CMU SCS

15-826: Multimedia Databases and Data Mining

Lecture #8: Fractals - introduction

C. Faloutsos

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Must-read Material

- Christos Faloutsos and Ibrahim Kamel, *Beyond Uniformity and Independence: Analysis of R-trees Using the Concept of Fractal Dimension*, Proc. ACM SIGACT-SIGMOD-SIGART PODS, May 1994, pp. 4-13, Minneapolis, MN.

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Recommended Material

optional, but **very** useful:

- Manfred Schroeder *Fractals, Chaos, Power Laws: Minutes from an Infinite Paradise* W.H. Freeman and Company, 1991
  - Chapter 10: boxcounting method
  - Chapter 1: Sierpinski triangle

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Outline

Goal: 'Find similar / interesting things'

- Intro to DB
- Indexing - similarity search
- Data Mining

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Indexing - Detailed outline

- primary key indexing
- secondary key / multi-key indexing
- spatial access methods
  - z-ordering
  - R-trees
  - misc
- fractals
  - intro
  - applications
- text

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Intro to fractals - outline

- Motivation – 3 problems / case studies
- Definition of fractals and power laws
- Solutions to posed problems
- More examples and tools
- Discussion - putting fractals to work!
- Conclusions – practitioner's guide
- Appendix: gory details - boxcounting plots

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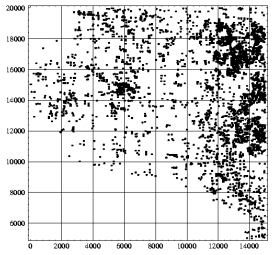
Problem #1: GIS - points



Road end-points of Montgomery county:

•Q1: how many d.a. for an R-tree?

•Q2 : distribution?

- •not uniform
- •not Gaussian
- •no rules??

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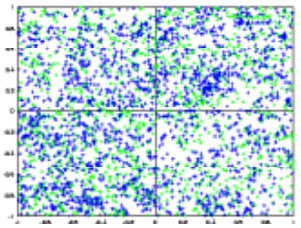
Problem #2 - spatial d.m.

Galaxies (Sloan Digital Sky Survey w/ B. Nichol)



- 'spiral' and 'elliptical' galaxies

(stores and households ...)

- patterns?

- attraction/repulsion?

- how many 'spi' within r from an 'ell'?

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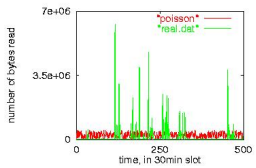
Problem #3: traffic

 # bytes



time

- disk trace (from HP - J. Wilkes); Web traffic - fit a model
- how many explosions to expect?
- queue length distr.?

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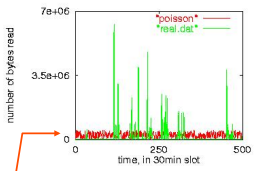
Problem #3: traffic

 # bytes



time

Poisson indep., ident. distr

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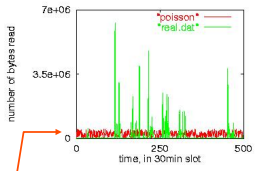
Problem #3: traffic

 # bytes



time

~~**Poisson indep., ident. distr**~~

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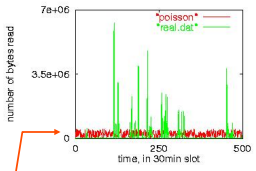
Problem #3: traffic

 # bytes



time

~~**Poisson indep., ident. distr**~~

Q: Then, how to generate such bursty traffic?

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Common answer:

- Fractals / self-similarities / power laws
- Seminal works from Hilbert, Minkowski, Cantor, Mandelbrot, (Hausdorff, Lyapunov, Ken Wilson, …)

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Road map

- Motivation – 3 problems / case studies
- Definition of fractals and power laws
- Solutions to posed problems
- More examples and tools
- Discussion - putting fractals to work!
- Conclusions – practitioner's guide
- Appendix: gory details - boxcounting plots

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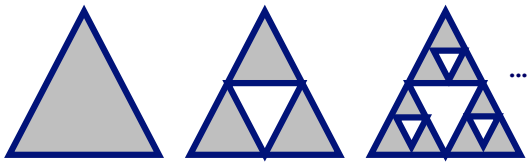
What is a fractal?

= self-similar point set, e.g., Sierpinski triangle:



... → **zero area; infinite length!**

Dimensionality??

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Definitions (cont'd)

- Paradox: Infinite perimeter ; Zero area!
- 'dimensionality': between 1 and 2
- actually: Log(3)/Log(2) = 1.58...

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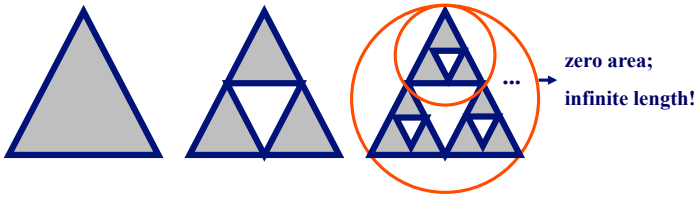
Dfn of fd:

ONLY for a perfectly self-similar point set:



=log(n)/log(f) = log(3)/log(2) = 1.58

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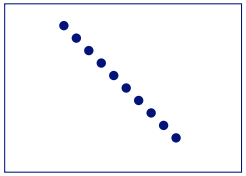
Intrinsic ('fractal') dimension

- Q: fractal dimension of a line?
- A: 1 (= log(2)/log(2)!)



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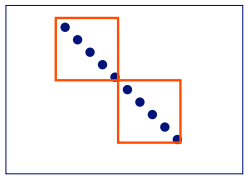

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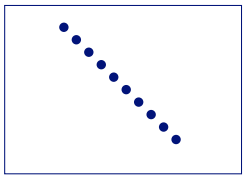
Intrinsic ('fractal') dimension

- Q: dfn for a given set of points?



x	y
5	1
4	2
3	3
2	4

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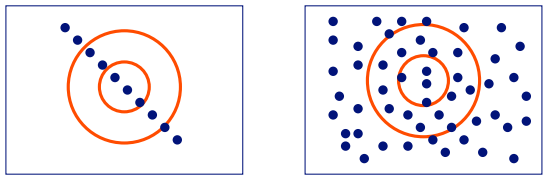
Intrinsic ('fractal') dimension

- Q: fractal dimension of a line?
- A: nn (<= r) ~ r^1

('power law' : y=x^a)

- Q: fd of a plane?
- A: nn (<= r) ~ r^2

fd== slope of (log(nn) vs log(r))



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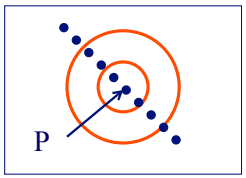
EXPLANATIONS

Intrinsic ('fractal') dimension

- **Local** fractal dimension of point 'P'?
- A: nn_P (<= r) ~ r^1



- If this equation holds for several values of r,
- Then, the **local fractal dimension** of point P:
- Local fd = exp = 1

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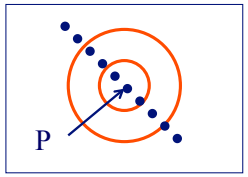
EXPLANATIONS

Intrinsic ('fractal') dimension

- **Local** fractal dimension of point 'A'?
- A: nn_P (<= r) ~ r^1



- If this is true for all points of the cloud
- Then the exponent is the **global** f.d.
- Or simply the f.d.

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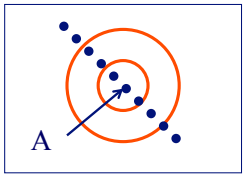
EXPLANATIONS

Intrinsic ('fractal') dimension

- **Global** fractal dimension?
- A: if
- sum_{all_P} [nn_P (<= r)] ~ r^1
- Then: exp = global f.d.



- If this is true for all points of the cloud
- Then the exponent is the **global** f.d.
- Or simply the f.d.

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EXPLANATIONS

Intrinsic ('fractal') dimension

- Algorithm, to estimate it?

Notice

- Sum_{all_P} [nn_P (<=r)] is exactly *tot#pairs(<=r)*

including 'mirror' pairs

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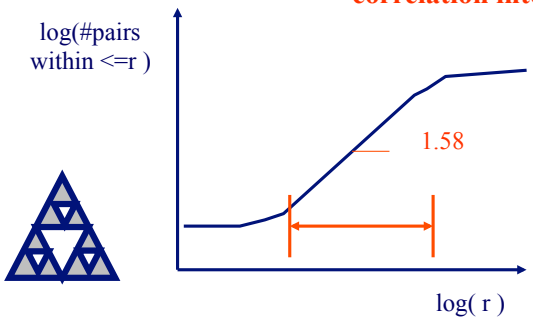
Sierpinsky triangle

== 'correlation integral'



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Observations:

- Euclidean objects have **integer** fractal dimensions
  - point: 0
  - lines and smooth curves: 1
  - smooth surfaces: 2
- fractal dimension -> roughness of the periphery

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Important properties

- fd = embedding dimension -> uniform pointset
- a point set may have several fd, depending on scale

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Important properties

- fd = embedding dimension -> uniform pointset
- a point set may have several fd, depending on scale

2-d

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Important properties

- fd = embedding dimension -> uniform pointset
- a point set may have several fd, depending on scale

1-d

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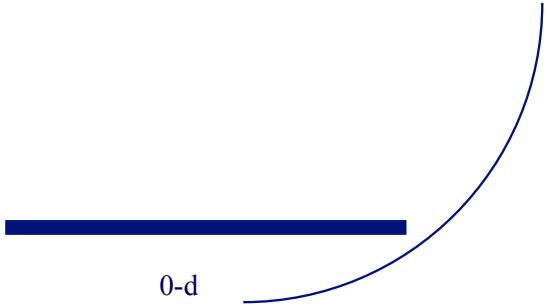
Important properties



0-d

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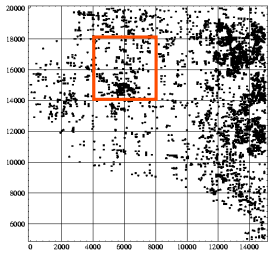
Problem #1: GIS points



Cross-roads of Montgomery county:

•any rules?

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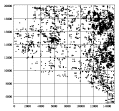
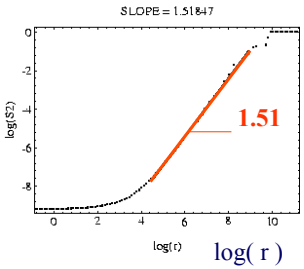
Solution #1



log(#pairs(within <= r))



log(r)

A: self-similarity ->

- <=> fractals
- <=> scale-free
- <=> power-laws (y=x^a, F=C*r^(-2))
- avg#neighbors(<= r) = r^D

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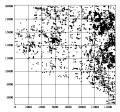
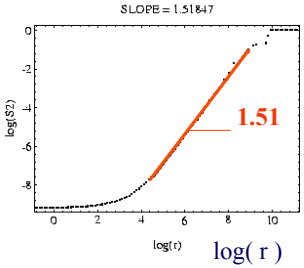
Solution #1



log(#pairs(within <= r))



log(r)

A: self-similarity

- avg#neighbors(<= r) ~ r^(1.51)

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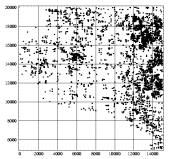
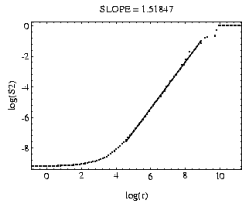
Examples:MG county

- Montgomery County of MD (road end-points)





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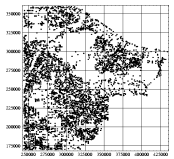
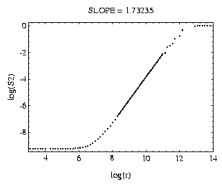
Examples:LB county

- Long Beach county of CA (road end-points)





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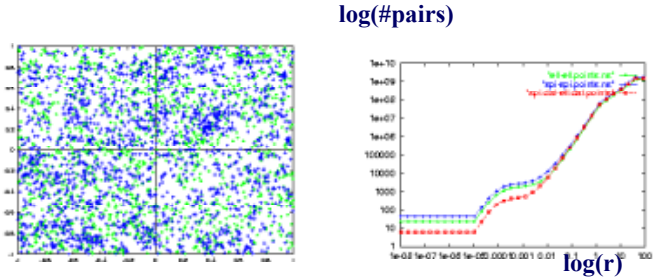
Solution#2: spatial d.m.

Galaxies ('BOPS' plot - [sigmod2000])



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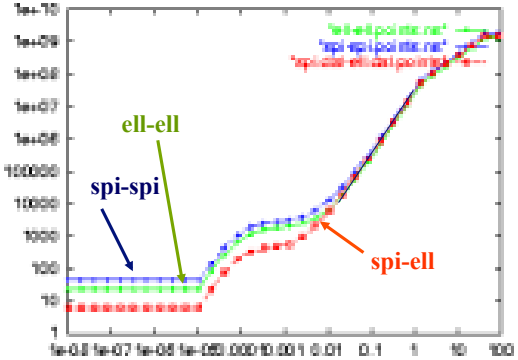
Solution#2: spatial d.m.

log(#pairs within <=r)



- 1.8 slope
- plateau!
- repulsion!

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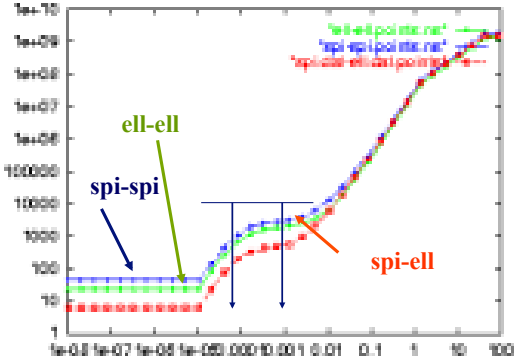
Spatial d.m.

log(#pairs within <=r)



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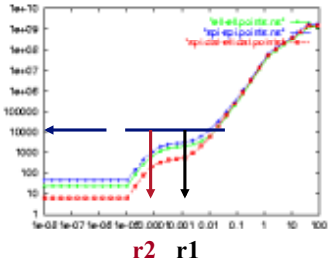
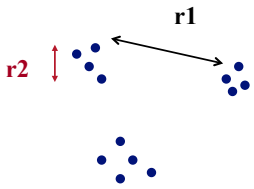
Spatial d.m.



r2 r1



Heuristic on choosing # of clusters

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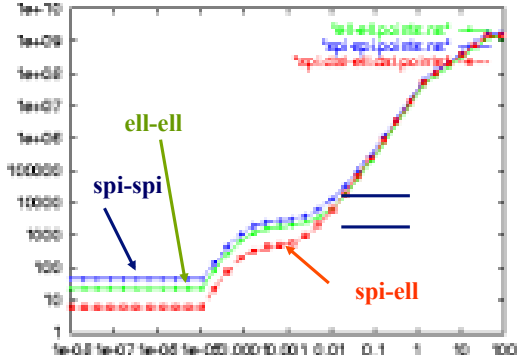
Spatial d.m.

log(#pairs within <=r)



- 1.8 slope
- plateau!
- repulsion!

log(r)

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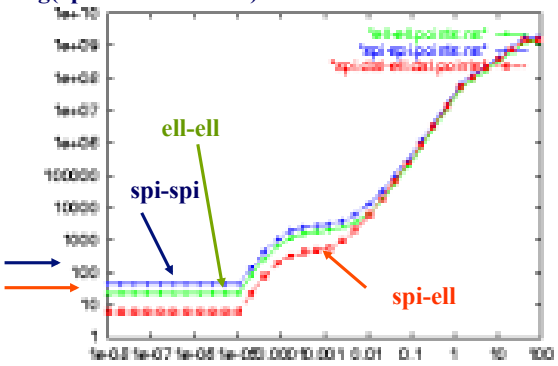
Spatial d.m.

log(#pairs within <=r)



- 1.8 slope
- plateau!
-repulsion!!
-duplicates

log(r)

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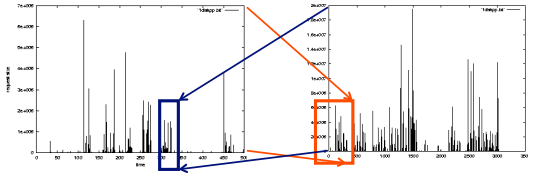
Solution #3: traffic

- disk traces: self-similar:

#bytes



time

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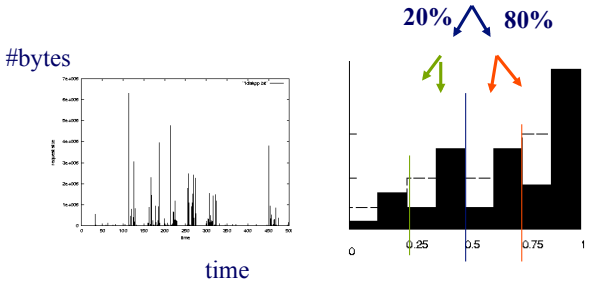
Solution #3: traffic

- disk traces (80-20 'law' = 'multifractal')



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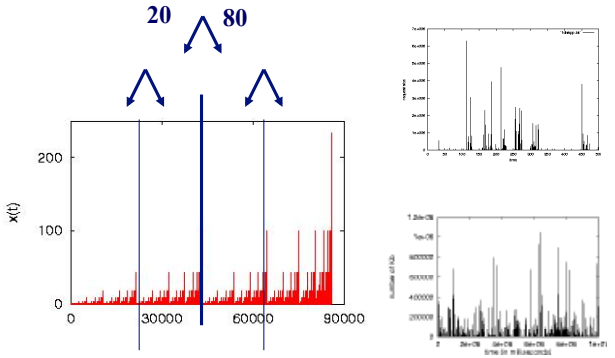
80-20 / multifractals



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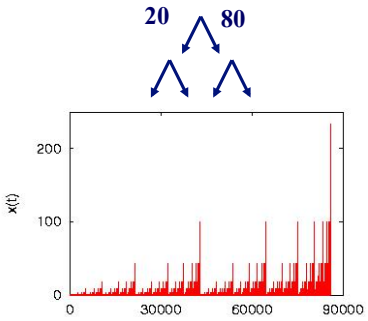
80-20 / multifractals



- p ; (1-p) in general
- **yes, there are dependencies**

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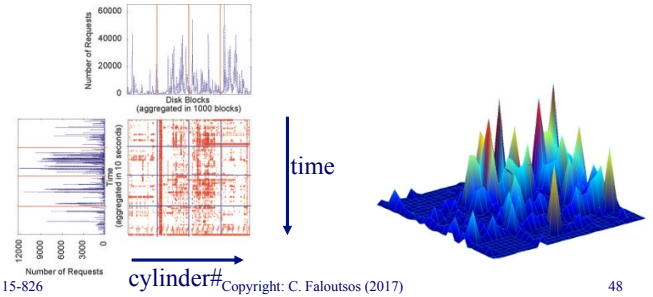
More on 80/20: PQRS

- Part of 'self-* storage' project [Wang+' 02]



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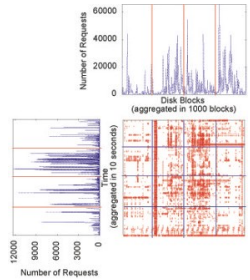
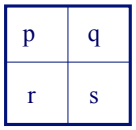
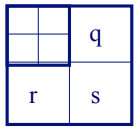
More on 80/20: PQRS

- Part of 'self-* storage' project [Wang+' 02]







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Solution#3: traffic

Clarification:

- fractal: a set of points that is self-similar
- multifractal: a probability density function that is self-similar

Many other time-sequences are bursty/ clustered: (such as?)

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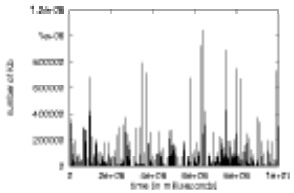
Example:

- network traffic



http://repository.cs.vt.edu/lbl-conn-7.tar.Z

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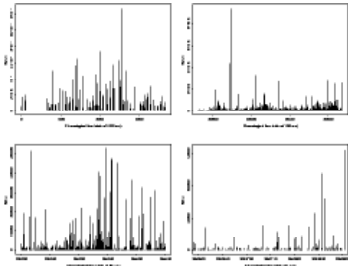
Web traffic

- [Crovella Bestavros, SIGMETRICS' 96]

1000 sec; 100sec
10sec; 1sec



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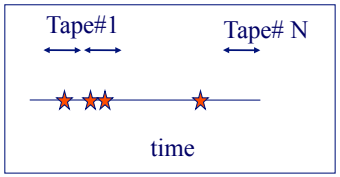
Tape accesses



tapes needed, to retrieve *n* records?

(# days down, due to failures / hurricanes / communication noise...)

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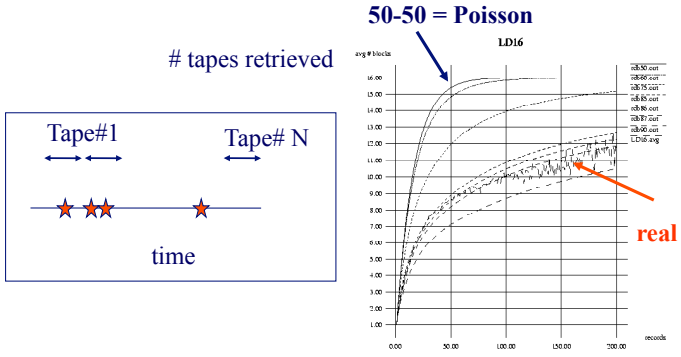
Tape accesses



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Road map

- Motivation – 3 problems / case studies
- Definition of fractals and power laws
- Solutions to posed problems
- More **tools** and examples
- Discussion - putting fractals to work!
- Conclusions – practitioner's guide
- Appendix: gory details - boxcounting plots

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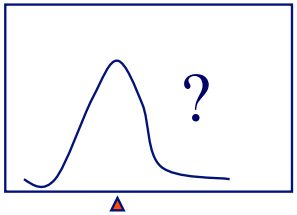
A counter-intuitive example

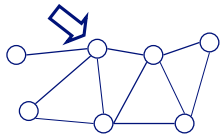
count



avg: 3.3

degree

- avg degree is, say 3.3
- pick a node at random – guess its degree, exactly (-> "mode")



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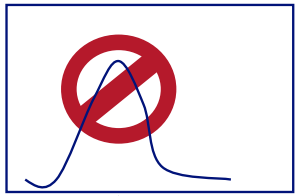
A counter-intuitive example

count



avg: 3.3

degree

- avg degree is, say 3.3
- pick a node at random – guess its degree, exactly (-> "mode")
- A: 1!!

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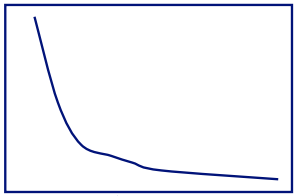
A counter-intuitive example

count



avg: 3.3

degree

- avg degree is, say 3.3
- pick a node at random - what is the degree you expect it to have?
- A: 1!!
- A': very skewed distr.
- Corollary: **the mean is meaningless**!
- (and std -> infinity (!))

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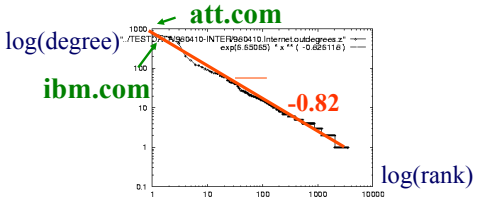
Rank exponent *R*

- Power law in the degree distribution [SIGCOMM99]

internet domains

log(degree)



log(rank)

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More tools

- Zipf's law
- Korcak's law / "fat fractals"

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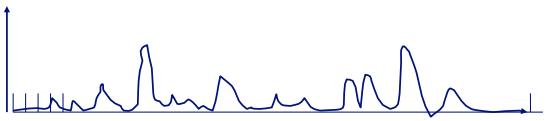
A famous power law: Zipf's law

• Q: vocabulary word frequency in a document - any pattern?

freq.



aaron zoo

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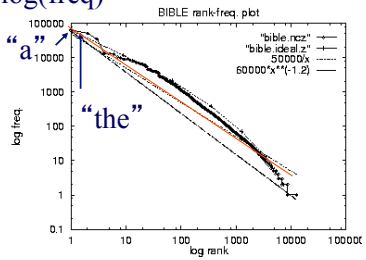
A famous power law: Zipf's law

log(freq)



• Bible - **rank** vs **frequency** (log-log)

log(rank)

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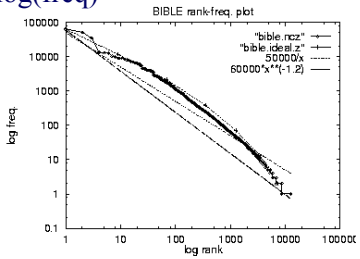
A famous power law: Zipf's law

log(freq)



log(rank)

• Bible - rank vs frequency (log-log)

• similarly, in **many other** languages; for customers and sales volume; city populations etc etc

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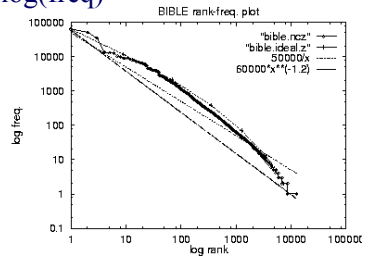
A famous power law: Zipf's law

log(freq)



log(rank)

•Zipf distr:

freq = 1/ rank

•generalized Zipf:

freq = 1 / (rank)^a

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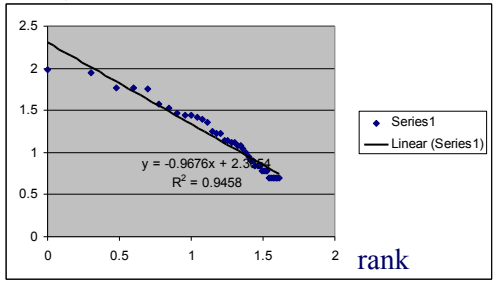
Olympic medals (Sydney):

log(#medals)



rank

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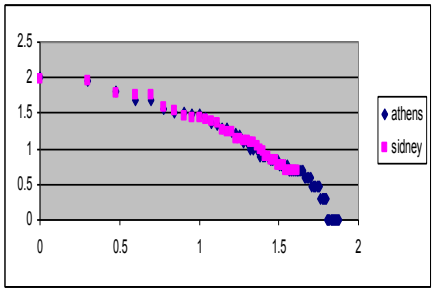
Olympic medals (Sydney' 00, Athens' 04):

log(#medals)



log(rank)

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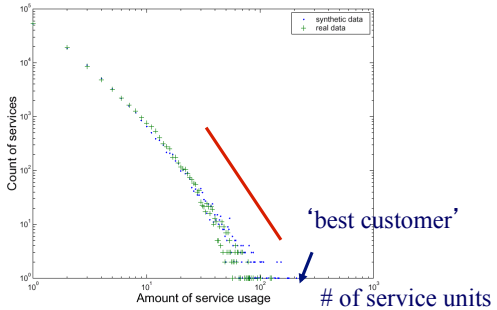
TELCO data

count of customers



'best customer'

# of service units

Count-frequency plot of real and synthetic data

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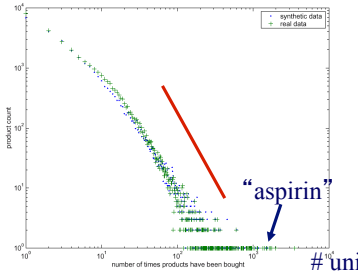
SALES data – store#96

count of products



"aspirin"

units sold

Count-frequency plot for store no. 96.

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More power laws: areas – Korcak's law

Scandinavian lakes

Any pattern?

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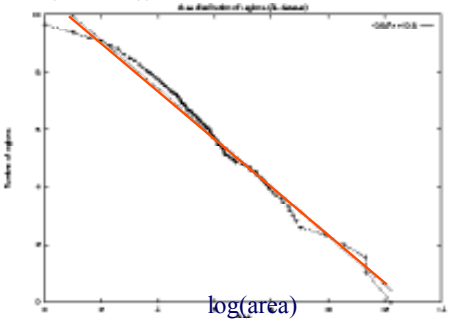
More power laws: areas – Korcak's law

log(count(>= area))

Scandinavian lakes area vs complementary cumulative count (log-log axes)



log(area)

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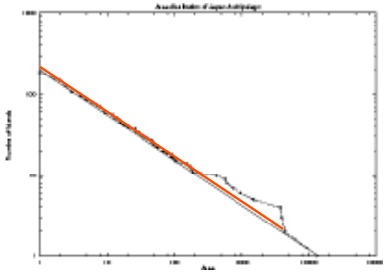
More power laws: Korcak

log(count(>= area))



Japan islands;

area vs cumulative count (log-log axes)

log(area)

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(Korcak's law: Aegean islands)

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Korcak's law & "fat fractals"

How to generate such regions?

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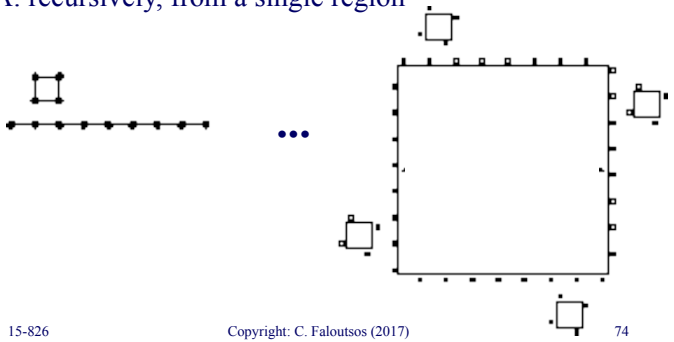
Korcak's law & "fat fractals"

Q: How to generate such regions?
A: recursively, from a single region



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so far we've seen:

- concepts:
  - fractals, multifractals and fat fractals
- tools:
  - correlation integral (= pair-count plot)
  - rank/frequency plot (Zipf's law)
  - CCDF (Korcak's law)

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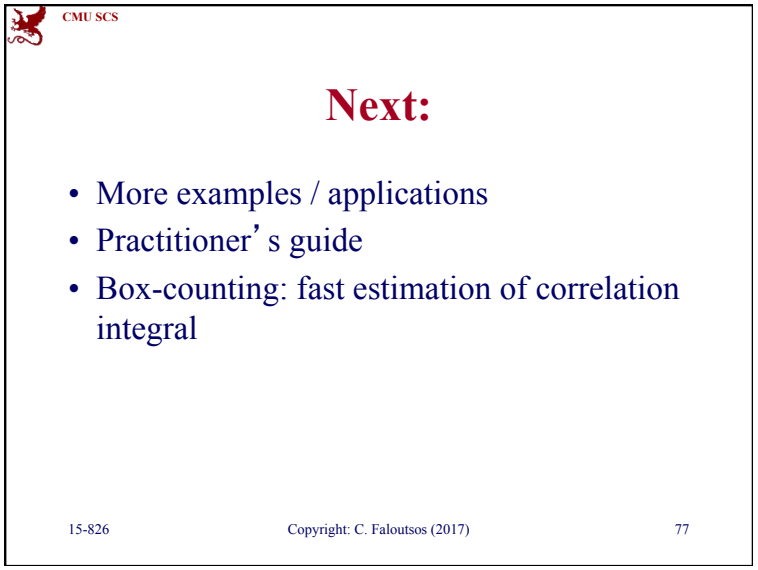
so far we've seen:

- concepts:
  - fractals, multifractals and fat fractals
- tools:
  - correlation integral (= pair-count plot)
  - rank/frequency plot (Zipf's law)
  - CCDF (Korcak's law)

same info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Next:
• More examples / applications
• Practitioner's guide
• Box-counting: fast estimation of correlation integral
15-826
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