

# Generalized Contagion

Complex Networks | @networksvox  
CSYS/MATH 303, Spring, 2016

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Introduction

Independent  
Interaction  
models

Interdependent  
interaction  
models

Generalized  
Model

Homogeneous version  
Heterogeneous version

Nutshell

Appendix

References



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Introduction

Independent  
Interaction  
models

Interdependent  
interaction  
models

Generalized  
Model

Homogeneous version  
Heterogeneous version

Nutshell

Appendix

References



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# Outline

Introduction

Independent Interaction models

Interdependent interaction models

Generalized Model

Homogeneous version

Heterogeneous version

Nutshell

Appendix

References

CocoNuTs

Introduction

Independent  
Interaction  
models

Interdependent  
interaction  
models

Generalized  
Model

Homogeneous version  
Heterogeneous version

Nutshell

Appendix

References





## Introduction

Independent  
Interaction  
models

Interdependent  
interaction  
models

Generalized  
Model





Homogeneous version  
Heterogeneous version

Nutshell

Appendix

References

## Basic questions about contagion


-  How many types of contagion are there?
-  How can we categorize real-world contagions?
-  Can we connect models of disease-like and social contagion?
-  **Focus:** mean field models.




# Mathematical Epidemiology (recap)


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## The standard SIR model <sup>[10]</sup>


 = basic model of disease contagion


 Three states:

1. S = Susceptible
2. I = Infective/Infectious
3. R = Recovered or Removed or Refractory

  $S(t) + I(t) + R(t) = 1$

 Presumes random interactions (mass-action principle)

 Interactions are independent (no memory)

 Discrete and continuous time versions

Introduction

Independent  
Interaction  
models

Interdependent  
interaction  
models

Generalized  
Model

Homogeneous version  
Heterogeneous version

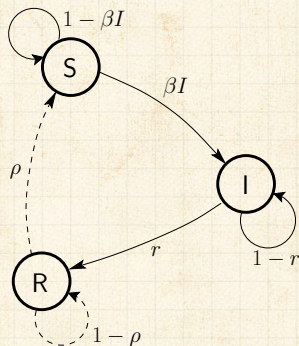
Nutshell

Appendix

References



Discrete time automata example:



Transition Probabilities:

$\beta$  for being infected given  
contact with infected




$r$  for recovery

$\rho$  for loss of immunity





## Original models attributed to

-  1920's: Reed and Frost
-  1920's/1930's: Kermack and McKendrick [7, 9, 8]
-  Coupled differential equations with a mass-action principle

# Independent Interaction models

## Differential equations for continuous model



$$\frac{d}{dt}S = -\beta IS + \rho R$$

$$\frac{d}{dt}I = \beta IS - rI$$

$$\frac{d}{dt}R = rI - \rho R$$

$\beta$ ,  $r$ , and  $\rho$  are now **rates**.

## Reproduction Number $R_0$ :

-   $R_0$  = expected number of infected individuals resulting from a single initial infective
-  Epidemic threshold: If  $R_0 > 1$ , 'epidemic' occurs.

Introduction

**Independent  
Interaction  
models**Interdependent  
interaction  
modelsGeneralized  
ModelHomogeneous version  
Heterogeneous version

Nutshell

Appendix

References





# Reproduction Number $R_0$

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## Discrete version:

- Set up: One Infective in a randomly mixing population of Susceptibles
- At time  $t = 0$ , single infective random bumps into a Susceptible
- Probability of transmission =  $\beta$
- At time  $t = 1$ , single Infective remains infected with probability  $1 - r$
- At time  $t = k$ , single Infective remains infected with probability  $(1 - r)^k$

Introduction

Independent  
Interaction  
models

Interdependent  
interaction  
models

Generalized  
Model

Homogeneous version  
Heterogeneous version

Nutshell


Appendix

References



# Reproduction Number $R_0$


Discrete version:

 Expected number infected by original Infective:

$$R_0 = \beta + (1-r)\beta + (1-r)^2\beta + (1-r)^3\beta + \dots$$

$$= \beta(1 + (1-r) + (1-r)^2 + (1-r)^3 + \dots)$$

$$= \beta \frac{1}{1 - (1-r)} = \beta/r$$

 Similar story for continuous model.

Introduction

Independent  
Interaction  
models

Interdependent  
interaction  
models

Generalized  
Model

Homogeneous version  
Heterogeneous version

Nutshell

Appendix

References



CocoNuTs

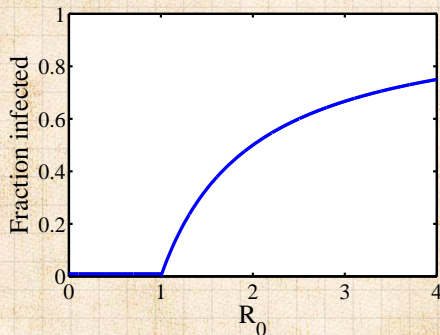
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# Independent Interaction models

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Example of epidemic threshold:



 Continuous phase transition.

 Fine idea from a simple model.

Introduction

Independent  
Interaction  
models

Interdependent  
interaction  
models

Generalized  
Model

Homogeneous version  
Heterogeneous version

Nutshell





Appendix

References





## Valiant attempts to use SIR and co. elsewhere:

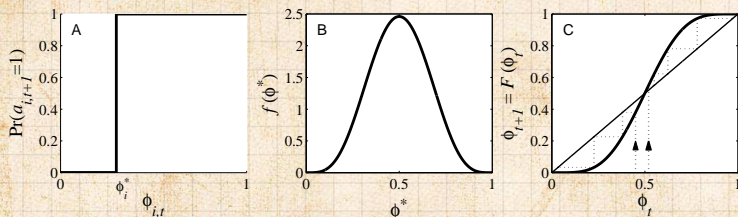
-  Adoption of ideas/beliefs (Goffman & Newell, 1964)<sup>[6]</sup>
-  Spread of rumors (Daley & Kendall, 1964, 1965)<sup>[2, 3]</sup>
-  Diffusion of innovations (Bass, 1969)<sup>[1]</sup>
-  Spread of fanatical behavior (Castillo-Chávez & Song, 2003)



# Granovetter's model (recap of recap)



Action based on perceived behavior of others.



Two states: S and I.



Recovery now possible (SIS).



$\phi$  = fraction of contacts 'on' (e.g., rioting).



Discrete time, synchronous update.



This is a **Critical mass model**.



**Inter**dependent interaction model.

Introduction

Independent  
Interaction  
models

Interdependent  
interaction  
models

Generalized  
Model

Homogeneous version  
Heterogeneous version

Nutshell

Appendix

References



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# Some (of many) issues

- ❏ Disease models assume independence of infectious events.
- ❏ Threshold models only involve proportions:  
 $3/10 \equiv 30/100$ .
- ❏ Threshold models ignore exact sequence of influences
- ❏ Threshold models assume immediate polling.
- ❏ Mean-field models neglect network structure
- ❏ Network effects only part of story:  
media, advertising, direct marketing.





## Basic ingredients:

- ✉ Incorporate memory of a contagious element [4, 5]
- ✉ Population of  $N$  individuals, each in state  $S$ ,  $I$ , or  $R$ .
- ✉ Each individual randomly contacts another at each time step.
- ✉  $\phi_t$  = fraction infected at time  $t$   
= probability of contact with infected individual
- ✉ With probability  $p$ , contact with infective leads to an exposure.
- ✉ If exposed, individual receives a dose of size  $d$  drawn from distribution  $f$ . Otherwise  $d = 0$ .

Introduction

Independent  
Interaction  
modelsInterdependent  
interaction  
models**Generalized  
Model**Homogeneous version  
Heterogeneous version

Nutshell

Appendix


References




# Generalized model—ingredients

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S  $\Rightarrow$  I

 Individuals 'remember' last  $T$  contacts:

$$D_{t,i} = \sum_{t'=t-T+1}^t d_i(t')$$

 Infection occurs if individual  $i$ 's 'threshold' is exceeded:

$$D_{t,i} \geq d_i^*$$

 Threshold  $d_i^*$  drawn from arbitrary distribution  $g$  at  $t = 0$ .

Introduction

Independent  
Interaction  
models

Interdependent  
interaction  
models

Generalized  
Model

Homogeneous version  
Heterogeneous version

Nutshell

Appendix

References



# Generalized model—ingredients

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I  $\Rightarrow$  R

When  $D_{t,i} < d_i^*$ ,  
individual  $i$  recovers to state R with probability  $r$ .

R  $\Rightarrow$  S

Once in state R, individuals become susceptible again  
with probability  $\rho$ .

Introduction

Independent  
Interaction  
models

Interdependent  
interaction  
models

Generalized  
Model

Homogeneous version  
Heterogeneous version

Nutshell

Appendix

References



CocoNuTs

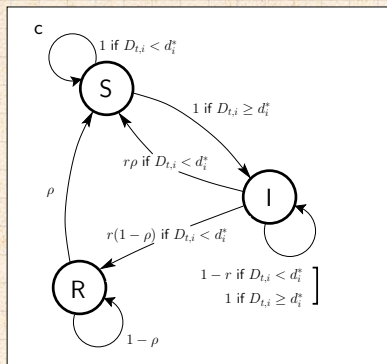
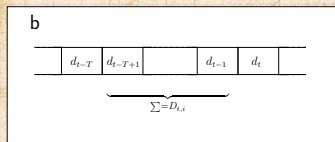
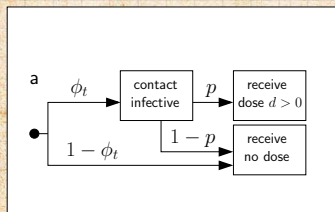
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# A visual explanation



Introduction

Independent  
Interaction  
models

Interdependent  
interaction  
models

Generalized  
Model

Homogeneous version  
Heterogeneous version


Nutshell

Appendix


References




## Study SIS-type contagion first:


 Recovered individuals are immediately susceptible again:


$$\rho = 1.$$

 Look for steady-state behavior as a function of exposure probability  $p$ .

 Denote fixed points by  $\phi^*$ .

## Homogeneous version:

 All individuals have threshold  $d^*$

 All dose sizes are equal:  $d = 1$

Introduction

Independent  
Interaction  
modelsInterdependent  
interaction  
models**Generalized  
Model**Homogeneous version  
Heterogeneous version

Nutshell





Appendix

References



# Homogeneous, one hit models:

Fixed points for  $r < 1$ ,  $d^* = 1$ , and  $T = 1$ :

-   $r < 1$  means recovery is probabilistic.
-   $T = 1$  means individuals forget past interactions.
-   $d^* = 1$  means one positive interaction will infect an individual.
-  Evolution of infection level:

$$\phi_{t+1} = \underbrace{p\phi_t}_a + \underbrace{\phi_t(1-p\phi_t)}_b \underbrace{(1-r)}_c.$$

- a: Fraction infected between  $t$  and  $t + 1$ , independent of past state or recovery.
- b: Probability of being infected and not being reinfected.
- c: Probability of not recovering.

Introduction

Independent  
Interaction  
modelsInterdependent  
interaction  
modelsGeneralized  
ModelHomogeneous version  
Heterogeneous version

Nutshell

Appendix


References





# Homogeneous, one hit models:


Fixed points for  $r < 1$ ,  $d^* = 1$ , and  $T = 1$ :


 Set  $\phi_t = \phi^*$ :


$$\phi^* = p\phi^* + (1 - p\phi^*)\phi^*(1 - r)$$


$$\Rightarrow 1 = p + (1 - p\phi^*)(1 - r), \quad \phi^* \neq 0,$$

$$\Rightarrow \phi^* = \frac{1 - r/p}{1 - r} \quad \text{and} \quad \phi^* = 0.$$

 Critical point at  $p = p_c = r$ .

 Spreading takes off if  $p/r > 1$

 Find continuous phase transition as for SIR model.

 Goodness: Matches  $R_o = \beta/\gamma > 1$  condition.

Introduction

Independent  
Interaction  
models

Interdependent  
interaction  
models

Generalized  
Model

Homogeneous version  
Heterogeneous version

Nutshell







Appendix

References



# Simple homogeneous examples

Fixed points for  $r = 1$ ,  $d^* = 1$ , and  $T > 1$

-   $r = 1$  means recovery is immediate.
-   $T > 1$  means individuals remember at least 2 interactions.
-   $d^* = 1$  means only one positive interaction in past  $T$  interactions will infect individual.
-  Effect of individual interactions is independent from effect of others.
-  Call  $\phi^*$  the steady state level of infection.
-   $\text{Pr}(\text{infected}) = 1 - \text{Pr}(\text{uninfected})$ :

$$\phi^* = 1 - (1 - p\phi^*)^T.$$

Introduction

Independent  
Interaction  
models

Interdependent  
interaction  
models

Generalized  
Model

Homogeneous version  
Heterogeneous version

Nutshell


Appendix

References





# Homogeneous, one hit models:

Fixed points for  $r = 1$ ,  $d^* = 1$ , and  $T > 1$


 Closed form expression for  $\phi^*$ :


$$\phi^* = 1 - (1 - p\phi^*)^T.$$

 Look for critical infection probability  $p_c$ .

 As  $\phi^* \rightarrow 0$ , we see

$$\phi^* \simeq pT\phi^* \Rightarrow p_c = 1/T.$$

 Again find continuous phase transition...

 Note: we can solve for  $p$  but not  $\phi^*$ :

$$p = (\phi^*)^{-1}[1 - (1 - \phi^*)^{1/T}].$$





# Homogeneous, one hit models:

Fixed points for  $r \leq 1$ ,  $d^* = 1$ , and  $T \geq 1$

Start with  $r = 1$ ,  $d^* = 1$ , and  $T \geq 1$  case we have just examined:

$$\phi^* = 1 - (1 - p\phi^*)^T.$$

For  $r < 1$ , add to right hand side fraction who:

1. Did not receive any infections in last  $T$  time steps,
2. And **did not recover** from a previous infection.

Define corresponding dose histories. Example:


$$H_1 = \{\dots, d_{t-T-2}, d_{t-T-1}, 1, \underbrace{0, 0, \dots, 0, 0}_{T \text{ 0's}}\},$$

With history  $H_1$ , probability of being infected (not recovering in one time step) is  $1 - r$ .


[Introduction](#)[Independent Interaction models](#)[Interdependent interaction models](#)[Generalized Model](#)[Homogeneous version](#)  
[Heterogeneous version](#)[Nutshell](#)[Appendix](#)[References](#)

# Homogeneous, one hit models:

Fixed points for  $r \leq 1$ ,  $d^* = 1$ , and  $T \geq 1$

 In general, relevant dose histories are:

$$H_{m+1} = \{\dots, d_{t-T-m-1}, 1, \underbrace{0, 0, \dots, 0, 0}_{m \text{ 0's}}, \underbrace{0, 0, \dots, 0, 0}_{T \text{ 0's}}\}.$$

 Overall probabilities for dose histories occurring:

$$P(H_1) = p\phi^*(1 - p\phi^*)^T(1 - r),$$

$$P(H_{m+1}) = \underbrace{p\phi^*}_a \underbrace{(1 - p\phi^*)^{T+m}}_b \underbrace{(1 - r)^{m+1}}_c.$$

- a: Pr(infection  $T + m + 1$  time steps ago)
- b: Pr(no doses received in  $T + m$  time steps since)
- c: Pr(no recovery in  $m$  chances)

Introduction

Independent  
Interaction  
models

Interdependent  
interaction  
models

Generalized  
Model

Homogeneous version  
Heterogeneous version

Nutshell


Appendix

References




# Homogeneous, one hit models:

Fixed points for  $r \leq 1$ ,  $d^* = 1$ , and  $T \geq 1$

 Pr(recovery) = Pr(seeing no doses for at least  $T$  time steps and recovering)

$$\begin{aligned} &= r \sum_{m=0}^{\infty} P(H_{T+m}) = r \sum_{m=0}^{\infty} p\phi^*(1-p\phi^*)^{T+m}(1-r)^m \\ &= r \frac{p\phi^*(1-p\phi^*)^T}{1-(1-p\phi^*)(1-r)}. \end{aligned}$$

 Fixed point equation:

$$\phi^* = 1 - \frac{r(1-p\phi^*)^T}{1-(1-p\phi^*)(1-r)}.$$

Introduction

Independent  
Interaction  
models

Interdependent  
interaction  
models

Generalized  
Model

Homogeneous version  
Heterogeneous version

Nutshell

Appendix


References






# Homogeneous, one hit models:

Fixed points for  $r \leq 1$ ,  $d^* = 1$ , and  $T \geq 1$

 Fixed point equation (again):


$$\phi^* = 1 - \frac{r(1 - p\phi^*)^T}{1 - (1 - p\phi^*)(1 - r)}.$$

 Find critical exposure probability by examining above as  $\phi^* \rightarrow 0$ .



$$\Rightarrow p_c = \frac{1}{T + 1/r - 1} = \frac{1}{T + \tau}.$$

where  $\tau$  = mean recovery time for simple relaxation process.

 Decreasing  $r$  keeps individuals infected for longer and decreases  $p_c$ .



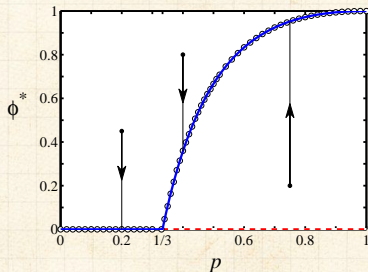
# Epidemic threshold:

Fixed points for  $d^* = 1$ ,  $r \leq 1$ , and  $T \geq 1$

$$\phi^* = 1 - \frac{r(1-p\phi^*)^T}{1-(1-p\phi^*)(1-r)}$$

$$\phi^* = 0$$

$$p_c = 1/(T + \tau)$$



Example details:  $T = 2$  &  $r = 1/2 \Rightarrow p_c = 1/3$ .

Blue = stable, red = unstable, fixed points.

$\tau = 1/r - 1 =$  characteristic recovery time = 1.

$T + \tau \simeq$  average memory in system = 3.

Phase transition can be seen as a **transcritical bifurcation**.<sup>[11]</sup>

Introduction

Independent  
Interaction  
modelsInterdependent  
interaction  
modelsGeneralized  
ModelHomogeneous version  
Heterogeneous version

Nutshell

Appendix

References



# Homogeneous, multi-hit models:

- All right:  $d^* = 1$  models correspond to simple disease spreading models.
- What if we allow  $d^* \geq 2$ ?
- Again first consider SIS with immediate recovery ( $r = 1$ )
- Also continue to assume unit dose sizes ( $f(d) = \delta(d - 1)$ ).
- To be infected, must have at least  $d^*$  exposures in last  $T$  time steps.
- Fixed point equation:

$$\phi^* = \sum_{i=d^*}^T \binom{T}{i} (p\phi^*)^i (1 - p\phi^*)^{T-i}.$$


- As always,  $\phi^* = 0$  works too.




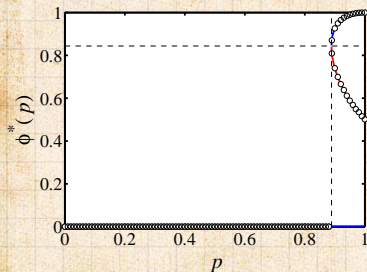


# Homogeneous, multi-hit models:

Fixed points for  $r = 1$ ,  $d^* > 1$ , and  $T \geq 1$


 Exactly solvable for small  $T$ .


 e.g., for  $d^* = 2$ ,  $T = 3$ :




 Fixed point equation:

$$\phi^* = 3p^2 \phi^{*2} (1 - p\phi^*) + p^3 \phi^{*3}$$

 See new structure: a **saddle node bifurcation**<sup>[11]</sup> appears as  $p$  increases.

  $(p_b, \phi^*) = (8/9, 27/32)$ .

 Behavior akin to output of Granovetter's threshold model.

Introduction

Independent Interaction models

Interdependent interaction models

Generalized Model

Homogeneous version  
Heterogeneous version

Nutshell

Appendix

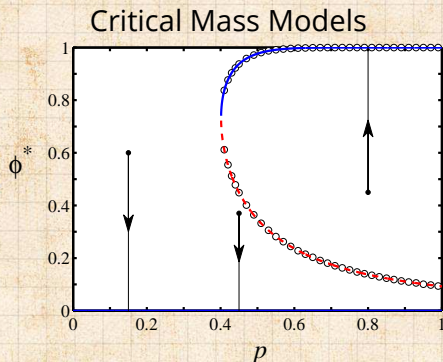
References



# Homogeneous, multi-hit models:



Another example:



$r = 1, d^* = 3, T = 12$

Saddle-node bifurcation.

Introduction

Independent  
Interaction  
models

Interdependent  
interaction  
models

Generalized  
Model

Homogeneous version  
Heterogeneous version


Nutshell

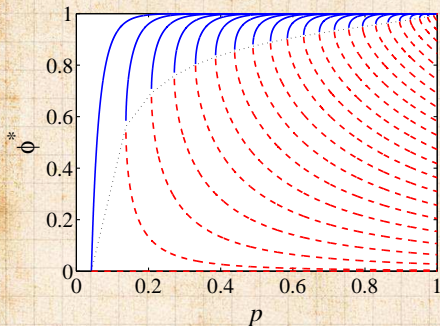
Appendix


References





# Fixed points for $r = 1$ , $d^* > 1$ , and $T \geq 1$

  $T = 24$ ,  $d^* = 1, 2, \dots, 23$ .



  $d^* = 1 \rightarrow d^* > 1$ :  
jump between  
continuous  
phase transition  
and pure critical  
mass model.


 Unstable curve  
for  $d^* = 2$  **does**  
**not** hit  $\phi^* = 0$ .

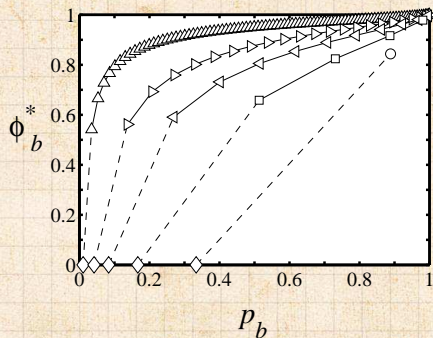
 See **either** simple phase transition or saddle-node bifurcation, nothing in between.


[Introduction](#)[Independent Interaction models](#)[Interdependent interaction models](#)[Generalized Model](#)[Homogeneous version](#)  
[Heterogeneous version](#)[Nutshell](#)[Appendix](#)[References](#)



# Fixed points for $r = 1$ , $d^* > 1$ , and $T \geq 1$


 Bifurcation points for example fixed  $T$ , varying  $d^*$ :




  $T = 96$  (.)

  $T = 24$  (▷)

  $T = 12$  (◁)

  $T = 6$  (□)

  $T = 3$  (○)

Introduction

Independent  
Interaction  
models

Interdependent  
interaction  
models

Generalized  
Model

Homogeneous version  
Heterogeneous version

Nutshell

Appendix

References



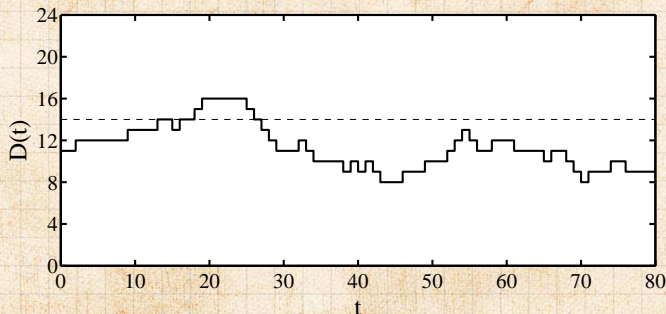
# Fixed points for $r < 1$ , $d^* > 1$ , and $T \geq 1$

For  $r < 1$ , need to determine probability of recovering as a function of time since dose load last dropped below threshold.

Partially summed random walks:

$$D_i(t) = \sum_{t'=t-T+1}^t d_i(t')$$

Example for  $T = 24$ ,  $d^* = 14$ :



# Fixed points for $r < 1$ , $d^* > 1$ , and $T \geq 1$

- Define  $\gamma_m$  as fraction of individuals for whom  $D(t)$  last equaled, and has since been below, their threshold  $m$  time steps ago,
- Fraction of individuals below threshold but not recovered:

$$\Gamma(p, \phi^*; r) = \sum_{m=1}^{\infty} (1-r)^m \gamma_m(p, \phi^*).$$

- Fixed point equation:

$$\phi^* = \Gamma(p, \phi^*; r) + \sum_{i=d^*}^T \binom{T}{i} (p\phi^*)^i (1-p\phi^*)^{T-i}.$$

Introduction

Independent  
Interaction  
modelsInterdependent  
interaction  
modelsGeneralized  
ModelHomogeneous version  
Heterogeneous version

Nutshell

Appendix

References





# Fixed points for $r < 1$ , $d^* > 1$ , and $T \geq 1$

Example:  $T = 3$ ,  $d^* = 2$

- Want to examine how dose load can drop below threshold of  $d^* = 2$ :

$$D_n = 2 \Rightarrow D_{n+1} = 1$$

- Two subsequences do this:

$$\{d_{n-2}, d_{n-1}, d_n, d_{n+1}\} = \{1, 1, 0, 0\}$$

$$\text{and } \{d_{n-2}, d_{n-1}, d_n, d_{n+1}, d_{n+2}\} = \{1, 0, 1, 0, 0\}.$$


- Note: second sequence includes an extra 0 since this is necessary to stay below  $d^* = 2$ .


- To stay below threshold, observe acceptable following sequences may be composed of any combination of two subsequences:


$$a = \{0\} \quad \text{and} \quad b = \{1, 0, 0\}.$$



# Fixed points for $r < 1$ , $d^* > 1$ , and $T \geq 1$

 Determine number of sequences of length  $m$  that keep dose load below  $d^* = 2$ .

  $N_a$  = number of  $a = \{0\}$  subsequences.


  $N_b$  = number of  $b = \{1, 0, 0\}$  subsequences.

$$m = N_a \cdot 1 + N_b \cdot 3$$

Possible values for  $N_b$ :

$$0, 1, 2, \dots, \left\lfloor \frac{m}{3} \right\rfloor.$$

where  $\lfloor \cdot \rfloor$  means floor.

 Corresponding possible values for  $N_a$ :

$$m, m - 3, m - 6, \dots, m - 3 \left\lfloor \frac{m}{3} \right\rfloor.$$

Introduction

Independent  
Interaction  
modelsInterdependent  
interaction  
modelsGeneralized  
ModelHomogeneous version  
Heterogeneous version


Nutshell


Appendix

References




# Fixed points for $r < 1$ , $d^* > 1$ , and $T \geq 1$

 How many ways to arrange  $N_a$   $a$ 's and  $N_b$   $b$ 's?

 Think of overall sequence in terms of subsequences:

$$\{Z_1, Z_2, \dots, Z_{N_a+N_b}\}$$

  $N_a + N_b$  slots for subsequences.

 Choose positions of either  $a$ 's or  $b$ 's:

$$\binom{N_a + N_b}{N_a} = \binom{N_a + N_b}{N_b}.$$

Introduction

Independent  
Interaction  
modelsInterdependent  
interaction  
modelsGeneralized  
ModelHomogeneous version  
Heterogeneous version

Nutshell


Appendix

References







# Fixed points for $r < 1$ , $d^* > 1$ , and $T \geq 1$

 Total number of allowable sequences of length  $m$ :


$$\sum_{N_b=0}^{\lfloor m/3 \rfloor} \binom{N_b + N_a}{N_b} = \sum_{k=0}^{\lfloor m/3 \rfloor} \binom{m - 2k}{k}$$

where  $k = N_b$  and we have used  $m = N_a + 3N_b$ .

  $P(a) = (1 - p\phi^*)$  and  $P(b) = p\phi^*(1 - p\phi^*)^2$

 Total probability of allowable sequences of length  $m$ :

$$\chi_m(p, \phi^*) = \sum_{k=0}^{\lfloor m/3 \rfloor} \binom{m - 2k}{k} (1 - p\phi^*)^{m-k} (p\phi^*)^k.$$

 Notation: Write a randomly chosen sequence of  $a$ 's and  $b$ 's of length  $m$  as  $D_m^{a,b}$ .

Introduction

Independent  
Interaction  
modelsInterdependent  
interaction  
modelsGeneralized  
ModelHomogeneous version  
Heterogeneous version


Nutshell


Appendix

References



# Fixed points for $r < 1$ , $d^* > 1$ , and $T \geq 1$

 Nearly there... must account for details of sequence endings.

 Three endings  $\Rightarrow$  Six possible sequences:

$$D_1 = \{1, 1, 0, 0, D_{m-1}^{a,b}\}$$

$$P_1 = (p\phi)^2(1-p\phi)^2\chi_{m-1}(p, \phi)$$

$$D_2 = \{1, 1, 0, 0, D_{m-2}^{a,b}, 1\}$$

$$P_2 = (p\phi)^3(1-p\phi)^2\chi_{m-2}(p, \phi)$$

$$D_3 = \{1, 1, 0, 0, D_{m-3}^{a,b}, 1, 0\}$$

$$P_3 = (p\phi)^3(1-p\phi)^3\chi_{m-3}(p, \phi)$$

$$D_4 = \{1, 0, 1, 0, 0, D_{m-2}^{a,b}\}$$

$$P_4 = (p\phi)^2(1-p\phi)^3\chi_{m-2}(p, \phi)$$

$$D_5 = \{1, 0, 1, 0, 0, D_{m-3}^{a,b}, 1\}$$

$$P_5 = (p\phi)^3(1-p\phi)^3\chi_{m-3}(p, \phi)$$

$$D_6 = \{1, 0, 1, 0, 0, D_{m-4}^{a,b}, 1, 0\}$$

$$P_6 = (p\phi)^3(1-p\phi)^4\chi_{m-4}(p, \phi)$$

Introduction

Independent  
Interaction  
modelsInterdependent  
interaction  
modelsGeneralized  
ModelHomogeneous version  
Heterogeneous version

Nutshell

Appendix

References



# Fixed points for $r < 1$ , $d^* = 2$ , and $T = 3$

$$\text{F.P. Eq: } \phi^* = \Gamma(p, \phi^*; r) + \sum_{i=d^*}^T \binom{T}{i} (p\phi^*)^i (1 - p\phi^*)^{T-i}.$$

where  $\Gamma(p, \phi^*; r) =$

$$(1-r)(p\phi)^2(1-p\phi)^2 + \sum_{m=1}^{\infty} (1-r)^m (p\phi)^2 (1-p\phi)^2 \times$$

$$[\chi_{m-1} + \chi_{m-2} + 2p\phi(1-p\phi)\chi_{m-3} + p\phi(1-p\phi)^2\chi_{m-4}]$$

and

$$\chi_m(p, \phi^*) = \sum_{k=0}^{\lfloor m/3 \rfloor} \binom{m-2k}{k} (1-p\phi^*)^{m-k} (p\phi^*)^k.$$

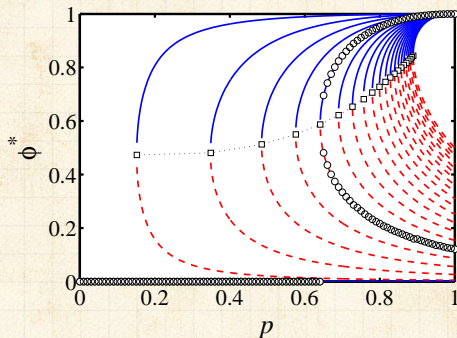
Note:  $(1-r)(p\phi)^2(1-p\phi)^2$  accounts for  $\{1, 0, 1, 0\}$  sequence.






# Fixed points for $r < 1$ , $d^* > 1$ , and $T \geq 1$

$$T = 3, d^* = 2$$



  $r = 0.01, 0.05, 0.10, 0.15, 0.20, \dots, 1.00$ .

Introduction

Independent  
Interaction  
modelsInterdependent  
interaction  
modelsGeneralized  
ModelHomogeneous version  
Heterogeneous version

Nutshell

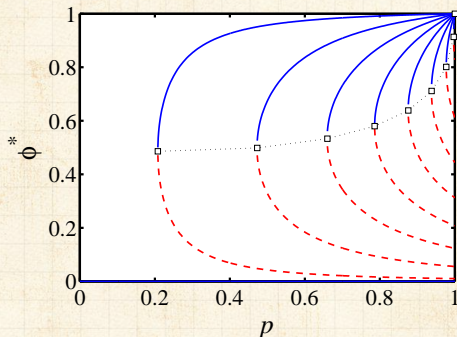
Appendix


References




# Fixed points for $r < 1$ , $d^* > 1$ , and $T \geq 1$

$$T = 2, d^* = 2$$



  $r = 0.01, 0.05, 0.10, \dots, 0.3820 \pm 0.0001$ .

 No spreading for  $r \gtrsim 0.382$ .

Introduction

Independent  
Interaction  
modelsInterdependent  
interaction  
modelsGeneralized  
ModelHomogeneous version  
Heterogeneous version

Nutshell

Appendix

References



# What we have now:

CocoNuTs

Introduction

Independent  
Interaction  
models

Interdependent  
interaction  
models

Generalized  
Model

Homogeneous version  
Heterogeneous version

Nutshell

Appendix

References



Two kinds of contagion processes:

1. Continuous phase transition: **SIR-like**.
2. Saddle-node bifurcation: **threshold model-like**.



$d^* = 1$ : spreading from small seeds possible.



$d^* > 1$ : critical mass model.



Are other behaviors possible?



CocoNuTs


Complex Networks  
@networksvox


Everything is connected







# Generalized model

 Now allow for general dose distributions ( $f$ ) and threshold distributions ( $g$ ).

 Key quantities:

$$P_k = \int_0^{\infty} dd^* g(d^*) P \left( \sum_{j=1}^k d_j \geq d^* \right) \text{ where } 1 \leq k \leq T.$$

  $P_k$  = Probability that the threshold of a randomly selected individual will be exceeded by  $k$  doses.

 e.g.,  
 $P_1$  = Probability that one dose will exceed the threshold of a random individual  
= Fraction of most vulnerable individuals.

Introduction

Independent  
Interaction  
modelsInterdependent  
interaction  
modelsGeneralized  
Model

Homogeneous version

Heterogeneous version

Nutshell

Appendix

References



# Generalized model—heterogeneity, $r = 1$

Fixed point equation:

$$\phi^* = \sum_{k=1}^T \binom{T}{k} (p\phi^*)^k (1 - p\phi^*)^{T-k} \underline{P_k}$$

Expand around  $\phi^* = 0$  to find when spread from single seed is possible:

$$pP_1T \geq 1$$

or

$$\Rightarrow p_c = 1/(TP_1)$$

Very good:

1.  $P_1T$  is the expected number of vulnerables the initial infected individual meets before recovering.
2.  $pP_1T$  is  $\therefore$  the expected number of successful infections (equivalent to  $R_0$ ).

Observe:  $p_c$  may exceed 1 meaning no spreading from a small seed.

Introduction

Independent  
Interaction  
modelsInterdependent  
interaction  
modelsGeneralized  
Model

Homogeneous version

Heterogeneous version

Nutshell

Appendix

References



# Heterogeneous case

- Next: Determine slope of fixed point curve at critical point  $p_c$ .
- Expand fixed point equation around  $(p, \phi^*) = (p_c, 0)$ .
- Find slope depends on  $(P_1 - P_2/2)$  [5] (see Appendix).
- Behavior near fixed point depends on whether this slope is
  - positive:  $P_1 > P_2/2$  (continuous phase transition)
  - negative:  $P_1 < P_2/2$  (discontinuous phase transition)
- Now find **three** basic universal classes of contagion models...

Introduction

Independent Interaction models

Interdependent interaction models

Generalized Model

Homogeneous version

Heterogeneous version

Nutshell

Appendix





References





# Heterogeneous case

## Example configuration:

-  Dose sizes are lognormally distributed with mean 1 and variance 0.433.
-  Memory span:  $T = 10$ .
-  Thresholds are uniformly set at
  1.  $d_* = 0.5$
  2.  $d_* = 1.6$
  3.  $d_* = 3$
-  Spread of dose sizes matters, details are not important.

Introduction

Independent  
Interaction  
models

Interdependent  
interaction  
models

Generalized  
Model

Homogeneous version

Heterogeneous version

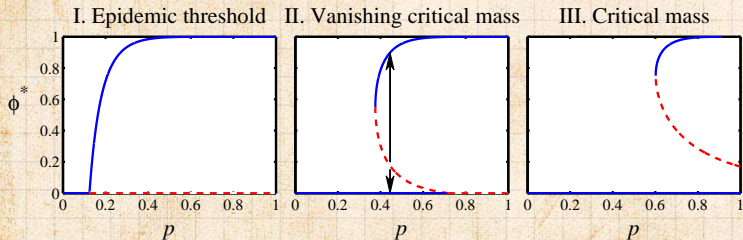
Nutshell

Appendix


References




# Three universal classes



 Epidemic threshold:  $P_1 > P_2/2, p_c = 1/(TP_1) < 1$

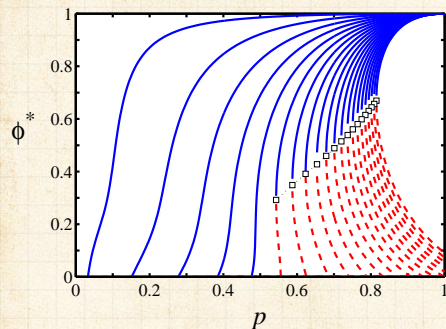
 Vanishing critical mass:  $P_1 < P_2/2, p_c = 1/(TP_1) < 1$

 Pure critical mass:  $P_1 < P_2/2, p_c = 1/(TP_1) > 1$



# Heterogeneous case

Now allow  $r < 1$ :



- II-III transition generalizes:  $p_c = 1/[P_1(T + \tau)]$   
where  $\tau = 1/r - 1 =$  expected recovery time
- I-II transition less pleasant analytically.

Introduction

Independent  
Interaction  
models

Interdependent  
interaction  
models

Generalized  
Model

Homogeneous version

Heterogeneous version

Nutshell

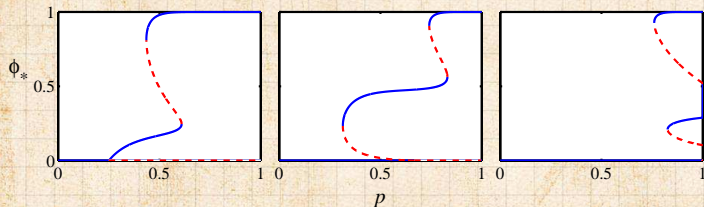
Appendix

References





# More complicated models



- Due to heterogeneity in individual thresholds.
- Three classes based on behavior for small seeds.
- Same model classification holds: I, II, and III.

Introduction

Independent  
Interaction  
models

Interdependent  
interaction  
models

Generalized  
Model

Homogeneous version

Heterogeneous version

Nutshell

Appendix

References



# Hysteresis in vanishing critical mass models

COcoNuTs

Introduction

Independent  
Interaction  
models

Interdependent  
interaction  
models

Generalized  
Model

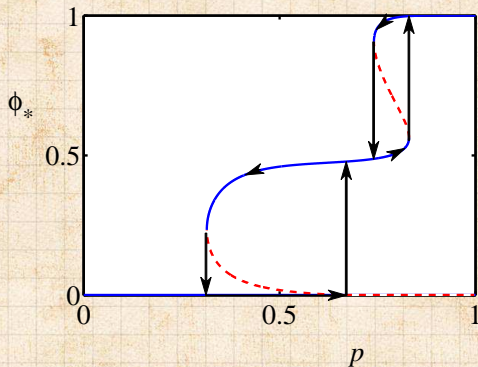
Homogeneous version

Heterogeneous version

Nutshell

Appendix

References





Memory is a natural ingredient.



Three universal classes of contagion processes:

1. I. Epidemic Threshold
2. II. Vanishing Critical Mass
3. III. Critical Mass



Dramatic changes in behavior possible.



To change kind of model: 'adjust' memory, recovery, fraction of vulnerable individuals ( $T$ ,  $r$ ,  $\rho$ ,  $P_1$ , and/or  $P_2$ ).



To change behavior given model: 'adjust' probability of exposure ( $p$ ) and/or initial number infected ( $\phi_0$ ).

Introduction

Independent  
Interaction  
models

Interdependent  
interaction  
models

Generalized  
Model

Homogeneous version  
Heterogeneous version

Nutshell

Appendix

References





# Nutshell (other half)

- Single seed infects others if  $pP_1(T + \tau) \geq 1$ .
- Key quantity:  $p_c = 1/[P_1(T + \tau)]$
- If  $p_c < 1 \Rightarrow$  contagion can spread from single seed.
- Depends only on:
  - System Memory ( $T + \tau$ ).
  - Fraction of highly vulnerable individuals ( $P_1$ ).
- Details unimportant: Many threshold and dose distributions give same  $P_k$ .
- Another example of a model where vulnerable/gullible population may be more important than a small group of super-spreaders or influentials.



# Appendix: Details for Class I-II transition:

$$\begin{aligned}\phi^* &= \sum_{k=1}^T \binom{T}{k} P_k (p\phi^*)^k (1 - p\phi^*)^{T-k}, \\ &= \sum_{k=1}^T \binom{T}{k} P_k (p\phi^*)^k \sum_{j=0}^{T-k} \binom{T-k}{j} (-p\phi^*)^j, \\ &= \sum_{k=1}^T \sum_{j=0}^{T-k} \binom{T}{k} \binom{T-k}{j} P_k (-1)^j (p\phi^*)^{k+j}, \\ &= \sum_{m=1}^T \sum_{k=1}^m \binom{T}{k} \binom{T-k}{m-k} P_k (-1)^{m-k} (p\phi^*)^m, \\ &= \sum_{m=1}^T C_m (p\phi^*)^m\end{aligned}$$

[Introduction](#)[Independent  
Interaction  
models](#)[Interdependent  
interaction  
models](#)[Generalized  
Model](#)[Homogeneous version](#)  
[Heterogeneous version](#)[Nutshell](#)[Appendix](#)[References](#)

# Appendix: Details for Class I-II transition:

$$C_m = (-1)^m \binom{T}{m} \sum_{k=1}^m (-1)^k \binom{m}{k} P_k,$$

since

$$\begin{aligned} \binom{T}{k} \binom{T-k}{m-k} &= \frac{T!}{k! (T-k)!} \frac{(T-k)!}{(m-k)! (T-m)!} \\ &= \frac{T!}{m! (T-m)!} \frac{m!}{k! (m-k)!} \\ &= \binom{T}{m} \binom{m}{k}. \end{aligned}$$






# Appendix: Details for Class I-II transition:


 Linearization gives

$$\phi^* \simeq C_1 p \phi^* + C_2 p_c^2 \phi^{*2}.$$

where  $C_1 = TP_1 (= 1/p_c)$  and  $C_2 = \binom{T}{2}(-2P_1 + P_2)$ .

 Using  $p_c = 1/(TP_1)$ :

$$\phi^* \simeq \frac{C_1}{C_2 p_c^2} (p - p_c) = \frac{T^2 P_1^3}{(T-1)(P_1 - P_2/2)} (p - p_c).$$

 Sign of derivative governed by  $P_1 - P_2/2$ .



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CocoNuTS

Introduction

Independent  
Interaction  
models

Interdependent  
interaction  
models

Generalized  
Model

Homogeneous version  
Heterogeneous version

Nutshell

Appendix

References






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Introduction

Independent  
Interaction  
models

Interdependent  
interaction  
models

Generalized  
Model

Homogeneous version  
Heterogeneous version

Nutshell

Appendix

References



Introduction

Independent  
Interaction  
models

Interdependent  
interaction  
models

Generalized  
Model

Homogeneous version

Heterogeneous version

Nutshell

Appendix

References

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