

# Branching Networks I

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Complex Networks | @networksvox  
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Prof. Peter Dodds | @peterdodds

Dept. of Mathematics & Statistics | Vermont Complex Systems Center  
Vermont Advanced Computing Core | University of Vermont



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Introduction

Definitions

Allometry

Laws

Stream Ordering

Horton's Laws

Tokunaga's Law

Nutshell

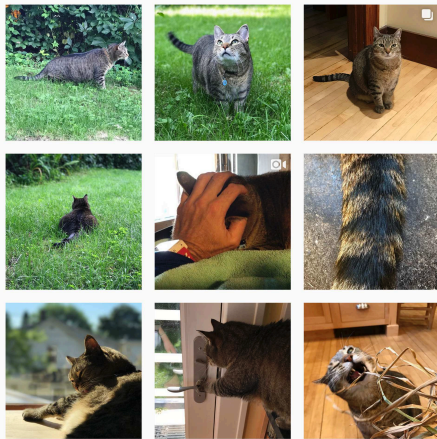
References



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Introduction

Definitions

Allometry

Laws

Stream Ordering



Horton's Laws

Tokunaga's Law

Nutshell

References



 On Instagram at [pratchett\\_the\\_cat](https://www.instagram.com/pratchett_the_cat) 



# Outline

## Introduction

Definitions

Allometry

Laws

## Stream Ordering

## Horton's Laws

## Tokunaga's Law

## Nutshell

## References

COcoNuTS

## 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**
-  **Supply:** From one source to many sinks in 2- or 3-d.
-  **Collection:** From many sources to one sink in 2- or 3-d.
-  Typically observe hierarchical, recursive self-similar structure

Examples:

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

## Introduction

Definitions

Allometry

Laws

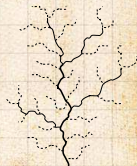
Stream Ordering

Horton's Laws

Tokunaga's Law

Nutshell

References





# Branching networks are everywhere ...

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## Introduction

Definitions  
Allometry  
Laws

## Stream Ordering

Horton's Laws

Tokunaga's Law

Nutshell

References



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



# Branching networks are everywhere ...

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## Introduction

Definitions

Allometry

Laws

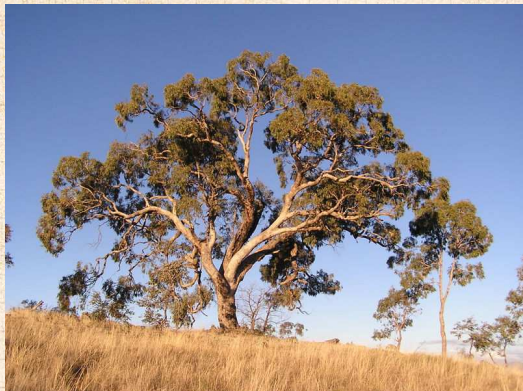
Stream Ordering

Horton's Laws

Tokunaga's Law

Nutshell

References



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



# An early thought piece: Extension and Integration

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

Waldo S. Glock,  
The Geographical Review, **21**, 475–482,  
1931. [2]

### Introduction

Definitions  
Allometry  
Laws

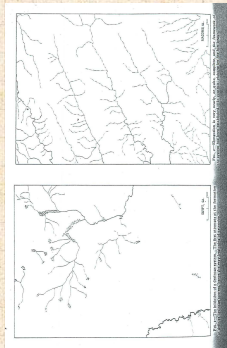
Stream Ordering

Horton's Laws

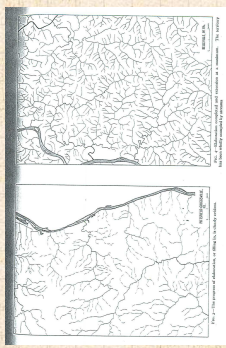
Tokunaga's Law

Nutshell

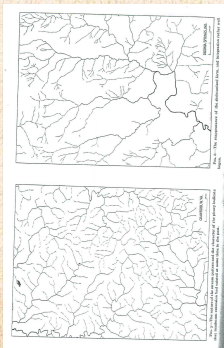
References



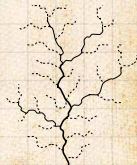
Initiation,  
Elongation



Elaboration,  
Piracy.



Abstraction,  
Absorption.



Introduction

Definitions  
 Allometry  
 Laws

## Stream Ordering

## Horton's Laws

## Tokunaga's Law

## Nutshell

## References

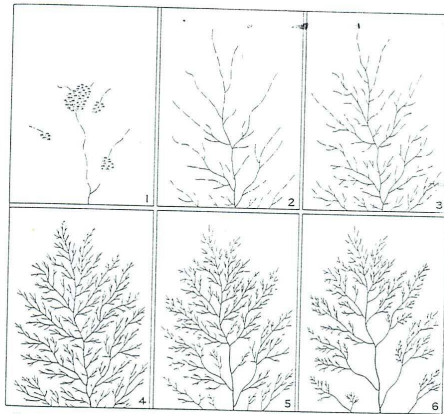


FIG. 8—An ideal diagrammatic summary of the development of a drainage system given for purposes of comparison only. The first four parts show extension, thus: 1, initiation; 2, elongation; 3, elaboration; and 4, maximum extension. Parts 5 and 6 represent steps during integration.

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!

## Introduction

Definitions

Allometry

Laws

Stream Ordering

Horton's Laws

Tokunaga's Law








Nutshell

References



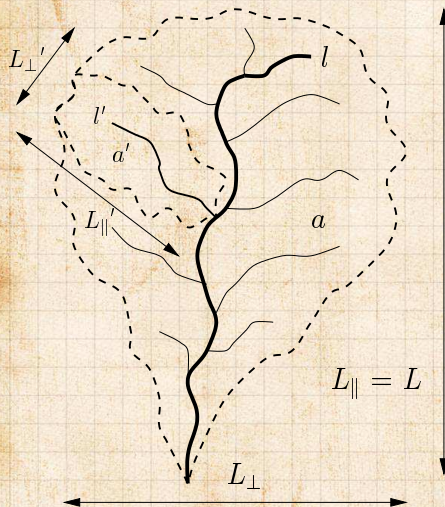
<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4DW-Dxzj7xQ?rel=0>



## Definitions


-  **Drainage basin** for a point  $p$  is the complete region of land from which overland flow drains through  $p$ .
-  Definition most sensible for a point in a stream.
-  **Recursive structure:** Basins contain basins and so on.
-  In principle, a drainage basin is defined at every point on a landscape.
-  On flat hillslopes, drainage basins are effectively linear.
-  We treat subsurface and surface flow as following the gradient of the surface.
-  Okay for large-scale networks ...


[Introduction](#)[Definitions](#)[Allometry](#)[Laws](#)[Stream Ordering](#)[Horton's Laws](#)[Tokunaga's Law](#)[Nutshell](#)[References](#)

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



-   $a$  = drainage basin area
-   $l$  = length of longest (main) stream (which may be fractal)

  $L = L_{\parallel}$  = longitudinal length of basin

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

Introduction

Definitions

Allometry

Laws

Stream Ordering

Horton's Laws

Tokunaga's Law

Nutshell

References

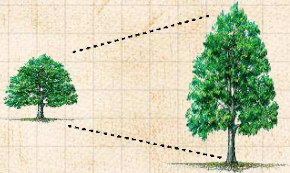
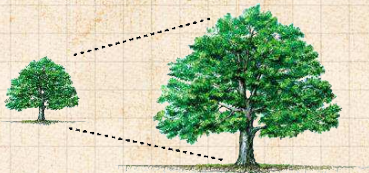




**Isometry:**  
dimensions scale  
linearly with each  
other.

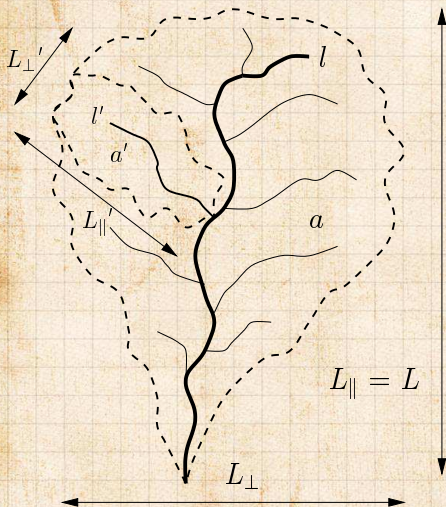


**Allometry:**  
dimensions scale  
nonlinearly.





# Basin allometry



## Allometric relationships:



$$l \propto a^h$$

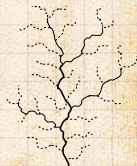


$$l \propto L^d$$




Combine above:

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




# 'Laws'

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


$$\ell \propto a^h$$

reportedly  $0.5 < h < 0.7$

 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.

# 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

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

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

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# Reported parameter values: [1]

## Introduction

Definitions

Allometry

Laws

## Stream Ordering

Horton's Laws

Tokunaga's Law

Nutshell

References

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 ...

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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.
3. Explain origins of these parameter values

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





# Stream Ordering:

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



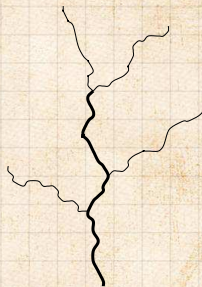
## Some definitions:

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





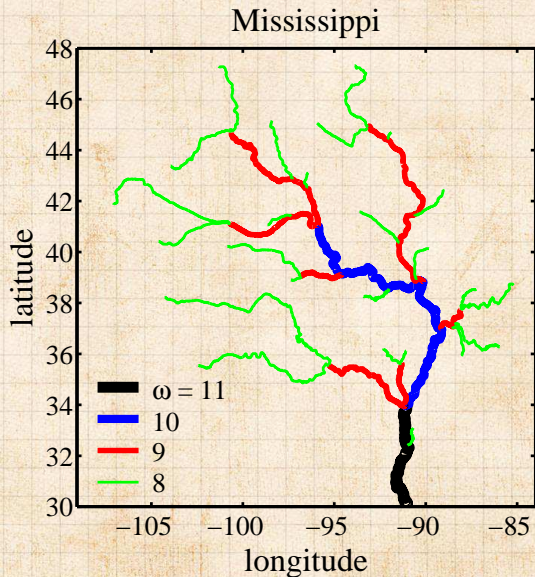
# Stream Ordering:



1. Label all **source streams** as **order  $\omega = 1$**  and remove.
2. Label all **new** source streams as **order  $\omega = 2$**  and remove.
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:



## Introduction

Definitions  
Allometry  
Laws

## Stream Ordering

Horton's Laws  
Tokunaga's Law  
Nutshell  
References



# Stream Ordering:

Another way to define ordering:

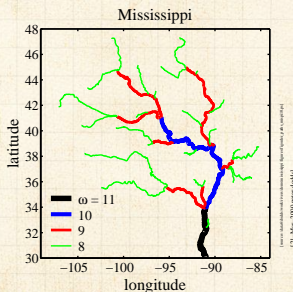
- As before, label all **source streams** as **order  $\omega = 1$** .
- Follow all labelled streams downstream
- Whenever two streams of the same order ( $\omega$ ) meet, the resulting stream has order incremented by 1 ( $\omega + 1$ ).

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.



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.

## Utility:

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

### Introduction

Definitions  
Allometry  
Laws

### Stream Ordering

Horton's Laws

Tokunaga's Law

Nutshell

References



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

## Introduction

- Definitions
- Allometry
- Laws

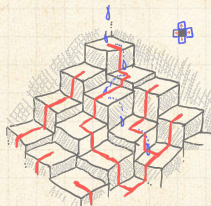
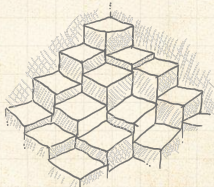
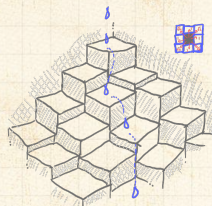
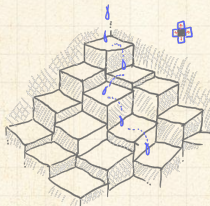
## Stream Ordering

Horton's Laws

Tokunaga's Law

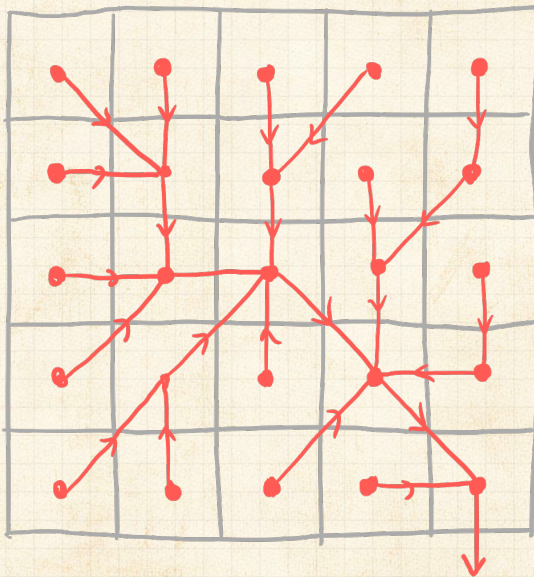
Nutshell

References



Also:

</Users/dodds/work/rivers/1998dems/kevinlakewaster>



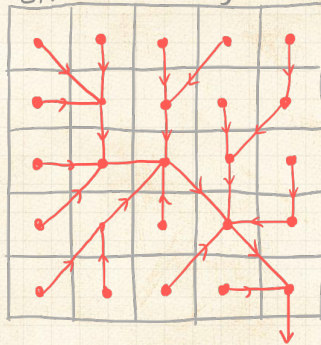
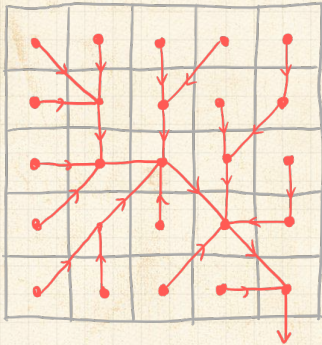
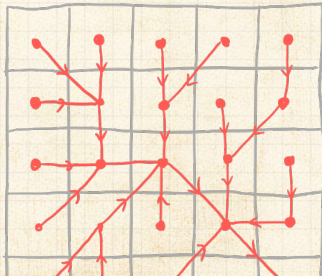
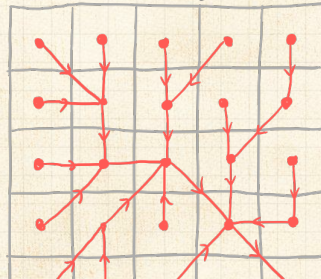
Introduction

- Definitions
- Allometry
- Laws

Stream Ordering

- Horton's Laws
- Tokunaga's Law
- Nutshell
- References



stream ordering  $w$ :basin area  $a$ :main stream length  $l$ :

Introduction

Definitions

Allometry

Laws

Stream Ordering

Horton's Laws


Tokunaga's Law


Nutshell


References





## Resultant definitions:

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

  $n_\omega > n_{\omega+1}$

 An order  $\omega$  basin has **area**  $a_\omega$ .

 An order  $\omega$  basin has a **main stream length**  $l_\omega$ .

 An order  $\omega$  basin has a **stream segment length**  $s_\omega$

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

[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>

### Three laws:

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:

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

Introduction

Definitions

Allometry

Laws

Stream Ordering

Horton's Laws

Tokunaga's Law

Nutshell

References



# 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**:

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

[Introduction](#)[Definitions](#)[Allometry](#)[Laws](#)[Stream Ordering](#)[Horton's Laws](#)[Tokunaga's Law](#)[Nutshell](#)[References](#)

Similar story for area and length:



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



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



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




## 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 ratios go a long way to defining a branching network ...
- 🧱 But we need one other piece of information ...





A bonus law:

 Horton's law of stream segment lengths:

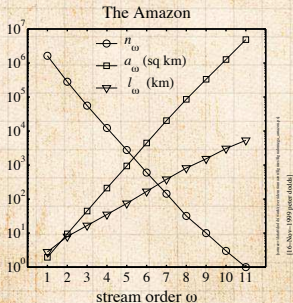
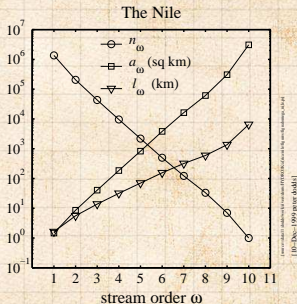
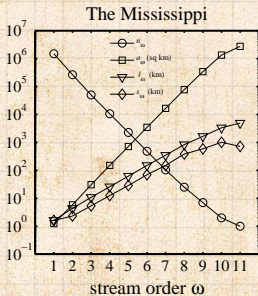
$$\bar{s}_{\omega+1} / \bar{s}_{\omega} = R_s > 1$$

 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



## 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

## Introduction

Definitions  
Allometry  
Laws

## Stream Ordering

## Horton's Laws


Tokunaga's Law

Nutshell

## References




## Observations:


 Horton's ratios vary:


$$R_n \quad 3.0-5.0$$

$$R_a \quad 3.0-6.0$$

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

 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.





## 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.





## 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.




## 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:

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

[Introduction](#)[Definitions](#)[Allometry](#)[Laws](#)[Stream Ordering](#)[Horton's Laws](#)[Tokunaga's Law](#)[Nutshell](#)[References](#)

# Tokunaga's law—an example:

## Introduction

Definitions  
Allometry  
Laws

## Stream Ordering

### Horton's Laws

### Tokunaga's Law

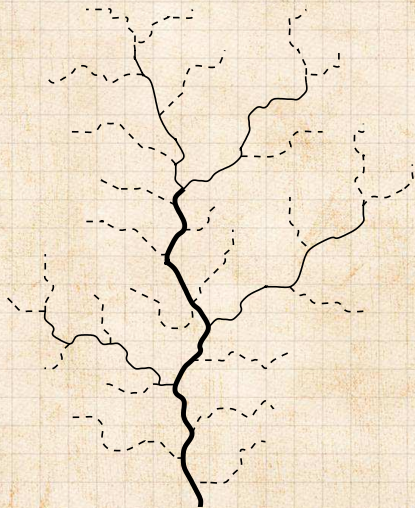
### Nutshell

### References



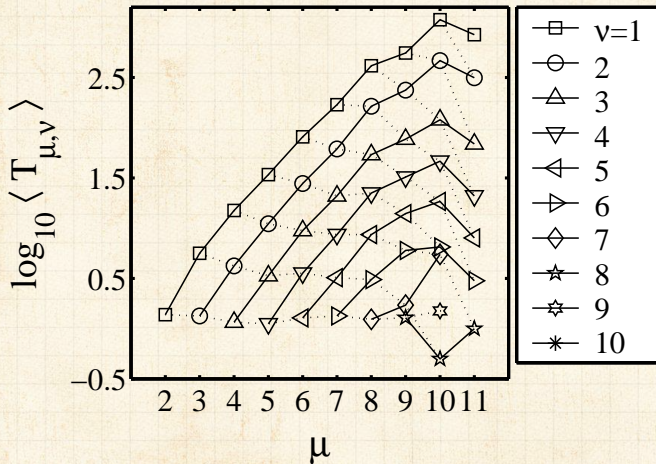
$$T_1 \simeq 2$$

$$R_T \simeq 4$$



# The Mississippi

## A Tokunaga graph:



### Introduction

Definitions  
Allometry  
Laws

### Stream Ordering

Horton's Laws

### Tokunaga's Law

Nutshell

References



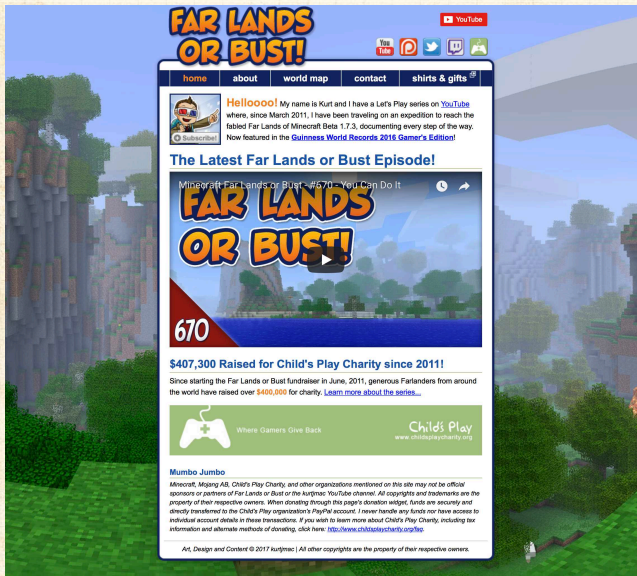
- Branching networks show remarkable **self-similarity** over many scales.
- There are many interrelated scaling laws.
- Horton-Strahler **Stream ordering** gives one useful way of getting at the architecture of branching networks.
- Horton's laws** reveal self-similarity.
- Horton's laws can be misinterpreted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

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

[Introduction](#)[Definitions](#)[Allometry](#)[Laws](#)[Stream Ordering](#)[Horton's Laws](#)[Tokunaga's Law](#)[Nutshell](#)[References](#)



# Crafting landscapes—Far Lands or Bust



**FAR LANDS OR BUST!**

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**Helloooo!** My name is Kurt and I have a Let's Play series on [YouTube](#) where, since March 2011, I have been traveling on an expedition to reach the fabled Far Lands of Minecraft Beta 1.7.3, documenting every step of the way. Now featured in the [Guinness World Records 2016 Gamer's Edition!](#)

**The Latest Far Lands or Bust Episode!**

Minecraft Far Lands or Bust - #570 - You Can Do It

**FAR LANDS OR BUST!**

670

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Since starting the Far Lands or Bust fundraiser in June, 2011, generous Farlanders from around the world have raised over **\$400,000** for charity. [Learn more about the series...](#)

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**Mumbo Jumbo**

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## Introduction

Definitions  
Allometry  
Laws

## Stream Ordering

Horton's Laws




Tokunaga's Law

Nutshell

References



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Introduction

Definitions

Allometry

Laws

Stream Ordering

Horton's Laws



Tokunaga's Law

Nutshell

References



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Introduction

Definitions

Allometry

Laws

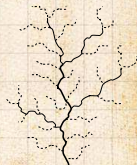
Stream Ordering

Horton's Laws



Tokunaga's Law

Nutshell

References



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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

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