

EECS Research Students Symposium - 2020



COVID-19 Infection Rate Estimation

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Problem Description

GOAL: Estimate the fraction of infected individuals in the population

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- Extent of spread
- Design testing strategies
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NOTE: We want to estimate \mathcal{I} , not predict it.

Formulation

Given: The time series

$P(t)$:= Number of hospitalized individuals who test positive on day t .

To find:

$\mathcal{I}(t)$ = Number of infected individuals on day t

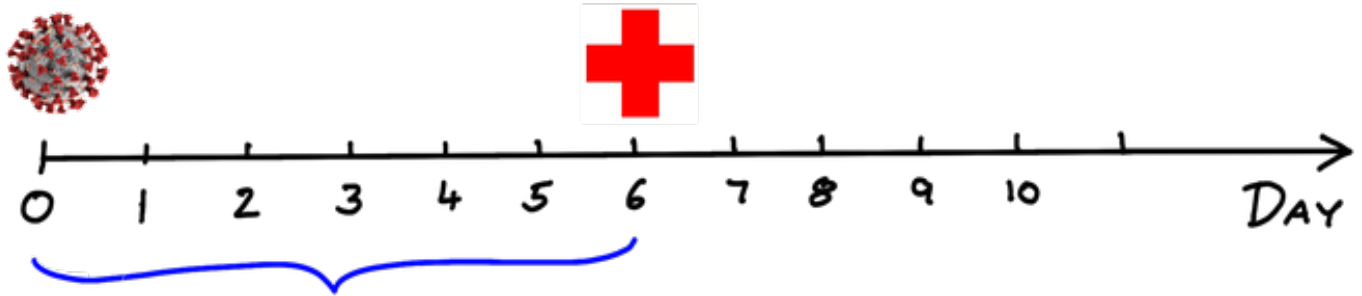
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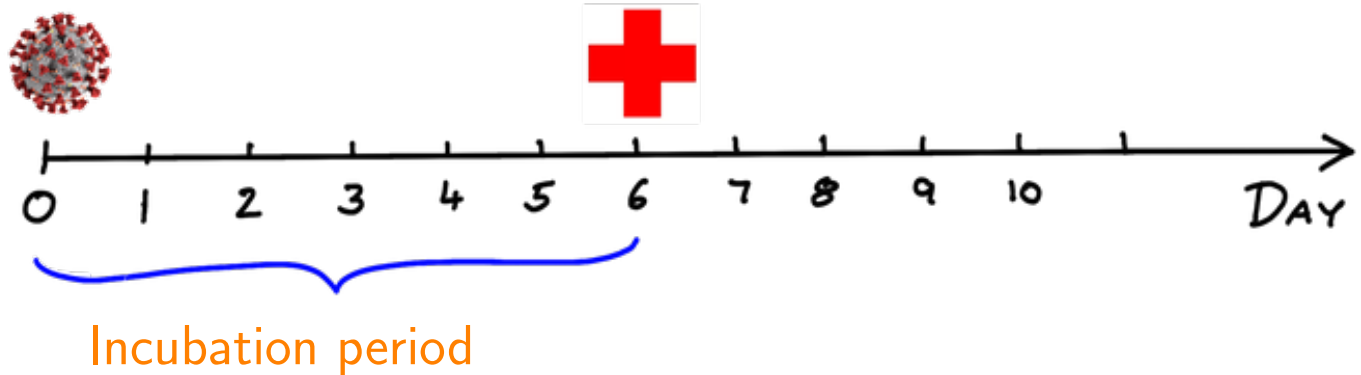
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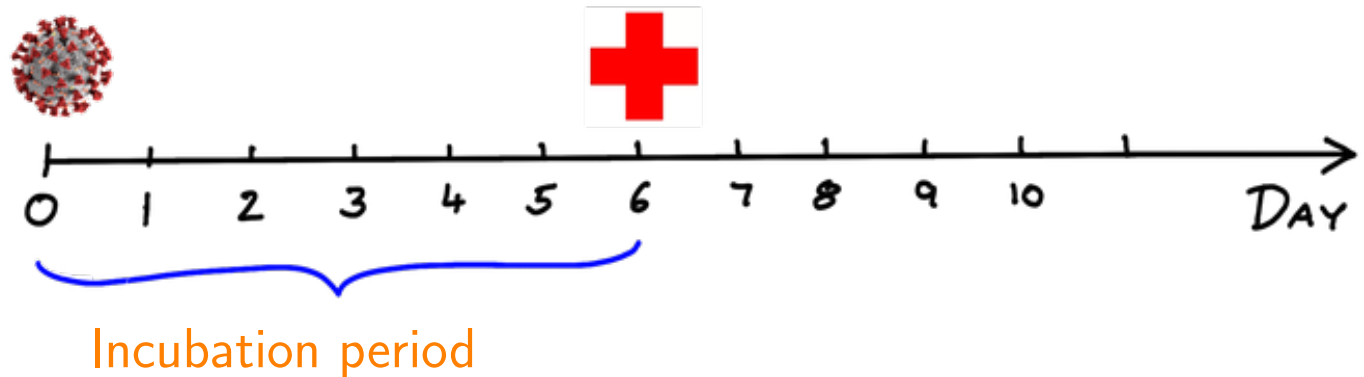
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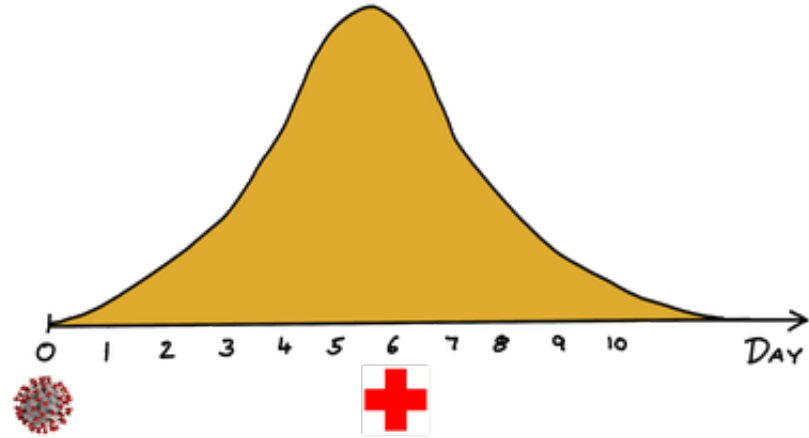
Assumptions:

- Onset of symptoms and tested positive on the same day
- No missed detections

Incubation Period Distribution

$$\mathbf{q} = (q_1, q_2, \dots, q_K)$$

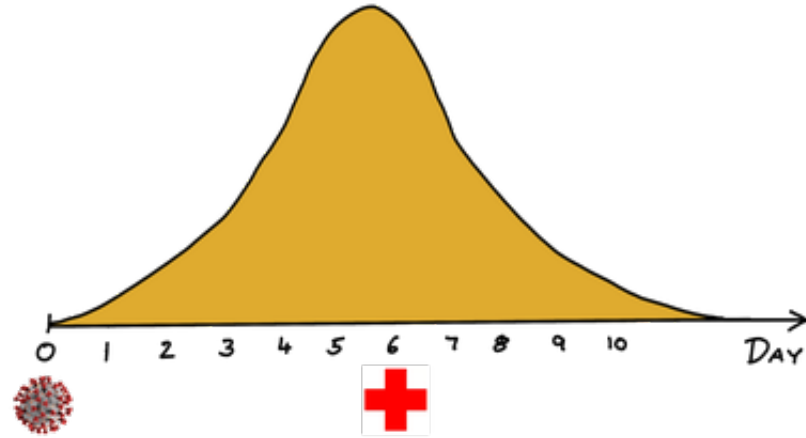
q_k = Probability that an infected individual shows symptoms on day k after getting infected.



Incubation Period Distribution

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Remarks:

- Log-normal distribution with median of 5.1 days and mean 5.5 days ^a
- Max. number of days before the onset of symptoms $K = 14$

^aLauer et al. (2020), The Incubation Period of Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) From Publicly Reported Confirmed Cases: Estimation and Application. *Annals of Internal Medicine*, 10th March 2020. <https://annals.org/aim/fullarticle/2762808/incubation-period-coronavirus-disease-2019-covid-19-from-publicly-reported>

Formulation contd...

On day t ,

$$P(t) = \mathcal{I}(t - K) \times q_K + \mathcal{I}(t - K + 1) \times q_{K-1} + \dots + \mathcal{I}(t - 1) \times q_1$$

Formulation contd...

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Asymptomatic fraction

q_∞ = Fraction of individuals who are infected but do not show any symptoms

- Not known exactly
- Unclear whether infectious or not

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Estimator

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For $t = K + 1, \dots, m$ (current day), write in matrix form

$$\mathbf{P} = \mathbf{Q} \times \mathcal{I}$$

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$$\begin{array}{ccc} \mathbf{P} = \mathbf{Q} \times \mathcal{I} & & \\ \downarrow & & \downarrow \\ [P(K+1) \ P(K+2) \ \dots \ P(m)]^T & & [\mathcal{I}(1) \ \mathcal{I}(2) \ \dots \ \mathcal{I}(m-1)]^T \\ \text{Toeplitz matrix} & & \end{array}$$

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$$P(t) = (1 - q_\infty) [\mathcal{I}(t - K) \times q_K + \mathcal{I}(t - K + 1) \times q_{K-1} + \dots \dots + \mathcal{I}(t - 1) \times q_1]$$

For $t = K + 1, \dots, m$ (current day), write in matrix form

$$[P(K + 1) \ P(K + 2) \ \dots \ P(m)]^T = \mathbf{P} = \mathbf{Q} \times \mathcal{I} \quad [I(1) \ I(2) \ \dots \ I(m - 1)]^T$$

↓
Toeplitz matrix

Estimator for \mathcal{I}

$$\hat{\mathcal{I}} = \arg \min_{\mathcal{I} \geq 0} \|\mathbf{P} - \mathbf{Q}\mathcal{I}\|^2 + \lambda \times \sum_{t=2}^m (\mathcal{I}(t) - \mathcal{I}(t - 1))^2$$

How good is it?

$$\hat{\mathcal{I}} = \arg \min_{\mathcal{I} \geq 0} \|\mathbf{P} - Q\mathcal{I}\|^2 + \lambda \times \sum_{t=2}^m (\mathcal{I}(t) - \mathcal{I}(t-1))^2$$

Generative model

- Population = 100000
- Initial infected = 100
- $R_0 = 1.1$
- $\mathcal{I}(k) \propto 100 \times (R_0)^k$
- $m = 40$ days
- $\mathbf{q}_{gen} \sim Unif([0, 14])$

This generates $P(t)$ and $\mathcal{I}(t)$

For estimation

- $\mathbf{q}_{est} \sim Unif([0, 14])$
- $\lambda = 0.1$

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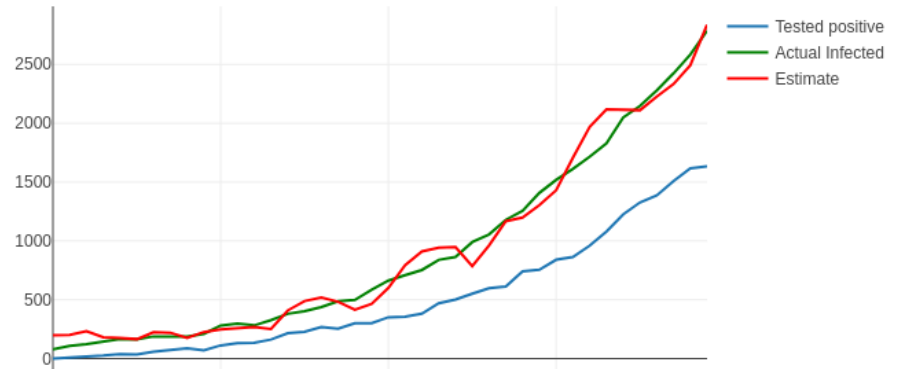
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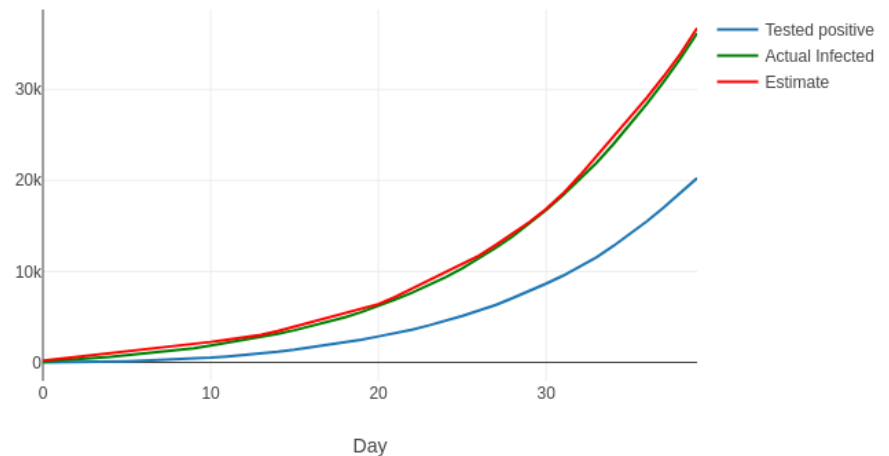
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Number of individuals (daily)



Number of individuals (cumulative)



Robustness towards q

$$\hat{\mathcal{I}} = \arg \min_{\mathcal{I} \geq 0} \|\mathbf{P} - Q\mathcal{I}\|^2 + \lambda \times \sum_{t=2}^m (\mathcal{I}(t) - \mathcal{I}(t-1))^2$$

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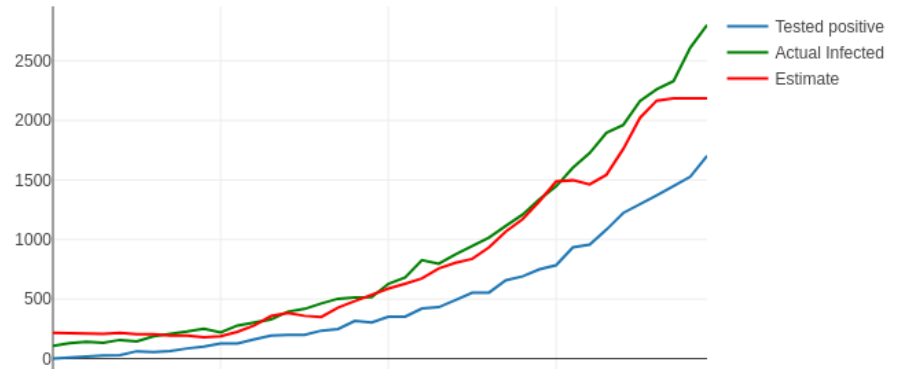
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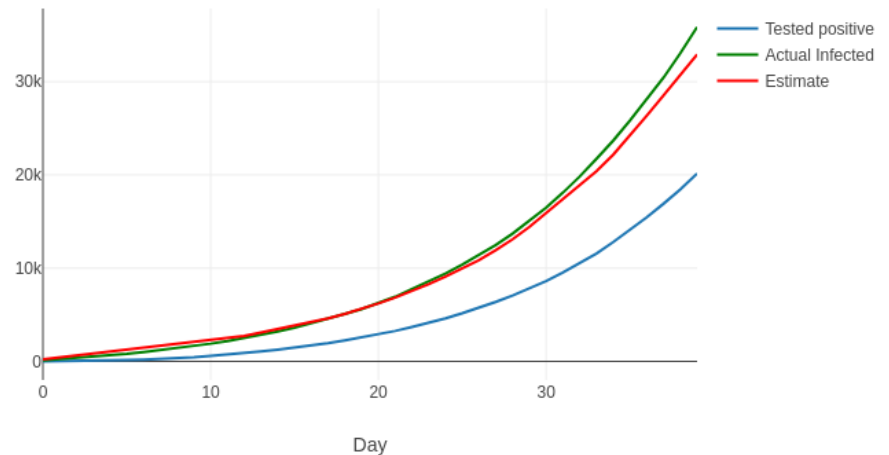
For estimation

- $q_{est} \sim LogNormal$
- Median=5.1, Mean=5.5
- $\lambda = 0.1$

Number of individuals (daily)



Number of individuals (cumulative)



Robustness towards support of q

$$\hat{\mathcal{I}} = \arg \min_{\mathcal{I} \geq 0} \|\mathbf{P} - Q\mathcal{I}\|^2 + \lambda \times \sum_{t=2}^m (\mathcal{I}(t) - \mathcal{I}(t-1))^2$$

Generative model

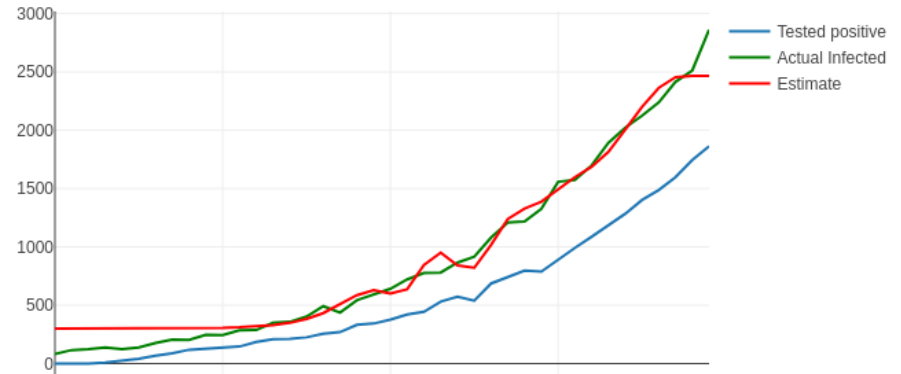
- Population = 100000
- Initial infected = 100
- $R_0 = 1.1$
- $\mathcal{I}(k) \propto 100 \times (R_0)^k$
- $m = 40$ days
- $q_{gen} \sim \text{LogNormal}$
- $K = 10$

This generates $P(t)$ and $\mathcal{I}(t)$

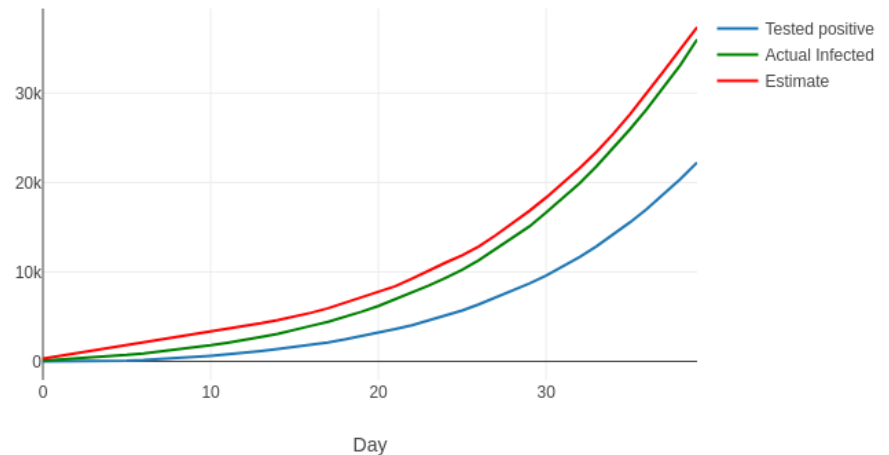
For estimation

- $q_{est} \sim \text{LogNormal}$
- $K = 20$
- $\lambda = 0.1$

Number of individuals (daily)



Number of individuals (cumulative)



On Actual data

<https://covid19-prev-est.herokuapp.com/>

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Caveats

- Tested positive data includes contacts and other high risk individuals
- Asymptomatic fraction is not known

Thank you