

# Generalized Contagion

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

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# Generalized contagion model

## Basic questions about contagion

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

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# Independent Interaction Models

## Original models attributed to

- 1920's: Reed and Frost
- 1920's/1930's: Kermack and McKendrick [8, 10, 9]
- Coupled differential equations with a mass-action principle

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# Mathematical Epidemiology (recap)

## The standard SIR model<sup>[11]</sup>

- The basic model of disease contagion
- Three states:
  - S = Susceptible
  - I = Infective/Infectious
  - R = Recovered or Removed or Refractory
- $S(t) + I(t) + R(t) = 1$
- Presumes random interactions (mass-action principle)
- Interactions are independent (no memory)
- Discrete and continuous time versions

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# Independent Interaction models

## Differential equations for continuous model

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

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

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

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

## Reproduction Number $R_0$ :

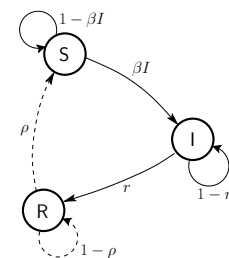
- $R_0$  = expected number of infected individuals resulting from a single initial infective
- Epidemic threshold: If  $R_0 > 1$ , 'epidemic' occurs.

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# Independent Interaction Models

## Discrete time automata example:



Transition Probabilities:

- $\beta$  for being infected given contact with infected
- $r$  for recovery
- $\rho$  for loss of immunity

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# Reproduction Number $R_0$

## Discrete version:

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

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"Universal Behavior in a Generalized Model of Contagion" [↗](#)  
Dodds and Watts,  
Phys. Rev. Lett., **92**, 218701, 2004. [5]



"A generalized model of social and biological contagion" [↗](#)  
Dodds and Watts,  
J. Theor. Biol., **232**, 587–604, 2005. [6]

# Reproduction Number $R_0$

## Discrete version:

Expected number infected by original infective:

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

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

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

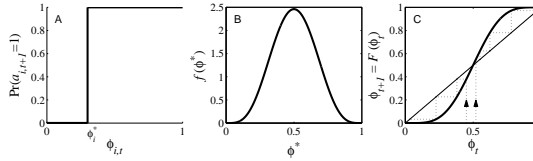
Similar story for continuous model.

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# Granovetter's model (recap of recap)

Action based on perceived behavior of others.



- Two states: S and I.
- Recovery now possible (SIS).
- $\phi$  = fraction of contacts 'on' (e.g., rioting).
- Discrete time, synchronous update.
- This is a **Critical mass model**.
- Interdependent** interaction model.

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# Generalized model—ingredients

$S \Rightarrow I$

Individuals 'remember' last  $T$  contacts:

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

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

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

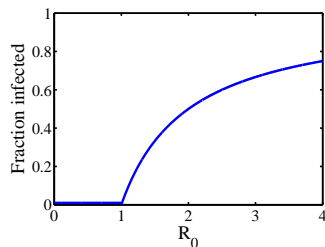
Threshold  $d_i^*$  drawn from arbitrary distribution  $g$  at  $t = 0$ .

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# Independent Interaction models

Example of epidemic threshold:



- Continuous phase transition.
- Fine idea from a simple model.

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# Some (of many) issues

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

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# Generalized model—ingredients

$I \Rightarrow R$

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

$R \Rightarrow S$

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

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# Simple disease spreading models

Valiant attempts to use SIR and co. elsewhere:

- Adoption of ideas/beliefs (Goffman & Newell, 1964)<sup>[7]</sup>
- Spread of rumors (Daley & Kendall, 1964, 1965)<sup>[3, 4]</sup>
- Diffusion of innovations (Bass, 1969)<sup>[1]</sup>
- Spread of fanatical behavior (Castillo-Chávez & Song, 2003)<sup>[2]</sup>

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# Generalized model

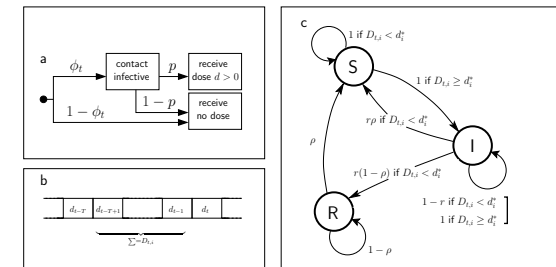
Basic ingredients:

- Incorporate memory of a contagious element<sup>[5, 6]</sup>
- Population of  $N$  individuals, each in state S, I, or R.
- Each individual randomly contacts another at each time step.
- $\phi_t$  = fraction infected at time  $t$  = probability of contact with infected individual
- With probability  $p$ , contact with infective leads to an exposure.
- If exposed, individual receives a dose of size  $d$  drawn from distribution  $f$ . Otherwise  $d = 0$ .

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# A visual explanation



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## Generalized mean-field model

### Study SIS-type contagion first:

- Recovered individuals are immediately susceptible again:

$$\rho = 1.$$

- Look for steady-state behavior as a function of exposure probability  $p$ .
- Denote fixed points by  $\phi^*$ .

### Homogeneous version:

- All individuals have threshold  $d^*$
- All dose sizes are equal:  $d = 1$

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## Homogeneous, one hit models:

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

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

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

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

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## Homogeneous, one hit models:

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

- Set  $\phi_t = \phi^*$ :

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

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

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

- Critical point at  $p = p_c = r$ .
- Spreading takes off if  $p/r > 1$
- Find continuous phase transition as for SIR model.
- Goodness: Matches  $R_o = \beta/\gamma > 1$  condition.

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## Simple homogeneous examples

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

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

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

## Homogeneous, one hit models:

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

- Closed form expression for  $\phi^*$ :
- Look for critical infection probability  $p_c$ .
- As  $\phi^* \rightarrow 0$ , we see

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

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

- Again find continuous phase transition ...
- Note: we can solve for  $p$  but not  $\phi^*$ :

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

## Homogeneous, one hit models:

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

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

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

- For  $r < 1$ , add to right hand side fraction who:
  - Did not receive any infections in last  $T$  time steps,
  - And **did not recover** from a previous infection.
- Define corresponding dose histories. Example:

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

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

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## Homogeneous, one hit models:

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

- In general, relevant dose histories are:

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

- Overall probabilities for dose histories occurring:

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

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

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

## Homogeneous, one hit models:

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

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

$$= r \sum_{m=0}^{\infty} P(H_{T+m}) = r \sum_{m=0}^{\infty} p\phi^*(1 - p\phi^*)^{T+m}(1 - r)^m$$

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

- Using the probability of not recovering, we end up with a fixed point equation:

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

## Homogeneous, one hit models:

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

- Fixed point equation (again):

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

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

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

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

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

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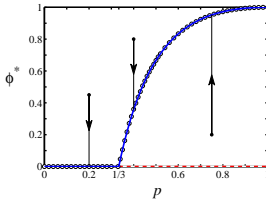
## Epidemic threshold:

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

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

$$\phi^* = 0$$

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



- Example details:  $T = 2$  &  $r = 1/2 \Rightarrow p_c = 1/3$ .
- Blue = stable, red = unstable, fixed points.
- $\tau = 1/r - 1 =$  characteristic recovery time = 1.
- $T + \tau \approx$  average memory in system = 3.
- Phase transition can be seen as a **transcritical bifurcation**.<sup>[12]</sup>

## Homogeneous, multi-hit models:

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

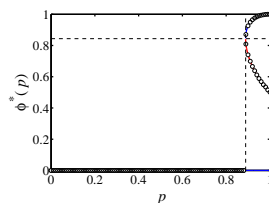
$$\phi^* = \sum_{i=d^*}^T \binom{T}{i} (p\phi^*)^i (1-p\phi^*)^{T-i}$$

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

## Homogeneous, multi-hit models:

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

- Exactly solvable for small  $T$ .
- e.g., for  $d^* = 2$ ,  $T = 3$ :



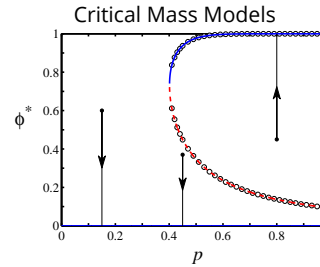
- Fixed point equation:  
 $\phi^* = 3p^2\phi^{*2}(1-p\phi^*) + p^3\phi^{*3}$
- See new structure: a **saddle node bifurcation**<sup>[12]</sup> appears as  $p$  increases.
- $(p_b, \phi^*) = (8/9, 27/32)$ .

- Behavior akin to output of Granovetter's threshold model.

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## Homogeneous, multi-hit models:

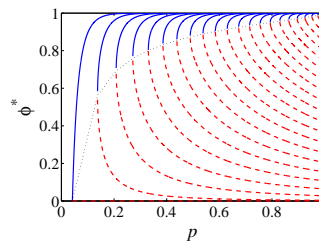
- Another example:



- $r = 1$ ,  $d^* = 3$ ,  $T = 12$  Saddle-node bifurcation.

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

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



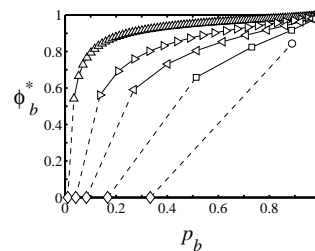
- $d^* = 1 \rightarrow d^* > 1$ : jump between continuous phase transition and pure critical mass model.
- Unstable curve for  $d^* = 2$  does not hit  $\phi^* = 0$ .

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

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

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



- $T = 96$  (.)
- $T = 24$  (▷),
- $T = 12$  (<),
- $T = 6$  (□),
- $T = 3$  (○),

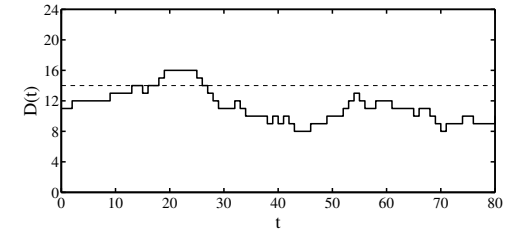
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## Fixed points for $r < 1$ , $d^* > 1$ , and $T \geq 1$

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

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

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



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

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

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

- Fixed point equation:

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

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

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

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

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

- Two subsequences do this:  
 $\{d_{n-2}, d_{n-1}, d_n, d_{n+1}\} = \{1, 1, 0, 0\}$   
and  $\{d_{n-2}, d_{n-1}, d_n, d_{n+1}, d_{n+2}\} = \{1, 0, 1, 0, 0\}$ .
- Note: second sequence includes an extra 0 since this is necessary to stay below  $d^* = 2$ .
- To stay below threshold, observe acceptable following sequences may be composed of any combination of two subsequences:

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

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

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

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

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

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

Possible values for  $N_b$ :

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

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

☞ Corresponding possible values for  $N_a$ :

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

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

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

☞ Three endings  $\Rightarrow$  Six possible sequences:

$$D_1 = \{1, 1, 0, 0, D_m^{a,b}\}$$

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

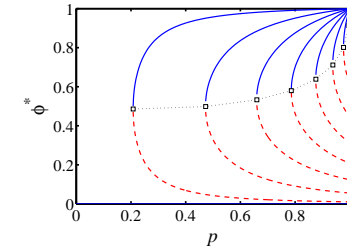
$$P_5 = (p\phi)^3(1-p\phi)^3\chi_{m-3}(p, \phi)$$

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

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

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



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

☞ No spreading for  $r \gtrsim 0.382$ .

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

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

☞ Think of overall sequence in terms of subsequences:

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

☞  $N_a + N_b$  slots for subsequences.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

and

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

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

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## What we have now:

☞ Two kinds of contagion processes:

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

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

☞  $d^* > 1$ : critical mass model.

☞ Are other behaviors possible?

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

☞ Total number of allowable sequences of length  $m$ :

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

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

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

☞ Total probability of allowable sequences of length  $m$ :

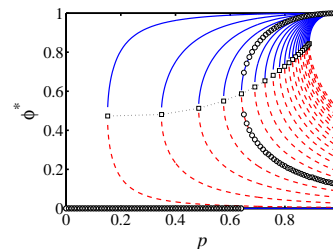
$$\chi_m(p, \phi^*) = \sum_{k=0}^{\lfloor m/3 \rfloor} \binom{m-2k}{k} (1-p\phi^*)^{m-k} (p\phi^*)^k.$$

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

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

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



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

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## Generalized model

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

☞ Key quantities:

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

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

☞ e.g.,

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

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## Generalized model—heterogeneity, $r = 1$

Fixed point equation:

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

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

$$pP_1 T \geq 1 \quad \text{or} \quad \Rightarrow p_c = 1/(TP_1)$$

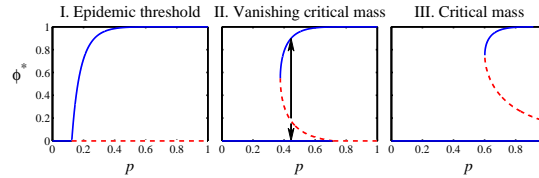
Very good:

- $P_1 T$  is the expected number of vulnerables the initial infected individual meets before recovering.
- $pP_1 T$  is the expected number of successful infections (equivalent to  $R_0$ ).

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

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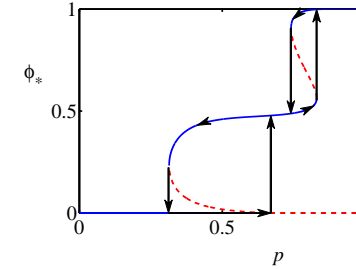
## Three universal classes



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

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## Hysteresis in vanishing critical mass models



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## Heterogeneous case

Next: Determine slope of fixed point curve at critical point  $p_c$ .

Expand fixed point equation around  $(p, \phi^*) = (p_c, 0)$ .

Find slope depends on  $(P_1 - P_2/2)^{[6]}$  (see Appendix).

Behavior near fixed point depends on whether this slope is

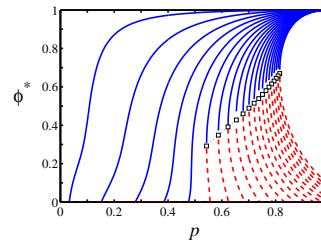
- positive:  $P_1 > P_2/2$  (continuous phase transition)
- negative:  $P_1 < P_2/2$  (discontinuous phase transition)

Now find **three** basic universal classes of contagion models ...

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## Heterogeneous case

Now allow  $r < 1$ :



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

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## Nutshell (one half)

Memory is a natural ingredient.

Three universal classes of contagion processes:

- Epidemic Threshold
- Vanishing Critical Mass
- Critical Mass

Dramatic changes in behavior possible.

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

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

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## Heterogeneous case

Example configuration:

Dose sizes are lognormally distributed with mean 1 and variance 0.433.

Memory span:  $T = 10$ .

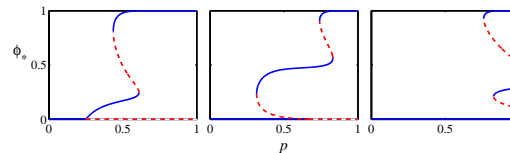
Thresholds are uniformly set at

- $d_* = 0.5$
- $d_* = 1.6$
- $d_* = 3$

Spread of dose sizes matters, details are not important.

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## More complicated models



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

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## Nutshell (other half)

Single seed infects others if  $pP_1(T + \tau) \geq 1$ .

Key quantity:  $p_c = 1/[P_1(T + \tau)]$

If  $p_c < 1 \Rightarrow$  contagion can spread from single seed.

Depends only on:

- System Memory ( $T + \tau$ ).
- Fraction of highly vulnerable individuals ( $P_1$ ).

Details unimportant: Many threshold and dose distributions give same  $P_k$ .

Another example of a model where vulnerable/gullible population may be more important than a small group of super-spreaders or influentials.

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## Appendix: Details for Class I-II transition:

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

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## Appendix: Details for Class I-II transition:

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

since

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

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## Appendix: Details for Class I-II transition:

Linearization gives

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

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

Using  $p_c = 1/(T P_1)$ :

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

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

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