

Finding the mJOR descriptors of species networks

Tanya Strydom ¹; Andrew P. Beckerman ¹

Abstract: TODO

Keywords: food web, structure, dimensionality reduction

1 Blah blah blah Vermaat et al. (2009)

2 “It is incumbent on network ecologists to establish clearly the independence and uniqueness of the descriptive

3 metrics used.” - Lau et al. (2017)

Table 1: An informative caption about the different network properties

| Label | Definition | “Function” | Reference (for maths), can make footnotes probs |
|-------------|---|------------|---|
| Basal | Percentage of basal taxa, defined as species who have a vulnerability of zero | | |
| Connectance | L/S^2 , where S is the number of species and L the number of links | | |
| Cannibal | Percentage of species that are cannibals | | |
| ChLen | Mean food chain length, averaged over all species (where a food chain is defined as a continuous path from a ‘basal’ to a ‘top’ species) | | |
| ChSD | Standard deviation of ChLen | | |
| ChNum | log number of food chains | | |
| Clust | mean clustering coefficient (probability that two taxa linked to the same taxon are also linked) | | TODO |
| GenSD | Normalized standard deviation of generality of a species standardized by L/S | | Williams & Martinez (2008) |
| Herbivore | Percentage of herbivores plus detritivores (taxa that feed only on basal taxa) | | |

| Label | Definition | “Function” | Reference (for |
|--------------|---|------------|-------------------------------------|
| | | | maths), can make footnotes probs |
| Intermediate | Percentage of intermediate taxa (with both consumers and resources) | | |
| LinkSD | Normalized standard deviation of links (number of consumers plus resources per taxon) | | |
| Loop | Percentage of taxa in loops (food chains in which a taxon occurs twice) | | TODO |
| L/S | links per species | | |
| MaxSim | Mean of the maximum trophic similarity of each taxon to other taxa, the number of predators and prey shared by a pair of species divided by their total number of predators and prey | | TODO |
| Omnivory | Percentage of omnivores (taxa that feed on ≥ 2 taxa with different trophic levels) | | |
| Path | characteristic path length, the mean shortest food chain length between species pairs | | |
| Richness | Number of nodes in the network | | |
| TL | Prey-weighted trophic level averaged across taxa | | Williams & Martinez (2004) |
| Top | Percentage of top taxa (taxa without consumers) | | |

| Label | Definition | “Function” | Reference (for maths), can make footnotes probs |
|------------|--|--|---|
| VulSD | Normalized standard deviation of vulnerability of a species standardized by L/S | | |
| Links | The number of links in the network | | |
| Diameter | Diameter can also be measured as the average of the distances between each pair of nodes in the network | | Delmas et al. (2019) |
| ρ | Spectral radius is a a conceptual analog to nestedness (and more appropriate for unipartite networks). It is defined as the absolute value of the largest real part of the eigenvalues of the <i>undirected</i> adjacency matrix | | Staniczenko et al. (2013) |
| Complexity | SVD complexity of a network, defined as the Pielou entropy of its singular values | Something about structural v behavioural complexity being captured | Strydom et al. (2021) |
| Centrality | Centrality is a measure of how ‘influential’ a species is, under various definitions of ‘influence’... | Centrality can help in quantifying the importance of species in a network | |
| S1 | Number of linear chains | | Stouffer et al. (2007) Milo et al. (2002) |
| S2 | Number of omnivory motifs | | Stouffer et al. (2007) Milo et al. (2002) |

| Label | Definition | “Function” | Reference (for maths), can make footnotes probs |
|-------------|--|------------|---|
| S4 | Number of apparent competition motifs | | Stouffer et al. (2007) Milo et al. (2002) |
| S5 | Number of direct competition motifs | | Stouffer et al. (2007) Milo et al. (2002) |
| Intervality | | | TODO Stouffer et al. (2006) |

References

- Delmas, E., Besson, M., Brice, M.-H., Burkle, L. A., Riva, G. V. D., Fortin, M.-J., Gravel, D., Guimarães, P. R., Hembry, D. H., Newman, E. A., Olesen, J. M., Pires, M. M., Yeakel, J. D., & Poisot, T. (2019). Analysing ecological networks of species interactions. *Biological Reviews*, 94(1), 16–36. <https://doi.org/10.1111/brv.12433>
- Lau, M. K., Borrett, S. R., Baiser, B., Gotelli, N. J., & Ellison, A. M. (2017). Ecological network metrics: Opportunities for synthesis. *Ecosphere*, 8(8), e01900. <https://doi.org/10.1002/ecs2.1900>
- Milo, R., Shen-Orr, S., Itzkovitz, S., Kashtan, N., Chklovskii, D., & Alon, U. (2002). Network Motifs: Simple Building Blocks of Complex Networks. *Science*, 298(5594), 824–827. <https://doi.org/10.1126/science.298.5594.824>
- Staniczenko, P. P. A., Kopp, J. C., & Allesina, S. (2013). The ghost of nestedness in ecological networks. *Nature Communications*, 4(1), 1391. <https://doi.org/10.1038/ncomms2422>
- Stouffer, D. B., Camacho, J., & Amaral, L. A. N. (2006). A robust measure of food web intervality. *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences*, 103(50), 19015–19020. <https://doi.org/10.1073/pnas.0603844103>
- Stouffer, D. B., Camacho, J., Jiang, W., & Nunes Amaral, L. A. (2007). Evidence for the existence of a robust pattern of prey selection in food webs. *Proceedings of the Royal Society B: Biological Sciences*, 274(1621), 1931–1940. <https://doi.org/10.1098/rspb.2007.0571>
- Strydom, T., Dalla Riva, G. V., & Poisot, T. (2021). SVD Entropy Reveals the High Complexity of Ecological Networks. *Frontiers in Ecology and Evolution*, 9. <https://doi.org/10.3389/fevo.2021.623141>
- Vermaat, J. E., Dunne, J. A., & Gilbert, A. J. (2009). Major dimensions in food-web structure properties.

- 25 *Ecology*, 90(1), 278–282. <https://doi.org/10.1890/07-0978.1>
- 26 Williams, R. J., & Martinez, N. D. (2004). Limits to Trophic Levels and Omnivory in Complex Food Webs:
27 Theory and Data. *The American Naturalist*, 163(3), 458–468. <https://doi.org/10.1086/381964>
- 28 Williams, R. J., & Martinez, N. D. (2008). Success and its limits among structural models of complex food
29 webs. *The Journal of Animal Ecology*, 77(3), 512–519. <https://doi.org/10.1111/j.1365-2656.2008.01362.x>