

A DISCUSSION ON ESTIMATION OF EFFECTIVE REPRODUCTION NUMBER FOR AN EMERGING INFECTION

RUY MIGUEL RIBEIRO

The effective reproduction number (R_t) is a key parameter in deciding whether an infection is spreading or not. It measures the number of secondary infections generated by one infected individual, and it is, arguably, even more important to assess in the case of an emerging disease. Due to its importance there is a growing literature on estimating R_t using different approaches. However, there is less investigation for the case of an emerging disease, before it becomes epidemic. I propose an interactive discussion on estimation of the effective reproduction number for an emerging infection. Starting with established methods, I hope to have a joint discussion on whether these are appropriate or what changes are needed for the specifics of an emerging (pre-epidemic) infection.