



**POLITECNICO
DI TORINO**

Mathematical Models for Biomedical and Environmental Sciences

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- 2- Reaction-diffusion equations and pattern formation
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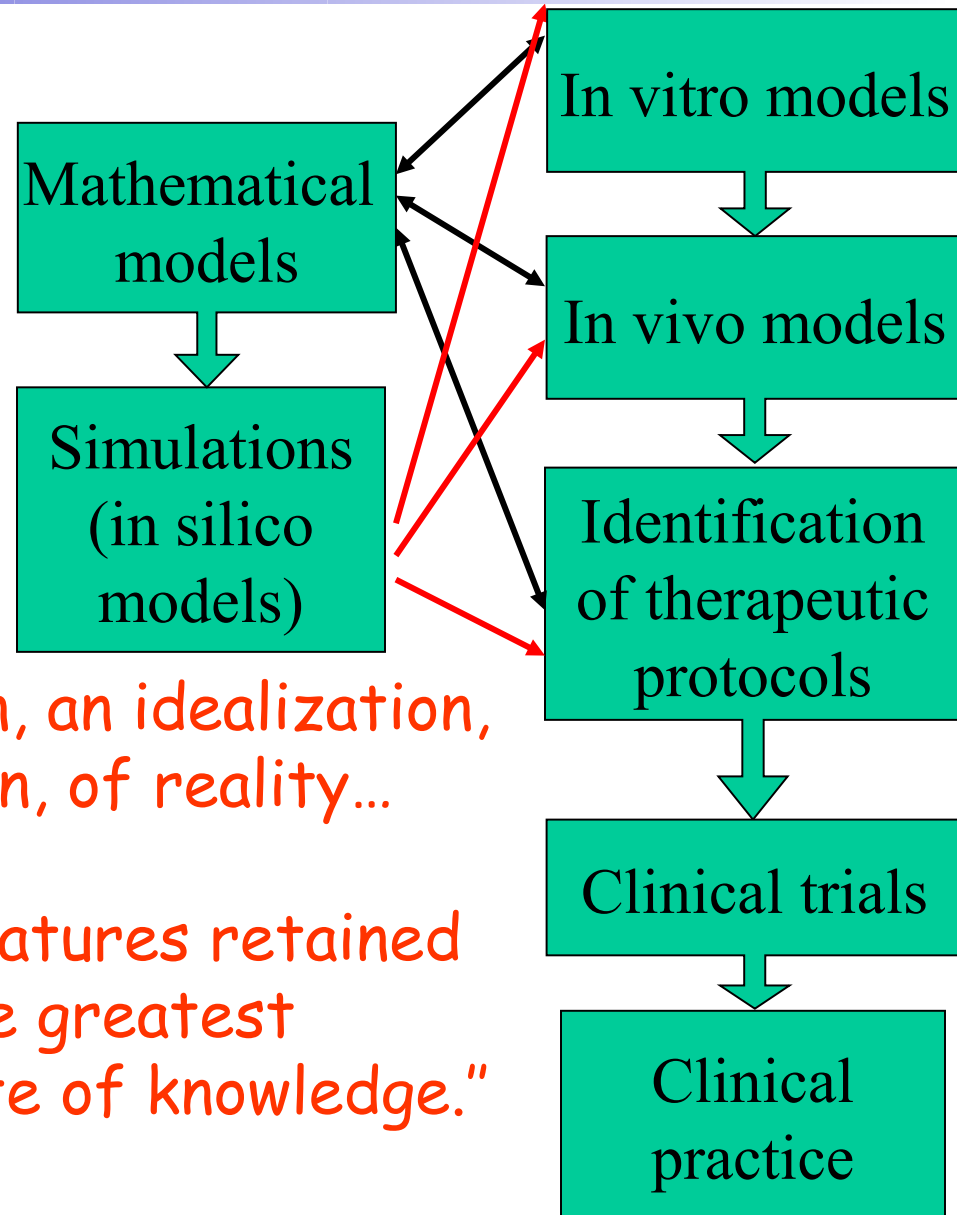


Modelling cycle in medicine

Alan Turing

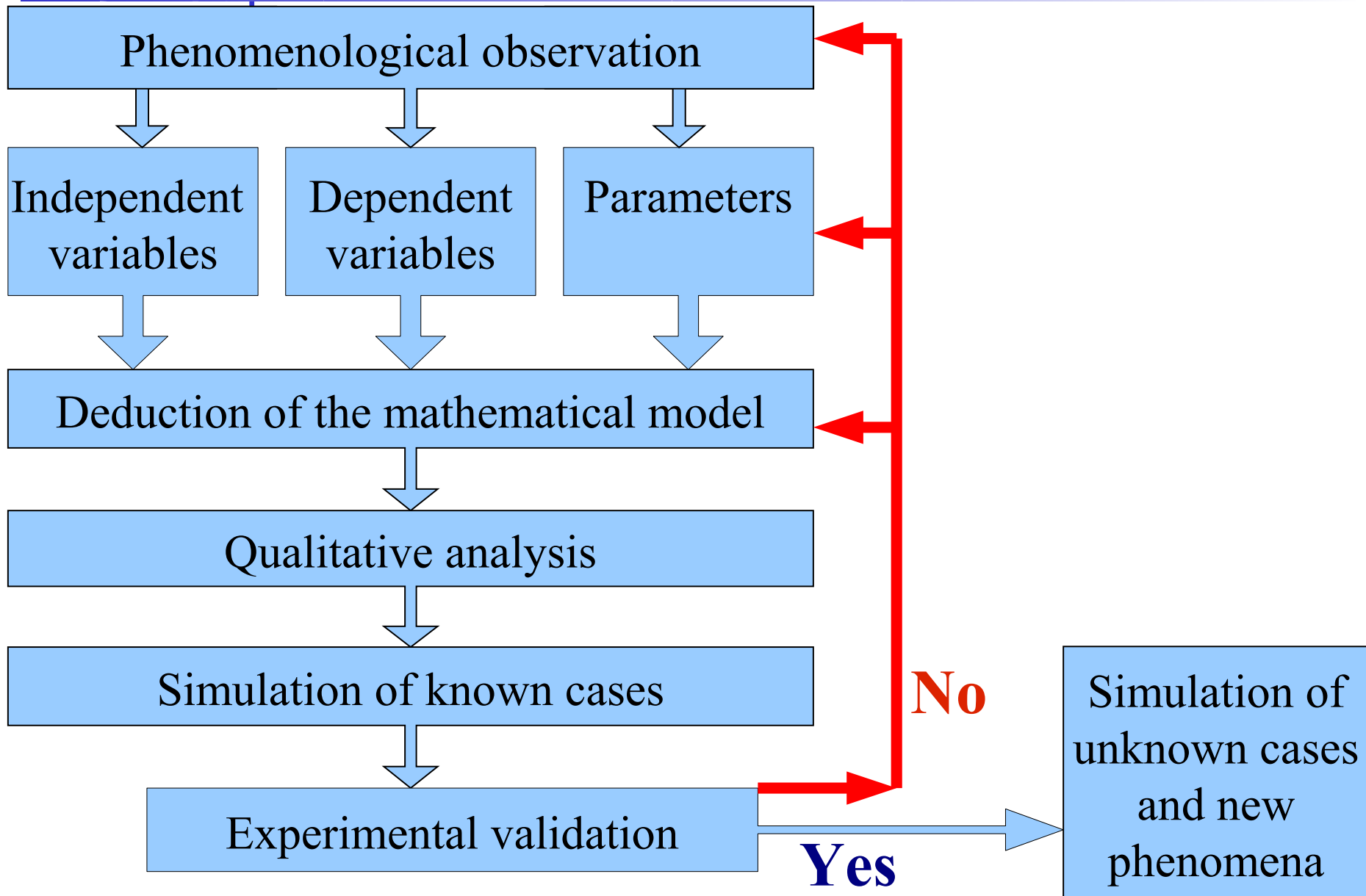
"All models are a simplification, an idealization, and consequently a falsification, of reality..."

...It is to be hoped that the features retained for discussion are those of the greatest importance in the present state of knowledge."





Modelling cycle for medicine





Choice of variables

Population in a country

→ $N(t)$ o $\rho(t)$

Spatial localization of the population

→ $\rho(\mathbf{x}, t)$

Age-structured population

→ $N(t, a)$

Sexual population

→ $M(t), F(t), B(t), A(t)$

Age-structured sexual population

→ $M(t, a), F(t, a)$



Choice of effects and parameters

Population in a country



$N(t)$ o $\rho(t)$

Natural birth and death rates



Dependence ?

Diffusion of a disease



Another equation for the
diffusion of the disease ?

Immigration

Mating



Introducing sex and/or age ?

Spatial localization of the population



$\rho(\mathbf{x}, t)$

Moving

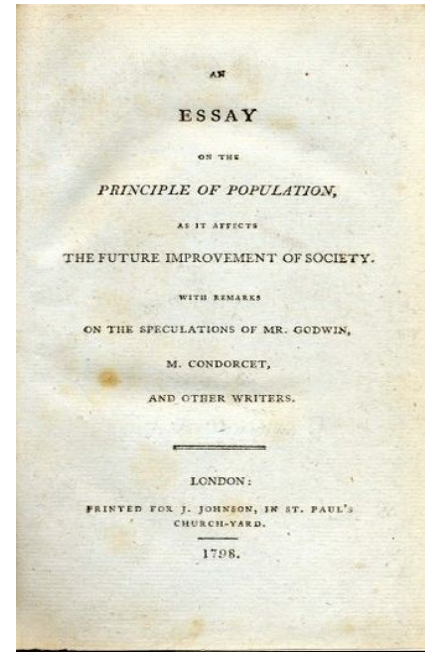


Dependence ?



Exponential growth law (1798)

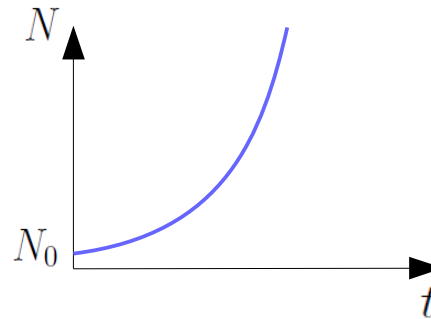
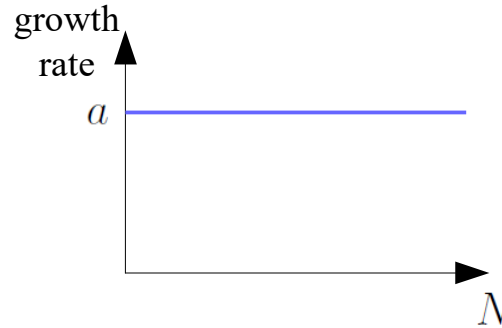
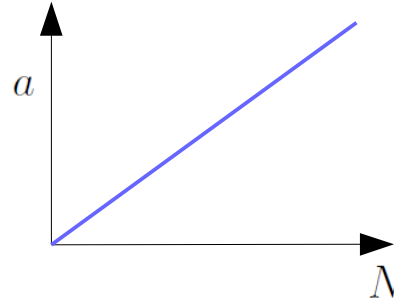
Malthus



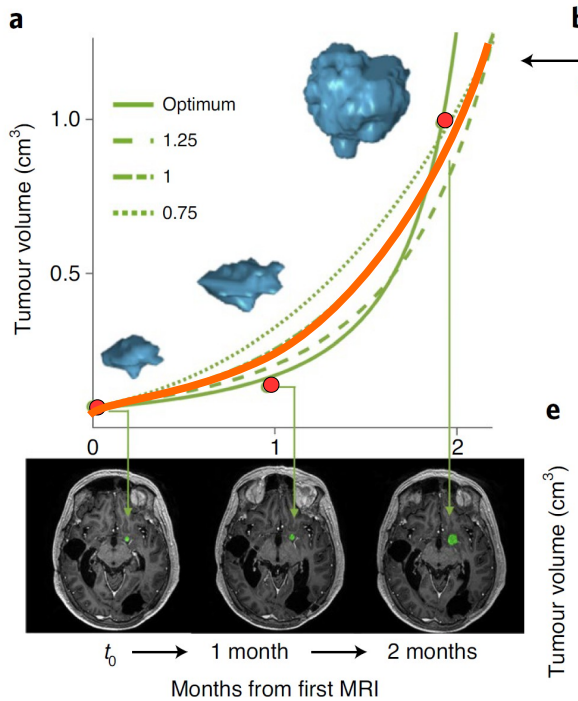
$$\frac{dN}{dt} = \underbrace{\gamma N}_{\text{growth}} - \underbrace{\delta N}_{\text{death}} = \underbrace{aN}_{\text{net growth}}$$

$$\frac{N'}{N} = a \quad \text{growth rate}$$

$$N(t) = N_0 e^{at}$$



Explosive growth



$$\frac{dN}{dt} = aN^\beta$$

$$N(t) = \frac{N_0}{\left[1 - (\beta - 1)N_0^{\beta-1}at\right]^{1/(\beta-1)}}$$

Explosive growth

$$\frac{dV}{dt} = \alpha V^\beta$$

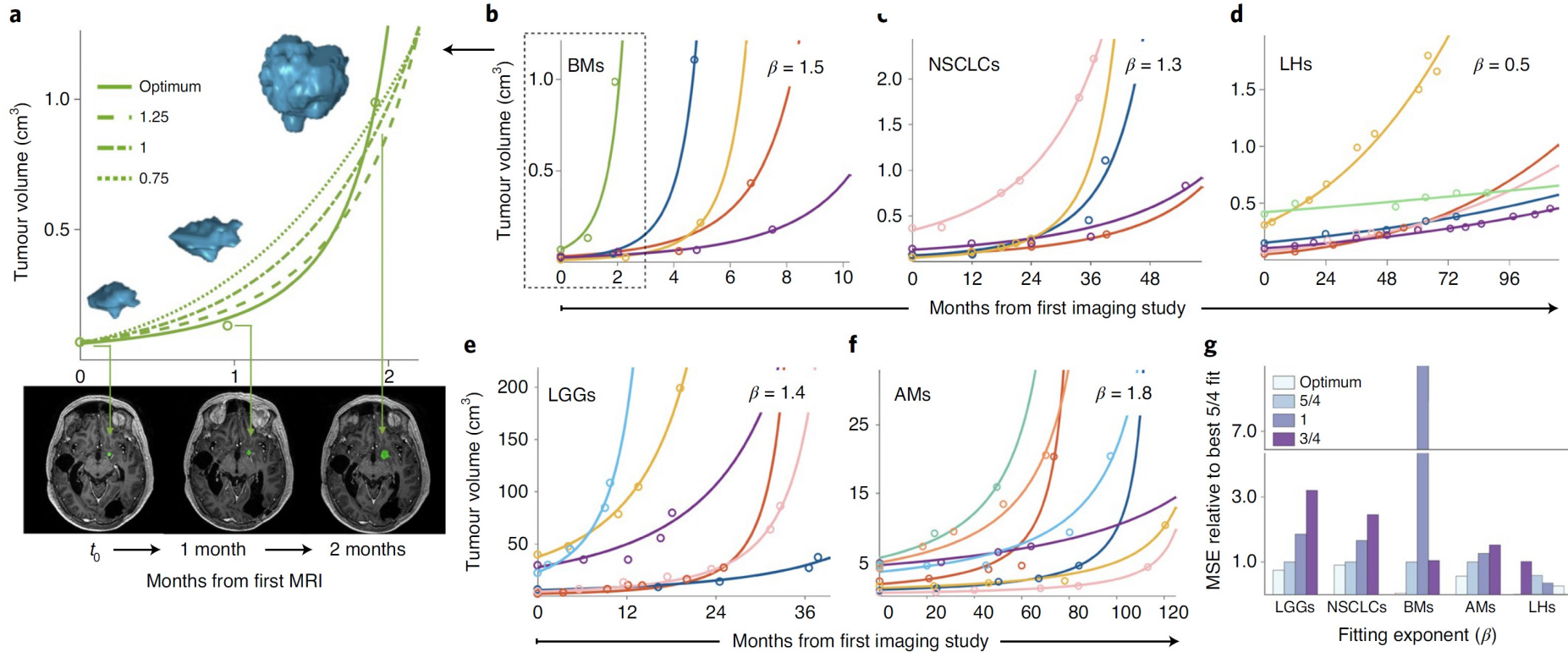


Fig. 2 | Explosive longitudinal volumetric dynamics of untreated malignant human tumours. **a-g**, Longitudinal volumetric data for patients with untreated brain metastases (BM, **a,b**), low-grade gliomas (LGGs, **e**), NSCLCs (**c**), atypical meningiomas (AMs, **f**) and lung hamartomas (LHs, **d**). Solid curves show the fits with the optimal exponents (β values provided in each part) that give the smallest MSEs. The longitudinal three-dimensional (3D) reconstruction of a BM and representative axial slices highlighting tumour location at three time points are displayed in **a**, together with the fitting curves obtained for different exponents. MSE values for the five datasets and exponents 3/4, 1 and 5/4 (taken as a reference), in comparison with the optimal exponent, are shown in **g**. In **b-e**, the colours correspond to different patients.

Explosive growth

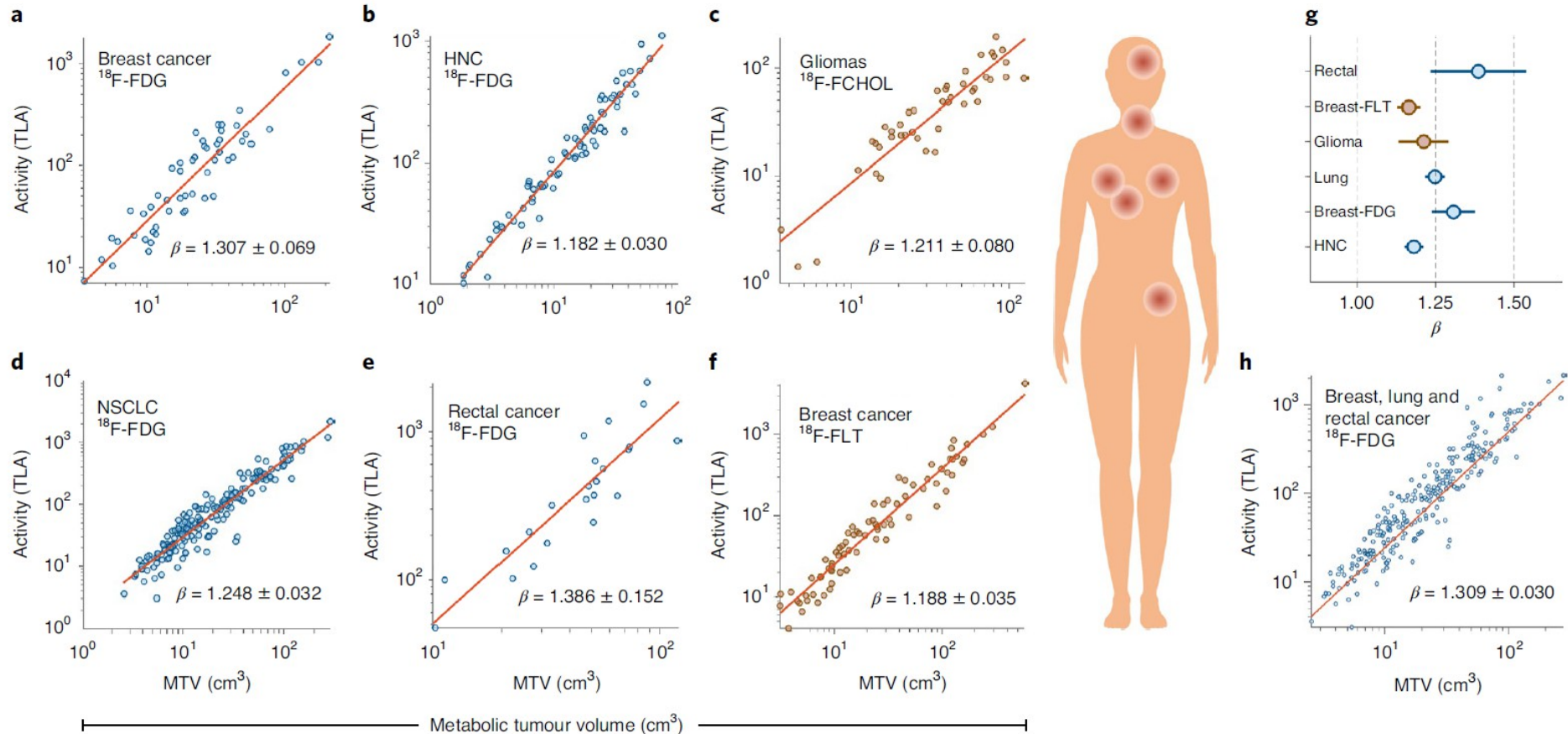
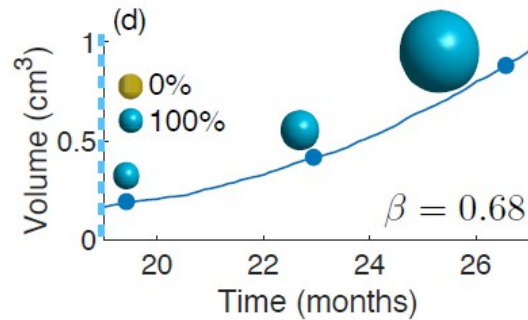
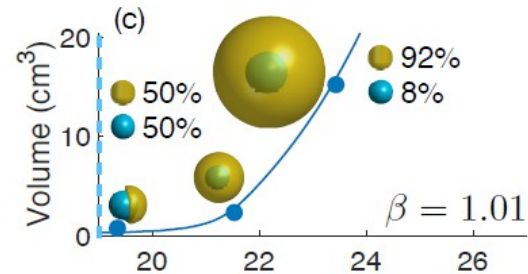
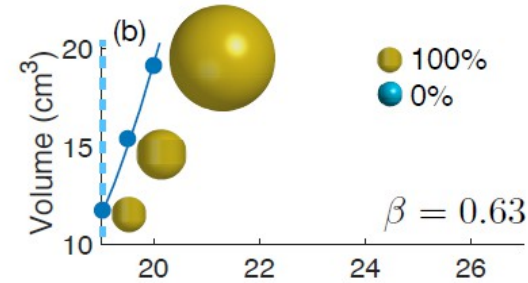
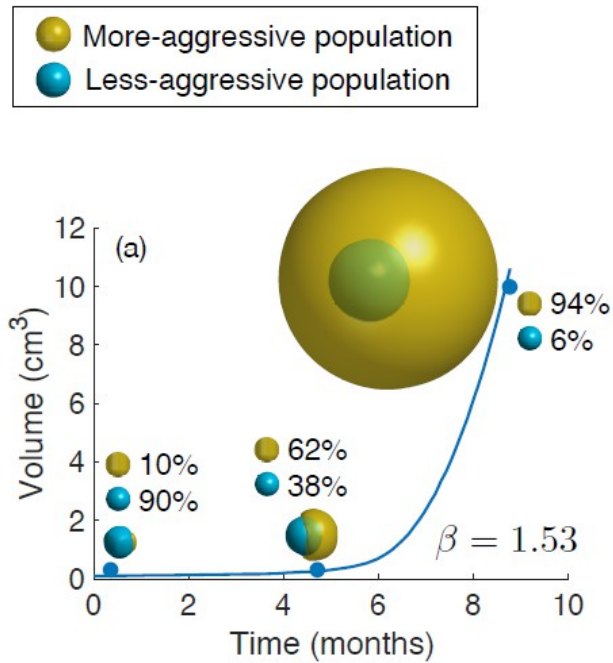
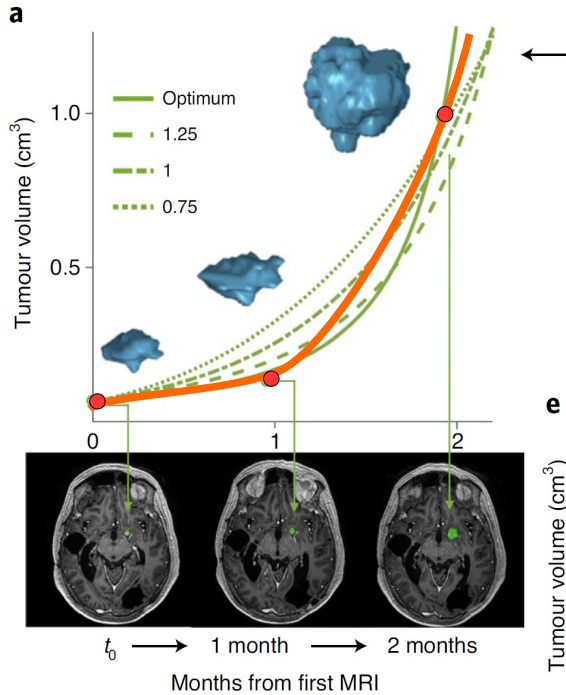


Fig. 1 | A superlinear scaling law governs glucose uptake and proliferation in human cancers. a-h, Log-log plots of TLA versus MTV for different types of cancer. ^{18}F -FDG uptake versus MTV from diagnostic PET for LABC, HNC, NSCLC and RC display superlinear ($\beta > 1$) allometric scaling laws (**a,b,d,e**). Diagnostic PET with proliferation radiotracers, either ^{18}F -FLT for breast cancer (**f**) or ^{18}F -FCHOL for glioma (**c**), shows the same dependence, indicating that glucose is used mostly as a resource for biosynthesis. The fitted exponents cluster around $\beta = 5/4$ (**g**). Records of patients imaged at the same institution with an identical protocol (breast-FDG, lung and rectal cancers) show that a common scaling law governs the dynamics (**h**). Error bars in (**g**) correspond to the standard error (s.d.) in the fitted parameter β obtained using fitlm.

Why faster than exponential?



Two populations



$$\begin{cases} \frac{dN}{dt} = aN - bN \\ \frac{dM}{dt} = bN + cM \end{cases}$$

$$N_{tot}(t) = N(t) + M(t) = \frac{N_0}{b + c - a} [e^{ct} + (c - a)e^{(a-b)t}]$$

$$\frac{dN}{dt} = a(t)N$$

$$\text{If } a(t) = at \quad N = N_0 e^{at^2/2}$$



Internal phenotype

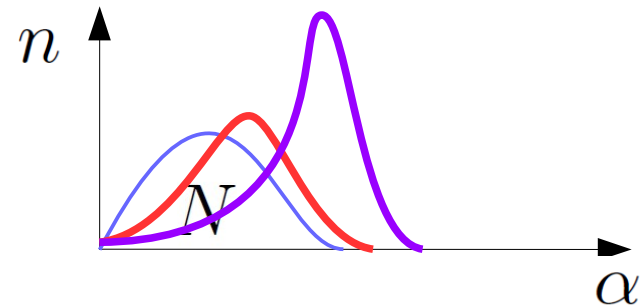
$$\begin{cases} \frac{dN}{dt} = a(u)N \\ \frac{du}{dt} = b(t, u) \end{cases}$$

aggressivity

$$n = n(t, \alpha)$$

$$N(t) = \int_0^{+\infty} n(t, \alpha) d\alpha$$

$$\frac{\partial n}{\partial t} = \epsilon \frac{\partial^2 n}{\partial \alpha^2} + \gamma(\alpha, N)n - \delta(\alpha, N)n$$

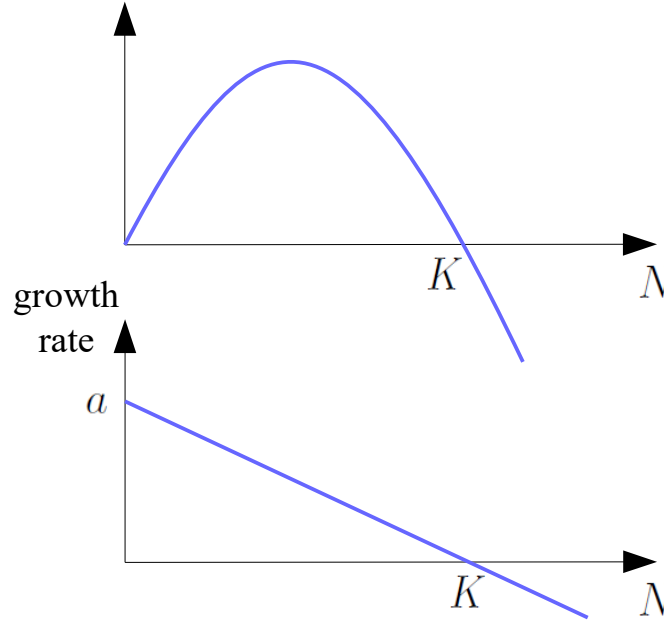




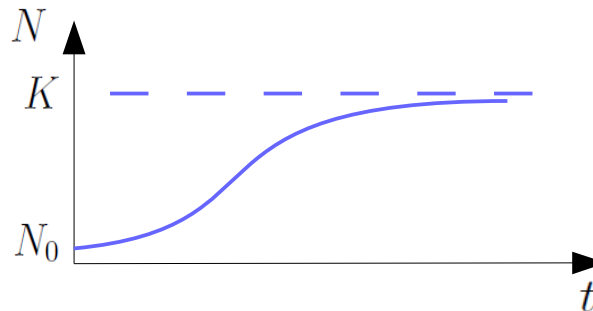
Logistic growth law (1838)

$$\frac{dN}{dt} = a \left(1 - \frac{N}{K} \right) N$$

$$\frac{N'}{N} = a \left(1 - \frac{N}{K} \right)$$



$$N(t) = \frac{K N_0}{N_0 + (K - N_0)e^{-at}}$$



Verhulst



Si la population croissait en progression géométrique, nous aurions l'équation $\frac{dp}{dt} = mp$. Mais comme la vitesse d'accroissement de la population est retardée par l'augmentation même du nombre des habitants, nous devons retrancher de mp une fonction inconnue de p ; de manière que la formule à intégrer deviendra

$$\frac{dp}{dt} = mp - \varphi(p).$$

L'hypothèse la plus simple que l'on puisse faire sur la forme de la fonction φ , est de supposer $\varphi(p) = np^2$. On trouve alors pour intégrale de l'équation ci-dessus

$$t = \frac{1}{m} [\log. p - \log. (m - np)] + \text{constante},$$

et il suffira de trois observations pour déterminer les deux coefficients constants m et n et la constante arbitraire.

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CORRESPONDANCE

En résolvant la dernière équation par rapport à p , il vient

$$p = \frac{mp' e^{mt}}{np' e^{mt} + m - np'} \dots (1)$$

en désignant par p' la population qui répond à $t = 0$, et par e la base des logarithmes népériens. Si l'on fait $t = \infty$, on voit que la valeur de p correspondante est $P = \frac{m}{n}$. Telle est donc la *limite supérieure de la population*.



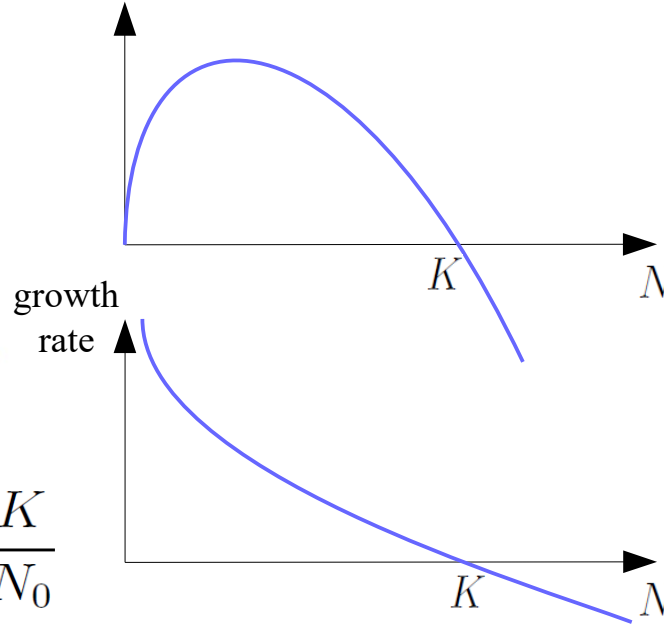
Gompertz growth law (1825)

Gompertz



BENJAMIN GOMPERTZ

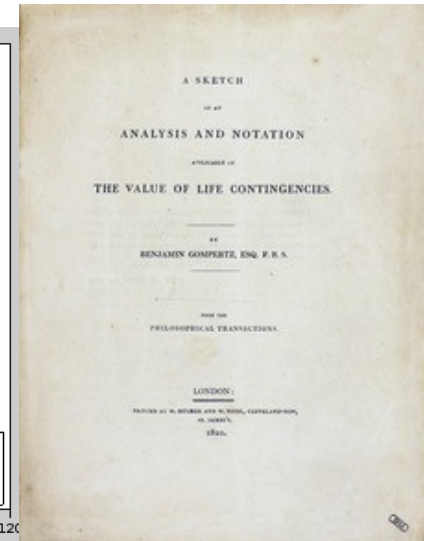
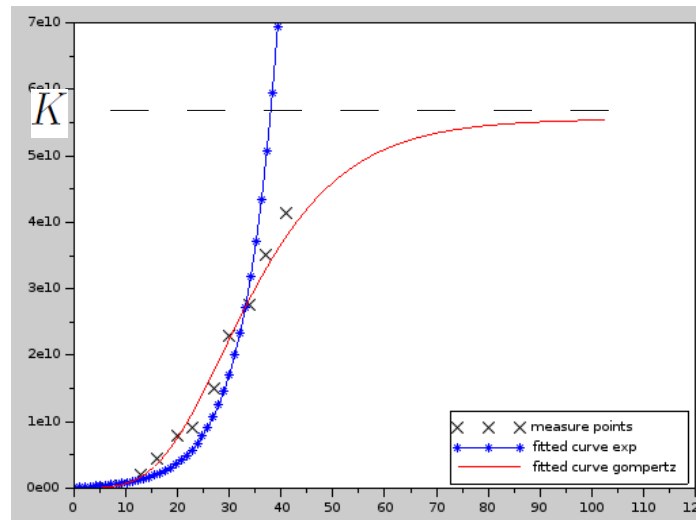
$$\frac{dN}{dt} = A \ln \left(\frac{K}{N} \right) N$$



$$\frac{N'}{N} = A \ln \left(\frac{K}{N} \right) = \mu e^{-At}$$

$$\mu = A \ln \frac{K}{N_0}$$

$$N(t) = N_0 \exp \left[\frac{\mu}{A} (1 - e^{-At}) \right]$$





Gompertz growth law (1825)

Gompertz



BENJAMIN GOMPERTZ

$$\frac{dN}{dt} = A \ln \left(\frac{K}{N} \right) N$$

$$\frac{N'}{N} = A \ln \left(\frac{K}{N} \right) = \mu e^{-At}$$

$$\mu = A \ln \frac{K}{N_0}$$

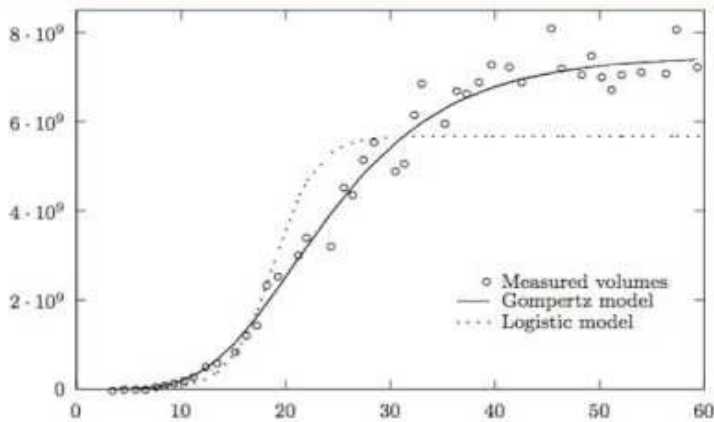
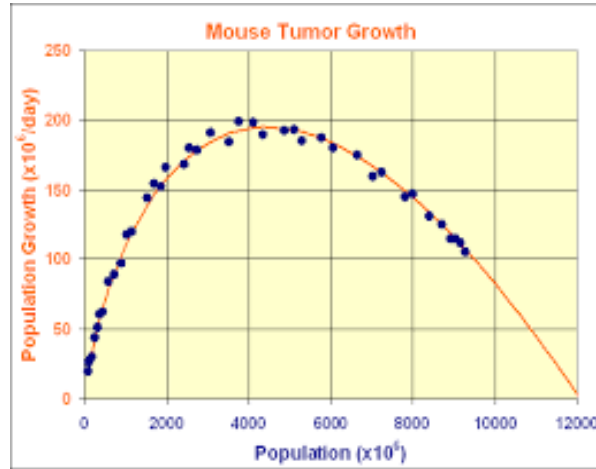
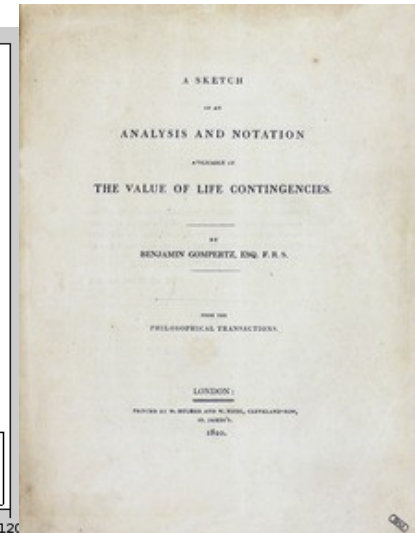
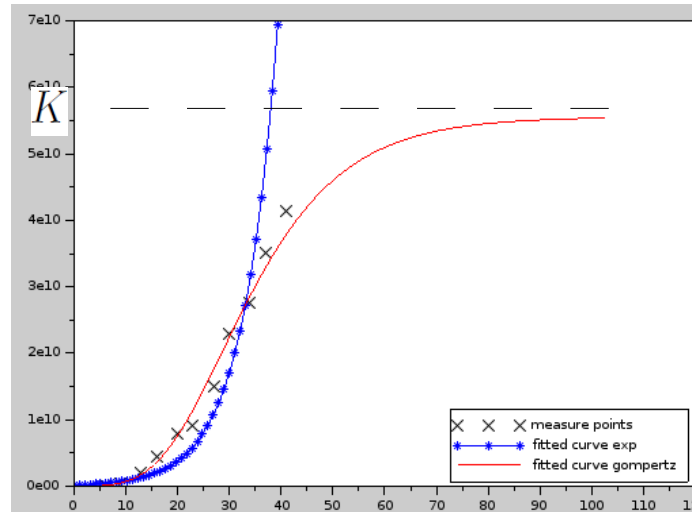
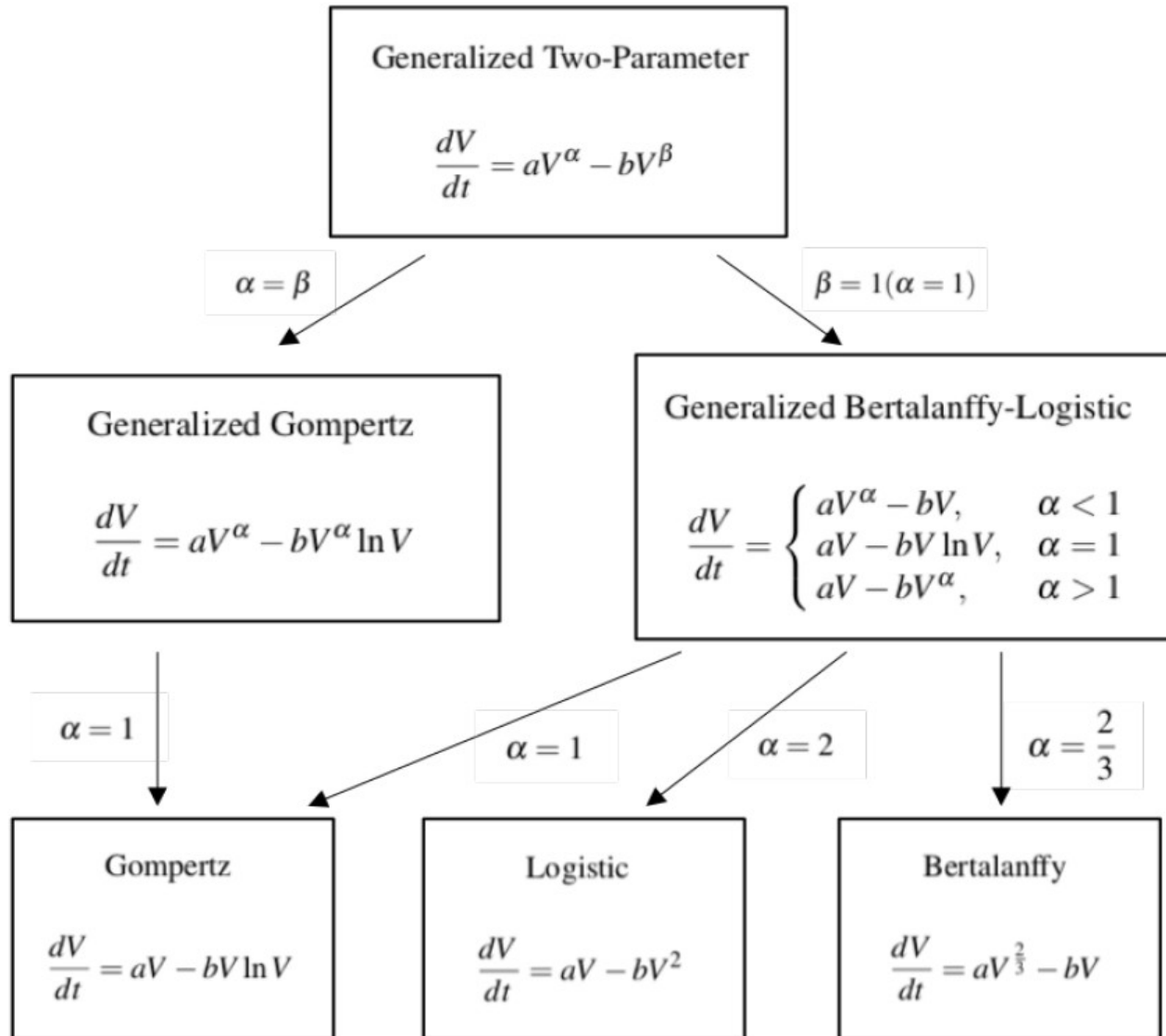


Figure 4. Best-fit curves by Gompertz and logistic models (volumes in μm^3 vs. time in days)





Other growth laws



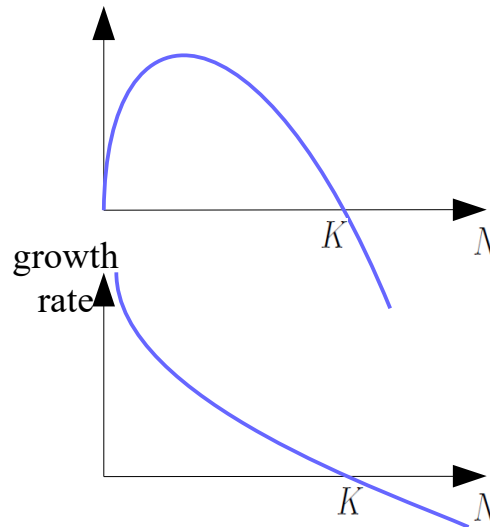


Other growth laws

von Bertalanffy (1949)

$$\frac{dN}{dt} = a \left[\left(\frac{K}{N} \right)^{1/3} - 1 \right] N$$

$$\frac{N'}{N} = a \left[\left(\frac{K}{N} \right)^{1/3} - 1 \right]$$



West (1997)

$$\frac{dN}{dt} = a \left[\left(\frac{K}{N} \right)^{1/4} - 1 \right] N$$

$$\frac{N'}{N} = a \left[\left(\frac{K}{N} \right)^{1/4} - 1 \right]$$

