

## 3 Epidemic Data and Time Series Tools



Mathematics  
and Statistics

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

## Mathematics 4MB3/6MB3 Mathematical Biology

Instructor: David Earn

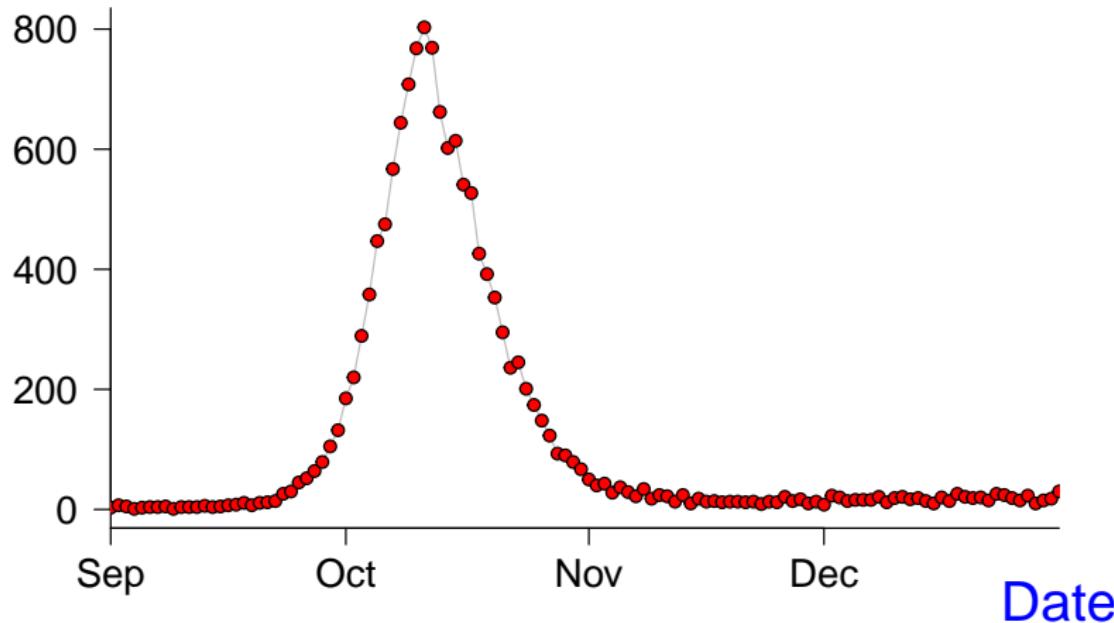
Lecture 3  
Epidemic Data and Time Series Tools  
Tuesday 17 September 2024

# Announcements

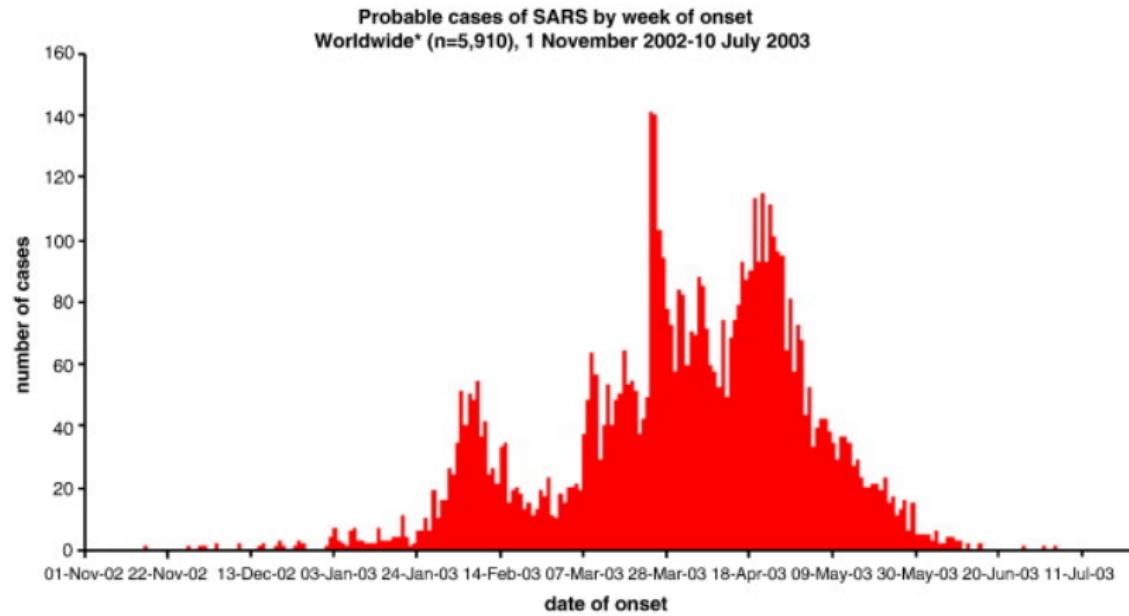
- Next week's lecture will be recorded in advance and posted on the Echo 360 page for this course.
  - Live Q&A, either in last hour of scheduled class or at a mutually convenient time.
- Assignments:
  - Assignment 1 due 23 Sep 2024 (next Monday)
  - Assignment 2 due 7 Oct 2024  
(good to work on before class on 1 Oct 2024)
- Class on 1 Oct 2024 will be given by Mikael Jagan  
(install epigrowthfit before that class)
- Lecture on 8 Oct 2024 will pre-recorded and posted

# P&I Mortality, Philadelphia, 1918

## P&I Deaths

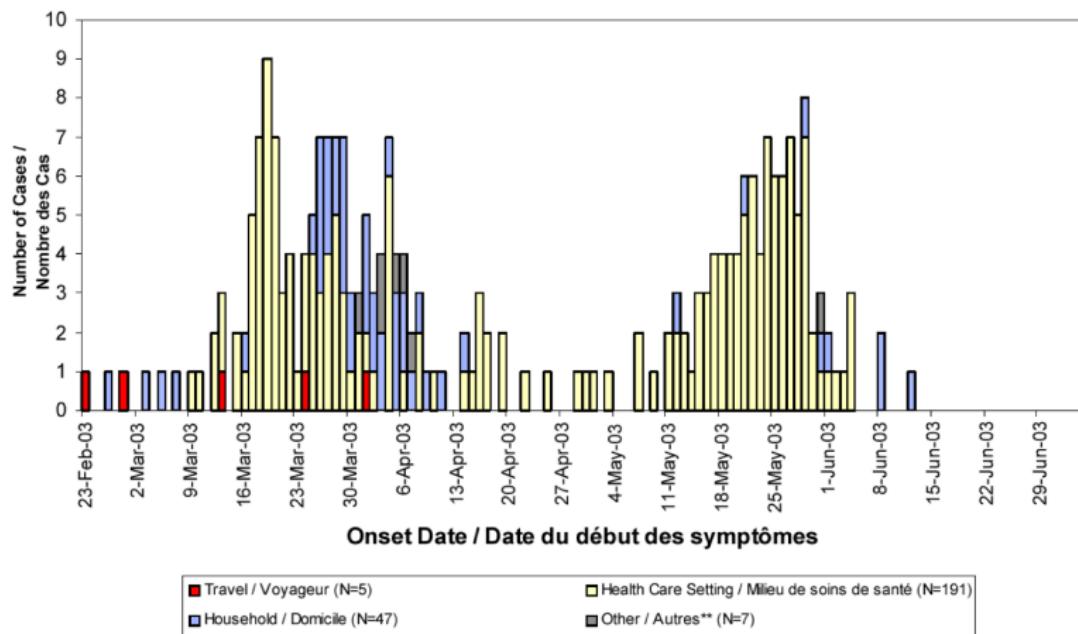


# SARS in 2003 (Worldwide)



\*This graph does not include 2,527 probable cases of SARS (2,521 from Beijing, China), for whom no dates of onset are currently available.

# SARS in 2003 (Toronto)

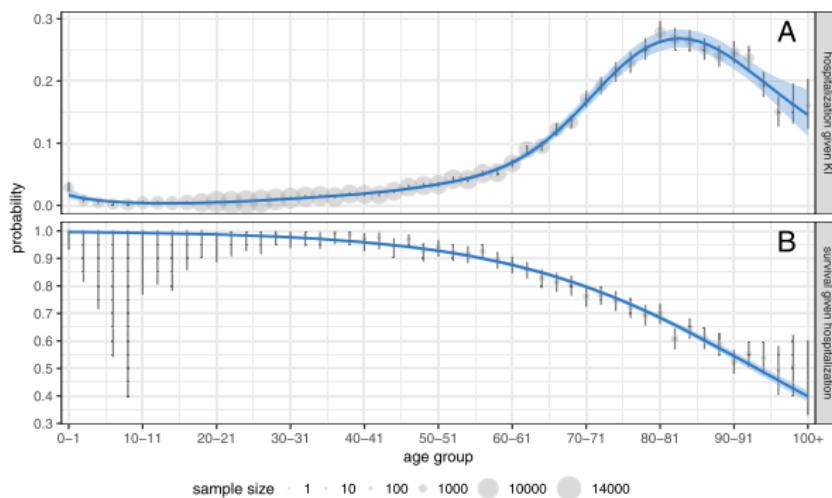


$N = 249$  (of 250 reported)

# Some SARS Facts

- High case fatality
  - 1918 flu < 3%
  - SARS > 10%
- Long hospital stays
  - Mean time from admission to discharge or death:  
~ 25 days in Hong Kong
- 8098 probable cases, 774 deaths
- How bad would it have been if it had not been controlled?

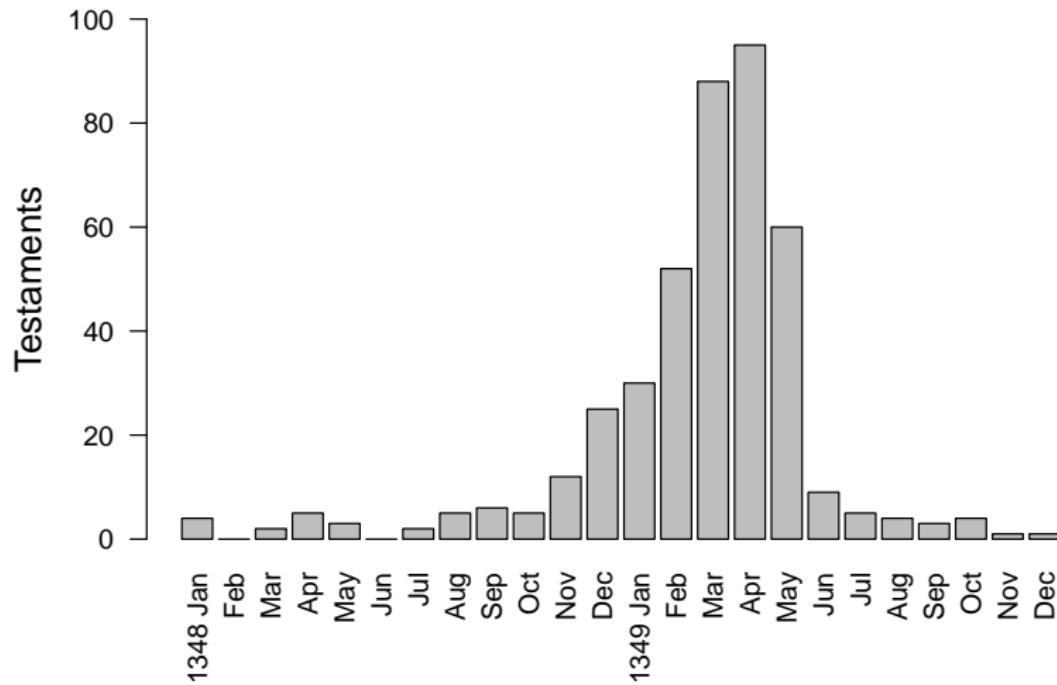
# COVID (ancestral) hospitalization and survival in Ontario



**Fig. 4** Age-dependent COVID-19 hospitalization probability for known SARS-CoV-2 infection (panel **a**) and survival probability for hospitalized patients (panel **b**) in Ontario. We give age-by-age estimates of each probability (points; 95% exact binomial confidence intervals given by vertical lines), where point area is proportional to age-specific sample size. We additionally provide more precise estimates of these probabilities under stricter assumptions, modelling the hospitalization probability using a generalized additive model and the survival probability using a generalized linear model (curves; 95% confidence bands given by shaded regions). See “[Methods](#)” section for details

Papst et al (2021), BMC Public Health, [21:706](#)

# The Black Death in London, England, 1348–1349



# London Bill of Mortality, 26 Sept to 3 Oct 1665

The Diseases and Casualties this Week.		London 41		From the 26 of September to the 3 of October.	
		Day	Place	Day	Place
Borne	6			S George Bore Place	1 Bus. Pla.
Aged	50	S Alm. Woodliffe	1 13	S Martin Ludgate	1 10
Ague	1	S Allallows Buryng	1 14	S Martin Outwells	5 5
Apoxyele	2	S Allallows Green	1 15	S Martin Outwells	5 5
Chilidise	42	S Allallows Green	1 16	S Martin Vintner	4 4
Chromomes	11	S Allallows Lefford	1 17	S Maurice Frithfryder	5 0
Cold	1	S Allallows Lumbardis	1 18	S Michael Bawdell	0 7
Consumption	99	S Allallows Staining	1 19	S Michael Cokewall	4 5
Convallition	63	S Allallows St. Wal-	1 20	S Michael Cornde	4 5
Cough	1	lton	1 21	S Michael Cokewall	5 12
Dropole	22	S Andrew Bore	1 22	S Michael Queniborne	5 12
Drown'd at St. Martin in the Fields	1	S Andrew Alderber-	1 23	S Michael Riche	4 3
Feaver	268	thorpe	1 24	S Lawrence Pommeys	1 19
Fistula	2	S Andrew Waltham-	1 25	S Michael Riche	4 3
Flax and Small-pox	4	pe	1 26	S Michael Woodliffe	6 3
Flux	1	S Anne Blackbury	1 27	S Michael Woodliffe	4 4
Found dead in the Fields at St. Mary Hlington	1	S Anchola Parish	1 28	S Mervyn Bore	5 0
Males	68	S Andulus Parochie	1 29	S Mervyn Bore	4 2
Christned Females	28	S Bercholtone Churche	1 30	S Nicholas Cotesby	3 2
In all	146	S Bercholtone Churche	1 31	S Nicholas Oxley	8 8
Decreased in the burials this Week	1837	S Berne Gracechurch	1 32	S Olive Hawtree	13 14
Parishes clear of the Plague	7	S Berne Parochie	1 33	S Olive Jewy	7 6
		S Berne Shereinge	1 34	S Peter Ayliffe	4 4
		S Bonhills Buryng	1 35	S Peter Ayliffe	4 4
		S Cadeyngton	1 36	S Peter Chichester	1 1
		S Chichester	1 37	S Peter Cornewall	8 6
		S Clemon Eastchep	1 38	S Peter Paulifurst	10 10
		S Densis Backchurch	1 39	S Peter Paulifurst	9 8
		S Dorfolde	1 40	S Peter Paulifurst	7 4
		S Edmund Lambeth	1 41	S Swithin Colmanfry	4 7 8
		S Ethelwiche	1 42	S Swithin Walbun	5 5
		S Farnham	1 43	S Thome Aquelle	6 5
		S Fisher	1 44	S Trinity Perifit	10 9
		S Gabriel Fincharch	1 45		
christned in the 97 parishes within the walls			39 Buried	1149 Plague	948
christned in the 16 parishes without the walls					
S Andrew Holborn	173 151	S Boreholt Aldgate	37 138	Servius Southwark	364 352
S Barbolnew Great	17 115	S Boreholt Billongayre	13 52 12	S Sepulchre Fashe	137 95
S Barbolnew Little	7	S Dunfan West	63 59	S Thomas Southwark	40 36
S Bridge	52 67	S George Southwark	14 0 15	Trinity Minster	24 21
S Bredene Prentice	53 23	S Giles Crispengate	19 6 15	at the Pudding	6 6
S Brough Aldgate	71 63 15	S Olive Southwark	37 8 25		
christned in the 12 parishes within the walls		45 Buried, and at the parishes - 2258	Plague	1922	
S Giles in the fields	25 78	Lambeth Pois	49 39	S Mary Ellington	15 31
Jackey Perifit	74 12	S Leonard Shoreditch	15 92	S Mary Whetstone	328 301
James Clerkenwell	68 42	S Margelan Remondes	15 18	Rotherhithe Parish	21 18
Kath. near the Tower	5 39	S Maty Newington	81 81	Soupy Parish	674 631
christned in the 5 parishes in the City and Liberties of Westminster		40 Buried	1633 Plague	1469	
Clement Danse	12 8 310	S Martin in the fields	109 141	S Margaret Westminster	109 97
S Paul Cobert Garden	12 14 1	S Mary Savoy	19 16	Verre at the Pathway	4
christned in the 5 parishes in the City and Liberties of Westminster		18 Buried	650 Pl.	590	

## London Bill of Mortality, 26 Sept to 3 Oct 1665

Frighted	
Gowt	1
Grief	1
Griping in the Guts	3
Jaundies	35
Imposthume	2
Infants	8
Kingsevil	9
Mcagrome	2
Plague	5533
Purples	2
Ricketts	

# Mortality Bills are typically handwritten

London 29° From the 4° of July - to the 11° of this same 1665.									
	Buried	Plag.		Buried	Plag.		Buried	Plag.	
St Alban Woodstreet	2	1	St Clement Eastcheap	1			St Margaret Newfisht		St Michael Crookedla.
Alhallows Bark-	2		St Dionis Backchurch-	1			St Margaret Pattons-		4
Alhallows Breadstreet			St Dunstans East	2			St Mary Abchurch	1	3
Alhallows Great	1		St Edmund Lombardft.				St Mary Aldermanbury		
Alhallows Honilant-			St Ethelbrough	2			St Mary Aldermary		
Alhalow's Lessi-	1		St Faiths	1			St Mary le Bow		
Alhallows Lombardstr			St Gabriel Fenchurch				St Mary Bothaw		
Alhallows Staining	1		St George Borolphane				St Mary Colechurch		
Alhallows the Wall	4	3	St Gregories by St. Paul				St Mary Hill		
St Alphage			St Hellen	2	1		St Mary Mag. Milkft.		
St Andrew Hubbard			St James Dukes place	1			St Mary Mag. Oldfisht		
St Andrew Undershaft	3		St James Garlickhithe	1			St Mary Mountaw		
St Andrew Wardrobe			St John Baptist				St Mary Summerse	2	
St Anne Alderfae	1		St John Evangelist				St Mary Staining		
St Anne Blackfryers	7	6	St John Zichary				St Mary Woolchurch		
St Ancholins Parish			St Katharine Coleman	1			St Mary Woolnoth		
St Aufins Parith			St Katharine Creechur.				St Martins Iremongerl.		
St Barthol. Exchange	1		St Lawrence Jewry				St Martins Ludgate	2	1
St Bennet Fynck			St Lawrence Pountney				St Martins Orgars		
St Benner Gracechurch	2		St Leonard Ealchcheap				St Martins Outwich	1	
St Benner Paulswharf	7		St Leonard Fosterlane				St Martins Vintrey	1	
St Benner Sherehog			St Magnus Parish	1			St Matthew Frydaystr.		
St Borolph Billingsgate			St Margaret Lothbury.				St Michael Bassishaw		
Christ Church	5	3	St Margaret Moses				St Michael Cornhil		
St Christopheres									
Christened in the Parishes within the walls					Buried		86	Plague	28
St Andrew Holborn	60	40	St Borolph Aldergate	11	2	St George Southwark	13	4	St Sepulchres Parish
St Bartholomew Great	4	4	St Borolph Aldgate	24	4	St Giles Cripplegate	103	49	St Thomas Southwark
St Bartholomew Lessi-			St Borolph Bishopgate	37	20	St Olave Southwark	20	8	Trinity Minories
St Bridger.	24	17	St Dunstan West	19	9	St Saviour Southwark	21	1	At the Pesthouse
Bridewell Preinct									
Christened in the 16 Parishes without the walls					Buried		473	Plague	243
Christ's Church			St Kath. near the Tower	7	1	St Mary Islington	3	2	St Paul Shadwel
St John at Hackney	168	215	Lambeth Parish	21	13	St Mary Newington	16	3	Rotherhithe Parish
St Giles in the Fields			St Leonard d Shoreditch			St Mary Whitechappel			Stepney Parish
St James Clerkenwel	55	43	St Magdalen Bermond.	14					47
Christened in the 12 Out Parishes in Middlesex and Surrey					Buried		455	Plague	286

But handwriting is usually very clear

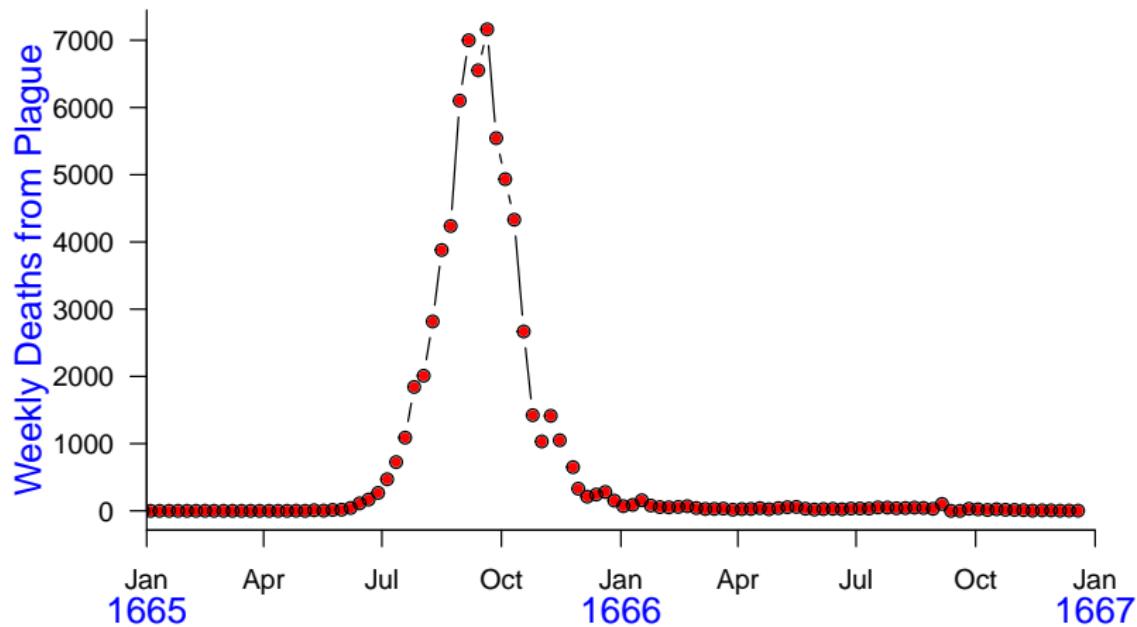
A historical ledger page from London, dated 29th [unclear]. The page is divided into columns for location, burials, and plague cases.

Location	Buried	Plag.
St Alban Woodstreet	2	1
Alhallows Bark-	2	
Alhallows Breadstreet	1	
Alhallows Great	1	

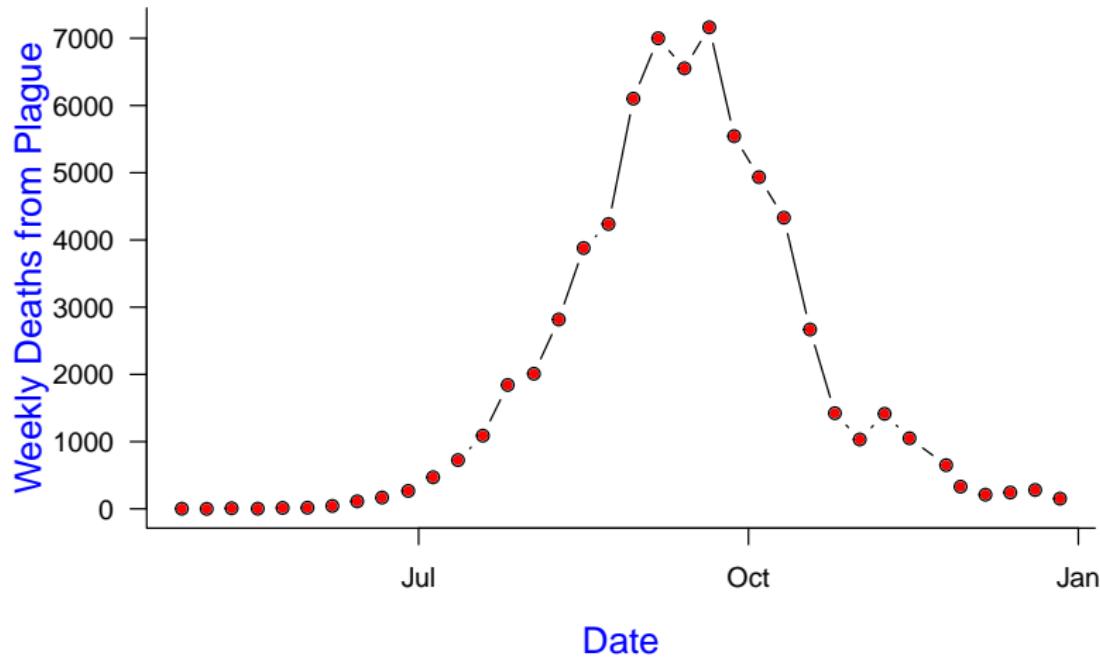
But handwriting is usually very clear

St Christopher's ———			
Christened in 97 the Parishes :			
St Andrew Holborn —	66	40	S
St Bartholomew Great	+	+	S
St Bartholomew Less —	+	+	S
St Bridget ——— —	24	17	S
Bridewell Precept —	1	1	S
Christened in the 15 Parishes :			

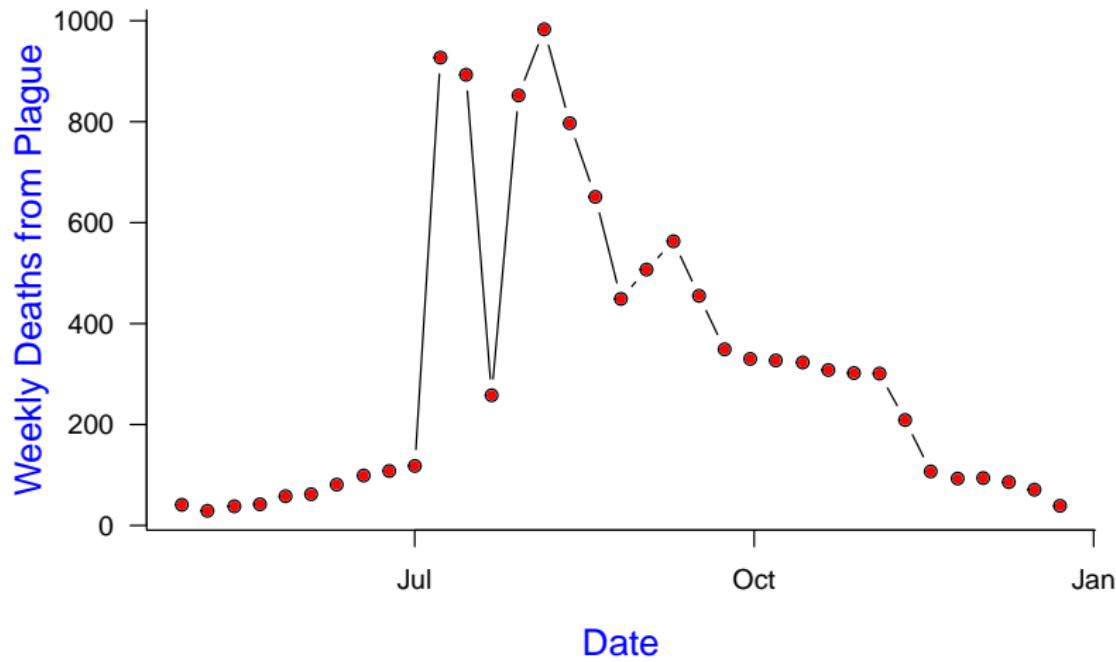
# The Great Plague of London, 1665



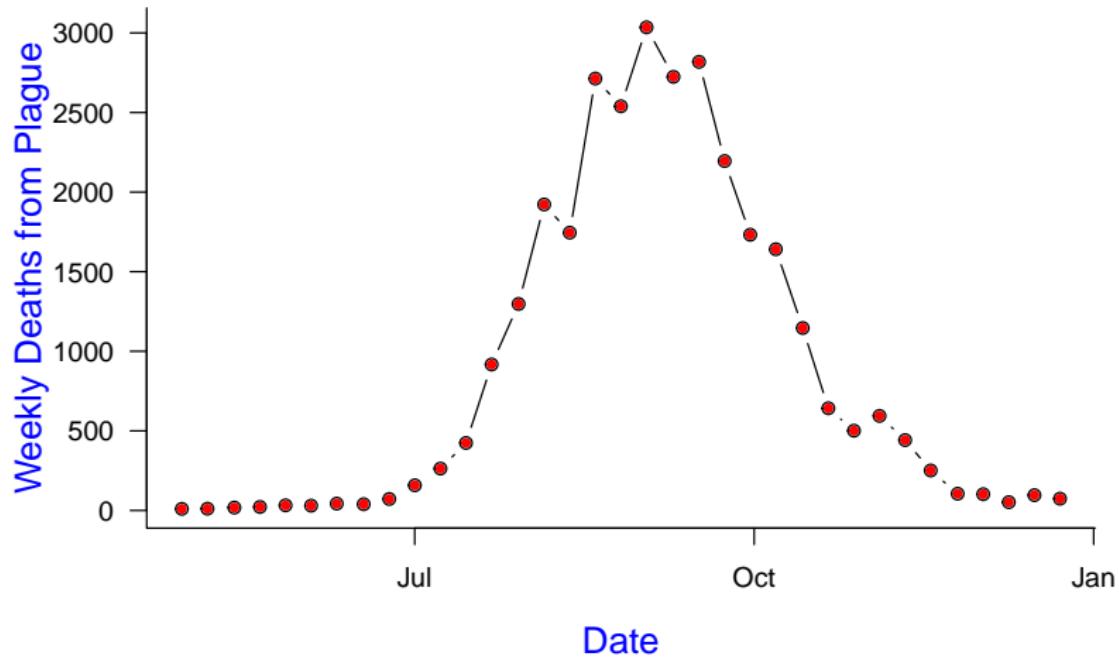
# The Great Plague of London, 1665



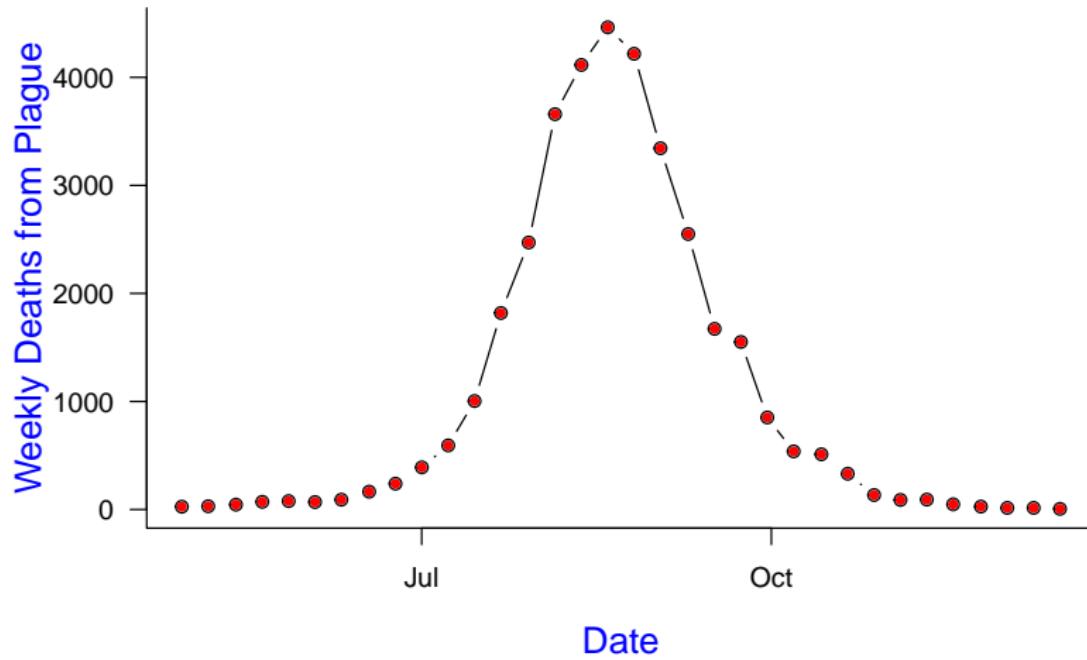
# London Plague of 1593



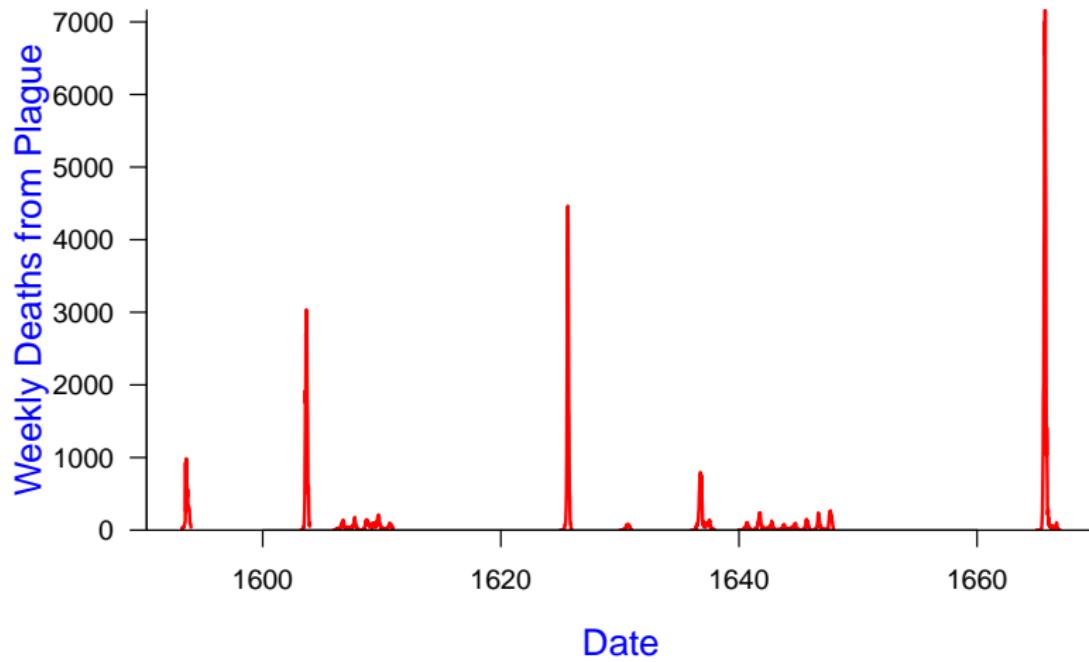
# London Plague of 1603



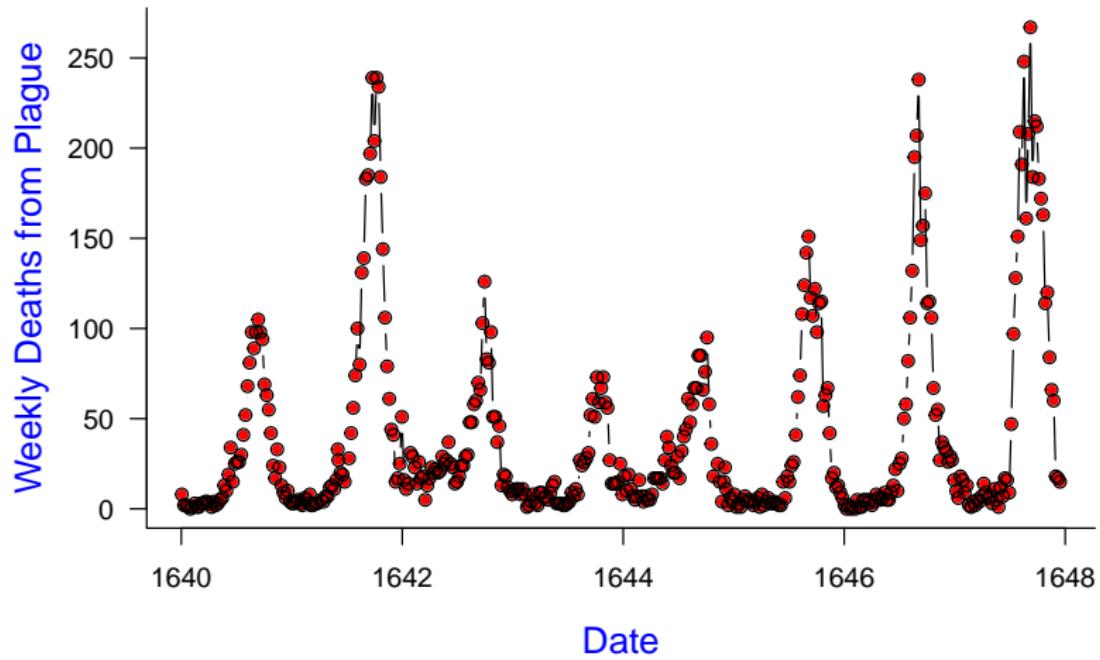
# London Plague of 1625



# Weekly Deaths from Plague in London, 1592–1666



# Weekly Plague in London, 1640–1648



# Some Plague Facts

- Plague epidemics recorded from Roman times to early 1900s.
- $\gtrsim 1/3$  Europe's population died in "Black Death" of 1348
  - $\sim 300$  years for the population to reach the same level.
- Recently (2011) established (at McMaster!) that the pathogen that caused The Black Death was *Yersinia pestis*

[Bos et al. 2011, *Nature* 478, 506–510]

- More recently (2014) established (again at McMaster!) that the pathogen that caused The Plague of Justinian (541–543 AD) was *Yersinia pestis*

[Wagner et al. 2014, *Lancet Infectious Diseases* 14, 319–326]

- *Y. pestis* still a concern?  
Yes: Rodent reservoir, antibiotic-resistant strains, bioterrorism
- **Spatial data** for any plagues? Yes, for London in 1665...

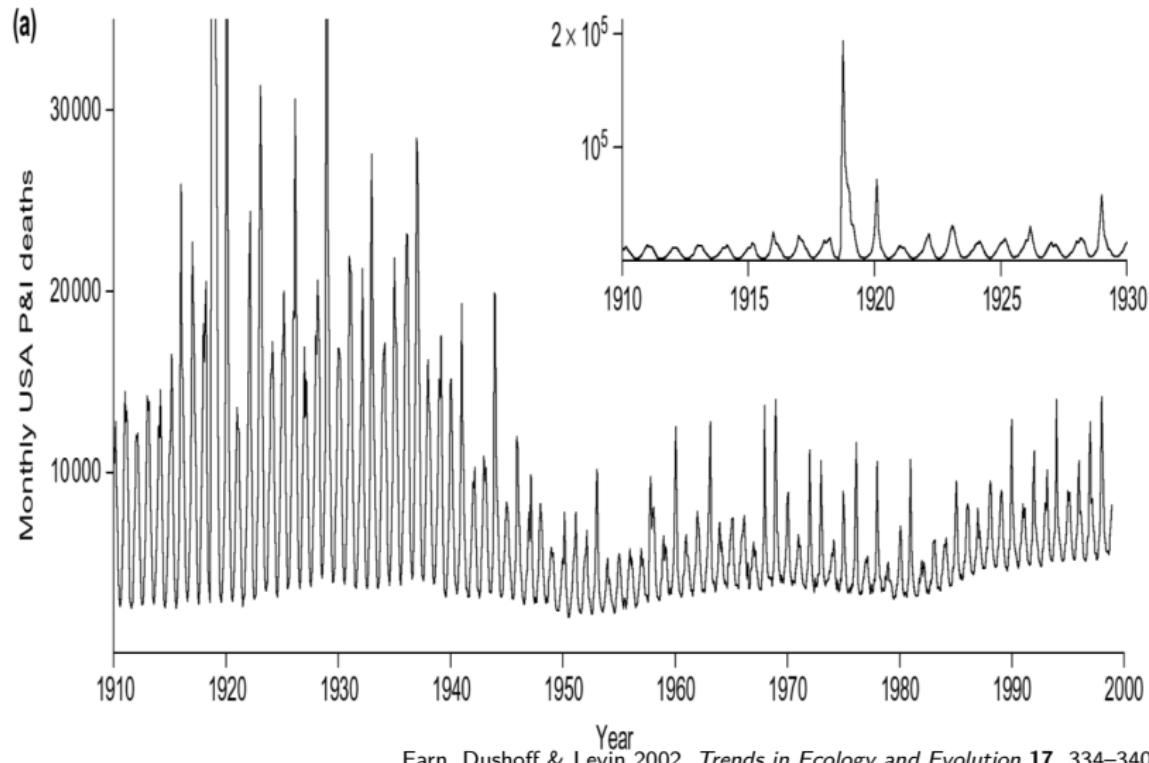
# Visualization of spatial structure of Great Plague

- GIS encoding of parish boundaries
- Overlay parish boundaries on more modern map for reference
- Colour parishes as they become infected
- Is there evidence for spatial spread or was the spatial pattern random?
- DE low-tech animation...
- CBC high-tech animation...
  - *The Nature of Things*, 21 August 2014.  
[http://www.cbc.ca/natureofthings/episodes/  
secrets-in-the-bones-the-hunt-for-the-black-death-killer](http://www.cbc.ca/natureofthings/episodes/secrets-in-the-bones-the-hunt-for-the-black-death-killer)

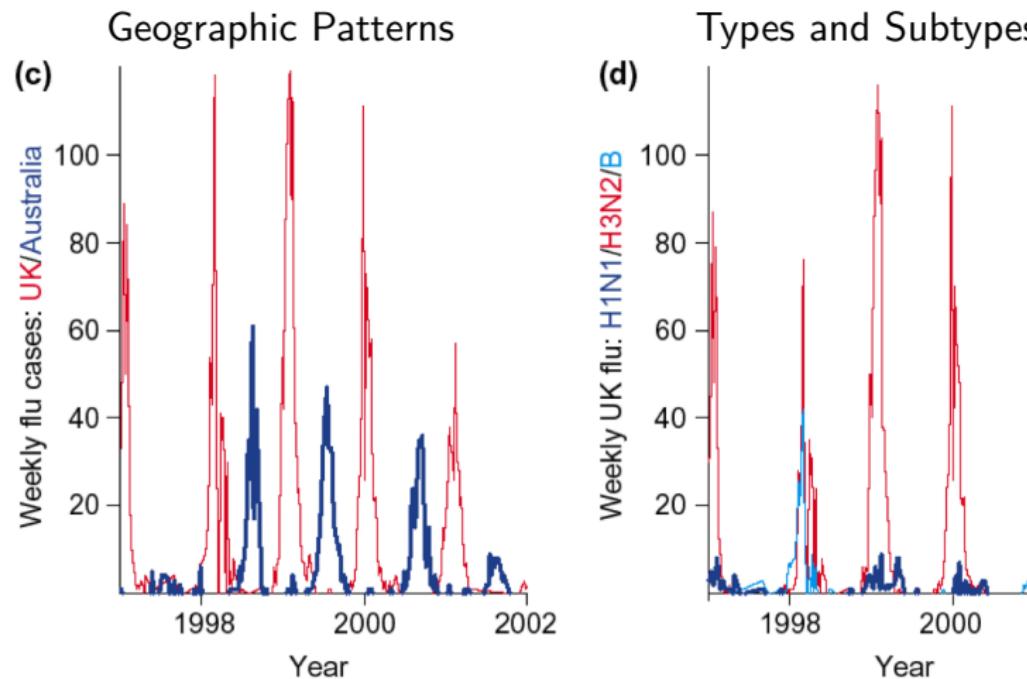
# Visualization of entire course of the Great Plague

- What happened after initial spatial spread?
- Visualize full spatial epidemic structure
- Show magnitude of epidemic in each parish with cylinder.
- [Epidemic Visualization](#) (EpiVis) software by Junling Ma.

# P&I mortality in U.S.A., 1910–1998



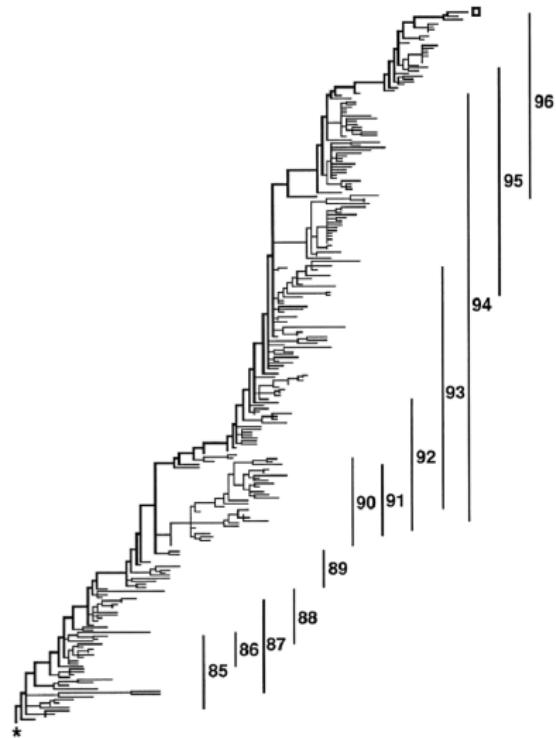
# Influenza Incidence Patterns (lab confirmed)



Earn, Dushoff & Levin 2002, *Trends in Ecology and Evolution* 17, 334–340

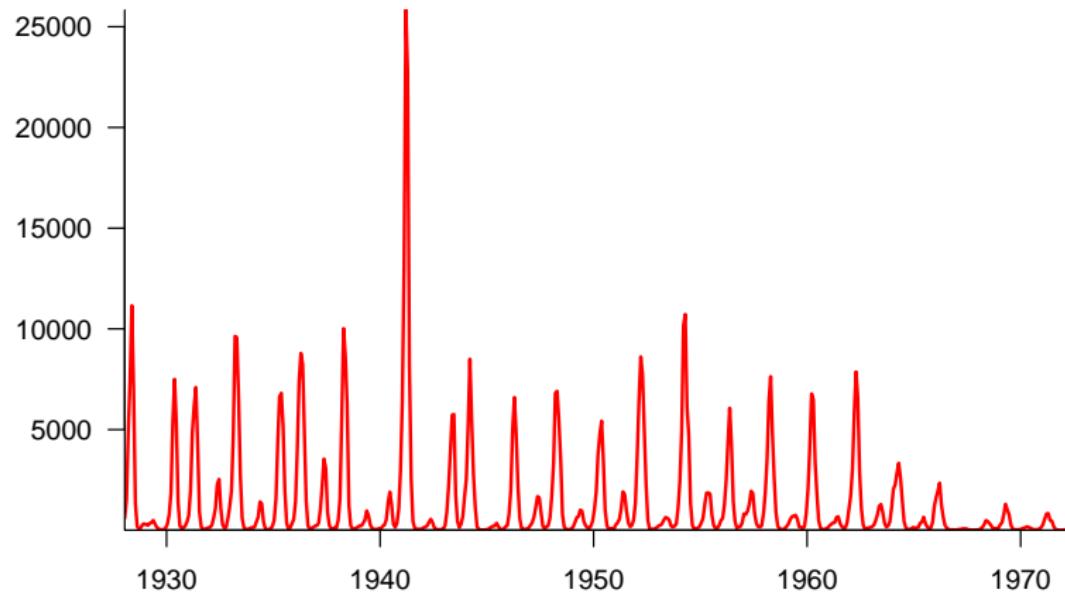
# Influenza Evolution

Molecular phylogenetic reconstruction of influenza A/H3N2 evolution, 1985–1996 (Fitch *et al.* 1997)



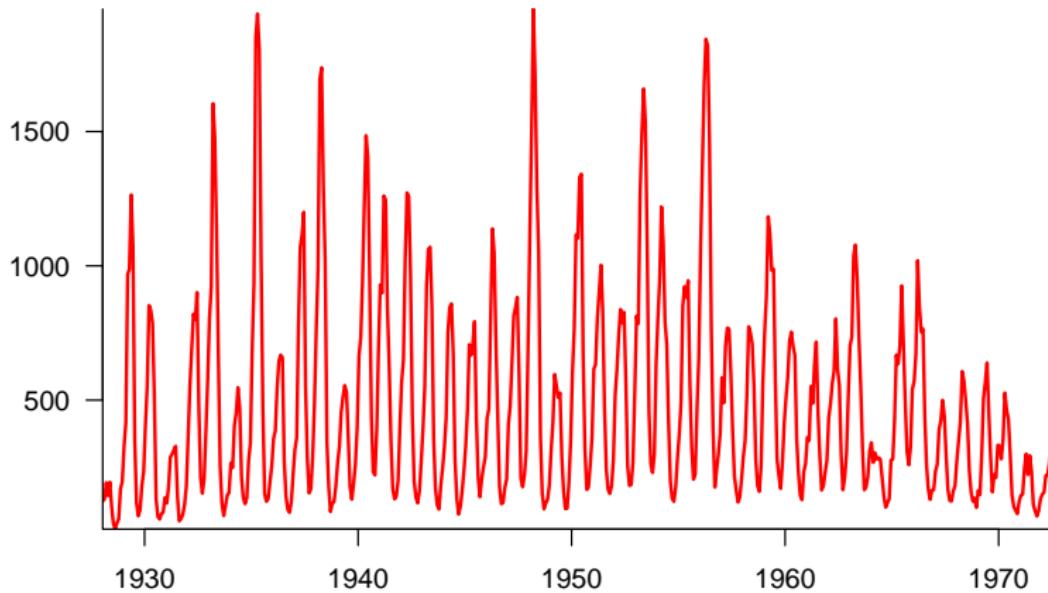
# Measles in New York City, 1928–1972

## Monthly Cases



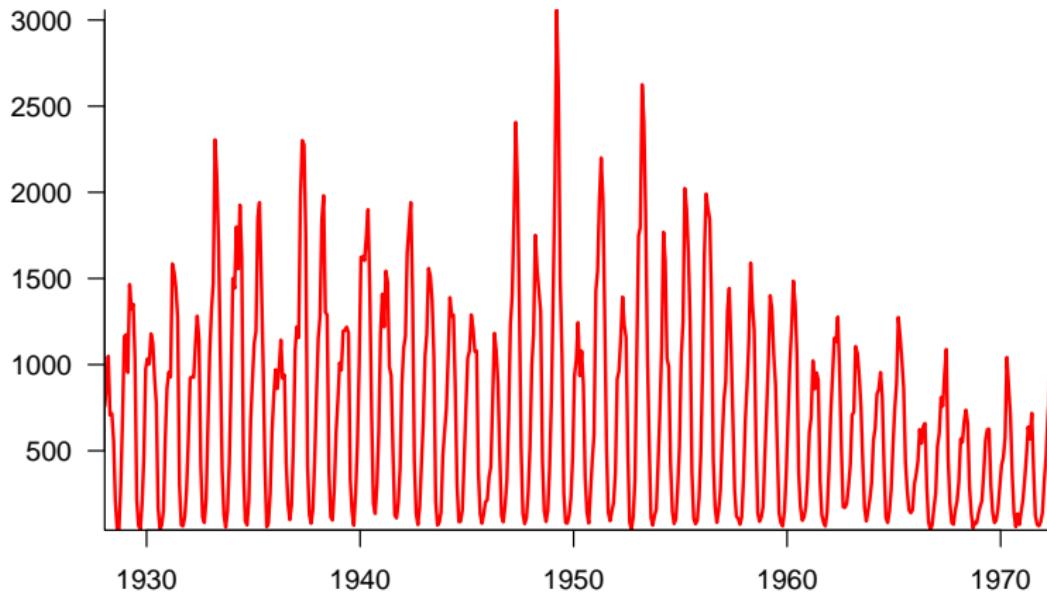
# Mumps in New York City, 1928–1972

Monthly Cases

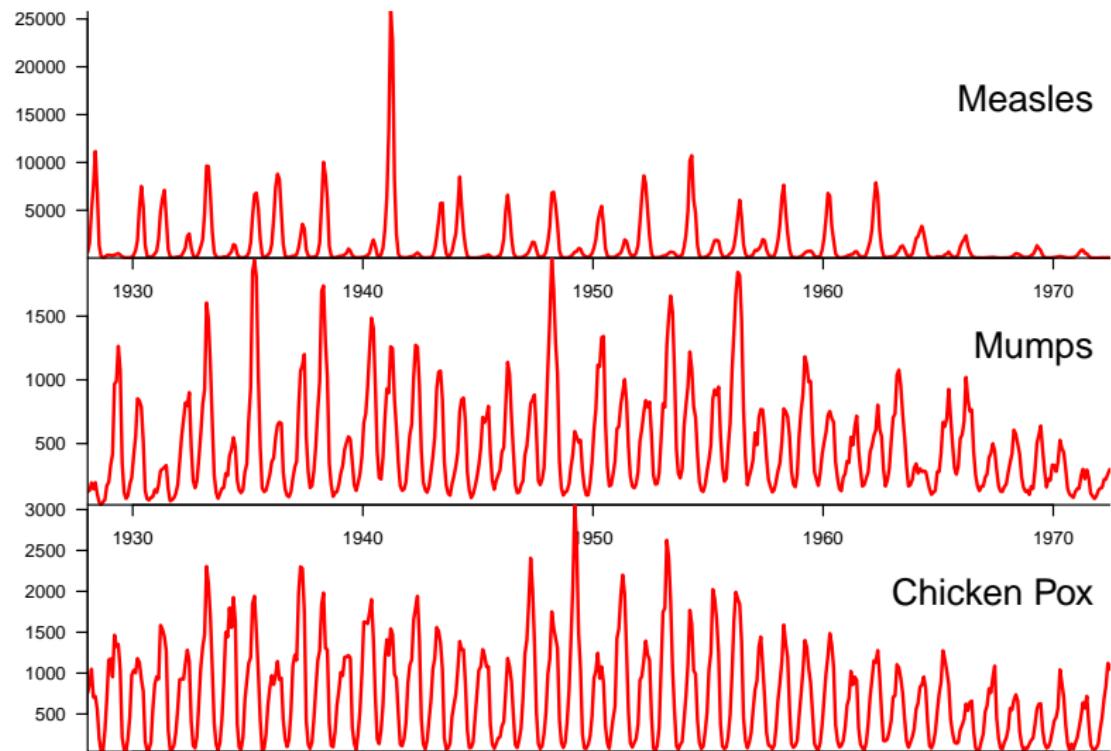


# Chicken Pox in New York City, 1928–1972

## Monthly Cases

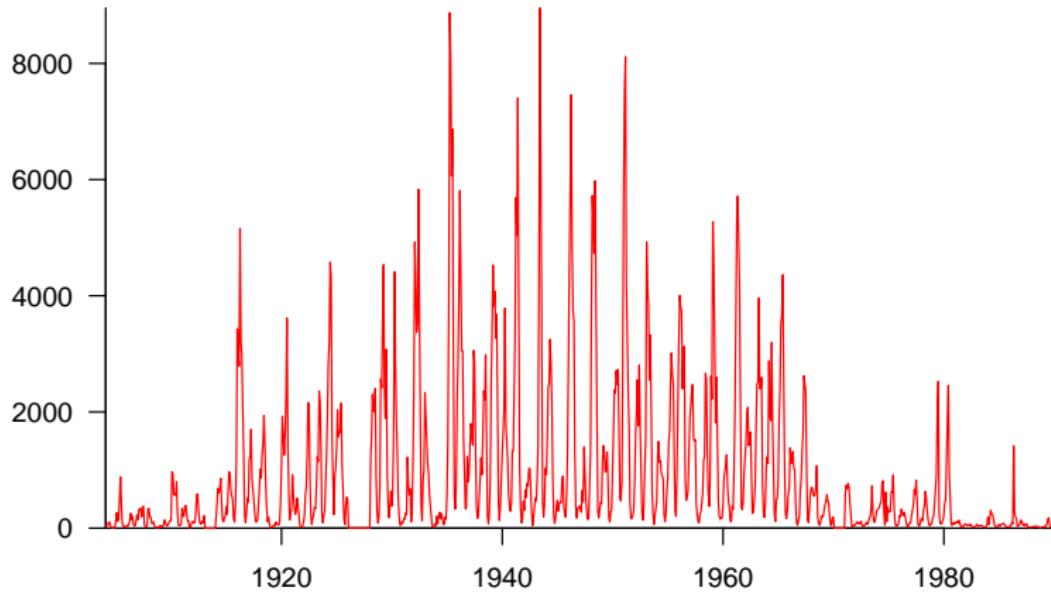


# Childhood diseases in New York City, 1928–1972



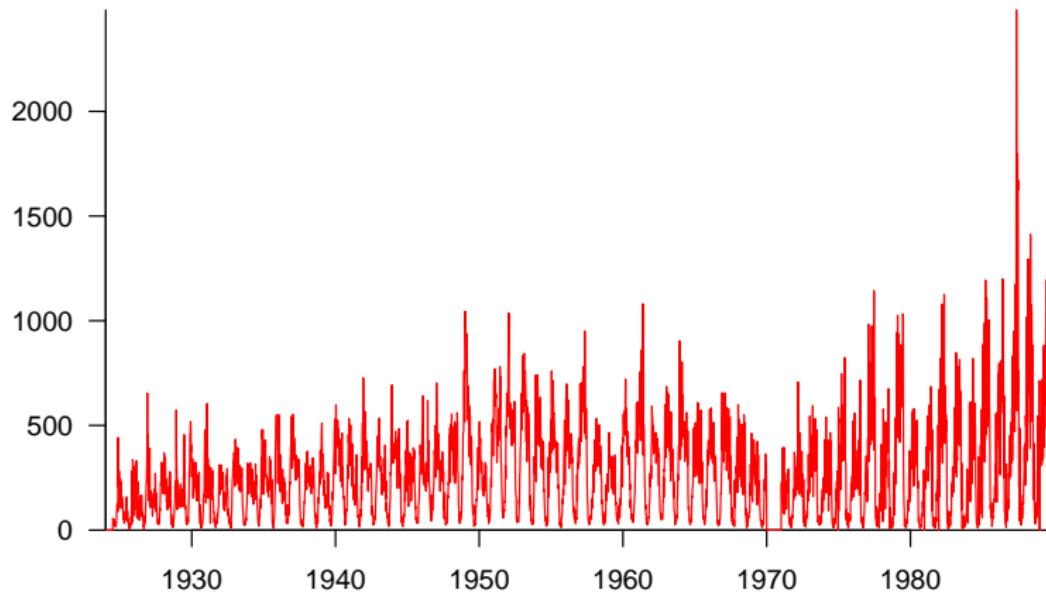
# Measles in Ontario, 1904–1989

## Monthly Cases



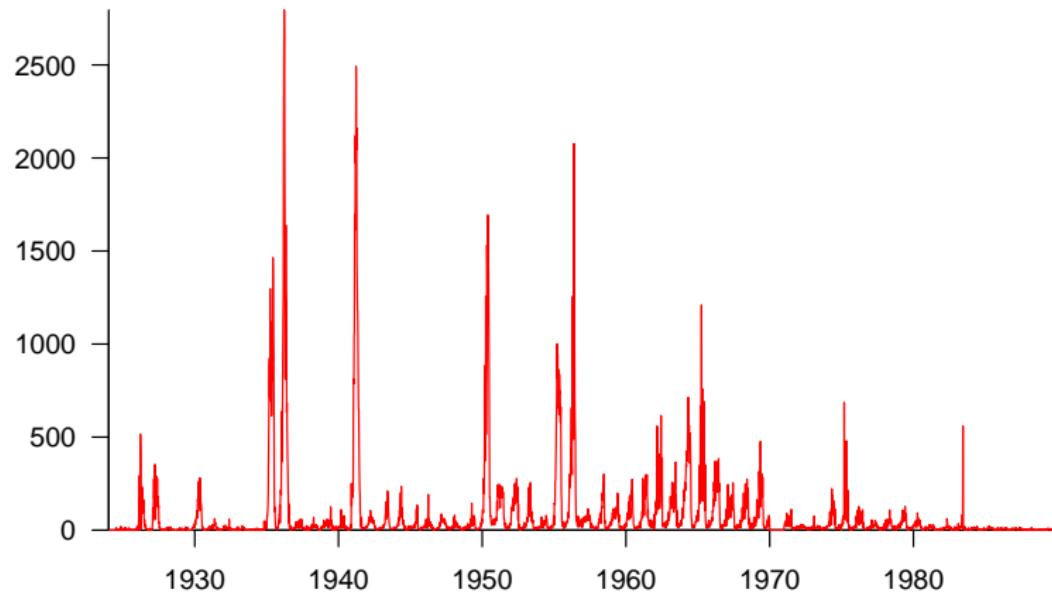
# Chicken Pox in Ontario, 1924–1989

## Monthly Cases



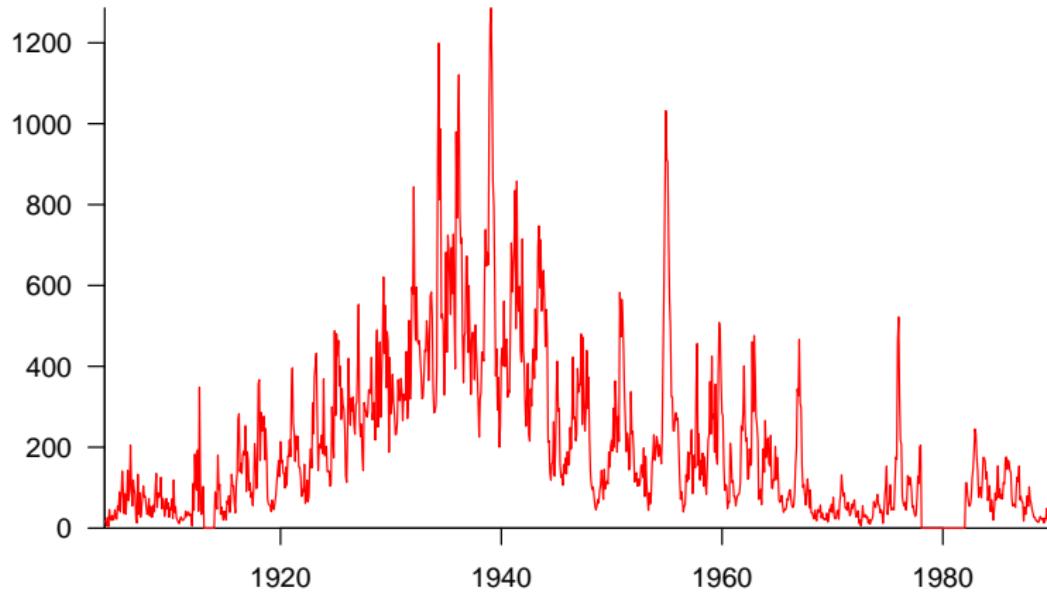
# Rubella in Ontario, 1924–1989

## Weekly Cases

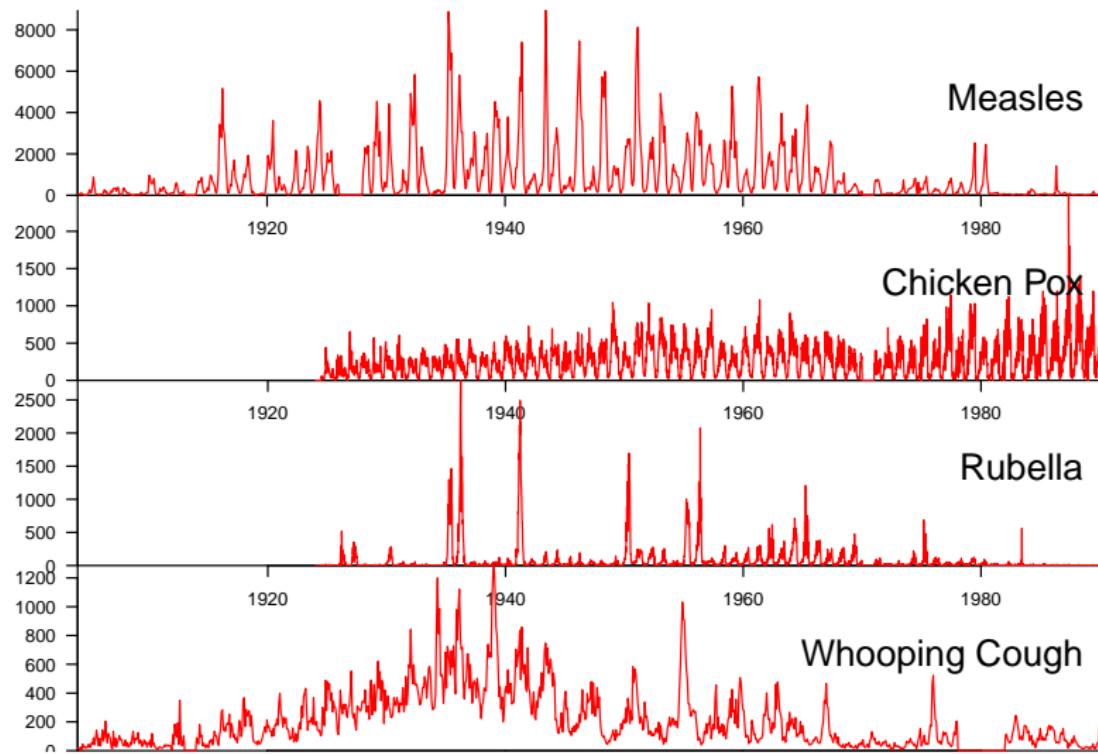


# Whooping Cough in Ontario, 1904–1989

## Monthly Cases



# Childhood diseases in Ontario, 1904–1989



Ontario Disease Notification Data

# Dominion Bureau of Statistics Disease Notification Data

## VITAL STATISTICS BRANCH - COMMUNICABLE DISEASE SECTION

Cases of *Whooping Cough*... Reported by Provincial Health Departments, Year 1924

WEEK ENDING	P.E.I.	N.S.	N.B.	QUE.	ONT.	MAN.	SASK.	ALTA.	B.C.	CANADA
WEEK 1	11						1			12
2	12	29					18			47
3	19	37					32			69
4	26	75 152		68	181	36	13 64	97	4 88 602	
5 FEB 2	12	1					53			66
6	1	5					40			45
7	16	31					14			45
8	23	- 2 50 1 2	267	202	48	4 111	116	1	7 797	
9 MAR 1	2						21			23
10	9						9			9
11	15	3					11			14
12	22	60					34			94
13	29	2 61		144	140	52 15 90	15	7	17 515	
14 APR 5	9						11			20
15	12	1					12			13
16	19	26	1				8			35
17	26	14 50 3 4	42	140	39 16 47	67	5	33 394		
18 MAY 3	26						2			28

# All Historical Canadian Infectious Disease Data

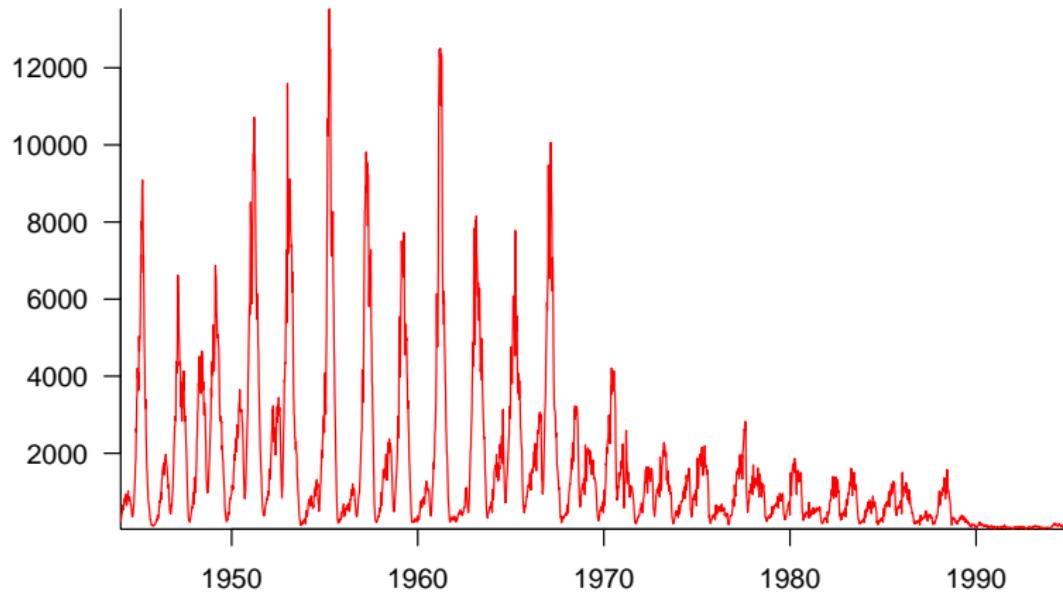
<https://canmod.net/digitization/>

# Recurrent epidemics of childhood infections

- Childhood diseases in New York City, 1928–1972
- Childhood diseases in Ontario, 1904–1989

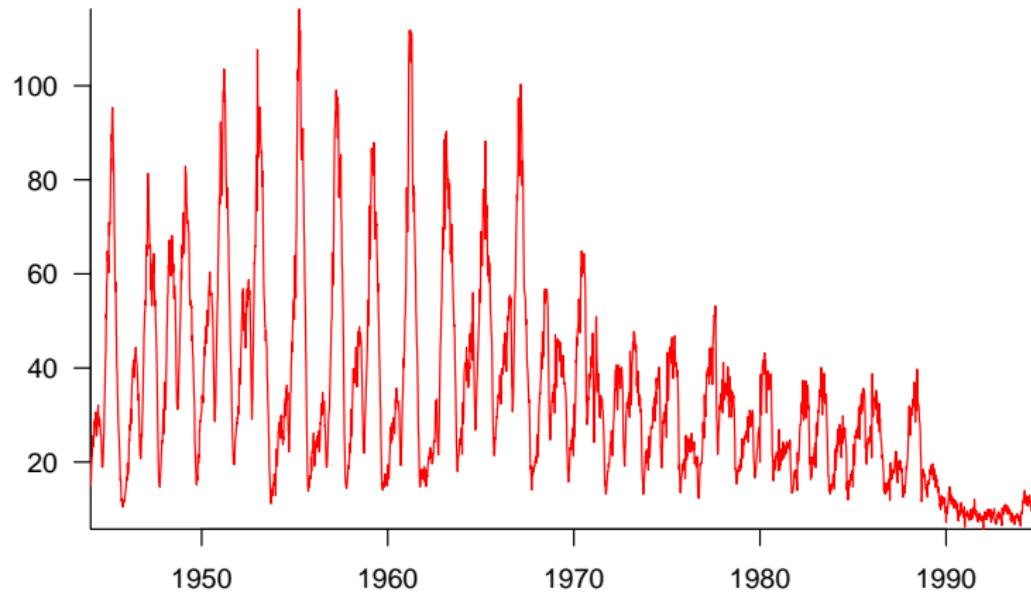
# Measles incidence in England and Wales, 1944–1995

Weekly Cases



# Measles incidence in England and Wales, 1944–1995

Sqrt(Weekly Cases)



# Why study measles epidemics?

- ~ 140,000 annual deaths from measles
- A major cause of *vaccine-preventable* deaths.
- Potential impact in developed countries during vaccine scares (e.g., MMR scare in UK in 1990s).
  
- Understand past patterns
- Predict future patterns
- Manipulate future patterns
- Develop vaccination strategy that can...



# Other reasons to model infectious disease epidemics

- Mathematical models make hypotheses and inferences precise
  - Give better advice to policymakers
  - Make better predictions
- Host-pathogen dynamics are important aspects of ecosystem dynamics
  - Infectious disease models more likely to be successful than predator-prey models
- Excellent data for human infectious diseases
  - Models can be tested!

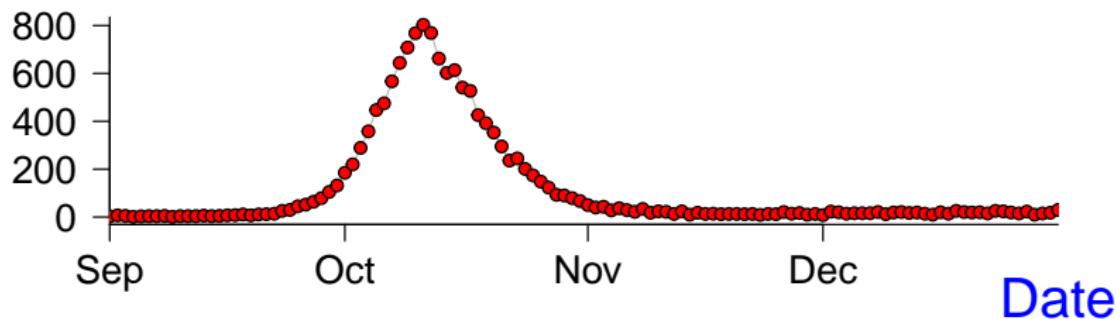
# Modelling population dynamics of childhood infections

- The basic SIR model cannot explain recurrent epidemics.
- What should we do?... The usual options:
  - 1 Get depressed, drop the course.
  - 2 Keep developing models until we can explain recurrent epidemics.
- First, let's talk about tools that allow us to make our questions about time series data more precise.

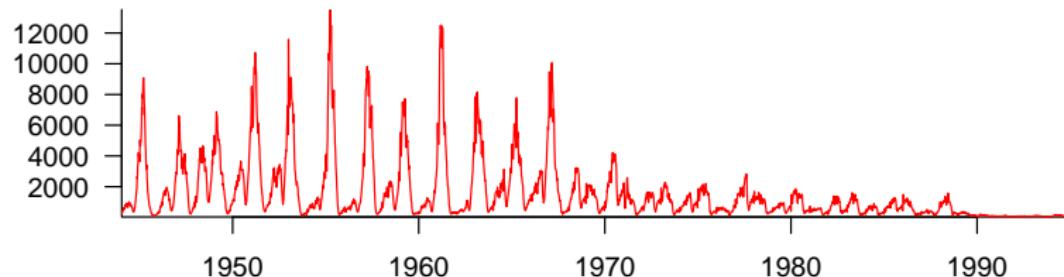
# Epidemic Data Analysis

# Time Plots of Temporal Epidemic Patterns

## 1918 P&I

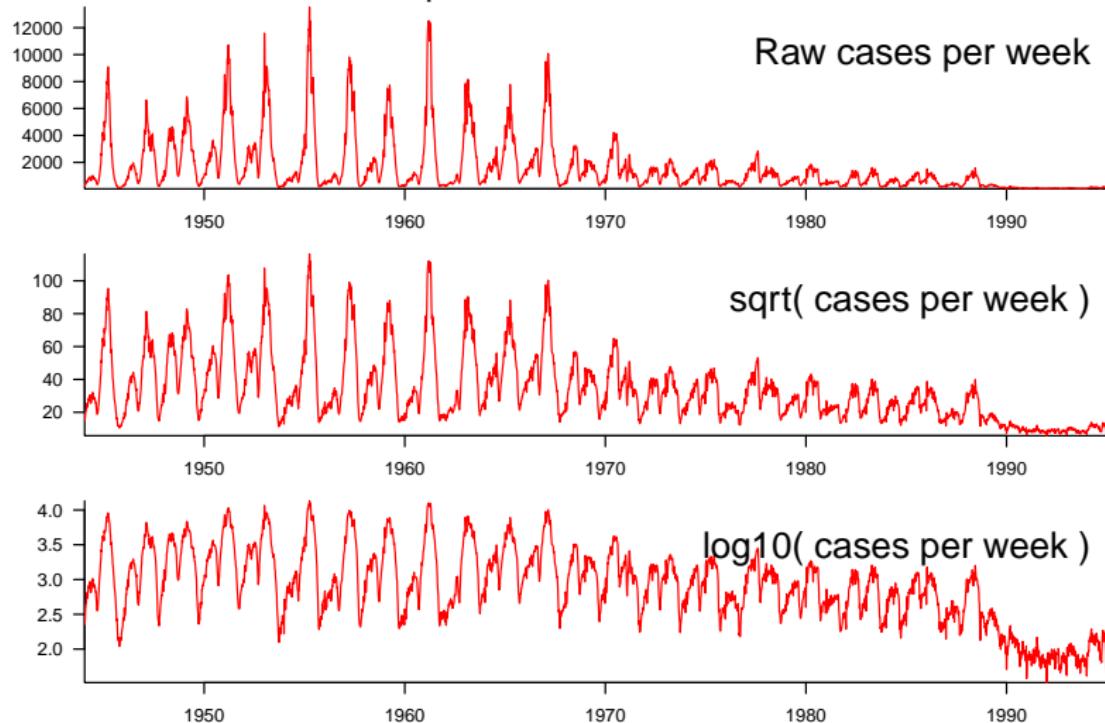


## Weekly Measles in England and Wales



# Time Plots of Transformed Data

- Reveal unobvious aspects of time series



# Times Plots of Smoothed Data

- Reveal trends clouded by noise or seasonality
- *Moving Average:*

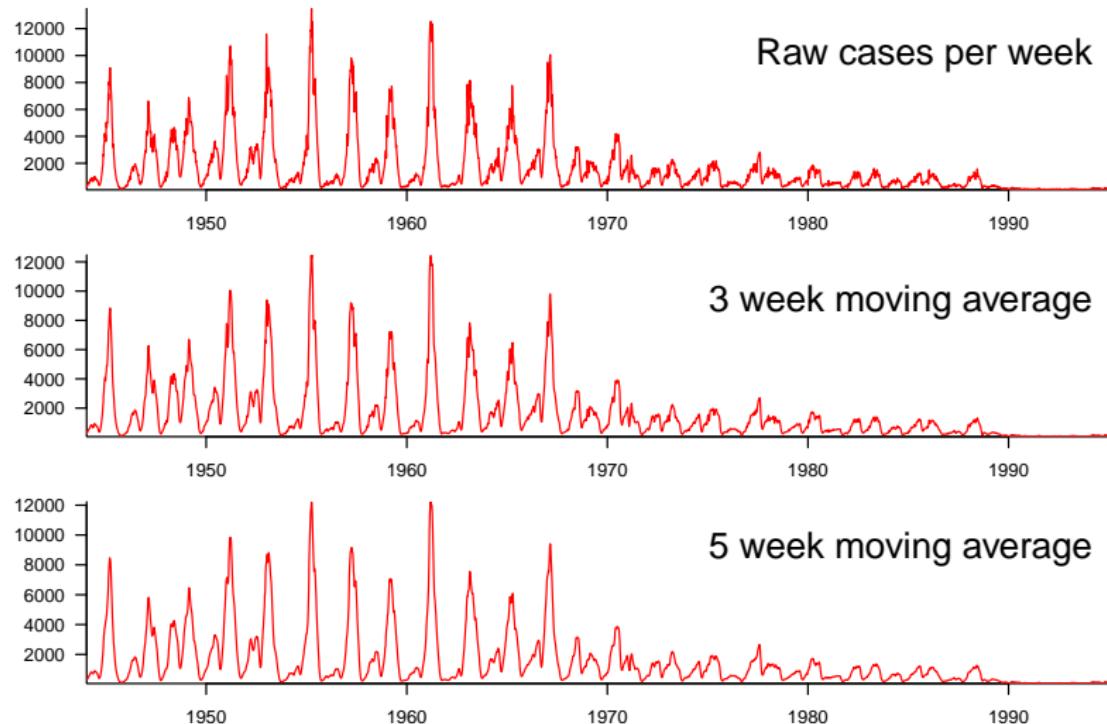
$$x_t \rightarrow \frac{1}{2a+1} \sum_{i=-a}^a x_{t+i}$$

- Replace original data points  $x_t$  with averages of nearby points.
- *Linear filter:*

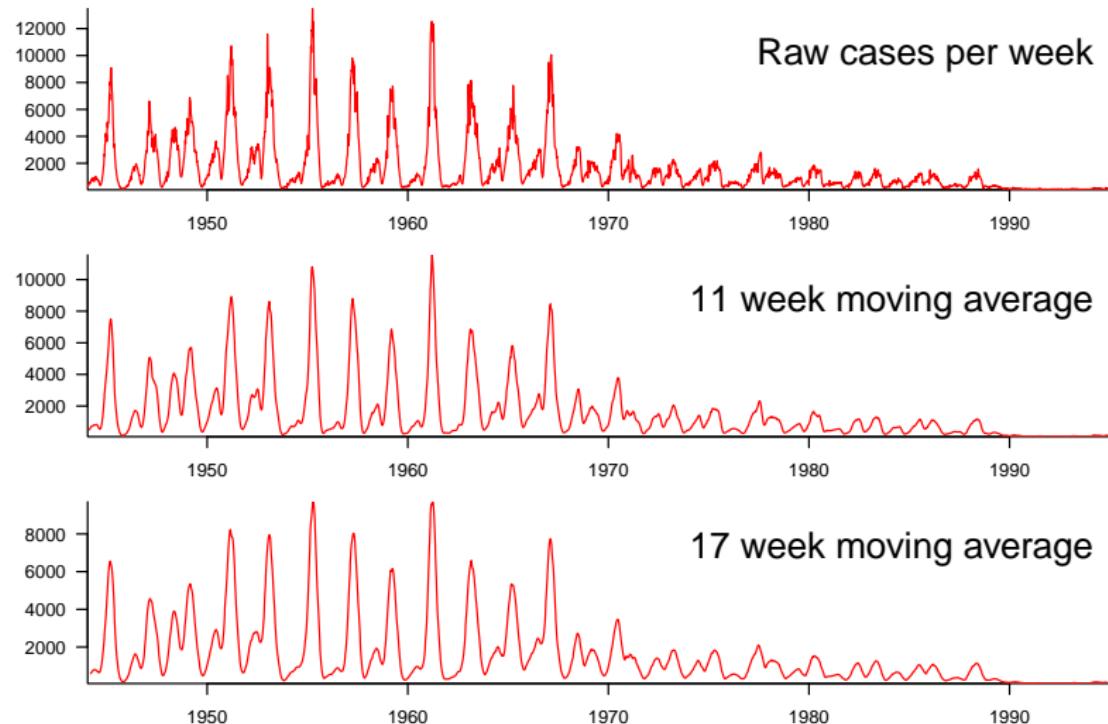
$$x_t \rightarrow \sum_{i=-\infty}^{\infty} \lambda_i x_{t+i}$$

- Generalization of moving average.
- Weights  $\lambda_i$  can be nonlinear functions of  $i$ .

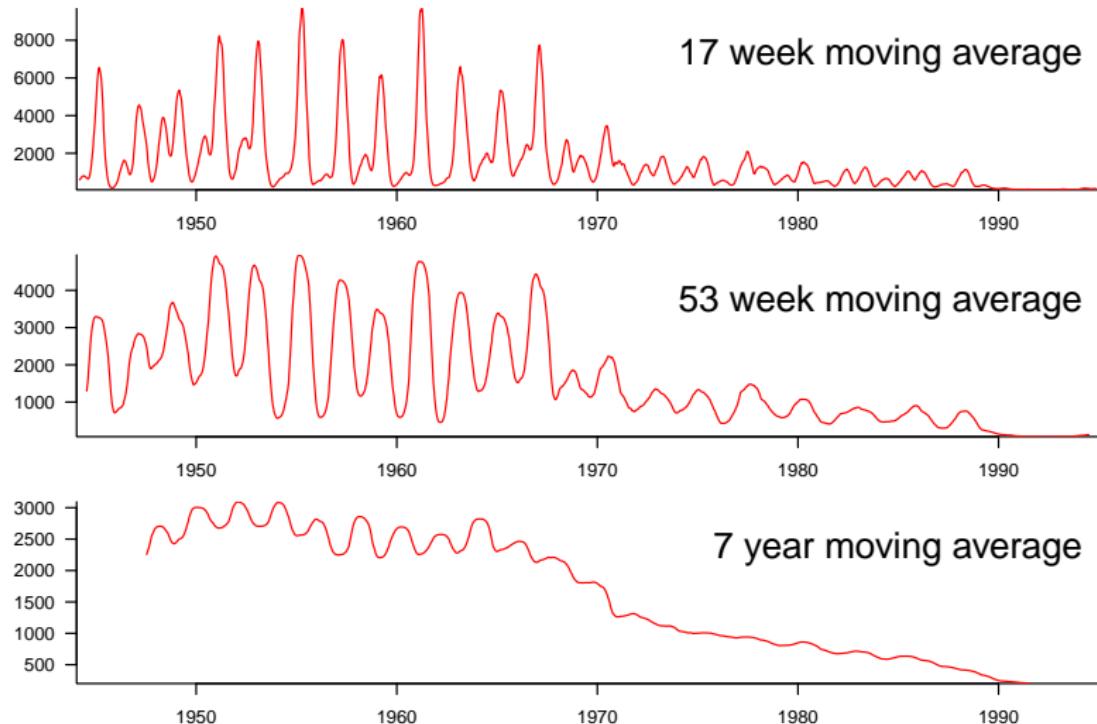
# Times Plots of Smoothed Data



# Times Plots of Smoothed Data



# Times Plots of Smoothed Data



# Correlation

- Recurrent epidemics  $\implies$  number of cases now is correlated with number of cases in the past and the future.
- Given  $N$  pairs of observations of different quantities,  $\{(x_i, y_i) : i = 1, \dots, N\}$ , the *correlation coefficient* is defined to be

$$r = \frac{\sum_{i=1}^N (x_i - \bar{x})(y_i - \bar{y})}{\sqrt{\sum_{i=1}^N (x_i - \bar{x})^2 \sum_{i=1}^N (y_i - \bar{y})^2}}$$

where  $\bar{x}$  and  $\bar{y}$  are the means of  $\{x_i\}$  and  $\{y_i\}$ , respectively.

# Correlation

*Properties of the correlation coefficient:*

- $-1 \leq r \leq 1$       (Proof? [Cauchy-Schwarz inequality](#))
- $r = 1 \iff$  all points lie on a line with positive slope ("complete positive correlation")
- $r = -1 \iff$  all points lie on a line with negative slope ("complete negative correlation")
- $r \simeq 0 \implies$  "uncorrelated"
- *Interpretation:*  $r^2$  is the proportion of the variance in  $y$  explained by a linear function of  $x$ .

*Derivations and discussions:*

- [MathWorld on  \$r^2\$](#) ,      [Wikipedia on  \$r^2\$](#)
- [Wikipedia on general coefficient of determination](#)

# Autocorrelation

- Given a single sequence of observations  $\{x_t : t = 1, \dots, N\}$ , we can compute the correlation of each observation with the observation  $k$  time steps in the future.
- Thus, we consider the pairs of observations  $\{(x_t, x_{k+t}) : t = 1, \dots, N - k\}$  and define the *autocorrelation coefficient at lag  $k$*  to be

$$r_k = \frac{\sum_{t=1}^{N-k} (x_t - \bar{x}_{1,N-k})(x_{k+t} - \bar{x}_{k+1,N})}{\sqrt{\sum_{t=1}^{N-k} (x_t - \bar{x}_{1,N-k})^2 \sum_{t=1}^{N-k} (x_{k+t} - \bar{x}_{k+1,N})^2}}$$

where  $\bar{x}_{1,N-k}$  and  $\bar{x}_{k+1,N}$  are the means of first and last  $N - k$  observations, respectively.

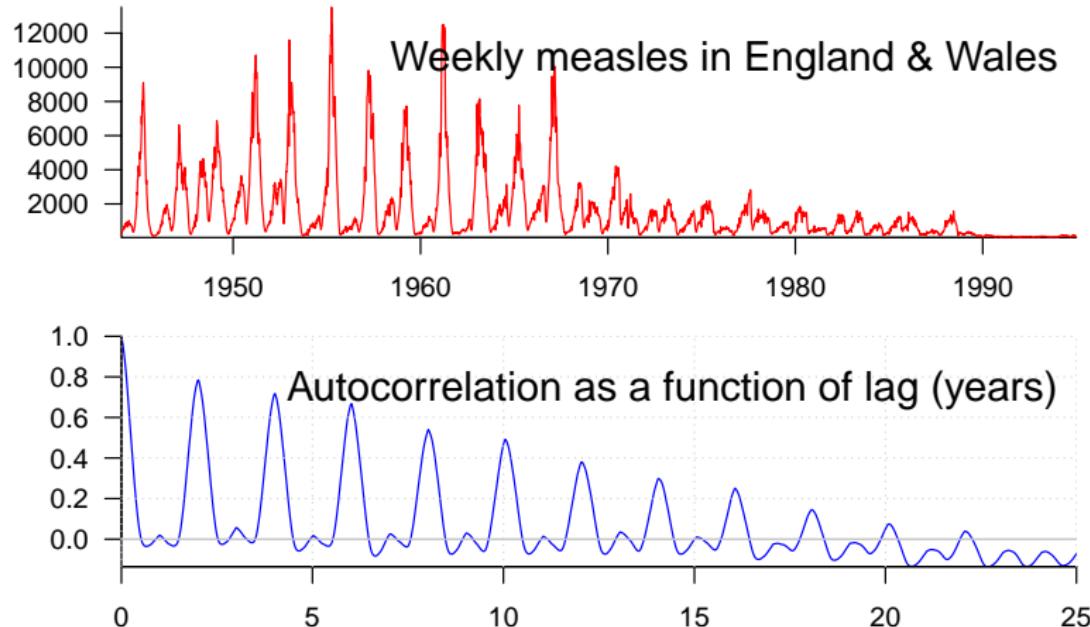
# Autocorrelation

- If number of observations  $N$  is large and lag  $k \ll N$  then

$$r_k \simeq \frac{\sum_{t=1}^{N-k} (x_t - \bar{x})(x_{k+t} - \bar{x})}{\sum_{t=1}^N (x_t - \bar{x})^2}$$

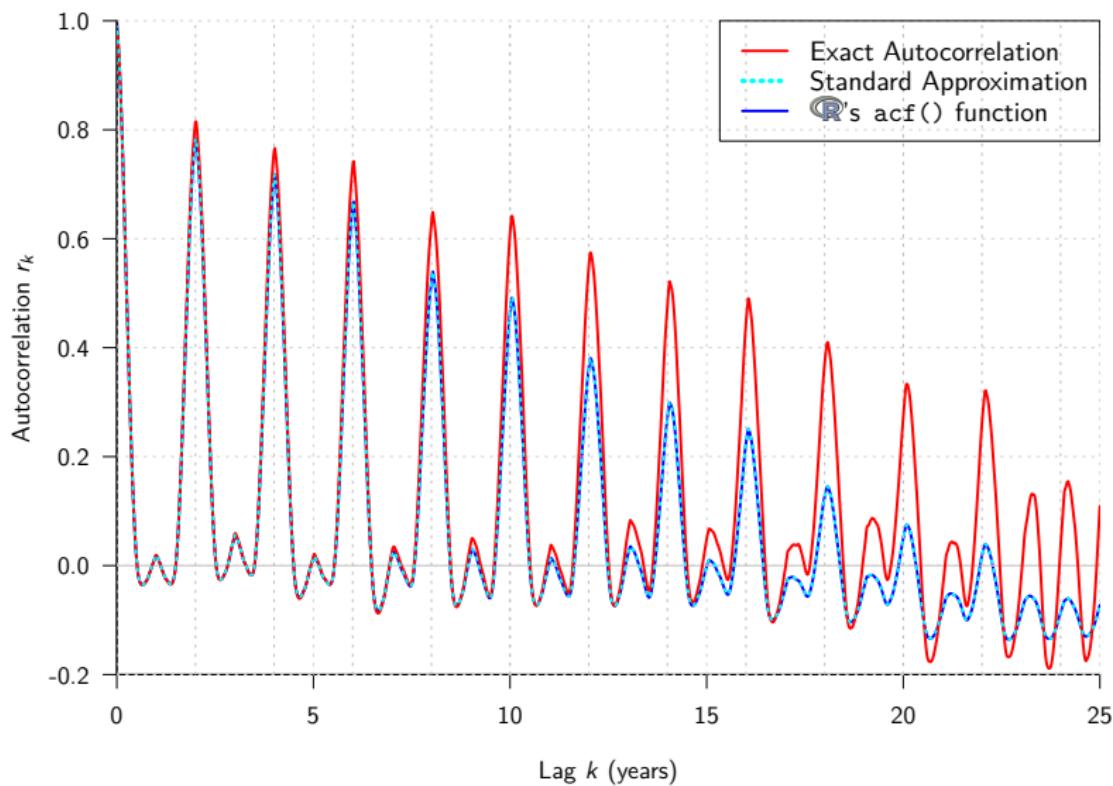
- Approximation of  $r_k$  is worse for larger lags  $k$
- Plot of autocorrelation  $r_k$  as a function of lag  $k$  is called the *correlogram*.

# Correlogram



- Peaks in correlogram  $\implies$  periodicities in original time series.
- Correlograms of temporal segments are often informative.

# Correlogram: exact vs. approximate $r_k$



# Spectral Density

- Can we compute the dominant periods in the time series?  
(Rather than estimating them by eye from the [correlogram](#).)
- Express the time series as a [Fourier series](#):

$$x_t = a_0 + \left( \sum_{p=1}^{(N/2)-1} (a_p \cos \omega_p t + b_p \sin \omega_p t) \right) + a_{N/2} \cos \pi t,$$

where  $\omega_p = 2\pi p/N$ .

- Compute the [Fourier coefficients](#)  $\{a_p\}$ ,  $\{b_p\}$  by taking inner products with  $\cos \omega_p t$  and  $\sin \omega_p t$ .

# Spectral Density

- Fourier coefficients of  $x_t$  are:

$$a_0 = \bar{x} = \frac{1}{N} \sum_t x_t ,$$

$$a_p = \frac{2}{N} \sum_t x_t \cos \omega_p t , \quad b_p = \frac{2}{N} \sum_t x_t \sin \omega_p t ,$$

$$a_{N/2} = \frac{1}{N} \sum_t (-1)^t x_t ,$$

where sum is over observation times.

- Estimated power spectral density (PSD) at frequency  $\omega_p$  is\*:

$$I(\omega_p) = \frac{N}{4\pi} (a_p^2 + b_p^2)$$

\*The normalization by  $N/4\pi$  is the convention chosen by Chatfield (2004, "Analysis of Time Series: An Introduction"). Other normalization conventions are also in common use.

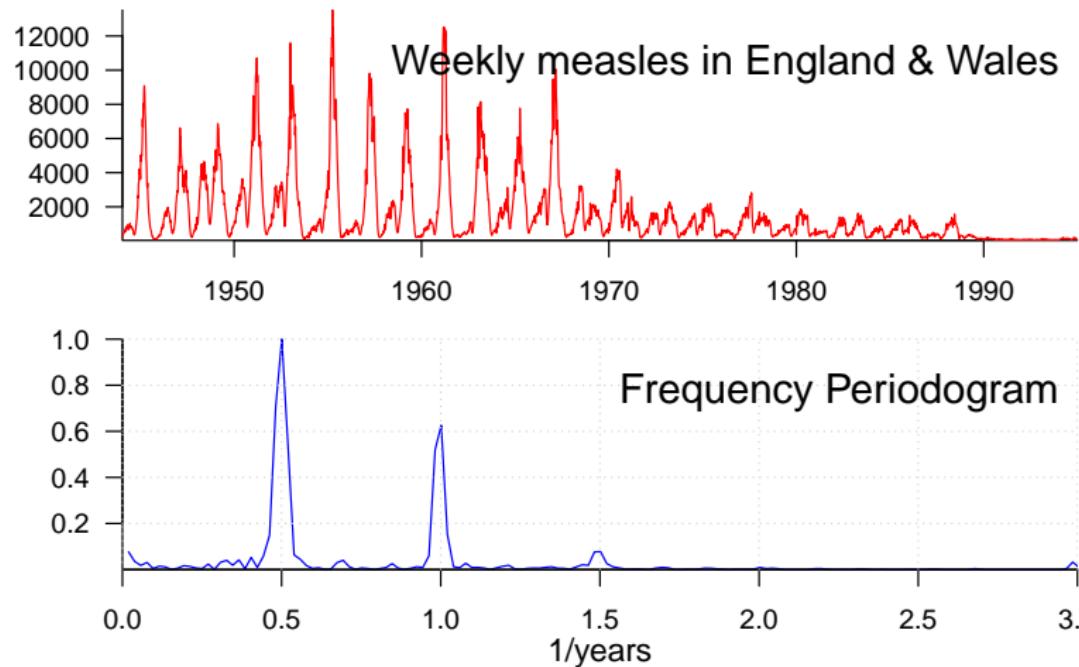
# Spectral Density

- There are many different ways to express the power spectral density (aka *power spectrum*).
- Most common/useful equivalence is that the power spectrum is the discrete Fourier transform of the correlogram:

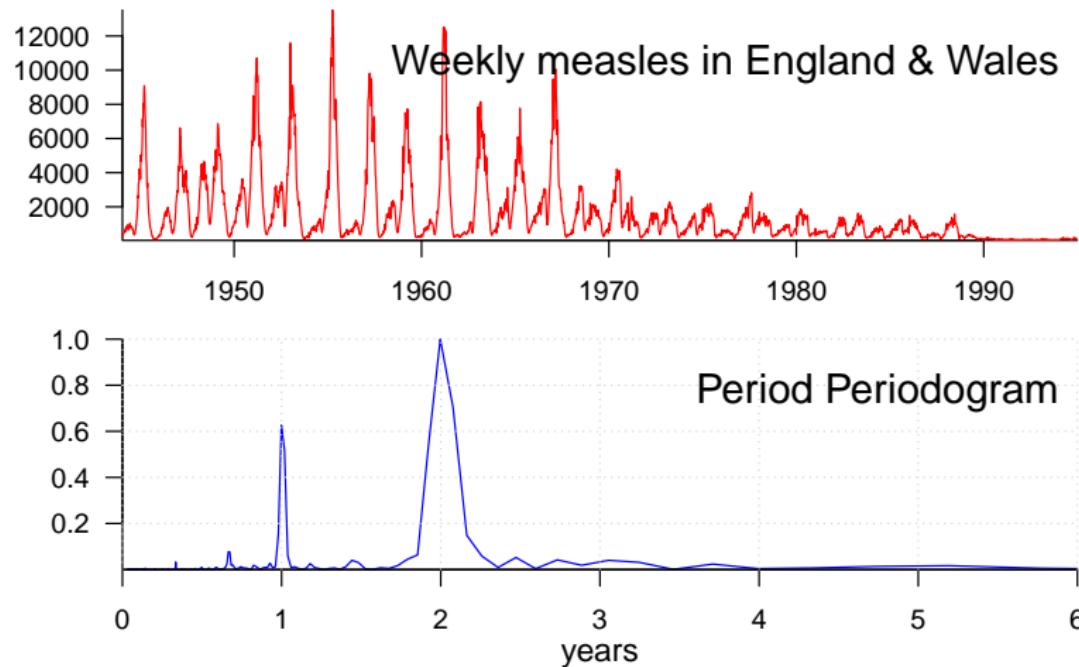
$$I(\omega_p) = \frac{1}{\pi} \left( r_0 + 2 \sum_{k=1}^{N-1} r_k \cos \omega_p k \right)$$

- Plot of estimated power spectrum as a function of frequency  $\omega_p$  is called the *frequency periodogram* or just the *periodogram*.

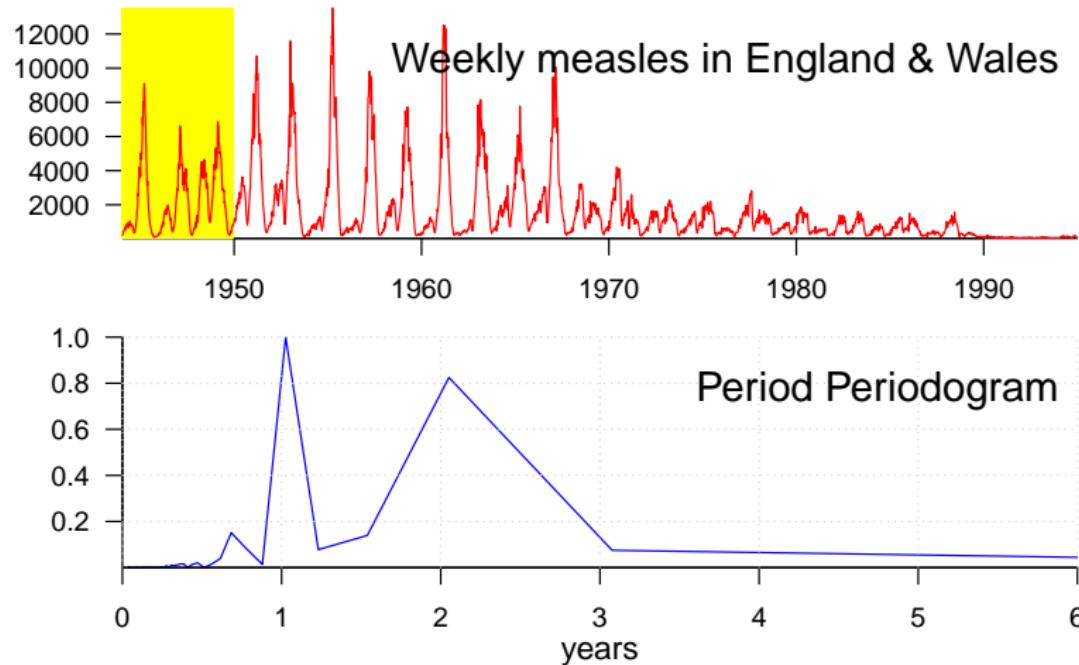
# Spectral Density



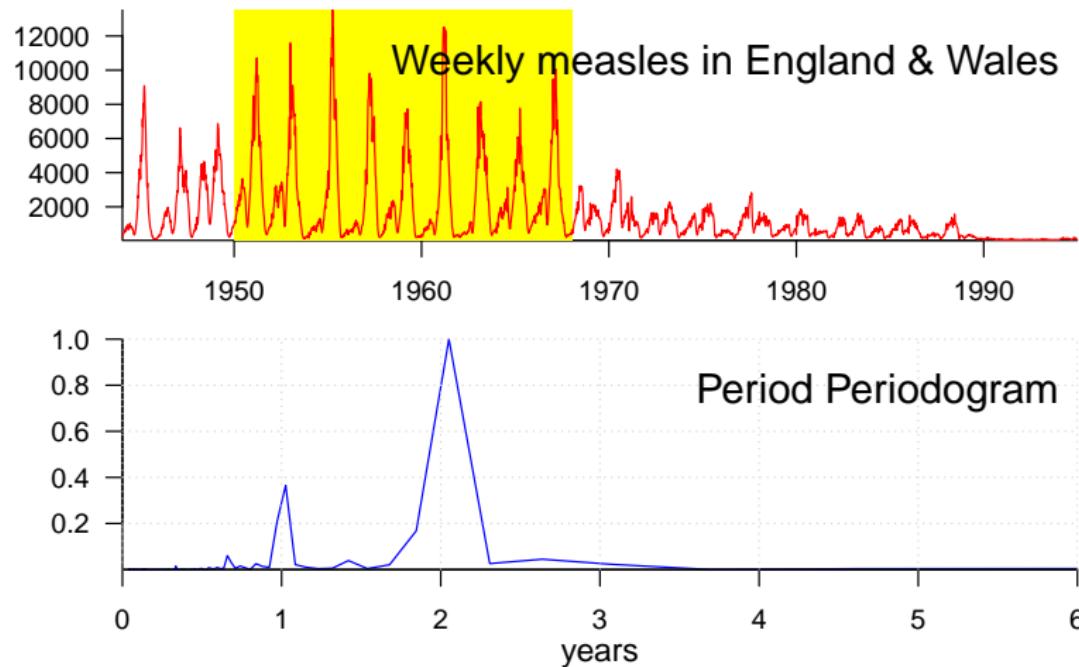
# Spectral Density



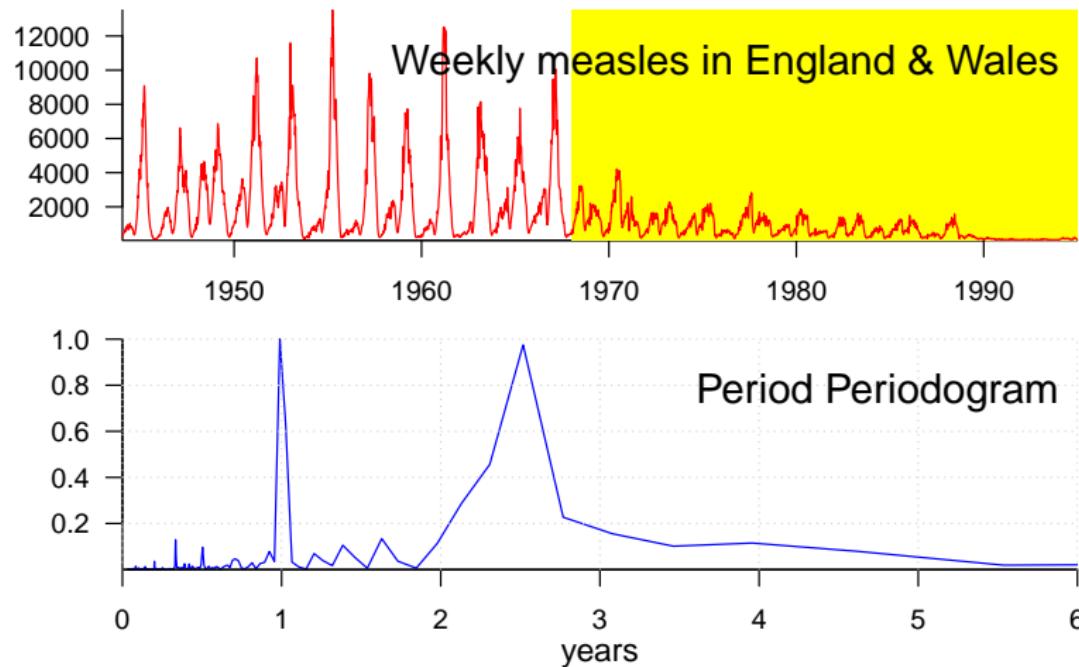
# Spectral Density of Temporal Segments



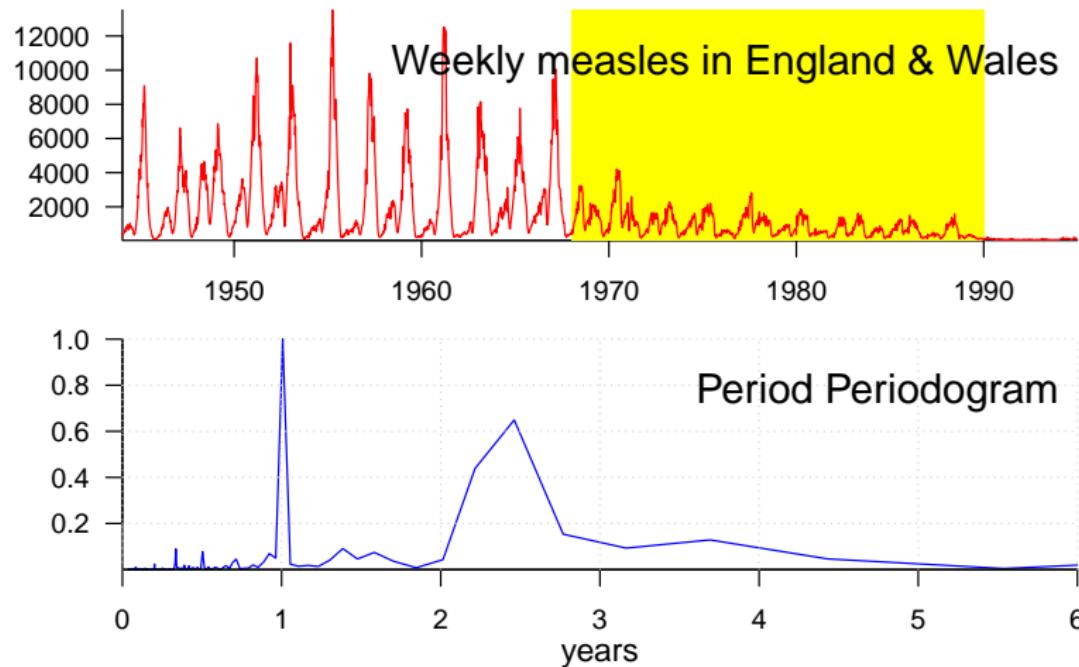
# Spectral Density of Temporal Segments



# Spectral Density of Temporal Segments



# Spectral Density of Temporal Segments



# Spectral Density Properties

- Periodogram is discrete Fourier transform of correlogram
- Same information in correlogram and periodogram
- Periodogram usually easier to interpret
- In , calculate power spectrum with `spectrum()`
- The power spectrum  $I(\omega_p)$  partitions the variance in the time series with respect to frequency  $\omega_p$ .
  - Parseval's theorem implies  $\frac{1}{N} \sum_t (x_t - \bar{x})^2 = \frac{1}{2\pi N} \sum_{p>0} I(\omega_p)$ .  
But  $\frac{1}{N} \sum_t (x_t - \bar{x})^2 = \text{Var}\{x_t\}$ , hence  $I(\omega_p)/(2\pi N)$  is the proportion of the variance in the time series associated with period  $2\pi/\omega_p$ .

[For details, see Chatfield (2004).]

# Basic Time Series Analysis of Epidemic Data

