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Estimating the parameters of susceptible-infected-recovered model of COVID-19 cases in India during lockdown periods

Dilip Kumar Bagalª,*, Arati Rathʰ, Abhishek Barua¢, Dulu Patnaik^d

^a *Department of Mechanical Engineering, Government College of Engineering, Kalahandi, Bhawanipatna, Odisha, India* ^b *Department of Computer Applications, National Institute of Technology Jamshedpur, Jamshedpur, Jharkhand, India*

^c *Department of Mechanical Engineering, Centre for Advanced Post Graduate Studies, BPUT, Rourkela, Odisha, India*

^d *Department of Electrical Engineering, Government College of Engineering, Kalahandi, Bhawanipatna, Odisha, India*

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A B S T R A C T

Owing to the pandemic scenario of COVID-19 disease cases all over the world, the outbreak prediction has become extremely complex for the emerging scientific research. Several epidemiological mathematical models of spread are increasing daily to forecast the predictions appropriately. In this study, the classical susceptible-infected-recovered (SIR) modeling approach was employed to study the different parameters of this model for India. This approach was analyzed by considering different governmental lockdown measures in India. Some assumptions were considered to fit the model in the Python simulation for each lockdown scenario. The predicted parameters of the SIR model exhibited some improvement in each case of lockdown in India. In addition, the outcome results indicated that extreme interventions should be performed to tackle this type of pandemic situation in the near future.

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1. Introduction

On December 3, 2019, a new virus emerged, affecting 41 patients with a mysterious pneumonia, in the large seafood market area of Wuhan, China [1]. Initially, this virus was called the SARS-CoV version 2; however, WHO named it COVID-19 and declared it as a global pandemic on March 11, 2020 [2]. COVID-19 is an infectious disease caused by the severe acute respiratory syndromenovel coronavirus-2 (SARS-CoV-2) [3]. Currently, almost all parts of the world are exposed to this virus, and because the infectivity of this virus is high, an immense number of people have already become victims of it [4]. The SARS-CoV-2 infection represents one of the greatest challenges for humanity. India first reported a positive COVID-19 case, a student who returned from Wuhan, the capital of Hubei province, China, on January 30, 2020 [5]. Fig. 1 shows the COVID-19 scenario of the world until May 31, 2020 by considering confirmed, death, and recovered cases.

Dhanwant and Ramanathan [6] employed a susceptibleinfected-recovered (SIR) approach to forecast the outbreak of COVID-19 cases in India using the SciPy platform. Rodrigues et al. [7] proposed an epidemiological model by combining the SIR model with a genetic algorithm consisting of three types of networks. Elhia et al. [8] optimized the SIR epidemic model with

Corresponding author.

<https://doi.org/10.1016/j.chaos.2020.110154> 0960-0779/© 2020 Elsevier Ltd. All rights reserved. time variation and controlled measures of H1N1 data in Morocco. They considered five parameters, namely recruitment rate of susceptible, effective contact rate, natural mortality rate, recovery rate, and disease-induced death rate, for modeling. Chaves et al. [9] determined the reproduction number (R_0) and time-varying reproduction number (R_t) for Costa Rica, Panama, and Uruguay using the SIR model with three types of phases. Singh and Adhikari [10] studied the age-structured impact of India, China, and Italy using a hybrid SIR model. Das [11] predicted the COVID-19 disease progression in India and China using an SIR and statistical machine learning approach by considering the data obtained until April 6, 2020. Arif et al. [12] analyzed the COVID-19 data of Pakistan up to May 10, 2020 using an SIR model. Boudrioua and Boudrioua [13] predicted the daily cases of COVID-19 in Algeria using an SIR approach and the data obtained from February 25–April 24, 2020. Deo et al. [14] predicted the dynamics of COVID-19 epidemic data obtained from March 2–April 30, 2020 in India based on a timeseries SIR model. Hazem et al. [15] analyzed the COVID-19 cases in the USA, Germany, UK, Italy, Spain, and Canada using a SIR approach from January 20–May 15, 2020 by considering lockdown measures. Jakhar et al. [16] predicted the COVID-19 epidemic cases in 24 different states of India using an SIR model by considering the data up to May 12, 2020. Mujallad and Khoj [17] forecasted COVID-19 cases in Makkah, Saudi Arabia by using an SIR model by considering the data obtained from March 16–May 9, 2020. de Oliveira et al. [18] forecasted the COVID-19 cases in Brazil by intro-

E-mail address: dilipbagal90@gmail.com (D.K. Bagal).

Fig. 1. Scenario of the world until May 31, 2020.

Fig. 2. Scenario of India until May 31, 2020.

Fig. 3. Division of population based on the SIR model.

ducing a Bayesian methodology into the SIR model and using the data obtained from February 26–May 20, 2020. Postnikov [19] employed an SIR model with a Verhulst (logistic) equation to predict the COVID-19 outbreak in different countries using the Matlab software. Rojas-Gallardo et al. [20] analyzed the phylodynamic SIR trajectories of COVID-19 cases in Latin America using the data up to May 13, 2020 using two epidemiological surveillances.

Lopez and Rodo [21] predicted the outbreaks in Spain and Italy until March 31, 2020 using a SEIR (Susceptible-Exposed-Infectious-Removed) model by employing multiple scenarios. Yang et al. [22] employed a modified SEIR and artificial intelligence approach to predict the COVID-19 outbreaks under certain public interventions in China using the time-slice data. Engbert et al. [23] predicted the dynamics of COVID-19 cases in Germany using a stochastic SEIR model by employing different scenarios.

Fig. 4. Basic structure of the SIR model.

Fig. 5. Time span of lockdown in India.

Table 1

Obtained values of average γ *,* β and m.

Sl. no.	Lockdown	Starting date	Ending date	I_{max} (in %)	Tentative peak date
	LD 0	Jan 22, 2020	March 24, 2020	71.6	April 11, 2020 (Saturday)
2	LD ₁	March 25, 2020	April 14, 2020	47.1	Aug 3, 2020 (Monday)
3	LD ₂	April 15, 2020	May 3, 2020	23.2	Nov 17, 2020 (Tuesday)
4	LD 3	May 4, 2020	May 17, 2020	9.08	Feb 19, 2021 (Friday)
5	LD ₄	May 18, 2020	May 31, 2020	3.95	May 1, 2021 (Saturday)
6	LD_0-4	Jan 22, 2020	May 31, 2020	3.95	Feb 4, 2021 (Thursday)

Table 4 Obtained values of S_{inf}.

Sl. no.	Lockdown	Starting date	Ending date	$S_{\rm inf}$
	LD 0	Jan 22, 2020	March 24, 2020	99.98
2	LD ₁	March 25, 2020	April 14, 2020	99.21
3	LD ₂	April 15, 2020	May 3, 2020	89.09
4	LD 3	May 4, 2020	May 17, 2020	66.3
5	LD ₄	May 18, 2020	May 31, 2020	45.53
6	LD $0-4$	Jan 22, 2020	May 31, 2020	45.53

Table 5 Obtained values of R_0 .

Berger et al. [24] investigated the role of sample testing and casedependent quarantine measures in the USA using an SEIR epidemic model. Hou et al. [25] employed a well-mixed approach of the SEIR model to predict the COVID-19 cases in Wuhan, China, with suggestions for interventions such as quarantine and isolation. Saito et al. [26] applied the SEIR model to cases of the H1N1 influenza pandemic in Japan and detected the immigration effect. Godio et al. [27] employed a generalized SEIR model for COVID-19 cases in Italy and compared the outcome results with those of Spain and South Korea using the Matlab software. Feng et al. [28] analyzed the COVID-19 outbreak using the SEIR model by considering strict social distancing initiatives to slow down the spread of disease. Gupta et al. [29] employed an SEIR and regression approach to predict the COVID-19 cases in India by training the data available up to March 30, 2020. Pandey et al. [30] predicted the COVID-19 cases in India using an SEIR and regression model by involving the data obtained from January 30–March 30, 2020 and determined the R_0 value. Goswami et al. [31] highlighted the effective contact rate of COVID-19 cases in India using an SEIR model and compared the results with those of six other countries. Bonnasse-Gahot et al. [32] employed an SEIR model with an incubation compartment and emphasized the monitoring of bed availability during the pandemic in France. Dixit et al. [33] forecasted the COVID-19 cases up to May 25, 2020 in India using regression, exponential smoothing, and compartmental age structured SEIR modeling. Kohanovski et al. [34] fitted an SEIR model to COVID-19 cases using the data obtained from 12 countries along with extreme non-pharmaceutical interventions (NPIs). Teles [35] studied the SARS-COVID-2 epidemic outbreak cases in Portugal using a time-dependent SEIR model. Wagh et al. [36] studied the epidemic peak of COVID-19 cases in India until May 9, 2020 by using an auto-regressive integrated moving average model coupled with SEIR compartmental epidemiological model.

Ray et al. [37] studied the short- and long-term impacts of an initial 21-day lockdown on March 25, 2020 using an extended SIR model by considering the data obtained from March 1–April 7, 2020 and employing RShiny package. da Cruz and Cruz [38] analyzed the COVID-19 outbreak in the State of São Paulo, Brazil using a SEIR-A (Susceptible-Exposed-Infected-Recovered-Asymptomatic concentration) model. Kobayashi et al. <a>[39] studied the intervention effect on COVID-19 cases in Japan by considering the data up to May 18, 2020 using a SS-SIR (State-Spate-Susceptible-Infected-Recovered) model. de Leon et al. [2] forecasted the outbreak in Mexico using a SEIARD (Susceptible-Exposed-Infected-Asymptomatic-Recovered-Dead) model and determined the R_0 value using the Matlab 2016b software, which is based on the Runge-Kutta formula. Rajesh et al. [40] analyzed the COVID-19 data obtained from March 22–April 17, 2020 using an SIR(D) dynamical model in India. Khatua et al. [3] presented a dynamic optimal SEIAR model for COVID-19 cases in India along with a sensitivity analysis and recommended that consecutive 40 days might be able to control the pandemic influence. Jia et al. [41] studied the SEIRQAD (Susceptible-Exposed-Infectious-Recovered-Quarantined-Asymptomatic-Diagnosed) model involving control stages of different regions of China with some meteorological influences. Chatterjee et al. [42] applied a stochastic SEIQRD (Susceptible-Exposed-Infected-Quarantined-Recovered-Dead) model to COVID-19 cases in India by considering the data of March 30, 2020. Singh et al. [43] predicted the COVID-19 data of India and its states until May 12, 2020 using a mathematical approach. Hao [44] used an MSIR (Modified-Susceptible-Infectious-Recovered) and MSEIR (Modified-Susceptible-Exposed-Infectious-Recovered) model to predict the outbreak of COVID-19 cases from January 21-February 17, 2020 in China. Mandal et al. [45] analyzed the COVID-19 cases in three provinces/states of India using five time-dependent classes: susceptible S(t), exposed E(t), hospitalized infected I(t), quarantine $Q(t)$, and recovered/removed R(t). Khan and Hossain [46] conducted an empirical analysis on COVID-19 outbreaks using a projection technique called the infection trajectory-pathway strategy in Bangladesh.

Fig. 6. Output parameters of SIR model for lockdown 0.

Pinter et al. 2020 [47] employed a hybrid machine learning approach to predict the outbreak of COVID-19 cases in Hungary using the data obtained from March 4–April 19, 2020. Fernández-Villaverde and Jones [48] estimated the parameters of several countries, states, and cities using a standard epidemiological SIRDC (Susceptible-Infectious-Resolving-Dead-reCovered) model of COVID-19. de-Camino-Beck [49] employed a modified confinement compartment SEICRS (Susceptible-Exposed-Infectious-Compartment-Recovered-Strategy) model to study the COVID-19 cases from February 3–May 14, 2020 in Costa Rica using the Mathematica 12 software with governmental NPIs. Gupta [50] forecasted the COVID-19 cases for India, Italy, USA, and UK until May 18, 2020. Lyra et al. [51] modeled the COVID-19 cases for Brazil using an $SEIR(+CAQH)$ approach and found that the fatality rate of disease appears to be higher among the elderly population (particularly 60 and beyond). Rustam et al. [52] forecasted the COVID-19 cases for different countries using four machine learning regression models: linear regression, lasso regression, support vector machine, and exponential smoothing. Gupta et al. [53] analyzed the COVID-19 outbreaks in India and several states using the exponential modeling and considering several lockdown measures. Fig. 2 shows the COVID-19 scenario of India until May 31, 2020 by considering the confirmed, death, and recovered cases.

2. Estimation of parameters of SIR model of India using an actual data set

For the epidemical mathematical model, basic models that are based on compartments, as shown in the following, were used:

- i (Susceptible->Infectible) SI model,
- ii (Susceptible->Infectible-> Susceptible) SIS model, and
- iii (Susceptible->Infectible-> Recovery/Removed) SIR model.

In 1927, Kermack and McKendrick [54] first proposed a class of compartmental models that simplified the mathematical modeling of infectious disease transmission. The SIR model is a set of general equations that explain the dynamics of an infectious disease spreading through a susceptible population. Fig. 3 shows the schematic of division of population based on the SIR model.

Essentially, the standard SIR model is a set of differential equations that can be categorized as susceptible (if previously unexposed to the pandemic disease), infected (if currently colonized by the pandemic disease), and removed (either by death or recovery) as follows:

$$
\frac{dS}{dt} = -\frac{\beta}{N}SI\tag{1}
$$

Fig. 7. Output parameters of SIR model for lockdown 1.

$$
\frac{dI}{dt} = \frac{\beta}{N} SI - \gamma I
$$
 (2)

$$
\frac{dR}{dt} = \gamma I \tag{3}
$$

Here, $N=S+I+R$ is independent of time t and denotes the total population size [8,18,55,56,69]. The population of India in 2020 is estimated as 1,380,004,385 people at mid-year according to the UN data $[57]$. Therefore, the value of population size (N) was considered as 1,380,004,385 for the SIR modeling of India. Fig. 4 describes the basic structure of SIR mathematical model.

When there is no infection or I+R=0, then by substituting $S \approx N$ into Eq. (2), we obtain the following equation:

$$
\frac{dI}{dt} \sim I(\beta - \gamma) \tag{4}
$$

Then, by integrating Eq. (4) , we obtained the following equation:

$$
I = I_0 e^{(\beta - \gamma)t} \tag{5}
$$

2.1. Determination of β *and m values*

At the onset of infection, almost all of the population is susceptible; i.e., $S \approx N$. Therefore, $I(t)$ first grows exponentially.

$$
\frac{dl}{dt} \sim ml \tag{6}
$$

where $m=\beta-\gamma$ is a constant term that represents the difference between transmission and recovery rates.

$$
I(t) \sim I_0 e^{mt} \tag{7}
$$

$$
\ln I = mt + \ln I_0 \tag{8}
$$

The m value can be estimated from the log-plot data and by using, for example, least squares to obtain the best-line fit.

In this study, the dataset was taken from the 2019 Novel Coronavirus Visual Dashboard operated by the Johns Hopkins University Center for Systems Science and Engineering (JHU-CSSE) database (JHU, 2020) [58]. The Python code [59] of the SIR model, based on the dataset of India, was simulated on the Google Colab platform, and the estimated futuristic dates were determined using the online date calculator [60]. In addition, the scenarios of the world and India, based on the actual JHU-CSSE dataset, was computed using

Fig. 8. Output parameters of SIR model for lockdown 2.

the Minitab software (JHU-CSSE data set for World and India, 2020) [57].

In this study, we assume that the governmental protocols of each lockdown measure are homogeneously implemented across the country. However, because of significant differences in various socio-economic, demographic, cultural, and administrative level factors, actual transmission rates are bound to differ from region to region. Hence, the parameters estimated in our study are only valid for the overall prediction of cases in India, on an average, and they may fail to trace the dynamics of the epidemic in sub-regions; e.g., districts or states $[61]$. The uncertainty in our predictions is large because of several unknown reasons arising from model assumptions, population demographics, the number of COVID-19 diagnostic tests administered per day, testing criteria, accuracy of the test results, and heterogeneity in implementation of different government-initiated interventions and community-level protective measures across the country. We have neither accounted for the age structure, contact patterns, or spatial information to finesse our predictions nor considered the possibility of a latent number of true cases, only a fraction of which are ascertained and observed. The COVID-19 hotspots in India are not uniformly spread across the country, and state-level forecasts may be more meaningful for state-level policymaking. Regardless of the caveats in our

study, our analyses show the impact and necessity of lockdown and suppressed activity post-lockdown in India. One ideological limitation of considering only the epidemiological perspective of controlling the COVID-19 transmission in our model is the inability to count the excess deaths due to other causes during this period, or the flexibility to factor in reduction in mortality/morbidity due to other infectious or flu-like illnesses, traffic accidents, or health benefits of reduced air pollution levels. A more expansive framework of a cost-benefit analysis is required to gather more data and build an integrated landscape of population attributable risks [62]. Fig. 5 shows the time span of lockdowns in India during the COVID-19 pandemic situation.

Using the COVID-19 dataset of India, we obtained the values presented in Table 1.

Here, lockdown 4 exhibited the minimum value; this means that severe control measures were taken to control the spread of virus.

2.2. Determination of γ *value*

Suppose $I(t)=I_0$ (constant), then we obtain the following equation:

$$
\frac{dR}{dt} = \gamma I_0 \tag{9}
$$

Fig. 9. Output parameters of SIR model for lockdown 3.

Then, by integrating Eq. (9) , we obtained the following equation:

$$
R(t) = \gamma t I_0 \tag{10}
$$

If it takes t=T days to recover, then, $R(T)=I_0$, or $\gamma T=1$. Thus, we obtained the following equation:

$$
\gamma \approx \frac{1}{T} \tag{11}
$$

where T is the recovery period.

From Eq. (3), for a change in time of $dt=a$, we obtained the following equation:

$$
\frac{R(t+a)}{a} = \gamma I \tag{12}
$$

or

$$
\gamma \approx \frac{R(t+1) - R(t)}{I(t)}
$$
\n(13)

By estimating directly from the dataset of India, we obtained the values presented in Table 2.

Here, lockdown 2 exhibited the maximum value; this means that the recovery rate of population in this period was better than those in other lockdown periods.

2.3. Determination of Imax and Sinf

By dividing Eq. (2) by Eq. (1) , we obtained the following equation:

$$
\left(\frac{dl}{dt}\right)_{\text{}}\left(\frac{dS}{dt}\right) = -1 + \frac{\gamma}{\beta}N\frac{1}{S}
$$
\n(14)

or

$$
\frac{dI}{dS} = -1 + \frac{\gamma}{\beta} N \frac{1}{S}
$$
\n(15)

Then, by integrating both sides, we obtained the following equation:

$$
I = -S + \frac{\gamma}{\beta} N \log S + C \tag{16}
$$

where C=constant.

At the onset of infection, the value of I in Eq. (16) is extremely low, and S≈N (total population size).

Therefore, at t=0, I∼0 and S∼N.

Thus, by substituting these values into Eq. (16) , we obtained the following equation:

$$
0 = -N + \frac{\gamma}{\beta} N \ln N + C \tag{17}
$$

or

$$
C = N\left(1 - \frac{\gamma}{\beta} \ln N\right) \tag{18}
$$

Fig. 10. Output parameters of SIR model for lockdown 4.

By substituting the value of C, shown in Eq. (18) , into Eq. (16) , we obtained the following equation:

$$
I = N - S + \frac{\gamma}{\beta} N \ln \frac{S}{N}
$$
\n(19)

This equation is valid for all times. Generally, the I initially increases exponentially, reaches a peak, and then gradually decreases back to zero. We, now, need to find out the percentage of sick people at the peak of infection (I_{max}) and susceptible people remaining after the infection of COVID-19 virus has passed. The Eqs. (2) and (19) are the differential equation of infection rate and its solution respectively.

To simplify, assume $S=N_s$, I=N_i, and R=N_r. Here, s, i, and r represent the fraction of total susceptible, infected, and recovery/removed populations. Thus, we obtained the following equations:

$$
\frac{di}{dt} = \beta i s - \gamma i = i(\beta s - \gamma)
$$
\n(20)

and

$$
i = 1 - s + \frac{\gamma}{\beta} \ln s \tag{21}
$$

During peak infection at $di/dt=0$, s is obtained by the following equation:

$$
s = \frac{\gamma}{\beta} \tag{22}
$$

By substituting Eq. (22) into Eq. (21) , we obtained the following equation:

$$
i_{\text{max}} = 1 + \frac{\gamma}{\beta} \left(\ln \frac{\gamma}{\beta} - 1 \right) \tag{23}
$$

From the dataset of India, we obtained the values presented in Table 3.

The percentage of sick people at the peak of infection drastically reduced in each lockdown period of India. We, now, need to find out $S_{\text{inf}} = \lim_{k \to \infty} S(t)$; i.e., the percentage of susceptible people remaining after the infection has passed. We note that $i=0$ because t tends to infinity (∞) at the end of infection; thus, Eq. (21) can be rewritten as follows:

$$
1 - s + \frac{\gamma}{\beta} \ln s = 0 \tag{24}
$$

Eq. (24) can be solved numerically to obtain the s value. From the data set of India, we obtained the values of S_{inf} for every lockdown stage, as shown in Table 4.

The percentage of sick people at the end of infection decreased because of the strict procedures of lockdown, and this can be further decreased in future lockdown implementations.

Fig. 11. Output parameters of SIR model for lockdown periods 0–4.

2.4. Determination of R_0

The basic reproduction number, R_0 , is the ratio of transmission and recovery rates.

$$
R_0 = \frac{\beta}{\gamma} \tag{25}
$$

It represents the number of individuals (on average) infected by a single individual $[7,18,22,63-68,70]$. In terms of R_0 , the following equation can be obtained:

$$
i_{\text{max}} = 1 - \frac{1}{R_0} \left(1 - \ln \frac{1}{R_0} \right) \tag{26}
$$

and

$$
R_0 = \frac{\ln s_{\inf}}{s_{\inf} - 1} \tag{27}
$$

From the dataset of India, we obtained the values presented in Table 5.

The basic reproduction number decreased because of the strict procedures of lockdown, and this can be further decreased. The simulation results of the Python code of SIR model, based on the India COVID-19 dataset, are shown in Figs. 6–11 for each lockdown case.

3. Conclusion

From the study of the SIR model for India, several points could be concluded, which are considered as the betterment of each lockdown measure that is to be incorporated. The recovery rate increased and the transmission rate decreased. Thus, the value of basic reproduction number decreased, flattening the curve of epidemic spread of COVID-19. Similarly, the percentage of susceptible people remaining after the infection had passed decreased, and it should be checked in the near future. In addition, the peak percentage value of infectious people decreased and exhibited better values. In the case of India, further strict governmental interventions should be performed, and, of course, the pandemic cases can be drastically decreased by spreading awareness among the residing people.

Supplementary material

The Python scripts used in this study, which include the code of SIR model used to derive parameters, will be made available with this manuscript.

Data availability statement

[https://github.com/CSSEGISandData/COVID-19/tree/master/](https://github.com/CSSEGISandData/COVID-19/tree/master/csse_covid_19_data/csse_covid_19_time_series) csse_covid_19_data/csse_covid_19_time_series

[59]https://www.dropbox.com/sh/akc525jjq3dp485/ [AADgo6WsT1RBpZqahmj_k-v_a/SIR/italy_fit.py?dl=0](https://www.dropbox.com/sh/akc525jjq3dp485/AADgo6WsT1RBpZqahmj_k-v_a/SIR/italy_fit.py?dl=0)

Author contributions

Mr. Dilip Kumar Bagal monitored the research works from starting to ending process, Ms. Arati Rath simulated the SIR model through Python code, Mr. Abhishek Barua and Dr. Dulu Patnaik both drafted the manuscript as per the requirements.

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Declaration of Competing Interest

The authors declare that the research was conducted in the absence of any commercial or financial relationships that could be construed as a potential conflict of interest.

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Supplementary materials

Supplementary material associated with this article can be found, in the online version, at [doi:10.1016/j.chaos.2020.110154.](https://doi.org/10.1016/j.chaos.2020.110154)

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