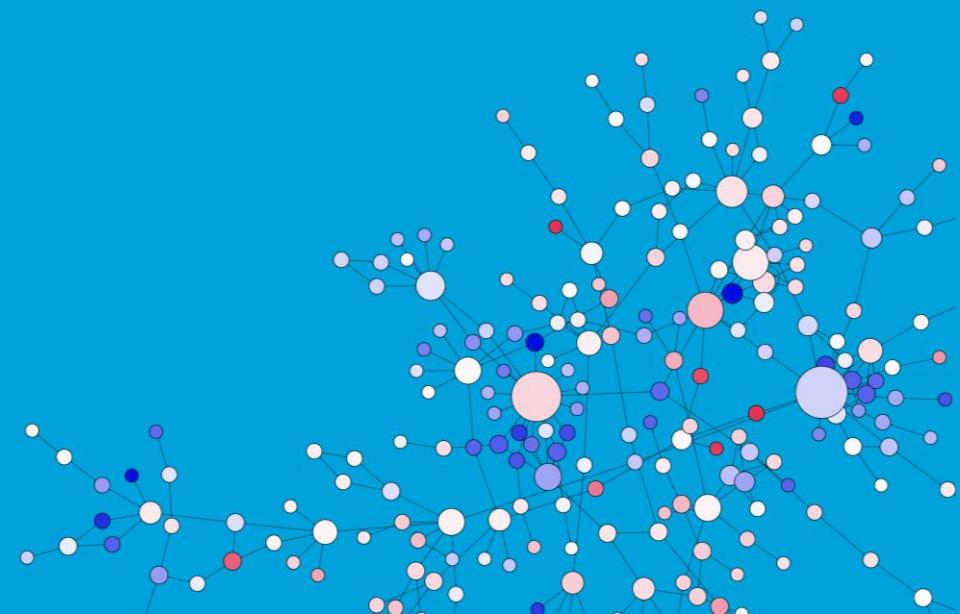


# Network Biology

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*Assistant professor*  
BIGCAT / MACSBIO

13 January 2021

HELIS course (online)



# Networks are everywhere!



SHUTTERSTOCK

# Networks are everywhere!



# Introduction

## The basics of network science/ graph theory

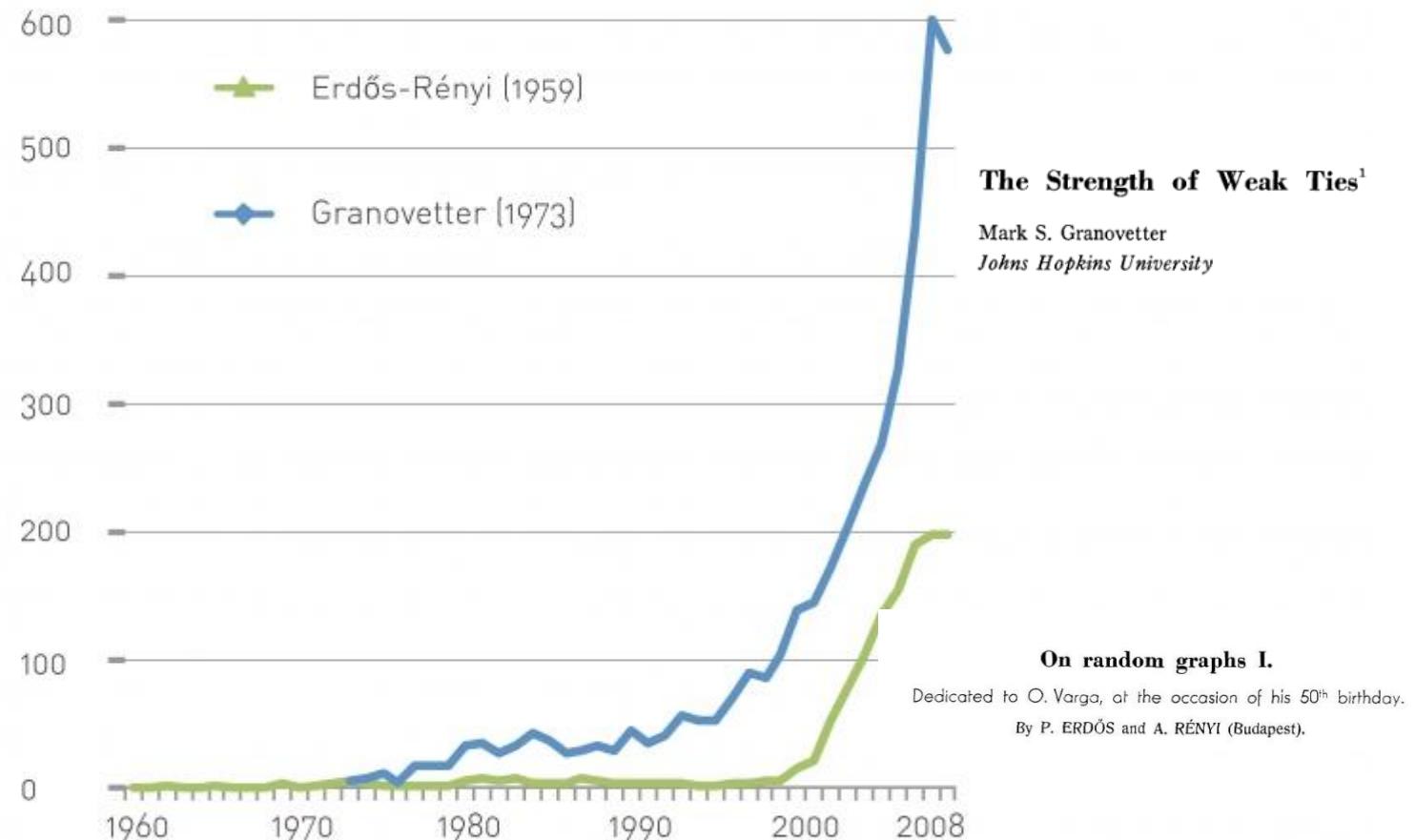


# How it all began...

- Leonard Euler in 1735
- Swiss mathematician
- Königsberg (now Kaliningrad, Russia)



# Key publications of the field



Why is network science only really thriving since the start of the 21<sup>st</sup> century?

# Why is it a science of the 21<sup>st</sup> century?

- Networks are old...
  - Metabolic networks date back to the origins of life
  - Social networks are as old as humanity
  - Graph theory, a prolific subfield of mathematics, has explored graphs since 1735
- But...
  - Important publications were specialized and highly regarded within their discipline but with limited impact outside their field.
- Emergence of a new discipline – “network science” – interdisciplinary!

# Network science

- Behind each **complex system** there is a **network** that defines the **interactions** between the components.
- We will never understand complex systems unless we **map out** and **understand** the network behind them.

Albert-Laszlo Barabasi, Network Science Book

# Network science of the 21<sup>st</sup> century

- Technological advances



Inside a Google data center

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=XZmGGAbHqa0>



Microsoft underwater data center

<https://www.cnbc.com>



Facebook data center

<http://www.datacenterknowledge.com/data-center-faqs/facebook-data-center-faq-page-4>

# Network science of the 21<sup>st</sup> century

- **Technological advances**
  - Internet revolution → effective and fast data sharing, cheap digital storage
- **Availability of tools to map and store (large) networks**
  - Keeping track of huge amount of data
  - Accessibility of data

# Network science of the 21<sup>st</sup> century

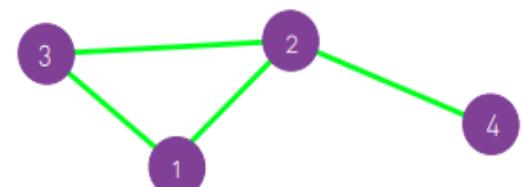
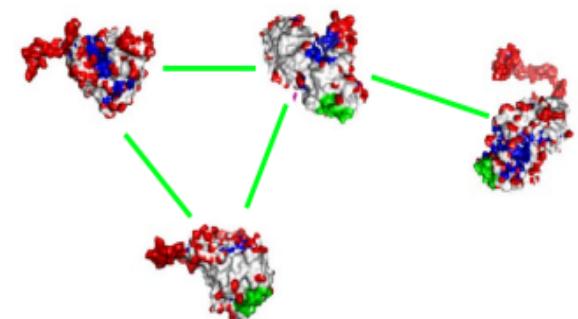
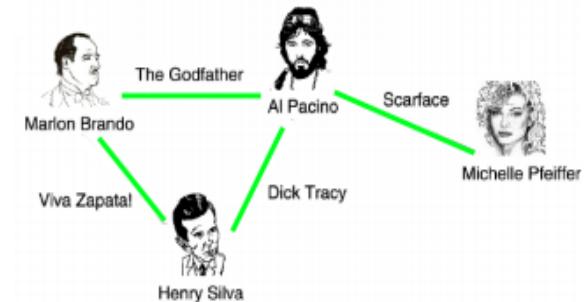
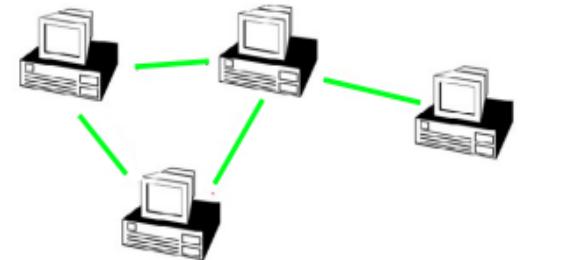
- Key discovery:
  - Universality of network characteristics
  - Networks from different domains are very different

But...

- \* Architecture of the networks is very similar
- \* Same organizational principles
- \* Common set of mathematical tools to explore them

# Network science of the 21<sup>st</sup> century

- Network as a universal concept
- Objects and relationships between them
- Same structure
- Same tools and methods to analyze networks in different disciplines



# Network representation

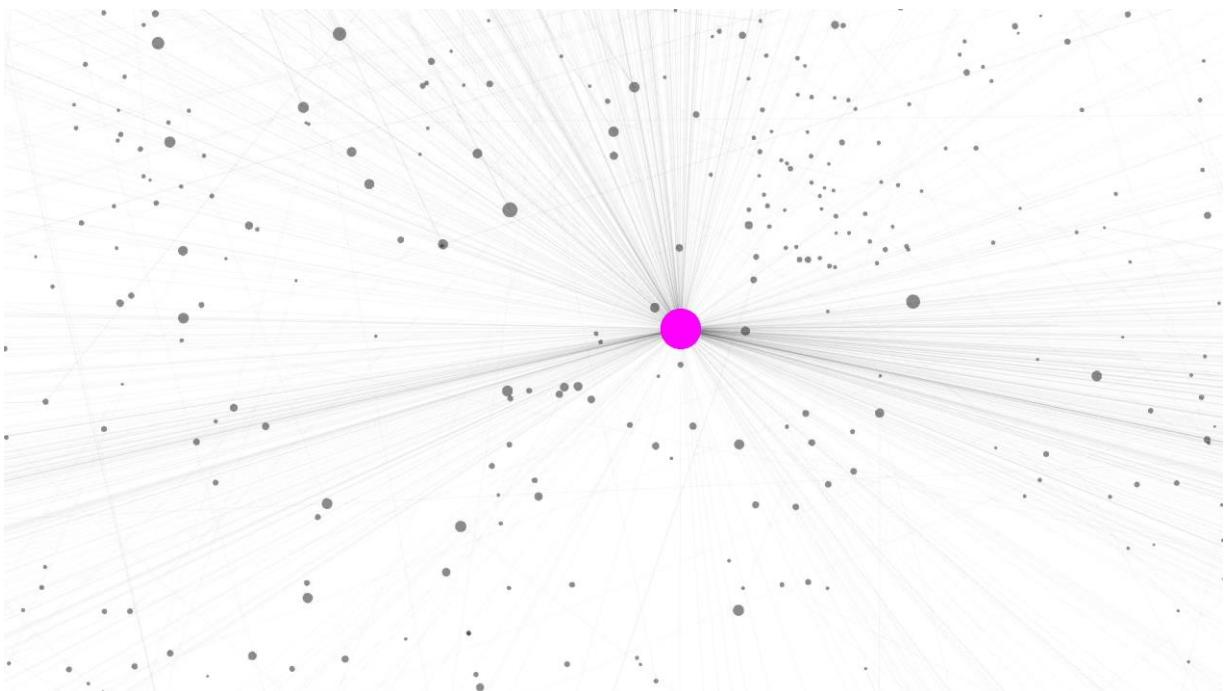
- Choice of proper **network representation** important for usability
- How we assign the links between nodes determines the **type of questions** we can study
  - Let's connect individuals based on their first name (all Peters connected to each other)
  - We will get a network and can do all the analyses that we will discuss
  - But what would you be exploring? What kind of questions can you answer?

# Examples of network analysis in other fields?

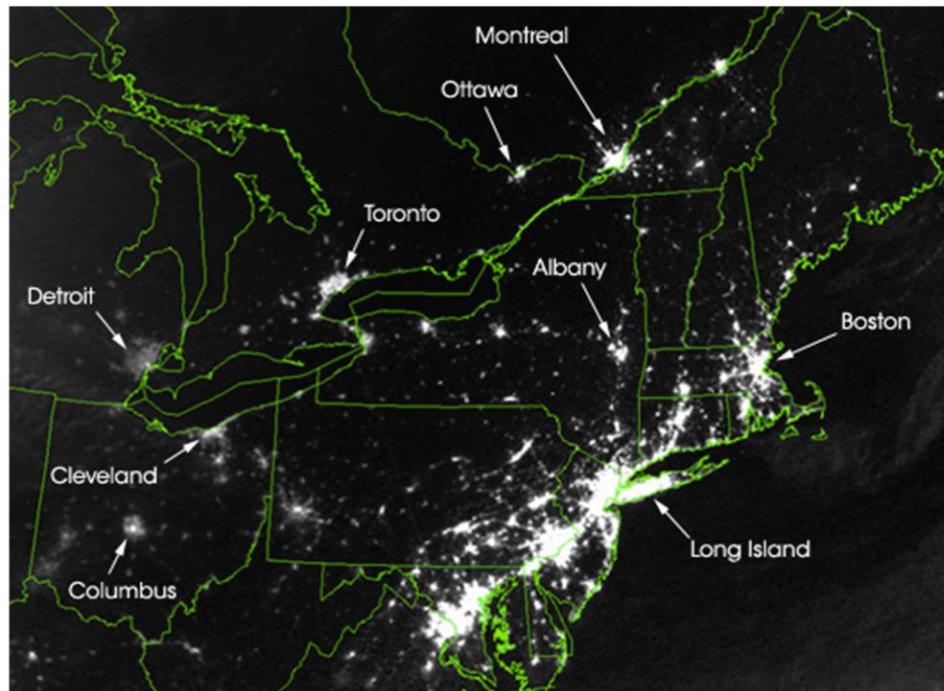


# Internet

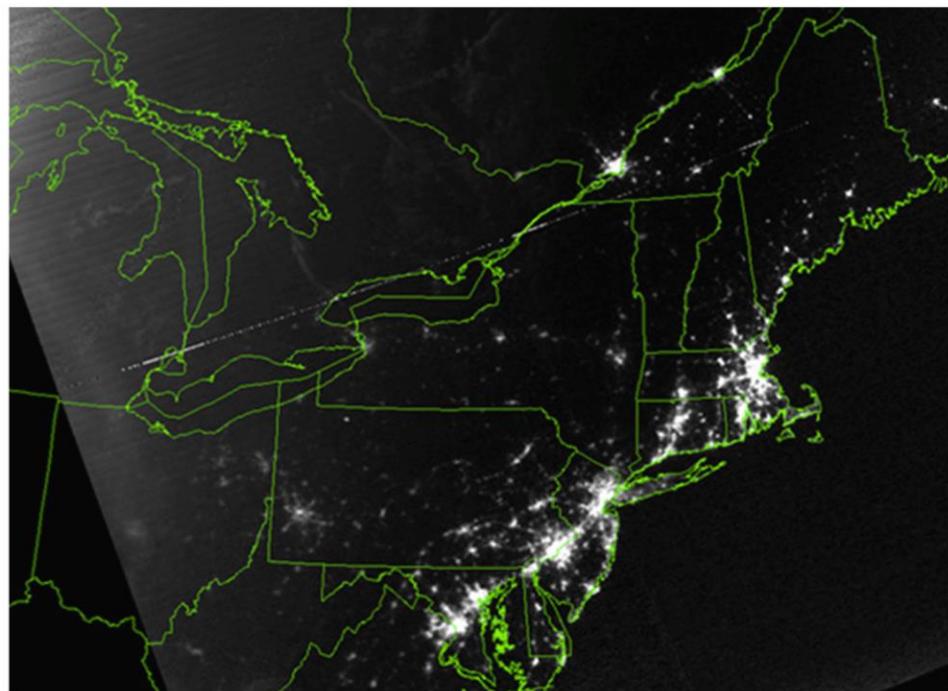
- 192,244 nodes (routers)
- 609,066 edges (connections)



# Power grid



August 14, 2003: 9:29pm EDT  
20 hours before



August 15, 2003: 9:14pm EDT  
7 hours after

# Power grid

- We must understand how network structure affects the robustness of a complex system
- System failures follow reproducible laws that can be quantified and even predicted using the tools of network science

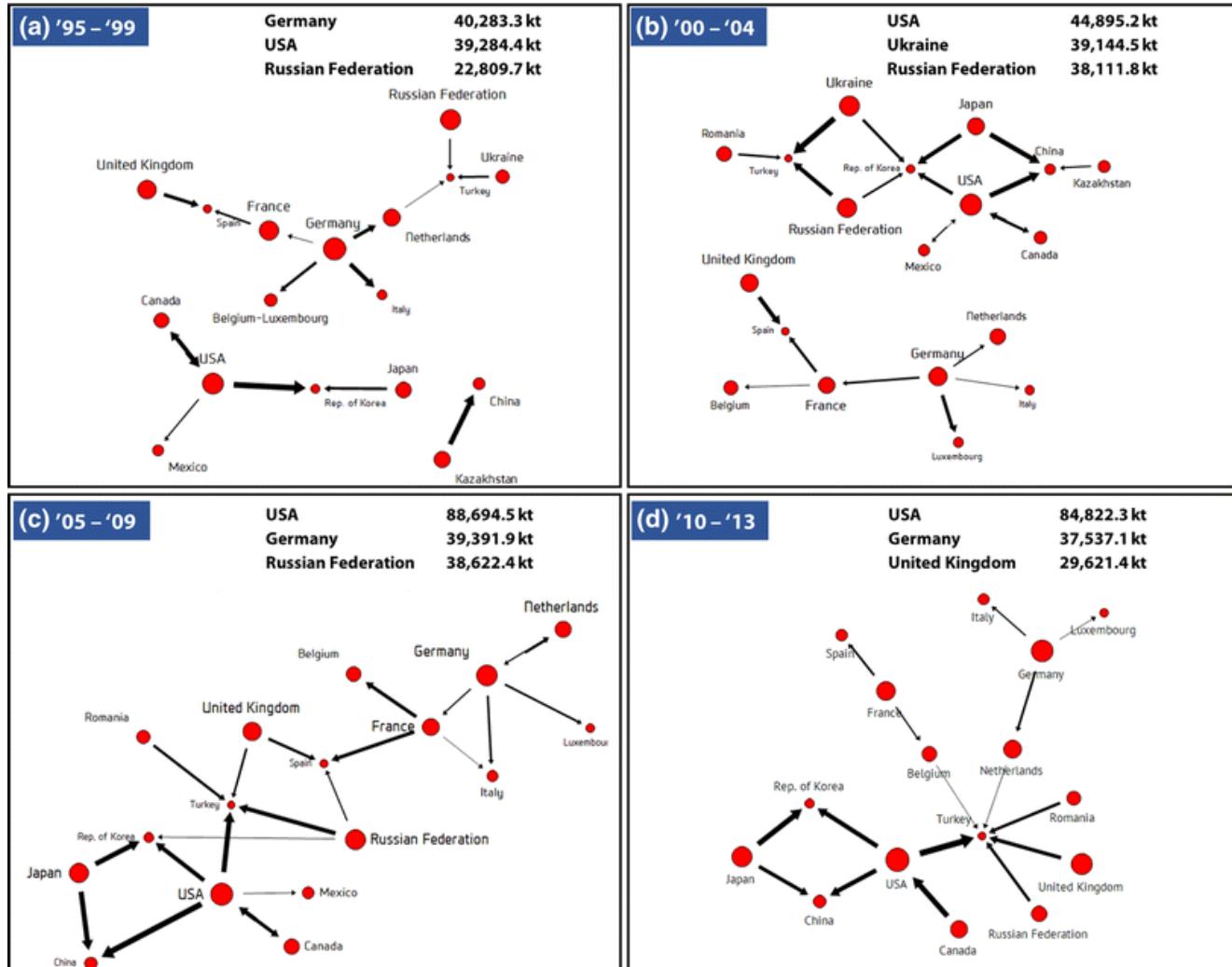
# Transportation

- Dutch railway



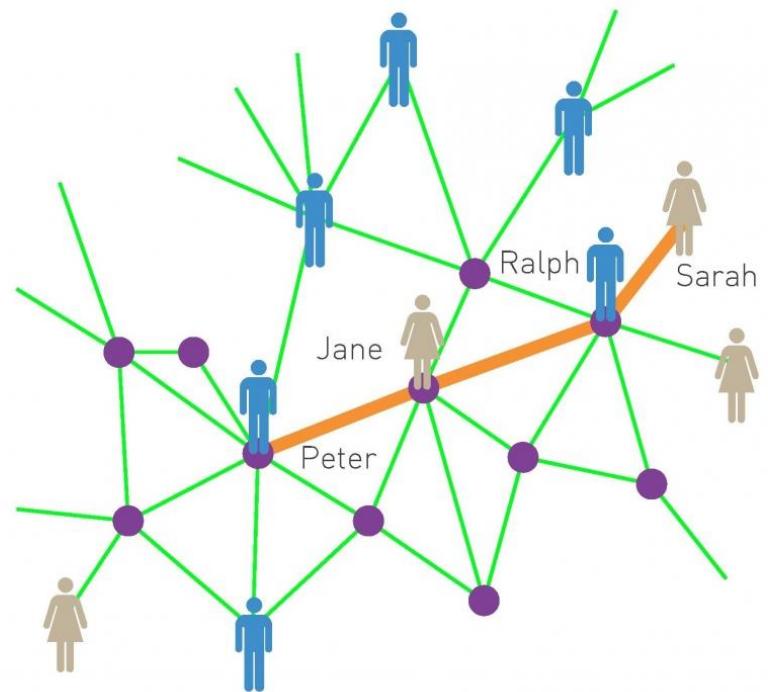
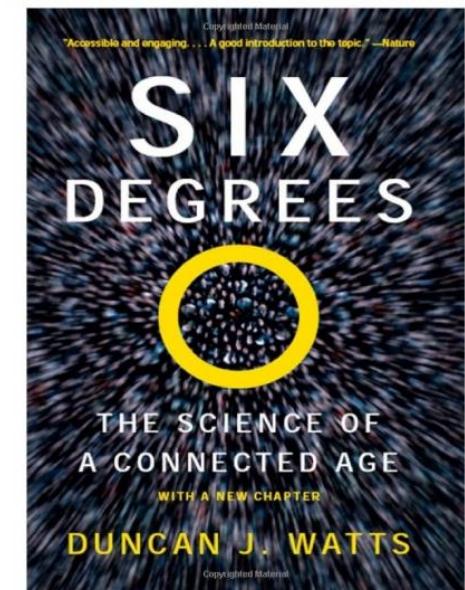
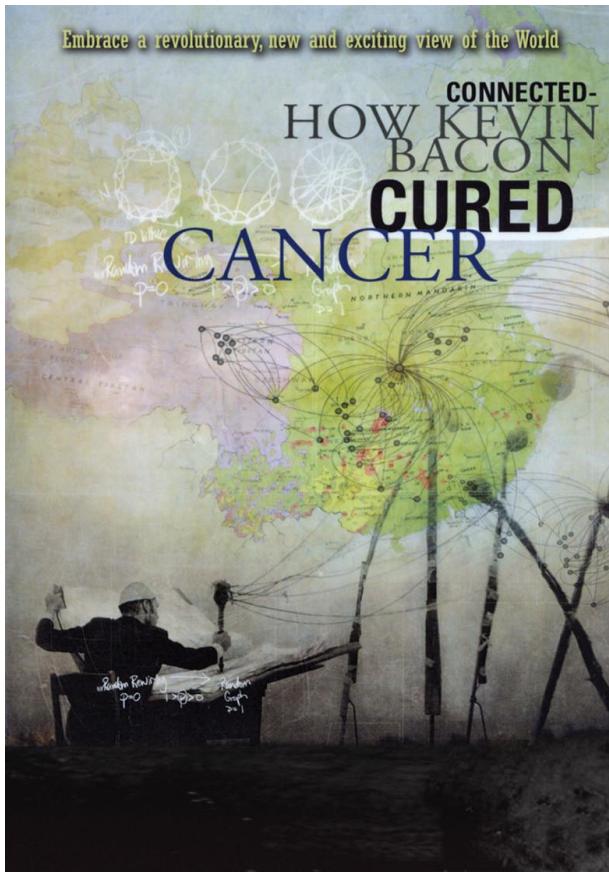
# Economics

- Trading networks
- Steel scrap



# Social networks

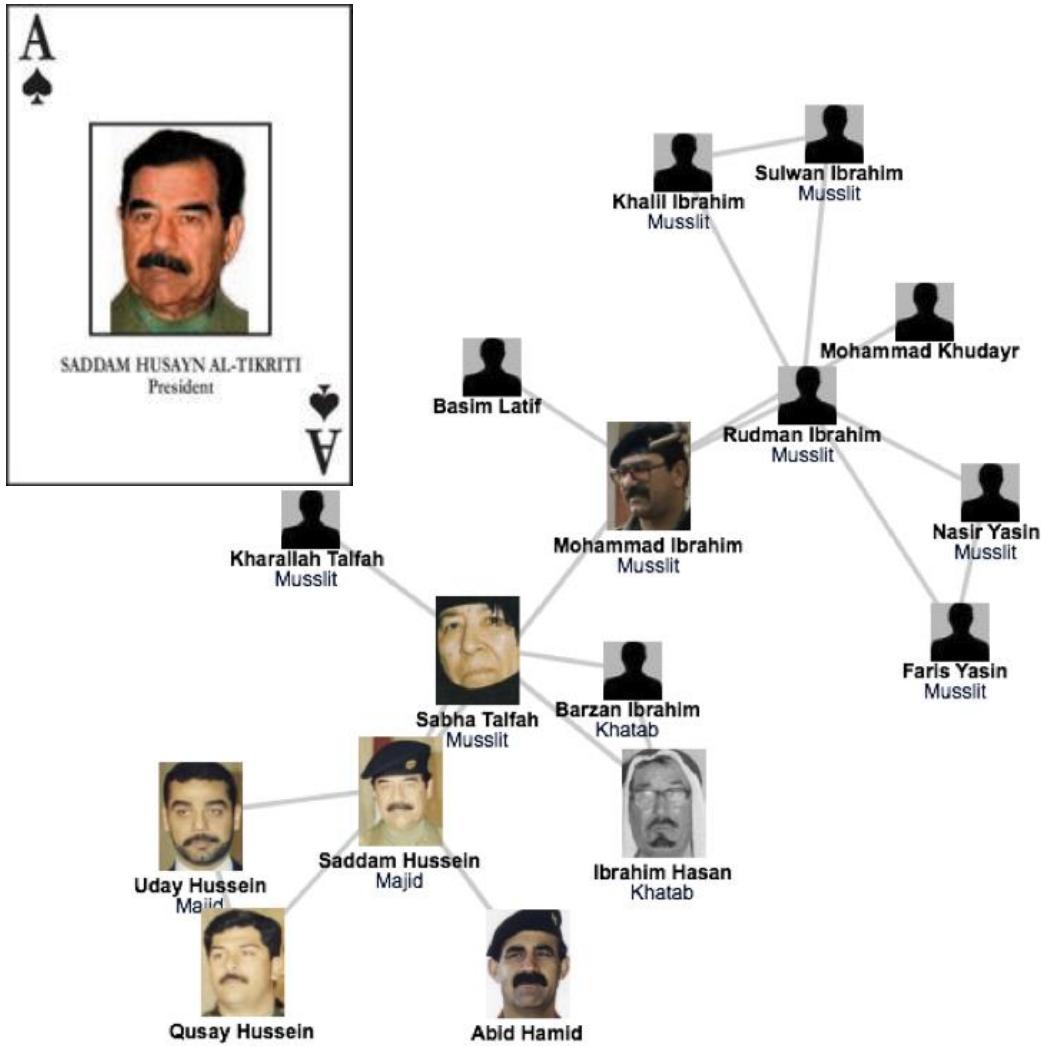
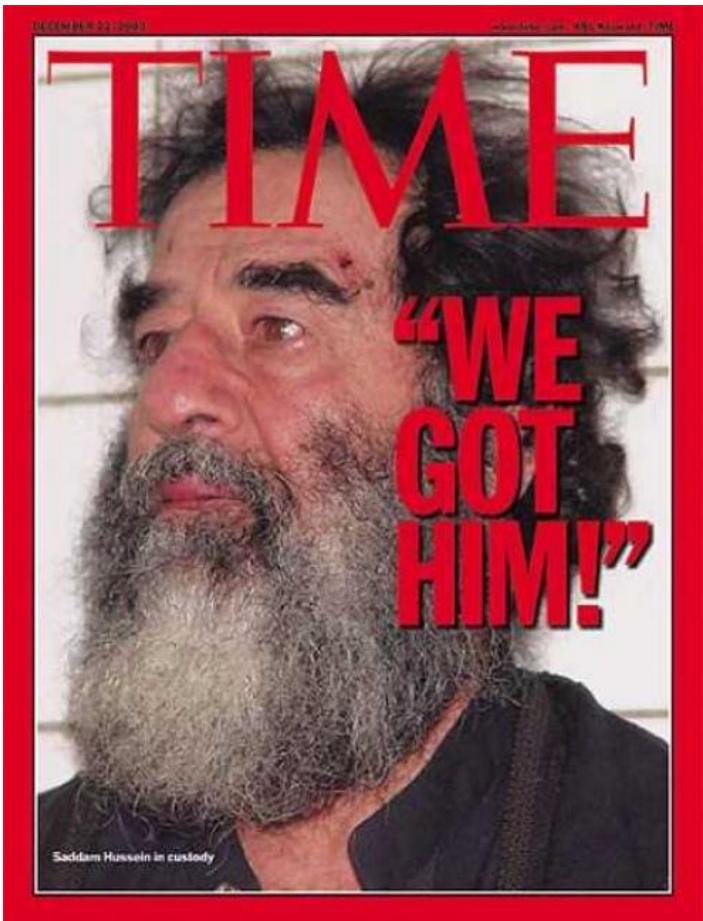
- Six degrees of separation
- Small world phenomenon



Movie: Connected: The Power of Six Degrees (2008)

Source: <http://networksciencebook.com/images/ch-03/figure-3-10.jpg>, <http://networksciencebook.com/images/ch-01/figure-1-11.jpg>

# From Hussein to network theory



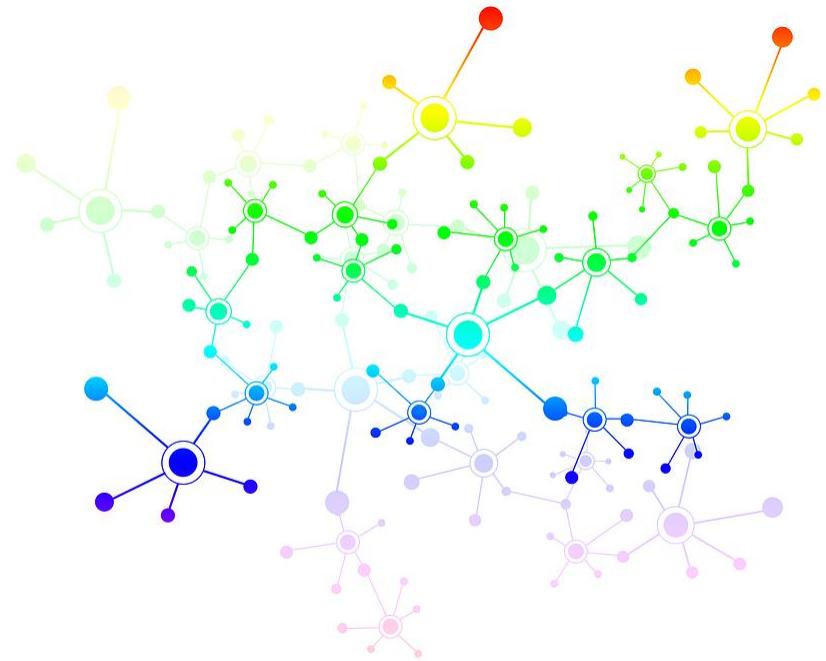
# From Hussein to network theory

- The capture of Saddam Hussein:
  - Shows the predictive power of networks
  - Underlies the need to obtain accurate network maps (and how difficult mapping processes often are)
  - Demonstrates remarkable stability of networks (not fresh intelligence but photos from an old family album)
  - Choice of network we focus on make a huge difference (hierarchical official organization of Iraqi government was of no use)

# Networks in science

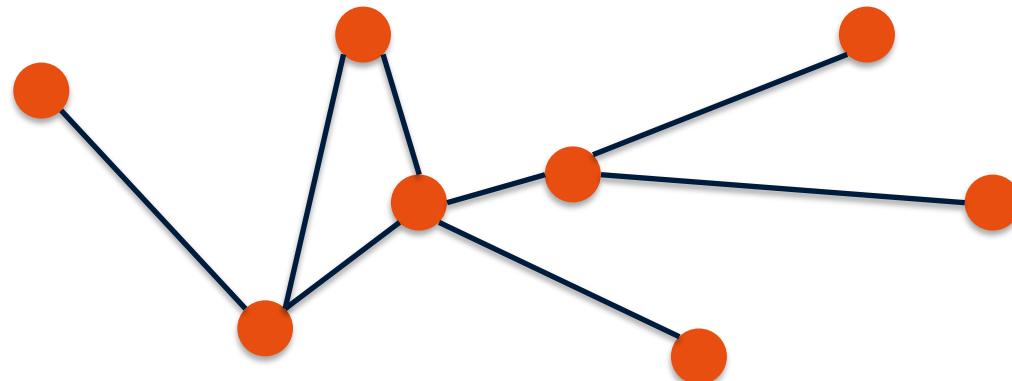


# Let's get into the basics of networks



# Graph vs. network

- In the scientific literature the terms network and graph are used interchangeably



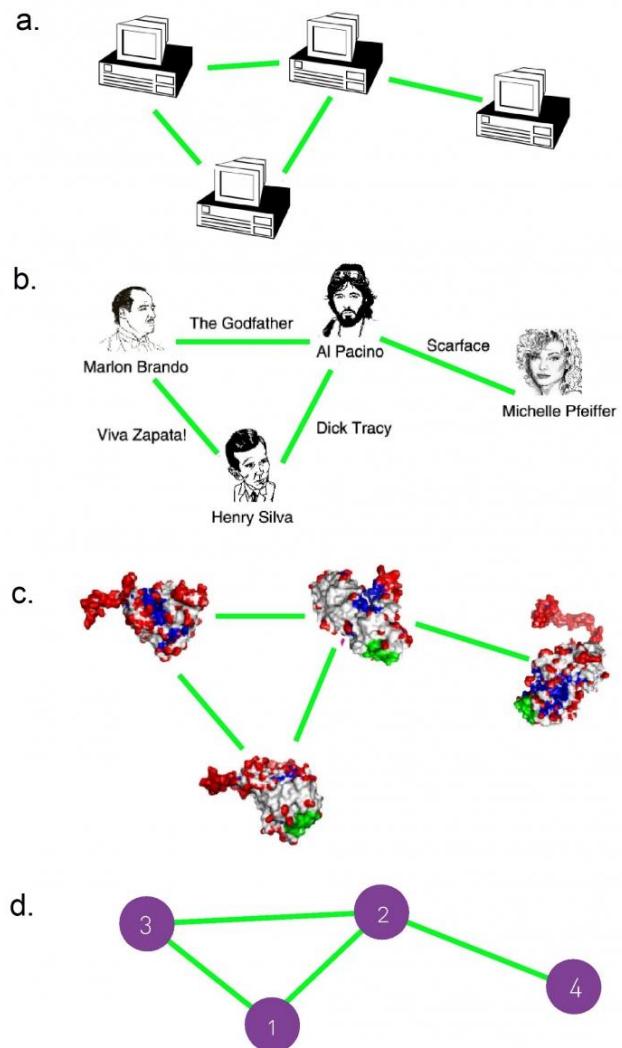
■ <b>components:</b>	nodes, vertices	N
■ <b>interactions:</b>	links, edges	L
■ <b>system:</b>	network, graph	(N,L)

# Graph vs. network

- **Network** often refer to real systems
- **Graphs** are the mathematical representation
- In most cases, we will use the two terms interchangeably.

# Graph vs. network

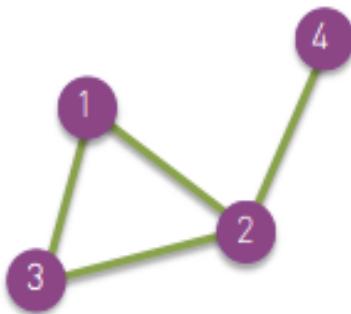
- N: number of nodes
- L: number of links (edges)
- $N = 4, L = 4$
- Same graph / different network



# Network properties

## Undirected

Links: undirected (symmetrical)

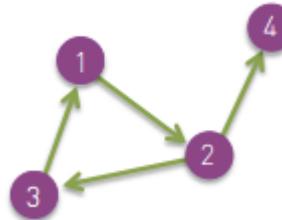


### Examples:

Co-authorship, actor network, protein interactions

## Directed

Links: directed (arcs)



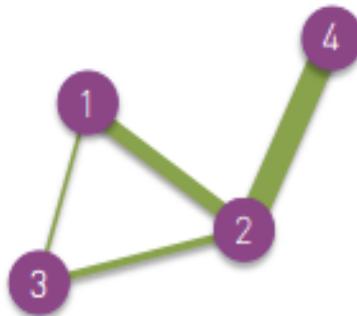
### Examples:

URLs (internet), phone calls, metabolic reactions

# Network properties

## Weighted

Links: weight, strength, flow



## Examples:

Route planning, correlation, metabolic flux

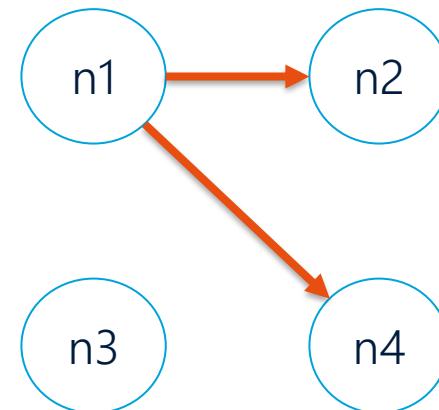
# Adjacency matrix

Mathematical representation

$A_{ij} = 1$  there is an edge between node i and j

$A_{ij} = 0$  there is no edge between node i and j

$$A_{ij} = \begin{pmatrix} n1 & n2 & n3 & n4 \\ n1 & \left( \begin{array}{cccc} 0 & 1 & 0 & 1 \end{array} \right) \\ n2 & \left( \begin{array}{cccc} 1 & 0 & 0 & 0 \end{array} \right) \\ n3 & \left( \begin{array}{cccc} 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \end{array} \right) \\ n4 & \left( \begin{array}{cccc} 1 & 1 & 1 & 0 \end{array} \right) \end{pmatrix}$$



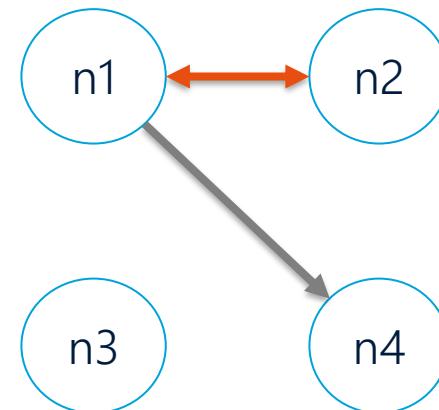
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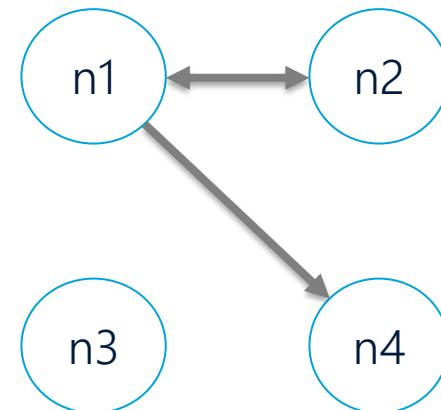
# Adjacency matrix

Mathematical representation

$A_{ij} = 1$  there is an edge between node i and j

$A_{ij} = 0$  there is no edge between node i and j

$$A_{ij} = \begin{matrix} & n1 & n2 & n3 & n4 \\ n1 & \left( \begin{array}{cccc} 0 & 1 & 0 & 1 \\ 1 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 1 & 1 & 1 & 0 \end{array} \right) \\ n2 & & & \\ n3 & & & \\ n4 & & & \end{matrix}$$



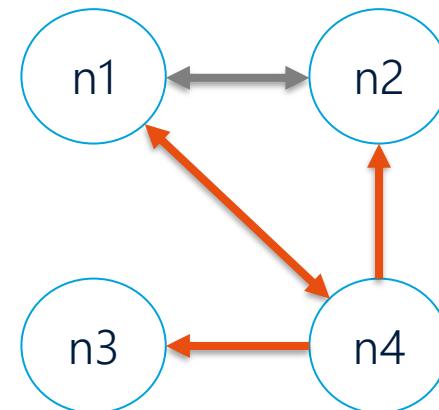
# Adjacency matrix

Mathematical representation

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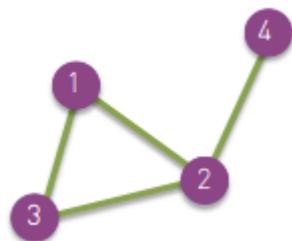
$$A_{ij} = \begin{matrix} & n1 & n2 & n3 & n4 \\ n1 & \left( \begin{array}{cccc} 0 & 1 & 0 & 1 \\ 1 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 1 & 1 & 1 & 0 \end{array} \right) \\ n2 \\ n3 \\ n4 \end{matrix}$$



# Adjacency matrix

Undirected

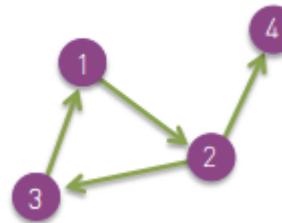
Links: undirected (symmetrical)



$$A_{ij} = \begin{pmatrix} 0 & 1 & 1 & 0 \\ 1 & 0 & 1 & 1 \\ 1 & 1 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 & 0 & 0 \end{pmatrix}$$

Directed

Links: directed (arcs)

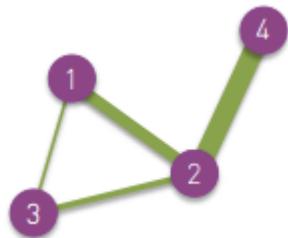


$$A_{ij} = \begin{pmatrix} 0 & 1 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 & 1 \\ 1 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \end{pmatrix}$$

# Adjacency matrix

Weighted

Links: weight, strength, flow

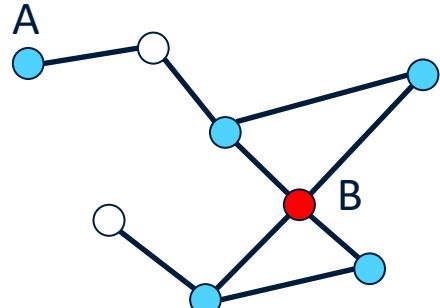


$$A_{ij} = \begin{pmatrix} 0 & 2 & 0.5 & 0 \\ 2 & 0 & 1 & 4 \\ 0.5 & 1 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 4 & 0 & 0 \end{pmatrix}$$

# Degree

- $k$ : Degree
  - number of links a node has to other nodes

Undirected

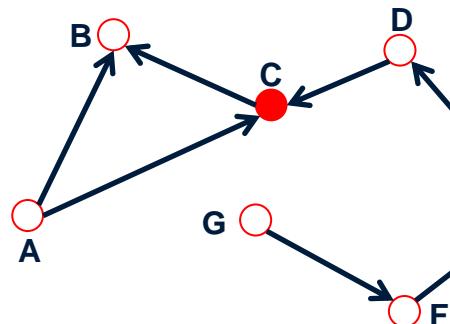


$$k_A = 1$$

$$k_B = 4$$

$$L = \frac{1}{2} \sum_{i=1}^N k_i$$

Directed



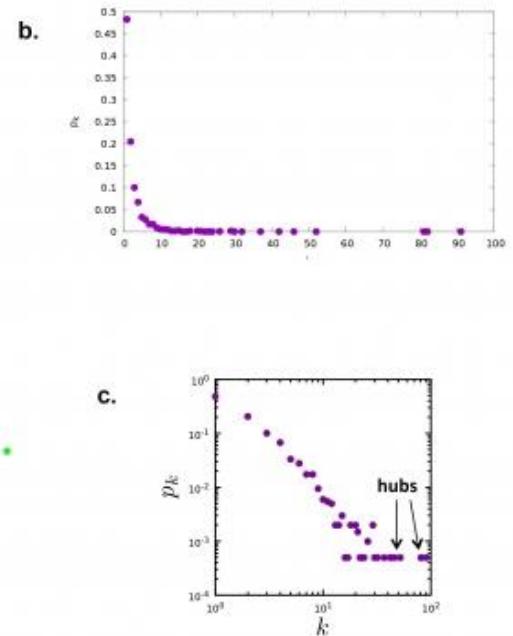
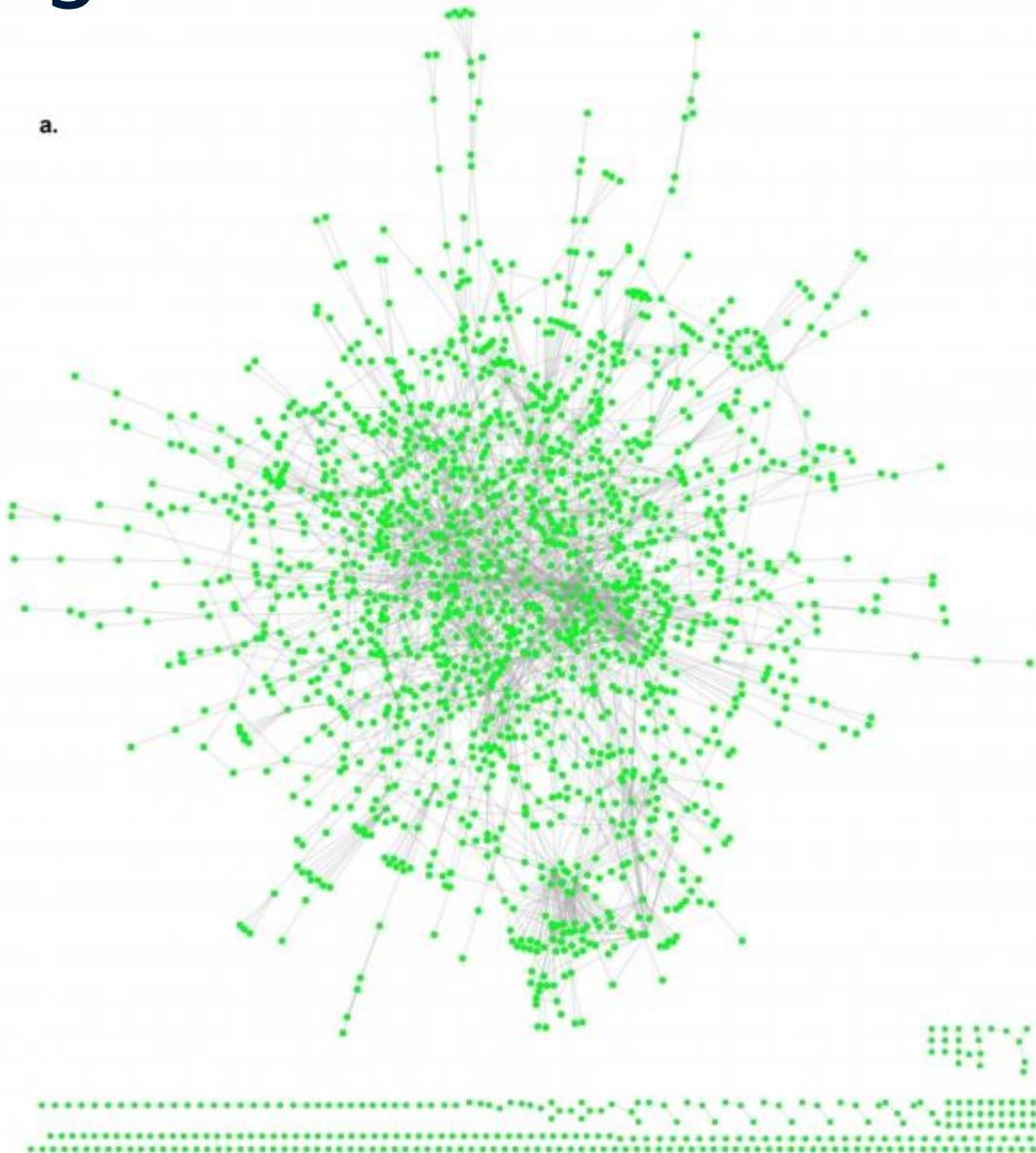
In *directed networks* we can define

in- and out-degree.

The (total) degree is the sum of in- and out-degree.

$$k_C^{in} = 2 \quad k_C^{out} = 1 \quad k_C = 3$$

# Degree distribution



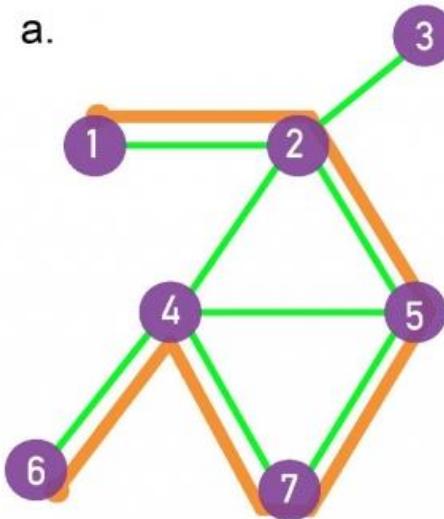
PPI of yeast

# Relevance

- Hubs (nodes with high degree) tend to be essential nodes in the network
- Degree distribution:
  - Real network have few nodes with a high degree (hubs) and many nodes with a low degree (scale-free topology)
  - Determines many network phenomena like robustness
- Real networks are sparse

# Betweenness Centrality

- Load on a node / edge in the network
- How many of the **shortest paths** pass through the node/edge?

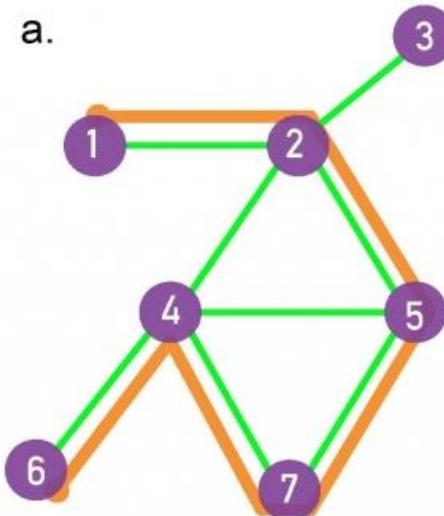


**Paths between 1 and 6?**

- 1-2-5-7-4-6
- 1-2-4-6
- 1-2-5-4-6

# Betweenness Centrality

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- How many of the **shortest paths** pass through the node/edge?

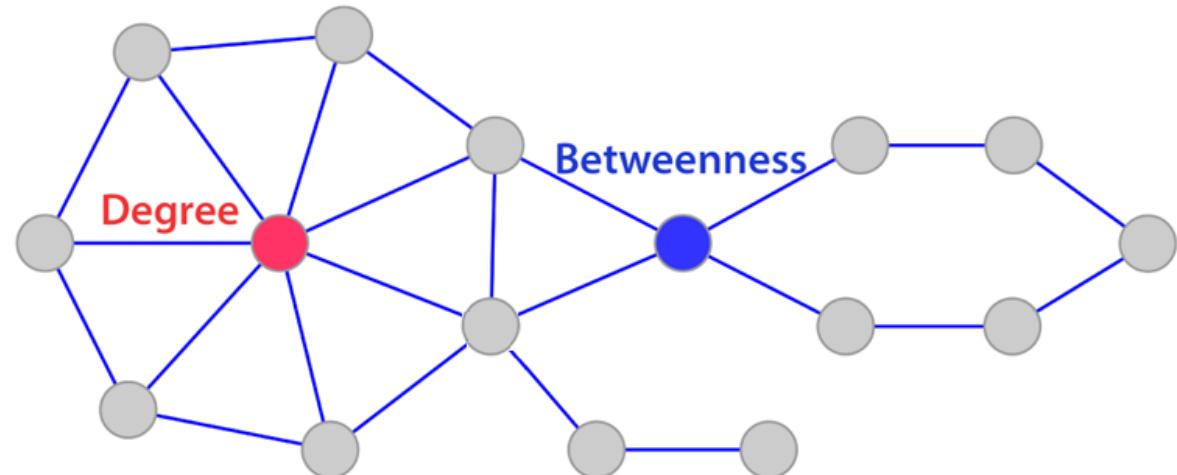


**Paths between 1 and 6?**

- 1-2-5-7-4-6       $d = 5$
- 1-2-4-6       $d = 3$
- 1-2-5-4-6       $d = 4$

# Relevance

- Nodes/edges with a high betweenness are important for the connectivity of the network
- Nodes/edges connecting two subnetworks
- Bottleneck nodes/edges



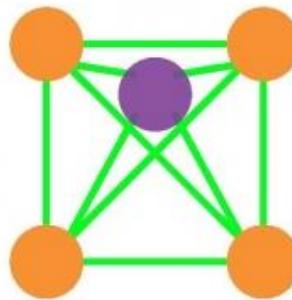
Degree	BetweennessCentrality
7	0.29047619
5	0.42380952
4	0.4952381

# Clustering coefficient

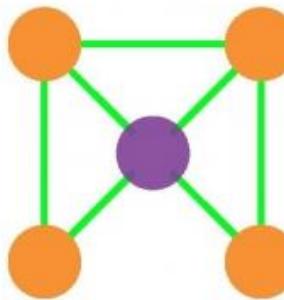
- What fraction of a node's neighbors are connected?

$$C_i = \frac{2L_i}{k_i(k_i-1)}$$

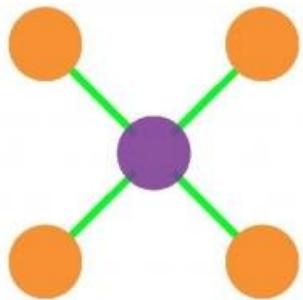
$L_i$  represents the number of links between the  $k_i$  neighbors



$$C_i=1$$



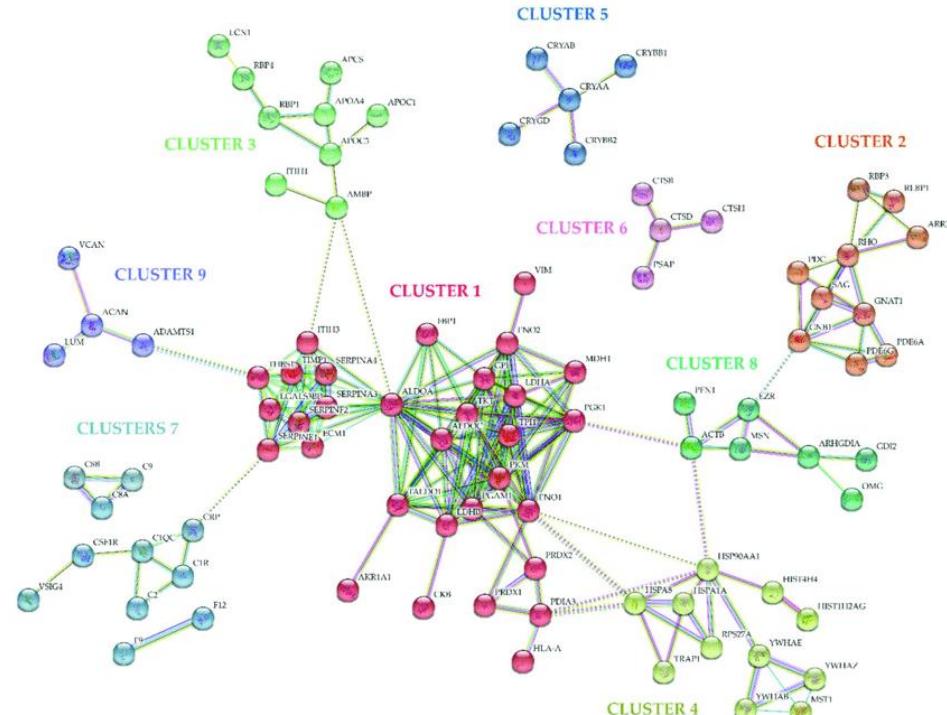
$$C_i=1/2$$



$$C_i=0$$

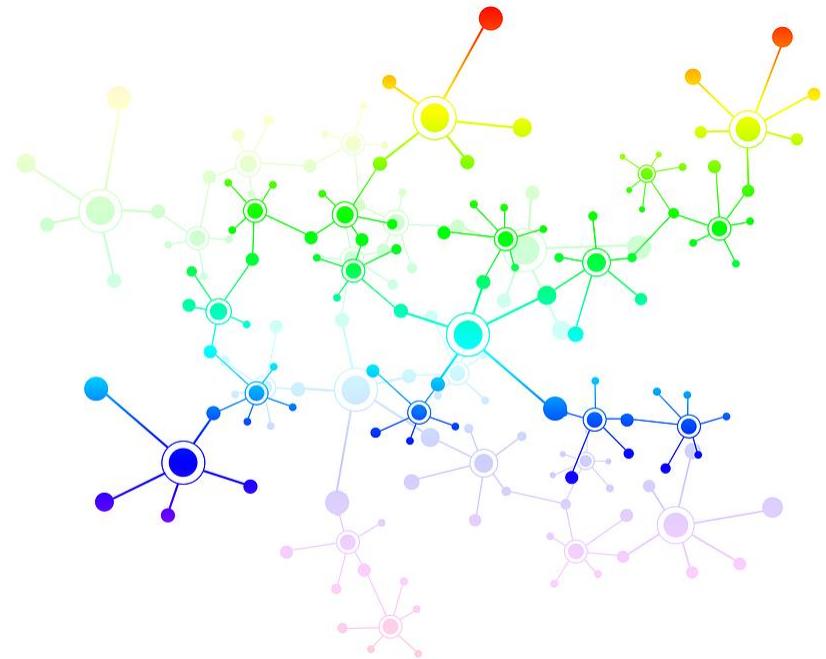
# Relevance

- Biological networks have a significantly higher average clustering coefficient compared to random networks
- They are modular by nature
- Protein clusters
- Regulatory patterns



Images:  
<http://doi.org/10.3390/ijms19041157>

# Now let's get to Biological Networks

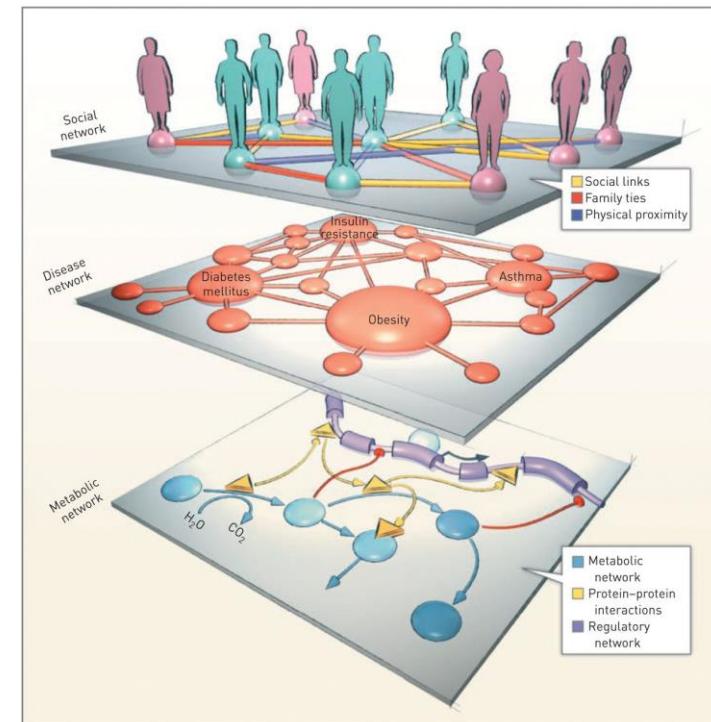


# Networks in Science



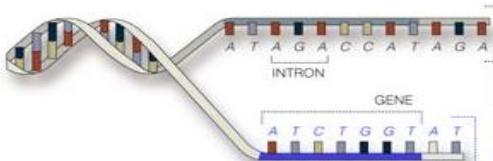
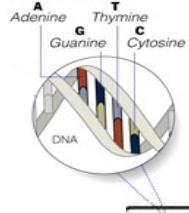
# Why networks in biology?

- Understanding biological complexity at all levels
  - Reduce **complexity**
  - Integrate diverse types of data
  - Find **relations & patterns**
  - Visualize complex data
  - Identify key **pathways and drivers**
  - Find functional signatures of **interventions**
  - Find **perturbed paths**

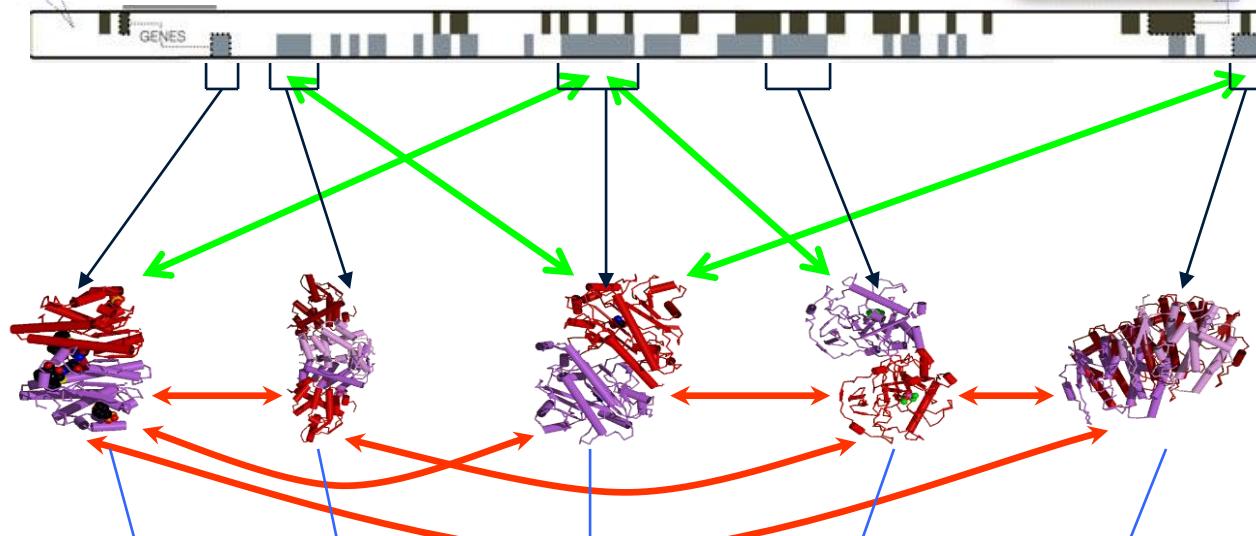


Images:  
<https://erj.ersjournals.com/content/erj/44/3/775/F2.large.jpg>

# Molecular networks



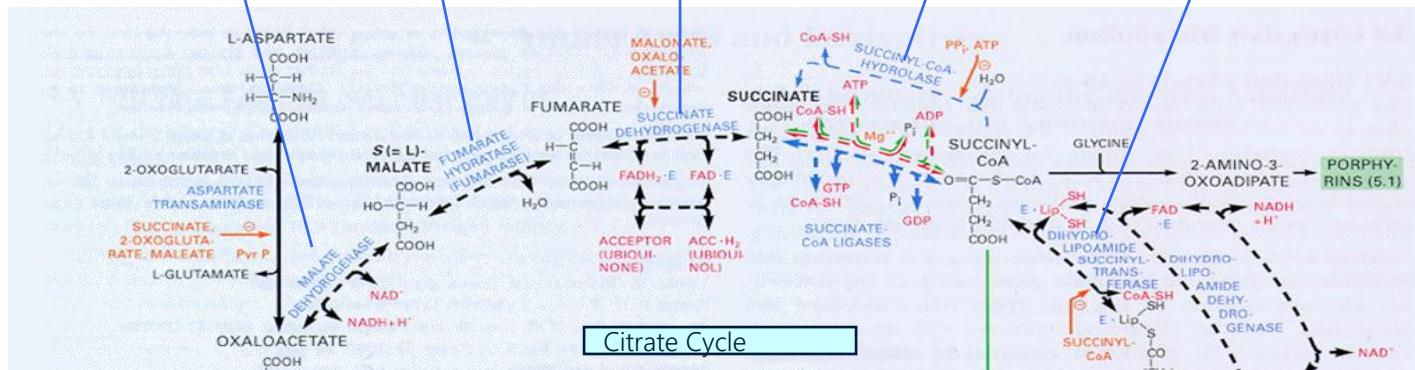
GENOME



protein-gene  
interactions

PROTEOME

protein-protein  
interactions

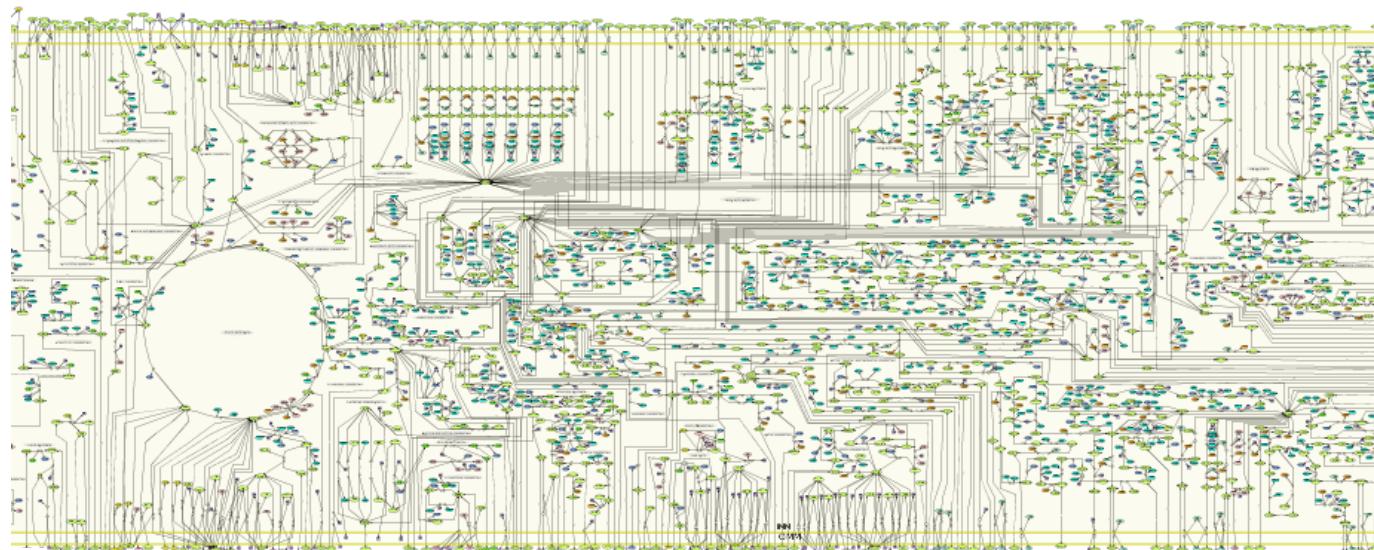


METABOLISM

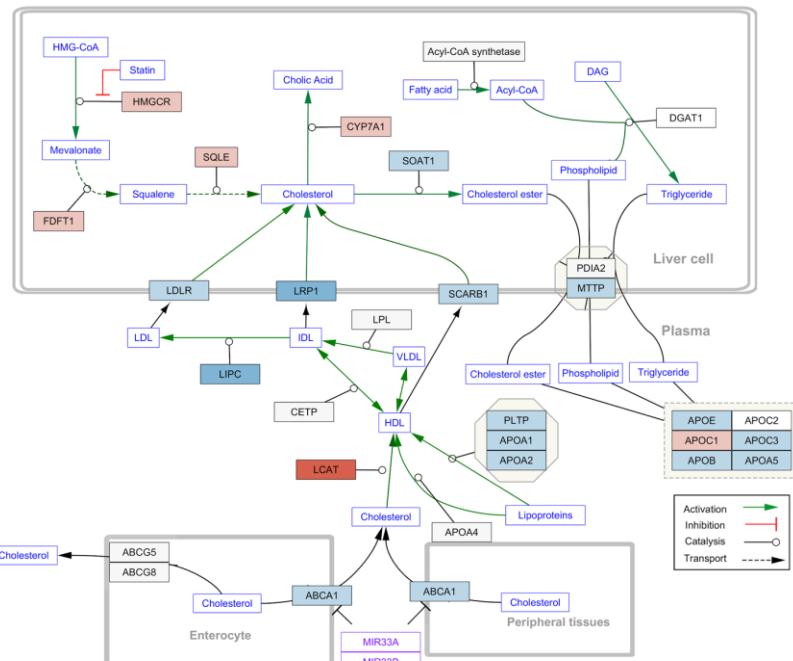
bio-chemical  
reactions

# Metabolic networks

- Collection of biochemical reactions which convert one compound into another
- Reactions are catalyzed by enzymes
- Recon maps → genome-scale metabolic models

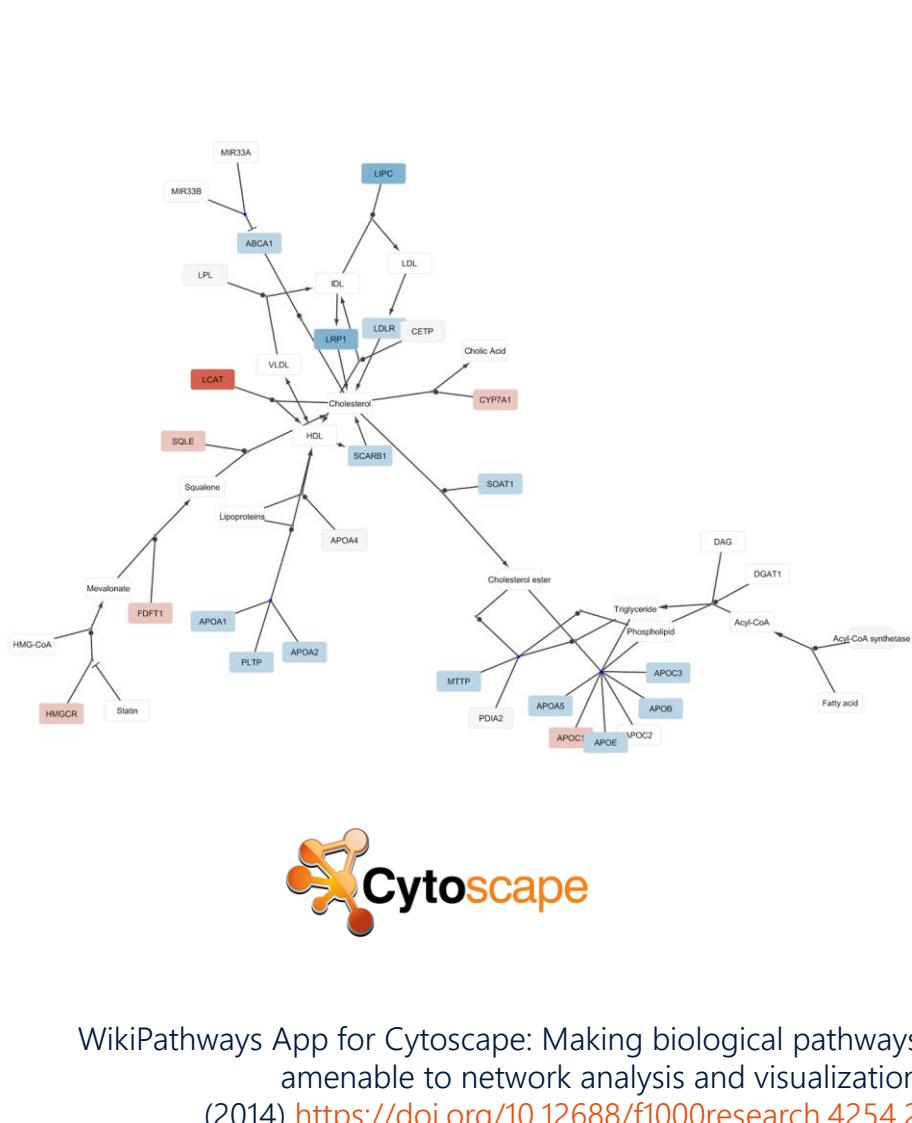


# Pathways as networks



PathVisio

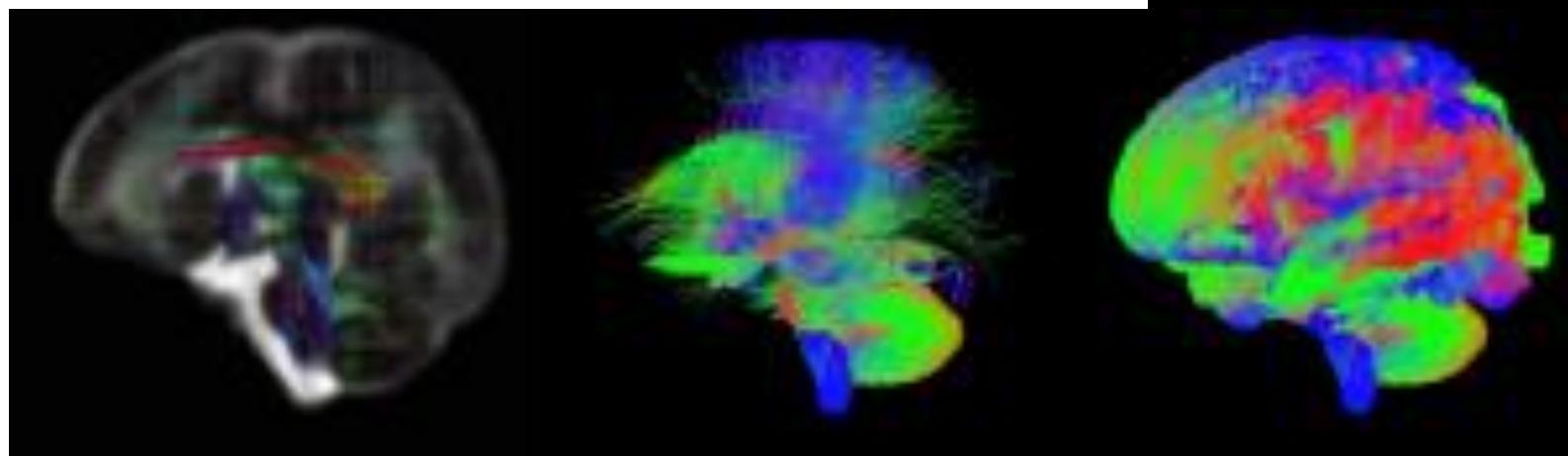
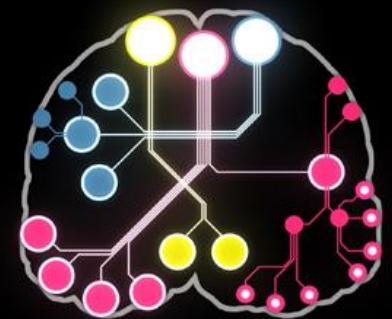
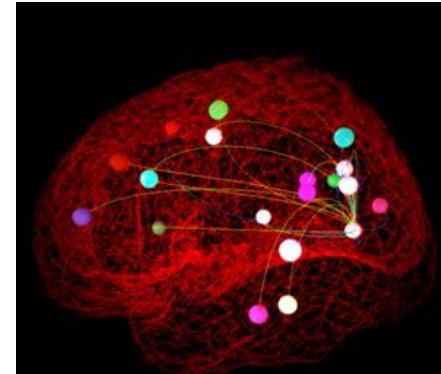
Cytoscape



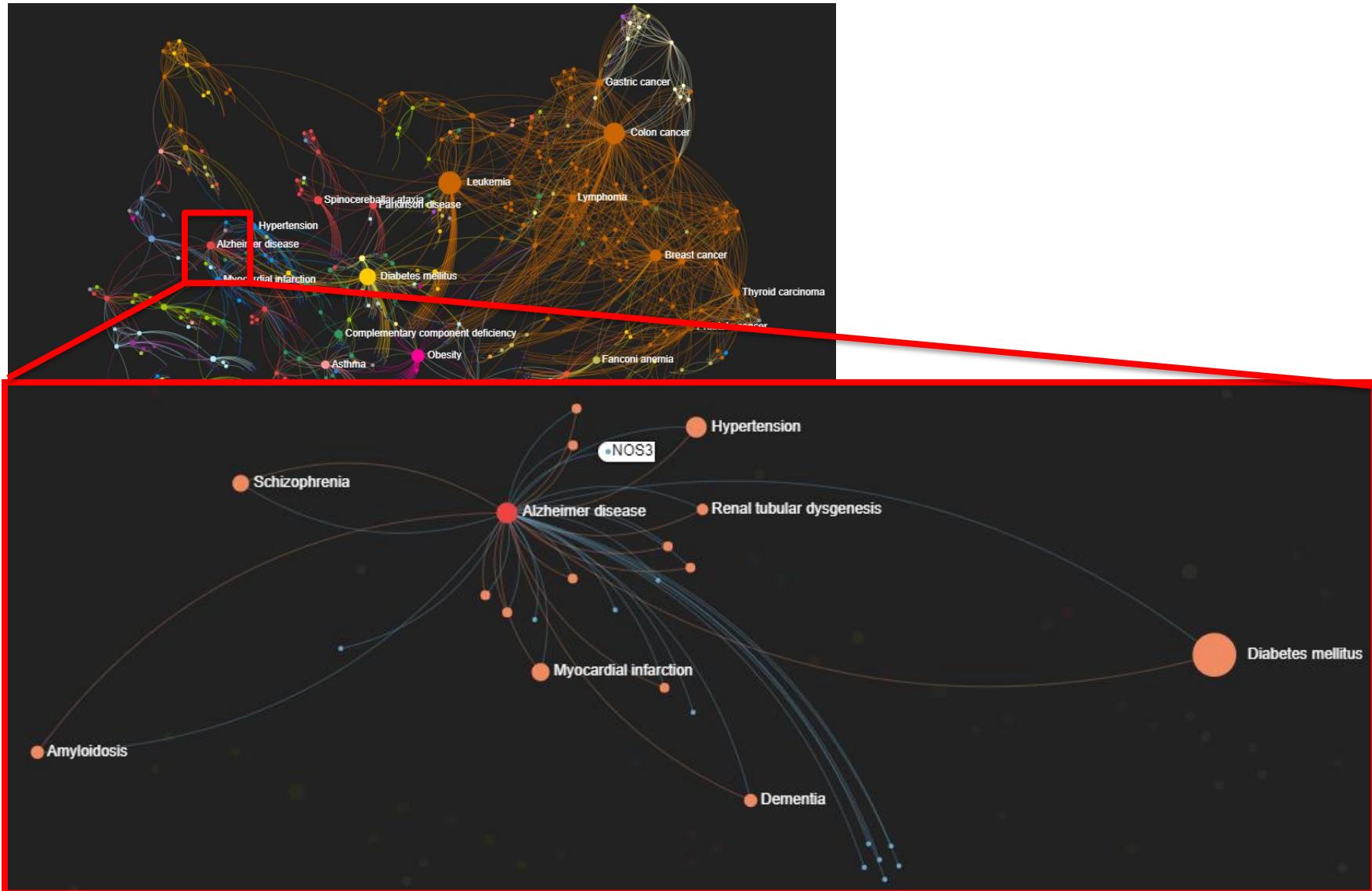
WikiPathways App for Cytoscape: Making biological pathways amenable to network analysis and visualization  
(2014) <https://doi.org/10.12688/f1000research.4254.2>

# Connectome

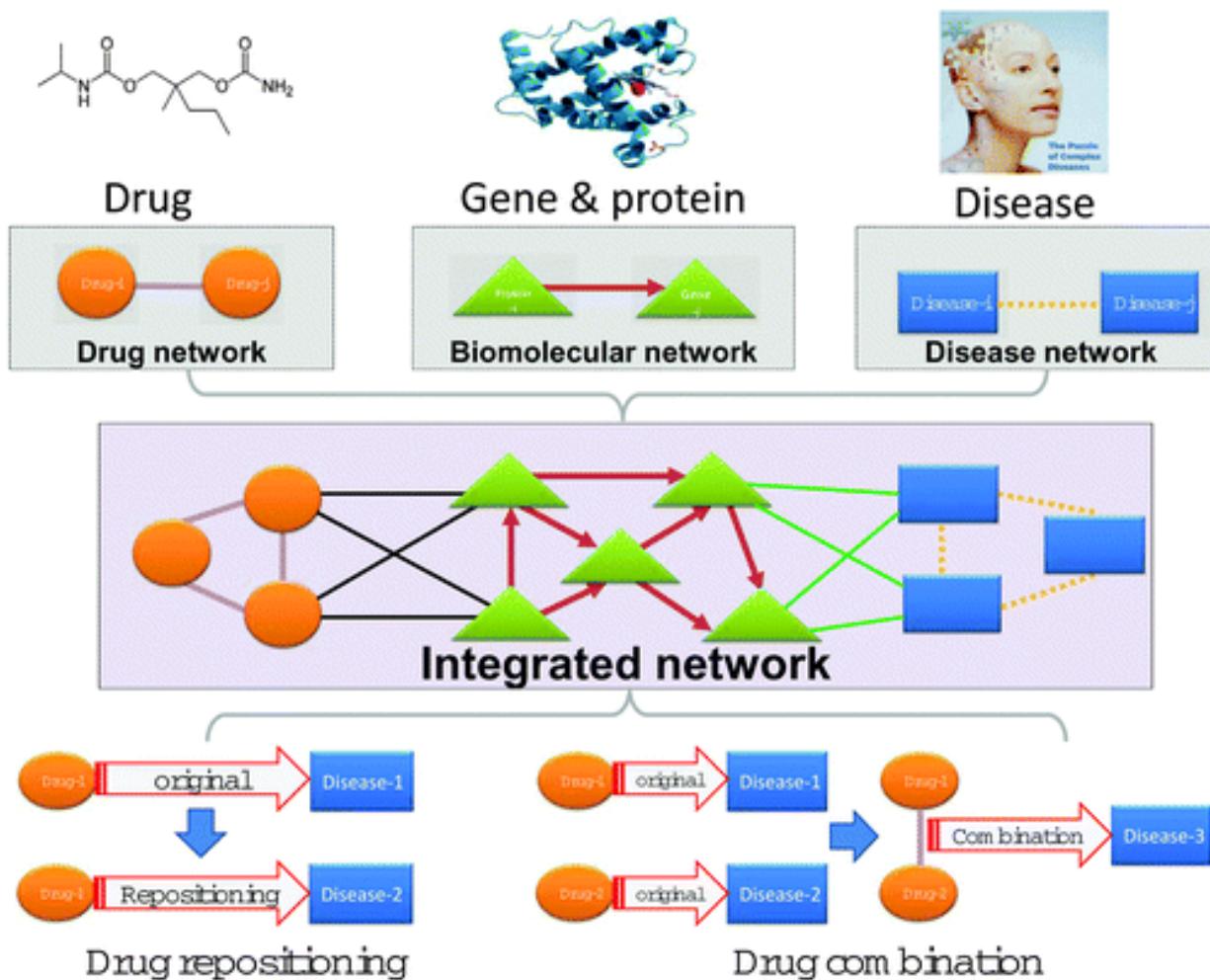
- Mapping the brain
- Neuronal connectivity
- Human connectome project



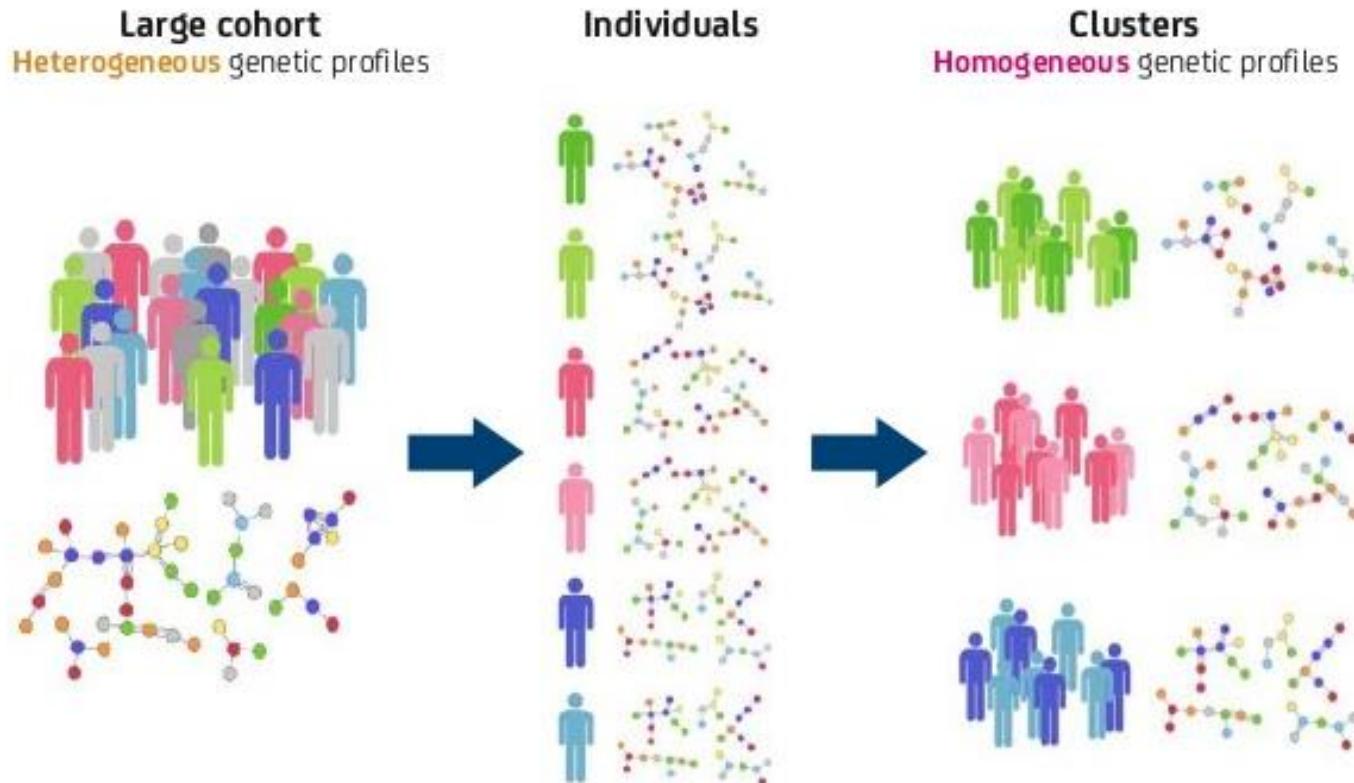
# Human disease network



# Drug repositioning/repurposing

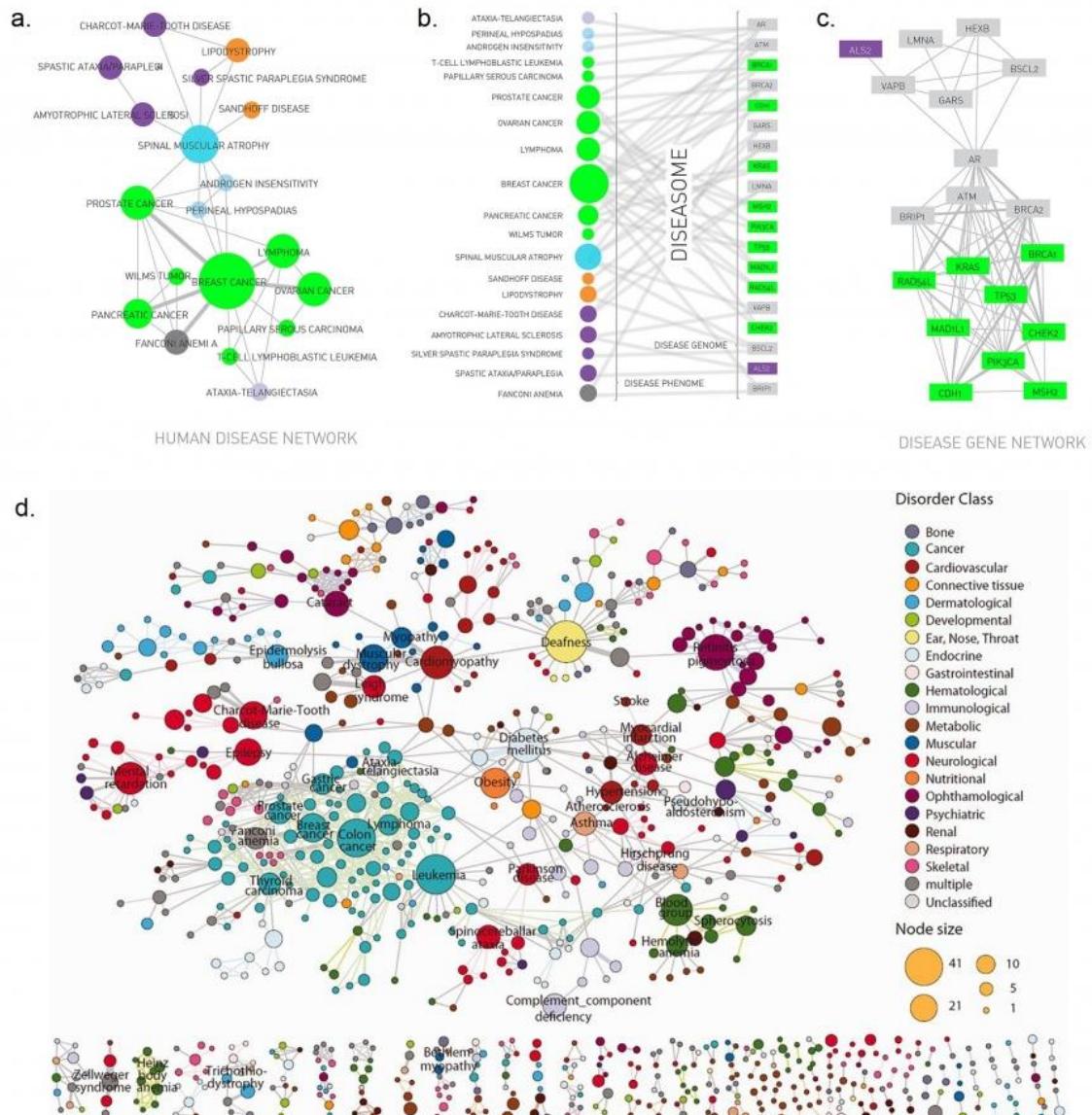


# Network-based stratification



# Human-disease networks

- Full diseasesome:
  - 1,283 disorders
  - 1,777 genes



# Epidemics – H1N1 simulations

Feb 18 2009

Chicago  
New York  
Los Angeles  
Houston  
Toronto  
Vancouver  
Calgary  
Indianapolis

**La Gloria**  
Sao Paulo  
Mexico City  
Rio De Janeiro  
San Juan  
Bogota

Johannesburg  
Cairo  
Cape Town  
Nairobi

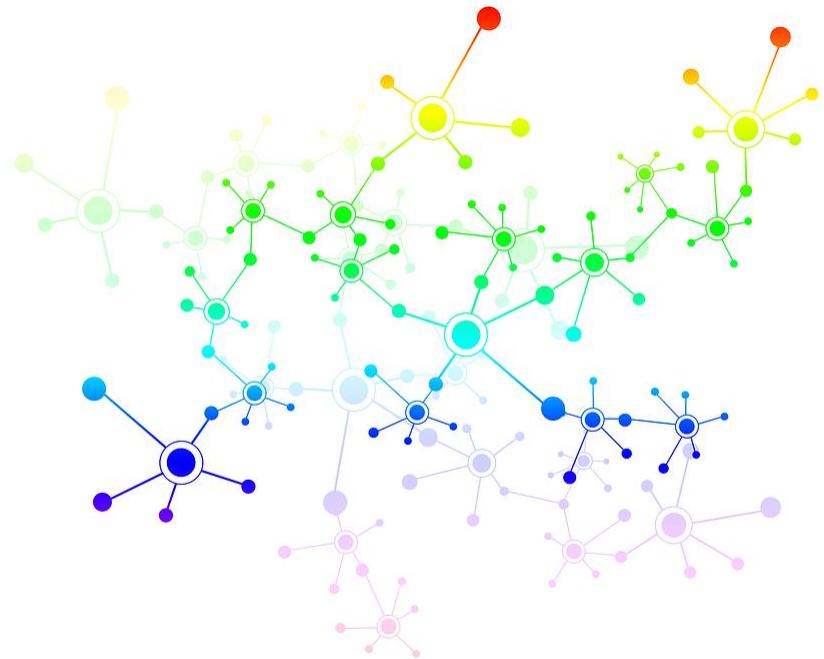


Paris  
Frankfurt  
Amsterdam  
Rome  
Milan  
Moscow  
Dublin

Hong Kong  
Tokyo Narita  
Bangkok  
Singapore  
Beijing  
Manila

Sydney  
Brisbane  
Auckland  
Perth

# Where can I find the network? (focus on molecular networks)



# Where do I find *the* network?

- There is no such thing!
- Data-driven vs. knowledge-driven
- >700 different interaction databases



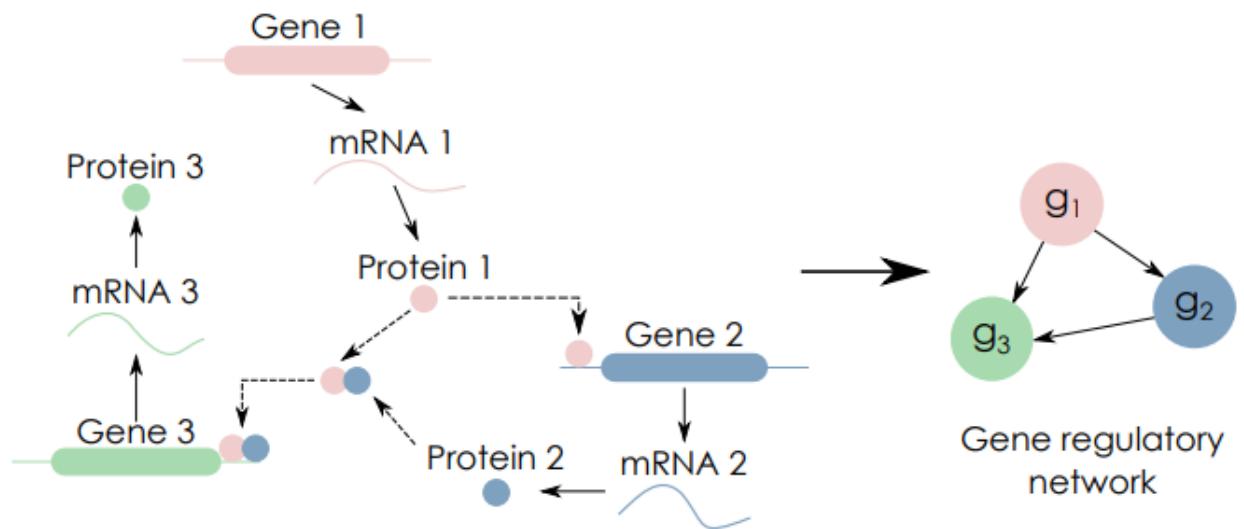
[www.pathguide.org](http://www.pathguide.org)

# Knowledge resources

- PPI – STRING / IntAct
- Drugs – DrugBank / ChEMBL
- microRNAs – miRTarBase / TargetScan
- Pathways – WikiPathways / Reactome
- Gene-disease – DisGenNET
- .....
- Network sharing
  - NDEX (Network Data Exchange)

# Data-driven approaches

- Network inference
  - Finding interactions and connections between (biological) components
  - Often requires large datasets and is computational expensive



**Fig. 1** A cartoon schematic of a gene regulatory network. A complex biophysical model describes the interaction between three genes, involving both direct regulation (gene 2 by gene 1) and combinatorial regulation via complex formation (gene 3 by genes 1 and 2). The abstracted structure of the network on the right.

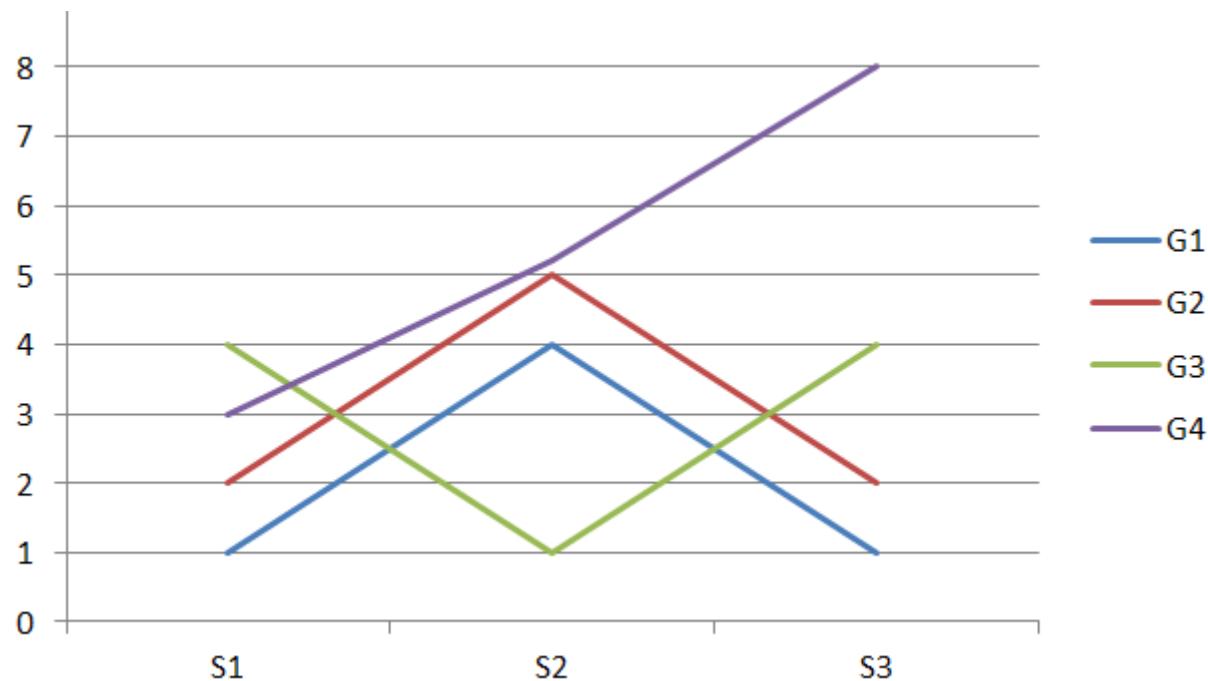
# Correlation networks

- How strongly are two components related to one another?
- Select certain correlation cut-off to decide if an edge is present or not
- Example: Co-expression networks

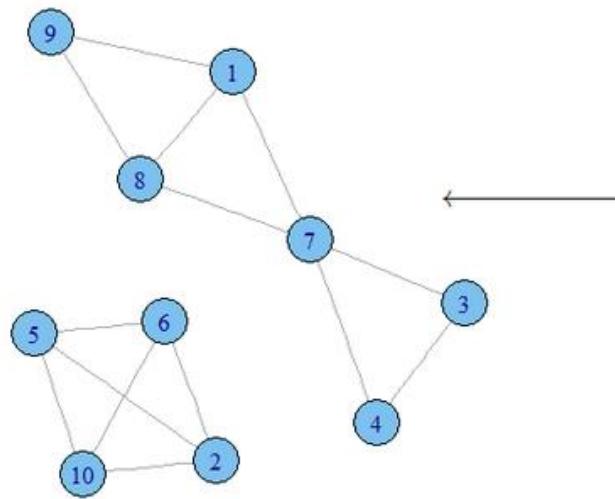
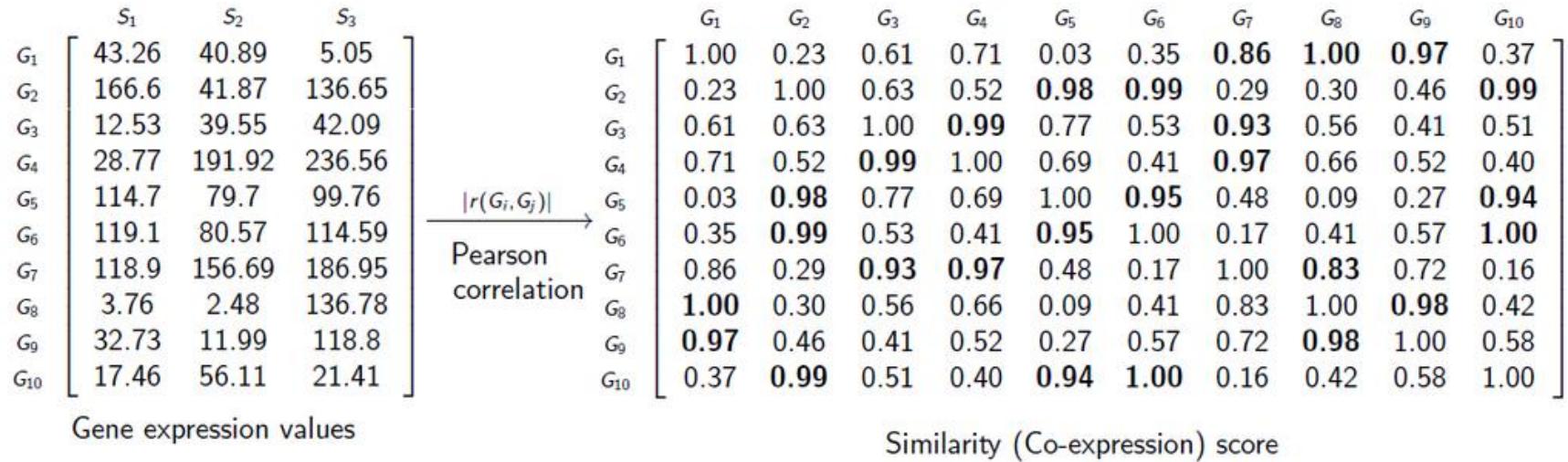
# Correlation networks

	$S_1$	$S_2$	$S_3$
$G_1$	43.26	40.89	5.05
$G_2$	166.6	41.87	136.65
$G_3$	12.53	39.55	42.09
$G_4$	28.77	191.92	236.56
$G_5$	114.7	79.7	99.76
$G_6$	119.1	80.57	114.59
$G_7$	118.9	156.69	186.95
$G_8$	3.76	2.48	136.78
$G_9$	32.73	11.99	118.8
$G_{10}$	17.46	56.11	21.41

Gene expression values



# Correlation networks



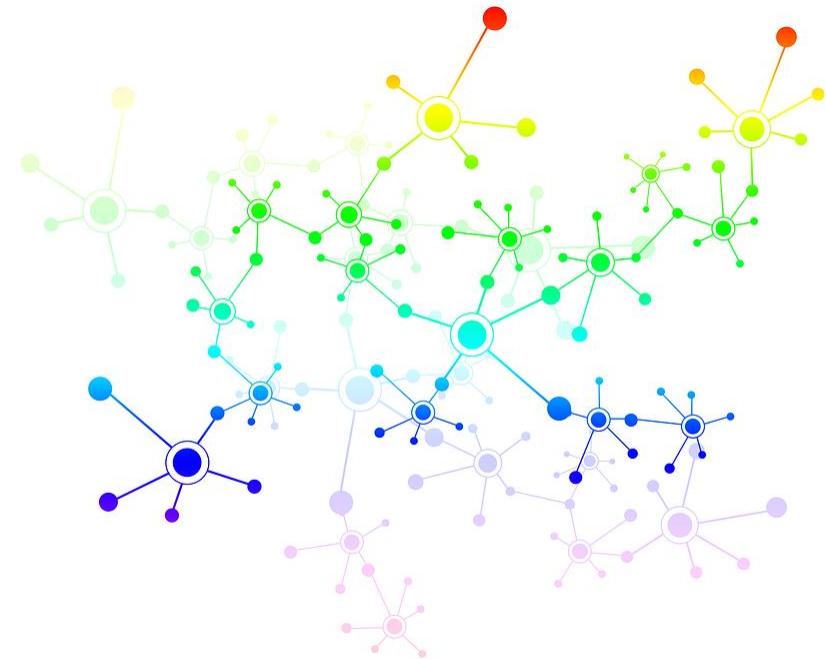
Network adjacency matrix

	$G_1$	$G_2$	$G_3$	$G_4$	$G_5$	$G_6$	$G_7$	$G_8$	$G_9$	$G_{10}$
$G_1$	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	1	0
$G_2$	0	0	0	0	1	1	0	0	0	1
$G_3$	0	0	0	1	0	0	1	0	0	0
$G_4$	0	0	1	0	0	0	1	0	0	0
$G_5$	0	1	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	1
$G_6$	0	1	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	1
$G_7$	1	0	1	1	0	0	0	1	0	0
$G_8$	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	1	0
$G_9$	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0
$G_{10}$	0	1	0	0	1	1	0	0	0	0

$|r(G_i, G_j)| >= 0.8$

Significance threshold

# Network analysis

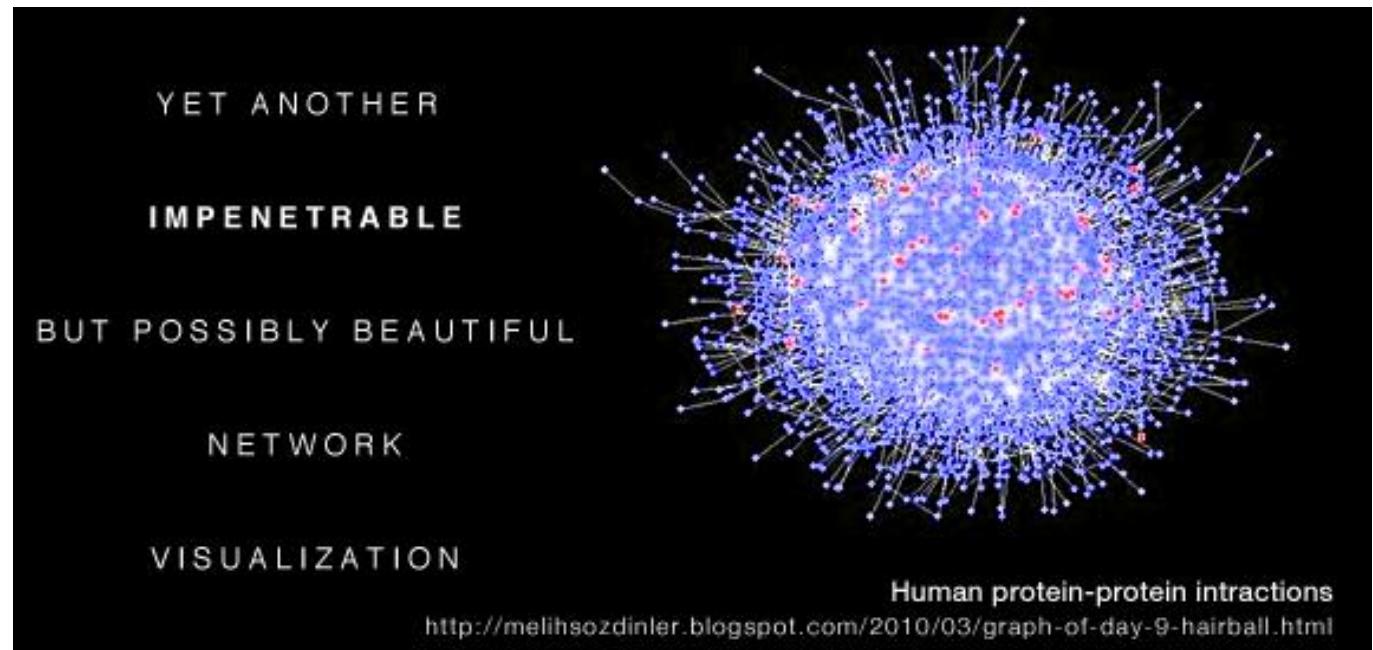


# Network algorithms

- Not just integration and visualization
- **Algorithms** can be used to analyze and study the network – **facilitate understanding and interpretation**
  - Find hub nodes
  - Find clusters
  - Find patterns / motifs
  - Find modules

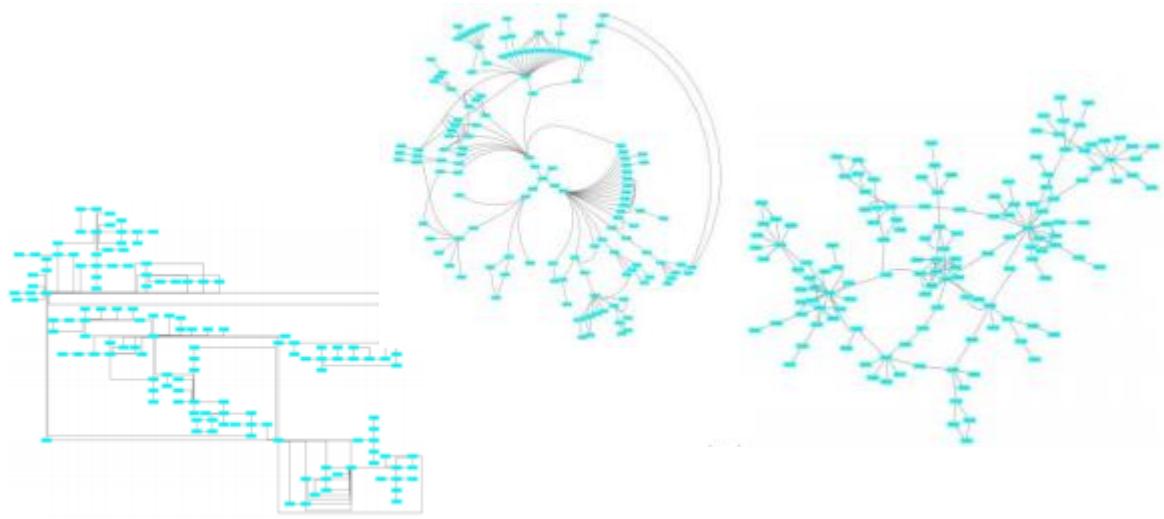
# Network visualization

- Large networks become quickly crowded and hard to grasp → hairball syndrome



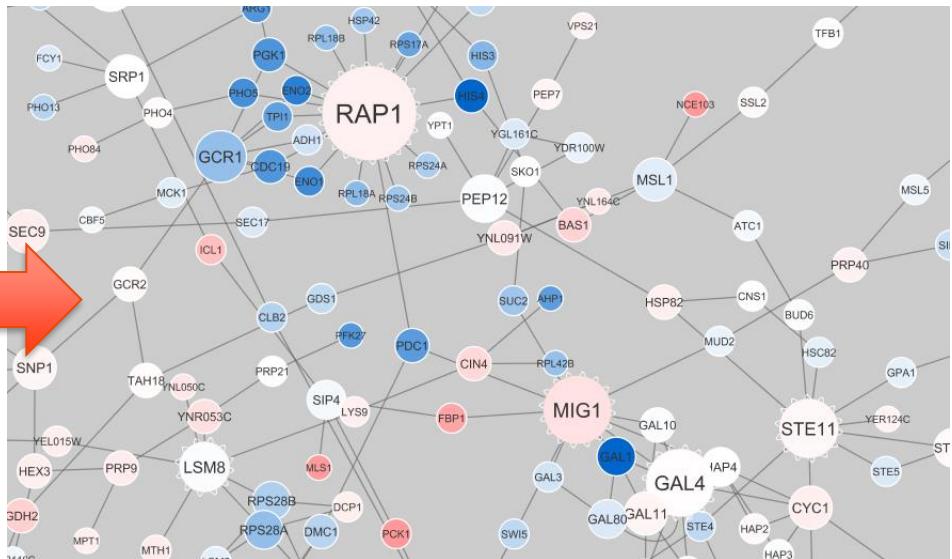
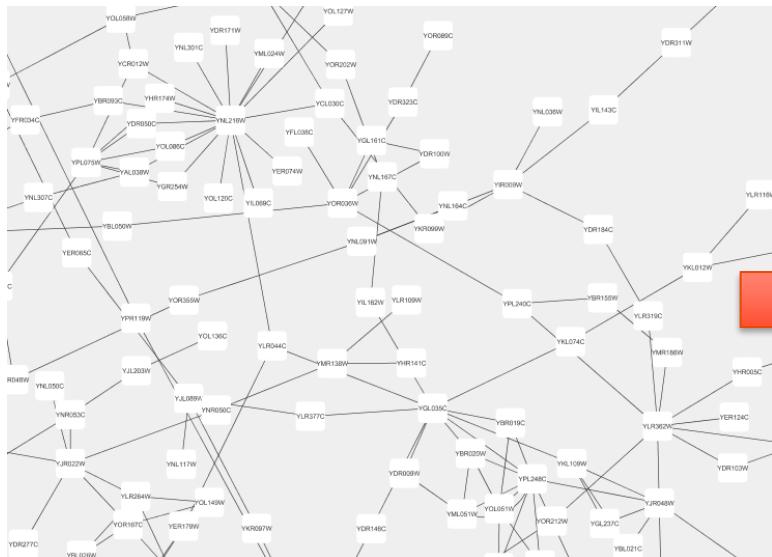
# Network visualization

- **Layouts**
  - Try different algorithms to arrange the nodes of the network
    - circular
    - hierarchical
    - Tree
    - orthogonal
    - forced-directed
    - radial
    - organic
    - etc.
  - Emphasize topology and/or properties of the network
  - Illustrate high/low traffic areas in the network



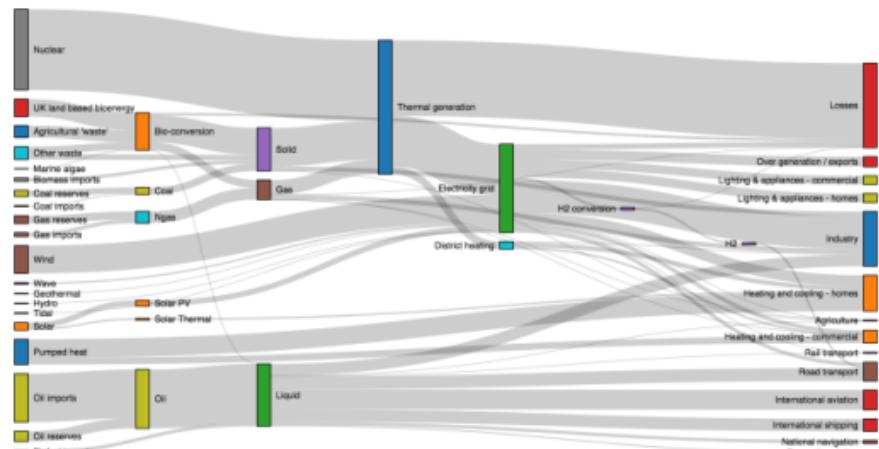
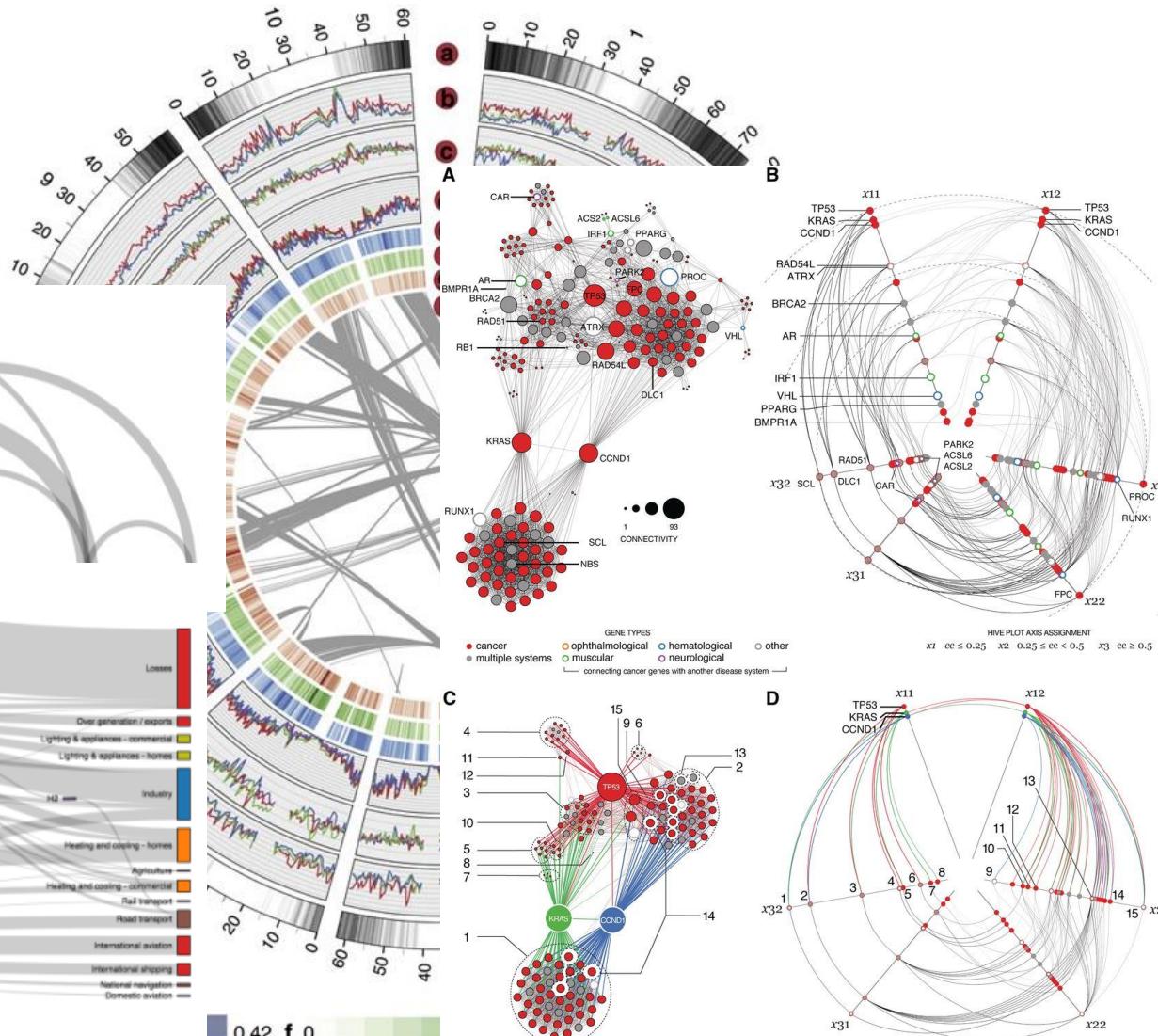
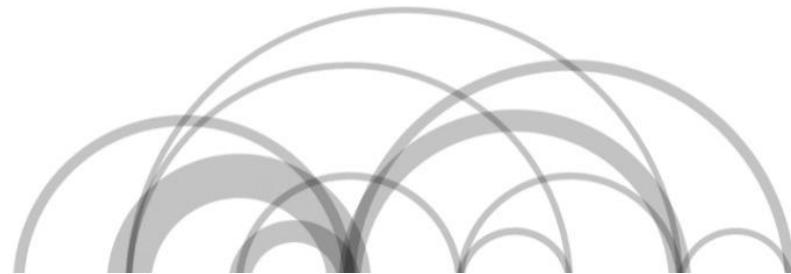
# Network visualization

- Data visualization
  - Node shape, size, color, transparency
  - Edge type, shape, width, color, transparency

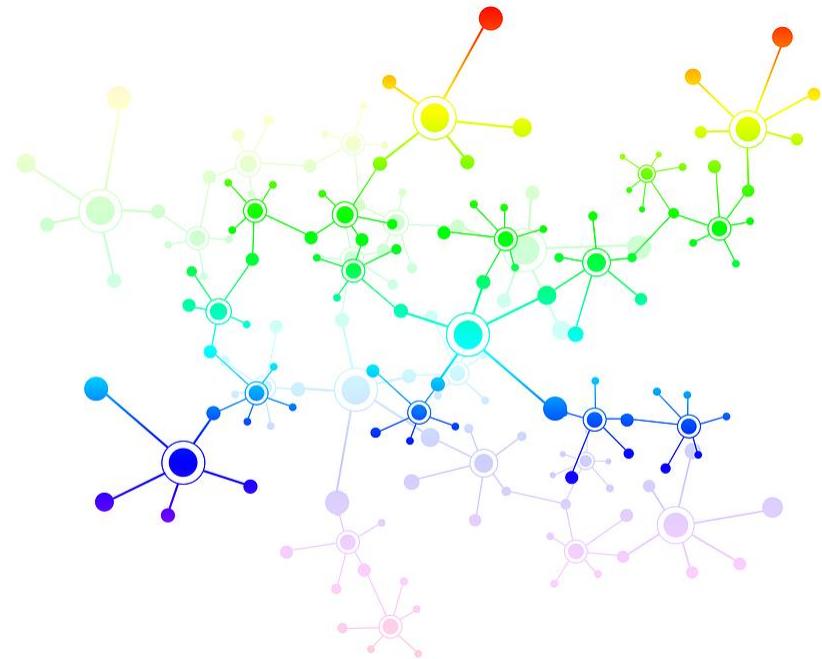


# Advanced Visualization

- Circular plots
- Arc diagram
- Sankey plots
- Hive plots



# Hands-on session



# Hands-on

- This is a basic introduction to network analysis!
- Quick Cytoscape demo
- Hands-on session
  - Cytoscape user interface
  - Automation in R (prior R programming experience required)

# Questions?

Contact:

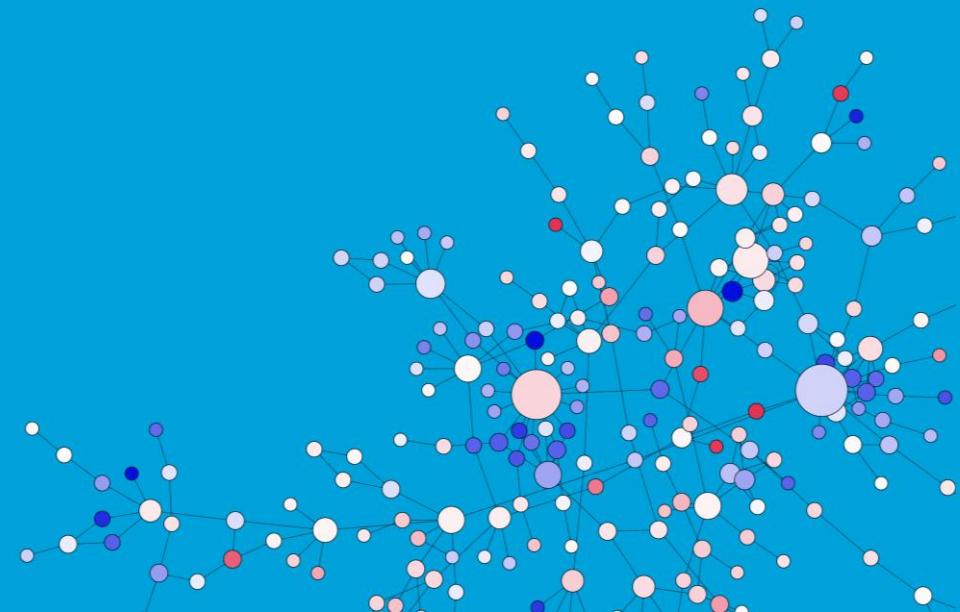
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Helis Academy

Interreg  
Vlaanderen-Nederland  
Europes Fonds voor Regionale Ontwikkeling



# Helis Academy Partners



## Helis Academy Data Analysis and Data Stewardship Funding



Provincie  
Antwerpen



Ministerie van Economische Zaken  
en Klimaat

provincie limburg



Europees Fonds voor Regionale Ontwikkeling

Provincie Noord-Brabant



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