

# Physics of Life Data Epidemiology

*Lect 8: Beyond homogenous mixing*

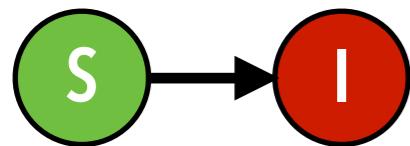
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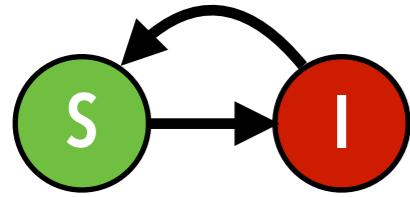
web: [chiara-poletto.github.io](https://chiara-poletto.github.io)

bsky: @chpoletto.bsky.social

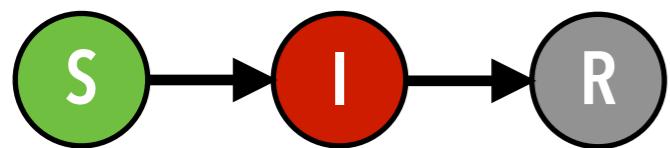
# SI, SIS, SIR models



Epidemic expansion



Endemic circulation



Outbreak

SIR: Widely used in outbreak analysis because it captures all properties of an outbreak: initial exponential growth, peak, extinction before all individuals get infected

## **key simplifying assumptions:**

-simplified disease natural history: only one infectious stage is considered; infectivity is constant from infectious to recovery; constant rate of transition from infectious to recovery

## **-homogenous mixing**

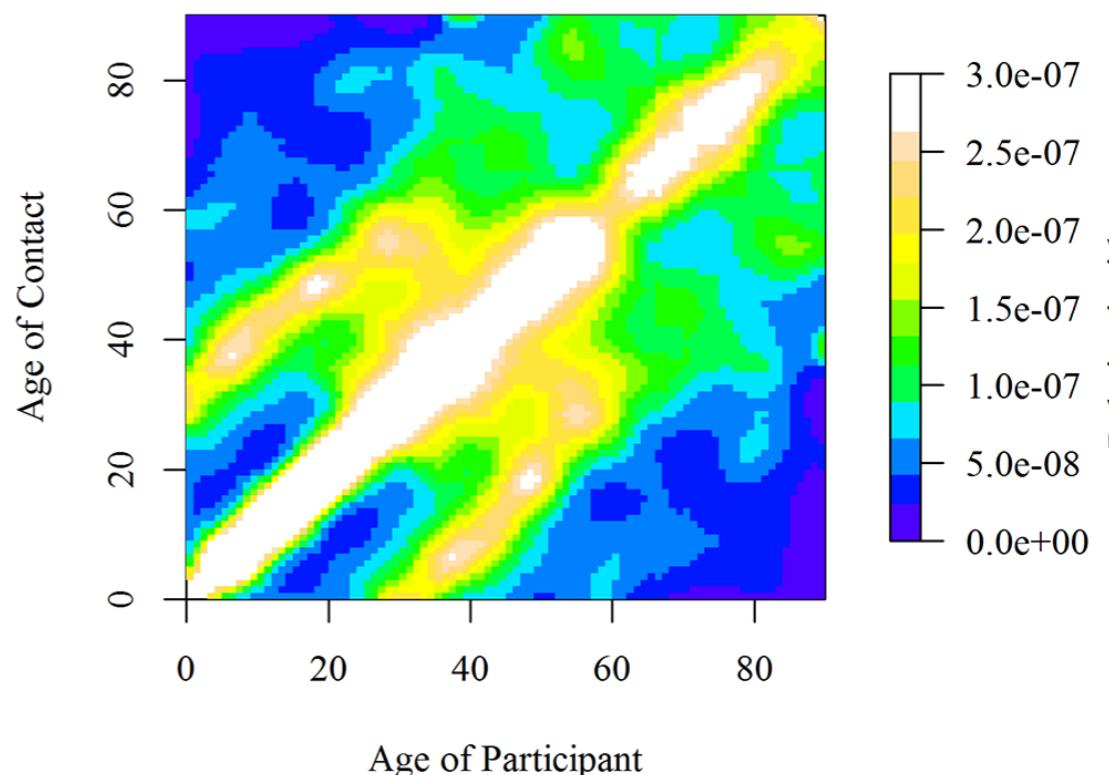
# contact statistics

[POLYMOD STUDY, Mossong et al PLOS Med 2008]

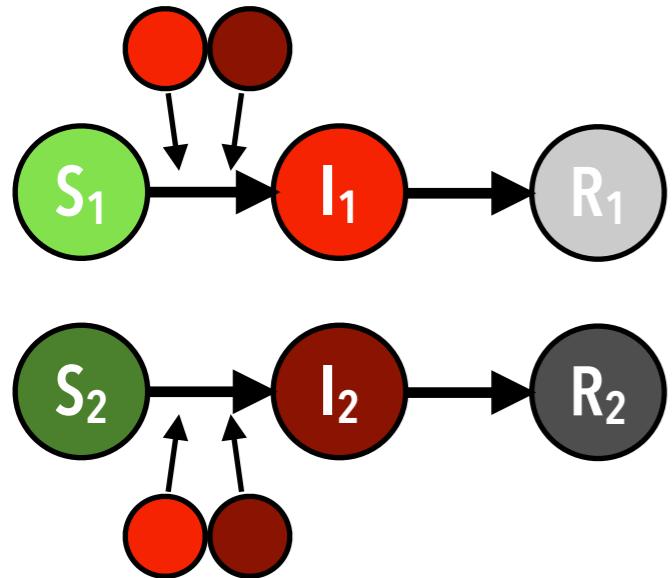
survey administered to thousands of people  
in many countries

how many people (by age bracket) did you  
met today? Did you met them at school, at  
work, at home in the community ?

typical European country



# Risk structure models



Risk classes:

define classes according to infection risk (e.g. age).

This leads to non-homogeneous mixing

$$\frac{ds_1}{dt} = -\beta_{11}s_1 i_1 - \beta_{12}s_1 i_2$$

$$\frac{di_1}{dt} = -\beta_{11}s_1 i_1 - \beta_{12}s_1 i_2 - \mu i_1$$

$$\frac{dr_1}{dt} = \mu i_1$$

$$\frac{ds_2}{dt} = -\beta_{21}s_2 i_1 - \beta_{22}s_2 i_2$$

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$$\begin{pmatrix} \beta_{11} & \beta_{12} \\ \beta_{21} & \beta_{22} \end{pmatrix} = \beta \begin{pmatrix} \alpha_1 \gamma_1 \langle k_{11} \rangle & \alpha_1 \gamma_2 \langle k_{12} \rangle \\ \alpha_2 \gamma_1 \langle k_{12} \rangle & \alpha_2 \gamma_2 \langle k_{22} \rangle \end{pmatrix}$$

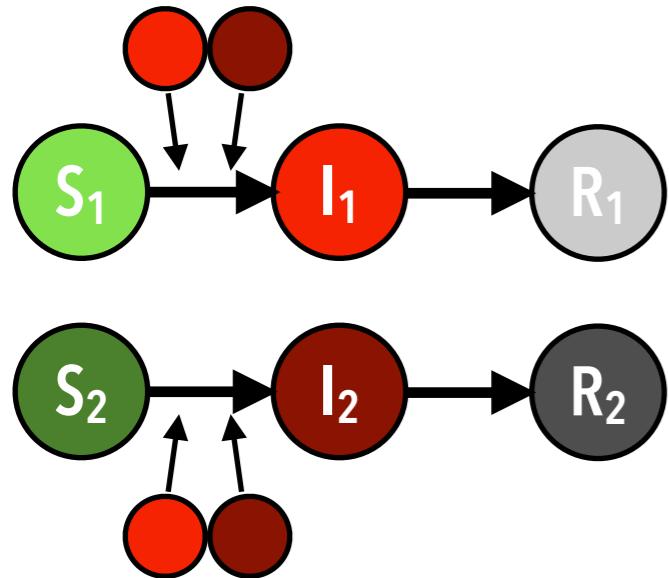
with

$\alpha_i$  = susceptibility

$\gamma_i$  = infectiousness

$\langle k_{ij} \rangle$  = contacts between group  $i$  and  $j$

# Risk structure models



$$\frac{ds_1}{dt} = -\beta_{11}s_1 i_1 - \beta_{12}s_1 i_2$$

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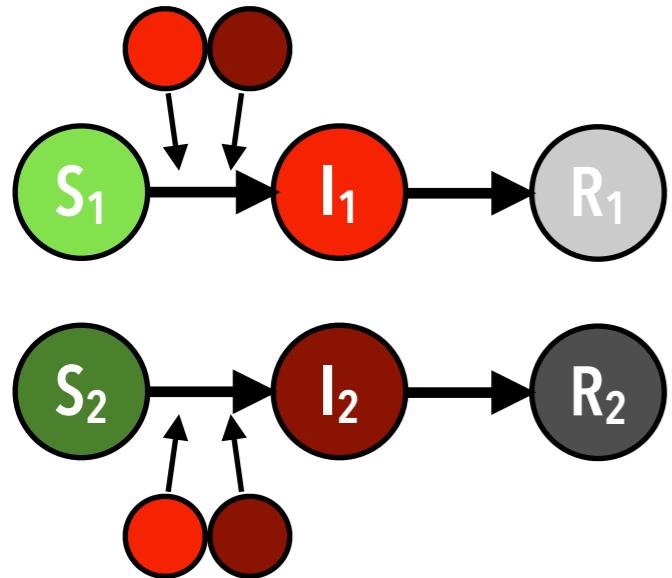
$\alpha_i$  = **susceptibility**

- Children are less susceptible to COVID-19
- Children tend to be more susceptible to flu

$\gamma_i$  = **infectiousness**

- Children tend to develop milder symptoms for COVID-19. Infectiousness tends to be higher when symptoms are more severe → Children less infectious
- for flu no need to account explicitly for  $\gamma$

# Risk structure models



$$\frac{ds_1}{dt} = -\beta_{11}s_1 i_1 - \beta_{12}s_1 i_2$$

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## **dynamics in structured populations**

we can compute the exponential growth from the dominant eigenvalue and  $R_0$  from the exponential growth:

$R_0$  risk matrix (RM)  $> R_0$  homogenous mixing (HM)  
final attack rate RM  $<$  final attack rate HM

**When the population is structured we can design targeted interventions**

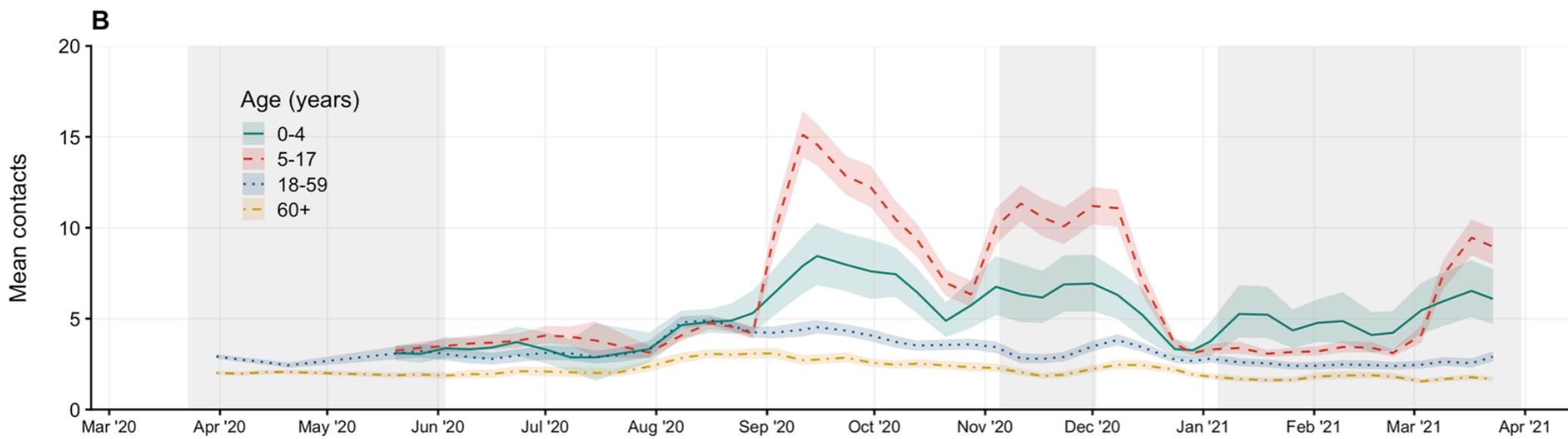
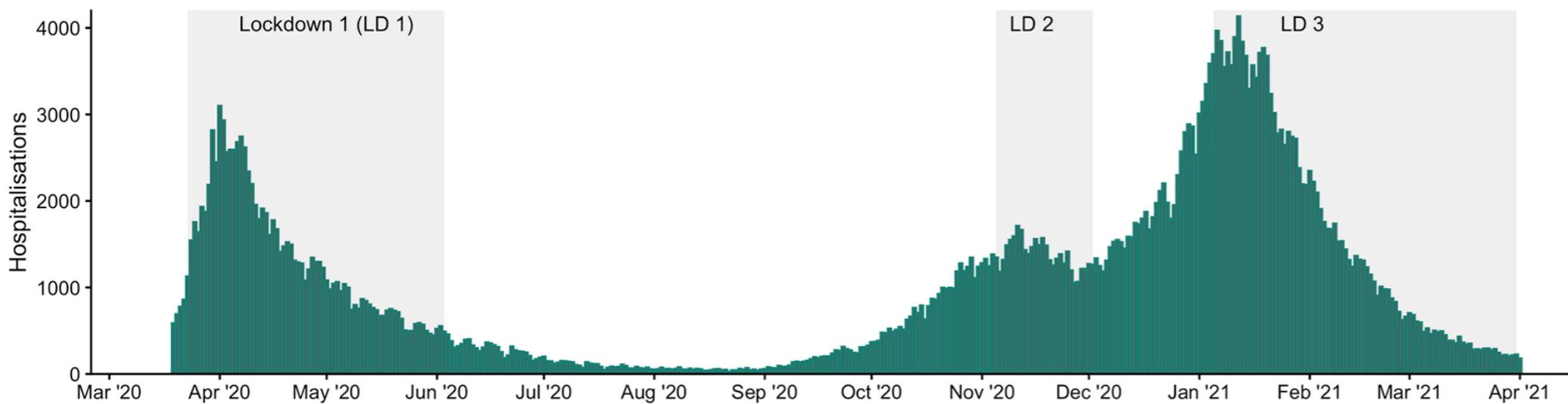
# contact statistics

During the COIVD-19 pandemic: large scale contact surveys repeated in time

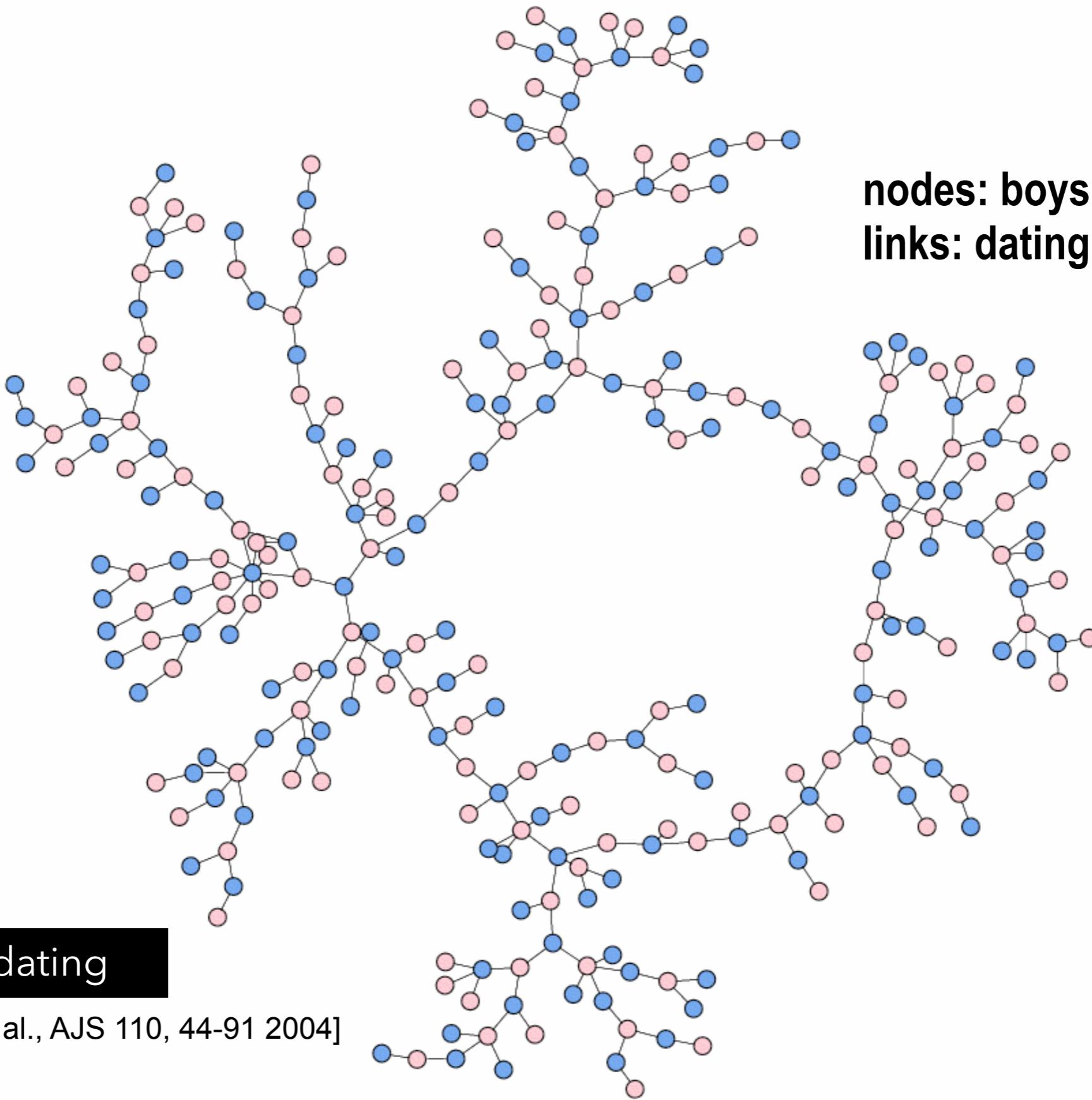
[**COMIX** Gimma et al, PLOS Med 2022, Verelst et al BMC Med 2021, <http://www.socialcontactdata.org/socrates-comix/>,

**SocialCov** Bosetti et al Euro Surveill 2021,

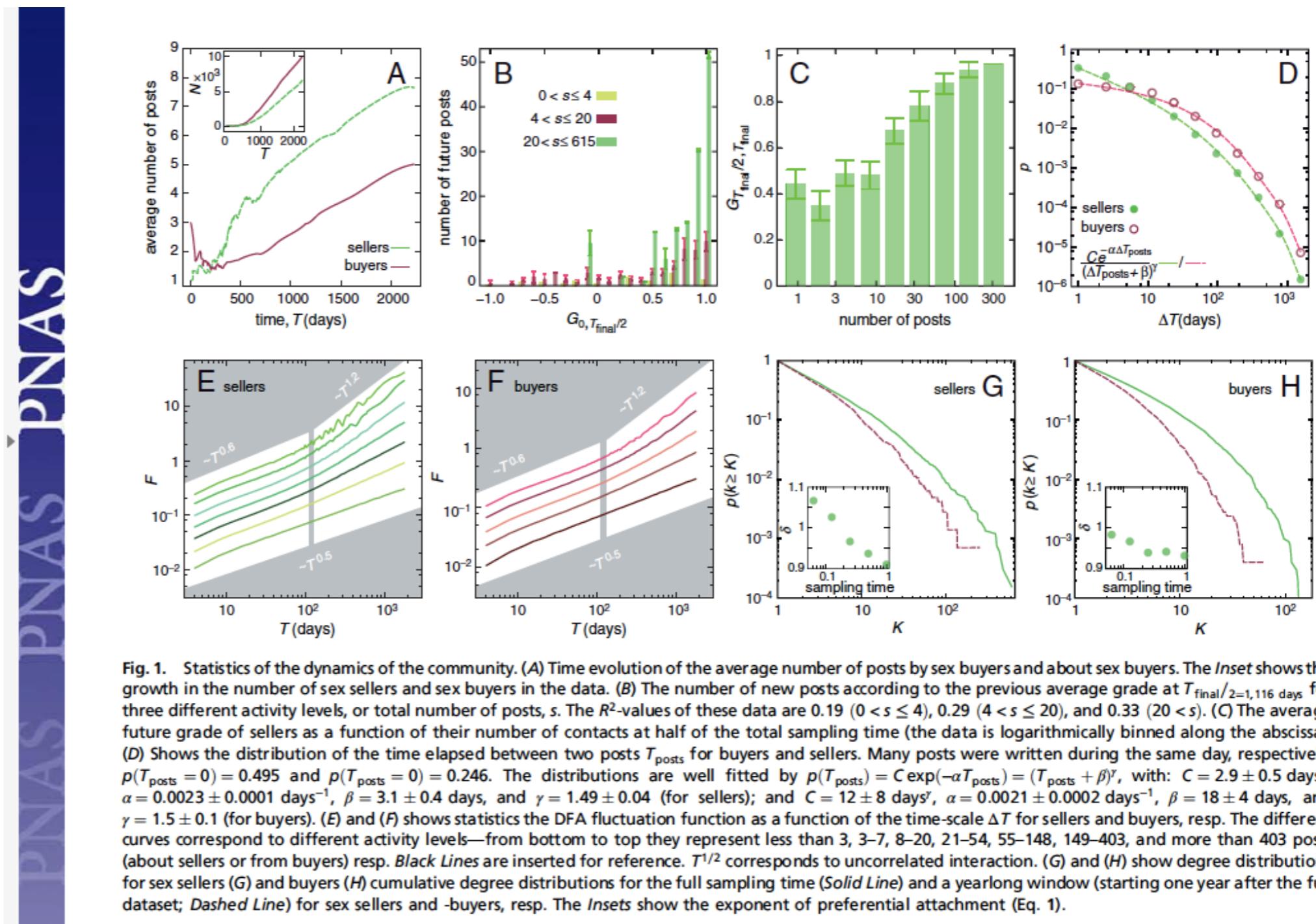
Koltai et al Sci Rep 2022, Zhang et al Science 2020, Feehan et al Nat Commun 2021]



# contact networks



# contact networks

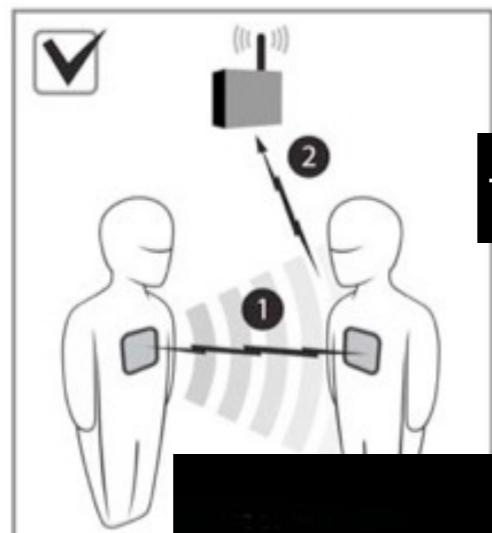
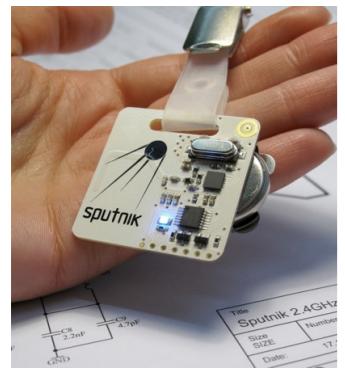


internet mediated prostitution

sexual contacts between 6,624 escorts and 10,106 sex buyers extracted from an online community

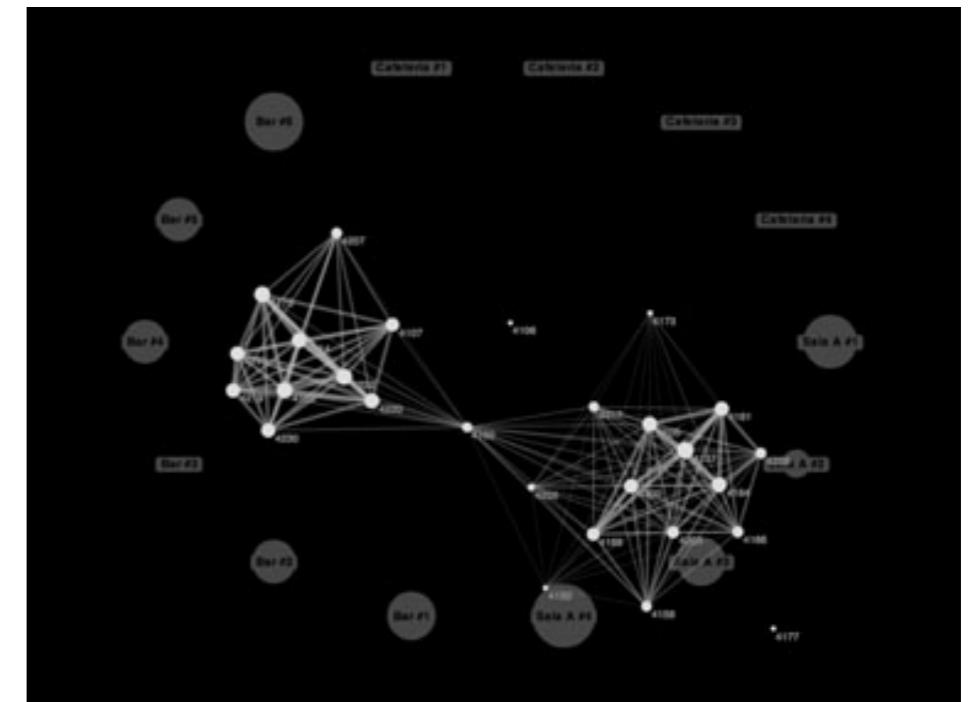
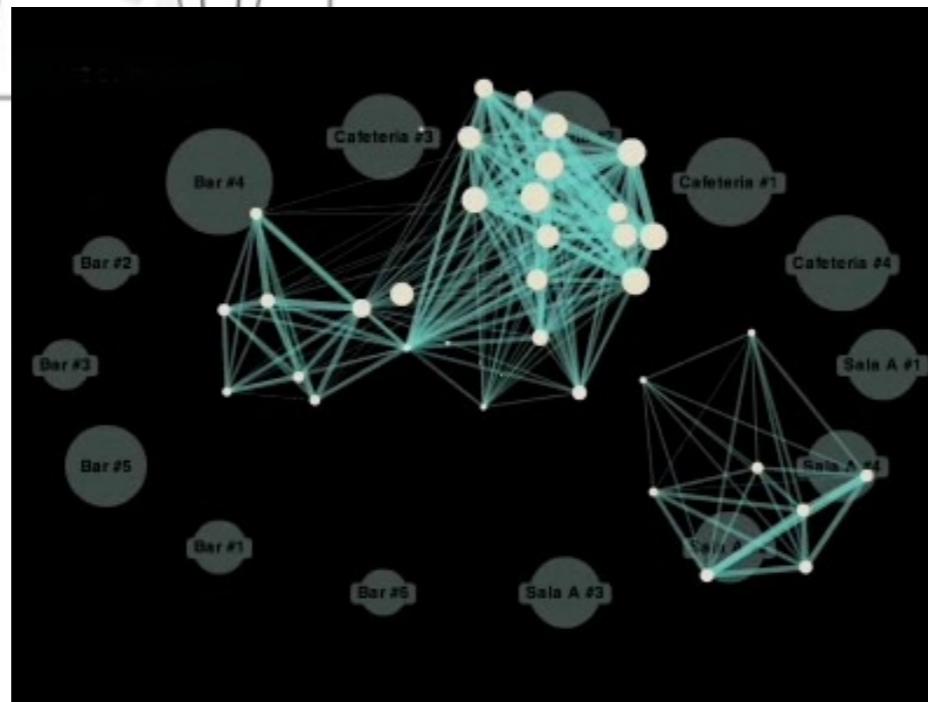
[LEC. Rocha, et al, PNAS 2009]

# contact networks



## face-to-face contacts

# RFID technology



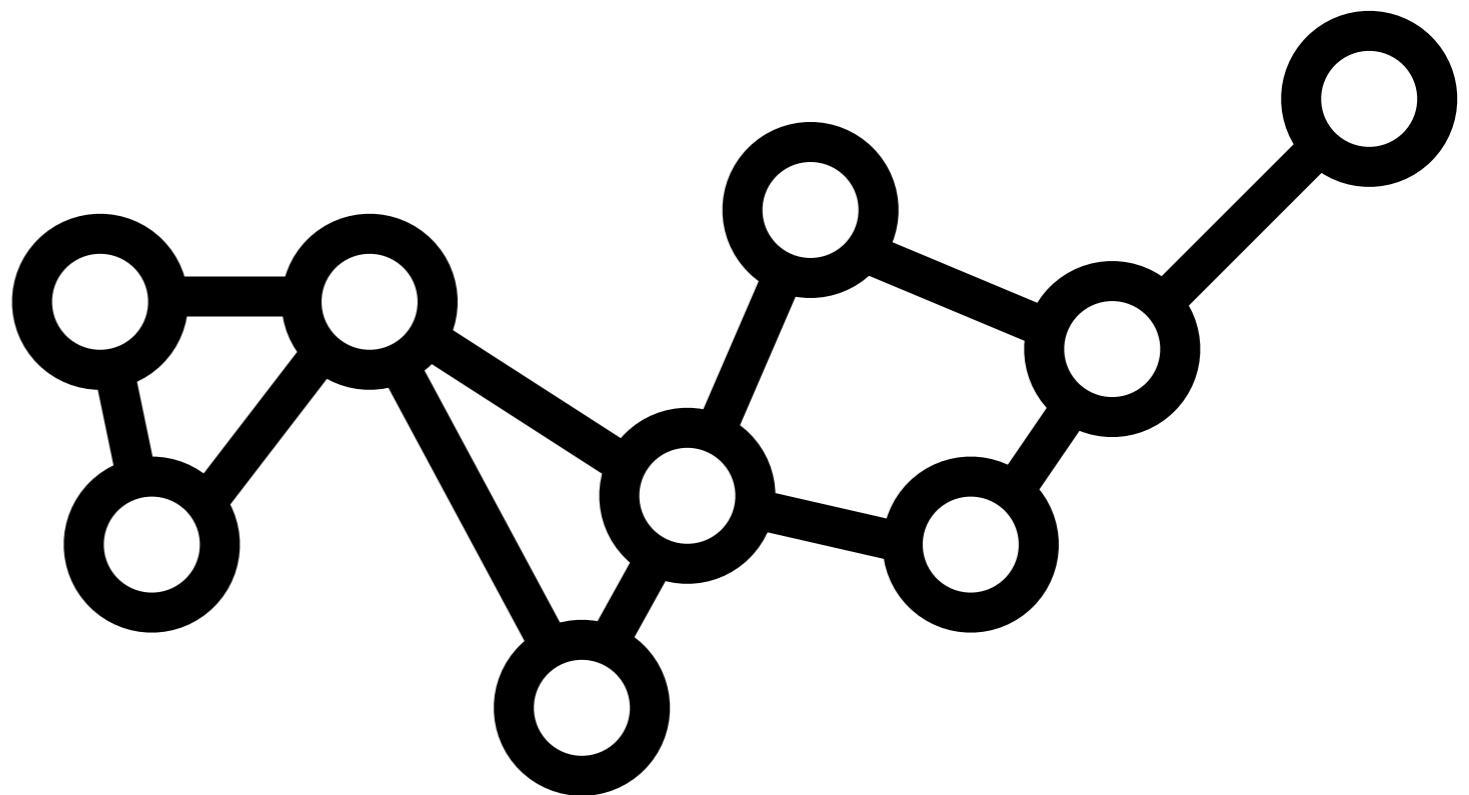
schools - workplaces - hospitals - museums - conferences  
-households - rural Africa

# networks

[Networks, M.E.J. Newman, Oxford University Press (2018)]

[Dynamical processes on complex networks, A. Barrat, M. Barthélemy, A. Vespignani, Cambridge University Press, 2008]

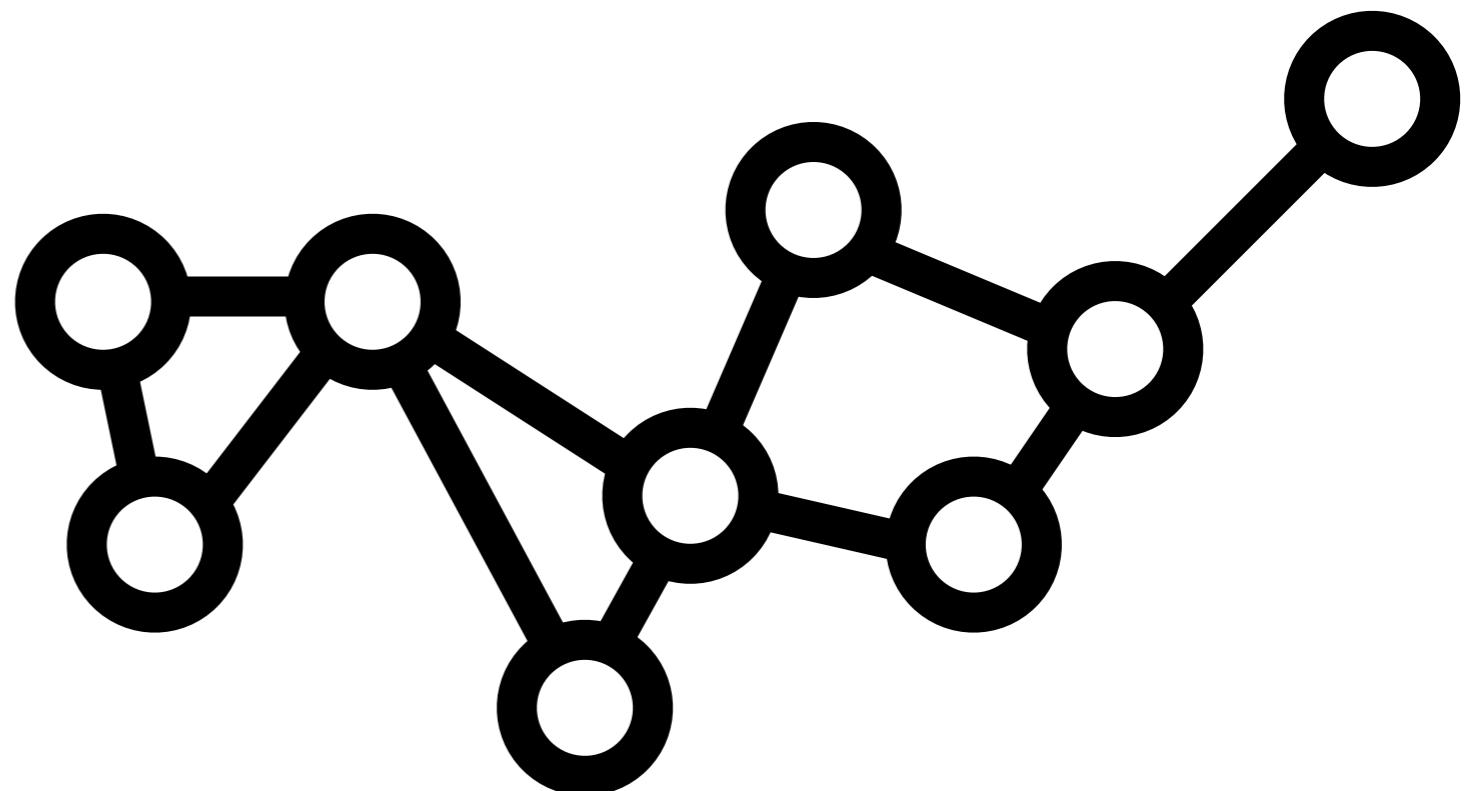
[Epidemic processes in complex networks, Romualdo Pastor-Satorras, Claudio Castellano, Piet Van Mieghem, and Alessandro Vespignani, Rev Mod Phys 87, 925, 2015]



# networks

A Network (graph)  $G(V,E)$  is composed by a set of nodes (vertices)  $V$  and a set of links (edges)  $E$

- Nodes: entities  $V = [\dots, i, j, k, \dots]$
- Links: relationships between entities  $E = [\dots, (i, j), (i, k), \dots]$
- Number of nodes  $N$
- Number of links  $L$



# networks

Links can be of different types and so networks:

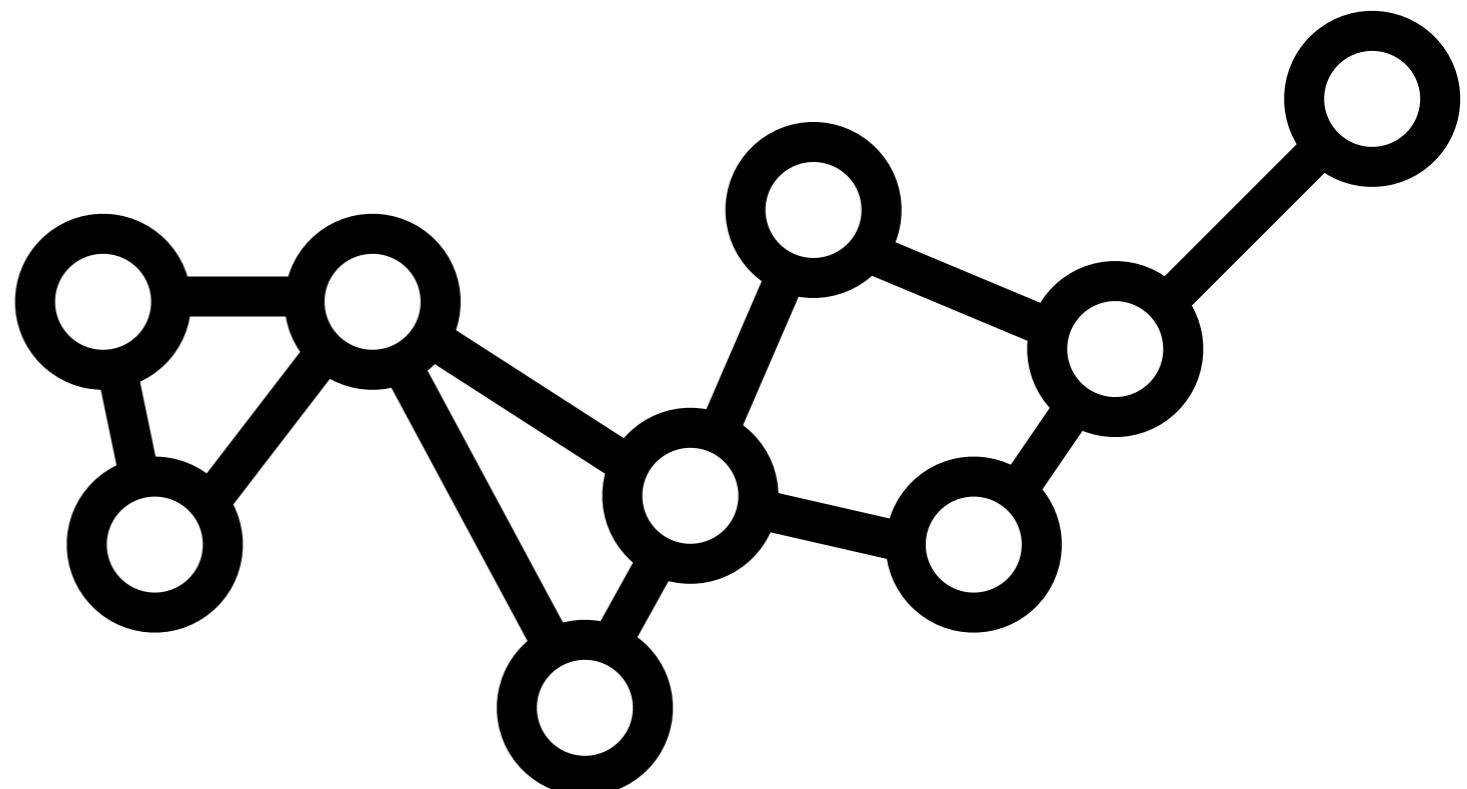
- Undirected/Directed
- Unweighted/Weighted

Network density (connectance)

- Fraction of links over all the possible pairs:

$$d = \frac{L}{N(N - 1)}$$

- Real networks usually have a very low density ( $L \ll N^2$ ) : sparse



# networks

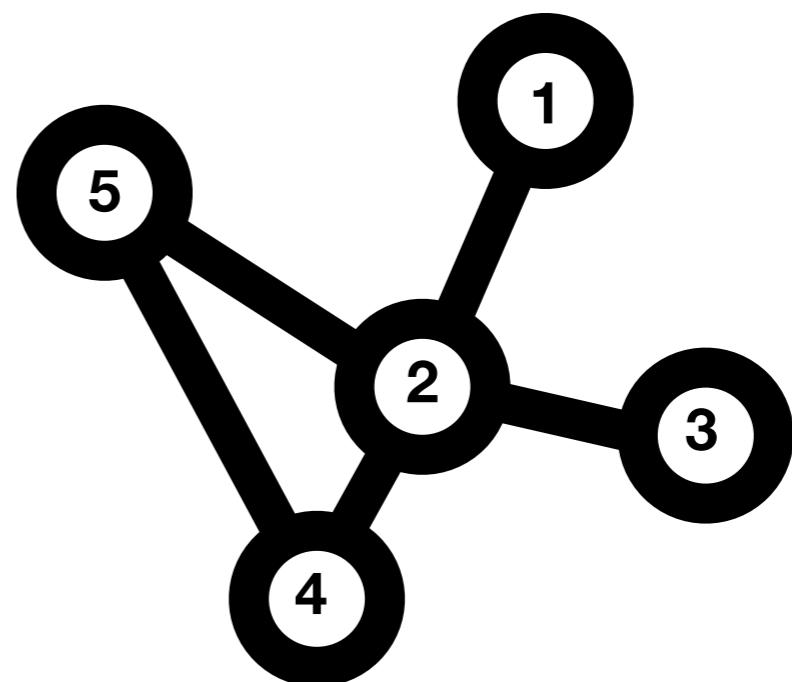
Representing a graph: the adjacency matrix  $A$

- $a_{ij} = 1$  if a link between nodes  $i$  and  $j$  exists
- $a_{ij} = 0$  otherwise
- Symmetrical for undirected/unweighted graphs  $a_{ij} = a_{ji}$

Mapping network physics to linear algebra

Not convenient for simulations for sparse networks, i.e. mostly composed by 0s  
(majority of real networks) → alternatives: adjacency lists, edge list.

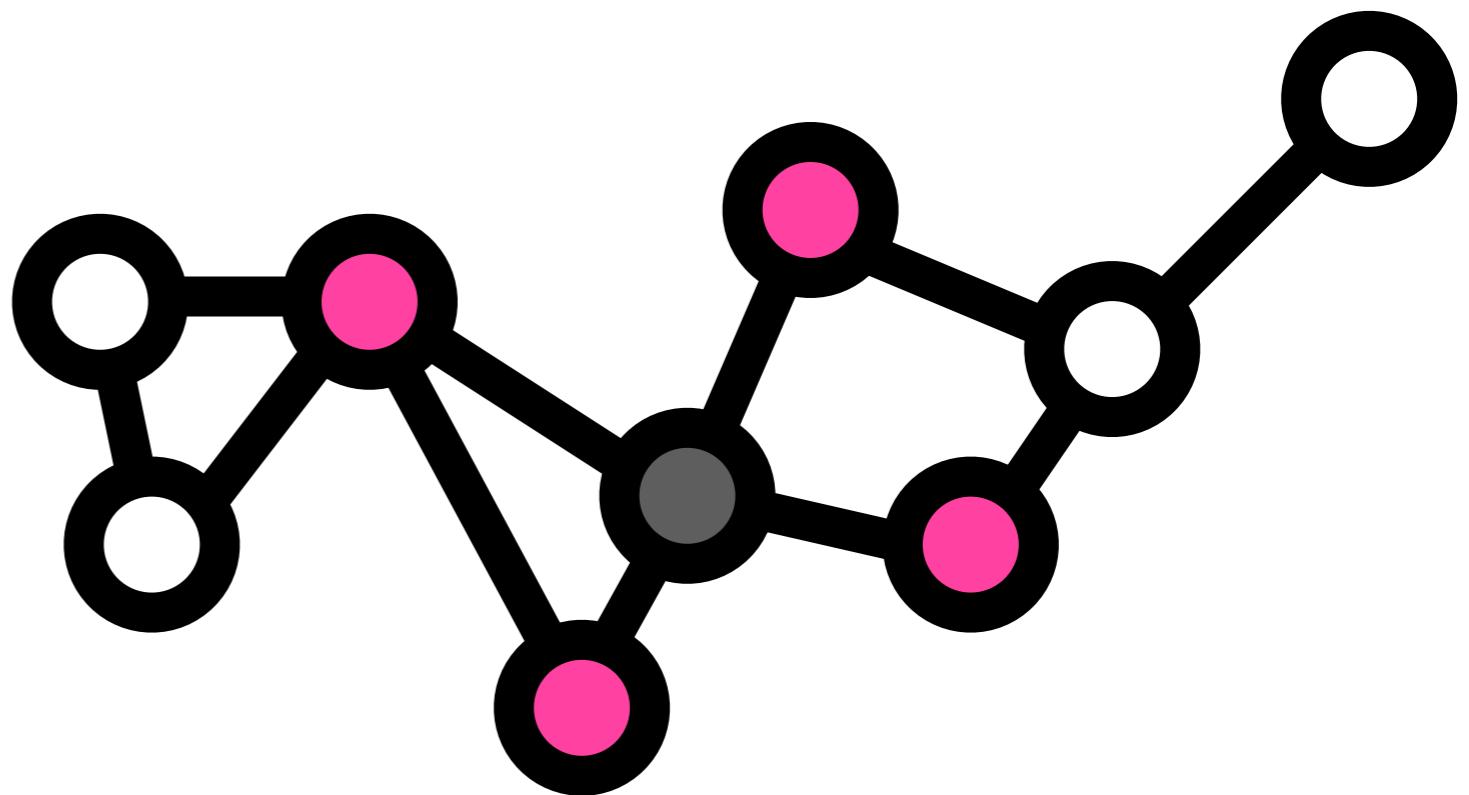
$$A = \begin{pmatrix} 0 & 1 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 1 & 0 & 1 & 1 & 1 \\ 0 & 1 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 & 0 & 0 & 1 \\ 0 & 1 & 0 & 1 & 0 \end{pmatrix}$$



# networks

**Neighbourhood** of node i: the set of nodes connected to i

**Degree** of node i,  $k_i$ : Number of neighbours of node i.  $k_i = \sum_j a_{ij}$

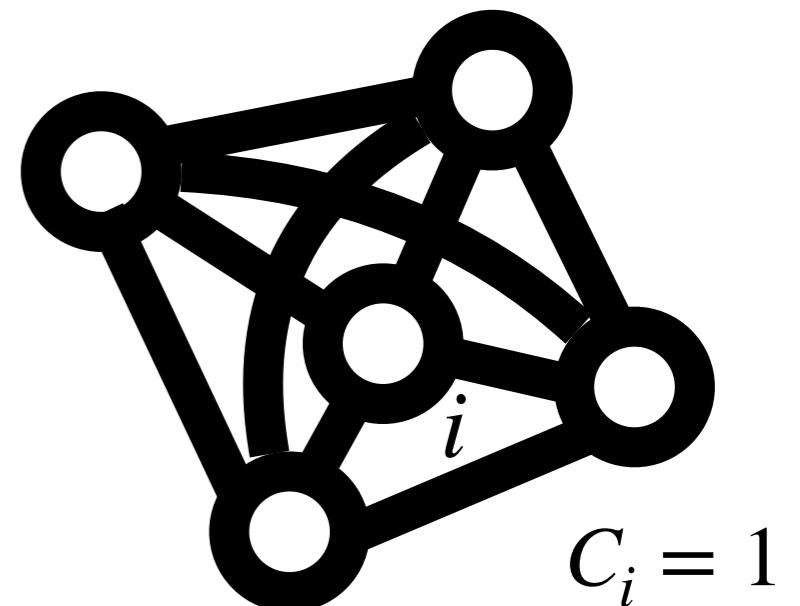
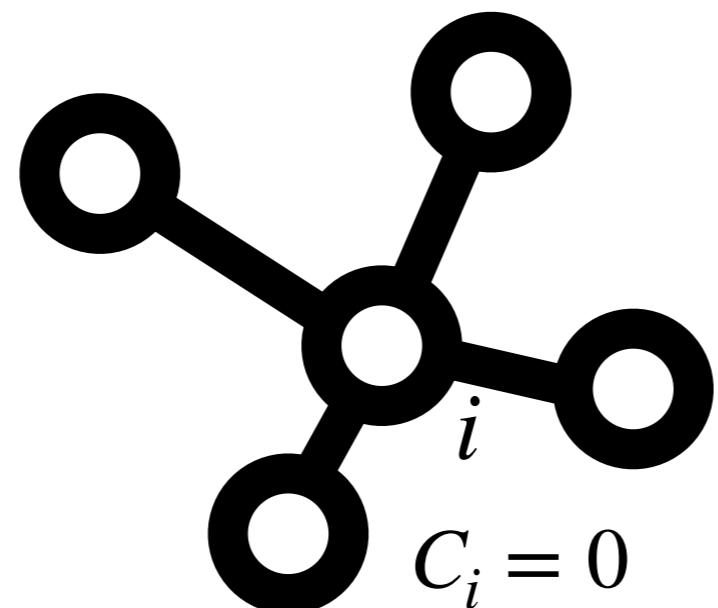


# networks

**clustering coefficient of node  $i$  ( $C_i$ ):** number of edges connecting nodes of the neighbour of  $i$  divided by the maximum number of edges possible

$$C_i = \frac{E_i}{k_i(k_i - 1)/2}, \text{ where } E_i \text{ is the number of edges in the neighbour of } i$$

Average clustering coefficient  $\langle C \rangle = \frac{1}{N} \sum_i C_i$



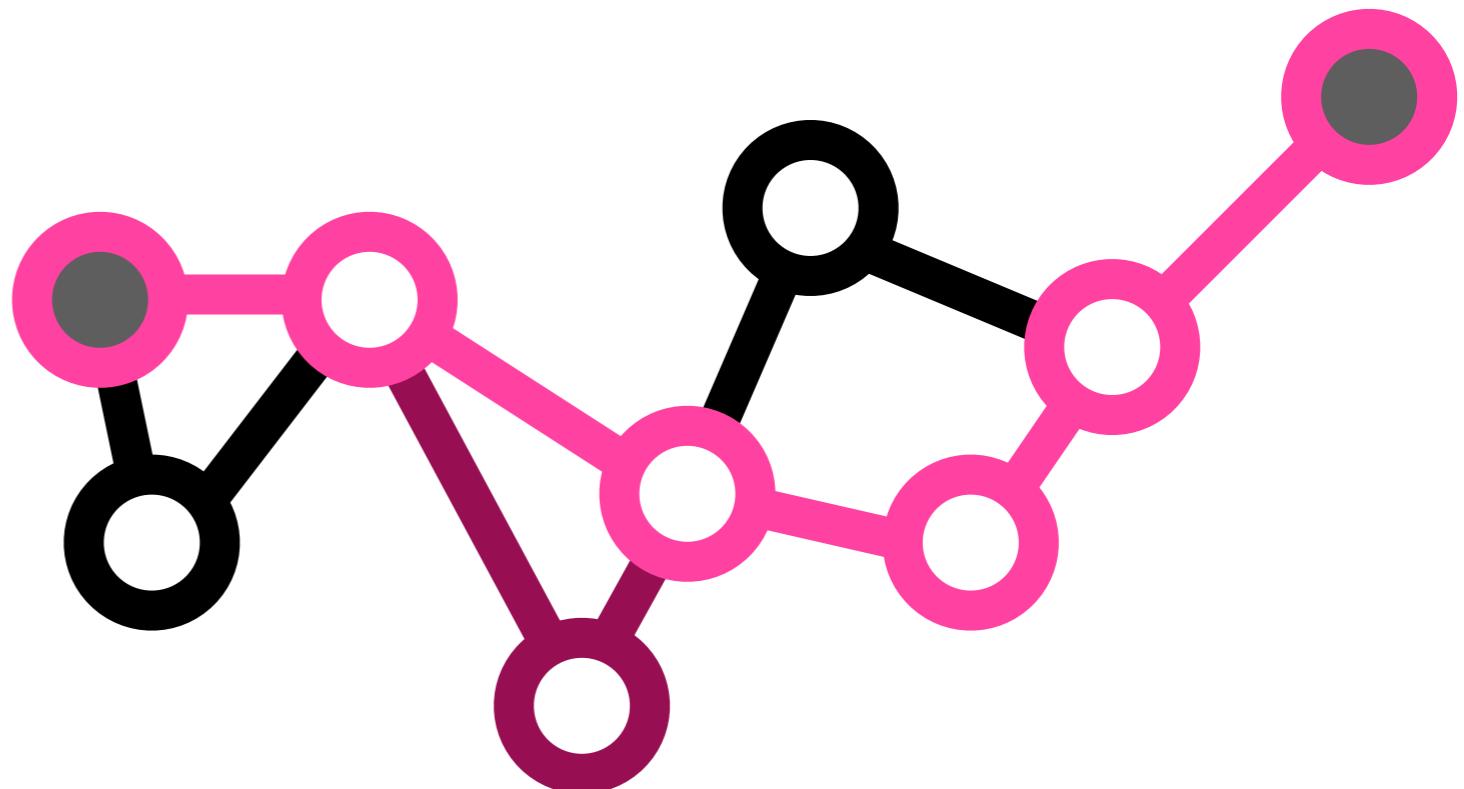
# networks

**Path**: if it is possible to go from node  $i$  to node  $j$  following links

**Shortest Path**: a path covering the minimum number of links from  $i$  to  $j$

**Distance**  $l_{ij}$ : length of the shortest path between  $i, j$

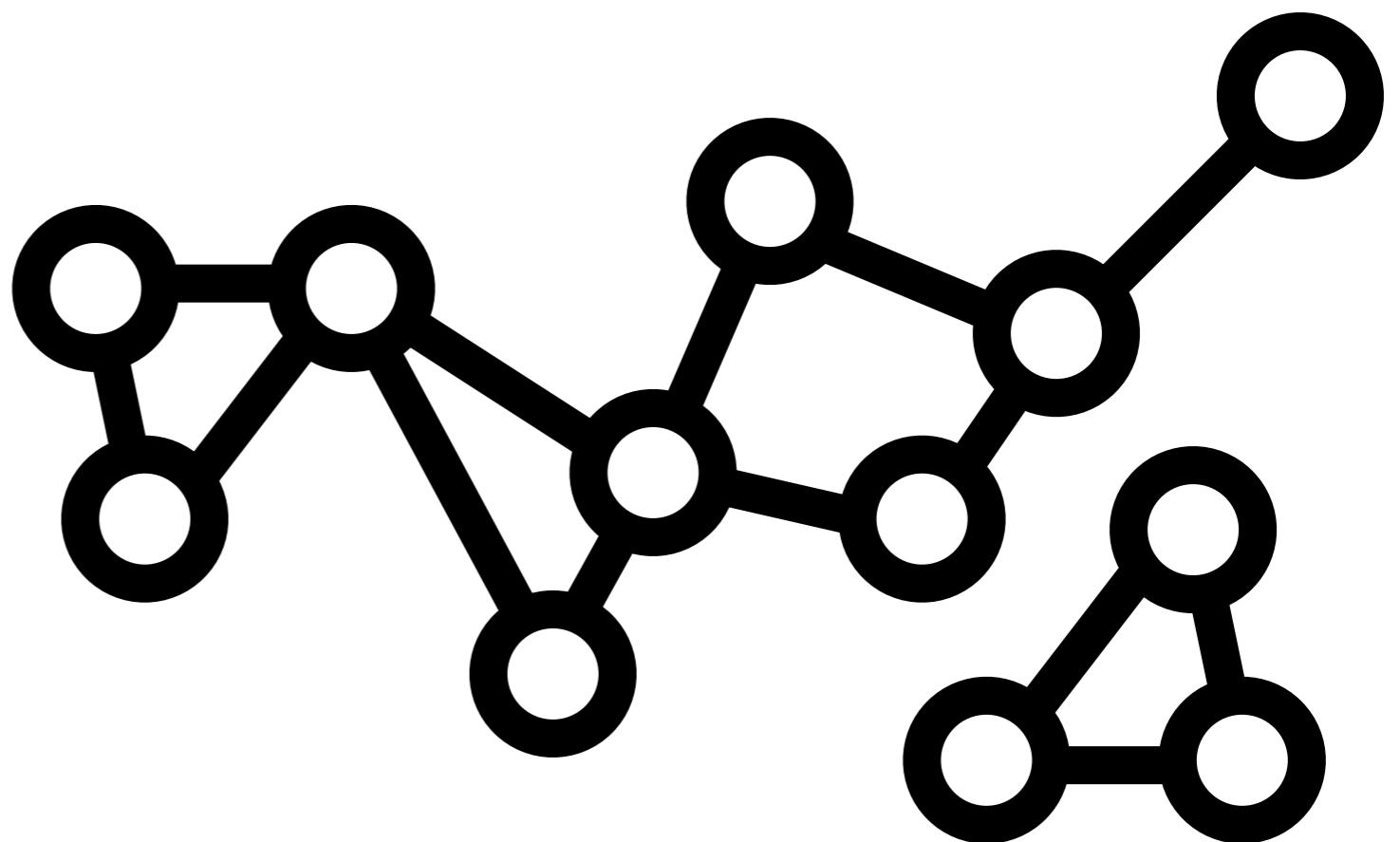
**Diameter**: The shortest path of maximum length in the network, i.e.  $l_{\max} = \max_{ij} l_{ij}$



# networks

**connected network:** when every possible couple of nodes is reachable through a path

**connected component:** connected part of a network



# networks

The adjacency matrix encodes the whole information of the network. However, the information needs to be decrypted.

We characterize the network in terms of topological properties, and we study the implications of these properties on the dynamical processes on the top of the network.

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Eg:

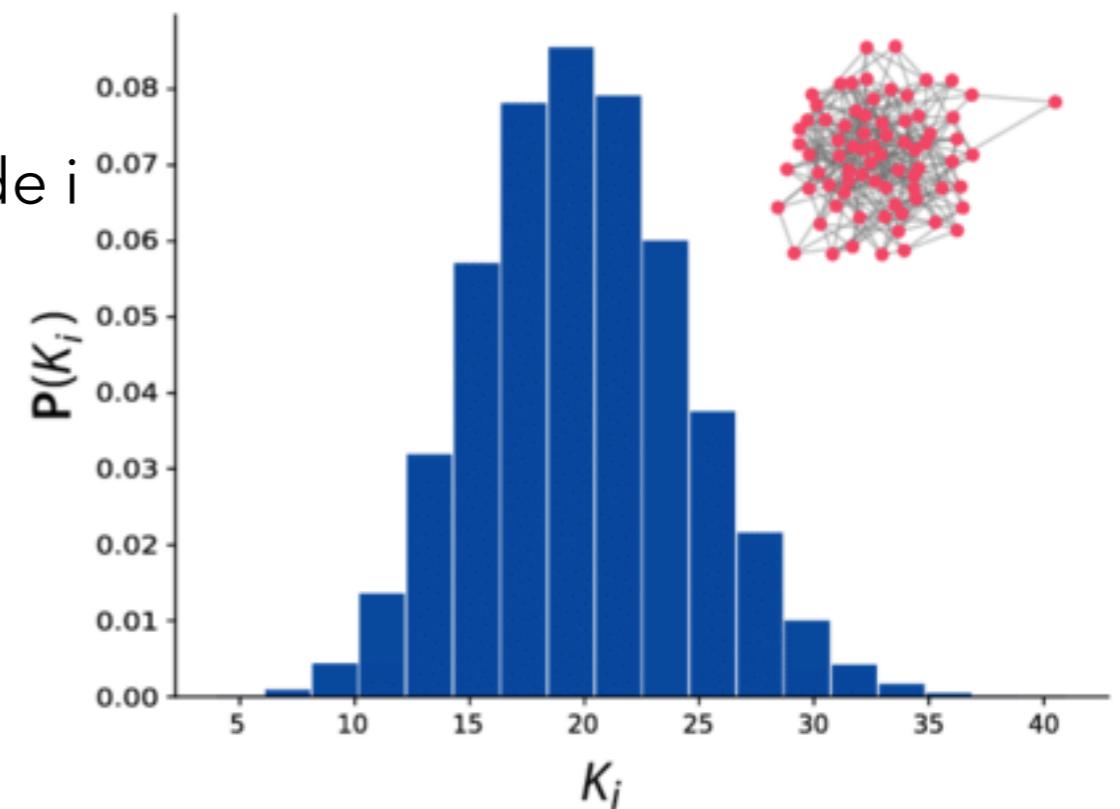
Degree of node i,  $k_i$ : Number of neighbors of node i

**What is the distribution of the degrees,  $P(k)$ ?**

**Moments of the distribution?**

e.g. average degree:

$$\langle k \rangle = \frac{1}{N} \sum_{i=1}^N k_i \text{ or } \langle k \rangle = \frac{2L}{N} = d(N - 1)$$

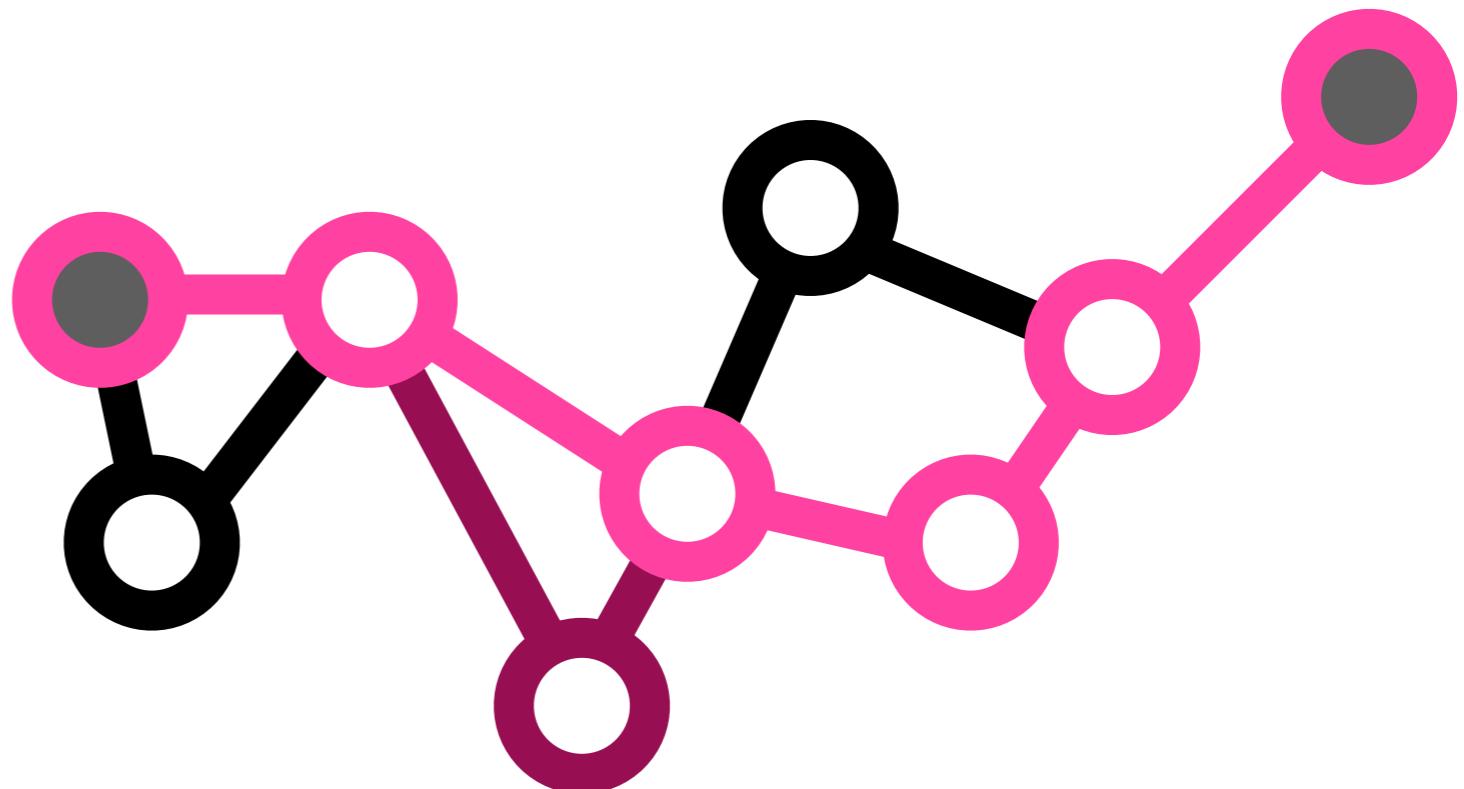


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**Network models: synthetic random networks (network ensembles) with specific properties**



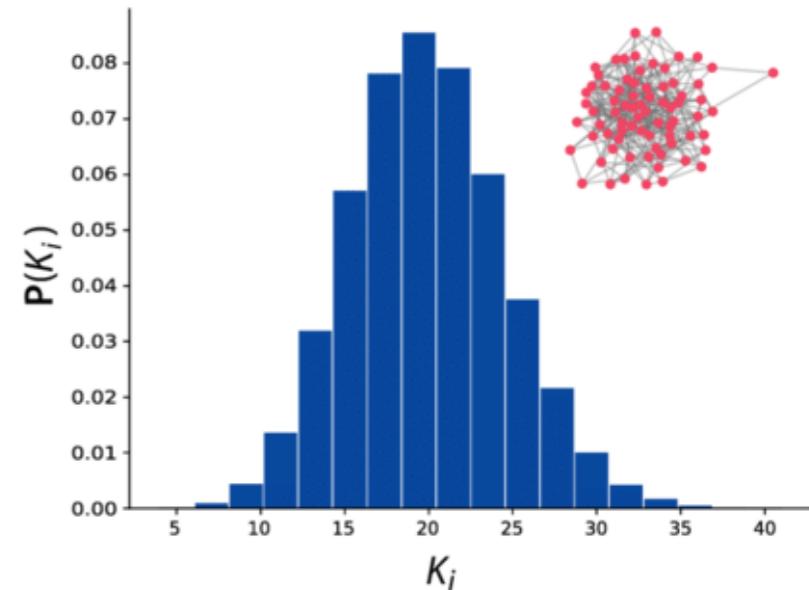
# Erdős and Rényi Model

[Erdős, P.; Rényi, A. *Publicationes Mathematicae*. 6: 290–297 (1959)]

Links between nodes are drawn at random

Graph G with  $G(N, p)$

- $N$  number of nodes
- $p$  probability of connection



Algorithm:

- Create an empty graph with  $\mathbf{N}$  nodes
- Connect each possible couple of nodes with probability  $\mathbf{P}$
- Avoid self-loops and multiple edges

# Erdős and Rényi Model

[Erdős, P.; Rényi, A. *Publicationes Mathematicae*. 6: 290–297 (1959)]

How degrees are distributed over the network?

$$P(k) = ?$$

If links are drawn at random with probability  $p$

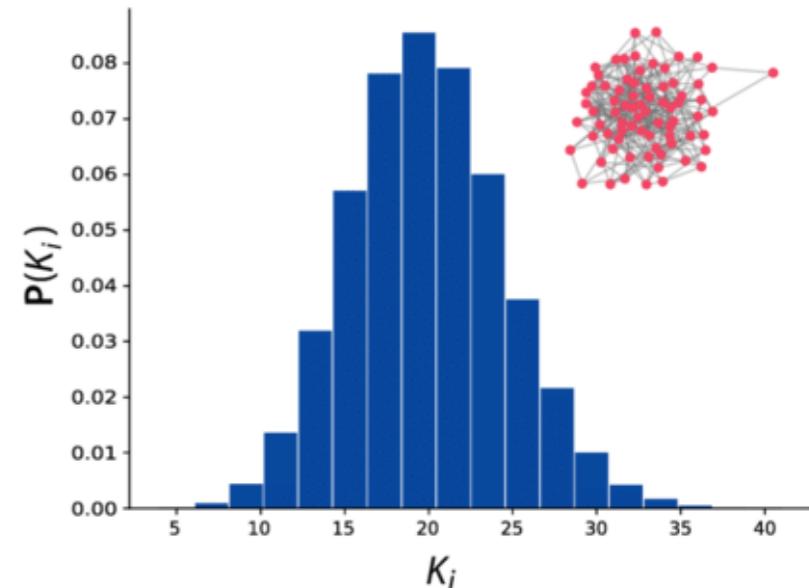
Probability that a node has  $k$  neighbours  $p_k$  is given by a binomial distribution:

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

Average degree  $\langle k \rangle = p(N - 1)$

Variance  $\sigma_k^2 = p(1-p)(N-1)$

For sparse networks we have  $k \ll N$ . Then the Binomial ( $N, p$ ) distribution can be approximated by a Poisson distribution with ( $\lambda = pN$ )



# Erdős and Rényi Model

[Erdős, P.; Rényi, A. *Publicationes Mathematicae*. 6: 290–297 (1959)]

a node is connected to  $k$  nodes

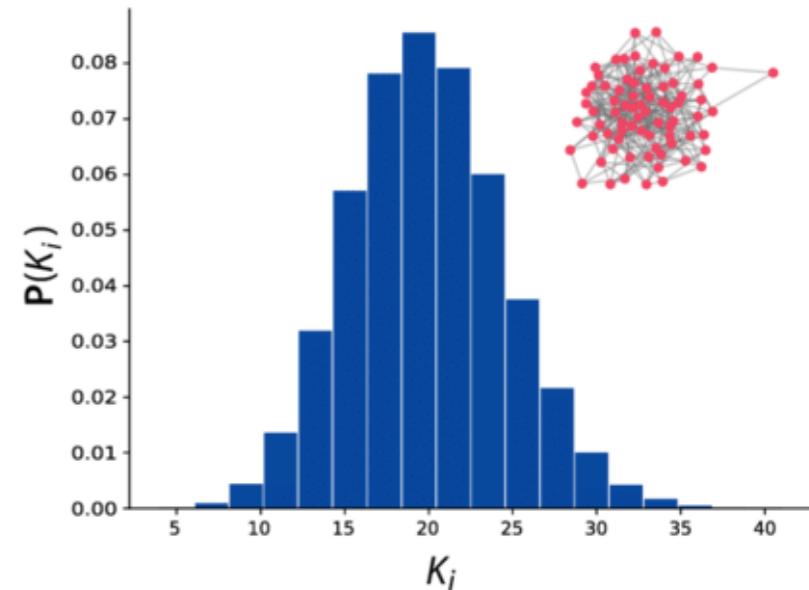
at a 2 steps distance it has  $k(k - 1)$  nodes

at a 3 steps distance it has  $k(k - 1)^2$  nodes

node within a distance  $l$ :

$$k + k(k - 1) + \dots + k(k - 1)^{l-1} = k \frac{(k - 1)^l - 1}{k - 2} \simeq (k - 1)^l$$

$$(k - 1)^l = N - 1 \Rightarrow l \simeq \frac{\log N}{\log k}$$



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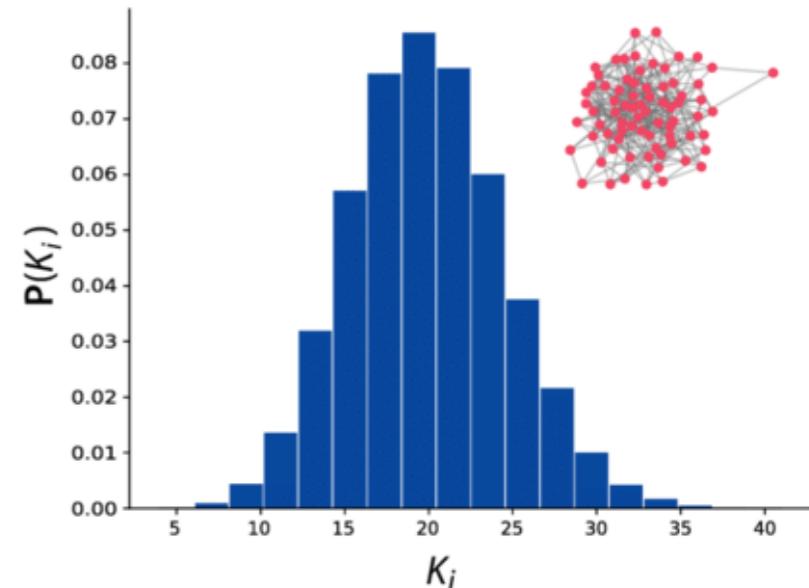
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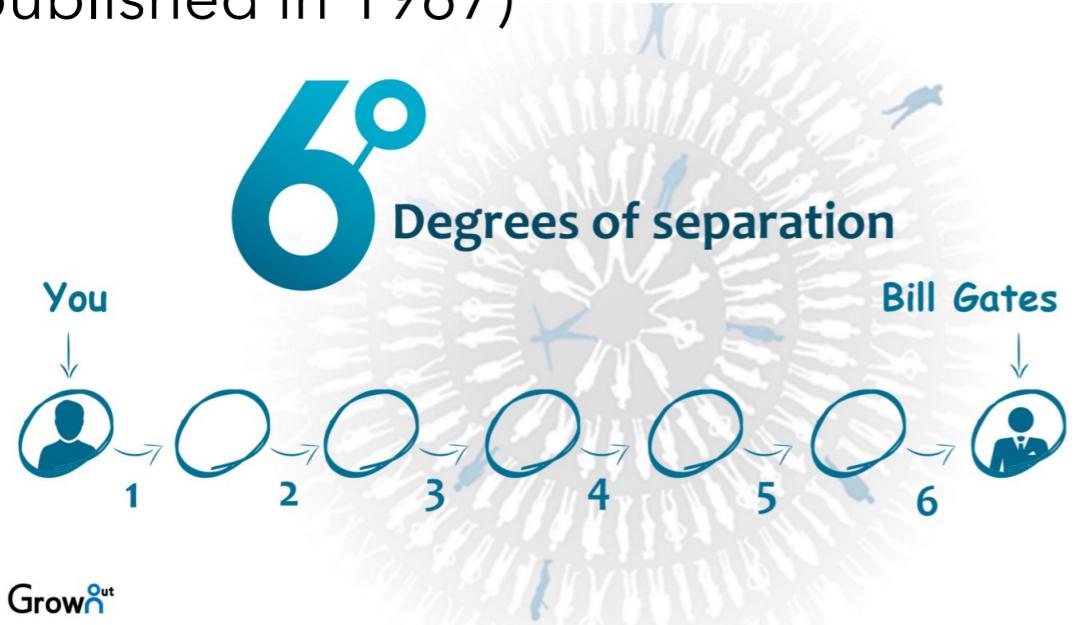


**diameter of the order of  $\log N$**

- **Cover the entire network in few steps**
- **efficient diffusion and spreading of a disease**

# key property of social networks

Six degrees of separation (First introduce in a novel in 1929, Milgram experiment published in 1967)



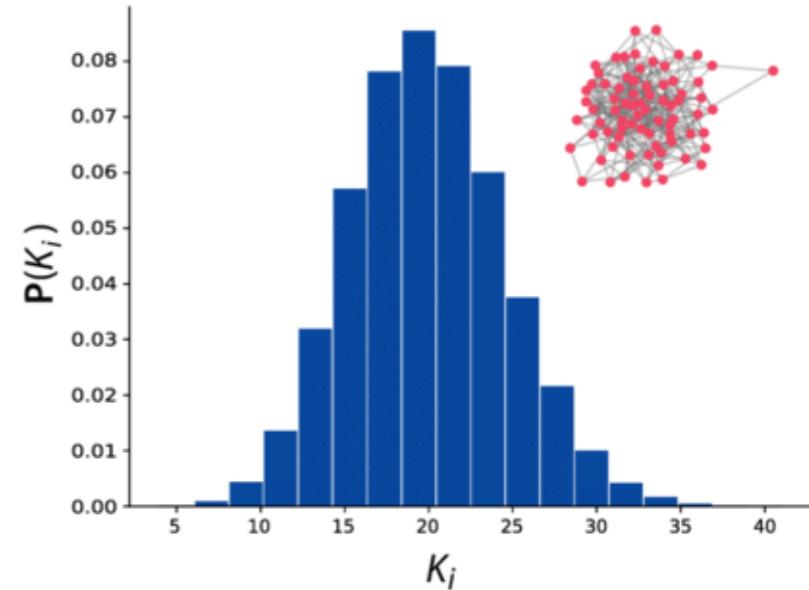
From: <https://medium.com/ent101/six-degrees-of-separation-9d6f33854e9c>

Real networks are smaller than one would expect

# Erdős and Rényi Model

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$$\langle C \rangle = p = \frac{\langle k \rangle}{N}$$



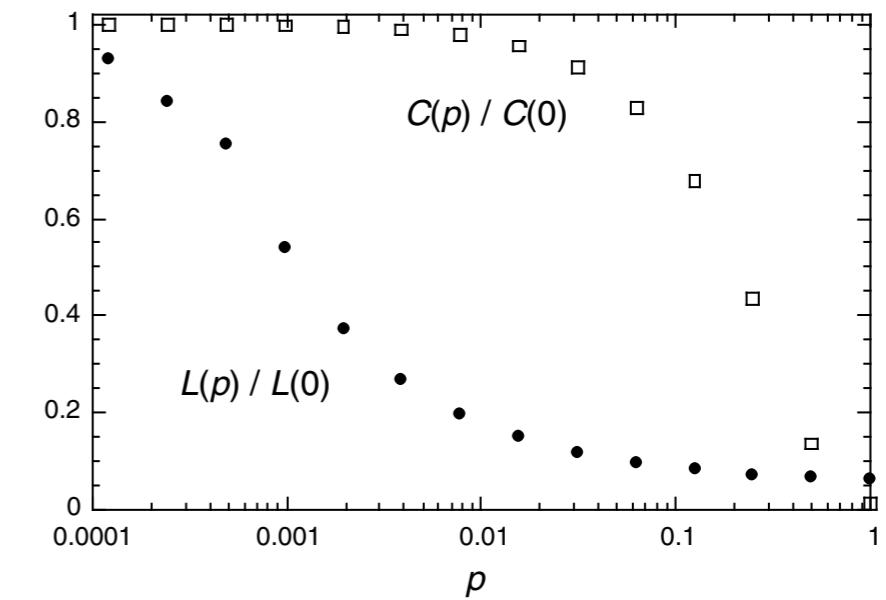
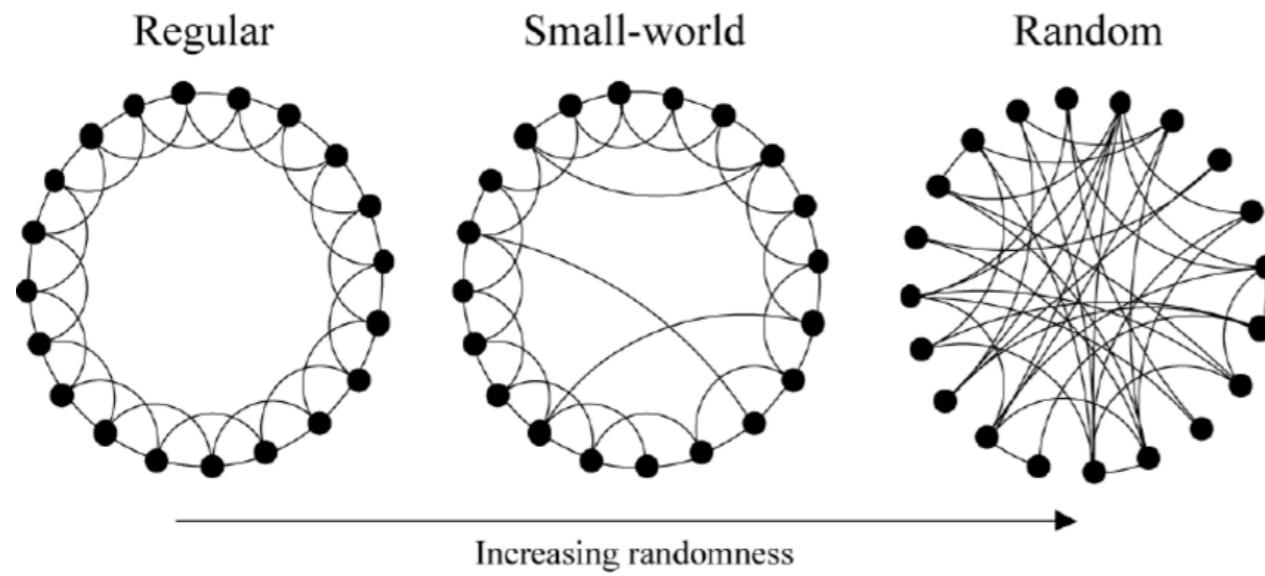
Real networks are smaller than one would expect

Erdős and Rényi Model realistically describes small world networks .. but it does not capture another property of real networks, **high clustering**

*my friends are in general friends among each other*

# Small world network

[Watts, D., Strogatz, S. Collective dynamics of ‘small-world’ networks. *Nature* **393**, 440–442 (1998). <https://doi.org/10.1038/30918>]

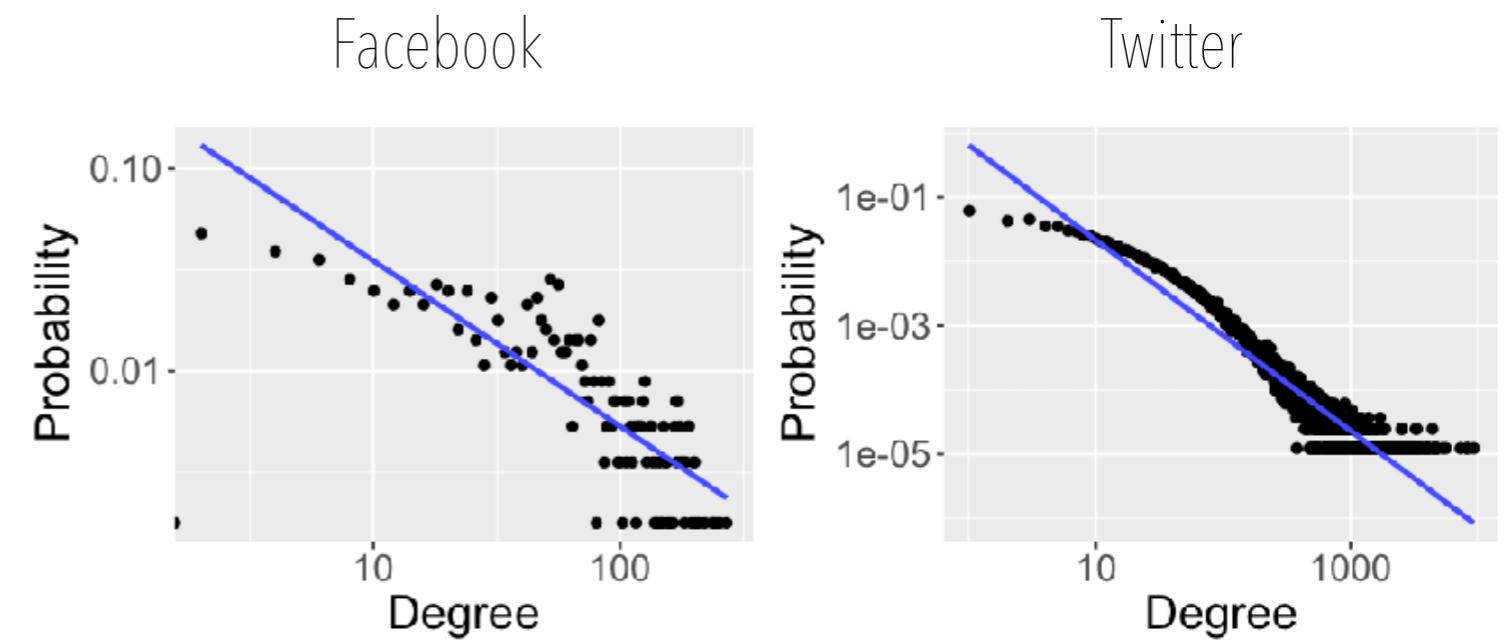
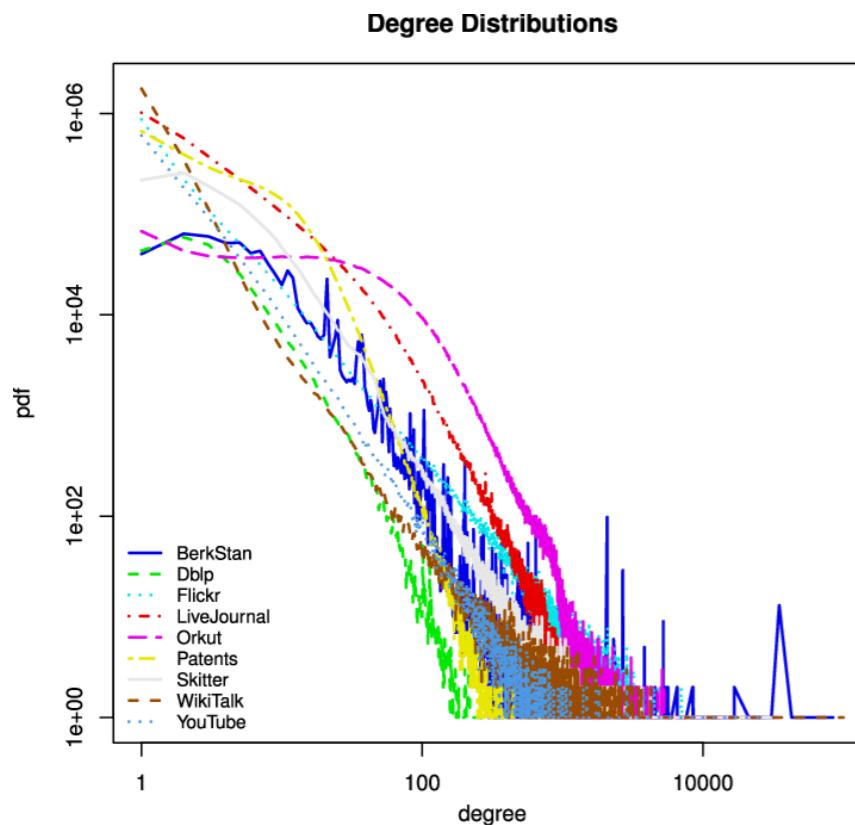


rewiring few links is enough to shorten the diameter of the graph.

At a local level the transition to small world is almost undetectable

# another key property of social networks

What is the degree distribution of real networks?

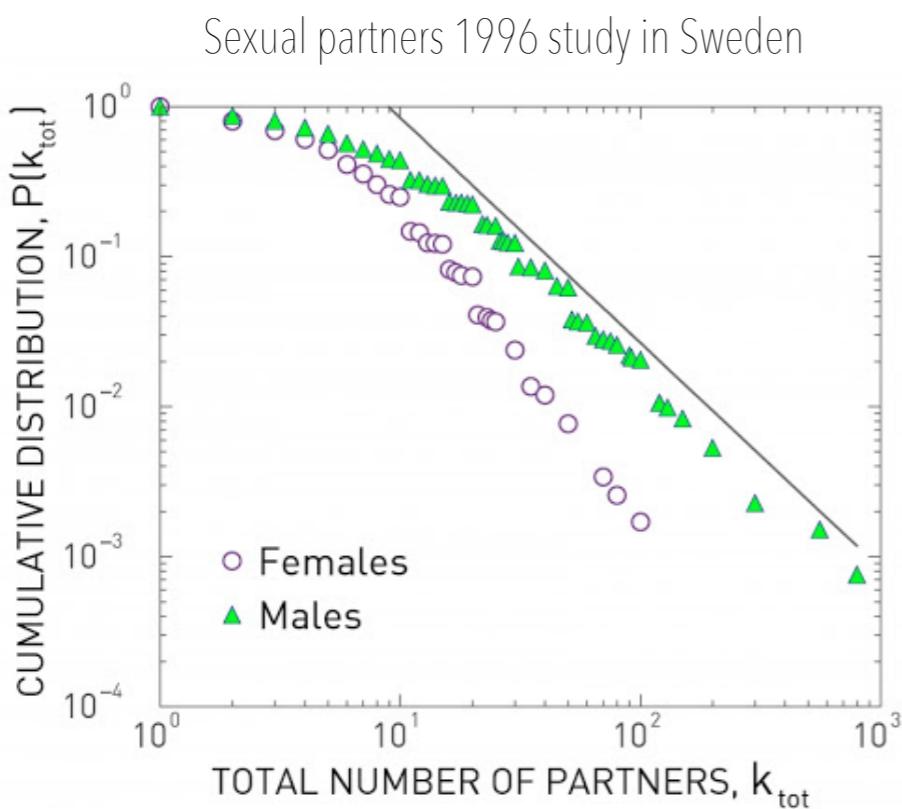


From Aksu, Hidayet et al. Distributed Core View Materialization and Maintenance for Large Dynamic Graphs. Knowledge and Data Engineering, IEEE Transactions on. 26. 2439-2452 (2014).

From Wilson, James & Uminsky, David. (2017).  
The power of A/B testing under interference.

# another key property of social networks

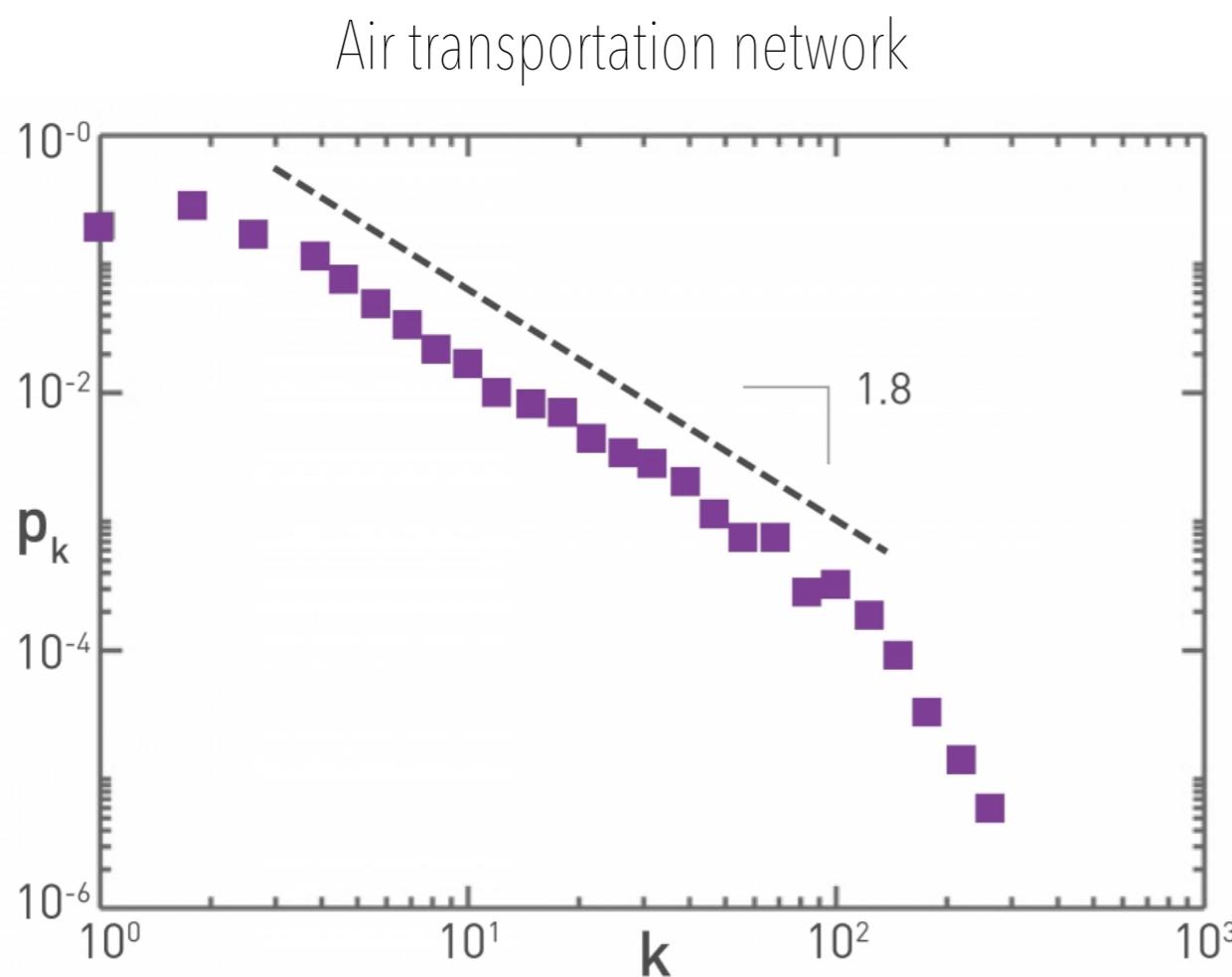
What is the degree distribution of real networks?



[B. Lewin. (ed.), Sex i Sverige. Om sexuallivet i Sverige 1996 [Sex in Sweden. On the Sexual Life in Sweden 1996]. National Institute of Public Health, Stockholm, 1998.]

# another key property of social networks

What is the degree distribution of real networks?



[Barrat et al PNAS 2004]

# another key property of social networks

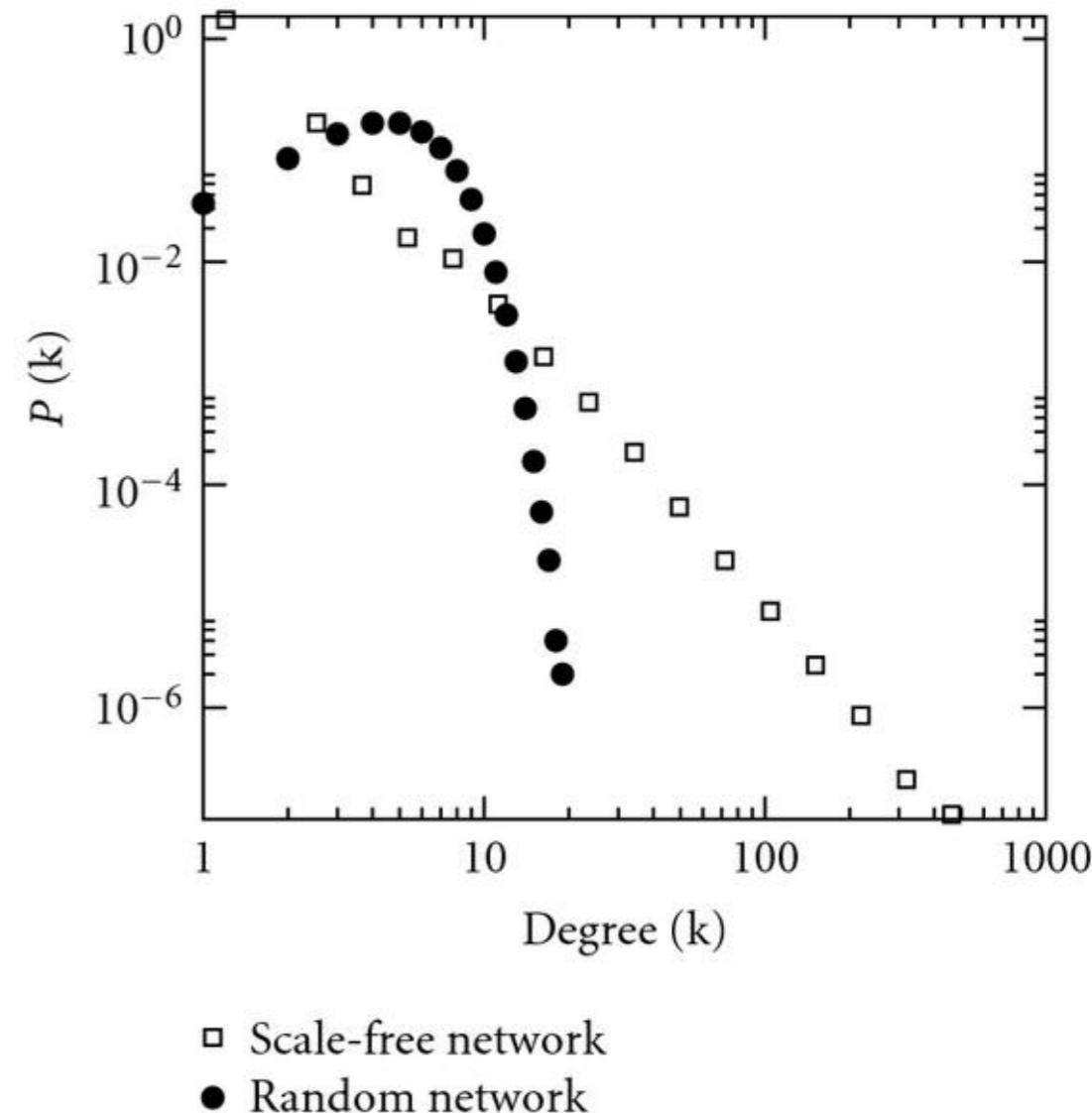
What is the degree distribution of real networks?

Real networks are not Poisson

In most contexts real networks are highly heterogenous

Heavy-tailed distributions:

i.e. power-law  $P(k) \sim k^{-\gamma}$



[Danon, Leon et al. (2011). Networks and the Epidemiology of Infectious Disease. Interdisciplinary perspectives on infectious diseases. 2011. 284909. 10.1155/2011/284909]

# Power law degree distribution

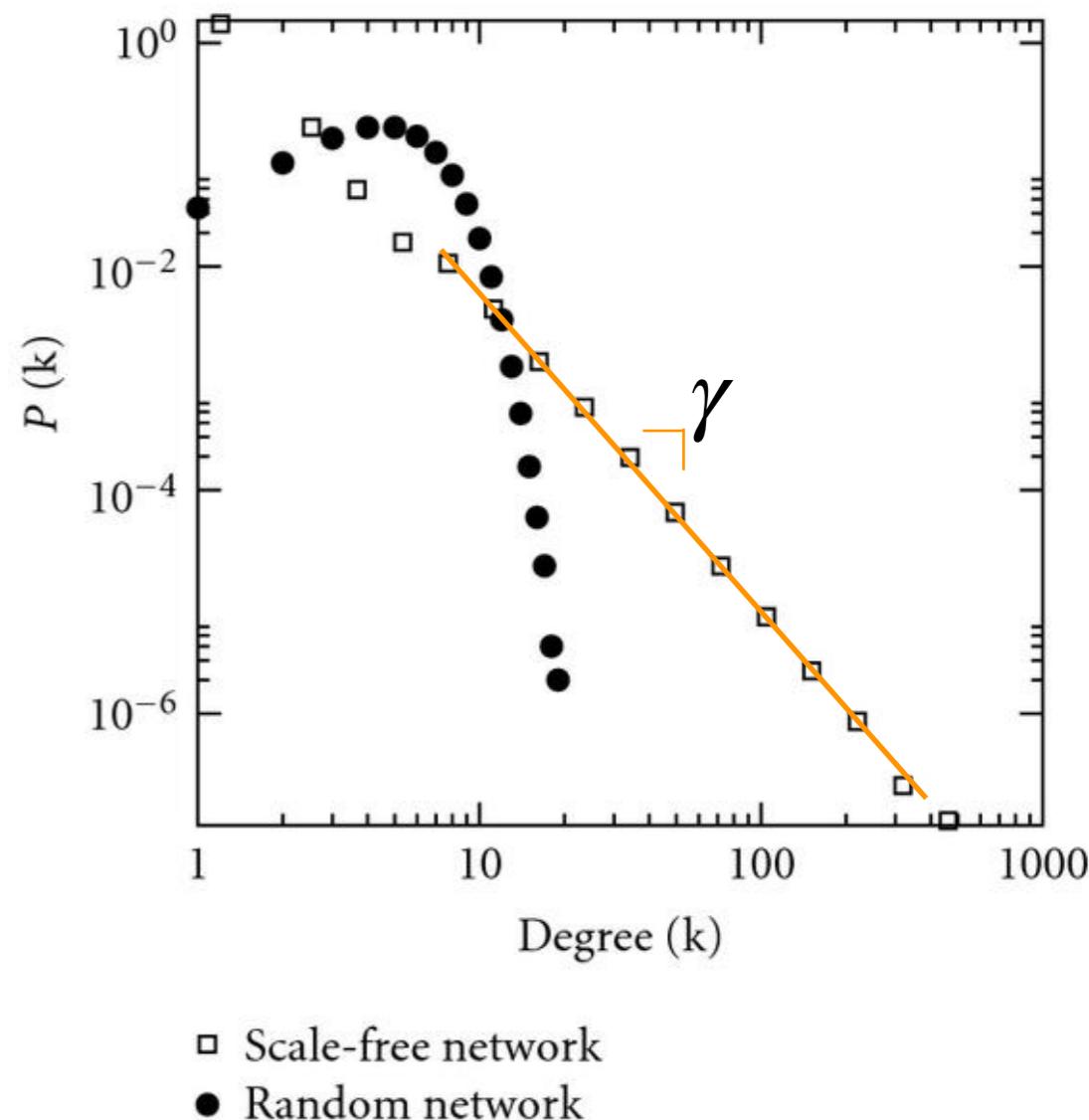
Heavy-tailed distributions: i.e. power-law

$$P(k) \sim k^{-\gamma}$$

- $\gamma$  slope of the distribution.
- Most real networks have small values of  $\gamma$  i.e.  
 $\gamma \leq 3$

In power low networks:

- Most of the nodes have a very low connectivity:  
less than a random net
- The probability of having very large degrees is  
not zero → *Hubs*
- hubs connect make shortcuts. In some cases  
Ultra-Small-World  $\langle l \rangle \sim \ln(\ln(N))$ . Important for  
epidemic spreading: shortcuts for spreading;  
super-spreaders



[Danon, Leon et al. (2011). Networks and the Epidemiology of Infectious Disease. Interdisciplinary perspectives on infectious diseases. 2011. 284909. 10.1155/2011/284909]

# Power law degree distribution

Power-law degree distribution:  $P(k) = C_0 k^{-\gamma}$  with  $C_0 = (\gamma - 1)k_{min}^{\gamma-1}$

The general nth-moment of  $P(k)$  is  $\langle k^n \rangle = \int_{k_{min}}^{\infty} k^n P(k) dk = \int_{k_{min}}^{\infty} C_0 k^{n-\gamma} dk$

→ it converges only if  $\gamma - 1 > n$

Remember that  $\sigma^2 = \langle k^2 \rangle - \langle k \rangle^2$

If  $\gamma < 2$  both  $\langle k \rangle$  and  $\langle k^2 \rangle$  diverge with  $N \rightarrow \infty$

If  $2 < \gamma < 3$  the average degree  $\langle k \rangle \rightarrow c$  but  $\langle k^2 \rangle \rightarrow \infty$  as  $N \rightarrow \infty$  BUT

$\sigma^2 \rightarrow \infty$  → **scale free network**

$\langle k \rangle$  becomes less relevant

# Barabási-Albert Model

[Emergence of Scaling in Random Networks. Albert-László Barabási, Réka Albert. Science. 286, 5439, pp. 509-512, (1999)]

How to create a random scale-free network?

Generative algorithm:

- At each time-step a new node enters the network and connects with pre-existing nodes at random
- **preferential attachment**: the probability that the entering node connects with pre-existing nodes is proportional to their degree

Result:  $P(k) \sim k^{-3}$

# Barabási-Albert Model

[Emergence of Scaling in Random Networks. Albert-László Barabási, Réka Albert. Science. 286, 5439, pp. 509-512, (1999)]

Preferential attachment is a reformulation of the **Rich get richer** or **Matthew effect** ('60s)

Based on

- the Price's model (prob of getting a new citation for a paper proportional to its citations, *cumulative advantage*)

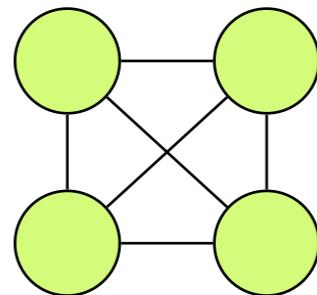
[Journal of the American Society for Information Science. 27(5): 292–306, 1976]

- Simon model in probability theory

[Simon, Herbert A. (1955). "On a Class of Skew Distribution Functions". Biometrika. Oxford University Press (OUP). 42 (3–4): 425–440. doi:10.1093/biomet/42.3-4.425. ISSN 0006-3444]

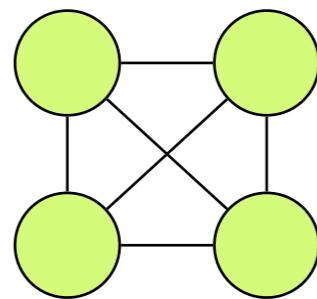
Probability to attract a new link at time t proportional to degree at time t:  $\Pi(k_i) = \frac{k_i}{\sum_j k_j}$

# Barabási-Albert Model: algorithm

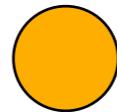


- Start with a clique of  $m_0$  nodes

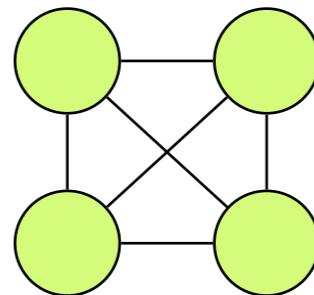
# Barabási-Albert Model: algorithm



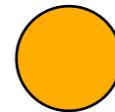
- Start with a clique of  $m_0$  nodes
- At each time-step  $t$ :
  - Add a new node to the network



# Barabási-Albert Model: algorithm

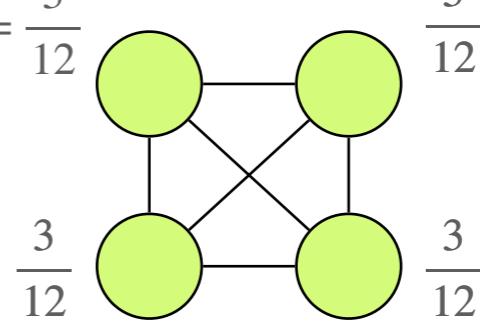


- Start with a clique of  $m_0$  nodes
- At each time-step  $t$ :
  - Add a new node to the network
  - Create  $m$  (i.e.  $m=2$ ) links between the new node and the existing ones according to the preferential attachment

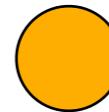


# Barabási-Albert Model: algorithm

$$\Pi(k_i) = \frac{k_i}{\sum_j k_j} = \frac{3}{12}$$

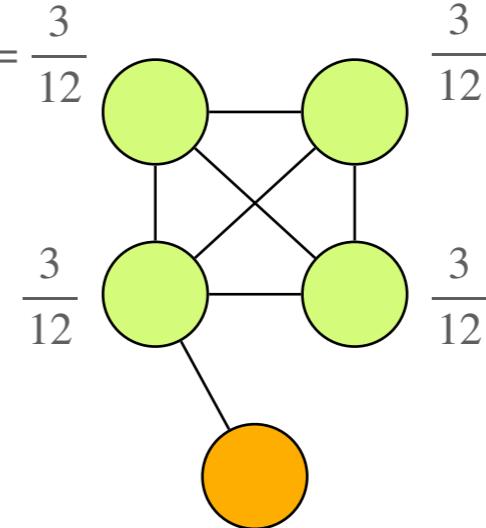


- Start with a clique of  $m_0$  nodes
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# Barabási-Albert Model: algorithm

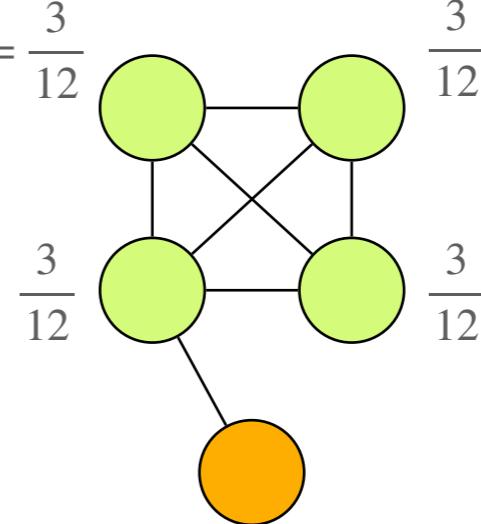
$$\Pi(k_i) = \frac{k_i}{\sum_j k_j} = \frac{3}{12}$$



- Start with a clique of  $m_0$  nodes
- At each time-step  $t$ :
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# Barabási-Albert Model: algorithm

$$\Pi(k_i) = \frac{k_i}{\sum_j k_j} = \frac{3}{12}$$



- Start with a clique of  $m_0$  nodes
- At each time-step  $t$ :
  - Add a new node to the network
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  - (Remember to update the connection probability after each link)

# Barabási-Albert Model: algorithm

$$\Pi(k_i) = \frac{k_i}{\sum_j k_j} = \frac{3}{14}$$

The diagram shows a network of 5 nodes. Four nodes are green and one is orange. The orange node is at the bottom right, connected to the three green nodes above it. The top-left green node is connected to the top-right and bottom-left green nodes. The top-right green node is connected to the bottom-left green node. The bottom-left green node is connected to the bottom-right green node. To the left of the network, the connection probability for the top-left to top-right link is given as  $\frac{3}{14}$ . To the left of the top-left node, the probability for the top-left to bottom-left link is  $\frac{4}{14}$ . To the right of the top-right node, the probability for the top-right to bottom-left link is  $\frac{3}{14}$ . To the left of the bottom-left node, the probability for the bottom-left to bottom-right link is  $\frac{1}{14}$ .

- Start with a clique of  $m_0$  nodes
- At each time-step  $t$ :
  - Add a new node to the network
  - Create  $m$  (i.e.  $m=2$ ) links between the new node and the existing ones according to the preferential attachment
  - (Remember to update the connection probability after each link)

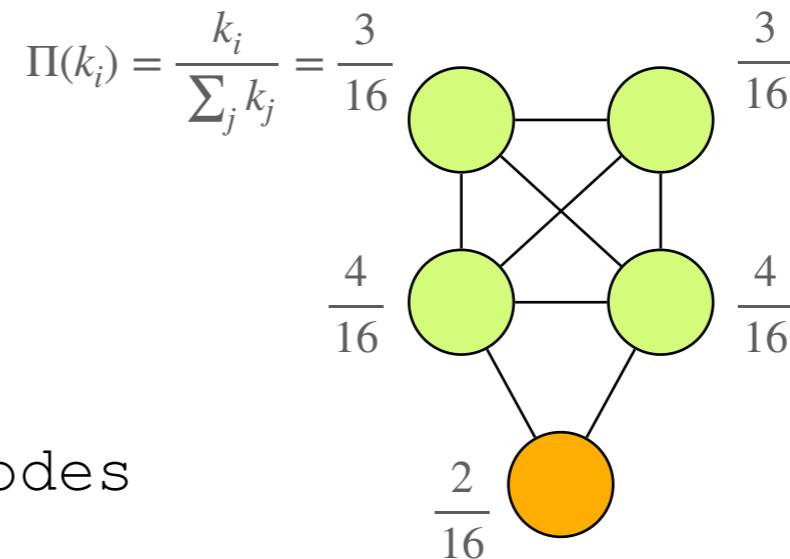
# Barabási-Albert Model: algorithm

$$\Pi(k_i) = \frac{k_i}{\sum_j k_j} = \frac{3}{14}$$

$\frac{3}{14}$   
 $\frac{3}{14}$   
 $\frac{3}{14}$   
 $\frac{1}{14}$

- Start with a clique of  $m_0$  nodes
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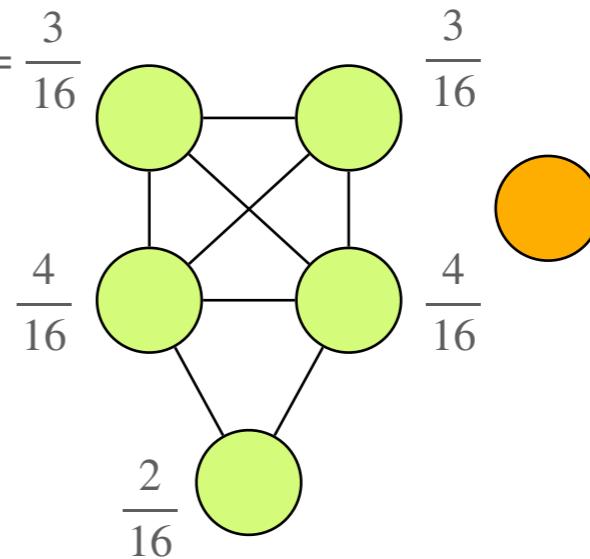
# Barabási-Albert Model: algorithm



- Start with a clique of  $m_0$  nodes
- At each time-step  $t$ :
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    - Create  $m$  (i.e.  $m=2$ ) links between the new node and the existing ones according to the preferential attachment
    - (Remember to update the connection probability after each link)

# Barabási-Albert Model: algorithm

$$\Pi(k_i) = \frac{k_i}{\sum_j k_j} = \frac{3}{16}$$



- Start with a clique of  $m_0$  nodes
- At each time-step  $t$ :
  - Add a new node to the network
    - Create  $m$  (i.e.  $m=2$ ) links between the new node and the existing ones according to the preferential attachment
    - (Remember to update the connection probability after each link)
  - Repeat until size  $N$  is reached

# Barabási-Albert Model: algorithm

- Degree distribution  $P(k) = \frac{2m(m+1)}{k(k+1)(k+2)} \simeq k^{-3}$  for large  $k$
- $\gamma = 3$  independent from  $m$  and  $m_0$
- $k_{max} \sim N^{\frac{1}{2}}$
- $\langle k \rangle \rightarrow c$  but  $\langle k^2 \rangle \rightarrow \infty$  with  $N$
- $\langle l \rangle \sim \frac{\ln(N)}{\ln(\ln(N))}$  small-world