

Generation intervals in space

Understanding the effects of spatial and network structure on links between generation interval and growth rate

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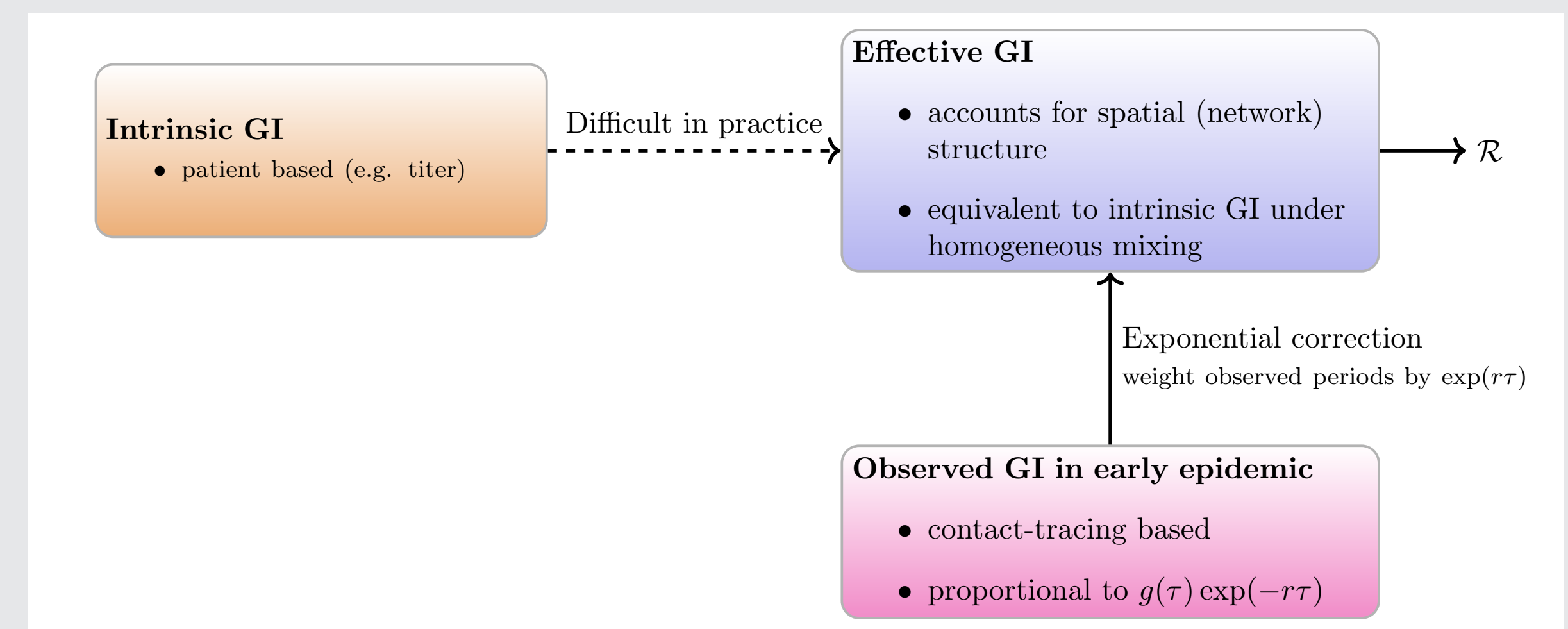
Background

- Generation interval (GI) measures time between when a person is infected and when that person infects another person
- GI distribution, $g(\tau)$, plays an important role in linking exponential growth rate, r , and reproductive number, \mathcal{R} , of an epidemic [1]:

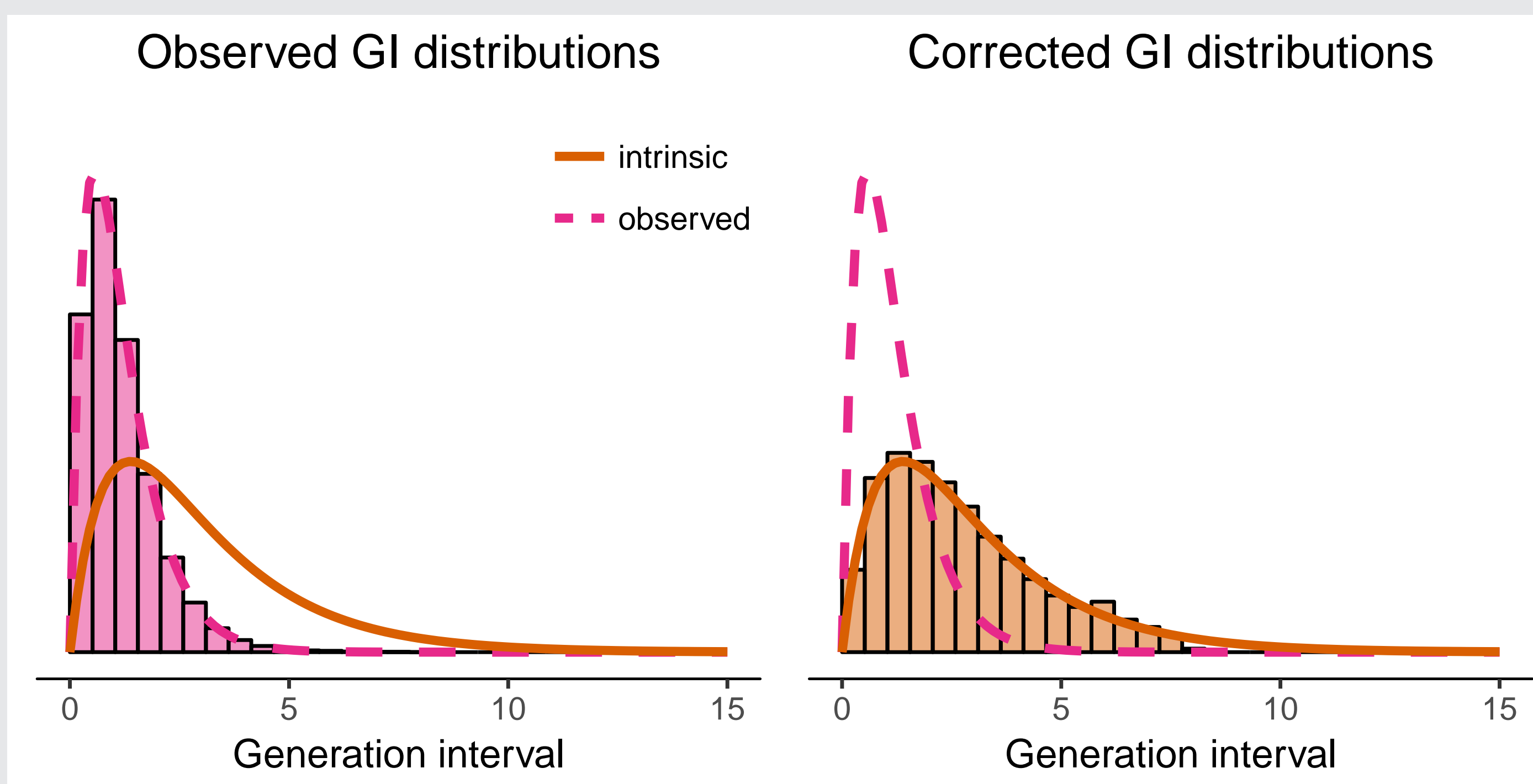
$$1/\mathcal{R} = \int g(\tau) \exp(-r\tau) d\tau$$

- Previous work showed that measuring GI through contact tracing data can introduce bias [2]
- Trapman *et al.* [3] demonstrated that network structure can affect \mathcal{R} ; ultimately, it changes GI distribution and $r - \mathcal{R}$ relationship

Overview

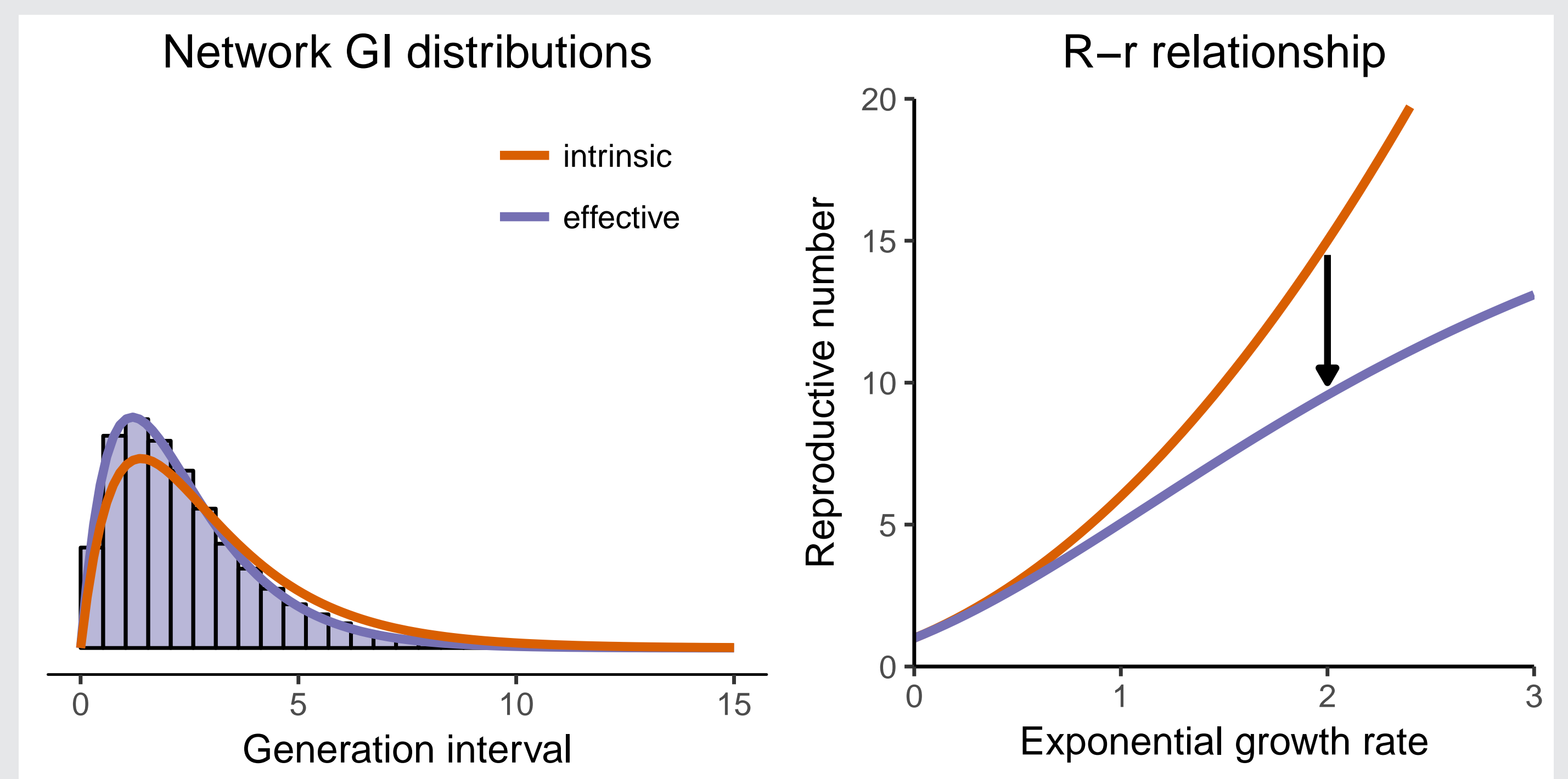


Temporal correction on a homogeneous network



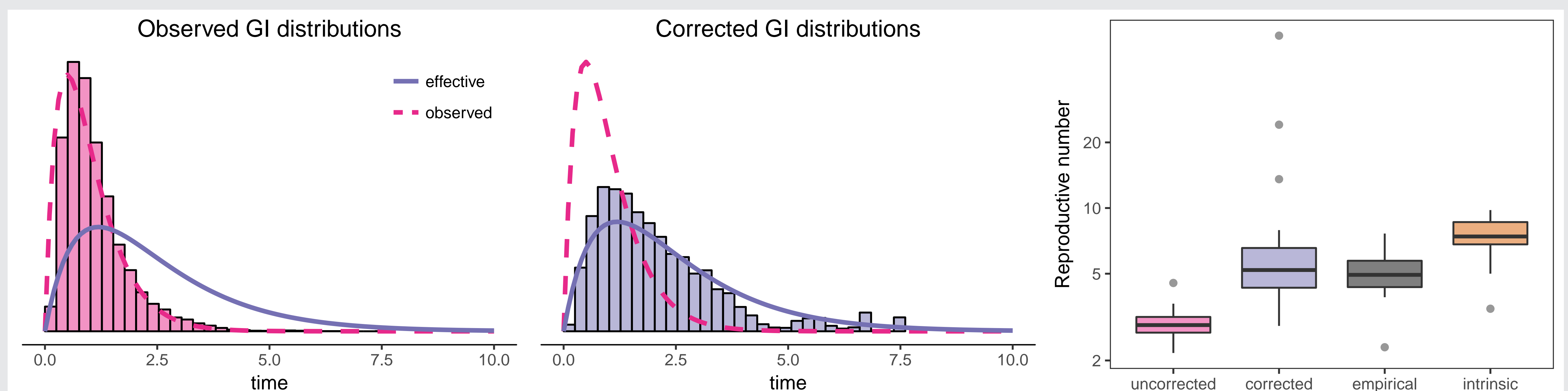
The intrinsic GI distribution can be estimated from observations during an outbreak. During an outbreak, shorter intervals are more likely to be observed (since longer ones may not have completed yet). (Left) Intervals observed during the exponential phase. (Right) The same intervals, but reweighted to remove the sampling bias. These match the known GI that was used for the simulations (black curve). Stochastic SEIR model simulated on a homogeneous network: $\mathcal{R} = 6$, mean latent; infectious periods of 1; 2 time units.

Spatial correction on an idealized network



Effects of locality on GI can be calculated in simple cases. Local spatial effects make realized GIs shorter, because repeated contacts only infect the first time. (Left) Solid line: Observed GIs from simulations on a strictly local network. These do not match the known intrinsic GI (solid line), but do match the calculated spatial correction (dashed line). (Right) If a disease is spreading on a network, calculations based on the (longer) intrinsic GI will lead to over-estimates of \mathcal{R} (solid line). A simple correction (dashed line) accounts for local effects, but not necessarily other network effects. [3]

Simulation on an empirical network



Reproductive number predicted by using the corrected GI distributions matches empirical estimate of the reproductive number. Individual-based observations are expected to overestimate the GI and therefore \mathcal{R} . Contact tracing observations are expected to underestimate the GI and \mathcal{R} .

Summary and future direction

- GIs can be measured in different ways
- We can understand how spatial and temporal effects change GIs
- The correct distribution for understanding the link between r and \mathcal{R} differs from both directly measurable distributions (patient-centered and contact-tracing)
- The temporal correction is theoretically sound, but not always statistically robust; more work is needed.

Bibliography

- Jacco Wallinga and Marc Lipsitch. How generation intervals shape the relationship between growth rates and reproductive numbers. *Proceedings of the Royal Society of London B: Biological Sciences*, 274(1609):599–604, 2007.
- David Champredon and Jonathan Dushoff. Intrinsic and realized generation intervals in infectious-disease transmission. In *Proc. R. Soc. B*, volume 282, page 20152026. The Royal Society, 2015.
- Pieter Trapman, Frank Ball, Jean-Stéphane Dherin, Viet Chi Tran, Jacco Wallinga, and Tom Britton. Inferring r_0 in emerging epidemics: the effect of common population structure is small. *Journal of the Royal Society Interface*, 13(121):20160288, 2016.