

L'**ecologia delle popolazioni** studia la struttura e la dinamica delle popolazioni. Insieme alla **genetica delle popolazioni** forma una disciplina più generale, ovvero la **biologia delle popolazioni**.

“Popolazione”:

- *in genetica*: un insieme di individui della stessa specie che si incrociano, in isolamento da altri insiemi di individui della stessa specie.
- *in ecologia*: un insieme di individui della stessa specie che vive in una determinata area geografica.

Problema principale: derivare le caratteristiche delle popolazioni dalle caratteristiche degli individui e derivare la dinamica dei processi delle popolazioni dalla dinamica dei processi individuali.

Ad esempio:

	individuo	popolazione
caratteristica	sexo	rapporto dei sessi
processo	morte	mortalità

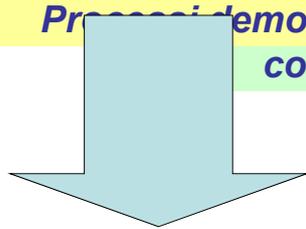
Assioma: tutti gli individui di una popolazione sono ecologicamente equivalenti.

In altre parole, tutti gli individui di una popolazione:

- hanno lo stesso ciclo vitale
- sono implicati negli stessi processi ecologici (a parità di stadio di sviluppo)
- i tassi di tali processi o le probabilità di determinati eventi sono statisticamente identici

$$N_{t+1} = N_t + \text{nati} - \text{morti} + \text{immigrati} - \text{emigrati}$$

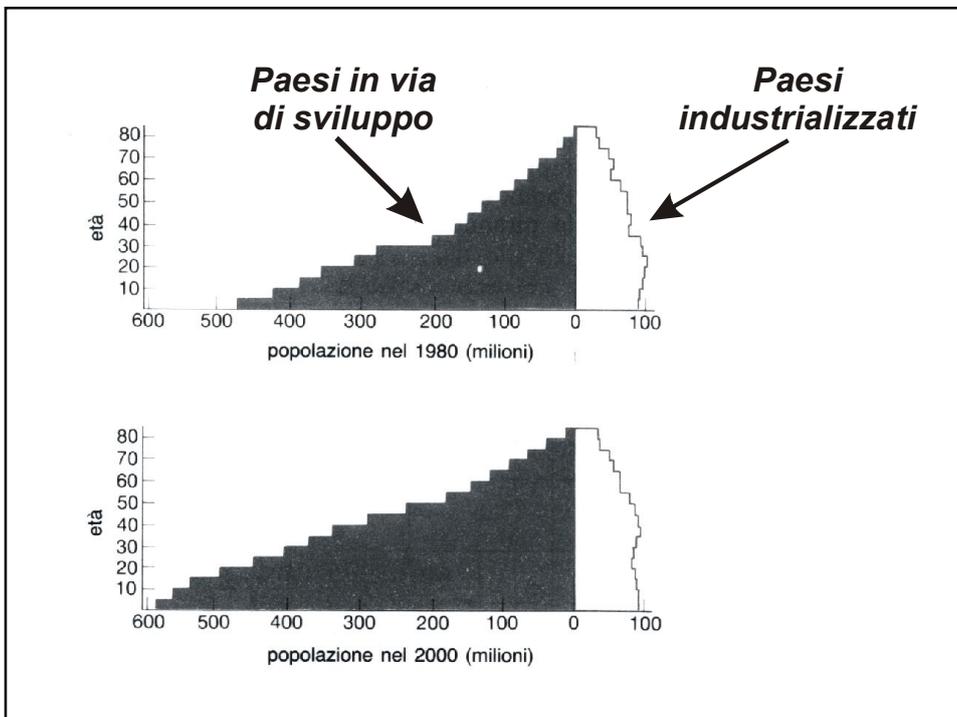
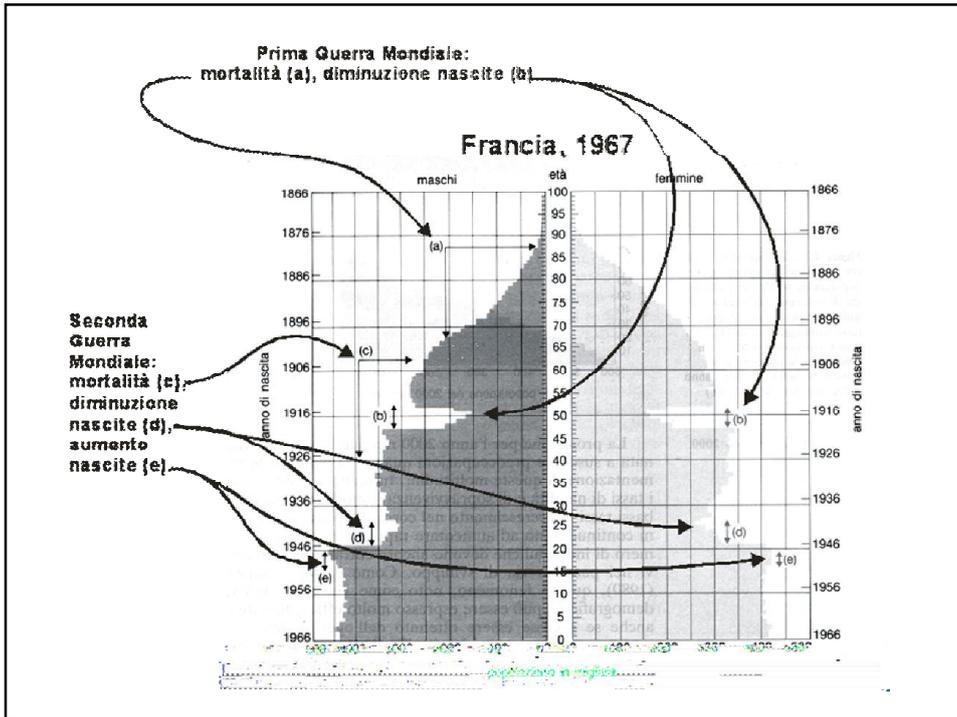
*Processi demografici
come nulli*

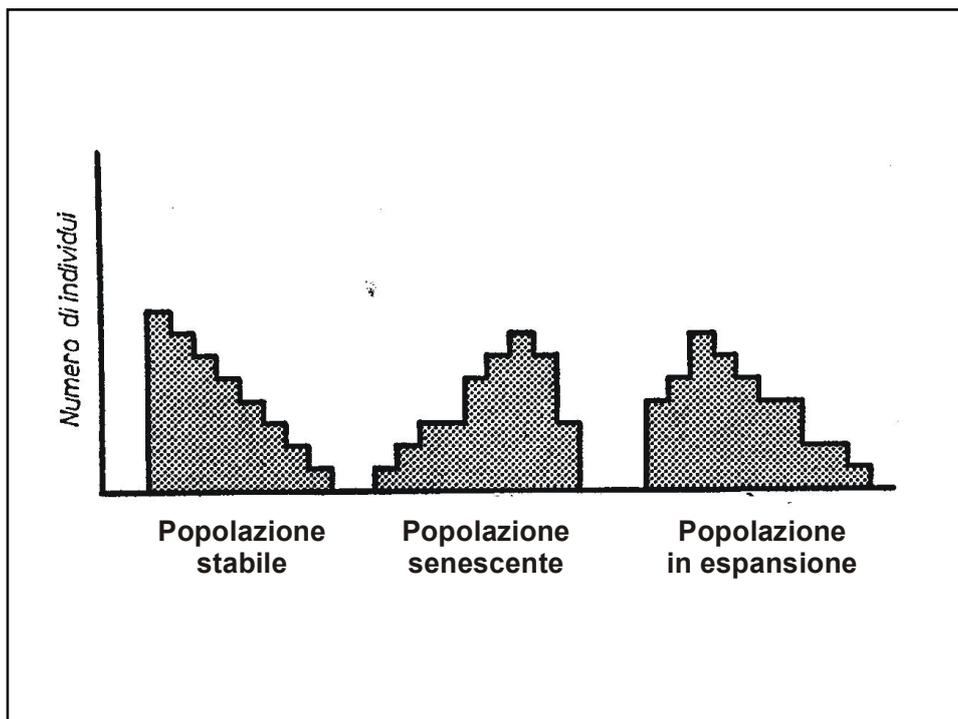


$$N_{t+1} = N_t + \text{nati} - \text{morti}$$

N → numero di individui nella popolazione

Ma cosa è un individuo?

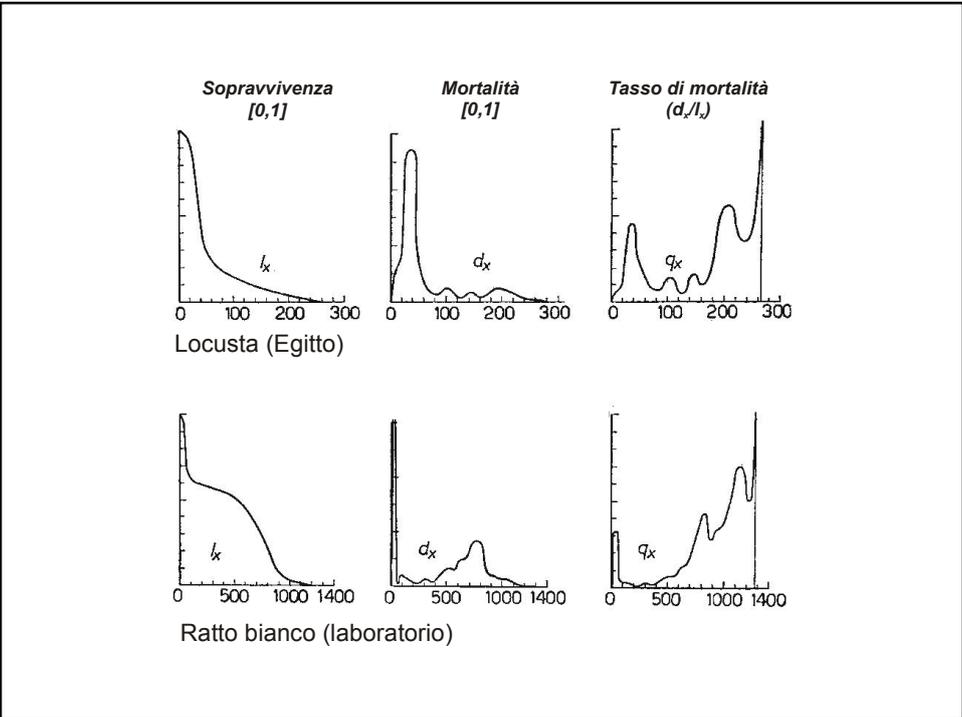
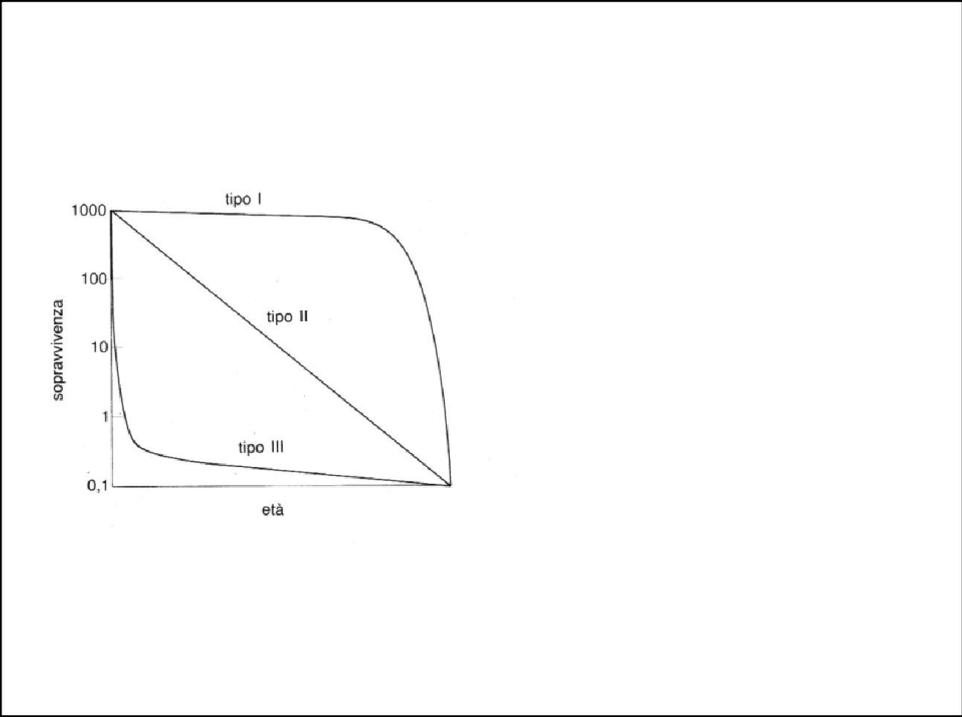


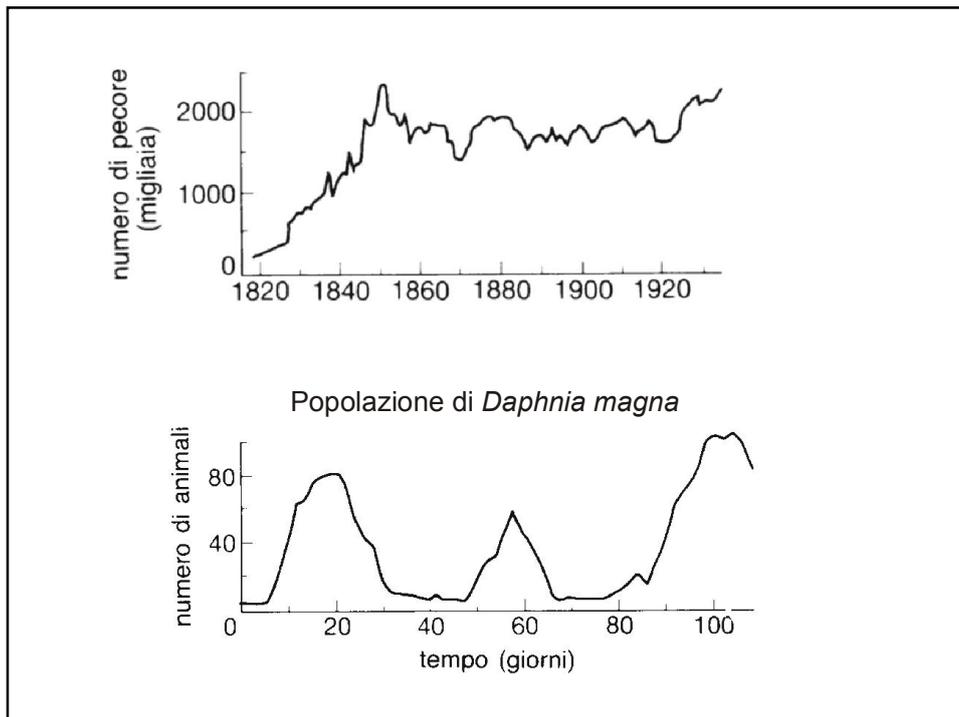


Cervo nobile (*Cervus elaphus*), Isola di Rhum, Scozia

Tavola di mortalità per coorte

Età (anni) x	Percentuale della coorte iniziale che sopravvive fino all'inizio della classe di età x l_x	Percentuale della coorte iniziale che muore durante la classe di età x d_x	Tasso di mortalità q_x
1	1,000	0	0
2	1,000	0,061	0,061
3	0,939	0,185	0,197
4	0,754	0,249	0,330
5	0,505	0,200	0,396
6	0,305	0,119	0,390
7	0,186	0,054	0,290
8	0,132	0,107	0,810
9	0,025	0,025	1,0

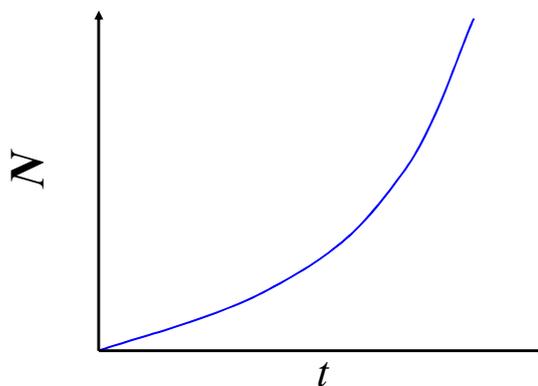




Modello esponenziale (T.R. Malthus, 1766-1834)

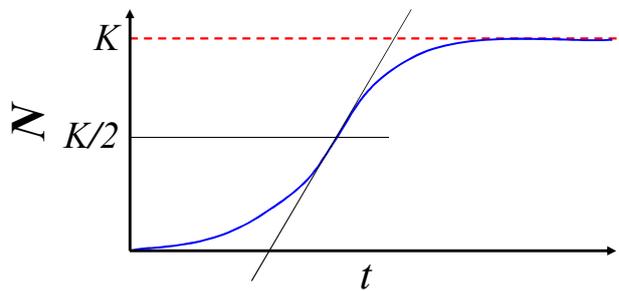
$$\frac{dN}{dt} = rN$$

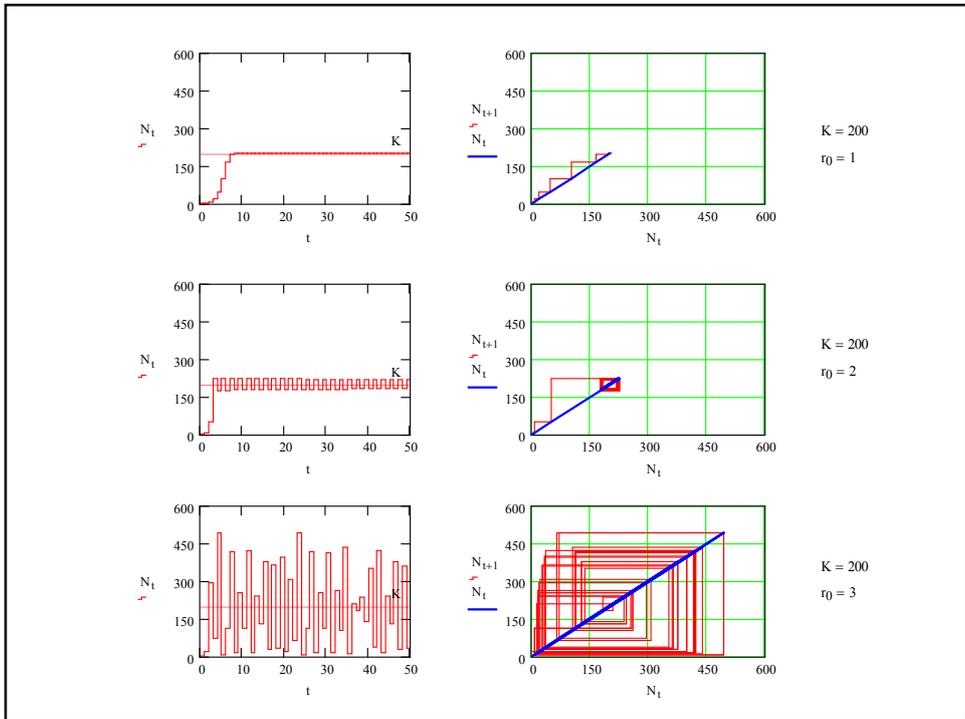
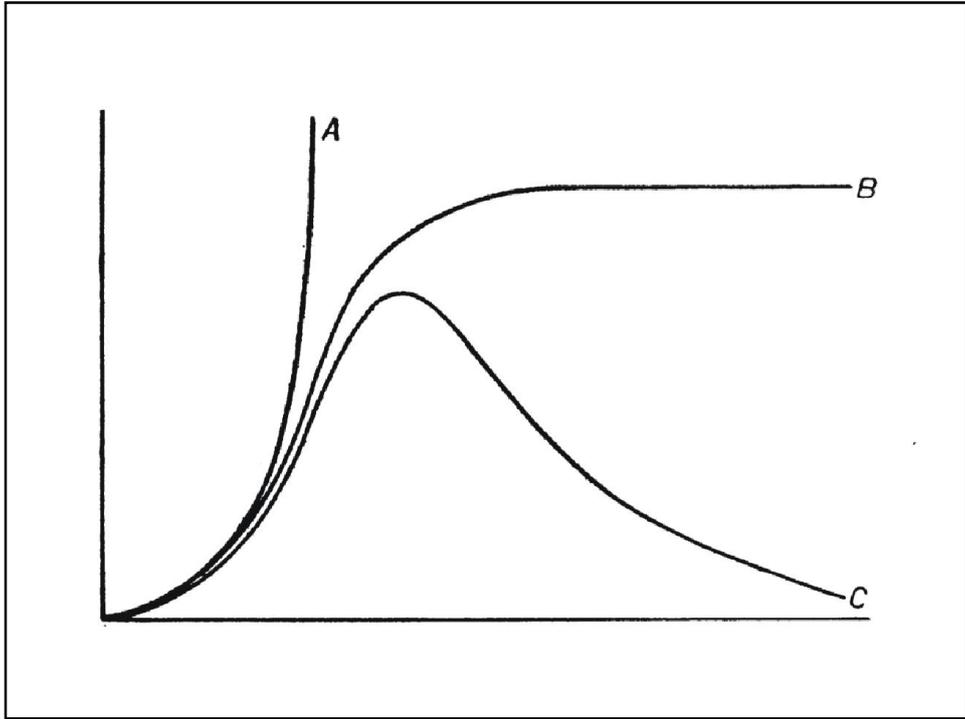
$$r = b - d$$

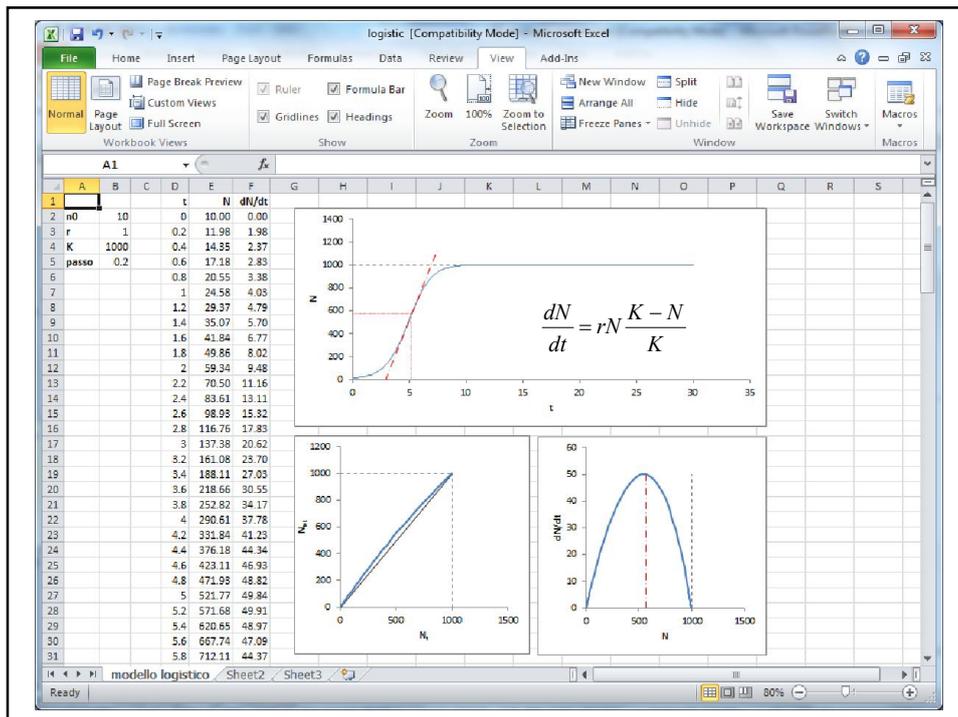


**Modello logistico (P. Verhulst, 1838):
competizione intraspecifica**

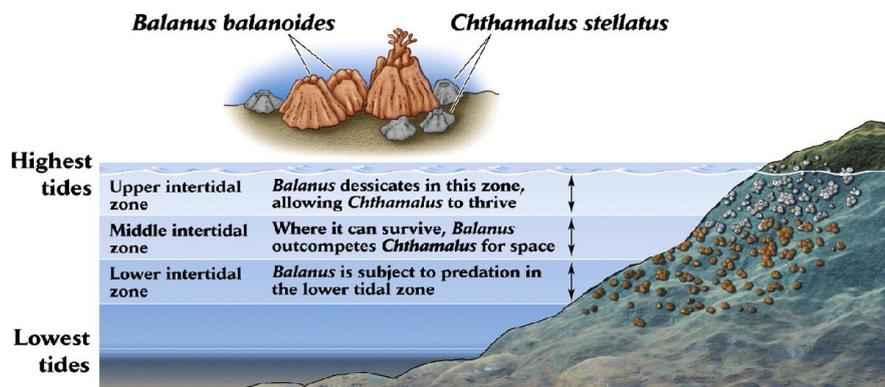
$$\frac{dN}{dt} = rN \frac{K - N}{K}$$







Competizione interspecifica

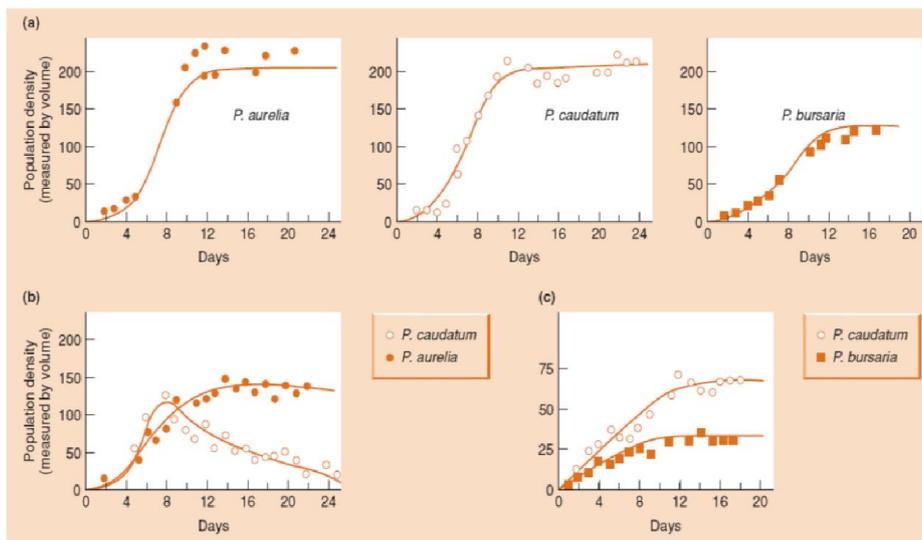


Competizione interspecifica

- Esperimenti di G.F. Gause in Russia nel 1934-35
- *Paramecium aurelia*, *Paramecium caudatum*, *Paramecium bursaria*
- *Paramecium aurelia* **esclude** *Paramecium caudatum*
- *Paramecium bursaria* **coesiste con** *Paramecium caudatum*



Competizione interspecifica



Competizione interspecifica

- *Paramecium aurelia* è più efficiente nell'uso delle risorse condivise (batteri e cellule di lievito) di *Paramecium caudatum*
- *Paramecium bursaria* utilizza prevalentemente le cellule di lievito al fondo dei tubi di coltura, *Paramecium caudatum* i batteri in sospensione
- In competizione, nessuna specie raggiunge la capacità portante che raggiungerebbe senza competizione

Competizione interspecifica

- *Paramecium caudatum*
 - Strettamente eterotrofo
 - Ha bisogno di O₂
- *Paramecium bursaria*
 - Autotrofo, ma si nutre anche di cellule di lievito
 - Ha alghe endosimbionti e quindi produce O₂
 - Può nutrirsi al fondo dei tubi di coltura
- Le due specie usano risorse differenti
- La competizione interspecifica è debole, quindi ci può essere coesistenza

Principio di esclusione competitiva

Due specie in continua e diretta competizione per una risorsa limitante non possono coesistere

**Modello logistico (P. Verhulst, 1838):
competizione intraspecifica**

$$\frac{dN}{dt} = rN \frac{K - N}{K}$$

$$N = N_1 + \alpha_{12} N_2$$

Coefficiente di competizione:
(1 ind. $N_2 = \alpha_{12}$ "N₁-equivalenti")

$$\frac{dN_1}{dt} = r_1 N_1 \frac{K_1 - (N_1 + \alpha_{12} N_2)}{K_1}$$

**Modello di Lotka (1925) e Volterra (1926):
competizione intra- ed interspecifica**

$$\left\{ \begin{array}{l} \frac{dN_1}{dt} = r_1 N_1 \frac{K_1 - (N_1 + \alpha_{12} N_2)}{K_1} \\ \frac{dN_2}{dt} = r_2 N_2 \frac{K_2 - (N_2 + \alpha_{21} N_1)}{K_2} \end{array} \right.$$

$$\frac{dN_1}{dt} = r_1 N_1 \frac{K_1 - (N_1 + \alpha_{12} N_2)}{K_1}$$

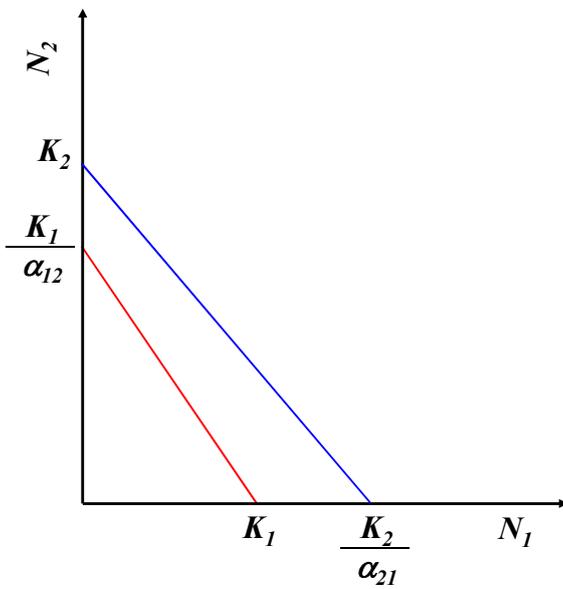
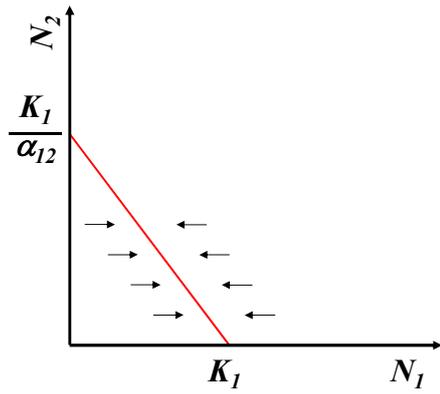
$$\frac{dN_1}{dt} = 0 \quad \text{se:} \quad \begin{array}{l} r_1 = 0 \\ N_1 = 0 \end{array} \quad (\text{triviale!})$$

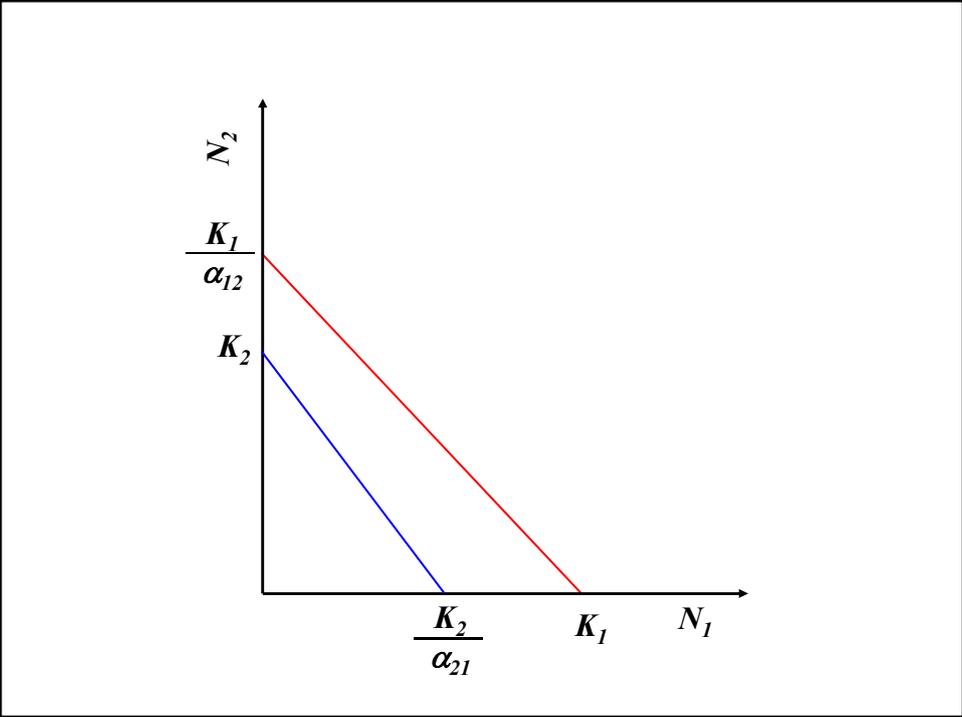
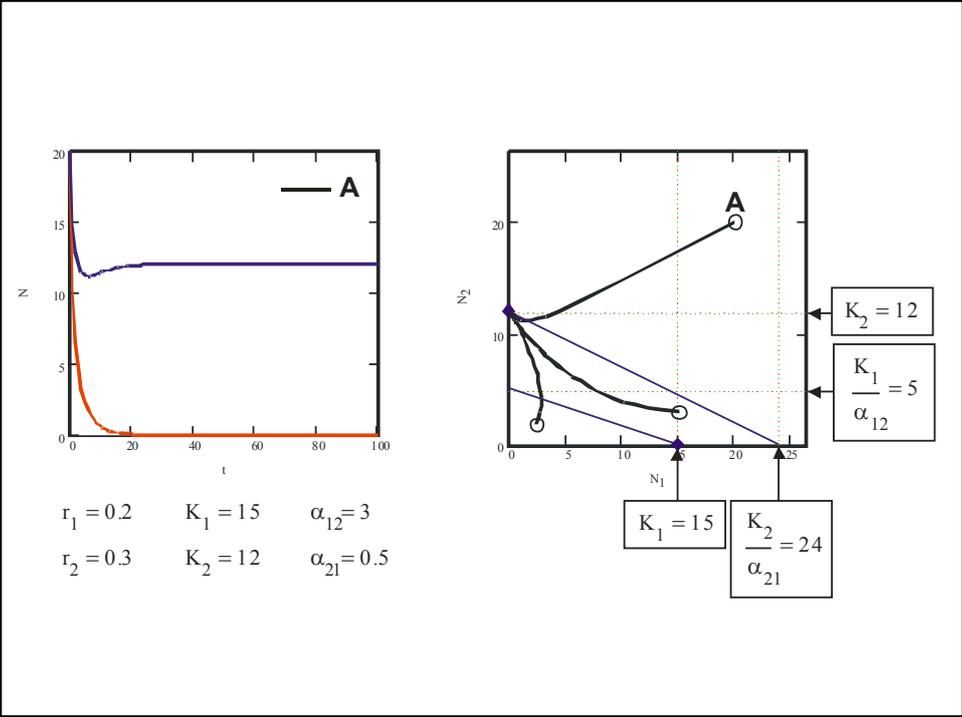
$$\frac{K_1 - (N_1 + \alpha_{12} N_2)}{K_1} = 0$$

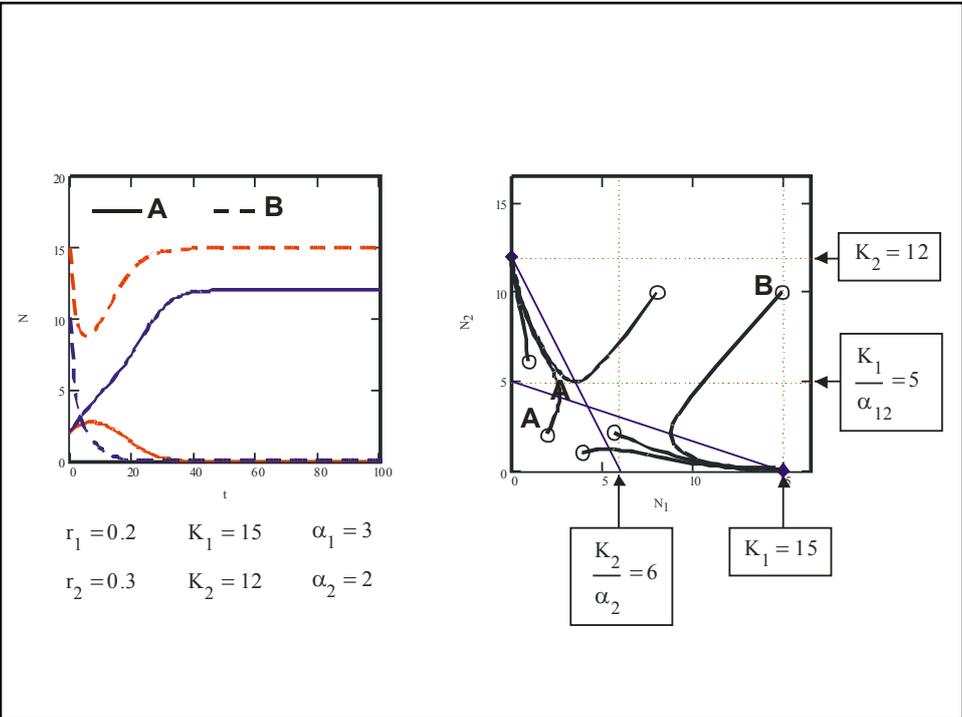
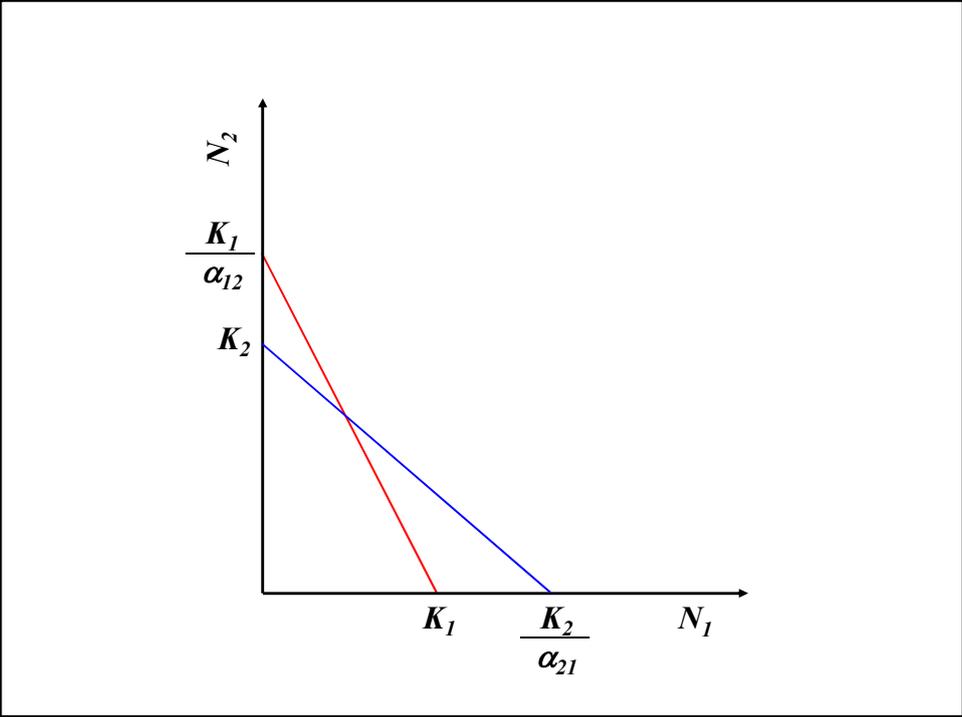
$$N_1 + \alpha_{12} N_2 = K_1$$

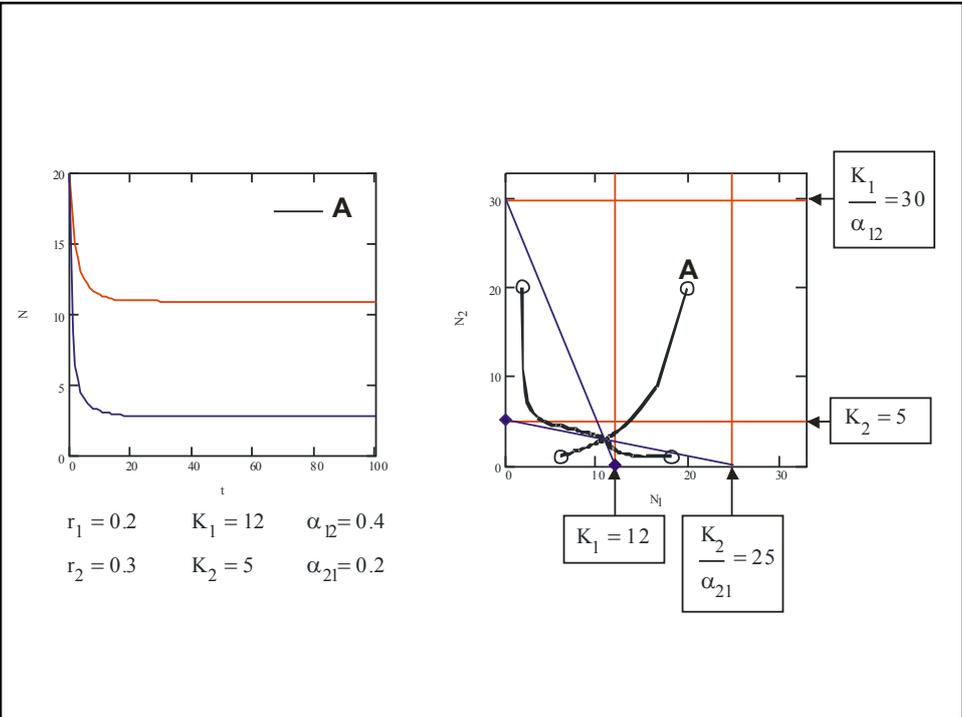
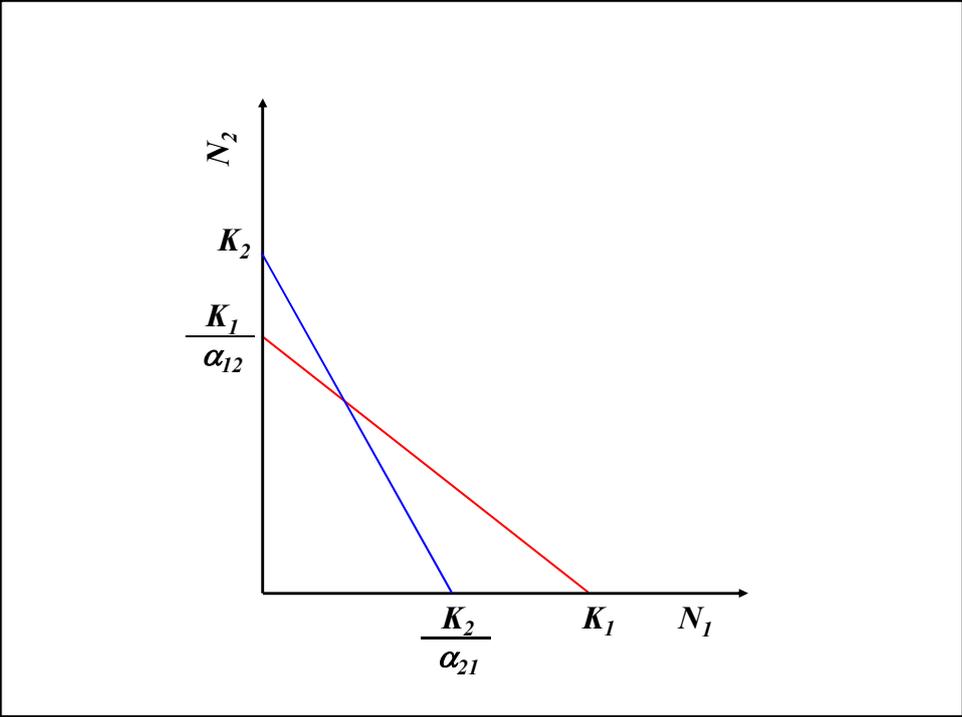
$$\left\{ \begin{array}{l} N_1 = K_1 \\ N_2 = 0 \end{array} \right\} \quad \left\{ \begin{array}{l} N_1 = 0 \\ N_2 = \frac{K_1}{\alpha_{12}} \end{array} \right.$$

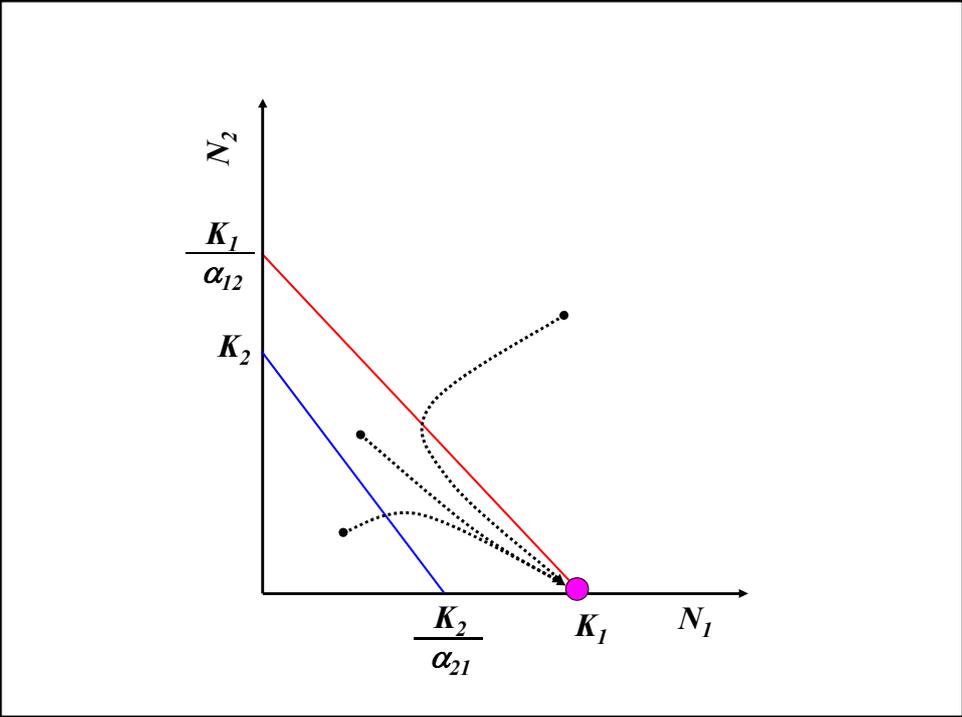
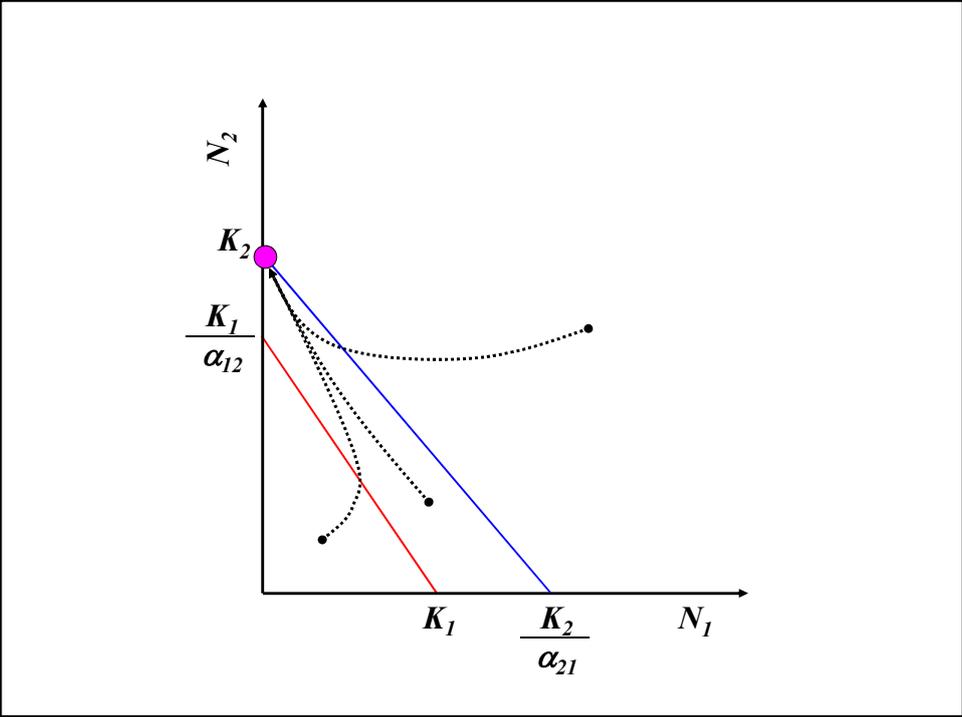
$$\begin{cases} N_1 = K_1 \\ N_2 = 0 \end{cases} \quad \begin{cases} N_1 = 0 \\ N_2 = \frac{K_1}{\alpha_{12}} \end{cases}$$

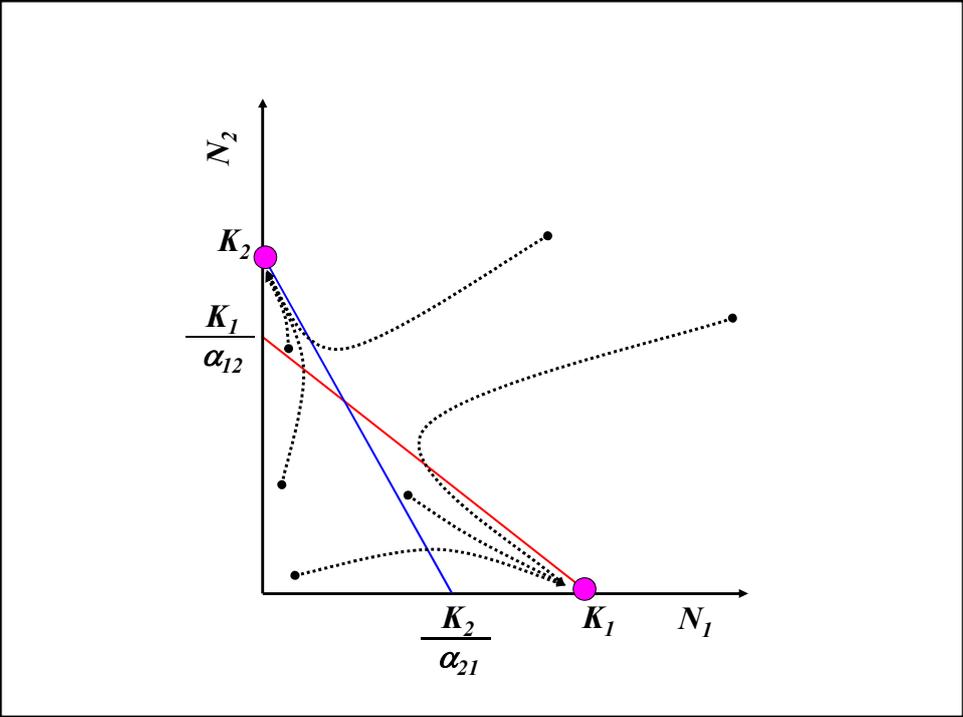
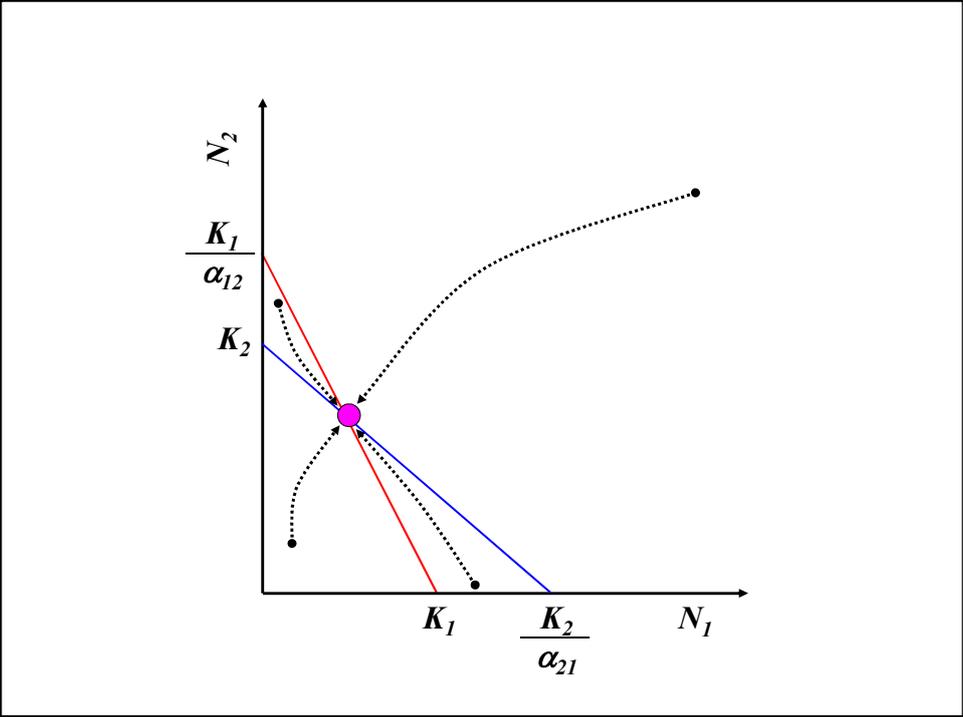


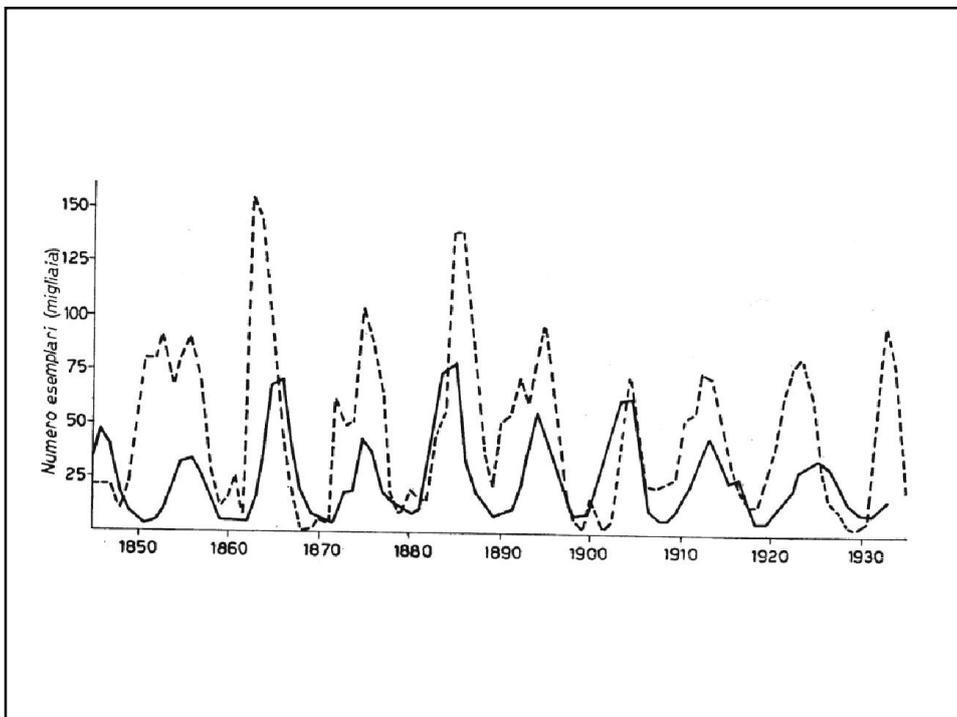
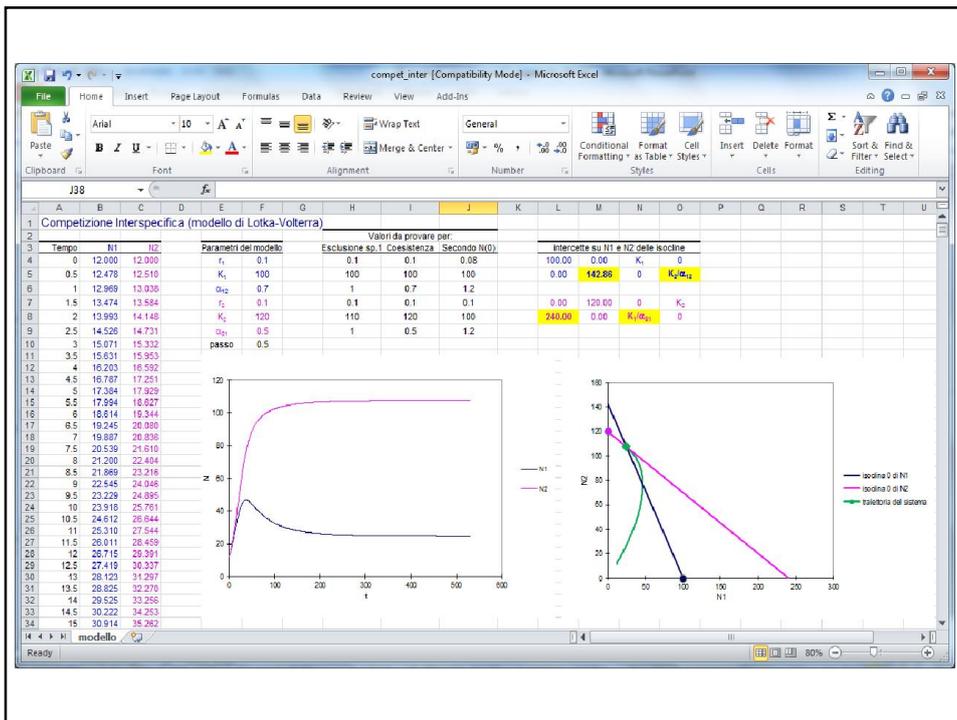


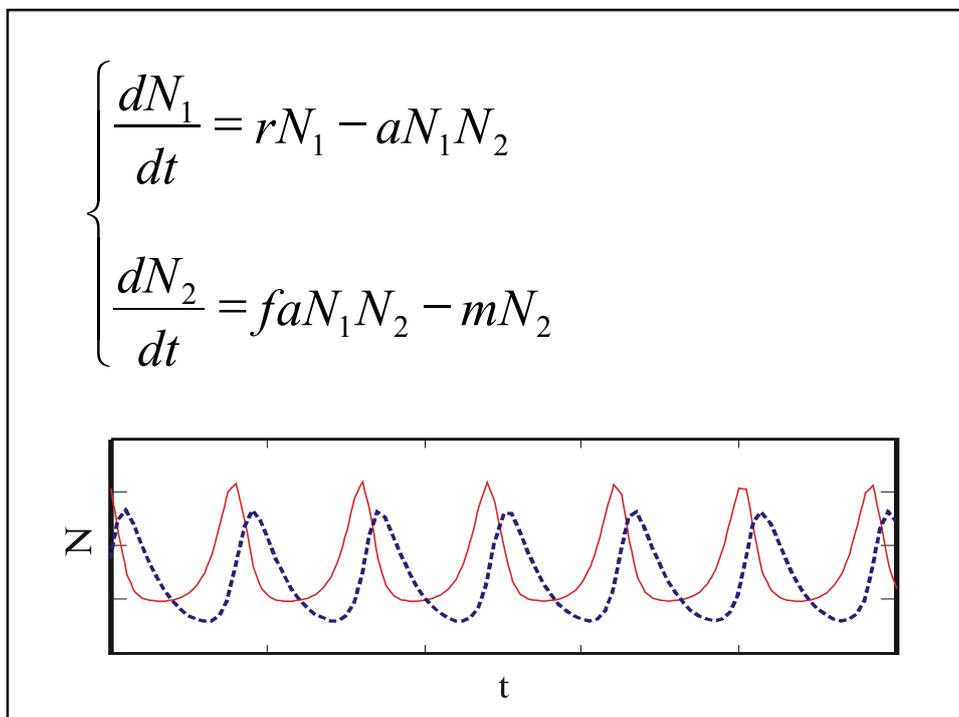
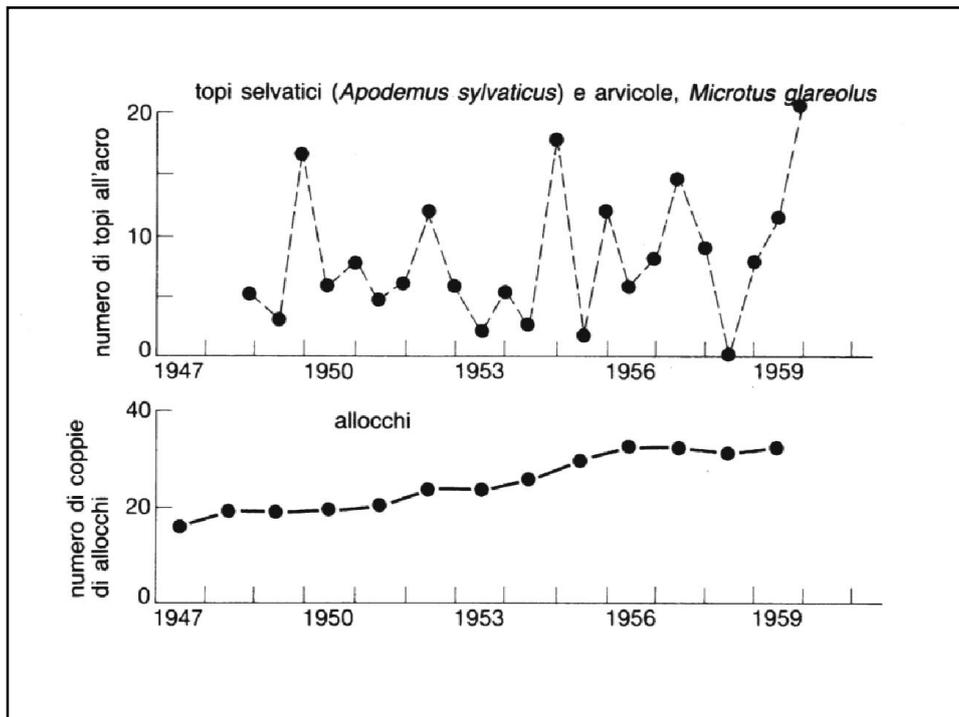


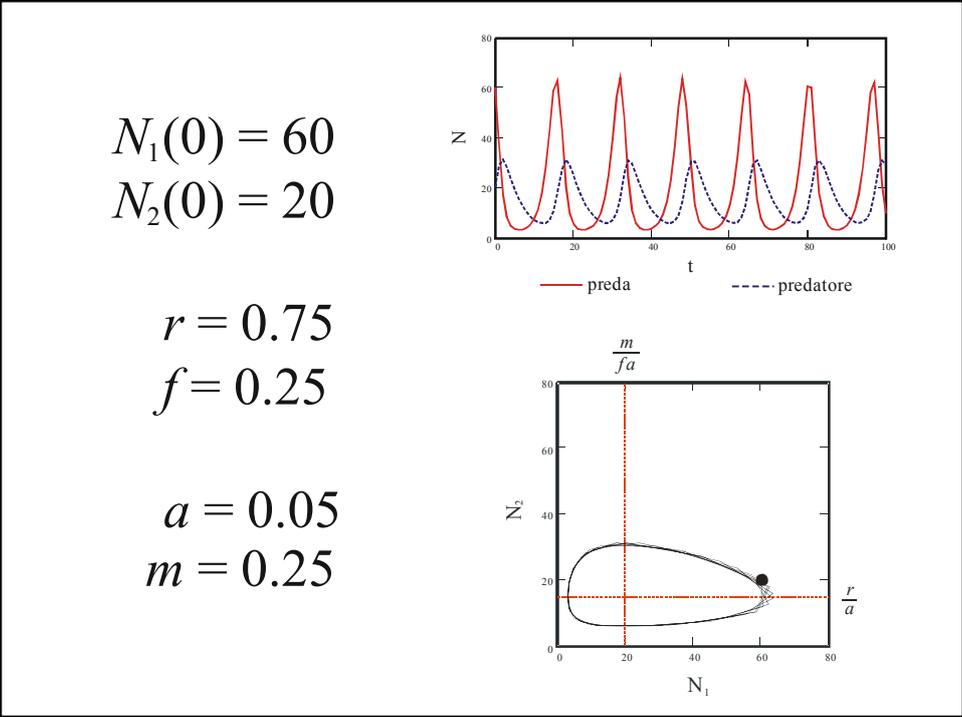
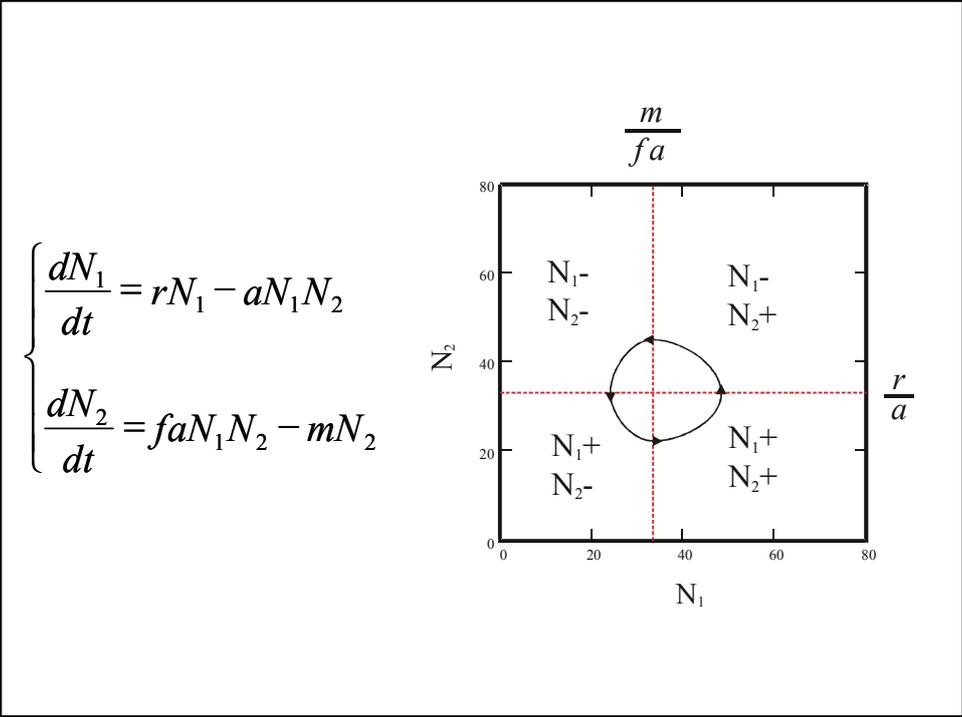


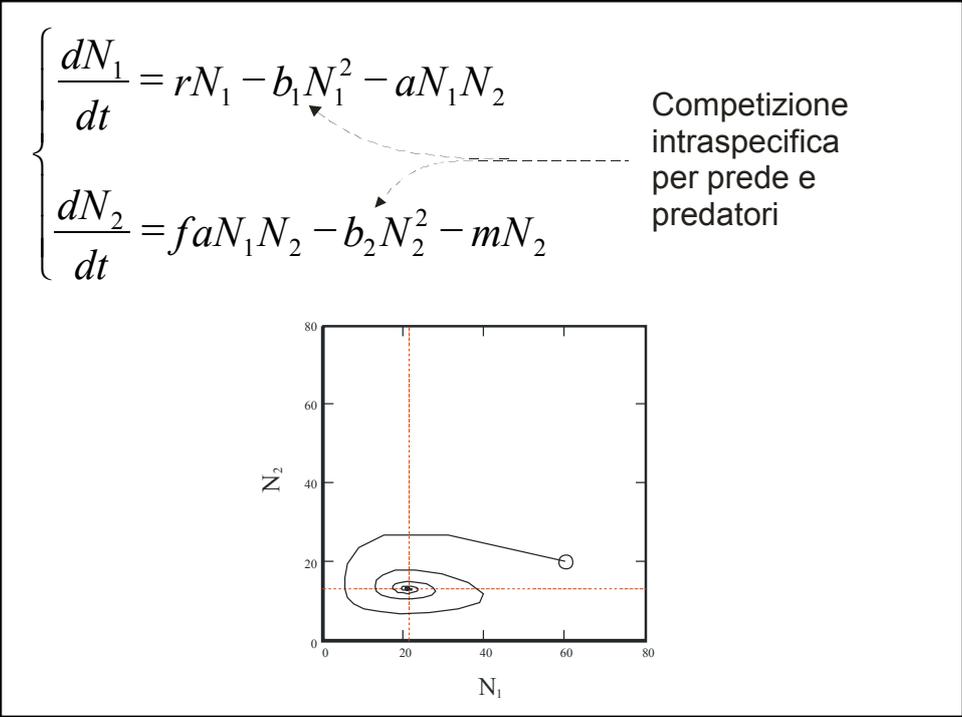
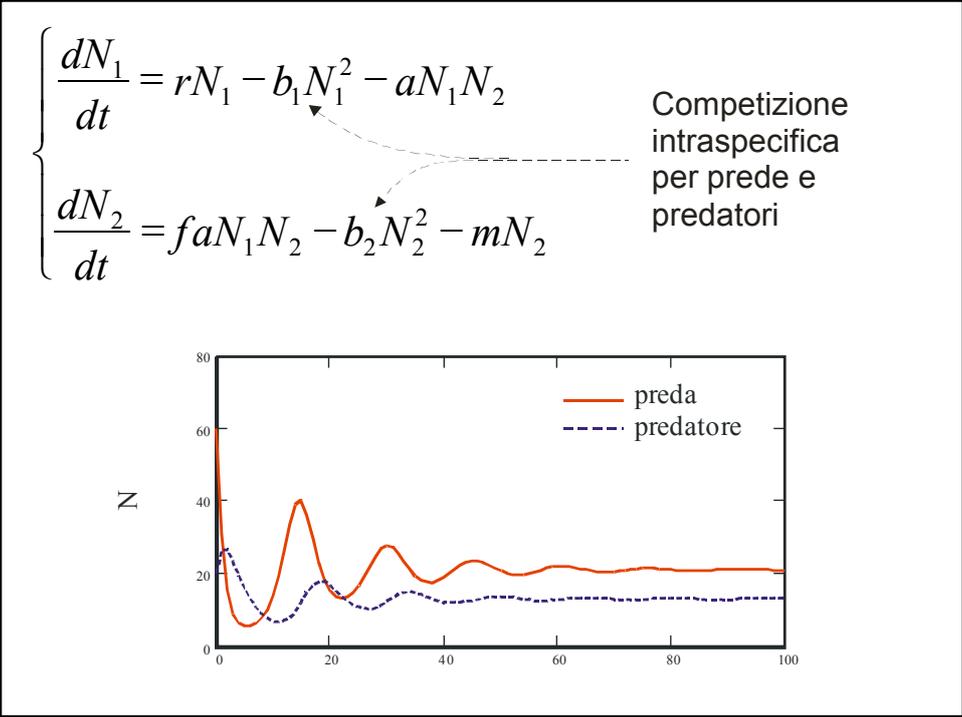


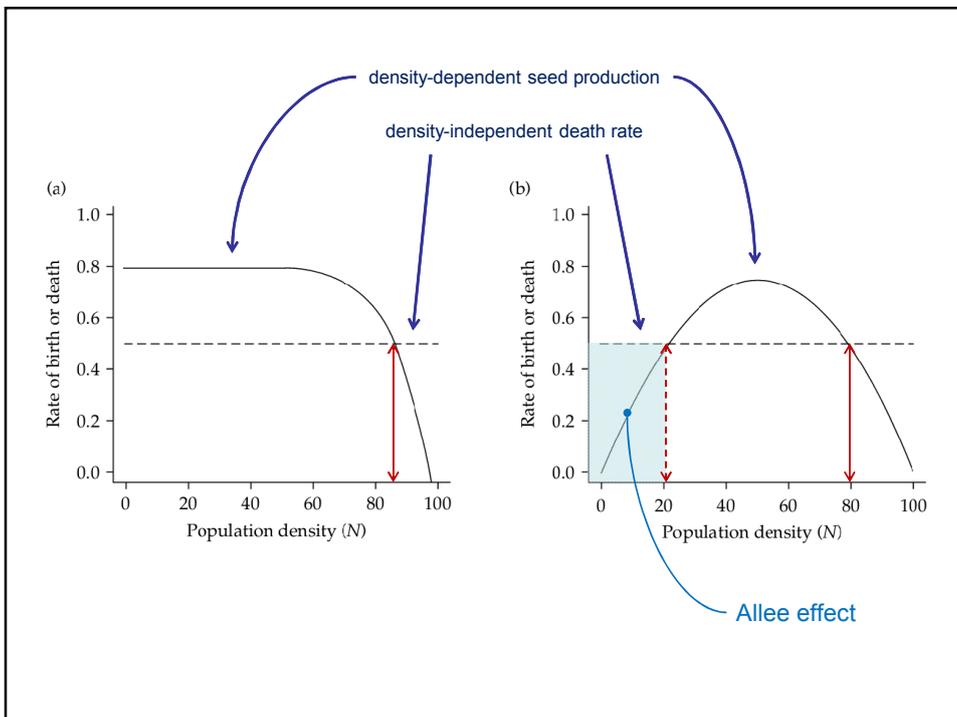
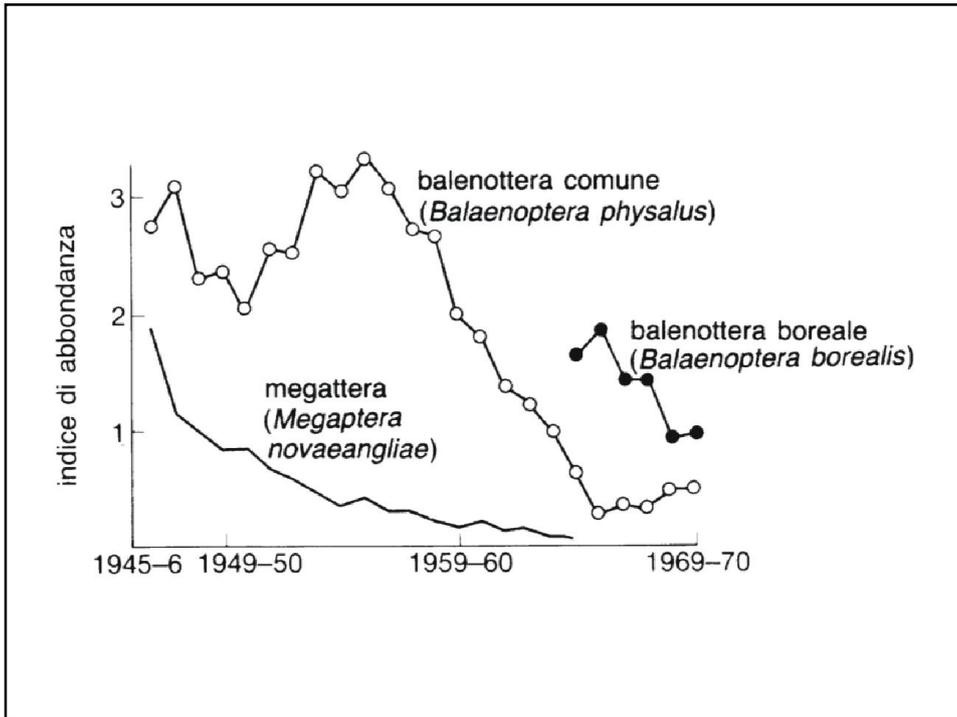


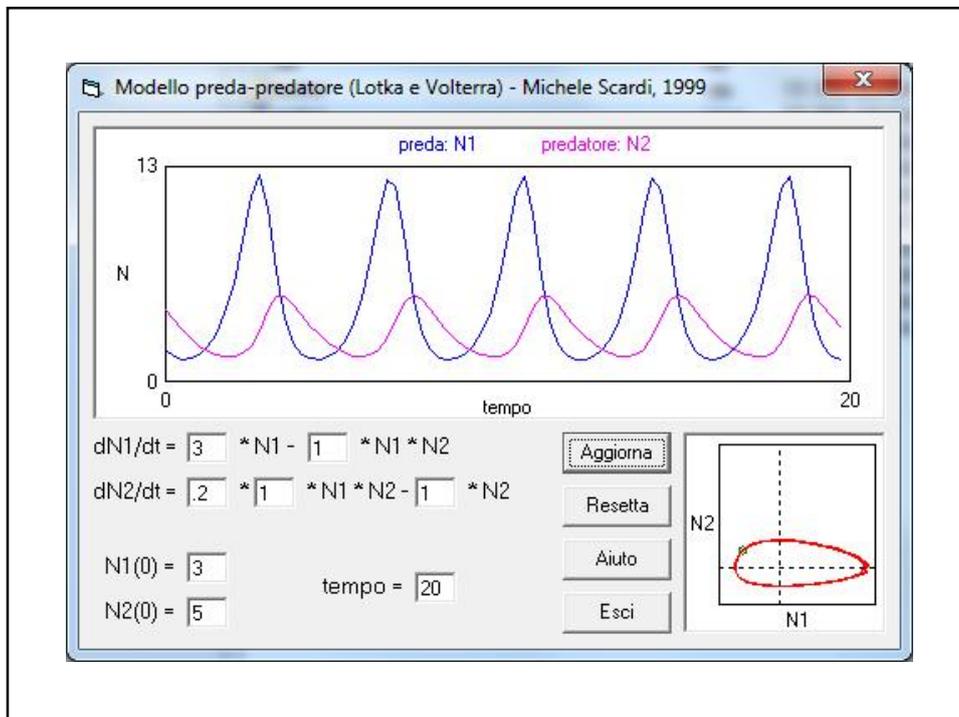
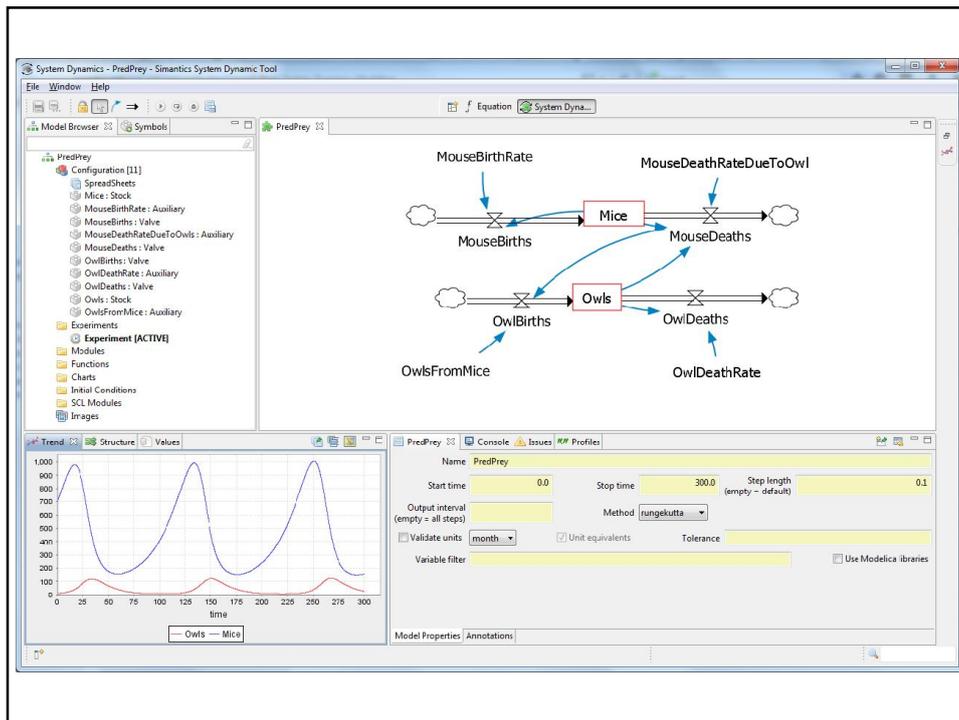


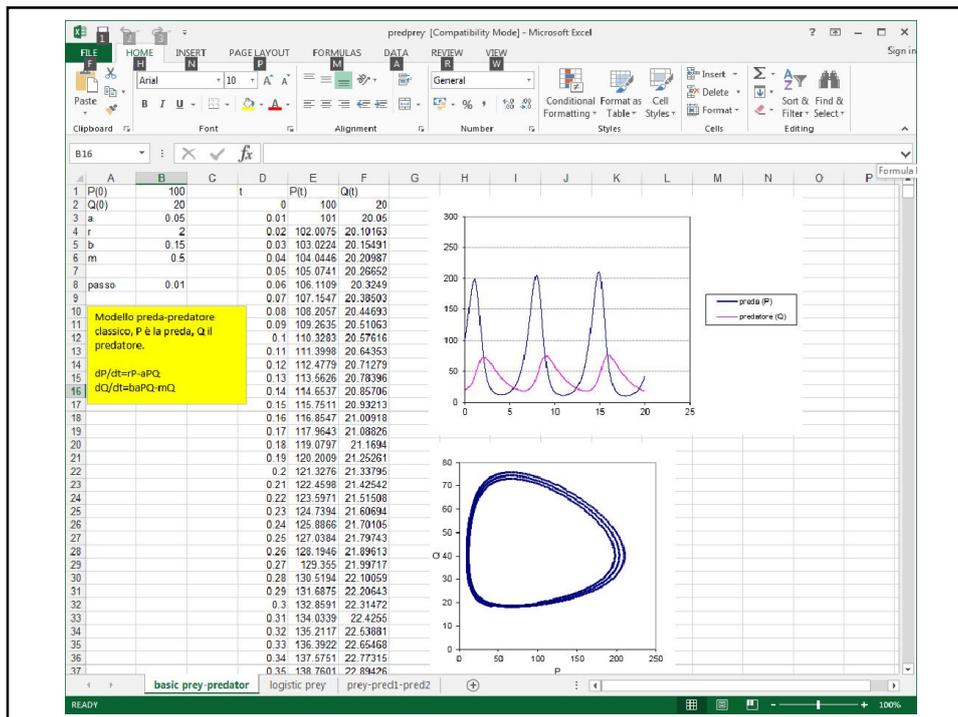












COMPUTER RECREATIONS

*Sharks and fish wage an ecological war on the toroidal planet **Wa-Tor***

by A. K. Dewdney

Somewhere, in a direction that can only be called recreational at a distance limited only by one's programming prowess, the planet **Wa-Tor** swims among the stars. It is shaped like a torus, or doughnut, and is entirely covered with water. The two dominant denizens of Wa-Tor are sharks and fish, so called because these are the terrestrial creatures they most closely resemble. The sharks of Wa-Tor eat the fish and the fish of Wa-Tor seem always to be in plentiful supply.

A few minutes later the summary of current statistics displayed on Magi's screen told the story: there were now 578 fish and just 68 sharks. Someone walked into Magi's office and ran out again. Before five minutes had elapsed the room was crowded with people cheering on the sharks. Slowly a wall of sharks closed in on the hapless fish. Elsewhere on the screen a small school of fish slowly multiplied unnoticed. Groans went up when the large school of fish finally disappeared and

a VAX computer, has set up an ocean that is 80 points wide and 23 points high. My own version of WATOR, written for an IBM PC, uses a humbler, 32-by-14 ocean.

Time passes in discrete jumps, which I shall call chronons. During each chronon a fish or shark may move north, east, south or west to an adjacent point, provided the point is not already occupied by a member of its own species. A random-number generator makes the actual choice. For a fish the choice is simple: select one unoccupied adjacent point at random and move there. If all four adjacent points are occupied, the fish does not move. Since hunting for fish takes priority over mere movement, the rules for a shark are more complicated: from the adjacent points occupied by fish, select one at random, move there and devour the fish. If no fish are in the neighborhood, the shark moves just as a fish does, avoiding its fellow sharks.

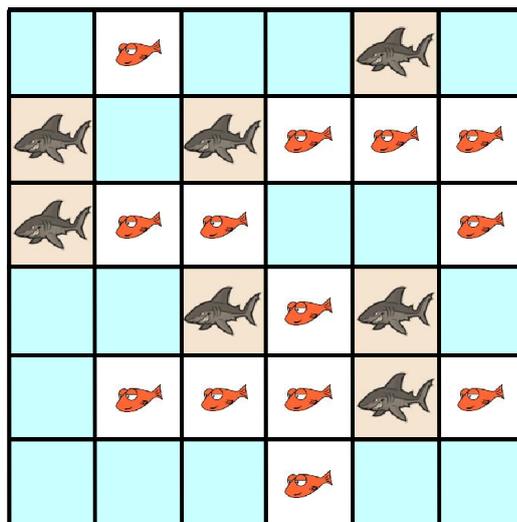
The creator of WATOR selects five parameters in order to set up a given simulation. The parameters *nfish* and *nsharks* represent the numbers of fish and sharks at the beginning of a run. The program distributes the specified numbers of fish and sharks randomly and more or less uniformly across the plane.



PC IBM
1981-1987

Prezzo (USA) 1565 \$
CPU Intel 8088 4.77 MHz
RAM 16 kB/256 kB

Wa-Tor



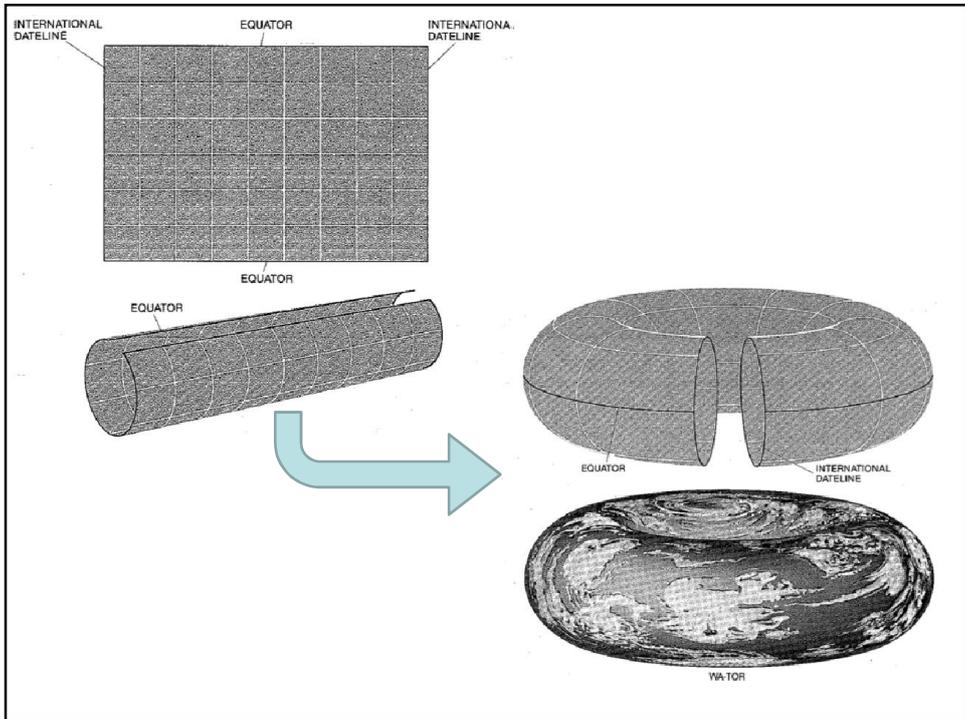
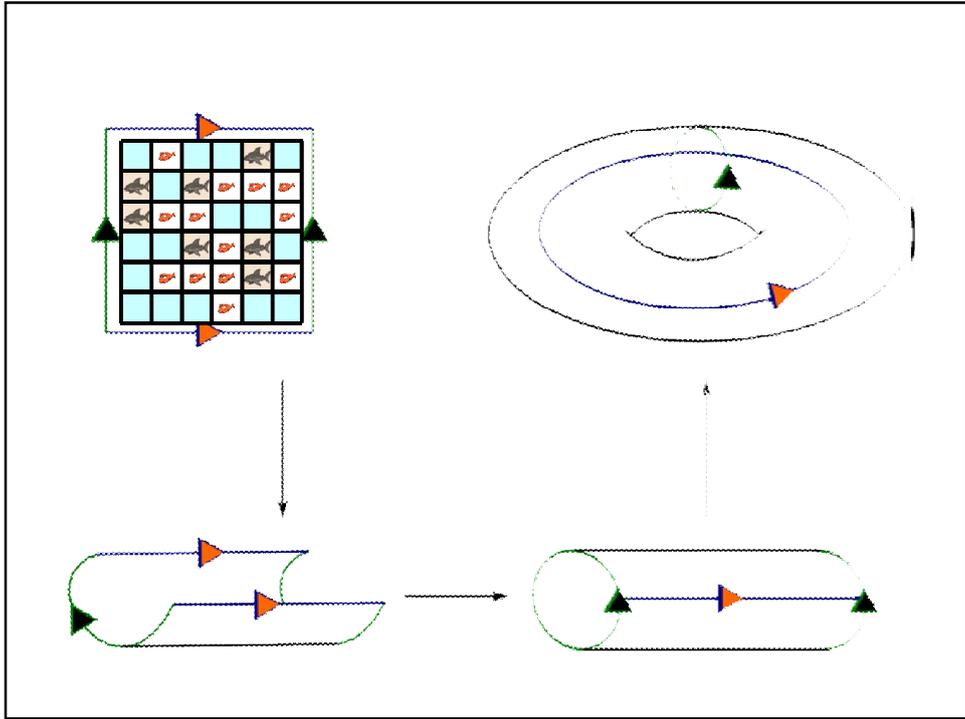
Pesce (preda)



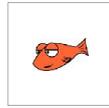
Squalo (predatore)



Cella libera

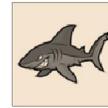


Regole per i pesci



1. ad ogni epoca, ogni pesce si muove a caso in una delle celle adiacenti libere;
2. se non ci sono celle libere, il pesce non si muove;
3. trascorse almeno N epoche, un pesce che si sposta lascia un nuovo nato nella sua cella e azzerava il contatore delle epoche;
4. se non si può muovere, non si riproduce.

Regole per gli squali



1. ad ogni epoca, ogni squalo si muove a caso in una delle caselle adiacenti libere da squali;
2. ad ogni epoca ogni squalo usa un'unità di energia;
3. se uno squalo si muove in una casella che contiene un pesce, lo mangia e incamera una certa quantità di energia;
4. quando l'energia incamerata supera una determinata soglia, se uno squalo si può muovere, allora lascia un nuovo nato nella sua cella e si sposta in una cella adiacente;
5. squalo padre e squalo figlio avranno ciascuno metà dell'energia dello squalo padre;
6. se l'energia di uno squalo cala oltre un determinato livello, lo squalo muore.

Wa-Tor

