

# R Epidemics Consortium and Using Its Packages to Analyze Influenza Data

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- 1 The R Epidemic CONsortium (RECON)
- 2 RECON Packages
- 3 Epidemic Curve and *incidence* Package
- 4 Time-varying Reproduction Number  $R_t$  and *EpiEstim* package

# Precursor of RECON — Hackout 3

## Hackout 3 ([hackout3.ropensci.org](http://hackout3.ropensci.org))

An  hackthon of analysis and modelling tools for emergency outbreak response

## Hackout 3

20-24 June 2016 • Berkeley, CA • USA



MRC  
Centre for  
Outbreak Analysis  
and Modelling

Imperial College  
London

BERKELEY  
Institute for  
Data Science



Thibaut Jombart  
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Imperial College London  
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Karthik Ram  
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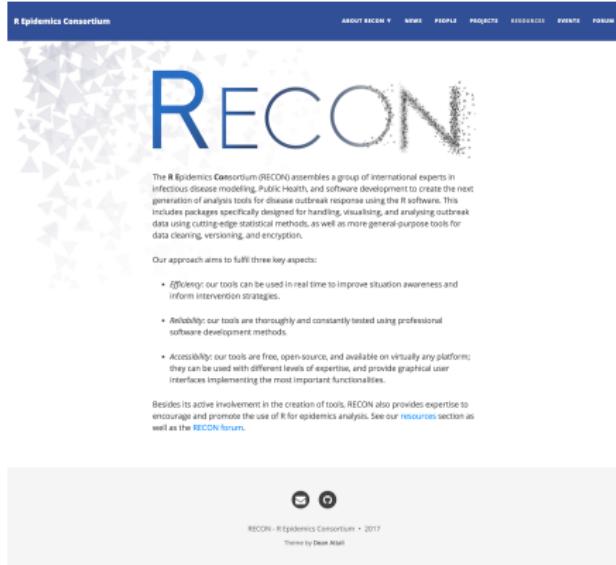


Marc Baguelin  
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# The R Epidemics CONsortium (RECON)

a group of international experts in infectious disease modelling, public health, and software development to create the next generation of analysis tools for disease outbreak response using 



The R Epidemics Consortium (RECON) is a group of international experts in infectious disease modeling, public health, and software development to create the next generation of analysis tools for disease outbreak response using the R software. This includes packages specifically designed for handling, visualizing, and analyzing outbreak data using cutting-edge statistical methods, as well as more general-purpose tools for data cleaning, versioning, and encryption.

Our approach aims to fulfill three key aspects:

- Efficiency:** our tools can be used in real time to improve situation awareness and inform intervention strategies.
- Reliability:** our tools are thoroughly and constantly tested using professional software development methods.
- Accessibility:** our tools are free, open-source, and available on virtually any platform; they can be used with different levels of expertise, and provide graphical user interfaces implementing the most important functionalities.

Besides its active involvement in the creation of tools, RECON also provides expertise to encourage and promote the use of R for epidemics analysis. See our [resources](#) section as well as the [RECON forums](#).

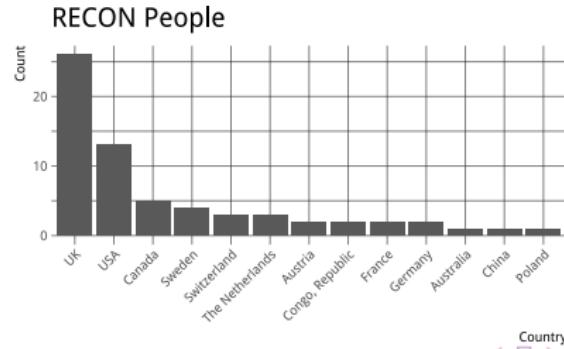
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[www.repidemicsconsortium.org](http://www.repidemicsconsortium.org)



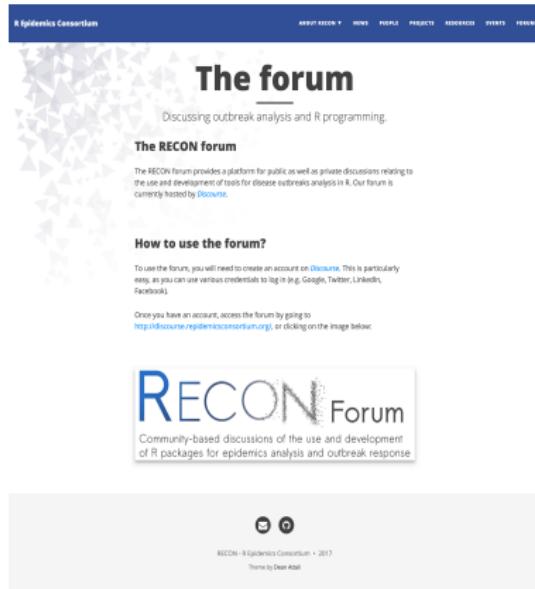
# RECON

- started 6th September, 2016
- 65 people (57 members, 6 advisory board, 2 administrative staffs)
- 13 countries, > 35 institutions
- 3 new packages (*outbreaks*, *incidence*, and *epicontacts*) released, ~10
  - 15 packages in development
- involvement in training programmes starting in 2017 (**the Field Epidemiology Training Program (FETP)**, the **European Programme for Intervention Epidemiology Training (EPIET)**, ...)
- **public forum**, blog, online resources



# The RECON forum ([discourse.repidemicsconsortium.org](https://discourse.repidemicsconsortium.org))

A platform for public as well as private discussions relating to the use and development of tools for disease outbreaks analysis in 



**R Epidemic Consortium**

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## The forum

Discussing outbreak analysis and R programming.

### The RECON forum

The RECON forum provides a platform for public as well as private discussions relating to the use and development of tools for disease outbreaks analysis in R. Our forum is currently hosted by Discourse.

### How to use the forum?

To use the forum, you will need to create an account on [Discourse](#). This is particularly easy, as you can use various credentials to log in (e.g. Google, Twitter, LinkedIn, Facebook).

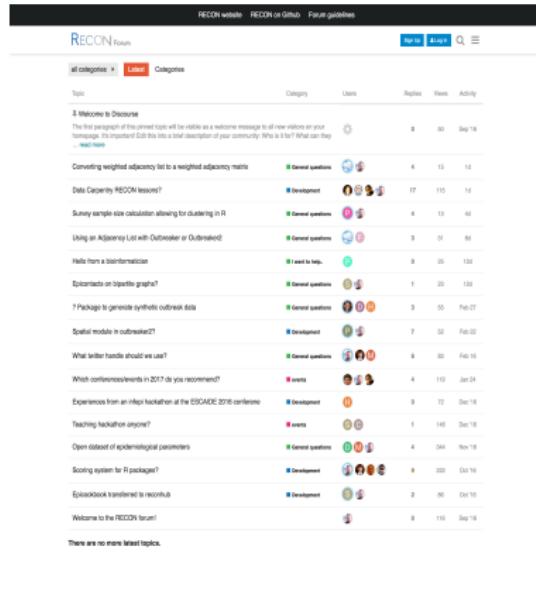
Once you have an account, access the forum by going to <http://discourse.repidemicsconsortium.org>, or clicking on the image below:



Community-based discussions of the use and development of R packages for epidemics analysis and outbreak response

[RECON Forum](#)

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[RECON website](#) [RECON on GitHub](#) [Future guidelines](#)

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### RECON Forum

[View all topics](#) [Create new topic](#) [Categories](#)

Topic	Category	User	Replies	Views	Activity
<a href="#">1. Welcome to Discourse</a>			0	30	Sep '18
<a href="#">2. Converting weighted adjacency list to a weighted adjacency matrix</a>	General questions	  	4	15	Jul '18
<a href="#">3. Data Carpentry RECON lessons?</a>	Development	  	17	115	Jul '18
<a href="#">4. Survey sample size calculation, allowing for clustering in R</a>	General questions	 	4	13	Jul '18
<a href="#">5. Using an Adjacency List with Outbreak or Outbreaks?</a>	General questions	 	3	31	Jul '18
<a href="#">6. Hello from a bioinformatician</a>	I need help...		9	25	Jul '18
<a href="#">7. Explanation on bipartite graphs?</a>	General questions	 	1	23	Jul '18
<a href="#">8. ? Package to generate synthetic outbreak data</a>	General questions	  	9	55	Feb '17
<a href="#">9. Spatial module in outbreaker2?</a>	Development	  	7	52	Feb '17
<a href="#">10. What better handle should we use?</a>	General questions	  	8	83	Feb '17
<a href="#">11. Which conference/events in 2017 do you recommend?</a>	events	  	4	110	Jan '17
<a href="#">12. Experience from an info-hackathon at the ESCAPE2016 conference</a>	Development	 	9	72	Dec '16
<a href="#">13. Teaching hackathon anyone?</a>	events	  	1	140	Dec '16
<a href="#">14. Open dataset of epidemiological parameters</a>	General questions	  	4	344	Nov '16
<a href="#">15. Scoring system for R packages?</a>	Development	  	3	333	Oct '16
<a href="#">16. Epidatbook transferred to routinlib</a>	Development	 	2	86	Oct '16
<a href="#">17. Welcome to the RECON forum!</a>			9	110	Sep '18

There are no more latest topics.

# Join us!



# Aims of RECON packages

- **Efficiency:** used in real time to improve situation awareness and inform intervention strategies. **cutting-edge, computer-efficient statistical methods and epidemic models**
- **Reliability:** thoroughly and constantly tested using professional software development platform (e.g., [GitHub](#)) and methods (e.g., `testthat` and `covr`). **extensive unit testing, code review**
- **Accessibility:** free, open-source, and available on virtually any platform, easy learning curve; **extensive documentation, tutorials, GUI implementation**

- Released packages



**outbreaks**: collection of outbreak data. [House icon](#) [GitHub icon](#)



**incidence**: computation, handling, visualisation and simple modelling of incidence. [House icon](#) [GitHub icon](#)



**epicontacts**: handling, visualisation and analysis of epidemiological contacts. [House icon](#) [GitHub icon](#)

- Up-and-coming packages



**cleanr**: rationalised and reproducible data cleaning. [GitHub icon](#)



**dibbler**: investigation of food-borne disease outbreaks. [GitHub icon](#)



**distcrete**: discretized probability distributions. [GitHub icon](#)



**epimatch**: finding matching patient records across tabular data sets. [GitHub icon](#)



**outbreaker2**: inferring transmission chains by integrating epidemiological and genetic data. [GitHub icon](#)

- Up-and-coming packages (continued)



**vimes**: Visualisation and Monitoring of Epidemics, including some outbreak detection algorithms.

- Related packages



**EpiEstim**: quantifying transmissibility throughout an epidemic from incidence time series.



**OutbreakTools**: basic analysis and visualisation of complex line-list data (to be replaced by *incidence* and *epicontacts*).



**EpiJSON**: implementation of a generic json format for case outbreak data.



**repijson**: R package implementing *EpiJSON* format.



**outbreaker**: inferring transmission chains using temporal and genetic information.

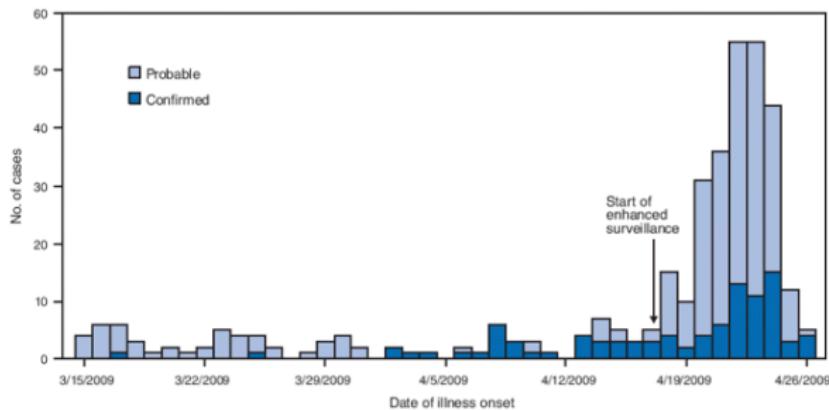


**DSAIDE**: Dynamical Systems Approach to Infectious Disease Epidemiology - a Shiny/R based teaching.

## Epidemic Curve (Epi Curve)

shows the frequency of new cases over time based on the **date of onset** of disease.

Number of confirmed ( $N = 97$ ) and probable ( $N = 260$ )<sup>1</sup> cases of swine-origin influenza A (H1N1) virus (S-OIV) infection, by date of illness onset — Mexico, March 15 – April 26, 2009 (adapted from Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) 2009)



- Stacked bar plot
- Daily: date formatted tick labels on x-axis

<sup>1</sup>Probable cases for which dates of illness onset are known.

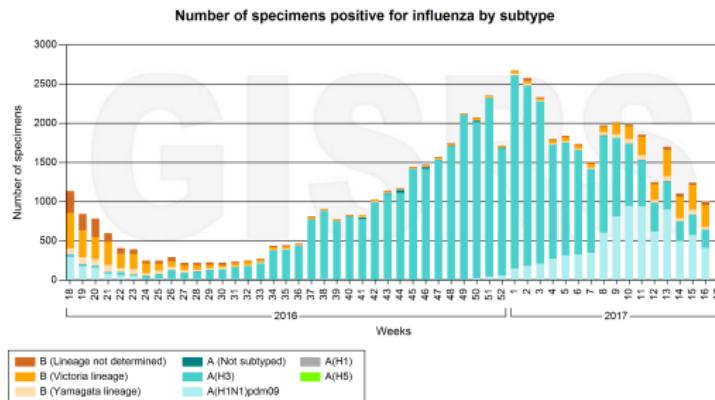
# Ubiquitous plot in epidemiological reports



Influenza Laboratory Surveillance Information  
by the Global Influenza Surveillance and Response System (GISRS)

generated on 07/05/2017 15:33:20 UTC

China



Data source: FluNet ([www.who.int/fluinet/](http://www.who.int/fluinet/)). GISRS.

© World Health Organization 2017.

- Stacked bar plot
- Weekly: x-axis tick labels – ISO 8601 week number

# Epidemic Curve of Influenza A H7N9 in China, 2013

- By gender
- Daily and weekly

```
library(outbreaks)
head(fluH7N9_china_2013, 6)

##   case_id date_of_onset date_of_hospitalisation date_of_outcome outcome
## 1        1 2013-02-19                      <NA> 2013-03-04    Death
## 2        2 2013-02-27 2013-03-03 2013-03-10    Death
## 3        3 2013-03-09 2013-03-19 2013-04-09    Death
## 4        4 2013-03-19 2013-03-27                      <NA> <NA>
## 5        5 2013-03-19 2013-03-30 2013-05-15 Recover
## 6        6 2013-03-21 2013-03-28 2013-04-26    Death

##   gender age province
## 1     m  87 Shanghai
## 2     m  27 Shanghai
## 3     f  35 Anhui
## 4     f  45 Jiangsu
## 5     f  48 Jiangsu
## 6     f  32 Jiangsu

range(fluH7N9_china_2013$date_of_onset, na.rm = TRUE)
## [1] "2013-02-19" "2013-07-27"
```

# Plot daily epidemic curve from scratch

```

date.range <- range(df$date_of_onset)
full.date <- seq(date.range[1], date.range[2],
                  by = "day")

# count dated events according to breaks
count.date <- function(dated.events, breaks) {
  df <- data.frame(date = dated.events)
  n <- sapply(breaks, function(b) {
    subdf <- subset(df, date == b)
    nrow(subdf)
  })
  return(data.frame(date = breaks, n))
}

date.list <- tapply(df$date_of_onset, df$gender,
                     count.date, full.date)
date.df <- reduce(date.list, left_join, by = "date")
names(date.df)[-1] <- names(date.list)

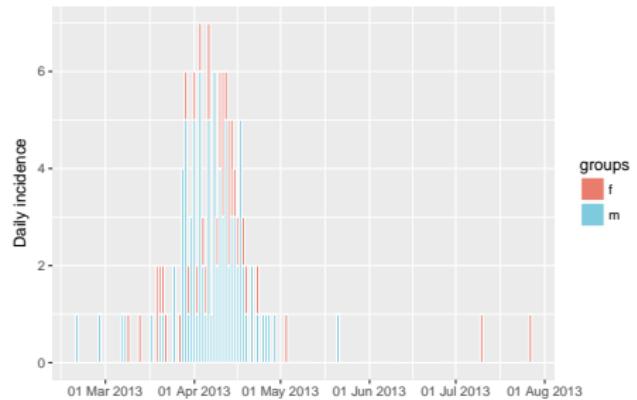
# reshape data.frame from wide into long format
library(reshape2)
date.long <- melt(date.df, id.vars = c("date"),
                   variable.name = 'groups',
                   value.name = "counts")

```

```

library(ggplot2)
library(ggsci)
library(scales)
ggplot(date.long, aes(date, counts, fill = groups)) +
  geom_bar(stat = "identity", position = "stack",
           width = 1, color = "white", alpha = .7) +
  labs(x = "", y = "Daily incidence") +
  scale_fill_npg() +
  scale_x_date(labels = date_format("%d %b %Y"))

```



# Plot ISOweek-based weekly epidemic curve from scratch

```

library(ISOweek)
full.week <- unique(ISOweek(full.date))

df1 <- df %>%
  mutate(isoweek = ISOweek(date_of_onset)) %>%
  glimpse()

count.isoweek <- function(isoweek.events, breaks) {
  df <- data.frame(isoweek = isoweek.events)
  n <- sapply(breaks, function(b) {
    subdf <- subset(df, isoweek == b)
    nrow(subdf)
  })
  return(data.frame(isoweek = breaks, n))
}

week.list <- tapply(df1$isoweek, df$gender,
                     count.isoweek, full.week)
week.df <- reduce(week.list, left_join,
                   by = "isoweek")
names(week.df)[-1] <- names(week.list)
# add isoweek starting day
weekdate <- paste0(week.df$isoweek, "-1")
week.df$weekday <- ISOweek2date(weekdate)

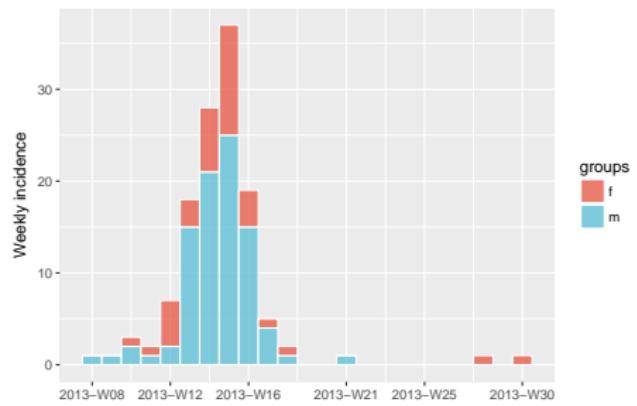
# reshape data.frame from wide into long format
week.long <- melt(week.df, id.vars = c("isoweek",
                                         "weekday"),
                   variable.name = 'groups',
                   value.name = "counts")

```

```

# x-axis tick labels
ind <- trunc(seq(1, nrow(week.df), length = 6))
tickind <- week.df$weekday[ind]
ticklab <- week.df$isoweek[ind]
ggplot(week.long, aes(weekday, counts, fill = groups)) +
  geom_bar(stat = "identity", position = "stack",
           width = 7, color = "white", alpha = .7) +
  labs(x = "", y = "Weekly incidence") +
  scale_fill_npg() +
  scale_x_date(breaks = tickind, labels = ticklab)

```



# *incidence* package



*incidence*: compute, handle, visualise  
and model incidence of dated events

[build](#) [passing](#) [ci build](#) [passing](#) [codecov](#) 100% [CRAN](#) 1.1.2 [downloads](#) 253/month



Thibaut Jombart

Founder of RECON.  
Statistician and R  
programmer specialized in  
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Imperial College London,  
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Rich Fitzjohn

R developer specialized  
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Jun Cai

PhD candidate interested  
in influenza transmission  
dynamics and R  
programming. Center for  
Earth System Science,  
Tsinghua University,  
China.



author, creator

author

contributor

## Vignettes

- Overview of the incidence package
- Details of the incidence class
- Customize plots of incidence

# Daily plot using *incidence*

```

suppressPackageStartupMessages(library(tidyverse))
df <- fluH7N9_china_2013 %>%
  filter(!is.na(date_of_onset))

library(incidence)
inc.gender.daily <- incidence(df$date_of_onset,
                               groups = df$gender,
                               interval = 1)

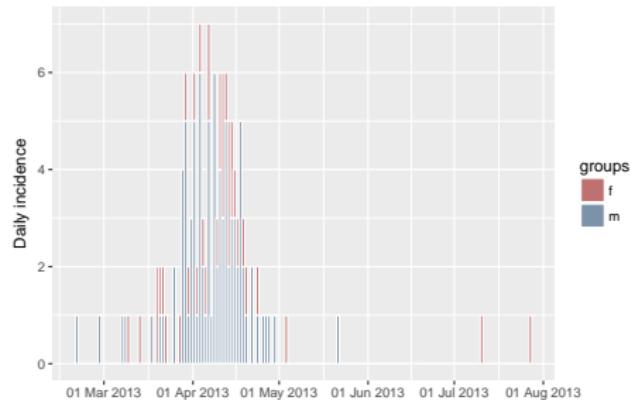
## <incidence object>
## [126 cases from days 2013-02-19 to 2013-07-27]
## [2 groups: f, m]
##
## $counts: matrix with 159 rows and 2 columns
## $n: 126 cases in total
## $dates: 159 dates marking the left-side of bins
## $interval: 1 day
## $timespan: 159 days

inc.gender.daily %>%
  as.data.frame() %>%
  head(3)

##           dates f m
## 1 2013-02-19 0 1
## 2 2013-02-20 0 0
## 3 2013-02-21 0 0

plot(inc.gender.daily, border = "white") +
  scale_x_date(labels = date_format("%d %b %Y"))

```



# Weekly plot using *incidence*

```
# weekly plot, but not calendar week-based
inc.gender.week <- incidence(df$date_of_onset,
                             groups = df$gender,
                             interval = 7,
                             iso_week = FALSE)

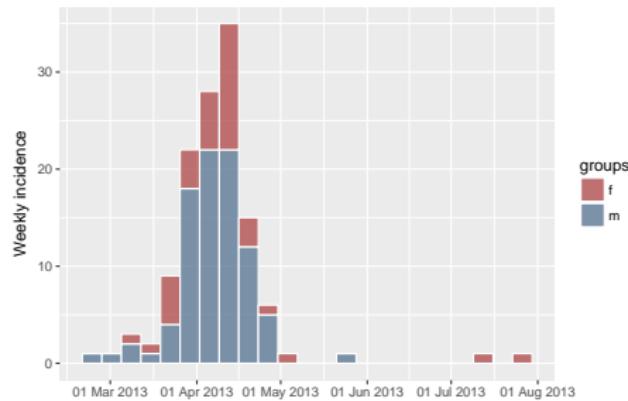
inc.gender.week
## <incidence object>
## [126 cases from days 2013-02-19 to 2013-07-23]
## [2 groups: f, m]
##
## $counts: matrix with 23 rows and 2 columns
## $n: 126 cases in total
## $dates: 23 dates marking the left-side of bins
## $interval: 7 days
## $timespan: 155 days

inc.gender.week %>%
  as.data.frame() %>%
  head(3)

##          dates f m
## 1 2013-02-19 0 1
## 2 2013-02-26 0 1
## 3 2013-03-05 1 2

plot(inc.gender.week, border = "white") +
  scale_x_date(labels = date_format("%d %b %Y"))

```



Pay attention to the red bar starting around 01 May 2013

# ISOweek-based weekly plot using *incidence*

```
# isoweek-based weekly plot
inc.gender.isoweek <- incidence(df$date_of_onset,
                                 groups = df$gender,
                                 interval = 7,
                                 iso_week = TRUE)

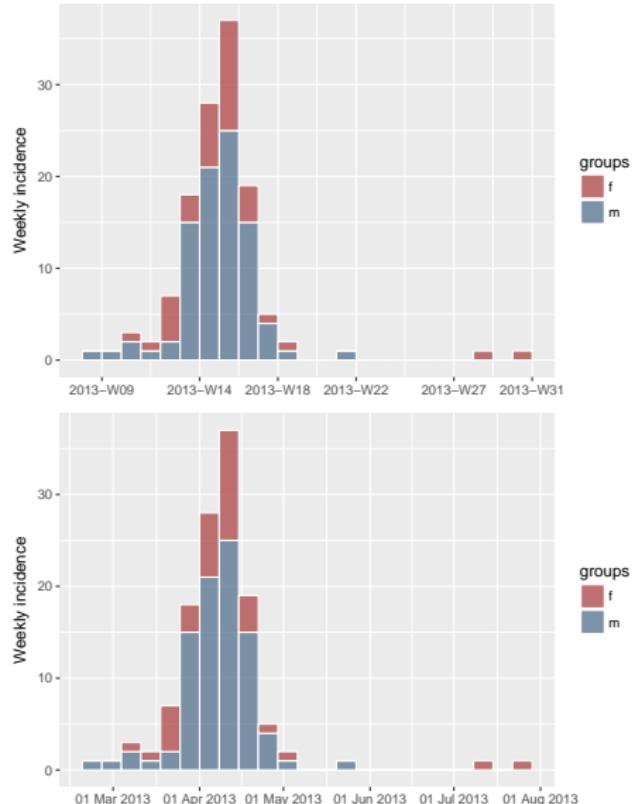
inc.gender.isoweek

## <incidence object>
## [126 cases from days 2013-02-18 to 2013-07-22]
## [126 cases from ISO weeks 2013-W08 to 2013-W30]
## [2 groups: f, m]
##
## $counts: matrix with 23 rows and 2 columns
## $n: 126 cases in total
## $dates: 23 dates marking the left-side of bins
## $interval: 7 days
## $timespan: 155 days

inc.gender.isoweek %>%
  as.data.frame() %>%
  head(3)

##      dates isoweeks f m
## 1 2013-02-18 2013-W08 0 1
## 2 2013-02-25 2013-W09 0 1
## 3 2013-03-04 2013-W10 1 2

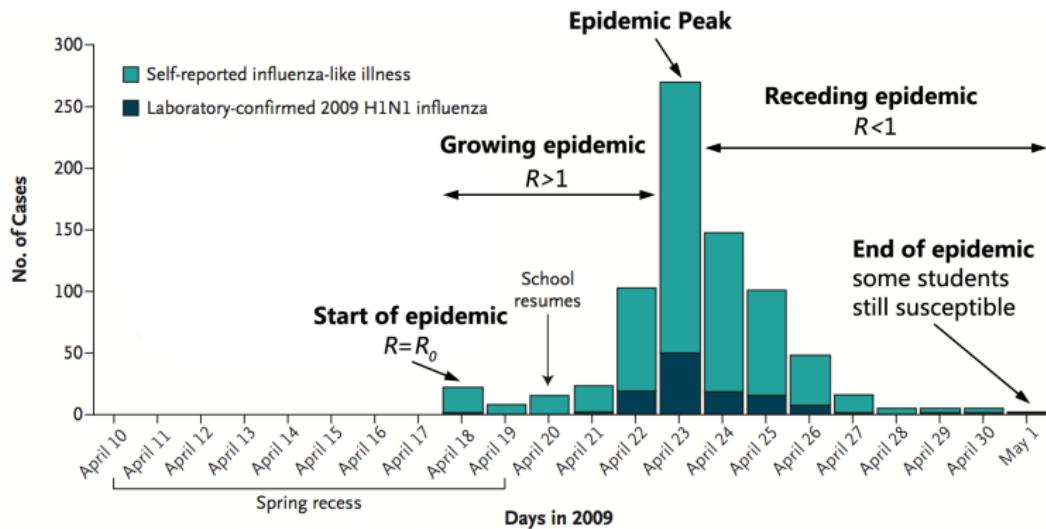
# by default label x-axis ticks with isoweek number
plot(inc.gender.isoweek, border = "white")
# label x-axis ticks with isoweek starting date
plot(inc.gender.isoweek, border = "white",
      labels_iso_week = FALSE) +
  scale_x_date(labels = date_format("%d %b %Y"))
```



## The Reproduction Number $R$

the **average** number of secondary cases caused by a single, typical infected individual in a population with some level of susceptibility. (Nelson and Williams 2013, ch. 6, pp. 133)

- the primary metric used to quantify the transmission of a disease in infectious disease dynamics
- time-varying reproduction number  $R_t$  since  $R$  changes over time; basic reproduction number  $R_0$  refers to a theoretical time 0 when the entire population is susceptible (Anderson and May 1992, ch. 2, pp. 17).
- $R_t$  provides feedback on the effectiveness of interventions and on the need to intensify control efforts; reducing  $R$  below the threshold value of 1 and as close to 0 as possible (Cori et al. 2013).



Epidemic Curve of Outbreak of 2009 Pandemic Influenza A (H1N1) at a New York City School (modified from Lessler, Reich, and Cummings 2009)

How to easily estimate  $R_t$  in real time?

## *EpiEstim* package (in development)

A tool to estimate time varying reproduction numbers from epidemic curves



**Anne Cori**

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Advance Access publication:  
September 15, 2013

### Practice of Epidemiology

#### A New Framework and Software to Estimate Time-Varying Reproduction Numbers During Epidemics

Anne Cori\*, Neil M. Ferguson, Christophe Fraser, and Simon Cauchemez

\* Correspondence to Dr. Anne Cori, Department of Infectious Disease Epidemiology, MRC Centre for Outbreak Analysis and Modelling, Imperial College London, St Mary's Campus, Norfolk Place, London W2 1PG, United Kingdom (e-mail: a.cori@imperial.ac.uk).

Initially submitted November 26, 2012; accepted for publication May 23, 2013.

The quantification of transmissibility during epidemics is essential to designing and adjusting public health responses. Transmissibility can be measured by the reproduction number  $R$ , the average number of secondary cases caused by an infected individual. Several methods have been proposed to estimate  $R$  over the course of an epidemic; however, they are usually difficult to implement for people without a strong background in statistical modeling. Here, we present a ready-to-use tool for estimating  $R$  from incidence time series, which is implemented in popular software including Microsoft Excel (Microsoft Corporation, Redmond, Washington). This tool produces novel, statistically robust analytical estimates of  $R$  and incorporates uncertainty in the distribution of the serial interval (the time between the onset of symptoms in a primary case and the onset of symptoms in secondary cases). We applied the method to 5 historical outbreaks; the resulting estimates of  $R$  are consistent with those presented in the literature. This tool should help epidemiologists quantify temporal changes in the transmission intensity of future epidemics by using surveillance data.

incidence; influenza; measles; reproduction number; SARS; smallpox; software

Abbreviations: CI, credible interval; SARS, severe acute respiratory syndrome.

# Estimating $R_t$ using *EpiEstim*

```

load("data/pdmH1N1_beijing_2009.rda")
glimpse(pdmH1N1_beijing_2009)

## Observations: 11,089
## Variables: 4
## $ card      <dbl> 35333862, 35451598, 35490152, 35491961, 35533905, 356...
## $ onset     <date> 2009-05-13, 2009-05-19, 2009-05-20, 2009-05-19, 2009...
## $ diagnose  <date> 2009-05-16, 2009-05-20, 2009-05-22, 2009-05-22, 2009...
## $ type      <chr> "laboratory diagnosed", "laboratory diagnosed", "labo...

# daily epidemic curve
dec <- as.data.frame(incidence(pdmH1N1_beijing_2009$onset, interval = 1))

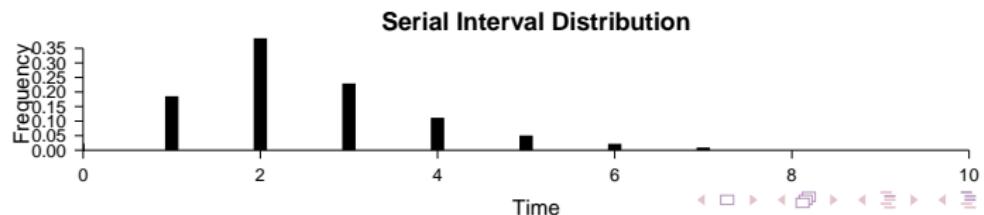
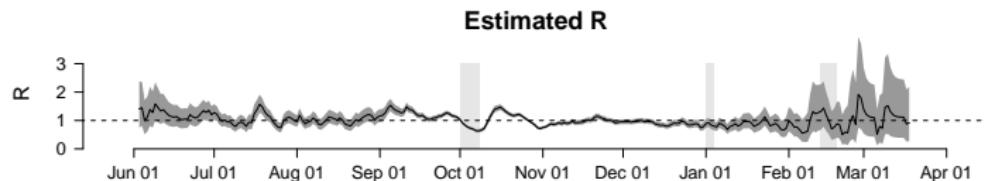
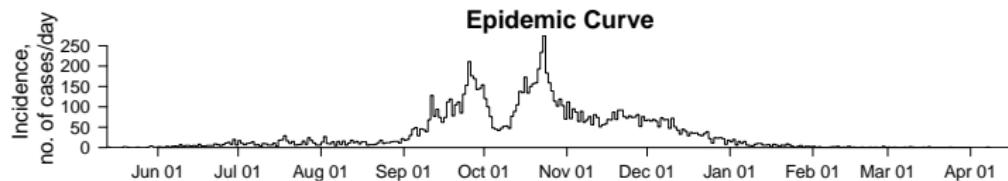
# install the latest development version from GitHub
# if (!requireNamespace("devtools")) install.packages("devtools")
# devtools::install_github("annecori/EpiEstim")
library(EpiEstim)

# the instantaneous reproduction number  $R_t$  can be estimated from the 16th day
# (May 28, 2009), and only up to the 310th day (March 18, 2010)
# The generation time of influenza A(H1N1)pdm09 had a mean of 2.6 days and
# an SD of 1.3 days, adapted from Yu.etal-Emerg.Infect.Dis.-2012
Ri <- EstimateR(dec$counts, T.Start = 16:304, T.End = 22:310,
                  method = "ParametricSI", Mean.SI = 2.6, Std.SI = 1.3)

```

# Estimating $R_t$ using *EpiEstim* – Plot

```
# plot epidemic curve, estimated instantaneous reproduction number,
# and serial interval distribution with overlaying holidays
# plot.ec.R.SI() is my own function whose details are not shown here
plot.ec.R.SI(dec, Ri, plot.holidays = TRUE)
```



# References

-  Roy M. Anderson and Robert M. May. *Infectious Diseases of Humans: Dynamics and Control*. Oxford University Press, 1992.
-  Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). "Outbreak of swine-origin influenza A (H1N1) virus infection-Mexico, March-April 2009." In: *MMWR* 58.17 (2009), p. 467. ISSN: 1545-861X. URL: <https://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/preview/mmwrhtml/mm5817a5.htm>.
-  Anne Cori et al. "A New Framework and Software to Estimate Time-Varying Reproduction Numbers During Epidemics". In: *Am. J. Epidemiol.* 178.9 (Nov. 2013), pp. 1505–1512. URL: <http://aje.oxfordjournals.org/content/178/9/1505.abstract>.
-  Justin Lessler, Nicholas G. Reich, and Derek A.T. Cummings. "Outbreak of 2009 Pandemic Influenza A (H1N1) at a New York City School". In: *N Engl J Med* 361.27 (Dec. 2009), pp. 2628–2636. ISSN: 0028-4793. DOI: [10.1056/NEJMoa0906089](https://doi.org/10.1056/NEJMoa0906089).
-  Kenrad E. Nelson and Carolyn Williams. *Infectious disease epidemiology*. Jones & Bartlett Publishers, 2013.

# Questions?



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