

**Imperial College  
London**

Mathematics of Networks meeting,  
Oxford 7<sup>th</sup> April 2006

Tim Evans  
Theoretical Physics

# Scale-Free Networks from Self-Organisation

(Random) Walking to  
(Scale-) Freedom

**T.S.Evans,  
J.P.Saramäki** (Helsinki University of Technology)  
*"Scale Free Networks from Self-Organisation"*  
**PRE 72 (2005) 026138** [cond-mat/0411390]

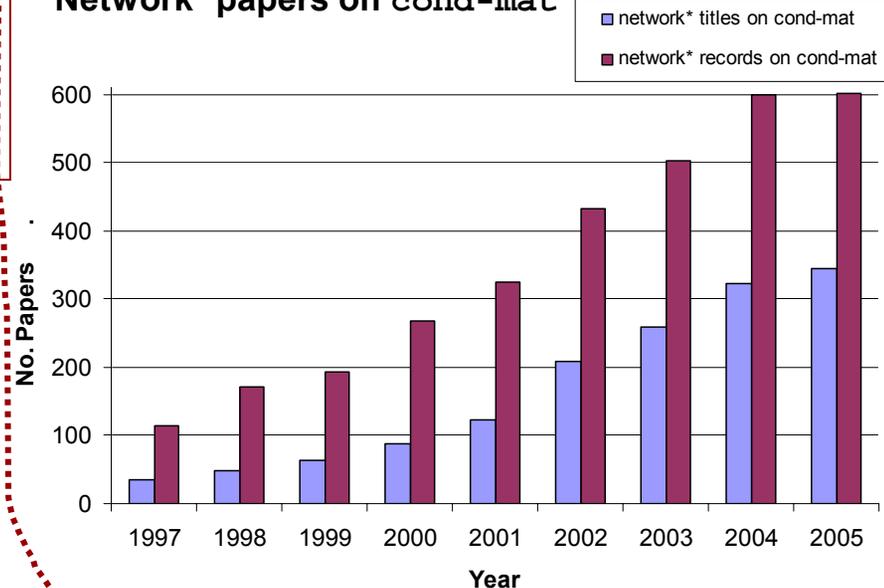
**T.S.Evans,**  
*"Complex Networks",*  
Contemporary Physics  
**45 (2004) 455 – 474**  
[cond-mat/0405123]

# Multidisciplinary Nature

- **Mathematics** (Graph Theory, Dynamical Systems)
  - **Physics** (Statistical Physics)
  - **Biology** (Genes, Proteins, Disease Spread, Ecology)
  - **Computing** (Search and ranking algorithms)
- 
- **Economics** (Knowledge Exchange in Markets)
  - **Geography** (City Sizes, Transport Networks)
  - **Architecture** ("Space Syntax")
  - **Anthropology** (Social Networks)
  - **Archaeology** (Trade Routes)

For instance the condensed matter electronic preprint archives have gone from 35 papers in 1997 with a word starting with Network in their title to 344 last year, an increase of nearly 1000%

Network\* papers on cond-mat



**ISCOM**

Information Society as a Complex System

University of Modena and Reggio Emilia  
Imperial College London  
Centre National de la Recherche Scientifique, Paris



<http://www.iscom.unimo.it/>

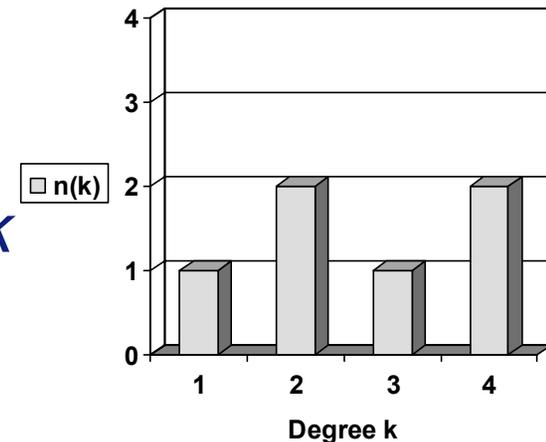
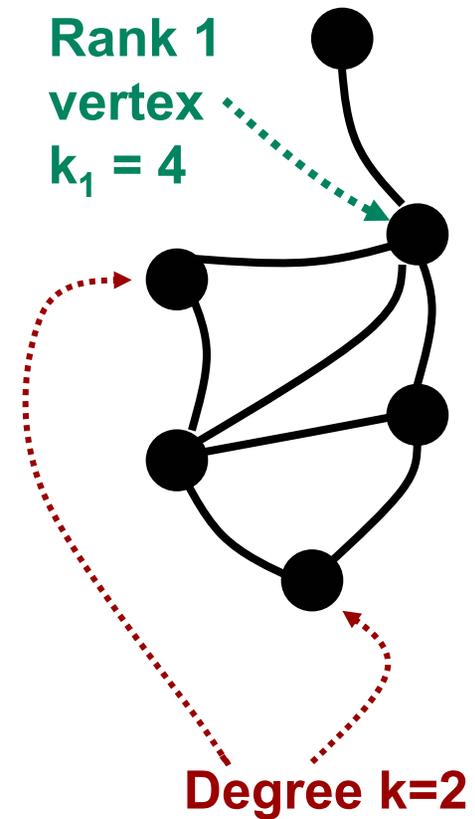
# Notation

I will focus on **Simple Graphs**

with multiple edges allowed

(no values or directions on edges, no values for vertices)

- $N$  = Number of vertices in graph
- $E$  = Number of Edges in Graph
- $k$  = degree of a vertex
- $k_1$  = Maximum degree of graph  
= Degree of rank 1 vertex
- $K = \langle k \rangle$  = average degree =  $2E/N$
- Degree Distribution  
 $n(k)$  = number of vertices with degree  $k$   
 $p(k) = n(k)/N$  = normalised distribution



# Real Networks

- **Short Distance Scales**

$$d \leq O(\ln(N))$$

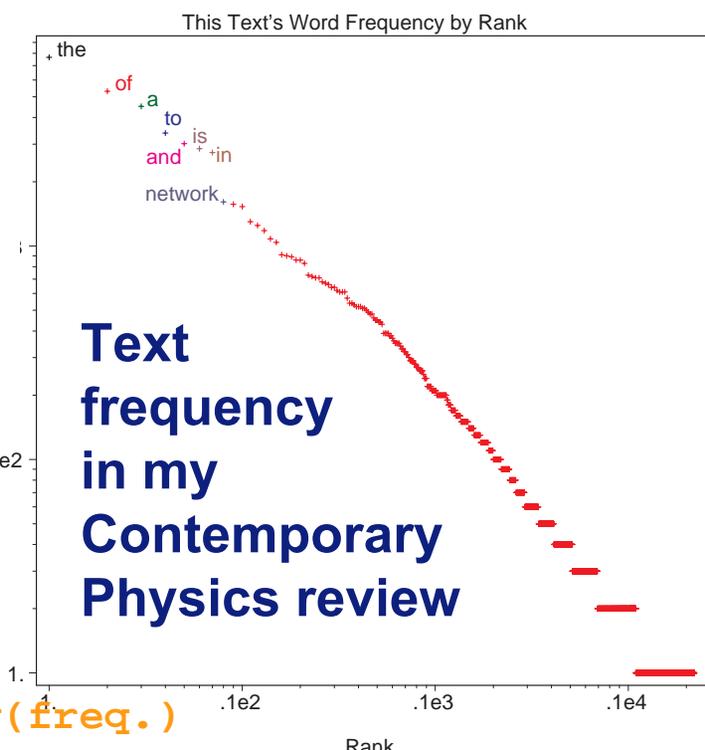
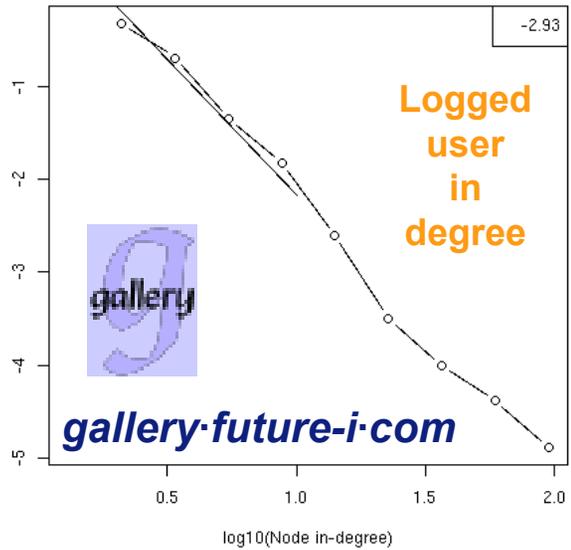
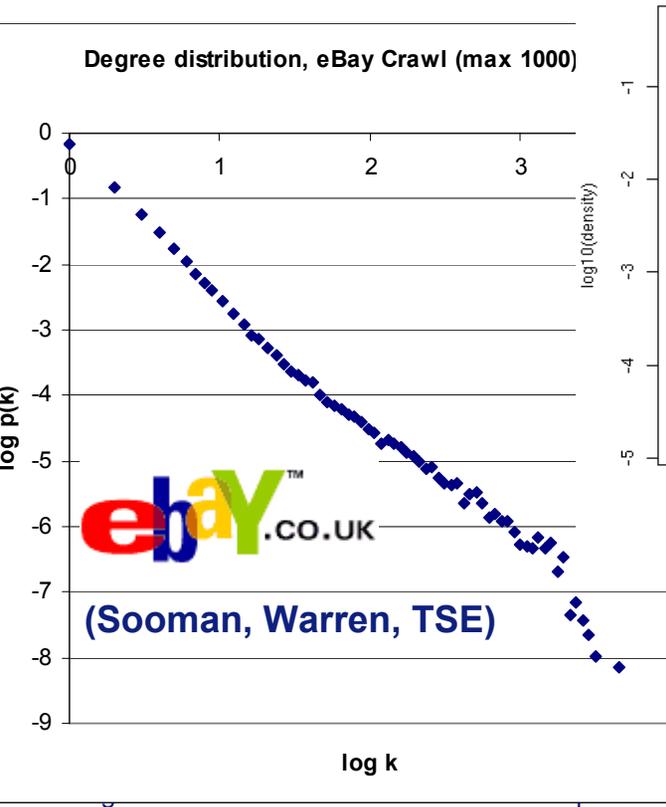
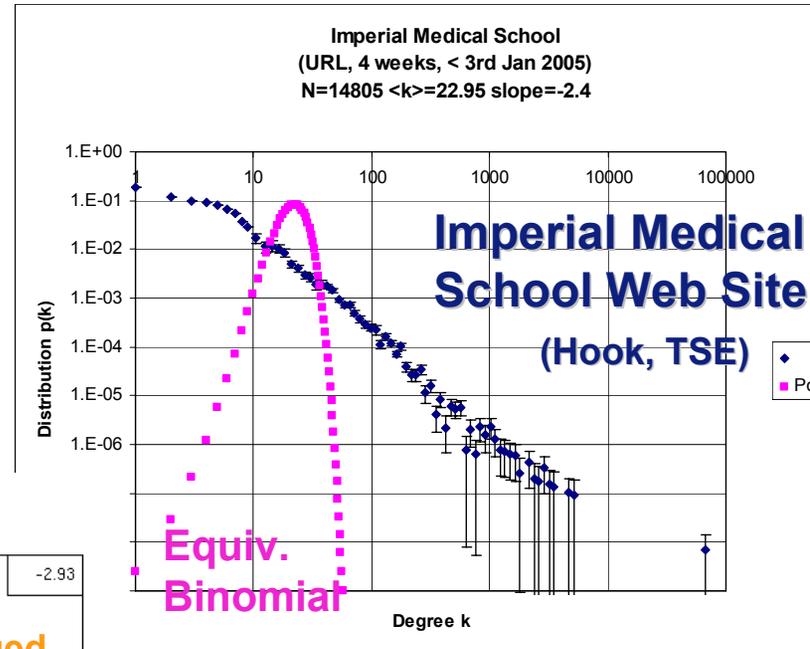
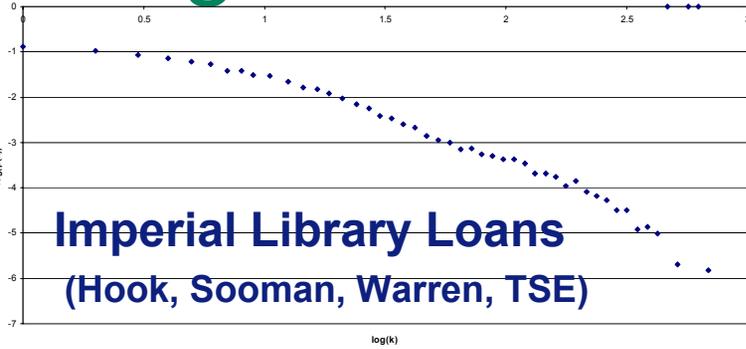
- **Long Degree Distributions**

$$k_1 > O(\ln(N))$$

	Distance Scale $d$	Tail of Degree Distribution	Maximum Degree $k_1$
Lattice	Large $d \sim N^{1/\text{dim}}$	No Tail $\delta(k-k_0)$	Fixed $k_0$
Watts-Strogatz Small World	Small $d \sim \log(N)$	No Tail $\sim \delta(k-k_0)$	V.Small $\sim k_0$
Erdős-Rényi Random	Small $d \sim \log(N)$	Short Tail $\langle k \rangle^k e^{-\langle k \rangle} / k!$ Poisson	Small $\sim \log(N)$
Scale-Free	Small $d \sim \log(N)$	Long Tail $\sim k^{-\gamma}$	Large = HUBS $\sim k^{1/(\gamma-1)}$

# Long Tails in Real Data

Period 2 (excluding Haldane), degree distribution



All  $\log(k)$  vs.  $\log(p(k))$  except text  $\log(\text{rank})$  vs.  $\log(\text{freq.})$

# Long Tails = Hubs

Hubs are vertices of high degree

- Lattices, WS Small World, random networks have no hubs,

$$k \leq k_1 \leq O(\ln(N))$$

rand.net.  $N=10^6, \langle k \rangle=4 \Rightarrow k_1=17$

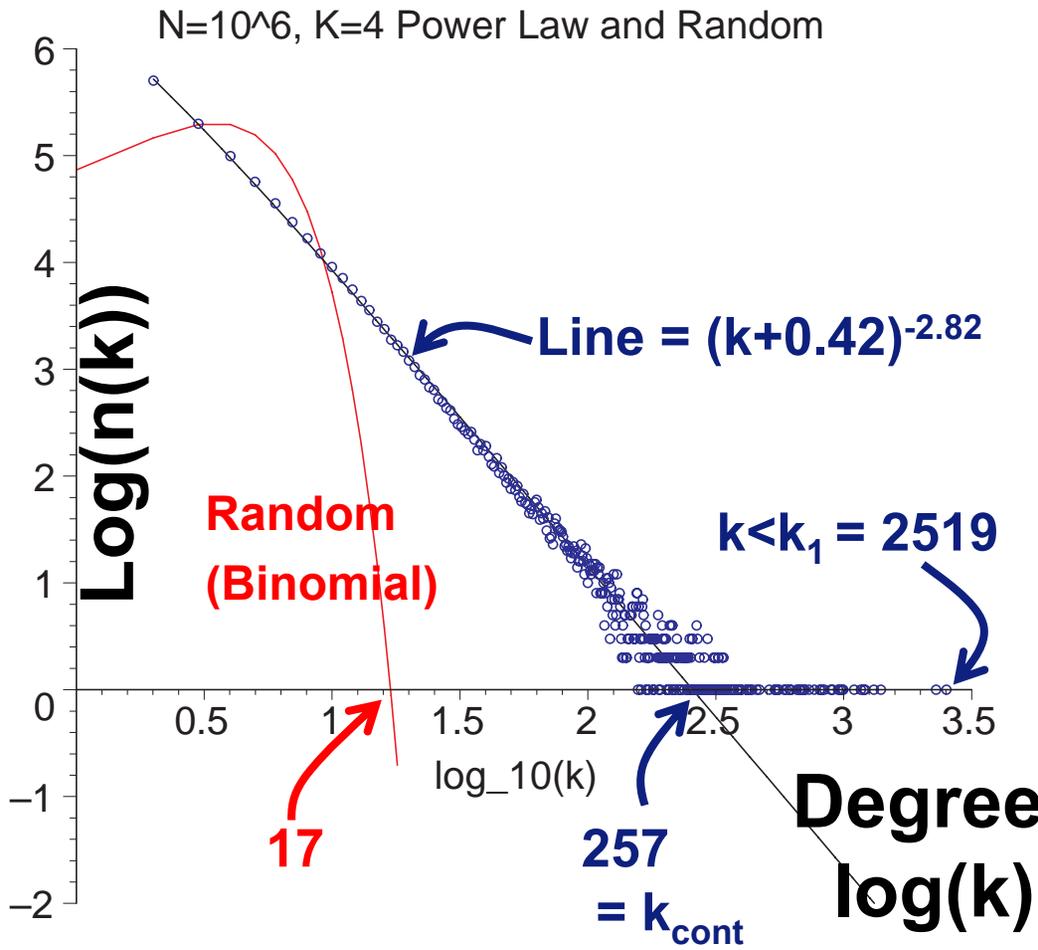
- Only a **long tailed** degree distribution has hubs

e.g. **POWER LAW**

$$n(k) \sim 1/k^3$$

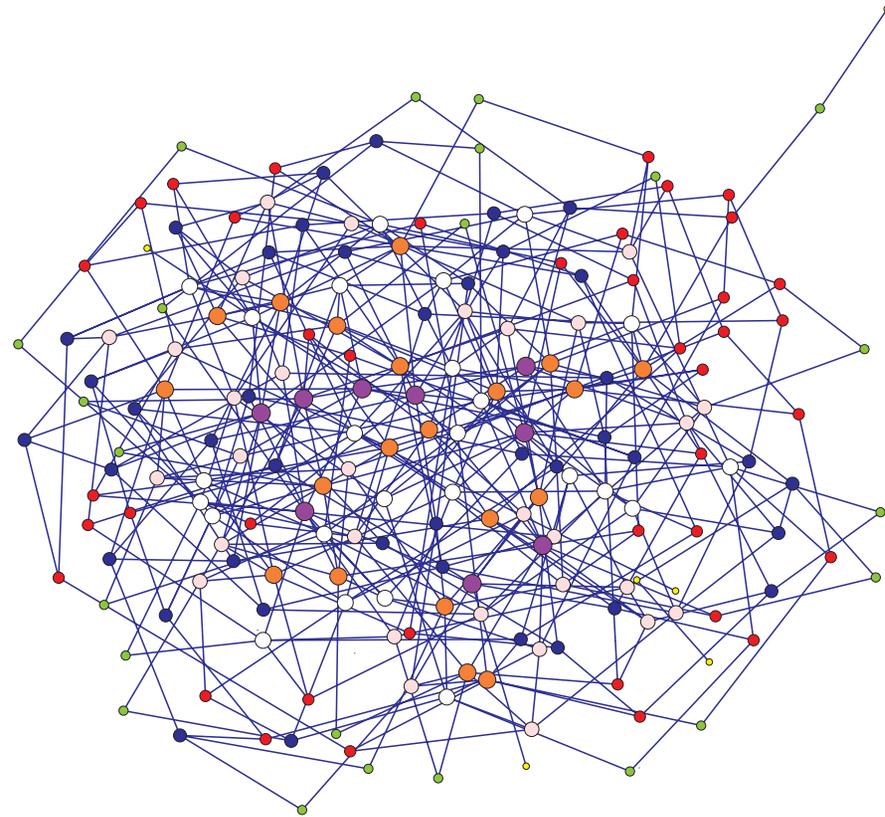
$$k \leq k_1 = O(N^{1/2})$$

has  $N=10^6, \langle k \rangle=4 \Rightarrow k_1 \sim 2520$



$N=200$ ,  $\langle k \rangle \sim 4.0$ , vertex size  $\propto k$

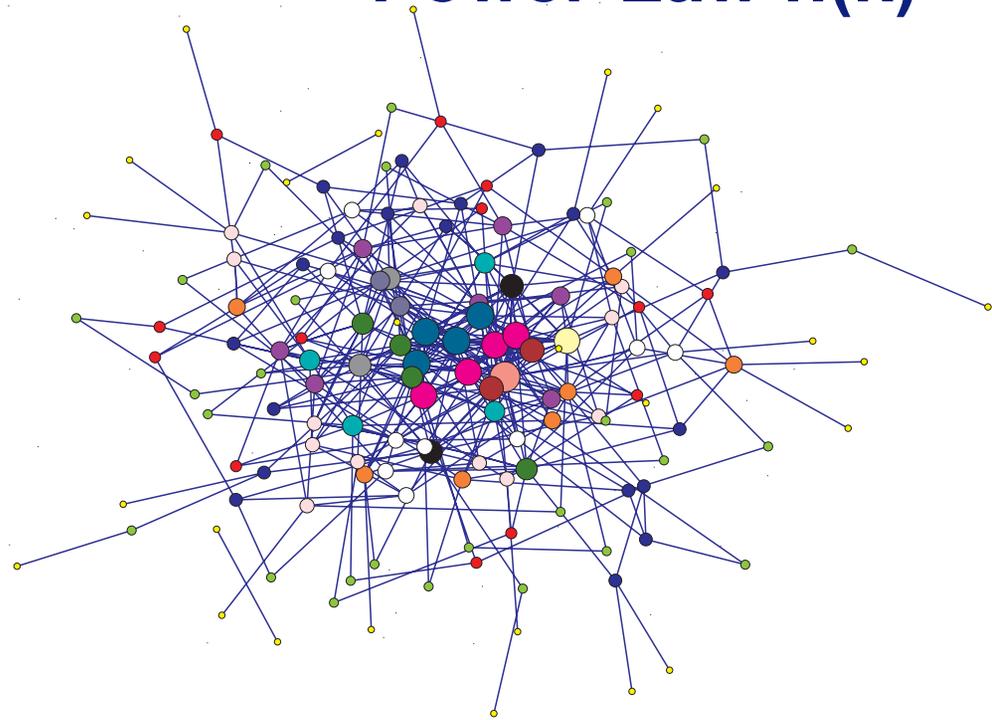
**Random**



**Diffuse centre of small degree vertices**

**Scale-Free**

**= Power-Law  $n(k)$**



**Tight core of large hubs**

# Growth with Preferential Attachment

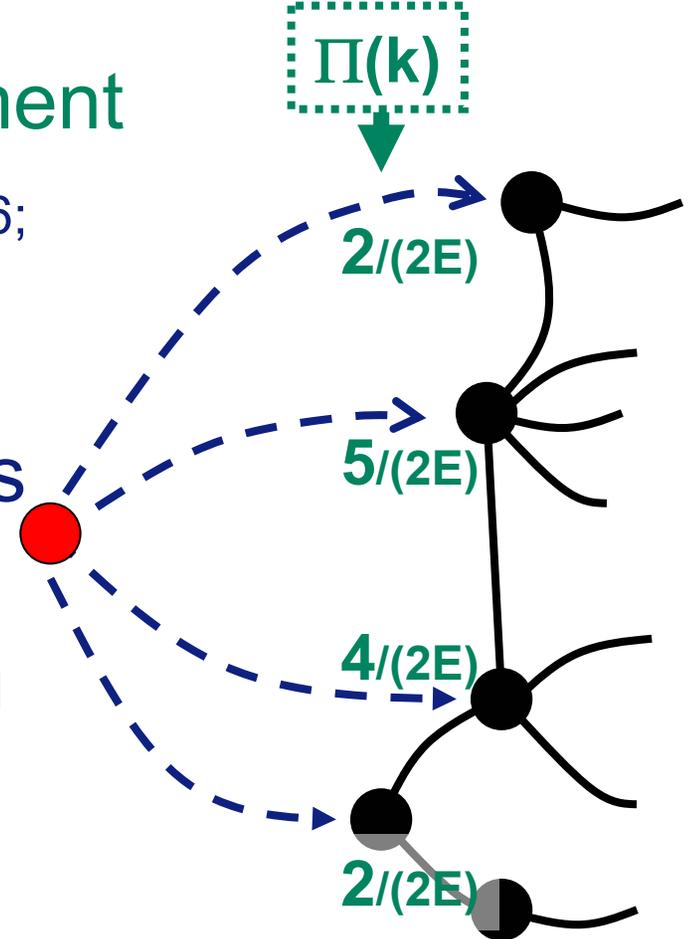
(Yule 1925, 1944; Simon 1955; Price 1965,1976;  
Barabasi,Albert 1999 )

1. Add new vertex attached to one end of  $\frac{1}{2}\langle k \rangle$  new edges
2. Attach other ends to existing vertices chosen with probability  $\Pi$  proportional to their degree

$$\Pi(k) = k / (2E)$$

Preferential Attachment

“Rich get Richer”



**Result:**  
**Scale-Free**  
 $n(k) \sim k^{-\gamma}$   
 $\gamma=3$

# Scale-Free Growing Model comments

- Growth not essential
  - rewiring with reattachment probability  $\Pi \Rightarrow \gamma \sim 1.0$
  - mixture of rewiring and new edges
  - Hamiltonian methods
- Network not essential –  $k$ =frequency of previous choices
- Generalised attachment probability

$$\Pi(k) = \underbrace{(1 - p_r)}_{\text{Preferential Attachment}} \frac{k}{2E} + \underbrace{p_r}_{\text{Random Attachment}} \frac{1}{N}, \quad 2 < \gamma = 1 + \frac{2}{p_r(2 - \varepsilon)} < \infty$$

$\varepsilon$  = fraction of times add new vertex

- **BUT** if  $\lim_{k \rightarrow \infty} \Pi(k) \propto k^\alpha$  for any  $\alpha \neq 1$  then a *power law degree distribution is not produced!*

# Walking to a Scale-Free Network

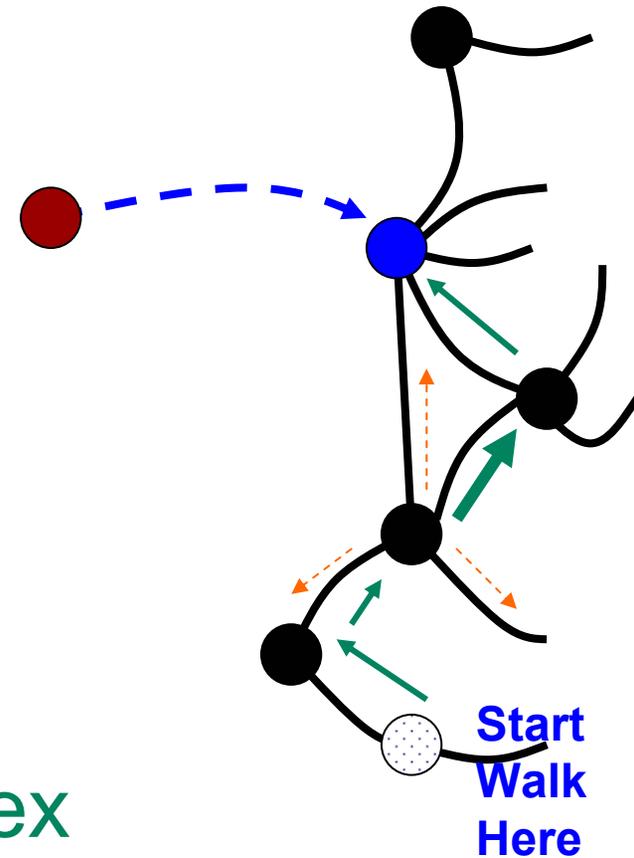
(TSE, Klauke 2002; Saramäki, Kaski 2004;  
TSE, Saramäki 2004)

1. Add a new vertex with  $\frac{1}{2}\langle k \rangle$  new edges
2. Attach to existing vertices, found by executing a random walk on the network of  $L$  steps

→ Probability of arriving at a vertex  
 $\propto$  number of ways of arriving at vertex  
 $= k$ , the degree

⇒ Preferential Attachment  $\gamma=3$

(Can also mix in random attachment with probability  $p_r$ )



# Naturalness of the Random Walk algorithm

Automatically gives preferential attachment for any shape network and hence tends to a scale-free network

- Uses only **LOCAL** information at each vertex

Simon/Barabasi-Albert models use global information in their normalisation

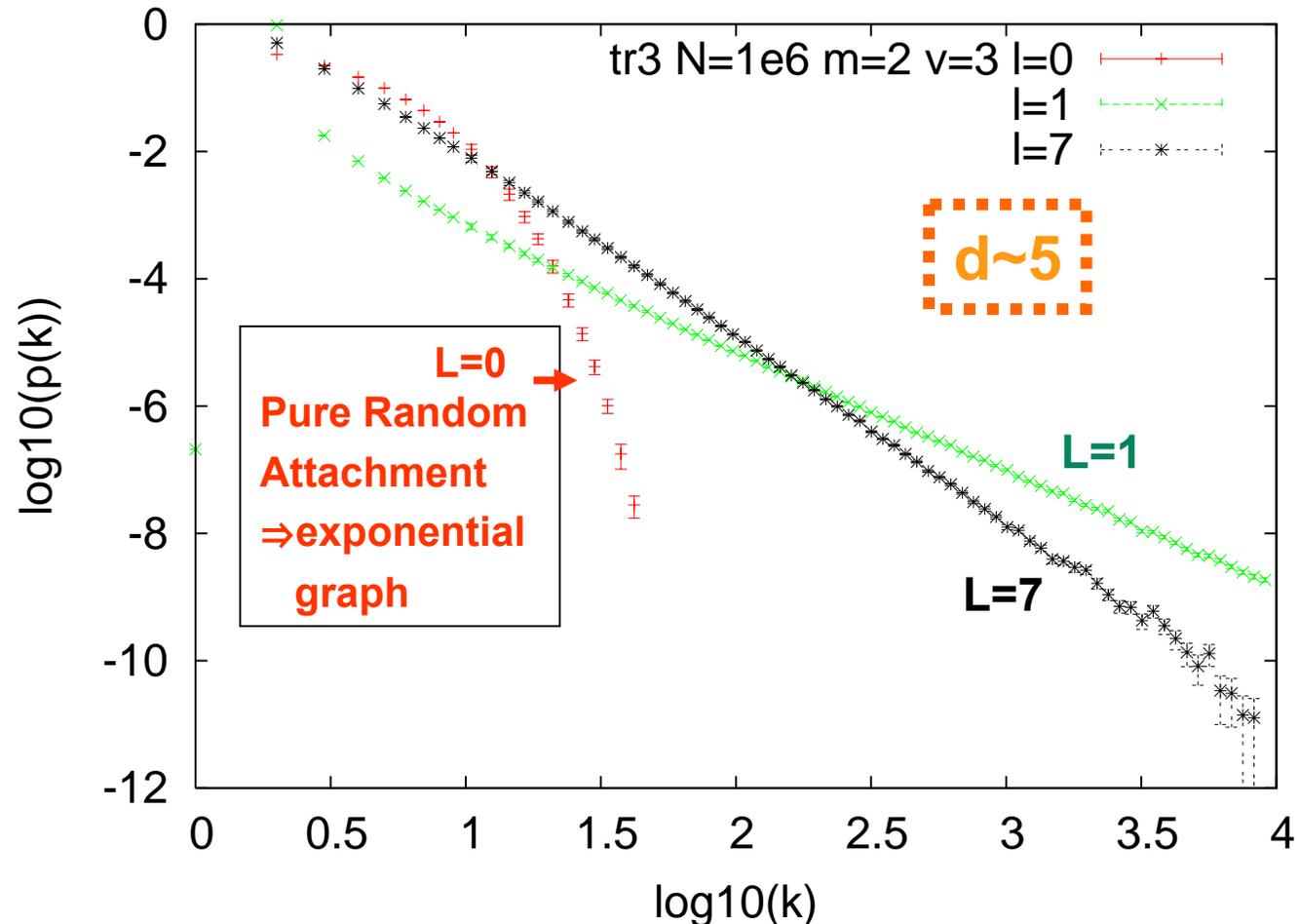
- Uses structure of Network to produce the networks  
– a self-organising mechanism

e.g. informal requests for work on the film actor's social network

e.g. finding links to other web pages when writing a new one

Barabasi-Albert do NOT need a network, results and equations known from non-network work of Yule 1925; Simon 1955; Parker 1965; ...

# How long a walk is needed for a scale-free network?

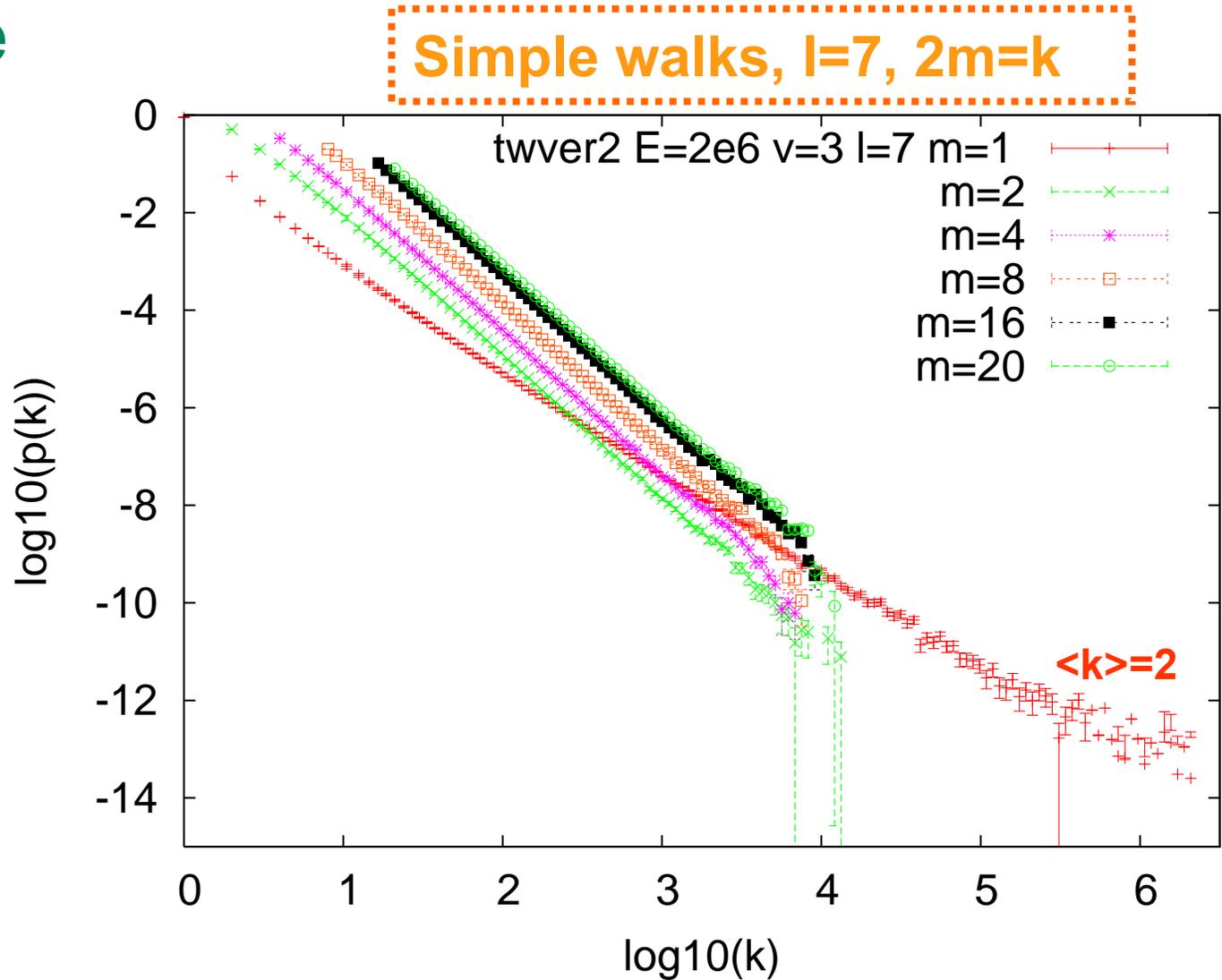


- Walks of length ONE are usually sufficient to generate reasonable scale-free networks

$\Rightarrow$  Degree Correlation Length  $< 1 < d$  (any distance scale)

Does the average degree  $\langle k \rangle$  matter?

**NO**



except for  $\langle k \rangle = 2$  where a tree graph is generated

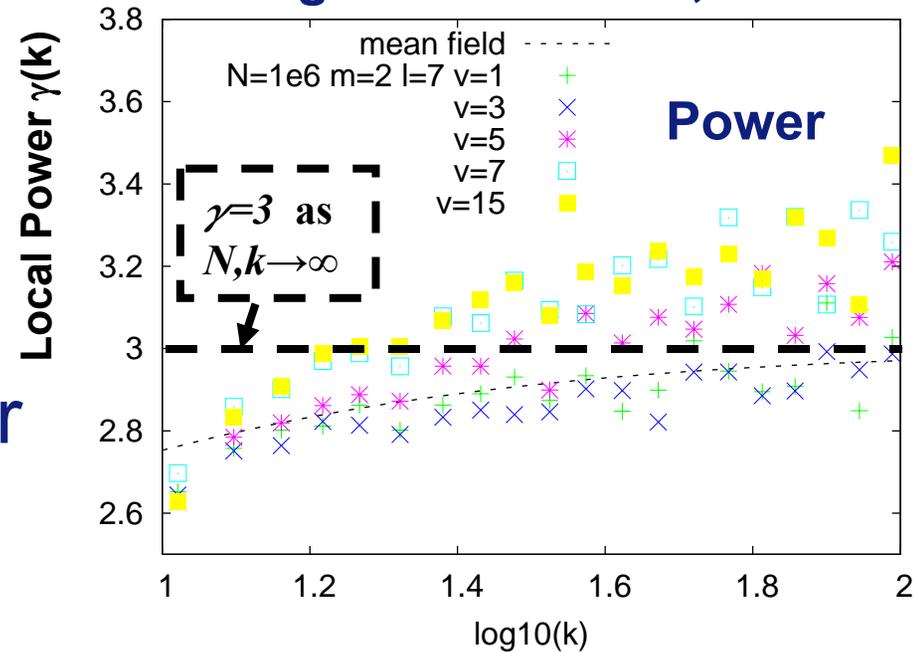
# Is the Walk Algorithm Robust?

**YES**

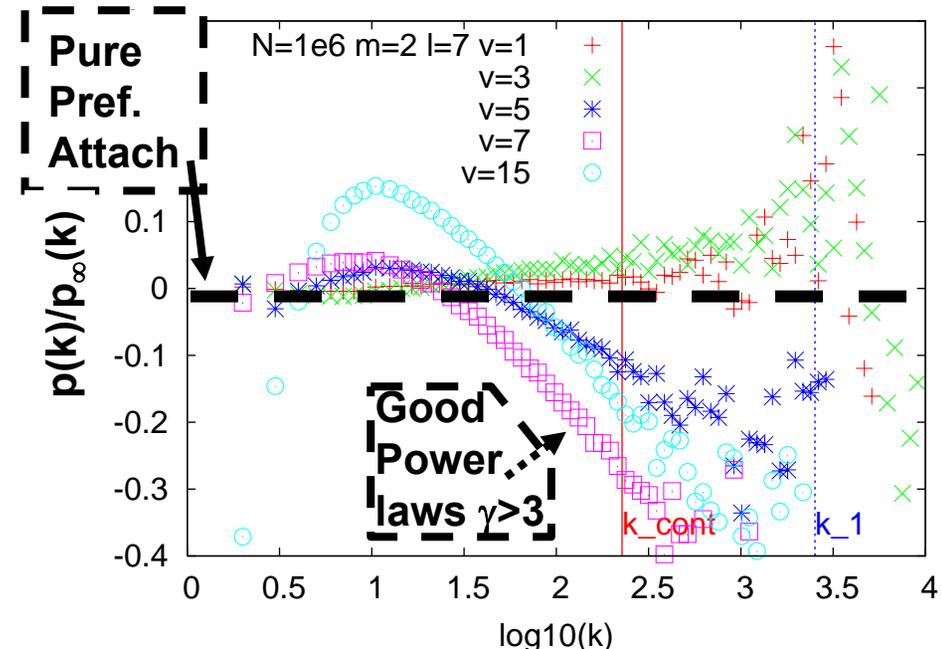
- Different starting points
- Vary length of walks per edge *keep  $L = \langle L \rangle$  fixed*
- Vary edges added per vertex *keep  $\langle k \rangle$  fixed*
- Allow multiple edges

Good Power Laws  
but power varies by  
10% or 20%

## Long Walk Variants, $L=7$



## Deviation from Pure Pref.Attach.



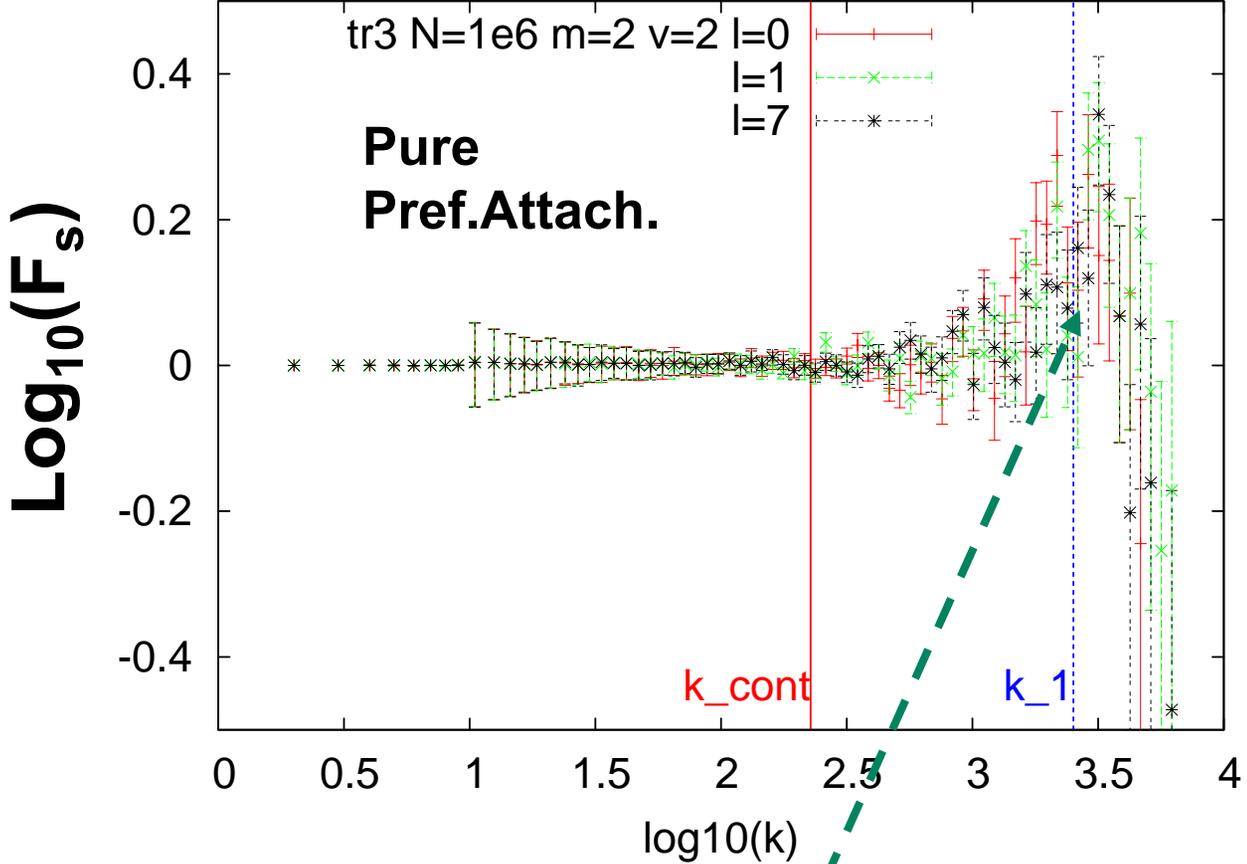
# Finite Size Effects for pure preferential attachment

$$p(k) = p_\infty(k) \cdot F_S\left(\frac{k}{N^{1/2}}\right), \quad p_\infty(k) = \frac{\langle k \rangle (\langle k \rangle + 2)}{2k(k+1)(k+2)} \rightarrow \frac{1}{k^3}$$

## Scaling Function

$$F_S(x) \approx 1$$

if  $x < 1$



100 runs to get enough data near k<sub>1</sub>

# Mean Field Exact Finite Size Scaling

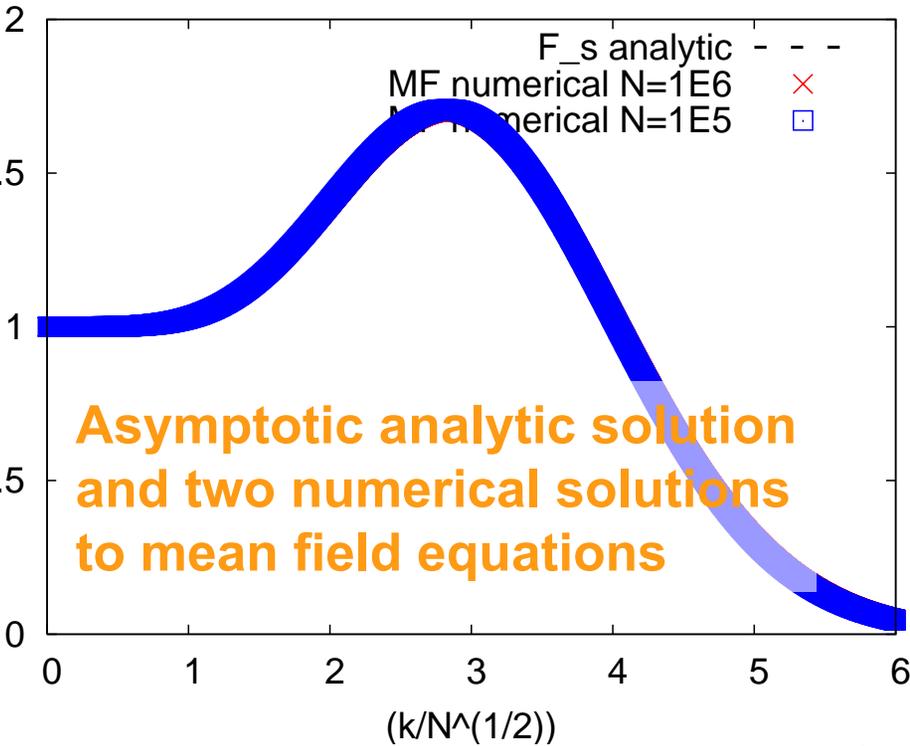
Function  $F_s$   
(pure pref.attach.)

Can calculate the finite size effects in the mean field approximation to find

$$F_s(x) \approx \operatorname{erfc}(x)$$

$$+ \frac{\exp(x^2)}{\sqrt{\pi}} \left( 2x + \sum_{n=3}^{m+2} \frac{8}{n!} \left[ 1 + ((1+m)\delta_{m+1,n}) \right] x^n H_{n-3}(x) \right)$$

(TSE+Saramäki, 2005;  
generalisation of Krapivsky and Redner, 2002)

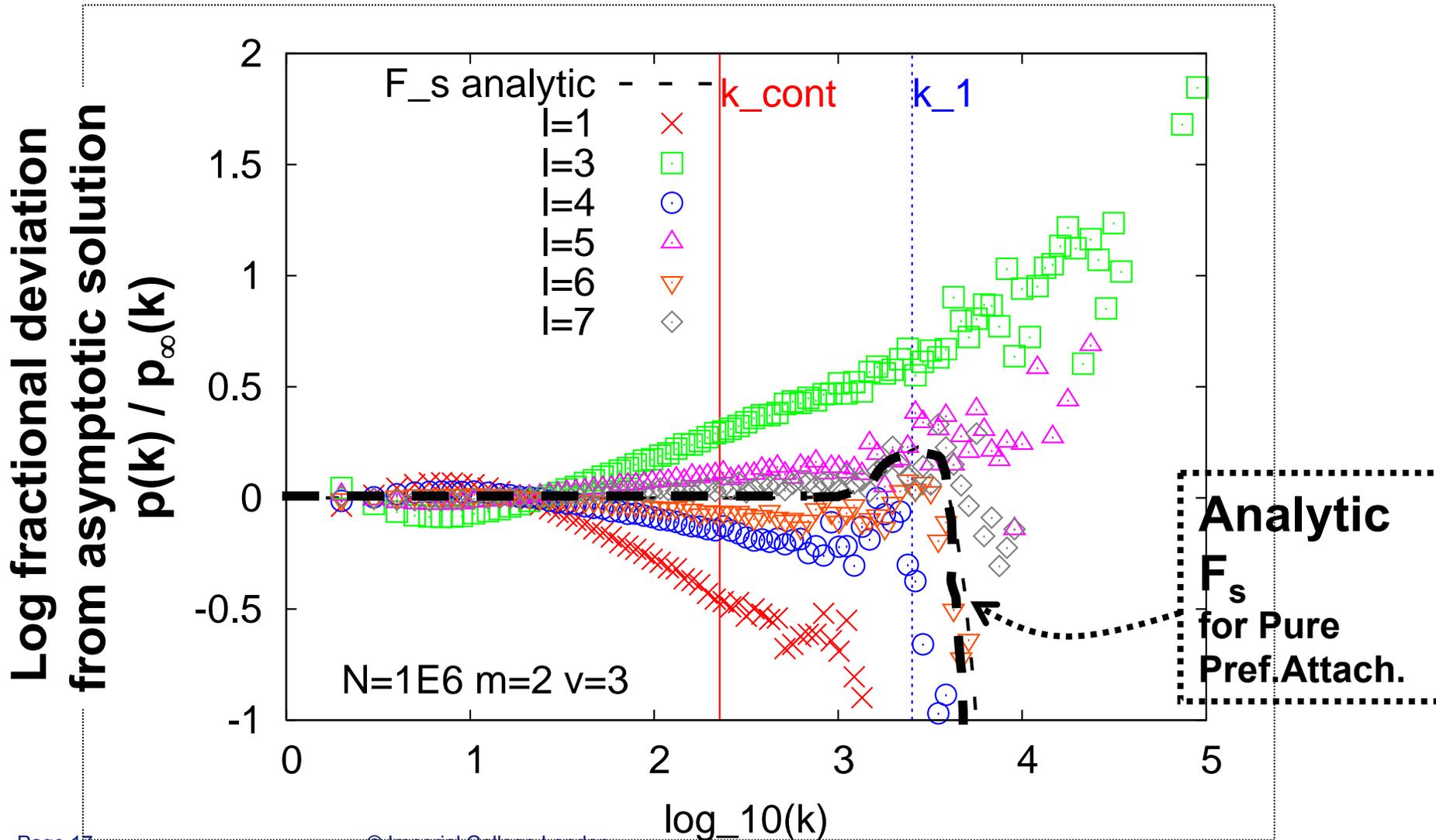


$2m = \langle k \rangle$

Hermite Polynomials

# Walk Data & Finite Size Scaling Function $F_s$

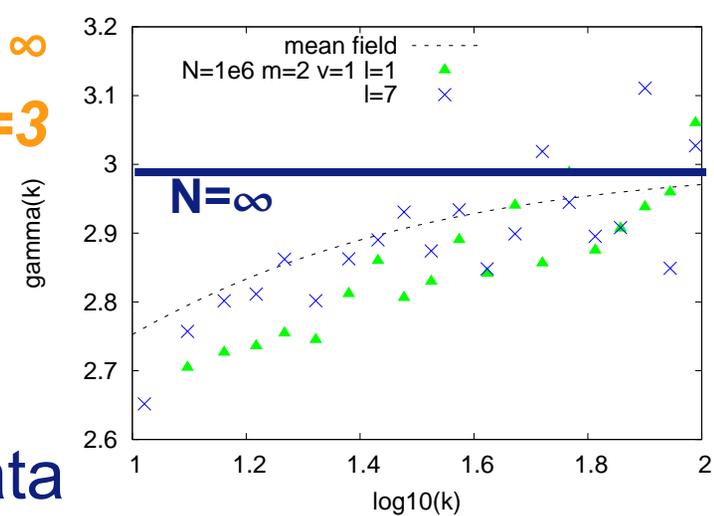
## Similar shape but not exact fit



# Powers and Finite Size Effects

as  $N, k \rightarrow \infty$

$\gamma=3$



- Best data is for  $k < k_{cont} = O(N^{1/3})$
- Finite N effects irrelevant to real data  $F_s \neq 0$  only for largest degree vertex

$$k > k_1 \sim O(N^{1/2})$$

- Power law only ever for large  $k \Rightarrow$  *corrections for small k*
- Large networks are only *mesoscopic* systems,  $\Rightarrow k$  never large e.g.  $N=10^6$   $\gamma=3$  network  $k_{cont} \sim 250$ ,  $k_1 \sim 2500$

$\Rightarrow$  **Small k deviations vital for all known networks**

- Simple power law fits underestimate asymptotic power by

# Random Walks as a Search Tool

## Sample Networks via Random Walk

⇒ visit vertices with probability

$$p_{\text{visit}}(k) = k p(k) / (2E)$$

so visit Hubs much more often,

⇒ find them very quickly

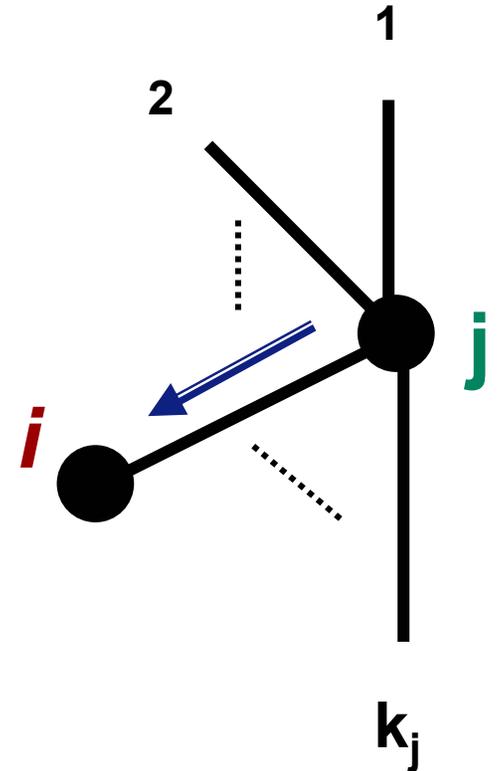
- Estimate tail of degree distribution very quickly
- Estimates of size of graph possible
- Other biased walks possible  
e.g. can sample vertices equally if slowly  
(Orponen, Schaeffer, 2004)

# Random Walks as Diffusion

Adjacency matrix  $A_{ij} = 1$  if edge from  $i$  to  $j$ ,  
 $= 0$  otherwise

Probability of going  
from vertex  $j$  to vertex  $i$

$$P_{ij} = \frac{A_{ij}}{k_j}$$



Number of random walkers  
at vertex  $i$  at time  $t$

$$v_i(t)$$

⇒ Solve Matrix Equation

$$\mathbf{v}(t) = [\mathbf{P}]^t \mathbf{v}(0)$$

Markov process

# Simple Graph Diffusion Solution

$$v_i(t) = c_1 \left( \frac{k_i}{2E} \right) + \sum_{n=2}^N c_n (\lambda_n)^t u_i^{(n)}$$

**First  
Eigenvector**

$$u_i^{(n=1)} = \left( \frac{k_i}{2E} \right)$$

**Eigenvectors and  
eigenvalues of P**

$$1 = \lambda_1 > |\lambda_2| \geq \dots \geq |\lambda_j| \geq \dots$$

**First  
eigenvalue = 1**

# Simple Graph Diffusion Solution

$$v_i(t) = c_1 \left( \frac{k_i}{2E} \right) + c_2 (\lambda_2)^t u_i^{(2)} + \dots$$

$$1 = \lambda_1 > |\lambda_2| \geq \dots$$

**Eigenvectors  $u^{(n)}$  of largest eigenvalues tell us about small regions poorly connected to main component**

(Eriksen et al 2003)



Small Region

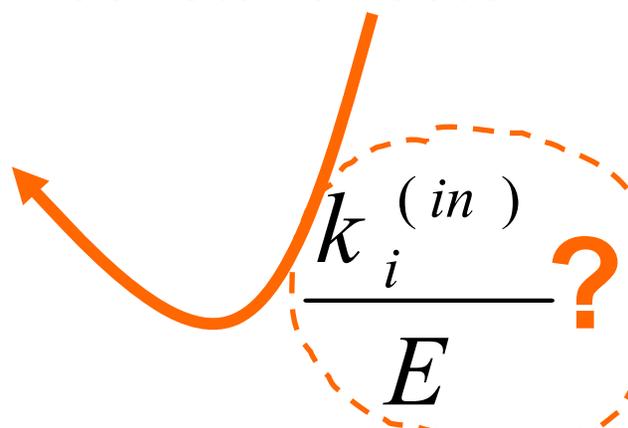
$u_i \sim 1$

*Hard to find single route in or out = slow equilibrium,  $\lambda \sim 1$*

# Diffusion as Ranking

- Long time solution gives a ranking of vertices  
Rank of vertex  $i$  = entry  $i$  of eigenvector of largest eigenvalue  $u^{(1)}_i$
- Other types of walk  
= other types of diffusion  
= new weighted edges  
= new ranking scheme  
e.g. PageRank<sup>®</sup> (Google)

Jump to random vertex with probability  $p_v$  or use other constant vector

$$P_{ij} = (1 - p_v) \frac{A_{ij}}{k_j^{(out)}} + p_v \frac{1}{N}$$


The diagram shows a dashed orange circle around the term  $\frac{k_i^{(in)}}{E}$  in the equation. An orange arrow points from this term to the  $p_v$  term in the equation, indicating a relationship or a question about its role in the ranking process.

# Conclusions

- Random Walk probes *global* structure of network but uses only *local* information
  - ⇒ A Naturally Occurring Mechanism
  - ⇒ Can lead to Self-Organisation
  - ⇒ Useful Tool
- Used to grow network long power-law tails are a robust outcome with a wide variety of powers
  - e.g.  $N=10^6$   $\langle k \rangle = 4$ 
    - ⇒  $\gamma=3$  as  $N, k \rightarrow \infty$  in Simon/BA models
    - Random Walk produces  $2.4 < \gamma < 5$

# I couldn't have done this without ...

- Project Students

Seb Klauke, JB Laloë, Christian Lunkes,  
Karl Sooman, Alex Warren

- ISCOM organisers

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Geoff West and all the ISCOM participants

- Collaborators

Daniel Hook, Carl Knappet, Ray Rivers,  
Jari Saramäki

T.S.Evans, J.P.Saramäki  
“Scale Free Networks from Self-Organisation”  
**Phys.Rev.E 72 (2005) 1** [`cond-mat/0411390`]

T.S.Evans,  
“Complex Networks”,  
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# More Information

Following slides provide additional information.

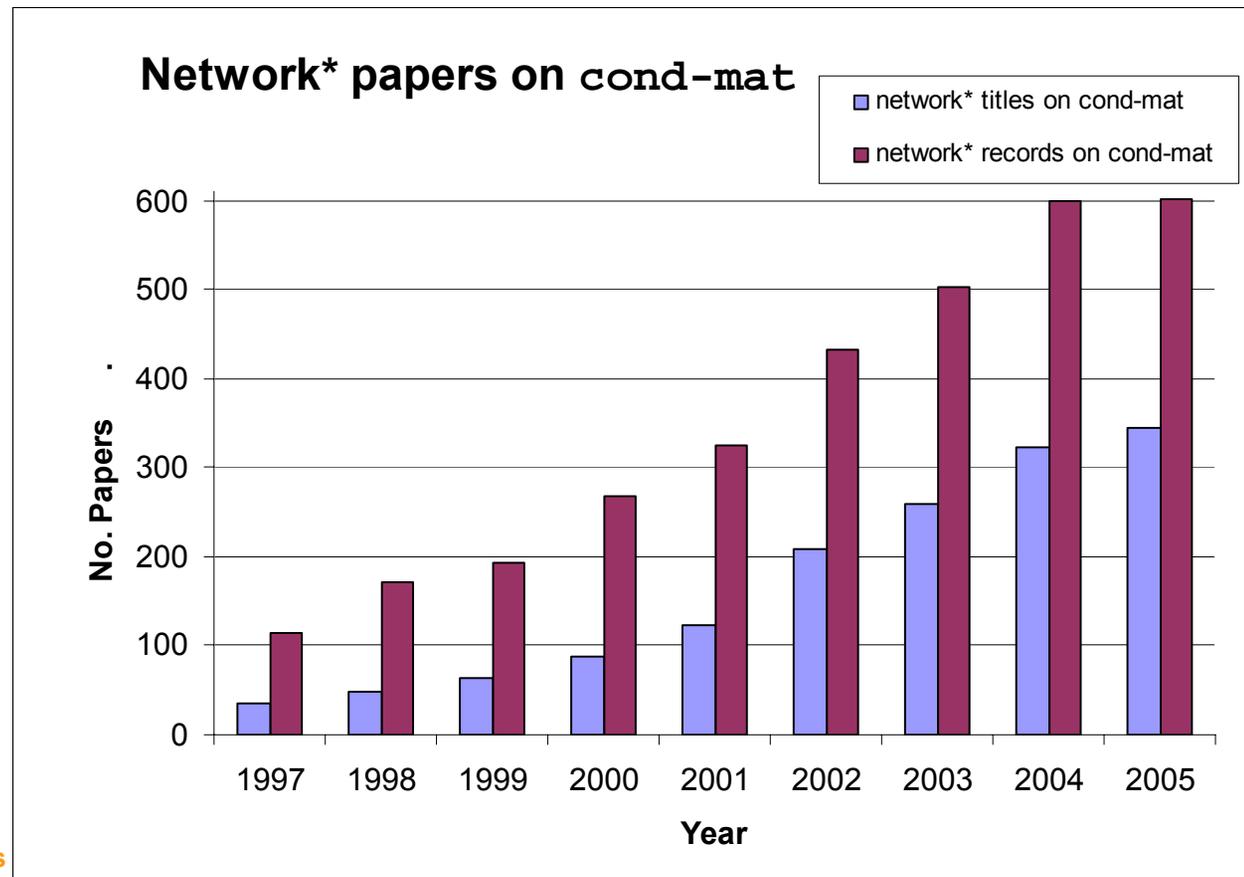
# More Information

Following slides provide additional information.

# Explosion of interest – WHY?

Since 1997 there has been an explosion of interest in networks by physicists.

For instance the condensed matter electronic preprint archives have gone from 35 papers in 1997 with a word starting with Network in their title to 344 last year, an increase of nearly 1000%



Updated from T.S.Evans, Contemporary Physics 45 (2004) 455 – 474 [cond-mat/0405123]

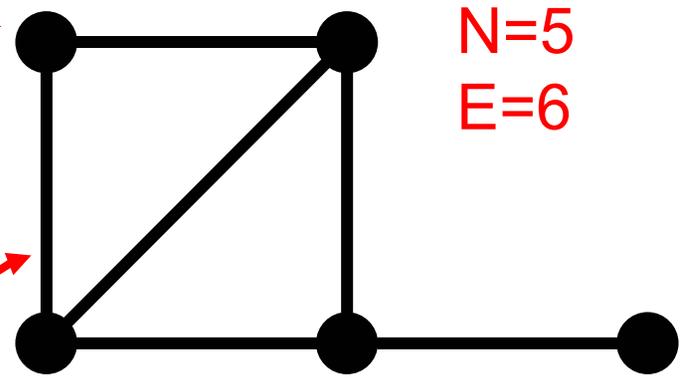


# WHY?

# Basic Definitions

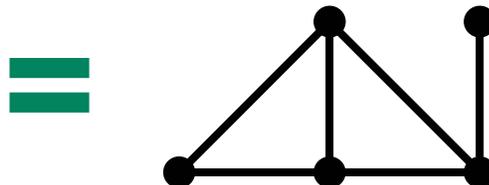
A **Network** or **Graph** is a collection of

**N** **Vertices** (nodes), pairs of which are connected by **E** **Edges**



This is a **SIMPLE** graph, it has no other information.

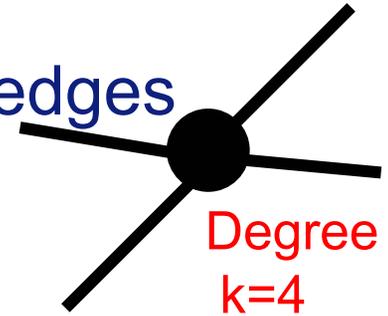
In particular the *same* network can be shown in several identical ways.



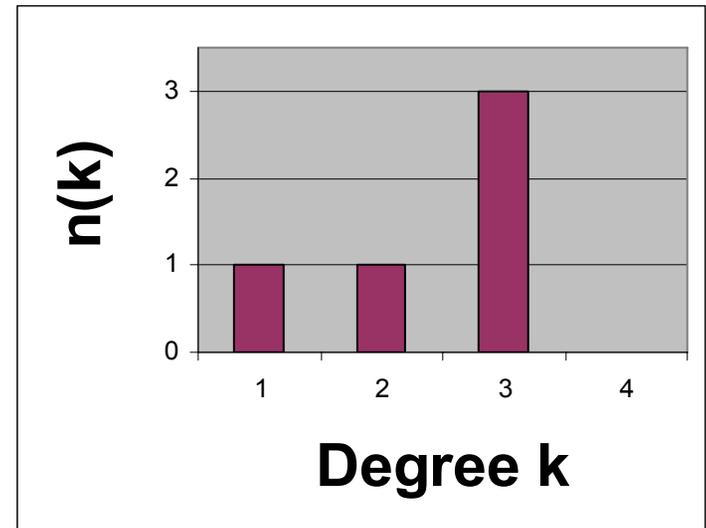
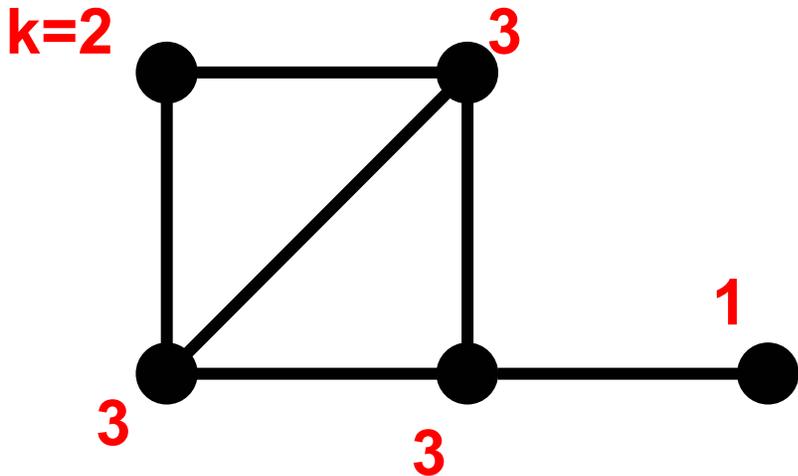
In general networks may have arrows on the edges (directed graphs), different values on edges (weighted graphs) or values to the vertices (coloured graphs).

# Degree (connectivity)

- The **Degree**  $k$  of a vertex is the number of edges attached to it.

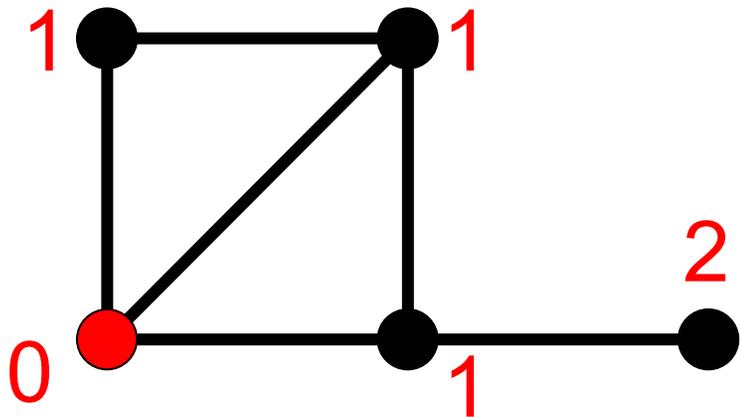


- The **Degree Distribution**  $n(k)$  is the number of vertices with degree  $k$

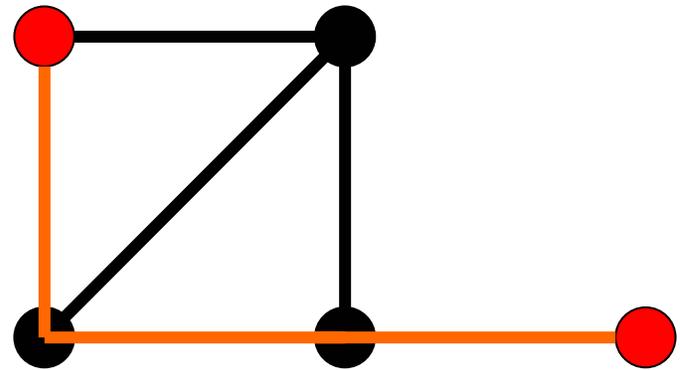


# Network Distance

- Counting one for each edge traversed, we can find the shortest path between any two vertices, giving a distance between the two.
- The longest of these shortest paths is the diameter.



Distances from red vertex



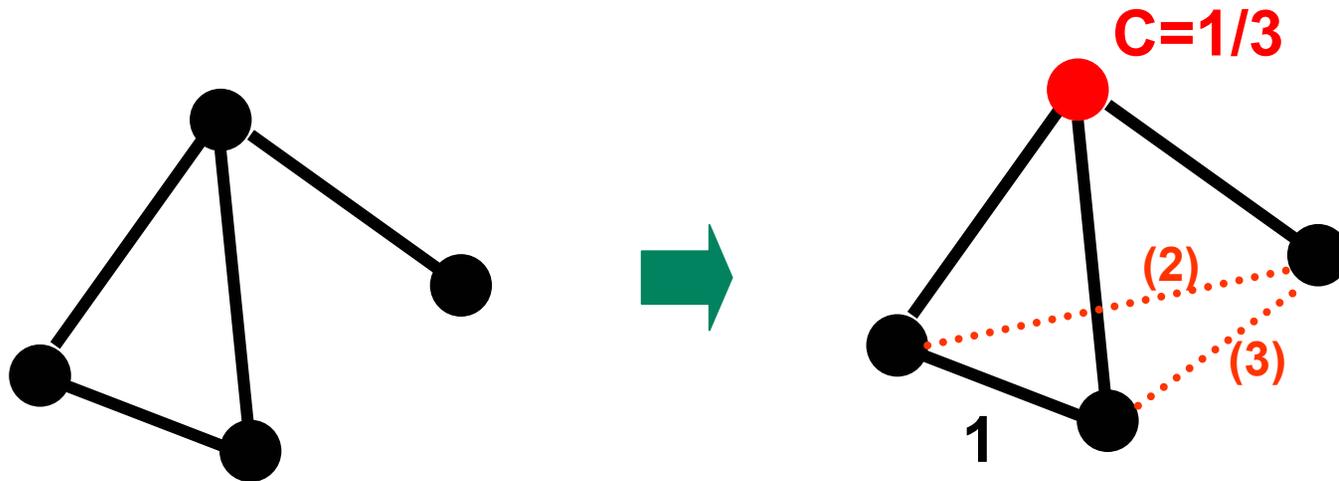
Diameter is **3**, between red vertices

# Cluster Coefficient

- **Clustering coefficient  $c$ :**

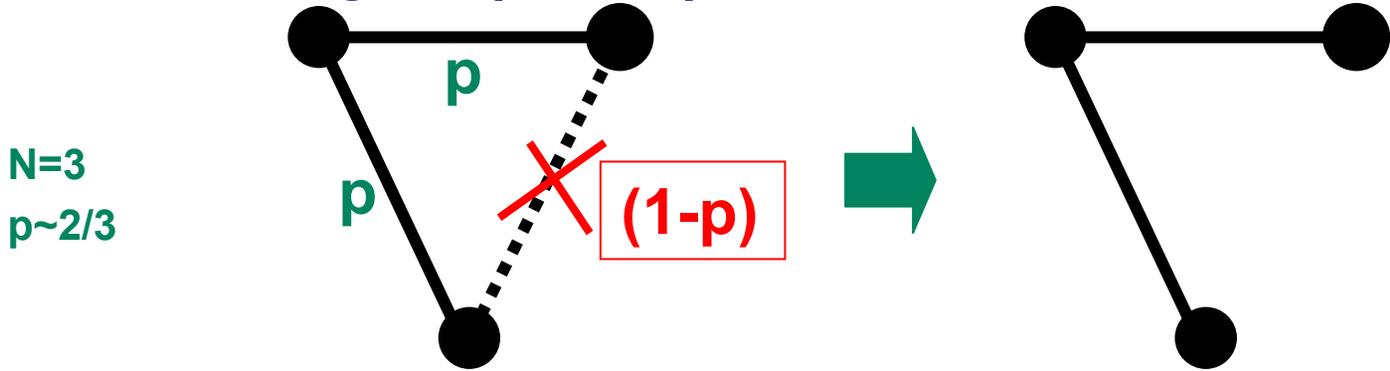
Fraction of the neighbours which are themselves connected

Simple measure of how much local structure there is in a network



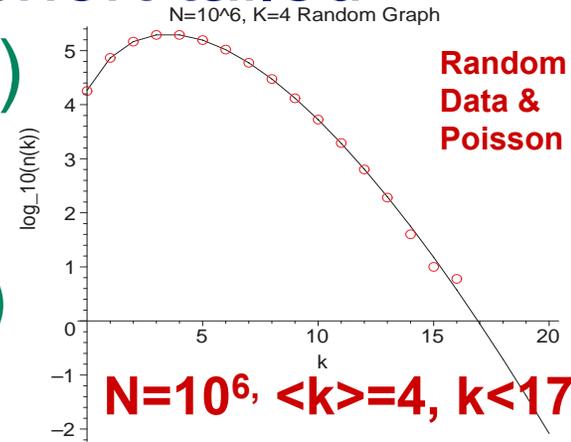
# Random Networks

- Take  $N$  vertices then consider every pair of vertices and connect each with probability  $p$
- Erdős-Reyní (1959).**



This is the opposite of the perfectly ordered lattice.

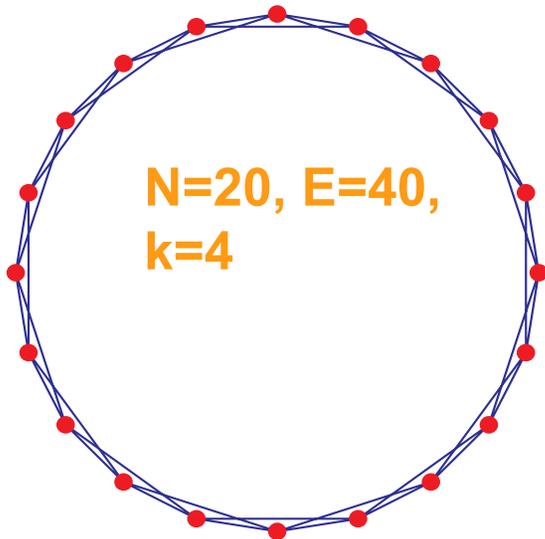
- Degree distribution is Poisson – short tailed
  - ➔ Maximum Degree  $k_1 \sim \ln(N)$
- Little local structure  $c \sim 1/N$
- Short distances  $\langle d \rangle \sim \ln(N)$



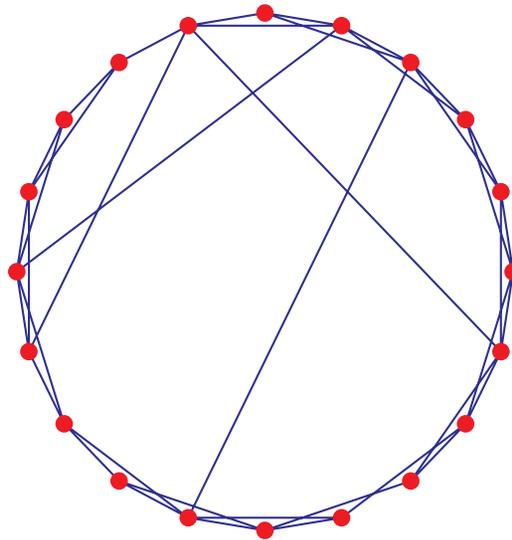
# Watts and Strogatz's Small World Network (1998)

- Start with lattice, pick random edge and rewire it
  - move ends to two new vertices chosen at random.

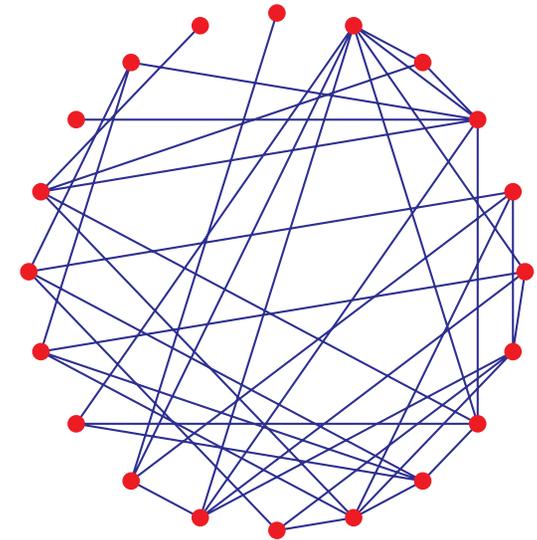
1 dim Lattice



Small World

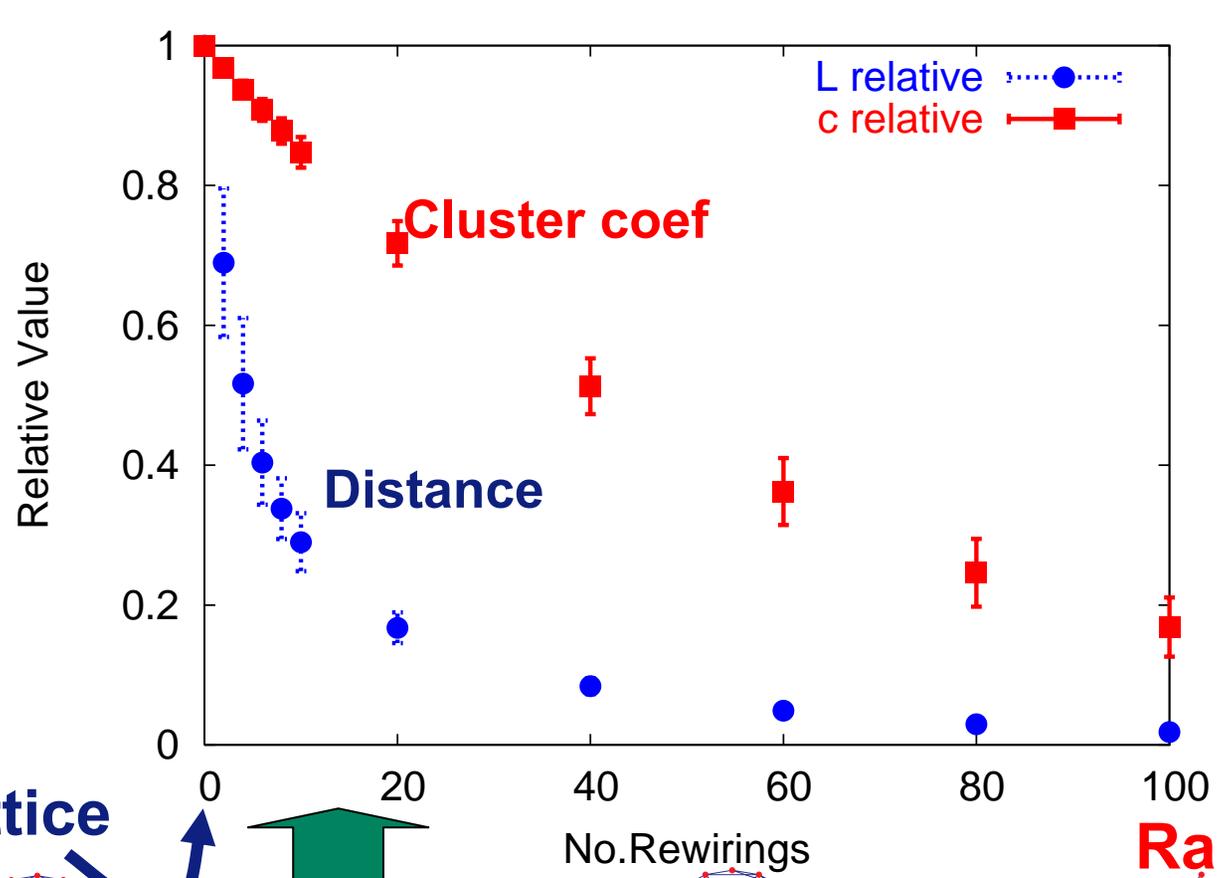


Random



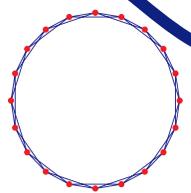
# Clustering and Length Scale in WS network

- As you *rewire*, distance drops very quickly, clustering does not
- ➔ Find **SMALL WORLD NETWORKS** with short distances of random network, large clustering and local structure like a lattice



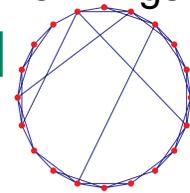
N=100,  
 <k>=4,  
 1-Dim lattice  
 start,  
 100 runs

Lattice

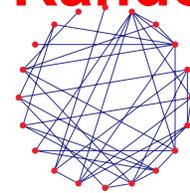


Small World

No. Rewirings



Random

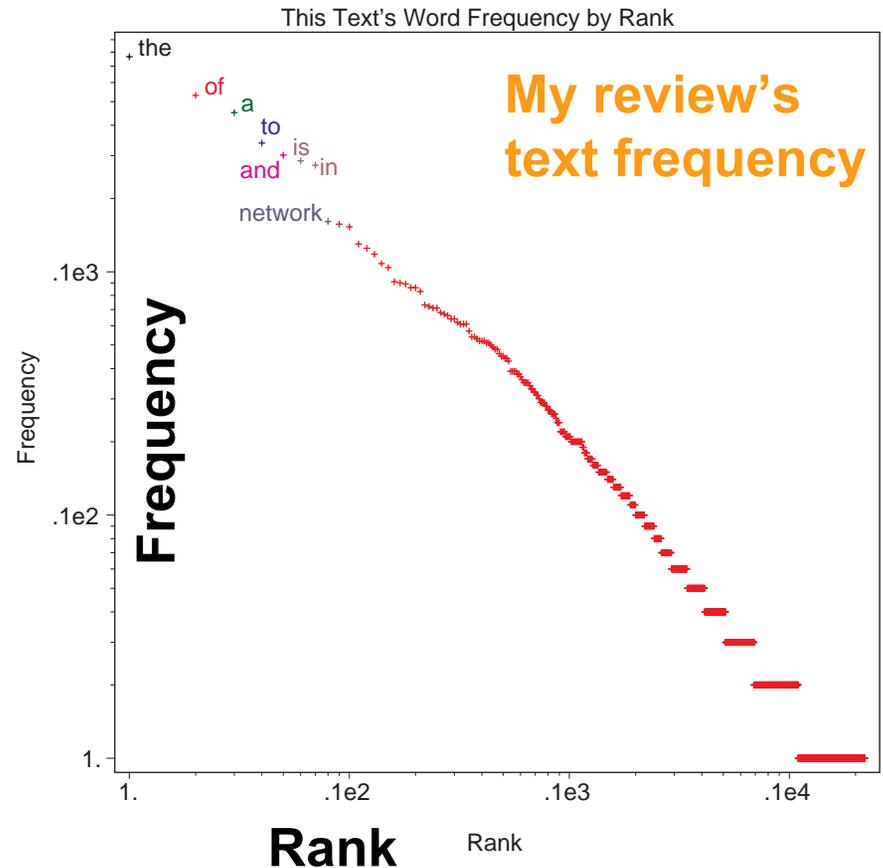
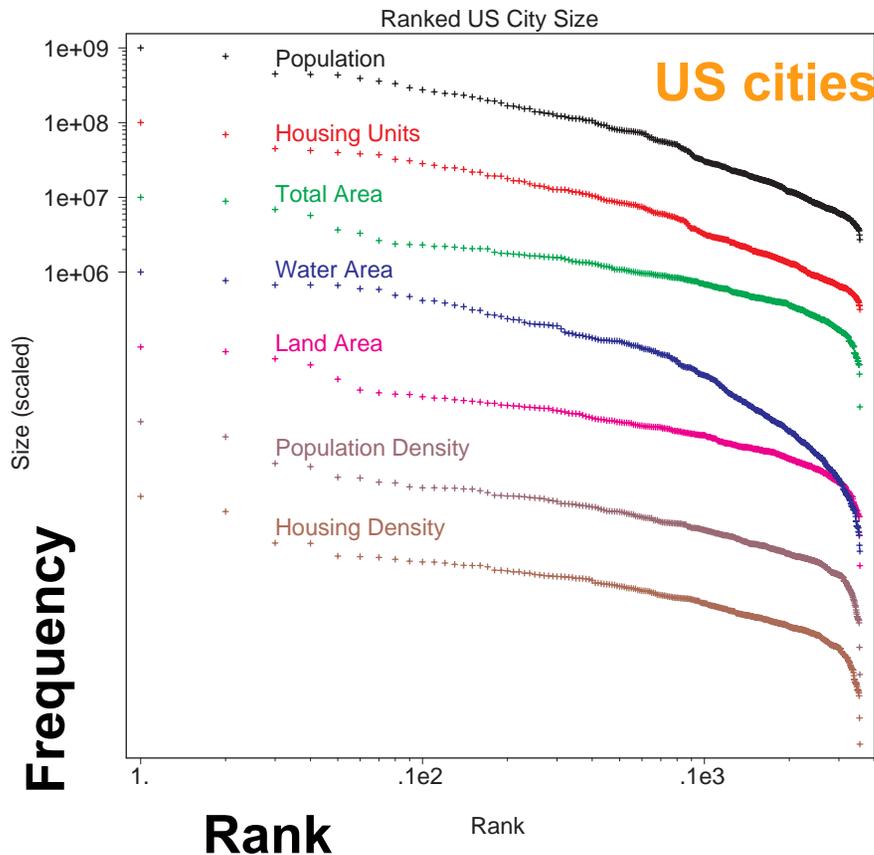


# Network Comparison

	Distance $d$	Degree Distrib. $n(k)$	Maximum Degree $k_1$	Cluster Coef. $c$
Lattice	Large $d \sim N^{1/\text{dim}}$	No Tail $\delta(k-k_0)$	Fixed $k_0$	$\sim O(1)$
Watts-Strogatz Small World	Small $d \sim \log(N)$	No Tail $\sim \delta(k-k_0)$	V.Small $\sim k_0$	$\sim O(1/N)$
Erdős-Reyní Random	Small $d \sim \log(N)$	Short Tail Poisson $\langle k \rangle^k e^{-\langle k \rangle} / k!$	Small $\sim \log(N)$	$\sim O(1/N)$
Scale-Free	Small $d \sim \log(N)$	Long Tail $\sim k^{-\gamma}$	Large = HUBS $\sim k^{1/(\gamma-1)}$	$\sim O(1/N)$

# Scaling in Social Sciences

- Zipf law (1949) – City Sizes, Text Frequencies,...
- Pareto's 80:20 rule (1890's)



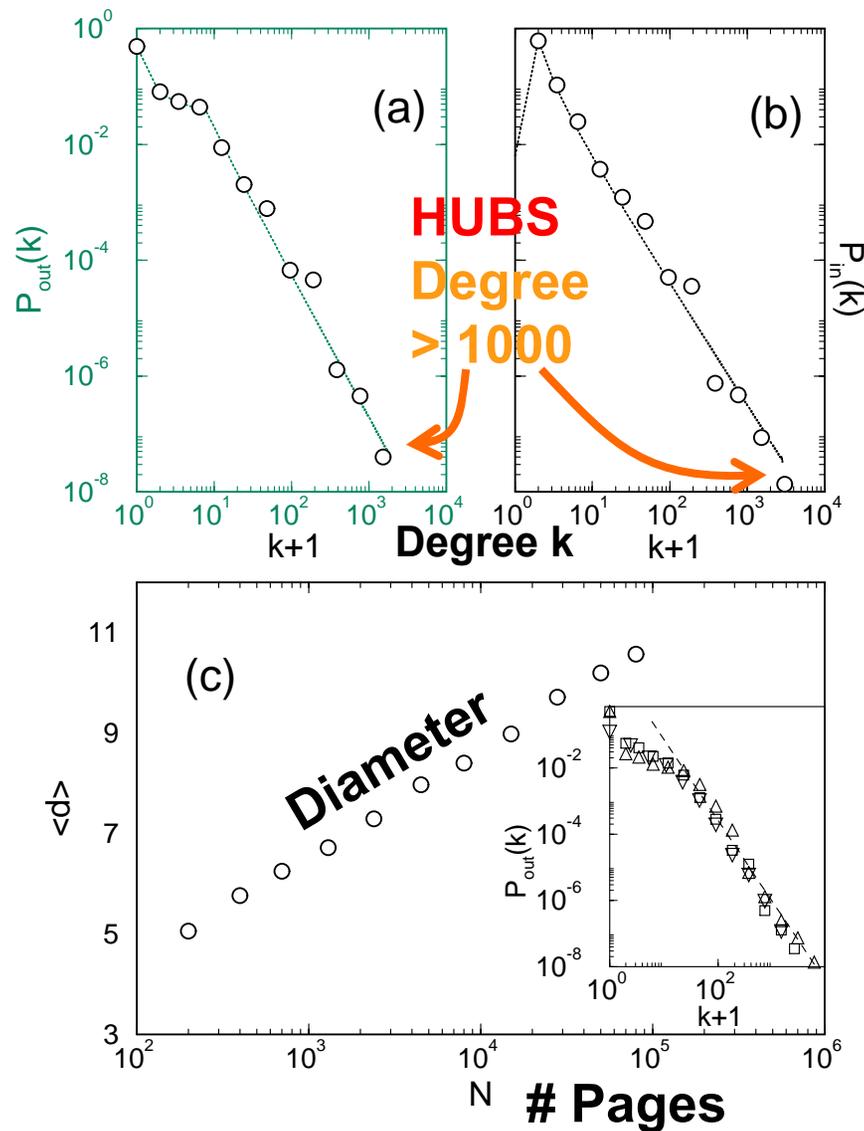
# The World Wide Web



- Every web page is a vertex, every link is an edge
  - A few pages have a tremendous amount of links to them e.g. college home page, eBay, Google
- These are **Hubs** and they are a key aspect of how we navigate and use the web

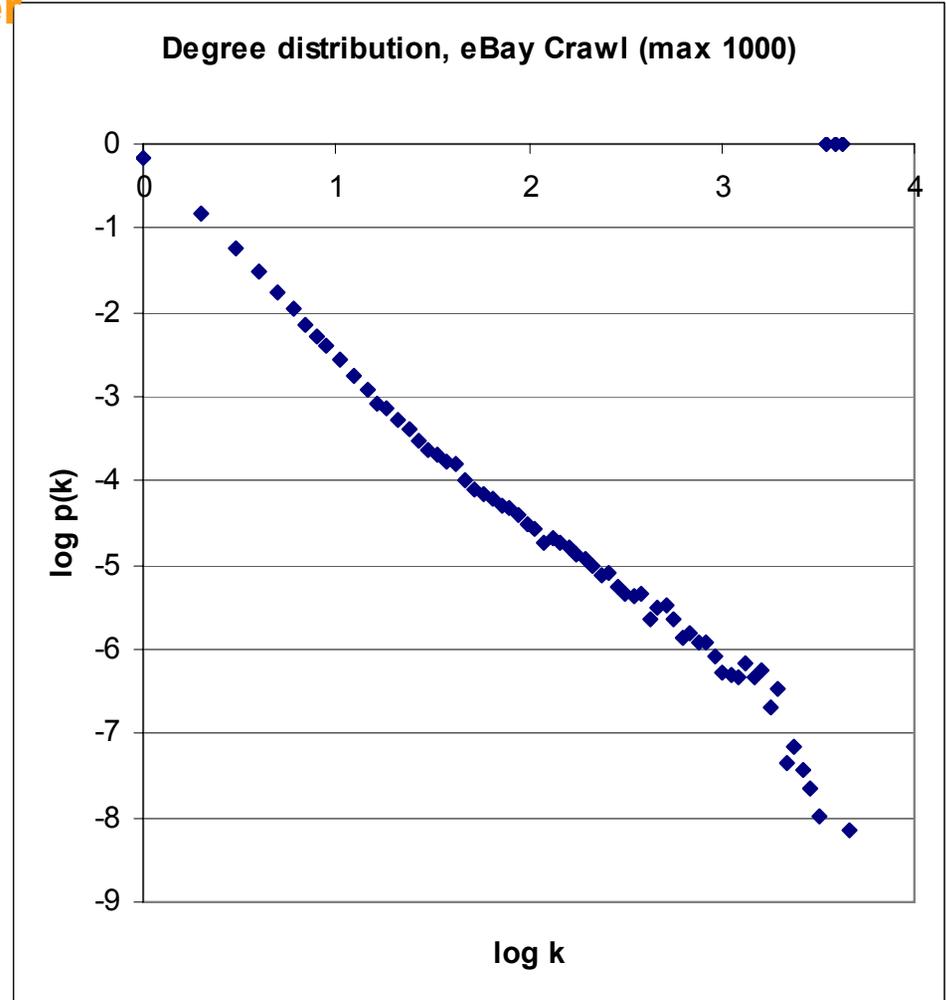
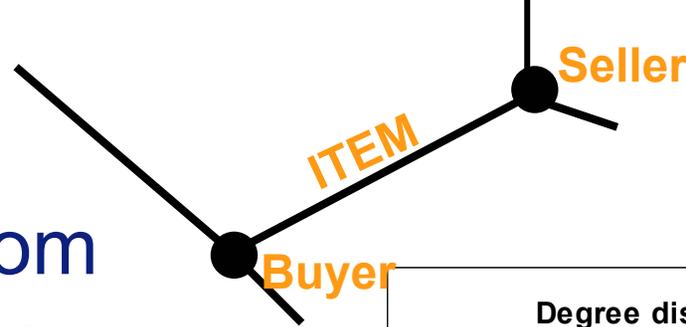


## Log-Log plot of degree distribution of nd.edu



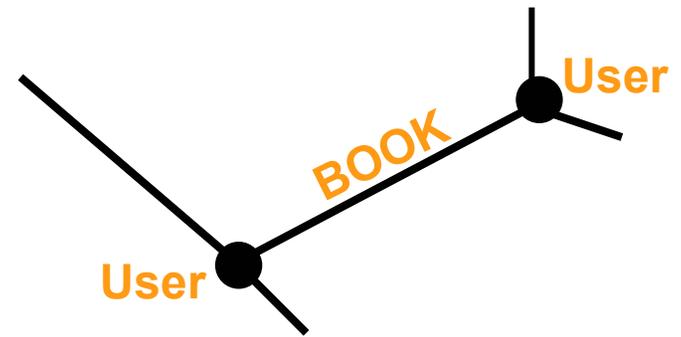
(Barabasi, Albert, Jeong 1999)

- Network from buyer/seller feedback links
- eBay is dominated by a few very large hubs.
- The slight curvature due to crawling method.
- Fetched 5,000 pages and built up a network of 318,000 nodes and 670,000 edges
- $\gamma \approx 2.3$

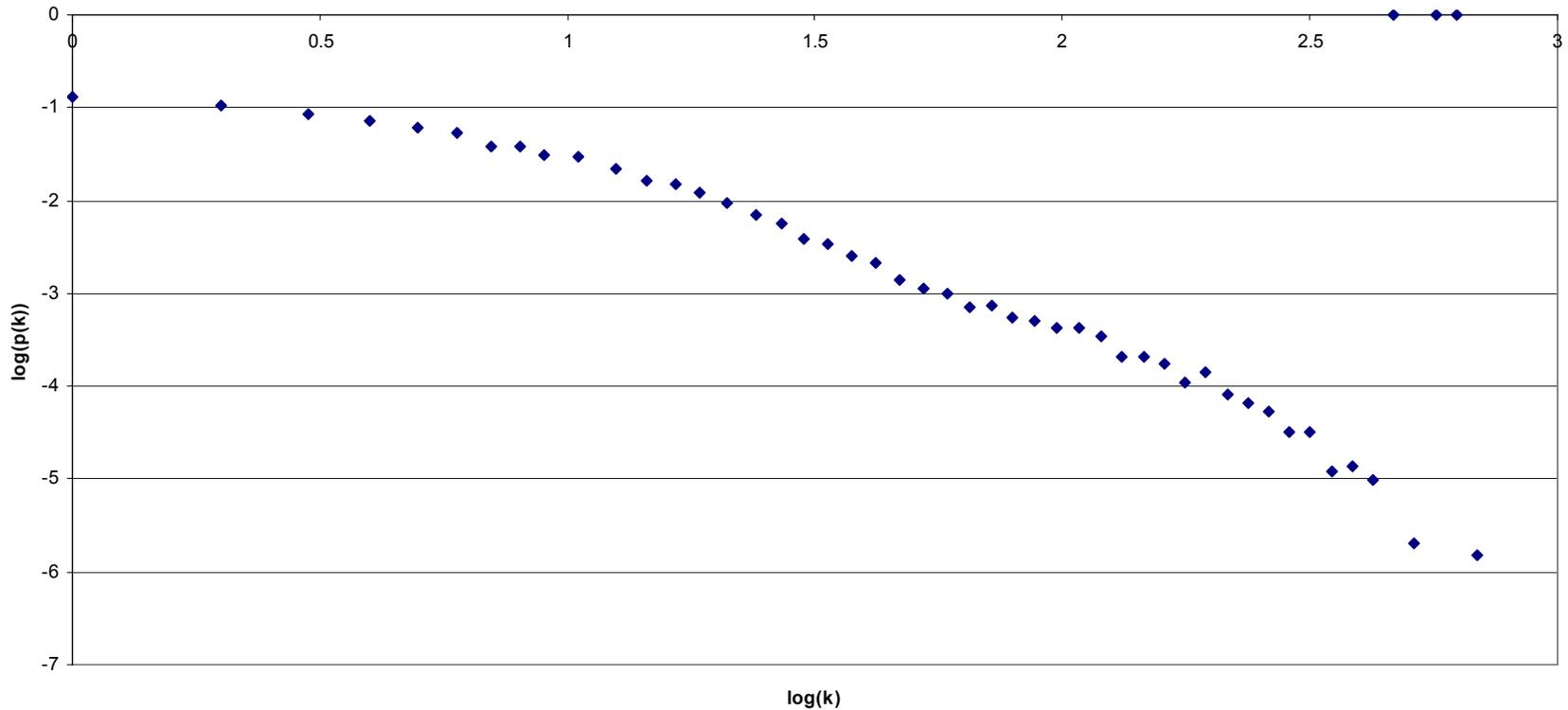


# Imperial Library

- Used to detect groups from lending patterns

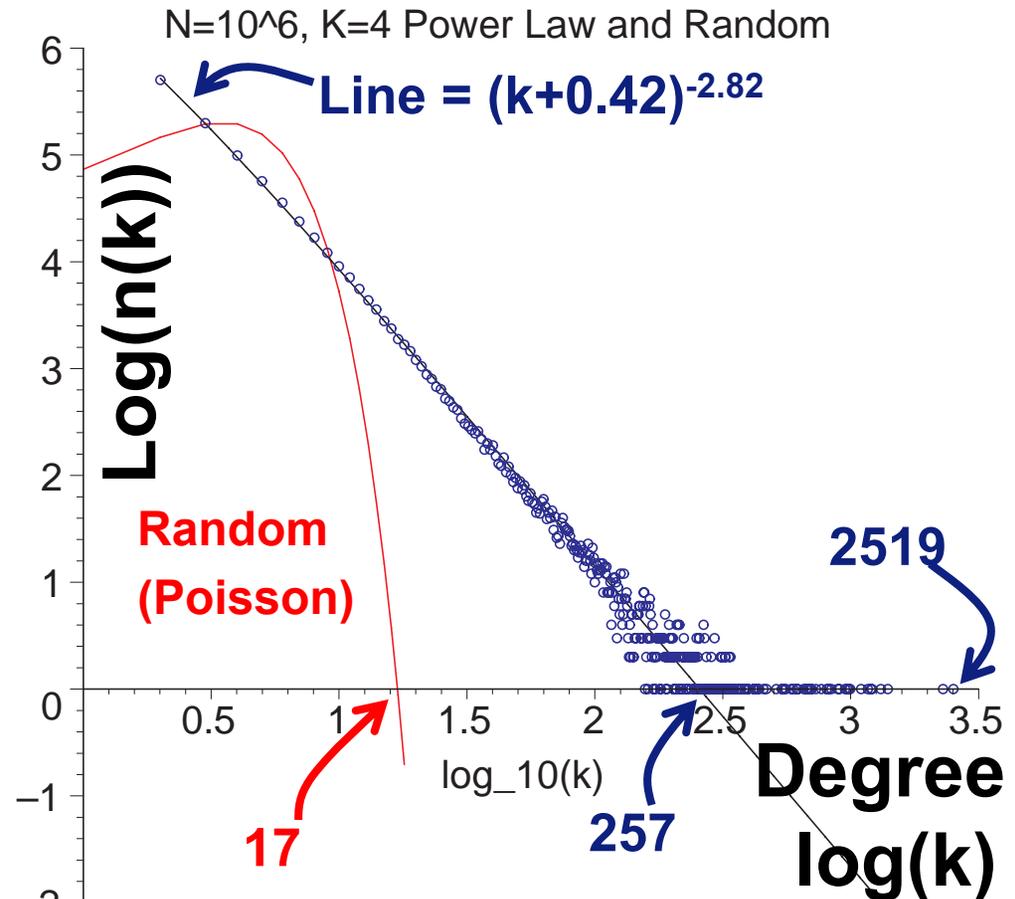
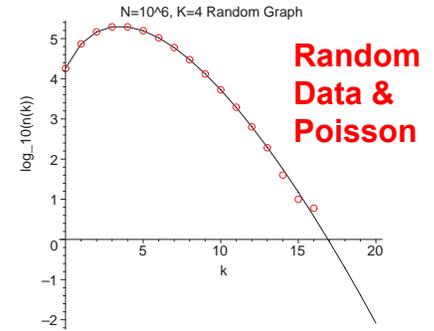


Period 2 (excluding Haldane), degree distribution



# What sort of network has hubs?

- Lattices, WS (Watts-Strogatz) Small World and random networks have no hubs, e.g. the largest degree is 17 for a random network with  $N=10^6$ ,  $\langle k \rangle=4$
- Want a network with a long tailed degree distribution e.g. power law  $\sim k^{-3}$  has max. degree  $\sim 2520$  for  $N=10^6$ ,  $\langle k \rangle=4$



From T.S.Evans, Contemporary Physics 45 (2004) 455 – 474 [cond-mat/0405123]

# Long Tails Description

- Most data sets have “long” tails for degree distribution

Characterised by a few vertices with many edges - **HUBS**

e.g. maximum degree

$$k_{\max} = O(N^\nu) \gg O(\log(N)) \quad \nu > 0$$

Power Law:  $\nu = 1/2$

Poisson

- These can often be reasonably described by a power-law

$$n(k) \sim k^{-\gamma} \quad (2 < \gamma < \infty \text{ if } N \rightarrow \infty, K < \infty)$$

**BUT** note that many other functions give reasonable fits too!

# Models

- Short Exponential Tails

$$\lim_{k \rightarrow \infty} [n(k)] \sim \exp(k/k_{\text{scale}})$$

$$\text{e.g. } N=10^6, \langle k \rangle=4 \implies k_{\text{max}}=17 = O(\log(N))$$

-Random Graph Erdős-Reyní (1959) (Poisson)

-Watts-Strogatz Small World (1998)

-Growing with Random Attachment

- Scale-Free = Long Power-Law Tails

$$\lim_{k \rightarrow \infty} [n(k)] \sim k^{-\gamma} \quad 2 < \gamma < \infty$$

$$\text{e.g. } N=10^6, \langle k \rangle=4 \implies k_{\text{max}}=2520 = O(N^{1/2})$$

-Simon (1955) [graph can be added easily]

-Barabasi-Alberts (1999) [graph not required]

# Scale Free Networks

- Any network with a **power law degree distribution** for large degrees

$$\lim_{k \rightarrow \infty} [n(k)] \propto k^{-\gamma}$$

- Always have many large **Hubs** nodes with many edges attached – e.g. routers in the internet
- **Scale Free** means the number of vertices of degree  $2k$  with those of degree  $k$ , always the same whatever  $k$ , that is there is no scale for degree

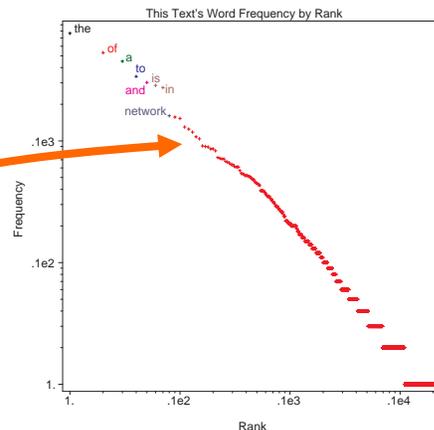
$$\frac{n(2k)}{n(k)} = \text{constant}$$

- In practice there are at least two scales for finite  $N$ :

$$O(1) \sim k_{\min} \leq k \leq k_{\max} \sim O(N^{1/(\gamma-1)})$$

# Power Laws in the Real World

- 2<sup>nd</sup> Order Phase Transitions  
(e.g. superconductors, superfluids,...)  
**Long range order = no scale = physical insight**  
**Critical Phenomena – Renormalisation Group**
- Scaling in Particle Physics
- Biology
  - Kleiber's Law (1930's) metabolic rate  $r \propto m^{3/4}$  body mass, explained (West, Brown, Enqvist 1997)
- Social Sciences
  - Zipf's Law (1949)  
City sizes,  
Word frequency, ...  
→ file compression



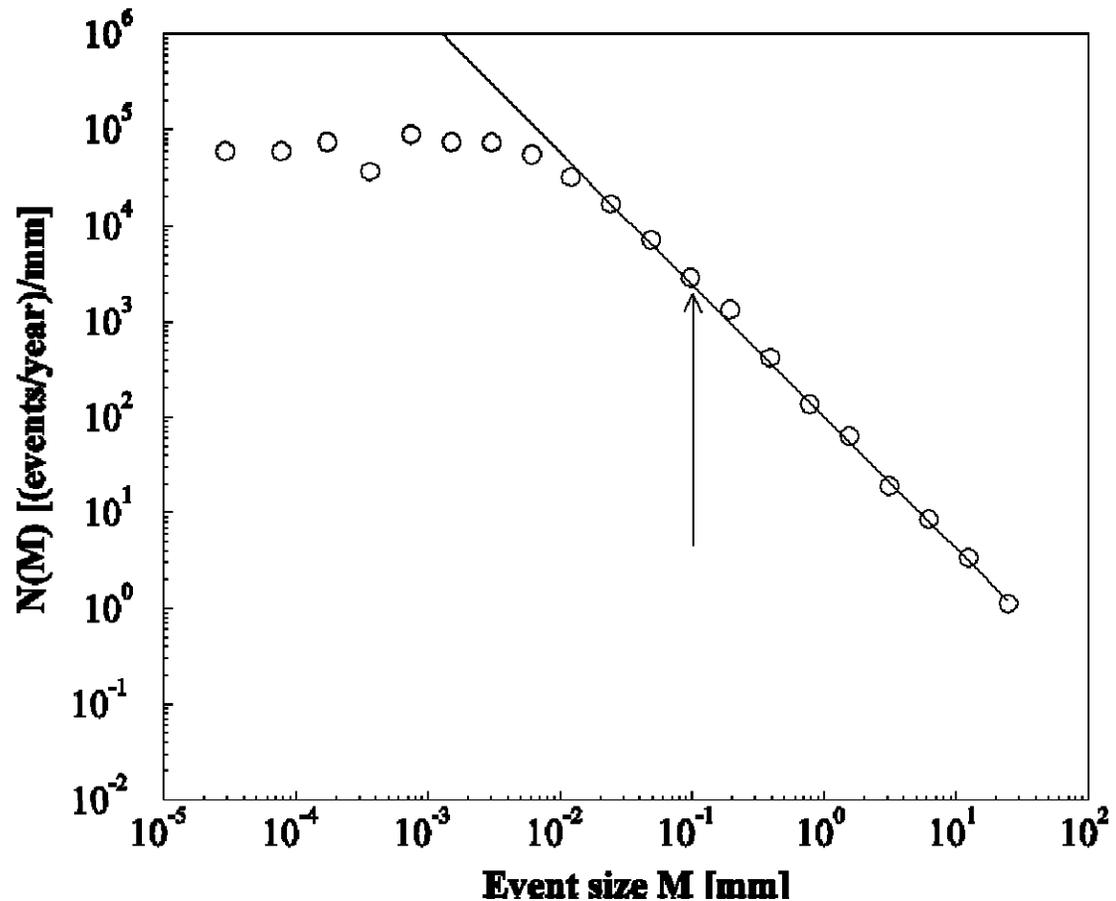
From T.S.Evans,  
Contemporary  
Physics  
45 (2004) 455 – 474  
[cond-mat/0405123]

# Scaling in Complex Systems

- Earthquakes  
(Gutenberg-Richter Law),  
forest fires,  
rice piles,  
**rainfall distributions,**  
etc etc

**Self-Organised  
Criticality**

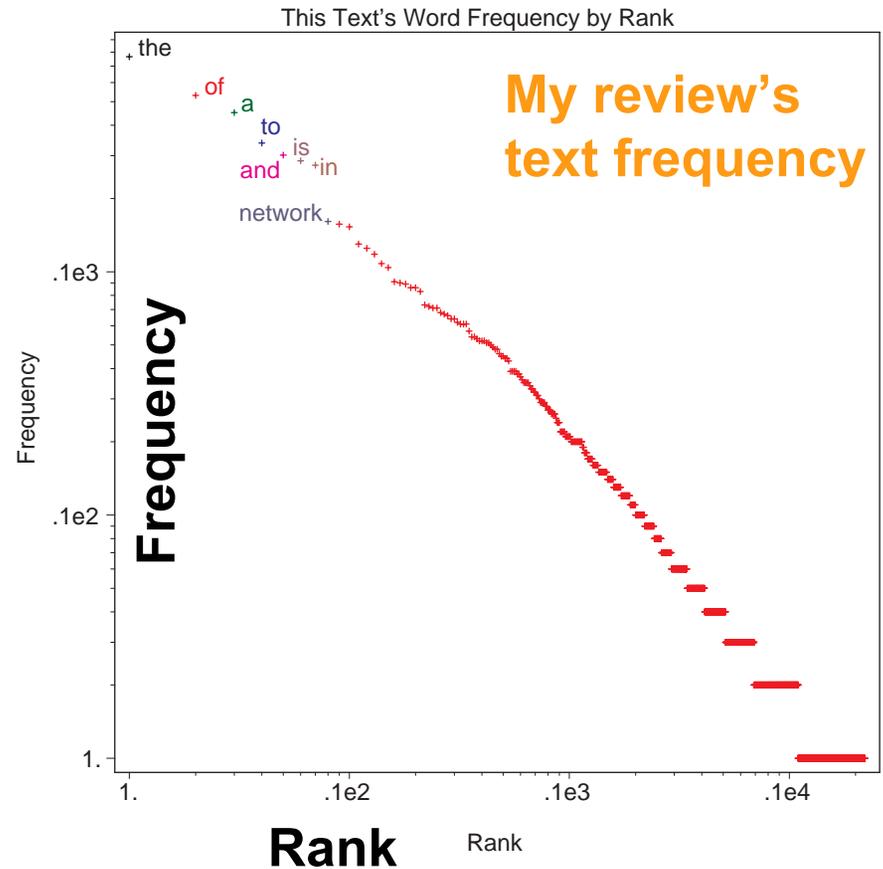
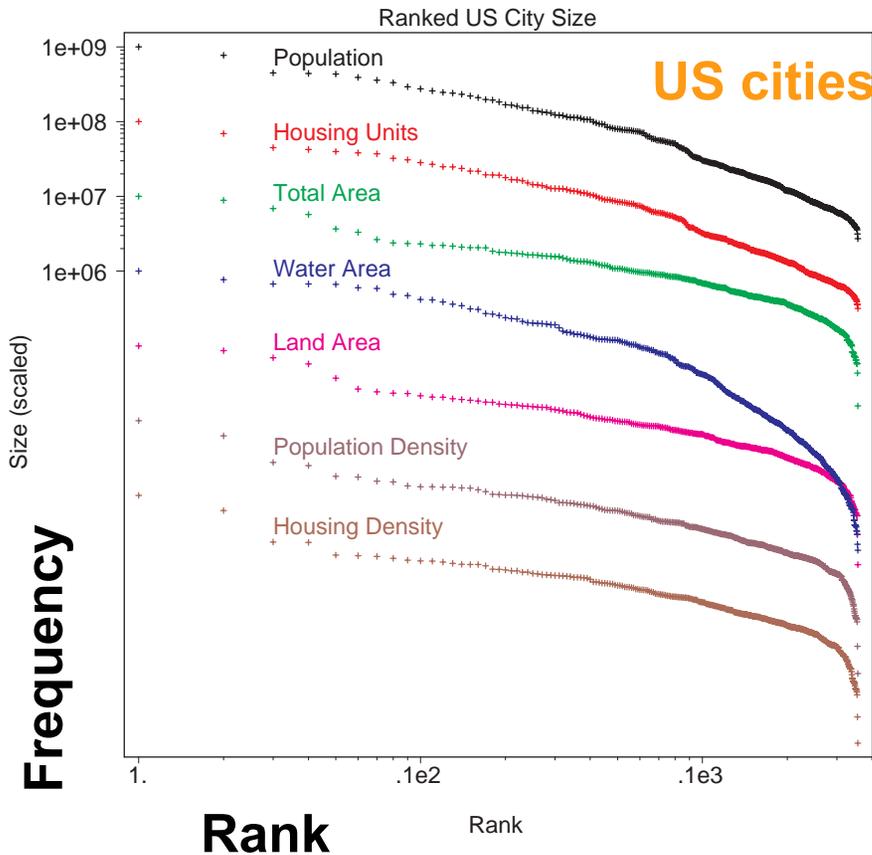
- Still leading to  
further physical  
insights



(Peters, Hertlein, Christensen 2002)

# Scaling in Social Sciences

- Zipf law (1949) – City Sizes, Text Frequencies,...
- Pareto's 80:20 rule (1890's)



# Scaling with every network

- Friendship networks -  
**Kevin Bacon game**
- Scientific Collaboration Networks -  
**Erdős number**
- Scientific Citation Networks
- Word Wide Web
- Internet
- Food Webs
- Language Networks
- Protein Interaction Networks
- Power Distribution Networks
- Imperial Library Lending Data  
(Laloe, Lunkes, Sooman, Warren, Hook, TSE)
- eBay relationships  
(Sooman, Warren, TSE)
- Greek Gods
- Marvel Comic Heroes

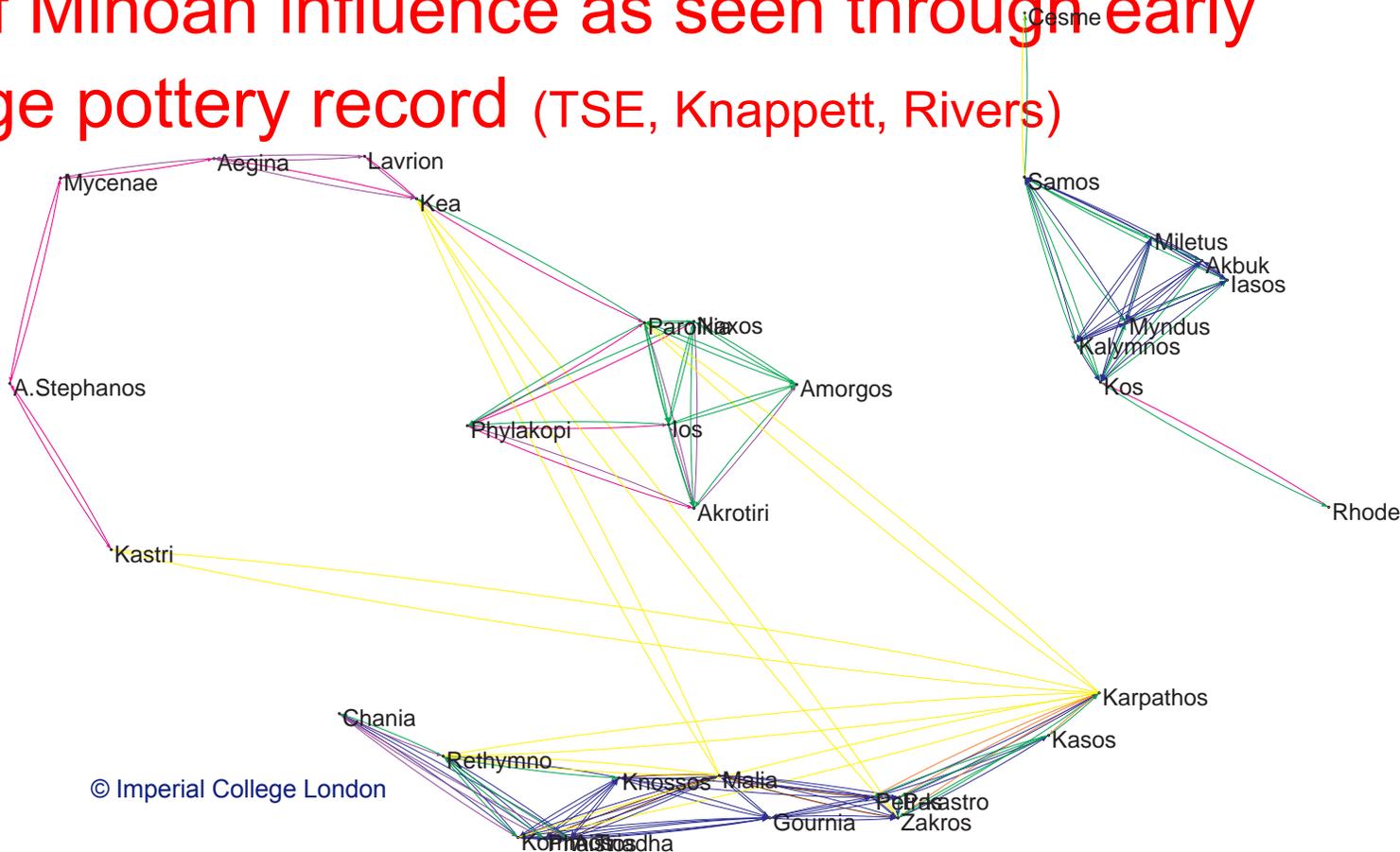
# Scaling – a health warning

Almost every network is scale free if you believe the literature but

- Not many decades of data  
e.g.  $10^6$  vertex scale free network has largest vertex about 1000 so at most two decades of large degree scaling
- Data often a single data set **no repeats**
- Errors unknown in much social science data
- Other long tailed distributions have hubs too

# Applications: Archaeological Networks

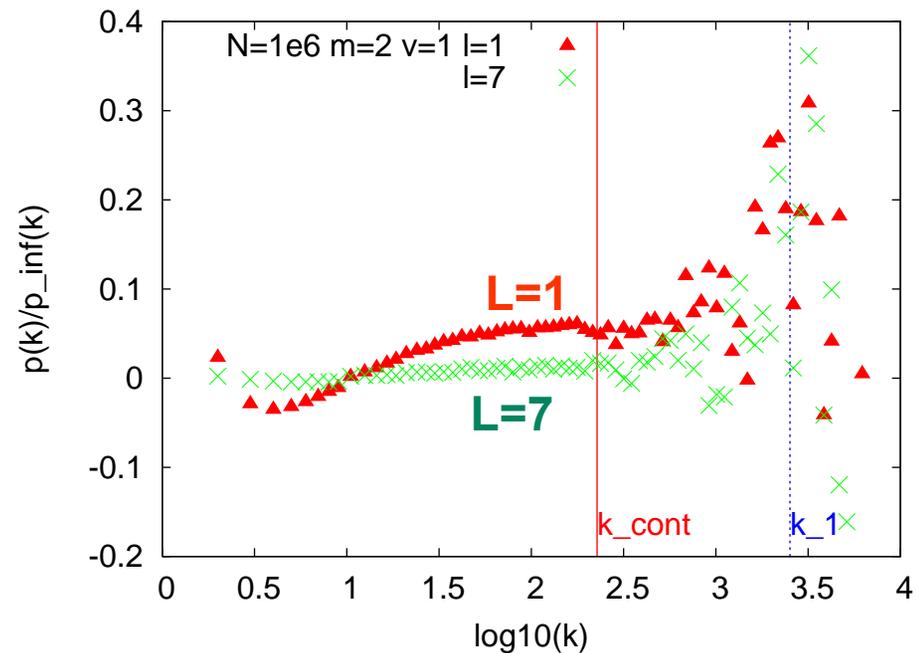
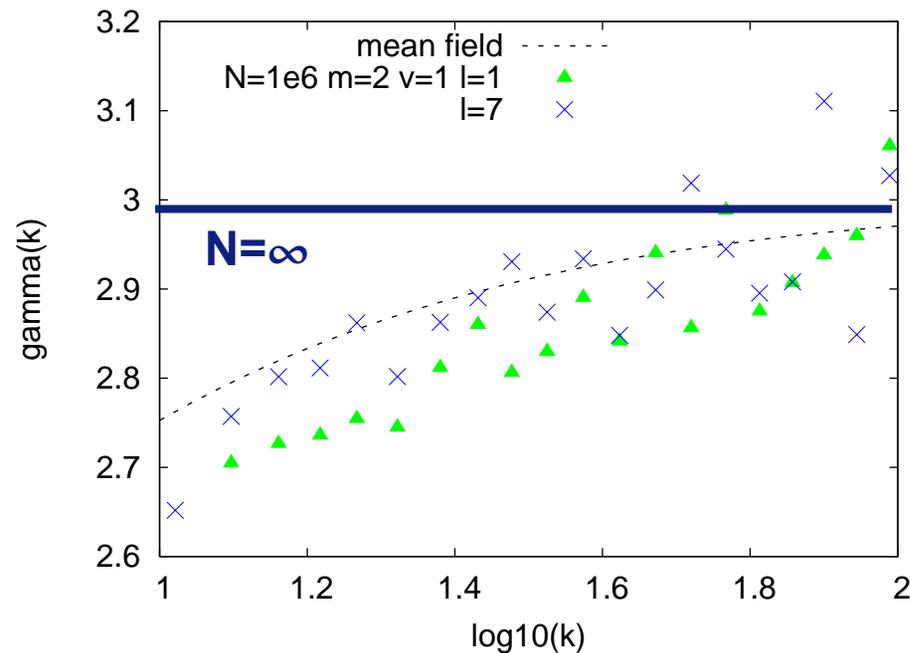
- Ceremonial Pig exchange networks in Polynesia (Hage & Harary)
- Central role of Delos in ancient Greek culture (Davis)
- Spread of Minoan influence as seen through early bronze age pottery record (TSE, Knappett, Rivers)



# What is the power?

- Local power always below asymptotic value of 3

- However long walks fit mean field asymptotic solution very well



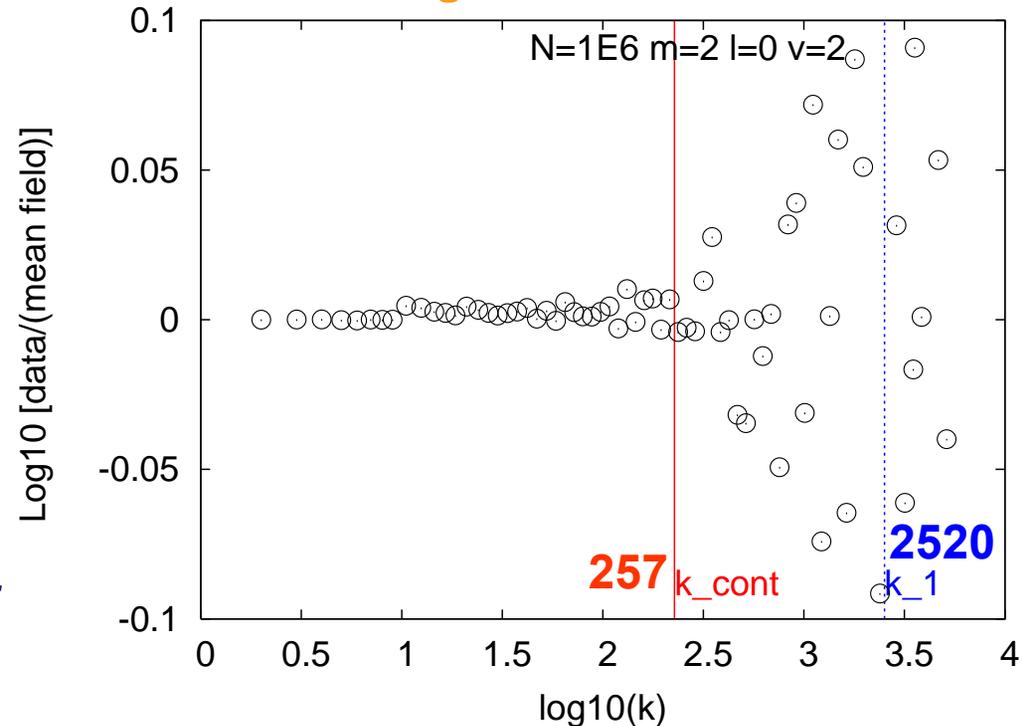
$$\gamma(k) = \frac{n(kr) - n(k)}{k(r-1)} \quad (r=1.1)$$

Data generated by walk method  
 divided by predicted long time  
 mean field value

# Mean Field Solutions

- Assume behaviour of the average number of vertices of degree  $k$  given by the average properties of the network
- These are excellent for pure preferential attachment (Simon/BA)  
↔  
correlations in degrees of neighbouring vertices insignificant

Fractional deviation of data from one run of pure pref. attachment model against mean field solution



$$n(k_{cont}) := 1$$

$$k_{cont} = O(N^{1/3})$$

**Limit of good data**

# Finite Size Effects for pure preferential attachment

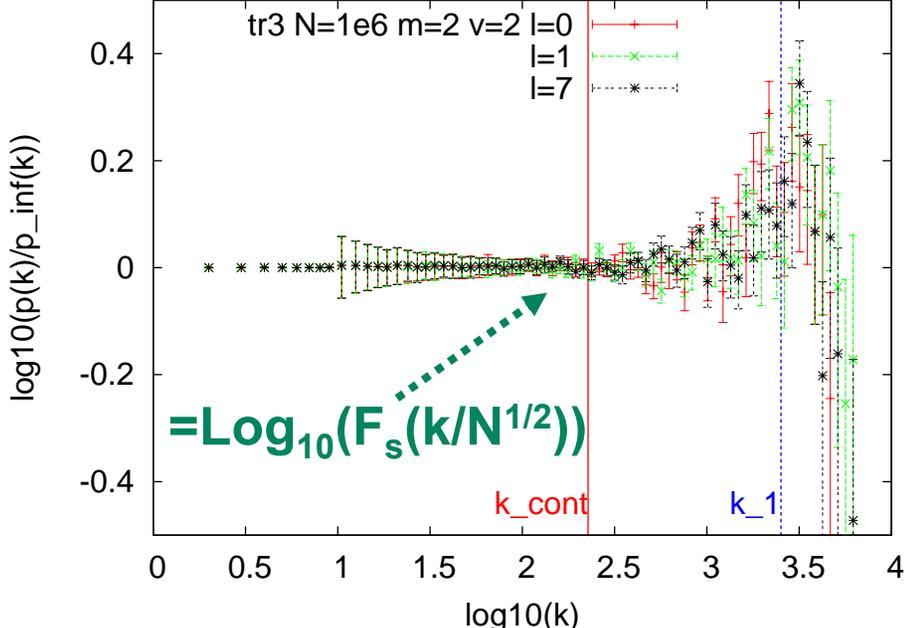
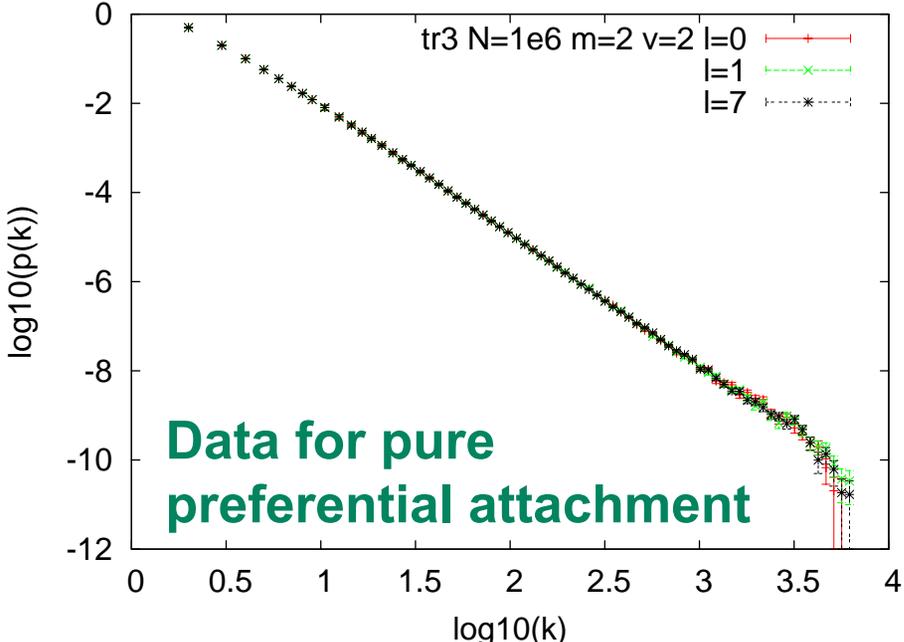
$$p(k) = p_\infty(k) \cdot F_S\left(\frac{k}{N^{1/2}}\right),$$

$$p_\infty(k) = \frac{\langle k \rangle (\langle k \rangle + 2)}{2k(k+1)(k+2)}$$

## Scaling Function $F_S$

$$F_S(x) \approx 1 \quad \text{if} \quad x < 1$$

$$\rightarrow \frac{1}{k^3}$$



**100 runs to get enough data near  $k_1$**