

Mechanistic Modelling of Recurrent Epidemics







Measles in New York City



Mechanistic Epidemic Modelling: Principles

- Consider the biological mechanisms involved in disease transmission and spread
- Model mechanisms and infer their effects
- Start as simple as possible!
- Rule out simple models by comparing results with observed time series of incidence or mortality
- Add complexity one step at a time, so key mechanisms can be identified
- Ideally converge on simplest possible model that can explain observed patterns

The SIR model: Flow Chart and Parameters



$$\frac{dS}{dt} = -\beta SI$$
$$\frac{dI}{dt} = \beta SI - \gamma I$$
$$\frac{dR}{dt} = \gamma I$$

- Parameters:
 - **Transmission** rate β
 - Recovery rate γ
 (or Removal rate)

The SIR model: Derived Parameters



$$\frac{dS}{dt} = -\beta SI$$
$$\frac{dI}{dt} = \beta SI - \gamma I$$
$$\frac{dR}{dt} = \gamma I$$

Derived Parameters:

- $\begin{tabular}{ll} \begin{tabular}{ll} Initial growth rate & \beta-\gamma \\ \end{tabular}$
- Mean infectious period $\frac{1}{\gamma}$
- Basic Reproduction Number

$$\mathcal{R}_0 = \frac{\beta}{\gamma}$$

Basic SIR Model: Important Results

- Epidemic occurs if and only if $\mathcal{R}_0 > 1$
- Exact solution for phase portrait
- Single epidemic, then disease disappears
- Exact formula for final size as a function of \mathcal{R}_0
- Cannot explain diseases that persist
- Cannot explain recurrent cycles of epidemics

What are we missing?



SEIR Model: flow chart



- Introduces only one new parameter (σ)
- Mean latent period $(1/\sigma)$ can often be estimated
- But... effect of inclusion of exposed class usually small

What are we still missing?



SEIR Model with vital dynamics: flow chart



New Parameters:

- Birth rate (ν for natality)
- Death rate (µ for mortality)
- Mean latent period $(1/\sigma)$

SEIR with vital dynamics and vaccination: flow chart



New Parameters:

- Birth rate (v for natality)
- Death rate (µ for mortality)
- Mean latent period $(1/\sigma)$
- Proportion vaccinated (p)

SEIR with vital dynamics and vaccination: Equations



$$\frac{dS}{dt} = \nu(1-p) - \beta SI - \mu S$$

$$\frac{dE}{dt} = \beta SI - \sigma E - \mu E$$

$$\frac{dI}{dt} = \sigma E - \gamma I - \mu I$$

$$\frac{dR}{dt} = \nu p + \gamma I - \mu R$$

- Birth rate (v for natality)
- Death rate (μ for mortality)
- Proportion vaccinated (p)
- Transmission rate (β)
- Mean latent period $(1/\sigma)$
- Mean infectious period $(1/\gamma)$



Mathematics and Statistics

$$\int_{M} d\omega = \int_{\partial M} \omega$$

Mathematics 4MB3/6MB3 Mathematical Biology

Instructor: David Earn

Lecture 13 Mechanistic Modelling of Recurrent Epidemics Monday 4 February 2019

Announcements

Assignment 2: Due TODAY!

Do the Group contribution survey for Assignment 2 TODAY.

Assignment 3 is posted. Due Wednesday 28 February 2018, 11:30am.

Midterm test:

- Date: Thursday 8 March 2018
- *Time:* 7:00pm to 9:00pm
- Location: BSB-B154

SEIR with vital dynamics and vaccination: Analysis

■ *R*₀ ?

Biological derivation: (assuming $\nu = \mu$ and p = 0) $\mathcal{R}_0 = \beta \times \frac{\sigma}{\sigma + \mu} \times \frac{1}{\gamma + \mu} \simeq \frac{\beta}{\gamma} \quad \because \frac{1}{\mu} \gg \max\left(\frac{1}{\sigma}, \frac{1}{\gamma}\right)$

Mathematical derivation:

 *R*₀ = 1 is stability boundary

- Final size ? Not well defined (because of continuous source of new susceptibles).
- Equilibria ?
 - Disease Free Equilibrium (DFE)
 - Endemic Equilibrium (EE)
 - That's all folks.
- Periodic solutions ? No.
- What else ? Chaos?

SEIR with vital dynamics and vaccination: Results

- \exists Endemic Equilibrium $\iff \mathcal{R}_0(1-p) > 1$
 - EE is GAS in this case.
 - DFE is GAS otherwise.
- Eradication $\iff p > 1 \frac{1}{\mathcal{R}_0}$ (herd immunity)
 - Smallpox: $\mathcal{R}_0 \sim 4 \implies p_{\mathrm{crit}} \sim 75\%$
 - Measles: $\mathcal{R}_0 \sim 20 \implies p_{\mathrm{crit}} \sim 95\%$
- Explains persistence of diseases (via births)
- No periodic solutions $\stackrel{?}{\Longrightarrow}$ no recurrent epidemics
- \blacksquare GAS equilibrium \implies no periodic solutions and no chaos
- Equilibrium approached by *damped oscillations*
 - \implies recurrent epidemics
- But observed epidemic patterns show undamped oscillations...

What are we STILL missing?



Demographic Stochasticity

- Differential equations describe the expected behaviour in the limit that the population size goes to infinity
- How do dynamics differ in finite populations?
- Re-cast the SEIR model as a stochastic process (Continuous time Markov process)
- Proving anything about stochastic epidemic models is difficult, but we can easily simulate them and learn a lot
- Standard algorithm for creating realizations of a stochastic epidemic model attributed to Daniel T. Gillespie

Gillespie 1976, J. Comp. Phys. 22, 403-434

- Rather than rates of change of compartment sizes consider event rates for transitions between disease states
- Finite number of individuals
- Assume event rates depend only on current state of population

Gillespie Algorithm

- Let a₁, a₂, ..., be the rates at which the various processes occur, e.g.,
 - $a_1 = \text{birth rate},$
 - a_2 = rate of going from susceptible to exposed,
 - a₃ = the rate of going from infectious to removed (recovering),
 etc.
- Let a₀ be the overall event rate, *i.e.*, a₀ = ∑_i a_i (so average time between events = 1/a₀).
- Assume time spent in any state is exponentially distributed (transitions between states are "Poisson processes")
- ... Probability next event occurs in (t, t + dt) is $a_0 e^{-a_0 t} dt$
- Let $u = 1 e^{-a_0 t}$. Then $u \in [0, 1]$ and $du = a_0 e^{-a_0 t} dt$ $\implies u$ is uniformly distributed in [0, 1].
- ... Get time t to next event by sampling u from uniform distribution in [0, 1] and setting $t = \frac{1}{a_0} \ln \frac{1}{1-u}$.

Gillespie Algorithm continued

- We now know the time t of the next event, but we must still determine what type of event occurs at time t.
- Probability of event of type *i* is $\frac{a_i}{2}$
- ... Can easily determine type of event by sampling a point from a uniform distribution on [0, *a*₀]:
 - Event is type *i* if the uniform deviate lies in the *i*th interval in the following list:

 $[0, a_1), [a_1, a_1 + a_2), \ldots, [a_1 + \cdots + a_{i-1}, a_1 + \cdots + a_i), \ldots$

How do realizations of this process differ from the solution of the deterministic (differential equation) model?