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Term Project: Percolation transition of the E-R graph

1. **Introduction:**

The project aims to study the percolation transition of the E-R graph numerically. In this project, I will examine the scaling of the size of the largest connected component with the linking probability *(p)* at the critical point. At the same time, I also want to examine the scaling of the size of the largest connected component with the system size *(N)* at the critical point. The data was all collected through networkx ran on either Jupyter Notebook or Google Colab.

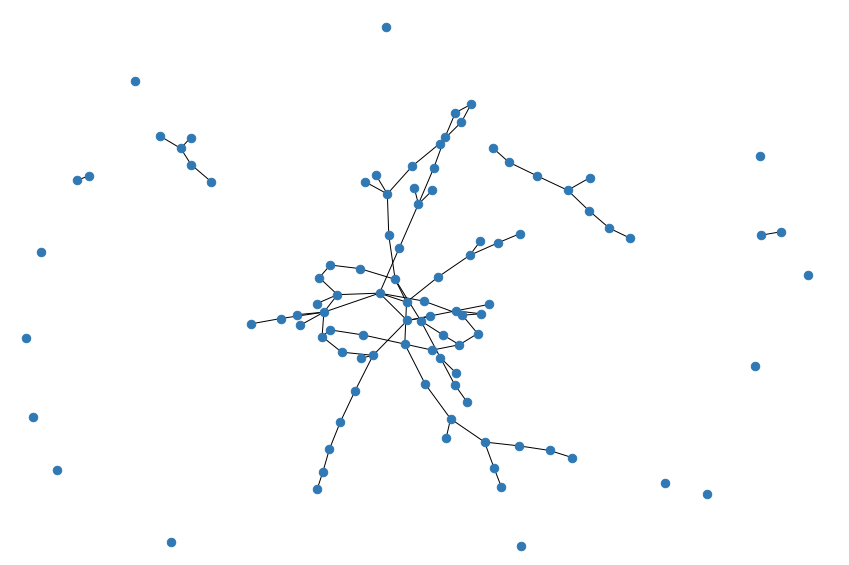
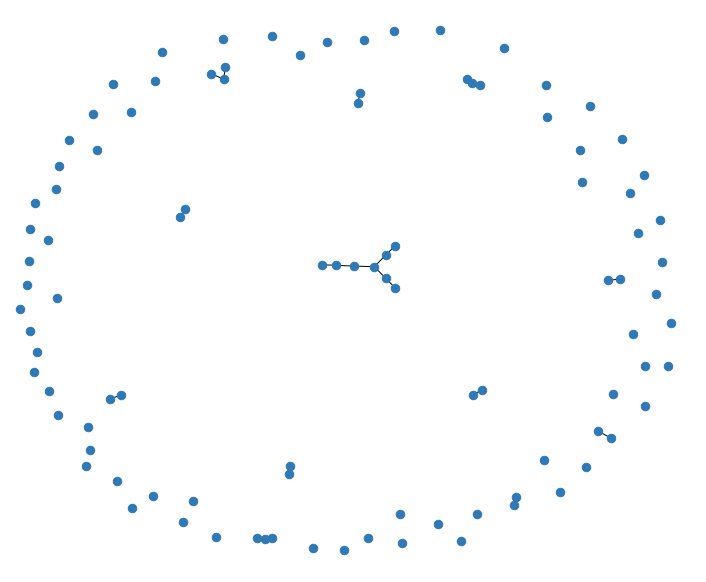
1. **Relevant concepts**
2. **The Erdos-Rényi model**

The Erdos-Rényi (E-R) model is the model of interest in my study. It was introduced by Pál Erdos and Alfréd Rényi in 1959. To generate an E-R model, one takes *N* nodes, and then uniformly link each pair of nodes independently with probability *p.* Since the E-R model is the only model I am using for my project, I want to denote that if I mention a network *G(N,p)*, then I am referring to a network created using the E-R model. One important property of the E-R model that is going to come up in this project is the average degree *(<k>)* of G(N,p) is equal to *(N-1)p*.

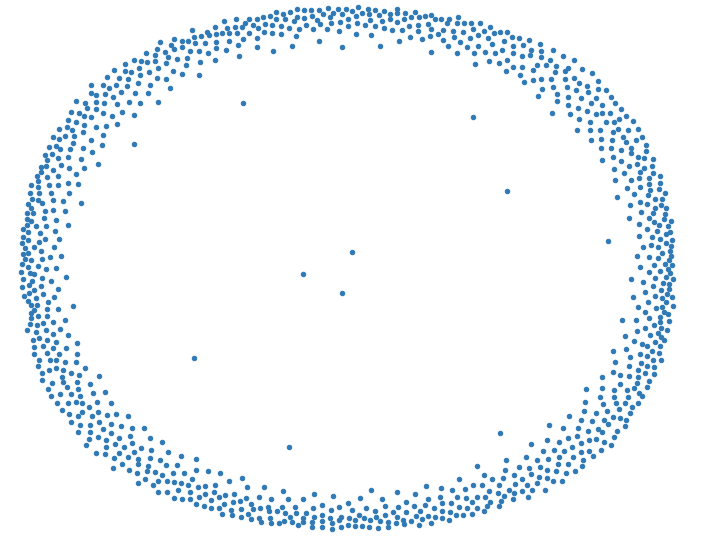
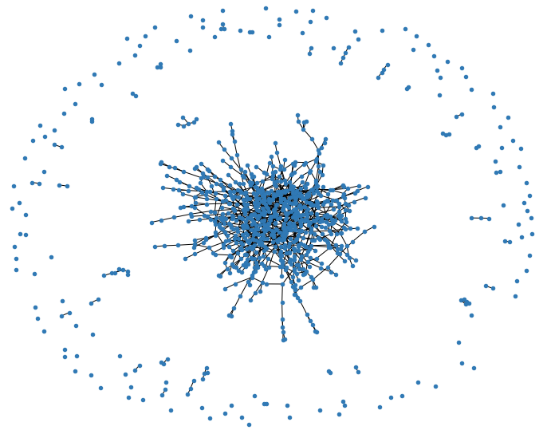
1. **Giant component**

A component is a group of nodes that are connected to each other in a network. A network is considered to be functioning when it has a giant component, which implies that most nodes are reachable from other nodes in the network.

Pictures of E-R graphs without and with a giant component:



G(100, 0.0051) G(100, 0.0151)



G(1000, 0.002)

G(1000, 0.000001)

The relative size of the largest component is denoted as with *s­1* as the size of the largest component in the network. Through theoretical work, it can be shown that . Note that this result means we expect *S* to behave like a power-law function.

The ***transition point*** in a network is where *S* becomes larger than zero. Whenever we have

, then we have a giant component in an E-R graph.

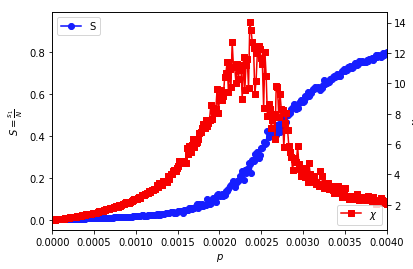
1. **Percolation transition**

The percolation transition of the E-R graph is the transition between two states of any E-R graph: without and with a giant component. If we take *p* as the control parameter, then this transition takes place at some critical value for *p*, which will be denoted as *pc*. Likewise, if we take *N* as the control parameter, then this transition takes place at some critical value for *N*, which will be denoted as *Nc*. According to theoretical works, we know that the percolation transition takes place at , which means and .

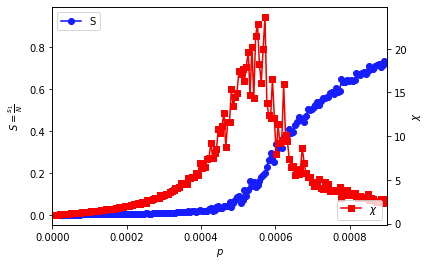
1. **Susceptibility**Susceptibility, usually denoted by , is the measurement of the sensitivity of the network in regard to outside change that can drive the system towards the other phase. Hence, susceptibility is strongest near the neighborhood of the transition point, and it peaks at the transition point. For this project, I am estimating the critical point based on where peaks. My main interest lies in the behavior of *S* in the surrounding neighborhood of this estimated critical point.
2. **Findings**
3. **Scaling of *S* in regard to *p***

Method to gather data: First, I pick a system size *N* to work with, and I calculate its *pc* using the theoretical result. Then, I estimate and take samples from the neighborhood around the critical point as With experimentation, it occurs to me that the bigger the system size, the more abrupt the transition takes place. Hence, for bigger system, I need to decrease , and increases the number of samples I take from the neighborhood to make sure I do not miss the peak. Finally, I generate multiple samples E-R graphs with *N* and the samples *p* from the neighborhood I decided on to calculate their average *S* and . An issue that comes up here is that small system tends to have high variance in their *S* and , so I need to generate more sample E-R graphs for smaller system.

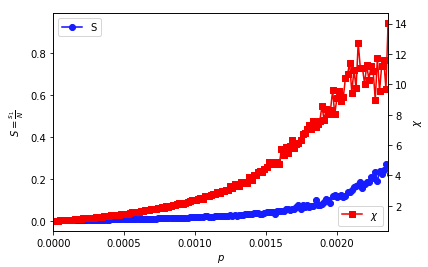
Note that the estimated *pc* is decided based on where the peak in takes place. Here are some graphs I produced from the gathered data:



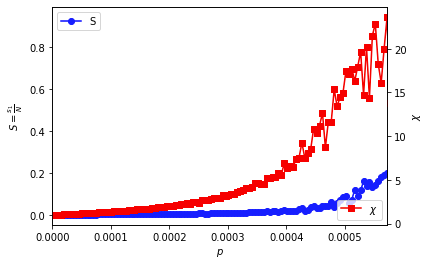
*S* and graph for G(N = 500, p)



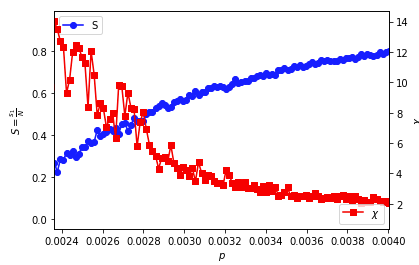
*S* and graph for G(N = 2000, p)



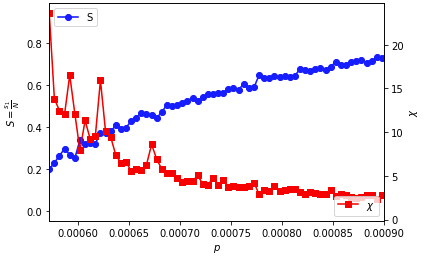
*S* and graph for G(N = 500, p) before the estimated *p­c*



*S* and graph for G(N = 2000, p) before the estimated *p­c*



*S* and graph for G(N = 500, p) after the estimated *p­c*



*S* and graph for G(N = 2000, p) after the estimated *p­c*

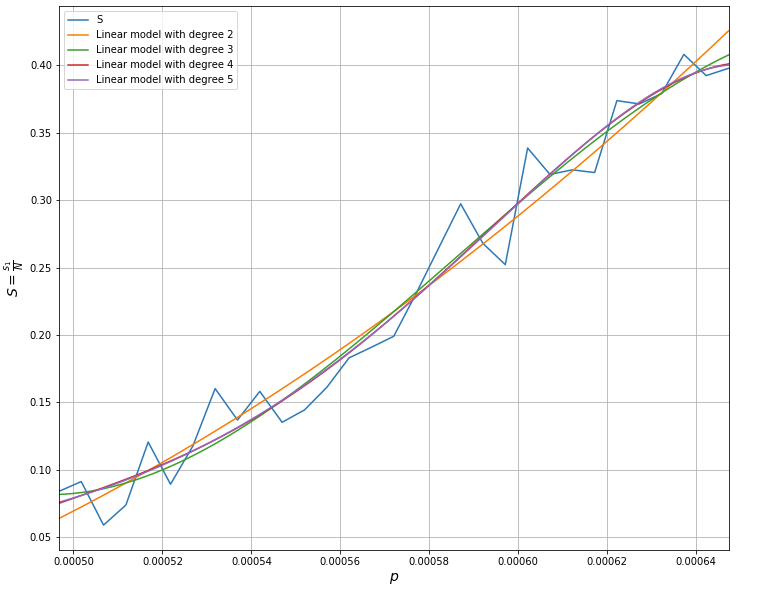
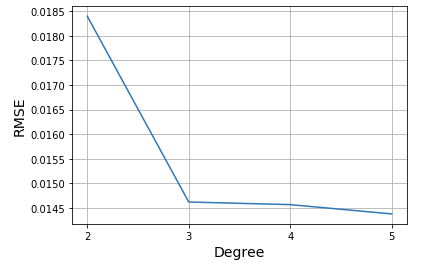
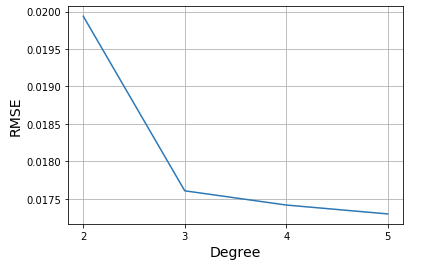
The estimated *pc* for G(N = 500, p) is roughly 0.0024, slightly bigger than the theoretical *pc* which is around 0.002. The estimated *pc* for G(N = 2000, p) is roughly 0.00057, also slightly bigger than the theoretical *pc* which is around 0.0005. We can see that our estimates of *pc* got really close to the theoretical values.

For both graph size, we see *S* begins to increase near the estimated critical point and continues to increase pass the estimated critical point. The value of *S* at the estimated critical point for G(N = 500, p) is 0.27 which is slightly bigger than that of G(N = 2000, p) which is 0.20.

On the other hand, we also see increases near the estimated critical point, right about where *S* begins to increase. As expected, after the estimated critical point, we start to see decreases.

We see some further differences with the two different graph sizes here. Peak for G(N = 500, p) is 14.03 which is smaller than that of G(N = 2000, p) which is 23.60. We also see that the neighborhood around the critical point is bigger for G(N = 500, p) (from 0.0010 to 0.0035 ~ range of 0.0025) than that of G(N = 2000, p) (from 0.0003 to 0.0007 ~ range of 0.0004). Therefore, it seems like increases at a higher rate for bigger system, but it also decreases at a higher rate after the critical point.

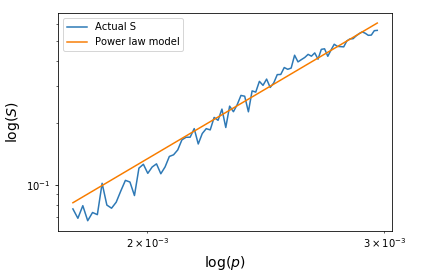
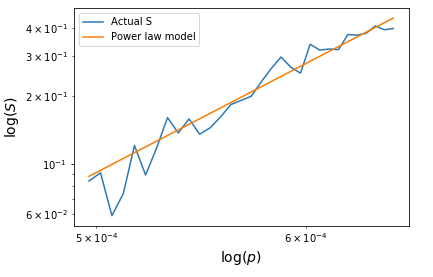
Next, I try to fit some simple functions to the neighborhood around the critical point to see if the scaling of *S* in respect to *p* behaves similar to any of these functions. I try to fit the data using linear models’ degree 2 to 5, and then I use a power-law fit. Here, I measure the performance of the models using their root mean square errors (RMSE).

Fitting *S* of G(N = 2000, p) with linear models

Linear model degree versus error for G(N = 2000, p)

Linear model degree versus error for G(N = 500, p)

We can see that the linear models perform quite well here with very low error rate even from degree 2. The error rate decreases as the degree of the model increases.



Power-law fit for G(N = 2000, p)

Power-law fit for G(N = 500, p)

The power-law fit also works well for both G(N = 500, p) and G(N = 2000, p). Note that from the theoretical works, we know that *S* should behaves like a power-law function. However, the power-law fits actually performed worse than the linear models. The RMSE for G(N = 500, p) is 0.024, and the RMSE for G(N = 2000, p) is 0.027. Hence, they both lost to their respective second-degree linear model by a small margin. The exponent of the power-law fit for G(N = 500, p) is 3.84 while that of G(N = 2000, p) is 5.66. I tried the power-law fit with G(N = 1000, p) and got an exponent of 4.78, so it seems the exponent does scale along with the system size.

1. **Scaling of *S* in regard to *N***

Method to gather data: First, I pick a system size *N* to work with, and I calculate its *pc* using the theoretical result. Then, I estimate and take samples from the neighborhood around the critical point as With experimentation, it occurs to me that the bigger the system size, the more abrupt the transition takes place. Hence, for bigger system, I need to decrease , and increases the number of samples I take from the neighborhood to make sure I do not miss the peak. Finally, I generate multiple samples E-R graphs with *N* and the samples *p* from the neighborhood I decided on to calculate their average *S* and . An issue that comes up here is that small system tends to have high variance in their *S* and , so I need to generate more sample E-R graphs for smaller system.

Note that the estimated *pc* is decided based on where the peak in takes place. Here are some graphs I produced from the gathered data: