

Oscillations and Waves in a Plankton System with Viral Infection

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A model of phytoplankton-zooplankton dynamics [1, 2, 3] is considered for the case of viral infection of the phytoplankton population. There is not so much known about the mechanisms of viral infection and spread of disease in and between plankton populations as well as along plankton-fish food chains. A few papers on the modelling of the impact of virus-infected plankton during the termination of phytoplankton blooms have been published [4, 5]. Here, the phytoplankton population is split into a susceptible (S) and an infected (I) part. Both parts grow logistically, limited by a common carrying capacity. Zooplankton (Z) is grazing on susceptibles and infected, however, the uptake of infected leads to a higher mortality. The local analysis of the S - I - Z differential equations yields a number of stationary and/or oscillatory regimes and their combinations. Correspondingly interesting is the spatiotemporal behaviour, modelled by reaction-diffusion equations. Spatial spread or suppression of infection will be presented just as well as competition of concentric and/or spiral population waves with non-oscillatory sub-populations for space, and long transients to spatially homogeneous population distributions.

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