Horst Malchow, Sergei Petrovskii, Ezio Venturino.
Spatiotemporal Patterns in Ecology and Epidemiology: Theory, Models, and Simulations.
Chapman & Hall / CRC Press, 2008.

Dear Friend,

The fact that you are reading these lines most likely means that you have purchased our book or borrowed it from a library, or perhaps from a colleague. We hope very much that you will enjoy, or have already enjoyed, the book content. This CD is designed to help you to further appreciate it. Indeed, many of the book's results were obtained numerically, especially in the cases when effective mathematical tools are largely lacking, and the CD includes some of the MATLAB codes that we were using for simulations. The codes are grouped with respect to the chapter(s) where they were mostly used, and the archive files are named accordingly.

Results of numerical simulations of course should not be taken as a substitute to rigorous mathematical analysis. However, to a certain extent they can be regarded as a substitute to a real-world experiment. (Remarkably, it happens not only in ecology and biology but also in many other sciences.) In particular, they certainly can be used to observe or demonstrate a phenomenon or a given system's property and to check its generality, i.e., how broad is the corresponding parameter range, whether it is restricted to a specific parameterization of the functional responses and/or to a specific type of interspecies interaction, etc. Therefore, although throughout this book we emphasized it several times that the described phenomena are typical rather than exotic, the readers are warmly invited to make as many of their own experiments as they possibly wish. Enjoy your trip into the fascinating world of population dynamics!

The codes include a considerable number of comments, which is supposed to make them user-friendly. Also, most of the incorporated numerical methods are simple and should be self-explanatory for anybody who has at least some basic knowledge in numerical methods for differential equations.

Should any serious technical trouble with these codes arise when using them, the users are invited to contact the authors for a discussion or advice, although we cannot promise to go into all details of every particular case.

These codes are not commercial products and they can be used for educational or demonstration purposes without restrictions. However, we expect that any time that the results obtained with these codes become a part of a publication, an explicit reference to the original source (i.e., to our book) should be given.

The last but not the least, the MATLAB itself is not a part of this CD, and it cannot be obtained from any of us. It is the user's own responsibility to purchase an official and fully licensed version of MATLAB, and we authors will accept no responsibility for any copyright violation issue that may arise in this connection.

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