

SNA 2A: Intro to Random Graphs

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Network models

■ Why model?

- simple representation of complex network
- can derive properties mathematically
- predict properties and outcomes

■ Also: to have a strawman

- In what ways is your real-world network different from hypothesized model?
- What insights can be gleaned from this?

Erdős and Rényi



Erdős-Renyi: simplest network model

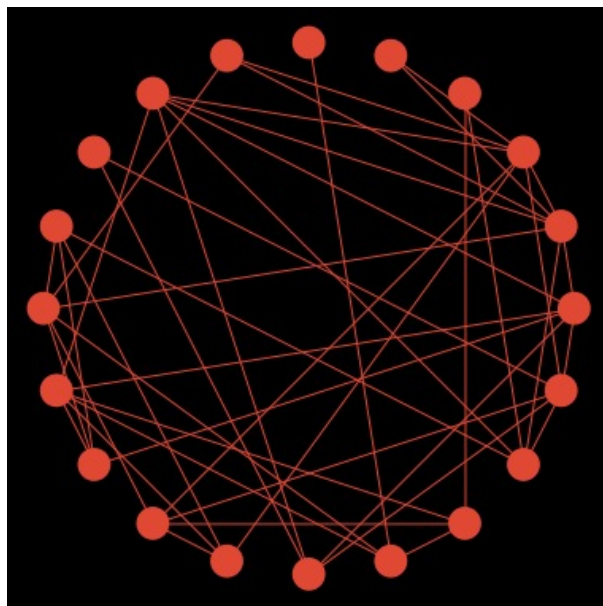
- Assumptions

- nodes connect at random
- network is undirected

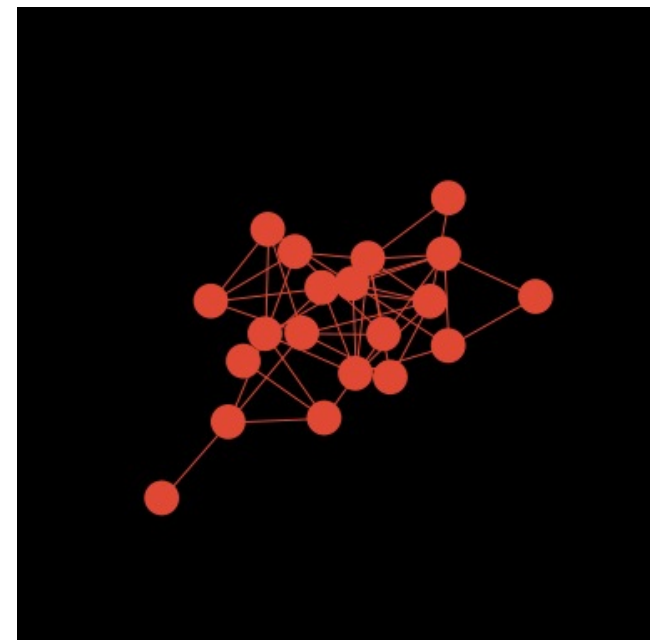
- Key parameter (besides number of nodes N) : p or M

- p = probability that any two nodes share an edge
- M = total number of edges in the graph

what they look like

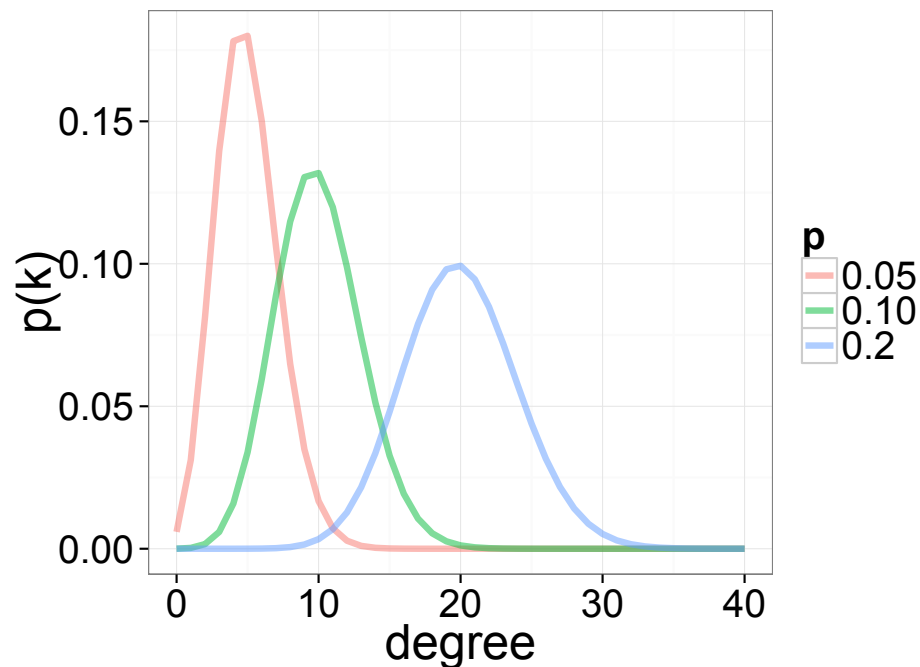


after spring
layout

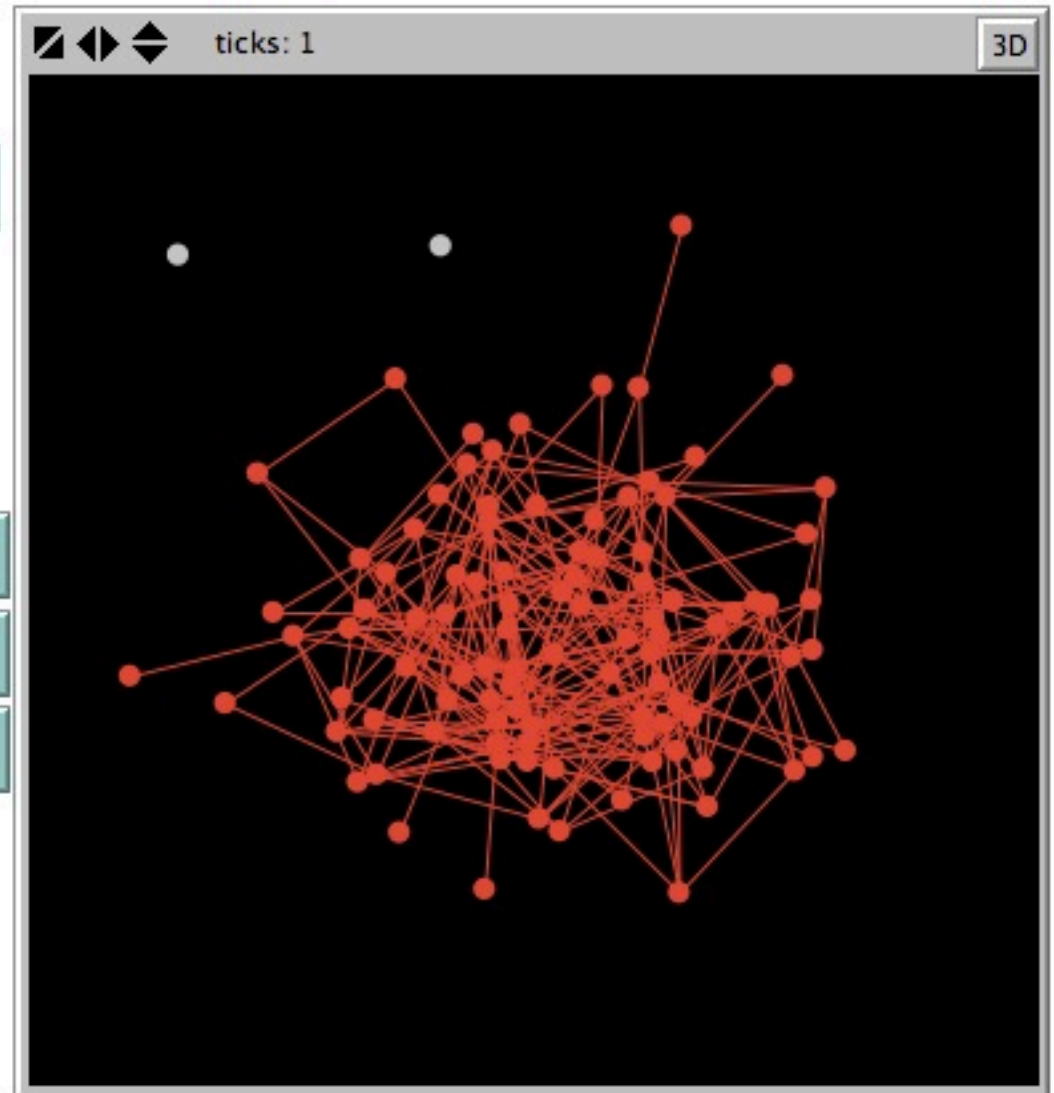
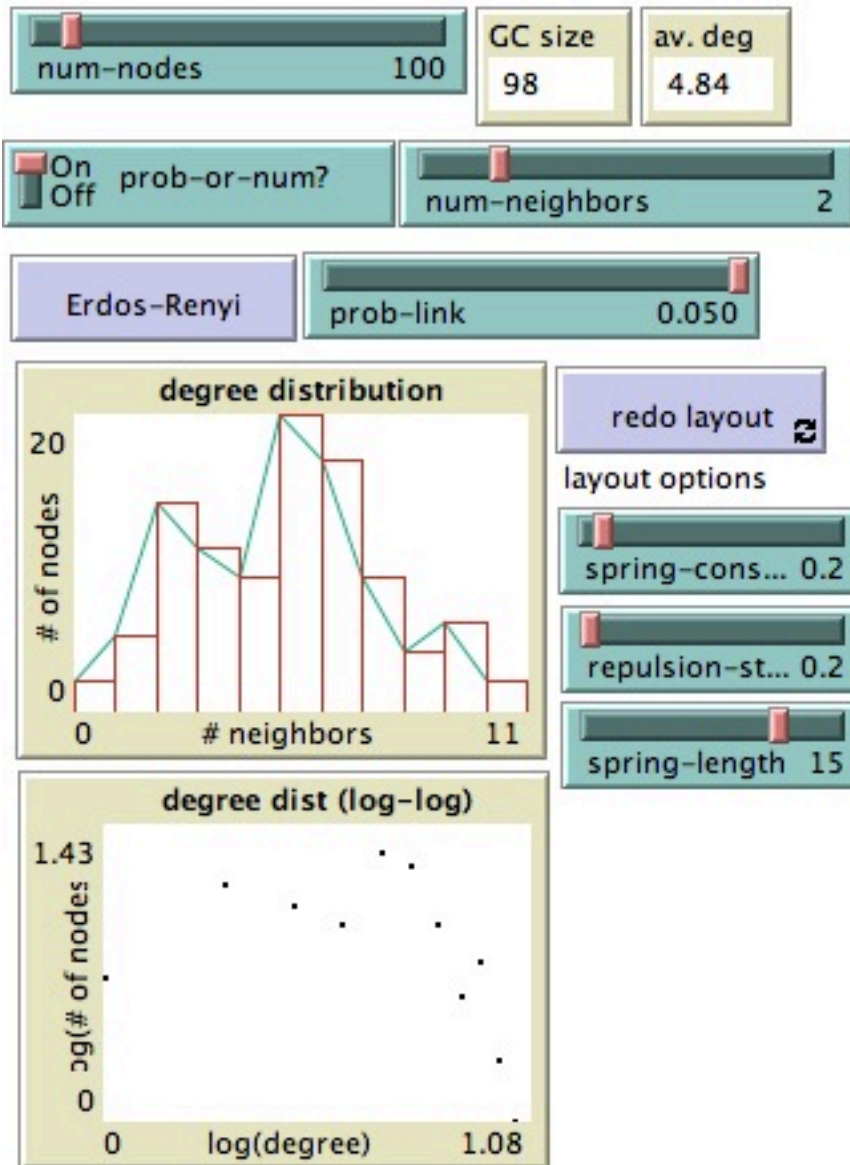


Binomial degree distribution

- $(N-1, p)$ -model: For each potential edge we flip a biased coin
 - with probability p we add the edge
 - with probability $(1-p)$ we don't



Can be approximated
by Poisson distribution



<http://ladamic.com/netlearn/NetLogo501/ErdosRenyiDegDist.html>

Degree distribution

- What is the probability that a node has 0,1,2,3... edges?
- Probabilities sum to 1

Quiz Q:

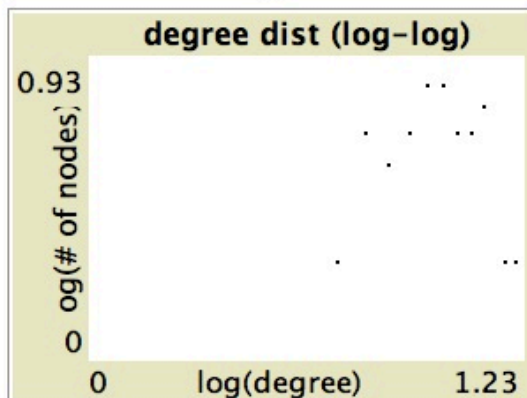
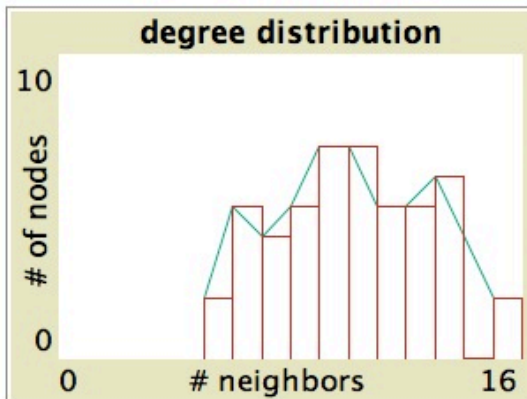
- The maximum degree of a node in a simple (no multiple edges between the same two nodes) N node graph is
 - a) N
 - b) $N - 1$
 - c) $N / 2$

$N = 50, p = 0.2$

num-nodes 50 GC size 50 av. deg 9.92

On prob-or-num? num-neighbors 2

Erdos-Renyi prob-link 0.200



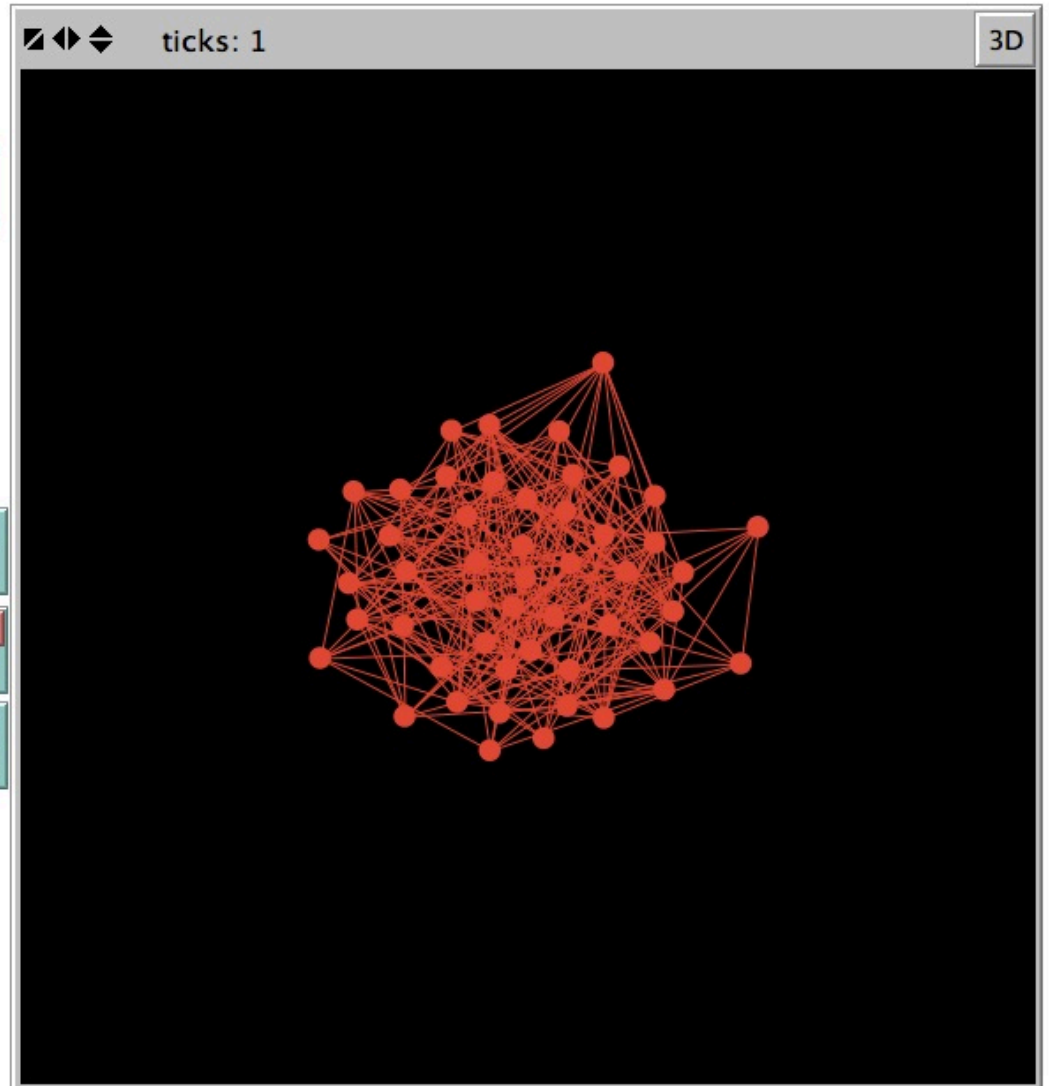
redo layout

layout options

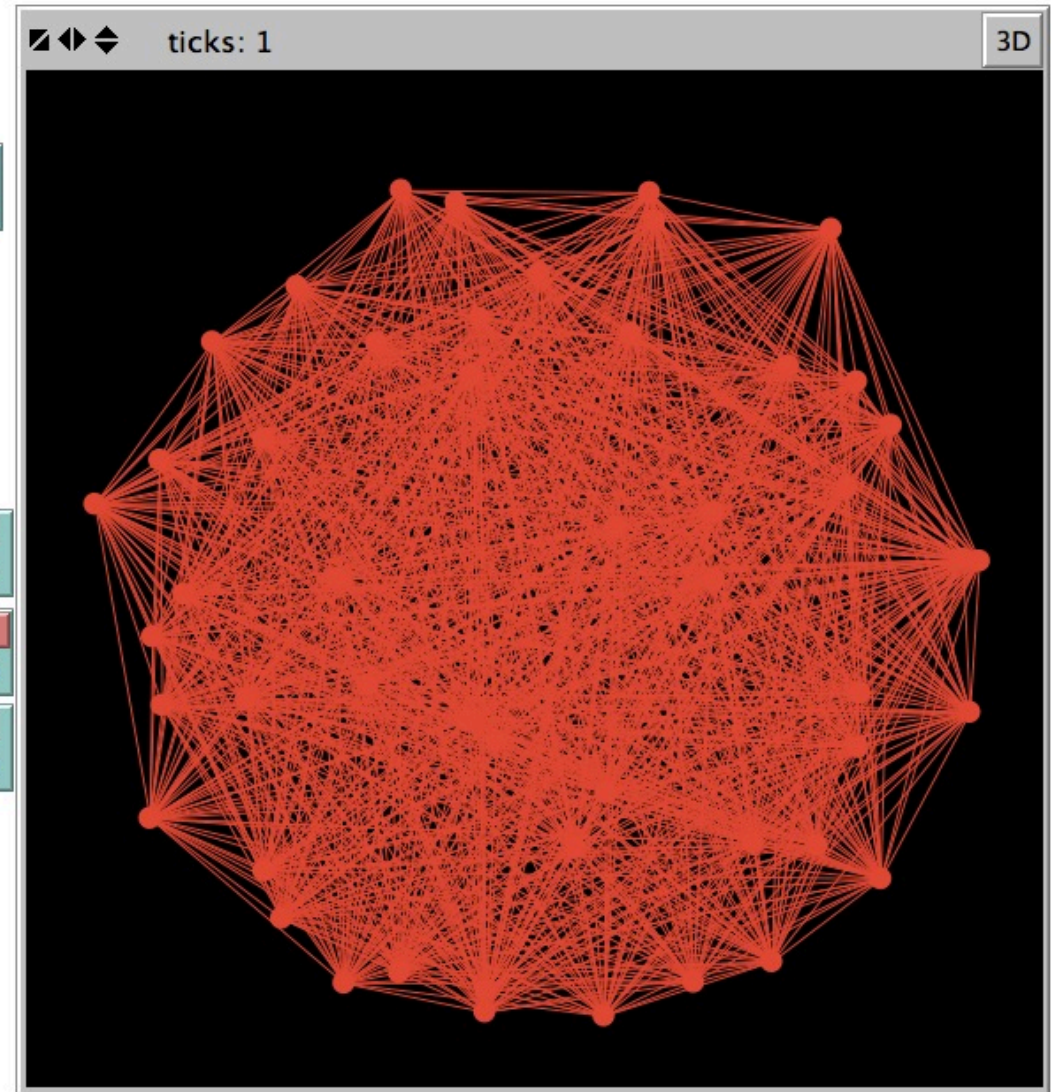
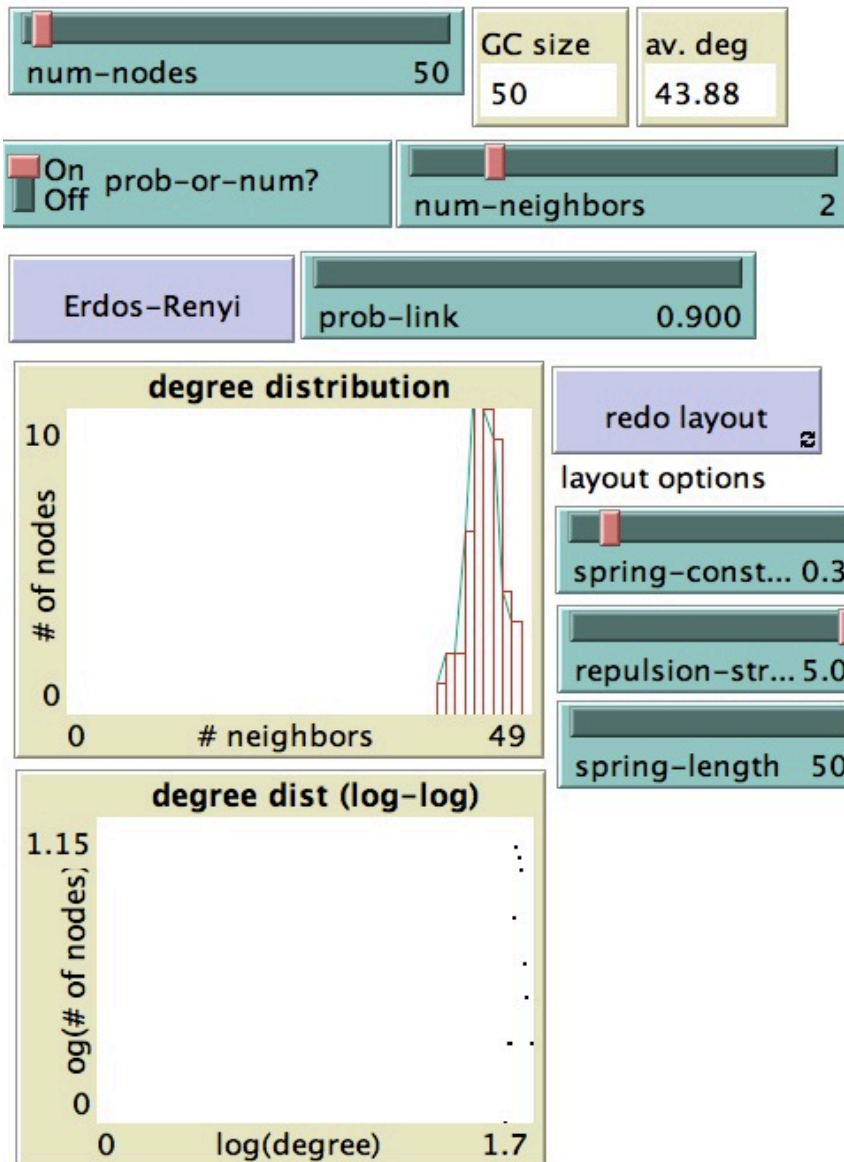
spring-const... 0.1

repulsion-str... 5.0

spring-length 16



$$N = 50, p = 0.9$$



Quiz Q:

- What is the approximate average degree of a graph with 100 nodes and probability $p = 0.04$ of an edge existing between any two nodes?
 - 1
 - 2
 - 3
 - 4

Quiz Q:

- As the size of the network increases, if you keep p , the probability of any two nodes being connected, the same, what happens to the average degree
 - a) stays the same
 - b) increases
 - c) decreases

<http://ladamic.com/netlearn/NetLogo501/ErdosRenyiDegDist.html>

What insights does this yield? No hubs

- You don't expect large hubs in the network