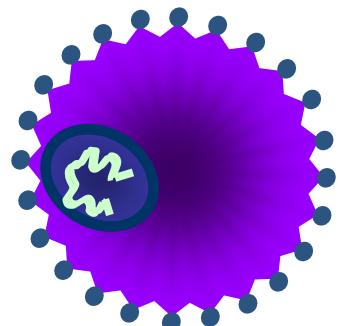


# Why Make Models

Jane Heffernan

MI2 Lab

Centre for Disease Modelling  
York University



# Fibonacci Numbers

- 1, 1, 2, 3, 5, 8, 13, 21, 34, 55, 89, ...



- Lilies and irises = 3 petals

Buttercups and wild roses = 5 petals



Corn marigolds = 13 petals

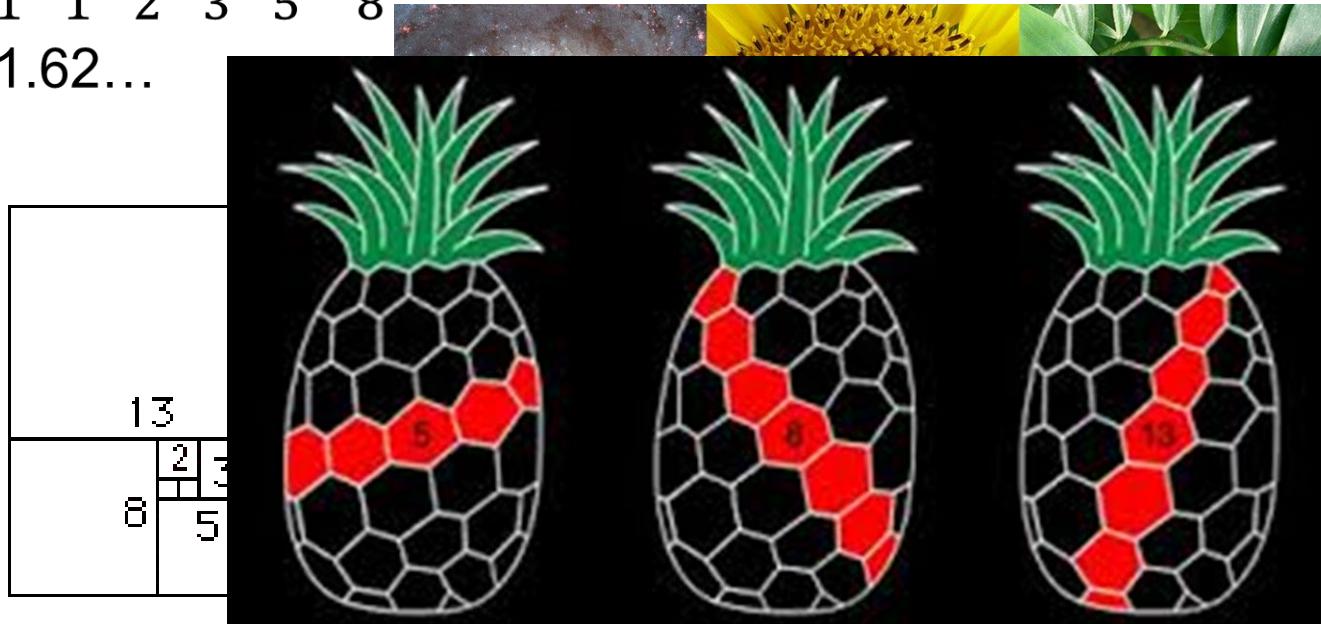


Black-eyed Susan's = 21 petals

2

# Fibonacci Numbers and Golden Ratio

- 1, 1, 2, 3, 5, 8, 13, 21, 34, 55, 89, ...
- $\frac{1}{1}, \frac{2}{1}, \frac{3}{2}, \frac{5}{3}, \frac{8}{5}, \frac{13}{8}, \dots$
- 1.62...



# Which one is your cat?

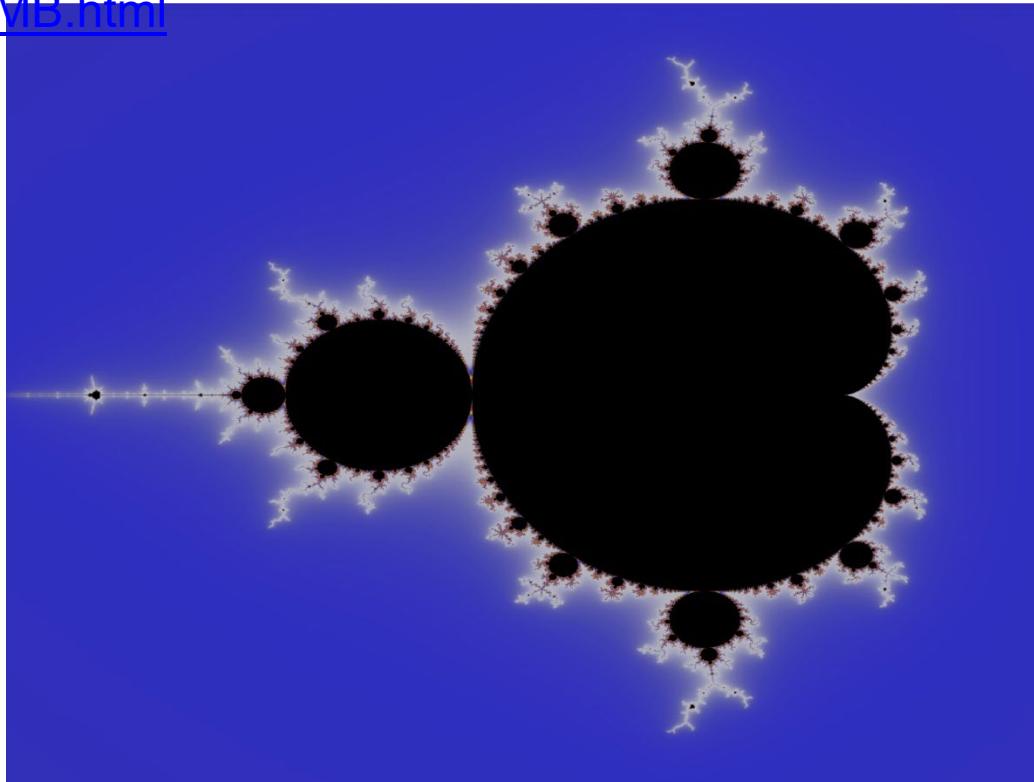


# Why do animals' coats have patterns like spots, or stripes?

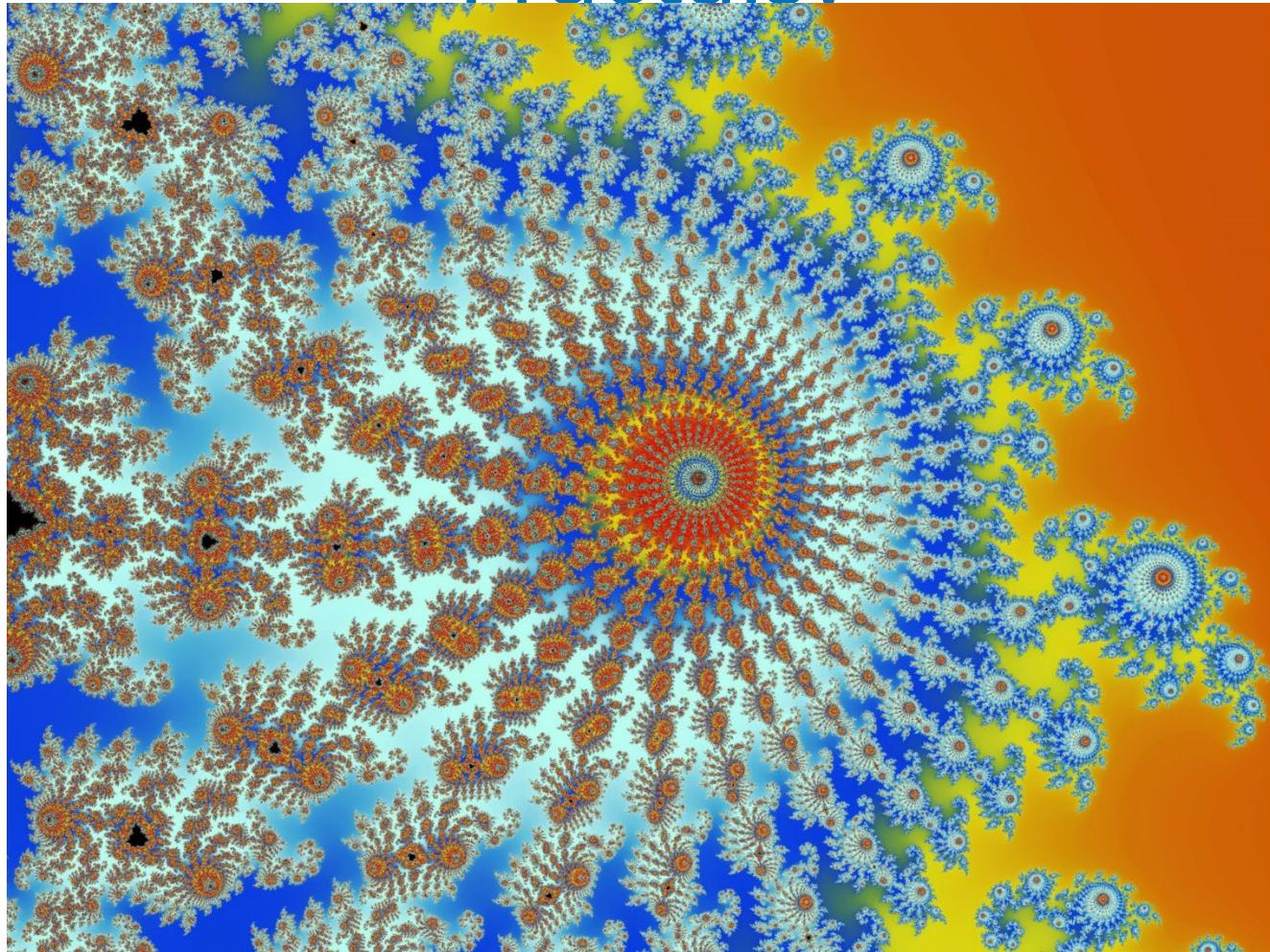


# Fractals!

[http://math.hws.edu/eck/js/mandelbrot/  
MB.html](http://math.hws.edu/eck/js/mandelbrot/MB.html)



# Fractals!



# Fractals!



# Fractals!

© 2006 Dmytry Lavrov. Created using MojoWorld by Pandromeda Inc. and Volumetric renderer by Dmytry Lavrov.



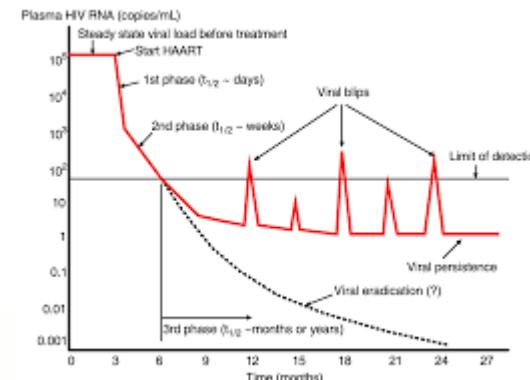
# Fractals!



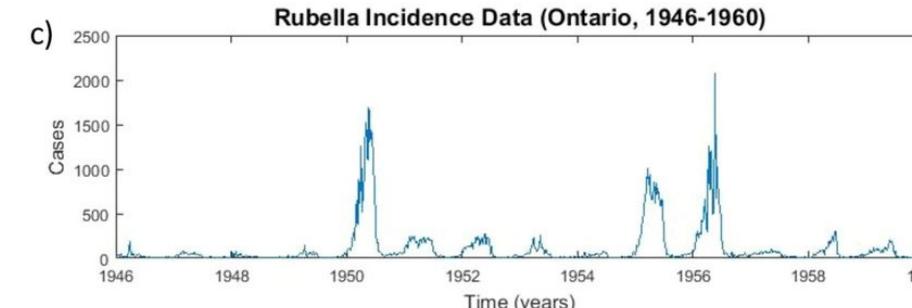
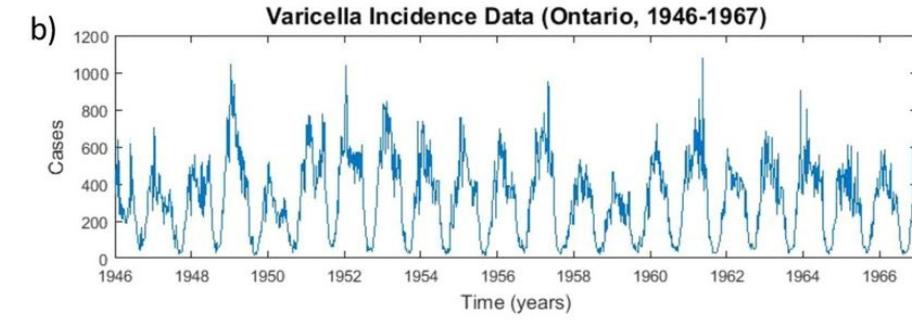
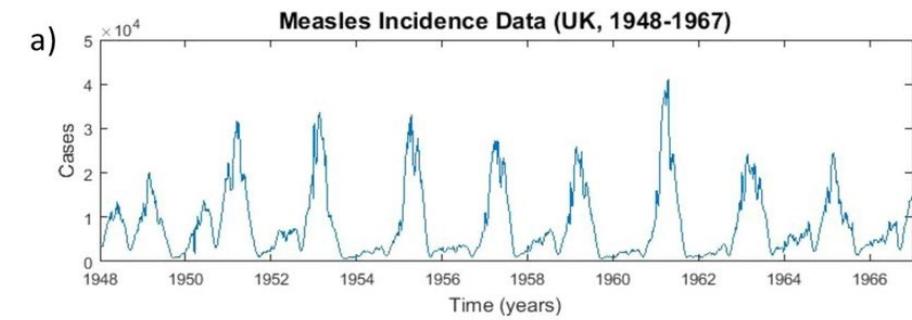
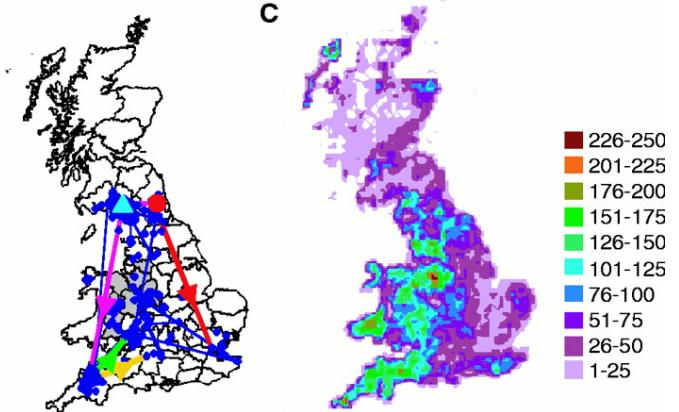
© 2005 Dmytry Lavrov. Created using MojoWorld by Pandromeda Inc. and Volumetric renderer by Dmytry Lavrov.

# Making Models

- To understand
  - Biology
  - Chemistry
  - Physics
  - Social science
  - Psychology
  - Health
  - etc
- To understand patterns in the work around us!!
  - Quantitative
  - Qualitative



c

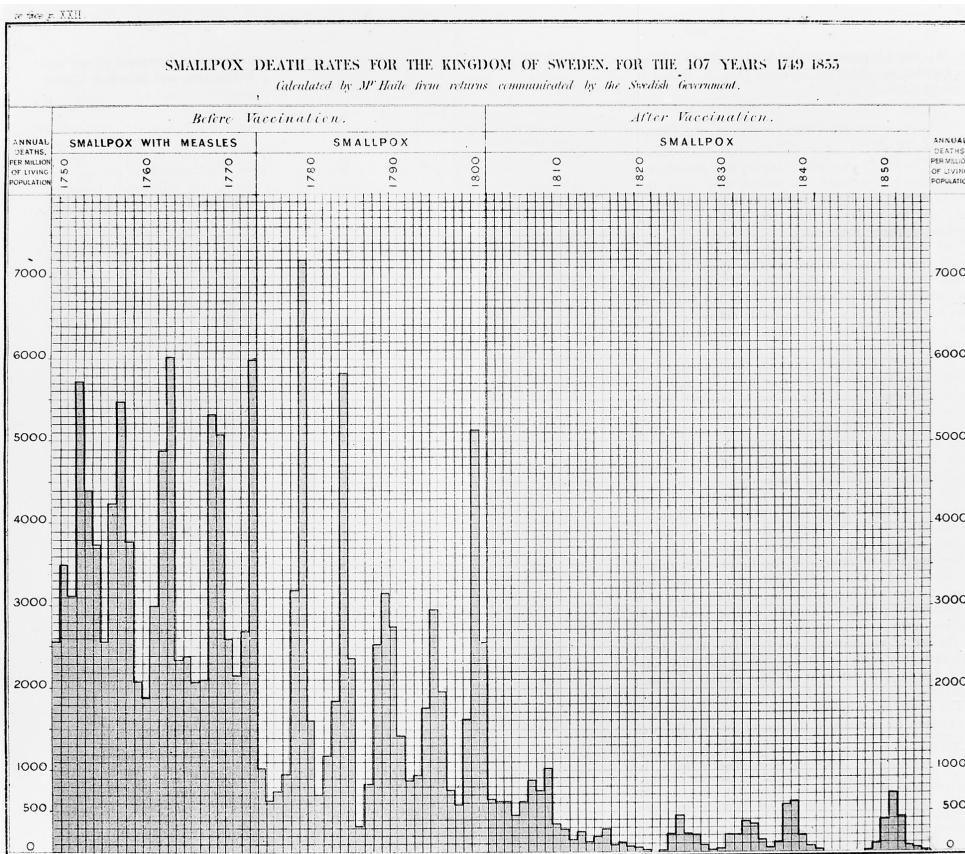


# Mathematical Epidemiology

# Some history of epidemiology

**Daniel Bernoulli** (1700 – 1782), mathematician and physicist, one of the greatest scientists of the 18<sup>th</sup> century

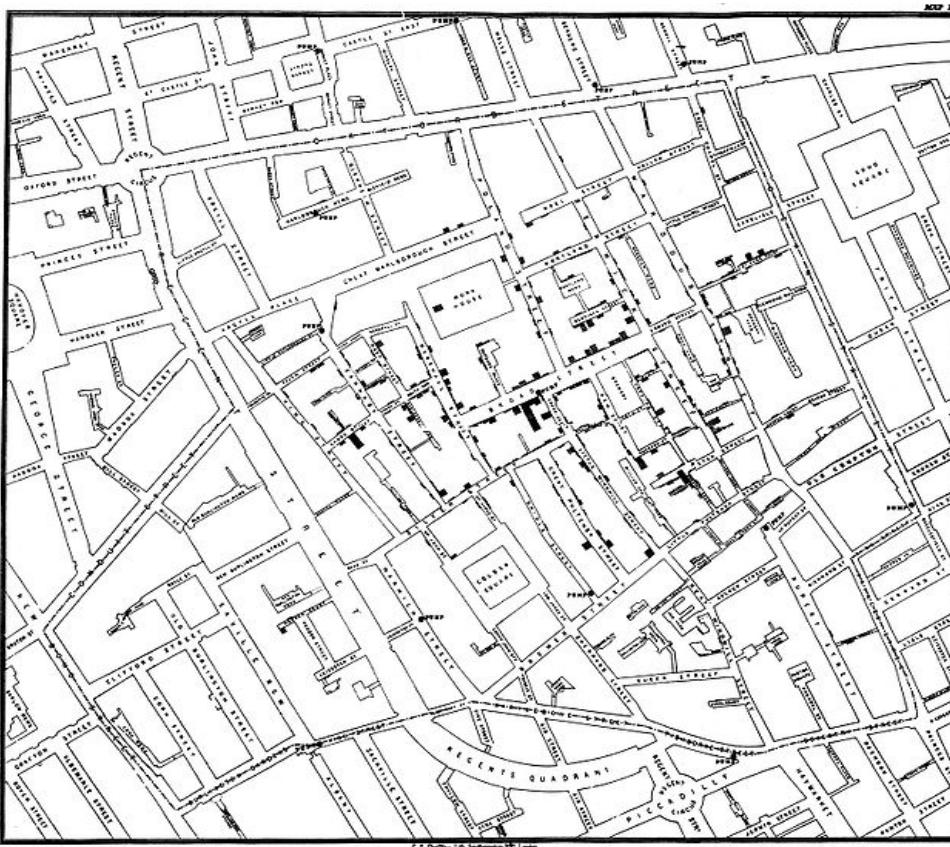
Wrote a mathematical analysis for smallpox vaccination to encourage people to get vaccinated (1760)



# Some history of epidemiology

**John Snow** (15 March 1813 – 16 June 1858) was a British physician and a leader in the adoption of anesthesia and medical hygiene.

He is considered to be one of the fathers of epidemiology, because of his work in tracing the source of a cholera outbreak in Soho, England, in 1854.



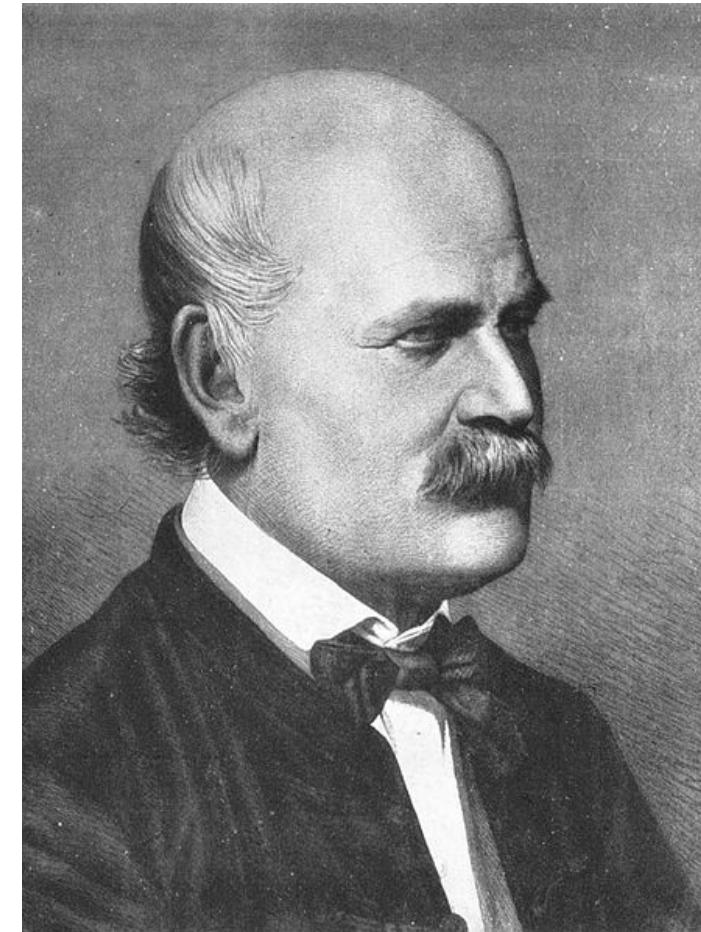
Original map by Dr. John Snow  
showing the clusters of cholera  
cases London epidemic of 1854 .

Centred around Broad St pump.

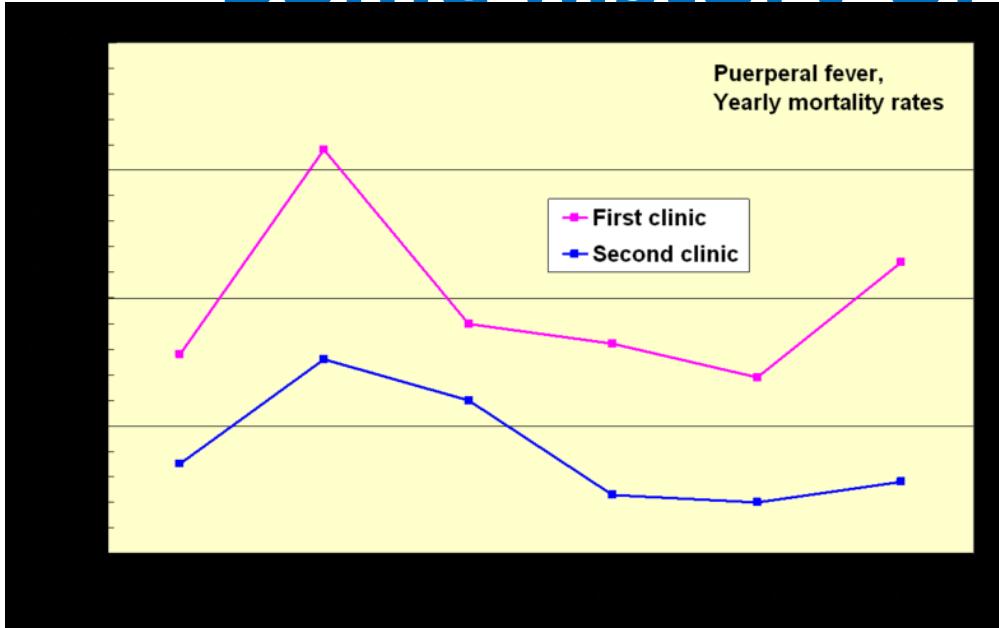
Used statistics to show connection  
between the quality of the source of  
water and cholera cases.

# Some history of epidemiology

- Ignaz Philipp Semmelweis (July 1, 1818 – August 13, 1865), was a Hungarian physician called the "*saviour of mothers*"



# Some history of epidemiology



- Semmelweis' discovery took place at the Vienna General Hospital
- The *Second Clinic's* rate was considerably lower, averaging less than 4%.
- This fact was known outside the hospital.

The two clinics admitted on alternate days but women begged to be admitted to the Second Clinic due to the bad reputation of the First Clinic

Some women even preferred to give birth in the streets, pretending to have given sudden birth *en route* to the hospital (a practice known as *street births*), which meant they would still qualify for the child care benefits.

Semmelweis was puzzled that puerperal fever was rare amongst women giving street births.

# Some history of epidemiology

107

20<sup>th</sup> August 1897

(36) 2 mos. old (4<sup>th</sup> day). Brown with white rings &c.  
as usual. Some cells with album. fat granules? (?)  
no parasites. no filariae

(37) tiny 2<sup>nd</sup> (4<sup>th</sup>) day. Small, rounded, black  
Rounds

(38) 2 mos. old (4<sup>th</sup> day) living. Brown with white rings &c.  
The stomach just under its outer surface contains  
some large cells with pigment (?) & numerous granules.



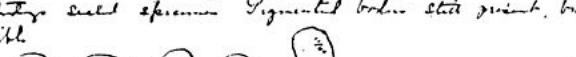
The pigment sometimes oscillates, is quite thick at first stage of larvae  
arrested; it is not found outside these cells. It is often arranged in  
a circle. The vacuoles do not change position & the cells do not change  
shape. The outline of the cell is generally thick, but in the smaller ones  
quite delicate. About 12-15  $\mu$  - diameter.

This specimen infected with *Plasmodium* & coated with *Helicobacter*.

---

21<sup>st</sup> Aug<sup>th</sup>

Another cell specimen. Pigmented bodies still present, but not more  
visible.



No 1 shows signs of a nucleus & 9.0586 an distinctly more fleshy &  
light than yesterday.

(39) 2 mos. old (5<sup>th</sup> day) alive. Large, brown, whit rings &c.  
The same cells in stomach under epithelial layer - only a  
thin layer & better defined



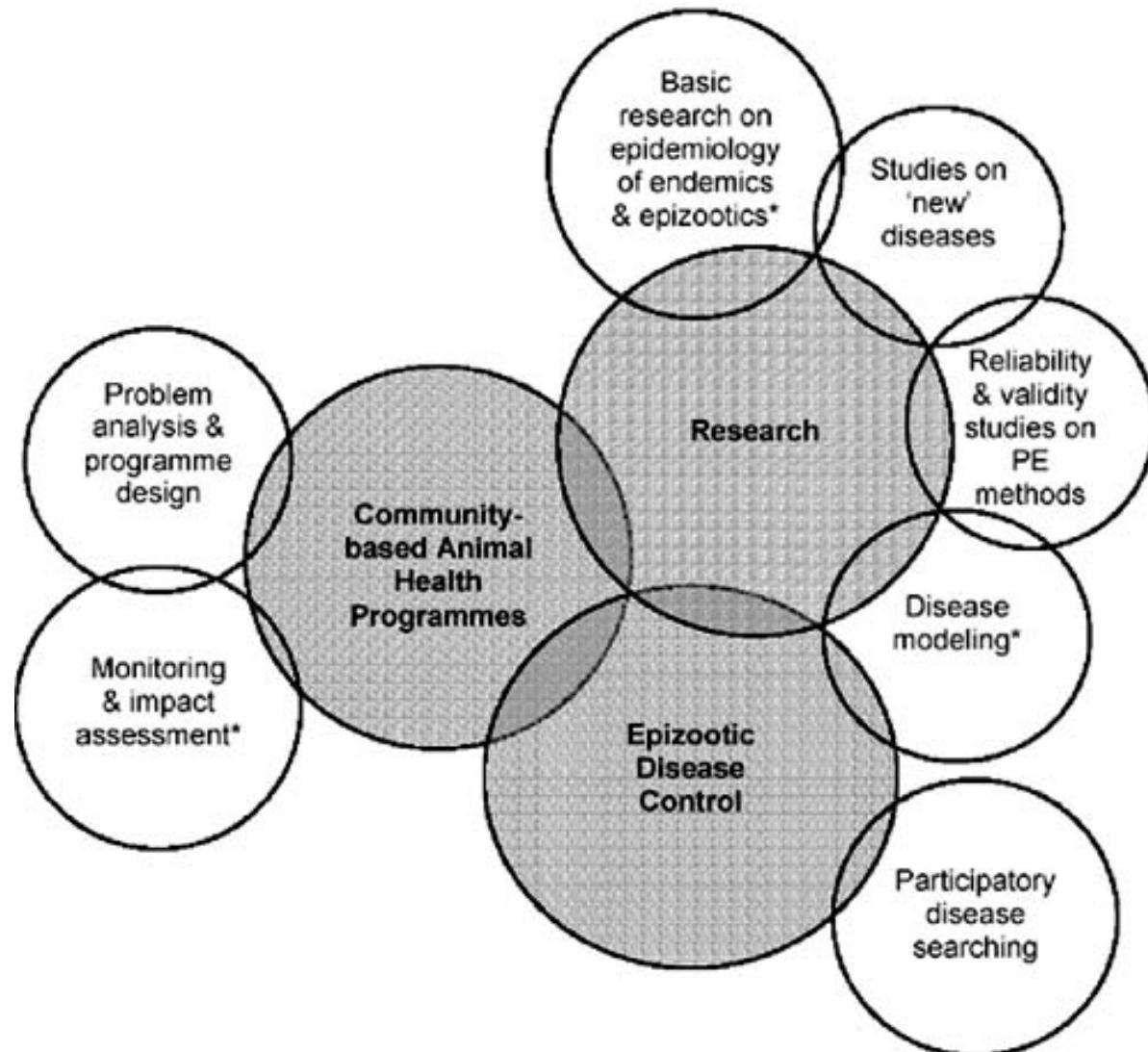
Pigment oscillating is gone. Largest about 20 $\mu$  in diam. Bottom much thicker.  
21<sup>st</sup> thin in stomach, chiefly toward upper end.

## Sir Ronald Ross

British medical doctor who received the Nobel Prize for Physiology or Medicine in 1902 for his work on malaria,



# Epidemiology



# Kermack and McKendrick

*Bulletin of Mathematical Biology* Vol. 53, No. 1/2, pp. 89–118, 1991.  
 Printed in Great Britain.

0092-8240/91\$3.00 + 0.00  
 Pergamon Press plc  
 Society for Mathematical Biology

## CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE MATHEMATICAL THEORY OF EPIDEMICS—III. FURTHER STUDIES OF THE PROBLEM OF ENDEMICITY\*

■ W. O. KERMACK and A. G. MCKENDRICK  
 Laboratory of the Royal College of Physicians,  
 Edinburgh, U.K.

**1. Introduction.** In a previous paper (Kermack and McKendrick, 1932) an attempt was made to treat from a general point of view the problem of a single disease in a population which consisted of three categories of people—namely, never infected, sick and recovered—and in which the infectivity of the disease was a function of the period of illness, whilst the susceptibility of a recovered person was a function of the period which had elapsed since the time of his recovery. New individuals entering the population either by birth or by immigration naturally entered the category of the never infected which for convenience we called “virgins”. It was pointed out that the results obtained were subject to two important limitations: (1) that the disease under consideration was the only cause of death; (2) that the age of the individuals did not affect their infectivity, susceptibility or reproductiveness.

It is the purpose of the present paper to remove the first of these limitations

**Fig. 16.1** McKendrick  
 (1876–1943) and Kermack  
 (1898–1970)

Mathematical hypothesis  
 about how infectious diseases  
 spread through a population.

Building on the research of  
 Ross and others, McKendrick  
 and Kermack published their  
 theory in a set of three articles  
 from 1927, 1932, and 1933.



# COVID Modelling in the News



## Schools 'may need to close to control new variant'

Variant spreads 56% faster and may need tougher measures to control, a study suggests.

① 24 Dec 2020 | News | Health

[www.france24.com](#) › France 24 › Europe ▾

## Covid-19: New scientific model can predict virus peaks of ...

Sep 25, 2020 — Covid-19: New scientific model can predict virus peaks of ... France may not have long to wait as the next peak is predicted for the beginning of October. ... Compared to mathematical models traditionally used in epidemiology, "there are far fewer parameters ...

[www.ft.com](#) › content

## Neil Ferguson, a virus modeller sounds the alarm

Mar 20, 2020 — The epidemiologist and his team revealed the UK's coronavirus ... It was sobering news from the bespectacled 51-year-old, one of the first global experts to warn at the start of this year that the outbreak in the Chinese city of Wuhan could ... ...

**Provincial modelling says Quebec can cope with coronavirus variants if people follow the rules** | CBC News

A lot hinges on continued adherence to public health measures and how many variants were imported by travelers in December and early January. The INSPQ says Quebec is in a "very favourable" situation right now, but it could go off the rails quickly.

February 17



[www.cnrs.fr](#) › europe-modelling-evolution-second-wav... ▾

## Europe: Modelling the Evolution of a Second Wave of Covid ...

Sep 23, 2020 — ... Federico II, have developed a new mathematical model inspired by high energy physics to predict the next waves of the Covid-19 pandemic. ... Press · CNRS News · Documentation · Recruitment · Directory · Intranet ... of infections will take place in France, the simulations underscore the importance of ...



**New coronavirus variant could dominate in Ontario by next month, model shows** | CBC News

There's a race underway by public health officials across Ontario to assess how much of the highly transmissible variant first reported in the United Kingdom is now in the community, in order to keep it at bay until widespread COVID-19 vaccinations get underway.

January 9



**CNN**

Covid-19 deaths will rise almost 80% by February, researchers foresee

(CNN) As the number of coronavirus cases in the United States ... That model, released five days ago, projected about 395,000 deaths by ...

Oct 15, 2020



# News

About 255,000 results (0.59 seconds)



[Physical distancing until September could save nearly 100000 ...](#)

CTV News - Apr. 30, 2020

SHARE. KITCHENER – A new mathematical model suggests that extending physical distancing ... Tracking every case of COVID-19 in Canada.

[University of Waterloo study says continuing social distancing ...](#)

Waterloo Chronicle - Apr. 30, 2020

[View all](#)



[COVID-19 models released by governments are 'not a crystal ...](#)

Globalnews.ca - Apr. 10, 2020

While the data may appear grim, a Canadian mathematics professor cautions the public while analyzing the numbers as they are just scenarios ...



[Coronavirus spread slowing in Canada; death rate rises due ...](#)

Globalnews.ca - Apr. 28, 2020

However, while the COVID-19 fatality rate was initially calculated as roughly 2.2 per ... The new models suggest the country could see total deaths hit ... has repeatedly been questioned by infectious disease and mathematical ...



[Canada may have 100000 more COVID-19 cases than the ...](#)

Macleans.ca - Apr. 6, 2020

Canada may have 100,000 more COVID-19 cases than the numbers ... from the Centre For Mathematical Modeling of Infectious Diseases).



[How to interpret COVID-19 disease models and projections](#)

CBC.ca - Apr. 4, 2020

How to interpret COVID-19 disease models and projections ... Models are mathematical representations that are often simplified to help us understand ... Deonandan said Canadian health officials haven't answered how long ...



[Better late than never? What to expect from COVID-19 ...](#)

CBC.ca - Apr. 22, 2020

What to expect from COVID-19 modelling — if Manitoba ever reveals it ... government, which showed Canadians projections two weeks ago of ... The expert in mathematical models of pandemic growth and control ...

## Questions:

What's in a model?

What do you do?

What do you look for?

What data do you use?

What mathematical tools do you use?

Are models right?  
If a model is wrong, what does that mean?

# Learning Goals

- Understand the basic model structure underlying all models of infectious diseases
- Gain understanding
  - ‘reproduction number’
  - ‘herd immunity’
  - ‘social distancing’
  - ‘heterogeneity’
  - etc
- Increased proficiency in
  - Reading and discussing modelling papers with an understanding and critical eye
  - Interpreting news stories involving infectious disease models

# More vs. More

