

Homework assigned Wednesday, February 1.

Read pages 35–37 in the text on discrete logistic growth.

The corresponding equation is

$$N_{t+1} = N_t + rN_t \left(1 - \frac{N_t}{K}\right)$$

where r is the per *capita growth* rate and K is the *carrying capacity*. The equilibrium points are

$$N_* = 0, \quad \text{and} \quad N_* = K.$$

Theorem 1. *For the discrete logistic equation, the equilibrium point $N_* = 0$ is always unstable and the equilibrium point $N_* = K$ is stable when $0 < r < 2$ and unstable when $2 < r$.*

- (1) If a population of birds on an island grows with $r = 2.5$ and $K = 100$, if the initial population size is $N_0 = 80$ then find N_1 , N_2 and N_3 . Does this population ever settle down to a stable population size?
- (2) Consider the system

$$N_{t+1} = .6N_t(1 + .5N_t^4)e^{-N_t}.$$

- (a) If $N_0 = 4$ find N_1 and N_2 .
- (b) Plot $y = .6x(1 + .5x)e^{-x}$ and $y = x$ on the same window on your calculator with $0 \leq x \leq 10$. Use the 2nd `calc` `intersect` function to find the equilibrium points.
- (c) Which of the equilibrium points are stable?