Mathematics 4MB3/6MB3 Mathematical Biology
http://www.math.mcmaster.ca/earn/4MB3
2019 ASSIGNMENT 4

Group Name: The Rolling Stones

Group Members: Mick Jagger, Keith Richards, Ronnie Wood, Charlie Watts

This assignment is **due in class** on **Wednesday March 13 2019 at 10:30am**.

1. (a) You should have received the following data files by e-mail:

    meas_uk__lon_1944-94_wk.csv
    meas_uk__lpl_1944-94_wk.csv

   These plain text comma-separated-value files list weekly cases of measles (in London and Liverpool, England, from 1944 to 1994). Depending on which research direction you select, you might receive other files in the same ymdc (year,month,day,count) format, where the count column might contain cases or deaths, for example. Write the following ℝ functions:

   (i)

   (ii)

   (iii)

   tmp

2. (b) Consider the SI model,

$$\frac{dI}{dt} = \beta(N - I)I\,, \qquad I(0) = I_0, \tag{1}$$

   where β is the transmission rate, N is the population size and $I(t)$ is the number of infected individuals at time t.

   (a)

   (b) tmp

3. The natural history of smallpox is shown in Figure 1. The US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) has recently discovered that a group of bioterrorists plans to reintroduce smallpox to the United States. The CDC has reason to believe that the terrorists are also bioengineers and have successfully altered the virus so that it causes the early rash stage to be twice as long as it was when the virus was last circulating naturally in the 1970s. Moreover, the existing smallpox vaccine apparently provides no protection against the altered virus. The CDC wants your opinion on how the alterations to the virus will affect $\mathcal{R}_0$ and the expected final size of an epidemic if the planned attack is successful.
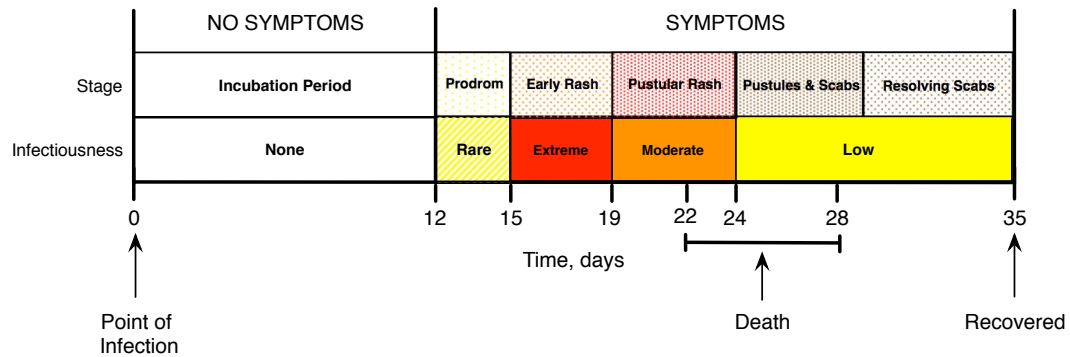
Figure 1: The natural history of smallpox infection. The prodrom stage begins with fever but the patient is very rarely contagious. Early rash is the most contagious stage, when the rash develops and transforms into bumps. During the pustular rash stage bumps become pustules, which then turn into scabs during the pustules and scabs stage and fall off during the resolving scabs stage. The infected person is contagious until the last scab falls off. (*This is Figure 3.4 from page 82 of Olga Krylova's 2011 McMaster University PhD thesis.*)

(a) tmp

(b) tmp

(c) tmp

(d) tmp

(e) tmp

— END OF ASSIGNMENT —

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