**A simple model that explains why inequality is inevitable and ubiquitous**

**Renato Fabbri and Osvaldo N. Oliveira Jr.**

**São Carlos Institute of Physics, University of São Paulo, CP 369, 13560-970 São Carlos, SP, Brazil**

**Abstract**

Inequality has always been a crucial issue for human kind, particularly concerning the highly unequal distribution of wealth, which is at the root of the major problems facing humanity, including extreme poverty and wars. A quantitative treatment of inequality has become commonplace in recent years with the discovery that many natural as well as man-made systems can be represented as scale-free networks, whose distribution of connectivity obeys a power law. These networks may be built by adopting preferential attachment for the nodes, within the so-called rich-gets-richer paradigm. In this letter we introduce a simple model that explains the ubiquity of inequality, based on three simple assumptions applied to a generic system. The first assumption is that the amount of resources in a given input to the system is fixed, as in a conservation law. Second, we assume diversity for the components of the system, i.e. the components cannot all be equal to each other. The third assumption is associated with a uniform distribution (certo?) of resources to the components. This can be understood by exemplifying with the distribution of objects in a 3D space, where each dimension is assumed to be isotropic. Applying these assumptions to a generic system results in a power-law distribution, whose coefficient is the number of inputs that are independent from each other. Even though there is no restriction to the value of the coefficient, in practice we observe that existing systems normally exhibit a coefficient between 1.5 and 3.0. With our simple model it is not possible to determine whether this limitation in the coefficient values arises from a fundamental principle, or if it simply reflects how nature is. The assumptions in the model are analogous to the first and second law of thermodynamics: conservation of resources and a time arrow pointing to inequality. Since these assumptions are easily justified based on established knowledge, the model proves unequivocally that inequality is ubiquitous and inevitable. We also discuss ways to control this tendency to inequality, which is actually analogous to a decrease in entropy in a closed system induced with an external action.

Introduction to inequality – complex networks, Zipf Law - incluir

Let us consider a generic problem in which a System (S) provides an Output (O) depending on the Input (I) it receives. The following assumptions are established.

1. The System S is made of a number of components that are not all equal to each other. That is to say, there is diversity in the nature of the components.
2. There may be several inputs, but for each input the amount of resources furnished to the System is fixed, as in a conservation law.
3. Distribution should be uniform with regard to the “size” of the component as in a geometric case where space is considered as isotropic.

Que estah interessado na sua casa em objetos de dois tamanhos: um quase do tamanho de um cubo unitario (seja qual for a unidade q vc escolher); e outro quase do tamanho l (l inteiro e maior q um). Em cada cubo unitario ha rho de chance de ter um objeto com o tamanho almejado. Nos cubos  de lado l tb. Dado um cubo de lado n (l divide n) ha, em media, rho . (n/l)^3 objetos de volume ~l^3 e rho . n^3 objetos de volume ~1^3. Ou seja, a frequencia de objetos com volume X eh inversamente proporcional ao volume X.

There is no assumption for the Output (O), which is taken as to mean the performance (or richness) in terms of the components of S.

Now assuming that there are N types of input, and for the sake of the argument, all of them have a time dependence (with 1/t), according to assumption 2) above. The Output is the product of the functions of these N inputs.

O = (R1\*R2\*… RN)/tN since a given input can be written as Ri/t.

The Output has therefore a power-law dependence on t with coefficient N.

Now considering the values of N observed in practice (from many examples of power-law dependences), which is normally between 1.5 (2?) and 3, one infers that there are at least two types (?) of independent inputs and at maximum 3 independent inputs.

Let us illustrate with a hypothetical case that may facilitate understanding the concepts. A piece of work is to be done in a company. What sort of resources can be established as inputs? We assume three inputs: number of workers, working hours and efficiency. We recall that all resources should be fixed and that there is diversity in the components.

Then, first the total number of workers available are divided into groups of different sizes,

Continuar exemplo ????

Falta resumir a literatura que mostra coeficiente entre 1.5 e 3. Mencionar casos em que é maior que 3.

Incluir exemplos em que a distribuição uniforme se dá, mesmo que sejam empíricos. Lembro que você tinha isso para lista de e-mails, e acho que outros exemplos com maior apelo para a física precisariam ser incluídos.

Obviamente que todo o conteúdo tem que ser adequado ao roteiro do Abstract