Properties of Random Networks

Introduction to Network Science

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Topic 08

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Contents

- Connectedness under the ER model
- Distances under the ER model
- Clustering coefficient under the ER model

Sources

- Albert László Barabási: Network Science. Cambridge University Press, 2016.
  - Follows almost section-by-section chapter 03
- Data-Driven Social Analytics course by Vicenç Gómez and Andreas Kaltenbrunner
- URLs cited in the footer of specific slides

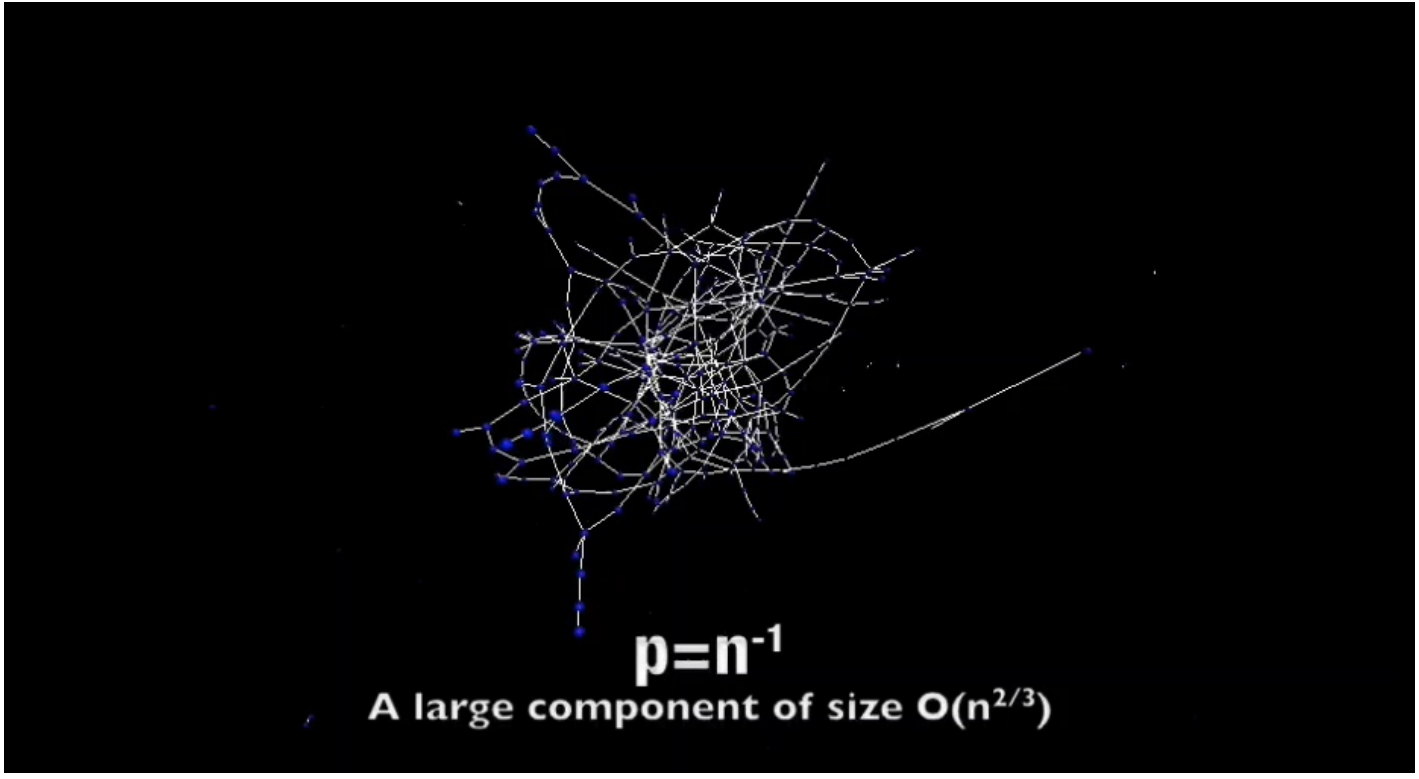
Connectivity in ER networks

ER network as <k> increases

- When <k> = 0: only singletons
- When <k> < 1: disconnected
- When <k> > 1: giant connected component
- When <k> = N – 1 complete graph

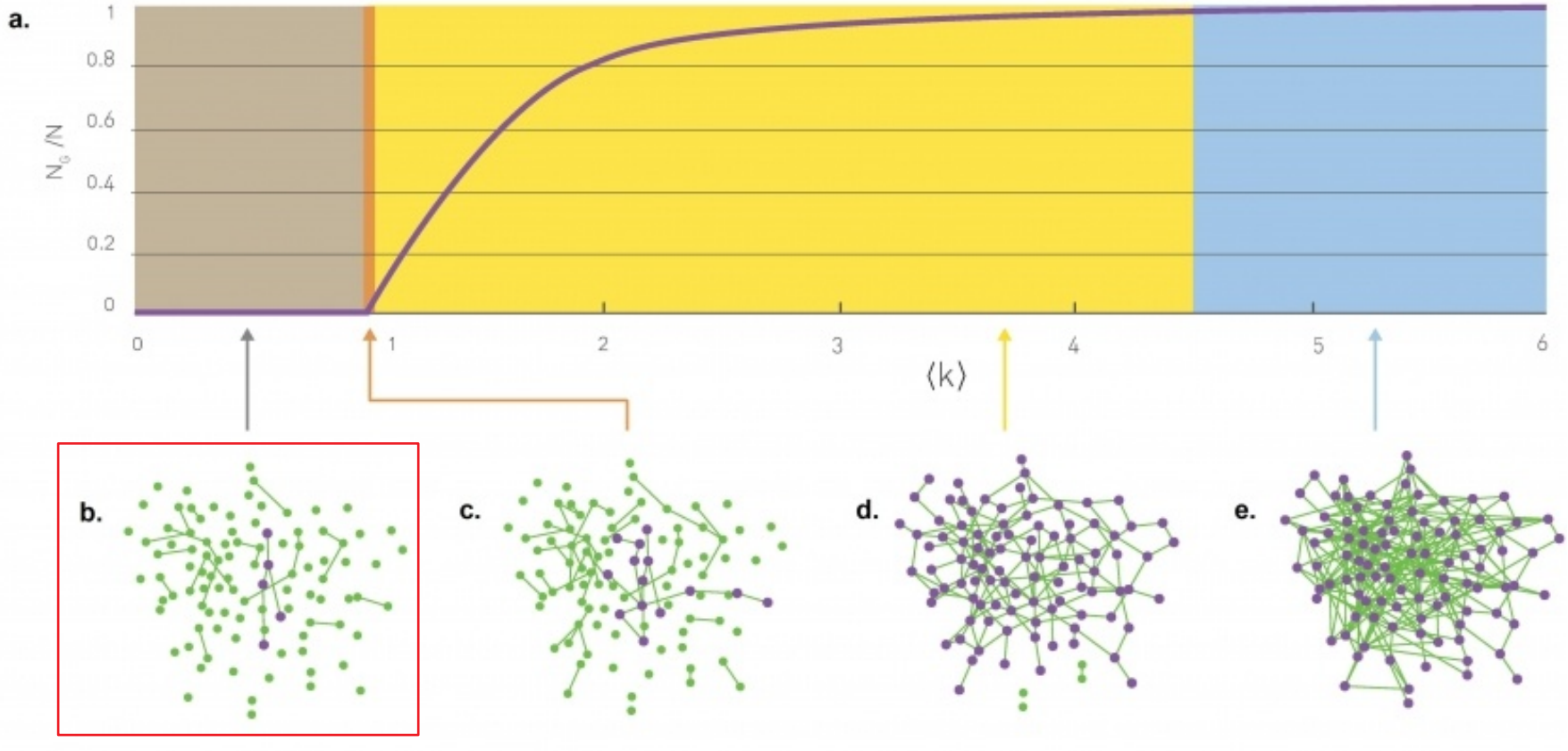
It’s kind of obvious that to have a giant connected it is necessary that <k> = 1, ER proved it’s sufficient in 1959

Visualization of increasing p

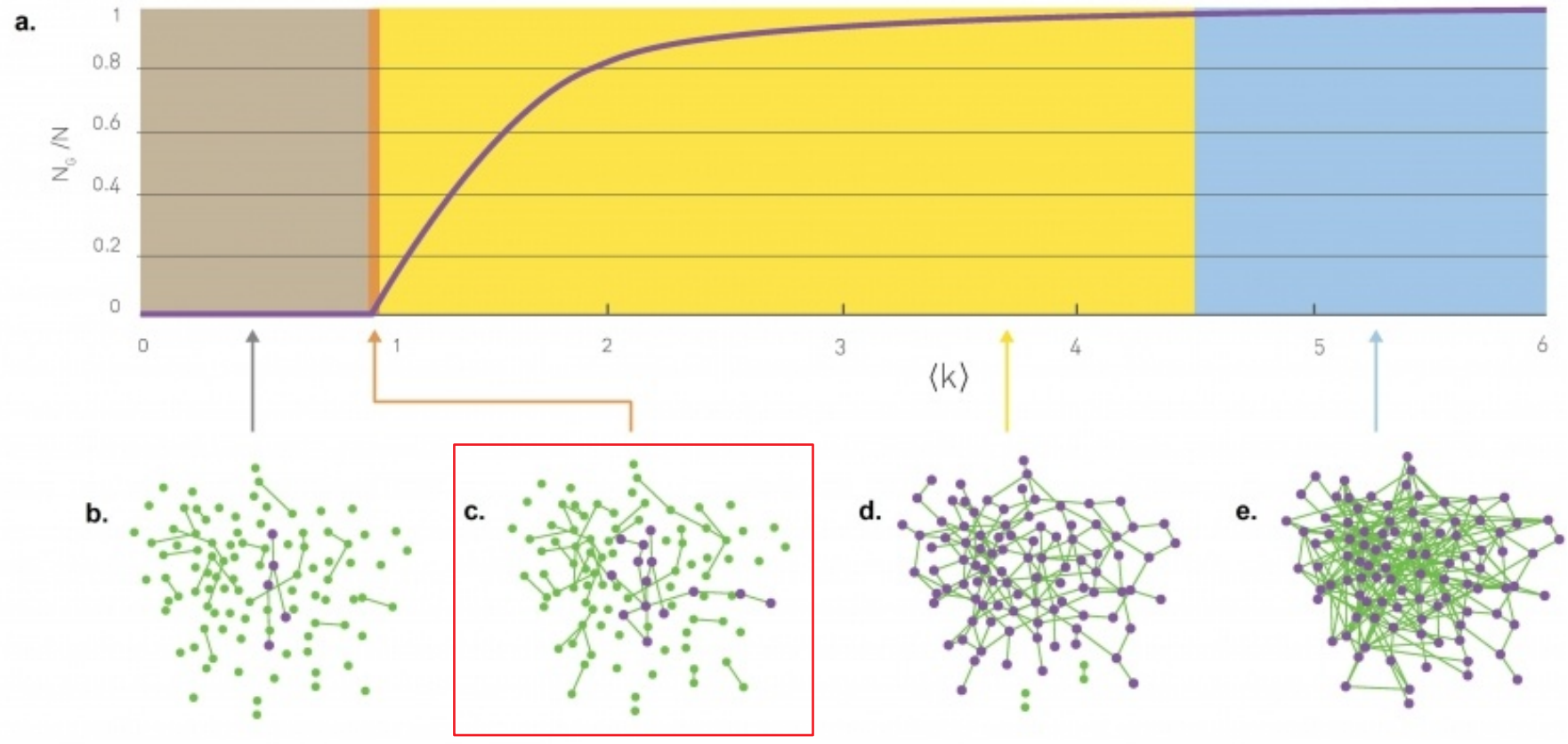


http://networksciencebook.com/images/ch-03/video-3-2.m4v

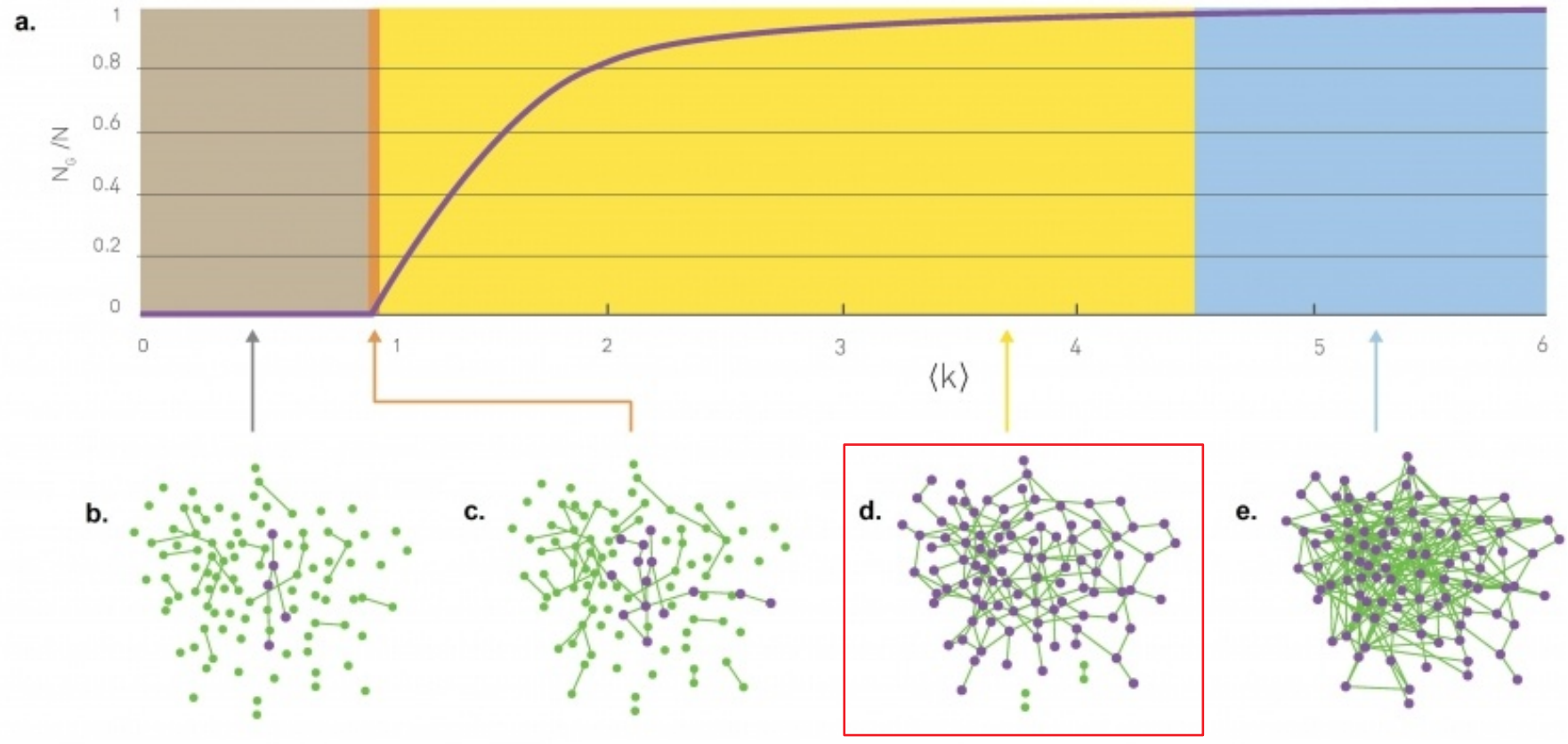
Sub-critical regime: $\langle k \rangle < 1$



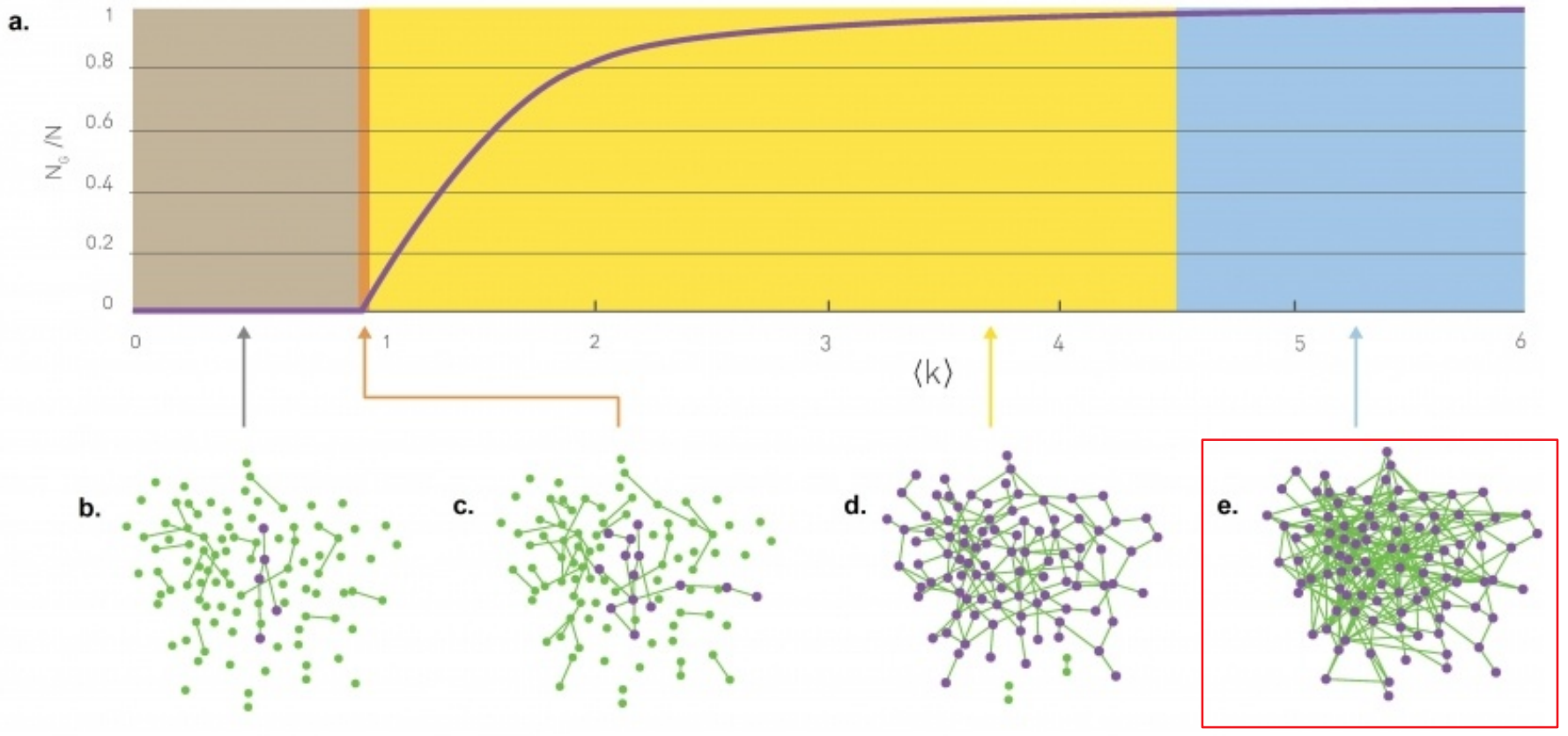
Critical point: $\langle k \rangle = 1$



Supercritical regime: $\langle k \rangle > 1$



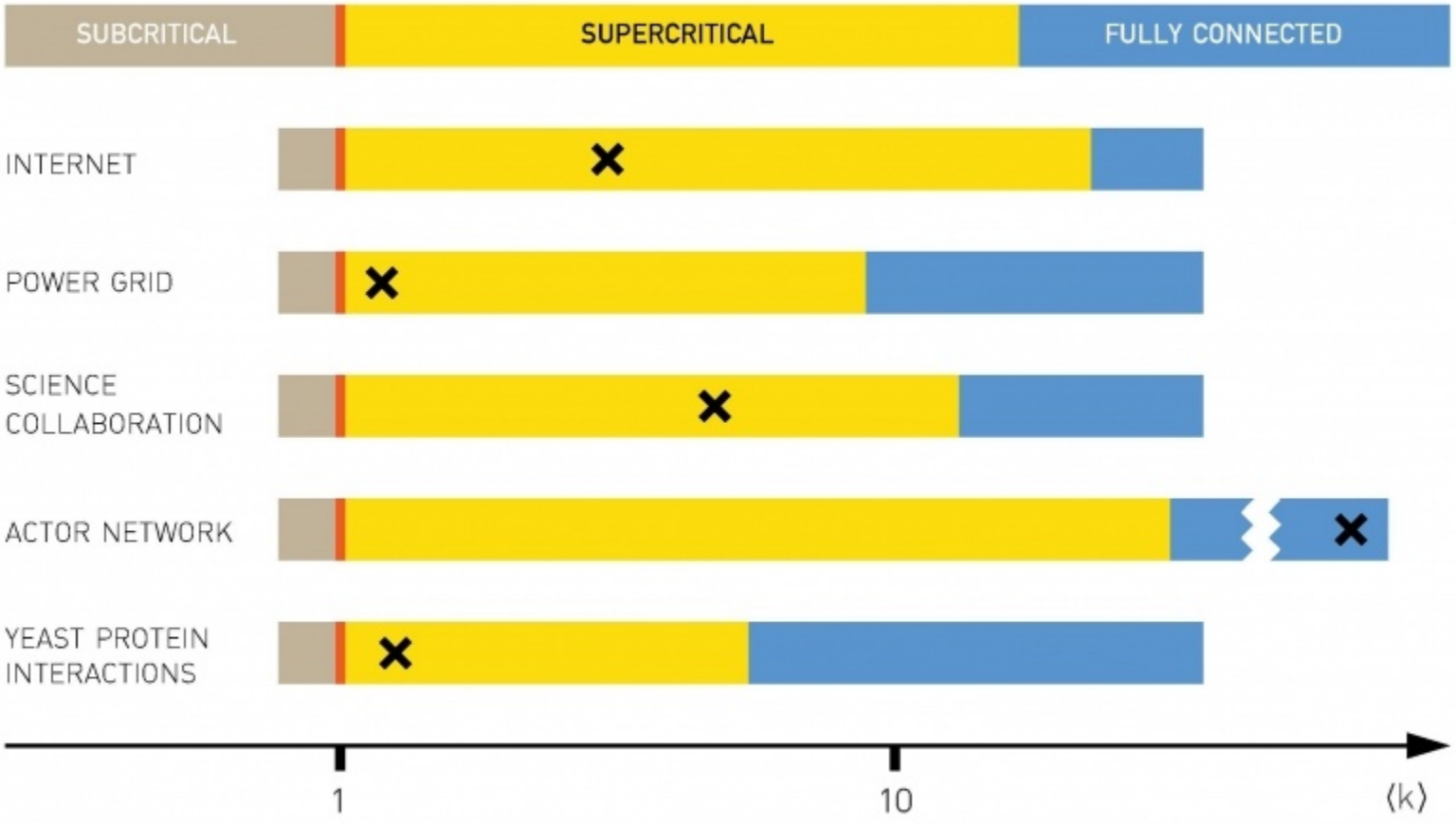
Connected regime: $\langle k \rangle > \log N$



Most real networks are supercritical: $\langle k \rangle > 1$

Network	N	L	‹K›	lnN
Internet	192,244	609,066	6.34	12.17
Power Grid	4,941	6,594	2.67	8.51
Science Collaboration	23,133	94,437	8.08	10.05
Actor Network	702,388	29,397,908	83.71	13.46
Protein Interactions	2,018	2,930	2.90	7.61

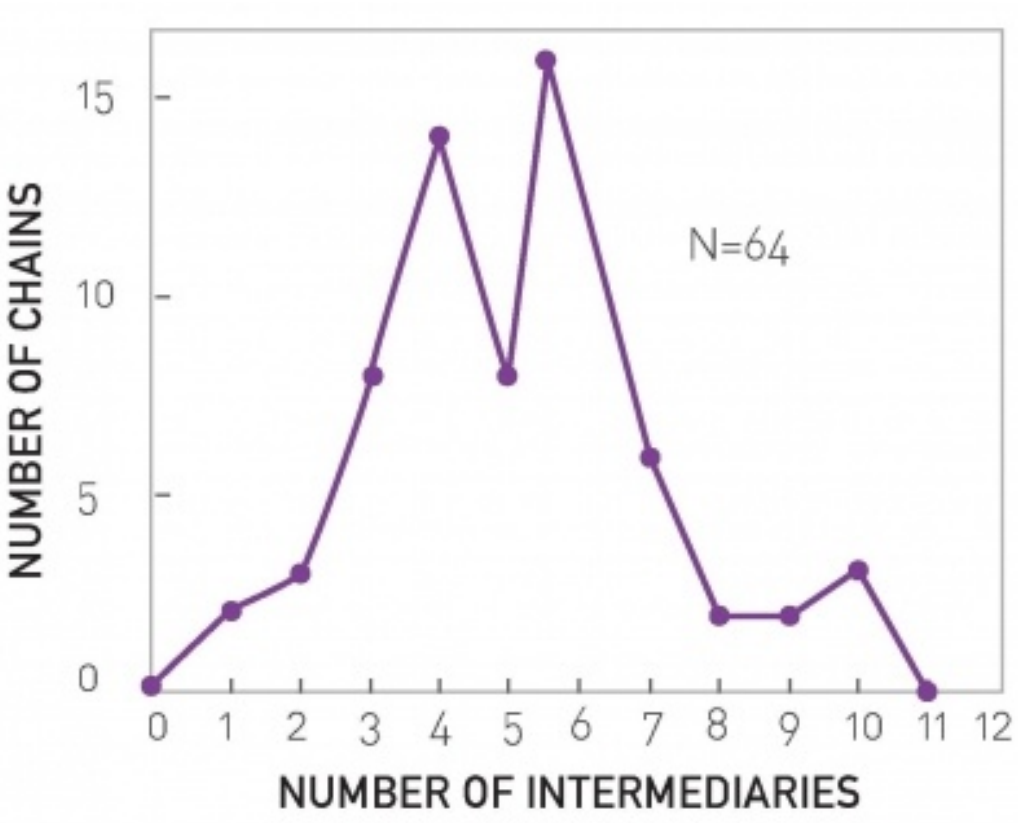
Most real networks are supercritical: $\langle k \rangle > 1$

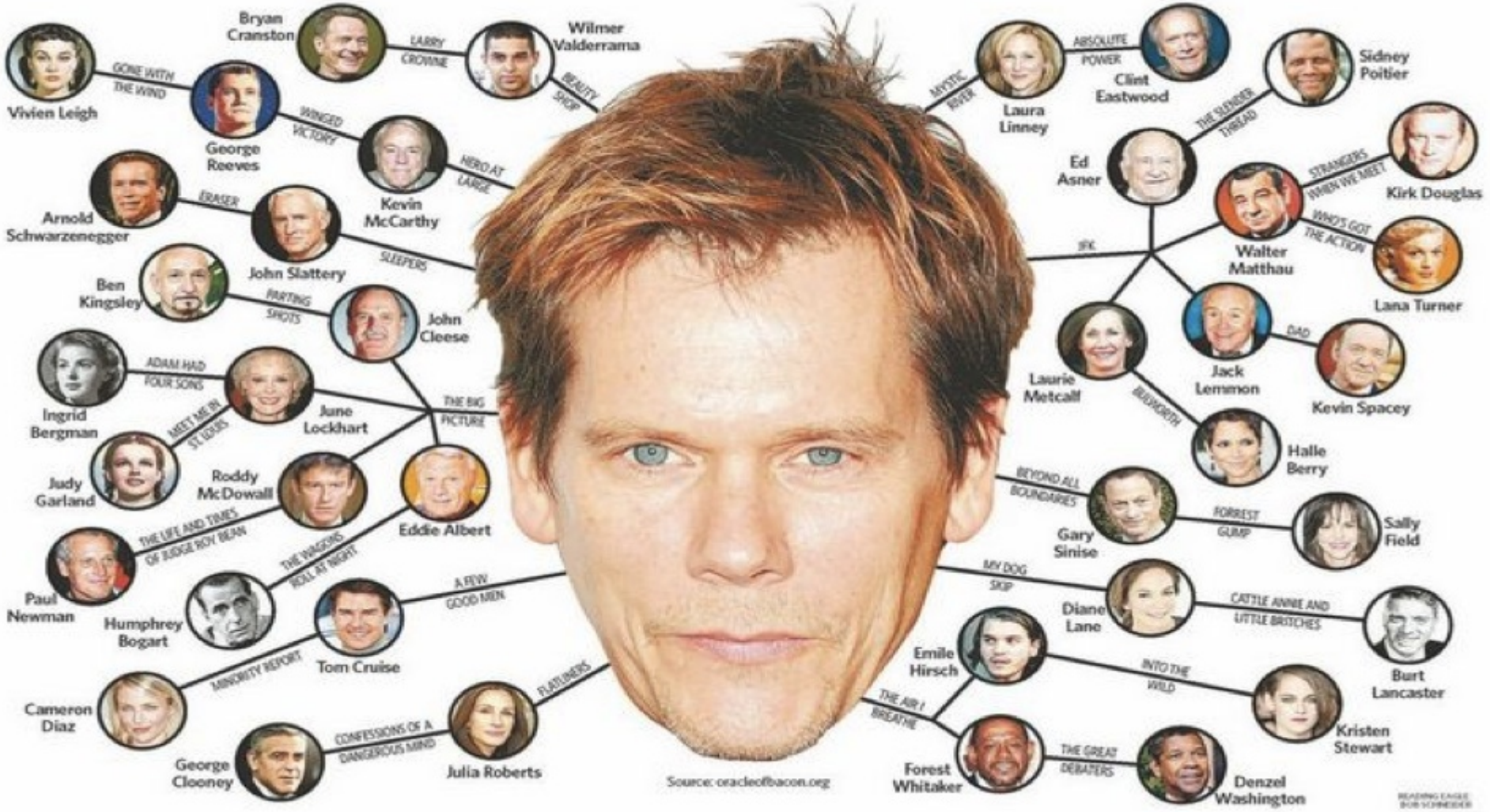


Small-world phenomenon
a.k.a. “six degrees of separation”

Milgram’s experiment in 1967

- Targets: (1) a stock broker in Boston, MA and (2) a student in Sharon, MA
- Sources: residents of Wichita and Omaha
- Materials: a short summary of the study’s purpose, a photograph, the name, address and information about the target person
- Request: to forward the letter to a friend, relative or acquaintance who is most likely to know the target person.
- **<u>64 of 296</u> letters reached destination**




Vivien Leigh
GONE WITH THE WIND
George Reeves
Bryan Cranston
LARRY CROWNE
Wilmer Valderrama
BEAUTY SHOP
WINGED VICTORY
Kevin McCarthy
HERO AT LARGE
Arnold Schwarzenegger
ERASER
John Slattery
SLEEPERS
Ben Kingsley
PARTING SHOTS
John Cleese
Ingrid Bergman
ADAM HAD FOUR SONS
June Lockhart
MEET ME IN ST. LOUIS
Judy Garland
THE BIG PICTURE
Roddy McDowall
Eddie Albert
THE LIFE AND TIMES OF JUDGE ROY BEAN
Paul Newman
THE WAGONS ROLL AT NIGHT
Humphrey Bogart
A FEW GOOD MEN
Tom Cruise
MINORITY REPORT
Cameron Diaz
FLATLINERS
CONFESSIONS OF A DANGEROUS MIND
George Clooney
Julia Roberts
Source: oracleofbacon.org
MYSTIC RIVER
Laura Linney
ABSOLUTE POWER
Clint Eastwood
Sidney Poitier
THE SLENDER THREAD
Ed Asner
STRANGERS WHEN WE MEET
Kirk Douglas
WHO'S GOT THE ACTION
Walter Matthau
Lana Turner
RFK
Laurie Metcalf
DAD
Jack Lemmon
Kevin Spacey
BUSWORTH
Halle Berry
BEYOND ALL BOUNDARIES
Gary Sinise
FORREST GUMP
Sally Field
MY DOG SKIP
Diane Lane
CATTLE ANNIE AND LITTLE BRITCHES
Burt Lancaster
Emile Hirsch
INTO THE WILD
Kristen Stewart
THE AIR I BREATHE
Forest Whitaker
THE GREAT DEBATERS
Denzel Washington

https://oracleofbacon.org/

Stormy Daniels has a Bacon number of 2. Find a different link

Stormy Daniels
was in
The 40 Year Old Virgin (2005)
with
Charlie Hartsock
was in
Crazy, Stupid, Love. (2011)
with
Kevin Bacon

Kevin Bacon to Stormy Daniels Find link More options >>

“Small-world phenomenon”

- If you choose any two individuals on Earth, they are connected by a relatively short path of acquaintances
- Formally
  - The expected distance between two randomly chosen nodes in a network grows much slower than its number of nodes

How many nodes at distance ≤d?

In an ER graph:

$\langle k \rangle$ nodes at distance 1

$\langle k \rangle^2$ nodes at distance 2

…

$\langle k \rangle^d$ nodes at distance d

$$N(d) = 1 + \langle k \rangle + \langle k \rangle^2 + \cdots + \langle k \rangle^d = \frac{\langle k \rangle^{d+1} - 1}{\langle k \rangle - 1}$$

What is the maximum distance?

- Assuming $\langle k \rangle \gg 1$ $\quad \mathrm{N}(\mathrm{d_{max}}) = \frac{\langle k \rangle^{d_{\max}+1} - 1}{\langle k \rangle - 1} \approx N$

$$\langle k \rangle^{d_{\max}} \approx N$$

$$d_{\max} \approx \log_{\langle k \rangle} N$$

$$d_{\max} \approx \frac{\log N}{\log \langle k \rangle}$$

Empirical average and maximum distances

Network	N	L	‹k›	‹d›	d_{max}	ln*N*/ln‹*k*›
Internet	192,244	609,066	6.34	6.98	26	6.58
WWW	325,729	1,497,134	4.60	11.27	93	8.31
Power Grid	4,941	6,594	2.67	18.99	46	8.66
Mobile-Phone Calls	36,595	91,826	2.51	11.72	39	11.42
Email	57,194	103,731	1.81	5.88	18	18.4
Science Collaboration	23,133	93,437	8.08	5.35	15	4.81
Actor Network	702,388	29,397,908	83.71	3.91	14	3.04
Citation Network	449,673	4,707,958	10.43	11.21	42	5.55
E. Coli Metabolism	1,039	5,802	5.58	2.98	8	4.04
Protein Interactions	2,018	2,930	2.90	5.61	14	7.14

Approximation

- Given that d_{max} is dominated by a few long paths, while <d> is averaged over all paths, in general we observe that in an ER graph:

$$\langle d \rangle \approx \frac{\log N}{\log \langle k \rangle}$$

Exercise

Go to https://oracleofbacon.org/ and find a famous actress

or actor that has a distance from Kevin Bacon larger than

$$\langle d \rangle \approx \frac{\log N}{\log \langle k \rangle} = \frac{\log 702388}{\log 83.71} \approx 3$$

Write the name of the actress/actor and its distance

Write in Nearpod Collaborate
https://nearpod.com/student/
Code to be given during class

Clustering coefficient

or

”a friend of a friend is my friend”

Clustering coefficient C_i of node i

- Remember
  - $C_i = 0 \Rightarrow$ neighbors of i are disconnected
  - $C_i = 1 \Rightarrow$ neighbors of i are fully connected

Links between neighbors in ER graphs

- The number of nodes that are neighbors of node i is k_i
- The number of distinct pairs of nodes that are neighbors of i is $k_i(k_i-1)/2$
- The probability that any of those pairs is connected is p
- Then, the expected links L_i between neighbors of i are:

$$\langle L_i \rangle = p\frac{k_i(k_i-1)}{2}$$

Clustering coefficient in ER graphs

- Expected links L_i between neighbors of i: $\langle L_i \rangle = p \frac{k_i(k_i-1)}{2}$

- Clustering coefficient $C_i = \frac{2\langle L_i \rangle}{k_i(k_i-1)}$

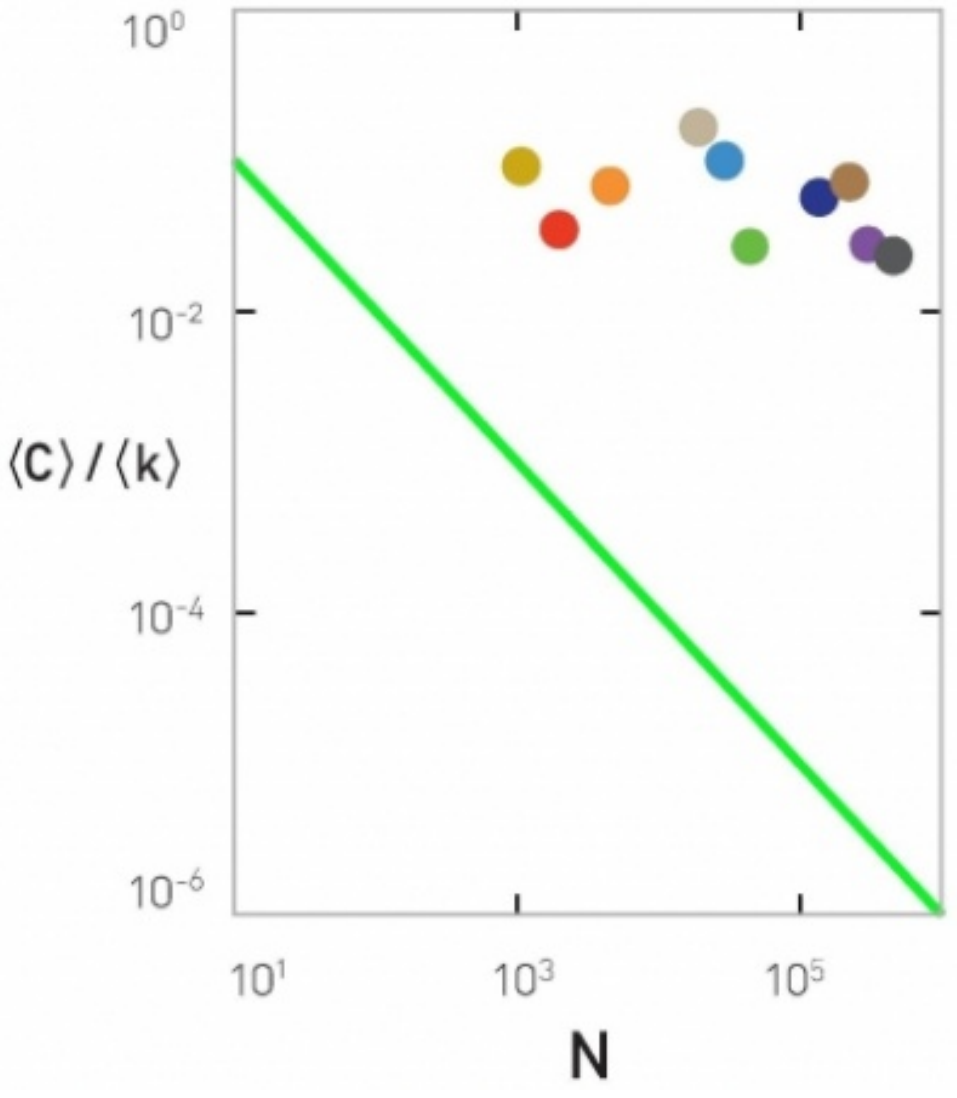
$$= \frac{2p\frac{k_i(k_i-1)}{2}}{k_i(k_i-1)} = \frac{\langle k \rangle}{N}$$

In an ER graph

$$C_i = \langle k \rangle / N$$

If <k> is fixed, large networks should have smaller clustering coefficient

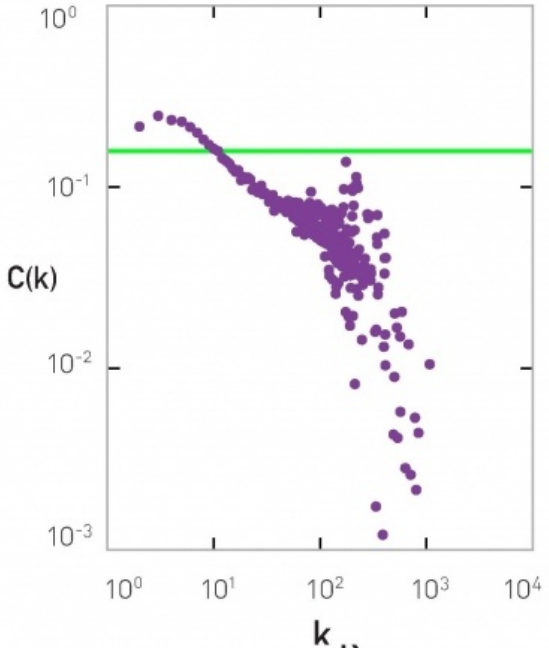
We should have that <C>/<k> follows 1/N



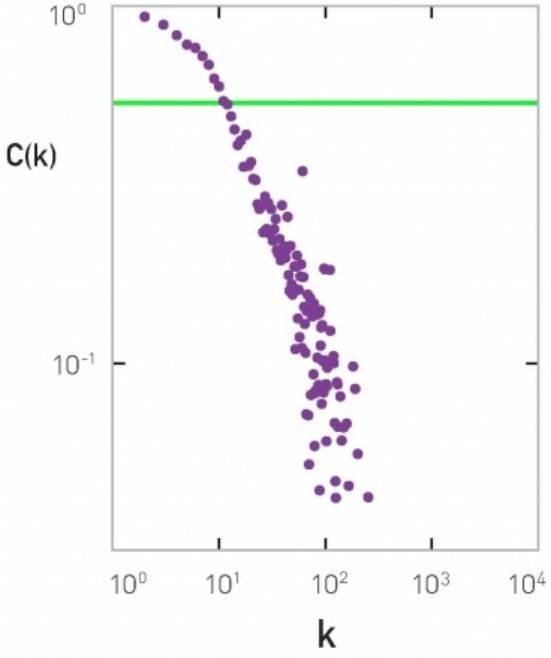
If in an ER graph $C_i = \langle k \rangle / N$

Then the clustering coefficient of a node should be independent of the degree

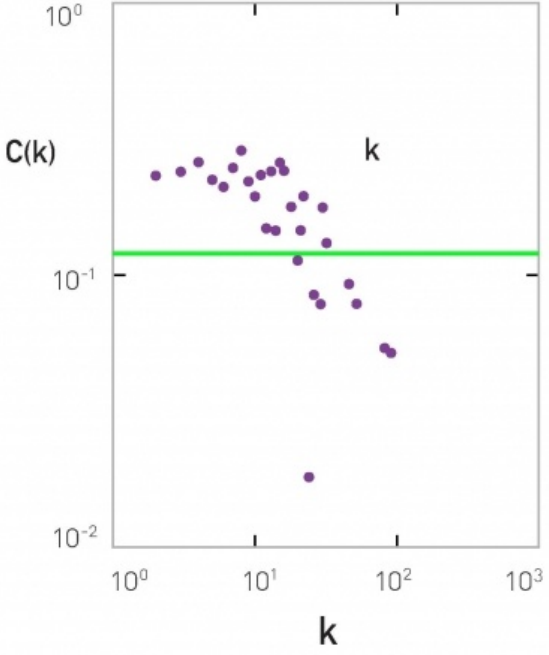
Internet



Science collaborations



Protein interactions



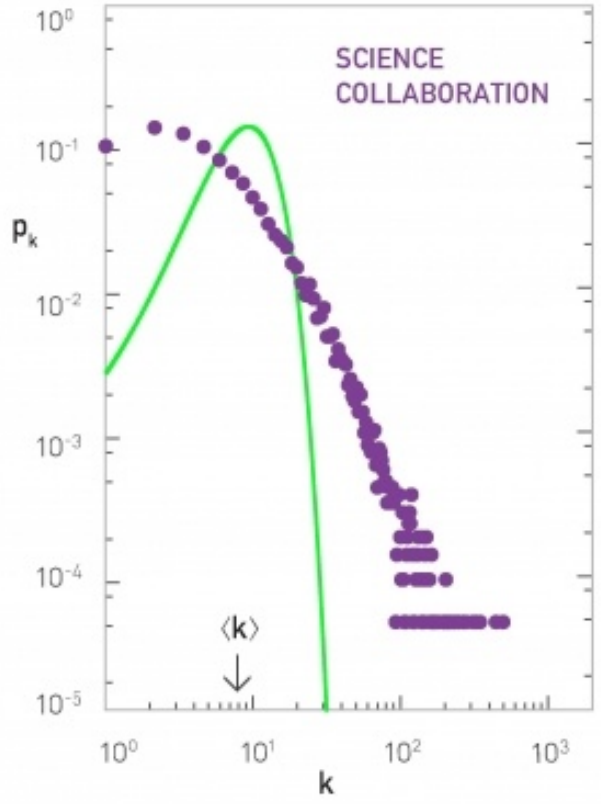
To re-cap ...

The ER model is a bad model of **degree distribution**

- Predicted

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

- Observed
  Many nodes with larger degree than predicted



The ER model is a good model of **path length**

- Predicted

$$d_{\max} \approx \frac{\log N}{\log \langle k \rangle}$$

- Observed

$$\langle d \rangle \approx \frac{\log N}{\log \langle k \rangle}$$

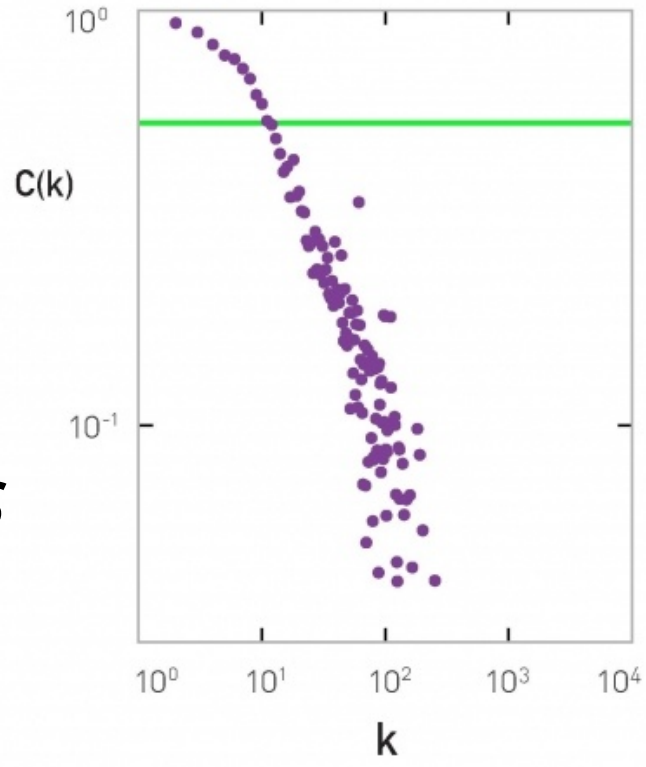
‹d›	d_{max}	ln*N*/ln‹*k*›
6.98	26	6.58
11.27	93	8.31
18.99	46	8.66
11.72	39	11.42
5.88	18	18.4
5.35	15	4.81
3.91	14	3.04
11.21	42	5.55
2.98	8	4.04
5.61	14	7.14

The ER model is a bad model of **clustering coefficient**

- Predicted

$$C_i = \langle k \rangle / N$$

- Observed
  Clustering coefficient decreases if degree increases



Why do we study the ER model?

- Starting point
- Simple
- Instructional
- Historically important, and gained prominence only when large datasets started to become available ⇒ relevant to Data Science!

Exercise [B. 2016, Ex. 3.11.1]

Write in Nearpod Collaborate
https://nearpod.com/student/
Code to be given during class

- Consider an ER graph with N=3,000 $p=10^{-3}$

  $\langle k \rangle \simeq 3$

  1) In which regime is the network?

  $$\langle k \rangle < 1, \langle k \rangle = 1, \langle k \rangle > 1, \langle k \rangle > \log N$$

  2) Suppose we want to increase N until there is only one connected component
     2.1) What is <k> as a function of p and N?
     2.2) What should N be, then? Let's call that value N^{cr}
     Write the equation and solve by trial and error

  $$\langle k \rangle \approx \log N$$

  3) What is <k> if the network has N^{cr} nodes?

  4) What is the expected distance <d> with N^{cr} nodes?

  $$\langle d \rangle \approx \frac{\log N}{\log \langle k \rangle}$$

Summary

Things to remember

- The ER model
- Degree distribution in the ER model
- Distance distribution in the ER model
- Connectivity regimes in the ER model

Practice on your own

- Take an existing network
  - (e.g., from the slide “Empirical average and maximum distances”)
  - Assume it is an ER network
  - Indicate in which regime is the network
  - Estimate expected distance
  - Compare to actual distances, if available
- Write code to create ER networks