

# Contagion

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Principles of Complex Systems, Vols. 1, 2, & 3D  
CSYS/MATH 6701, 6713, & a pretend number,  
2023–2024 | @pocsvox

Prof. Peter Sheridan Dodds | @peterdodds

Computational Story Lab | Vermont Complex Systems Center  
Santa Fe Institute | University of Vermont



The PoCVerse  
Contagion  
1 of 88

Basic Contagion  
Models

Global spreading  
condition

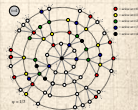
Social Contagion  
Models

Network version  
All-to-all networks

Theory

Spreading possibility  
Spreading probability  
Physical explanation  
Final size

References



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The PoCSverse  
Contagion  
2 of 88

Basic Contagion  
Models

Global spreading  
condition

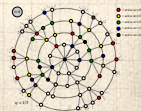
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Network version  
All-to-all networks

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Spreading probability  
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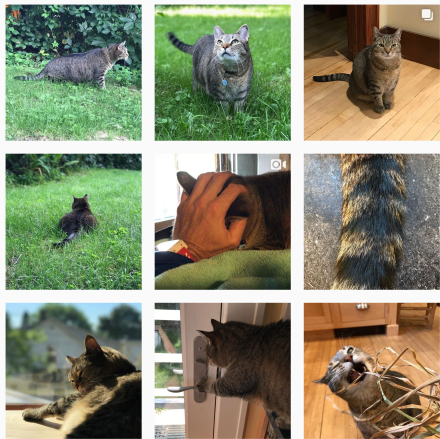
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The PoCSverse  
**Contagion**  
3 of 88

Basic Contagion  
Models

Global spreading  
condition

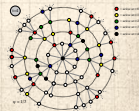
Social Contagion  
Models

Network version  
All-to-all networks

Theory

Spreading possibility  
Spreading probability  
Physical explanation  
Final size

References



# Outline

## Basic Contagion Models

## Global spreading condition

## Social Contagion Models

Network version

All-to-all networks

## Theory

Spreading possibility

Spreading probability

Physical explanation

Final size

## References

The PoCSverse

Contagion

4 of 88

Basic Contagion Models

Global spreading condition

Social Contagion Models

Network version

All-to-all networks

Theory

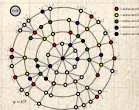
Spreading possibility

Spreading probability

Physical explanation

Final size

References





















# Contagion models

Some large questions concerning network contagion:

The PoCVerse  
Contagion  
11 of 88

## Basic Contagion Models

Global spreading condition

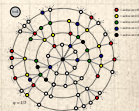
## Social Contagion Models

Network version  
All-to-all networks

## Theory

Spreading possibility  
Spreading probability  
Physical explanation  
Final size

## References



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The PoCverse  
Contagion  
11 of 88

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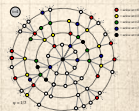
Social Contagion Models

Network version  
All-to-all networks

Theory

Spreading possibility  
Spreading probability  
Physical explanation  
Final size

References



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The PoCVerse  
Contagion  
11 of 88

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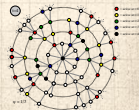
Social Contagion Models

Network version  
All-to-all networks

Theory

Spreading possibility  
Spreading probability  
Physical explanation  
Final size

References



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1. For a given spreading mechanism on a given network, what's the **probability** that there will be **global spreading**?
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The PoCVerse  
Contagion  
11 of 88

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Global spreading condition

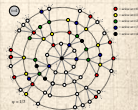
Social Contagion Models

Network version  
All-to-all networks

Theory

Spreading possibility  
Spreading probability  
Physical explanation  
Final size

References





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The PoCVerse  
Contagion  
11 of 88

Basic Contagion  
Models

Global spreading  
condition

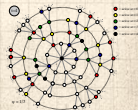
Social Contagion  
Models

Network version  
All-to-all networks

Theory

Spreading possibility  
Spreading probability  
Physical explanation  
Final size

References



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4. How do the **details** of the **spreading mechanism** affect the outcome?
5. What if the **seed** is one or many nodes?

The PoCSverse  
Contagion  
11 of 88

Basic Contagion  
Models

Global spreading  
condition

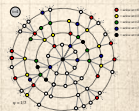
Social Contagion  
Models

Network version  
All-to-all networks

Theory

Spreading possibility  
Spreading probability  
Physical explanation  
Final size

References



# Contagion models

## Basic Contagion Models

Global spreading condition

Social Contagion Models

Network version  
All-to-all networks

Theory

Spreading possibility  
Spreading probability  
Physical explanation  
Final size

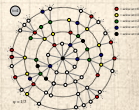
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**Next up:** We'll look at some fundamental kinds of spreading on generalized random networks.



# Spreading mechanisms

The PoCverse  
Contagion  
12 of 88

## Basic Contagion Models

Global spreading condition

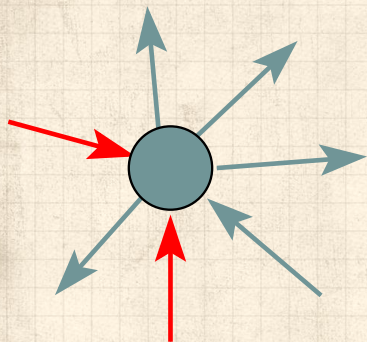
Social Contagion Models

Network version  
All-to-all networks

Theory

Spreading possibility  
Spreading probability  
Physical explanation  
Final size

References

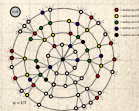


**General spreading mechanism:**

State of node  $i$  depends on history of  $i$  and  $i$ 's neighbors' states.

■ uninfected

■ infected





# Spreading mechanisms

The PoCVerse  
Contagion  
12 of 88

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Global spreading condition

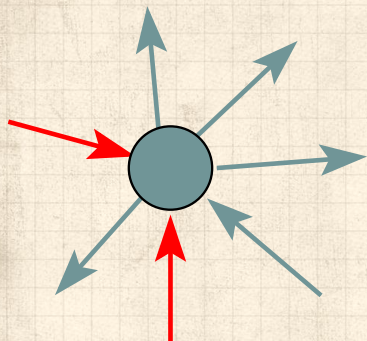
Social Contagion Models

Network version  
All-to-all networks

Theory

Spreading possibility  
Spreading probability  
Physical explanation  
Final size

References



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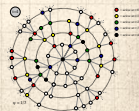
State of node  $i$  depends on history of  $i$  and  $i$ 's neighbors' states.



**Doses** of entity may be stochastic and history-dependent.

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# Spreading mechanisms

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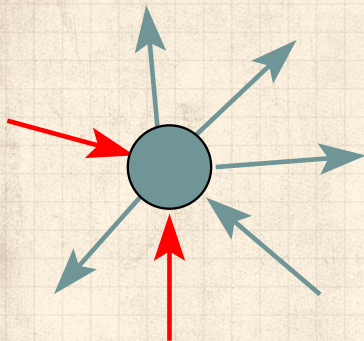
Social Contagion Models

Network version  
All-to-all networks

Theory

Spreading possibility  
Spreading probability  
Physical explanation  
Final size

References



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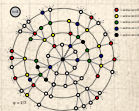
State of node  $i$  depends on history of  $i$  and  $i$ 's neighbors' states.



**Doses** of entity may be stochastic and history-dependent.



May have **multiple, interacting entities** spreading at once.



# Spreading on Random Networks



For random networks, we know local structure is pure branching.

The PoCVerse  
Contagion  
13 of 88

Basic Contagion  
Models

Global spreading  
condition

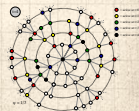
Social Contagion  
Models

Network version  
All-to-all networks

Theory

Spreading possibility  
Spreading probability  
Physical explanation  
Final size

References



# Spreading on Random Networks

- For random networks, we know local structure is pure branching.
- Successful spreading is  $\therefore$  contingent on **single edges** infecting nodes.

The PoCVerse  
Contagion  
13 of 88

Basic Contagion  
Models

Global spreading  
condition

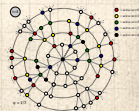
Social Contagion  
Models

Network version  
All-to-all networks

Theory

Spreading possibility  
Spreading probability  
Physical explanation  
Final size

References



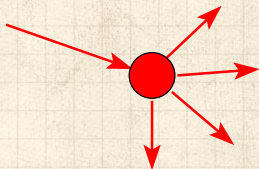


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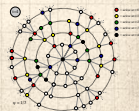
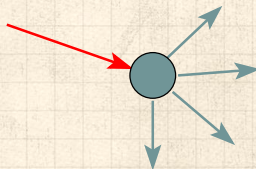
For random networks, we know local structure is pure branching.

Successful spreading is  $\therefore$  contingent on **single edges** infecting nodes.

Success



Failure:

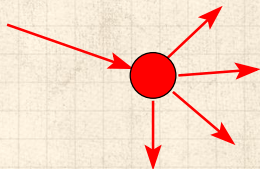


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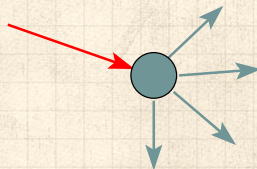
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Focus on **binary** case with edges and nodes either infected or not.

The PoCVerse  
Contagion  
13 of 88

Basic Contagion  
Models

Global spreading  
condition

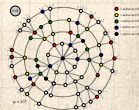
Social Contagion  
Models

Network version  
All-to-all networks

Theory

Spreading possibility  
Spreading probability  
Physical explanation  
Final size

References

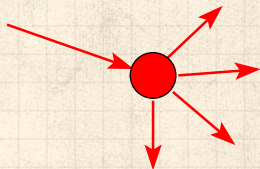


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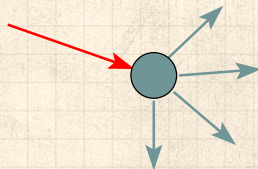
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Focus on **binary** case with edges and nodes either infected or not.

**First big question:** for a given network and contagion process, can global spreading from a single seed occur?

The PoCSverse  
Contagion  
13 of 88

Basic Contagion  
Models

Global spreading  
condition

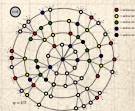
Social Contagion  
Models

Network version  
All-to-all networks

Theory

Spreading possibility  
Spreading probability  
Physical explanation  
Final size

References









# Global spreading condition



We need to find: [5]

**R** = the average # of infected edges that one random infected edge brings about.



Call **R** the **gain ratio**.

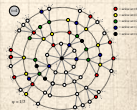


Define  $B_{k1}$  as the probability that a node of degree  $k$  is infected by a single infected edge.



$$\mathbf{R} = \sum_{k=0}^{\infty} \frac{kP_k}{\langle k \rangle}$$

prob. of  
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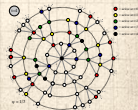


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$$R = \sum_{k=0}^{\infty} \frac{k P_k}{\langle k \rangle} \bullet \underbrace{(k-1)}_{\text{\# outgoing infected edges}}$$

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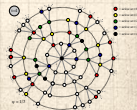


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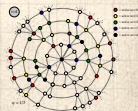
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$$+ \sum_{k=0}^{\infty} \frac{\widehat{kP_k}}{\langle k \rangle}$$



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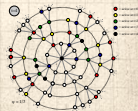
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$$\mathbf{R} = \sum_{k=0}^{\infty} \frac{kP_k}{\langle k \rangle} \cdot \underbrace{(k-1)}_{\substack{\# \text{ outgoing} \\ \text{infected} \\ \text{edges}}} \cdot \underbrace{B_{k1}}_{\substack{\text{Prob. of} \\ \text{infection}}} \\
 + \sum_{k=0}^{\infty} \frac{\widehat{kP_k}}{\langle k \rangle} \cdot \underbrace{0}_{\substack{\# \text{ outgoing} \\ \text{infected} \\ \text{edges}}}$$



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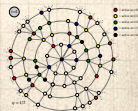
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$$\begin{aligned}
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 & + \sum_{k=0}^{\infty} \frac{kP_k}{\langle k \rangle} \bullet \underbrace{0}_{\substack{\# \text{ outgoing} \\ \text{infected} \\ \text{edges}}} \bullet \underbrace{(1 - B_{k1})}_{\substack{\text{Prob. of} \\ \text{no infection}}}
 \end{aligned}$$



# Global spreading condition

The PoCVerse  
Contagion  
15 of 88

Basic Contagion  
Models

Global spreading  
condition

Social Contagion  
Models

Network version  
All-to-all networks

Theory

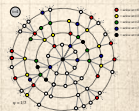
Spreading possibility  
Spreading probability  
Physical explanation  
Final size

References



Our global spreading condition is then:

$$\mathbf{R} = \sum_{k=0}^{\infty} \frac{kP_k}{\langle k \rangle} \bullet (k - 1) \bullet B_{k1} > 1.$$





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The PoCVerse  
Contagion  
15 of 88

Basic Contagion  
Models

Global spreading  
condition


Social Contagion  
Models

Network version  
All-to-all networks

Theory

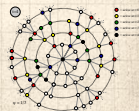
Spreading possibility  
Spreading probability  
Physical explanation  
Final size

References

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 Case 1:



# Global spreading condition

The PoCVerse  
Contagion  
15 of 88

Basic Contagion  
Models

Global spreading  
condition


Social Contagion  
Models

Network version  
All-to-all networks

Theory

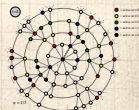
Spreading possibility  
Spreading probability  
Physical explanation  
Final size

References

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 **Case 1:** If  $B_{k1} = 1$



# Global spreading condition

The PoCVerse  
Contagion  
15 of 88

Basic Contagion  
Models

Global spreading  
condition


Social Contagion  
Models

Network version  
All-to-all networks

Theory

Spreading possibility  
Spreading probability  
Physical explanation  
Final size

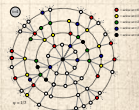
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 **Case 1:** If  $B_{k1} = 1$  then

$$\mathbf{R} = \sum_{k=0}^{\infty} \frac{kP_k}{\langle k \rangle} \bullet (k-1) = \frac{\langle k(k-1) \rangle}{\langle k \rangle} > 1.$$




# Global spreading condition

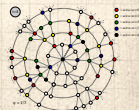
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$$\mathbf{R} = \sum_{k=0}^{\infty} \frac{kP_k}{\langle k \rangle} \bullet (k-1) = \frac{\langle k(k-1) \rangle}{\langle k \rangle} > 1.$$

 **Good:** This is just our giant component condition again.





# Global spreading condition



## Case 2:

The PoCVerse  
Contagion  
16 of 88

Basic Contagion  
Models

Global spreading  
condition

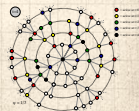
Social Contagion  
Models

Network version  
All-to-all networks


Theory

Spreading possibility  
Spreading probability  
Physical explanation  
Final size

References



# Global spreading condition

 **Case 2:** If  $B_{k1} = \beta < 1$

The PoCSverse  
Contagion  
16 of 88

Basic Contagion  
Models

Global spreading  
condition

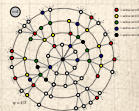
Social Contagion  
Models

Network version  
All-to-all networks


Theory

Spreading possibility  
Spreading probability  
Physical explanation  
Final size

References



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$$\mathbf{R} = \sum_{k=0}^{\infty} \frac{kP_k}{\langle k \rangle} \bullet (k-1) \bullet \beta > 1.$$

The PoCverse  
Contagion  
16 of 88

Basic Contagion  
Models

Global spreading  
condition

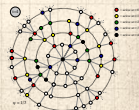
Social Contagion  
Models

Network version  
All-to-all networks


Theory

Spreading possibility  
Spreading probability  
Physical explanation  
Final size

References



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The PoCverse  
Contagion  
16 of 88

Basic Contagion  
Models

Global spreading  
condition

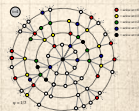
Social Contagion  
Models

Network version  
All-to-all networks

Theory


Spreading possibility  
Spreading probability  
Physical explanation  
Final size

References







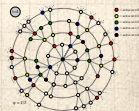
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# Global spreading condition

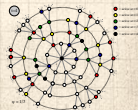
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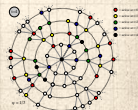
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 Resulting degree distribution  $\tilde{P}_k$ :

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Insert assignment question 






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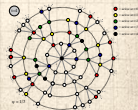
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Insert assignment question 

 We can show  $F_{\tilde{P}}(x) = F_P(\beta x + 1 - \beta)$ .



# Global spreading condition

 Cases 3, 4, 5, ...:

The PoCVerse  
Contagion  
17 of 88

Basic Contagion  
Models

Global spreading  
condition

Social Contagion  
Models

Network version

All-to-all networks

Theory

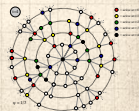
Spreading possibility

Spreading probability

Physical explanation


Final size

References





# Global spreading condition

 **Cases 3, 4, 5, ...:** Now allow  $B_{k1}$  to depend on  $k$

The PoCverse  
Contagion  
17 of 88

Basic Contagion  
Models

Global spreading  
condition

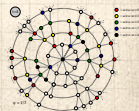
Social Contagion  
Models

Network version  
All-to-all networks



Theory

Spreading possibility  
Spreading probability  
Physical explanation  
Final size

References



# Global spreading condition

-  **Cases 3, 4, 5, ...:** Now allow  $B_{k_1}$  to depend on  $k$
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The PoCVerse  
Contagion  
17 of 88

Basic Contagion  
Models

Global spreading  
condition

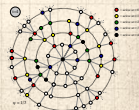
Social Contagion  
Models

Network version  
All-to-all networks

Theory

Spreading possibility  
Spreading probability  
Physical explanation  
Final size

References



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The PoCVerse  
Contagion  
17 of 88

Basic Contagion  
Models

Global spreading  
condition

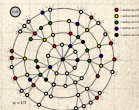
Social Contagion  
Models

Network version  
All-to-all networks

Theory

Spreading possibility  
Spreading probability  
Physical explanation  
Final size

References



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The PoCVerse  
Contagion  
17 of 88

Basic Contagion  
Models

Global spreading  
condition

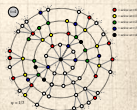
Social Contagion  
Models

Network version  
All-to-all networks

Theory

Spreading possibility  
Spreading probability  
Physical explanation  
Final size

References



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The PoCVerse  
Contagion  
17 of 88

Basic Contagion  
Models

Global spreading  
condition

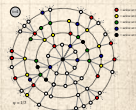
Social Contagion  
Models

Network version  
All-to-all networks

Theory

Spreading possibility  
Spreading probability  
Physical explanation  
Final size

References





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The PoCVerse  
Contagion  
17 of 88

Basic Contagion  
Models

Global spreading  
condition

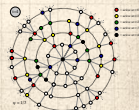
Social Contagion  
Models

Network version  
All-to-all networks

Theory

Spreading possibility  
Spreading probability  
Physical explanation  
Final size

References



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The PoCVerse  
Contagion  
17 of 88

Basic Contagion  
Models

Global spreading  
condition

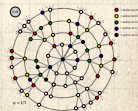
Social Contagion  
Models

Network version  
All-to-all networks

Theory

Spreading possibility  
Spreading probability  
Physical explanation  
Final size

References



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The PoCVerse  
Contagion  
17 of 88

Basic Contagion  
Models

Global spreading  
condition

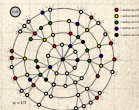
Social Contagion  
Models

Network version  
All-to-all networks

Theory

Spreading possibility  
Spreading probability  
Physical explanation  
Final size

References



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- $B_{k1} \searrow$  is a plausible representation of a simple kind of social contagion.
- The story:  
More well connected people are harder to influence.

The PoCVerse  
Contagion  
17 of 88

Basic Contagion  
Models

Global spreading  
condition

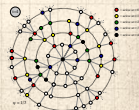
Social Contagion  
Models

Network version  
All-to-all networks

Theory

Spreading possibility  
Spreading probability  
Physical explanation  
Final size

References



# Global spreading condition



**Example:**  $B_{k1} = 1/k$ .

The PoCverse  
Contagion  
18 of 88

Basic Contagion  
Models

Global spreading  
condition

Social Contagion  
Models

Network version

All-to-all networks

Theory

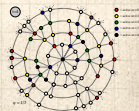
Spreading possibility

Spreading probability

Physical explanation

Final size

References





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The PoCSverse  
Contagion  
18 of 88

Basic Contagion  
Models

Global spreading  
condition

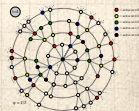
Social Contagion  
Models

Network version  
All-to-all networks

Theory

Spreading possibility  
Spreading probability  
Physical explanation  
Final size

References



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The PoCverse  
Contagion  
18 of 88

Basic Contagion  
Models

Global spreading  
condition

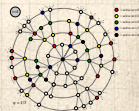
Social Contagion  
Models

Network version  
All-to-all networks

Theory

Spreading possibility  
Spreading probability  
Physical explanation  
Final size

References



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The PoCverse  
Contagion  
18 of 88

Basic Contagion  
Models

Global spreading  
condition

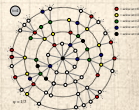
Social Contagion  
Models

Network version  
All-to-all networks

Theory

Spreading possibility  
Spreading probability  
Physical explanation  
Final size

References



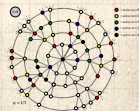
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The PoCverse  
Contagion  
18 of 88

Basic Contagion  
Models

Global spreading  
condition

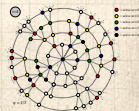
Social Contagion  
Models

Network version  
All-to-all networks

Theory

Spreading possibility  
Spreading probability  
Physical explanation  
Final size

References





# Global spreading condition

The PoCverse  
Contagion  
18 of 88

Basic Contagion  
Models

Global spreading  
condition

Social Contagion  
Models

Network version  
All-to-all networks

Theory

Spreading possibility  
Spreading probability  
Physical explanation  
Final size

References



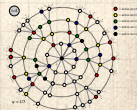
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Since  $\mathbf{R}$  is always less than 1, no spreading can occur for this mechanism.



# Global spreading condition



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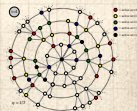
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Decay of  $B_{k1}$  is too fast.




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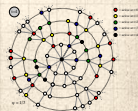


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 Decay of  $B_{k1}$  is too fast.


 Result is independent of degree distribution.



# Global spreading condition



**Example:**  $B_{k1} = H(\frac{1}{k} - \phi)$

where  $0 < \phi \leq 1$  is a **threshold** and  $H$  is the Heaviside function .

The PoCverse  
Contagion  
19 of 88

Basic Contagion  
Models

Global spreading  
condition

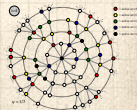
Social Contagion  
Models

Network version  
All-to-all networks

Theory

Spreading possibility  
Spreading probability  
Physical explanation  
Final size


References



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Infection only occurs for nodes with **low** degree.

The PoCverse  
Contagion  
19 of 88

Basic Contagion  
Models

Global spreading  
condition

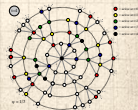
Social Contagion  
Models

Network version  
All-to-all networks

Theory

Spreading possibility  
Spreading probability  
Physical explanation  
Final size

References






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Call these nodes **vulnerables**:  
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The PoCSverse  
Contagion  
19 of 88

Basic Contagion  
Models

Global spreading  
condition

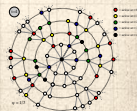
Social Contagion  
Models

Network version  
All-to-all networks

Theory

Spreading possibility  
Spreading probability  
Physical explanation  
Final size

References



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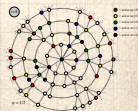
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$$R = \sum_{k=1}^{\infty} \frac{kP_k}{\langle k \rangle} \bullet (k-1) \bullet B_{k1}$$



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**Example:**  $B_{k1} = H\left(\frac{1}{k} - \phi\right)$

where  $0 < \phi \leq 1$  is a **threshold** and  $H$  is the Heaviside function .



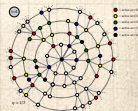
Infection only occurs for nodes with **low** degree.



Call these nodes **vulnerables**:  
they flip when **only one** of their friends flips.




$$\mathbf{R} = \sum_{k=1}^{\infty} \frac{kP_k}{\langle k \rangle} \cdot (k-1) \cdot B_{k1} = \sum_{k=1}^{\infty} \frac{kP_k}{\langle k \rangle} \cdot (k-1) \cdot H\left(\frac{1}{k} - \phi\right)$$



# Global spreading condition



**Example:**  $B_{k1} = H\left(\frac{1}{k} - \phi\right)$

where  $0 < \phi \leq 1$  is a **threshold** and  $H$  is the Heaviside function .



Infection only occurs for nodes with **low** degree.

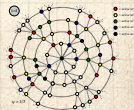


Call these nodes **vulnerables**:  
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$$\mathbf{R} = \sum_{k=1}^{\infty} \frac{kP_k}{\langle k \rangle} \bullet (k-1) \bullet B_{k1} = \sum_{k=1}^{\infty} \frac{kP_k}{\langle k \rangle} \bullet (k-1) \bullet H\left(\frac{1}{k} - \phi\right)$$

$$= \sum_{k=1}^{\lfloor \frac{1}{\phi} \rfloor} (k-1) \bullet \frac{kP_k}{\langle k \rangle} \quad \text{where } \lfloor \cdot \rfloor \text{ means floor.}$$



# Global spreading condition



The uniform threshold model global spreading condition:

$$\mathbf{R} = \sum_{k=1}^{\lfloor \frac{1}{\phi} \rfloor} (k-1) \cdot \frac{kP_k}{\langle k \rangle} > 1.$$

The PoCVerse  
Contagion  
20 of 88

Basic Contagion  
Models

Global spreading  
condition

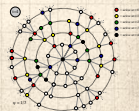
Social Contagion  
Models

Network version  
All-to-all networks

Theory


Spreading possibility  
Spreading probability  
Physical explanation  
Final size

References






# Global spreading condition

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$$\mathbf{R} = \sum_{k=1}^{\lfloor \frac{1}{\phi} \rfloor} (k-1) \cdot \frac{kP_k}{\langle k \rangle} > 1.$$

 As  $\phi \rightarrow 1$ , all nodes become resilient and  $r \rightarrow 0$ .

The PoCVerse  
Contagion  
20 of 88

Basic Contagion  
Models

Global spreading  
condition

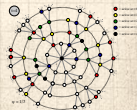
Social Contagion  
Models

Network version  
All-to-all networks


Theory

Spreading possibility  
Spreading probability  
Physical explanation  
Final size


References




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 As  $\phi \rightarrow 0$ , all nodes become vulnerable and the contagion condition matches up with the giant component condition.

The PoCVerse  
Contagion  
20 of 88

Basic Contagion  
Models

Global spreading  
condition

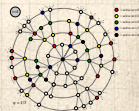
Social Contagion  
Models

Network version  
All-to-all networks


Theory

Spreading possibility  
Spreading probability  
Physical explanation  
Final size


References





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 As  $\phi \rightarrow 0$ , all nodes become vulnerable and the contagion condition matches up with the giant component condition.

 **Key:** If we fix  $\phi$  and then vary  $\langle k \rangle$ , we may see **two** phase transitions.

The PoCVerse  
Contagion  
20 of 88

Basic Contagion  
Models

Global spreading  
condition

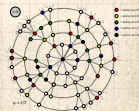
Social Contagion  
Models

Network version  
All-to-all networks


Theory

Spreading possibility  
Spreading probability  
Physical explanation  
Final size


References





# Global spreading condition


 The uniform threshold model global spreading condition:

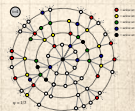
$$\mathbf{R} = \sum_{k=1}^{\lfloor \frac{1}{\phi} \rfloor} (k-1) \cdot \frac{kP_k}{\langle k \rangle} > 1.$$

 As  $\phi \rightarrow 1$ , all nodes become resilient and  $r \rightarrow 0$ .

 As  $\phi \rightarrow 0$ , all nodes become vulnerable and the contagion condition matches up with the giant component condition.

 **Key:** If we fix  $\phi$  and then vary  $\langle k \rangle$ , we may see **two** phase transitions.

 Added to our standard giant component transition, we will see a cut off in spreading as nodes become more connected.





# Virtual contagion: Corrupted Blood , a 2005 virtual plague in World of Warcraft:



The PoCverse  
Contagion  
21 of 88

Basic Contagion  
Models

Global spreading  
condition

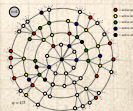
Social Contagion  
Models

Network version  
All-to-all networks

Theory

Spreading possibility  
Spreading probability  
Physical explanation  
Final size

References





# Outline

Basic Contagion Models

Global spreading condition

Social Contagion Models

Network version

All-to-all networks

Theory

Spreading possibility

Spreading probability

Physical explanation

Final size

References

The PoCSverse

Contagion

22 of 88

Basic Contagion Models

Global spreading condition

Social Contagion Models

Network version

All-to-all networks

Theory

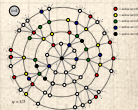
Spreading possibility

Spreading probability

Physical explanation

Final size

References



# Social Contagion

The PoCverse  
Contagion  
23 of 88

Basic Contagion  
Models

Global spreading  
condition

Social Contagion  
Models

Network version

All-to-all networks

Theory

Spreading possibility


Spreading probability

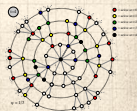
Physical explanation

Final size

References

Some important models (recap from CSYS 300)

 Tipping models—Schelling (1971)<sup>[11, 12, 13]</sup>



# Social Contagion

The PoCverse  
Contagion  
23 of 88

Basic Contagion  
Models

Global spreading  
condition

Social Contagion  
Models

Network version

All-to-all networks

Theory

Spreading possibility


Spreading probability


Physical explanation

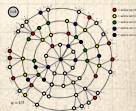
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Some important models (recap from CSYS 300)

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 Simulation on checker boards.



# Social Contagion

The PoCverse  
Contagion  
23 of 88

Basic Contagion  
Models

Global spreading  
condition

Social Contagion  
Models

Network version

All-to-all networks

Theory

Spreading possibility


Spreading probability



Physical explanation

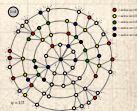
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-  Simulation on checker boards.
-  Idea of thresholds.



# Social Contagion

The PoCverse  
Contagion  
23 of 88

Basic Contagion  
Models

Global spreading  
condition

Social Contagion  
Models

Network version

All-to-all networks

Theory

Spreading possibility


Spreading probability



Physical explanation


Final size

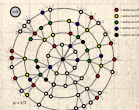
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-  Idea of thresholds.

 Threshold models—Granovetter (1978)<sup>[8]</sup>





# Social Contagion

The PoCverse  
Contagion  
23 of 88

Basic Contagion  
Models

Global spreading  
condition

Social Contagion  
Models

Network version  
All-to-all networks

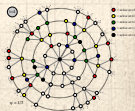
Theory

Spreading possibility  
Spreading probability  
Physical explanation  
Final size

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- 🧱 Threshold models—Granovetter (1978)<sup>[8]</sup>
- 🧱 Herding models—Bikhchandani et al. (1992)<sup>[1, 2]</sup>



# Social Contagion

The PoCVerse  
Contagion  
23 of 88

Basic Contagion  
Models

Global spreading  
condition

Social Contagion  
Models

Network version  
All-to-all networks

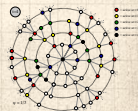
Theory

Spreading possibility  
Spreading probability  
Physical explanation  
Final size

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  - 🧱 Idea of thresholds.
- 🧱 Threshold models—Granovetter (1978)<sup>[8]</sup>
- 🧱 Herding models—Bikhchandani et al. (1992)<sup>[1, 2]</sup>
  - 🧱 Social learning theory, Informational cascades,...



# Threshold model on a network

The PoCverse  
Contagion  
24 of 88

Basic Contagion  
Models

Global spreading  
condition

Social Contagion  
Models

Network version  
All-to-all networks


Theory

Spreading possibility  
Spreading probability  
Physical explanation  
Final size

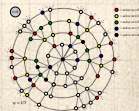
References

Original work:



“A simple model of global cascades on  
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Duncan J. Watts,  
Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci., **99**, 5766–5771,  
2002. <sup>[15]</sup>



# Threshold model on a network

The PoCVerse  
Contagion  
24 of 88

Basic Contagion  
Models

Global spreading  
condition

Social Contagion  
Models

Network version  
All-to-all networks


Theory

Spreading possibility  
Spreading probability  
Physical explanation  
Final size


References

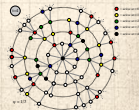
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 Mean field Granovetter model → network model



# Threshold model on a network

The PoCVerse  
Contagion  
24 of 88

Basic Contagion  
Models

Global spreading  
condition

Social Contagion  
Models

Network version  
All-to-all networks


Theory

Spreading possibility  
Spreading probability  
Physical explanation  
Final size


References


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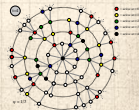


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 Mean field Granovetter model → network model

 Individuals now have a limited view of the world





# Threshold model on a network

 Interactions between individuals now represented by a network

The PoCVerse  
Contagion  
25 of 88

Basic Contagion  
Models

Global spreading  
condition

Social Contagion  
Models

Network version

All-to-all networks

Theory

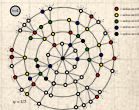
Spreading possibility

Spreading probability


Physical explanation


Final size

References



# Threshold model on a network

 Interactions between individuals now represented by a network

 Network is **sparse**

The PoCVerse  
Contagion  
25 of 88

Basic Contagion  
Models

Global spreading  
condition

Social Contagion  
Models

Network version

All-to-all networks

Theory

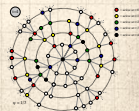
Spreading possibility

Spreading probability

Physical explanation

Final size

References



# Threshold model on a network

- Interactions between individuals now represented by a network
- Network is **sparse**
- Individual  $i$  has  $k_i$  contacts

The PoCVerse  
Contagion  
25 of 88

Basic Contagion  
Models

Global spreading  
condition

Social Contagion  
Models

Network version

All-to-all networks

Theory

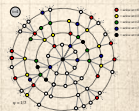
Spreading possibility

Spreading probability

Physical explanation

Final size

References



# Threshold model on a network

- Interactions between individuals now represented by a network
- Network is **sparse**
- Individual  $i$  has  $k_i$  contacts
- Influence on each link is **reciprocal** and of **unit weight**

The PoCVerse  
Contagion  
25 of 88

Basic Contagion  
Models

Global spreading  
condition

Social Contagion  
Models

Network version

All-to-all networks

Theory

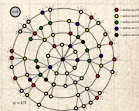
Spreading possibility

Spreading probability

Physical explanation

Final size

References



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The PoCverse  
Contagion  
25 of 88

Basic Contagion  
Models

Global spreading  
condition

Social Contagion  
Models

Network version

All-to-all networks

Theory

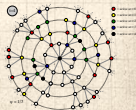
Spreading possibility

Spreading probability

Physical explanation

Final size

References





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The PoCverse  
Contagion  
25 of 88

Basic Contagion  
Models

Global spreading  
condition

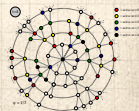
Social Contagion  
Models

Network version  
All-to-all networks

Theory

Spreading possibility  
Spreading probability  
Physical explanation  
Final size

References



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- Individuals repeatedly poll contacts on network
- Synchronous, discrete time updating

The PoCverse  
Contagion  
25 of 88

Basic Contagion  
Models

Global spreading  
condition

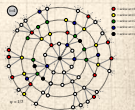
Social Contagion  
Models

Network version  
All-to-all networks

Theory

Spreading possibility  
Spreading probability  
Physical explanation  
Final size

References



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- Synchronous, discrete time updating
- Individual  $i$  becomes active when number of active contacts  $a_i \geq \phi_i k_i$

The PoCverse  
Contagion  
25 of 88

Basic Contagion  
Models

Global spreading  
condition

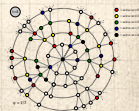
Social Contagion  
Models

Network version  
All-to-all networks

Theory

Spreading possibility  
Spreading probability  
Physical explanation  
Final size

References



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- Individuals repeatedly poll contacts on network
- Synchronous, discrete time updating
- Individual  $i$  becomes active when number of active contacts  $a_i \geq \phi_i k_i$
- Activation is permanent (SI)

The PoCverse  
Contagion  
25 of 88

Basic Contagion  
Models

Global spreading  
condition

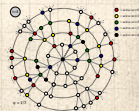
Social Contagion  
Models

Network version  
All-to-all networks

Theory

Spreading possibility  
Spreading probability  
Physical explanation  
Final size

References





# Threshold model on a network

The PoCVerse  
Contagion  
26 of 88

Basic Contagion  
Models

Global spreading  
condition

Social Contagion  
Models

Network version

All-to-all networks

Theory

Spreading possibility


Spreading probability

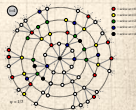
Physical explanation

Final size

References



 All nodes have threshold  $\phi = 0.2$ .





# Threshold model on a network

The PoCSverse  
Contagion  
26 of 88

Basic Contagion  
Models

Global spreading  
condition

Social Contagion  
Models

Network version

All-to-all networks

Theory

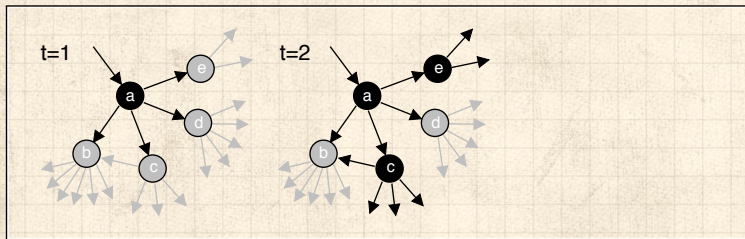
Spreading possibility


Spreading probability

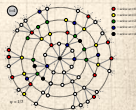
Physical explanation

Final size

References



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The PoCVerse  
Contagion  
26 of 88

Basic Contagion  
Models

Global spreading  
condition

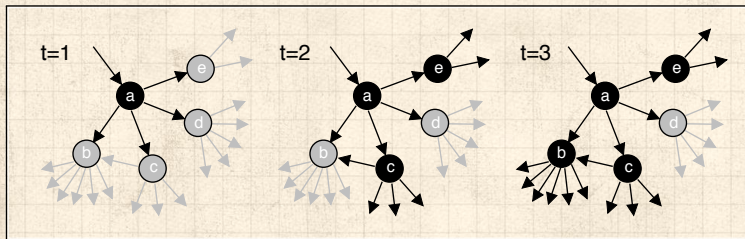
Social Contagion  
Models


Network version  
All-to-all networks

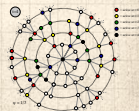
Theory

Spreading possibility  
Spreading probability  
Physical explanation  
Final size

References



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# The most gullible

Vulnerables:

The PoCverse  
**Contagion**  
27 of 88

Basic Contagion  
Models

Global spreading  
condition

Social Contagion  
Models

Network version

All-to-all networks

Theory

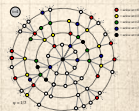
Spreading possibility

Spreading probability

Physical explanation


Final size

References



# The most gullible

## Vulnerables:

 Recall definition: individuals who can be activated by just one contact being active are **vulnerables**.

The PoCverse  
Contagion  
27 of 88

Basic Contagion  
Models

Global spreading  
condition

Social Contagion  
Models

Network version

All-to-all networks

Theory

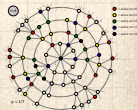
Spreading possibility

Spreading probability

Physical explanation


Final size


References



# The most gullible

## Vulnerables:

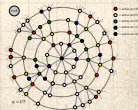
 Recall definition: individuals who can be activated by just one contact being active are **vulnerables**.

 The vulnerability condition for node  $i$ :  $1/k_i \geq \phi_i$ .

## Theory

Spreading possibility  
Spreading probability  
Physical explanation  
Final size

## References

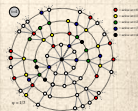




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# The most gullible

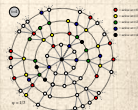
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 **Key:** For global spreading events (cascades) on random networks, must have a *global component of vulnerables* <sup>[15]</sup>





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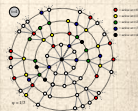
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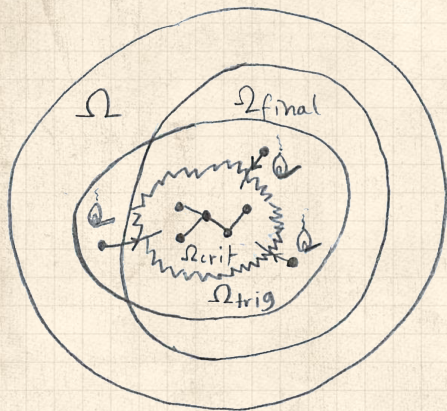
 **Key:** For global spreading events (cascades) on random networks, must have a *global component of vulnerables* <sup>[15]</sup>


 For a uniform threshold  $\phi$ , our global spreading condition tells us when such a component exists:


$$\mathbf{R} = \sum_{k=1}^{\lfloor \frac{1}{\phi} \rfloor} \frac{k P_k}{\langle k \rangle} \bullet (k - 1) > 1.$$





# Example random network structure:



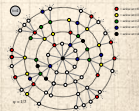
  $\Omega_{\text{crit}}$  = critical mass = global vulnerable component

  $\Omega_{\text{trig}}$  = triggering component

  $\Omega_{\text{final}}$  = potential extent of spread

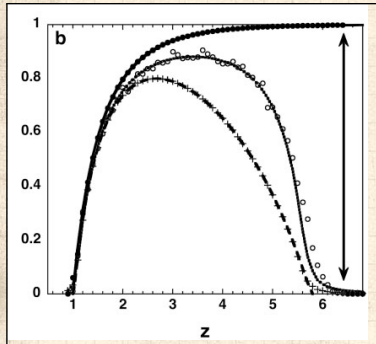
  $\Omega$  = entire network

$$\Omega_{\text{crit}} \subset \Omega_{\text{trig}}; \Omega_{\text{crit}} \subset \Omega_{\text{final}}; \text{ and } \Omega_{\text{trig}}, \Omega_{\text{final}} \subset \Omega.$$





# Global spreading events on random networks <sup>[15]</sup>



$$z = \langle k \rangle$$



**Top curve:** final fraction infected if successful.

The PoCVerse  
Contagion  
29 of 88

Basic Contagion  
Models

Global spreading  
condition

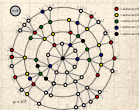
Social Contagion  
Models

Network version  
All-to-all networks

Theory

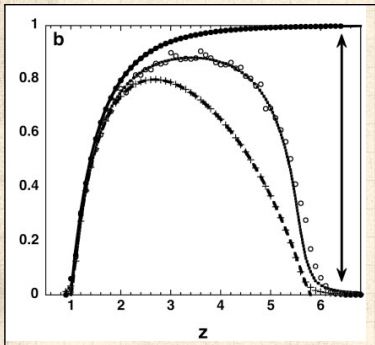
- Spreading possibility
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- Physical explanation
- Final size

References





# Global spreading events on random networks <sup>[15]</sup>



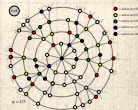
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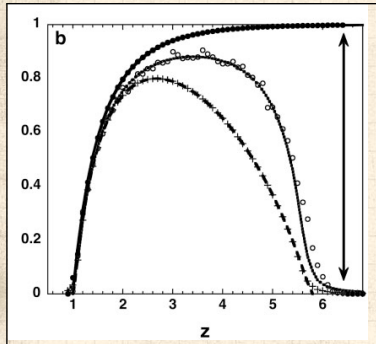
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**Bottom curve:** fractional size of vulnerable subcomponent. <sup>[15]</sup>



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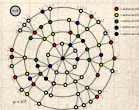
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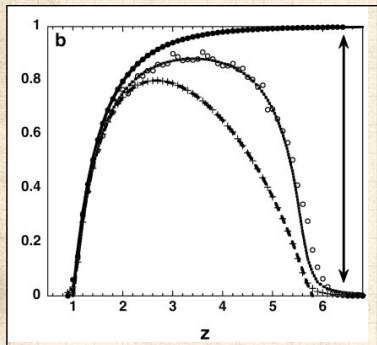
**Middle curve:** chance of starting a global spreading event (cascade).




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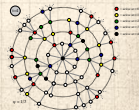
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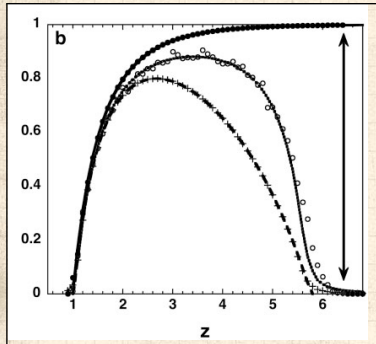
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 Global spreading events occur only if size of vulnerable subcomponent  $> 0$ .



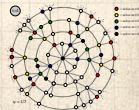
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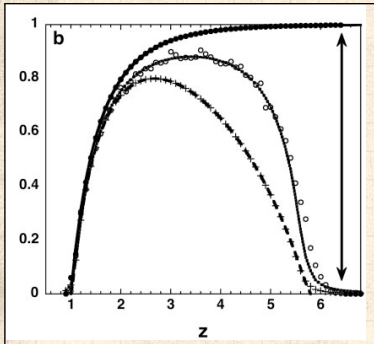
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- Global spreading events occur only if size of vulnerable subcomponent  $> 0$ .
- System is robust-yet-fragile just below upper boundary <sup>[3, 4, 14]</sup>






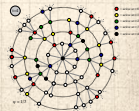
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-  Global spreading events occur only if size of vulnerable subcomponent  $> 0$ .
-  System is robust-yet-fragile just below upper boundary <sup>[3, 4, 14]</sup>
-  'Ignorance' facilitates spreading.





# Cascades on random networks

The PoCVerse  
Contagion  
30 of 88

Basic Contagion  
Models

Global spreading  
condition

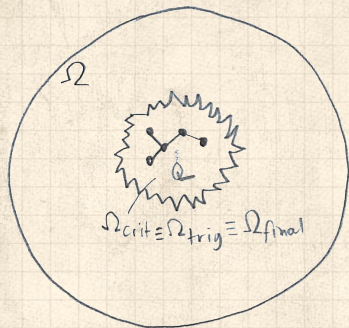
Social Contagion  
Models

Network version  
All-to-all networks

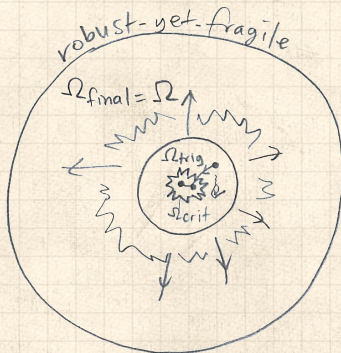
Theory

Spreading possibility  
Spreading probability  
Physical explanation  
Final size

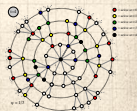
References



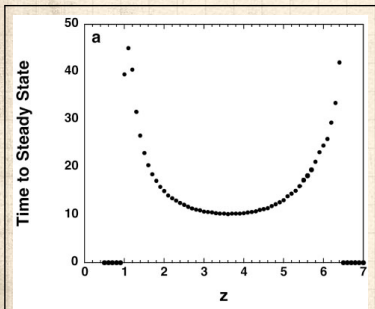
Above lower phase  
transition



Just below upper  
phase transition



# Cascades on random networks



Time taken for cascade to spread through network. <sup>[15]</sup>

(n.b.,  $z = \langle k \rangle$ )

The PoCVerse  
Contagion  
31 of 88

Basic Contagion  
Models

Global spreading  
condition

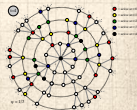
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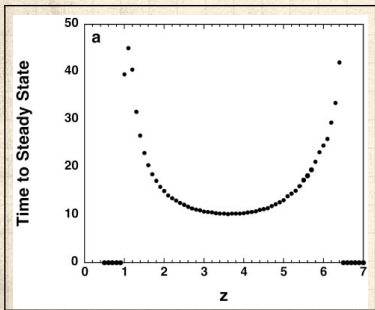
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- Final size

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# Cascades on random networks



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Time taken for cascade to spread through network. <sup>[15]</sup>



Two phase transitions.

The PoCVerse  
Contagion  
31 of 88

Basic Contagion  
Models

Global spreading  
condition

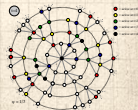
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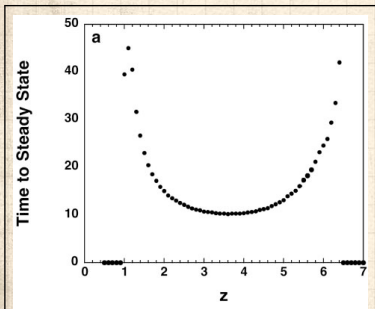
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Two phase transitions.

(n.b.,  $z = \langle k \rangle$ )



Largest vulnerable component = **critical mass**.

The PoCVerse  
Contagion  
31 of 88

Basic Contagion  
Models

Global spreading  
condition

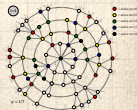
Social Contagion  
Models

Network version  
All-to-all networks

Theory

Spreading possibility  
Spreading probability  
Physical explanation  
Final size

References



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The PoCVerse  
Contagion  
31 of 88

Basic Contagion  
Models

Global spreading  
condition

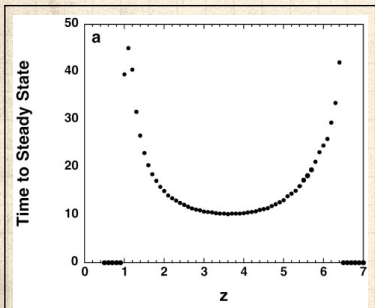
Social Contagion  
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Network version  
All-to-all networks

Theory

Spreading possibility  
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Physical explanation  
Final size

References



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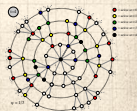
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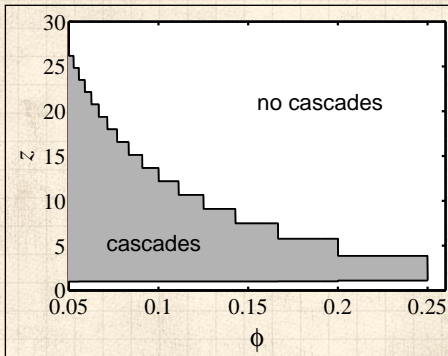


Now have endogenous mechanism for spreading from an individual to the critical mass and then beyond.





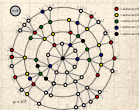
# Cascade window for random networks



(n.b.,  $z = \langle k \rangle$ )



Outline of cascade window for random networks.



# Cascade window for random networks

The PoCVerse  
Contagion  
33 of 88

Basic Contagion  
Models

Global spreading  
condition

Social Contagion  
Models

Network version

All-to-all networks

Theory

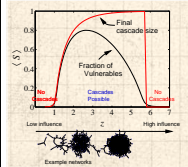
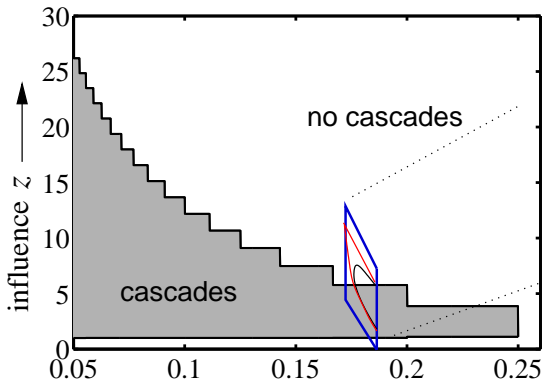
Spreading possibility

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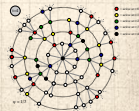
Physical explanation

Final size

References



$\phi$  = uniform individual threshold



# Outline

## Basic Contagion Models

## Global spreading condition

## Social Contagion Models

Network version

All-to-all networks

## Theory

Spreading possibility

Spreading probability

Physical explanation

Final size

## References

The PoCSverse

Contagion

34 of 88

Basic Contagion Models

Global spreading condition

Social Contagion Models

Network version

All-to-all networks

Theory

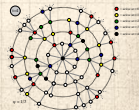
Spreading possibility

Spreading probability

Physical explanation

Final size

References



# Social Contagion

The PoCverse  
Contagion  
35 of 88

Basic Contagion  
Models

Global spreading  
condition

Social Contagion  
Models

Network version

All-to-all networks

Theory

Spreading possibility

Spreading probability

Physical explanation

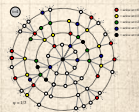
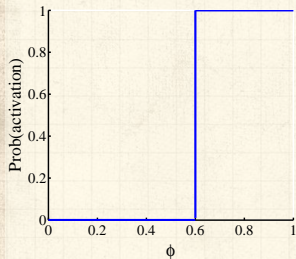
Final size

References

## Granovetter's Threshold model—recap



Assumes deterministic  
response functions



# Social Contagion

The PoCverse  
Contagion  
35 of 88

Basic Contagion  
Models

Global spreading  
condition

Social Contagion  
Models

Network version

All-to-all networks

Theory

Spreading possibility

Spreading probability

Physical explanation

Final size

References

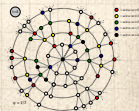
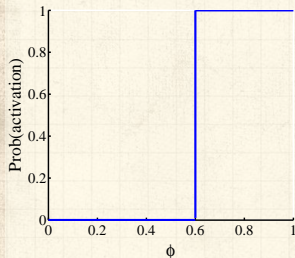
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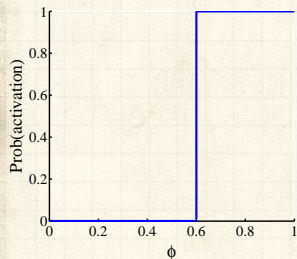



$\phi_*$  = threshold of an  
individual.







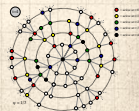
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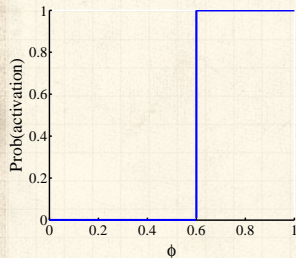
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## Granovetter's Threshold model—recap

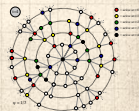


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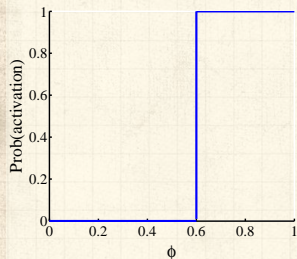
  $\phi_*$  = threshold of an individual.


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## Granovetter's Threshold model—recap




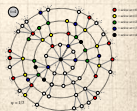
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  $\phi_t$  = fraction of people 'rioting' at time step  $t$ .



# Social Sciences—Threshold models

The PoCVerse  
Contagion  
36 of 88

Basic Contagion  
Models

Global spreading  
condition

Social Contagion  
Models

Network version

All-to-all networks

Theory

Spreading possibility

Spreading probability

Physical explanation

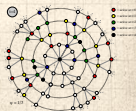
Final size

References



At time  $t + 1$ , fraction rioting = fraction with

$$\phi_* \leq \phi_t.$$



# Social Sciences—Threshold models

The PoCVerse  
Contagion  
36 of 88

Basic Contagion  
Models

Global spreading  
condition

Social Contagion  
Models

Network version

All-to-all networks

Theory

Spreading possibility

Spreading probability

Physical explanation

Final size

References

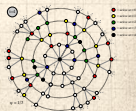


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# Social Sciences—Threshold models

The PoCSverse  
Contagion  
36 of 88

Basic Contagion  
Models

Global spreading  
condition

Social Contagion  
Models

Network version

All-to-all networks

Theory

Spreading possibility

Spreading probability

Physical explanation

Final size

References



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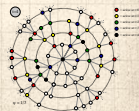
$$\phi_* \leq \phi_t.$$



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$\Rightarrow$  Iterative maps of the unit interval  $[0, 1]$ .



# Social Sciences—Threshold models

The PoCVerse  
Contagion  
37 of 88

Basic Contagion  
Models

Global spreading  
condition

Social Contagion  
Models

Network version

All-to-all networks

Theory

Spreading possibility

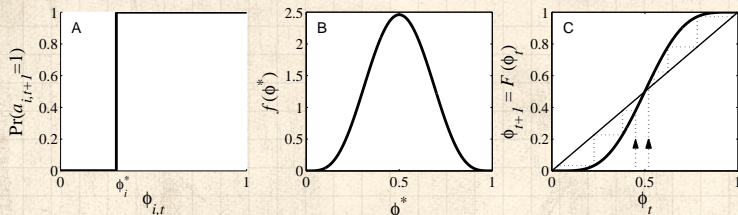
Spreading probability

Physical explanation

Final size

References

Action based on perceived behavior of others.



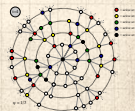
Two states: S and I



Recover now possible (SIS)



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



# Social Sciences—Threshold models

The PoCVerse  
Contagion  
37 of 88

Basic Contagion  
Models

Global spreading  
condition

Social Contagion  
Models

Network version

All-to-all networks

Theory

Spreading possibility

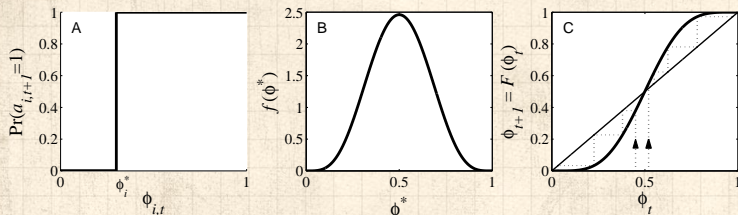
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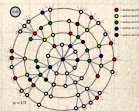
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Discrete time, synchronous update (strong assumption!)



# Social Sciences—Threshold models

The PoCVerse  
Contagion  
37 of 88

Basic Contagion  
Models

Global spreading  
condition

Social Contagion  
Models

Network version

All-to-all networks

Theory

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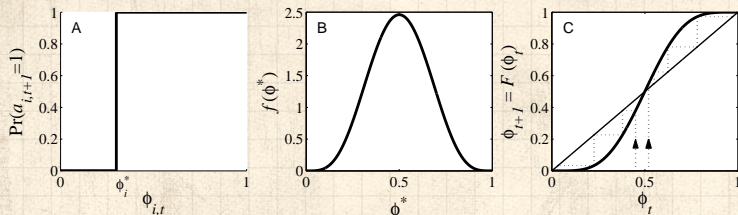
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Two states: S and I



Recover now possible (SIS)



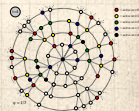
$\phi$  = fraction of contacts 'on' (e.g., rioting)



Discrete time, synchronous update (strong assumption!)



This is a **Critical mass model**



# Social Sciences—Threshold models

The PoCSverse  
Contagion  
38 of 88

Basic Contagion  
Models

Global spreading  
condition

Social Contagion  
Models

Network version

All-to-all networks

Theory

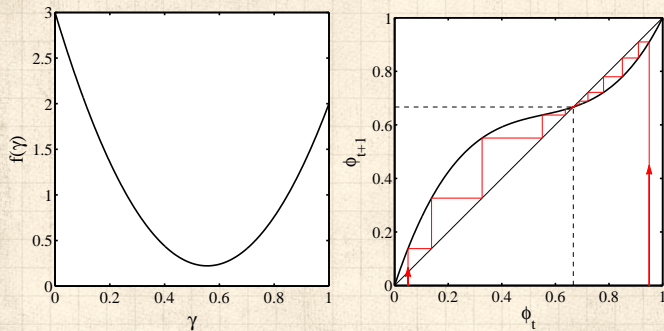
Spreading possibility

Spreading probability

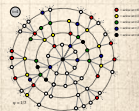
Physical explanation

Final size

References



Example of single stable state model





# Social Sciences—Threshold models

Implications for collective action theory:

The PoCVerse  
Contagion  
39 of 88

Basic Contagion  
Models

Global spreading  
condition

Social Contagion  
Models

Network version

All-to-all networks

Theory

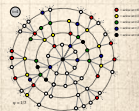
Spreading possibility

Spreading probability

Physical explanation

Final size

References



# Social Sciences—Threshold models

Implications for collective action theory:

1. Collective uniformity  $\nRightarrow$  individual uniformity

The PoCVerse  
Contagion  
39 of 88

Basic Contagion  
Models

Global spreading  
condition

Social Contagion  
Models

Network version

All-to-all networks

Theory

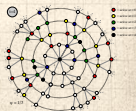
Spreading possibility

Spreading probability

Physical explanation

Final size

References



# Social Sciences—Threshold models

The PoCVerse  
Contagion  
39 of 88

Basic Contagion  
Models

Global spreading  
condition

Social Contagion  
Models

Network version

All-to-all networks

Theory

Spreading possibility

Spreading probability

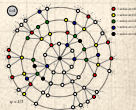
Physical explanation

Final size

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Implications for collective action theory:

1. Collective uniformity  $\nRightarrow$  individual uniformity
2. Small individual changes  $\Rightarrow$  large global changes



# Social Sciences—Threshold models

The PoCVerse  
Contagion  
39 of 88

Basic Contagion  
Models

Global spreading  
condition

Social Contagion  
Models

Network version

All-to-all networks

Theory

Spreading possibility

Spreading probability

Physical explanation

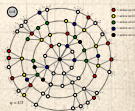
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Next:



# Social Sciences—Threshold models

The PoCSverse  
Contagion  
39 of 88

Basic Contagion  
Models

Global spreading  
condition

Social Contagion  
Models

Network version

All-to-all networks

Theory

Spreading possibility

Spreading probability

Physical explanation


Final size

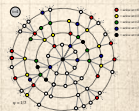
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Next:

 Connect mean-field model to network model.





# Social Sciences—Threshold models

The PoCSverse  
Contagion  
39 of 88

Basic Contagion  
Models

Global spreading  
condition

Social Contagion  
Models

Network version

All-to-all networks

Theory

Spreading possibility

Spreading probability

Physical explanation


Final size


References

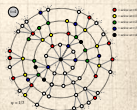
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 Single seed for network model:  $1/N \rightarrow 0$ .



# Social Sciences—Threshold models

The PoCSverse  
Contagion  
39 of 88

Basic Contagion  
Models

Global spreading  
condition

Social Contagion  
Models

Network version

All-to-all networks

Theory

Spreading possibility

Spreading probability

Physical explanation




Final size

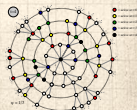
References

## Implications for collective action theory:

1. Collective uniformity  $\nRightarrow$  individual uniformity
2. Small individual changes  $\Rightarrow$  large global changes

## Next:

-  Connect mean-field model to network model.
-  Single seed for network model:  $1/N \rightarrow 0$ .
-  Comparison between network and mean-field model sensible for vanishing seed size for the latter.



# All-to-all versus random networks

The PoCVerse  
Contagion  
40 of 88

Basic Contagion  
Models

Global spreading  
condition

Social Contagion  
Models

Network version

All-to-all networks

Theory

Spreading possibility

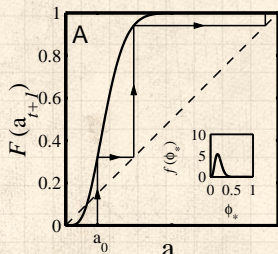
Spreading probability

Physical explanation

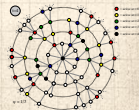
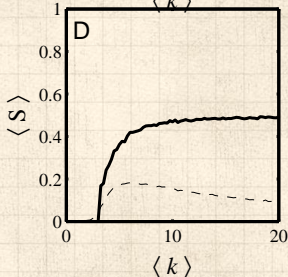
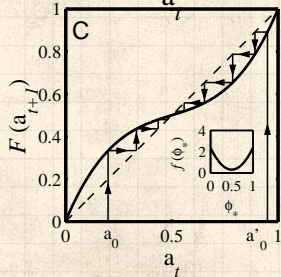
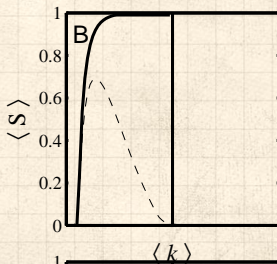
Final size

References

all-to-all networks



random networks



# Spreadworthiness: Cat videos

## Bowling with Ragdolls:

The PoCSverse  
Contagion  
41 of 88

Basic Contagion  
Models

Global spreading  
condition

Social Contagion  
Models

Network version

All-to-all networks

Theory

Spreading possibility


Spreading probability

Physical explanation

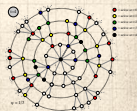
Final size

References

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=XX-g2nmqL9Q?rel=0>

 Organic extreme outlier?

 Success did not spread  to other videos.



# Threshold contagion on random networks

The PoCVerse  
Contagion  
42 of 88

Basic Contagion  
Models

Global spreading  
condition

Social Contagion  
Models

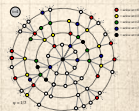
Network version  
All-to-all networks

## Theory

Spreading possibility  
Spreading probability  
Physical explanation  
Final size

References

Three key pieces to describe analytically:





# Threshold contagion on random networks

The PoCverse  
Contagion  
42 of 88

Basic Contagion  
Models

Global spreading  
condition

Social Contagion  
Models

Network version  
All-to-all networks

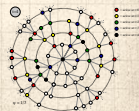
Theory

Spreading possibility  
Spreading probability  
Physical explanation  
Final size

References

Three key pieces to describe analytically:

1. The fractional size of the largest subcomponent of vulnerable nodes,  $S_{\text{vuln}}$ .



# Threshold contagion on random networks

The PoCSverse  
Contagion  
42 of 88

Basic Contagion  
Models

Global spreading  
condition

Social Contagion  
Models

Network version  
All-to-all networks

Theory

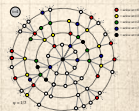
Spreading possibility  
Spreading probability  
Physical explanation  
Final size

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Three key pieces to describe analytically:

1. The fractional size of the largest subcomponent of vulnerable nodes,  $S_{\text{vuln}}$ .
2. The chance of starting a global spreading event,

$$P_{\text{trig}} = S_{\text{trig}}.$$



# Threshold contagion on random networks

The PoCVerse  
Contagion  
42 of 88

Basic Contagion  
Models

Global spreading  
condition

Social Contagion  
Models

Network version  
All-to-all networks

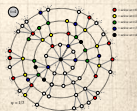
Theory

Spreading possibility  
Spreading probability  
Physical explanation  
Final size

References

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2. The chance of starting a global spreading event,  $P_{\text{trig}} = S_{\text{trig}}$ .
3. The expected final size of any successful spread,  $S$ .



# Threshold contagion on random networks

The PoCVerse  
Contagion  
42 of 88

Basic Contagion  
Models

Global spreading  
condition

Social Contagion  
Models

Network version  
All-to-all networks

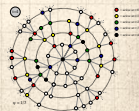
Theory

Spreading possibility  
Spreading probability  
Physical explanation  
Final size

References

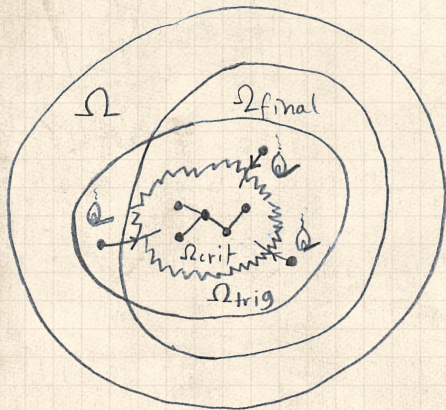
Three key pieces to describe analytically:


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2. The chance of starting a global spreading event,  $P_{\text{trig}} = S_{\text{trig}}$ .
3. The expected final size of any successful spread,  $S$ .
  - ❏ n.b., the distribution of  $S$  is almost always bimodal.








# Example random network structure:



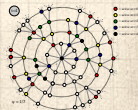
  $\Omega_{\text{crit}} = \Omega_{\text{vuln}} =$   
critical mass =  
global  
vulnerable  
component

  $\Omega_{\text{trig}} =$   
triggering  
component

  $\Omega_{\text{final}} =$   
potential  
extent of  
spread

  $\Omega =$  entire  
network

$$\Omega_{\text{crit}} \subset \Omega_{\text{trig}}; \Omega_{\text{crit}} \subset \Omega_{\text{final}}; \text{ and } \Omega_{\text{trig}}, \Omega_{\text{final}} \subset \Omega.$$





# Outline

Basic Contagion Models

Global spreading condition

Social Contagion Models

Network version

All-to-all networks

Theory

Spreading possibility

Spreading probability

Physical explanation

Final size

References

The PoCSverse

**Contagion**

44 of 88

Basic Contagion Models

Global spreading condition

Social Contagion Models

Network version

All-to-all networks

Theory

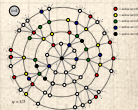
Spreading possibility

Spreading probability

Physical explanation

Final size

References



# Threshold contagion on random networks



**First goal:** Find the largest component of vulnerable nodes.

The PoCVerse  
Contagion  
45 of 88

Basic Contagion  
Models

Global spreading  
condition

Social Contagion  
Models

Network version

All-to-all networks

Theory

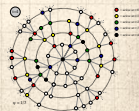
Spreading possibility

Spreading probability


Physical explanation


Final size

References



# Threshold contagion on random networks

 **First goal:** Find the largest component of vulnerable nodes.

 Recall that for finding the giant component's size, we had to solve:

$$F_{\pi}(x) = xF_P(F_{\rho}(x)) \quad \text{and} \quad F_{\rho}(x) = xF_R(F_{\rho}(x))$$

The PoCverse  
Contagion  
45 of 88

Basic Contagion  
Models

Global spreading  
condition

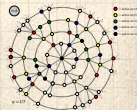
Social Contagion  
Models

Network version  
All-to-all networks


Theory


Spreading possibility  
Spreading probability  
Physical explanation  
Final size

References




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 We'll find a similar result for the subset of nodes that are vulnerable.

The PoCVerse  
Contagion  
45 of 88

Basic Contagion  
Models

Global spreading  
condition

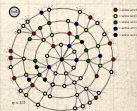
Social Contagion  
Models

Network version  
All-to-all networks

Theory

Spreading possibility  
Spreading probability  
Physical explanation  
Final size

References



# Threshold contagion on random networks

The PoCVerse  
Contagion  
45 of 88

Basic Contagion  
Models

Global spreading  
condition


Social Contagion  
Models


Network version  
All-to-all networks

Theory


Spreading possibility  
Spreading probability  
Physical explanation  
Final size


References

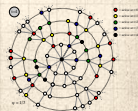
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 This is a node-based percolation problem.





# Threshold contagion on random networks

The PoCverse  
Contagion  
45 of 88

Basic Contagion  
Models

Global spreading  
condition


Social Contagion  
Models


Network version  
All-to-all networks

Theory


Spreading possibility  
Spreading probability  
Physical explanation  
Final size


References


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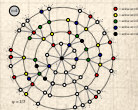
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 We'll find a similar result for the subset of nodes that are vulnerable.


 This is a node-based percolation problem.

 For a general monotonic threshold distribution  $f(\phi)$ , a degree  $k$  node is vulnerable with probability

$$B_{k1} = \int_0^{1/k} f(\phi) d\phi.$$



# Threshold contagion on random networks

 We now have a generating function for the probability that a randomly chosen node is vulnerable and has degree  $k$ :

$$F_P^{(\text{vuln})}(x) = \sum_{k=0}^{\infty} P_k B_{k1} x^k.$$

The PoCVerse  
Contagion  
46 of 88

Basic Contagion  
Models

Global spreading  
condition

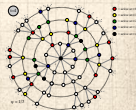
Social Contagion  
Models

Network version  
All-to-all networks


Theory

Spreading possibility  
Spreading probability  
Physical explanation  
Final size


References



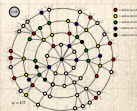
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 The generating function for friends-of-friends distribution is similar to before:


$$F_R^{(\text{vuln})}(x) = \sum_{k=0}^{\infty} \frac{k P_k}{\langle k \rangle} B_{k1} x^{k-1}$$



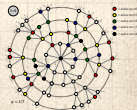
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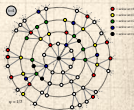
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## Threshold contagion on random networks

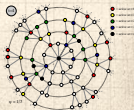
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 Detail: We still have the underlying degree distribution involved in the denominator.



# Threshold contagion on random networks



Functional relations for component size g.f.'s are almost the same ...

The PoCVerse  
Contagion  
47 of 88

Basic Contagion  
Models

Global spreading  
condition

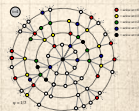
Social Contagion  
Models

Network version  
All-to-all networks

Theory

Spreading possibility  
Spreading probability  
Physical explanation  
Final size

References



# Threshold contagion on random networks



Functional relations for component size g.f.'s are almost the same ...

$$F_{\pi}^{(\text{vuln})}(x) = x F_P^{(\text{vuln})} \left( F_{\rho}^{(\text{vuln})}(x) \right)$$

The PoCverse  
Contagion  
47 of 88

Basic Contagion  
Models

Global spreading  
condition

Social Contagion  
Models

Network version  
All-to-all networks

Theory

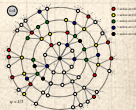
Spreading possibility

Spreading probability

Physical explanation

Final size

References



# Threshold contagion on random networks



Functional relations for component size g.f.'s are almost the same ...

$$F_{\pi}^{(\text{vuln})}(x) = \underbrace{1 - F_P^{(\text{vuln})}(1)}_{\substack{\text{central node} \\ \text{is not} \\ \text{vulnerable}}} + x F_P^{(\text{vuln})}(F_{\rho}^{(\text{vuln})}(x))$$

The PoCSverse  
Contagion  
47 of 88

Basic Contagion  
Models

Global spreading  
condition

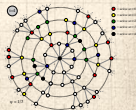
Social Contagion  
Models

Network version  
All-to-all networks

Theory

Spreading possibility  
Spreading probability  
Physical explanation  
Final size

References



# Threshold contagion on random networks

The PoCverse  
Contagion  
47 of 88



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Basic Contagion  
Models

Global spreading  
condition

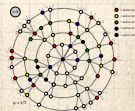
Social Contagion  
Models

Network version  
All-to-all networks

Theory

Spreading possibility  
Spreading probability  
Physical explanation  
Final size

References





# Threshold contagion on random networks

The PoCverse  
Contagion  
47 of 88



Functional relations for component size g.f.'s are almost the same ...

$$F_{\pi}^{(\text{vuln})}(x) = \underbrace{1 - F_P^{(\text{vuln})}(1)}_{\substack{\text{central node} \\ \text{is not} \\ \text{vulnerable}}} + x F_P^{(\text{vuln})}(F_{\rho}^{(\text{vuln})}(x))$$

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Basic Contagion Models

Global spreading condition

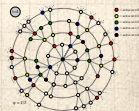
Social Contagion Models

Network version  
All-to-all networks

Theory

Spreading possibility  
Spreading probability  
Physical explanation  
Final size

References



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The PoCverse  
Contagion  
47 of 88



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Can now solve as before to find

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Basic Contagion  
Models

Global spreading  
condition

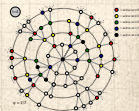
Social Contagion  
Models

Network version  
All-to-all networks

Theory

Spreading possibility  
Spreading probability  
Physical explanation  
Final size

References



# Outline

Basic Contagion Models

Global spreading condition

Social Contagion Models

Network version

All-to-all networks

Theory

Spreading possibility

Spreading probability

Physical explanation

Final size

References

The PoCSverse

Contagion

48 of 88

Basic Contagion Models

Global spreading condition

Social Contagion Models

Network version

All-to-all networks

Theory

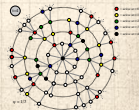
Spreading possibility

Spreading probability

Physical explanation

Final size

References



# Threshold contagion on random networks

The PoCSverse  
Contagion  
49 of 88

Basic Contagion  
Models

Global spreading  
condition

Social Contagion  
Models

Network version  
All-to-all networks

Theory


Spreading possibility

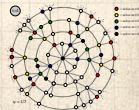
Spreading probability

Physical explanation


Final size


References

 **Second goal:** Find probability of triggering largest vulnerable component.



# Threshold contagion on random networks

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 Assumption is **first node** is **randomly chosen**.

The PoCverse  
Contagion  
49 of 88

Basic Contagion  
Models

Global spreading  
condition

Social Contagion  
Models

Network version

All-to-all networks

Theory

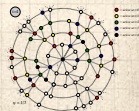
Spreading possibility

Spreading probability

Physical explanation

Final size

References





# Threshold contagion on random networks

The PoCverse  
Contagion  
49 of 88

Basic Contagion  
Models

Global spreading  
condition


Social Contagion  
Models

Network version  
All-to-all networks


Theory

Spreading possibility  
Spreading probability  
Physical explanation  
Final size

References

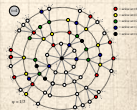
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# Threshold contagion on random networks

The PoCverse  
Contagion  
49 of 88

Basic Contagion  
Models

Global spreading  
condition


Social Contagion  
Models

Network version  
All-to-all networks


Theory

Spreading possibility  
Spreading probability  
Physical explanation  
Final size

References

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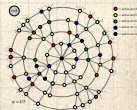
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 Solve as before to find  $P_{\text{trig}} = S_{\text{trig}} = 1 - F_{\pi}^{(\text{trig})}(1)$ .



# Outline

Basic Contagion Models

Global spreading condition

Social Contagion Models

Network version

All-to-all networks

Theory

Spreading possibility

Spreading probability

Physical explanation

Final size

References

The PoCSverse

Contagion

50 of 88

Basic Contagion Models

Global spreading condition

Social Contagion Models

Network version

All-to-all networks

Theory

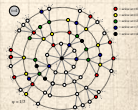
Spreading possibility

Spreading probability

**Physical explanation**

Final size

References



# Physical derivation of possibility and probability of global spreading:

- ❏ Possibility: binary indicator of phase. Global spreading events are either possible or can never happen.

The PoCVerse  
Contagion  
51 of 88

Basic Contagion  
Models

Global spreading  
condition

Social Contagion  
Models

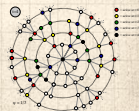
Network version  
All-to-all networks

Theory

Spreading possibility  
Spreading probability

**Physical explanation**  
Final size

References





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The PoCVerse  
Contagion  
51 of 88

Basic Contagion  
Models

Global spreading  
condition

Social Contagion  
Models

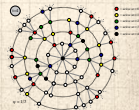
Network version  
All-to-all networks

Theory

Spreading possibility  
Spreading probability

**Physical explanation**  
Final size

References





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The PoCverse  
Contagion  
51 of 88

Basic Contagion  
Models

Global spreading  
condition

Social Contagion  
Models

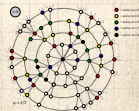
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All-to-all networks

Theory

Spreading possibility  
Spreading probability

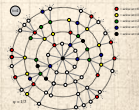
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Final size

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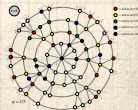
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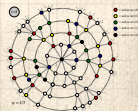
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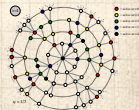
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🧱 Call this  $Q_{\text{trig}}$ .

🧱 Later: Generalize to more complex networks involving assortativity of all kinds.





Probability an infected edge leads to a global spreading event:

  $Q_{\text{trig}}$  must satisfy a one-step recursion relation.

The PoCverse

Contagion

52 of 88

Basic Contagion Models

Global spreading condition

Social Contagion Models

Network version

All-to-all networks

Theory

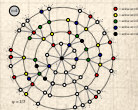
Spreading possibility

Spreading probability


**Physical explanation**


Final size

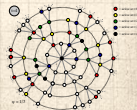
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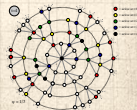
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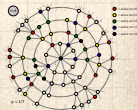
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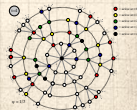
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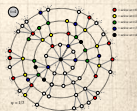
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 Put everything together and solve for  $Q_{\text{trig}}$ :

$$Q_{\text{trig}} = \sum_k \frac{kP_k}{\langle k \rangle} \cdot B_{k1} \cdot [1 - (1 - Q_{\text{trig}})^{k-1}].$$



## Good things about our equation for $Q_{\text{trig}}$ :

$$Q_{\text{trig}} = \sum_k \frac{kP_k}{\langle k \rangle} \bullet B_{k1} \bullet [1 - (1 - Q_{\text{trig}})^{k-1}] = f(Q_{\text{trig}}; P_k, B_{k1})$$

  $Q_{\text{trig}} = 0$  is always a solution.

The PoCverse  
Contagion  
53 of 88

Basic Contagion  
Models

Global spreading  
condition

Social Contagion  
Models

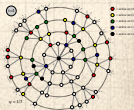
Network version  
All-to-all networks

Theory

Spreading possibility  
Spreading probability


**Physical explanation**  
Final size


References



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The PoCverse  
Contagion  
53 of 88

Basic Contagion  
Models

Global spreading  
condition

Social Contagion  
Models

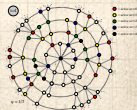
Network version  
All-to-all networks

Theory

Spreading possibility  
Spreading probability


Physical explanation  
Final size


References




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 Given  $P_k$  and  $B_{k1}$ , we can use any kind of root finder to solve for  $Q_{\text{trig}}$ , but ...

The PoCSverse  
Contagion  
53 of 88

Basic Contagion  
Models

Global spreading  
condition

Social Contagion  
Models

Network version  
All-to-all networks

Theory

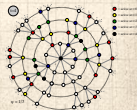
Spreading possibility

Spreading probability

Physical explanation

Final size





References





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The PoCverse  
Contagion  
53 of 88

Basic Contagion  
Models

Global spreading  
condition

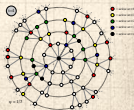
Social Contagion  
Models

Network version  
All-to-all networks

Theory

Spreading possibility  
Spreading probability  
Physical explanation  
Final size






References

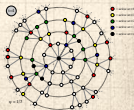




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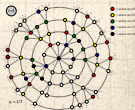
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 $Q_{\text{trig}}^{(n+1)} = f(Q_{\text{trig}}^{(n)}; P_k, B_{k1})$ .



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-  Start with a suitably small seed  $Q_{\text{trig}}^{(1)} > 0$  and iterate while rubbing hands together.





Global spreading is possible if the fractional size  $S_{\text{vuln}}$  of the largest component of vulnerables is “giant”.

The PoCSverse  
Contagion  
54 of 88

Basic Contagion  
Models

Global spreading  
condition

Social Contagion  
Models

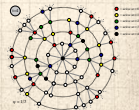
Network version  
All-to-all networks

Theory

Spreading possibility  
Spreading probability

**Physical explanation**  
Final size

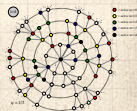
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Interpret  $S_{\text{vuln}}$  as the probability a randomly chosen node is vulnerable and that infecting it leads to a global spreading event:

$$S_{\text{vuln}} = \sum_k P_k \cdot B_{k1} \cdot [1 - (1 - Q_{\text{trig}})^k] > 0.$$



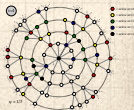


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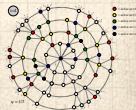
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Global spreading is possible if the fractional size  $S_{\text{vuln}}$  of the largest component of vulnerables is “giant”.

Interpret  $S_{\text{vuln}}$  as the probability a randomly chosen node is vulnerable and that infecting it leads to a global spreading event:

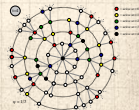
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As for  $S_{\text{vuln}}$ ,  $P_{\text{trig}}$  is non-zero when  $Q_{\text{trig}} > 0$ .



## Connection to generating function results:

 We found that  $F_{\rho}^{(\text{vuln})}(1)$ —the probability that a random edge leads to a finite vulnerable component—satisfies

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The PoCverse  
Contagion  
55 of 88

Basic Contagion  
Models

Global spreading  
condition

Social Contagion  
Models

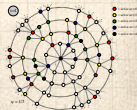
Network version  
All-to-all networks

Theory


Spreading possibility  
Spreading probability

**Physical explanation**  
Final size


References



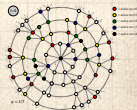
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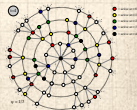
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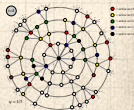
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🧱 Some breathless algebra it all matches:

$$Q_{\text{trig}} = \sum_{k=0}^{\infty} \frac{kP_k}{\langle k \rangle} \cdot B_{k1} \cdot \left[ 1 - (1 - Q_{\text{trig}})^{k-1} \right].$$



# Fractional size of the largest vulnerable component:



The generating function approach gave

$S_{\text{vuln}} = 1 - F_{\pi}^{(\text{vuln})}(1)$  where

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The PoCverse  
Contagion  
56 of 88

Basic Contagion  
Models

Global spreading  
condition

Social Contagion  
Models

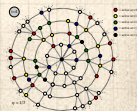
Network version  
All-to-all networks

Theory

Spreading possibility  
Spreading probability

**Physical explanation**  
Final size

References



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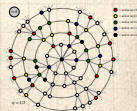
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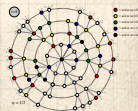
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Excited scrabbling about gives us, as before:

$$S_{\text{vuln}} = \sum_{k=0}^{\infty} P_k B_{k1} \left[ 1 - (1 - Q_{\text{trig}})^k \right].$$





# Triggering probability for single-seed global spreading events:

- ☐ Slight adjustment to the vulnerable component calculation.

The PoCverse  
**Contagion**  
57 of 88

Basic Contagion  
Models

Global spreading  
condition

Social Contagion  
Models

Network version

All-to-all networks

Theory

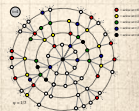
Spreading possibility

Spreading probability

**Physical explanation**


Final size


References





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The PoCverse  
Contagion  
57 of 88

Basic Contagion  
Models

Global spreading  
condition

Social Contagion  
Models

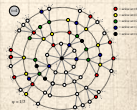
Network version  
All-to-all networks

Theory

Spreading possibility  
Spreading probability

**Physical explanation**  
Final size

References



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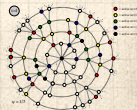
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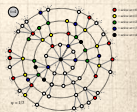
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Earlier, we showed the global spreading condition follows from the gain ratio  $\mathbf{R} > 1$ :

$$\mathbf{R} = \sum_{k=0}^{\infty} \frac{k P_k}{\langle k \rangle} \bullet (k - 1) \bullet B_{k1} > 1.$$

The PoCverse  
Contagion  
58 of 88

Basic Contagion  
Models

Global spreading  
condition

Social Contagion  
Models

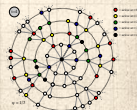
Network version  
All-to-all networks

Theory

Spreading possibility  
Spreading probability

Physical explanation  
Final size

References





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The PoCverse  
Contagion  
58 of 88

Basic Contagion  
Models

Global spreading  
condition

Social Contagion  
Models

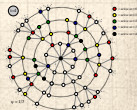
Network version  
All-to-all networks

Theory

Spreading possibility  
Spreading probability

Physical explanation  
Final size

References





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The PoCverse  
Contagion  
58 of 88

Basic Contagion  
Models

Global spreading  
condition

Social Contagion  
Models

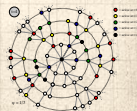
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All-to-all networks

Theory

Spreading possibility  
Spreading probability

Physical explanation  
Final size

References



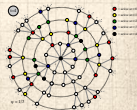
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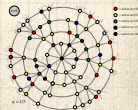
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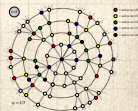
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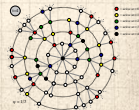
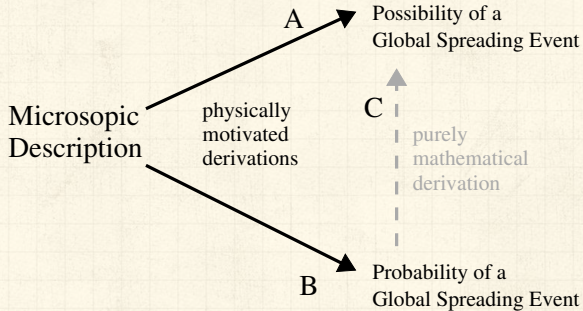
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- We need to find out what happens as  $Q_{\text{trig}} \rightarrow 0$ . [9]





## What we're doing:

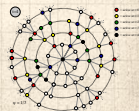






For  $Q_{\text{trig}} \rightarrow 0^+$ , equation tends towards

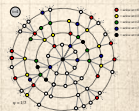
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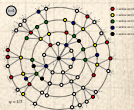




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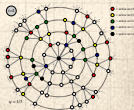


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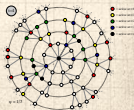
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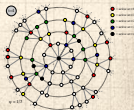
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Inequality?




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 We have  $Q_{\text{trig}} > 0$  if  $\sum_k \frac{kP_k}{\langle k \rangle} \bullet (k-1) \bullet B_{k1} > 1$ .


 Again take  $Q_{\text{trig}} \rightarrow 0^+$ , but keep next higher order term:


$$Q_{\text{trig}} = \sum_k \frac{kP_k}{\langle k \rangle} \bullet B_{k1} \bullet \left[ \lambda + \left( \lambda + (k-1)Q_{\text{trig}} - \binom{k-1}{2} Q_{\text{trig}}^2 \right) \right]$$

$$\Rightarrow Q_{\text{trig}} = \sum_k \frac{kP_k}{\langle k \rangle} \bullet B_{k1} \bullet \left[ (k-1)Q_{\text{trig}} - \binom{k-1}{2} Q_{\text{trig}}^2 \right]$$

$$\Rightarrow \sum_k \frac{kP_k}{\langle k \rangle} \bullet (k-1) \bullet B_{k1} = 1 + \sum_k \frac{kP_k}{\langle k \rangle} B_{k1} \binom{k-1}{2} Q_{\text{trig}}$$

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 Repeat: Above is a mathematical connection between two physically derived equations.


 Again take  $Q_{\text{trig}} \rightarrow 0^+$ , but keep next higher order term:


$$Q_{\text{trig}} = \sum_k \frac{kP_k}{\langle k \rangle} \bullet B_{k1} \bullet \left[ \lambda + \left( \lambda + (k-1)Q_{\text{trig}} - \binom{k-1}{2} Q_{\text{trig}}^2 \right) \right]$$

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 Repeat: Above is a mathematical connection between two physically derived equations.

 From this connection, we don't know anything about a gain ratio  $\mathbf{R}$  or how to arrange the pieces.

# Outline

Basic Contagion Models

Global spreading condition

Social Contagion Models

Network version

All-to-all networks

Theory

Spreading possibility

Spreading probability

Physical explanation

Final size

References

The PoCSverse

Contagion

62 of 88

Basic Contagion Models

Global spreading condition

Social Contagion Models

Network version

All-to-all networks

Theory

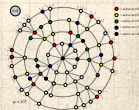
Spreading possibility

Spreading probability


Physical explanation

Final size

References



# Threshold contagion on random networks

 **Third goal:** Find expected fractional size of spread.

The PoCSverse  
Contagion  
63 of 88

Basic Contagion  
Models

Global spreading  
condition

Social Contagion  
Models

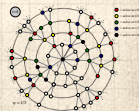
Network version  
All-to-all networks

Theory

Spreading possibility  
Spreading probability  
Physical explanation


Final size


References





# Threshold contagion on random networks

 **Third goal:** Find expected fractional size of spread.

 Not obvious even for uniform threshold problem.

The PoCVerse  
Contagion  
63 of 88

Basic Contagion  
Models

Global spreading  
condition

Social Contagion  
Models

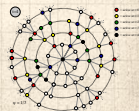
Network version  
All-to-all networks

Theory

Spreading possibility  
Spreading probability  
Physical explanation

Final size

References



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The PoCSverse  
Contagion  
63 of 88

Basic Contagion  
Models

Global spreading  
condition

Social Contagion  
Models

Network version

All-to-all networks

Theory

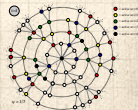
Spreading possibility

Spreading probability

Physical explanation

Final size

References



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The PoCVerse  
Contagion  
63 of 88

Basic Contagion  
Models

Global spreading  
condition

Social Contagion  
Models

Network version

All-to-all networks

Theory

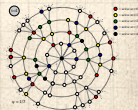
Spreading possibility

Spreading probability

Physical explanation

Final size

References



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- Developed further by Gleeson in "Cascades on correlated and modular random networks," Phys. Rev. E, 2008. [6]

The PoCVerse  
Contagion  
63 of 88

Basic Contagion  
Models

Global spreading  
condition

Social Contagion  
Models

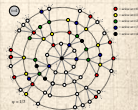
Network version  
All-to-all networks

Theory

Spreading possibility  
Spreading probability  
Physical explanation

Final size

References








# Expected size of spread

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The PoCSverse  
Contagion  
65 of 88

Basic Contagion  
Models

Global spreading  
condition

Social Contagion  
Models

Network version

All-to-all networks

Theory

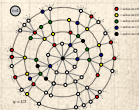
Spreading possibility

Spreading probability

Physical explanation

Final size

References



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The PoCVerse  
Contagion  
65 of 88

Basic Contagion  
Models

Global spreading  
condition

Social Contagion  
Models

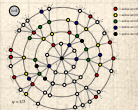
Network version  
All-to-all networks

Theory

Spreading possibility  
Spreading probability  
Physical explanation

Final size

References



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The PoCSverse  
Contagion  
65 of 88

Basic Contagion  
Models

Global spreading  
condition

Social Contagion  
Models

Network version

All-to-all networks

Theory

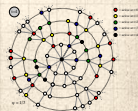
Spreading possibility

Spreading probability

Physical explanation

Final size

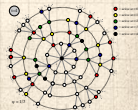
References



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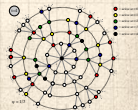




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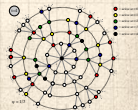




# Expected size of spread

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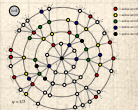
- ☰ Randomly turn on a fraction  $\phi_0$  of nodes at time  $t = 0$
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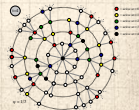
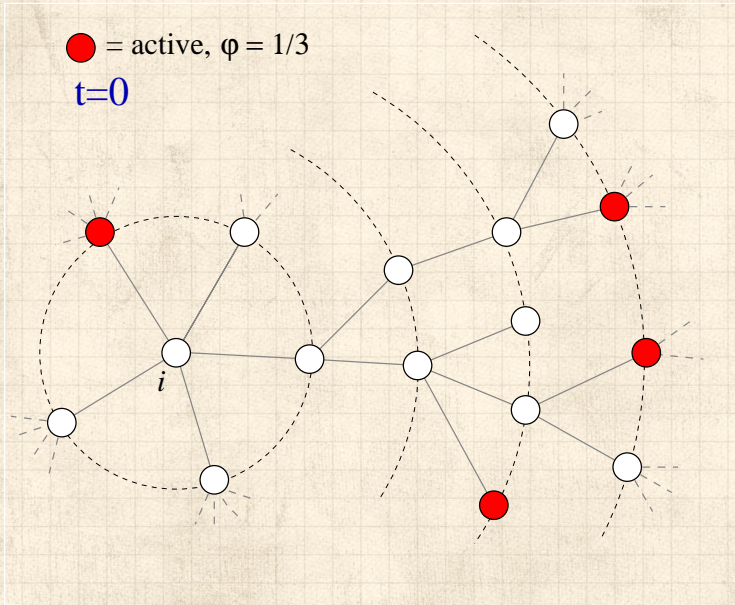
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  - $t = 2$ : enough of  $i$ 's friends and friends-of-friends switched on at time  $t = 0$  so that  $i$ 's threshold is now exceeded.
  - $t = n$ : enough nodes within  $n$  hops of  $i$  switched on at  $t = 0$  and their effects have propagated to reach  $i$ .



# Expected size of spread



# Expected size of spread

The PoCVerse  
Contagion  
66 of 88

Basic Contagion  
Models

Global spreading  
condition

Social Contagion  
Models

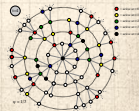
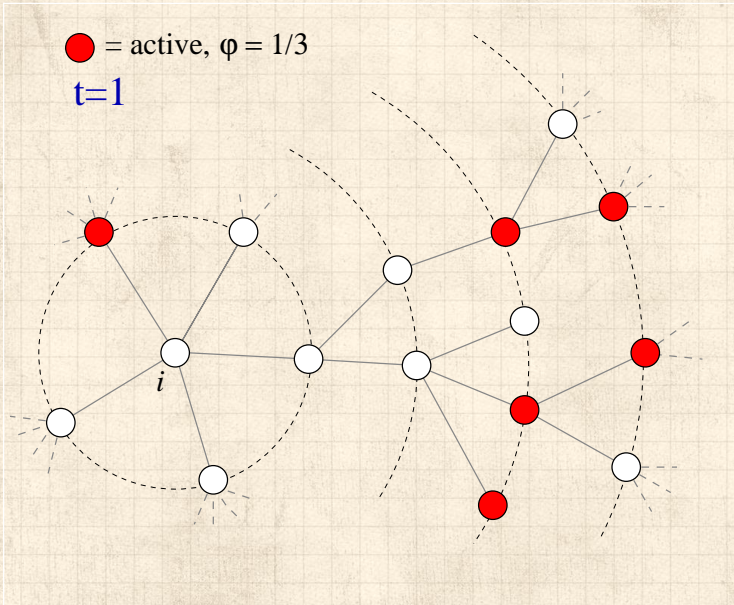
Network version  
All-to-all networks

Theory

Spreading possibility  
Spreading probability  
Physical explanation

Final size

References





# Expected size of spread

The PoCSverse  
Contagion  
66 of 88

Basic Contagion  
Models

Global spreading  
condition

Social Contagion  
Models

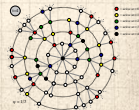
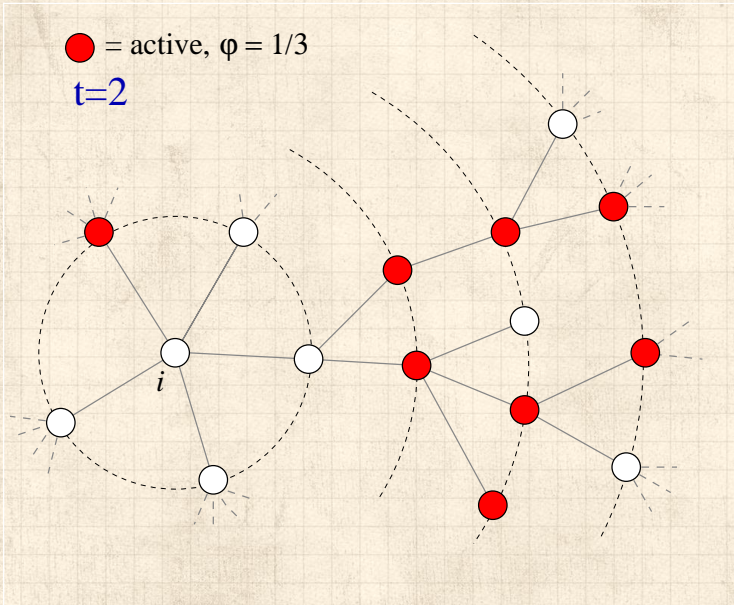
Network version  
All-to-all networks

Theory

Spreading possibility  
Spreading probability  
Physical explanation

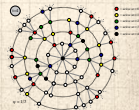
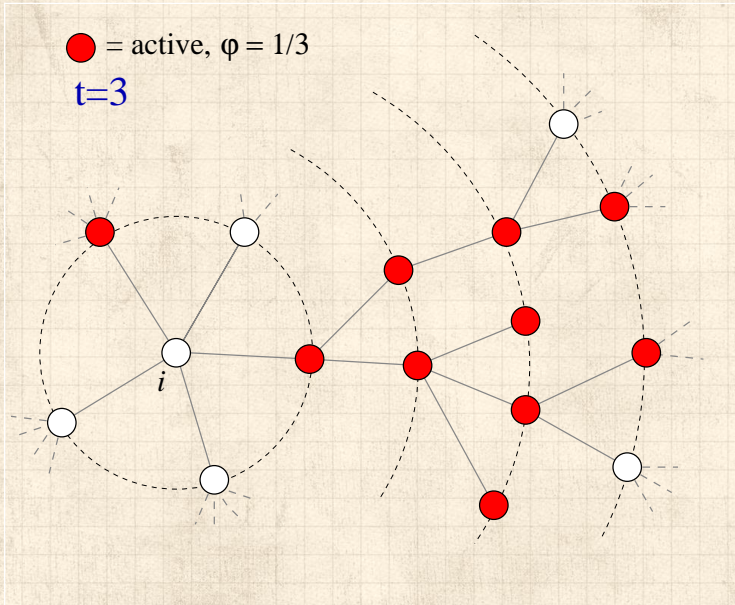
Final size

References





# Expected size of spread



# Expected size of spread

The PoCVerse  
Contagion  
66 of 88

Basic Contagion  
Models

Global spreading  
condition

Social Contagion  
Models

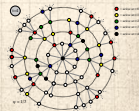
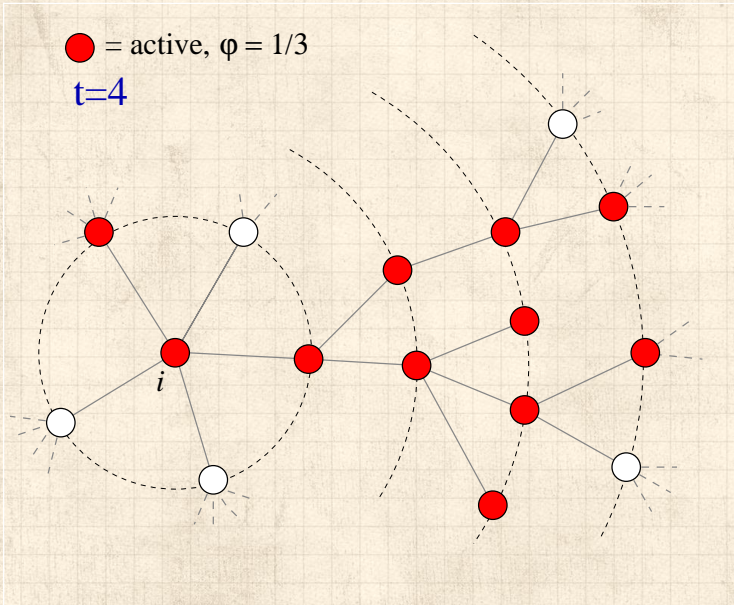
Network version  
All-to-all networks

Theory

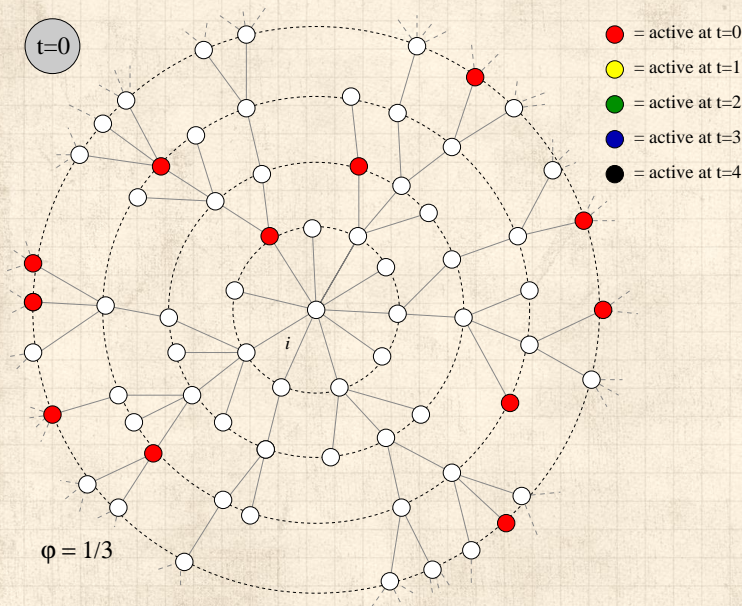
Spreading possibility  
Spreading probability  
Physical explanation

Final size

References



# Expected size of spread



The PoCVerse  
Contagion  
67 of 88

Basic Contagion  
Models

Global spreading  
condition

Social Contagion  
Models

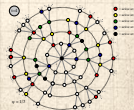
Network version  
All-to-all networks

Theory

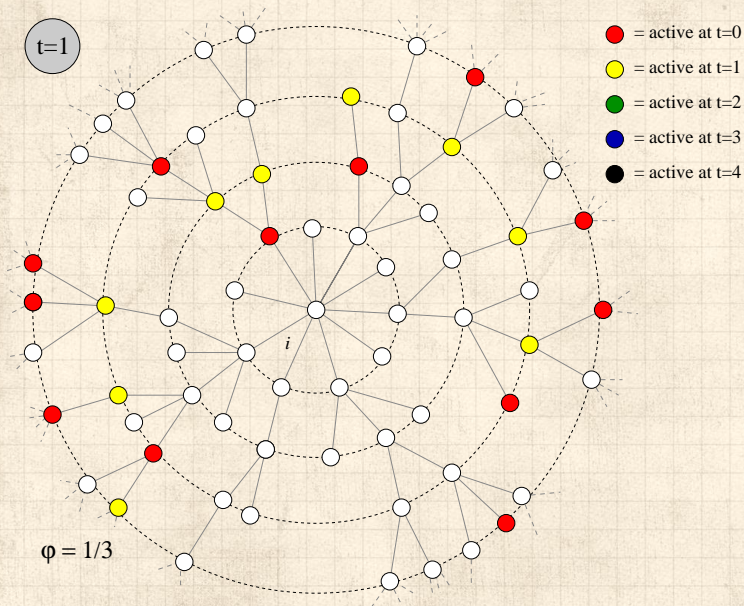
Spreading possibility  
Spreading probability  
Physical explanation

Final size

References



# Expected size of spread



The PoCVerse  
Contagion  
67 of 88

Basic Contagion  
Models

Global spreading  
condition

Social Contagion  
Models

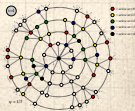
Network version  
All-to-all networks

Theory

Spreading possibility  
Spreading probability  
Physical explanation

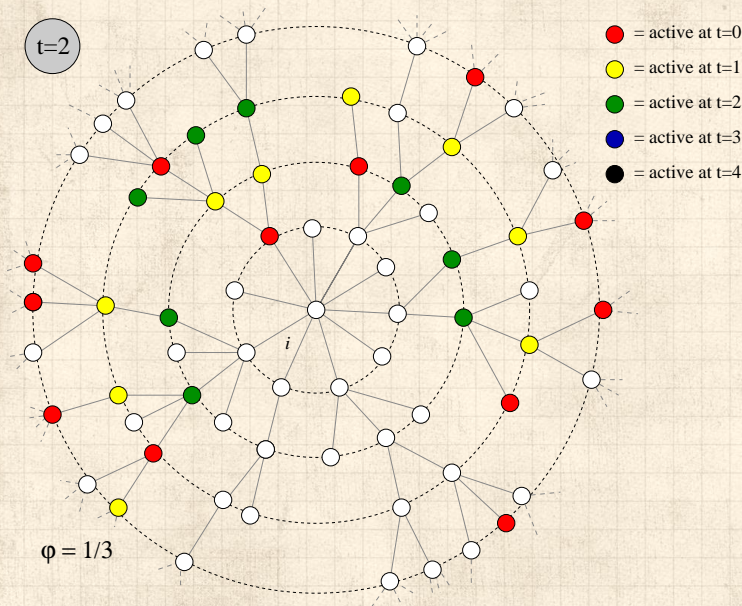
Final size

References





# Expected size of spread



The PoCverse  
Contagion  
67 of 88

Basic Contagion  
Models

Global spreading  
condition

Social Contagion  
Models

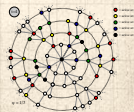
Network version  
All-to-all networks

Theory

Spreading possibility  
Spreading probability  
Physical explanation

Final size

References





# Expected size of spread

The PoCVerse  
Contagion  
67 of 88

Basic Contagion  
Models

Global spreading  
condition

Social Contagion  
Models

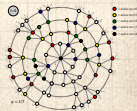
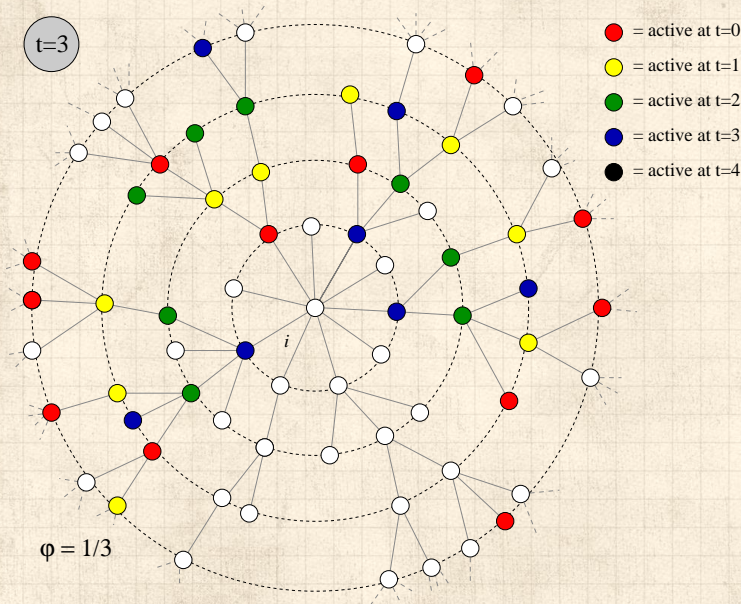
Network version  
All-to-all networks

Theory

Spreading possibility  
Spreading probability  
Physical explanation

Final size

References





# Expected size of spread

## Notes:

- Calculations presume nodes do not become inactive (strong restriction, liftable)

The PoCVerse  
Contagion  
68 of 88

Basic Contagion  
Models

Global spreading  
condition

Social Contagion  
Models

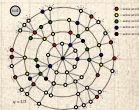
Network version  
All-to-all networks

## Theory

Spreading possibility  
Spreading probability  
Physical explanation

Final size

References



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The PoCVerse  
Contagion  
68 of 88

Basic Contagion  
Models

Global spreading  
condition

Social Contagion  
Models

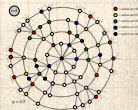
Network version  
All-to-all networks

Theory

Spreading possibility  
Spreading probability  
Physical explanation

Final size

References





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The PoCVerse  
Contagion  
68 of 88

Basic Contagion  
Models

Global spreading  
condition

Social Contagion  
Models

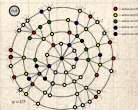
Network version  
All-to-all networks

Theory

Spreading possibility  
Spreading probability  
Physical explanation

Final size

References





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The PoCverse  
Contagion  
68 of 88

Basic Contagion  
Models

Global spreading  
condition

Social Contagion  
Models

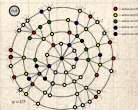
Network version  
All-to-all networks

Theory

Spreading possibility  
Spreading probability  
Physical explanation

Final size

References



# Expected size of spread

The PoCVerse  
Contagion  
68 of 88

Basic Contagion  
Models

Global spreading  
condition

Social Contagion  
Models

Network version  
All-to-all networks

Theory

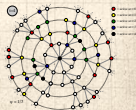
Spreading possibility  
Spreading probability  
Physical explanation

Final size

References

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# Expected size of spread

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- Even more, we can compute:  $\Pr(\text{specific node } i \text{ switches on at time } t)$ .
- Asynchronous updating can be handled too.

The PoCVerse  
Contagion  
68 of 88

Basic Contagion  
Models

Global spreading  
condition

Social Contagion  
Models

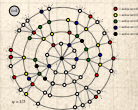
Network version  
All-to-all networks

Theory

Spreading possibility  
Spreading probability  
Physical explanation


Final size

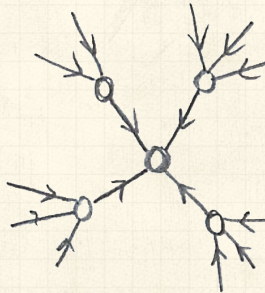
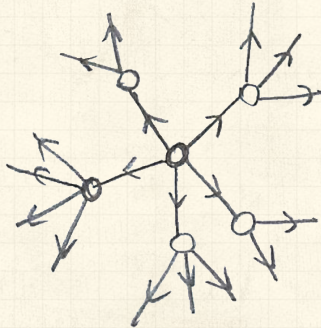
References



# Expected size of spread

Pleasantness:

 Taking off from a single seed story is about **expansion** away from a node.



The PoCVerse  
Contagion  
69 of 88

Basic Contagion  
Models

Global spreading  
condition

Social Contagion  
Models

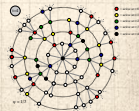
Network version  
All-to-all networks

Theory

Spreading possibility  
Spreading probability  
Physical explanation

Final size

References

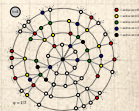
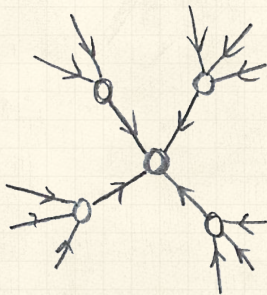
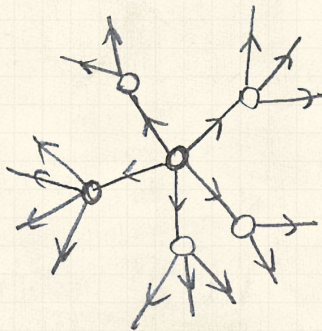




# Expected size of spread

## Pleasantness:

- ☰ Taking off from a single seed story is about **expansion** away from a node.
- ☰ Extent of spreading story is about **contraction** at a node.





# Expected size of spread



## Notation:

$\phi_{k,t} = \Pr(\text{a degree } k \text{ node is active at time } t).$

The PoCVerse

Contagion

70 of 88

Basic Contagion  
Models

Global spreading  
condition

Social Contagion  
Models

Network version

All-to-all networks

Theory

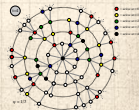
Spreading possibility

Spreading probability

Physical explanation

Final size

References



# Expected size of spread



**Notation:**

$\phi_{k,t} = \Pr(\text{a degree } k \text{ node is active at time } t).$



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The PoCVerse  
Contagion  
70 of 88

Basic Contagion  
Models

Global spreading  
condition

Social Contagion  
Models

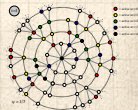
Network version  
All-to-all networks

Theory

Spreading possibility  
Spreading probability  
Physical explanation

Final size

References



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The PoCVerse  
Contagion  
70 of 88

Basic Contagion  
Models

Global spreading  
condition

Social Contagion  
Models

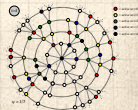
Network version  
All-to-all networks

Theory

Spreading possibility  
Spreading probability  
Physical explanation

Final size

References



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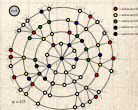
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$\binom{k}{j} \phi_0^j (1 - \phi_0)^{k-j} = \mathbf{Pr}$  ( $j$  of a degree  $k$  node's neighbors were seeded at time  $t = 0$ ).



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The PoCVerse  
Contagion  
70 of 88

Basic Contagion  
Models

Global spreading  
condition

Social Contagion  
Models

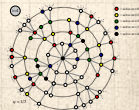
Network version  
All-to-all networks

Theory

Spreading possibility  
Spreading probability  
Physical explanation

Final size

References





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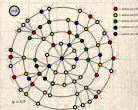
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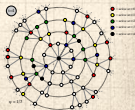


Probability a degree  $k$  node was not a seed at  $t = 0$  is  $(1 - \phi_0)$ .




Combining everything, we have:

$$\phi_{k,1} = \phi_0 + (1 - \phi_0) \sum_{j=0}^k \binom{k}{j} \phi_0^j (1 - \phi_0)^{k-j} B_{kj}.$$



# Expected size of spread

 For general  $t$ , we need to know the probability an edge coming into a degree  $k$  node at time  $t$  is active.

The PoCSverse  
Contagion  
71 of 88

Basic Contagion  
Models

Global spreading  
condition

Social Contagion  
Models

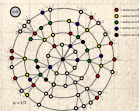
Network version  
All-to-all networks

Theory


Spreading possibility  
Spreading probability  
Physical explanation


Final size

References



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The PoCSverse  
Contagion  
71 of 88

Basic Contagion  
Models

Global spreading  
condition

Social Contagion  
Models

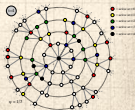
Network version  
All-to-all networks

Theory

Spreading possibility  
Spreading probability  
Physical explanation

Final size

References

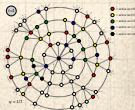


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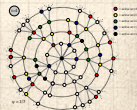
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Story analogous to  $t = 1$  case. For specific node  $i$ :

$$\phi_{i,t+1} = \phi_0 + (1 - \phi_0) \sum_{j=0}^{k_i} \binom{k_i}{j} \theta_t^j (1 - \theta_t)^{k_i - j} B_{k_i j}.$$



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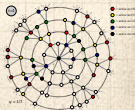
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Average over all nodes with degree  $k$  to obtain expression for  $\phi_{t+1}$ :

$$\phi_{t+1} = \phi_0 + (1 - \phi_0) \sum_{k=0}^{\infty} P_k \sum_{j=0}^k \binom{k}{j} \theta_t^j (1 - \theta_t)^{k-j} B_{k j}.$$



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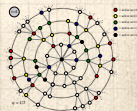
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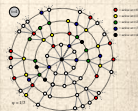
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So we need to compute  $\theta_t$ ... massive excitement...







# Expected size of spread


First connect  $\theta_0$  to  $\theta_1$ :

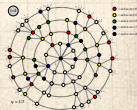
  $\theta_1 = \phi_0 +$

$$(1 - \phi_0) \sum_{k=1}^{\infty} \frac{k P_k}{\langle k \rangle} \sum_{j=0}^{k-1} \binom{k-1}{j} \theta_0^j (1 - \theta_0)^{k-1-j} B_{kj}$$

  $\frac{k P_k}{\langle k \rangle} = Q_k = \mathbf{Pr}$  (edge connects to a degree  $k$  node).

  $\sum_{j=0}^{k-1}$  piece gives  $\mathbf{Pr}$  (degree node  $k$  activates if  $j$  of its  $k - 1$  incoming neighbors are active).


  $\phi_0$  and  $(1 - \phi_0)$  terms account for state of node at time  $t = 0$ .







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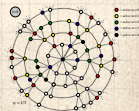
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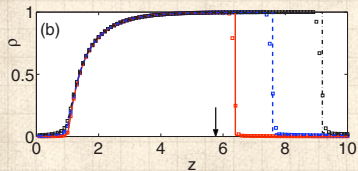
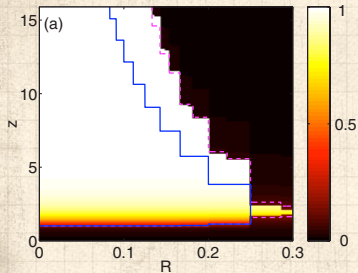
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 See this all generalizes to give  $\theta_{t+1}$  in terms of  $\theta_t \dots$





# Comparison between theory and simulations



Pure random networks  
with simple threshold  
responses



$R =$  uniform threshold  
(our  $\phi_*$ );  $z =$  average  
degree;  $\rho = \phi$ ;  $q = \theta$ ;  
 $N = 10^5$ .



$\phi_0 = 10^{-3}$ ,  $0.5 \times 10^{-2}$ ,  
and  $10^{-2}$ .

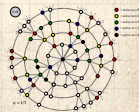


Cascade window is for  
 $\phi_0 = 10^{-2}$  case.



Sensible expansion of  
cascade window as  $\phi_0$   
increases.

From Gleeson and  
Cahalane [7]



# Notes:



Retrieve cascade condition for spreading from a single seed in limit  $\phi_0 \rightarrow 0$ .

The PoCSverse  
Contagion  
75 of 88

Basic Contagion  
Models

Global spreading  
condition

Social Contagion  
Models

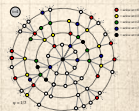
Network version  
All-to-all networks

Theory

Spreading possibility  
Spreading probability  
Physical explanation

Final size

References



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The PoCVerse  
Contagion  
75 of 88

Basic Contagion  
Models

Global spreading  
condition

Social Contagion  
Models

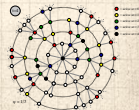
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All-to-all networks

Theory

Spreading possibility  
Spreading probability  
Physical explanation

Final size

References



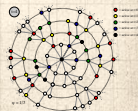


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- First: if self-starters are present, some activation is assured:

$$G(0; \phi_0) = \sum_{k=1}^{\infty} \frac{kP_k}{\langle k \rangle} \bullet B_{k0} > 0.$$

meaning  $B_{k0} > 0$  for at least one value of  $k \geq 1$ .



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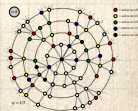
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meaning  $B_{k0} > 0$  for at least one value of  $k \geq 1$ .

- If  $\theta = 0$  is a fixed point of  $G$  (i.e.,  $G(0; \phi_0) = 0$ ) then spreading occurs for a small seed if


$$G'(0; \phi_0) = \sum_{k=0}^{\infty} \frac{kP_k}{\langle k \rangle} \bullet (k-1) \bullet B_{k1} > 1.$$

[Insert assignment question](#) 



# Notes:

## In words:

 If  $G(0; \phi_0) > 0$ , spreading must occur because some nodes turn on for free.

The PoCVerse  
Contagion  
76 of 88

Basic Contagion  
Models

Global spreading  
condition

Social Contagion  
Models

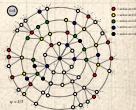
Network version  
All-to-all networks

Theory

Spreading possibility  
Spreading probability  
Physical explanation

Final size

References



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- 🧱 If  $G(0; \phi_0) > 0$ , spreading must occur because some nodes turn on for free.
- 🧱 If  $G$  has an **unstable fixed point** at  $\theta = 0$ , then cascades are also always possible.

The PoCVerse  
Contagion  
76 of 88

Basic Contagion  
Models

Global spreading  
condition

Social Contagion  
Models

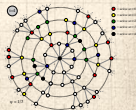
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All-to-all networks

Theory

Spreading possibility  
Spreading probability  
Physical explanation

Final size

References



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## Non-vanishing seed case:

- 🧱 Cascade condition is more complicated for  $\phi_0 > 0$ .

The PoCverse  
Contagion  
76 of 88

Basic Contagion  
Models

Global spreading  
condition

Social Contagion  
Models

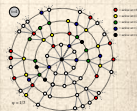
Network version  
All-to-all networks

Theory

Spreading possibility  
Spreading probability  
Physical explanation

Final size

References





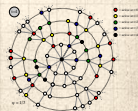
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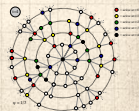
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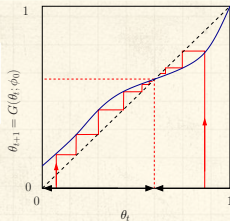
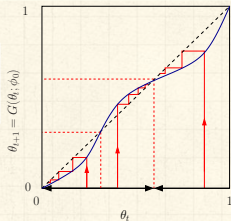
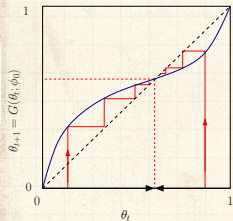
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- 🧱 Cascade condition is more complicated for  $\phi_0 > 0$ .
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- 🧱 Tricky point:  $G$  depends on  $\phi_0$ , so as we change  $\phi_0$ , we also change  $G$ .



# General fixed point story:



Given  $\theta_0 (= \phi_0)$ ,  $\theta_\infty$  will be the nearest stable fixed point, either above or below.

The PoCverse  
Contagion  
77 of 88

Basic Contagion  
Models

Global spreading  
condition

Social Contagion  
Models

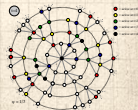
Network version  
All-to-all networks

Theory

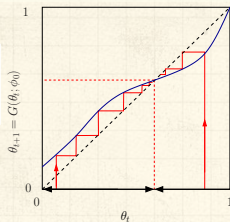
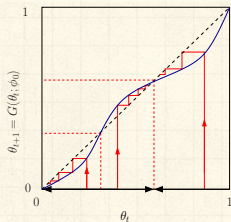
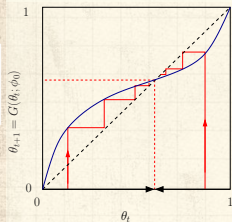
Spreading possibility  
Spreading probability  
Physical explanation

Final size

References



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The PoCverse  
Contagion  
77 of 88

Basic Contagion  
Models

Global spreading  
condition

Social Contagion  
Models

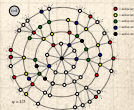
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Theory

Spreading possibility  
Spreading probability  
Physical explanation

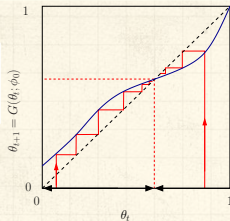
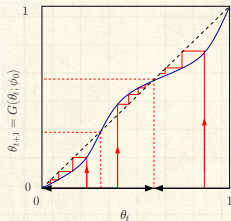
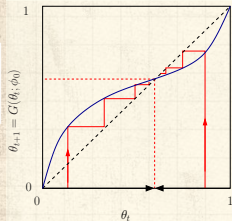
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The PoCVerse  
Contagion  
77 of 88

Basic Contagion  
Models

Global spreading  
condition

Social Contagion  
Models

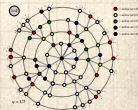
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All-to-all networks

Theory

Spreading possibility  
Spreading probability  
Physical explanation

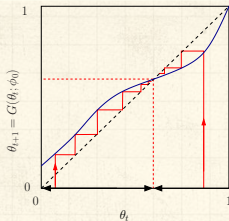
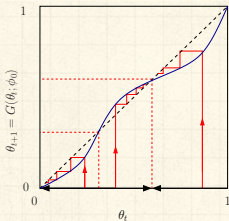
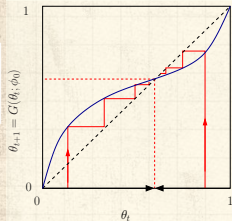
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The PoCverse  
Contagion  
77 of 88

Basic Contagion  
Models

Global spreading  
condition

Social Contagion  
Models

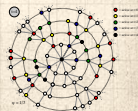
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All-to-all networks

Theory

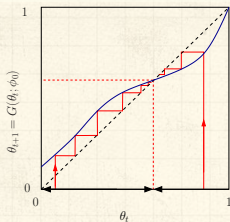
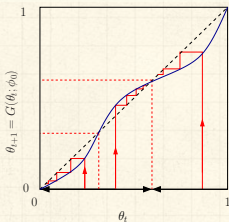
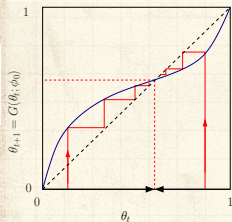
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Spreading probability  
Physical explanation

Final size

References



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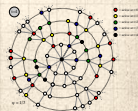
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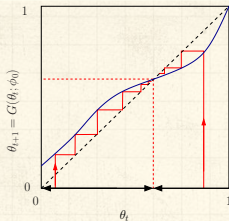
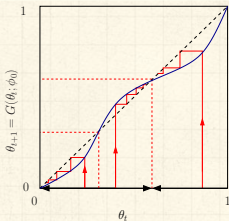
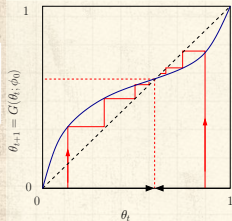
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First reason:  $\phi_1 \geq \phi_0$ .



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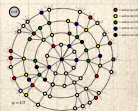
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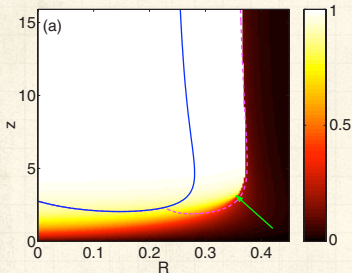
**Important:**  $\phi_t$  can only increase monotonically so  $\phi_0$  must shape  $G$  so that  $\phi_0$  is at or above an unstable fixed point.

First reason:  $\phi_1 \geq \phi_0$ .

Second:  $G'(\theta; \phi_0) \geq 0, 0 \leq \theta \leq 1$ .



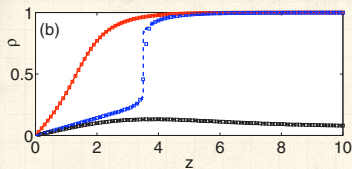
## Interesting behavior:



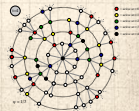
Now allow thresholds  
to be distributed  
according to a  
Gaussian with mean  $R$ .



$R = 0.2, 0.362,$  and  
 $0.38; \sigma = 0.2.$

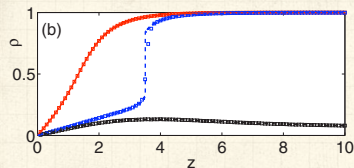
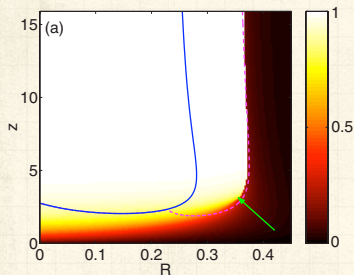


From Gleeson and  
Cahalane [7]





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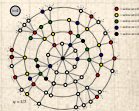


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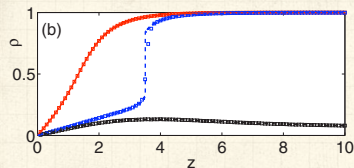
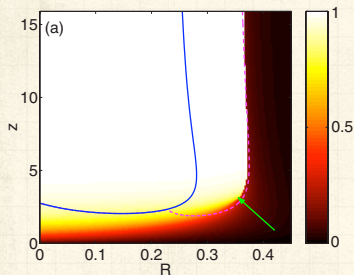
$\phi_0 = 0$  but some nodes  
have thresholds  $\leq 0$  so  
effectively  $\phi_0 > 0.$

From Gleeson and  
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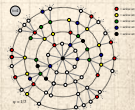


$\phi_0 = 0$  but some nodes have thresholds  $\leq 0$  so effectively  $\phi_0 > 0.$

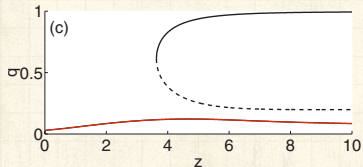
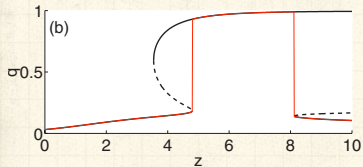
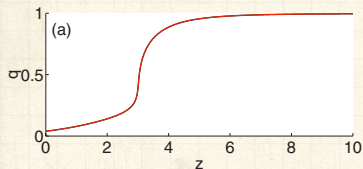


Now see a (nasty) discontinuous phase transition for low  $\langle k \rangle.$

From Gleeson and Cahalane [7]



## Interesting behavior:



Plots of stability points for  $\theta_{t+1} = G(\theta_t; \phi_0)$ .



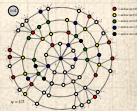
n.b.: 0 is not a fixed point here:  $\theta_0 = 0$  always takes off.



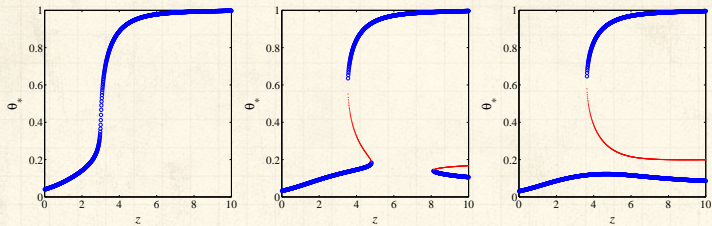
Top to bottom:  $R = 0.35, 0.371, \text{ and } 0.375$ .



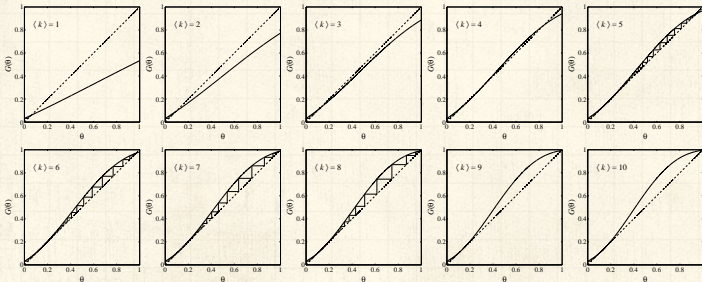
Saddle node bifurcations appear and merge (b and c).



# What's happening:



Fixed points slip above and below the  $\theta_{t+1} = \theta_t$  line:



The PoCverse  
Contagion  
80 of 88

Basic Contagion  
Models

Global spreading  
condition

Social Contagion  
Models

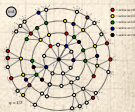
Network version  
All-to-all networks

Theory

Spreading possibility  
Spreading probability  
Physical explanation

Final size

References



# Time-dependent solutions

## Synchronous update

The PoCVerse  
Contagion  
81 of 88

Basic Contagion  
Models

Global spreading  
condition

Social Contagion  
Models

Network version

All-to-all networks

Theory

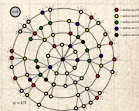
Spreading possibility

Spreading probability

Physical explanation


Final size

References



# Time-dependent solutions

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 Done: Evolution of  $\phi_t$  and  $\theta_t$  given exactly by the maps we have derived.

The PoCVerse  
Contagion  
81 of 88

Basic Contagion  
Models

Global spreading  
condition

Social Contagion  
Models

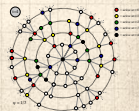
Network version  
All-to-all networks

Theory

Spreading possibility  
Spreading probability  
Physical explanation

Final size

References





# Time-dependent solutions

The PoCSverse  
Contagion  
81 of 88

Basic Contagion  
Models

Global spreading  
condition

Social Contagion  
Models

Network version  
All-to-all networks

Theory

Spreading possibility  
Spreading probability  
Physical explanation

Final size

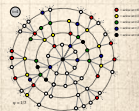
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Update nodes with probability  $\alpha$ .



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The PoCverse  
Contagion  
81 of 88

Basic Contagion  
Models

Global spreading  
condition

Social Contagion  
Models

Network version  
All-to-all networks


Theory

Spreading possibility  
Spreading probability  
Physical explanation


Final size


References

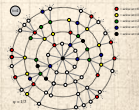
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The PoCVerse  
Contagion  
81 of 88

Basic Contagion  
Models

Global spreading  
condition

Social Contagion  
Models

Network version  
All-to-all networks

Theory

Spreading possibility  
Spreading probability  
Physical explanation

Final size

References

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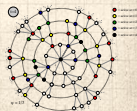
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Now can talk about  $\phi(t)$  and  $\theta(t)$ .



# Nutshell:

 Solid dive into understanding contagion on generalized random networks.

The PoCSverse

Contagion

82 of 88

Basic Contagion  
Models

Global spreading  
condition

Social Contagion  
Models

Network version

All-to-all networks

Theory

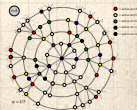
Spreading possibility

Spreading probability

Physical explanation

Final size

References



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The PoCSverse  
Contagion  
82 of 88

Basic Contagion  
Models

Global spreading  
condition

Social Contagion  
Models

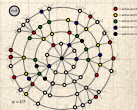
Network version  
All-to-all networks

Theory

Spreading possibility  
Spreading probability  
Physical explanation

Final size

References





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The PoCverse  
Contagion  
82 of 88

Basic Contagion  
Models

Global spreading  
condition

Social Contagion  
Models

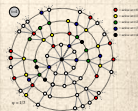
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All-to-all networks

Theory

Spreading possibility  
Spreading probability  
Physical explanation

Final size

References



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The PoCverse  
Contagion  
82 of 88

Basic Contagion  
Models

Global spreading  
condition

Social Contagion  
Models

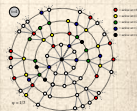
Network version  
All-to-all networks

Theory

Spreading possibility  
Spreading probability  
Physical explanation

Final size

References



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The PoCSverse  
Contagion  
82 of 88

Basic Contagion  
Models

Global spreading  
condition

Social Contagion  
Models

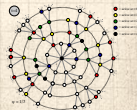
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All-to-all networks

Theory

Spreading possibility  
Spreading probability  
Physical explanation

Final size

References



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The PoCSverse  
Contagion  
82 of 88

Basic Contagion  
Models

Global spreading  
condition

Social Contagion  
Models

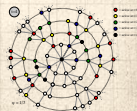
Network version  
All-to-all networks

Theory

Spreading possibility  
Spreading probability  
Physical explanation

Final size

References





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- 🧱 Many connections to other kinds of models: Voter models, Ising models, ...

The PoCSverse  
Contagion  
82 of 88

Basic Contagion  
Models

Global spreading  
condition

Social Contagion  
Models

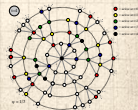
Network version  
All-to-all networks

Theory

Spreading possibility  
Spreading probability  
Physical explanation

Final size

References





# Neural reboot (NR):

Pangolin happiness:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=LMiYjkG4onM?rel=0> ↗

The PoCSverse

Contagion

83 of 88

Basic Contagion  
Models

Global spreading  
condition

Social Contagion  
Models

Network version

All-to-all networks

Theory

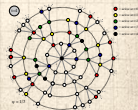
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Spreading probability



Physical explanation

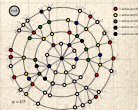
Final size

References






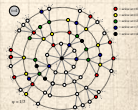
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The PoCSverse  
Contagion  
86 of 88

Basic Contagion  
Models

Global spreading  
condition

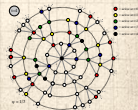
Social Contagion  
Models

Network version  
All-to-all networks

Theory

Spreading possibility  
Spreading probability  
Physical explanation  
Final size

References





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The PoCSverse  
Contagion  
87 of 88

Basic Contagion  
Models

Global spreading  
condition

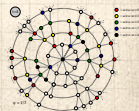
Social Contagion  
Models

Network version  
All-to-all networks

Theory



Spreading possibility  
Spreading probability  
Physical explanation  
Final size

References





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The PoCSverse  
Contagion  
88 of 88

Basic Contagion  
Models

Global spreading  
condition

Social Contagion  
Models

Network version  
All-to-all networks

Theory

Spreading possibility  
Spreading probability  
Physical explanation  
Final size

References

