Overview of DELPHI Model

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1 Introduction to the Model

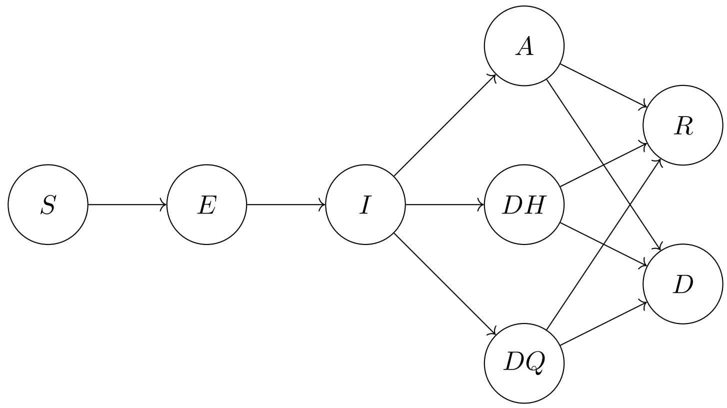
The model underlying our predictions is DELPHI (Differential Equations Leads to Predictions of Hospitalizations and Infections). DELPHI is a compartamental model that is based on the widely successful SEIR model, but with many additions to account for realistic effects. In particular there are two important effects that we consider:

- **Underdetection**: In any pandemic, a lot of cases go undetected due to many factors (failure to record, unable to test, mistaken for other disease, etc). This is an important factor that if not appropriately accounted for, would underestimate the real reach and spread of the epidemic.
- **Governmental Response**: No epidemic exists in a world where it is allowed to spread completely freely. As the epidemic spreads, governments start to respond by enacting policies designed to limit the spread of the virus, and we explicitly design a framework to take such policies into account in the model.

The model separates people into 8 possible states of being in the epidemic:

- **Susceptible (S)**: The general populace who have not been infected.
- **Exposed (E)**: People who are currently infected, but are not contagious and within the incubation period.
- **Infected (I)**: People who are currently infected and contagious.
- **Undetected (A)**: People who are infected, and self-quarantined themselves at home due to the effects of the disease, but was not confirmed due to lack of testing.
- **Detected, Hospitalized (DH)**: People who are infected, confirmed, and hospitalized.
- **Detected, Quarantine (DQ)**: People who are infected, confirmed, and home-quarantined rather than hospitalized.
- **Recovered (R)**: People who have recovered from the disease (and assumed to be immune).
- **Death (D)**: People who have perished from the disease.

The interactions between the different states are summarized in the picture below, where the arrows indicate possible flow between the states:



2 Detailed Model Formulation

The mathematical formulation of the model is as followed:

$$\frac{\mathrm{d}S}{\mathrm{d}t} = -\alpha\gamma(t)S(t)I(t)$$
$$\frac{\mathrm{d}E}{\mathrm{d}t} = \alpha\gamma(t)S(t)I(t) - r_i E(t)$$
$$\frac{\mathrm{d}I}{\mathrm{d}t} = r_i E(t) - r_d I(t)$$
$$\frac{\mathrm{d}A}{\mathrm{d}t} = r_d(1-p_d)I(t) - (r_{ri} + r_{dth})A(t)$$
$$\frac{\mathrm{d}DH}{\mathrm{d}t} = r_d p_d p_h I(t) - (r_{rih} + r_{dth})DH(t)$$
$$\frac{\mathrm{d}DQ}{\mathrm{d}t} = r_d p_d(1-p_h)I(t) - (r_{ri} + r_{dth})DQ(t)$$
$$\frac{\mathrm{d}R}{\mathrm{d}t} = r_{ri}(A(t) + DQ(t)) + r_{rih}(DH(t))$$
$$\frac{\mathrm{d}D}{\mathrm{d}t} = r_{dth}(A(t) + DQ(t) + DH(t))$$

Where:

- α is the infection rate.
- $\gamma(t)$ measures the government response and is defined as:

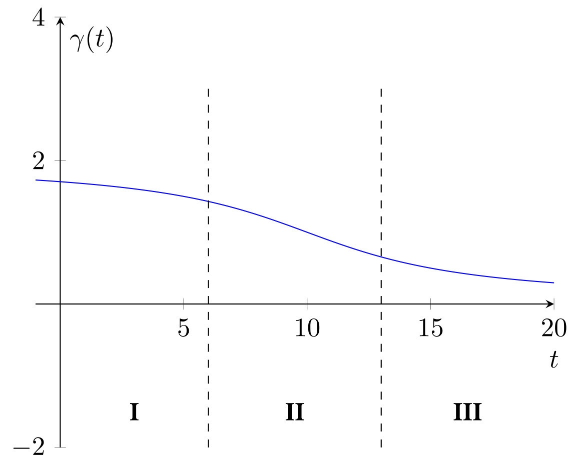
  $$\gamma(t) = \frac{2}{\pi}\arctan\left(\frac{-(t-a)}{b}\right) + 1$$

  The details for choosing this function is explained in the sub-section below.
- r_i is the rate of infection leaving incubation phase. This equals to $\frac{\log 2}{T_i}$ where T_i is the median time to leave incubation.
- p_d is the percentage of infection cases detected.
- p_h is the percentage of detected cases hospitalized
- r_{dth} is the rate of death. This equals to $-\frac{\log(1-p_{dth})}{T_d}$ where p_{dth} is the mortality rate, and T_{dth} is the time till death for dying patients.

- r_{ri} is the rate of recovery not under hospitalization. This equals to $\frac{\log 2}{T_{ri}}$ where T_{ri} is the median time to recovery not under hospitalization.
- r_{rih} is the rate of recovery under hospitalization. This equals to $\frac{\log 2}{T_{rih}}$ where T_{rih} is the median time to recovery under hospitalization.

2.1 Modeling Societal-Governmental Response

The rate of infection is never constant in an epidemic. As governments start responding to an epidemic, the rate of infection would start decreasing due to the measures being put in place. We hace decided to model the response by multiplying an initial infection rate with an arctan curve, as it captures the three phases of governmental response (the following graph is shown with $\gamma(t) = \frac{2}{\pi}\arctan(-\frac{t-10}{5})$, so $b = 5$ and $a = 10$):



- **Phase I**: This phase models the initial response when the government has just started to consider implementing policies for the epidemic. Some portion of the populace would have already changed their behavior responding to the reports of an epidemic, but a large portion of the population continues to experience life normally.
- **Phase II**: This phase is characterized by the sharp decline in infection rate as policies to control the spread go into full force (e.g. closing down part of the economy), and the society in whole experiences a shock event.
- **Phase III**: This phase models the inevitable flattening out of the response as the measures reach saturation. This is represented by the diminishing marginal returns (i.e. convexity) in the decline of infection rate.

Using parameters a and b, we are able to control, respectively, when the measures start, and the strength of such measures. This formulation allows us to model a wide variety of policies that different governments impose under the same framework, including social distancing, stay-at-home policies, quarantines, among many others.