

Branching Networks I

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Principles of Complex Systems, Vols. 1, 2, & 3D
CSYS/MATH 6701, 6713, & a pretend number, 2024–2025

Prof. Peter Sheridan Dodds

Computational Story Lab | Vermont Complex Systems Center
Santa Fe Institute | University of Vermont



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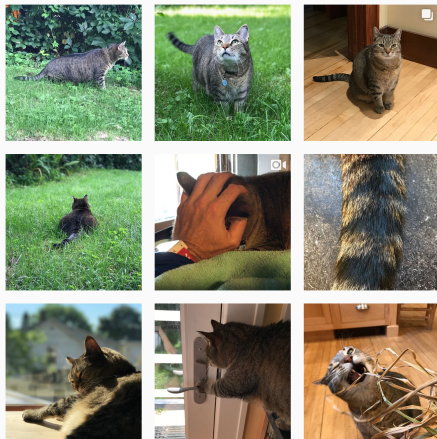
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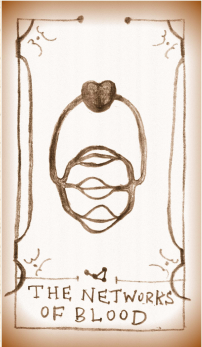
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Branching networks are useful things:

 Fundamental to material **supply and collection**

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Branching networks are useful things:

 Fundamental to material **supply and collection**

 **Supply:** From one source to many sinks in 2- or 3-d.



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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.



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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



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Examples:



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Examples:

-  River networks (our focus)



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-  Cardiovascular networks



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-  Plants



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Examples:






-  River networks (our focus)
-  Cardiovascular networks
-  Plants
-  Evolutionary trees



Branching networks are useful things:

-  Fundamental to material **supply and collection**
-  **Supply:** From one source to many sinks in 2- or 3-d.
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Examples:

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



Branching networks are everywhere ...

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HydroSHEDS

Amazon Basin

River network derived
from SRTM elevation data
at 500 m resolution



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



Branching networks are everywhere ...

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



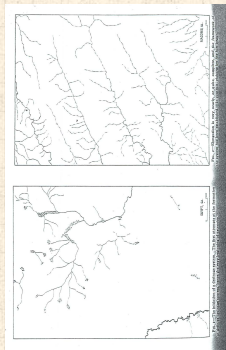
An early thought piece: Extension and Integration



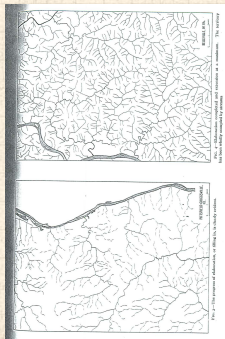
“The Development of Drainage Systems: A Synoptic View” ↗

Waldo S. Glock,

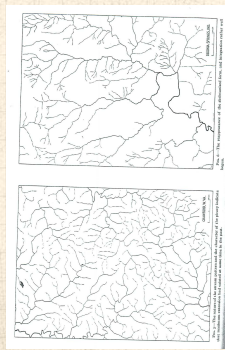
The Geographical Review, **21**, 475–482, 1931. [2]



Initiation,
Elongation



Elaboration, Piracy.



Abstraction,
Absorption.

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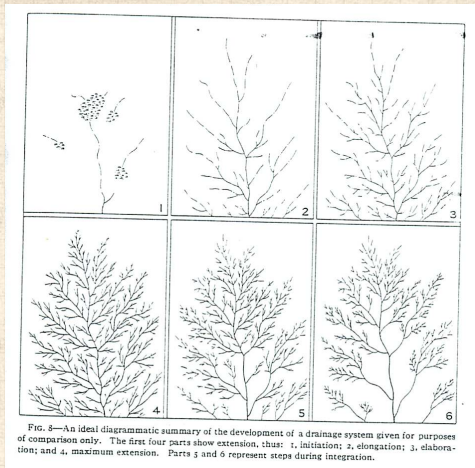
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The sequential stages recognized in the evolution of a drainage system are “extension” and “integration”; the first, a stage of increasing complexity; the second, of simplification.



Shaw and Magnasco's beautiful erosion simulations



Unpublished.



Though to be destroyed and lost.



The VHS.

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Geomorphological networks


Definitions


 **Drainage basin** for a point p is the complete region of land from which overland flow drains through p .



Geomorphological networks

Definitions


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 Definition most sensible for a point in a stream.




Geomorphological networks

Definitions

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 Definition most sensible for a point in a stream.


 **Recursive structure:** Basins contain basins and so on.





Geomorphological networks

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.



Geomorphological networks







Definitions

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-  On flat hillslopes, drainage basins are effectively linear.










Geomorphological networks

Definitions

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-  On flat hillslopes, drainage basins are effectively linear.
-  We treat subsurface and surface flow as following the gradient of the surface.

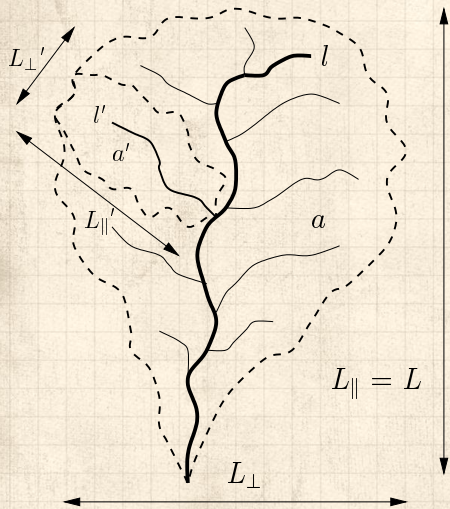


Definitions

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-  Definition most sensible for a point in a stream.
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-  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 ...



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



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

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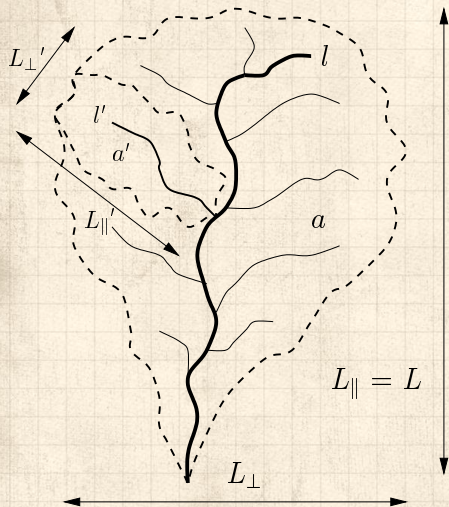
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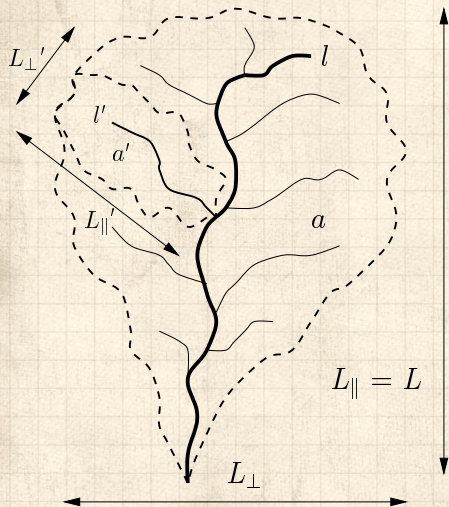
References



a = drainage basin
area



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



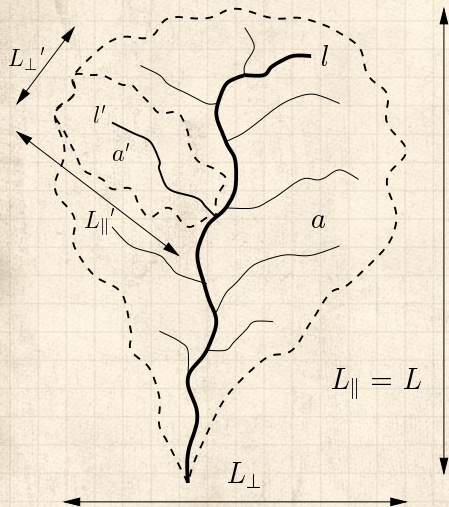
a = drainage basin
area






l = length of longest
(main) stream (which
may be fractal)



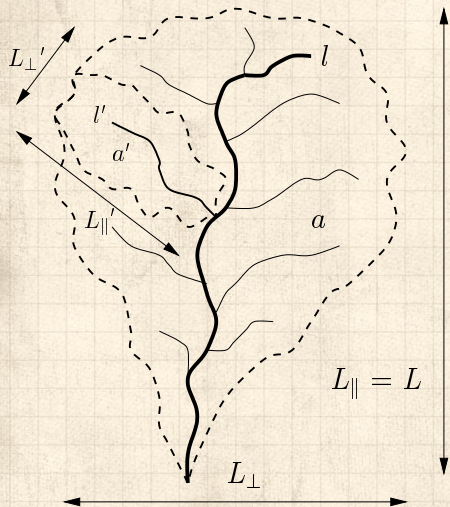
Basic basin quantities: a , l , L_{\parallel} , L_{\perp} :







-  a = drainage basin area
-  l = length of longest (main) stream (which may be fractal)
-  $L = L_{\parallel} =$ longitudinal length of basin



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



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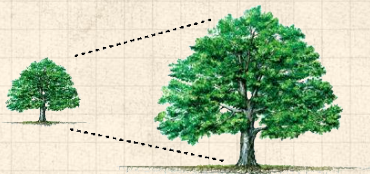


Allometry



Isometry:

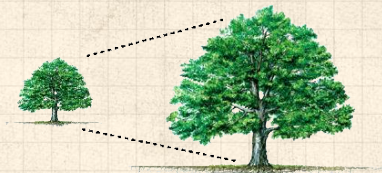
dimensions scale
linearly with each
other.



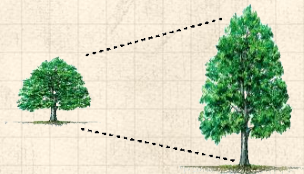
Allometry



Isometry:
dimensions scale
linearly with each
other.



Allometry:
dimensions scale
nonlinearly.



Basin allometry

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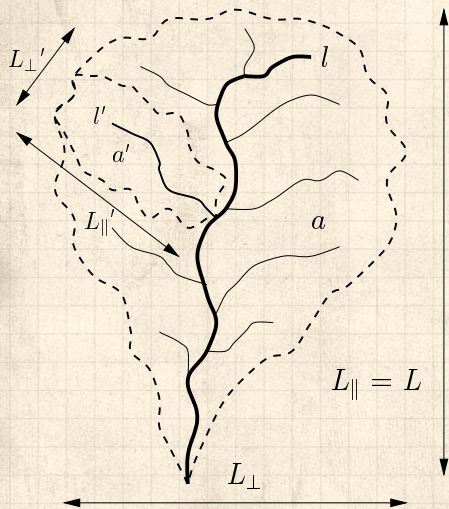
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Allometric relationships:



Basin allometry

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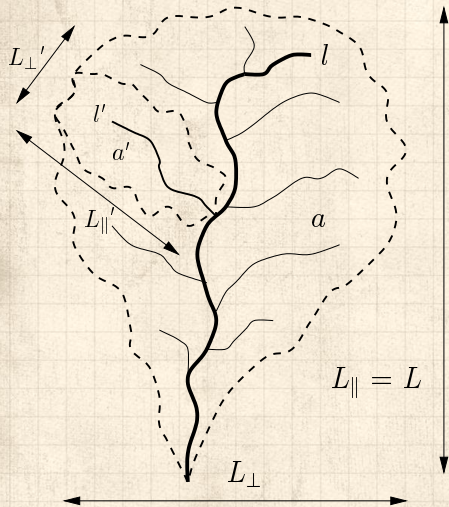
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Allometric
relationships:



$$l \propto a^h$$



Basin allometry

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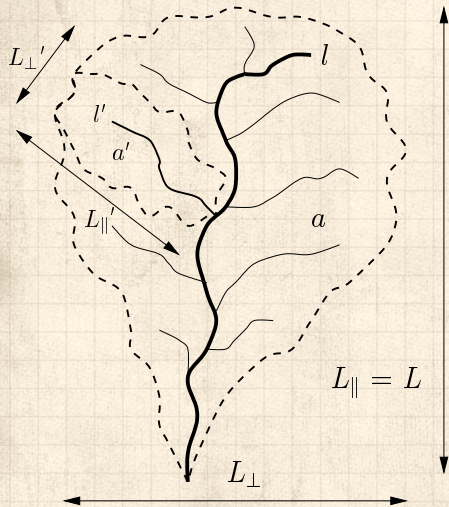
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Allometric relationships:



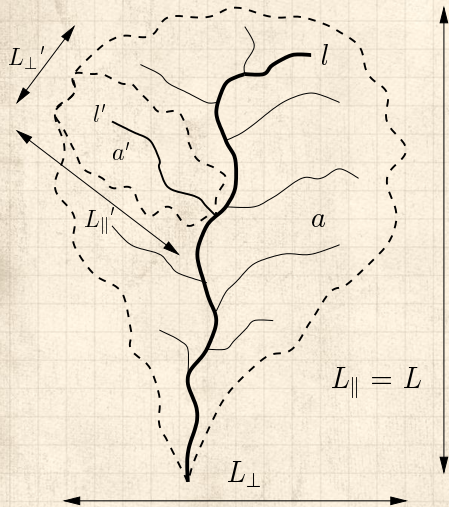
$$l \propto a^h$$



$$l \propto L^d$$



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) ^[3]:

$$l \propto a^h$$


reportedly $0.5 < h < 0.7$

'Laws'

 Hack's law (1957) ^[3]:

$$\ell \propto a^h$$


reportedly $0.5 < h < 0.7$

 Scaling of main stream length with basin size:

$$\ell \propto L_{\parallel}^d$$


reportedly $1.0 < d < 1.1$

'Laws'

 Hack's law (1957) ^[3]:


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 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.

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There are a few more 'laws': ^[1]

Relation:	Name or description:
$T_k = T_1 (R_T)^{k-1}$	Tokunaga's law
$\ell \sim L^d$	self-affinity of single channels
$n_\omega / n_{\omega+1} = R_n$	Horton's law of stream numbers
$\ell_{\omega+1} / \ell_\omega = R_\ell$	Horton's law of main stream lengths
$\bar{a}_{\omega+1} / \bar{a}_\omega = R_a$	Horton's law of basin areas
$\bar{s}_{\omega+1} / \bar{s}_\omega = R_s$	Horton's law of stream segment lengths
$L_\perp \sim L^H$	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



Reported parameter values: ^[1]

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 ± 0.01
D	1.8 ± 0.1
h	0.50–0.70
τ	1.43 ± 0.05
γ	1.8 ± 0.1
H	0.75–0.80
β	0.50–0.70
φ	1.05 ± 0.05



Kind of a mess ...

Order of business:

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Order of business:

1. Find out how these relationships are connected.



Kind of a mess ...

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Order of business:

1. Find out how these relationships are connected.
2. Determine most fundamental description.



Kind of a mess ...

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Order of business:

1. Find out how these relationships are connected.
2. Determine most fundamental description.
3. Explain origins of these parameter values



Kind of a mess ...

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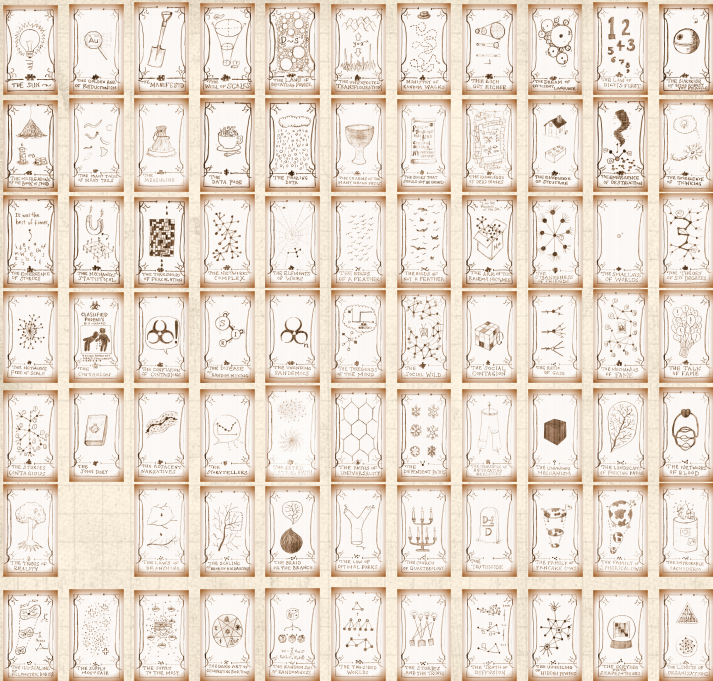
References

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:

Method for describing network architecture:

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Method for describing network architecture:

 Introduced by Horton (1945) ^[4]



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Method for describing network architecture:

 Introduced by Horton (1945) ^[4]

 Modified by Strahler (1957) ^[7]



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Method for describing network architecture:

 Introduced by Horton (1945) ^[4]





 Modified by Strahler (1957) ^[7]

 Term: Horton-Strahler Stream Ordering ^[5]



Stream Ordering:

Method for describing network architecture:

-  Introduced by Horton (1945) ^[4]
-  Modified by Strahler (1957) ^[7]
-  Term: Horton-Strahler Stream Ordering ^[5]
-  Can be seen as **iterative trimming** of a network.



Stream Ordering:

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Some definitions:





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



Stream Ordering:

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.




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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.



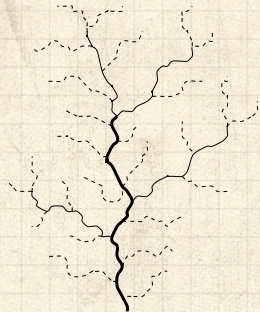
Stream Ordering:

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:



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Stream Ordering:



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

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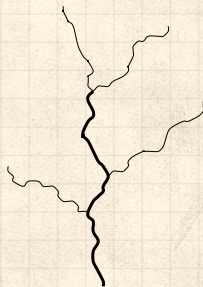
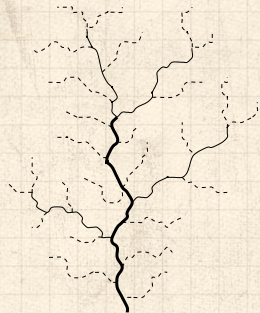
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Stream Ordering:



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3. Repeat until one stream is left (order = Ω)



Stream Ordering:



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2. Label all **new** source streams as **order $\omega = 2$** and remove.
3. Repeat until one stream is left (order = Ω)
4. Basin is said to be of the order of the last stream removed.



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 = Ω)
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:

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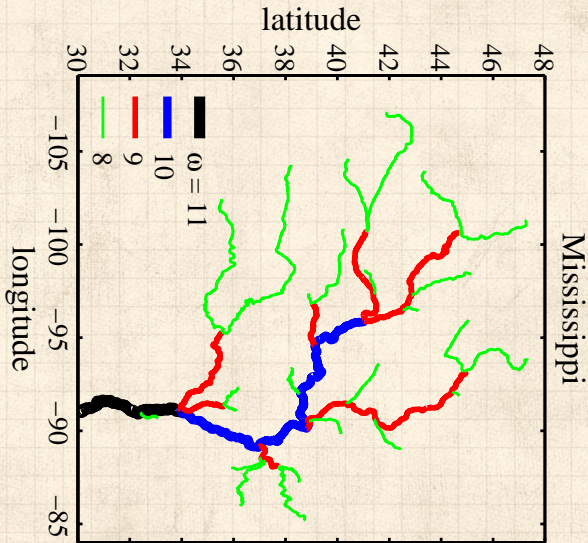
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[source=/data6/dodds/work/rivers/dems/mississippi/figures/figorder_paths_misipi10.ps]

[21-Mar-2000 peter dodds]



Stream Ordering:

Another way to define ordering:

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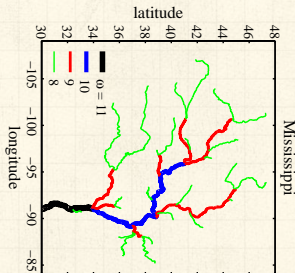
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[source: dodds.lamda.rockefeller.edu/~peter/peter_dodds_pubs/strg01.pdf]

[21-Mar-2000 peter dodds]



Stream Ordering:

Another way to define ordering:

 As before, label all **source streams** as **order $\omega = 1$** .

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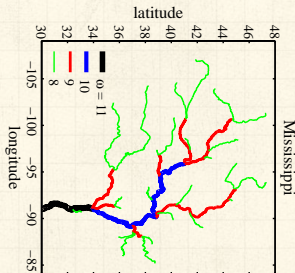
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[source: [dodds@math.berkeley.edu/~peter.dodds/teaching/figures/fig4a.pdf](#)]


[21-Mar-2000 peter.dodds]

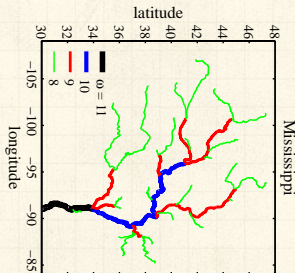


Stream Ordering:

Another way to define ordering:

 As before, label all **source streams** as **order $\omega = 1$** .

 Follow all labelled streams downstream



[source: [dodds@math.berkeley.edu/~peter.dodds/figs/figs_ordering_globe_order10.pdf](#)]

[21-Mar-2000 peter dodds]

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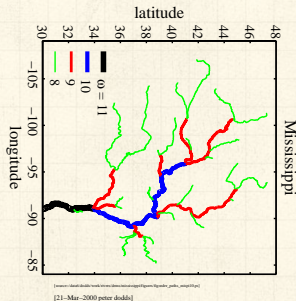
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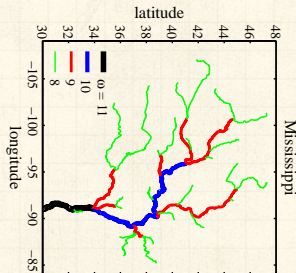


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If streams of different orders ω_1 and ω_2 meet, then the resultant stream has order equal to the largest of the two.



[source: http://dodds.lamda.ox.ac.uk/~peter.dodds/papers/streams_ordering.pdf]

[21-Mar-2000 peter.dodds]



Stream Ordering:

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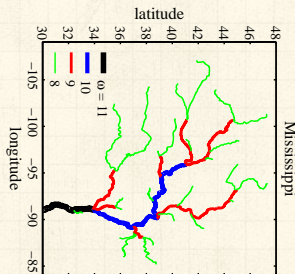
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If streams of different orders ω_1 and ω_2 meet, then the resultant stream has order equal to the largest of the two.

Simple rule:

$$\omega_3 = \max(\omega_1, \omega_2) + \delta_{\omega_1, \omega_2}$$

where δ is the Kronecker delta.




[21-Mar-2000 peter dodds]



Stream Ordering:

One problem:

 Resolution of data messes with ordering

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Stream Ordering:

One problem:

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- Micro-description changes (e.g., order of a basin may increase)



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- Stream ordering helpfully discretizes a network.



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Utility:

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



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

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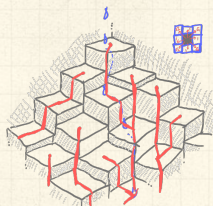
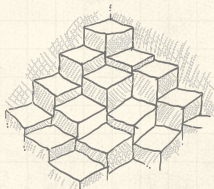
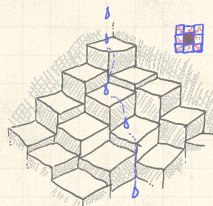
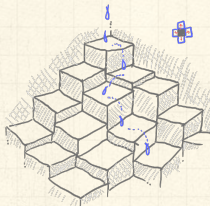
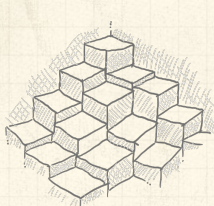
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Also:

`/Users/dodds/work/rivers/1998dems/kevinlakewaster.c`

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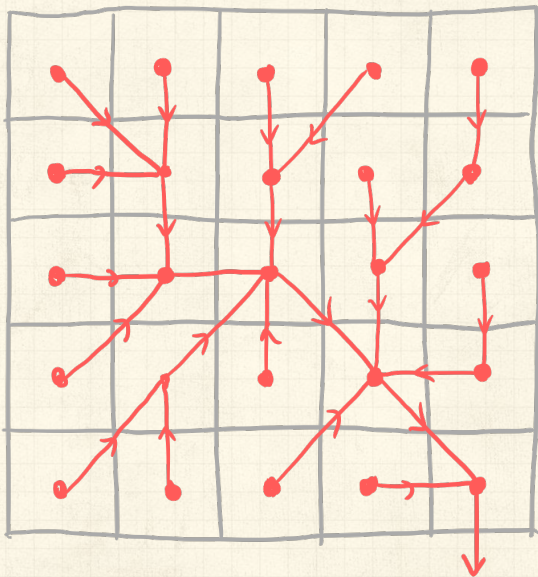
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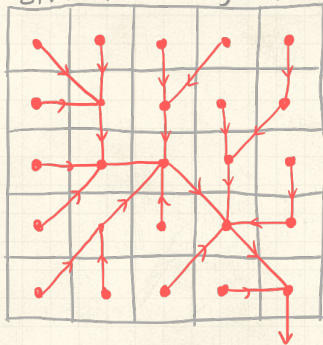
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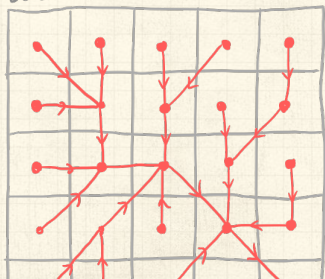
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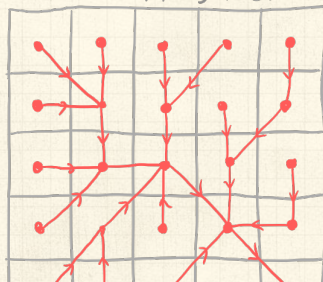
stream ordering w :



basin area a :




main stream length l :



Stream Ordering:

Resultant definitions:

 A basin of order Ω has n_ω streams (or sub-basins) of order ω .

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1. an order ω stream segment is only that part of the stream which is actually of order ω
2. an order ω stream segment runs from the basin outlet up to the junction of two order $\omega - 1$ streams





Horton's laws

Self-similarity of river networks

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Self-similarity of river networks

 First quantified by Horton (1945)^[4], expanded by Schumm (1956)^[6]

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Three laws:

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$$n_{\omega}/n_{\omega+1} = R_n > 1$$

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Horton's law of basin areas:

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Horton's Ratios:


 So ...laws are defined by three ratios:

$$R_n, R_\ell, \text{ and } R_a.$$




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**:

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



Horton's laws

Similar story for area and length:

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Horton's laws

Similar story for area and length:



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



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



Horton's laws

Similar story for area and length:



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



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



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



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A few more things:

 Horton's laws are laws of averages.

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Horton's laws

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Averaging for number is **across** basins.







Averaging for stream lengths and areas is **within** basins.



Horton's laws






A few more things:

-  Horton's laws are laws of averages.
-  Averaging for number is **across** basins.
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-  Horton's ratios go a long way to defining a branching network ...



Horton's laws

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 ...



Horton's laws

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A bonus law:


 Horton's law of stream segment lengths:

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




Horton's laws

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 Can show that $R_s = R_\ell$.




Horton's laws

A bonus law:

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 Can show that $R_s = R_{\ell}$.

 Insert assignment question 



Horton's laws in the real world:

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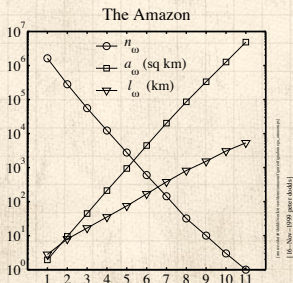
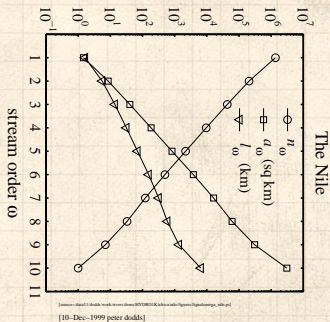
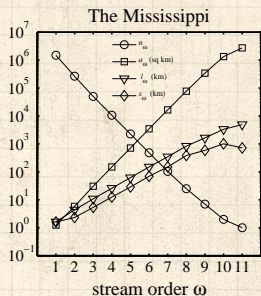
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Blood networks:

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Blood networks:



Horton's laws hold for sections of cardiovascular networks



Horton's laws-at-large




Blood networks:

- 🧱 Horton's laws hold for sections of cardiovascular networks
- 🧱 Measuring such networks is tricky and messy ...



Horton's laws-at-large

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_ℓ	$-\frac{\ln R_r}{\ln R_n}$	$-\frac{\ln R_\ell}{\ln R_n}$	α
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) ^[11]	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



Horton's laws

Observations:

 Horton's ratios vary:

$$R_n \quad 3.0-5.0$$


$$R_a \quad 3.0-6.0$$

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



Horton's laws


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 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.



Tokunaga's law

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Delving deeper into network architecture:



Tokunaga's law

Delving deeper into network architecture:





Tokunaga (1968) identified a clearer picture of network structure [8, 9, 10]



Tokunaga's law

Delving deeper into network architecture:

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 As per Horton-Strahler, use **stream ordering**.



Tokunaga's law





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

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.



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Definition:

 $T_{\mu,\nu}$ = the average number of **side streams** of **order ν** that enter as tributaries to streams of **order μ**




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 Recall each stream segment of order μ is 'generated' by two streams of order $\mu - 1$





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 $\mu \geq \nu + 1$

 Recall each stream segment of order μ is 'generated' by two streams of order $\mu - 1$

 These generating streams are not considered side streams.



Network Architecture

Tokunaga's law ^[8, 9, 10]

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Tokunaga's law ^[8, 9, 10]

 Property 1: Scale independence—depends only on difference between orders:

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Network Architecture

Tokunaga's law ^[8, 9, 10]

-  Property 1: Scale independence—depends only on difference between orders:

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-  Property 2: Number of side streams grows exponentially with difference in orders:

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Network Architecture

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 Property 1: Scale independence—depends only on difference between orders:

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$$T_{\mu,\nu} = T_1 (R_T)^{\mu-\nu-1}$$

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 Property 1: Scale independence—depends only on difference between orders:

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 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:

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



Tokunaga's law—an example:

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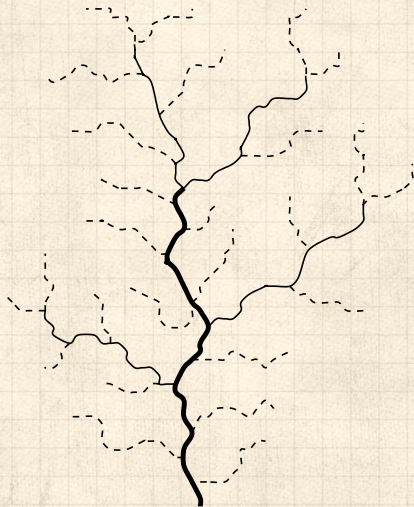
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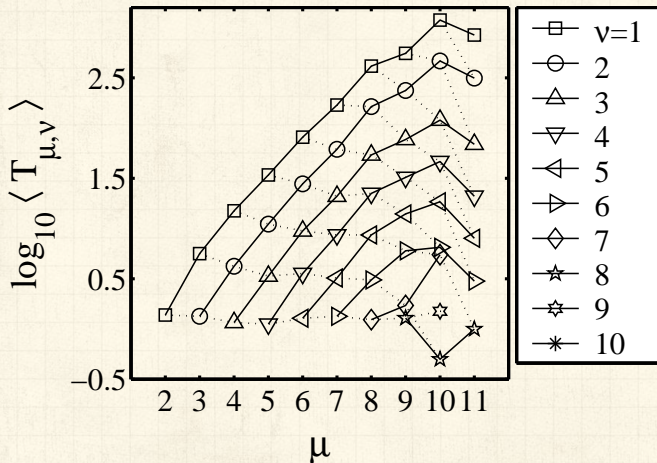
References

$$T_1 \simeq 2$$

$$R_T \simeq 4$$



A Tokunaga graph:



Nutshell:



Branching networks show remarkable **self-similarity** over many scales.

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Nutshell:

 Branching networks show remarkable **self-similarity** over many scales.

 There are many interrelated scaling laws.

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Nutshell:

- 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.



Nutshell:

-  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.

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- Horton's laws** reveal self-similarity.
- Horton's laws can be misinterpreted as suggesting a pure hierarchy.
- Tokunaga's laws** neatly describe network architecture.



Nutshell:

- 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.



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- Surprisingly:

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



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