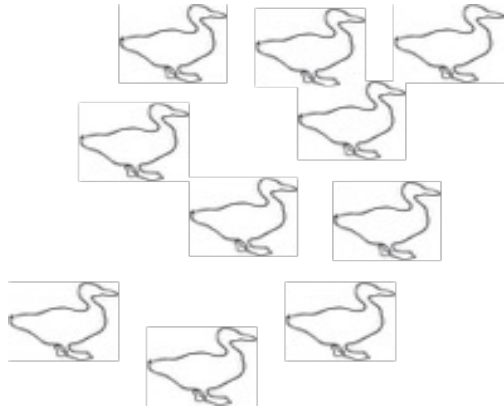
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The basic population model

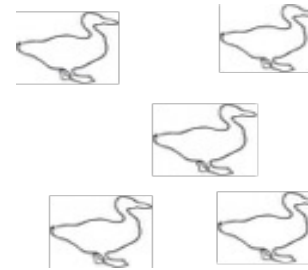


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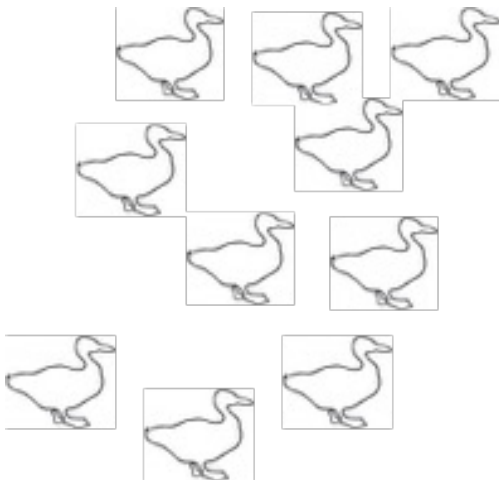


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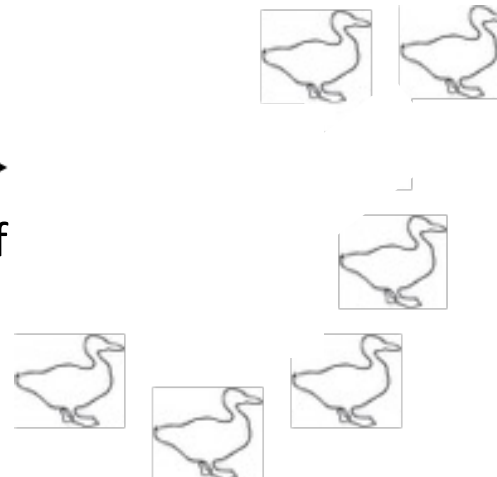


starting population

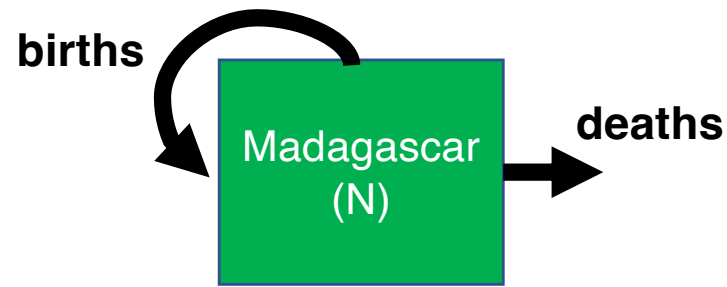


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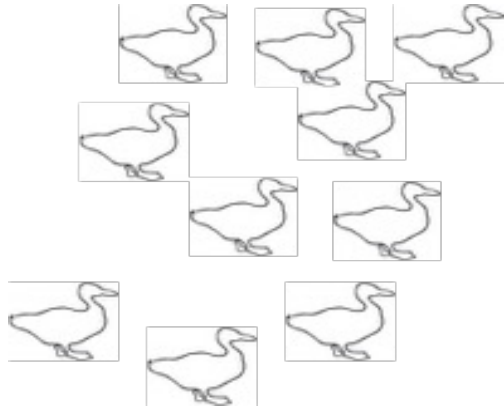
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The basic population model

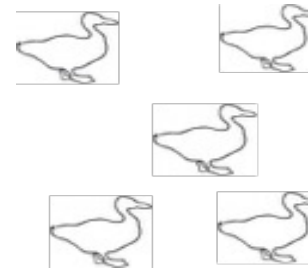


starting population

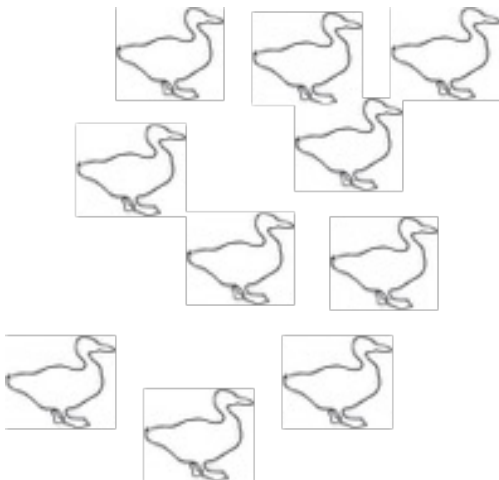


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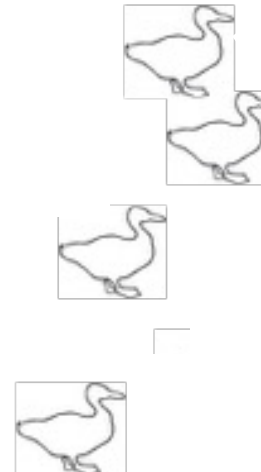


starting population

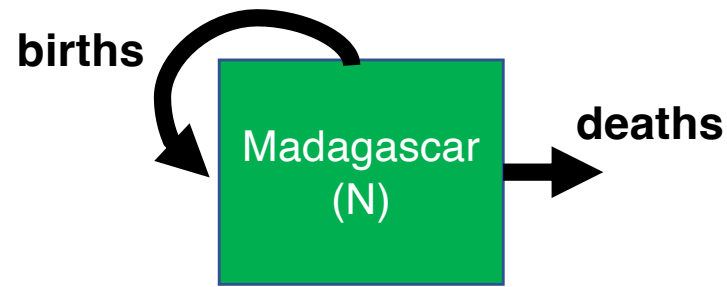


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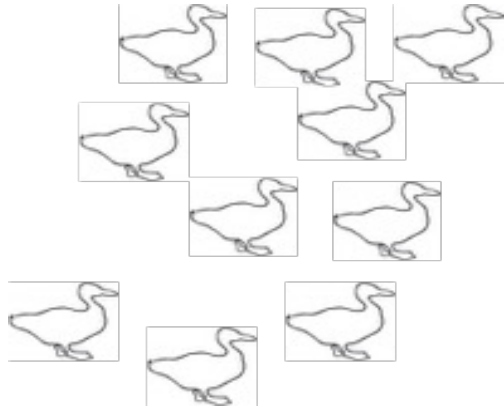
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The basic population model

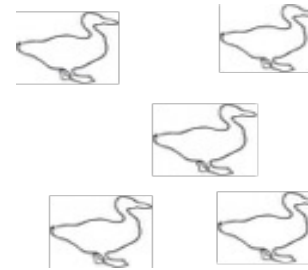


starting population

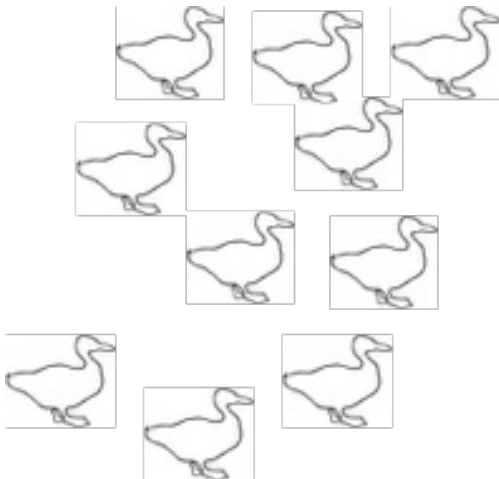


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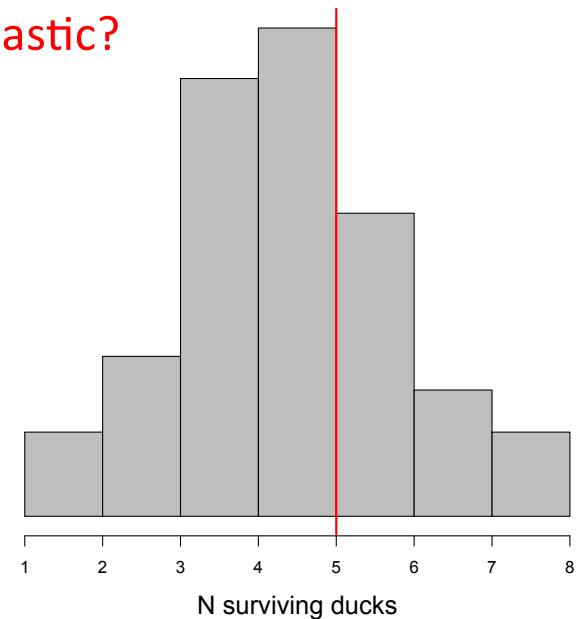
starting population



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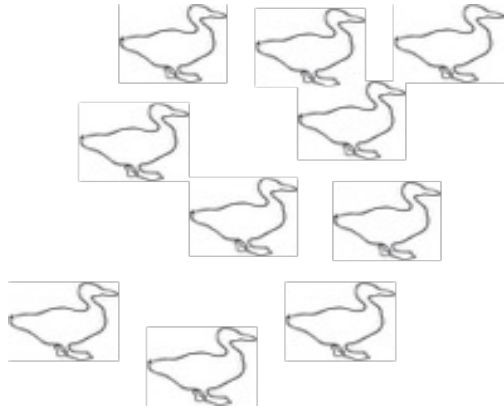
`rbinom(200,10,0.5)`



The basic population model

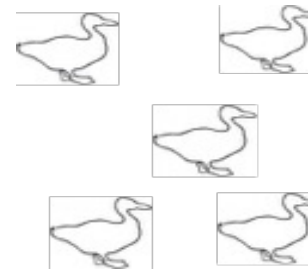


starting population



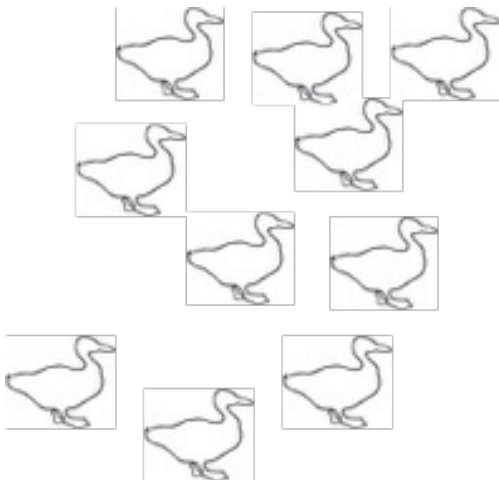
probability of death = 0.5

if **deterministic** “always the same”



If you test your 10 ducks many times, on average you get 5

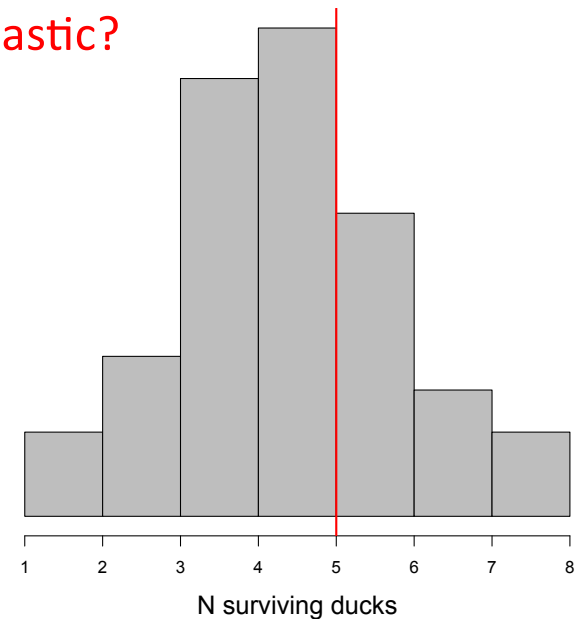
starting population



probability of death = 0.5

if **stochastic?**

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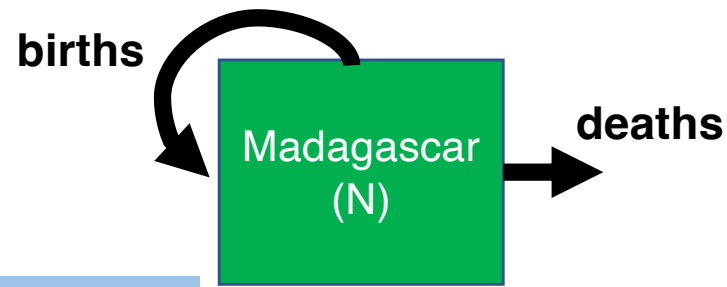
The basic population model

How are we doing?

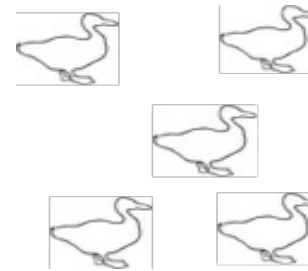
Good! 😊 ✅ ❤️ 👍

Bad! 🙄 😬 ❌ 🤮

(or ask a question in the chat)



if **deterministic** “always the same”

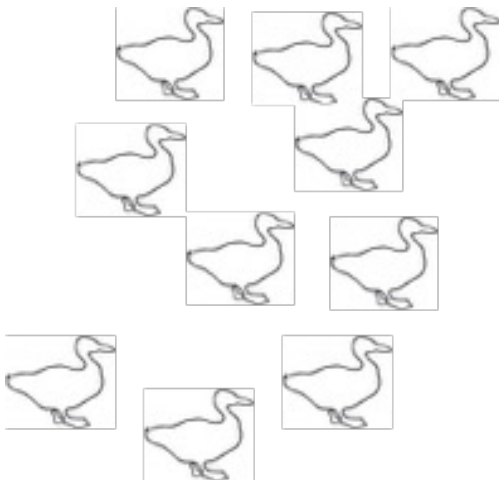


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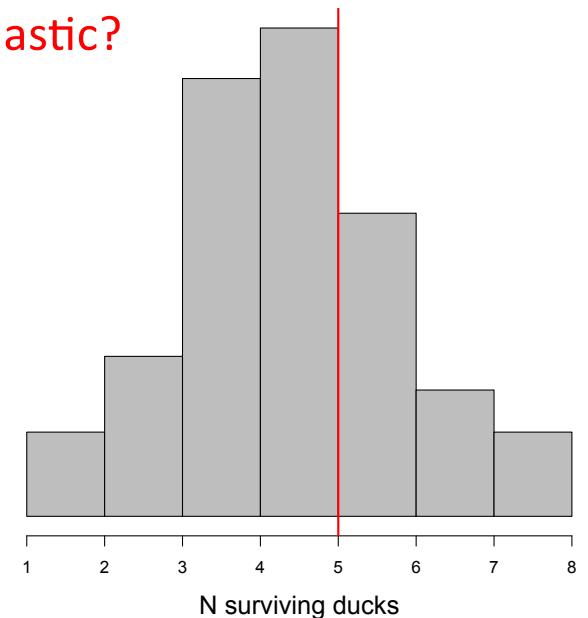
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if **stochastic?**

starting population



probability of
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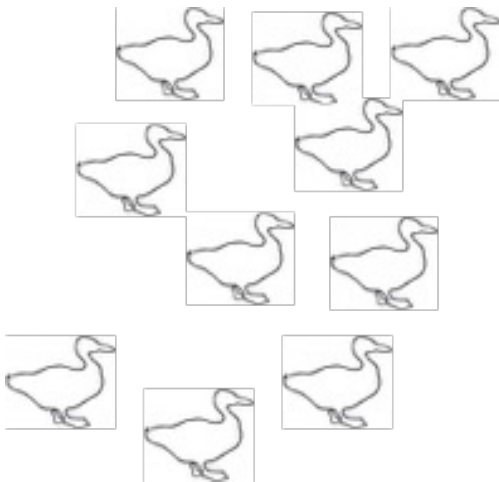


The basic population model

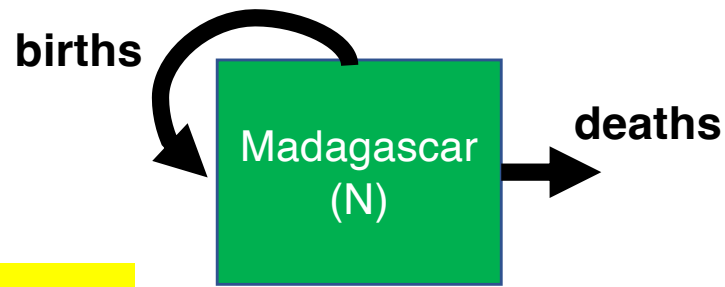
Question:

Does stochasticity matter more when the starting population is large or small?

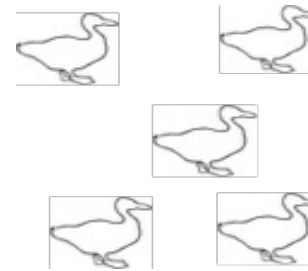
starting population



probability of death = 0.5



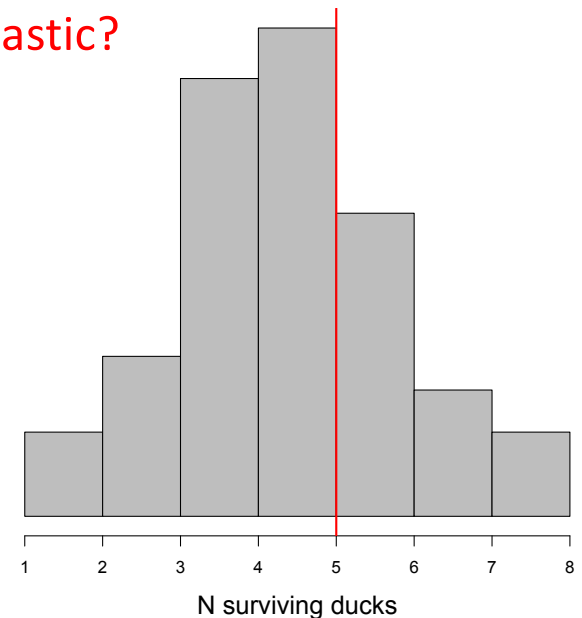
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`rbinom(200,10,0.5)`

if **stochastic**?



Key concepts

- Compartmental/mechanistic/mathematical models

Modèles en compartiments

- Continuous vs. discrete models

Modèles en temps continue vs. modèles en temps discrète

- Deterministic vs. stochastic models

Modèles déterministique vs. stochastique

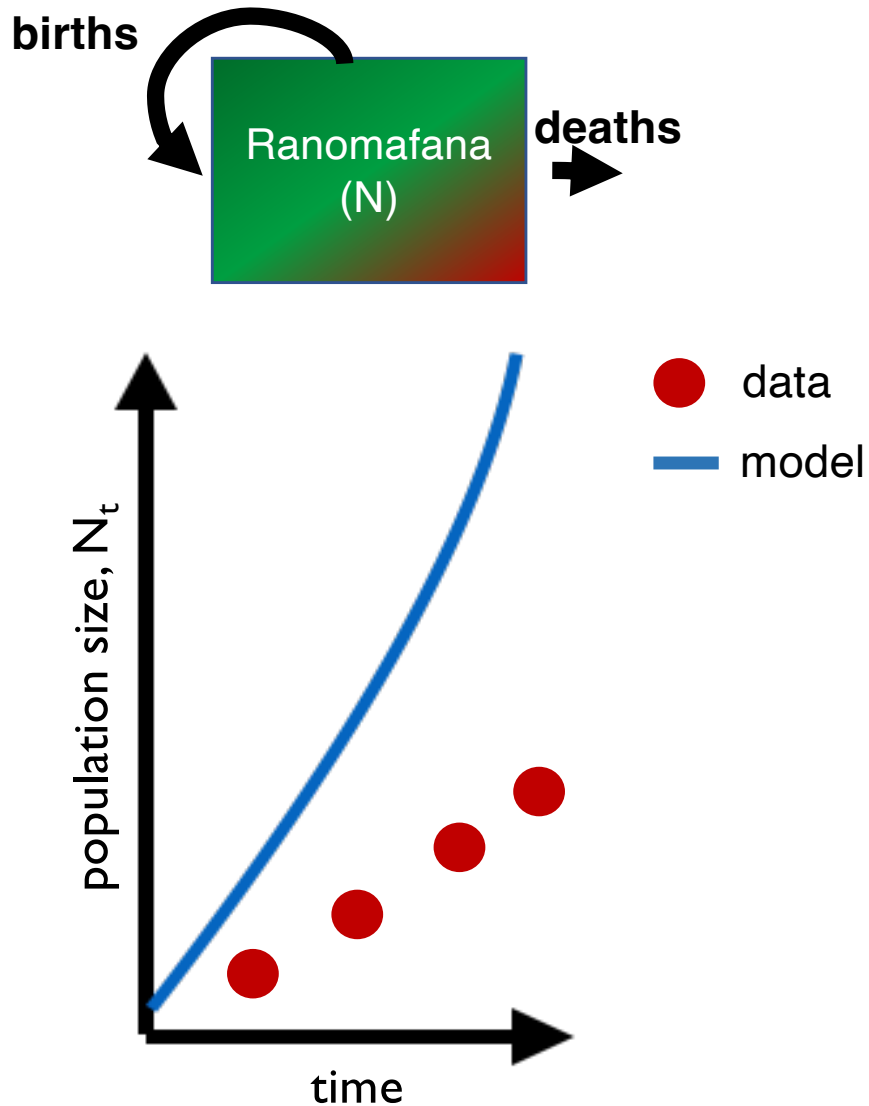


2. Structured Population Models

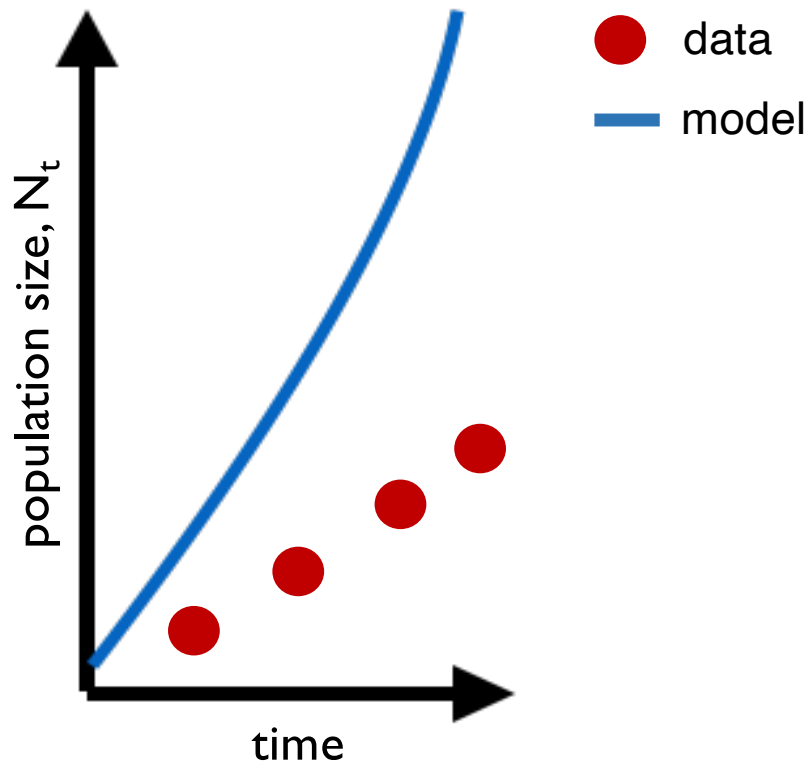
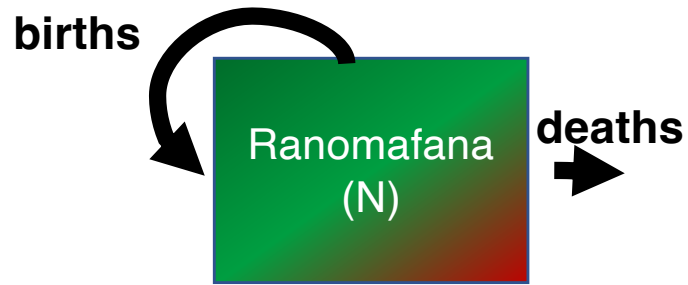
2. Modèles de la population structurée

The structured population model

Why does the model perform poorly?



The basic population model



Why does the model perform poorly?

We need population structure!

The structured population model

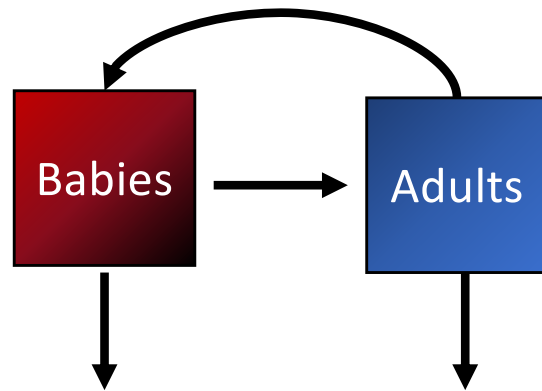
Compartmental models (Mechanistic Models)

1. Populations are divided into compartments
2. Individuals within a compartment are homogenously mixed
3. Compartments and transition rates are determined by biological systems
4. Rates of transferring between compartments are expressed mathematically

How does the population of Ranomafana grow over time?

Comment est-ce que la population de Ranomafana s'augmente avec le passage du temps?

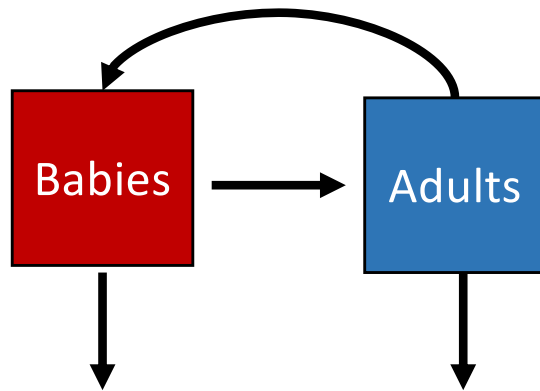
The structured population model



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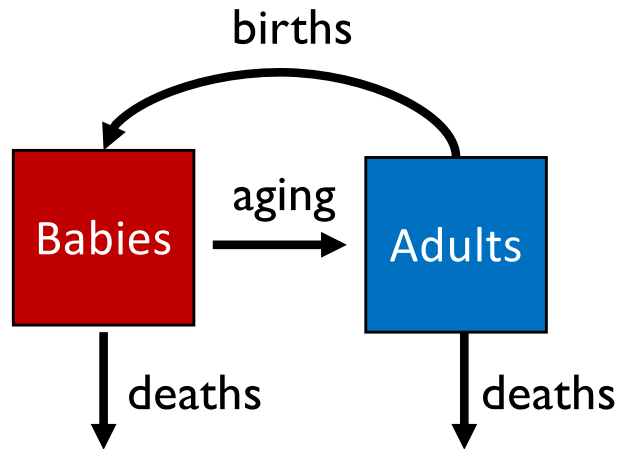
The structured population model



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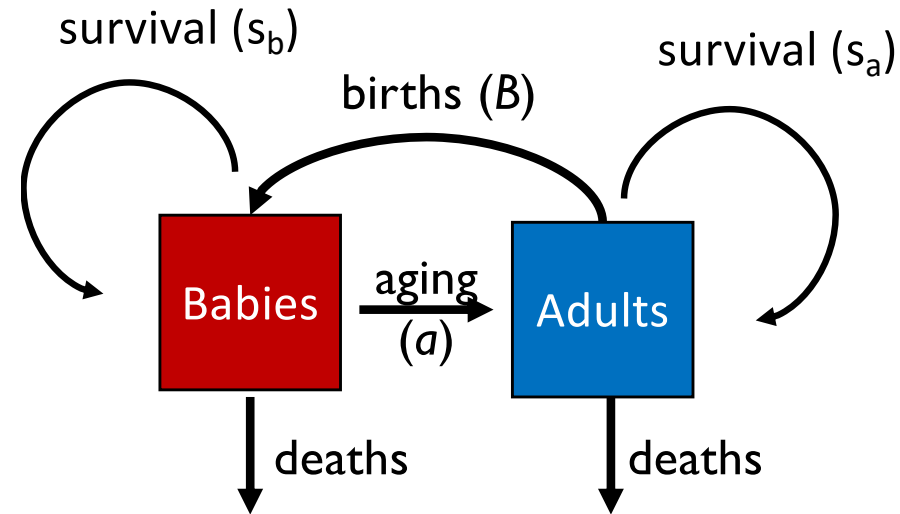
The structured population model



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The structured population model



Population rate of increase

Taux d'accroissement de la population

Compartmental models (Mechanistic Models)

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$$\mathbf{n}_{t+1} = \mathbf{A} \mathbf{n}_t$$

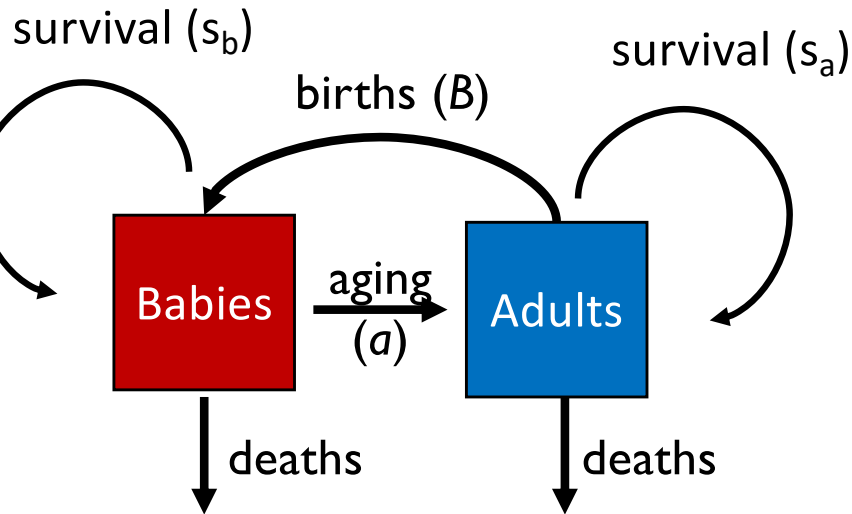
r_{bb}	r_{ab}
r_{ba}	r_{aa}

change matrix

vector of
population sizes

***Discrete time**

The structured population model



r_{bb}	r_{ab}
r_{ba}	r_{aa}

=

$s_b(1-a)$	B
$s_b a$	s_a

change matrix

$$\mathbf{n}_{t+1} = \mathbf{A} \mathbf{n}_t$$

vector of
population sizes

Compartmental models (Mechanistic Models)

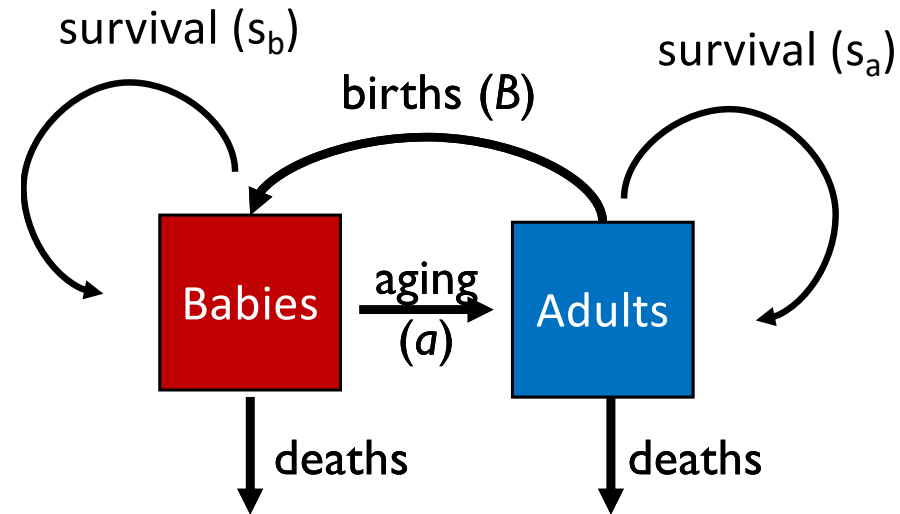
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Population rate of increase

Taux d'accroissement de la population

***Discrete time**

The structured population model



A

$s_b(1-a)$	B
$s_b a$	s_a

X

n_t

n_b
n_a

=

n_{t+1}

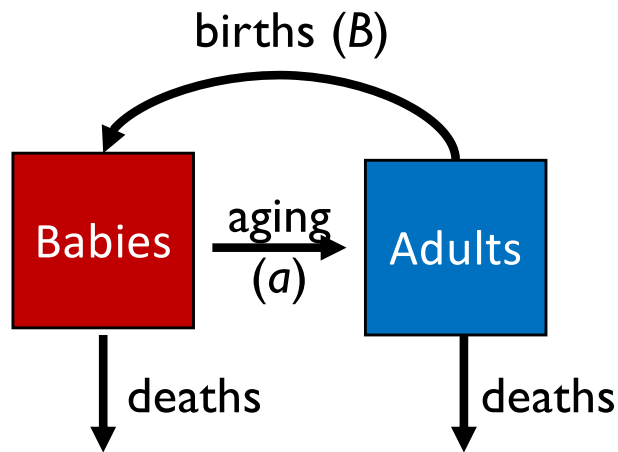
$s_b(1-a) n_b + b n_a$
$s_b a n_b + s_a n_a$

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$$A n_t = n_{t+1}$$

The structured population model



A

$s_b(1-a)$	B
$s_b a$	s_a

x

n_t

n_b
n_a

=

n_{t+1}

$s_b(1-a) n_b + b n_a$
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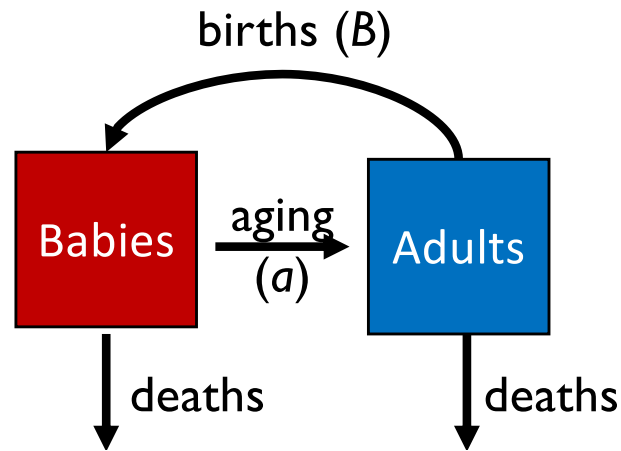
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$$A n_t = n_{t+1}$$

Population growth will depend on population structure!

The structured population model



Compartmental models (Mechanistic Models)

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Conservation and Management of a Threatened Madagascar Palm Species, *Neodypsis decaryi*, Jumelle

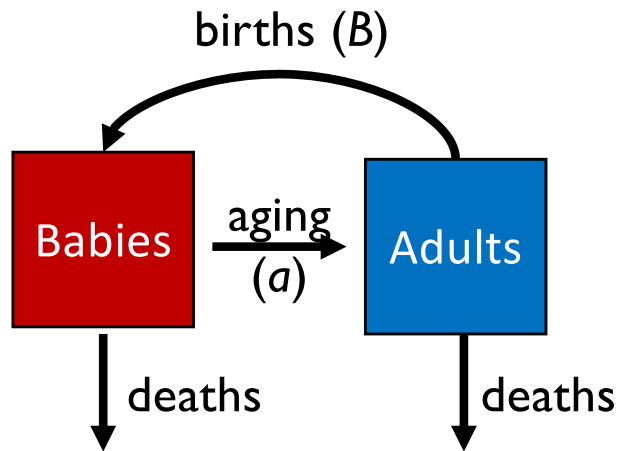
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*Department of Ecology and Evolutionary Biology, 75 N. Eagleville Road, The University of Connecticut, Storrs, CT 06269, U.S.A.

†Yale School of Forestry and Environmental Studies, 205 Prospect Street, New Haven, CT 06520, U.S.A.

‡Current Address: Yale School of Forestry and Environmental Studies, 205 Prospect Street, New Haven, CT 06520, U.S.A.

The structured population model



Compartmental models (Mechanistic Models)

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How are we doing?

Good! 😊 ✅ ❤️ 👍

Bad! 🙅 😬 ❌ 🤮

(or ask a question in the chat)

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- Deterministic vs. stochastic models

Modèles déterministique vs. stochastique

- Structured models

Modèles structurés.

R tutorial

Today

1. Solve a discrete time model two ways:
 1. Iteratively, using the change equation (for loop)
 2. Directly, using the state equation
2. Compare to the continuous time model

Wednesday

1. Solve a continuous time model three ways:
 1. Using the state equation
 2. Using a discrete-time approximation (for-loop)
 3. Using the ODE solver, lsoda
2. Use the ODE solver lsoda to simulate more complicated models:
 1. Predator-prey
 2. SIR