

# Temporal Networks

aka time-varying networks, time-stamped graphs, dynamical networks...



Network Theory and Applications

ECS 253 / MAE 253

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# Sources

## Reviews:


Physics Reports 519 (2012) 97–125

Contents lists available at [SciVerse ScienceDirect](#)



**Physics Reports**

journal homepage: [www.elsevier.com/locate/physrep](http://www.elsevier.com/locate/physrep)



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Temporal networks

Petter Holme<sup>a,b,c,\*</sup>, Jari Saramäki<sup>d</sup>

[Eur. Phys. J. B](#) (2015) 88: 234  
DOI: [10.1140/epjb/e2015-60657-4](https://doi.org/10.1140/epjb/e2015-60657-4)

**THE EUROPEAN  
PHYSICAL JOURNAL B**

Colloquium

### Modern temporal network theory: a colloquium<sup>★</sup>

Petter Holme<sup>a</sup>

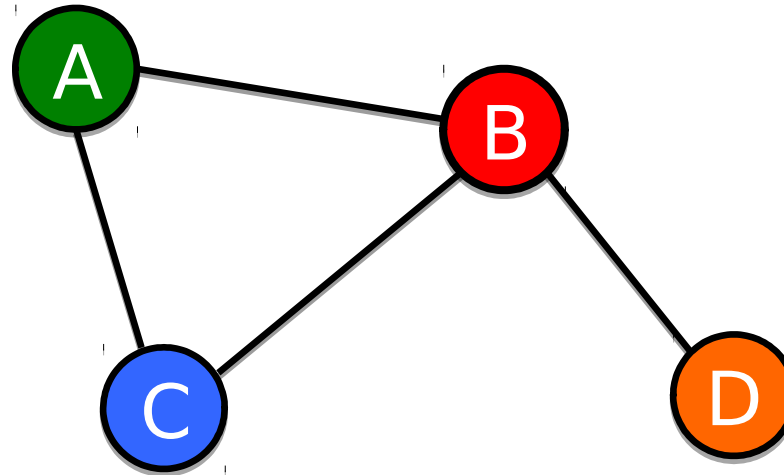
Department of Energy Science, Sungkyunkwan University, 440-746 Suwon, Korea

## Courses:

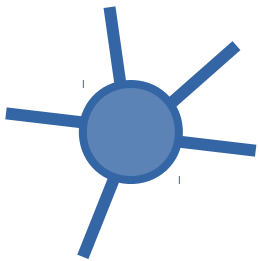
- ENS Lyon: Márton Karsai
- Northeastern University: Nicola Perra, Sean Cornelius, Roberta Sinatra

# Temporal Networks

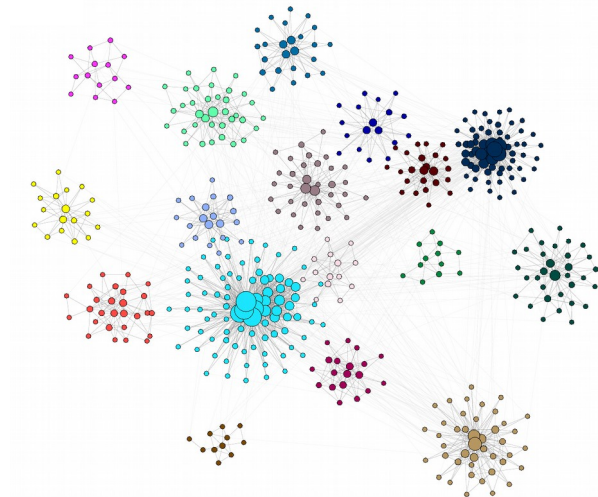
- So far: static network



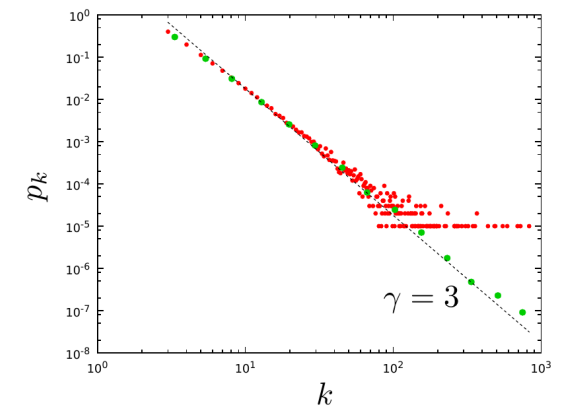
- Description:



Microscopic:  
Node, link properties  
(degree, centralities)



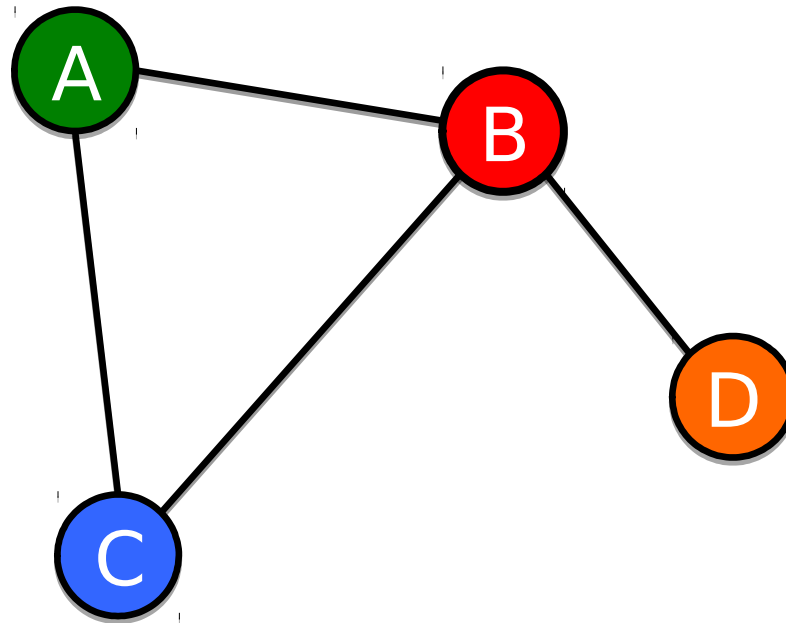
Mezoscopic:  
Motives, communities



Macroscopic:  
statistics

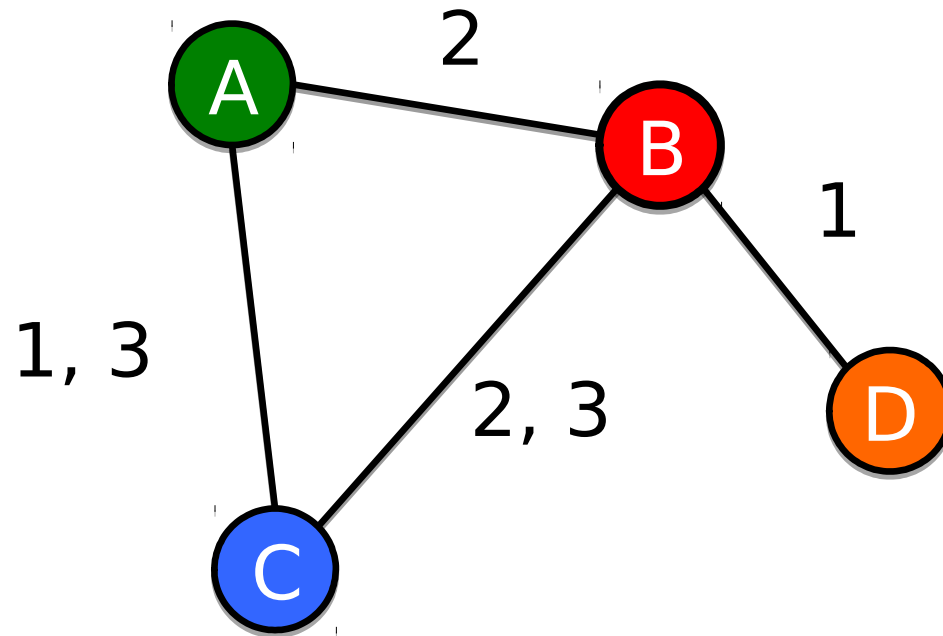
# Temporal Networks

- Static network: Spreading process can reach all nodes starting from A.



# Temporal Networks

- Now: time of interaction



# Temporal Networks

- Now: time of interaction

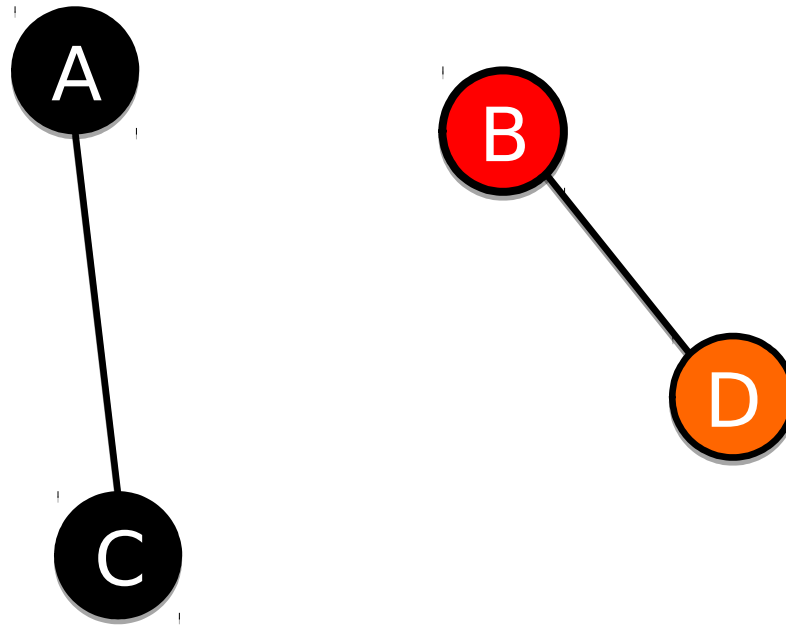
$t=0$



# Temporal Networks

- Now: time of interaction

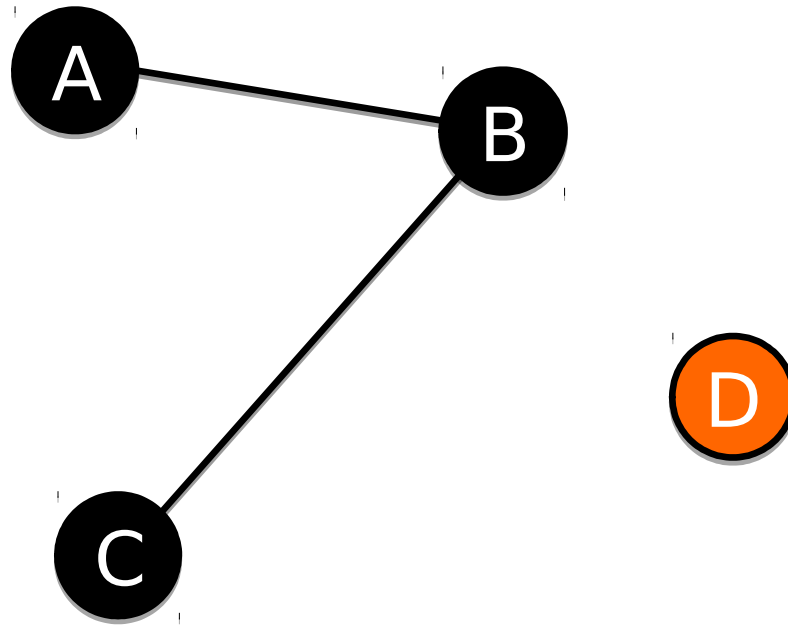
$t=1$



# Temporal Networks

- Now: time of interaction

$t=2$

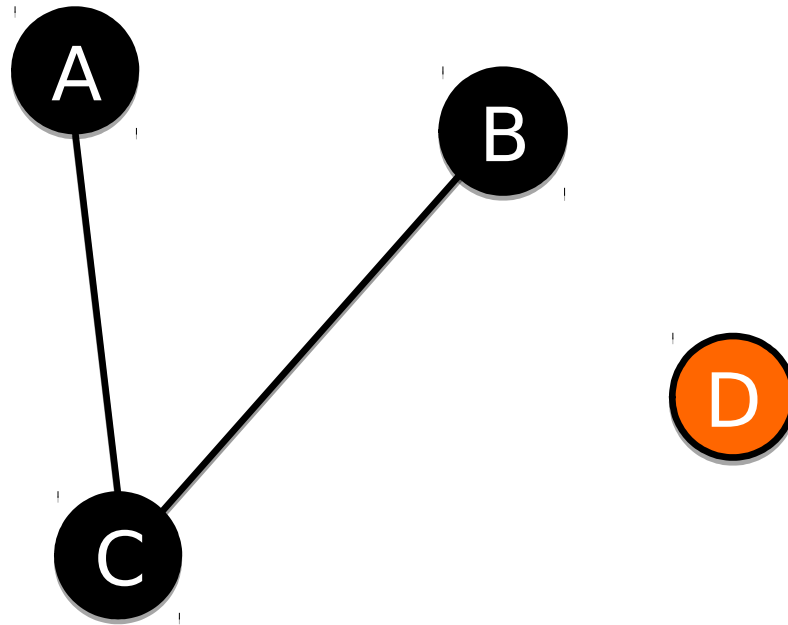




# Temporal Networks

- Now: time of interaction

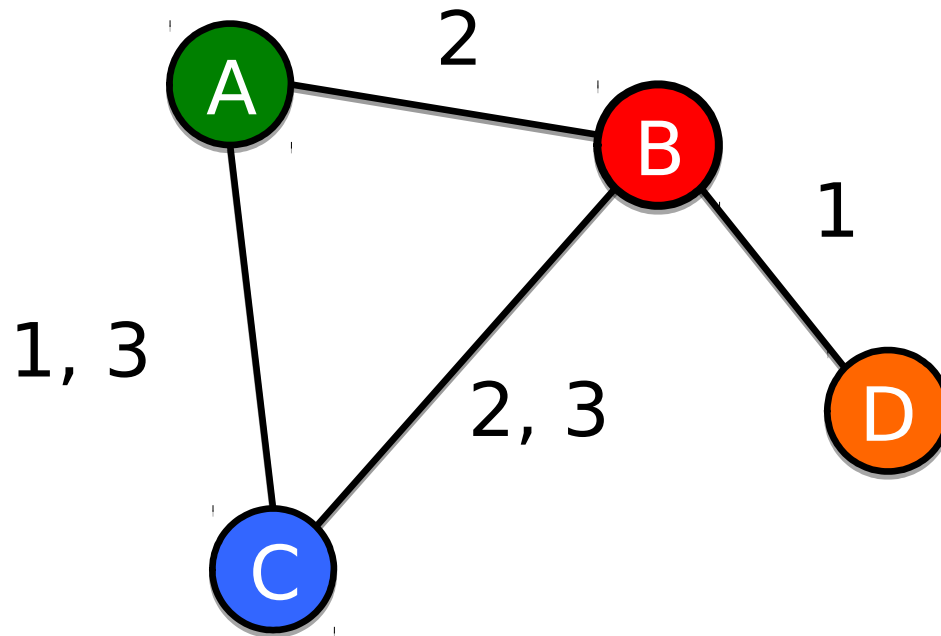
$t=3$



# Temporal Networks

- Now: time of interaction

t=0



?

?

?

Microscopic:  
Node, link properties  
(degree, centralities)

Mezoscopic:  
Motives, communities

Macroscopic:  
statistics

# When are temporal nets useful?

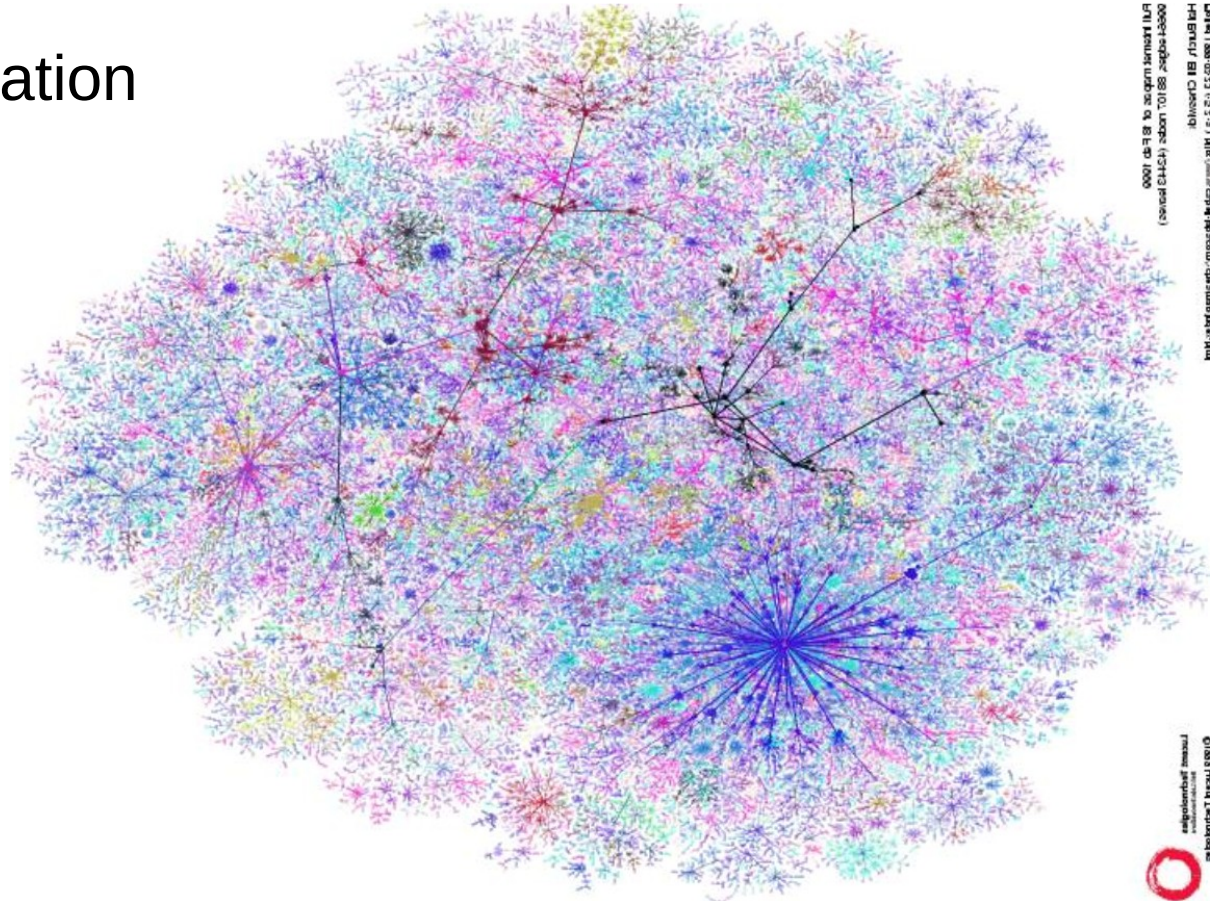
- Timescales:

$\tau_D$  : timescale of dynamics

$\tau_N$  : timescale of changes in network

- $\frac{\tau_D}{\tau_N} \gg 1$  : static approximation

Example: Internet



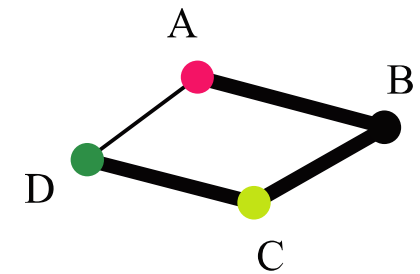
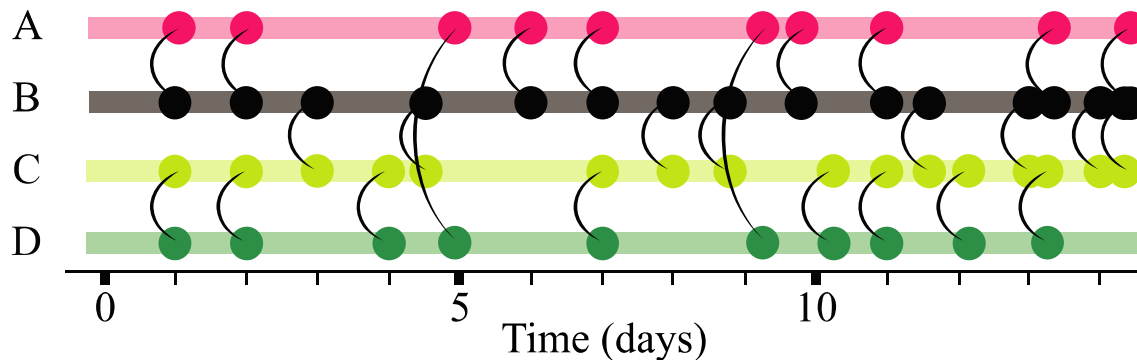
# When are temporal nets useful?

- Timescales:

$\tau_D$  : timescale of dynamics

$\tau_N$  : timescale of changes in network

- $\frac{\tau_D}{\tau_N} \ll 1$  : annealed approximation



Example: PC or Mac

- Process slow enough that A meets all contacts
- Weight: how frequently they meet

# When are temporal nets useful?

- Timescales:

$\tau_D$  : timescale of dynamics

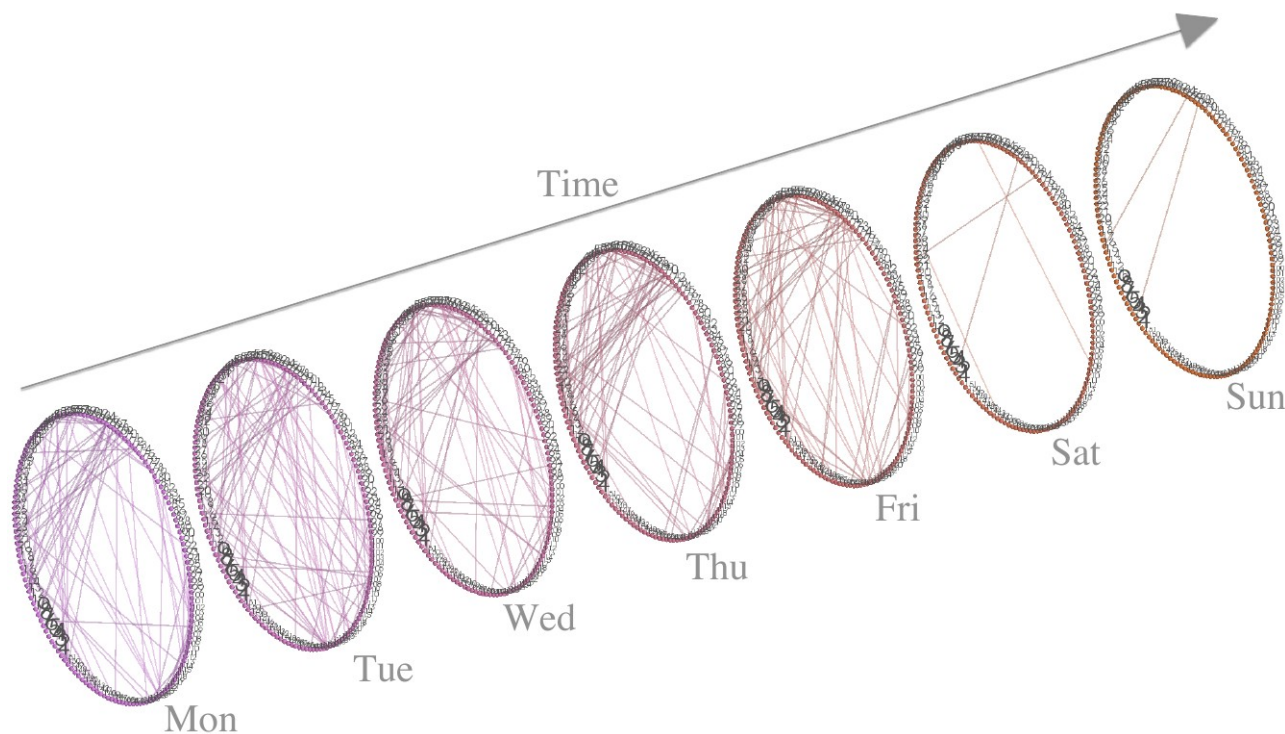
$\tau_N$  : timescale of changes in network

- $\frac{\tau_D}{\tau_N} \sim 1$  :

## TEMPORAL NETWORKS

# Examples

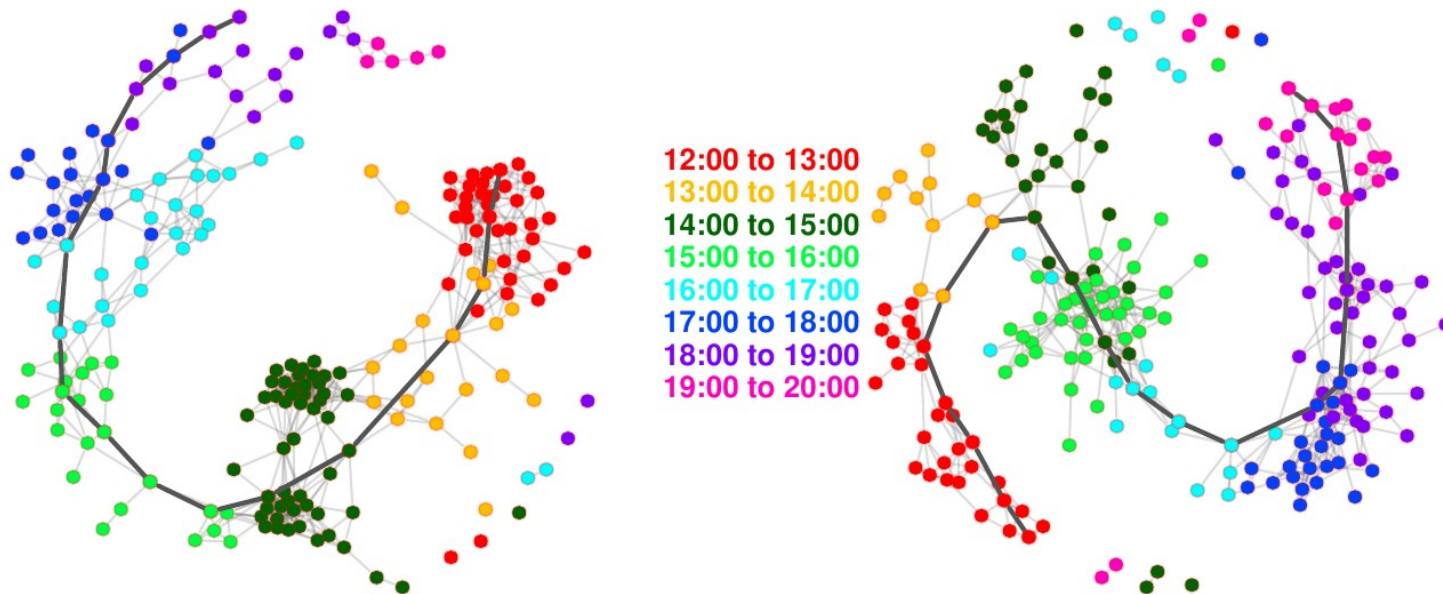
- Communication: Email, phone call, face-to-face
- Proximity: same hospital room, meet at conference, animals hanging out
- Transportation: train, flights...
- Cell biology: protein-protein, gene regulation
- ...



Email communication

# Examples

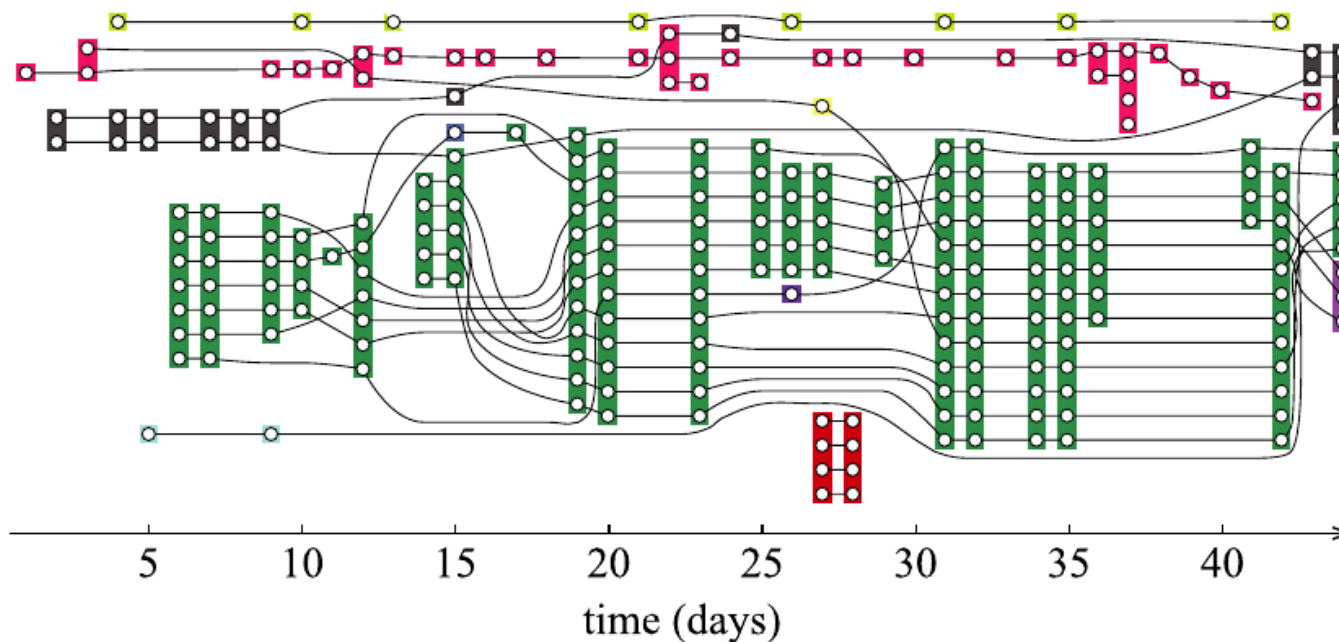
- Communication: Email, phone call, face-to-face
- Proximity: same hospital room, meet at conference, animals hanging out
- Transportation: train, flights...
- Cell biology: protein-protein, gene regulation
- ...



Visitors at exhibit.

# Examples

- Communication: Email, phone call, face-to-face
- Proximity: same hospital room, meet at conference, animals hanging out
- Transportation: train, flights...
- Cell biology: protein-protein, gene regulation
- ...



Temporal network of zebras  
C. Tantipathananandh, et.al. (2007)



# Plan

- 1) Mathematical representation
- 2) Path- based measures of temporal
- 3) Temporal heterogeneity
- 4) Processes and null models
- 5) Motifs

# Mathematical Description

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# Mathematical representation

- **Temporal graph:**

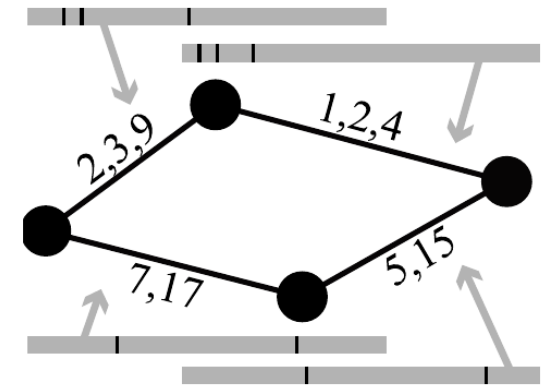
$$G_t = (V, E, T_e)$$

Set of vertices.

Set of edges.

$$T_e = \{t_1, t_2, \dots, t_n\}$$

Set of times when edge  $e$  is active.



1. Contact sequence

$$E \subset T \times V \times V$$

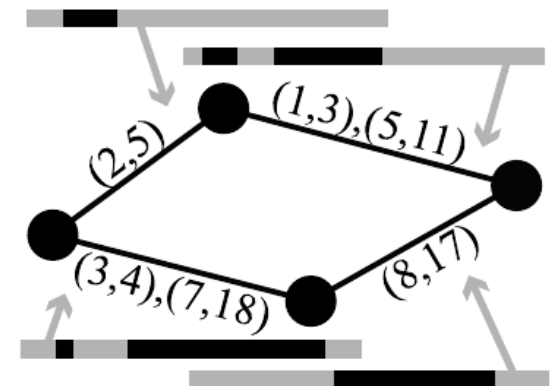
2. Adjacency matrix sequence

$$A_{ij}(t)$$

- **Interval graph:**  $G_t^d = (V, E, T_e^d)$

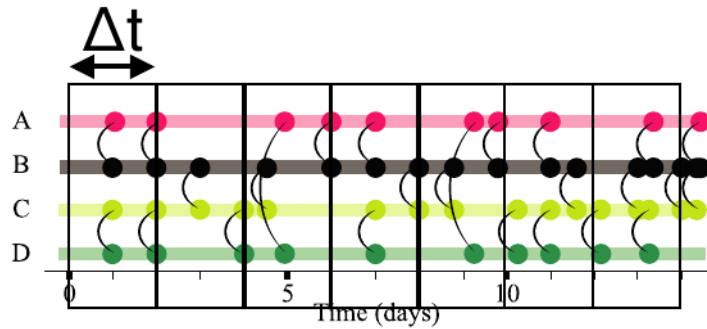
$$T_e^d = \{(t_1, t_1'), \dots, (t_n, t_n')\}$$

Set of intervals when edge  $e$  is active.

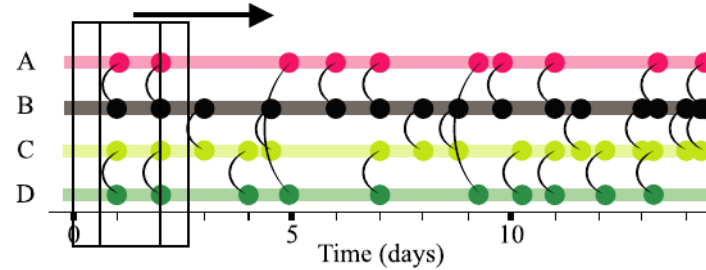


# Aggregating in time windows

- Sequence of snapshots



Consecutive windows



Sliding windows

- Lossy method
- Sometimes data is not available
- Convenient: Static measures on snapshots  $\rightarrow$  Time series of measures
  
- Problem: snapshots depend on window size?
- How to choose?

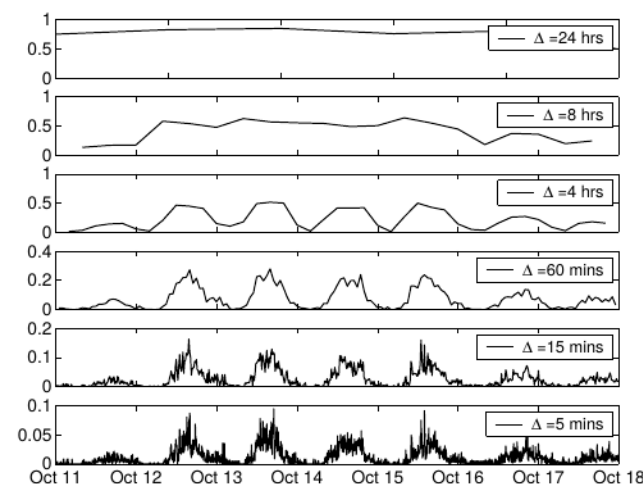
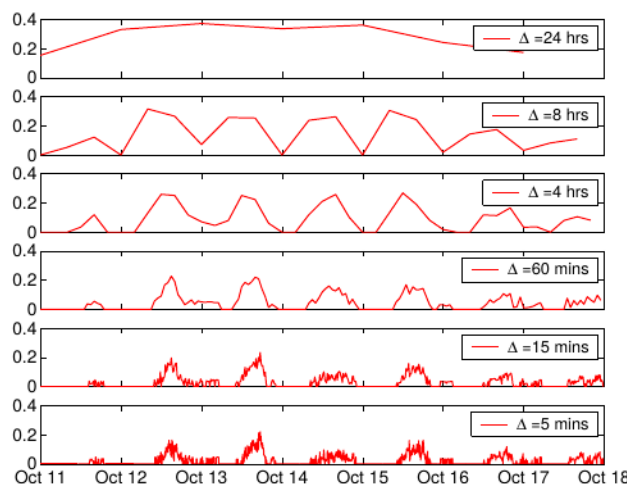
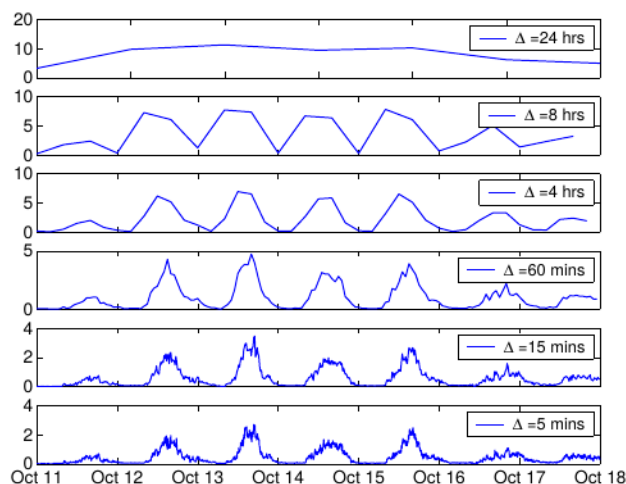
# Window size?

- MIT reality mining project: high resolution proximity data
- Snapshots:  $A^{(1)}, A^{(2)}, \dots, A^{(T)}$       Time window:  $\Delta$
- Adjacency correlation:

$$\gamma_j = \frac{\sum_{i \in N(j)} A_{i,j}^{(x)} A_{i,j}^{(y)}}{\sqrt{(\sum_{i \in N(j)} A_{i,j}^{(x)}) (\sum_{i \in N(j)} A_{i,j}^{(y)})}}$$

$N(j)$  : set of nodes that are connected to  $j$  at  $x$  or  $y$

- 0 uncorrelated, 1 if the same

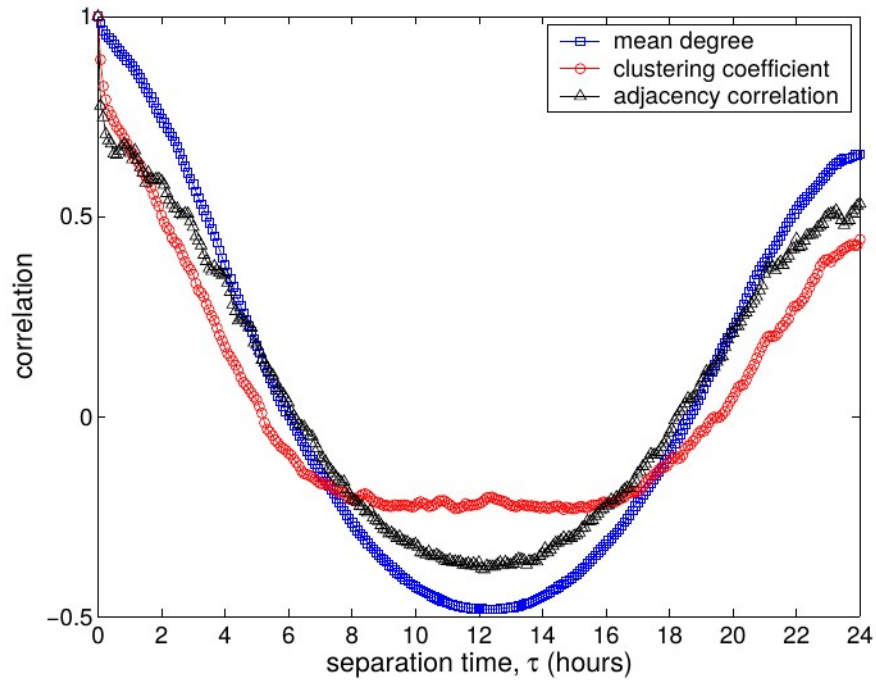


Average degree

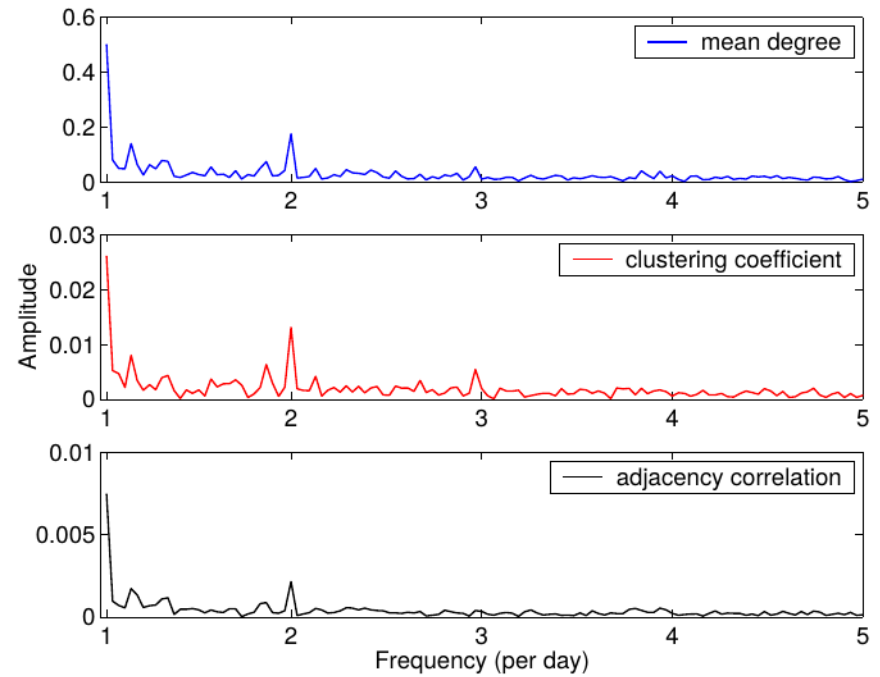
Clustering coef.

1-Adjacency corr.

# Window size?



Time series autocorrelation  
for  $\Delta=5$  min



Fourier spectrum

Driven by periodic patterns  $\rightarrow$  Sampling rate should be twice the highest frequency  
 $\Delta = 4$  hours

# Path-based measures

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# Path-based measures

## Time-respecting paths:

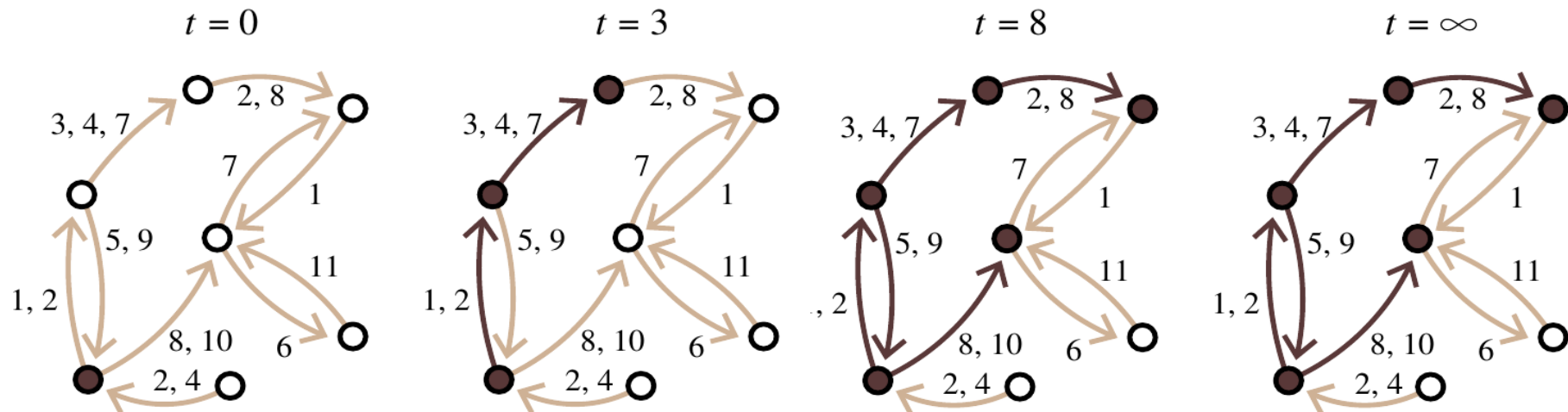
- Takes into account the temporal order and timing of contacts.

$$\{(i,k,t_1), (k,l,t_2), \dots, (p,j,t_n)\} \quad t_1 < t_2 < \dots < t_n$$

- Optional: maximum wait time

## Properties:

- **No reciprocity:** path  $i \rightarrow j$  does not imply path  $j \rightarrow i$ .
- **No transitivity:** path  $i \rightarrow j$  and path  $j \rightarrow k$  does not imply path  $i \rightarrow j \rightarrow k$ .
- **Time dependence:** path  $i \rightarrow j$  that starts at  $t$  does not imply paths at  $t' > t$ .





# Path-based measures

Observation window  $[t_0, t_1]$

## Influence set of node $i$

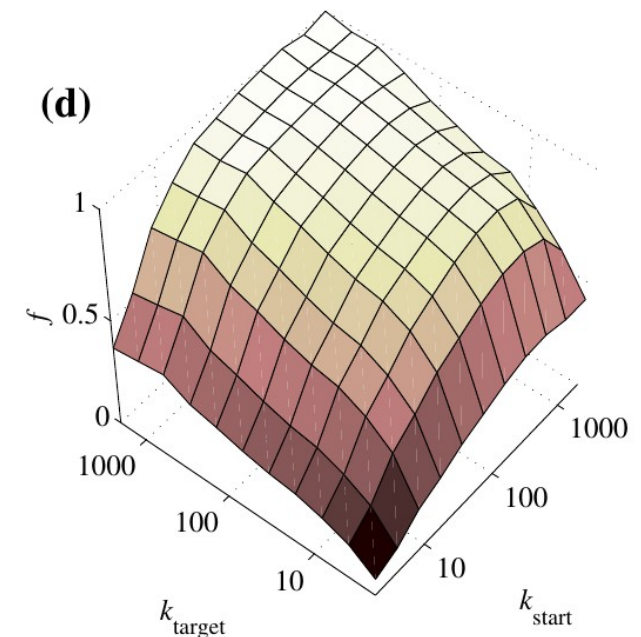
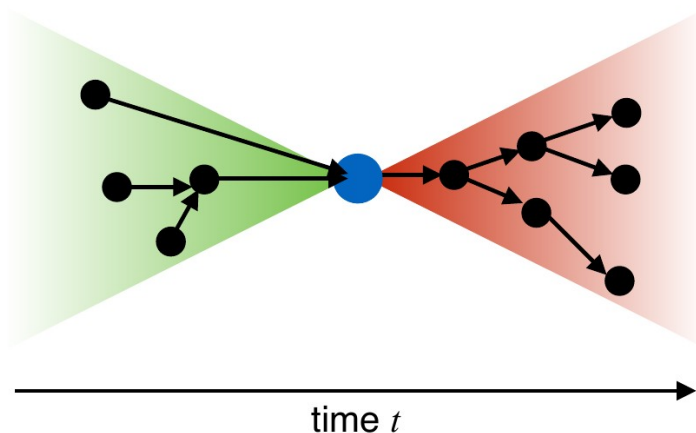
- Nodes that can be reached from node  $i$  within the observation window.
- Reachability ratio  $f$ : fraction of nodes that can be reached

## Source set of node $i$

- Nodes from node  $i$  is reached within the observation window.

## Reachability ratio

- Fraction of node pairs  $(i, j)$  such that path  $i \rightarrow j$  exists.



# Path-based measures

## Temporal path length – Duration

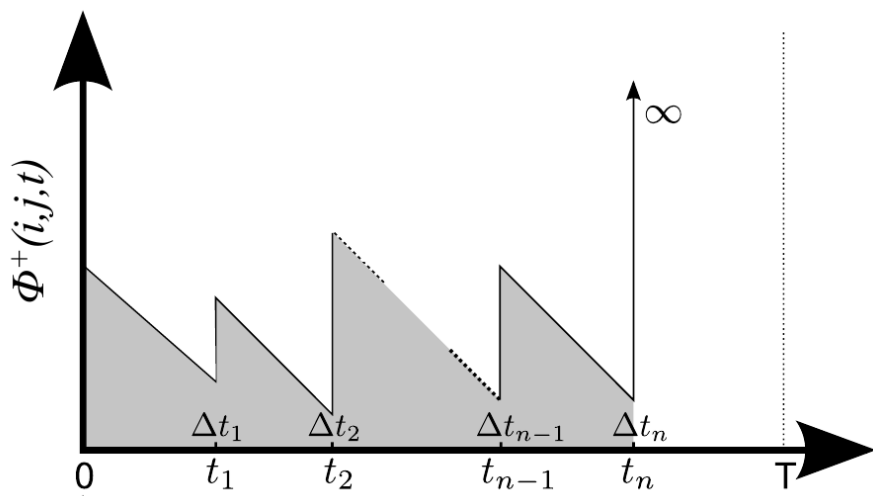
- Duration =  $t_n - t_0$

## Temporal distance – Latency

- $\Phi^+_{i,t}(j)$  the shortest (fastest) path duration from  $i$  to  $j$  starting at  $t$ .

## Information latency

- $\lambda_{i,t}(j)$  the age of the information from  $j$  to  $i$  at  $t$



- End of the observation window: paths become rare.
- Solution: periodic boundary, throw away end

# Path-based measures

## Strongly connected component

- All node pairs are connected in both directions within  $T$ .

## Weakly connected component

- All node pairs are connected in at least one direction within  $T$ .

## Temporal betweenness centrality

- Static:

$$b(i) = \frac{\sum_{i \neq j \neq k} v_{jk}(i)}{\sum_{j \neq k} v_{jk}}$$

- Temporal:

$$b(i, T) = \frac{\sum_{i \neq j \neq k} v_{jk}(i, T)}{\sum_{j \neq k} v_{jk}(T)}$$

Etc.

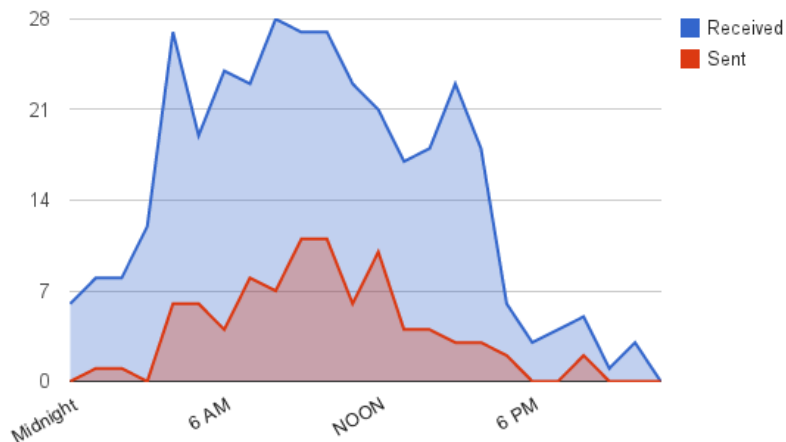
# Temporal heterogeneity

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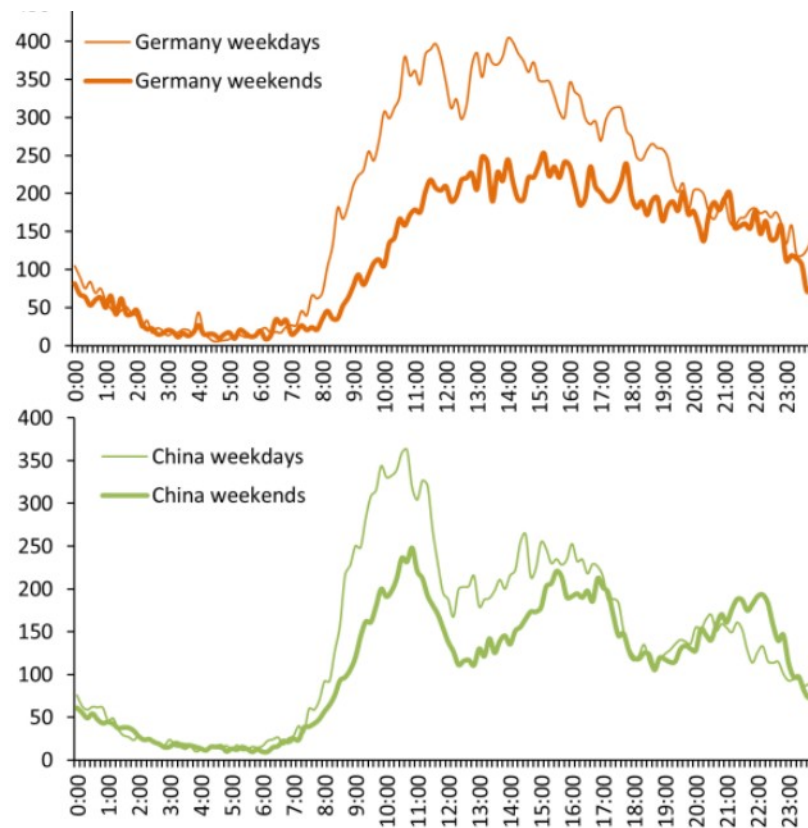
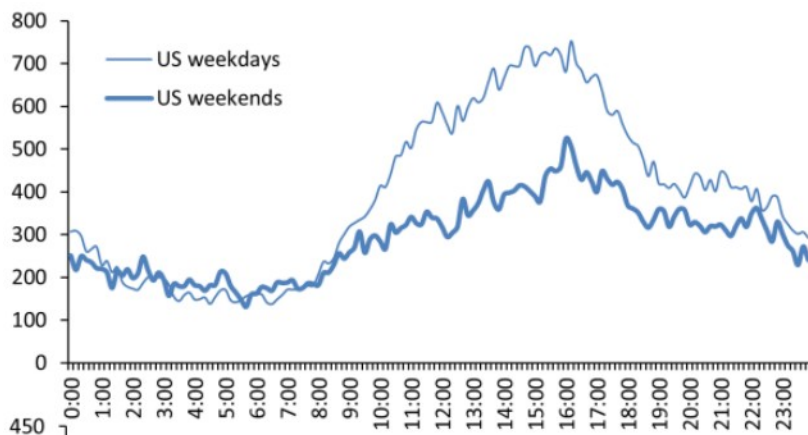
# Source 1: Periodic patterns

For example, circadian rhythm

- My email usage

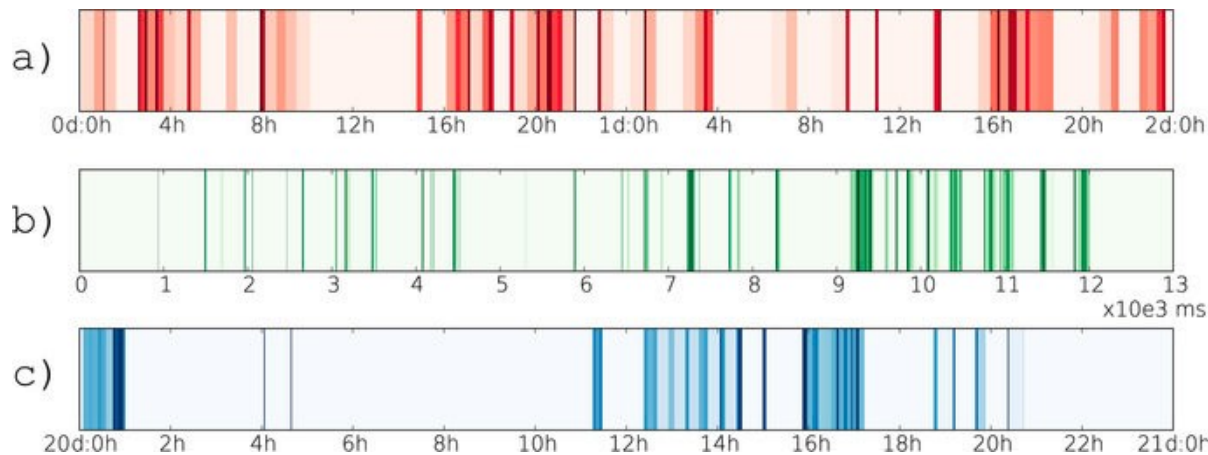


- Scientists work schedule



# Source 2: Burstiness

- Humans and many natural phenomena show heterogeneous temporal behavior on the individual level.
- Switching between periods of low activity and high activity bursts.
- Sign of correlated temporal behavior



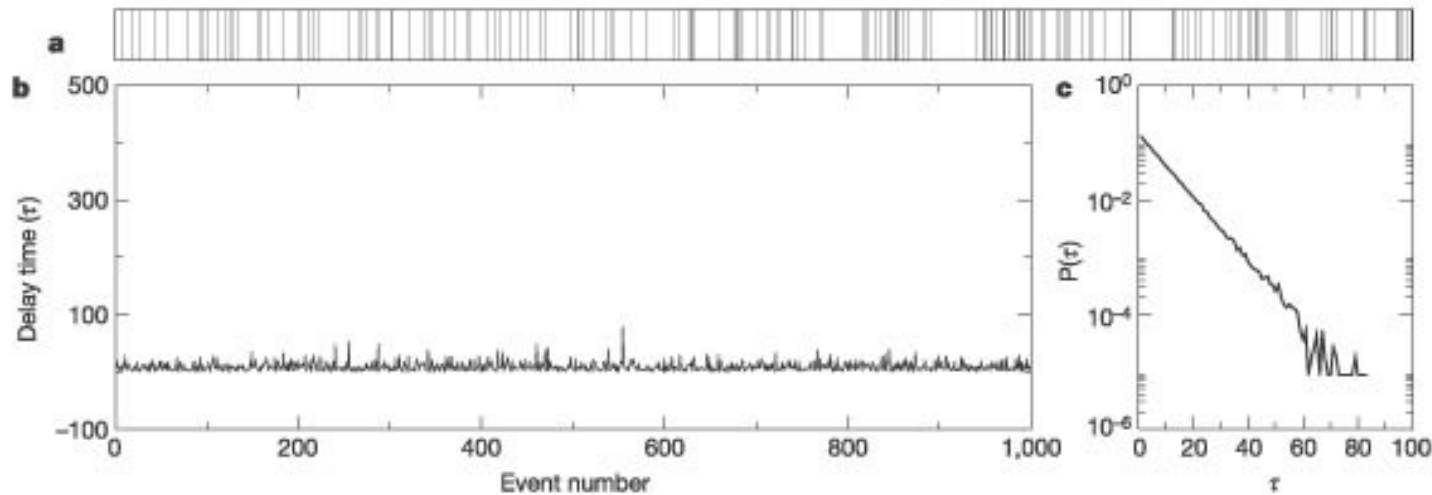
Earthquakes in Japan

Neuron firing

Phone calls

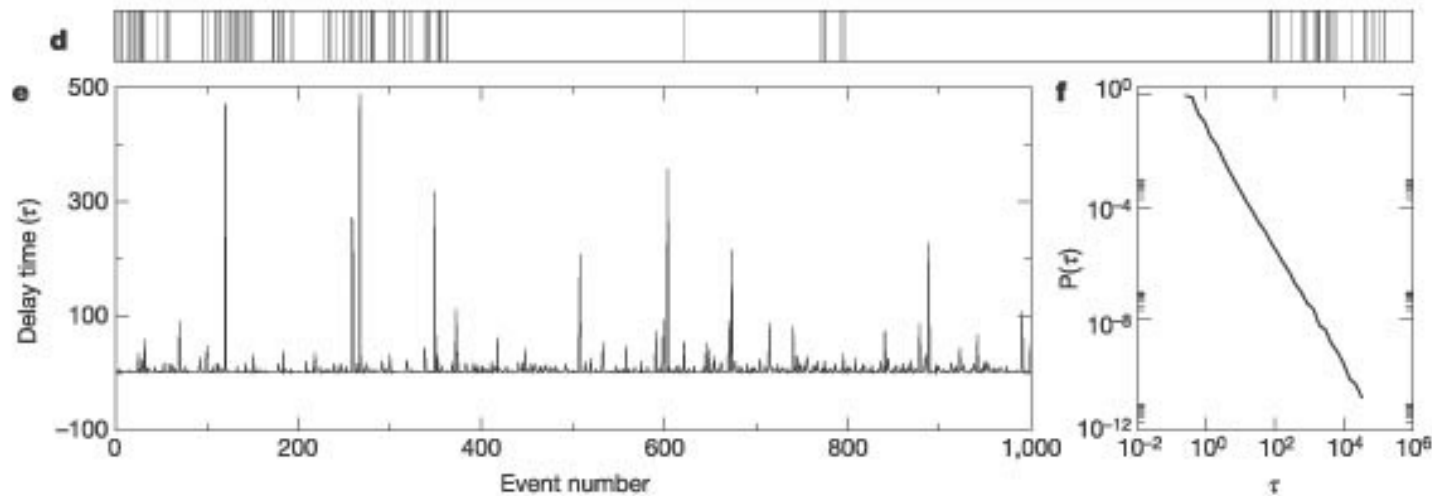
# Source 2: Burstiness

- Sign of correlated temporal behavior
- Reference: Poisson process, events uncorrelated



$$P(\tau) \sim e^{-q\tau}$$

Poisson process



$$P(\tau) \sim \tau^{-\gamma}$$

Bursty signal

# Source 2: Burstiness

- Measure of burstiness: 
$$B \equiv \frac{(\sigma_\tau / m_\tau - 1)}{(\sigma_\tau / m_\tau + 1)} = \frac{(\sigma_\tau - m_\tau)}{(\sigma_\tau + m_\tau)}$$

$m_\tau$  - average inter-event time

$B = -1$

$B = 0$

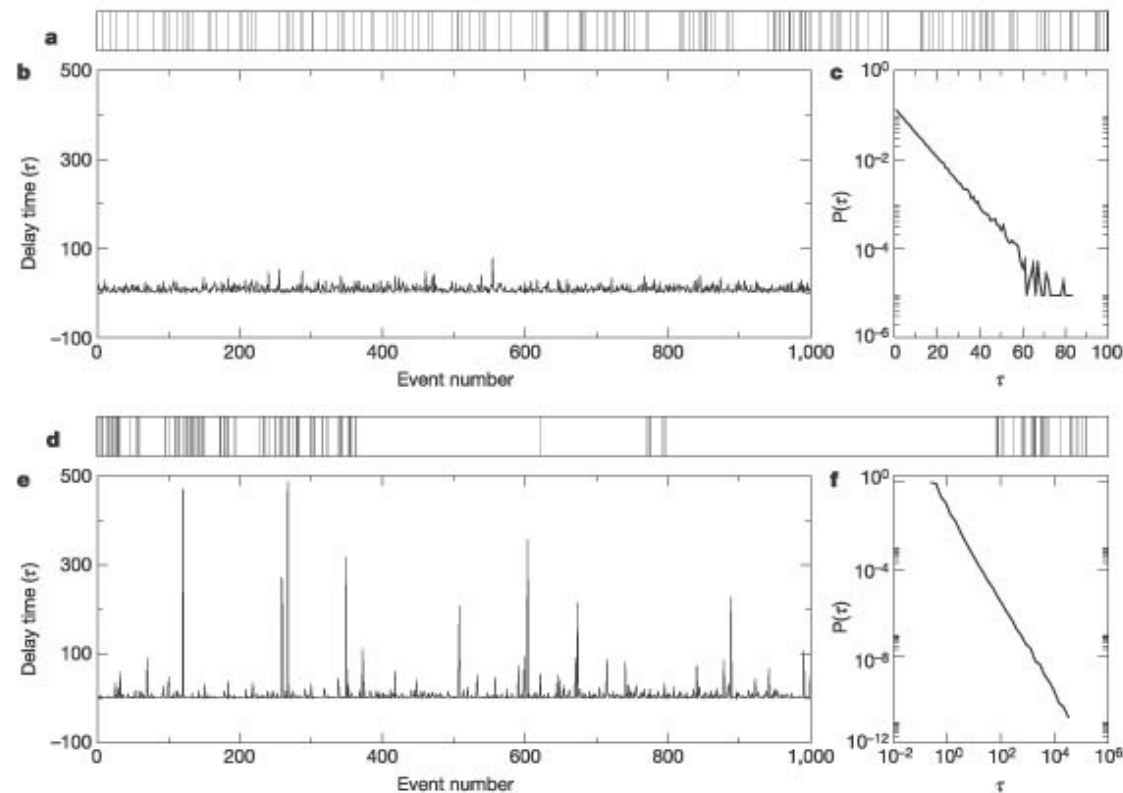
$B = 1$

$\sigma_\tau$  - STD of inter-event time

Max. regular

Poisson

Max bursty





# Possible explanation for burstiness

- Executing tasks based on priority
- $L$  types of tasks, one each (e.g. work, family, movie watching,...)
- Each task  $i$  has a priority  $x_i$ , draw uniformly from  $[0,1]$
- Each timestep one task is executed, probability of choosing  $i$ :

$$\Pi(i) = \frac{x_i^\gamma}{\sum_{j=1}^L x_j^\gamma}$$

- And a new task is added of that type

$$\gamma = 0$$

Random

$$P(\tau) \sim e^{-\tau}$$

$$\gamma = \infty$$

Deterministic

$$P(\tau) \sim \tau^{-1}$$

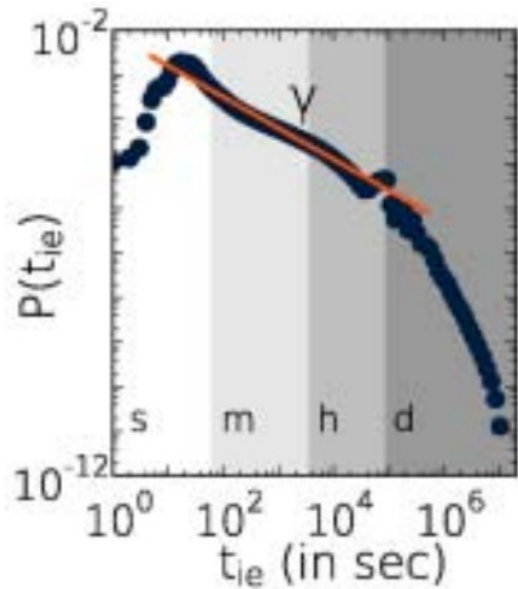
# Is inter-event time power-law?

$$P(\tau) \sim e^{-q\tau}$$

Poisson process

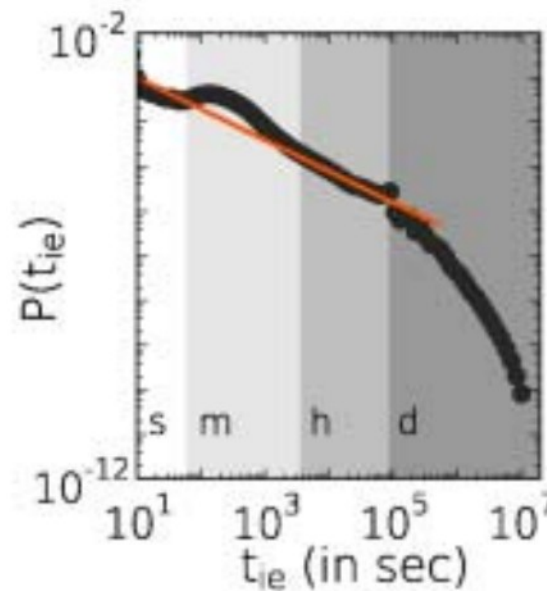
$$P(\tau) \sim \tau^{-\gamma}$$

Bursty signal



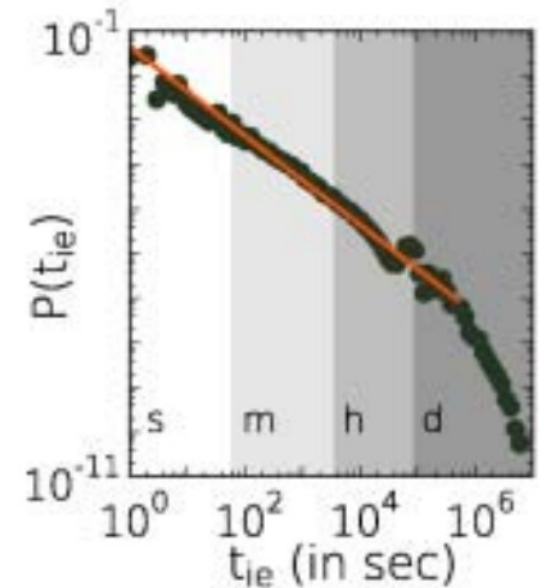
Phone calls

$$\gamma \approx 0.7$$



Text message

$$\gamma \approx 0.7$$

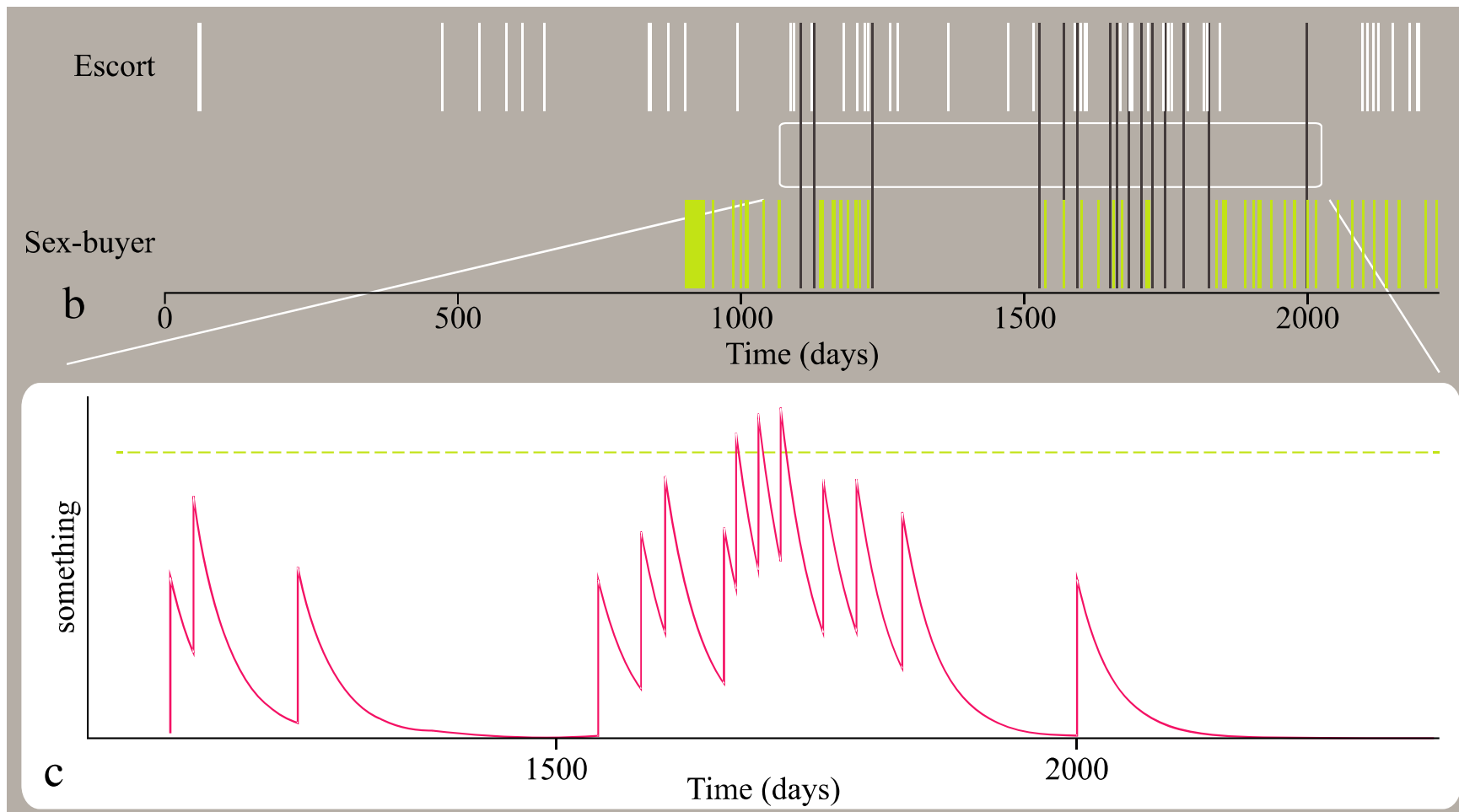


Email

$$\gamma \approx 1.0$$

- Is this a power-law? Definitely not exponential.

# Does burstiness matter?



# Processes and null models

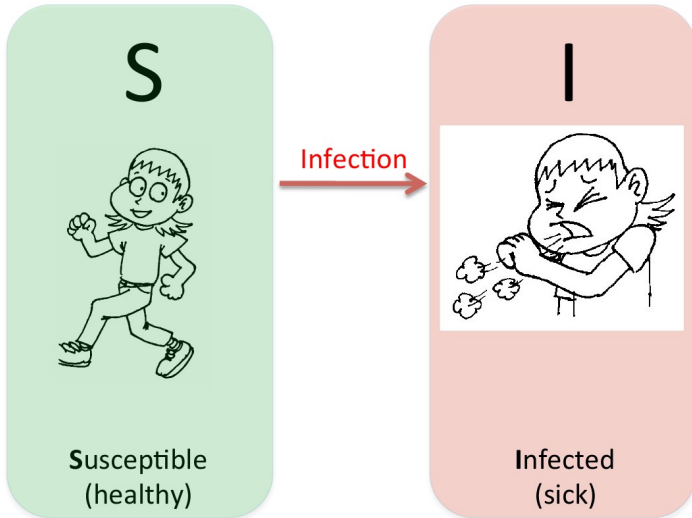
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# Structure and dynamics

- So far: various measures to characterize network
- How does structure affect processes on the network?
- Possibility:
  - 1) Generate model networks with given parameters.
  - 2) Run dynamics model → measure outcome.
  - 3) Scan parameters.
- Models from scratch: many parameters to set → few models, no dominant
  
- Instead:
  - 1) Take empirical network.
  - 2) Remove correlations by randomization.
  - 3) Run dynamics model → measure outcome.

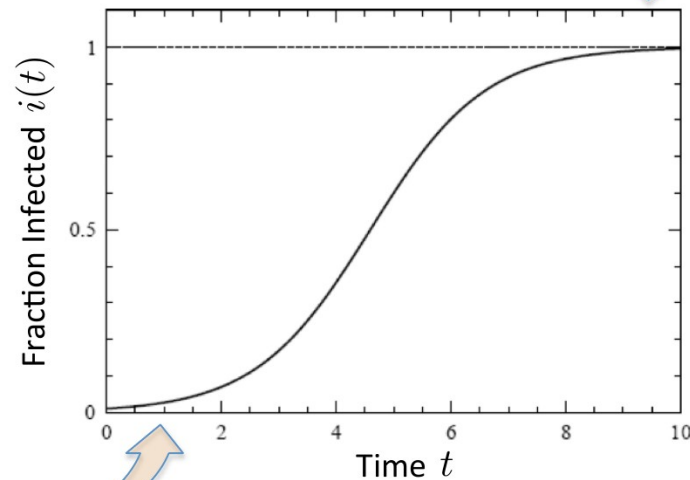
# Dynamics

- Model: SI model



- Infection rate:  $\beta$

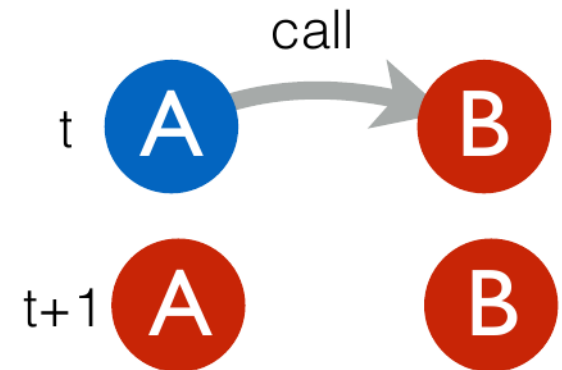
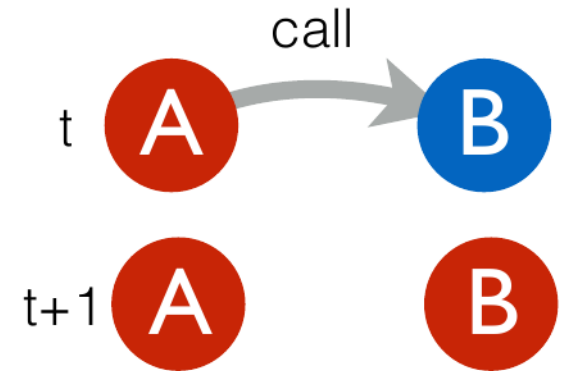
If  $i(t)$  is small,  
$$\frac{di(t)}{dt} \approx \beta \langle k \rangle$$
$$i(t) \approx i_0 e^{\beta \langle k \rangle t}$$
**exponential outbreak**



As  $i(t) \rightarrow 1$  If connected  
$$\frac{di(t)}{dt} \rightarrow 0$$
**saturation**

# Dynamics

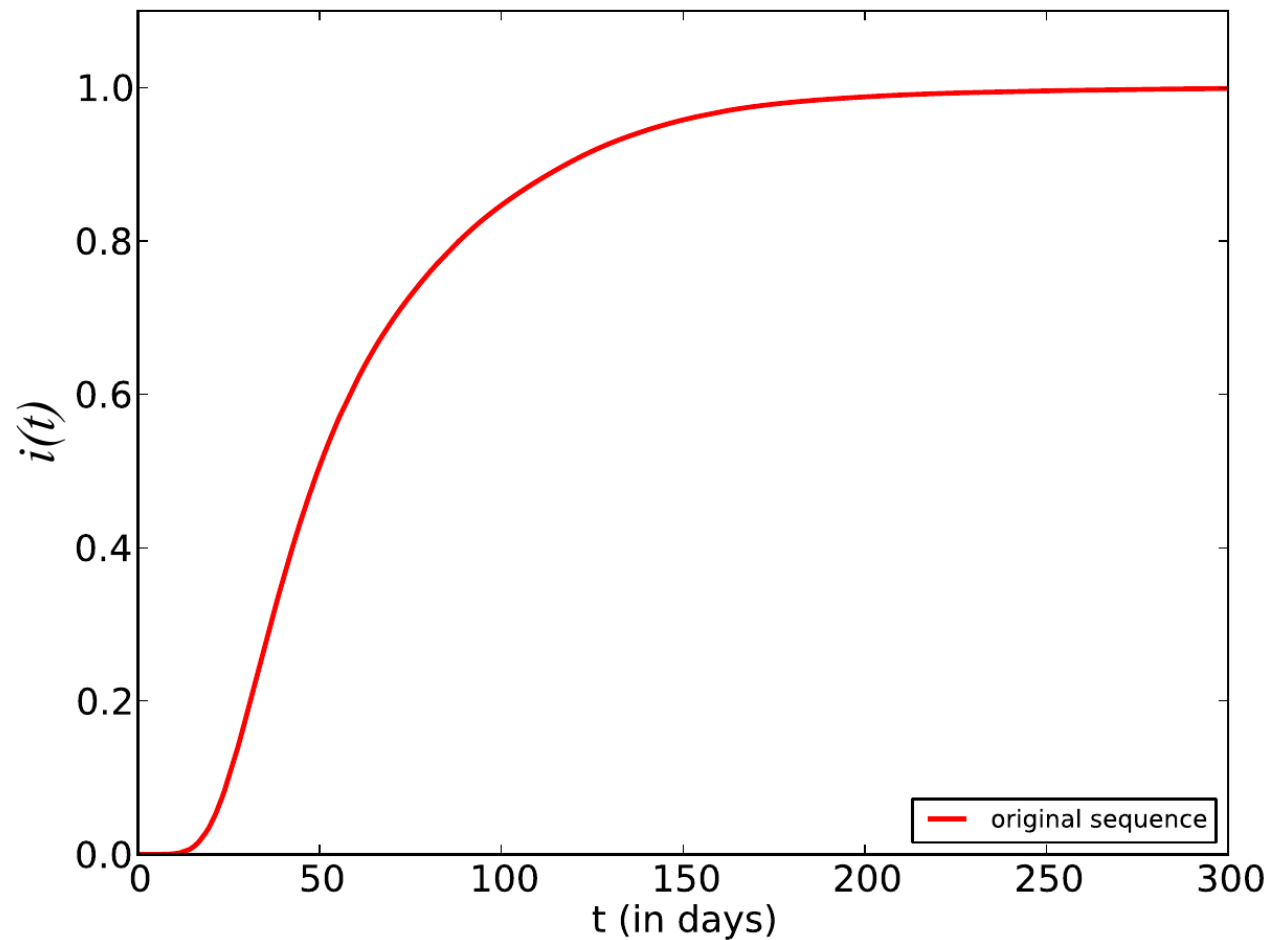
- Model: SI model on a temporal network
- Simplest model of information spreading
- Infection only spreads along active contacts
- Infection can spread both ways
- Infection rate  $\beta = 1$
- Single seed at  $t=0$
  
- Mobile call data as underlying network



# Original temporal net

- We run SI model and measure  $i(t) = \frac{I(t)}{N}$

	WT	BD	LL	CS	25%m
Original	✓	✓	✓	✓	33,7



- Now what? Is this because burstiness, community structure?



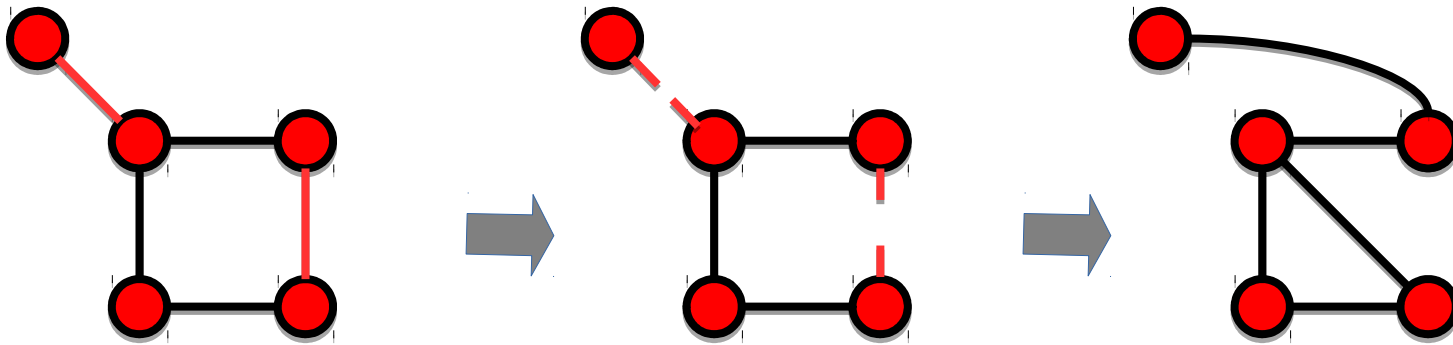
# Properties of the original

- **Bursty dynamics (BD)**  
Heterogeneous inter-event time distribution
- **Community structure (CS)**  
Densely connected subgroups  
(Any other structure beyond degree distribution)
- **Link-link correlations (LL)**  
Causality between consecutive calls
- **Weight-topology correlation (WT)**  
Strong ties within local communities, weak ties connect different communities  
Weight = total call time  
 $s$  = strength of a node = sum of adjacent link weights  
Onnela, J-P., et al. "Structure and tie strengths in mobile communication networks." PNAS 104.18 (2007).

	WT	BD	LL	CS	25%m
Original	✓	✓	✓	✓	33,7

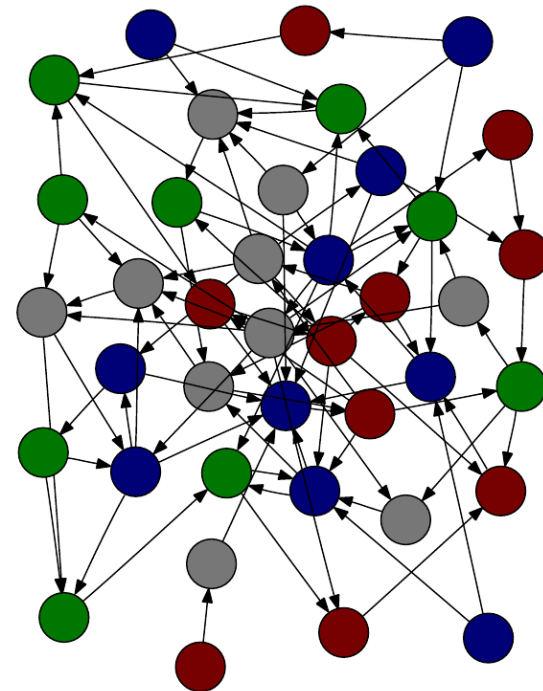
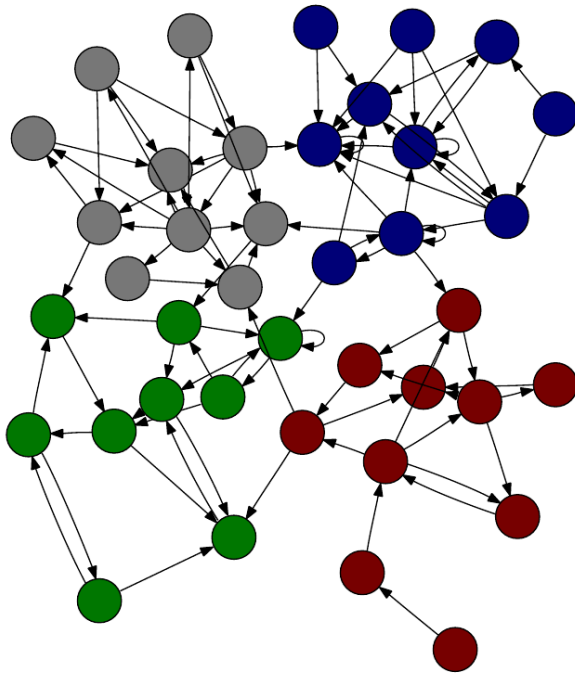
# Recap from community detection

- Randomization to remove community structure of a static network



Original

What we compare to

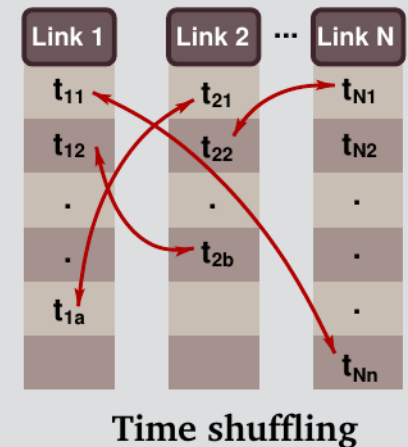


# Randomization 1: temp. config. model

- Degree preserved randomization to remove **CS** and **WT**
- Shuffle event times to remove **BD** and **LL**

## Shuffling

- Shuffle the event times of calls and destroy temporal heterogeneities
- keep  $P(w)$ ,  $P(k)$ ,  $P(s)$ ,  $w$ -top correlations
- destroy  $P(t_{ie})$ , link-link correlations

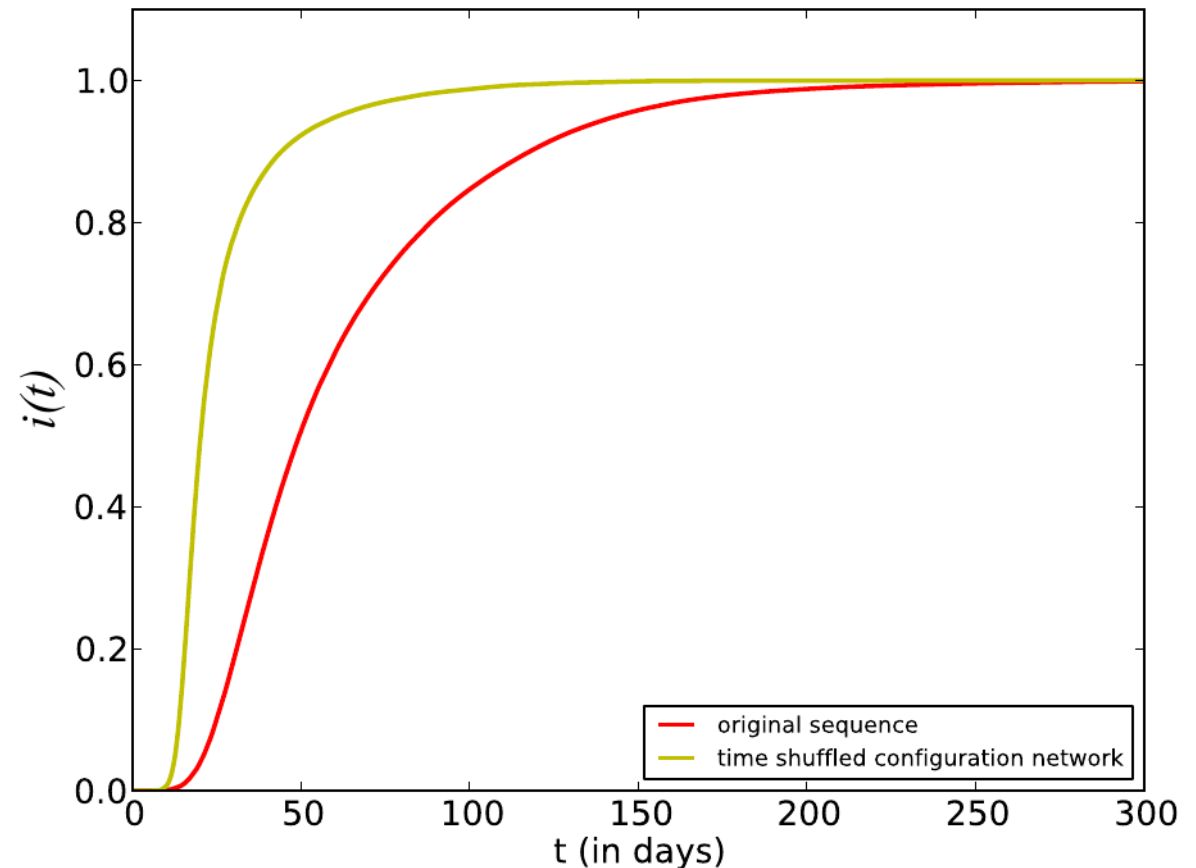


# Randomization 1: temp. config. model

- Degree preserved randomization to remove **CS** and **WT**
- Shuffle event times to remove **BD** and **LL**
- **No correlation left.**

	WT	BD	LL	CS	25%m
Original	✓	✓	✓	✓	33,7
TimeConf	✗	✗	✗	✗	16,4

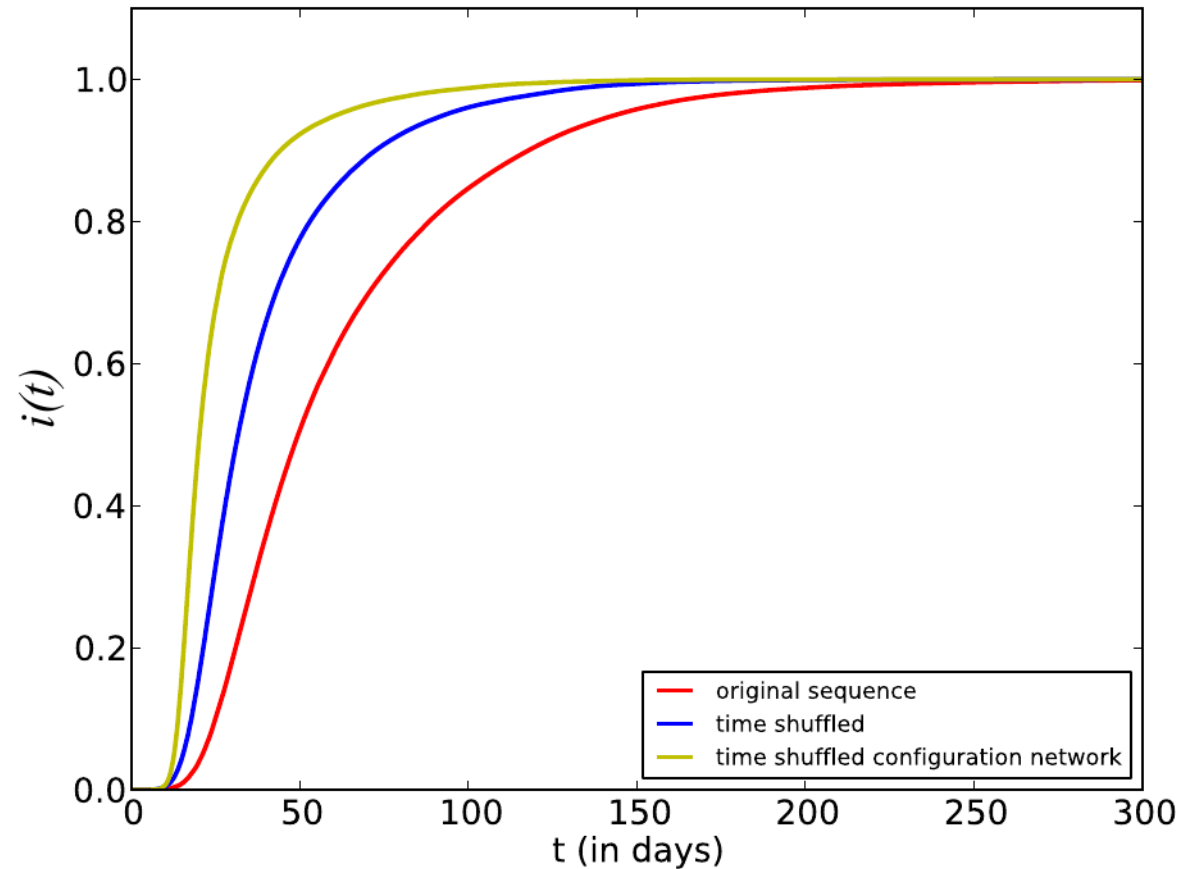
→ **Correlations slow the spread of information.**



# Randomization 2: time shuffled network

- Shuffle event times to remove **BD** and **LL**
- **CS** and **WT** remain.

	WT	BD	LL	CS	25%m
Original	✓	✓	✓	✓	33,7
TimeConf	✗	✗	✗	✗	16,4
Time	✓	✗	✗	✓	22,9

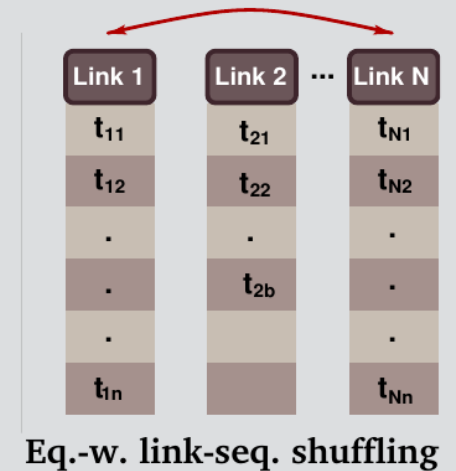


# Randomization 2: time shuffled network

- Shuffle event sequences to remove **WT** and **LL**

## Shuffling

- Change complete call sequences of individuals regardless of their edge weight
- keep  $P(w)$ ,  $P(k)$ ,  $P(t_{ie})$
- destroy  $P(s)$ , link-link correlations, w-top correlations

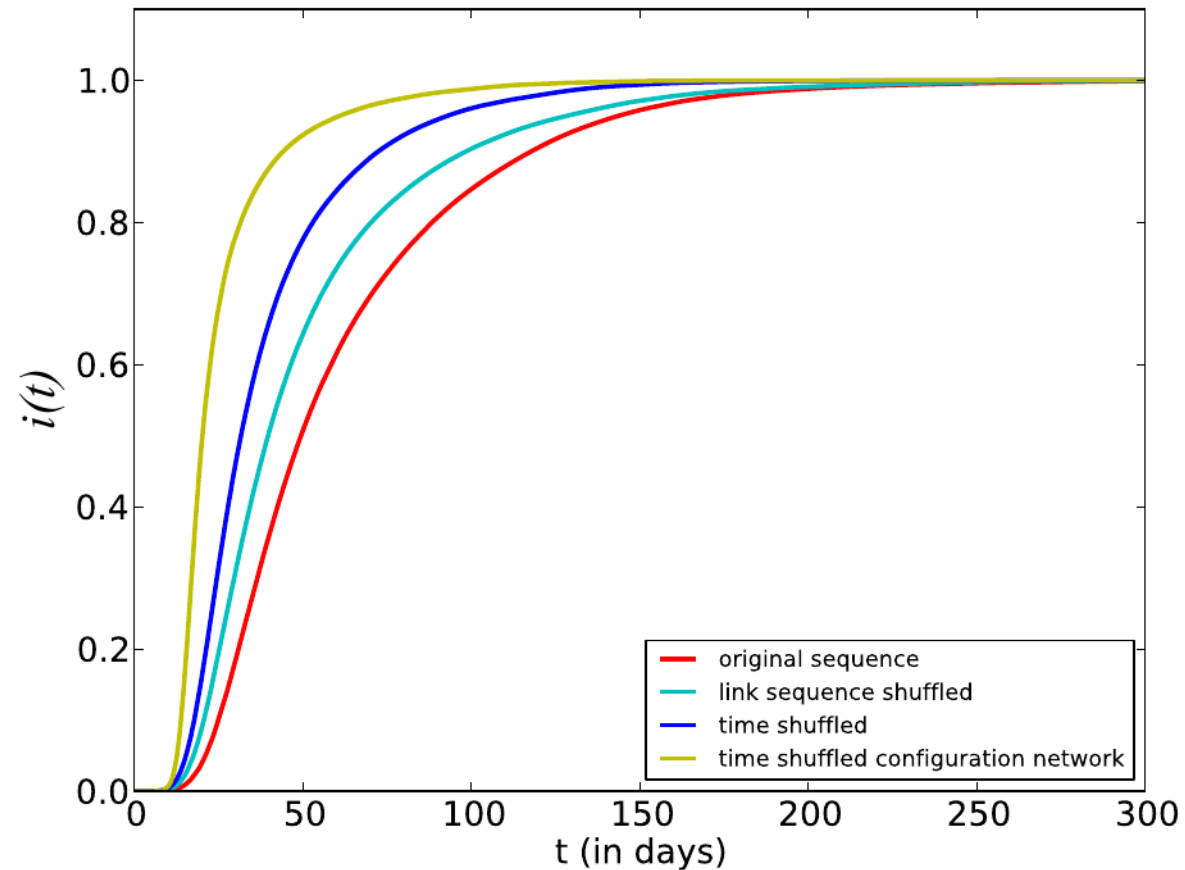


- **CS** and **BD** remain.

# Randomization 3: time seq. shuffled

- Shuffle event sequences to remove **WT** and **LL**
- **CS** and **BD** remain.

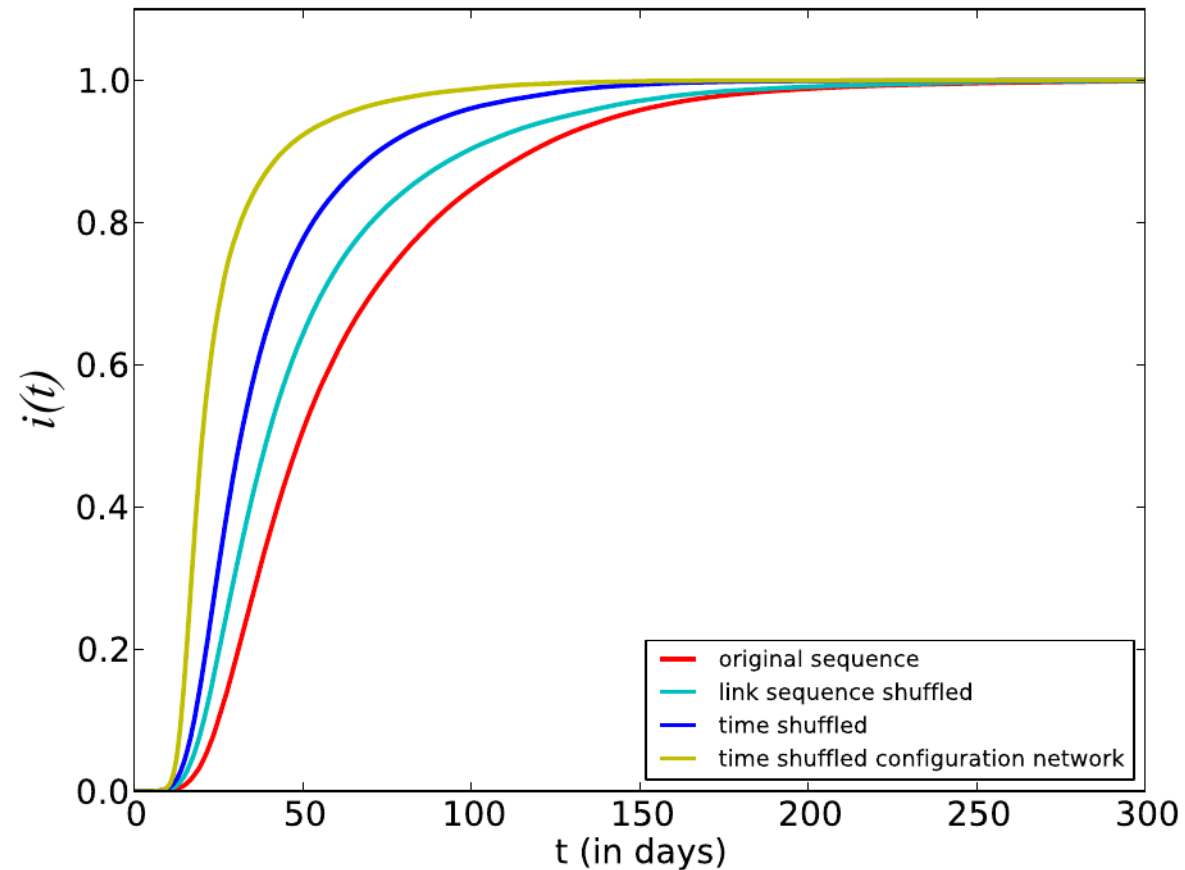
	WT	BD	LL	CS	25%m
Original	✓	✓	✓	✓	33,7
TimeConf	✗	✗	✗	✗	16,4
Time	✓	✗	✗	✓	22,9
Link	✗	✓	✗	✓	27,5



# Randomization 3: time seq. shuffled

- Shuffle event sequences to remove **WT** and **LL**
- **CS** and **BD** remain.

	WT	BD	LL	CS	25%m
Original	✓	✓	✓	✓	33,7
TimeConf	✗	✗	✗	✗	16,4
Time	✓	✗	✗	✓	22,9
Link	✗	✓	✗	✓	27,5



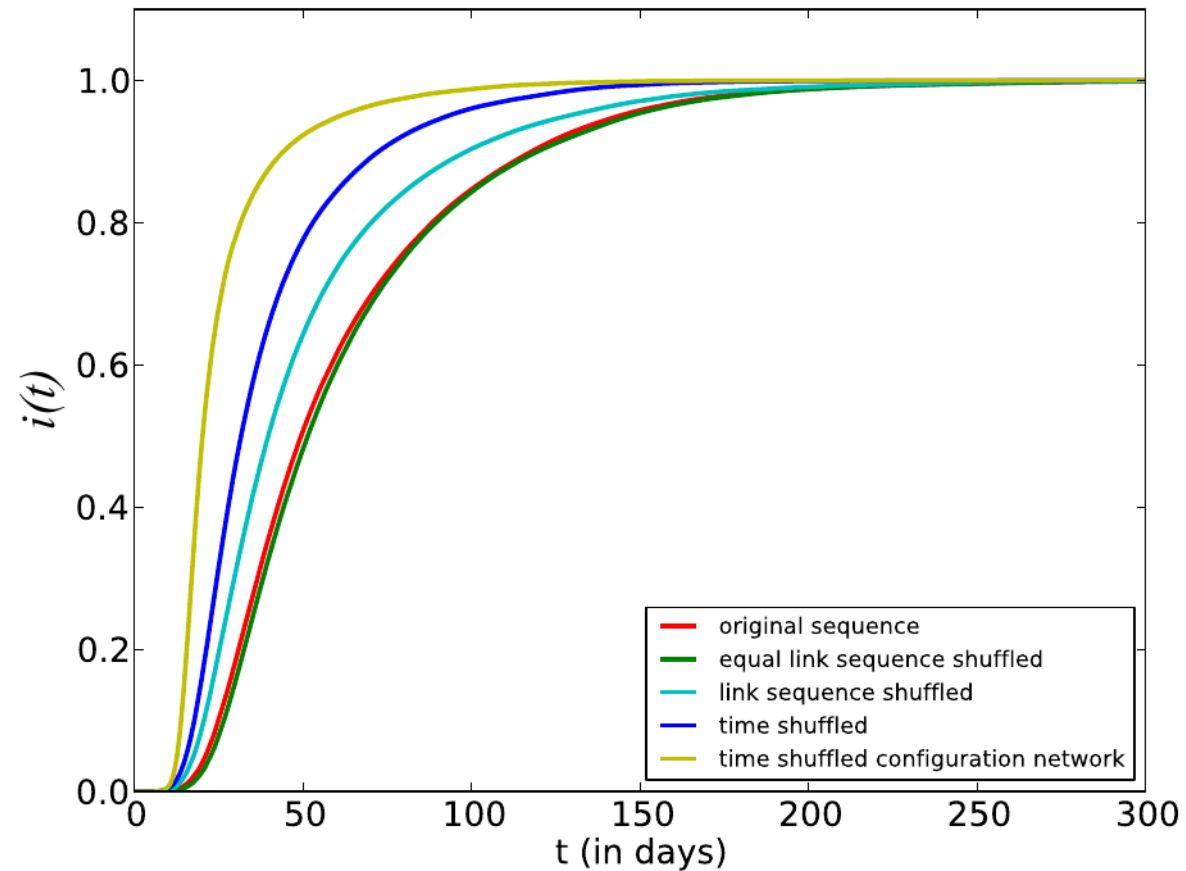


# Rand. 4: equal link time seq. shuffled

- Shuffle event sequences if they have the same weight to remove **LL**
- **CS**, **WT** and **BD** remain.

	WT	BD	LL	CS	25%m
Original	✓	✓	✓	✓	33,7
TimeConf	✗	✗	✗	✗	16,4
Time	✓	✗	✗	✓	22,9
Link	✗	✓	✗	✓	27,5
Equal link	✓	✓	✗	✓	35,3

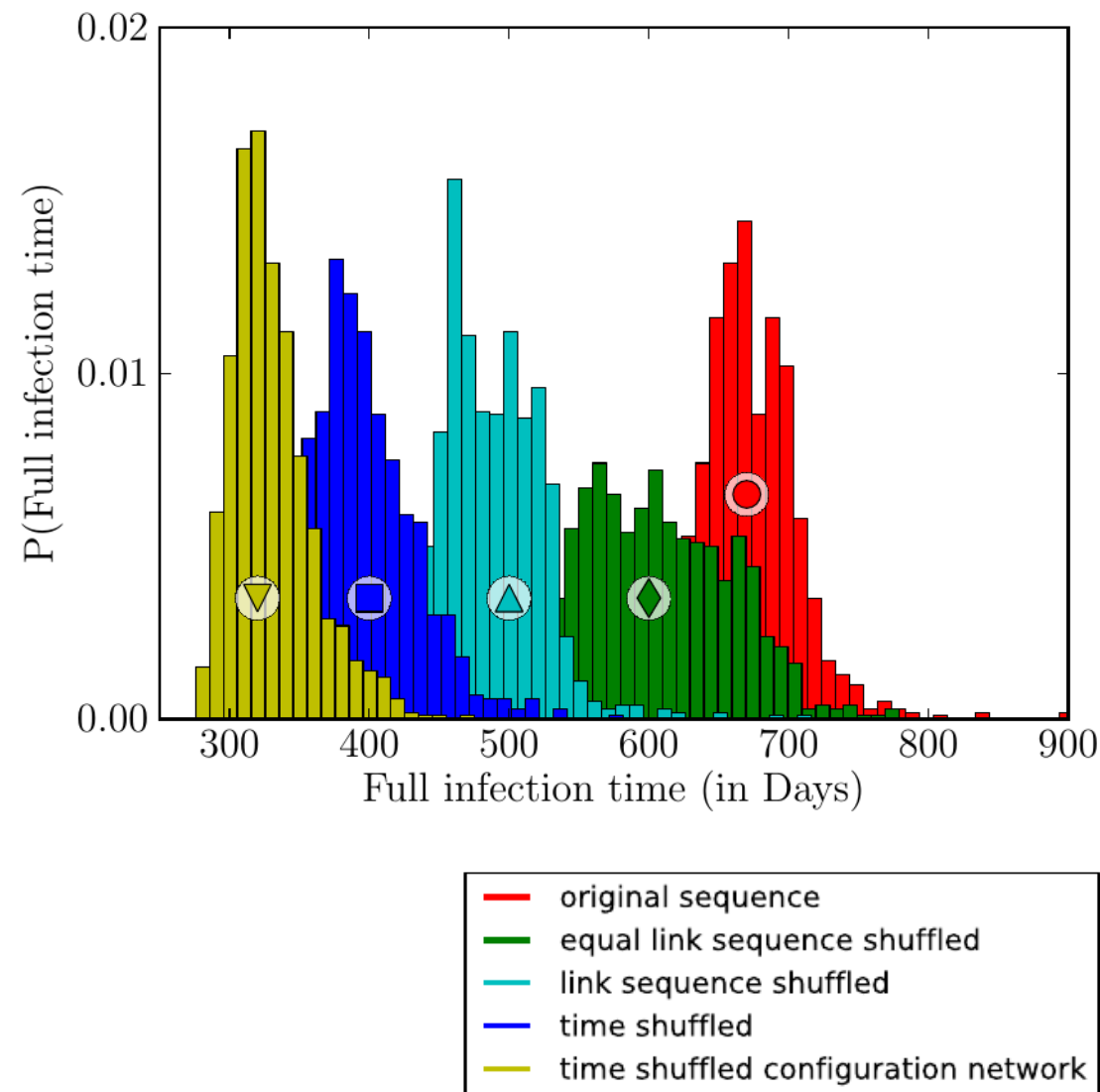
→ **Multi-link processes slightly accelerate the spread.**



# Long time behavior

- Distribution of complete infection time
- Evidence of effect of correlations in the late time stage.
- Multi-link correlations have contrary effect compared to early stage
- **WT** and **BD** are the main factors in slowing down

	WT	BD	LL	CS	25%m
Original	✓	✓	✓	✓	33,7
TimeConf	✗	✗	✗	✗	16,4
Time	✓	✗	✗	✓	22,9
Link	✗	✓	✗	✓	27,5
Equal link	✓	✓	✗	✓	35,3



# Summary

- Timescale of dynamics and changes in network structure comparable
  - Temporal networks
- Time respecting paths profound effect on spreading
- Temporal inhomogeneities: circadian rhythm and burstiness
- Measures more involved, computationally more difficult

# Temporal motifs

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# Definitions

**$\Delta t$  adjacent** are two events if they share at least one node and are performed in  $\Delta t$

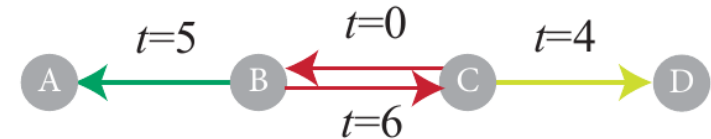
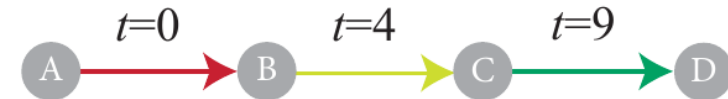
**$\Delta t$  connected** are two events if there exists a sequence of events  $e_i = e_{k0} e_{k1} e_{k2} \dots e_{kn} = e_j$  such that all pairs of consecutive events are  $\Delta t$  adjacent

**Connected temporal subgraph** consists of set of events, which are all  $\Delta t$  connected

**Valid temporal subgraph** are connected temporal subgraphs where all  $\Delta t$  connected events of each node are consecutive

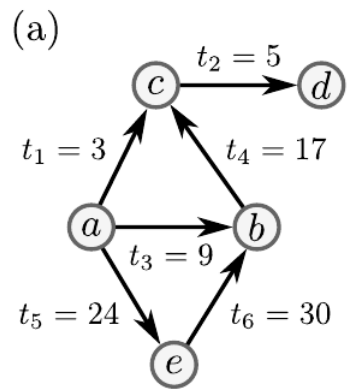
**Maximal temporal subgraph** for an event  $e_i$  is a unique maximal subgraph  $E^*_{max}$  that contains  $e_i$  and in which all event pairs are  $\Delta t$  connected

$\Delta t=5$

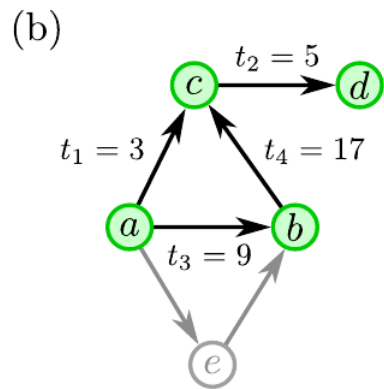


# Detection

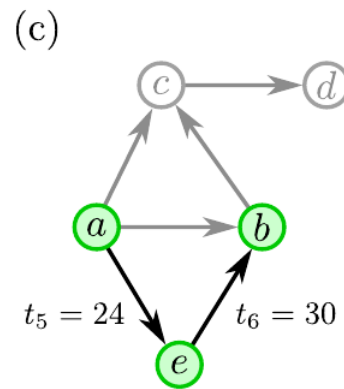
## Mezoscopic correlated and casual temporal structures with topological and temporal order isomorphism



$$E = \{e_1, \dots, e_6\}$$



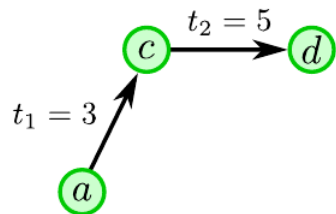
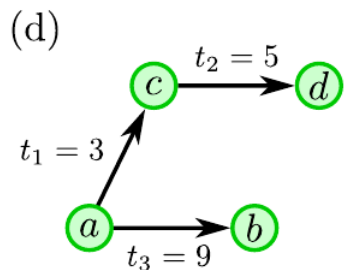
$$E_{\max}^* = \{e_1, e_2, e_3, e_4\}$$



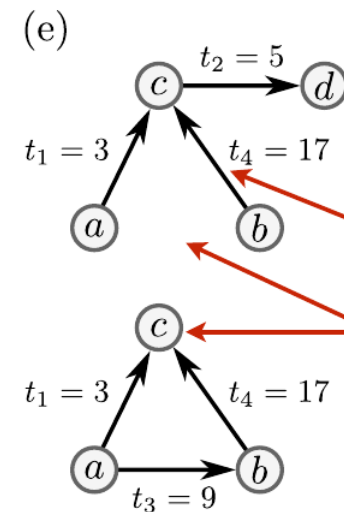
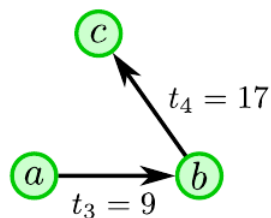
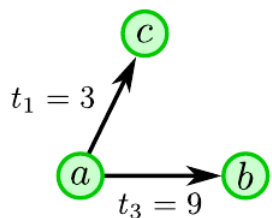
$$E_{\max}^* = \{e_5, e_6\}$$

$\Delta t = 10$

Maximal subgraphs



Valid subgraphs of the maximal subgraphs (other than single events)



# Algorithm

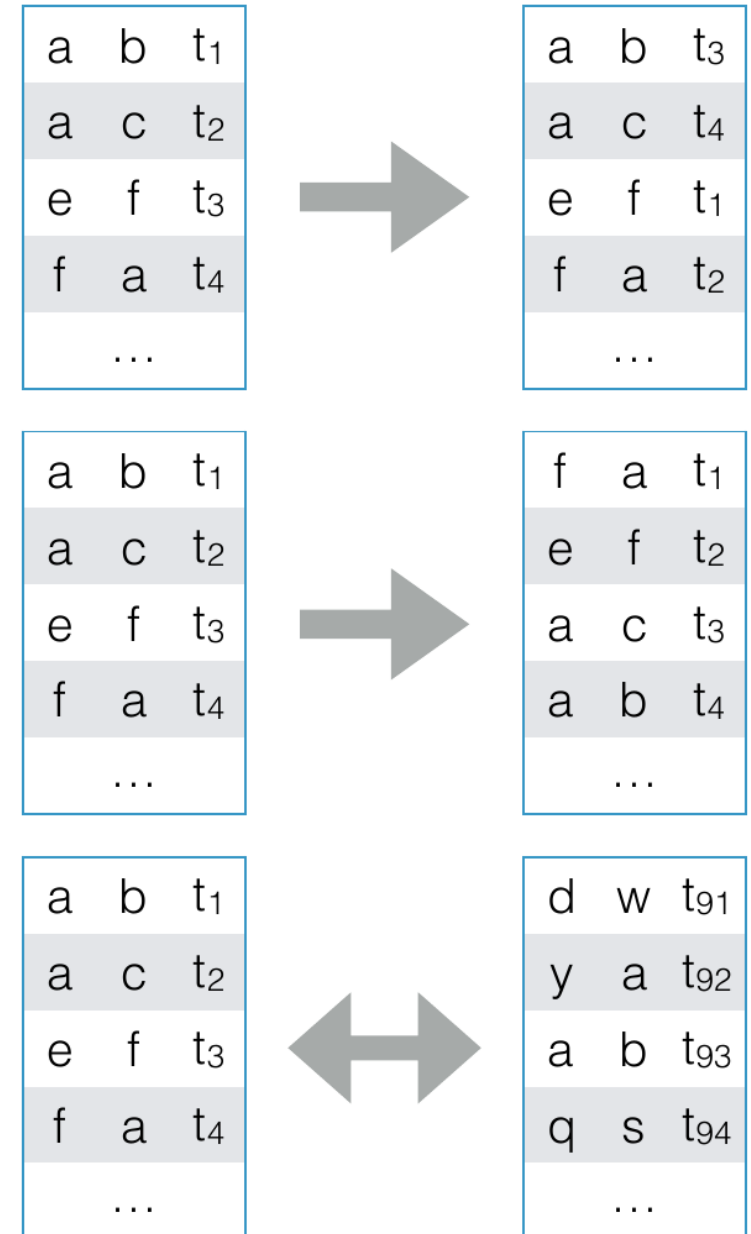
## Mezoscopic correlated and casual temporal structures with topological and temporal order isomorphism

- To detect them we need to group events into equivalent classes where timing not but direction and ordering matters
1. Find all maximum connected subgraphs  $E^*_{max}$ 
    - start from an event  $e_i$
    - iterate forward and backward to find all  $\Delta t$  adjacent events
    - repeat it for all new events
  2. Find all valid subgraphs  $E^*$   
(this can be reduced to find all induced subgraphs of a static graph)
  3. Identify the motifs for all  $E^*$  subgraphs  
(map to directed coloured graphs and find isomorphic structures with equivalent ordering, e.g. using the bliss algorithm (Junttila and Kaski (2007)))

# What to compare to?

## Candidates null models

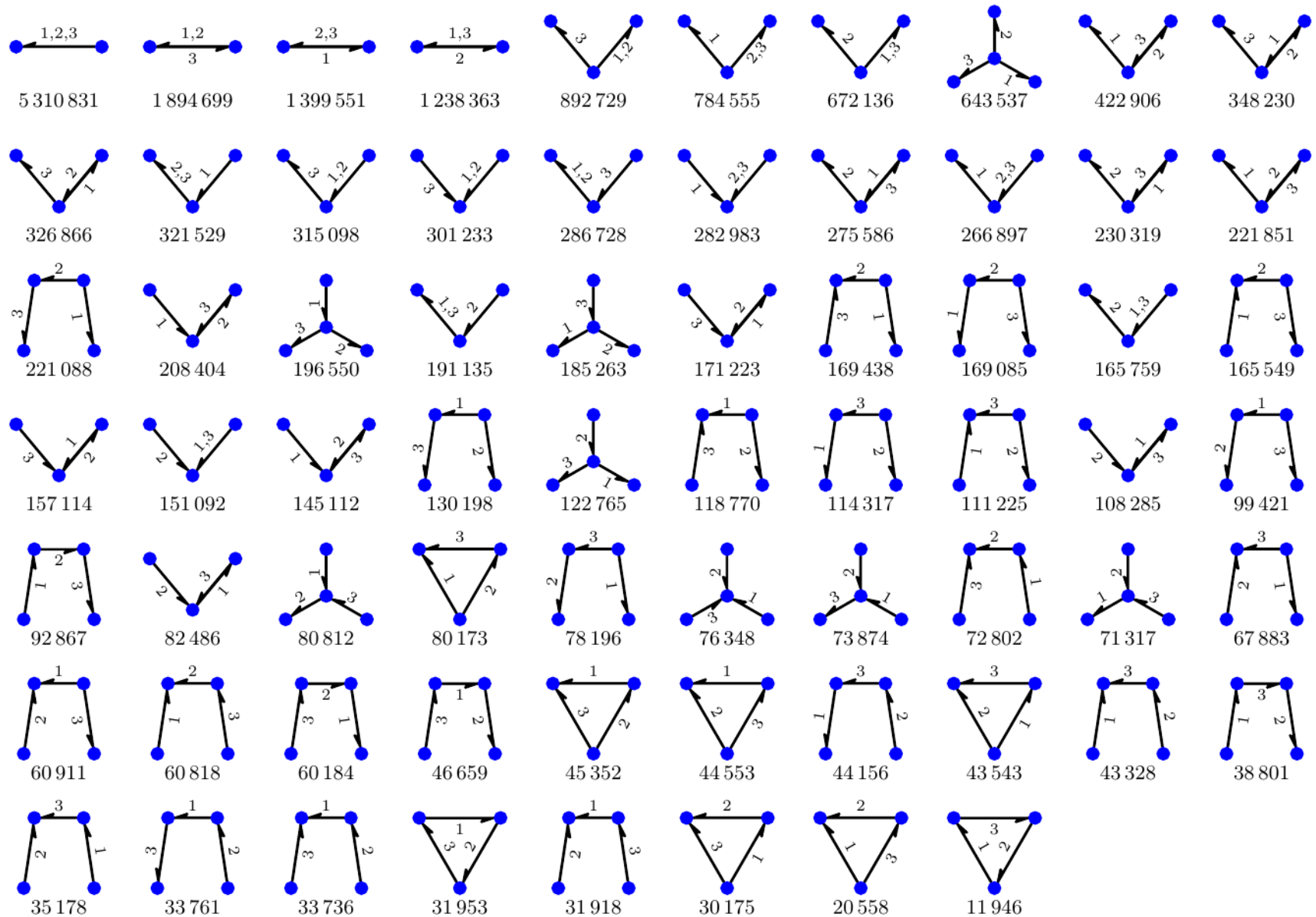
- 1. Time-shuffled reference:** randomly redistribute event times between events
  - Destroys all temporal correlations and casual correlations
- 2. Time-reversed reference:** read the event sequence in a reversed order
  - Destroys all casual correlations but keeps all temporal correlations
- 3. Self reference:** compare different periods of the sequence to each other
  - Highlights seasonal dependencies





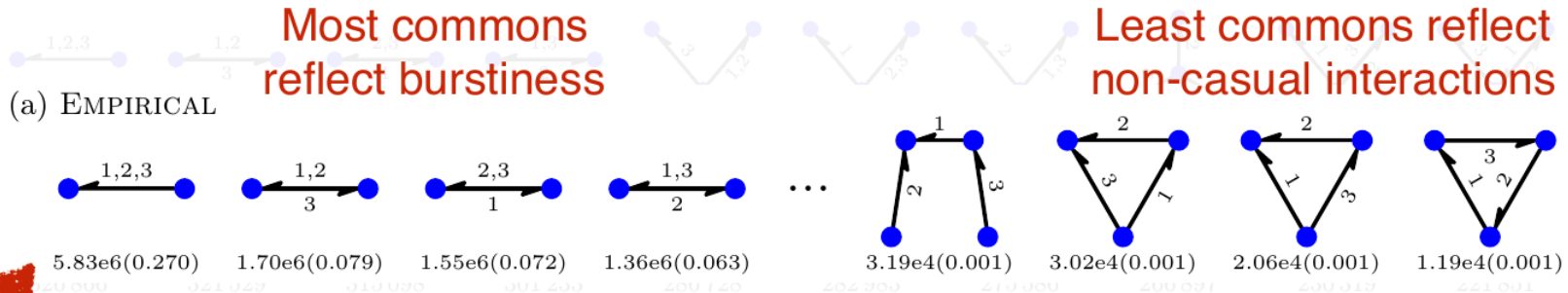
# Phone call network

## All 3-call motifs

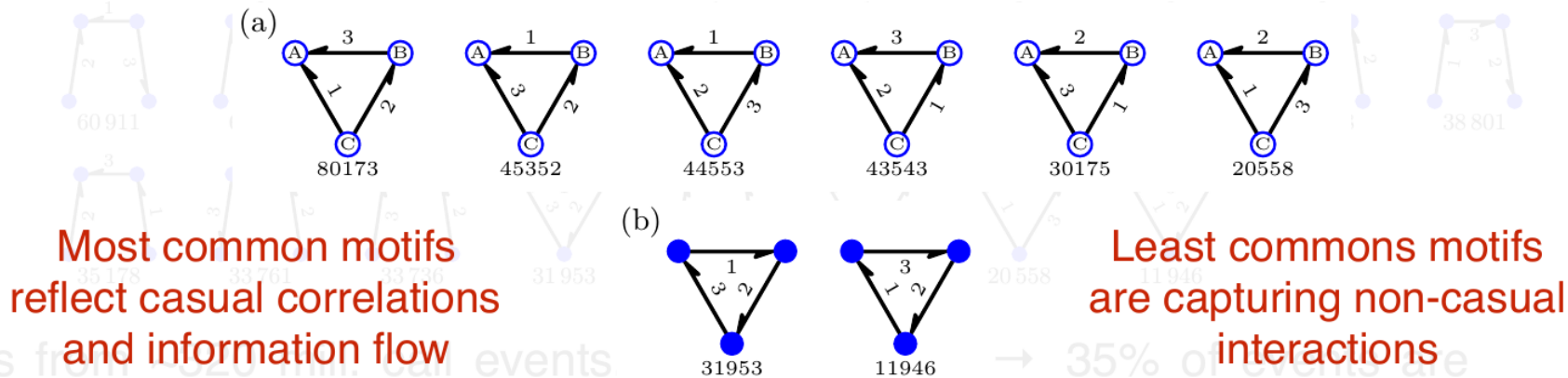
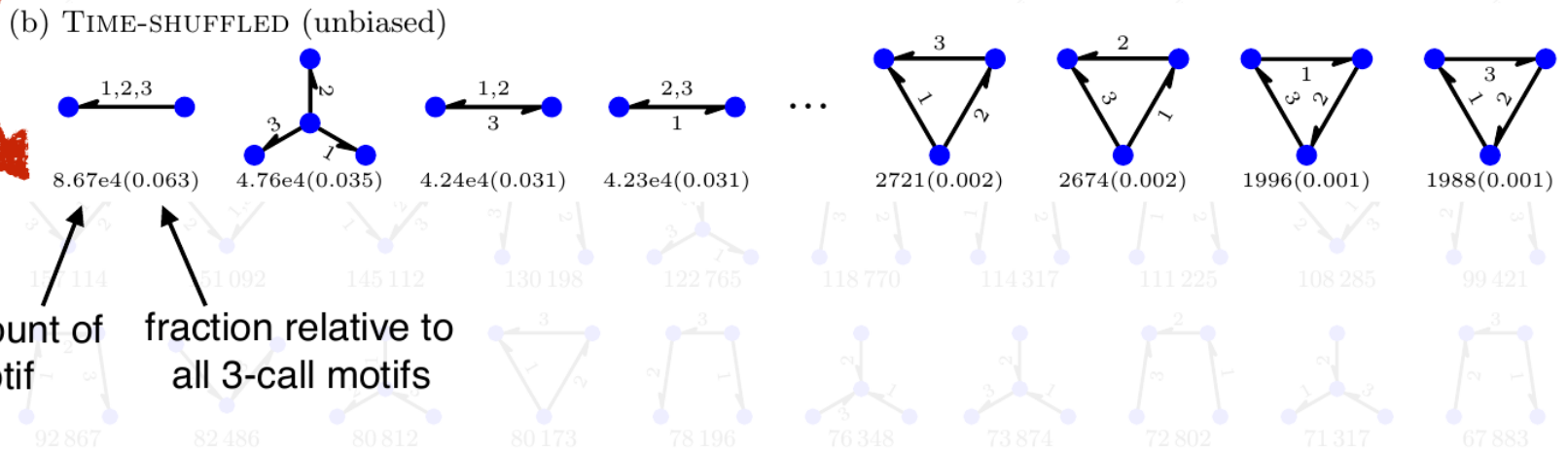


# Phone call network

## All 3-call motifs



very different frequencies



Kovanen et al. (2011)

(motifs from time-adjacent with some other event)