Exploring the interaction between models and data

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2016 Summer Course on Mathematical Modeling and Analysis of Infectious Diseases

National Taiwan University

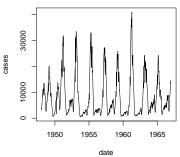
Goals

- Explore some ideas of using a model to explore disease data
- Use estimates of HIV prevalence from Zimbabwe as an example

Bridging

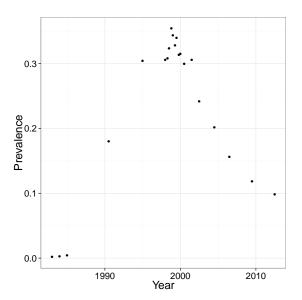


Measles reports from England and Wales



- Models are the tool we use to bridge between data and mechanisms
- In both directions

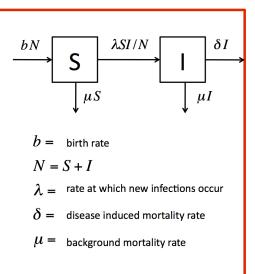
Estimated HIV prevalence in Zimbabwe



Experimental fitting

- We will fit by eye, for learning purpose only
- Later, we will talk about statistical frameworks
- Code online:

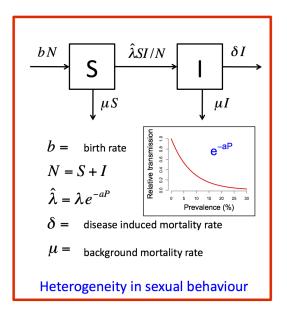
https://github.com/dushoff/SIR_simulations



The basic model

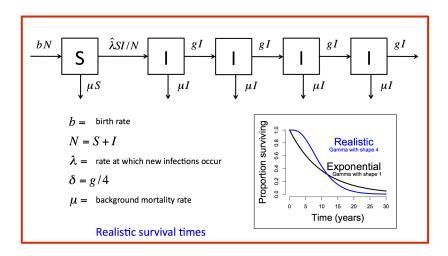
Phenomenological heterogeneity

- ▶ Just assume that you can approximate this complicated phenomenon with a simple functional form, $\beta = f(P)$
 - Original study used $\beta = \beta_0 \exp(-\alpha P)$
 - We will use $\beta = \beta_0 (1 P)^{\kappa}$
- ▶ Both forms start with $\beta = \beta_0$ and decline smoothly with prevalence



Realistic time distributions





Are people *responding* to the epidemic?

