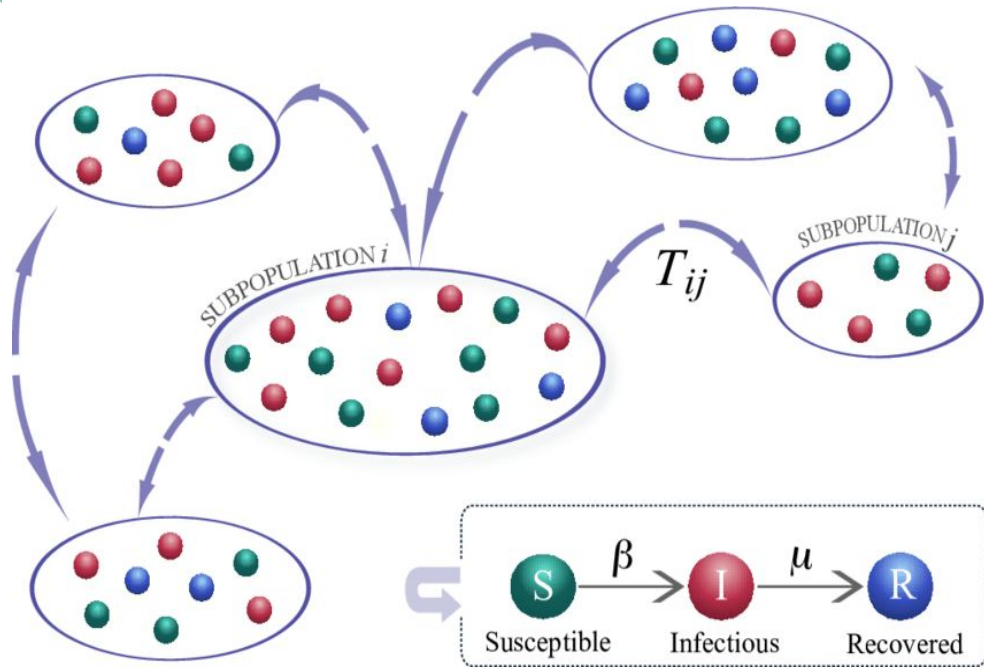
Two large, overlapping geometric shapes, a blue parallelogram and a green parallelogram, both slanted to the right, positioned on the left side of the slide.

# Epidemic spreading under exploration & preferential return mobility

**NetMob 2023**  
**October 4-6, Madrid, Spain**

**Alfonso de Miguel-Arribas** (*BIFI, U. de Zaragoza, Spain*),  
**Alberto Aletá** (*BIFI, U. de Zaragoza, Spain*),  
**Yamir Moreno** (*BIFI, U. de Zaragoza, Spain & CENTAI, Italy*)  
& **Esteban Moro** (*MIT Media Lab, USA & U. Carlos III, Spain*)

# Background: Epidemics on Metapopulations



Mobility models (typically) assume:

- Markovian random walks.
- Indistinguishable agents.

Metapopulation scheme [from Ventura et al. (2022)]

# Background: Advances in human mobility

- Last decade: Exploration and preferential return models.
- Analysis of human mobility datasets reveal two main types of behaviors:

## EXPLORERS & RETURNERS

Vol 453 | 5 June 2008 | doi:10.1038/nature06958

nature

LETTERS

### Understanding individual human mobility patterns

Marta C. González<sup>1</sup>, César A. Hidalgo<sup>1,2</sup> & Albert-László Barabási<sup>1,2,3</sup>

#### ARTICLES

PUBLISHED ONLINE: 12 SEPTEMBER 2010 | DOI: 10.1038/NPHYS1766

nature  
physics

### Modelling the scaling properties of human mobility

Chaoming Song<sup>1,2,†</sup>, Tal Koren<sup>1,2,†</sup>, Pu Wang<sup>1,2,†</sup> and Albert-László Barabási<sup>1,2,3,\*</sup>



#### ARTICLE

Received 15 Dec 2014 | Accepted 24 Jul 2015 | Published 8 Sep 2015

DOI: 10.1038/ncomms9166

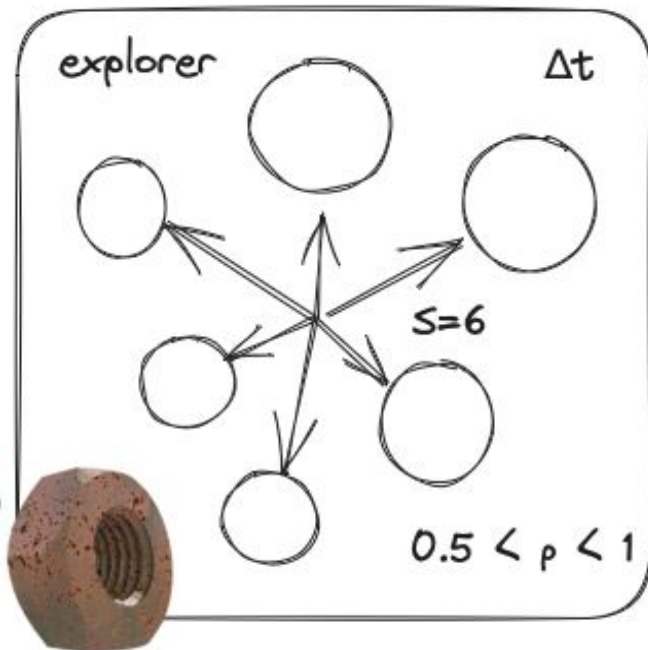
OPEN

### Returners and explorers dichotomy in human mobility

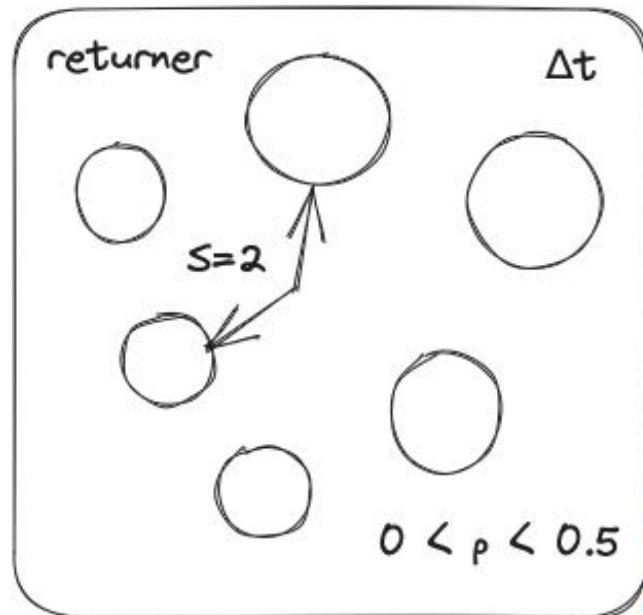
Luca Pappalardo<sup>1,2,3,4</sup>, Filippo Simini<sup>4,5,6</sup>, Salvatore Rinzivillo<sup>1</sup>, Dino Pedreschi<sup>1,2</sup>, Fosca Giannotti<sup>1</sup> & Albert-László Barabási<sup>3,6,7</sup>

The availability of massive digital traces of human whereabouts has offered a series of novel insights on the quantitative patterns characterizing human mobility. In particular, numerous recent studies have led to an unexpected consensus: the considerable variability in the characteristic travelled distance of individuals coexists with a high degree of predictability of their future locations. Here we shed light on this surprising coexistence by systematically investigating the impact of recurrent mobility on the characteristic distance travelled by individuals. Using both mobile phone and GPS data, we discover the existence of two distinct classes of individuals: returners and explorers. As existing models of human mobility cannot explain the existence of these two classes, we develop more realistic models able to capture the empirical findings. Finally, we show that returners and explorers play a distinct quantifiable role in spreading phenomena and that a correlation exists between their mobility patterns and social interactions.

# Explorers & returners



High exploration probability,  
High  $S \rightarrow$  Low visit frequency



Low exploration probability,  
Low  $S \rightarrow$  High visit frequency

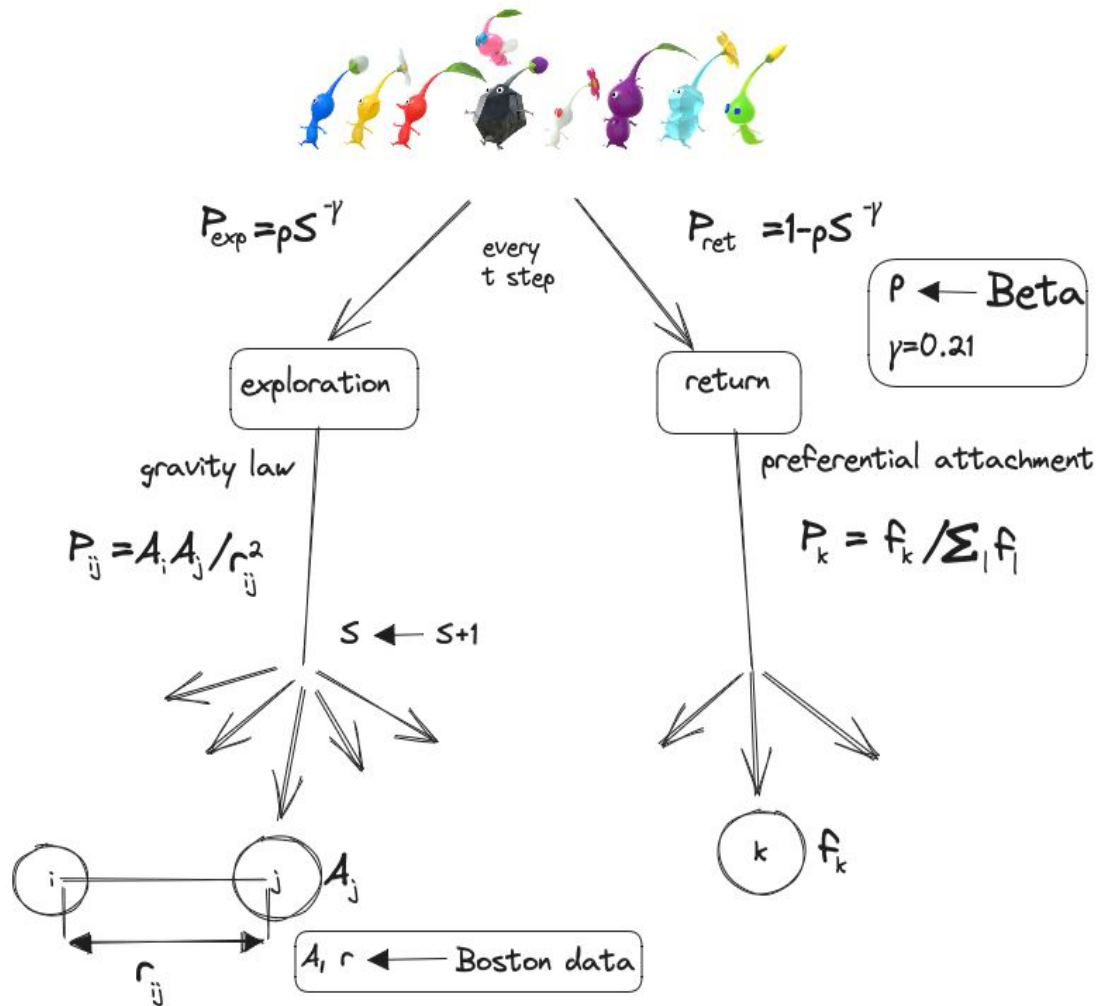
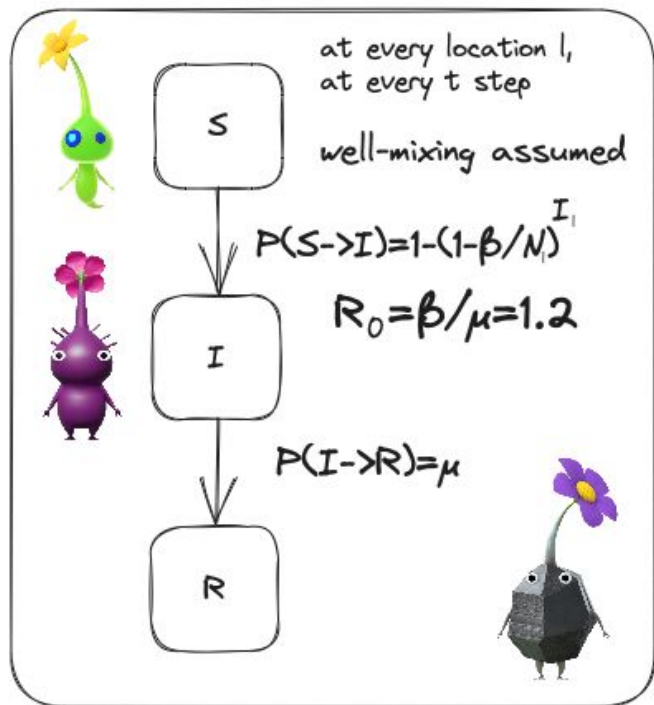


## Our work

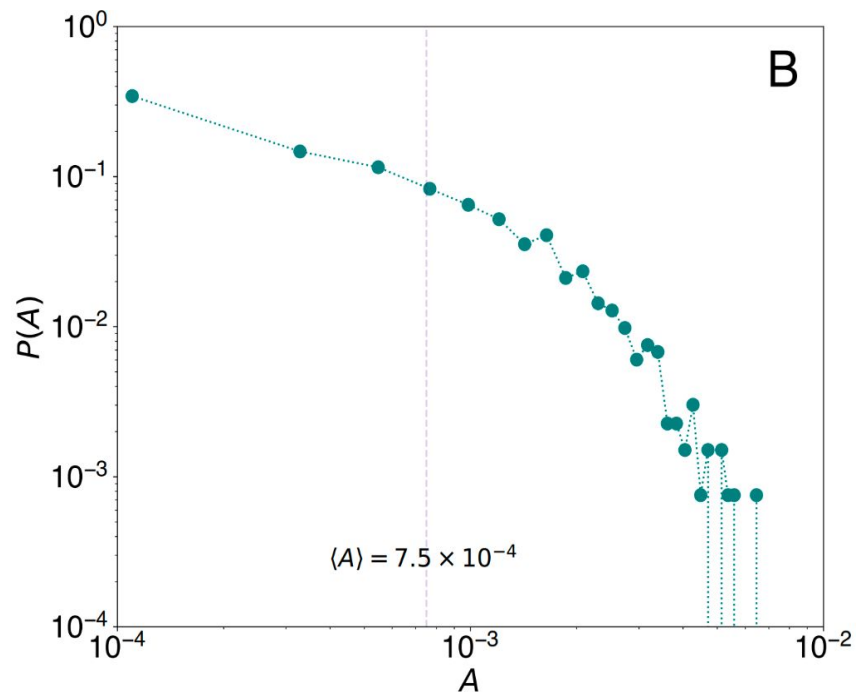
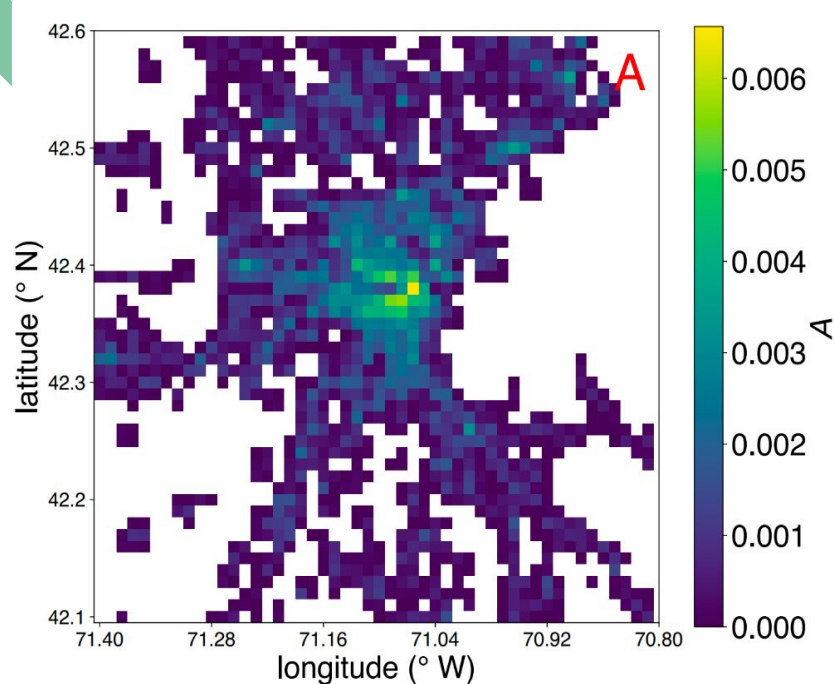


- Literature mentions the relevance of these discoveries to epidemics, but have not been thoroughly explored.
- Explore & characterize an epidemic spreading under an EPR mobility model.
- Determine the role of explorers & returners in the spreading of an epidemic disease

# SIR model + d-EPR model



# Spatial structure: Locations' attractiveness

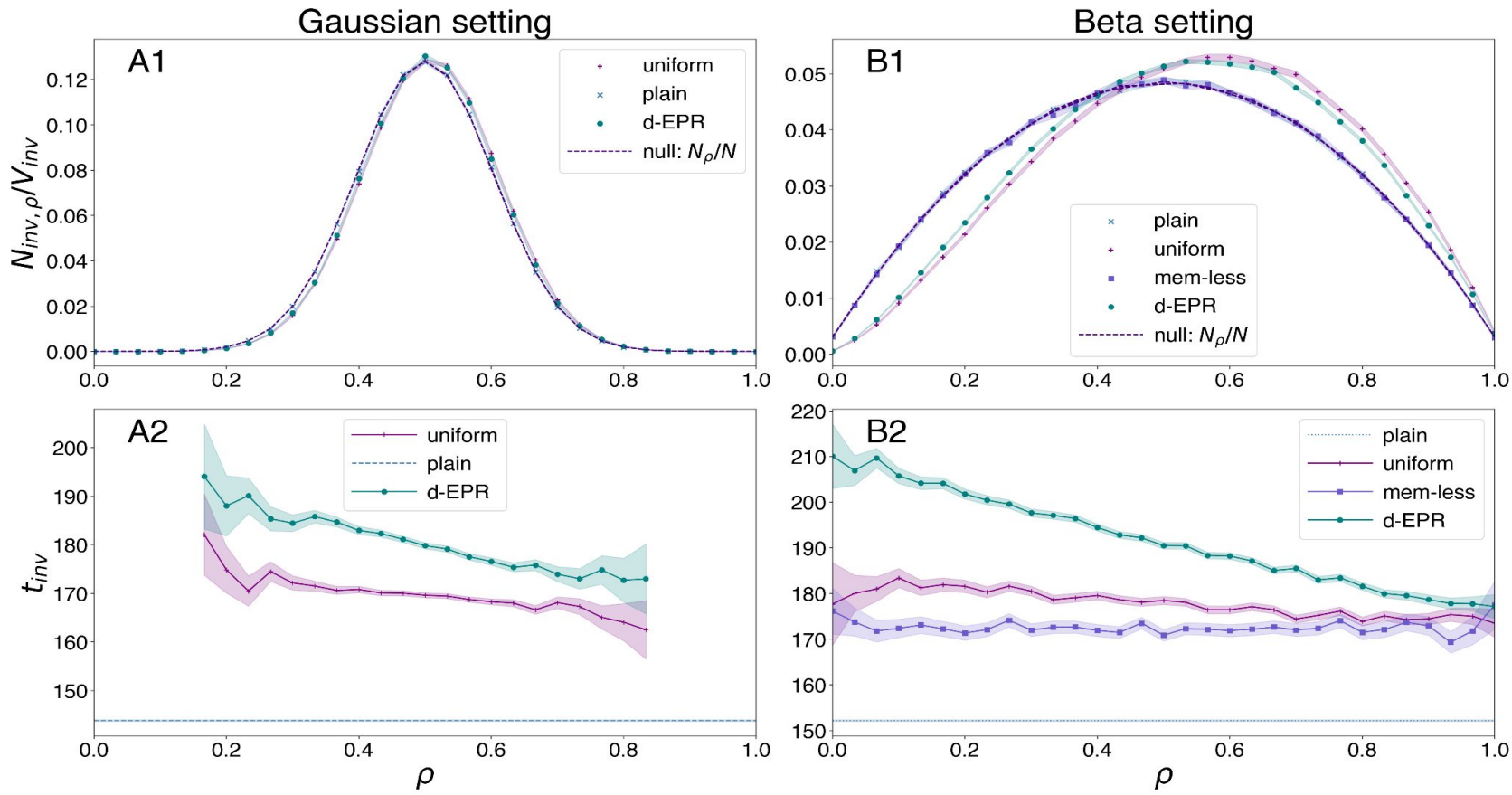


Left: Field reconstruction from high-resolution individual anonymized trajectories.

Right: Attractiveness distribution (log-log).

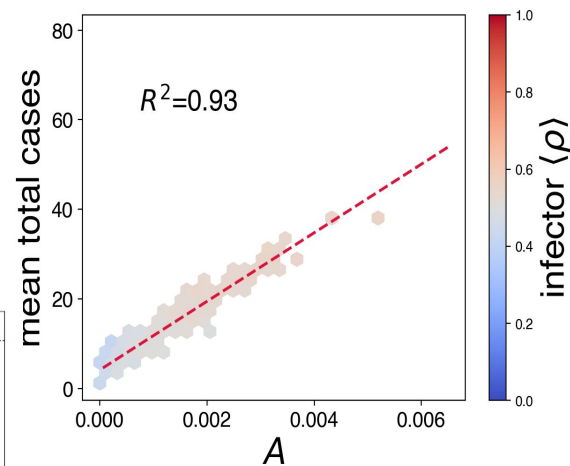
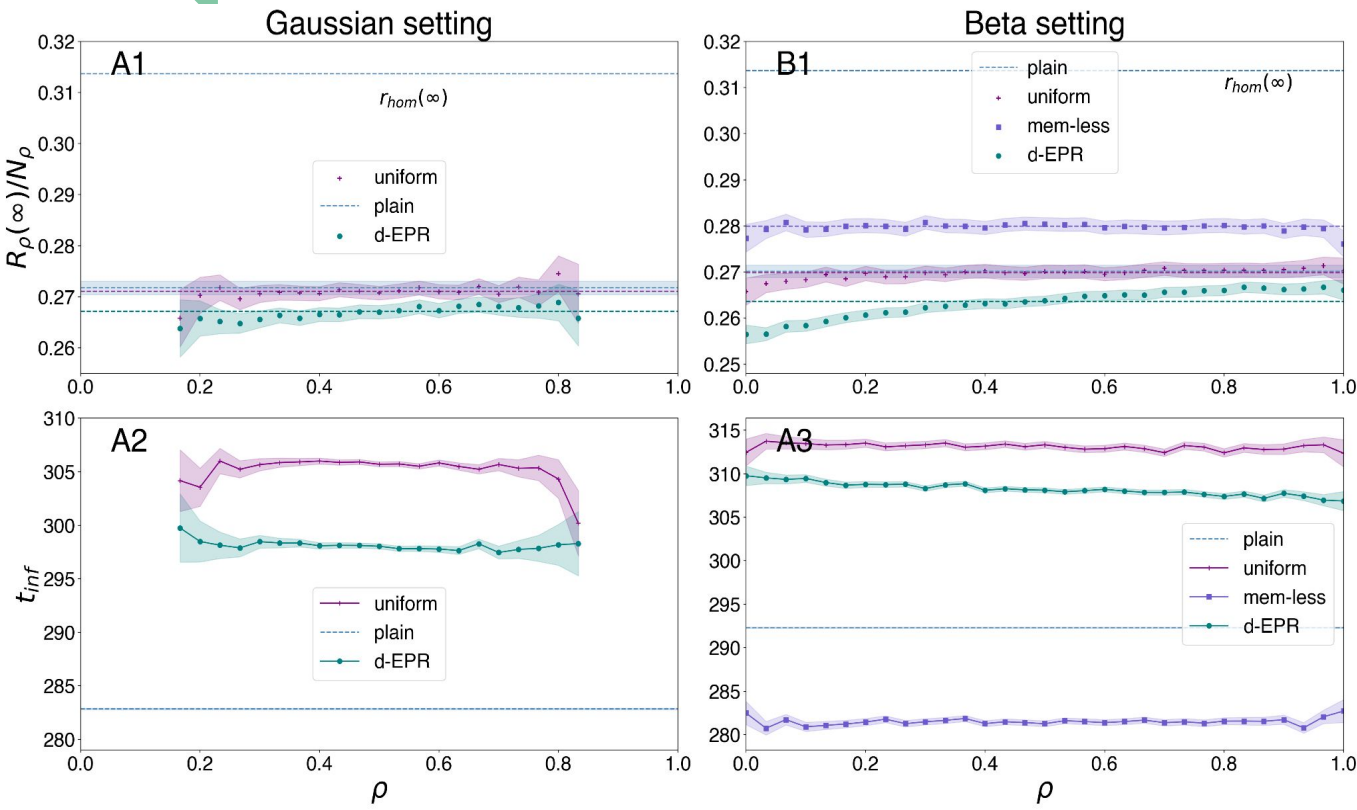
Effective system size  $V \sim 1300$  of  $1\text{km}^2$ .

# Disease invasion: Explorers drive it





# Disease prevalence

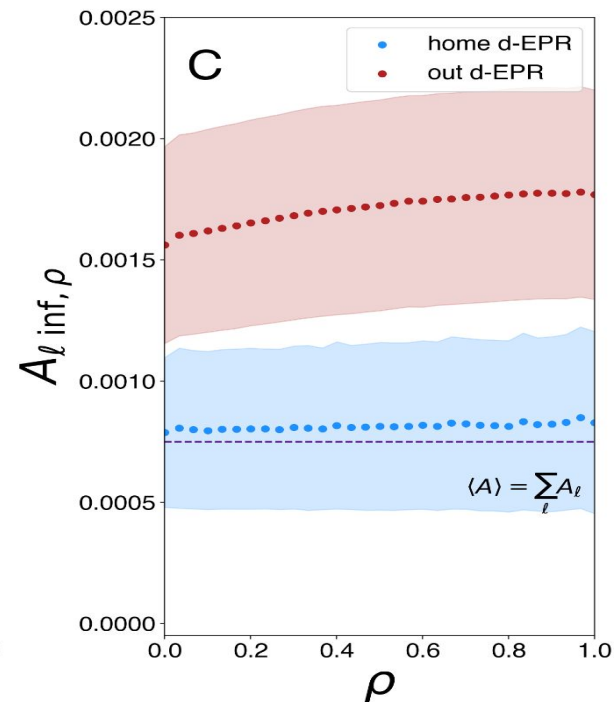
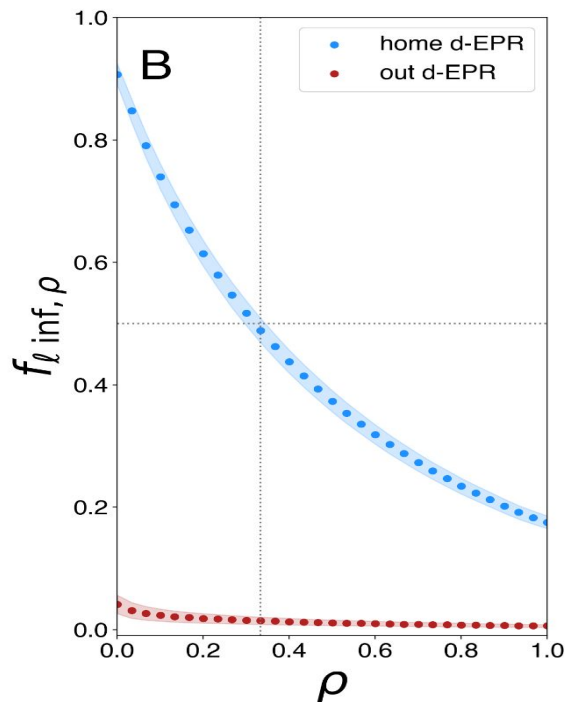
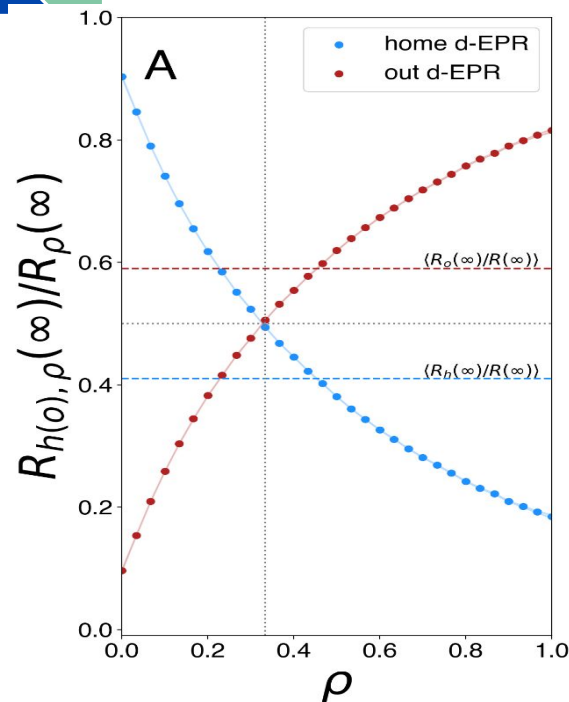


Explorers & returners deviate from the global average.

Infection times differ much less than invasion times

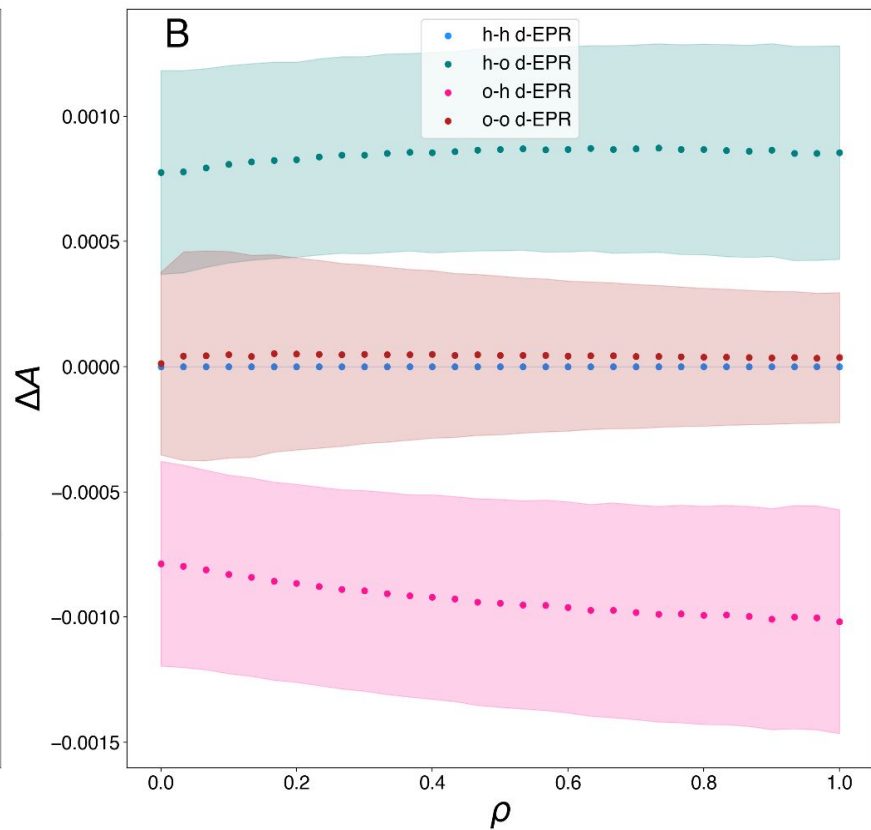
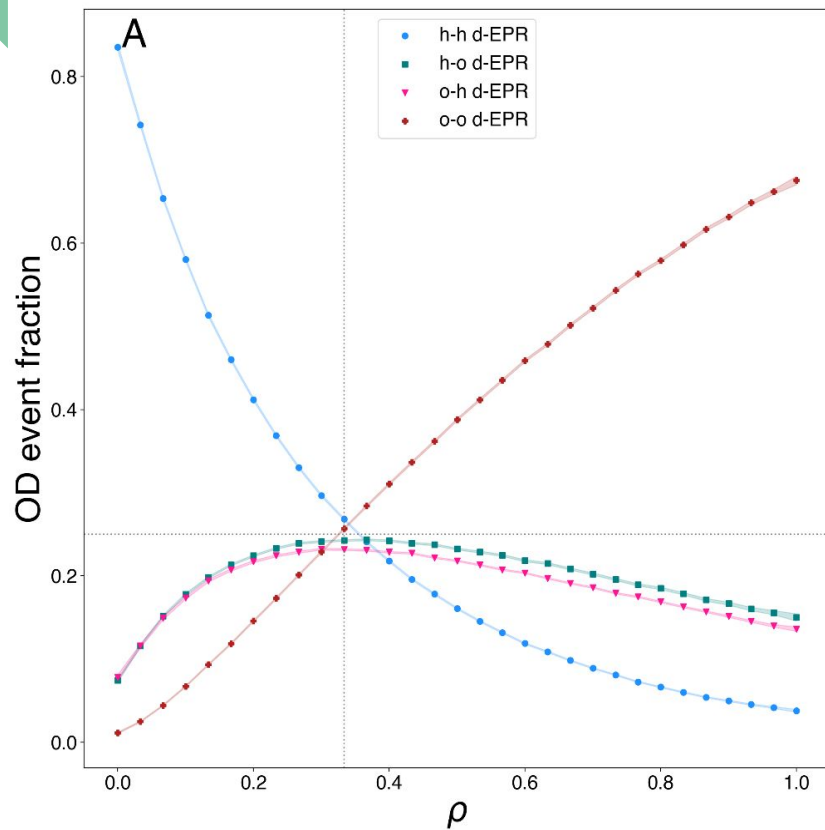
Explorers tend to be infected in most attractive locations.

# Origin of infection, recurrence & attractiveness

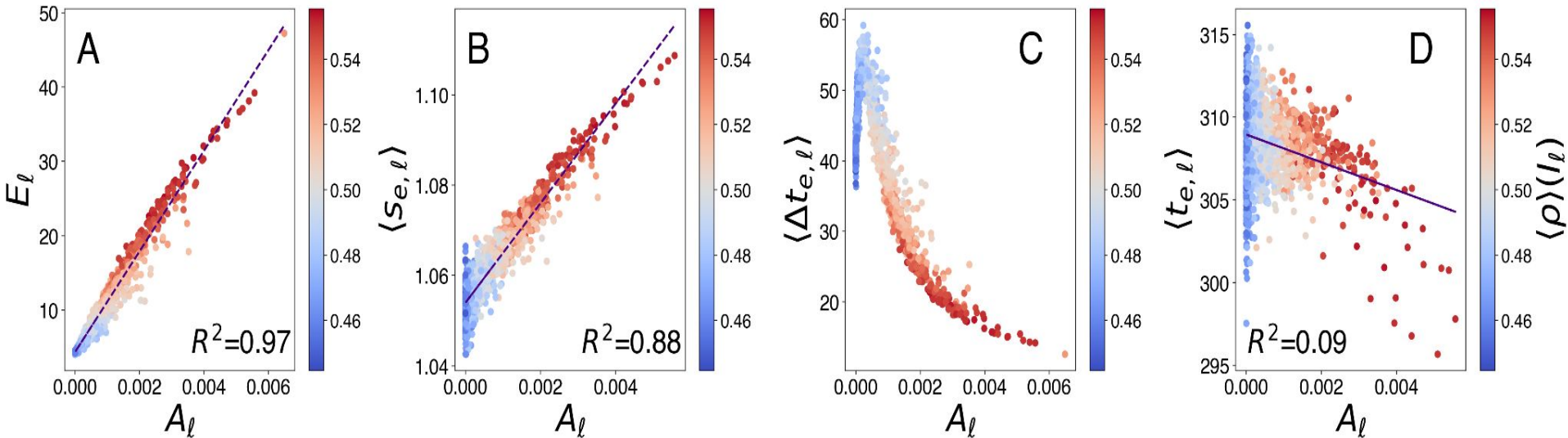


Majority of infections occur outside home location → Very small recurrence → Bad luck?  
Agents were just wandering around very attractive locations

# Spreading the disease (from origin to destination)



# Contagion events & attractiveness



- [A & B] More attractiveness  $\rightarrow$  more events, but size differences are not a thing. (?)
- [C] More attractiveness  $\rightarrow$  Shorter inter-event times. But with also less attractiveness!
- Top A locations sustain the epidemic in time, bottom A locations show a short-lived outbreak
- [D] High synchronization



# What we learned & Future work

## Main conclusions:

- Heterogeneous populations & recurrence are fundamental to obtain richer behavior.
- Explorers deliver the disease across the system, they do it faster & are impacted more than returners.
- Returners are prone to get the infection at home, whereas explorers outside.
- Even for low  $\rho$  values, an important number of trips is established with high attractiveness locations.
- High attractiveness locations constantly sustain the epidemic, while this occurs like a *burst* in the lowest attractiveness locations.

## Ongoing/future work...

- Priority: Compare spreading under real trajectories with model predictions.
- Export this analysis to other cities/urban settlements.

# Acknowledgements



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Universidad Carlos III de Madrid, Spain*



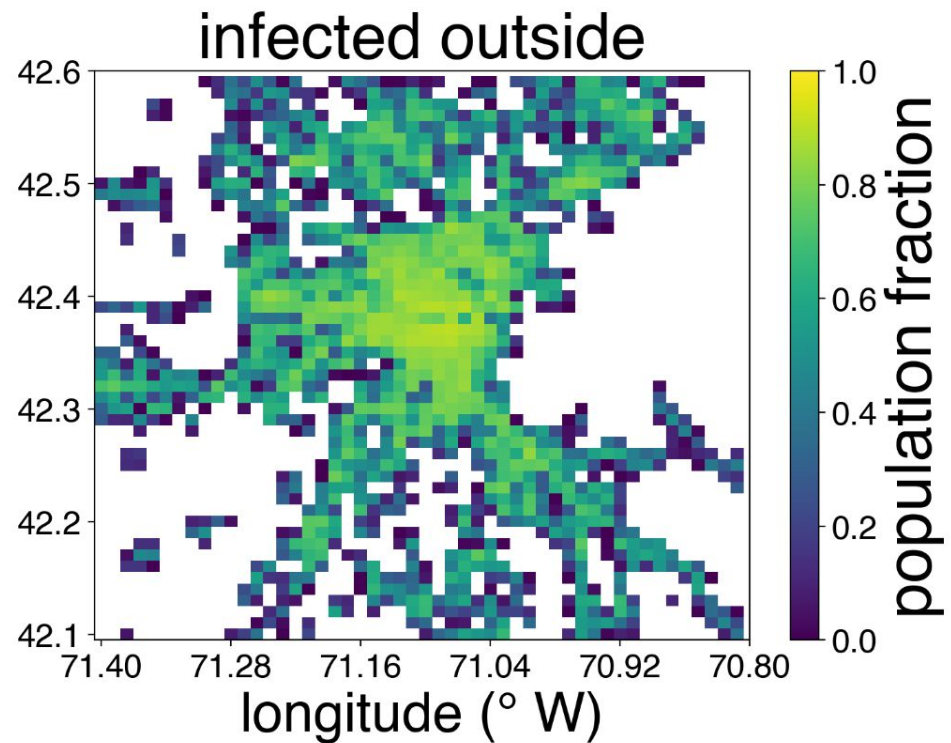
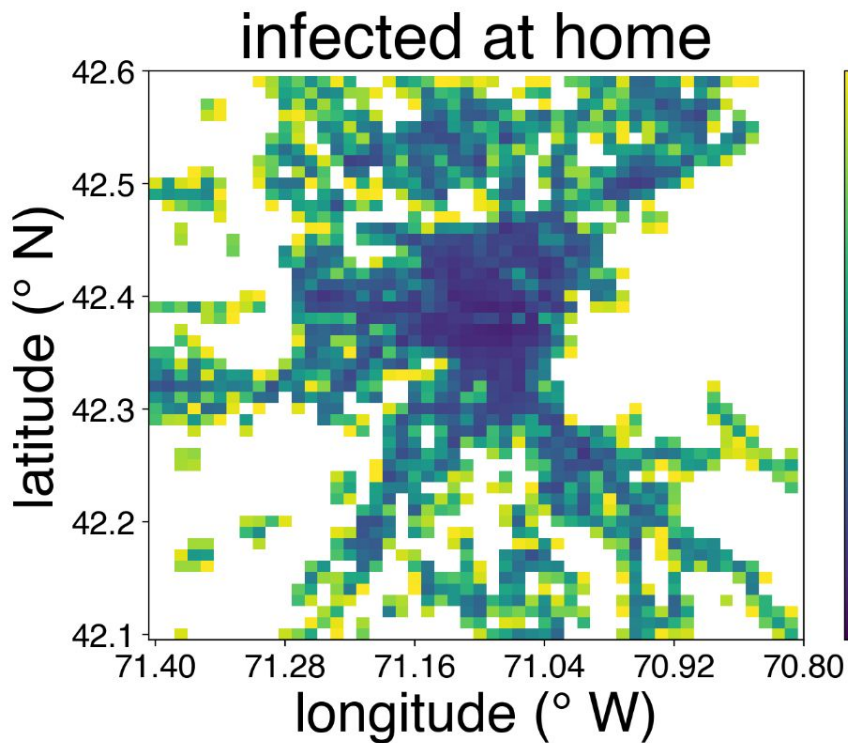
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Biocomputación y Física  
de Sistemas Complejos  
Universidad Zaragoza**





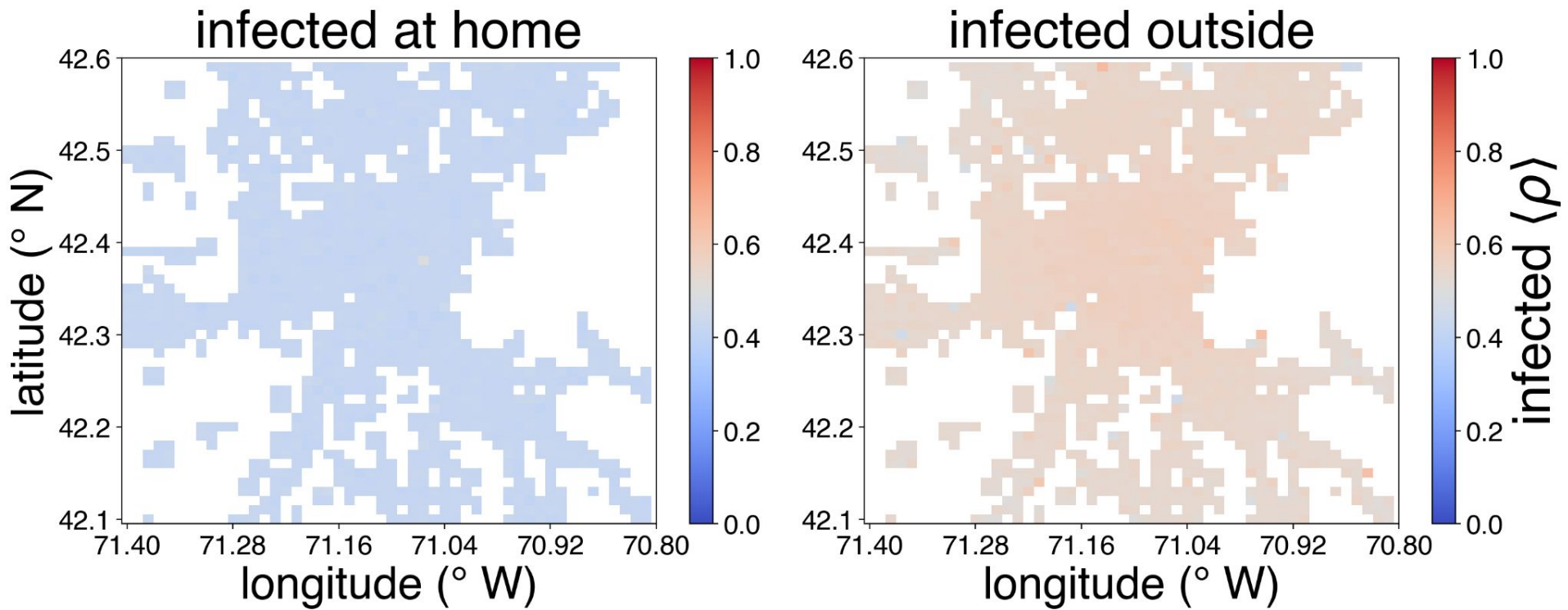
**Thank you!**

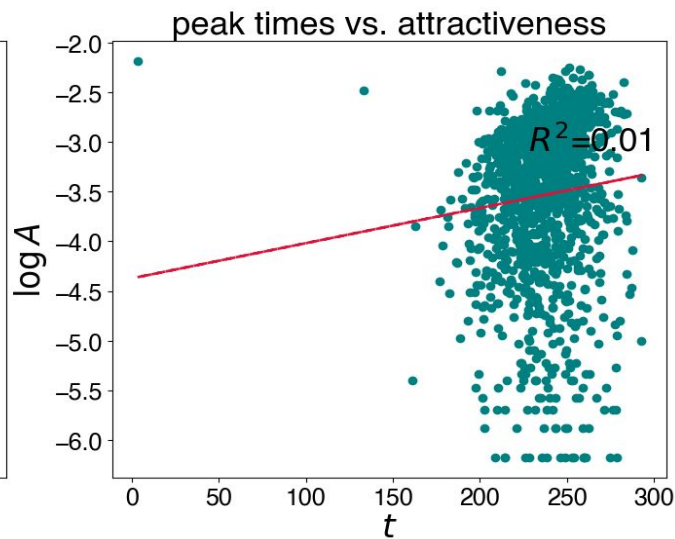
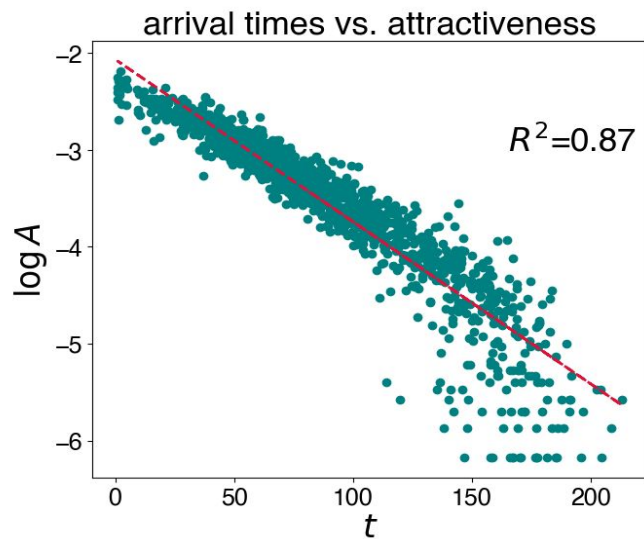
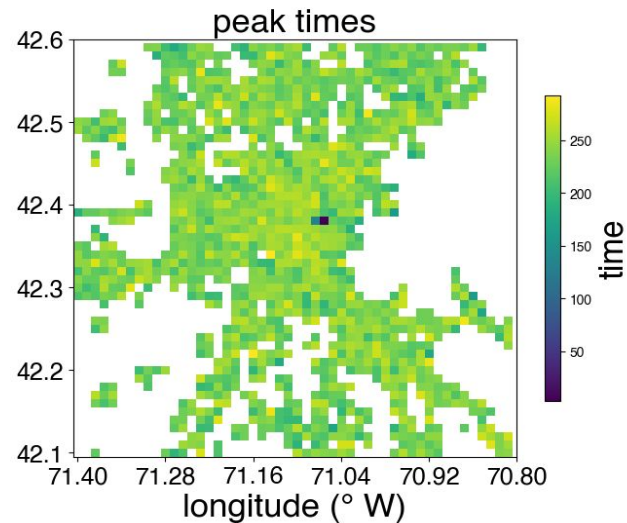
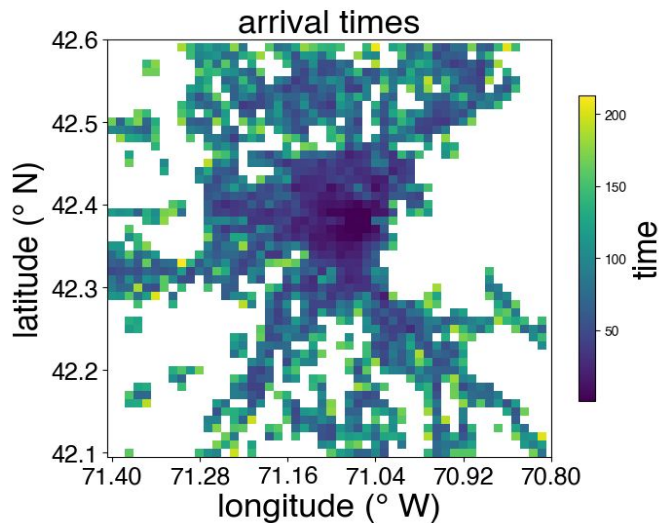
# Home/outside infection map





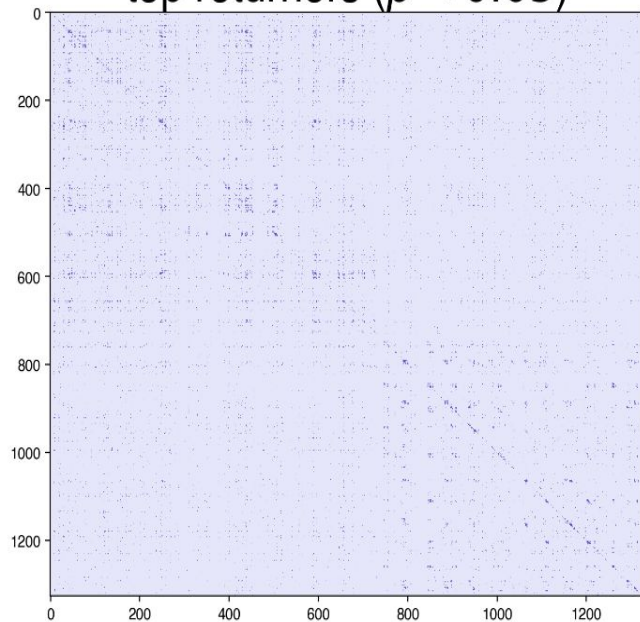
## Home/outside infection map (II)



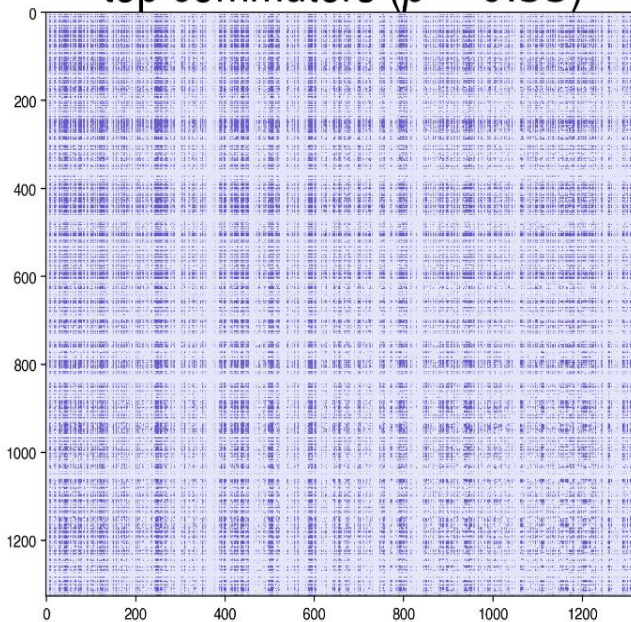


# Mobility adjacency matrices

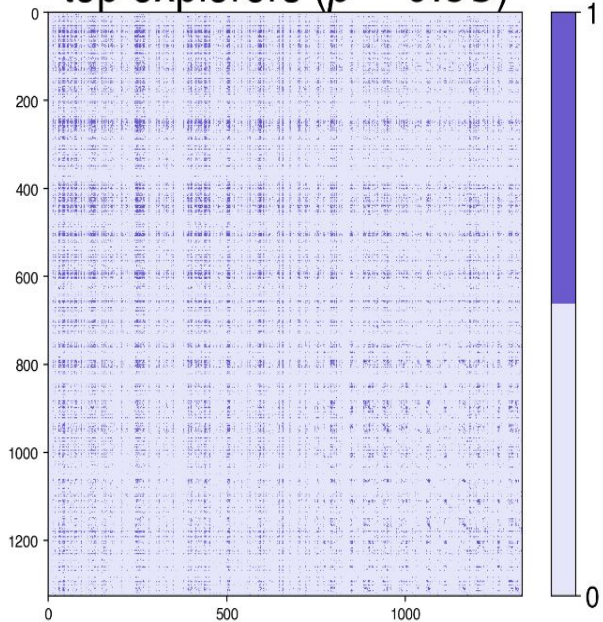
top returners ( $\rho < 0.05$ )



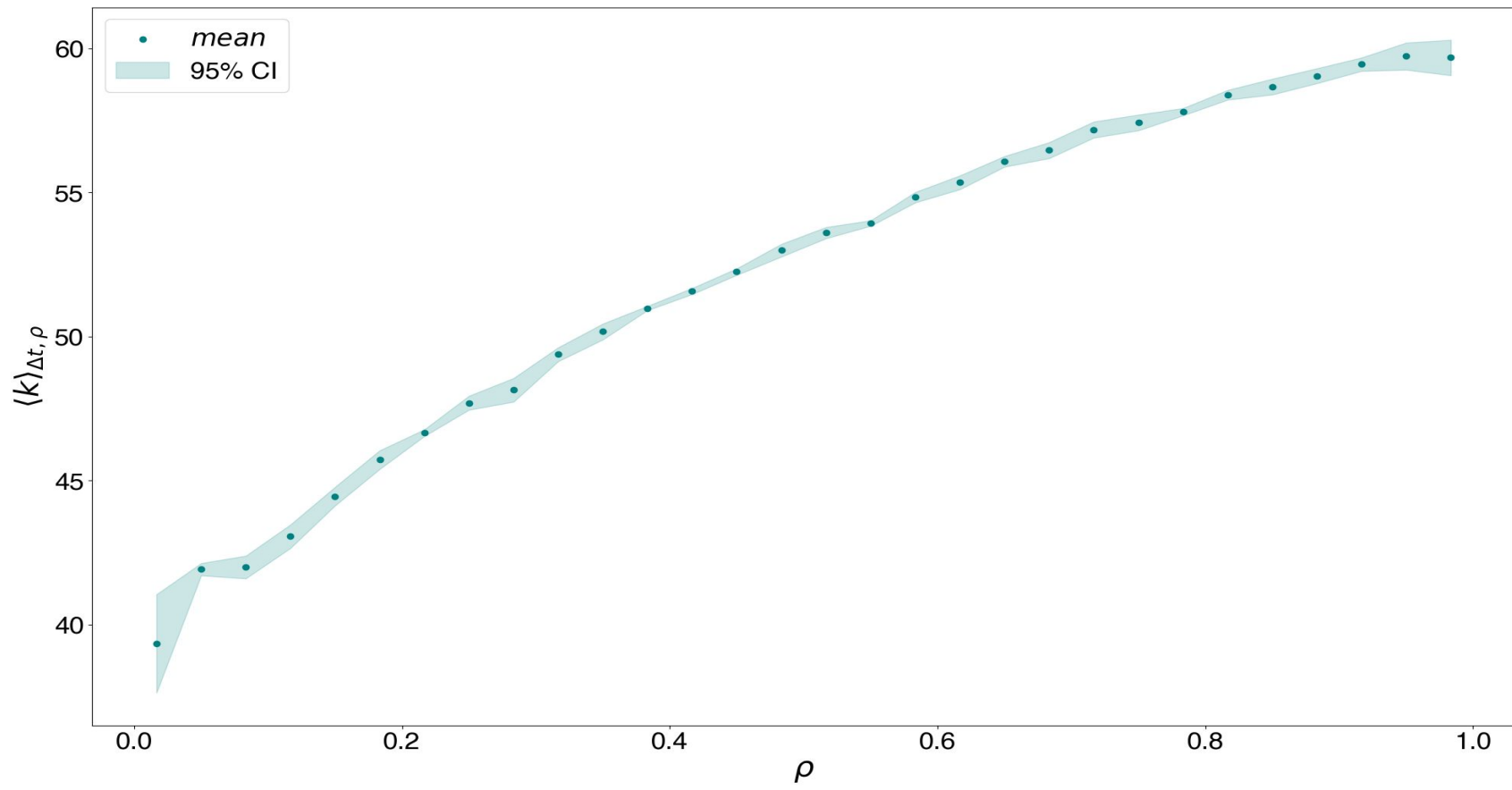
top commuters ( $\rho \approx 0.33$ )



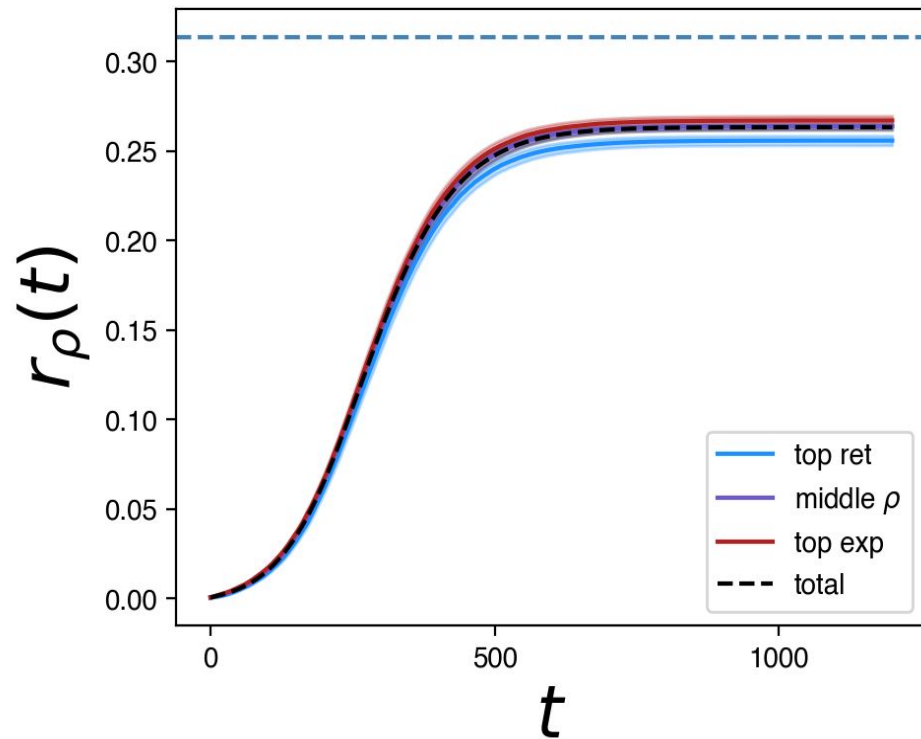
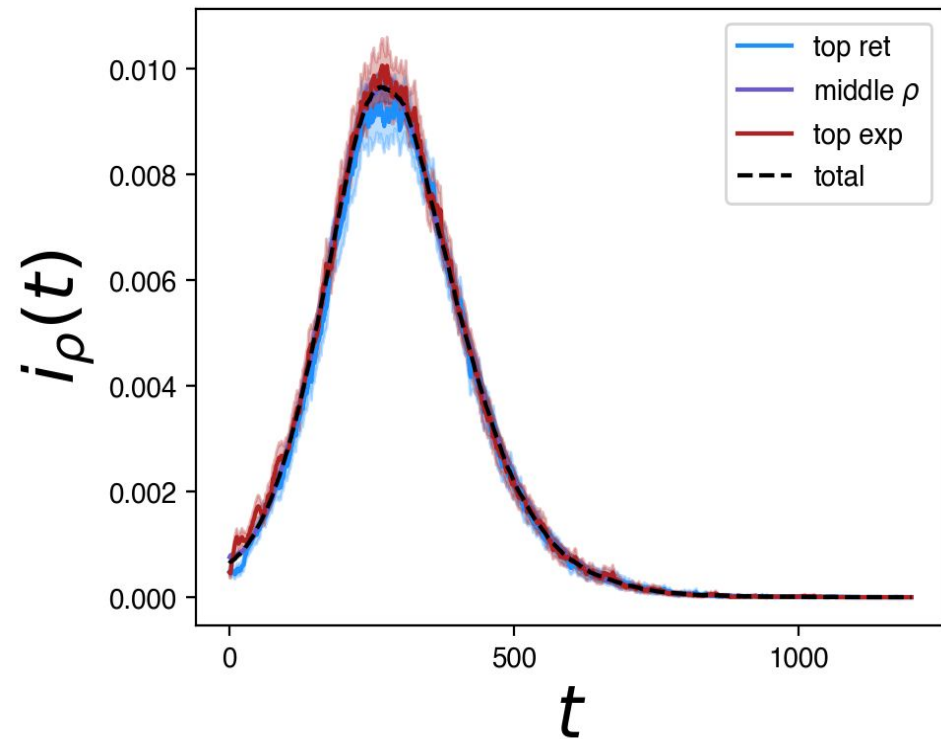
top explorers ( $\rho \approx 0.95$ )



# Average degree

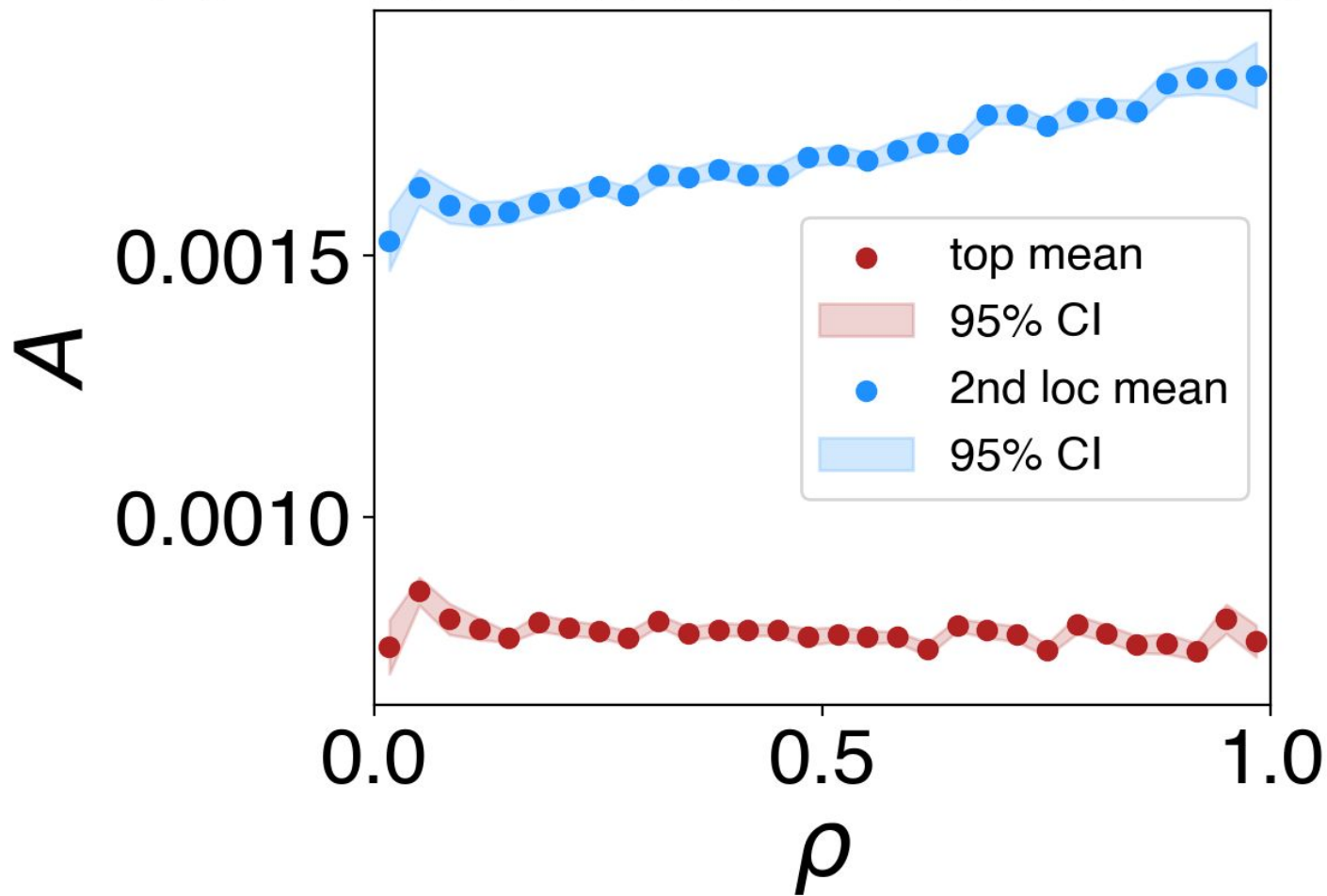


# Time evolution for incidence & prevalence

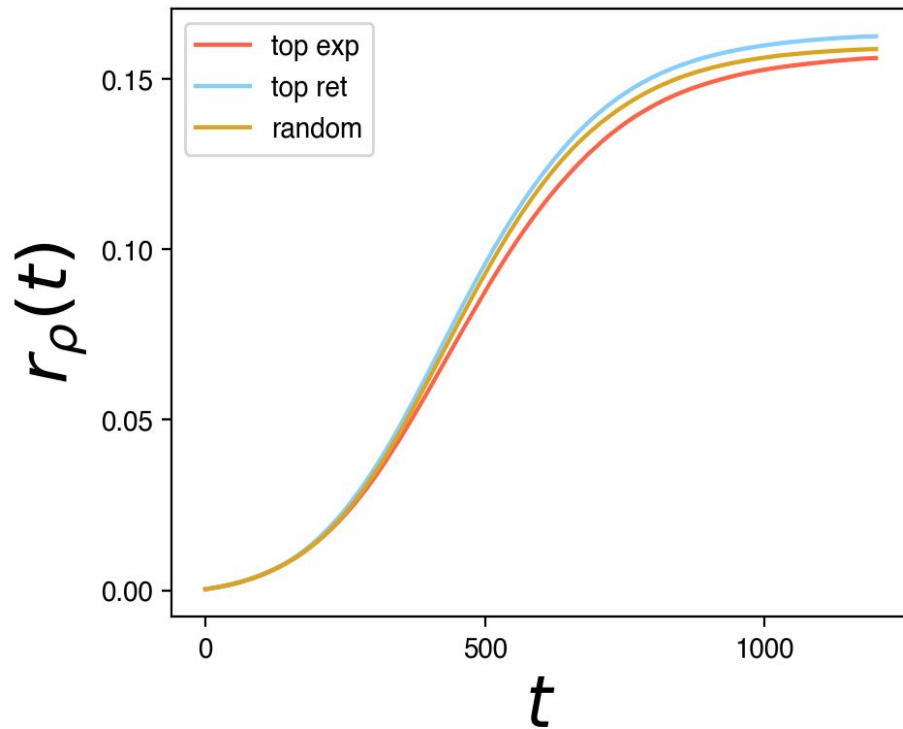
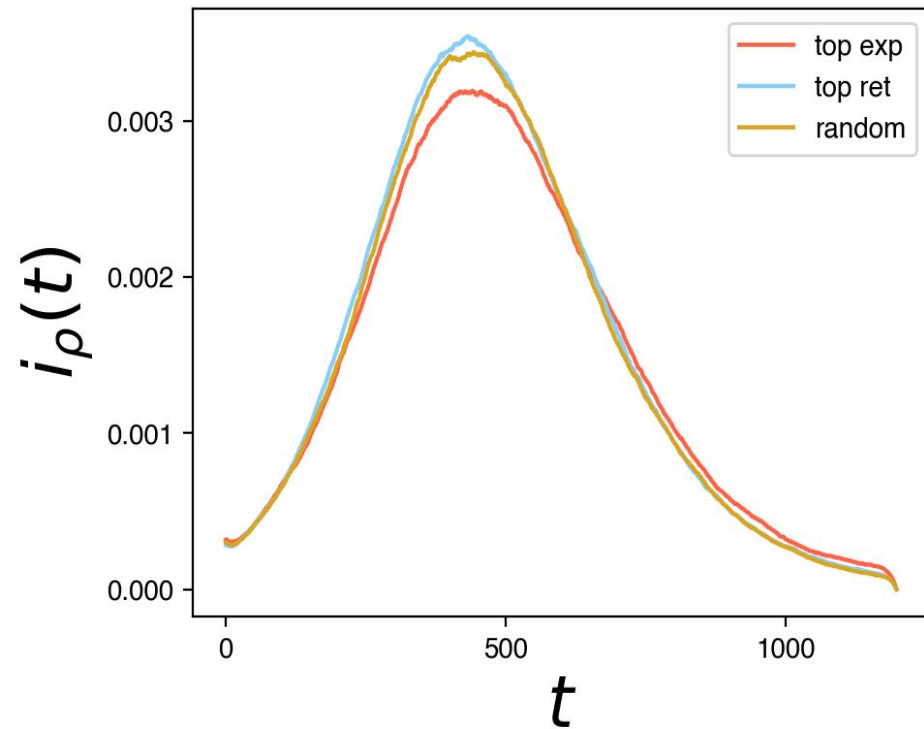




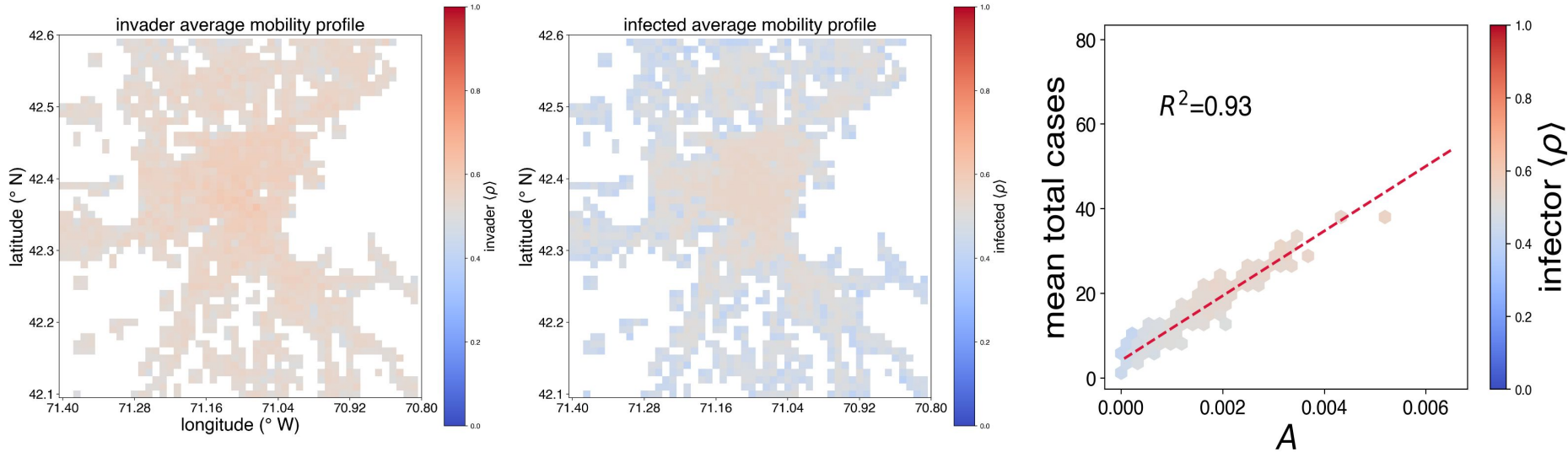
# dominant locations attractiveness



# Targeted vaccination



# What's the average invader/infected mobility profile per location?



**Explorers** absolutely **dominate** when bringing the disease to a new location.

In the **most attractive** locations, the typical infected tends to be an **explorer** ( $\rho > 0.5$ ).

In the **least attractive** locations, the typical infected tends to be a returner **lower** ( $\rho < 0.5$ ).