Social and Technological Network Analysis

Lecture 7: Epidemics Spreading

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In This Lecture

- In this lecture we introduce the process of spreading epidemics in networks.
  - This has been studied widely in biology.
  - But it also has important parallels in information/ idea diffusion in networks.

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Epidemics vs Cascade Spreading

- In cascade spreading nodes make decisions based on pay-off benefits of adopting one strategy or the other.
- In epidemic spreading
  - Lack of decision making.
  - Process of contagion is complex and unobservable
    - In some cases it involves (or can be modeled as randomness).

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Branching Process

- Simple model.
- **First wave:** A person carrying a disease enters the population and transmit to all he meets with probability p. He meets k people: a portion of which will be infected.
- **Second wave:** each of the k people goes and meet k different people. So we have a second wave of kxk=k^2 people.
- **Subsequent waves:** same process.

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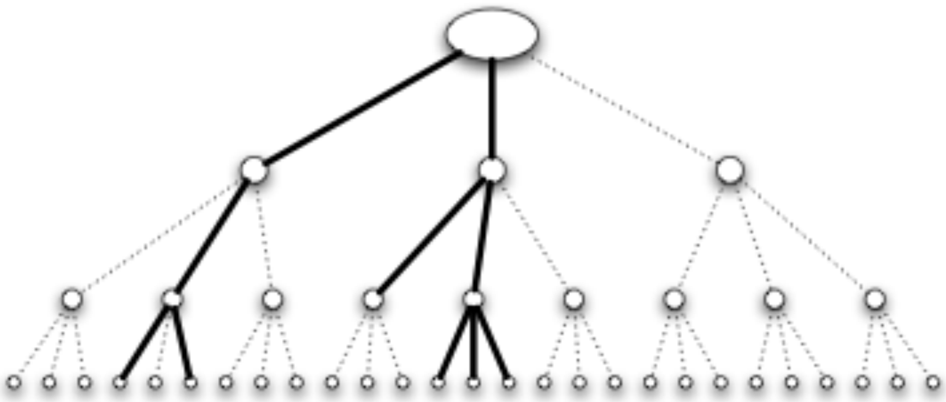
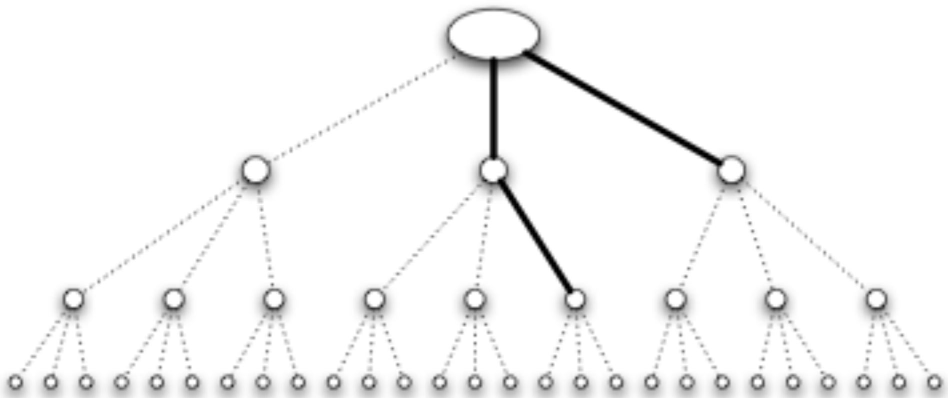
Example with k=3



High contagion probability:
The disease spreads



Low contagion probability:
The disease dies out

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Basic Reproductive Number

- Basic Reproductive Number R_0=p*k
  - It determines it the disease will spread or die out.
- In the branching process model, if R_0<1 the disease will die out after a finite number of waves. If R_0>1, with probability >0, the disease will persist by infecting at least one person in each wave.

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Measures to limit the spreading

- When R_0 is close 1, slightly changing p or k can result in epidemics dying out or happening.
  - Quarantining people/nodes reduces k.
  - Encouraging better sanitary practices reduces germs spreading [reducing p].
- Limitations of this model:
  - No realistic contact networks: no triangles!
  - Nodes can infect only once.
  - No nodes recover.

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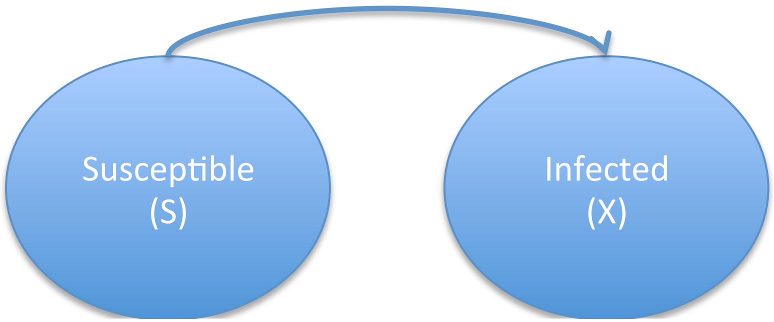
Formal Epidemics Models
The SI Model

- S: susceptible individuals.
- X: infected individuals, when infected they can infect others continuously (different from before).
- n: total population.
- β (called k before) is the number of contacts per unit of time of an individual.
- Susceptible contacts per unit of time βS/n.
- Overall rate of infection XβS/n.



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SI Model

$$\frac{dX}{dt} = \beta \frac{SX}{n}$$

$$\frac{dS}{dt} = -\beta \frac{SX}{n}$$

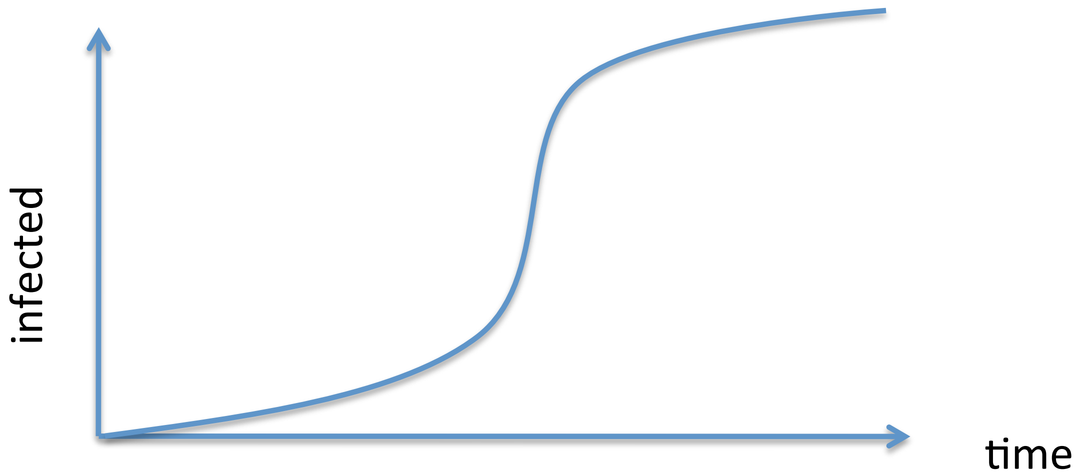
$$s = \frac{S}{n} \qquad x = \frac{X}{n}$$

$$s = 1 - x$$

$$\frac{dx}{dt} = \beta(1 - x)x$$

$$x(t) = \frac{x_0 e^{\beta t}}{1 - x_0 + x_0 e^{\beta t}}$$

Logistic Growth Equation



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SIR Model

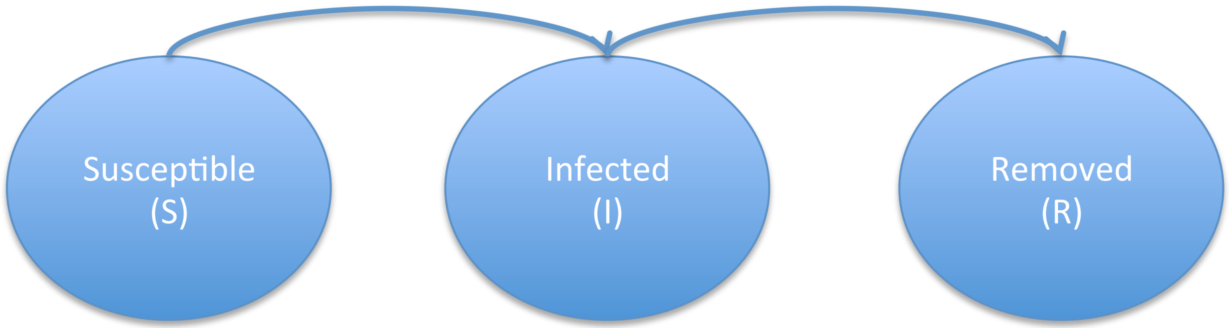
- Infected nodes recover at a rate γ.
- A node stays infected for τ time.
- Branching process is SIR with τ=1.

$$\frac{ds}{dt} = -\beta s x$$

$$\frac{dx}{dt} = \beta s x - \gamma x$$

$$\frac{dr}{dt} = \gamma x$$

$$s + x + r = 1$$



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Example

- The solution to the system is complex
- Numerical examples of solution:
- $\beta=1$, $\gamma=0.4$, s(at start)=0.99, x(at start)=0.01, r (at start)=0

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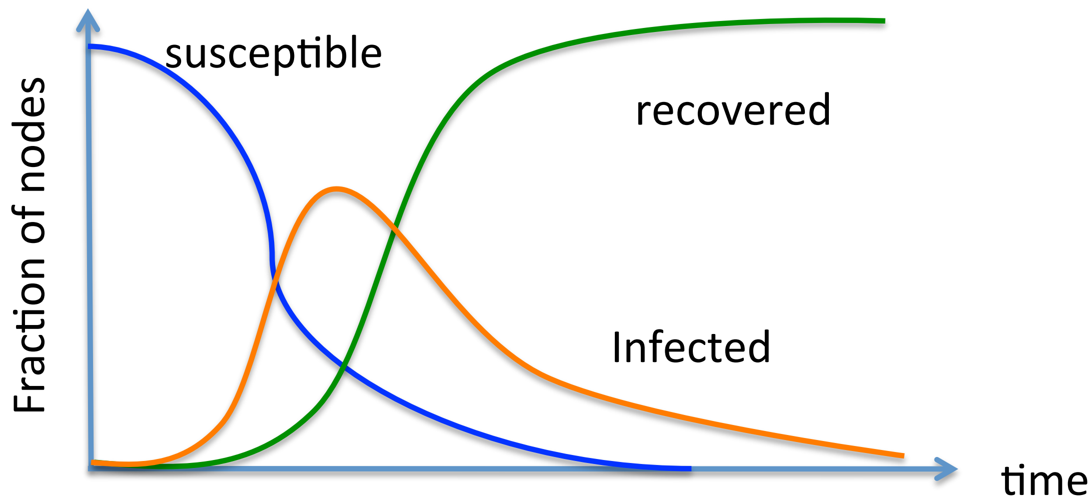

Epidemic Threshold

- When would the epidemic develop and when would it die out?

- It depends on the relationship of β and γ:
  - Basic Reproductive Number $R_0=\beta/\gamma$
  - If the infection rate [per unit of time] is higher than the removal rate the infection will survive otherwise it will die out.
  - In SI, $\gamma=0$ so the epidemics always happen.

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Limitations of SIR

- Contagion probability is uniform and “on-off”

- Extensions
  - Probability q of recovering in each step.
  - Infected state divided into intermediate states (early, middle and final infection times) with varying probability during each.
  - **We have assumed homogenous mixing :** assumes all nodes encounter each others with same probability: we could assume different probability per encounter.

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SIS Model

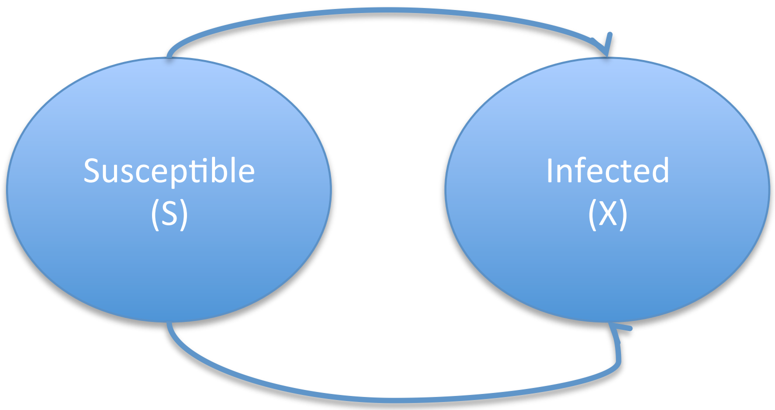
$$\frac{ds}{dt} = \gamma x - \beta s x$$

$$\frac{dx}{dt} = \beta s x - \gamma x$$

$$s + x = 1$$

$$\frac{dx}{dt} = (\beta - \gamma - \beta x)x$$

- If $\beta > \gamma$ growth curve like in SI but never reaching all population infected. The fraction of infected->0 as β approaches γ.
- If $\beta < \gamma$ the infection will die out exponentially.
- SIS has the same R_0 as SIR.



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Relaxing Assumptions

- Homogeneous Mixing: a node connects to the same average number of other nodes as any other.
- Most real networks are not random networks where the homogeneous mixing assumption holds.
- Most networks have different degree distributions.
  – Scale free networks!

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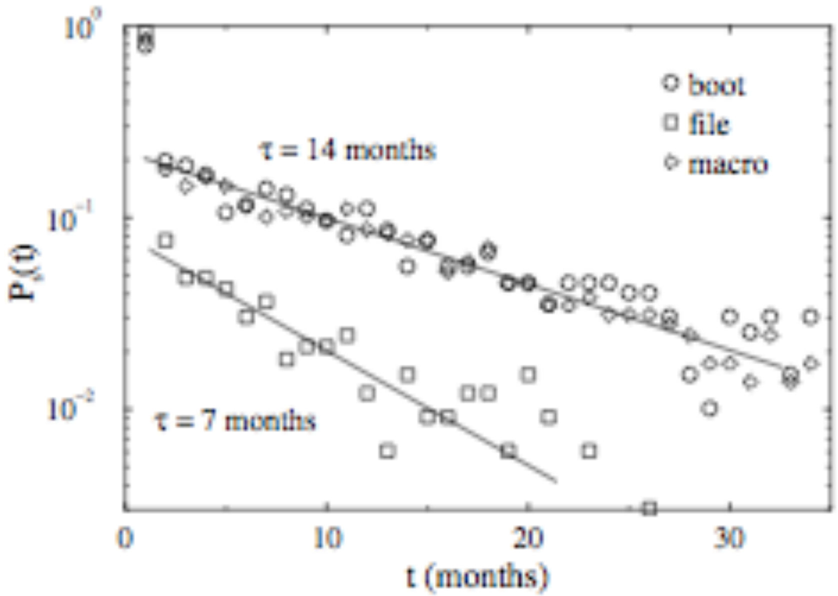
Would the model apply to SF?

- Pastor-Satorras and Vespignani [2001] have considered the life of computer viruses over time on the Internet:

Surviving probability of virus



Virus survived on average 6-9/14 months depending on type

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How to justify this survival time?

- The virus survival time is considerably high with respect to the results of epidemic models of spreading/recovering:
  - Something wrong with the epidemic threshold!

- Experiment: SIS over a generated Scale Free network (exponent -3).

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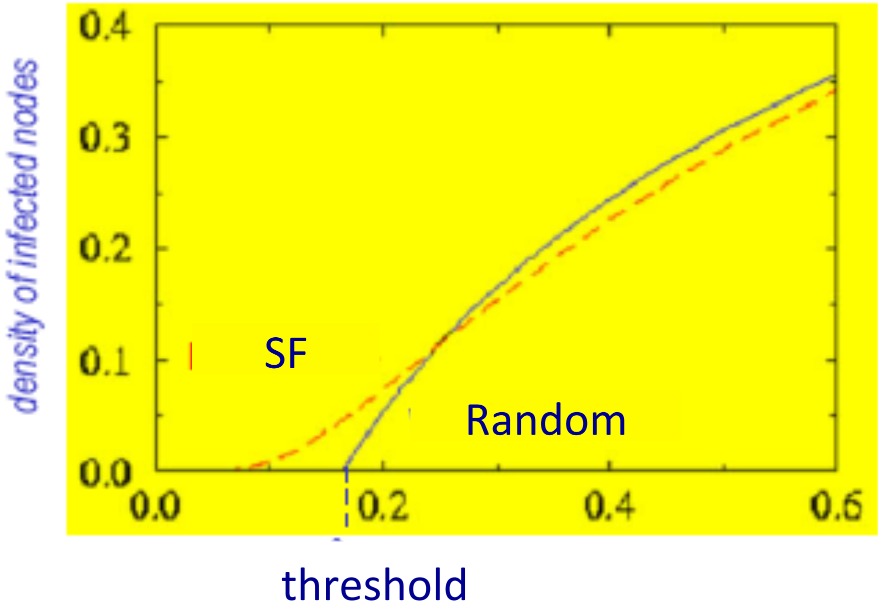
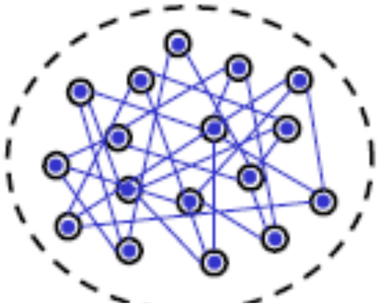
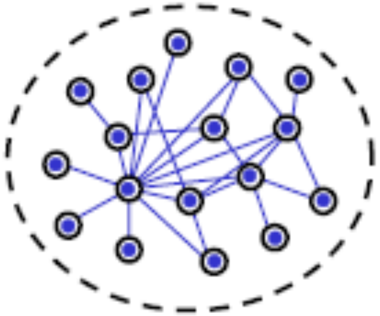
No Epidemic Threshold for SF!



Infections proliferate in SF networks independently of their spreading rates!



Random Network



Scale Free Network

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Following result on Immunization

- Random network can be immunized with some sort of uniform immunization process [oblivious of the characteristics of nodes].

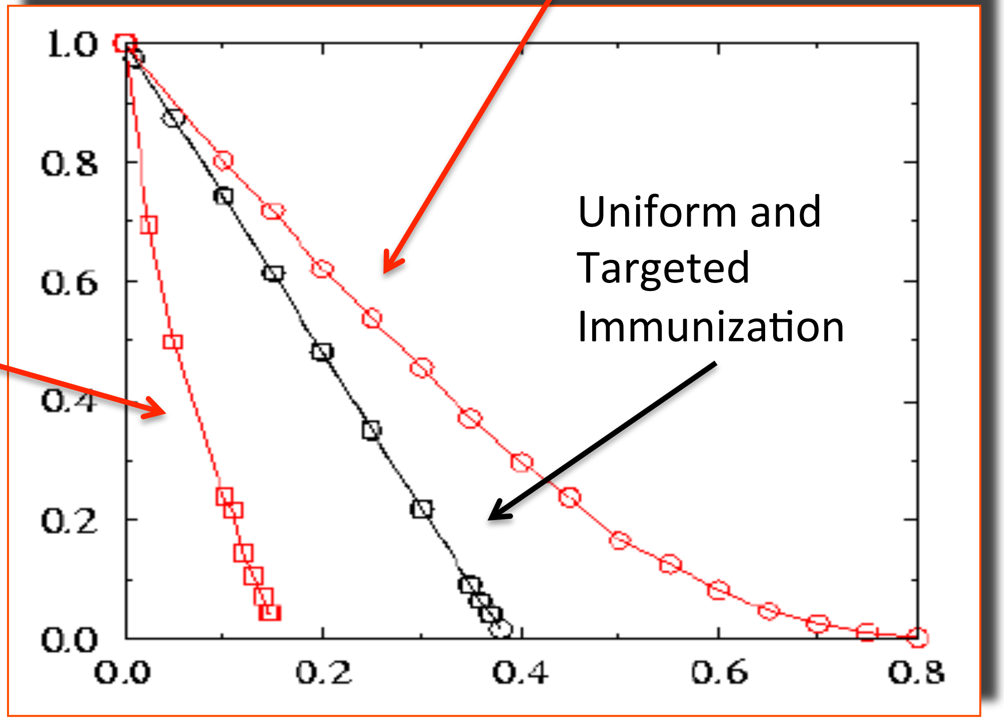
- **This does not work in SF networks** no matter how many nodes are immunized [unless it is all of them].
- Targeted immunization needs to be applied
  - Keeping into account degree!

Immunization on SF Networks

- Red=SF
- Black= Random

Uniform Immunization

Targeted Immunization



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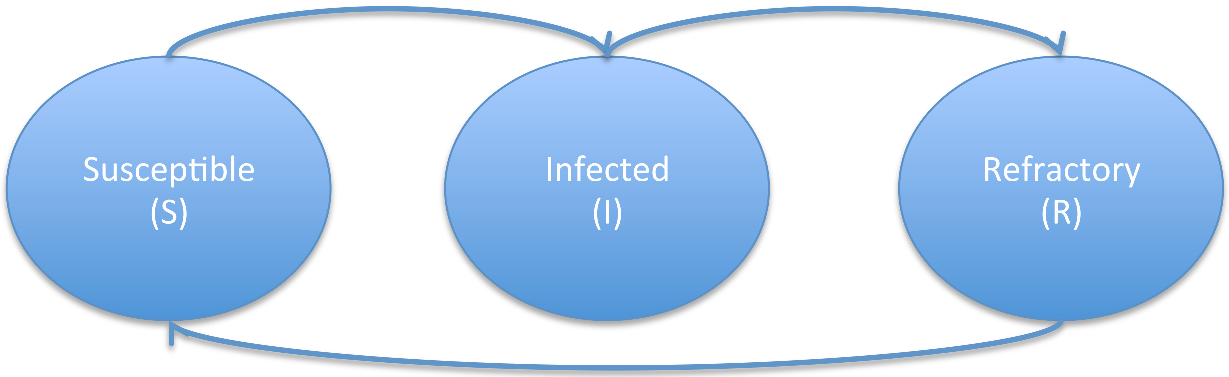
SIRS Model

- SIR but after some time an R node can become susceptible again.
- A number of epidemics spread in this manner (remaining latent for a while and having bursts).



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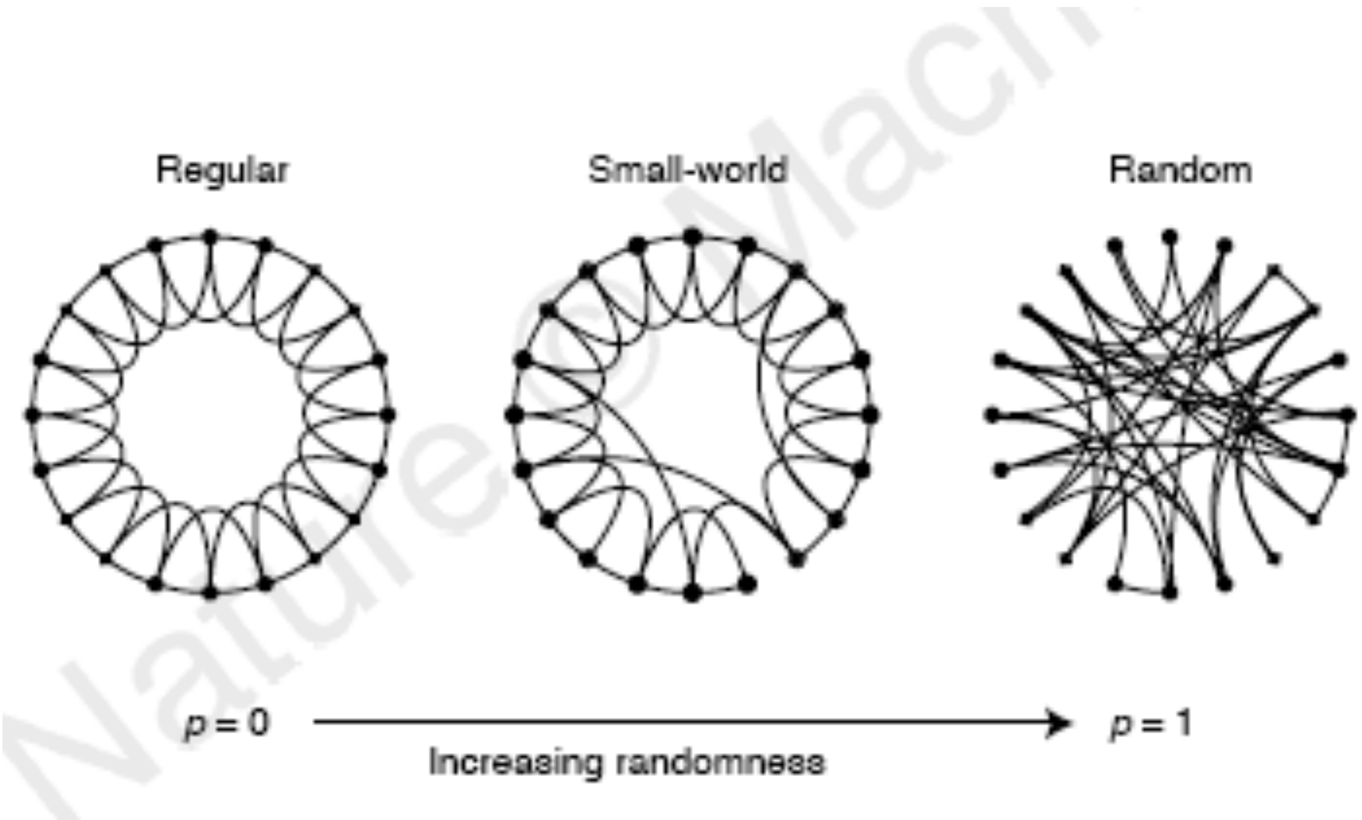
Application of SIRS to Small World Models



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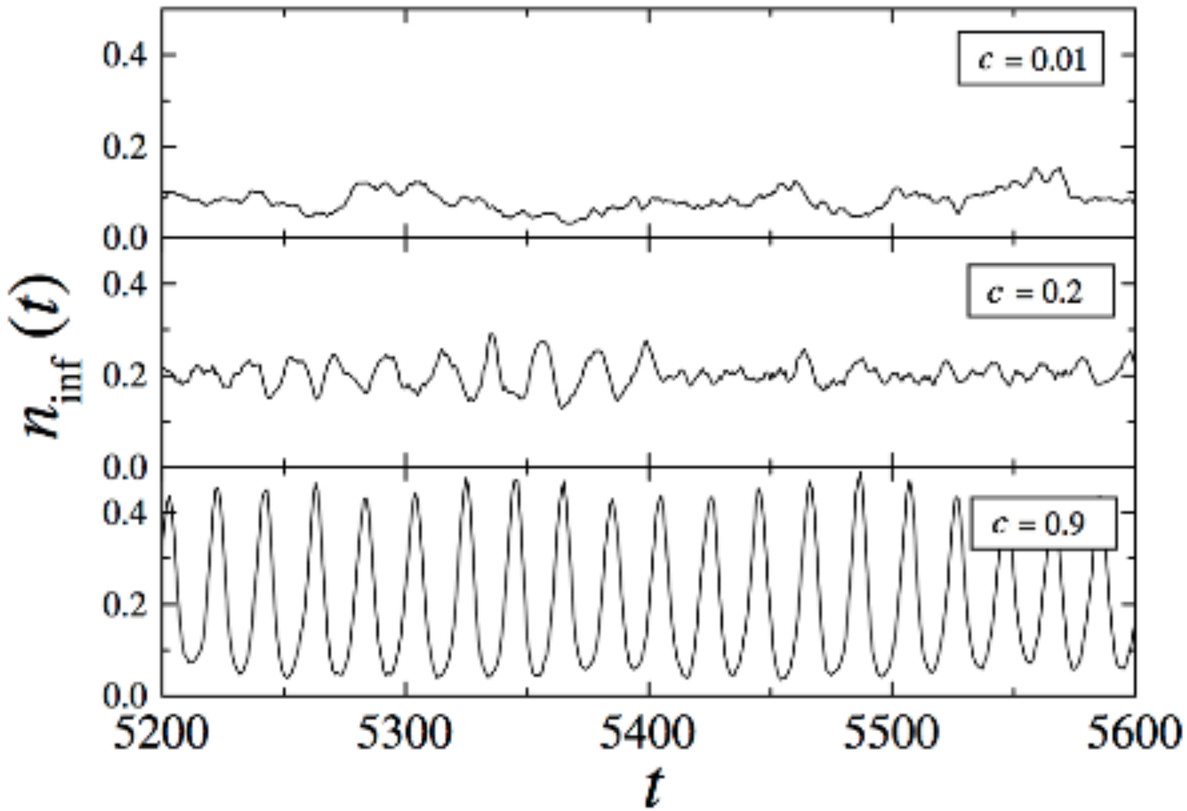
Numerical Results

- c is the jumping probability



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Summary

- Epidemics are very complex processes.
- Existing models have been increasingly capable of capturing their essence.
- However there are still a number of open issues related to the modelling of real disease spreading or information dissemination.

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References

- Chapter 21
- Pastor-Satorras, R. and Vespignani, A. Epidemic Spreading in Scale-Free Networks. Phys. Rev. Lett. (86), n.14. Pages = 3200--3203. 2001.
- Pastor-Satorras, R. and Vespignani, A. Immunization of Complex Networks. Physical Review E 65. 2002.
- Marcelo Kuperman and Guillermo Abramson. Small world effect in an epidemiological model. Physical Review Letters, 86(13):2909–2912, March 2001.

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