

SIR Models

25/09/18

Alternative formulations for SIR Models

Assuming the typical SIR formulation as 3 ordinary differential equations on a closed population: $S(t) + I(t) + R(t) = N$, $\forall t \geq 0$. We have that for this formulation the basic reproduction number $\mathcal{R}_0 = \frac{\beta}{\gamma}$.

If we take the ratio:

$$\frac{dS}{dR} = \frac{-\beta SI}{\gamma I} = -\mathcal{R}_0 S \quad (1)$$

It can be integrated to $S(t) = S_0 e^{-\mathcal{R}_0 R}$. We can then substitute this definition of $S(t)$ into the standard $\frac{dR}{dt} = \gamma I$, and obtain

$$\frac{dR}{dt} = \gamma (N - R - S_0 e^{-\mathcal{R}_0 R}) \quad (2)$$

With this we have reduce a 3 dimensional system to a single equation embodying the full dynamics.