

# Introduction to Graph Theory

**Proteomes Interactomes and Biological Networks**

November 19, 2019

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<http://biofold.org/>



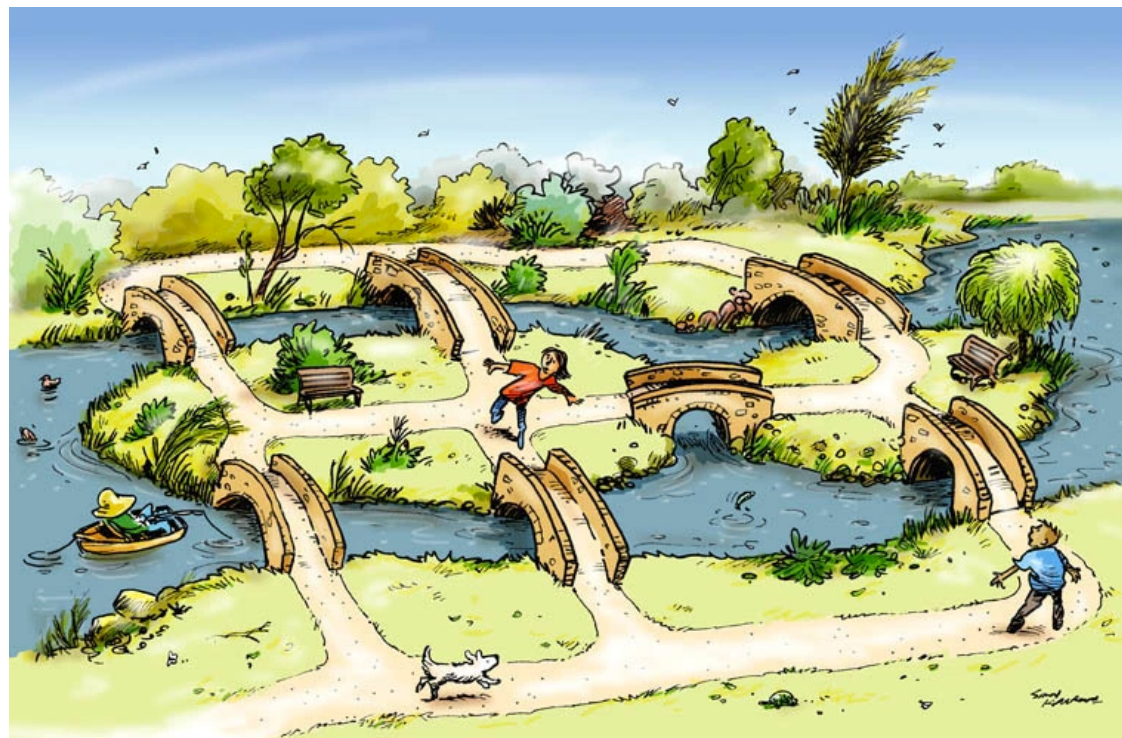
**Biomolecules  
Folding and  
Disease**

Department of Pharmacy and  
Biotechnology (FaBiT)  
University of Bologna



# Historical Perspective

With the **Seven Bridges of Königsberg** problem, Euler in 1737 laid the foundations of the graph theory.

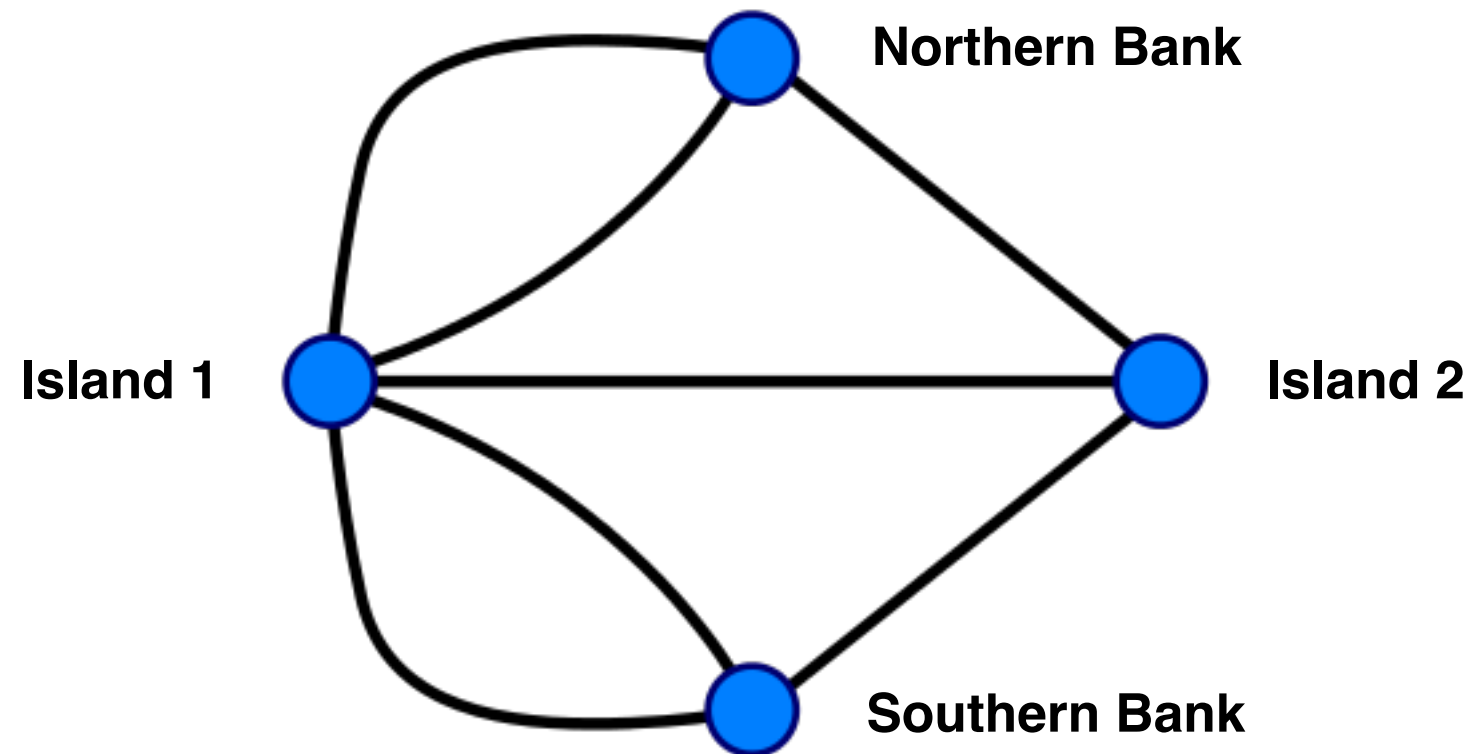


*Simon Kneebone – [simonkneebone.com](http://simonkneebone.com)*

- Find path (Eulerian Path) that **traverses all the Pregel's bridges**.
- Find walk (Eulerian Circuit) that **traverses all the Pregel's bridges** and has **the same starting and ending point**.

# Solution

Describe the problem as a graph where the **nodes represent the 4 locations** and the **edges correspond to the bridges**



Eulerian path exists only if **zero or 2 nodes** are connected by an **odd number of bridges**.

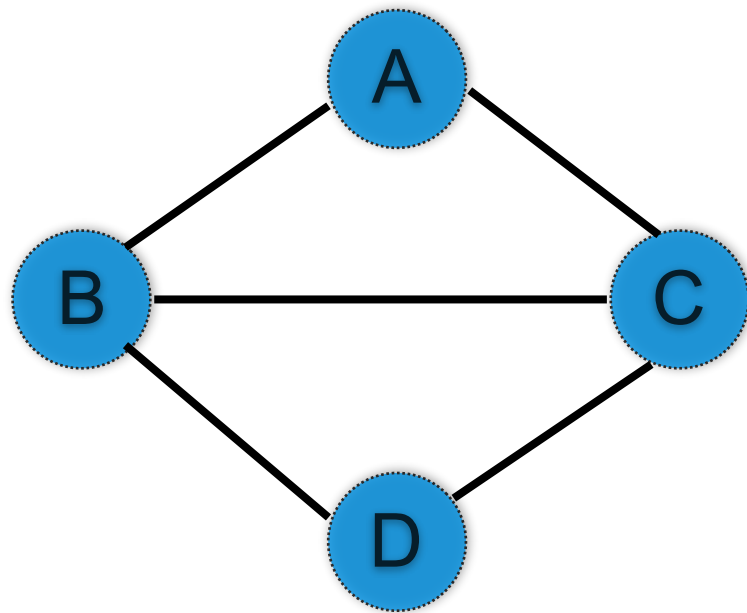
Eulerian circuit exists only if **zero nodes** are connected by an **odd number of bridges**.

# Graph Definition

A graph is a pair  $G=(V,E)$  consisting of two sets:

- $V$  is a set of elements called **Nodes or Vertices**.
- $E$  is a set of pairs  $(v_i, v_j)$  where  $v_i \in V$  and  $v_j \in V$ .

The pairs  $E$  are links between two nodes and are called **Edges**

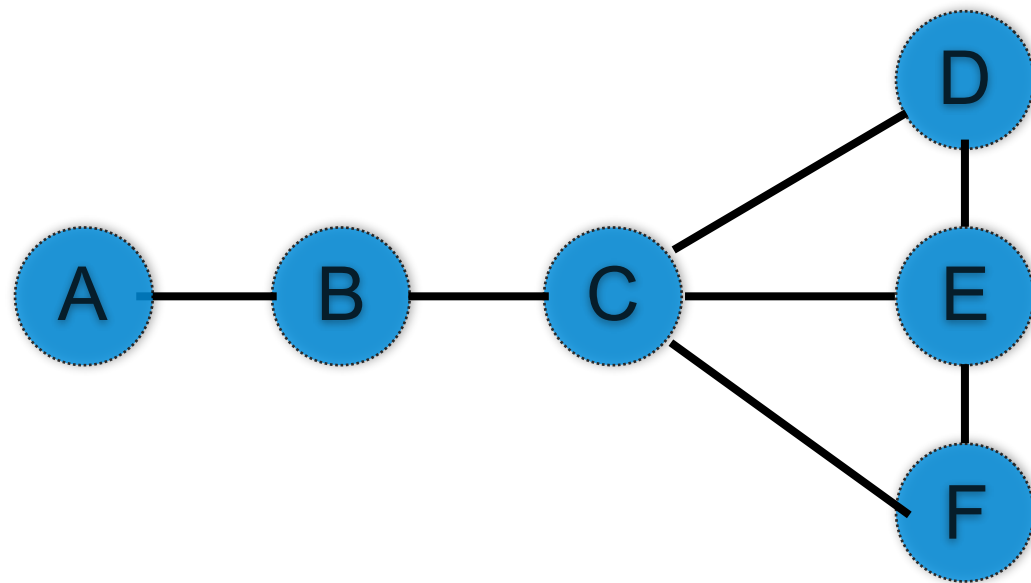


$$V = \{A; B; C; D\}$$

$$E = \{(A,B); (A,C); (B,C); (B,D); (C,D)\}$$

# Undirected Graph

**Undirected graph** is a network where the relationship between nodes are symmetric.

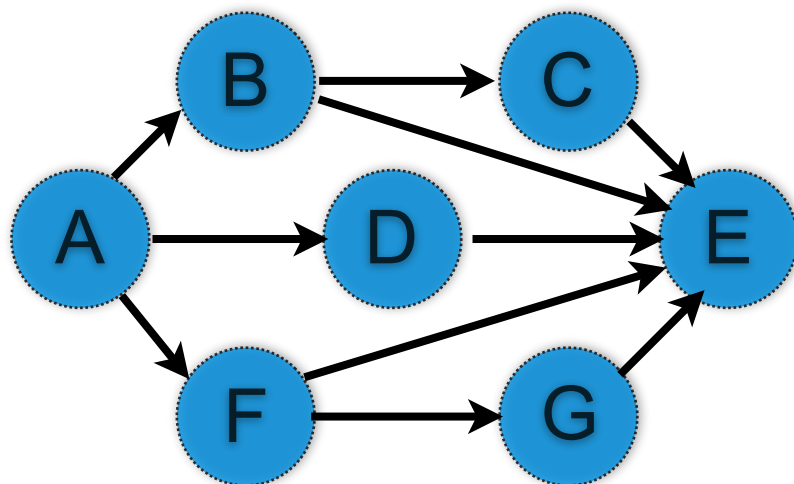
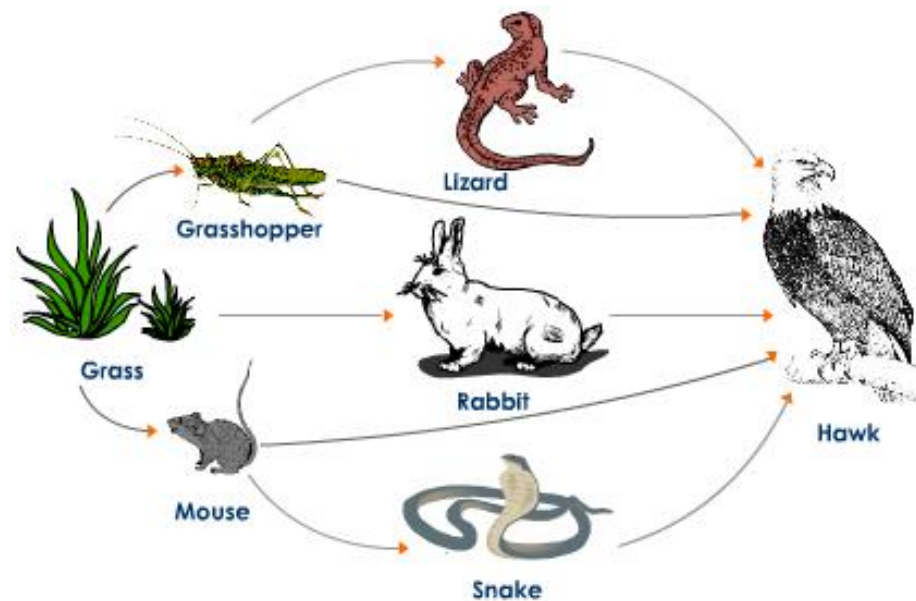


$V = \{\text{Group of People}\}$

$E = \{\text{Pairs of Friends}\}$

# Directed Graph

**Directed graph** is a network where the relationship between nodes are asymmetric. In this case the edges are directed lines.

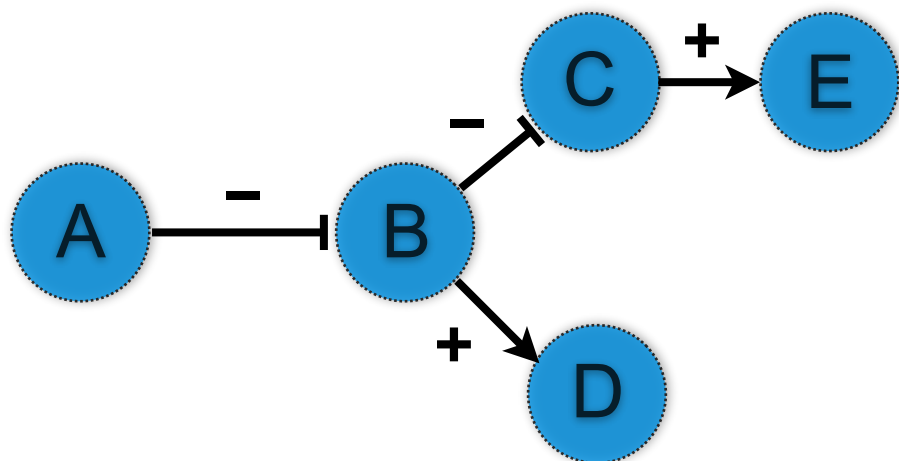
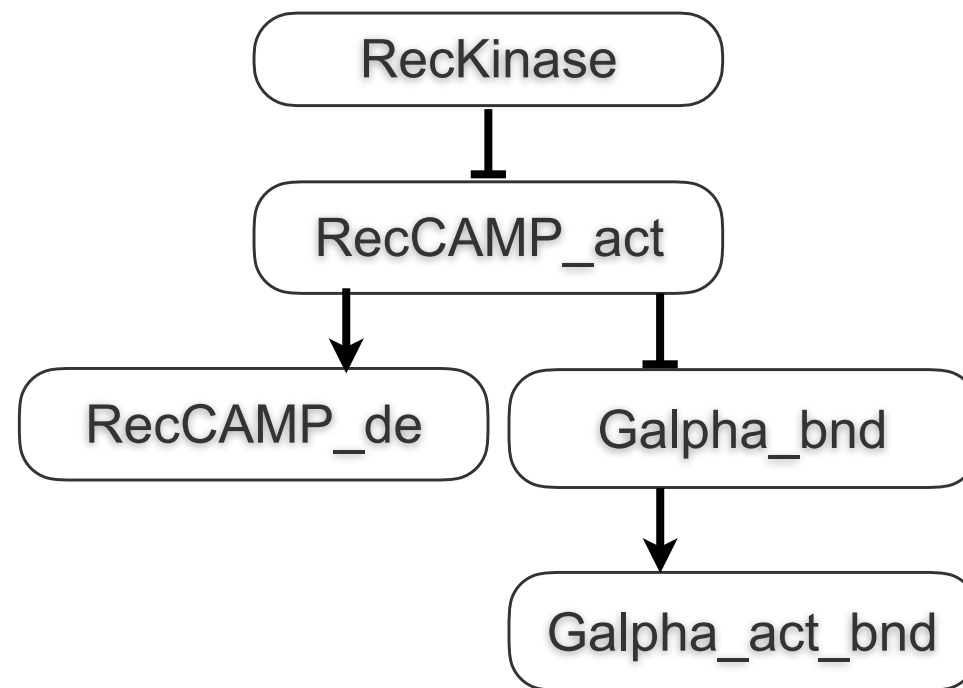


$V = \{\text{Group of Animals}\}$

$E = \{\text{Prey/Predator Relationships}\}$

# Signed Directed Graph

**Signed Directed graph** is a network where the relationship between nodes are asymmetric and have positive or negative associated signs



$V = \{\text{Group of Genes}\}$

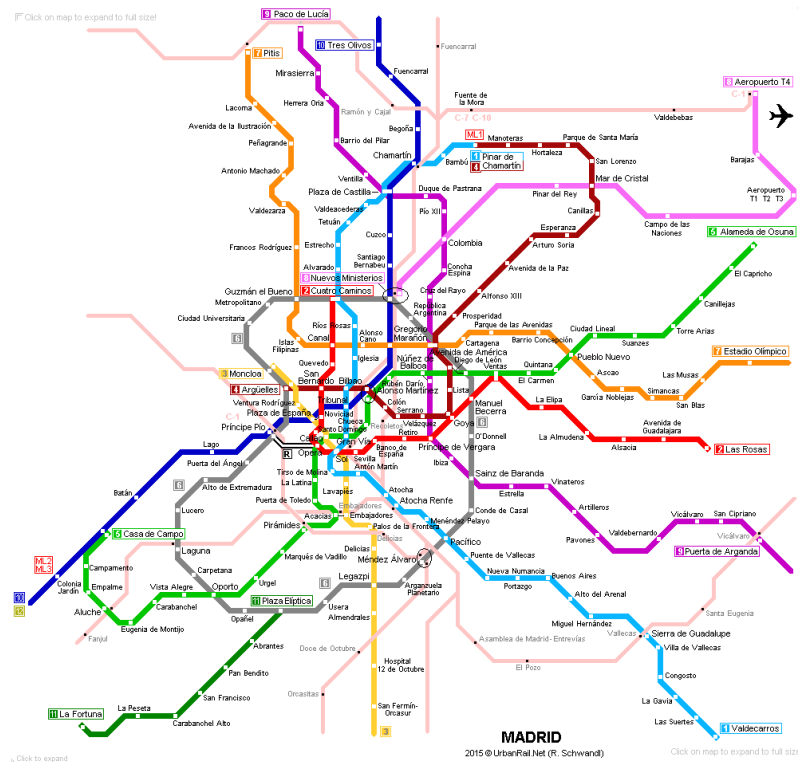
$E = \{\text{Activation/Inhibition Relationships}\}$



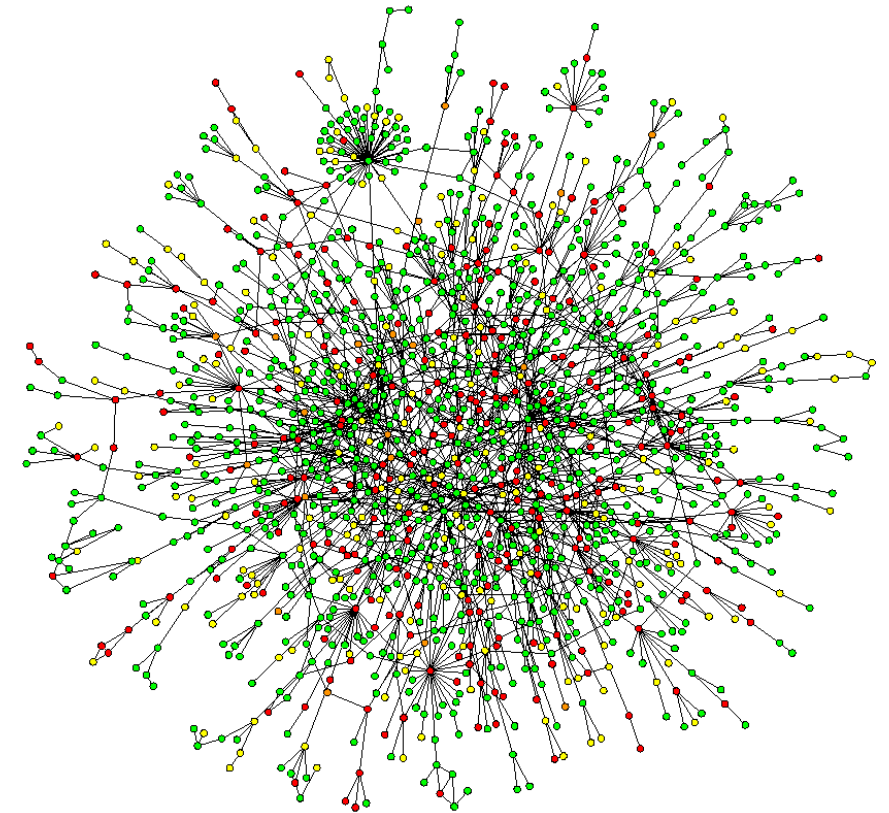
# Graph and Networks

Graphs can be used to represent any observed network.

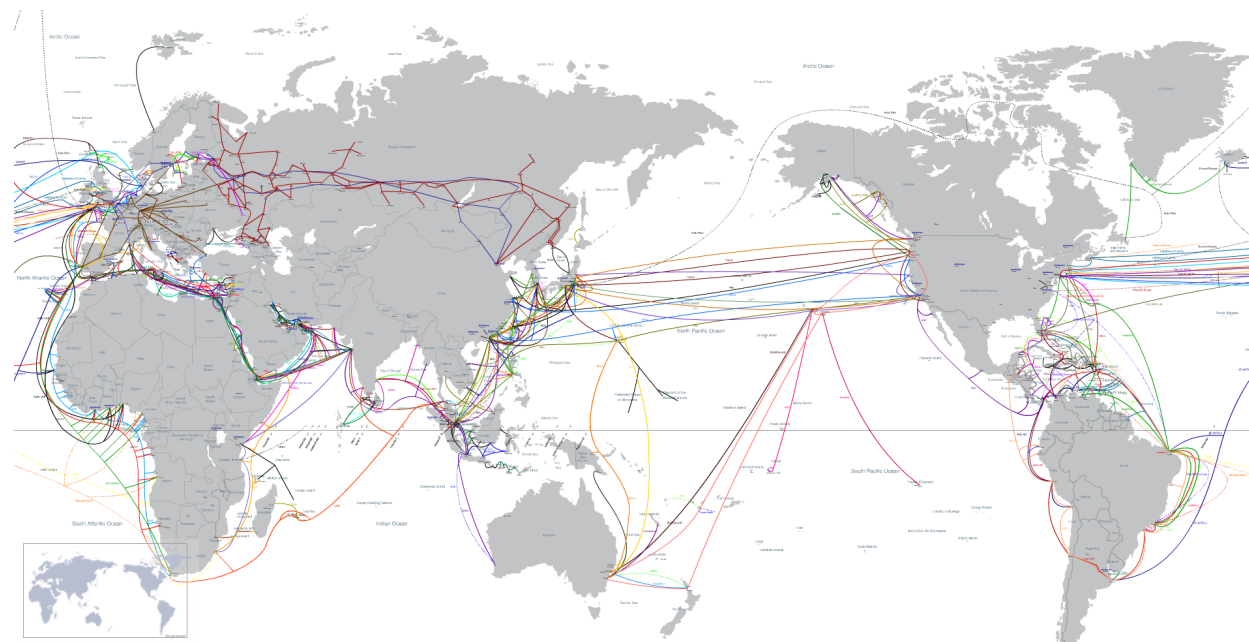
Networks in nature tend to be highly complex



*Internet connections*



*Madrid Metro*

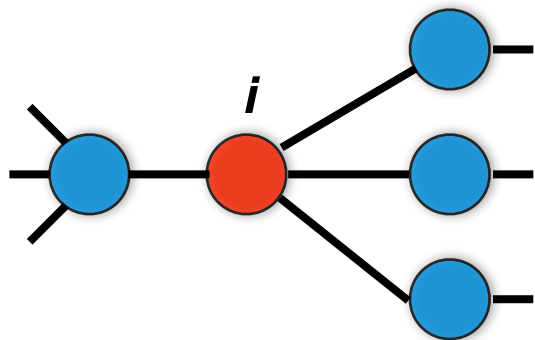


*Yeast interactome*

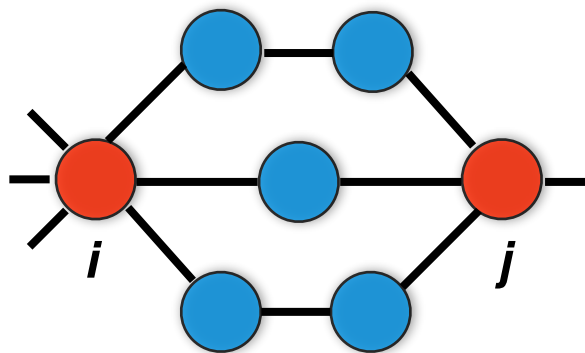


# Network properties (I)

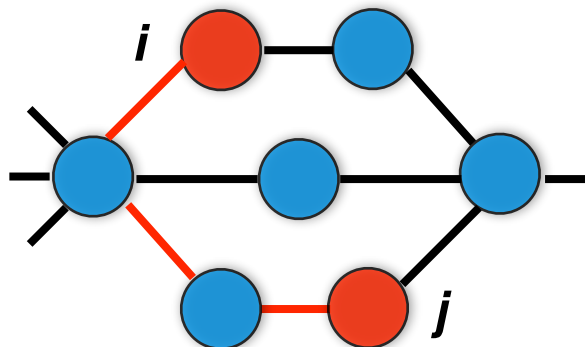
The **topology** of the network **defines its properties**. The level of **connectivity** among the nodes **depends on the number of edges**.



Degree  $k_i$  = number of links connected to node  $i$



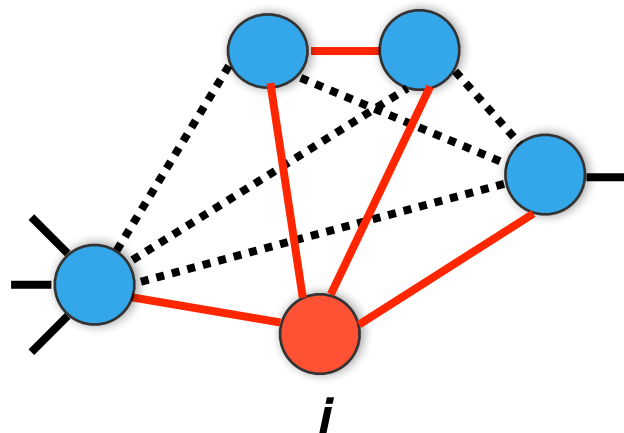
Distance  $d_{ij}$  = shortest path between nodes  $i$  and  $j$



Diameter  $D$  = longest path between all pairs of nodes

# Network properties (II)

The **topology** of the network **defines its properties**. The level of **connectivity** among the nodes **depends on the number of edges**.

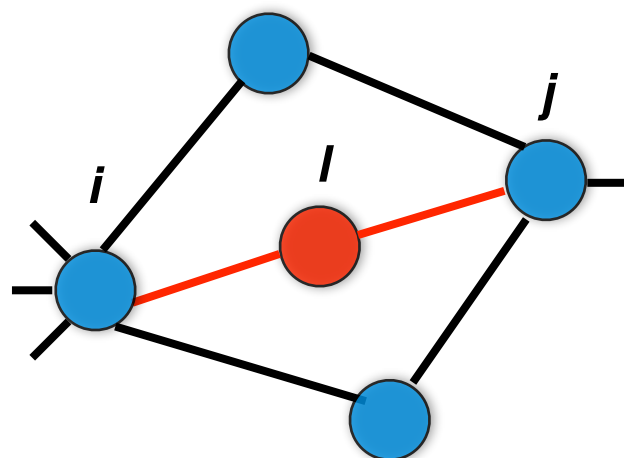


Transitivity  
or  
Clustering  
Coefficient

$$c_i = \frac{2e_i}{k_i(k_i - 1)}$$

$k_i$  = number of nodes connected to  $i$

$e_i$  = number of edges between the  $k_i$  nodes



Betweenness

$$g_l = \sum_{i \neq l \neq j} \frac{\sigma_{ij}(l)}{\sigma_{ij}}$$

$\sigma_{in}$  = number of shortest path between  $i$  and  $j$

$\sigma_{ij}(l)$  = number of shortest path passing through node  $l$

# Types of Network

The **topology** of the network depends on the **distribution of the degree** for all the nodes.

We can define three types of network:

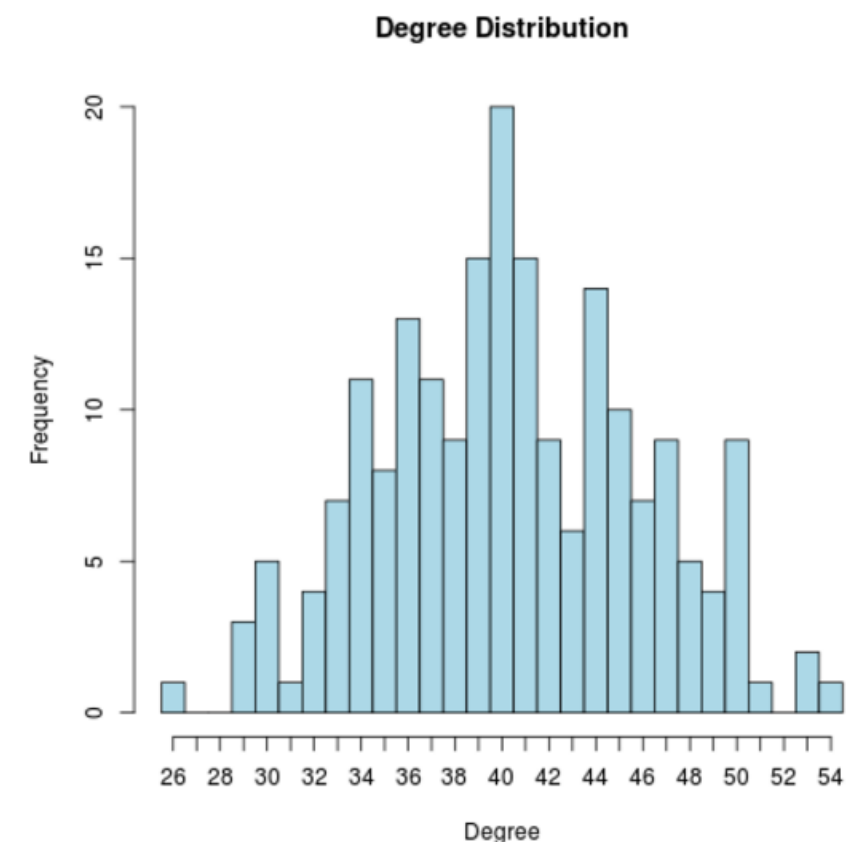
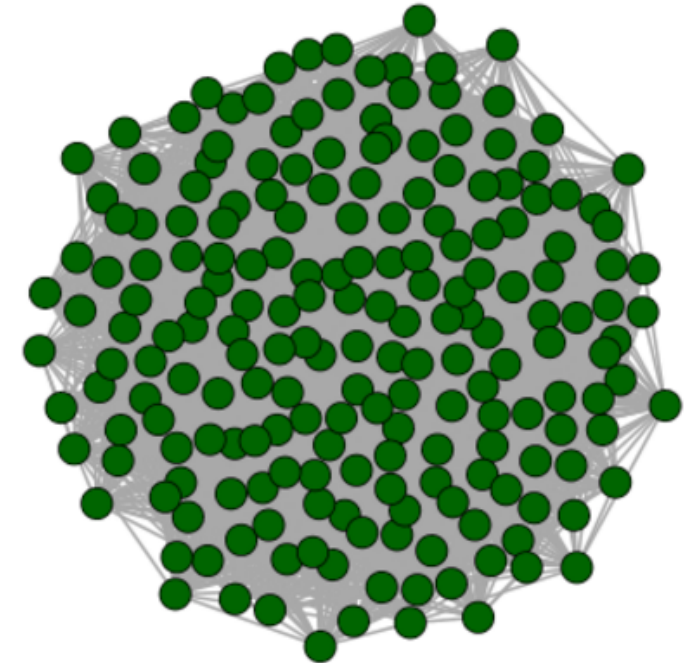
- **Random network**: generated by a constant probability of having a edge between two nodes.
- **Small-world network**: when the degrees follow a Poisson distribution
- **Scale-Free network**: the degrees follow a Power Law distribution

# Random Network

Can be generated by Erdős–Rényi model which assume a **constant probability of generating edges** between nodes.

- High node degree  $\Rightarrow$  **low average path length**
- Degree **distribution tends to be a Gaussian**
- High Transitivity
- Small Betweenness

Degree = 40.3  
Transitivity = 0.2  
Betweenness = 79.3



# Small-World Network

Generated by a Watts–Strogatz model.

- Low node degree  $\Rightarrow$  “Six degrees of separation”
- Degree follow a Poisson distribution
- Low Transitivity than random
- Higher betweenness than random

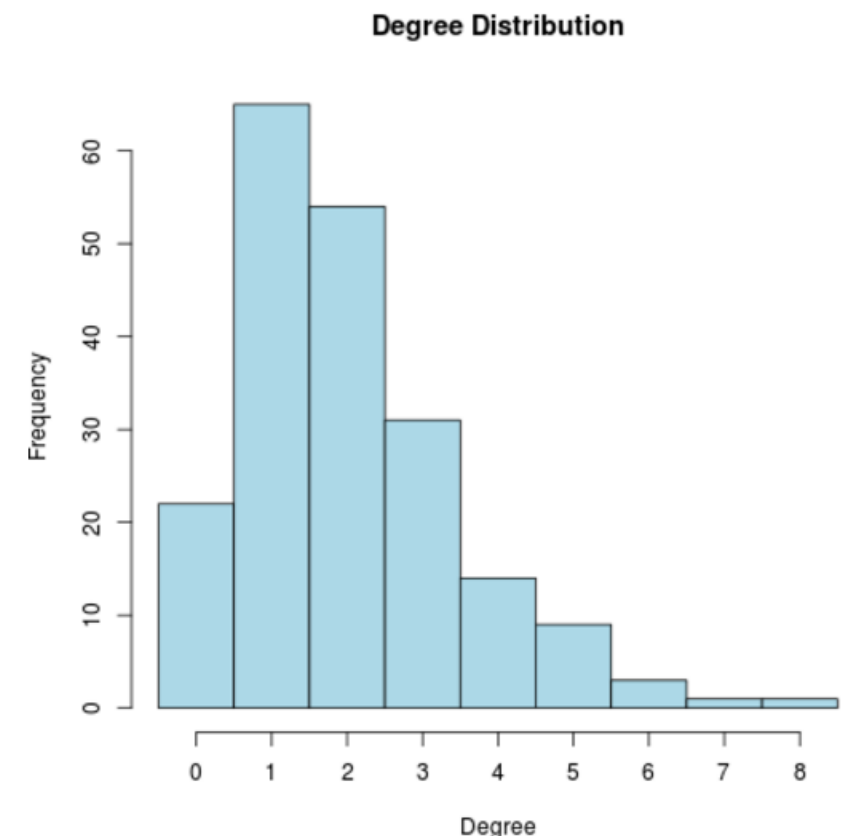
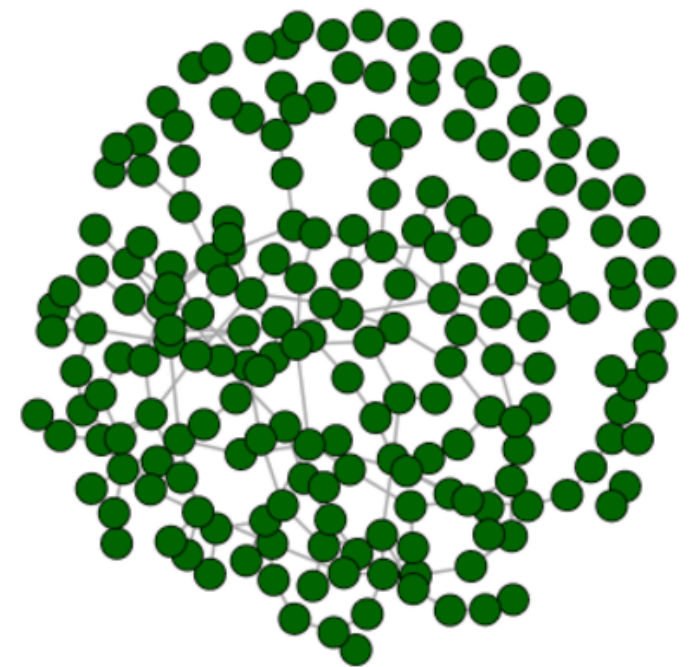
$$p(k) = \frac{\lambda^k e^{-\lambda}}{k!}$$

$\lambda$  = the average value of the distribution  
 $k$  = number of observed events

Degree = 2

Transitivity = 0.01

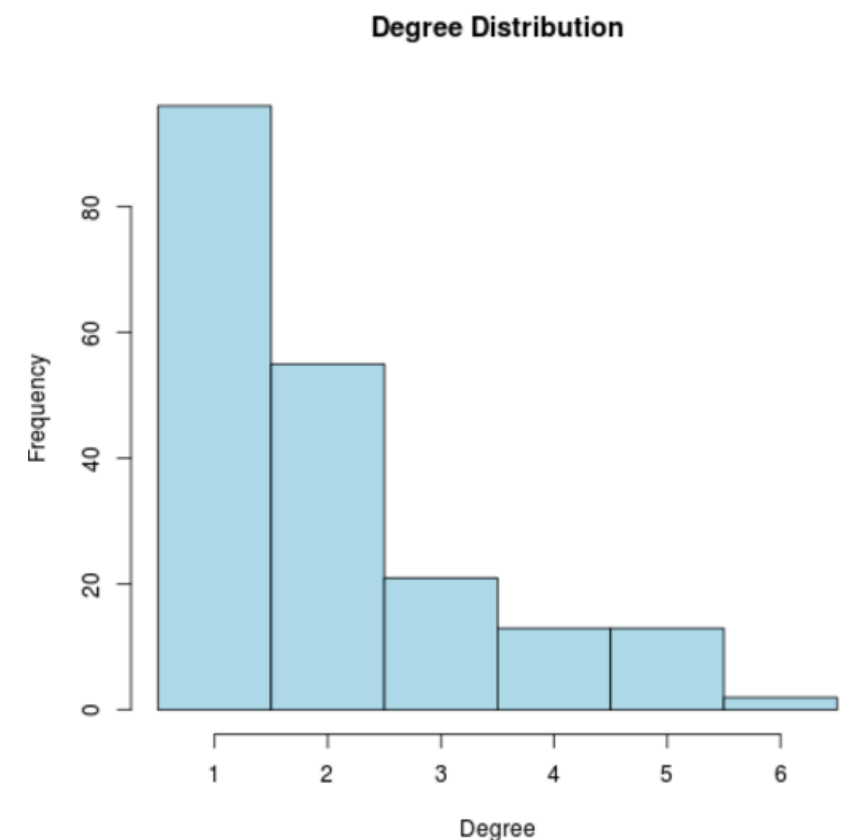
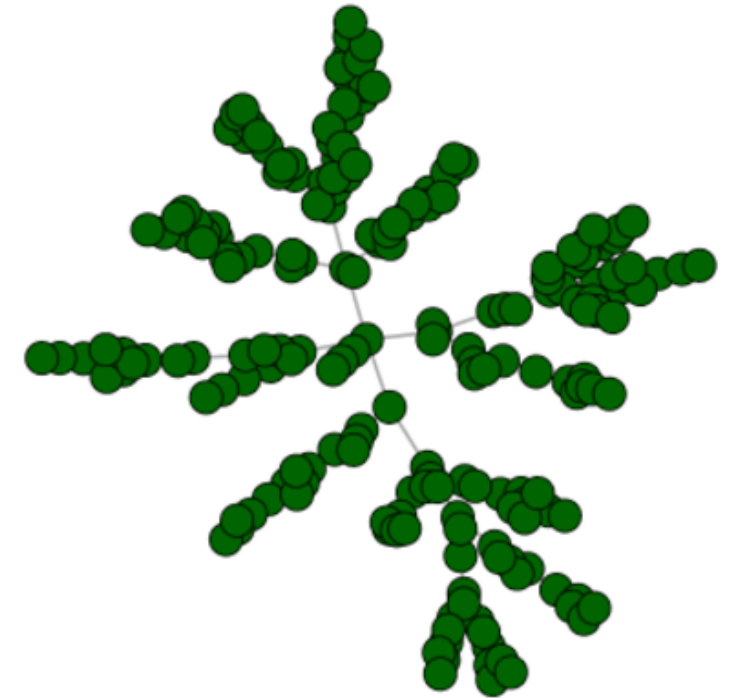
Betweenness = 394.9



# Scale-Free Network

Generated by the Barabasi-Albert model.

- Smallest degree
- Degree follow a Power Law distribution
- Lowest Transitivity
- Highest Betweenness



$$p(k) = Ax^{-k}$$

$x$  = is a constant  
 $k$  = number of observed events

Degree = 2

Transitivity = 0

Betweenness = 753.4



# Biological Network

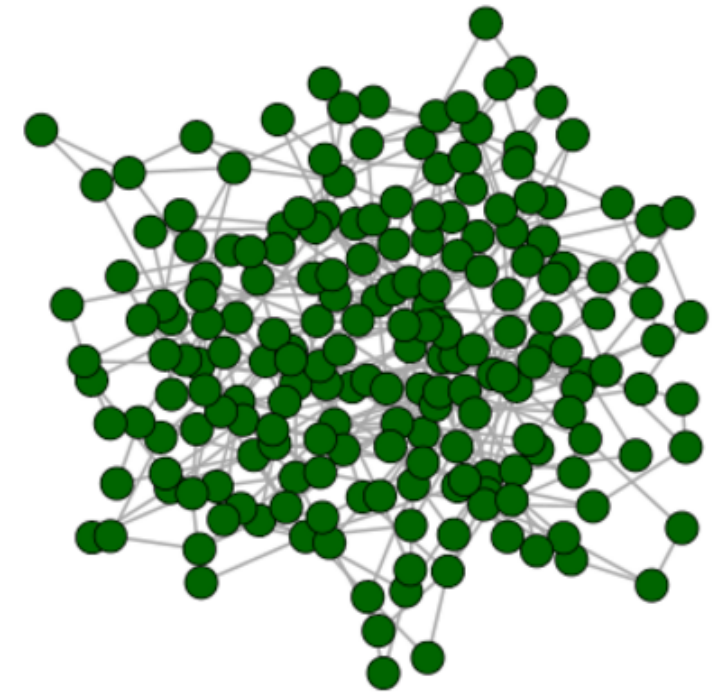
Similar to Small-World and Scale-Free networks

- Small degree
- Average path length proportional to  $\ln(\ln(\#nodes))$
- Transitivity high than Small-World and Scale Free
- Betweenness lower than Small-World and Scale Free

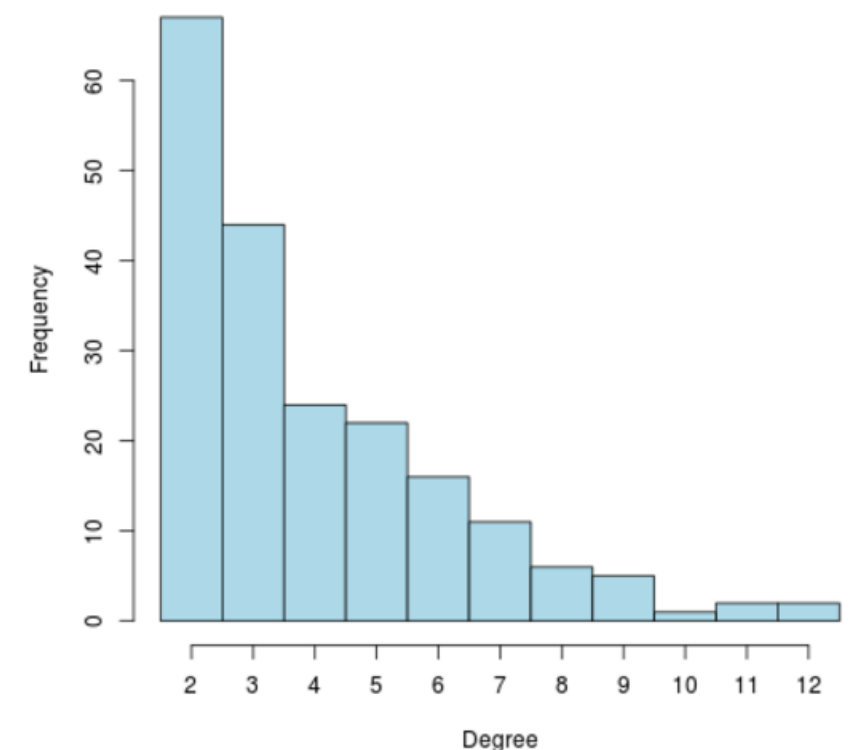
Degree = 4.0

Transitivity = 0.04

Betweenness = 290.4



Degree Distribution



# Python NetworkX

NetworkX is a Python package for the **creation, manipulation, and study** of the structure, dynamics, and functions of **complex networks**.

```
>>> import networkx as nx
```

```
>>> G = nx.Graph()
```

```
>>> G.add_node(1)
```

```
>>> G.add_nodes_from([2, 3]) # add list of nodes
```

```
>>> G.add_edge(1, 2)
```

```
>>> G.add_edges_from([(1, 2), (1, 3)]) # add list of edges
```

```
>>> G.number_of_nodes()
```

```
3
```

```
>>> G.number_of_edges()
```

```
2
```

# Königsberg Graph

NetworkX is a Python package for the **creation, manipulation, and study** of the structure, dynamics, and functions of **complex networks**.

```
>>> import networkx as nx
>>> M = nx.MultiGraph()

>>> M.add_edges_from([(1, 2, {"name": "A"}),
...                   (1, 2, {"name": "B"}), (1, 3, {"name": "C"}),
...                   (1, 3, {"name": "D"}), (1, 4, {"name": "E"}),
...                   (3, 4, {"name": "F"}), (2, 4, {"name": "G"})])

>>> M = M.degree(1)
```

# Network generators

Networkx has function that generate standard network types

```
>>> import networkx as nx  
>>> import matplotlib as plt
```

```
>>> er = nx.erdos_renyi_graph(100, 0.15)  
>>> ws = nx.watts_strogatz_graph(30, 3, 0.1)  
>>> ba = nx.barabasi_albert_graph(100, 5)
```

```
>>> nx.draw(nx)  
>>> plt.show()
```

# Network Analysis

Networkx allow to calculate several measures to characterize the topology of the network

```
>>> list(nx.connected_components(G))
```

```
>>> nx.betweenness_centrality(G)
```

```
>>> nx.clustering(G)
```

```
>>> nx.shortest_path(G, source, target)
```

```
>>> paths=dict(nx.all_pairs_shortest_path(G))
```

```
>>> paths[source][target]
```

# Exercise

Generate the three types of network (random, "small world" and "scale free" ) and calculate the distribution of the degree, betweenness and clustering.

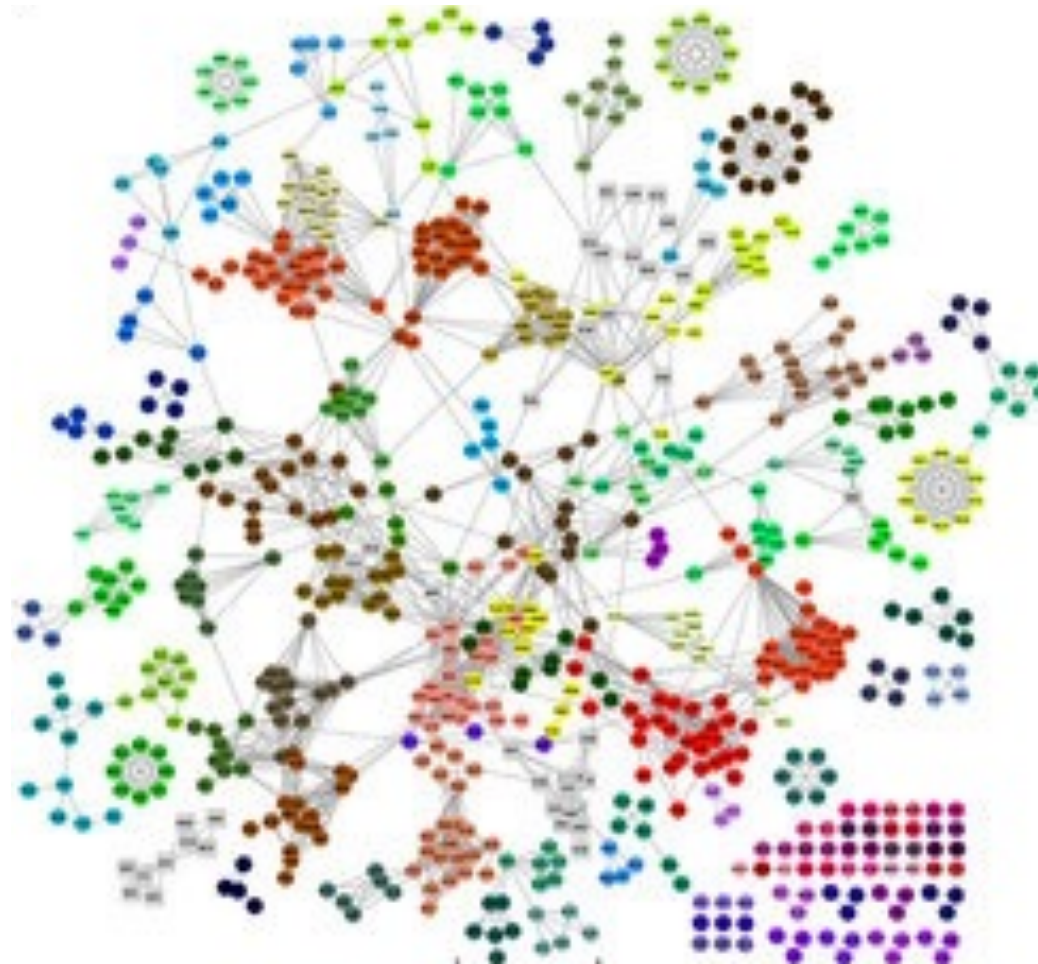
From BioGRID download the Yeast interactome and analyze it with networkx importing only a list of unique interactions from the following file:  
<http://biocomp.unibo.it/emidio/tmp/biogrid-yeast-mitab.txt.gz>

- How many components are present?
- What is the gene with highest degree?
- What is the the average values of degrees, betweenness and clustering?



# Community or Cluster

One of the main feature of the biological network is the **presence of communities or clusters**.

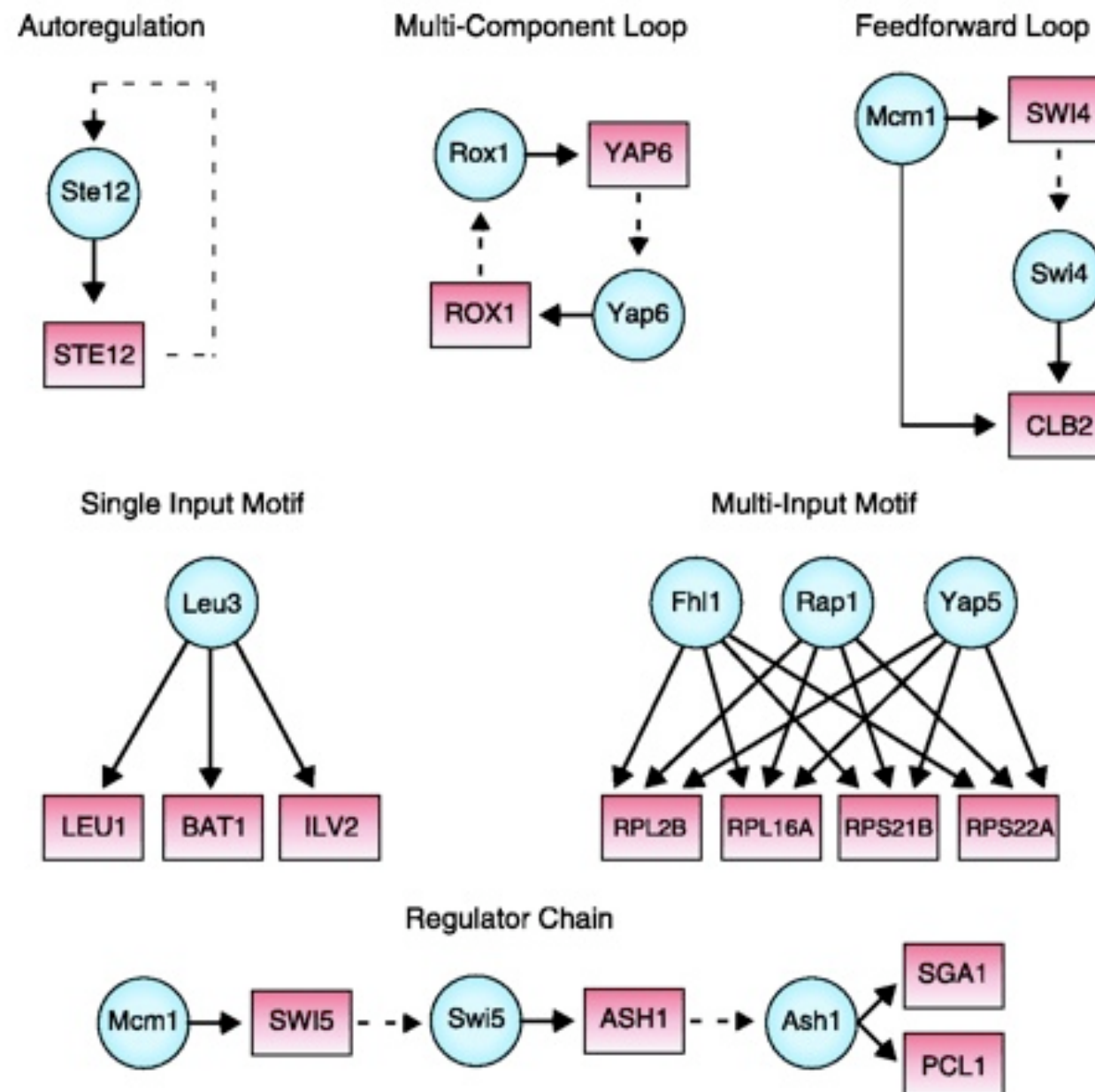


*Gaiter, Scientific Reports 2015*

Cluster are important to detect similarity between nodes (genes, diseases, etc) in the same cluster.

# Network Motifs

Network analysis is important for detecting **network motifs**, which are recurrent and statistically significant sub-graphs or patterns.



# Network Robustness

**Robustness, the ability to withstand failures and perturbations.** It is a critical attribute of many complex systems including biological networks.

Robustness is tested **removing nodes** and checking if **connections** between the remaining nodes **are conserved**. This is possible because may exist alternative paths between two distinct nodes.

**Biological networks persists** despite the environmental noise, mutations etc.

Telecommunication networks resist to the attack of hackers and hardware failure

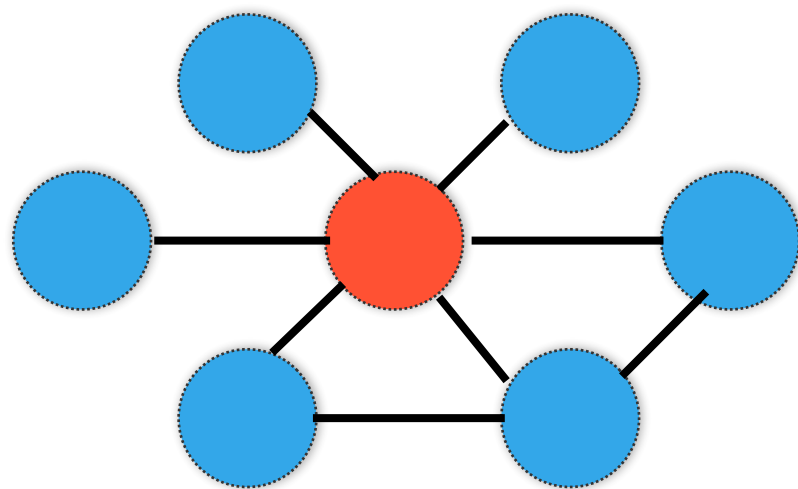
# Network Attack

For random networks the effect of removing a single node is on average the same.

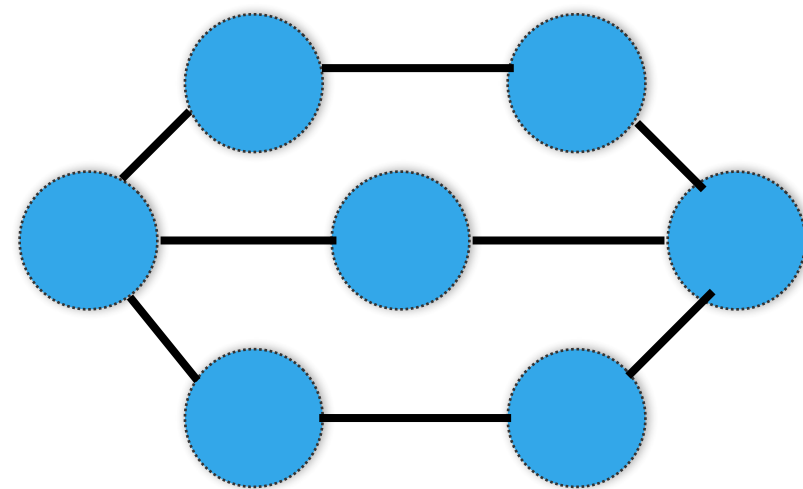
Biological networks are characterized by a small fraction of nodes with high degree (hubs)

An attack that aims to a hub has strong effect on the connectivity of the network.

In normal situation we assume that attacks are random. Thus, on average, an attack should have smaller effect on Biological Network.



Biological network

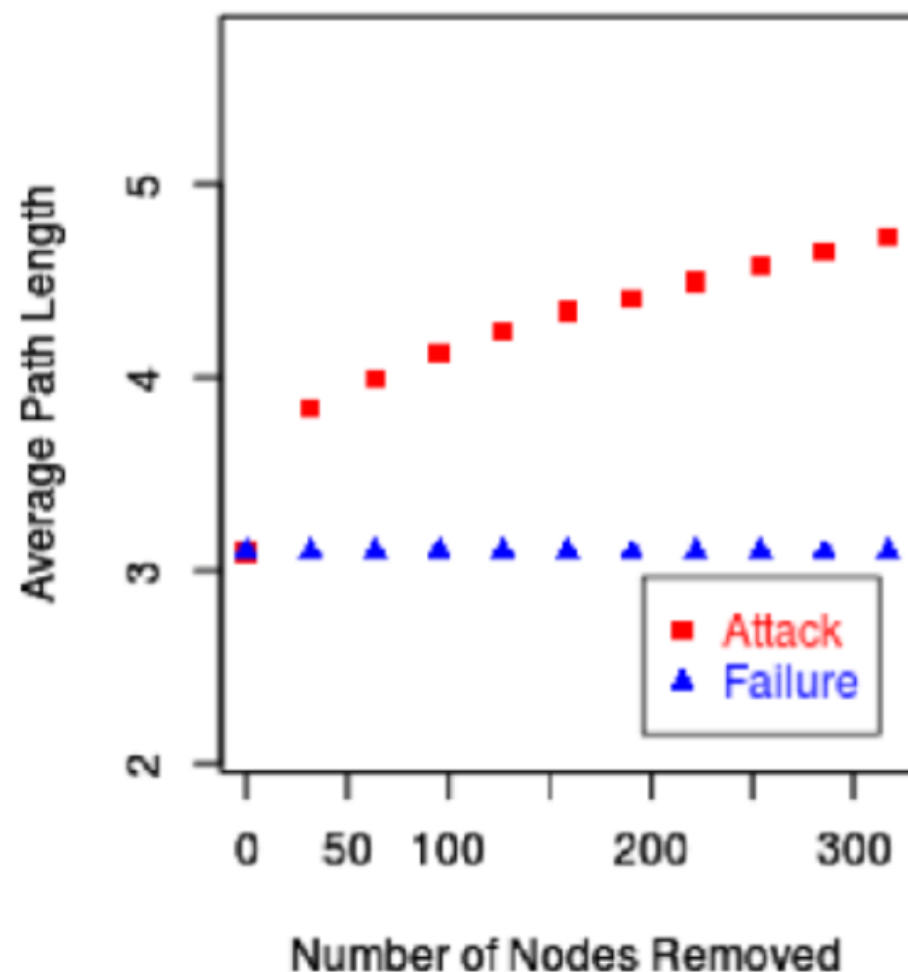


Random network

# Multiple attacks

Removing **small number of nodes has less impact on biological network** with respect to random network. Stronger effect is shown when the number of affected nodes increases.

## Homo Sapiens



## Random Network

