



REFRESH WP5

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Bayesian-based conceptual model for macroinvertebrate diversity in lowland streams

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Some WP5 REFRESH Objectives

- to develop and improve the performance of integrated catchment models for **simulating the ecological response** of freshwater ecosystems to climate, land-use/management and pollution change;
- to use the models to explore the **ecological and cost-effectiveness of alternative adaptation, mitigation and restoration strategies** at the catchment scale, to ensure long-term sustainable management.

So we need a set of ecological models!



Ecological Model Requirements

They should:

Work at a catchment scale

To be able to respond to changes in aquatic systems due to:

- Climate
- Land use
- Nutrients
- Management interventions

Produce outputs which relate to European legislation, e.g.
the Water Framework Directive

Produce outputs which are comprehensible to water managers

Be fairly easily transferable to sites other than
the demonstration sites

The Solution?

Bayesian Networks!!!??

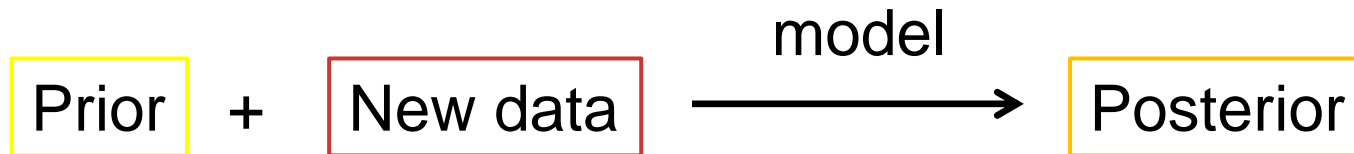
- But what is a Bayesian network?



Bayesian Statistics

Named after the Reverend Thomas Bayes, who published a posthumous paper in 1763

Bayesian probability is a measure of an individual's *degree of belief* in an event or hypothesis.



Current knowledge (prior) is updated with new data using a model to give improved knowledge (posterior).

Bayesian Network

So a Bayesian network is a network of relationships, expressing degrees of belief in a set of propositions, which can be updated with new knowledge.

What relationships and probabilities do we have for stream macroinvertebrates? Specific focus is forested streams in The Netherlands

How to Construct an Ecological BBN

Construct influence diagram
(what factors affect ecological outcome)

Convert to Bayesian network

After Marcot et al. (2007)

Revise model after expert review

Test and calibrate model with data (“cases”)

Update model structure and conditional probabilities

Final (provisional) model



What affects stream macroinvertebrates?

Immediate drivers:

- Stream temperature
- Dissolved oxygen
- Stream velocity
- Food quality
- Substrate quality

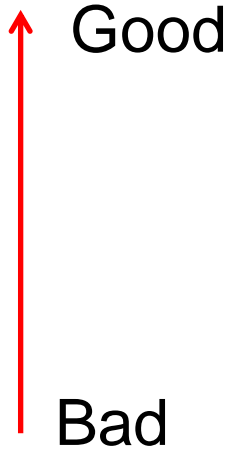
Questions:

How do these variables affect macroinvertebrates?

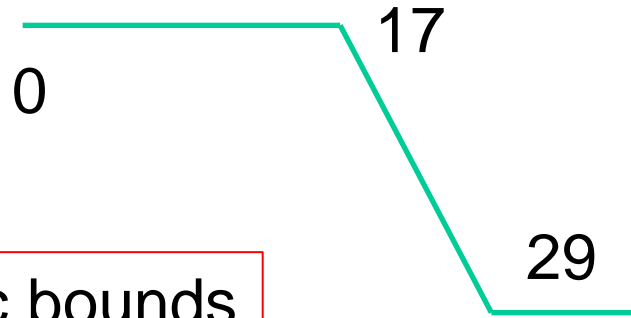
How do they interact with each other?

How are they driven by environmental variables, in particular climate and land use?

Functional Relationships

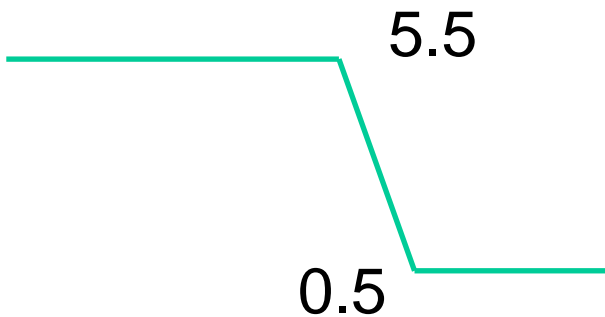


Max July
Temperature (C)

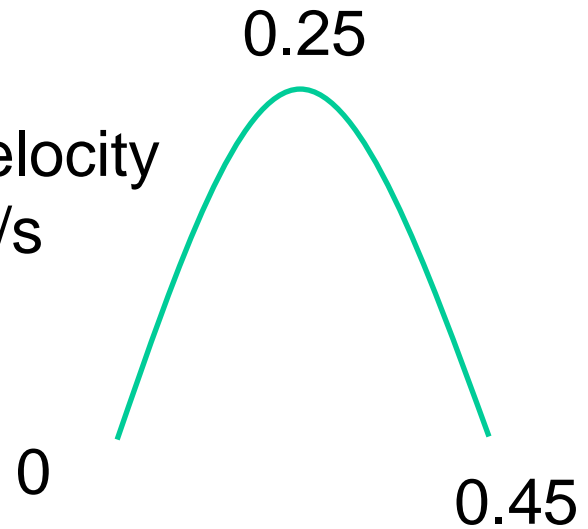


Probabilistic bounds
round these lines

Dissolved
oxygen (mg/l)



Velocity
m/s



Functional Relationships (2)

Substrate:

Interaction between coarse particulate organic matter (CPOM) and silt%

Food Quality:

Interaction between CPOM, algae and macrophytes

These are expressed as conditional probability tables

These relationships are all derived from data, literature sources, and expert judgement

Calculating the driving variables

Some examples:

1. Temperature

Climate simulations produce air temperature.

USGS Energy Balance Model SSTEMP is pre-run for different combinations of July air temperature, shading, and various stream characteristics.

This is converted into a regression equation ($r^2 > 0.99$), and then into a conditional probability table.

Groundwater is then mixed in.

Thus we can simulate the macroinvertebrate response to water temperature as a function of air temperature, shading, and groundwater input

Calculating the driving variables (2)

Some examples:

2. Dissolved Oxygen

Maximum dissolved oxygen decreases with temperature.

Standard empirical relationship is converted to a regression equation ($r^2 > 0.99$).

Oxygen is then subtracted from the maximum value due to consumption by BOD and respiration of primary production

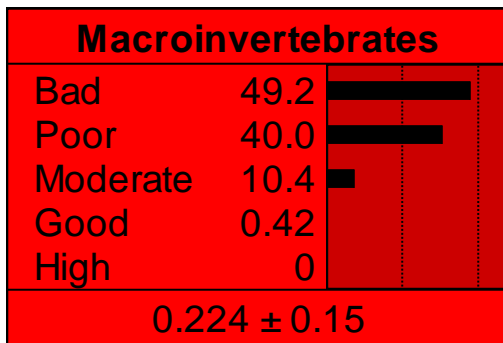
Oxygen is then added as a function of velocity (all literature relationships) and macrophyte presence.

This is then converted into a (rather complex) CPT

Thus we can simulate the macroinvertebrate response to oxygen as a function of air temperature, shading, BOD, groundwater, etc.

Output

In WFD classes as a probability (“belief bar”)



Doesn't need to be.
Could be indicator scores or
even communities

Testing (2)

Model still a bit too stringent, particularly with CPOM

Problem may lie in interactions

Many model nodes interact – but the final 5 only interact in the sense that the model takes the worst case for every WFD class.

Maybe a good score on some attributes should compensate for a poor score in others – to some extent

Where Are We?

Construct influence diagram
(what factors affect ecological outcome)

Convert to Bayesian network

After Marcot et al. (2007)

Revise model after expert review

Test and calibrate model with data (“cases”)

Update model structure and conditional probabilities

Final (provisional) model



Interactions

Interactions occur within the model.

The final 5 variables only interact in the sense that the model takes the worst WFD class for each one.

BBNs in REFRESH

Norway - See poster by Jannicke Moe;

Riparian wetlands in the UK;

Aquatic macrophytes in the Louros River, Greece;

Aquatic macroinvertebrates in Dutch forest streams.

Next Steps

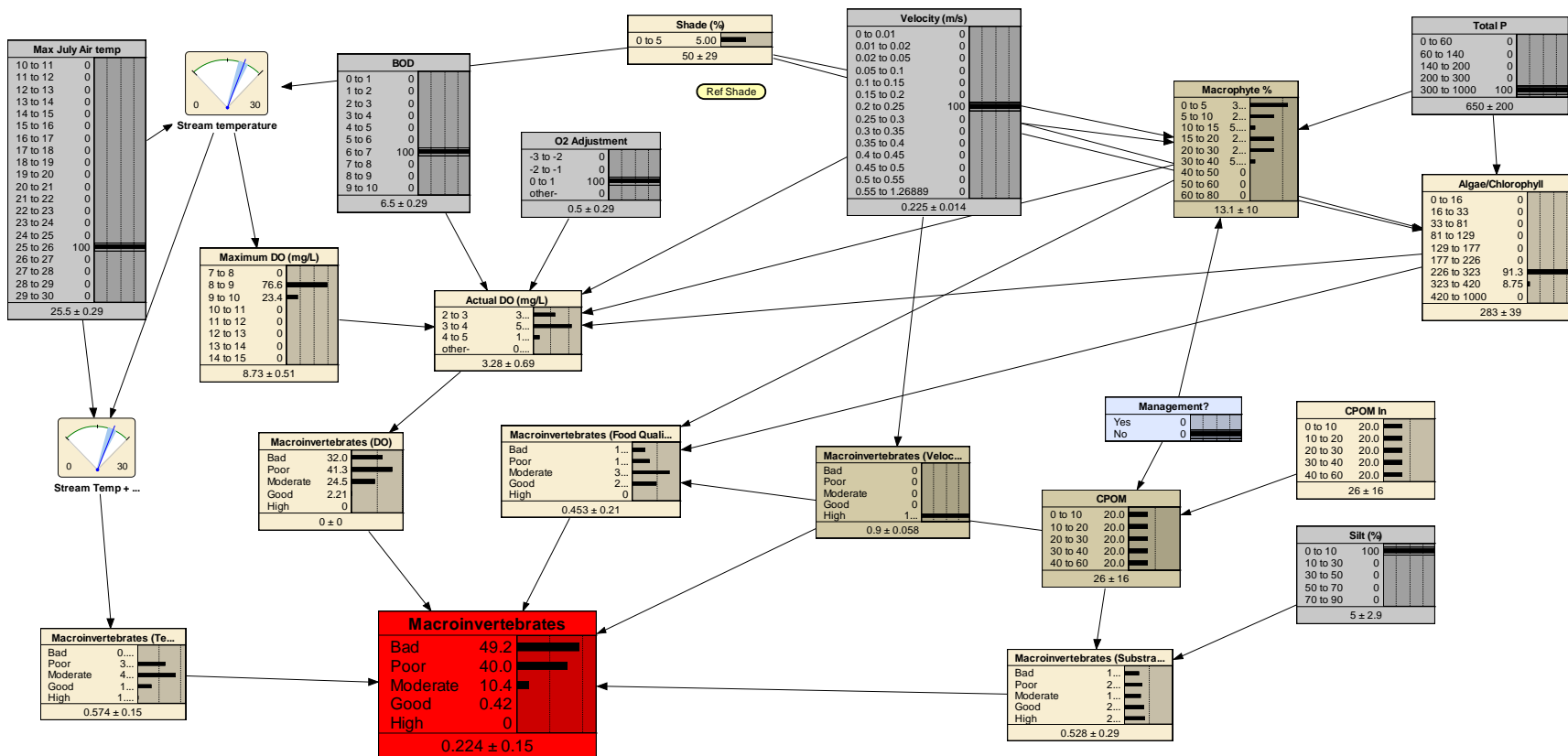
The network produces some intuitively reasonable answers

So far, it is not particularly “Bayesian”

Once a bit happier with the structure – perform a Bayesian updating using the data – i.e. Let the model “learn”.

Then looking to apply elsewhere.

Example Net



What affects stream macroinvertebrates?