

Modeling COVID-19

Bergische Universität Wuppertal Wuppertal, Germany

Prof. Ruy Freitas Reis
ruy.reis@ufjf.br



Pós-Graduação em Modelagem Computacional
Departamento de Ciência da Computação
Universidade Federal de Juiz de Fora

July 11, 2023

Overview

1 Introduction

2 Challenges and Modeling

Characterization of the Pandemic

Forecasting vs Projection

Vaccination

Immune System Reaction

3 References

Overview

1 Introduction

2 Challenges and Modeling

Characterization of the Pandemic

Forecasting vs Projection

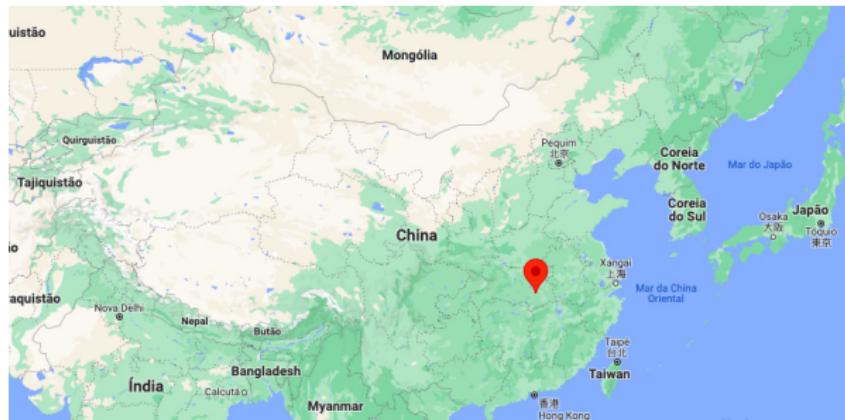
Vaccination

Immune System Reaction

3 References

Motivation

- Late in 2019, China identified a new type of coronavirus, Sars-CoV-2, circulating in Wuhan following an outbreak of pneumonia.



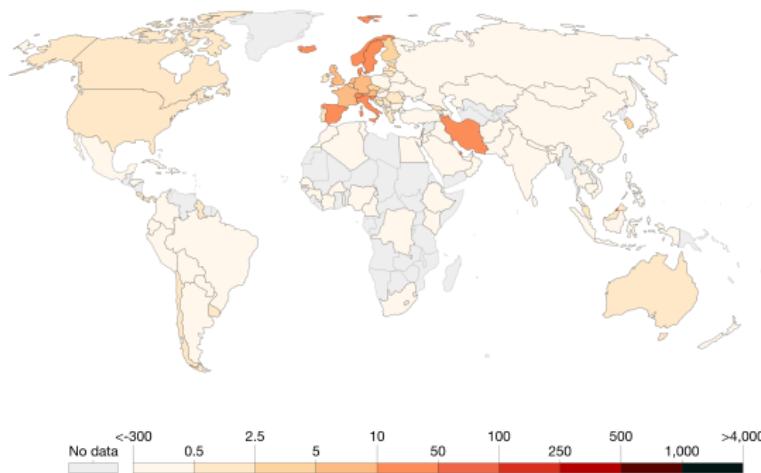
Motivation

Due to the rapid spread of the virus, the World Health Organization declared a pandemic of this new disease called COVID-19 on March 11, 2020 ¹

Daily new confirmed COVID-19 cases per million people

The number of confirmed cases is lower than the number of actual cases; the main reason for that is limited testing.

Our World
in Data



Source: Johns Hopkins University CSSE COVID-19 Data

CC BY

¹<https://www.who.int/director-general/speeches/detail/who-director-general-s-opening-remarks-at-the-media-briefing-on->

Motivation

Introduction

Challenges
and Modeling

Characterization of
the Pandemic

Forecasting vs
Projection

Vaccination

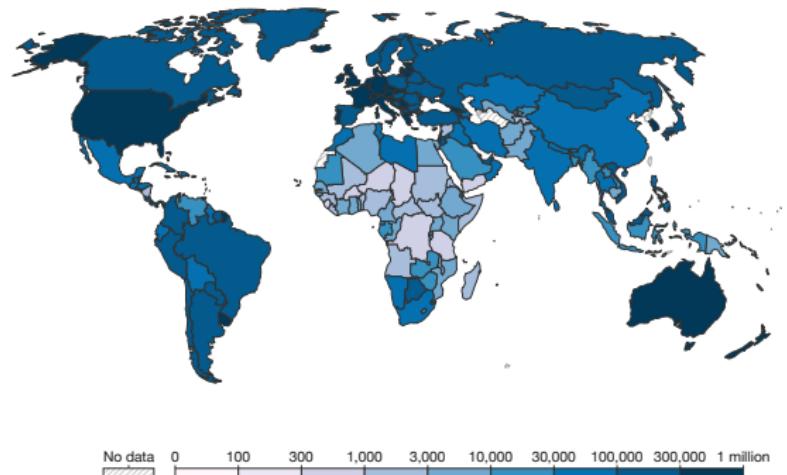
Immune System
Reaction

References

On June 28, 2023, the cumulative total of cases per million people is as follows

Cumulative confirmed COVID-19 cases per million people, Jun 28, 2023

Due to limited testing, the number of confirmed cases is lower than the true number of infections.



Source: WHO COVID-19 Dashboard

CC BY

Overview

1 Introduction

2 Challenges and Modeling

Characterization of the Pandemic

Forecasting vs Projection

Vaccination

Immune System Reaction

3 References

Once upon a time...

- The group started meeting to discuss modeling COVID-19 on March 20, 2020
- All the modeling and strategies adopted have always been based on the principle of simplicity: K.I.S.S. (keep it simple and straightforward)
 1. A new disease, little was knowledge (and still lacking knowledge) about the virus
 2. Lack of specific data (ICU, division by age, etc.)
 3. The larger the model, the more parameters. Parameters of a new disease that little is known about acceptable values
 4. Few variables, simplifies validation
- We conclude that SIRD-based models are sufficient to capture the dynamics of COVID-19 propagation.

Introduction

Challenges
and ModelingCharacterization of
the PandemicForecasting vs
Projection

Vaccination

Immune System
Reaction

References

Overview

1 Introduction

2 Challenges and Modeling

Characterization of the Pandemic

Forecasting vs Projection

Vaccination

Immune System Reaction

3 References

Characterization

The first work published was based on the idea of
characterizing the pandemic

- What is the local transmission rate?
- What is the mortality rate?
- What is underreporting?
- What is the influence of border control?

Characterization

Chaos, Solitons and Fractals 136 [2020] 109888



Contents lists available at ScienceDirect

Chaos, Solitons and Fractals
Nonlinear Science, and Nonequilibrium and Complex Phenomena
journal homepage: www.elsevier.com/locate/chaos



Characterization of the COVID-19 pandemic and the impact of uncertainties, mitigation strategies, and underreporting of cases in South Korea, Italy, and Brazil



Ruy Freitas Reis^a, Bárbara de Melo Quintela^{a,b}, Joventino de Oliveira Campos^d,
Johnny Moreira Gomes^c, Bernardo Martins Rocha^{a,c}, Marcelo Lobosco^{a,c}, Rodrigo Weber
dos Santos^{a,c,e}

^a Departamento de Ciéncia da Computaçao, Universidade Federal de Juiz de Fora, Brazil

^b Department of Industrial Engineering, Alma Mater Studiorum - University of Bologna, Italy

^c Pós-Graduação em Modelagem Computacional, Universidade Federal de Juiz de Fora, Brazil

^d Centro Federal de Educação Tecnológica de Minas Gerais, Leopoldina, Brazil

ARTICLE INFO

Article history

Received 11 April 2020

Revised 6 May 2020

Accepted 10 May 2020

Available online 14 May 2020

ABSTRACT

By April 7th, 2020, the Coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) has infected one and a half million people worldwide, accounting for over 80 thousand of deaths in 209 countries and territories around the world. The new and fast dynamics of the pandemic are challenging the health systems of different countries. In the absence of vaccines or effective treatments, mitigation policies, such as social isolation and lock-down of cities, have been adopted, but the results vary among different countries. Some countries were able to

2

²Reis, R. F., de Melo Quintela, B., de Oliveira Campos, J., Gomes, J. M., Rocha, B. M., Lobosco, M., and Dos Santos, R. W. (2020). Characterization of the COVID-19 pandemic and the impact of uncertainties, mitigation strategies, and underreporting of cases in South Korea, Italy, and Brazil. *Chaos, Solitons & Fractals*, 136, 109888.

Characterization

Mathematical Model

The model used in this first work is described by the following equations:

$$\begin{cases} \frac{dS}{dt} = -\frac{\alpha(t)}{N} SI, \\ \frac{dI}{dt} = \frac{\alpha(t)}{N} SI + f(t) - \beta I - \gamma I, \\ \frac{dR}{dt} = \gamma I, \\ \frac{dD}{dt} = \beta I, \\ I_r = \theta I(t - (1 - \theta)\tau_1), \end{cases}$$

$$a(t) = \begin{cases} 1, & \text{se } t < t_i, \\ \frac{r-1}{\Delta}(t - t_i) + 1, & \text{se } t_i \leq t \text{ e } t \leq t_i + \Delta, \\ r, & \text{c.c..} \end{cases}$$

Introduction

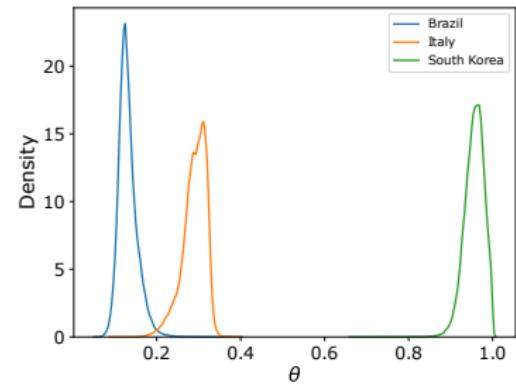
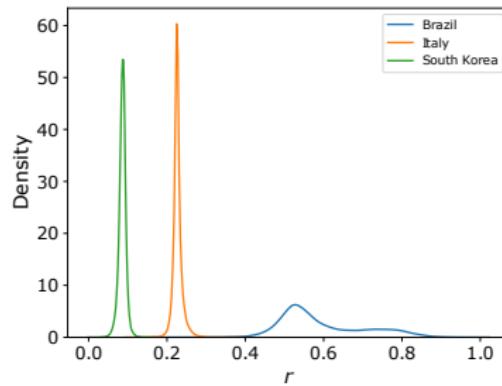
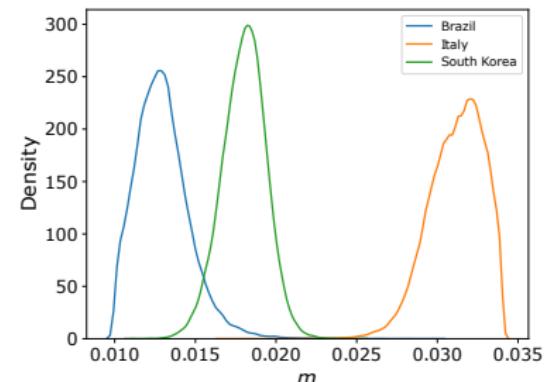
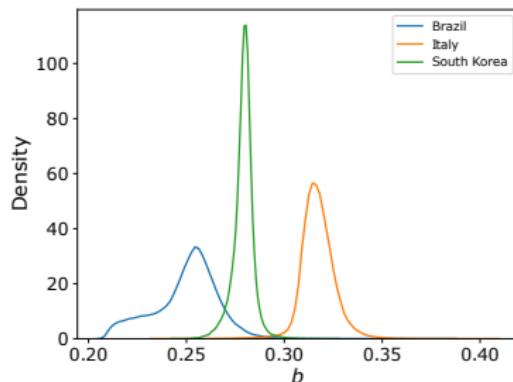
Challenges
and ModelingCharacterization of
the PandemicForecasting vs
Projection

Vaccination

Immune System
Reaction

References

Results



Introduction

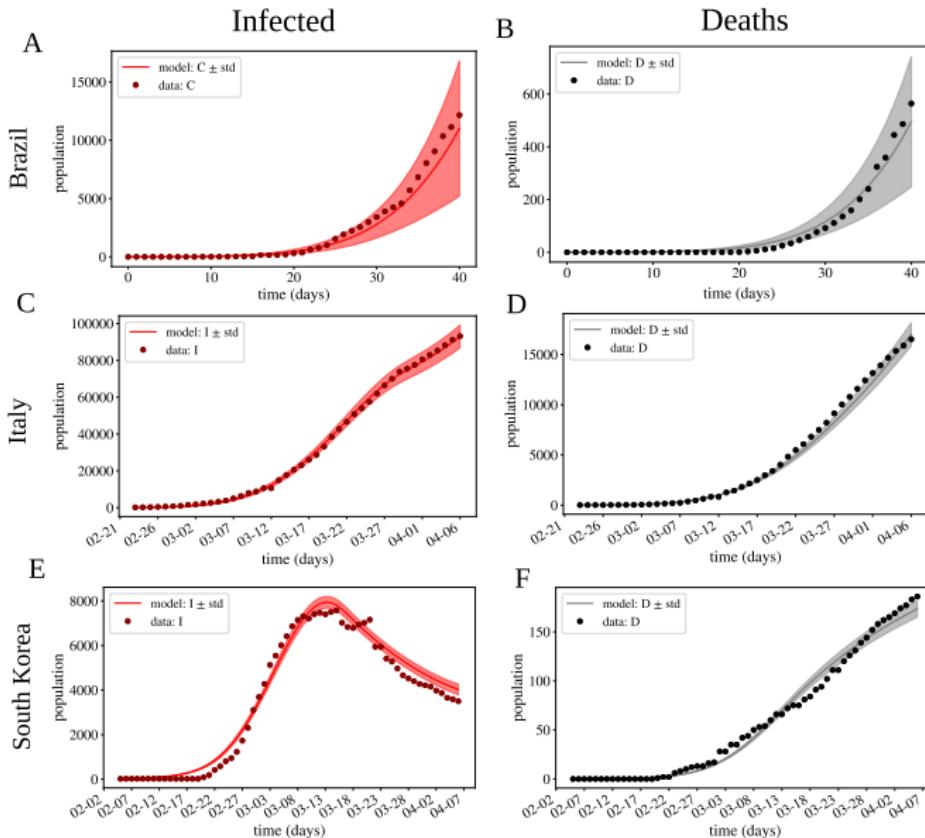
Challenges
and ModelingCharacterization of
the PandemicForecasting vs
Projection

Vaccination

Immune System
Reaction

References

Results



Introduction

Challenges
and ModelingCharacterization of
the PandemicForecasting vs
Projection

Vaccination

Immune System
Reaction

References

Overview

1 Introduction

2 Challenges and Modeling

Characterization of the Pandemic

Forecasting vs Projection

Vaccination

Immune System Reaction

3 References

Forecasting

- Forecasting: *act or effect of predicting; foresight, prescience.*
- How about predicting the pandemic using modeling?



Forecasting I

- In fact, we can find in the literature examples of predictions that failed using:
 - **SEIR:** Kuniya, T. (2020). Prediction of the epidemic peak of coronavirus disease in Japan, 2020. *Journal of clinical medicine*, 9(3), 789.
 - **SIRD:** Fanelli, D., & Piazza, F. (2020). Analysis and forecast of COVID-19 spreading in China, Italy and France. *Chaos, Solitons & Fractals*, 134, 109761.
 - **Extensões do SEIR:** Liu, Z., Magal, P., & Webb, G. (2021). Predicting the number of reported and unreported cases for the COVID-19 epidemics in China, South Korea, Italy, France, Germany and United Kingdom. *Journal of theoretical biology*, 509, 110501.

Forecasting II

- **Modelos Estatísticos:** 1) Li, L., Yang, Z., Dang, Z., Meng, C., Huang, J., Meng, H., ... & Shao, Y. (2020). Propagation analysis and prediction of the COVID-19. Infectious Disease Modelling, 5, 282-292; 2) Jewell, N. P., Lewnard, J. A., & Jewell, B. L. (2020). Caution warranted: using the institute for health metrics and evaluation model for predicting the course of the COVID-19 pandemic.
- **Agent-based:** Chang, S. L., Harding, N., Zachreson, C., Cliff, O. M., & Prokopenko, M. (2020). Modelling transmission and control of the COVID-19 pandemic in Australia. Nature communications, 11(1), 1-13.
- **Machine Learning:** Alzahrani, S. I., Aljamaan, I. A., & Al-Fakih, E. A. (2020). Forecasting the spread of the COVID-19 pandemic in Saudi Arabia using ARIMA prediction model under current public health interventions. Journal of infection and public health, 13(7), 914-919.

Forecasting III

- **Chaos-Based theory:** Mangiarotti, S., Peyre, M., Zhang, Y., Huc, M., Roger, F., & Kerr, Y. (2020). Chaos theory applied to the outbreak of COVID-19: an ancillary approach to decision making in pandemic context. *Epidemiology & Infection*, 148.

Projections

ORIGINAL RESEARCH articleFront. Public Health, 16 March 2021 | <https://doi.org/10.3389/fpubh.2021.623521>

The Quixotic Task of Forecasting Peaks of COVID-19: Rather Focus on Forward and Backward Projections

Ruy Freitas Reis¹, Rafael Sachetto Oliveira², Bárbara de Melo Quintela¹, Joventino de Oliveira Campos³, Johnny Moreira Gomes⁴, Bernardo Martins Rocha^{1,4}, Marcelo Lobosco^{1,4} and Rodrigo Weber dos Santos^{1,4*}

¹Departamento de Ciéncia da Computaçao, Universidade Federal de Juiz de Fora, Juiz de Fora, Brazil

²Departamento de Ciéncia da Computaçao, Universidade Federal de São João del-Rei, São João del-Rei, Brazil

³Centro Federal de Educação Tecnológica de Minas de Gerais, Leopoldina, Brazil

⁴Pós-Graduaçao em Modelagem Computacional, Universidade Federal de Juiz de Fora, Juiz de Fora, Brazil

3

³Reis, R. F., Oliveira, R. S., Quintela, B. D. M., Campos, J. D. O., Gomes, J. M., Rocha, B. M., ... and Dos Santos, R. W. (2021). The quixotic task of forecasting peaks of COVID-19: Rather focus on forward and backward projections. *Frontiers in Public Health*, 9, 623521

Projections

Mathematical model

The model is described by the following set of equations:

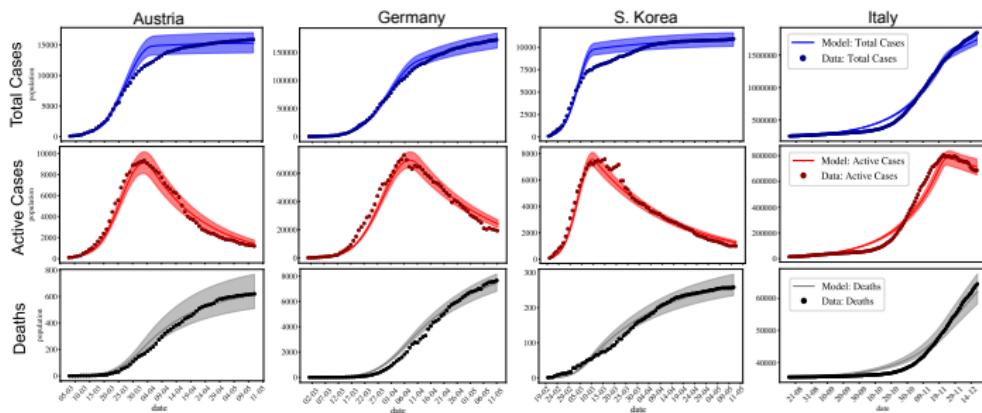
$$\begin{cases} \frac{dS}{dt} = -\frac{\alpha(t)}{N} SI, \\ \frac{dI}{dt} = \frac{\alpha(t)}{N} SI - \beta I - \gamma I, \\ \frac{dR}{dt} = \gamma I, \\ \frac{dD}{dt} = \beta I, \\ I_r = \theta I, \\ R_r = \theta R, \\ C = I_r + R_r + D, \end{cases}$$

$$a(t) = \begin{cases} 1, & \text{if } t < t_i, \\ \frac{r-1}{\Delta}(t - t_i) + 1, & \text{if } t_i \leq t \leq t_i + \Delta, \\ r, & \text{otherwise.} \end{cases}$$

Results

Model Calibration

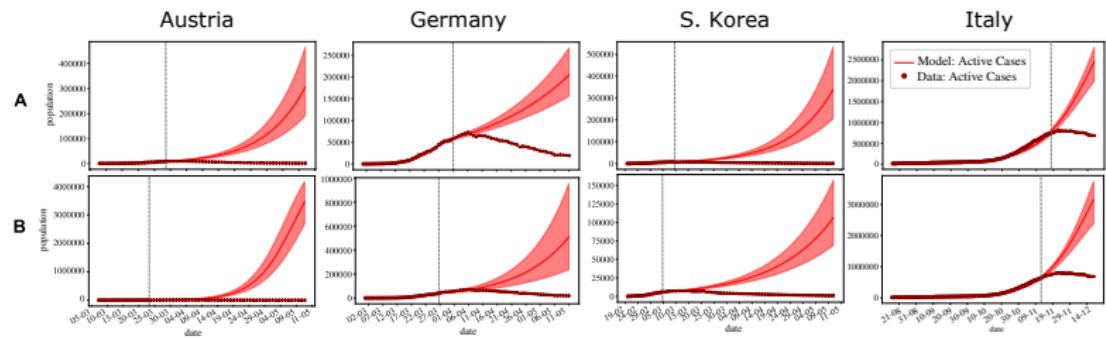
The first question is: Can the model capture the dynamics of the pandemic?



Forecast

Results

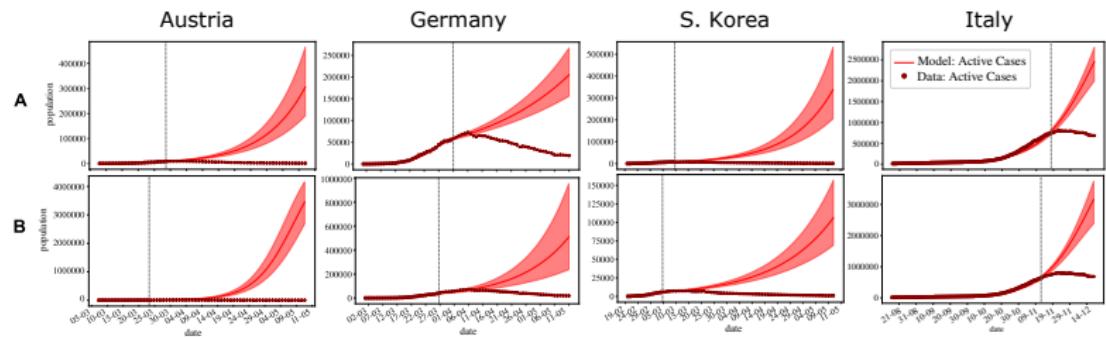
Well, if it fits, just simulate more days to make forecasts:



Forecast

Results

Well, if it fits, just simulate more days to make forecasts:



The More You Tighten Your Grip, the More It Slips Through Your Fingers

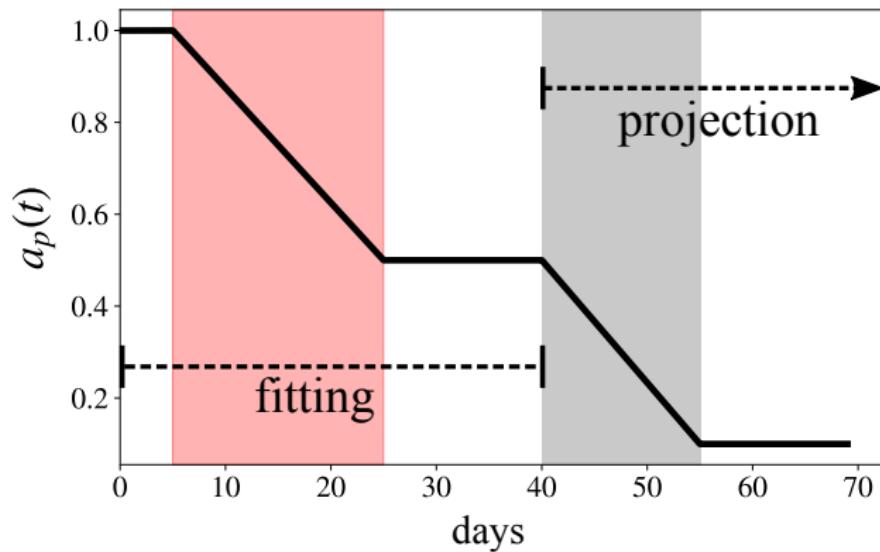
$$a_p(t) = \begin{cases} 1, & \text{if } t < t_i, \\ \frac{r-1}{\Delta}(t - t_i) + 1, & \text{if } t_i \leq t \leq t_i + \Delta, \\ r, & \text{if } t_i + \Delta < t \leq t_f, \\ \frac{r_f - r}{\Delta_f}(t - t_f) + r, & \text{if } t_f < t \leq t_f + \Delta_f, \\ r_f, & \text{otherwise} \end{cases}$$

Projections

Mathematical model

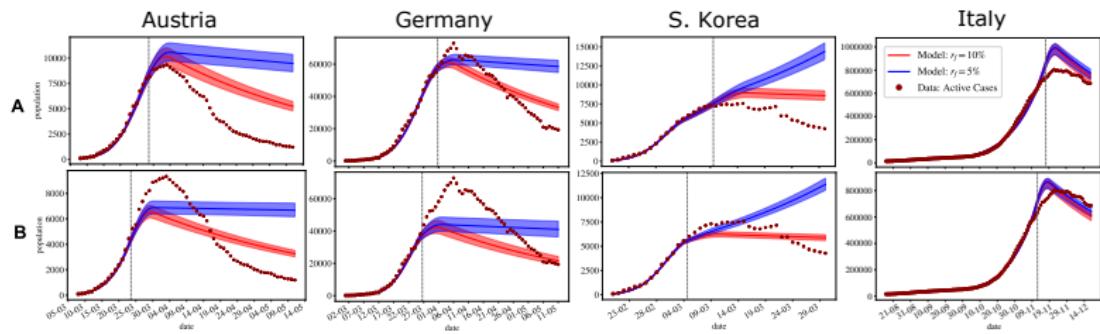
Projections

Unlike forecasts, projections aim to study one or more hypothetical scenarios. In contrast, forecasts use available data and try to predict future trends.



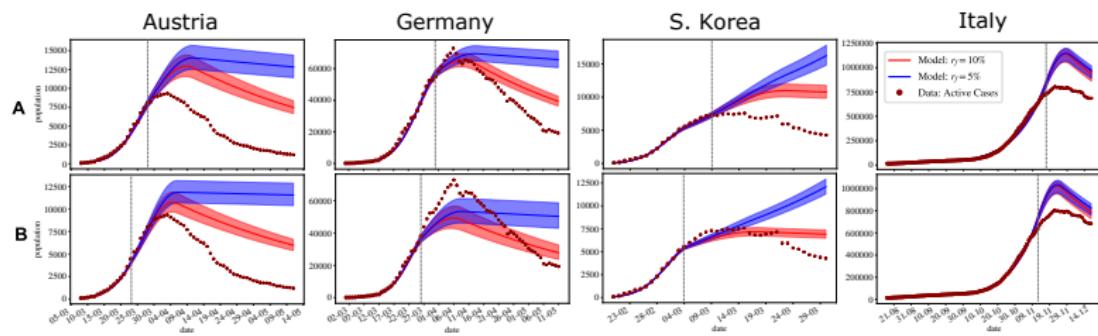
Results

Projections



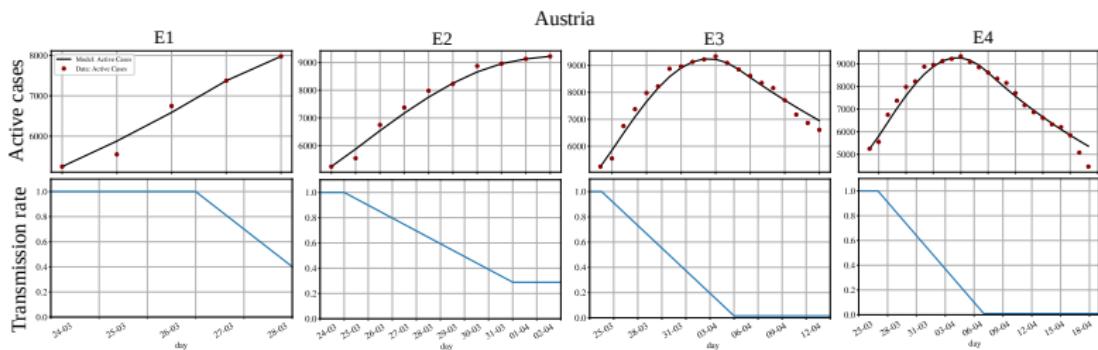
Results

Projections



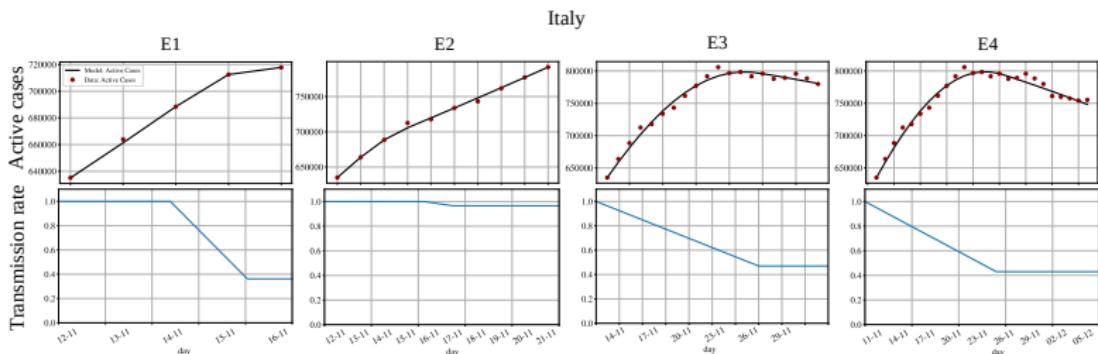
The main source of error

Incorrect estimate of transmission near the peak



The main source of error

Incorrect estimate of transmission near the peak



Introduction

Challenges
and ModelingCharacterization of
the PandemicForecasting vs
Projection

Vaccination

Immune System
Reaction

References

Overview

1 Introduction

2 Challenges and Modeling

Characterization of the Pandemic

Forecasting vs Projection

Vaccination

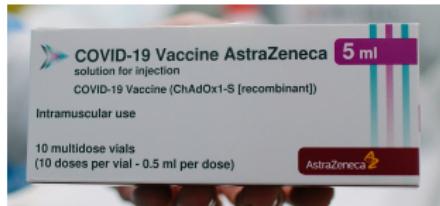
Immune System Reaction

3 References

Vaccination

The first studies on the safety and efficacy of vaccines against COVID-19 were published at the end of 2020:

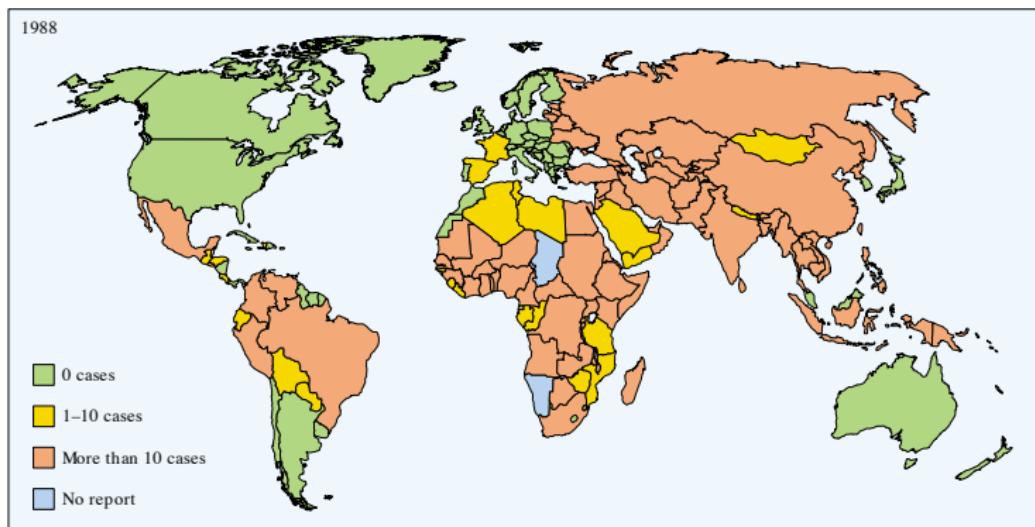
1. Voysey, Merryn et al. Safety and efficacy of the ChAdOx1 nCoV-19 vaccine (AZD1222) against SARS-CoV-2: an interim analysis of four randomised controlled trials in Brazil, South Africa, and the UK. *The Lancet*.
[https://doi.org/10.1016/S0140-6736\(20\)32661-1](https://doi.org/10.1016/S0140-6736(20)32661-1)
 2. Polack, Fernando P. et al. Safety and Efficacy of the BNT162b2 mRNA Covid-19 Vaccine. *N. Engl. J. Med.*
<https://doi.org/10.1056/NEJMoa2034577>



Vaccination

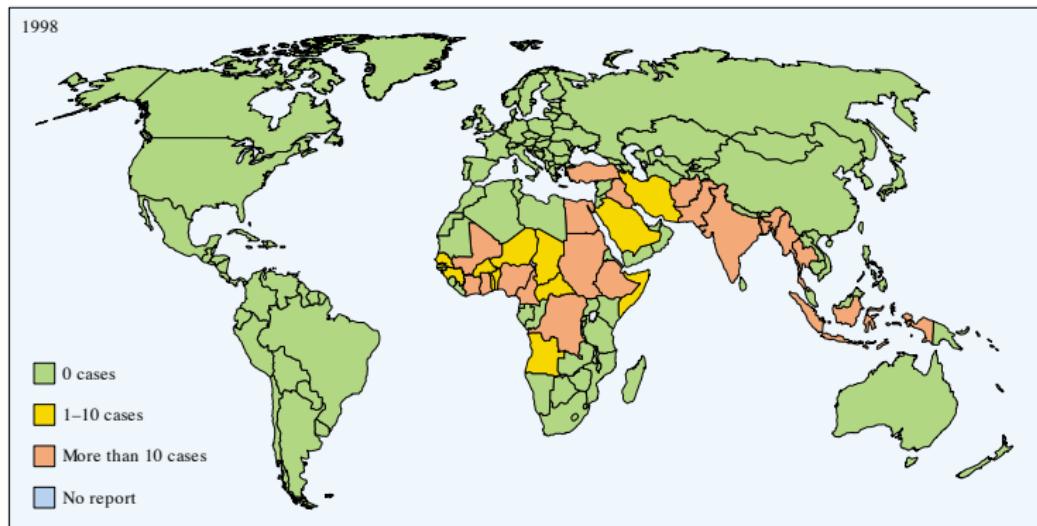
Importance

Polio cases in 1988



Vaccination Importance

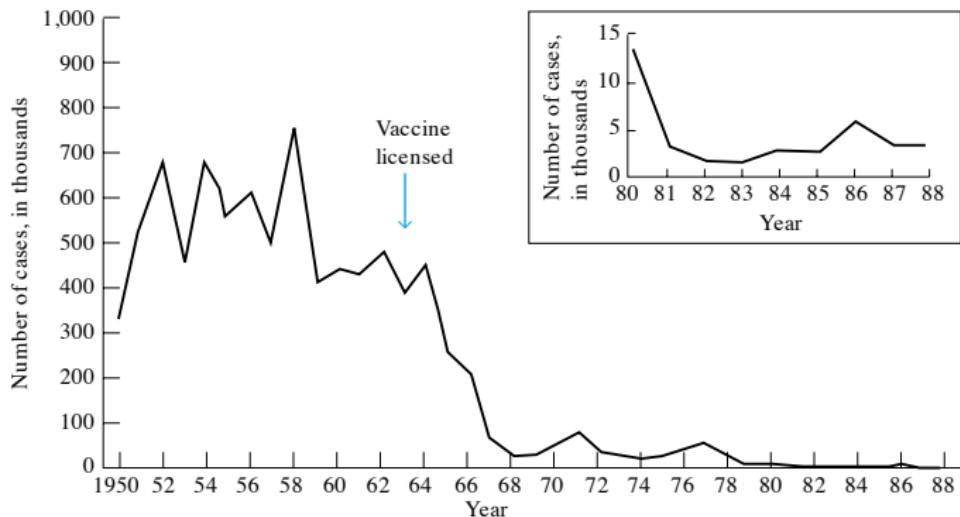
Polio cases in 1998



Vaccination

Importance

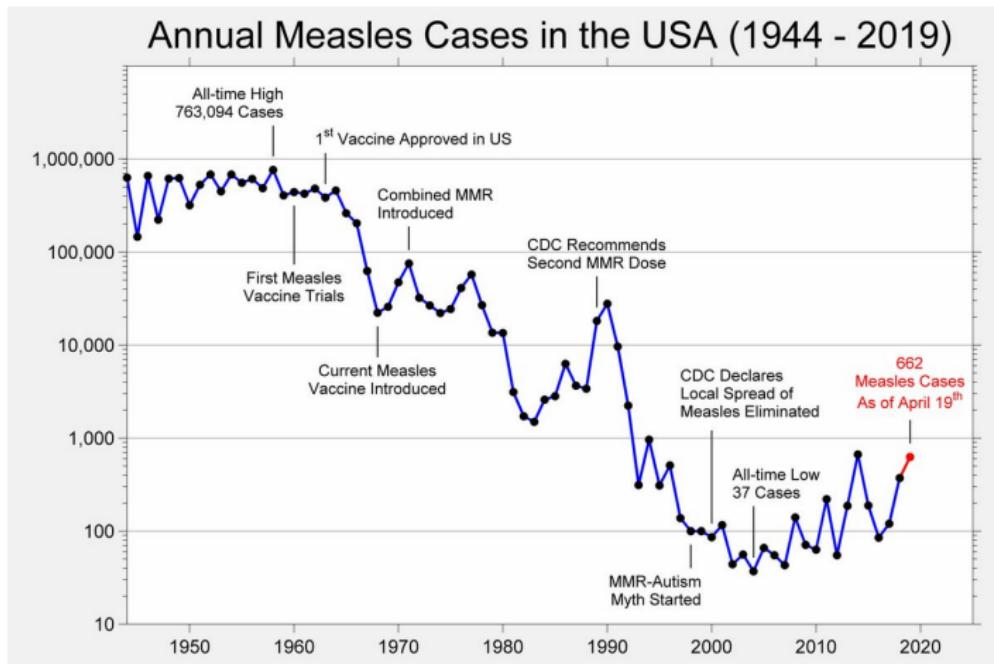
Evolution of measles cases in the US



Vaccination

Importance

Evolution of measles cases in the US



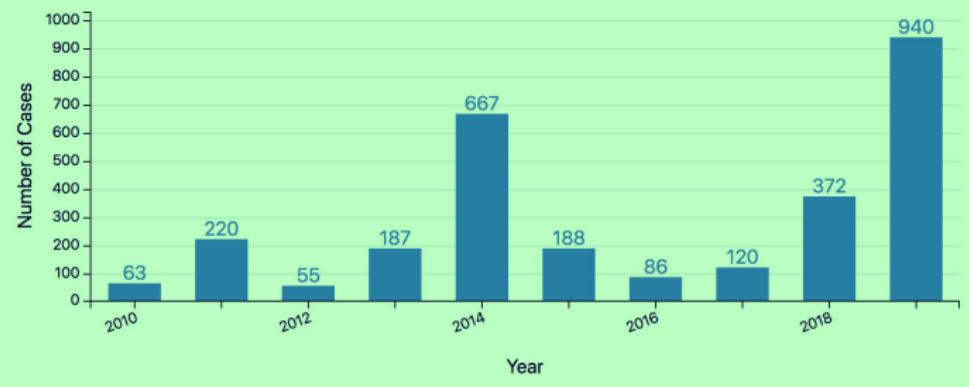
Vaccination

Importance

Evolution of measles cases in the US

Number of Measles Cases Reported by Year

2010-2019** (as of May 24, 2019)



Vaccination Importance

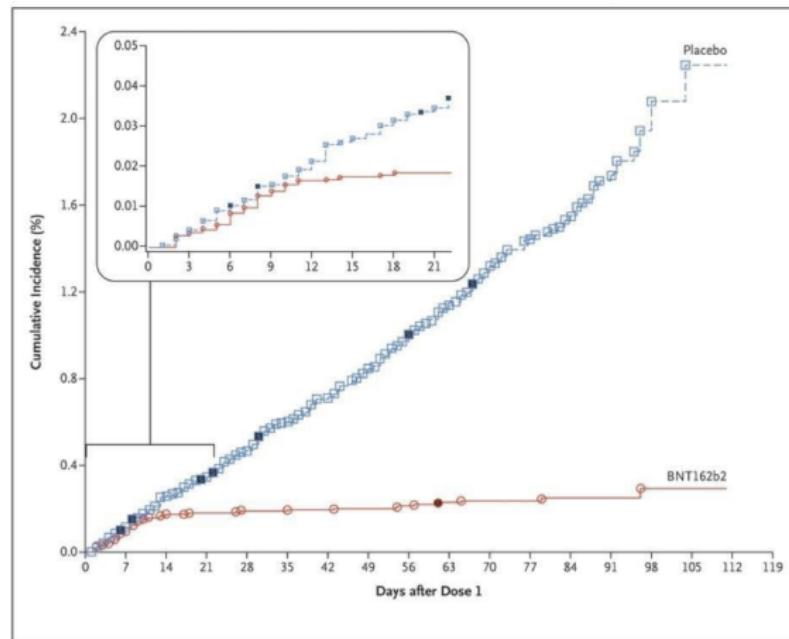
Recent measles cases in Brazil



Vaccination

Importance

We cannot fail to mention the importance of a vaccine in the current pandemic crisis generated by the new COVID-19



[International Conference on Computational Science](#)[ICCS 2021: Computational Science – ICCS 2021 pp 497-510 | Cite as](#)

How Fast Vaccination Can Control the COVID-19 Pandemic in Brazil?

[Authors](#)[Authors and affiliations](#)

Rafael Sachetto Oliveira , Carolina Ribeiro Xavier, Vinícius da Fonseca Vieira, Bernardo Martins Rocha, Ruy Freitas Reis,

Bárbara de Melo Quintela, Marcelo Lobosco, Rodrigo Weber dos Santos

Conference paper

First Online: 09 June 2021



Downloads

Part of the [Lecture Notes in Computer Science](#) book series (LNCS, volume 12743)

4

⁴Oliveira, R. S., Xavier, C. R., da Fonseca Vieira, V., Rocha, B. M., Reis, R. F., de Melo Quintela, B., ... and dos Santos, R. W. (2021). How fast vaccination can control the COVID-19 pandemic in Brazil?. In Computational Science–ICCS 2021: 21st International Conference, Krakow, Poland, June 16–18, 2021, Proceedings, Part II 21 (pp. 497-510). Springer International Publishing.

Vaccination

Mathematical model

$$\begin{cases} \frac{dS}{dt} = -\frac{\alpha(t)}{N}(S - v(t)S)I, \\ \frac{dI}{dt} = \frac{\alpha(t)}{N}(S - v(t)S)I - \beta I - \gamma I, \\ \frac{dR}{dt} = \gamma I, \\ \frac{dD}{dt} = \beta I, \\ I_r = \theta I, \\ R_r = \theta R, \\ C = I_r + R_r + D, \end{cases} \quad (1)$$

$$v(t) = \begin{cases} 0, & \text{if } t < (t_{vs} + t_{im}), \\ v_e v_r t, & \text{otherwise} \end{cases} \quad (2)$$

Introduction

Challenges
and ModelingCharacterization of
the PandemicForecasting vs
Projection

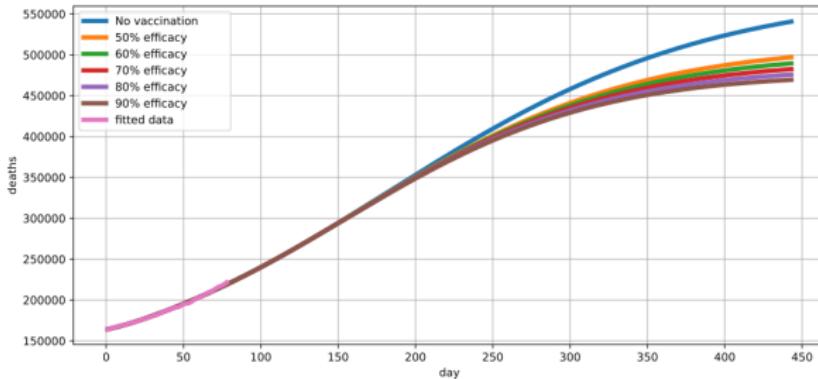
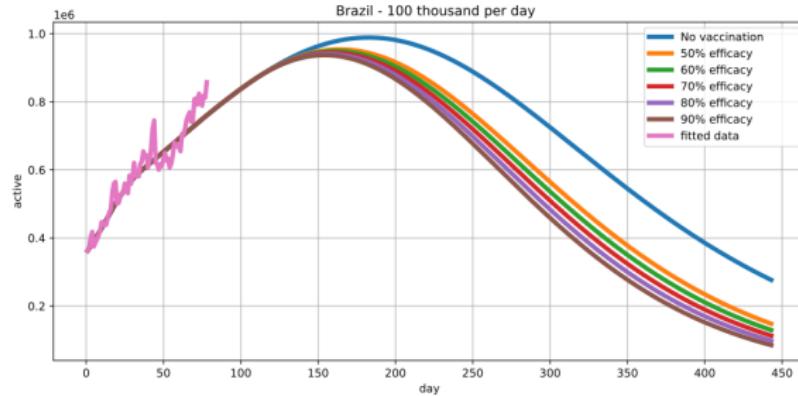
Vaccination

Immune System
Reaction

References

Vaccination

Results



Introduction

Challenges
and ModelingCharacterization of
the PandemicForecasting vs
Projection

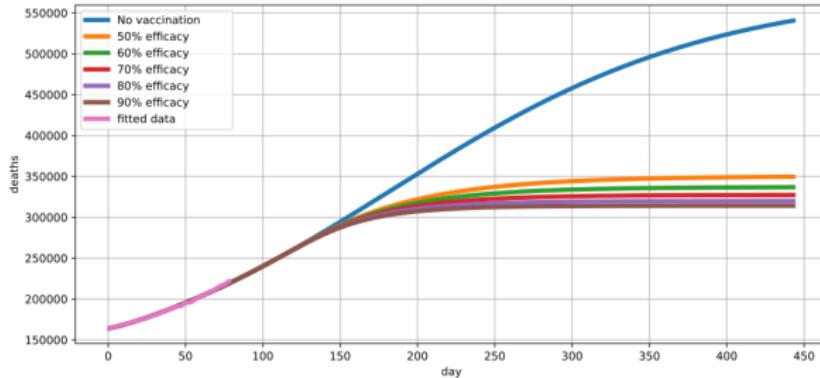
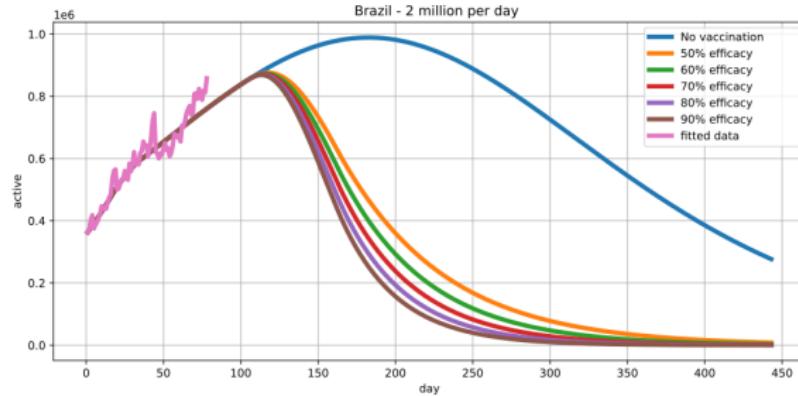
Vaccination

Immune System
Reaction

References

Vaccination

Results



Introduction

Challenges
and ModelingCharacterization of
the PandemicForecasting vs
Projection

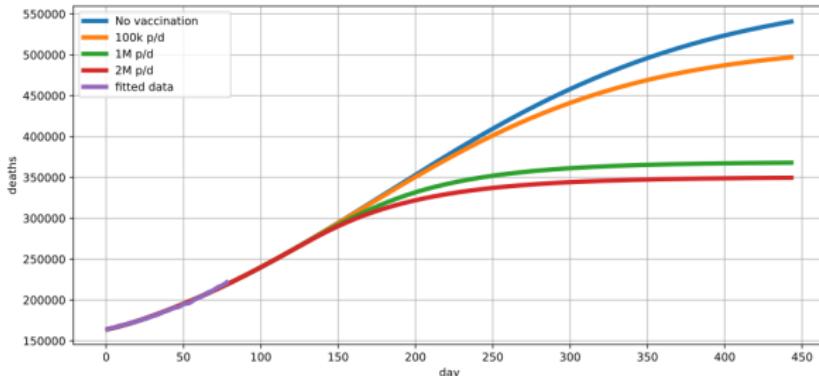
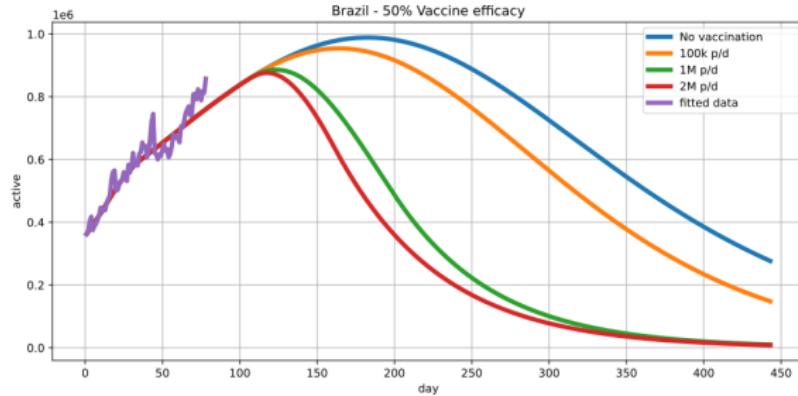
Vaccination

Immune System
Reaction

References

Vaccination

Results



Introduction

Challenges
and ModelingCharacterization of
the PandemicForecasting vs
Projection

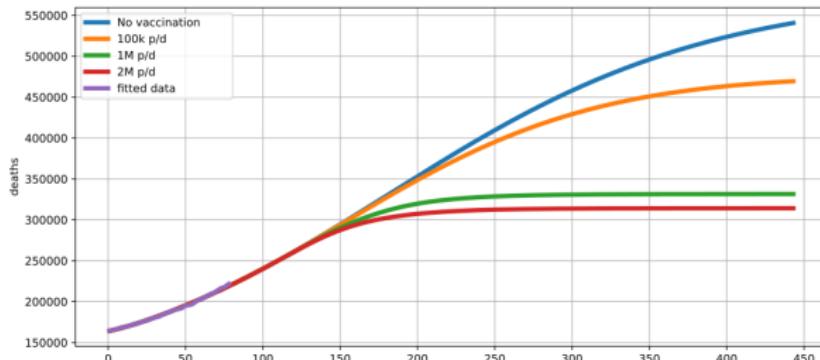
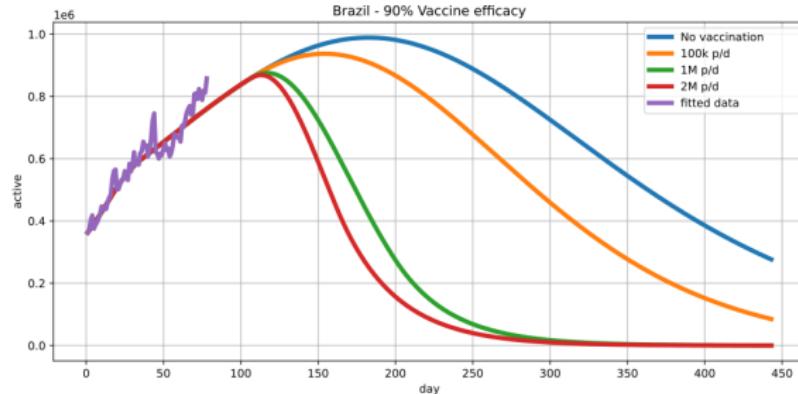
Vaccination

Immune System
Reaction

References

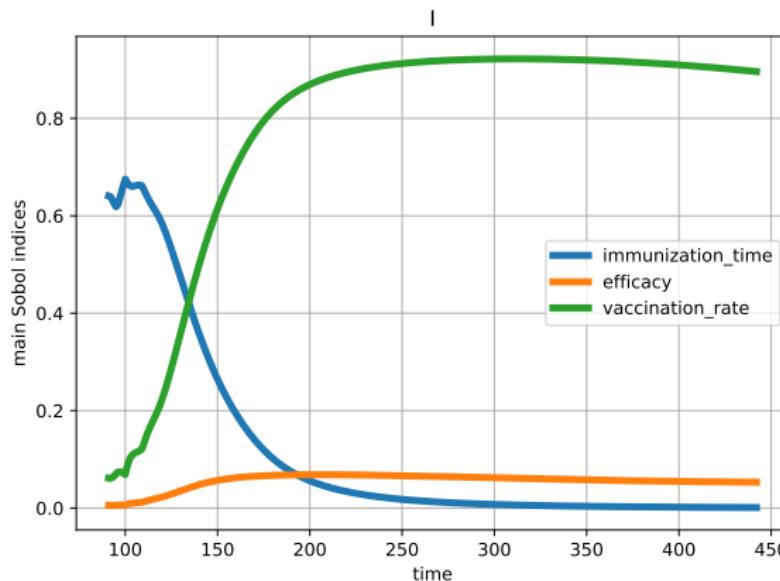
Vaccination

Results



Vaccination

Results



Introduction

Challenges
and ModelingCharacterization of
the PandemicForecasting vs
Projection

Vaccination

Immune System
Reaction

References

Overview

1 Introduction

2 Challenges and Modeling

Characterization of the Pandemic

Forecasting vs Projection

Vaccination

Immune System Reaction

3 References

Cytokine Release Syndrome

- Immune responses are poorly understood: the multiscale interactions among the various components of the human immune system and the pathogen are very complex.
- The Cytokine Release Syndrome (CRS) or cytokine storm has been associated with a wide variety of infectious and non-infectious diseases for the past decades, including influenza and SARS-CoV
- Several mechanisms have been proposed to explain the CRS and the differences between survivors' and non-survivors cases of SARS-CoV-2.
- One hypothesis is that SARS-CoV-2 infects immune defense cells and causes CRS in patients with COVID-19

Cytokine Release Syndrome

Immune Model



ORIGINAL RESEARCH

published: 20 July 2021

doi: 10.3389/fmolt.2021.639423



A Validated Mathematical Model of the Cytokine Release Syndrome in Severe COVID-19

Ruy Freitas Reis^{1,2*}, Alexandre Bittencourt Pigozzo³, Carla Rezende Barbosa Bonin⁴, Barbara de Melo Quintela^{1,2}, Lara Turetta Pompei², Ana Carolina Vieira⁵, Larissa de Lima e Silva², Maicom Peters Xavier⁶, Rodrigo Weber dos Santos^{1,2,6} and Marcelo Lobosco^{1,2,6}

¹Institute of Exact Sciences, Department of Computing, Federal University of Juiz de Fora, Juiz de Fora, Brazil, ²FISIOCOMP - Laboratory of Computational Physiology and High-Performance Computing, Federal University of Juiz de Fora, Juiz de Fora, Brazil,

³Computer Science Department, Federal University of São João Del-Rei, São João Del-Rei, Brazil, ⁴Institute of Education, Science and Technology of Southeast of Minas Gerais - Cataguases Advanced Campus, Cataguases, Brazil, ⁵GET-EngComp, Grupo de Educação Tutorial Engenharia Computacional, Federal University of Juiz de Fora, Juiz de Fora, Brazil, ⁶Graduate Program on Computational Modeling, Federal University of Juiz de Fora, Juiz de Fora, Brazil

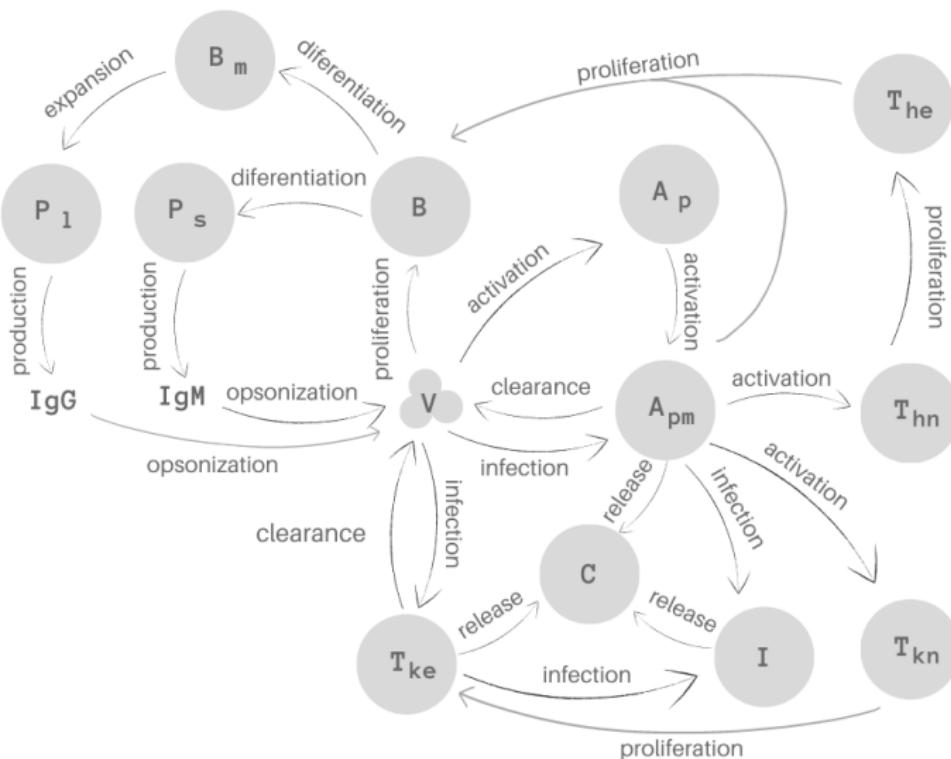
OPEN ACCESS

Edited by:

By June 2021, a new contagious disease, the Coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19), has infected more than 172 million people worldwide, causing more than 3.7 million deaths. Many aspects related to the interactions of the disease's causative

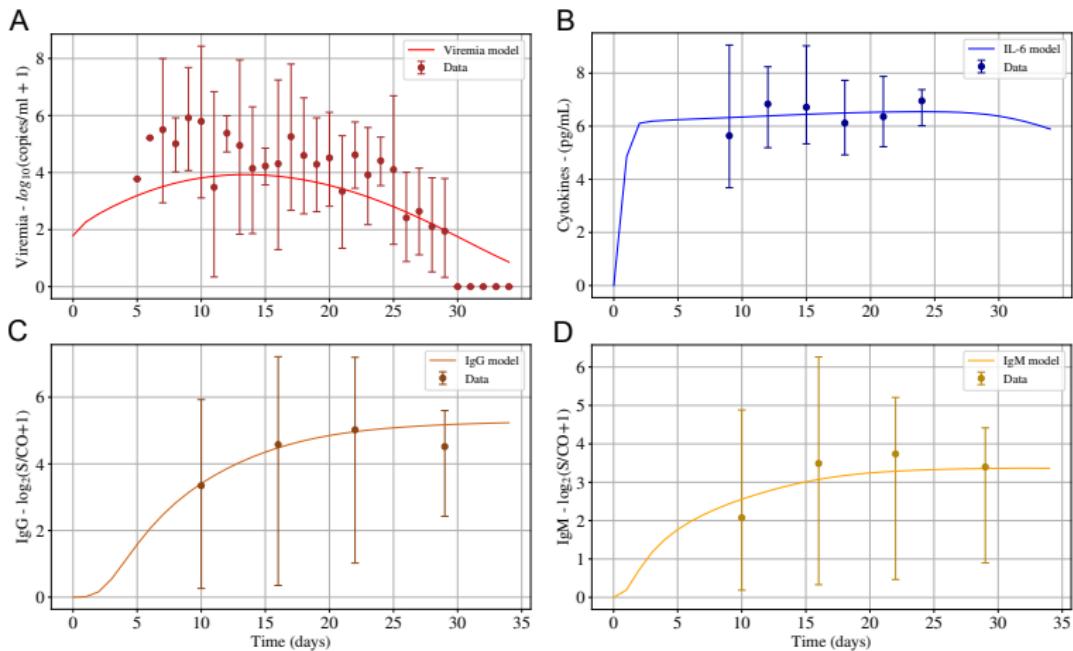
Immune System

Scheme of the Mathematical Model



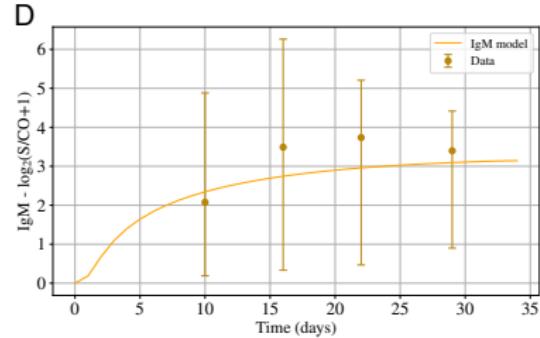
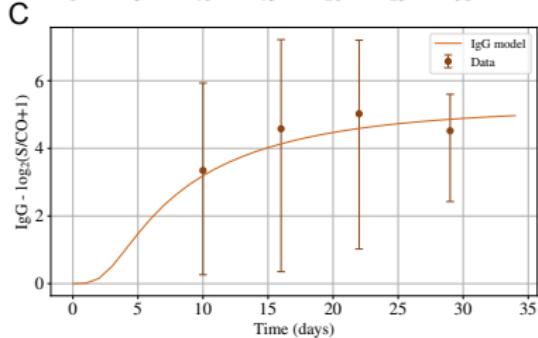
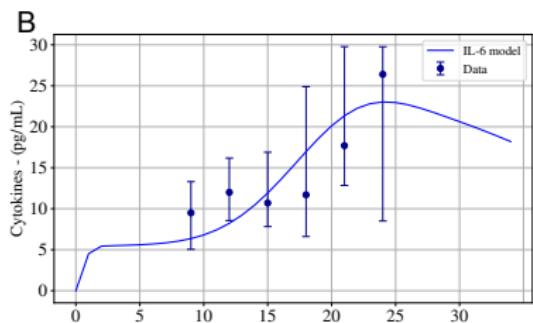
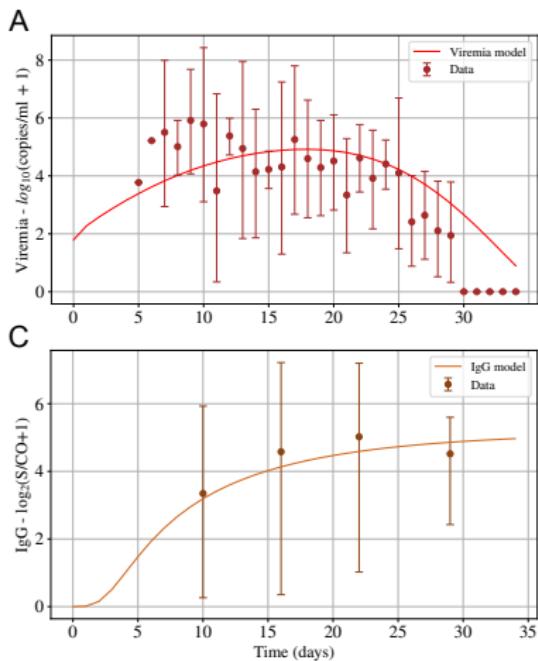
Numerical Adjustment

Survivor



Numerical Adjustment

Non-Survivor



Acknowledgements



Acknowledgements

Danke Schön!
Obrigado!
Thanks!



⁵423278/2021-5

⁶APQ-01226-21

Introduction

Challenges
and ModelingCharacterization of
the PandemicForecasting vs
Projection

Vaccination

Immune System
Reaction

References

Overview

1 Introduction

2 Challenges and Modeling

Characterization of the Pandemic

Forecasting vs Projection

Vaccination

Immune System Reaction

3 References

Referencias I

- Alzahrani, S. I., Aljamaan, I. A., and Al-Fakih, E. A. (2020). Forecasting the spread of the COVID-19 pandemic in saudi arabia using arima prediction model under current public health interventions. *Journal of Infection and Public Health*.
- Chang, S. L., Harding, N., Zachreson, C., Cliff, O. M., and Prokopenko, M. (2020). Modelling transmission and control of the COVID-19 pandemic in australia. *arXiv preprint arXiv:2003.10218*.
- Fanelli, D. and Piazza, F. (2020). Analysis and forecast of COVID-19 spreading in China, Italy and France. *Chaos, Solitons & Fractals*, 134:109761.

Referencias II

- Jewell, N. P., Lewnard, J. A., and Jewell, B. L. (2020). Caution warranted: Using the institute for health metrics and evaluation model for predicting the course of the COVID-19 pandemic. *Annals of Internal Medicine*, 0(0):null. PMID: 32289150.
- Kuniya, T. (2020). Prediction of the epidemic peak of coronavirus disease in Japan, 2020. *Journal of clinical medicine*, 9(3):789.
- Li, L., Yang, Z., Dang, Z., Meng, C., Huang, J., Meng, H., Wang, D., Chen, G., Zhang, J., Peng, H., and Shao, Y. (2020). Propagation analysis and prediction of the COVID-19. *Infectious Disease Modelling*, 5:282 – 292.
- Magal, P. and Webb, G. (2020). Predicting the number of reported and unreported cases for the COVID-19 epidemic in South Korea, Italy, France and Germany. Available at SSRN.

Referencias III

- Mangiarotti, S., Peyre, M., Zhang, Y., Huc, M., Roger, F., and Kerr, Y. (2020). Chaos theory applied to the outbreak of COVID-19: an ancillary approach to decision making in pandemic context. *Epidemiology and Infection*, 148:e95.
- Oliveira, R. S., Xavier, C. R., da Fonseca Vieira, V., Rocha, B. M., Reis, R. F., de Melo Quintela, B., Lobosco, M., and dos Santos, R. W. (2021). How fast vaccination can control the covid-19 pandemic in brazil? In *International Conference on Computational Science*, pages 497–510. Springer.
- Reis, R. F., de Melo Quintela, B., de Oliveira Campos, J., Gomes, J. M., Rocha, B. M., Lobosco, M., and Dos Santos, R. W. (2020). Characterization of the covid-19 pandemic and the impact of uncertainties, mitigation strategies, and underreporting of cases in south korea, italy, and brazil. *Chaos, Solitons & Fractals*, 136:109888.

Referencias IV

- Reis, R. F., Oliveira, R. S., Quintela, B. d. M., Campos, J. d. O., Gomes, J. M., Rocha, B. M., Lobosco, M., and Dos Santos, R. W. (2021a). The quixotic task of forecasting peaks of covid-19: Rather focus on forward and backward projections. *Frontiers in public health*, 9:168.
- Reis, R. F., Pigozzo, A. B., Bonin, C. R. B., Quintela, B. d. M., Pompei, L. T., Vieira, A. C., Xavier, M. P., Weber dos Santos, R., Lobosco, M., et al. (2021b). A validated mathematical model of the cytokine release syndrome in severe covid-19. *Frontiers in Molecular Biosciences*, 8:639423.
- Ritchie, H., Mathieu, E., Rodés-Guirao, L., Appel, C., Giattino, C., Ortiz-Ospina, E., Hasell, J., Macdonald, B., Beltekian, D., and Roser, M. (2020). Coronavirus pandemic (covid-19). *Our World in Data*. <https://ourworldindata.org/coronavirus>.