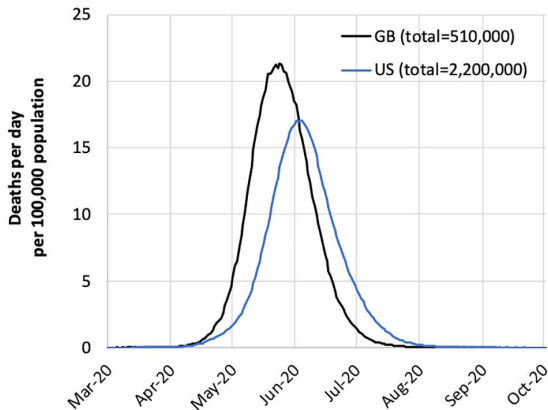# SIR Models for Infectious Diseases

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A grim forecast:

Source: Imperial College COVID-19 Response Team

The SIR model has three variables.

- $S(t)$ will be the **susceptible** population: those individuals who are not immune to the disease and can get sick.

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- $I(t)$ is the **infectious** population: those individuals who are sick and can spread the disease to the susceptible population.
- $R(t)$ is the **recovered** population: those individuals who have had the disease and are now immune or who have died from the disease. (This also includes vaccinated individuals.)

Susceptibles will become infectious and then recover.

In the model the population is constant (in our case the population will be 100).
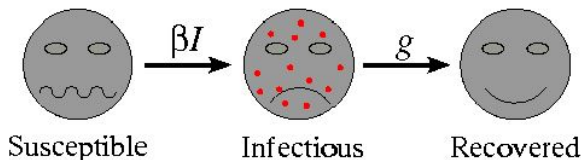
The SIR system of differential equations:

- $S'(t) = -\beta S(t) I(t)$
- $I'(t) = \beta S(t) I(t) - \gamma I(t)$

- $R(t) = 100 - S(t) - I(t)$
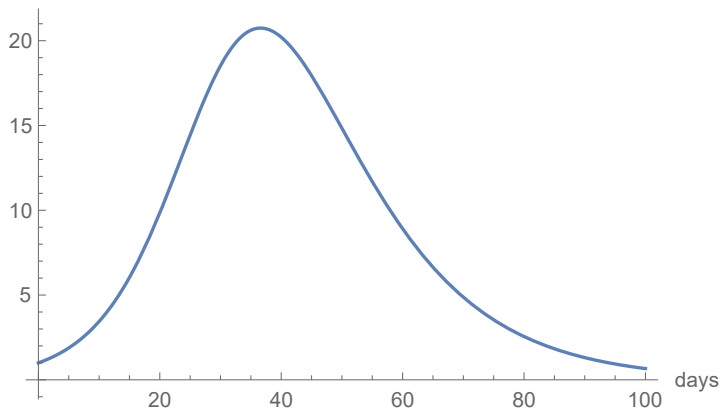
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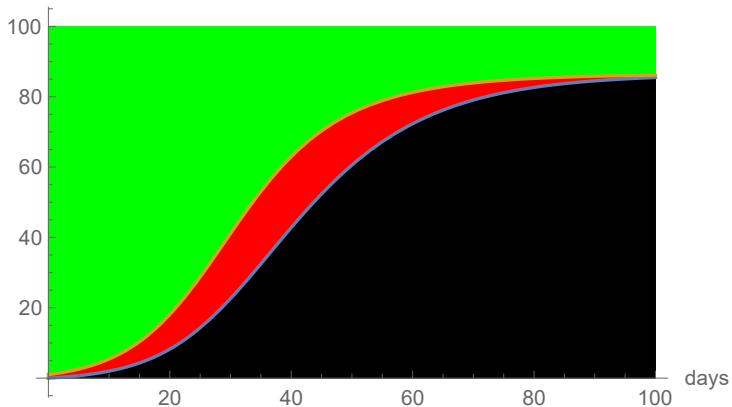$1/\gamma$ is the **infectious period**, the time period an individual is infectious.

Introduction

SIR Model
○○○●○

Social Distancing
○○○

Graph of I(t)

Graph of $I(t)$

% of population

days

$\beta = 0.0023 \quad \gamma = 1/10 \quad I(0) = 1$

Population distribution over time

Graph of $I(t)$

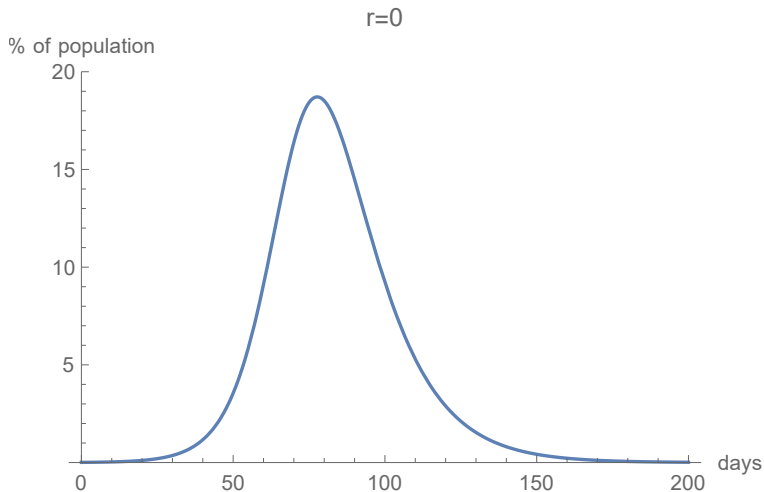% of population

susceptibles   infectious   recovered

$\beta = 0.0023$ $\gamma = 1/10$ $I(0) = 1$
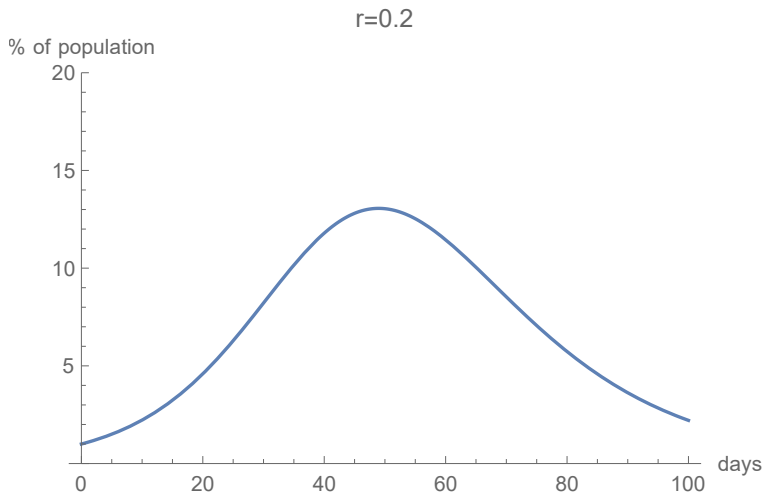
The SIR Model with social distancing:

- $S'(t) = -\beta(1-r)S(t)I(t)$
- $I'(t) = \beta(1-r)S(t)I(t) - \gamma I(t)$

- $R(t) = 100 - S(t) - I(t)$

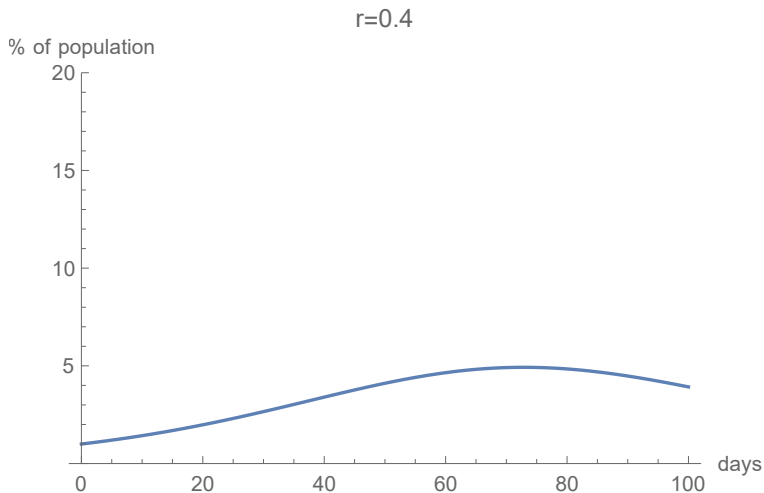The parameter r describes the reduction of the contact rate (in %)
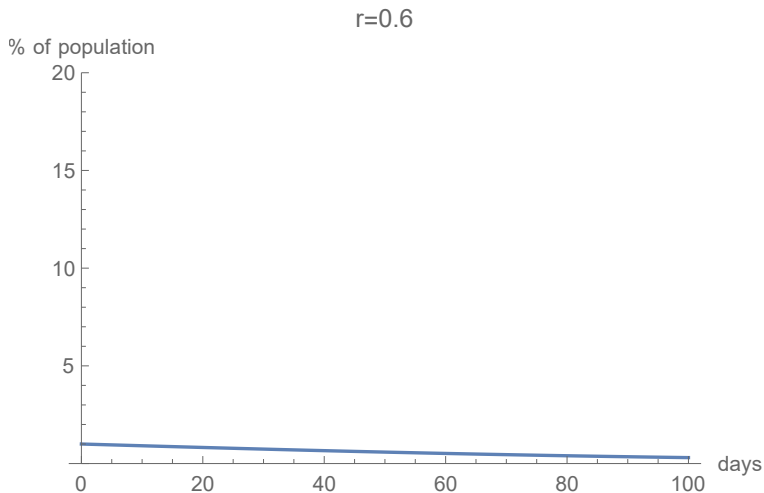
Graph of $I(t)$ with social distancing

Graph of $I(t)$ with social distancing

r=0.2

% of population

Graph of $I(t)$ with social distancing

r=0.4

Graph of $I(t)$ with social distancing

References

- Matthew Keeling, The mathematics of diseases, retrieved 3/31/2020.
- See also other articles in *Plus Magazine* about the COVID-19 virus.