

Properties of Complex Networks

Last updated: 2021/10/06, 20:26:04 EDT

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

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Computational Story Lab | Vermont Complex Systems Center
Vermont Advanced Computing Core | University of Vermont



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Properties of
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- A problem
- Degree distributions
- Assortativity
- Clustering
- Motifs
- Concurrency
- Branching ratios
- Network distances
- Interconnectedness

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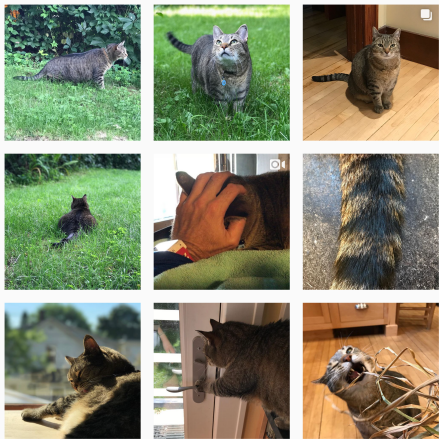
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 On Instagram at [pratchett_the_cat](https://www.instagram.com/pratchett_the_cat) 

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A notable feature of large-scale networks:

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A notable feature of large-scale networks:

 Graphical renderings are often just a big mess.

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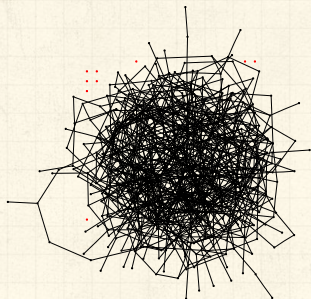
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A notable feature of large-scale networks:

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⇐ Typical hairball

-  number of nodes $N = 500$
-  number of edges $m = 1000$
-  average degree $\langle k \rangle = 4$

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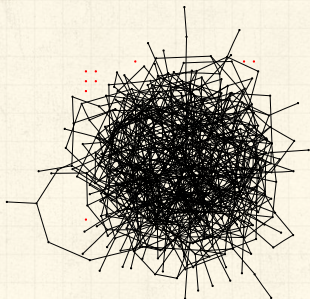
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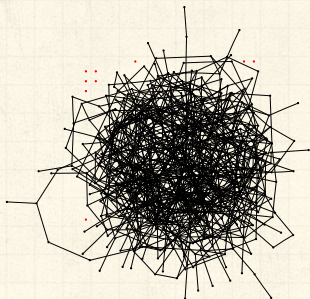
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said Ponder [Stibbons] —*Making Money*, T. Pratchett.

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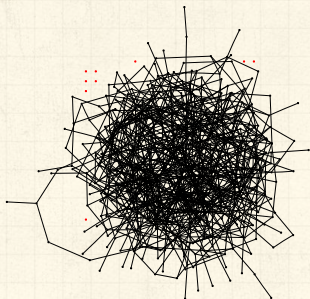
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 We need to extract **digestible, meaningful aspects**.

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Some key aspects of real complex networks:

-  degree distribution*
-  assortativity
-  homophily
-  clustering
-  motifs
-  modularity
-  concurrency
-  hierarchical scaling
-  network distances
-  centrality
-  efficiency
-  interconnectedness
-  robustness

 Plus coevolution of network structure and processes on networks.

- * Degree distribution is the elephant in the room that we are now all very aware of...

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1. degree distribution P_k

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 **ex 1:** Erdős-Rényi random networks have Poisson degree distributions:


Insert question from assignment 7 


$$P_k = e^{-\langle k \rangle} \frac{\langle k \rangle^k}{k!}$$





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 link cost controls skew.





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 link cost controls skew.

 hubs may facilitate or impede contagion.



Properties

Note:

 Erdős-Rényi random networks are a *mathematical construct*.

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Note:

 Erdős-Rényi random networks are a *mathematical construct*.

 'Scale-free' networks are **growing networks** that form according to a **plausible mechanism**.



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Note:

- ⊞ Erdős-Rényi random networks are a *mathematical construct*.
- ⊞ 'Scale-free' networks are **growing networks** that form according to a **plausible mechanism**.
- ⊞ Randomness is out there, just not to the degree of a completely random network.



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2. Assortativity/3. Homophily:

 Social networks: Homophily  = birds of a feather

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-  e.g., degree is standard property for sorting:
measure degree-degree correlations.



Properties



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-  **Assortative** network: ^[5] similar degree nodes connecting to each other.





Properties

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 **Disassortative** network: high degree nodes
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*Often **techological** or **biological**: Internet, WWW,
protein interactions, neural networks, food webs.*



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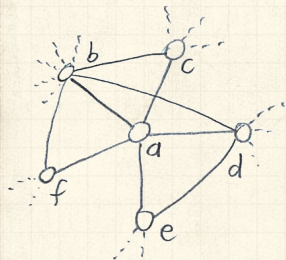
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Local socialness:

4. Clustering:



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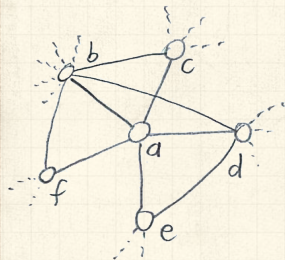


Local socialness:

4. Clustering:



Your friends tend to know each other.



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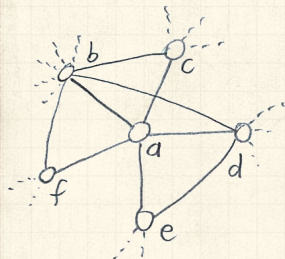
Two measures (explained on following slides):

1. Watts & Strogatz [8]

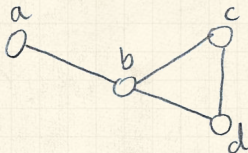
$$C_1 = \left\langle \frac{\sum_{j_1 j_2 \in \mathcal{N}_i} a_{j_1 j_2}}{k_i(k_i - 1)/2} \right\rangle_i$$

2. Newman [6]

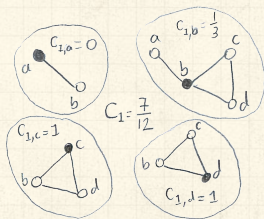
$$C_2 = \frac{3 \times \# \text{triangles}}{\# \text{triples}}$$



Example network:



Calculation of C_1 :



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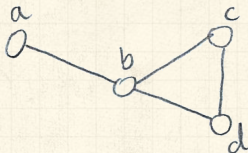
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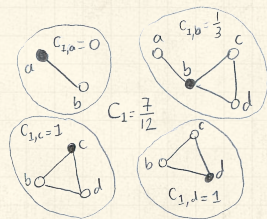


C_1 is the average fraction of pairs of neighbors who are connected.

Example network:

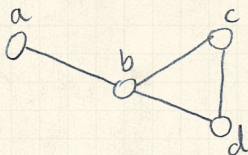



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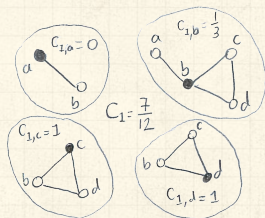


 C_1 is the **average fraction of pairs of neighbors who are connected**.

 Fraction of pairs of neighbors who are connected is

$$\frac{\sum_{j_1 j_2 \in \mathcal{N}_i} a_{j_1 j_2}}{k_i(k_i - 1)/2}$$

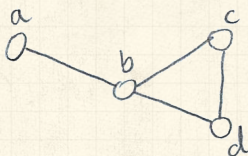
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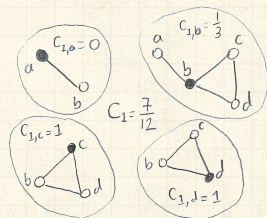
where k_i is node i 's degree, and \mathcal{N}_i is the set of i 's neighbors.





Example network:



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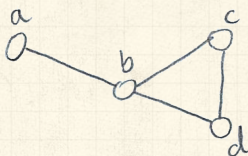
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 Averaging over all nodes, we have:

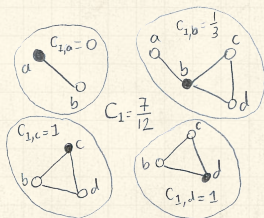
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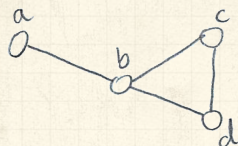
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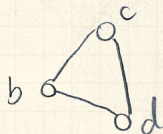
Triples and triangles

Example network:

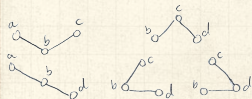


Nodes i_1 , i_2 , and i_3 form a **triple** around i_1 if i_1 is connected to i_2 and i_3 .

Triangles:

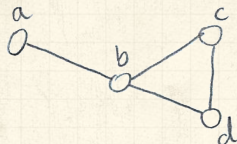


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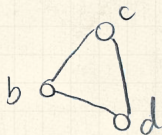


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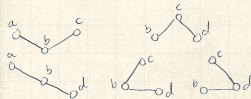
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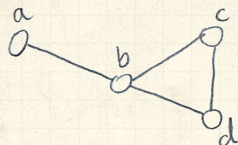


Nodes i_1 , i_2 , and i_3 form a **triangle** if each pair of nodes is connected

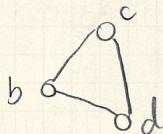


Triples and triangles

Example network:



Triangles:



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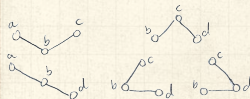


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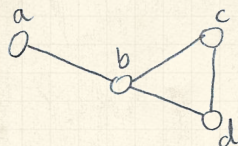
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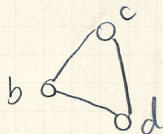


Triples and triangles

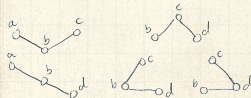
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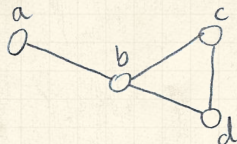
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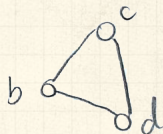
The '3' appears because for each triangle, we have 3 closed triples.

Triples and triangles

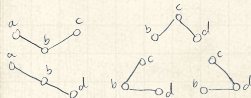
Example network:



Triangles:



Triples:



Nodes i_1 , i_2 , and i_3 form a **triple** around i_1 if i_1 is connected to i_2 and i_3 .



Nodes i_1 , i_2 , and i_3 form a **triangle** if each pair of nodes is connected



The definition $C_2 = \frac{3 \times \# \text{triangles}}{\# \text{triples}}$ measures the fraction of **closed triples**



The '3' appears because for each triangle, we have 3 closed triples.



Social Network Analysis (SNA): fraction of **transitive triples**.

Clustering:

Sneaky counting for undirected, unweighted networks:

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Clustering:

Sneaky counting for undirected, unweighted networks:

 If the path $i-j-l$ exists then $a_{ij}a_{jl} = 1$.

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- ⊞ If the path $i-j-l$ exists then $a_{ij}a_{jl} = 1$.
- ⊞ Otherwise, $a_{ij}a_{jl} = 0$.
- ⊞ We want $i \neq l$ for good triples.
- ⊞ In general, a path of n edges between nodes i_1 and i_n travelling through nodes i_2, i_3, \dots, i_{n-1} exists $\iff a_{i_1 i_2} a_{i_2 i_3} a_{i_3 i_4} \cdots a_{i_{n-2} i_{n-1}} a_{i_{n-1} i_n} = 1$.



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- ☰ If the path $i-j-l$ exists then $a_{ij}a_{jl} = 1$.
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$$\# \text{triples} = \frac{1}{2} \left(\sum_{i=1}^N \sum_{\ell=1}^N [A^2]_{i\ell} - \text{Tr} A^2 \right)$$





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 If the path $i-j-l$ exists then $a_{ij}a_{jl} = 1$.

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$$\#\text{triangles} = \frac{1}{6} \text{Tr} A^3$$



Properties



For sparse networks, C_1 tends to discount highly connected nodes.

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Properties

 For sparse networks, C_1 tends to discount highly connected nodes.

 C_2 is a useful and often preferred variant

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Properties

- For sparse networks, C_1 tends to discount highly connected nodes.
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- C_2 is a ratio of two global quantities.



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5. motifs:

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5. motifs:

 small, recurring functional subnetworks

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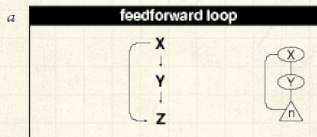
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5. motifs:

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 e.g., Feed Forward Loop:

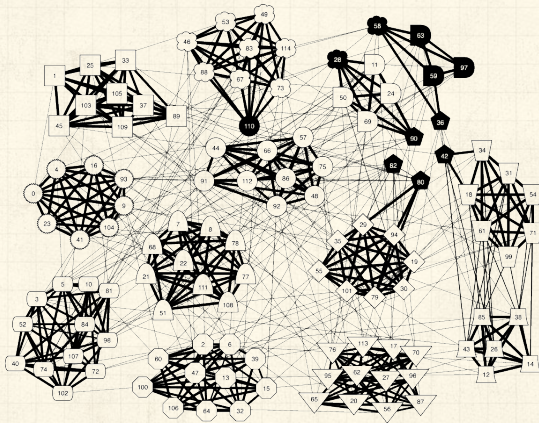


Shen-Orr, Uri Alon, *et al.* [7]



Properties

6. modularity and structure/community detection:



Clauet *et al.*, 2006 ^[2]: NCAA football

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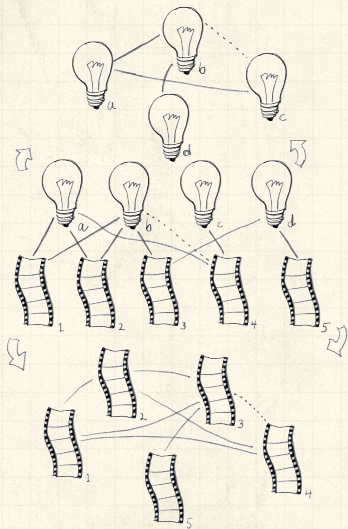
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Bipartite/multipartite affiliation structures:



Many real-world networks have an underlying multi-partite structure.



Stories-tropes.



Boards and directors.



Films-actors-directors.



Classes-teachers-students.



Upstairs-downstairs.



Unipartite networks may be induced or co-exist.



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7. concurrency:

- transmission of a contagious element only occurs during contact

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Properties

7. concurrency:

- transmission of a contagious element only occurs during contact
- rather obvious but easily missed in a simple model

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Properties

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- transmission of a contagious element only occurs during contact
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- beware cumulated network data
- Kretzschmar and Morris, 1996 ^[4]
- “Temporal networks” become a concrete area of study for Piranha Physicus in 2013.



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8. Horton-Strahler ratios:

 Metrics for branching networks:



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8. Horton-Strahler ratios:



Metrics for branching networks:



Method for ordering streams hierarchically



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8. Horton-Strahler ratios:



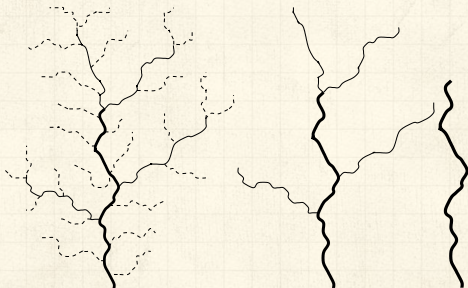
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Method for ordering streams hierarchically



Number: $R_n = N_\omega / N_{\omega+1}$



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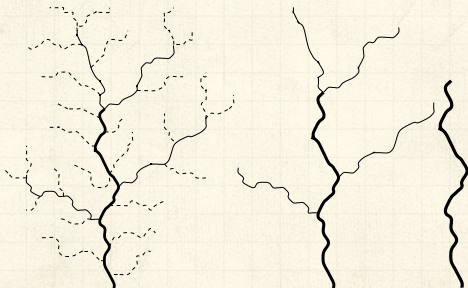
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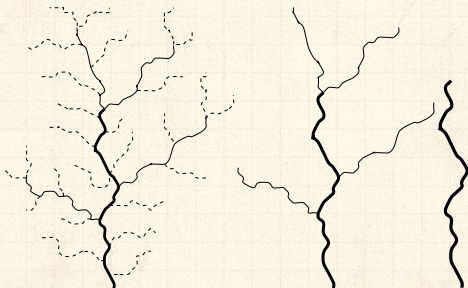
Metrics for branching networks:

Method for ordering streams hierarchically

Number: $R_n = N_\omega / N_{\omega+1}$

Segment length: $R_l = \langle l_{\omega+1} \rangle / \langle l_\omega \rangle$

Area/Volume: $R_a = \langle a_{\omega+1} \rangle / \langle a_\omega \rangle$



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9. network distances:

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9. network distances:

(a) shortest path length d_{ij} :

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Properties

9. network distances:

(a) shortest path length d_{ij} :

 Fewest number of steps between nodes i and j .

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(b) average path length $\langle d_{ij} \rangle$:




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(b) average path length $\langle d_{ij} \rangle$:

 Average shortest path length in whole network.





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(a) shortest path length d_{ij} :

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-  Good algorithms exist for calculation.






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-  Good algorithms exist for calculation.
-  Weighted links can be accommodated.



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network diameter d_{\max} :

Maximum shortest path length between any two nodes.



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closeness $d_{cl} = [\sum_{i,j} d_{ij}^{-1} / \binom{n}{2}]^{-1}$:

Average 'distance' between any two nodes.



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($d_{ij} = \infty$)



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($d_{ij} = \infty$)



$d_{cl} = \infty$ only when all nodes are isolated.



Closeness perhaps compresses too much into one number



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10. centrality:

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Properties

10. centrality:

 Many such measures of a node's 'importance.'

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 **ex 1:** Degree centrality: k_i .

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 **ex 4:** Recursive centrality: Hubs and Authorities
(Jon Kleinberg ^[3])



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Properties

Interconnected networks and robustness (two for one deal):

“Catastrophic cascade of failures in interdependent networks” [1]. Buldyrev et al., Nature 2010.

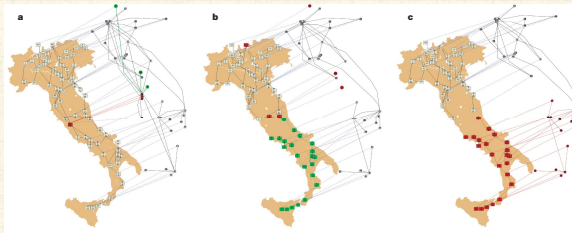


Figure 1 | Modelling a blackout in Italy. Illustration of an iterative process of a cascade of failures using real-world data from a power network (located on the map of Italy) and an Internet network (shifted above the map) that were implicated in an electrical blackout that occurred in Italy in September 2003³⁹. The networks are drawn using the real geographical locations and every Internet server is connected to the geographically nearest power station. **a.** One power station is removed (red node on map) from the power network and as a result the Internet nodes depending on it are removed from the Internet network (red nodes above the map). The nodes that will be disconnected from the giant cluster (a cluster that spans the entire network)

at the next step are marked in green. **b.** Additional nodes that were disconnected from the Internet communication network giant component are removed (red nodes above map). As a result the power stations depending on them are removed from the power network (red nodes on map). Again, the nodes that will be disconnected from the giant cluster at the next step are marked in green. **c.** Additional nodes that were disconnected from the giant component of the power network are removed (red nodes on map) as well as the nodes in the Internet network that depend on them (red nodes above map).

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Nutshell:

Overview Key Points:

- 📦 The field of complex networks came into existence in the late 1990s.

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-  Specific focus on networks that are **large-scale**, **sparse**, **natural** or **man-made**, **evolving** and **dynamic**, and (crucially) **measurable**.

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-  Three main (blurred) categories:
 1. **Physical** (e.g., river networks),
 2. **Interactional** (e.g., social networks),
 3. **Abstract** (e.g., thesauri).

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