

Generating Functions and Networks

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

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Santa Fe Institute | University of Vermont



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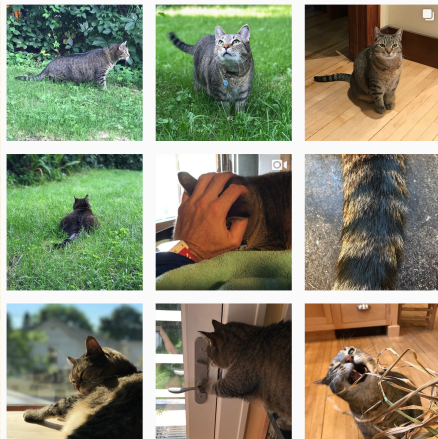
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"I am the
Monarch
of the Sea.."

THE ARK OF THE
RANDOM NETWORK



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Generatingfunctionology^[1]



Idea: Given a sequence a_0, a_1, a_2, \dots , associate each element with a distinct function or other mathematical object.

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Generatingfunctionology^[1]

-  **Idea:** Given a sequence a_0, a_1, a_2, \dots , associate each element with a distinct function or other mathematical object.
-  Well-chosen functions allow us to manipulate sequences and retrieve sequence elements.

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Definition:


 The **generating function** (g.f.) for a sequence $\{a_n\}$ is

$$F(x) = \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} a_n x^n.$$



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 Related to Fourier, Laplace, Mellin, ...



Simple examples:

Rolling dice and flipping coins:


 $p_k^{(\square)} = \mathbf{Pr}(\text{throwing a } k) = 1/6 \text{ where } k = 1, 2, \dots, 6.$

$$F^{(\square)}(x) = \sum_{k=1}^6 p_k^{(\square)} x^k = \frac{1}{6}(x + x^2 + x^3 + x^4 + x^5 + x^6).$$




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 We'll come back to these simple examples as we derive various delicious properties of generating functions.



Example




Take a degree distribution with exponential decay:

$$P_k = ce^{-\lambda k}$$

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Check die and coin p.g.f.'s.



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Properties:



Average degree:

$$\langle k \rangle = \sum_{k=0}^{\infty} k P_k$$



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$$\begin{aligned}\langle k \rangle &= \sum_{k=0}^{\infty} k P_k = \sum_{k=0}^{\infty} k P_k x^{k-1} \Big|_{x=1} \\ &= \frac{d}{dx} F(x) \Big|_{x=1}\end{aligned}$$



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Useful pieces for probability distributions:

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 Normalization:


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 k th element of sequence (general):

$$P_k = \frac{1}{k!} \frac{d^k}{dx^k} F(x) \Big|_{x=0}$$



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 The generating function for the sum of two random variables


$$W = U + V$$

is

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1. Add two coins (tail=0, head=1).
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3. Add a coin flip to one die roll.



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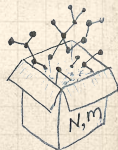
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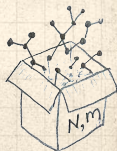


Edge-degree distribution



Recall our condition for a giant component:

$$\langle k \rangle_R = \frac{\langle k^2 \rangle - \langle k \rangle}{\langle k \rangle} > 1.$$



Edge-degree distribution

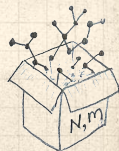


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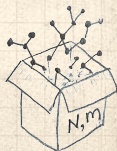
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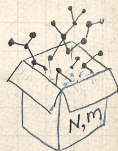
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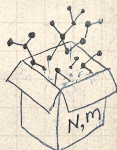


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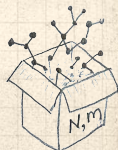
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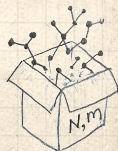
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 Giant component condition in terms of g.f. is:


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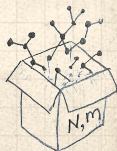
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 Now find how F_R is related to F_P ...

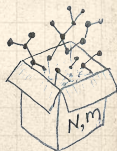


Edge-degree distribution



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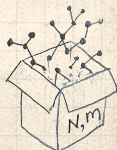


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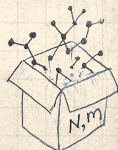
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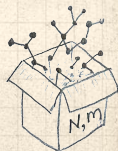


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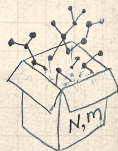


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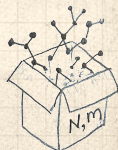


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$$\begin{aligned} F_R(x) &= \frac{1}{\langle k \rangle} \sum_{j=1}^{\infty} j P_j x^{j-1} = \frac{1}{\langle k \rangle} \sum_{j=1}^{\infty} P_j \frac{d}{dx} x^j \\ &= \frac{1}{\langle k \rangle} \frac{d}{dx} \sum_{j=1}^{\infty} P_j x^j \end{aligned}$$



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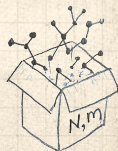


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Edge-degree distribution

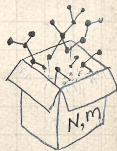


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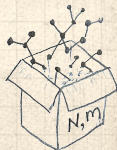
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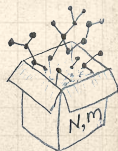
Finally, since $\langle k \rangle = F'_P(1)$,

$$F_R(x) = \frac{F'_P(x)}{F'_P(1)}$$





Edge-degree distribution

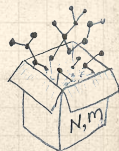
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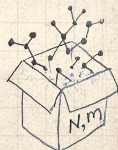


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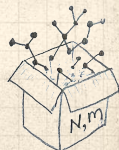
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 Setting $x = 1$, our condition becomes

$$\frac{F''_P(1)}{F'_P(1)} > 1$$



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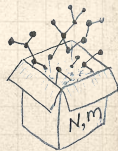
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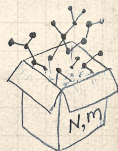
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To figure out the **size of the largest component** (S_1), we need more resolution on component sizes.

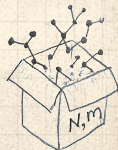


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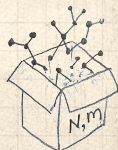
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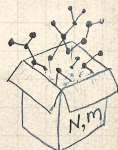
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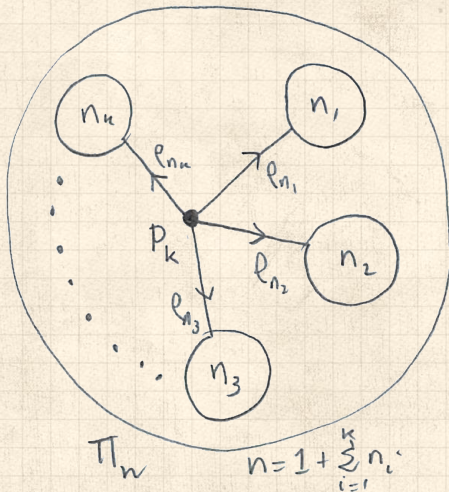
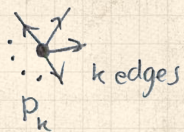
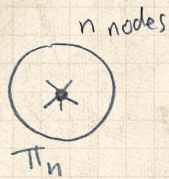
Local-global connection:

$$P_k, R_k \Leftrightarrow \pi_n, \rho_n$$

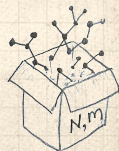
neighbors \Leftrightarrow components



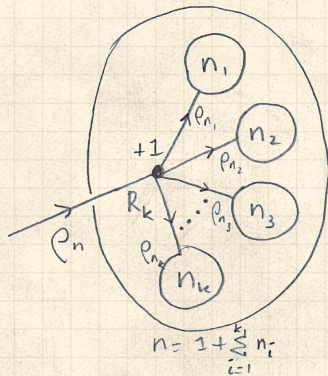
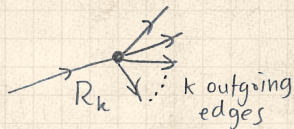
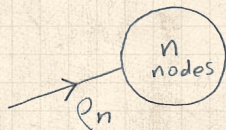
Connecting probabilities:



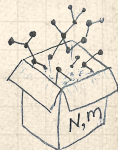
Markov property of random networks connects π_n , ρ_n , and P_k .



Connecting probabilities:



Markov property of random networks connects ρ_n and R_k .



G.f.'s for component size distributions:

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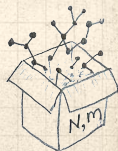
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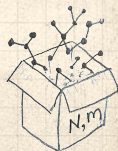
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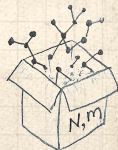
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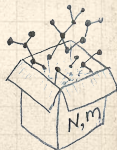


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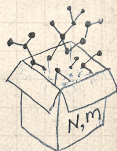
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 Therefore: $S_1 = 1 - F_{\pi}(1)$.

Our mission, which we accept:

 Determine and connect the four generating functions

$$F_P, F_R, F_{\pi}, \text{ and } F_{\rho}.$$



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Useful results we'll need for g.f.'s

Sneaky Result 1:



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Alternate, groovier proof in the accompanying assignment.



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$$\begin{aligned} \therefore F_V(x) &= \sum_{k=0}^{\infty} V_k x^k = \sum_{k=1}^{\infty} U_{k-1} x^k \\ &= x \sum_{j=0}^{\infty} U_j x^j \end{aligned}$$




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$$\begin{aligned} \therefore F_V(x) &= \sum_{k=0}^{\infty} V_k x^k = \sum_{k=1}^{\infty} U_{k-1} x^k \\ &= x \sum_{j=0}^{\infty} U_j x^j = xF_U(x). \end{aligned}$$




Useful results we'll need for g.f.'s

Sneaky Result 2:

 Start with a random variable U with distribution U_k
($k = 0, 1, 2, \dots$)

 SR2: If a second random variable is defined as

$$V = U + 1 \text{ then } \boxed{F_V(x) = xF_U(x)}$$

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Useful results we'll need for g.f.'s

Generalization of SR2:

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 (1) If $V = U + i$ then

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$$= x^{-i} \sum_{k=0}^{\infty} U_k x^k$$



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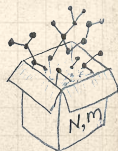
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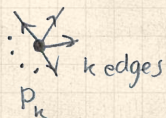
Connecting generating functions:

 **Goal:** figure out forms of the component generating functions, F_π and F_ρ .

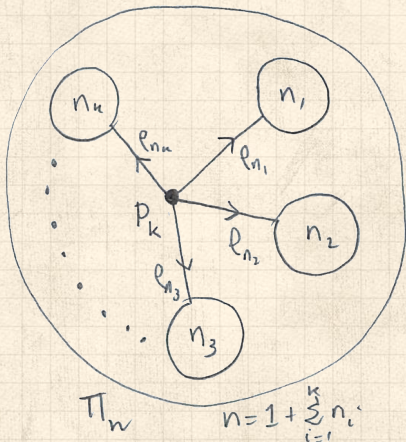
n nodes



π_n

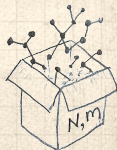



P_k



π_n

$$n = 1 + \sum_{i=1}^k n_i$$

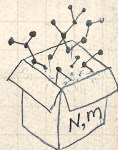


 Relate π_n to P_k and ρ_n through one step of recursion.


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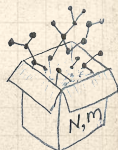
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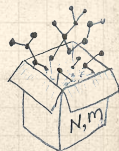
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$$F_{\pi}(x) =$$



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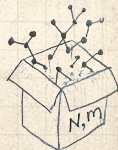
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$$F_{\pi}(x) = \underbrace{F_P(F_{\rho}(x))}_{\text{SR1}}$$



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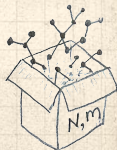
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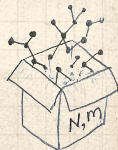


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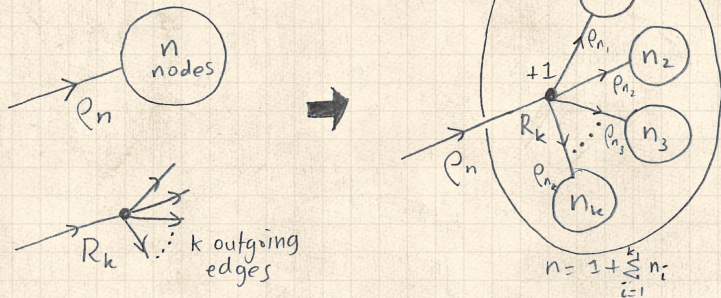
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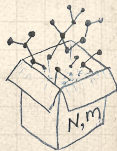
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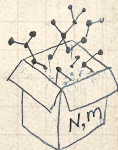
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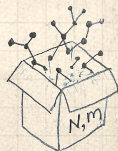
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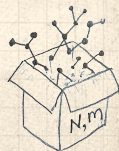
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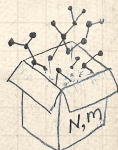
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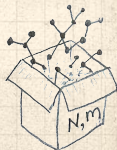
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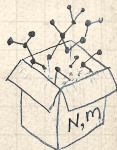
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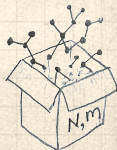
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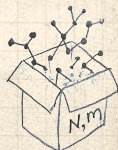


Connecting generating functions:




We now have two functional equations connecting our generating functions:


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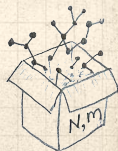


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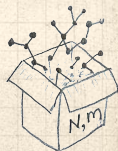
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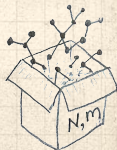
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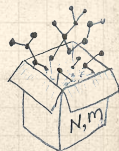
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 The first equation then immediately gives us F_{π} in terms of F_{ρ} and F_R .



Component sizes



Remembering vaguely what we are doing:

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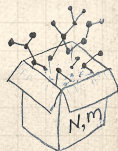
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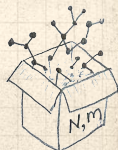


Component sizes



Remembering vaguely what we are doing:

Finding F_π to obtain the **fractional size of the largest component** $S_1 = 1 - F_\pi(1)$.



Component sizes

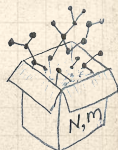


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Component sizes



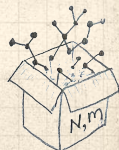
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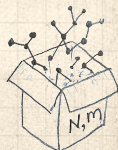
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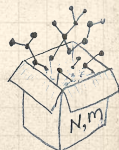
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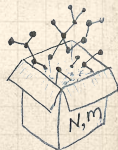
 Plug $F_\rho(1)$ into first equation to obtain $F_\pi(1)$.



Component sizes


Example: Standard random graphs.

 We can show $F_P(x) = e^{-\langle k \rangle(1-x)}$

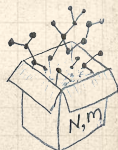


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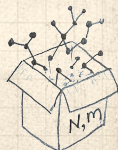
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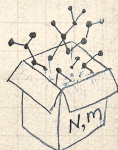


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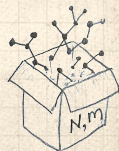


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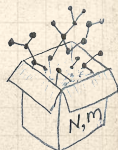
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Component sizes


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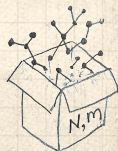
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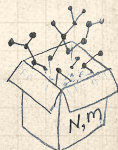
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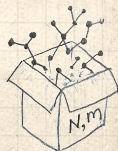
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 $\pi_n = \rho_n$ just as $P_k = R_k$.

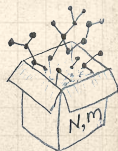


Component sizes



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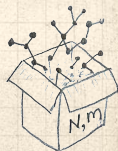


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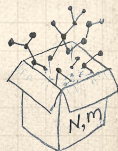
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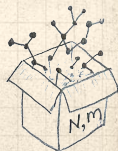
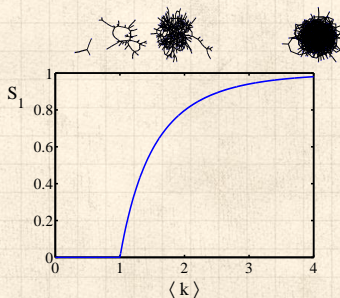
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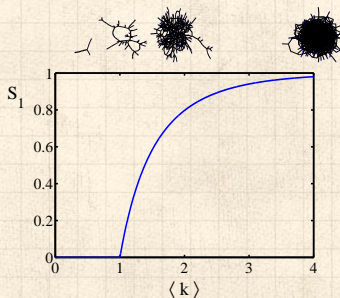
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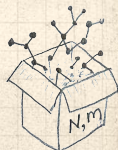
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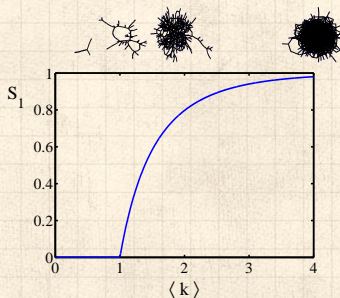
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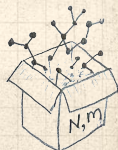
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Again, we (usually) have to resort to numerics ...



Outline

Generating Functions

Definitions

Basic Properties

Giant Component Condition

Component sizes

Useful results

Size of the Giant Component

A few examples

Average Component Size

References

The PoCverse
Generating Functions
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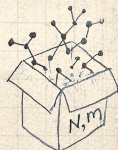
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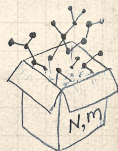
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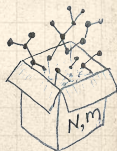
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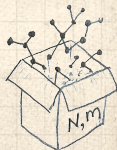
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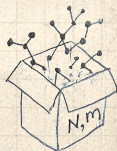


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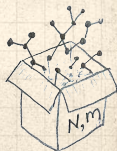
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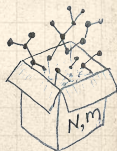
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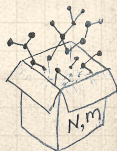
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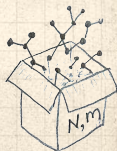
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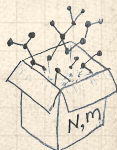
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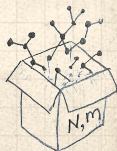
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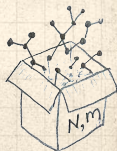
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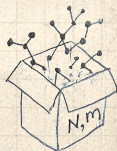


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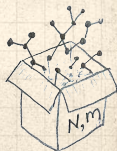
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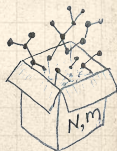
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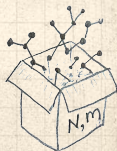
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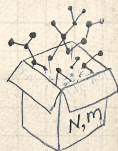
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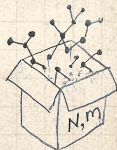
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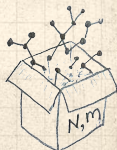
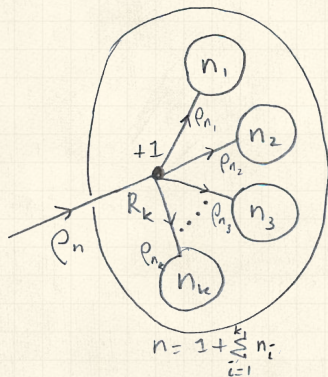
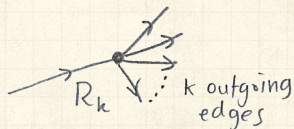
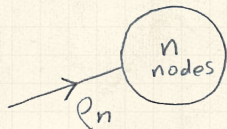
 Things to figure out: Component size generating functions for π_n and ρ_n , and the size of the giant component.



Find $F_\rho(x)$ first:

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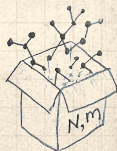
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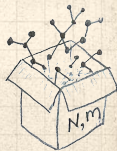
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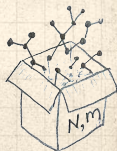
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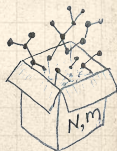
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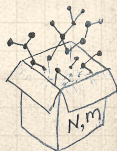
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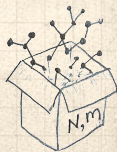
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 First: which sign do we take?





Because ρ_n is a probability distribution, we know $F_\rho(1) \leq 1$ and $F_\rho(x) \leq 1$ for $0 \leq x \leq 1$.

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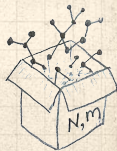
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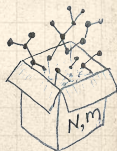



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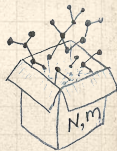
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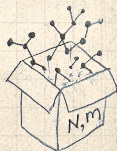
we see that the positive sign solution blows to smithereens, and the negative one is okay.

 So we must have:

$$F_\rho(x) = \frac{2}{3x} \left(1 - \sqrt{1 - \frac{3}{4}x^2} \right),$$

 We can now deploy the Taylor expansion:

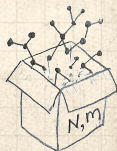
$$(1+z)^\theta = \binom{\theta}{0} z^0 + \binom{\theta}{1} z^1 + \binom{\theta}{2} z^2 + \binom{\theta}{3} z^3 + \dots$$





Let's define a binomial for arbitrary θ and $k = 0, 1, 2, \dots$:

$$\binom{\theta}{k} = \frac{\Gamma(\theta + 1)}{\Gamma(k + 1)\Gamma(\theta - k + 1)}$$





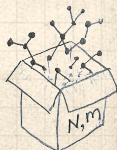
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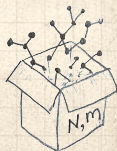
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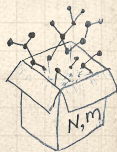
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where we've used $\Gamma(x + 1) = x\Gamma(x)$ and noted that $\Gamma(\frac{1}{2}) = \frac{\sqrt{\pi}}{2}$.





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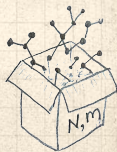
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Note: $(1 + z)^\theta \sim 1 + \theta z$ always.






Totally psyched, we go back to here:


$$F_{\rho}(x) = \frac{2}{3x} \left(1 - \sqrt{1 - \frac{3}{4}x^2} \right).$$

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 Giving:


$$F_\rho(x) = \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} \rho_n x^n = \frac{1}{4}x + \frac{3}{64}x^3 + \frac{9}{512}x^5 + \dots + \frac{2}{3} \left(\frac{3}{4} \right)^k \frac{(-1)^{k+1} \Gamma(\frac{3}{2})}{\Gamma(k+1) \Gamma(\frac{3}{2} - k)} x^{2k-1} + \dots$$

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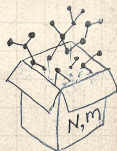
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 Do odd powers make sense?



We can now find $F_\pi(x)$ with:

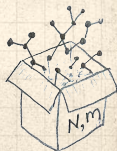
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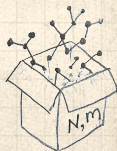


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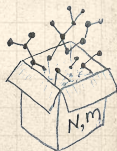
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Delicious.





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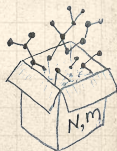
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In principle, we can now extract all the π_n .





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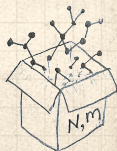
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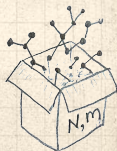
But let's just find the size of the giant component.





First, we need $F_\rho(1)$:

$$F_\rho(x)|_{x=1} = \frac{2}{3 \cdot 1} \left(1 - \sqrt{1 - \frac{3}{4}1^2} \right) = \frac{1}{3}.$$



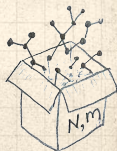



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This is the probability that a random edge leads to a sub-component of finite size.



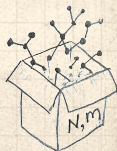
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$$F_\pi(1) = 1 \cdot F_P(F_\rho(1))$$



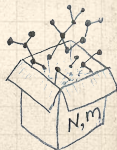
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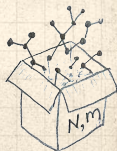
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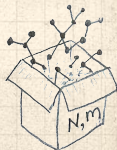
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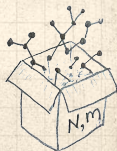
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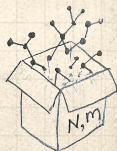
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 Finally, we have

$$S_1 = 1 - F_\pi(1) = 1 - \frac{5}{27} = \frac{22}{27}.$$



Outline

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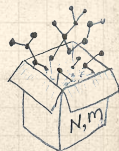
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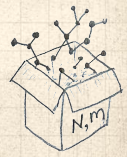
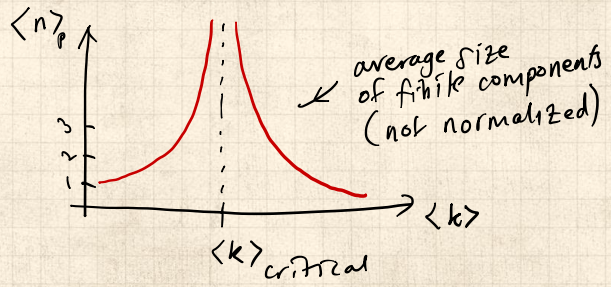
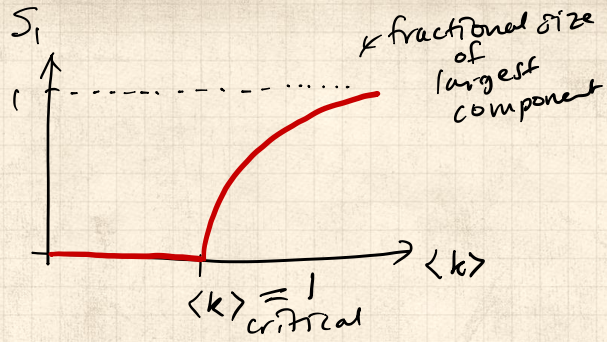
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- Size of the Giant Component
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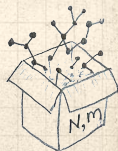
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Average component size



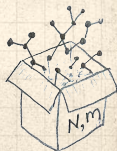
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Average component size

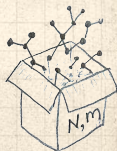
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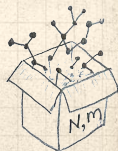
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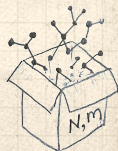
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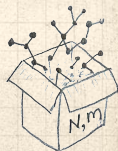
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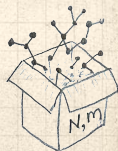
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We solve the second equation for $F'_\rho(1)$ (we must already have $F_\rho(1)$).



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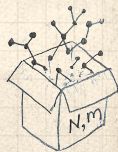
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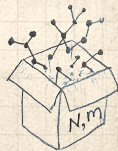
We solve the second equation for $F'_\rho(1)$ (we must already have $F_\rho(1)$).

Plug $F'_\rho(1)$ and $F_\rho(1)$ into first equation to find $F'_\pi(1)$.




Average component size

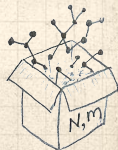
Example: Standard random graphs.



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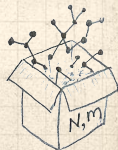
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 Two differentiated equations reduce to only one:


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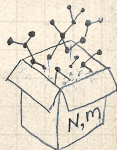
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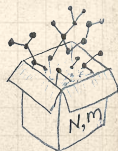
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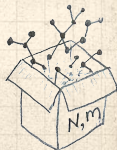
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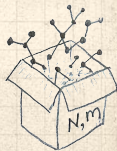
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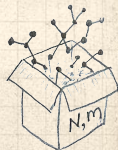
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$$\text{End result: } \langle n \rangle = F'_\pi(1) = \frac{(1 - S_1)}{1 - \langle k \rangle(1 - S_1)}$$

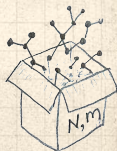


Average component size



Our result for standard random networks:

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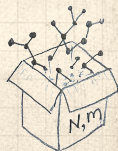


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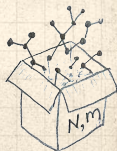
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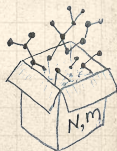
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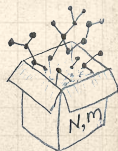
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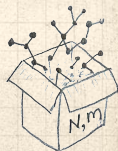
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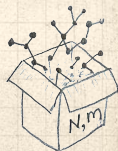
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 Typical critical point behavior ...

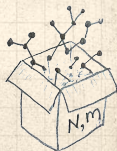


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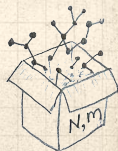


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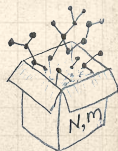
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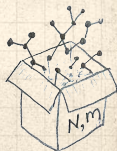
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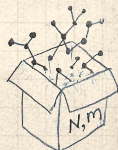
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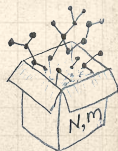
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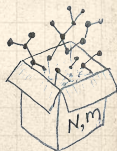
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Let's return to our example: $P_k = \frac{1}{2}\delta_{k1} + \frac{1}{2}\delta_{k3}$.

Generating Functions

Definitions

Basic Properties

Giant Component Condition

Component sizes

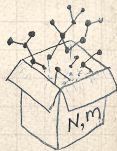
Useful results

Size of the Giant Component

A few examples

Average Component Size

References



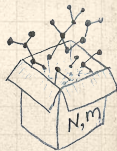


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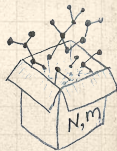



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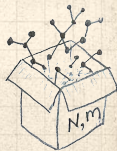
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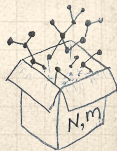
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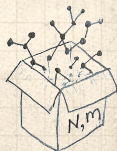
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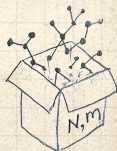
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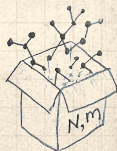
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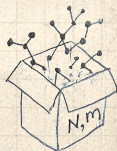


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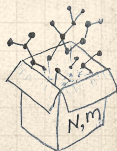
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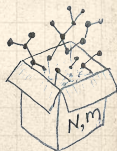
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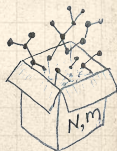
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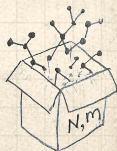
$$\begin{aligned} F'_\rho(1) &= F_R(F_\rho(1)) + F'_\rho(1)F'_R(F_\rho(1)) \\ &= F_R\left(\frac{1}{3}\right) + F'_\rho(1)F'_R\left(\frac{1}{3}\right) \\ &= \frac{1}{4} + \cancel{\frac{1}{4}} \frac{1}{3} + F'_\rho(1) \cancel{\frac{1}{2}} \frac{1}{3}. \end{aligned}$$



After some reallocation of objects, we have $F'_\rho(1) = \frac{13}{2}$.



$$\begin{aligned} \text{Finally: } \langle n \rangle &= F'_\pi(1) = F_P\left(\frac{1}{3}\right) + \frac{13}{2}F'_P\left(\frac{1}{3}\right) \\ &= \frac{1}{2} \frac{1}{3} + \frac{1}{2} \frac{1}{3^3} + \frac{13}{2} \left(\frac{1}{2} + \cancel{\frac{1}{2}} \frac{1}{3} \right) = \frac{5}{27} + \frac{13}{3} = \frac{122}{27}. \end{aligned}$$





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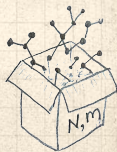
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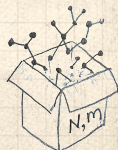



So, kinda small.




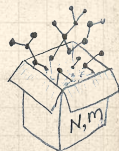



Generating functions allow us to strangely calculate features of random networks.





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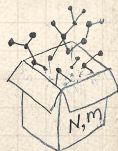
 They're a bit scary and magical.





 Generating functions allow us to strangely calculate features of random networks.


 They're a bit scary and magical.


 Generating functions can be useful for contagion.

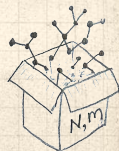


 Generating functions allow us to strangely calculate features of random networks.

 They're a bit scary and magical.

 Generating functions can be useful for contagion.

 But: For the big results, more direct, physics-bearing calculations are possible.



Neural reboot (NR):

Elevation:

The PoCverse
Generating Functions
and Networks

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Generating Functions

Definitions

Basic Properties

Giant Component Condition

Component sizes

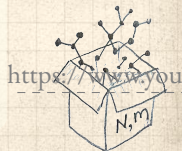
Useful results

Size of the Giant Component

A few examples

Average Component Size

References



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Generating Functions

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