

Biological Contagion

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Principles of Complex Systems, Vols. 1, 2, & 3D
CSYS/MATH 6701, 6713, & a pretend number, 2024–2025

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



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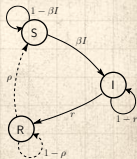
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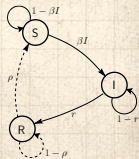
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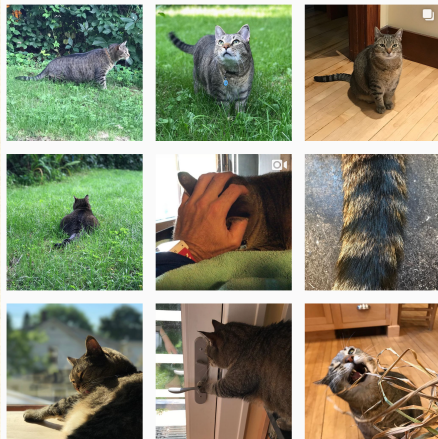
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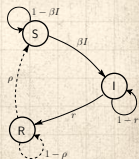
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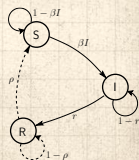
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An awful recording: Wikipedia's list of epidemics from 430 BC on.

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List of epidemics

From Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia

This article is a **list of epidemics of infectious disease**. Widespread and chronic complaints such as **heart disease** and **allergy** are not included if they are not thought to be infectious.

This list is incomplete; you can help by expanding it.

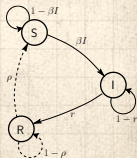
Death toll (estimate)	Location	Date	Comment	Disease	Reference
ca. 75,000 - 100,000	Greece	429–426 BC	Known as Plague of Athens , because it was primarily in Athens.	unknown, similar to typhoid	
ca. 30% of population	Europe, Western Asia, Northern Africa	165–180	Known as Antonine Plague , due to the name of the Roman emperor in power at the time.	unknown, symptoms similar to smallpox	
	Europe	250-266 AD	Known as the Plague of Cyprian named after St. Cyprian Bishop of Carthage.	unknown, possibly smallpox	
ca. 40% of population	Europe	541–542	Known as Plague of Justinian , due to the name of the Byzantine emperor in power at the time.	Bubonic plague	[1]
			Known as " Black Death " or Second plague pandemic , first return of the plague to Europe after the Justinianic plague of the 6th century.	plague	[6]
5-15 million (80% of population)	Mexico	1545-1548	Cocoliztli	viral hemorrhagic fever	[6][7][8]
2 - 2.5 million (50% of population)	Mexico	1576	Cocoliztli	viral hemorrhagic fever	[6][7][8]
	Seneca nation	1592–1596		measles	[9]



Plague panel with the triumph of death. 1607–35, Deutsches Historisches Museum Berlin



An artistic portrayal of cholera which was epidemic in the 19th century



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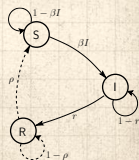
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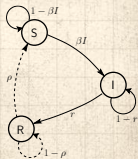
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 Did Harry Potter spread like a virus?



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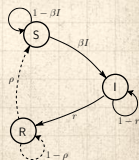
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🧱 Can disinformation be “infectious”?



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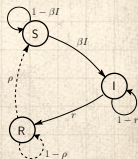
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 Suicide, violence?



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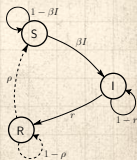
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- Morality? Evil? Laziness? Stupidity? Happiness?



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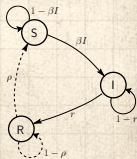
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Morality? Evil? Laziness? Stupidity? Happiness?



Religion?



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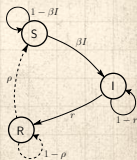
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- Democracy ...?



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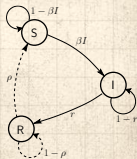
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- Language? The alphabet? ^[10]



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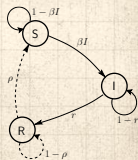
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- Language? The alphabet? ^[10]
- Stories?



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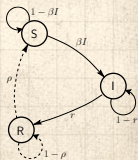
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 “The feeling was contagious.”

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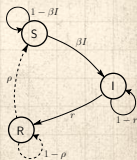
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🧱 “The feeling was contagious.”

🧱 “The news spread like wildfire.”

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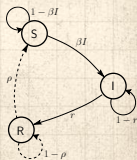
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“The feeling was contagious.”

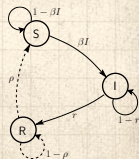


“The news spread like wildfire.”



“Freedom is the most contagious virus known to man.”

—Hubert H. Humphrey, Johnson’s vice president



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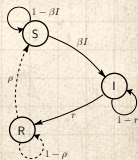
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“Nothing is so contagious as enthusiasm.”

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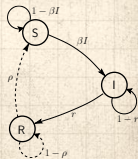


“Nothing is so contagious as enthusiasm.”

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Optimism according to Ambrose Bierce:

The doctrine that everything is beautiful, including what is ugly, everything good, especially the bad, and everything right that is wrong. ...



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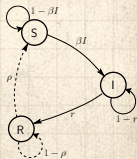


“Nothing is so contagious as enthusiasm.”

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Optimism according to Ambrose Bierce:

The doctrine that everything is beautiful, including what is ugly, everything good, especially the bad, and everything right that is wrong. ... **It is hereditary, but fortunately not contagious.**



Social contagion

Eric Hoffer, 1902–1983

There is a grandeur in the uniformity of the mass.

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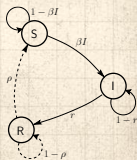
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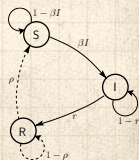
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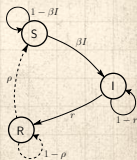
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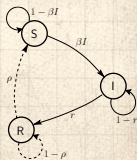
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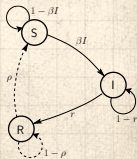
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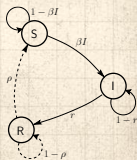
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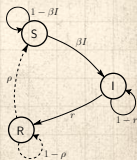
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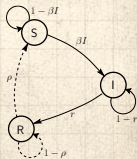
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Hoffer  was an interesting fellow...



The spread of fanaticism

Hoffer's most famous work: “**The True Believer:**
Thoughts On The Nature Of Mass Movements” (1951) [12]

Aphorisms-aplenty:

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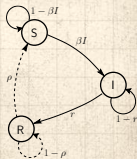
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“We can be absolutely certain only about things we do not understand.”

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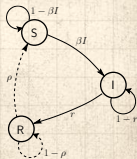
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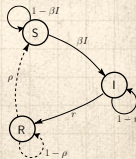
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“We can be absolutely certain only about things we do not understand.”



“Mass movements can rise and spread without belief in a God, but never without belief in a devil.”



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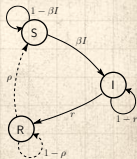
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“Where freedom is real, equality is the passion of the masses.

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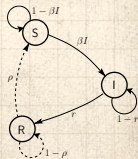
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“Where freedom is real, equality is the passion of the masses.
Where equality is real, freedom is the passion of a small minority.”



Imitation

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CONFORMITY

WHEN PEOPLE ARE FREE TO DO AS THEY PLEASE,
THEY USUALLY IMITATE EACH OTHER.

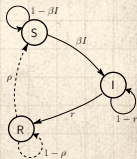
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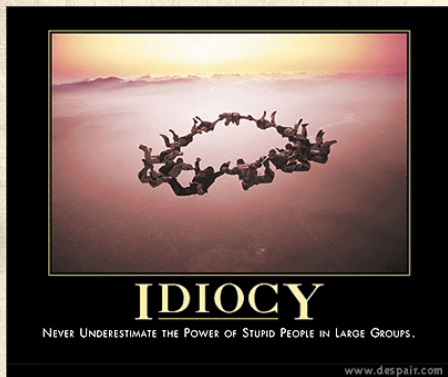
“When people are free to do as they please, they usually imitate each other.”

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“The Passionate State of Mind” [13]



The collective...



despair.com

“Never Underestimate the Power of Stupid People in Large Groups.”

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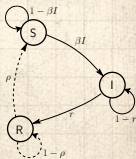
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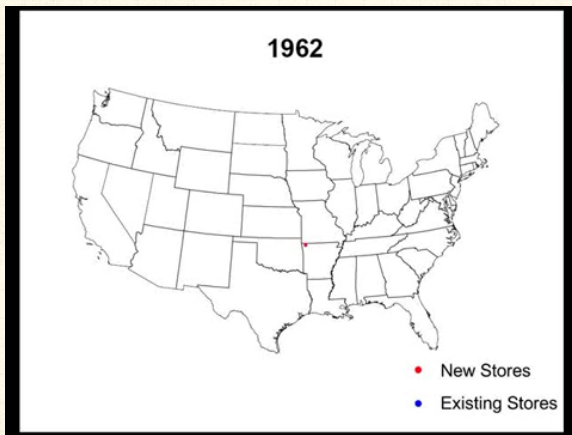
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Examples of non-disease spreading:



Spreading of certain buildings in the US.

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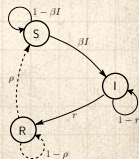
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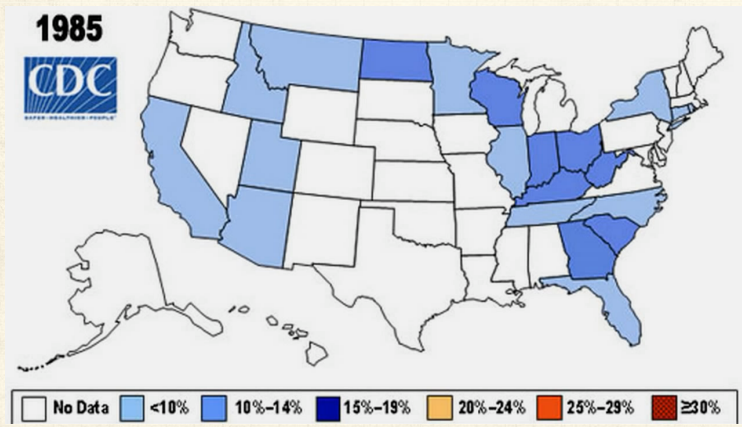
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Marbleization of the US:



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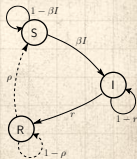
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The most terrifying contagious outbreak?

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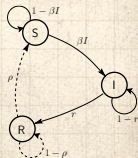
Google books Ngram Viewer

Graph these comma-separated phrases: case-insensitive

between and from the corpus with smoothing of . [Search lots of books](#)



(click on line/label for focus)



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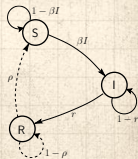
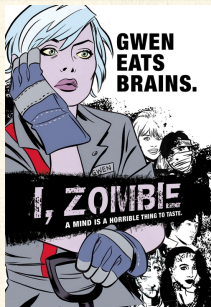
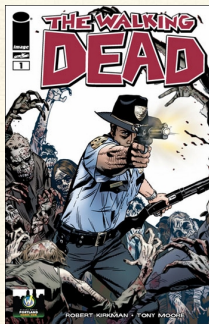
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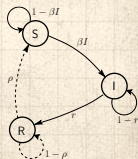
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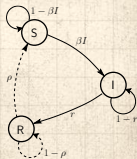
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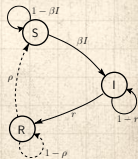
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-  (1) The spreading of a quality or quantity between individuals in a population.
-  (2) A disease itself: the plague, a blight, the dreaded lurgi, ...



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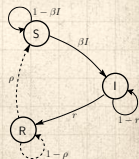
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-  (1) The spreading of a quality or quantity between individuals in a population.
-  (2) A disease itself: the plague, a blight, the dreaded lurgi, ...
-  from Latin: *con* = 'with' + *tangere* 'to touch.'



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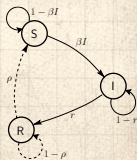
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-  Contagion has unpleasant overtones...



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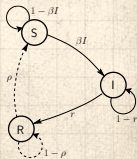
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- 🧱 Contagion has unpleasant overtones...
- 🧱 Just **Spreading** might be a more neutral word



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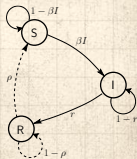
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-  (2) A disease itself: the plague, a blight, the dreaded lurgi, ...
-  from Latin: *con* = 'with' + *tangere* 'to touch.'
-  Contagion has unpleasant overtones...
-  Just **Spreading** might be a more neutral word
-  But contagion is kind of exciting...



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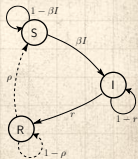
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Two main classes of contagion



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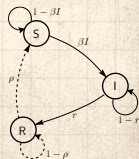
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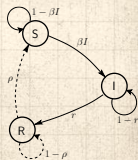
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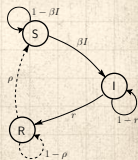
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Two main classes of contagion

1. **Infectious diseases:**

tuberculosis, HIV, ebola, SARS, influenza, zombification, ...

2. **Social contagion**



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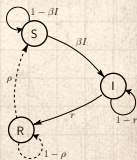
Two main classes of contagion

1. Infectious diseases:

tuberculosis, HIV, ebola, SARS, influenza, zombification, ...

2. Social contagion:

fashion, word usage, rumors, uprisings, religion, stories about zombies, ...



Archival footage from the Black Plague:



Bring out your dead.

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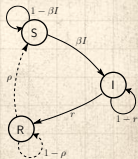
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Community—S2E06: Epidemiology



“I thought I was special”

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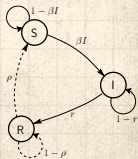
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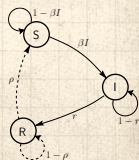
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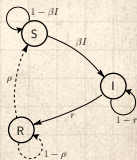
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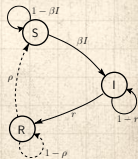
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The standard **SIR model** [18]

 = basic model of disease contagion



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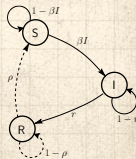
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 Three states:



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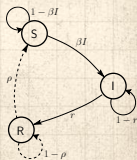
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1. S = Susceptible



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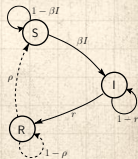
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The standard **SIR model** [18]

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 Three states:


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2. I = Infective/Infectious



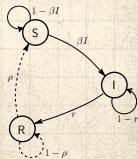
Mathematical Epidemiology

The standard **SIR model** [18]

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 Three states:


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



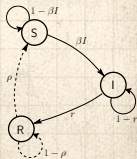
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The standard **SIR model** [18]


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 Three states:

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




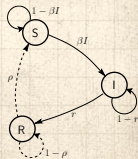
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 $S(t) + I(t) + R(t) = 1$





The standard **SIR model** [18]

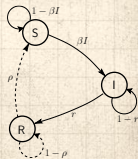
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 Presumes random interactions (mass-action principle)





The standard **SIR model** [18]


 = basic model of disease contagion

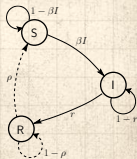
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 Presumes random interactions (mass-action principle)


 Interactions are independent (no memory)




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 Three states:

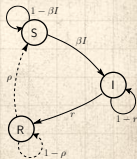
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 Presumes random interactions (mass-action principle)

 Interactions are independent (no memory)

 Discrete and continuous time versions



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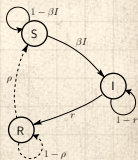
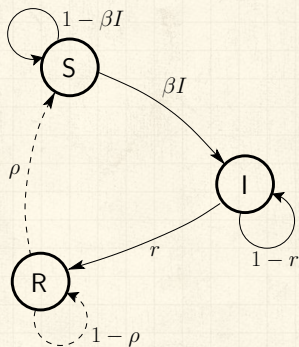
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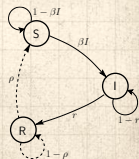
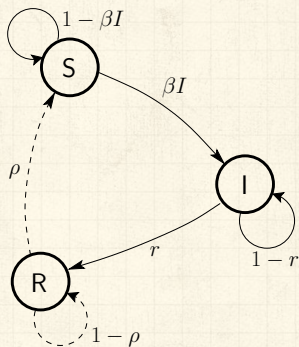
References

Discrete time automata example:

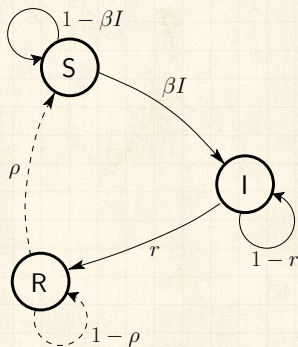


Discrete time automata example:

Transition Probabilities:

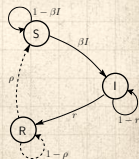


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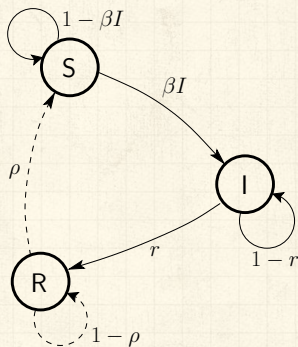


Transition Probabilities:

β for being infected given contact with infected

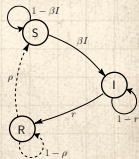


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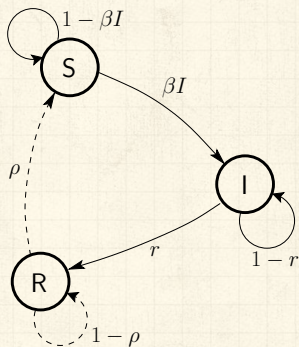


Transition Probabilities:

β for being infected given contact with infected
 r for recovery



Discrete time automata example:

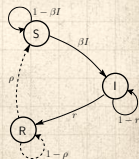


Transition Probabilities:

β for being infected given contact
with infected

r for recovery

ρ for loss of immunity



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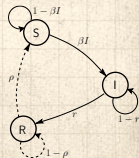
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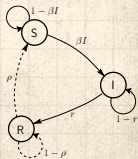
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Original models attributed to

 1920's: Reed and Frost



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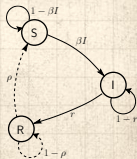
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Original models attributed to


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 1920's/1930's: Kermack and McKendrick [14, 16, 15]

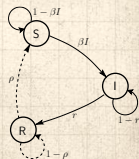


Original models attributed to

 1920's: Reed and Frost

 1920's/1930's: Kermack and McKendrick [14, 16, 15]

 Coupled differential equations with a mass-action principle



Independent Interaction models

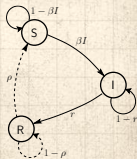
Differential equations for continuous model

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

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

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

β , r , and ρ are now **rates**.



Reproduction Number R_0

Reproduction Number R_0 

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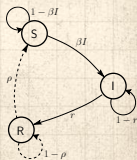
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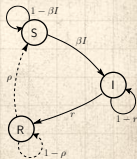
References



Reproduction Number R_0


Reproduction Number R_0


 R_0 = expected number of infected individuals resulting from a single initial infective

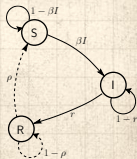


Reproduction Number R_0

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 R_0 = expected number of infected individuals resulting from a single initial infective


 Epidemic threshold: If $R_0 > 1$, 'epidemic' occurs.




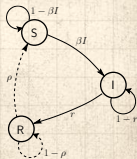
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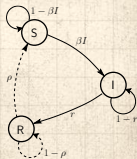
 Exponential take off: R_0^n where n is the number of generations.



Reproduction Number R_0


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.
-  Exponential take off: R_0^n where n is the number of generations.
-  Fantastically awful notation convention: R_0 and the R in *SIR*.



Reproduction Number R_0

Discrete version:

 Set up: One Infective in a randomly mixing population of Susceptibles

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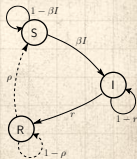
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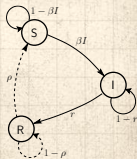


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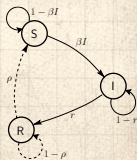
 At time $t = 0$, single infective random bumps into a Susceptible



Reproduction Number R_0

Discrete version:

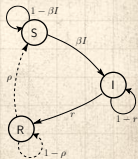
- Set up: One Infective in a randomly mixing population of Susceptibles
- At time $t = 0$, single infective random bumps into a Susceptible
- Probability of transmission = β



Reproduction Number R_0

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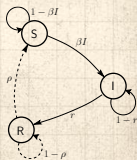
- Set up: One Infective in a randomly mixing population of Susceptibles
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- At time $t = 1$, single Infective remains infected with probability $1 - r$



Reproduction Number R_0


Discrete version:

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

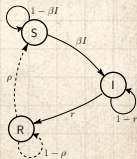


Reproduction Number R_0

Discrete version:


 Expected number infected by original infective:

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

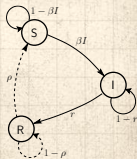


Reproduction Number R_0

Discrete version:


 Expected number infected by original infective:

$$\begin{aligned}R_0 &= \beta + (1 - r)\beta + (1 - r)^2\beta + (1 - r)^3\beta + \dots \\ &= \beta(1 + (1 - r) + (1 - r)^2 + (1 - r)^3 + \dots)\end{aligned}$$



Reproduction Number R_0

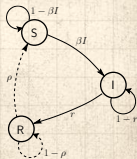
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$$= \beta (1 + (1 - r) + (1 - r)^2 + (1 - r)^3 + \dots)$$

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



Reproduction Number R_0

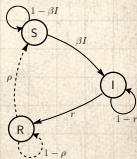
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$$= \beta \frac{1}{1 - (1 - r)} = \beta/r$$



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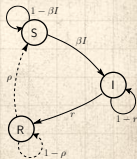
$$= \beta(1 + (1 - r) + (1 - r)^2 + (1 - r)^3 + \dots)$$

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

For $S(0) \simeq 1$ initial susceptibles

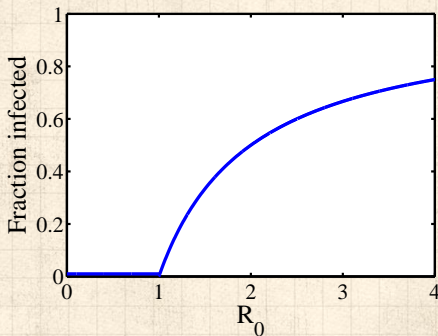
$(1 - S(0) = R(0) =$ fraction initially immune):

$$R_0 = S(0)\beta/r$$



Independent Interaction models

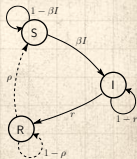
Example of epidemic threshold:



Continuous phase transition.




Fine idea from a simple model.



Independent Interaction models

For the continuous version

 Second equation:

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

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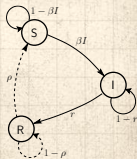
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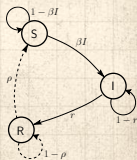
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For the continuous version

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Independent Interaction models

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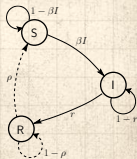
$$\frac{d}{dt}I = \beta SI - rI$$

$$\frac{d}{dt}I = (\beta S - r)I$$

 Number of infectives grows initially if


$$\beta S(0) - r > 0$$

where $S(0) \simeq 1$.




Independent Interaction models

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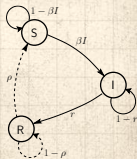
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$$\beta S(0) - r > 0 \Rightarrow \beta S(0) > r$$

where $S(0) \simeq 1$.




Independent Interaction models

For the continuous version

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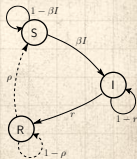
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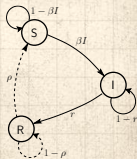
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 Same story as for discrete model.



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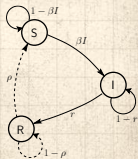
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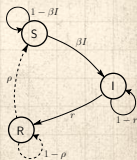
Many variants of the SIR model:



Independent Interaction models


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 **SIS**: susceptible-infective-susceptible

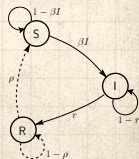


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Many variants of the SIR model:


 **SIS**: susceptible-infective-susceptible


 **SIRS**: susceptible-infective-recovered-susceptible




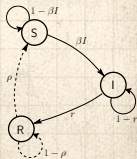
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Many variants of the SIR model:

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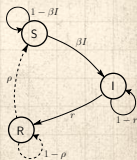
 compartment models (age or gender partitions)



Independent Interaction models






Many variants of the SIR model:

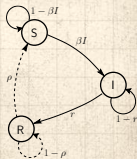
-  **SIS**: susceptible-infective-susceptible
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-  more categories such as 'exposed' (**SEIRS**)



Independent Interaction models

Many variants of the SIR model:

-  **SIS**: susceptible-infective-susceptible
-  **SIRS**: susceptible-infective-recovered-susceptible
-  compartment models (age or gender partitions)
-  more categories such as 'exposed' (**SEIRS**)
-  recruitment (migration, birth)



Watch someone else pretend to save the world:

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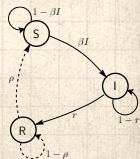
References




MARION
COTILLARD MATT
DAMON LAURENCE
FISHBURNE JUDE
LAW GWYNETH
PALTROW KATE
WINSLET



NOTHING SPREADS LIKE FEAR


CONTAGION



Save the world yourself: 



 And you can be the virus. 

 Also contagious?: Cooperative games ...

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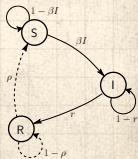
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Neural reboot—Save another pretend world with Vax:

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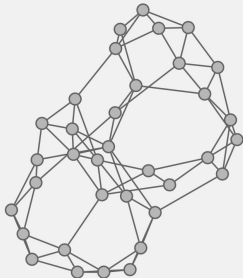
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Lesson 4: Quarantine



Vaccines take time to 'kick in' so they're ineffective
if an infection has already begun to spread.

Start >

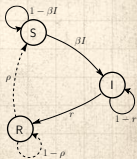
VAX!

Networks

Epidemics

Vaccines

Quarantine



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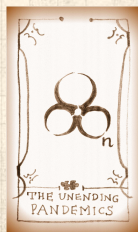
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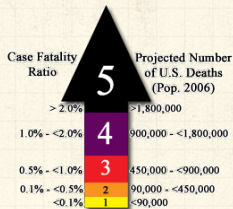
References

References



Pandemic severity index (PSI)


Classification during/post pandemic:






Assumes 30% illness rate
and unmitigated pandemic
without interventions

CDC

U.S. Gov.

 Category based.

 1–5 scale.

 Modeled on the Saffir-Simpson
hurricane scale .



For novel diseases:

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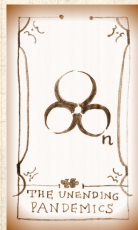
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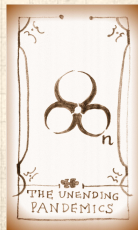
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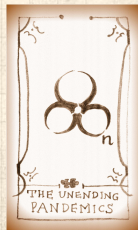
For novel diseases:

1. Can we predict the size of an epidemic?



For novel diseases:

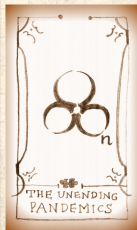
1. Can we predict the size of an epidemic?
2. How important is the reproduction number R_0 ?



For novel diseases:

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R_0 approximately same for all of the following:

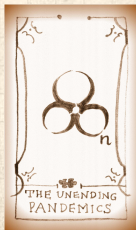


For novel diseases:

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R_0 approximately same for all of the following:



-  1918-19 “Spanish Flu” ~ 75,000,000 world-wide, 500,000 deaths in US.

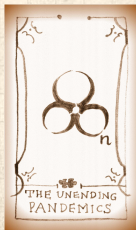


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-  1918-19 “Spanish Flu” \sim 75,000,000 world-wide, 500,000 deaths in US.
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-  1918-19 “Spanish Flu” \sim 75,000,000 world-wide, 500,000 deaths in US.
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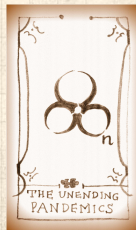


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-  1968-69 “Hong Kong Flu” \sim 1,000,000 world-wide, 34,000 deaths in US.
-  2003 “SARS Epidemic” \sim 800 deaths world-wide.



Size distributions

As we know, heavy-tailed size distributions are somewhat prevalent in complex systems:

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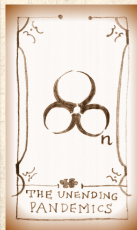
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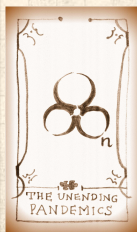
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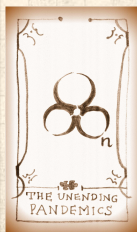
 earthquakes (Gutenberg-Richter law)



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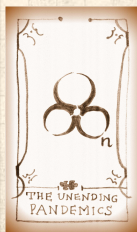
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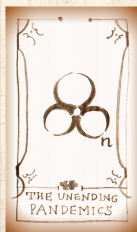
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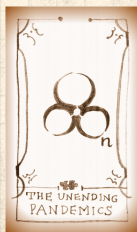
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-  **Epidemics?**

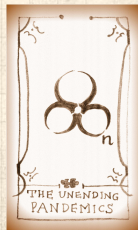


Size distributions

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-  earthquakes (Gutenberg-Richter law)
-  city sizes, forest fires, war fatalities
-  wealth distributions
-  'popularity' (books, music, websites, ideas)
-  **Epidemics?**

Power law distributions are common but not obligatory...



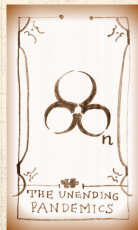
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-  city sizes, forest fires, war fatalities
-  wealth distributions
-  'popularity' (books, music, websites, ideas)
-  **Epidemics?**






Power law distributions are common but not obligatory...

Really, what about epidemics?




Size distributions

As we know, heavy-tailed size distributions are somewhat prevalent in complex systems:

-  earthquakes (Gutenberg-Richter law)
-  city sizes, forest fires, war fatalities
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-  'popularity' (books, music, websites, ideas)
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Really, what about epidemics?

-  Simply hasn't attracted much attention.





Size distributions

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-  **Epidemics?**

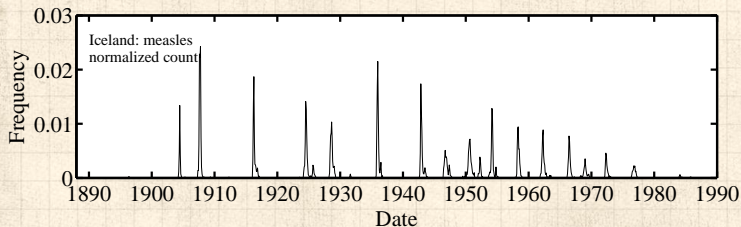
Power law distributions are common but not obligatory...

Really, what about epidemics?

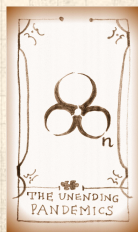
-  Simply hasn't attracted much attention.
-  Data not as clean as for other phenomena.



Caseload recorded monthly for range of diseases in Iceland, 1888-1990

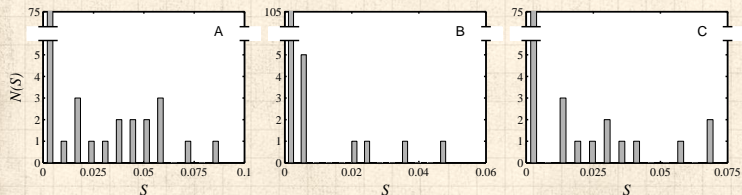


Treat outbreaks separated in time as ‘novel’ diseases.



Really not so good at all in Iceland

Epidemic size distributions $N(S)$ for
Measles, Rubella, and Whooping Cough.



Spike near $S = 0$, relatively flat otherwise.



Measles & Pertussis

Simple disease spreading models

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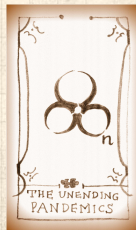
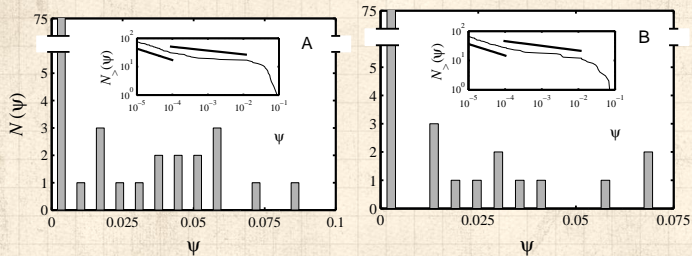
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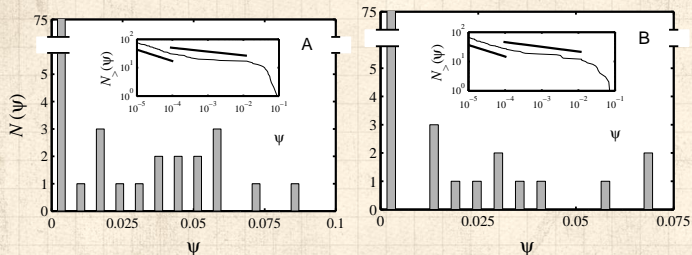
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Measles & Pertussis

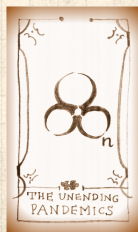


Insert plots:

Complementary cumulative frequency distributions:

$$N(\Psi' > \Psi) \propto \Psi^{-\gamma+1}$$

Limited scaling with a possible break.



Power law distributions

Measured values of γ :

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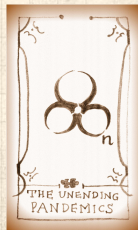
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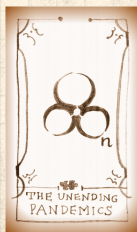
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Measured values of γ :

 measles: **1.40** (low Ψ) and **1.13** (high Ψ)



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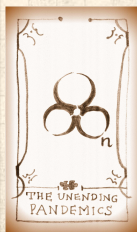
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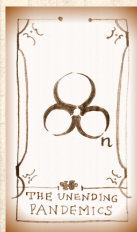
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 Expect $2 \leq \gamma < 3$ (finite mean, infinite variance)




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 When $\gamma < 1$, can't normalize





Power law distributions


Measured values of γ :

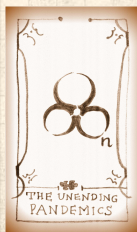
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 Expect $2 \leq \gamma < 3$ (finite mean, infinite variance)

 When $\gamma < 1$, can't normalize

 Distribution is quite **flat**.



Resurgence—example of SARS

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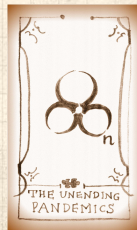
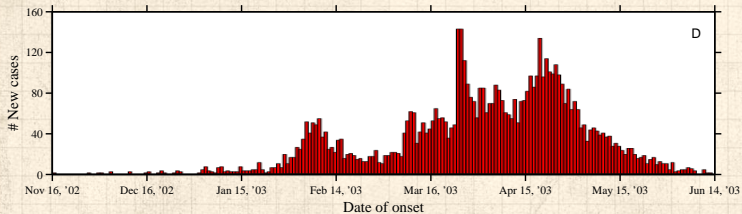
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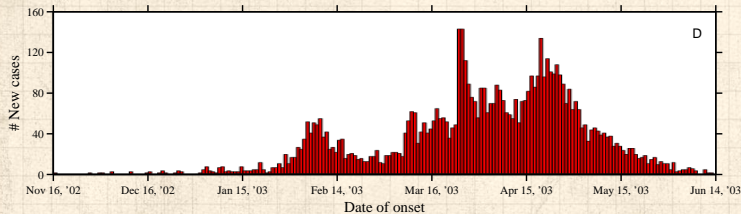
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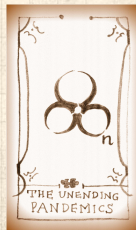
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Epidemic slows...



Resurgence—example of SARS

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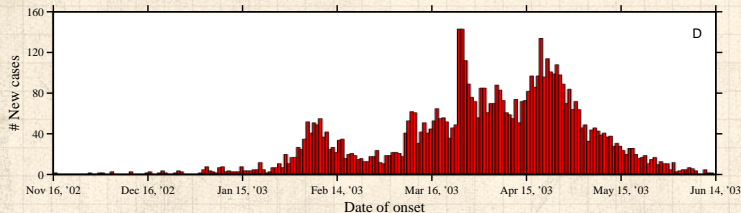
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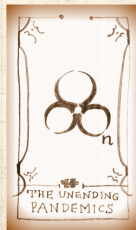
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Epidemic slows...
then an infective moves to a new context.



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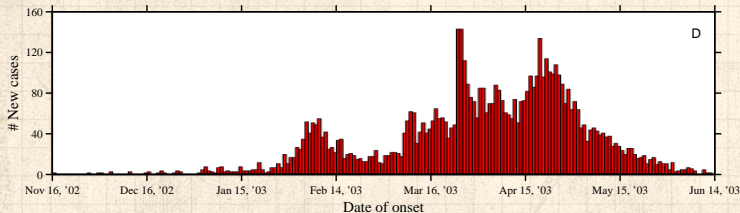
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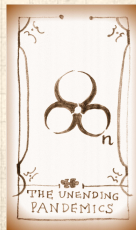
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Epidemic slows...
then an infective moves to a new context.



Epidemic discovers new 'pools' of susceptibles: **Resurgence.**



Resurgence—example of SARS

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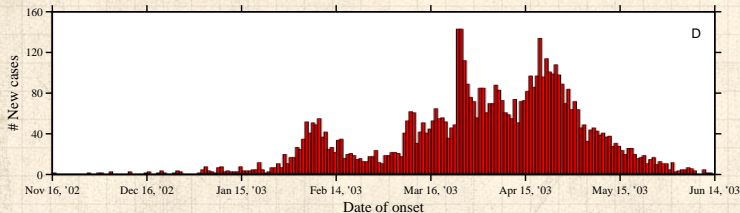
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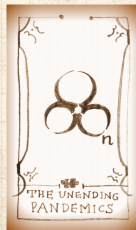
Epidemic slows...
then an infective moves to a new context.



Epidemic discovers new 'pools' of susceptibles: **Resurgence.**



Importance of rare, stochastic events.



Community—S2E06: Epidemiology



Classified Phoenix.



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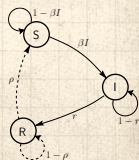
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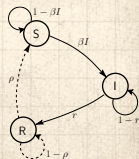
References



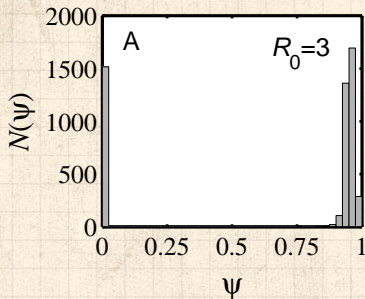
The challenge

So... can a simple model produce

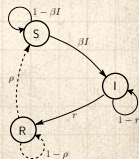
1. **broad epidemic distributions**
and
2. **resurgence?**



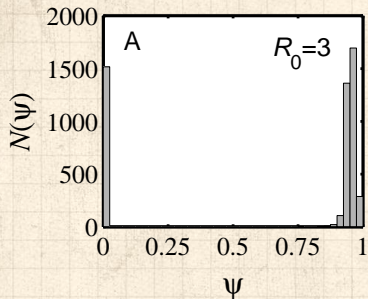
Size distributions



Simple models typically produce **bimodal** or **unimodal** size distributions.



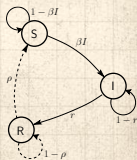
Size distributions



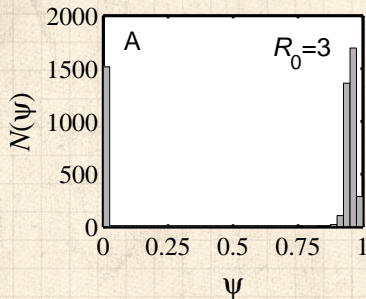
Simple models typically produce **bimodal** or **unimodal** size distributions.




This **includes** network models:
random, small-world, scale-free, ...




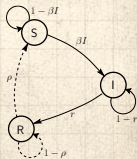
Size distributions



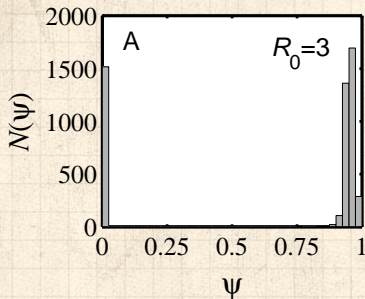
Simple models typically produce **bimodal** or **unimodal** size distributions.

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 Exceptions:




Size distributions

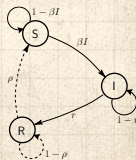


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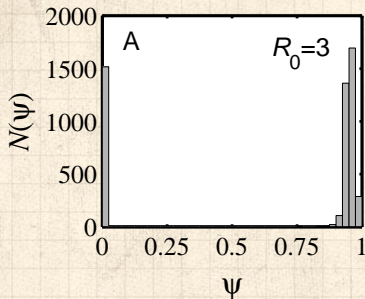
 This **includes** network models:
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 Exceptions:


1. Forest fire models




Size distributions

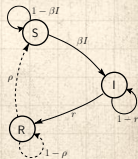


Simple models typically produce **bimodal** or **unimodal** size distributions.

 This **includes** network models:
random, small-world, scale-free, ...

 Exceptions:

1. Forest fire models
2. Sophisticated metapopulation models



Burning through the population

Forest fire models: ^[19]

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Burning through the population

Forest fire models: ^[19]

 Rhodes & Anderson, 1996

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Forest fire models: ^[19]

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 The physicist's approach:

“if it works for magnets, it’ll work for people...”



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 The physicist's approach:


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A bit of a stretch:



Burning through the population

Forest fire models: ^[19]

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A bit of a stretch:


1. Epidemics \equiv forest fires spreading on 3-d and 5-d lattices.



Burning through the population

Forest fire models: ^[19]

 Rhodes & Anderson, 1996

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2. Claim Iceland and Faroe Islands exhibit power law distributions for outbreaks.



Burning through the population

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A bit of a stretch:

1. Epidemics \equiv forest fires spreading on 3-d and 5-d lattices.
2. Claim Iceland and Faroe Islands exhibit power law distributions for outbreaks.
3. Original forest fire model not completely understood.



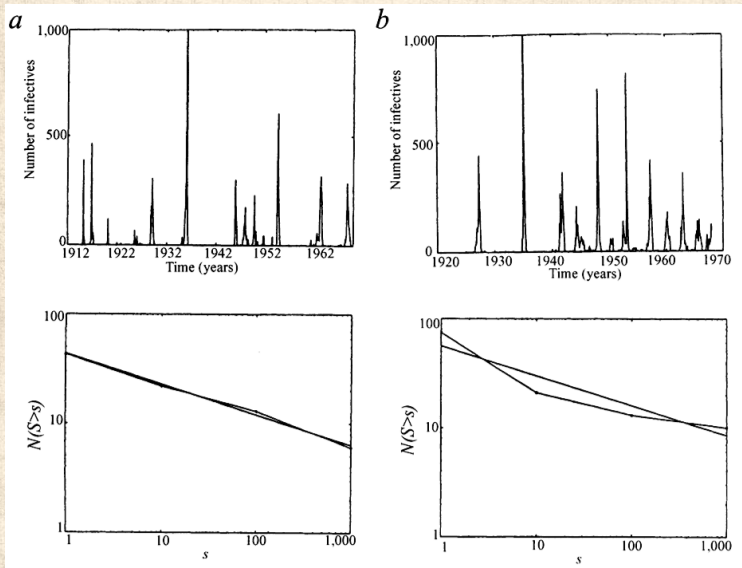
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From Rhodes and Anderson, 1996.



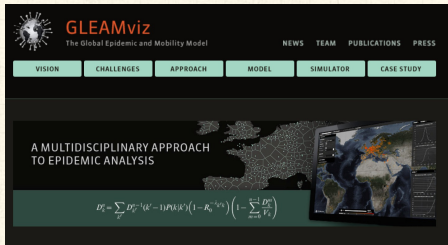
Sophisticated metapopulation models:

🧱 Multiscale models suggested earlier by others but not formalized (Bailey ^[1], Cliff and Haggett ^[6], Ferguson et al.)

🧱 Community based mixing (two scales)—Longini. ^[17]

🧱 Eubank et al.'s EpiSims/TRANSIMS —city simulations. ^[9]

🧱 Spreading through countries—Airlines: Germann et al., Colizza et al. ^[7]




GLEAMviz
The Global Epidemic and Mobility Model

NEWS TEAM PUBLICATIONS PRESS

VISION CHALLENGES APPROACH MODEL SIMULATOR CASE STUDY

A MULTIDISCIPLINARY APPROACH TO EPIDEMIC ANALYSIS

$$D_i^c = \sum_j D_{ij}^{c-1} (k_i - 1) P(k_i k_j) (1 - R_0^{-k_i}) \left(1 - \sum_{l=1}^{k_i} \frac{D_{il}^c}{k_i} \right)$$

🧱 GLEAM :
Global pandemic simulations by Vespignani et al.

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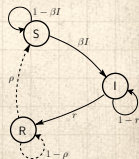
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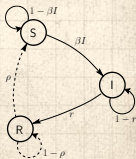
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“The hidden geometry of complex, network-driven
contagion phenomena” 

Brockmann and Helbing,
Science, **342**, 1337–1342, 2013. [5]



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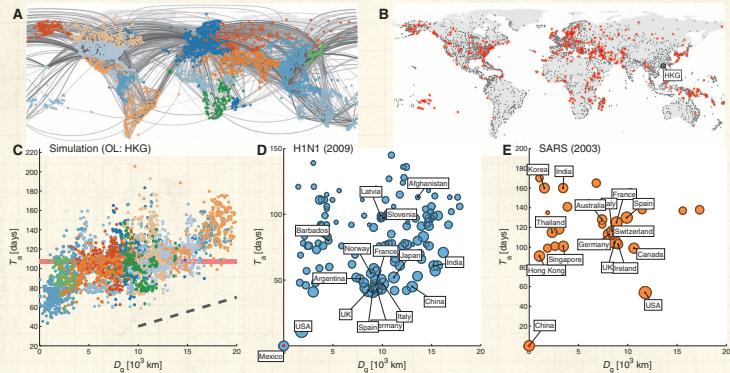
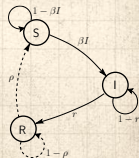


Fig. 1. Complexity in global, network-driven contagion phenomena. (A) The global mobility network (GMN). Gray lines represent passenger flows along direct connections between 4069 airports worldwide. Geographic regions are distinguished by color [classified according to network modularity maximization (39)]. (B) Temporal snapshot of a simulated global pandemic with initial outbreak location (OL) in Hong Kong (HKG). The simulation is based on the metapopulation model defined by Eq. 3 with parameters $R_0 = 1.5$, $\beta = 0.285 \text{ day}^{-1}$, $\gamma = 2.8 \times 10^{-3} \text{ day}^{-1}$, $\varepsilon = 10^{-6}$. Red symbols depict locations with epidemic arrival times in the time window 105 days $\leq T_a \leq 110$ days. Because of the multiscale structure of the underlying network, the spatial distribution of disease prevalence (i.e., the fraction of infected individuals) lacks geometric coherence. No clear wave-front is visible, and based on this dynamic state, the OL cannot be easily deduced. (C) For the same simulation as in (B), the panel depicts arrival times T_a as a function of geographic distance D_g from the OL [nodes are colored according to geographic region as in (A)] for each of the 4069 nodes in the network. On a

global scale, T_a weakly correlates with geographic distance D_g ($R^2 = 0.34$). A linear fit yields an average global spreading speed of $v_g = 331 \text{ km/day}$ (see also fig. S7). Using D_g and v_g to estimate arrival times for specific locations, however, does not work well owing to the strong variability of the arrival times for a given geographic distance. The red horizontal bar corresponds to the arrival time window shown in (B). (D) Arrival times versus geographic distance from the source (Mexico) for the 2009 H1N1 pandemic. Symbols represent 140 affected countries, and symbol size quantifies total traffic per country. Arrival times are defined as the date of the first confirmed case in a given country after the initial outbreak on 17 March 2009. As in the simulated scenario, arrival time and geographic distance are only weakly correlated ($R^2 = 0.0394$). (E) In analogy to (D), the panel depicts the arrival times versus geographic distance from the source (China) of the 2003 SARS epidemic for 29 affected countries worldwide. Arrival times are taken from WHO published data (2). As in (C) and (D), arrival time correlates weakly with geographic distance.



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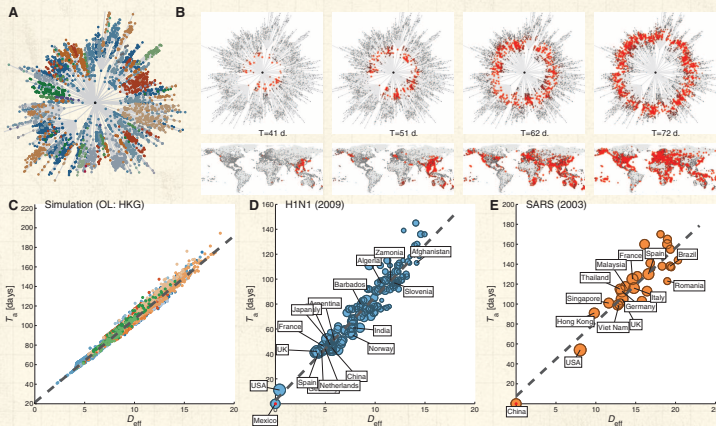
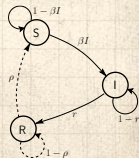


Fig. 2. Understanding global contagion phenomena using effective distance. (A) The structure of the shortest path tree (in gray) from Hong Kong (central node). Radial distance represents effective distance D_{eff} as defined by Eqs. 4 and 5. Nodes are colored according to the same scheme as in Fig. 1A. (B) The sequence (from left to right) depicts the time course of a simulated model disease with initial outbreak in Hong Kong (HKG), for the same parameter set as used in Fig. 1B. Prevalence is reflected by the redness of the symbols. Each panel compares the state of the system in the conventional geographic representation (bottom) with the effective distance representation (top). The complex spatial pattern in the conventional view is equivalent to a homoge-

neous wave that propagates outwards at constant effective speed in the effective distance representation. (C) Epidemic arrival time T_a versus effective distance D_{eff} for the same simulated epidemic as in (B). In contrast to geographic distance (Fig. 1C), effective distance correlates strongly with arrival time ($R^2 = 0.973$), i.e., effective distance is an excellent predictor of arrival times. (D and E) Linear relationship between effective distance and arrival time for the 2009 H1N1 pandemic (D) and the 2003 SARS epidemic (E). The arrival time data are the same as in Fig. 1, D and E. The effective distance was computed from the projected global mobility network between countries. As in the model system, we observe a strong correlation between arrival time and effective distance.



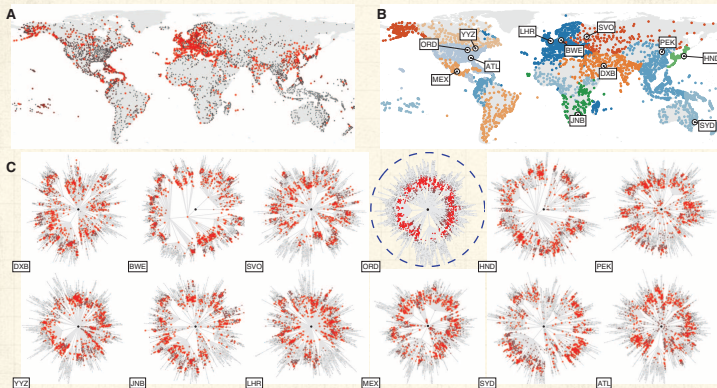
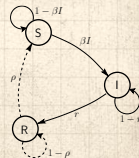


Fig. 3. Qualitative outbreak reconstruction based on effective distance. (A) Spatial distribution of prevalence $j_n(t)$ at time $T = 81$ days for OL Chicago (parameters $\beta = 0.28 \text{ day}^{-1}$, $R_0 = 1.9$, $\gamma = 2.8 \times 10^{-3} \text{ day}^{-1}$, and $\epsilon = 10^{-9}$). After this time, it is difficult, if not impossible, to determine the correct OL from snapshots of the dynamics. (B) Candidate OLs chosen from different geographic regions. (C) Panels depict the state of the system shown in (A) from the

perspective of each candidate OL, using each OL's shortest path tree representation. Only the actual OL (ORD, circled in blue) produces a circular wavefront. Even for comparable North American airports [Atlanta (ATL), Toronto (YYZ), and Mexico City (MEX)], the wavefronts are not nearly as concentric. Effective distances thus permit the extraction of the correct OL, based on information on the mobility network and a single snapshot of the dynamics.



Community—S2E06: Epidemiology



Scenario B.

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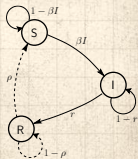
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SIR is the virus

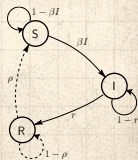
References



Size distributions



Vital work but perhaps hard to generalize from...



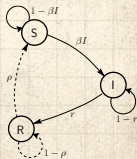
Size distributions



Vital work but perhaps hard to generalize from...



⇒ Create a simple model involving multiscale travel

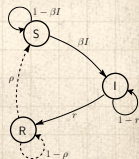


Size distributions

🧱 Vital work but perhaps hard to generalize from...

🧱 \Rightarrow Create a simple model involving multiscale travel

🧱 Very big question: **What is N ?**



Size distributions



Vital work but perhaps hard to generalize from...



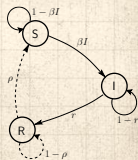
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Very big question: **What is N ?**

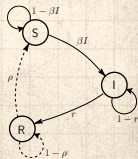


Should we model SARS in Hong Kong as spreading in a neighborhood, in Hong Kong, Asia, or the world?



Size distributions

- ✚ Vital work but perhaps hard to generalize from...
- ✚ \Rightarrow Create a simple model involving multiscale travel
- ✚ Very big question: **What is N ?**
- ✚ Should we model SARS in Hong Kong as spreading in a neighborhood, in Hong Kong, Asia, or the world?
- ✚ For simple models, we need to know the final size beforehand...



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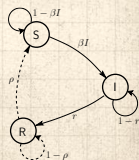
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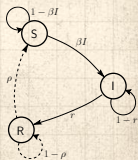
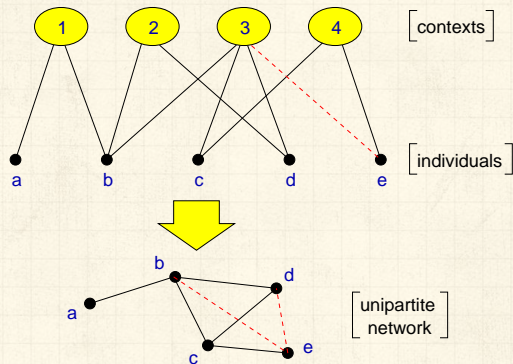
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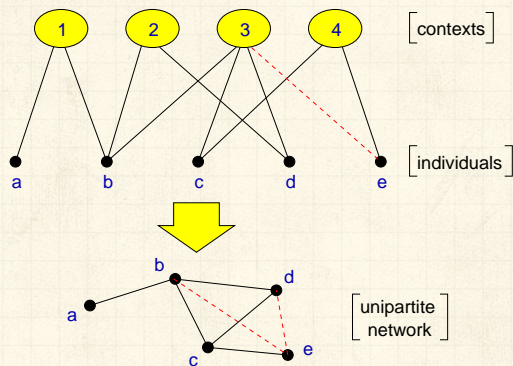
Improving simple models

Contexts and Identities—Bipartite networks

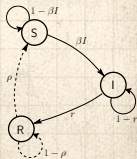


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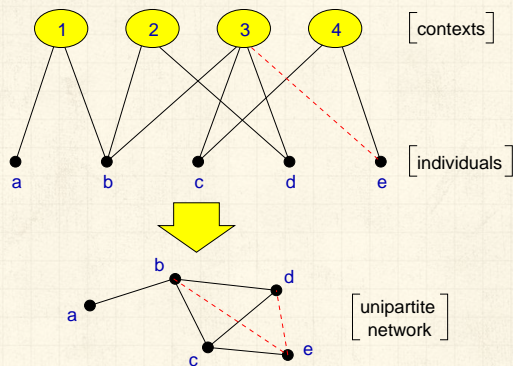



boards of directors




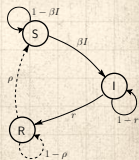
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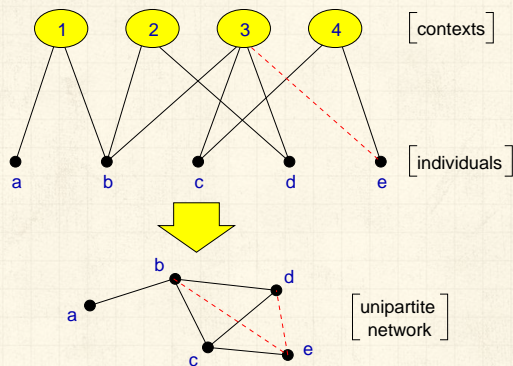
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 movies



Improving simple models

Contexts and Identities—Bipartite networks



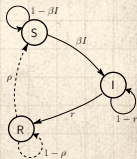
boards of directors



movies



transportation modes (subway)



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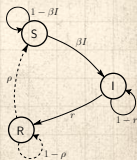
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Identity is formed from attributes such as:

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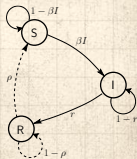
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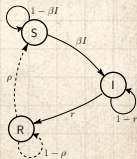
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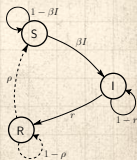
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Improving simple models

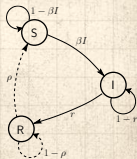
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Identity is formed from attributes such as:

 Geographic location

 Type of employment





 Age

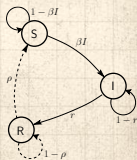


Improving simple models

Idea for social networks: incorporate identity

Identity is formed from attributes such as:





-  Geographic location
-  Type of employment
-  Age
-  Recreational activities



Improving simple models

Idea for social networks: incorporate identity

Identity is formed from attributes such as:

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Groups are crucial...

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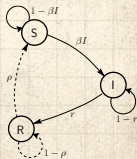
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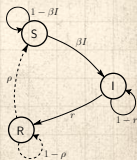
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-  formed by people with at least one similar attribute





Improving simple models

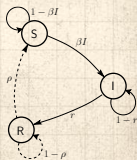
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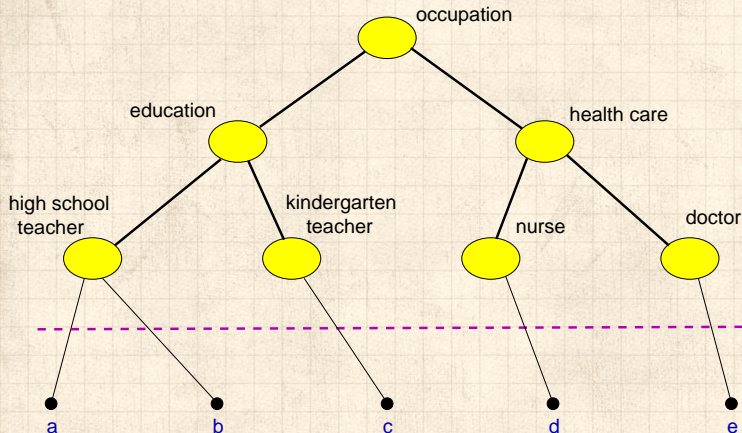
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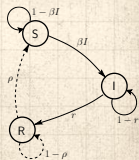
-  formed by people with at least one similar attribute
-  Attributes \Leftrightarrow Contexts \Leftrightarrow Interactions \Leftrightarrow Networks. [23]



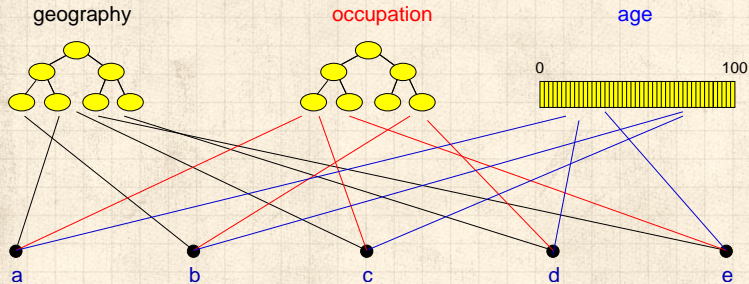
Infer interactions/network from identities



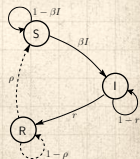
Distance makes sense in identity/context space.



Generalized context space




(Blau & Schwartz [3], Simmel [20], Breiger [4])



A toy agent-based model:

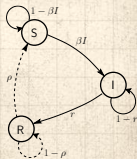


“Multiscale, resurgent epidemics in a hierarchical metapopulation model” 

Watts et al.,


Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci., **102**, 11157–11162, 2005. [24]

Geography: allow people to move between contexts



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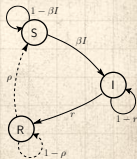
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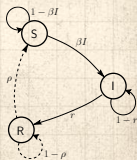
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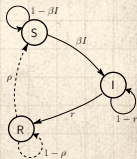
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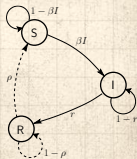
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 γ = recovery probability



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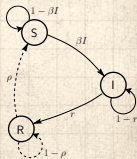
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-  discrete time simulation
-  β = infection probability
-  γ = recovery probability
-  P = probability of travel



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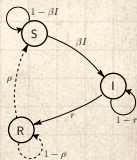
 discrete time simulation

 β = infection probability

 γ = recovery probability


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 **Movement distance:** $\Pr(d) \propto \exp(-d/\xi)$



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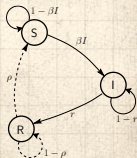
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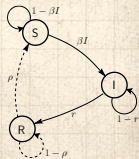
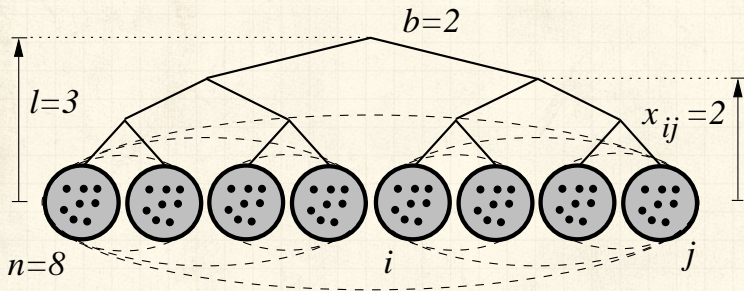


ξ = typical travel distance



A toy agent-based model

Schematic:



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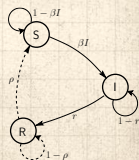
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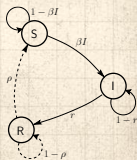
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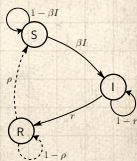
Define P_0 = Expected number of infected individuals **leaving** initially infected context.



Model output

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Need $P_0 > 1$ for disease to spread (independent of R_0).

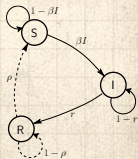


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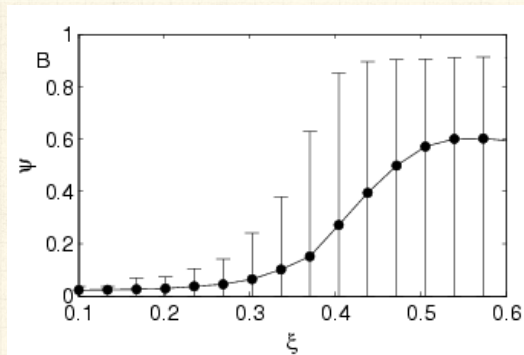
Need $P_0 > 1$ for disease to spread (independent of R_0).

Limit epidemic size by **restricting frequency of travel and/or range**

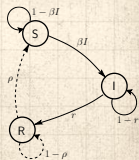


Model output

Varying ξ :

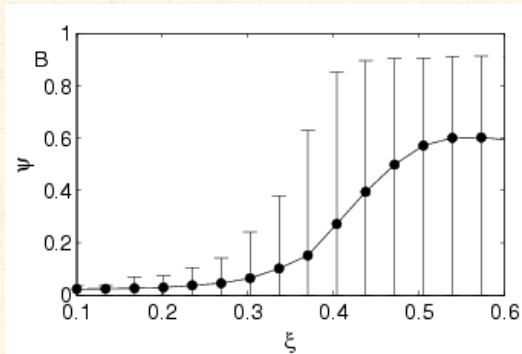


Transition in expected final size based on typical movement distance

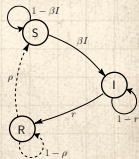


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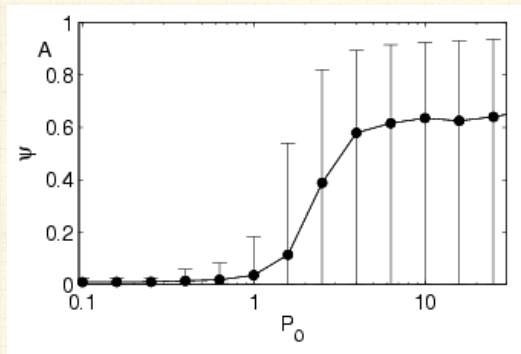


Transition in expected final size based on typical movement distance (**sensible**)

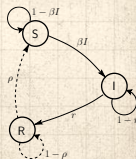


Model output

Varying P_0 :

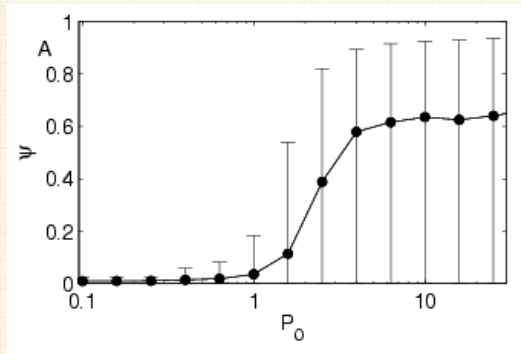


Transition in expected final size based on typical number of infectives leaving first group

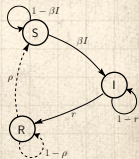


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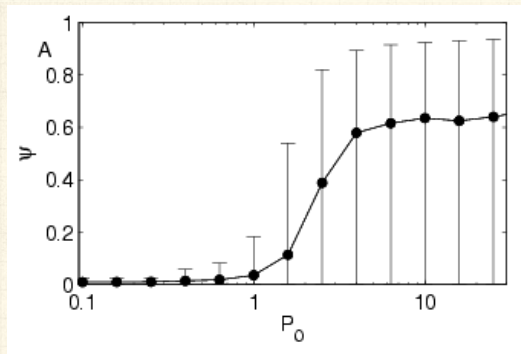


Transition in expected final size based on typical number of infectives leaving first group (also sensible)



Model output

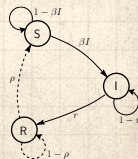
Varying P_0 :



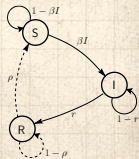
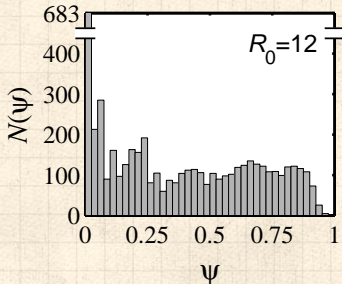
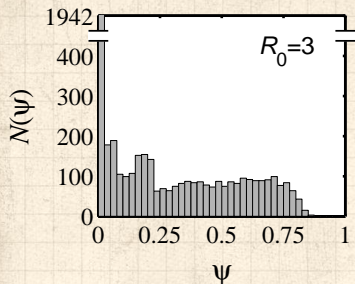
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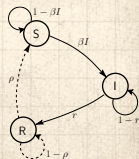
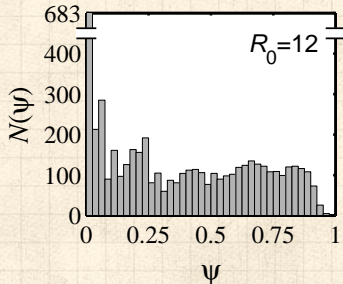
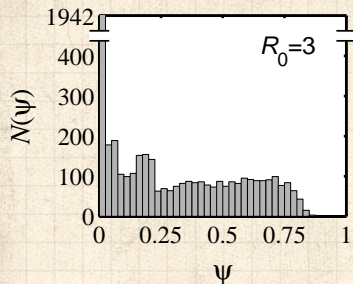
Travel advisories: ξ has larger effect than P_0 .



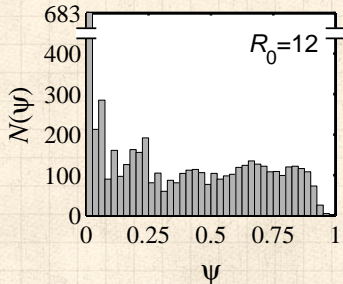
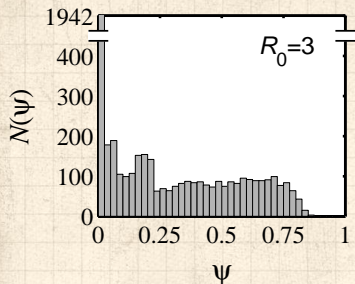
Example model output: size distributions



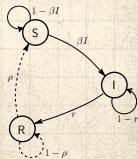
Example model output: size distributions



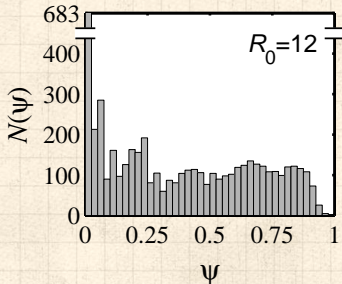
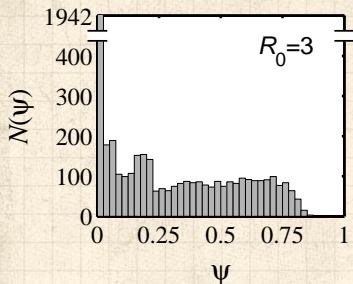
Example model output: size distributions



Flat distributions are possible for certain ξ and P .



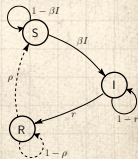
Example model output: size distributions



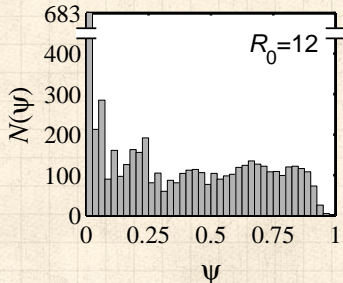
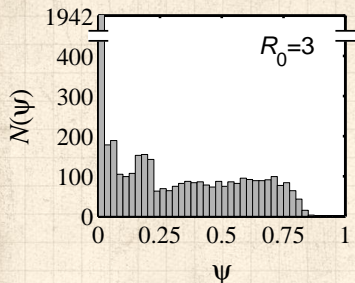
Flat distributions are possible for certain ξ and P .



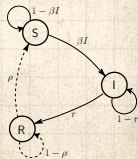
Different R_0 's may produce similar distributions



Example model output: size distributions

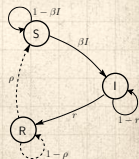
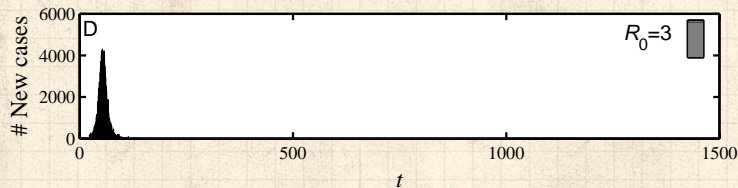


- Flat distributions are possible for certain ξ and P .
- Different R_0 's may produce similar distributions
- Same epidemic sizes may arise from different R_0 's



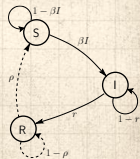
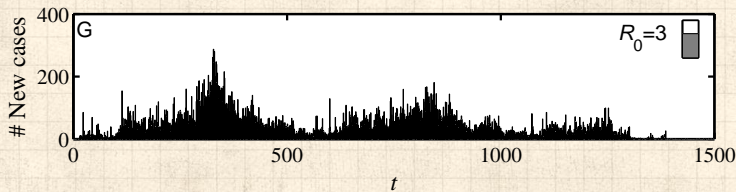
Model output—resurgence

Standard model:



Model output—resurgence

Standard model with transport:



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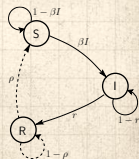
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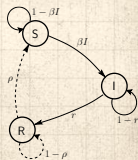
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+

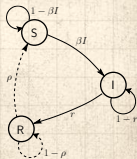
stochasticity

leads to

resurgence

+

broad epidemic size distributions



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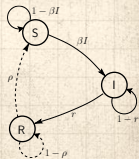
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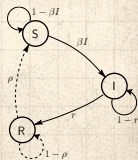
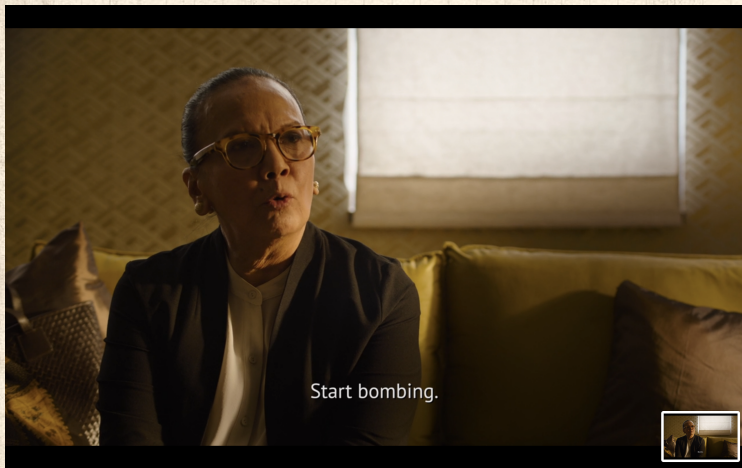
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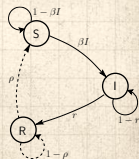
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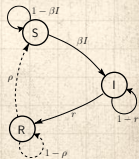
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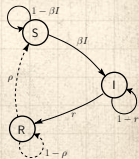
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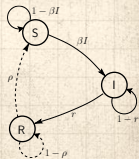
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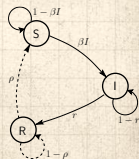
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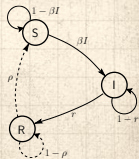
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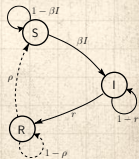
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They're connected.



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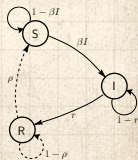
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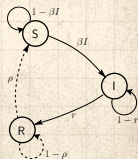
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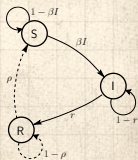
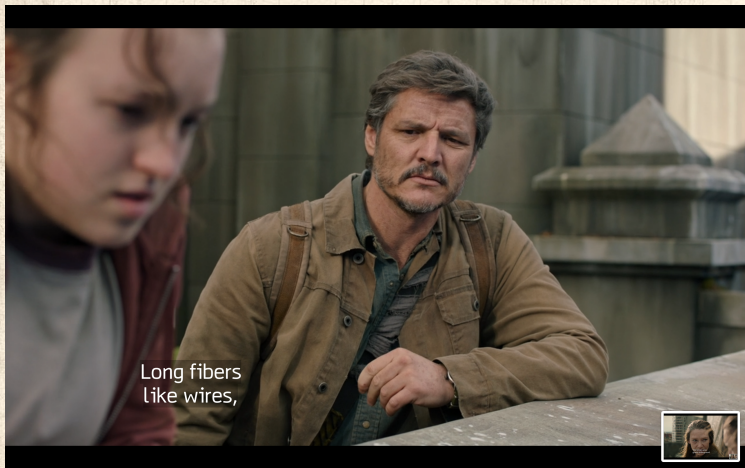
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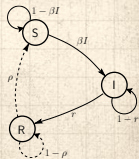
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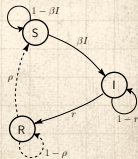
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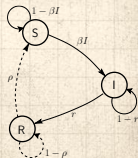
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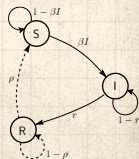
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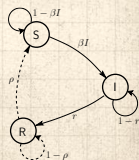
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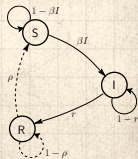
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For the hierarchical movement model, epidemic size is highly unpredictable



Nutshelling

- For the hierarchical movement model, epidemic size is highly unpredictable
- Model is more complicated than SIR but still simple.

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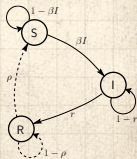
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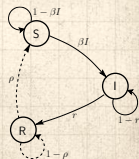


Nutshelling

For the hierarchical movement model, epidemic size is highly unpredictable

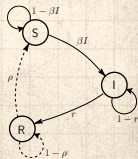
Model is more complicated than SIR but still simple.

We haven't even included normal social responses such as travel bans and self-quarantine.



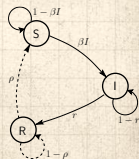
Nutshelling

- For the hierarchical movement model, epidemic size is highly unpredictable
- Model is more complicated than SIR but still simple.
- We haven't even included normal social responses such as travel bans and self-quarantine.
- The reproduction number R_0 is not terribly useful.



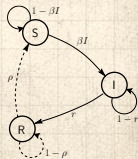
Nutshelling

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- R_0 , however measured, is not informative about



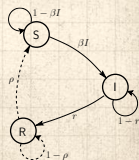
Nutshelling

- For the hierarchical movement model, epidemic size is highly unpredictable
- Model is more complicated than SIR but still simple.
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 - how likely the observed epidemic size was,



Nutshelling

- For the hierarchical movement model, epidemic size is highly unpredictable
- Model is more complicated than SIR but still simple.
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- The reproduction number R_0 is not terribly useful.
- R_0 , however measured, is not informative about
 - how likely the observed epidemic size was,
 - and how likely future epidemics will be.



Nutshelling

For the hierarchical movement model, epidemic size is highly unpredictable

Model is more complicated than SIR but still simple.

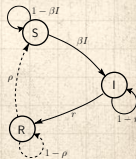
We haven't even included normal social responses such as travel bans and self-quarantine.

The reproduction number R_0 is not terribly useful.

R_0 , however measured, is not informative about

1. how likely the observed epidemic size was,
2. and how likely future epidemics will be.

Problem: R_0 summarises **one** epidemic after the fact and enfolds movement, the price of bananas, everything.



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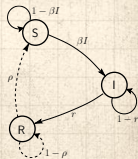
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Disease's spread is highly sensitive to population structure.



Conclusions

- 🧱 Disease's spread is highly sensitive to population structure.
- 🧱 Rare events may matter enormously:

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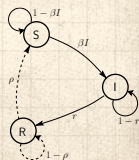
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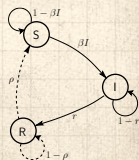
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Conclusions

- 🧱 Disease's spread is highly sensitive to population structure.
- 🧱 Rare events may matter enormously: e.g., an infected individual taking an international flight.



Conclusions

- 🧱 Disease's spread is highly sensitive to population structure.
- 🧱 Rare events may matter enormously: e.g., an infected individual taking an international flight.
- 🧱 More support for controlling population movement:

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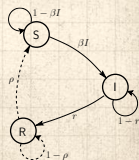
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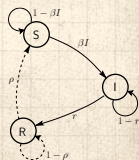
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Conclusions

- 🧱 Disease's spread is highly sensitive to population structure.
- 🧱 Rare events may matter enormously: e.g., an infected individual taking an international flight.
- 🧱 More support for controlling population movement: e.g., travel advisories, quarantine



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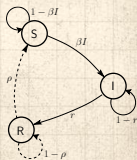
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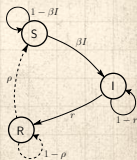
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What to do:

 Need to separate movement from disease



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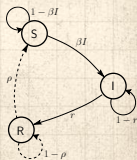
SIR is the virus

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What to do:

🧱 Need to separate movement from disease

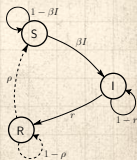
🧱 R_0 needs a friend or two.



Nutshelling

What to do:

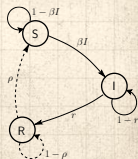
- Need to separate movement from disease
- R_0 needs a friend or two.
- Need $R_0 > 1$ and $P_0 > 1$ and ξ sufficiently large for disease to have a chance of spreading



Nutshelling

What to do:

- Need to separate movement from disease
- R_0 needs a friend or two.
- Need $R_0 > 1$ and $P_0 > 1$ and ξ sufficiently large for disease to have a chance of spreading
- And in general: keep building up the kitchen sink models.

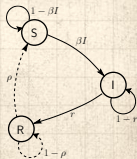


Nutshelling

What to do:

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More wondering:



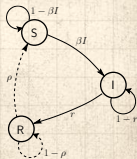
Nutshelling

What to do:

- Need to separate movement from disease
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- Need $R_0 > 1$ and $P_0 > 1$ and ξ sufficiently large for disease to have a chance of spreading
- And in general: keep building up the kitchen sink models.

More wondering:

- Exactly how important are rare events in disease spreading?



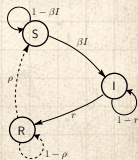
Nutshelling

What to do:

- Need to separate movement from disease
- R_0 needs a friend or two.
- Need $R_0 > 1$ and $P_0 > 1$ and ξ sufficiently large for disease to have a chance of spreading
- And in general: keep building up the kitchen sink models.

More wondering:

- Exactly how important are rare events in disease spreading?
- Again, what is N ?



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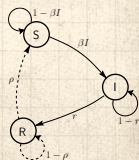
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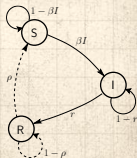
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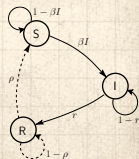
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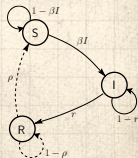
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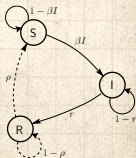
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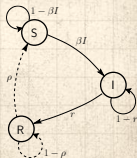
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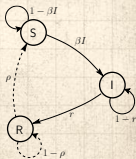
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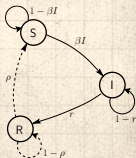
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¹<http://www.redherring.com/mag/issue55/economics.html>

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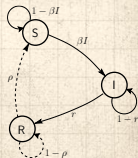
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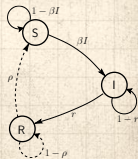
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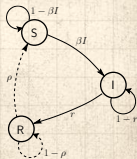
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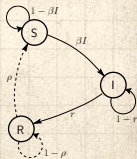
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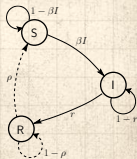
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I don’t need any of this other stuff.

I could forecast the economy better than any way I know.”



<http://wikipedia.org>



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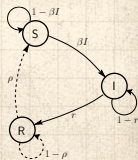
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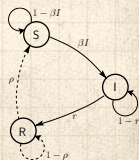
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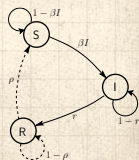
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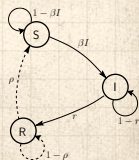
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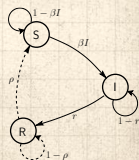
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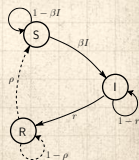
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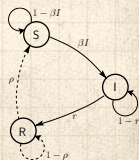
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Jon Stewart:

“You just bummed the @*!# out of me.”



wildbluffmedia.com



From the Daily Show  (September 18, 2007)



The full episode is here:

<http://www.cc.com/video-clips/cenrt5/the-daily-show-with-jon-stewart-alan-g>

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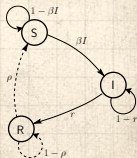
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Predicting social catastrophe isn't easy...

“Greenspan Concedes Error on Regulation”

New York Times, October 23, 2008 

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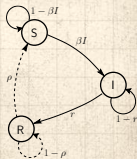
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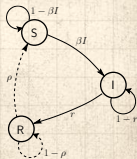
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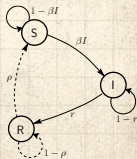
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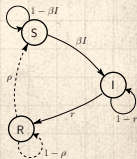
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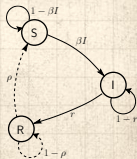


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- Mr. Greenspan conceded: “Yes, I’ve found a flaw. I don’t know how significant or permanent it is. But I’ve been very distressed by that fact.”

New York Times, October 23, 2008 



Economics, Schmeconomics

James K. Galbraith:

From the New York Times, 11/02/2008 [!\[\]\(919a2cb85b99741a73c0c31a427236a8_img.jpg\)](#)

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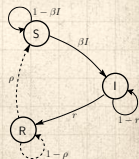
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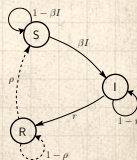
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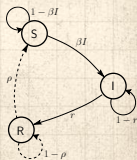


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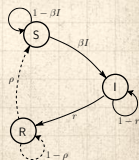
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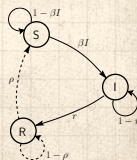
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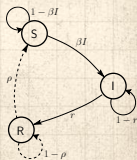
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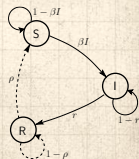
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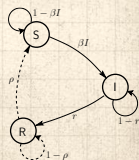
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Other attempts to use SIR elsewhere:

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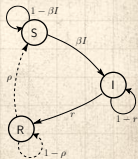
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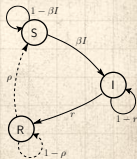
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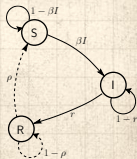


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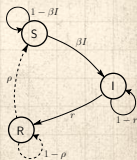
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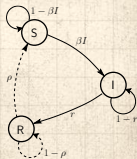
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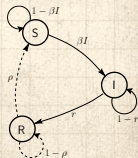
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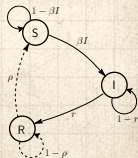


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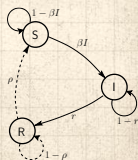
“Waiter! There’s an SIR model randomly mixing in my soup.”¹

Other attempts to use SIR elsewhere:

- Adoption of ideas/beliefs (Goffman & Newell, 1964) [11]
- Spread of rumors (Daley & Kendall, 1965) [8]
- Diffusion of innovations (Bass, 1969) [2]
- Spread of fanatical behavior (Castillo-Chávez & Song, 2003)
- Spread of Feynmann diagrams (Bettencourt et al., 2006)

Social contagion:

- SIR may apply sometimes ...



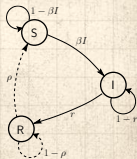
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Social contagion:

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- But we need new fundamental models.



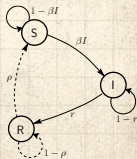
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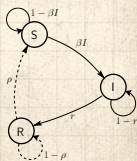
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¹Apologies sir, I’m afraid our chefs can’t help themselves

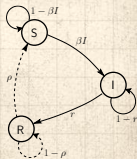
We really should know social contagion is different but ...



“It’s contagious: Rethinking a metaphor
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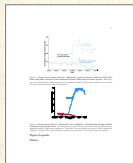
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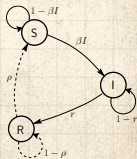
“Facebook will lose 80% of users by 2017, say Princeton researchers” ↗ (Guardian, 2014)



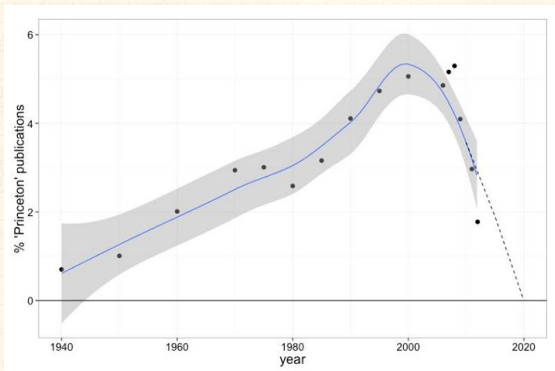
“Epidemiological modeling of online social network dynamics” ↗

Spechler and Cannarella,

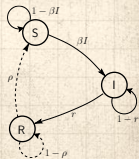
Available online at <https://arxiv.org/abs/1401.4208>, 2014. [21]



The Facebook Data Science team's response

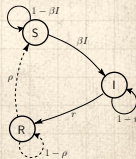


Mike Develin, Lada Adamic, and Sean Taylor.





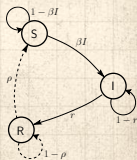
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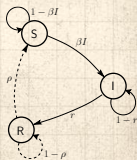
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Introduction

Simple disease
spreading models

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Toy metapopulation models

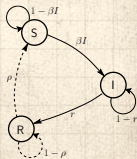
Model output

Nutshell



Other kinds of prediction

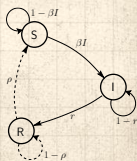
SIR is the virus

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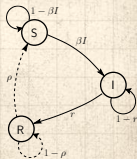
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