



# Introduction

Jean-Noël Aubertot

An introduction to modelling, Poznan, 18 November 2008

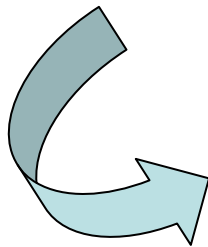


# Outline

- 1) What is a model?
- 2) Why develop mathematical models?
- 3) How to develop and use mathematical models?
- 4) Conclusion



# 1) What is a model?

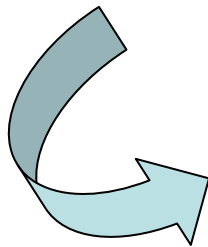


A model is a simplified representation of a system.





# 1) What is a model?



A model is a point of view on a given system.





# 1) What is a model?

Models can be pictorial, sculptural, musical, conceptual, **mathematical**, ...



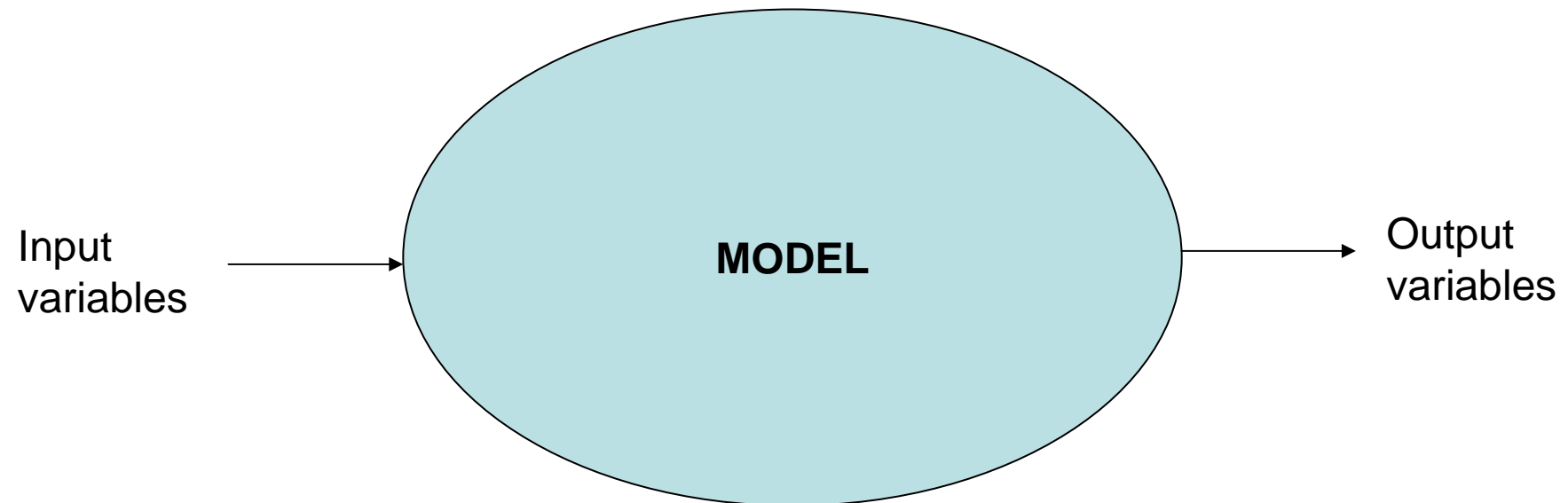
# 1) What is a (mathematical) model?

- a mathematical model is a simplified representation of a system
- a mathematical model represents a system structure and behavior by a set of equations
- a mathematical model should be able to predict a system behavior given an initial state and system inputs over time

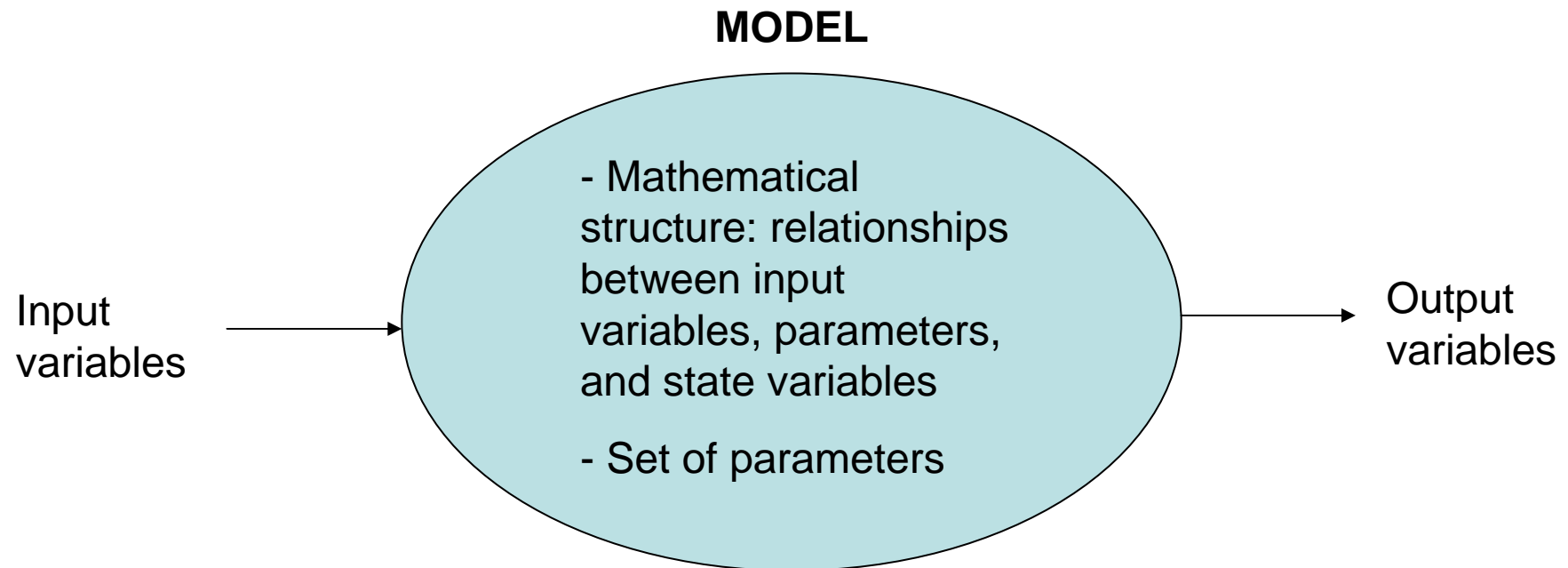




# 1) What is a (mathematical) model?



# 1) What is a (mathematical) model?



*Parameters are terms in the model that are fixed during a model run (a simulation) but can be changed in different runs as a method for conducting sensitivity analysis or to achieve calibration goals.*



# 1) What is a (mathematical) model?

Mathematical models can be categorised according to several criteria:

- static/dynamic
- for dynamic models: continuous/discrete time
- spatially explicit/non spatially explicit
- for spatially explicit models: raster/vector
- mechanistic/empirical



# Mechanistic versus empirical

**A mechanistic model** is a model that has a structure that explicitly represents an understanding of physical, chemical, and/or biological processes. Mechanistic models quantitatively describe the relationship between some phenomenon and underlying first principles of cause. Hence, in theory, they are useful for inferring solutions outside of the domain that the initial data was collected and used parameterise the mechanisms.

**An empirical model** is a model that has a structure determined by the observed relationship among experimental data. These models can be used to develop relationships that are useful for forecasting and describing trends in behaviour but they are not necessarily mechanistically relevant.



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- for spatially explicit models: raster/vector
- mechanistic/empirical
- stochastic/deterministic



# Stochastic versus deterministic

**A stochastic model** is a model that includes variability in model parameters.

**A deterministic model** is a model that provides a single solution for the state variables. Changes in model outputs are solely due to changes in input variables.



## 2) Why develop models?

- to provide predictions





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**Aujourd'hui**

<b>9°</b>		<b>Max. 8°</b>	Humidité: 82%
10:00 CET dim.	Nuages épars	<b>Min. 2°</b>	Vent: 0/27 km/h
			Visibilité: 9.99 km
			Point de rosée: 6°
			Pression: Inconnu
			Lever du soleil: 7:16
			Coucher du soleil: 15:58

<-10 -10 -5 0 5 10 15 20 25 30 35+>

lun.	mar.	mer.	jeu.
Nuages épars Max. 5 Min. -1	Averses l'après-midi Max. 3 Min. 0	Averses Max. 3 Min. 1	Averses Max. 5 Min. 2

- Catégories Yahoo!**
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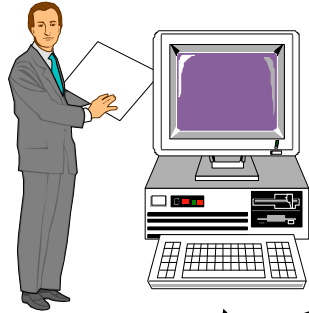
Publicité



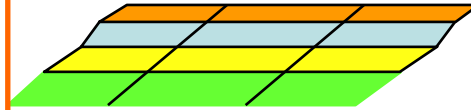


# Server

Models  
Data bases  
Expert system



# Experimental network

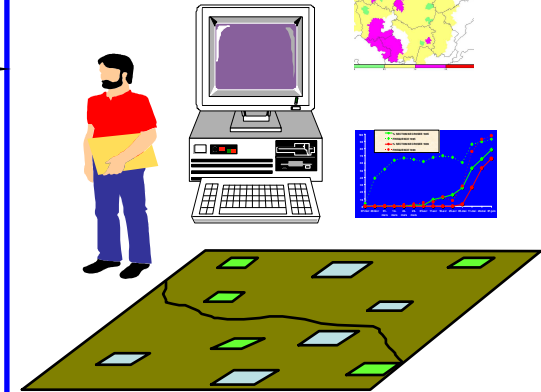


# MILPV Communicating system Potato Late blight



Automatic weather stations

# Regional observations by engineers of the French Ministry of Agriculture



Monitoring network

# Farmer monitoring



Jacques Rouzet



## 2) Why develop models?

- to provide predictions
- to describe and understand the structure of a system
- to gather existing knowledge
- to replace time-consuming or dangerous experiments





## 2) Why develop models?

- to provide predictions
- to describe and understand the structure of a system
- to gather existing knowledge
- to replace time-consuming or dangerous experiments
- to use as pedagogical tools



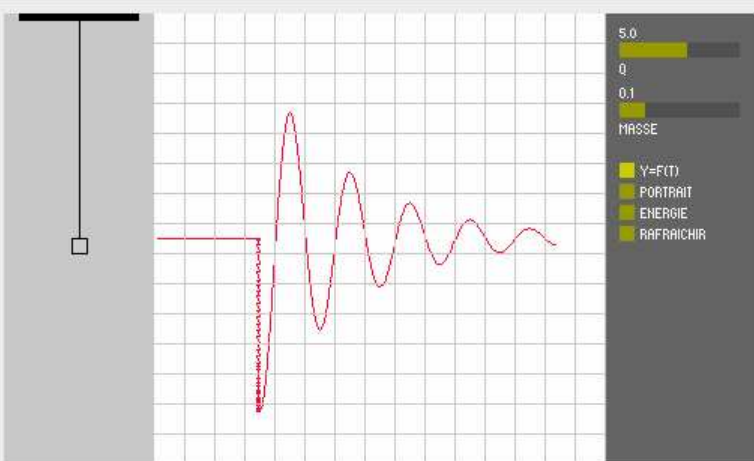
## L'OSCILLATEUR HARMONIQUE EN RÉGIME LIBRE

### Le système masse-ressort amorti

On simule le déplacement  $y(t)$  d'une masse accrochée à un ressort élastique. Les frottements avec l'air sont modélisés par une force opposée à la vitesse  $f = -av$  où  $a$  désigne le coefficient de frottement.

Les paramètres sont la masse  $m$  (kg), la constante de raideur  $k$  (N/m) et le facteur de qualité  $Q = \sqrt{km}/a$  (sans dimension) inversement proportionnel au coefficient de frottement.

### L'Applet JAVA



Tirez sur la masse en cliquant dessus avec la souris puis lâchez : vous observez les oscillations d'un oscillateur harmonique amorti.

Source code: [oscillateur1](#) Built with [Processing](#).

Commandes :

14 Nove - Une de pour transformer toutes voitures à votre image  
14 Nove - Les bébés Homo erectus naissent avec un gros cerveau  
14 Nove - Exoplanètes: les voir pour le croire  
13 Nove - Quand les soldats communiqueront par la pensée  
13 Nove - Du plancton marin retrouvé dans de l'ambre  
13 Nove - Fin de la mission Phoenix  
13 Nove - Une gigantesque aurore boréale autour du pôle de Saturne  
12 Nove - Le hack de la protection BD+ des disques Blu-Ray dévoilé  
12 Nove - Un anticorps contre l'obésité ?  
12 Nove - L'oiseau qui maîtrisait les microfluides  
12 Nove - Vérifier sans faille les démonstrations mathématiques par ordinateur  
11 Nove - Nouveau dossier: Retour sur le mondial 2008 de l'automobile  
11 Nove - Les montagnes stabilisent le carbone dans la croûte terrestre  
11 Nove - Les Prairies canadiennes vues de l'espace  
10 Nove - ESA Lunar Robotics Challenge



# 3) How to develop and use mathematical models?



## critical stages

- 1) define the purpose of the model
- 2) define the considered system
- 3) identify the users of the model
- 4) write down the conceptual framework
- 5) choose a mathematical formalism
- 6) choose a programming environnement (Excel VBA, Fortran, C/C++, S+, R, Mathematica, Mapple, MathLab, Scilab, ...)
- 7) gather the available knowledge (or set up experiments)
- 8) write down equations



### 3) How to develop and use mathematical models?



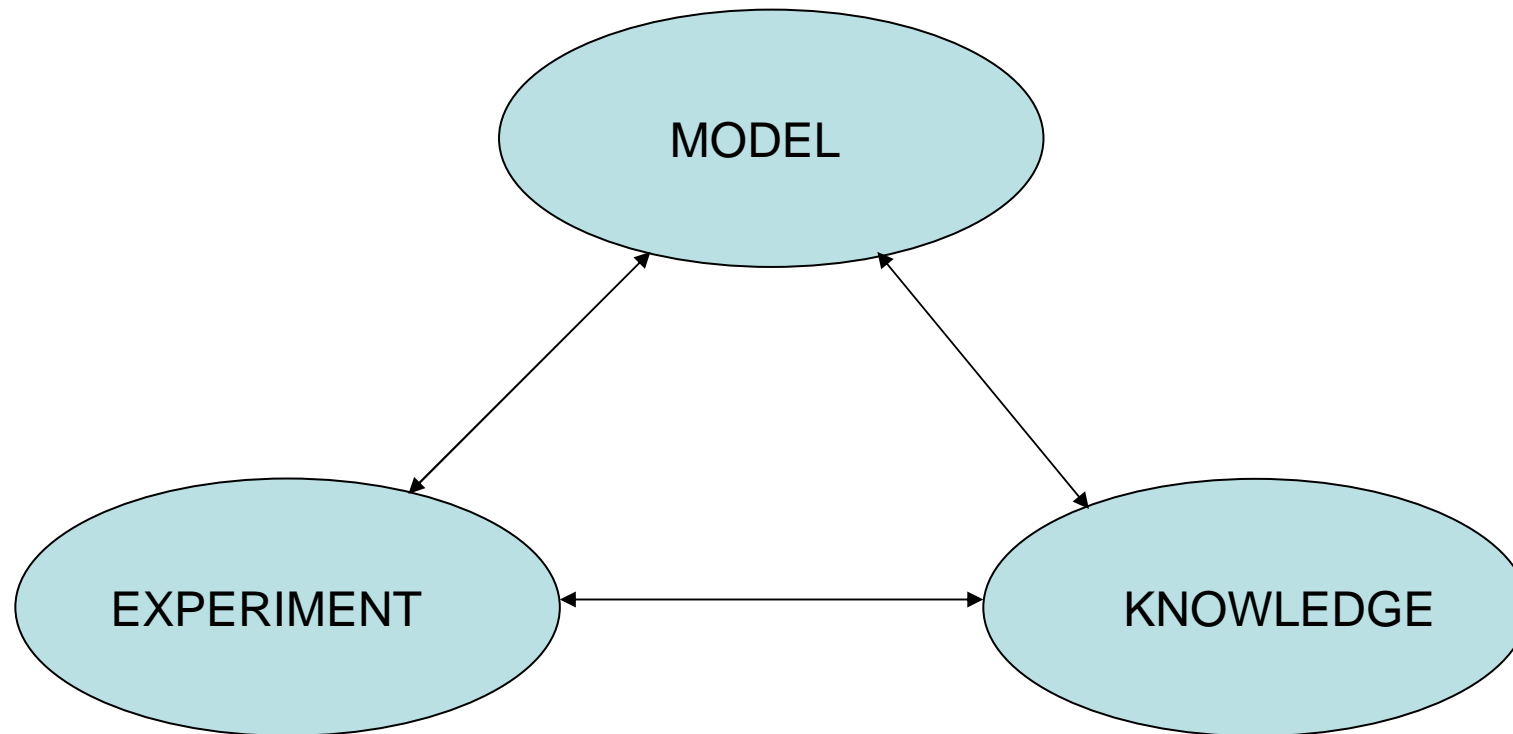
#### subsequent stages (some are optional)

- 9) estimate parameters using a data set
- 10) evaluate the predictive quality of the model
- 11) evaluate the usefulness of the model
- 12) perform a sensitivity analysis
- 13) perform an uncertainty analysis
- 14) use the model
- 15) go back to number 7 (sometimes, go back to 1!)





# CONCLUSION



<b>DAY 1 (18 November)</b>				
From	To	Topic	Time minutes	Code
9:00	9:30	Welcome, who is who	30	MJ+all
9:30	10:15	Introduction	45	JNA1
10:15	10:30	Coffee (15 min.)	15	
10:30	12:00	Basic concepts	90	DM1
12:00	12:45	Lunch (45 min.)	45	
12:45	14:45	Example 1. Predator-prey system	120	DW1
14:45	15:00	Coffee (15 min.)	15	
15:00	16:00	Uses of dynamic system models	60	JNA2
16:00	16:30	Modeling and experimentation	30	JNA3
<b>DAY 2 (19 November)</b>				
From	To	Topic	Time (hours)	Lecturer
9:00	9:30	Dimensional analysis	30	JNA4
9:30	10:45	Example 2: The wheatpest model - part 1	75	JNA5-1
10:45	11:00	Coffee break	15	
11:00	12:15	Example 2: The wheatpest model - part 2	75	JNA5-2
12:15	13:00	Lunch break (45 min.)	45	
13:00	13:25	The stages of a modeling project	25	DW2
13:25	13:45	Computer considerations	20	DW3
13:45	14:00	Coffee break (15 min.)	15	
14:00	16:00	Methods: evaluation for prediction	120	DW4
17:00	19:00	<b>Workshop dinner</b>		Old Market "Sphinx restaurant"
20:00	22:00	<b>Concert "People &amp; Plant Earth"</b>		Blue Note club
<b>DAY 3 (20 November)</b>				
From	To	Topic	Time (hours)	Lecturer
9:00	11:00	Methods: evaluation for decision making	120	DM2
11:00	11:15	Coffee break (15 min)	15	
11:15	13:15	Methods: parameter estimation	120	DM3
13:15	14:00	Lunch break (45 min.)	45	
14:00	15:30	Methods: uncertainty and sensitivity analyses	90	DM4
15:30	15:45	Coffee break (15 min.)	15	
15:45	16:15	Methods: use of real-time data	30	DM5
16:15	16:30	Summary and certificates	15	JNA+DM+DW

What is a mathematical model?

Why develop mathematical models?



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How to develop and use mathematical models?



# CONCLUSION



« All models are false, some are useful. »

George E. P. Box, cited *ca.* 12345 times by Daniel in his e-mail signature.

