



# Growth of Phytoplankton



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Received:  December 21, 2018; Published:  January 16, 2019

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## Abstract

A central problem in biological dynamical systems is to determine the boundaries of evolution. Although this is a general problem, we prefer to give solutions for growth of the phytoplankton. AMS Mathematical Classification: 92D40, 35B36, 35Q92, 37N25.

**Keywords:** Phytoplankton Dynamical System; Phytoplankton Substrate; Phytoplankton Biomass; Intracellular Nutrient Per Biomass

## Introduction

### Phytoplankton Dynamical System

In the paper of Bernard - Gouze [1] one analyse a model of phytoplankton growth based on the dynamical system

$$x^1(t) = 1 - x^1(t) - \frac{1}{4}x^1(t)x^2(t),$$

$$x^2(t) = 2x^2(t)x^3(t) - x^2(t),$$

$$x^3(t) = \frac{1}{4}x^1(t) - 2x^3(t),$$

where  $x^1$  means the substrate,  $x^2$  is the phytoplankton biomass and  $x^3$  is the intracellular nutrient per biomass, with the physical domain  $R^3_+ : x = (x^1, x^2, x^3) \geq 0$ . The previous dynamical system is non cooperative and has the equilibrium point  $(1, 0, \frac{\sqrt{1}}{2})$ . We introduce the phytoplankton vector field  $X = (X^1, X^2, X^3)$  of components  $X^1 = 1 - x^1 - \frac{1}{4}x^1x^2$ ,  $X^2 = 2x^2x^3 - x^2$ ,  $X^3 = \frac{1}{4}x^1 - 2x^3$  and the maximal field line  $x = x(t, x_0)$ ,  $t \in I$ , which satisfies the initial condition  $x(t_0, x_0) = x_0$ . In order to find bounds for substrate, biomass, and intracellular nutrient per biomass, we use the techniques of optimization developed in our papers [2-6].

### Bounds for Phytoplankton Substrate

We use the following problem: find  $\max f(x_1, x_2, x_3) = x^1$  with the restriction  $x = x(t, x_0)$ . We set the critical point condition  $(\nabla f, X) = 0$ . In this case  $\nabla f = (1, 0, 0)$ . It follows the relation  $1 - x^1 - \frac{1}{4}x^1x^2 = 0$ . The convenient solution (critical point)  $x^- = (x^{-1}, x^{-2}, x^{-3})$  must be

$$x^- = x^{-1} \in [0, 1], x^{-2} = \frac{4(1-x^{-1})}{x^{-1}}, x^{-3} \geq 0.$$

The sufficient condition  $\text{Hess } f(X, X)(x^-) + (\nabla f, D_x X)(x^-) < 0$  reduces to  $(\nabla f, D_x X)(x^-) < 0$  or  $1 + \frac{x^{-2}}{4} - 1 - x^{-1} - \frac{1}{4}x^{-1}x^{-2} + \frac{x^{-1}}{4}(2x^{-2}x^3 - x^2) > 0$ .

Since at the critical point we have  $x^- = \frac{4(1-x^{-1})}{x^{-1}}$ , the condition goes to  $(1-x^{-1})(2x^{-3}-1) > 0$ , and the convenient condition is  $x^{-1} < 1, 2x^{-3} > 1$ . Theorem 2.1. Suppose that on a evolution line (field line) it exists a point  $x^-$  at which we have

$$x^{-1} < 1, 2x^{-3} > 1, x^{-2} = \frac{4(1-x^{-1})}{x^{-1}}$$

Then the phytoplankton substrate has an upper bound at this point.

### Bounds for Phytoplankton Biomass

Let us use the problem: find  $\max g(x^1, x^2, x^3) = x^2$  subject to  $x = x(t, x_0)$ .

**Growth of phytoplankton:** The critical point condition is  $(\nabla g, X) = 0$ . Since  $\nabla g = (0, 1, 0)$ , it follows the relation  $2x^2x^3x = 0$ . The convenient solution (critical point)  $x^- = (x^{-1}, x^{-2}, x^{-3})$  must have  $x^{-3} = \frac{1}{2}$ . The sufficient condition  $\text{Hess } g(X, X)(x^-) + (\nabla g, D_x X)(x^-) < 0$  reduces to  $(\nabla g, D_x X)(x^-) < 0$  or  $x^{-2}(2x^{-3}-1)^2 + 2x^{-2}(\frac{1}{4}x^{-1} - 2x^{-3})^2 < 0$ . Since at the critical point we have  $x^{-3} = \frac{1}{2}$ , the sufficient condition leads to  $x^{-2}(x^{-1}-2) < 0$ , i.e.,  $x^{-1} - 2 < 0$ .

**Theorem:** Suppose that on a evolution line (field line) it exists a point at which we have

$$x^{-1} < 2, x^{-2} > 0, x^{-3} = \frac{1}{2}$$

then the  $x^2(t)$  component of the corresponding field line has an upper bound at this point.

In the direct alternative, we build the composite function  $g(x(t, x_0))$ . The condition

$$\frac{d}{dt}g(x(t, x_0)) = \frac{\partial g}{\partial x}(x(t, x_0)) \frac{dx^i}{dt}(t) = 0$$

reduces to  $\frac{dx^2}{dt}(t) = 0, i.e., 2x^2x^3 - x^2 = 0$ . the convenient solution is  $x^3 = \frac{1}{2}$ . The condition

$$\frac{d^2}{dt^2}g(x(t, x_0)) = \frac{\partial^2 g}{\partial x^i \partial x^j}(x(t, x_0)) \frac{dx^i}{dt}(t) + \frac{dx^j}{dt}(t) + \frac{\partial^2 g}{\partial x^i}(x(t, x_0)) \frac{d^2x^j}{dt^2}(t) < 0,$$

becomes  $2x^2(t) \frac{dx^3}{dt}(t) < 0, i.e., x^2 > 0, \frac{1}{4}x^1 - 2x^{32} < 0$ . Replacing  $x^3 = \frac{1}{2}$ , we find  $x^2 > 0, x^1 - 2 < 0$ . The same result is obtained as in the previous method.

### Bounds for Intracellular Nutrient Per Biomass

Now the helping problem is: compute  $\max h(x^1, x^2, x^3) = x^3$  with the restriction  $x = x(t, x_0)$ .

The critical point condition is  $(\nabla h, X) = 0$ . Since  $\Delta h = \nabla h = (0, 0, 1)$ , it follows the relation  $\frac{1}{4}x^1 - 2x^{32} = 0$ . The critical point  $\bar{x} = (\bar{x}^1, \bar{x}^2, \bar{x}^3)$  must be  $\bar{x}^1 = \bar{x}^1 \geq 0, \bar{x}^2 \geq 0, \bar{x}^3 = \frac{\sqrt{\bar{x}^1}}{2\sqrt{2}}$ . The sufficient condition  $\text{Hess } h(X, X)(\bar{x}) + (\nabla h, D_x X)(\bar{x}) < 0$  reduces to

$$(\nabla h, D_x X)(\bar{x}) < 0 \text{ or } \frac{1}{4}1 - \bar{x}^1 - \frac{1}{4}\bar{x}^1\bar{x}^2 - 4\bar{x}^3 \frac{1}{4}\bar{x}^1 - 2\bar{x}^3 < 0$$

Since at the critical point we have  $\bar{x}^3 = \frac{\sqrt{\bar{x}^1}}{2\sqrt{2}}$  the condition goes to  $1 - \bar{x}^1 - \frac{1}{4}\bar{x}^1\bar{x}^2 < 0, i.e., 1 < \bar{x}^1(1 + \frac{1}{4}\bar{x}^2)$

**Theorem:** Suppose that on a evolution line (field line) it exists a point

$\bar{x}$  at which we have  $1 < \bar{x}^1(1 + \frac{1}{4}\bar{x}^2), \bar{x}^3 = \frac{\sqrt{\bar{x}^1}}{2\sqrt{2}}$ . Then the intracellular nutrient per biomass has an upper bound at this point.

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ISSN: 2574-1241

DOI: 10.26717/BJSTR.2019.13.002360

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