

**Introduction to Dynamical Models in Biology**  
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**Lecture 07**  
**Introduction to JSim**

Hello, welcome to the second week of our course on dynamical modules in biology. This is module 1. In last few modules we have discussed about analytical method and numerical method of solving ordinary differential equation based models. In this module and the subsequent one we will discuss about different software or tools available to you for solving ordinary differential based models using numerical methods. Particularly I will focus on one freely available software called JSim that you can use to solve ordinary differential based models. So let us look into different options that you have at hand to simulate ordinary differential equation based models using some programming language or by using some readymade software.

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**Tools for numerical simulation of ODEs**

Write your own program: Fortran, C, Python, MATLAB

Simulation software with GUI:

- Allows numerical integration using different in-built algorithms
- Allows other analysis like parameter sensitivity test
- Plot graphs

Define the model (ODEs, parameters) using:

- Reaction schemes and GUI tools (eg. COPASI)
- Markup language (eg. JSim)

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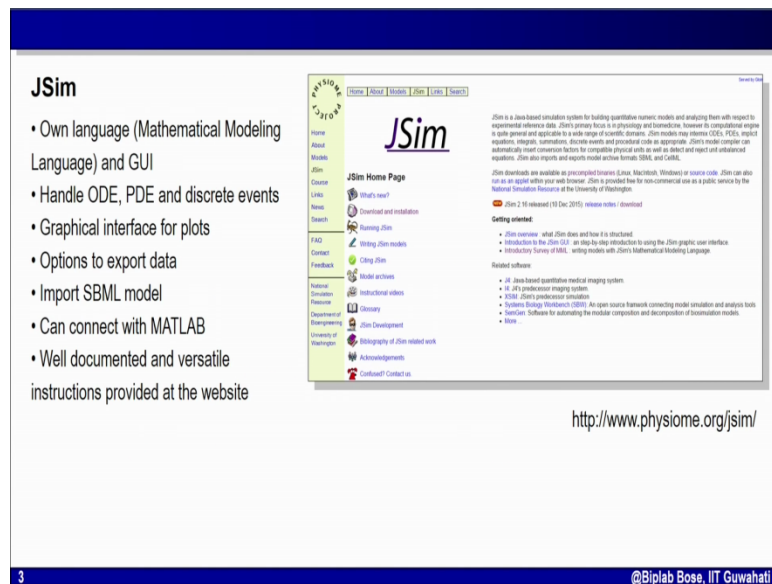
There are many programming languages starting of Fortran, C, Python that you can use depending upon your experience and ease to write your own code to solve a ordinary differential equation based model. Either you can use higher level languages like MATLAB for that. Most of these languages has inbuilt library function for solving ODE numerically and different algorithms are available. If you are not comfortable with using in writing program for yourself

you can look for readymade software which is Plug and Play and you can use them to solve your model. Now these softwares are actually GUI based. They have a graphic user interface which helps you to analyze the model with ease.

Some of these GUI can have the option where you can simply write down the equation and ask the system to simulate the model. In some cases you have to use a particular markup language that is understood by the software to define the model. Depending upon your choice you will use one of them. For example software like COPASI, these are the software where you can define a reaction just like  $A + B \rightarrow C$  like this whereas JSIM that we will learn, we will have to define the model using a specific manner, using a specific language that JSIM will understand.

Now all of these software have certain advantages, most of them have multiple algorithm available with them so that you can choose one of the algorithm based on your utility. They not only allow you to solve ODE but they also have certain other tools for example parameter estimation, parameter sensitivity analysis, we will not discuss those but those tools are many times very useful. The last importance of GUI based stimulation software is that most of them has readymade visualization or plotter with it. So once you simulate it the graph for the dependent variable comes up automatically. So you can visualize the simulation immediately and you won't have to use a separate plotter or grapher tool for plotting your data. With these let us start and look into the different aspect of JSIM, a java based simulation software that we will use for our work.

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JSim is freely available. You can download from a web, the address are given here, [www.fisiuim.org/JSim](http://www.fisiuim.org/JSim). As I have said JSim is GUI based software but it requires you to write down the model in its own language. So this language is called mathematical modeling language. Interestingly JSim can handle ordinary differential equation, it can handle partial differential equation and even it can model with discrete event. It has graphical user interface where you can plot data and your result. It has option to export your data as text file so that you can plot the graphs in some other software like Microsoft XL. It can import SBNL model. SBML stands for System Biology Markup Language.

As you know dynamical models are very common in system biology and different people use different language and different software to simulate this model. That is why scientists are trying to develop a common markup language that will be used by everybody working in the field of system biology. System Biology Markup Language is one such effort, one such markup language and interestingly JSim can export-import its model in SBML format. You can also connect JSim with MATLAB, that is very powerful option you have and the best part of JSim is that at website you have well documented tutorials. You have videos, you have text tutorials, you have large number of modules available there through which you can learn. So learning JSim is much easier.

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## Download JSim



The screenshot shows the JSim Home Page. On the left is a navigation menu with links: Home, About, Models, JSim, Course, Links, News, Search, FAQ, Contact, Feedback, National Simulation Resource, Department of Bioengineering, University of Washington. The main content area has a header with 'Home About Models JSim Links Search' and a large 'JSim' logo. Below the logo is the 'JSim Home Page' section with links: What's new?, Download and installation (highlighted with a red arrow), Running JSim, Writing JSim models, Citing JSim, Model archives, Instructional videos, Glossary, JSim Development, Bibliography of JSim related work, Acknowledgements, and Confused? Contact us. To the right of the logo is a text block describing JSim as a Java-based simulation system for building quantitative numeric models and analyzing them with respect to experimental reference data. It mentions JSim's primary focus is in physiology and biomedicine, its computational engine is quite general, and it can handle various mathematical models. It also lists available downloads as precompiled binaries or source code, and mentions JSim 2.16 released on 10 Dec 2015. Below this is a 'Getting oriented:' section with links to JSim overview, Introduction to the JSim GUI, and Introductory Survey of MML. A 'Related software:' section lists J4, J4's predecessor, XSim, Systems Biology Workbench (SBW), and SemGen.

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## Download JSim



The screenshot shows the JSim Download Page. The left navigation menu is the same as the previous slide. The main content area has a header with 'Home About Models JSim Links Search' and a 'JSim Download Page' section. Below the header is a text block stating that JSim software is made available free of charge as a public service by the University of Washington. It mentions open source (BSD style) and binary distributions are available. A link to 'View complete license terms' is provided. Below this is a section titled 'JSim releases come in two flavors:'. It lists 'public releases' and 'beta releases'. The 'beta releases' section is circled in red. It states that beta releases are less well tested but contain the latest features and bug fixes not available in the public releases. Below this is a 'Current releases' section with a list of links: Windows binary distribution, Macintosh binary distribution, Linux binary distribution, Source distribution, and Release archives (older versions). To the right of this list are two vertical red lines. Below the list is a 'See What's New?' section with a link to 'Give feedback'. At the bottom is a footer with a timestamp '[This page was last modified 06/07/12, 3:24 pm.]' and a long list of grant numbers and project names.

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## Download JSim

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### Installing JSim under Microsoft Windows

JSim's Windows distribution runs on Windows XP and Windows 7. JSim is not tested on Windows Vista but has run successfully on it in the past.

1. Download the appropriate JSim zip archive. Providing the following information will help us demonstrate JSim's continued utility to the funding agencies upon which we rely. Filling out this form will not result in your addition to any mailing lists other than a JSim usage survey that is sent once a year. Your response to that survey will help us to retain our funding. If you wish to receive news about JSim on a more frequent basis, please [contact us](#).

Name

Email

Institution

[JSim is free for non-commercial use. View complete license terms](#)

[Download the current public release 2.9](#) | [Download the latest beta release 2.9.9](#)

• Note: Internet Explorer users have sometimes noted that JSim download hangs for several minutes at 99% complete. This appears to be a bug in IE. Our experience is that, if the user is patient, the download completes successfully after about five minutes.

2. Unpack the .zip file using your system's ZIP utility in a folder of your choice.

• **Note:** You may need administrator privileges to install JSim into certain system directories such as 'Program Files'

3. Inside your installation folder, you will find a sub-folder win32bin containing the following executable files:

- jsim.bat - the JSim GUI application (first-time users use this one)
- jbatch.bat - the JSim text-based batch application
- jfsm.bat - the JSim functional imaging application
- jserver.bat - the JSim remote server application
- jreg.bat - adds JSim settings to the Windows registry
- reg.exe - general purpose Windows registry tool used by jreg.bat

You may wish to make a short-cut to jsim.bat on your Desktop, or other convenient location. Other executables are useful only from the Windows command prompt.

4. JSim 2.07 and above requests 1500MB of heap memory by default. If your system has less than 2GB of memory, you will probably need to [reconfigure JSim to use less memory](#) before JSim can launch properly.

5. The optional jreg utility sets your Windows registry so that certain JSim files (e.g. .png) are loaded into JSim when double-clicked. See [here](#) for more information.

The first thing you should do is go to JSim website and download it. You have a link here to download JSim. When you click you go to the download page. In download page you have options for choosing right JSimM. For example if you are using windows system use windows binary distribution, if you are using a Linux machine you download the Linux one. Once you are there you have to fill up this form which is very brief. Put your name, email and institution name and then download it from this click. You can download the Beta version but to begin with I will recommend not downloading the beta version but using the current public reviews.

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## Using JSim

**Project**

injection\_kinetics | **Partset** | Pages | Run | All | Run | Help

Domain 1

Units: 10  
Time: 10  
Cells: 10

Model Inputs

f: 1  
k\_on: 10  
k\_off: 10

Model Outputs

q: 10  
q0: 10

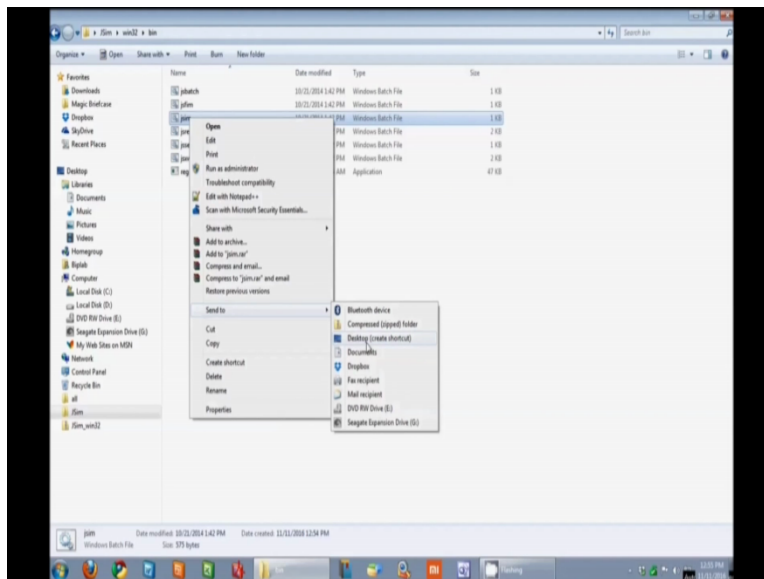
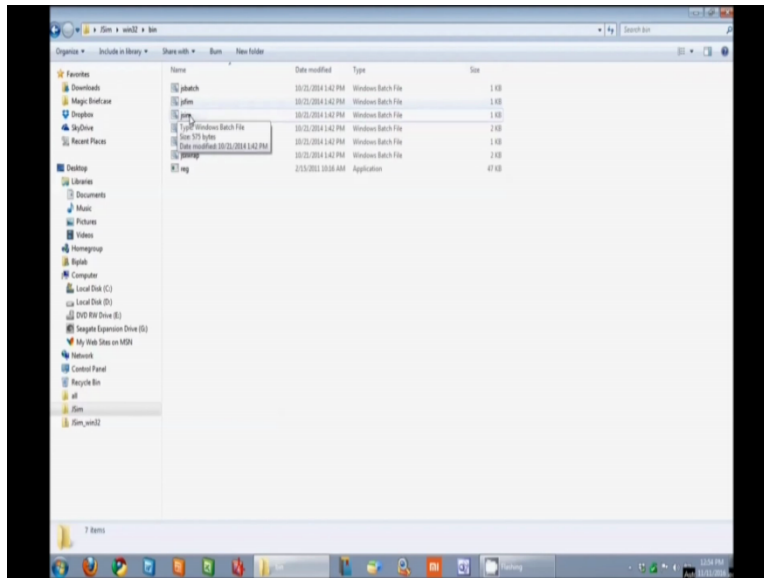
**Message**

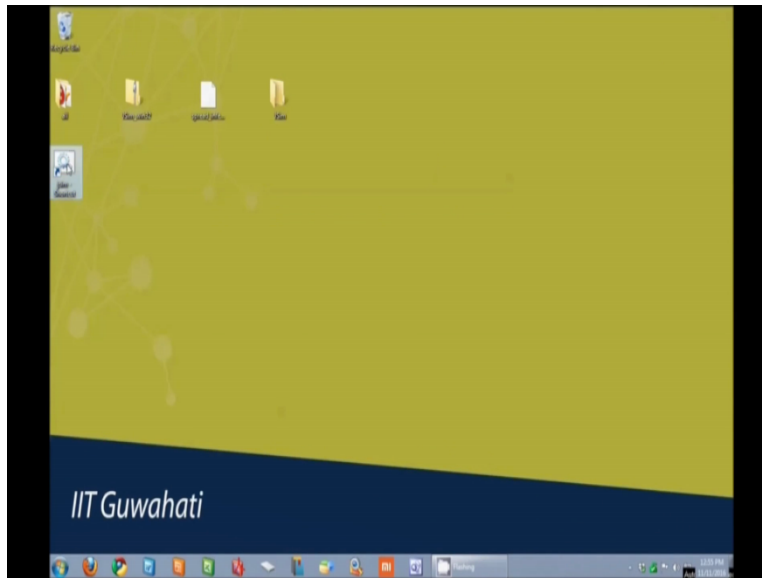
injection\_kinetics | File | View | Zoom | Help

2.5 g/mol water after 100

Y Log | X Absolute G | 10

Graph | Test

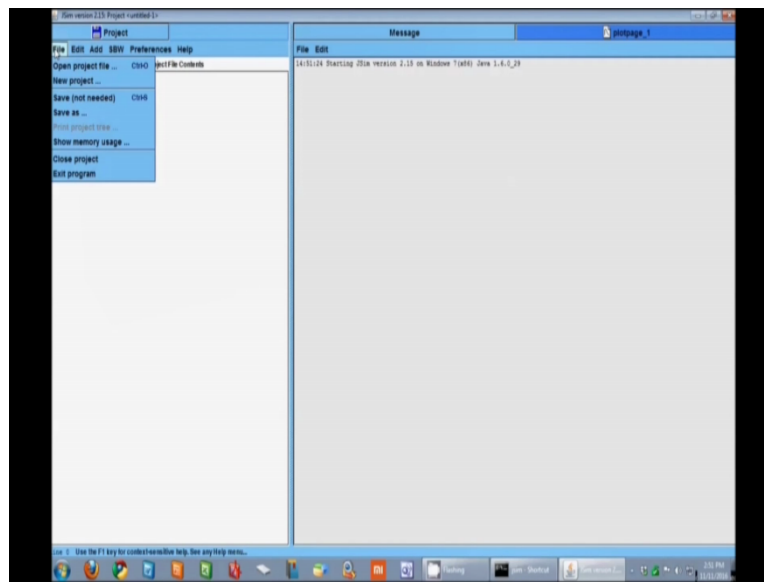
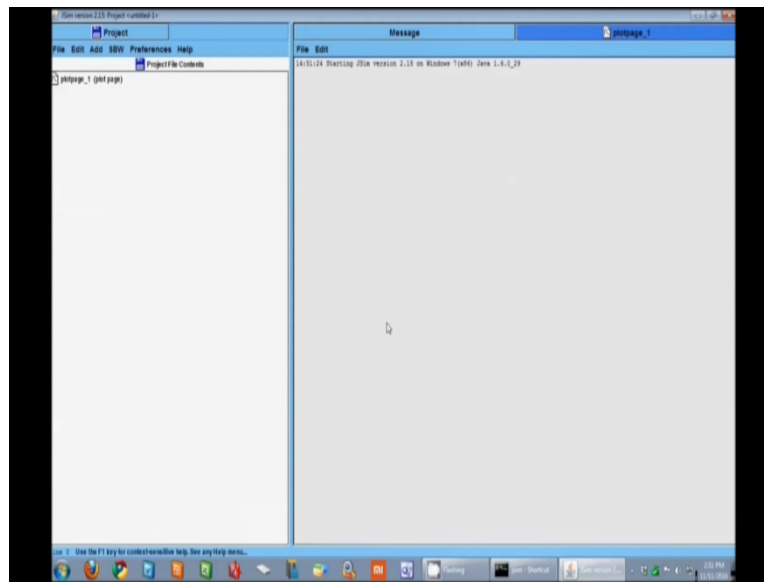


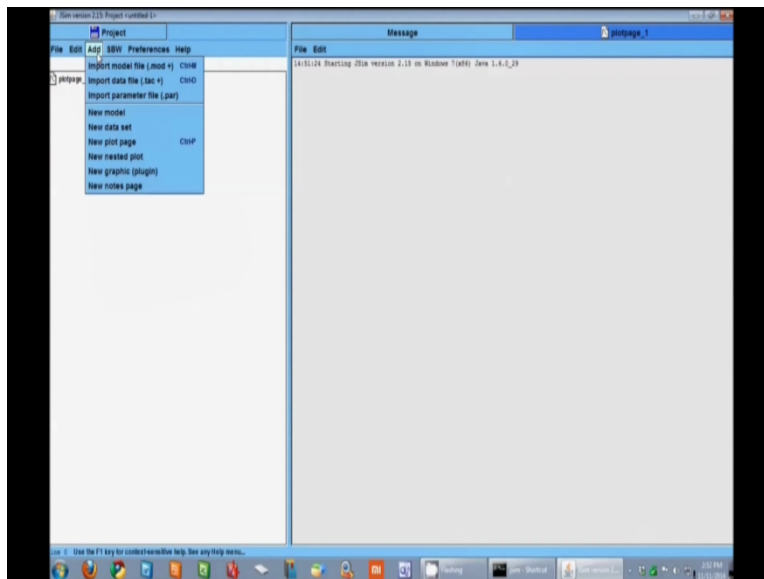
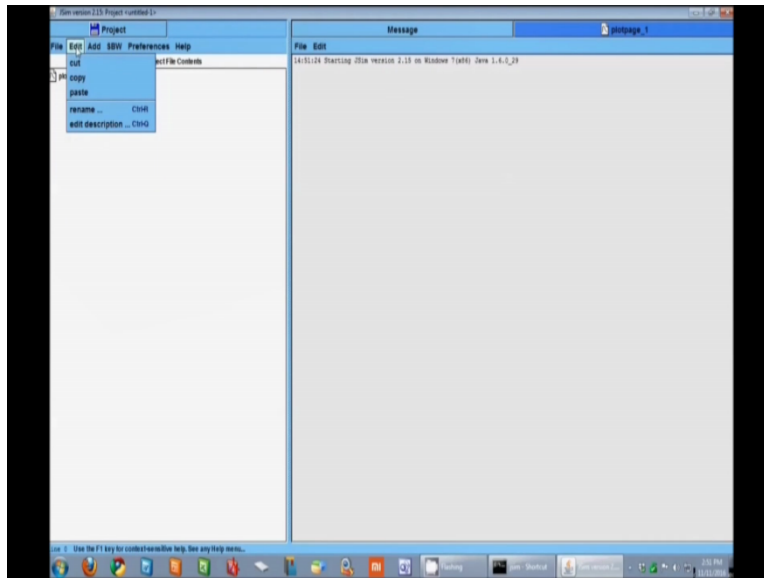


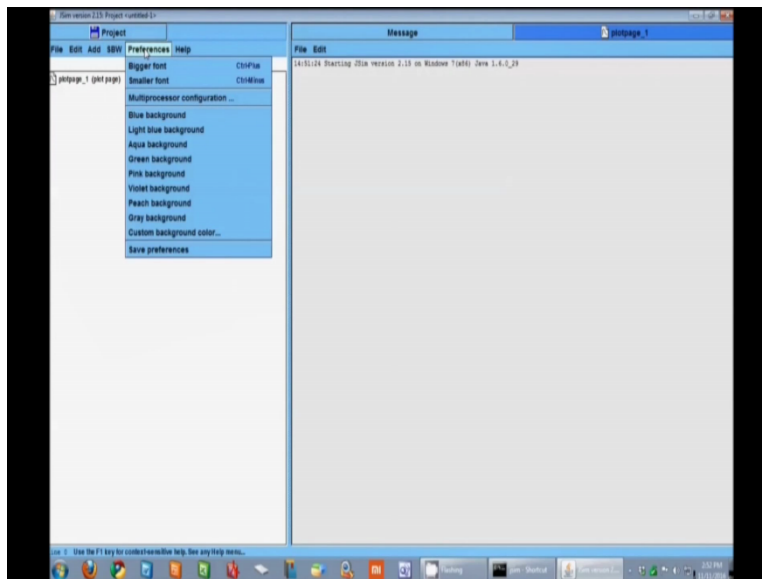
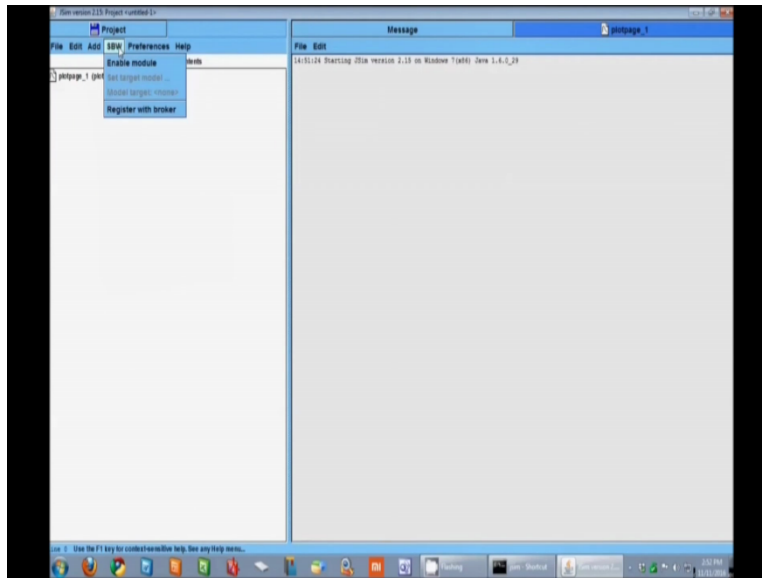
Once you have downloaded it you are ready to go and simulate some model. Let us try some video which I have recorded and to show how you can use JSim. I have downloaded the Windows version. It is a zip file, I have to unzip and uncompress it, so let us extract it here. The files will be extracted on my desktop. Wait for few seconds. Okay! Extraction is over. I want to put all these files in a particular folder. Let us name it JSim and put all these extracted files in this folder. You can keep this folder in some other directory for example in program directory. Go to this folder now.

Once you open, you can see some other sub folders are there. We are interested in this Win32 folder. In that you have again 4 folders. Open the bin. Now in this bin you have lots of Windows batch files. We are interested in running that JSim batch file, so we will make a shortcut of that to desktop so that every time I click on that shortcut, JSim will start. Close this window. Here you have. You have the shortcut for JSim on your desktop now. It is very easy to use, you double click on it and JSim will start.

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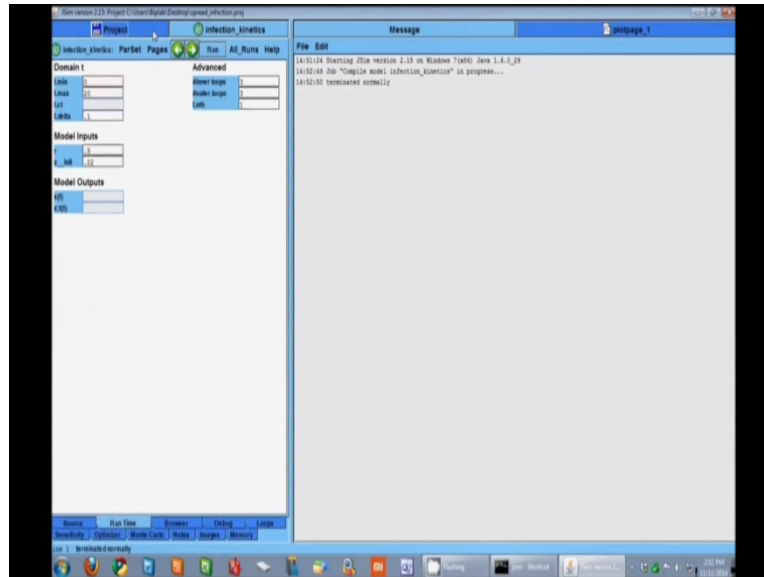




So we have got the JSim, this is GUI JSim. You can see it has 2 parts, left hand side and right hand side. On left hand side you have options and tools for writing the program and running it. On the right hand side you have the output, either message or the data in plot format. In the file tool if you click you have the options for opening a project. Remember in JSim every work is stored as a project. Inside a project you can have multiple models. You can open an old existing project or you can create a new project. Edit tools give you cut, copy options. Add tools gives you options to import model as I said you can import a SBML model, you can use that. You can create a new model as the option is given. You can add a new data set, you can add a new plot

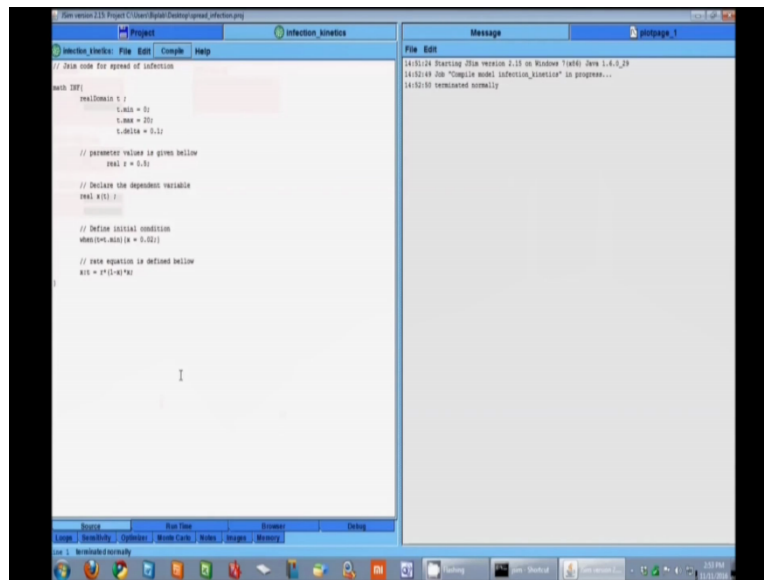
page and all this things. SBW is System Biology Workbench. As an independent tool you can connect to it using this option and you have other preferences and others.

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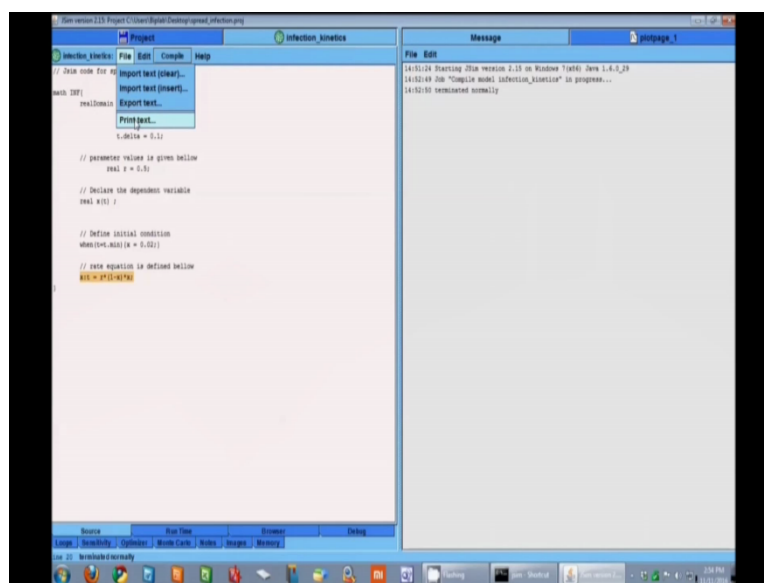
So let us open an existing project that I have already made. It is in my desktop so I will open it. It is a project to model spread of infectious disease as we have dealt early. Remember all project file have a dot closed extension. So here I have opened that. Notice a new tab has come and this new tab is actually the model as it is shown here infection\_kinetic model is the model which simulates the kinetics of spread of infection. So you click on that tab you will get that model. Now see below you have multiple tabs, Tabs for source, runtime and others. Source is the tab where you have the code for this model. Runtime is the tab through which you run the model and you have others like sensitivity optimizer and other else.

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Let us see the source. This is the code for the model of spread of infectious disease. I will discuss how to write this code later on. Let us just look into it, you may recognize one equation that  $(R*1) - (x*x)$  that is there which represents spread of infection. So this is the ordinary differential equation written in JSIM code to model the spread of infectious disease.

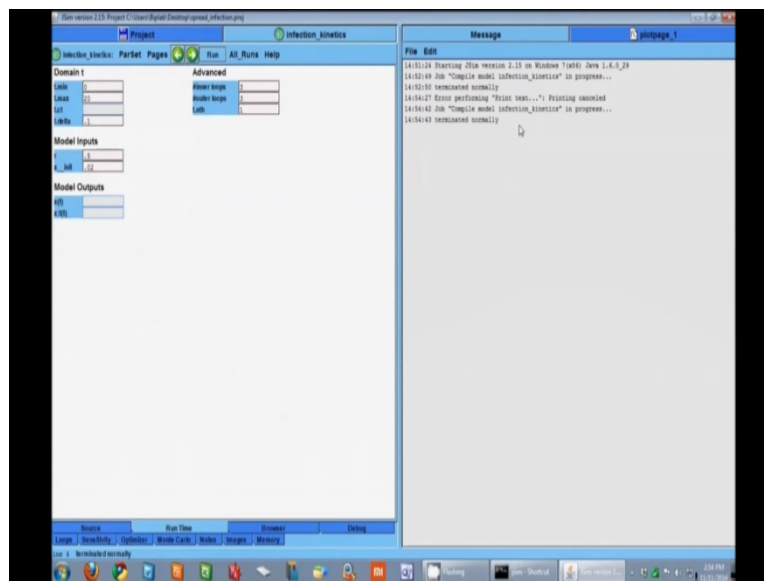
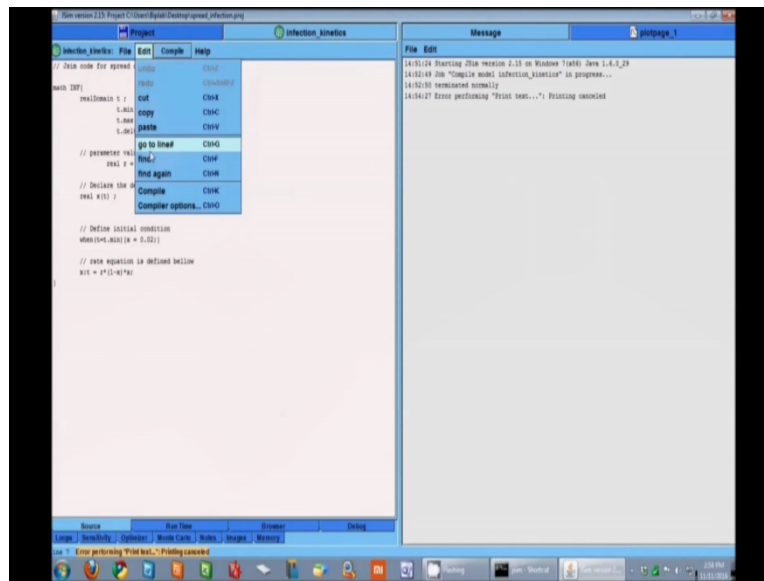
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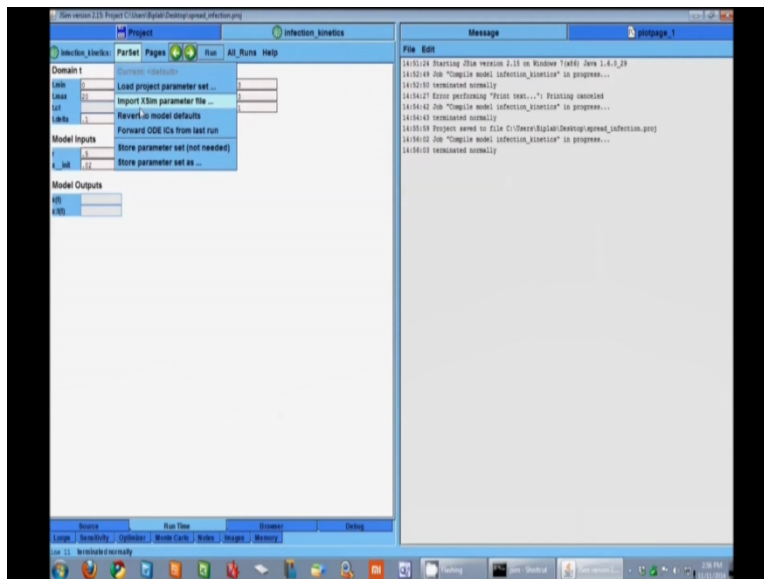
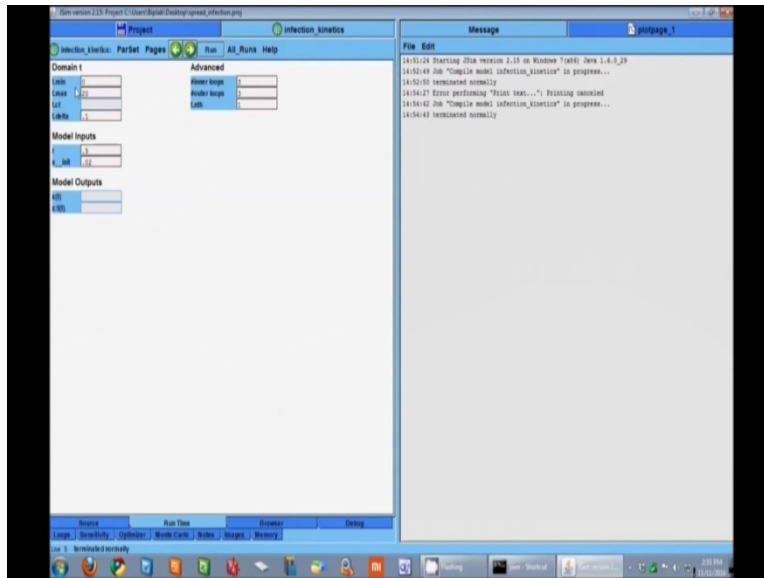


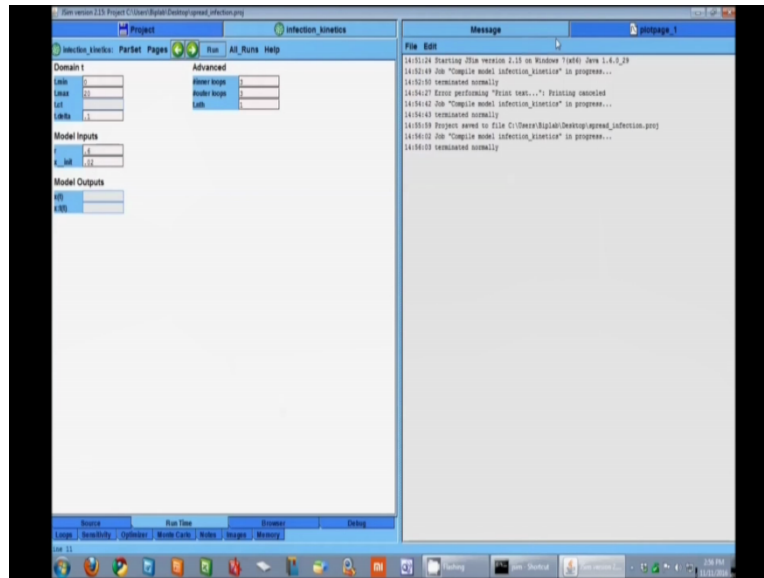
In this page you have multiple options like file. I can print this code by print text option. So you can print it. We will not do it here.



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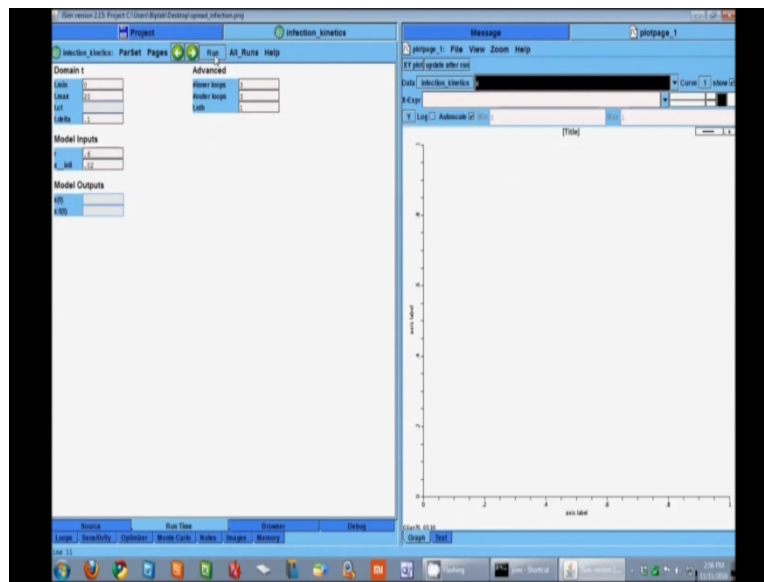
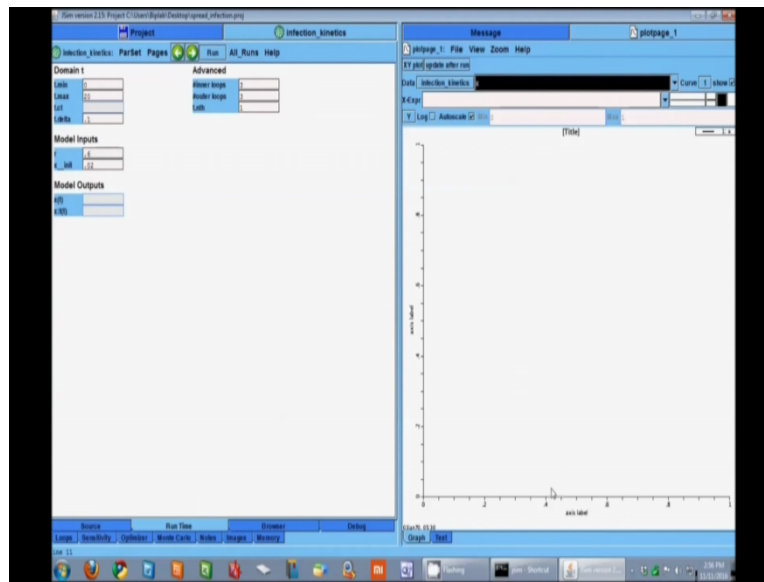




You have edit option by which you can copy, paste the code or you can find the code plot and notice that there is a button compile, once you have written down the code you have to compile it so that JSim can run it. Once you compile successfully this runtime tab gets activated and you reach this runtime tab. You can see the message even though it is written that chopped compile model infection kinetic in progress terminated normal. That means JSim has successfully compiled the program. In the runtime tab you have multiple information. Each of these values are values of variables which I can change for example  $T_{min}$  is 0.

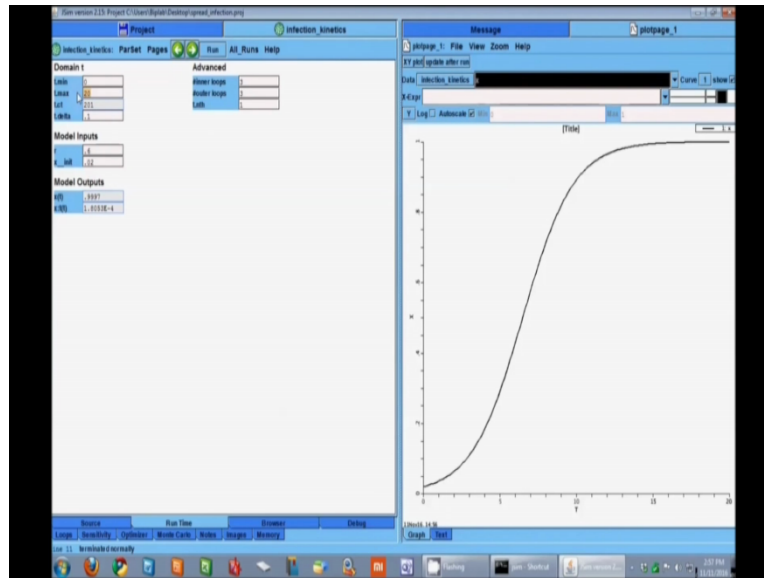
There is a minimum time of and this is coming from the code block here  $T_{min} = 0$ . So either you change in the code or you go to the runtime window and change these values. I can change the value of  $T_{max}$ .  $T_{max}$  I have said is 20, I can change it. I can change the value of  $R$ ,  $x$  initial. There is an initial value of  $x$ . All these things I can change either in the source code or in the runtime window. So I have changed that, I have saved it and I will go back and compile again. Now I have change from parameter set revert to model default so that the value changed in the code get executed. So in model input  $R$  has changed from 0.5 to 0.6.

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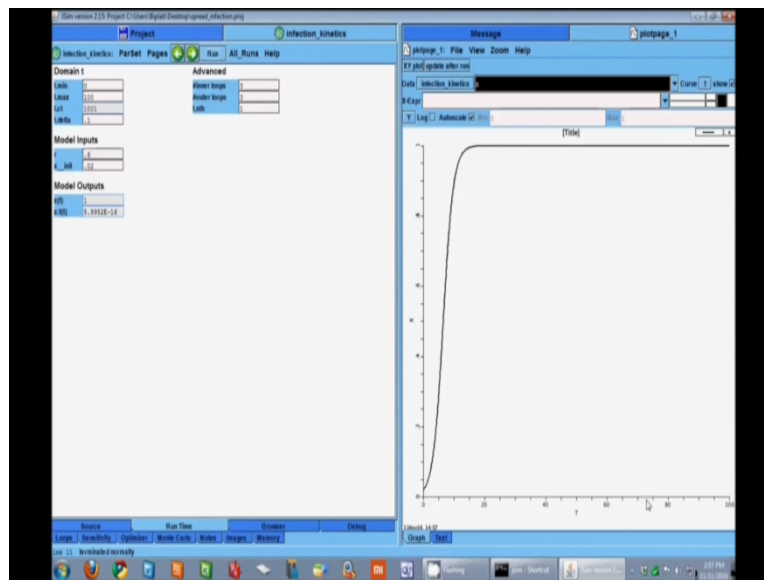
Now we are going to run and see the output in the plot page. In the plot page you select the model. We have only one model. You select a variable i.e.  $x$  is the only variable so you selected it. Now horizontal axis is the time and vertical axis is for the dependent variable  $x$ . Let us run it clicking run. You got the result. You can see the typical sigmoidal curve. Change the name of the axis. Vertical axis is  $x$  and horizontal axis is time  $T$ . So now we have the data.

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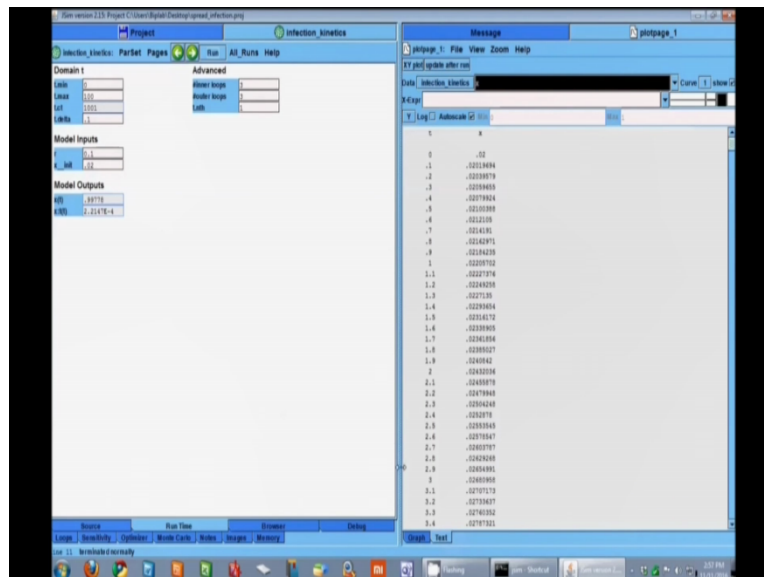
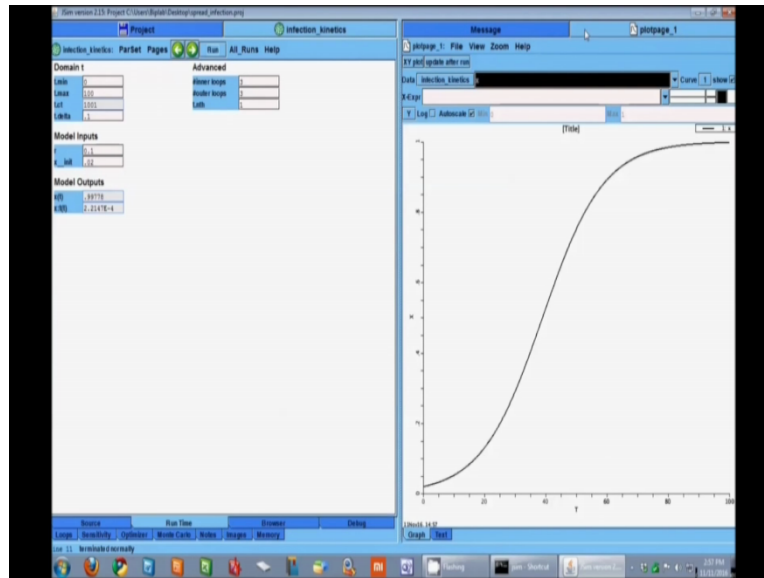
I can now change the total time of simulation from 20 to 100. Now run again. Notice the horizontal axis; it has changed up to 100.

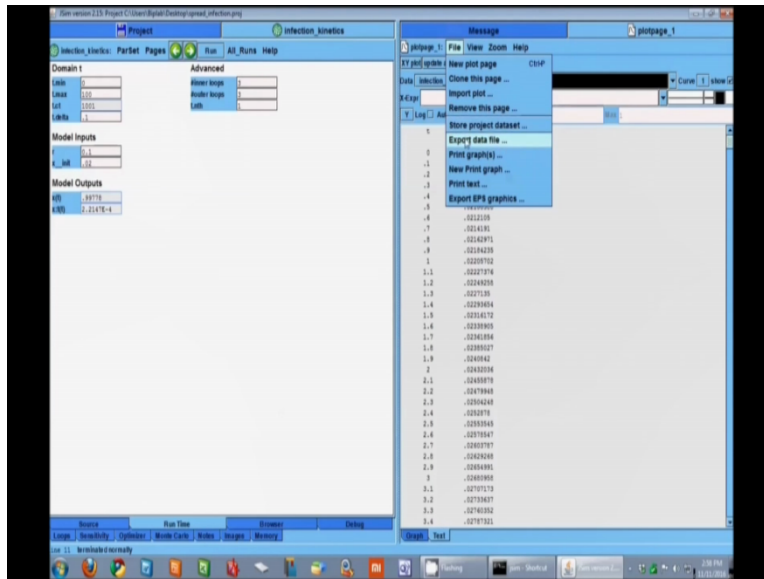
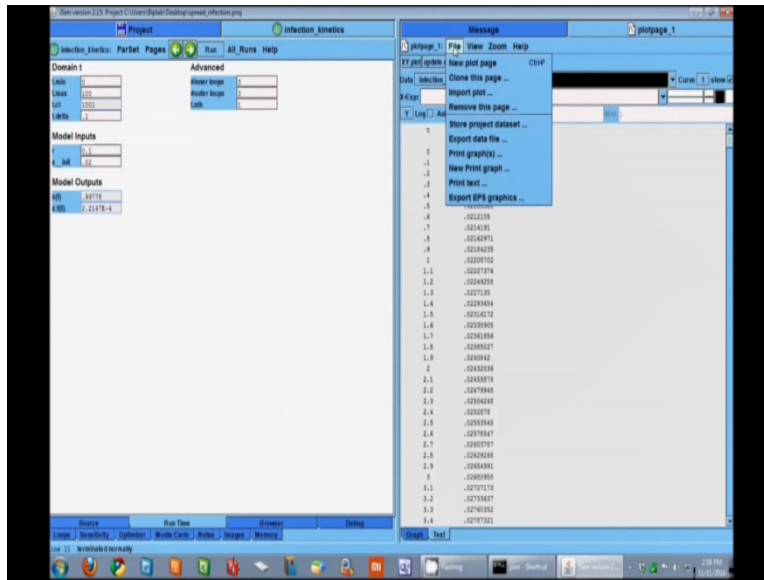
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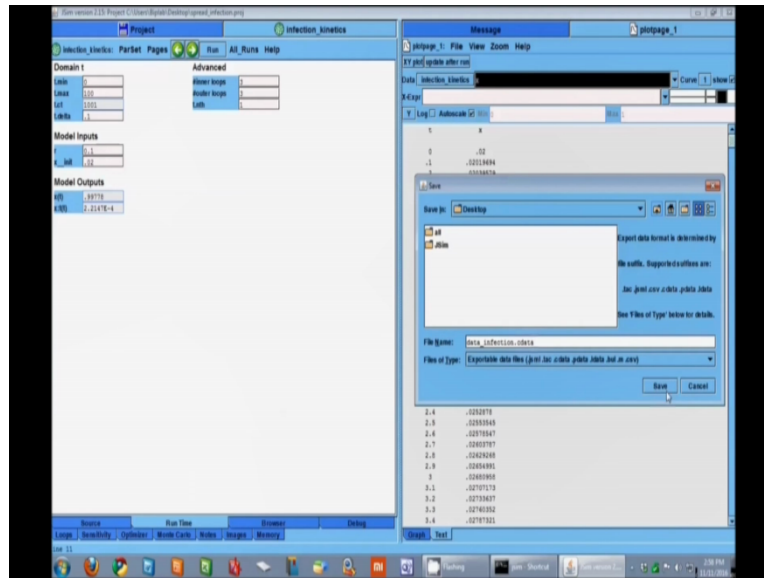


Now let us change the model input  $R$ , the rate constant to 0.1, run again. You see the pattern of change of  $x$  with respect to time has changed.

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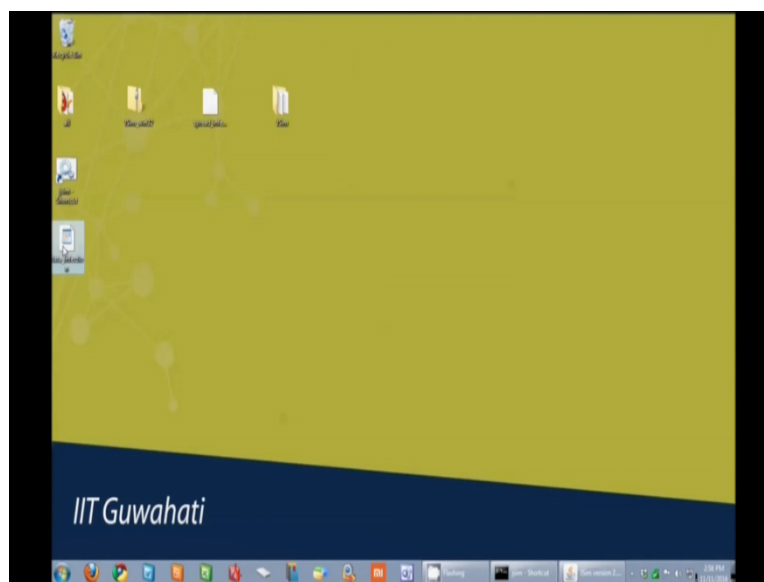




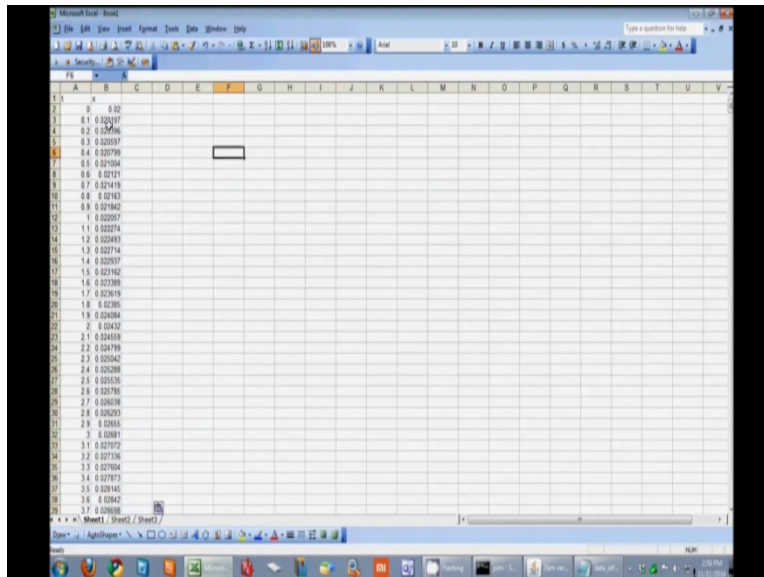
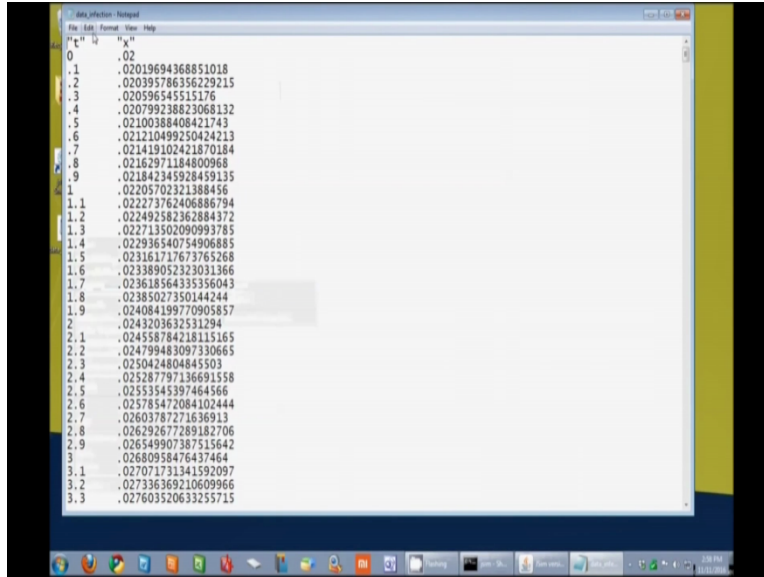


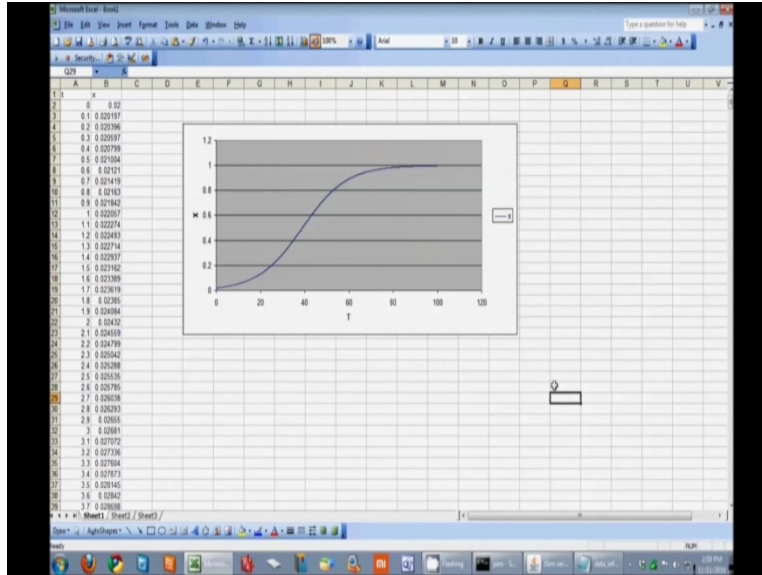
Apart from this visualization JSIM also gives you the data in text format as shown in this tab. It is a separate tab named as text. Interestingly I can save this data as a text file so that that text file can be opened in another software and analyzed. So go to file. There you have option of export data file. JSIM allow you to export data in different format from comma separated to tab delimited. I will save this data in C data format, give a name and then put the extension. Don't forget to put the extension in the file name. I will use C data as a extension. So name of my file is Data\_infection.cdata, save it. Once you save, the data has got as a text file.

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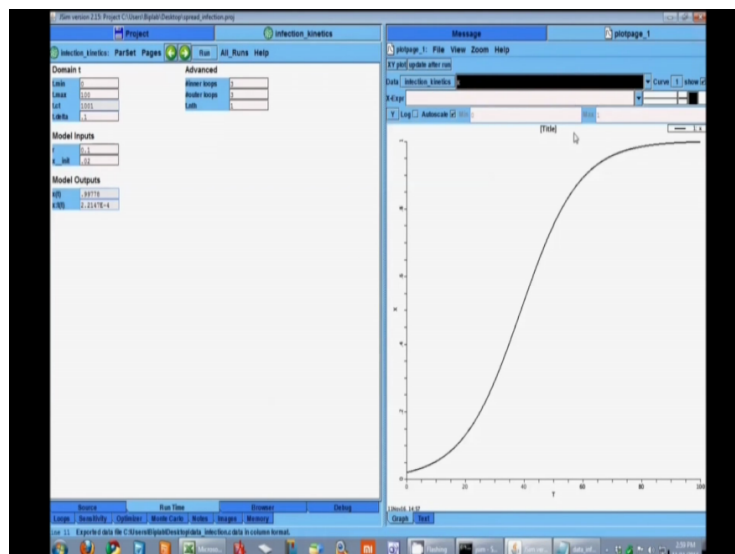


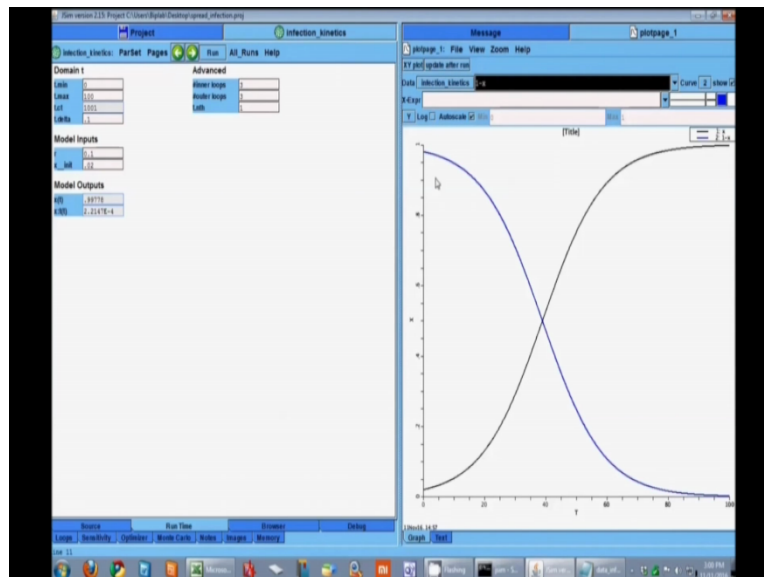
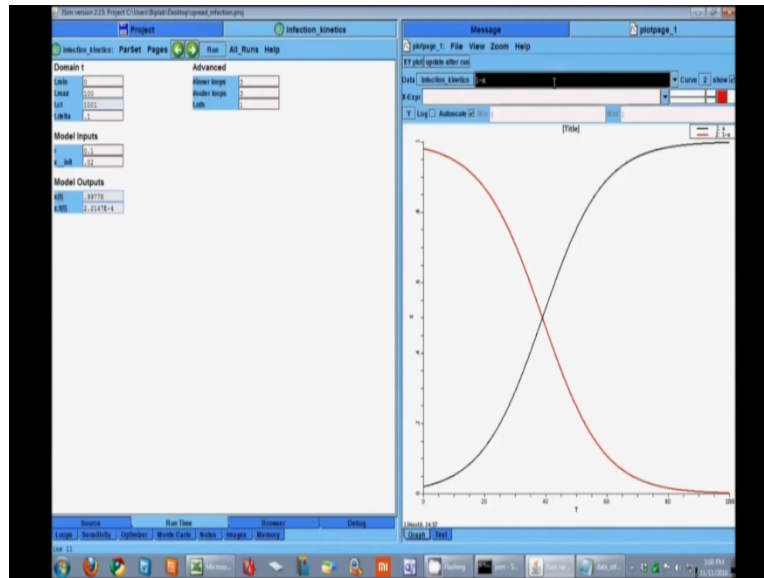


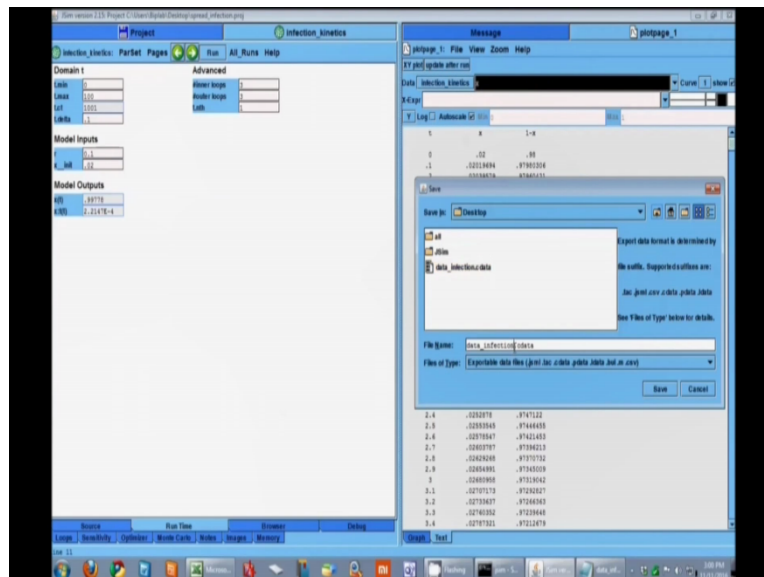
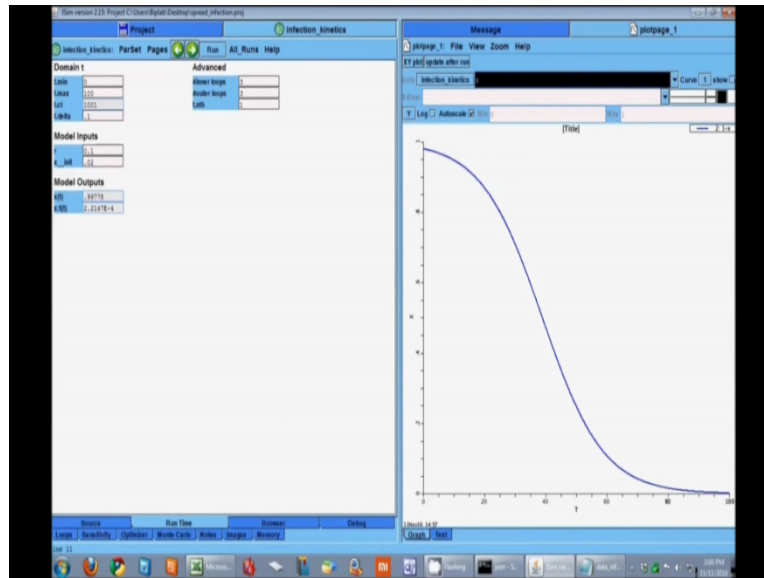


Let us see that. Here I have the text file. I can open it in a notepad or WordPad. I can simply select all data and copy and paste it into some other software like Microsoft excel. Let's open a Microsoft excel page, paste it here. So now I have exported the data and I have it in Microsoft excel. So I can use the graphic tool of Microsoft excel to draw the graph here and do all the manipulation and formatting which are not possible in JSIM. For example if you want to change font size or color or put some background text or put some background color, JSIM will not allow you to do that you can do that here in Microsoft excel. So here we go we have the same graph.

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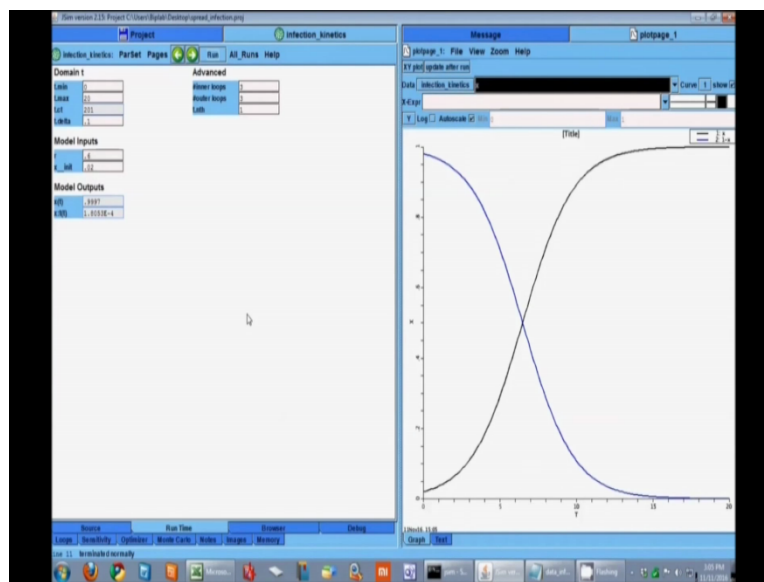
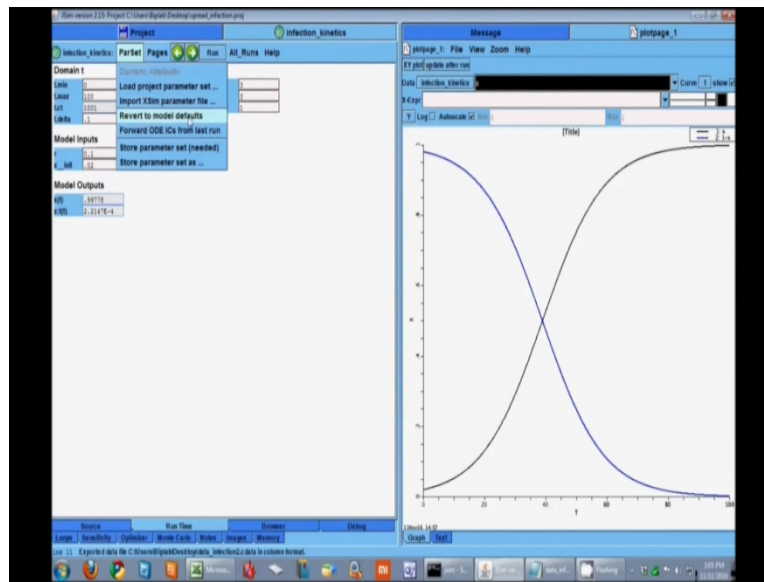






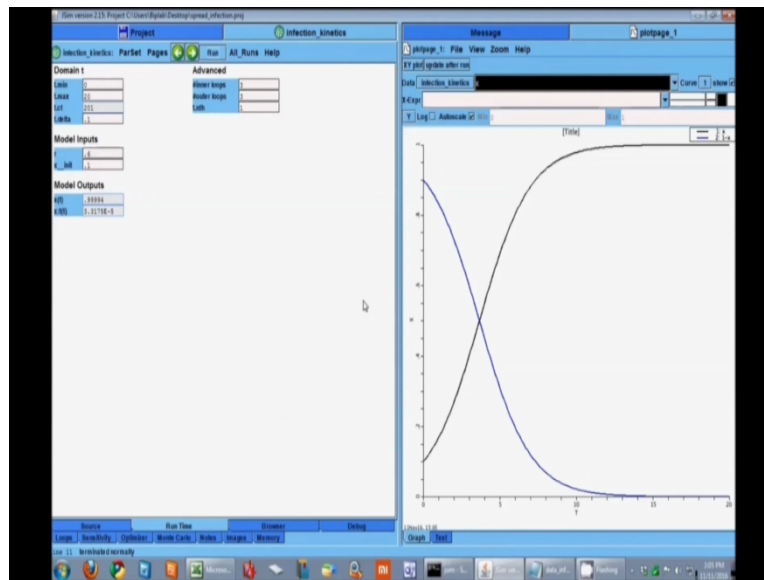
So we have the graph here and that data is depending upon specific value of the input parameter. We can put multi if we have a model with multiple parameters. We can draw them here also by choosing multiple curves. For example suppose I want to plot  $(1-x)$  so I updated a new curve and defined it as  $(1-x)$  and changed, put the color blue in that. If I want to remove it I can simply uncheck the show option. I can go to 1 and uncheck that so  $x$  will disappear. So in this way multiple variables you can show and check uncheck and change their color depending upon your utility. So as you show in the graph, your data will be shown in the text format also. You can also export that data. I will save it as 2<sup>nd</sup> file and remember the extension was cdata.

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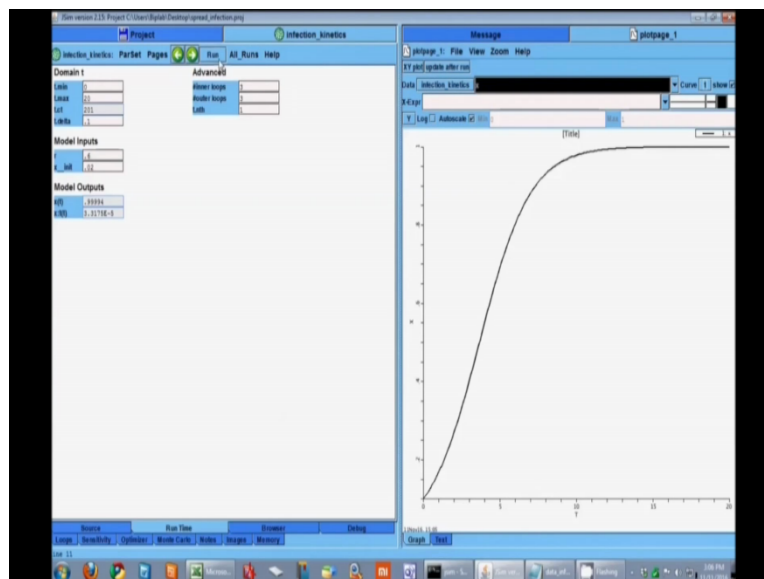
Now in this module we have used  $r = 0.1$ . We can revert back to the model default. The default value of the parameters will become 0.6 because in the code I have written that as 0.6. Let us run once again.

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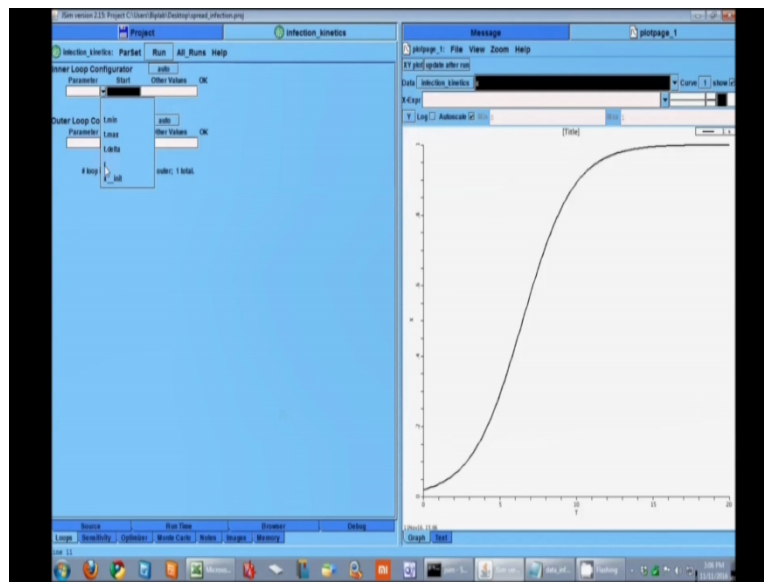
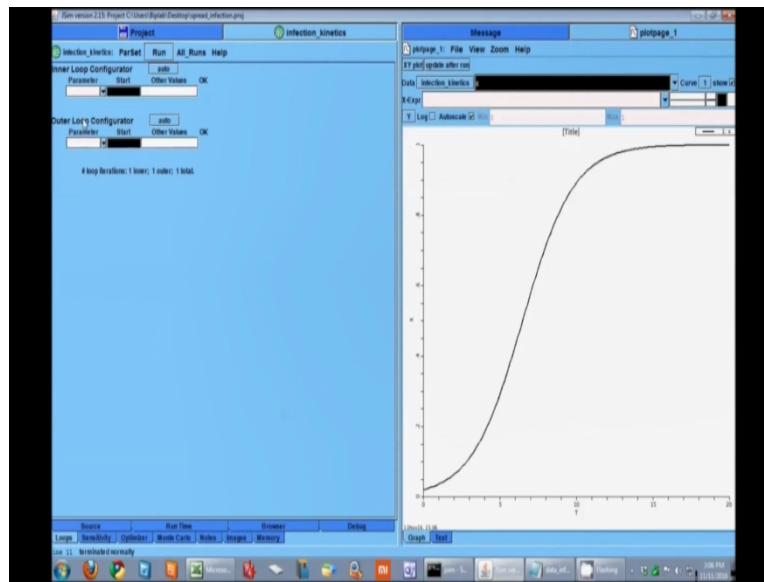
Now let us change the initial value of  $x$  and run it again. So you see how the graph has changed. So the  $x$  is now starting from 0.1 and we have corresponding  $(1-x)$  plot also. Let us go back again to the original value of 0.02.

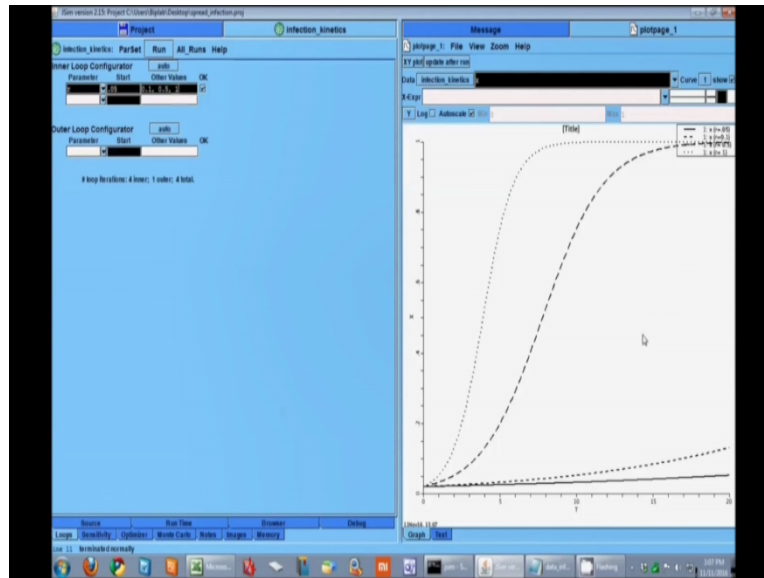
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We have removed 1 and we will only show now the main variable  $x$ . I will run with default values and I want to see now how if a parameter is changed how the data will change.

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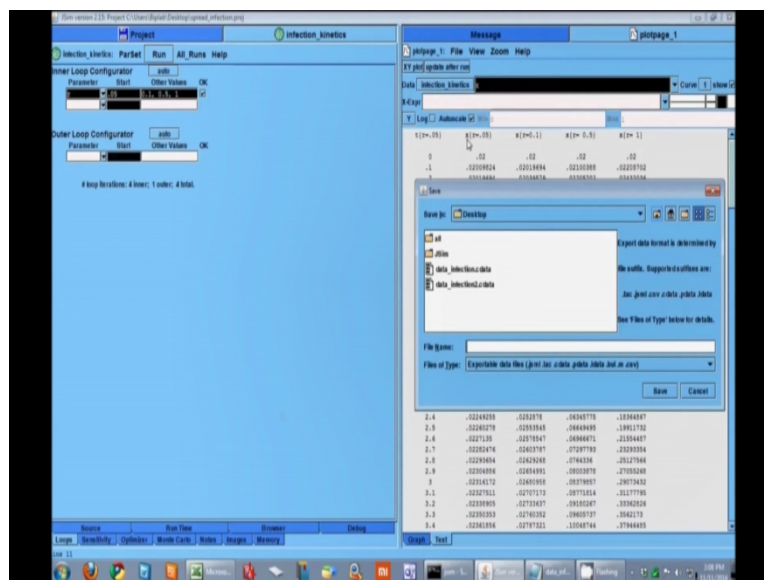
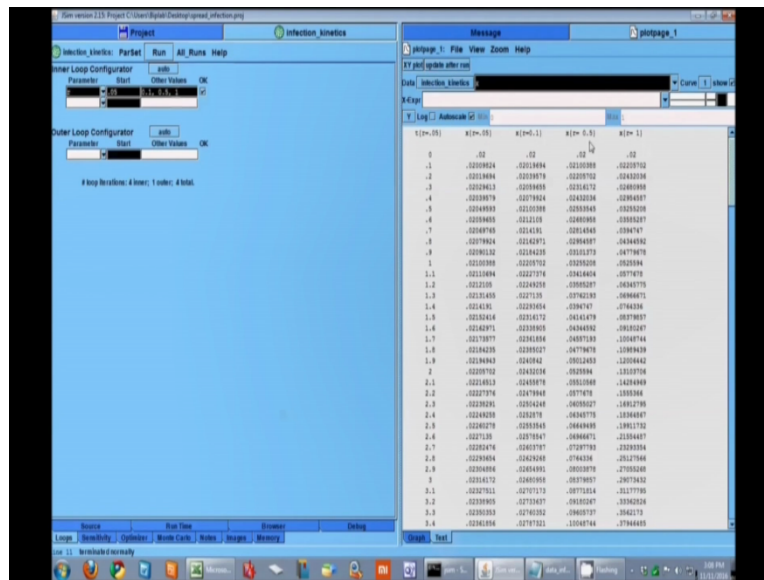


So there is loop tab which allow you to check the different value of parameter on your result. So let us choose one parameter from this pull down. You have the parameter R, let me choose that. Let us fix a start value of R i.e. the first value of R that will be used. So it is by default now 0.6 because that is the value in the code. Let me put it as 0.05 and then in other value we put as 0.1, 0.5. So I have 3 values 0.05, 0.1 and 0.5. I want to run this loop and see how the data changes with the change in value of R. So in all run option you have loops run, 3 combat.

So in the graph you can see multiple plots showing the effect of R on the behavior of x. The lowest one, the dark black one is for 0.05 and the upper one, the dotted one is for r equal to 1. Everything else is in between. So in this way you can choose the parameter, set different values of the parameter and use loop run to see how that parameter effect your behavior of the dependent variable.

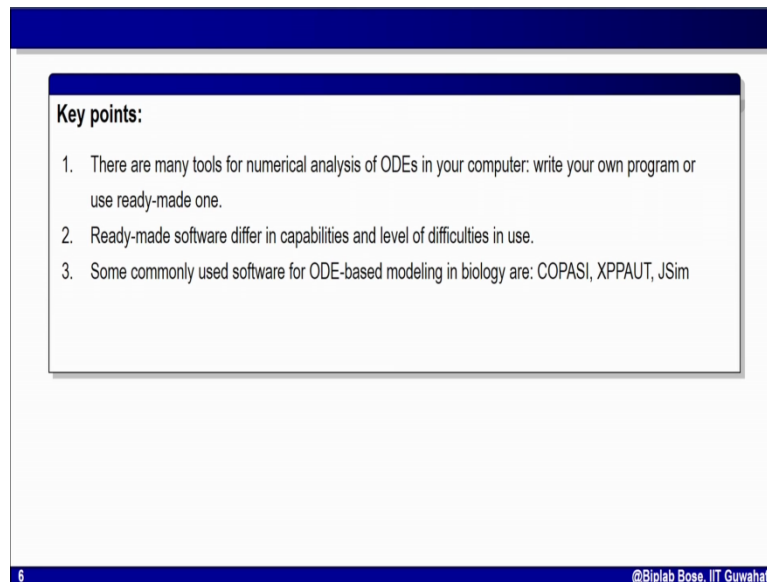


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You can also see the data text files and you can as usual export that text data in a text file so that you can manipulate and plot in some other software. Here I am saving it as a data\_infection\_loop.cdata so that data I can use somewhere else.

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**Key points:**

1. There are many tools for numerical analysis of ODEs in your computer: write your own program or use ready-made one.
2. Ready-made software differ in capabilities and level of difficulties in use.
3. Some commonly used software for ODE-based modeling in biology are: COPASI, XPPAUT, JSim

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So the key points that we have discussed in this module is that there are many software's and programming languages that you can use to model and simulate your ODE based model. You have to choose them depending upon your capabilities and your ease of work. If you are creating very large model then writing down your own program may not be a good idea. Maybe some software which can handle large model be useful for you. There are many readymade software like Copasi, JSIM which you can use depending upon your utility.

These tools not only allow you to simulate ODE but also allow some other analysis like parameter sensitivity, parameter estimation. These software also allow you to visualize the data and save the data as a text format which you can export and use in some other software. In our course I will advise you to use JSIM for simulating ODE based models and we will discuss in another video how to create JSIM model using JSIM's math model language. Thank You for watching, see you in next module.