

# Applications of Random Networks

Complex Networks  
CSYS/MATH 303, Spring, 2011

Analysis of real  
networks

How to build revisited

Motifs

References

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Department of Mathematics & Statistics  
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Vermont Advanced Computing Center  
University of Vermont



# Outline

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# More on building random networks

- ▶ **Problem:** How much of a real network's structure is non-random?
- ▶ Key elephant in the room: the degree distribution  $P_k$ .
- ▶ First observe departure of  $P_k$  from a Poisson distribution.
- ▶ Next: measure the departure of a real network with a degree frequency  $N_k$  from a random network with the same degree frequency.
- ▶ Degree frequency  $N_k$  = observed frequency of degrees for a real network.
- ▶ What we now need to do: Create an ensemble of random networks with degree frequency  $N_k$  and then compare.



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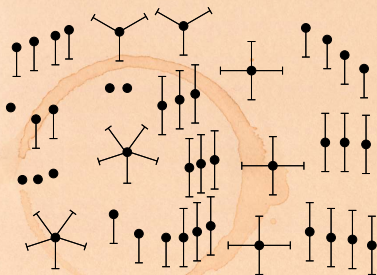
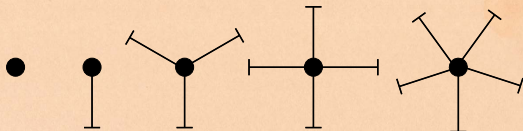
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# Building random networks: Stubs

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- ▶ **Idea:** start with a soup of unconnected nodes with stubs (half-edges):



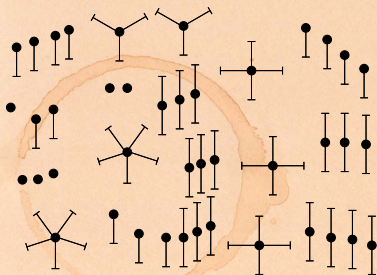
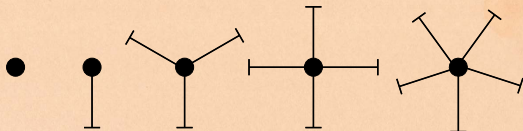
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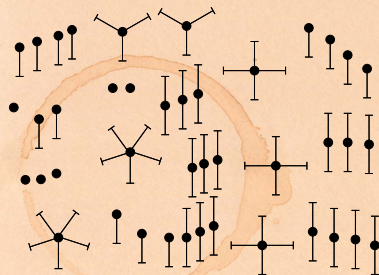
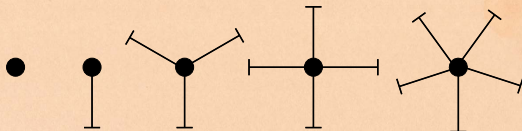
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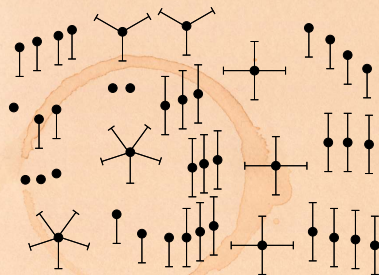
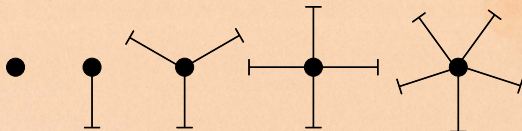
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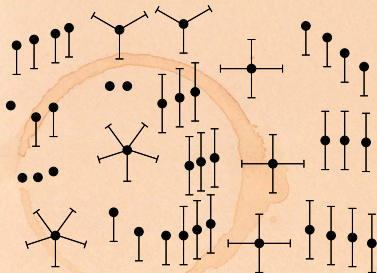
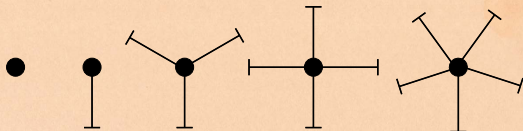
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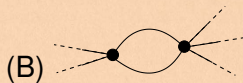
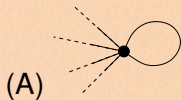
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# Building random networks: First rewiring

## Phase 2:

- ▶ Now find any (A) self-loops and (B) repeat edges and **randomly rewire** them.



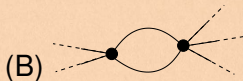
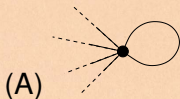
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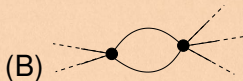
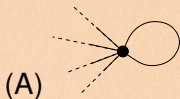




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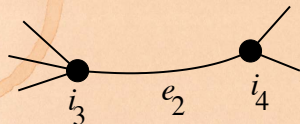
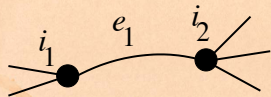
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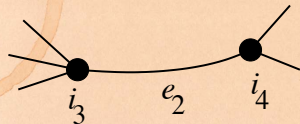
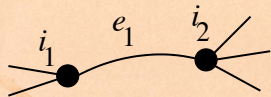
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- ▶ Randomly choose **two edges**.  
(Or choose problem edge and a random edge)
- ▶ Check to make sure edges are disjoint.
- ▶ Rewire one end of each edge.
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- ▶ Same as finding on/off/on/off 4-cycles. and rotating them.



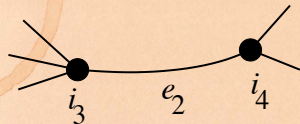
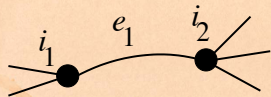
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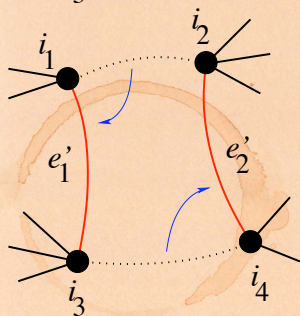
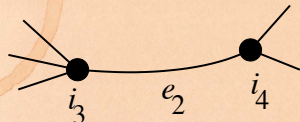
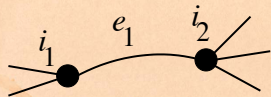
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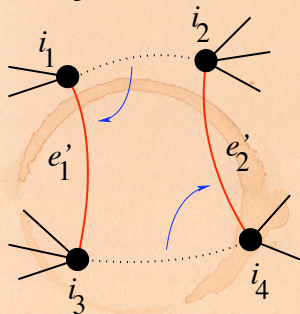
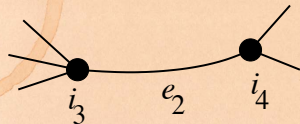
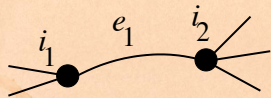
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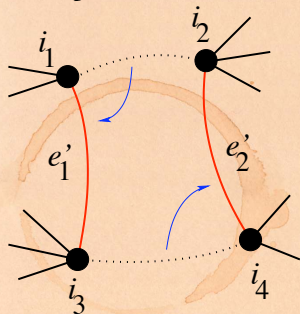
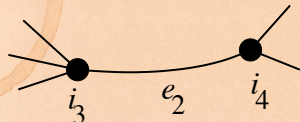
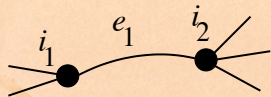
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## Phase 2:

- ▶ Use rewiring algorithm to remove all self and repeat loops.

## Phase 3:

- ▶ Randomize network wiring by applying rewiring algorithm liberally.
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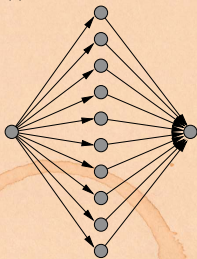
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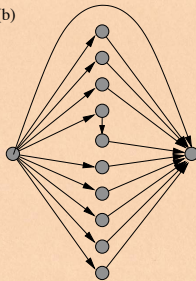
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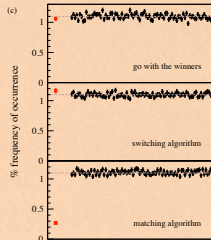


1 configuration

(b)



90 configurations



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- ▶ Looked at gene expression within full context of transcriptional regulation networks.
- ▶ Specific example of Escherichia coli.
- ▶ Directed network with 577 interactions (edges) and 424 operons (nodes).
- ▶ Used network randomization to produce ensemble of alternate networks with same degree frequency  $N_k$ .
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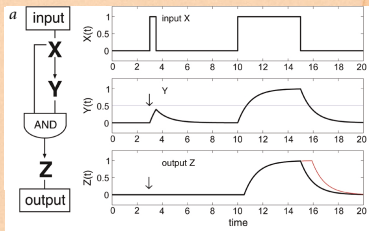
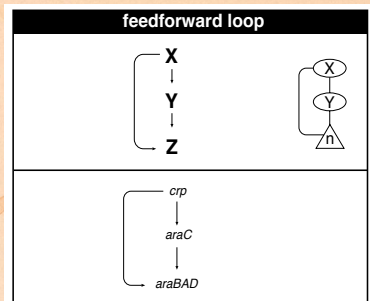


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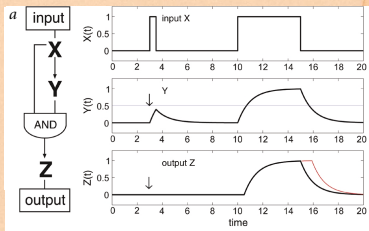
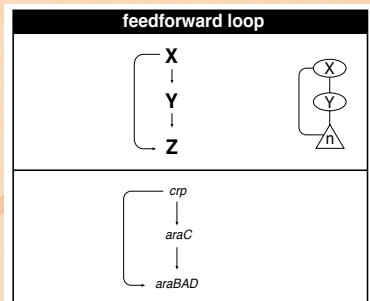


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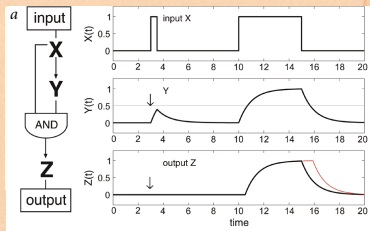
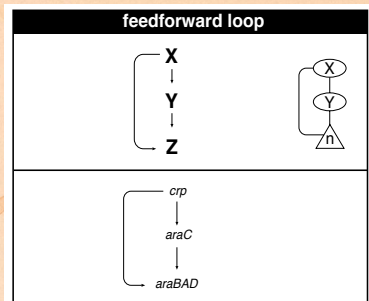
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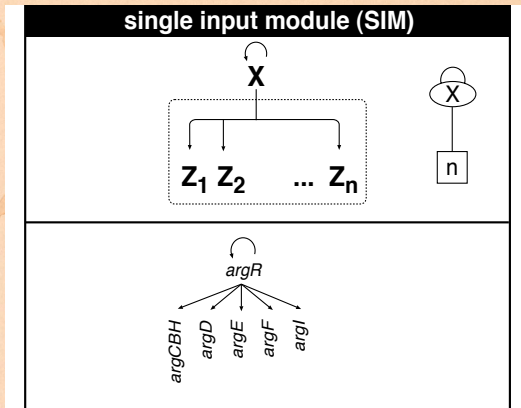
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- ▶ Analogy to elevator doors.

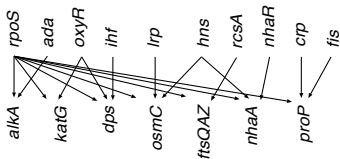
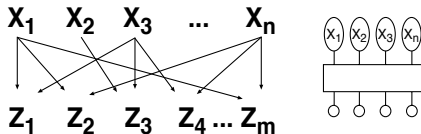
# Network motifs



- ▶ Master switch.

# Network motifs

## dense overlapping regulons (DOR)



# Network motifs

- ▶ Note: selection of motifs to test is reasonable but nevertheless ad-hoc.
- ▶ For more, see work carried out by Wiggins et al. at Columbia.



# Network motifs

- ▶ Note: selection of motifs to test is reasonable but nevertheless ad-hoc.
- ▶ For more, see work carried out by Wiggins et al. at Columbia.



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