Localization and Spreading of Diseases in Complex Networks

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S/S model: a standard paradigm for disease spreading in networked systems

Individuals (vertices) can be in one of two states:

1. Susceptible (or healthy) - $\!S$

2. Infected -I

An infected vertex becomes susceptible with unit rate:

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and infects its susceptible neighbor at rate λ :

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For this kind of homogeneous networks one can safely say that disease spreading is well understood and $\ \lambda_c \sim 1/\langle q \rangle$.

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Heterogeneous networks!

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$$\rho \equiv \sum_{i=1}^N \rho_i/N \qquad \text{ is nonzero}$$

[arXiv:1202.4411; PRL 109, 128702 (2012)]

Example of the SIS model on a real network*



*Network of social ties between people belonging to a karate club.

The prevalence ρ is the most upper curve (black line).
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Solving Eq. (2) with respect to $c(\Lambda_1)$ and setting it to zero gives:

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Considering the two largest eigenvalues Λ_1 and Λ_2 , and their eigenvectors, gives

$$\rho(\lambda) \approx \alpha_1 \tau + \alpha_2 \tau^2$$

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The wave function is localized on a finite number of sites around the impurity.



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Thus : a delocalized state: IPR(Λ) $\stackrel{N \to \infty}{\longrightarrow} 0$ a localized state: IPR(Λ) $\stackrel{N \to \infty}{\longrightarrow} const. > 0$

[arXiv:1202.4411; PRL 109, 128702 (2012)]

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and, right above λ_c , the disease is localized on a finite number $N\rho$ of vertices.

A delocalized principal eigenvector: $f_i(\Lambda) = \mathcal{O}(1/\sqrt{N})$

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If $\vec{f}(\Lambda_1)$ is delocalized, then ρ is of order $\mathcal{O}(1)$ and the disease infects a finite fraction of vertices right above λ_c .

Weighted and unweighted real-world nets



(a) Weighted collaboration networks of scientists posting preprints on the:
 (black line) astrophysics archive at arXiv.org, 1995-1999
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(b) Unweighted karate-club network: the lowest curve only accounts for the eigenstate $\Lambda_1.$ The most upper curve is the exact ρ .
An uncorrelated scale-free network



(a) A scale-free network of 10⁵ vertices generated by the static model with $\gamma = 4$ and $\langle q \rangle = 10$. (b) Zoom of the prevalence at λ close to $\lambda_c = 1/\Lambda_1$. Eigenvectors corresponding to Λ_1 and Λ_2 are localized. Λ_3 is delocalized.



Simple but representative example of networks. Can be treated analytically:



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Look for a solution that exponentially decreases with distance n from the hub:

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(**c**) ...

[arXiv:1202.4411; PRL 109, 128702 (2012)]



If the principal eigenvector of the adjacency matrix is localized, then, immediately above the threshold $1/\Lambda_1$, the disease is localized on a finite number of vertices. In this case, a real epidemic affecting a finite fraction of vertices occurs after a smooth crossover, and

the notion of the epidemic threshold is meaningless.