

Contents

1 The Basics, 3

- 1.1 Introduction: Biology, constraints and trade-offs, 3
- 1.2 An example: Formalizing constraints and trade-offs, 4
- 1.3 A brief digression on probability, 5
- 1.4 The algorithm of stochastic dynamic programming, 7
- 1.5 Computer implementation, 9
- 1.6 Evaluating the fitness of alternative strategies, 18
- 1.7 Developing a dynamic state variable model, 20
- 1.8 A model for feeding by the three-spined stickleback, 30
- 1.9 The role of dynamic state variable models in ecology, 38
- 1.10 Examples of projects, 40
- Appendix: Rate-maximizing theories of diet selection and habitat choice, 45

2 Some Details of Technique, 49

- 2.1 Linear interpolation, 49
- 2.2 Sequential coupling, 52
- 2.3 Forward iteration and Monte Carlo simulation, 54
- 2.4 The critical level of reserves, 57
- 2.5 Environmental state variables, 57
- 2.6 Errors in decisions, 60
- 2.7 Variable constraints, 61
- 2.8 Functional forms, 67

3 Using the Model, 71

- 3.1 Levels of detail in model predictions, 71
- 3.2 Comparing models and data, 72
- 3.3 Obtaining and analyzing predictions, 78
- 3.4 Sensitivity analysis, 80
- 3.5 Suboptimality analysis, 81

4 Oviposition Behavior of Insect Parasitoids, 82

- 4.1 Parasitoid life histories, 82
- 4.2 Fixed clutch models, 86

- 4.3 A dynamic but state-independent model, 89
- 4.4 The proovigenic parasitoid, 95
- 4.5 The synovigenic parasitoid: Eggs and reserves, 99
- 4.6 Discussion, 102

5 Winter Survival Strategies, 108

- 5.1 Foraging and fattening strategies for willow tits, 108
- 5.2 Social interaction, 118
- 5.3 Experiments suggested by the model, 121
- 5.4 Models of hoarding behavior, 122
- 5.5 Long-term hoarding, 124
- 5.6 Overwinter foraging by juvenile salmon, 132
- 5.7 A state variable model for overwinter lipid dynamics, 133
- 5.8 Empirical test of the predictions, 136

6 Avian Migration, 139

- 6.1 The energetics of bird migration, 140
- 6.2 Optimal fuel loads, 144
- 6.3 A dynamic state variable model of single-flight migration, 147
- 6.4 Spring migration of western sandpipers, 149

7 Human Behavioral Ecology, 161

- 7.1 Dynamic discarding in fisheries, 161
- 7.2 Optimal reproductive strategies in !kung bushmen females, 167

8 Conservation Biology, 173

- 8.1 Assessing the fitness consequences of environmental change, 173
- 8.2 Using fire rotation schemes to maximize the persistence of
midsuccessional species, 176
- 8.3 Managing a metapopulation, 180
- 8.4 Some other applications, 188

9 Agroecology, 192

- 9.1 Behavioral origins of the functional response, 192
- 9.2 Behavior and population regulation: The behavioral stabilization
of host-parasitoid interactions, 199
- 9.3 Weed control: Predicting flowering in thistles and other
monocarpic perennials, 206
- 9.4 Discussion, 209

10 Population-Level Models, 212

- 10.1 Ideal free distributions, 212
- 10.2 Patch choice with frequency-dependent predation risk, 214
- 10.3 Genetic algorithms as optimization tools, 223

11 Stochasticity, Uncertainty, and Information as a State Variable, 232

- 11.1 Ephemeral patches and uncertain food, 232
- 11.2 A Bayesian foraging model, 238
- 11.3 Tracking a changing environment, 244
- 11.4 Discussion, 245
- Appendix: Bayesian updating, 246

12 Measures of Fitness, 248

- 12.1 Nonoverlapping generations, 248
- 12.2 Overlapping generations, 253
- 12.3 Fitness measures in dynamic state variable models, 259

Appendix: Programs available at the OUP Web site, 265

References, 267

Index, 287