

# Optimal Supply Networks I: Branching

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Principles of Complex Systems,  
Vols. 1, 2, 3D, 4 Fourever, V for Vendetta

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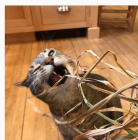
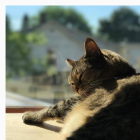
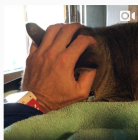
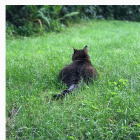
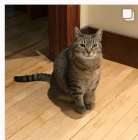
References







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What's the best way to distribute stuff?



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What's the best way to distribute stuff?



Stuff = medical services, energy, people, ...





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## What's the best way to distribute stuff?



Stuff = medical services, energy, people, ...



Some fundamental network problems:

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What's the best way to distribute stuff?

 Stuff = medical services, energy, people, ...

 **Some** fundamental network problems:

1. Distribute stuff from a **single source** to **many sinks**



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## What's the best way to distribute stuff?

 Stuff = medical services, energy, people, ...

 **Some** fundamental network problems:

1. Distribute stuff from a **single source** to **many sinks**
2. Distribute stuff from **many sources** to many sinks



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## What's the best way to distribute stuff?

 Stuff = medical services, energy, people, ...

 **Some** fundamental network problems:

1. Distribute stuff from a **single source** to **many sinks**
2. Distribute stuff from **many sources** to many sinks
3. **Redistribute** stuff between nodes that are both sources and sinks





# Optimal supply networks

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## What's the best way to distribute stuff?

 Stuff = medical services, energy, people, ...

 **Some** fundamental network problems:

1. Distribute stuff from a **single source** to **many sinks**
2. Distribute stuff from **many sources** to many sinks
3. **Redistribute** stuff between nodes that are both sources and sinks

 Supply and Collection are equivalent problems





# Single source optimal supply

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Basic question for distribution/supply networks:

 How does flow behave given cost:

$$C = \sum_j I_j^\gamma Z_j$$

where

$I_j$  = current on link  $j$

and

$Z_j$  = link  $j$ 's impedance.



# Single source optimal supply

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Basic question for distribution/supply networks:

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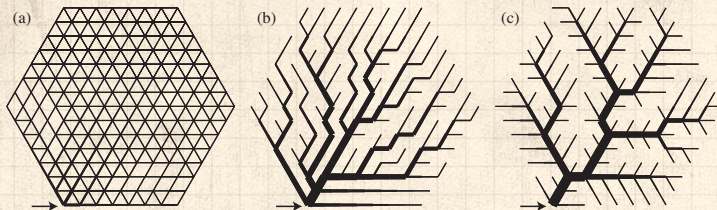
$Z_j$  = link  $j$ 's impedance.

 Example:  $\gamma = 2$  for electrical networks.





# Single source optimal supply



(a)  $\gamma > 1$ : **Braided** (bulk) flow

(b)  $\gamma < 1$ : Local minimum: **Branching** flow

(c)  $\gamma < 1$ : Global minimum: **Branching** flow



Note: This is a single source supplying a region.

From Bohn and Magnasco <sup>[3]</sup>

See also Banavar *et al.* <sup>[1]</sup>: “Topology of the Fittest Transportation Network”; focus is on presence or absence of loops—same story



# Single source optimal supply

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## Optimal paths related to transport (Monge) problems

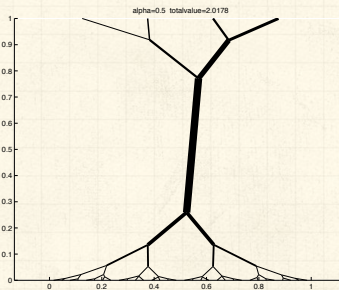
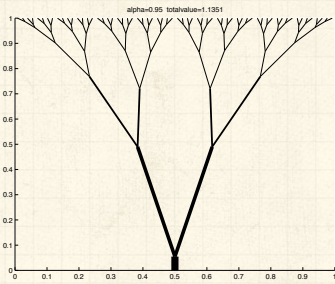
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“Optimal paths related to transport problems” 

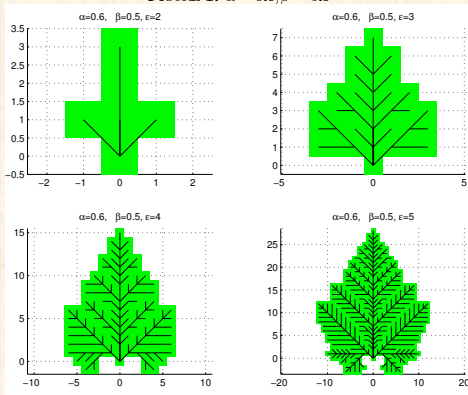
Qinglan Xia,

Communications in Contemporary Mathematics, **5**,  
251–279, 2003. <sup>[20]</sup>



# Growing networks—two parameter model: [21]

FIGURE 1.  $\alpha = 0.6, \beta = 0.5$



Parameters control impedance ( $0 \leq \alpha < 1$ ) and angles of junctions ( $0 < \beta$ )

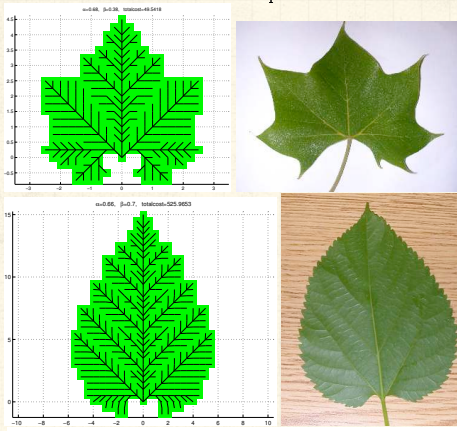


For this example:  $\alpha = 0.6$  and  $\beta = 0.5$



# Growing networks: [21]

FIGURE 3. A maple leaf



Top:  $\alpha = 0.66, \beta = 0.38$ ; Bottom:  $\alpha = 0.66, \beta = 0.70$





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An immensely controversial issue ...



The form of natural branching networks:

Random, optimal, or some combination? [6, 19, 2, 5, 4]



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River networks, blood networks, trees, ...



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-  The form of natural branching networks:  
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-  River networks, blood networks, trees, ...

Two observations:





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An immensely controversial issue ...

-  The form of natural branching networks:  
Random, optimal, or some combination? [6, 19, 2, 5, 4]
-  River networks, blood networks, trees, ...

Two observations:

-  Self-similar networks appear everywhere in nature for single source supply/single sink collection.
-  Real networks **differ** in **details of scaling** but reasonably agree in **scaling relations**.





# River network models

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Optimality:

 Optimal channel networks <sup>[13]</sup>

 Thermodynamic analogy <sup>[14]</sup>



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## Optimality:


 Optimal channel networks <sup>[13]</sup>

 Thermodynamic analogy <sup>[14]</sup>

versus ...

## Randomness:

 Scheidegger's directed random networks

 Undirected random networks





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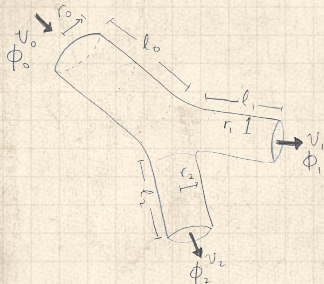
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Murray's law (1926) connects  
branch radii at  
forks: [11, 10, 12, 7, 17]

$$r_{\text{parent}}^3 = r_{\text{offspring1}}^3 + r_{\text{offspring2}}^3$$

where  $r_{\text{parent}}$  = radius of  
'parent' branch, and  $r_{\text{offspring1}}$   
and  $r_{\text{offspring2}}$  are radii of the  
two 'offspring' sub-branches.





# Optimization—Murray's law

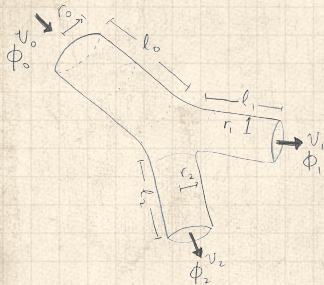
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Holds up well for outer branchings of blood networks [15].



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Also found to hold for trees [12, 8] when xylem is not a  
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# Optimization—Murray's law

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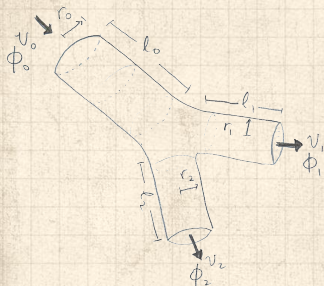
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Also found to hold for trees [12, 8] when xylem is not a  
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See D'Arcy Thompson's "On Growth and Form" for  
background and general inspiration [16, 17].

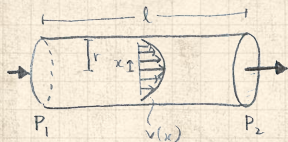




Use hydraulic equivalent of Ohm's law:

$$\Delta p = \Phi Z \Leftrightarrow V = IR$$

where  $\Delta p$  = pressure difference,  $\Phi$  = flux.



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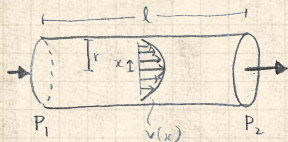






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Fluid mechanics: Poiseuille impedance  for smooth Poiseuille flow  in a tube of radius  $r$  and length  $\ell$ :

$$Z = \frac{8\eta\ell}{\pi r^4}$$



$\eta$  = dynamic viscosity  (units:  $ML^{-1}T^{-1}$ ).



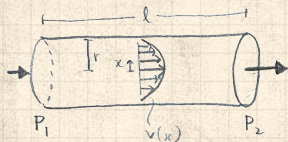






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Power required to overcome impedance:

$$P_{\text{drag}} = \Phi \Delta p = \Phi^2 Z.$$

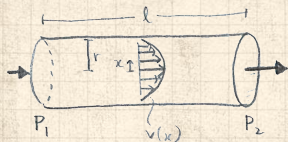






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Power required to overcome impedance:

$$P_{\text{drag}} = \Phi \Delta p = \Phi^2 Z.$$



Also have rate of energy expenditure in maintaining blood given metabolic constant  $c$ :

$$P_{\text{metabolic}} = cr^2\ell$$



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Aside on  $P_{\text{drag}}$



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Aside on  $P_{\text{drag}}$



Work done =  $F \cdot d$  = energy transferred by force  $F$



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Aside on  $P_{\text{drag}}$



Work done =  $F \cdot d$  = energy transferred by force  $F$



Power =  $P$  = rate work is done =  $F \cdot v$





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Aside on  $P_{\text{drag}}$

 Work done =  $F \cdot d$  = energy transferred by force  $F$

 Power =  $P$  = rate work is done =  $F \cdot v$

  $\Delta p$  = Pressure differential = Force per unit area



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Aside on  $P_{\text{drag}}$

 Work done =  $F \cdot d$  = energy transferred by force  $F$

 Power =  $P$  = rate work is done =  $F \cdot v$

  $\Delta p$  = Pressure differential = Force per unit area

  $\Phi$  = Volume flow per unit time (current)  
= cross-sectional area  $\cdot$  velocity



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  $\Delta p$  = Pressure differential = Force per unit area

  $\Phi$  = Volume flow per unit time (current)  
= cross-sectional area  $\cdot$  velocity

 So  $\Phi \Delta p$  = Force  $\cdot$  velocity



# Optimization—Murray's law

Murray's law:



Total power (cost):

$$P = P_{\text{drag}} + P_{\text{metabolic}}$$

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Murray's law:



Total power (cost):

$$P = P_{\text{drag}} + P_{\text{metabolic}} = \Phi^2 \frac{8\eta\ell}{\pi r^4} + cr^2\ell$$





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Murray's law:

 Total power (cost):

$$P = P_{\text{drag}} + P_{\text{metabolic}} = \Phi^2 \frac{8\eta\ell}{\pi r^4} + cr^2\ell$$

 Observe power increases linearly with  $\ell$



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Murray's law:

 Total power (cost):

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 Observe power increases linearly with  $\ell$

 But  $r$ 's effect is nonlinear:



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## Murray's law:

 Total power (cost):

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 Observe power increases linearly with  $\ell$

 But  $r$ 's effect is nonlinear:

 increasing  $r$  makes flow easier **but increases metabolic cost** (as  $r^2$ )



# Optimization—Murray's law

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## Murray's law:

 Total power (cost):

$$P = P_{\text{drag}} + P_{\text{metabolic}} = \Phi^2 \frac{8\eta\ell}{\pi r^4} + c r^2 \ell$$

 Observe power increases linearly with  $\ell$

 But  $r$ 's effect is nonlinear:

-  increasing  $r$  makes flow easier **but increases metabolic cost** (as  $r^2$ )
-  decreasing  $r$  decrease metabolic cost **but impedance goes up** (as  $r^{-4}$ )



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Murray's law:



Minimize  $P$  with respect to  $r$ :

$$\frac{\partial P}{\partial r} = \frac{\partial}{\partial r} \left( \Phi^2 \frac{8\eta\ell}{\pi r^4} + cr^2\ell \right)$$





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## Murray's law:



Minimize  $P$  with respect to  $r$ :

$$\frac{\partial P}{\partial r} = \frac{\partial}{\partial r} \left( \Phi^2 \frac{8\eta\ell}{\pi r^4} + cr^2\ell \right)$$



Flow rates at each branching have to add up (else our organism is in serious trouble ...):

$$\Phi_0 = \Phi_1 + \Phi_2$$

where again 0 refers to the main branch and 1 and 2 refers to the offspring branches



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Murray's law:



Find:

$$\Phi = kr^3$$



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Murray's law:



Find:

$$\Phi = kr^3$$



Insert assignment question



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## Murray's law:



Find:

$$\Phi = kr^3$$



Insert assignment question 



All of this means we have a groovy cube-law:

$$r_{\text{parent}}^3 = r_{\text{offspring1}}^3 + r_{\text{offspring2}}^3$$



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## Murray meets Tokunaga:



$\Phi_\omega$  = volume rate of flow into an order  $\omega$  vessel segment

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Optimal  
transportation

Optimal branching


Murray's law


Murray meets Tokunaga

References



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 Same form as:

$$n_\omega = \underbrace{2n_{\omega+1}}_{\text{generation}} + \sum_{\omega'=\omega+1}^{\Omega} \underbrace{T_{\omega'-\omega}n_{\omega'}}_{\text{absorption}}$$



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Find Horton ratio for vessel radius  $R_r = r_\omega / r_{\omega-1}$ .





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- Is there more we could do here to constrain the Horton ratios and Tokunaga constants?




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 So does Turcotte *et al.* (1998) <sup>[18]</sup> using Tokunaga (sort of).



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