

6. Models for the spreading of diseases

6.1. An epidemic model (SIR model)

Consider disease which upon recovery gives rise to immunity.

Divide population (size N) into three classes

susceptibles $S(t) \geq 0$

infectives $I(t) \geq 0$

removed $R(t) \geq 0$

(recovered and immune, recovered and isolated, or dead)

$S \rightarrow I \rightarrow R$

Assumptions concerning transmission of infection and incubation period:

- ① gain in I is given by rSI with $r > 0$ a constant (infection rate)
- ② rate of $I \rightarrow R$ is αI with $\alpha > 0$ a constant (removal rate of infections)
 α^{-1} is average infectious period

Question: given r, α, S_0, I_0 will infection spread or not? Show that $I_0 > I(t) \rightarrow 0$ if population of susceptibles at $t=0$ is below a critical value.

$$\left. \frac{dI}{dt} \right|_{t=0} = (rS_0 - \alpha) I_0 \begin{cases} < 0 & \text{if } S_0 < \frac{\alpha}{r} = \bar{s} \\ > 0 & \text{if } S_0 > \bar{s} \end{cases}$$

The parameter \bar{s} is called relative removal rate, and $\bar{s} = \alpha^{-1}$ is called the infectious contact rate. Write

$$r_0 = \frac{rS_0}{\alpha} = \bar{s} \cdot S_0 = \frac{S_0}{\bar{s}}$$

which is called reproductive rate (of the infection).

From (*)

$$\frac{dS}{dt} \leq 0 \quad \rightarrow \quad S(t) \leq S_0$$

So if $S_0 < \frac{\alpha}{r}$ (ie. $\frac{S_0}{\bar{s}} < 1$ or $r_0 < 1$) then

$$\frac{dI}{dt} = (rS - \alpha)I \leq (rS_0 - \alpha)I < 0.$$

- ③ incubation period sufficiently short to be ignored

Rate equations

$$\frac{dS}{dt} = -rSI \quad (*)$$

$$\frac{dI}{dt} = rSI - \alpha I \quad (**)$$

$$\frac{dR}{dt} = \alpha I \quad (***) \quad \text{Kermack-McKendrick (1927)}$$

Initial conditions

$$S(0) = S_0, \quad I(0) = I_0, \quad R(0) = 0$$

Conservation Law

$$\frac{d}{dt}(S+I+R) = 0$$

So

$$S(t) + I(t) + R(t) = \text{const.} = N$$

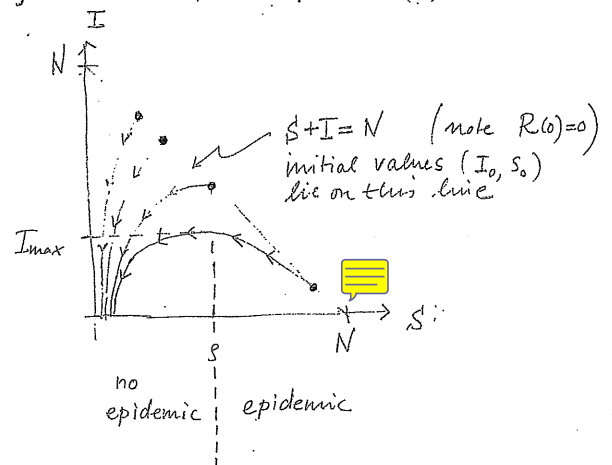
In this case

$$I_0 > I(t) \rightarrow 0 \quad \text{as } t \rightarrow \infty,$$

infection does not spread.

If by contrast $r_0 > 1$ have an epidemic: $I(t)$ initially increases so that for some $t > 0$ find $I(t) > I_0$.

Phase-space diagram. Equation for R is slaved to eqns. for S and I . Consider dynamics in phase plane (S, I) .



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① Dynamics doesn't leave triangular region

Use same trick as for Lotka-Volterra model (p. 81): divide (**) by (***)

$$\frac{dI}{dS} = \frac{\frac{dI}{dt}}{\frac{dS}{dt}} = -\frac{(rS - \alpha)}{rS - \alpha} = \frac{S}{S - 1} \quad \text{[assume } I \neq 0]$$

Integrate

$$I + S - S \log S = \text{const.} \\ = I_0 + S_0 - S \log S_0$$

So

$$I + S = I_0 + S_0 + S \log \frac{S}{S_0} \\ \leq I_0 + S_0 = N$$

↑
Since $S < S_0$ have $\log \frac{S}{S_0} \leq 0$

So phase-plane dynamics never leaves triangular region sketched on previous page.

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② Total # of susceptibles infected

What is the total number of susceptibles infected during epidemic?

$$I_{\text{tot}} = I_0 + (S_0 - S(\infty))$$

So to answer this question need to determine $S(\infty)$. Divide (*) by (***)

$$\frac{dS}{dR} = \frac{\frac{dS}{dt}}{\frac{dR}{dt}} = -\frac{rS}{\alpha} = -\frac{S}{S}$$

$$\Rightarrow S(t) = S_0 e^{-\frac{R(t)}{S}} \geq S_0 e^{-\frac{N}{S}} > 0$$

So $0 < S(\infty)$. The figure on p. 244 shows $S(\infty) < S$. In summary

$$0 < S(\infty) < S$$

Since $I(\infty) = 0$, $S(t) + I(t) + R(t) = N$ implies

$$R(\infty) = N - S(\infty)$$

So $S(\infty)$ is the positive root $0 < z < S$ of

$$z = S_0 e^{-\frac{N-z}{S}} \quad z = S(\infty)$$

This determines I_{tot} .

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③ Determine maximal number of infectives

Find I_{max} for given initial conditions (S_0, I_0) by determining value of S for which

$$\frac{dI}{dt} = 0$$

Since $\frac{dI}{dt} = (rS - \alpha)I$ this occurs for $S = S$. I_{max} at S $\left[S = \frac{\alpha}{r} \right]$

From $I + S = I_0 + S_0 + S \log \frac{S}{S_0}$ obtain

$$I_{\text{max}} = I_0 + S_0 - S + S \log \frac{S}{S_0} \\ = N - S + S \log \frac{S}{S_0}$$

④ Time to reach $I=0$

As $I \rightarrow 0$, $\frac{dI}{dt} \rightarrow 0$ and $\frac{dS}{dt} \rightarrow 0$. So

it takes infinitely long to reach $I=0$.



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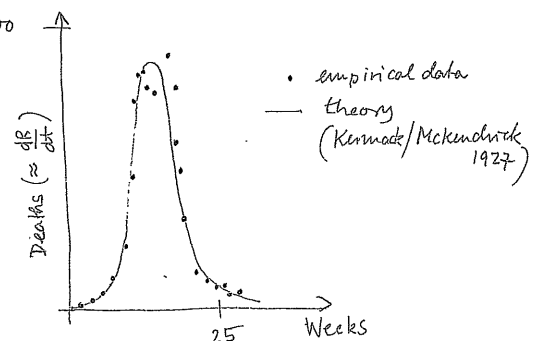
Have as $t \rightarrow \infty$

$$I(t) \rightarrow 0$$

$$S(t) \rightarrow S(\infty) > 0$$

So epidemic dies out due to lack of infectives and not due to lack of susceptibles.

Public health records record rate $\frac{dR}{dt}$ at which infectives are removed, due to death for example (Bombay plague epidemic of 1905/06).



Theory. Take

$$\begin{aligned}\frac{dR}{dt} &= \alpha I = \alpha (N - R - S) \\ &\quad \uparrow \\ &\quad S = S_0 e^{-\frac{R}{S}} \\ &= \alpha \left[N - R - S_0 \exp\left(-\frac{R}{S}\right) \right]\end{aligned}$$

Solution can be found numerically.
Instead assume $R/S \ll 1$ and expand

$$\exp\left(-\frac{R}{S}\right) \approx 1 - \frac{R}{S} + \frac{R^2}{2S^2}$$

to get

$$\frac{dR}{dt} = \alpha \left(N - S_0 + \left(\frac{S_0}{S} - 1\right) R - \frac{S_0 R^2}{2S^2} \right)$$

Obtain

$$R(t) = \frac{S^2}{S_0} \left[\left(\frac{S_0}{S} - 1 \right) + \beta \tanh\left(\frac{\beta \alpha t}{2} - \phi\right) \right],$$

$$\beta = \left[\left(\frac{S_0}{S} - 1 \right)^2 + \frac{2S_0(N - S_0)}{S^2} \right]^{1/2},$$

$$\phi = \frac{1}{\beta} \tanh^{-1}\left(\frac{S_0}{S} - 1\right).$$

Check by differentiating $R(t)$.

In particular

$$\frac{dR}{dt} = \frac{\alpha \beta^2 S^2}{2 S_0} \operatorname{sech}^2\left(\frac{\alpha \beta t}{2} - \phi\right)$$

Fitting parameters

$$\left. \begin{aligned} A_1 &= \frac{\alpha \beta^2 S^2}{2 S_0} \approx 890 \\ A_2 &= \frac{\alpha \beta}{2} \approx 0.2 \\ A_3 &= \phi \approx 3.4 \end{aligned} \right\} \text{ for plot on p. 8}$$

Problems:

- ① if duration of epidemic is too long must include birth & death terms,
- ② incubation period
- ③ age classes
- ④ Spatial spreading

6.2 A model for the spatial spread of an epidemic

Consider model from section 6.1,

$$\frac{dI}{dt} = (rS - \alpha)I$$

$$\frac{dS}{dt} = -rSI$$

α^{-1} life expectancy of an infective
 r measures transmission efficiency
Assume diffusive spreading with
diffusion constant D

$$\frac{\partial I}{\partial t} = (rS - \alpha)I + D \nabla^2 I$$

$$\frac{\partial S}{\partial t} = -rSI + D \nabla^2 S$$

Note: same D for I and for S

$$\nabla^2 = \frac{\partial^2}{\partial x^2} + \frac{\partial^2}{\partial y^2}$$

$I = I(r, t)$ and $S = S(r, t)$ with $r = (\beta)$.

Consider one-dimensional case to keep algebra simple. Proceed in usual fashion: dimensionless variables

$$I' = \frac{I}{S_0}, \quad S' = \frac{S}{S_0}$$

$$t' = \tau S_0 t, \quad \lambda = \frac{\alpha}{\tau S_0}$$

$$x' = \sqrt{\frac{\tau S_0}{D}} x$$

Now drop primes for notational convenience

$$\frac{\partial S}{\partial t} = -IS + \frac{\partial^2 S}{\partial x^2} \quad (*)$$

$$\frac{\partial I}{\partial t} = IS - \lambda I + \frac{\partial^2 I}{\partial x^2}$$

Only one dimensionless parameter remains. Note $\lambda^{-1} = \frac{\tau S_0}{\alpha}$ is reproductive rate of the infection (p. 3).

$$r_0 = \frac{S_0}{\rho}$$

Travelling wave of infections?

Ansatz (\rightarrow p. 158)

$$I(x, t) = I(z)$$

$$S(x, t) = S(z) \quad \text{with } z = x - ct \quad \uparrow \text{ wave speed}$$

Substituting into (*)

$$\frac{d^2 I}{dz^2} + c \frac{dI}{dz} + I(S - \lambda) = 0$$

$$\frac{d^2 S}{dz^2} + c \frac{dS}{dz} - IS = 0$$

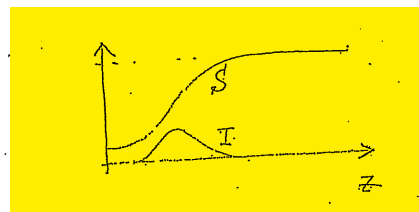
Boundary conditions

$$I(-\infty) = I(\infty) = 0,$$

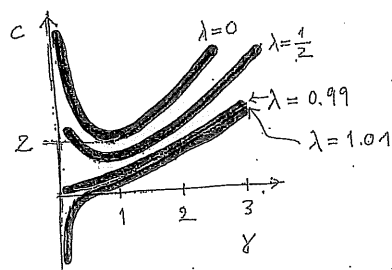
$$0 \leq S(-\infty) < S(\infty) = 1,$$

Constraint

$$I(z) \geq 0, \quad S(z) \geq 0.$$



Also $\sqrt{1-\lambda}$ must be real and > 0 . Thus $\lambda < 1$.



singularity in dispersion relation

Conditions for existence of travelling wave

$$c \geq 2\sqrt{1-\lambda}$$

$$\lambda < 1.$$

Go back to dimensional variables:

$$\lambda = \frac{\alpha}{\tau S_0} = \frac{\rho}{S_0}$$

So $\lambda < 1$ corresponds to $S_0 > \rho$ which is the condition for an epidemic found on p. 3.

Do not use approach from section 4.8. here because phase space is four-dimensional here (two second-order equations). Instead linearise equations near leading edge of wave ($S \approx 1, I \approx 0$):

$$\frac{d^2 I}{dz^2} + c \frac{dI}{dz} + (1-\lambda)I = 0$$

Ansatz: $I(z) = I_0 e^{-\gamma z}$. Find

$$\gamma^2 - c\gamma + (1-\lambda) = 0$$

$$\gamma^2 - c\gamma + \frac{c^2}{4} = \frac{c^2}{4} - (1-\lambda)$$

$$\gamma = \frac{c \pm \sqrt{c^2 - 4(1-\lambda)}}{2}$$

So

$$I(z) = I_0 \exp\left(\frac{c \pm \sqrt{c^2 - 4(1-\lambda)}}{2} z\right)$$

Take $\lambda < 1$.

Must have $c > 2\sqrt{1-\lambda}$ otherwise $I(z) < 0$ for some z (because $I(z)$ would be oscillatory).

Minimum wave speed

$$V = \sqrt{r S_0 D} c = 2 \sqrt{r S_0 D \left(1 - \frac{\alpha}{r S_0}\right)}$$

$$\frac{\alpha}{r S_0} < 1$$

The preceding analysis is valid near leading edge of wave.

The figure on p. 14 shows that $I(z)$ has in fact a maximum.

$S(z)$ cannot have a local maximum. At a maximum would have $\frac{dS}{dz} = 0$ and at that point

$$\frac{d^2 S}{dz^2} = IS > 0$$

which is the condition for a minimum, in contradiction with the assumption.

$S(z)$ is a monotonically increasing function of z . Increase

$$\frac{d^2 S}{dz^2} + c \frac{dS}{dz} - IS = 0$$

by putting $S' = 1 - \delta$: $0 < \delta < 1$

$$\frac{d^2 \delta}{dz^2} + c \frac{d\delta}{dz} - I = 0$$

↑
small

Together with (*) find $\delta(z) = O(e^{-\beta z})$ with $\beta > 0$, so $S(z)$ approaches unity exponentially as $z \rightarrow \infty$.

Discussion:

expanding

$$\frac{r S_0}{\alpha} \equiv \frac{S_0}{S} > 1$$

- ① minimum critical population density.

$$S_c = \frac{\alpha}{r} \equiv S$$

for travelling wave to occur.

- ② for a given population S_0 minimum critical transmission coefficient (for disease to spread)

$$r_c = \frac{\alpha}{S_0}$$

- ③ given r and S_0 obtain threshold mortality rate.

$$\alpha_c = r S_0$$

Control strategies: reduce S_0 by vaccination
reduce r by isolation. Discuss possible implications of sudden influx of susceptibles in near-threshold population.

6.3 Dynamics of diseases in large but finite populations

1. SIS model (infinite population; $N \rightarrow \infty$)

S susceptibles

I infectives

$$S \xrightarrow{\frac{\beta SI}{N}} I \xrightarrow{\gamma I} S$$

Infectives can recover (at rate γ) and become susceptible again.

$$\frac{dI}{dt} = \frac{\beta}{N} SI - \gamma I$$

$$\frac{dS}{dt} = -\frac{\beta}{N} SI + \gamma I$$

Find $S+I = \text{constant}$. Write $S+I=N$ where N is population size.
Eliminate S from first equation

$$\begin{aligned} \frac{dI}{dt} &= \frac{\beta}{N} (N-I) I - \gamma I \\ &= \beta \left(1 - \frac{I}{N}\right) I - \gamma I \quad (*) \end{aligned}$$

The disease is called endemic if Eq. (*) can sustain a finite number of infectives, that is when Eq. (*) has a linearly stable steady state $I^* > 0$.

Find

$$I^* = N \left(1 - \frac{\gamma}{\beta} \right) = N \left(1 - \frac{1}{r_0} \right)$$

Where

$$r_0 = \frac{\beta}{\gamma}$$

is the reproductive value (also referred to as reproductive ratio or reproductive rate, see p. 3)

Conclusion: the disease is endemic provided

$$r_0 > 1,$$

and the disease will disappear if

$$r_0 < 1.$$

Biological interpretation of reproductive value r_0 :

If a single infective individual introduced into a susceptible population produces more than one secondary infection before recovering, then $r_0 > 1$, the disease is endemic.

Show this by computing the expected number of secondary infections. To this end require the probability that an individual infective at $t=0$ is still infective at time t .

$$P_{\text{infective}}(t+\delta t) = P_{\text{infective}}(t) (1 - \gamma \delta t)$$

$$\frac{dP_{\text{infective}}}{dt} = -\gamma P_{\text{infective}} \quad \begin{matrix} \uparrow \\ \text{recovery rate} \end{matrix}$$

Initial condition $P_{\text{infective}}(0) = 1$.

$$P_{\text{infective}}(t) = e^{-\gamma t}$$

Now compute expected number of secondary infections produced by one primary infective

$$\int_0^{\infty} P_{\text{infective}}(t) \frac{\beta}{N} S(t) dt$$

\uparrow prob. that primary infective still infectious \uparrow expected number of secondary infections produced by single infective in time dt

Assume that total number of secondary infections is small compared to N , $S(t) \approx N$.

$$\approx \beta \int_0^{\infty} dt P_{\text{infective}} = r_0.$$

Note: dimensionless variables

$$I' = \frac{I}{N} \quad r_0 = \frac{\beta}{\gamma}$$

$$t' = t\gamma$$

Drop primes:

$$\frac{dI}{dt} = r_0 I (1-I) - I$$

2. Stochastic dynamics in large but finite population

Write a gain-loss equation for the probability $p_n(t)$ to observe n infectives at time t .

		rate
infection	$n-1 \rightarrow n$	$\lambda_{n-1} = \beta \left(1 - \frac{n-1}{N}\right) (n-1)$
recovery	$n+1 \rightarrow n$	$\mu_{n+1} = \gamma (n+1)$

non-linear contact
compare single
breeding
process
population size

Change in p_n in small time interval δt due to infection

$$(\lambda_{n-1} p_{n-1} - \lambda_n p_n) \delta t$$

and due to recovery

$$(\mu_{n+1} p_{n+1} - \mu_n p_n) \delta t$$

Together

$$\frac{dp_n}{dt} = \lambda_{n-1} p_{n-1} + \mu_{n+1} p_{n+1} - (\mu_n + \lambda_n) p_n$$

Questions

This gain-loss equation is also referred to as a Master equation (van Kampen, 1981).

Master equations of the form (*), corresponding to one-dimensional, one-step birth-death processes can be solved exactly (van Kampen).

In several dimensions (e.g. SIR model, p. 241) no exact solution in general. Must resort to approximate methods.

Plan: describe approximate method for solving (*) despite the fact that (*) is exactly solvable. The approximate method generalises to multi-species models.

Convenient representation of Master equation in terms of step operators E^\pm (van Kampen, 1981). The operators are defined by their actions on functions g of n :

$$E^\pm g_n = g_{n \pm 1}.$$

In terms of E^\pm , the Master equation (*) takes the form

$$\frac{dp_n}{dt} = (E^- - 1) \lambda_n p_n + (E^+ - 1) \mu_n p_n.$$

3. Expansion of Master equation in N^{-1}

Consider large but finite values of N .
Introduce the variable

$$I = \frac{n}{N}$$

compare I' on p. 24.

Define functions $\lambda(I)$ and $\mu(I)$ by

$$\lambda_n = N\lambda(I) \quad \sim \quad \lambda(I) = \beta I(1-I)$$

$$\mu_n = N\mu(I) \quad \sim \quad \mu(I) = \gamma I$$

Expect that $g(I, t)$ is a smooth function of I in the limit of large values of N .

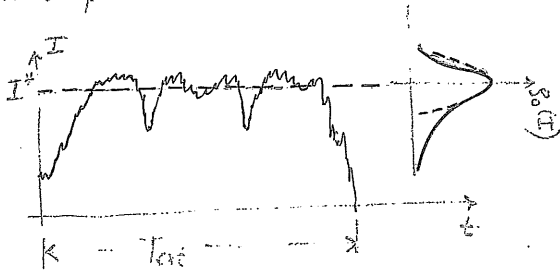
Represent action of E^\pm on smooth function $g(I)$ in terms of derivatives:

$$\begin{aligned} E^\pm g(I) &= g\left(I \pm \frac{1}{N}\right) \\ &= \sum_{k=0}^{\infty} \frac{\left(\pm \frac{1}{N}\right)^k}{k!} \frac{d^k g}{dI^k} \\ &\approx e^{\pm \frac{1}{N} \frac{d}{dI}} g(I) \end{aligned}$$

4. Quasi-steady state

Fundamental dichotomy:

Epidemics must eventually become extinct due to fluctuations. But deterministic limit predicts it lasts ad infinitum.



Can show: $\text{Text} \sim e^N$ for large N .

Quasi-steady state.

Now expand Master equation to lowest order in N^{-1} .

$$\begin{aligned} \frac{\partial g}{\partial t} &= \left(e^{-\frac{1}{N} \frac{\partial}{\partial I}} - 1\right) N\lambda(I) g(I) \\ &\quad + \left(e^{\frac{1}{N} \frac{\partial}{\partial I}} - 1\right) N\mu(I) g(I) \\ &\approx \frac{\partial}{\partial I} (\mu(I) - \lambda(I)) g(I) \end{aligned}$$

This is a transport equation of the form

$$\frac{\partial g}{\partial t} + \frac{\partial}{\partial I} (v(I) g) = 0 \rightarrow P.$$

It corresponds to deterministic dynamics of the form

$$\begin{aligned} \frac{dI}{dt} &= v(I) = (\lambda(I) - \mu(I)) \\ &= \beta I(1-I) - \gamma I \end{aligned}$$

Up to a rescaling of I with a factor of N this is the deterministic SIS model (p. 20).
Discontinuous variables, p. 24.

Expect long-lived quasi-steady state in the limit of large values of N .

Try to compute quasi-steady state distribution g_0 (given by

$$\frac{\partial g_0}{\partial t} \approx 0.$$

Ansatz

$$g_0(I) = e^{-N S_0(I) - S_1(I) + \frac{1}{N} S_2(I) + \dots}$$

(compare WKB ansatz to describe quantum-mechanical tunneling. N^{-1} plays the rôle of \hbar).

Insert into

$$\begin{aligned} 0 &\approx \left(e^{-\frac{1}{N} \frac{\partial}{\partial I}} - 1\right) N\lambda(I) g_0(I) \\ &\quad + \left(e^{\frac{1}{N} \frac{\partial}{\partial I}} - 1\right) N\mu(I) g_0(I) \end{aligned}$$

and expand in N^{-1} .

Write $S_0' \equiv \frac{dS_0}{dI}$.

Now

$$\begin{aligned} & e^{\pm \frac{1}{N} \frac{\partial}{\partial I}} \left(e^{-N S_0(I) - S_1(I) - \dots} \right) \\ &= e^{-N \left(S_0 \pm \frac{S_0'}{N} + \dots \right) - \left(S_1 \pm \frac{S_1'}{N} + \dots \right)} \\ &\approx S_0(I) e^{\mp S_0'} \left(1 + \text{corrections in } N^{-1} \right) \end{aligned}$$

Insert into equation for $\rho_0(I)$ on p. 31

$$0 \approx \rho_0(I) \left[N \lambda(I) (e^{S_0'} - 1) + N \mu(I) (e^{-S_0'} - 1) \right]$$

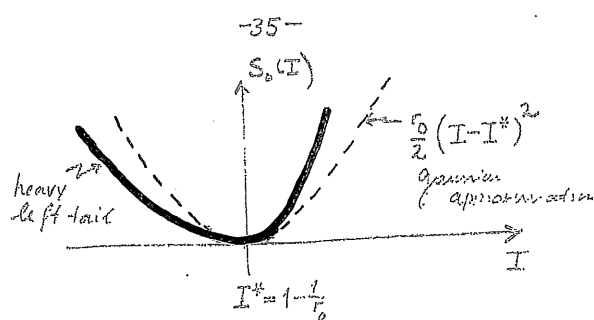
Write this differential equation for $S_0(I)$ as

$H(I, p) = 0$ with $p = S_0'$ and

$$H(I, p) = \lambda(I) (e^p - 1) + \mu(I) (e^{-p} - 1)$$

The condition $t=0$ implies

$$S_0'(I) = -\log \frac{\lambda(I)}{\mu(I)}$$



Distribution non-Gaussian.

Gaussian approximation

$$S_0(I) = \frac{r_0}{2} (I - I^*)^2 + \dots \quad \text{var}(I) \sim \frac{1}{r_0 N}$$

does not capture heavy tail for small I

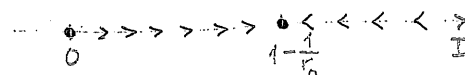
Now integrate to get $S_0(I)$.

Boundary conditions? Recall that the deterministic dynamics (p. 24)

$$\frac{dI}{dt} = \lambda(I) - \mu(I) = \beta I(1-I) - \gamma I$$

has two fixed points:

$$\begin{aligned} I^* &= 0 && \text{unstable} \\ I^* &= 1 - \frac{\gamma}{\beta} \equiv 1 - \frac{1}{r_0} && \text{stable} \end{aligned} \quad \left. \vphantom{\begin{aligned} I^* &= 0 \\ I^* &= 1 - \frac{\gamma}{\beta} \end{aligned}} \right\} \text{for } r_0 > 1$$



Expect $\rho_0(I)$ has maximum at $I^* = 1 - \frac{1}{r_0}$,

so $S_0(I)$ has a minimum there.

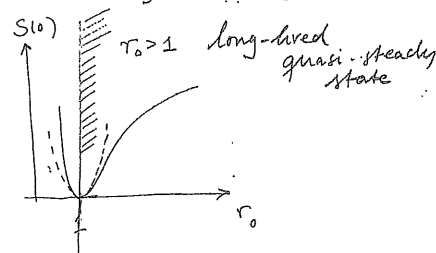
Set $S_0(I^*) = 0$ (this defines normalization constant)

$$S_0(I) = \int_{I^*}^I dy S_0'(y) = - \int_{1-\frac{1}{r_0}}^I dy \log[r_0(1-y)]$$

Time to extinction of epidemic ($r_0 > 1$)
(this time and the possibility to affect it are of great interest)

$$T_{\text{ext}} \sim e^{N S_0(0)}$$

$$\begin{aligned} S_0(0) &= - \int_{1-\frac{1}{r_0}}^0 dI \log[r_0(1-I)] \\ &= \log r_0 - (1 - \frac{1}{r_0}) \end{aligned}$$



Extinction of disease in finite time

