

# Infectious Disease Dynamics from the Black Death to COVID-19

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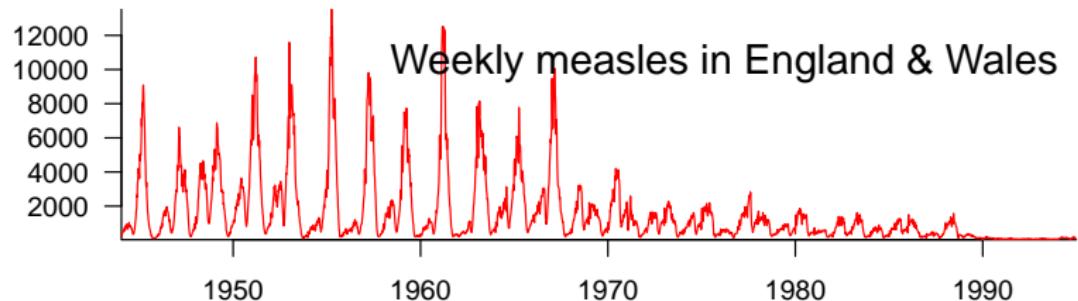
# Outline

- ▶ Predicting patterns  
of epidemic recurrence
- ▶ Puzzles presented by  
plagues of the past
- ▶ Forecasting the future:  
modelling and policy

# Outline

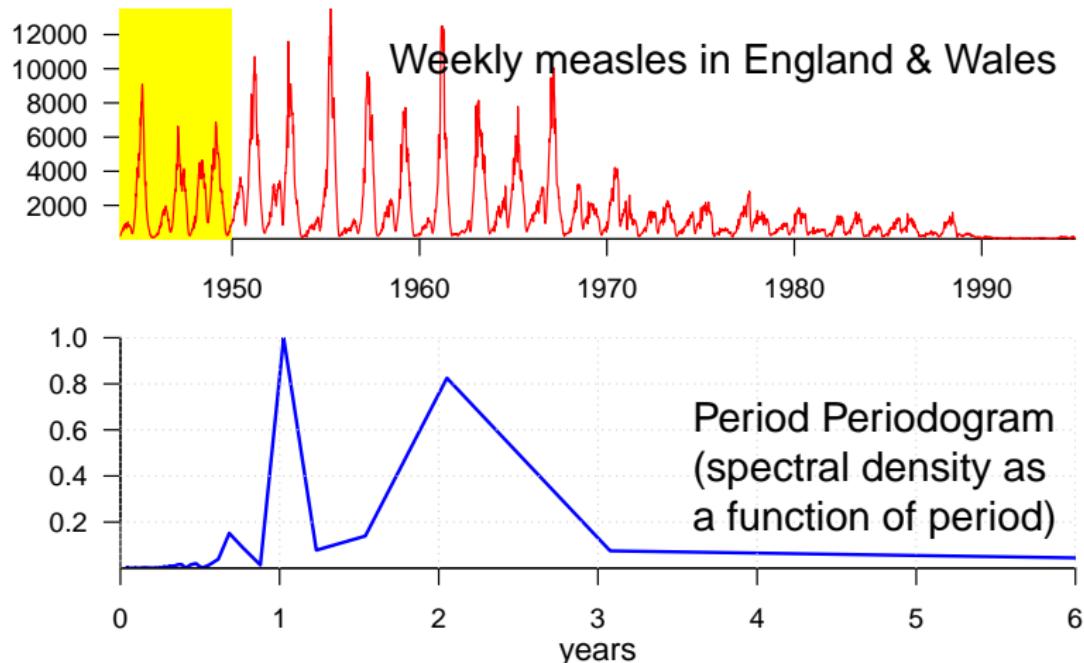
- ▶ **Predicting patterns  
of epidemic recurrence**
- ▶ Puzzles presented by  
plagues of the past
- ▶ Forecasting the future:  
modelling and policy

## 20th century measles dynamics in England and Wales

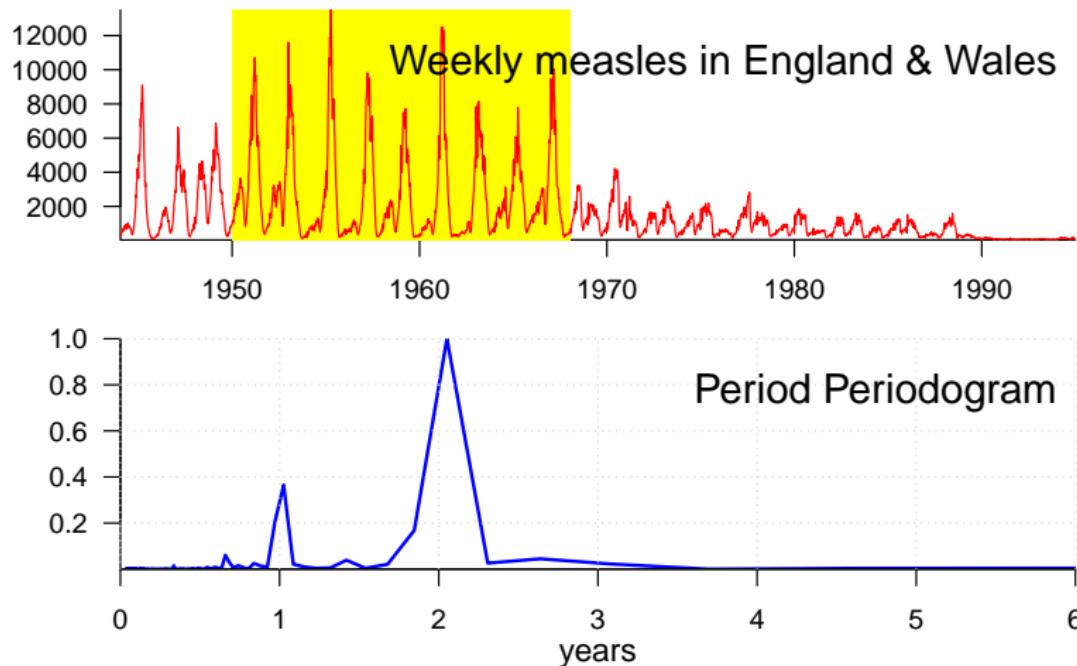


- ▶ Annual epidemics, then biennial, then irregular
- ▶ Why is the pattern of epidemic recurrence so complicated?
- ▶ What causes changes in frequency content over time?

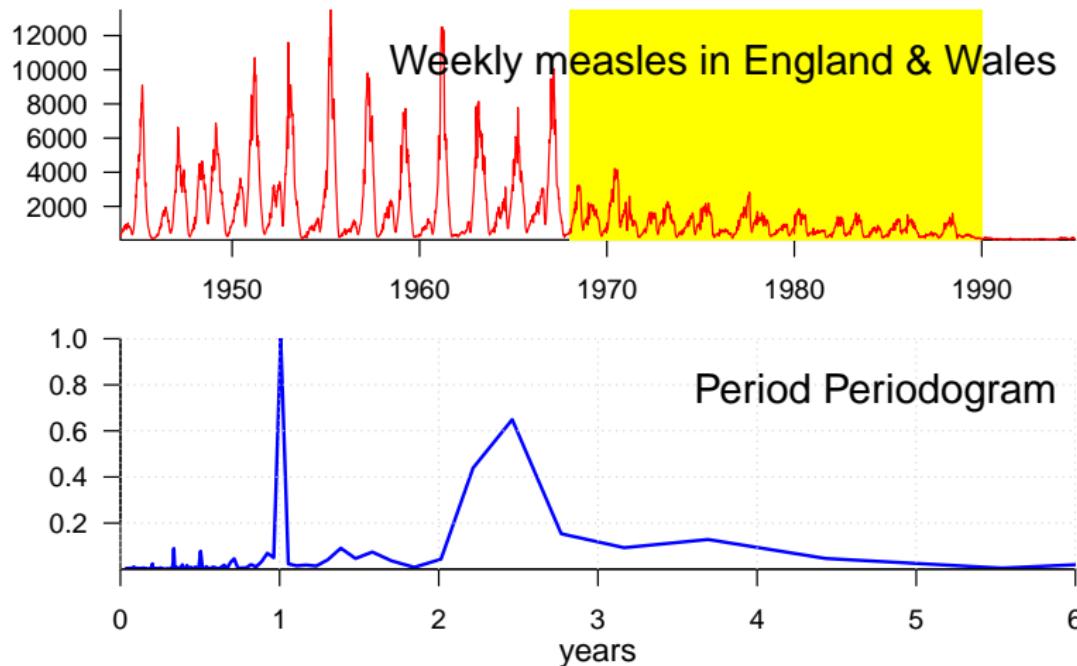
## What causes changes in frequency content over time?



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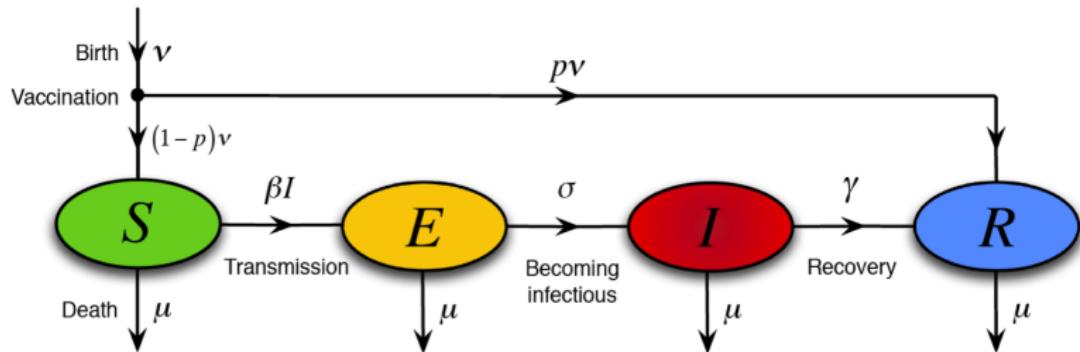
## What causes changes in frequency content over time?



What causes changes in frequency content over time?



## SEIR model



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

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

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

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

- ▶ Birth rate ( $\nu$  for natality)
- ▶ Death rate ( $\mu$  for mortality)
- ▶ Proportion vaccinated ( $p$ )
- ▶ Transmission rate ( $\beta$ )
- ▶ Mean latent period ( $T_{\text{lat}} = 1/\sigma$ )
- ▶ Mean infectious period ( $T_{\text{inf}} = 1/\gamma$ )

# SEIR with vital dynamics and vaccination: Analysis

- ▶ Two Equilibria
  - ▶ Disease Free Equilibrium (DFE)
  - ▶ Endemic Equilibrium (EE)
- ▶ Periodic solutions ? Chaos? No.
- ▶ *Basic reproduction number  $\mathcal{R}_0$* : expected infections from one infected entering a wholly susceptible population
  - ▶ Biological derivation: (assuming  $\nu = \mu$  and  $p = 0$ )  
$$\mathcal{R}_0 = \beta \times \frac{\sigma}{\sigma + \mu} \times \frac{1}{\gamma + \mu} \simeq \beta \gamma^{-1} \quad \because \frac{1}{\mu} \gg \max\left(\frac{1}{\sigma}, \frac{1}{\gamma}\right)$$
  - ▶ Mathematical derivation:  
$$\mathcal{R}_0 = 1$$
 is stability boundary
- ▶ EE is globally asymptotically stable (GAS) if  $\mathcal{R}_0 > 1$ ;  
DFE is GAS otherwise.
- ▶ Approach to EE is typically via *damped oscillations*.
- ▶ But *observed recurrent epidemics* are *undamped*.

van den Driessche & Watmough 2002  
*Mathematical Biosciences* 180:29–48

What are we missing?



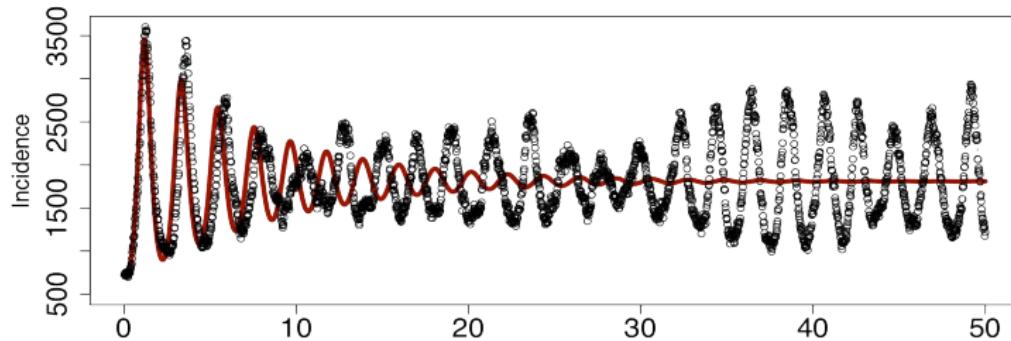
## Populations are finite: demographic stochasticity

- ▶ Differential equations describe the expected behaviour in limit that population size  $N \rightarrow \infty$
- ▶ Re-cast the **SEIR model** as a stochastic process  
(continuous time Markov jump process)
- ▶ Simulate with standard **Gillespie algorithm**

Gillespie 1976, *J. Comp. Phys.* **22**, 403–434

# Gillespie Simulations: SEIR Results for Measles Parameters

$$\mathcal{R}_0 = 17, T_{\text{lat}} = 8 \text{ days}, T_{\text{inf}} = 5 \text{ days}, \nu = \mu = 0.02/\text{year}, N = 5,000,000$$



Earn (2009) IAS/Park City Mathematics Series 14:151–186

- ▶ Demographic Stochasticity sustains transient behaviour  
(oscillations do not damp out) (Bartlett 1950's)
- ▶ Explains undamped oscillations *at a single period*
- ▶ But, unable to explain changes in interepidemic period, or irregularity, *as observed*

What are we **STILL** missing?



Contact rates are higher during school terms!



# Sinusoidal SEIR Model

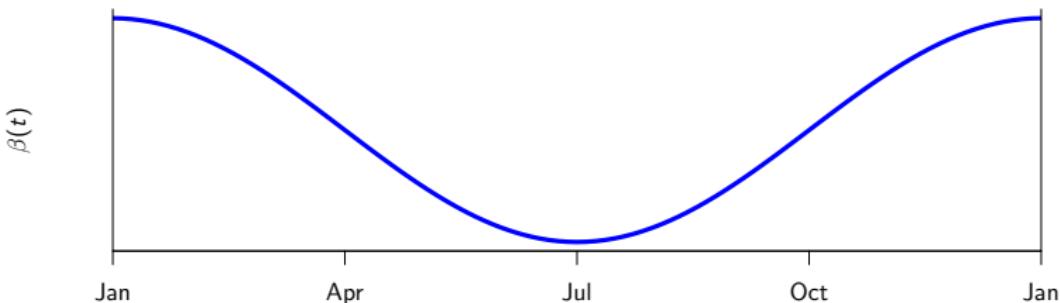
- ▶ Transmission rate  $\beta$  is not constant:  
high during school terms, low in summer

London WP, Yorke JA, 1973, *Am. J. Epidemiol.* **98**, 453–468

- ▶ For simplicity, model as a sine wave:

$$\beta(t) = \langle \beta \rangle (1 + \alpha \cos 2\pi t)$$

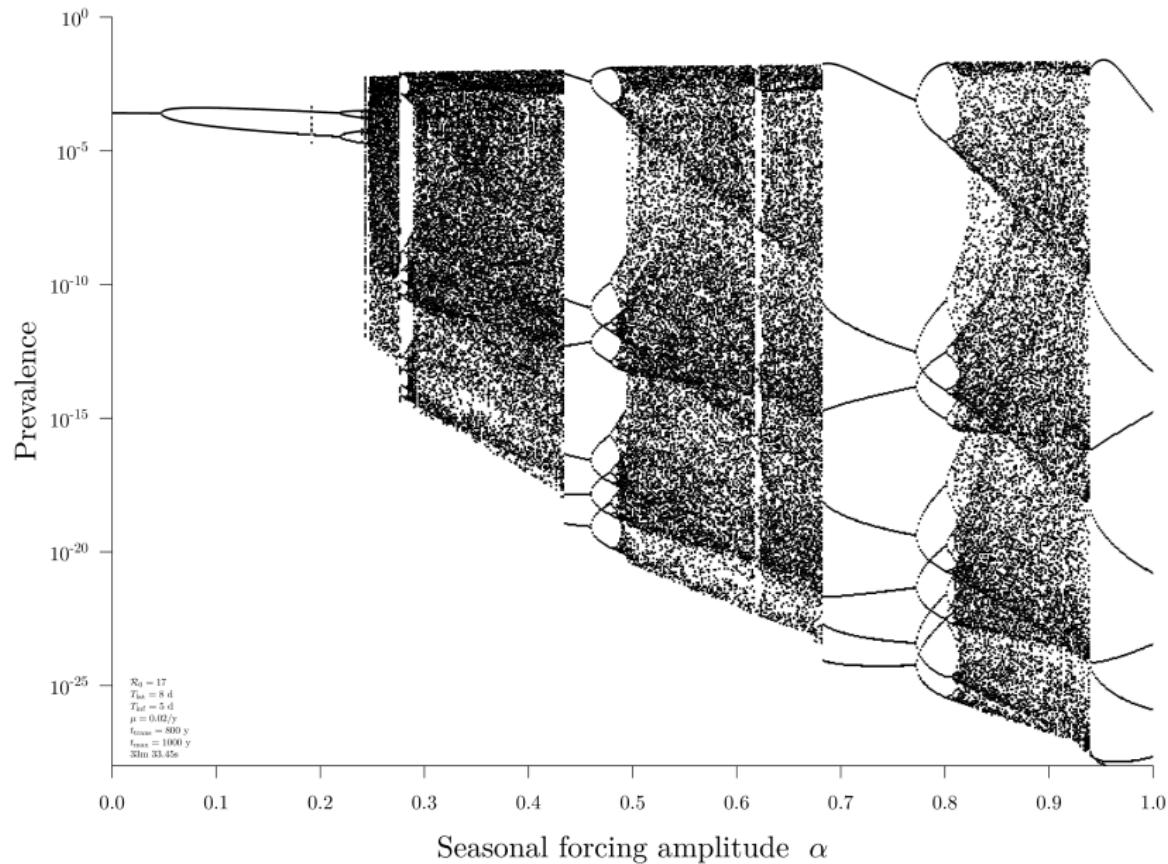
- ▶  $\langle \beta \rangle$  = mean transmission rate
- ▶  $\alpha$  = amplitude of seasonal variation in contact rate



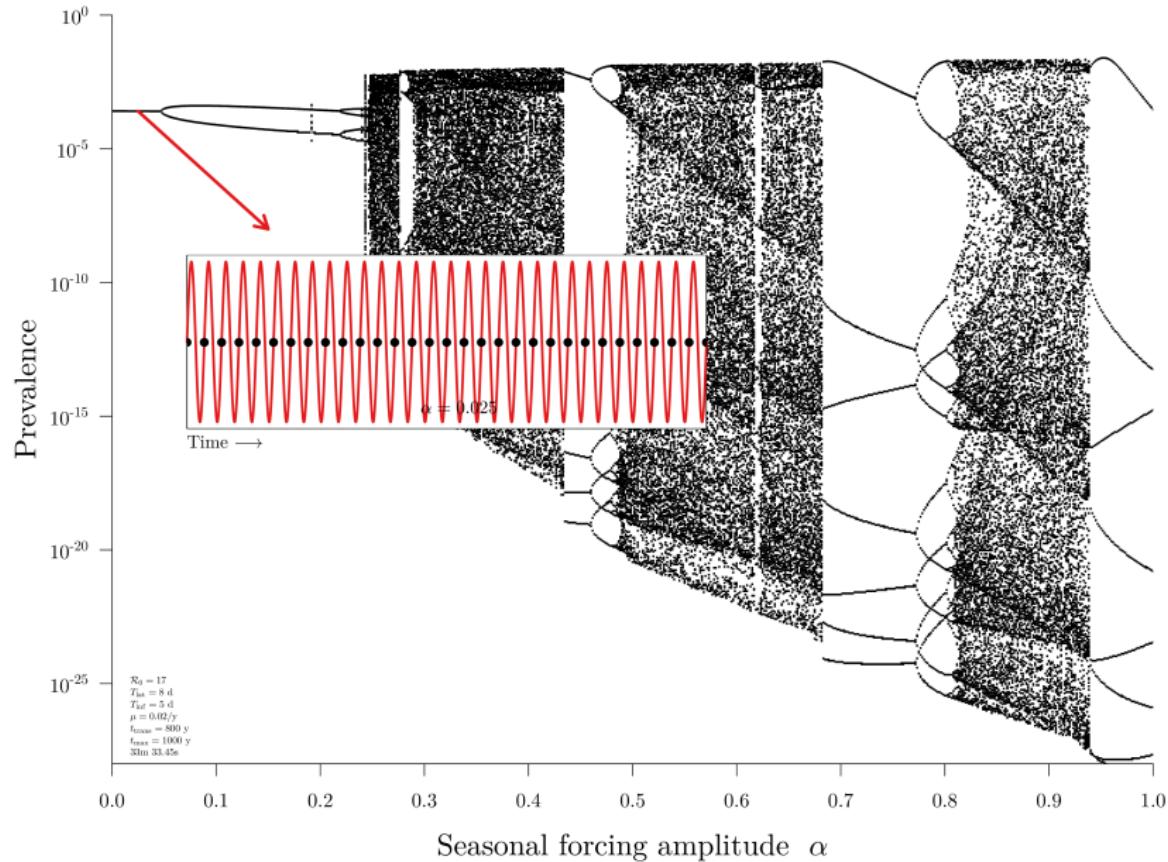
## Is this change significant?

- ▶ We now have a forced nonlinear system
- ▶ Forcing frequency can resonate with the natural timescales of the disease (e.g., period of damped oscillations)
- ▶ Very rich dynamical system...  
(analogy: forced pendulum)

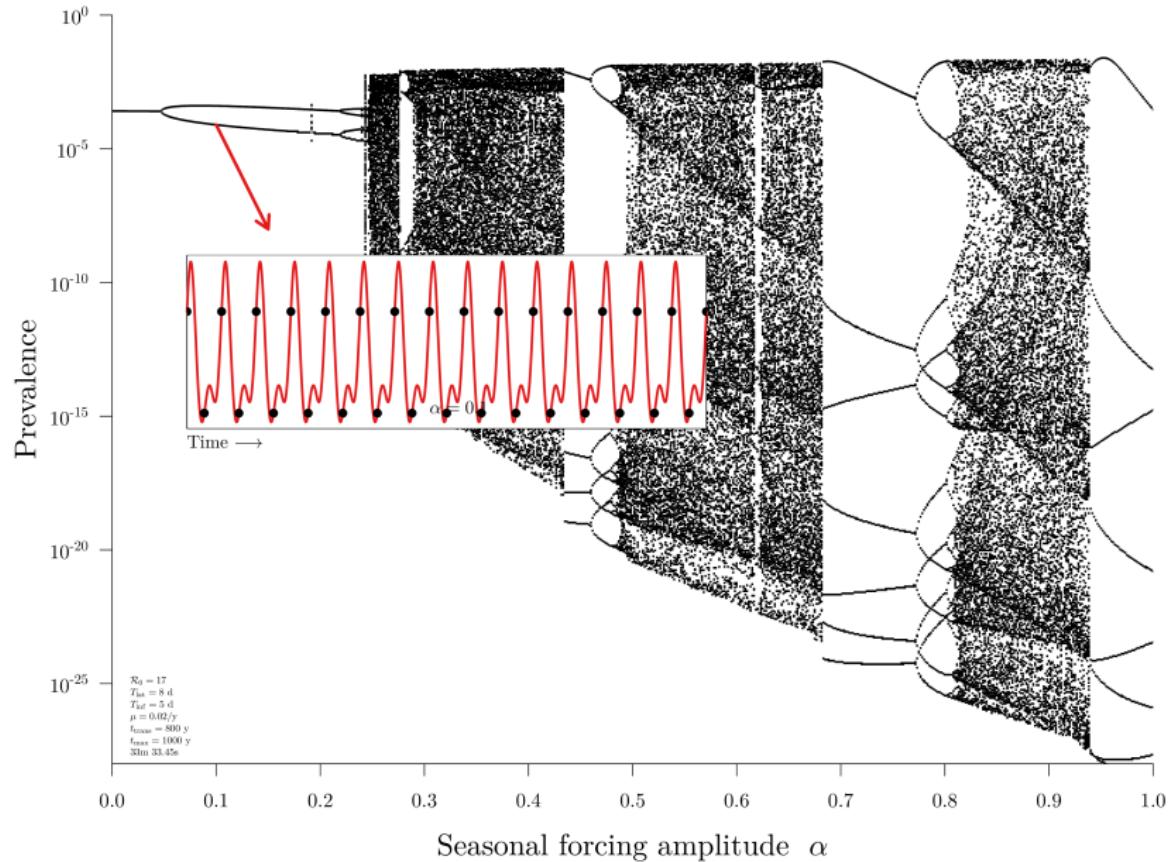
# Measles Bifurcation Diagram (Sinusoidal SEIR model)



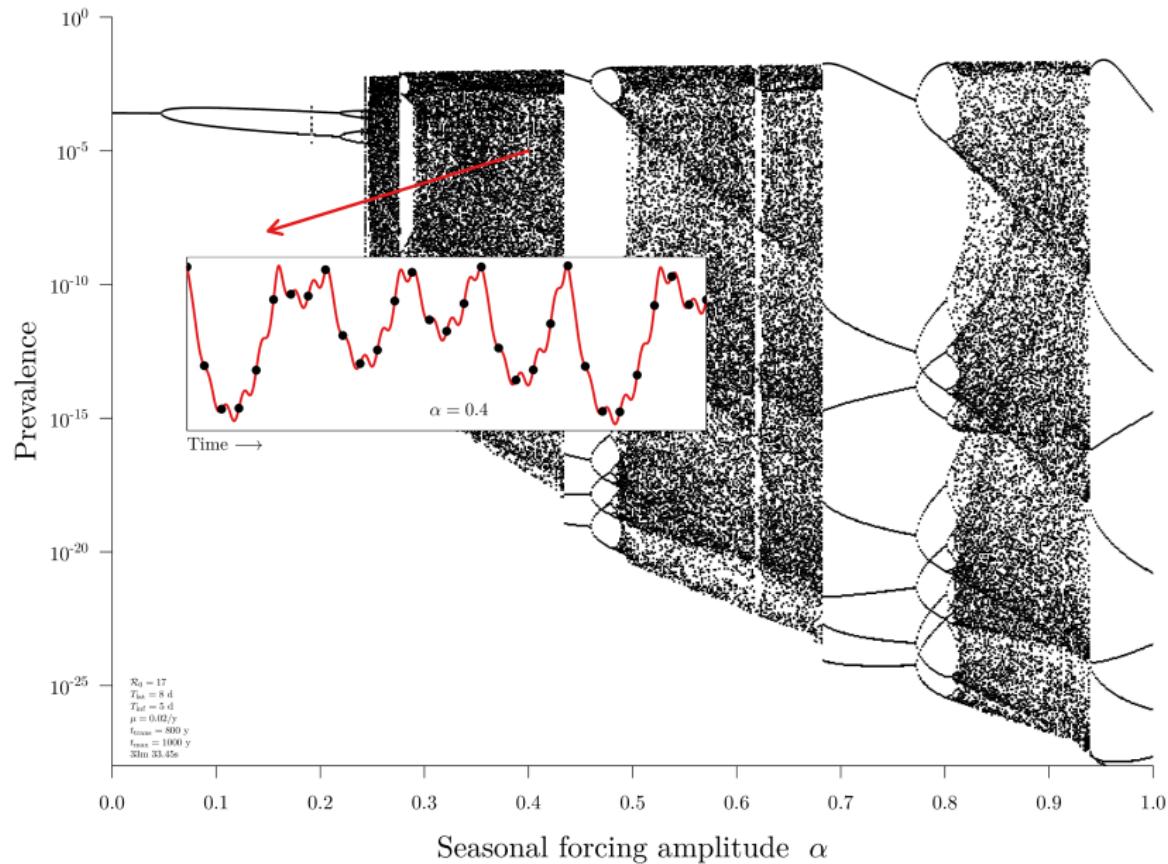
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# Sinusoidal SEIR Model: Does it explain measles dynamics?

## SEIR model with sinusoidal forcing:

- ▶ Produces recurrent undamped epidemics of all frequencies observed in measles time series.

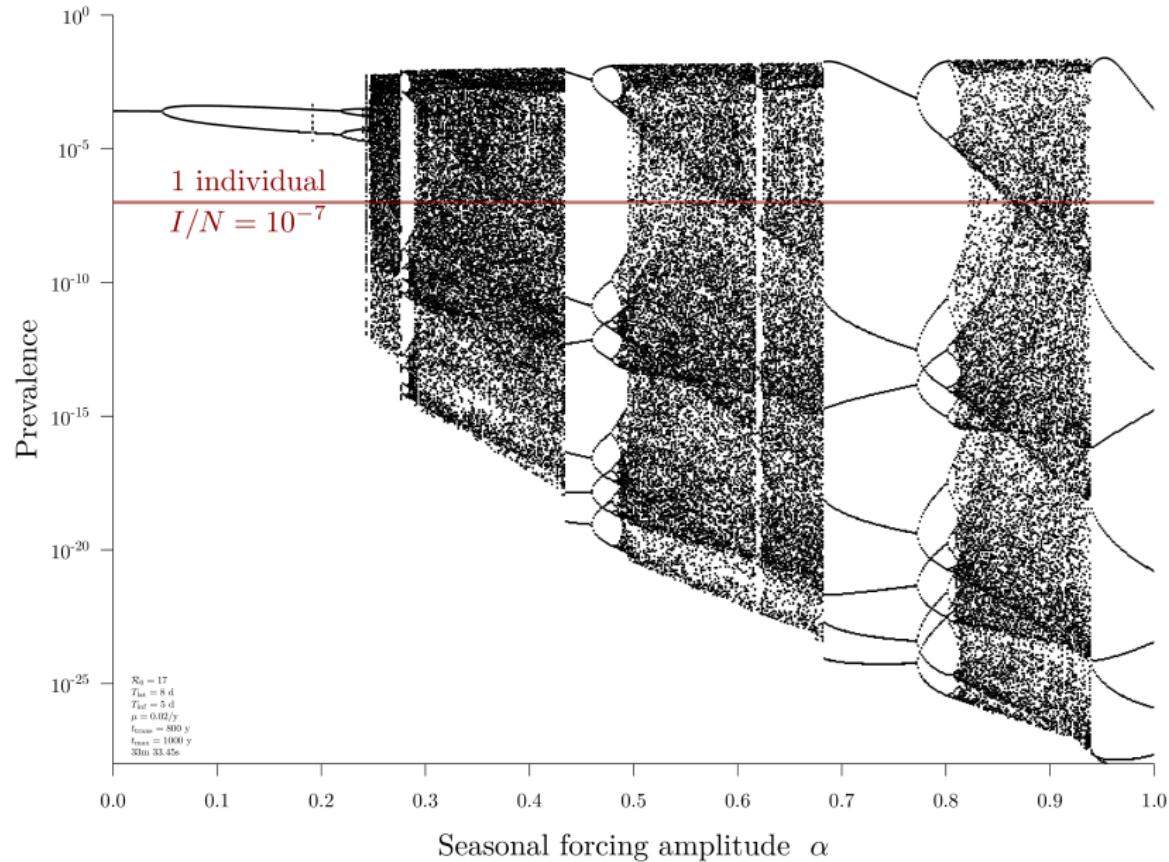
Schwartz IB, Smith HL, 1983, *J. Math. Biol.* **18**, 233–253

- ▶ Produces chaos, which can explain irregular behaviour and transitions from one type of cycle to another

Olsen LF, Schaffer WM, 1990, *Science* **249**, 499–504

- ▶ If correct, this implies these transitions are *unpredictable*.
- ▶ BUT... the model also predicts **rapid extinction** of the virus (not persistence).

# Measles Bifurcation Diagram (Sinusoidal SEIR model)



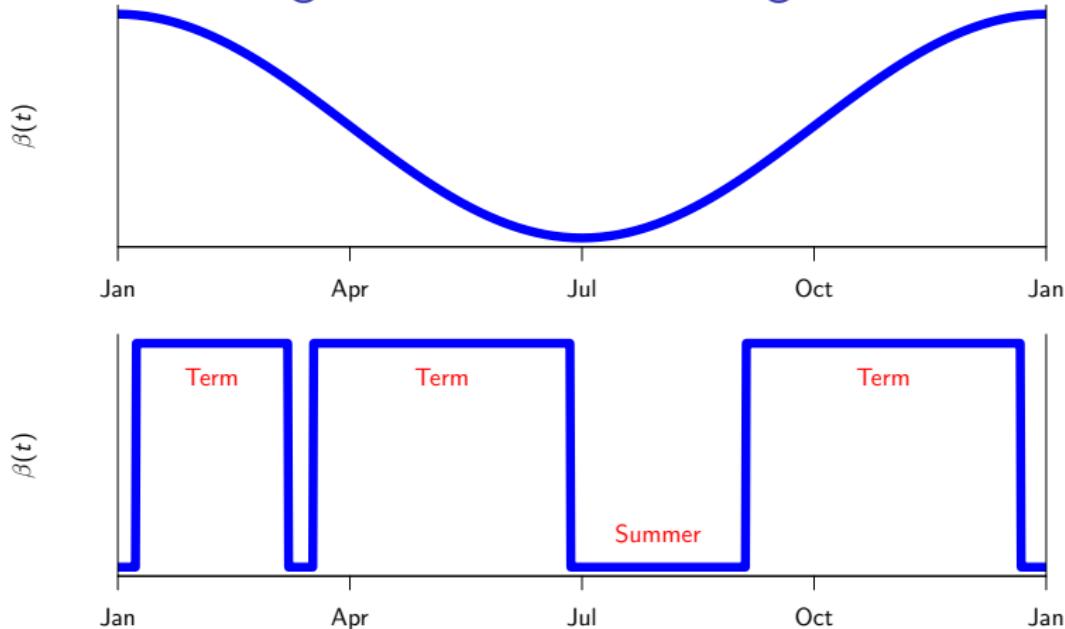
What are we **STILL** missing?



Contact rates are higher during **school terms!**



## Sinusoidal forcing vs Term-time forcing



- ▶ Term-time SEIR model *predicts a strictly biennial cycle of measles epidemics, at all times and places.*
- ▶ Is superb agreement with post-war measles dynamics *coincidental???*

What **ELSE** might we be missing?



## Key Insight

- ▶ Suppose  $\mathcal{R}_0$  is estimated when the birth rate is  $\nu$ .
- ▶ If the birth rate changes,  $\nu \rightarrow \nu'$ , then the dynamical effect is identical to changing  $\mathcal{R}_0$  instead:

$$\mathcal{R}_0 \longrightarrow \mathcal{R}_0 \frac{\nu'}{\nu}$$

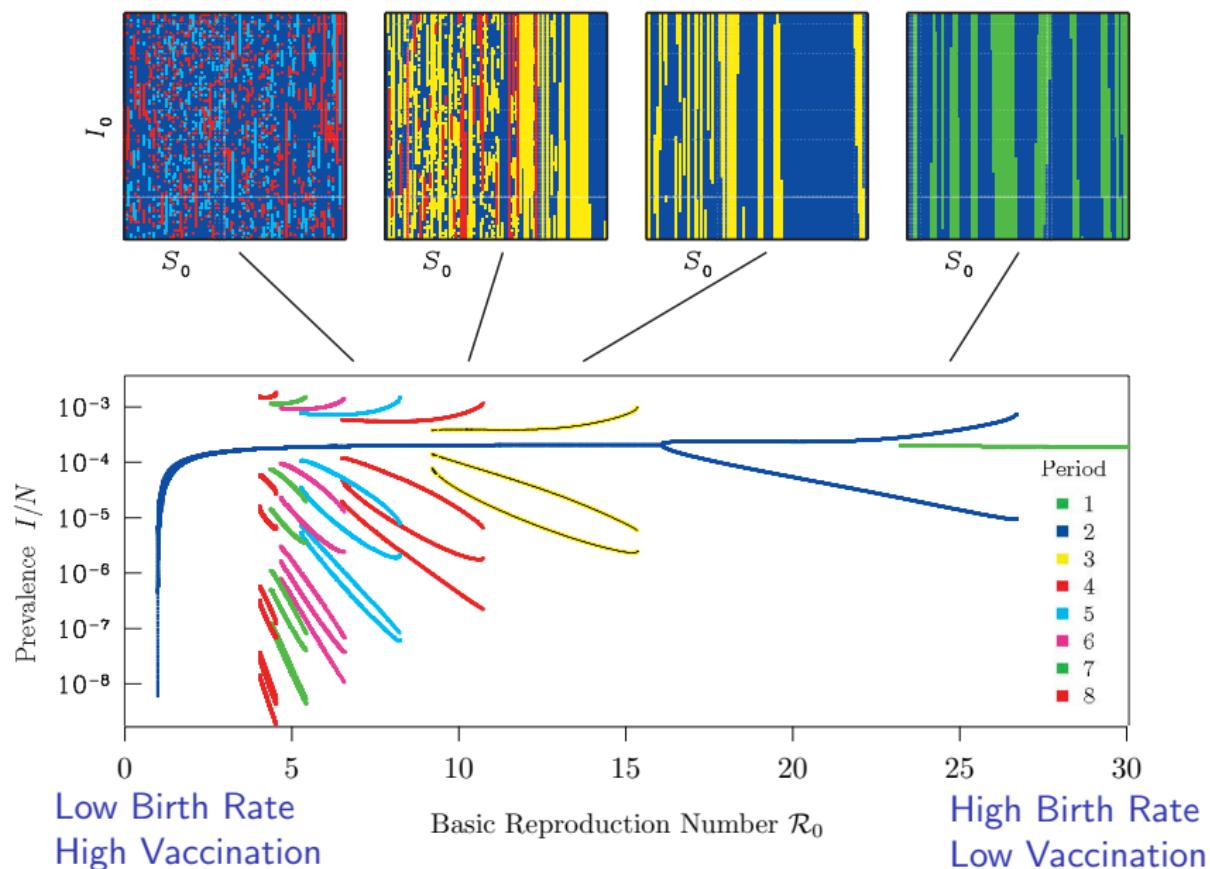
- ▶ More generally, any change in *susceptible recruitment rate* is equivalent dynamically to a change in  $\mathcal{R}_0$ .
- ▶ A change in birth rate  $\nu \rightarrow \nu'$  together with a change in vaccine uptake  $p \rightarrow p'$  is dynamically equivalent to

$$\mathcal{R}_0 \longrightarrow \mathcal{R}_0 \frac{\nu'(1-p')}{\nu(1-p)}$$

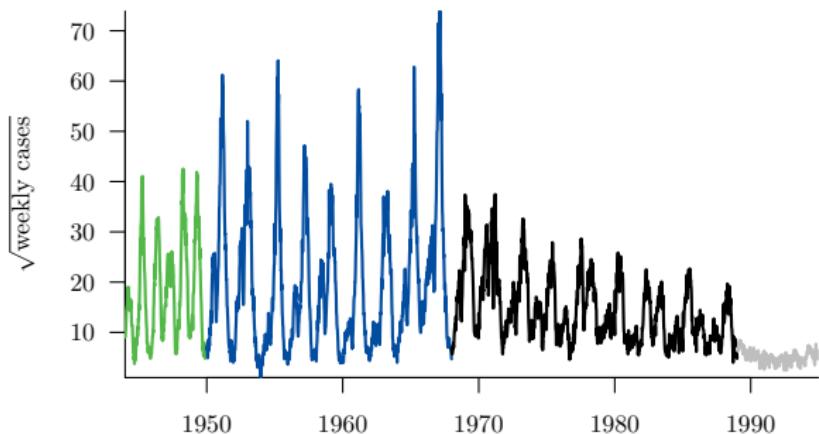
# Predicting Epidemic Transitions

- ▶ Changes in
  - ▶ Birth rate ( $\nu$ )
  - ▶ Vaccination proportion ( $p$ )
  - ▶ Transmission rate ( $\langle \beta \rangle$  or  $\mathcal{R}_0$ )
- all map onto the same parameter axis.
- ▶ ∴ Summarize possible dynamical changes induced by demographic/behavioural changes with a *one-parameter ( $\mathcal{R}_0$ ) bifurcation diagram*.
- ▶ ∴ Predict epidemic transitions by mapping observed changes in  $\nu$ ,  $p$  or  $\mathcal{R}_0$  onto this diagram.

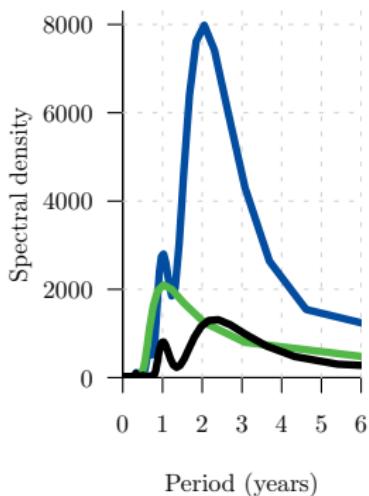
# Measles Bifurcation Diagram (wrt $\mathcal{R}_0$ )



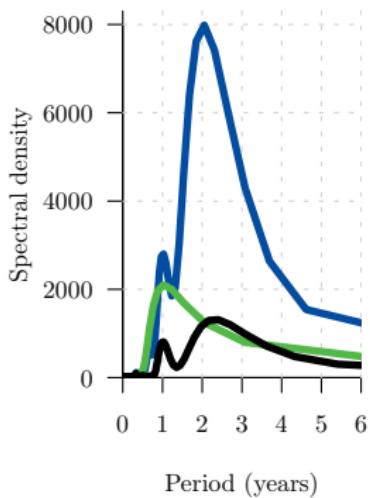
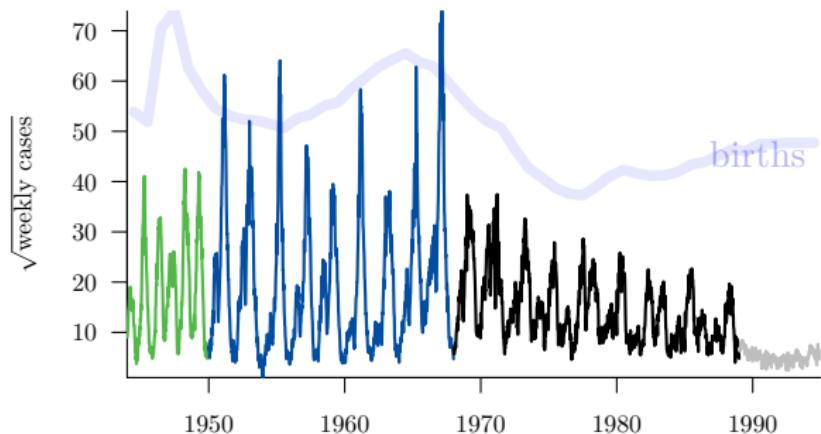
# Measles in London, England



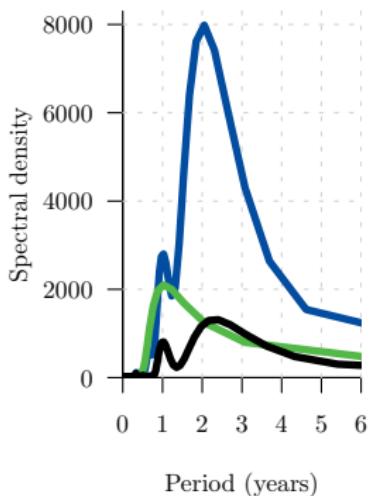
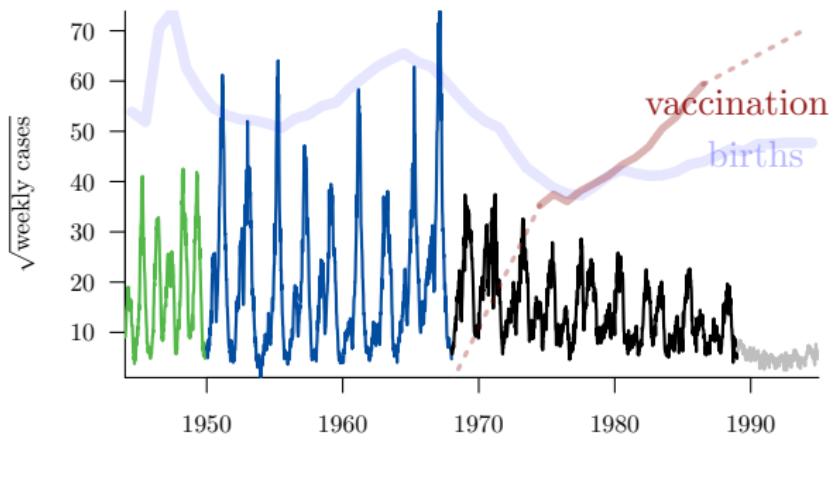
- 1-year cycle
- 2-year cycle
- irregularity; 2.5 year spectral peak
- noise only



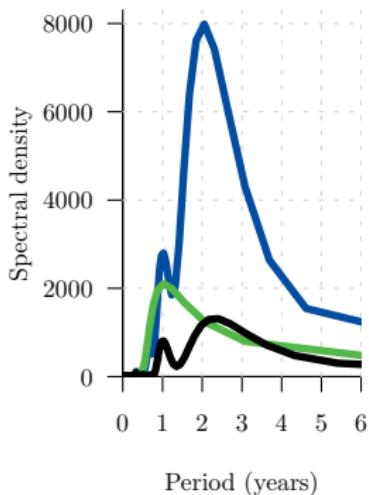
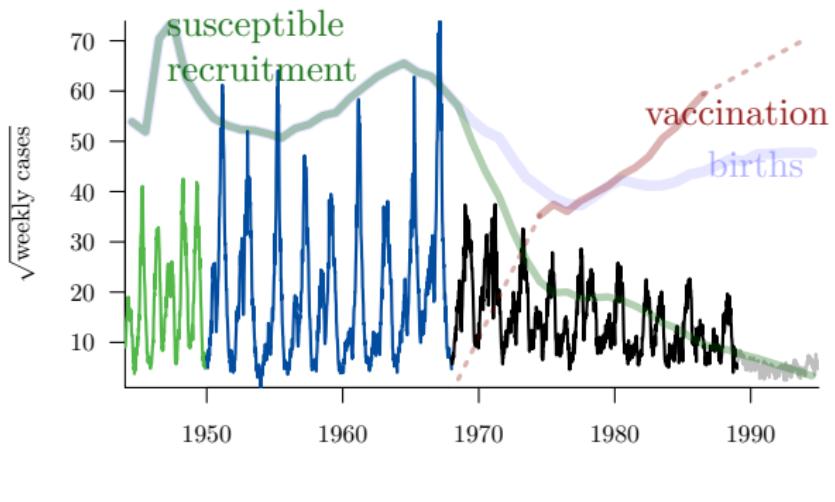
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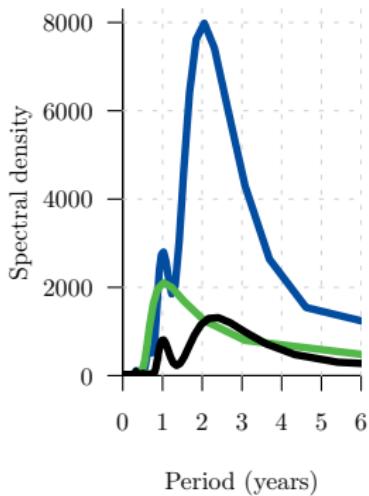
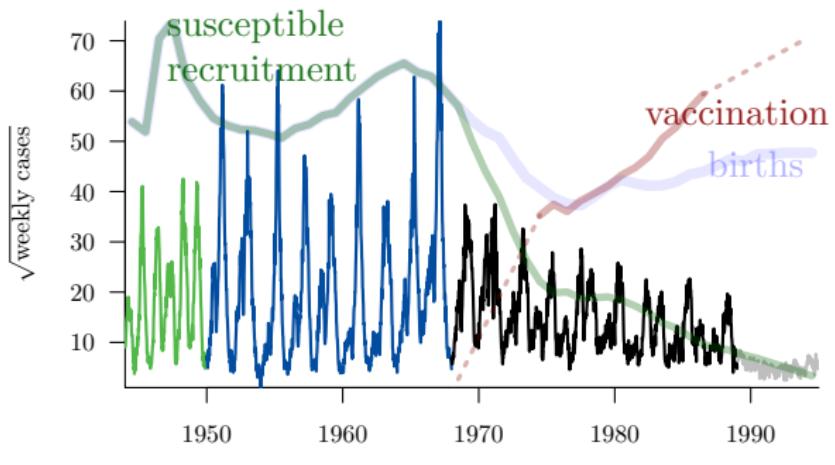
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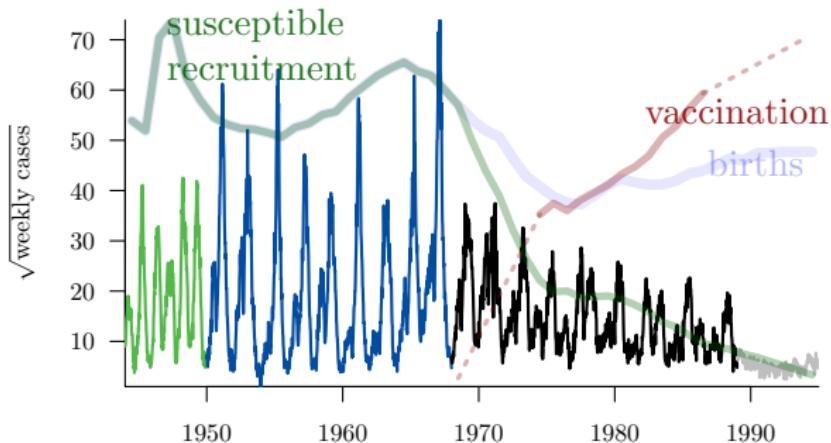
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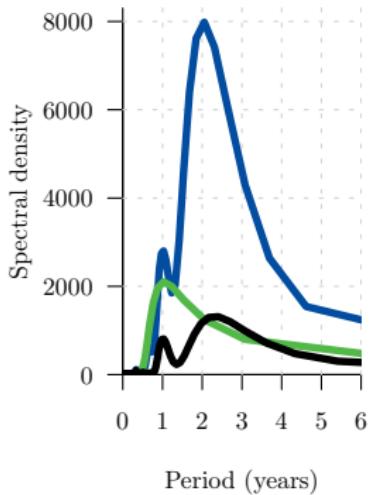
- 1
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- 3
- 4
- 5
- 6
- 7
- 8



# Measles in London, England

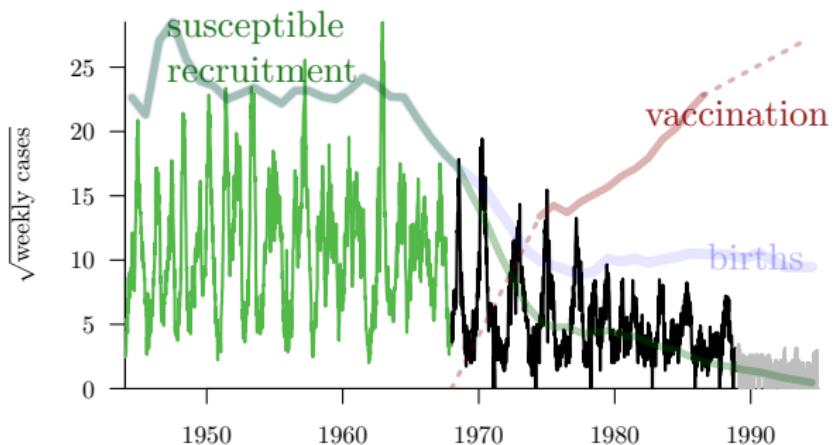


- Predicted: 1-year or 2-year cycle  
Observed: 1-year cycle
- Predicted: strictly 2-year cycle  
Observed: 2-year cycle
- Predicted: multiple co-existing stable cycles  
Observed: irregularity; 2.5 year spectral peak
- Predicted: no cycle (above herd immunity threshold)  
Observed: noise only

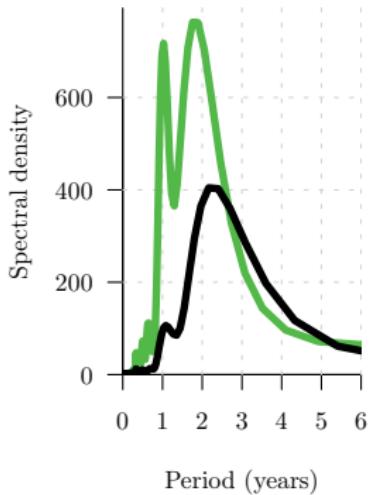


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- 6
- 7
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# Measles in Liverpool, England

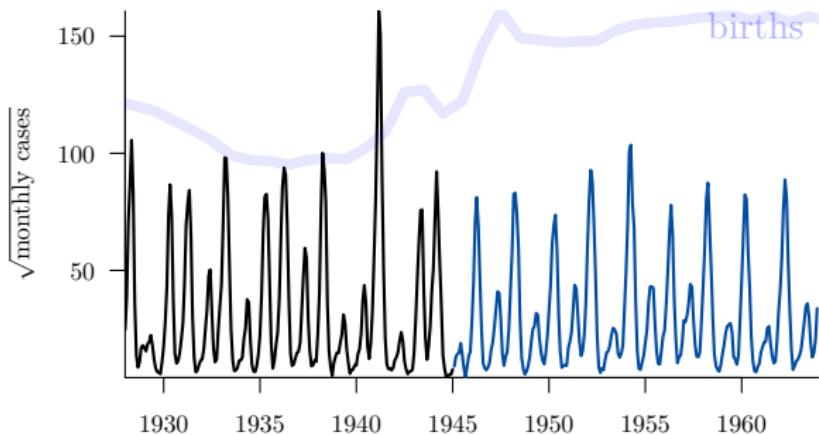


- Predicted: 1-year or 2-year cycle  
Observed: mixture of 1- and 2-year cycles
- Predicted: multiple co-existing stable cycles  
Observed: irregularity; 2.5 year spectral peak
- Predicted: no cycle (above herd immunity threshold)  
Observed: noise only

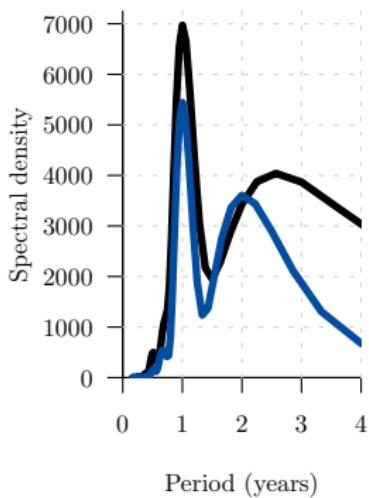


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# Measles in New York City

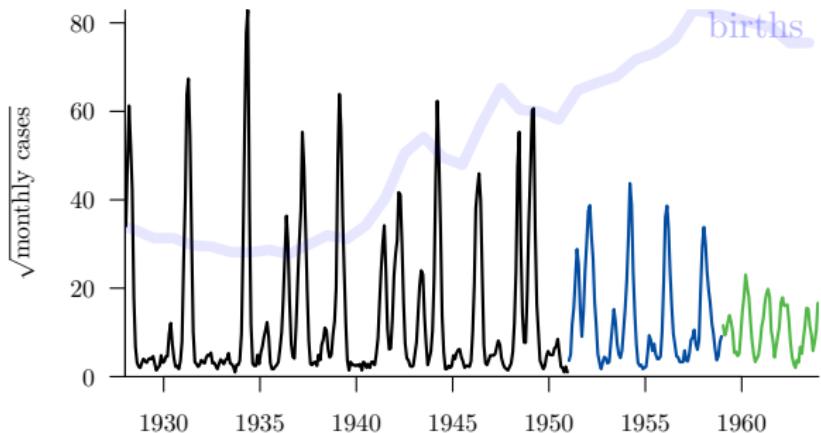


- Predicted: multiple co-existing stable cycles  
Observed: irregularity; 2.8 year spectral peak
  
- Predicted: strictly 2-year cycle  
Observed: 2-year cycle



■ 1  
■ 2  
■ 3  
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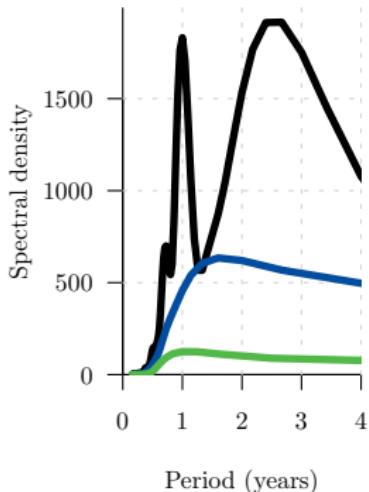
# Measles in Baltimore



— Predicted: multiple co-existing stable cycles  
Observed: irregularity; 2.8 year spectral peak

— Predicted: 1- or 2-year cycle  
Observed: 2-year cycle

— Predicted: 1- or 2-year cycle  
Observed: 1-year cycle



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- 7
- 8

## What about other notifiable childhood infectious diseases?

- ▶ Does same analysis explain patterns of recurrent epidemics for rubella? chicken pox? whooping cough?
- ▶ Alas! No!



- ▶ Only attractor of term-time **SEIR model** for rubella, chicken pox, or whooping cough is **annual cycle**.
- ▶ Yet these diseases show much more complex dynamics!

## 1939 weekly infectious disease notifications in Ontario

Province of Ontario

## MUNICIPALITY.

## POPULATION

YEAR: 1939

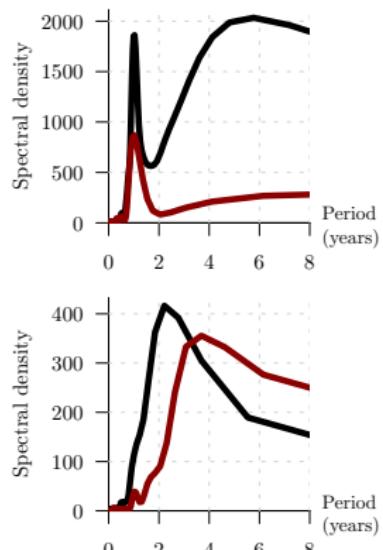
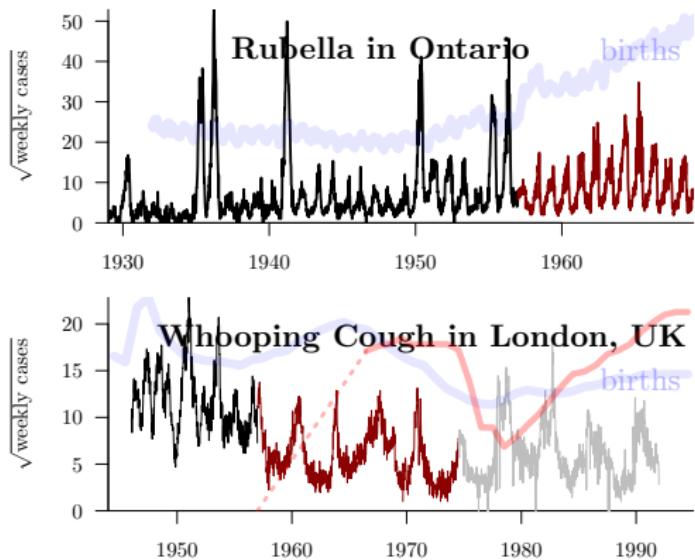
#### COUNTY.

## MUNICIPALITY.

## POPULATION

## 1939 weekly infectious disease notifications in Ontario

# Other Childhood Infections (not measles)



Incidence time series of these diseases show strong spectral peaks at periods not predicted by asymptotic analysis  
(i.e., **not** displayed by attractors of term-time SEIR model)

Argh!

What are we **STILL** missing?



# Demographic Stochasticity Comes to the Rescue (Again!)

- ▶ Sustains transient behaviour
- ▶ *Linear perturbation theory* applied to the attractors of the model *explains other spectral peaks in data*
- ▶ *Whew!*

## Get More Ambitious!

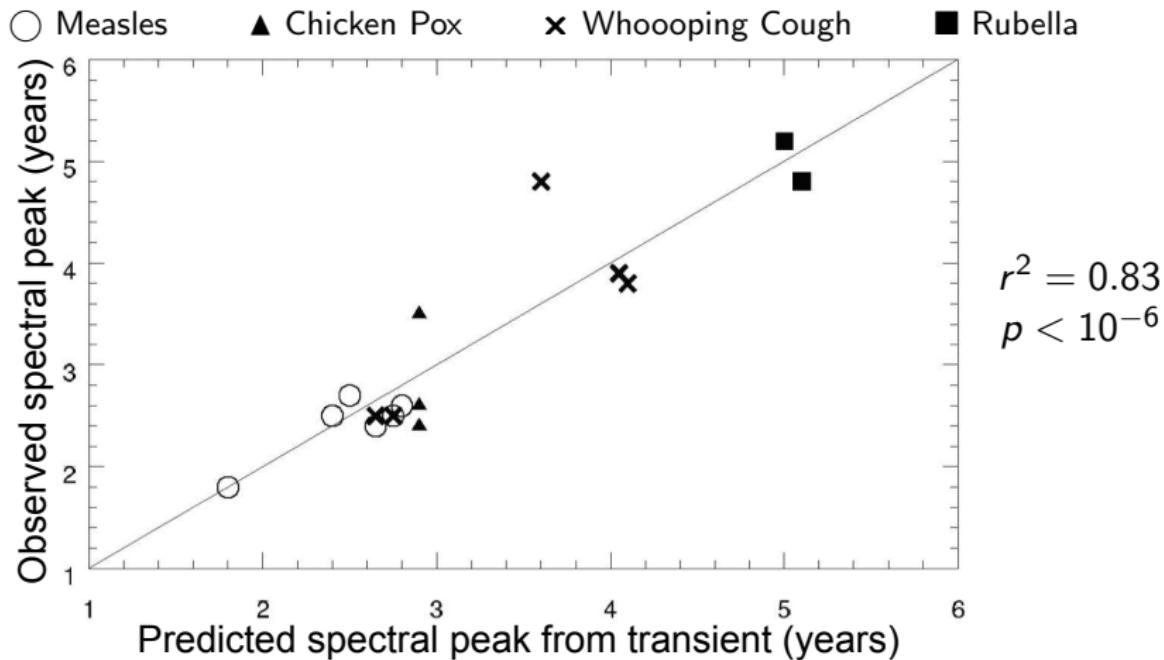
- ▶ Aim to predict **all** spectral peaks in the data
- ▶ **Asymptotic** analysis → spectral peaks from **attractors**
- ▶ **Perturbation** analysis → spectral peaks from **transients**

Bauch & Earn (2003) *Proc. R. Soc. Lond.* **270**:1573–1578

Krylova & Earn (2013) *J. R. Soc. Interface* **18**(10):20130098

Hempel & Earn (2015) *J. R. Soc. Interface* **12**(106):20150024

## Predicted vs Observed Spectral Peaks from Transients

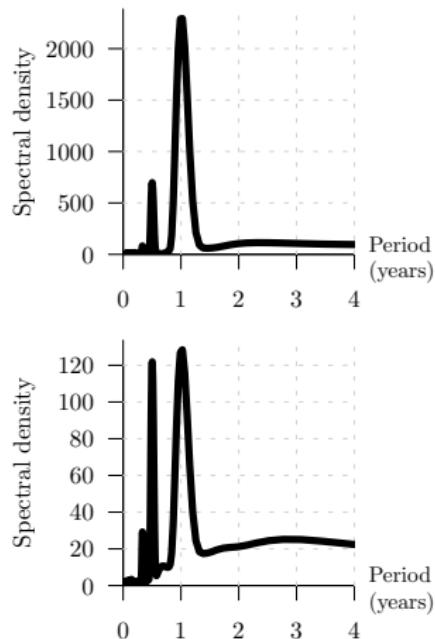
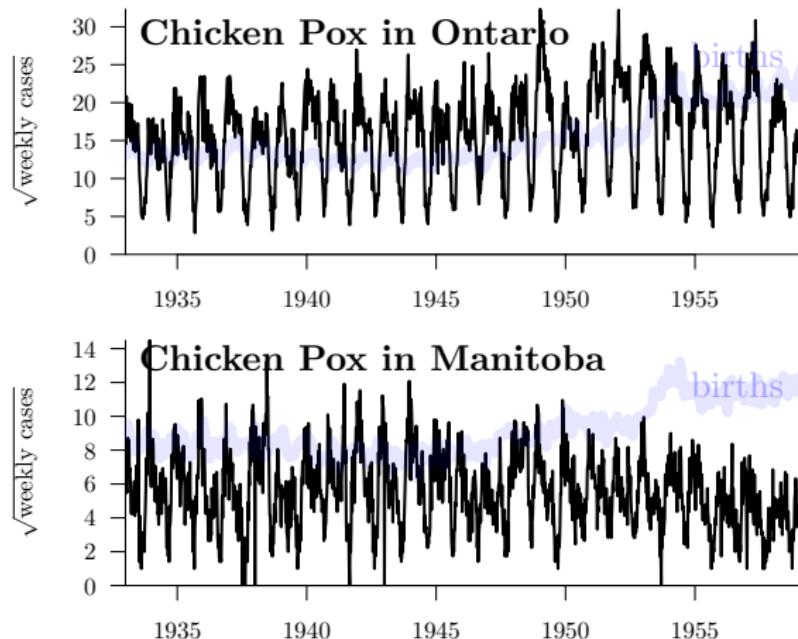


Bauch & Earn (2003) *Proc. R. Soc. Lond.* **270**:1573–1578

- Great! Can we successfully predict even more detail?

# Can we predict magnitudes of spectral peaks?

*Example:*



► Population of MB ≪ ON  
⇒ more demographic stochasticity

## Modelling recurrent epidemics: Summary so far

- ▶ Good understanding of recurrent epidemic patterns of many infectious diseases in the 20th century  
(e.g., measles, chicken pox, whooping cough, rubella, . . . )
- ▶ *Perfect prediction* of spectral peaks *from attractors*
- ▶ *Excellent prediction* of spectral peaks *from transients*
- ▶ *Population size* is key determinant of *relative magnitude* of peaks from attractors vs. transients  
(confirmed with stochastic simulations)

# Modelling recurrent epidemics: Recent developments

- ▶ Extend time series further back in time
  - ▶ Does theory still allow us to predict epidemic transitions?
- ▶ Measles in New York City, 1891–1984
  - ▶ Success!

Hempel & Earn (2015) *J. R. Soc. Interface* **12**(106):20150024

- ▶ Key challenge that had to be overcome:  
*changing patterns of seasonal variation in contact rates*

Papst & Earn (2019) *J. R. Soc. Interface* **16**:20190202  
Jagan et al. (2020) *PLoS Comp. Biol.* **16**(9):e1008124

- ▶ Smallpox in London, 1664–1930
  - ▶ Many observed epidemiological transitions, correlated with policy changes and historical events

Krylova & Earn (2020) *PLoS Biology* **18**(12):e3000506

- ▶ Dynamical transition analysis in progress

# Outline

- ▶ Predicting patterns  
of epidemic recurrence
- ▶ **Puzzles presented by  
plagues of the past**
- ▶ Forecasting the future:  
modelling and policy

The Diseases and Casualties this Week.



Frighted	
Gout	1
Grief	3
Gripping in the Guts	35
Jaundies	2
Imposthume	8
Infants	9
Kingsevil	2
Macgrome	2
Plague	5533
Purples	2
Rickets	10
Riting of the Lights	13
Rupure	1
Scurvy	5
Spotted Feaver	65
Stiborn	10
Stone	3
Stopping of the stomach	6
Suddenly	1
Surfeit	36
Teeth	12
Thrush	3
Tifick	5
Vomiting	4
Wind	1
Wormes	12
Found dead in the Fields at St. Mary Islington	1
Males	68
Christned Females	78
In all	146
Buried Males	3212
Buried Females	3248
In all	6460
Decreased in the Burials this Week	1837
Parishes clear of the Plague	7
Parishes Infected	123

The Aisse of Bread set forth by Order of the Lord Maior and Court of Aldermens,  
A penny Wheaten Loaf to contain Nine Ounces and a half, and three  
half-penny White Loaves the like weight.

London 41 From the 26 of September to the 3 of October.

	Bur.	Plag.	Bur.	Plag.	Bur.	Plag.
S <sup>t</sup> Leon Woodgreen	16	12	S <sup>t</sup> George Borophane	1	S <sup>t</sup> Martin Ludgate	22
Allhollows Barking	46	34	S <sup>t</sup> Gregory by S <sup>t</sup> Pauls	26	S <sup>t</sup> Martin Orgar	8
Allhollows Breadfreford	1	1	S <sup>t</sup> Hellen	6	S <sup>t</sup> Martin Outwich	5
Allhollows Great	47	41	S <sup>t</sup> James Dukes place	27	S <sup>t</sup> Mordey Vintry	44
Allhollows Honylang	5	5	S <sup>t</sup> James Garlickhitche	16	S <sup>t</sup> Matdwod Fridesfitz	44
Allhollows Leff	17	17	S <sup>t</sup> John Barifield	11	S <sup>t</sup> Maudlin Milverton	4
Allhollows Lumbarldfreford	5	5	S <sup>t</sup> John Evangelist	10	S <sup>t</sup> Maudlin Oldfreford	4
Allhollows Sainings	21	18	S <sup>t</sup> John Zachary	12	S <sup>t</sup> Michael Buffish	10
Allhollows the Wall	33	28	S <sup>t</sup> Katharine Coleman	20	S <sup>t</sup> Michael Cornhill	4
S <sup>t</sup> Alwings	13	5	S <sup>t</sup> Katharine Creechurc	34	S <sup>t</sup> Michael Crookedlan	15
S <sup>t</sup> Andrew Hubbard	4	4	S <sup>t</sup> Lawrence Jewry	29	S <sup>t</sup> Michael Queenhithe	25
S <sup>t</sup> Andrew Underhaſſe	16	14	S <sup>t</sup> Lawrence Pountney	14	S <sup>t</sup> Michael Royall	4
S <sup>t</sup> Andrew Wardrobe	30	24	S <sup>t</sup> Leonard Eastcheap	28	S <sup>t</sup> Michael Silverstret	6
S <sup>t</sup> Ann Alderigate	28	27	S <sup>t</sup> Leonard Fosterlane	16	S <sup>t</sup> Mildred Bresfreford	3
S <sup>t</sup> Ann Blacheyers	57	50	S <sup>t</sup> Magnus Parfitt	5	S <sup>t</sup> Mildred Poultrey	4
S <sup>t</sup> Ancholm Parfitt	7	4	S <sup>t</sup> Margaret Lothbury	7	S <sup>t</sup> Nicholas Acon	4
S <sup>t</sup> Aufins Parfitt	4	3	S <sup>t</sup> Margaret Mofes	3	S <sup>t</sup> Nicholas Colebey	3
S <sup>t</sup> Barbolome w Exchange	7	7	S <sup>t</sup> Margaret Newfifelde	13	S <sup>t</sup> Nicholas Olaves	8
S <sup>t</sup> Benet Fynche	4	2	S <sup>t</sup> Margaret Patcons	7	S <sup>t</sup> Olave Hartfreford	13
S <sup>t</sup> Benet Gracechurch	4	2	S <sup>t</sup> Mary Abchurch	14	S <sup>t</sup> Olave Jewry	5
S <sup>t</sup> Benet Paulwharf	15	7	S <sup>t</sup> Mary Aldermanbury	14	S <sup>t</sup> Olave Silverstret	1
S <sup>t</sup> Benet Sherehog	2	2	S <sup>t</sup> Mary Aldemary	4	S <sup>t</sup> Pancras Soperlane	1
S <sup>t</sup> Borolh Billinggate	8	8	S <sup>t</sup> Mary le Bow	1	S <sup>t</sup> Peter Cheap	3
S <sup>t</sup> Chirch Church	44	39	S <sup>t</sup> Mary Bothaw	6	S <sup>t</sup> Peter Cornhill	8
S <sup>t</sup> Christopher	4	4	S <sup>t</sup> Mary Colechurch	3	S <sup>t</sup> Peter Paulwharf	10
S <sup>t</sup> Clement Eastcheap	1	1	S <sup>t</sup> Mary Hill	11	S <sup>t</sup> Peter Poor	8
S <sup>t</sup> Dionis Backchurch	9	2	S <sup>t</sup> Mary Mounchaw	4	S <sup>t</sup> Steven Colemanfree	43
S <sup>t</sup> Dunstan East	23	24	S <sup>t</sup> Mary Somersett	44	S <sup>t</sup> Swen Walbrook	43
S <sup>t</sup> Edmund Lumbardis	3	1	S <sup>t</sup> Mary Stayning	3	S <sup>t</sup> Thomas Apollonie	6
S <sup>t</sup> Ethelborough	7	4	S <sup>t</sup> Mary Woolchurch	7	S <sup>t</sup> Thomas Apollonie	6
S <sup>t</sup> Faich	8	6	S <sup>t</sup> Mary Woolneth	7	S <sup>t</sup> Trinity Parfith	10
S <sup>t</sup> Farter	8	6	S <sup>t</sup> Martin Icmongerlane	2	Trinity Parfith	10
S <sup>t</sup> Gabriel Fenchurch	3	3				

Cchristened in the 97 Parishes within the walls.

39 Buried 1149 Plague

S <sup>t</sup> Andrew Holborn	173	151	S <sup>t</sup> Borolh Aldgate	372	338 Savours Southweare
S <sup>t</sup> Bartholomew Great	17	15	S <sup>t</sup> Borolh Bishopgate	153	131 S. Sepulchres Parish
S <sup>t</sup> Bartholomew Leff	7	7	S <sup>t</sup> Dunstan West	5	59 S <sup>t</sup> Thomas Southweare
S <sup>t</sup> Bridge	92	67	S <sup>t</sup> George Southwark	140	133 Trinity Minorites
Bridewell Precinct	23	23	S <sup>t</sup> Giles Cripplegate	196	151 At the Pesthouse
S <sup>t</sup> Borolh Alderigate	71	64	S <sup>t</sup> Olave Southwark	378	281

Cchristened in the 16 Parishes without the walls - 45 Buried, and at the Pesthouse - 2258 Plague

S <sup>t</sup> Giles in the fields	95	78	Lambeth Parfh	49	39 S <sup>t</sup> Mary Hillington
Hackney Parish	14	12	S <sup>t</sup> Leonard Shoredbich	95	91 S <sup>t</sup> Mary Wharschoppe
S <sup>t</sup> James Clerkenwell	48	42	S <sup>t</sup> Magdalene Bremonday	128	106 Rotherhithe Parfh
S <sup>t</sup> Kath near the Tower	15	8	S <sup>t</sup> Mary Newington	31	81 S <sup>t</sup> Sceyny Parfh

Cchristened in the 12 out Parishes in Middlesex and Surry - 40 Buried 1623 Plague

S <sup>t</sup> Clement Danes	128	110	S <sup>t</sup> Martin in the fields	120	91 S <sup>t</sup> Margaret Westminster
S <sup>t</sup> Paul Covent Garden	125	104	S <sup>t</sup> Mary Savoy	19	16 S <sup>t</sup> Margaret at the Pesthouse

Cchristened in the 5 Parishes in the City and Liberties of Westminster - 18 Buried 650 Plague

Frighted			
Gowt			1
Grief			1
Griping in the Guts			3
Jaundies			35
Imposthume			2
Infants			8
Kingsevil			9
Meagrome			2
Plague			5
Purples			533
Rickets			2
Risfe / the Light			10

## Sources of mortality data for London, England

## Wills

## Parish Registers

## Bills of Mortality

The Diseases and Casualties this Week.		
Frigid	Gout	1
Aged	Grief	1
Berrie-	Griping in the Guts	35
Ague	Jamblies	2
Apoplexis	Impothyme	8
Chilblain	Infants	2
Christenes	Kinglevil	2
Cold	Magerome	2
Convulstion	Plague	553
Convallion	Purples	2
Cough	Ricketts	10
Dropyle	Rising of the Lighes	13
Drowned at St. Martin in the Fields	Rupture	1
Feaver	Scurvy	5
Fiftula	Spotted Feaver	65
Flix and Small-pox	Stibborn	10
Flix	Stone	3
Found dead in the Fields at St. Mary Hlington	Scopping of the stomach	6
	Suddently	1
	Surtent	36
	Teeth	112
	Thrush	3
	Taffick	5
	Vomiting	4
	Winde	1
	Wormes	12
Male	Males	32127
Christened	Females	3248
{ Male	Plague—	553
{ Female	In all	4600
In all		
Decreased in the Burials this Week		1837
Parishes clear of the Plague	7 Parishes Infected	123
<i>The Office of Bread for the Day of the Lord Mayor and Court of Aldermen, A penny Wheaten Loaf to contain Nine Ounces and a half, and three half-penny White Loaves the like weight.</i>		

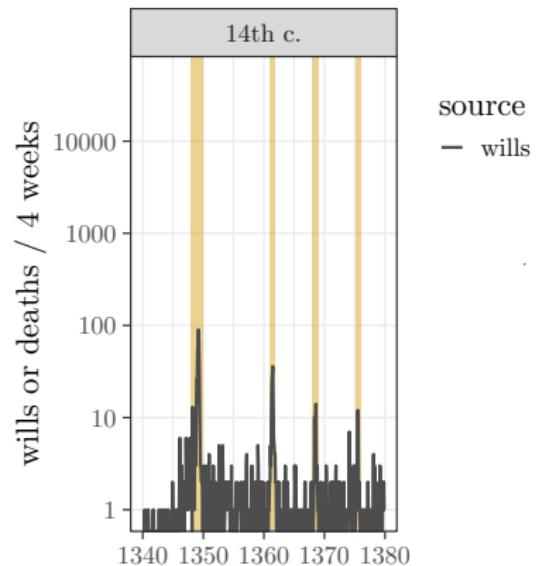
since 1258

since 1538

since 1563

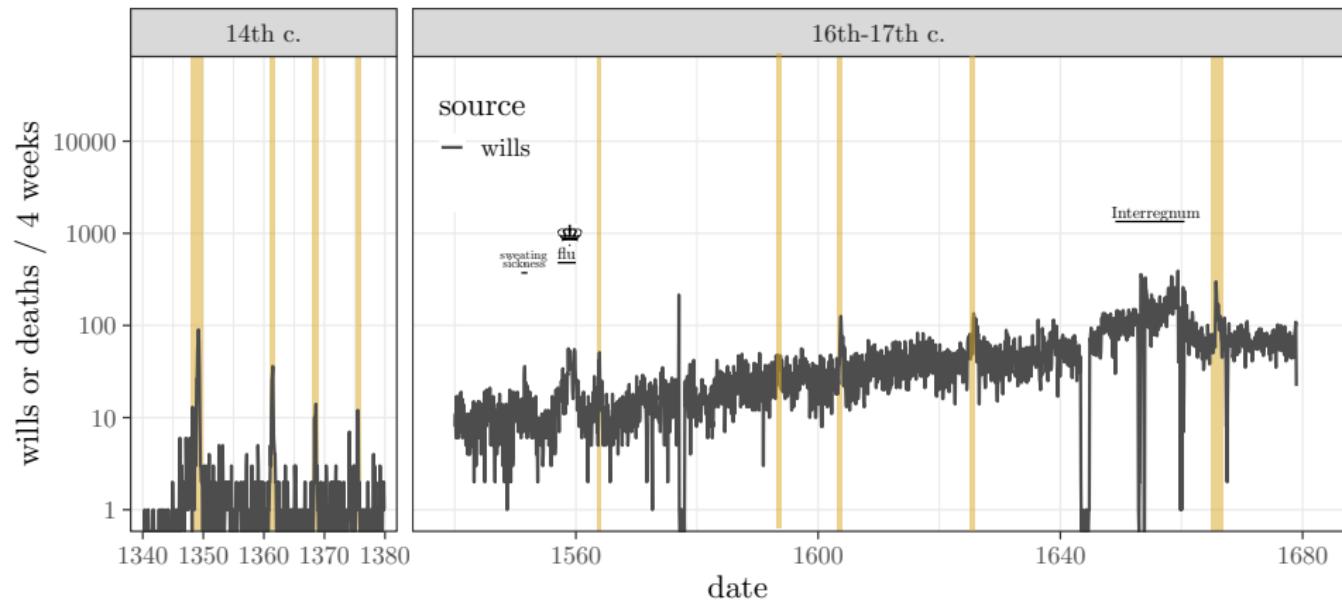
(continuous since 1661)

# Mortality in London, England, 1348–1680



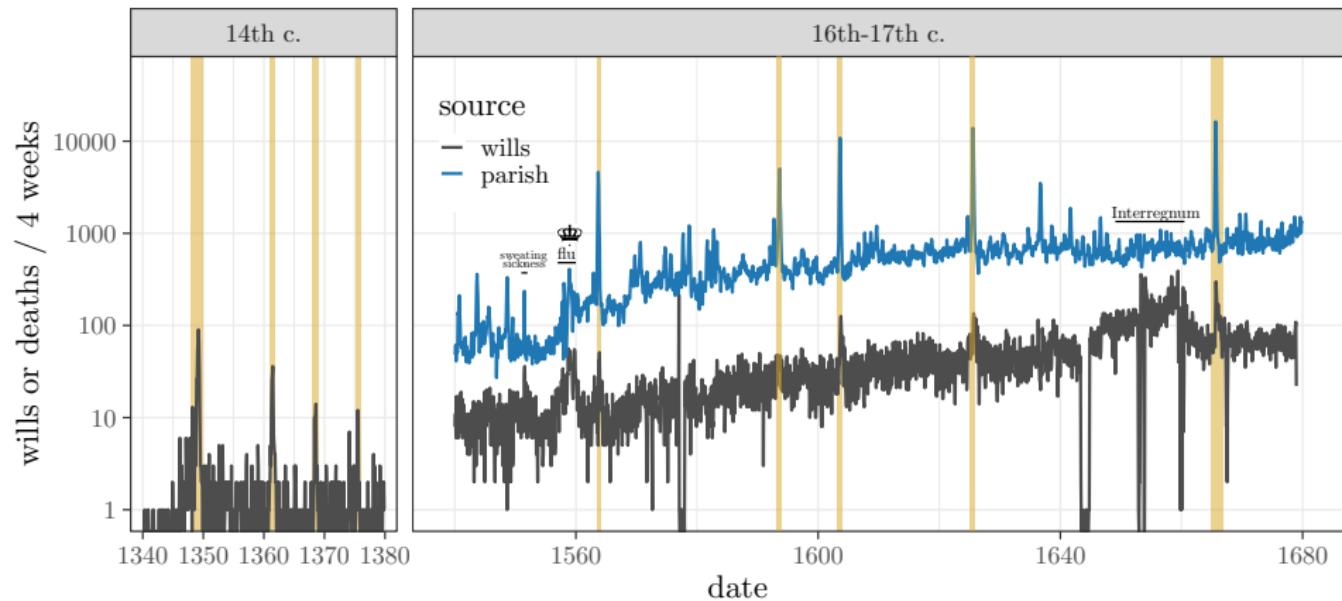
Earn, Ma, Poinar, Dushoff, Bolker (2020) *PNAS* 117:27703–27711

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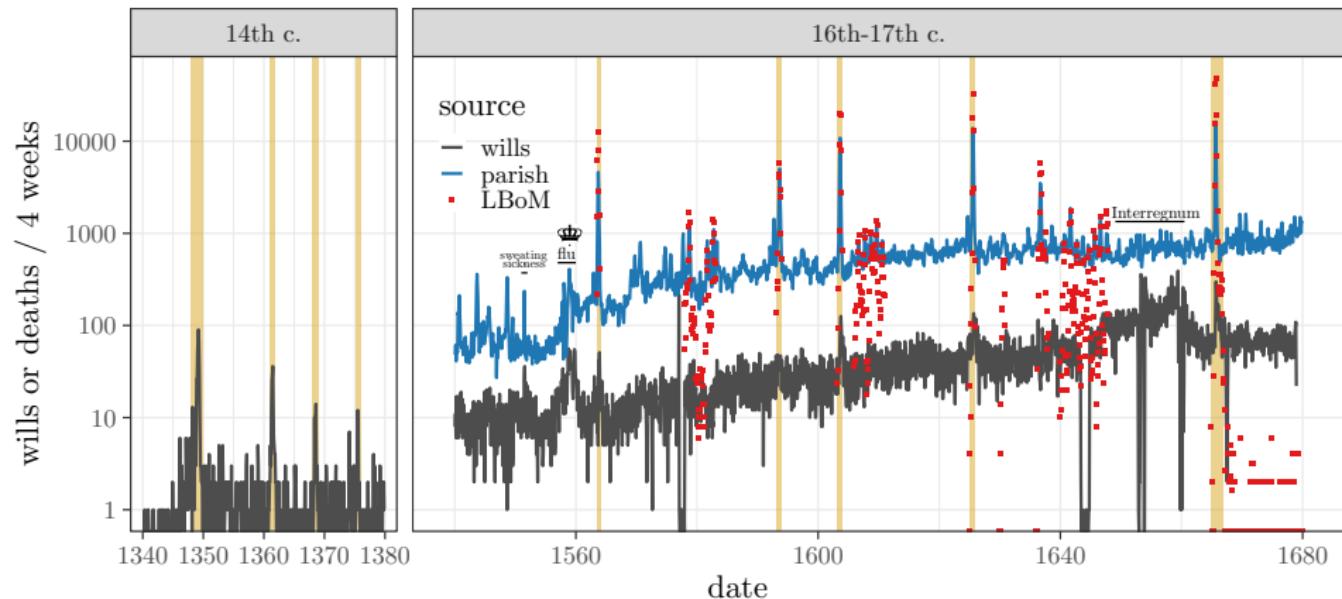
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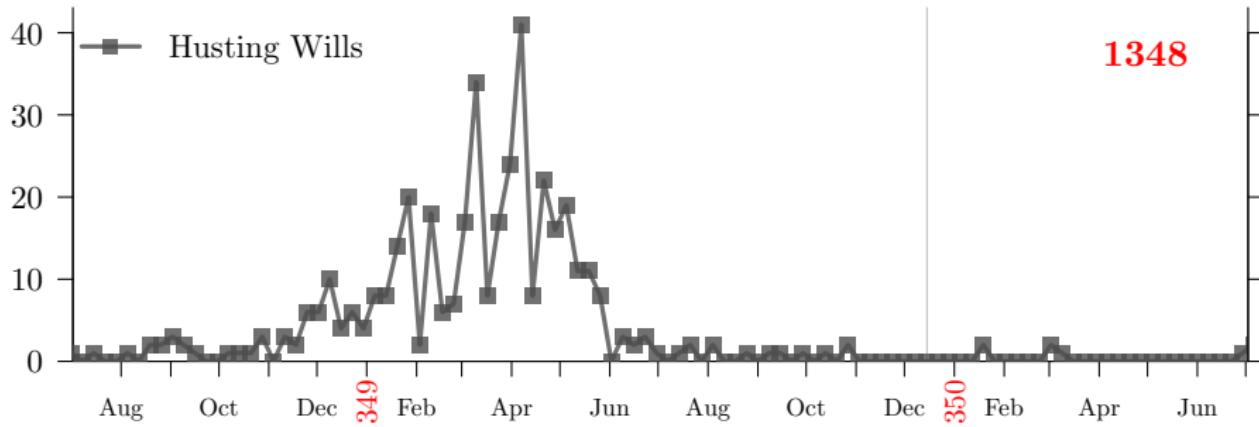
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Earn, Ma, Poinar, Dushoff, Bolker (2020) *PNAS* 117:27703–27711

# 14th c. plague epidemics in London

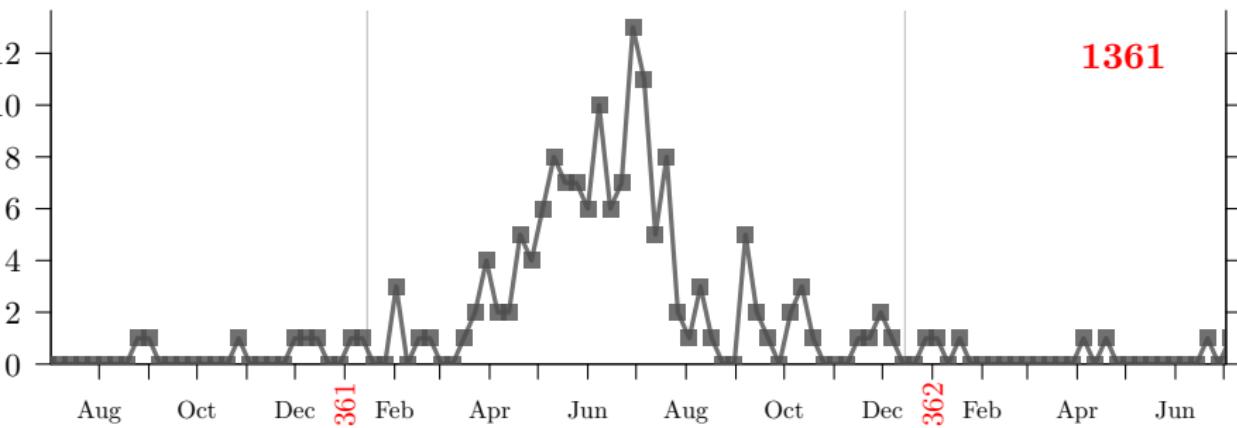


1348

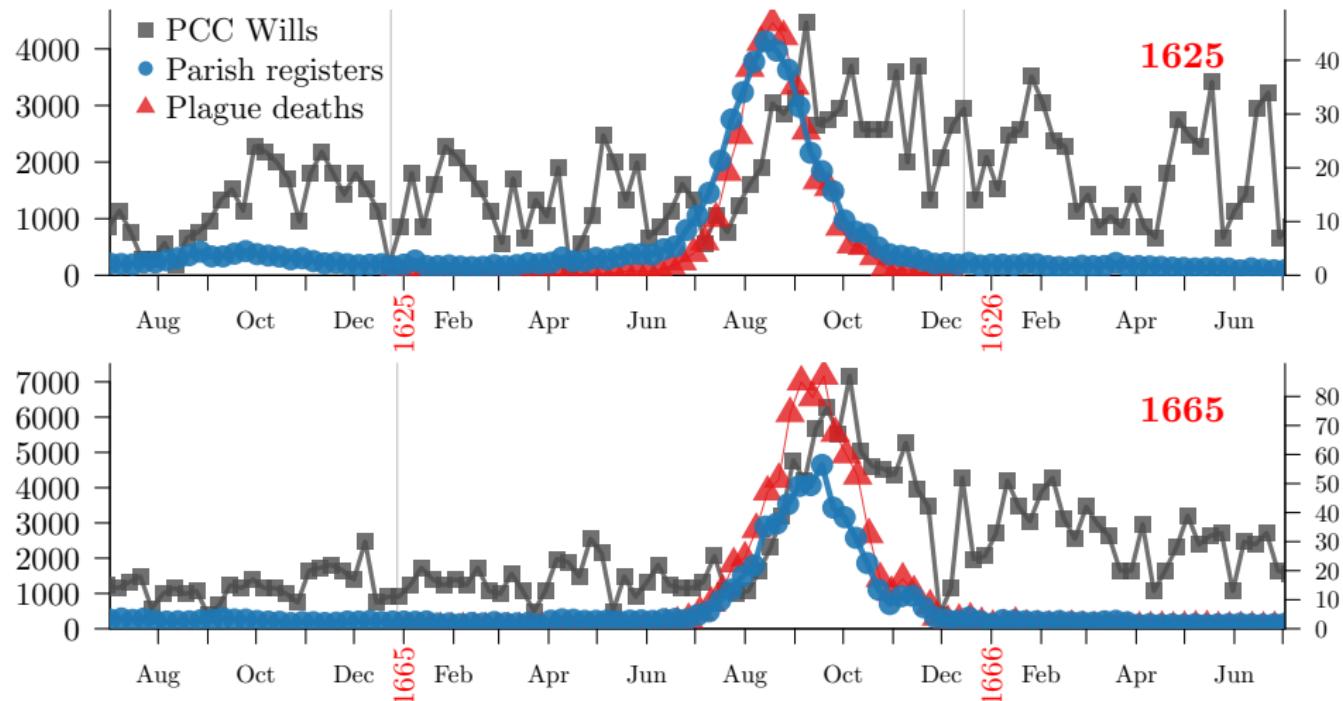
1349

1350

1361



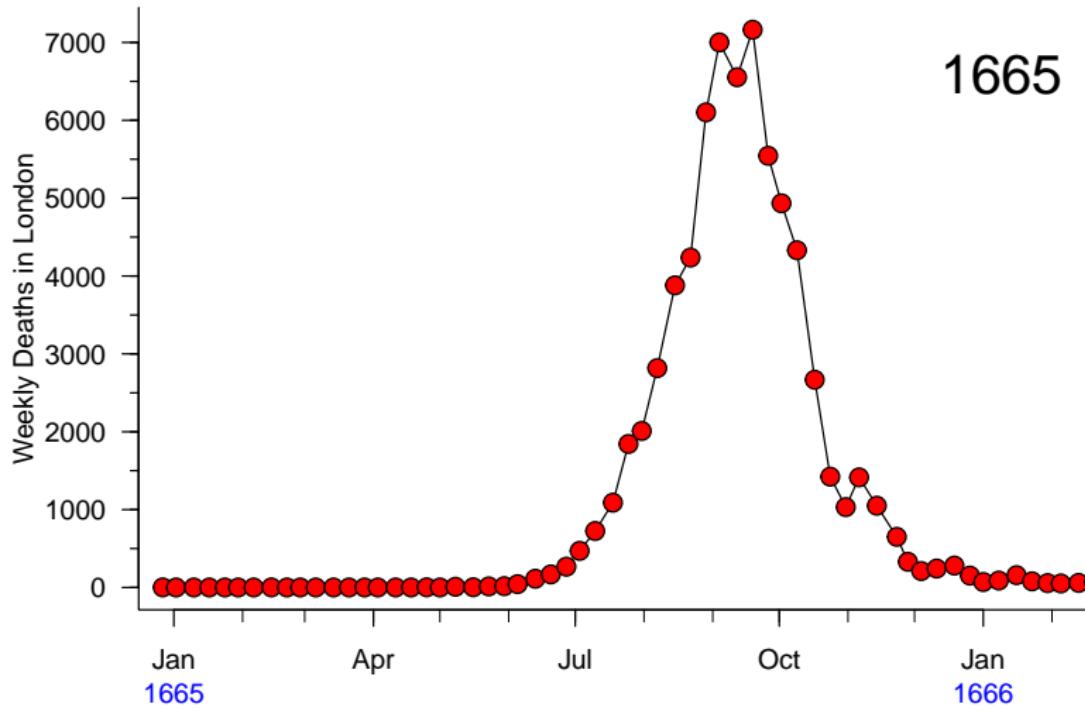
# 17th c. plague epidemics in London



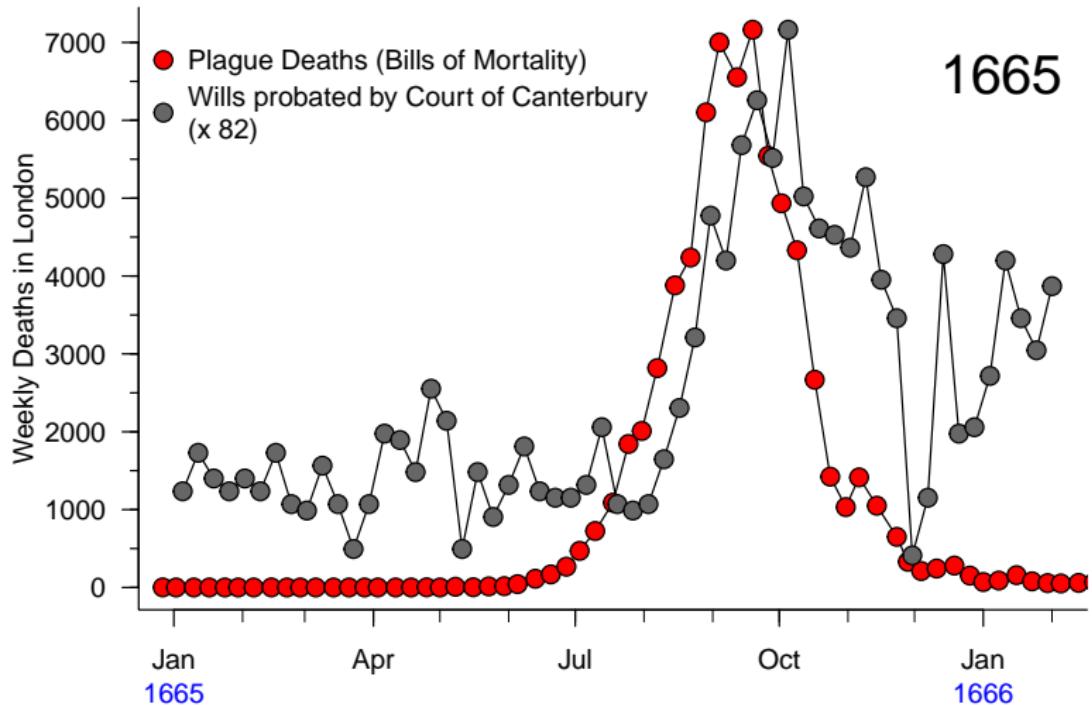
Earn, Ma, Poinar, Dushoff, Bolker (2020) PNAS 117:27703–27711

Is it OK to compare  
results based on wills  
with results from  
mortality data?

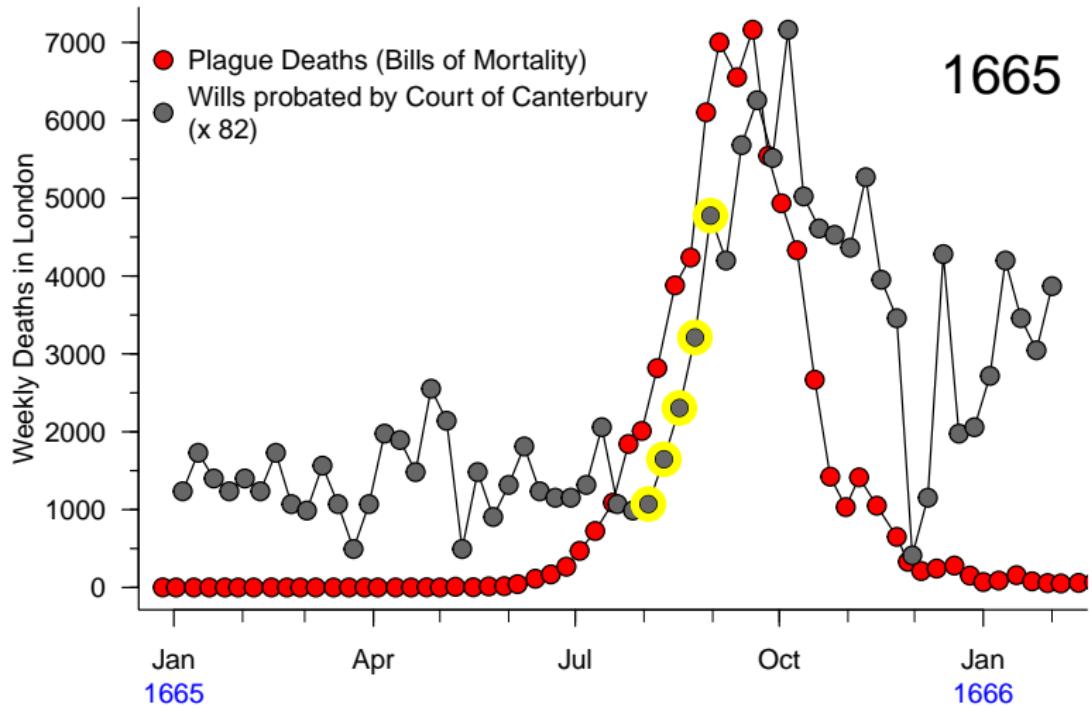
# Plague in London



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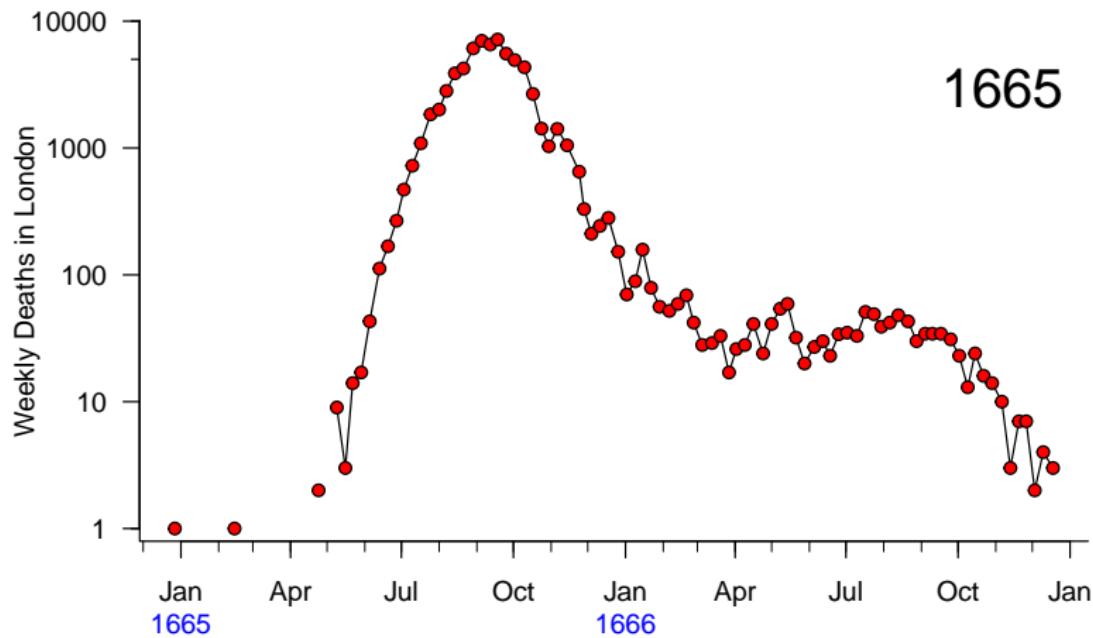


## Compare growth rates of plague epidemics in London

- ▶ Property of the epidemic curve (*the data alone*)
- ▶ Estimate without assumptions about processes that generated the data (since we don't know the mode of transmission)
  - ▶ *human-to-human* (pneumonic plague)
  - ▶ *rat-to-flea-to-human* (bubonic plague)

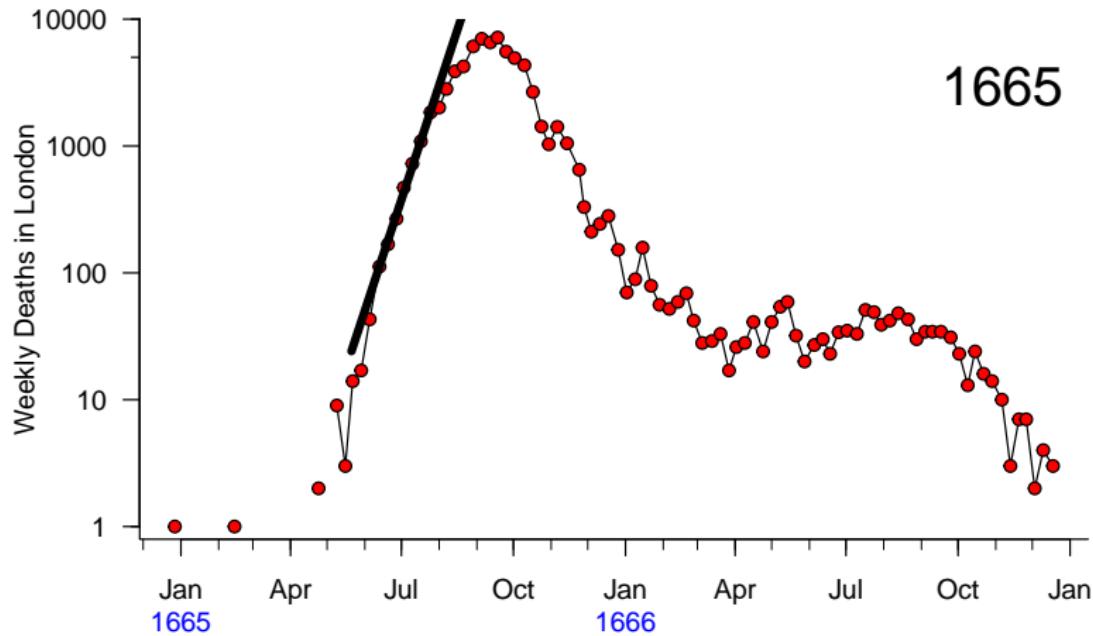
## Estimating the initial growth rate of an epidemic

- ▶ Naïvely, we just fit a straight line to the log of the mortality time series.



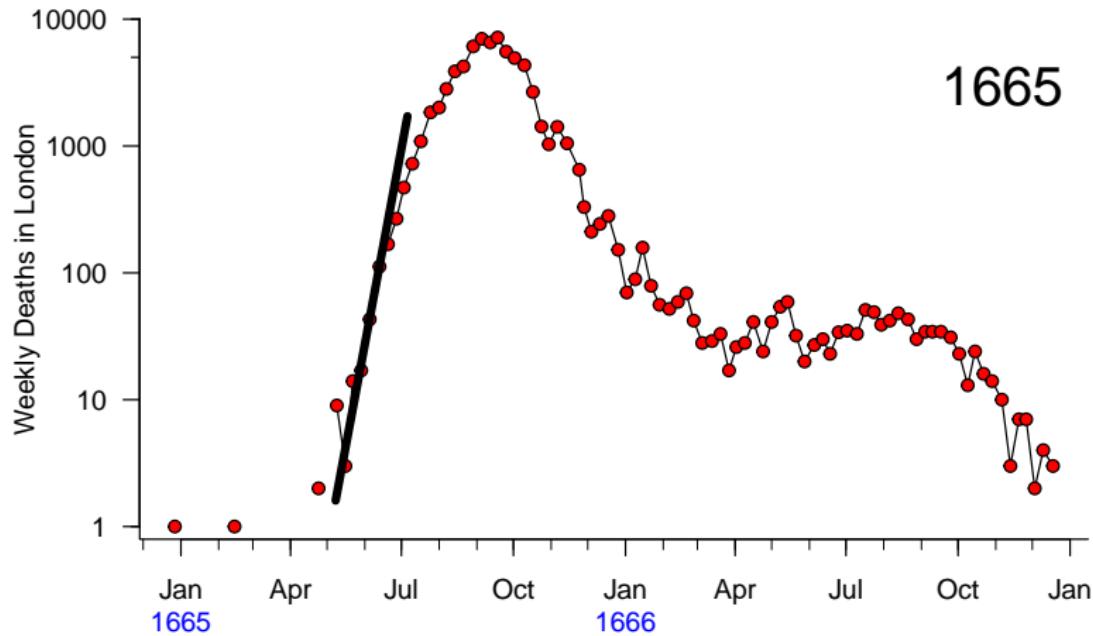
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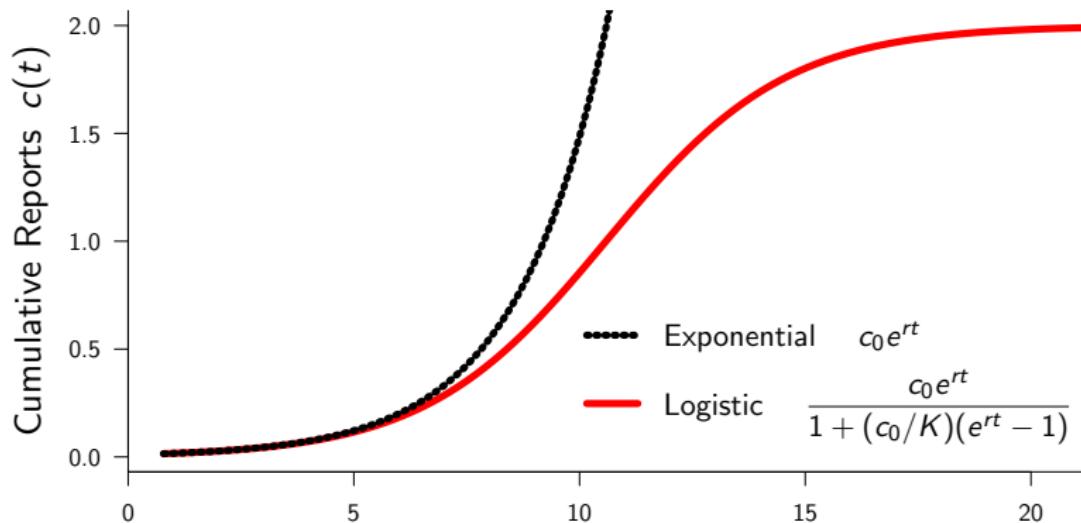
## Estimating the initial growth rate of an epidemic

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# Estimating the initial growth rate of an epidemic

Instead fit a **saturating** rather than a **purely exponential** curve.



- ▶ Both curves have same initial exponential growth rate  $r$ .
- ▶ Test extensively using simulated epidemics for which we know the correct answer.

# Initial growth rates for plague in London, 1348–1665

- ▶ Later plagues grew 4× faster than early plagues!

Doubling time:

- ▶ In 1348: ~ 45 days
- ▶ In 1665: ~ 11 days

- ▶ **Why** did plague epidemics “accelerate”?
  - ▶ Evolution of increased infectiousness? longer infectious period?
  - ▶ Changes in population density? social structure? contact patterns?
  - ▶ Changes in weather?
  - ▶ Bubonic vs. pneumonic plague?

## Bubonic or pneumonic plague?

*Suppose pneumonic plague during second pandemic was exactly like modern pneumonic plague.*

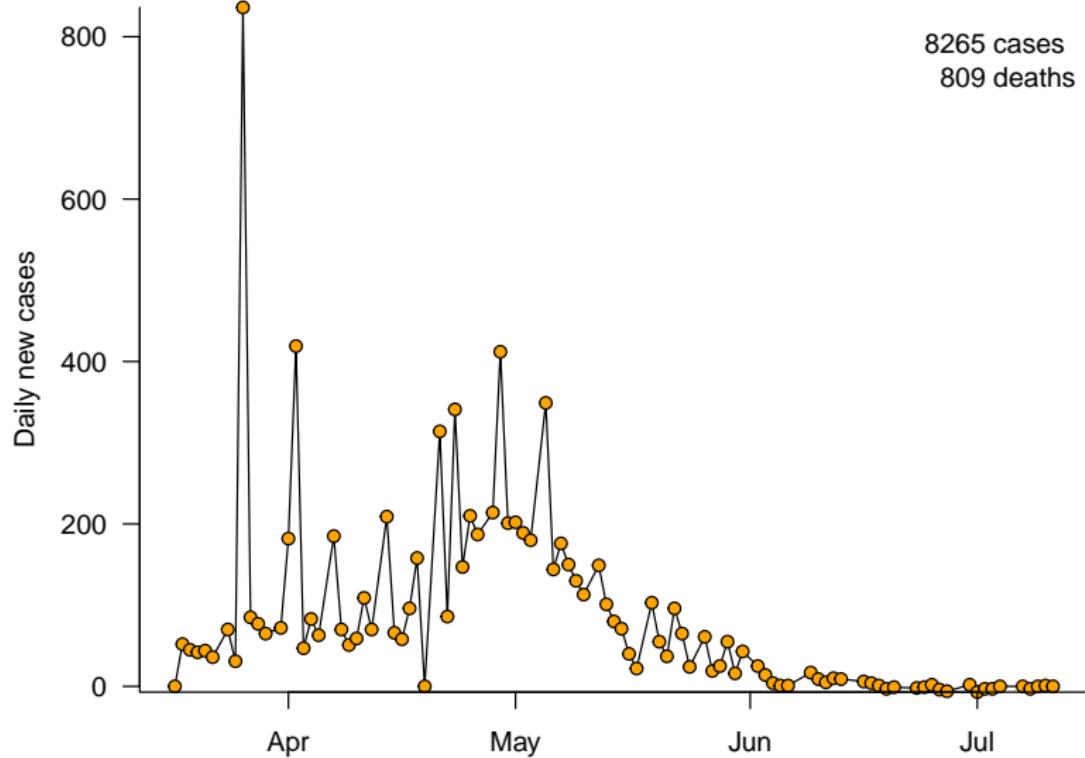
- ▶ Pneumonic in 14th century London?
  - ⇒ ~ 20% of population infected
  - BUT ~ 30–50% of total population died in 1348
    - ⇒ early plagues probably not (primarily) pneumonic
- ▶ A remarkable inference to be able to make based on counting wills! (and a little mathematical modelling)

# Outline

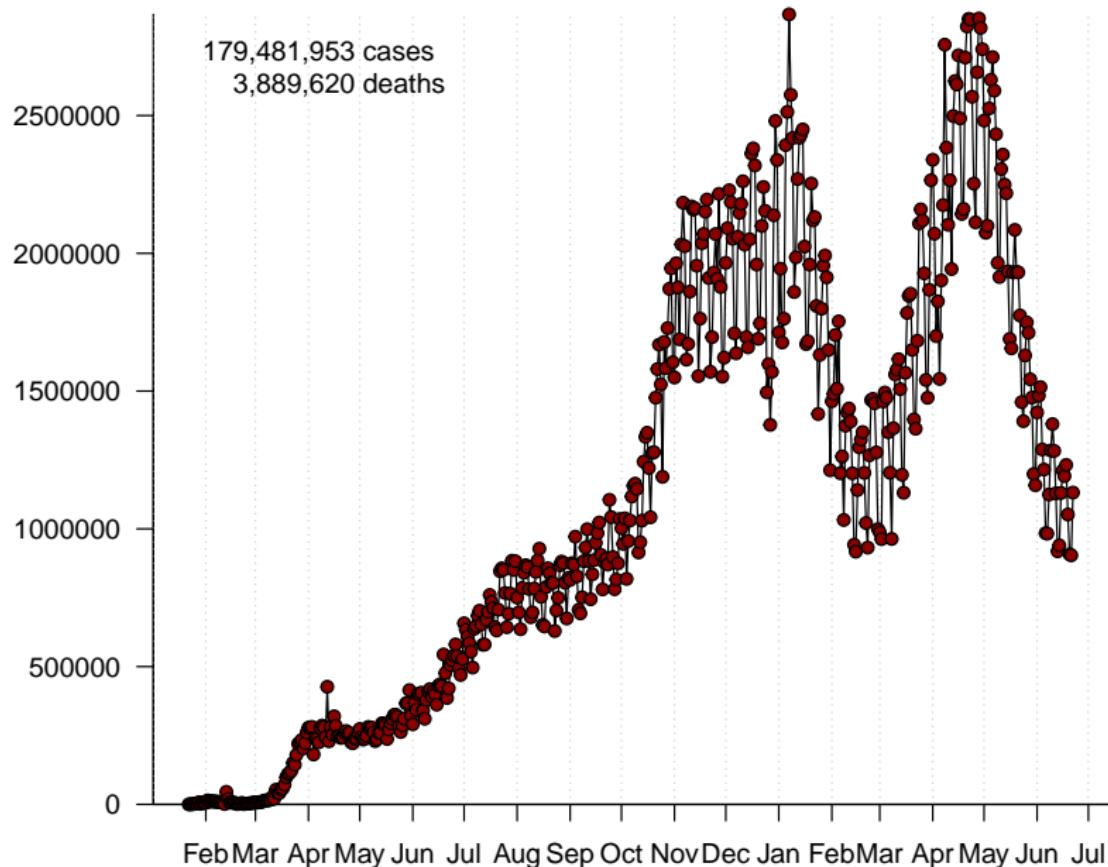
- ▶ Predicting patterns  
of epidemic recurrence
- ▶ Puzzles presented by  
plagues of the past
- ▶ **Forecasting the future:  
modelling and policy**

SARS

# Daily SARS-CoV-1 in 2003 (Worldwide)

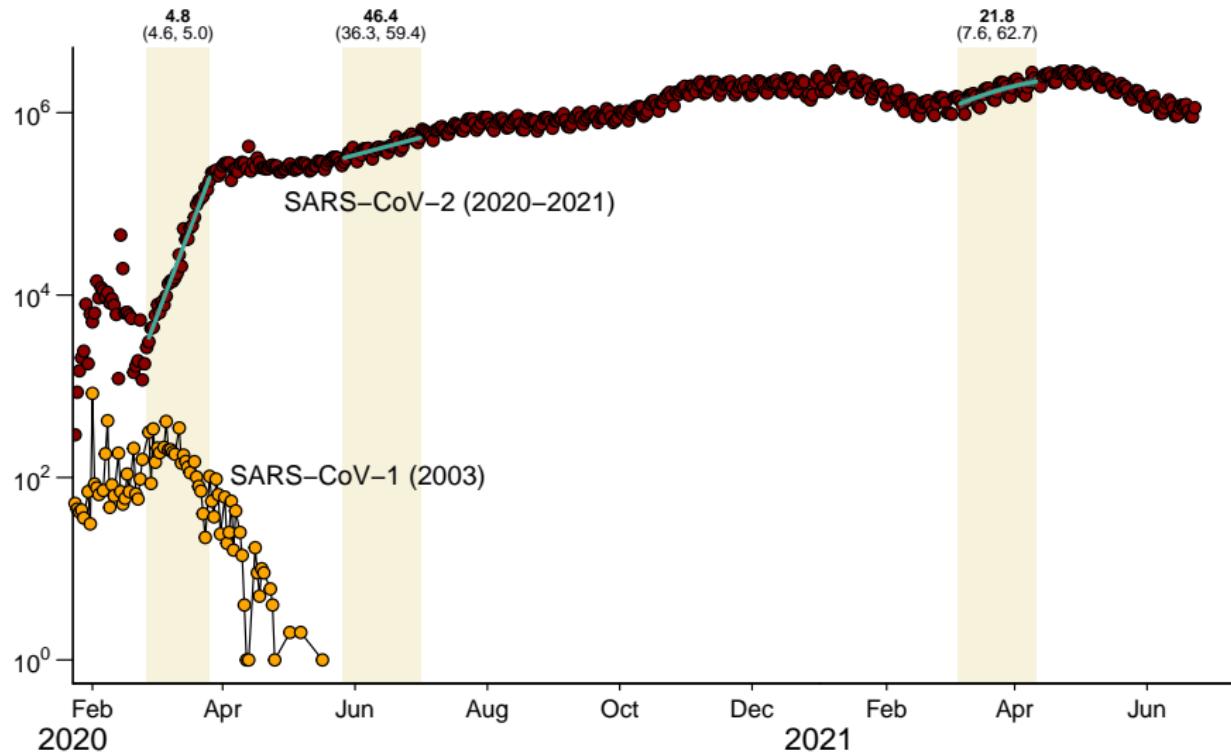


# Daily SARS-CoV-2 in 2020–2021 (Worldwide)



# Daily SARS-CoV-2 vs SARS-CoV-1 (Worldwide)

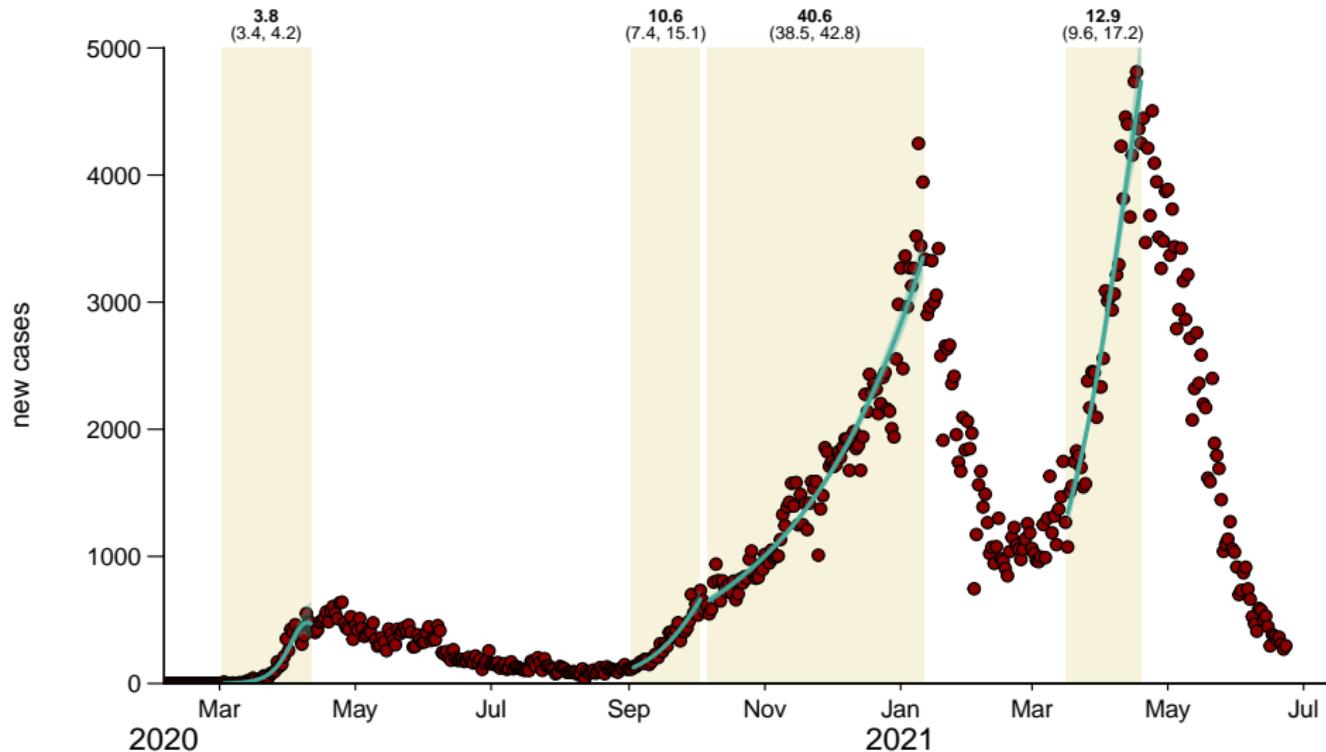
initial doubling time, days:  
**estimate**  
(95% CI)



# SARS-CoV-2 in Ontario

# COVID-19 cases in Ontario

initial doubling time, days:  
**estimate**  
(95% CI)



# Modelling SARS-CoV-2 / COVID-19

**Much richer data (compared with historical epidemics):**

- ▶ Daily counts of positive tests, hospital occupancy, ICU occupancy, deaths, ...
- ▶ Daily vaccine doses administered
- ▶ Daily measures of weather, mobility
- ▶ Info on policy changes, travel restrictions, new virus variants,  
...

**Harder problem:**

- ▶ Forecast the future!

# Modelling SARS-CoV-2 / COVID-19

## **Approach:**

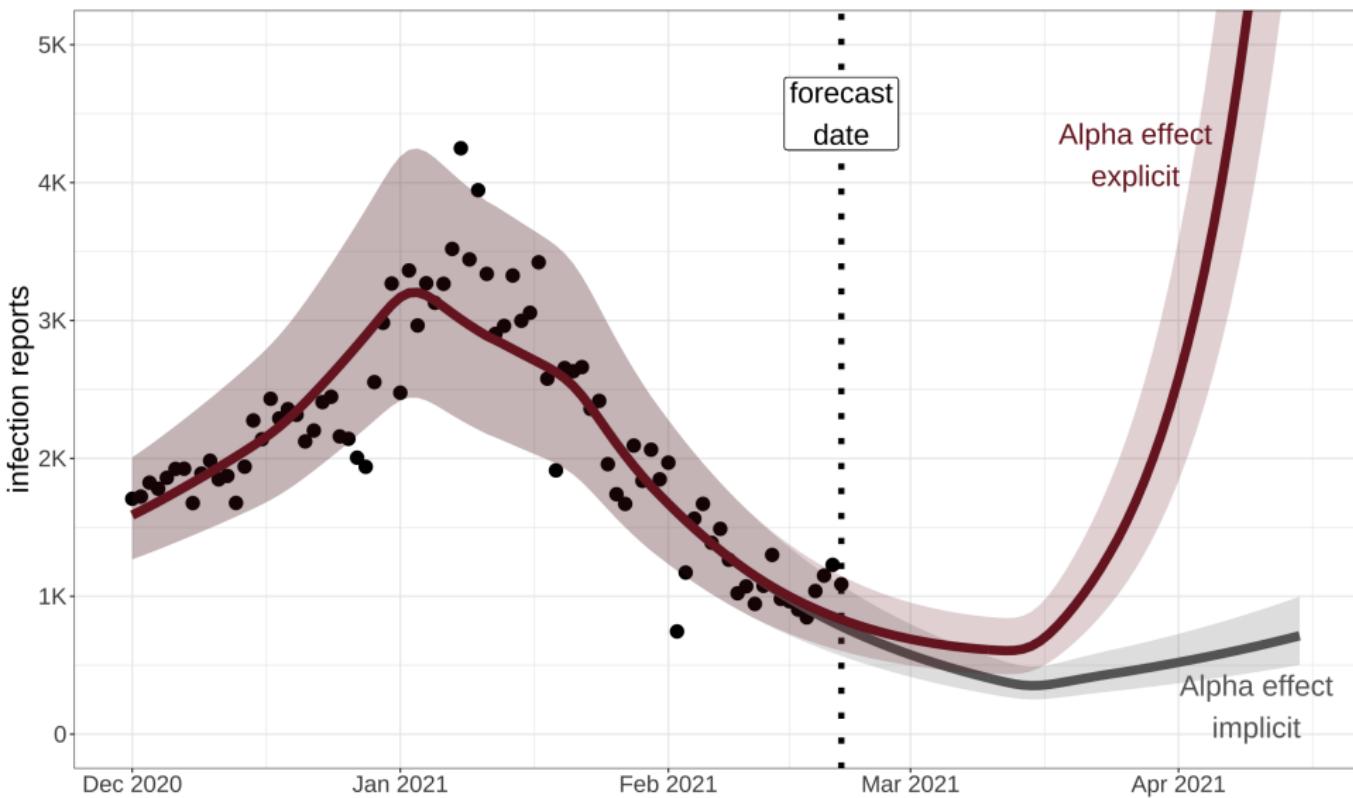
- ▶ Expand SEIR model to include compartments for cases, deaths, hospital occupancy, etc
- ▶ Simultaneously fit model to all the types of data we have
- ▶ Predict the future based on various scenarios

## **Interpret forecasts with caution:**

- ▶ Quantify uncertainties we understand  
(parameter estimates, observation and process noise)
- ▶ Be aware that models cannot capture all processes

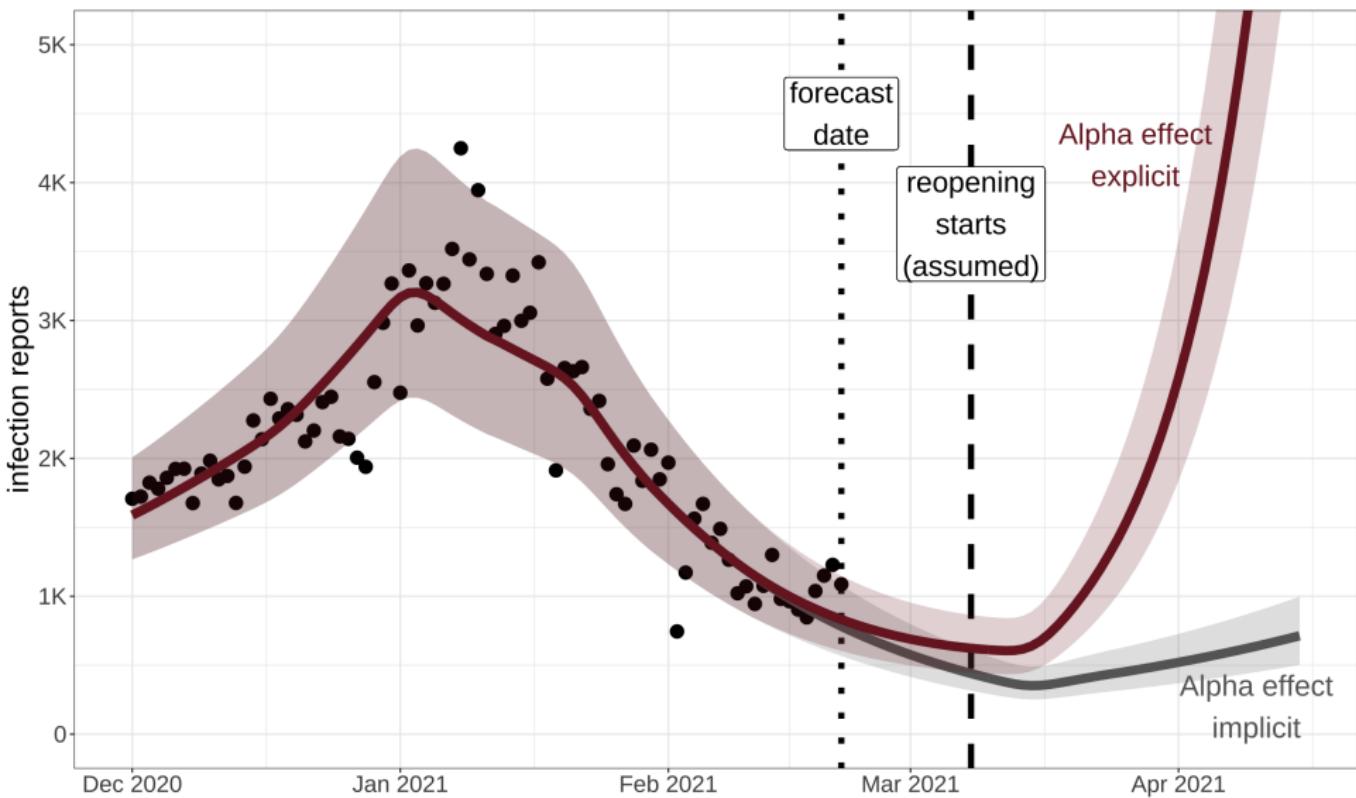
# Fitting and forecasting COVID-19 in Ontario

Forecast from 21 Feb 2021



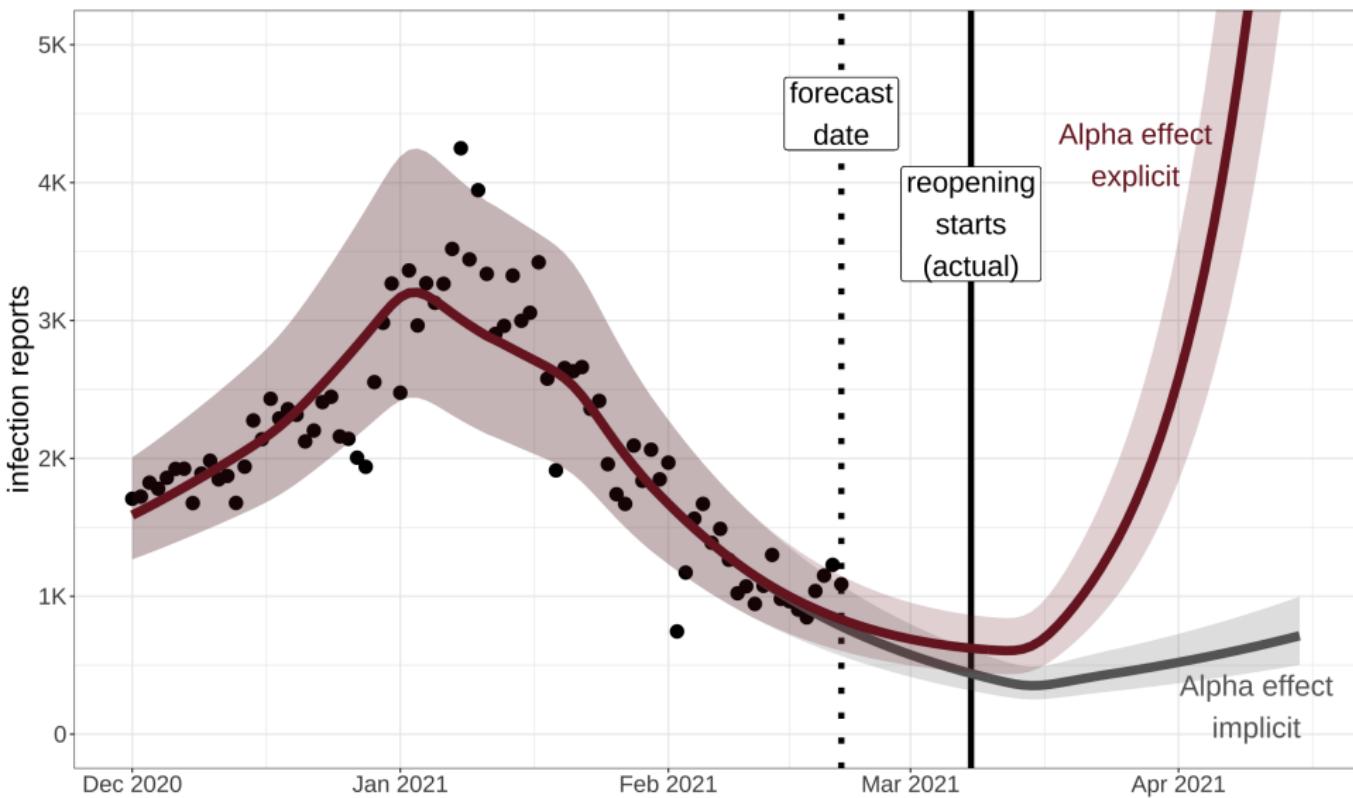
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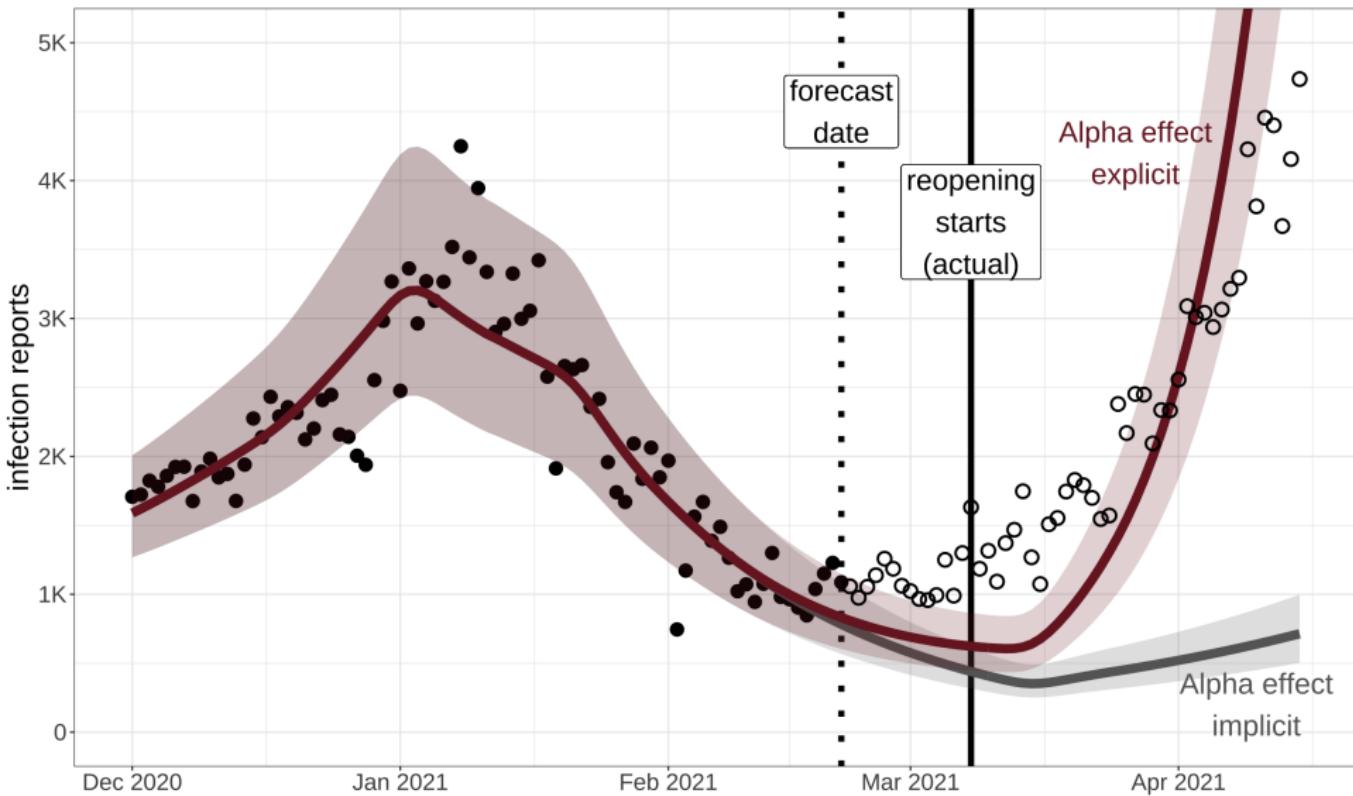
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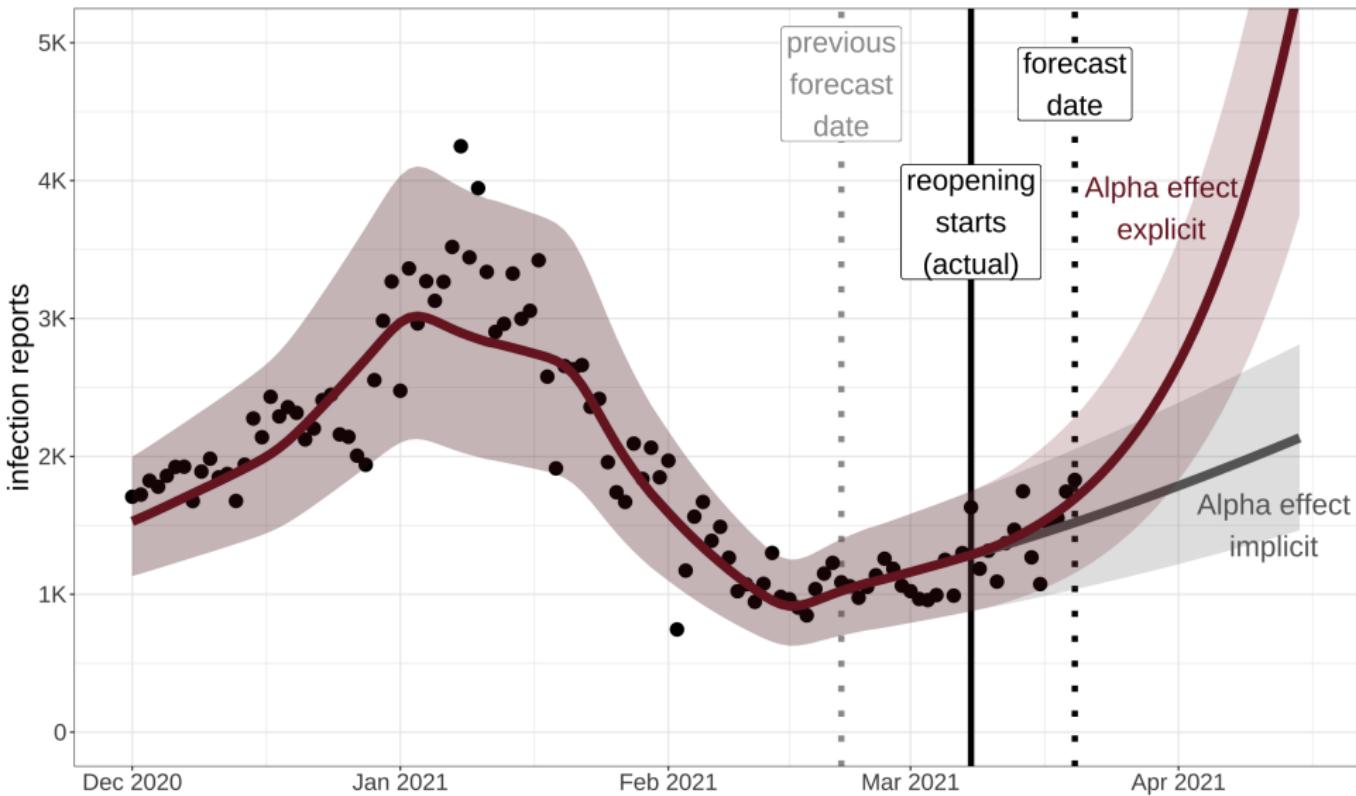
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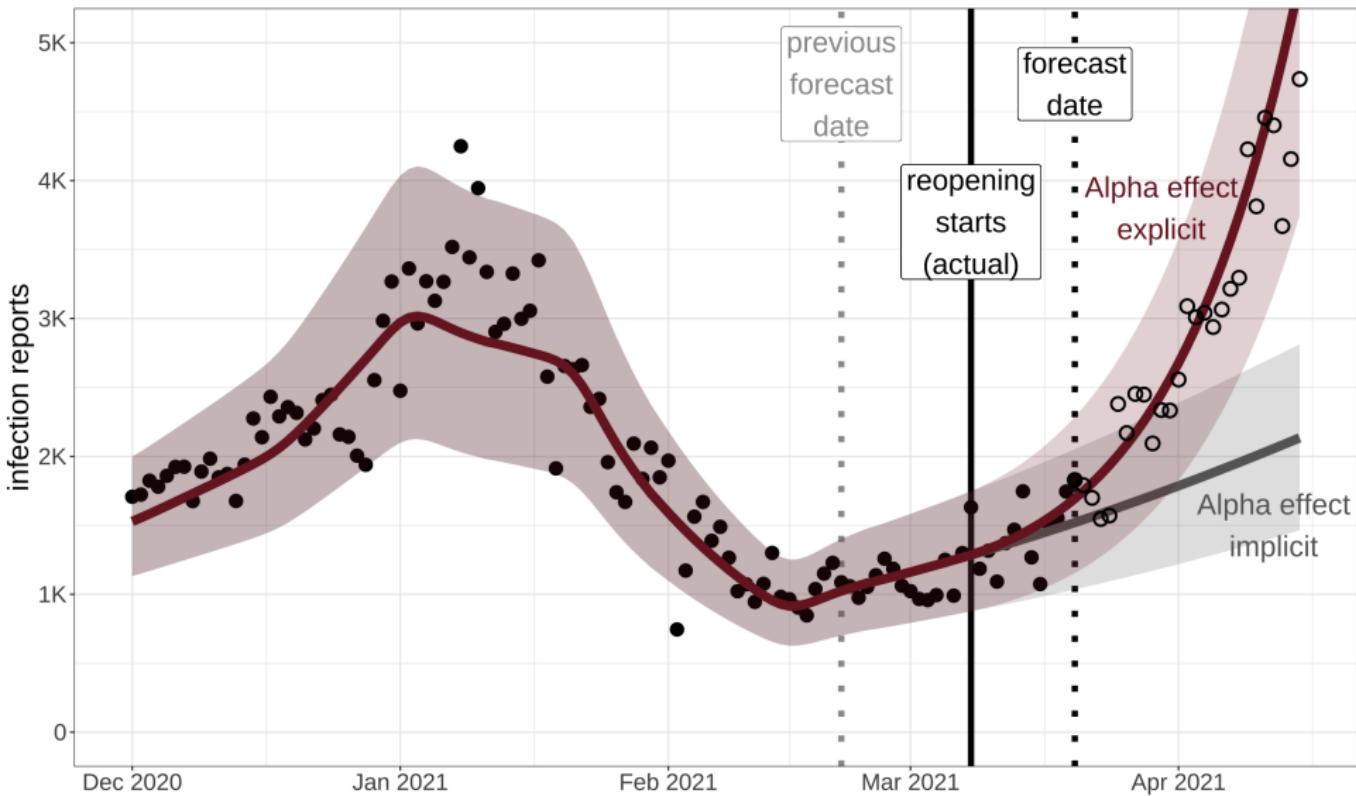
# Fitting and forecasting COVID-19 in Ontario

Forecast from 20 Mar 2021



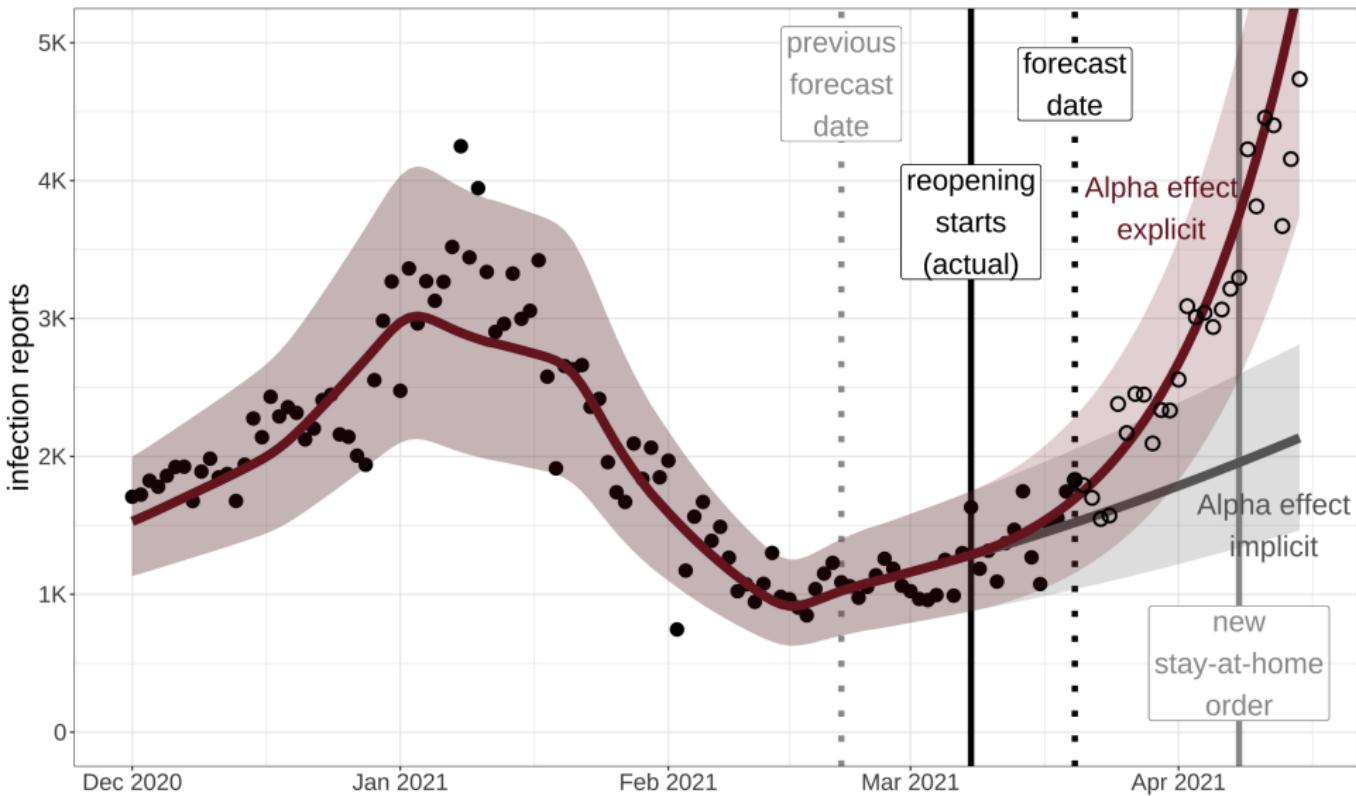
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Forecast from 20 Mar 2021



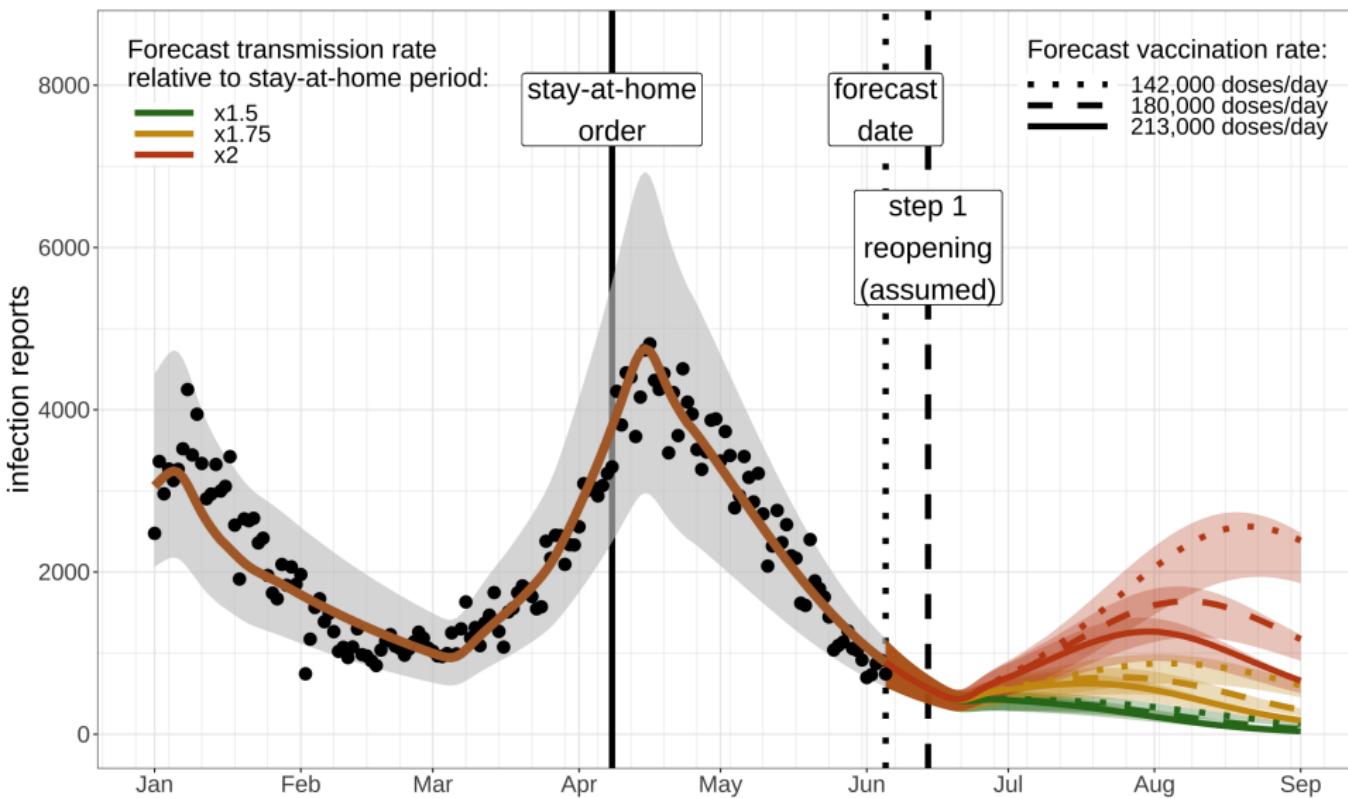
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Forecast from 20 Mar 2021



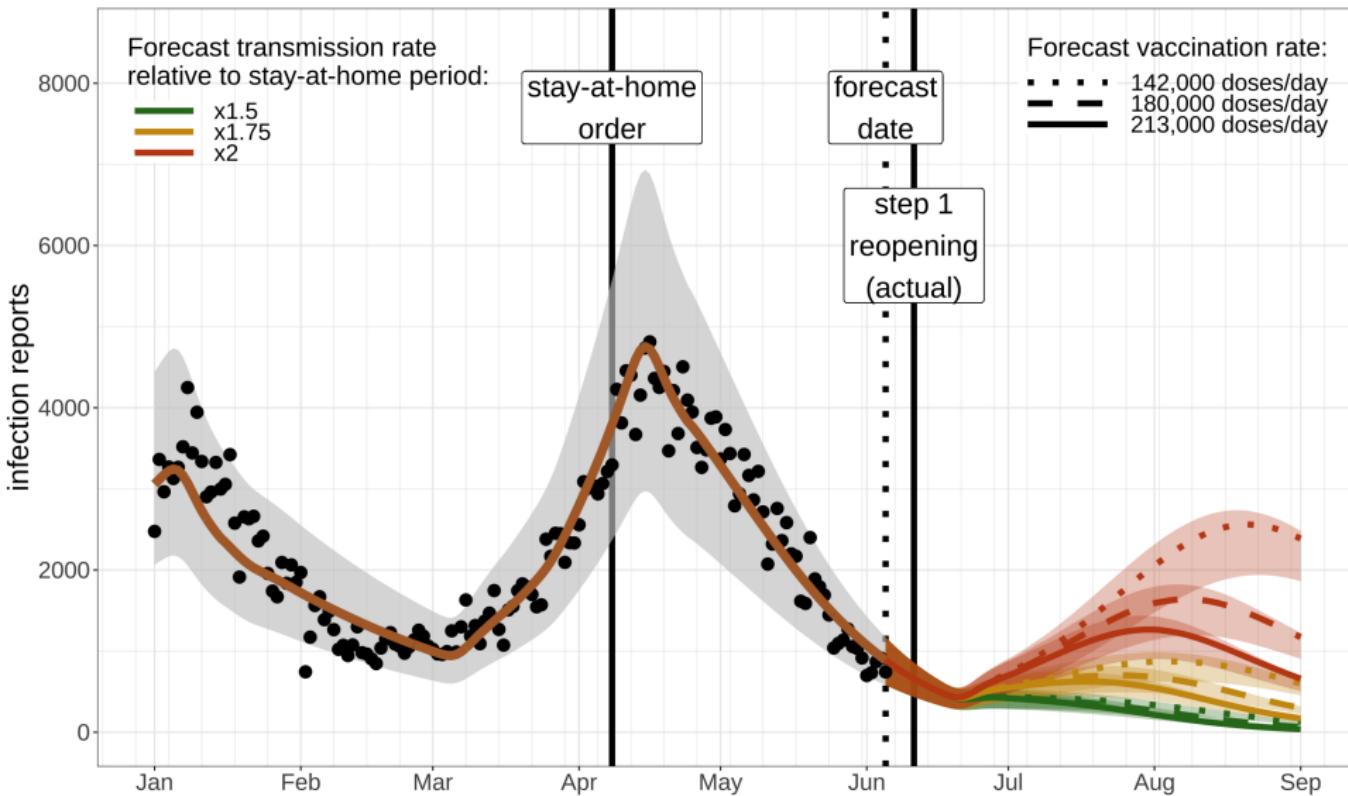
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Forecast from 5 Jun 2021



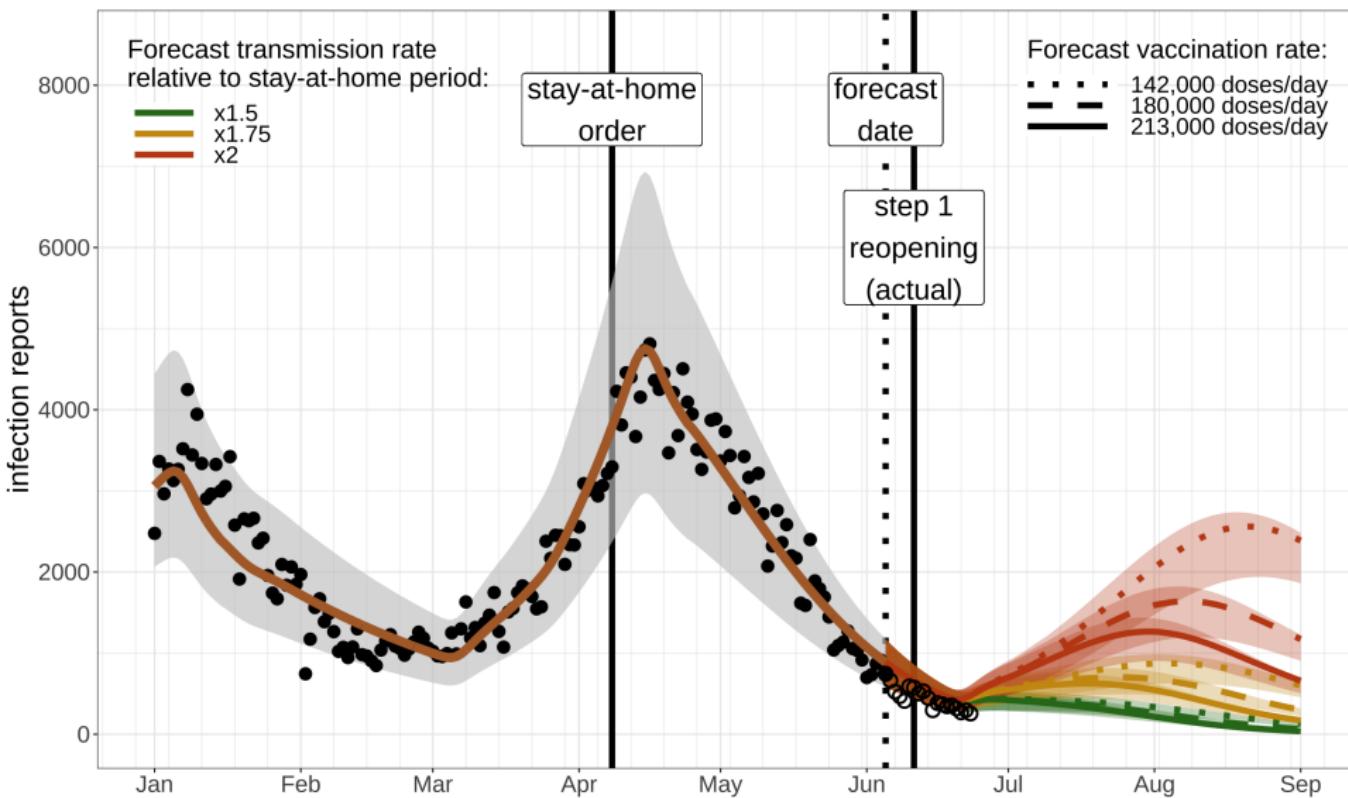
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Forecast from 5 Jun 2021



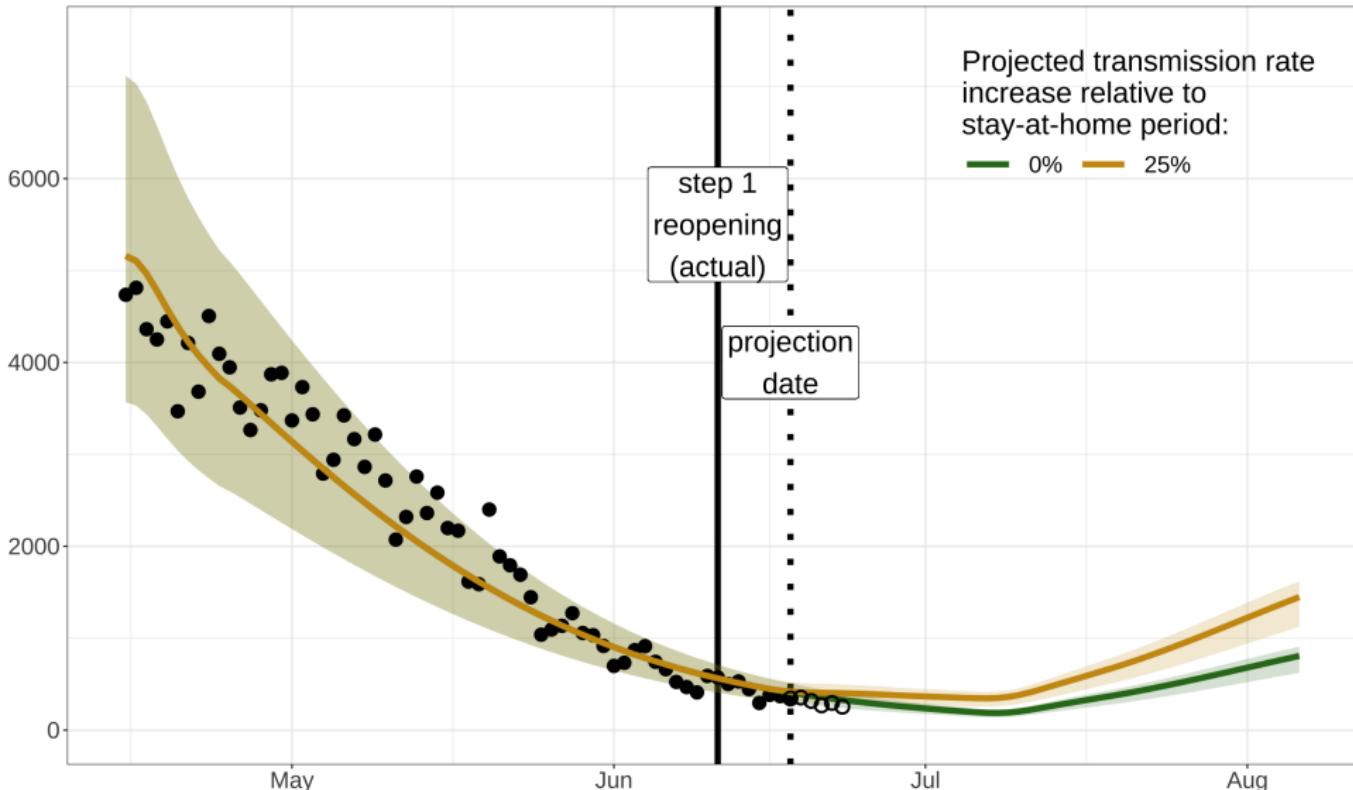
# Fitting and forecasting COVID-19 in Ontario

Forecast from 5 Jun 2021



# Fitting and forecasting COVID-19 in Ontario

Projections from 18 Jun 2021



# Acknowledgements

- ▶ *McMaster University:*  
Ben Bolker, Jonathan Dushoff, Hendrik Poinar
- ▶ *University of Victoria:*  
Junling Ma
- ▶ *University of Alberta:*  
Karsten Hempel
- ▶ *Public Health Agency of Canada:*  
Michael Li, David Champredon
- ▶ *University of Waterloo:* Mikael Jagan
- ▶ *Cornell University:* Irena Papst
- ▶ *Canadian Institute for Health Information (CIHI):*  
Olga Krylova

Funders:



Public Health  
Agency of Canada

# Thanks for your interest!

<https://davidearn.mcmaster.ca>

<https://mac-theobio.github.io/covid-19/>

## 6 Mechanistic Modelling of Recurrent Epidemics II; $\mathcal{R}_0$



Mathematics  
and Statistics

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

## Mathematics 4MB3/6MB3 Mathematical Biology

Instructor: David Earn

Lecture 6  
Mechanistic Modelling of Recurrent Epidemics II  
Tuesday 8 October 2024

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  - *Date:* Tuesday 5 November 2024
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  - Date: Tuesday 5 November 2024
  - Time: 2:30pm – 4:30pm
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- Assignment 4 is due the day of the midterm.

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  - Date: Tuesday 5 November 2024
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Due Monday 4 November 2019 before class.

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  - Location: in class, HH-102
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  - Make sure you personally can do the question on calculating  $\mathcal{R}_0$  on this assignment before the midterm test.

# $\mathcal{R}_0$ : biological definition

The **basic reproduction number**  $\mathcal{R}_0$  is:

*the expected number of secondary cases produced, in a completely susceptible population, by a typical infective individual*

e.g., Anderson and May (1991) "Infectious Diseases of Humans"

# $\mathcal{R}_0$ : more mathematical definition

The **basic reproduction number**  $\mathcal{R}_0$  is:

*the number of new infections produced by a typical infective individual in a population at a disease free equilibrium (DFE)*

van den Driessche and Watmough (2002) *Mathematical Biosciences* **180**, 29–48

# $\mathcal{R}_0$ : most mathematical definition

The **basic reproduction number**  $\mathcal{R}_0$  is:

*the spectral radius of the next generation operator at a disease free equilibrium (DFE)*

Diekmann, Heesterbeek & Metz (1990) *J. Math. Biol.* **28**, 365–382

# Definitions from matrix analysis

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## Definition (Spectrum of a matrix)

Let  $M$  be an  $n \times n$  real (or complex) matrix. The **spectrum of  $M$**  is

$$\sigma(M) = \{\lambda : Mv = \lambda v \text{ for some non-zero } v \in \mathbb{C}^n\},$$

i.e.,  $\sigma(M)$  is the set of eigenvalues of  $M$ .

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### Definition (Spectral radius of a matrix)

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$$\rho(M) = \max\{|\lambda| : \lambda \in \sigma(M)\},$$

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- Mathematically, the spectral radius of the next generation operator at the DFE is exactly this quantity.

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- In the SEIR model, we found (based on a biological argument) that

$$\mathcal{R}_0 = \beta \cdot \frac{\sigma}{\sigma + \mu} \cdot \frac{1}{\gamma + \mu}.$$

- Mathematically, the spectral radius of the next generation operator at the DFE is exactly this quantity. With this definition, it is also true that the disease persists if  $\mathcal{R}_0 > 1$  and goes extinct if  $\mathcal{R}_0 < 1$ .

# SEIR model (with vital dynamics)

$$\frac{dS}{dt} = \mu N - \frac{\beta SI}{N} - \mu S$$

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

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

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

- Birth and death rate ( $\mu$ )
- Transmission rate ( $\beta$ )
- Mean latent period ( $1/\sigma$ )
- Mean infectious period ( $1/\gamma$ )

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- Analogous to  $\beta\gamma^{-1}$  in simple case.

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- Following Diekmann et al. (1990), we call  $\mathcal{F}V^{-1}$  the next generation matrix for the model and set

$$\mathcal{R}_0 = \rho(\mathcal{F}V^{-1}),$$

where  $\rho(A)$  denotes the spectral radius of a matrix  $A$ .

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- Note wrt previous slide that the (2, 1) entry of  $\mathcal{V}^{-1}$  is the average time an individual who enters the  $E$  compartment spends in the  $I$  compartment: only a proportion  $\sigma/(\sigma + \mu)$  of such individuals make it to the  $I$  compartment, where the average time spent—by individuals who get there—is  $1/(\gamma + \mu)$ .

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- 2 if  $\mathcal{R}_0 < 1$  then the disease-free equilibrium (DFE) is locally asymptotically stable (LAS), whereas if  $\mathcal{R}_0 > 1$  then there is a LAS endemic equilibrium (EE).

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- If possible, it is best to use both methods to find an expression for  $\mathcal{R}_0$ , and make sure they agree.
- A completely different challenge is to estimate  $\mathcal{R}_0$  for a real epidemic from data...

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# Estimating $\mathcal{R}_0$ based on the SEIR model

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$$\mathcal{R}_0 = \frac{\beta\sigma}{(\sigma + \mu)(\gamma + \mu)}$$

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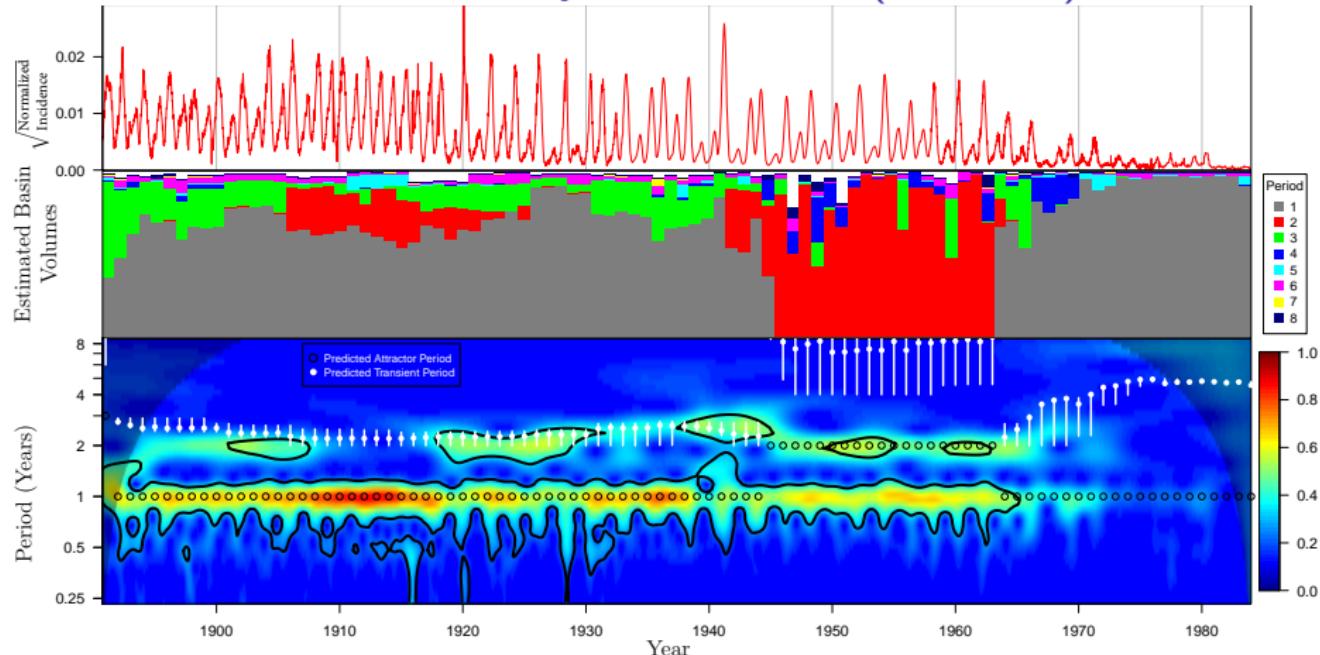
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- Solving this for  $\beta$  we obtain:  $\beta = \frac{(r + \sigma + \mu)(r + \gamma + \mu)}{\sigma}$



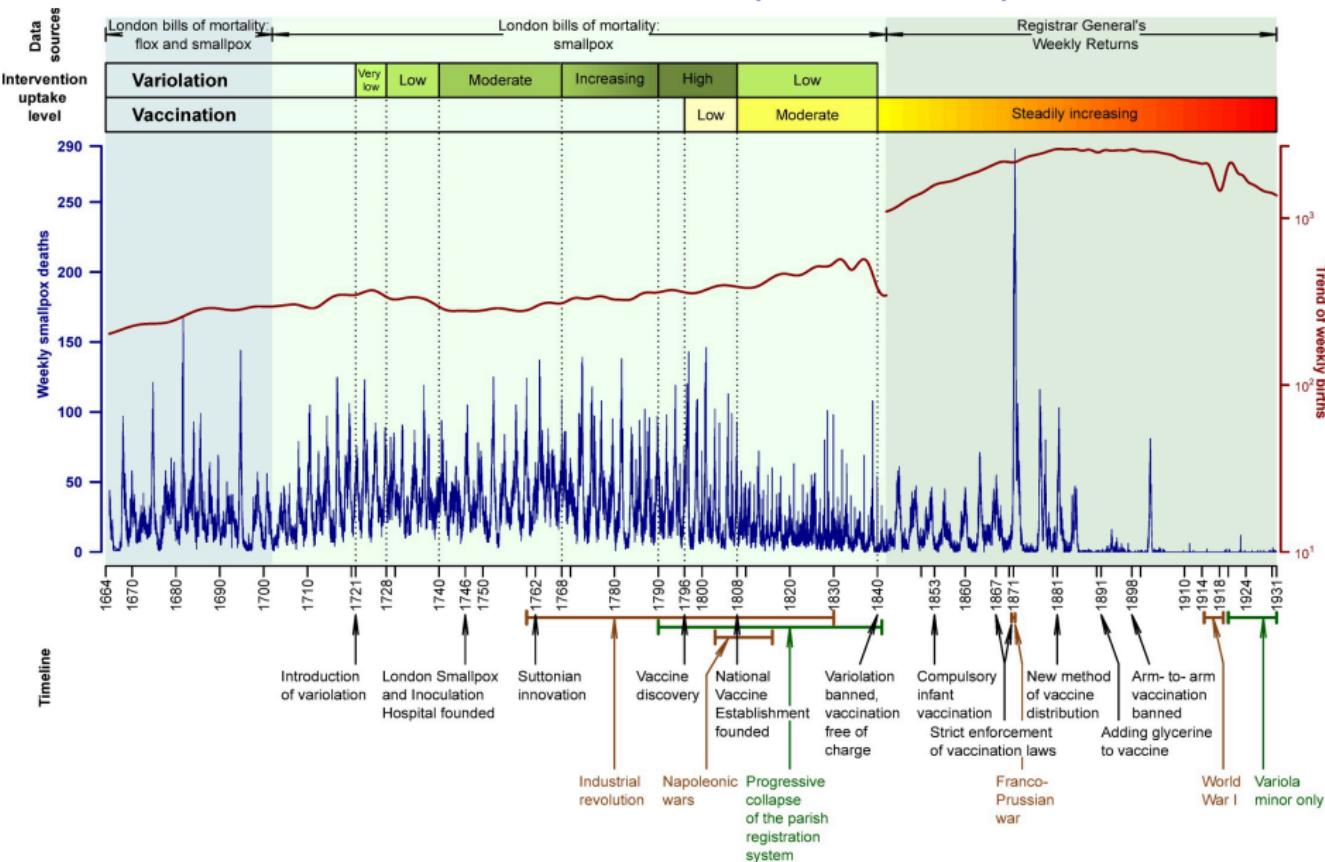
# Measles in New York City, 1891–1984 (success!)



Hempel & Earn (2015) *J. R. Soc. Interface* 12(106):20150024

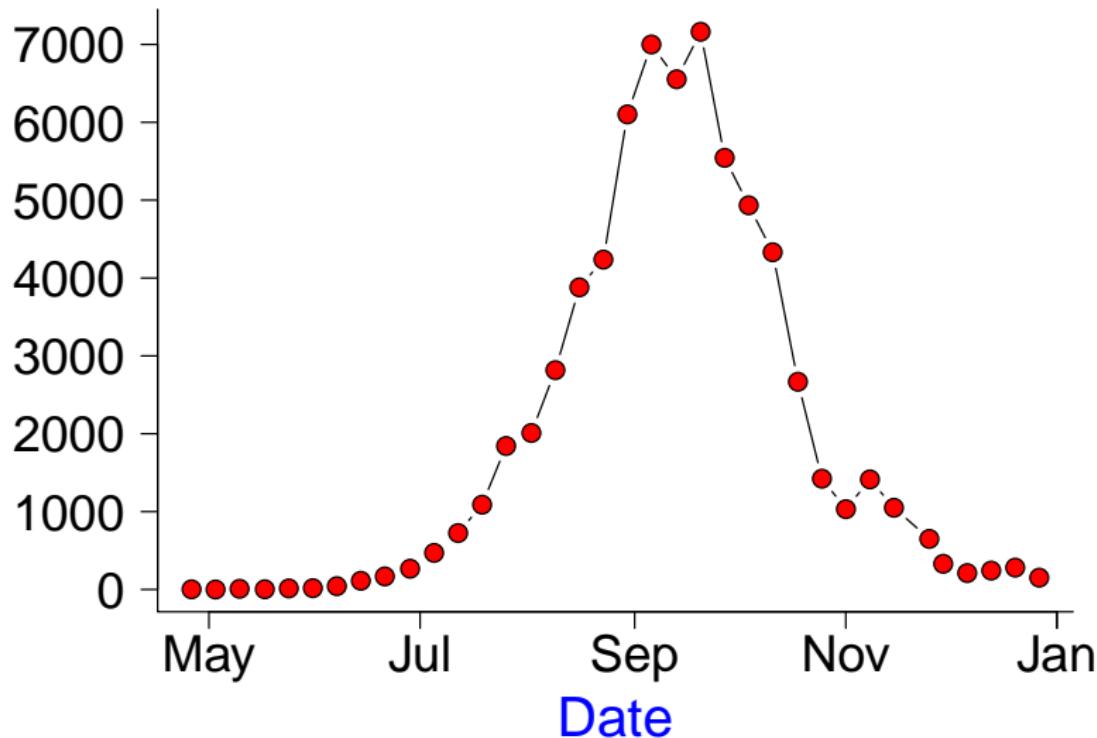
- ▶ Key challenge that had to be overcome:  
*changing patterns of seasonal variation in contact rates*

# Smallpox in London, 1664–1930 (in progress)



# The Great Plague of London, 1665

Weekly Deaths from Plague



# SEIR Model Fit to the Great Plague of London

Weekly Deaths from Plague

