SIAM DS23 – MT2 – SPATIAL PATTERNS IN NATURE: AN ENTRY-LEVEL INTRODUCTION TO THEIR EMERGENCE & DYNAMICS

DYNAMICS OF EXISTING PATTERNS

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SETTING – pre-existing structures



These patterns are fully described by the location of the local structures

This section: How do they change over time?

Dynamics of patterns

- PDE: infinite-dimensional state space
- Reduction possible because of localised structures

DYNAMICS in two manners:

- 1. (SLOW) migratory movement of localised structures
- 2. (FAST) structural changes

[Pattern Adaptation] [Pattern Degradation]



1. SLOW pattern adaptation



Somaliland, 1948 [Macfadyen, 1950]

Somaliland, 2008

2. FAST Pattern Degradation



Niger, 1950 [Valentin, 1999]



Niger, 2008



Niger, 2010







Niger, 2011

Niger, 2014

Niger, 2016

Example system: dryland ecosystems [reminder]

Extended-Klausmeier model

$$w_t = w_{xx} + (h_x w)_x - w + a - wv^2$$

$$v_t = D^2 v_{xx} - mv + wv^2$$



Dynamics of pulses in extended-Klausmeier

1. <u>Pulse-location ODE</u>: describe movement of pulses

2. <u>Stability criterium</u>: test if configuration is feasible



Derivation of pulse-location ODE



$$w_t = w_{xx} + (h(\mathbf{x})_x w)_x - w + a(\mathbf{t}) - wv^2$$

$$v_t = D^2 v_{xx} - mv + wv^2$$

INNER regions:

$$0 = D^2 \boldsymbol{v}_{xx} - m\boldsymbol{v} + \boldsymbol{w}\boldsymbol{v}^2$$

$$\blacktriangleright v_p\left(x-P_j(\mathbf{t})\right)$$

OUTER regions:

$$0 = w_{xx} + (h(\mathbf{x})_x w)_x - w + a(\mathbf{t})$$

Match solutions at boundaries:

SLOW migratory movement of pulses



Comparison between full PDE and reduced ODE



2. Stability Criterium

Procedure:

Freeze solution in time

Study (quasi-steady) eigenvalues & eigenfunctions



Nonlinear prediction based on linear analysis

2. Stability Criterium

Enough resources to sustain all vegetation patches? Depends on **amount of rainfall** and **distance between pulses**



high rainfall

medium rainfall

low rainfall

2. Stability Criterium

Enough resources to sustain all vegetation patches? Depends on **amount of rainfall** and **distance between pulses**



Comparison between full PDE and reduced ODE



Pulses during climate change (1)

Competition of two effects:

- 1. Pulse rearrangement
- 2. Shrinking of feasible region

fast climate change



Pulses during climate change (2)

Competition of two effects:

- 1. Pulse rearrangement
- 2. Shrinking of feasible region





Pulses during climate change (3)



General Considerations

Stability of Stationary States



Bifurcations









Destabilizations in 2D



Until now $u_t = u_{xx} + F(u)$ Adding another spatial dimension: $u_t = u_{xx} + u_{yy} + F(u)$

Destabilizations in 2D



 $u_t = u_{xx} + F(u)$ Adding another spatial dimension: $u_t = u_{xx} + u_{yy} + F(u)$

Solution in 2D: $u^*(x, y) = u^*_{1D}(x)$

For stability analysis, use $u(x, y) = u_{1D}^*(x) + e^{iky}e^{\lambda t}\overline{u}(x)$ to get: $\lambda \overline{u} = (\partial_x^2 - k^2)\overline{u} - F_u(u^*)\overline{u}$

Fingering instability



Fernandez-Oto et al. Front instabilities can reverse desertification. PRL, 2019

Summary – Dynamics of existing patterns

Dynamics of patterned states is a combination of:

1. SLOW Pattern Adaptation

At bifurcation: → Location of structure changes

2. FAST Pattern Degradation

At bifurcation:

 \rightarrow Structures created or destroyed

Slides available at: bastiaansen.github.io/ MTpatterns/patternMT .html

