
EFFECTS OF UNKNOWN FORCES AND CONTROL MECHANISMS TO SYSTEM DYNAMICS

A STUDY ON A THEORETICAL EPIDEMIC OUTBREAK

BASED ON DIRK HELBING AND CHRISTIAN KÜHNERT. 2003. ASSESSING INTERACTION NETWORKS WITH APPLICATIONS TO CATASTROPHE DYNAMICS AND DISASTER MANAGEMENT. PHYSICA A: STATISTICAL MECHANICS AND ITS APPLICATIONS 328, 3 (2003), 584–606. [HTTPS://DOI.ORG/10.1016/S0378-4371\(03\)00519-3](https://doi.org/10.1016/S0378-4371(03)00519-3)

Gabriel Lorenzo I. Santos

EnE 305



AGENDA

- Why do we need to study interactions and their cascading effects?
 - Catastrophe Dynamics of an Epidemic Outbreak
 - Temporal Evolution of the Catastrophe
 - Development of the Catastrophe with Unknown Forces
 - Devising Control Strategies for Mitigation of Cascading Effects
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THE CHANGING STRUCTURE IN HAZARDS CALLS FOR A MULTI-HAZARD RISK APPROACH

- More frequent disasters in the past years are caused by triggered or cascading hazards.



Source: <https://singingrooster.org/deforestation-hurricanes-haiti/>



Source: https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Flooded_areas_after_Hurricane_Jeanne.jpg

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Source: <https://www.britannica.com/event/2010-Haiti-earthquake>



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Source: <https://www.workers.org/2016/08/26671/>

THE CHANGING STRUCTURE IN HAZARDS CALLS FOR A MULTI-HAZARD RISK APPROACH

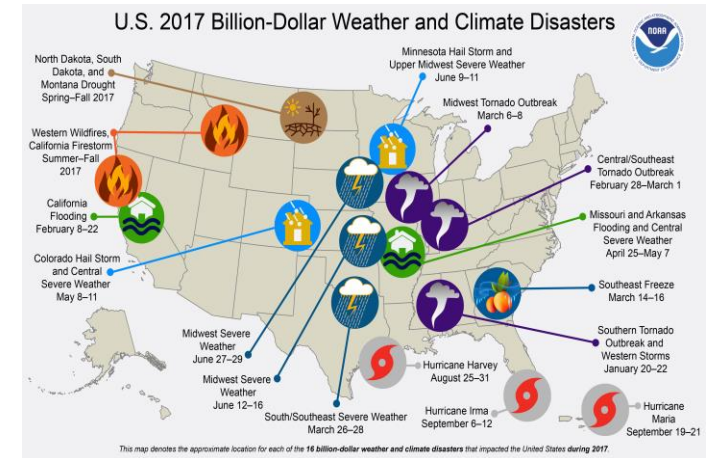
- More frequent disasters in the past years are caused by triggered or cascading hazards.



Source: <https://www.climatecentral.org/news/european-heat-wave-chances-rise-19225>



Source: <https://nerc.ukri.org/planetearth/stories/1849/>



Source: <https://blog.ucsusa.org/rachel-cleetus/new-noaa-report-shows-2017-was-the-costliest-year-on-record-for-us-disasters/>

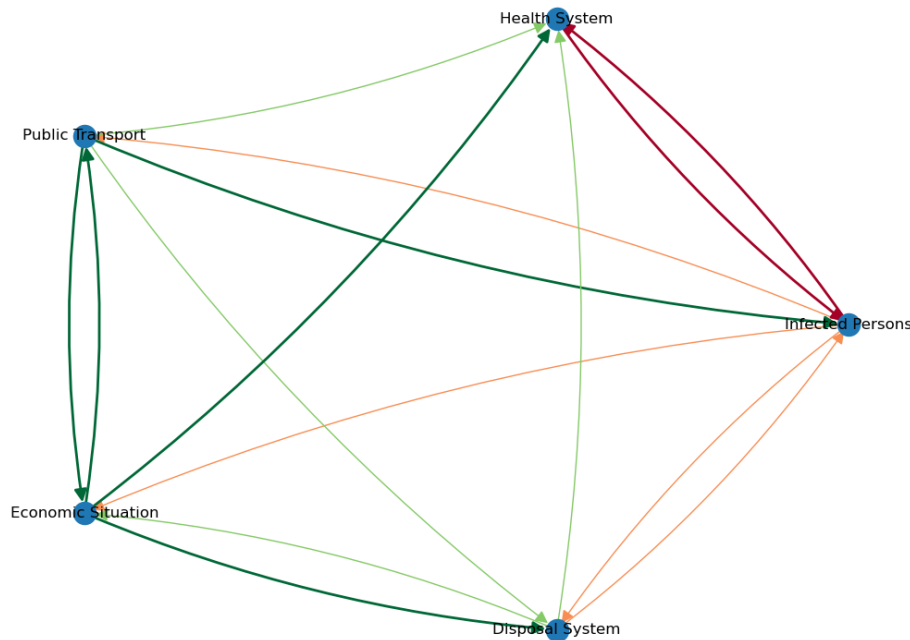
THE CHANGING STRUCTURE IN HAZARDS CALLS FOR A MULTI-HAZARD RISK APPROACH

- More frequent disasters in the past years are caused by triggered or cascading hazards.
 - Rapid urbanization increases the risk of the population to cascading disasters.
 - There is a need to shift the focus from addressing risks of multiple single hazards to the overall risk of multi-hazard situation.
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CATASTROPHE DYNAMICS

- Loosely related to “catastrophe theory”, more of system thinking and dynamics
- Catastrophe defined as accumulation of direct and indirect interactions between events or factors investigated
- Uses an interaction network as basis
 - Can be used as a decision support tool when managing multi-factors situation by assessing the gap between the ideal dynamics of the network versus the current dynamics

CATASTROPHE DYNAMICS: INTERACTION NETWORK AND MATRIX



$$\mathbf{M} = \begin{matrix} & \begin{matrix} \text{INFECTED PEOPLE} \\ \text{HEALTH SYSTEM} \\ \text{PUBLIC TRANSPORT} \\ \text{ECONOMIC SITUATION} \\ \text{DISPOSAL SYSTEM} \end{matrix} \\ \begin{matrix} \text{INFECTED PEOPLE} \\ \text{HEALTH SYSTEM} \\ \text{PUBLIC TRANSPORT} \\ \text{ECONOMIC SITUATION} \\ \text{DISPOSAL SYSTEM} \end{matrix} & \begin{pmatrix} 0 & -2 & +2 & 0 & -1 \\ -2 & 0 & +1 & +2 & +1 \\ -1 & 0 & 0 & +2 & 0 \\ -1 & 0 & +2 & 0 & +1 \\ -1 & 0 & +1 & +2 & 0 \end{pmatrix} \end{matrix}$$

CATASTROPHE DYNAMICS: SYSTEM OF LINEAR DIFFERENTIAL EQUATIONS

$$\frac{d}{d\tau}\vec{X}(\tau) = \begin{pmatrix} 0 & -2 & +2 & 0 & -1 \\ -2 & 0 & +1 & +2 & +1 \\ -1 & 0 & 0 & +2 & 0 \\ -1 & 0 & +2 & 0 & +1 \\ -1 & 0 & +1 & +2 & 0 \end{pmatrix} \cdot \vec{X}(\tau)$$

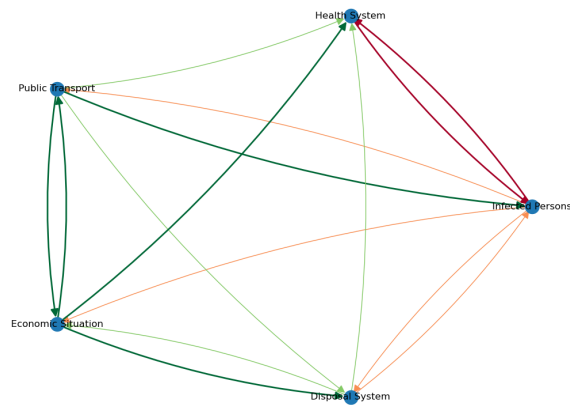
CATASTROPHE DYNAMICS: SYSTEM OF LINEAR DIFFERENTIAL EQUATIONS

$$\frac{d}{d\tau} \vec{X}(\tau) = \begin{pmatrix} 0 & -2 & +2 & 0 & -1 \\ -2 & 0 & +1 & +2 & +1 \\ -1 & 0 & 0 & +2 & 0 \\ -1 & 0 & +2 & 0 & +1 \\ -1 & 0 & +1 & +2 & 0 \end{pmatrix} \cdot \vec{X}(\tau)$$

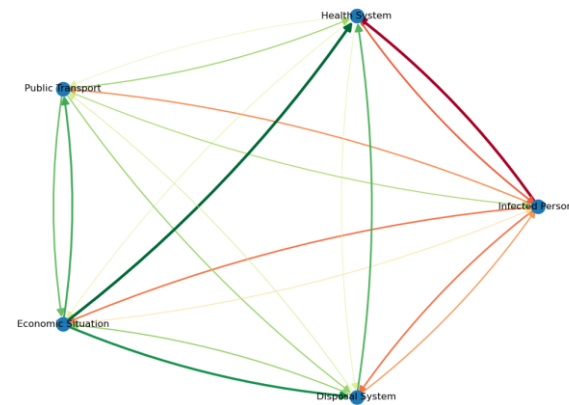
This only looks after direct interactions.
How about the indirect interactions?

CATASTROPHE DYNAMICS: ASSESSMENT MATRIX

$$\mathbf{M} = \begin{pmatrix} 0 & -2 & +2 & 0 & -1 \\ -2 & 0 & +1 & +2 & +1 \\ -1 & 0 & 0 & +2 & 0 \\ -1 & 0 & +2 & 0 & +1 \\ -1 & 0 & +1 & +2 & 0 \end{pmatrix}$$



$$\mathbf{A} = (A_{ij}) = \begin{pmatrix} 0.9 & -2.2 & 1.3 & -0.8 & -1.6 \\ -3.4 & 1.1 & 1.5 & 3.5 & 2.3 \\ -1.7 & 0.6 & 0.5 & 2.5 & 0.8 \\ -2.0 & 0.6 & 2.1 & 1.5 & 1.6 \\ -2.0 & 0.6 & 1.5 & 2.9 & 0.9 \end{pmatrix}$$



CATASTROPHE DYNAMICS: SOLUTION TO THE SYSTEM OF ODES

$$\frac{d}{d\tau} \vec{X}(\tau) = \mathbf{M} \cdot \vec{X}(\tau)$$

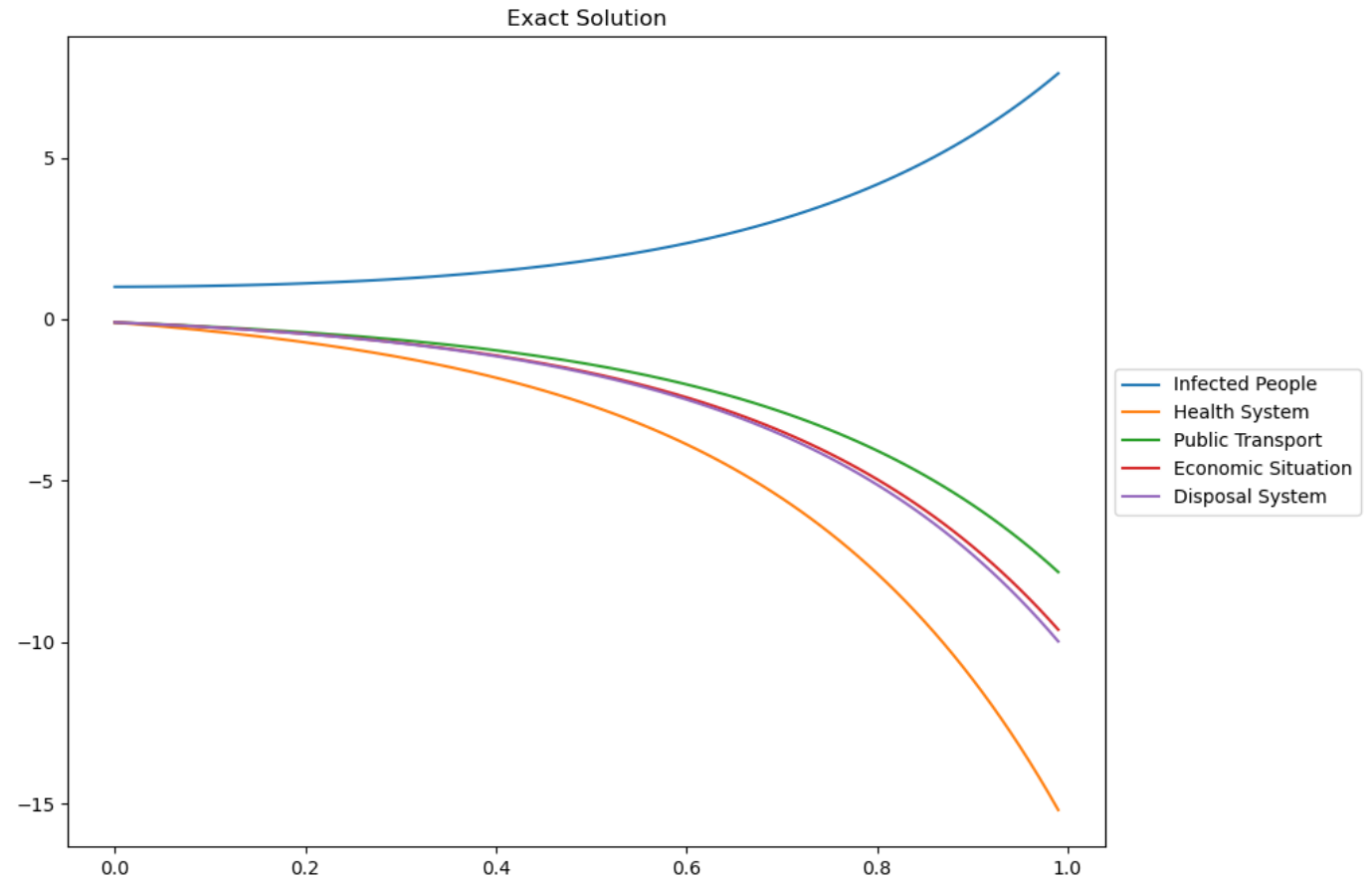
Exact Solution (where $\vec{X}(0) = \vec{X}$):

$$\vec{X}(\tau) = e^{\tau \mathbf{M}} \cdot \vec{X}(0)$$

$$\vec{X}(\tau) = (\tau \mathbf{A}_\tau + \mathbf{I}) \cdot \vec{X}(0)$$

TEMPORAL EVOLUTION OF THE CATASTROPHE

- $\vec{X}(0) = [1, -0.1, -0.1, -0.1, -0.1]^T$
- Iterated $\vec{X}(\tau)$ through $\tau \in [0,1]$
- Interactions grow exponentially.
 - Infectives grow.
 - Other sectors collapse.
- Problematic!



DEVELOPMENT OF THE CATASTROPHE WITH UNKNOWN FORCES

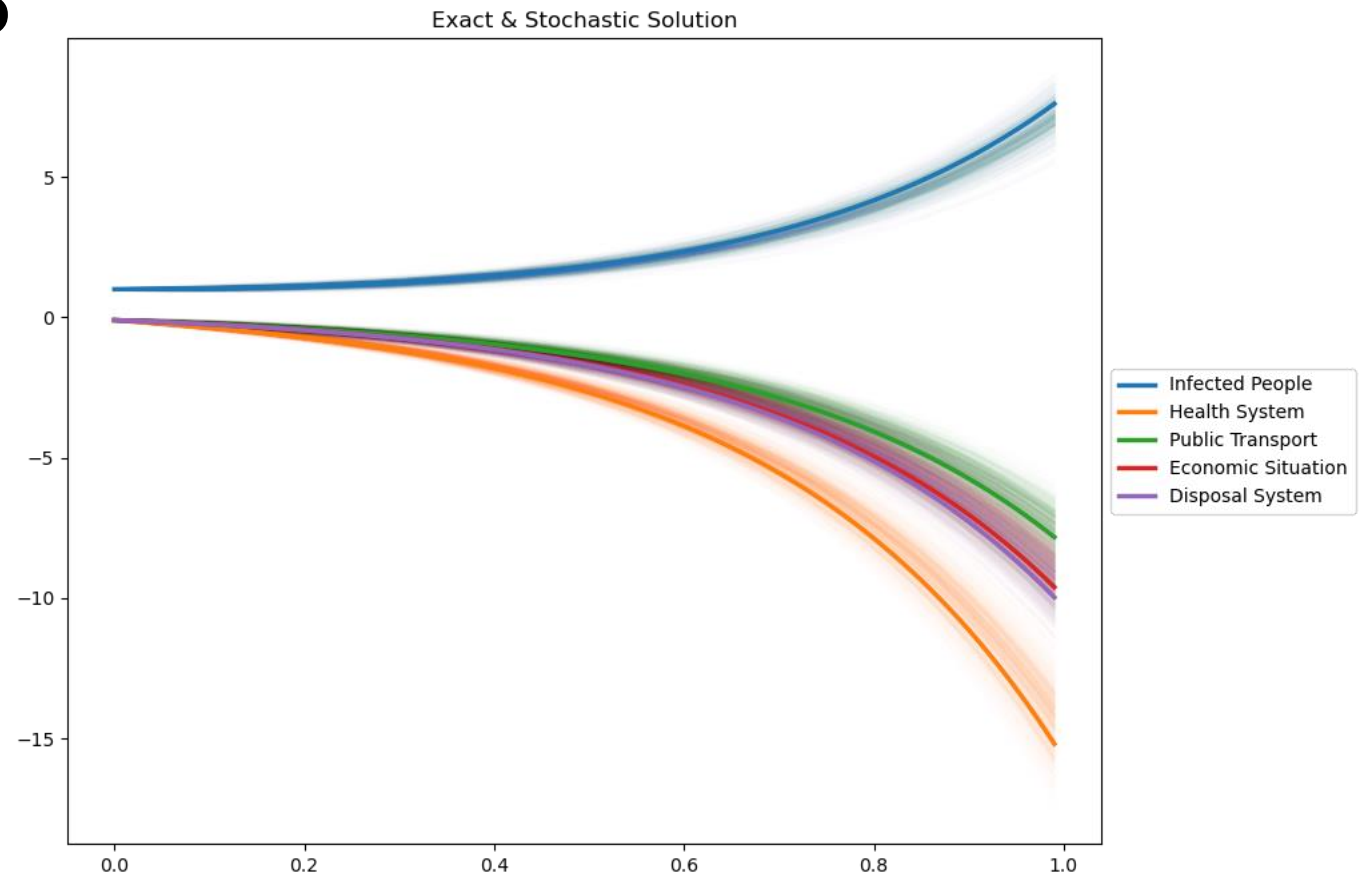
$$d\vec{X}(\tau) = \mathbf{M} \cdot \vec{X}(\tau) d\tau + \mathbf{C} \cdot \vec{\xi}(\tau) d\tau$$

Why random processes?

- A lot of unaccounted uncertainties in the environment
 - Unknown forces usually modelled as random processes
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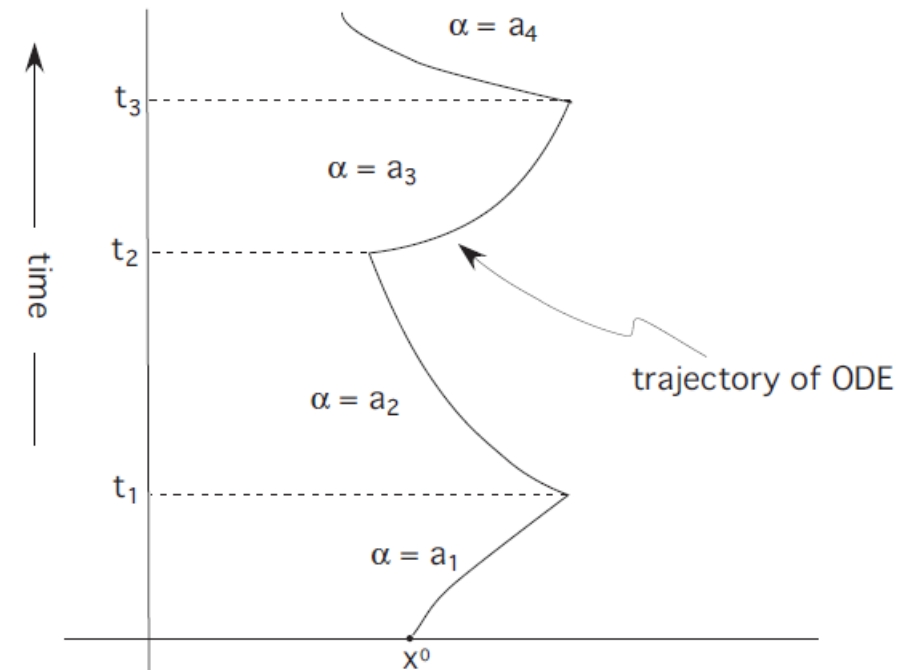
DEVELOPMENT OF THE CATASTROPHE WITH UNKNOWN FORCES

- Follows the same exponential trend
- Possible trajectories fall within a range from the deterministic solution
- Still problematic!



CONTROL STRATEGIES FOR MITIGATION OF CASCADING EFFECTS

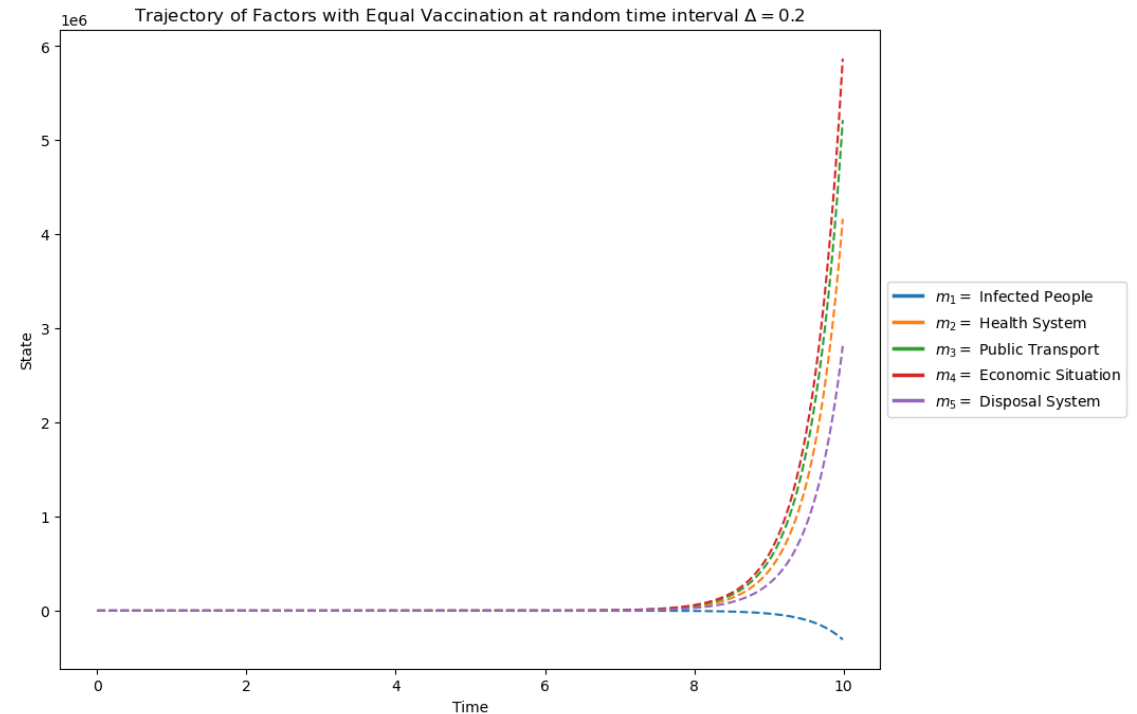
- Damping effect in the form of disaster responses
- Controls result to staggered trajectories.
- For this experiment:
 - Vaccination for medical workers and disposal workers (+1 effect)



Source: Lawrence Evans. 2010. An Introduction to Mathematical Optimal Control Theory Version 0.2.

CONTROL STRATEGIES FOR MITIGATION OF CASCADING EFFECTS

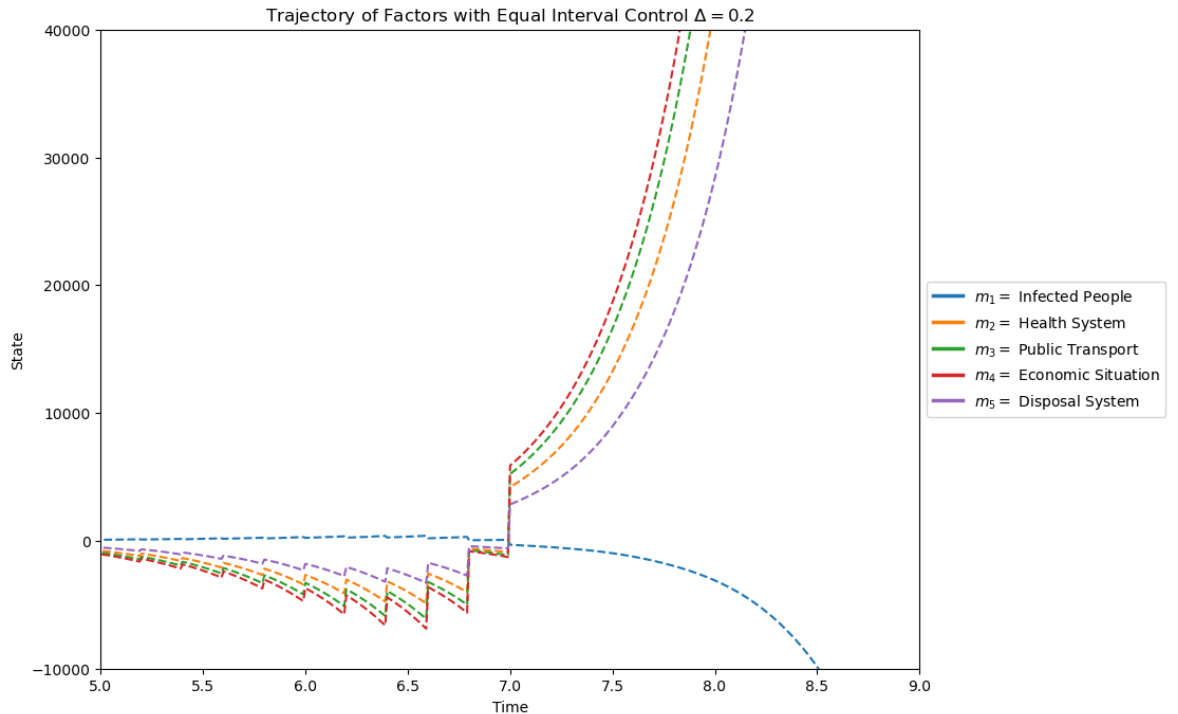
- Constant Vaccination on Constant Time Intervals
- Doubling Vaccination on Constant Time Intervals
- Constant Vaccination on Random Time Intervals
- Doubling Vaccination on Random Time Intervals



Goal: end of pandemic and recovery of other sectors

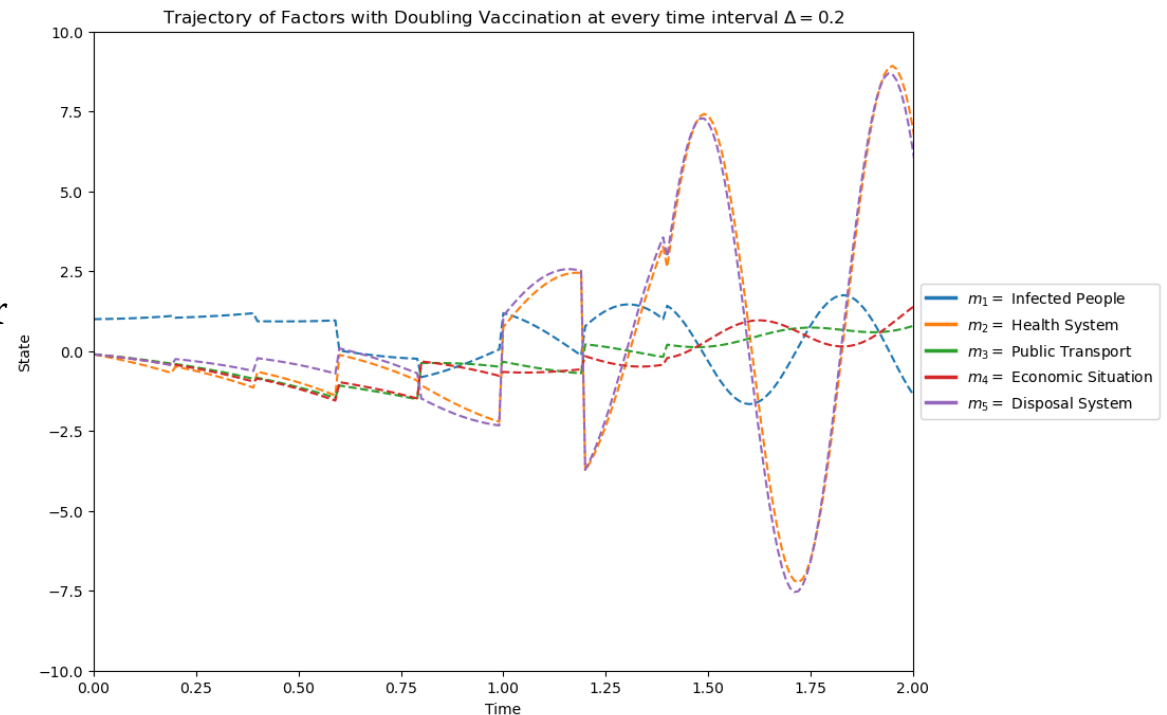
CONTROL STRATEGIES FOR MITIGATION OF CASCADING EFFECTS

- Constant Vaccination on Constant Time Intervals
 - Catastrophe Lifespan: $t = 7.0$
 - Assuming time scale is years, equal vaccination for every 2.4 months ends the pandemic in 7 years.
- Doubling Vaccination on Constant Time Intervals
- Constant Vaccination on Random Time Intervals
- Doubling Vaccination on Random Time Intervals



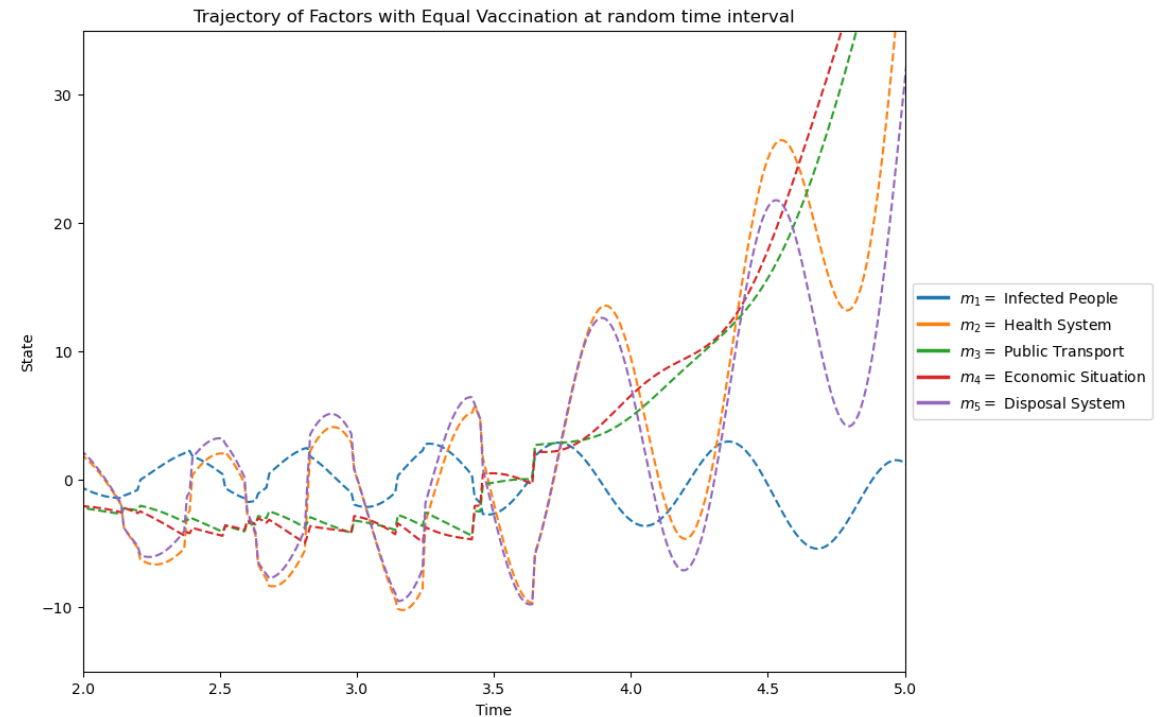
CONTROL STRATEGIES FOR MITIGATION OF CASCADING EFFECTS

- Constant Vaccination on Constant Time Intervals
- Doubling Vaccination on Constant Time Intervals
 - Catastrophe Lifespan: $t = 1.4$
 - Assuming time scale is years, doubling vaccination for every 2.4 months ends the pandemic in 1.4 years.
 - Oscillation occurs! (Must be stability issues)
- Constant Vaccination on Random Time Intervals
- Doubling Vaccination on Random Time Intervals



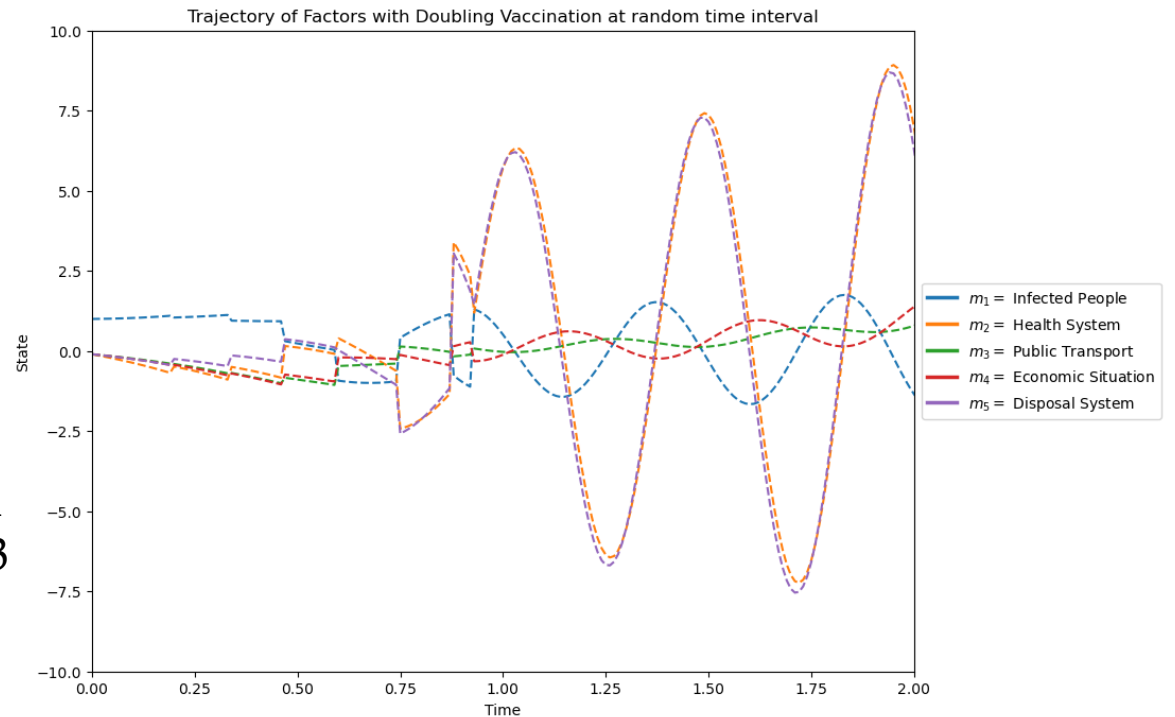
CONTROL STRATEGIES FOR MITIGATION OF CASCADING EFFECTS

- Constant Vaccination on Constant Time Intervals
- Doubling Vaccination on Constant Time Intervals
- **Constant Vaccination on Random Time Intervals**
 - Random Interval: $t = 0.2 + dt; dt \in [0.1, 2]$
 - Catastrophe Lifespan: $t = 3.65$
 - Assuming time scale is years, constant vaccination on random time intervals ends the pandemic in 3.65 years.
 - Oscillation occurs! (Must be stability issues)
- Doubling Vaccination on Random Time Intervals

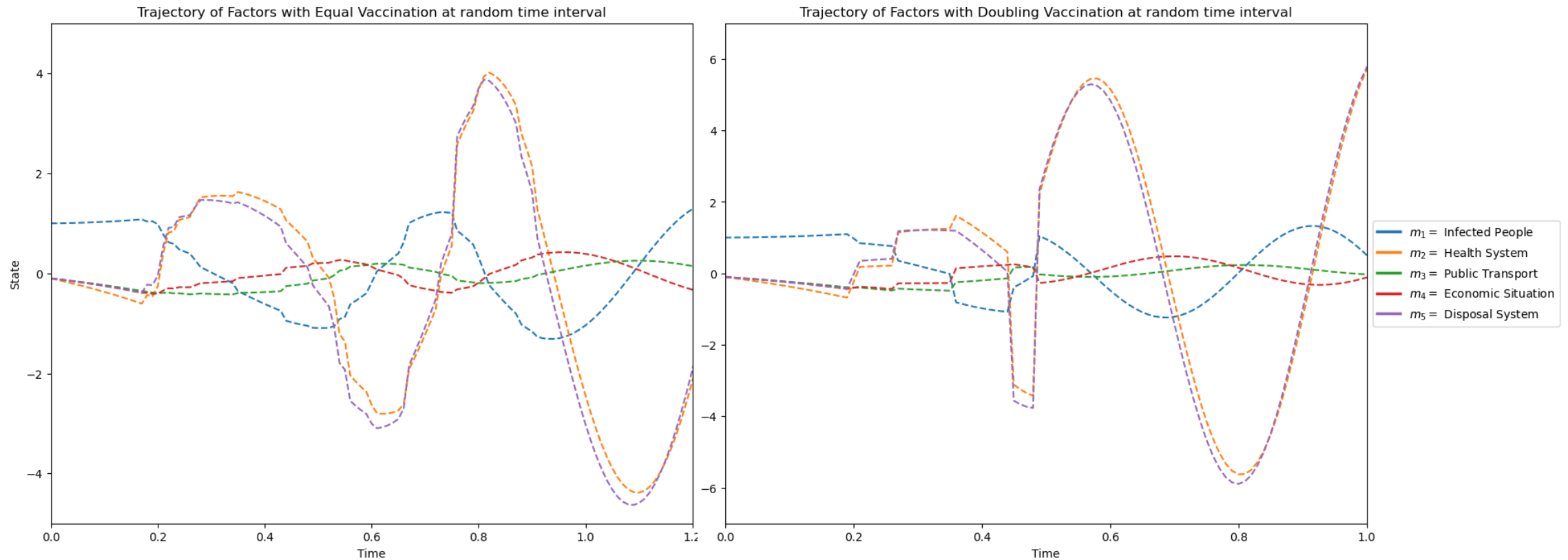


CONTROL STRATEGIES FOR MITIGATION OF CASCADING EFFECTS

- Constant Vaccination on Constant Time Intervals
- Doubling Vaccination on Constant Time Intervals
- Constant Vaccination on Random Time Intervals
- **Doubling Vaccination on Random Time Intervals**
 - Random Interval: $t = 0.2 + dt$; $dt \in [0.1, 2]$
 - Catastrophe Lifespan: $t = 0.93$
 - Assuming time scale is years, doubling vaccination on random time interval ends the pandemic in 0.93 years.
 - Oscillation occurs! (Must be stability issues)



OTHER SIMULATIONS $(T = 0.2 + DT; DT \in [-0.1, +0.1])$



Adjusting random interval can show interesting effects: Lifespan = 0.91 (equal) and 0.49 (doubling)

CONCLUSION

- Effects cascaded from interacting events/factors can grow uncontrollably, with or without considering unaccounted forces.
 - Adjusting control parameters (intensity and frequency) can change the trajectory of the overall system.
 - Stability needs to be investigated to avoid inputting parameters that cause oscillation.
 - Theoretical framework must be verified with real life scenario and experts' advice.
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