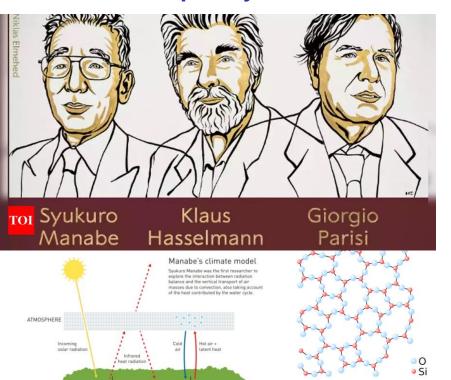
Economic Complexity LEA – Affaires Internationales

Pierre-Alexandre Balland

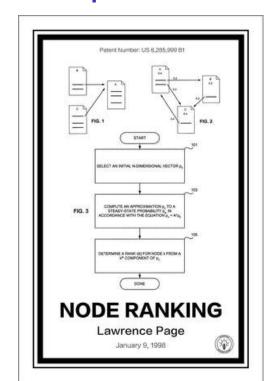
Utrecht University
Toulouse Artificial Intelligence Institute (ANITI)
ESIR (European Commission)

The Century of Complexity

2021's Physics Nobel Prize is about Complexity Science



Al applications extract information from complex network structures













What is Economic Complexity?

Economic complexity is the application of **complex systems** and **network thinking** to economics

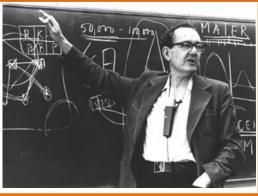
Paradigm shift from *isolated characteristics* to **systemic** interactions

 To understand emerging patterns of growth, regional evolution, technological change, inequality, sustainability...

Economic complexity produces useful **heuristics** and **metrics** to make better business and policy decisions

Founding parents

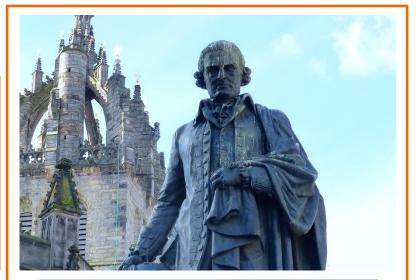


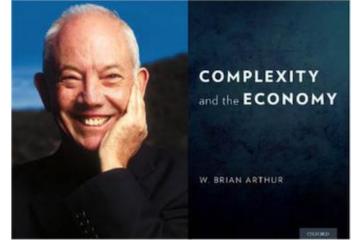












Recent reads



Research Policy

Volume 51, Issue 3, April 2022, 104450



The new paradigm of economic complexity ☆

Pierre-Alexandre Balland a, b, Tom Broekel c, Dario Diodato $d, \# \cong B$, Elisa Giuliani d, Ricardo Hausmann d, Neave O'Clery d, David Rigby d



Research Policy

Supports open access

Special Issue on Economic Complexity

Edited by Pierre-Alexandre Balland, Tom Broekel, Dario Diodato, Ricardo Hausmann, Neave O'Clery, David Rigby Last update 17 January 2022



Transition to system thinking

Key **concepts** of interdependencies, non-linearity, feedback loops, self-organization, second-order effects, randomness, scaling, fat-tails, network effects, path-dependence...

- Industry 5.0, a transformative vision for Europe : governing systemic transformations towards a sustainable industry
- Global value chains : harnessing innovation to protect and transform the **backbone** of global trade
- Protect, prepare and transform Europe Recovery and resilience post COVID-19

EconX & growth

Economic **development** from a complex systems perspective

As the economy becomes more complex, it grows

New technologies and globalization allow for a deeper division of knowledge

Trade and division of labor and this is a very **efficient** way to organize the economy

Yes, But!

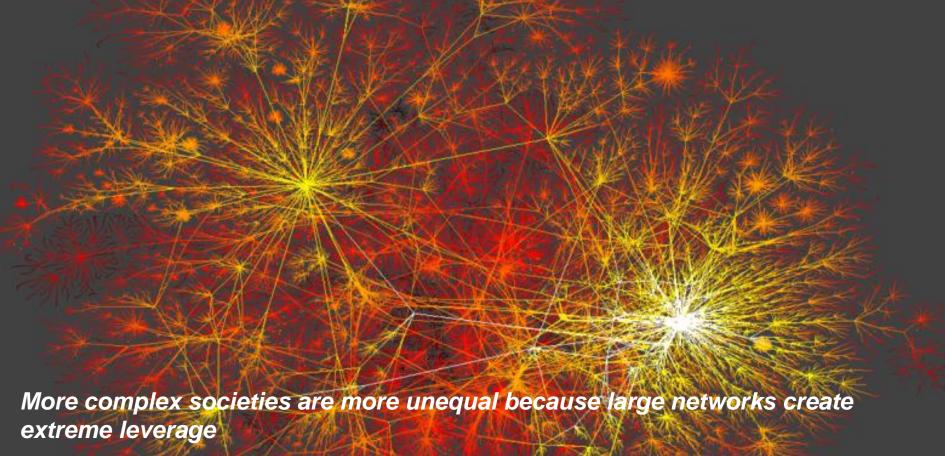
Increasing complexity creates an **overload** of information and noise

This division of knowledge also creates room for hierarchy and inequality

Complexity makes key resources very, very **concentrated** (hello network effects)

Increased **interdependencies** make us more vulnerable to pandemics such as Covid-19, financial, and ecological crises

Complex systems are highly unequal



Reframing economic development









Data Source: atlas.media.mit.edu

On smart specialization



Smart specialisation

Smart specialisation is a new innovation policy concept designed to promote the efficient and effective use of public investment in research. Its goal is to boost regional innovation in order to achieve economic growth and prosperity, by enabling regions to focus on their strengths. Smart specialisation understands that spreading investment too thinly across several frontier technology fields risks limiting the impact in any one area.

A smart specialisation strategy needs to be built on a sound analysis of regional assets and technology. It should also include an analysis of potential partners in other regions and avoid unnecessary duplication. Smart specialisation needs to be based on a strong partnership between businesses, public entities and knowledge institutions – such partnerships are recognised as essential for success.

To push forward the smart specialisation concept, the Commission announced the setting up of the S³Platform in a 2010 Communication entitled 'Regional Policy contributing to smart growth in Europe 2020'. This platform aims to assist regions and Member States in developing, implementing and reviewing regional smart specialisation strategies, and help regions identify high-value added activities which offer the best chances of strengthening their competitiveness.

Applied AI for innovation policy













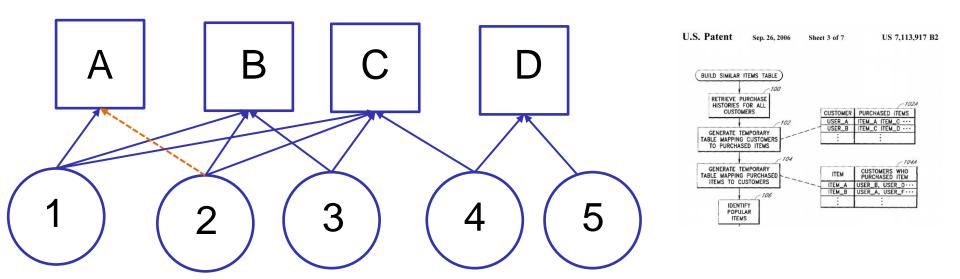
Recommender systems are the most successful application of AI in the business world. They are all about filtering massive amount of data (content-based filtering & collaborative filtering)

Economic complexity tools are based on similar machine learning algorithms

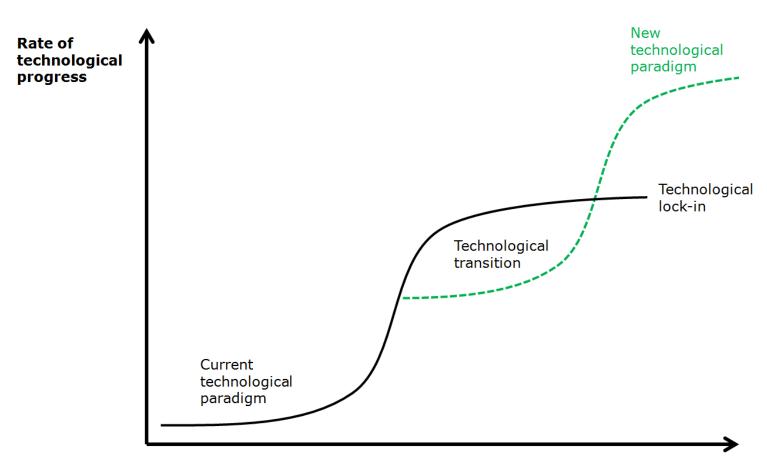
→ Can support innovation policy & smart R&I investments

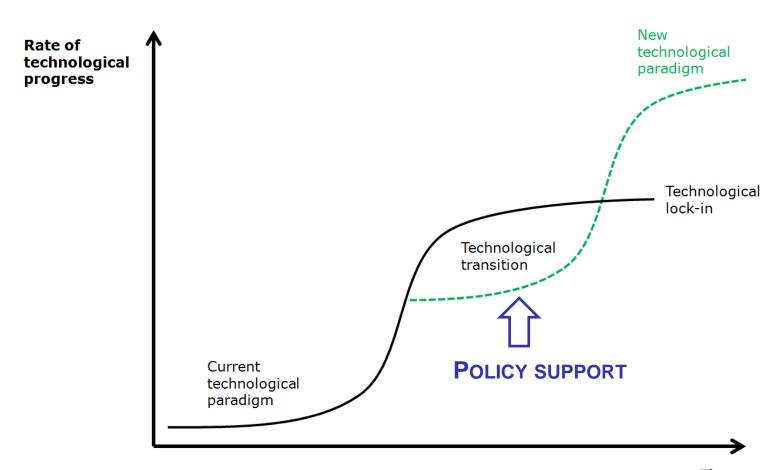
Matching products and customers



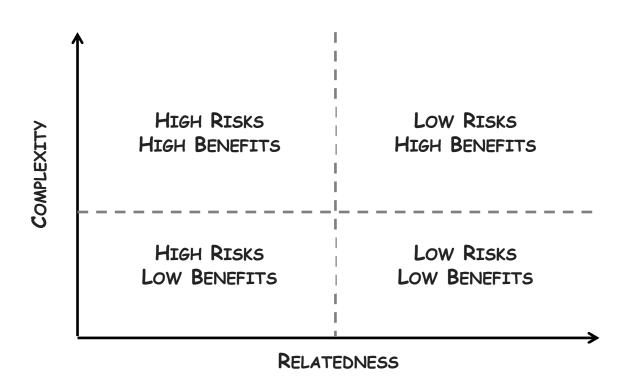


Modern AI techniques extract information from network structures

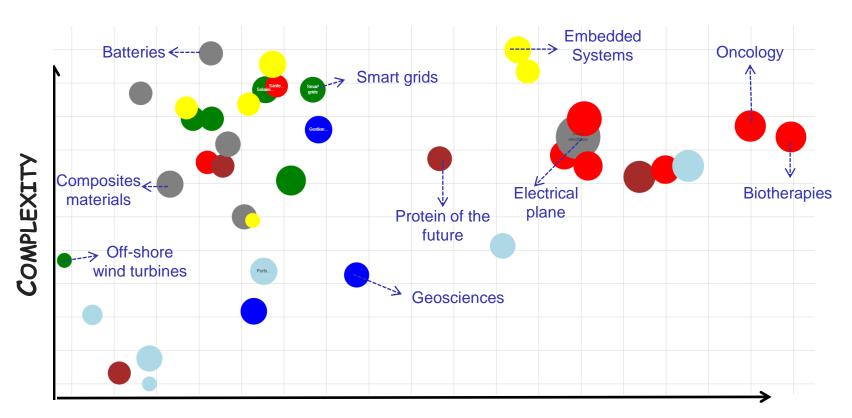




Smart Occ Investment Framework



Smart Occ Investment Framework



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Q&A