Does noisy environment facilitate extinction, or stabilize population?

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Eindhoven, 2014

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United States - Israel Binational Science Foundation PRL **101**, 268103 (2008); PRL **107**, 180603 (2011);

Noise in reaction models

Internal, due to discreteness of agents (demographic, shot...)

External, due to rate variations (environmental, bath...)

Both affect large deviations statistics

Environmental noise

Temporal variation in the water level (m above sea level) at Lokka reservoir (67849' N, 27844' E) in northern Finland during 1968–2008.



Trends in Ecology and Evolution Vol.24 No.10

Extinction in time-varying environment

Extinction rates of populations of different sizes, compared with those expected in a constant environment

Number of breeding nairs per popu-	4-10	11-30	31-60	over 60
lation	4 10		01 00	0,0,00
Proportion of populations dying out within 80 years	0.30	0.09	0.15	0.02
(b) Theoretical populations in a constant	environme	$nt \ (r = 0.2)$		
Equilibrium population size (indivi- duals)	$12\frac{1}{2}$	25	50	100
Chance of dying out within 80 genera- tions	0.73	0.18	0.002	5×10^{-7}

J. theor. Biol. (1981) 90, 213-239

Logistic model

 $A \rightarrow 0$ rate $d_n = d$ $A \rightarrow 2A$ rate $b_n = b - cn$

rate equation :

stationary solution:

$$\dot{n} = (b-d)n - cn^2$$
$$N = \frac{b-d}{c}$$

$$P_{n} = d_{n+1}P_{n+1} - d_{n}P_{n} + b_{n-1}P_{n-1} - b_{n}P_{n}$$
$$= (e^{\partial_{n}} - 1)d_{n}P_{n} + (e^{-\partial_{n}} - 1)b_{n}P_{n} = \hat{H}(n,\partial_{n})P_{n}$$

"Hamiltonian": $H(n, p) = (e^p - 1)d(n) + (e^{-p} - 1)b(n)$

"Quantum mechanics" of populations

evolution operator:

$$\hat{U}_{n_{f}n_{i}} = \int_{n_{i}}^{n_{f}} D[n, p] e^{\int_{i}^{f} dt[p\dot{n} - H(n, p)]}$$

large fluctuations – stationary trajectories (WKB)



Dykman, et.al. (1994) Freidlin, Wentzel (1969)

$$\tau_{\rm ext} = e^{\frac{1}{2}\frac{b-d}{b+d}N}$$

exponential with the system size N

Extinction in the presence of noise

$$b \rightarrow b - \xi(t) \qquad \qquad \mathcal{P}[\xi(t)] \propto \exp\{-S[\xi(t)]\}$$
$$S[\xi(t)] = \frac{1}{4v} \int dt (t_c \dot{\xi}^2 + t_c^{-1} \xi^2)$$

optimal noise realisation :

$$\dot{n} = \partial_{p} H(n, p, \xi);$$

$$\dot{p} = -\partial_{n} H;$$

$$t_{c}^{2} \ddot{\xi} + \xi = 2v t_{c} \partial_{\xi} H$$



Accelerated extinction



power-law with the system size N

Leigh (1981) AK, Meerson, Shklovskii (2008)

Phase Diagram



AK, Meerson, Shklovskii (2008)

 $In \tau_{\xi} = F(V, T) In \tau_{0}$

However: Noise may also stabilize populations

Parker, Meerson, AK (2011)

Well-known analogs in **equilibrium** context:

Coleman-Weinberg effect in quantum gauge theories

• Order by disorder phenomena in classical phase transitions

Radiative Corrections as the Origin of Spontaneous Symmetry Breaking*

Sidney Coleman

and

Erick Weinberg Lyman Laboratory of Physics, Harvard University, Cambridge, Massachusetts 02138

(Received 8 November 1972)

We investigate the possibility that radiative corrections may produce spontaneous symmetry breakdown in theories for which the semiclassical (tree) approximation does not indicate such breakdown. Massless scalar electrodynamics does not remain massless, nor does it remain electrodynamics;



Classical: order by disorder

¹⁹J. Villain, R. Bidaux, J. P. Carton, and R. Conte, J. Phys. (Paris) **41**, 1263 (1980).

VOLUME 62, NUMBER 17 PHYSICAL REVIEW LETTERS

24 April 1989

Ordering Due to Disorder in a Frustrated Vector Antiferromagnet

Christopher L. Henley

In many continuous spin systems, competing interactions give nontrivial degeneracies of the classical ground states. Degeneracy-breaking free-energy terms arise from thermal (or quantum) fluctuations,



Increasing temperature drives the system into a stable **ordered** state

Neutral genetic drift

 $A + B \leftrightarrow 2A \qquad A + B \leftrightarrow 2B$

fast mutations, conserving total number

 $S \rightarrow 0$ $2A \rightarrow 2A + S$ $2B \rightarrow 2B + S$

S is either A or B; slow non - conserving processes

 $x = n_A + n_B$ slow variable, close to bifurcation $y = n_A - n_B$ fast variable, mean - field $y \rightarrow 0$

The model

$$x = n_A + n_B \qquad \qquad y = n_A - n_B$$

 $\dot{y} = -2y + \xi_y(t)$ entropic drift + strong fluctuations

$$\dot{x} = -V'(x) - y^2 + \xi_x(t)$$

drift, feedback, weak fluctuations

Deterministic and stochastic evolution

$$\dot{x} = -V'(x) - y^2 + \xi_x(t), \qquad \dot{y} = -2y + \xi_y(t)$$



Lifetime



exponential stability



???



Rare events





Theory

$$S = p_x \dot{x} + p_y \dot{y} + p_x [V'(x) + y^2] + 2p_y y + T_x p_x^2 + T_y p_y^2$$

$$= p_x \dot{x} + p_x V'(x) + T_x p_x^2 + \begin{pmatrix} y & p_y \end{pmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} p_x(t) & -\partial_t + 1 \\ \partial_t + 1 & T_y \end{bmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} y \\ p_y \end{pmatrix}$$



Results



$$\log \tau_{\rm esc} \propto \begin{cases} T_y^{3/2} / T_x; \\ \sqrt{T_y} / T_x; \end{cases}$$

 $T_{y} < \sqrt{T_{x}}$ $T_{y} > \sqrt{T_{x}}$

Last transparency of the day!

Environmental noise may greatly accelerate the extinction. It may even change exponential scaling of the extinction time to a power-law.

Noise may trap population in an exponentially long-lived quasi-stationary state. (Coleman-Weinberg, or "order by disorder" mechanism.)