

Within- and between-host modelling

Lessons from other diseases

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Understanding the Generation Time for COVID-19
Isaac Newton Institute, 28-30 July 2021

Outline

- Introduction
 - Compartmental models
 - Time-since-infection models

- Why time-since-infection?
 - Arguments
 - Example 1: within-host HIV metapopulation model
 - Example 2: within- and between-host HIV model

- Open challenges:
 - Link between scales
 - Generation-time for complex models
 - Reinfection / superinfection

Compartmental models

Time-since-infection models

INTRODUCTION

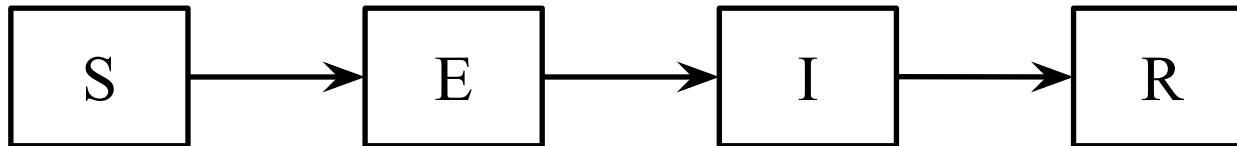
Compartmental models

Time-since-infection models

INTRODUCTION

State transitions

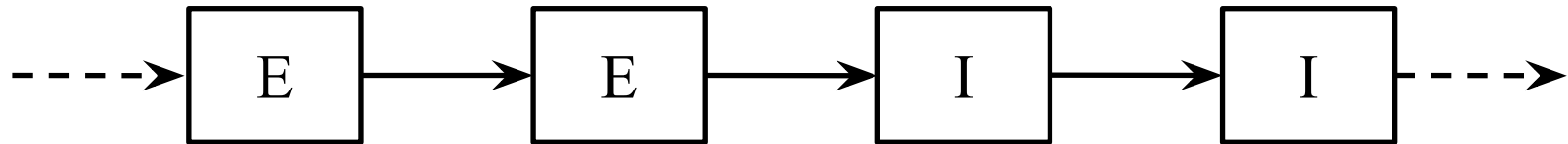
- The simplest form of within-host (WH) dynamics are transitions between states:



- Traditionally modelled with ODEs
- Sensible starting point:
 - Simple
 - ODE numerical tools
- Limitations:
 - Constant rates
 - Exponential waiting times

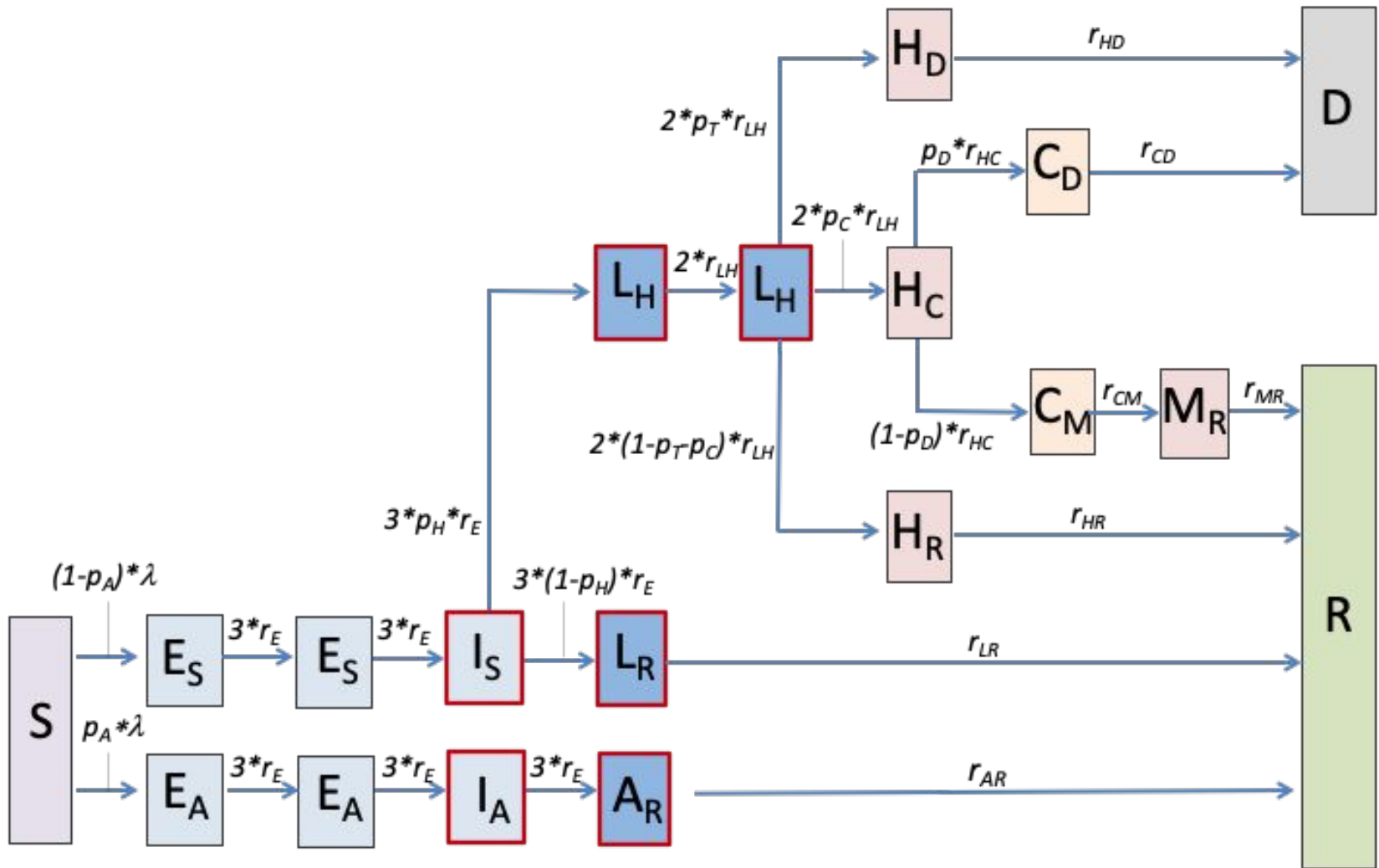
Extensions

- Gamma (Erlang) distributions, by adding multiple compartments:



- Phase-type distributions
- Different infectivities in different compartments
- Problems:
 - Number of compartments grows fast
 - In the limit of a constant duration, we need ∞ compartments

Our COVID-19 model



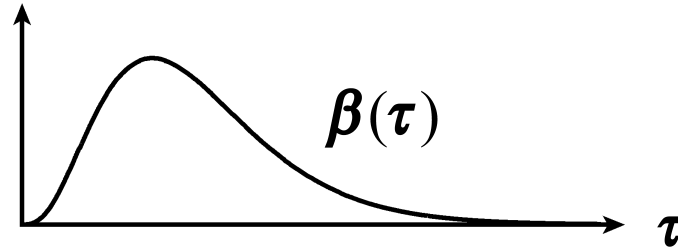
Compartmental models

Time-since-infection models

INTRODUCTION

Time-since-infection (TSI) models

- Function $\beta(\tau)$ to describe infectivity in terms of time-since-infection τ



Real-time growth rate

- Dynamics:

$$H(t) = \frac{S(t)}{N} \int_0^{+\infty} \beta(\tau) H(t - \tau) d\tau$$

- Linearise:

$$S(t) \approx N \quad \Rightarrow \quad H(t) = \int_0^{+\infty} \beta(\tau) H(t - \tau) d\tau$$

- Look for exponential solutions:

$$H(t) = ke^{rt} \quad \Rightarrow \quad ke^{rt} = \int_0^{\infty} \beta(\tau) ke^{r(t-\tau)} d\tau$$

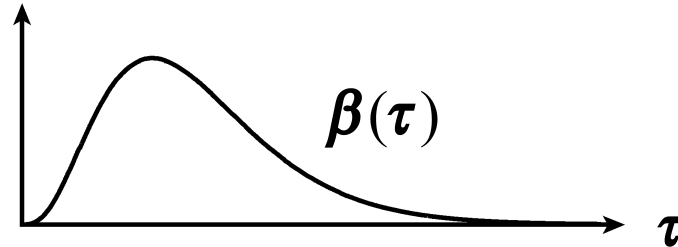
- Euler-Lotka equation

$$\int_0^{\infty} \beta(\tau) e^{-r\tau} d\tau = 1$$

- Given $R_0 = \int_0^{\infty} \beta(\tau) d\tau$, it's easy to see that $r = 0 \Leftrightarrow R_0 = 1$

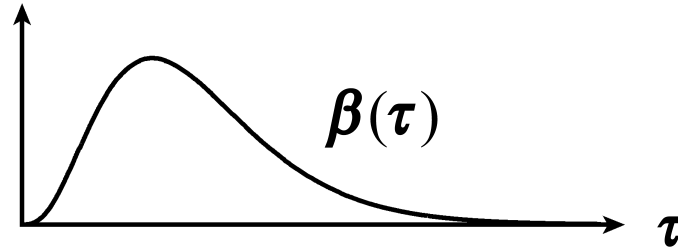
Time-since-infection (TSI) models

- Function $\beta(\tau)$ to describe infectivity in terms of time-since-infection τ

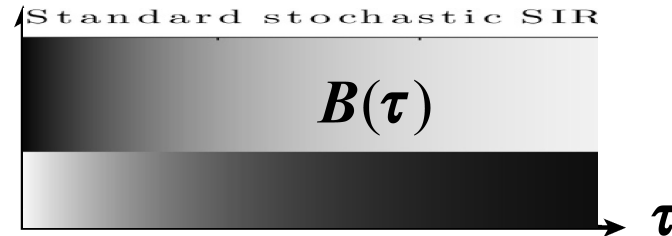
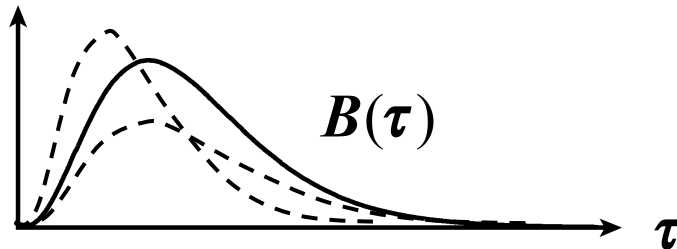


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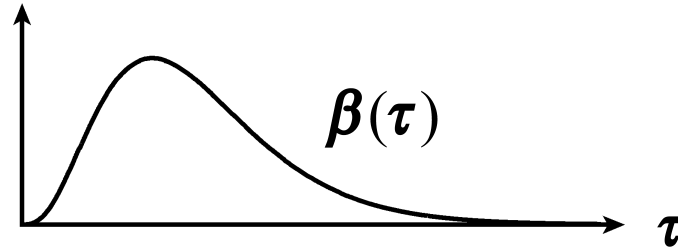


- We can also use a random version of it:
 - General enough to encompass all previous cases

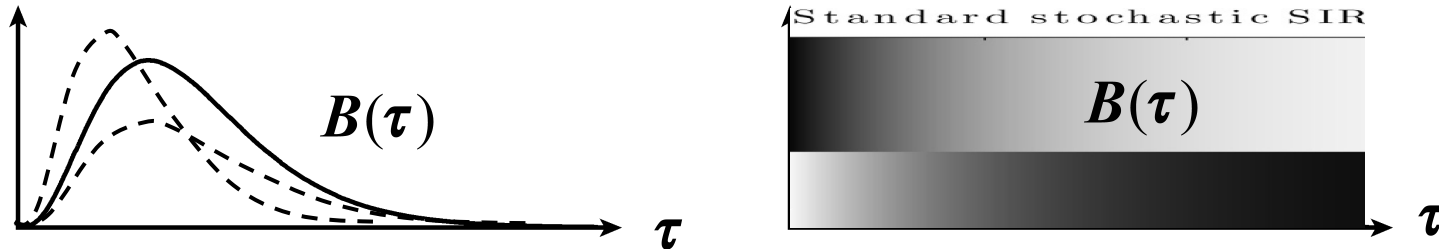


Time-since-infection models

- Function $\beta(\tau)$ to describe infectivity in terms of time-since-infection τ



- We can also use a random version of it:
 - General enough to encompass all previous cases



- Drawbacks:
 - Harder to study (PDEs or integral equations/DDEs)
 - Computationally intensive to integrate
 - Require initial conditions on an interval (the support of $\beta(\tau)$)

WHY TIME-SINCE-INFECTION?

Why using TSI?

- More general

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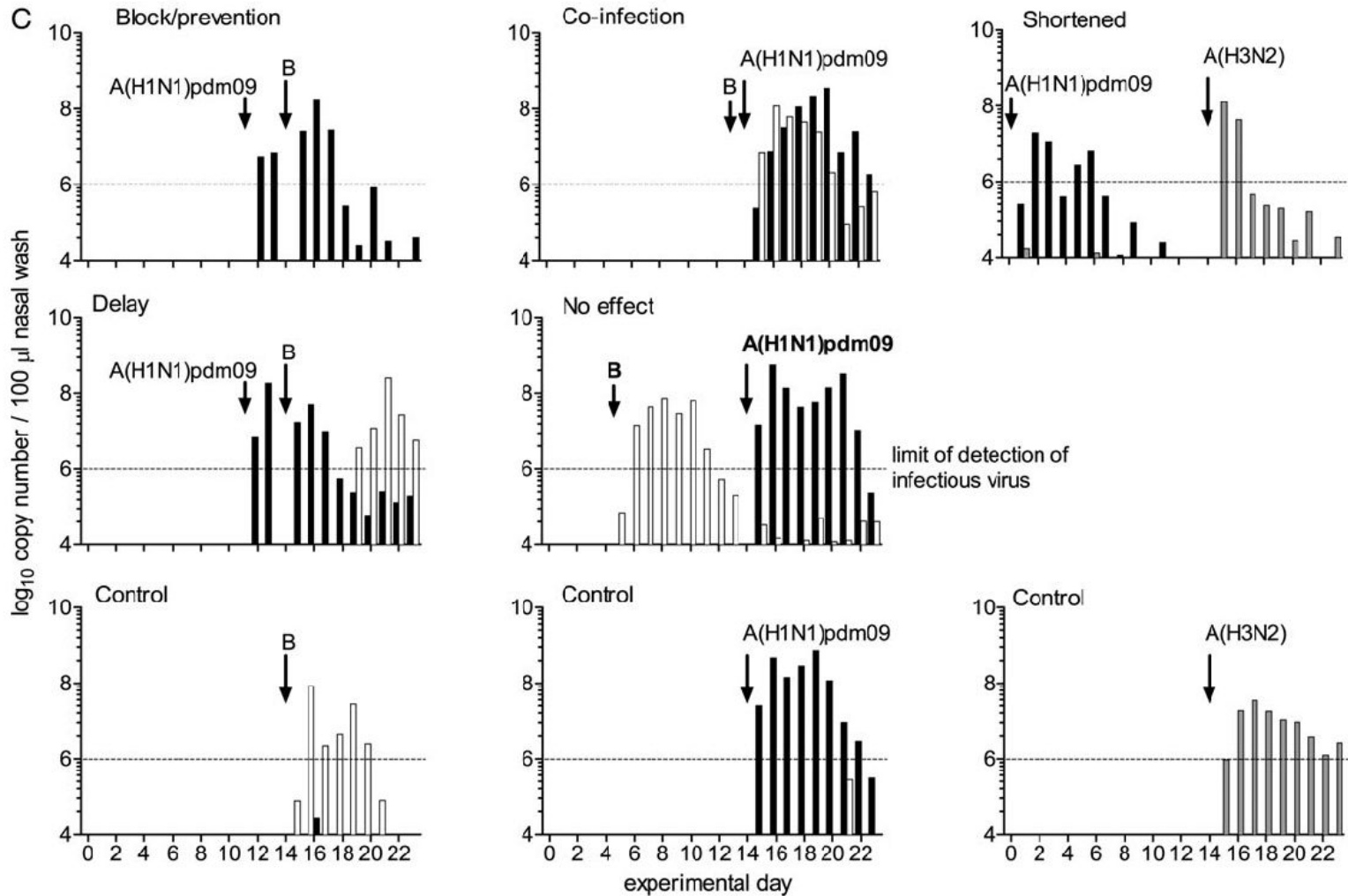
Why using TSI?

- More general
- Closer to biology / experiments:
 - Detailed time evolution of infection is deemed important
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Superinfection data



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Examples (dengue)

- Model 1: Target cell limited

$$\begin{cases} \dot{S} = -\beta VS & \text{susceptible cells } S = \\ \dot{I} = \beta VS - \delta I & \text{infected cells } I = \\ \dot{V} = pI - cV & \text{free virus } V = \end{cases}$$

- Model 2: Innate immune response

$$\begin{cases} \dot{S} = -\beta \rho IS & \text{susceptible cells } S = \\ \dot{I} = \beta \rho IS - \delta I - \kappa IN & \text{infected cells } I = \\ \dot{N} = qI - dN & \text{natural killer cells } N = \end{cases} \quad \rho = p / c$$

Examples (dengue)

- Model 3: Innate + adaptive cellular immune response

$$\left\{ \begin{array}{ll} \dot{S} = -\beta\rho IS & \text{susceptible cells } S = \\ \dot{I} = \beta\rho IS - \kappa IN - \delta_T IT & \text{infected cells } I = \\ \dot{N} = qI - d_N N & \text{natural killer cells } N = \\ \dot{T} = q_T IT - d_T T & \text{T cells } T = \end{array} \right. \quad \rho = p / c$$

Gilchrist & Sasaki (2002)

□ First example: Gilchrist & Sasaki (2002)

- Within-host dynamics:
$$\begin{cases} \dot{P} = rP - \epsilon BP & \text{pathogen load} \\ B = aBP & \text{level immunity} \end{cases}$$

- Between-host dynamics:
$$\begin{cases} \frac{dS}{dt} = bN(t) - S(t) \int_0^T \beta(\tau) I(t, \tau) d\tau - dS(t) \\ \frac{\partial I}{\partial t} + \frac{\partial I}{\partial \tau} = -(\alpha(\tau) - \iota(\tau) - d) I(t, \tau) \\ \frac{dR}{dt} = I(T, t) - dR(t) \\ N(t) = S(t) + \int_0^T I(t, \tau) d\tau + R(t) \end{cases}$$

$$\beta(\tau) = cP(\tau)$$

Example

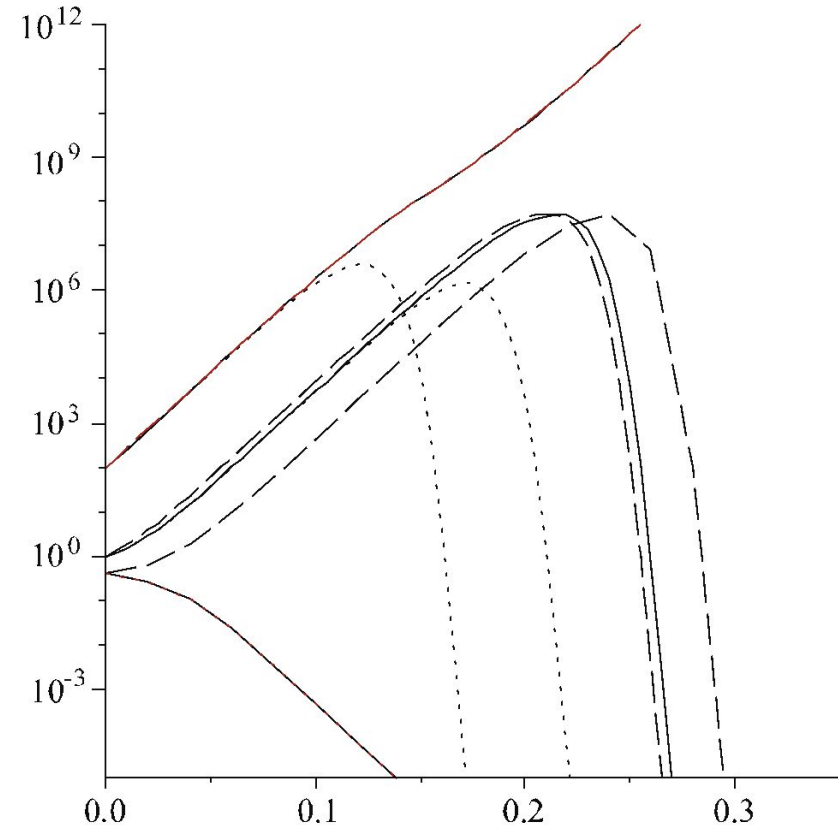
- Model: specific + aspecific immunity

$$\begin{cases} \dot{P} = rP - \frac{c_s P}{1 + a_s P} B - \frac{c_u P}{1 + a_u P} M \\ \dot{B} = \frac{kP}{1 + k_m P} B - \delta B + h \end{cases}$$

P = pathogen load

B = level of specific immunity

M = (constant) level of aspecific immunity



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- Can enhance understanding of more complex models

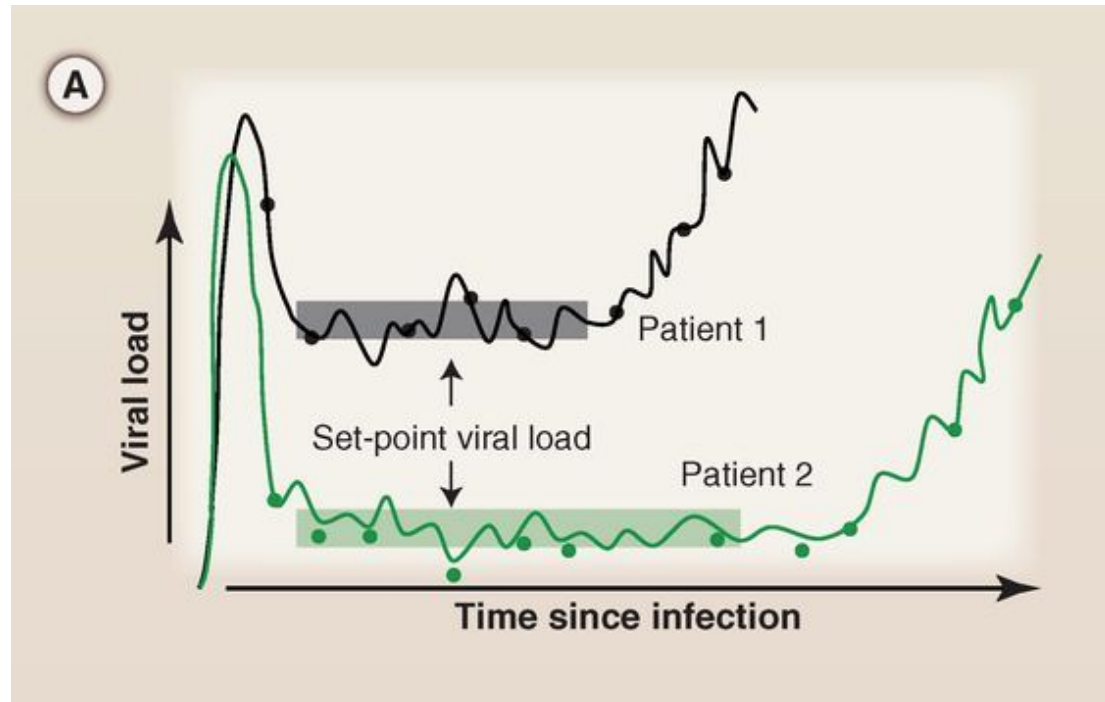
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[Lythgoe, Blanquart, Pellis & Fraser (2016), *PLoS Biology*]

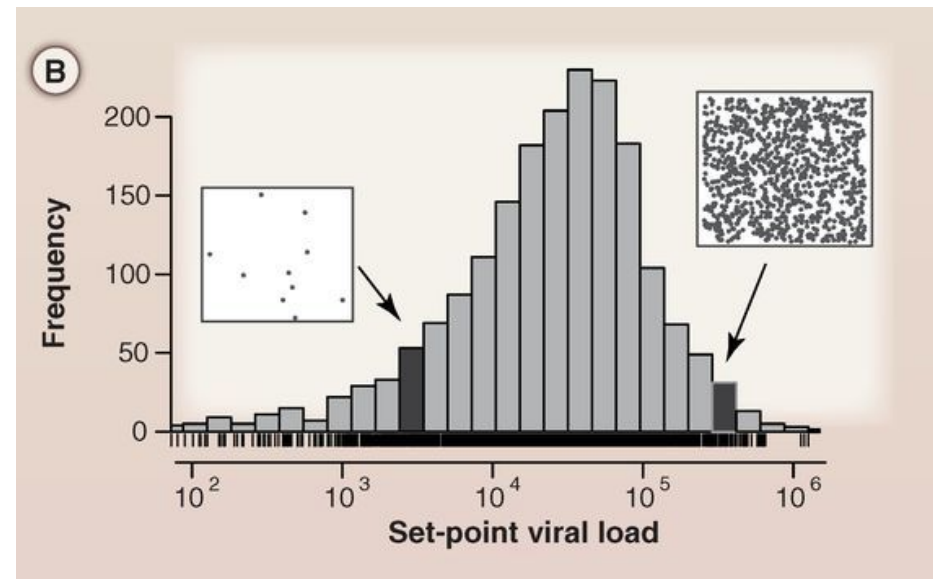
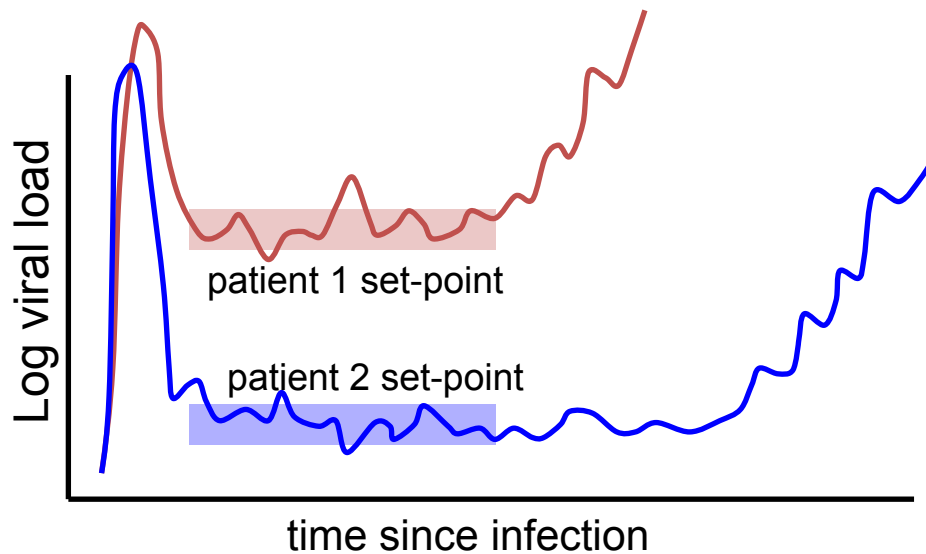
EXAMPLE 1: HIV WITHIN-HOST METAPOPOPULATION MODEL

Set-point viral load



Motivation

- SPVL varies by at least 4 orders of magnitude between patients:

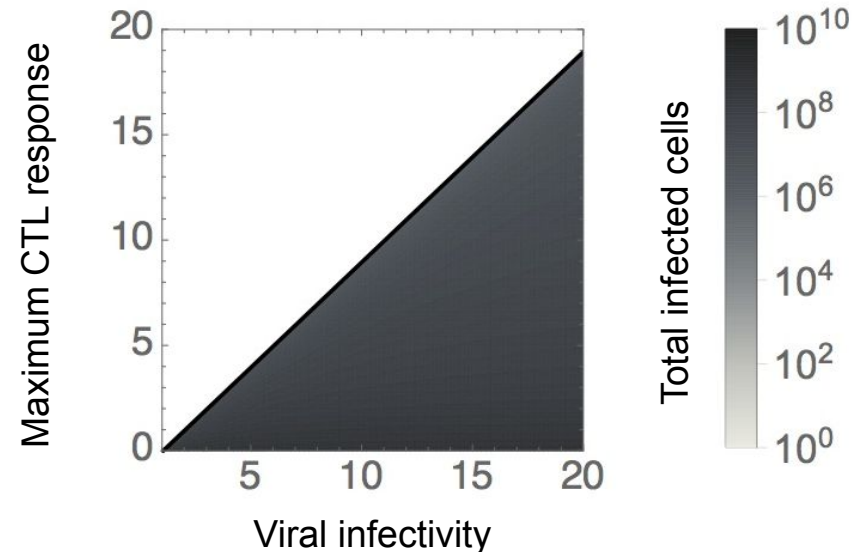
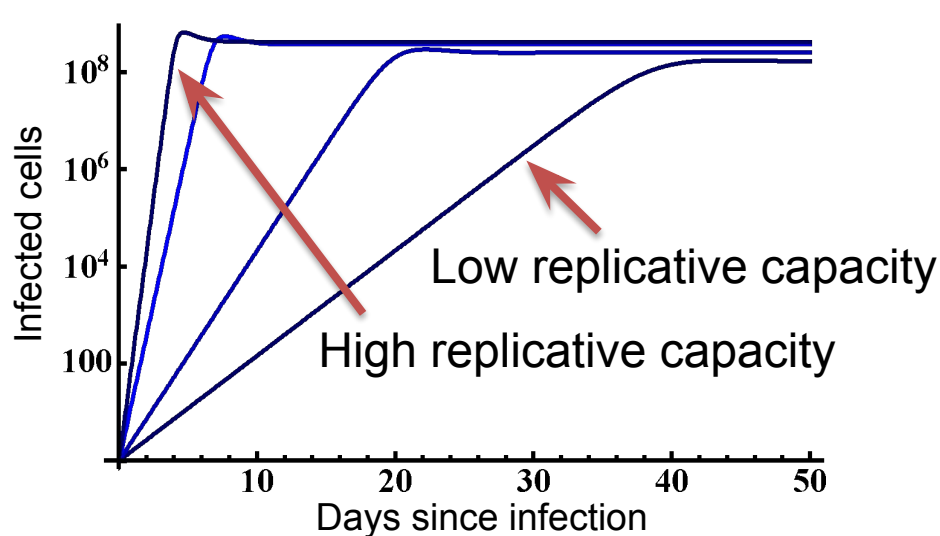


- What is causing this variation?

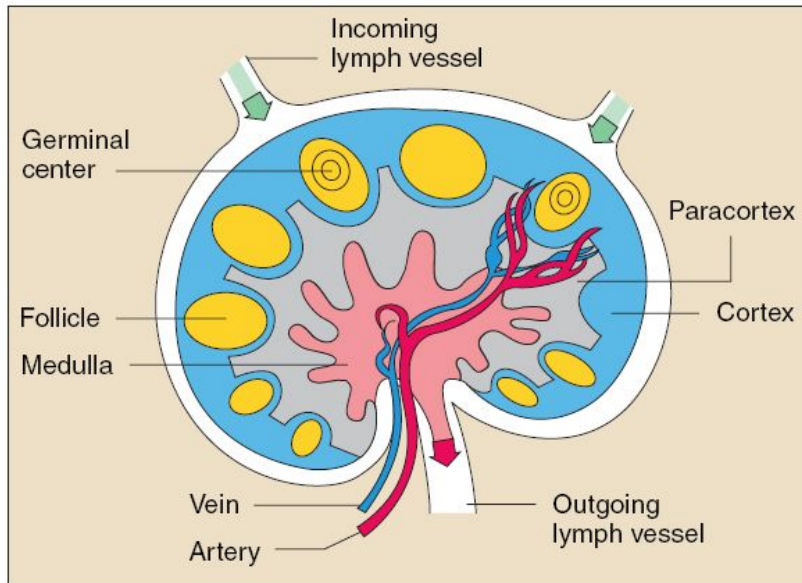
Factors determining SPVL

- Speed at which virus replicates and infects new cells
- Efficacy of CTL immune response
- ...

However, in “well-mixed” models, these factors only mildly affect SPVL, unless we are close to the extinction threshold



But is HIV “well-mixed” within the host?



Probably not:

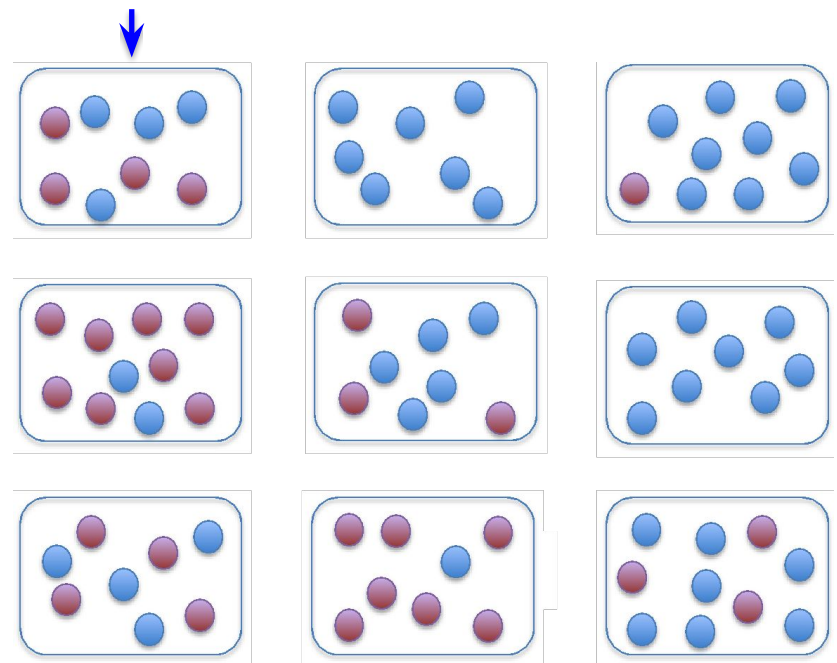
- Viral replication focused within specific regions of the body, e.g. lymph nodes
- We estimate there are between 1,000 and 10,000 of these sites of replication in the human body
- Viral populations genetically structured at a small spatial scale (though it might not persist over time)



Within-host HIV dynamics are best described using a metapopulation model

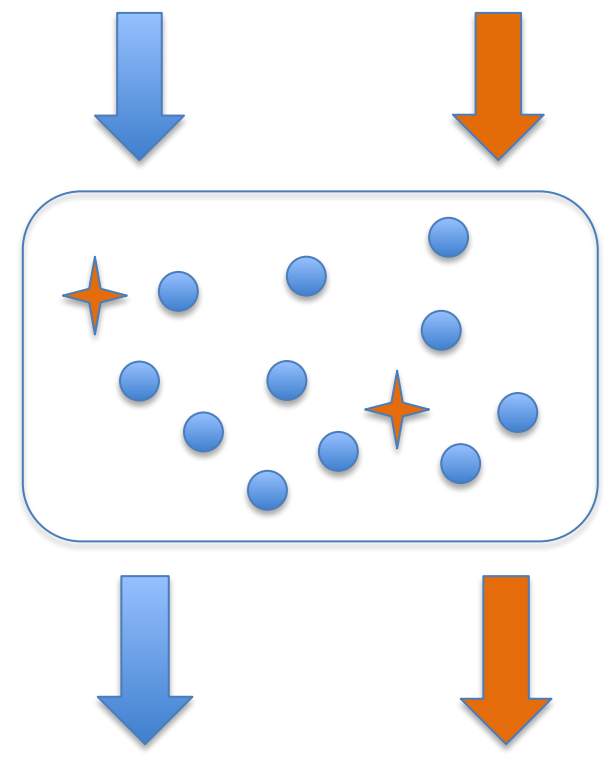
HIV metapopulation model

Site of HIV replication



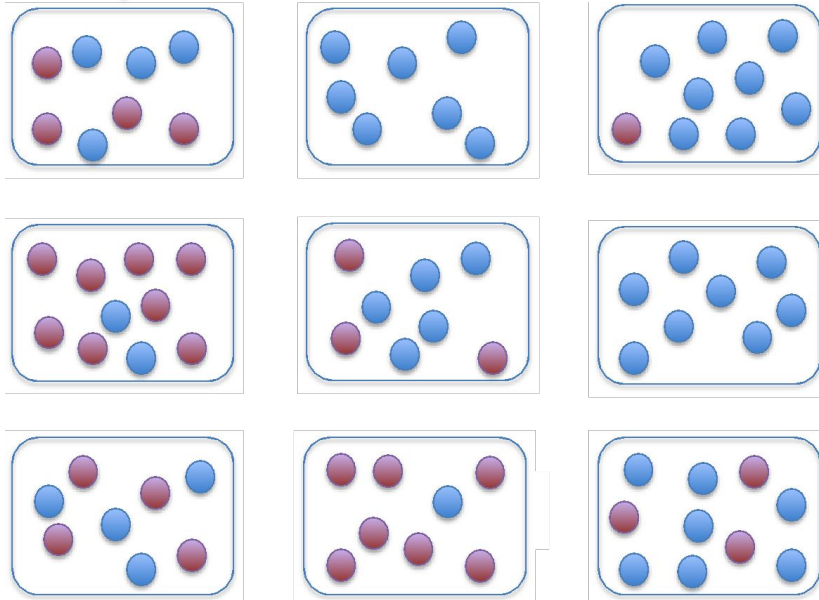
Susceptible CD4+ T cells

CTLs



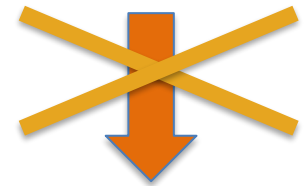
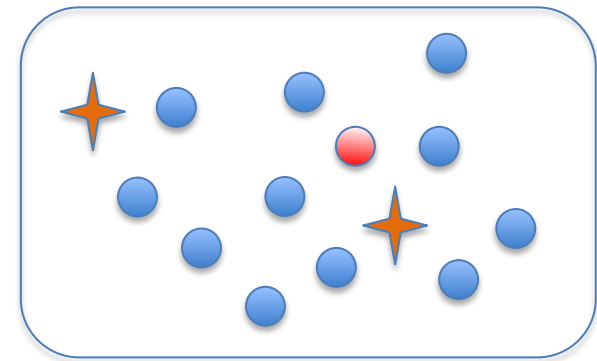
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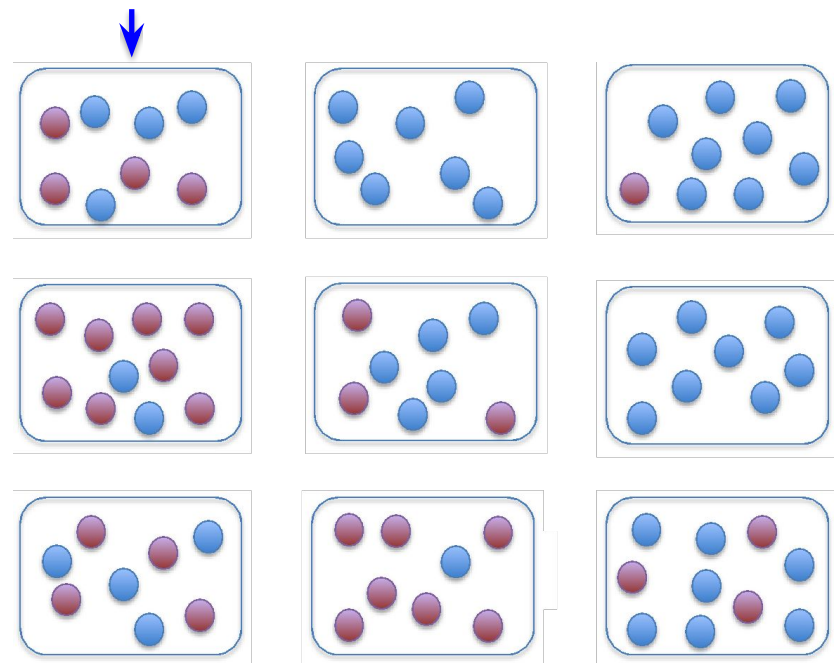
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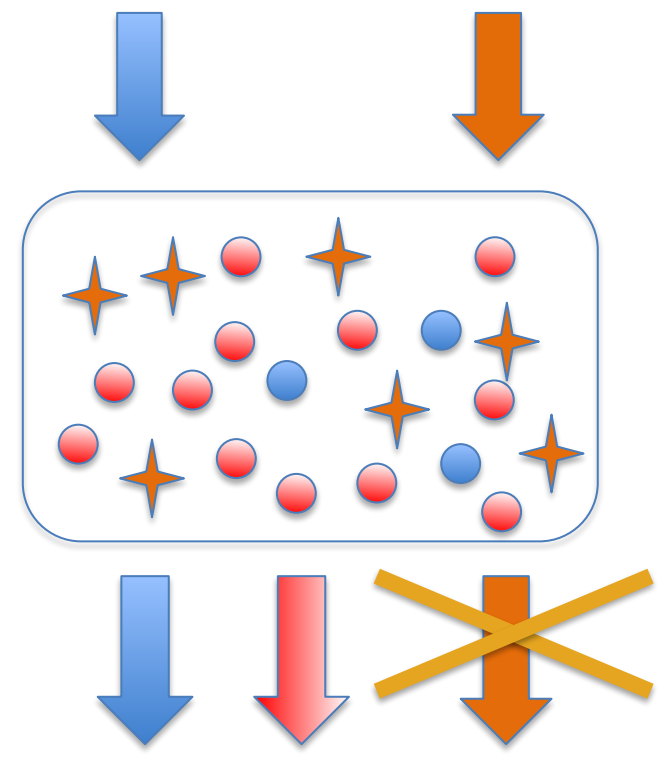
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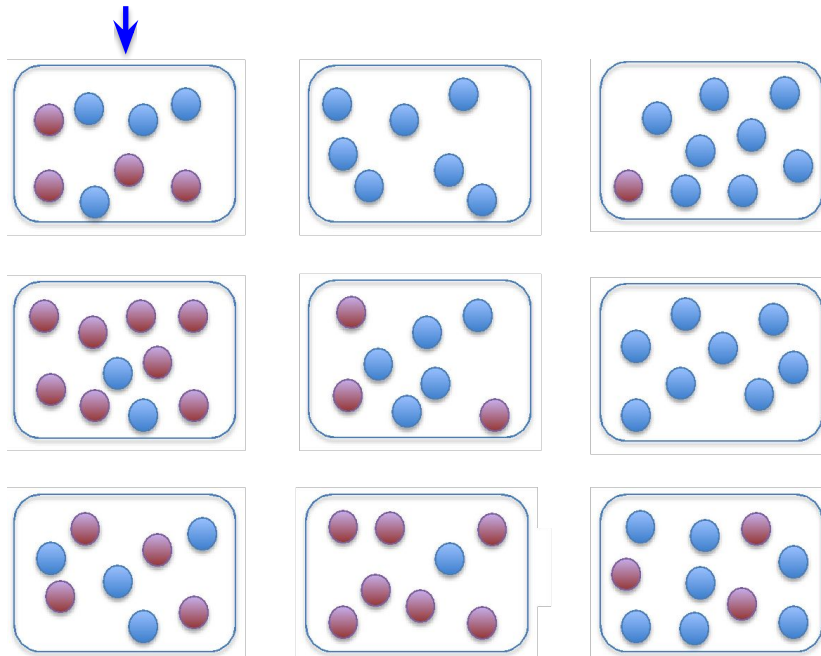
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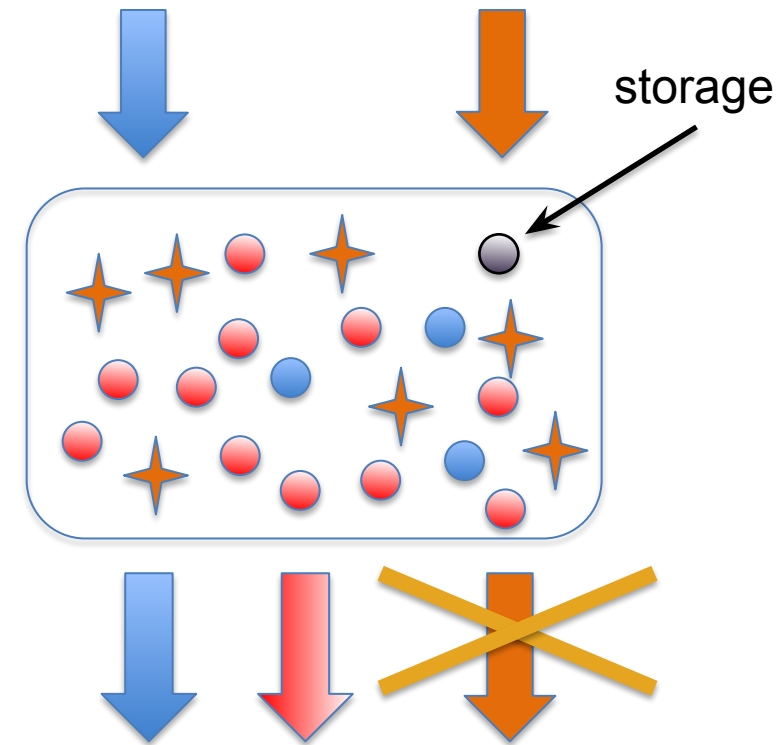
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Full equations

$$\frac{d}{dt}x_i(t) = \gamma_i Mx_B - \frac{x_i(t)}{x_i^{\max}} \beta_i y_i(t) - [d + \varepsilon] x_i(t)$$

$$\frac{d}{dt}y_i(t) = (1 - \lambda) \frac{x_i(t)}{x_i^{\max}} \beta_i y_i(t) + \gamma_i [My_B(t) + \omega \rho S(t)] - \left[\delta + \varepsilon + k \frac{z_i}{z_i^{\max}} \right] y_i(t)$$

$$\frac{d}{dt}y_B(t) = \sum_j \varepsilon y_j(t) - My_B(t) - \delta_B y_B(t)$$

$$\frac{d}{dt}z_i(t) = cz_i^{\max} \left[1 - \frac{z_i}{z_i^{\max}} \right] - \varepsilon z_i(t) \mathbb{I}_{y_i(t)=0}$$

$$\frac{d}{dt}S(t) = \sum_j \lambda \frac{x_j(t)}{x_j^{\max}} \beta_j y_j(t) - (\rho + \delta_S) S(t)$$

Within-patch equations

$$\frac{d}{dt}x(t) = \gamma Mx_B - \frac{x(t)}{x^{max}} \beta y(t) - [d + \varepsilon] x(t)$$

$$\frac{d}{dt}y(t) = (1 - \lambda) \frac{x(t)}{x^{max}} \beta y(t) + \gamma [My_B(t) + \omega \rho S(t)] - \left[\delta + \varepsilon + k \frac{z}{z^{max}} \right] y(t)$$

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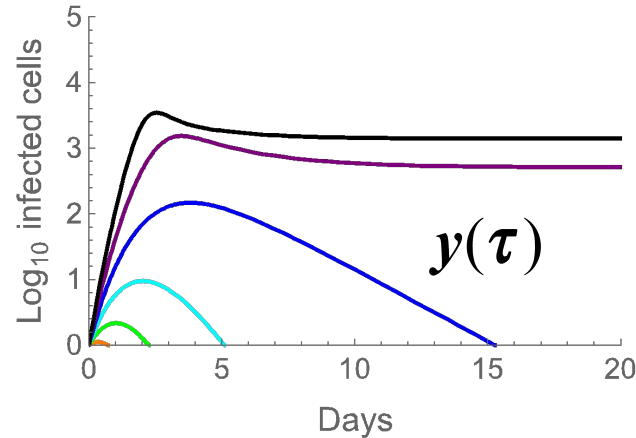
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$$\frac{d}{dt}z(t) = cz^{max} \left[1 - \frac{z}{z^{max}} \right] - \varepsilon z(t) \mathbb{I}_{y(t)=0}$$

Analytical approximation

If immigration of infected cells is negligible (after the first seeding):

- Within-patch dynamics



lead to a rate at which a patch infect other patches: $\beta_p(\tau) = \frac{M}{M + \delta_B} \epsilon y(\tau)$

- Dynamics

$$H(t) = \frac{S(t)}{N} \int_0^{+\infty} H(t - \tau) \beta_p(\tau) d\tau$$

- Patch reproduction number: $R_p = \int_0^{+\infty} \beta_p(\tau) d\tau$

- If $R_p \leq 1$ there is no infection

Within-patch dynamics

□ 3 possible outcomes:

1. No or small burst of infection ($R_p \leq 1$)

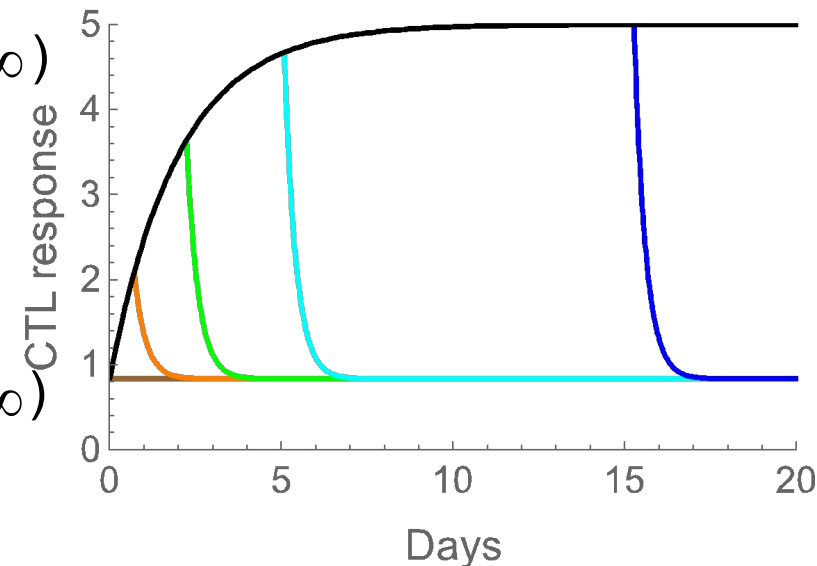
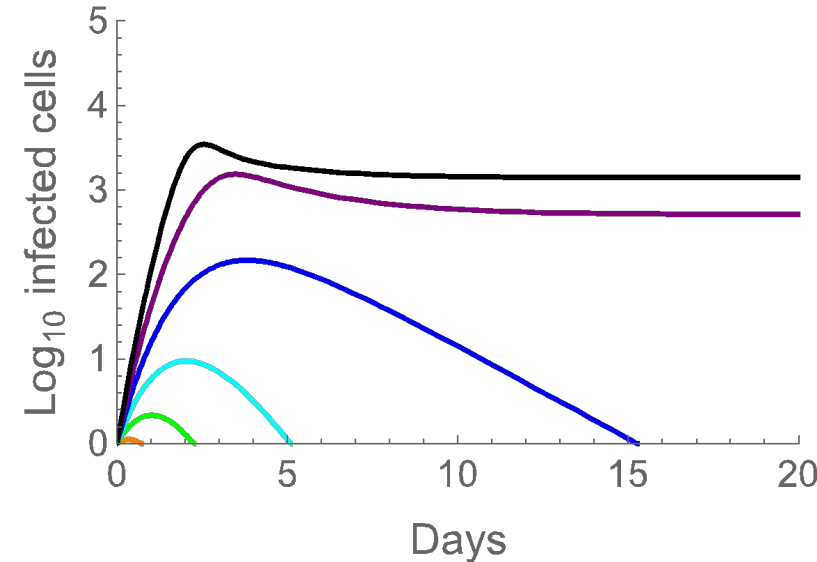
➔ Disease-free equilibrium (DFE)

2. Short but big enough burst ($1 < R_p < \infty$)

➔ Shifting-mosaic steady state (SMSS)

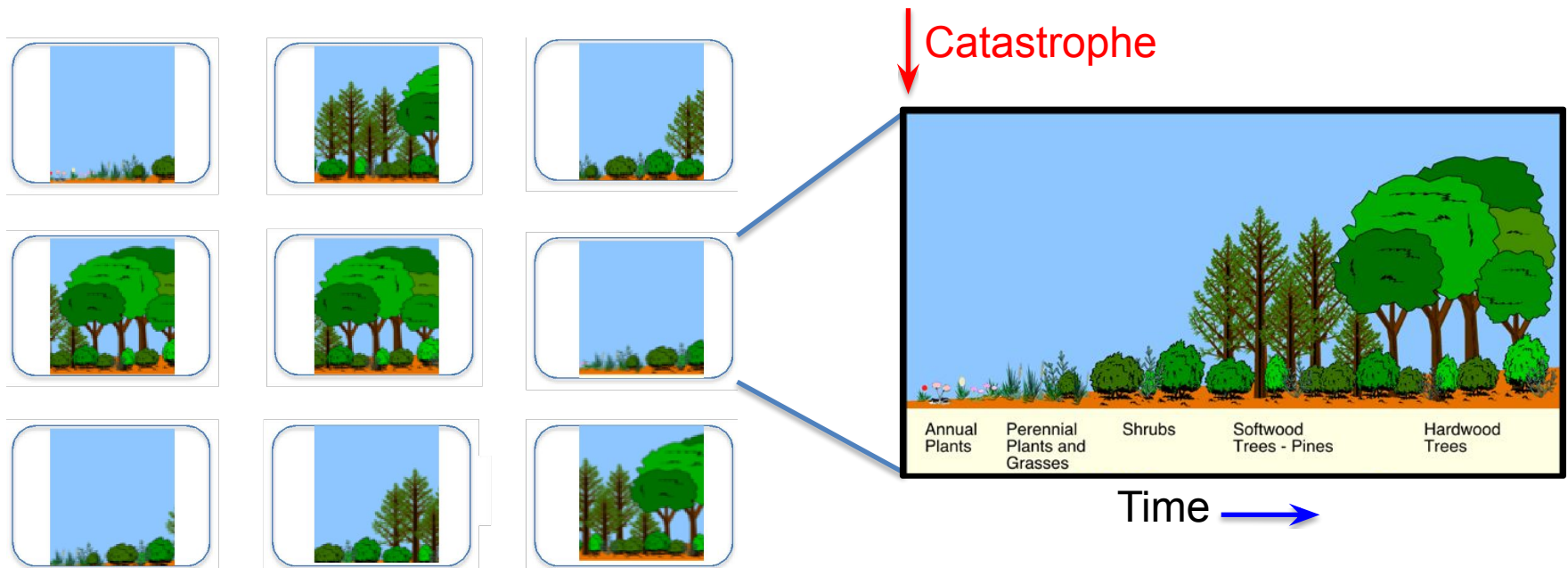
3. Reaching endemic equilibrium ($R_p = \infty$)

➔ Full equilibrium (FE)



'Shifting mosaic' steady state

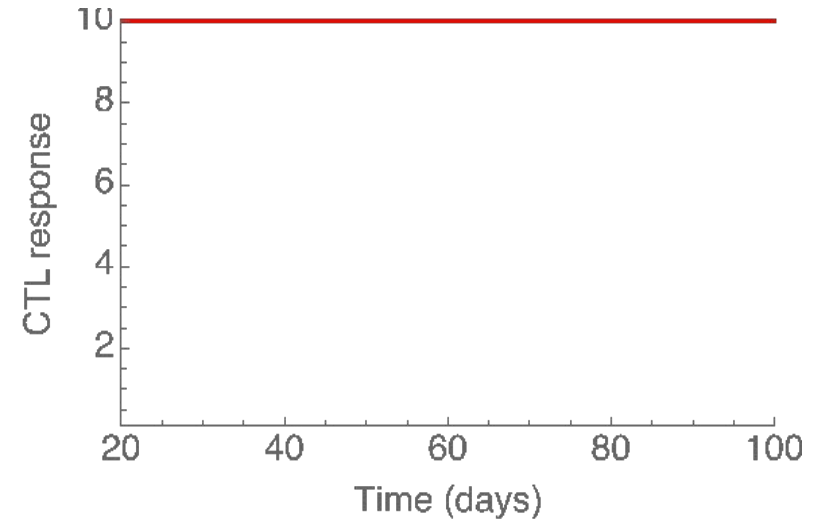
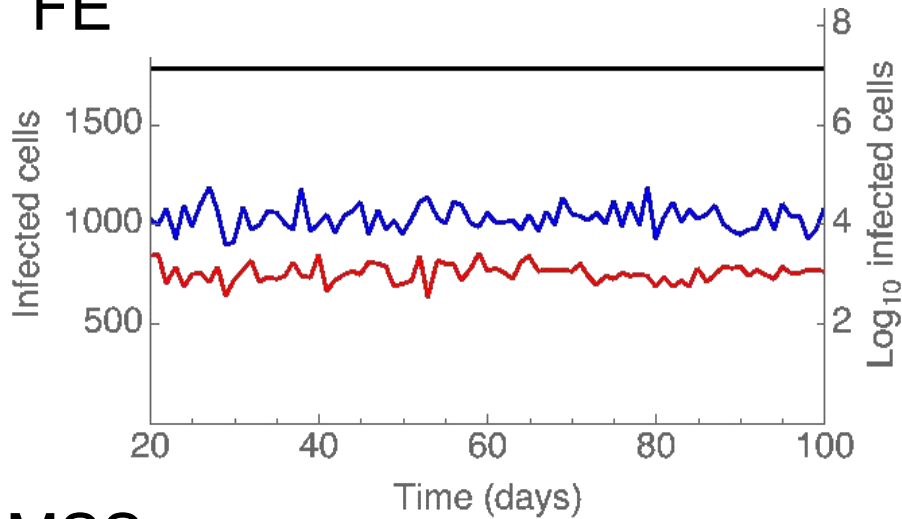
Bormann & Likens, 1979



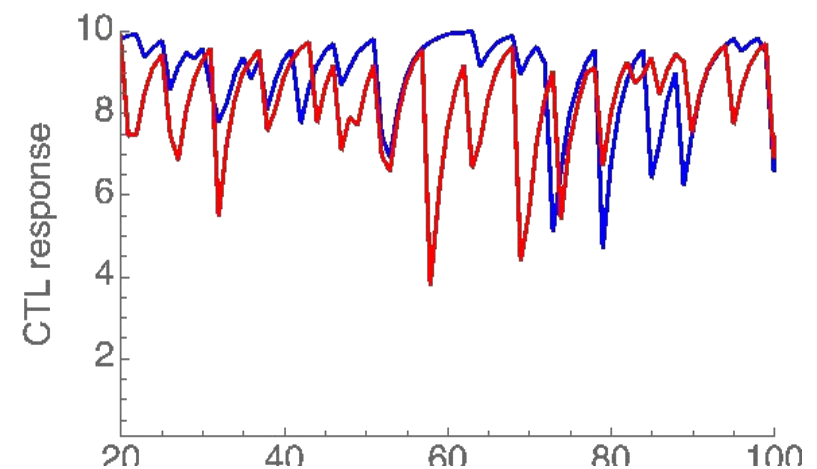
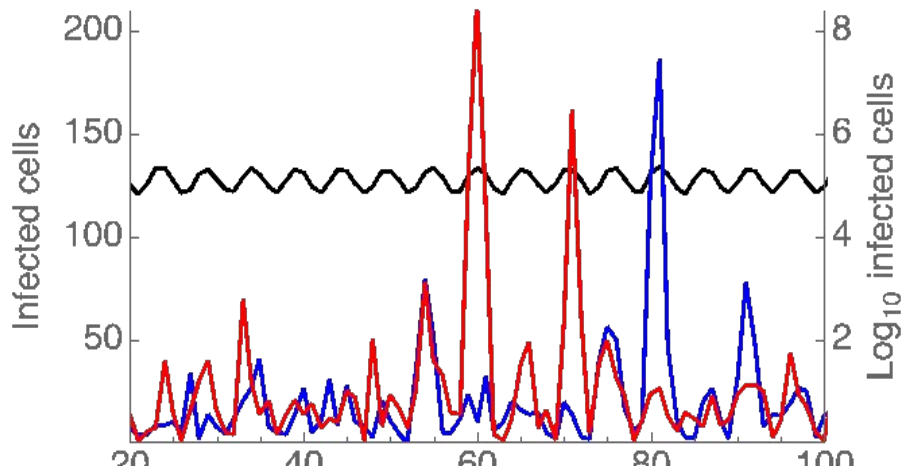
Although each patch is at a different phase,
the total biomass of the landscape is fairly constant

Full equilibrium VS SMSS

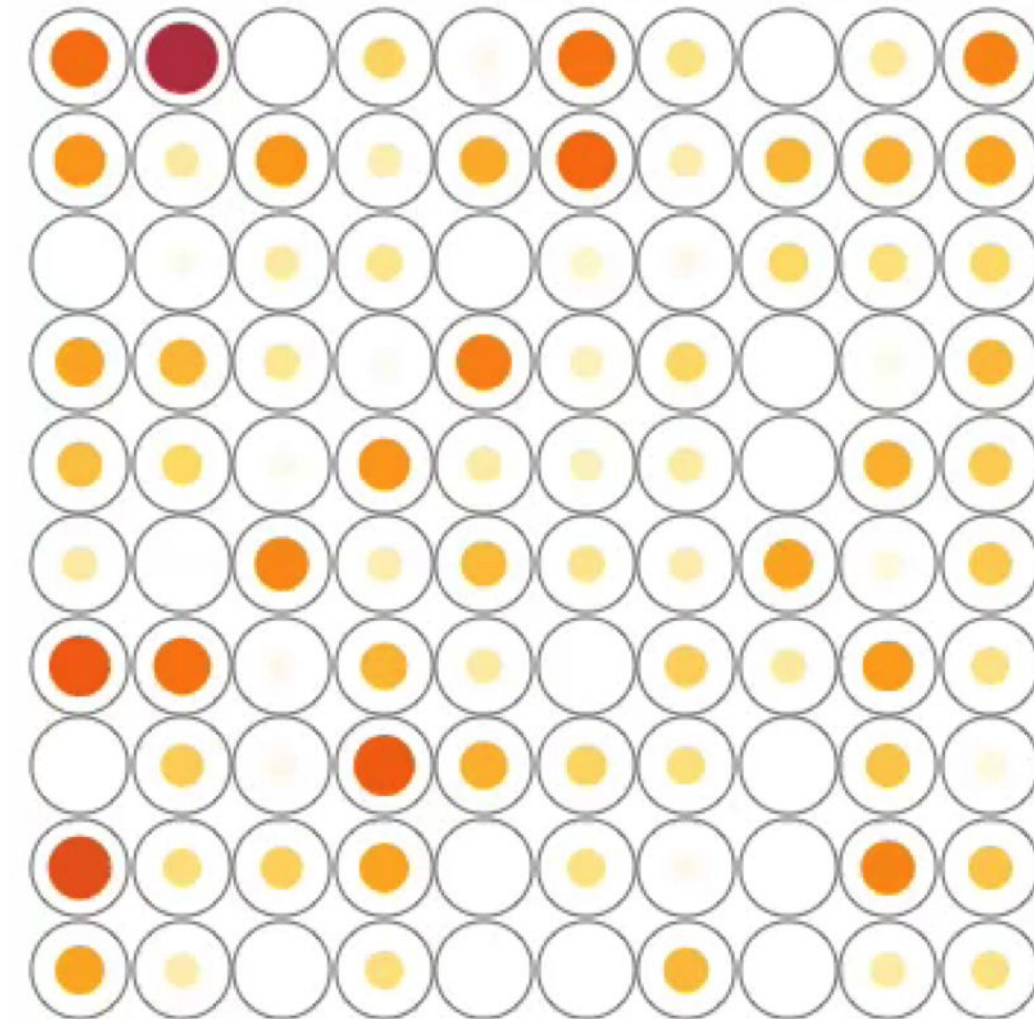
FE



SMSS

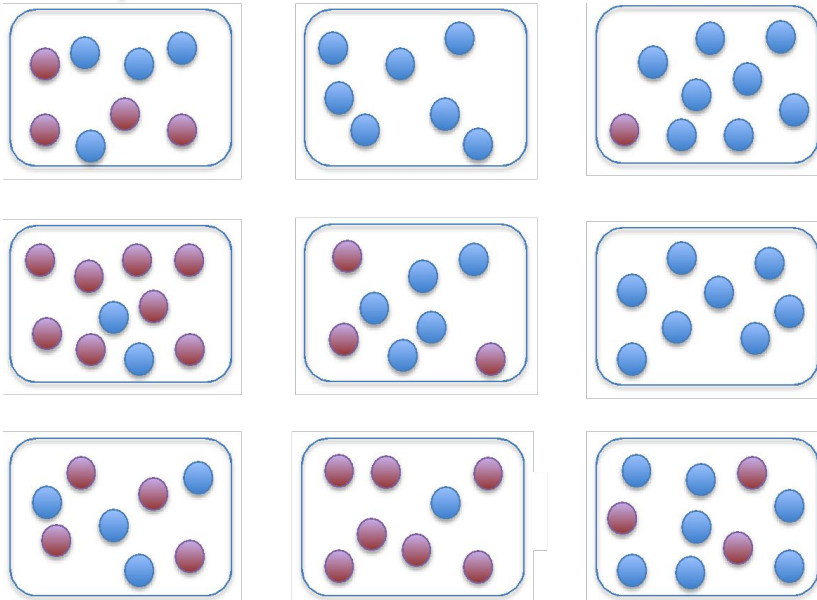


SMSS dynamics

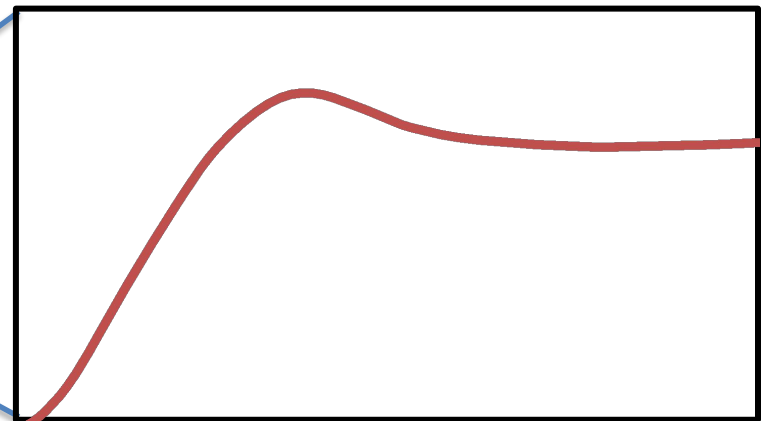


Sensitivity to parameters

Site of HIV replication



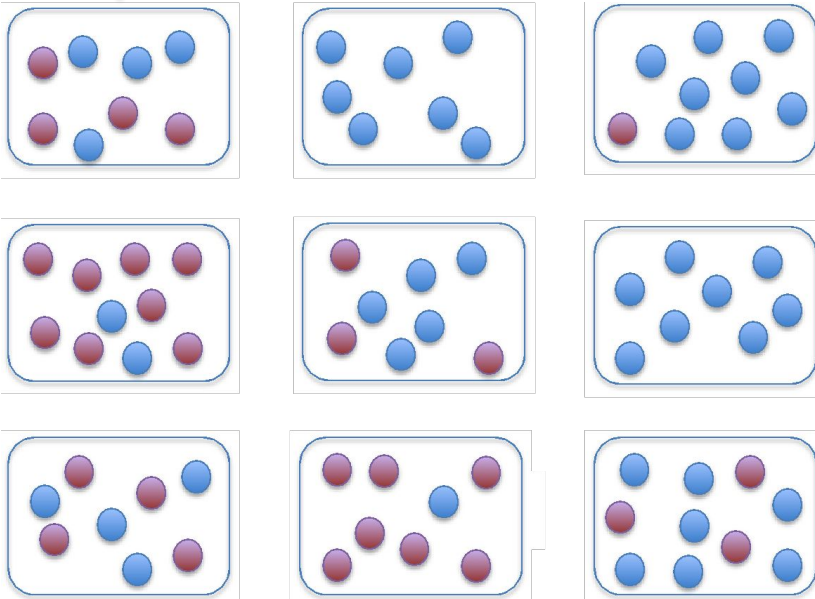
Total
Infected cells



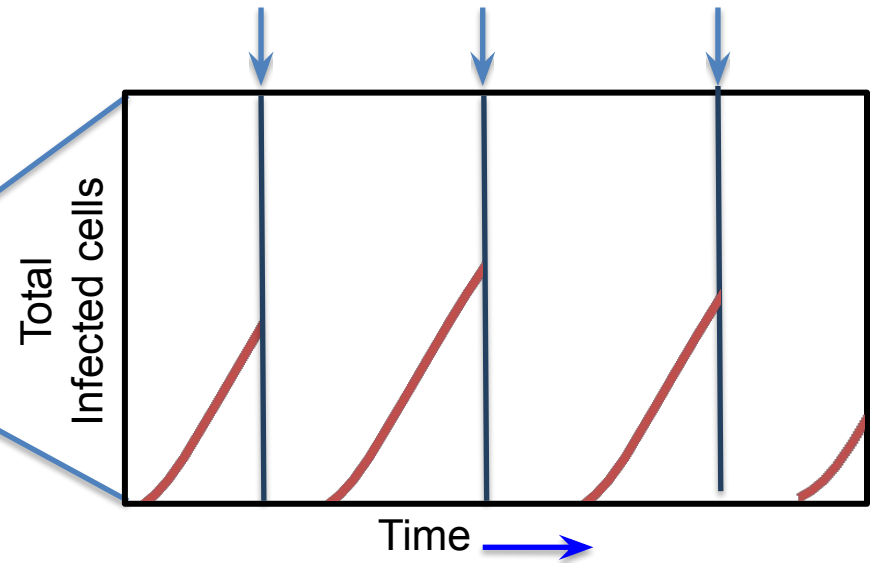
Time →

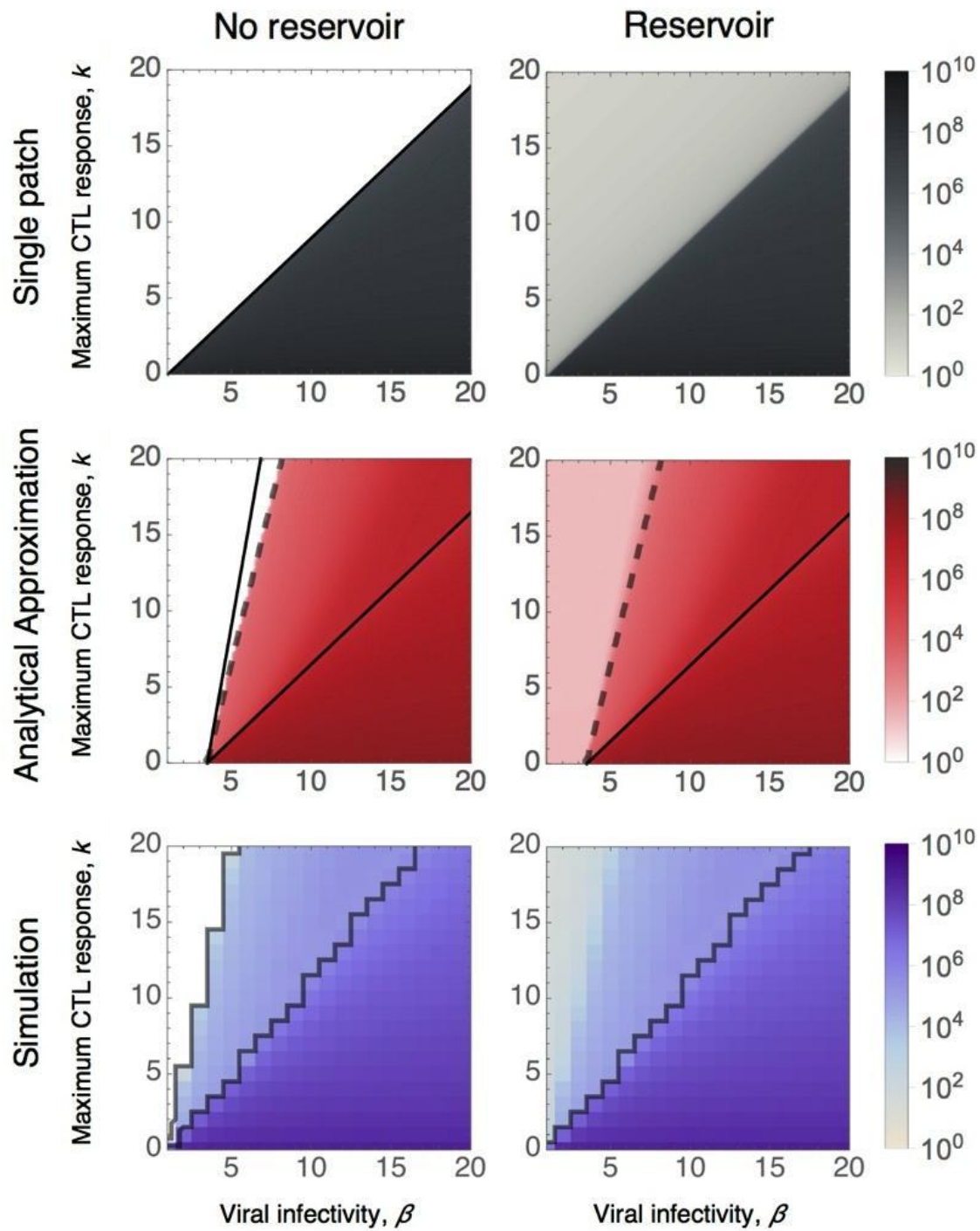
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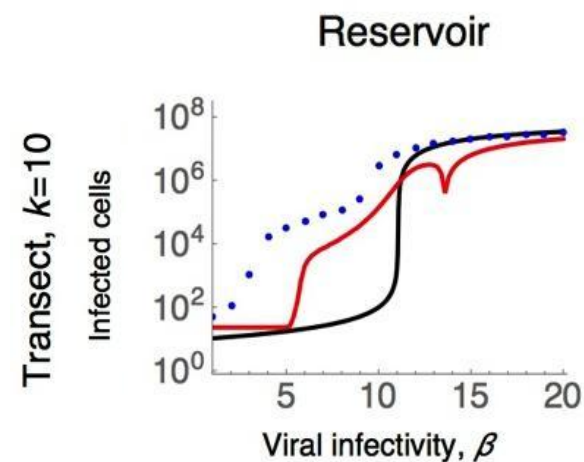
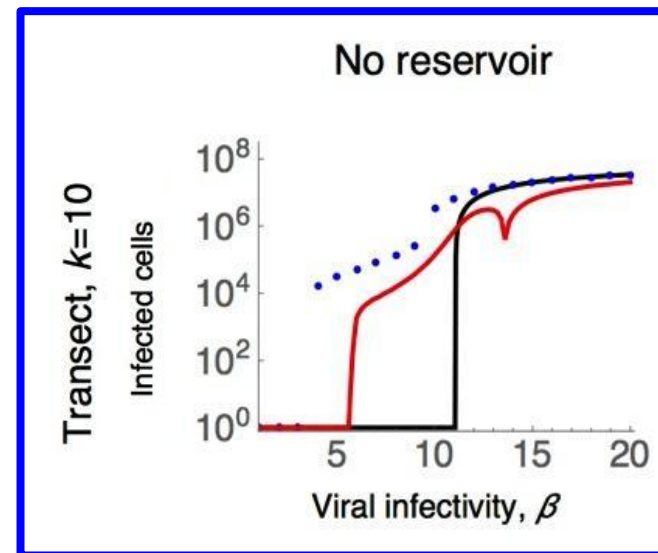
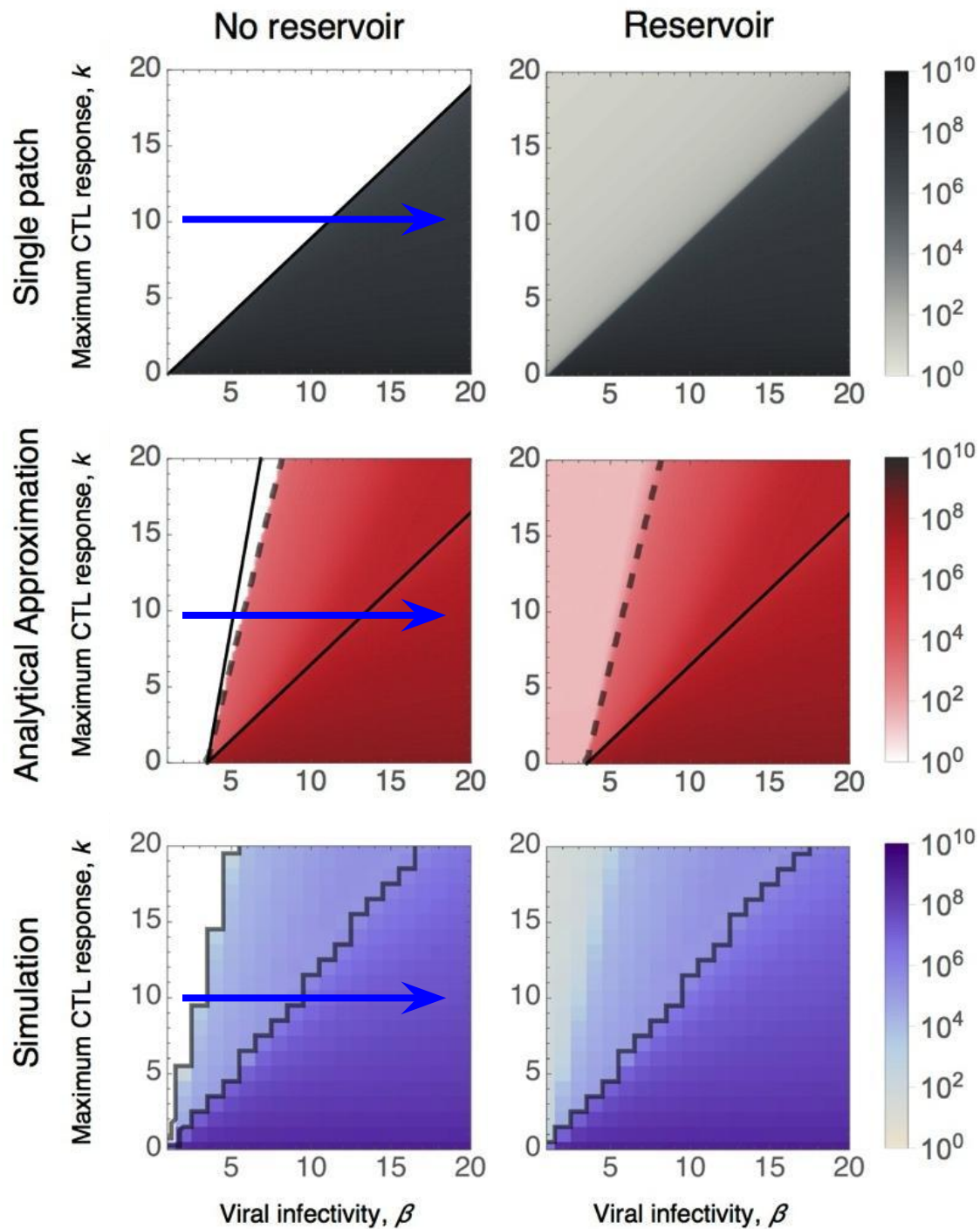
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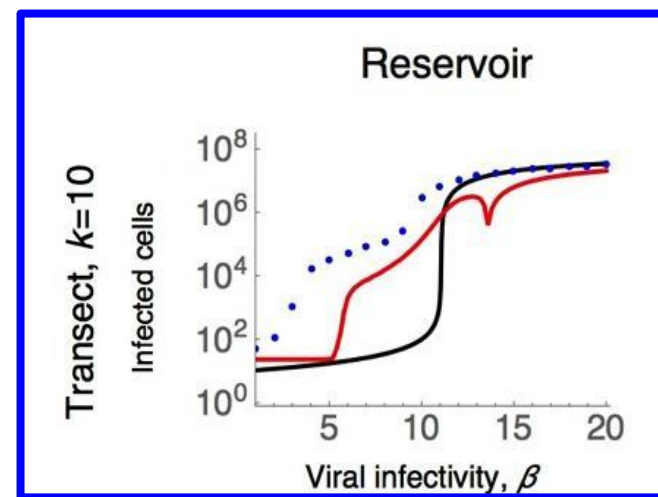
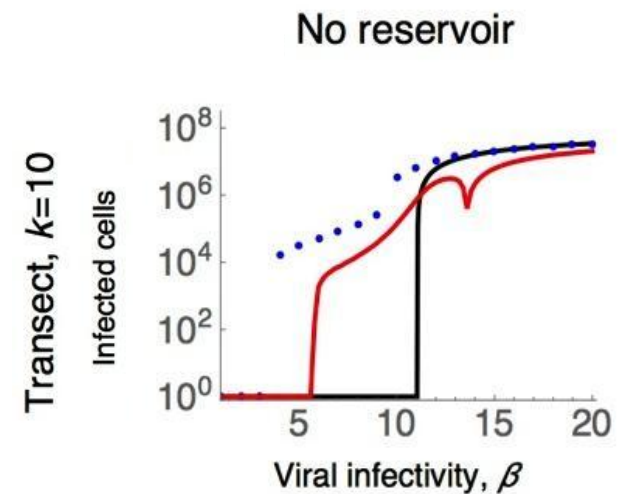
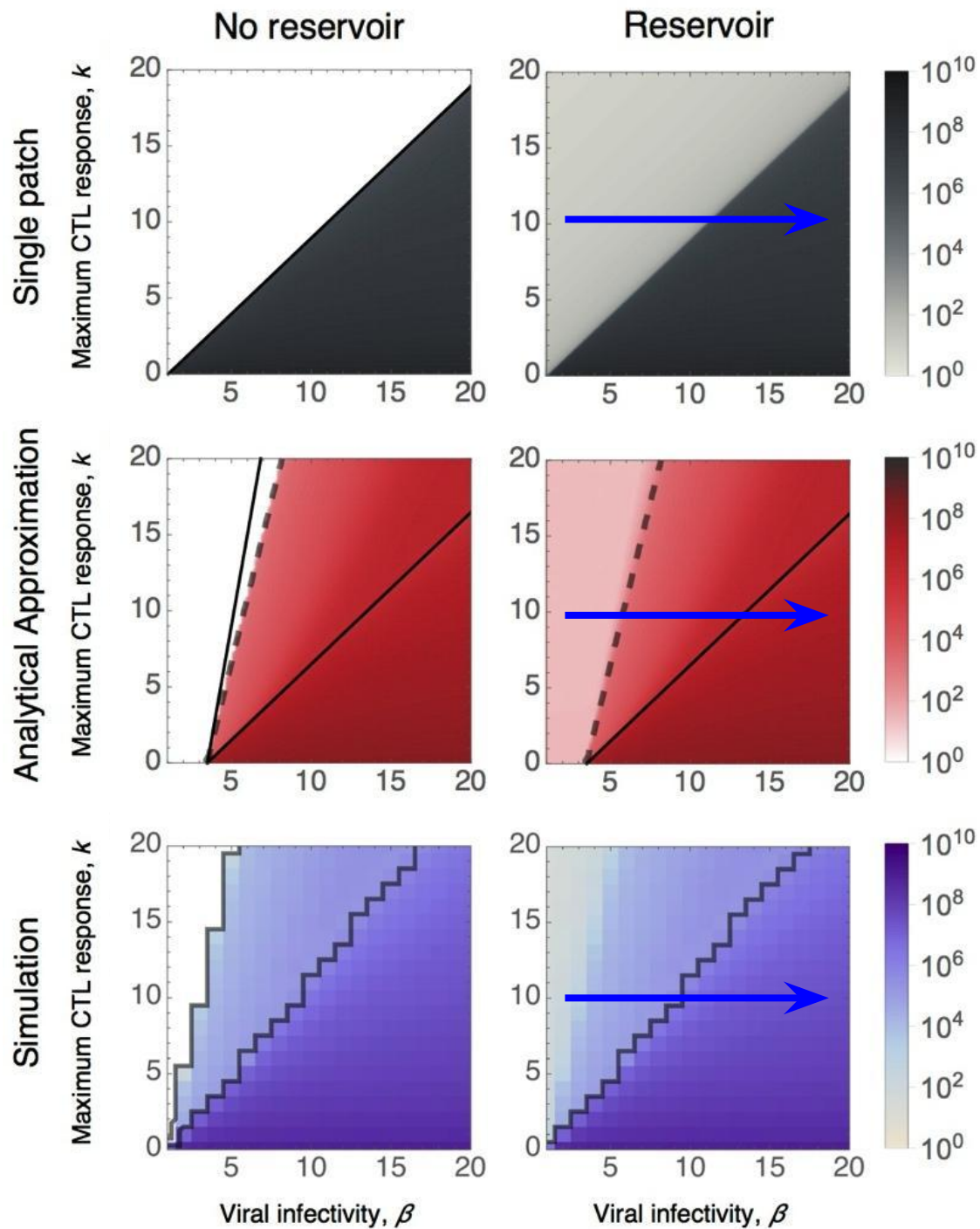


Obliteration of infected cells by immune system (e.g. CD8+ T cells)









[Lythgoe, Blanquart, Pellis & Fraser (2016), *PLoS Biology*]

END OF EXAMPLE 1

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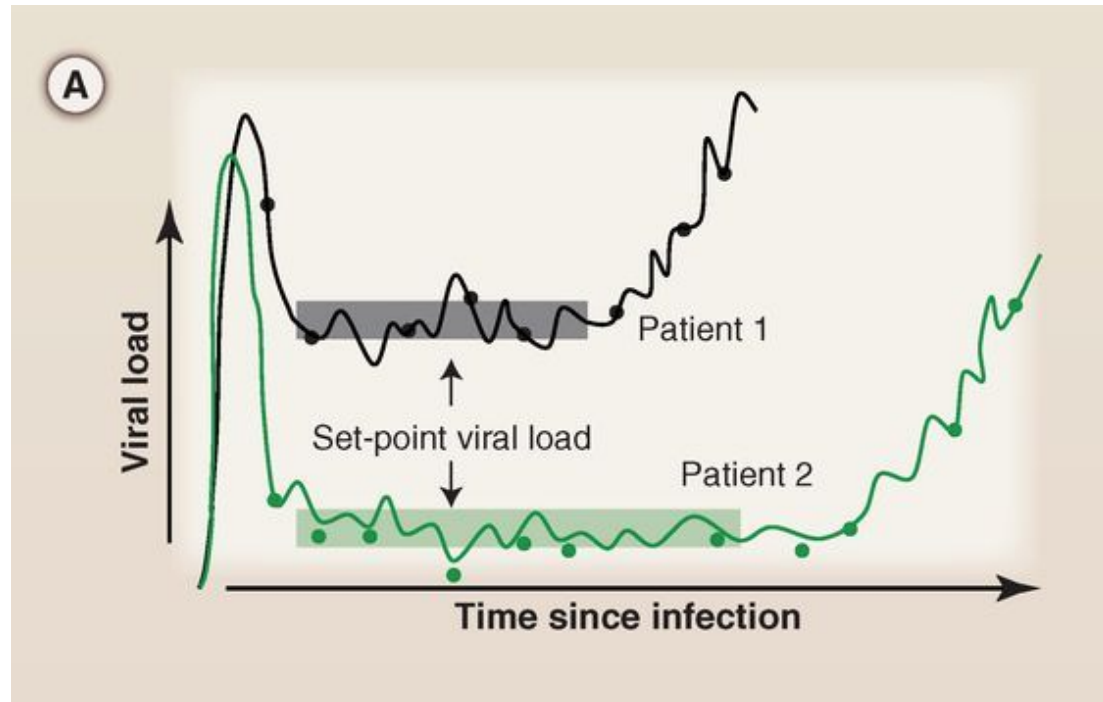
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[Lythgoe, Pellis & Fraser (2013), *Evolution*]

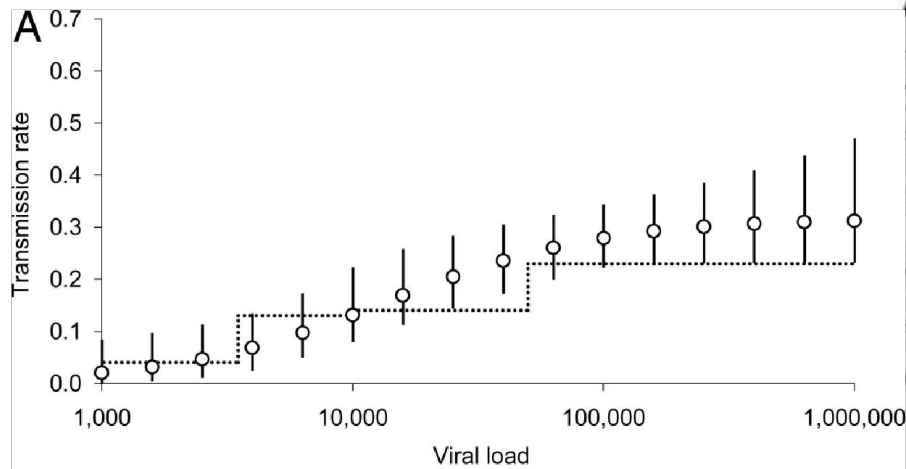
EXAMPLE 2: HIV WITHIN- & BETWEEN-HOST MODEL

Set-point viral load



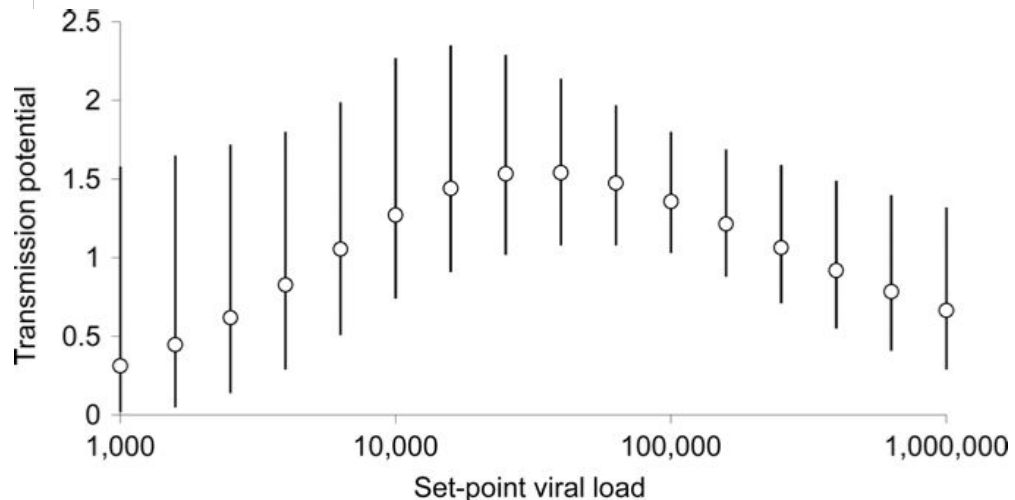
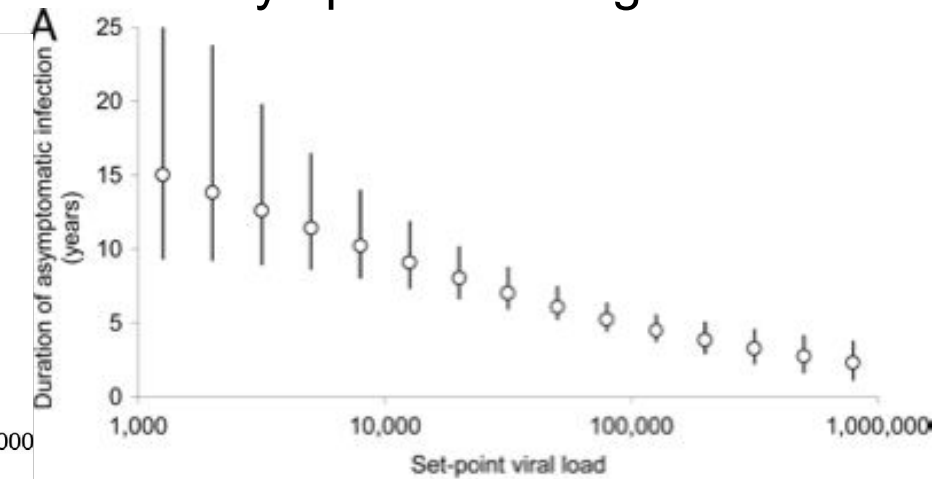
Set-point viral load (SPVL)

□ Predicts infectiousness



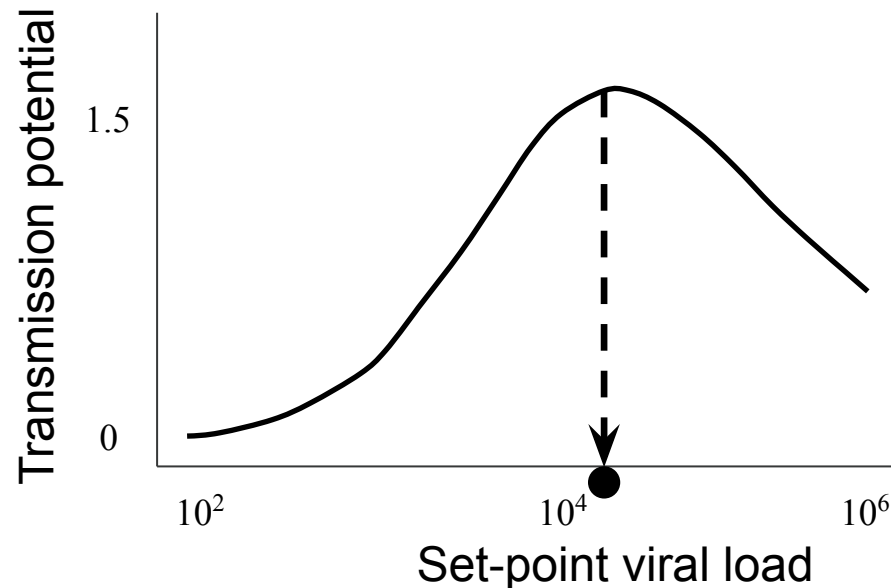
□ Transmission potential = overall infectivity

□ Predicts duration of asymptomatic stage

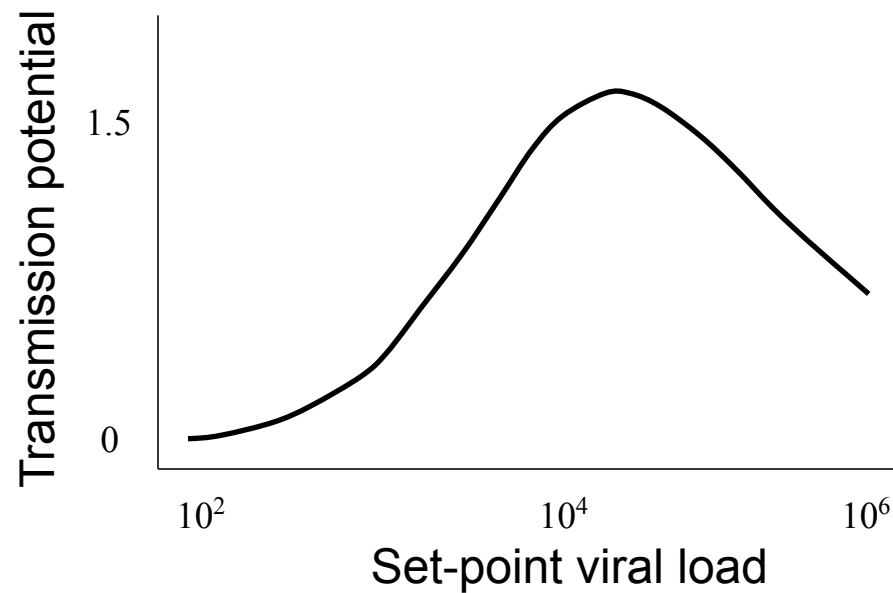


Evolution of SPVL

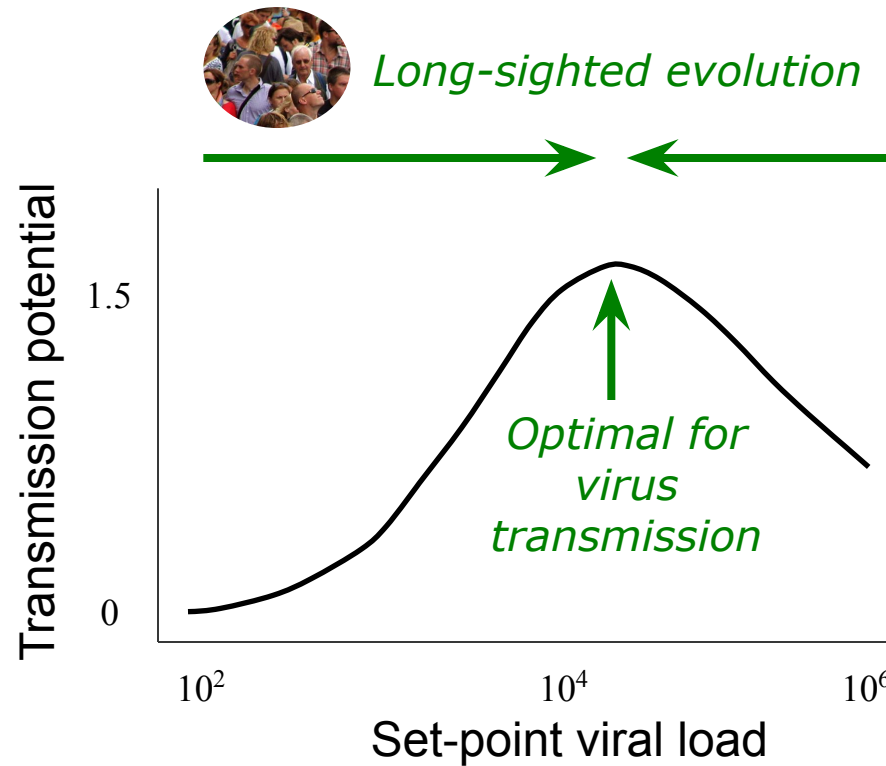
- SPVL is highly heritable
- Steadily increasing for 25 years
- Now seems to have plateaued
- The current mean value is very close to maximum transmission potential



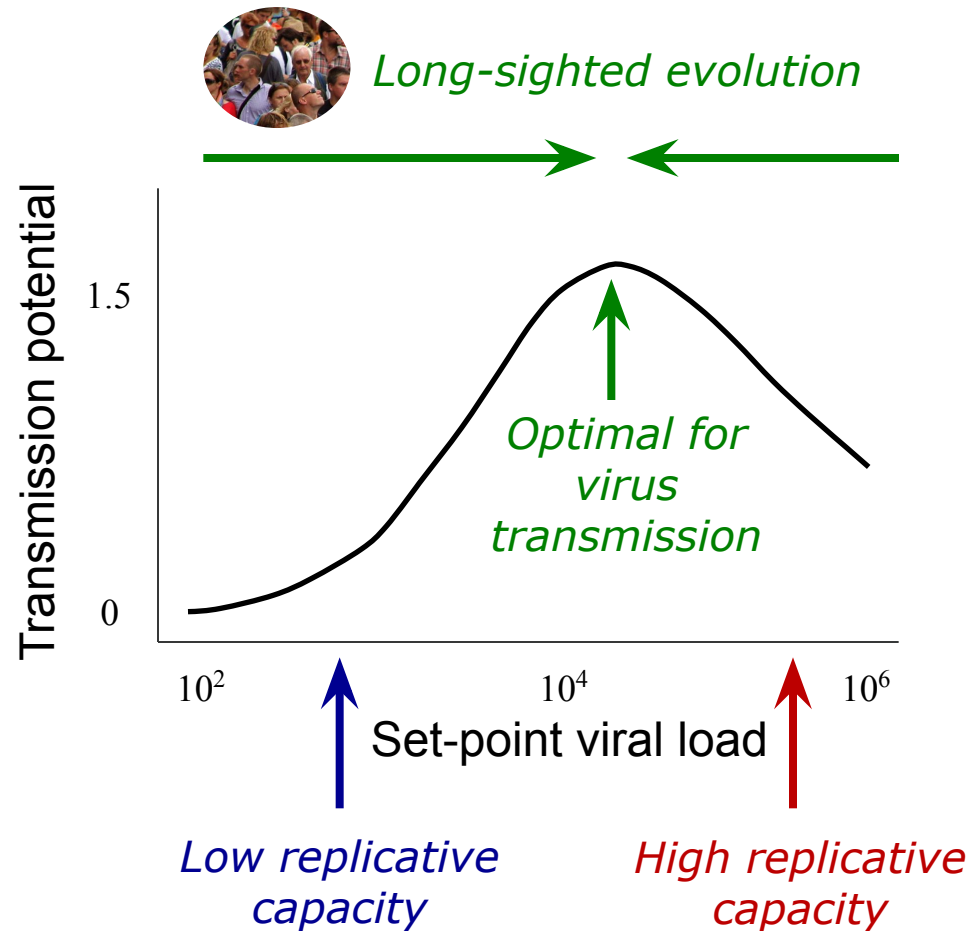
HIV transmission potential



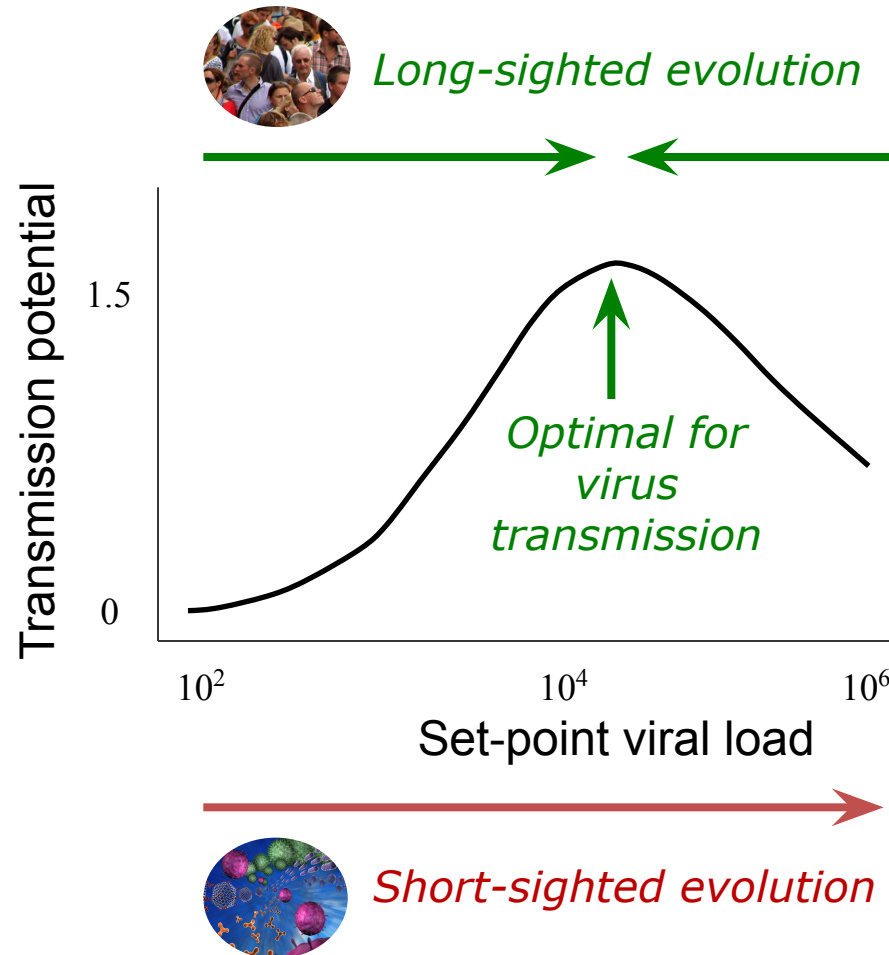
HIV transmission potential



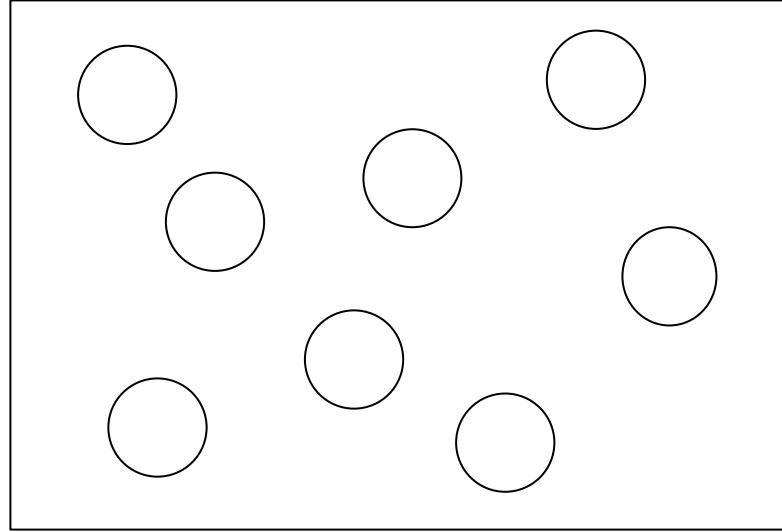
HIV transmission potential



HIV transmission potential



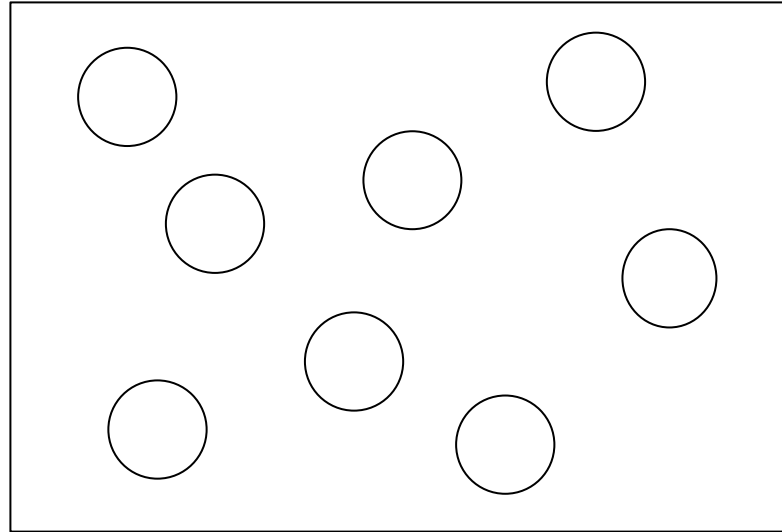
Population structure



- Deterministic model
- All susceptibles identical
- Homogeneous mixing

□ Vital dynamics:
$$\frac{dN(t)}{dt} = B - \mu N(t)$$

Population structure

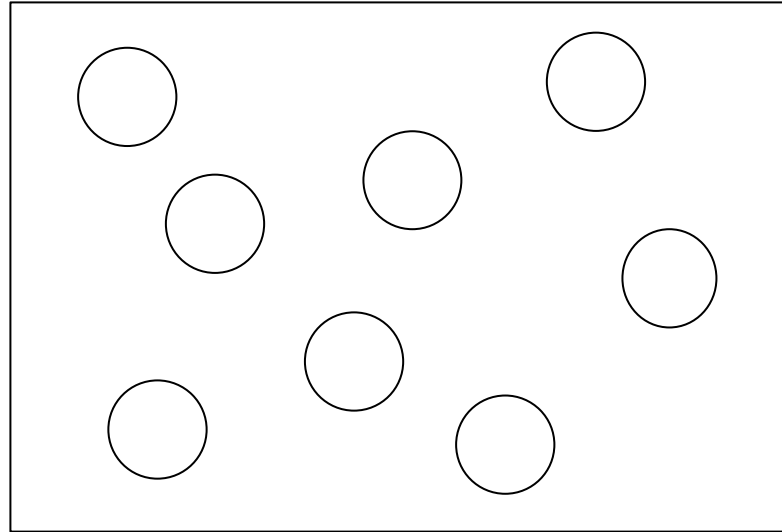


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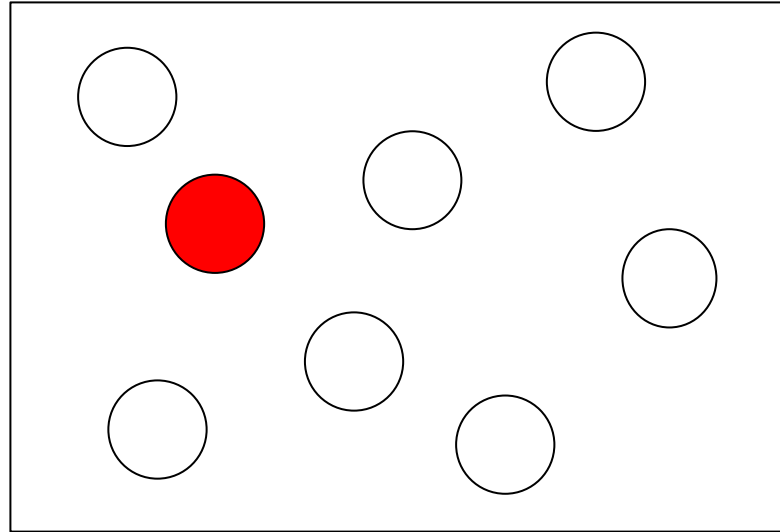
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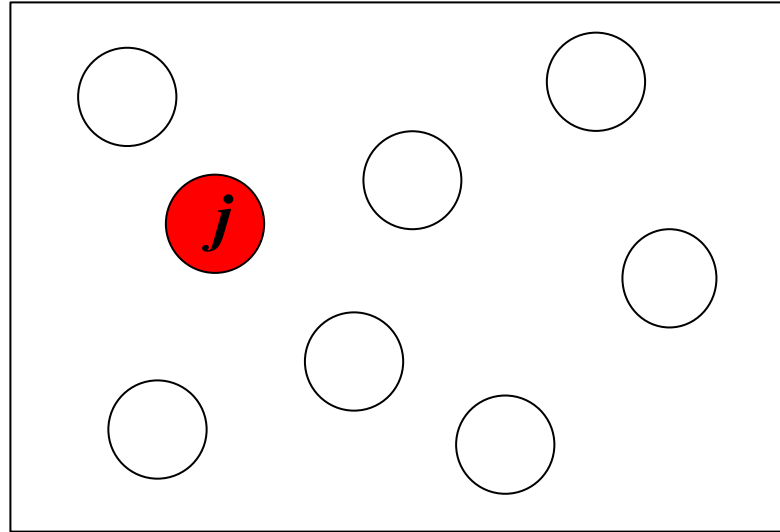
$$\frac{dN(t)}{dt} = \underbrace{B}_{\text{Total birth rate}} - \underbrace{\mu}_{\text{Per-capita death rate}} N(t)$$

Infection spread



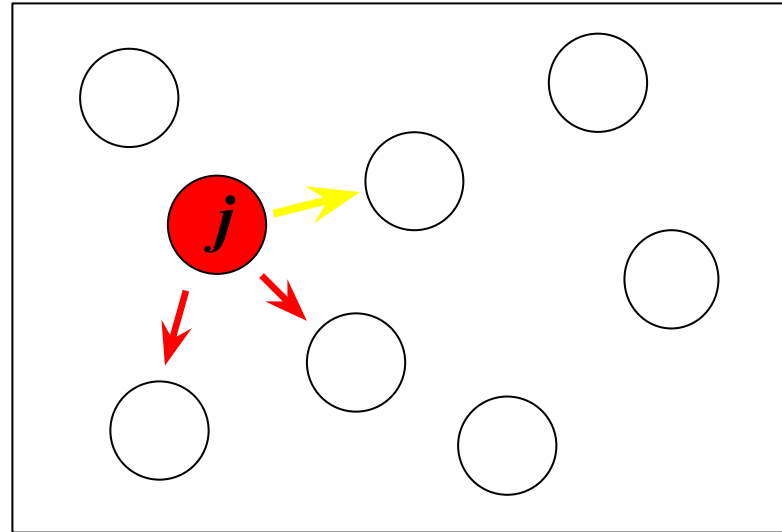
- SI model
- Infection caused by a single virion j
- Type- j case = infected with a virus of strain j
- Infector strain \longrightarrow SPVL \longrightarrow infectiousness and duration
- $\beta_{ij}(\tau)$ = rate at which type- j case transmit strain i

Infection spread



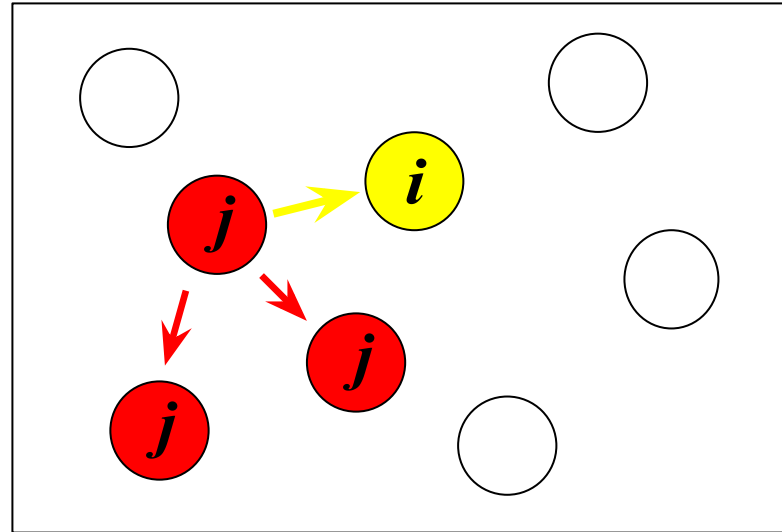
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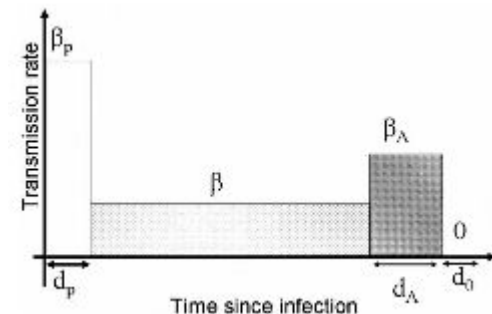
Infectivity profiles

Ideally, we want a within-host model to construct the $\beta_{ij}(\tau)$

Two choices:

- Virus – immune system competition model:
 - Possible
 - Slow
 - No hope to get a non-unimodal infectivity profile

- Impose “artificially” a shape $\alpha_j(\tau)$ for the infectivity profile of type j and model changes in frequencies with the quasispecies equation
 - Very flexible
 - Fast
 - But requires many assumptions



The quasispecies equation

- Consider n strains and let

$\underline{y}(t) = (y_i(t))$ number of virions of strain i

$\underline{g} = (g_i)$ vector of reproduction rates of strain i

$M = (m_{ij})$ mutation matrix

$Q = (m_{ij}g_j)$ reproduction-mutation matrix

- Then the system for the unbounded growth is

$$\frac{d\underline{y}}{dt} = Q\underline{y}$$

- Consider the frequencies

$$\underline{x}(t) = (x_i(t)) = \left(\frac{y_i(t)}{\sum_j y_j(t)} \right)$$

- Quasispecies equation:

$$\frac{d\underline{x}}{dt} = Q\underline{x} - \bar{g}\underline{x} \quad \text{where} \quad \bar{g}(t) = \sum_i g_i x_i(t)$$

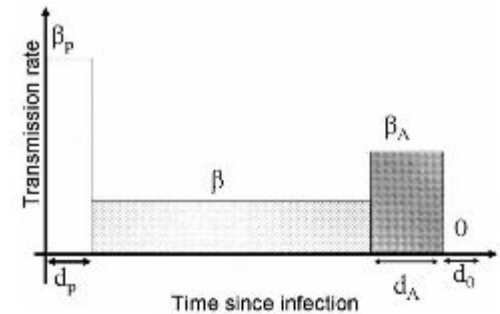
Linking within- and between-host

$$\beta_{ij}(\tau) = G_i x_{ij}(\tau) \alpha_j(\tau)$$

Linking within- and between-host

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Infectivity profile
of type- j case

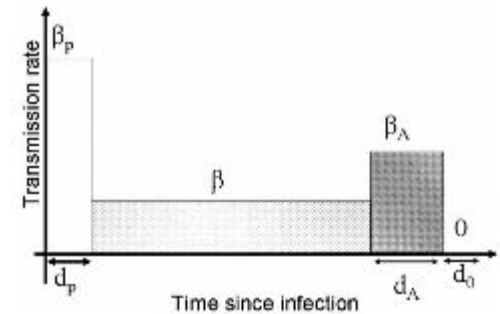


Linking within- and between-host

$$\beta_{ij}(\tau) = G_i \quad x_{ij}(\tau) \quad \alpha_j(\tau)$$

Frequency of strain i
at time t after initial
infection with strain j

Infectivity profile
of type- j case



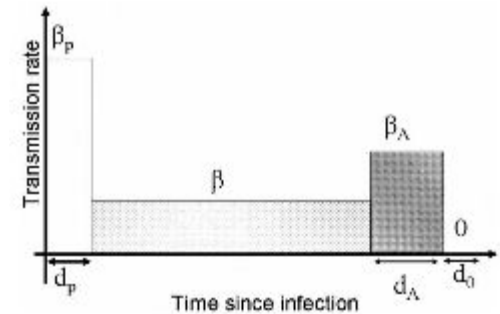
Linking within- and between-host

$$\beta_{ij}(\tau) = G_i x_{ij}(\tau) \alpha_j(\tau)$$

between-host
transmissibility
of strain-*i* virus

Frequency of strain *i*
at time *t* after initial
infection with strain *j*

Infectivity profile
of type-*j* case



Within- and between-host fitness

Strain index:

$i =$ 1 2 n

Within- and between-host fitness

Strain index:

$$i = \quad 1 \quad 2 \quad \dots \quad \dots \quad n$$

Within-host fitness:

$$g_i =$$



Within- and between-host fitness

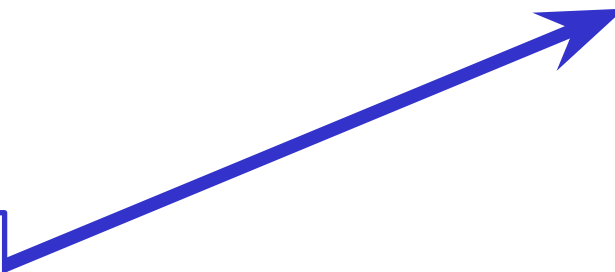
Strain index:

$i =$ 1 2 n

Within-host fitness:

$g_i =$

$$g_1 = 1$$



$$g_n = g_{max}$$

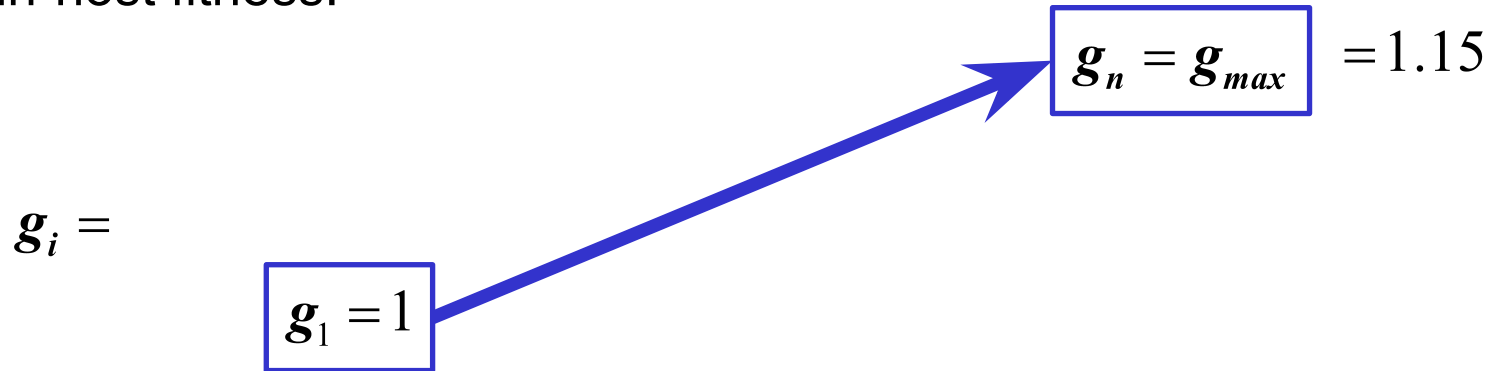
$$= 1.15$$

Within- and between-host fitness

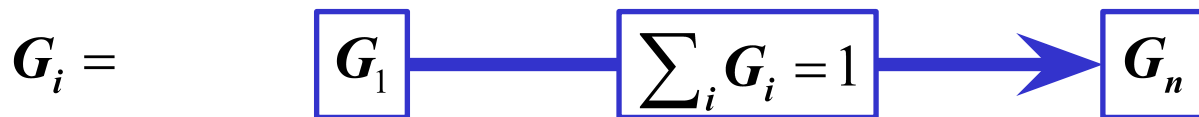
Strain index:

$$i = \quad 1 \quad 2 \quad \dots \quad \dots \quad n$$

Within-host fitness:



Between-host fitness:

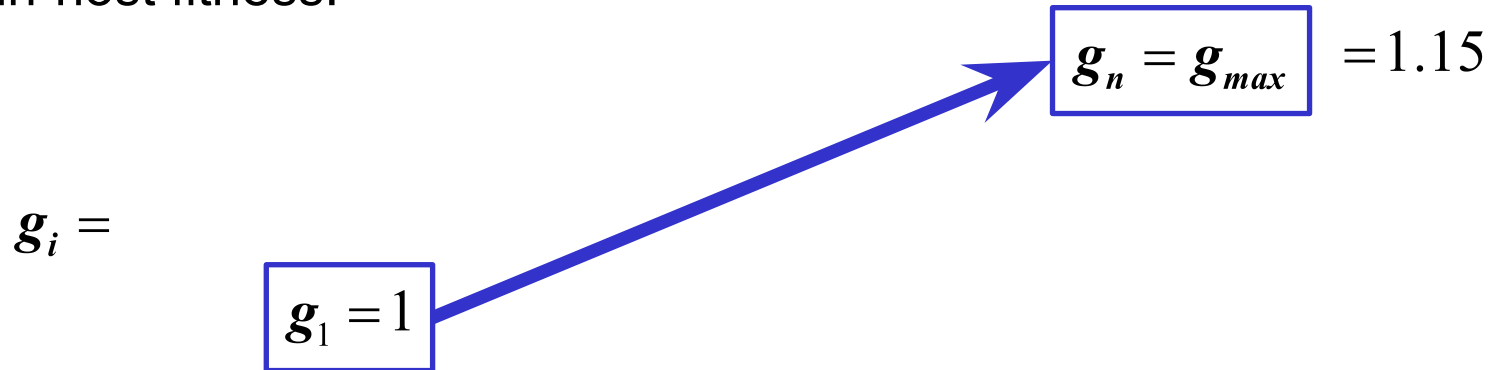


Within- and between-host fitness

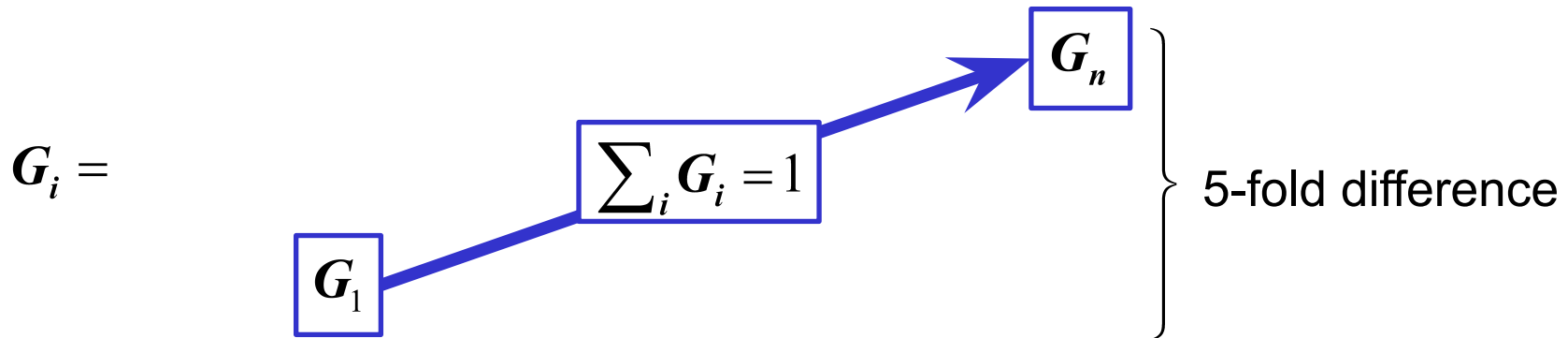
Strain index:

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Within-host fitness:



Between-host fitness:

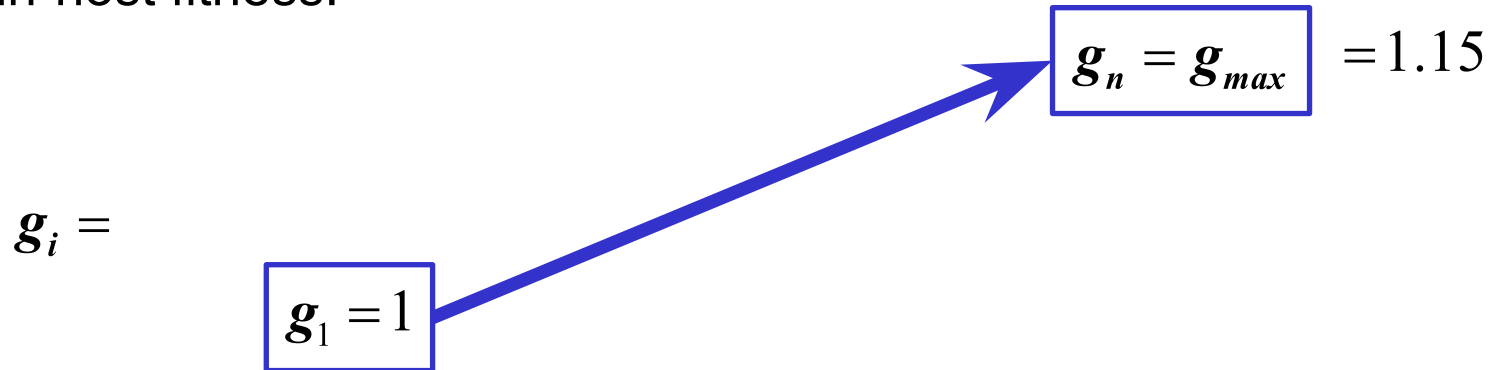


Within- and between-host fitness

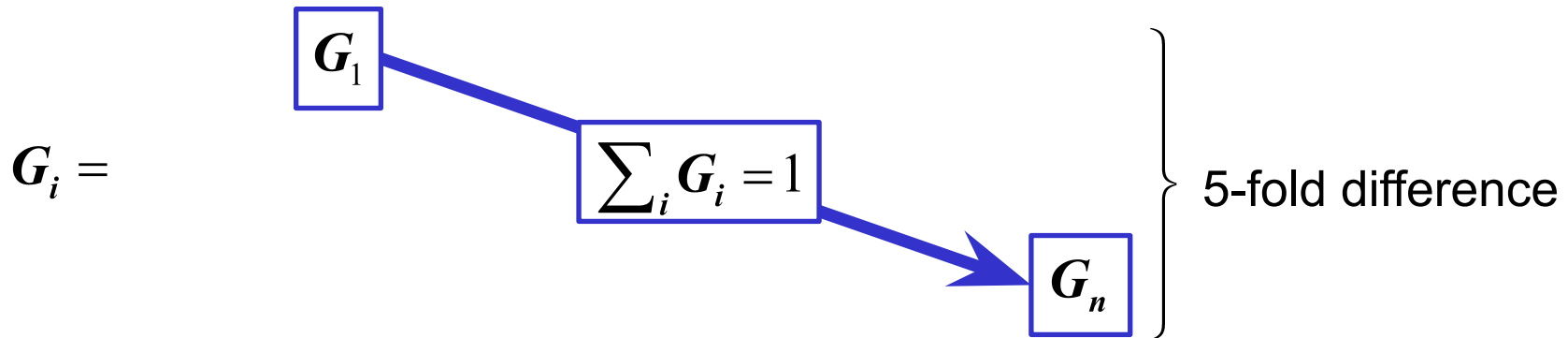
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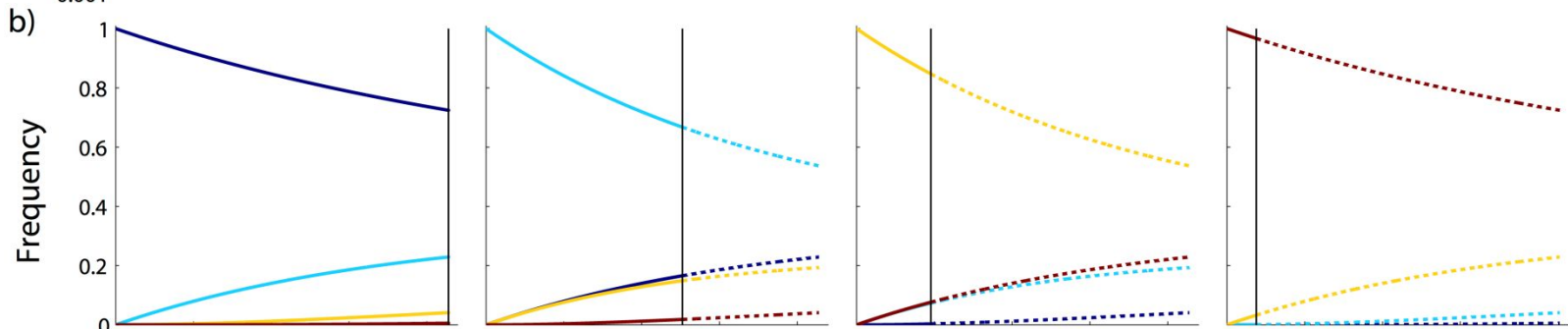
Between-host fitness:



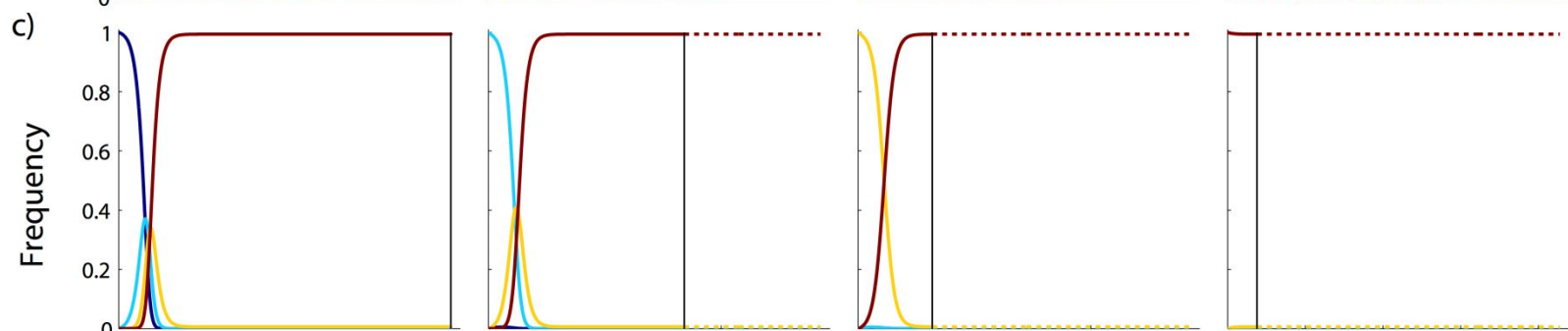
Infectivity profile



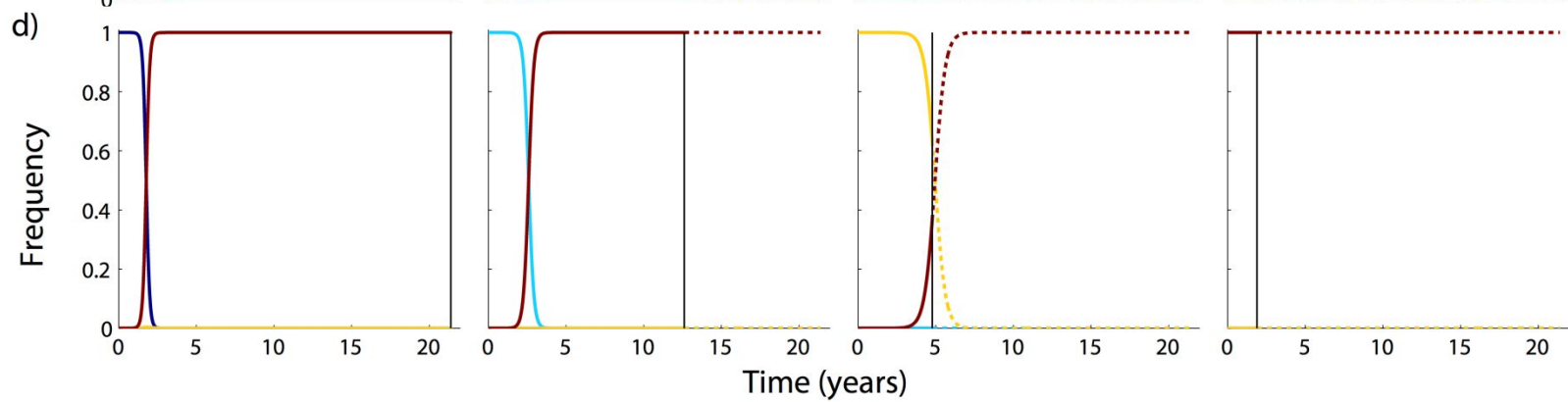
Flat



Hill-climb

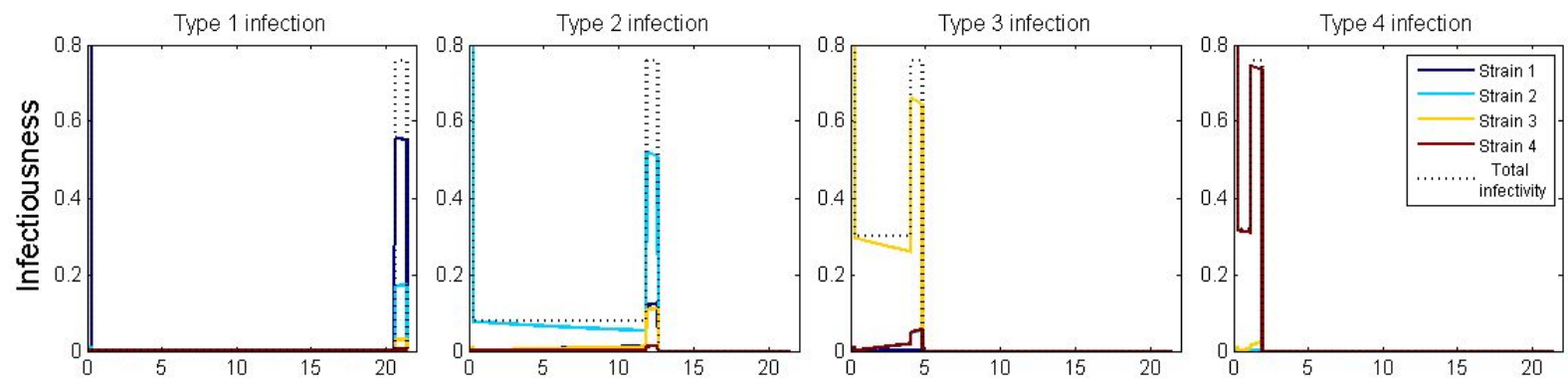


Rugged

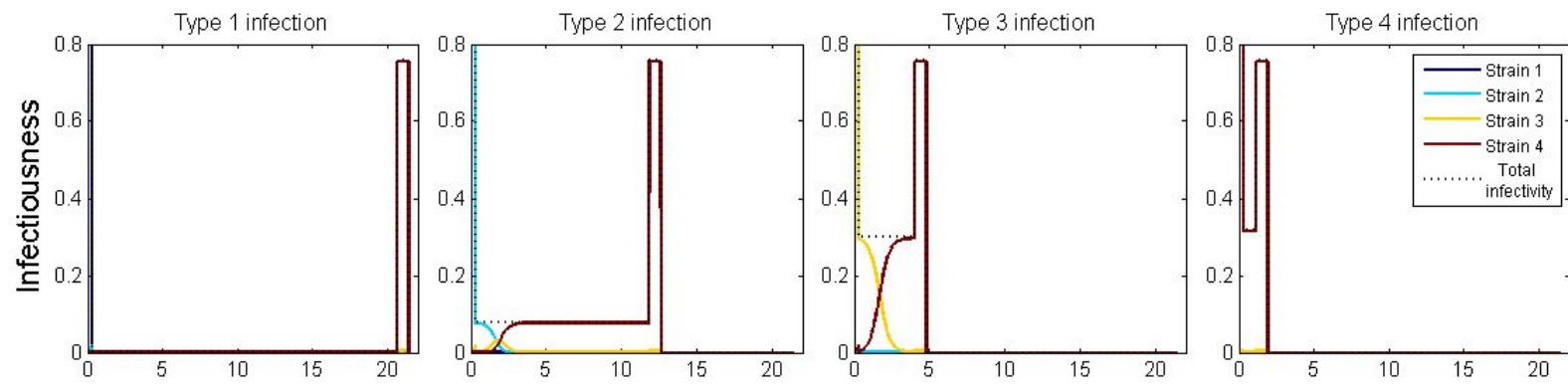


Infectivity profiles (4 strains)

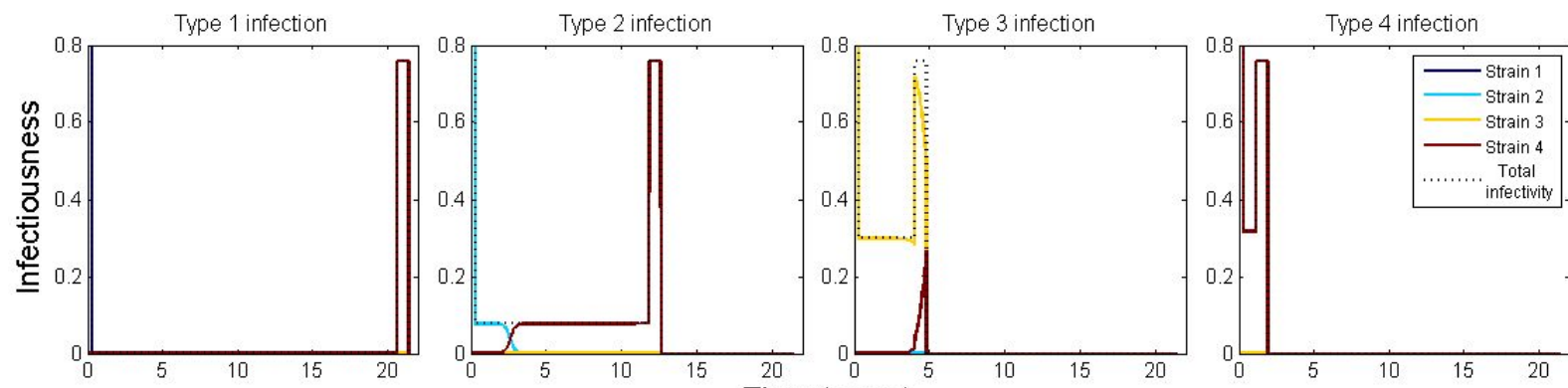
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Rugged



Time (years)

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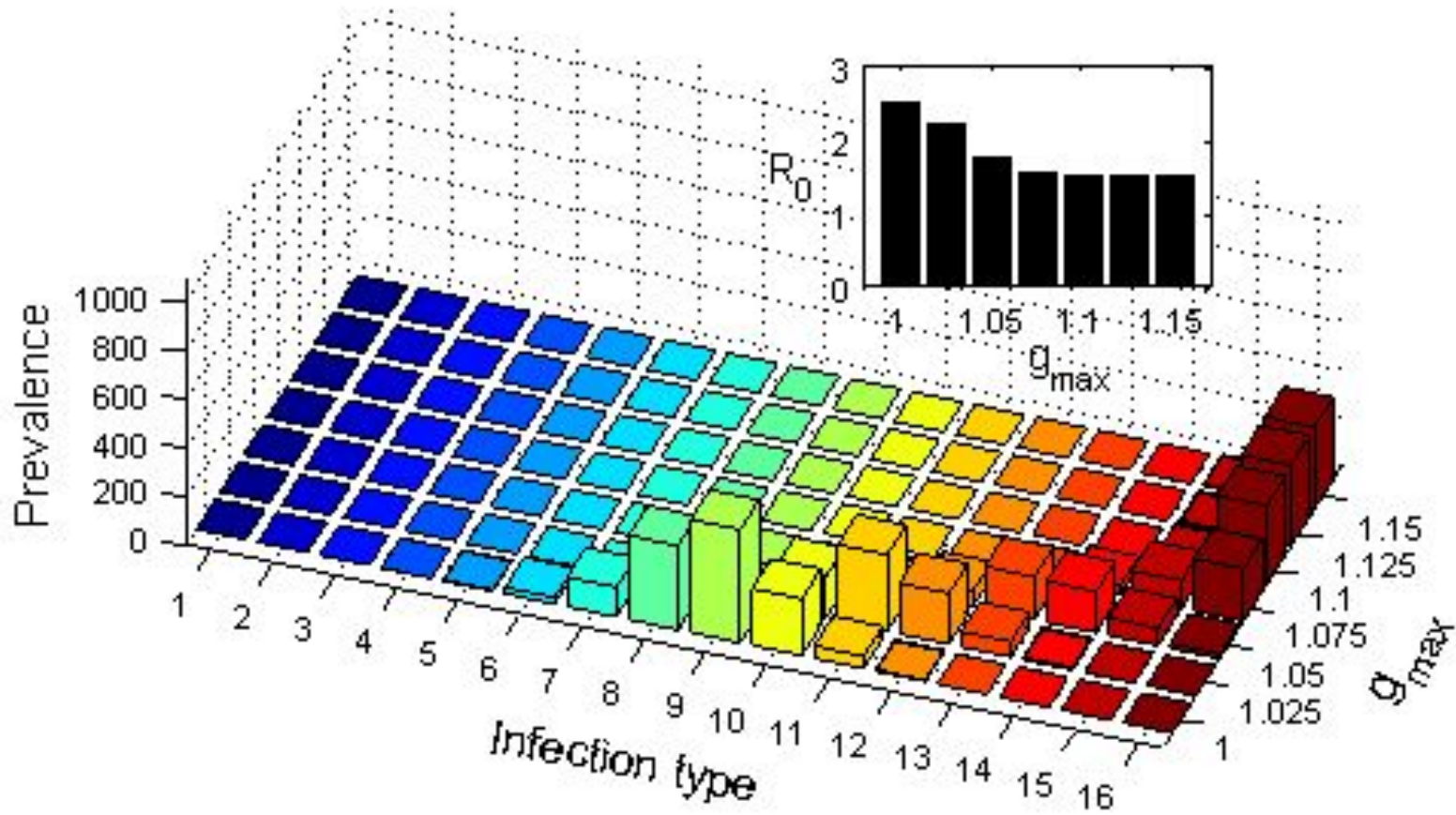
\Downarrow

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Equilibria



Overview of assumptions

- Structural assumptions:
 - No external events
 - No superinfection

Equations of Example 2

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- Implications:
 - Can use a time-since-infection framework
 - Can use a next-generation matrix (NGM) approach
 - Within- and between-host levels are linked
 - But no “full” feedback loop (no evolving population immunity)

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- Other assumptions that may be relaxed:
 - Single-virion infection (easy)
 - All-identical susceptibles (hard)

Equations of Example 2

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OPEN CHALLENGES

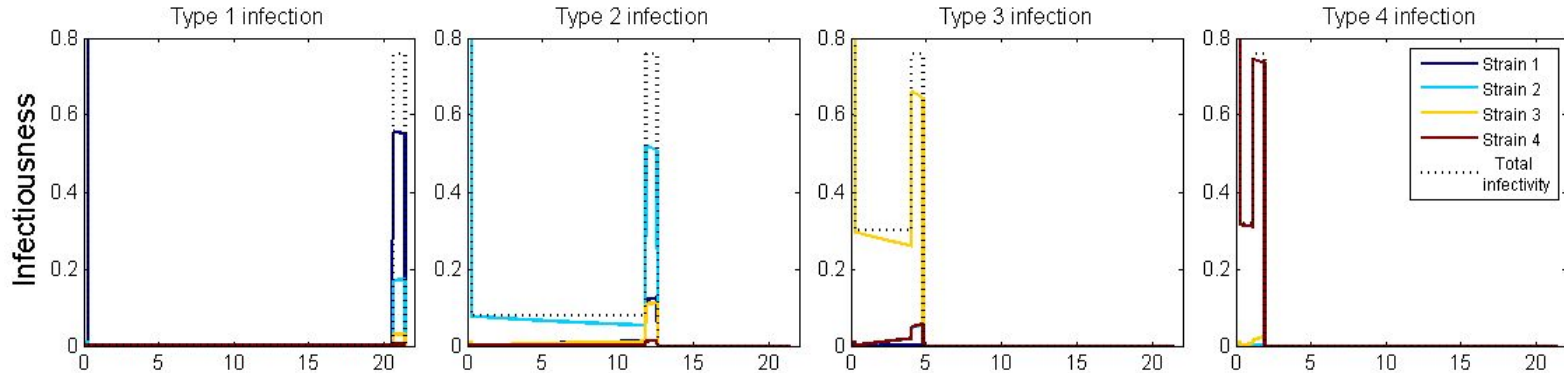
Nested models

- Names: “nested”, “immuno-epidemiological”, “Within-between-host”
- Can always be constructed, as long as WH dynamics allow the construction of a between-host (BH) transmission rate $\beta(\tau)$
- They can be written as PDEs or DDEs/integral equations
- Caveat:
 - Most of the time they assume such the between-scale link (e.g., pathogen load and transmission rate)

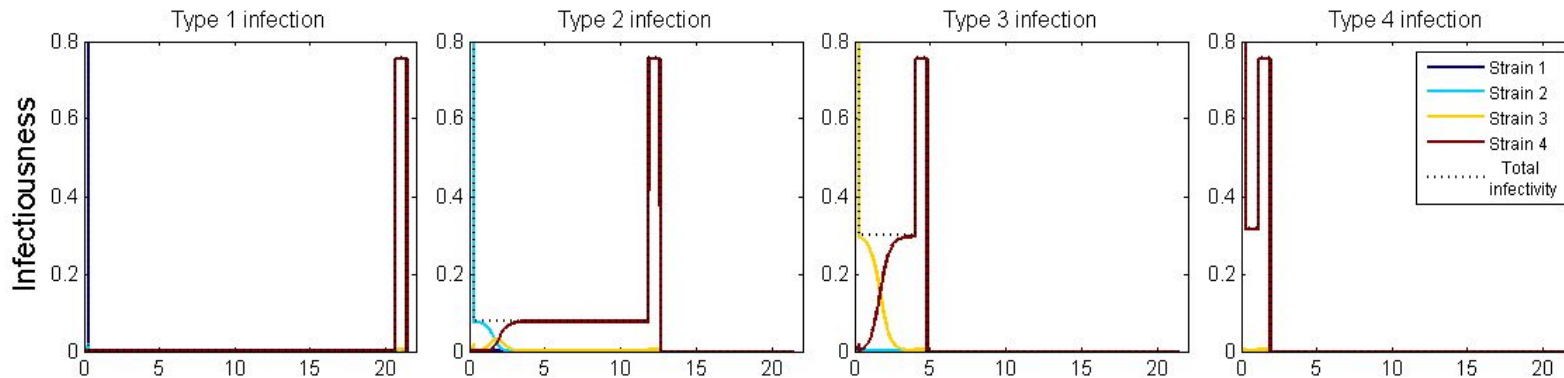
- ❖ *Agreed terminology? Definition of “nested” model?*
- ❖ *Any benefit of using PDEs rather than DDEs?*
- ❖ *Experimental studies of between-scale links?*

Generation time for complex models?

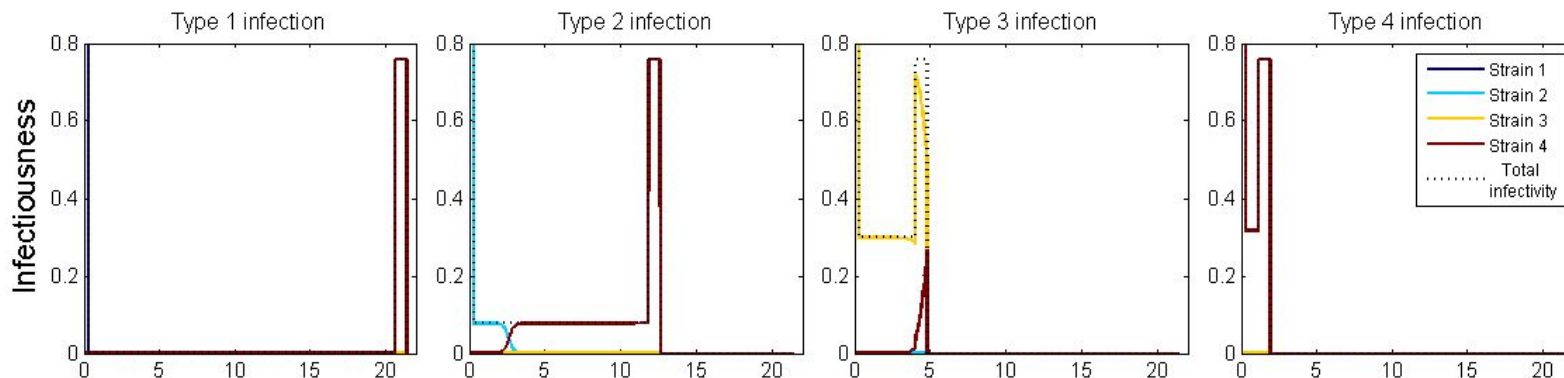
Flat



Hill-climb



Rugged



Time (years)

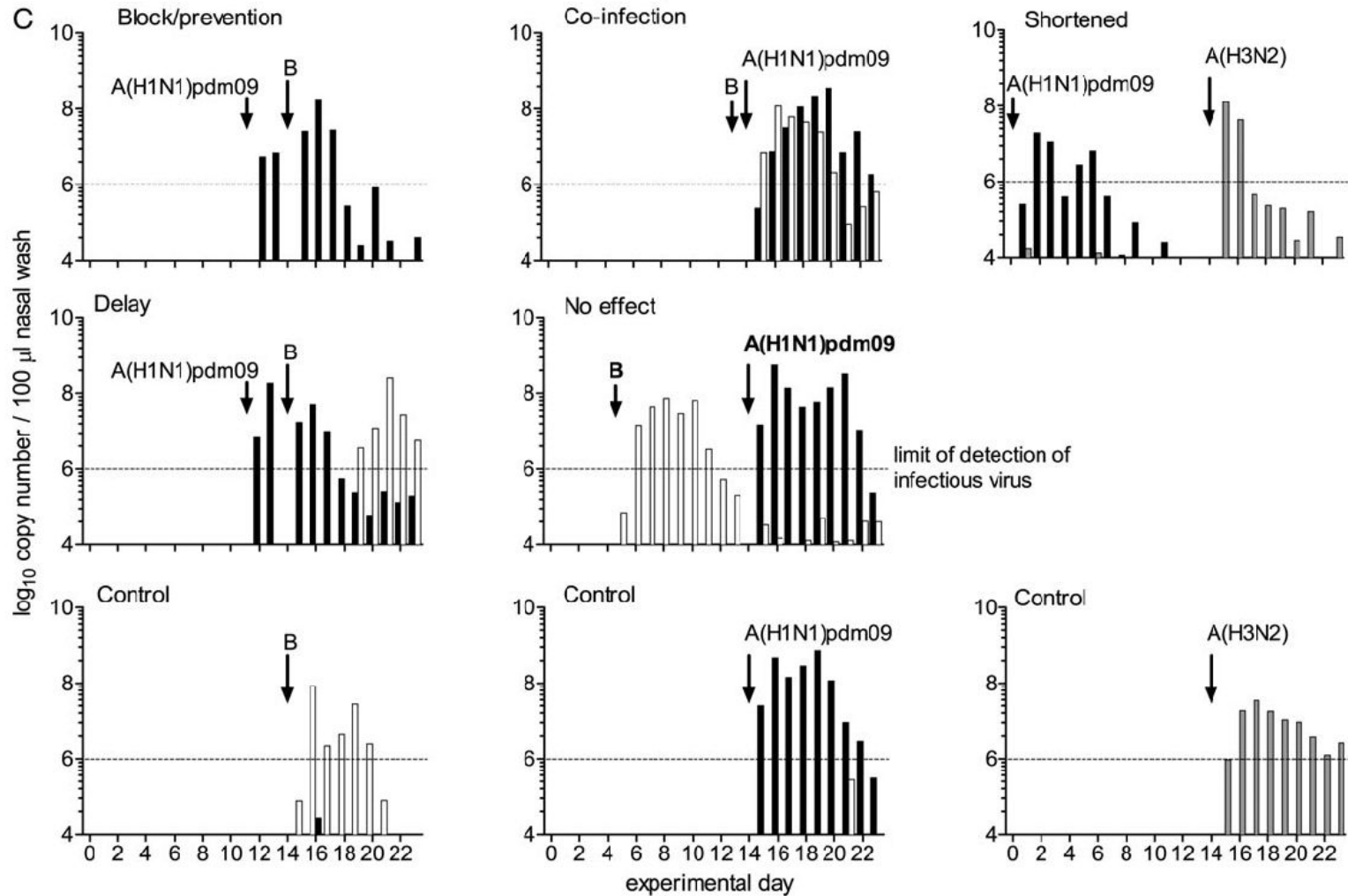
Reinfection

- Second infection after recovery, affected by past disease history
- Difficult: both population infectivity *and* susceptibility determine new cases
- Main reason: understanding the ecology of influenza:
 - Julia Gog
 - Viggo Andreasen
 - Adam Kucharski
- Problems:
 - With many strains, curse of dimensionality
 - Strong assumptions to reduce dimensions, e.g. past history does not reduce susceptibility, or does not reduce infectivity
 - All ODE-based
 - Limited to acute infections

Superinfection

- A second infection before the first is “complete”
- Why do we need it?
 - Chronic infections (e.g. HIV, HCV)
 - HIV has high superinfection rates [Redd *et al.* (2014), *JID* and (2014), *AIDS*]
 - Data is becoming available [Laurie *et al.* (2015), *JID* and (2017), *JID*]
- Same problems as reinfection, but in addition:
 - Timing is probably very important
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Superinfection data



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Summary

- The concept of generation time distribution is strongly linked with time-since-infection models

TSI harder than ODEs, but have some benefits:

- Useful for multi-scale / within- and between-host models
 - Probably more useful for chronic infections
- Useful when shape of infectivity profile is key. For COVID-19, e.g.
 - Contact tracing
 - Optimal timing of testing to keep infection out of closed settings
- Challenges:
 - The link between the two scales is almost always assumed
 - Concept of generation-time for complex models, e.g. multi-strain
 - TSI with reinfection / superinfection

Acknowledgements

Katrina Lythgoe Christophe Fraser Francois Blanquart Andrea Pugliese



Helena Stage

Chris Overton Francesca Scarabel



THE ROYAL
SOCIETY



Medical
Research
Council

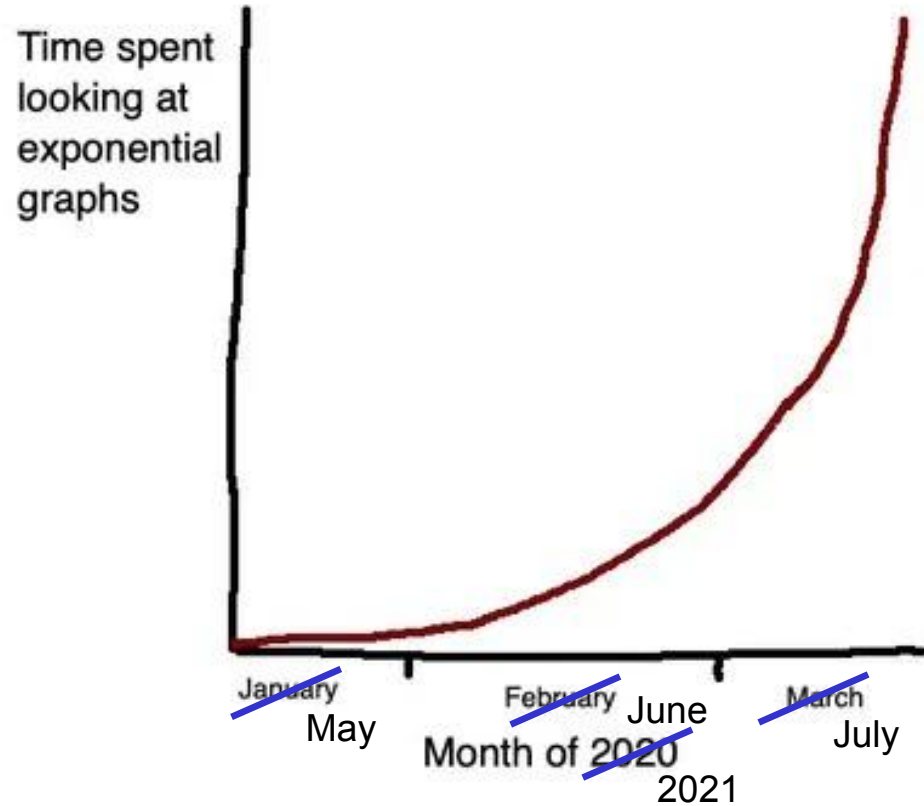
EPSRC

Engineering and Physical Sciences
Research Council



JUNIPER

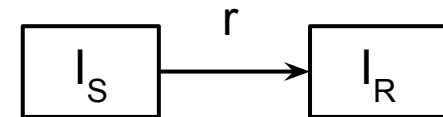
Acknowledgements



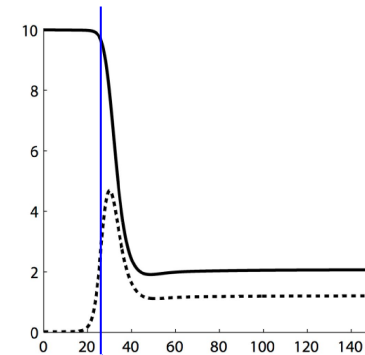
Thank you

Limitations of ODEs

- ODEs are extremely useful and easy to use
- But have many limitations:
 - Oversimplified emergence of resistance:



- Time-scale separation argument:



- Superinfection:

