Eighth Workshop Dynamical Systems Applied
to Biology and Natural Sciences DSABNS 2017
Évora, Portugal, January 31st - February 3rd, 2017

NON-LINEAR EVOLUTIONARY MATRIX MODELS WITH MULTIPLE TRAIT

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One fundamental question in biology is population extinction and persistence, i.e., stability/instability of the extinction equilibrium and of non-extinction equilibria. In the case of nonlinear matrix models for structured populations, a bifurcation theorem answers this question when the projection matrix is primitive by showing the existence of a continuum of positive equilibria that bifurcates from the extinction equilibrium as the inherent population growth rate passes through 1. This theorem also characterizes the stability properties of the bifurcating equilibria by relating them to the direction of bifurcation, which is forward (backward) if, near the bifurcation point, the positive equilibria exist for inherent growth rates greater (less) than 1. In this paper we consider an evolutionary game theoretic version of a general nonlinear matrix model that includes the dynamics of a vector of mean phenotypic traits subject to natural selection.We extend the fundamental bifurcation theorem to this evolutionary model. We apply the results to an evolutionary version of a Ricker model with an added Allee component. This application illustrates the theoretical results and, in addition, several other interesting dynamic phenomena, such as backward bifurcation induced strong Allee effects.

J. M. Cushing and A. Veprauskas were supported by the U.S. National Science Foundation grant DMS 0917435. A. A. Pinto thanks the support of LIAADINESC TEC through program PEst, the Faculty of Sciences of University of Porto and Portuguese Foundation for Science and Technology (FCT-Fundação para a Ciência e a Tecnologia) through the Project reference PTDC/MAT-NAN/6890/2014. This work is financed

 ISBN: 978-989-98750-3-6

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by the ERDF-European Regional Development Fund through the Operational Programme for Competitiveness and Internationalisation-COMPETE 2020 Programme, and by National Funds through the FCT project "POCI- 01-0145-FEDER-006961". It is also supported by the project "NanoSTIMA:Macro-to-NanoHuman Sensing: Towards Integrated Multimodal Health Monitoring and Analytics/NORTE-01-0145-FEDER-000016" which is financed by the North Portugal Regional Operational Programme (NORTE 2020), under the PORTUGAL 2020 Partnership Agreement, and through the European Regional Development Fund (ERDF). F. Martins thanks the financial support of Portuguese Foundation for Science and Technology (FCT) through a PhD. scholarship of the programme MAP-PDMA. (Reference: PD/BD/105726/2014). The authors are grateful for the comments of two anonymous reviewers and the handling editor, which were exceptionally helpful in improving the paper.

ISBN: 978-989-98750-3-6