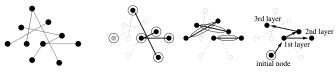
#### network sampling

introduction to network analysis (ina)

Lovro Šubelj University of Ljubljana spring 2022/23

## sampling overview

- snowball sampling and contact tracing in sociology network-based methods for sampling hidden populations
- fractality and self-similarity of real networks [SHM05] fractality is property of object that it is similar to part of itself self-similarity demands power-law size scaling under renormalization
- any real network is just sample of true network [BŠWB15]



original network

node/link selection and snowball sampling

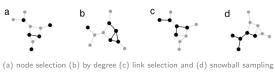
## sampling populations

- snowball sampling similar to breadth-first search nodes sampled proportional to their eigenvector centrality
- contact tracing similar to biased best-first search nodes sampled according to some hidden variable
- respondent-driven sampling similar to random walk nodes sampled proportional to their degree

estimate 
$$\langle x \rangle = \frac{\sum_{i} x_{i}}{\sum_{i} 1}$$
 corrected  $\langle x \rangle = \frac{\sum_{i} x_{i}/k_{i}}{\sum_{i} 1/k_{i}}$ 

# sampling *methods*

- random selection methods for global network sparsification random node/link selection w/ or w/o induction etc.
- network exploration methods for local network sampling random walks, snowball and expansion sampling etc.
- merging/aggregation methods for network simplification box covering, cluster growing, community aggregation etc.

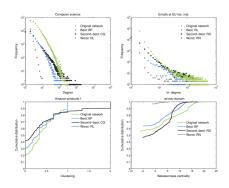




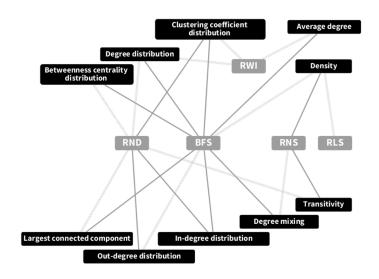
(a) community aggregation and (b) cluster growing

# sampling *networks*

- similar sampled networks for  $\gtrsim 15\%$  network [LF06]
- methods indistinguishable for  $\ll 1\%$  network [BŠB17]
- selection/exploration ≫ aggregation methods [BŠB14] independent of network type or size but not sample size

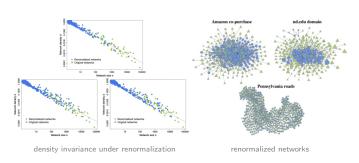


## sampling scheme



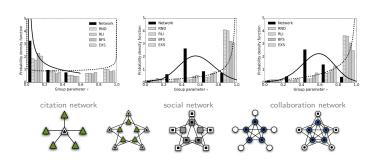
# sampling *density*

- self-similar network density of real networks [LJT+11] most real networks are sparse with  $\rho \approx 7.89 n^{-0.99}$
- network density invariant under any renormalization [BŠB12]
   box covering, cluster growing, community aggregation etc.



## sampling communities

- pronounced community structure in real networks [GN02] many real networks contain communities with  $\tau\gg 0$
- community structure enhanced under any sampling [BŠWB15]
   random selection, snowball and expansion sampling etc.



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