



NETWORK MODELS FOR EPIDEMICS

A large group of approximately 30 people, mostly men, are posed in several rows in front of a building with a stone facade and a large arched doorway. The group is diverse in age and appearance. The text 'NETWORK MODELS FOR EPIDEMICS' is overlaid in yellow on a dark blue banner at the top.

Denis Mollison - ICMS - 12 Sep 2011

Deaths from infectious disease:

11 Sep 2001 11 Sep 2011

AIDS	7900	4900
Diarrhoea	5500	6700
TB	4500	3700
Malaria	3100	1500

Deaths from infectious disease:

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. . . all epidemiology, concerned as it is with the variation of disease from time to time or from place to place, must be considered mathematically, however many variables are implicated, if it is to be considered scientifically at all. To say that a disease depends upon certain factors is not to say much, until we can also form an estimate as to how largely each factor influences the whole result. And the mathematical method of treatment is really nothing but the application of careful reasoning to the problem at issue.

Ross (ca. 1911)

$$R_0 = Mb^2cd$$

where M is # mosquitoes/human

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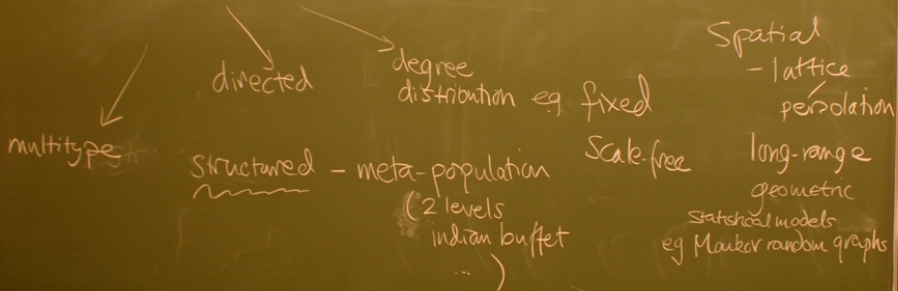
where M is # mosquitoes/human,

whence

$$R_0 < 1 \text{ iff } M < M_c.$$

Types of network

Simple random graph — E-R / R-F



- Epidemics on networks
- Epidemic is network



Interested researchers?

Pure probabilists — Random Graph

Applied "1"

Applied mathematicians

Physicists — ...

Computer science

Engineers Biologists.

Statisticians

Sociologists / Anthropologists

	Them	
	Useful	Useless
Us Useful		✓
Us Useless		

History

Basic network idea:

A pair of individuals are linked ...

$$i \rightarrow j$$

...if i can (or does) infect j

An epidemic of an infectious disease is a series of reproducing cases, a series of consecutive infections of healthy individuals by patients, a series of groups which are separated from each other by the length of the incubation period. We assume that one infectious patient enters into some group of individuals; the healthy individuals have contact with him; and some of those who cannot resist the influence of the infection are infected and in their own turn become centres for further spread of the disease. The question arises how the disease—the epidemic—must spread under different conditions, with different numbers of susceptibles (who cannot resist the infection), with different dura-

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En'ko 1889

In each generation,

$\Pr(\text{escape infection})$

$$= (1 - i)^{pN} \quad (\text{Enko 1889})$$

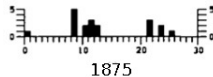
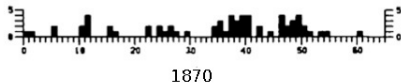
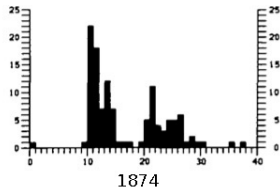
$$= (1 - p)^{iN} \quad (\text{Reed-Frost})$$

where $p = P(\text{contact})$, $i = \text{proportion infected}$

\rightarrow

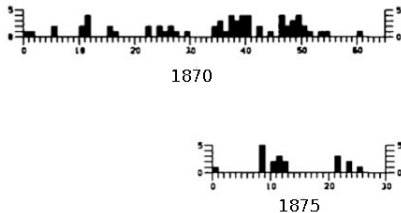
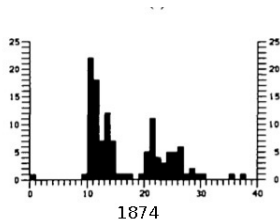
$$I_{n+1} \sim \text{Binomial}(S_n, (1 - (1 - p)^{I_n}))$$

Data analysis:



Three measles outbreaks in the Educational
College for the Daughters of the Nobility

En'ko 1889



1874: $1 \rightarrow 70 \rightarrow 45 \rightarrow 2$

Best fitting simulation: $1 \rightarrow 79 \rightarrow 53$

when $N = 400, S_0 = 133, S_T = 0, A = 360$



Reed-Frost

The chain-binomial, with

$$I_{n+1} \sim \text{Binomial}(S_n, (1 - (1 - p)^{I_n}))$$

is generally credited to Reed & Frost, ca. 1928,
but ..

Reed-Frost

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$$I_{n+1} \sim \text{Binomial}(S_n, (1 - (1 - p)^{I_n}))$$

is generally credited to Reed & Frost, ca. 1928,
but ..

.. was not widely known until ca. 1950.

Main applications in small populations (households) (see *e.g.* Becker 1989)

Reasons R-F went out of fashion

- difficulties of calculation
- attractions not appreciated ..
- .. or held against it
- rise of continuous-time models
(techniques including DEs, PGFs, and
branching-process approximations)
with emphasis on ‘mass-action’

Mass-action models

Deterministic:

Hamer 1906	discrete-time
Ross 1908	continuous-time
Kermack & McKendrick 1927	DEs for SIR

Stochastic:

McKendrick 1926
Bartlett 1949

Example (value of “unnecessary” detail):

Simple birth and death process

$$(1) \quad r_{n,n+1} = an, \quad r_{n,n-1} = bn$$

(2) Independent individuals, each with birth rate a and death rate b .

P(extinction) μ_n when initial pop. = n ?

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$$= \mu_1^n$$



Spatial processes

Network models first used explicitly for spatial case, because individual-based models more obviously needed:

Broadbent & Hammersley 1957 motivated **percolation theory** with the example of “spread of disease in an orchard’

Specific spatial epidemic models

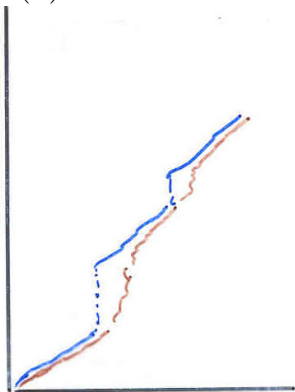
Morgan & Welsh 1965

Mollison 1972:

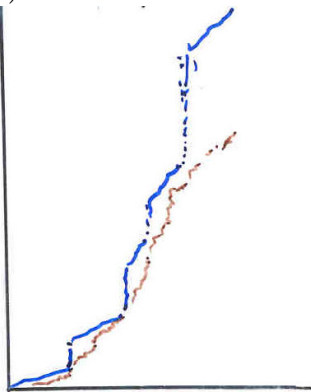
Velocity of 1-D stochastic epidemics

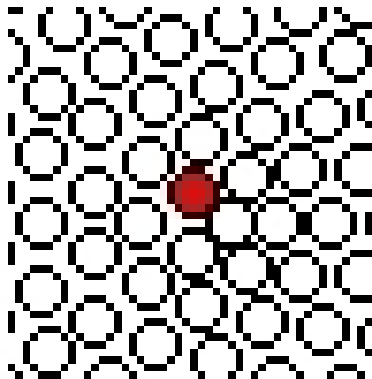
- theory
- simulations
- comparison with DE models

$$v(s) \sim s^{-4}$$

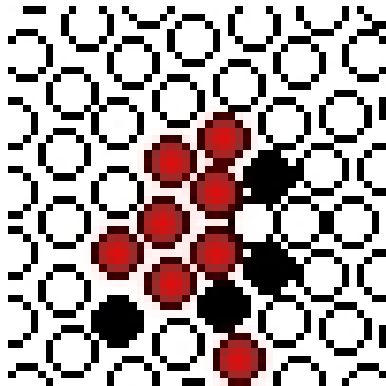


$$v(s) \sim s^{-3}$$





Time 0



Time 1

Comparing different local structures

(Kuulasmaa & Zachary 1984)

A a subset of neighbours of i ,

$q(A) = P[i \text{ doesn't infect any of } A]$.

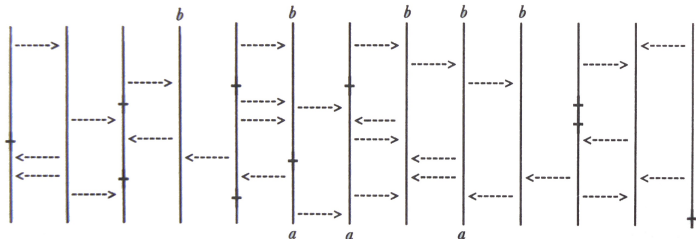
If $q_1(A) \leq q_2(A)$ for all A ,

then “1 \geq 2”

[*E.g.* indep. contacts \geq correlated contacts]

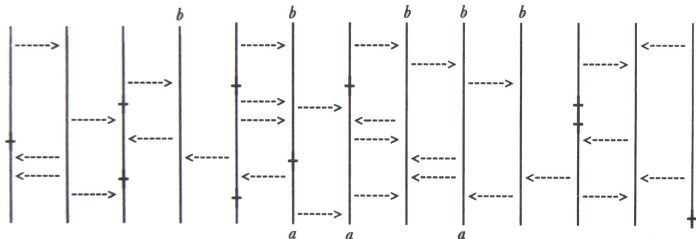
Harris 1974: the “contact” process (= SIS)

A coupling argument ...



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A coupling argument ...



...shows that this is monotone with initial set

Cox & Durrett (1988): the “contact process”
has an asymptotic velocity

Liggett 1985 *Interacting Particle Systems*

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Meanwhile, in another part of the wood,
more probabilists were at work ...



Simple random graphs

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followed by Bollobas and others

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than En'ko could have hoped for (or wanted?).

(En'ko / Reed-Frost revisited)

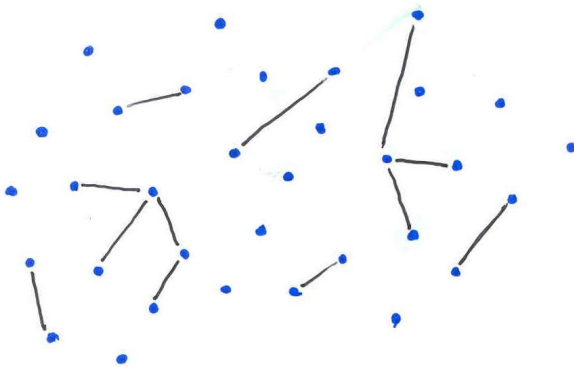
In each generation,

$$\Pr(\text{escape infection}) = (1 - p)^{iN}$$

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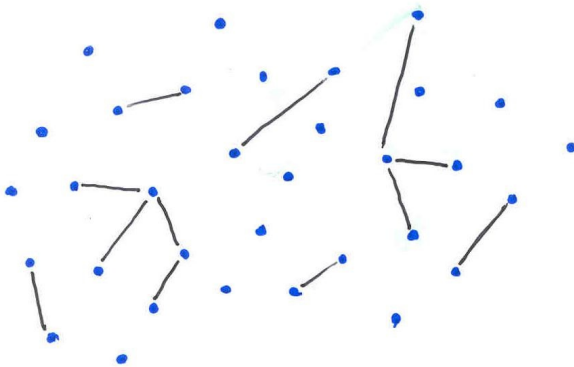
Simple random graph



N individuals, each pair linked with probability p

- Why are these links undirected?
- Why are they independent?

Simple random graph



Here $R_0 \equiv Np$ is < 1

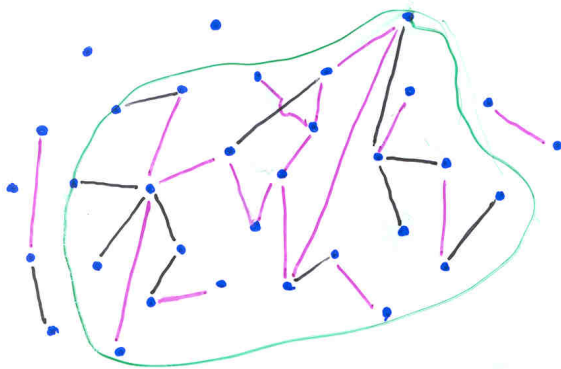
$$R_0$$

The *basic reproductive ratio* of an epidemic is the mean number of new infections made by an infected individual in a mostly susceptible population

- 1) R_0 is insufficient, but the 1st parameter to explore
- 2) The first parameter to explore depends on the question
- 3) The question is undefined
- 4) What are the characteristic measures of an epidemic?
- 5) What properties of a network drive the spread of infection?
- 6) What does R_0 say in the context of endemic diseases?
- 7) How is R_0 related to the distribution of outbreak sizes?
- 8) What number (if any) characterizes the essence of the contact network?
- 9) ... the problem of disease-specific networks ...

10) r or R_0 - that is the question!

11) The observed outbreaks often do not show exponential growth. Why?



Here $R_0 \equiv Np$ is > 1

Results for simple random graph:

Giant component exists iff $R_0 > 1$.

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Diameter of giant, $T \sim \log N$.

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Diameter of giant, $T \sim \log N$.

Final size (and probability of a large outbreak)
are both given by the largest solution of

$$z = 1 - \exp(-R_0 z)$$

Deterministic mass-action equivalent,
a differential equation model ('SIR'):

$$\begin{aligned}\dot{S} &= -cSI \\ \dot{I} &= cSI - dI \\ \dot{R} &= dI\end{aligned}$$

Results for ‘SIR’:

Large outbreak *always* occurs if $R_0 \equiv c/d > 1$,

duration $T \sim \log N$,

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$$z = 1 - \exp(-R_0 z)$$

Epidemiologists are interested in more than just the Simple Random Graph



Structural choices for network models

- Directed or undirected?
- Degree – fixed? Poisson? power-law?
- Large-scale structure
(mean-field to spatial)

Undirected links??

$$A_{ij} = \text{“}i \text{ infects } j\text{”}$$

In R-F, A_{ij} s are all i.i.d. w.p. p

– this requires:

(a) infectious period T_i constant

(b) $P[i \rightarrow j] = P[j \rightarrow i]$

Then (c) in any realisation we are interested in only one of A_{ij} and A_{ji} , so we can represent them by a single (undirectional) link.

Contacts or potential contacts?

In R-F we can either think of all others as potential contacts, each an actual contact with probability p ; or of a Binomial (asymptotically Poisson) degree distribution prescribing “realised” contacts.

One generalisation is to take the latter approach with arbitrary degree distribution.

$$R_0 = E[D] = \sum d\pi_d \text{ ?}$$

Effective value, $R'_0 = \sum d\pi'_d - 1$

where $\pi'_d = d\pi_d / \sum d\pi_d$

whence $R'_0 = E[D^2]/E[D] - 1$

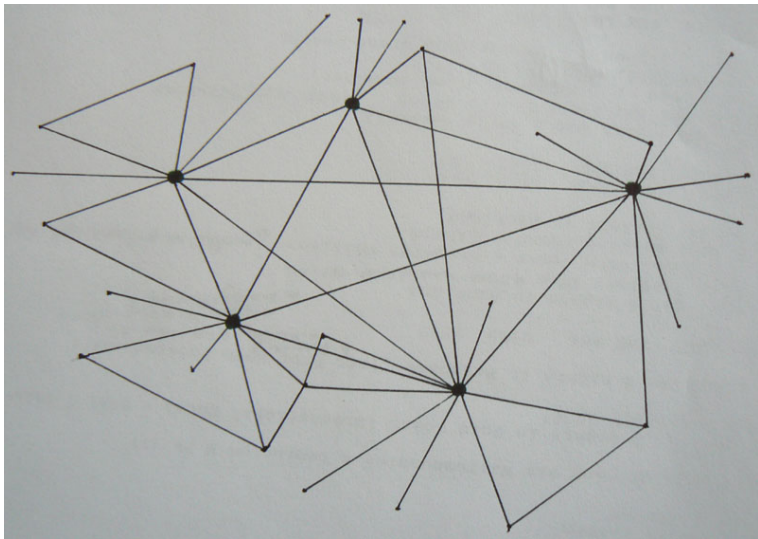
(= $E[D]$ for Poisson degree distribution).

Note

Contrast traditional (?) epidemic models where numbers of incoming and outgoing links are not correlated, so we don't get this “size-biased” effect.

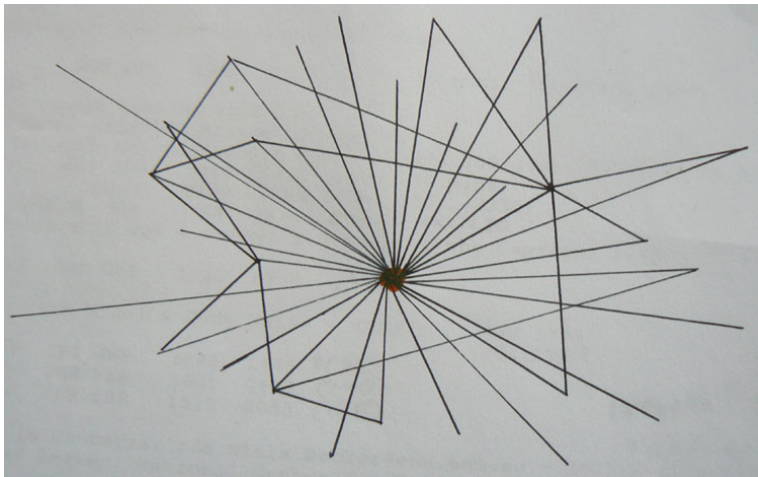
An extreme example exhibiting size bias is

‘Scale-free’ models:



$$T = 3$$



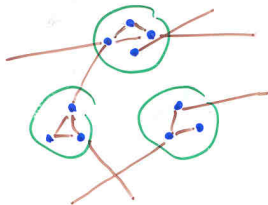


$$T = 2$$



Metapopulation models (BMS-T 1997)

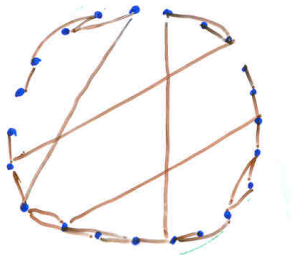
Consider a population with local and global contacts



where the geography can be either mean-field

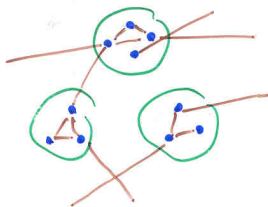
...

...or spatial



(‘great circle’ or ‘small world’ model)

Consider first the process including only global contacts, with reproductive ratio $R_0 = Nq$.



Relative to this ‘global-only’ process, local contacts have an amplifying effect.

Hence the overall reproductive ratio is

$$R_T = R_0\mu$$

where μ is the mean size of a local outbreak.

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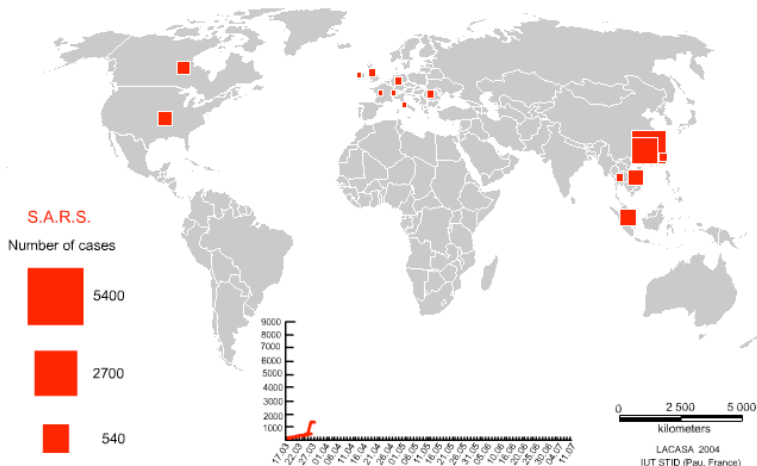
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where μ is the mean size of a local outbreak.

A key question for control is whether you can get local outbreaks below threshold (compare SARS and swine flu?)



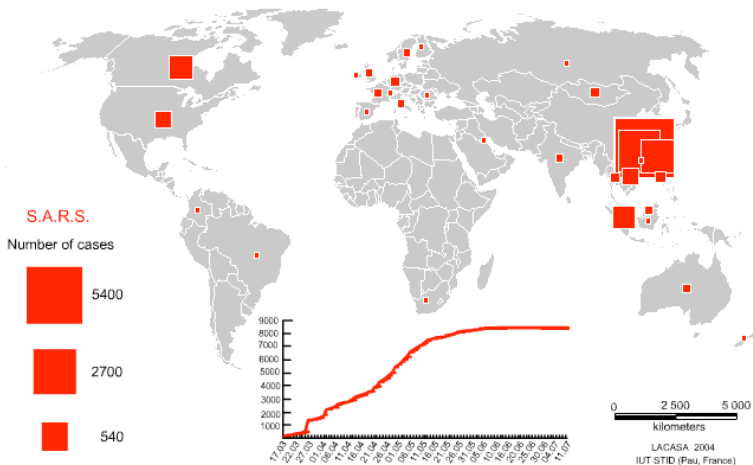
27 march 2003



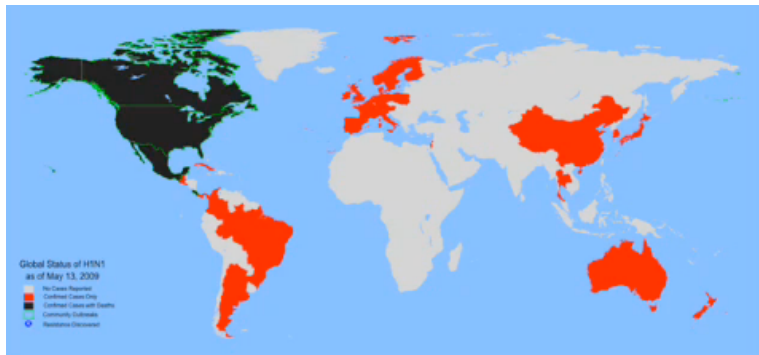
<http://www.cybergeogeo.eu/index12803.html>



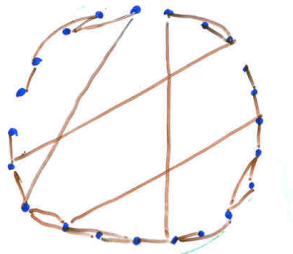
11 july 2003



<http://www.cybergeogeo.eu/index12803.html>



Small worlds



Threshold: $R_T = R_0\mu > 1$ (as for metapopulation model)

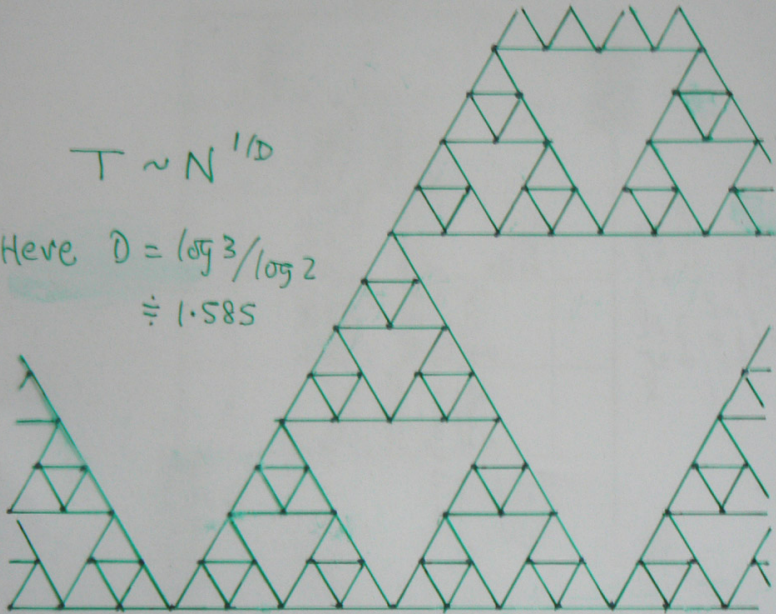
T reduces from $\sim N$ to $\sim \log N$ as the number of global links increases

‘Small world’ phenomenon:

The proportion of global links required to collapse the spatial model to one close to homogeneous mixing, reducing T to $\sim \log N$, is surprisingly small.

$$T \sim N^{1/D}$$

Here $D = \log 3 / \log 2$
 $\doteq 1.585$



Advantages of network models

- + “links” $i \rightarrow j$ captures idea of infectious contact
- + clarity (potentially)
- but not the only approach

Have tried to include examples of some nice techniques, whether network-based or not.

One last example ...

Sellke construction for $R-F$

Note that $P[\text{escape } n \text{ attacks}] = (1 - p)^n$

Choose X_i i.i.d. Uniform $[0, 1]$

Start with initial set of infected;

when cumulative total $= I$,

i becomes infected iff $X_i > (1 - p)^I$.

Methodology

Modelling

- Limit theorems / asymptotic
 - Martingales
 - Percolation theory
 - Simulation algorithms
 - Nonlinear dynamics
 - Interacting particles
- Approximation
 - Pairwise

Inference

- Imputation methods
(inc MCMC)
- Approx Bayesian EM
- Simulation methods
Gomp etc (ABC)
- Heuristics

