

Branching Networks I

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Principles of Complex Systems, Vols. 1, 2, & 3D
CSYS/MATH 6701, 6713, & a pretend number,
2023–2024 | @pocsvox

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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 ...)



Branching networks are everywhere ...

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HydroSHEDS

Amazon Basin

River network derived
from SRTM elevation data
at 500 m resolution



Only major
rivers and
streams are
visualized

River line width
proportional to
upstream basin area

0 500 1000

Kilometers

<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]

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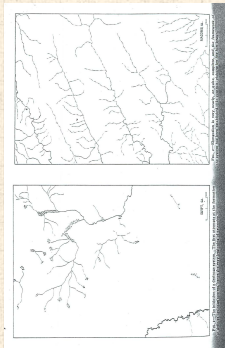
Stream Ordering

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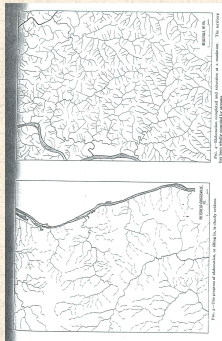
Tokunaga's Law

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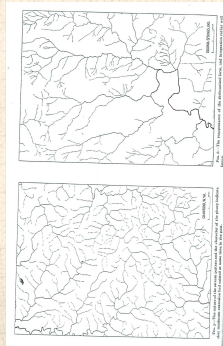
References



Initiation,
Elongation



Elaboration,
Piracy.



Abstraction,
Absorption.



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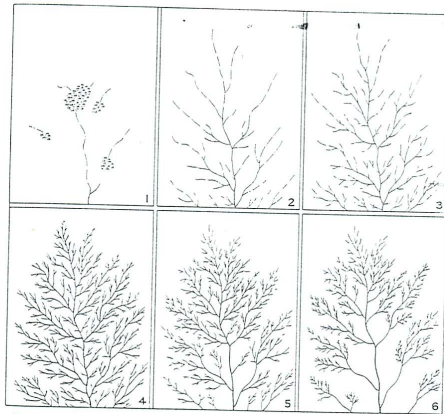


FIG. 8—An ideal diagrammatic summary of the development of a drainage system given for purposes of comparison only. The first four parts show extension, thus: 1, initiation; 2, elongation; 3, elaboration; and 4, maximum extension. Parts 5 and 6 represent steps during integration.

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



Unpublished.



Though to be destroyed and lost.



The VHS.

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Geomorphological networks

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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 ...

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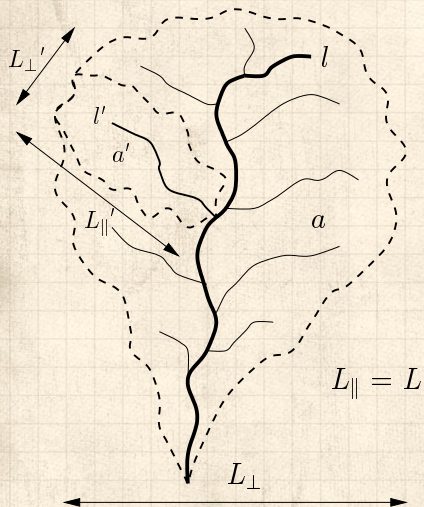
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Basic basin quantities: a , l , L_{\parallel} , L_{\perp} :



 a = drainage basin area

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

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

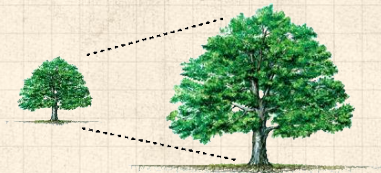
 $L = L_{\perp}$ = width of basin



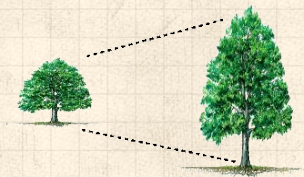
Allometry



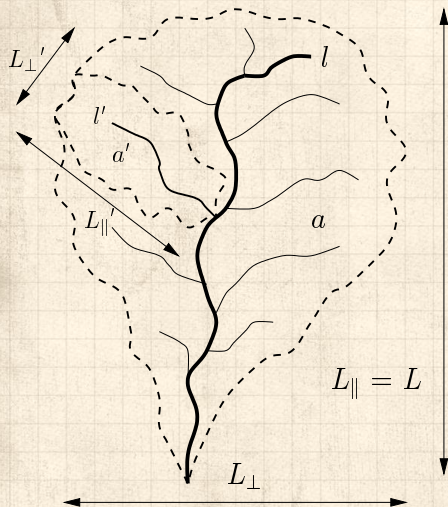
Isometry:
dimensions scale
linearly with each
other.



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)^[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 $1.0 < d < 1.1$

 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

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

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



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:

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:

- 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.



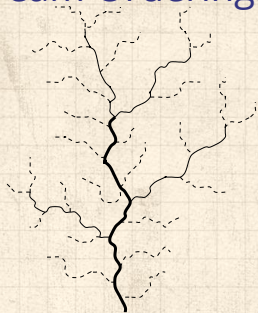
Stream Ordering:

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 = Ω)
4. Basin is said to be of the order of the last stream removed.
5. Example above is a basin of order $\Omega = 3$.



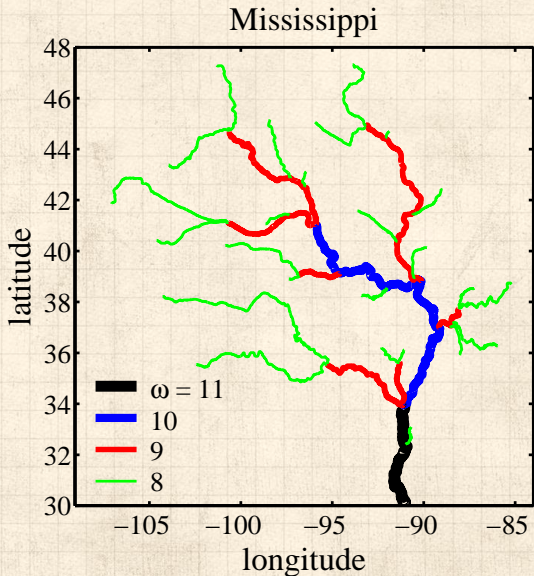
Stream Ordering—A large example:

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Stream Ordering:


Another way to define ordering:

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

 Follow all labelled streams downstream

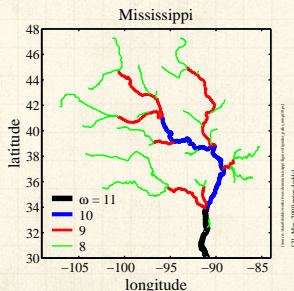
 Whenever two streams of the same order (ω) meet, the resulting stream has order incremented by 1 ($\omega + 1$).

 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.



Stream Ordering:

One problem:

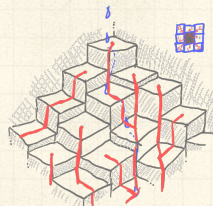
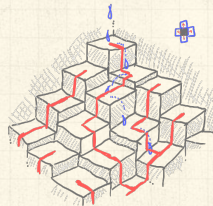
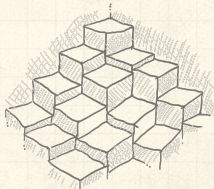
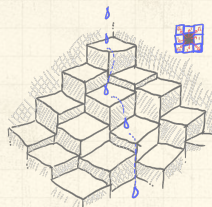
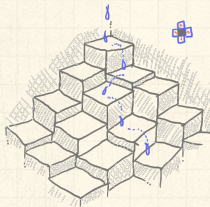
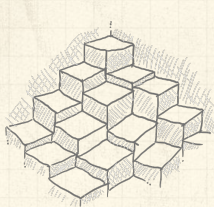
- Resolution of data messes with ordering
- Micro-description changes (e.g., order of a basin may increase)
- ...but relationships based on ordering appear to be robust to resolution changes.

Utility:

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



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



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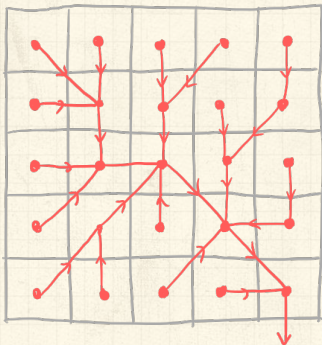
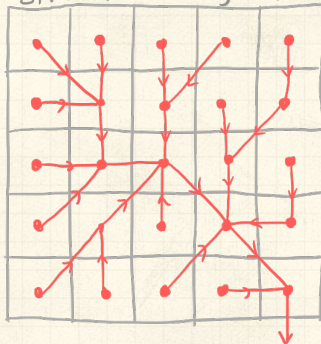
References



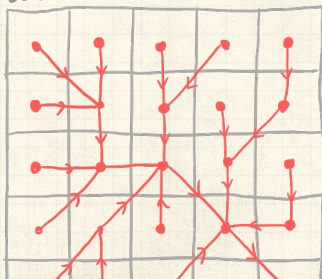
Also:

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

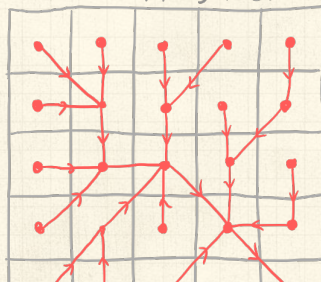
stream ordering ω :



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 .

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

 An order ω basin has **area** a_ω .

 An order ω basin has a **main stream length** ℓ_ω .

 An order ω basin has a **stream segment length** s_ω

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

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

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:

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



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:



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



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



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



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

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 assignment question 



Horton's laws in the real world:

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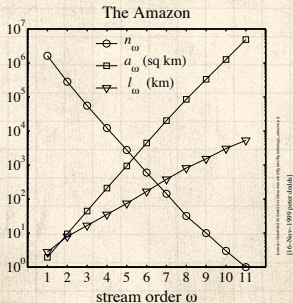
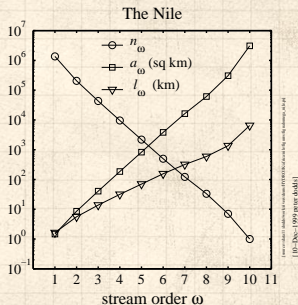
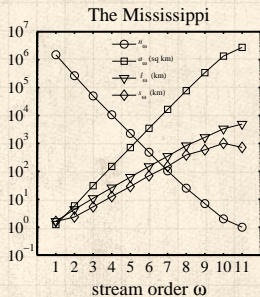
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Horton's laws-at-large

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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:


$$R_n \quad 3.0-5.0$$

$$R_a \quad 3.0-6.0$$

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

 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

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.



Network Architecture

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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**

 $\mu, \nu = 1, 2, 3, \dots$

 $\mu \geq \nu + 1$


 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]

 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:

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



Tokunaga's law—an example:

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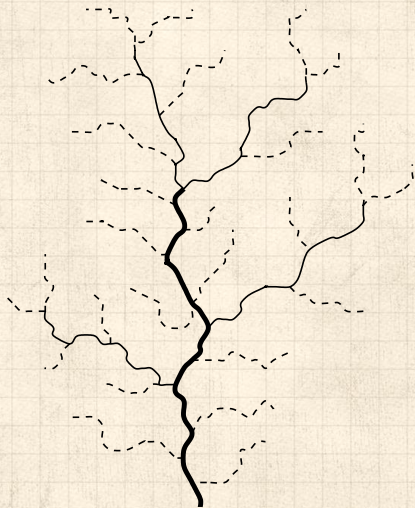
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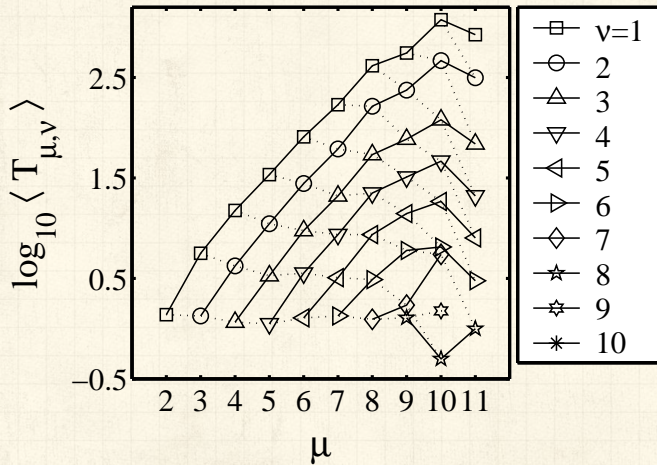
$$T_1 \simeq 2$$

$$R_T \simeq 4$$



The Mississippi

A Tokunaga graph:



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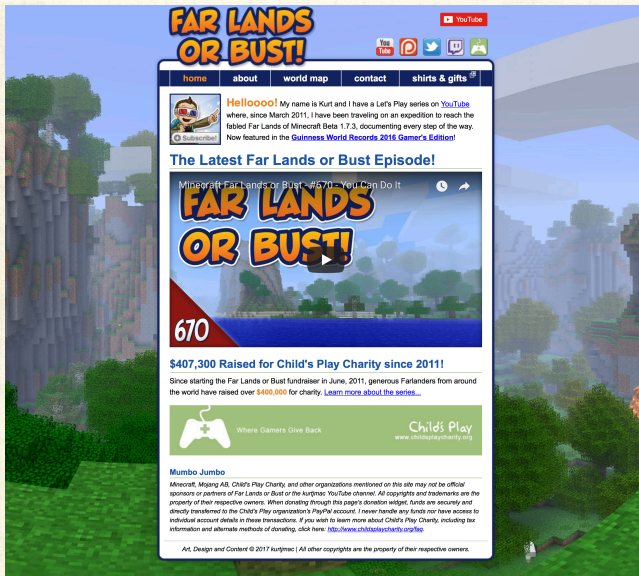
Nutshell:

- 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.
- 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:

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



Crafting landscapes—Far Lands or Bust



FAR LANDS OR BUST!

home about world map contact shirts & gifts

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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[pdf](#) 
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