

Power laws

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February 5, 2020



- ▶ 1. Probability basics
- ▶ 2. Power law distribution
- ▶ 3. Scale-free networks
- ▶ 4. Parameter estimation
- ▶ 5. Zipf's law

- ▶ Open-ended question, of course
- ▶ The internet-of-things comes to mind: technological, biological, social, etc network



- Continuous random variable X
- Probability density function $p(x)$ (PDF):

$$Pr(a \leq X \leq b) = \int_a^b p(x) dx$$

$$p(x) \geq 0$$

$$\int_{-\infty}^{\infty} p(x) dx = 1$$

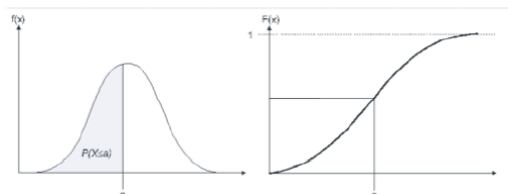
- Cumulative distribution function (CDF)

$$F(x) = Pr(X \leq x) = \int_{-\infty}^x p(x) dx ; \frac{d}{dx} F(x) = p(x)$$

- Complementary cumulative distribution function (cCDF)

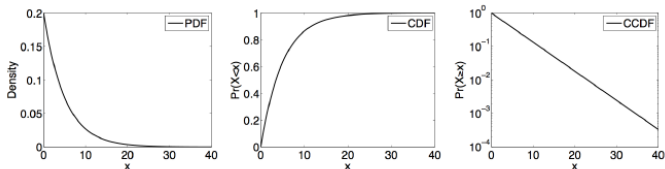
$$\bar{F}(x) = Pr(X \geq x) = 1 - F(x) = \int_x^{\infty} p(x) dx$$

- Gaussian: $p(x) = \frac{1}{\sigma\sqrt{2\pi}} e^{-\frac{(x-\mu)^2}{2\sigma^2}}$, $F(x) = \frac{1}{2}[1 + \operatorname{erf}(\frac{x-\mu}{\sigma\sqrt{2}})]$



- Exponential ($x \geq 0$) :

$$p(x) = \lambda e^{-\lambda x}, \quad F(x) = 1 - e^{-\lambda x}, \quad \bar{F}(x) = e^{-\lambda x}$$



- Discrete random variable X_i
- Probability mass function (PMF) $p(x)$:

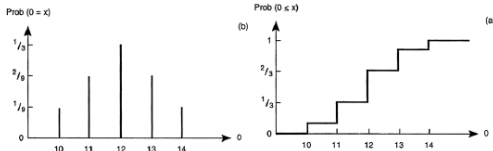
$$p(x) = \Pr(X_i = x)$$

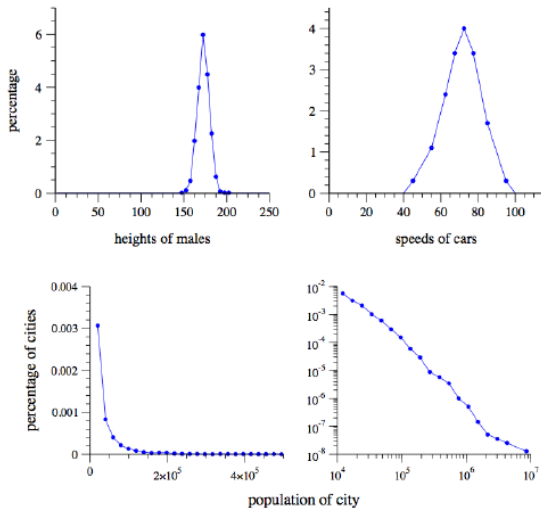
$$p(x) \geq 0$$

$$\sum_x p(x) = 1$$

- Cumulative distribution function (CDF)

$$F(x) = \Pr(X_i \leq x) = \sum_{x' \leq x} p(x')$$





Continuous approximation

► Power law

$$p(x) = Cx^{-\alpha} = \frac{C}{x^{\alpha}}, \text{ for } x \geq x_{min}$$

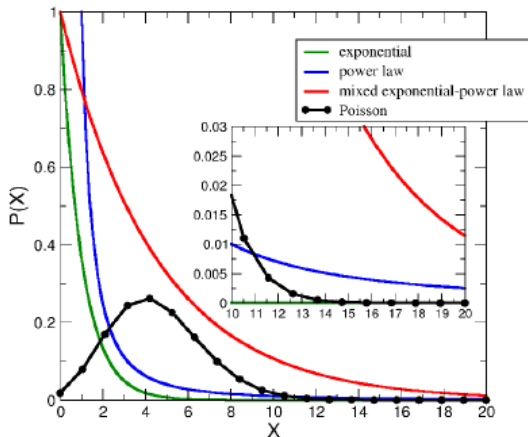
► Normalization ($\alpha > 1$)

$$1 = \int_{x_{min}}^{\infty} p(x) dx = C \int_{x_{min}}^{\infty} \frac{dx}{x^{\alpha}} = \frac{C}{\alpha - 1} x_{min}^{-\alpha+1}$$

$$C = (\alpha - 1) x_{min}^{-\alpha+1}$$

► Power law PDF

$$p(x) = \frac{\alpha - 1}{x_{min}} \left(\frac{x}{x_{min}} \right)^{-\alpha}$$



- poisson: $p(x) = \frac{\lambda^k}{k!} e^{-\lambda}$, exponent : $p(x) = Ce^{-\lambda x}$, powerlaw : $p(x) = Cx^{-\alpha}$

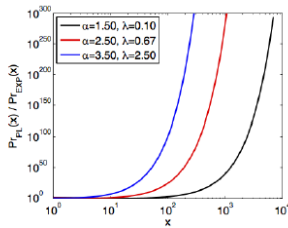
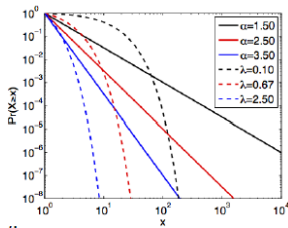
► Power law PDF

$$p(x) = Cx^{-\alpha} = \frac{\alpha - 1}{x_{min}} \left(\frac{x}{x_{min}} \right)^{-\alpha}$$

► Complimentary cumulative distribution function cCDF

$$\bar{F}(x) = Pr(X > x) = \int_x^{\infty} p(x) dx$$

$$\bar{F}(x) = \bar{C}x^{-(\alpha-1)} = \frac{C}{\alpha - 1} x^{-(\alpha-1)} = \left(\frac{x}{x_{min}} \right)^{-(\alpha-1)}$$

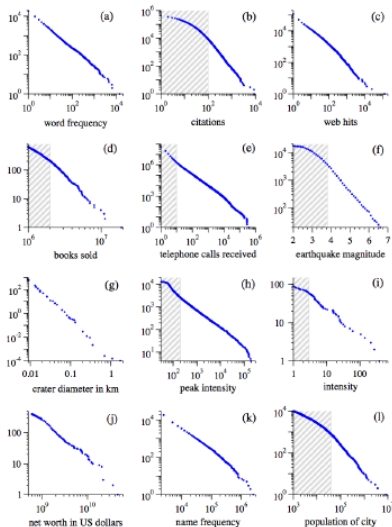


► Power law:

$$p(x) = Cx^{-\alpha}, \bar{F}(x) = \bar{C}x^{-(\alpha-1)}$$

$$\log p(x) = \log C - \alpha \log x, \log \bar{F}(x) = \log \bar{C} - (\alpha - 1) \log x$$

► log-log scale



► PDF

$$p(x) = \frac{C}{x^\alpha}, x \geq x_{min}$$

► First moment (mean value), $\alpha \geq 2$:

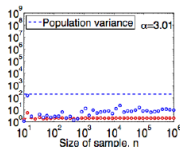
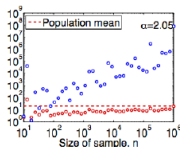
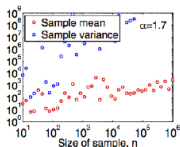
$$\langle x \rangle = \int_{x_{min}}^{\infty} x p(x) dx = C \int_{x_{min}}^{\infty} \frac{\alpha - 1}{\alpha - 2} x_{min} \leftarrow \text{typo}$$

► Second moment, $\alpha > 3$:

$$\langle x^2 \rangle = \int_{x_{min}}^{\infty} x^2 p(x) dx = C \int_{x_{min}}^{\infty} \frac{dx}{x^{\alpha-2}} = \frac{\alpha - 1}{\alpha - 3} x_{min}^2$$

► k-th moment, $\alpha > k + 1$:

$$\langle x^k \rangle = \frac{\alpha - 1}{\alpha - 1 - k} x_{min}^k$$



► First moment (mean):

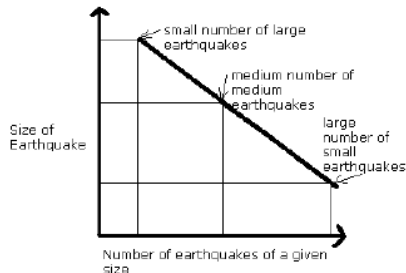
$$\langle x \rangle = C \int_{x_{min}}^{x_{max}} \frac{dx}{x^{\alpha-1}} = \frac{\alpha-1}{\alpha-2} \left(x_{min} - \frac{x_{min}^{\alpha-1}}{x_{max}^{\alpha-2}} \right)$$

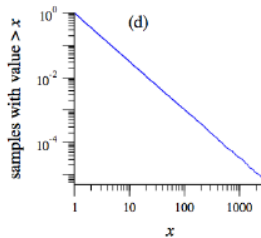
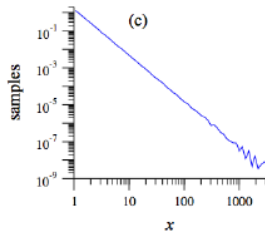
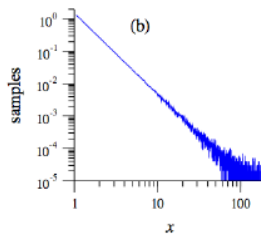
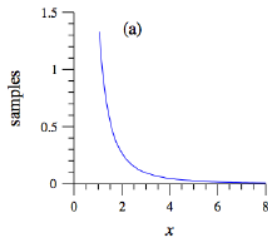
- Scaling of the density

$$x \rightarrow bx, p(bx) = C(bx)^{-\alpha} = b^{\alpha} Cx^{-\alpha} \propto p(x)$$

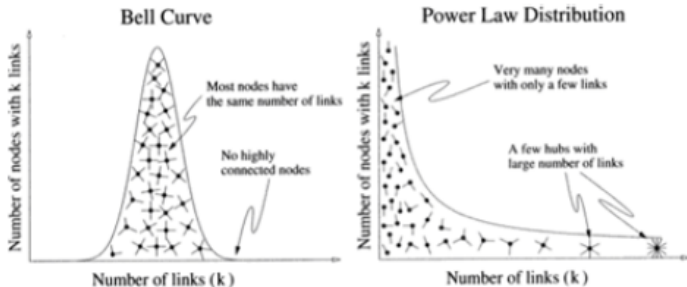
- Scale invariance

$$\frac{p(100x)}{p(10x)} = \frac{p(10x)}{p(x)}$$





Newman et.al, 2005



- ▶ k_i - node degree, i.e. number of nearest neighbors,
 $k_i = 1, 2, \dots, k_{max}$
- ▶ n_k - number of nodes with degree k , $n_k = \sum_i \mathcal{I}(k_i == k)$
- ▶ total number of nodes $n = \sum_k n_k$
- ▶ Degree distribution $P(k_i = k) \equiv P(k)$

$$P(k) = \frac{n_k}{\sum_k n_k} = \frac{n_k}{n}$$

- ▶ CDF

$$F(k) = \sum_{k' \leq k} P(k') = \frac{1}{n} \sum_{k' \leq k} n_{k'}$$

- ▶ cCDF

$$F(k) = 1 - \sum_{k' \leq k} P(k') = \frac{1}{n} \sum_{k' \geq k} n_{k'}$$

- ▶ Power law distribution

$$p(k) = Ck^{-\gamma} = \frac{C}{k^{\gamma}}$$

- ▶ Normalization

$$\sum_{k=1}^{\infty} P(k) = C \sum_{k=1}^{\infty} k^{-\gamma} = C\zeta(\gamma) = 1; C = \frac{1}{\zeta(\gamma)}$$

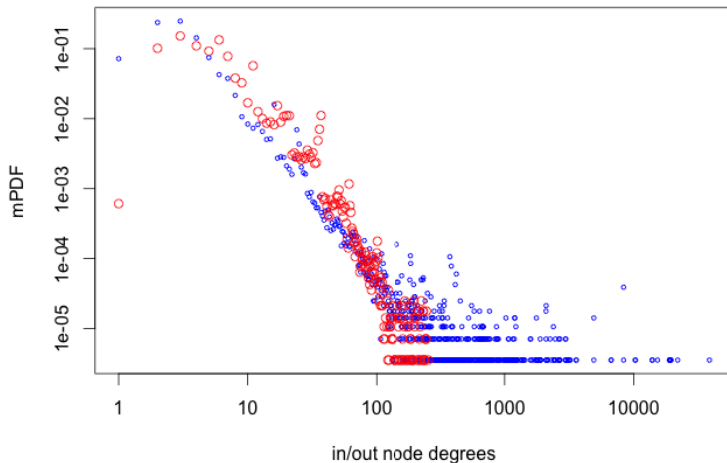
- ▶ Riemann zeta function, $\gamma > 1$

$$P(k) = \frac{k^{-\gamma}}{\zeta(\gamma)}$$

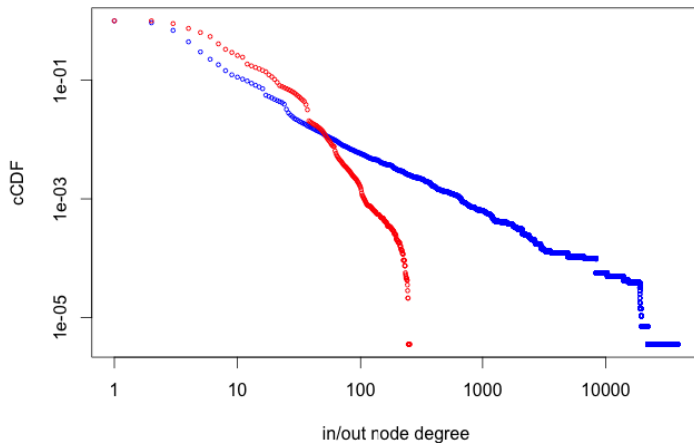
- ▶ Log-log coordinates

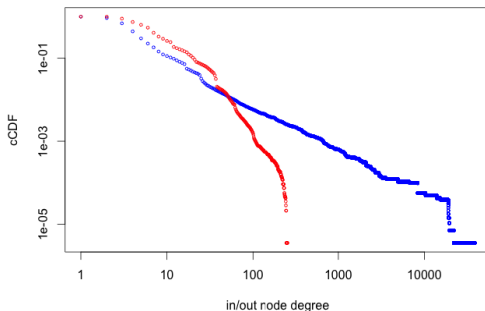
$$\log(P(k)) = -\gamma \log k + \log C$$

Probability mass function PMF/mPDF



Complementary cumulative distribution function cCDF



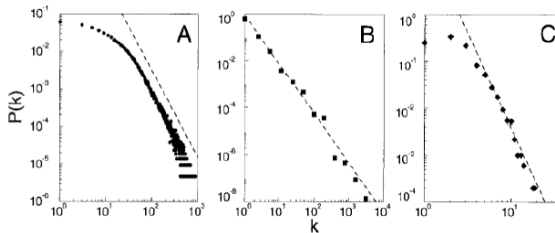


Actor collaboration graph, $N=212,250$ nodes, $\langle k \rangle = 28.8$, $\gamma = 2.3$

WWW, $N = 325,729$ nodes, $\langle k \rangle = 5.6$, $\gamma = 2.1$

Power grid data, $N = 4941$ nodes, $\langle k \rangle = 5.5$, $\gamma = 4$

Barabasi et.al, 1999



In- and out- degrees of WWW crawl 1999

Broder et.al, 1999

Maximum likelihood estimation of parameter α

- ▶ Let $\{x_i\}$ be a set of n observations (points) independently sampled from the distribution

$$P(x_i) = \frac{\alpha - 1}{x_{min}} \left(\frac{x_i}{x_{min}} \right)^{-\alpha}$$

- ▶ Probability of the sample

$$P(\{x_i\}|\alpha) = \prod_i^n \frac{\alpha - 1}{x_{min}} \left(\frac{x_i}{x_{min}} \right)^{-\alpha}$$

- ▶ Bayes' theorem

$$P(\alpha|\{x_i\}) = P(\{x_i\}|\alpha) \frac{P(\alpha)}{P(\{x_i\})}$$

► log-likelihood

$$\mathcal{L} = \ln P(\alpha | \{x_i\}) = n \ln(\alpha - 1) - n \ln x_{\min} - \alpha \sum_{i=1}^n \ln \frac{x_i}{x_{\min}}$$

► maximization $\frac{\partial \mathcal{L}}{\partial \alpha} = 0$

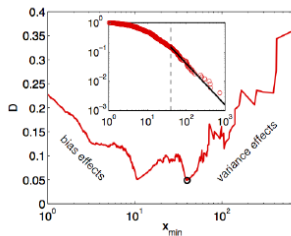
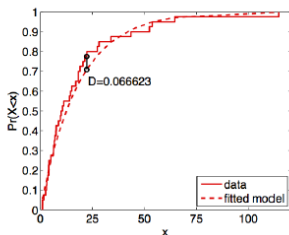
$$\alpha = 1 + n \left[\sum_{i=1}^n \ln \frac{x_i}{x_{\min}} \right]^{-1}$$

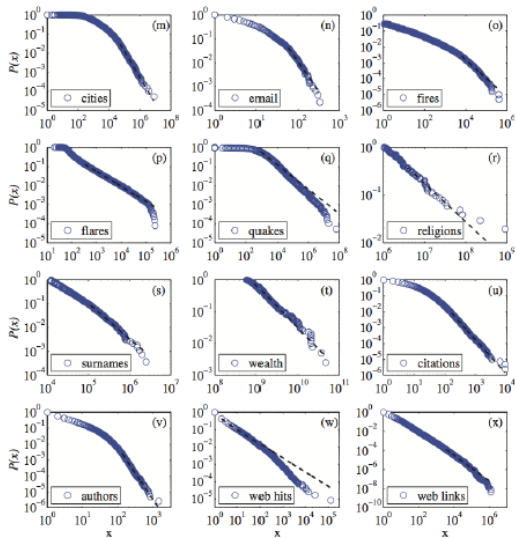
► error estimate

$$\sigma = \sqrt{n} \left[\sum_{i=1}^n \ln \frac{x_i}{x_{\min}} \right]^{-1} = \frac{\alpha - 1}{\sqrt{n}}$$

- Kolmogorov-Smirnov test (compare model and experimental CDF)

$$D = \max_x |F(x|\alpha, x_{min}) - F_{exp}(x)|$$





Word frequency table (6318 unique words, min freq 800, corpus size > 85mln):

6187267 the

4239632 be

3093444 of

2687863 and

2186369 a

1924315 in

1620850 to

.....

801 incredibly

801 historically

801 decision-making

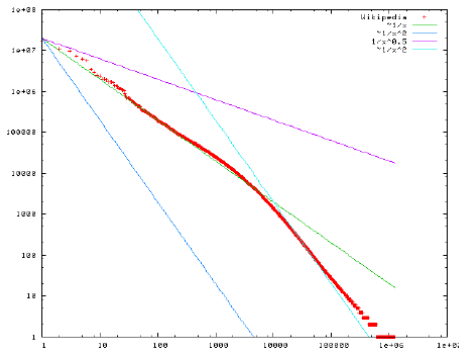
800 wildly

800 reformer

800 quantum

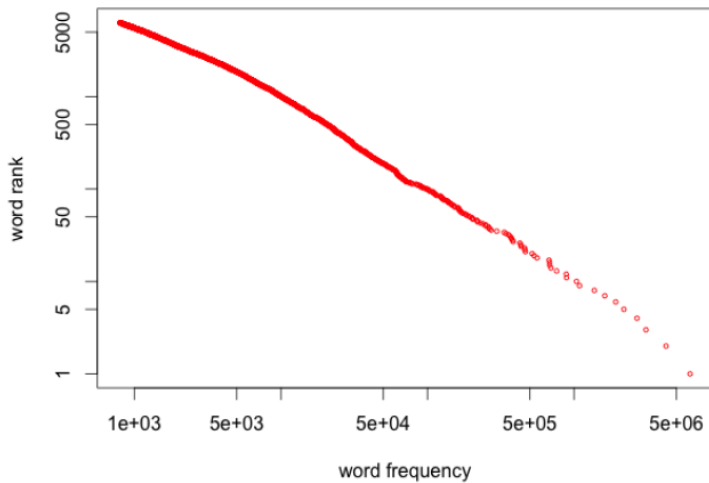
Zipf's law - the frequency of a word in an natural language corpus is inversely proportional to its rank in frequency table $f(k) \sim 1/k$.

$$f(k) = \frac{1/k_s}{\sum_{k=1}^N (1/k^s)}$$



- ▶ Sort items by their frequency in decreasing order (frequency table)
- ▶ Fraction of the words with frequencies higher or equal to the k -th word is cCDF $\bar{F}(k) = Pr(X \geq k)$. The number of the words with frequency above k -th word is its rank k !
- ▶ Plot word rank as a function of the word frequency: rank k – y axis, frequency – x axis.
- ▶ Use rank-frequency plot instead of computing and plotting cumulative distribution of a quantity.

6187267 the
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- ▶ What about the importance of nodes?
- ▶ Eigenvalue centrality of node i (x_i) can remedy this as:

$$x_i = \kappa^{-1} \sum_{j|i} x_j \rightarrow \kappa^{-1} \sum_j^n A_{ij} x_j,$$

where κ is a given constant.

- ▶ In a matrix form, we obtain:

$$\mathbf{Ax} = \kappa \mathbf{x}$$

- ▶ Note that \mathbf{x} is an eigenvector of \mathbf{A}
- ▶ BUT: \mathbf{A} is $n \times n$, so which one from n eigenvectors to choose?
 - ▶ Hint: use the fact that $a_{ij} \geq 0$ and the Perron-Frobenius theorem
 - ▶ There is only one eigenvector with non-zero elements and its has the largest eigenvalue \rightarrow set κ

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- ▶ Eigenvalue centrality only works for undirected graphs!
- ▶ Problems with directed graphs:
 - ▶ **A** is asymmetric \rightarrow two eigenvectors (left and right). Which one to use?
 - ▶ It is always case-specific! (Use domain judgement & ingoing rule!)
 - ▶ Also, directed graphs may have nodes, which are only outgoing or only ingoing, which will be ignored if one eigenvector is dropped
- ▶ Eigenvalue centrality only works for undirected graphs!
- ▶ But solution for directed graphs exists! Consider a modification given below:

$$x_i = \alpha \sum_j^n A_{ij} x_j + \beta,$$

where $\alpha > 0$ and $\beta > 0$.

- ▶ In a matrix form we have then $\mathbf{x} = \alpha \mathbf{A} \mathbf{x} + \beta \mathbf{1}$

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- ▶ The Katz centrality follows from $\mathbf{x} = \alpha \mathbf{A} + \beta \mathbf{1}$ and from setting $\beta = 1$ (can be any):

$$\mathbf{x} = (\mathbf{I} - \alpha \mathbf{A})^{-1} \mathbf{1}$$

- ▶ How to determine the value of α ?
- ▶ Solving for $\alpha > 0$ leads to:

$$\det(\alpha^{-1} \mathbf{I} - \mathbf{A}) = 0 \rightarrow \alpha = 1/\kappa_1,$$

where $1/\kappa_1$ is the inverse of the largest eigenvalue.

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- ▶ BUT: The Katz centrality can be abusive in some cases (when one a node has many outgoing connections.
- ▶ Solution(PageRank centrality): Use out-degree k_j^{out} :

$$x_i = \alpha \sum_j^n A_{ij} \frac{x_j}{k_j^{out}} + \beta,$$

- ▶ Which can be cast in a matrix form

$$\mathbf{x} = \alpha \mathbf{A} \mathbf{D}^{-1} \mathbf{x} + \beta \mathbf{1},$$

where $\mathbf{D} = \text{diag}(\max(\mathbf{k}_i^{out}, 1))$

- ▶ We obtain the Pagerank centrality as

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In summary, eigenvector centrality measures are very simple:

	With β	Without β
With k_i^{out}	$\mathbf{x} = (\mathbf{I} - \alpha \mathbf{A} \mathbf{D}^{-1})^{-1} \mathbf{1}$	$\mathbf{x} = \mathbf{A} \mathbf{D}^{-1} \mathbf{x}$
Without k_i^{out}	$\mathbf{x} = (\mathbf{I} - \alpha \mathbf{A}^{-1} \mathbf{1})$	$\mathbf{x} = \kappa^{-1} \mathbf{A} \mathbf{x}$

Degree and eigenvalue centrality do not inform on the closeness of nodes (e.g. number of hops)

- ▶ Recall the shortest distance d_{ij}
- ▶ The mean shortest distance is then:

$$l_i = \frac{1}{n} \sum_j d_{ij}$$

- ▶ The closeness centrality naturally follows then:

$$C_i = \frac{1}{l_i} = \frac{n}{\sum_j d_{ij}}$$

- ▶ Think about an application of the closeness centrality

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Degree, eigenvalue, and a closeness centrality do not inform on what nodes lie between a given pair of nodes

- ▶ Let $n_{st}^i \in \{0, 1\}$ attain the value 0, unless node i is included in the shortest distance d_{st}
- ▶ The betweenness centrality naturally follows then:

$$x_i = \sum_{st} n_{st}^i$$

- ▶ Normalization is possible:

$$x_i = \frac{1}{n^2} \sum_{st} \frac{n_{st}^i}{g_{st}} \text{ and note that } 0 \leq x_i \leq 1$$

where $\frac{1}{n^2}$ normalizes over a total number of nodes and $\frac{1}{g_{st}}$ normalizes over a number of possible shortest paths from s to t

Degree, eigenvalue, and a closeness centrality do not inform on what nodes lie between a given pair of nodes

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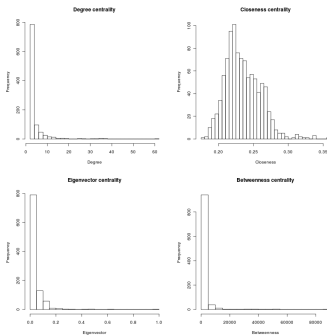
Centrality measures:

- ▶ Degree
- ▶ Eigenvector
- ▶ Closeness
- ▶ Betweenness
- ▶ More to come: flow and random-walk betweenness/closeness, hub centrality, cluster centrality, etc
- ▶ What are the distribution laws for the eigenvector, closeness and betweenness centrality measures?

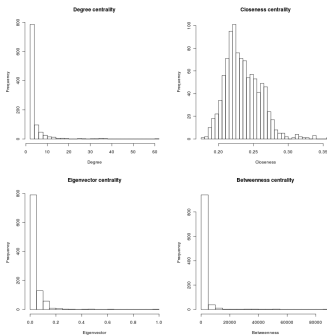
Centrality measures:

- ▶ Degree
- ▶ Eigenvector
- ▶ Closeness
- ▶ Betweenness
- ▶ More to come: flow and random-walk betweenness/closeness, hub centrality, cluster centrality, etc
- ▶ What are the distribution laws for the eigenvector, closeness and betweenness centrality measures?

- ▶ Eigenvector and betweenness centralities follow power distributions (roughly)
- ▶ Closeness has a more complex shape
- ▶ Why?



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Three major sources:

- ▶ <http://networksciencebook.com/translations/en/resources/data.html>
- ▶ <http://www-personal.umich.edu/~mejn/>

Some ideas (for now):

- ▶ Compute centrality measures
- ▶ Compute centrality distributions
- ▶ Visualize networks
- ▶ Compare all of the above for different networks

Books:

- ▶ Neman: Sections 6.10, 10.3-10.5

Other sources:

- ▶ Power laws, Pareto distributions and Zipfs law, M. E. J. Newman, Contemporary Physics, pages 323351, 2005.
- ▶ Power-Law Distribution in Empirical Data, A. Clauset, C.R. Shalizi, M.E.J. Newman, SIAM Review, Vol 51, No 4, pp. 661-703, 2009.
- ▶ A Brief History of Generative Models for Power Law and Lognormal Distributions, M. Mitzenmacher, Internet Mathematics Vol 1, No 2, pp 226-251.