

Network Science

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1 Fundamental Graph Theory

1.1 Basic Concepts

We begin with a few basic definitions.

Definition 1.1 (Graph). A graph G is a tuple $(V(G), E(G))$ equipped with a function $\sim: E(G) \rightarrow V(G) \times V(G) \rightarrow \text{Prop}$ where $V(G)$ is the *vertex set*, $E(G)$ is the *edge set* and for all $e \in E(G)$ there exists a unique pair $v_1, v_2 \in V(G)$ such that $v_1 \sim_e v_2$. We write $v_1 \sim_e v_2$ as a short hand for $\sim(e, v_1, v_2) = \text{true}$.

Note that this definition works for both directed and undirected graphs as by this definition, a undirected graph is a directed graph with the condition that for all $e \in E(G)$, \sim_e is symmetric.

Definition 1.2 (Subgraph). Let G be a graph, then H is a subgraph of G if and only if H is a graph such that $V(H) \subseteq V(G)$, $E(H) \subseteq E(G)$ and the restriction $\sim^G|_{H} = \sim^H$. We will write $H \leq G$ for H is a subgraph of G .

Definition 1.3 (Loop). Let $G := (V(G), E(G))$ be a graph and $e \in E(G)$ be an edge. We say e is a loop at some $v \in V(G)$ if and only if $v \sim_e v$.

Definition 1.4 (Multiple Edges). Let $G := (V(G), E(G))$ be a graph and $e, f \in E(G)$ be edges. We call e, f be multiple edges if and only if there exists $v_1, v_2 \in V(G)$ such that $v_1 \sim_e v_2$ and $v_1 \sim_f v_2$.

Definition 1.5 (Simple). We call a graph simple if it contains no loops nor multiple edges.

If a graph is simple we can then model the edge set of the graph $E(G)$ by a set of unordered tuples where each edge e with end points v_1, v_2 can be uniquely represented by $e = v_1 v_2$ (commutative if and only if G is undirected).

Definition 1.6 (Complete Graph). A graph G is complete if and only if G is simple and every vertex is adjacent to every other vertices, i.e. $E(G) = \{v_i v_j \mid v_i, v_j \in V(G), i \neq j\}$.

Definition 1.7 (Adjacent). Let $G := (V(G), E(G))$ be a graph and $v_1, v_2 \in V(G)$, then v_1 and v_2 are adjacent (or are neighbours) if and only if there exists some edge $e \in E(G)$ such that $v_1 \sim_e v_2$.

Definition 1.8 (Path). Let G be a graph, then a path in G is a simple subgraph P of G such that $V(P)$ can be ordered in a list such that consecutive vertices are adjacent. On top of this, if this ordering resulted in the first element to be adjacent to the last, then we say P is a *cycle*.

Note that we said *ordered*, so each element of $V(P)$ can only appear once in the arrangement (so no infinite loops back and forth). This can be somewhat limiting as sometimes lists with duplicate naturally arises, so let us consider the path induced by such a list.

Lemma 1. *Let G be a graph, $v_1, v_2 \in V(G)$, and L a finite list of vertices of G (possibly with repeats) such that consecutive vertices are adjacent. Then v_1, v_2 are connected.*

Proof. We present an algorithm to find such a path. While L contains duplicates, find the first pair of duplicates and remove every vertex in the sequence between the two duplicates including the last duplicate. This algorithm will always terminate as L is finite. \square

Definition 1.9 (Connected). A graph G is connected if and only if for all $u, v \in V(G)$, there exists a path P in G such that the rearrangement of P begins in u and ends in v .

1.2 Graph as Models

Definition 1.10 (Complement). Let G be a simple graph, then the complement of G , \bar{G} is the simple graph $(V(G), E(\bar{G}))$ where for all $u, v \in V(G)$, $uv \in E(\bar{G})$ if and only if $uv \notin E(G)$.

Note that this complement graph is unique only if we restrict it to be simple. Suppose G is simple and let $v \in V(G)$, then $vv \notin E(G)$ by the no loop condition. Thus, if we do not restrict \bar{G} to be simple, then we can add how many loops as we want at v , making the complement not unique.

Proposition 0.1. *Let G be a simple graph, then the complement of G is unique.*

Proof. Let G_1, G_2 be complements of G . By definition $V(G_1) = V(G) = V(G_2)$ so $G_1 = G_2$ if and only if $E(G_1) = E(G_2)$. Wlog. it suffices to show that $E(G_1) \subseteq E(G_2)$. Let $uv \in E(G_1)$, then $uv \notin E(G)$ and thus $uv \in E(G_2)$. \square

Let us consider a real world problem. Suppose we have n job openings and k applicants but not all applicants are qualified for all jobs. We can easily model this problem by connecting each applicants to their respective qualified jobs and ask whether we can find a subgraph that consist of n pairwise disjoint edges.

Upon examining this question, we find that this particular model has an interesting graph structure in which none of the jobs are adjacent to each other (similarly for the applicants). This type of graphs are called *bipartite* and the set vertices representing people and jobs respectively are called independent.

Definition 1.11 (Independent). Let G be a graph and $S \subseteq V(G)$. S is called an independent set in G if and only if for all $u, v \in S$, $uv \notin E(G)$.

Definition 1.12 (Bipartite). A graph G is called bipartite if and only if $V(G)$ is the disjoint union of two independent sets in G . We call these two independent sets the *partite* sets of G .

1.3 Graph Isomorphism

Similar to all mathematical structures, there exists a notion of isomorphisms between two graphs that are essentially the same¹

Definition 1.13 (Isomorphism). An isomorphism from a simple graph G to a simple graph H is a bijection $f : V(G) \rightarrow V(H)$ such that for all $uv \in E(G)$, $f(u)f(v) \in E(H)$. We write $G \cong H$ as usual.

Theorem 1. *Graph isomorphisms is a equivalence relation.*

As usual, theorems of the above kind is simply by checking each of the properties so we will omit it here. As an equivalence relation induces a partition, a set of graphs can be quotiented out by the isomorphism relation and we call each element of this quotient an *isomorphism class*.

As all graphs in a isomorphism class are pairwise isomorphic to one another, they all share graph structures. Therefore, when discussing graph structures, it makes sense to talk about a isomorphism class rather than a particular graph. When we do this, we will informally call it an *unlabeled* graph.

We will now introduce some notations. The unlabeled path and cycle of n vertices is denoted by P_n and C_n respectively while the complete graph of n vertices is denoted by K_n . If G is a bipartite graph with n vertices such that two vertices are adjacent if and only if they are in different partite sets, then we call G a complete bipartite graph and denote it by $K_{r,s}$ where r, s are the sizes of the partite sets.

¹By essentially the same we mean that almost all properties of a graph commutes via an isomorphism.

2 Trees

2.1 Basic Properties of Trees

Definition 2.1 (Minimally Connected). We say a graph G is minimally connected if and only if it is connected and for all $e \in E(G)$, the graph $(V(G), E(G) \setminus \{e\})$ is not connected.

Definition 2.2 (Tree). A tree is a minimally connected graph.

Lemma 2. *A tree does not have any cycles.*

Proof. Let G be a tree and for contradiction suppose $C \leq G$ is a cycle. Then by the definition of a cycle, there exists $v \in V(C)$, such that elements of $V(C)$ can be arranged into a circle of consecutively adjacent vertices. Let u, v be the first and last element of $V(C)$ in the above arrangement, and $x, y \in V(G')$ where $(G' := V(G), E(G) \setminus \{uv\})$. As the there path arranged above remains, it follows that u and v are connected. So, as $x, y \in V(G') = V(G)$, there exists some path P from x to y in G . Now, if $uv \in E(P)$, we can simply replace that with path from u to v implying G' is also connected. # \square

Lemma 3. *The graph G is a tree if and only if it is connected and acyclic.*

Proof. The forward direction follows directly from the above lemma so it suffices to show that G is minimally connected if it is connected and acyclic.

Suppose that G is not minimally connected, then there exists $uv \in E(G)$ such that $G' := (V(G), E(G) \setminus \{uv\})$ is also connected, so there exists a path P in G' from u to v . Now, as this sequence P by definition begins with u and end with v , and u, v are adjacent by uv in G , this sequence is therefore a cycle in G . # \square

Lemma 4. *Any two vertices on a tree is joined uniquely by a path.*

Proof. Existence is true by the connectedness of a tree so all that remains is to prove that the path is unique.

Let T be a tree, $x, y \in V(T)$, and P_1, P_2 paths from x to y in T . Suppose $P_1 \neq P_2$ and let us denote p_1, p_2 the path arrangement. Let $S := \{n \in \mathbb{N} \mid p_1[n] \neq p_2[n]\}$, then, as $P_1 \neq P_2$, S is not empty; and the fact that paths are finite, S has a minimum and a maximum value i, j by the well-ordering principle. Now, by connecting $p_1[i-1 : j+1]$ to $p_2[i-1 : j+1]$ (both of which index makes sense as $i > 1$ as $p_1[1] = x = p_2[1]$ and similarly for j), and by considering lemma 1, we have created a cycle in T . # \square

In nature, many trees have *leaves* and therefore, so do our graph-theoretic trees (in fact our trees are stronger as *all* trees with two or more vertices have at least two leaves).

Definition 2.3 (Leaf). A vertex in a tree is a leaf if and only if it has degree one, i.e. it is only connected to one other vertex.

Lemma 5. *A tree with two or more vertices has at least two leaves.*

Proof. Consider the longest path in this tree. It must have a leaf at either end of the path as otherwise it is not the longest path in this tree. \square

Lemma 6. *Let T be a tree and $v \in V(T)$ a leaf. Then $T - v$ is also a tree².*

Proof. $T - v$ is connected as for all $x, y \in V(T - v)$, x, y is connected in T by some path P . Now, as $v \notin V(P)$ since if otherwise v must be on the either end of the path implying either x or y equals v . Also, as $v \notin V(P)$, e_v , the unique edge with endpoint v is also not in P , so $P \leq T - v$ connecting x , and y .

Thus, by lemma 3, it suffices to show that $T - v$ is acyclic. This is trivial as if $C \leq T - v$ is a cycle, then it is also a cycle in T , so we are done! \square

Lemma 7. *A tree of n vertices has $n - 1$ edges.*

Proof. For convenience let us denote the trees of n vertices by T_n .

We apply natural number's induction on n . If $n = 1$ the result is trivial. Suppose for $n = k$, for all T_k , $|E(T_k)| = k - 1$, and let us consider the case for the tree T with $n = k + 1$ vertices.

By lemma 5, T has at least two leaves and let l be one of the leaves. Then by lemma 6, $T - l$ is a tree of n vertices, so it has $k - 1$ number of edges. However, as l is a leaf, there is only one edge with endpoint l , so $|E(T)| = |E(T - l)| + 1 = k - 1 + 1 = k$. \square

Lemma 8. *A connected graph G of n vertices has at least $n - 1$ edges.*

Proof. We induct on the number of vertices. As the number of edges of a graph is a natural number, it is greater or equal to $0 = 1 - 1$, so true for $n = 1$.

Suppose G has $k + 1$ vertices, then by excluded middle, either G is minimally connected, or it is not. If it is, then it has $n - 1$ edges by the previous lemma so suppose otherwise. Then there exists $v \in V(G)$ such that $G - v$ is still connected. As $G - v$ has k vertices, it has at least $k - 1$ number of edges by the inductive hypothesis. Now, as G is connected, v is at least connected to another vertex, thus, G has at least k edges. \square

Lemma 9. *A connected graph G of n vertices is a tree if and only if it has $n - 1$ edges.*

Proof. The forward direction of the proof is exact lemma 7 so let us consider the reverse direction.

As G is connected, by lemma 3, it suffices to show that G is not cyclic. In order to show this, we apply induction on the number of vertices of G .

If G has one vertex, then it is trivially acyclic. Now suppose for connected graphs G_k of k vertices and $k - 1$ edges are trees, let us consider the connected graph of G with $k + 1$ vertices and k edges. If G is minimally connected then G is acyclic by lemma 3 so suppose that there exists $v \in V(G)$ such that $G - v$ is connected. Now as G is connected, there exists at least one edge who has endpoint v , so $G - v$ has at most $k - 1$ edges. However, as $G - v$ is connected, it has at least $k - 1$ edges by the above lemma so it has exactly $k - 1$ edges

²We write $T - v$ for the graph $(V(T) \setminus \{v\}, E(T) \setminus S)$ where S is the set of edges with v as an endpoint.

and v is a leaf. Therefore, as $G - v$ is a tree by the inductive hypothesis, we have G is also a tree. \square

3 Working with Networks

In this section we will be less rigorous and focus more on the methods used to analysis graphs (networks) especially really large ones.

3.1 Degree Distribution

Network systems vary in size but they are normally very large (that is they are large enough such that we can't draw them by hand), so, in order to analyse large networks, it is often useful to take a probabilistic approach.

Definition 3.1 (Degree of a Vertex of a Undirected Graph). Let $(V(G), E(G))$ be a undirected graph and $v \in V(G)$, if v is the end point of some $e \in E(G)$, then we say v and e are *incident*. Then the degree of v is the number of incident edges.

Suppose we denote the degree of some vertex v by $d(v)$, then we find the total number of edges is simply

$$|E(G)| = \frac{1}{2} \sum_{v \in V(G)} d(v).$$

Note that the $1/2$ factor is because each edge is incident to two vertices.

Definition 3.2 (Average Degree of a Undirected Graph). Let $G = (V(G), E(G))$ be a undirected graph, then the average degree of G is $\frac{1}{|V(G)|} \sum_{v \in V(G)} d(v) = 2|E(G)| / |V(G)|$.

The above, however, does not simply transfer to directed graphs since we would loss the information of “directedness” of the graph. Therefore, the degree is defined slightly differently for directed graphs.

Definition 3.3 (Degree of a Vertex of a Directed Graph). Let $(V(G), E(G))$ be a directed graph and $v \in V(G)$, then the degree of v is simply the difference between number incoming edges and the number of out going edges.

With the definition above, we see straight away the sum of the degrees of all vertices in a directed graph is zero so the definition for average degree does not apply for digraphs³ either. Therefore, instead defining the average degree by averaging the sum of degrees, we use the average of the sum of either the incoming or outgoing degrees (both of which are equal).

Let us now consider the *degree distribution*, p_k , a characterisation of a graph that provides the probability that a randomly selected vertex has k degree.

Straight away, given some graph $(V(G), E(G))$, let $S := \{v \in V(G) \mid d(v) = k\}$, then $p_k = |S| / |V(G)|$.

³Digraph is an alternative word to directed graph.

3.1.1 Clustering Coefficient

The clustering coefficient of a graph attempts to capture the degree to which the adjacent nodes of a given node is connected to each other.

Definition 3.4 (Clustering Coefficient). Let G be a graph and $u \in V(G)$ is a node with degree $d(u)$, then the clustering coefficient of u is

$$C_u = \frac{2L(u)}{d(u)(d(u) - 1)},$$

where $L(u)$ is the number of edges in $E(G)$ connecting two neighbours of u .

We note that the clustering coefficient C_u is a number between 0 and 1 with $C_u = 0$ representing none of the adjacent nodes of u is adjacent with each other which $C_u = 1$ means every adjacent node of u is adjacent to every other adjacent node of u .

If the graph in question is *simple*, then we see that the clustering coefficient of some node u represents the probability that two (unique) adjacent nodes of u are adjacent⁴.

Theorem 2. *An acyclic graph has zero clustering coefficients everywhere.*

Proof. This follows directly from that if there exists some node with clustering coefficient greater than 0, it has at least two neighbouring nodes which are adjacent to each other. Then we can easily create a path starting and ending at this node creating a cycle. # \square

Corollary 2.1. *A tree has zero clustering coefficients everywhere.*

By taking the average of the clustering coefficient of every node, we have the *average clustering coefficient* which represents the degree of clustering over the whole network.

Definition 3.5 (Average Clustering Coefficient). Let G be a graph and for all $u \in V(G)$ we denoted the clustering coefficient of u by C_u , then the average clustering coefficient of G is

$$\langle C \rangle = \frac{1}{|V(G)|} \sum_{u \in V(G)} C_u.$$

3.2 Path & Distance

Given a graph G and two nodes $u, v \in V(G)$, we would often like to quantitatively construct an ordering on these paths. This can be achieved through creating a distance function on the set of paths.

Definition 3.6 (Distance of Unweighed Paths). Let G be a graph with unweighed edges and $u, v \in V(G)$. Suppose that P is a path between u and v in G , then the distance of P is

$$\text{dist}P = |P| - 1,$$

where $|P|$ denoted the length of the sequence of nodes induced by P .

⁴This is because $d(u)(d(u) - 1)$ is the number of ordered combinations of choosing two nodes while for each edge counted by $L(u)$, it connects two unique parings (u, v) and (v, u) .

It is not hard to imagine why such a distance function is useful, and why often we might want to look for the shortest path between two nodes in a network.

Definition 3.7 (Shortest Path). Let G be a graph and $u, v \in V(G)$. Suppose we denote S as the set of paths between u and v . Then, we call $P \in S$ a shortest path if and only if

$$\text{dist}P = \min_{Q \in S} \text{dist}Q.$$

We denote this distance by $d_{u,v}$.

This definition makes sense as we are working with finite networks, and thus, the number of paths between two nodes is finite. We note that the shortest path between two nodes is not unique as many paths can have the same distance.

We quickly introduce some more definitions. Given a graph G , and a path P in G ,

- the *diameter* of G is $\max\{d_{u,v} \mid u, v \in V(G)\}$;
- the *average path length* of G is $\frac{1}{|S|} \sum_{d \in S} d$ where $S = \{d_{u,v} \mid u, v \in V(G)\}$;
- P is an *Eulerian path* if and only if $E(G) \subseteq P$;
- P is a *Hamiltonian path* if and only if for all $u \in V(G)$, there exists $e \in P$, u is an endpoint of e .

3.2.1 Breadth-First Search (BFS) Algorithm

The BFS algorithm is an algorithm to determine the shortest distance between two nodes of a network.

Let G be a network and $u, v \in V(G)$, then

1. For each adjacent nodes w of u , construct a tuple $(w, d(w) = 1)$ and put them in a queue.
2. While the first element w of the queue is not equal to v , for each adjacent node x of w , construct a tuple $(x, d(x) = d(w) + 1)$ and remove w from the queue.
3. If the first element of the queue is v , then the distance is simply $d(v)$. However, if there is no element remain in the queue, we know that the two nodes are not connected.

Note that we can optimize the algorithm by making sure that we do not go back to previously visited nodes but that's simply an implementation issue on how one can achieve this.

We see that the complexity of this algorithm is $O(|V|)$ since every node will be explored in the worst case.

4 Random Networks

While sometimes we do have a concrete network on hand to work this, this is not often the case, thus, it is sometimes useful to model the behaviours of networks with random networks.

There are two main definitions of a random network. The $G(N, L)$ model represents a random network with N nodes and L randomly placed edges while $G(N, p)$ model changes

the number of edges with the probability of two nodes to be connected. We will refer to these two models as *Erdos* and *Gilbert* respectively.

4.1 Some Properties of the Gilbert Model

In the section we will let $G = G(N, p)$ be a Gilbert random network. As the number of edges in G is characterised solely by the probability p , G can any number of edges between 0 and $\binom{n}{k}$, so it is useful to consider the probability that G has n edges.

We see straight away that the probability that G has n edges equals the sum of the probabilities that G equals to some graph G_i with $|E(G_i)| = n$, so

$$\mathbb{P}(|E(G)| = n) = \sum_{|E(G_i)|} \mathbb{P}(G = G_i) = \sum p^n (1-p)^{N(N-1)/2-n},$$

so it suffices to find the number of possible graphs with N nodes and n edges. This is simply $\binom{N(N-1)/2}{n}$, thus, the probability of G having n edges is

$$\binom{N(N-1)/2}{n} p^n (1-p)^{N(N-1)/2-n}.$$

In fact, this is the binomial distribution with parameters $N(N-1)/2$ and p .

We might also find the degree distribution of G to be useful. Let $v \in V(G)$, we recall the degree distribution is the probability that v is connected to k other nodes. As there are in total N nodes, v can at most connect to $N-1$ other nodes each with a success possibility of p . Thus, the degree distribution of G is

$$p_k = \binom{N-1}{k} p^k (1-p)^{N-1-k},$$

that is, a binomial distribution with parameters $N-1$ and p .

We recall that for large n and small p such that $n \sim p^{-1}$, so, in fact, at the limit, the degree distribution of a random network can be approximated by a Poisson distribution with the parameter $\lambda = np$.

The clustering coefficient of a random Gilbert graph is given by p . This is because given n neighbouring nodes of a node, there are $n(n-1)/2$ possible edges connecting them each with probability p , resulting in the local clustering coefficient for a node being $pn(n-1)/2$. But now, by putting this into the clustering coefficient formulae, we have

$$C_i = \frac{2pn(n-1)/2}{n(n-1)} = p,$$

as required.

4.2 Mathematical Approach

Before now, we have considered the random graph mostly heuristically without much rigour. While we shall not change this approach to proving everything from first principle, we will in this section consider random graphs from a more probabilistically.

4.2.1 Basic Notions

Formally, a random Gilbert graph can be formulated as follows.

Definition 4.1 (Random Graph). A random graph $G(N, p)$ is a probability space $(\Omega, \mathcal{F}, \mathbb{P})$ where the sample space Ω is all possible simple graphs with N nodes (that is all $|\Omega| = 2^{N'}$ ⁵ of them), \mathcal{F} some σ -algebra and $\mathbb{P} : \mathcal{F} \rightarrow [0, 1]$ the probability measure.

Remark. We will begin by looking at the probability measure \mathbb{P} such that for all $G \in \Omega$, $\mathbb{P}(G) = p^m(1-p)^{N-m}$, where $m = |E(G)|$.

We will also be using small o notation in which we refer a function f as $f(n) = o(g(n))$ if $f(n)/g(n) \rightarrow 0$ as $n \rightarrow \infty$.

A statement that is commonplace within network science is: “For $p > 0$, a random graph in $G(N, p)$ is connected.” This means mathematically, $\mathbb{P}(G \in G(N, p), G \text{ is connected}) \rightarrow 1$ as $N \rightarrow \infty$. In short, one often says: “for $p > 0$, G is connected w.h.p.⁶”.

Consider a random Gilbert graph $G(N, p)$. Suppose, naively, we write k_i for the degree of the i -th node, then, it might make sense to say that, the average k_i tends to the expected value of the nodes $\langle k \rangle = p(N-1)$, i.e.

$$\lim_{N \rightarrow \infty} \frac{1}{N} \sum_{i=0}^N k_i = \langle k \rangle.$$

But upon further inspection, this equation is less clear. As $G(N, p)$ is simply a probability space, it doesn't make sense to take the i -th node, so k_i is in fact a function on the sample space Ω to \mathbb{R} . Furthermore, this sequence of functions does not converge to some number, that is, for all $N \in \mathbb{N}$, we can find a graph G_N with 0 edges so the limit is also 0 for this sequence. Indeed, what we would actually like to say is

$$\lim_{N \rightarrow \infty} \mathbb{P} \left(\left| \frac{1}{N} \sum_{i=0}^N k_i - \langle k \rangle \right| \geq 0 \right) = 0,$$

for all $\epsilon > 0$. We often write this as

$$\lim_{N \rightarrow \infty} \frac{1}{N} \sum_{i=0}^N k_i = \langle k \rangle \text{ w.h.p.}$$

This is true since $k_i \sim B(N-1, p)$ identically with mean $\langle k \rangle$. So, using a version of the LLN⁷, the result follows.

⁵From this point forward, we write $\binom{n}{2}$ as N' .

⁶With high probability.

⁷Be careful as they are not independent since if $k_0 = N-1$, then $k_i \geq 1$ for all other i .

4.2.2 Existence of Large Clusters

We will now prove some theorems that will provide us with some insights into when will large clusters arise.

Theorem 3. $\langle k \rangle > 1 \iff$ *there exists w.h.p. a connected component which contains a proportion $S > 0$ of the total number of nodes, where S satisfies $S = 1 - e^{-\langle k \rangle} S$.*

Proof. (\Leftarrow) By contrapositive, if $\langle k \rangle \leq 1$ then $S = 1 - e^{-\langle k \rangle} S$ has no solution so we are done.

(\Rightarrow) We will instead prove a stronger statement with the next theorem. \square

Theorem 4. *Given $p > 0$, the diameter of $G \in G(N, p)$ is w.h.p. is at most two, so G is connected w.h.p.*

Proof. Let $X_N(G)$ be the number of pairs (i, j) in G such that i, j has no common neighbours. So, by considering the probability that i, j do not have k as a common neighbour is

$$p(1-p) + (1-p)p + (1-p)(1-p) = 1 - p^2,$$

(where we simply add up the probabilities of all valid combinations), we have the probability that i, j has no common neighbours is $(1 - p^2)^{N-2}$. So,

$$E(X_N) = N'(1 - p^2)^{N-2} \rightarrow 0,$$

as $N \rightarrow \infty$. And, hence, by Markov's inequality, $\mathbb{P}(X_N \geq 1) \leq E(X_N) \rightarrow 0$ so $\mathbb{P}(X_N = 0) \rightarrow 1$ as $N \rightarrow \infty$. \square

Theorem 5. *If $p(N) = o(N)/N$ then, w.h.p. $G \in G(N, p)$ has no triangles.*

Proof. Let T_N be the number of triplets (i, j, k) such that they are pairwise connected. Of course, then probability of a randomly chosen triplet being a triangle is p^3 , so we have

$$E(T_N) = \binom{n}{3} p^3 \rightarrow 0,$$

as p tends to zero faster than N . Hence, again by Markov's inequality we have $\mathbb{P}(T_N \geq 1) \rightarrow 0$, resulting in $\mathbb{P}(T_N = 0) \rightarrow 1$. \square