Models of Complex Networks Complex Networks, SFI Summer School, June, 2010

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Department of Mathematics & Statistics Center for Complex Systems Vermont Advanced Computing Center University of Vermont











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Models of Complex Networks

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Frame 2/73

Some important models:

- 1. Generalized random networks
- 2. Scale-free networks (⊞)
- 3. Small-world networks (⊞)
- 4. Statistical generative models (p*)
- 5. Generalized affiliation networks

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- Wire nodes together randomly.
- Create ensemble to test deviations from randomness.
- Interesting, applicable, rich mathematically.
- Much fun to be had with these guys...

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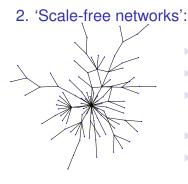
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 $\gamma = 2.5$ $\langle k \rangle = 1.8$ N = 150

- Due to Barabasi and Albert^[2]
- Generative model
- Preferential attachment model with growth
- P[attachment to node i $] \propto k_i^{\alpha}$.
- Produces $P_k \sim k^{-\gamma}$ when $\alpha = 1$.
- Trickiness: other models generate skewed degree distributions...

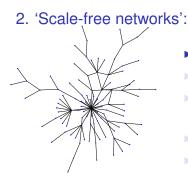
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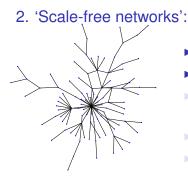
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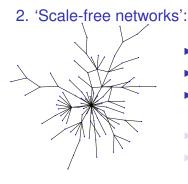
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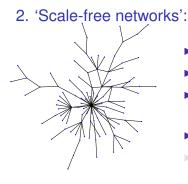
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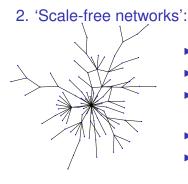
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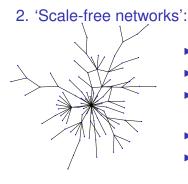
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3. Small-world networks

Due to Watts and Strogatz^[18]

- local regularity (high clustering—an individual's friends know each other)
- global randomness (shortcuts).

Strong effects:

- Shortcuts make world 'small'
- Shortcuts allow disease to jump
- Facilitates synchronization [7]

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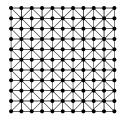
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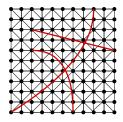
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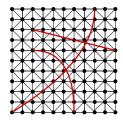
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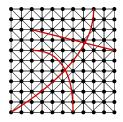
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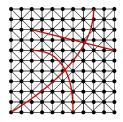
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4. Generative statistical models

- Idea is to realize networks based on certain tendencies:
 - Clustering (triadic closure)..
 - Types of nodes that like each other..
 - Anything really...
- Use statistical methods to estimate 'best' values of parameters.
- Drawback: parameters are not real, measurable quantities.
- Non-mechanistic and blackboxish.
- ► c.f., temperature in statistical mechanics.

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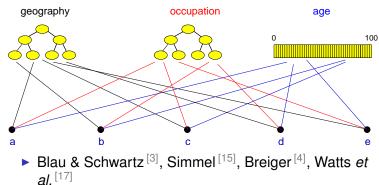
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5. Generalized affiliation networks



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Frame 9/73

Consider set of all networks with N labelled nodes and m edges.

- Horribly, there are $\binom{\binom{N}{2}}{m}$ of them.
- Standard random network = randomly chosen network from this set.
- To be clear: each network is equally probable.
- Known as Erdős-Rényi random networks
- Key structural feature of random networks is that they locally look like branching networks
- No small cycles and zero clustering).

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Next slides: Example realizations of random networks

- ► *N* = 500
- ▶ Vary *m*, the number of edges from 100 to 1000.
- Average degree $\langle k \rangle$ runs from 0.4 to 4.
- Look at full network plus the largest component.

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Random networks: examples for N=500

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Frame 12/73 500









m = 240

 $\langle k \rangle = 0.96$

m = 250 $\langle k \rangle = 1$



m = 100 $\langle k \rangle = 0.4$

m = 260

 $\langle k \rangle = 1.04$



m = 280

m = 200

 $\langle k \rangle = 0.8$



m = 230

 $\langle k \rangle = 0.92$



m = 1000 $\langle k \rangle = 4$

 $\langle k \rangle = 1.12$

m = 300 $\langle k \rangle = 1.2$

m = 500 $\langle k \rangle = 2$

Random networks: largest components



m = 100 $\langle k \rangle = 0.4$



 $\langle k \rangle = 0.8$



m = 260 $\langle k \rangle = 1.04$





m = 300

 $\langle k \rangle = 1.2$



m = 240 $\langle k \rangle = 0.96$

m = 500

 $\langle k \rangle = 2$

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Modeling Complex Networks

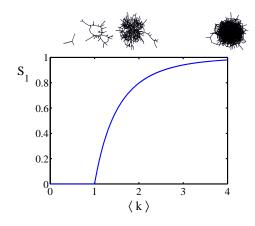
Random networks Basics Configuration model

Scale-free networks History BA model Redner & Krapivisky's model Robustness

Small-world networks

References

Giant component:



- S₁ = fraction of nodes in largest component.
- Old school phase transition.
- Key idea in modeling contagion.

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But:

- Erdős-Rényi random networks are a mathematical construct.
- Real networks are a microscopic subset of all networks...
- ex: 'Scale-free' networks are growing networks that form according to a plausible mechanism.

But but:

 Randomness is out there, just not to the degree of a completely random network. Models of Complex Networks

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- So... standard random networks have a Poisson degree distribution
- Can happily generalize to arbitrary degree distribution P_k.
- ▶ Also known as the configuration model.^[11]
- Can generalize construction method from ER random networks.
- Assign each node a weight w from some distribution and form links with probability

P(link between *i* and *j*) $\propto w_i w_j$.

A more useful way:

- Randomly wire up (and rewire) already existing nodes with fixed degrees.
- Examine mechanisms that lead to networks with certain degree distributions.

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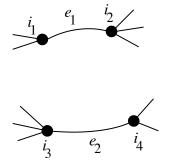
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- Randomly choose two edges. (Or choose problem edge and a random edge)
- Check to make sure edges are disjoint.

- Rewire one end of each edge.
- ▶ Node degrees do not change.
- Works if e₁ is a self-loop or repeated edge.
- Same as finding on/off/on/off 4-cycles. and rotating them.

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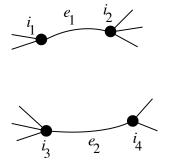
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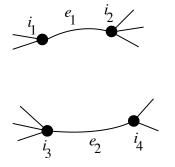
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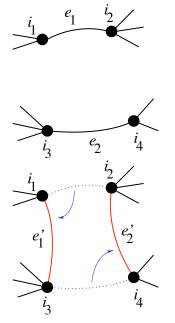
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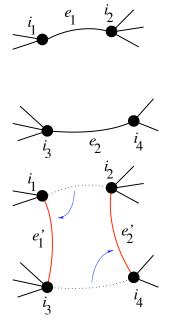
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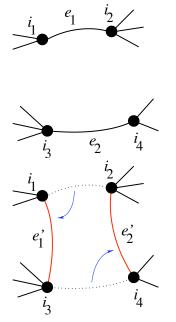
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Next slides:

Example realizations of random networks with power law degree distributions:

- ► *N* = 1000.
- $P_k \propto k^{-\gamma}$ for $k \ge 1$.
- Set $P_0 = 0$ (no isolated nodes).
- Vary exponent γ between 2.10 and 2.91.
- Apart from degree distribution, wiring is random.

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Random networks: largest components











 $\gamma = 2.1$ $\langle k \rangle = 3.448$

 $\gamma = 2.19$ $\langle k \rangle = 2.986$

 $\gamma = 2.28$ $\langle k \rangle = 2.306$



 $\gamma = 2.46$ $\langle k \rangle = 1.856$









 $\begin{array}{lll} \gamma = 2.55 & \gamma = 2.64 & \gamma = 2.73 & \gamma = 2.82 \\ \langle k \rangle = 1.712 & \langle k \rangle = 1.6 & \langle k \rangle = 1.862 & \langle k \rangle = 1.386 \end{array}$

 $\gamma = 2.91$ $\langle k \rangle = 1.49$

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References

- The degree distribution P_k is fundamental for our description of many complex networks
- A related key distribution:

 R_k = probability that a friend of a random node has *k* other friends.

$$R_{k} = \frac{(k+1)P_{k+1}}{\sum_{k'=0}(k'+1)P_{k'+1}} = \frac{(k+1)P_{k+1}}{\langle k \rangle}$$

Natural question: what's the expected number of other friends that one friend has?

Find

$$\langle k \rangle_R = \frac{1}{\langle k \rangle} \left(\langle k^2 \rangle - \langle k \rangle \right)$$

True for all random networks, independent of degree distribution.

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► If:

$$\langle k \rangle_{R} = \frac{1}{\langle k \rangle} \left(\langle k^{2} \rangle - \langle k \rangle \right) > 1$$

then our random network has a giant component.

 Exponential explosion in number of nodes as we move out from a random node.

Number of nodes expected at n steps:

$$\langle k \rangle \cdot \langle k \rangle_R^{n-1} = \frac{1}{\langle k \rangle^{n-2}} \left(\langle k^2 \rangle - \langle k \rangle \right)^{n-1}$$

We'll see this again for contagion models...

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Average # friends of friends per node is

$$\langle k_2 \rangle = \langle k^2 \rangle - \langle k \rangle$$

- Average depends on the 1st and 2nd moments of P_k and not just the 1st moment.
- Three peculiarities:
 - 1. We might guess $\langle k_2 \rangle = \langle k \rangle (\langle k \rangle 1)$ but it's actually $\langle k(k-1) \rangle$.
 - If P_k has a large second moment, then (k₂) will be big.
 - 3. Your friends have more friends than you...

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 - 1. We might guess $\langle k_2 \rangle = \langle k \rangle (\langle k \rangle 1)$ but it's actually $\langle k(k-1) \rangle$.
 - 2. If P_k has a large second moment, then $\langle k_2 \rangle$ will be big.
 - 3. Your friends have more friends than you...

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Average # friends of friends per node is

$$\langle \mathbf{k}_2 \rangle = \langle \mathbf{k}^2 \rangle - \langle \mathbf{k} \rangle.$$

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The sizes of many systems' elements appear to obey an inverse power-law size distribution:

$$P({
m size}=x)\sim c\,x^{-\gamma}$$

where $x_{\min} < x < x_{\max}$ and $\gamma > 1$.

- \triangleright x can be continuous or discrete.
- Typically, $2 < \gamma < 3$.
- ▶ No dominant internal scale between x_{\min} and x_{\max} .
- ▶ If γ < 3, variance and higher moments are 'infinite'
- If γ < 2, mean and higher moments are 'infinite'
- Negative linear relationship in log-log space:

 $\log P(x) = \log c - \gamma \log x$

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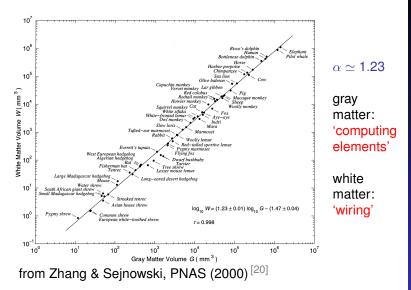
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A beautiful, heart-warming example:



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Frame 25/73 日 のへで Power law size distributions are sometimes called <u>Pareto distributions</u> (\boxplus) after Italian scholar Vilfredo Pareto.

- Pareto noted wealth in Italy was distributed unevenly (80–20 rule).
- Term used especially by economists

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Examples:

- Earthquake magnitude (Gutenberg Richter law): $P(M) \propto M^{-3}$
- Number of war deaths: $P(d) \propto d^{-1.8 [14]}$
- Sizes of forest fires
- Sizes of cities: $P(n) \propto n^{-2.1}$
- Number of links to and from websites

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Examples:

- Number of citations to papers: $P(k) \propto k^{-3}$.
- ▶ Individual wealth (maybe): $P(W) \propto W^{-2}$.
- ▶ Distributions of tree trunk diameters: $P(d) \propto d^{-2}$.
- ► The gravitational force at a random point in the universe: P(F) ∝ F^{-5/2}.
- Diameter of moon craters: $P(d) \propto d^{-3}$.
- Word frequency: e.g., $P(k) \propto k^{-2.2}$ (variable)

Note: Exponents range in error; see M.E.J. Newman arxiv.org/cond-mat/0412004v3 (⊞) Models of Complex Networks

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History

Random Additive/Copying Processes involving Competition.

- Widespread: Words, Cities, the Web, Wealth, Productivity (Lotka), Popularity (Books, People, .
- Competing mechanisms (more trickiness)

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1924: G. Udny Yule^[19]: # Species per Genus

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References

Random Competitive Replication (RCR):

- 1. Start with 1 element of a particular flavor at t = 1
- At time t = 2, 3, 4, ..., add a new element in one of two ways:
 - With probability ρ, create a new element with a new flavor
 - With probability 1 ρ, randomly choose from all existing elements, and make a copy.
 - Elements of the same flavor form a group

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Mutation/Innovation

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Example: Words in a text

- Consider words as they appear sequentially.
- With probability ρ, the next word has not previously appeared

With probability 1 – ρ, randomly choose one word from all words that have come before, and reuse this word

Please note: authors do not do this...

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Example: Words in a text

- Consider words as they appear sequentially.
- With probability ρ, the next word has not previously appeared
 - Mutation/Innovation
- With probability 1 ρ, randomly choose one word from all words that have come before, and reuse this word

Replication/Imitation

Please note: authors do not do this...

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Competition for replication between elements is random

- Competition for growth between groups is not random
- Selection on groups is biased by size
- Rich-gets-richer story
- Random selection is easy
- No great knowledge of system needed

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After some thrashing around, one finds:

$$P_k \propto k^{-rac{(2-
ho)}{(1-
ho)}} = k^{-\gamma}$$

See γ is governed by rate of new flavor creation, ρ .

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- Yule's paper (1924)^[19]:
 "A mathematical theory of evolution, based on the conclusions of Dr J. C. Willis, F.R.S."
- Simon's paper (1955)^[16]:
 "On a class of skew distribution functions" (snore
- Price's term: Cumulative Advantage

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Robert K. Merton: the Matthew Effect

 Studied careers of scientists and found credit flowed disproportionately to the already famous Models of Complex Networks

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Merton was a catchphrase machine:

- 1. self-fulfilling prophecy
- 2. role model
- 3. unintended (or unanticipated) consequences
- 4. focused interview \rightarrow focus group

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And just to rub it in...

Merton's son, Robert C. Merton, won the Nobel Prize for Economics in 1997.

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References

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- Independent reinvention of a version of Simon and Price's theory for networks
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- ► Basic idea: a new node arrives every discrete time step and connects to an existing node *i* with probability ∝ k_i.
- Connection:

Groups of a single flavor \sim edges of a node

- Small hitch: selection mechanism is now non-random
- Solution: Connect to a random node (easy)
- + Randomly connect to the node's friends (also easy)
- Scale-free networks = food on the table for physicists

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Scale-free networks

- Networks with power-law degree distributions have become known as scale-free networks.
- Scale-free refers specifically to the degree distribution having a power-law decay in its tail:

 $P_k \sim k^{-\gamma}$ for 'large' k

Please note: not every network is a scale-free network... Models of Complex Networks

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Term 'scale-free' is somewhat confusing...

- Scale-free networks are not fractal in any sense.
- Usually talking about networks whose links are abstract, relational, informational, ... (non-physical)
- Main reason is link cost.
- Primary example: hyperlink network of the Web
- Much arguing about whether or networks are 'scale-free' or not...

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The big deal:

 We move beyond describing networks to finding mechanisms for why certain networks arise.

A big deal for scale-free networks:

- How does the exponent γ depend on the mechanism?
- Do the mechanism's details matter?
- We know they do for Simon's model...

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Real data (eek!)

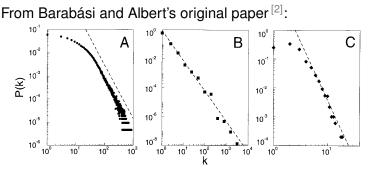


Fig. 1. The distribution function of connectivities for various large networks. (A) Actor collaboration graph with N = 212,250 vertices and average connectivity $\langle k \rangle = 28.78$. (B) WWW, N = 325,729, $\langle k \rangle = 5.46$ (G). (C) Power grid data, N = 4941, $\langle k \rangle = 2.67$. The dashed lines have slopes (A) $\gamma_{actor} = 2.3$, (B) $\gamma_{www} = 2.1$ and (C) $\gamma_{power} = 4$.

• But typically for real networks: $2 < \gamma < 3$.

(Plot C is on the bogus side of things...)

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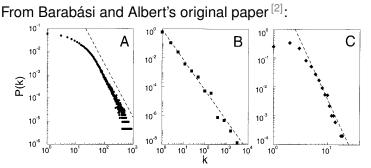


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Fooling with the mechanism:

2001: Redner & Krapivsky (RK)^[8] explored the general attachment kernel:

Pr(attach to node *i*) $\propto A_k = k_i^{\nu}$

where A_k is the attachment kernel and $\nu > 0$.

- RK also looked at changing very subtle details of the attachment kernel.
- e.g., keep $A_k \sim k$ for large k but tweak A_k for low k.
- ▶ RK's approach is to use rate equations (\boxplus) .

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where A_k is the attachment kernel and $\nu > 0$.

- RK also looked at changing very subtle details of the attachment kernel.
- e.g., keep $A_k \sim k$ for large k but tweak A_k for low k.
- RK's approach is to use rate equations (\boxplus) .

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Fooling with the mechanism:

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• Consider $A_1 = \alpha$ and $A_k = k$ for $k \ge 2$.

Some unsettling calculations leads to $P_k \sim k^{-\gamma}$ where

$$\gamma = 1 + \frac{1 + \sqrt{1 + 8\alpha}}{2}$$

We then have

 $\mathbf{0} \leq \alpha < \infty \Rightarrow \mathbf{2} \leq \gamma < \infty$

Craziness...

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Rich-get-somewhat-richer:

 $A_k \sim k^{\nu}$ with $0 < \nu < 1$.

General finding by Krapivsky and Redner:^[8]

 ${m P}_k \sim k^{u} e^{-c_1 k^{1u} + {
m correction \ terms}}$

Weibull distribution*ish* (truncated power laws).
 Universality: now details of kernel do not matter.

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Rich-get-much-richer:

 $A_k \sim k^{\nu}$ with $\nu > 1$.

- Now a winner-take-all mechanism.
- One single node ends up being connected to almost all other nodes.
- For v > 2, all but a finite # of nodes connect to one node.

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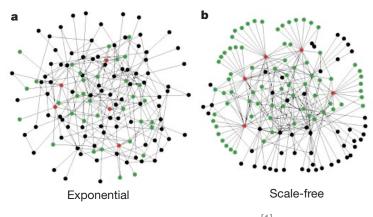
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 Standard random networks (Erdős-Rényi) versus
 Scale-free networks



from Albert et al., 2000 "Error and attack tolerance of complex networks" [1]

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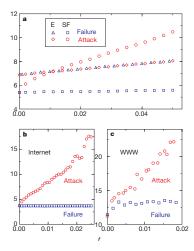
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from Albert et al., 2000

- Plots of network diameter as a function of fraction of nodes removed
- Erdős-Rényi versus scale-free networks
- blue symbols = random removal
- red symbols = targeted removal (most connected first)

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Robustness

- Scale-free networks are thus robust to random failures yet fragile to targeted ones.
- All very reasonable: Hubs are a big deal.
- But: next issue is whether hubs are vulnerable or not
- Representing all webpages as the same size node is obviously a stretch (e.g., google vs. a random person's webpage)
- Most connected nodes are either:
 - 1. Physically larger nodes that may be harder to 'target'
 - or subnetworks of smaller, normal-sized nodes.
- ▶ Need to explore cost of various targeting schemes.

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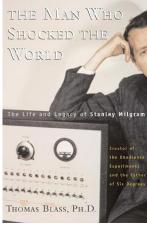
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Milgram's social search experiment (1960s)



http://www.stanleymilgram.com

- Target person = Boston stockbroker.
- 296 senders from Boston and Omaha.
- 20% of senders reached target.
- chain length \simeq 6.5.

Popular terms:

- The Small World
 Phenomenon;
 Six Degrees of Separate
 - "Six Degrees of Separation."

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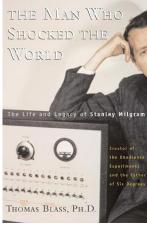
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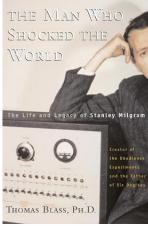
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Milgram's experiment with e-mail^[5]



Participants:

- 60,000+ people in 166 countries
- 24,000+ chains
- Big media boost...

18 targets in 13 countries including

- a professor at an Ivy League university,
- an archival inspector in Estonia,
- a technology consultant in India,
- a policeman in Australia,

- a potter in New Zealand,
- a veterinarian in the Norwegian army.

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Small-world networks

Social search—the Columbia experiment

The world is smaller:

- $\langle L \rangle = 4.05$ for all completed chains
- L_{*} = Estimated 'true' median chain length (zero attrition)
- Intra-country chains: $L_* = 5$
- Inter-country chains: L_{*} = 7
- All chains: $L_* = 7$

• c.f. Milgram (zero attrition): $L_* \simeq 9$

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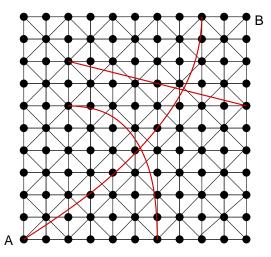
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Randomness + regularity



 $d_{AB} = 10$ without random paths $d_{AB} = 3$ with random paths

 $\langle d \rangle$ decreases overall

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Theory of Small-World networks

Introduced by Watts and Strogatz (Nature, 1998)^[18] "Collective dynamics of 'small-world' networks."

Small-world networks are found everywhere:

- neural network of C. elegans,
- semantic networks of languages,
- actor collaboration graph,
- food webs,
- social networks of comic book characters,...

Very weak requirements:

local regularity + random short cuts

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But are these short cuts findable?

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But are these short cuts findable?

No!

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But are these short cuts findable?

No!

Nodes cannot find each other quickly with any local search method.

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But are these short cuts findable?

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- Jon Kleinberg (Nature, 2000)^[6]
 "Navigation in a small world."
- Only certain networks are navigable
- So what's special about social networks?

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One approach: incorporate identity. (See "Identity and Search in Social Networks." Science, 2002, Watts, Dodds, and Newman^[17])

Identity is formed from attributes such as:

- Geographic location
- Type of employment
- Religious beliefs
- Recreational activities.

Groups are formed by people with at least one similar attribute.

Attributes \Leftrightarrow Contexts \Leftrightarrow Interactions \Leftrightarrow Networks.

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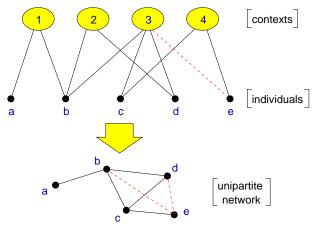
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Social distance—Bipartite affiliation networks



Bipartite affiliation networks: boards and directors, movies and actors.

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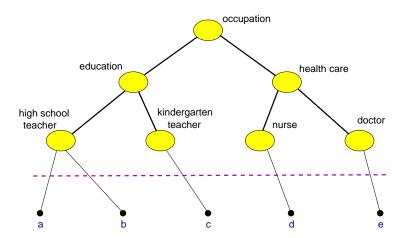
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Social distance as a function of identity



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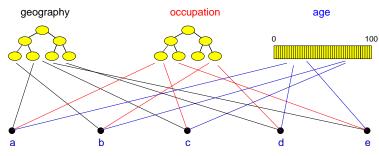
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Homophily



(Blau & Schwartz, Simmel, Breiger)

- Networks built with 'birds of a feather...' are searchable.
- ► Attributes ⇔ Contexts ⇔ Interactions ⇔ Networks.

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Social Search—Real world uses

- Tagging: e.g., Flickr induces a network between photos
- Search in organizations for solutions to problems
- Peer-to-peer networks
- Synchronization in networked systems
- Motivation for search matters...

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