Climate variability and the population dynamics of diarrheal diseases

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Link between cholera and ENSO

- Observed precipitation enhanced following El Niño
- Model captures much of the observed empirical signal

Cash, Rodo and Kinter , J. Climate 2008

(a) July-August Observed Precipitation Anomaly



(b) July-August Composite Precipitation Anomaly



Climate variability

Spatial heterogeneity in vulnerability (in large urban environments of the developing world)

feedbacks within the disease system itself

(epidemiological processes that depend on the current or past state of the system \rightarrow immunity; control measures)

forecasting

Limitation of temporal 'correlative' approaches:

- 1 Spatial (and other forms) of population heterogeneity
- 2 Nonlinear responses to environmental forcing
- 3 Everything is seasonal... explanations for seasonality are hard



Highly localized sensitivity to climate forcing drives endemic cholera in a megacity

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Motivation





 Spatial effects have not been considered before in the response of cholera to climate variability. We may expect global climate drivers such as ENSO to operate at regional scales.

 We still have a poor understanding of proximal mechanisms that mediate the effect of global climate drivers in urban environments

 Statistical models in the literature cannot be used effectively for prediction because of their short lead times (ranging from 0 to 1 months)

Data Description



- Dhaka, the capital of Bangladesh, contains more than 14 million people (almost tripled in last 25 years, projected to double in next 25).
- The data we analyze is the number of cases of cholera of the O1 El Tor biotype over 14 years (1995-2008), broken down by thana (i.e. administrative region).







Probabilistic model (discrete state Markov chain model): probabilities a function of group , season, neighbors' states, and climate covariates.



5/11/2017

Model Description

	0	1	2
0	p(0,0)	p(0,1)	p(0,2)
1	p(1,0)	p(1,1)	p(1,2)
2	p(2,0)	p(2,1)	p(2,2)

Markov Chain Model

- We start with a simple Markov Chain model to describe the data.
- This model assumes the only difference between any two observations is what the value of the thanas were the month before.

5/11/2017

Model Description

Multiple Markov Chain Model

• We add complexity by allowing the transition matrices to be different depending on the area of the city where the thana is located.

Older					
	0	1	2		
0	p(0,0)	p(0,1)	p(0,2)		
1	p(1, 0)	p(1,1)	p(1,2)		
2	p(2, 0)	p(2, 1)	p(2,2)		

Newer						
	0	1	2			
0	p(0,0)	p(0,1)	p(0,2)			
1	p(1, 0)	p(1,1)	p(1,2)			
2	p(2,0)	p(2,1)	p(2,2)			

5/11/2017

Model Description



Multi-Dimensional Markov Chain Model

- To account for local spatial effects, we expand the model to allow for a different transition matrix depending on the maximum state of the nearest neighbors of that thana.
- All thanas must now be simultaneously tracked, hence we now have a multi-dimensional model (21 dimensions, one for each thana).

Model Description



Multi-Dimensional Inhomogeneous Markov Chain (MDIMC) Model

• Allowing the transitions to vary by season, our model is no longer temporally homogeneous, but allows for the known two-peak-per-year dynamics to emerge. Unfortunately there are <u>way</u> too many variables in this model. Only Spring and Summer are shown here in a four season model. One could imagine a different set of matrices for each month.



- Spatial heterogeneity: the dynamics between groups are significantly different (p-value=0.0001)
- Local effect: the state of neighboring districts matters (p-value =0.01) but a weaker effect
- Interaction between spatial structure and climate forcing: the parameters governing the effect of ENSO are significantly different between the groups (p-value= 0.03); and similarly for flooding (p-value= 0.015)

> ENSO is a significant covariate (p=value < 0.0001); lag of 11 months for the spring months and 9 months for the fall ones.

> Flooding is also significant (p-value < 0.0001)

> Flooding still significant when tested in the presence of ENSO (p-value = 0.008) and vice-versa (p-value < 0.0001)

Reiner et al. (PNAS 2012)

May 2003 October 1998 0 0.01 0.02 0.03 0.04 0.04 0.06 86.56% 99.38% 4.5 0.02 4 0 1.6 2.8 3.2 3.6 Pred Obs 2.5 3.0 Pred Obs 2.0 2.4 2.0 3.5 4.0 4.0 1.5 1.0 3.5 Avg. cases per 10000 ო 2.5 2 1.5 ς. 0.5 0 1995 2005 1997 1999 2001 2003 2007 2009 Year

Socio-economic conditions







% Households drinking tap water



3.75 7.5 11.25 % Households Jhupri

Summary so far:

Cholera outbreaks in Dhaka (and Bangladesh) are driven by climate variability (ENSO and flooding). The effect of El Niño is partly through precipitation and associated flooding.

Population susceptibility shows pronounced geographic variation within Dhaka, with a part of the city acting as a susceptible core, in a way that highlights the key role of sanitary and associated socio-economic conditions.



Search algorithms to identify 'groups ' of locations with similar dynamics ...



There are $\mathcal{S}_{25}^{(2)} = 16,777,215$ distinct groupings.

Bayesian approach to classify districts based on a dynamical model and time series data:

Baskerville EB, Bedford T, Reiner RC, Pascual M (2013) Nonparametric Bayesian grouping methods for spatial time-series data. arXiv:1306.5202.



when two cycles interact...





Parameter inference and model comparison



Parameters were estimated with a method that **maximizes the likelihood** and allows for the inclusion of both **measurement and process noise**, as well as **hidden variables**

Ionides et al. PNAS 2006, King et al. Statistical inference for partially observed Markov processes (R package) http://pomp.r-forge.r-project.org







Inference method:

King AA, N D, Ionides EL. Statistical Inference for Partially Observed Markov Processes via the <u>R Package pomp. J Stat Softw. 2016; 69(1): 1–43.</u>

Likelihood maximization by iterated filtering (based on sequential Monte Carlo methods --- particle filters)

can accommodate:

- flexible model formulations ; continuous time
- unobserved variables (e.g. susceptibles)
- stochasticity, trends
- measurement error (under-reporting)

See Laneri et al (PloS Comp. Biol. 2010) for inclusion of covariates and pseudo-code in a malaria example



Fig 2. Comparison of simulated and predicted monthly cases with those reported for Dhaka, Bangladesh.



Martinez PP, Reiner RC Jr, Cash BA, Rodó X, Shahjahan Mondal M, et al. (2017) Cholera forecast for Dhaka, Bangladesh, with the 2015-2016 El Niño: Lessons learned. PLOS ONE 12(3): e0172355. https://doi.org/10.1371/journal.pone.0172355 http://journals.plos.org/plosone/article?id=10.1371/journal.pone.0172355





Some conclusions

- Model with ENSO better explains the retrospective data including the large epidemic of 1998
- It also predicts the low incidence of 'out-of-fit' data during non-EL Nino years
- It overpredicts the response to the 2015-16 event.
- This appears to reflect a decrease susceptibility to flooding in the city, and perhaps a decadal change in rainfall conditions

Rotavirus: segmented RNA virus



Transmission electron micrograph of rotavirus particles http://pathmicro.med.sc.edu/virol/rotaviruses.htm



http://www.babymed.com/infections/rotavirus



Transmission model





Martinez et al., PNAS 2016

Transmission model

Force of Infection

 $\alpha = \text{coupling} (0 \le \alpha \le 1)$

$$\lambda_{i} = \beta_{i} \left[\alpha_{i} \frac{(I_{1i} + I_{2i} + I_{3i})}{P_{i}} + (1 - \alpha_{j}) \frac{(I_{1j} + I_{2j} + I_{3j})}{P_{i}} \right]$$



Table 1. A likelihood-based comparison of the different models

Model	log-likelihood	SE	no. param	AIC	LR Test
With flooding effect	-1577.6	0.33	25	3205.2	
Without flooding effect	-1582.2	0.35	23	3210.4	p-value = 0.01



Martinez et al., PNAS 2016.



Some general implications

- Dense urban areas can enhance transmission and facilitate more endemic dynamics
- In these areas, enhanced responses to climate forcing may be seen even in infections that are not considered climate sensitive to begin with
- These responses are reflected primarily in changes to the seasonality
- More epidemic behavior, in areas where disease persistence throughout the year is more marginal, will exhibit responses to climate forcing at multiannual rather than seasonal scales



Seasonality in cholera dynamics: A rainfall-driven model explains the wide range of patterns in endemic areas

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Climate variables and seasonality



Seasonality of rainfall and temp





Seasonality: Model and data

The historical Bengal region encompasses all the seasonal patterns observed worldwide

Monthly data: 1891-1941





Interannual variability



<u>Gracias</u>



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Theo Baracchini, EPFL



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Conclusions and Implications

- Cholera epidemics appear primarily limited by the local depletion of susceptibles
- Explicit 'space' matters (the dynamics are distributed in space or in a network)
- Stochasticity (demographic noise) might be essential to the epidemic dynamics of infectious diseases, beyond the recognized effect of small population size on extinction.

