



Biological Networks

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 @aaronclauset

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University of Colorado Boulder

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What are networks?

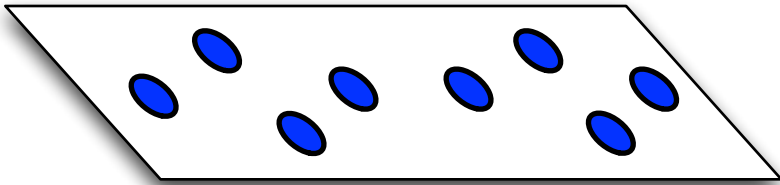
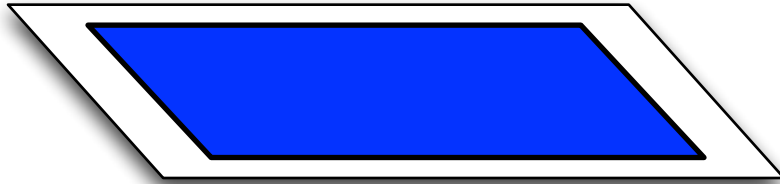
What are networks?

system or population



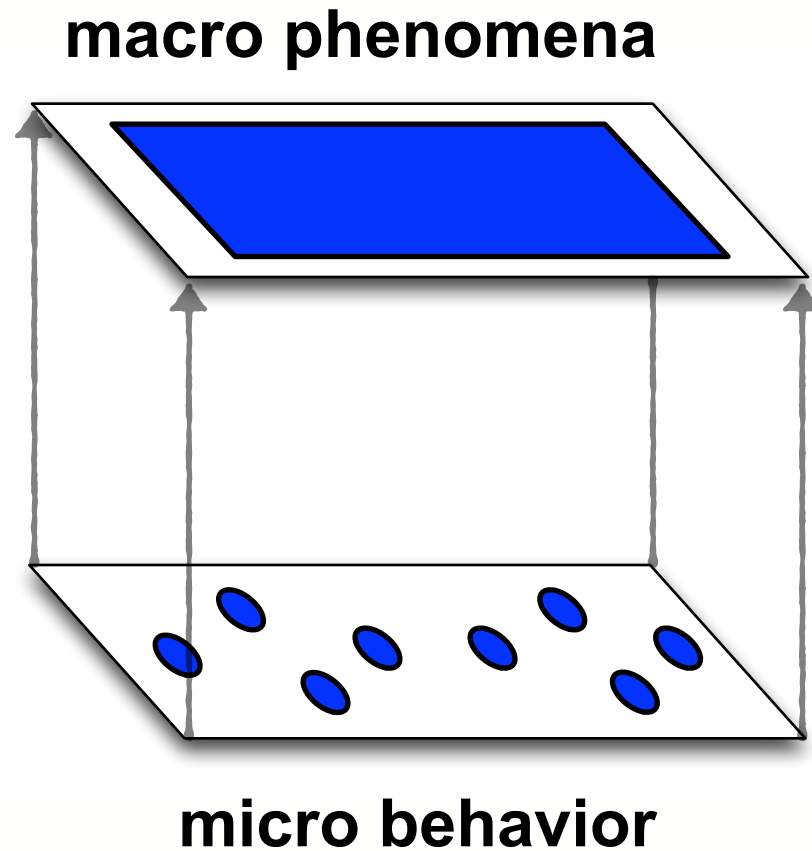
What are networks?

system or population

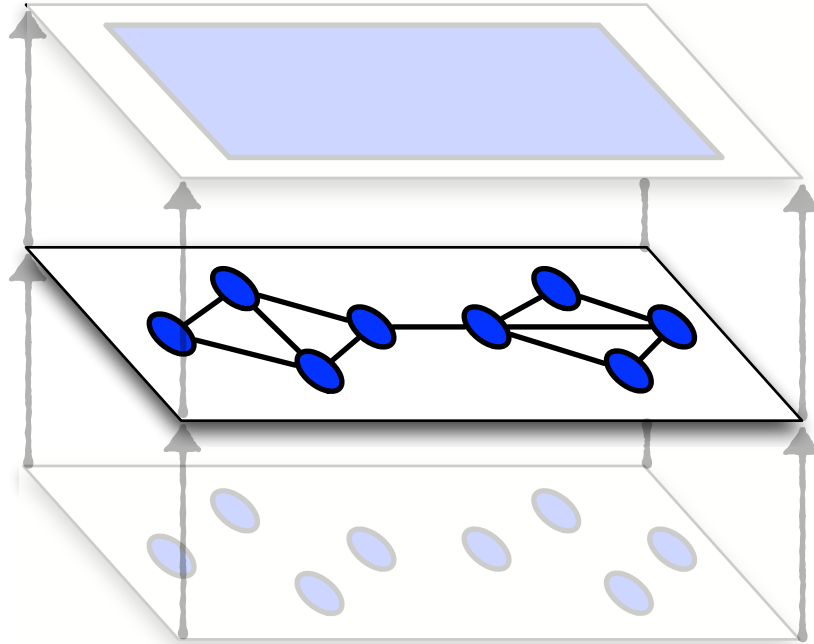


individuals or parts

What are networks?



What are networks?



- an approach
- a representation of complexity
- connect "micro" to "macro"
- interactions within a system

Who studies networks?

Physicists

Computer Scientists

Applied Mathematicians

Statisticians

Biologists

Ecologists

Sociologists

Political Scientists



it's a big community!

Who studies networks?

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Political Scientists

it's a big community!

- different traditions
- different tools
- different questions

Who studies networks?

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it's a big community!

- different traditions
- different tools
- different questions

increasingly, not **ONE** community, but **MANY**, only loosely interacting communities

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phase transitions, universality

data / algorithm oriented, predictions

dynamical systems, diff. eq.

inference, consistency, covariates

experiments, causality, molecules

observation, experiments, species

individuals, differences, causality

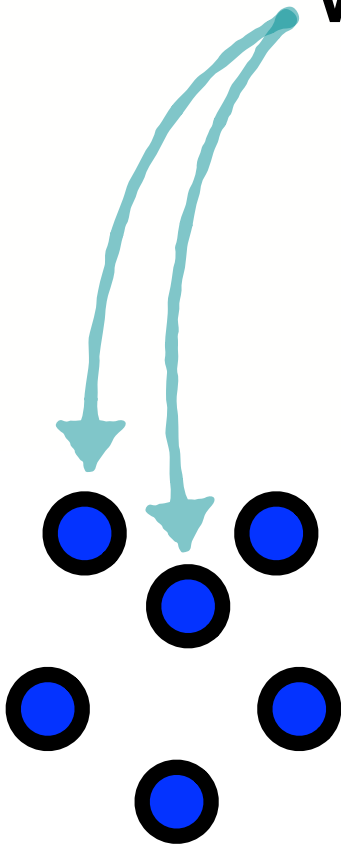
rationality, influence, conflict

Two fundamental questions for using networks

Two fundamental questions for using networks

what is a vertex?

V distinct objects (vertices / nodes / actors)



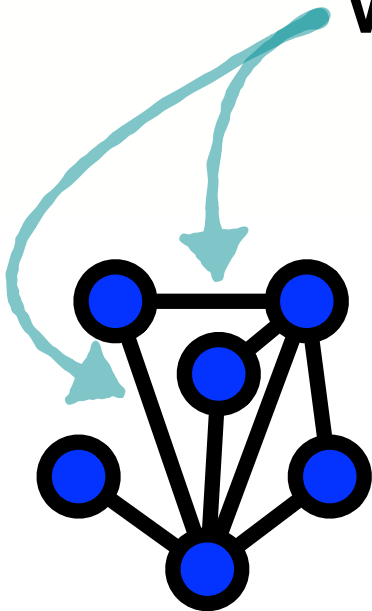
Two fundamental questions for using networks

what is a vertex?

V distinct objects (vertices / nodes / actors)

when are two vertices connected?

$E \subseteq V \times V$ pairwise relations (edges / links / ties)



Major types of networks

social

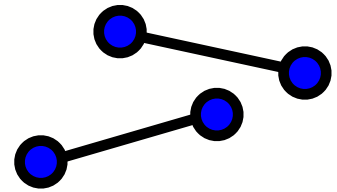
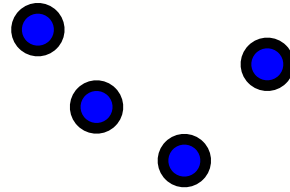
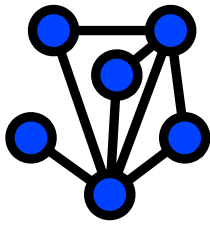
biological

information

economic

transportation

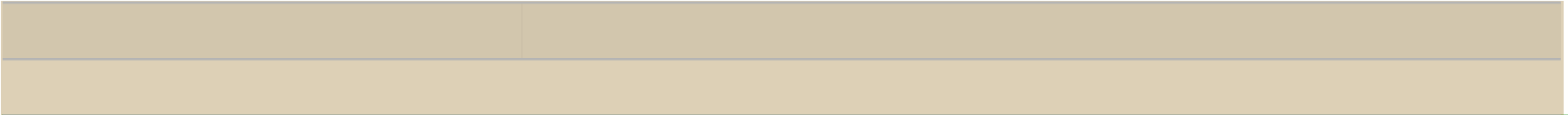
technological

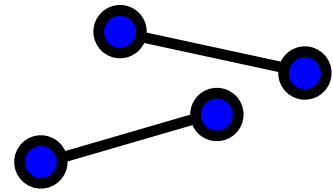
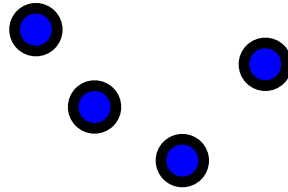
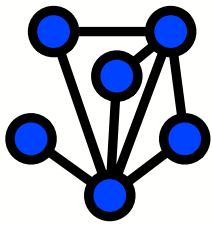


network

vertex

edge





technological

network

vertex

edge

Internet(1)

computer

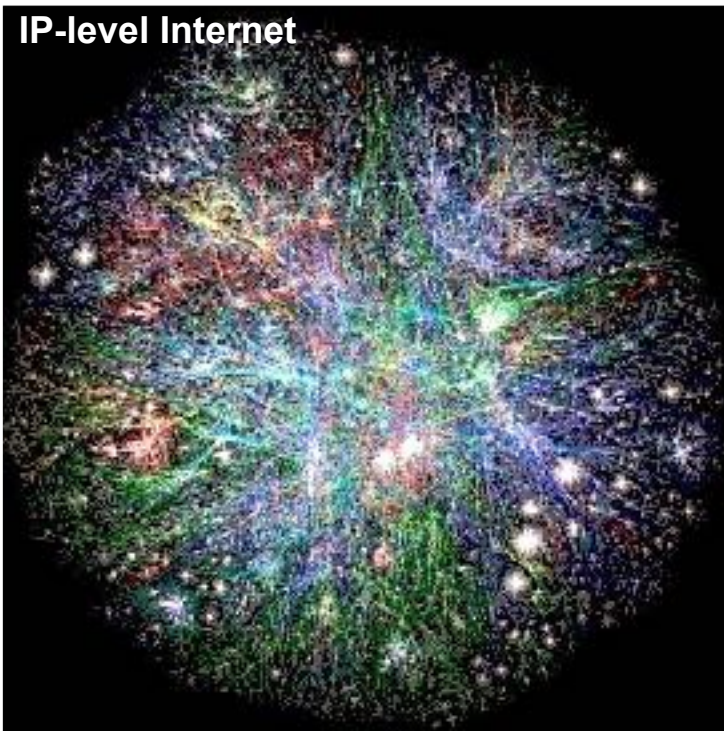
IP network adjacency

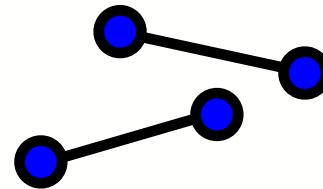
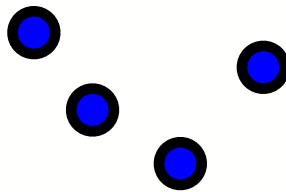
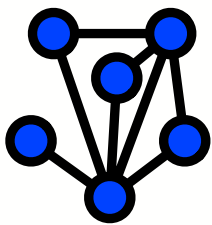
Internet(2)

autonomous system (ISP)

BGP connection

IP-level Internet





technological

network

vertex

edge

Internet(1)

computer

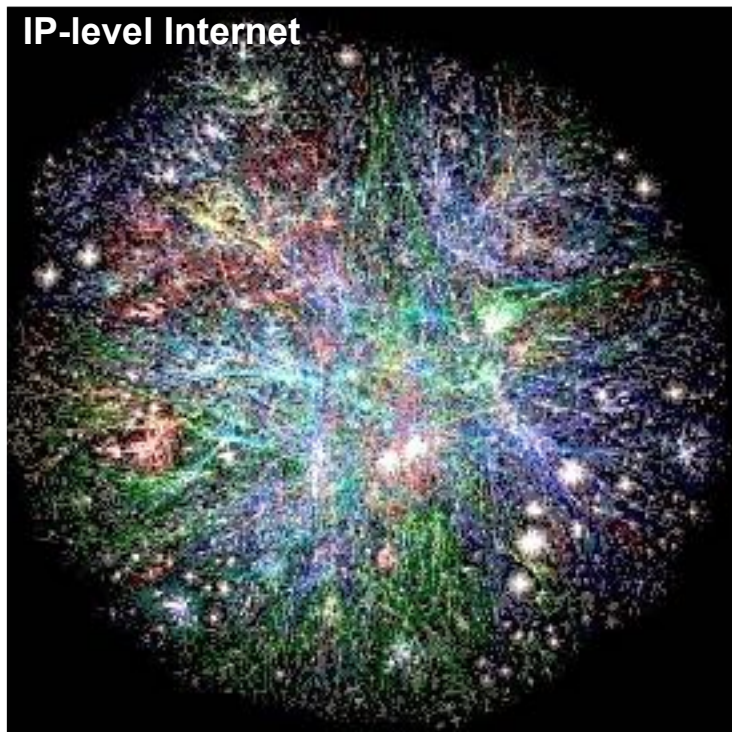
IP network adjacency

Internet(2)

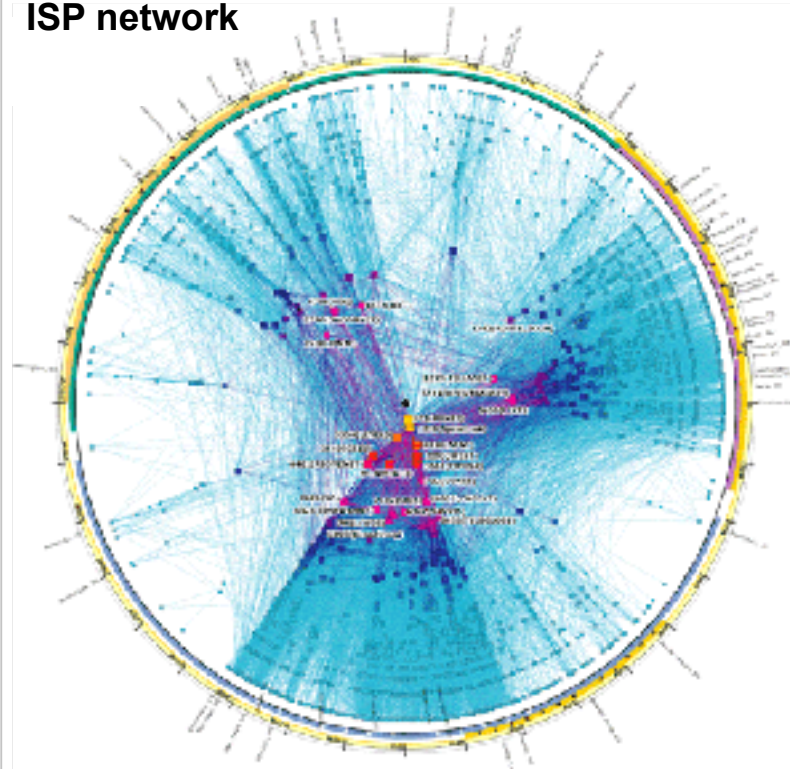
autonomous system (ISP)

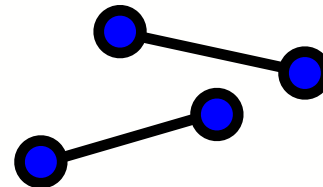
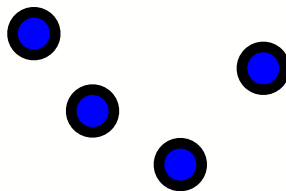
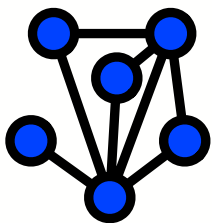
BGP connection

IP-level Internet



ISP network





information
technological

network

vertex

edge

Internet(1)

computer

IP network adjacency

Internet(2)

autonomous system (ISP)

BGP connection

software

function

function call

World Wide Web

web page

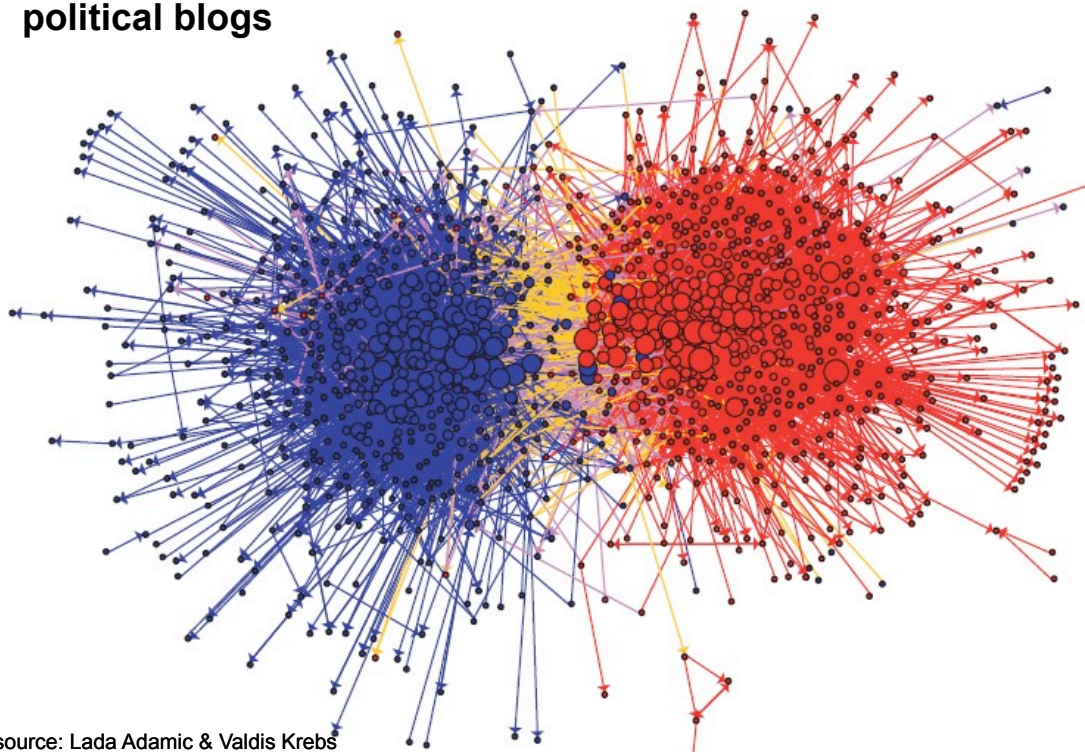
hyperlink

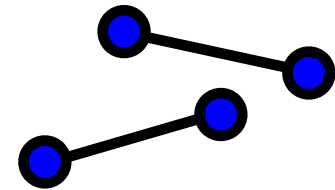
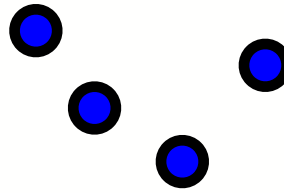
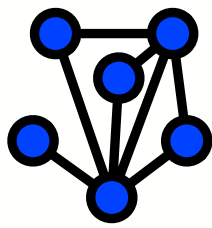
documents

article, patent, or legal case

citation

political blogs





information
technological

network

vertex

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web page

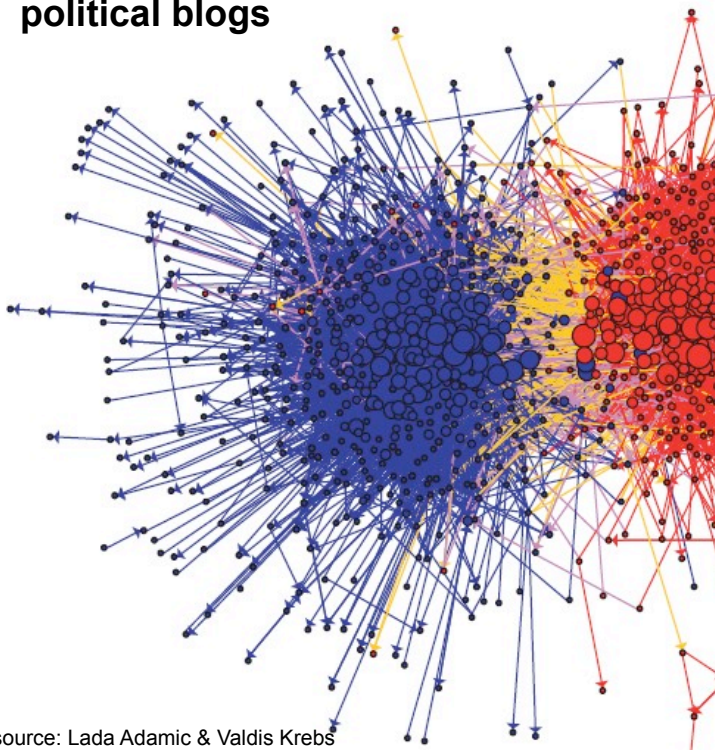
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documents

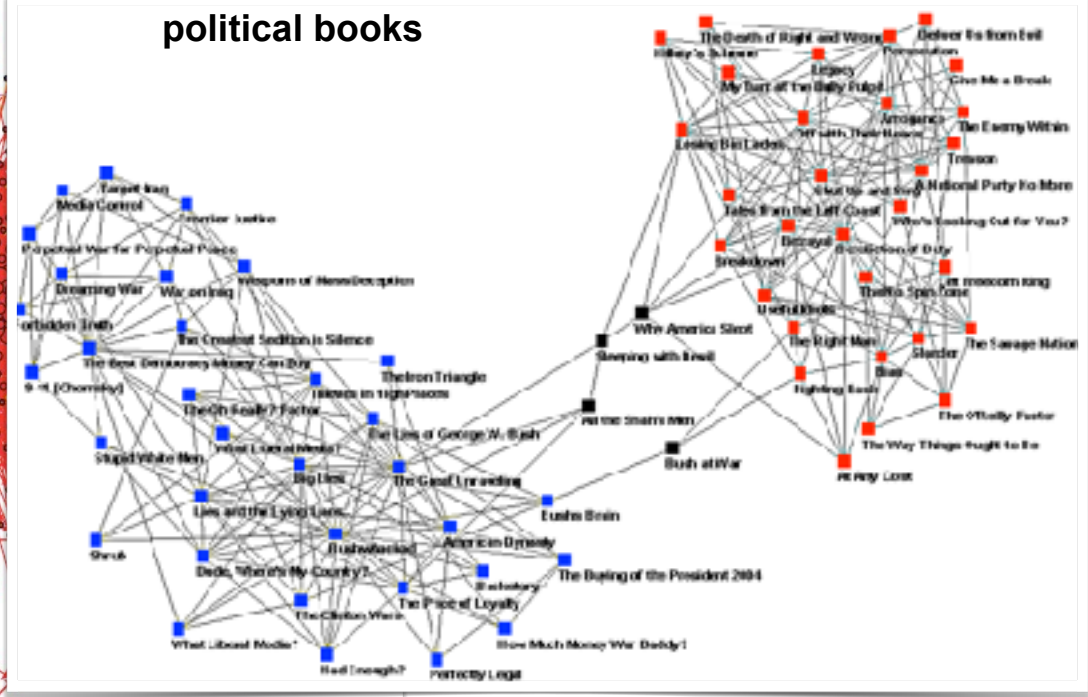
article, patent, or legal case

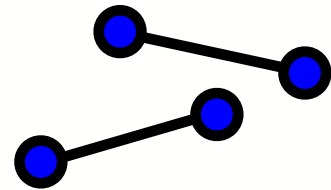
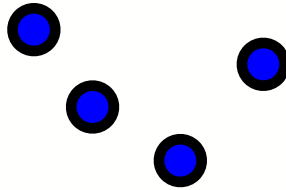
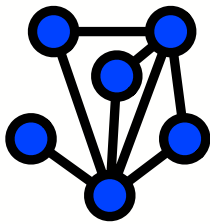
citation

political blogs



political books



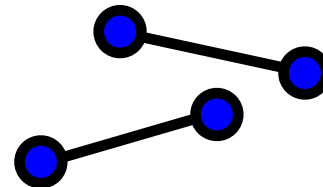
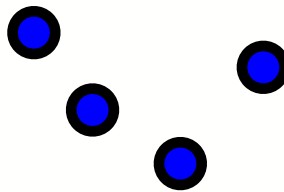
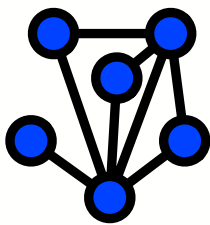


technological

information

transportation

network	vertex	edge
Internet(1)	computer	IP network adjacency
Internet(2)	autonomous system (ISP)	BGP connection
software	function	function call
World Wide Web	web page	hyperlink
documents	article, patent, or legal case	citation
power grid transmission	generating or relay station	transmission line
rail system	rail station	railroad tracks
road network(1)	intersection	pavement
road network(2)	named road	intersection
airport network	airport	non-stop flight



network

vertex

edge

road network(1)

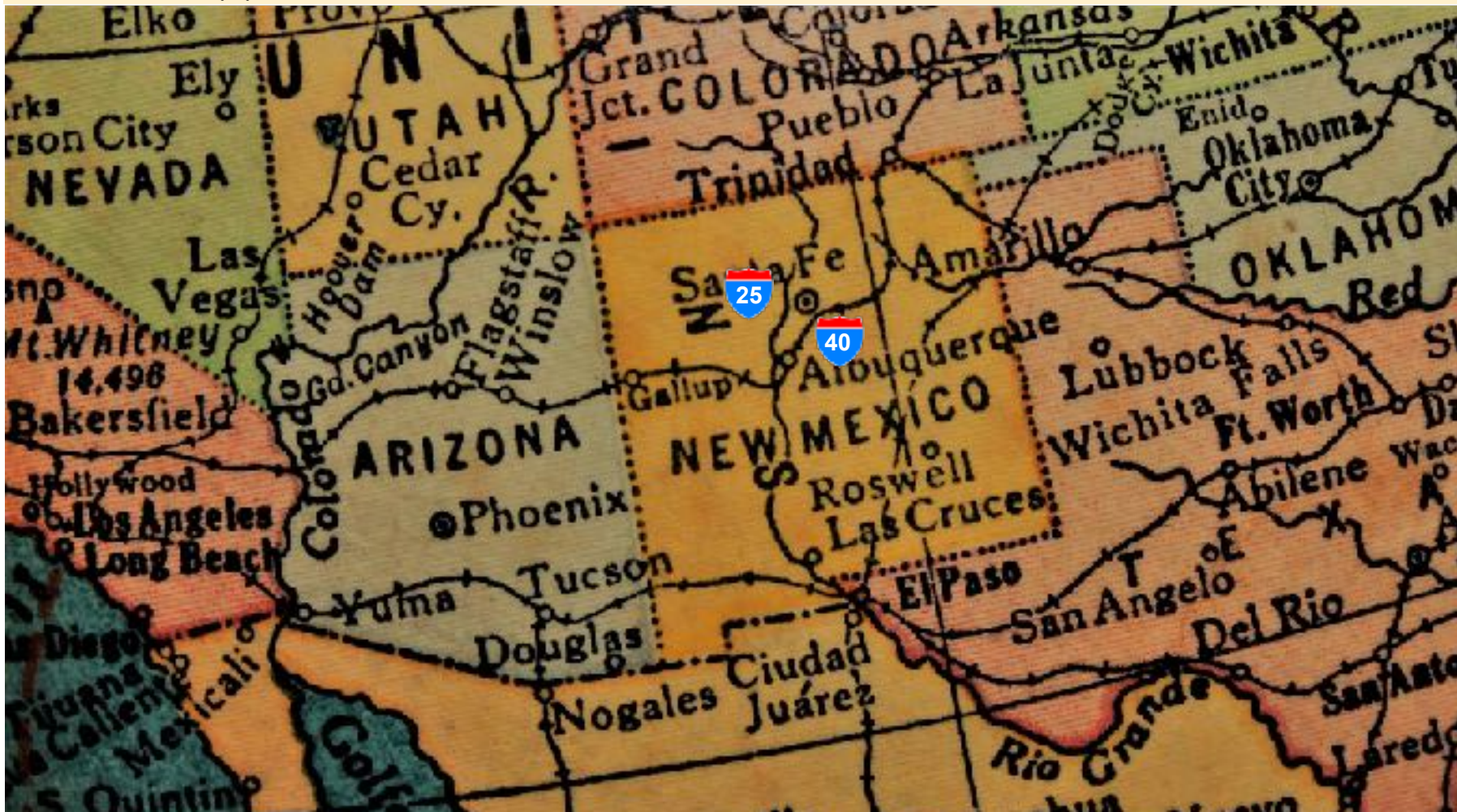
intersection

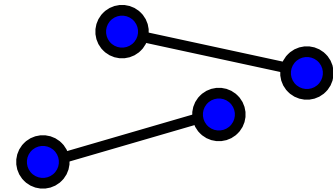
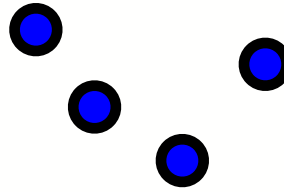
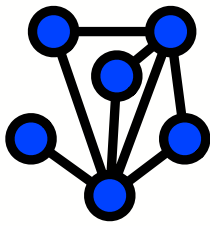
pavement

road network(2)

named road

intersection





network

vertex

edge

road network(1)

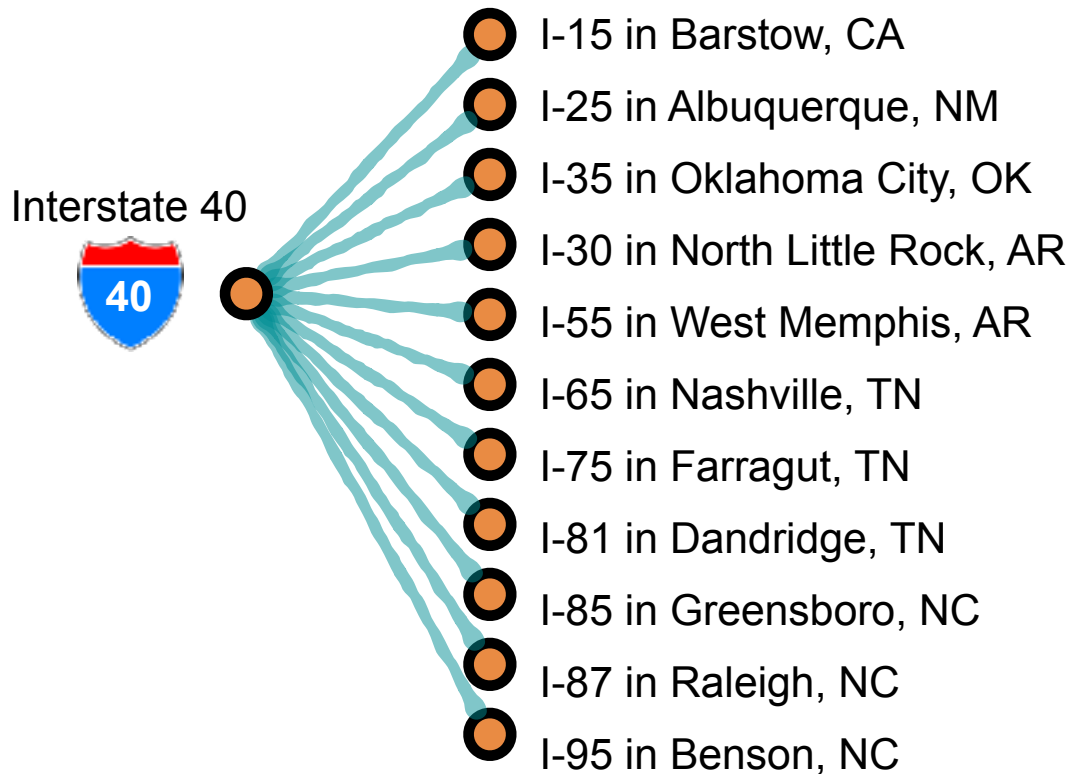
intersection

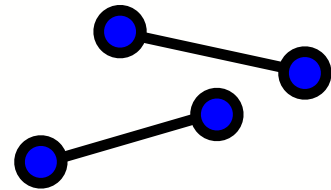
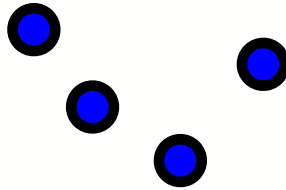
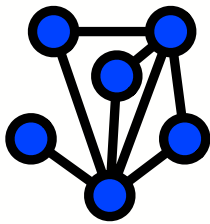
pavement

road network(2)

named road

intersection





technological

information

transportation

social

network

vertex

edge

Internet(1)

computer

IP network adjacency

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autonomous system (ISP)

BGP connection

software

function

function call

World Wide Web

web page

hyperlink

documents

article, patent, or legal case

citation

power grid transmission

generating or relay station

transmission line

rail system

rail station

railroad tracks

road network(1)

intersection

pavement

road network(2)

named road

intersection

airport network

airport

non-stop flight

friendship network

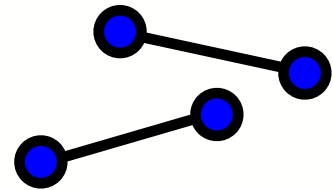
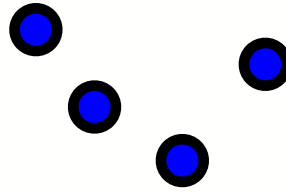
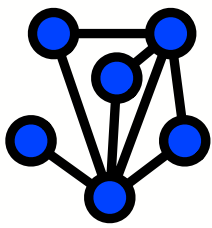
person

friendship

sexual network

person

intercourse



network

vertex

edge

friendship network

person

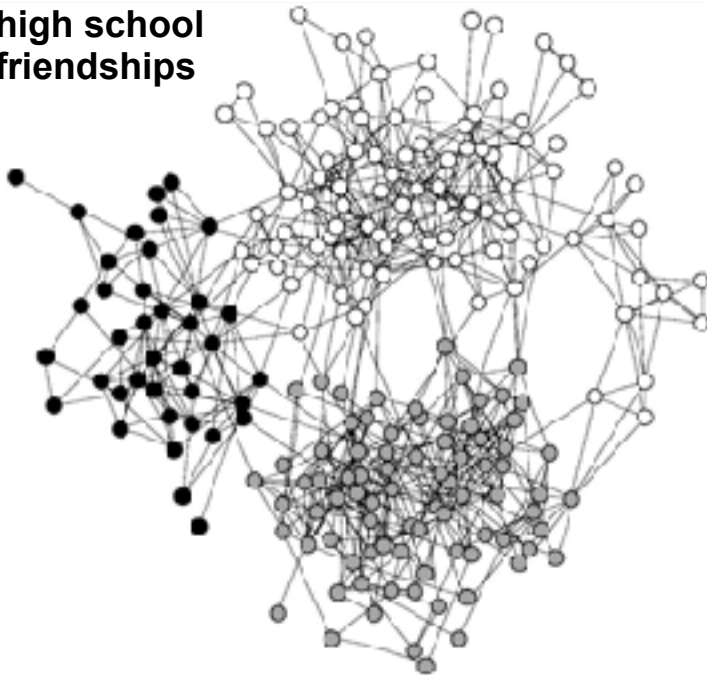
friendship

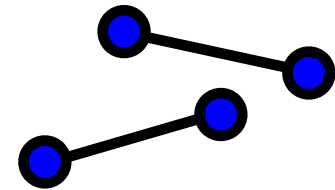
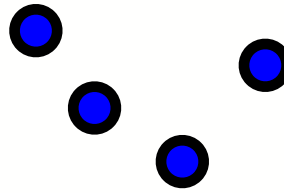
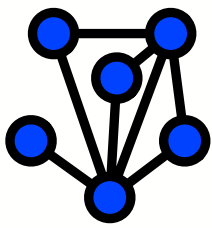
sexual network

person

intercourse

**high school
friendships**





network

vertex

edge

friendship network

person

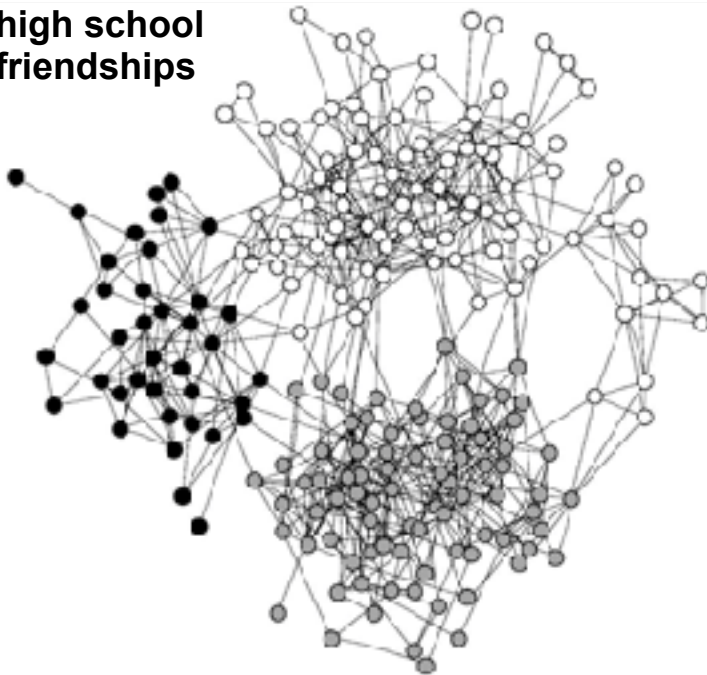
friendship

sexual network

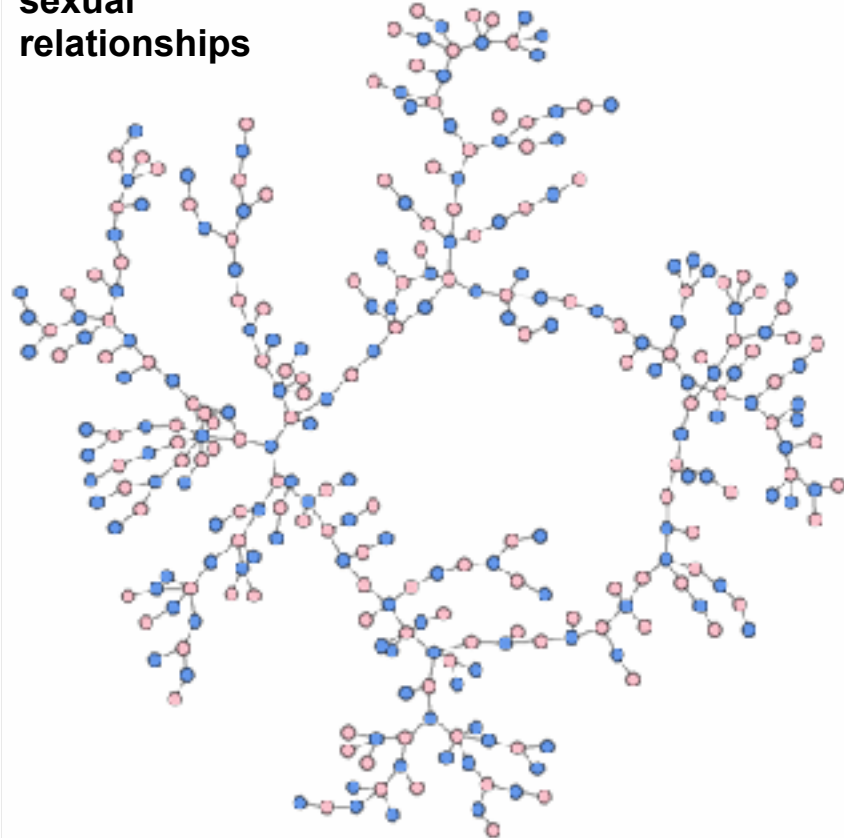
person

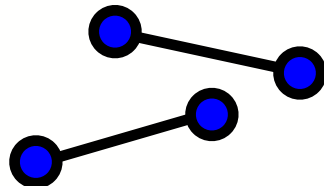
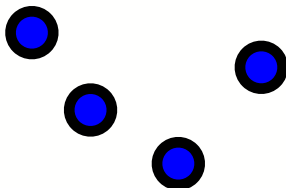
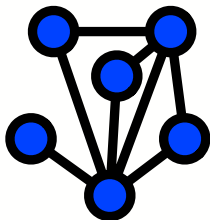
intercourse

**high school
friendships**



**sexual
relationships**





technological

information

transportation

social

biological

network

vertex

edge

Internet(1)

computer

IP network adjacency

Internet(2)

autonomous system (ISP)

BGP connection

software

function

function call

World Wide Web

web page

hyperlink

documents

article, patent, or legal case

citation

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road network(1)

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friendship network

person

friendship

sexual network

person

intercourse

metabolic network

metabolite

metabolic reaction

protein-interaction network

protein

binding

gene regulatory network

genes, mRNA, protein, complexes

regulatory effect

connectome

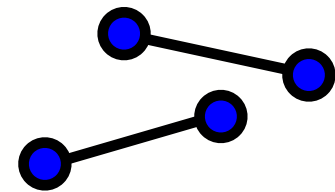
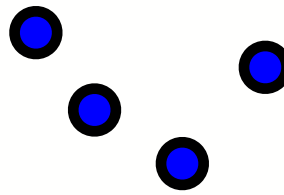
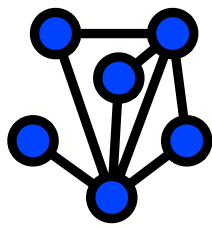
neuron

synapse

food web

species

predation or resource transfer



network

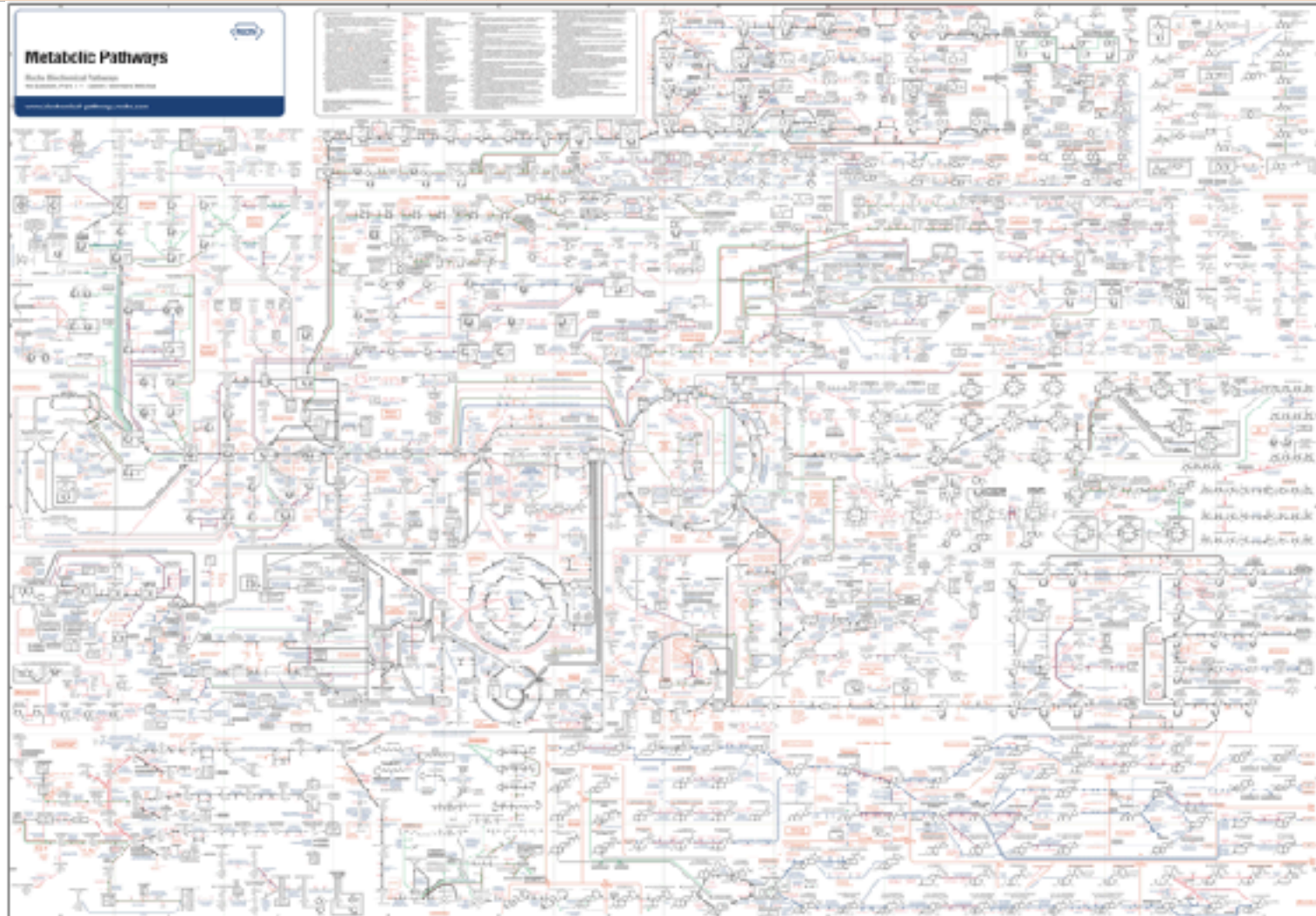
vertex

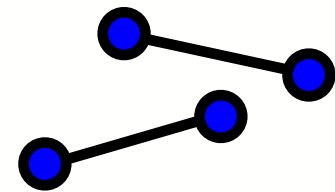
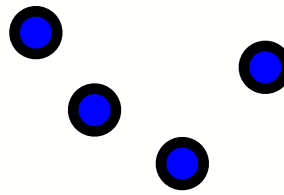
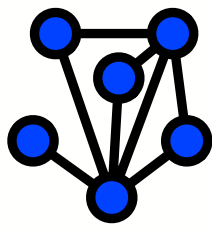
edge

metabolic network

metabolite

metabolic reaction





network

vertex

edge

metabolic network

metabolite

metabolic reaction

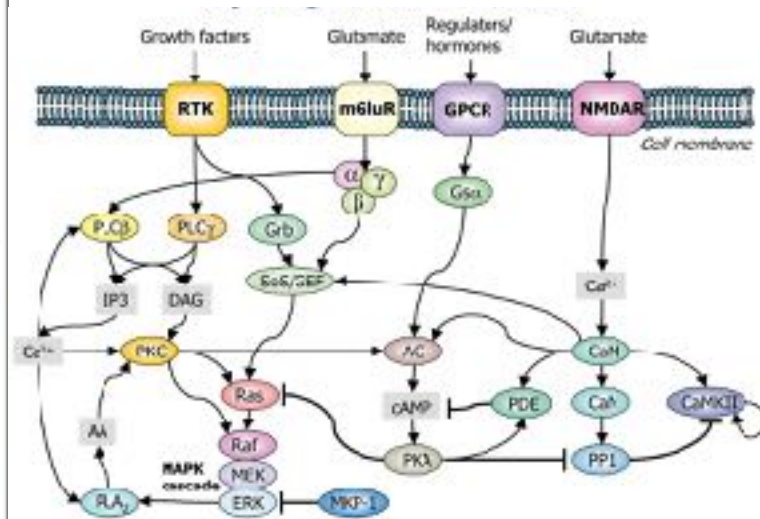
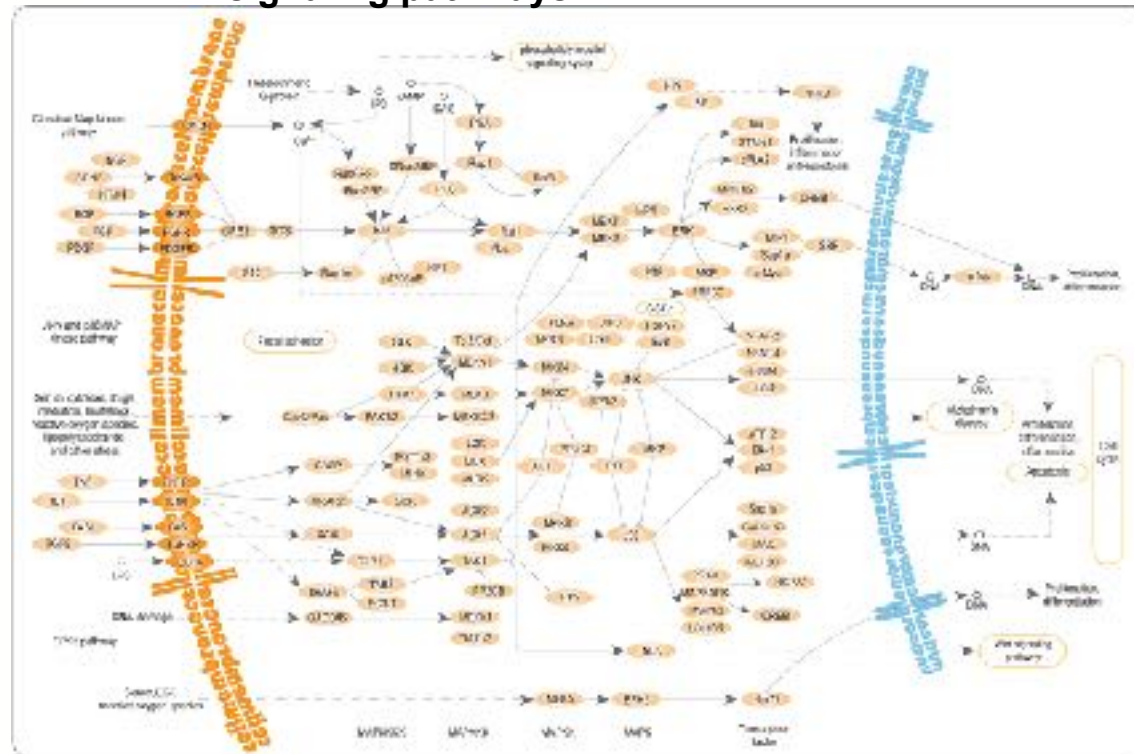
protein interaction network

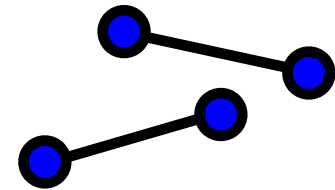
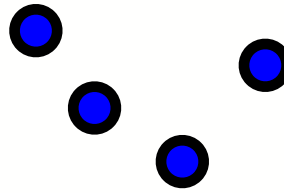
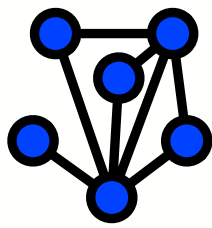
proteins

binding (activation, inhibition)

Signaling network (neurons)

MAPK/ERK signaling pathways





network

vertex

edge

metabolic network

metabolite

metabolic reaction

protein interaction network

proteins

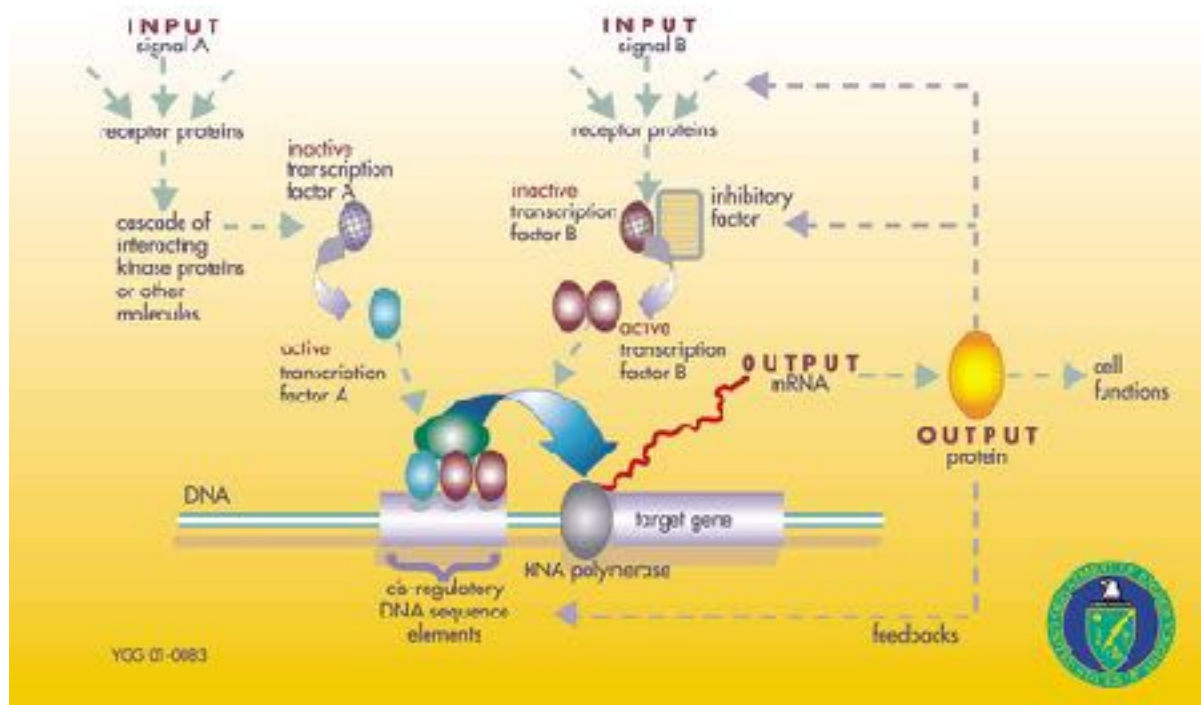
binding (activation, inhibition)

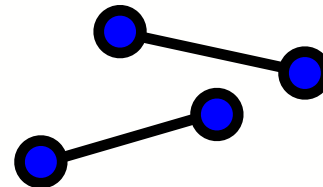
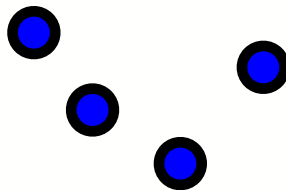
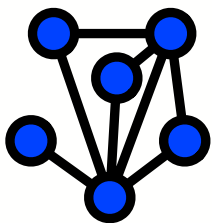
gene regulation

genes, mRNA, protein, complexes

regulatory effect

generic gene regulation





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metabolic reaction

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proteins

binding (activation, inhibition)

gene regulation

genes, transcription factors

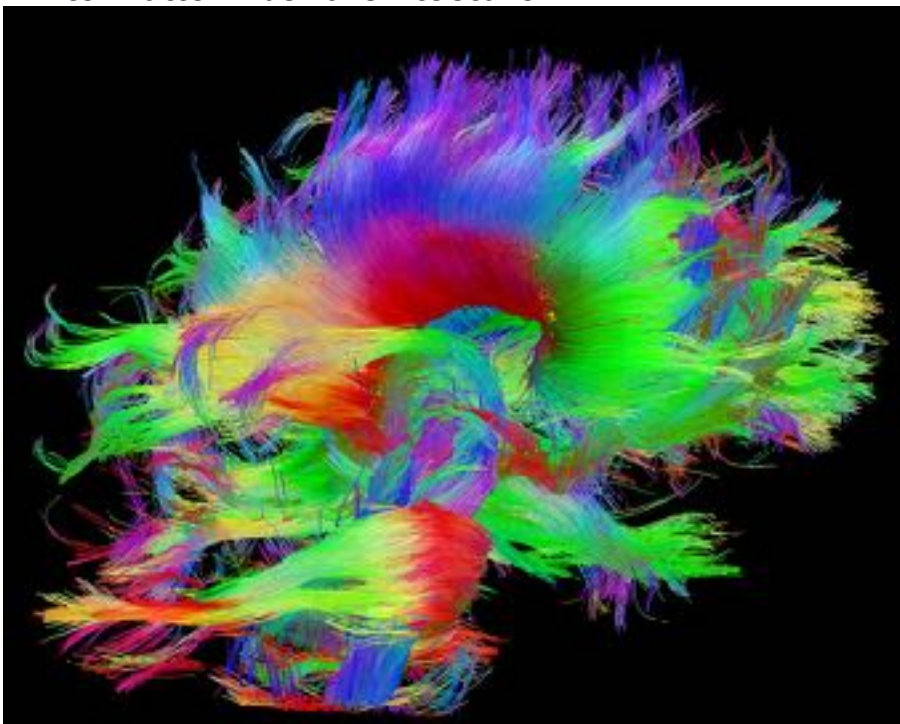
regulatory effect

connectome

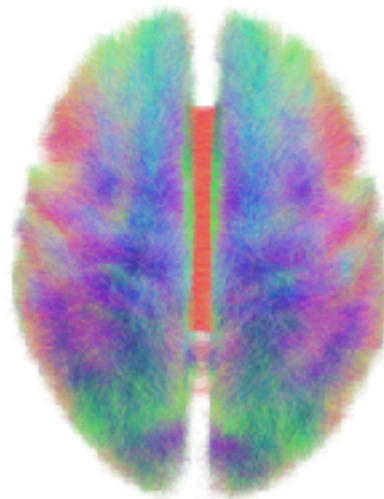
neurons

synapse

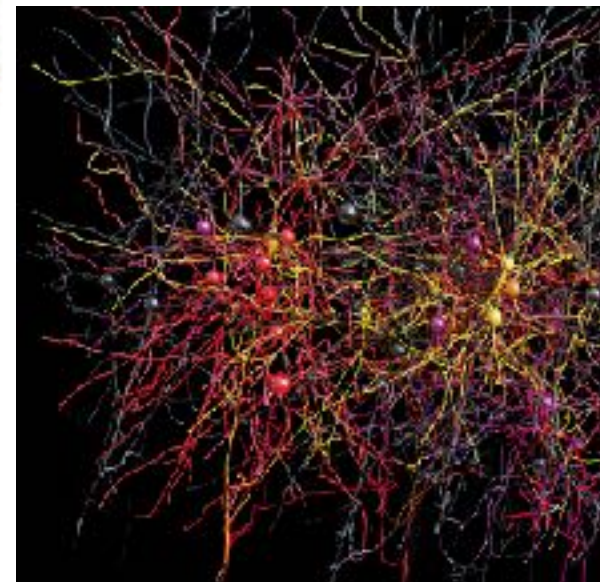
white matter fiber architecture

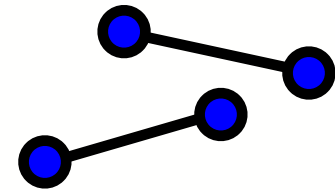
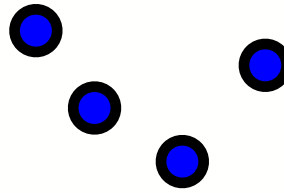
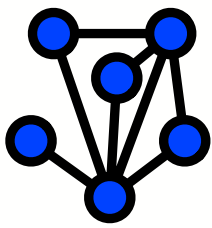


white matter fibers



cortical neurons





network

vertex

edge

metabolic network

metabolite

metabolic reaction

protein interaction network

proteins

binding (activation, inhibition)

gene regulation

genes, transcription factors

regulatory effect

connectome

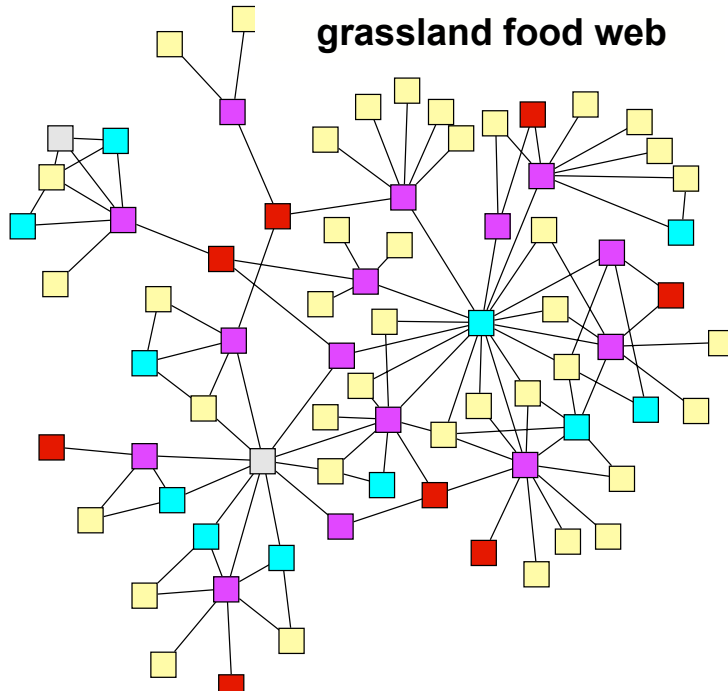
neurons

synapse

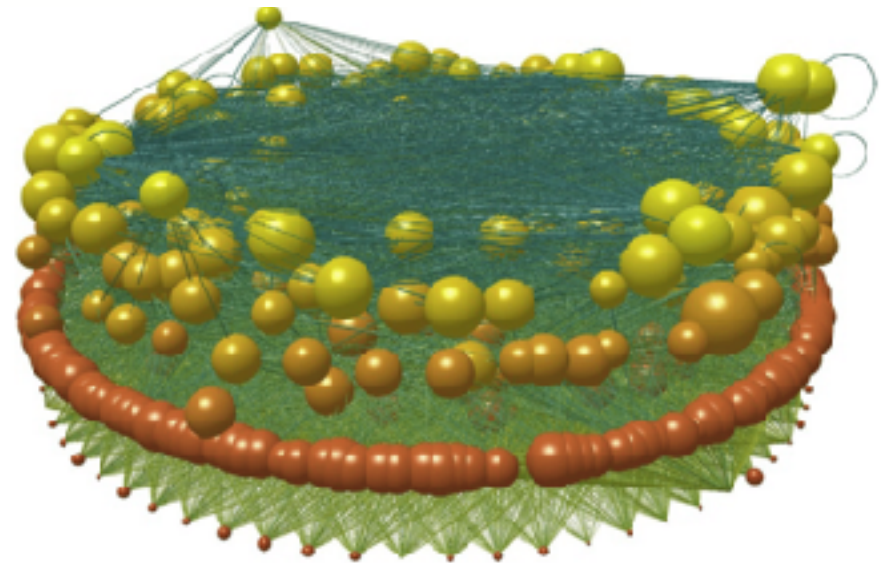
food web

species

predation or resource transfer



Weddell sea (Antarctica) food web



Six general areas

1. **fundamentals**: basic concepts and terminology
2. **exploratory analysis**: count & compare all the things — *describe* structural patterns in network data
3. **explanatory analysis**: convert network structure into node-level features, and do traditional correlational *explanatory modeling* (regression) of node attributes and local structural patterns
4. **random graph models**: use random graphs as *null models* to detect "non-random" patterns, to distinguish structural signals from structural noise
5. **processes & simulations**: explore structural or dynamical consequences of *network mechanisms* as variables interacting across edges
6. **predictive models**: predict missing or future data (node attributes or edges), using observed network data