

Modelling & Simulation Report

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GitHub link to code: <https://github.com/paszach/zombies-attack> |

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1 Context

An unexpected outbreak has recently spread through Imperial, causing chaos during deadline season. Students and professors alike are having their humanity stripped by a disease of unknown characteristics.

Although not too dissimilar from the behaviour of regular Imperial students, remaining students are being cautioned to stay away from individuals that appear to be stumbling around aimlessly with a blank, gaunt look on their faces. Disaster analysts have determined that the outbreak of mindless husks, dubbed the 'Cooked,' for their seemingly fried brains, originated from the underneath the Huxley tunnels.

In an attempt to understand and hopefully mitigate the impact of this outbreak, I have been enlisted as the only remaining person with a educational license to Wolfram Mathematica. My aim is to utilise my modelling and simulation knowledge to model the current known characteristics of the outbreak in order to determine the fate of Imperial as we know it. I will assess different strategies to employ against the Cooked, as well as providing analysis on the efficacy of different strategies to vanquish the Cooked.

If I get Cooked during this report, I've uploaded all my code to GitHub, in hope it will be found and used for good: <https://github.com/paszach/zombies-attack>

This report begins with constructing a basic model of the Cooked. As more information is discovered about their characteristics, the model will be built on to better represent the behaviours of the system, including what remaining students can do to reclaim student hub from the Cooked.

From initial observations, I'll be using an SIR model as the starting point.

2 Basic SIR Model

The SIR model has been proven vital in understanding the approach used to tackle pandemics such as COVID-19. Although traditionally used for spread of infectious diseases, it can also be adapted for our re-risen [1].

The basic SIR model is a compartmental system which represents three states a member of the population can be in.

Susceptible Members of the susceptible population are those which have not yet been infected and are susceptible to becoming infected.

Infected Infected members of the population spread the disease by infecting members of the susceptible population. Once infected, infected members stay infected and contagious for a period of time.

Removed Once the infectious period of an infected member has subsided, they enter the removed population. Members of the removed population are unable to become reinfected by members of the infected population.

This model will be the starting point of simulating the imperial outbreak, as it can be easily contextualised as follows, as an altered 'HCR' model;

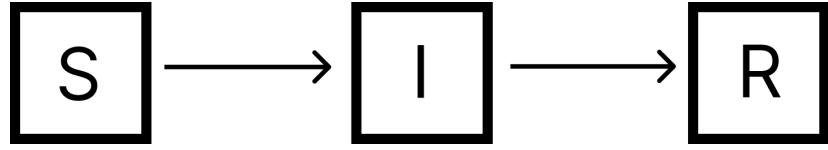


Figure 1: Diagram of basic SIR model.

Humans Members of the human population have not yet been infected and are susceptible to becoming infected.

Cooked The Cooked can infect humans. Once infected, Cooked stay infected and contagious for a period of time.

Removed Removed now becomes students that have died, or Cooked that have dropped out of Imperial. Cooked in the removed population are unable to re-animate and dead humans in the removed population are unable to become Cooked.

2.1 Parameters

β_c The transmission parameter β_c defines the number of humans that a Cooked is able to 'Cook' per unit time. If the total population without any modelled infection is P , then the number per unit time one Cooked can Cook on average is given by $\beta_c P$. This means that the probability that a given Cooked and human randomly make contact is $\frac{H}{P}$ and thus the new Cookeds per unit time can be expressed as a product of these two expressions;

$$(\beta_c P) \left(\frac{H}{P} \right) Z = \beta_c H C$$

γ_c This is the removal rate that at which the Cooked naturally enter the removed population. For now, these reasons are completely independent of the human population, i.e. not due to humans killing Cooked or by any direct effect of the human population.

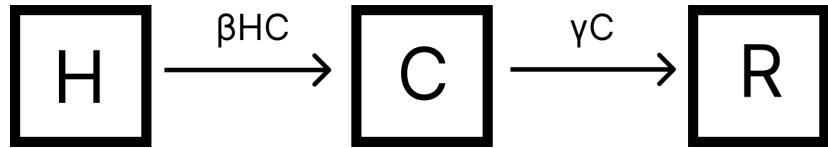


Figure 2: Diagram of basic HCR model.

2.2 Governing Equations

Implementing these parameters we have the basic equations that form the HCR model;

$$H' = -\beta_c H C$$

$$C' = \beta_c H C - \gamma_c C$$

$$R' = \gamma_c C$$

Each of these is a simple numerical equation showing the change in the population of each category. Positive terms show what entities are moving to that population, and negative show entities that are leaving that population.

2.3 Natural Units

β_c is the only term in the governing equations that has units (t^{-1}), therefore the equation can be non-dimensionalised by using the following equation.

$$t = k\hat{t}$$

Where k has units of time, t . From here, the relationship between $\frac{d}{dt}$ and $\frac{d}{d\hat{t}}$ can be determined;

$$\frac{d}{dt} = \frac{d\hat{t}}{dt} \cdot \frac{d}{d\hat{t}} = \frac{1}{k} \cdot \frac{d}{d\hat{t}}$$

Now, applying this to the original first equation of the human population;

$$H' = \frac{dH}{dt} = \frac{d}{dt}(H) = \frac{1}{k} \cdot \frac{dH}{d\hat{t}} = -\beta_c HC \therefore \frac{dH}{d\hat{t}} = -k\beta_c HC$$

Now, choosing $k = \frac{1}{\beta_c}$ for simplicity, our equation becomes;

$$\frac{dH}{d\hat{t}} = H' = -HC$$

This process can be repeated for the C and R equations, yielding the dimensionless system of equations;

$$\begin{aligned} H' &= -HC \\ C' &= HC - \frac{\gamma_c}{\beta_c} C \\ R' &= \frac{\gamma_c}{\beta_c} C \end{aligned}$$

Using natural units helps makes understanding the behaviour of a model easier. In this instance, scaling the model relative to the infection rate ensured that the time scale will encapsulate one of the most important physical properties of the system.

To further non-dimensionalise this model, we can scale the model with respect to the initial population of the humans (H_0). This step simply requires replacing H, C and R with $\frac{H}{H_0}$, $\frac{C}{H_0}$ and $\frac{R}{H_0}$ respectively.

Therefore our system of equations becomes;

$$\begin{aligned} H' &= -\frac{H}{H_0} \frac{C}{H_0} \\ C' &= \frac{H}{H_0} \frac{C}{H_0} - \frac{\gamma_c}{\beta_c} \frac{C}{H_0} \end{aligned}$$

$$R' = \frac{\gamma_c}{\beta_c} \frac{C}{H_0}$$

These can be rewritten as;

$$\begin{aligned} H' &= -\tilde{H}\tilde{C} + \frac{\alpha_c}{\beta_c}\tilde{C} \\ C' &= \tilde{H}\tilde{C} - \frac{\gamma_c}{\beta_c}\tilde{C} \\ R' &= \frac{\gamma_c}{\beta_c}\tilde{C} \end{aligned}$$

For readability and simplicity, from this point onward, $\frac{\gamma_c}{\beta_c} = \gamma$, and all accented symbols will be dropped.

$$\begin{aligned} H' &= -HC \\ C' &= HC - \gamma C \\ R' &= \gamma C \end{aligned}$$

2.4 Fixed Points and Stability Analysis

Fixed points, or equilibrium points, can be found by equating the above differential equations to 0. The phrase ‘fixed point’ is used as once the fixed point is reached, there is no possible change to the populations in the system for all future time.

$$\begin{aligned} H' &= -HC = 0 \\ C' &= HC - \gamma C = 0 \\ R' &= \gamma C = 0 \end{aligned}$$

From the last equation, $R' = \gamma C = 0$, as γ is a constant > 0 (assumption), $C = 0$. Taking the first of these equations, either $H = 0$ or $C = 0$, as their product must equal zero. This presents us with two cases wherein H can also be zero, or non-zero.

$(0, 0, R)$ This can be interpreted as the scenario where there are only members of the removed population left.

$(H, 0, R)$ This can be interpreted as the scenario where there are no Cooked on campus, and the humans have managed to eradicate/outlive the Cooked.

As a note, the initial parameters for running Wolfram are that $H_0 = 25000, C_0 = 160$, reflecting approximations for the number of Imperial students, and the number of JMC students, who seem to have been hit the hardest.

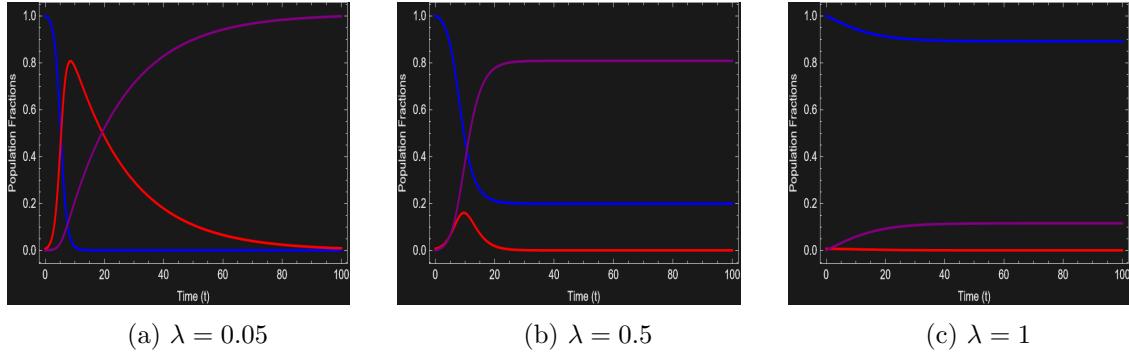


Figure 3: H (blue), C (red) and R (purple) population change over time at different λ values.

These fixed points show that co-existence is impossible, as for there to be co-existence, C must be > 0 . If $C > 0$, then $R' > 0$ which would result in a non-stationary system, and a fixed point with co-existence cannot exist.

Both fixed point states can be seen in the time evolution graphs below, with Case 1's graph tending toward an $(H = 0, C = 0, R = R)$ state, and Case 2's graph tending toward $(H = H, C = 0, R = R)$.

2.5 Stability Analysis

Stability analysis shows what happens when the parameters of the system start close-by, but not equalling to a fixed point. Practically, this will help us to understand whether if we manage to reach the $(H, 0, R)$ state in which the humans have triumphed, will the re-introduction of one or two Cooked send Imperial into mass shut-down again? Or will the Cooked population quickly decline back to 0?

Due to co-existence not being possible (shown above), stability analysis for co-existence will not be performed for this system equations. We can, however, perform stability analysis for the two fixed points found earlier.

To carry out stability analysis for the two above fixed points, a Jacobian matrix will be formed to represent the system. Following this, we will use eigen analysis, as well as examining the determinant and trace of the matrices

The system matrix is:

$$J(H, C, R) = \begin{bmatrix} -C & -H & 0 \\ C & H - \gamma & 0 \\ 0 & \gamma & 0 \end{bmatrix}$$

As the Jacobian is singular (R does not influence H or C,

$$\det(J) = 0$$

The determinant can also be expressed as a product of the eigenvalues. Since the determinant is 0, one of the eigenvalues must also be 0. This means that there will be a direction in which disruptions do not get restored to the fixed point or blown up.

System shows the borderline case in the trace determinant place and requires further analysis??

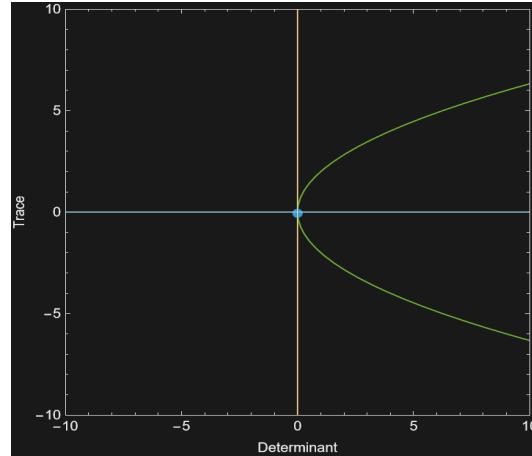
The trace can be defined as:

$$Tr(J) = H - C - \gamma$$

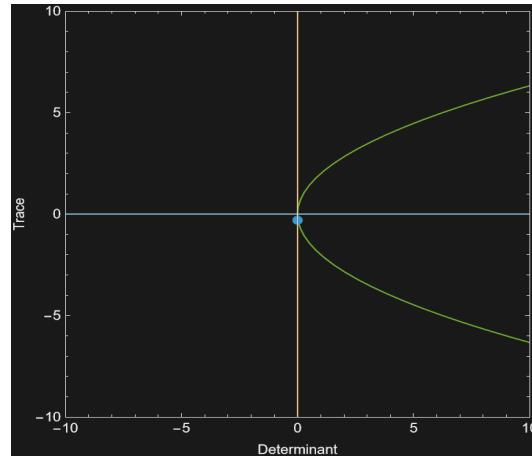
This differs for both fixed points and $(H, 0, R)$.

(0,0,R) in this case, $Tr(J) = -\gamma$. Since $\gamma > 0$, $Tr(J) < 0$.

(H,0,R) in this case, $Tr(J) = H - \gamma$.



(a) $\lambda = 0.05$



(b) $\lambda = 0.5$

Figure 4: Human to Cooked behaviour at different λ values.

EXPLANATION WITH DIAGRAMS!

2.6 Eigenvalues

Finding the Eigen values of the Jacobian allows us to further explore the stability of the system, however due to the presence of 0-eigenvalues, further methods must be used.

Solving the following equation for the eigenvalues;

$$\begin{aligned} \det(J - \lambda I) &= 0 \\ \det(J - \lambda I) &= \begin{bmatrix} -C - \lambda & -H & 0 \\ C & H - \gamma - \lambda & 0 \\ 0 & \gamma & -\lambda \end{bmatrix} = 0 \\ -\lambda \begin{vmatrix} -C - \lambda & -H \\ C & H - \gamma - \lambda \end{vmatrix} &= 0 \\ -\lambda((-C - \lambda)(H - \gamma - \lambda) + HC) &= 0 \\ \lambda((C + \lambda)(H - \gamma - \lambda) + HC) &= 0 \end{aligned}$$

At this point, we can immediately remove a factor of λ as the first eigenvalue.

$$\begin{aligned} (C + \lambda)(H - \gamma - \lambda) - HC &= 0 \\ (-1)\lambda^2 + (H - \gamma - C)\lambda - C\lambda &= 0 \end{aligned}$$

Then, using the quadratic formula;

$$\begin{aligned} \lambda_{2,3} &= \frac{(H - \gamma - C) \pm \sqrt{(H - \gamma - C)^2 - 4(-1)(-C\gamma)}}{2} \\ \lambda_{2,3} &= \frac{(H - \gamma - C) \pm \sqrt{H^2 - 2HC - 2H\gamma + C^2 - 2C\gamma + \gamma^2}}{2} \end{aligned}$$

From here, the fixed points are substituted into the equation to find the remaining eigenvalues for each case.

For case $(0, 0, R)$;

$$\begin{aligned} \lambda_{2,3} &= \frac{((0) - \gamma - (0)) \pm \sqrt{(0)^2 - 2(0)(0) - 2(0)\gamma + (0)^2 - (0)\gamma + \gamma^2}}{2} \\ \lambda_{2,3} &= \frac{(-\gamma) \pm \sqrt{\gamma^2}}{2} = \frac{(-\gamma) \pm \sqrt{\gamma^2}}{2} \\ \lambda_2 &= \frac{-\gamma + \gamma}{2} = \frac{0}{2} = 0, \lambda_3 = \frac{-\gamma - \gamma}{2} = -\gamma \end{aligned}$$

For case $(H, 0, R)$;

$$\begin{aligned} \lambda_{2,3} &= \frac{(H - \gamma - (0)) \pm \sqrt{H^2 - 2H(0) - 2H\gamma + (0)^2 - 2(0)\gamma + \gamma^2}}{2} \\ &= \frac{(H - \gamma) \pm \sqrt{H^2 - 2H\gamma + \gamma^2}}{2} = \frac{(H - \gamma) \pm \sqrt{(H - \gamma)^2}}{2} \\ \lambda_2 &= \frac{(H - \gamma) - (H - \gamma)}{2} = 0, \lambda_3 = \frac{(H - \gamma) + (H - \gamma)}{2} = H - \gamma \end{aligned}$$

To summarise:

| Fixed Point | λ_1 | λ_2 | λ_3 |
|-------------|-------------|--------------|-------------|
| (0, 0, R) | 0 | $H - \gamma$ | 0 |
| (H, 0, R) | 0 | $-\gamma$ | 0 |

For λ_2 in Case 1, the sign of the eigenvalue depends on the values of H and γ . Once at the fixed point $(0, 0, R)$, stability is dependent on the manner in which the perturbations end up arising. If H suddenly = 5, then γ must be > 5 to ensure the system evolves back to the fixed point ($\lambda_2 < 0$), otherwise if $\gamma < 5$, the system will become unstable as $\lambda_2 > 0$.

However in Case 2, γ is always negative, as $\gamma > 0$. From this we can interpret that there is stability in this direction, and any small perturbations will quickly re-normalise back to the fixed point.

2.7 Phase Space Analysis

Due to the presence of zero-eigenvalues we can interpret that the behaviour in these directions as driven by non-linear terms in the system. To better analyse the system behaviour, we will next examine the 'phase space.'

Phase space analysis gives us a way to examine the way in which the population of humans and the Cooked will evolve over time from different states.

The behaviour of the system is governed by the factor removal rate γ , and the initial starting conditions. Phase space diagrams show the behaviours over a range of initial population conditions, so the graphs are generated solely from differing values of γ .

Three graphs have been generated, one with a low removal rate (0.05), one with a mid-level removal rate (0.5) and one with a high level removal rate (2.0). To restate, these numbers represent the rate at which the Cooked naturally enter the removed population, without the influence of any external factors.

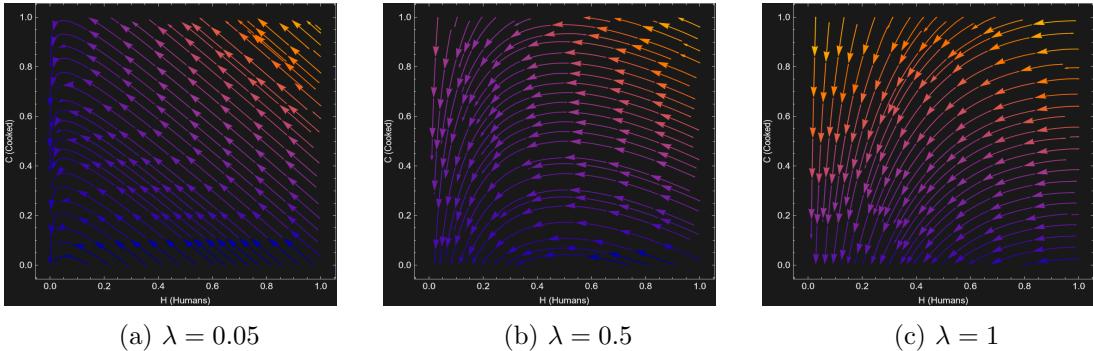


Figure 5: Human to Cooked behaviour at different λ values.

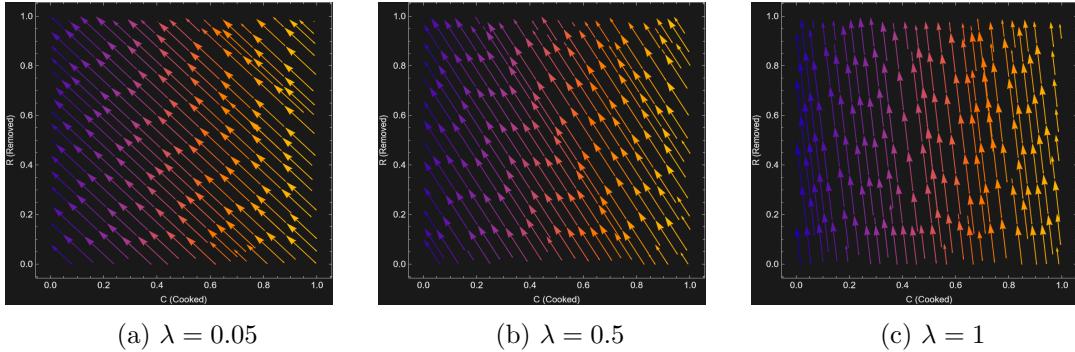


Figure 6: Cooked to Removed behaviour at different λ values.

how do eigenvalues correspond to the direction 'stability in this direction'

In all of the phase space diagrams in Figure 5, we can see that the arrows point toward a decline in both populations, representing the Humans gradually being Cooked and the Cooked gradually entering the Removed population.

$\lambda = 0.05$, **0,0,R** In Figure 5 (a), we can see that with a very low removal rate, the Cooked are very successful at Cooking the remaining students on campus. By the time that almost all of the Humans are Cooked, the Cooked have only just begun to enter the Removed population. It can be seen that all arrows are converging around the point $(0,0)$, which aligns with our fixed point.

$\lambda = 0.5$, **Small H,0,R** With a mid-level removal rate, the Cooked have an initial gain in population, but the gain quickly levels out and then declines. This graph also shows that the Human population eventually stabilises above 0 when there are no remaining Cooked present.

$\lambda = 1$, **Large H,0,R** In contrast, in Figure 5 (c), the Cooked population is in constant gradual decline over time. This decline in Cooked is slowed by larger initial values of Human population, but always ends with the Cooked population converging toward 0. Also, it can be seen that the Human population stabilises at higher values than in Fig 5. (b).

I need to write more here explaining stuff

2.8 Model Evaluation

Although this model gives us helpful insight into important factors influencing the outcome of the Cooked take-over, such as maximising λ for higher stabilisation rates of the Human Population, in this model there is no way for Human choice or behaviour to influence the situation. This model implies that the best hope for Imperial is for the students to all leave campus and just wait for the Cooked to run out of energy and enter the Removed population.

However, whilst trying to research into how this all started, I found a link for students to be able to book 'well-being meetings.' Maybe these meetings can provide the Cooked students with a way to enter the normal student population again-or even for normal students to learn some management strategies to ensure they never get Cooked in the first place!

3 First Alteration

With the introduction of well-being meetings, we must update our model. Now, there is a sub-group of Human students who are Immune to becoming Cooked, as well as a way for the Cooked to re-enter the Human student population. After the outbreak, the well-being meetings were given priority access to the Cooked, meaning that the number of 'Immune' students is a constant number of Humans. This effect can be simplified as removing the Immune students from the system completely.

3.1 Governing Equations

Adding in the terms to represent the Un-Cooked students rejoining the Human student population ($\alpha_c C$), and the Cooked rejoining the human student population after their well-being meetings ($-\alpha_c C$), we have our new system of equations.

$$\begin{aligned} H' &= -\beta_c HC + \alpha_c C \\ C' &= \beta_c HC - \gamma_c C - \gamma_c C \\ R' &= \gamma_c C \end{aligned}$$

This new parameter α is the 'resurrection' rate, influencing how quickly the Cooked can re-enter the typical student population. The bigger α is, the quicker well-being meetings can be carried out.

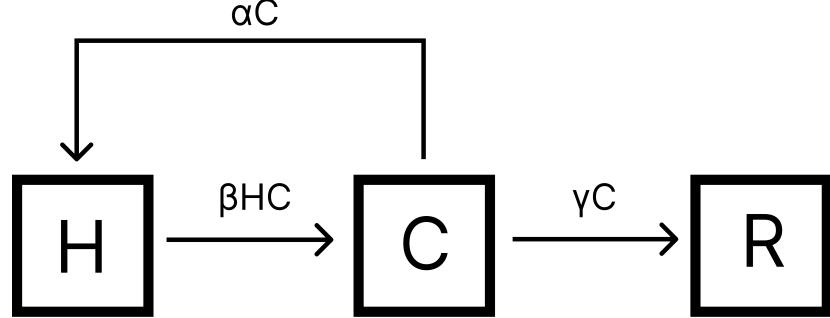


Figure 7: Updated HCR model 2.0.

3.2 Natural Units

The same process from earlier will be used to non-dimentionalise the equations. For the Human population;

$$\begin{aligned} H' &= \frac{dH}{dt} = \frac{d}{dt}(H) = \frac{1}{k} \cdot \frac{dH}{d\hat{t}} = -\beta_c HC + \alpha_c C \\ \therefore \frac{dH}{d\hat{t}} &= -k\beta_c HC + k\alpha_c C \end{aligned}$$

Now, choosing $k = \frac{1}{\beta_c C}$ for simplicity, our equation becomes;

$$\frac{dH}{d\hat{t}} = \hat{H}' = -HC + \frac{\alpha_c}{\beta_c}C$$

This process can be repeated for the C and R equations, yielding the dimensionless system of equations;

$$\begin{aligned}\hat{H}' &= -HC + \frac{\alpha_c}{\beta_c}C \\ \hat{C}' &= HC - \frac{\gamma_c}{\beta_c}C - \frac{\alpha_c}{\beta_c}C \\ \hat{R}' &= \frac{\gamma_c}{\beta_c}C\end{aligned}$$

And again repeating the process of scaling the model relative to the initial population (H_0). Therefore our system of equations becomes;

$$\begin{aligned}H' &= -\tilde{H}\tilde{C} + \frac{\alpha_c}{\beta_c}\tilde{C} \\ C' &= \tilde{H}\tilde{C} - \frac{\gamma_c}{\beta_c}\tilde{C} - \frac{\alpha_c}{\beta_c}\tilde{C} \\ R' &= \frac{\gamma_c}{\beta_c}\tilde{C}\end{aligned}$$

For readability and simplicity, from this point onward, $\frac{\gamma_c}{\beta_c} = \gamma$, $\frac{\alpha_c}{\beta_c} = \alpha$, and all accented symbols will be dropped.

$$\begin{aligned}H' &= -HC + \alpha C \\ C' &= HC - \gamma C - \alpha C \\ R' &= \gamma C\end{aligned}$$

3.3 Stability Analysis

Carrying out fixed point analysis again would yield the same results, as the equilibrium conditions of the system to not change through the addition of the α terms, as for equilibrium $C=0$ still. This means that the determinant of the Jacobian will still always be 0, and there will still be zero-eigenvalues.

$$\begin{aligned}H' &= -HC + \alpha C = 0 \\ C' &= HC - \gamma C - \alpha C = 0 \\ R' &= \gamma C = 0\end{aligned}$$

Instead, we will look at a reduced subsystem, as HC determines the entire behaviour of the system. Our system can be re-written as such;

$$\begin{aligned}H' &= (\alpha - H)C \\ C' &= (H - \gamma - \alpha)C\end{aligned}$$

Effects on rates of change The addition of the α factors slows down the rate at which the human population gets Cooked, and also speeds up the rate of reduction of the Cooked population.

We can also see from $C' = (H - \gamma - \alpha)C$, that in a Human only population, if the number of Cooked introduced is less than $\gamma + \alpha$ then the Cooked population will decline, and if more than $\gamma + \alpha$ then the Cooked population will grow.

3.4 Nullcline Analysis

join this with logic of previous + add nullcline explanation explicitly for the previous section

$$H' = (\alpha - H)C = 0$$

$$C' = (H - \gamma - \alpha)C = 0$$

Another way to interpret this is to examine the change in the Nullclines. Previously, the nullclines were at $H = 0$ and $H = \gamma$. The introduction of the alpha factors have shifted the nullclines by a factor of α . The nullclines are now at $H = \alpha$ and $H = \gamma + \alpha$.

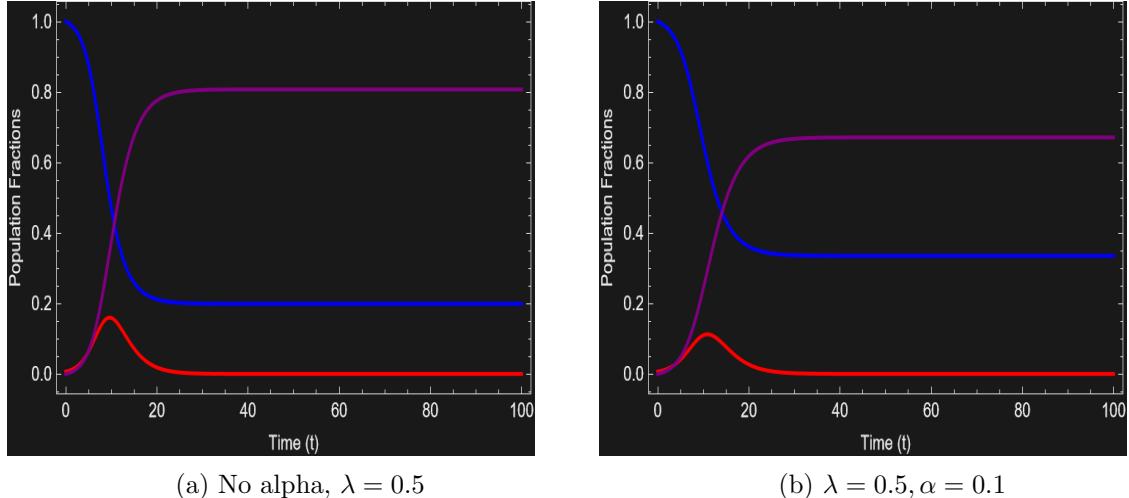
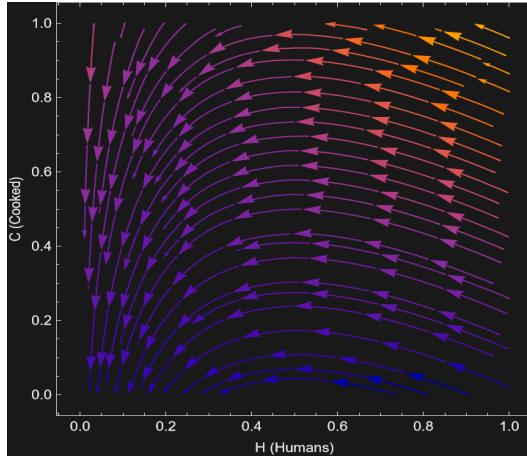
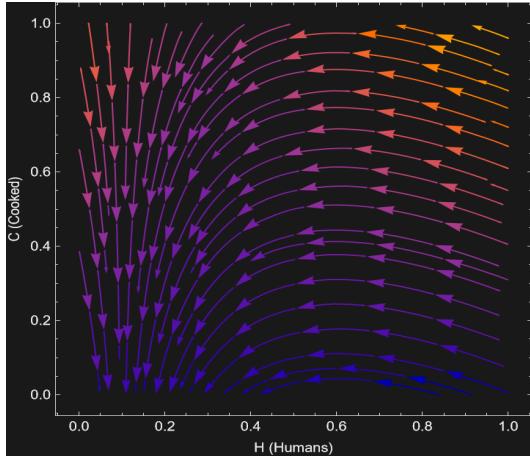


Figure 8: H (blue), C (red) and R (purple) population change over time with the addition of well-being meetings.



(a) No alpha, $\lambda = 0.5$



(b) $\lambda = 0.5, \alpha = 0.1$

Figure 9: H (blue), C (red) and R (purple) population change over time with the addition of well-being meetings.

The shift by α can be seen in the time population graph in all three populations, H and R are shifted up and down respectively, and the peak of C is shifted down by α . The effect can also be seen in the phase space diagram, with the nullcline shifting from $H = 0$ to $H = \alpha$.

3.5 Model Evaluation

4 Second Alteration

4.1 Governing Equations

4.2 Natural Units

4.3 Analysis Section 1

4.4 Analysis Section 2

4.5 Model Evaluation

5 Conclusion

References

- [1] R. Smith?, Ed., *Mathematical modelling of zombies*. Ottawa: University of Ottawa Press, 2014.