

# Branching Networks I

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Principles of Complex Systems, Vols. 1 & 2  
CSYS/MATH 300 and 303, 2021-2022 | @pocsvox

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The PoCSverse  
Branching  
Networks I  
1 of 56

Introduction

Definitions

Allometry

Laws

Stream Ordering

Horton's Laws

Tokunaga's Law

Nutshell

References



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The PoCSverse  
Branching  
Networks I  
2 of 56

Introduction

Definitions

Allometry

Laws

Stream Ordering

Horton's Laws

Tokunaga's Law

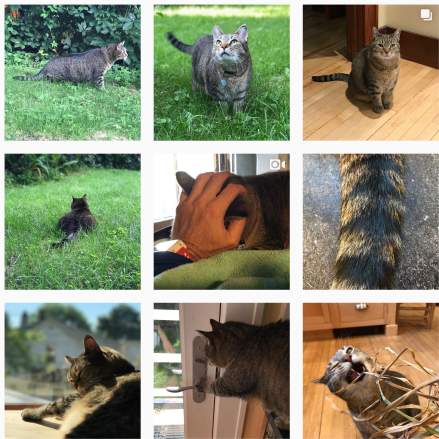
Nutshell



References



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The PoCSverse  
Branching  
Networks I  
3 of 56

Introduction

Definitions

Allometry

Laws

Stream Ordering

Horton's Laws

Tokunaga's Law

Nutshell

References



# Outline

## Introduction

Definitions

Allometry

Laws

## Stream Ordering

Horton's Laws

Tokunaga's Law

Nutshell

References

The PoCSverse  
Branching  
Networks I  
4 of 56

Introduction

Definitions

Allometry

Laws

Stream Ordering

Horton's Laws

Tokunaga's Law

Nutshell

References










# Introduction

Branching networks are useful things:

 Fundamental to material **supply and collection**

The PoCSverse  
Branching  
Networks I  
8 of 56

Introduction

Definitions

Allometry

Laws

Stream Ordering

Horton's Laws

Tokunaga's Law

Nutshell


References






# Introduction

Branching networks are useful things:

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 **Supply:** From one source to many sinks in 2- or 3-d.

The PoCSverse  
Branching  
Networks I  
8 of 56

Introduction

Definitions

Allometry

Laws

Stream Ordering

Horton's Laws

Tokunaga's Law




Nutshell

References



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Branching networks are useful things:

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Examples:




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Examples:

-  River networks (our focus)





# Introduction

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# Introduction

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# Introduction

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# Introduction

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Examples:

-  River networks (our focus)
-  Cardiovascular networks
-  Plants
-  Evolutionary trees
-  Organizations (only in theory ...)



# Branching networks are everywhere ...

The PoCSverse  
Branching  
Networks I  
9 of 56

## Introduction

Definitions  
Allometry  
Laws

## Stream Ordering

Horton's Laws

Tokunaga's Law

Nutshell

References

## HydroSHEDS

Amazon Basin

River network derived  
from SRTM elevation data  
at 500 m resolution



Only major  
rivers and  
streams are  
visualized

River line width  
proportional to  
upstream basin area

0 500 1000

Kilometers



<http://hydrosheds.cr.usgs.gov/>

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The PoCSverse  
Branching  
Networks I  
10 of 56

## Introduction

Definitions

Allometry

Laws

Stream Ordering

Horton's Laws

Tokunaga's Law

Nutshell

References



<http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Image:Applebox.JPG>



# An early thought piece: Extension and Integration



## "The Development of Drainage Systems: A Synoptic View"

Waldo S. Glock,

The Geographical Review, **21**, 475-482, 1931. [2]

The PoCSverse  
Branching  
Networks I  
11 of 56

### Introduction

Definitions  
Allometry  
Laws

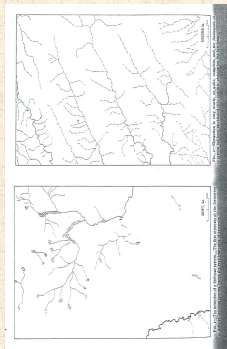
Stream Ordering

Horton's Laws

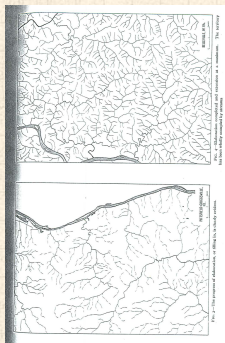
Tokunaga's Law

Nutshell

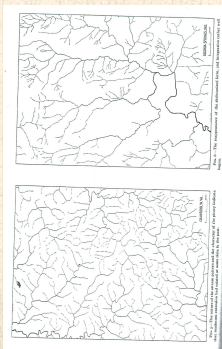
References



Initiation,  
Elongation



Elaboration,  
Piracy.



Abstraction,  
Absorption.



## Introduction

Definitions  
Allometry  
Laws

Stream Ordering

Horton's Laws

Tokunaga's Law

Nutshell

References

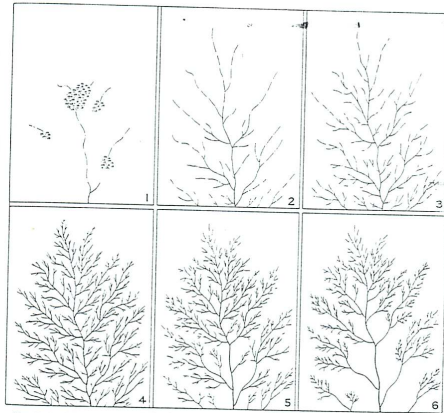


FIG. 8—An ideal diagrammatic summary of the development of a drainage system given for purposes of comparison only. The first four parts show extension, thus: 1, initiation; 2, elongation; 3, elaboration; and 4, maximum extension. Parts 5 and 6 represent steps during integration.

The sequential stages recognized in the evolution of a drainage system are “extension” and “integration”; the first, a stage of increasing complexity; the second, of simplification.



# Shaw and Magnasco's beautiful erosion simulations:<sup>a</sup>

<sup>a</sup>Unpublished!

The PoCSverse  
Branching  
Networks I  
13 of 56

## Introduction

Definitions

Allometry

Laws

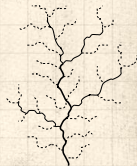
Stream Ordering

Horton's Laws

Tokunaga's Law

Nutshell

References



<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4DW-Dxzj7xQ?rel=0>

# Outline

## Introduction

### Definitions

### Allometry

### Laws

## Stream Ordering

## Horton's Laws

## Tokunaga's Law

## Nutshell

## References

The PoCSverse  
Branching  
Networks I  
14 of 56

## Introduction

### Definitions

### Allometry

### Laws

## Stream Ordering

## Horton's Laws

## Tokunaga's Law


## Nutshell

## References



# Geomorphological networks

## Definitions

 **Drainage basin** for a point  $p$  is the complete region of land from which overland flow drains through  $p$ .

The PoCSverse  
Branching  
Networks I  
15 of 56

Introduction

Definitions

Allometry

Laws

Stream Ordering

Horton's Laws

Tokunaga's Law

Nutshell



References





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-  **Drainage basin** for a point  $p$  is the complete region of land from which overland flow drains through  $p$ .
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The PoCSverse  
Branching  
Networks I  
15 of 56

Introduction

Definitions

Allometry

Laws

Stream Ordering

Horton's Laws

Tokunaga's Law




Nutshell

References



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The PoCSverse  
Branching  
Networks I  
15 of 56

Introduction

Definitions

Allometry

Laws

Stream Ordering

Horton's Laws

Tokunaga's Law

Nutshell





References



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The PoCSverse  
Branching  
Networks I  
15 of 56

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Introduction

Definitions

Allometry

Laws

Stream Ordering

Horton's Laws

Tokunaga's Law

Nutshell






References



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The PoCSverse  
Branching  
Networks I  
15 of 56

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Introduction

Definitions

Allometry

Laws

Stream Ordering

Horton's Laws

Tokunaga's Law

Nutshell







References



# Geomorphological networks

The PoCSverse  
Branching  
Networks I  
15 of 56

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Introduction

Definitions

Allometry

Laws

Stream Ordering

Horton's Laws

Tokunaga's Law

Nutshell








References



# Geomorphological networks

The PoCverse  
Branching  
Networks I  
15 of 56

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-  Okay for large-scale networks ...

Introduction

Definitions

Allometry

Laws

Stream Ordering

Horton's Laws

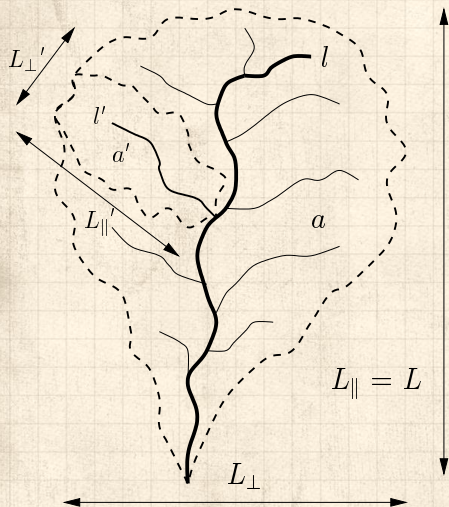
Tokunaga's Law

Nutshell

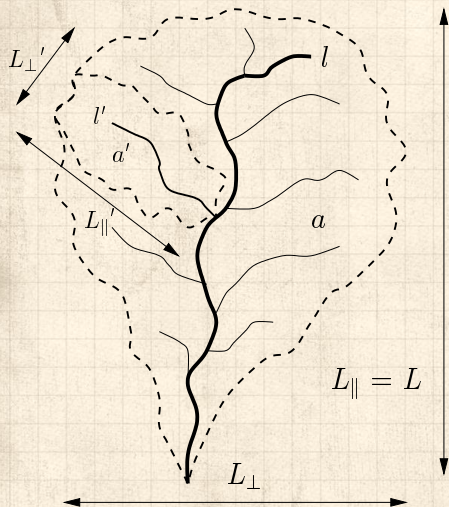
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# Basic basin quantities: $a$ , $l$ , $L_{\parallel}$ , $L_{\perp}$ :



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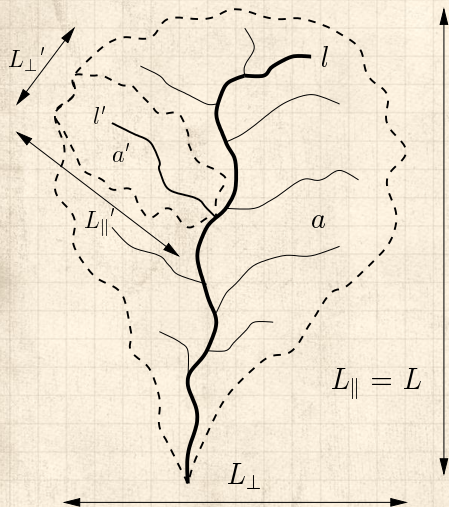




  $a$  = drainage  
basin area





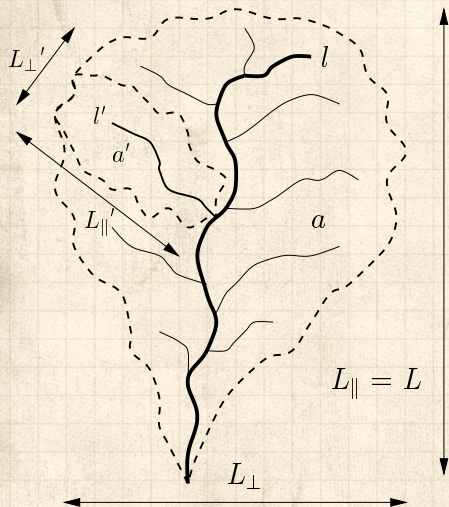
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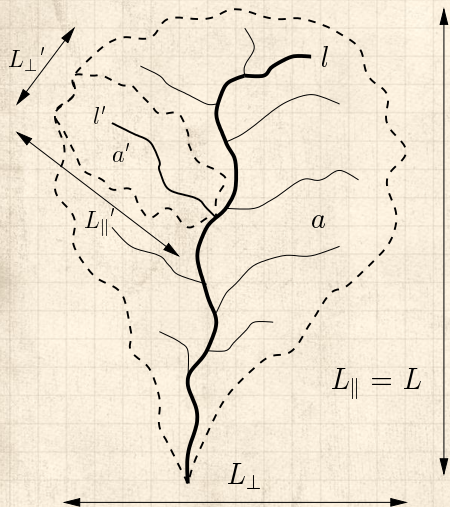




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  $L = L_{\parallel} =$   
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  $L = L_{\perp} =$  width of basin



# Outline

## Introduction

Definitions

**Allometry**

Laws

## Stream Ordering

Horton's Laws

Tokunaga's Law

Nutshell

References

## Introduction

Definitions

**Allometry**

Laws

## Stream Ordering

Horton's Laws

Tokunaga's Law

Nutshell

References



# Allometry

## Introduction

Definitions

Allometry

Laws

## Stream Ordering

Horton's Laws

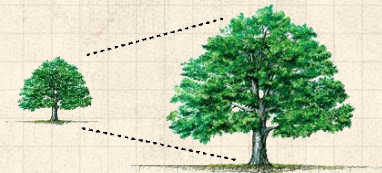
Tokunaga's Law

Nutshell

References



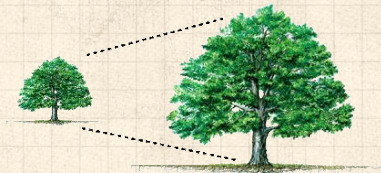
**Isometry:**  
dimensions scale  
linearly with each  
other.



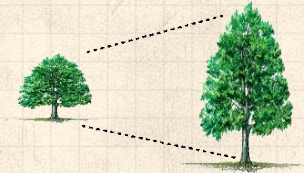
# Allometry



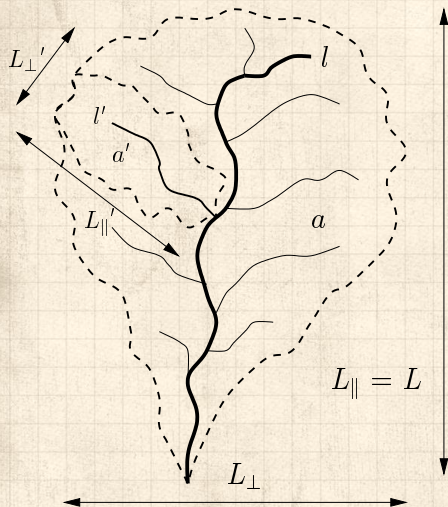
**Isometry:**  
dimensions scale  
linearly with each  
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**Allometry:**  
dimensions scale  
nonlinearly.



# Basin allometry



Allometric relationships:

## Introduction

Definitions

Allometry

Laws

Stream Ordering

Horton's Laws

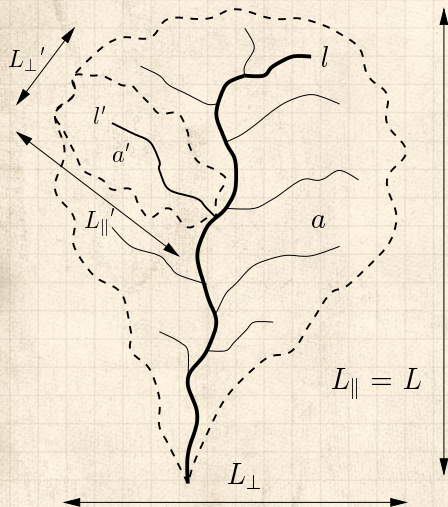
Tokunaga's Law

Nutshell

References



# Basin allometry



Allometric relationships:



$$l \propto a^h$$

## Introduction

Definitions

Allometry

Laws

Stream Ordering

Horton's Laws

Tokunaga's Law

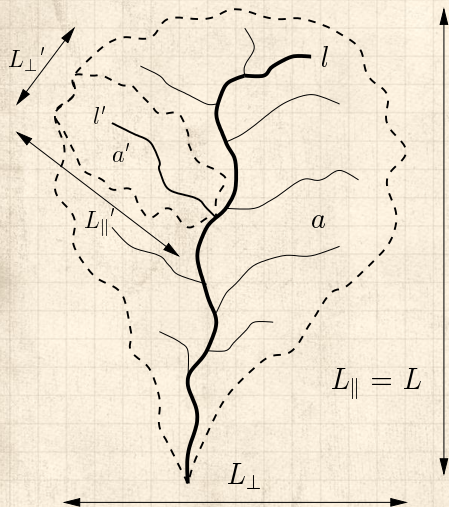
Nutshell

References





# Basin allometry



## Allometric relationships:



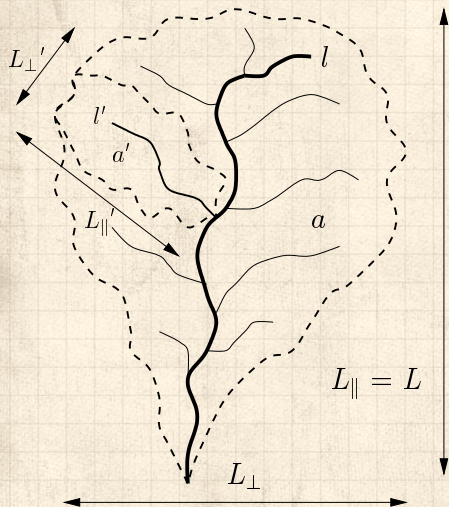
$$l \propto a^h$$



$$l \propto L^d$$



# Basin allometry



## Allometric relationships:



$$l \propto a^h$$

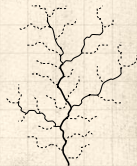


$$l \propto L^d$$




Combine above:

$$a \propto L^{d/h} \equiv L^D$$




# 'Laws'

 Hack's law (1957)<sup>[3]</sup>:

$$l \propto a^h$$


reportedly  $0.5 < h < 0.7$

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 Scaling of main stream length with basin size:

$$l \propto L_{\parallel}^d$$


reportedly  $1.0 < d < 1.1$

# 'Laws'

 Hack's law (1957) <sup>[3]</sup>:


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 Scaling of main stream length with basin size:

$$\ell \propto L_{\parallel}^d$$

reportedly  $1.0 < d < 1.1$

 Basin allometry:

$$L_{\parallel} \propto a^{h/d} \equiv a^{1/D}$$

$D < 2 \rightarrow$  basins elongate.

# Outline

## Introduction

Definitions

Allometry

Laws

## Stream Ordering

## Horton's Laws

## Tokunaga's Law

## Nutshell

## References

The PoCSverse  
Branching  
Networks I  
21 of 56

## Introduction

Definitions

Allometry

**Laws**

## Stream Ordering

## Horton's Laws

## Tokunaga's Law

## Nutshell

## References



# There are a few more 'laws': [1]

Relation: Name or description:

$$T_k = T_1 (R_T)^{k-1}$$
$$\ell \sim L^d$$

Tokunaga's law  
self-affinity of single channels

$$n_{\omega} / n_{\omega+1} = R_n$$
$$\ell_{\omega+1} / \ell_{\omega} = R_{\ell}$$

Horton's law of stream numbers  
Horton's law of main stream lengths

$$\bar{a}_{\omega+1} / \bar{a}_{\omega} = R_a$$

Horton's law of basin areas

$$\bar{s}_{\omega+1} / \bar{s}_{\omega} = R_s$$
$$L_{\perp} \sim L^H$$

Horton's law of stream segment lengths  
scaling of basin widths

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

probability of basin areas

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

probability of stream lengths

$$\ell \sim a^h$$

Hack's law

$$a \sim L^D$$

scaling of basin areas

$$\Lambda \sim a^{\beta}$$

Langbein's law

$$\lambda \sim L^{\varphi}$$

variation of Langbein's law



# Reported parameter values: [1]

Parameter:	Real networks:
$R_n$	3.0–5.0
$R_a$	3.0–6.0
$R_\ell = R_T$	1.5–3.0
$T_1$	1.0–1.5
$d$	$1.1 \pm 0.01$
$D$	$1.8 \pm 0.1$
$h$	0.50–0.70
$\tau$	$1.43 \pm 0.05$
$\gamma$	$1.8 \pm 0.1$
$H$	0.75–0.80
$\beta$	0.50–0.70
$\varphi$	$1.05 \pm 0.05$





# Kind of a mess ...

Order of business:

The PoCSverse  
Branching  
Networks I  
24 of 56

Introduction

Definitions

Allometry

**Laws**

Stream Ordering

Horton's Laws

Tokunaga's Law

Nutshell

References



# Kind of a mess ...

## Order of business:

1. Find out how these relationships are connected.

The PoCSverse  
Branching  
Networks I  
24 of 56

Introduction

Definitions

Allometry

**Laws**

Stream Ordering

Horton's Laws

Tokunaga's Law

Nutshell

References



# Kind of a mess ...

The PoCSverse  
Branching  
Networks I  
24 of 56

Introduction

Definitions

Allometry

**Laws**

Stream Ordering

Horton's Laws

Tokunaga's Law

Nutshell

References

## Order of business:

1. Find out how these relationships are connected.
2. Determine most fundamental description.



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The PoCSverse  
Branching  
Networks I  
24 of 56

Introduction

Definitions

Allometry

**Laws**

Stream Ordering

Horton's Laws

Tokunaga's Law

Nutshell

References

## Order of business:

1. Find out how these relationships are connected.
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3. Explain origins of these parameter values



# Kind of a mess ...

## Order of business:

1. Find out how these relationships are connected.
2. Determine most fundamental description.
3. Explain origins of these parameter values

For (3): **Many attempts: not yet sorted out ...**





# Stream Ordering:

Method for describing network architecture:

The PoCSverse  
Branching  
Networks I  
26 of 56

Introduction

Definitions

Allometry

Laws

Stream Ordering

Horton's Laws

Tokunaga's Law

Nutshell

References



# Stream Ordering:

The PoCSverse  
Branching  
Networks I  
26 of 56

Introduction

Definitions

Allometry

Laws

Stream Ordering


Horton's Laws

Tokunaga's Law

Nutshell

References

Method for describing network architecture:

 Introduced by Horton (1945)<sup>[4]</sup>





# Stream Ordering:

The PoCSverse  
Branching  
Networks I  
26 of 56

Introduction

Definitions

Allometry

Laws

Stream Ordering


Horton's Laws


Tokunaga's Law

Nutshell

References

Method for describing network architecture:




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 Modified by Strahler (1957)<sup>[7]</sup>



# Stream Ordering:

## Method for describing network architecture:

-  Introduced by Horton (1945)<sup>[4]</sup>
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-  Term: Horton-Strahler Stream Ordering<sup>[5]</sup>



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## Method for describing network architecture:

- Introduced by Horton (1945)<sup>[4]</sup>
- Modified by Strahler (1957)<sup>[7]</sup>
- Term: Horton-Strahler Stream Ordering<sup>[5]</sup>
- Can be seen as **iterative trimming** of a network.



# Stream Ordering:

The PoCSverse  
Branching  
Networks I  
27 of 56

Introduction

Definitions

Allometry

Laws

Stream Ordering


Horton's Laws

Tokunaga's Law

Nutshell

References

Some definitions:

 A **channel head** is a point in landscape where flow becomes focused enough to form a stream.



# Stream Ordering:

The PoCSverse  
Branching  
Networks I  
27 of 56

Introduction

Definitions

Allometry

Laws

Stream Ordering



Horton's Laws

Tokunaga's Law

Nutshell

References




## Some definitions:

-  A **channel head** is a point in landscape where flow becomes focused enough to form a stream.
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## Some definitions:

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-  Roughly analogous to capillary vessels.



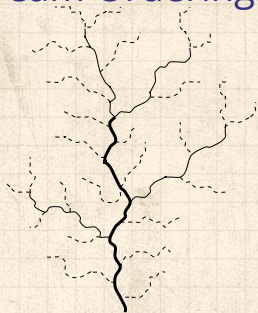
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-  A **source stream** is defined as the stream that reaches from a channel head to a junction with another stream.
-  Roughly analogous to capillary vessels.
-  Use symbol  $\omega = 1, 2, 3, \dots$  for stream order.



# Stream Ordering:



The PoCSverse  
Branching  
Networks I  
28 of 56

Introduction

Definitions

Allometry

Laws

Stream Ordering

Horton's Laws

Tokunaga's Law

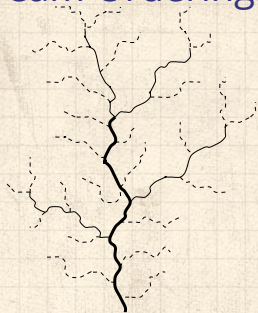
Nutshell

References





# Stream Ordering:



1. Label all **source streams** as **order  $\omega = 1$**  and remove.

The PoCSverse  
Branching  
Networks I  
28 of 56

Introduction

Definitions

Allometry

Laws

Stream Ordering

Horton's Laws

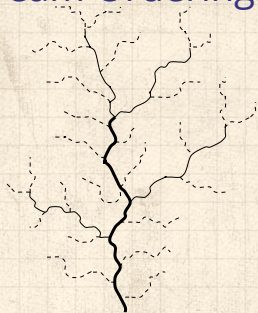
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Nutshell

References



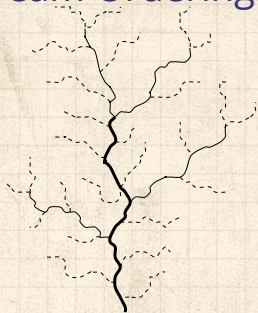
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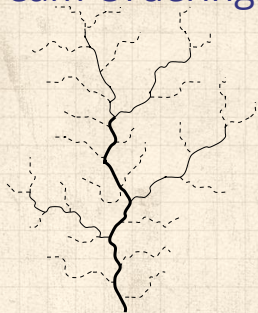
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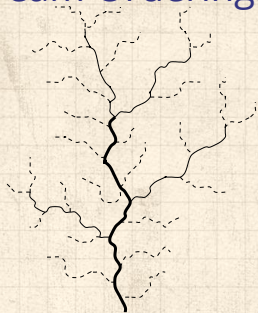
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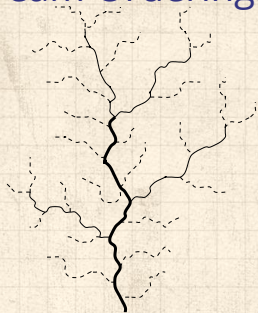
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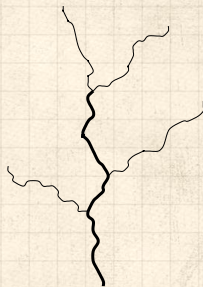
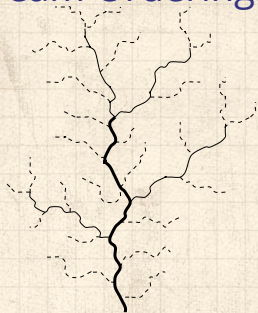
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4. Basin is said to be of the order of the last stream removed.



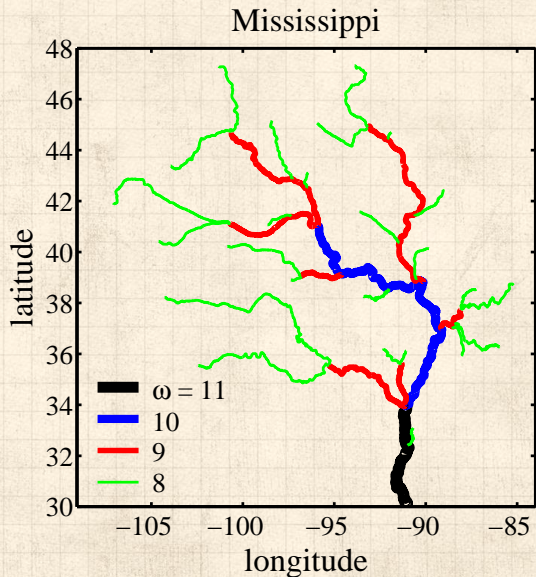
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3. Repeat until one stream is left (order =  $\Omega$ )
4. Basin is said to be of the order of the last stream removed.
5. Example above is a basin of order  $\Omega = 3$ .



# Stream Ordering—A large example:



The PoCSverse  
Branching  
Networks I  
29 of 56

Introduction

Definitions

Allometry

Laws

Stream Ordering

Horton's Laws

Tokunaga's Law

Nutshell

References








# Stream Ordering:

Another way to define ordering:

 As before, label all **source streams** as **order  $\omega = 1$** .

The PoCverse  
Branching  
Networks I  
30 of 56

Introduction

Definitions

Allometry

Laws

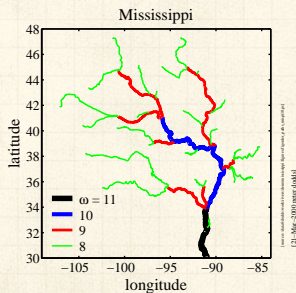
Stream Ordering

Horton's Laws

Tokunaga's Law

Nutshell

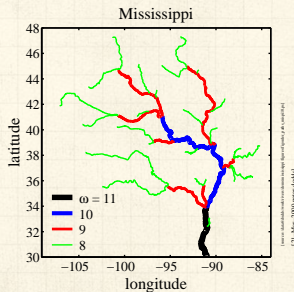
References



# Stream Ordering:

Another way to define ordering:

- As before, label all **source streams** as **order  $\omega = 1$** .
- Follow all labelled streams downstream











# Stream Ordering:


Another way to define ordering:

 As before, label all **source streams** as **order  $\omega = 1$** .

 Follow all labelled streams downstream

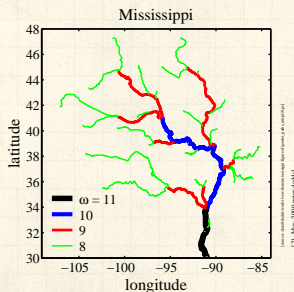
 Whenever two streams of the same order ( $\omega$ ) meet, the resulting stream has order incremented by 1 ( $\omega + 1$ ).

 If streams of different orders  $\omega_1$  and  $\omega_2$  meet, then the resultant stream has order equal to the largest of the two.

 Simple rule:


$$\omega_3 = \max(\omega_1, \omega_2) + \delta_{\omega_1, \omega_2}$$

where  $\delta$  is the Kronecker delta.



# Stream Ordering:

One problem:

 Resolution of data messes with ordering

The PoCSverse  
Branching  
Networks I  
31 of 56

Introduction

Definitions

Allometry

Laws

Stream Ordering

Horton's Laws

Tokunaga's Law

Nutshell

References



# Stream Ordering:

One problem:

- Resolution of data messes with ordering
- Micro-description changes (e.g., order of a basin may increase)

The PoCSverse  
Branching  
Networks I  
31 of 56

Introduction

Definitions

Allometry

Laws

Stream Ordering

Horton's Laws

Tokunaga's Law

Nutshell

References





# Stream Ordering:

## One problem:

- Resolution of data messes with ordering
- Micro-description changes (e.g., order of a basin may increase)
- ...but relationships based on ordering appear to be robust to resolution changes.



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## One problem:

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## Utility:

- Stream ordering helpfully discretizes a network.



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- Micro-description changes (e.g., order of a basin may increase)
- ...but relationships based on ordering appear to be robust to resolution changes.

## Utility:

- Stream ordering helpfully discretizes a network.
- Goal: understand **network architecture**



# Basic algorithm for extracting networks from Digital Elevation Models (DEMs):

The PoCSverse  
Branching  
Networks I  
32 of 56

Introduction

Definitions

Allometry

Laws

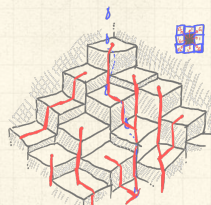
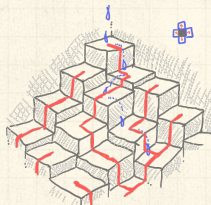
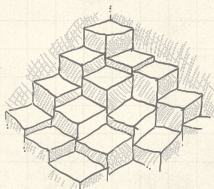
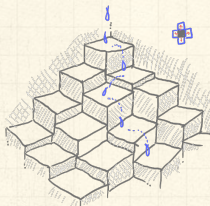
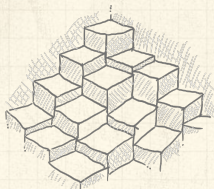
Stream Ordering

Horton's Laws

Tokunaga's Law

Nutshell

References



Also:

`/Users/dodds/work/rivers/1998dems/kevinlakewaster.c`

Introduction

Definitions

Allometry

Laws

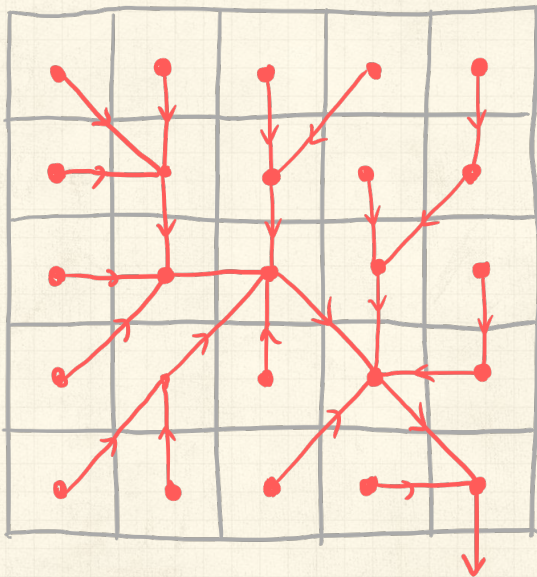
Stream Ordering

Horton's Laws

Tokunaga's Law

Nutshell

References



Introduction

Definitions

Allometry

Laws

Stream Ordering

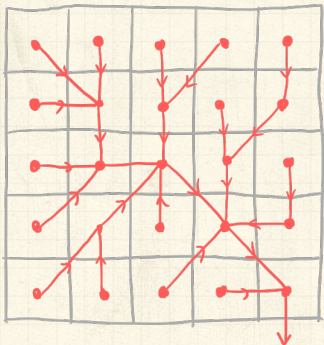
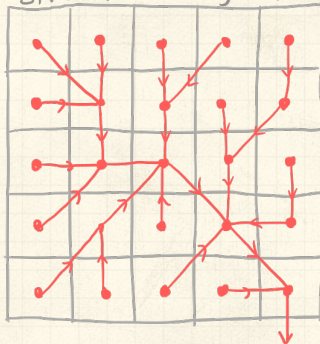
Horton's Laws

Tokunaga's Law

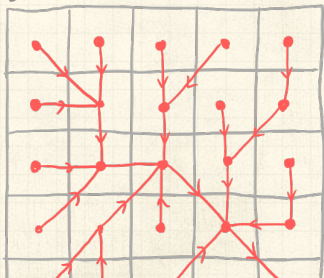
Nutshell

References

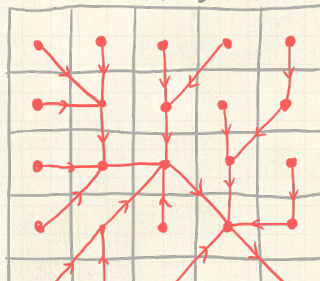
stream ordering  $\omega$ :



basin area  $a$ :




main stream length  $l$ :



# Stream Ordering:

Resultant definitions:

 A basin of order  $\Omega$  has  $n_\omega$  streams (or sub-basins) of order  $\omega$ .

The PoCSverse  
Branching  
Networks I  
35 of 56

Introduction

Definitions

Allometry

Laws

Stream Ordering

Horton's Laws

Tokunaga's Law

Nutshell


References






# Stream Ordering:

## Resultant definitions:


 A basin of order  $\Omega$  has  $n_\omega$  streams (or sub-basins) of order  $\omega$ .


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1. an order  $\omega$  stream segment is only that part of the stream which is actually of order  $\omega$





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1. an order  $\omega$  stream segment is only that part of the stream which is actually of order  $\omega$
2. an order  $\omega$  stream segment runs from the basin outlet up to the junction of two order  $\omega - 1$  streams





# Horton's laws

## Self-similarity of river networks

The PoCSverse  
Branching  
Networks I  
37 of 56

Introduction

Definitions

Allometry

Laws

Stream Ordering

Horton's Laws

Tokunaga's Law

Nutshell


References





# Horton's laws

## Self-similarity of river networks

 First quantified by Horton (1945)<sup>[4]</sup>, expanded by Schumm (1956)<sup>[6]</sup>

The PoCSverse  
Branching  
Networks I  
37 of 56

Introduction

Definitions

Allometry

Laws

Stream Ordering

Horton's Laws

Tokunaga's Law


Nutshell

References



# Horton's laws

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Three laws:

The PoCSverse  
Branching  
Networks I  
37 of 56

Introduction

Definitions

Allometry

Laws

Stream Ordering

Horton's Laws

Tokunaga's Law


Nutshell

References




# Horton's laws

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$$n_{\omega} / n_{\omega+1} = R_n > 1$$



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Horton's law of stream numbers:

$$n_{\omega} / n_{\omega+1} = R_n > 1$$

Horton's law of stream lengths:

$$\bar{\ell}_{\omega+1} / \bar{\ell}_{\omega} = R_{\ell} > 1$$


Horton's law of basin areas:

$$\bar{a}_{\omega+1} / \bar{a}_{\omega} = R_a > 1$$



# Horton's laws

## Horton's Ratios:

 So ...laws are defined by three ratios:

$$R_n, R_\ell, \text{ and } R_a.$$



# Horton's laws

## Horton's Ratios:

So ...laws are defined by three ratios:

$$R_n, R_\ell, \text{ and } R_a.$$

Horton's laws describe **exponential decay or growth**:

$$\begin{aligned}n_\omega &= n_{\omega-1}/R_n \\ &= n_{\omega-2}/R_n^2 \\ &\vdots \\ &= n_1/R_n^{\omega-1} \\ &= n_1 e^{-(\omega-1)\ln R_n}\end{aligned}$$



# Horton's laws

The PoCSverse  
Branching  
Networks I  
39 of 56

Introduction

Definitions

Allometry

Laws

Stream Ordering

Horton's Laws

Tokunaga's Law

Nutshell

References

Similar story for area and length:





# Horton's laws

Similar story for area and length:



$$\bar{a}_\omega = \bar{a}_1 e^{(\omega-1)\ln R_a}$$



$$\bar{l}_\omega = \bar{l}_1 e^{(\omega-1)\ln R_\ell}$$



# Horton's laws

Similar story for area and length:



$$\bar{a}_\omega = \bar{a}_1 e^{(\omega-1)\ln R_a}$$



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As stream order increases, **number drops** and **area and length increase**.



# Horton's laws

The PoCSverse  
Branching  
Networks I  
40 of 56

Introduction

Definitions

Allometry

Laws

Stream Ordering

Horton's Laws

Tokunaga's Law

Nutshell

References

A few more things:



# Horton's laws

The PoCSverse  
Branching  
Networks I  
40 of 56

Introduction

Definitions

Allometry

Laws

Stream Ordering


Horton's Laws

Tokunaga's Law

Nutshell

References

A few more things:

 Horton's laws are laws of averages.



# Horton's laws

The PoCSverse  
Branching  
Networks I  
40 of 56

Introduction

Definitions

Allometry

Laws

Stream Ordering

Horton's Laws

Tokunaga's Law

Nutshell

References

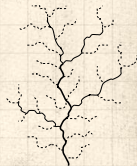
A few more things:



Horton's laws are laws of averages.



Averaging for number is **across** basins.



# Horton's laws

The PoCverse  
Branching  
Networks I  
40 of 56

Introduction

Definitions

Allometry

Laws

Stream Ordering

Horton's Laws

Tokunaga's Law

Nutshell

References

A few more things:

- 🧱 Horton's laws are laws of averages.
- 🧱 Averaging for number is **across** basins.
- 🧱 Averaging for stream lengths and areas is **within** basins.



# Horton's laws

The PoCverse  
Branching  
Networks I  
40 of 56

Introduction

Definitions

Allometry

Laws

Stream Ordering

Horton's Laws

Tokunaga's Law

Nutshell

References

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- 🧱 Horton's ratios go a long way to defining a branching network ...



# Horton's laws

The PoCverse  
Branching  
Networks I  
40 of 56

Introduction

Definitions

Allometry

Laws

Stream Ordering

Horton's Laws

Tokunaga's Law

Nutshell

References

## A few more things:

- 🧱 Horton's laws are laws of averages.
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- 🧱 Averaging for stream lengths and areas is **within** basins.
- 🧱 Horton's ratios go a long way to defining a branching network ...
- 🧱 But we need one other piece of information ...





# Horton's laws

The PoCSverse  
Branching  
Networks I  
41 of 56

Introduction

Definitions

Allometry

Laws

Stream Ordering


Horton's Laws

Tokunaga's Law

Nutshell

References

A bonus law:


 Horton's law of stream segment lengths:

$$\bar{s}_{\omega+1} / \bar{s}_{\omega} = R_s > 1$$




# Horton's laws

A bonus law:

 Horton's law of stream segment lengths:


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# Horton's laws

A bonus law:

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$$\bar{s}_{\omega+1}/\bar{s}_{\omega} = R_s > 1$$

 Can show that  $R_s = R_{\ell}$ .

 Insert question from assignment 1 



# Horton's laws in the real world:

## Introduction

Definitions  
Allometry  
Laws

## Stream Ordering

### Horton's Laws

### Tokunaga's Law

### Nutshell

### References

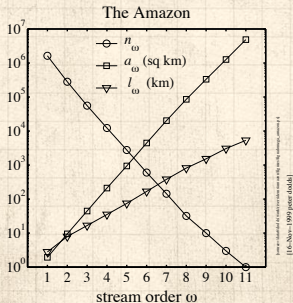
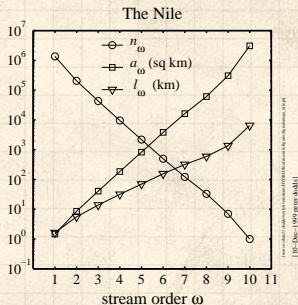
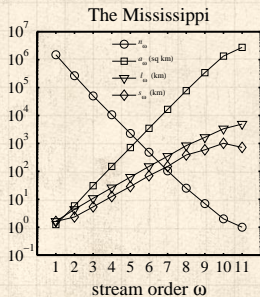


Figure 10.10: Horton's laws for the Mississippi, Nile, and Amazon rivers. (a) Number of streams, (b) area, (c) length, and (d) slope of streams of order  $\omega$ . (10-DoC-1999) (page 404)

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# Horton's laws-at-large

Blood networks:

The PoCSverse  
Branching  
Networks I  
43 of 56

Introduction

Definitions

Allometry

Laws

Stream Ordering

**Horton's Laws**

Tokunaga's Law

Nutshell

References



# Horton's laws-at-large

The PoCSverse  
Branching  
Networks I  
43 of 56

Introduction

Definitions

Allometry

Laws

Stream Ordering

Horton's Laws

Tokunaga's Law

Nutshell

References

Blood networks:



Horton's laws hold for sections of cardiovascular networks



# Horton's laws-at-large

The PoCSverse  
Branching  
Networks I  
43 of 56

Introduction

Definitions

Allometry

Laws

Stream Ordering


Horton's Laws


Tokunaga's Law

Nutshell

References

## Blood networks:

 Horton's laws hold for sections of cardiovascular networks

 Measuring such networks is tricky and messy ...



# Horton's laws-at-large

The PoCSverse  
Branching  
Networks I  
43 of 56

Introduction

Definitions

Allometry

Laws

Stream Ordering

Horton's Laws

Tokunaga's Law

Nutshell

References

## Blood networks:

- 🧱 Horton's laws hold for sections of cardiovascular networks
- 🧱 Measuring such networks is tricky and messy ...
- 🧱 Vessel diameters obey an analogous Horton's law.






# Data from real blood networks

Network	$R_n$	$R_r$	$R_\ell$	$-\frac{\ln R_r}{\ln R_n}$	$-\frac{\ln R_\ell}{\ln R_n}$	$\alpha$
West <i>et al.</i>	-	-	-	1/2	1/3	3/4
rat (PAT)	2.76	1.58	1.60	0.45	0.46	0.73
cat (PAT) <sup>[11]</sup>	3.67	1.71	1.78	0.41	0.44	0.79
dog (PAT)	3.69	1.67	1.52	0.39	0.32	0.90
pig (LCX)	3.57	1.89	2.20	0.50	0.62	0.62
pig (RCA)	3.50	1.81	2.12	0.47	0.60	0.65
pig (LAD)	3.51	1.84	2.02	0.49	0.56	0.65
human (PAT)	3.03	1.60	1.49	0.42	0.36	0.83
human (PAT)	3.36	1.56	1.49	0.37	0.33	0.94



# Horton's laws

## Observations:

 Horton's ratios vary:

$$R_n \quad 3.0-5.0$$


$$R_a \quad 3.0-6.0$$

$$R_\ell \quad 1.5-3.0$$



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 No accepted explanation for these values.



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 Horton's laws tell us how quantities vary from level to level ...



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 No accepted explanation for these values.

 Horton's laws tell us how quantities vary from level to level ...

 ...but they don't explain how networks are structured.



# Tokunaga's law

The PoCSverse  
Branching  
Networks I  
46 of 56

Introduction

Definitions

Allometry

Laws

Stream Ordering

Horton's Laws

**Tokunaga's Law**

Nutshell

References

Delving deeper into network architecture:



# Tokunaga's law

The PoCSverse  
Branching  
Networks I  
46 of 56

Introduction

Definitions

Allometry

Laws

Stream Ordering

Horton's Laws

Tokunaga's Law

Nutshell

References

Delving deeper into network architecture:



Tokunaga (1968) identified a clearer picture of network structure [8, 9, 10]



# Tokunaga's law

The PoCSverse  
Branching  
Networks I  
46 of 56

Introduction

Definitions

Allometry

Laws

Stream Ordering


Horton's Laws


Tokunaga's Law

Nutshell

References

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# Tokunaga's law

The PoCSverse  
Branching  
Networks I  
46 of 56

Introduction

Definitions

Allometry

Laws

Stream Ordering


Horton's Laws


Tokunaga's Law


Nutshell

References

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 Tokunaga (1968) identified a clearer picture of network structure [8, 9, 10]

 As per Horton-Strahler, use **stream ordering**.

 **Focus:** describe how streams of different orders connect to each other.



# Tokunaga's law

The PoCSverse  
Branching  
Networks I  
46 of 56

Introduction

Definitions

Allometry

Laws

Stream Ordering

Horton's Laws

Tokunaga's Law

Nutshell

References

Delving deeper into network architecture:

- 🧱 Tokunaga (1968) identified a clearer picture of network structure [8, 9, 10]
- 🧱 As per Horton-Strahler, use **stream ordering**.
- 🧱 **Focus:** describe how streams of different orders connect to each other.
- 🧱 Tokunaga's law is also a law of averages.



# Network Architecture

The PoCSverse  
Branching  
Networks I  
47 of 56

Introduction

Definitions

Allometry

Laws

Stream Ordering


Horton's Laws

Tokunaga's Law

Nutshell

References

Definition:

  $T_{\mu,\nu}$  = the average number of **side streams** of **order  $\nu$**  that enter as tributaries to streams of **order  $\mu$**



# Network Architecture

The PoCSverse  
Branching  
Networks I  
47 of 56

Introduction

Definitions

Allometry

Laws

Stream Ordering


Horton's Laws


Tokunaga's Law

Nutshell

References

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# Network Architecture

The PoCSverse  
Branching  
Networks I  
47 of 56

Introduction

Definitions

Allometry

Laws

Stream Ordering


Horton's Laws


Tokunaga's Law


Nutshell

References

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# Network Architecture

The PoCSverse  
Branching  
Networks I  
47 of 56

Introduction

Definitions

Allometry

Laws

Stream Ordering


Horton's Laws


Tokunaga's Law


Nutshell


References

## Definition:

  $T_{\mu, \nu}$  = the average number of **side streams of order  $\nu$**  that enter as tributaries to streams of **order  $\mu$**

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 Recall each stream segment of order  $\mu$  is 'generated' by two streams of order  $\mu - 1$



# Network Architecture

The PoCverse  
Branching  
Networks I  
47 of 56

Introduction

Definitions

Allometry

Laws

Stream Ordering


Horton's Laws


Tokunaga's Law


Nutshell


References


## Definition:

  $T_{\mu,\nu}$  = the average number of **side streams of order  $\nu$**  that enter as tributaries to streams of **order  $\mu$**

  $\mu, \nu = 1, 2, 3, \dots$

  $\mu \geq \nu + 1$

 Recall each stream segment of order  $\mu$  is 'generated' by two streams of order  $\mu - 1$

 These generating streams are not considered side streams.



# Network Architecture

## Tokunaga's law

The PoCSverse  
Branching  
Networks I  
48 of 56

Introduction

Definitions

Allometry

Laws

Stream Ordering

Horton's Laws

**Tokunaga's Law**

Nutshell


References





# Network Architecture

## Tokunaga's law

 Property 1: Scale independence—depends only on difference between orders:

The PoCSverse  
Branching  
Networks I  
48 of 56

Introduction

Definitions

Allometry

Laws

Stream Ordering

Horton's Laws

Tokunaga's Law


Nutshell

References



# Network Architecture

## Tokunaga's law

 Property 1: Scale independence—depends only on difference between orders:

$$T_{\mu,\nu} = T_{\mu-\nu}$$

The PoCSverse  
Branching  
Networks I  
48 of 56

Introduction

Definitions

Allometry

Laws

Stream Ordering

Horton's Laws

Tokunaga's Law


Nutshell

References




# Network Architecture

## Tokunaga's law

 Property 1: Scale independence—depends only on difference between orders:

$$T_{\mu,\nu} = T_{\mu-\nu}$$

 Property 2: Number of side streams grows exponentially with difference in orders:

The PoCSverse  
Branching  
Networks I  
48 of 56

Introduction

Definitions

Allometry

Laws

Stream Ordering

Horton's Laws

Tokunaga's Law


Nutshell

References




# Network Architecture

## Tokunaga's law

 Property 1: Scale independence—depends only on difference between orders:

$$T_{\mu,\nu} = T_{\mu-\nu}$$


 Property 2: Number of side streams grows exponentially with difference in orders:

$$T_{\mu,\nu} = T_1(R_T)^{\mu-\nu-1}$$




# Network Architecture


## Tokunaga's law

 Property 1: Scale independence—depends only on difference between orders:

$$T_{\mu,\nu} = T_{\mu-\nu}$$

 Property 2: Number of side streams grows exponentially with difference in orders:

$$T_{\mu,\nu} = T_1(R_T)^{\mu-\nu-1}$$

 We usually write Tokunaga's law as:

$$T_k = T_1(R_T)^{k-1} \quad \text{where } R_T \simeq 2$$



# Tokunaga's law—an example:

The PoCSverse  
Branching  
Networks I  
49 of 56

Introduction

Definitions

Allometry

Laws

Stream Ordering

Horton's Laws

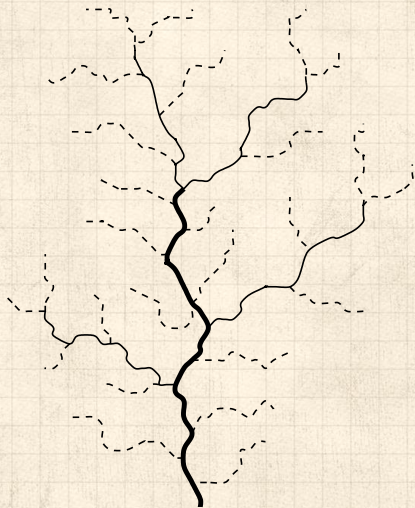
Tokunaga's Law

Nutshell

References

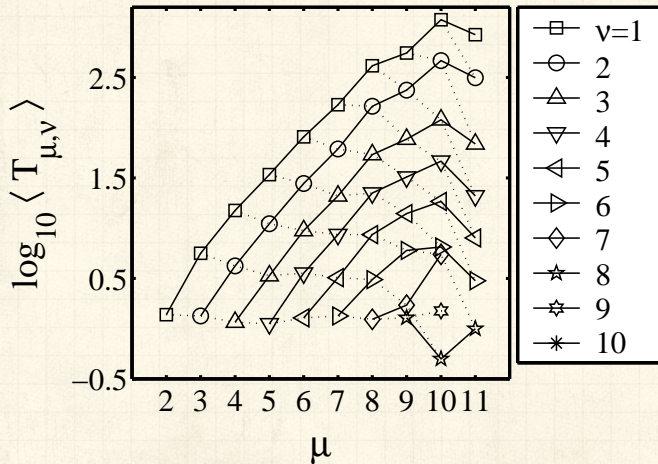
$$T_1 \simeq 2$$

$$R_T \simeq 4$$



# The Mississippi

## A Tokunaga graph:



### Introduction

Definitions  
Allometry  
Laws

### Stream Ordering

Horton's Laws


### Tokunaga's Law

Nutshell

References



# Nutshell:

 Branching networks show remarkable **self-similarity** over many scales.

The PoCSverse  
Branching  
Networks I  
51 of 56

Introduction

Definitions

Allometry

Laws

Stream Ordering

Horton's Laws

Tokunaga's Law

Nutshell

References





# Nutshell:

- Branching networks show remarkable **self-similarity** over many scales.
- There are many interrelated scaling laws.

The PoCSverse  
Branching  
Networks I  
51 of 56

Introduction

Definitions

Allometry

Laws

Stream Ordering

Horton's Laws

Tokunaga's Law

Nutshell

References



# Nutshell:

- Branching networks show remarkable **self-similarity** over many scales.
- There are many interrelated scaling laws.
- Horton-Strahler **Stream ordering** gives one useful way of getting at the architecture of branching networks.



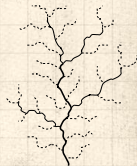
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- Branching networks show remarkable **self-similarity** over many scales.
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- Horton-Strahler **Stream ordering** gives one useful way of getting at the architecture of branching networks.
- Horton's laws** reveal self-similarity.



## Nutshell:

- Branching networks show remarkable **self-similarity** over many scales.
- There are many interrelated scaling laws.
- Horton-Strahler **Stream ordering** gives one useful way of getting at the architecture of branching networks.
- Horton's laws** reveal self-similarity.
- Horton's laws can be misinterpreted as suggesting a pure hierarchy.



## Nutshell:

- ❏ Branching networks show remarkable **self-similarity** over many scales.
- ❏ There are many interrelated scaling laws.
- ❏ Horton-Strahler **Stream ordering** gives one useful way of getting at the architecture of branching networks.
- ❏ **Horton's laws** reveal self-similarity.
- ❏ Horton's laws can be misinterpreted as suggesting a pure hierarchy.
- ❏ **Tokunaga's laws** neatly describe network architecture.



## Nutshell:

- Branching networks show remarkable **self-similarity** over many scales.
- There are many interrelated scaling laws.
- Horton-Strahler **Stream ordering** gives one useful way of getting at the architecture of branching networks.
- Horton's laws** reveal self-similarity.
- Horton's laws can be misinterpreted as suggesting a pure hierarchy.
- Tokunaga's laws** neatly describe network architecture.
- Branching networks exhibit a mixed hierarchical structure.



## Nutshell:

- Branching networks show remarkable **self-similarity** over many scales.
- There are many interrelated scaling laws.
- Horton-Strahler **Stream ordering** gives one useful way of getting at the architecture of branching networks.
- Horton's laws** reveal self-similarity.
- Horton's laws can be misinterpreted as suggesting a pure hierarchy.
- Tokunaga's laws** neatly describe network architecture.
- Branching networks exhibit a mixed hierarchical structure.
- Horton and Tokunaga can be connected analytically.



## Nutshell:

- Branching networks show remarkable **self-similarity** over many scales.
- There are many interrelated scaling laws.
- Horton-Strahler **Stream ordering** gives one useful way of getting at the architecture of branching networks.
- Horton's laws** reveal self-similarity.
- Horton's laws can be misinterpreted as suggesting a pure hierarchy.
- Tokunaga's laws** neatly describe network architecture.
- Branching networks exhibit a mixed hierarchical structure.
- Horton and Tokunaga can be connected analytically.
- Surprisingly:

$$R_n = \frac{(2 + R_T + T_1) + \sqrt{(2 + R_T + T_1)^2 - 8R_T}}{2}$$





# Crafting landscapes—Far Lands or Bust



**FAR LANDS OR BUST!**

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670

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The PoCVerse  
Branching  
Networks I  
52 of 56

Introduction

Definitions

Allometry

Laws

Stream Ordering

Horton's Laws




Tokunaga's Law

Nutshell

References



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# References IV

The PoCSverse  
Branching  
Networks I  
56 of 56

Introduction

Definitions

Allometry

Laws

Stream Ordering

Horton's Laws

Tokunaga's Law

Nutshell

References

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