

Generating Functions for Random Networks

Complex Networks
CSYS/MATH 303, Spring, 2011

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Generating Functions

Generating Functions

Definitions

Basic Properties

Giant Component Condition

Component sizes

Useful results

Size of the Giant Component

Average Component Size

References



Outline

Generating Functions

Definitions

Basic Properties

Giant Component Condition

Component sizes

Useful results

Size of the Giant Component

Average Component Size

References

Generating Functions

Generating Functions

Definitions

Basic Properties

Giant Component Condition

Component sizes

Useful results

Size of the Giant Component

Average Component Size

References



Outline

Generating Functions

Definitions

Basic Properties

Giant Component Condition

Component sizes

Useful results

Size of the Giant Component

Average Component Size

References

Generating Functions

Generating Functions

Definitions

Basic Properties

Giant Component Condition

Component sizes

Useful results

Size of the Giant Component

Average Component Size

References



Generating functions

- ▶ **Idea:** Given a sequence a_0, a_1, a_2, \dots , associate each element with a distinct function or other mathematical object.
- ▶ Well-chosen functions allow us to manipulate sequences and retrieve sequence elements.

Definition:

- ▶ The generating function (g.f.) for a sequence $\{a_n\}$ is

$$F(x) = \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} a_n x^n.$$

- ▶ Roughly: transforms a vector in R^∞ into a function defined on R^1 .
- ▶ Related to Fourier, Laplace, Mellin, ...

Generating
Functions

Generating
Functions

Definitions

Basic Properties

Giant Component Condition

Component sizes

Useful results

Size of the Giant
Component

Average Component Size

References



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Generating
Functions

Generating
Functions

Definitions

Basic Properties

Giant Component Condition

Component sizes

Useful results

Size of the Giant
Component

Average Component Size

References



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Generating
Functions

Generating
Functions

Definitions

Basic Properties

Giant Component Condition

Component sizes

Useful results

Size of the Giant
Component

Average Component Size

References



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Generating
Functions

Generating
Functions

Definitions

Basic Properties

Giant Component Condition

Component sizes

Useful results

Size of the Giant
Component

Average Component Size

References



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Generating
Functions

Generating
Functions

Definitions

Basic Properties

Giant Component Condition

Component sizes

Useful results

Size of the Giant
Component

Average Component Size

References



Simple example

Definitions

- Basic Properties
- Giant Component Condition
- Component sizes
- Useful results
- Size of the Giant Component
- Average Component Size

Rolling dice:

- ▶ $p_k^{(\square)} = \mathbf{Pr}(\text{throwing a } k) = 1/6 \text{ where } k = 1, 2, \dots, 6.$

$$F^{(\square)}(x) = \sum_{k=1}^6 p_k x^k = \frac{1}{6}(x + x^2 + x^3 + x^4 + x^5 + x^6).$$

- ▶ We'll come back to this simple example as we derive various delicious properties of generating functions.



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Definitions

- Basic Properties
- Giant Component Condition
- Component sizes
- Useful results
- Size of the Giant Component
- Average Component Size

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Example

- ▶ Take a degree distribution with exponential decay:

$$P_k = ce^{-\lambda k}$$

where $c = 1 - e^{-\lambda}$.

- ▶ The generating function for this distribution is

$$F(x) = \sum_{k=0}^{\infty} P_k x^k = \sum_{k=0}^{\infty} ce^{-\lambda k} x^k = \frac{c}{1 - xe^{-\lambda}}.$$

- ▶ Notice that $F(1) = c/(1 - e^{-\lambda}) = 1$.
- ▶ For probability distributions, we must always have $F(1) = 1$ since

$$F(1) = \sum_{k=0}^{\infty} P_k 1^k = \sum_{k=0}^{\infty} P_k = 1.$$

Generating
Functions

Generating
Functions

Definitions

Giant Component Condition

Component sizes

Useful results

Size of the Giant
Component

Average Component Size

References



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Outline

Generating Functions

Definitions

Basic Properties

Giant Component Condition

Component sizes

Useful results

Size of the Giant Component

Average Component Size

References

Generating
Functions

Generating
Functions

Definitions

Basic Properties

Giant Component Condition

Component sizes

Useful results

Size of the Giant
Component

Average Component Size

References



Properties of generating functions

- ▶ Average degree:

$$\begin{aligned}\langle k \rangle &= \sum_{k=0}^{\infty} k P_k = \left. \sum_{k=0}^{\infty} k P_k x^{k-1} \right|_{x=1} \\ &= \left. \frac{d}{dx} F(x) \right|_{x=1} = F'(1)\end{aligned}$$

- ▶ In general, many calculations become simple, if a little abstract.
- ▶ For our exponential example:

$$F'(x) = \frac{(1 - e^{-\lambda})e^{-\lambda}}{(1 - xe^{-\lambda})^2}$$

- ▶ So:

$$\langle k \rangle = F'(1) = \frac{e^{-\lambda}}{(1 - e^{-\lambda})^2}$$

Generating
Functions

Generating
Functions

Definitions

Basic Properties

Giant Component Condition

Component sizes

Useful results

Size of the Giant
Component

Average Component Size

References



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Generating
Functions

Generating
Functions

Definitions

Basic Properties

Giant Component Condition

Component sizes

Useful results

Size of the Giant
Component

Average Component Size

References



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Generating
Functions

Generating
Functions

Definitions

Basic Properties

Giant Component Condition

Component sizes

Useful results

Size of the Giant
Component

Average Component Size

References



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Generating Functions

Generating Functions

Definitions

Basic Properties

Giant Component Condition

Component sizes

Useful results

Size of the Giant Component

Component

Average Component Size

References



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Generating
Functions

Generating
Functions

Definitions

Basic Properties

Giant Component Condition

Component sizes

Useful results

Size of the Giant
Component

Average Component Size

References



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Generating
Functions

Generating
Functions

Definitions

Basic Properties

Giant Component Condition

Component sizes

Useful results

Size of the Giant
Component

Average Component Size

References



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Generating
Functions

Generating
Functions

Definitions

Basic Properties

Giant Component Condition

Component sizes

Useful results

Size of the Giant
Component

Average Component Size

References



Properties of generating functions

Useful pieces for probability distributions:

▶ Normalization:

$$F(1) = 1$$

▶ First moment:

$$\langle k \rangle = F'(1)$$

▶ Higher moments:

$$\langle k^n \rangle = \left(x \frac{d}{dx} \right)^n F(x) \Big|_{x=1}$$

▶ k th element of sequence (general):

$$P_k = \frac{1}{k!} \frac{d^k}{dx^k} F(x) \Big|_{x=0}$$

Generating
Functions

Generating
Functions

Definitions

Basic Properties

Giant Component Condition

Component sizes

Useful results

Size of the Giant
Component

Average Component Size

References



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Generating
Functions

Generating
Functions

Definitions

Basic Properties

Giant Component Condition

Component sizes

Useful results

Size of the Giant
Component

Average Component Size

References



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Generating
Functions

Generating
Functions

Definitions

Basic Properties

Giant Component Condition

Component sizes

Useful results

Size of the Giant
Component

Average Component Size

References



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Generating
Functions

Generating
Functions

Definitions

Basic Properties

Giant Component Condition

Component sizes

Useful results

Size of the Giant
Component

Average Component Size

References



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Generating
Functions

Generating
Functions

Definitions

Basic Properties

Giant Component Condition

Component sizes

Useful results

Size of the Giant

Component

Average Component Size

References



Outline

Generating Functions

Definitions

Basic Properties

Giant Component Condition

Component sizes

Useful results

Size of the Giant Component

Average Component Size

References

Generating Functions

Generating Functions

Definitions

Basic Properties

Giant Component Condition

Component sizes

Useful results

Size of the Giant Component

Component

Average Component Size

References



Edge-degree distribution

- ▶ Recall our condition for a giant component:

$$\langle k \rangle_R = \frac{\langle k^2 \rangle - \langle k \rangle}{\langle k \rangle} > 1.$$

- ▶ Let's reexpress our condition in terms of generating functions.
- ▶ We first need the g.f. for R_k .
- ▶ We'll now use this notation:

$F_P(x)$ is the g.f. for P_k .

$F_R(x)$ is the g.f. for R_k .

- ▶ Condition in terms of g.f. is:

$$\langle k \rangle_R = F'_R(1) > 1.$$

- ▶ Now find how F_R is related to F_P ...

Generating
Functions

Generating
Functions

Definitions

Basic Properties

Giant Component Condition

Component sizes

Useful results

Size of the Giant
Component

Average Component Size

References



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Generating
Functions

Generating
Functions

Definitions

Basic Properties

Giant Component Condition

Component sizes

Useful results

Size of the Giant
Component

Average Component Size

References



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Generating
Functions

Generating
Functions

Definitions

Basic Properties

Giant Component Condition

Component sizes

Useful results

Size of the Giant
Component

Average Component Size

References



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Generating
Functions

Generating
Functions

Definitions

Basic Properties

Giant Component Condition

Component sizes

Useful results

Size of the Giant
Component

Average Component Size

References



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Generating
Functions

Generating
Functions

Definitions

Basic Properties

Giant Component Condition

Component sizes

Useful results

Size of the Giant
Component

Average Component Size

References



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Generating
Functions

Generating
Functions

Definitions

Basic Properties

Giant Component Condition

Component sizes

Useful results

Size of the Giant

Component

Average Component Size

References



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Generating
Functions

Generating
Functions

Definitions

Basic Properties

Giant Component Condition

Component sizes

Useful results

Size of the Giant

Component

Average Component Size

References



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Generating
Functions

Generating
Functions

Definitions

Basic Properties

Giant Component Condition

Component sizes

Useful results

Size of the Giant
Component

Average Component Size

References



Edge-degree distribution

► We have

$$F_R(x) = \sum_{k=0}^{\infty} R_k x^k = \sum_{k=0}^{\infty} \frac{(k+1)P_{k+1}}{\langle k \rangle} x^k.$$

Shift index to $j = k + 1$ and pull out $\frac{1}{\langle k \rangle}$:

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Generating
Functions

Generating
Functions

Definitions

Basic Properties

Giant Component Condition

Component sizes

Useful results

Size of the Giant
Component

Average Component Size

References



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Generating
Functions

Generating
Functions

Definitions

Basic Properties

Giant Component Condition

Component sizes

Useful results

Size of the Giant
Component

Average Component Size

References



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Generating
Functions

Generating
Functions

Definitions

Basic Properties

Giant Component Condition

Component sizes

Useful results

Size of the Giant
Component

Average Component Size

References



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Generating
Functions

Generating
Functions

Definitions

Basic Properties

Giant Component Condition

Component sizes

Useful results

Size of the Giant
Component

Average Component Size

References



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Generating
Functions

Generating
Functions

Definitions

Basic Properties

Giant Component Condition

Component sizes

Useful results

Size of the Giant
Component

Average Component Size

References



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Generating
Functions

Generating
Functions

Definitions

Basic Properties

Giant Component Condition

Component sizes

Useful results

Size of the Giant

Component

Average Component Size

References



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Generating
Functions

Generating
Functions

Definitions

Basic Properties

Giant Component Condition

Component sizes

Useful results

Size of the Giant

Component

Average Component Size

References



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Generating
Functions

Generating
Functions

Definitions

Basic Properties

Giant Component Condition

Component sizes

Useful results

Size of the Giant

Component

Average Component Size

References



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Generating
Functions

Generating
Functions

Definitions

Basic Properties

Giant Component Condition

Component sizes

Useful results

Size of the Giant

Component

Average Component Size

References



Edge-degree distribution

- ▶ Recall giant component condition is $\langle k \rangle_R = F'_R(1) > 1$.

- ▶ Since we have $F_R(x) = F'_P(x)/F'_P(1)$,

$$F'_R(x) = \frac{F''_P(x)}{F'_P(1)}.$$

- ▶ Setting $x = 1$, our condition becomes

$$\frac{F''_P(1)}{F'_P(1)} > 1$$

Generating Functions

Generating Functions

Definitions

Basic Properties

Giant Component Condition

Component sizes

Useful results

Size of the Giant Component

Average Component Size

References



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Generating
Functions

Generating
Functions

Definitions

Basic Properties

Giant Component Condition

Component sizes

Useful results

Size of the Giant
Component

Average Component Size

References



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Generating
Functions

Generating
Functions

Definitions

Basic Properties

Giant Component Condition

Component sizes

Useful results

Size of the Giant
Component

Average Component Size

References



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Generating
Functions

Generating
Functions

Definitions

Basic Properties

Giant Component Condition

Component sizes

Useful results

Size of the Giant
Component

Component

Average Component Size

References



Outline

Generating Functions

Definitions

Basic Properties

Giant Component Condition

Component sizes

Useful results

Size of the Giant Component

Average Component Size

References

Generating Functions

Generating Functions

Definitions

Basic Properties

Giant Component Condition

Component sizes

Useful results

Size of the Giant Component

Component

Average Component Size

References



Size distributions

To figure out the **size of the largest component** (S_1), we need more resolution on component sizes.

Definitions:

- ▶ π_n = probability that a random node belongs to a finite component of size $n < \infty$.
- ▶ ρ_n = probability a random link leads to a finite subcomponent of size $n < \infty$.

Local-global connection:

$$P_k \cdot R_k \Leftrightarrow \pi_n, \rho_n$$

neighbors \Leftrightarrow components

Generating Functions

Generating Functions

Definitions

Basic Properties

Giant Component Condition

Component sizes

Useful results

Size of the Giant Component

Average Component Size

References



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Generating Functions

Generating Functions

Definitions

Basic Properties

Giant Component Condition

Component sizes

Useful results

Size of the Giant Component

Average Component Size

References



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Generating Functions

Generating Functions

Definitions

Basic Properties

Giant Component Condition

Component sizes

Useful results

Size of the Giant Component

Average Component Size

References



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Generating Functions

Generating Functions

Definitions

Basic Properties

Giant Component Condition

Component sizes

Useful results

Size of the Giant Component

Average Component Size

References



Size distributions

G.f.'s for component size distributions:



$$F_{\pi}(x) = \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} \pi_n x^n \text{ and } F_{\rho}(x) = \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} \rho_n x^n$$

The largest component:

- ▶ Subtle key: $F_{\pi}(1)$ is the probability that a node belongs to a finite component.
- ▶ Therefore: $S_1 = 1 - F_{\pi}(1)$.

Our mission, which we accept:

- ▶ Find the four generating functions

$$F_P, F_R, F_{\pi}, \text{ and } F_{\rho}.$$

Generating
Functions

Generating
Functions

Definitions

Basic Properties

Giant Component Condition

Component sizes

Useful results

Size of the Giant

Component

Average Component Size

References



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Generating
Functions

Generating
Functions

Definitions

Basic Properties

Giant Component Condition

Component sizes

Useful results

Size of the Giant
Component

Average Component Size

References



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Generating
Functions

Generating
Functions

Definitions

Basic Properties

Giant Component Condition

Component sizes

Useful results

Size of the Giant
Component

Average Component Size

References



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Generating
Functions

Generating
Functions

Definitions

Basic Properties

Giant Component Condition

Component sizes

Useful results

Size of the Giant

Component

Average Component Size

References



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Generating
Functions

Generating
Functions

Definitions

Basic Properties

Giant Component Condition

Component sizes

Useful results

Size of the Giant

Component

Average Component Size

References



Outline

Generating Functions

Definitions

Basic Properties

Giant Component Condition

Component sizes

Useful results

Size of the Giant Component

Average Component Size

References

Generating
Functions

Generating
Functions

Definitions

Basic Properties

Giant Component Condition

Component sizes

Useful results

Size of the Giant

Component

Average Component Size

References



Useful results we'll need for g.f.'s

Sneaky Result 1:

- ▶ Consider two random variables U and V whose values may be $0, 1, 2, \dots$
- ▶ Write probability distributions as U_k and V_k and g.f.'s as F_U and F_V .
- ▶ SR1: If a third random variable is defined as

$$W = \sum_{i=1}^U V^{(i)} \text{ with each } V^{(i)} \stackrel{d}{=} V$$

then

$$F_W(x) = F_U(F_V(x))$$

Generating Functions

Generating Functions

Definitions

Basic Properties

Giant Component Condition

Component sizes

Useful results

Size of the Giant Component

Component

Average Component Size

References



Useful results we'll need for g.f.'s

Generating Functions

Generating Functions

Definitions

Basic Properties

Giant Component Condition

Component sizes

Useful results

Size of the Giant Component

Component

Average Component Size

References

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Useful results we'll need for g.f.'s

Generating Functions

Generating Functions

Definitions

Basic Properties

Giant Component Condition

Component sizes

Useful results

Size of the Giant Component

Component

Average Component Size

References

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Useful results we'll need for g.f.'s

Generating
Functions

Generating
Functions

Definitions

Basic Properties

Giant Component Condition

Component sizes

Useful results

Size of the Giant

Component

Average Component Size

References

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Useful results we'll need for g.f.'s

Generating
Functions

Generating
Functions

Definitions

Basic Properties

Giant Component Condition

Component sizes

Useful results

Size of the Giant

Component

Average Component Size

References

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Proof of SR1:

Write probability that variable W has value k as W_k .

$$W_k = \sum_{j=0}^{\infty} U_j \times \Pr(\text{sum of } j \text{ draws of variable } V = k)$$

$$= \sum_{j=0}^{\infty} U_j \sum_{\substack{(i_1, i_2, \dots, i_j) \\ i_1 + i_2 + \dots + i_j = k}} V_{i_1} V_{i_2} \dots V_{i_j}$$

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Generating Functions

Generating Functions

Definitions

Basic Properties

Giant Component Condition

Component sizes

Useful results

Size of the Giant Component

Component

Average Component Size

References

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Generating Functions

Generating Functions

Definitions

Basic Properties

Giant Component Condition

Component sizes

Useful results

Size of the Giant Component

Component

Average Component Size

References

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Generating Functions

Generating Functions

Definitions

Basic Properties

Giant Component Condition

Component sizes

Useful results

Size of the Giant Component

Component

Average Component Size

References

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$$\therefore F_W(x) = \sum_{k=0}^{\infty} W_k x^k = \sum_{k=0}^{\infty} \sum_{j=0}^{\infty} U_j \sum_{\substack{\{i_1, i_2, \dots, i_j\} \\ i_1 + i_2 + \dots + i_j = k}} V_{i_1} V_{i_2} \dots V_{i_j} x^k$$

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Generating Functions

Generating Functions

Definitions

Basic Properties

Giant Component Condition

Component sizes

Useful results

Size of the Giant Component

Component

Average Component Size

References

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Generating Functions

Generating Functions

Definitions

Basic Properties

Giant Component Condition

Component sizes

Useful results

Size of the Giant Component

Component

Average Component Size

References

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Generating Functions

Generating Functions

Definitions

Basic Properties

Giant Component Condition

Component sizes

Useful results

Size of the Giant Component

Component

Average Component Size

References

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Generating Functions

Generating Functions

Definitions

Basic Properties

Giant Component Condition

Component sizes

Useful results

Size of the Giant Component

Component

Average Component Size

References

Proof of SR1:

With some concentration, observe:

$$F_W(x) = \sum_{j=0}^{\infty} U_j \sum_{k=0}^{\infty} \sum_{\substack{\{i_1, i_2, \dots, i_j\} \\ i_1 + i_2 + \dots + i_j = k}} V_{i_1} x^{i_1} V_{i_2} x^{i_2} \dots V_{i_j} x^{i_j}$$

x^k piece of $\left(\sum_{i'=0}^{\infty} V_{i'} x^{i'}\right)^j$

$$= \sum_{j=0}^{\infty} U_j (F_V(x))^j$$

$$= F_U(F_V(x)) \checkmark$$

Generating Functions

Generating Functions

Definitions

Basic Properties

Giant Component Condition

Component sizes

Useful results

Size of the Giant Component

Component

Average Component Size

References



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x^k piece of $\left(\sum_{i'=0}^{\infty} V_{i'} x^{i'}\right)^j$

$$\left(\sum_{i'=0}^{\infty} V_{i'} x^{i'}\right)^j = (F_V(x))^j$$

$$= \sum_{j=0}^{\infty} U_j (F_V(x))^j$$

$$= F_U(F_V(x)) \checkmark$$

Generating
Functions

Generating
Functions

Definitions

Basic Properties

Giant Component Condition

Component sizes

Useful results

Size of the Giant

Component

Average Component Size

References

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$$\begin{aligned} F_W(x) &= \sum_{j=0}^{\infty} U_j \sum_{k=0}^{\infty} \sum_{\substack{\{i_1, i_2, \dots, i_j\} \\ i_1 + i_2 + \dots + i_j = k}} V_{i_1} x^{i_1} V_{i_2} x^{i_2} \dots V_{i_j} x^{i_j} \\ &= \underbrace{x^k \text{ piece of } \left(\sum_{i'=0}^{\infty} V_{i'} x^{i'} \right)^j}_{\left(\sum_{i'=0}^{\infty} V_{i'} x^{i'} \right)^j = (F_V(x))^j} \\ &= \sum_{j=0}^{\infty} U_j (F_V(x))^j \\ &= F_U(F_V(x)) \checkmark \end{aligned}$$

Generating
Functions

Generating
Functions

Definitions

Basic Properties

Giant Component Condition

Component sizes

Useful results

Size of the Giant

Component

Average Component Size

References



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Generating
Functions

Generating
Functions

Definitions

Basic Properties

Giant Component Condition

Component sizes

Useful results

Size of the Giant
Component

Average Component Size

References

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Generating Functions

Generating Functions

Definitions

Basic Properties

Giant Component Condition

Component sizes

Useful results

Size of the Giant Component

Component

Average Component Size

References

Useful results we'll need for g.f.'s

Sneaky Result 2:

- ▶ Start with a random variable U with distribution U_k ($k = 0, 1, 2, \dots$)
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$$V = U + 1 \text{ then } \boxed{F_V(x) = xF_U(x)}$$

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Generating
Functions

Generating
Functions

Definitions

Basic Properties

Giant Component Condition

Component sizes

Useful results

Size of the Giant

Component

Average Component Size

References



Useful results we'll need for g.f.'s

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Generating
Functions

Generating
Functions

Definitions

Basic Properties

Giant Component Condition

Component sizes

Useful results

Size of the Giant

Component

Average Component Size

References



Useful results we'll need for g.f.'s

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Generating Functions

Generating Functions

Definitions

Basic Properties

Giant Component Condition

Component sizes

Useful results

Size of the Giant Component

Component

Average Component Size

References



Useful results we'll need for g.f.'s

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Generating
Functions

Generating
Functions

Definitions

Basic Properties

Giant Component Condition

Component sizes

Useful results

Size of the Giant

Component

Average Component Size

References



Useful results we'll need for g.f.'s

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Useful results we'll need for g.f.'s

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Useful results we'll need for g.f.'s

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Generating
Functions

Generating
Functions

Definitions

Basic Properties

Giant Component Condition

Component sizes

Useful results

Size of the Giant

Component

Average Component Size

References



Useful results we'll need for g.f.'s

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Useful results we'll need for g.f.'s

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Useful results we'll need for g.f.'s

Generalization of SR2:

- ▶ (1) If $V = U + i$ then

$$F_V(x) = x^i F_U(x).$$

- ▶ (2) If $V = U - i$ then

$$F_V(x) = x^{-i} F_U(x)$$

$$= x^{-i} \sum_{k=0}^{\infty} U_k x^k$$

Generating
Functions

Generating
Functions

Definitions

Basic Properties

Giant Component Condition

Component sizes

Useful results

Size of the Giant

Component

Average Component Size

References



Useful results we'll need for g.f.'s

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Generating
Functions

Generating
Functions

Definitions

Basic Properties

Giant Component Condition

Component sizes

Useful results

Size of the Giant

Component

Average Component Size

References



Useful results we'll need for g.f.'s

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Generating
Functions

Generating
Functions

Definitions

Basic Properties

Giant Component Condition

Component sizes

Useful results

Size of the Giant

Component

Average Component Size

References



Useful results we'll need for g.f.'s

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Outline

Generating Functions

Definitions

Basic Properties

Giant Component Condition

Component sizes

Useful results

Size of the Giant Component

Average Component Size

References

Generating
Functions

Generating
Functions

Definitions

Basic Properties

Giant Component Condition

Component sizes

Useful results

**Size of the Giant
Component**

Average Component Size

References



Connecting generating functions

Generating Functions

Generating Functions

Definitions

Basic Properties

Giant Component Condition

Component sizes

Useful results

Size of the Giant Component

Average Component Size

References

- ▶ **Goal:** figure out forms of the component generating functions, F_π and F_ρ .

- ▶ π_n = probability that a random node belongs to a finite component of size n

$$= \sum_{k=0}^{\infty} P_k \times \Pr \left(\begin{array}{l} \text{sum of sizes of subcomponents} \\ \text{at end of } k \text{ random links} = n - 1 \end{array} \right)$$

- ▶ Therefore:
$$F_\pi(x) = \underbrace{x}_{\text{white pill}} \underbrace{F_P(F_\rho(x))}_{\text{white pill}}$$
- ▶ Extra factor of x accounts for random node itself.



Connecting generating functions

Generating
Functions

Generating
Functions

Definitions

Basic Properties

Giant Component Condition

Component sizes

Useful results

Size of the Giant
Component

Average Component Size

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$$= \sum_{k=0}^{\infty} P_k \times \Pr(\text{sum of sizes of subcomponents at end of } k \text{ random links} = n-1)$$

Therefore:

$$F_\pi(x) = \underbrace{x}_{\text{white pill}} \underbrace{F_\rho(F_\rho(x))}_{\text{white pill}}$$

- ▶ Extra factor of x accounts for random node itself.



Connecting generating functions

Generating
Functions

Generating
Functions

Definitions

Basic Properties

Giant Component Condition

Component sizes

Useful results

Size of the Giant
Component

Average Component Size

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$$= \sum_{k=0}^{\infty} P_k \times \Pr \left(\begin{array}{l} \text{sum of sizes of subcomponents} \\ \text{at end of } k \text{ random links} = n - 1 \end{array} \right)$$

Therefore:

$$F_\pi(x) = \underbrace{x}_{\text{white oval}} \underbrace{F_P(F_\rho(x))}_{\text{white oval}}$$

- ▶ Extra factor of x accounts for random node itself.



Connecting generating functions

Generating Functions

Generating Functions

Definitions

Basic Properties

Giant Component Condition

Component sizes

Useful results

Size of the Giant Component

Average Component Size

References

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Therefore:

$$F_\pi(x) = \underbrace{x}_{\text{SP2}} \underbrace{F_\rho(F_\rho(x))}_{\text{SP1}}$$

- ▶ Extra factor of x accounts for random node itself.



Connecting generating functions

Generating
Functions

Generating
Functions

Definitions

Basic Properties

Giant Component Condition

Component sizes

Useful results

Size of the Giant
Component

Average Component Size

References

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Therefore:

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Connecting generating functions

Generating
Functions

Generating
Functions

Definitions

Basic Properties

Giant Component Condition

Component sizes

Useful results

Size of the Giant
Component

Average Component Size

References

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Therefore:

$$F_\pi(x) = \underbrace{x}_{\text{SR2}} \underbrace{F_P(F_\rho(x))}_{\text{SR1}}$$

- ▶ Extra factor of x accounts for random node itself.



Connecting generating functions

- ▶ ρ_n = probability that a random link leads to a finite subcomponent of size n .
- ▶ Invoke one step of recursion: ρ_n = probability that in following a random edge, the outgoing edges of the node reached lead to finite subcomponents of combined size $n - 1$,

$$= \sum_{k=0}^{\infty} R_k \times \Pr \left(\text{sum of sizes of subcomponents at end of } k \text{ random links} = n - 1 \right)$$

Therefore:

$$F_{\rho}(x) = \underbrace{x}_{\text{white pill}} \underbrace{F_R(F_{\rho}(x))}_{\text{white pill}}$$

- ▶ Again, extra factor of x accounts for random node itself.

Generating Functions

Generating Functions

Definitions

Basic Properties

Giant Component Condition

Component sizes

Useful results

Size of the Giant Component

Average Component Size

References



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- ▶ ρ_n = probability that a random link leads to a finite subcomponent of size n .
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Therefore:

$$F_{\rho}(x) = \underbrace{x}_{\text{random node}} \underbrace{F_R(F_{\rho}(x))}_{\text{outgoing edges}}$$

- ▶ Again, extra factor of x accounts for random node itself.

Generating Functions

Generating Functions

Definitions

Basic Properties

Giant Component Condition

Component sizes

Useful results

Size of the Giant Component

Average Component Size

References



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Therefore:

$$F_{\rho}(x) = \underbrace{x}_{\text{white pill}} \underbrace{F_R(F_{\rho}(x))}_{\text{white pill}}$$

- ▶ Again, extra factor of x accounts for random node itself.

Generating Functions

Generating Functions

Definitions

Basic Properties

Giant Component Condition

Component sizes

Useful results

Size of the Giant Component

Average Component Size

References



Connecting generating functions

- ▶ ρ_n = probability that a random link leads to a finite subcomponent of size n .
- ▶ Invoke one step of recursion: ρ_n = probability that in following a random edge, the outgoing edges of the node reached lead to finite subcomponents of combined size $n - 1$,

$$= \sum_{k=0}^{\infty} R_k \times \Pr \left(\begin{array}{l} \text{sum of sizes of subcomponents} \\ \text{at end of } k \text{ random links} = n - 1 \end{array} \right)$$

Therefore:

$$F_{\rho}(x) = \underbrace{x}_{\text{SR2}} \underbrace{F_R(F_{\rho}(x))}_{\text{SR1}}$$

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Generating
Functions

Generating
Functions

Definitions

Basic Properties

Giant Component Condition

Component sizes

Useful results

Size of the Giant
Component

Average Component Size

References



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Generating
Functions

Generating
Functions

Definitions

Basic Properties

Giant Component Condition

Component sizes

Useful results

Size of the Giant
Component

Average Component Size

References



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Generating
Functions

Generating
Functions

Definitions

Basic Properties

Giant Component Condition

Component sizes

Useful results

Size of the Giant
Component

Average Component Size

References



Connecting generating functions

Generating
Functions

Generating
Functions

Definitions

Basic Properties

Giant Component Condition

Component sizes

Useful results

Size of the Giant
Component

Average Component Size

References

- ▶ We now have two functional equations connecting our generating functions:

$$F_{\pi}(x) = xF_P(F_{\rho}(x)) \quad \text{and} \quad F_{\rho}(x) = xF_R(F_{\rho}(x))$$

- ▶ Taking stock: We know $F_P(x)$ and $F_R(x) = F_P(x)/F_P(1)$.
- ▶ We first untangle the second equation to find F_{ρ} .
- ▶ We can do this because it only involves F_{ρ} and F_R .
- ▶ The first equation then immediately gives us F_{π} in terms of F_{ρ} and F_R .



Connecting generating functions

Generating
Functions

Generating
Functions

Definitions

Basic Properties

Giant Component Condition

Component sizes

Useful results

Size of the Giant
Component

Average Component Size

References

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Connecting generating functions

Generating
Functions

Generating
Functions

Definitions

Basic Properties

Giant Component Condition

Component sizes

Useful results

Size of the Giant
Component

Average Component Size

References

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Connecting generating functions

Generating
Functions

Generating
Functions

Definitions

Basic Properties

Giant Component Condition

Component sizes

Useful results

Size of the Giant
Component

Average Component Size

References

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Connecting generating functions

Generating
Functions

Generating
Functions

Definitions

Basic Properties

Giant Component Condition

Component sizes

Useful results

Size of the Giant
Component

Average Component Size

References

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Component sizes

Generating
Functions

Generating
Functions

Definitions

Basic Properties

Giant Component Condition

Component sizes

Useful results

Size of the Giant
Component

Average Component Size

References

- ▶ Remembering vaguely what we are doing:

Finding F_x to obtain the fractional size of the largest component $S_1 = 1 - F_x(1)$.

- ▶ Set $x = 1$ in our two equations:

$$F_{\pi}(1) = F_P(F_{\rho}(1)) \quad \text{and} \quad F_{\rho}(1) = F_R(F_{\rho}(1))$$

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Component sizes

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Generating
Functions

Generating
Functions

Definitions

Basic Properties

Giant Component Condition

Component sizes

Useful results

Size of the Giant
Component

Average Component Size

References



Component sizes

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Generating Functions

Generating Functions

Definitions

Basic Properties

Giant Component Condition

Component sizes

Useful results

Size of the Giant Component

Average Component Size

References



Component sizes

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Generating
Functions

Generating
Functions

Definitions

Basic Properties

Giant Component Condition

Component sizes

Useful results

Size of the Giant
Component

Average Component Size

References



Component sizes

Generating
Functions

Generating
Functions

Definitions

Basic Properties

Giant Component Condition

Component sizes

Useful results

Size of the Giant
Component

Average Component Size

References

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Component sizes

Generating
Functions

Generating
Functions

Definitions

Basic Properties

Giant Component Condition

Component sizes

Useful results

Size of the Giant
Component

Average Component Size

References

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Component sizes

Generating
Functions

Generating
Functions

Definitions

Basic Properties

Giant Component Condition

Component sizes

Useful results

Size of the Giant
Component

Average Component Size

References

Example: Standard random graphs.

▶ We can show $F_P(x) = e^{-\langle k \rangle(1-x)}$

$$\therefore F_R(x) = F_P'(x)/F_P'(1) = e^{-\langle k \rangle(1-x)} / e^{-\langle k \rangle(1-x')} \Big|_{x'=1}$$

$$= e^{-\langle k \rangle(1-x)} = F_P(x) \quad \dots\text{aha!}$$

- ▶ RHS's of our two equations are the same.
- ▶ So $F_\pi(x) = F_p(x) = xF_R(F_p(x)) = xF_R(F_\pi(x))$
- ▶ Why our dirty (but wrong) trick worked earlier...



Component sizes

Generating
Functions

Generating
Functions

Definitions

Basic Properties

Giant Component Condition

Component sizes

Useful results

Size of the Giant
Component

Average Component Size

References

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Component sizes

Generating
Functions

Generating
Functions

Definitions

Basic Properties

Giant Component Condition

Component sizes

Useful results

Size of the Giant
Component

Average Component Size

References

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Component sizes

Generating
Functions

Generating
Functions

Definitions

Basic Properties

Giant Component Condition

Component sizes

Useful results

Size of the Giant
Component

Average Component Size

References

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Component sizes

Generating
Functions

Generating
Functions

Definitions

Basic Properties

Giant Component Condition

Component sizes

Useful results

Size of the Giant
Component

Average Component Size

References

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Component sizes

Generating
Functions

Generating
Functions

Definitions

Basic Properties

Giant Component Condition

Component sizes

Useful results

Size of the Giant
Component

Average Component Size

References

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Component sizes

Generating Functions

Generating Functions

Definitions

Basic Properties

Giant Component Condition

Component sizes

Useful results

Size of the Giant Component

Average Component Size

References

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Component sizes

Generating Functions

Generating Functions

Definitions

Basic Properties

Giant Component Condition

Component sizes

Useful results

Size of the Giant Component

Average Component Size

References

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Component sizes

- ▶ We are down to

$$F_{\pi}(x) = xF_R(F_{\pi}(x)) \text{ and } F_R(x) = e^{-\langle k \rangle(1-x)}.$$



$$\therefore F_{\pi}(x) = xe^{-\langle k \rangle(1-F_{\pi}(x))}$$

- ▶ We're first after $S_1 = 1 - F_{\pi}(1)$ so set $x = 1$ and replace $F_{\pi}(1)$ by $1 - S_1$:

$$1 - S_1 = e^{-\langle k \rangle S_1}$$

$$\text{Or: } \langle k \rangle = \frac{1}{S_1} \ln \frac{1}{1 - S_1}$$

- ▶ Just as we found with our dirty trick ...
- ▶ Again, we (usually) have to resort to numerics ...

Generating Functions

Generating Functions

Definitions

Basic Properties

Giant Component Condition

Component sizes

Useful results

Size of the Giant Component

Average Component Size

References



Component sizes

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Generating Functions

Generating Functions

Definitions

Basic Properties

Giant Component Condition

Component sizes

Useful results

Size of the Giant Component

Average Component Size

References



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Generating
Functions

Generating
Functions

Definitions

Basic Properties

Giant Component Condition

Component sizes

Useful results

Size of the Giant
Component

Average Component Size

References



Component sizes

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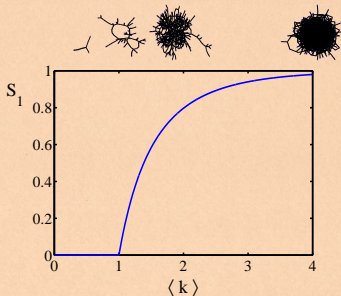


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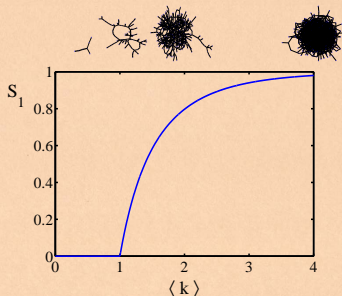


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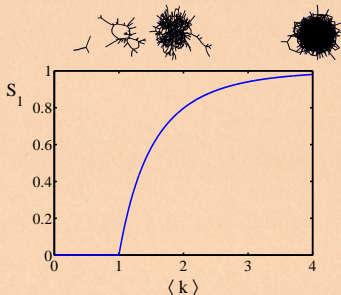


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Outline

Generating Functions

Definitions

Basic Properties

Giant Component Condition

Component sizes

Useful results

Size of the Giant Component

Average Component Size

References

Generating Functions

Generating Functions

Definitions

Basic Properties

Giant Component Condition

Component sizes

Useful results

Size of the Giant Component

Component

Average Component Size

References



Average component size

- ▶ Next: find **average size** of finite components $\langle n \rangle$.
- ▶ Using standard G.F. result: $\langle n \rangle = F'_\pi(1)$.
- ▶ Try to avoid finding $F_\pi(x)$...
- ▶ Starting from $F_\pi(x) = xF_P(F_P(x))$, we differentiate:

$$F'_\pi(x) = F_P(F_P(x)) + xF'_P(x)F'_P(F_P(x))$$

- ▶ While $F_R(x) = xF_R(F_P(x))$ gives

$$F'_R(x) = F_R(F_P(x)) + xF'_P(x)F'_R(F_P(x))$$

- ▶ Now set $x = 1$ in both equations.
- ▶ We solve the second equation for $F'_R(1)$ (we must already have $F_P(1)$).
- ▶ Plug $F'_R(1)$ and $F_P(1)$ into first equation to find $F'_\pi(1)$.

Generating
Functions

Generating
Functions

Definitions

Basic Properties

Giant Component Condition

Component sizes

Useful results

Size of the Giant
Component

Component

Average Component Size

References



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Generating
Functions

Generating
Functions

Definitions

Basic Properties

Giant Component Condition

Component sizes

Useful results

Size of the Giant
Component

Component

Average Component Size

References



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Generating
Functions

Generating
Functions

Definitions

Basic Properties

Giant Component Condition

Component sizes

Useful results

Size of the Giant
Component

Average Component Size

References



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$$F'_\pi(x) = F_P(F_\rho(x)) + xF'_\rho(x)F'_P(F_\rho(x))$$

- ▶ While $F_\rho(x) = xF_R(F_\rho(x))$ gives

$$F'_\rho(x) = F_R(F_\rho(x)) + xF'_\rho(x)F'_R(F_\rho(x))$$

- ▶ Now set $x = 1$ in both equations.
- ▶ We solve the second equation for $F'_\rho(1)$ (we must already have $F_\rho(1)$).
- ▶ Plug $F'_\rho(1)$ and $F_\rho(1)$ into first equation to find $F'_\pi(1)$.

Generating
Functions

Generating
Functions

Definitions

Basic Properties

Giant Component Condition

Component sizes

Useful results

Size of the Giant
Component

Average Component Size

References



Average component size

- ▶ Next: find **average size** of finite components $\langle n \rangle$.
- ▶ Using standard G.F. result: $\langle n \rangle = F'_\pi(1)$.
- ▶ Try to avoid finding $F_\pi(x)$...
- ▶ Starting from $F_\pi(x) = xF_P(F_\rho(x))$, we differentiate:

$$F'_\pi(x) = F_P(F_\rho(x)) + xF'_\rho(x)F'_P(F_\rho(x))$$

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Generating
Functions

Generating
Functions

Definitions

Basic Properties

Giant Component Condition

Component sizes

Useful results

Size of the Giant
Component

Size of the
Component

Average Component Size

References



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Generating
Functions

Generating
Functions

Definitions

Basic Properties

Giant Component Condition

Component sizes

Useful results

Size of the Giant

Component

Average Component Size

References



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Generating
Functions

Generating
Functions

Definitions

Basic Properties

Giant Component Condition

Component sizes

Useful results

Size of the Giant

Component

Average Component Size

References



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Generating
Functions

Generating
Functions

Definitions

Basic Properties

Giant Component Condition

Component sizes

Useful results

Size of the Giant

Component

Average Component Size

References



Average component size

Example: Standard random graphs.

- ▶ Use fact that $F_P = F_R$ and $F_\pi = F_\mu$.
- ▶ Two differentiated equations reduce to only one:

$$F'_\pi(x) = F_P(F_\pi(x)) + xF'_\pi(x)F'_P(F_\pi(x))$$

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- ▶ Simplify denominator using $F'_P(x) = \langle k \rangle F_P(x)$
- ▶ Replace $F_P(F_\pi(x))$ using $F_\pi(x) = xF_P(F_\pi(x))$.
- ▶ Set $x = 1$ and replace $F_\pi(1)$ with $1 - S_1$.

$$\text{End result: } \langle n \rangle = F'_\pi(1) = \frac{(1 - S_1)}{1 - \langle k \rangle(1 - S_1)}$$

Generating
Functions

Generating
Functions

Definitions

Basic Properties

Giant Component Condition

Component sizes

Useful results

Size of the Giant
Component

Average Component Size

References



Average component size

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Generating
Functions

Generating
Functions

Definitions

Basic Properties

Giant Component Condition

Component sizes

Useful results

Size of the Giant
Component

Average Component Size

References



Average component size

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Generating Functions

Generating Functions

Definitions

Basic Properties

Giant Component Condition

Component sizes

Useful results

Size of the Giant Component

Component

Average Component Size

References



Average component size

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Generating
Functions

Generating
Functions

Definitions

Basic Properties

Giant Component Condition

Component sizes

Useful results

Size of the Giant
Component

Average Component Size

References



Average component size

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Generating
Functions

Generating
Functions

Definitions

Basic Properties

Giant Component Condition

Component sizes

Useful results

Size of the Giant
Component

Average Component Size

References



Average component size

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Generating
Functions

Generating
Functions

Definitions

Basic Properties

Giant Component Condition

Component sizes

Useful results

Size of the Giant
Component

Average Component Size

References



Average component size

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Generating
Functions

Generating
Functions

Definitions

Basic Properties

Giant Component Condition

Component sizes

Useful results

Size of the Giant
Component

Average Component Size

References



Average component size

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Generating
Functions

Generating
Functions

Definitions

Basic Properties

Giant Component Condition

Component sizes

Useful results

Size of the Giant
Component

Average Component Size

References



Average component size

- ▶ Our result for standard random networks:

$$\langle n \rangle = F'_\pi(1) = \frac{(1 - S_1)}{1 - \langle k \rangle(1 - S_1)}$$

- ▶ Recall that $\langle k \rangle = 1$ is the critical value of average degree for standard random networks.
- ▶ Look at what happens when we increase $\langle k \rangle$ to 1 from below.
- ▶ We have $S_1 = 0$ for all $\langle k \rangle < 1$ so

$$\langle n \rangle = \frac{1}{1 - \langle k \rangle}$$

- ▶ This blows up as $\langle k \rangle \rightarrow 1$.
- ▶ Reason: we have a power law distribution of component sizes at $\langle k \rangle = 1$.
- ▶ Typical critical point behavior....

Generating Functions

Generating Functions

Definitions

Basic Properties

Giant Component Condition

Component sizes

Useful results

Size of the Giant Component

Component

Average Component Size

References



Average component size

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Generating Functions

Generating Functions

Definitions

Basic Properties

Giant Component Condition

Component sizes

Useful results

Size of the Giant Component

Component

Average Component Size

References



Average component size

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Generating Functions

Generating Functions

Definitions

Basic Properties

Giant Component Condition

Component sizes

Useful results

Size of the Giant Component

Component

Average Component Size

References



Average component size

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Generating Functions

Generating Functions

Definitions

Basic Properties

Giant Component Condition

Component sizes

Useful results

Size of the Giant Component

Component

Average Component Size

References



Average component size

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Generating Functions

Generating Functions

Definitions

Basic Properties

Giant Component Condition

Component sizes

Useful results

Size of the Giant Component

Component

Average Component Size

References



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Average component size

- ▶ Limits of $\langle k \rangle = 0$ and ∞ make sense for

$$\langle n \rangle = F'_\pi(1) = \frac{(1 - S_1)}{1 - \langle k \rangle(1 - S_1)}$$

- ▶ As $\langle k \rangle \rightarrow 0$, $S_1 = 0$, and $\langle n \rangle \rightarrow 1$.
- ▶ All nodes are isolated.
- ▶ As $\langle k \rangle \rightarrow \infty$, $S_1 \rightarrow 1$ and $\langle n \rangle \rightarrow 0$.
- ▶ No nodes are outside of the giant component.

Extra on largest component size:

- ▶ For $\langle k \rangle = 1$, $S_1 \sim N^{2/3}$.
- ▶ For $\langle k \rangle < 1$, $S_1 \sim \log N$.

Generating
Functions

Generating
Functions

Definitions

Basic Properties

Giant Component Condition

Component sizes

Useful results

Size of the Giant
Component

Average Component Size

References



Average component size

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Generating
Functions

Generating
Functions

Definitions

Basic Properties

Giant Component Condition

Component sizes

Useful results

Size of the Giant
Component

Average Component Size

References



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Generating
Functions

Generating
Functions

Definitions

Basic Properties

Giant Component Condition

Component sizes

Useful results

Size of the Giant
Component

Average Component Size

References



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Generating
Functions

Generating
Functions

Definitions

Basic Properties

Giant Component Condition

Component sizes

Useful results

Size of the Giant
Component

Average Component Size

References



Average component size

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Generating
Functions

Generating
Functions

Definitions

Basic Properties

Giant Component Condition

Component sizes

Useful results

Size of the Giant
Component

Average Component Size

References



Average component size

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Generating
Functions

Generating
Functions

Definitions

Basic Properties

Giant Component Condition

Component sizes

Useful results

Size of the Giant
Component

Average Component Size

References



Average component size

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Generating
Functions

Generating
Functions

Definitions

Basic Properties

Giant Component Condition

Component sizes

Useful results

Size of the Giant
Component

Average Component Size

References



References I

Generating
Functions

Generating
Functions

Definitions

Basic Properties

Giant Component Condition

Component sizes

Useful results

Size of the Giant
Component

Average Component Size

References

