Mathematics of Resilience with Applications to Climate



Kate Meyer, Carleton College Guest Lecture, UMN Math 5490 September 28, 2023

Image: https://link.springer.com/article/10.1007/s10021-021-00737-2



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Math for environmental decision support?

Math for environmental decision support?

Resilience quantification

Part 1: Resilience frameworks

Part 2: Flow-kick models for quantifying resilience to repeated disturbances

Part 3: Climate applications

What does Resilience Mean to You?

THINK – PAIR – SHARE

- Being able to **bounce back** from setbacks, learn and grow
- Getting pushed---at what point does it push too far?
- Withstand change from external influence
- Adapt to change

One take on Resilience:

"[T]he capacity of [a] system to absorb change and disturbances and still retain its basic structure and function"

- Brian Walker and David Salt





MINIREVIEW

From Metaphor to Measurement: Resilience of What to What?

Steve Carpenter,¹* Brian Walker,⁷ J. Marty Anderies,² and Nick Abel²

structure and function of system:

- basin of attraction (feedback regime)
- value derived from system



disturbance type:

- small / medium / large
- one-time / repeated
- continuous / discrete











Reviewed in Meyer 2016, Nat. Resour. Model. 29(3)





Scheffer et al., 2001, Nature 413

Resilience of What to What?

measures resilience of attracting state to ...



local return rates

small infrequent, discrete dist.



distance to threshold in state (x) space

large disturbance (exceed basin width?)



distance to threshold in parameter space

continuous disturbances (reshape the stability landscapes); changing environmental factors

Resilience of What to What?

?

resilience of an attracting state to *repeated* perturbations

Example: fish population



Example: fish population

Meyer et al. 2018, Nat. Sustain. 1



population growth rate
$$= \frac{dx}{dt} = x \left(1 - \frac{x}{100}\right) \left(\frac{x}{20} - 1\right)$$

Two fish populations



Part 1: Resilience frameworks

Part 2: Flow-kick models for quantifying resilience to repeated disturbances

Part 3: Climate applications

$$\frac{dx}{dt} = f(x) = x(1-x)$$









Flow-kick map

$$\Phi_{\tau,\kappa}(x) = \varphi(\tau, x) + \kappa$$

















Flow-kick harvest of logistic — more frequent





	A	В 👻	С	
1				
2		Flow time:	Kick:	
3		2.5	-0.6	
4				
5	Pop. Size (x)	x after flow	x after kick	
6	1.000	1.000	0.400	
7	0.400	0.890	0.290	
8	0.290	0.833	0.233	
9	0.233	0.787	0.187	
10	0.187	0.737	0.137	
11	0.137	0.660	0.060	
12	0.060	0.436	-0.164	
13	-0.164	2.391	1.791	
14	1.791	1.038	0.438	





$$fx = A7/(A7+(1-A7)*EXP(-B3))$$

solution to logistic ODE

	А	В	С	
1				
2		Flow time:	Kick:	
3		0.4	-0.096	
4				
5	Pop. Size (x)	x after flow	x after kick	1.2 -
6	1.000	1.000	0.904	1-
7	0.904	0.934	0.838	0.8 - 111
8	0.838	0.885	0.789	0.6 -
9	0.789	0.848	0.752	0.4 -
10	0.752	0.819	0.723	0.2 -
11	0.723	0.796	0.700	0
12	0.700	0.776	0.680	
13	0.680	0.761	0.665	
14	0.665	0.747	0.651	
15	0.651	0.736	0.640	
16	0.640	0.726	0.630	
17	0.630	0.718	0.622	





https://tinyurl.com/fishkicks



An analytic solution

Flow-kick map $\Phi_{\tau,\kappa}(x) = \varphi(\tau,x) + \kappa$

Fixed point condition: $\Phi_{\tau,\kappa}(x) = x$

$$\varphi(\tau, x) + \kappa = x$$

$$\frac{x}{x + (1 - x)e^{-\tau}} + \kappa = x$$
:
$$x^{2} + (\kappa + 1)x + \frac{\kappa e^{-\tau}}{1 - e^{-\tau}} = 0$$

$$x = \frac{1}{2} \left[-\kappa - 1 \pm \sqrt{(\kappa + 1)^{2} - \frac{4\kappa e^{-\tau}}{1 - e^{-\tau}}} \right] \Delta$$

An analytic solution



Two fixed points



Meyer et al. 2018, Nat. Sustain. 1



Meyer et al. 2018, Nat. Sustain. 1



resilience to changes in management strategy

Part 1: Resilience frameworks

Part 2: Flow-kick models for quantifying resilience to repeated disturbances

Part 3: Climate applications

Resilience of the AMOC



Resilience of the AMOC



Illustration: Natalie Renier/WHOI.

Undisturbed flow dynamics



Salinity anomaly (non-dimensionalized)

Undisturbed flow dynamics



Salinity anomaly (non-dimensionalized)

Undisturbed flow dynamics



Salinity anomaly (non-dimensionalized)



Illustration: Natalie Renier/WHOI.

Gifford Miller / CU Boulder

Meyer et al. 2018, Nat. Sustain. 1



Meyer et al. 2018, Nat. Sustain. 1



Meyer et al. 2018, Nat. Sustain. 1



Beyond basins...

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WILEY Natural Resource Modeling

Resilience of socially valued properties of natural systems to repeated disturbance: A framework to support value-laden management decisions

Meyer et al. 2018, Nat. Sustain. 1



Computational Approaches

for finding flow-kick fixed points in \mathbb{R}^n

Simulate flow-kick trajectories

 → discover (some) stable
 flow-kick fixed points



• Newton's method on fixed point condition $\Phi_{\tau,\kappa}(x) = x$ (requires numerical approximation of $D\Phi_{\tau,\kappa}(x)$)

Example: Nonspatial Klausmeier Model



 $h' - wh^2 - mh$ biomass water

$$w' = -w - wb^2 + rain$$

(continuous r

or kicks $r\tau$) 3 vegetated avg. precip. rate (κ/τ) barren 0 6 τ

Example: Nonspatial Klausmeier Model



 $b' = \mu b^2 m b$ biomass *w*′ = wa

$$D = WD^{-} - MD$$

$$= -w - wb^{2} + rain$$
(continuous r
or kicks rr)



Summary

- There is no single way to measure resilience---to gain clarity, ask "resilience of what to what?"
- Flow-kick models quantify resilience of attracting states (or desired states) to regular repeated, discrete disturbances
- Triggers for regime shifts can be unexpected:
 - maintain average disturbance rate but lower frequency
 - maintain kick size, but deliver less frequently







connectedness --->

The adaptive cycle (from Panarchy, edited by Lance H. Gunderson and C.S. Holling: Figure 2-1 (page 34). Copyright © 2002 Island Press.