Partitioning the Impacts of Spatial-Temporal Variation in Demography and Dispersal on Metapopulation Growth Rates

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Abstract. Spatial-temporal variation in environmental conditions is ubiquitous in nature. This variation simultaneously impacts survival, reproduction, and movement of individuals and, thereby, the rate at which metapopulations grow. Using the tools of stochastic demography, the metapopulation growth rate is decomposed five components corresponding to temporal, spatial, and spatial-temporal variation in fitness, and spatial and spatial-temporal covariation in dispersal and fitness. While temporal variation in fitness always reduces the metapopulation growth rate, all other sources of variation can either increase or reduce the metapopulation growth rate. Increases occur either by marginalizing the impacts of temporal variation or by generating a positive fitness-density covariance where individuals tend to concentrate in higher-quality patches. For example, positive auto-correlated fluctuations in spatial-temporal variability in fitness generate this positive fitness-density covariance for under-dispersed populations, but decreases this covariance for over-dispersed populations e.g. migratory species. Negative autocorrelated fluctuations have the opposite effects. Positive covariances between movement and future fitness, on short or long timescales, increase growth rates. These positive covariances can arise is unexpected ways. For example, the win-stay-lose-shift dispersal strategy in negatively autocorrelated environments can generate positive spatial covariances that exceed negative spatial-temporal covariances. This decomposition of the metapopulation growth rate provides a way to quantify the relative importance of fundamental sources of variation on metapopulation persistence.

Introduction

All populations experience spatial and temporal variation in environmental conditions. Within populations, this variation generates individual variation in survival, growth, and fecundity across space and time. Faced with these demographic consequences, individuals may disperse between habitat patches and, thereby, alter their demographic fates. As environmental conditions vary across time, so may patterns of dispersal. This covariation in demography and dispersal in space and time can impact the rate at which populations grow or decline. While many studies examined the impacts of spatial and temporal variation in demography on population growth [Levin et al., 1984, Wiener and Tuljapurkar, 1994, Jansen and Yoshimura, 1998, Roy et al., 2005, Schreiber, 2010, Evans et al., 2013, Crone, 2016], only a few studies examined

the simultaneous impacts of variation in demography and dispersal on population growth under special circumstances [Schmidt, 2004, Williams and Hastings, 2013, Snyder et al., 2014]. Here, I examine these simultaneous impacts more generally using methods from stochastic demography [Ruelle, 1979, Tuljapurkar, 1990, Boyce et al., 2006].

Temporal and spatial variation in demography, in and of themselves, generally have opposing effects on population growth. For unstructured populations (e.g. no spatial structure), temporal variation in survival or fecundity reduces population growth rates [Lewontin and Cohen, 1969, Tuljapurkar, 1990, Boyce et al., 2006]. This reduction stems from population growth being a multiplicative process and reductions in survival or fecundity having a larger impact on population growth than comparable increases in these vital rates. For sedentary populations, spatial variability in survival or fecundity always increases the population growth rate [Karlin, 1976, Hastings, 1983, Schreiber and Lloyd-Smith, 2009, Snyder and Chesson, 2003]. For highly mobile populations, this positive effect on population growth is marginalized or reversed [Karlin, 1976, Hastings, 1983, Kirkland et al., 2006, Schreiber and Lloyd-Smith, 2009, Altenberg, 2012a,b]. In an empirically based demonstration of this theory, Crone [2016] used ten years of demographic monitoring data for the perennial prairie forb, *Pulsatilla patens*, to parametrize integral projection models accounting, separately, for temporal and spatial variation. Consistent with theory, this study found that "environmental stochasticity reduced population growth rates relative to the average, whereas spatial heterogeneity increased population growth rates."

The simultaneous impacts of spatial and temporal variation in demography on population growth are more nuanced. For spatially structured populations, serially uncorrelated temporal variation in demographic rates still reduce population growth rates [Tuljapurkar, 1990, Boyce et al., 2006]. However, if this temporal variation isn't perfectly spatially synchronized, dispersal can reduce its negative impact on population growth [Kuno, 1981, Metz et al., 1983, Wiener and Tuljapurkar, 1994, Jansen and Yoshimura, 1998, Evans et al., 2013, Jaggi et al., 2023, Kortessis et al., 2023]. This reduction stems from dispersal marginalizing the amount of temporal variation experienced by the average individuals and, thereby, acting as a bet-hedging strategy. Notably, populations coupled by dispersal can have positive growth rates despite all local growth rates being negative [Metz et al., 1983, Jansen and Yoshimura, 1998, Evans et al., 2013, Jaggi et al., 2023]. In contrast to serially uncorrelated temporal variation, positively autocorrelated fluctuations in survival or reproduction can increase population growth rates [Roy et al., 2005, Roy and Holt, 2009, Schreiber, 2010, Kortessis et al., 2020].These positive effects are marginalized when patches are highly synchronized across space. Consistent with these theoretical predictions, experiments with *Paramecium aurelia* found that spatially uncorrelated and temporally autocorrelated fluctuations in temperature led to positive population growth rates despite negative growth rates on average [Matthews and Gonzalez, 2007].

Variation in environmental conditions can drive variation in rates of active or passive dispersal [Schmidt, 2004, Haugen et al., 2006, Ellner and Schreiber, 2012, Williams and Hastings,

2013, Snyder et al., 2014, Catalano et al., 2021, Mason et al., 2022, Peniston et al., 2023]. Active dispersers may use environmental cues to determine whether or not to leave their current patch [Schmidt, 2004, Clobert, 2012, Carroll et al., 2018]. For example, little penguins (*Eudyptula minor*) exhibit behavior consist with the win-stay:lose-switch rule. Individuals were less likely to leave sites where they had greater foraging success and more likely to leave sites where foraging was less successful [Carroll et al., 2018]. Using mathematical models, Schmidt [2004] found that the win-stay:lose-shift rule combined with temporally auto-correlated site quality increased population growth rates. Movement of passive dispersers, on the other hand, varies with the speed and direction of environmental currents (e.g. air, wind), their dispersal vectors, and their physiological state [O'Connor et al., 2007, Clobert, 2012, Catalano et al., 2021, Mason et al., 2022, Peniston et al., 2023]. For example, pelagic larvae transported by spatially and temporally varying ocean currents [Catalano et al., 2021] and the time spent riding these currents is temperature dependent [O'Connor et al., 2007]. Theory predicts that this temporal variation in habitat connectivity can alter rates of population growth [Williams and Hastings, 2013, Snyder et al., 2014, Peniston et al., 2023].

Collectively, these studies highlight that spatial-temporal variation in demography and dispersal can significantly impact population growth rates in complex ways. Current theory, however, focuses only on part of this complexity. It either focuses only on demographic variation [Wiener and Tuljapurkar, 1994, Roy et al., 2005, Roy and Holt, 2009, Schreiber, 2010, Evans et al., 2013, Jaggi et al., 2023, Kortessis et al., 2023], or specific forms of dispersal variation [Schmidt, 2004, Williams and Hastings, 2013, Snyder et al., 2014]. To place these complexities into a single integrative framework, I analyze a class of stochastic, matrix models with any number of patches and accounting for many forms of spatial-temporal variation in demography and dispersal. The main goal of the analysis is answer the questions: How does the interplay between spatial-temporal variation in demography and dispersal impact long-term population growth rates? In particular, what forms of variation increase population growth rates? What forms of variation decrease population growth rates?

MODEL AND METHODS

A Metapopulation Model. The model represents a metapopulation living in k patches coupled by dispersal. These patches may correspond to geographically, distinct patches of one or more habitat types, or discretizations of a continuous landscape. The population density in the i-th patch is $n_{i,t}$ at time t. The population census times $t = 0, 1, 2, 3, \ldots$ are discrete. Between successive censuses, I assume that survival and reproduction are followed by dispersal. This ordering, however, is not critical for the main results. Survival and reproduction in patch i changes the local population density by a multiplicative factor $\lambda_{i,t}$ at time t. Even though the model doesn't assume that individuals only live for one time step, I call this multiplicative

factor $\lambda_{i,t}$ the fitness of an individual in patch i at time t. After survival and reproduction, a fraction $d_{ij,t}$ of individuals from patch j disperse to patch i. Summing over all the contributions of individuals to each patch determines the metapopulation dynamics:

$$(1) \qquad n_{i,t+1} = \sum_{j=1}^{k} d_{ij,t} \lambda_{j,t} n_{j,t} \text{ for } i = 1, 2, \ldots, k.$$

While this model does not include density-dependence, one can view it as a linearization of a density-dependent model about the extinction equilibrium. This linearization determines how metapopulations grow at low population densities and, consequently, whether the metapopulation persists or not [Benaïm and Schreiber, 2009, Roth and Schreiber, 2014, Benaïm and Schreiber, 2019].

One can rewrite the model (1) in a simpler form using vector-matrix notation. The vector of population densities at time t is

$$\mathbf{n}_t = \begin{pmatrix} n_{1,t} \\ \vdots \\ n_{k,t} \end{pmatrix} \qquad .$$

Survival and reproduction at time t corresponds to multiplying by the demography matrix

$$\Lambda_t = \begin{pmatrix} \lambda_{1,t} & 0 & \ldots & 0 \\ 0 & \lambda_{2,t} & \ldots & 0 \\ \vdots & \vdots & \ddots & \vdots \\ 0 & 0 & \ldots & \lambda_{k,t} \end{pmatrix}.$$

Dispersal at time t corresponds to multiplying by the dispersal matrix

$$D_t = \begin{pmatrix} d_{11,t} & d_{12,t} & \ldots & d_{1k,t} \\ d_{21,t} & d_{22,t} & \ldots & d_{2k,t} \\ \vdots & \vdots & \ddots & \vdots \\ d_{k1,t} & d_{k2,t} & \ldots & d_{kk,t} \end{pmatrix}.$$

With this vector-matrix notation, the model (1) becomes

$$(2) \qquad \mathbf{n}_{t+1} = D_t \Lambda_t \mathbf{n}_t.$$

Fluctuations in environmental conditions drive the fluctuations in demography Λ_t and dispersal D_t. The environmental state ξ_t at time t lies in the set Ξ of possible environmental states.

This set Ξ may consist of a finite number of environmental states $\{1, 2, \ldots, m\}$ e.g. wet and cool versus hot and dry. Alternatively, Ξ may consist of continuum of states $\Xi \subset (-\infty, \infty)^m$ (e.g. temperature driven vital rates), or some combination of continuous and discrete states. Consistent with classical stochastic demography [Ruelle, 1979, Tuljapurkar, 1990, Boyce et al., 2006], I assume that the sequence of environmental states $\xi_1, \xi_2, \xi_3, \ldots$ is (asymptotically) stationary and ergodic. For example, for a discrete environmental state space, the environmental dynamics may be given by an irreducible, aperiodic Markov chain on $\Xi = \{1, 2, \ldots, m\}$. Alternatively, for a continuous environmental state space, the dynamics may be a multivariate auto-regressive process. To couple population dynamics to the environmental dynamics, the entries of the demographic and dispersal matrices are viewed as functions of the environment. Namely, in environment ξ, demography matrix is the diagonal matrix $\Lambda(\xi)$ with diagonal entries $\lambda_i(\xi$ and the dispersal matrix is $\mathbf{D}(\xi)$ with entries $d_{ij}(\xi)$. With this coupling on the environmental dynamics, the demographic and dispersal matrices at time t in (2) are

(3) $$\Lambda_t = \Lambda(\xi_t) \text{ and } D_t = \mathbf{D}(\xi_t).$$

Under suitable technical assumptions, Ruelle [1979] provided that there is quantity r characterizing the long-term growth rate of the metapopulation. Specifically, if

$$\text{the total density } |\mathbf{n}_t| = \sum_{i=1}^{k} n_{i,t}$$

at time t, then

$$\text{the metapopulation growth rate } r = \lim_{t \to \infty} \frac{1}{t} \ln |\mathbf{n}_t| \text{ whenever } |\mathbf{n}_0| > 0.$$

Roughly, the total metapopulation population density, $|\mathbf{n}_t|$, grows exponential at rate r; increasing when $r > 0$ and decreasing when $r < 0$. The sign of the metapopulation growth rate r has implications for models accounting for density-dependence or demographic stochasticity. For models with negative density-dependence, positive values of r imply the metapopulation persists, while negative values imply the metapopulation approaches extinction exponentially quickly [Benaïm and Schreiber, 2009, Benaïm and Schreiber, 2019]. For density-independent models with demographic stochasticity (i.e. a multi-type branching processes in a random environment [Athreya and Ney, 2004]), $r > 0$ implies that there is a positive probability of metapopulation establishment, while $r \leq 0$ implies establishment is unlikely.

Decomposing the sources of variation. In order to identify the relative roles of spatial and temporal variation on the metapopulation growth rate r, I decompose the demography and dispersal matrices into components corresponding to temporal variation, spatial variation,

or spatial-temporal variation. For the fitnesses $\boldsymbol{\lambda}_t = \begin{pmatrix} \lambda_{1,t} \\ \lambda_{2,t} \\ \vdots \\ \lambda_{k,t} \end{pmatrix}$ in the demography matrix Λ_t,

averaging across time yields

$$\text{the temporal averages of fitnesses } \overline{\boldsymbol{\lambda}} = \begin{pmatrix} \mathbb{E}[\lambda_{1,t}] \\ \mathbb{E}[\lambda_{2,t}] \\ \vdots \\ \mathbb{E}[\lambda_{k,t}] \end{pmatrix}$$

where $\mathbb{E}[\lambda_{i,t}]$ denotes the expected fitness in patch i. By stationarity of the environmental process, these expected fitness correspond to the long-term temporally averaged fitnesses and, therefore, does not depend on time t i.e. $\overline{\lambda}_i = \mathbb{E}[\lambda_{i,1}] = \mathbb{E}[\lambda_{i,2}] = \dots$. Averaging the fitnesses at time t across the patches yields the time-dependent scalar

$$\text{the spatial average of fitness } \langle \boldsymbol{\lambda}_t \rangle = \frac{1}{k} \sum_{i=1}^{k} \lambda_{i,t}$$

at time t. Averaging simultaneously across space and time yields

$$\text{the spatial-temporal average of fitness } \overline{\langle \boldsymbol{\lambda} \rangle} = \frac{1}{k} \sum_{i=1}^{k} \mathbb{E}[\lambda_{i,1}].$$

The fitnesses $\boldsymbol{\lambda}_t$ at time t can be decomposed into the spatial-temporal average and deviations from this spatial-temporal average:

$$(4) \qquad \boldsymbol{\lambda}_t = \overline{\langle \boldsymbol{\lambda} \rangle} + \underbrace{\langle \boldsymbol{\lambda}_t \rangle - \overline{\langle \boldsymbol{\lambda} \rangle}}_{\text{temporal deviations}} + \underbrace{\overline{\boldsymbol{\lambda}} - \overline{\langle \boldsymbol{\lambda} \rangle}}_{\text{spatial deviations}} + \underbrace{\boldsymbol{\lambda}_t - \langle \boldsymbol{\lambda}_t \rangle - \overline{\boldsymbol{\lambda}} + \overline{\langle \boldsymbol{\lambda} \rangle}}_{\text{spatial-temporal deviations}}$$

This type of decomposition of the demography is similar to decompositions used by Johnson and Hastings [2023] and Kortessis et al. [2023].

To quantify spatial variation in dispersal, I assume there is a symmetric dispersal matrix D_{sym} (i.e. $d_{ij} = d_{ji}$ for all $i \neq j$) around which the spatial variation in dispersal occurs. For two patch models, this symmetric matrix is

$$(5) \qquad D_{\text{sym}} = \begin{pmatrix} 1-d & d \\ d & 1-d \end{pmatrix}$$

where d is the probability an individual disperses to the other patch. For models with more patches, this symmetric matrix could represent a random walk or diffusion with any pattern of connectivity between the patches or, more generally, a heterogeneous random walk or diffusion [Chung, 1997, Spielman, 2007]. Variation of D_t around this symmetric matrix D_{sym} takes two forms: spatial variation and spatial-temporal variation:

$$(6) \qquad D_t = D_{\text{sym}} + \underbrace{\overline{D} - D_{\text{sym}}}_{\text{spatial}} + \underbrace{D_t - \overline{D}}_{\text{spatial-temporal}}$$

Analytical and numerical approximations of the metapopulation growth rate r. Finding analytic expressions for the metapopulation growth rate r is generally intractable. However, using methods of Ruelle [1979] (see also Tuljapurkar [1990]), I derive an analytical approximation of r when the temporal and spatial variations in demography and dispersal are small. To validate the accuracy of these analytical approximations, I numerically compute r using the power method [Caswell, 2001].

To derive the small variance approximation in a mathematically rigorous manner, I use the work of Ruelle [1979] who proved that r is analytic function of the environment-demography mapping $\xi \to \mathbf{D}(\xi)\Lambda(\xi) =: \mathbf{A}(\xi)$. Ruelle [1979]'s proof of this fact provides an approach to explicitly compute derivatives of r as a function of the environment-demography mapping. Using this approach, I derive a second order Taylor expansion for r around the unperturbed model $\bar{A} = D_{\text{sym}}\overline{\langle \boldsymbol{\lambda} \rangle}$. As this unperturbed model $\bar{A}$ corresponds to the absence of spatial or temporal variation in dispersal or demography, its entries do not depend on the environmental state ξ. The second order expansion consists of two parts corresponding to perturbations in the demographic matrix and perturbations in the dispersal matrix. For the environmental state ξ, the perturbation of the demographic matrix is

$$\mathbf{B}(\xi) = \text{diag}(\boldsymbol{\lambda}(\xi) - \overline{\langle \boldsymbol{\lambda} \rangle}),$$

and the perturbation of the dispersal matrix is

$$\mathbf{C}(\xi) = \mathbf{D}(\xi) - D_{\text{sym}}.$$

If $\varepsilon_B > 0$ and $\varepsilon_C > 0$ are the magnitudes of the perturbations of the demographic and dispersal matrices, then the perturbation of the projection matrix $\bar{A}$ is

$$\mathbf{A}(\xi) = (D_{\text{sym}} + \varepsilon_C \mathbf{C}(\xi))(\overline{\langle \boldsymbol{\lambda} \rangle} + \varepsilon_B \mathbf{B}(\xi)).$$

Let $r = r(\varepsilon_B, \varepsilon_C)$ be the metapopulation growth rate as a function of the perturbation parameters ε_B and ε_C. Appendix B shows that both first order derivatives $\frac{\partial r}{\partial \varepsilon_B}$ and $\frac{\partial r}{\partial \varepsilon_C}$ and the

second-order derivative $\frac{\partial^2 r}{\partial \varepsilon_C^2}$ are zero. Consequently, the second order approximation of r for sufficiently small perturbations of $\bar{A}$ is of the form

$$(7) \qquad r \approx \ln \overline{\langle \boldsymbol{\lambda} \rangle} + \frac{\varepsilon_B^2}{2} \frac{\partial^2 r}{\partial \varepsilon_B^2} + \varepsilon_C^2 \frac{\partial^2 r}{\partial \varepsilon_B \partial \varepsilon_C}$$

To approximate r numerically, I use the power method [see, e.g., Caswell, 2001] where one re-normalizes the matrix dynamics in (2) at each time step:

$$(8) \qquad \mathbf{v}_{t+1} = \frac{A_t \mathbf{v}_t}{|A_t \mathbf{v}_t|} \text{ with } \mathbf{v}_0 = \begin{pmatrix} 1/k \\ 1/k \\ \vdots \\ 1/k \end{pmatrix}.$$

The work of Ruelle [1979] implies that

$$r = \lim_{t \to \infty} \frac{1}{t} \sum_{s=1}^{t} \ln |A_s \mathbf{v}_s| \text{ with probability one.}$$

Hence,

$$r \approx \frac{1}{T} \sum_{s=1}^{T} \ln |A_s \mathbf{v}_s| \text{ for sufficiently large } T.$$

I use $T = 100,000$ time steps for these numerical approximations.

The work of Ruelle [1979] also implies that $\mathbf{v}_t$ converges to a stationary sequence $\widehat{\mathbf{v}}_t$ representing the spatial-temporal distribution of individuals in the population in the long-term. Notably, the metapopulation growth rate equals

$$r = \overline{\ln |A_t \widehat{\mathbf{v}}_t|}.$$

This equation provides a link to the fitness-density covariance of Chesson [2000]. Specifically, if

$$\text{cov}_{\text{space}}(\mathbf{u}, \mathbf{v}) = \langle \mathbf{u} - \langle \mathbf{u} \rangle, \mathbf{v} - \langle \mathbf{v} \rangle \rangle$$

denotes the spatial covariance of two vectors $\mathbf{u}, \mathbf{v}$, then

$$
\begin{aligned}
|A_t \widehat{\mathbf{v}}_t| &= \sum_{i=1}^{k} \lambda_{i,t} v_{i,t} \\
&= k \langle \boldsymbol{\lambda}_t \rangle \langle \mathbf{v}_t \rangle + k \, \text{cov}_{\text{space}}(\boldsymbol{\lambda}_t, \mathbf{v}_t) \\
&= \langle \boldsymbol{\lambda}_t \rangle + k \, \text{cov}_{\text{space}}(\boldsymbol{\lambda}_t, \mathbf{v}_t)
\end{aligned}
$$

where the first line follows from the dispersal matrices being column stochastic, the second line follows from the definition of the spatial covariance, and the final line follows from $\langle \mathbf{v}_t \rangle = 1/k$ i.e. $|\mathbf{v}_t| = 1$. The expression, $k \operatorname{cov}(\boldsymbol{\lambda}_t, \mathbf{v}_t)$, corresponds to the spatial covariance in the fitnesses at time t and the (normalized) population densities at time t. Chesson [2000] calls this expression, the fitness-density covariance. Putting these pieces together, ,one arrives at the following representation of the metapopulation growth rate r

$$(9) \qquad\qquad r = \overline{\ln\left(\langle \boldsymbol{\lambda}_t \rangle + k \operatorname{cov}_{\text{space}}(\boldsymbol{\lambda}_{\text{t}}, \mathbf{v}_{\text{t}})\right)}.$$

Roy et al. [2005] derived a similar formula to (9).

RESULTS

The main result is an analytical formula for how spatial and temporal variation in demography and dispersal contribute to the metapopulation growth rate r. This formula, as highlighted in equation (7), consists of two main components: the contribution of demographic variation (the second term of equation (7)) and interactive effect demographic and dispersal variation (the third term of equation (7)). To highlight the key features of these two components, I present them first for the case of $k = 2$ patches and then extend to the case of any number of patches. I conclude by deriving a relationship between the fitness-density covariance of Chesson [2000] and the metapopulation growth rate decomposition.

Contributions of demographic variation to r for two patches. In case of $k = 2$ patches without dispersal variation, the dispersal matrix $D_t = D_{\text{sym}}$ is characterized by the probability d that an individual disperses to the other patch, see equation (5). In the absence of births and deaths, individuals dispersing according to this dispersal matrix will ultimately by equally distributed between the two patches i.e. the stable spatial distribution is $\begin{pmatrix} \frac{1}{2} \\ \frac{1}{2} \end{pmatrix}$. Deviations away from this spatially homogeneous distribution decay exponentially like $(1 - 2d)^t$ as $t \to \infty$. This decay occurs more quickly when the fraction dispersing is closer to 50%. Moreover, this decay occurs monotonically when no more than 50% of the population is dispersing ($d < 0.5$). In this case, I call the population *philopatric* (home-loving). When the fraction dispersing is greater than 50% ($d > 0.5$), I call the population *miseopatric* (home-hating). The spatial distribution of miseopatric populations exhibit dampened oscillations when approaching a spatially homogeneous state; the patch with the greatest number of individuals alternating between the two patches from time step to time step.

In the presence of spatially and temporally varying fitnesses, the metapopulation experiences a temporal variance $\sigma^2_{\text{time}} = \overline{(\langle \boldsymbol{\lambda}_t \rangle - \overline{\langle \boldsymbol{\lambda} \rangle})^2}$ in its spatially averaged fitnesses with coefficient of variation $\text{CV}_{\text{time}} = \sigma_{\text{time}} / \overline{\langle \boldsymbol{\lambda} \rangle}$, and a spatial variance $\sigma^2_{\text{space}} = \overline{(\overline{\lambda_1} - \overline{\langle \boldsymbol{\lambda} \rangle})^2} = \overline{(\overline{\lambda_2} - \overline{\langle \boldsymbol{\lambda} \rangle})^2}$ in its

temporally averaged fitnesses with coefficient of variation $\mathrm{CV}_{\mathrm{space}} = \sigma_{\mathrm{space}}/\overline{\langle\boldsymbol{\lambda}\rangle}$. In the case of $k = 2$ patches, the vector of spatial-temporal deviations (final term in equation (4)) always have opposite sign; the spatial-temporal deviations are

$$\begin{pmatrix} \alpha_t \\ -\alpha_t \end{pmatrix} \text{ where } \alpha_t = \lambda_{1,t} - \overline{\lambda_1} - \langle\boldsymbol{\lambda}_t - \overline{\boldsymbol{\lambda}}\rangle.$$

α_t measures the direction and magnitude of the asynchrony between the two patches. When α_t is positive, fitness in patch 1 is higher than patch 2, else fitness in patch 2 is higher. Let $\sigma_{\mathrm{st}}^2 = \overline{\alpha^2}$ be the temporal variation in the spatial asynchrony, and $\rho_{\mathrm{st}} = \overline{\alpha_t \alpha_{t+1}}$ be the corresponding temporal autocorrelation. When the autocorrelation ρ_{st} is positive, time steps in which there is higher fitness in patch 1 tend to be followed by time steps where fitness continues to be higher in patch 1. When the autocorrelation ρ_{st} is negative, time steps in which there is higher fitness in patch 1 tend to be followed by time steps where fitness is higher in patch 2.

The analytical approximation of the metapopulation growth rate r is a sum of four terms corresponding to each component of the demographic decomposition in equation (4). Specifically,

$$(10) \qquad r \approx \ln\overline{\langle\boldsymbol{\lambda}\rangle} - \frac{1}{2}\mathrm{CV}_{\mathrm{time}}^2 + \frac{1-2d}{2d}\mathrm{CV}_{\mathrm{space}}^2 + \frac{\rho_{\mathrm{st}}(1-2d)}{1-(1-2d)\rho_{\mathrm{st}}}\mathrm{CV}_{\mathrm{st}}^2$$

The first term $\ln\overline{\langle\boldsymbol{\lambda}\rangle}$ correspond to the metapopulation growth rate in the absence of spatial and temporal variation. Consistent with classical stochastic demography, the second term, $-\frac{1}{2}\mathrm{CV}_{\mathrm{time}}^2$, implies that temporal variation in demography reduces the metapopulation growth rate. In contrast, spatial variation (the third term) increases the metapopulation growth rate for philopatric populations ($d < 0.5$) and decreases the metapopulation growth rate for miseopatric populations ($d > 0.5$). The impact of spatially asynchronous fluctuations on the metapopulation growth rate (the fourth term) depend simultaneously on the temporal auto-correlation ρ_{st} and whether the populations are philopatric or miseopatric. For philopatric populations, positive autocorrelations increase the metapopulation growth rate, while negative autocorrelations reduce the metapopulation growth rate. For miseopatric populations, these impacts are reversed.

To illustrate these theoretical implications, I consider numerical scenarios inspired by the experiments of Matthews and Gonzalez [2007] with metapopulations of *Paramecium aurelia*. By varying temperature between two values, Matthews and Gonzalez [2007] varied fitness within flasks between low ($\lambda_{i,t} < 1$) and high ($\lambda_{i,t} > 1$) values. This temperature variation was chosen so that the average fitness was less than one ($\ln\overline{\langle\boldsymbol{\lambda}\rangle} < 0$). Each day (a time step), 10% of the individuals were moved to between pairs of flasks ($d = 0.1$). Like their experiments, my numerical experiments varied temporal and spatial correlations in fitness (Fig. 1). In these scenarios, the analytical approximation of the metapopulation growth rate r closely matched the numerically

FIGURE 1. Impacts of temporal and spatial-temporal variation in fitness on two patch metapopulations. In (A), the metapopulation growth rate r as a function of the auto-correlation in the spatial-temporal variation. Solid curves correspond to the analytical approximation (13) and $\times$ correspond numerical approximations. Spatially synchronized fluctuations in yellow, spatially asynchronous fluctuations in green, and spatially independent fluctuations in yellow. The gray line corresponds to $\ln \overline{\langle \boldsymbol{\lambda} \rangle}$. In (B)-(D), population dynamics with negative density-dependence added when $\rho_{st} = 0.8$. Different colors as described for (A). Parameters: $\lambda_{i,t} = 0.85$ and 1.15 with equal likelihood, and $d = 0.1$. For the spatially synchronous (respectively, asynchronous) models there are two environmental states corresponding $\lambda_{i,t} = 1.15$ in both patches or $\lambda_{i,t} = 0.85$ in both patches (respectively, 1.15 in one patch, and 0.85 in the other patch). For the spatially independent model, there are four environmental states corresponding 1.15 in both patches, 0.85 in both patches, and 1.15 in one patch, 0.85 in the other. For B-D, density-dependence is added by multiplying $\lambda_{i,t}$ by $\exp(-0.001 n_{i,t})$.

estimated values of r (solid curves versus $\times$s in Fig 1A). For spatially synchronized metapopulations, temporal variation in fitness reduced the metapopulation growth rate (yellow versus gray curves in Fig. 1A). When the patches are perfectly asynchronous (i.e. when one patch experiences high fitness, the other experiences low fitness), the metapopulation only experiences

spatial-temporal fluctuations in fitness; there is no reduction due to temporal variation. As the metapopulation is philopatric ($d = 0.1$), positive autocorrelations in this spatial-temporal variation increase the metapopulation growth rate, while negative autocorrelations decrease the metapopulation growth rate (green versus gray curves in Fig. 1A). Sufficiently positive autocorrelations lead to a positive metapopulation growth rate despite both patches being sinks (green curve above dashed line in Fig. 1A). When the patches are spatially independent, the joint effects of temporal variation and spatial-temporal variation result in intermediate metapopulation growth rates (orange versus yellow and green curves in Fig. 1A). This stems from spatial independence simultaneously reducing the temporal variation and the spatial-temporal variation terms of the metapopulation growth rate decomposition (10). Consistent with mathematical theory [Benaïm and Schreiber, 2019], the metapopulation growth rate r for the density-independent model predicts the long-term fate of metapopulations experiencing negative density-dependence (Fig. 1B–D); the metapopulation persisting when $r > 0$ (Fig. 1B,C), and going extinct when $r < 0$ (Fig. 1D).

To illustrate the joint effects of spatial variation and dispersal rates on the metapopulation growth rate, I increased the fitness in patch 1 and varied the dispersal rate and the temporal autocorrelation ρ_{st} (Fig. 2A). While dispersal rates and temporal autocorrelations have no effect on the temporal variation component of the metapopulation growth rate r (not shown), the spatial and spatial-temporal components of r depend on both factors (Fig. 2B). For all levels of temporal autocorrelation, the spatial component of r decreases with the dispersal rate d and becomes negative when the population is miseopatric (gray dashed curve in Fig. 2B). In contrast, the effect of dispersal on the spatial-temporal component of r depends on the sign of the temporal autocorrelation: a positive effect for negative temporal autocorrelation (green curve in Fig. 2B) and a negative effect for positive temporal autocorrelation (orange curve in Fig. 2B). For negative temporal autocorrelations, the opposing effects of dispersal on two components of r result in a non-monotonic effect of dispersal on r (orange curve in Fig. 2A); r is minimized at intermediate dispersal rates.

Interactive effects of dispersal and fitness variation for two patches. In the case of $k = 2$ patches, spatial and temporal variation in dispersal is determined by the changes $\delta_{i,t}$ in the faction d dispersing from patch $i = 1, 2$. Namely,

$$\text{(11)} \qquad\qquad D_t = D_{\mathrm{sym}} + \begin{pmatrix} -\delta_{1,t} & \delta_{2,t} \\ \delta_{1,t} & -\delta_{2,t} \end{pmatrix}$$

The spatial component in the dispersal matrix decomposition (6) is determined by the temporal averages $\overline{\delta_i}$ and spatial-temporal component is determined by the deviations $\delta_{i,t} - \overline{\delta_i}$.

While dispersal variation, in and of itself, has no impact on the metapopulation growth rate, it does have an impact when it covaries with demographic variation. The spatial component of

FIGURE 2. Impacts of spatial variation, temporal auto-correlation, and dispersal on the metapopulation growth rate r. Fitness is always higher in patch 1, and the temporal variation in fitness is spatially independent. In (A), r as function of the dispersal rate d. Solid curves correspond to the analytical approximation (10) and $\times$s correspond to the numerical approximations. Different colors correspond to different values of spatial-temporal auto-correlation. In (B), the contributions of spatial variation (dashed gray) and spatial-temporal variation (yellow,orange,green) on r. Parameters: $\lambda_{i,t}$ in patch $i = 1$ are $1.2, 1.0$ with equal probability, and $1.0, 0.8$ in patch $i = 2$ with equal probability. Fitness are spatially independent.

this impact stems from the spatial covariance between dispersal and demography,

$$\mathrm{cov}_{D\Lambda\text{-space}} = \mathrm{cov}_{\text{space}}(\overline{\boldsymbol{\lambda}}, \overline{\delta}) = (\overline{\lambda_1} - \overline{\langle\boldsymbol{\lambda}\rangle})(\overline{\delta_2} - \overline{\delta_1}).$$

Positive values of this covariance occur when individuals, on average across time, exhibit biased movement to the patch with the higher average fitness. The impact of spatial-temporal variation on the metapopulation growth rate depends on the temporal covariance between the difference in dispersal rates between the two patches at one time step and the corresponding difference in fitness between the two patches in the next time step:

$$\mathrm{cov}_{D\Lambda\text{-st}} = \mathrm{cov}_{\text{time}}[\delta_{2,\mathrm{t}} - \delta_{1,\mathrm{t}}, \lambda_{1,\mathrm{t}+1} - \lambda_{2,\mathrm{t}+1}]$$

where $\mathrm{cov}_{\text{time}}(\mathrm{x}, \mathrm{y}) = \overline{(\mathrm{x} - \overline{\mathrm{x}})(\mathrm{y} - \overline{\mathrm{y}})}$ is the covariance for two stationary time series x_t, y_t. Let $\rho_{D\Lambda\text{-st}}$ be the correlation associated with the covariance $\mathrm{cov}_{D\Lambda\text{-st}}$. Positive correlations occur when

individuals are more likely to disperse to the patch with the higher fitness in the next time step. The effects of these spatial and spatial-temporal covariances on the metapopulation growth rate r are

$$\text{(12)} \qquad \frac{1}{2d} \frac{\text{cov}_{D\Lambda\text{-space}}}{\langle\boldsymbol{\lambda}\rangle^2} + \frac{1}{1 - (1 - 2d)\rho_{D\Lambda\text{-st}}} \frac{\text{cov}_{D\Lambda\text{-st}}}{\langle\boldsymbol{\lambda}\rangle^2}.$$

Each contribution is positive only if the corresponding covariance is positive i.e. individuals tend to move to patches of higher quality. The magnitude of these contributions decreases with the base dispersal rate d.

To illustrate some of the implications of the covariation of dispersal and demography on the metapopulation growth rate, Figure 3 considers a population whose individuals make use of the win-stay-lose-shift (WSLS) dispersal strategy [Schmidt, 2004]. Individuals using this strategy remain in patches that supported the highest fitness, else disperse to the other patch. Dispersing individuals (a fraction d of the population) utilize the WSLS strategy with probability p. In the numerical experiments, fitness in the patches fluctuate between lower and higher values. Patch 1, on average, supports the higher fitness, but has the lowest fitness one-quarter of the time. Greater use of the WSLS strategy (higher p) always increases the metapopulation growth rate (Fig 3A), but this increase is weakest when there are negative temporal autocorrelations (orange curve in Fig. 3A). At first, it may seem surprising that the WSLS strategy enhances metapopulation growth in a strongly negatively autocorrelated environment. Indeed, individuals using this strategy are more likely to end up in a patch with lower fitness in the next time step leading to a negative spatial-temporal covariance between dispersal and fitness (orange curve in Fig. 3B). However, the spatial component always has a positive effect on the metapopulation growth rate (dashed gray curve in Fig. 3B). This positive effect stems from the WSLS strategy ensuring individuals spend three-quarters of their time, on average, in the patch with the higher average fitness.

Decomposition for any number of patches. For the general case of $k \geq 2$ patches, one needs to break up the spatial variation into $k-1$ *spatial modes of variation (SMV)*. These modes correspond to sub-dominant eigenvectors, $\mathbf{u}(1), \ldots, \mathbf{u}(k-1)$, of the dispersal matrix D_{sym} and describe all possible forms of spatial deviations from a uniform distribution. The SMVs form an orthogonal basis of subspace $\{\mathbf{v} : \sum_{i=1}^{k} v_i = 0\}$ of all possible deviations from a spatially homogeneous state; orthogonality means that $\sum_{i=1}^{k} u_\ell(i)u_j(i) = 0$ whenever $\ell \neq j$. I choose these eigenvectors to be normalized such that $\sum_{i=1}^{k} u_i(j)^2 = k$. For each spatial mode $\mathbf{u}(i)$, let μ_i be the associated eigenvalue of D_{sym}. These eigenvalues and eigenvectors describe the transient dynamics of the dispersal matrix D_{sym}. While the magnitude of μ_i is always less than one, its sign can be positive or negative. I call spatial modes of variation for which $\mu_i > 0$ *philopatric spatial modes of variation*; when the initial spatial distribution of the population has

FIGURE 3. Impacts of fluctuating dispersal and demography on population growth. The fitness in patch 1 is, on average in time, higher than in patch 2, but is lower one-quarter of the time. In each time step, individuals disperse with probability d from patches with lower fitness and with probability pd from patches with higher fitness. In (A), the population growth rate plotted as function of the probability p of a dispersing individual playing the win-stay-lose-shift strategy. Solid curves correspond to the analytical approximation (13) and $\times$ correspond numerical approximations. Different colors correspond to different values of temporal auto-correlation. In (B), the contribution of the mean (dashed gray) and fluctuating (solid curves) biases in dispersal on the population growth rate. Parameters: Same as Figure 2 with $d = 0.3$.

all of its variation in a philopatric spatial mode, patches with higher densities will continue to have higher densities in future time steps. When the initial spatial distribution has all of its spatial variation in a SMV with negative values of μ_i, patches with the highest densities will have the lower densities in the next time step. These are *miseopatric spatial modes of variation*. By the Gershgorin circle theorem [Horn and Johnson, 1990], miseopatric SMV only occur if there is at least one patch where at least 50% of the individuals leave i.e. there is a diagonal entry of D_{sym} whose value is greater than 0.5. For example, In the case of $k = 2$ patches, there is only one SMV $\mathbf{u}(1) = \begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ -1 \end{pmatrix}$ corresponding to spatial asynchrony. The eigenvalue associated with $\mathbf{u}(1)$ is $\mu_1 = 1 - 2d$ where d is the fraction of dispersing individuals.

As in the case of $k = 2$ patches, each source of variation in fitness (see (4)) and dispersal (see (6)) has a distinctive impact on the metapopulation growth rate r. To identify these impacts, I decompose the spatial sources of variation along the SMVs $\mathbf{u}(1), \ldots, \mathbf{u}(k)$. For the spatial variation in fitness, this decomposition takes the form

$$\overline{\boldsymbol{\lambda}} - \overline{\langle \boldsymbol{\lambda} \rangle} = \sum_{i=1}^{k-1} \overline{\alpha}_i \mathbf{u}(i) \text{ where } \overline{\alpha}_i = \frac{1}{k} \sum_{j=1}^{k} (\overline{\lambda}_j - \overline{\langle \boldsymbol{\lambda} \rangle}) u_j(i).$$

For the spatial-temporal variation, the decomposition is

$$\boldsymbol{\lambda}_t - \langle \boldsymbol{\lambda}_t \rangle - \overline{\boldsymbol{\lambda}} + \overline{\langle \boldsymbol{\lambda} \rangle} = \sum_{i=1}^{k-1} \alpha_{i,t} \mathbf{u}(i) \text{ where } \alpha_{i,t} = \frac{1}{k} \sum_{j=1}^{k} \left(\lambda_{i,t} - \langle \boldsymbol{\lambda}_t \rangle - \overline{\lambda}_i + \overline{\langle \boldsymbol{\lambda} \rangle} \right) u_j(i).$$

For dispersal variation, only net changes in movement for each patch impact the metapopulation growth rate

$$\mathbf{m}_t = \text{ row sums of } D_t - D_{\text{sym}}$$

As the column sum of $\mathbf{m}_t$ always equals zero, one can express this vector as a unique linear combination of the spatial modes of variation:

$$\mathbf{m}_t = \sum_{i=1}^{k-1} \overline{\beta}_i \mathbf{u}(i) + \sum_{i=1}^{k-1} \beta_{i,t} \mathbf{u}(i) \text{ where } \overline{\beta}_i = \frac{1}{k} \sum_{j=1}^{k} \overline{m}_j u_j(i) \text{ and } \beta_{i,t} = \frac{1}{k} \sum_{j=1}^{k} (m_{j,t} - \overline{m}_j) u_j(i).$$

As in the two patch case, temporal variation $\sigma_{\text{time}}^2 = \overline{\left(\langle \boldsymbol{\lambda}_t \rangle - \overline{\langle \boldsymbol{\lambda} \rangle} \right)^2}$ in demography has a negative impact on the metapopulation growth rate. The effect of variation along a spatial mode depends on its variance $\sigma_{\text{space},i}^2 = \overline{\alpha}_i^2$ and the eigenvalue μ_i associated with this mode. In particular, variation along a a spatial mode enhances the metapopulation growth rate only when movement along this spatial mode is philopatric i.e. $\mu_i > 0$. The effect of spatial-temporal variation in demography depends on its variation $\sigma_{\text{st},i}^2 = \text{Var}[\alpha_{i,t}^2]$ along a spatial mode and the associated temporal autocorrelation $\rho_{\text{st},i} = \text{Corr}[\alpha_{i,t}, \alpha_{i,t+1}]$. For philopatric spatial modes of variation ($\mu_i > 0$), positive autocorrelations enhance metapopulation growth rates, while negative autocorrelations reduce r. For miseopatric spatial modes of variation, the direction of these impacts is reversed. The impact of spatial covariation in demography and dispersal on r depends on the dispersal-demography covariance $\text{cov}_{D\Lambda\text{-space},i}$; positive covariances along a spatial mode increase r. Similarly, positive spatial-temporal covariances $\text{cov}_{D\Lambda\text{-st},i}$ or auto-correlations $\rho_{D\Lambda\text{-st},i}$ also increase the metapopulation growth rate. Putting all of these contributions together

yield the following decomposition of the metapopulation growth rate:

(13)
$$r \approx \ln \overline{\langle \boldsymbol{\lambda} \rangle} - \frac{1}{2} \mathrm{CV}^2_{\mathrm{time}} + \sum_{i=1}^{k-1} \frac{\mu_i}{1-\mu_i} \mathrm{CV}^2_{\mathrm{space},i} + \sum_{i=1}^{k-1} \frac{\rho_{\mathrm{st},i} \mu_i}{1-\rho_{\mathrm{st},i}\mu_i} \mathrm{CV}^2_{\mathrm{st},i}$$
$$+ \sum_{i=1}^{k-1} \frac{1}{1-\mu_i} \frac{\mathrm{cov}_{D\Lambda\text{-space},i}}{\overline{\langle \boldsymbol{\lambda} \rangle}^2} + \sum_{i=1}^{k-1} \frac{\mu_i}{1-\rho_{D\Lambda,i}\mu_i} \frac{\mathrm{cov}_{D\Lambda\text{-st},i}}{\overline{\langle \boldsymbol{\lambda} \rangle}^2}$$

To illustrate the role of multiple spatial modes on population growth, Figures 4 and 5 consider a one-dimensional gradient of $k = 15$ patches with periodic boundary conditions. For the base dispersal matrix D_{sym}, half of the individuals in a patch move to the left, and the other half to the right. The SMVs of D_{sym} correspond to different spatial frequencies

$$\mathbf{u}_i = \begin{pmatrix} 1 & \cos\left(\frac{2\pi i}{k}\right) & \cos\left(\frac{4\pi i}{k}\right) & \dots & \cos\left(\frac{2(k-1)\pi i}{k}\right) \end{pmatrix} \text{ for } 1 \le i \le k-1$$

with the associated eigenvalue μ_i equal $\cos\left(\frac{2\pi i}{k}\right)$. Importantly, movement along modes corresponding to higher frequencies (i.e. $\frac{k}{8\pi} < i < \frac{3k}{8\pi}$) is miseopatric (i.e. $\mu_i < 0$) and otherwise philopatric. It follows that lower versus higher frequencies of spatial variation have opposing impacts on population growth rate (Fig. 4 versus Fig. 5).

When spatial variation always occurs at lower frequencies (Fig. 4), this variation increases r; $r = 0.0034 > 0$ from both analytical formula and numerical approximation despite $\ln \overline{\langle \boldsymbol{\lambda} \rangle} < 0$ (sum of colored bars versus gray bar in Fig. 4B). While temporal variation reduces the metapopulation growth rate slightly, spatial and spatial-temporal variation in demography and dispersal more than compensate (colored bars in Fig. 4B). These positive effects stem from the spatial modes corresponding to the low frequencies (thickest curves in Fig. 4C).

When spatial variation occurs at higher frequencies (Fig. 5A), it reduces the metapopulation growth rate ($r = -0.025$ from analytical formula, $r = -0.018$ from numerical approximation) (Fig. 5B). This negative impact stems from the dominant spatial modes of variation having higher frequencies (thick orange and green curves in Fig. 5C) and, consequently, being miseopatric. Hence, spatial and spatial-temporal variation in demography have negative impacts on metapopulation growth rates (orange and yellow bars in Fig. 5B). These negative impacts exceed the slightly positive impacts of spatial-temporal covariation in dispersal and demography (green bar in Fig. 5B).

Relationship to the fitness-density covariance. As shown by equation (9), the metapopulation growth rate r is determined by the temporal variation of the spatial averages $\langle \boldsymbol{\lambda}_t \rangle$ and the temporal variation in the fitness-density covariances $\mathrm{cov}_{\mathrm{space}}(\boldsymbol{\lambda}_t, \hat{\mathbf{v}}_t)$. When spatial and temporal variation is small, the second-order Taylor approximation of $\ln(\overline{\langle \boldsymbol{\lambda} \rangle} + x) \approx \ln \overline{\langle \boldsymbol{\lambda} \rangle} + \frac{x}{\overline{\langle \boldsymbol{\lambda} \rangle}} - \frac{x^2}{2\overline{\langle \boldsymbol{\lambda} \rangle}^2}$

FIGURE 4. The impact of low frequency spatial variation in fitness on the metapopulation growth rate. A population living along a spatial gradient of $k = 15$ patches that varies over time between higher fitness in the center (black curve in A) and higher fitness at the edges (gray curve in A). Individuals disperse to neighboring patches with a preference for patches supporting a higher fitness. Analytical decomposition of the population growth rate in B. In C, all spatial modes of variation (SMV) plotted with the thickness of the curves proportional to the magnitude of their contribution to the metapopulation growth rate.

implies that the metapopulation growth rate satisfies

$$
(14) \qquad r \approx \ln \overline{\langle \boldsymbol{\lambda} \rangle} + \frac{k}{\langle \boldsymbol{\lambda} \rangle} \overline{\mathrm{cov}(\boldsymbol{\lambda}_{\mathrm{t}}, \mathbf{v}_{\mathrm{t}})} - \frac{1}{2} \mathrm{CV}^2_{\mathrm{time}}.
$$

Hence, all but the first two terms of the metapopulation growth rate decomposition (13) correspond to the time-averaged fitness-density covariance. Hence, positive values of the remaining terms (due to spatial or spatial-temporal variation in fitness, or spatial or spatial-temporal covariation in fitness and dispersal) contribute to a positive fitness-density covariance.

FIGURE 5. The impact of high frequency spatial variation in fitness on the metapopulation growth rate. A population living along a spatial gradient of $k = 15$ patches that varies over time between higher fitness occurring at odd number patches (black curve in A) and even numbered patches (gray curve in A). Individuals disperse to neighboring patches with a preference for patches supporting higher fitness. Analytical decomposition of the population growth rate in B. In C, all spatial modes of variation (SMV) plotted with the thickness of the curves proportional to the magnitude of their contribution to the metapopulation growth rate.

DISCUSSION

Spatial and temporal variation in biotic and abiotic conditions is a ubiquitous feature of the natural world. This variation, via its effects on fitness and dispersal, modulate how quickly metapopulations grow or decline in abundance. Here, I presented a framework to explicitly quantify the contributions of each of these sources of variation to the metapopulation growth rate. Aside from temporal variation in the spatially averaged fitness, all other sources of variation

determine how population densities covaries with patch quality – the fitness-density covariance of Chesson [2000]. When this covariance is positive, individuals tend concentrate in patches supporting higher fitness resulting in a higher metapopulation growth rate. This framework recovers classical results about the opposing effects of spatial and temporal variation on population growth, spatial bet-hedging by reducing temporal variation, and inflationary effects due to temporally auto-correlated variation. Notably, this framework highlights new mechanisms yielding inflationary effects and positive fitness-density covariances.

<div align="center">Temporal versus spatial variation</div>

A well-known dichotomy in demography is that temporal variation in fitness reduces population growth rates [Lewontin and Cohen, 1969, Boyce et al., 2006], while spatial variation often increases metapopulation growth rates [Karlin, 1976, Hastings, 1983, Snyder and Chesson, 2003, Schreiber and Lloyd-Smith, 2009, Crone, 2016]. For spatially and temporally variable environments, this dichotomy remains if temporal variation corresponds to the temporal variation in the spatially averaged fitnesses, and spatial variation corresponds to the spatial variation of the temporally averaged fitnesses. The decomposition of the metapopulation growth rate in equation (13) implies that temporal variation in spatial averages reduces the metapopulation growth rate, while spatial variation in temporal averages can increase the metapopulation growth rate. This positive effect only occurs if the population is philopatric i.e. no more than 50% of individuals leave a patch in a time step, otherwise spatial variation has a negative impact. For these philopatric populations, the positive effect stems from individuals accumulating more quickly in the patches with higher fitness resulting in a positive fitness-density covariance [Chesson, 2000, Snyder, 2007]. For miseopatric populations where at least half of the individuals are leaving some patches, spatial variation reduces metapopulation growth rates. The simplest illustration of this negative impact occurs in a population dispersing between two patches with unequal fitnesses $\lambda_1 \neq \lambda_2$. If individuals mostly disperse to the other patch each time step, then the population increases by a factor of $\lambda_1 \lambda_2$ over two time steps. Hence, the metapopulation growth rate equals the logarithm of the geometric mean $\sqrt{\lambda_1 \lambda_2}$. As the geometric mean is strictly smaller than the spatially averaged fitness $\frac{\lambda_1 + \lambda_2}{2}$, spatial variation in fitness reduces this miseopatric population's growth rate. More generally, the metapopulation growth rate decomposition in equation (13) implies that the positive impact of spatial variation decreases continually with increasing dispersal rates i.e. the $\frac{1-2d}{2d}$ term in (10). For models without temporal variation, this prediction follows from Karlin's reduction principle [Karlin, 1976, Hastings, 1983, Kirkland et al., 2006, Altenberg, 2012a].

<div align="center">Spatial buffering and inflationary effects</div>

Spatial-temporal variation, here, corresponds to the residual variation in fitness beyond spatial variation and temporal variation. This definition of spatial-variation coincides with recent

work by Johnson and Hastings [2023] and Kortessis et al. [2023]. Spatial-temporal variation always corresponds to spatial asynchrony in fitness i.e. all spatial modes of variation have entries of opposite sign. By reducing the amount of temporal variation (in the spatially averaged fitnesses), this spatial asynchrony buffers population growth against the adverse effects of temporal variation – a classical result in metapopulation theory [Hanski, 1999]. This buffering effect is most easily understood for a two patch system with each patch exhibiting the same distribution of fitnesses over time. If the two patches are perfectly spatially synchronized, then fitness only varies over time, not space; there is a reduction of the metapopulation growth rate. If the two patches are perfectly asynchronous, then fitness only varies over space, not time. When the spatial-temporal variation is temporally uncorrelated, spatial asynchrony buffers the metapopulation growth rate by shifting all of the temporal variation to spatial-temporal variation. This well-known buffering effect can select for dispersal [Kuno, 1981, Metz et al., 1983, Levin et al., 1984], lead to evolutionarily stable sink populations [Holt, 1997, Jansen and Yoshimura, 1998, Schreiber, 2012], and rescue metapopulations from extinction [Jansen and Yoshimura, 1998, Schreiber, 2012, Evans et al., 2013]. This buffering effect, however, does not generate a fitness-density covariance.

Beyond its buffering effect, spatial-temporal variation in fitness can inflate metapopulation growth rates. Consistent with earlier work [Roy et al., 2005, Roy and Holt, 2009, Schreiber, 2010], positive autocorrelations in spatial-temporal variation increase the metapopulation growth rates of philopatric populations. Positive autocorrelation, here, corresponds to one configuration of spatial asynchrony (e.g. fitness in patch 1 being greater than fitness in patch 2) being maintained for several time steps before shifting to a different configuration of asynchrony (e.g. fitness in patch 2 being greater than fitness in patch 1). This positive effect, however, vanishes in well-mixed populations [Schreiber, 2010] and becomes negative when populations are miseopatric. However, an inflationary effect occurs for miseopatric populations when spatial-temporal variation is negatively autocorrelated. Intuitively, if patches supporting high fitness tend to have low fitness in the next time step, moving to other patches results in the metapopulation continuing to concentrate in patches with higher fitness – a positive fitness-density covariance [Chesson, 2000]. This inflationary effect likely occurs in migratory species dispersing seasonally between regions where conditions are alternately favorable and unfavorable [Dingle and Drake, 2007]. Specifically, if time step in the metapopulation is a season, then regions alternating seasonally in their favorability generates a negative spatial-temporal autocorrelation. As most individuals dispersing each season leads to miseopatry, this form of seasonal migration generates an inflationary effect.

The metapopulation growth decomposition in equation (13) also highlights how spatial-temporal variation in dispersal generates inflationary effects. This occurs when spatial-temporal variation in dispersal positively covaries with spatial-temporal variation in fitness i.e. the final

term in (13). Intuitively, a tendency of individuals to track patches that will support higher fitness increases the metapopulation growth rate by creating a positive fitness-density covariance. Northern pike (*Esox lucius*) in Lake Windermere exhibit this type of positive covariance [Haugen et al., 2006]. Over a 40 year period, year-to-year movement between the southern and northern basins were positive correlated to the fitnesses in the two basins. One behavioral strategy that produces this positive fitness-dispersal covariance is the win-stay-lose-shift (WSLS) strategy. Individuals playing this strategy only leave patches after experiencing low fitness. The metapopulation growth rate decomposition (13) implies that this strategy generates a positive covariance only when the spatial-temporal variation in fitness is positively autocorrelated; a finding consistent with earlier simulation studies [Schmidt, 2004]. However, in negatively autocorrelated environments, the WSLS can enhance metapopulation growth rates provided there is pure spatial variation in fitness. WSLS can lead to individuals, on average, spending more time in these higher quality patches and, thereby, still produce a positive fitness-density covariance.

Challenges and opportunities

I considered environmental stochasticity, but not demographic stochasticity. In the face of demographic stochasticity and negative density-dependence, extinction in finite time is inevitable [Schreiber, 2017]. Hence, the question is not whether the population goes extinct, but how soon does it go extinct? Recently, Prodhomme and Strickler [2021] showed that a positive metapopulation growth rate r ensures that the time to extinction increases like a power of the total habitat size A i.e. A^θ for some $\theta > 0$. In contrast, a negative metapopulation growth rate r implies that the time to extinction only increases logarithmically with the habitat size i.e. $\log A$. Hence, in large habitats, a positive metapopulation growth rate r implies long persistence times, but not otherwise. Despite this fundamental dichotomy, more positive metapopulation growth rates need not, in general, imply longer persistence times or higher establishment probabilities [Schreiber and Lloyd-Smith, 2009, Pande et al., 2020a, Ellner et al., 2020, Pande et al., 2020b]. This issue stems from the metapopulation growth rate r only describing the mean rate of increase and not variation around this mean trend. For non-spatial models, Pande et al. [2022] introduced new metrics that account for this variation and do a much better job of predicting establishment success. To what extent these or related metrics accurately predict persistence times for spatially structured populations remains to be seen.

The decomposition of the metapopulation growth rate in equation (13) quantifies the relative importance of different sources of variation on metapopulation persistence. This type of decomposition is conceptually similar to the low-density growth rate decompositions in the quantitative coexistence theory of Chesson [Chesson, 1994, 2000, 2018]. Applications of Chesson's theory are used extensively to evaluate the relative importance of alternative coexistence factors in empirical systems [Adler et al., 2010, Ellner et al., 2016, 2018, Spaak and Schreiber,

2023]. It will be exciting to see whether similar applications of the metapopulation growth rate decomposition can play a similar role for understanding metapopulation persistence in nature.

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Appendix A. General Formulas for First and Second Order Derivatives of Lyapunov Exponents

This appendix derives formulas for first order and second derivatives of the top Lyapunov exponent of a random product of a stationary sequence of positive matrices. I follow the approach of Ruelle [1979] who proved under what conditions these derivatives exist and derive them directly using multivariate calculus. As Ruelle's approach is presented in a skew-product formulation that can obfuscate the heart of the calculations, I use more standard probabilistic notation. Moreover, the derivations below correct an error in Ruelle's formula for the second order derivatives, and provide explicit formulas for mixed second order derivatives not found in classical stochastic demography literature [Tuljapurkar, 1990].

To describe the general class of random matrix products, let the set Ξ of all environmental states be a compact metric space and let $\xi_1, \xi_2, \xi_3, \ldots$ be an ergodic stationary sequence taking values in Ξ. ξ_t is the state of the environment at time t. Let $\mathbf{A}(\xi)$ be a non-negative, primitive matrix associated with environmental state ξ. Assume that the mapping $\xi \mapsto \mathbf{A}(\xi)$ is continuous. $\mathbf{A}$ and ξ_t defines a stationary sequence of matrices $A_1 = \mathbf{A}(\xi_1), A_2 = \mathbf{A}(\xi_2), \ldots$ and a corresponding matrix model

$$\mathbf{n}_{t+1} = A_t \mathbf{n}_t$$

Associated with this linear model is the Lyapunov exponent

$$r(\mathbf{A}) = \lim_{t \to \infty} \frac{1}{t} \mathbb{E}[\ln \|A_t \ldots A_1\|]$$

for which

$$\lim_{t \to \infty} \frac{1}{t} \ln \frac{\sum_i n_i(t)}{\sum_i n_i(0)} = r(\mathbf{A})$$

with probability one whenever the total initial population size is positive i.e. $\sum_i n_i(0) > 0$. Furthermore, for any choice of positive row and column vectors, $\mathbf{v}$ and $\mathbf{w}$, Ruelle [1979, Proposition 3.2] implies that

$$r(\mathbf{A}) = \lim_{t \to \infty} f_t(\mathbf{A}) \text{ where } f_t(\mathbf{A}) = \frac{1}{t} \ln \mathbf{v} A_t \ldots A_1 \mathbf{w}$$

Under suitable conditions, Ruelle [1979, Theorem 3.1] proved that $r(\mathbf{A})$ is an analytic function of $\mathbf{A}$. In particular, it is continuous and continuously differentiable with respect to the environment-demography mapping $\mathbf{A}$. Moreover, the first derivative at $\mathbf{A}$ in the $\mathbf{B}$ direction is

$$\frac{\partial r}{\partial \mathbf{B}}(\mathbf{A}) = \lim_{\varepsilon \to 0} \frac{r(\mathbf{A} + \varepsilon \mathbf{B}) - r(\mathbf{A})}{\varepsilon}$$

where $\xi \mapsto \mathbf{B}(\xi)$ is a continuous mapping into the space of $k \times k$ matrices. Ruelle proved that

$$\frac{\partial r}{\partial \mathbf{B}}(\mathbf{A}) = \lim_{t \to \infty} \frac{\partial f_t}{\partial \mathbf{B}}(\mathbf{A})$$

The second order derivative in the $\mathbf{B}$ and $\mathbf{C}$ directions is

$$\frac{\partial^2 r}{\partial \mathbf{B} \partial \mathbf{C}}(\mathbf{A}) = \lim_{\varepsilon \to 0} \frac{\frac{\partial r}{\partial \mathbf{B}}(\mathbf{A} + \varepsilon \mathbf{C}) - \frac{\partial r}{\partial \mathbf{B}}(\mathbf{A})}{\varepsilon}$$

where $\xi \mapsto \mathbf{B}(\xi), \xi \mapsto \mathbf{C}(\xi)$ are continuous mappings into the space of $k \times k$ matrices. Ruelle proved that

$$\frac{\partial^2 r}{\partial \mathbf{B} \partial \mathbf{C}}(\mathbf{A}) = \lim_{t \to \infty} \frac{\partial^2 f_t}{\partial \mathbf{B} \partial \mathbf{C}}(\mathbf{A})$$

To compute $\frac{\partial r}{\partial \mathbf{B}}(\mathbf{A})$, the chain rule and the product rule imply

$$\frac{\partial f_t}{\partial \mathbf{B}}(\mathbf{A}) = \frac{1}{t} \sum_{s=1}^{t} \mathbb{E} \left[\frac{\mathbf{v} A_t \dots A_{s+1} B_s A_{s-1} \dots A_1 \mathbf{w}}{\mathbf{v} A_t \dots A_1 \mathbf{w}} \right]$$

In the case of interest when $\mathbf{A}(\xi) = A$ for all $\xi \in \Xi$, $\mathbf{v} A = \lambda \mathbf{v}$, $A \mathbf{w} = \lambda \mathbf{w}$ and $\mathbf{v} \mathbf{w} = 1$, then

$$\frac{\partial r}{\partial \mathbf{B}}(\mathbf{A}) = \lim_{t \to \infty} \frac{1}{t\lambda} \sum_{s=1}^{t} \mathbb{E} \left[\mathbf{v} B_s \mathbf{w} \right] = \frac{1}{\lambda} \mathbb{E}[\mathbf{v} B_1 \mathbf{w}]$$

where the second equality follows from stationarity of B_t. Thus,

(A2)
$$\frac{\partial r}{\partial \mathbf{B}}(\mathbf{A}) = \frac{1}{\lambda} \mathbb{E}[\mathbf{v} B_1 \mathbf{w}]$$

To compute a second order derivative in the directions $\mathbf{B}$ and $\mathbf{C}$, the chain rule and product rule imply

$$\frac{\partial^2 f_t}{\partial \mathbf{B} \partial \mathbf{C}}(\mathbf{A}) =$$
$$\frac{1}{t} \sum_{s=2}^{t} \sum_{u=1}^{s-1} \mathbb{E} \left[\frac{\mathbf{v} A_t \dots A_{s+1} B_s A_{s-1} \dots A_{u+1} C_u A_{u-1} \dots A_1 \mathbf{w} + \mathbf{v} A_t \dots A_{s+1} C_s A_{s-1} \dots A_{u+1} B_u A_{u-1} \dots A_1 \mathbf{w}}{\mathbf{v} A_t \dots A_1 \mathbf{w}} \right]$$
$$- \frac{1}{t} \mathbb{E} \left[\frac{(\sum_{s=1}^{t} \mathbf{v} A_t \dots A_{s+1} B_s A_{s-1} \dots A_1 \mathbf{w})(\sum_{s=1}^{t} \mathbf{v} A_t \dots A_{s+1} C_s A_{s-1} \dots A_1 \mathbf{w})}{(\mathbf{v} A_t \dots A_1 \mathbf{w})^2} \right]$$

In the case of interest when $\mathbf{A}(\xi) = A$ for all $\xi \in \Xi$ and $\mathbf{v} A = \lambda \mathbf{v}$ and $A \mathbf{w} = \lambda \mathbf{w}$ and $\mathbf{v} \mathbf{w} = 1$, then

$$\frac{\partial^2 f_t}{\partial \mathbf{B} \partial \mathbf{C}}(\mathbf{A}) =$$

$$\frac{1}{t} \sum_{s=2}^{t} \sum_{u=1}^{s-1} \mathbb{E} \left[\frac{\mathbf{v}\lambda^{t-s} B_s A^{s-1-u} C_u \lambda^{u-1} \mathbf{w} + \mathbf{v}\lambda^{t-s} C_s A^{s-1-u} B_u \lambda^{u-1} \mathbf{w}}{\lambda^t} \right]$$

$$- \frac{1}{t} \mathbb{E} \left[\frac{(\sum_{s=1}^{t} \mathbf{v}\lambda^{t-s} B_s \lambda^{s-1} \mathbf{w})(\sum_{s=1}^{t} \mathbf{v}\lambda^{t-s} C_s \lambda^{s-1} \mathbf{w})}{\lambda^{2t}} \right]$$

$$= \underbrace{\frac{1}{t} \sum_{s=2}^{t} \sum_{u=1}^{s-1} \frac{1}{\lambda^{s-u+1}} \mathbb{E} \left[\mathbf{v}B_s A^{s-1-u} C_u \mathbf{w} + \mathbf{v}C_s A^{s-1-u} B_u \mathbf{w} \right]}_{=:\clubsuit}$$

$$\underbrace{- \frac{1}{t\lambda^2} \mathbb{E} \left[\sum_{s=1}^{t} \mathbf{v}B_s \mathbf{w} \cdot \sum_{s=1}^{t} \mathbf{v}C_s \mathbf{w} \right]}_{=:\spadesuit}$$

By stationarity,

$$\spadesuit = \frac{1}{\lambda^2} \mathbb{E} \left[\mathbf{v}B_1 \mathbf{w} \cdot \mathbf{v}C_1 \mathbf{w} \right] + \sum_{s=2}^{t} \frac{t-s+1}{t\lambda^2} \mathbb{E}[\mathbf{v}B_s \mathbf{w} \cdot \mathbf{v}C_1 \mathbf{w} + \mathbf{v}C_s \mathbf{w} \cdot \mathbf{v}B_1 \mathbf{w}]$$

By ergodicity,

(A3) $$\lim_{t\to\infty} \spadesuit = \frac{1}{\lambda^2} \mathbb{E} \left[\mathbf{v}B_1 \mathbf{w} \cdot \mathbf{v}C_1 \mathbf{w} \right] + \frac{1}{\lambda^2} \sum_{s=2}^{\infty} \mathbb{E}[\mathbf{v}B_s \mathbf{w} \cdot \mathbf{v}C_1 \mathbf{w} + \mathbf{v}C_s \mathbf{w} \cdot \mathbf{v}B_1 \mathbf{w}]$$

Now for $\clubsuit$. Reordering the sum yields

$$\clubsuit = \frac{1}{t} \sum_{u=1}^{t-1} \sum_{s=u+1}^{t} \frac{1}{\lambda^{s-u+1}} \mathbb{E} \left[\mathbf{v}B_s A^{s-1-u} C_u \mathbf{w} + \mathbf{v}C_s A^{s-1-u} B_u \mathbf{w} \right]$$

Re-indexing with $i = s - u + 1$ yields

$$\clubsuit = \frac{1}{t} \sum_{u=1}^{t-1} \sum_{i=2}^{t-u+1} \frac{1}{\lambda^i} \mathbb{E} \left[\mathbf{v}B_{u+i-1} A^{i-2} C_u \mathbf{w} + \mathbf{v}C_{u+i-1} A^{i-2} B_u \mathbf{w} \right]$$

By stationarity,

$$\clubsuit = \frac{1}{t} \sum_{i=2}^{t} \frac{t+i-1}{\lambda^i} \mathbb{E} \left[\mathbf{v}B_i A^{i-2} C_1 \mathbf{w} + \mathbf{v}C_i A^{i-2} B_1 \mathbf{w} \right]$$

By ergodicity

$$(A4) \qquad \lim_{t \to \infty} \clubsuit = \sum_{i=2}^{\infty} \frac{1}{\lambda^i} \mathbb{E} \left[\mathbf{v} B_i A^{i-2} C_1 \mathbf{w} + \mathbf{v} C_i A^{i-2} B_1 \mathbf{w} \right]$$

Hence, (A3) and (A4) imply
(A5)
$$\frac{\partial^2 r}{\partial \mathbf{B} \partial \mathbf{C}}(\mathbf{A}) = \lim_{t \to \infty} \frac{\partial^2 f_t}{\partial \mathbf{B} \partial \mathbf{C}}(\mathbf{A}) =$$

$$\sum_{t=2}^{\infty} \frac{1}{\lambda^t} \mathbf{v} \mathbb{E} \left[B_t A^{t-2} C_1 + C_t A^{t-2} B_1 \right] \mathbf{w} - \frac{1}{\lambda^2} \mathbb{E} \left[\mathbf{v} B_1 \mathbf{w} \cdot \mathbf{v} C_1 \mathbf{w} \right] - \frac{1}{\lambda^2} \sum_{t=2}^{\infty} \mathbb{E} [\mathbf{v} B_t \mathbf{w} \cdot \mathbf{v} C_1 \mathbf{w} + \mathbf{v} C_t \mathbf{w} \cdot \mathbf{v} B_1 \mathbf{w}]$$

In the special case $\mathbf{C} = \mathbf{B}$, one has

$$(A6) \qquad \frac{\partial^2 r}{\partial \mathbf{B} \partial \mathbf{C}}((\mathbf{A}) = \sum_{t=2}^{\infty} \frac{2}{\lambda^t} \mathbf{v} \mathbb{E} \left[B_t A^{t-2} B_1 \right] \mathbf{w} - \frac{1}{\lambda^2} \mathbb{E} \left[(\mathbf{v} B_1 \mathbf{w})^2 \right] - \frac{2}{\lambda^2} \sum_{t=2}^{\infty} \mathbb{E} [\mathbf{v} B_t \mathbf{w} \cdot \mathbf{v} B_1 \mathbf{w}]$$

Appendix B. The Metapopulation Growth Rate Approximation

In this Appendix, I derive the metapopulation growth rate decomposition (13) using the first and second order derivative formulas from Appendix A. Recall, that the metapopulation model is

$$(B2) \qquad \mathbf{n}_{t+1} = D_t \Lambda_t \mathbf{n}_t$$

where $D_t = \mathbf{D}(\xi_t)$ is the dispersal matrix, $\Lambda_t = \Lambda(\xi_t)$ is the diagonal matrix of fitnesses $\boldsymbol{\lambda}_t = \boldsymbol{\lambda}(\xi_t)$, and ξ_t is an ergodic, stationary sequence in the environmental state space Ξ.

As described in the methods, the fitness vector can be written as $\boldsymbol{\lambda}(\xi) = \overline{\langle \boldsymbol{\lambda} \rangle} + \bar{\delta} + \delta(\xi)$ where $\bar{\delta} = \mathbb{E}[\boldsymbol{\lambda}_t] - \overline{\langle \boldsymbol{\lambda} \rangle}$ is the vector of spatial deviations, and $\delta_t = \delta(\xi_t)$ is the sum of the temporal and spatial-temporal deviations. Specifically, $\langle \delta_t \rangle$ and $\delta_t - \langle \delta_t \rangle$ are the temporal and spatial-temporal deviations at time t. The dispersal matrix $\mathbf{D}(\xi)$ is given by $\mathbf{D}(\xi) = D_{\text{sym}} + \bar{\Delta} + \Delta(\xi)$ where D_{sym} is a symmetric, column stochastic matrix, $\bar{\Delta} = \mathbb{E}[\mathbf{D}(\xi_t)] - D_{\text{sym}}$ is the spatial deviation, and $\Delta(\xi) = \mathbf{D}(\xi) - D_{\text{sym}} - \bar{\Delta}$ is the spatial-temporal deviation.

To use the derivative formulas in Appendix A, define the unperturbed matrix model as the constant matrix $\mathbf{A}(\xi) = D_{\text{sym}} \overline{\langle \boldsymbol{\lambda} \rangle}$ for all environmental states $\xi \in \Xi$. There are two types of perturbations to this base matrix model. First, the fitness perturbation is $\mathbf{B}(\xi) = D_{\text{sym}} \text{diag}(\bar{\delta} + \delta(\xi))$. Second, the dispersal perturbation is $\mathbf{C}(\xi) = \bar{\Delta} + \Delta(\xi)$ Using these perturbations, one has

$$(B3) \quad \mathbf{D}(\xi) \Lambda(\xi) = (D_{\text{sym}} + \bar{\Delta} + \Delta(\xi)) \text{diag}(\overline{\langle \boldsymbol{\lambda} \rangle} + \bar{\delta} + \delta(\xi)) = D_{\text{sym}} \overline{\langle \boldsymbol{\lambda} \rangle} + \mathbf{B}(\xi) + \overline{\langle \boldsymbol{\lambda} \rangle} \mathbf{C}(\xi) + \mathbf{C}(\xi) \mathbf{B}(\xi)$$

where diag($\mathbf{v}$) denotes a diagonal matrix whose diagonal entries are given by the vector $\mathbf{v}$. To understand the effects of these perturbation, I compute all the relevant first and second order derivatives i.e. $\frac{\partial r}{\partial \mathbf{B}}(\mathbf{A})$, $\frac{\partial r}{\partial \mathbf{C}}(\mathbf{A})$, $\frac{\partial^2 r}{\partial \mathbf{B}^2}(\mathbf{A})$, $\frac{\partial^2 r}{\partial \mathbf{C}^2}(\mathbf{A})$ and $\frac{\partial^2 r}{\partial \mathbf{B} \partial \mathbf{C}}(\mathbf{A})$.

I begin by computing the first and second order derivatives of r with respect to $\mathbf{B}$. Let $\mathbf{1}$ be $k \times 1$ column vector of ones, and let $\mathbf{1}^T$ denote its transpose i.e. the $1 \times k$ row vector of ones. Let $\mathbf{0}$ be the $k \times 1$ vector of zeros. Recall, that $\langle \mathbf{v} \rangle = \frac{1}{k} \sum_i v_i$ corresponds to the spatial average of a vector $\mathbf{v}$. Using equation (A2) from Appendix A with $B_t = D_{\text{sym}}\text{diag}(\bar{\delta} + \delta_{\text{t}})$, $\mathbf{v} = \mathbf{1}^T$ and $\mathbf{w} = \mathbf{1}/k$ yields

$$
\begin{aligned}
\frac{\partial r}{\partial \mathbf{B}}(\mathbf{A}) &= \mathbb{E}[\mathbf{1}^T D_{\text{sym}}(\bar{\delta} + \delta_1)/k] \\
&= \mathbb{E}[\mathbf{1}^T(\bar{\delta} + \delta_1)/k] \\
&= \mathbb{E}[\mathbf{1}^T\bar{\delta}] + \mathbb{E}[\langle \delta_1 \rangle] = 0
\end{aligned}
$$

where the second line follows from $\mathbf{1}^T D_{\text{sym}} = \mathbf{1}^T$, and the last line follows from the average spatial deviation, $\langle \bar{\delta} \rangle$, being zero, and the vector of temporal deviations having zero expectation i.e. $\mathbb{E}[\delta_1] = \mathbf{0}$. To find the second order derivative $\frac{\partial^2 r}{\partial \mathbf{B}^2}(\mathbf{A})$, I expand the three terms in (A6) from Appendix A. For these expansions,

$$
\mathbf{v}B_t\mathbf{w} = \mathbf{1}^T(\bar{\delta} + \delta_t)/k = \langle \delta_t \rangle
$$

as $\mathbf{1}^T\bar{\delta} = 0$. Therefore,

$$
\mathbb{E}\left[(\mathbf{v}B_1\mathbf{w})^2\right] = \mathbb{E}[\langle \delta_1 \rangle^2]
$$

and

$$
\mathbb{E}[\mathbf{v}B_t\mathbf{w} \cdot \mathbf{v}B_1\mathbf{w}] = \mathbb{E}[\langle \delta_t \rangle \langle \delta_1 \rangle]
$$

Furthermore, as $\mathbb{E}[\delta_t] = \mathbf{0}$,

$$
\mathbf{v}\mathbb{E}\left[B_t A^{t-2} B_1\right]\mathbf{w} = \frac{\overline{\langle \boldsymbol{\lambda} \rangle}^{t-2}}{k}\mathbb{E}[(\bar{\delta} + \delta_t)^T D_{\text{sym}}^{t-1}(\bar{\delta} + \delta_1)] = \frac{\overline{\langle \boldsymbol{\lambda} \rangle}^{t-2}}{k}\mathbb{E}[\bar{\delta}^T D_{\text{sym}}^{t-1}\bar{\delta} + \delta_t^T D_{\text{sym}}^{t-1}\delta_1)].
$$

Substituting these expressions in (A6) from Appendix A yields

$$
\text{(B4)} \qquad \frac{\partial^2 r}{\partial \mathbf{B}^2}(\mathbf{A}) = \frac{2}{k\langle \boldsymbol{\lambda} \rangle^2}\sum_{t=2}^{\infty}\mathbb{E}[\bar{\delta}^T D_{\text{sym}}^{t-1}\bar{\delta} + \delta_t^T D_{\text{sym}}^{t-1}\delta_1)] - \frac{1}{\langle \boldsymbol{\lambda} \rangle^2}\mathbb{E}[\langle \delta_1 \rangle^2] - \frac{2}{\langle \boldsymbol{\lambda} \rangle^2}\sum_{t=2}^{\infty}\mathbb{E}[\langle \delta_t \rangle \langle \delta_1 \rangle]
$$

As D_{sym} is symmetric, one can choose a basis of eigenvectors $\mathbf{u}(1), \ldots, \mathbf{u}(k)$ with associated eigenvalues $\mu_1, \ldots, \mu_k$ such that $\mathbf{u}(i)^T\mathbf{u}(i) = k$ for all i, $\mathbf{u}(j)^T\mathbf{u}(i) = 0$ for $i \neq j$, $\mathbf{u}(1) = \mathbf{1}$ and $\mu_1 = 1$. Let $\bar{\alpha}_i$ and $\alpha_{i,t}$ be such that

$$
\bar{\delta} = \sum_{i=1}^{k}\bar{\alpha}_i\mathbf{u}(i) \text{ and } \delta_t = \sum_{i=1}^{k}\alpha_{i,t}\mathbf{u}(i)
$$

where $\bar{\alpha}_1 = 0$. Then (B4) becomes

(B5) $\qquad \dfrac{\partial^2 r}{\partial \mathbf{B}^2}(\mathbf{A}) = \dfrac{2}{\langle \boldsymbol{\lambda} \rangle^2} \displaystyle\sum_{t=2}^{\infty} \sum_{i=1}^{k} \mu_i^{t-1}(\bar{\alpha}_i^2 + \mathbb{E}[\alpha_{i,t}\alpha_{i,1}]) - \dfrac{1}{\langle \boldsymbol{\lambda} \rangle^2}\mathbb{E}[\langle \delta_1 \rangle^2] - \dfrac{2}{\langle \boldsymbol{\lambda} \rangle^2}\sum_{t=2}^{\infty}\mathbb{E}[\langle \delta_t \rangle \langle \delta_1 \rangle]$

To simplify this expression further, notice that

$$\langle \delta_t \rangle = \frac{1}{k}\mathbf{1}^T \sum_{i=1}^{k} \alpha_{i,t}\mathbf{u}(i) = \frac{1}{k}\alpha_{1,t}\mathbf{1}^T\mathbf{u}(1) = \alpha_{1,t}$$

and, consequently,

$$\frac{2}{\langle \boldsymbol{\lambda} \rangle^2}\sum_{t=2}^{\infty}\mathbb{E}[\alpha_{i,t}\alpha_{i,1}] = \frac{2}{\langle \boldsymbol{\lambda} \rangle^2}\sum_{t=2}^{\infty}\mathbb{E}[\langle \delta_t \rangle \langle \delta_1 \rangle].$$

Assume $\mathbb{E}[\alpha_{i,t}\alpha_{i,1}] = \rho_i^{t-1}\sigma_i^2$ for $t \geq 1$ i.e. there is an exponential decay of correlations. Then using the fact that $\bar{\alpha}_1 = 0$, equation (B5) becomes

$$\frac{\partial^2 r}{\partial \mathbf{B}^2}(\mathbf{A}) = \frac{2}{\langle \boldsymbol{\lambda} \rangle^2}\sum_{t=2}^{\infty}\sum_{i=2}^{k}\mu_i^{t-1}(\bar{\alpha}_i^2 + \rho_i^{t-1}\sigma_i^2) - \frac{1}{\langle \boldsymbol{\lambda} \rangle^2}\mathbb{E}[\langle \delta_1 \rangle^2]$$

and simplifies to

(B6) $\qquad \dfrac{\partial^2 r}{\partial \mathbf{B}^2}(\mathbf{A}) = \dfrac{2}{\langle \boldsymbol{\lambda} \rangle^2}\displaystyle\sum_{i=2}^{k}\left(\dfrac{\mu_i}{1-\mu_i}\bar{\alpha}_i^2 + \dfrac{\mu_i\rho_i}{1-\mu_i\rho_i}\sigma_i^2\right) - \dfrac{1}{\langle \boldsymbol{\lambda} \rangle^2}\mathbb{E}[\langle \delta_1 \rangle^2]$

Next, I compute the derivatives of r with respect to $\mathbf{C}$. As $\mathbf{1}^T\bar{\Delta} = \mathbf{0}^T$, $\mathbf{1}^T\Delta_t = \mathbf{0}^T$, and $\mathbb{E}[\Delta_t] = \mathbf{0}$, one gets $\frac{\partial r}{\partial \mathbf{C}}(\mathbf{A}) = \frac{\partial^2 r}{\partial \mathbf{C}^2}(\mathbf{A}) = 0$. Therefore, the only contribution of the perturbation $\mathbf{C}$ is through the mixed derivative $\frac{\partial^2 r}{\partial \mathbf{B} \partial \mathbf{C}}(\mathbf{A})$. To compute this mixed derivative, I compute the terms in equation (A5) of Appendix A. To this end, notice that

$$\mathbf{v}C_t\mathbf{w} = \mathbf{1}^T(\bar{\Delta} + \Delta_t)\mathbf{1}/k = 0 \text{ and } \mathbf{v}B_t\mathbf{w} = \mathbf{1}^T D_{\text{sym}}\text{diag}(\bar{\delta} + \delta_t)\mathbf{1}/k = \langle \delta_t \rangle$$

Furthermore,

$$\begin{aligned}
\mathbb{E}[\mathbf{v}B_sA^{s-2}C_1\mathbf{w}] &= \mathbb{E}[\mathbf{1}^T D_{\text{sym}}\text{diag}(\bar{\delta} + \delta_s)\overline{\langle \boldsymbol{\lambda} \rangle}^{s-2}\mathrm{D}_{\text{sym}}^{s-2}(\bar{\Delta} + \Delta_1)\mathbf{1}/k] \\
&= \overline{\langle \boldsymbol{\lambda} \rangle}^{s-2}\mathbb{E}[(\bar{\delta} + \delta_s)^T D_{\text{sym}}^{s-2}(\bar{\Delta} + \Delta_1)\mathbf{1}/k] \\
&= \overline{\langle \boldsymbol{\lambda} \rangle}^{s-2}\frac{1}{k}\sum_{i=1}^{k}\mu_i^{s-2}\mathbb{E}[(\bar{\alpha}_i + \alpha_{i,s})\mathbf{u}(i)^T(\bar{\Delta} + \Delta_1)\mathbf{1}] \\
&= \overline{\langle \boldsymbol{\lambda} \rangle}^{s-2}\frac{1}{k}\sum_{i=2}^{k}\mu_i^{s-2}(\bar{\alpha}_i\mathbf{u}(i)^T\bar{\Delta}\mathbf{1} + \mathbb{E}[\alpha_{i,s}\mathbf{u}(i)^T\Delta_1\mathbf{1}])
\end{aligned}$$

where the last equality follows from $\bar{\alpha}_1 = 0$ and $\mathbf{u}(1)^T \Delta_t = 0$. On the other hand,

$$\mathbb{E}[\mathbf{v}C_s A^{s-2}B_1\mathbf{w}] = \mathbb{E}[\mathbf{1}^T(\bar{\Delta} + \Delta_t)\overline{\langle\boldsymbol{\lambda}\rangle}^{s-2} D_{\text{sym}}^{s-2} D_{\text{sym}} \text{diag}(\bar{\delta} + \delta_1)\mathbf{1}/\text{k}] = 0$$

Substituting these expressions in equation (A5) yields

$$\frac{\partial^2 r}{\partial \mathbf{B} \partial \mathbf{C}}(\mathbf{A}) = \frac{1}{k\overline{\langle\boldsymbol{\lambda}\rangle}^2} \sum_{t=2}^{\infty} \sum_{i=2}^{k} \mu_i^{t-2}(\bar{\alpha}_i\mathbf{u}(i)^T\bar{\Delta}\mathbf{1} + \mathbb{E}[\alpha_{i,t}\mathbf{u}(i)^T\Delta_1\mathbf{1}])$$

Choose $\bar{\beta}_i$ and $\beta_{i,t}$ such that

$$\bar{\Delta}\mathbf{1} = \sum_i \bar{\beta}_i\mathbf{u}(i) \text{ and } \Delta_t\mathbf{1} = \sum_i \beta_{i,t}\mathbf{u}(i).$$

Then,

$$\frac{\partial^2 r}{\partial \mathbf{B} \partial \mathbf{C}}(\mathbf{A}) = \frac{1}{\langle\boldsymbol{\lambda}\rangle^2} \sum_{t=2}^{\infty} \sum_{i=2}^{k} \mu_i^{t-2}(\bar{\alpha}_i\bar{\beta}_i + \mathbb{E}[\alpha_{i,t}\beta_{i,1}])$$

Assuming $\mathbb{E}[\alpha_{i,t}\beta_{i,1}] = p_i^{t-1}v_i$ yields

(B7)
$$\frac{\partial^2 r}{\partial \mathbf{B} \partial \mathbf{C}}(\mathbf{A}) = \frac{1}{\langle\boldsymbol{\lambda}\rangle^2} \sum_{i=2}^{k} \frac{\bar{\alpha}_i\bar{\beta}_i}{1 - \mu_i} + \frac{p_i v_i}{1 - \mu_i p_i}.$$

Using these derivatives and equation (B3) yields the desired second order approximation

(B8)
$$r \approx \ln\overline{\langle\boldsymbol{\lambda}\rangle} - \frac{\mathbb{E}[\langle\delta_1\rangle^2]}{2\overline{\langle\boldsymbol{\lambda}\rangle}^2} + \sum_{i=2}^{k} \frac{\mu_i}{1 - \mu_i}\frac{\bar{\alpha}_i^2}{\langle\boldsymbol{\lambda}\rangle^2} + \sum_{i=2}^{k} \frac{\mu_i\rho_i}{1 - \mu_i\rho_i}\frac{\sigma_i^2}{\langle\boldsymbol{\lambda}\rangle^2}$$
$$+ \sum_{i=2}^{k} \frac{1}{1 - \mu_i}\frac{\bar{\alpha}_i\bar{\beta}_i}{\langle\boldsymbol{\lambda}\rangle^2} + \sum_{i=2}^{k} \frac{1}{1 - \mu_i p_i}\frac{p_i v_i}{\langle\boldsymbol{\lambda}\rangle^2}$$

Equation (B8) gives equation (13) by re-indexing $i \mapsto i - 1$ and defining $\text{CV}_{\text{time}}^2 = \frac{\mathbb{E}[\langle\delta_1\rangle^2]}{\langle\boldsymbol{\lambda}\rangle^2}$, $\text{CV}_{\text{space},i}^2 = \frac{\bar{\alpha}_i^2}{\langle\boldsymbol{\lambda}\rangle^2}$, $\text{cov}_{D\Lambda\text{-space},i} = \bar{\alpha}_i\bar{\beta}_i$, $\text{CV}_{\text{st},i}^2 = \frac{\rho_i\sigma_i^2}{\langle\boldsymbol{\lambda}\rangle^2}$, $\rho_{\text{st},i} = \rho_i$, $\rho_{D\Lambda\text{-st},i} = p_i$, and $\text{cov}_{D\Lambda\text{-space},i} = p_i v_i$.