

SEIR Epidemic Model – Mathematical Description

1. Model Overview

The SEIR model is a compartmental model used to simulate the spread of infectious diseases by dividing the population into four groups:

S(t): Susceptible individuals
E(t): Exposed (infected but not yet infectious)
I(t): Infectious individuals
R(t): Recovered/removed individuals

Total population: $N = S + E + I + R$

2. Model Parameters

β (beta): Transmission rate (per day)
 σ (sigma): Rate at which exposed individuals become infectious (1 / incubation period)
 γ (gamma): Recovery rate (1 / infectious period)

3. Differential Equations

The SEIR model is governed by the following system of ODEs:

$$\frac{dS}{dt} = -\beta * S * I / N$$

$$\frac{dE}{dt} = \beta * S * I / N - \sigma * E$$

$$\frac{dI}{dt} = \sigma * E - \gamma * I$$

$$\frac{dR}{dt} = \gamma * I$$

4. Interpretation

- Susceptible individuals (S) become exposed (E) after contact with an infectious individual.
- Exposed individuals (E) become infectious (I) after the incubation period.
- Infectious individuals (I) recover or are removed (R) at rate γ .

5. Example Parameters

- Population (N): 10,000
- Initial infected (I₀): 10
- Initial exposed (E₀): 20
- β (contact rate): 0.3
- σ (incubation rate): 1 / 5
- γ (recovery rate): 1 / 7

6. Simulation Output

The model shows the progression of the disease over time, visualizing the number of individuals in each compartment (S, E, I, R) using numerical integration methods.