

# Digital Epidemiology

Mobility impact on epidemics spread

Mattia Mazzoli - UniTo



# Hands on mobility models

Let's try gravity and radiation models on a real dataset and see which one works best

Data: New York City commuters  
Scale: counties

Follow the instructions at  
<https://scikit-mobility.github.io/scikit-mobility/index.html>

```
python3 -m venv skmob
source skmob/bin/activate
pip install scikit-mobility
pip install jupyter
jupyter notebook
pip install scikit-mobility
```

Go to [mattiamazzoli.github.com/](http://mattiamazzoli.github.com/)  
Go to Teaching  
Download the notebook “mobility models”  
Follow the instructions

Gravity model



Radiation model



# Human mobility impact on epidemics

## Basics of epidemic spreading

- A first look at the SIR model
- Epidemic threshold in homogeneous mixing: the reproductive number
- Epidemic threshold in homogeneous networks

## Spatial invasion: Basic principles of spatial transmission

- Probability of invasion
- Country level arrival times: the hidden geometry of epidemic spread
- Epidemic threshold in heterogeneous networks
- Pathways of spatial invasion

## Interventions

- Travel bans: slowing-down the spatial spread



<https://www.onlymyhealth.com/>

# Playing with epidemics

Before going into this, let's first see what happens without mobility

Go to <http://35.161.88.15/interactive/outbreak/>

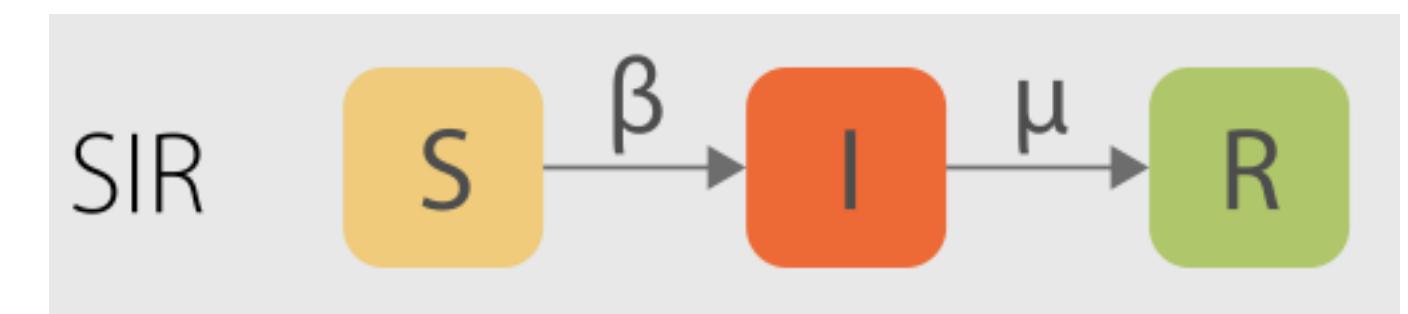
Let's play Outbreak!

Play with the simulator parameters and observe the interplay of transmissibility, contacts and finally add mobility!

- In the *Probabilistic infection* section:  
there is no mobility, agents interact with their grid neighbors
- In the *Travel* section:  
play with the travel radius parameter, check the patterns.  
See anything familiar?
- In the *Number of encounters* section, try the following combo:
  - low transmission rate + high n of encounters
  - medium transmission rate + low n of encounters

# Outbreak

by Kevin Simler  
March 16, 2020



# Playing with epidemics

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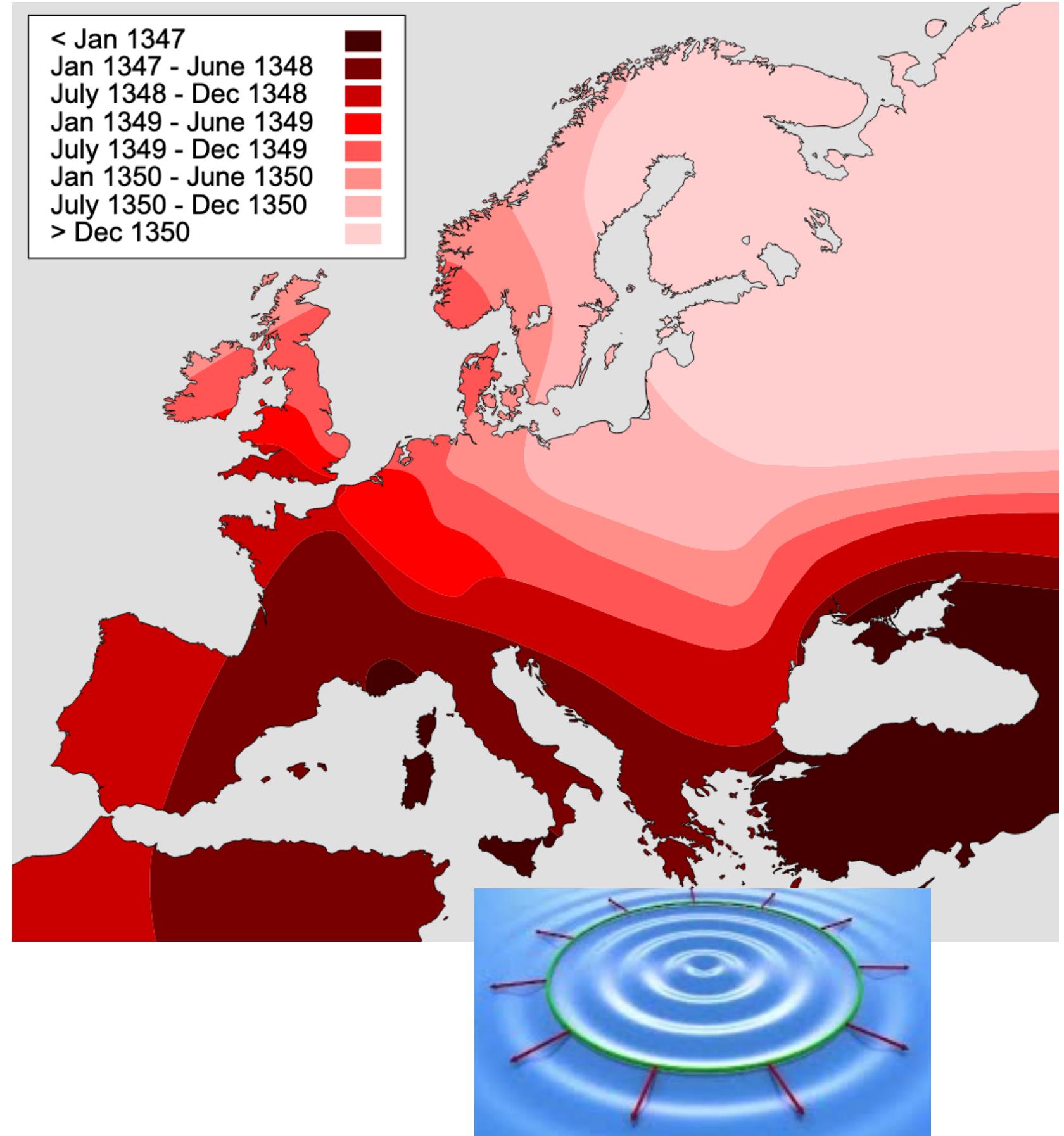
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**move the travel radius parameter, check the patterns.**  
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The spread of plague ("the Black Death") across Europe in the 14th century.



# Playing with epidemics

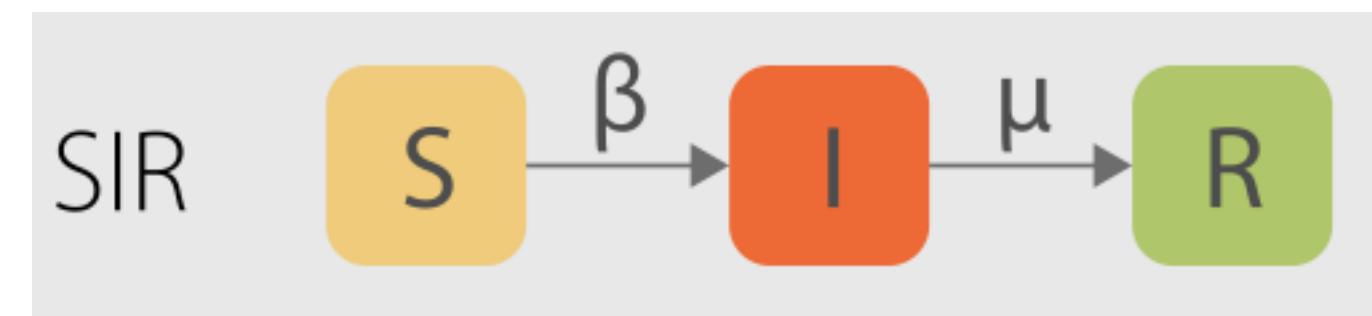
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$$R_0, \beta, \mu, \langle k \rangle$$

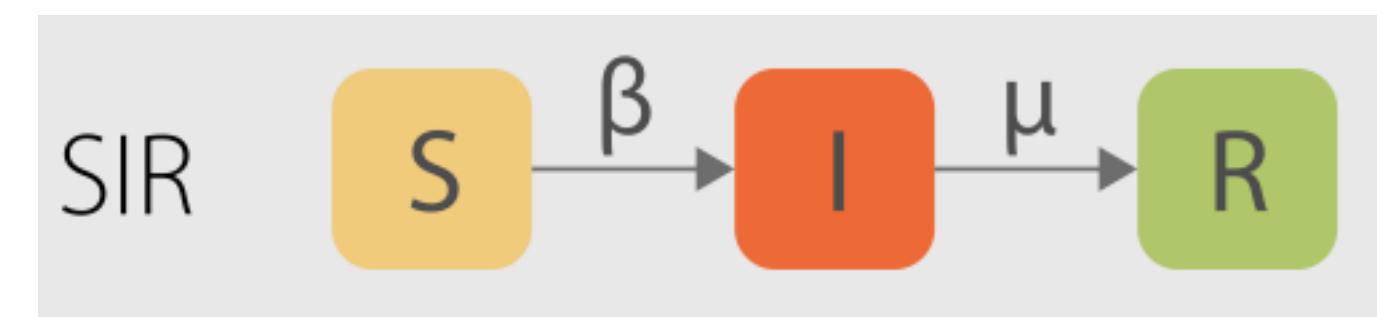
## Reproductive number

$R_0$  = Average number of individual that an infector will infect during their infectious period

**Naive population assumption:** all individuals are susceptible

Valid only at the early stage of the epidemic

$$\begin{cases} \frac{dS}{dt} = -\beta \frac{SI}{N} & \text{Susceptible} \\ \frac{dI}{dt} = \beta \frac{SI}{N} - \mu I & \text{Infected} \\ \frac{dR}{dt} = \mu I & \text{Recovered} \end{cases}$$



## Reproductive number

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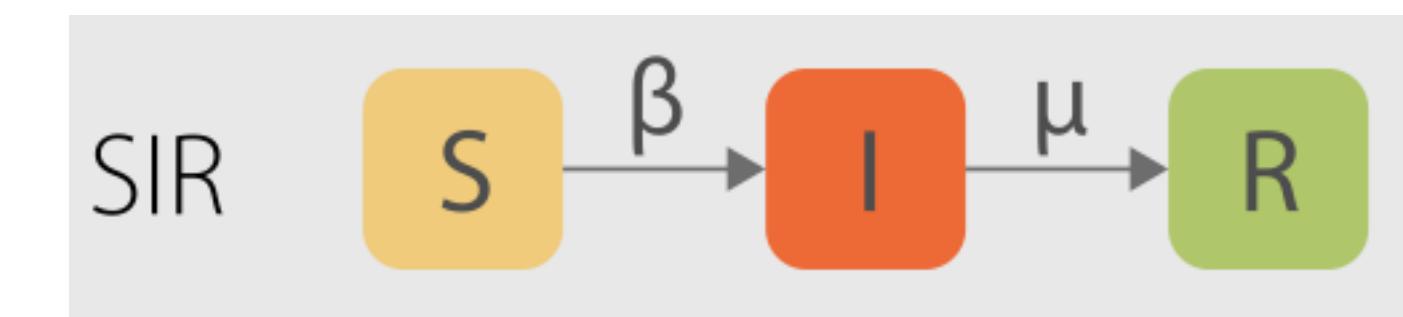
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$\downarrow$

$$\begin{cases} t \rightarrow 0 \\ I(0) \ll N \\ S(0) \simeq N \end{cases}$$
$$\frac{dI}{dt} \simeq (\beta - \mu)I$$
$$I(t) \simeq I_0 e^{(\beta - \mu)t}$$



## Reproductive number

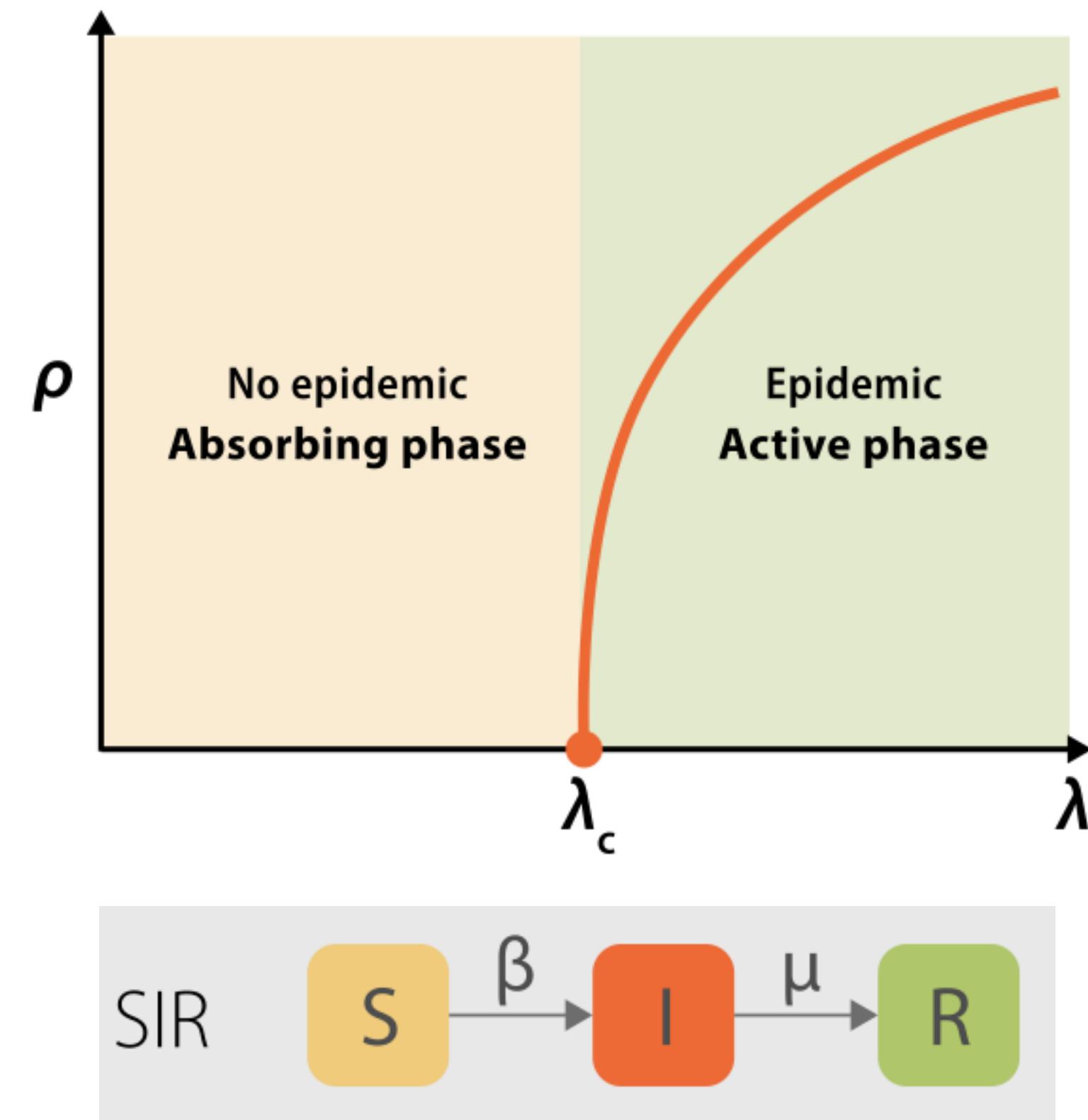
$R_0 =$  Average number of individual that an infector will infect during their infectious period

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$$\begin{cases} \frac{dS}{dt} = -\beta \frac{SI}{N} \\ \frac{dI}{dt} = \beta \frac{SI}{N} - \mu I \\ \frac{dR}{dt} = \mu I \end{cases} \quad \text{Early stage approximation} \quad \begin{cases} t \rightarrow 0 \\ I(0) \ll N \\ S(0) \simeq N \end{cases}$$

$$\frac{dI}{dt} \simeq (\beta - \mu)I \quad \longrightarrow \quad \beta - \mu > 0$$

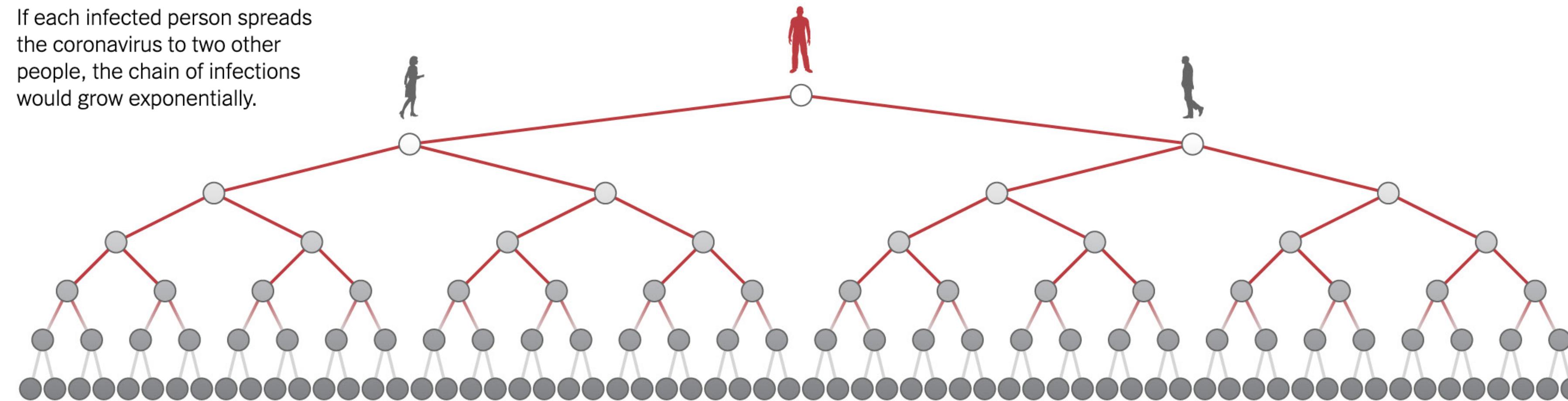
$$I(t) \simeq I_0 e^{(\beta - \mu)t} \quad R_0 = \frac{\beta}{\mu} > 1$$



## Reproductive number

$R_0$  = Average number of individuals that an infector will infect during their infectious period in a fully naive population

$$R_0 = \frac{\beta}{\mu} > 1$$



$R_t$  = Effective reproductive number: average number of individuals that an infector will infect during their infectious period when the population is no longer naive

# Effective reproductive number

Common pitfalls...

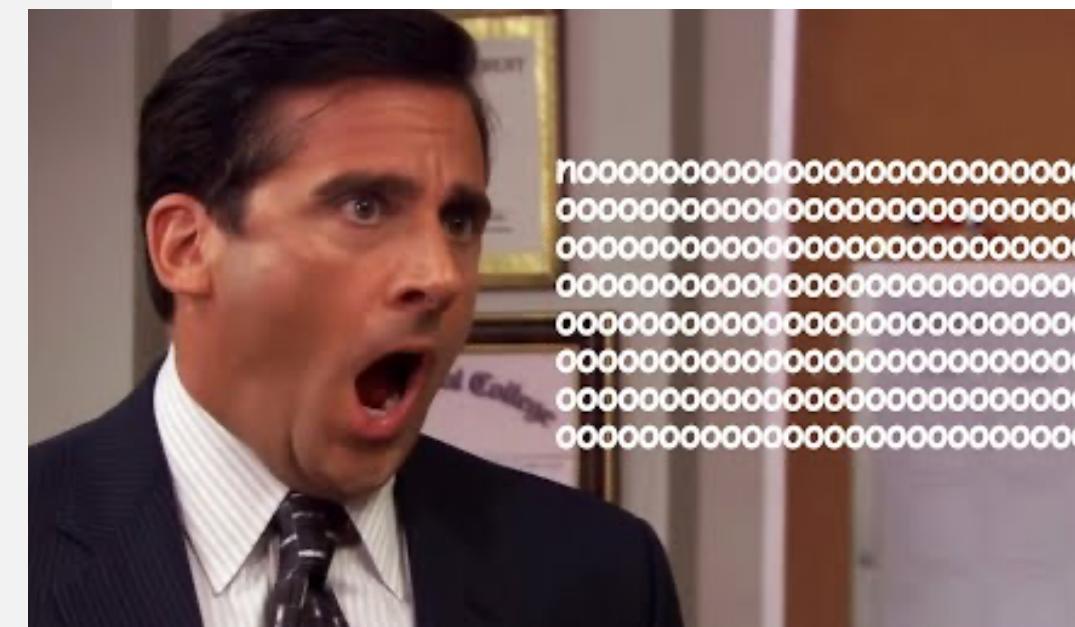
**CRONACA**

## Coronavirus, gaffe di Gallera: con Rt 0,51 servono due persone positive per infettarmi

23 mag 2020 - 19:59

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©Ansa



# Epidemic threshold with homogeneous mixing

One population

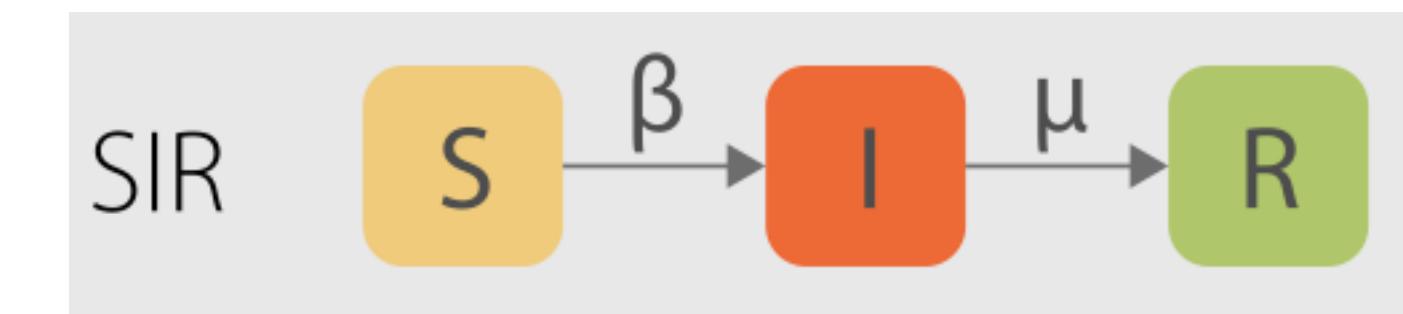
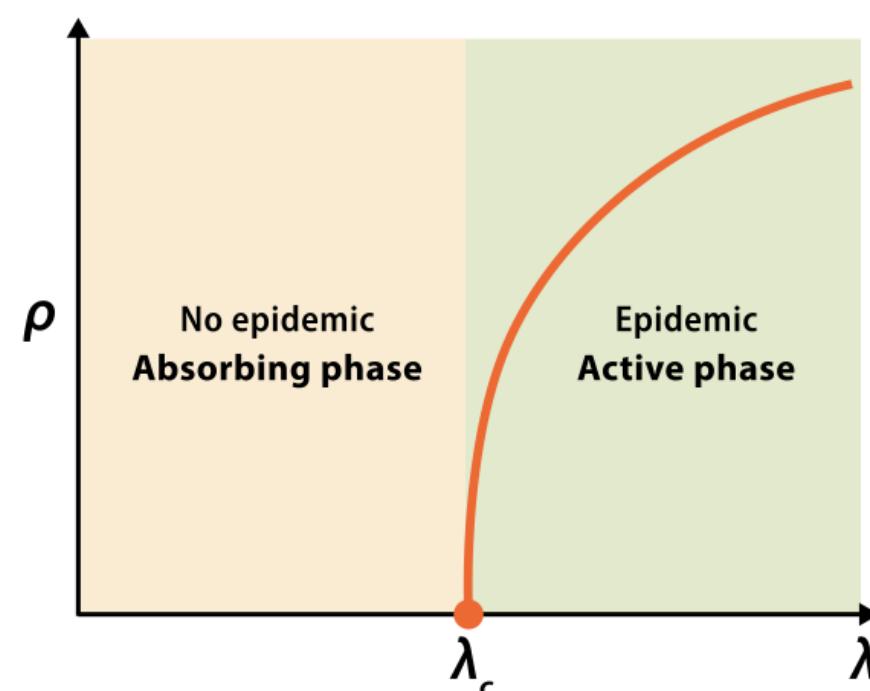
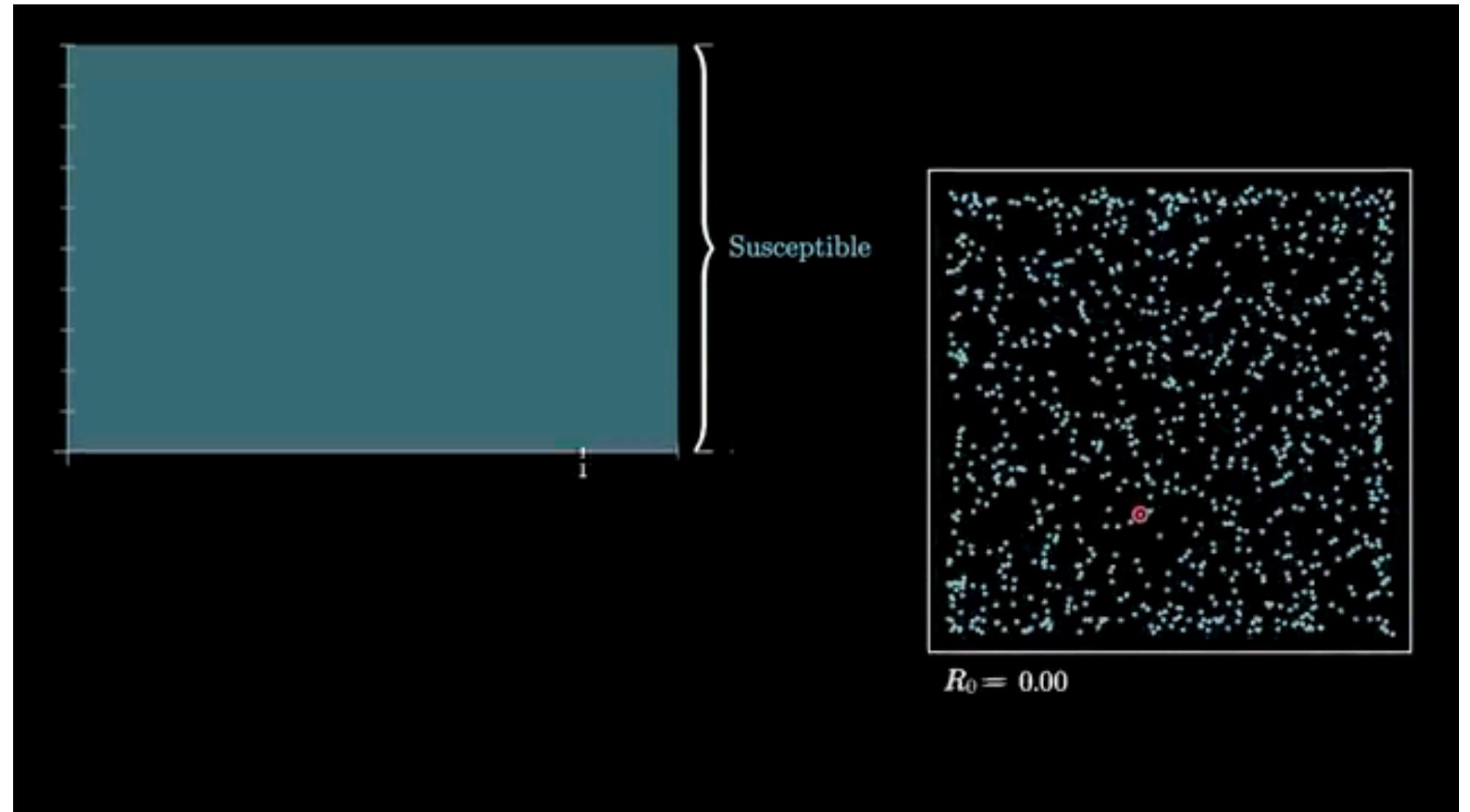
**Homogeneous mixing** assumption:  
all individuals behave the same and have random contacts

Kind of phase transition as in statistical physics,  
control parameter  $\lambda$   
order parameter  $\rho$

There exists a critical threshold (Epidemic threshold)  $\lambda_c$   
for the control parameter over which the epidemic spreads

$$\lambda = R_0 = \frac{\beta}{\mu}$$

If  $R_0 > 1$   
The epidemic spreads, otherwise it fades



# Epidemic threshold in homogeneous networks

One population

each individual has its own  $k$  contacts -> homogeneous network

The control parameter becomes

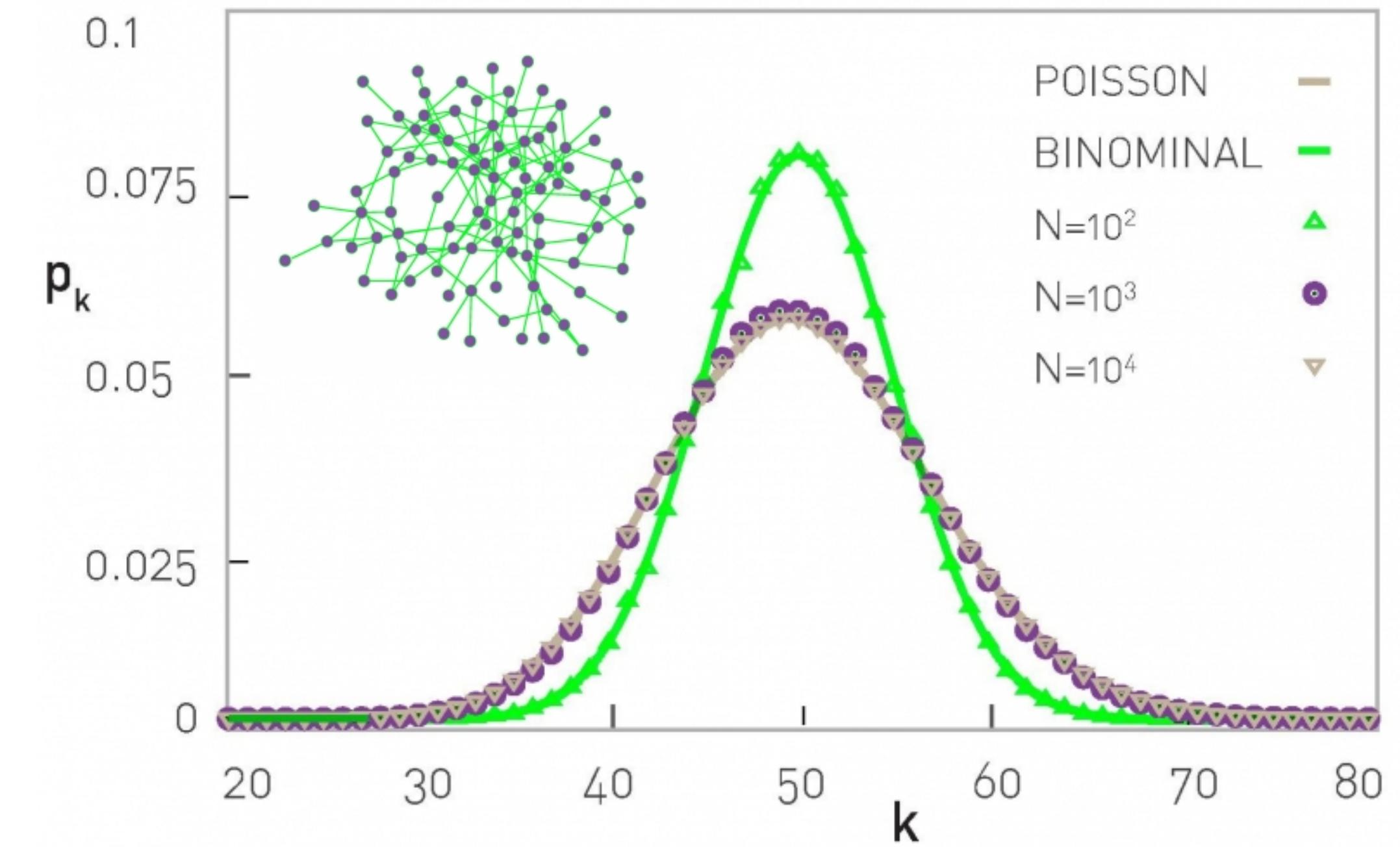
$$\lambda = R_0 = \langle k \rangle \frac{\beta}{\mu}$$

$\langle k \rangle$  average contacts per individual

If  $R_0 > 1$

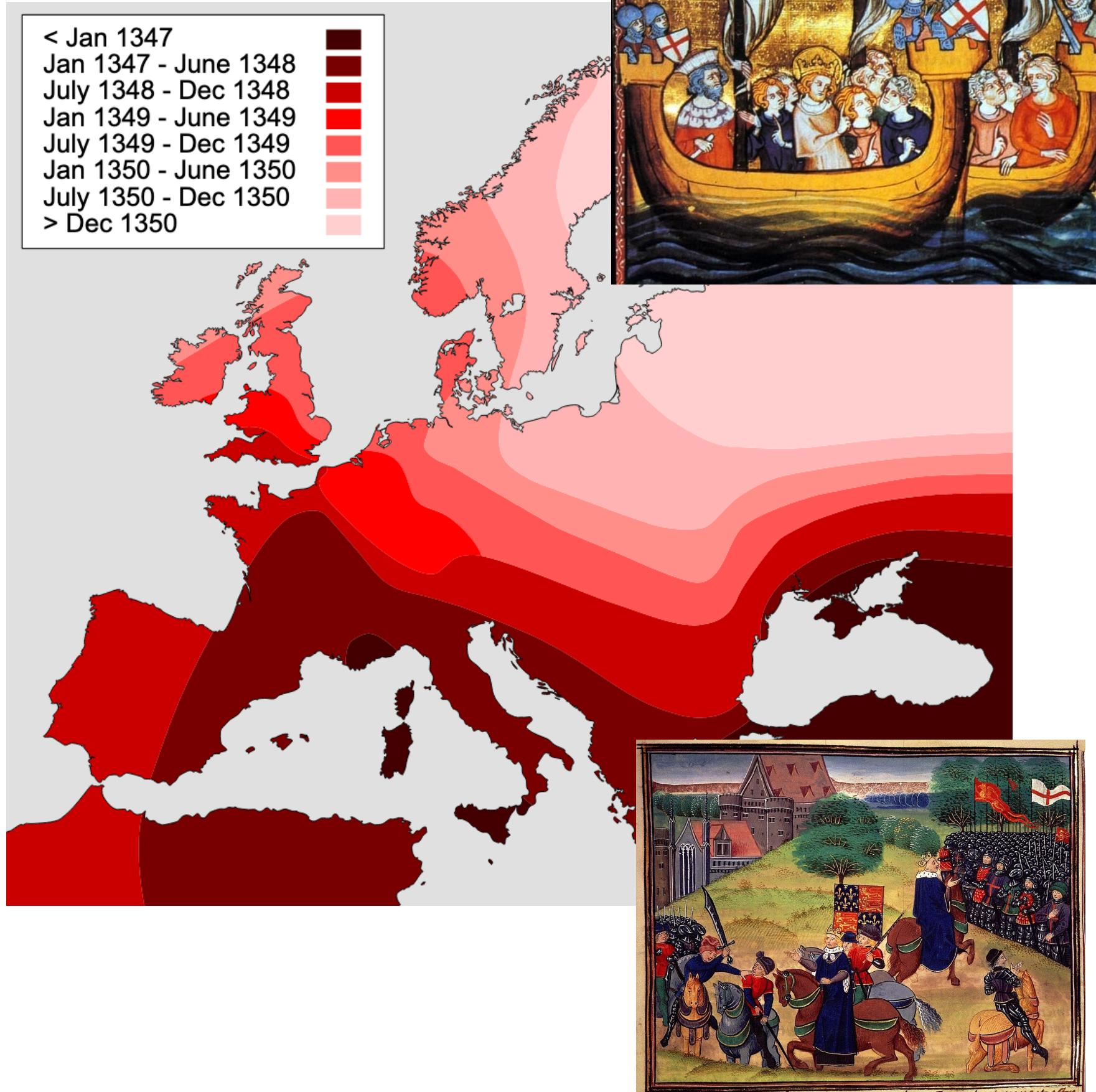
The epidemic spreads, otherwise it fades

... and this is why when playing Outbreak, balancing contacts and transmissibility has similar outcomes



# The impact of nowadays mobility

14th century

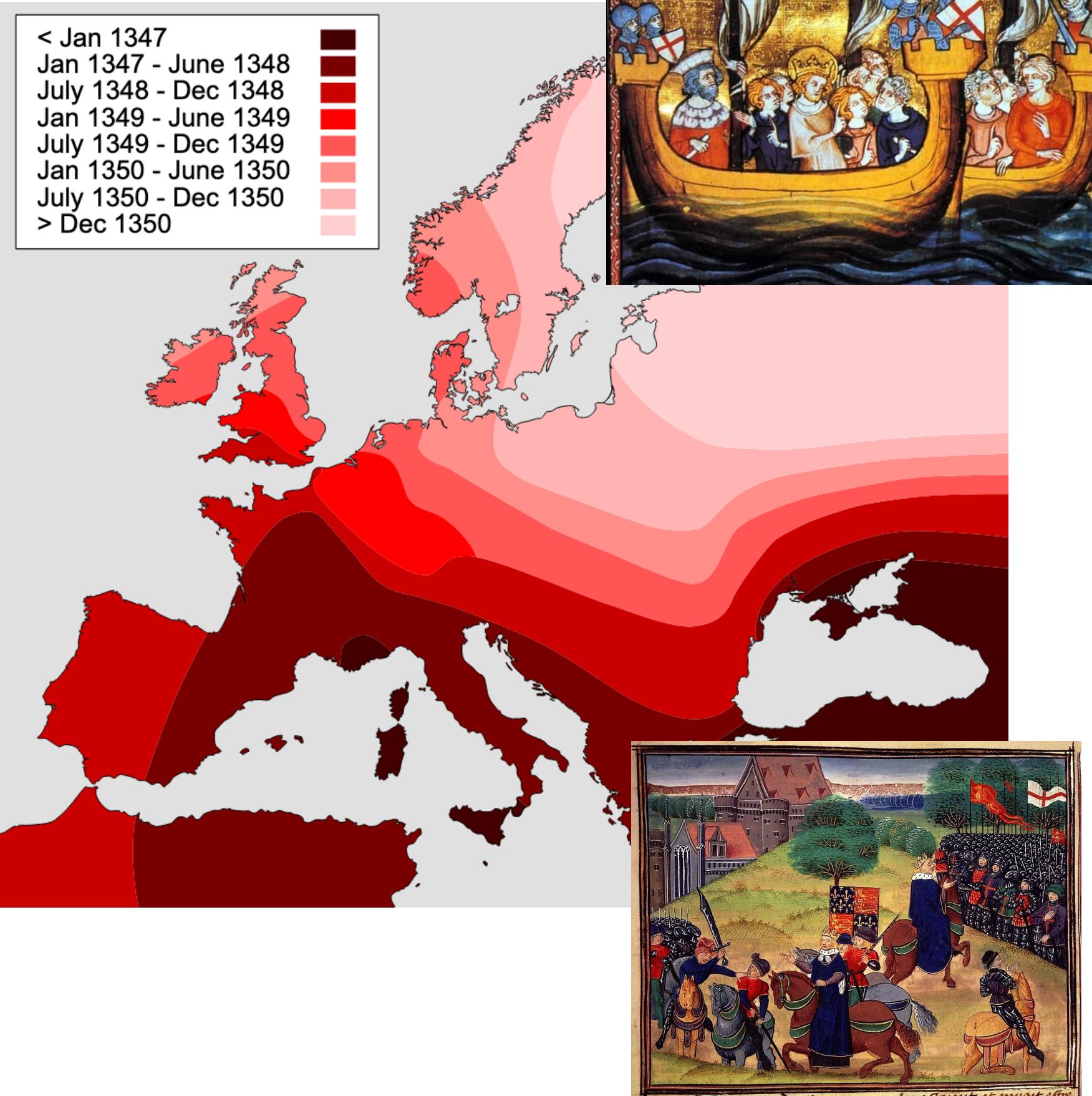


Meanwhile in 2024...



# The impact of nowadays mobility

14th century



Meanwhile in 2024...



# Epidemic threshold in heterogeneous networks

One population

each individual has its own  $k$  contacts -> heterogeneous network

$$\langle k \rangle$$

average contacts (degree) per individual

$$\langle k^2 \rangle$$

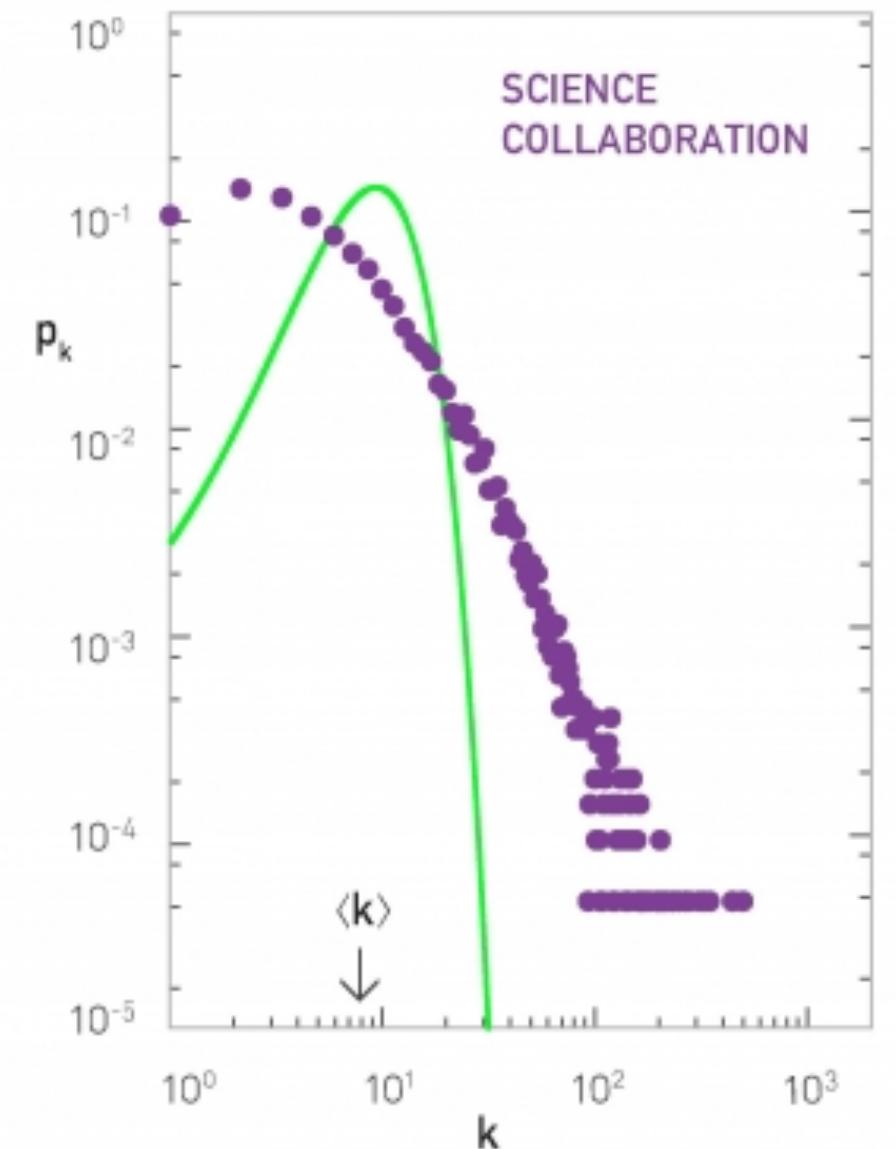
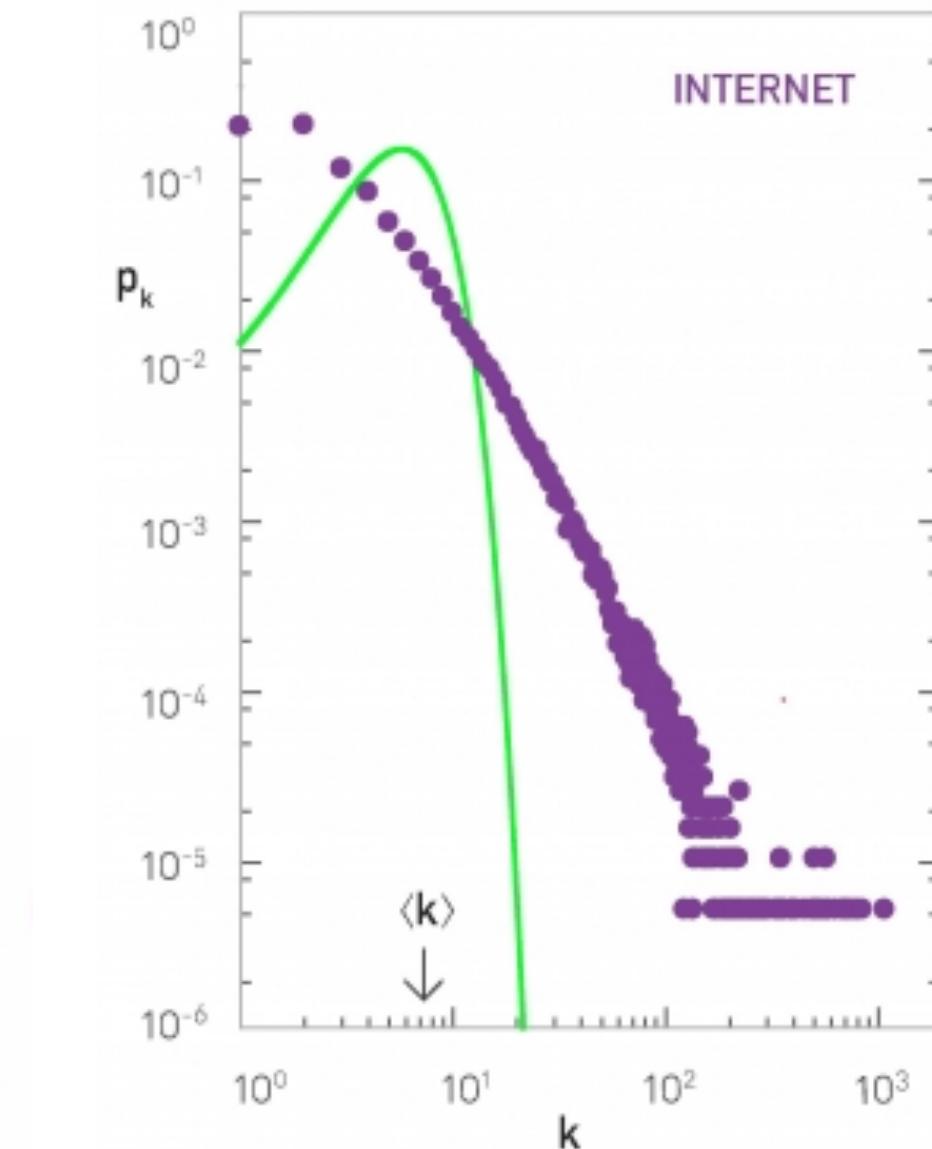
2nd moment of degree

$$\left\{ \begin{array}{l} \text{If } \gamma > 2 \\ \langle k^2 \rangle \rightarrow \infty \end{array} \right.$$

$$P(k) \propto k^{-\gamma}$$



“heavy tailed network”



# Epidemic threshold in heterogeneous networks

One population

each individual has its own  $k$  contacts -> heterogeneous network

The epidemic threshold becomes

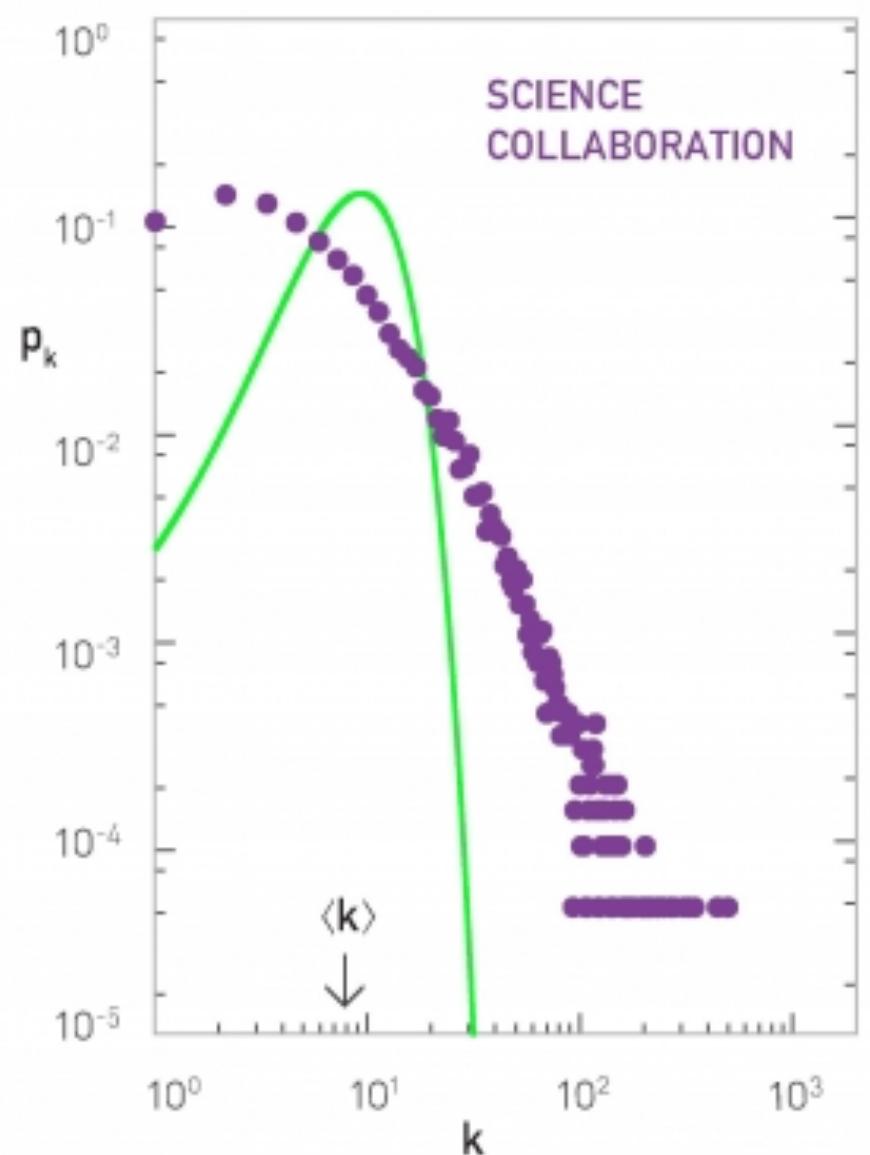
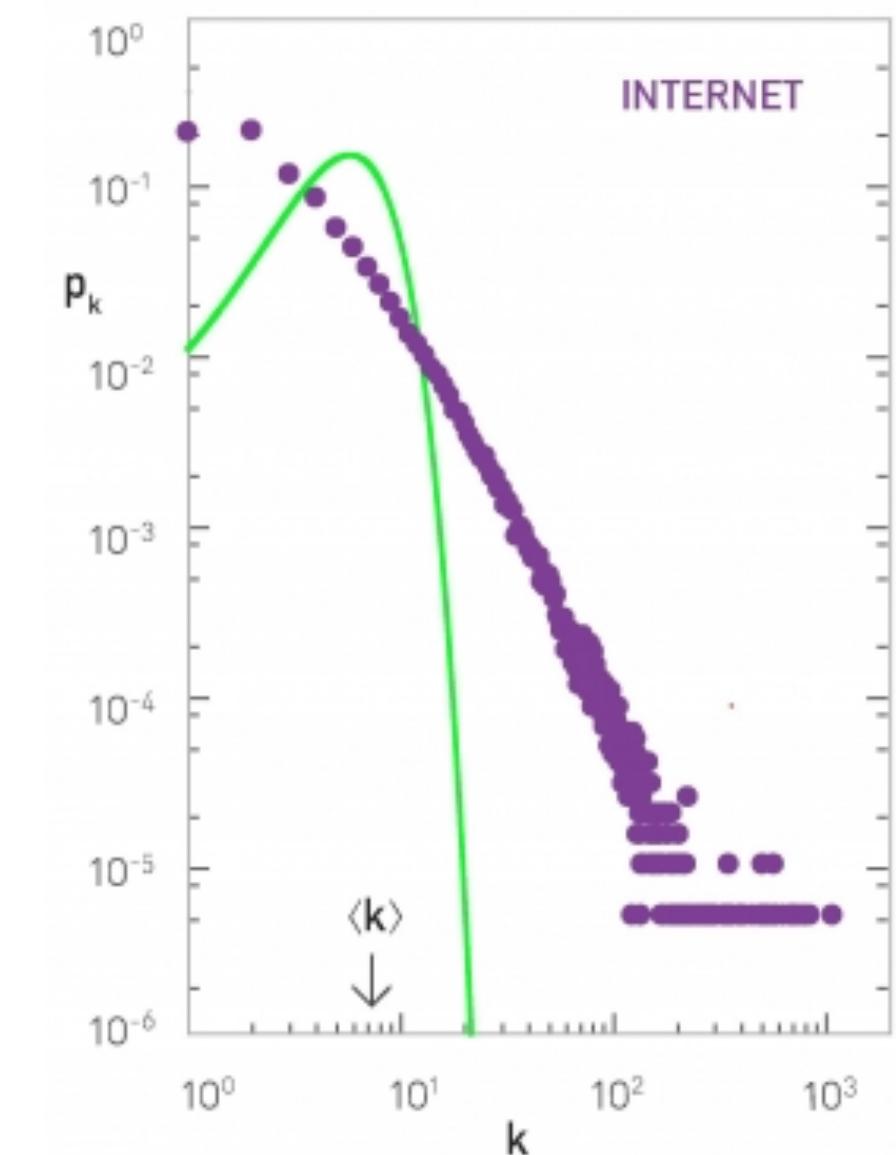
$$\lambda_c = \frac{\langle k \rangle}{\langle k^2 \rangle - \langle k \rangle}$$

$\langle k \rangle$  average contacts (degree) per individual

$\langle k^2 \rangle$  2nd moment of degree distribution

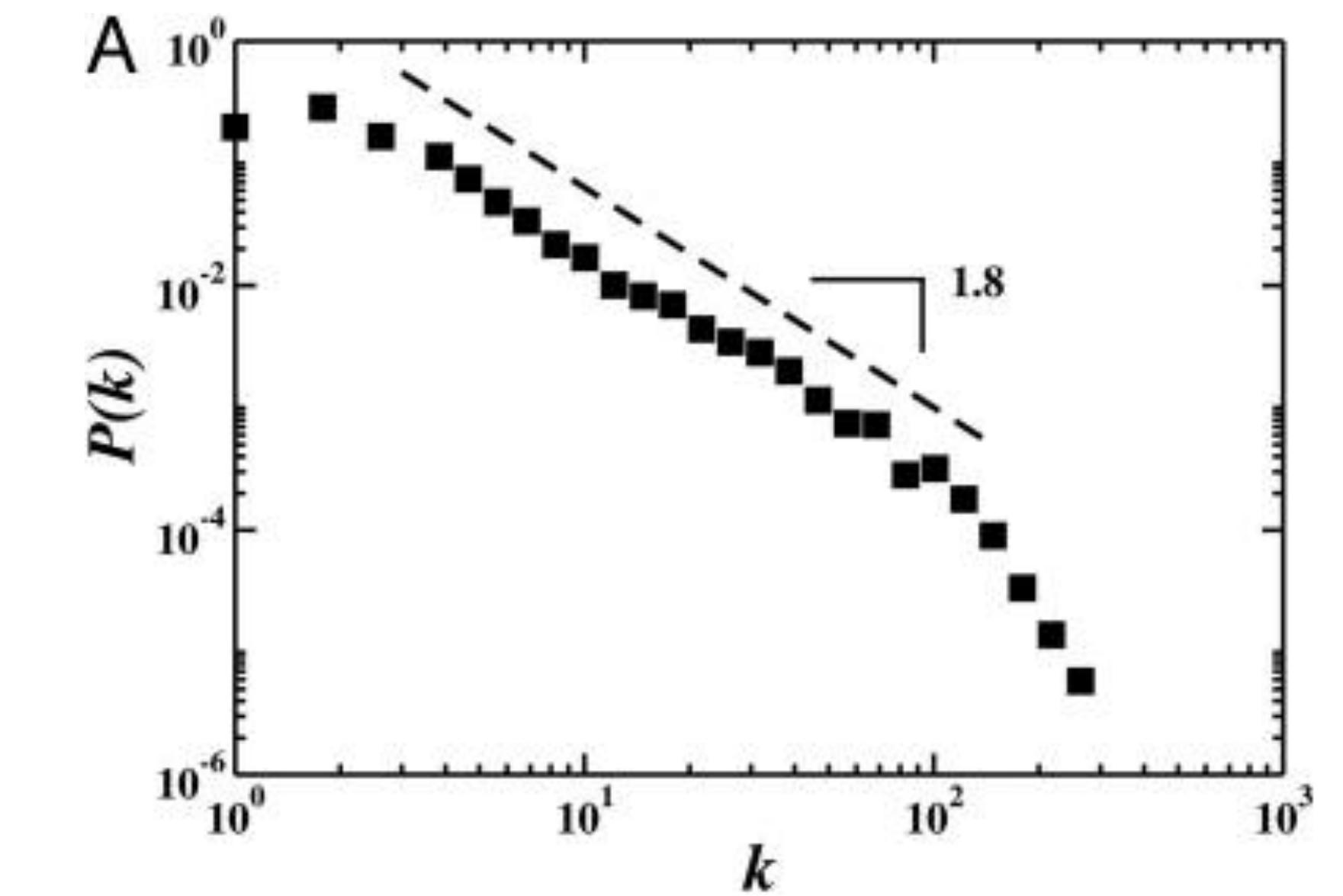
$$\left\{ \begin{array}{l} \text{If } \gamma > 2 \\ \langle k^2 \rangle \rightarrow \infty \\ \lambda_c \rightarrow 0 \end{array} \right.$$

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"Scale-free networks are very vulnerable to epidemics"

## The air transportation network

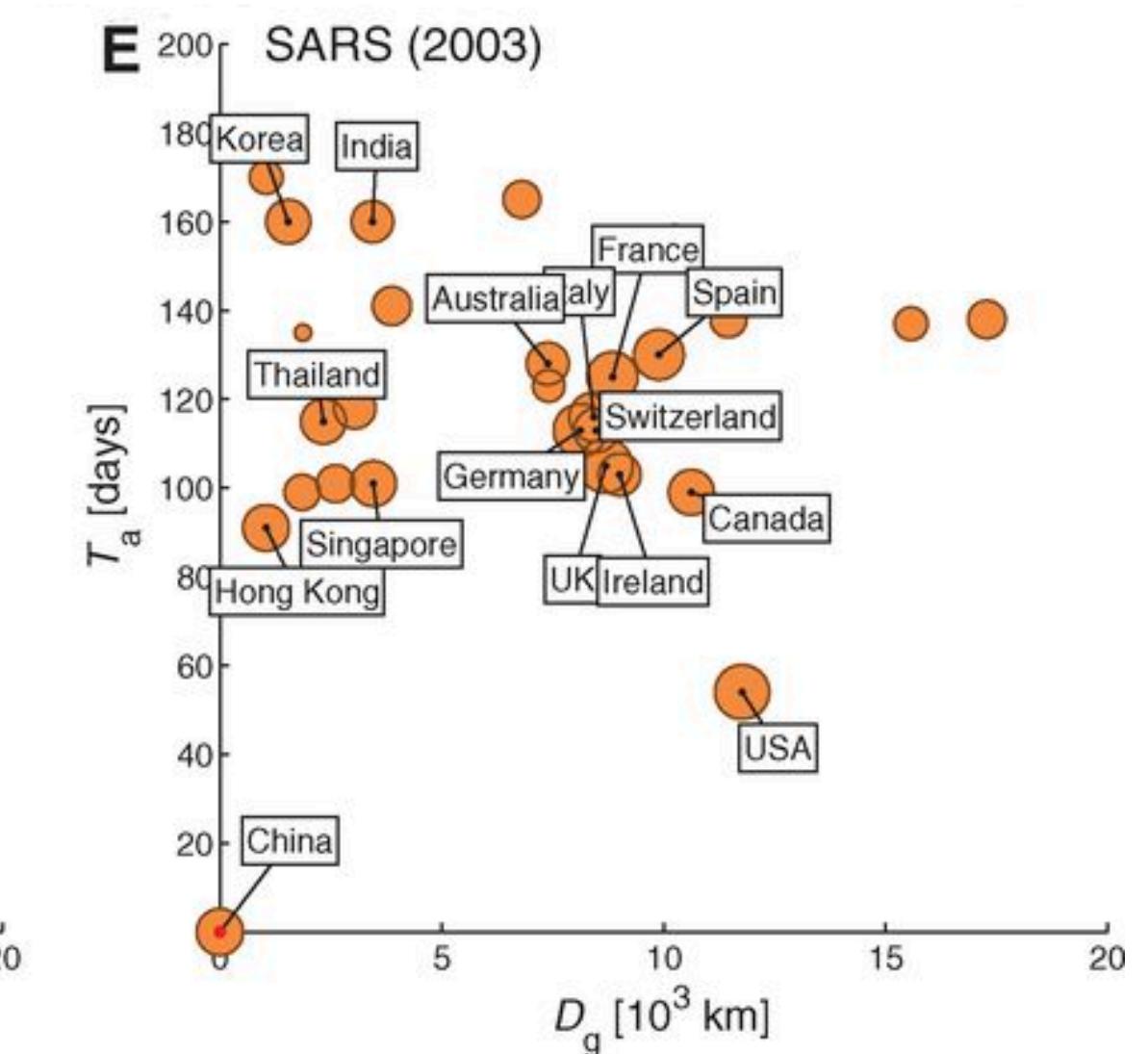
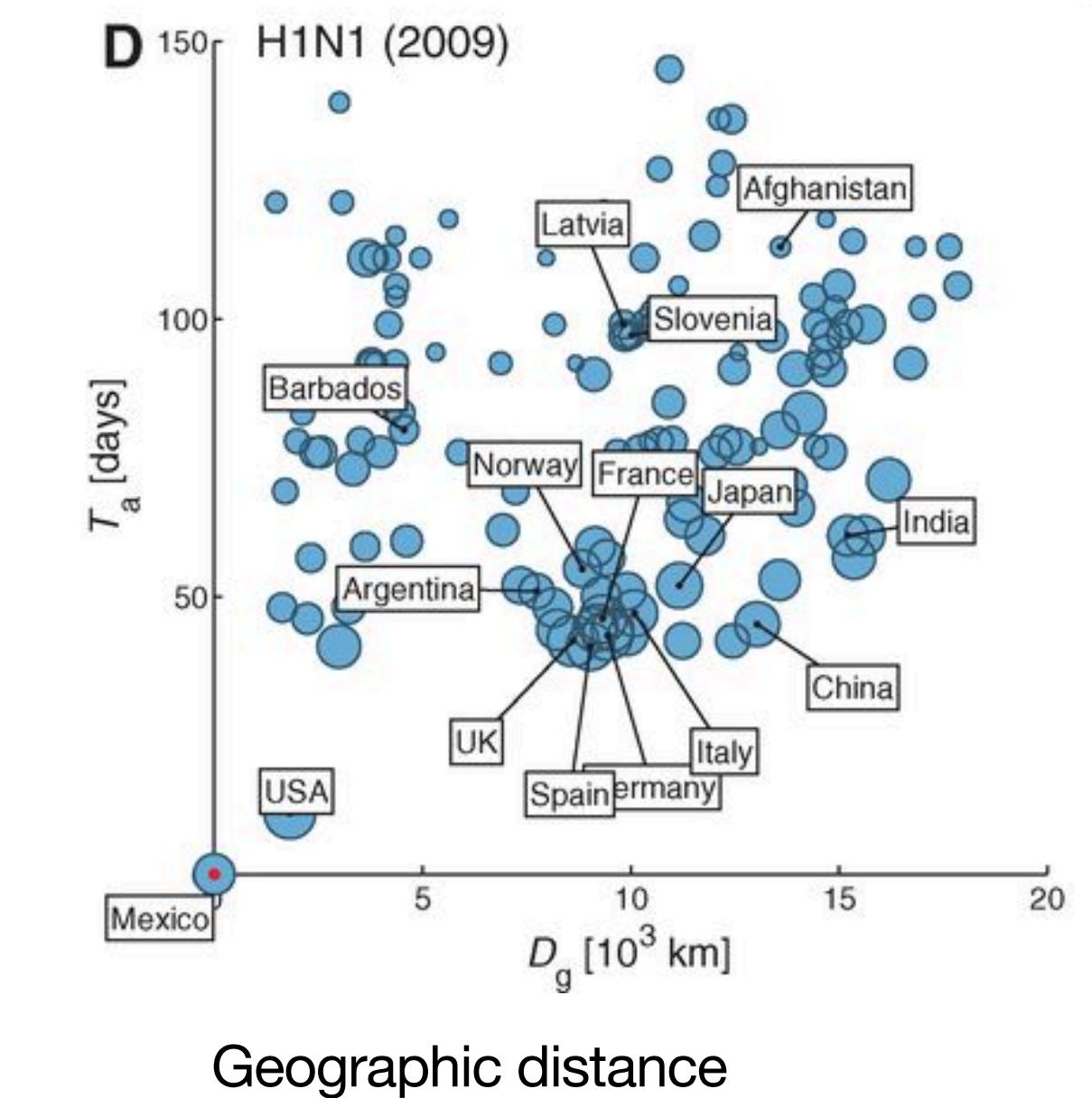


*The air transportation network is vulnerable to epidemics*

# The hidden geometry of epidemic spread, predicting arrival times

## Predicting disease arrival times at country scale

From distance to the effective distance



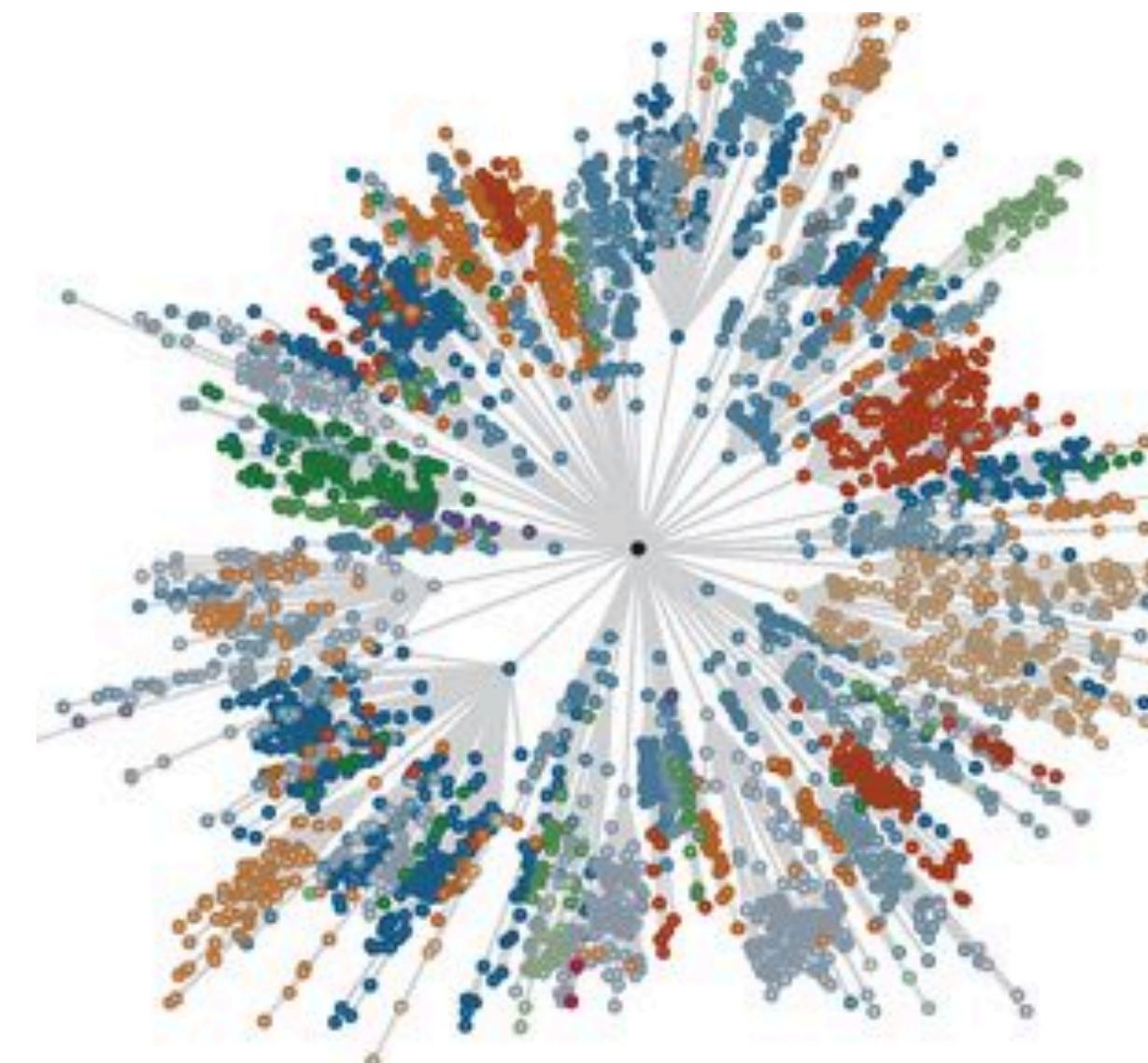
# The hidden geometry of epidemic spread, predicting arrival times



$$d_{mn} = (1 - \log P_{mn})$$

Flow fraction

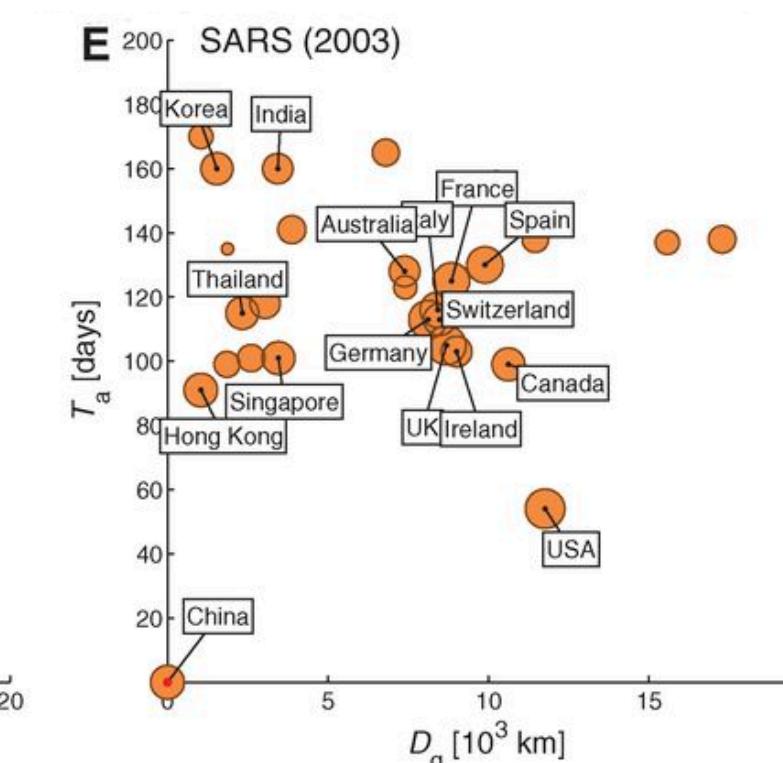
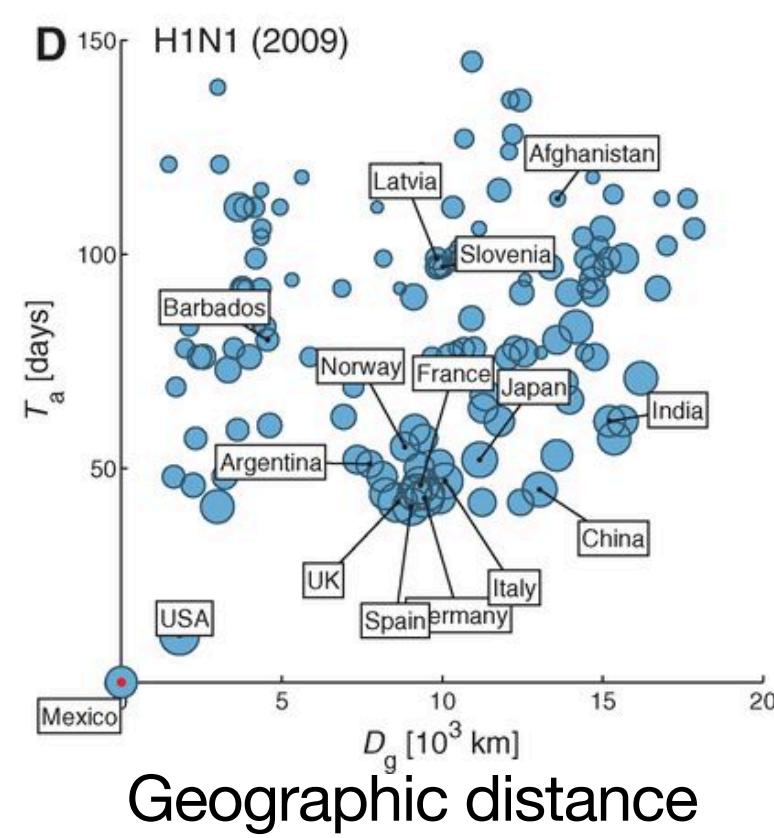
$$D_{mn} = \min_{\Gamma} \lambda(\Gamma)$$



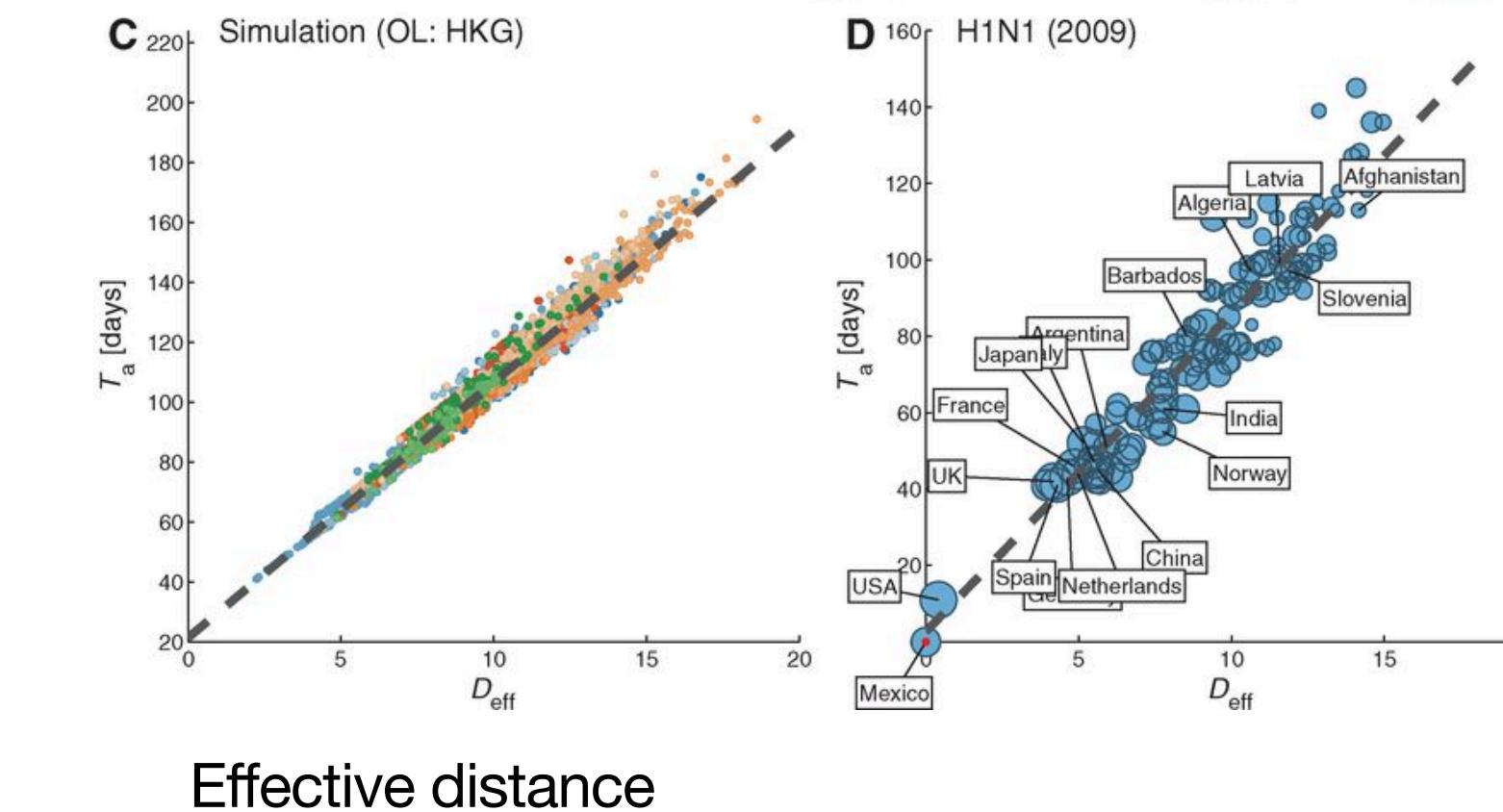
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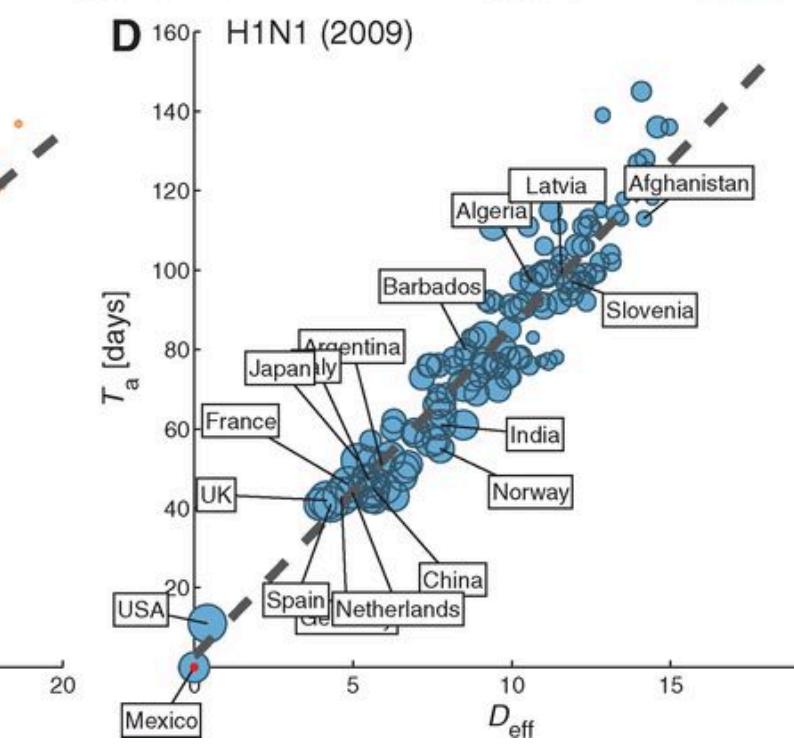
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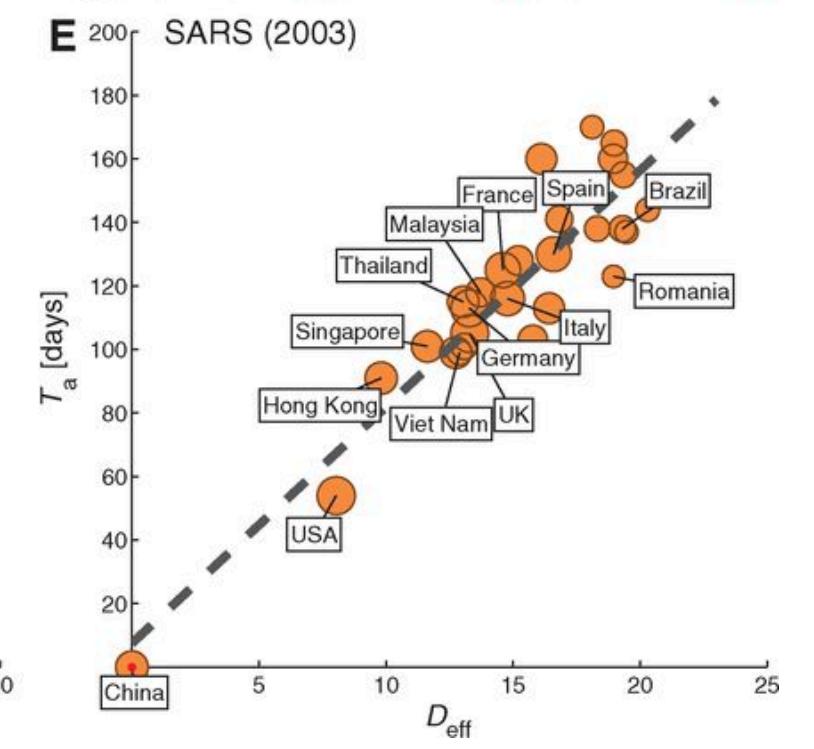
C Simulation (OL: HKG)



D H1N1 (2009)



E SARS (2003)



$$d_{mn} = (1 - \log P_{mn}) \quad \text{Flow fraction}$$

$$D_{mn} = \min_{\Gamma} \lambda(\Gamma)$$

# The hidden geometry of epidemic spread, predicting arrival times



Dirk Brockmann, YouTube

**HANDS ON SESSION**

Go to <https://github.com/mattiamazzoli/Teaching>

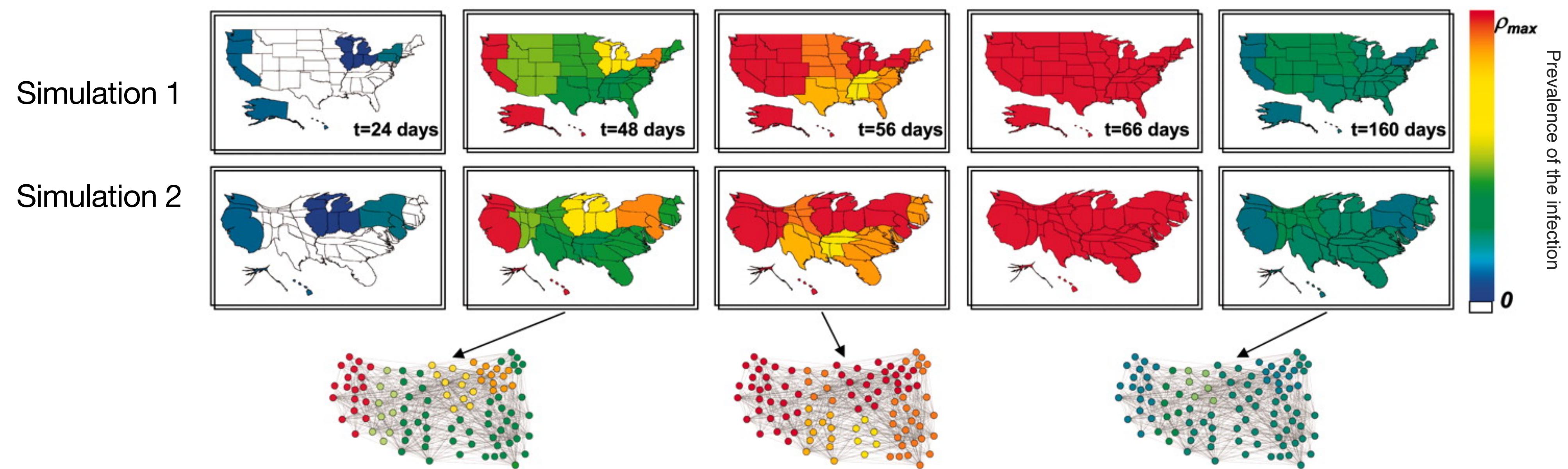
Wave-like diffusion is still there, but now it is projected in another space!

# Pathways of spatial invasion

Simulating epidemic starting in Hong Kong on US States

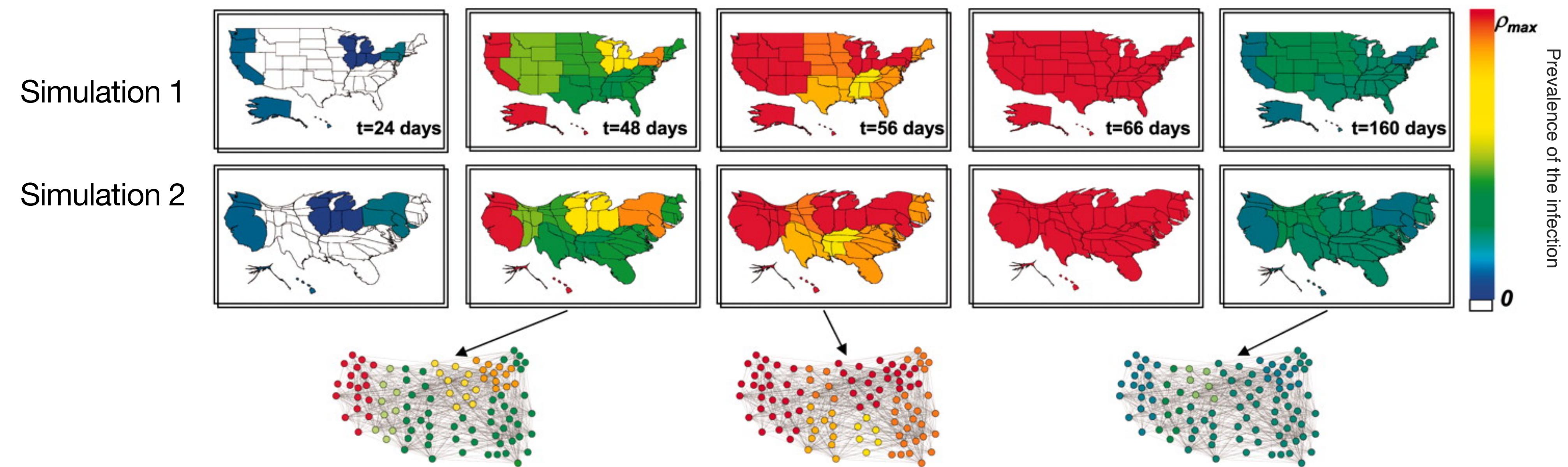
Similarity of outcome affected by:

- stochasticity of the model
- heterogeneity of the air transportation network

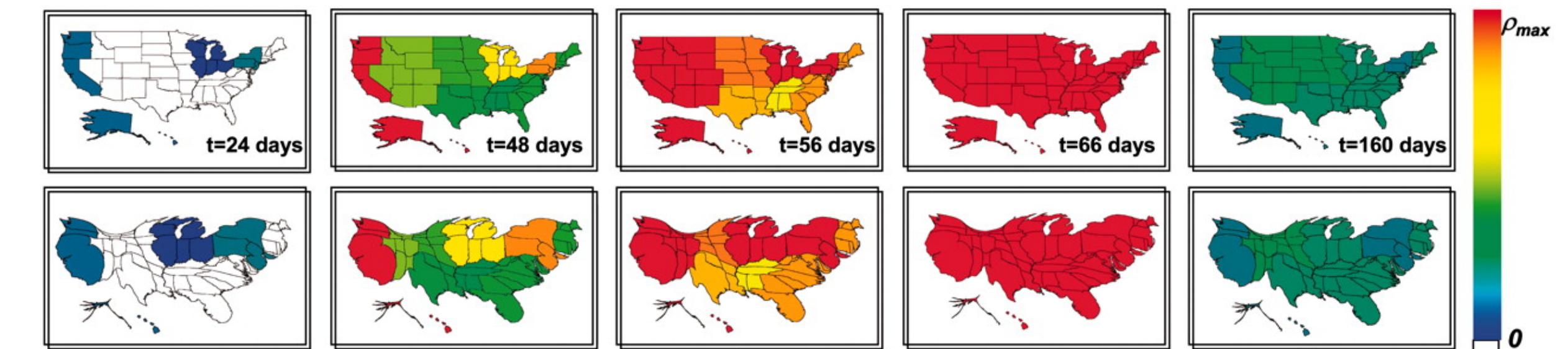
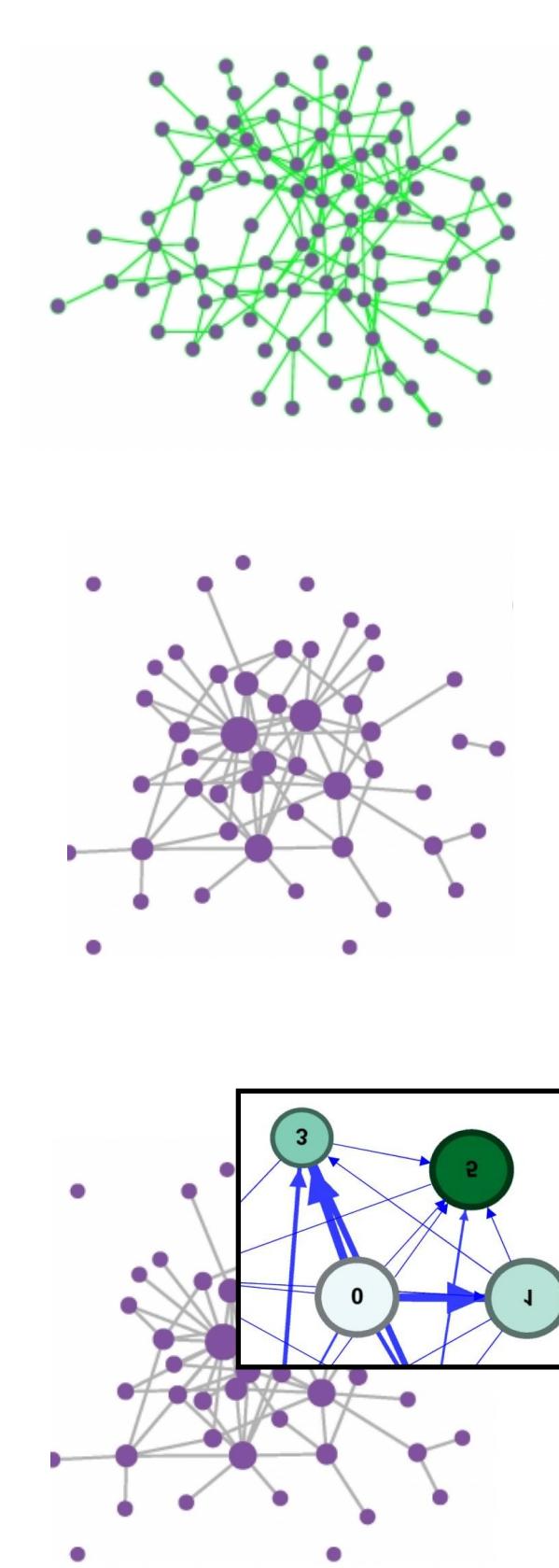
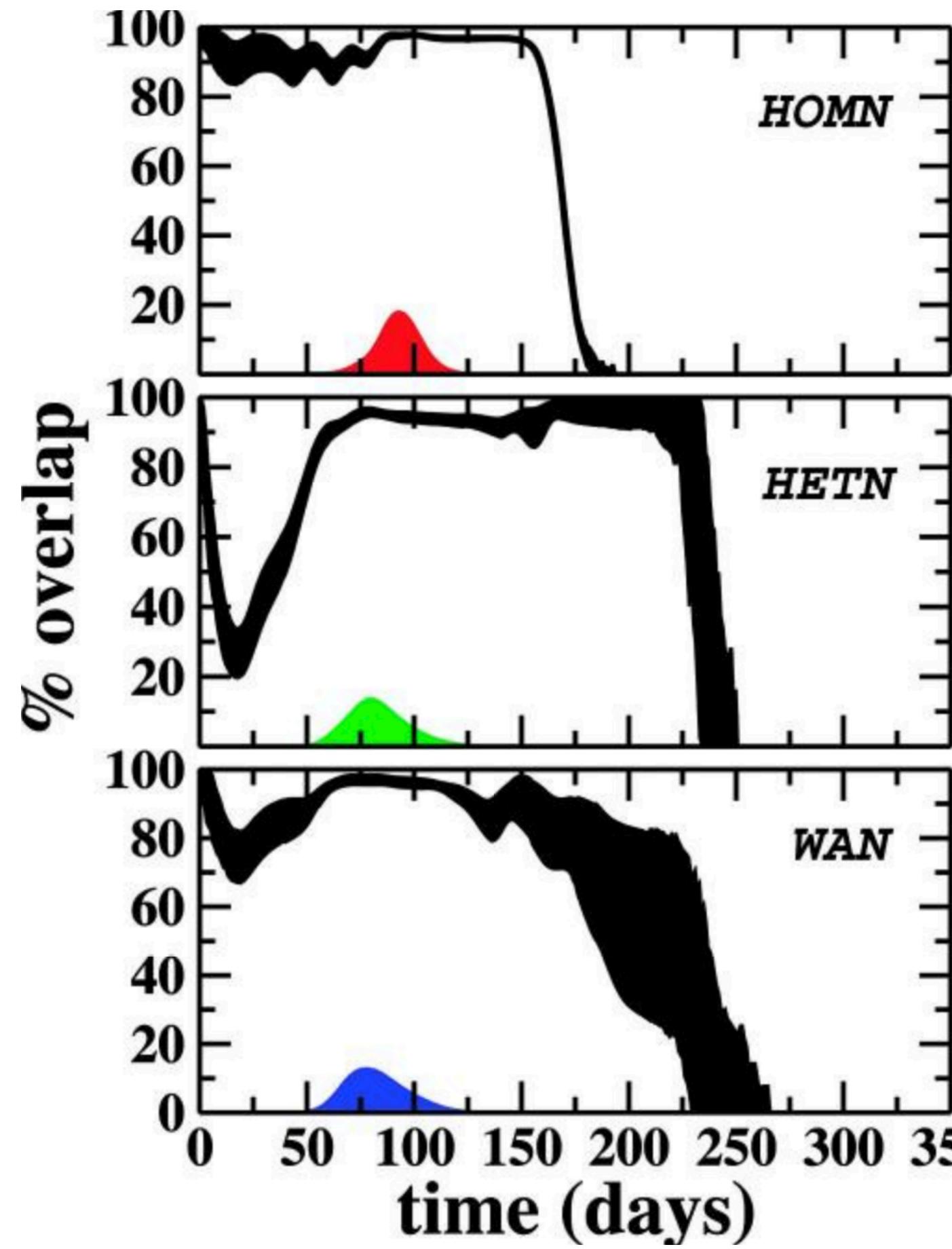


# Pathways of spatial invasion

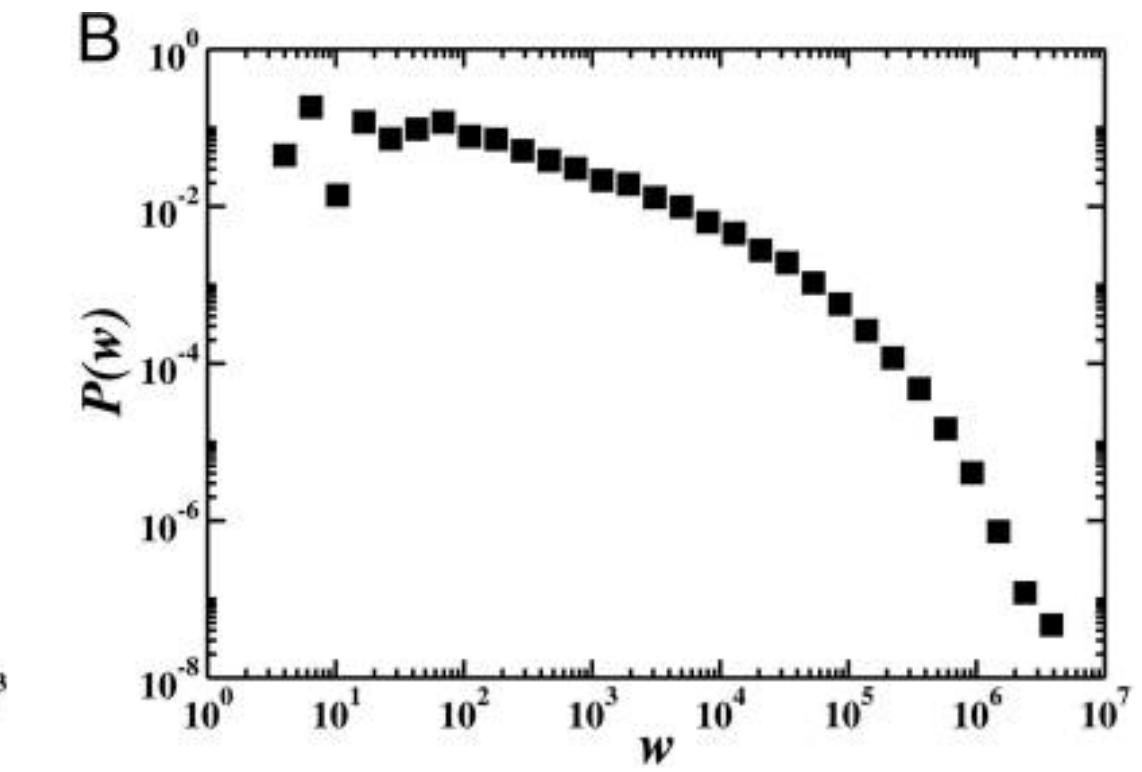
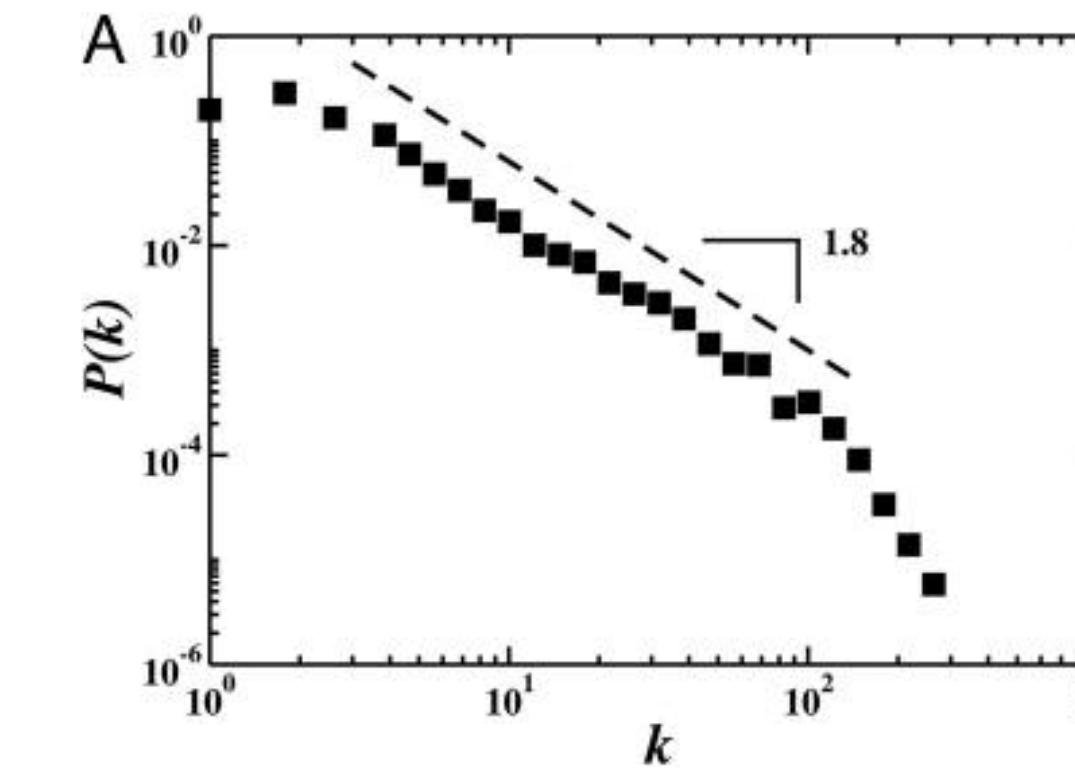
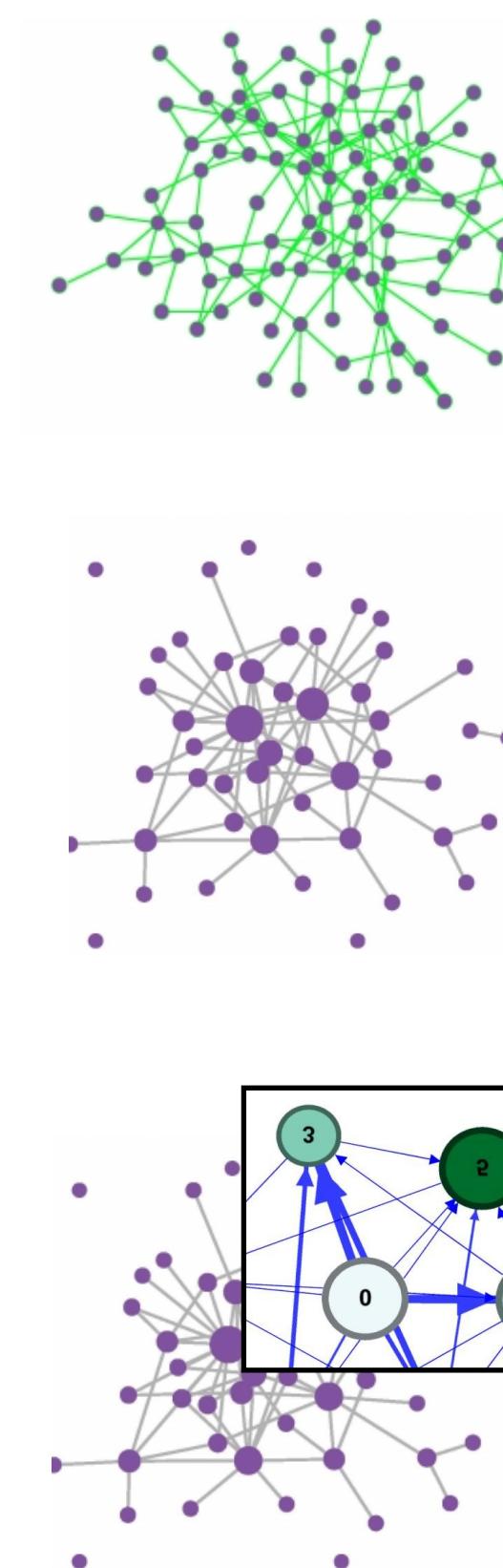
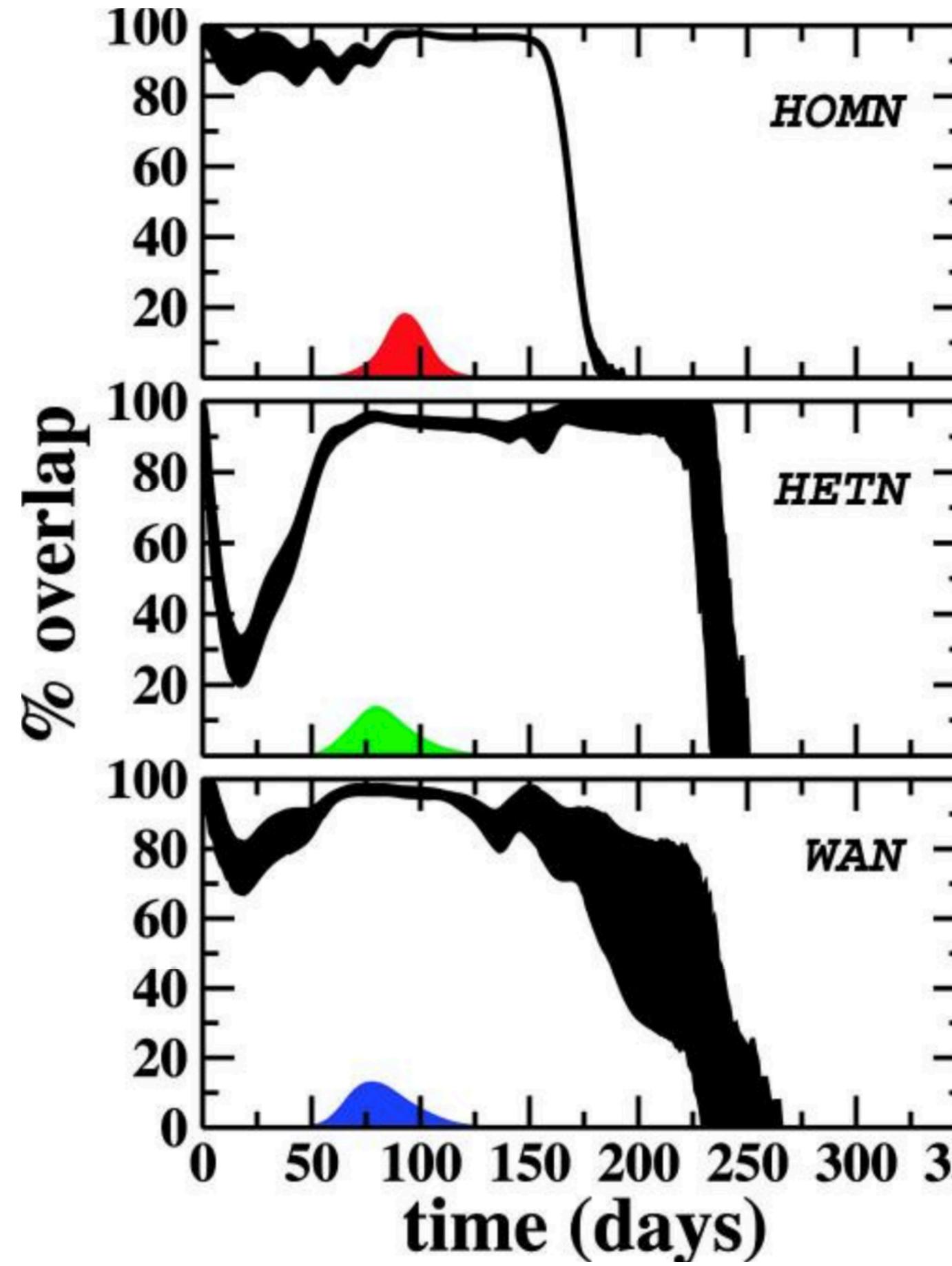
$\Theta(t)$  Overlap function: measures similarity between prevalence at time  $t$  in all cities  $i$



# Pathways of spatial invasion



# Pathways of spatial invasion



Two dynamics at play:

**Degree heterogeneity**

lowers predictability of spatial invasion

**Weight heterogeneity**

makes certain pathways more probable overall

High heterogeneity at large times due to different lifetimes of epidemics in each simulation

## Spatial invasion

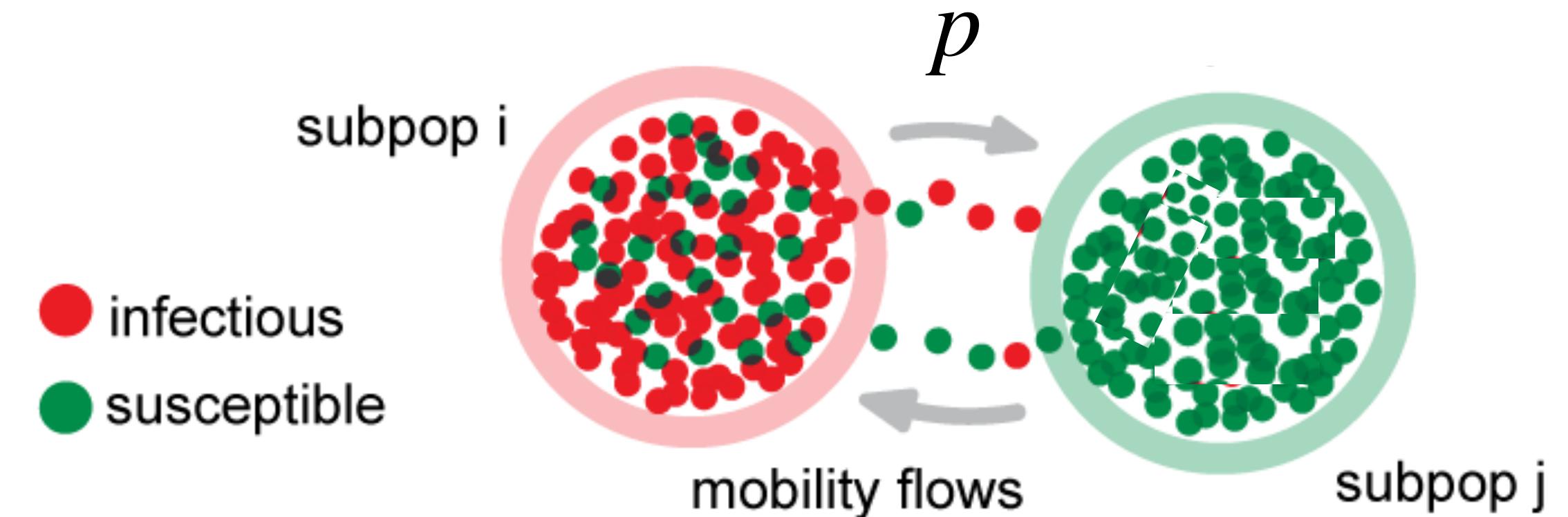
Context: 2 cities i and j, 1 infected in i, j fully susceptible

Probability of traveling from i to j:  $p$

Probability of not traveling from i to j:  $1 - p$

Probability of no infected of i travels to j:  $(1 - p)^{I(t\Delta t)}$

Probability of invasion in j after time t:  $1 - (1 - p)^{I(t)}$



## Spatial invasion

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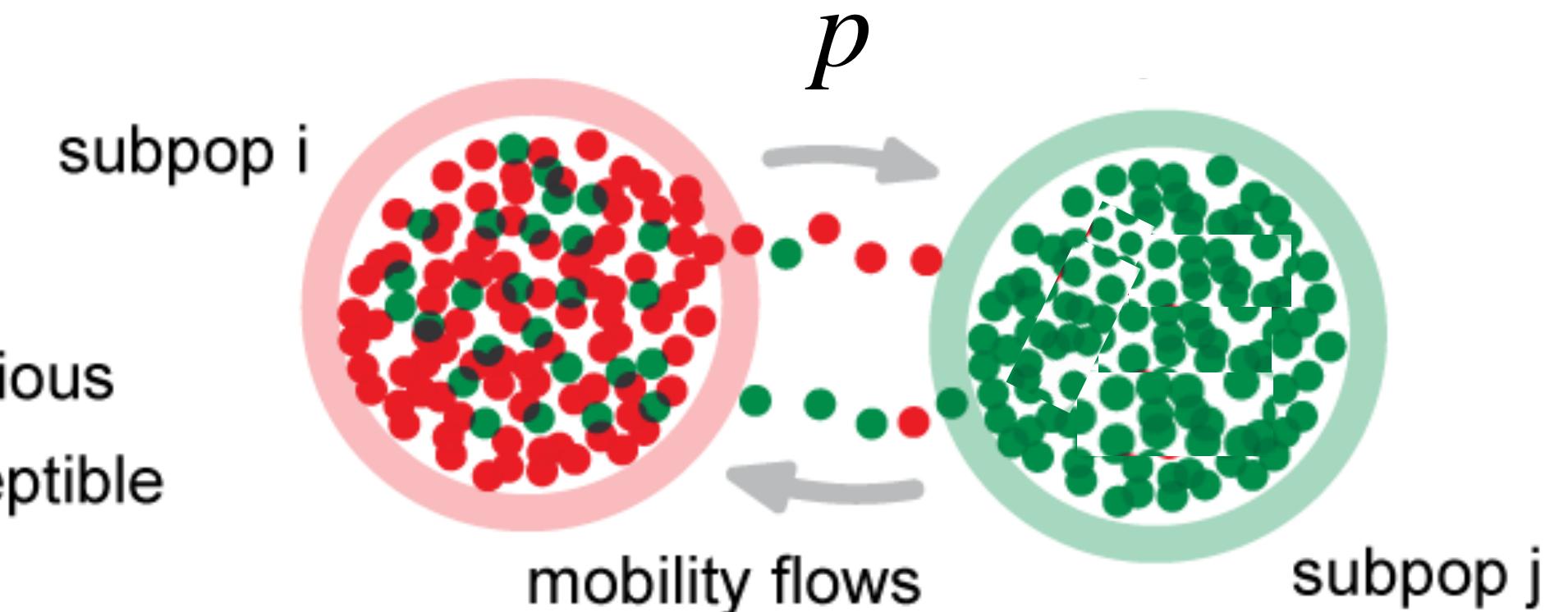
Probability of invasion in j after time t:  $1 - (1 - p)^{I(t)}$

Probability of invasion exactly at time t:  $p(t_{arrival} = n\Delta t) = \prod_{s=0}^{n-1} (1 - p)^{I(s\Delta t)} \times [1 - (1 - p)^{I(n\Delta t)}]$

If travellers are negligible wrt total population of origin:  $p \rightarrow 0$

Expansion

$$p(t_{arrival} = t) = pI(t)e^{-p \sum_{s=0}^t I(s\Delta t)}$$



## Spatial invasion

Probability of invasion exactly at time  $t$ , given  $p \rightarrow 0$

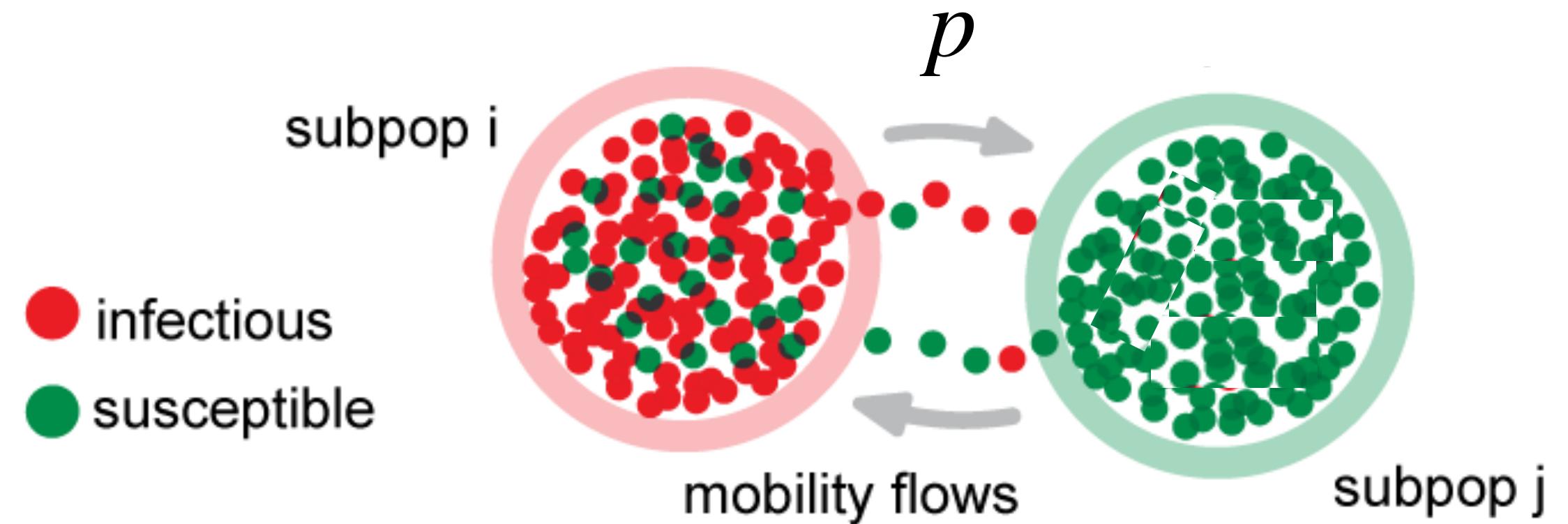
$$p(t_{arrival} = t) = pI(t)e^{-p \sum_{s=0}^t I(s\Delta t)}$$

$$\begin{cases} I(t) \sim I(0)e^{(\beta-\mu)\Delta t} = I(0)e^{\mu(R_0-1)\Delta t} \\ I(0) = 1 \\ a = \mu(R_0 - 1) \end{cases}$$

$$p(t_{arrival} = t) = pe^{at}e^{-pa e^{at}} \implies$$

Gumbel distribution

$$\langle t_{arrival} \rangle \simeq \frac{1}{a} \log\left(\frac{a}{p}\right)$$

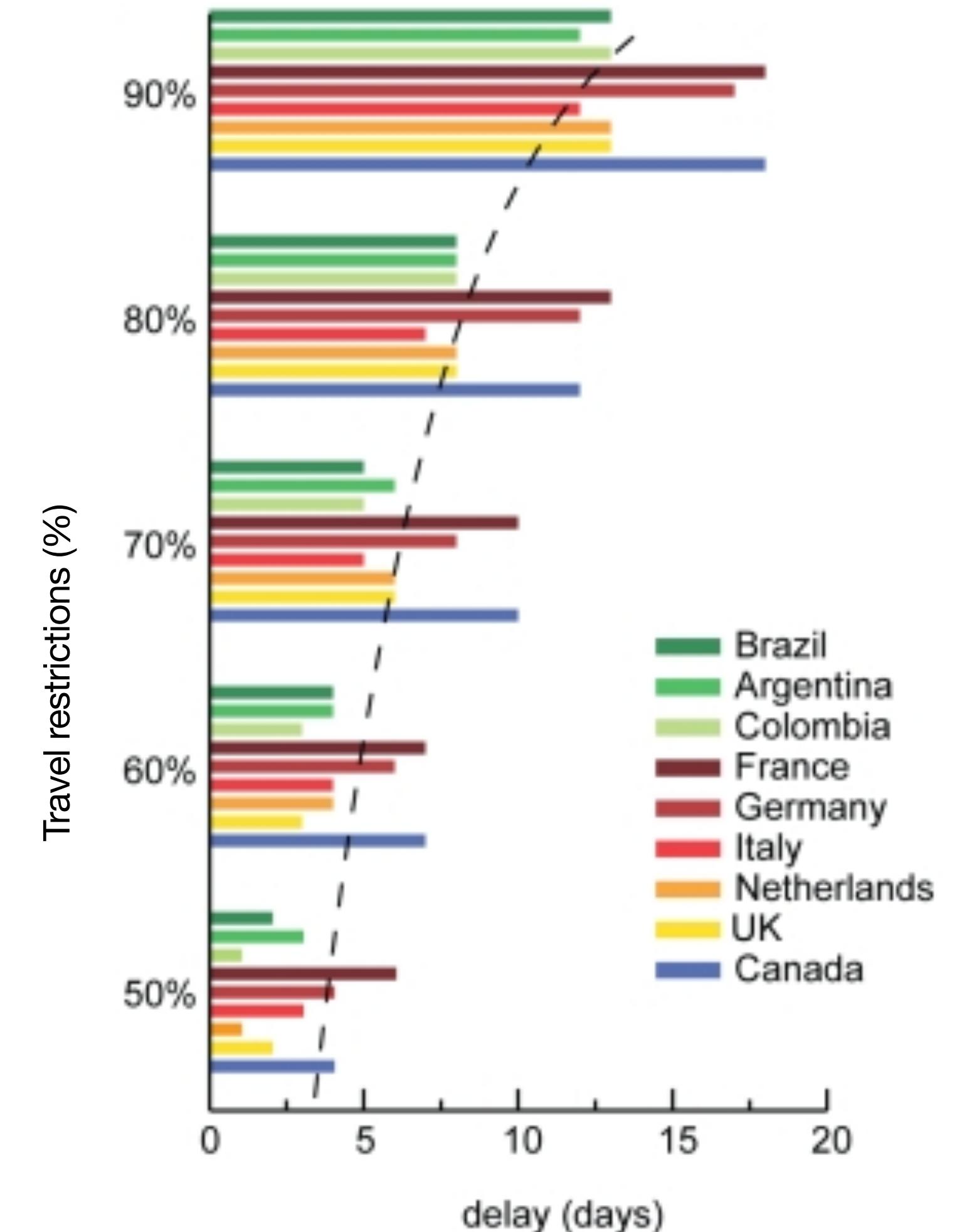


# Public health interventions on spatial invasion: air travel bans

Only with two areas

Impose travel restriction (TR), decrease travels from infected origin by 50%

$$\begin{aligned} \langle t_{arr,TR} \rangle - \langle t_{arrival} \rangle &\simeq \frac{1}{a} \log \left( \frac{wa}{p} \right) - \frac{1}{a} \log \left( \frac{a}{p} \right) \\ &= \frac{1}{a} \log \left( \frac{a}{p} \right) - \frac{1}{a} \log \left( \frac{a}{p} \right) + \frac{1}{a} \log(w) = \frac{1}{a} \log(w) \end{aligned}$$



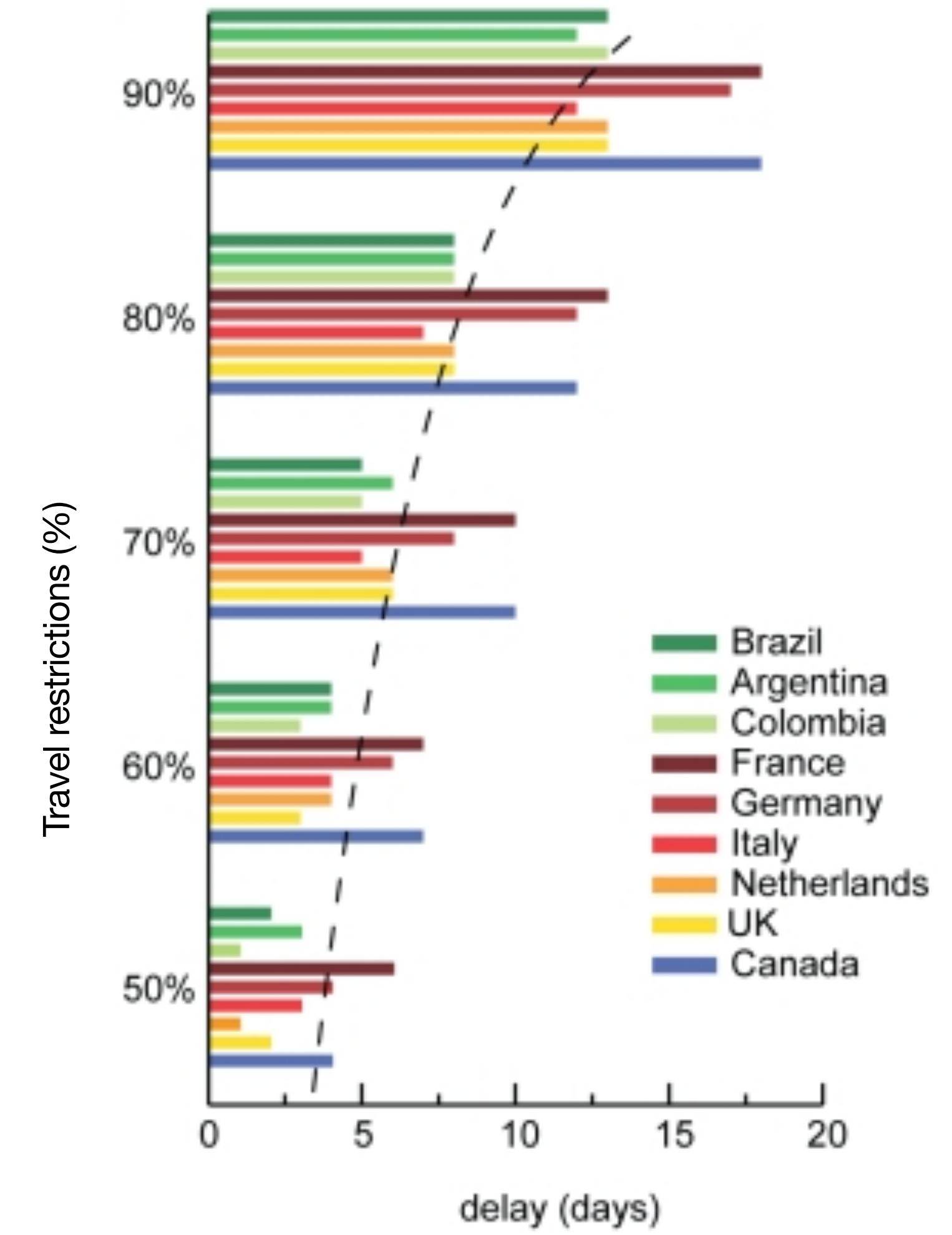
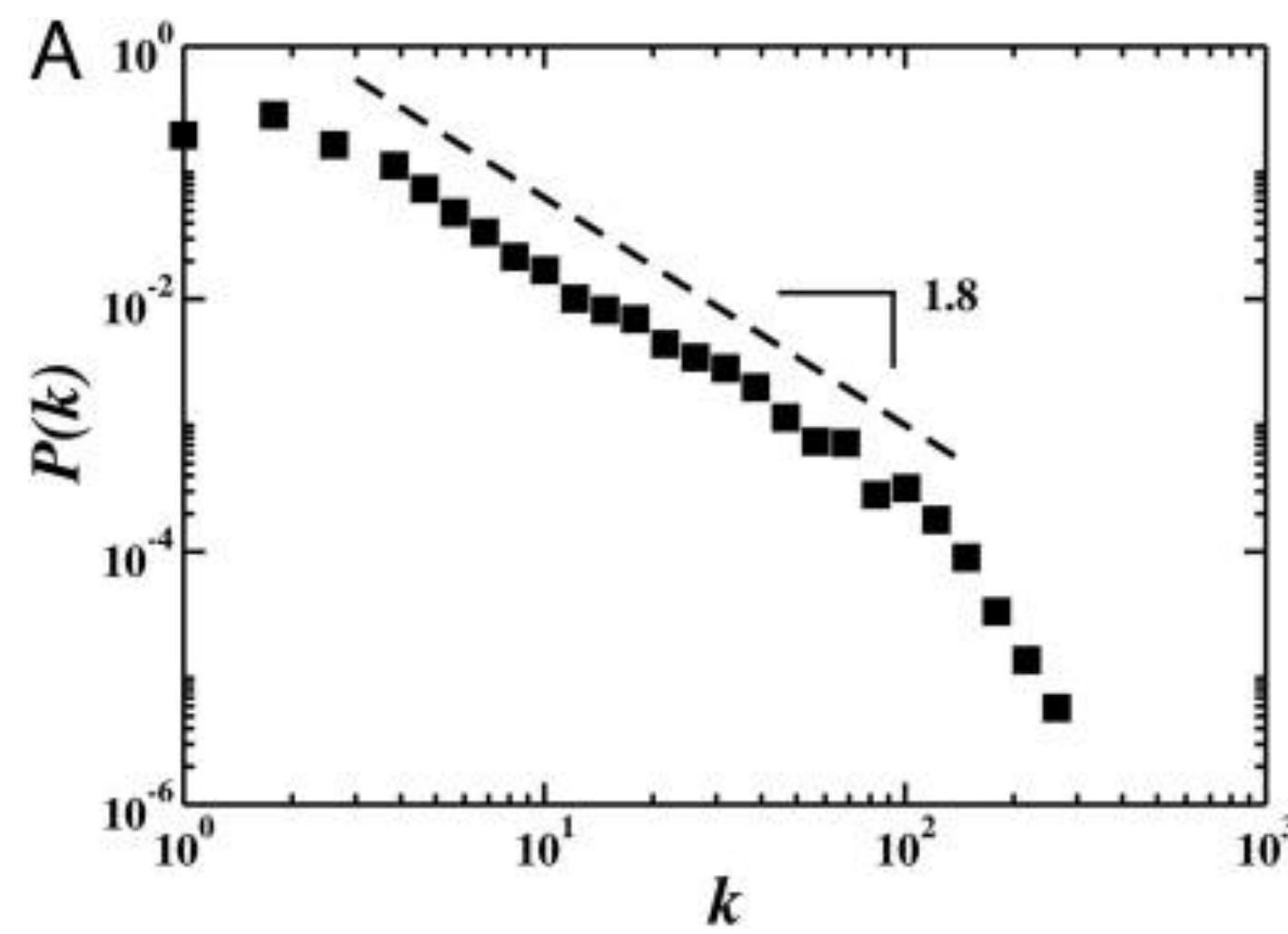
# Public health interventions on spatial invasion: air travel bans

## Slowing down the international spread of diseases

Impossible to stop spread without suppressing > 99% of flights

Effect is due to the topology of the air travel network

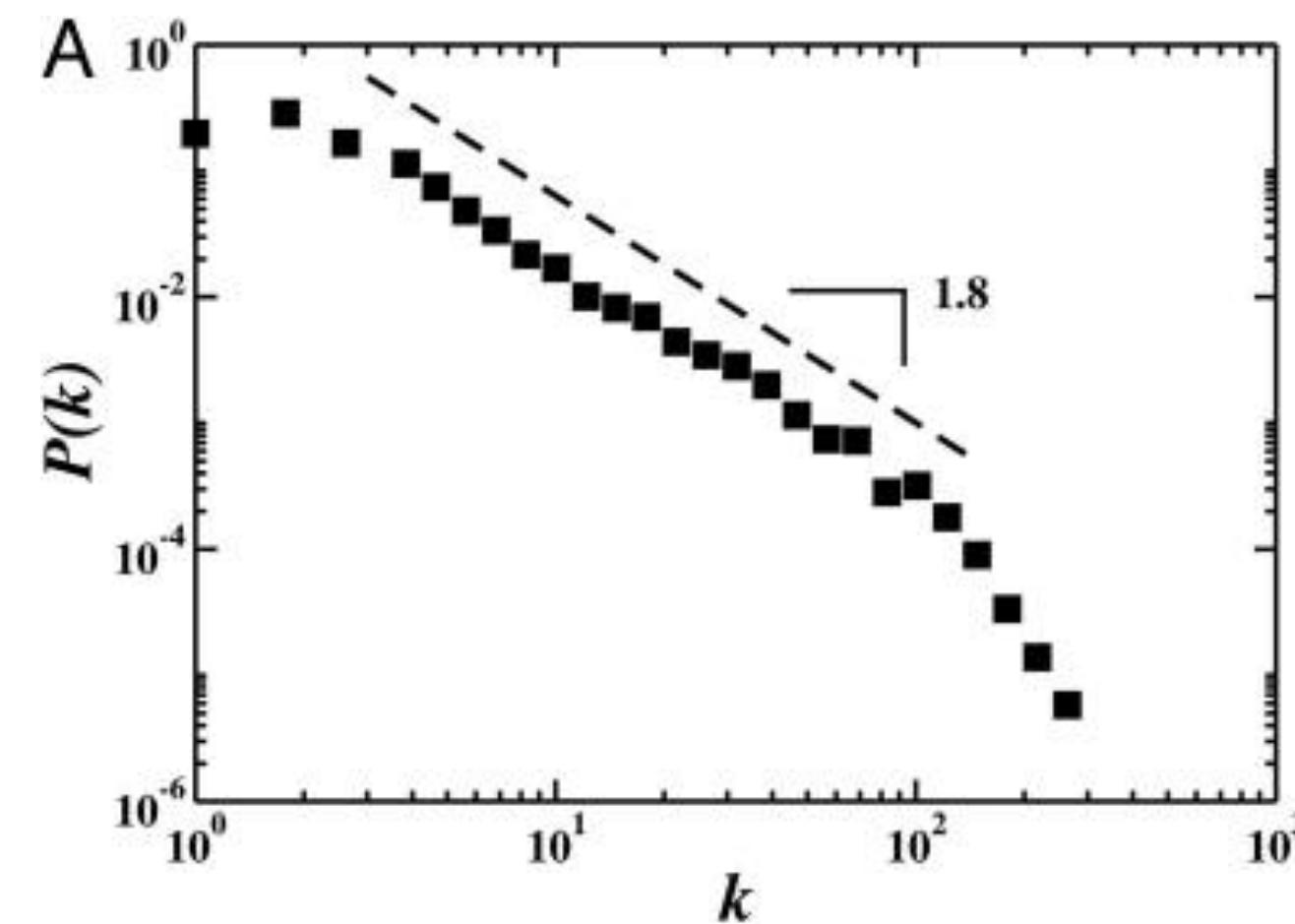
Best you can do is delaying arrival of disease to anticipate and better prepare response



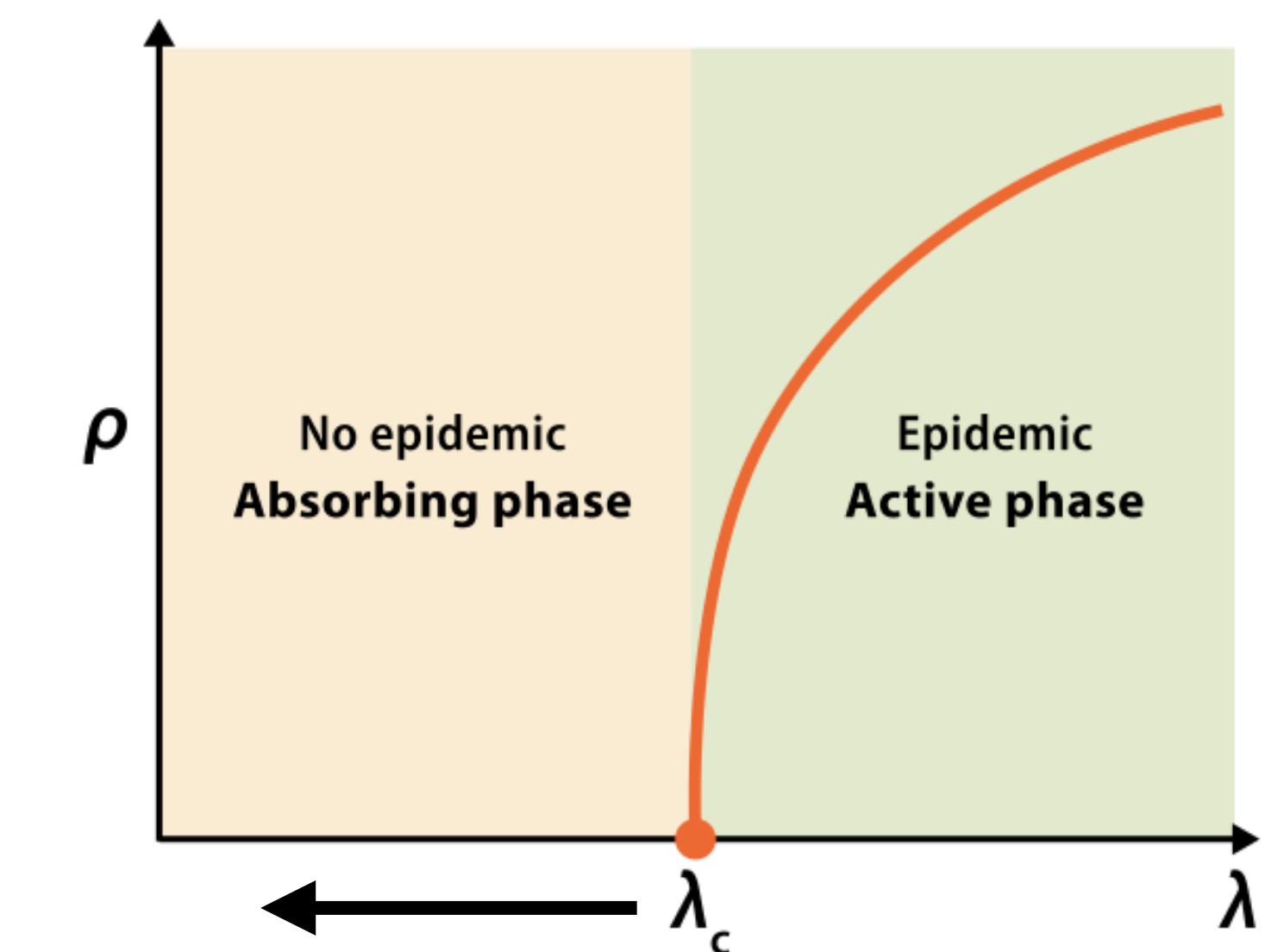
# Public health interventions on spatial invasion: air travel bans

## Why is it so hard?

Epidemic threshold affected by 2nd moment of degree distribution of the air travel network



$$\lambda_c = \frac{\langle k \rangle}{\langle k^2 \rangle - \langle k \rangle}$$
$$\left\{ \begin{array}{l} \text{If } \gamma > 2 \\ \langle k^2 \rangle \rightarrow \infty \\ \lambda_c \rightarrow 0 \end{array} \right.$$



## HANDS ON SESSION

Try this yourself! Go to page: <https://epirisk.net/>

Play with travel restrictions (reach ~99%), check the effect on the n of imported cases

# Questions?

Slides and material will be available at [mattiamazzoli.github.com/](https://mattiamazzoli.github.com/)