

COMMENTARY

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Further explanations for the eq. (3) in “Estimating the daily trend in the size of the COVID-19 infected population in Wuhan”

Qiu-Shi Lin¹, Tao-Jun Hu² and Xiao-Hua Zhou^{1,3,4*}

Abstract

To avoid possible confusions to the readers, we provide further explanations for the eq. (3) in the research article “Estimating the daily trend in the size of the COVID-19 infected population in Wuhan” published in the *Infectious Diseases of Poverty*.

In our study [1], we proposed a new model to estimate the daily trend in the size of the COVID-19 infected population in Wuhan. When discussing this article with our colleagues, we found that a little more explanations for eq. (3) are needed to avoid possible confusions to the readers.

In the Methods section, we let x_t be the number of imported cases outside Hubei province on Day t , and derive a binomial model $x_t \sim \text{Binomial}(N_t, p)$ if $t_0 + d < t \leq t_0 + 2d$, and $x_t \sim \text{Binomial}(N_t - N_{t-d}, p)$ if $t > t_0 + 2d$. To make our model clearer, here x_t is in fact the number of infected individuals that travelled from Wuhan to places outside Hubei province on Day $t - d$. However, among the 10 940 confirmed cases in our data, 8546 (78.1%) do not have information on the date of departure from Wuhan, so the number of cases leaving Wuhan every day is unknown and hard to impute.

But the date of confirmation is available for each of the 10 940 cases, so we use the cumulative number of

imported cases outside Hubei province as of Day t as approximation of $X_t = \sum_{k=1}^t x_k$. Since the window from infection to detection is assumed as d days in our model, the infected cases that left Wuhan before Day $t - d$ should be confirmed outside Hubei province before Day t , thus this approximation is reasonable and would not affect the conclusion in the paper.

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Authors' contributions

QL, TH, and XZ interpreted the results and wrote the manuscript. All authors read and approved the final manuscript.

Authors' information

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Ethics approval and consent to participate

The ethics approval and individual consent was not applicable.

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* Correspondence: azhou@math.pku.edu.cn

¹Beijing International Center for Mathematical Research, Peking University, Beijing 100871, China

³Department of Biostatistics, School of Public Health, Peking University, Beijing 100191, China

Full list of author information is available at the end of the article



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Consent for publication

Not applicable.

Competing interests

The authors declare that they have no competing interests.

Author details

¹Beijing International Center for Mathematical Research, Peking University, Beijing 100871, China. ²School of Mathematical Sciences, Peking University, Beijing 100871, China. ³Department of Biostatistics, School of Public Health, Peking University, Beijing 100191, China. ⁴Center for Statistical Science, Peking University, Beijing 100871, China.

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