

Validation of Network Models

Dr. Hamdi Kavak
Computational and Data Sciences Department

<http://www.hamdikavak.com>
hkavak@gmu.edu

Weekly schedule

- Week 13 (**today** Nov 13): Validation of Network Models
- Week 14 (Nov 20): Ethics of Model Design and Use

-
- Week 15 (Nov 27): Project presentations
 - Week 16 (Dec 4): READING DAYS – no lecture
 - Week 17: No meeting — final paper due on Dec 8 @ 11:59 pm

Final paper presentations

- Slides are **due at noon** on the day of your presentation (Nov 27)
- Presentation length: 25 minutes (main) + 5 minutes (Q&A)

Short Writing Assignments (SWAs)

- SWA 9: Was due today
- SWA 10: Due next week (Nov 20)
- If you are missing any previous assignments, you can finish them until next class (Nov 20).
 - I will be done with all SWA grading next week

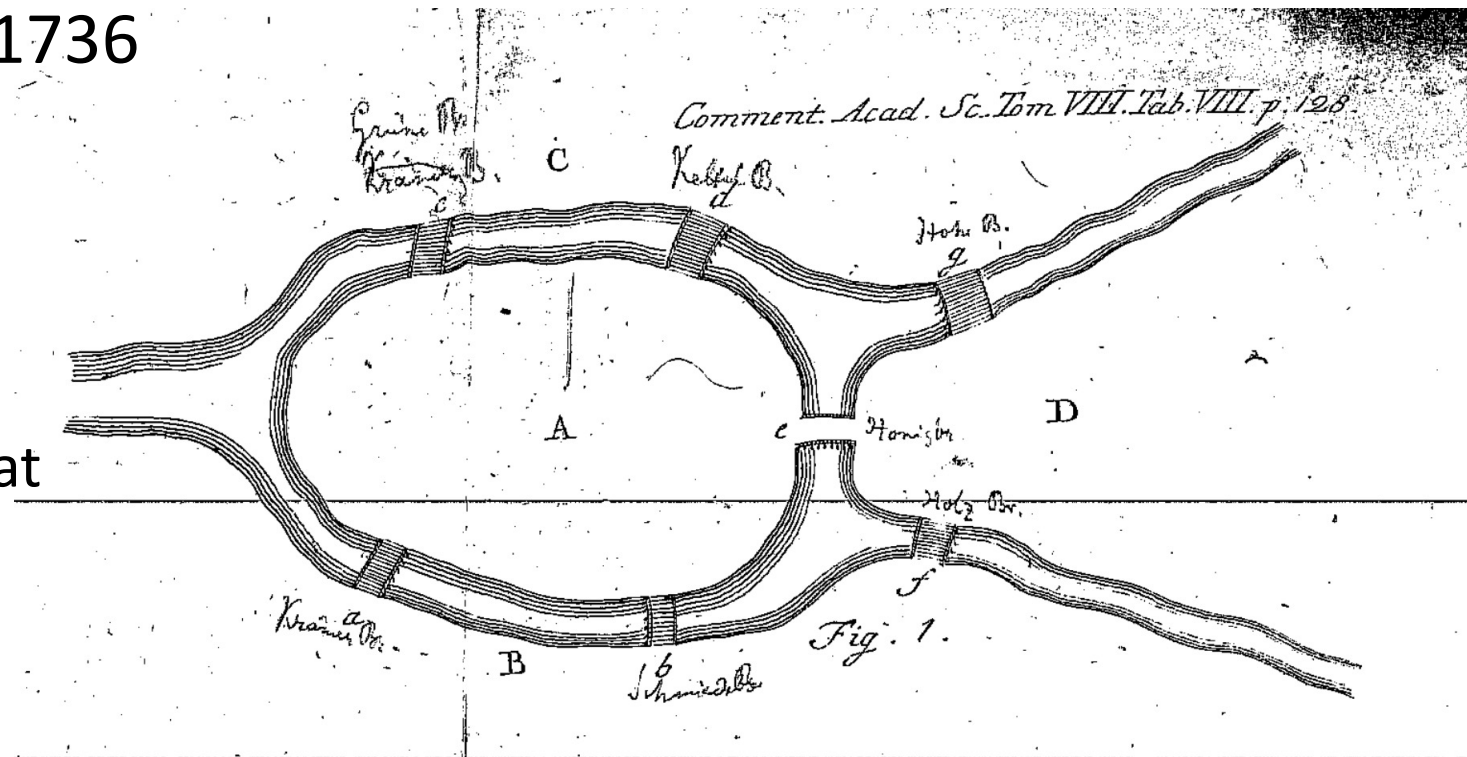
Validation of Network Models

Network models

- A formal way of representing and studying complex systems based on the concept of **graphs**.

Network models

- A formal way of representing and studying complex systems based on the concept of **graphs**.
- The origin of graphs dates to 1736
- Leonhard Euler proposed the problem called “The Seven Bridges of Königsberg”
 - Can seven bridges be visited in one pass with the condition that we finish at the start point?



Source: Euler, L. (1741). Solutio problematis ad geometriam situs pertinentis. *Commentarii academiae scientiarum Petropolitanae*, 128-140.

Building blocks



Nodes (vertices)

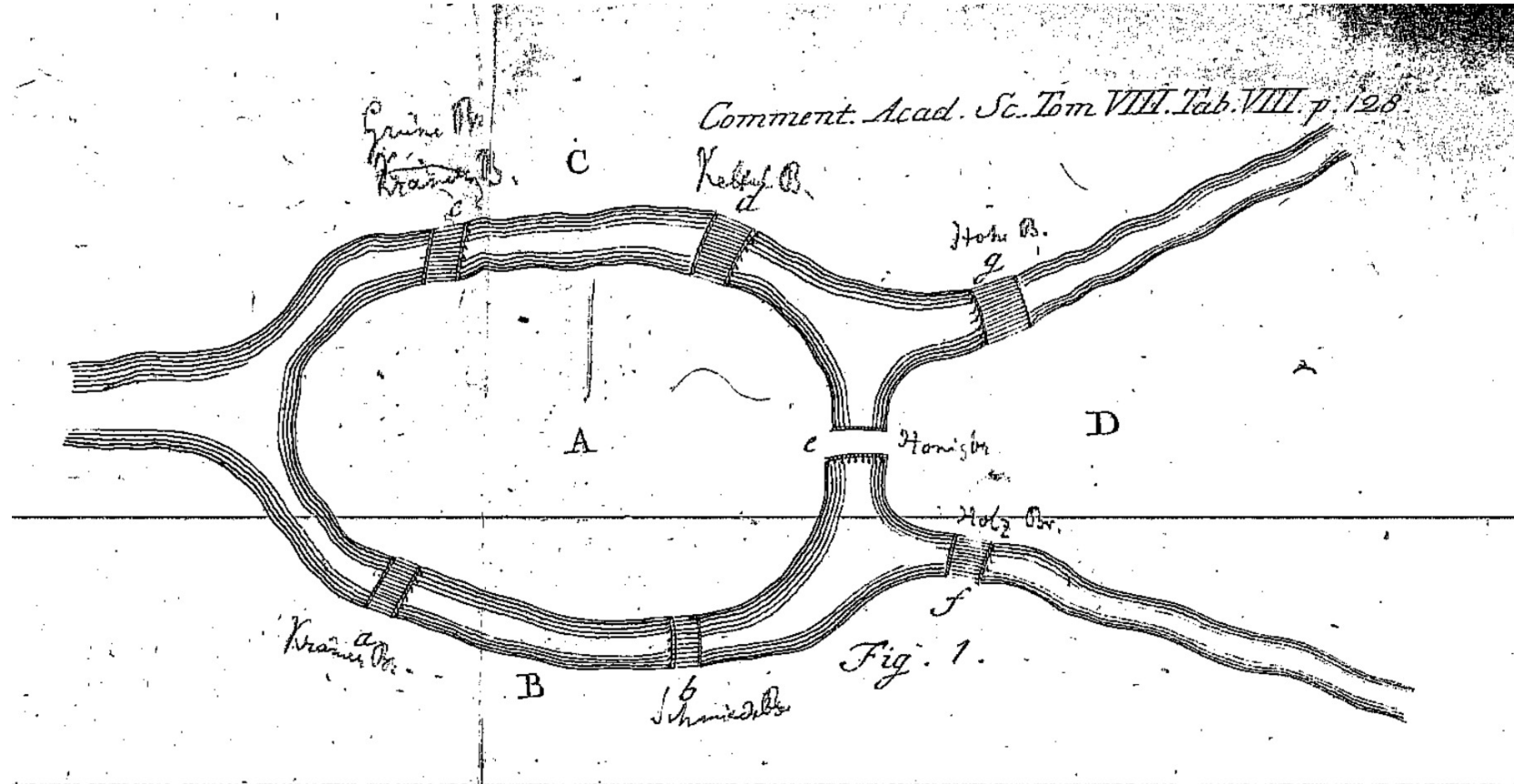


Links (edges)

Building blocks

 Nodes (vertices)

 Links (edges)

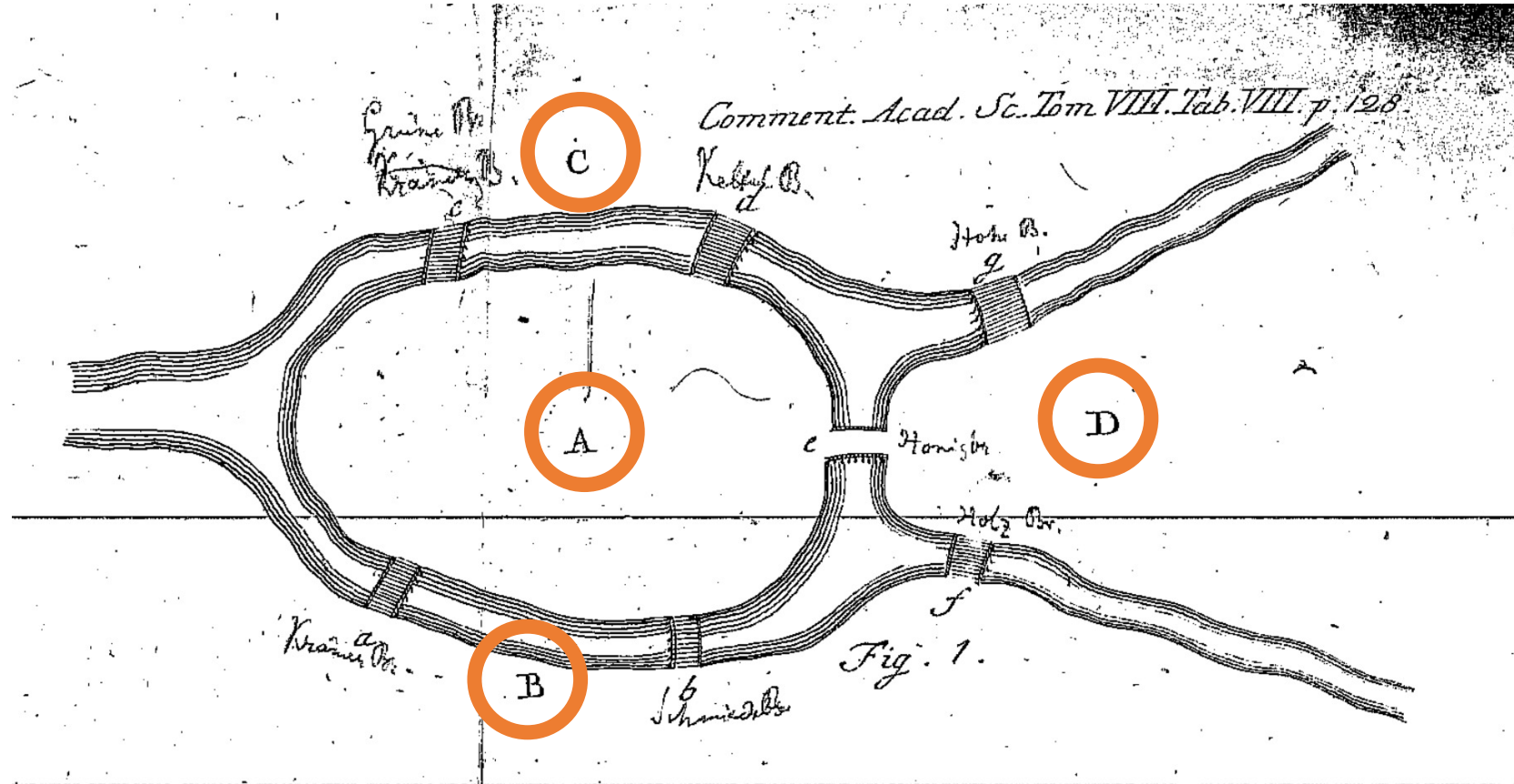


Source: Euler, L. (1741). Solutio problematis ad geometriam situs pertinentis. *Commentarii academiae scientiarum Petropolitanae*, 128-140.

Building blocks

 Nodes (vertices)

 Links (edges)

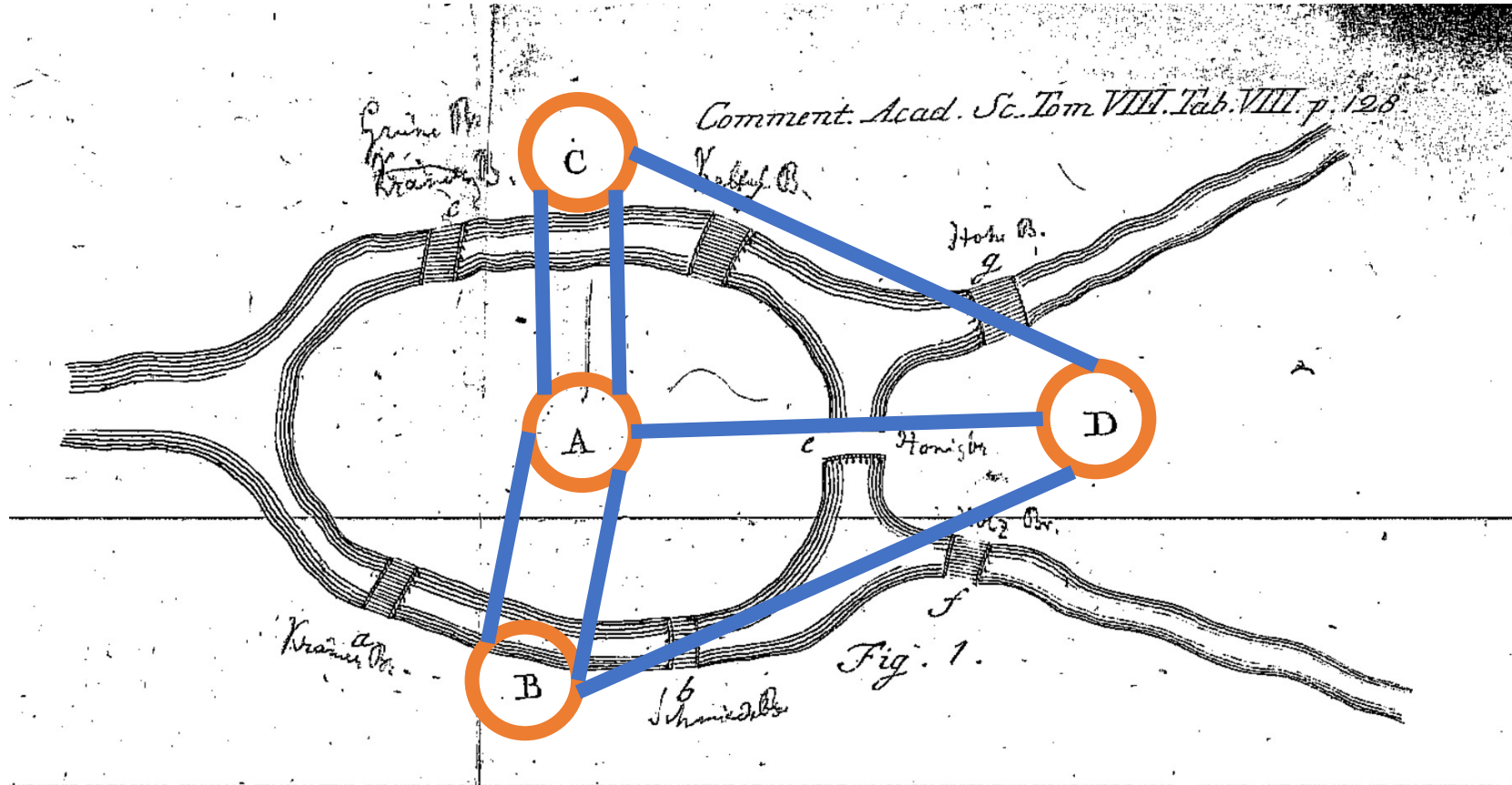


Source: Euler, L. (1741). Solutio problematis ad geometriam situs pertinentis. *Commentarii academiae scientiarum Petropolitanae*, 128-140.

Building blocks

○ Nodes (vertices)

— Links (edges)



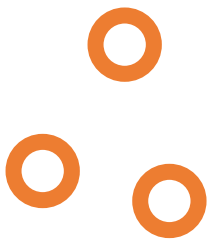
Source: Euler, L. (1741). Solutio problematis ad geometriam situs pertinentis. *Commentarii academiae scientiarum Petropolitanae*, 128-140.

Building blocks

- **Nodes** can be anything that can **connect** to other nodes
 - E.g.: people, countries, cities, bus stations, buildings, molecules, web pages, social media users, cell towers, positions in an organization, military units.

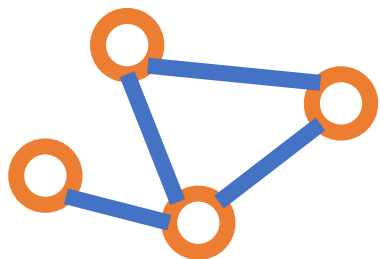
Building blocks

- **Nodes** can be anything that can **connect** to other nodes
 - E.g.: people, countries, cities, bus stations, buildings, molecules, web pages, social media users, cell towers, positions in an organization, military units.
- Some graph types



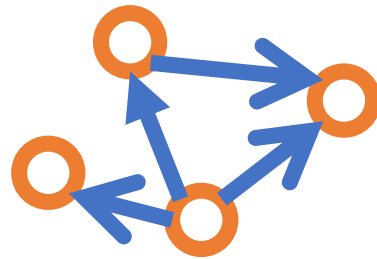
Null graph

no links



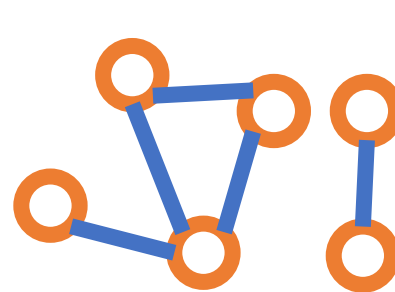
Undirected graph

No directions in links



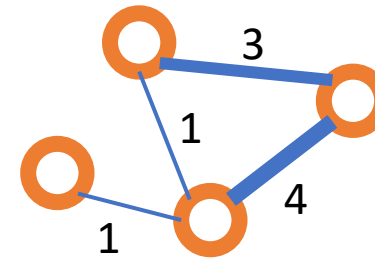
Directed graph

Directions in links



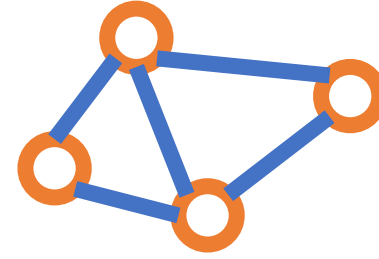
Disconnected graph

Cannot visit all nodes
in one pass



Weighted graph

Links are not equal

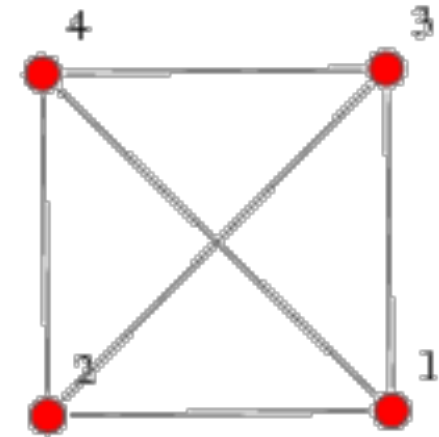
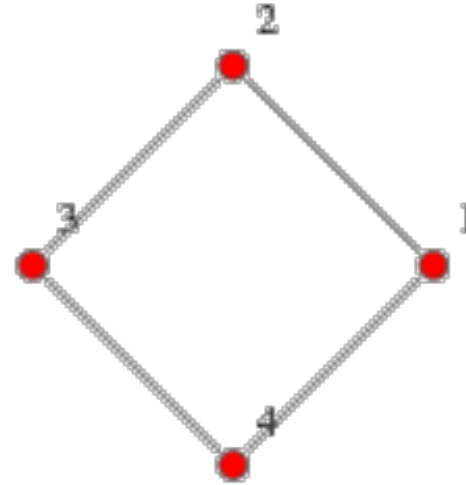
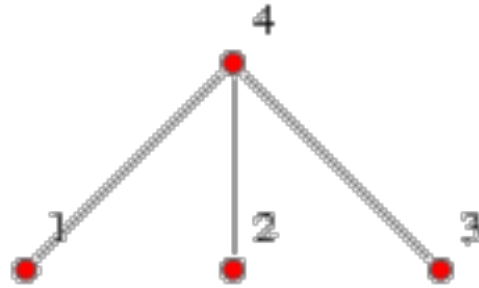


Cyclic graph

At least one cycle
exists

Adjacency matrix

- A matrix to represent the connectivity between nodes
- Denoted by A



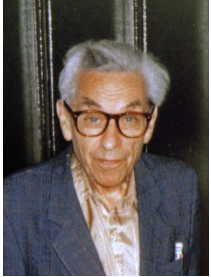
$$\begin{pmatrix} 0 & 0 & 0 & 1 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 1 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 1 \\ 1 & 1 & 1 & 0 \end{pmatrix}$$

$$\begin{pmatrix} 0 & 1 & 0 & 1 \\ 1 & 0 & 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 & 0 & 1 \\ 1 & 0 & 1 & 0 \end{pmatrix}$$

$$\begin{pmatrix} 0 & 1 & 1 & 1 \\ 1 & 0 & 1 & 1 \\ 1 & 1 & 0 & 1 \\ 1 & 1 & 1 & 0 \end{pmatrix}$$

Source: <https://mathworld.wolfram.com/AdjacencyMatrix.html>

Some influential people in network science*



Pál Erdős



Albert-László Barabási



Réka Albert



Aaron Clauset



Alfréd Rényi



Alessandro Vespignani



Steven Strogatz



Duncan J. Watts



Petter Holme

*20th and 21st century

Small world networks



Source: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=NRWSF1c0Ez0>



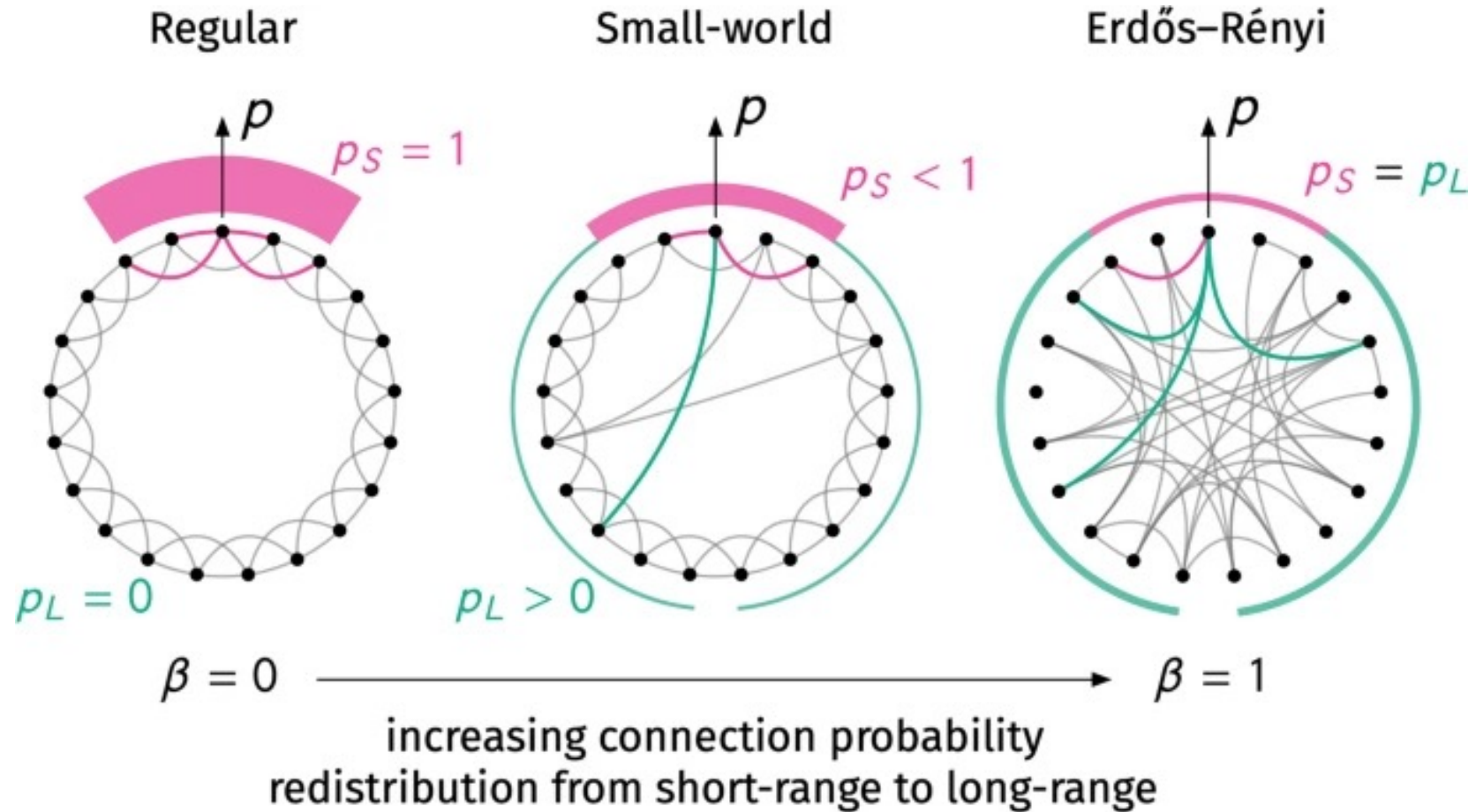
Milgram, S. (1967). The small world problem. *Psychology today*, 2(1), 60-67.

Small world networks

- Most nodes are not connected to most of other nodes.
- Despite the lack of dense connection, reaching from a node to another node does not need many hops.
- With increased node size, typical distance between two nodes grow logarithmically.

Watts, D. J., & Strogatz, S. H. (1998). Collective dynamics of 'small-world' networks. *Nature*, 393(6684), 440-442.

Regular to random networks



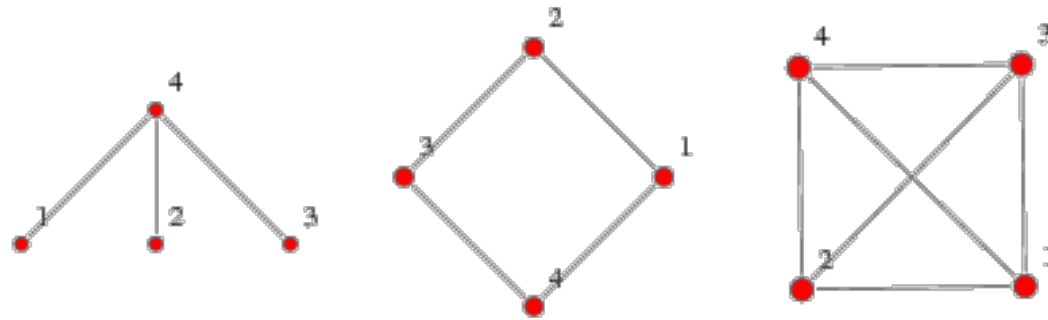
Maier, B. F. (2019). Generalization of the small-world effect on a model approaching the Erdős-Rényi random graph. *Scientific reports*, 9(1), 1-9.

Network degree

- Degree of a node is the count of links to that node.
- Degree of node i is denoted as k_i where $k_i = \sum_j a_{ij}$
 - Here a_{ij} represents i th row and j th column in A .

Network degree

- Degree of a node is the count of links to that node.
- Degree of node i is denoted as k_i where $k_i = \sum_j a_{ij}$
 - Here a_{ij} represents i th row and j th column in A .



$$\begin{pmatrix} 0 & 0 & 0 & 1 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 1 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 1 \\ 1 & 1 & 1 & 0 \end{pmatrix}$$

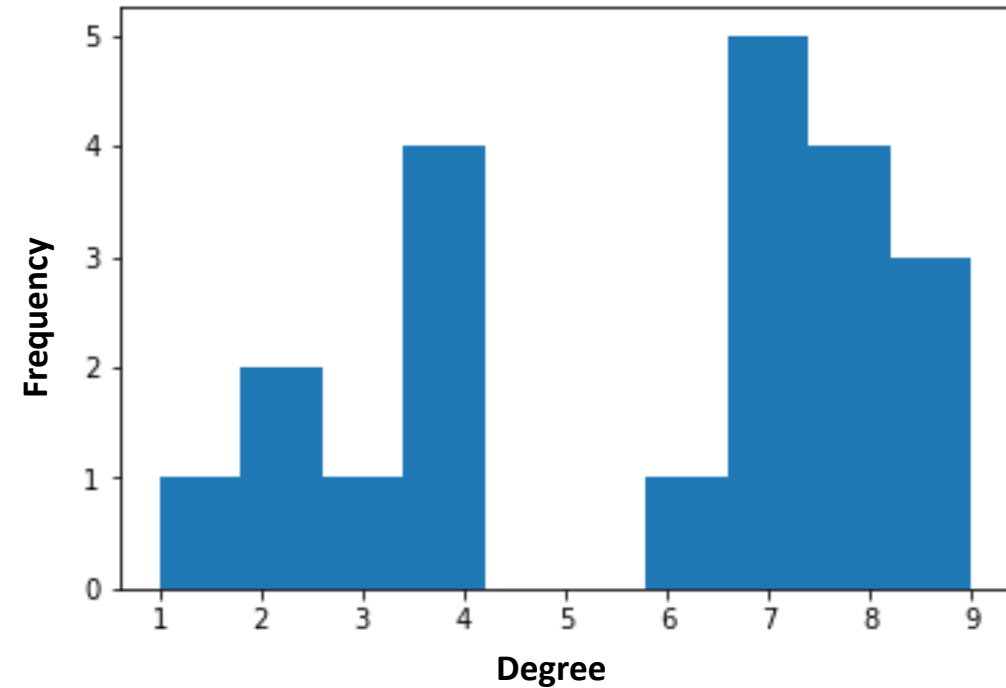
$$\begin{pmatrix} 0 & 1 & 0 & 1 \\ 1 & 0 & 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 & 0 & 1 \\ 1 & 0 & 1 & 0 \end{pmatrix}$$

$$\begin{pmatrix} 0 & 1 & 1 & 1 \\ 1 & 0 & 1 & 1 \\ 1 & 1 & 0 & 1 \\ 1 & 1 & 1 & 0 \end{pmatrix}$$

Source: <https://mathworld.wolfram.com/AdjacencyMatrix.html>

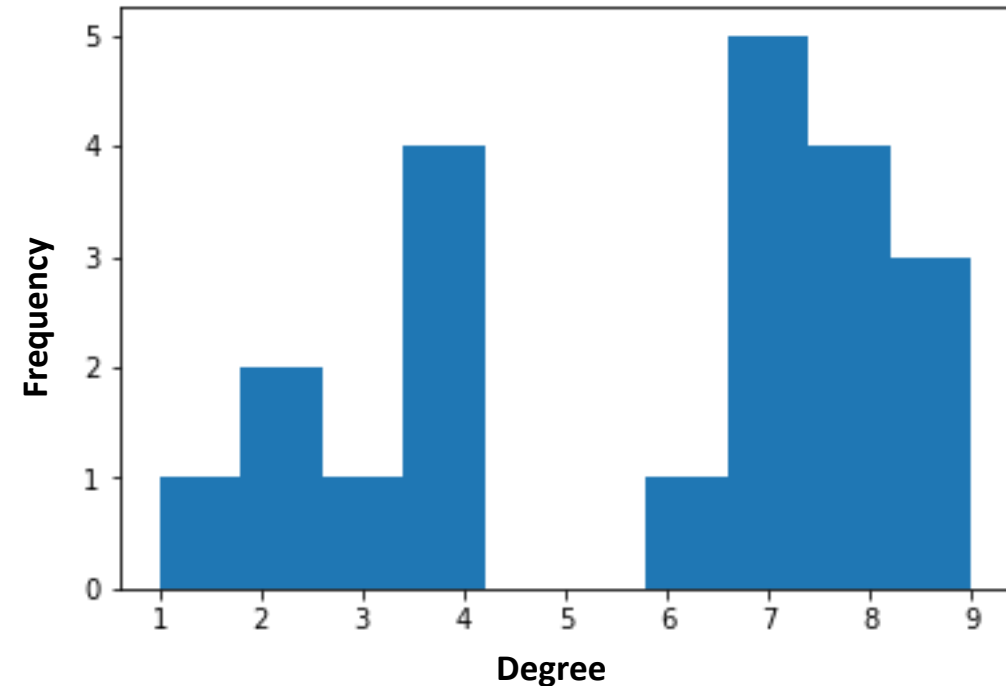
Network degree distribution

- Captures the frequency of degrees of all nodes of the network.



Network degree distribution

- Captures the frequency of degrees of all nodes of the network.
- One of the important structural indicators of a network.
 - Compare two networks by their degree distribution.

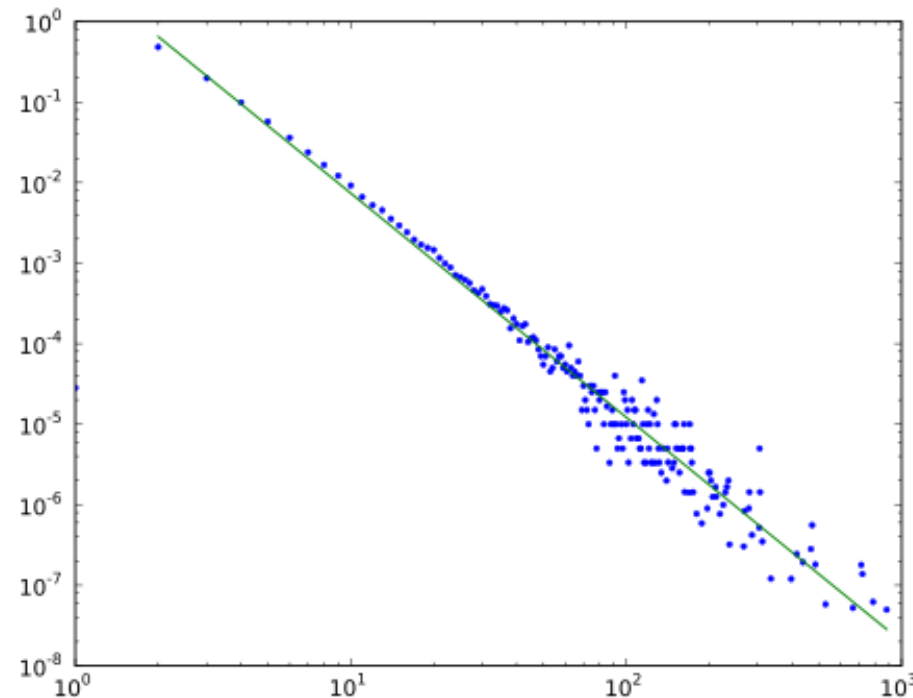


Scale-free networks

- Degree distribution follows a power law.
- Fraction of nodes with k links $\rightarrow P(k)$ where $P(k) \sim k^{-\gamma}$ with $2 < \gamma < 3$

Scale-free networks

- Degree distribution follows a power law.
- Fraction of nodes with k links $\rightarrow P(k)$ where $P(k) \sim k^{-\gamma}$ with $2 < \gamma < 3$



Source: https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Barabasi-albert_model_degree_distribution.svg “The degree distribution of a Barabasi Albert network with 200000 nodes and with 2 new edges in each step. The exponent is -2.78 (from 2 to the max)”

Random networks vs. scale-free networks

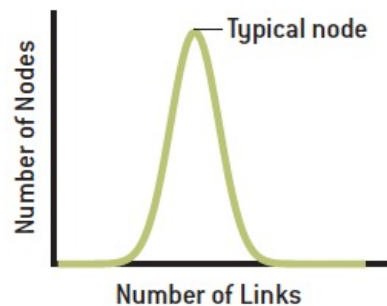
Random Network



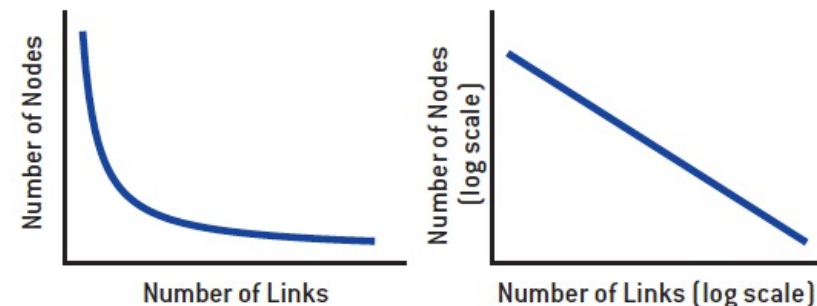
Scale-Free Network



Bell Curve Distribution of Node Linkages



Power Law Distribution of Node Linkages



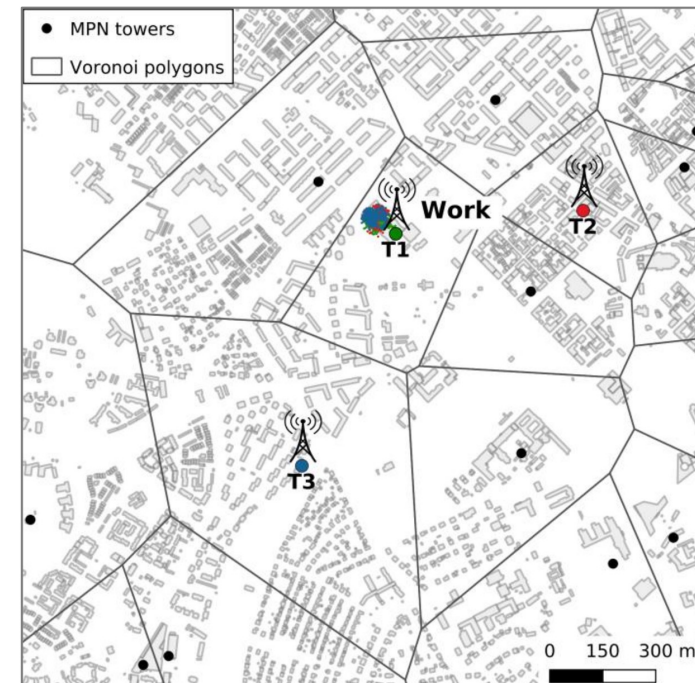
Source: Barabási, A. L., & Bonabeau, E. (2003). Scale-free networks. *Scientific american*, 288(5), 60-69.

Spatially-explicit networks

- A network model in which the location of nodes matter.
 - E.g.: road network, power grid network, cell network, supply chain network



GMU Campus Map



Cell tower network

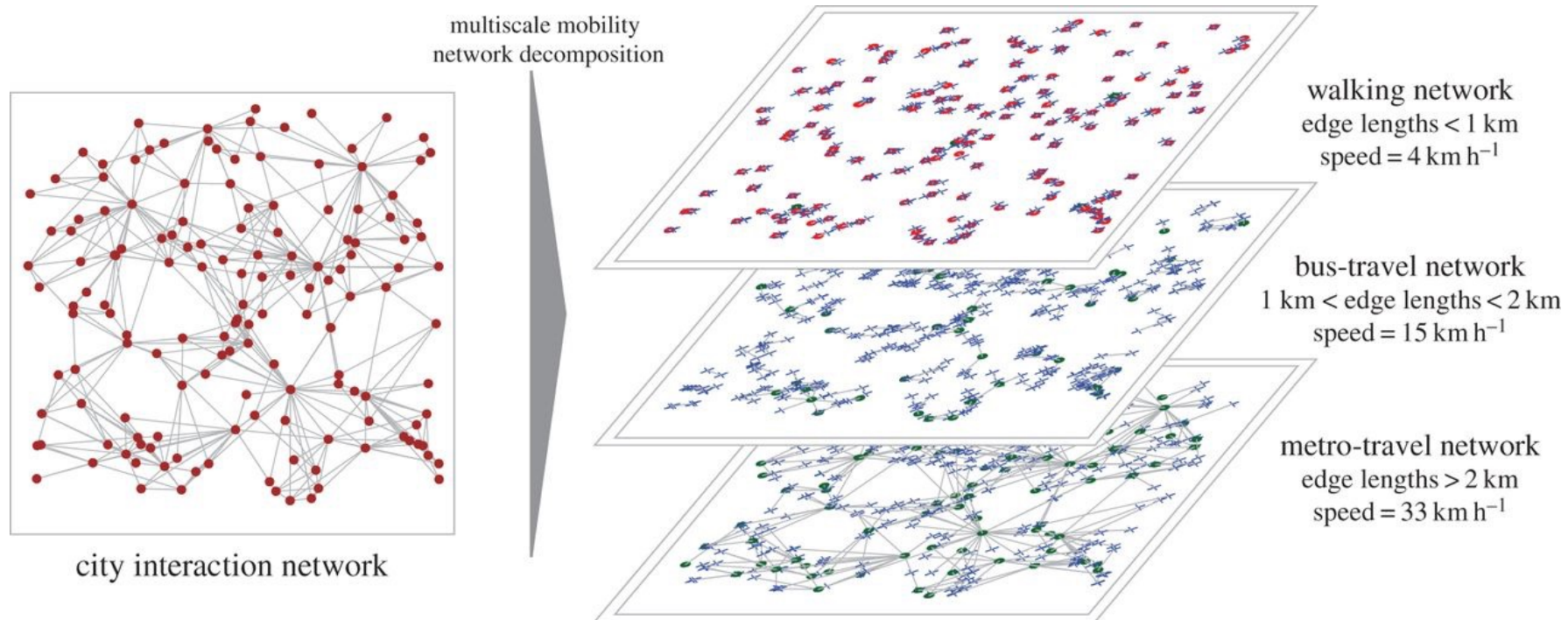
Source: Ogulenko, A., Benenson, I., Toger, M., Östh, J., & Siretskiy, A. (2021). The fallacy of the closest antenna: Towards an adequate view of device location in the mobile network. *arXiv preprint arXiv:2109.02154*.

Nodes can have many attributes

- Location (i.e., coordinates)
- Bandwidth (if cell tower)
- Age (if human or animal)
- Gender (if human or animal)
- Type (family, workplace, school)
- ...

Multi-layer networks

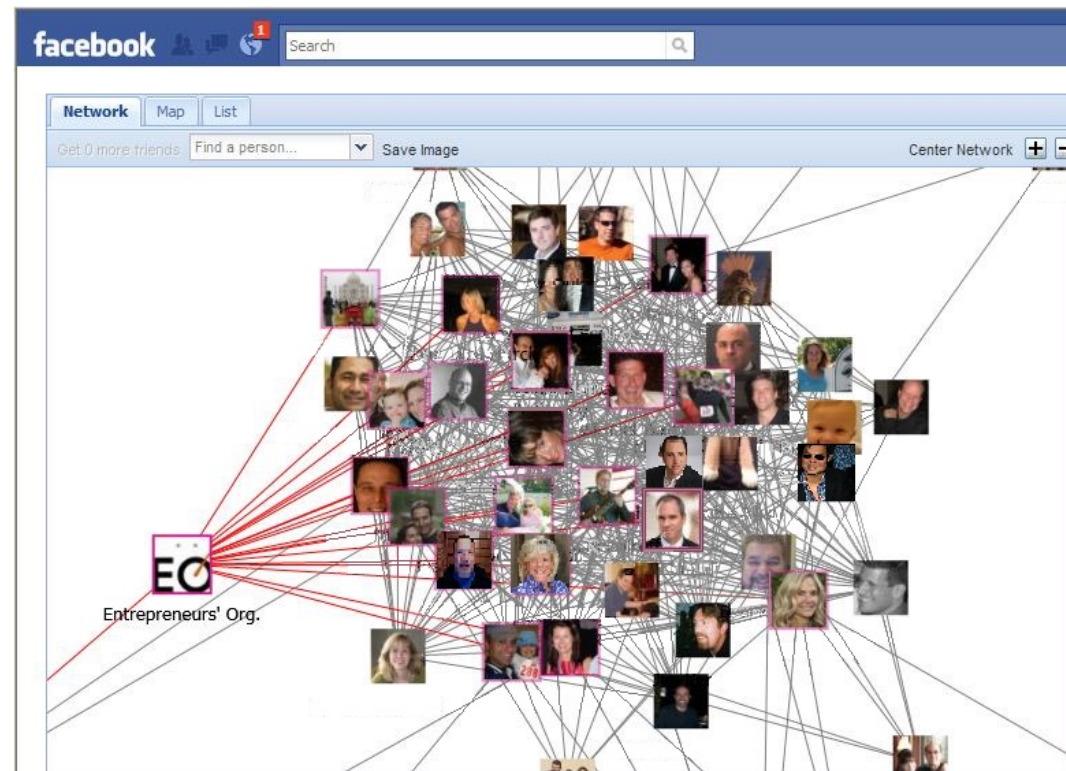
- Nodes of different types are grouped as a layer



Source: Sim, A., Yaliraki, S. N., Barahona, M., & Stumpf, M. P. (2015). Great cities look small. *Journal of The Royal Society Interface*, 12(109), 20150315.

Networks vs. social networks

- Social network is a specialized type of a network that captures a social phenomenon such as friendship.



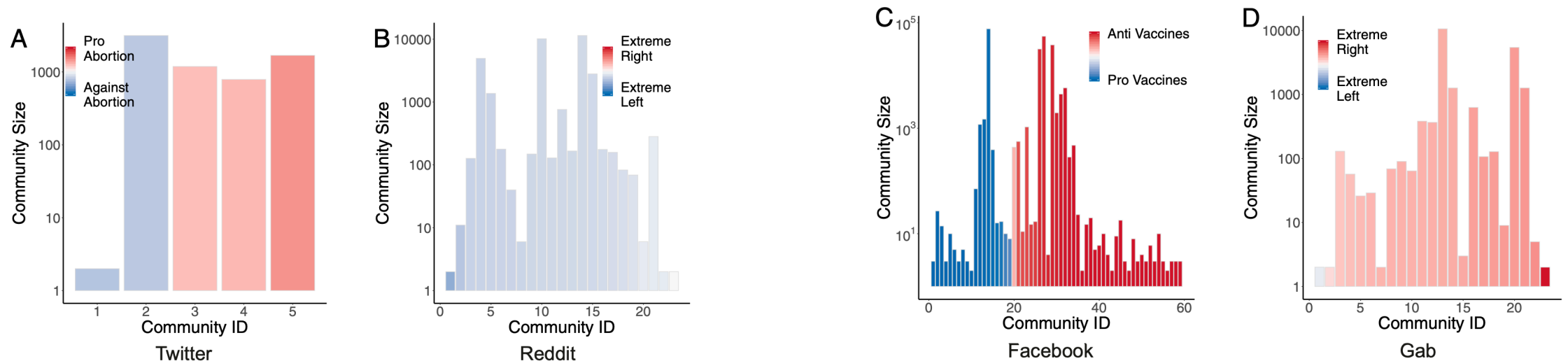
Source: <https://fmsag.com/socialnetworkanalysis/facebook/>

Online social networks

- Online social networks mostly established based on homophily, leading to echo chambers.

Online social networks

- Online social networks mostly established based on homophily, leading to echo chambers.



Source: Cinelli, M., Morales, G. D. F., Galeazzi, A., Quattrociocchi, W., & Starnini, M. (2021). The echo chamber effect on social media. *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences*, 118(9).

Dunbar's number

- Indicates a maximum number of relationship (i.e., social connections) one can handle comfortably.
- Based on average human brain size.
- Often suggested to be between 100-250 while 150 is considered typical.

Dunbar, R. I. (1992). Neocortex size as a constraint on group size in primates. *Journal of human evolution*, 22(6), 469-493.

DUNBAR'S NUMBER : 150

TYPICAL NUMBER OF PEOPLE WE CAN KEEP TRACK OF AND
CONSIDER PART OF OUR ONGOING SOCIAL NETWORK

150
TRIBE

50
CLAN

15
SUPER
FAMILY

5
CLOSE
FRIENDS

← WEAKER TIES → MORE INVESTMENT IN RELATIONSHIP →

DANG! NOW,
WHAT WAS THEIR
NAME AGAIN?



sketchplanations

Source: <https://sketchplanations.com/dunbars-number-150>

CSI 709/CSS 739 - Verification and Validation of Models — © Dr. Hamdi Kavak

Community detection

- One of the common tasks in many network problems
- Grouping of similar nodes in a network (often social network)
 - Based on node features and the topology of the network
- Similar to clustering in machine learning
- No Free Lunch theorem applies

Community detection

- Different algorithms can overfit or underfit
- Ghasemian, Hosseinmardi, & Clauset (2019) studied “16 state-of-the-art community detection algorithms applied to a novel benchmark corpus of 572 structurally diverse real-world networks”

Algorithm	Number of Communities, k	Partition Type	Link Prediction Benchmark	Link Description Benchmark	Overall Fit
Q	larger	non-probabilistic	poor	good	over fits
Q-MR	larger	non-probabilistic	poor	good	over fits
Q-MP	smaller	spectral/ non-probabilistic	poor	poor	under fits
Q-GMP	smaller	spectral/ non-probabilistic	—	—	inconclusive
B-NR (SBM)	smaller	probabilistic	very good	moderate	well-fitted
B-NR (DC-SBM)	smaller	probabilistic	moderate	very good	over fits, modestly
B-HKK (SBM)	smaller	probabilistic	good	moderate	under fits, modestly
cICL-HKK (SBM)	smaller	probabilistic	good	moderate	under fits, modestly
Infomap	larger	non-probabilistic	moderate	moderate	over fits
MDL (SBM)	smaller	probabilistic	good	poor	under fits
MDL (DC-SBM)	smaller	probabilistic	very good	moderate	well-fitted
S-NB	smaller	spectral	moderate	moderate	uneven fits
S-cBHm	smaller	spectral	—	—	inconclusive
S-cBH _a	smaller	spectral	—	—	inconclusive
AMOS	larger	non-probabilistic	—	—	inconclusive
LRT-WB (DC-SBM)	larger	non-probabilistic	—	—	inconclusive

Source: Ghasemian, A., Hosseinmardi, H., & Clauset, A. (2019). Evaluating overfit and underfit in models of network community structure. *IEEE Transactions on Knowledge and Data Engineering*, 32(9), 1722-1735.

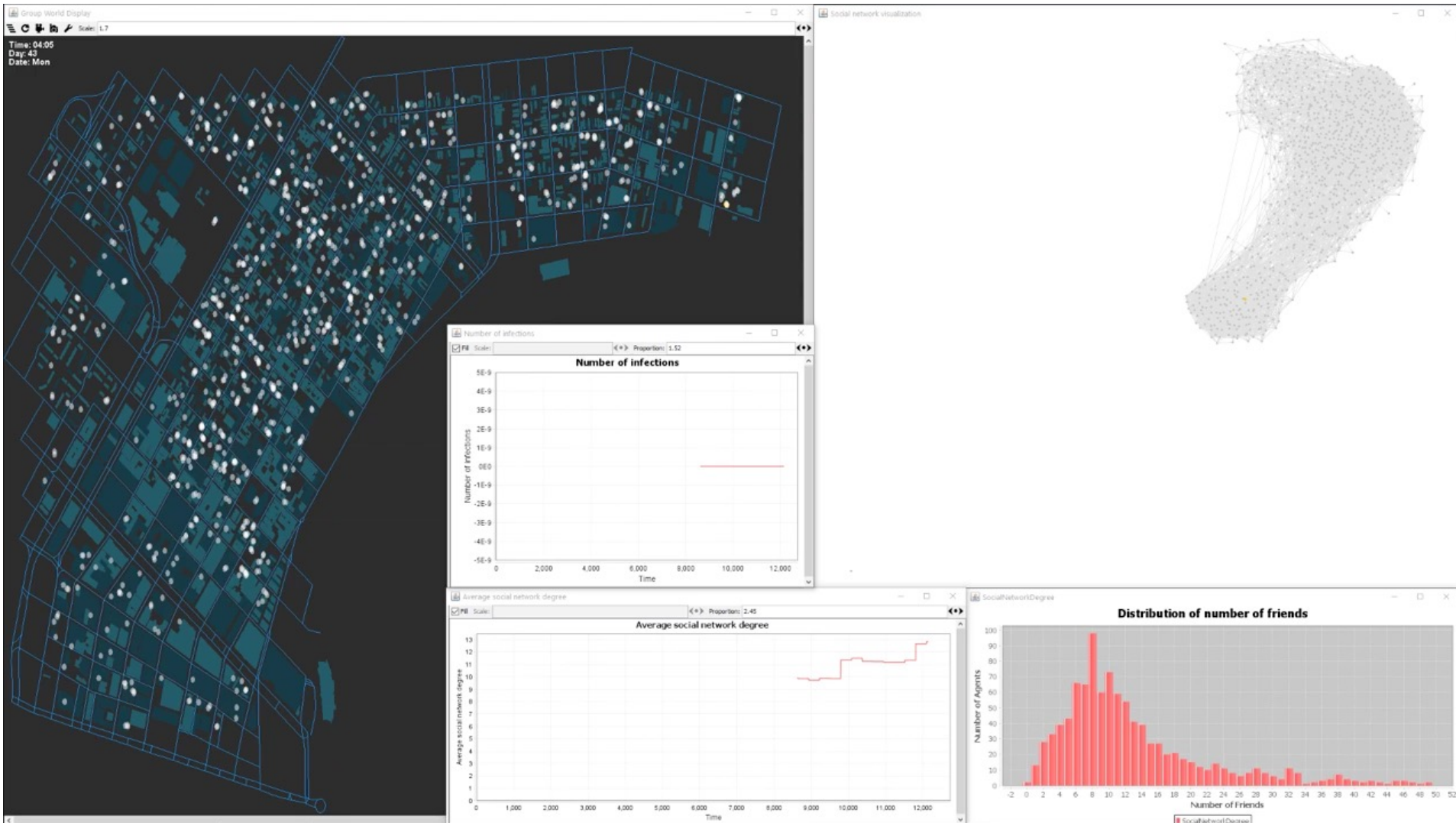
Identifying central nodes

- Several measures are proposed
 - Degree centrality
 - Closeness centrality
 - Betweenness centrality
 - PageRank
 - ...
- Has applications to identify the most influential node.
 - Who is the best person to propagate our message?

Network generation

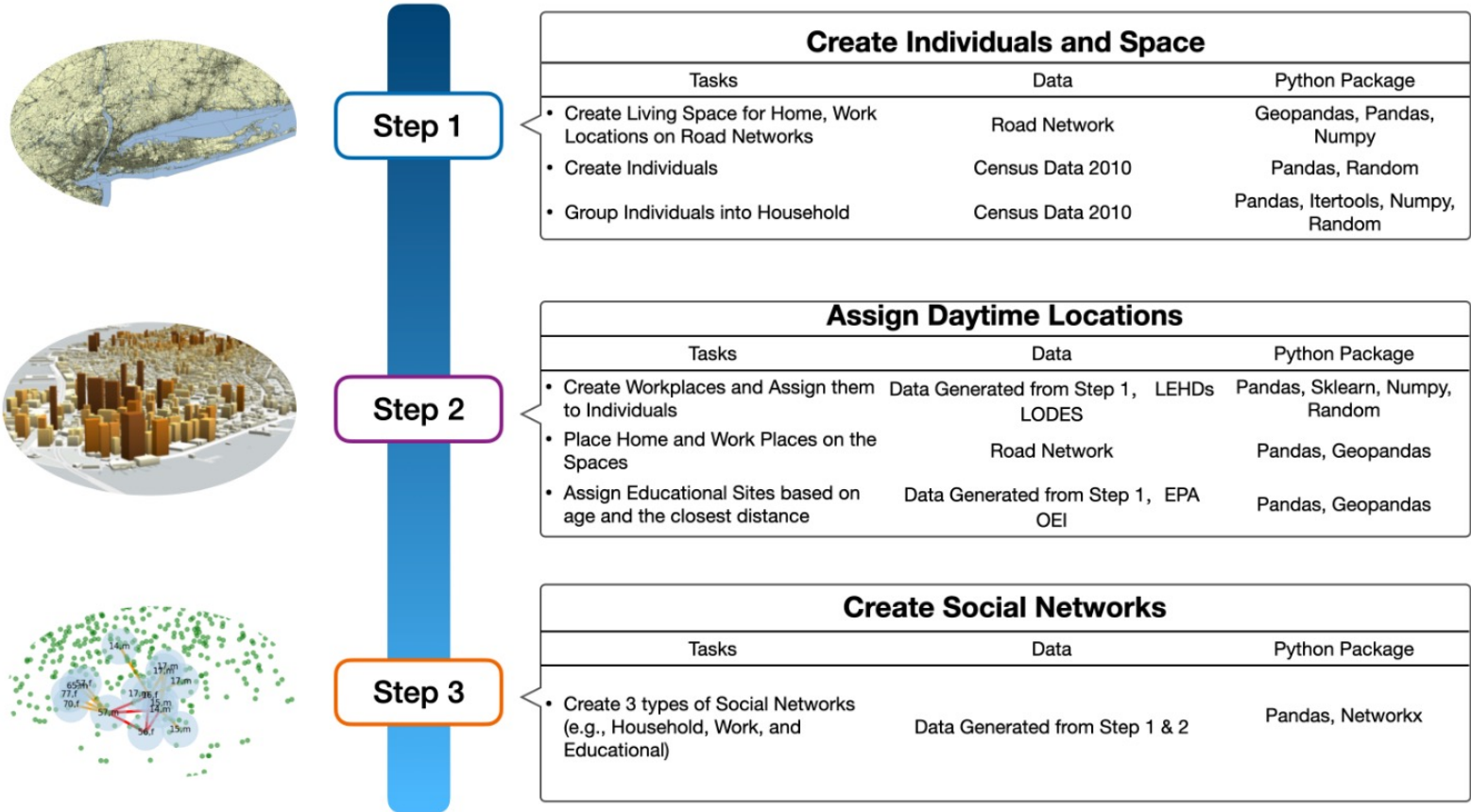
- Rule-based network generation
 - E.g.: Preferential attachment
 - Advantage: simple to implement
 - Disadvantage: time notion and detail
- Agent-based network generation
 - E.g.: Co-location-based
 - Advantage: more grounded in real world and can capture time
 - Disadvantage: complex to implement

Example model: French Quarter epidemic



Source: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3pBdnT8a9LA>
CSI 709/CSS 739 - Verification and Validation of Models — © Dr. Hamdi Kavak

Synthetic population generation



Source: Jiang, N., Kavak, H., Kennedy, W. G., & Crooks, A. T. (2021). Computational Urban Science (Under review)