

# Properties of Complex Networks

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Principles of Complex Systems, Vol. 1 | @pocsvox  
CSYS/MATH 300, Fall, 2020

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Computational Story Lab | Vermont Complex Systems Center  
Vermont Advanced Computing Core | University of Vermont



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Assortativity  
Clustering  
Motifs  
Concurrency  
Branching ratios  
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Nutshell

References



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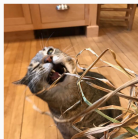
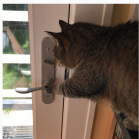
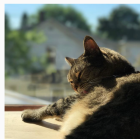
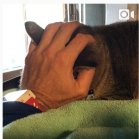
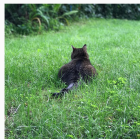
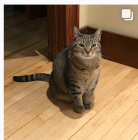
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 On Instagram at [pratchett\\_the\\_cat](https://www.instagram.com/pratchett_the_cat) 



# Outline

## Properties of Complex Networks

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# A notable feature of large-scale networks:

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## A notable feature of large-scale networks:

 Graphical renderings are often just a big mess.

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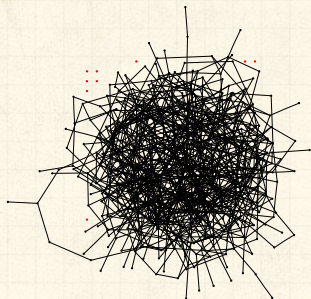
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## A notable feature of large-scale networks:

 Graphical renderings are often just a big mess.



⇐ Typical hairball

-  number of nodes  $N = 500$
-  number of edges  $m = 1000$
-  average degree  $\langle k \rangle = 4$

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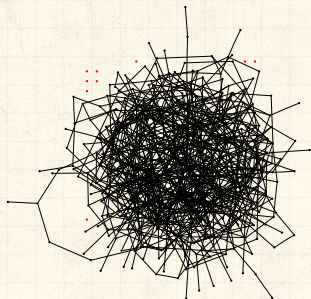
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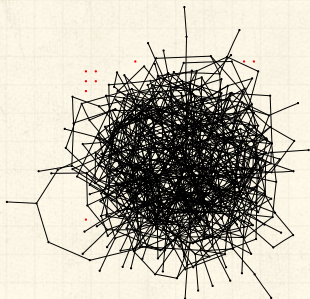
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said Ponder [Stibbons] —*Making Money*, T. Pratchett.

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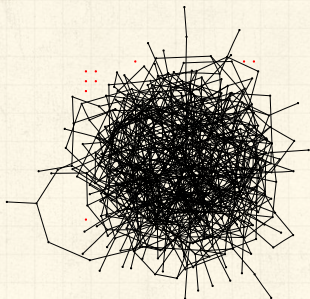
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 We need to extract **digestible, meaningful aspects**.

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## Some key aspects of real complex networks:

- degree distribution\*
- assortativity
- homophily
- clustering
- motifs
- modularity
- concurrency
- hierarchical scaling
- network distances
- centrality
- efficiency
- interconnectedness
- robustness

Plus coevolution of network structure and processes on networks.

- \* Degree distribution is the elephant in the room that we are now all very aware of...

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## 1. degree distribution $P_k$

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 **ex 1:** Erdős-Rényi random networks have Poisson degree distributions:


Insert question from assignment 7 


$$P_k = e^{-\langle k \rangle} \frac{\langle k \rangle^k}{k!}$$





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 hubs may facilitate or impede contagion.



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Note:



Erdős-Rényi random networks are a *mathematical construct*.



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 'Scale-free' networks are **growing networks** that form according to a **plausible mechanism**.





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



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## 2. Assortativity/3. Homophily:

 Social networks: Homophily  = birds of a feather

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*Often **techological** or **biological**: Internet, WWW,  
protein interactions, neural networks, food webs.*



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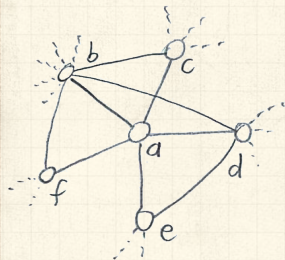
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# Local socialness:

## 4. Clustering:

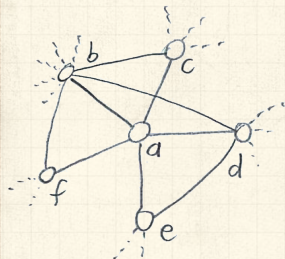


# Local socialness:

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Your friends tend to know each other.



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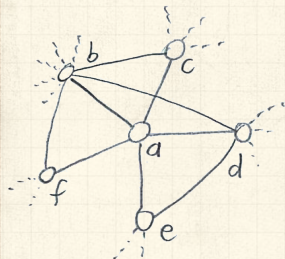
Two measures (explained on following slides):

1. Watts & Strogatz [8]

$$C_1 = \left\langle \frac{\sum_{j_1 j_2 \in \mathcal{N}_i} a_{j_1 j_2}}{k_i(k_i - 1)/2} \right\rangle_i$$

2. Newman [6]

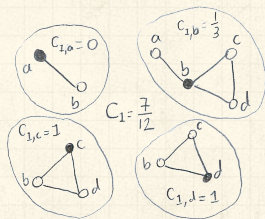
$$C_2 = \frac{3 \times \# \text{triangles}}{\# \text{triples}}$$



Example network:



Calculation of  $C_1$ :



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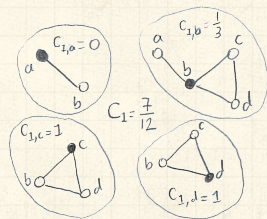


$C_1$  is the average fraction of pairs of neighbors who are connected.

Example network:



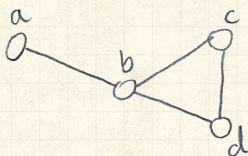
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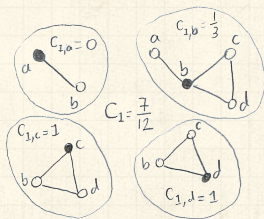


  $C_1$  is the **average fraction of pairs of neighbors who are connected**.

 Fraction of pairs of neighbors who are connected is

$$\frac{\sum_{j_1 j_2 \in \mathcal{N}_i} a_{j_1 j_2}}{k_i(k_i - 1)/2}$$

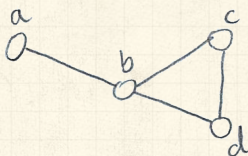
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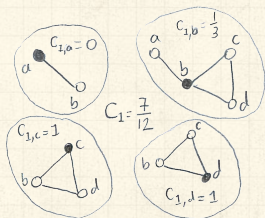
where  $k_i$  is node  $i$ 's degree, and  $\mathcal{N}_i$  is the set of  $i$ 's neighbors.





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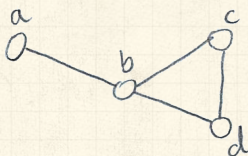
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 Averaging over all nodes, we have:

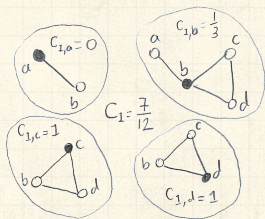
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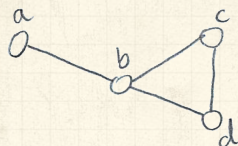
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# Triples and triangles

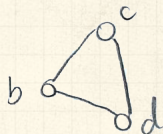
Example network:



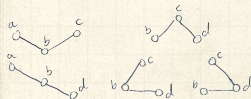
Nodes  $i_1$ ,  $i_2$ , and  $i_3$  form a **triple** around  $i_1$  if  $i_1$  is connected to  $i_2$  and  $i_3$ .



Triangles:

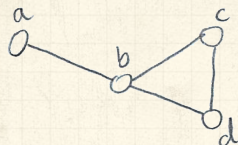


Triples:



# Triples and triangles

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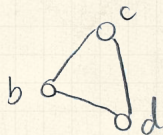


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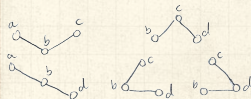


Nodes  $i_1$ ,  $i_2$ , and  $i_3$  form a **triangle** if each pair of nodes is connected

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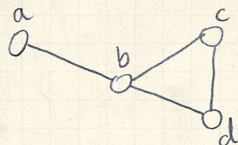


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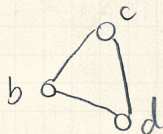


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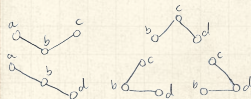


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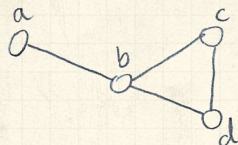
The definition  $C_2 = \frac{3 \times \# \text{triangles}}{\# \text{triples}}$  measures the fraction of **closed triples**

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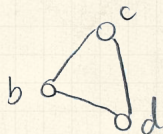



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Triangles:



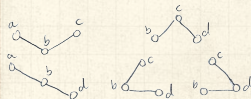
 Nodes  $i_1$ ,  $i_2$ , and  $i_3$  form a **triple** around  $i_1$  if  $i_1$  is connected to  $i_2$  and  $i_3$ .

 Nodes  $i_1$ ,  $i_2$ , and  $i_3$  form a **triangle** if each pair of nodes is connected

 The definition  $C_2 = \frac{3 \times \# \text{triangles}}{\# \text{triples}}$  measures the fraction of **closed triples**

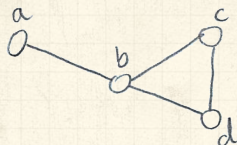
 The **'3'** appears because for each triangle, we have 3 closed triples.

Triples:

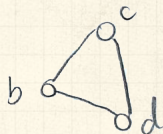


# Triples and triangles

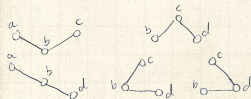
Example network:



Triangles:



Triples:



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Social Network Analysis (SNA): fraction of **transitive triples**.





# Clustering:

Sneaky counting for undirected, unweighted networks:

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# Clustering:


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- ⊞ In general, a path of  $n$  edges between nodes  $i_1$  and  $i_n$  travelling through nodes  $i_2, i_3, \dots, i_{n-1}$  exists  $\iff a_{i_1 i_2} a_{i_2 i_3} a_{i_3 i_4} \cdots a_{i_{n-2} i_{n-1}} a_{i_{n-1} i_n} = 1$ .



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$$\# \text{triples} = \frac{1}{2} \left( \sum_{i=1}^N \sum_{\ell=1}^N [A^2]_{i\ell} - \text{Tr} A^2 \right)$$



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For sparse networks,  $C_1$  tends to discount highly connected nodes.

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# Properties

 For sparse networks,  $C_1$  tends to discount highly connected nodes.

  $C_2$  is a useful and often preferred variant

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- $C_1$  is a global average of a local ratio.
- $C_2$  is a ratio of two global quantities.



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## 5. motifs:

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## 5. motifs:

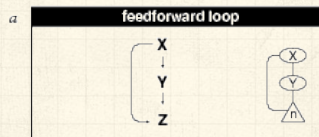
 small, recurring functional subnetworks



## 5. motifs:

 small, recurring functional subnetworks

 e.g., Feed Forward Loop:



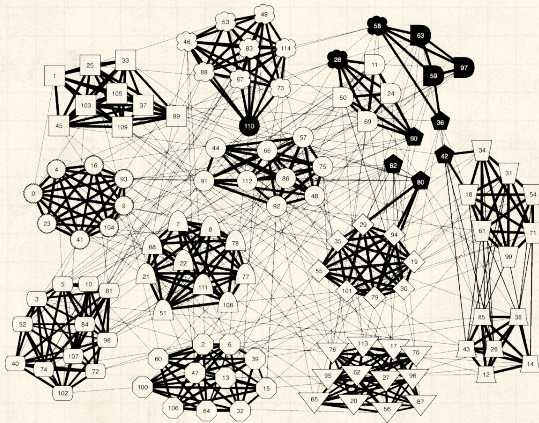
Shen-Orr, Uri Alon, *et al.* [7]





# Properties

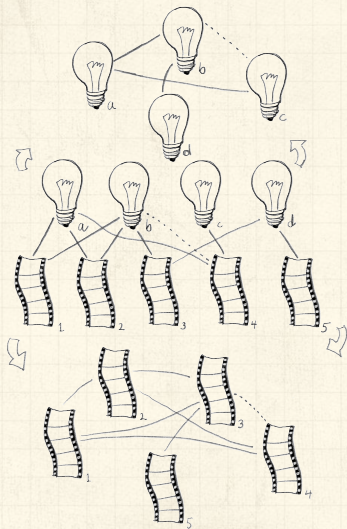
## 6. modularity and structure/community detection:



Clauet *et al.*, 2006 <sup>[2]</sup>: NCAA football



## Bipartite/multipartite affiliation structures:



Many real-world networks have an underlying multi-partite structure.



Stories-tropes.



Boards and directors.



Films-actors-directors.



Classes-teachers-students.



Upstairs-downstairs.



Unipartite networks may be induced or co-exist.



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## 7. concurrency:

- transmission of a contagious element only occurs during contact

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## 7. concurrency:

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- knowledge of previous contacts crucial
- beware cumulated network data
- Kretzschmar and Morris, 1996 <sup>[4]</sup>
- “Temporal networks” become a concrete area of study for Piranha Physicus in 2013.



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## 8. Horton-Strahler ratios:

 Metrics for branching networks:



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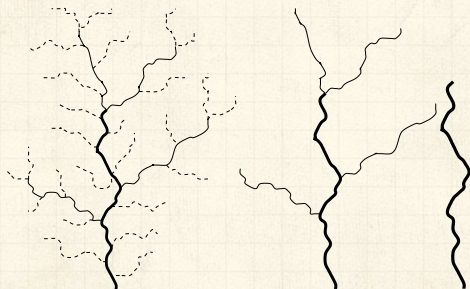
## 8. Horton-Strahler ratios:



Metrics for branching networks:



Method for ordering streams hierarchically



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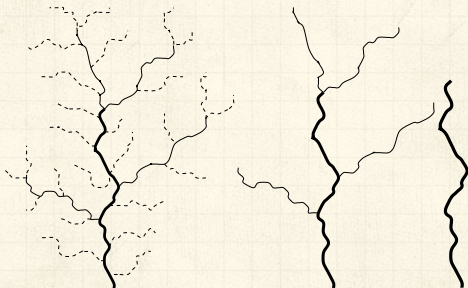
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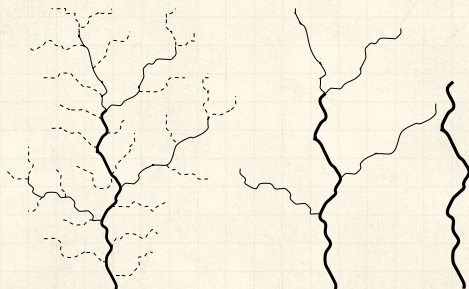


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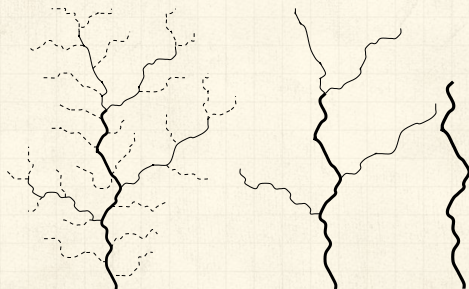
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Area/Volume:  $R_a = \langle a_{\omega+1} \rangle / \langle a_\omega \rangle$





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## 9. network distances:

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 Good algorithms exist for calculation.








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**network diameter  $d_{\max}$ :**

Maximum shortest path length between any two nodes.



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$d_{cl} = \infty$  only when all nodes are isolated.



Closeness perhaps compresses too much into one number



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## 10. centrality:

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 **ex 4:** Recursive centrality: Hubs and Authorities  
(Jon Kleinberg <sup>[3]</sup>)



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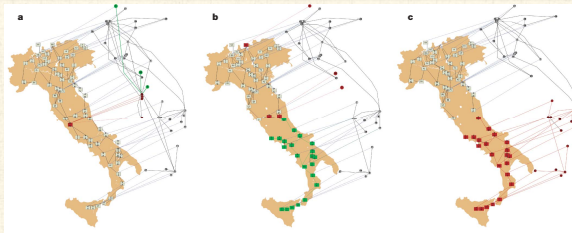
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## Interconnected networks and robustness (two for one deal):

“Catastrophic cascade of failures in interdependent networks” [1]. Buldyrev et al., Nature 2010.




**Figure 1 | Modelling a blackout in Italy.** Illustration of an iterative process of a cascade of failures using real-world data from a power network (located on the map of Italy) and an Internet network (shifted above the map) that were implicated in an electrical blackout that occurred in Italy in September 2003<sup>39</sup>. The networks are drawn using the real geographical locations and every Internet server is connected to the geographically nearest power station. **a.** One power station is removed (red node on map) from the power network and as a result the Internet nodes depending on it are removed from the Internet network (red nodes above the map). The nodes that will be disconnected from the giant cluster (a cluster that spans the entire network)

at the next step are marked in green. **b.** Additional nodes that were disconnected from the Internet communication network giant component are removed (red nodes above map). As a result the power stations depending on them are removed from the power network (red nodes on map). Again, the nodes that will be disconnected from the giant cluster at the next step are marked in green. **c.** Additional nodes that were disconnected from the giant component of the power network are removed (red nodes on map) as well as the nodes in the Internet network that depend on them (red nodes above map).



## Overview Key Points:

-  The field of complex networks came into existence in the late 1990s.

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-  Specific focus on networks that are **large-scale**, **sparse**, **natural** or **man-made**, **evolving** and **dynamic**, and (crucially) **measurable**.

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-  Three main (blurred) categories:
  1. **Physical** (e.g., river networks),
  2. **Interactional** (e.g., social networks),
  3. **Abstract** (e.g., thesauri).

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# Neural reboot (NR):

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