

# COVID-19 Confirmed Cases Prediction as of April 12, 2020

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## Summary of the situation:

- Europe reached 867K confirmed cases today with a 4.8% growth rate, compared with 4.9% yesterday. As the number of daily cases is still not decreasing, our model has up-adjusted the final total confirmed cases to 1.46 million from 1.38 million in medium scenario, with a 59.3% outbreak process. For the mathematically minded, this can be seen from the small estimated parameter  $a$  ( $=0.26$ ) in the generalized Richards model, characterizing the slow decay of the after-peak trajectory. It is also important to understand that confirmed infections undershoot actual infections by a very large margin. Figure 1 allows us to suggest that all rich cool north<sup>2</sup> countries are converging except Sweden, while hot north<sup>2</sup> and S hemisphere<sup>2</sup> countries are not. The fact that Europe taken as a whole is not in the middle of the distribution (Figure 1) is mainly due to the weight of Russia on the average, which has 108 confirmed cases per million population.

- The US records 28.4K confirmed cases today, with a 5.7% growth rate, compared with 7.6% yesterday. The epidemic in the USA is both geographically diverse and has not yet departed from the generalized exponential model, so the uncertainty is still large for the future developments. Readers can refer to Supplements to COVID-19 Confirmed Cases Prediction (April 7<sup>th</sup>, 2020)<sup>1</sup> for our analysis on the US test numbers and the confirmed case numbers.

- Spain, Switzerland, Austria, Italy, and Germany are the countries with most mature outbreaks with strong signs that inflection points have been passed. Confirmed cases are a leading indicator while deaths are a lagging indicator and we anticipate that daily mortality numbers may begin to fall  $\sim 2$  to 3 weeks after the peak in new confirmed cases.

- UK, Belgium, France, Portugal and Netherlands have not entered an after-peak trajectory and may continue to follow the generalized exponential model, suggesting high uncertainties. Among them, UK records 8719 daily confirmed cases today, recording a new high and leading to a non-converged distribution of final confirmed cases. This may be due to the fact that the UK is ramping testing dramatically, which in the past mainly targeted at health service workers.

- Brazil, Sweden, Turkey and Japan continue their previous exponential growth, indicating highly uncertain future scenarios as well, as shown by their non-converged ensemble distributions of final confirmed cases (Figure 1). The transmission in Japan seems to accelerate as do reported deaths, but the death rate figures in Japan are very low and fluctuating from day to day. Unraveling the "epidemic" in Japan remains a work in progress. In terms of per capita deaths, Brazil, Turkey and Japan do not yet have large scale epidemics compared to European countries.

-The irregular dips and spikes in the data most likely reflect data aggregation and reporting delays where numbers not included one day are included in the following day. The Easter Holiday may have interfered with data collection and reporting.

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<sup>1</sup>[https://ethz.ch/content/dam/ethz/special-interest/mtec/chair-of-entrepreneurial-risks-dam/documents/Covid-19/Covid\\_Supplements\\_7April2020.pdf](https://ethz.ch/content/dam/ethz/special-interest/mtec/chair-of-entrepreneurial-risks-dam/documents/Covid-19/Covid_Supplements_7April2020.pdf)

**Method:**

This report updates predictions for the number of COVID-19 confirmed cases at four time horizons (1-day, 5-day, 10-day and end of the outbreak) and for various countries/regions, based on a phenomenological approach detailed in [1]. We employ 4 versions of the generalized logistic growth equation to model the total number of confirmed cases, resulting in a positive, medium and negative scenario for the final expected number of cases as explained in the last page. Note that, for countries/regions at early growth stages, the predictions for long-term horizon (10-day and end of the outbreak) are highly uncertain and will vary a lot as the situation changes. The predicted ranges overlap and, as time passes, we anticipate our methodology to zero in on more reliable numbers.

**Data source:** European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control (ECDC) [2] updated every day at 1pm CET, reflecting data collected up to 6:00 and 10:00 CET. Thus the daily data in some countries is one day delayed compared to other online live sources.

**Key Figures & Tables:**

-In Table 1, we report the latest confirmed cases per million population and the estimated outbreak progress in the positive and medium scenario (today's confirmed cases divided by the estimated total final confirmed case in positive and now additionally in medium scenarios).

-In Table 2, we report the prediction results in each selected country/region at four time horizons (1-day, 5-day, 10-day and end of the outbreak) in three scenarios. The detailed fitting results for each country/region are plotted in the figures at the end of this report.-

-In Figure 1, we present a distribution of the estimated final total confirmed numbers per million population based on the positive and medium scenario.














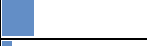
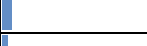
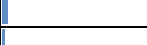
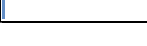

-In Figure 2, we show the 1-day prediction error of yesterday's report.

**Comment:** We need to emphasize that reported confirmed cases are a leading indicator that is subject to a large number of extraneous variables such as sampling rate<sup>2</sup>, sample targeting and reliability of testing. See note at end of this report. The real number of cases in the population is likely to be many multiples higher than those computed from confirmed tests. **We strongly recommend that national governments should publish the number of daily tests and implement random testing (polling) in the population, to facilitate all modeling work and therefore better understanding of the epidemic to help guide appropriate policy responses.**

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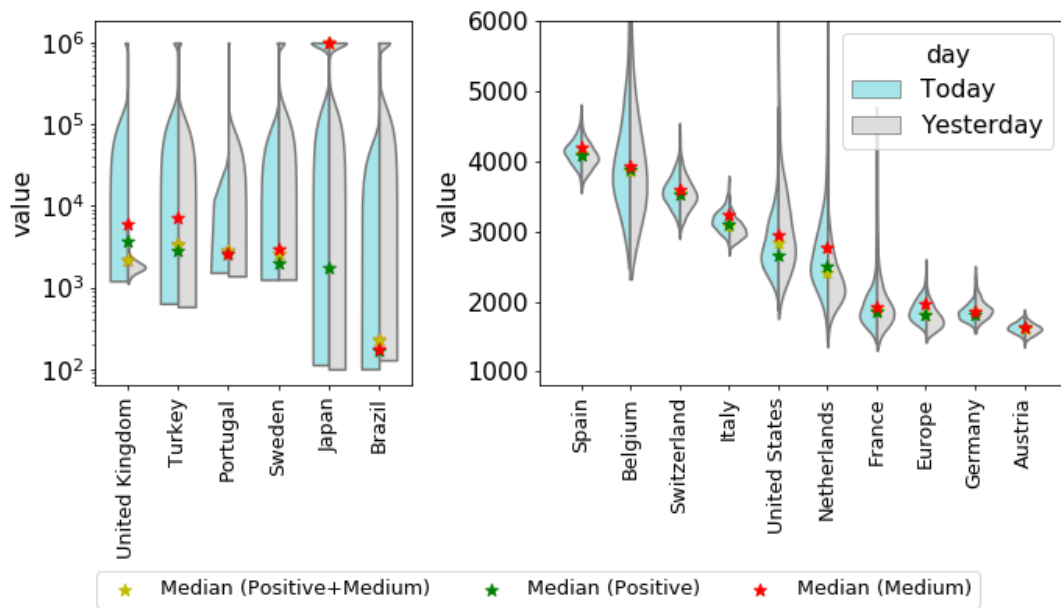
<sup>2</sup> For instance, The UK is experiencing issues with raising the testing rate linked to a global shortage of certain key reagents and swabs. From since April 1<sup>st</sup>, all testing is to be targeted at health sector staff and this will obviously bias future data compared with past data.

**Table 1.** Current confirmed cases per million population and estimated outbreak progress in positive and medium scenarios (today's confirmed cases divided by the estimated total final confirmed cases in positive and medium scenario). Numbers in brackets are 80% confidence intervals. As positive scenarios predict a smaller final number of total infected cases, the outbreak progress is thus larger in the positive scenario. Note that the estimated final confirmed numbers tend to underestimate the final results, thus the estimated outbreak progress serves both as a lower bound for future developments and as a guide of the dynamics of the evolution of the epidemics<sup>3</sup>. The number of tests per million population and confirmed cases per test are presented in the last two columns based on the information from Wikipedia [3].

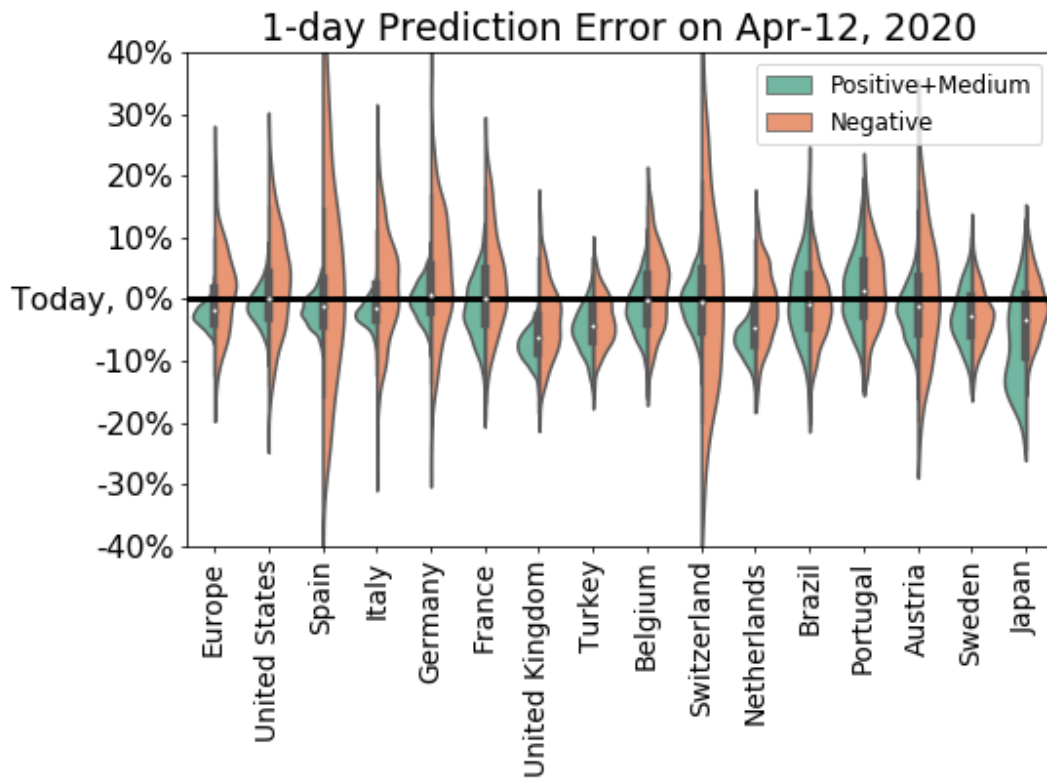
	Confirmed per Million Population (Apr-12)	Outbreak Progress in Positive Scenario	Outbreak Progress in Medium Scenario	Tests per Million Population (update date in brackets)	Confirmed Cases per Test (update date in brackets)
Spain	 3464	84.8% (80.7%, 89.1%)	82.3% (77.8%, 86.6%)	7596.0 (Mar 21)	5.6% (Mar 21)
Switzerland	 2914	82.6% (76.4%, 89.5%)	80.8% (74.2%, 87.4%)	22170.0 (Apr 11)	12.8% (Apr 11)
Italy	 2520	81.2% (77.0%, 85.0%)	77.9% (73.1%, 82.6%)	15973.0 (Apr 11)	15.3% (Apr 11)
Belgium	 2453	63.2% (50.3%, 71.6%)	62.2% (45.9%, 81.6%)	8392.0 (Apr 10)	25.9% (Apr 10)
United States	 1620	60.9% (52.1%, 68.3%)	54.7% (46.1%, 67.9%)	8242.0 (Apr 11)	18.5% (Apr 11)
Austria	 1561	95.9% (90.1%, 101.6%)	95.6% (89.7%, 101.2%)	16274.0 (Apr 12)	9.5% (Apr 12)
Portugal	 1555	60.4% (35.8%, 85.4%)	58.7% (38.8%, 74.2%)	12760.0 (Apr 08)	9.5% (Apr 08)
Germany	 1453	80.3% (74.6%, 85.1%)	77.9% (71.9%, 84.1%)	15850.0 (Apr 08)	7.8% (Apr 08)
Netherlands	 1417	56.3% (46.0%, 64.7%)	51.3% (37.7%, 69.9%)	5827.0 (Apr 08)	19.3% (Apr 08)
France	 1400	75.3% (65.4%, 84.6%)	73.1% (59.8%, 86.7%)	4981.0 (Apr 07)	22.3% (Apr 07)
United Kingdom	 1188	32.0% (8.9%, 87.0%)	19.7% (0.0%, 43.1%)	3991.0 (Apr 11)	26.1% (Apr 11)
Europe	 1161	64.2% (58.5%, 69.3%)	59.3% (53.6%, 67.6%)	NA	NA
Sweden	 997	50.2% (32.4%, 63.9%)	33.1% (0.0%, 55.7%)	6383.0 (Apr 07)	13.2% (Apr 07)
Iran	 856	Not reliable	Not reliable	2916.0 (Apr 10)	27.3% (Apr 10)
Turkey	 634	22.7% (7.0%, 86.1%)	Not reliable	4093.0 (Apr 11)	13.8% (Apr 11)
South Korea	 204	Not reliable	Not reliable	9872.0 (Apr 11)	2.0% (Apr 11)
Brazil	 99	58.5% (23.6%, 70.7%)	56.9% (31.5%, 73.1%)	261.0 (Apr 02)	12.5% (Apr 02)
Japan	 53	Not reliable	Not reliable	594.0 (Apr 11)	8.0% (Apr 11)

<sup>3</sup>One uncertainty with Italy (and other countries) is whether the main outbreak that is focused on the North may spread through other parts of the country. In other words, does the dynamics aggregated over a whole country represent correctly the dynamics in different parts?

## Ensemble Distribution of Final Confirmed Cases per Million Population



**Figure 1.** Violin plot of the distributions of the final total number of confirmed cases per million derived by combining the distributions of the positive and medium scenarios using now the Generalised Richards model. The left side of each violin in cyan is today's distribution, while the right side of each violin in grey is yesterday's distribution. The model setup in the negative scenario does not incorporate a maximum saturation number and thus cannot be used. The yellow star indicates the median prediction for the combined distribution, while the green and red stars indicate the median of the positive and of the medium scenarios respectively. Note that, where we have  $>1$  million infections per 1 million of population, the results are deemed to be unreliable (Table 2).



**Figure 2.** One-day prediction error of the 13 countries/regions. The horizontal line corresponds to today's empirical data. We show the full distribution of errors for each of the two scenarios.

**Table 2.** Predictions for the number of confirmed cases at four time horizons (1-day, 5-day, 10-day and end of the outbreak) and for various countries/regions, now based on the Generalised Richards model [1]. The values in parentheses are 80% prediction intervals based on 500 simulations using a negative binomial error structure. In Today's validation column, today's empirical data is presented below yesterday's 1-day predictive interval. "Not reliable" is declared if more than 10% of the simulations produce extreme numbers (larger than total population). All numbers are in thousands.

Country	Scenario*	Today's validation	13-Apr	17-Apr	22-Apr	Final Total Confirmed
Europe	Positive	(825, 868) 867	896 (870, 918)	1020 (983, 1040)	1130 (1090, 1180)	1350 (1250, 1480)
	Medium	(823, 861) 867	888 (870, 910)	1010 (988, 1040)	1130 (1100, 1180)	1460 (1280, 1620)
	Negative	(796, 953) 867	924 (842, 1000)	1130 (1020, 1230)	1410 (1280, 1570)	Not Reliable
United States	Positive	(502, 552) 530	553 (529, 573)	657 (625, 688)	747 (700, 805)	870 (776, 1020)
	Medium	(507, 540) 530	551 (535, 569)	659 (633, 687)	765 (705, 817)	969 (781, 1150)
	Negative	(489, 603) 530	575 (510, 646)	750 (666, 864)	1020 (890, 1220)	Not Reliable
Spain	Positive	(154, 166) 162	165 (158, 171)	176 (169, 182)	184 (176, 191)	191 (182, 201)
	Medium	(154, 163) 162	163 (158, 169)	176 (170, 182)	185 (178, 193)	197 (187, 208)
	Negative	(132, 208) 162	173 (136, 213)	210 (165, 261)	261 (201, 345)	Not Reliable
Italy	Positive	(145, 154) 152	154 (150, 160)	164 (159, 170)	173 (167, 179)	188 (179, 198)
	Medium	(145, 153) 152	153 (149, 158)	164 (159, 169)	174 (168, 180)	195 (184, 208)
	Negative	(138, 173) 152	160 (142, 179)	183 (164, 205)	215 (191, 240)	Not Reliable
Germany	Positive	(116, 125) 120	123 (118, 129)	133 (127, 140)	141 (134, 149)	150 (142, 161)
	Medium	(115, 125) 120	122 (118, 128)	133 (128, 139)	142 (135, 149)	155 (143, 168)
	Negative	(110, 141) 120	128 (112, 147)	154 (134, 176)	189 (163, 222)	Not Reliable
France	Positive	(86.2, 98.6) 93.8	95.5 (89.5, 101)	106 (98.3, 113)	114 (105, 124)	125 (111, 143)
	Medium	(86.3, 98.5) 93.8	95.4 (89.4, 101)	106 (97.7, 113)	114 (104, 125)	128 (108, 157)
	Negative	(87.4, 109) 93.8	99.5 (89.3, 111)	122 (109, 137)	152 (135, 171)	Not Reliable
United Kingdom	Positive	(70.3, 76) 79	83.3 (79.1, 87.4)	107 (90.1, 119)	138 (90.8, 172)	247 (90.8, 886)
	Medium	(70.2, 75.5) 79	83.7 (79.1, 89.2)	112 (104, 122)	154 (131, 180)	Not Reliable
	Negative	(70.2, 83) 79	84.7 (79.3, 90.9)	118 (110, 127)	172 (157, 190)	Not Reliable
Turkey	Positive	(47.2, 51.8) 52.2	54.9 (52.1, 57.4)	73.7 (60.1, 82.2)	98.8 (60.6, 122)	229 (60.6, 749)
	Medium	(47, 52.3) 52.2	55 (52.4, 57.6)	77.5 (71.8, 82.7)	111 (94.6, 125)	Not Reliable
	Negative	(47.6, 53.3) 52.2	55.7 (52.9, 58.5)	80 (75.3, 84.8)	119 (110, 128)	Not Reliable

Belgium	Positive	(26.2, 29.2) 28	29 (27.5, 30.4)	33.6 (31.5, 35.7)	37.7 (34.9, 41.3)	44.4 (39.1, 55.7)
	Medium	(26.1, 29.2) 28	28.9 (27.5, 30.5)	33.3 (31, 35.5)	37.2 (33.2, 41.3)	45 (34.4, 61)
	Negative	(26.1, 30.9) 28	29.7 (27.2, 32.6)	37.3 (34.2, 41.1)	48.1 (44, 53.9)	Not Reliable
Switzerland	Positive	(23.9, 26.8) 24.8	25.9 (24.3, 27.4)	27.5 (25.6, 29)	28.6 (26.6, 30.4)	30.1 (27.7, 32.5)
	Medium	(24, 26.6) 24.8	25.8 (24.6, 27.1)	27.5 (26.1, 29)	28.8 (27.2, 30.5)	30.7 (28.4, 33.5)
	Negative	(21.1, 31.7) 24.8	26.4 (21.1, 32.1)	31 (24.9, 37.8)	36.9 (29.6, 46.2)	Not Reliable
Netherlands	Positive	(23.3, 25.1) 24.4	25.7 (24.7, 26.7)	29.6 (28.1, 31.1)	33.6 (31.4, 35.8)	43.3 (37.7, 53.1)
	Medium	(22.5, 24.3) 24.4	25 (24.1, 26)	28.9 (27.5, 30.3)	33.1 (30.4, 35.5)	47.6 (34.9, 64.7)
	Negative	(23.6, 27.6) 24.4	26.8 (24.8, 29.1)	32.9 (30.3, 35.9)	41.4 (37.7, 45.7)	Not Reliable
Brazil	Positive	(19.5, 23.2) 20.7	20.9 (19.4, 22.9)	26.6 (24.1, 30.3)	31.2 (27.3, 41.1)	35.5 (29.3, 88)
	Medium	(18.8, 21.9) 20.7	21.3 (19.4, 23.4)	26.9 (23.9, 31.7)	31.8 (26.7, 41.6)	36.4 (28.4, 65.8)
	Negative	(18.9, 22.1) 20.7	21.8 (19.8, 23.8)	30.6 (27.9, 33.5)	44.5 (39.3, 50.8)	Not Reliable
Portugal	Positive	(15, 17.4) 16	16.6 (15.4, 17.9)	19 (17.3, 20.8)	21.4 (18.2, 24.5)	26.5 (18.7, 44.6)
	Medium	(15, 17.5) 16	16.5 (15.3, 17.9)	19.2 (17.6, 21)	21.9 (19.4, 24.8)	27.2 (21.6, 41.2)
	Negative	(15, 17.9) 16	16.8 (15.2, 18.6)	21 (19.1, 23.3)	27 (24.1, 30.4)	Not Reliable
Austria	Positive	(12.8, 14.4) 13.8	13.8 (13, 14.6)	14.1 (13.3, 14.9)	14.3 (13.5, 15.1)	14.4 (13.6, 15.3)
	Medium	(12.8, 14.3) 13.8	13.8 (13.1, 14.6)	14.1 (13.4, 15)	14.3 (13.5, 15.2)	14.4 (13.6, 15.4)
	Negative	(12, 15.9) 13.8	14.1 (12, 16.2)	16.2 (13.9, 18.7)	19 (16.3, 22.2)	Not Reliable
Sweden	Positive	(9.37, 10.6) 10.2	10.5 (9.89, 11.2)	12.7 (11.8, 13.8)	15.2 (13.5, 17.3)	20.2 (15.9, 31.4)
	Medium	(9.18, 10.4) 10.2	10.2 (9.6, 10.8)	12.6 (11.7, 13.7)	15.6 (13.8, 18)	Not Reliable
	Negative	(9.27, 10.5) 10.2	10.4 (9.72, 11)	13.2 (12.3, 14.1)	17.4 (16.1, 18.9)	Not Reliable
Japan	Positive	(5.5, 6.21) 6.75	6.58 (6.21, 6.97)	10.5 (9.5, 11.4)	18.4 (14, 21.7)	Not Reliable
	Medium	(6.21, 7.12) 6.75	7.55 (7.06, 8.06)	10.7 (9.97, 11.6)	16.7 (14.8, 18.4)	Not Reliable
	Negative	(6.23, 7.14) 6.75	7.59 (7.06, 8.08)	10.9 (10, 11.6)	17.1 (15.3, 18.5)	Not Reliable
Iran	Positive	(65.2, 71.2) 70	70.1 (67.1, 73.1)	73.1 (69.7, 77)	74.2 (70.5, 79.8)	Not Reliable
	Medium	(61.3, 69.4) 70	66.8 (63.2, 71)	73.7 (69.4, 78.5)	80.2 (74.3, 86.7)	Not Reliable
	Negative	(67.5, 79.3) 70	74.8 (69.7, 81.5)	86.7 (80.5, 94.8)	103 (94.8, 112)	Not Reliable

\* Note:

-The scenarios are based on the final total confirmed numbers. There is a change from the previous forecasts since April 11, 2020 as we now use four models, the Generalized Richards Model, Generalized Logistic Model, Logistic Model and Generalized Growth model (see [1] for their presentation). We remove the lowest mean predicted final total confirmed number  $K$  among the four models (which is classical statistical method ensuring robustness). Then, the model with the second lowest mean predicted final total confirmed number  $K$  is classified as the positive scenario, and the third lowest one is classified as the medium scenario. The negative scenario is based on the Generalized Growth model, which should only describe the early stage of the epidemic outbreak and is therefore least reliable for countries in the more mature stage.

-Trajectories from Iran have largely deviated from a typical logistic type growth (S curve), and can't be properly described by our models. Although we still report its calibration results in Table 1, they should not be taken as reliable in all scenarios and time horizons. This is probably a result of unreliable reported data from Iran.

#### **Limitations of using the statistics of reported confirmed number**

It is important to understand what our prediction models show. The predictions are based on cases identified on the basis of testing and they therefore predict the numbers of future positive tests. Relating positive test results to real levels of infection is subject to a large number of biases. It is a fact that the real number of infections is far higher than those recorded in positive tests since only a tiny fraction of any population has been tested. It is also the case that, in most countries, testing is biased towards those who think they are infected. The first bias, therefore, will underestimate the real number of infections while the second bias will tend to overestimate since it is biased towards those who think they are ill.

There are further complications. Depending on the testing protocols used, in some instances false positive results have been obtained. In other words, someone without the disease tested positive, probably because they were infected with some other coronavirus. And in other cases, false negative results were obtained, as was the case with the early testing deployed in the USA.

One final complication is the fact that tests are conducted sequentially over time. They do not represent a snapshot of a day in time. Many of those tested early, giving a negative result, may today get a positive result. And many, who tested positive early on, may today be cured.

We anticipate that, over time, our methodology will improve and will provide a more accurate picture of the true levels of infection and where they are headed.

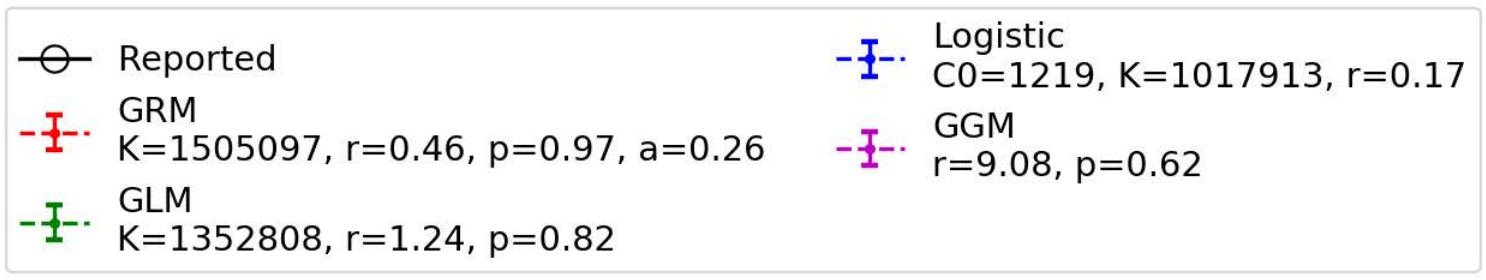
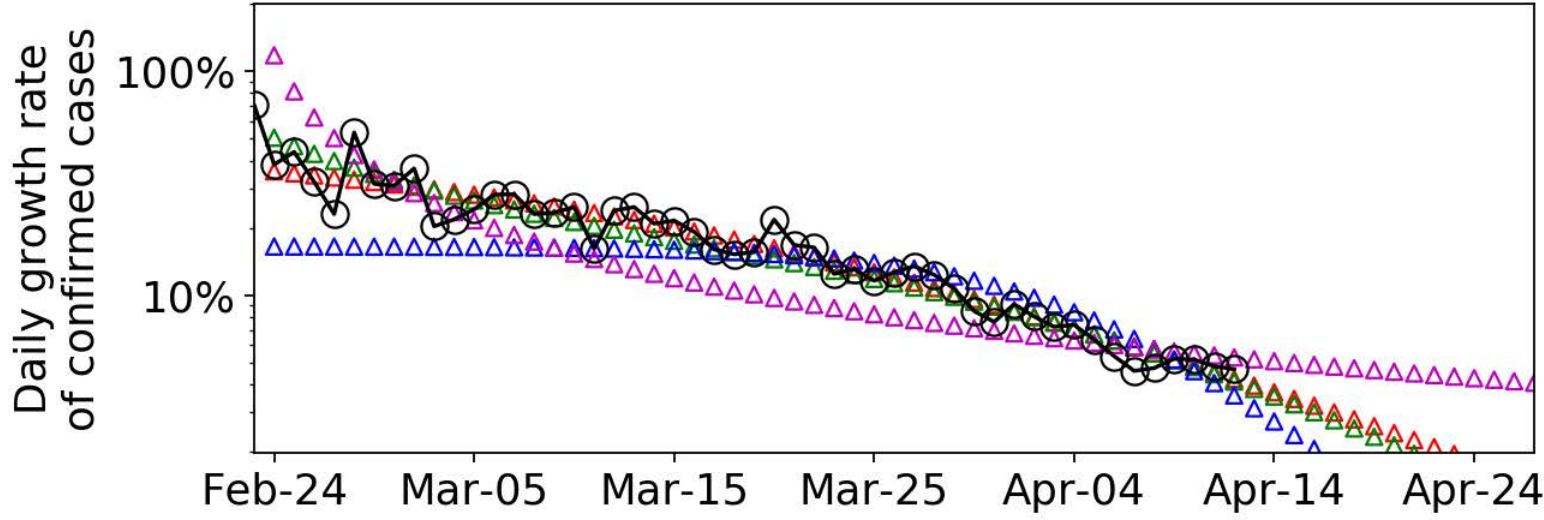
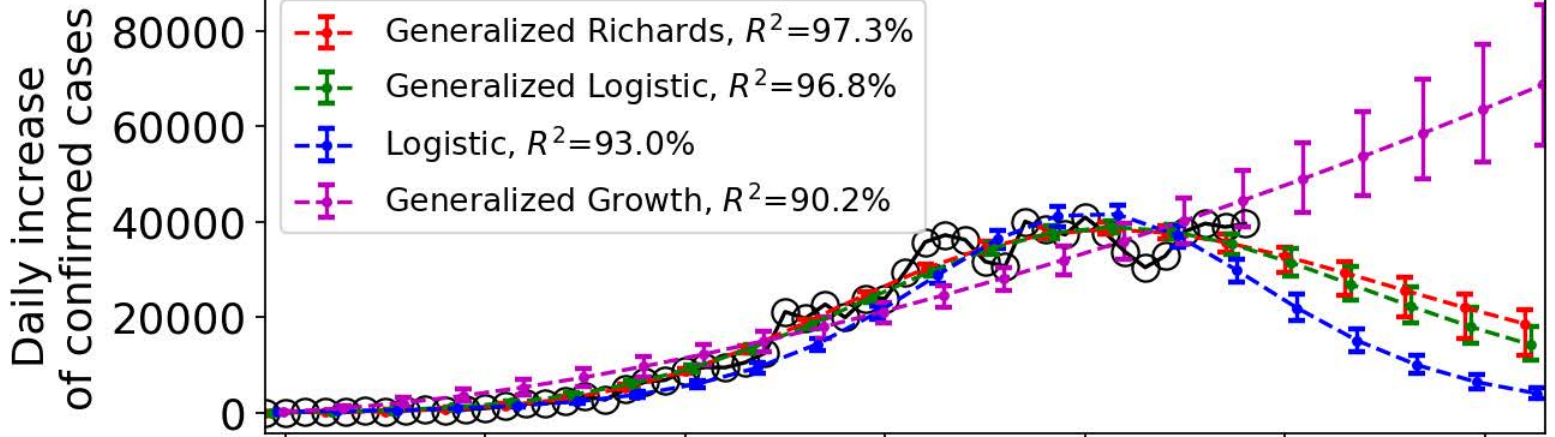
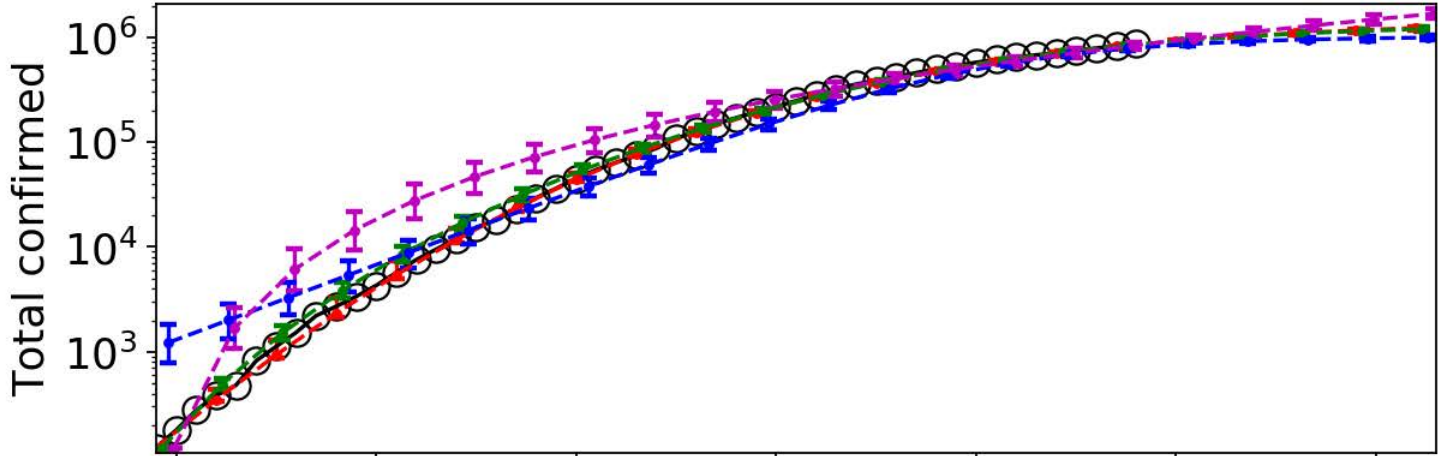
[1] Ke Wu, Didier Darcet, Qian Wang and Didier Sornette, Generalized logistic growth modeling of the COVID-19 outbreak in 29 provinces in China and in the rest of the world, preprint at <http://arxiv.org/abs/2003.05681> and

medRxiv: <https://medrxiv.org/cgi/content/short/2020.03.11.20034363v1>

[2] <https://www.ecdc.europa.eu/en/geographical-distribution-2019-ncov-cases>

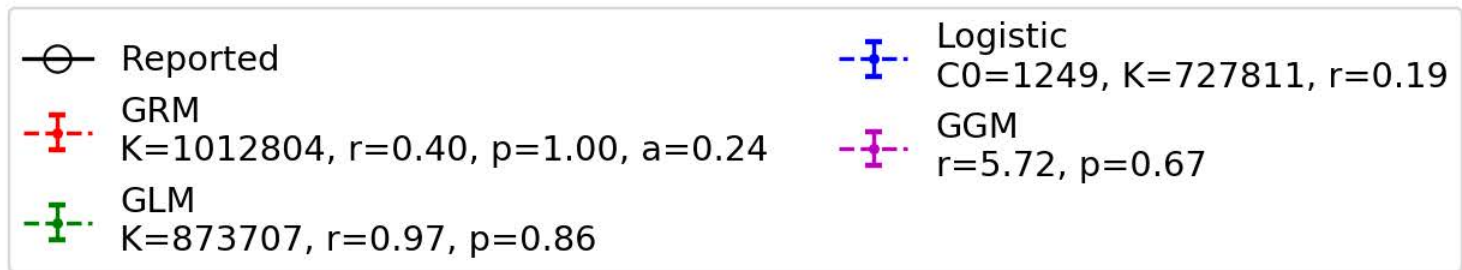
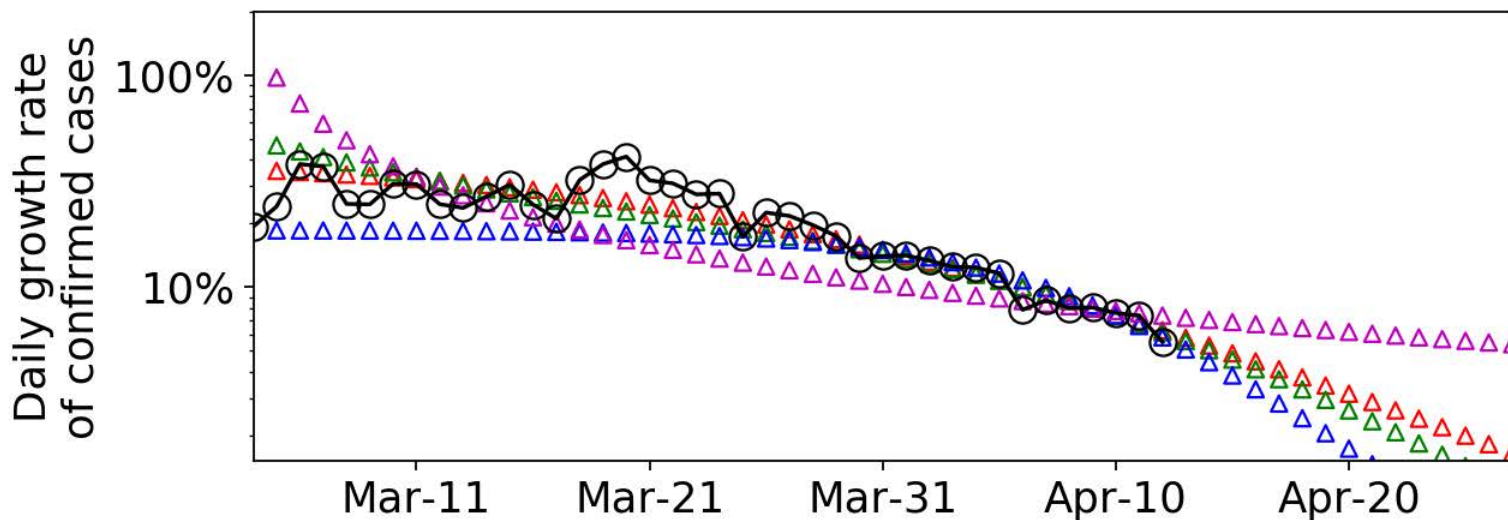
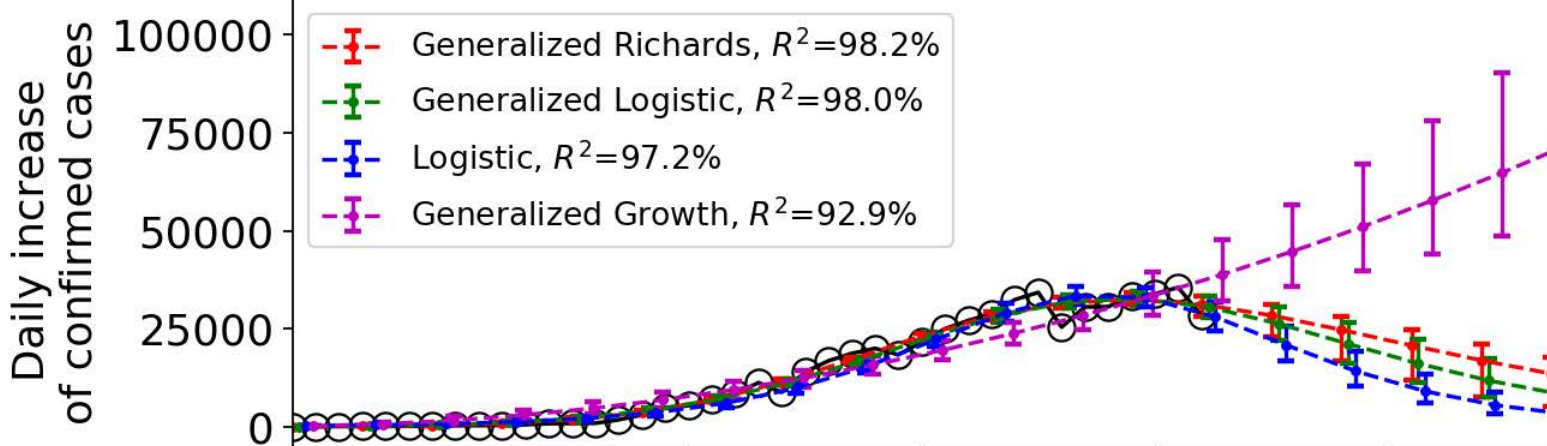
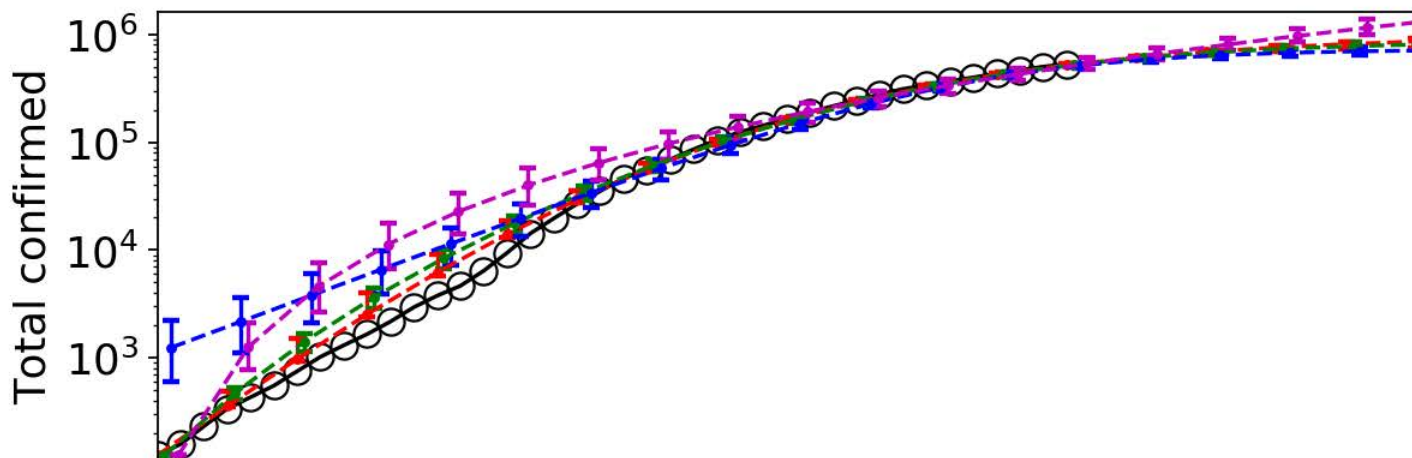
[3] [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/COVID-19\\_testing](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/COVID-19_testing)

# Europe

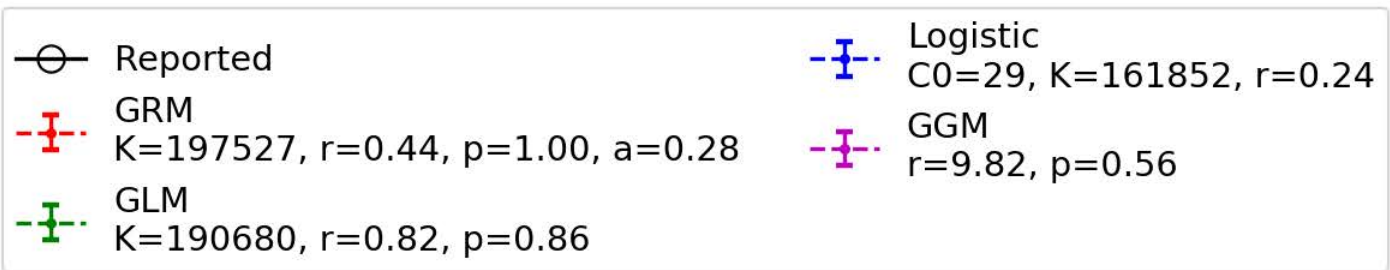
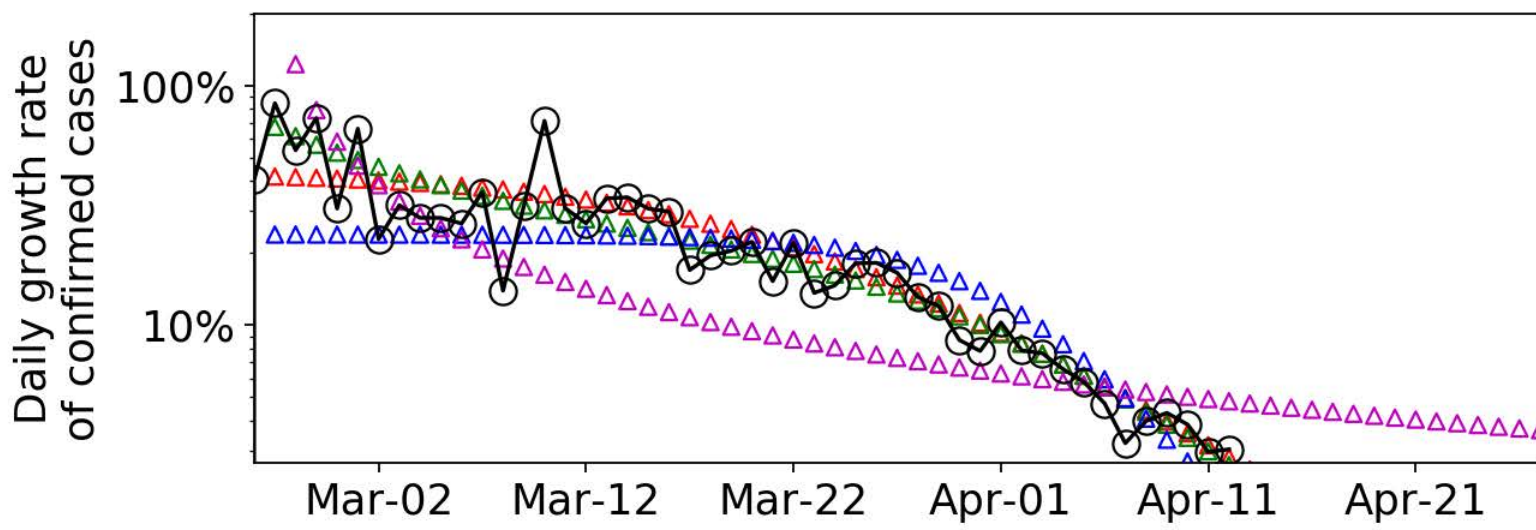
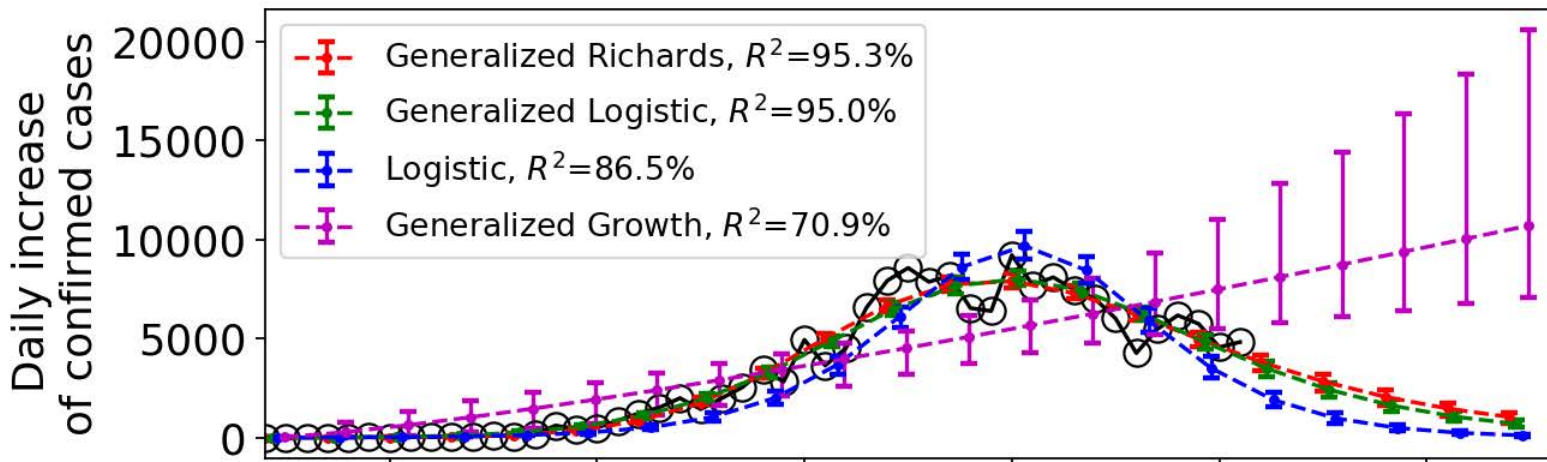
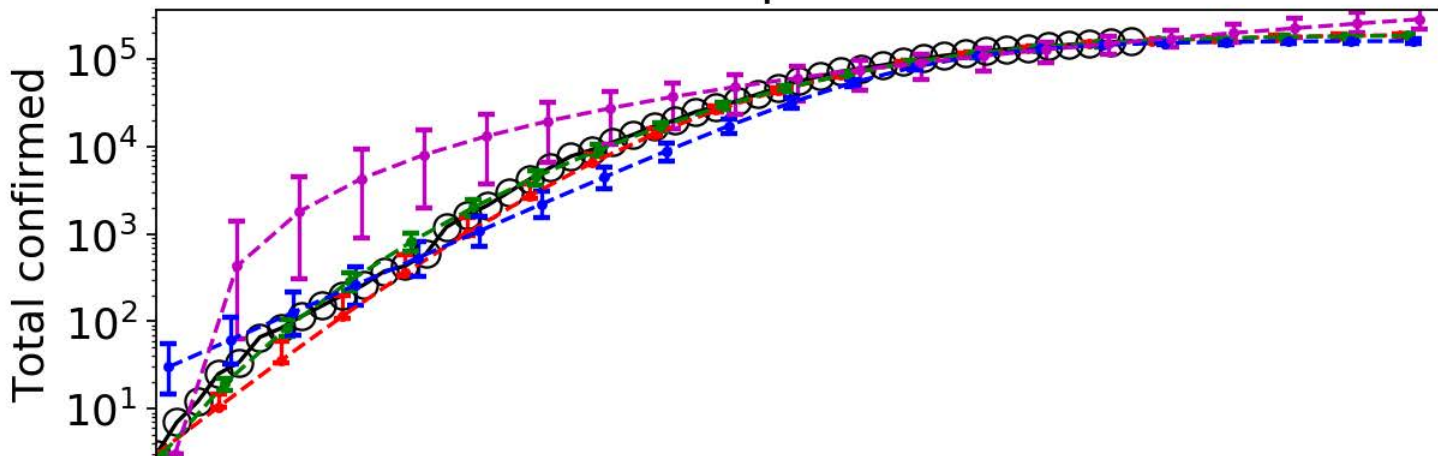




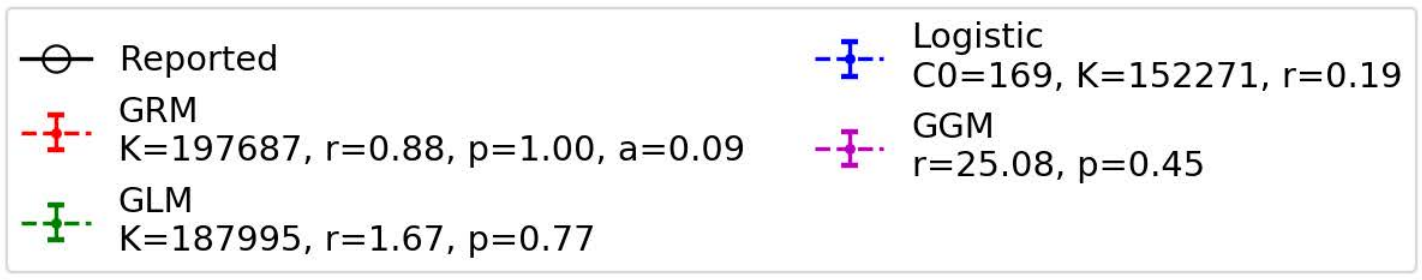
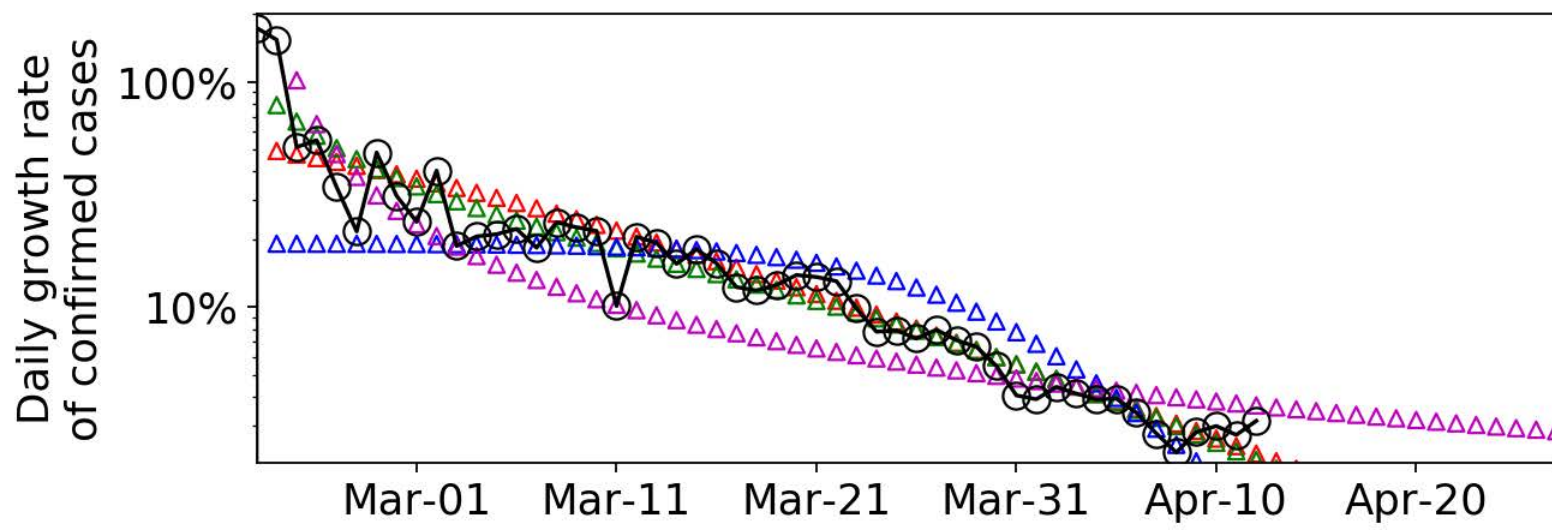
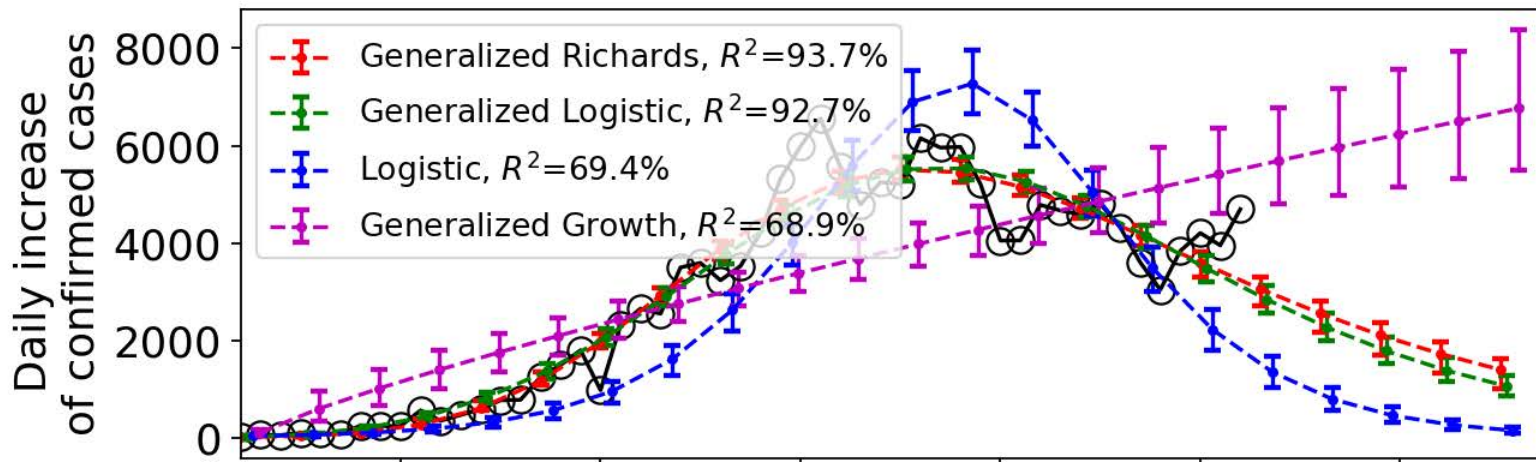
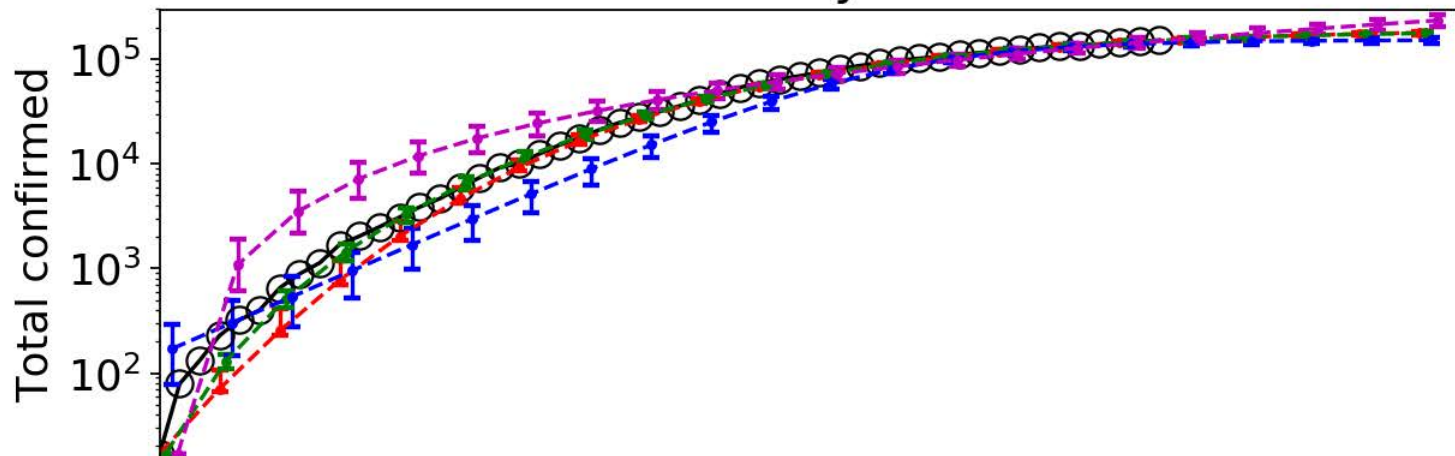
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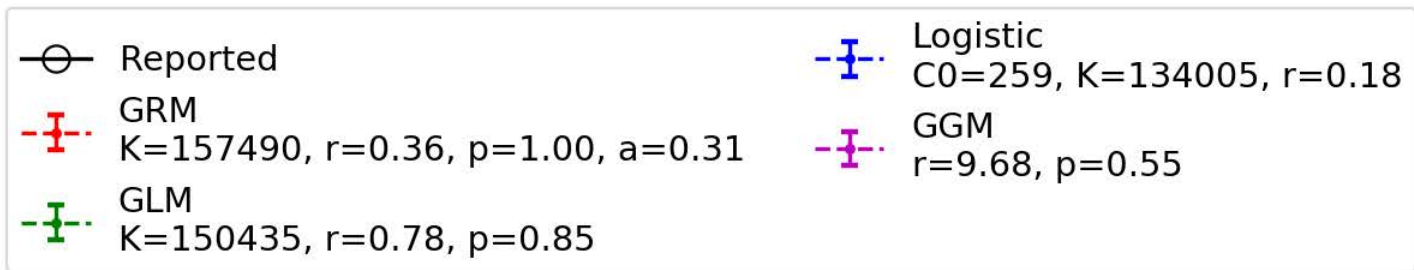
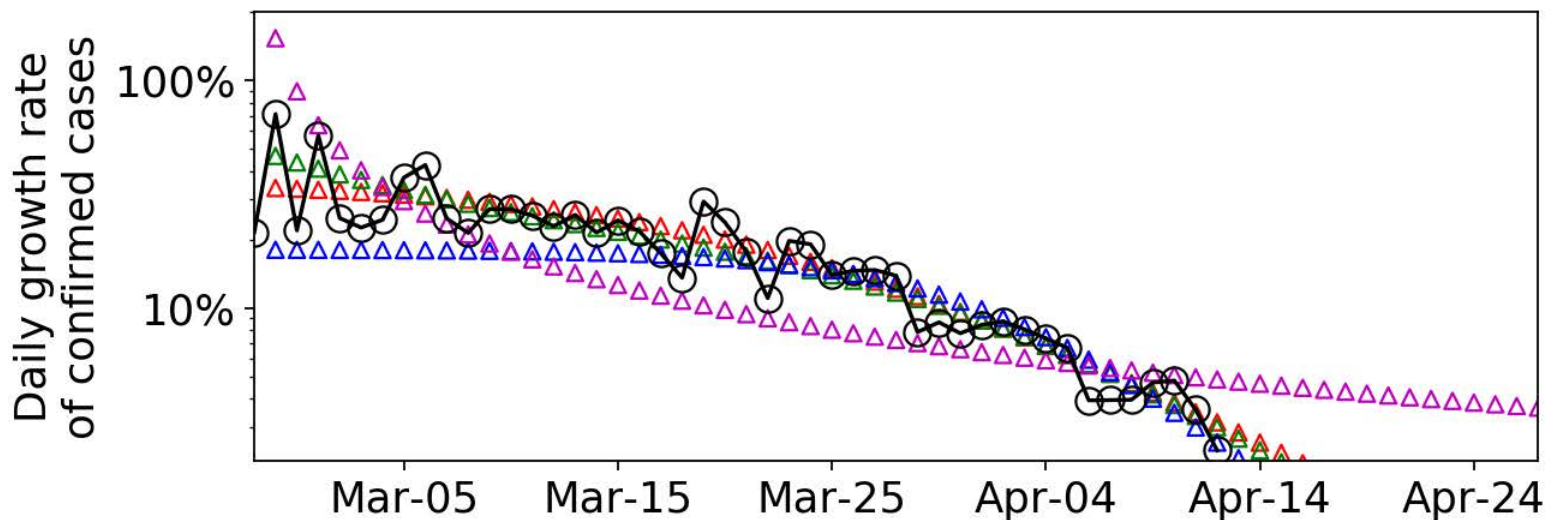
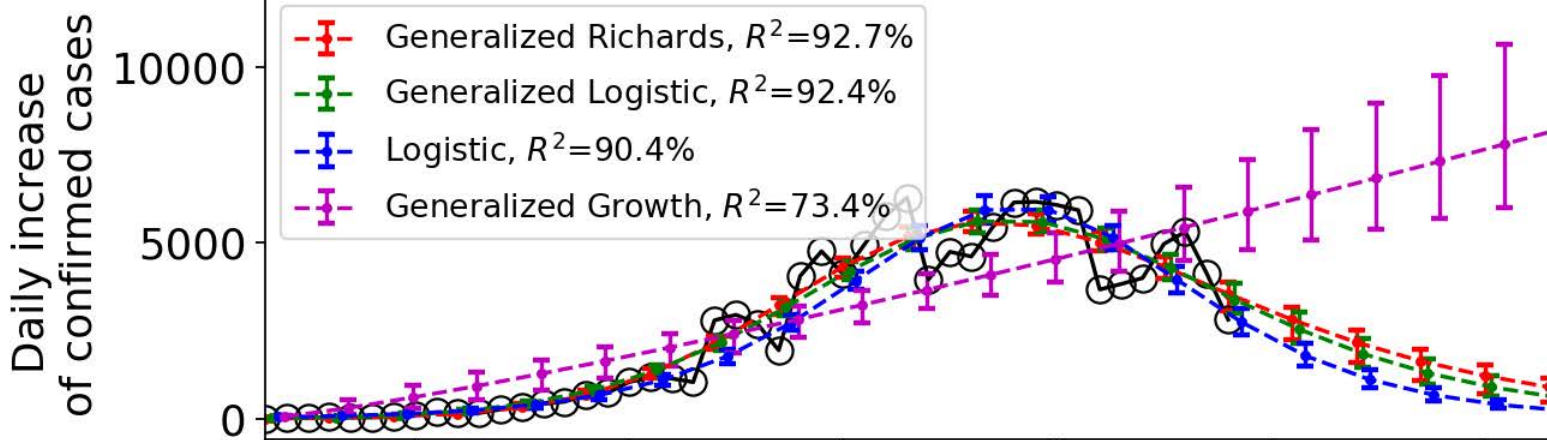
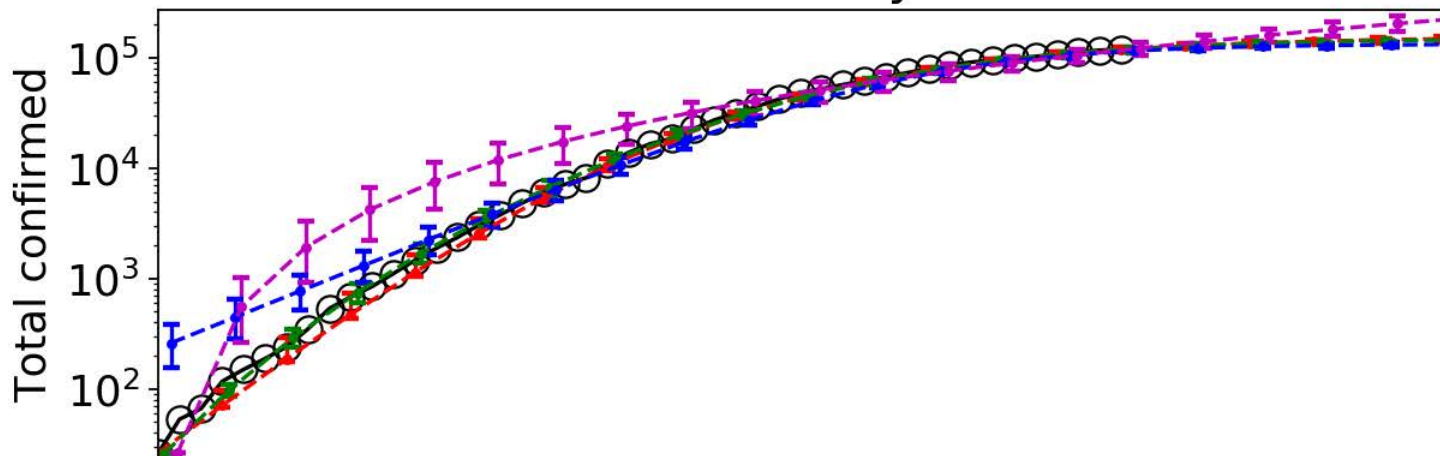
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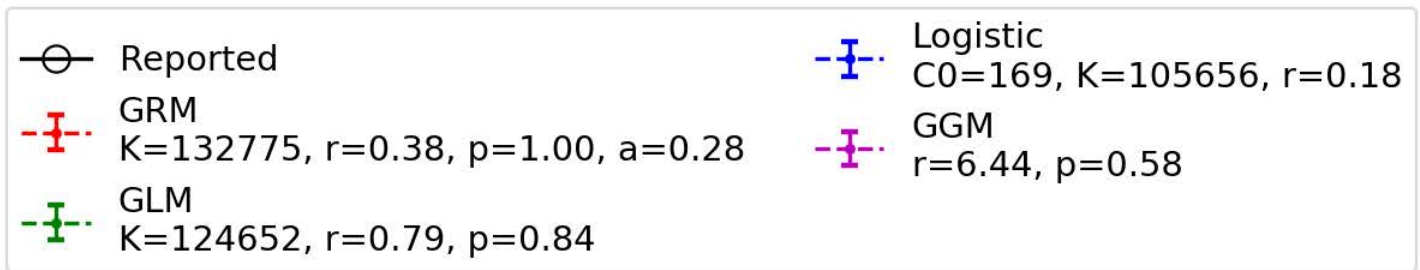
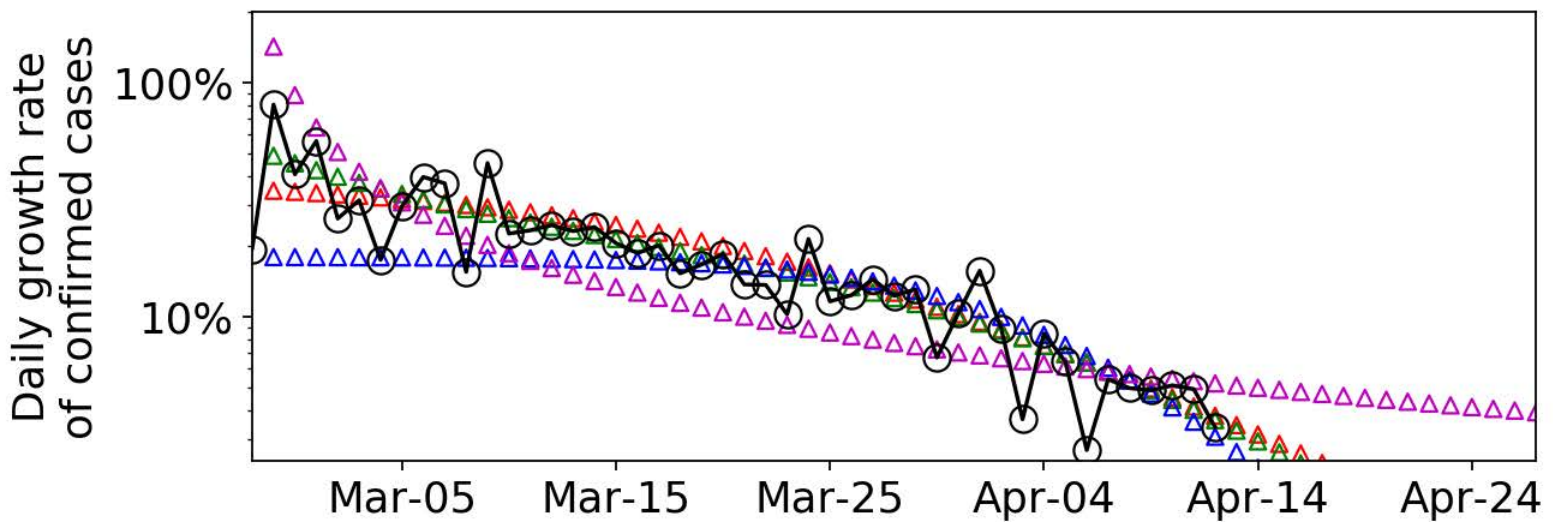
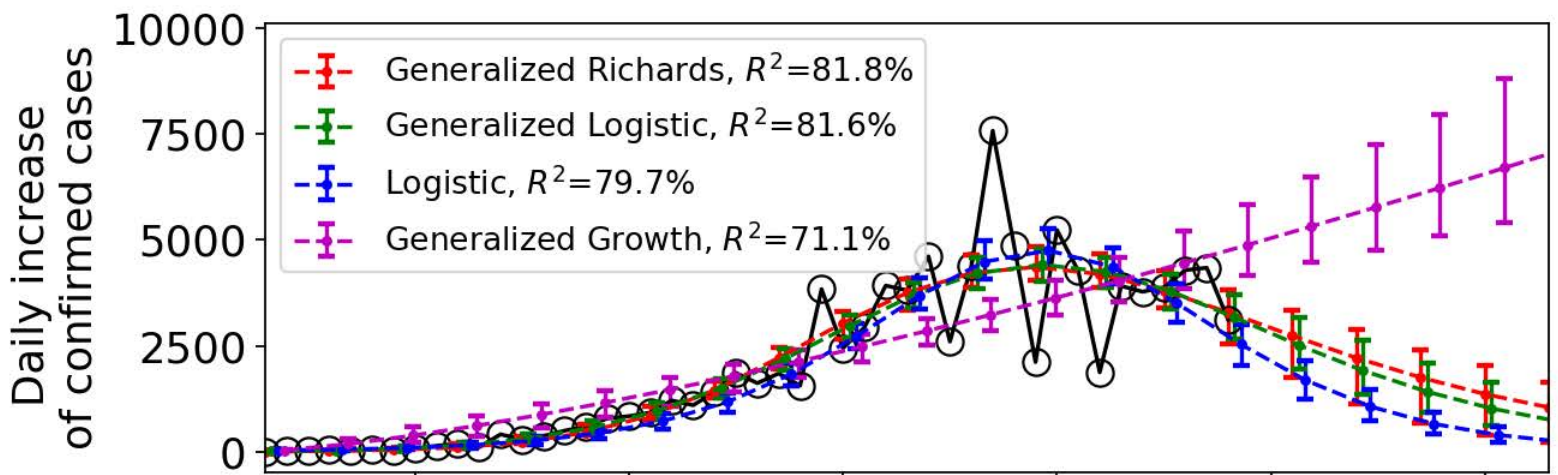
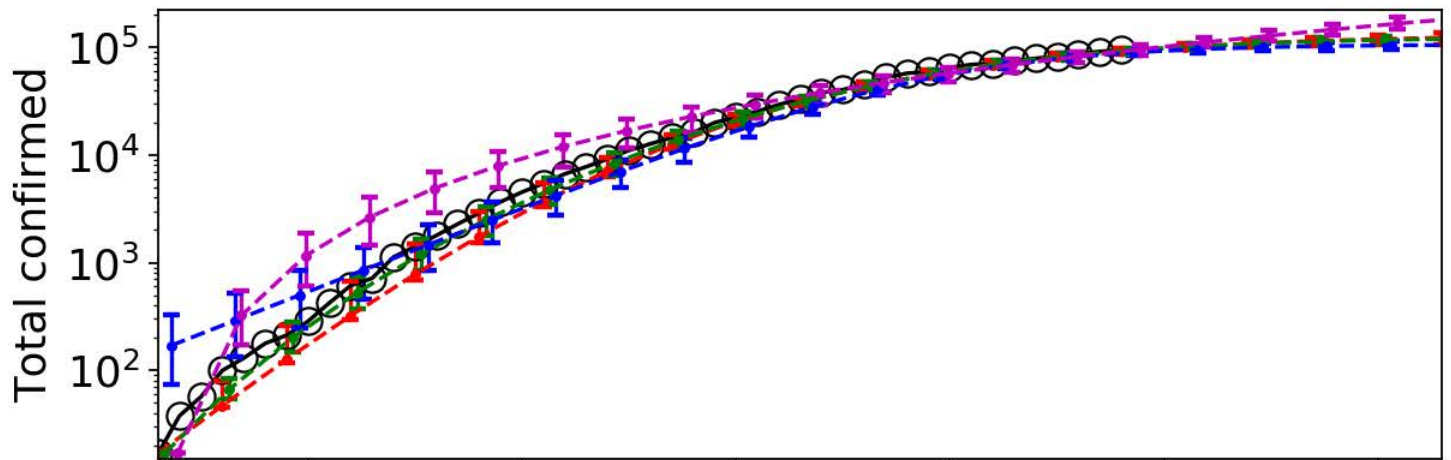
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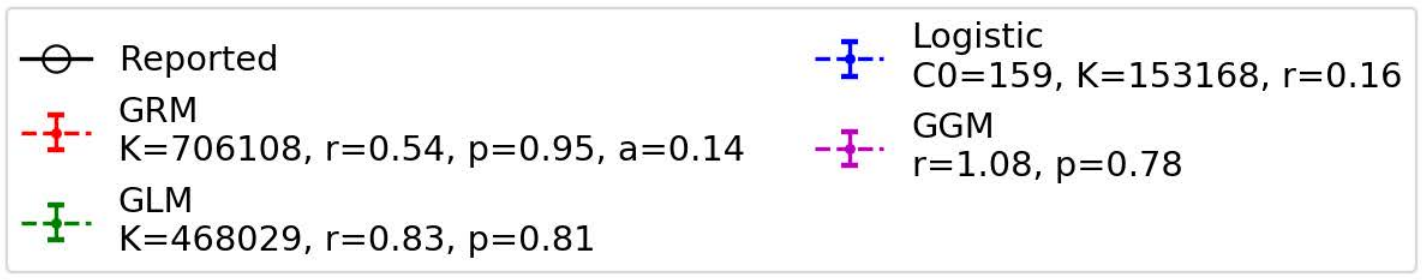
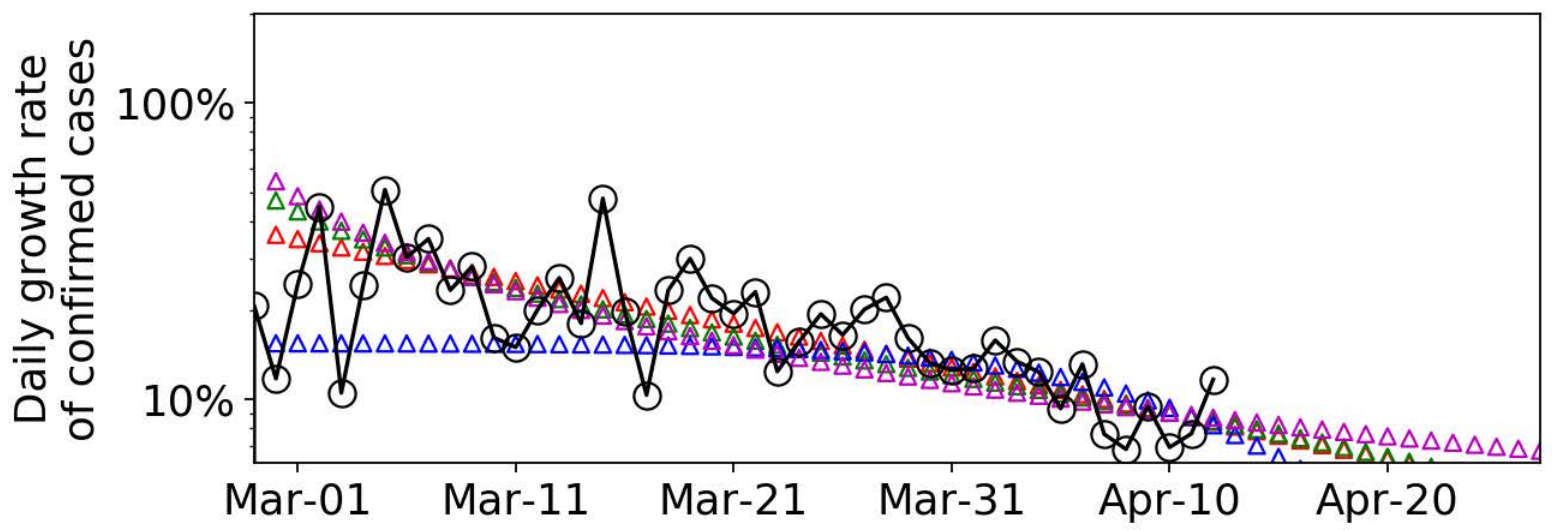
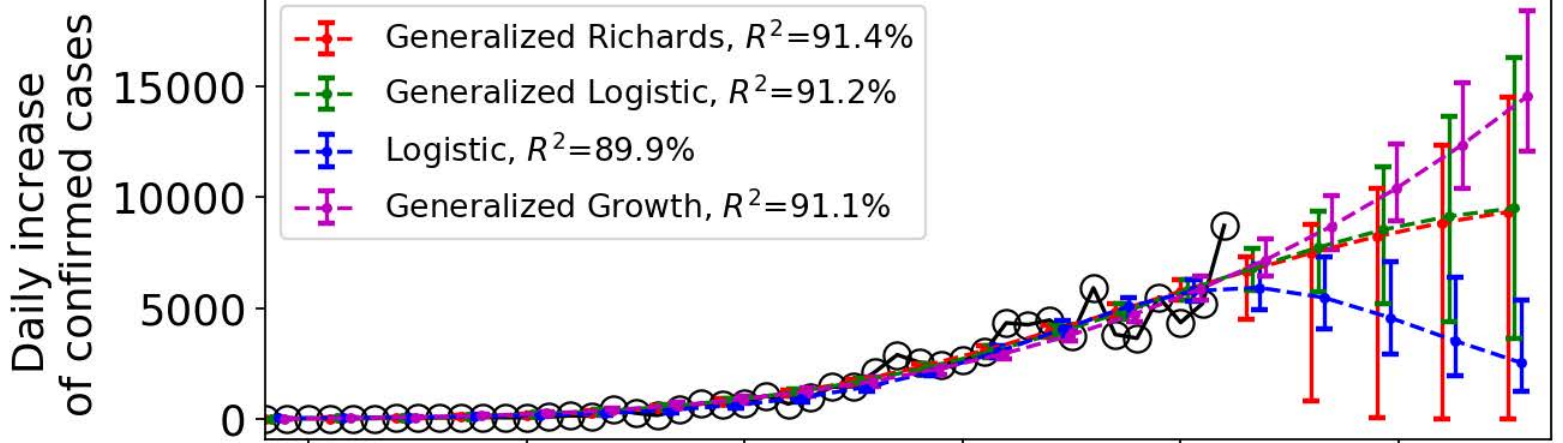
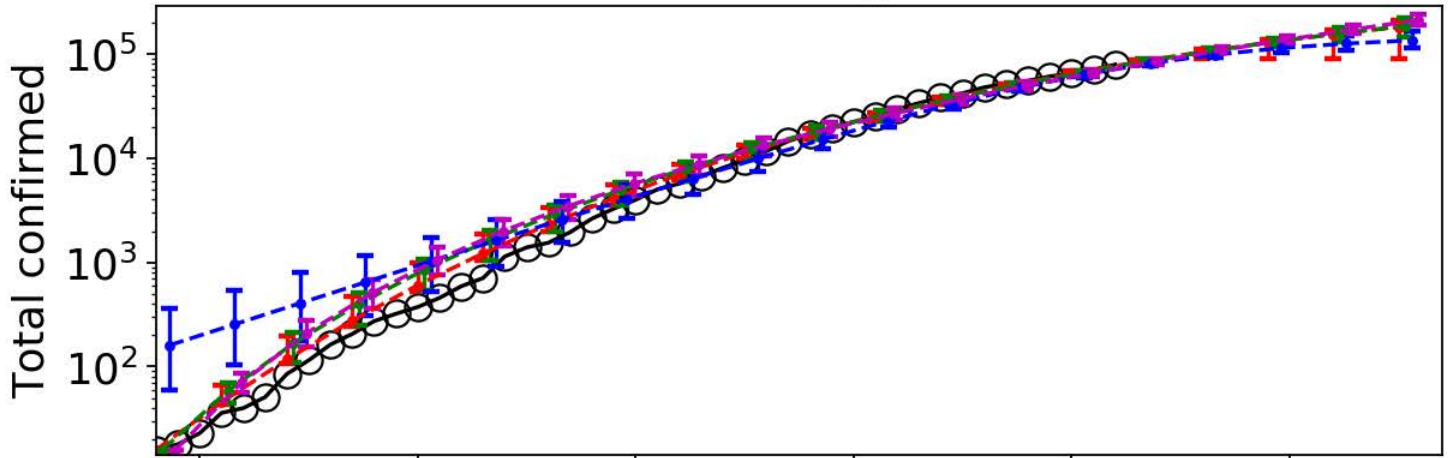
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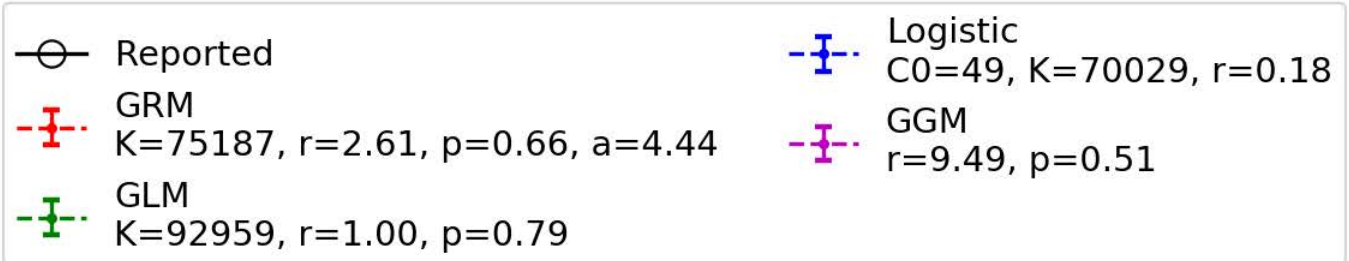
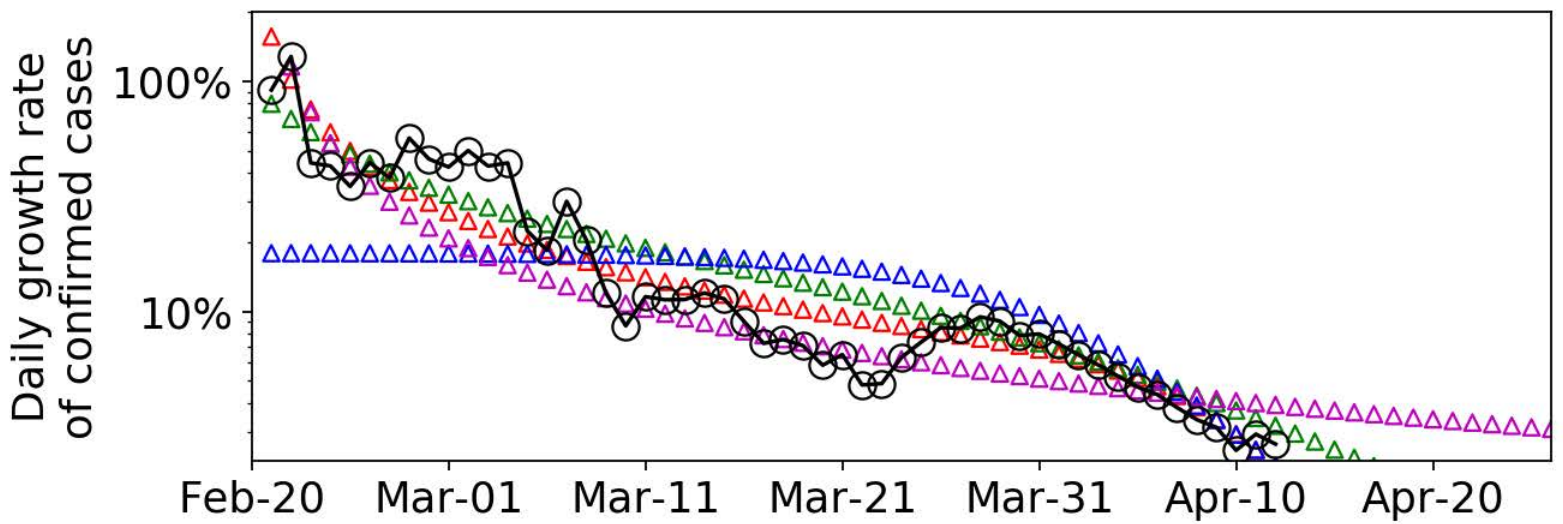
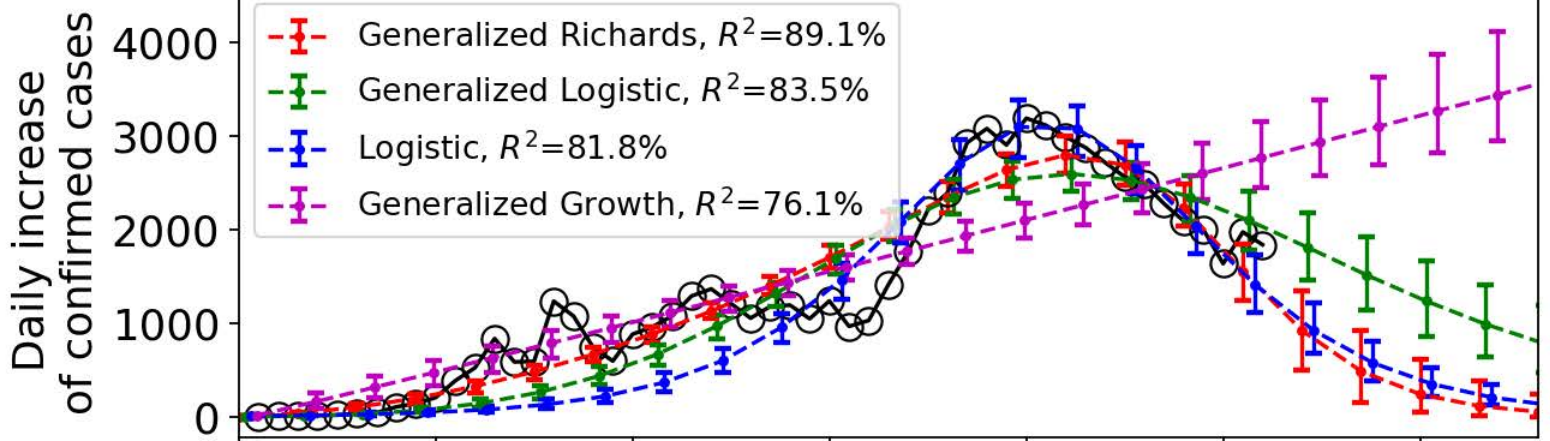
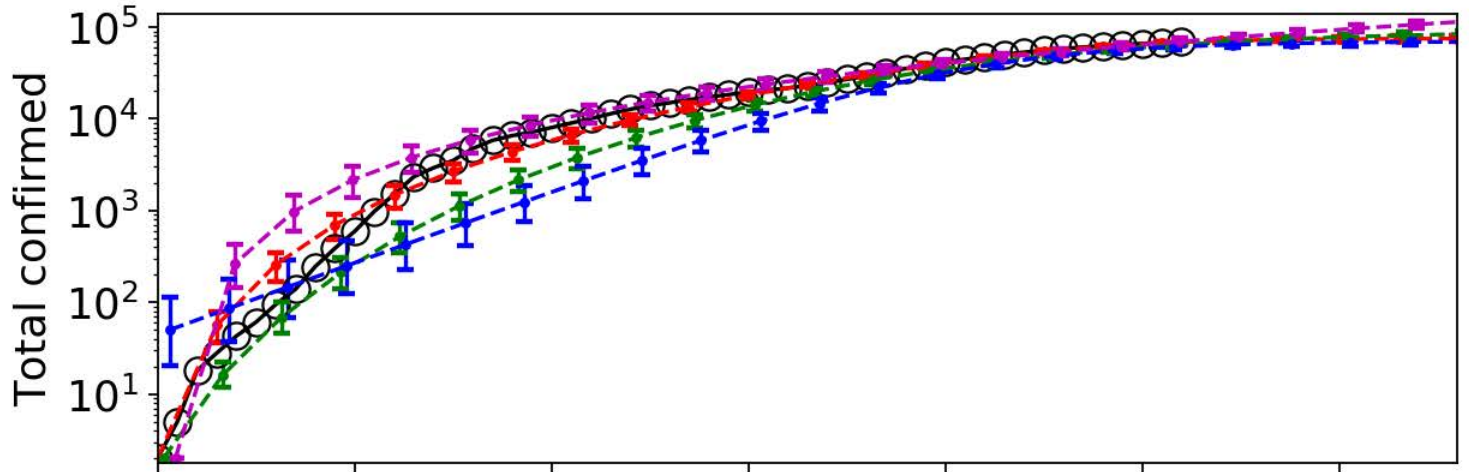
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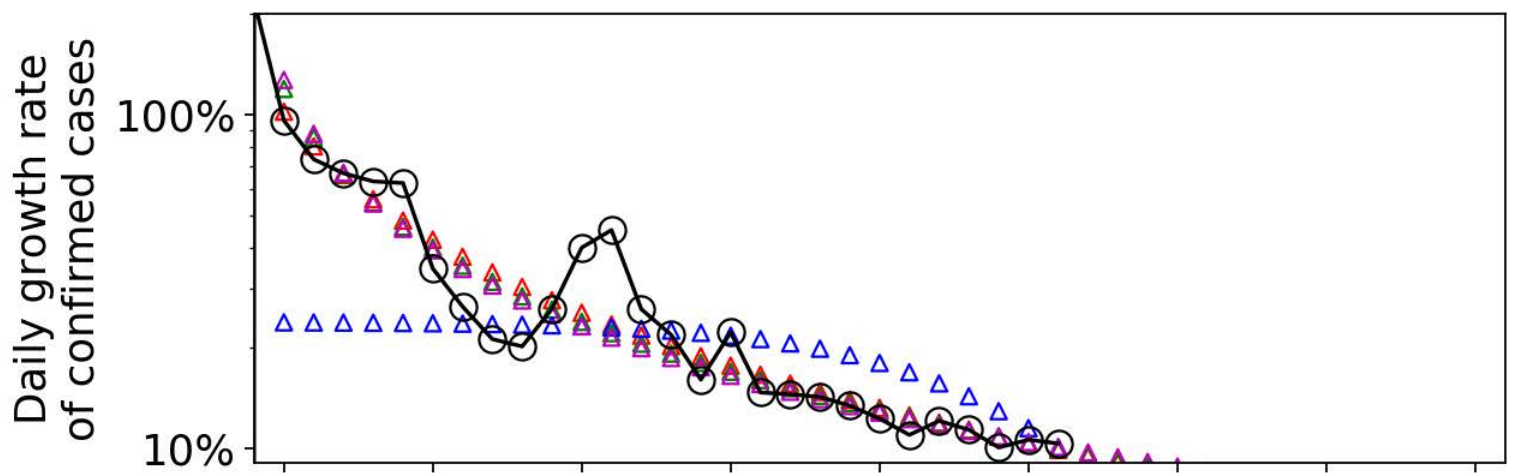
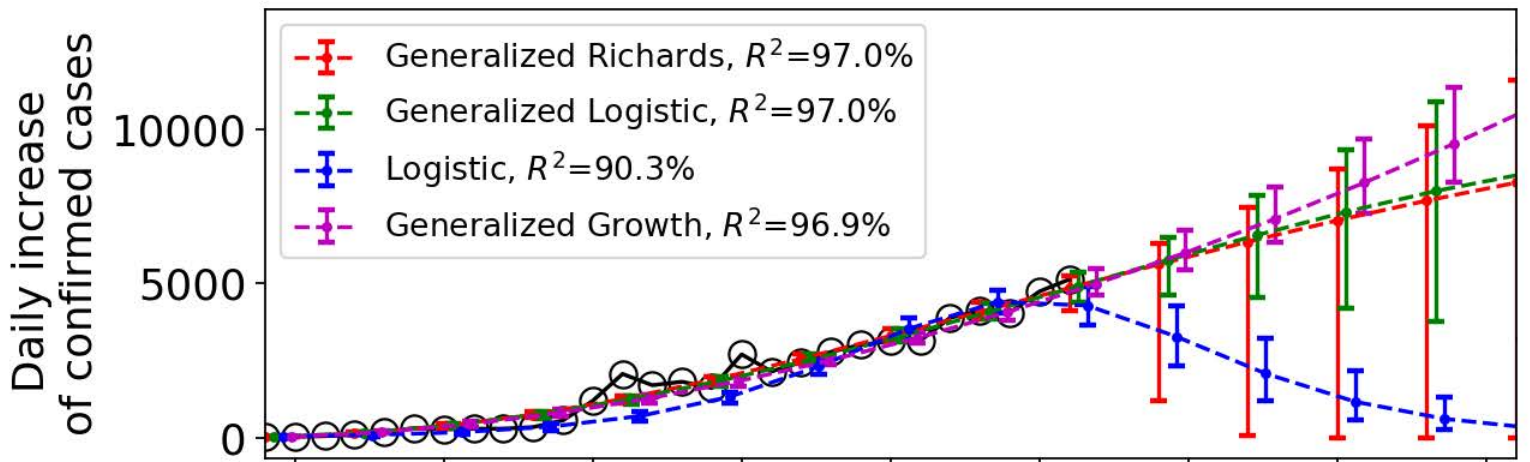
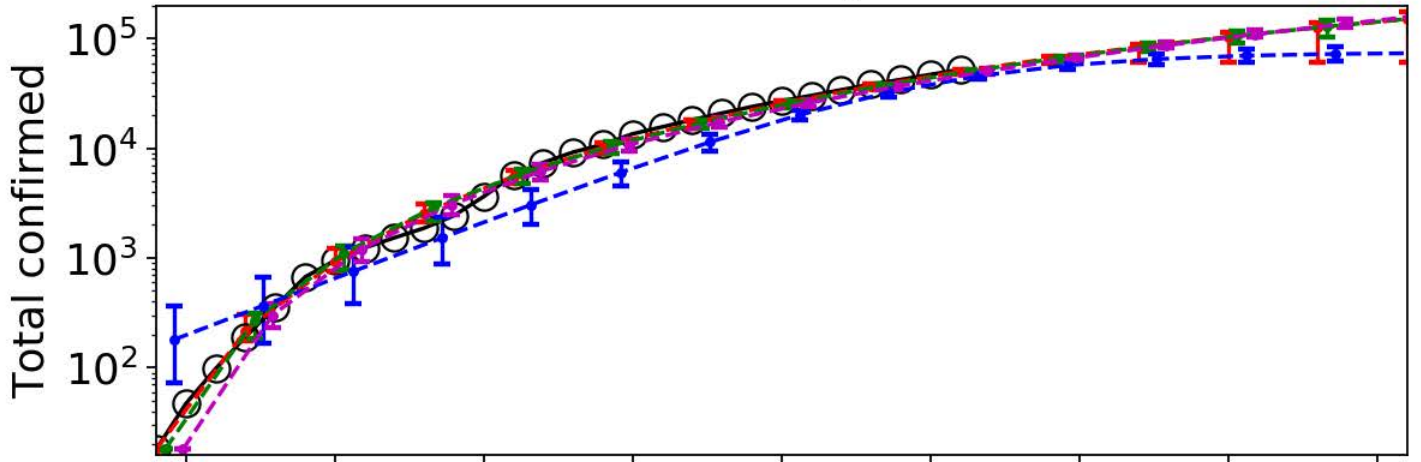
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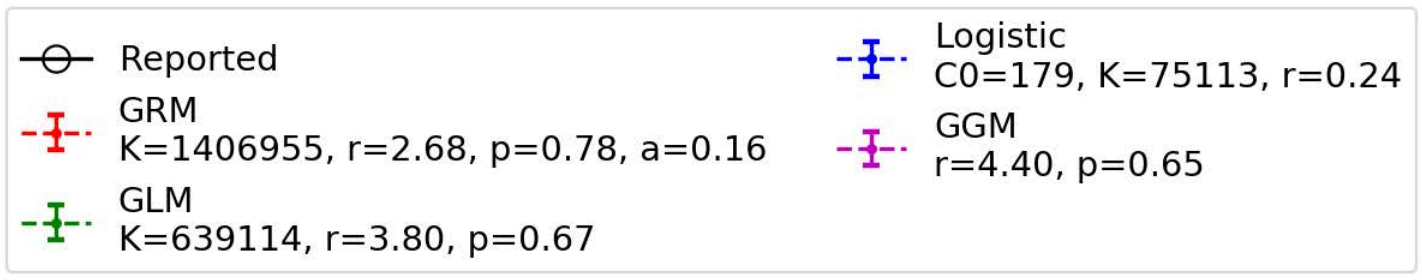
# Iran



# Turkey

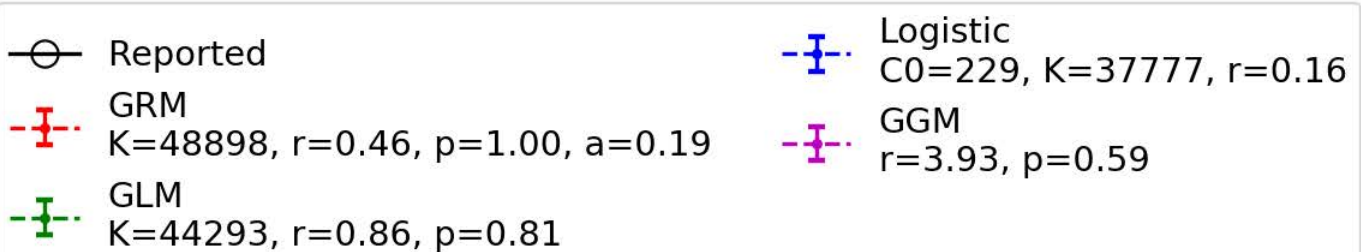
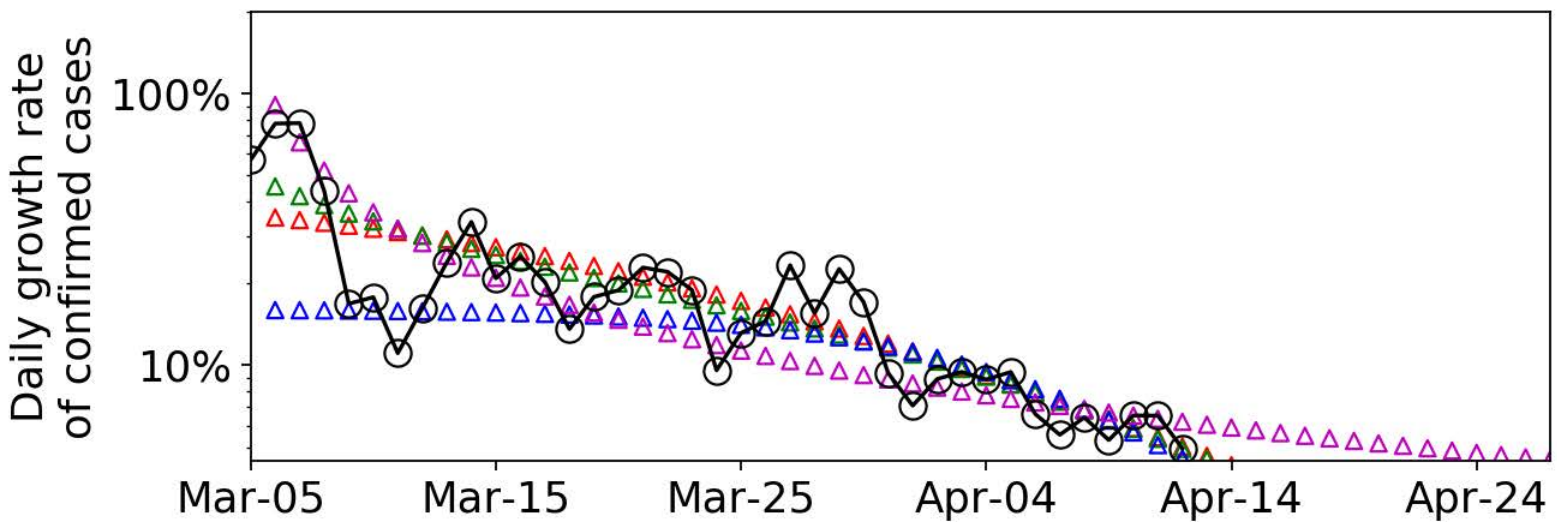
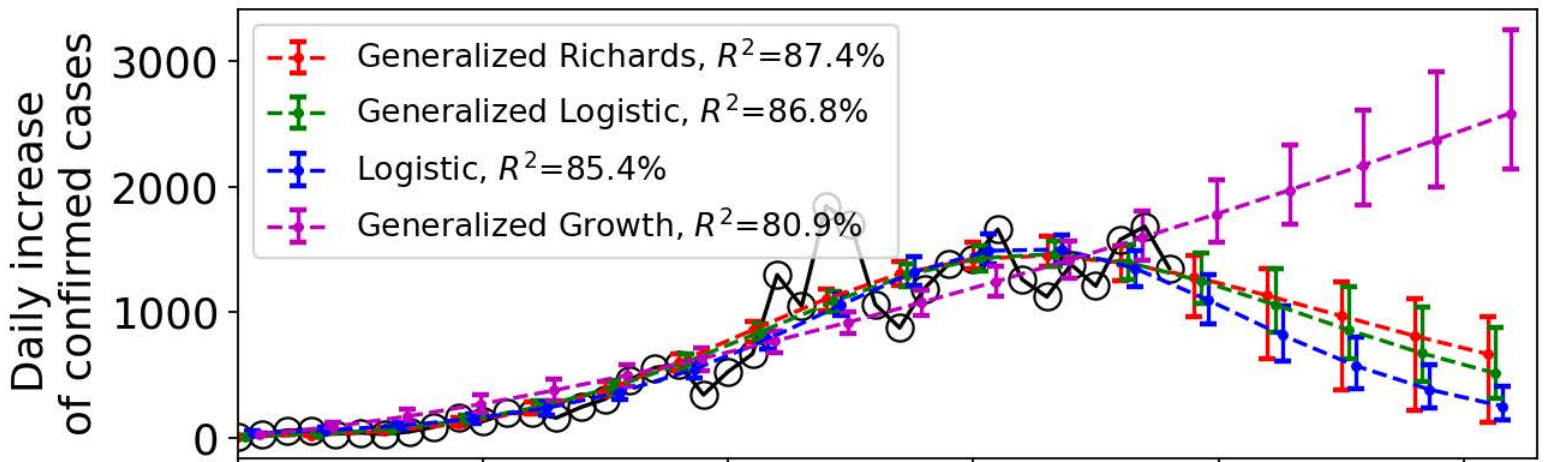
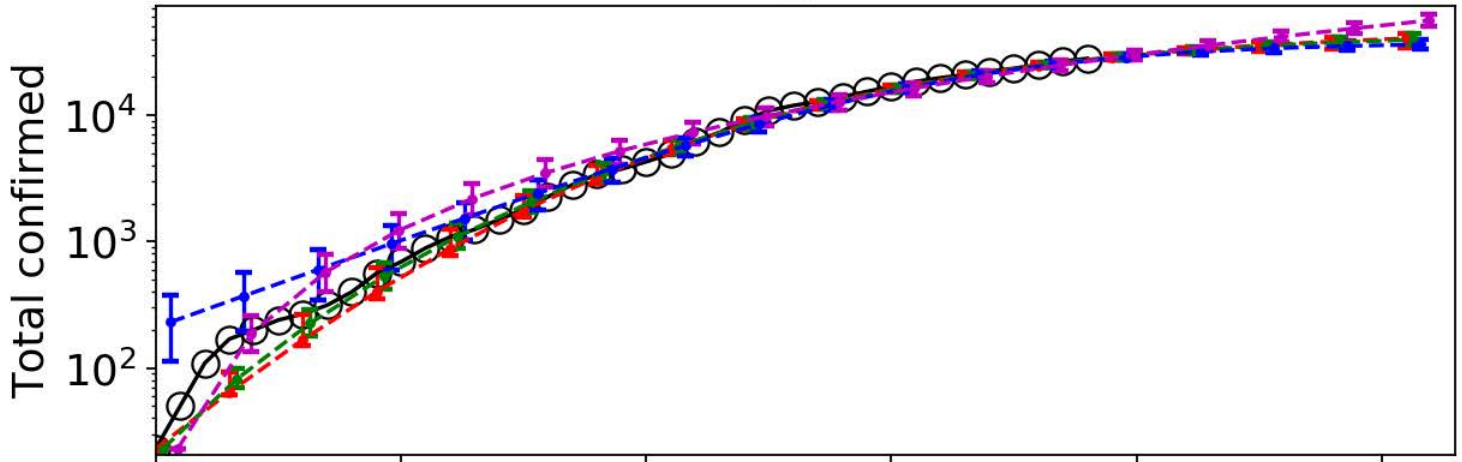


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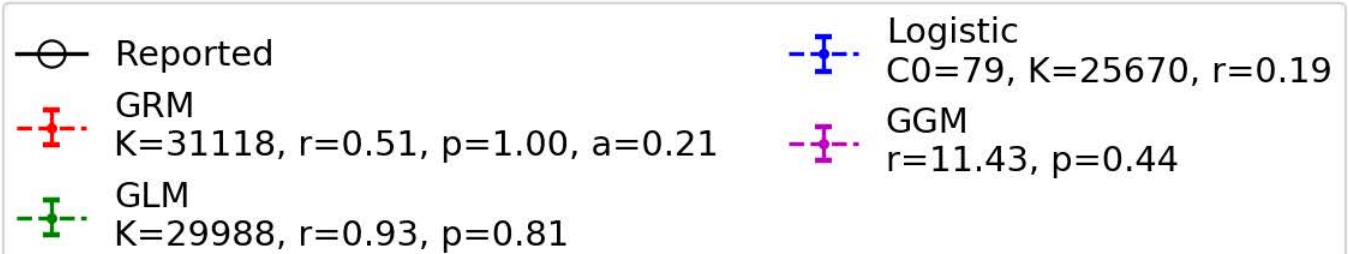
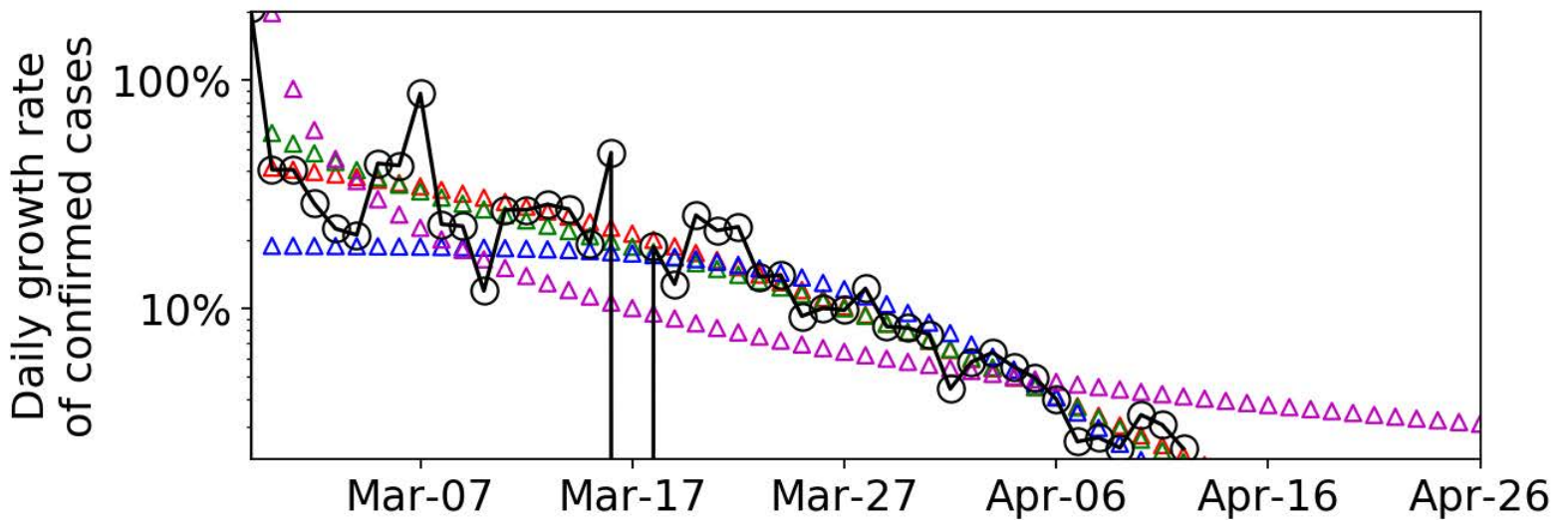
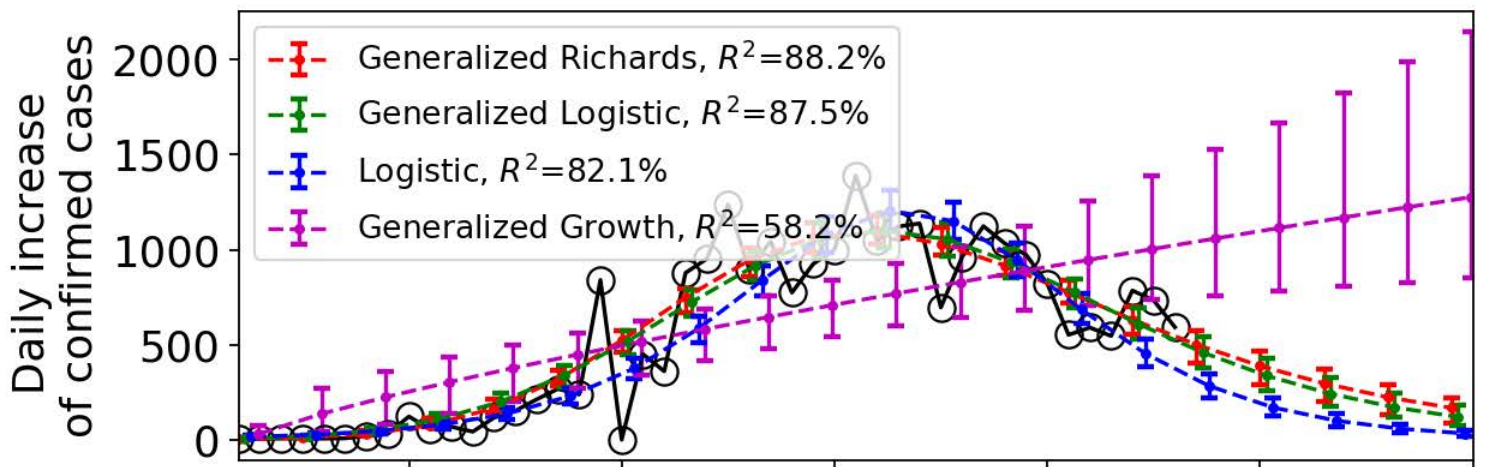
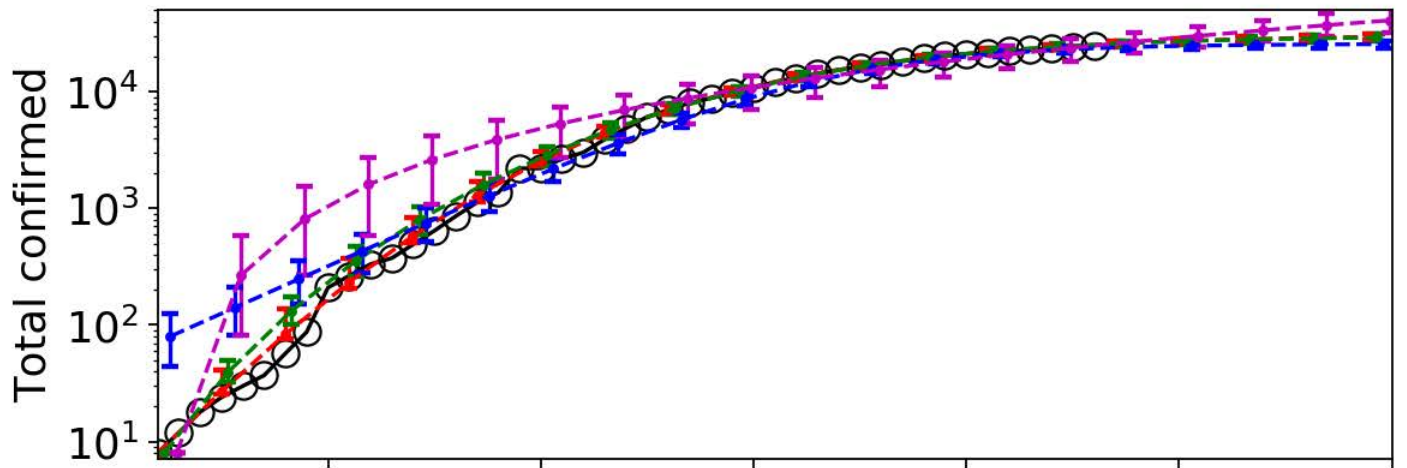




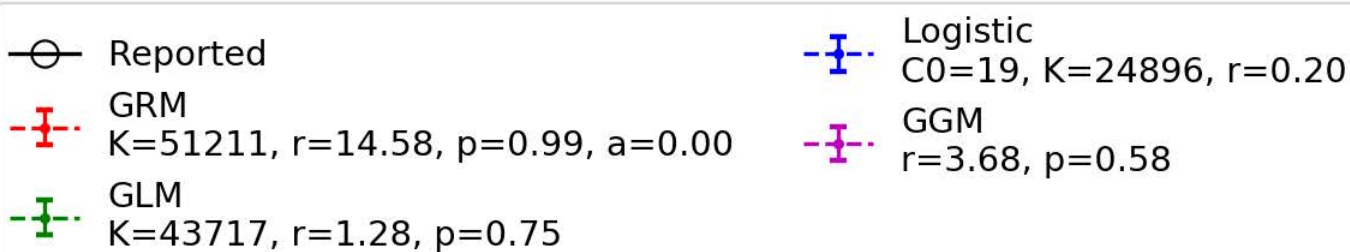
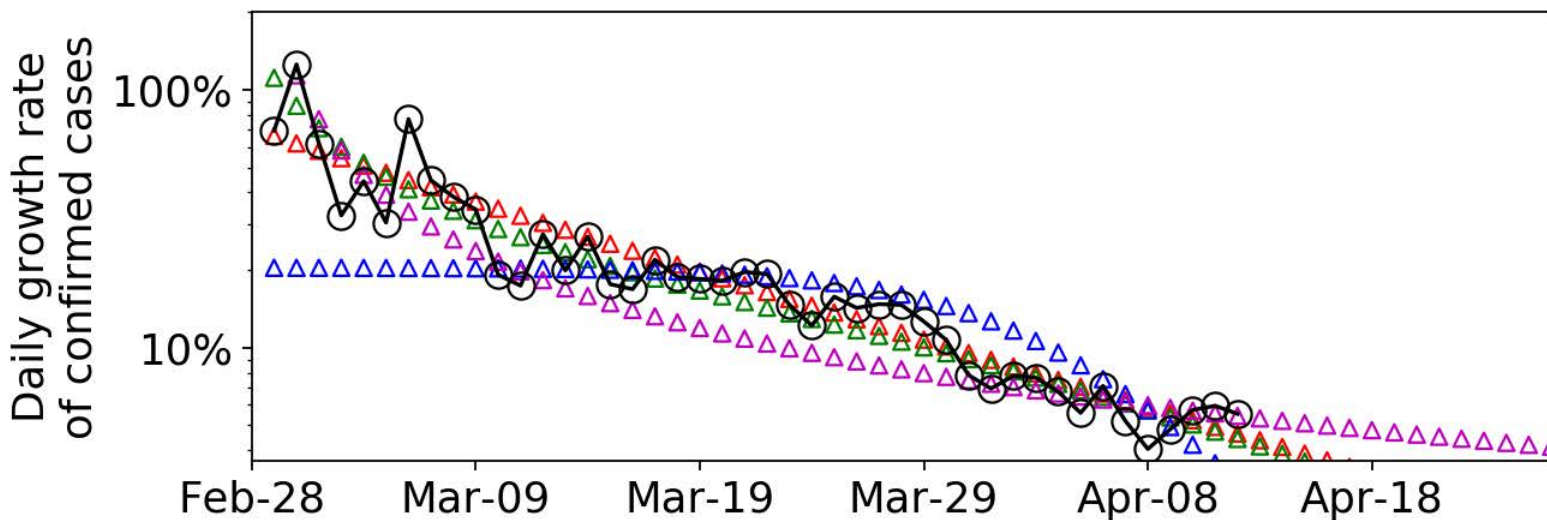
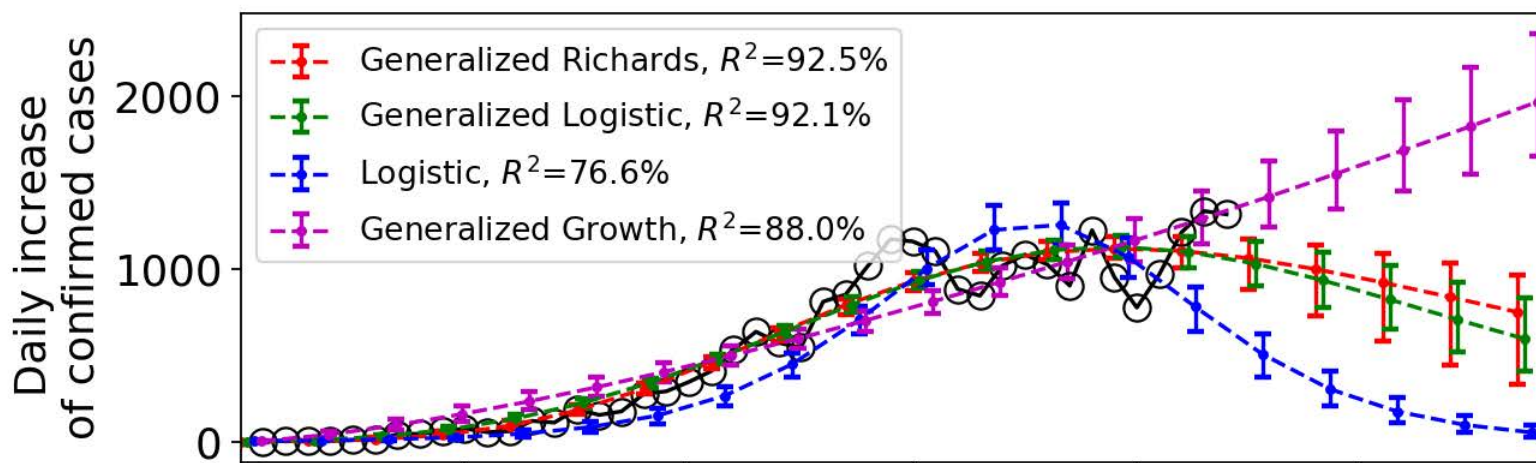
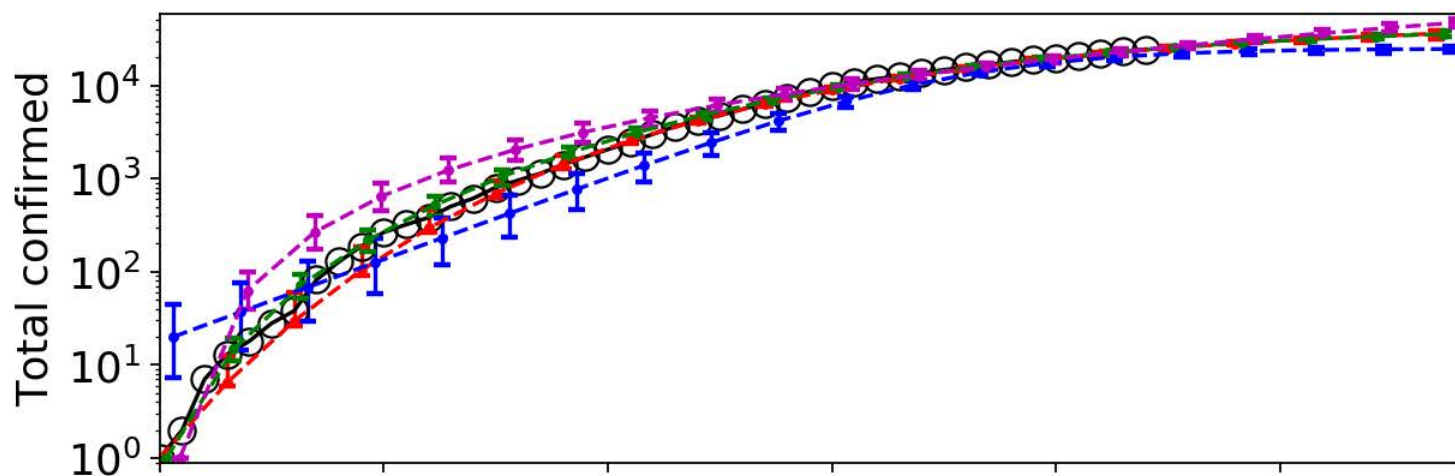
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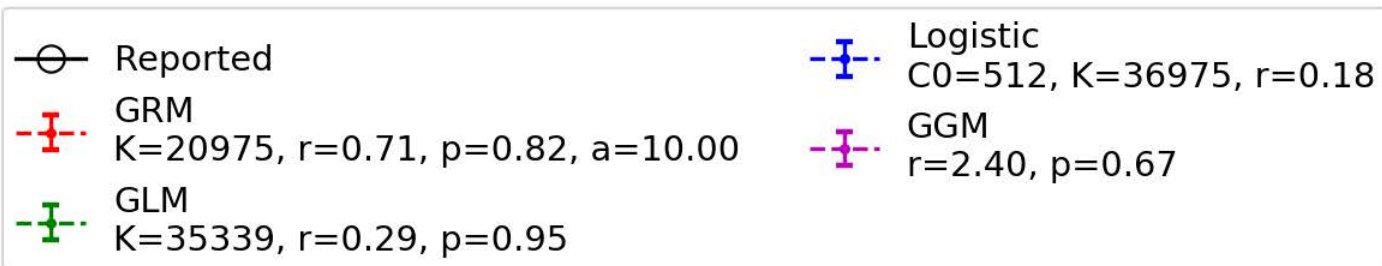
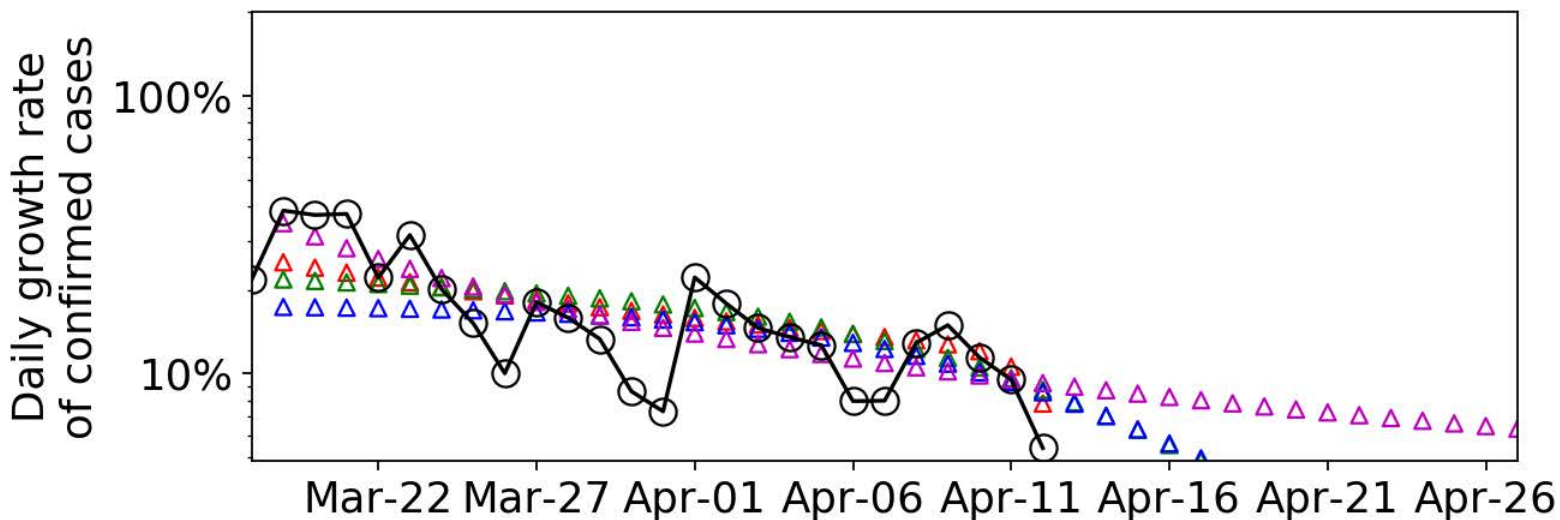
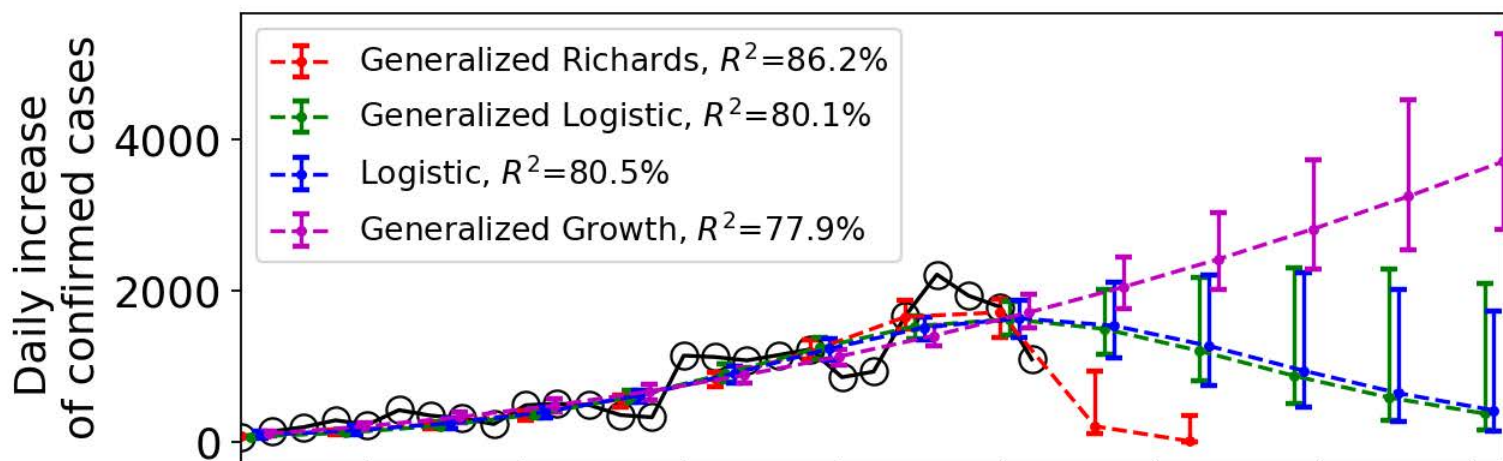
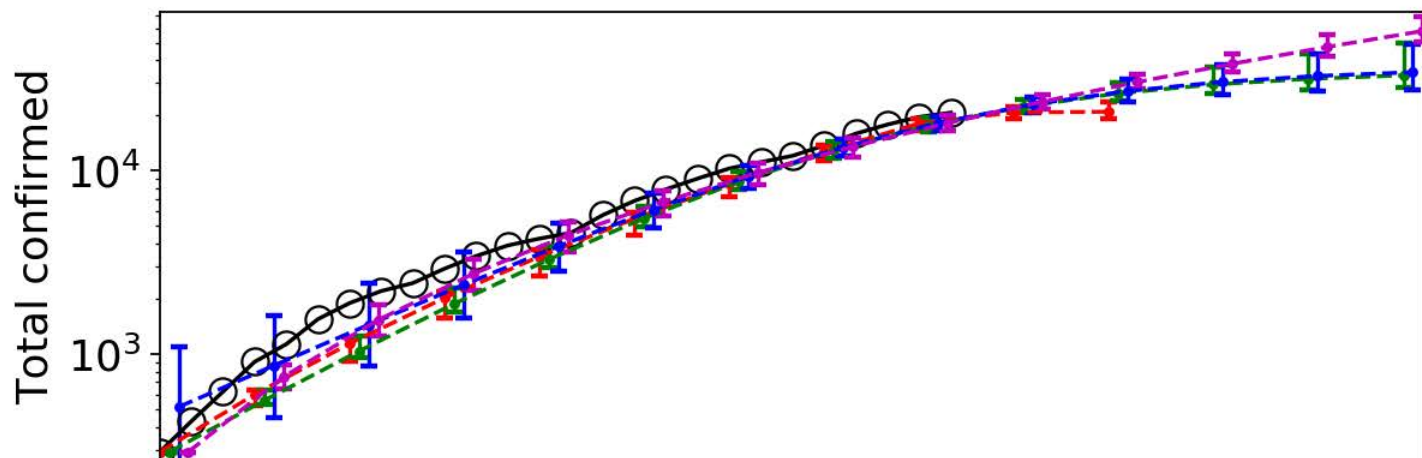
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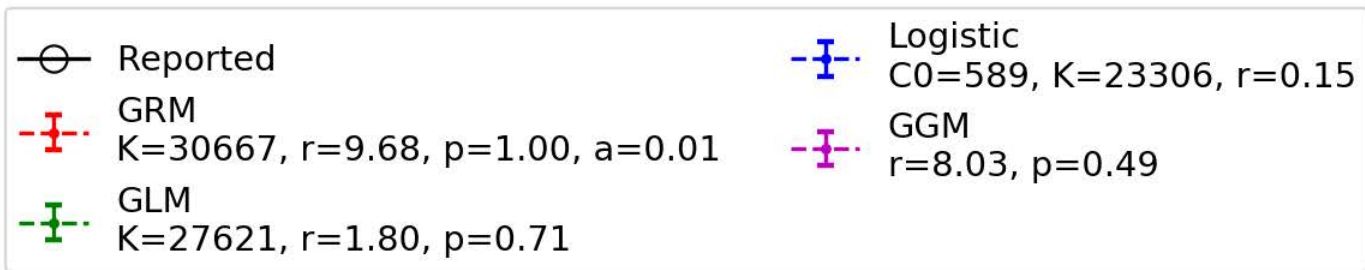
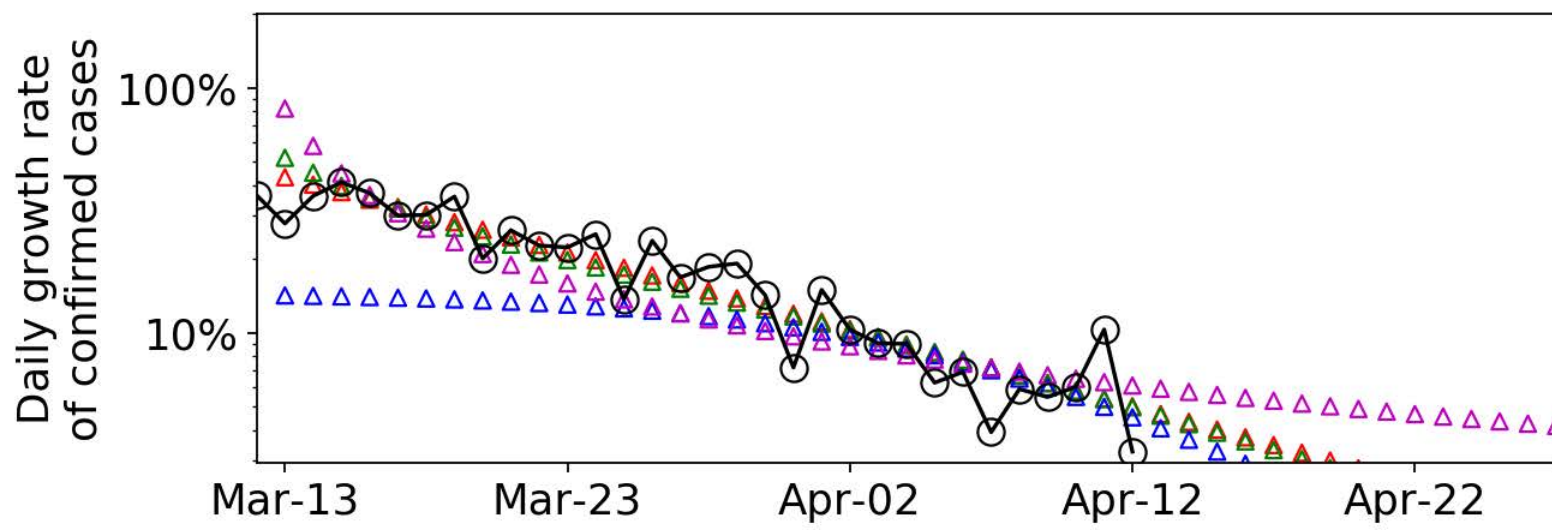
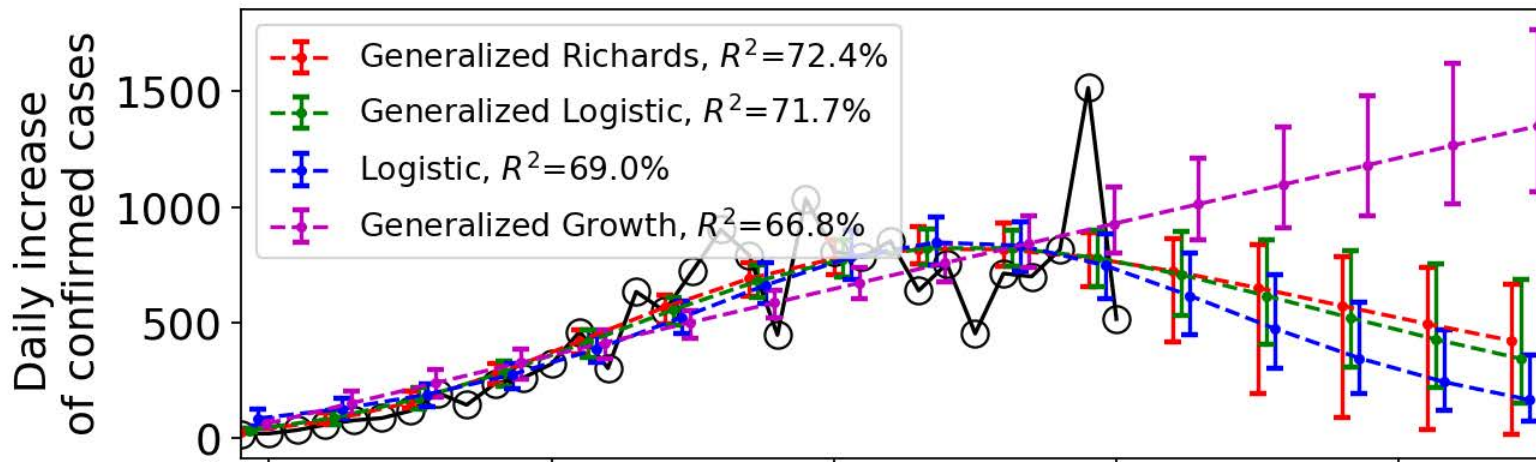
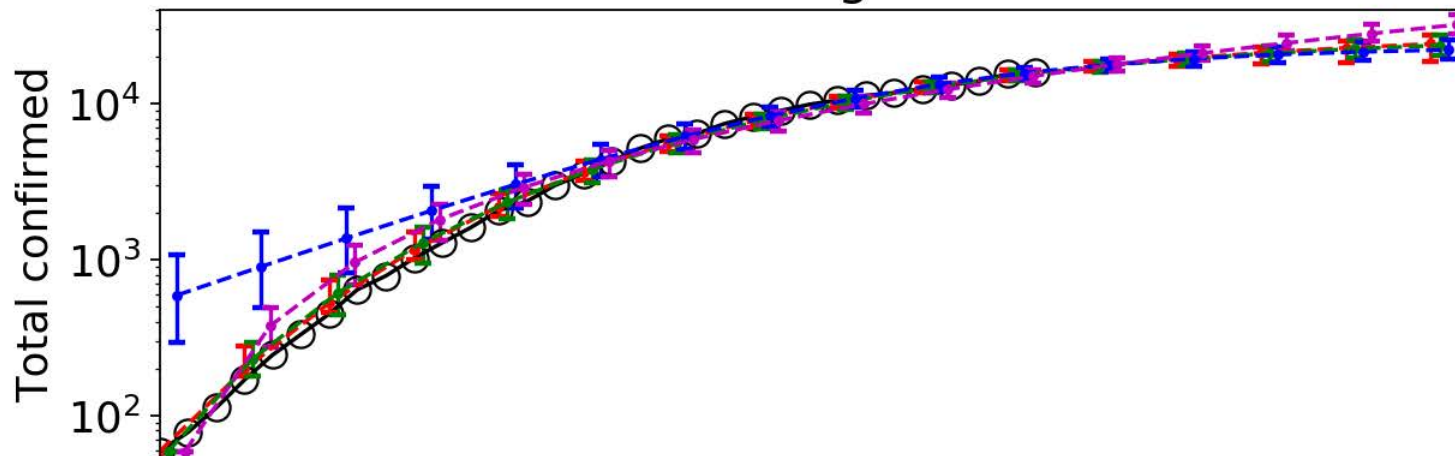
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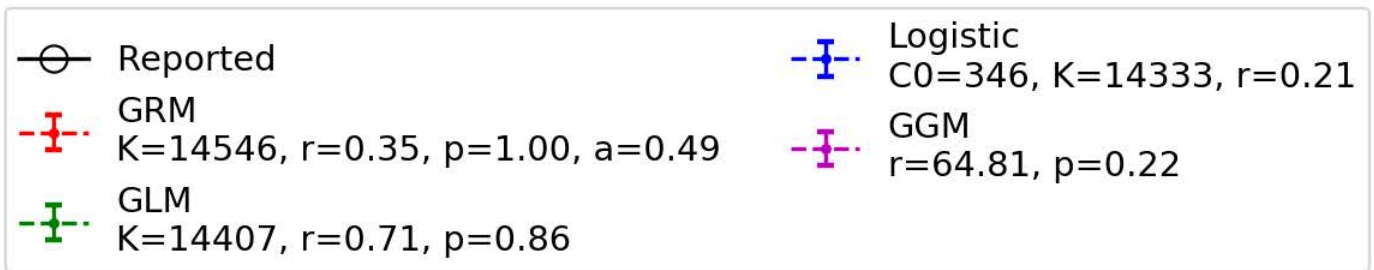
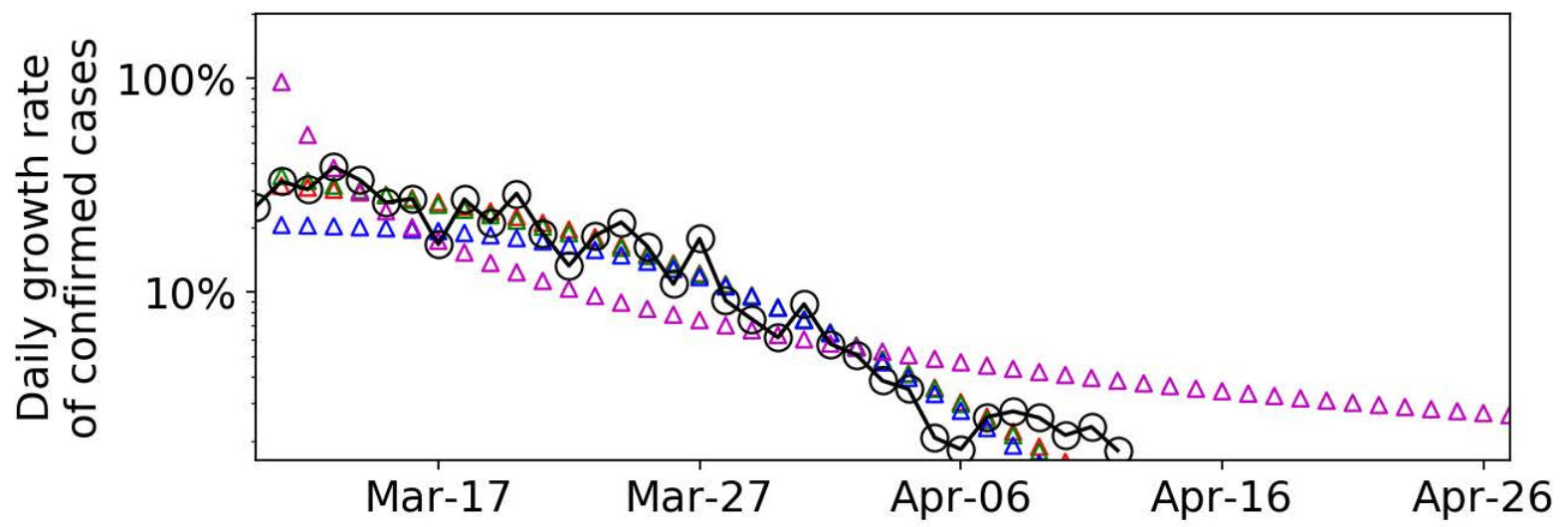
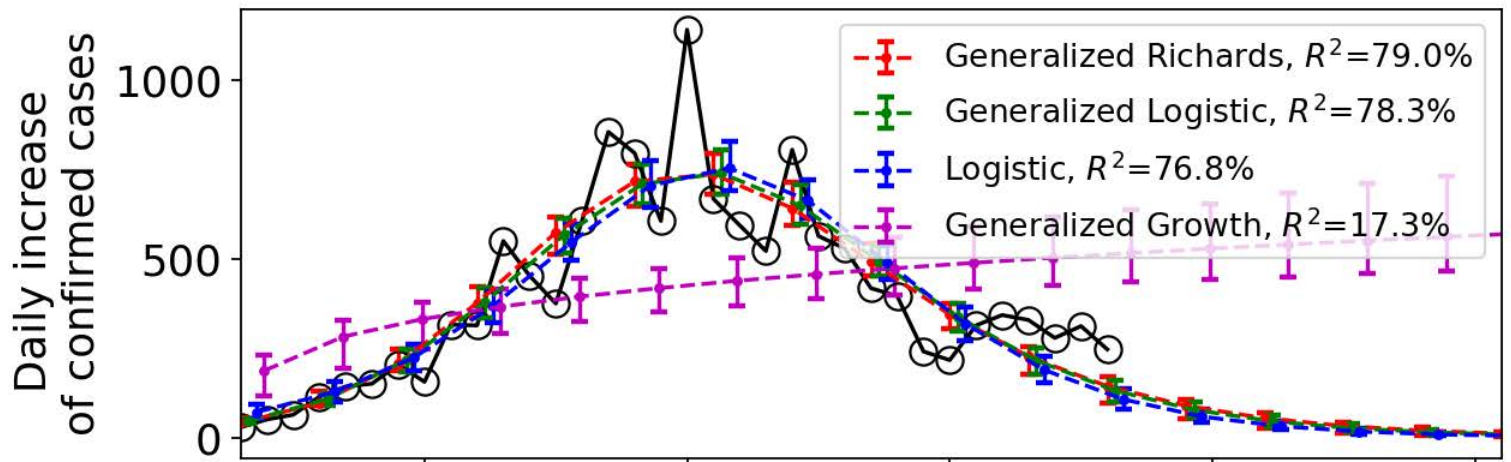
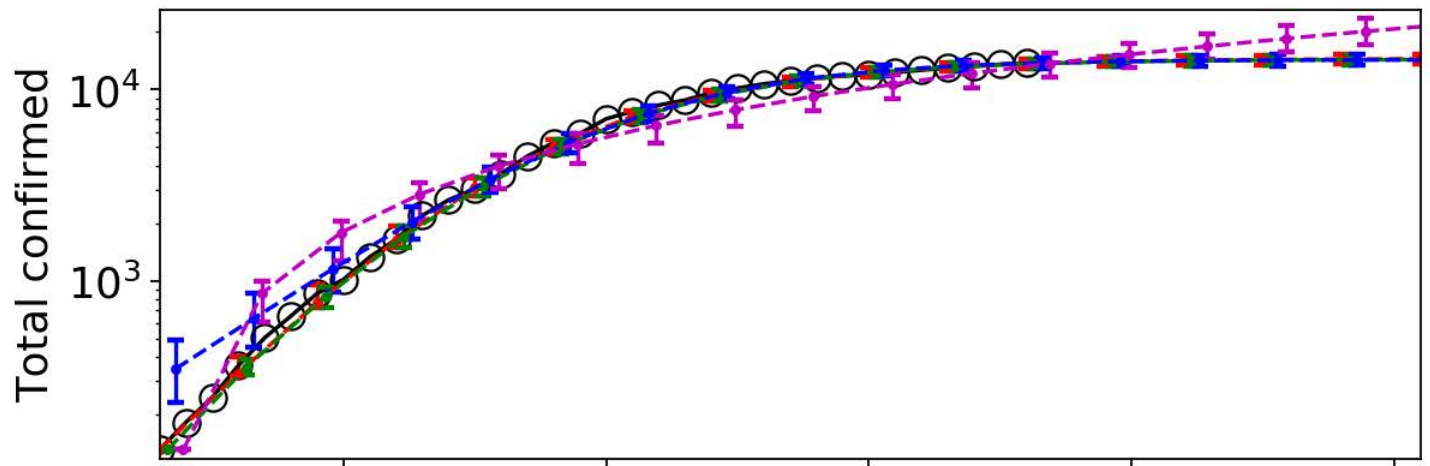
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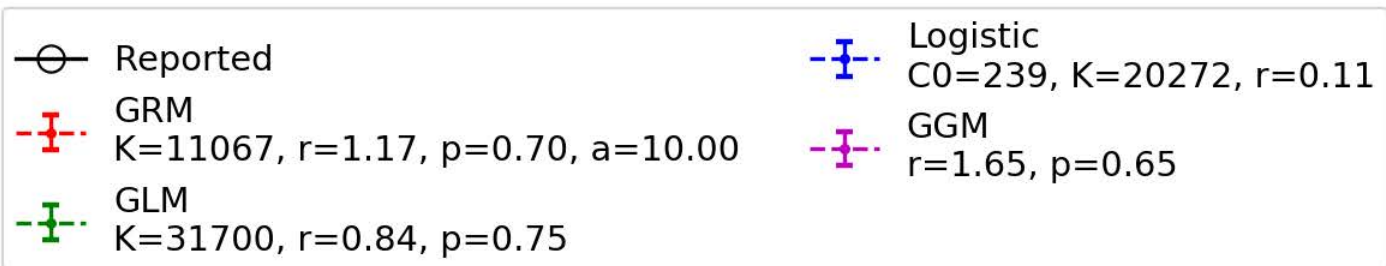
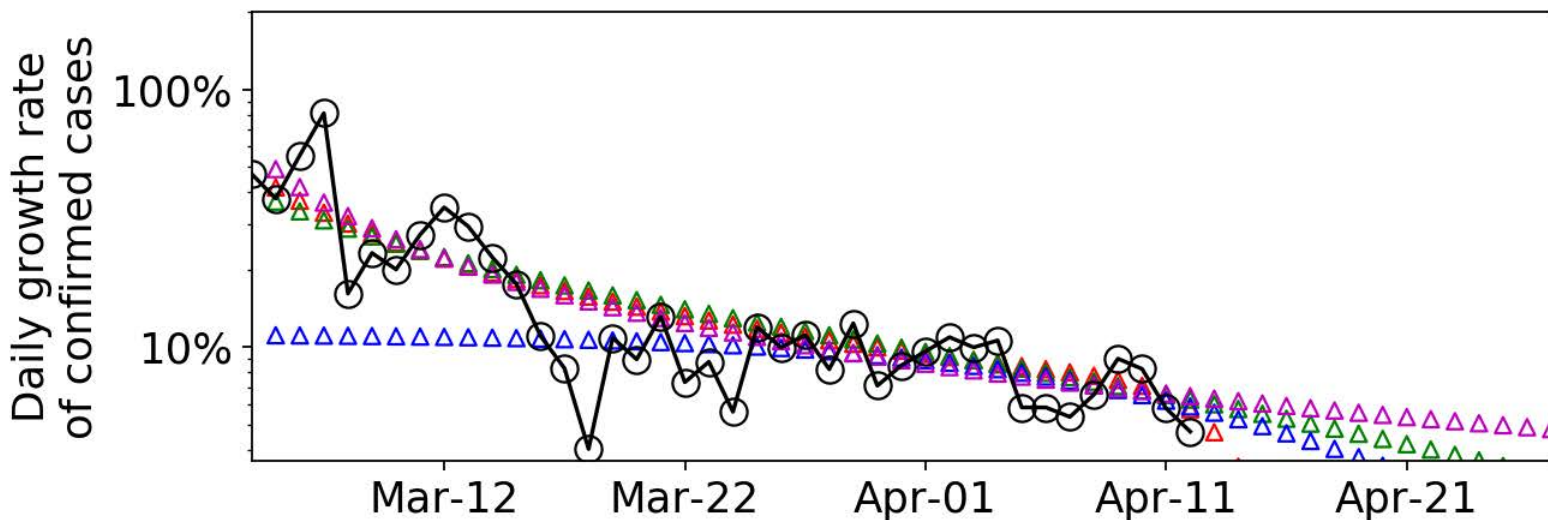
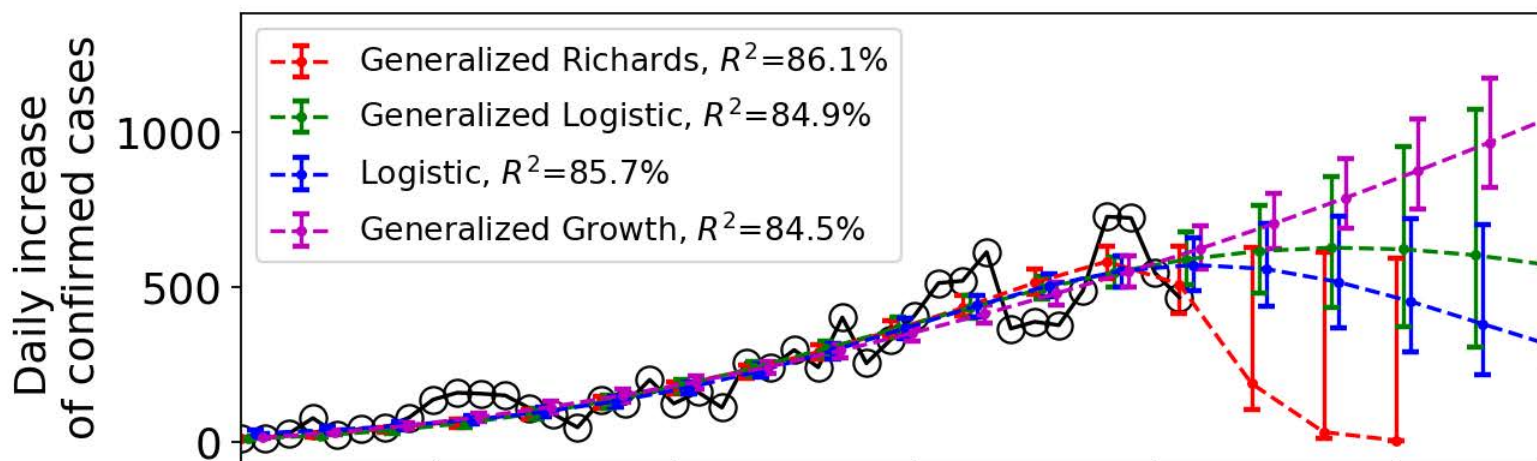
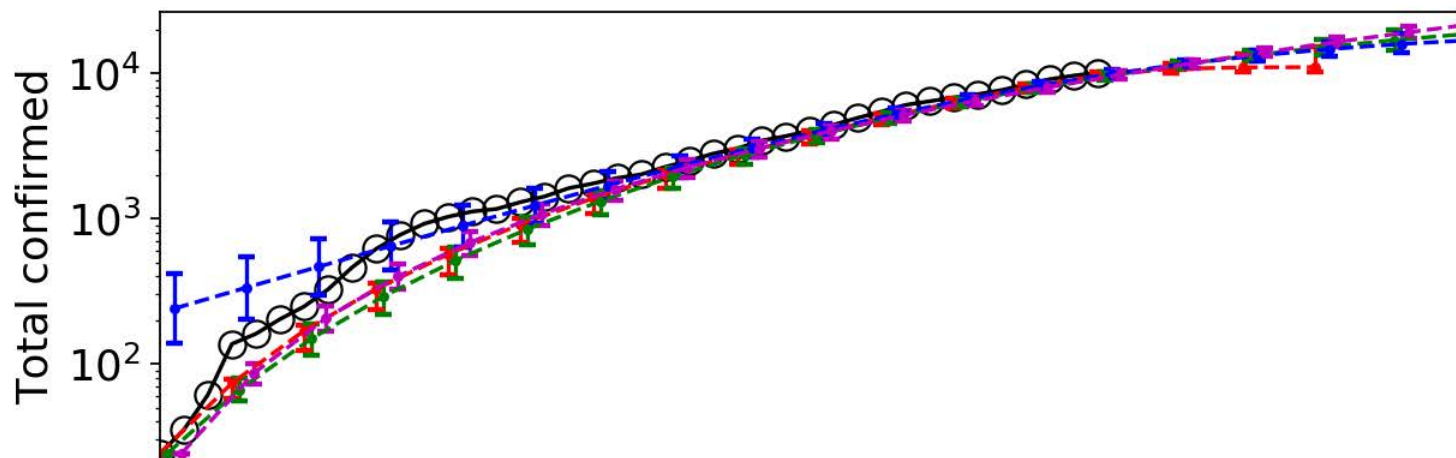
# Portugal



# Austria



# Sweden



# Japan

