

Agent-based model of COVID-19 transmission for location-specific risk assessment and control

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Goal

Brings modelling one
step closer to epidemic
management in real life

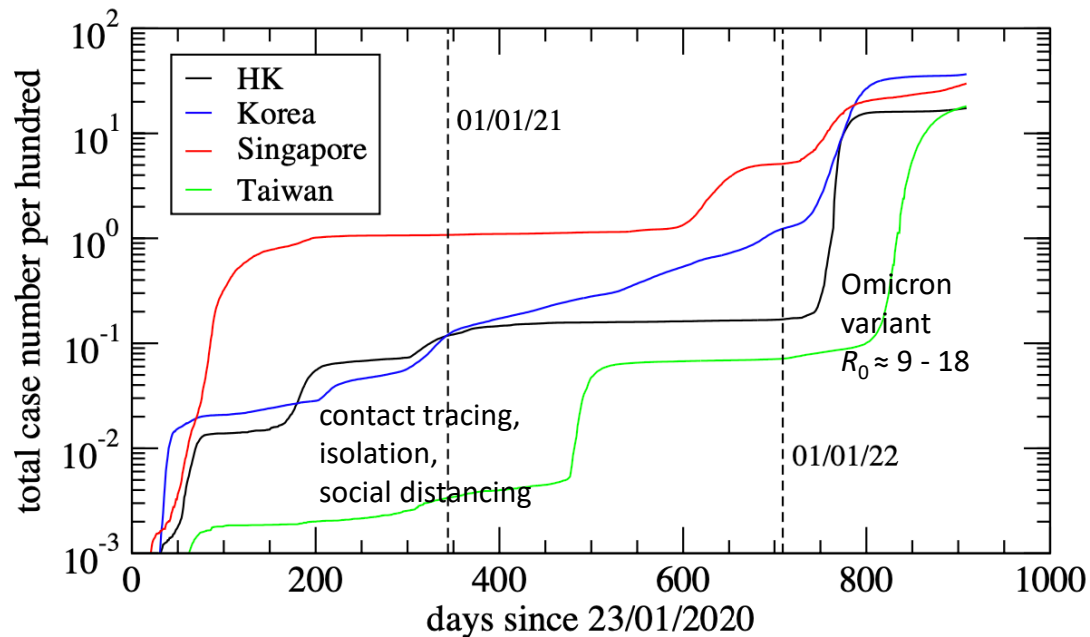
Overview

- Quick facts about COVID-19 waves in east Asia
- The SEIR model
 - Infectious period, R_0 , exponential growth, renewal process
 - Community-wide qPCR testing and quarantine
- A location-based transmission network model for risk evaluation and pandemic control
 - Formulation
 - Epidemic growth rate — a fundamental equation
 - Social contact: a toy model
- Conclusions

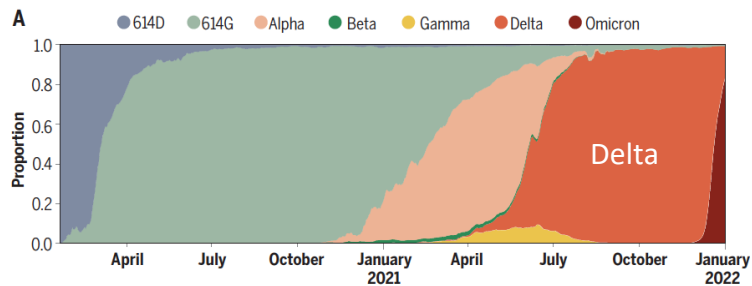
**Quick facts about COVID-19
waves in east Asia**

COVID-19 waves in 4-dragon countries/regions

owid/covid-19-data



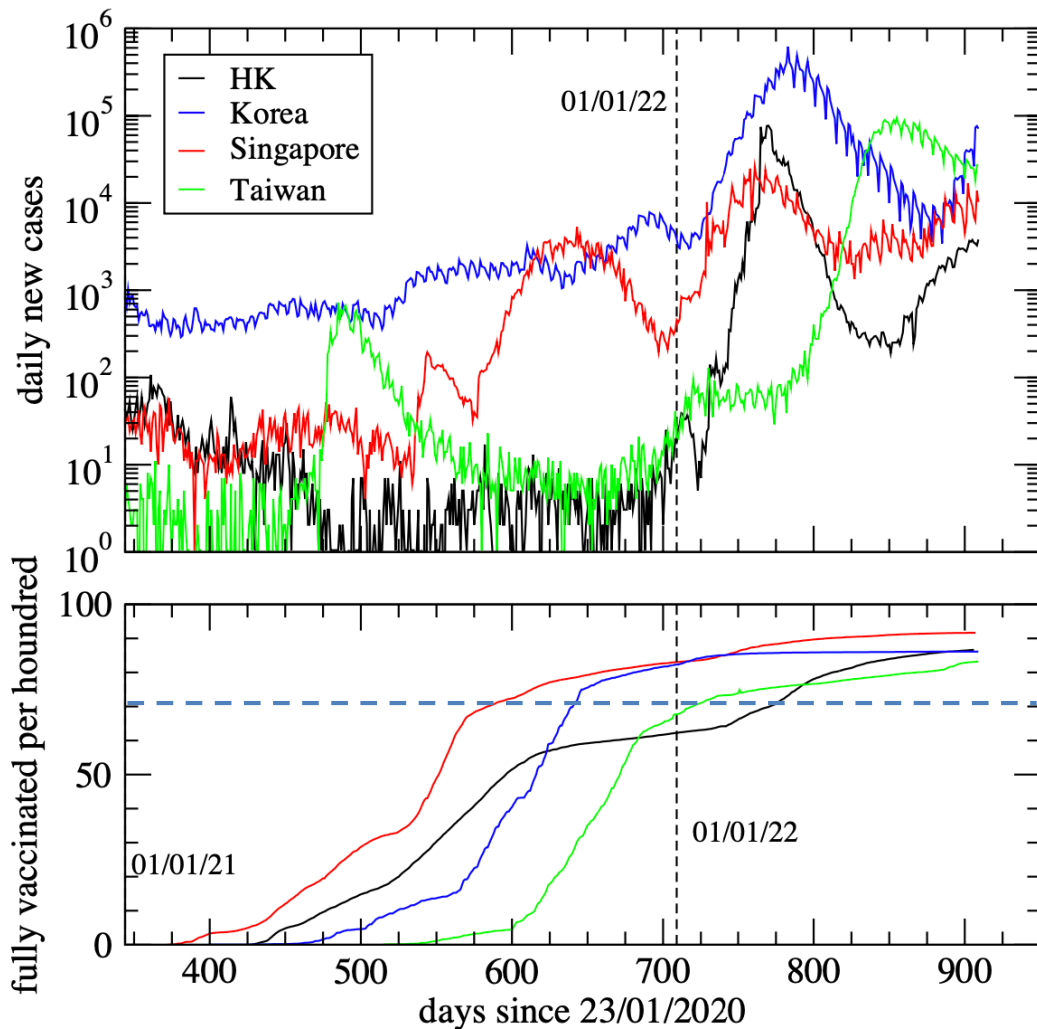
Koelle et al., *Science* **375**, 1116–21 (2022)



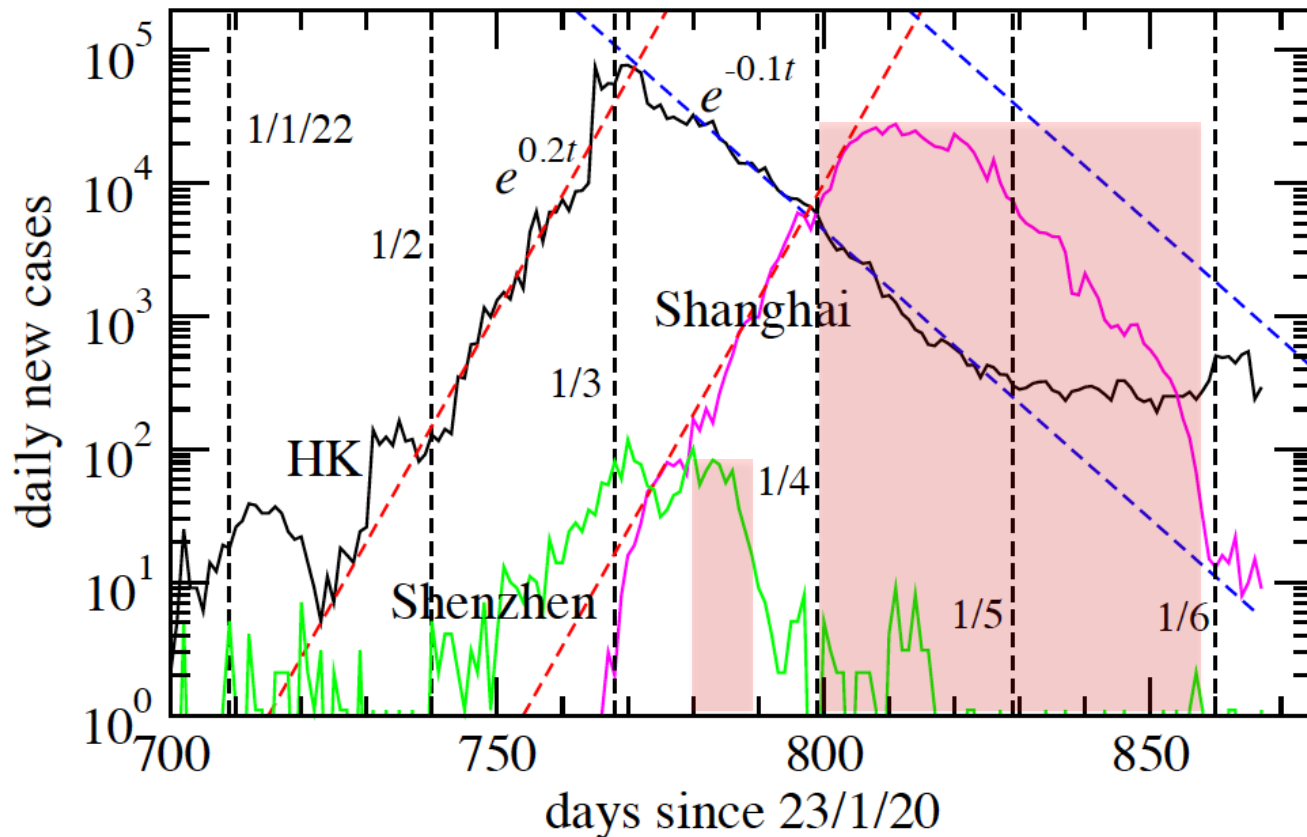
COVID-19 waves in 4-dragon countries/regions

The omicron challenge

Increased vaccination (say
beyond 70%) significantly slows
down the growth and speeds up
the decline of a new wave



Omicron waves in HK, Shenzhen and Shanghai



Growth rate
day

near lockdown

Community-wide
qPCR testing
implemented in
Shenzhen and
Shanghai on
routine basis to
curb hidden
transmission by
asymptomatic
viral carriers

The SEIR model

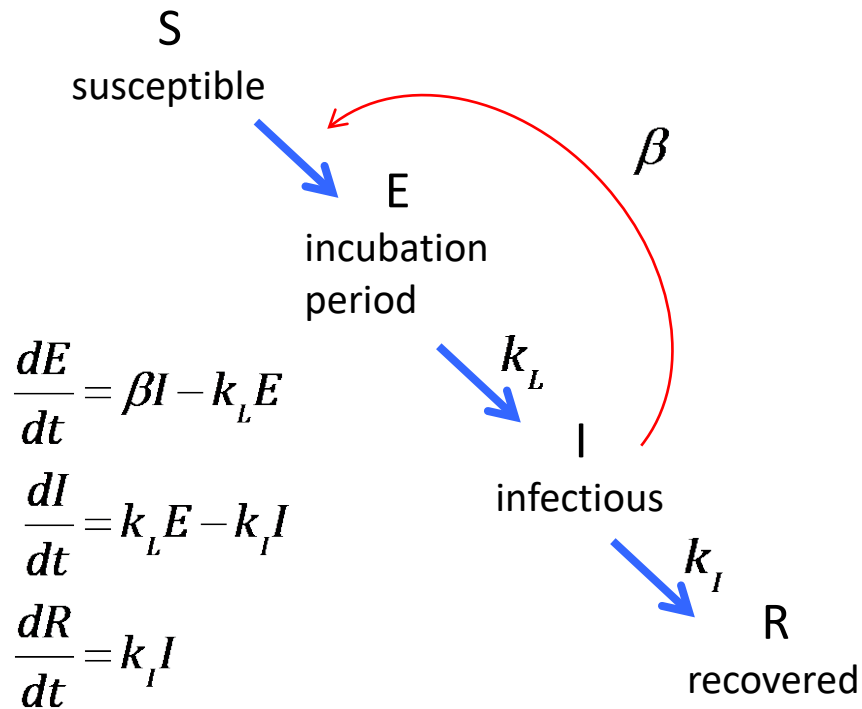
susceptible-exposed-infected-recovered

incubation-infectious-recovered/removed (this work)

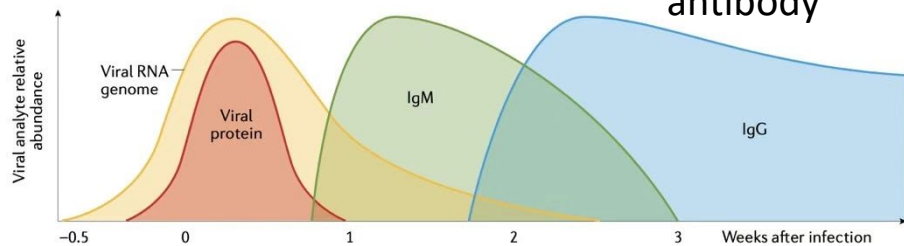
Compartmentalized model for disease progression

Kermack, W.O. & McKendrick, A.G. A contribution to the mathematical theory of epidemics. Proc R Soc Lond A 115, 700-721 (1927).

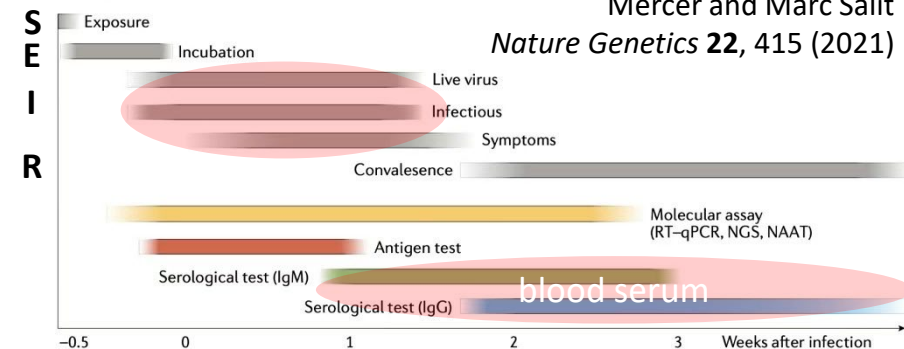
Disease progression and isolation (SEIR model)



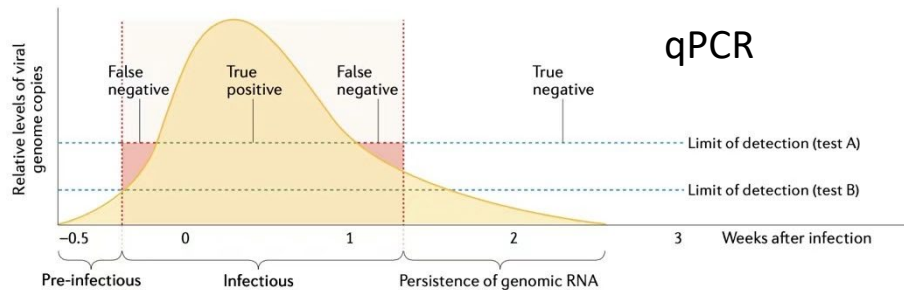
a Viral analyte (RNA, protein and antibody) dynamics



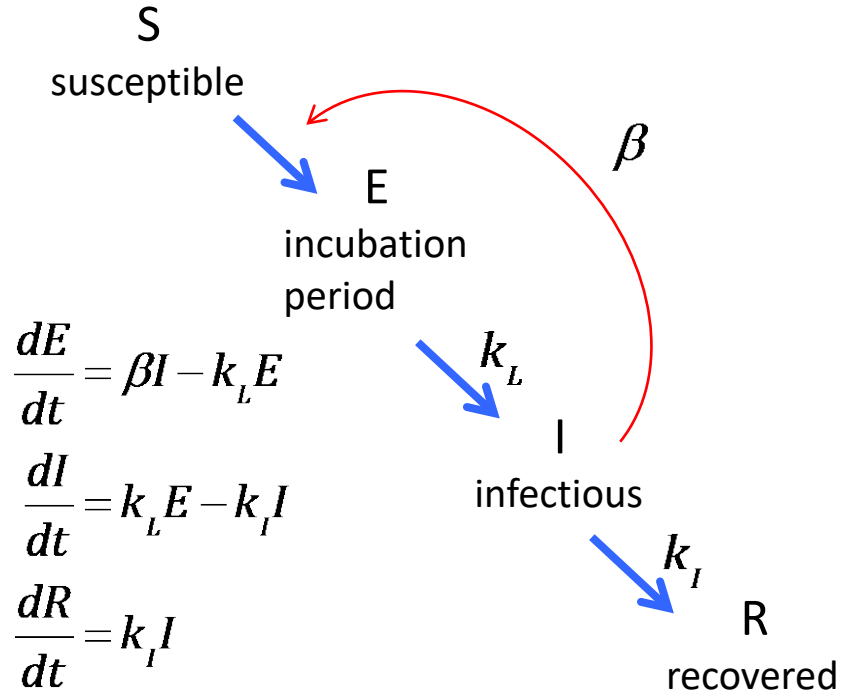
b Infection stage and applicable test modalities



c Analytical sensitivity is dependent on test performance and viral dynamics



Disease progression and isolation (SEIR model)



Probability that a person infected at $t = 0$ is infectious at time t :

$$\rho(t) = \frac{k_L}{k_I - k_L} (e^{-k_L t} - e^{-k_I t})$$

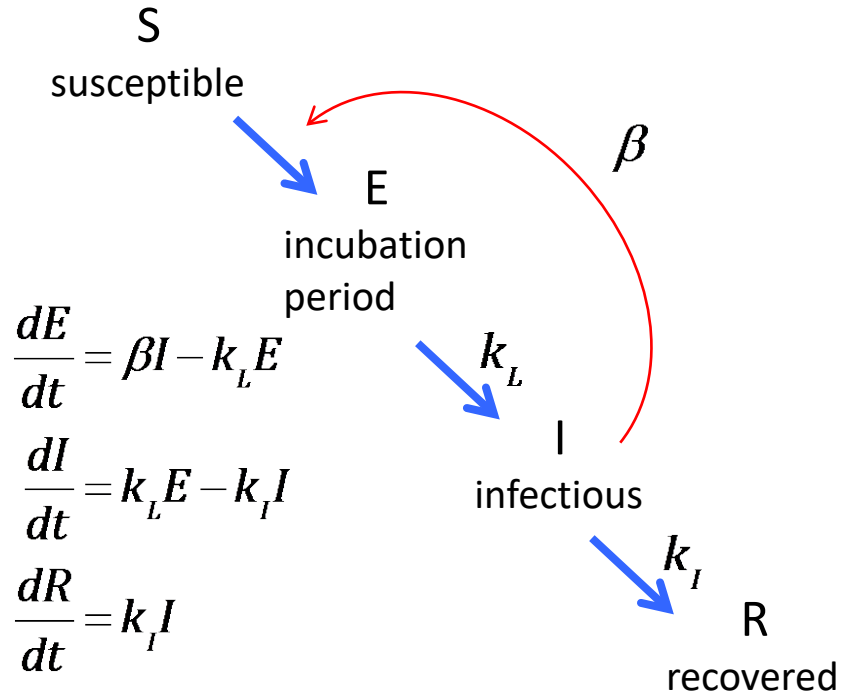
Laplace transform

$$\hat{\rho}(\lambda) \equiv \int_0^{\infty} \rho(t) e^{-\lambda t} dt = \frac{k_L}{(\lambda + k_L)(\lambda + k_I)}$$

Reproduction number

$$R_0 = \int_0^{\infty} \rho(t) \beta dt = \beta \hat{\rho}(0) = \frac{\beta}{k_I}$$

Disease progression and isolation (SEIR model)



Renewal process

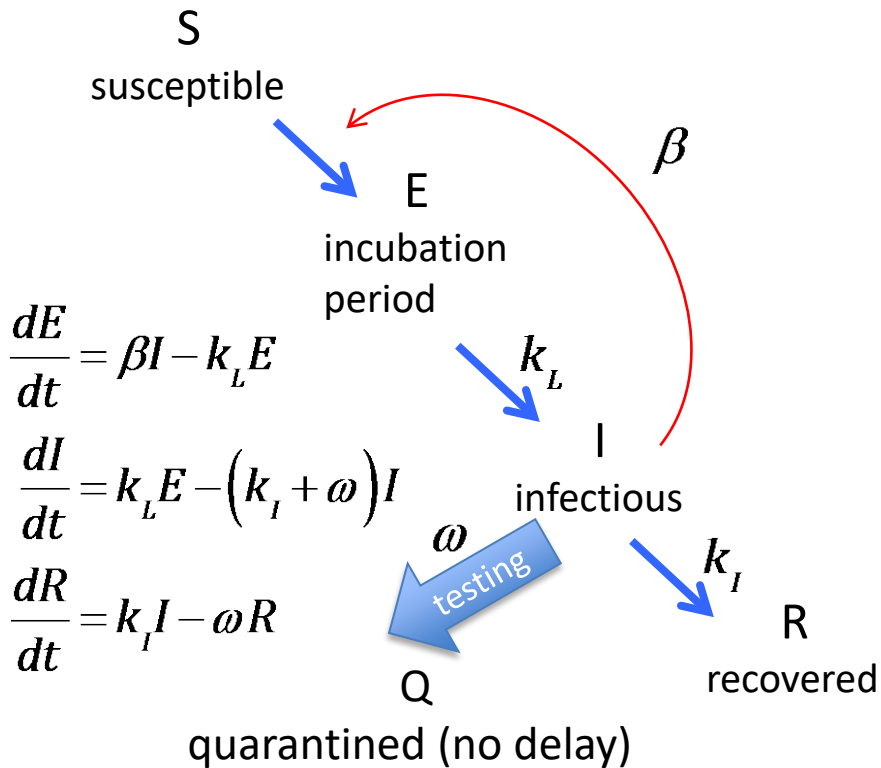
$$E(t) = \int_{-\infty}^t \rho(t-t_1) E(t_1) \beta dt_1$$

Exponential growth

$$E(t) = E_0 e^{\lambda t} \Rightarrow \beta \hat{\rho}(\lambda) = 1$$

$$\lambda = -\frac{k_L + k_I}{2} + \sqrt{\left(\frac{k_L + k_I}{2}\right)^2 + (R_0 - 1)k_L k_I}$$

Testing



Probability that a person infected at $t = 0$ is infectious at time t :

$$\rho_E(t) = \frac{k_L}{k_I + \omega - k_L} \left(e^{-k_L t} - e^{-(k_I + \omega)t} \right)$$

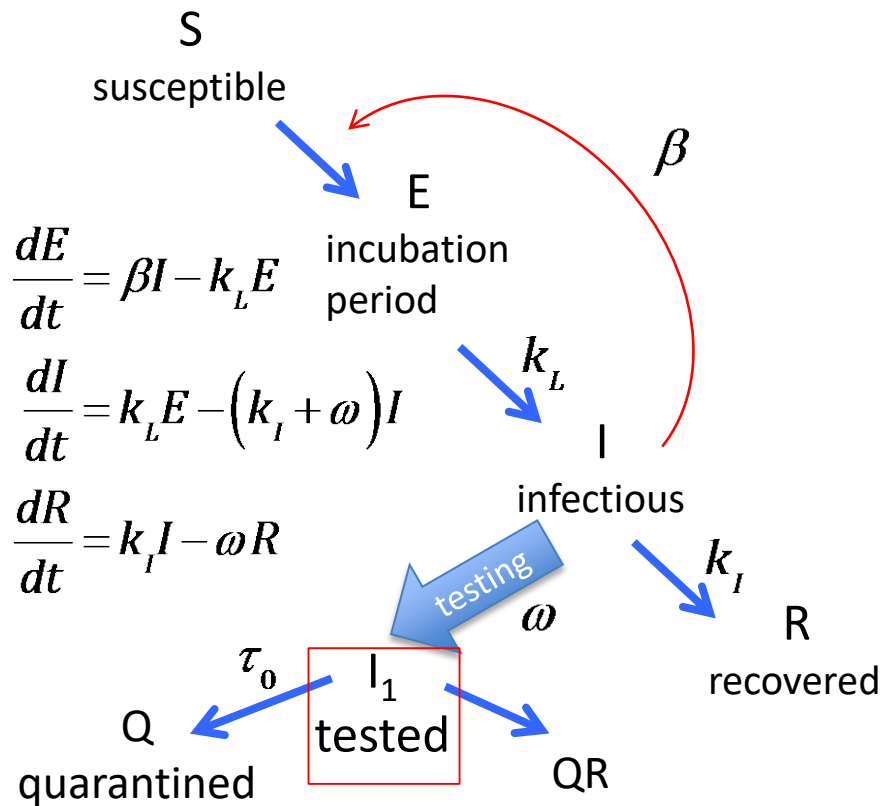
$$\hat{\rho}_E(\lambda) = \frac{k_L}{(\lambda + k_L)(\lambda + k_I + \omega)}$$

Reproduction number: $R_E = \beta \hat{\rho}_E(0) = \frac{\beta}{k_I + \omega}$

Rate of exponential growth:

$$\lambda_E = -\frac{k_L + k_I + \omega}{2} + \sqrt{\left(\frac{k_L + k_I + \omega}{2} \right)^2 + (R_E - 1)k_L(k_I + \omega)}$$

Testing with reporting delay



$$\frac{dE}{dt} = \beta I - k_L E$$

$$\frac{dI}{dt} = k_L E - (k_I + \omega) I$$

$$\frac{dR}{dt} = k_I I - \omega R$$

$$I_1(t) = \int_0^{\tau_0} d\tau \omega I(t - \tau) e^{-k_I \tau}$$

Probability that a person infected at $t = 0$ is infectious at time t :

$$\rho_E(t, \tau_0) = \rho_E(t, \tau_0 = 0) + \int_0^{\tau_0} d\tau \omega \rho_E(t - \tau, \tau_0 = 0) e^{-k_I \tau}$$

$$\hat{\rho}_E(\lambda) = \left(1 + \omega \frac{1 - e^{-(\lambda + k_I)\tau_0}}{\lambda + k_I} \right) \hat{\rho}_E(\lambda, \tau_0 = 0)$$

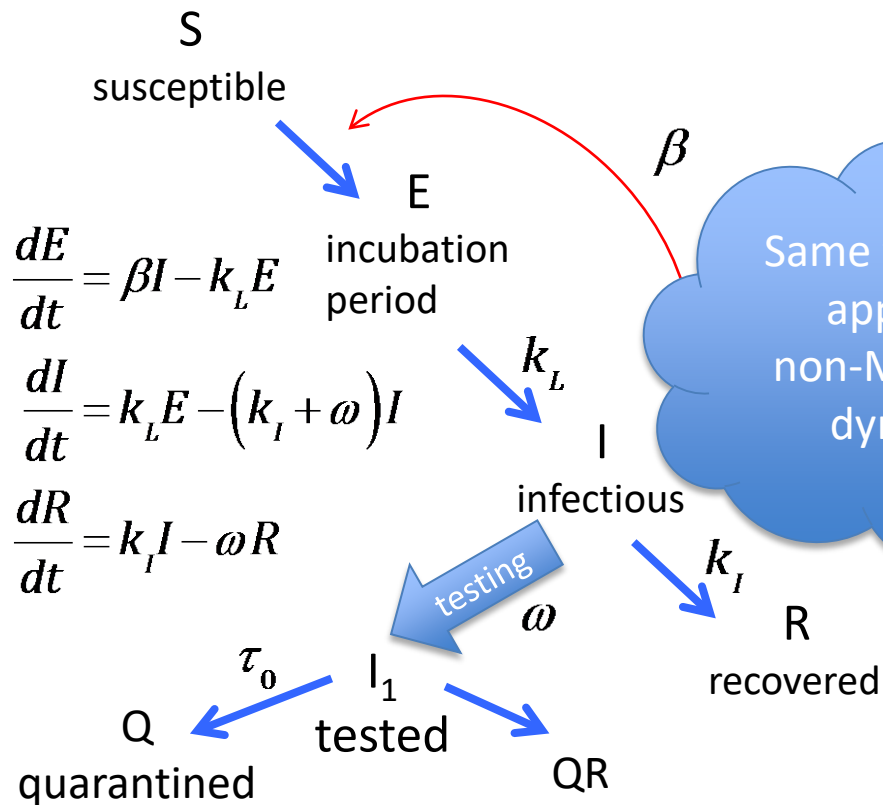
Reproduction number:

$$R_E = \beta \hat{\rho}_E(0) = R_0 \left(1 - \frac{\omega}{k_I + \omega} e^{-k_I \tau_0} \right)$$

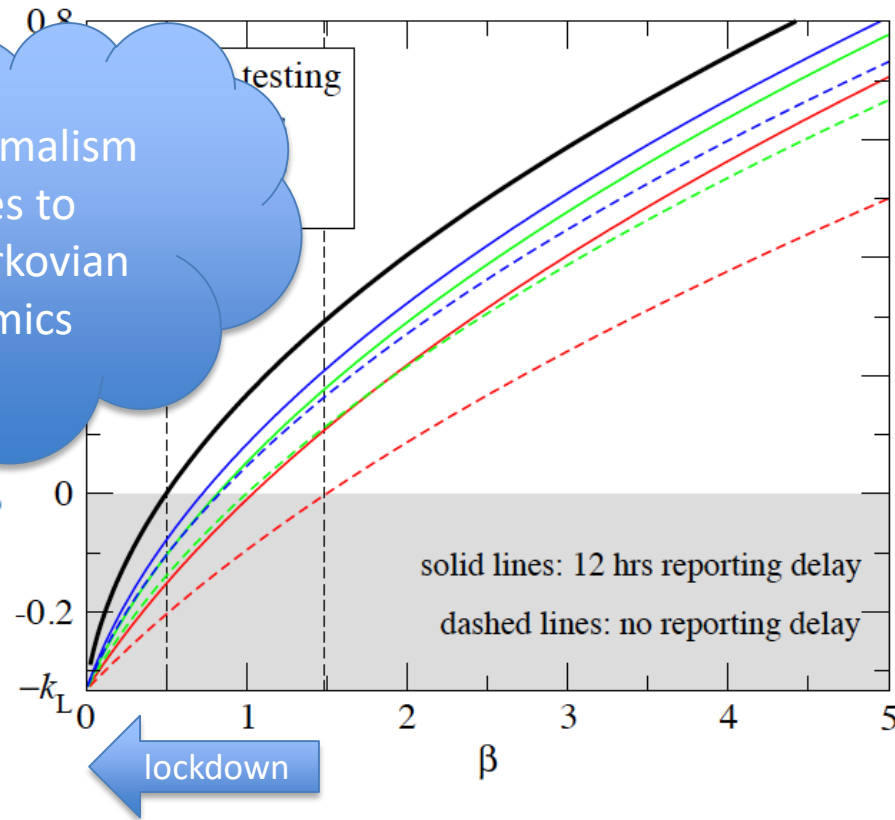
Testing with reporting delay

Exponential growth: $\beta \hat{\rho}_E(\lambda) = 1$

SEIR, $k_L = 1/3, k_I = 1/2$



Same formalism applies to non-Markovian dynamics



But... what determines β ?

Challenges for precision epidemic control:

- Transmission likely to take place at “high-risk” venues and among “high-risk groups”.
- Omicron is much more transmissible than earlier variants, and a large percentage of infections are asymptomatic or with very mild symptoms.
- To be resource-efficient, control measures need to focus more on high-risk venues their roles in a **complex network setting**.

**A location-based transmission network model
for risk evaluation and pandemic control**

Agent-based Model

Individual i

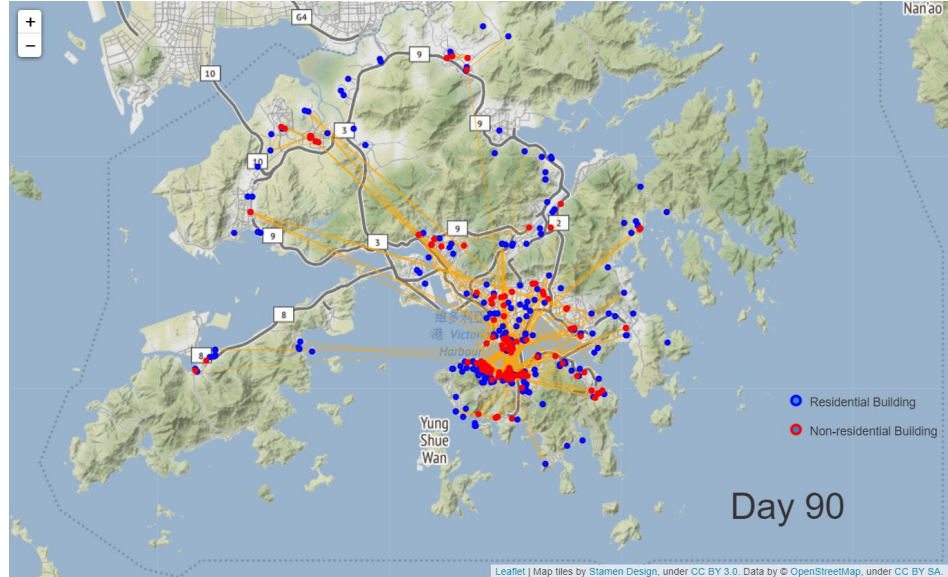
Trajectory: $\Gamma_i(t) \in$ set of locations $\{\alpha\}$

Infection rate at α : $\mu_{i\alpha}(t)r_\alpha(t)$

Total infection rate:

$$p_i(t) = p_{i,ext}(t) + \sum_{\alpha} \mu_{i\alpha}(t)r_\alpha(t)\delta_{\alpha,\Gamma_i(t)}$$

Risk increment if infectious: $v_{i\alpha}(t)$



Location α

Risk factor:

$$r_\alpha(t) = \sum_i v_{i\alpha} q_i(t) \delta_{\alpha,\Gamma_i(t)}$$

Prob being infectious:

$$q_i(t) = \int_0^\infty \rho_E(\tau) p_i(t-\tau) d\tau$$

Network formulation of transmission risk

$$r_\alpha(t) = \sum_i v_{i\alpha} q_i(t) \delta_{\alpha, \Gamma_i(t)} = \sum_i v_{i\alpha} \delta_{\alpha, \Gamma_i(t)} \int_0^\infty d\tau \rho_E(\tau) p_i(t-\tau)$$

Hence
$$r_\alpha(t) = r_{\alpha, ext}(t) + \sum_\beta \int_0^\infty d\tau h(\tau) K_{\alpha\beta}(t, t-\tau) r_\beta(t-\tau)$$

with the **risk propagation matrix**

$$K_{\alpha\beta}(t, t_1) = \sum_i v_{i\alpha}(t) \mu_{i\beta}(t_1) \delta_{\alpha, \Gamma_i(t)} \delta_{\beta, \Gamma_i(t_1)}$$

i.e., individuals serve as agents to transfer risk from one location to another.

- Has the capacity to model a variety of behavioral and mitigation scenarios
- Delay dynamics on complex networks, analogy to excitable systems such as the human brain
- Nonlinearity can be introduced through risk aversion etc.

Exponential growth

Well-mixed: $\beta \hat{\rho}_E(\lambda) = 1$

Under a constant transmission matrix $K_{\alpha\beta}$,

let $r_\alpha(t) = a_\alpha e^{\lambda t}$

$$a_\alpha e^{\lambda t} = \sum_\beta \int_0^\infty d\tau \rho_E(\tau) K_{\alpha\beta} a_\beta e^{\lambda(t-\tau)}$$

$$= e^{\lambda t} \hat{\rho}_E(\lambda) \sum_\beta K_{\alpha\beta} a_\beta$$

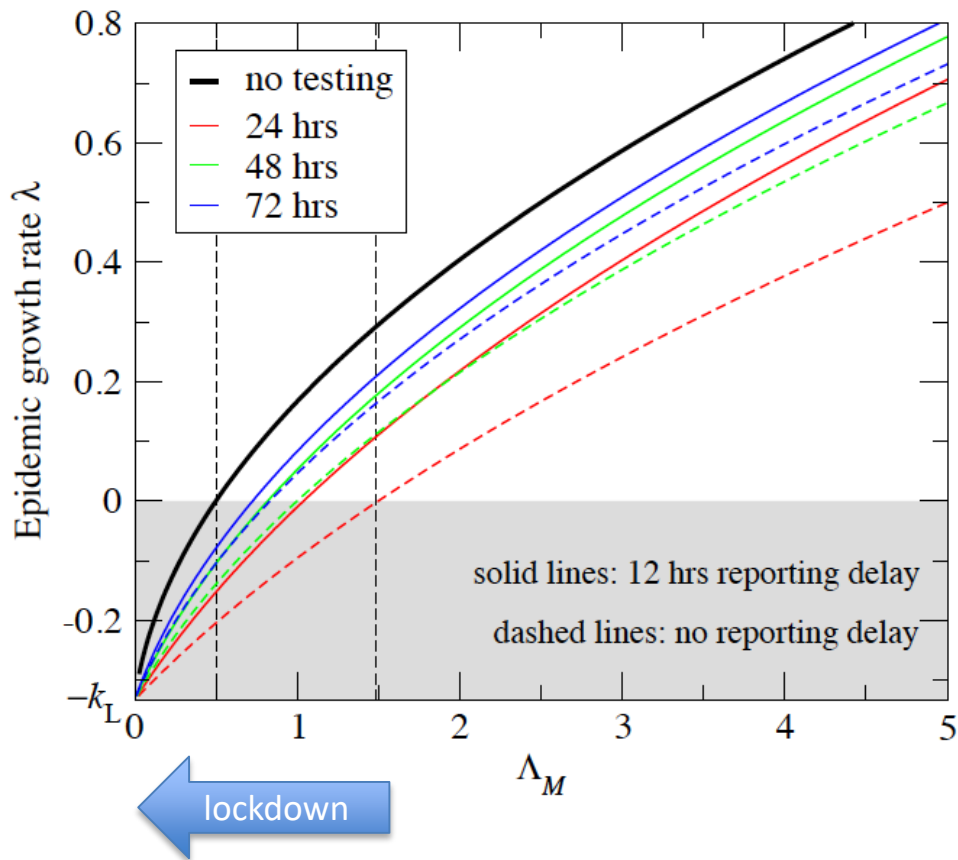
$$\mathbf{K} \mathbf{a}_M = \Lambda_M \mathbf{a}_M$$

network control

$$\Lambda_M = \frac{1}{\hat{\rho}_E(\lambda)}$$

testing
contact-tracing

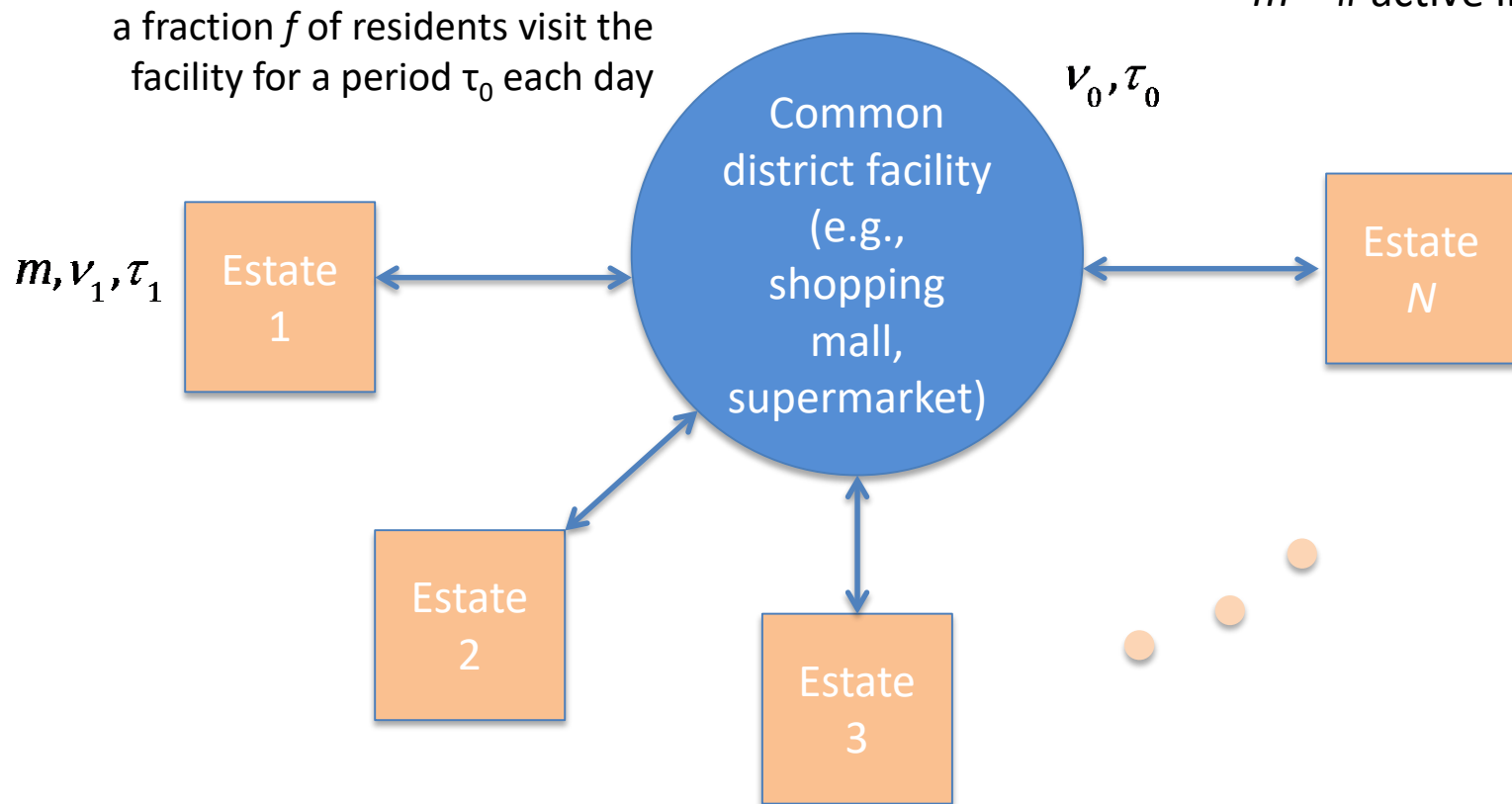
SEIR, $k_L = 1/3, k_I = 1/2$



Social contact: a toy model

$$\mu_{i\alpha} = 1 \text{ day}^{-1}$$

$m = \#$ active individuals



Social contact: a toy model

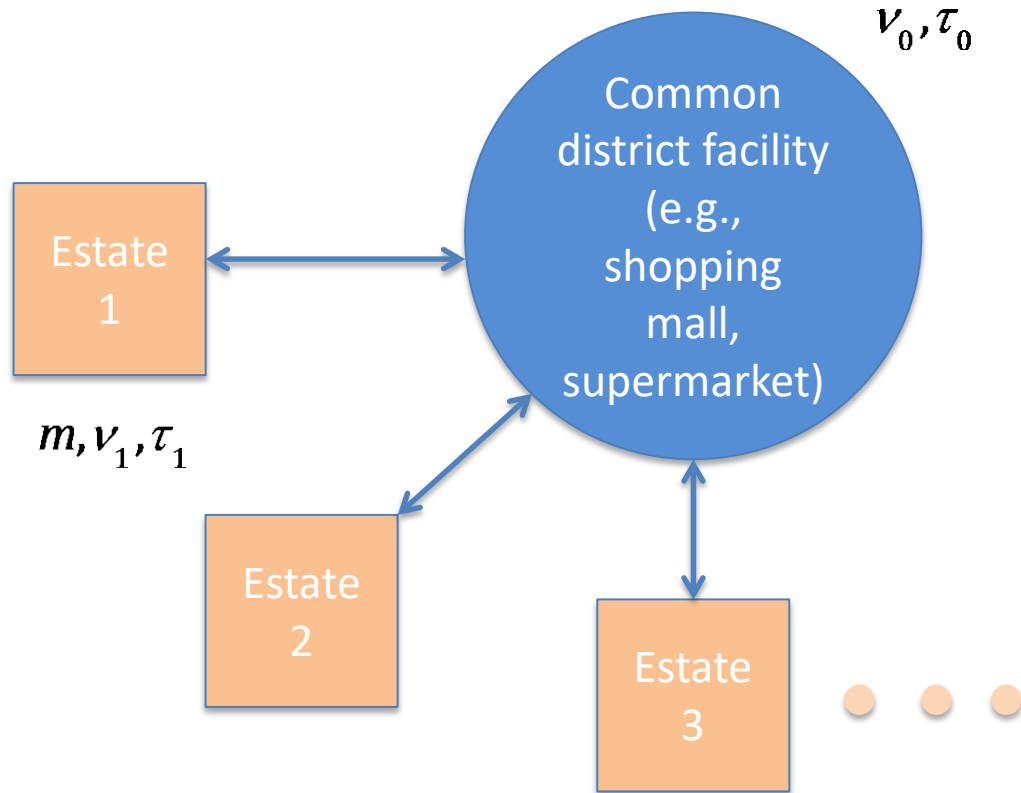
Propagation matrix:

$$K_{\alpha\beta}(t, t_1) = \sum_i v_{i\alpha}(t) \mu_{i\beta}(t_1) \delta_{\alpha, \Gamma_i(t)} \delta_{\beta, \Gamma_i(t_1)}$$

Temporal correlation of repeated visits to the common facility:

$$\langle \delta_{0, \Gamma_i(t)} \delta_{0, \Gamma_i(t_1)} \rangle = \begin{cases} f\tau_0^2, & \text{same group} \\ f^2\tau_0^2, & \text{random} \\ 0, & |t - t_1| > k_L^{-1} + k_I^{-1} \end{cases}$$

a fraction f of residents visit the facility for a period τ_0 each day



Social contact: a toy model

Assuming identical occupation and management of the N estates,

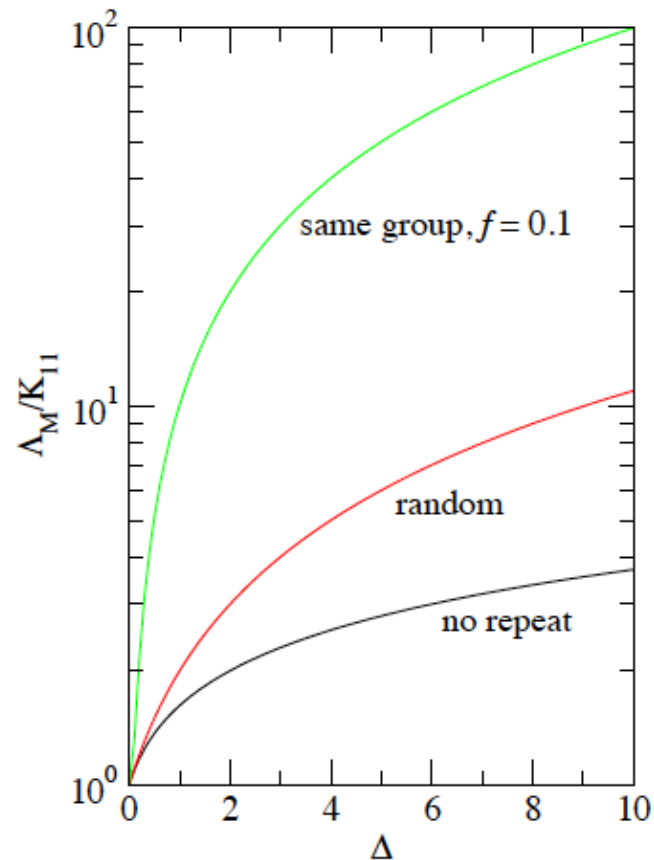
$$\begin{pmatrix} K_{00} & NK_{01} \\ K_{10} & K_{11} \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} a_0 \\ a_1 \end{pmatrix} = \Lambda_M \begin{pmatrix} a_0 \\ a_1 \end{pmatrix}$$

$$\Lambda_M = \frac{K_{11}}{2} \left[1 + \gamma\Delta + \sqrt{(1 - \gamma\Delta)^2 + 4\Delta} \right]$$

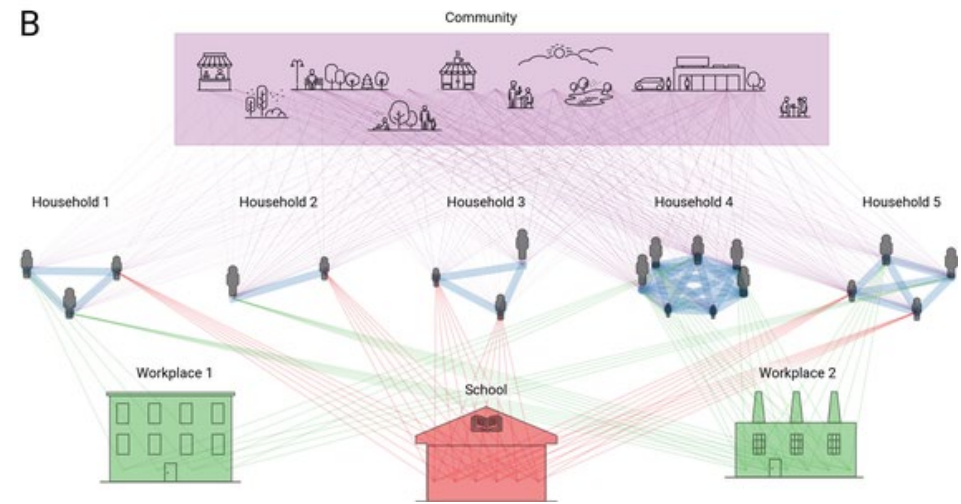
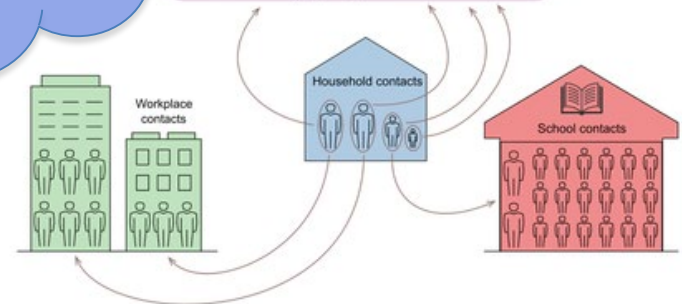
$$\Delta = Nf^2 \frac{v_0 \tau_0^2}{v_1 \tau_1^2}, \quad \gamma = \begin{cases} f^{-1}, & \text{same group} \\ 1, & \text{random} \\ 0, & |t - t_1| > k_L^{-1} + k_I^{-1} \end{cases}$$

Network transmission can be much reduced when successive visits are separated by an interval longer than the recovery time.

K_{11} = infection rate within each estate



Exploration and validation of life under COVID



Covasim is a stochastic agent-based simulator, written in Python, for exploring and analyzing the COVID-19 epidemic.

Illustration of contact networks with multiple layers in Covasim.

Kerr CC, Stuart RM, Mistry D, Abeyesuriya RG, Rosenfeld K, et al. (2021)

Covasim: An agent-based model of COVID-19 dynamics and interventions. PLOS Computational Biology 17(7): e1009149.

Concluding remarks

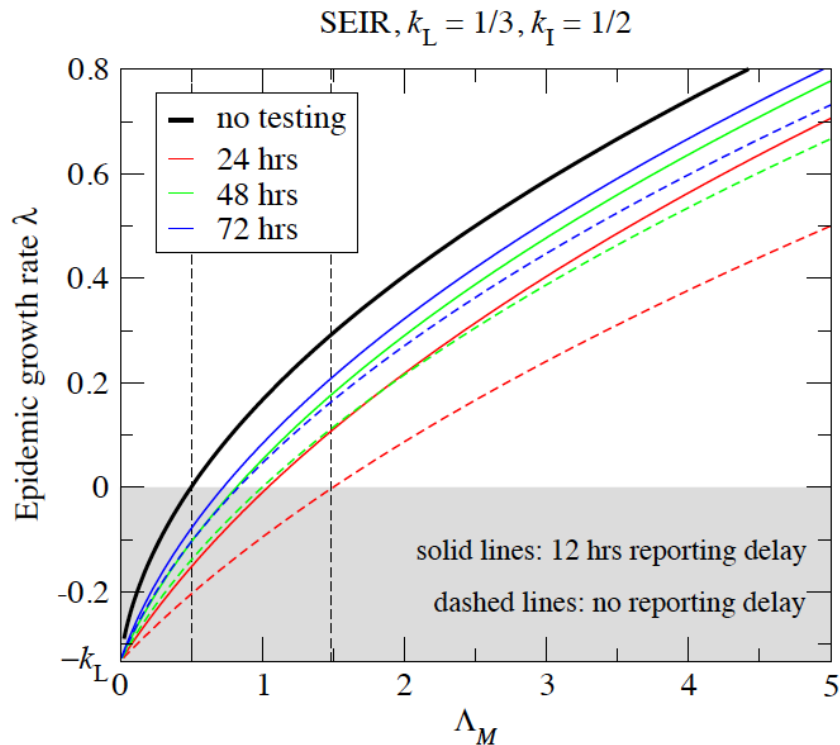
- Omicron set the bar much higher for pandemic control.
- Complex network dynamics study can offer novel strategies to manage risk based on the fundamental relation:

network
control

$$\Lambda_M = \frac{1}{\hat{\rho}_E(\lambda)}$$

testing
contact-tracing

- Exploration of clever network motifs to bring down Λ_M



Thank you for
your attention!

COVID-19 Modelling Group, HKBU
Spring 2020

