

# Random Bipartite Networks

Last updated: 2022/08/29, 00:04:32 EDT

Principles of Complex Systems, Vols. 1, 2, & 3D  
CSYS/MATH 300, 303, & 394, 2022-2023 | @pocsvox

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“Flavor network and the principles of food pairing”  
Ahn et al.,  
Nature Scientific Reports, **1**, 196, 2011. [1]

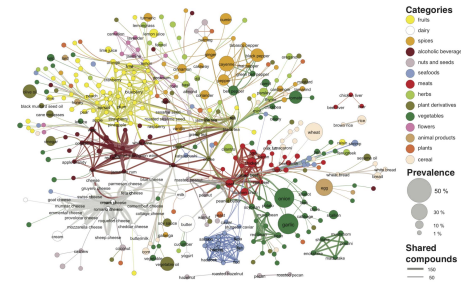


Figure 1 The backbone of the flavor network. Each node denotes an ingredient, the node color indicates food category, and node size reflects the ingredient prevalence in recipes. Two ingredients are connected if they share a significant number of flavor compounds, link thickness representing the number of shared compounds between the two ingredients. Adjacent links are bundled to reduce the clutter. Note that the map shows only the statistically significant links, as identified by the algorithm of Eades. \*\*For prevalence lists, a drawing of the full network is too dense to be informative. We use, however, the full network in our subsequent measurements.



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“Recipe recommendation using ingredient networks”  
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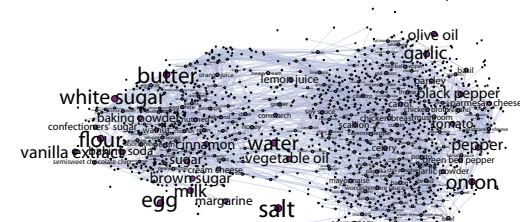


Figure 2: Ingredient complement network. Two ingredients share an edge if they occur together more than would be expected by chance and if their pointwise mutual information exceeds a threshold.



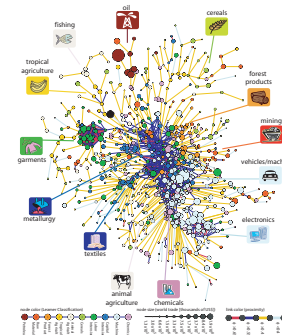
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Hidalgo et al.,  
Science, **317**, 482-487, 2007. [6]



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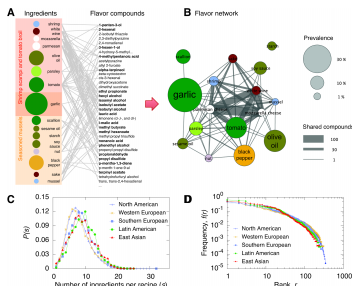


Figure 1 Flavor network. (A) The ingredients contained in two recipes (left column), together with the flavor compounds that are known to be present in the ingredients (right column). Each flavor compound is linked to the ingredients that contain it. Having a recipe network, some compounds (shown in boldface) are shared by multiple ingredients. (B) If we project the ingredient-compound bipartite network onto the ingredient space, we obtain the flavor network, where nodes are ingredients, linked if they share at least one flavor compound. The thickness of links represents the number of flavor compounds two ingredients share and the size of each node corresponds to the prevalence of the ingredient in recipes. (C) The distribution of recipe size, comparing the number of ingredients per recipe, across the five countries represented in recipe sets. (D) The frequency rank plot of ingredients across the five countries show an approximately identical distribution across countries.



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## Outline

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# Networks and creativity:

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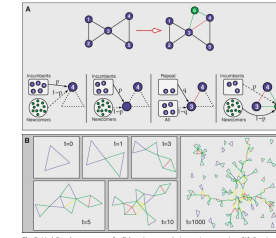


Fig. 2. Modeling the emergence of collaboration networks in creative industries. (A) Creation of a team with  $n = 3$  agents. (B) Evolution of the network as the agents collaborate. (C) Time evolution of the network of collaborations according to the model for  $\alpha = 0.5$ ,  $\beta = 0.5$ , and  $\gamma = 3$ .



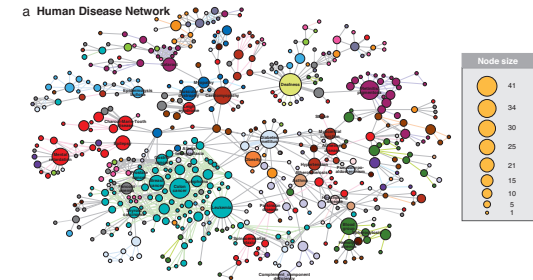
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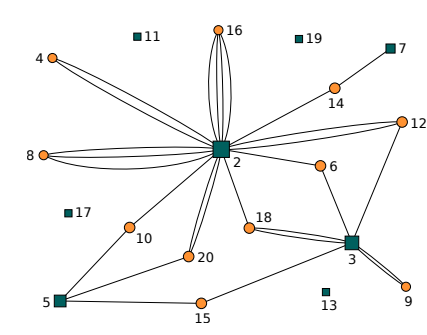
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“The complex architecture of primes and natural numbers”  
García-Pérez, Serrano, and Boguñá,  
<http://arxiv.org/abs/1402.3612>, 2014. [3]



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- Guimerà et al., Science 2005: [5] “Team Assembly Mechanisms Determine Collaboration Network Structure and Team Performance”
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- Scientific collaboration in Social Psychology, Economics, Ecology, and Astronomy.



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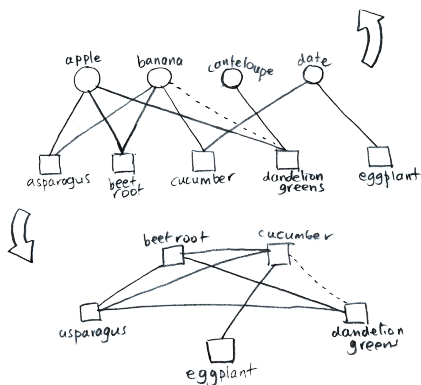
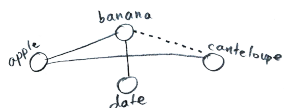
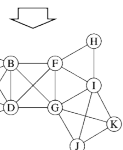
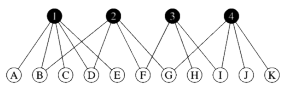
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# Random bipartite networks:

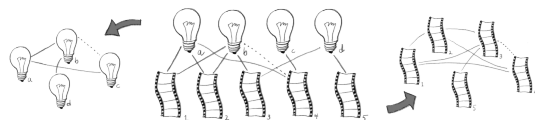
We'll follow this rather well cited paper:



"Random graphs with arbitrary degree distributions and their applications"  
Newman, Strogatz, and Watts,  
Phys. Rev. E, **64**, 026118, 2001. [7]



## Example of a bipartite affiliation network and the induced networks:



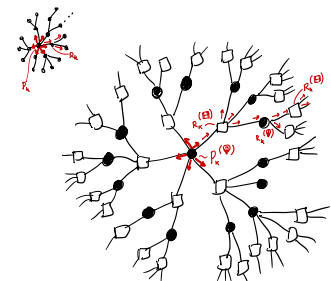
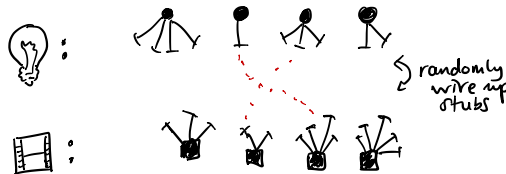
- Center: A small story-trope bipartite graph. [2]
- Induced trope network and the induced story network are on the left and right.
- The dashed edge in the bipartite affiliation network indicates an edge added to the system, resulting in the dashed edges being added to the two induced networks.



## Basic story:

- An example of two inter-affiliated types:
  - Stories = stories,
  - Tropes = tropes.
- Stories contain tropes, tropes are in stories.
- Consider a story-trope system with  $N_{\text{story}}$  = # stories and  $N_{\text{trope}}$  = # tropes.
- $m_{\text{story}, \text{trope}}$  = number of edges between story and trope.
- Let's have some underlying distributions for numbers of affiliations:  $P_k^{\text{story}}$  (a story has  $k$  tropes) and  $P_k^{\text{trope}}$  (a trope is in  $k$  stories).
- Average number of affiliations:  $\langle k \rangle_{\text{story}}$  and  $\langle k \rangle_{\text{trope}}$ .
  - $\langle k \rangle_{\text{story}}$  = average number of tropes per story.
  - $\langle k \rangle_{\text{trope}}$  = average number of stories containing a given trope.
- Must have balance:  $N_{\text{story}} \cdot \langle k \rangle_{\text{story}} = m_{\text{story}, \text{trope}} = N_{\text{trope}} \cdot \langle k \rangle_{\text{trope}}$ .

## How to build:



See Bipartite random networks as Generalized random networks with alternating degree distributions



## Usual helpers for understanding network's structure:

- Randomly select an edge connecting a story to a trope.
- Probability the story contains  $k$  other tropes:

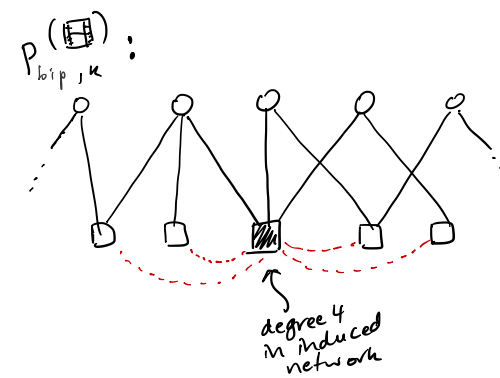
$$R_k^{\text{story}} = \frac{(k+1)P_{k+1}^{\text{story}}}{\sum_{j=0}^{N_{\text{trope}}} (j+1)P_{j+1}^{\text{story}}} = \frac{(k+1)P_{k+1}^{\text{story}}}{\langle k \rangle_{\text{story}}}$$

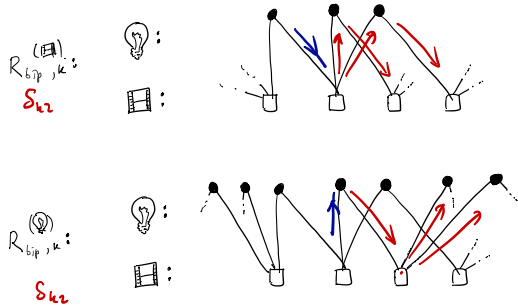
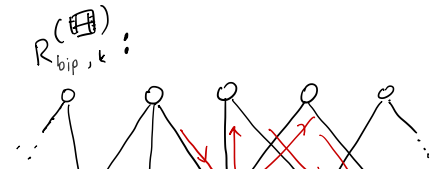
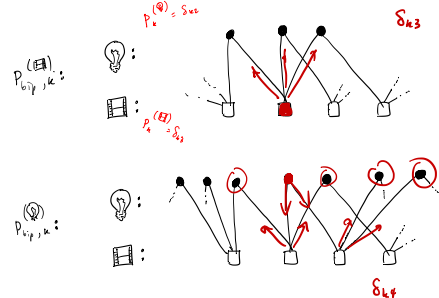
- Probability the trope is in  $k$  other stories:

$$R_k^{\text{trope}} = \frac{(k+1)P_{k+1}^{\text{trope}}}{\sum_{j=0}^{N_{\text{story}}} (j+1)P_{j+1}^{\text{trope}}} = \frac{(k+1)P_{k+1}^{\text{trope}}}{\langle k \rangle_{\text{trope}}}$$

## Networks of story and trope within bipartite structure:

- $P_{\text{ind}, k}^{\text{story}}$  = probability a random story is connected to  $k$  tropes by sharing at least one trope.
- $P_{\text{ind}, k}^{\text{trope}}$  = probability a random trope is connected to  $k$  stories by co-occurring in at least one story.
- $R_{\text{ind}, k}^{\text{story-trope}}$  = probability a random edge leads to a story which is connected to  $k$  other stories by sharing at least one trope.
- $R_{\text{ind}, k}^{\text{trope-story}}$  = probability a random edge leads to a trope which is connected to  $k$  other tropes by co-occurring in at least one story.
- Goal: find these distributions.
- Another goal: find the induced distribution of component sizes and a test for the presence or absence of a giant component.
- Unrelated goal: be 10% happier/weep less.





## We strap these in as well:

$$F_{P_{ind}^{(\boxplus)}}(x) = \sum_{k=0}^{\infty} P_{ind,k}^{(\boxplus)} x^k$$

$$F_{P_{ind}^{(\heartsuit)}}(x) = \sum_{k=0}^{\infty} P_{ind,k}^{(\heartsuit)} x^k$$

$$F_{R_{ind}^{(\heartsuit-\boxplus)}}(x) = \sum_{k=0}^{\infty} R_{ind,k}^{(\heartsuit-\boxplus)} x^k$$

$$F_{R_{ind}^{(\boxplus-\heartsuit)}}(x) = \sum_{k=0}^{\infty} R_{ind,k}^{(\boxplus-\heartsuit)} x^k$$

## So how do all these things connect?

- We're again performing sums of a randomly chosen number of randomly chosen numbers.
- We use one of our favorite sneaky tricks:

$$W = \sum_{i=1}^U V^{(i)} \Rightarrow F_W(x) = F_U(F_V(x)).$$

## Induced distributions are not straightforward:

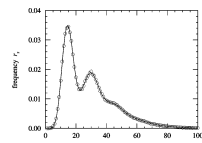
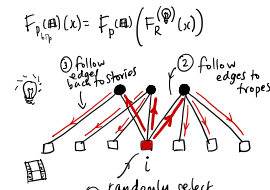
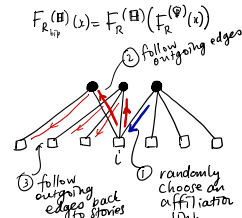


FIG. 7. The frequency distribution of numbers of co-stars of an actor in a bipartite graph with  $\mu=1.5$  and  $\nu=15$ . The points are simulation results for  $M=10\,000$  and  $N=100\,000$ . The line is the exact solution, Eqs. 189 and 190. The error bars on the numerical results are smaller than the points.

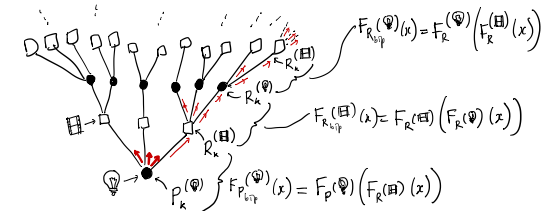
- View this as  $P_{ind,k}^{(\boxplus)}$  (the probability a story shares tropes with  $k$  other stories).<sup>[7]</sup>
- Result of purely random wiring with Poisson distributions for affiliation numbers.
- Parameters:  $N_{\boxplus} = 10^4$ ,  $N_{\heartsuit} = 10^5$ ,  $\langle k \rangle_{\boxplus} = 1.5$ , and  $\langle k \rangle_{\heartsuit} = 15$ .



- $i$  has 3 affiliations
- $i$  has degree 6 in induced story network



- $i$  seems  $i$  has 3 outgoing edges
- but now depends on which edge we initially choose
- fine for distributions & gen. func. calculation



## Induced distribution for stories:

- Randomly choose a  $\boxplus$ , find its tropes ( $U$ ), and then find how many other stories each of those tropes are part of ( $V$ ):

$$F_{P_{ind}^{(\boxplus)}}(x) = F_{P_{ind}^{(\boxplus)}}(x) = F_{P_{ind}^{(\boxplus)}}(F_{R_{ind}^{(\heartsuit)}}(x))$$

- Find the  $\boxplus$  at the end of a randomly chosen affiliation edge leaving a trope, find its number of other tropes ( $U$ ), and then find how many other stories each of those tropes are part of ( $V$ ):

$$F_{R_{ind}^{(\heartsuit-\boxplus)}}(x) = F_{R_{ind}^{(\boxplus)}}(F_{R_{ind}^{(\heartsuit)}}(x))$$

## Generating Function Madness

Yes, we're doing it:

$$F_{P_{ind}^{(\boxplus)}}(x) = \sum_{k=0}^{\infty} P_k^{(\boxplus)} x^k$$

$$F_{P_{ind}^{(\heartsuit)}}(x) = \sum_{k=0}^{\infty} P_k^{(\heartsuit)} x^k$$

$$F_{R_{ind}^{(\boxplus)}}(x) = \sum_{k=0}^{\infty} R_k^{(\boxplus)} x^k = \frac{F'_{P_{ind}^{(\boxplus)}}(x)}{F'_{P_{ind}^{(\boxplus)}}(1)}$$

$$F_{R_{ind}^{(\heartsuit)}}(x) = \sum_{k=0}^{\infty} R_k^{(\heartsuit)} x^k = \frac{F'_{P_{ind}^{(\heartsuit)}}(x)}{F'_{P_{ind}^{(\heartsuit)}}(1)}$$

The usual goodness:

- Normalization:  $F_{P_{ind}^{(\boxplus)}}(1) = F_{P_{ind}^{(\heartsuit)}}(1) = 1$ .

- Means:  $F'_{P_{ind}^{(\boxplus)}}(1) = \langle k \rangle_{\boxplus}$  and  $F'_{P_{ind}^{(\heartsuit)}}(1) = \langle k \rangle_{\heartsuit}$ .

## Let's do some good:

- 🧠 Average number of stories connected to a story through trope-space:

$$\langle k \rangle_{\mathbb{E}, \text{ind}} = F'_{P_{\mathbb{E}}} (1)$$



$$\begin{aligned} \text{So: } \langle k \rangle_{\mathbb{E}, \text{ind}} &= \left. \frac{d}{dx} F_{P_{\mathbb{E}}} (F_{R_{\mathbb{Q}}}(x)) \right|_{x=1} \\ &= F'_{R_{\mathbb{Q}}}(1) F'_{P_{\mathbb{E}}} (F_{R_{\mathbb{Q}}}(1)) = F'_{R_{\mathbb{Q}}}(1) F'_{P_{\mathbb{E}}}(1) \end{aligned}$$

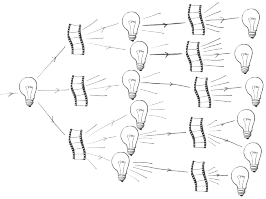
- 🧠 Similarly, the average number of tropes connected to a random trope through stories:

$$\langle k \rangle_{\mathbb{Q}, \text{ind}} = F'_{R_{\mathbb{E}}}(1) F'_{P_{\mathbb{Q}}}(1)$$

- 🧠 In terms of the underlying distributions, we have:

$$\langle k \rangle_{\mathbb{E}, \text{ind}} = \frac{\langle k(k-1) \rangle_{\mathbb{Q}}}{\langle k \rangle_{\mathbb{Q}}} \langle k \rangle_{\mathbb{E}} \text{ and } \langle k \rangle_{\mathbb{Q}, \text{ind}} = \frac{\langle k(k-1) \rangle_{\mathbb{E}}}{\langle k \rangle_{\mathbb{E}}} \langle k \rangle_{\mathbb{Q}}$$

## Spreading through bipartite networks:



- 🧠 View as bouncing back and forth between the two connected populations. [2]
- 🧠 Actual spread may be within only one population (ideas between people) or through both (failures in physical and communication networks).
- 🧠 The gain ratio for simple contagion on a bipartite random network = product of two gain ratios.

## Unstoppable spreading: is this thing connected?

- 🧠 Always about the edges: when following a random edge toward a  $\mathbb{E}$ , what's the expected number of new edges leading to other stories via tropes?
- 🧠 We want to determine  $\langle k \rangle_{R, \mathbb{E}, \text{ind}} = F'_{R_{\mathbb{E}, \text{ind}}} (1)$  (and  $F'_{R_{\mathbb{E}, \text{ind}}} (1)$  for the trope side of things).
- 🧠 We compute with joy:

$$\langle k \rangle_{R, \mathbb{E}, \text{ind}} = \left. \frac{d}{dx} F_{R_{\mathbb{E}, \text{ind}, k}}(x) \right|_{x=1} = \left. \frac{d}{dx} F_{R_{\mathbb{E}}} (F_{R_{\mathbb{Q}}}(x)) \right|_{x=1}$$

$$= F'_{R_{\mathbb{Q}}}(1) F'_{R_{\mathbb{E}}} (F_{R_{\mathbb{Q}}}(1)) = F'_{R_{\mathbb{Q}}}(1) F'_{R_{\mathbb{E}}}(1) = \frac{F''_{P_{\mathbb{Q}}}(1) F''_{P_{\mathbb{E}}}(1)}{F'_{P_{\mathbb{Q}}}(1) F'_{P_{\mathbb{E}}}(1)}$$

- 🧠 Note symmetry.
- 🧠 \$happiness++;

- 🧠 In terms of the underlying distributions:

$$\langle k \rangle_{R, \mathbb{E}, \text{ind}} = \frac{\langle k(k-1) \rangle_{\mathbb{E}} \langle k(k-1) \rangle_{\mathbb{Q}}}{\langle k \rangle_{\mathbb{E}} \langle k \rangle_{\mathbb{Q}}}$$

- 🧠 We have a giant component in both induced networks when

$$\langle k \rangle_{R, \mathbb{E}, \text{ind}} \equiv \langle k \rangle_{R, \mathbb{Q}, \text{ind}} > 1$$

- 🧠 See this as the product of two gain ratios. #excellent #physics

- 🧠 We can mess with this condition to make it mathematically pleasant and pleasantly inscrutable:

$$\sum_{k=0}^{\infty} \sum_{k'=0}^{\infty} k k' (k k' - k - k') P_k^{(\mathbb{E})} P_{k'}^{(\mathbb{Q})} = 0.$$

## Simple example for finding the degree distributions for the two induced networks in a random bipartite affiliation structure:

- 🧠 Set  $P_k^{(\mathbb{E})} = \delta_{k,3}$  and leave  $P_k^{(\mathbb{Q})}$  arbitrary.
- 🧠 Each story contains exactly three tropes.
- 🧠 We have  $F_{P_{\mathbb{E}}}(x) = x^3$  and  $F_{R_{\mathbb{E}}}(x) = x^2$ .
- 🧠 Using  $F_{P_{\text{ind}}} (x) = F_{P_{\mathbb{E}}} (F_{R_{\mathbb{Q}}}(x))$  and  $F_{P_{\text{ind}}} (x) = F_{P_{\mathbb{Q}}} (F_{R_{\mathbb{E}}}(x))$  we have  $F_{P_{\text{ind}}} (x) = [F_{R_{\mathbb{Q}}}(x)]^3$  and  $F_{P_{\text{ind}}} (x) = F_{P_{\mathbb{Q}}}(x^2)$ .
- 🧠 Even more specific: If each trope is found in exactly two stories then  $F_{P_{\mathbb{Q}}} = x^2$  and  $F_{R_{\mathbb{Q}}} = x$  giving  $F_{P_{\text{ind}}} (x) = x^3$  and  $F_{P_{\text{ind}}} (x) = x^4$ .
- 🧠 Yes for giant components  $\square$ :  $\langle k \rangle_{R, \mathbb{E}, \text{ind}} \equiv \langle k \rangle_{R, \mathbb{Q}, \text{ind}} = 2 \cdot 1 = 2 > 1$ .

## Boards and Directors: [7]

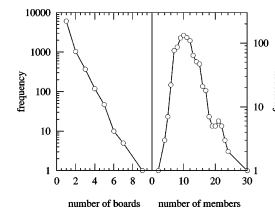


FIG. 8. Frequency distributions for the boards of directors of the Fortune 1000. Left panel: the numbers of boards on which each director sits. Right panel: the numbers of directors on each board.

- 🧠 Exponentialish distribution for number of boards each director sits on.
- 🧠 Boards typically have 5 to 15 directors.
- 🧠 Plan: Take these distributions, presume random bipartite structure and generate co-director network and board interlock network.

## Boards and Directors and more: [7]

TABLE I. Summary of results of the analysis of four collaboration networks.

Network	Clustering C		Average degree z	
	Theory	Actual	Theory	Actual
Company directors	0.590	0.588	14.53	14.44
Movie actors	0.084	0.199	125.6	113.4
Physics (arxiv.org)	0.192	0.452	16.74	9.27
Biomedicine (MEDLINE)	0.042	0.088	18.02	16.93

- 🧠 Random bipartite affiliation network assumption produces decent matches for some basic quantities.

## Boards and Directors: [7]

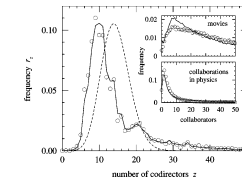


FIG. 9. The probability distribution of numbers of co-directors in the Fortune 1000 graph. The points are the real-world data, the solid line is the bipartite graph model, and the dashed line is the Poisson distribution with the same mean. Inset: the equivalent distributions for the numbers of collaborators of movie actors and physicists.

- 🧠 Jolly good: Works very well for co-directors.
- 🧠 For comparison, the dashed line is a Poisson with the empirical average degree.

## Boards and Directors: [7]

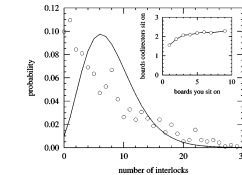


FIG. 10. The distribution of the number of other boards with which each board of directors is "interlocked" in the Fortune 1000 data. An interlock between two boards means that they share one or more common members. The points are the empirical data, the solid line is the theoretical prediction. Inset: the number of boards on which one's co-directors sit, as a function of the number of boards one sits on oneself.

- 🧠 Wins less bananas for the board interlock network.
- 🧠 Assortativity is the reason: Directors who sit on many boards tend to sit on the same boards.
- 🧠 Note: The term assortativity was not used in this 2001 paper.

## To come:

- 🔗 Distributions of component size.
- 🔗 Simpler computation for the giant component condition.
- 🔗 Contagion.
- 🔗 Testing real bipartite structures for departure from randomness.

## Nutshell:

- 🔗 Random bipartite networks model many real systems well.
- 🔗 Crucial improvement over simple random networks.
- 🔗 We can find the induced distributions and determine connectivity/contagion condition.

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- [2] P. S. Dodds. A simple person's approach to understanding the contagion condition for spreading processes on generalized random networks. In S. Lehmann and Y.-Y. Ahn, editors, [Spreading Dynamics in Social Systems](#). 2017. [pdf](#)
- [3] L. P. García-Pérez, M. A. Serrano, and M. Boguñá. The complex architecture of primes and natural numbers, 2014. <http://arxiv.org/abs/1402.3612>. [pdf](#)



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