

Contact network epidemiology

HETEROGENEITY AND STOCHASTICITY OF DISEASE SPREAD

Antoine Allard

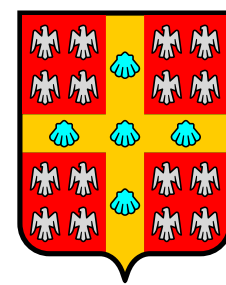
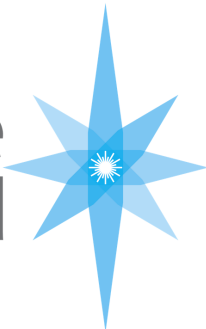
🏢 Université Laval, Québec, Canada

📧 antoineallard.info

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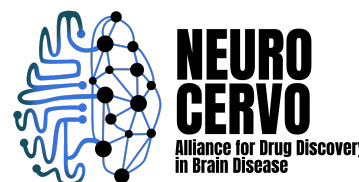
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Québec

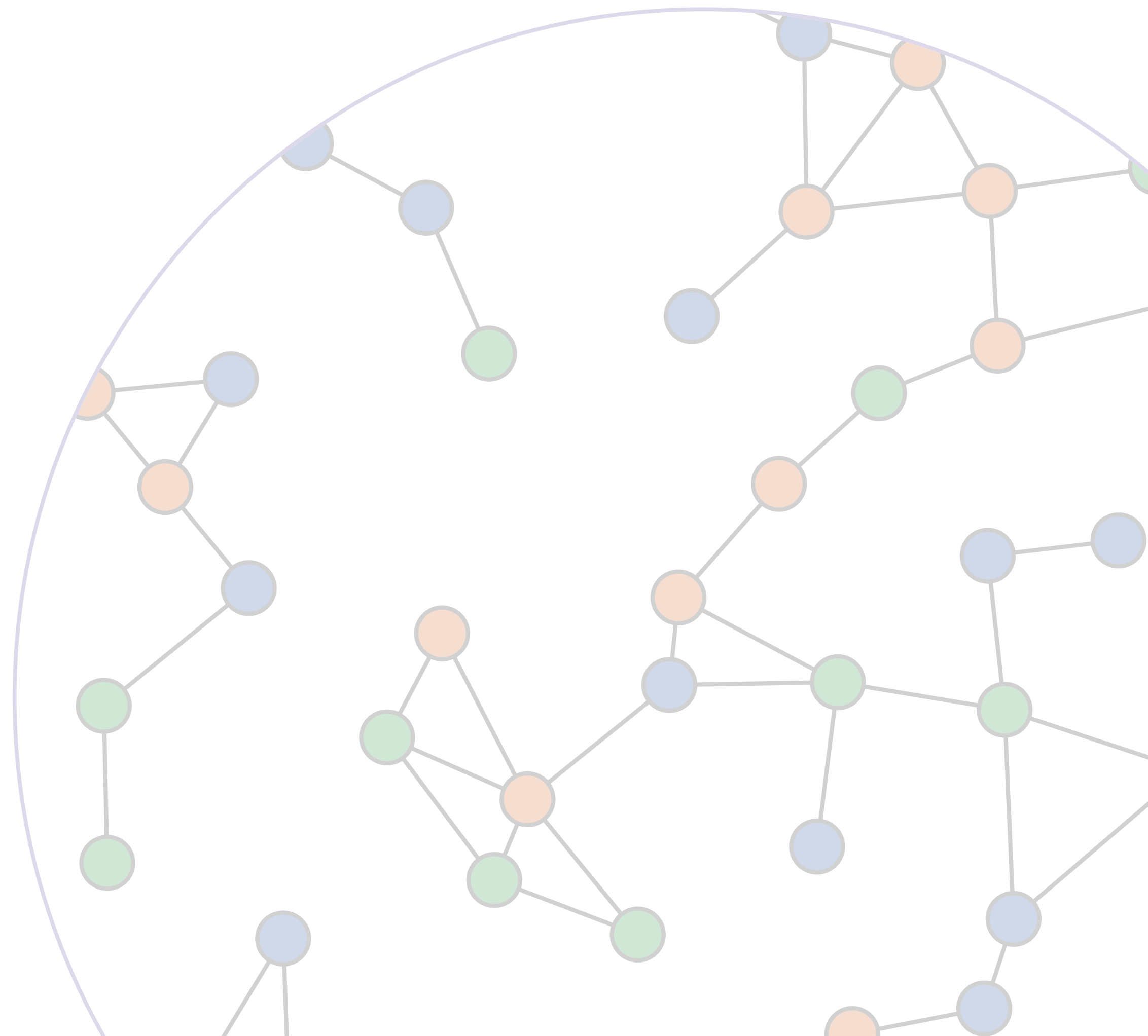


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Alliance for Drug Discovery
in Brain Disease




The COVID-19 pandemic brought to the public eye the role mathematical models play in infectious disease epidemiology :

- generate forecast ;
- estimate the effectiveness of non-pharmaceutical interventions (NPIs);
- understand the underlying factors influencing the spread of the virus.

Panovska-Griffiths *BMC Public Health* (2020) 20:551
<https://doi.org/10.1186/s12889-020-08671-z> BMC Public Health

EDITORIAL Open Access

Can mathematical modelling solve the current Covid-19 crisis? 

Jasmina Panovska-Griffiths^{1,2,3}

Abstract

Since COVID-19 transmission started in late January, mathematical modelling has been at the forefront of shaping the decisions around different non-pharmaceutical interventions to confine its' spread in the UK and worldwide. This Editorial discusses the importance of modelling in understanding Covid-19 spread, highlights different modelling approaches and suggests that while modelling is important, no one model can give all the answers.

theguardian.com


Coronavirus exposes the problems and pitfalls of modelling

Ian Sample

ledevoir.com

Voir par-delà le sommet de la courbe

Alexis Riopel

 Government of Canada / Gouvernement du Canada

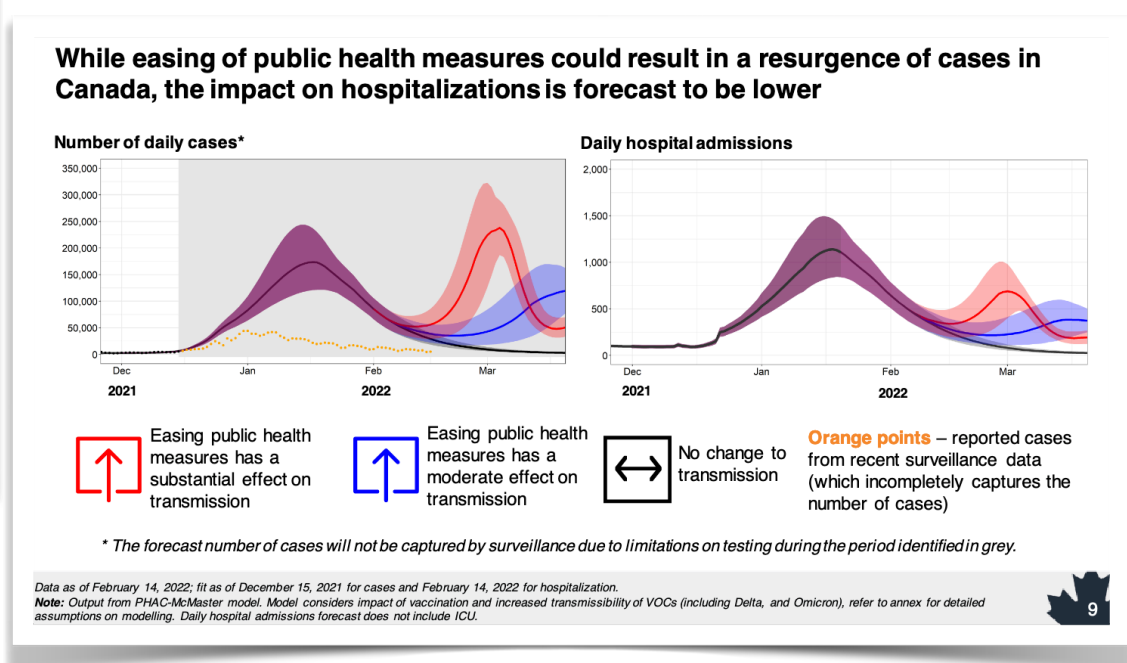
MENU ▾

[Canada.ca](#) > [Coronavirus disease \(COVID-19\)](#) > [Epidemiological and economic research data](#)

Mathematical modelling and COVID-19

On this page

- [Overview](#)
- [Canada's approach](#)
- [Why modelling is important](#)
- [Modelling presentations](#)



Julien Arino, Marc Brisson, Caroline Colijn et Mathieu Maheu-Giroux

Les travaux de dizaines de modélisateurs ont permis aux autorités de mesurer l'effet potentiel des diverses mesures sanitaires mises en place pour contrer la COVID-19. À titre de représentants de leur spécialité, quatre d'entre eux se partagent le prix du **Scientifique de l'année 2020 de Radio-Canada** : Julien Arino, de l'Université du Manitoba; Marc Brisson, de l'Université Laval; Caroline Colijn, de l'Université Simon Fraser, en Colombie-Britannique; et Mathieu Maheu-Giroux, de l'Université McGill.

[Lire l'article détaillé](#)

The Daily Telegraph

Lockdown professor steps down after breaking rules to meet married lover

Government adviser behind social distancing measures allowed women to visit him despite telling the nation to stay at home

Background in mathematical modeling in epidemiology...



PNAS
Asymmetric percolation drives a double transition in sexual contact networks
Antoine Allard^a, Benjamin M. Althouse^{b,c,d}, Samuel V. Scarpino^{e,f}, and Laurent Hébert-Dufresne^{h,g,h,1}
^aCentre de Recerca Matemàtica, E-08193 Bellaterra (Barcelona), Spain; ^bInstitute for Disease Modeling, Bellevue, WA 98005; ^cInformation School, University of Washington, Seattle, WA 98105; ^dDepartment of Biology, New Mexico State University, Las Cruces, NM 88003; ^eDepartment of Mathematics and Statistics, University of Vermont, Burlington, VT 05405; ^fComplex Systems Center, University of Vermont, Burlington, VT 05405; ^gSanta Fe Institute, Santa Fe, NM 87501; and ^hDepartment of Computer Science, University of Vermont, Burlington, VT 05405
Edited by Burton H. Singer, University of Florida, Gainesville, FL, and approved July 10, 2017 (received for review February 22, 2017)

LETTERS nature physics
PUBLISHED ONLINE: 1 AUGUST 2016 | DOI: 10.1038/NPHYS3832
The effect of a prudent adaptive behaviour on disease transmission
Samuel V. Scarpino^{1,2*}, Antoine Allard³ and Laurent Hébert-Dufresne¹

PHYSICAL REVIEW E **82**, 036115 (2010)
Propagation dynamics on networks featuring complex topologies
Laurent Hébert-Dufresne, Pierre-André Noël, Vincent Marceau, Antoine Allard, and Louis J. Dubé

PHYSICAL REVIEW E **82**, 036115 (2010)
Propagation dynamics on networks featuring complex topologies
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SCIENTIFIC REPORTS
OPEN
Global efficiency of local immunization on complex networks
Laurent Hébert-Dufresne, Antoine Allard, Jean-Gabriel Young & Louis J. Dubé
Département de Physique, de Génie Physique, et d'Optique, Université Laval, Québec (Québec), Canada G1V 0A6

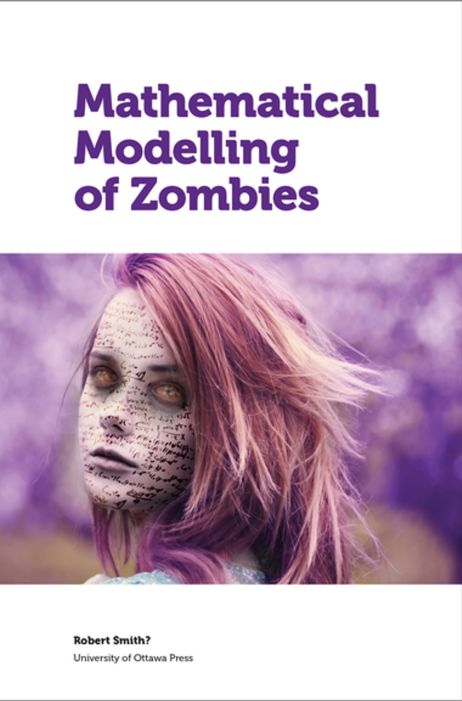
PHYSICAL REVIEW E **82**, 036116 (2010)
Adaptive networks: Coevolution of disease and topology
Vincent Marceau, Pierre-André Noël, Laurent Hébert-Dufresne, Antoine Allard, and Louis J. Dubé

PLOS PATHOGENS
RESEARCH ARTICLE
The risk of sustained sexual transmission of Zika is underestimated
Antoine Allard^{1*}, Benjamin M. Althouse^{2,3,4*}, Laurent Hébert-Dufresne^{2,5,6**}, Samuel V. Scarpino^{7*}

PHYSICAL REVIEW E **84**, 026105 (2011)
Modeling the dynamical interaction between epidemics on overlay networks
Vincent Marceau, Pierre-André Noël, Laurent Hébert-Dufresne, Antoine Allard, and Louis J. Dubé

PHYSICAL REVIEW E **79**, 036113 (2009)
Heterogeneous bond percolation on multitype networks with an application to epidemic dynamics
Antoine Allard, Pierre-André Noël, and Louis J. Dubé
Département de physique, de génie physique et d'optique, Université Laval, Québec, Québec, Canada G1V 0A6
Babak Pourbohloul
University of British Columbia Centre for Disease Control, Vancouver, British Columbia, Canada V5Z 4R4 and School of Population & Public Health, University of British Columbia, Vancouver, British Columbia, Canada V6T 1Z3

J. Math. Biol. (2014) 69:1627–1660
DOI 10.1007/s00285-013-0744-9
Mathematical Biology
Spreading dynamics on complex networks: a general stochastic approach
Pierre-André Noël · Antoine Allard · Laurent Hébert-Dufresne · Vincent Marceau · Louis J. Dubé



Background in mathematical modeling in epidemiology...

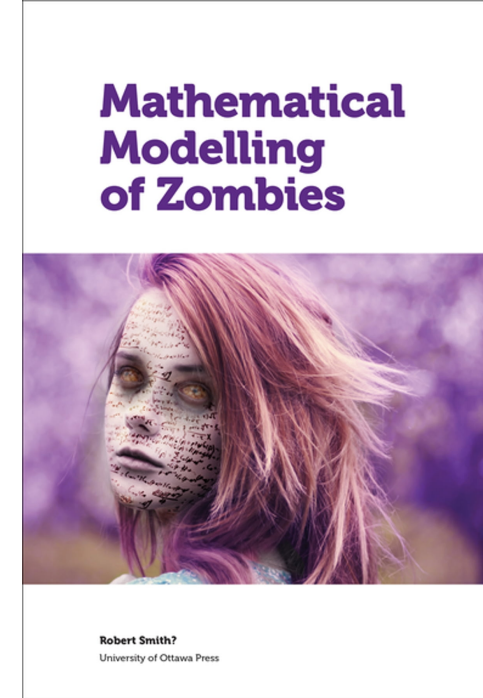


Asymmetric percolation drives a double transition in sexual contact networks
 Antoine Allard^a, Benjamin M. Althouse^{b,c,d}, Samuel V. Scarpino^{e,f}, and Laurent Hébert-Dufresne^{h,g,a,1}
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Global efficiency of local immunization on complex networks
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Adaptive networks: Coevolution of disease and topology
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Spreading dynamics on complex networks: a general stochastic approach
 Pierre-André Noël · Antoine Allard · Laurent Hébert-Dufresne · Vincent Marceau · Louis J. Dubé

The effect of a prudent adaptive behaviour on disease transmission
 Samuel V. Scarpino^{1,2*}, Antoine Allard³ and Laurent Hébert-Dufresne¹

The risk of sustained sexual transmission of Zika is underestimated
 Antoine Allard^{1*}, Benjamin M. Althouse^{2,3,4*}, Laurent Hébert-Dufresne^{5,6,7*}, Samuel V. Scarpino^{8*}

...and then January 2020 came along.

Cause of Wuhan's mysterious pneumonia cases still unknown, Chinese officials say
 By Helen Branswell Jan. 5, 2020

A Novel Coronavirus Genome Identified in a Cluster of Pneumonia Cases — Wuhan, China 2019–2020
 Wenjie Tan^{1,2*}; Xiang Zhao¹; Xuejun Ma¹; Wenling Wang¹; Peihua Niu¹; Wenbo Xu¹; George F. Gao¹; Guizhen Wu^{1,2,3*}

A Novel Coronavirus from Patients with Pneumonia in China, 2019
 Na Zhu, Ph.D., Dingyu Zhang, M.D., Wenling Wang, Ph.D., Xingwang Li, M.D., Bo Yang, M.S., Jingdong Song, Ph.D., Xiang Zhao, Ph.D., Baoying Huang, Ph.D., Weifeng Shi, Ph.D., Roujian Lu, M.D., Peihua Niu, Ph.D., Faxian Zhan, Ph.D., Xuejun Ma, Ph.D., Dayan Wang, Ph.D., Wenbo Xu, M.D., Guizhen Wu, M.D., George F. Gao, D.Phil., and Wenjie Tan, M.D., Ph.D., for the China Novel Coronavirus Investigating and Research Team

Previously unknown virus may be causing pneumonia outbreak in China, WHO says | CBC News
 Thomson Reuters · Posted: Jan 09, 2020 11:27 AM ET | Last Updated: Januarv 9, 2020

WHO Statement regarding cluster of pneumonia cases in Wuhan, China
 9 January 2020 | Statement | China

Novel human virus? Pneumonia cases linked to seafood market in China stir concern
 The health department of Wuhan initially reported 27 cases, but the tally stands at 59 as of 6 January
 3 JAN 2020 · BY DENNIS NORMALE

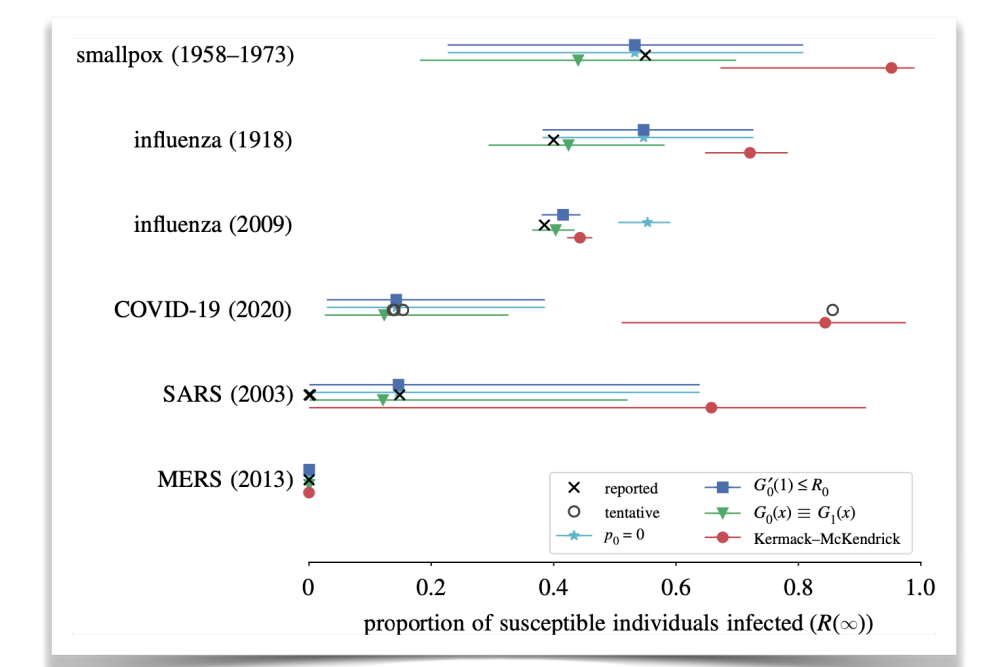
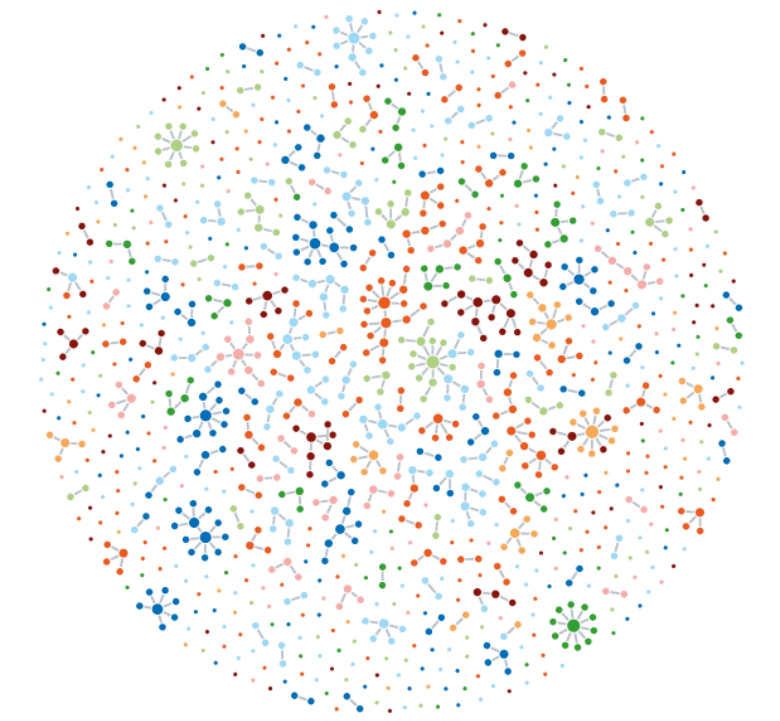
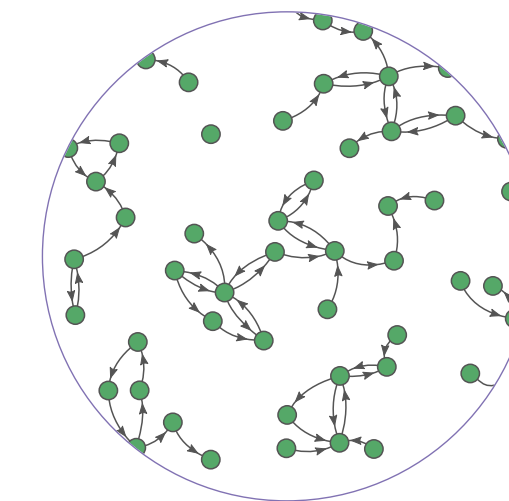
China pneumonia outbreak: Mystery virus probed in Wuhan
 © 3 January 2020

Outbreak of pneumonia of unknown etiology in Wuhan, China: The mystery and the miracle
 Hongzhou Lu¹ | Charles W. Stratton² | Yi-Wei Tang³



Outline :

1. Basic epidemiological models.
2. How COVID-19 challenges some assumptions made by “traditional” models.
3. Contact network epidemiology (CNE).
4. How COVID-19 allows CNE to shine, and what can we learn from it.



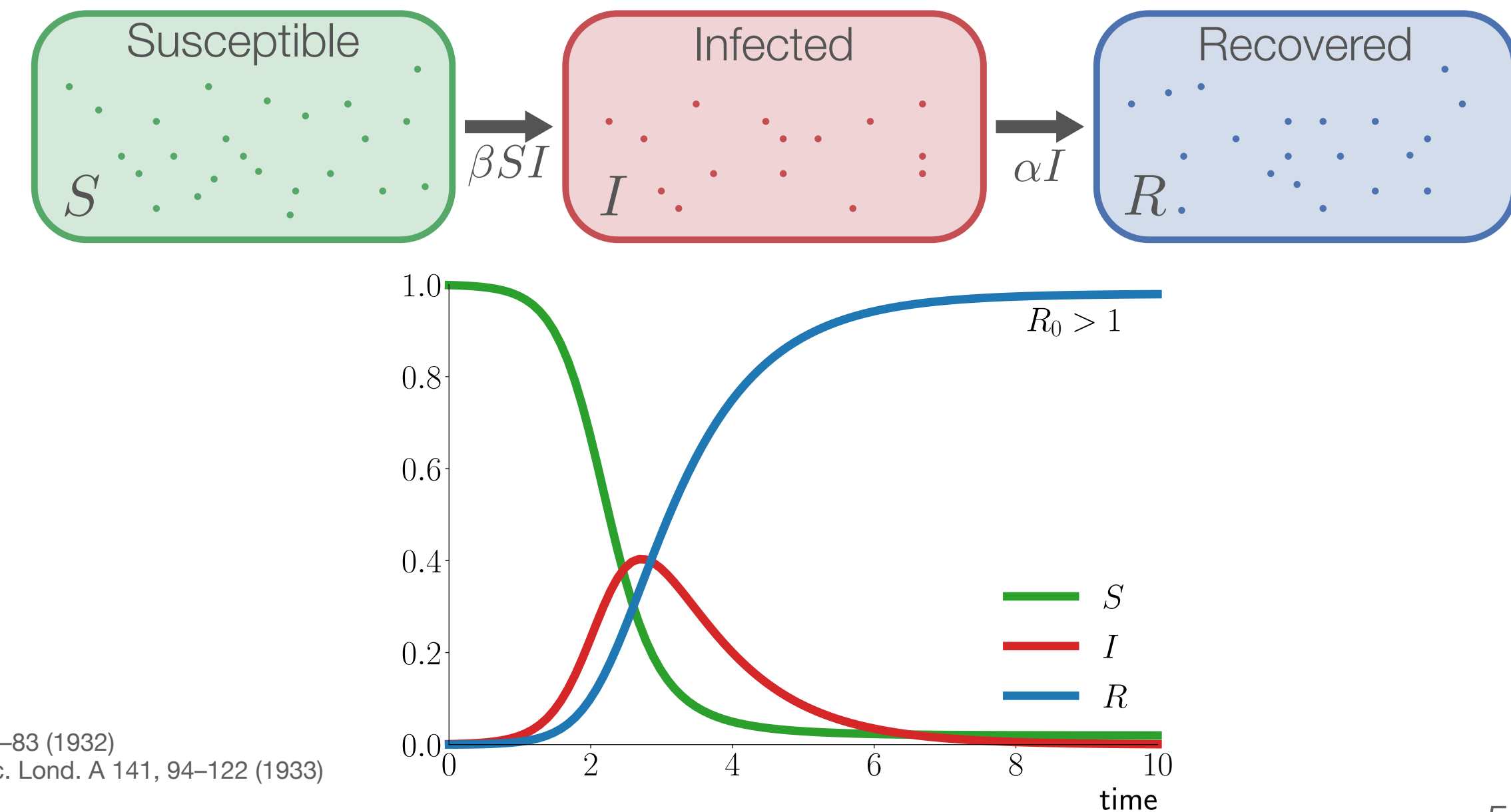
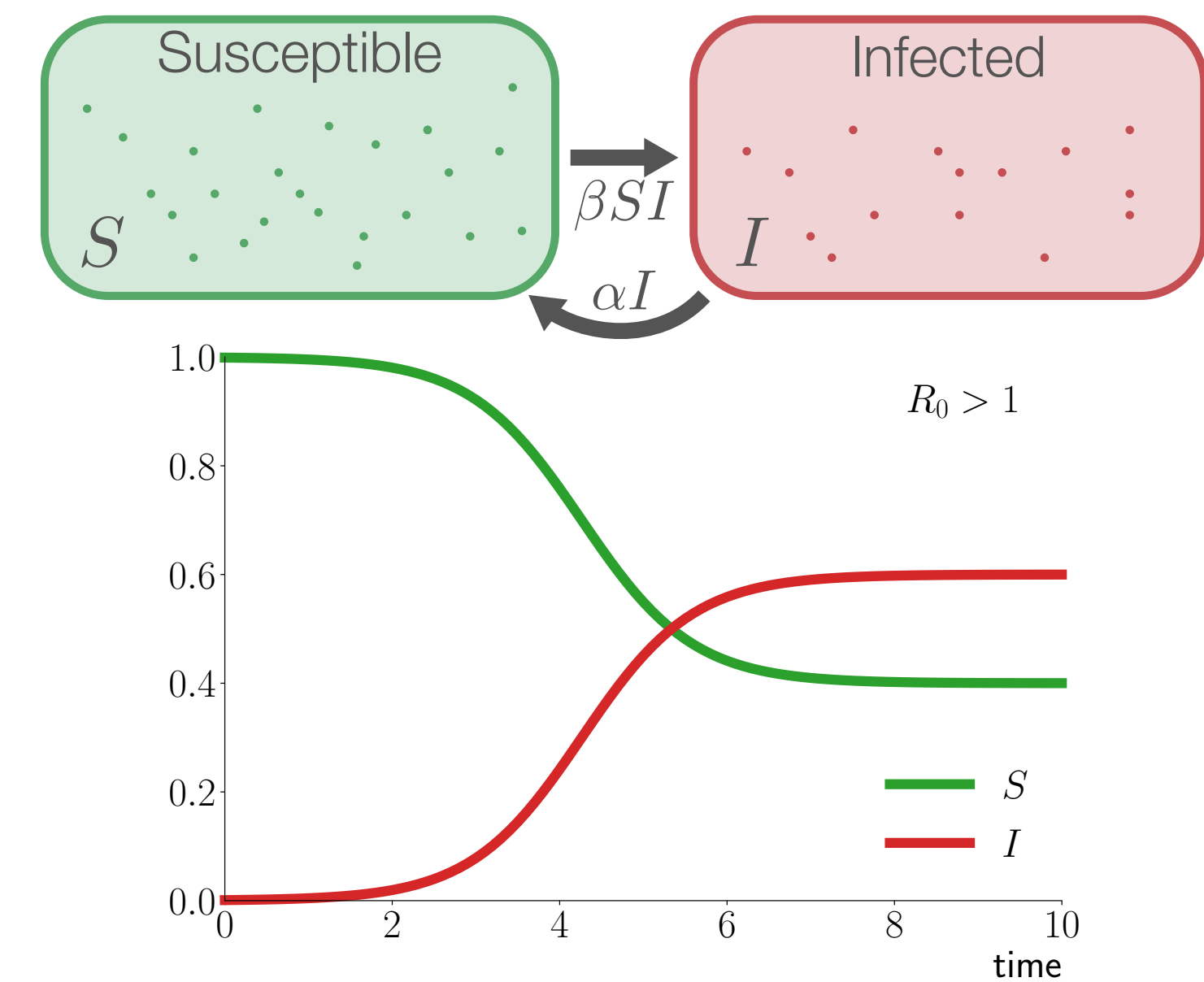
Basic epidemiological models

Main epidemiological assumptions

- the disease results either in complete immunity or death (SIR)
- the disease is not fatal and conveys no immunity (SIS)
- all individuals are equally susceptible

Main structural assumptions

- the disease is transmitted in a closed population
- contacts occur according to the law of mass-action
- the population is large enough to justify a deterministic analysis



W. Ogilvy Kermack & A. G. McKendrick, A Contribution to the Mathematical Theory of Epidemics, Proc. R. Soc. Lond. A 115, 700–721 (1927)
 W. Ogilvy Kermack & A. G. McKendrick, Contributions to the mathematical theory of epidemics. II. — The problem of endemicity, Proc. R. Soc. Lond. A 138, 55–83 (1932)
 W. Ogilvy Kermack & A. G. McKendrick, Contributions to the mathematical theory of epidemics. III. — Further studies of the problem of endemicity, Proc. R. Soc. Lond. A 141, 94–122 (1933)
 H. W. Hethcote, The Mathematics of Infectious Diseases, SIAM Rev. 42, 599–653 (2000)

Basic epidemiological models

Susceptible-Infected-Susceptible (SIS) dynamics

- the disease is not fatal and conveys no immunity
- S : fraction of the pop. susceptible to the disease
- I : fraction of the pop. infected by the disease
- susceptible and infected individuals come into contact at a rate $\propto SI$ (mass-action assumption)

$$\frac{dS}{dt} = -\beta SI + \alpha I \qquad \frac{dI}{dt} = \beta SI - \alpha I$$

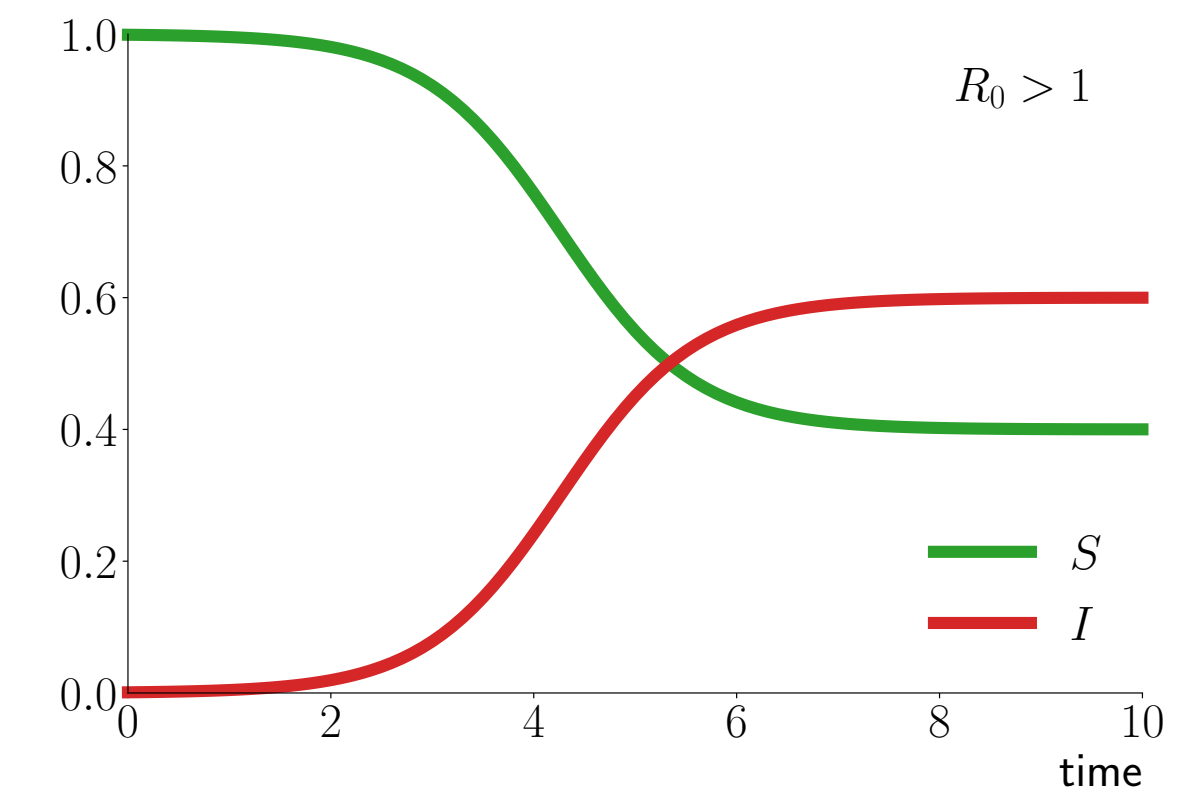
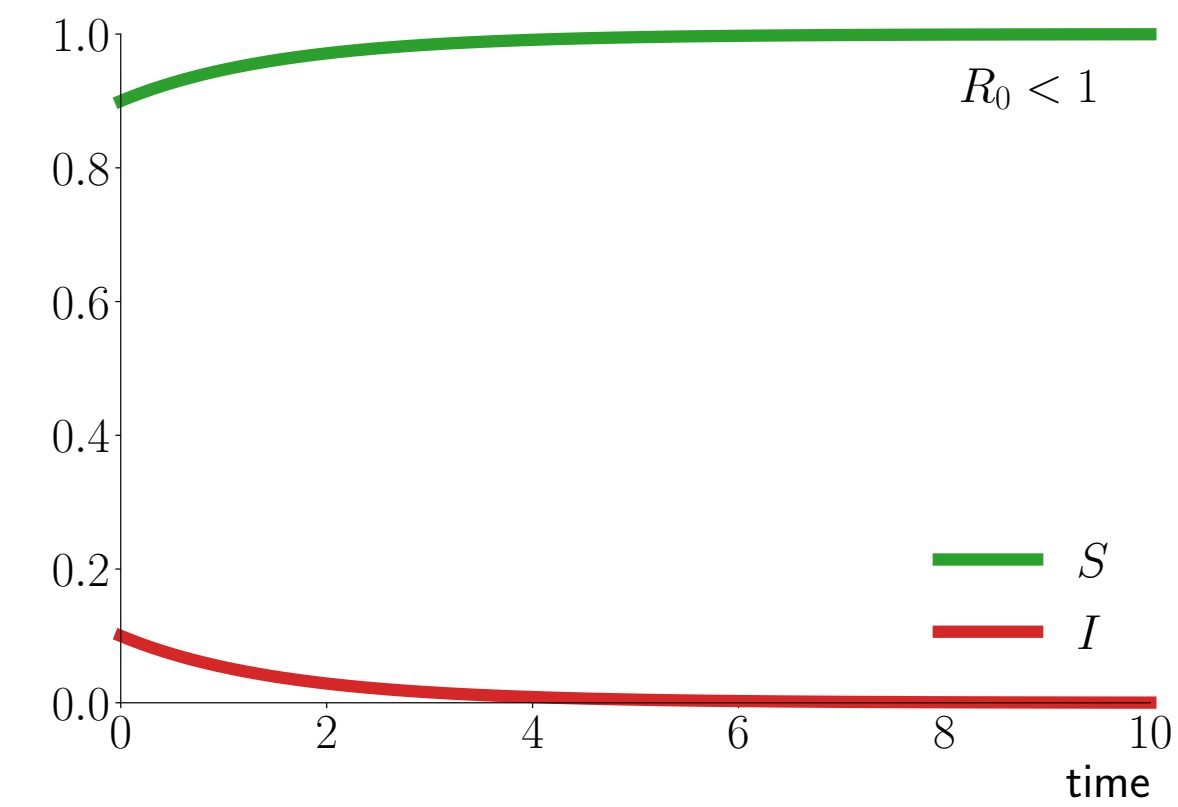
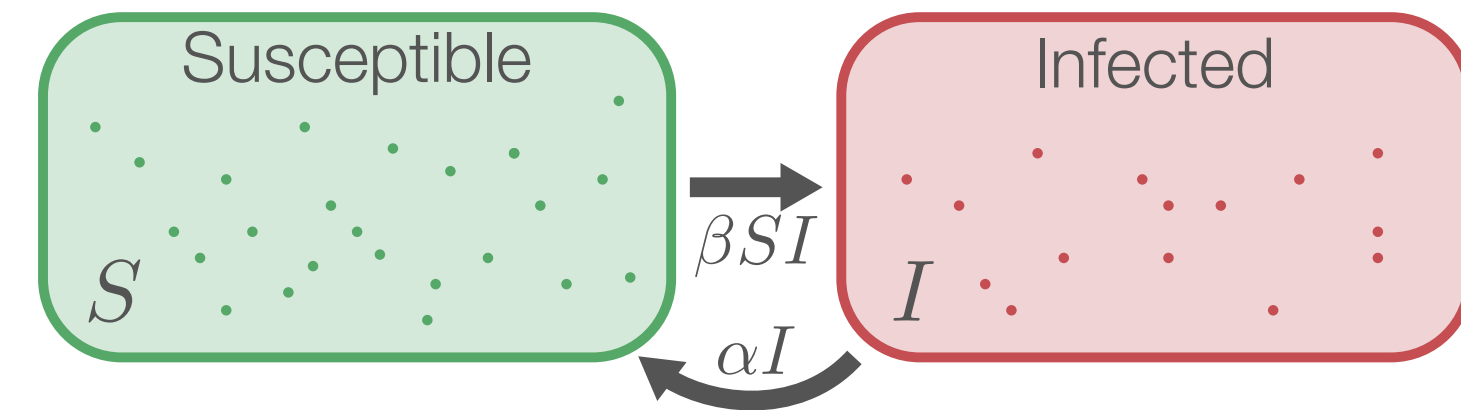
- a trajectory

$$I(t) = \frac{I^*}{1 - (1 - I^*/I(0))e^{(1-R_0)\alpha t}}$$

settles to

$$I^* = \begin{cases} 0 & \text{if } R_0 < 1 \\ 1 - \frac{1}{R_0} & \text{if } R_0 > 1 \end{cases}$$

with $R_0 = \beta/\alpha$ being the *basic reproduction number* (expected number of secondary cases directly caused by one case in an otherwise fully susceptible population)



Basic epidemiological models

Susceptible-Infected-Recovered (SIR) dynamics

- the disease results either in complete immunity or death
- S : fraction of the pop. susceptible to the disease
- I : fraction of the pop. infected by the disease
- R : fraction of the pop. having recovered from the disease
- susceptible and infected individuals come into contact at a rate $\propto SI$ (mass-action assumption)

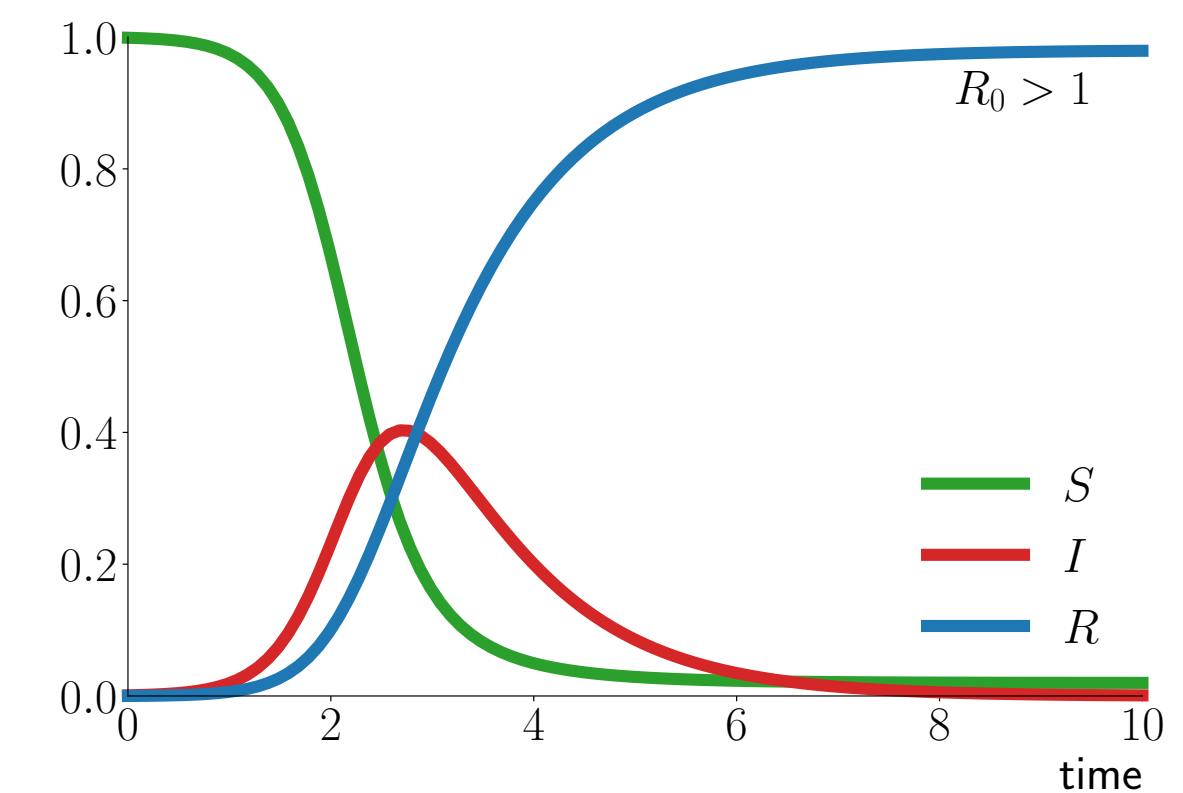
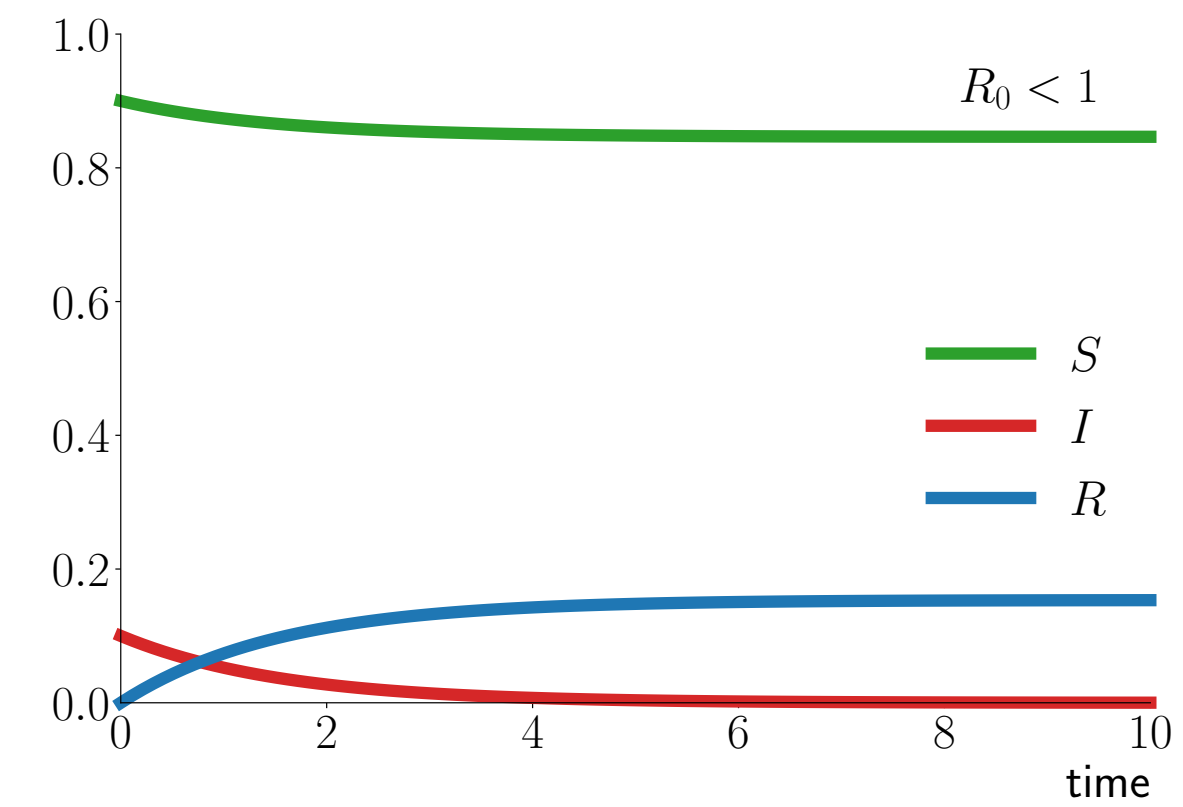
$$\frac{dS}{dt} = -\beta SI \quad \frac{dI}{dt} = \beta SI - \alpha I \quad \frac{dR}{dt} = \alpha I$$

- the fraction of the population who will be infected by the disease eventually is a solution of

$$R(\infty) = 1 - S(0)e^{-R_0(R(\infty)-R(0))} \simeq 1 - e^{-R_0 R(\infty)}$$

with $R_0 = \beta/\alpha$ being the *basic reproduction number*

- there will be an epidemic wave if $R_0 > 1$, otherwise the outbreak will die out
- there is herd immunity if a fraction $1 - 1/R_0$ of the population is already immune



Basic epidemiological models

Models used in more realistic settings are more complex, but the basic ingredients remain largely the same.

Epidemics 9 (2014) 70–78

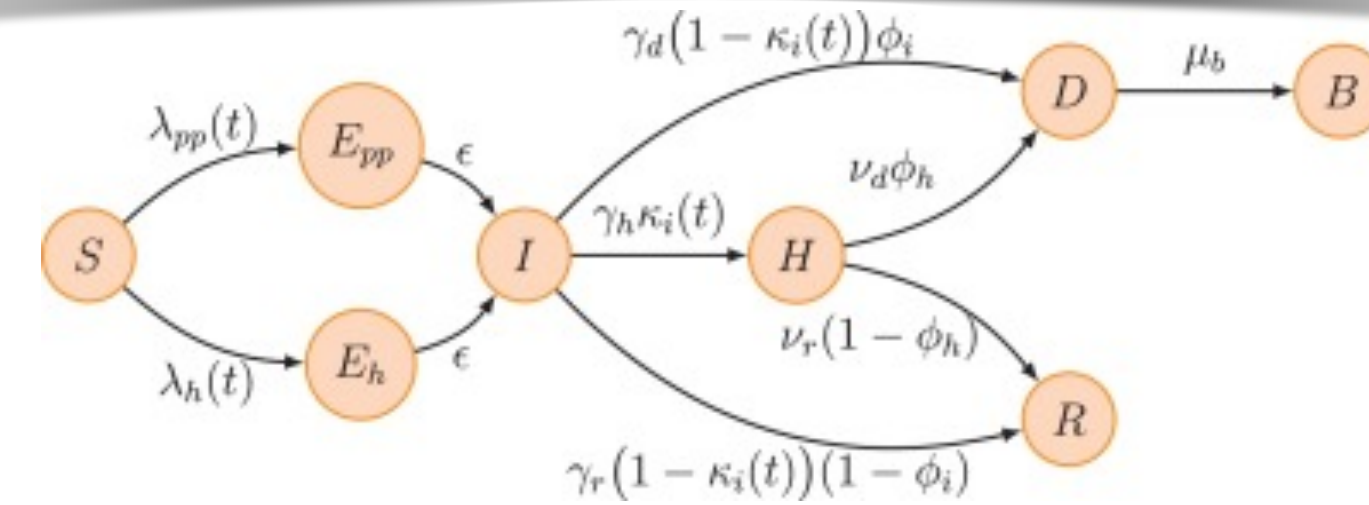
Contents lists available at ScienceDirect

Epidemics

journal homepage: www.elsevier.com/locate/epidemics

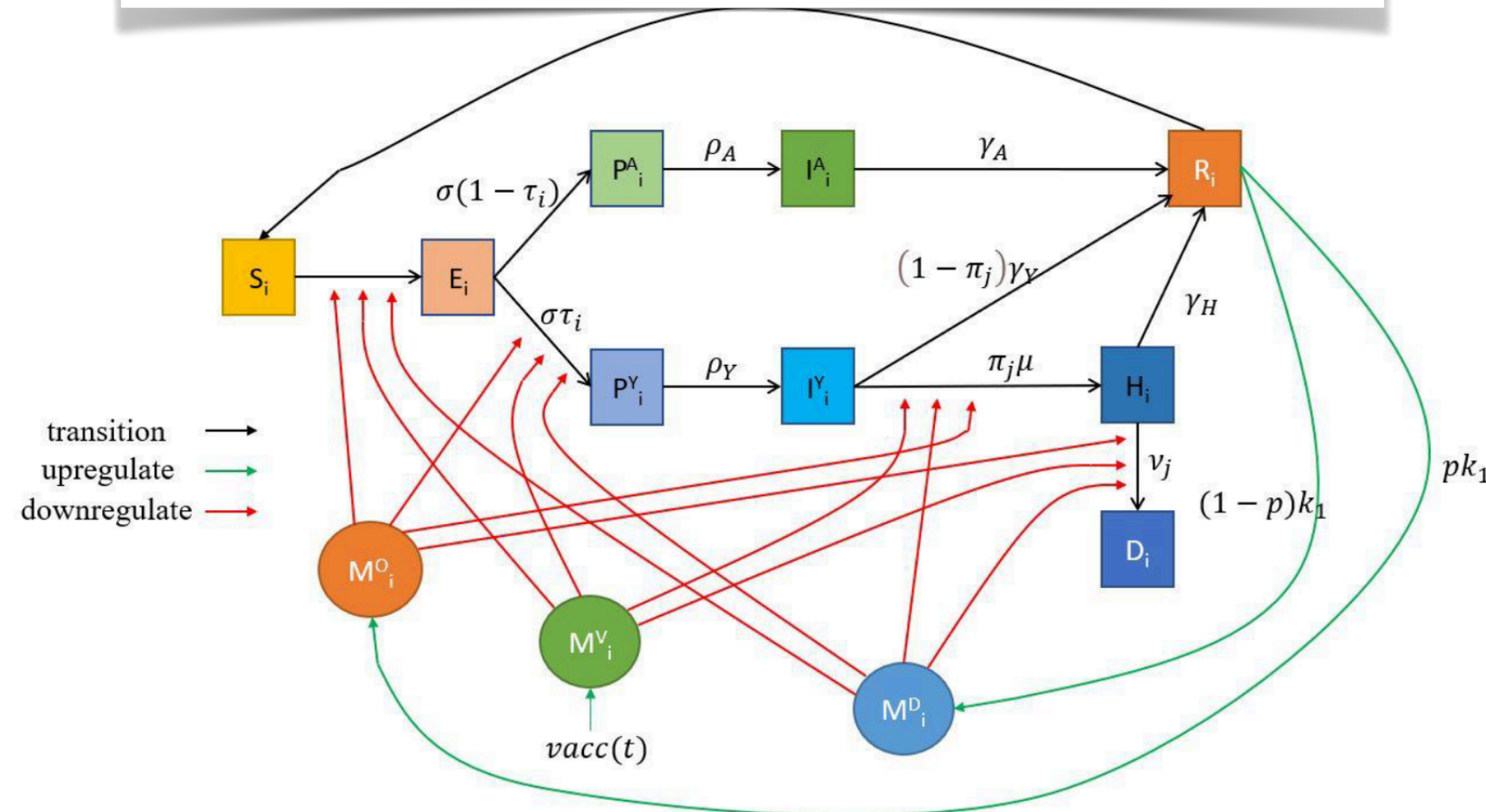
Potential for large outbreaks of Ebola virus disease

A. Camacho^{a,*,1}, A.J. Kucharski^{a,*,1}, S. Funk^a, J. Breman^b, P. Piot^c, W.J. Edmunds^a



COVID-19 Scenario Projections: The Emergence of Omicron in the US – January 2022

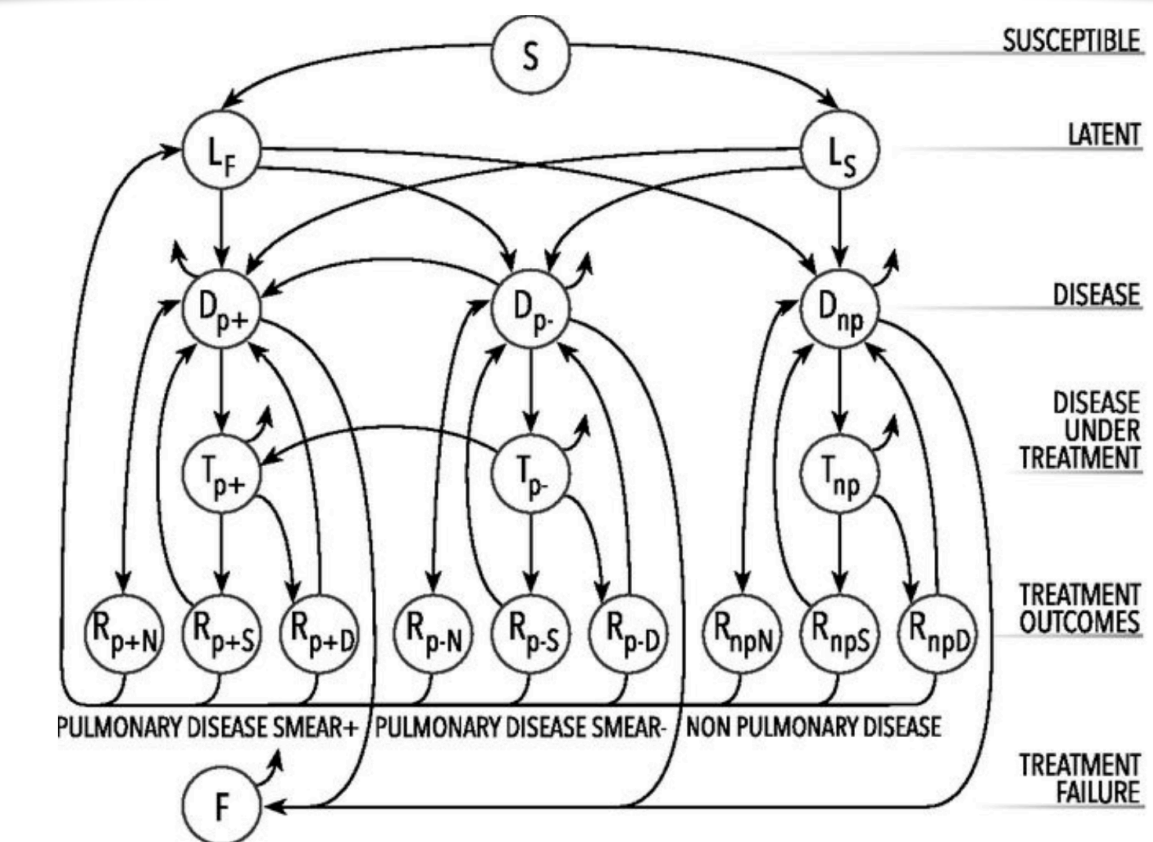
Anass Bouchnita, Spencer J. Fox, Michael Lachmann,
Jose L. Herrera-Diestra, Graham Gibson, Lauren Ancel Meyers



Data-driven model for the assessment of *Mycobacterium tuberculosis* transmission in evolving demographic structures

Sergio Arregui^{a,b,1}, María José Iglesias^{c,d}, Sofia Samper^{d,e}, Dessislava Marinova^{c,d}, Carlos Martin^{c,d,f}, Joaquin Sanz^{a,h,2}, and Yamir Moreno^{a,b,i,1,2}

^aInstitute for Biocomputation and Physics of Complex Systems, University of Zaragoza, 50018 Zaragoza, Spain; ^bDepartment of Theoretical Physics, University of Zaragoza, 50009 Zaragoza, Spain; ^cDepartment of Microbiology, Faculty of Medicine, University of Zaragoza, 50009 Zaragoza, Spain; ^dCentro de Investigación Biomédica en red Enfermedades Respiratorias (CIBER), Carlos III Health Institute, 28029 Madrid, Spain; ^eInstituto Aragonés de Ciencias de la Salud, Instituto de Investigación Sanitaria (IIS) Aragon, 50009 Zaragoza, Spain; ^fService of Microbiology, Miguel Servet Hospital, Instituto de Investigación Sanitaria (IIS) Aragon, 50009 Zaragoza, Spain; ^gDepartment of Genetics, Sainte-Justine Hospital Research Centre, Montreal, QC H3T1C5, Canada; ^hDepartment of Biochemistry, Faculty of Medicine, University of Montreal, Montreal, QC H3T1J4, Canada; and ⁱInstitute for Scientific Interchange, ISI Foundation, 10126 Turin, Italy



Assumptions challenged by COVID-19

Main epidemiological assumptions

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Main *structural* assumptions

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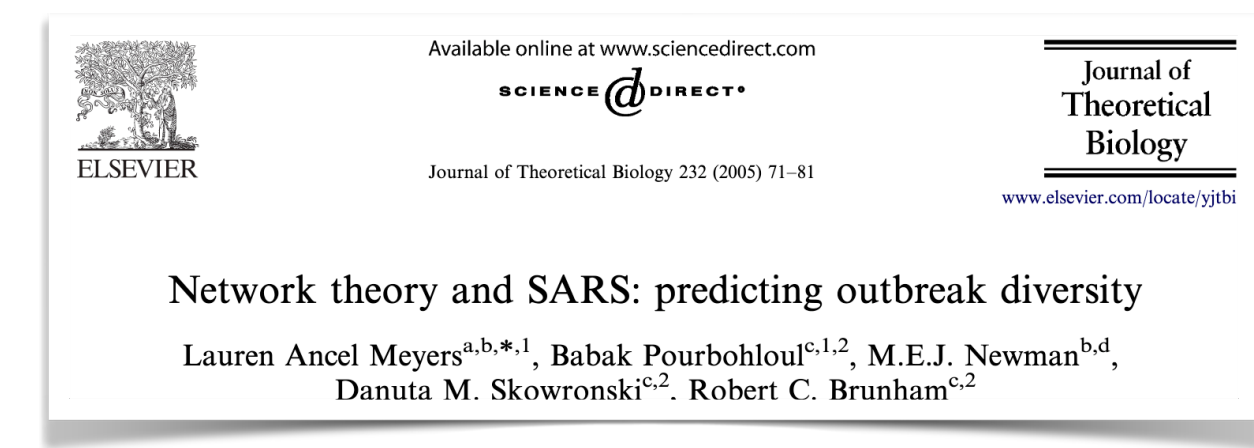
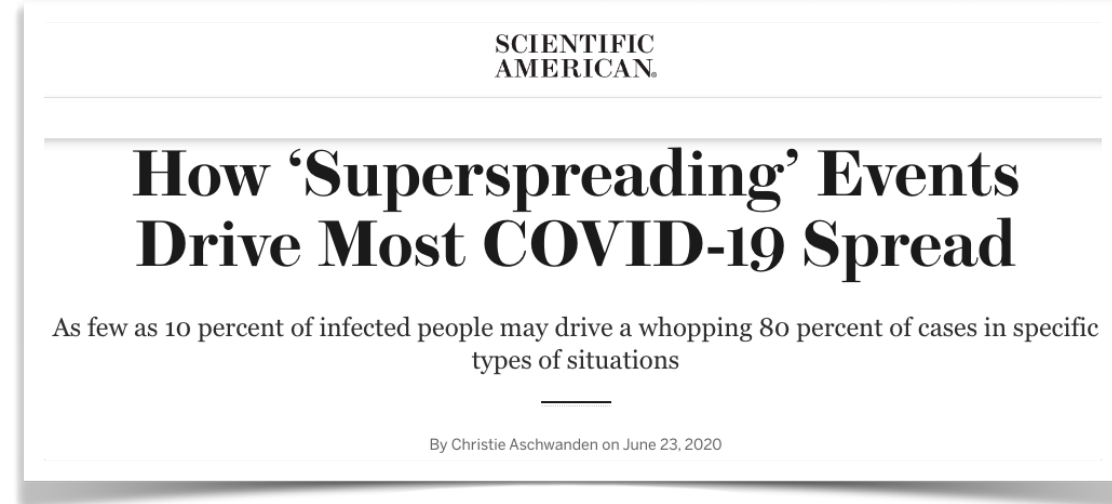
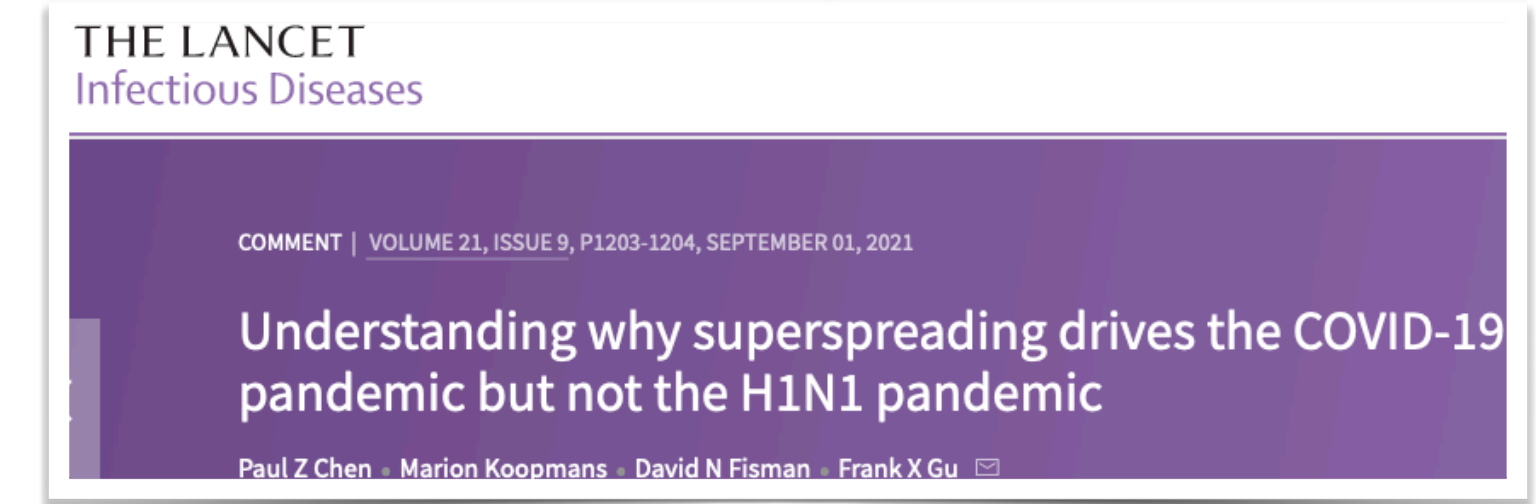
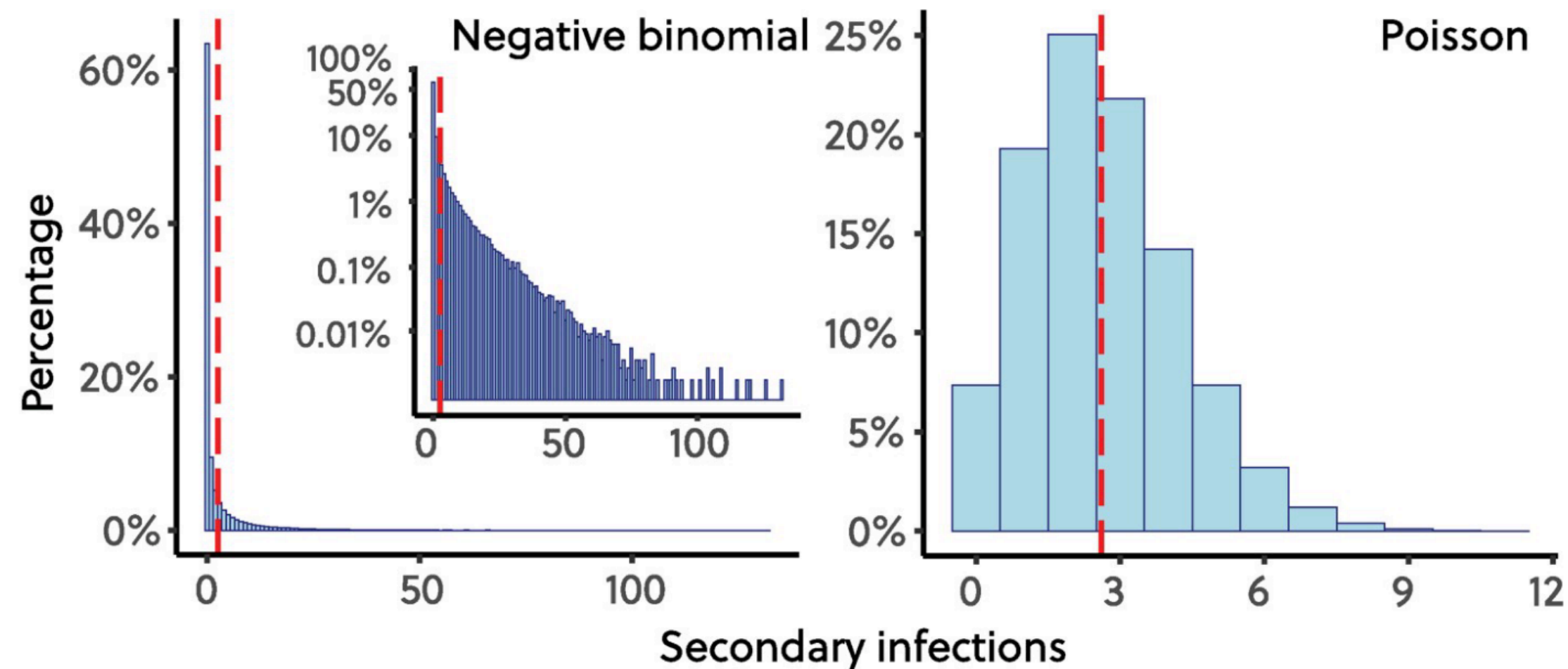
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Assumptions challenged by COVID-19

Challenged assumption #1 : contacts occur according to the law of mass-action

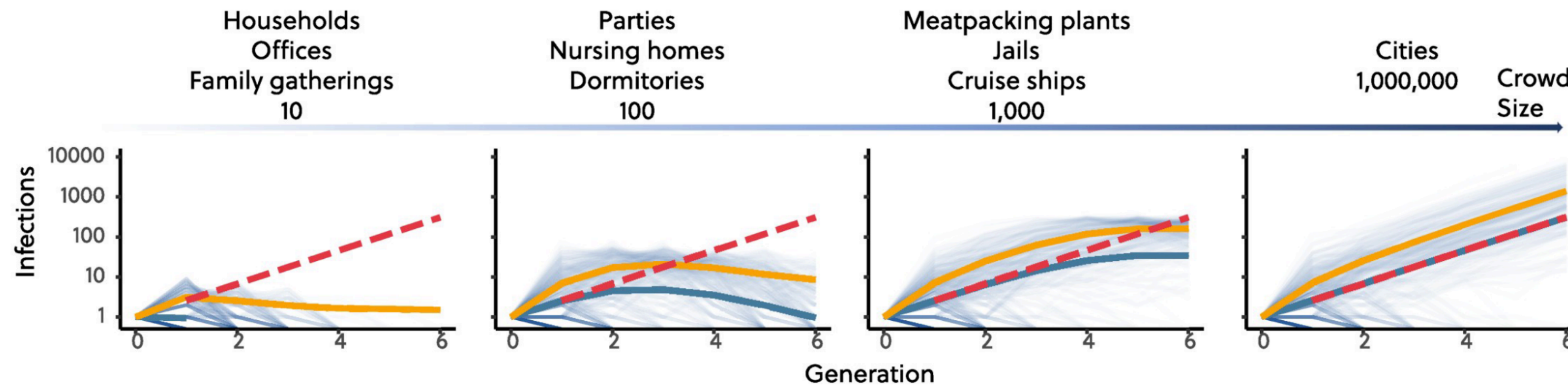
- ★ many outbreaks are not shaped by the “average” individuals but rather by a minority of superspreading events



Assumptions challenged by COVID-19

Challenged assumption #2 : the population is large enough to justify a deterministic analysis

- ★ at the early stage, the outcome of an outbreak depends on stochastic events



Network theory and SARS: predicting outbreak diversity

Lauren Ancel Meyers^{a,b,*}, Babak Pourbohloul^{c,1,2}, M.E.J. Newman^{b,d},
 Danuta M. Skowronski^{c,2}, Robert C. Brunham^{c,2}

PLOS BIOLOGY

ESSAY

Superspreading events in the transmission dynamics of SARS-CoV-2: Opportunities for interventions and control

Benjamin M. Althouse^{1,2,3*}, Edward A. Wenger^{1*}, Joel C. Miller⁴, Samuel V. Scarpino^{5,6,7,8,9,10}, Antoine Allard^{11,12}, Laurent Hébert-Dufresne^{11,13,14}, Hao Hu^{15*}

Contact network epidemiology

Main ideas :

- takes into account the contact network between individuals.
- infectious disease transmitted from an infected individual to their susceptible neighbors in the contact network.
- the structure of this contact network shapes the spreading dynamics.

Mathematical abstraction :

- nodes (vertices) : individuals
- links (edges) : (potential) disease-causing contacts between two individuals
- network (graph) : contact network of a population



Modelling disease outbreaks in realistic urban social networks

Stephen Eubank, Hasan Guclu, V. S. Anil Kumar, Madhav V. Marathe, Aravind Srinivasan, Zoltán Toroczkai & Nan Wang

Nature 429, 180–184 (2004)

BULLETIN (New Series) OF THE
AMERICAN MATHEMATICAL SOCIETY
Volume 44, Number 1, January 2007, Pages 63–86
S 0273-0979(06)01148-7
Article electronically published on October 17, 2006

CONTACT NETWORK EPIDEMIOLOGY: BOND PERCOLATION APPLIED TO INFECTIOUS DISEASE PREDICTION AND CONTROL

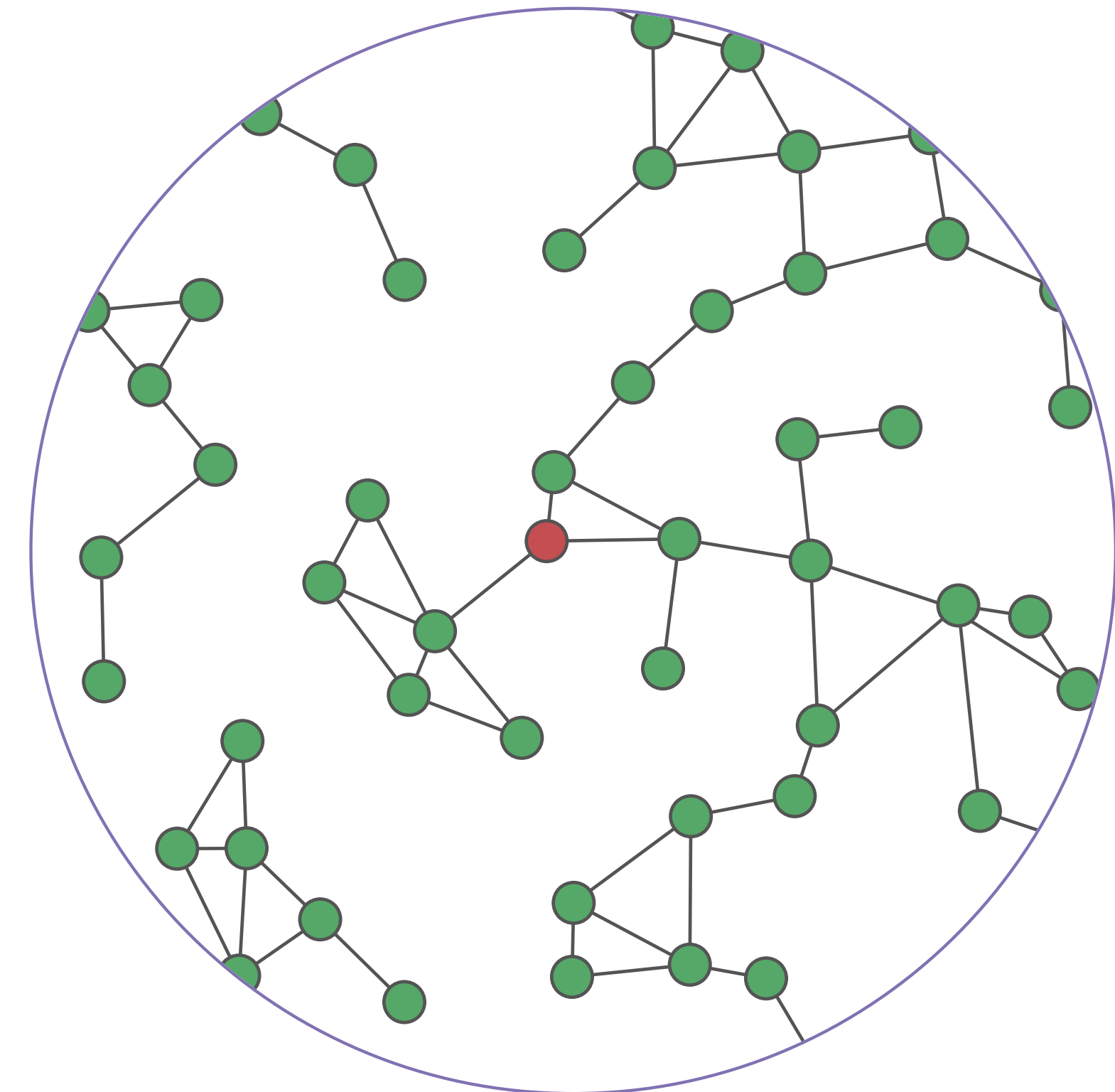
LAUREN ANCEL MEYERS

Interdisciplinary Perspectives on Infectious Diseases
Volume 2011, Article ID 284909, 28 pages
doi:10.1155/2011/284909

Review Article

Networks and the Epidemiology of Infectious Disease

Leon Danon,¹ Ashley P. Ford,² Thomas House,³ Chris P. Jewell,² Matt J. Keeling,^{1,3}
Gareth O. Roberts,² Ioshua V. Ross,⁴ and Matthew C. Vernon¹



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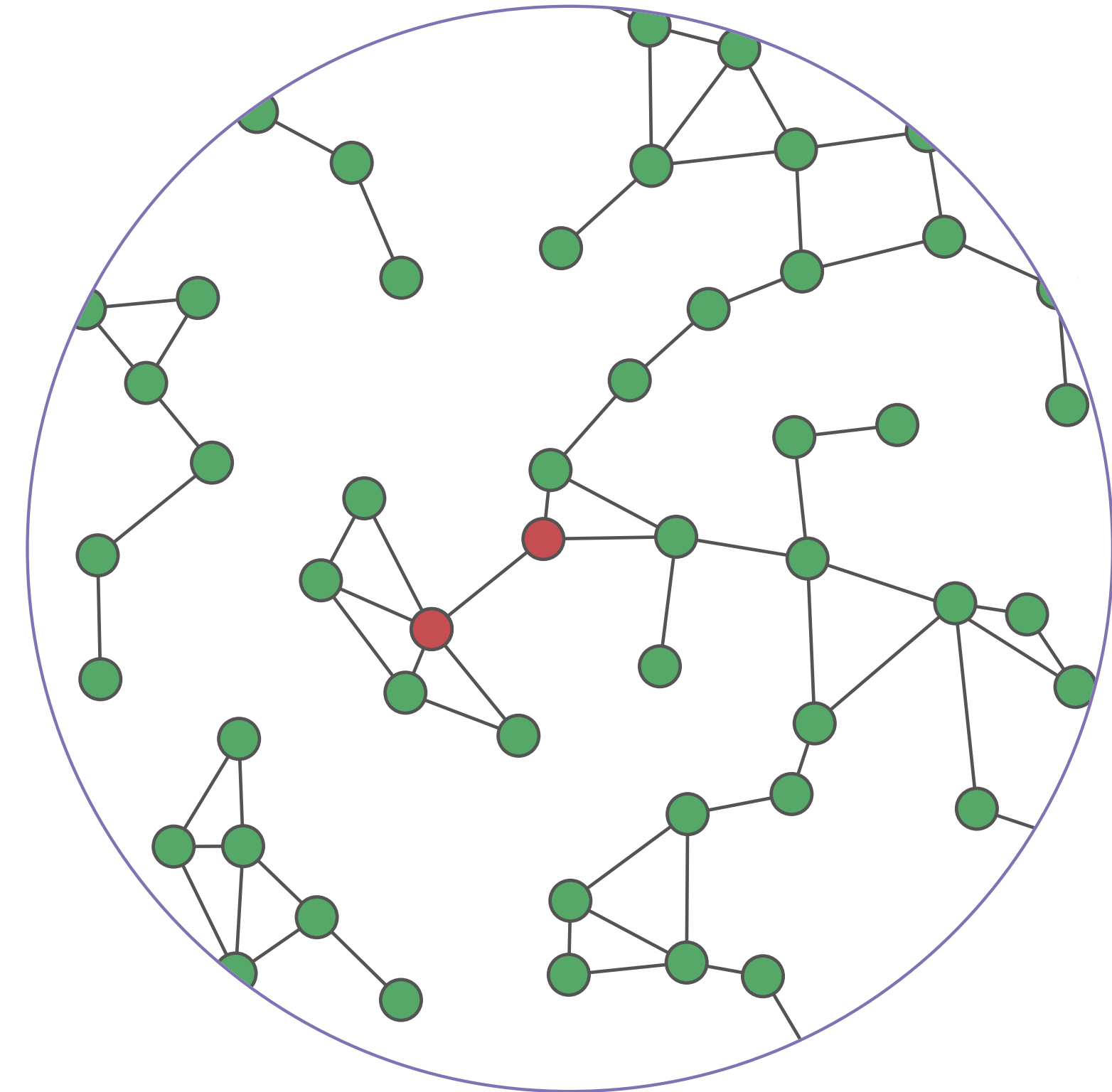
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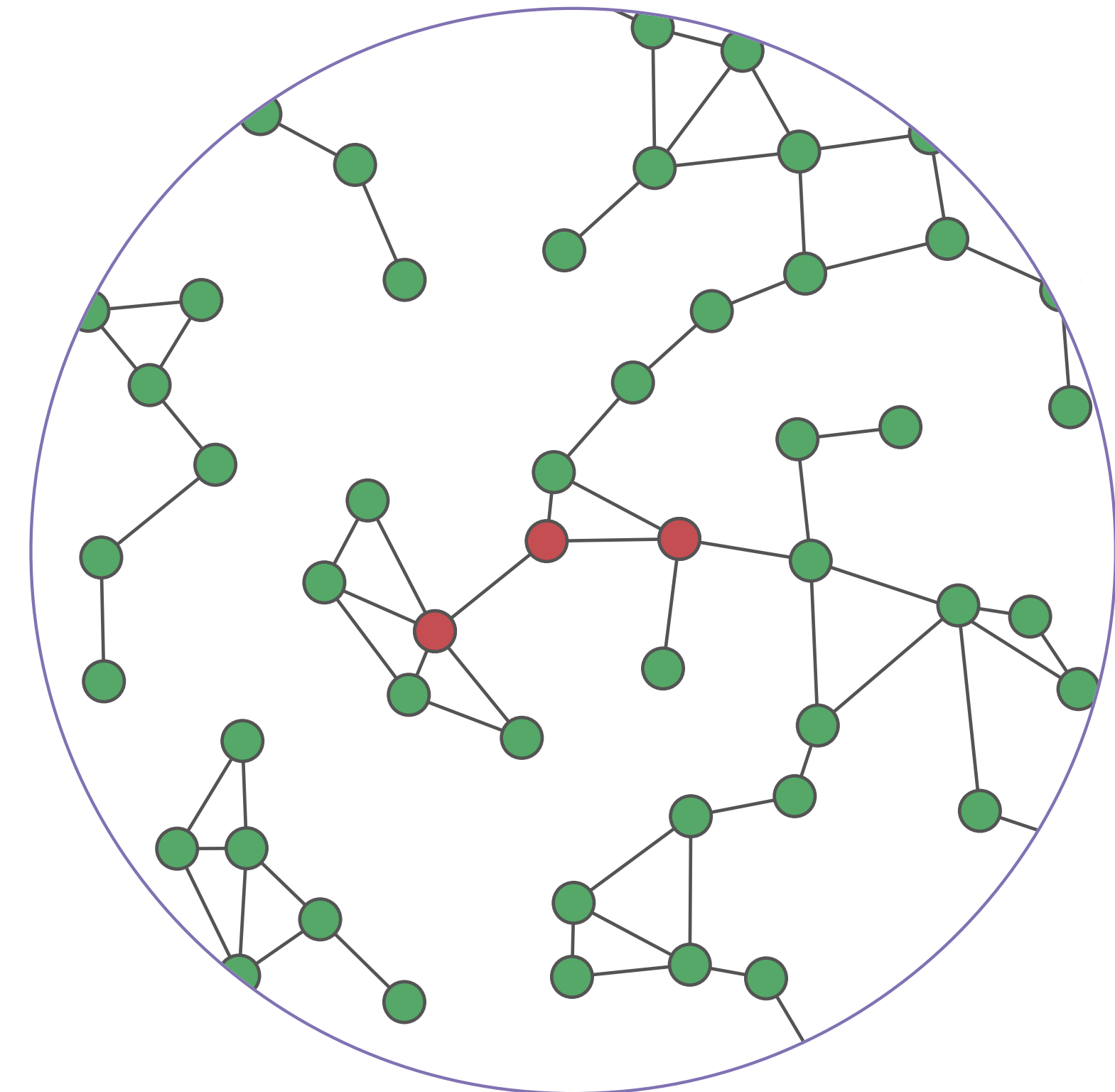
**CONTACT NETWORK EPIDEMIOLOGY: BOND PERCOLATION
APPLIED TO INFECTIOUS DISEASE PREDICTION AND
CONTROL**

LAUREN ANCEL MEYERS

Interdisciplinary Perspectives on Infectious Diseases
Volume 2011, Article ID 284909, 28 pages
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Review Article
Networks and the Epidemiology of Infectious Disease

Leon Danon,¹ Ashley P. Ford,² Thomas House,³ Chris P. Jewell,² Matt J. Keeling,^{1,3}
Gareth O. Roberts,² Ishua V. Ross,⁴ and Matthew C. Vernon¹



Contact network epidemiology

Main ideas :

- takes into account the contact network between individuals.
- infectious disease transmitted from an infected individual to their susceptible neighbors in the contact network.
- the structure of this contact network shapes the spreading dynamics.

Mathematical abstraction :

- nodes (vertices) : individuals
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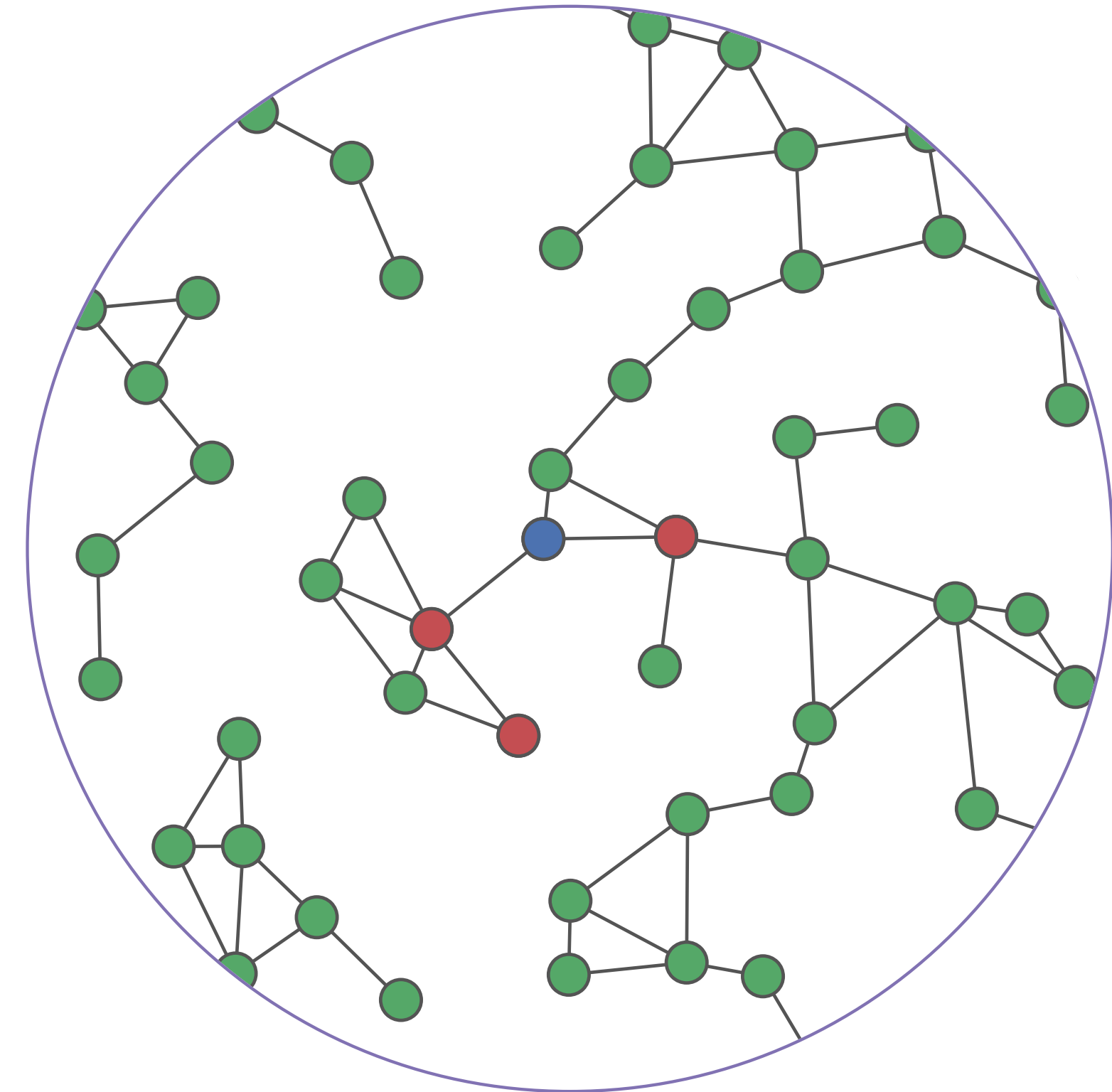
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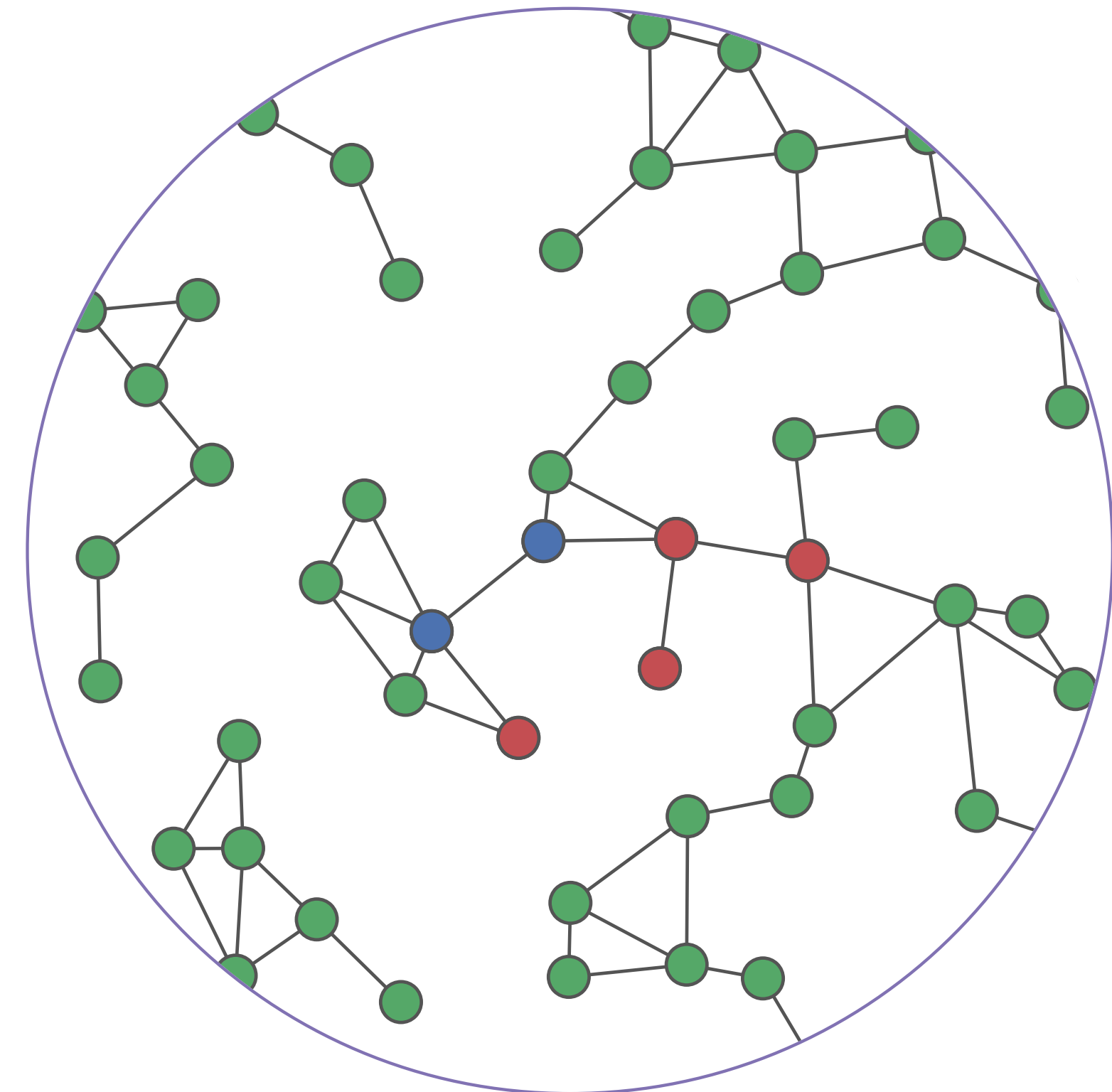
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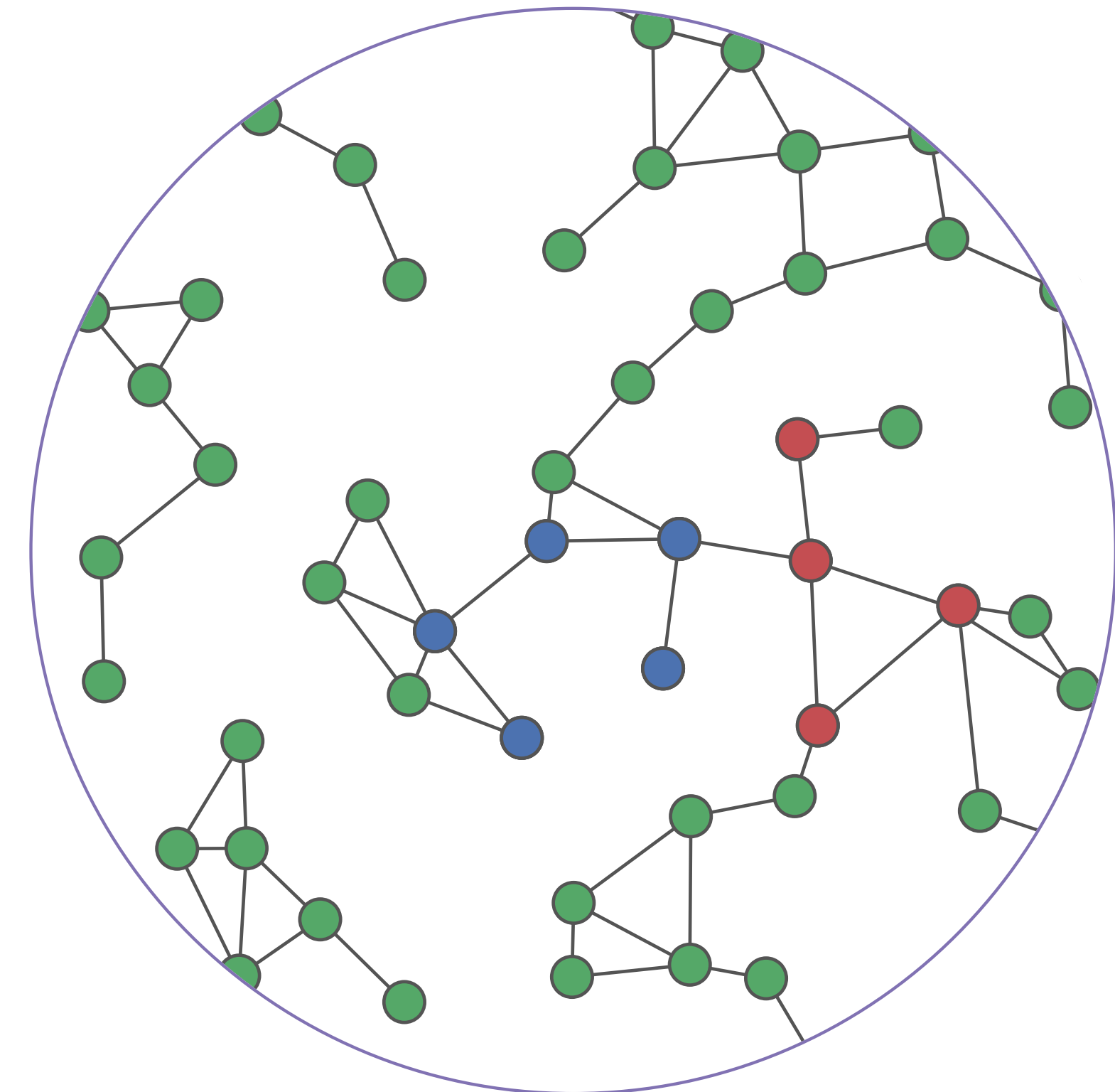
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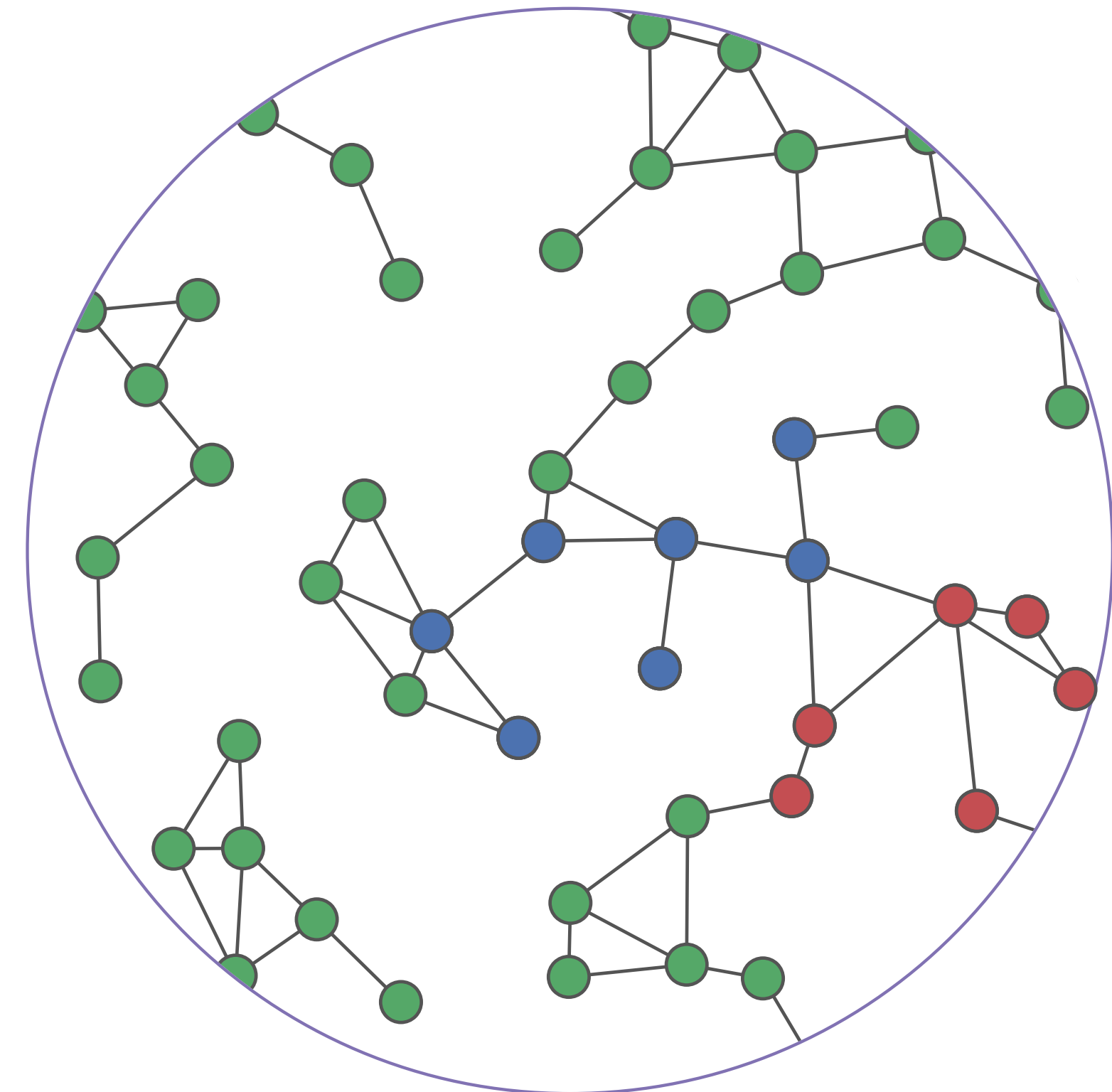
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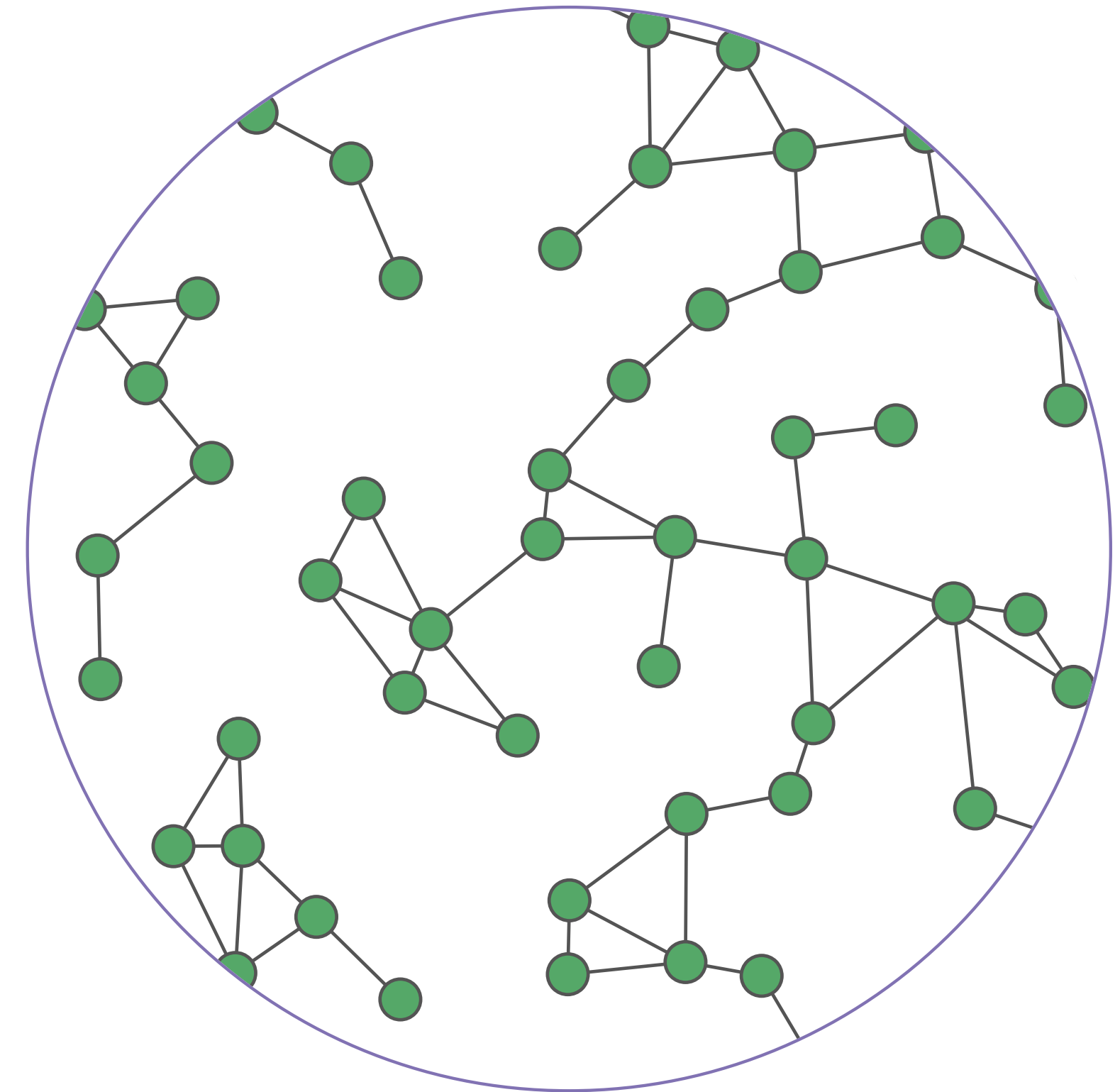
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Contact network epidemiology

Epidemic percolation networks (EPNs) :

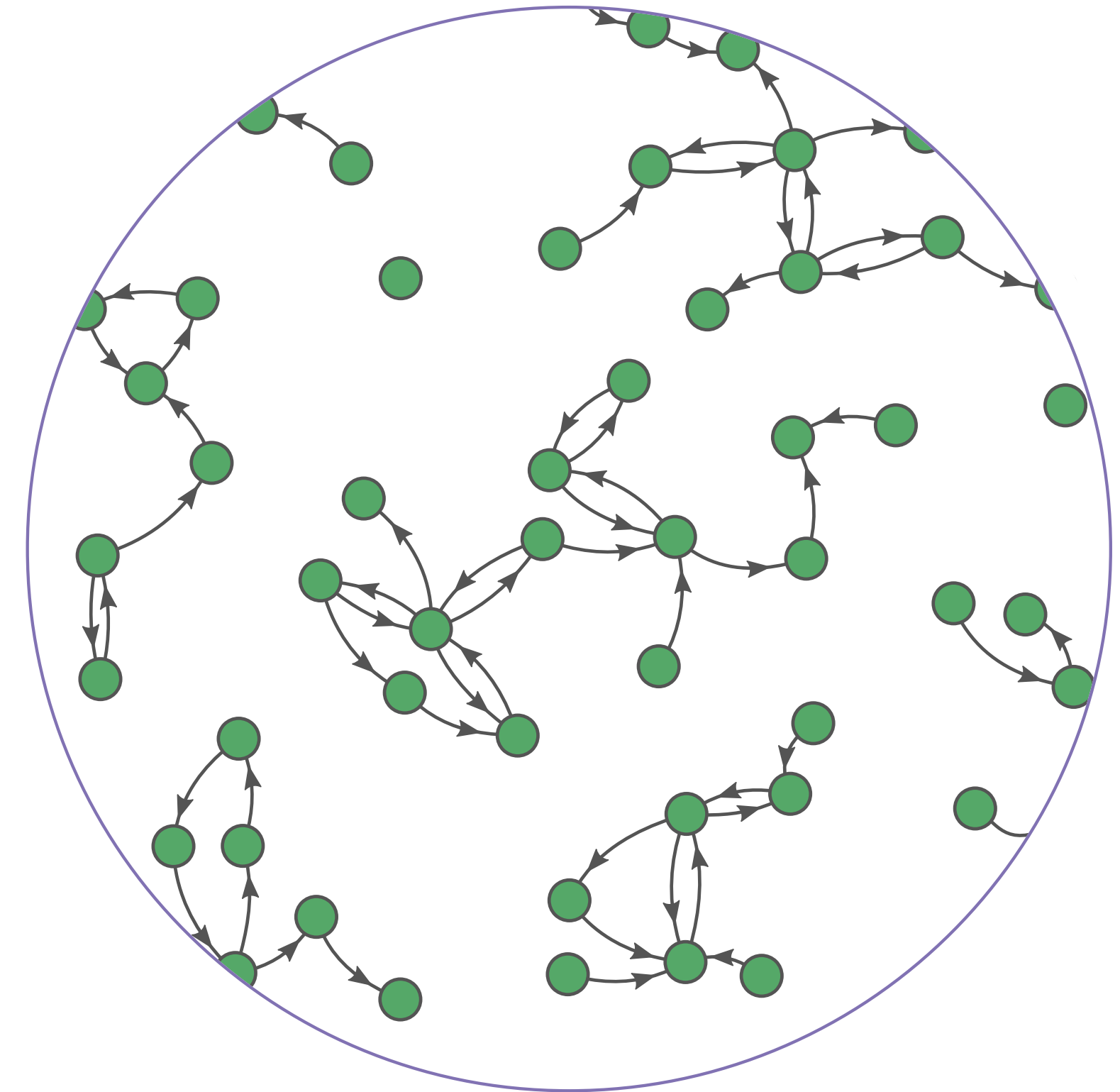
- previous slide : stochastic process is taking place *on* the contact network to produce an outcome
 - EPNs : consider an ensemble of random networks encoding all possible outcomes
 - links indicate contacts that *will* transmit the disease
- ⇒ studying the EPNs random network ensemble becomes equivalent to studying the spreading dynamics



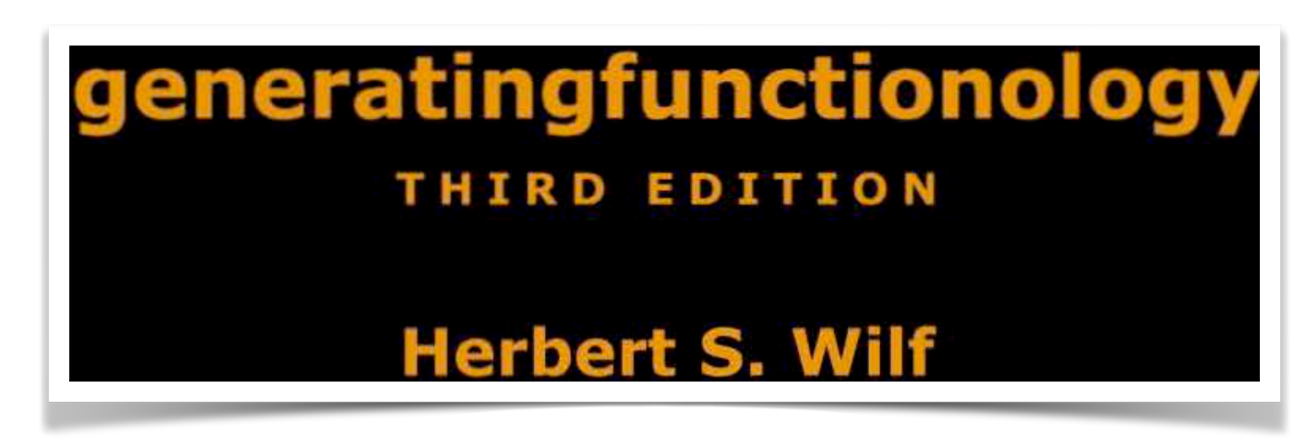
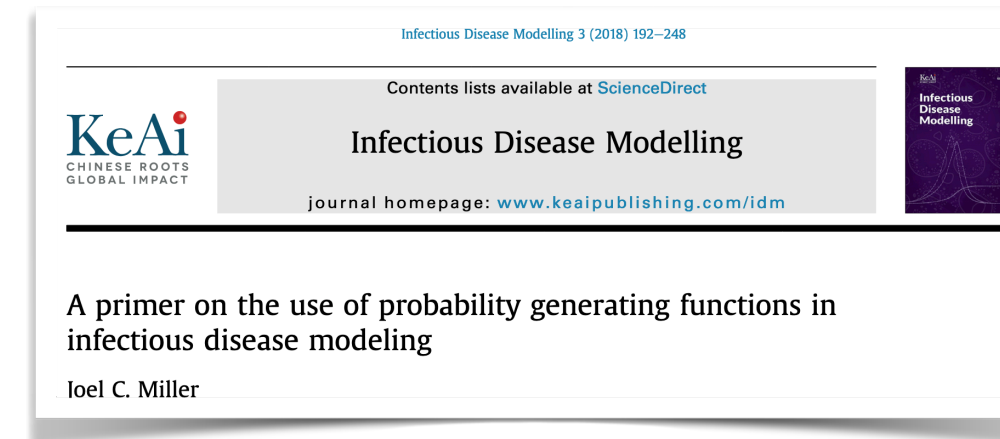
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Contact network epidemiology



Probability generating functions (PGFs)

- a PGF is a formal power series whose coefficients are a probability mass function $\{a_n\}_{n \geq 0}$

$$A(x) = \sum_{n \geq 0} a_n x^n = a_0 + a_1 x + a_2 x^2 + a_3 x^3 + \dots$$

- computing the moments

$$A(1) = \sum_{n \geq 0} a_n = 1; \quad \langle n \rangle = \sum_{n \geq 0} n a_n = \left. \frac{dA(x)}{dx} \right|_{x=1} = A'(1); \quad \langle n^p \rangle = \sum_{n \geq 0} n^p a_n = \left. \left(x \frac{d}{dx} \right)^p A(x) \right|_{x=1}$$

- extracting the coefficients

$$a_n = \frac{1}{n!} \left. \frac{d^n A(x)}{dx^n} \right|_{x=0} = \frac{1}{2\pi} \int_0^{2\pi} A(e^{i\theta}) e^{-in\theta} d\theta$$

- sum of a fix/random number of variables drawn independently

$$B_2^{\text{fix}}(x) = \sum_{l \geq 0} b_l x^l = \sum_{l \geq 0} \sum_{n=0}^l a_n a_{l-n} x^l = \sum_{n \geq 0} a_n x^n \sum_{m \geq 0} a_m x^m = [A(x)]^2; \quad B_p^{\text{fix}}(x) = [A(x)]^p; \quad C^{\text{rand}}(x) = \sum_{n \geq 0} a_n [A(x)]^n = A(A(x))$$

Contact network epidemiology

Probability generating functions (PGFs) formalism

- assuming a very, very large population (i.e. neglecting finite-size effects)
- patient zero causes k secondary infections with probability p_k (degree distribution of the EPN)

$$G_0(x) = \bullet + \bullet x + \bullet x^2 + \bullet x^3 + \dots = \sum_{k \geq 0} p_k x^k ; \quad \langle k \rangle = \sum_{k \geq 0} k p_k = G'_0(1) ; \quad \langle k^2 \rangle = \sum_{k \geq 0} k^2 p_k$$

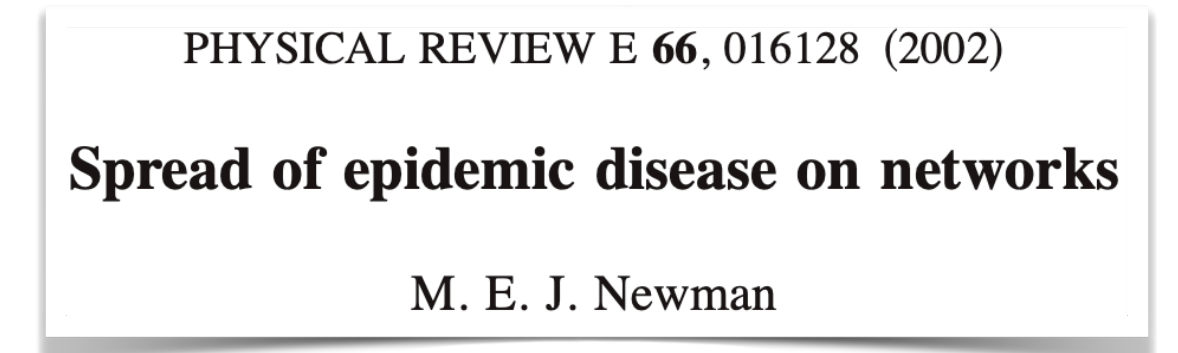
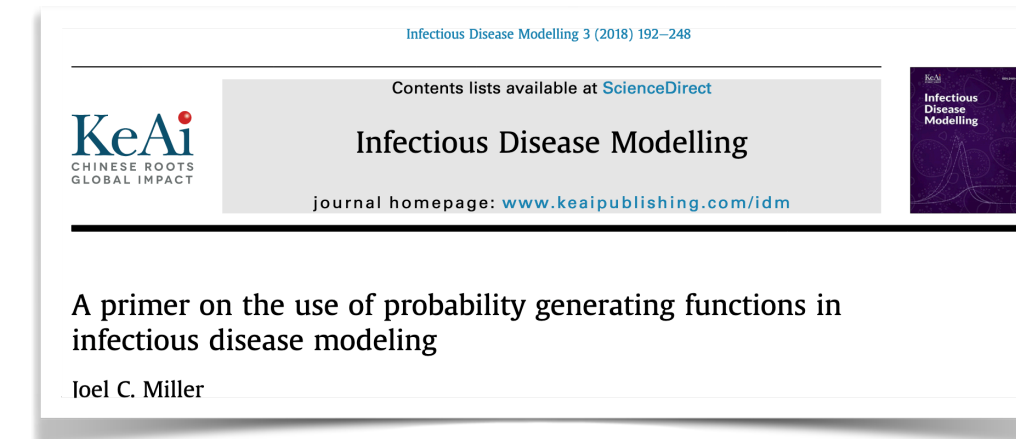
- a newly infected individual causes k new infections with probability $(k + 1)p_{k+1}/\langle k \rangle$ (excess degree distribution of the EPN)

$$G_1(x) = \bullet + \bullet x + \bullet x^2 + \bullet x^3 + \dots = \sum_{k \geq 0} \frac{(k + 1)p_{k+1}}{\langle k \rangle} x^k = \frac{G'_0(x)}{G'_0(1)}$$

- average number of secondary infections a newly infected individual causes

$$G'_1(1) = \frac{\langle k^2 \rangle - \langle k \rangle}{\langle k \rangle} \equiv R_0$$

- *all* outbreaks will eventually die out when $R_0 < 1$
- *some* outbreaks will eventually die out when $R_0 > 1$



Contact network epidemiology

Probability generating functions (PGFs) formalism

- probability u that an outbreak eventually dies out

$$u = \begin{array}{c} \square \\ \downarrow \\ \bullet \end{array} = \begin{array}{c} \bullet \\ \downarrow \\ \bullet \end{array} + \begin{array}{c} \square \\ \downarrow \\ \bullet \end{array} + \begin{array}{c} \square \quad \square \\ \downarrow \\ \bullet \end{array} + \begin{array}{c} \square \quad \square \quad \square \\ \downarrow \\ \bullet \end{array} + \dots = \sum_{k \geq 0} \frac{(k+1)p_{k+1}}{\langle k \rangle} u^k = G_1(u)$$

- the fraction of the population infected in an epidemic wave (and the probability of such wave) is

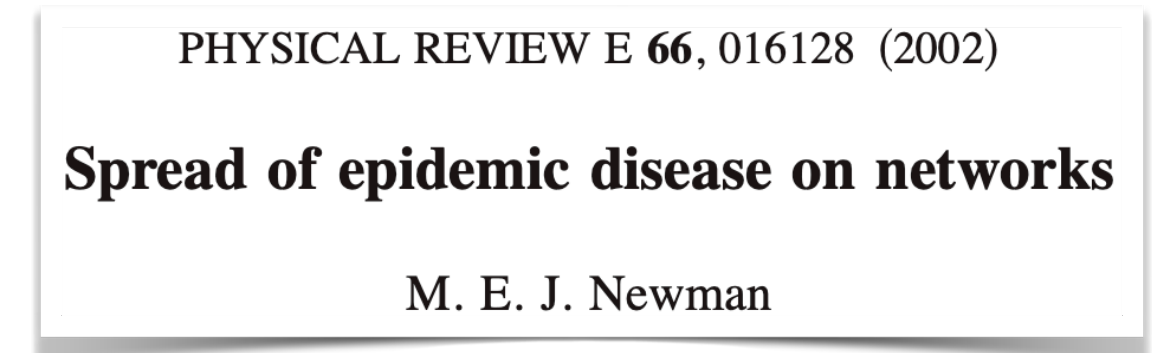
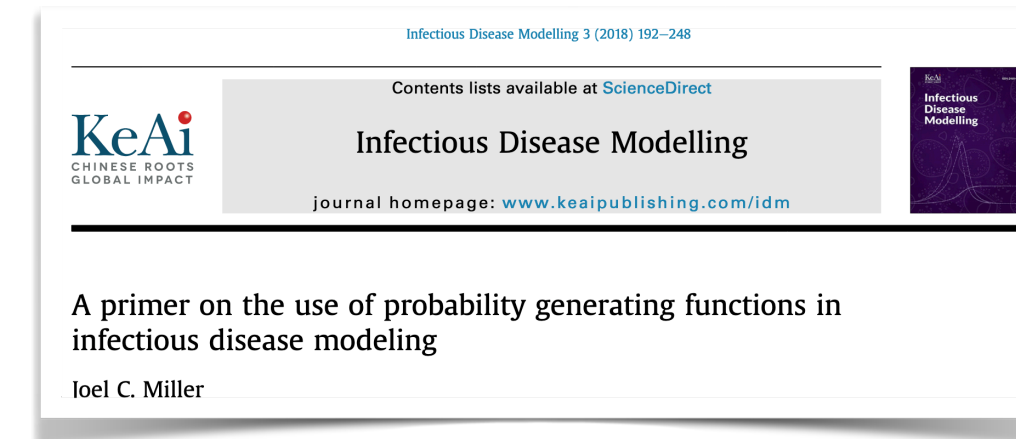
$$R(\infty) = \sum_{k \geq 0} p_k (1 - u^k) = 1 - G_0(u)$$

- $H_0(x)$: PGF of the distribution of the size of outbreaks that will eventually die out

$$H_1(x) = \begin{array}{c} \square \\ \downarrow \\ \bullet \end{array} = \begin{array}{c} \bullet \\ \downarrow \\ \bullet \end{array} + \begin{array}{c} \square \\ \downarrow \\ \bullet \end{array} + \begin{array}{c} \square \quad \square \\ \downarrow \\ \bullet \end{array} + \begin{array}{c} \square \quad \square \quad \square \\ \downarrow \\ \bullet \end{array} + \dots = x \sum_{k \geq 0} \frac{(k+1)p_{k+1}}{\langle k \rangle} [H_1(x)]^k = xG_1(H_1(x))$$

- the distribution of the size of outbreaks that will eventually die out can be extracted from

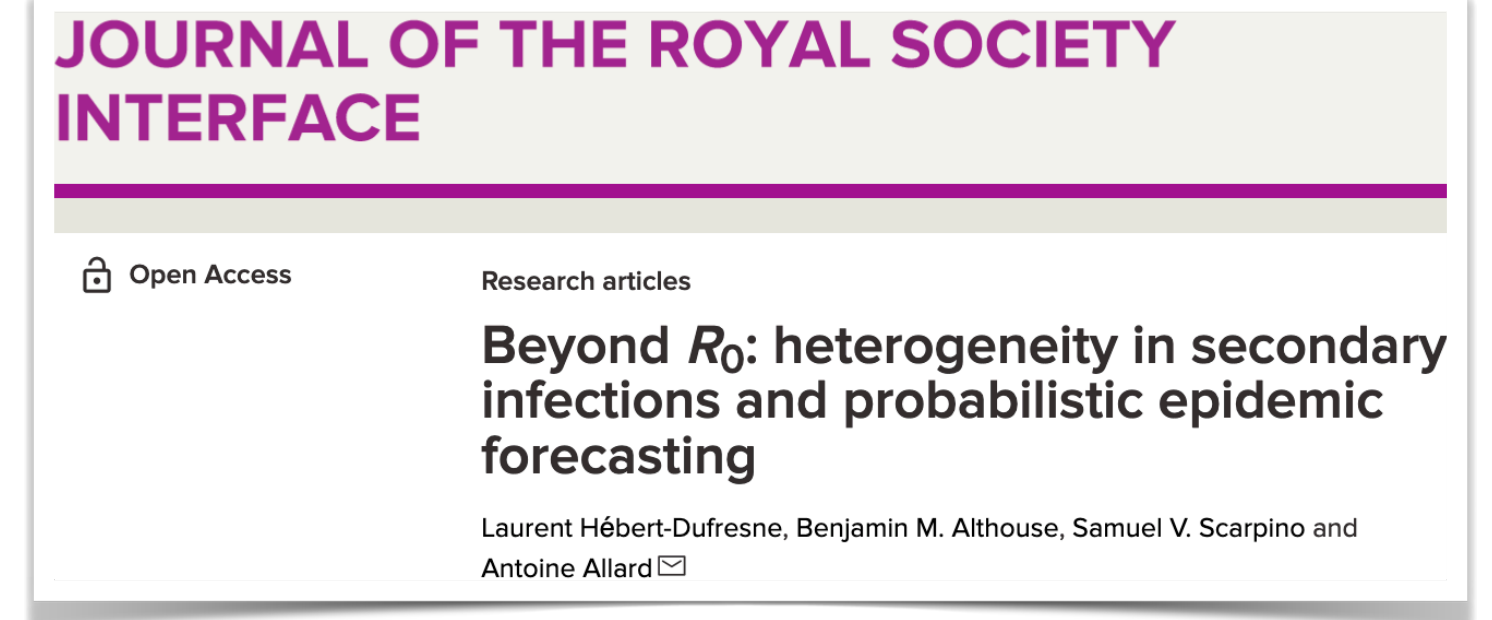
$$H_0(x) = xG_0(H_1(x))$$



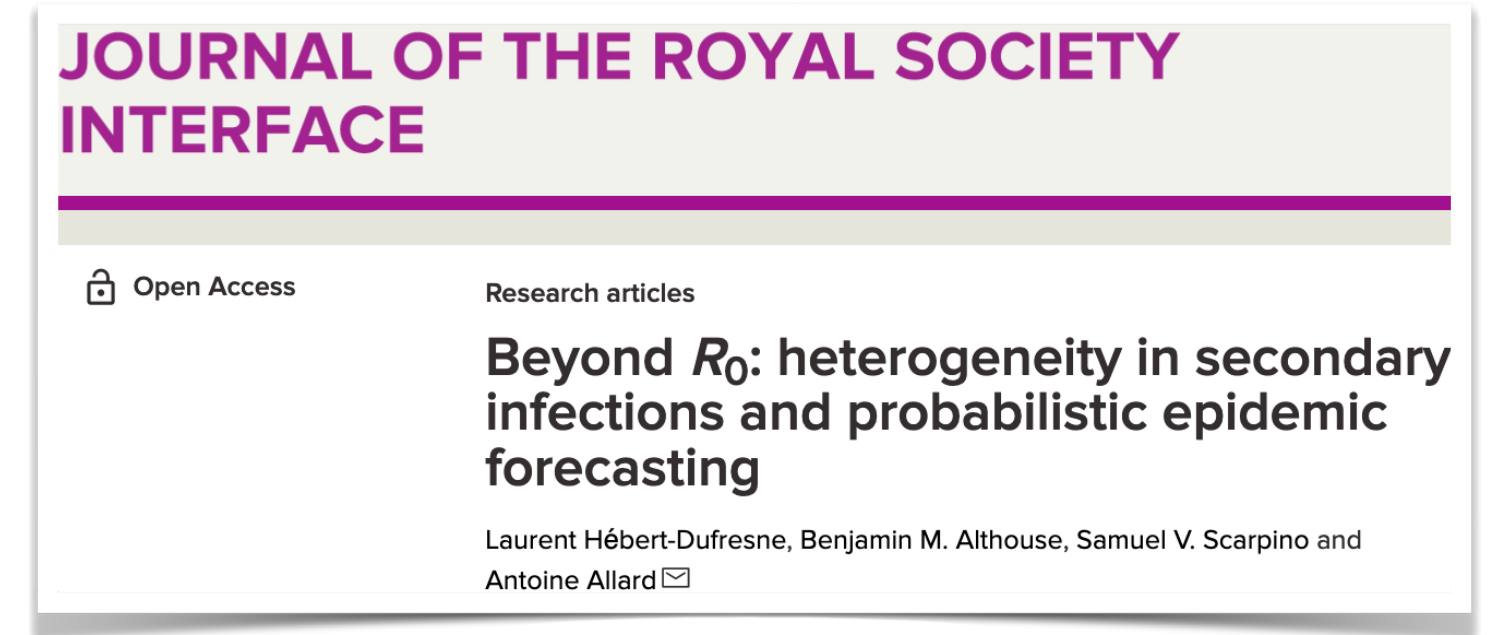
What can we learn from contact network epidemiology?

Lesson #1 : the friendship paradox

- on average, your friends have more friends than you do
 - a random individual has k friends with probability p_k
 - however, their friends have k friends with probability $\propto kp_k$
- by spreading on a contact network, the disease naturally over-samples individuals more likely to cause a larger number of secondary infections
- ignoring this effect leads back to the mass-action assumption



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Lesson #2 : the effect of superspreading events

- the PGF formalism falls back to the outcome of the SIR dynamics when p_k is a Poisson distribution

$$G_0(x) = G_1(x) = e^{R_0(x-1)} ; \quad R(\infty) = 1 - e^{-R_0 R(\infty)}$$

- the mass-action assumption is not appropriate for diseases whose propagation is driven by superspreading events

What can we learn from contact network epidemiology?

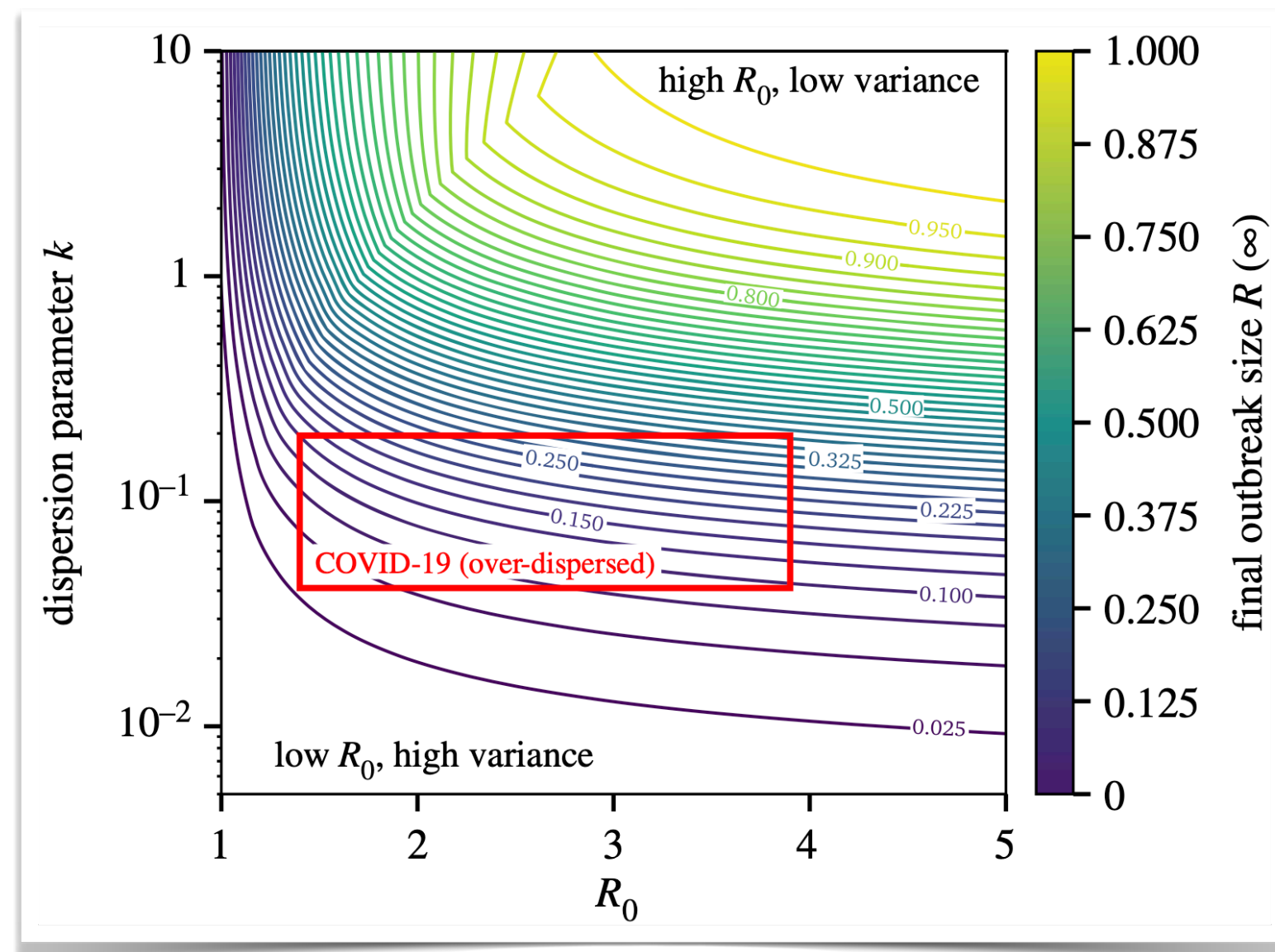
Lesson #3 : we need to look beyond R_0 for overdispersed infectious diseases like COVID-19

- negative binomial distribution for secondary cases

$$G_1(x) = \left[1 + \frac{R_0(x-1)}{\gamma} \right]^{-\gamma}$$

shows the great impact overdispersion (small γ) has on the spreading dynamics

- in other words, if $R_0 > 1$, our attention should not be focused on whether R_0 equals 2.5 or 3.5, but rather be focused on figuring out how much heterogeneity there is behind it (what is γ ?)



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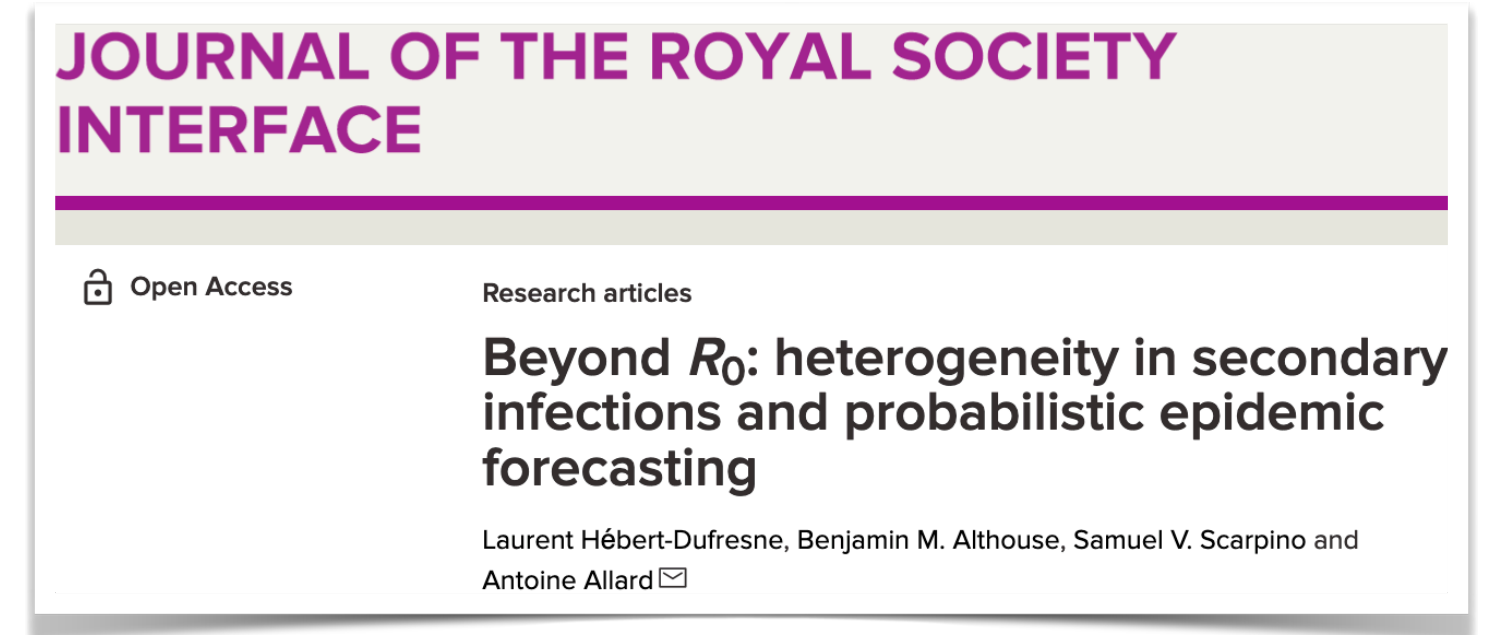
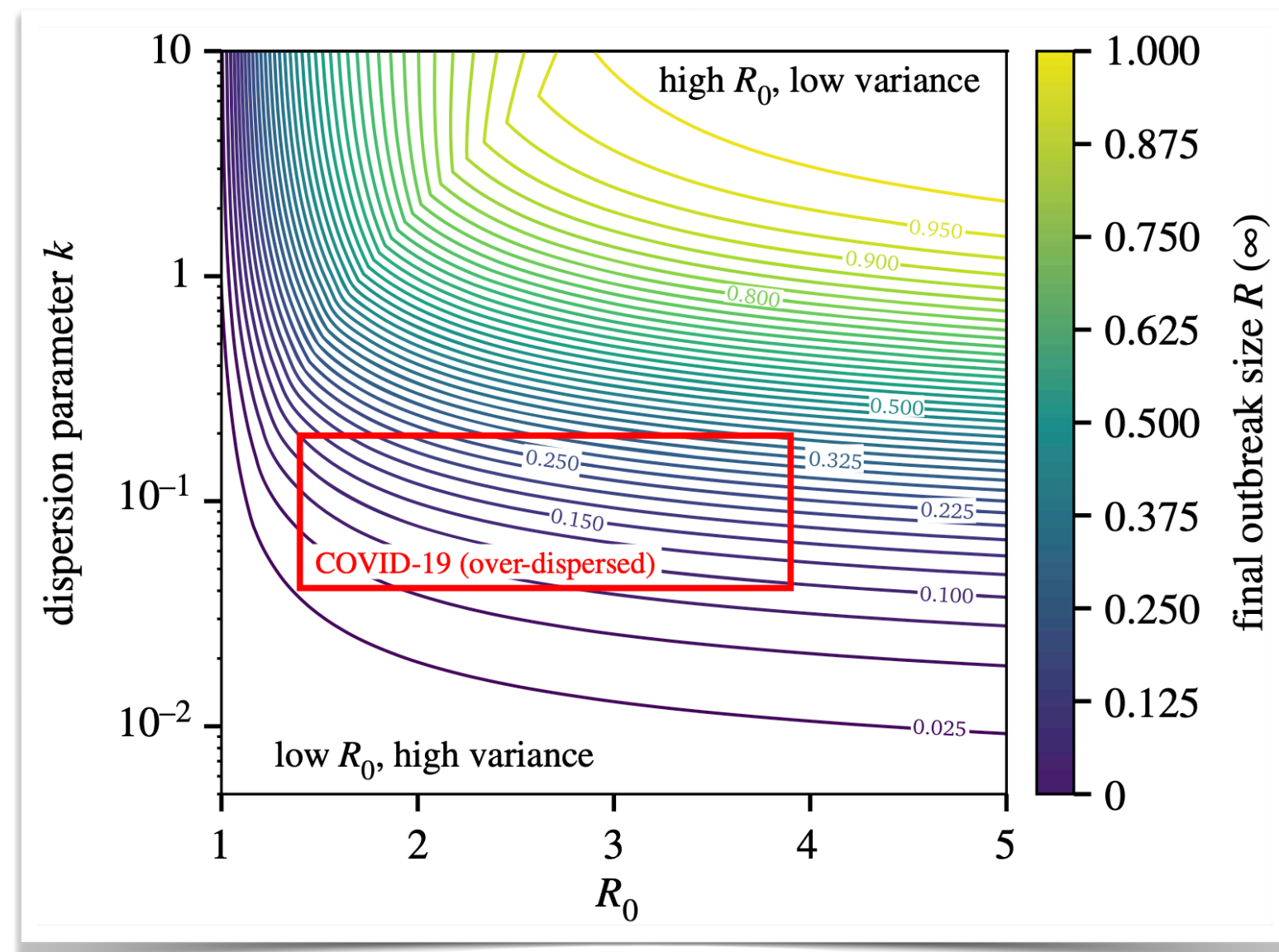
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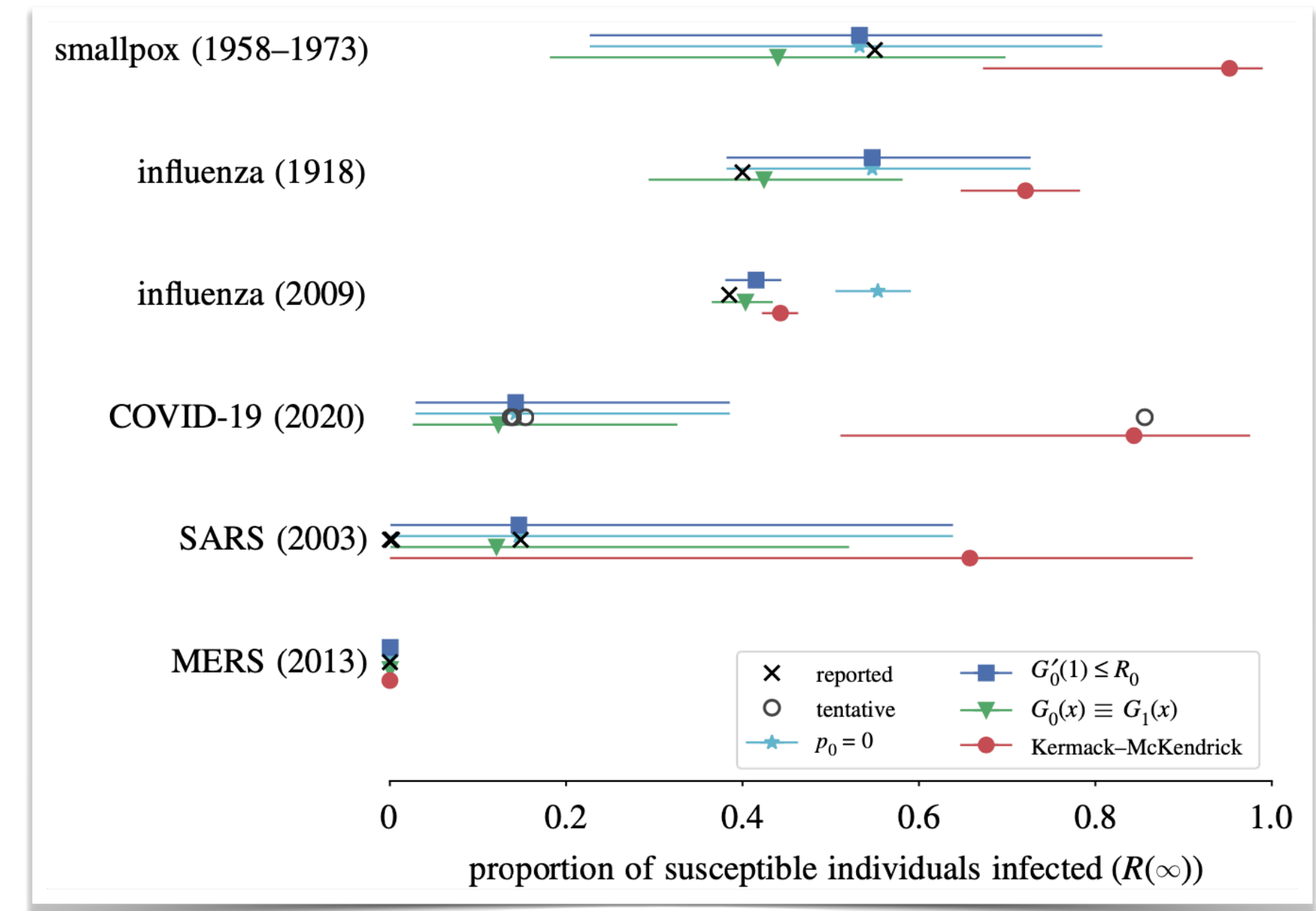
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Lesson #4 : COVID-19 is particularly overdispersed

- plans prepared with pandemic Influenza in mind might fall short to contain the spread of COVID-19

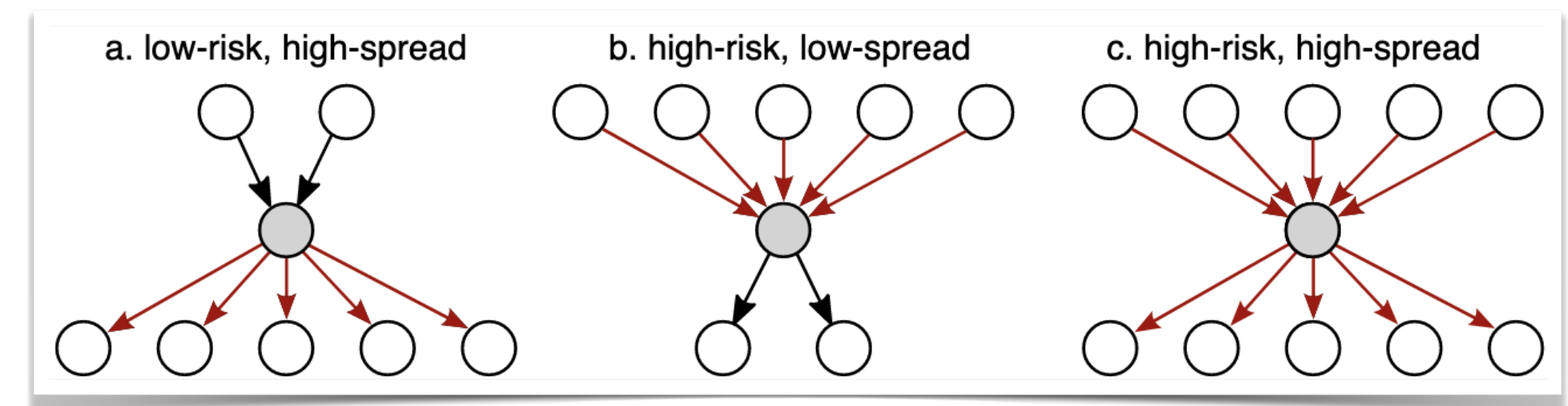
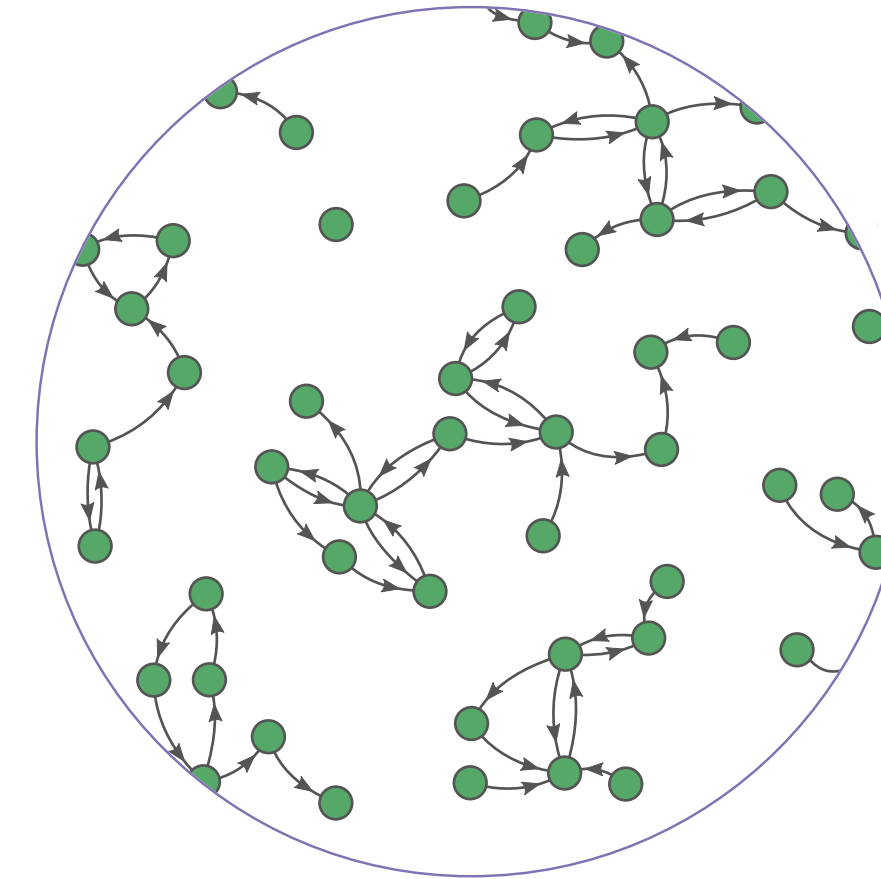


What can we learn from contact network epidemiology?



Lesson #5 : distinction between “risk” and “spread”

- mass-action assumes the risk for individuals to become infected is uniformly distributed (i.e. in-degree in the EPN distributed according to a Poisson)
- following links in the EPN in their opposite direction oversamples individuals that will cause a larger number of secondary cases
 - *backward* contact tracing
 - “cluster busting”



What can we learn from contact network epidemiology?

Lesson #6 : assessing the pandemic potential of an emerging disease

- parameters of the EPN can be inferred from early incidence data
- doing so provides an assessment on the risk of a pandemic
- validation using data from the 2014-2016 Ebola Virus Disease (EVD) epidemic in Sierra Leone indicates that the PGF formalism provides realistic forecasts

The network epidemiology of an Ebola epidemic

Laurent Hébert-Dufresne^{1,2,3,4,*}, Jean-Gabriel Young^{2,3,5}, Jamie Bedson⁶, Laura A. Skrip^{7,4}, Danielle Pedi⁸, Mohamed F. Jalloh⁹, Bastian Raulier³, Olivier Lapointe-Gagné³, Amara Jambai¹⁰, Antoine Allard^{2,3,11}, and Benjamin M. Althouse^{4,12,13,†}

RAPID COMMUNICATION

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Julien Riou¹, Christian L. Althaus¹

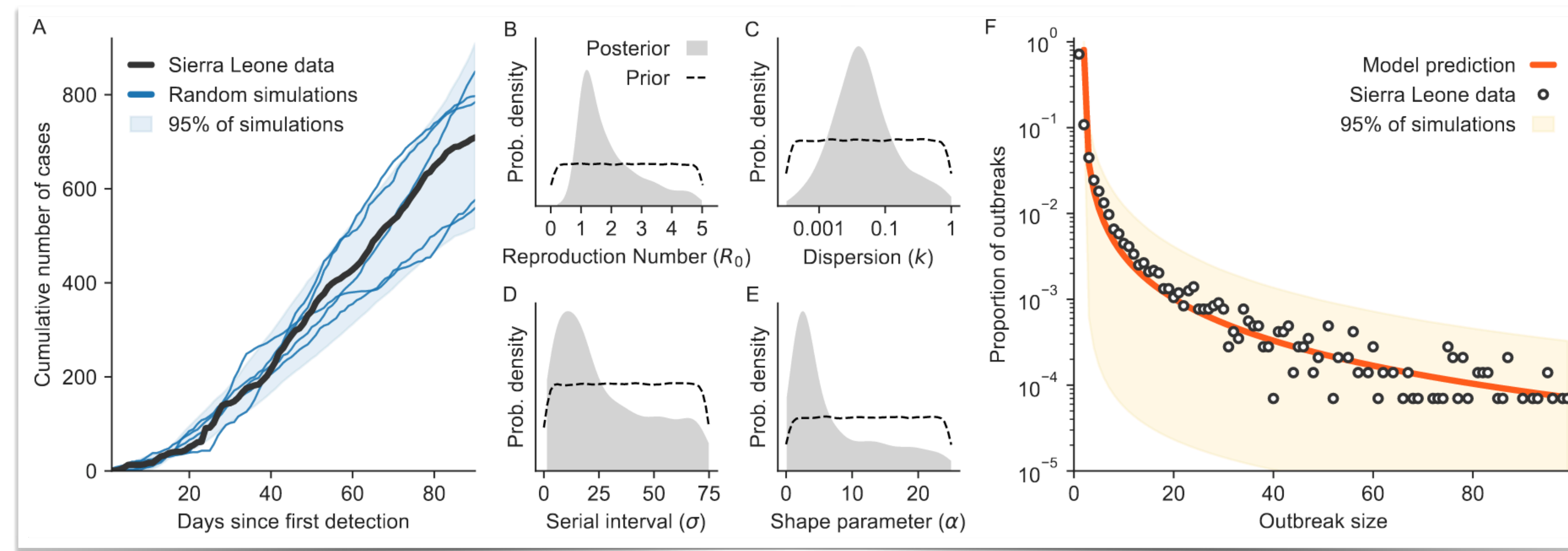
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Citation style for this article:

Riou Julien, Althaus Christian L. . Pattern of early human-to-human transmission of Wuhan 2019 novel coronavirus (2019-nCoV), December 2019 to January 2020. Euro Surveill. 2020;25(4):pii=2000058. <https://doi.org/10.2807/1560-7917.ES.2020.25.4.2000058>

Article submitted on 24 Jan 2020 / accepted on 30 Jan 2020 / published on 30 Jan 2020





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Jean-Gabriel Young (University of Vermont)



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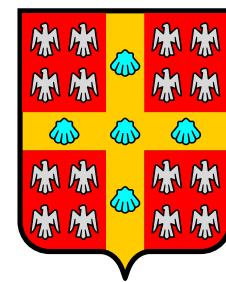


Cristopher Moore (Santa Fe Institute)

...and many other collaborators



Sentinelle Nord



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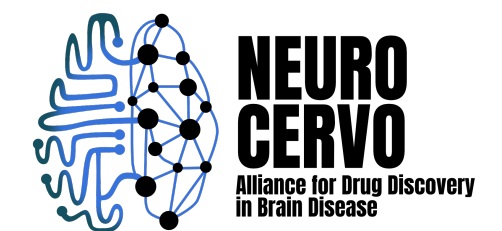
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