

Aquatic Ecotoxicology: Theoretical Explanation of Empirical Formulas

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1. Formulation of the Problem

- Pollution is ubiquitous, and oceans, lakes, and rivers are not immune from it.
- Good news is that many toxic substances are not stable, their concentration C in sea creatures decreases with time.
- It is important to be able to predict how this decrease will go.
- Several semi-empirical equations $\frac{dC}{dt} = f(C)$ describe this decreases.
- In most cases, $f(C)$ is a polynomial (mostly quadratic).
- In other cases, the formula is fractional-linear: $f(C) = \frac{a + b \cdot C}{1 + d \cdot C}$.
- In this talk, we use invariance ideas to provide a theoretical explanation for these empirical formulas.

2. Invariance Ideas

- The numerical value of each physical quantity depends:
 - on the selection of the measuring unit, and
 - on the selection of the starting point.
- If we replace the original measuring unit with the one which is λ times smaller, all numerical values multiply by λ : $x \mapsto \lambda \cdot x$.
- This transformation is known as *scaling*.
- In many cases, there is no preferable measuring unit.
- In this case, it makes sense to assume that the formulas should remain the same if we change the measuring unit.

3. Invariance Ideas (cont-d)

- If we replace the original starting point with the one which is x_0 units earlier, we add x_0 to all numerical values: $x \mapsto x + x_0$.
- This transformation is known as *shift*.
- For quantities such as temperature or time, there is no preferred starting point.
- In this case, it makes sense to assume that the formulas should remain the same if we change the starting point.
- If we change both the starting point and the measuring unit, we get a general linear transformation: $x \mapsto \lambda \cdot x + x_0$.
- A typical example of such a transformation is converting temperature from Celsius to Fahrenheit: $t_F = 1.8 \cdot t_C + 32$.

4. Invariance Ideas (cont-d)

- We want to find out how the reaction rate $r \stackrel{\text{def}}{=} \frac{dC}{dt}$ depends on the concentration C .
- In different places, this dependence is different.
- Thus, we cannot look for a single function $r = f(C)$, we should look for a family of functions.
- The simplest type of family is when we fix several functions $e_1(t), \dots, e_n(t)$, and consider all possible linear combinations

$$C_1 \cdot e_1(t) + \dots + C_n \cdot e_n(t).$$

- For example, if we take $e_1(t) = 1$, $e_2(t) = t$, etc., we get polynomials.
- If we select sines and cosines, we get what is called trigonometric polynomials, etc.
- Which family should we select?

5. Invariance Ideas (cont-d)

- For time, there is no preferred measuring unit and no preferred starting point.
- So, it makes sense to select a family which is invariant with respect to scalings and shifts.
- It is known that in all such invariant families, all the functions are polynomials.
- This explains why in most cases, the empirical dependence $r = f(C)$ is polynomial.

6. Beyond Linear Transformations

- In some cases, we can also have non-linear transformations between different scales.
- For example, there are two natural scales for describing earthquakes: energy scale and logarithmic (Richter) scale.
- Our reaction to sound is best described not by its power, but the power's logarithms – decibels.
- What are natural nonlinear transformation?
- As we have mentioned, linear transformations are natural.
- If we have a natural transformations between scales A and B , then the inverse transformation should also be natural.
- If we apply two natural transformations one after another, then the resulting composition should also be natural.
- Thus, the class of all natural transformations should be closed under composition and inverse.

7. Beyond Linear Transformations (cont-d)

- Such classes are known as *transformation groups*.
- We want to describe all these transformation in a computer.
- In each computer, we can only store finitely many parameters.
- Thus, we should restrict ourselves to finite-parametric transformation groups that contain all linear transformations.
- It is known that every element of such a group is a fractional-linear function.
- This explains why the dependence $r = f(C)$ is sometimes described by a fractional-linear function:
- r and C can be viewed as two different scales for describing the same phenomena.

8. How to Prove the Result about the Invariant Families

- This result is easy to prove when the functions $e_i(t)$ are differentiable.
- Shift-invariance means that for each function $e_i(t)$, its shift $e_i(t + t_0)$ belongs to the same family.
- So, for some coefficients $C_{ij}(t_0)$, we get:

$$e_i(t + t_0) = C_{i1}(t_0) \cdot e_1(t) + \dots + C_{in}(t_0) \cdot e_n(t).$$

- If we differentiate both sides with respect to t_0 , we get

$$e'_i(t + t_0) = C'_{i1}(t_0) \cdot e_1(t) + \dots + C'_{in}(t_0) \cdot e_n(t).$$

- In particular, for $t_0 = 0$, we get

$$e'_i(t) = c_{i1} \cdot e_1(t) + \dots + c_{in} \cdot e_n(t).$$

- Here, we denoted $c_{ij} \stackrel{\text{def}}{=} C'_{ij}(0)$.
- So, we get a system of linear differential equations with constant coefficients.

9. Proving the Result about the Invariant Families (cont-d)

- It is known that its solutions are linear combinations of terms

$$t^m \cdot \exp(k \cdot t).$$

- Here, k is an eigenvalue of the matrix c_{ij} , and m is a non-negative integer which is smaller than k 's multiplicity.
- Similarly, scale-invariance means that for each function $e_i(t)$, its scaling $e_i(\lambda \cdot t)$ belongs to the same family.
- So, for some coefficients $C_{ij}(\lambda)$, we get:

$$e_i(\lambda \cdot t) = C_{i1}(\lambda) \cdot e_1(t) + \dots + C_{in}(\lambda) \cdot e_n(t).$$

- If we differentiate both sides with respect to λ , we get

$$t \cdot e_i'(\lambda \cdot t) = C_{i1}'(\lambda) \cdot e_1(t) + \dots + C_{in}'(\lambda) \cdot e_n(t).$$

- In particular, for $\lambda = 1$, we get

$$t \cdot \frac{de_i(t)}{dt} = c_{i1} \cdot e_1(t) + \dots + c_{in} \cdot e_n(t).$$

10. Proving the Result about the Invariant Families (cont-d)

- Here, we denoted $c_{ij} \stackrel{\text{def}}{=} C'_{ij}(1)$.
- In this case, $\frac{dt}{t} = dT$, where $T \stackrel{\text{def}}{=} \ln(t)$.
- Thus, for the new variable T , we get the same system as before

$$e'_i(T) = c_{i1} \cdot e_1(T) + \dots + C_{in} \cdot e_n(T).$$

- So, its solution is a linear combination of functions

$$T^m \cdot \exp(k \cdot T) = (\ln(t))^m \cdot \exp(k \cdot \ln(t)) = (\ln(t))^m \cdot t^k.$$

- The only functions that can be represented in both forms $t^m \cdot \exp(k \cdot t)$ and $(\ln(t))^m \cdot t^k$ are polynomials.
- Thus, every element of a scale- and shift-invariant family is a polynomial.

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