

# **Watts-Strogatz** model of **small-world** **networks**

# Small-world networks

- On of the first paper of Network Science...

D.J. Watts and S. Strogatz,

"Collective dynamics of 'small-world' networks", Nature 393, 440–442, 1998

Contradiction: Real-world networks have

High clustering  
coefficient

AND

Short  
distances

# Clustering vs. Interconnectedness

## Random networks

- **Logarithmically short distance among nodes**

$$d = \frac{\log N}{\log \langle k \rangle}$$



- Vanishing clustering coefficient for large size

$$C_i \equiv \frac{1}{N} \langle k \rangle = p$$

## Real-world networks

Network	Size	$\langle k \rangle$	$\ell$	$\ell_{rand}$	$C$	$C_{rand}$	Reference
WWW, site level, undir.	153 127	35.21	3.1	3.35	0.1078	0.00023	Adamic, 1999
Internet, domain level	3015–6209	3.52–4.11	3.7–3.76	6.36–6.18	0.18–0.3	0.001	Yook <i>et al.</i> , 2001a, Pastor-Satorras <i>et al.</i> , 2001
Movie actors	225 226	61	3.65	2.99	0.79	0.00027	Watts and Strogatz, 1998
LANL co-authorship	52 909	9.7	5.9	4.79	0.43	$1.8 \times 10^{-4}$	Newman, 2001a, 2001b, 2001c
MEDLINE co-authorship	1 520 251	18.1	4.6	4.91	0.066	$1.1 \times 10^{-5}$	Newman, 2001a, 2001b, 2001c
SPIRES co-authorship	56 627	173	4.0	2.12	0.726	0.003	Newman, 2001a, 2001b, 2001c
NCSTRL co-authorship	11 994	3.59	9.7	7.34	0.496	$3 \times 10^{-4}$	Newman, 2001a, 2001b, 2001c
Math. co-authorship	70 975	3.9	9.5	8.2	0.59	$5.4 \times 10^{-5}$	Barabási <i>et al.</i> , 2001
Neurosci. co-authorship	209 293	11.5	6	5.01	0.76	$5.5 \times 10^{-5}$	Barabási <i>et al.</i> , 2001
<i>E. coli</i> , substrate graph	282	7.35	2.9	3.04	0.32	0.026	Wagner and Fell, 2000
<i>E. coli</i> , reaction graph	315	28.3	2.62	1.98	0.59	0.09	Wagner and Fell, 2000
Ythan estuary food web	134	8.7	2.43	2.26	0.22	0.06	Montoya and Solé, 2000
Silwood Park food web	154	4.75	3.40	3.23	0.15	0.03	Montoya and Solé, 2000
Words, co-occurrence	460.902	70.13	2.67	3.03	0.437	0.0001	Ferrer i Cancho and Solé, 2001
Words, synonyms	22 311	13.48	4.5	3.84	0.7	0.0006	Yook <i>et al.</i> , 2001b
Power grid	4941	2.67	18.7	12.4	0.08	0.005	Watts and Strogatz, 1998
<i>C. Elegans</i>	282	14	2.65	2.25	0.28	0.05	Watts and Strogatz, 1998



# Clustering vs. Interconnectedness

## Random networks

- Logarithmically short distance among nodes  $d = \frac{\log N}{\log \langle k \rangle}$  ✓
- **Vanishing clustering coefficient for large size**  $C_i \equiv \frac{1}{N} \langle k \rangle = p$  ✗

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# The Watts-Strogatz model

A model to capture large clustering coefficient and short distances observed in real networks

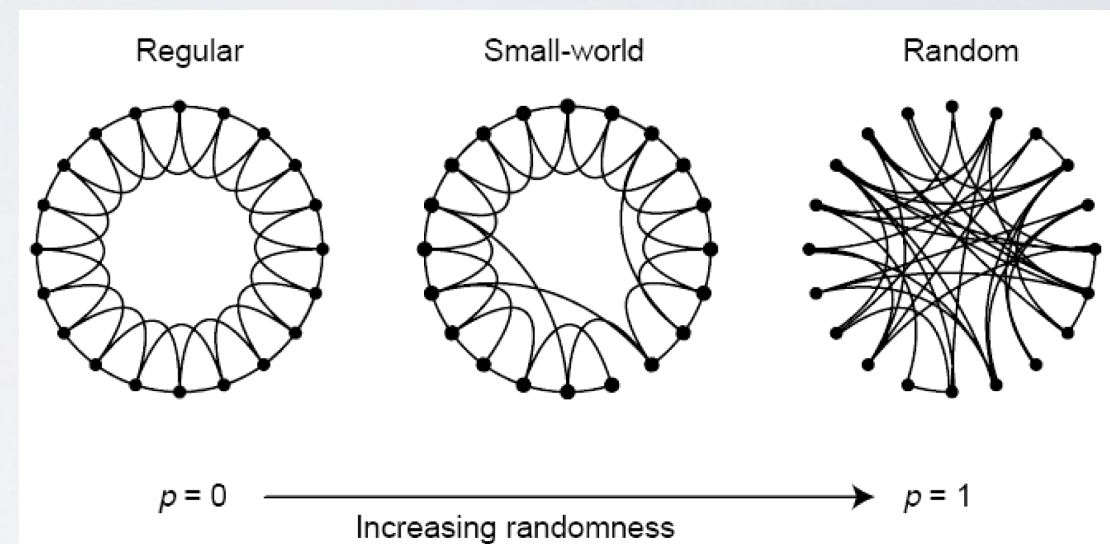
- It interpolates between an ordered finite lattice and a random graph

- Fixed parameters:

- $n$  - system size
- $K$  - initial coordination number

- Variable parameters:

- $p$  - rewiring probability



D.J. Watts and S. Strogatz, Nature (1998)

- **Algorithm:**

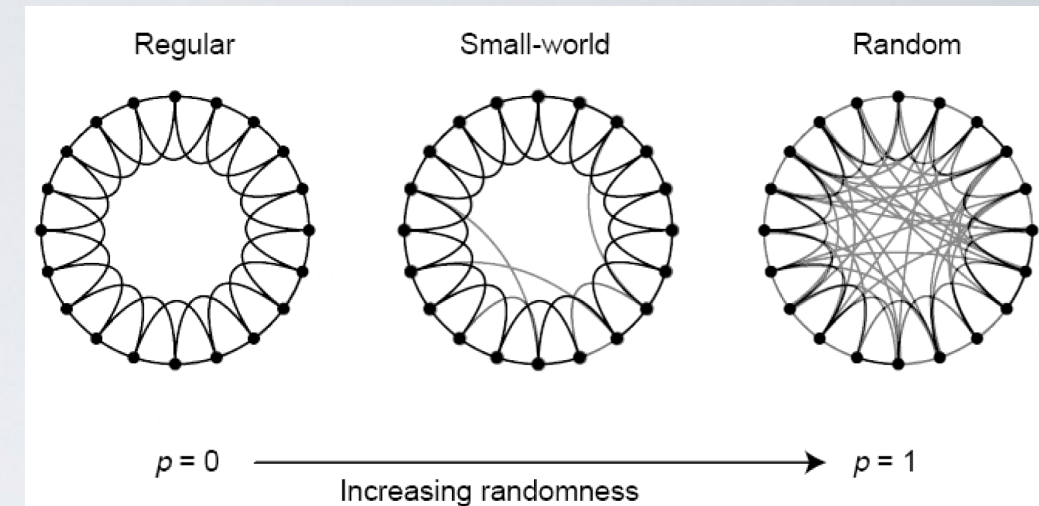
1. Start with a ring lattice with  $n$  nodes in which every node is connected to its first  $K$  neighbours ( $K/2$  on either side).
2. Randomly rewire each edge of the lattice with probability  $p$  such that self-connections and duplicate edges are excluded.

By varying  $p$  the network can be transformed from a completely ordered ( $p=0$ ) to a completely random ( $p=1$ ) structure

# The Watts-Strogatz model

## (Global) Clustering coefficient (Definition 2)

- $p=0$  - regular ring with constant clustering:  $C = \frac{3(K-2)}{4(K-1)}$ 
  - $0 \leq C \leq 3/4$
  - Independent of  $n$
- $p>0$  - we can count triangles and tuples



## Global clustering coefficient

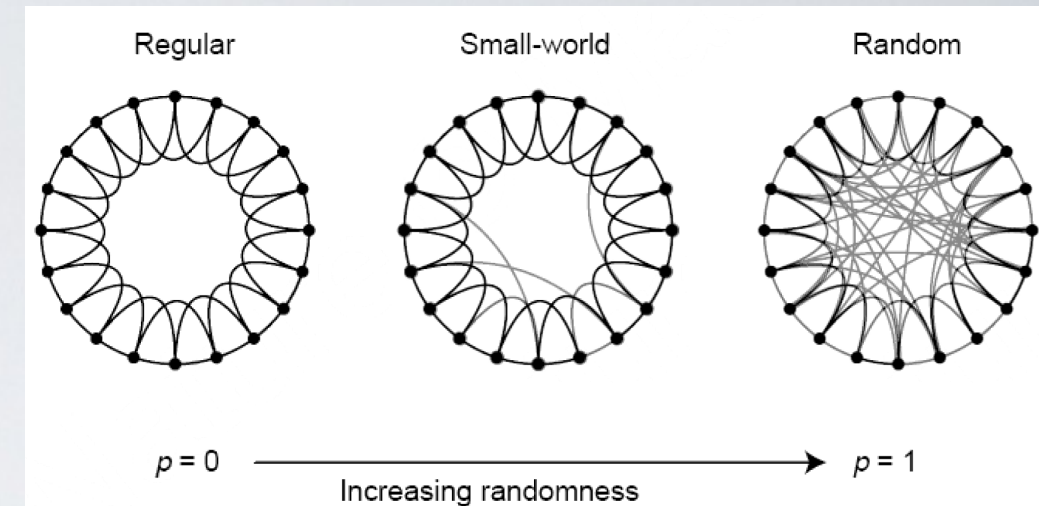
$$C = \frac{\frac{1}{4}NK(\frac{1}{2}K - 1) \times 3}{\frac{1}{2}NK(K-1) + NK^2p + \frac{1}{2}NK^2p^2} = \frac{3(K-2)}{4(K-1) + 8Kp + 4Kp^2}$$

- Independent of  $n$
- if  $p \rightarrow 0$  it recovers the ring value
- if  $p \rightarrow 1$  it well approximates 1

# The Watts-Strogatz model

## Average path length (Definition 2)

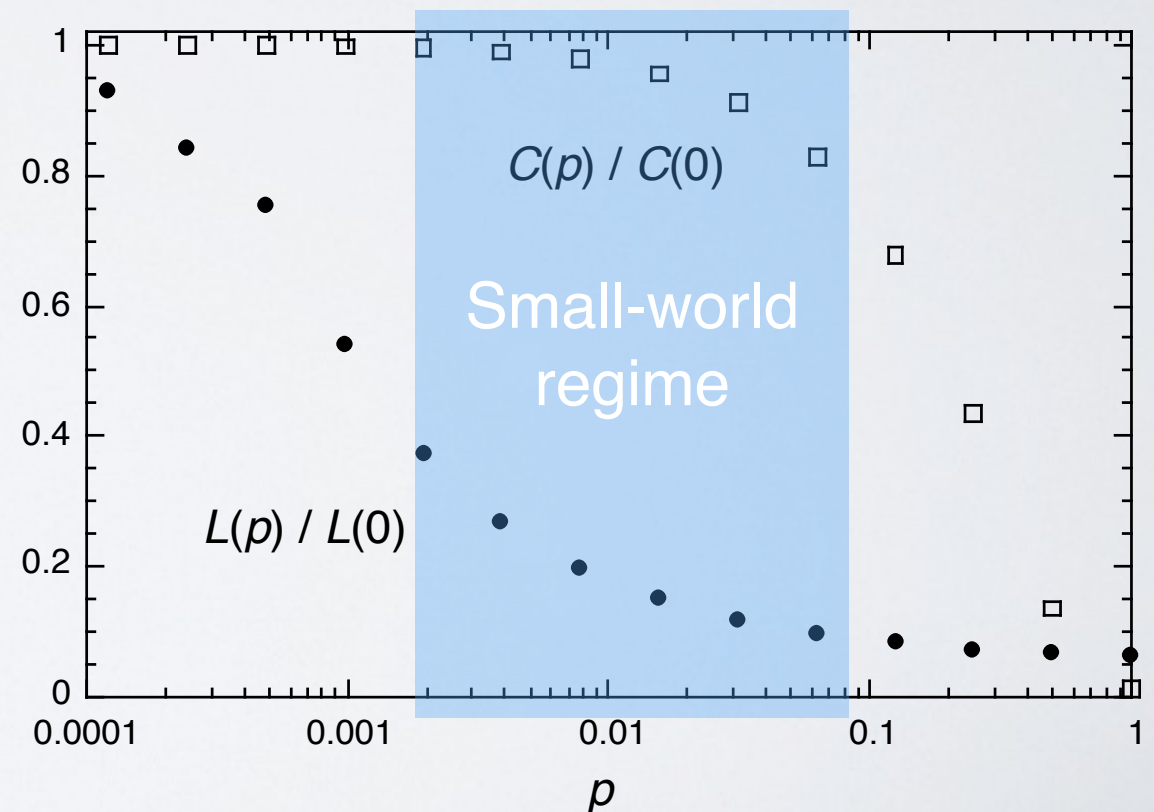
- No closed form solution



- From numerical simulations:

- See Newman, M. E. (2000). Models of the small world. *Journal of Statistical Physics*, 101(3-4), 819-841.

for details





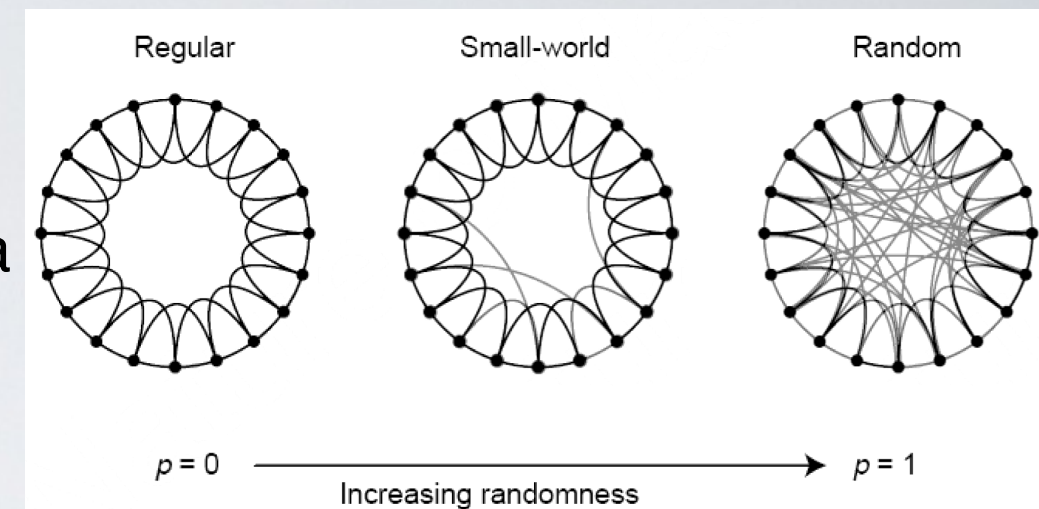
# The Watts-Strogatz model

## Degree distribution (Definition 2)

- $p=0$  - each node has the same degree  $K$  (Dirac delta)
- $p>0$  - each node has degree  $K$  + shortcut links

- Number of shortcut edges:  $s = \frac{1}{2}NK \times p$

- Each node will have on average  $Kp$  number of shortcuts



- The degree distribution is

$$P(k) = e^{-Kp} \frac{(Kp)^{(k-K)}}{(k-K)!}$$

if  $k \geq K$  and  $P(k)=0$  if  $k < K$

- $p>0$  - approximates a **Poisson distribution** just like a random network

# ER Random Network - catch up

Network	Degree distribution	Path length	Clustering coefficient
Real world networks	broad	short	large
Regular lattices	constant	long	large
ER random networks	Poissonian	short	small
Configuration Model	Custom, can be broad	short	small
Watts & Strogatz (in SW regime)	Poissonian	short	large

# Scale-free networks



# Scale-free networks

A network is called ***Scale-free*** when its degree distribution follows (to some extent) a Power-law distribution

Power-law distribution: (PDF)

$$P(k) \sim Ck^{-\alpha} = C \frac{1}{k^{\alpha}}$$

$\alpha$  (sometimes  $\gamma$ ) called the **exponent** of the distribution

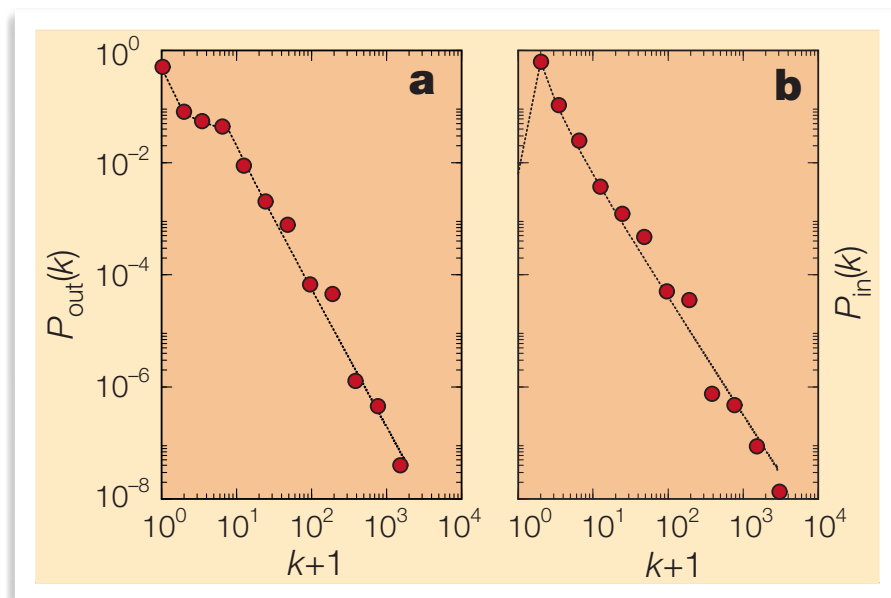
Positive values

Here, defined as continuous (approximation)

# Scale-free networks - first observations

**R. Albert, H. Jeong, A-L Barabási, Nature (1999)**

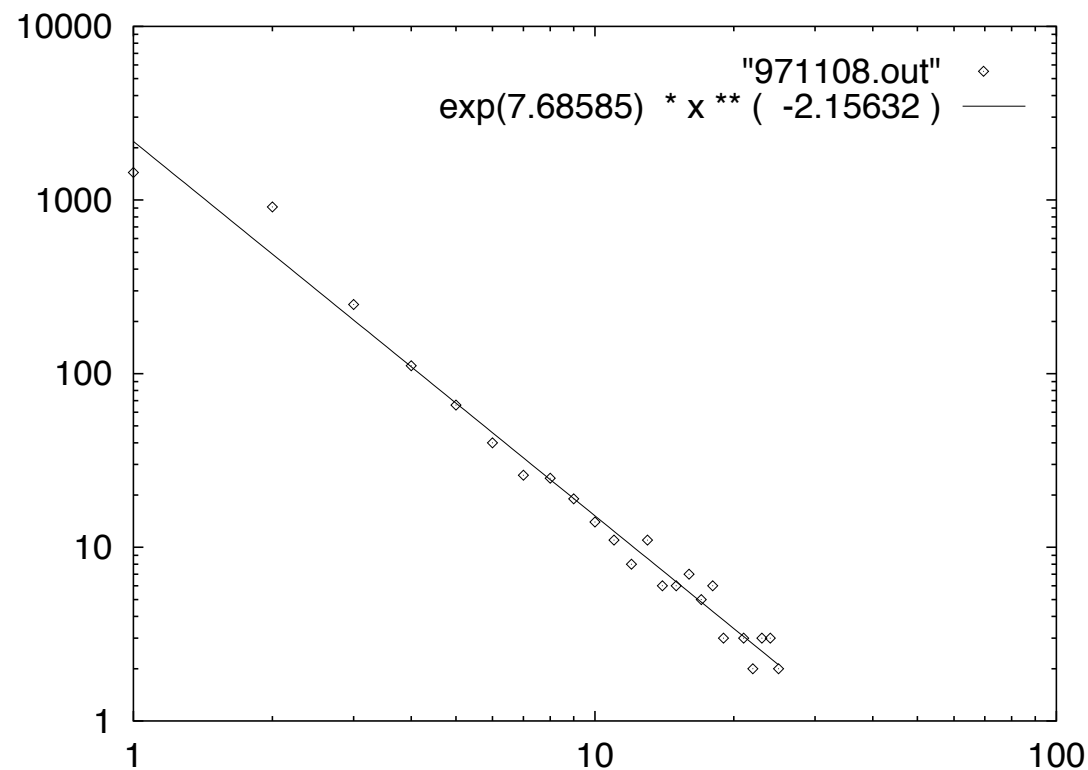
Diameter of the world wide web



# Scale-free networks - other examples

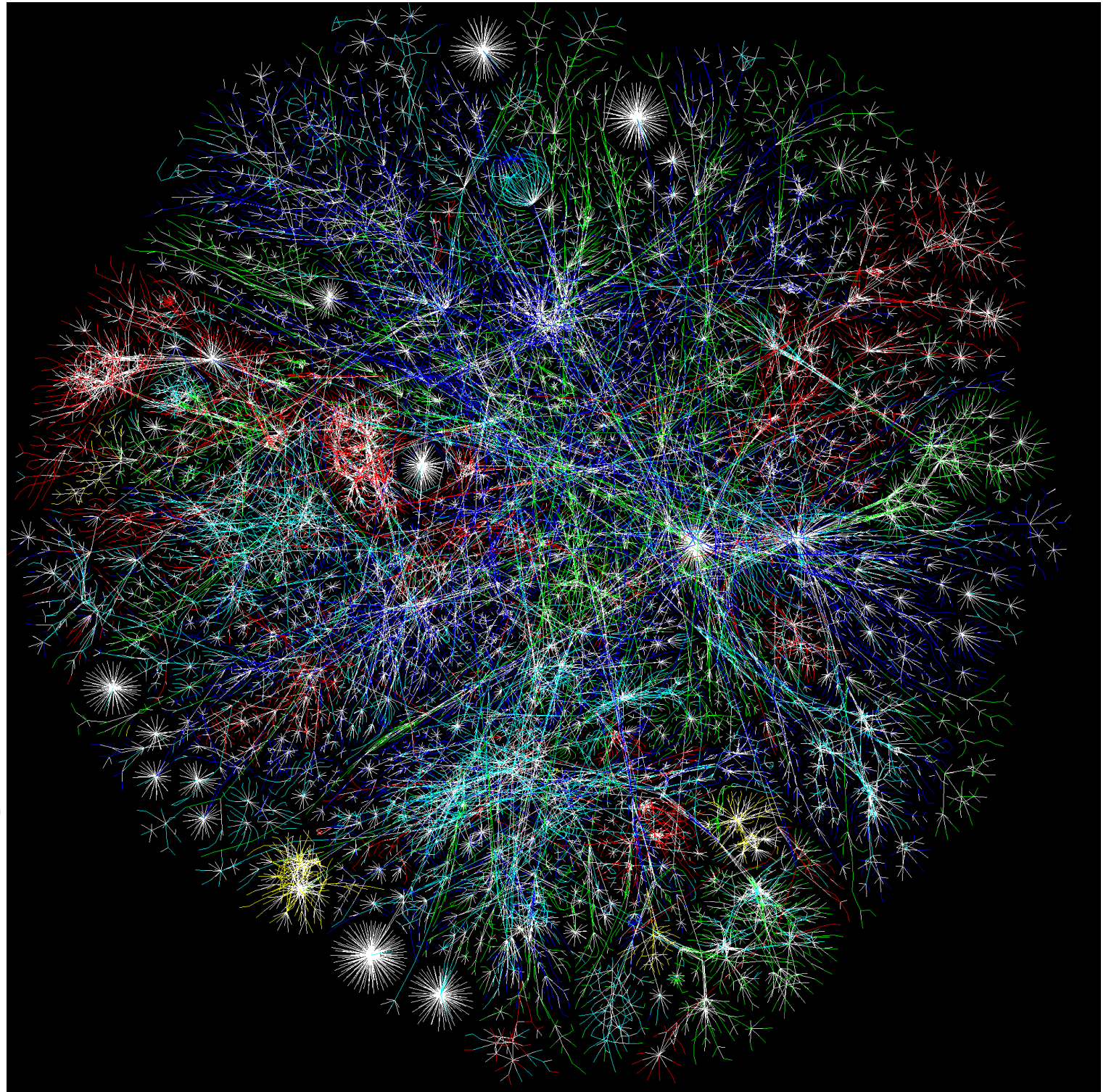
## The internet

- Nodes: routers
- Links: Physical wires



(a) Int-11-97

Faloutsos, Faloutsos and Faloutsos (1999)

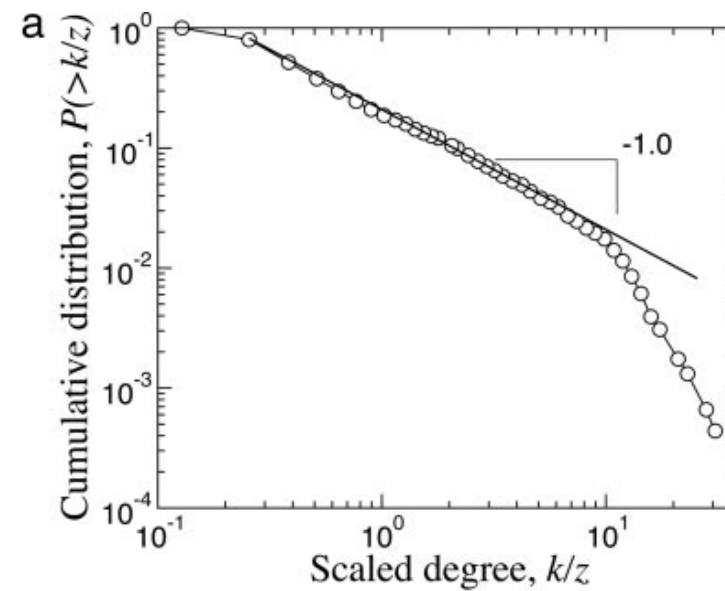




# Scale-free networks - other examples

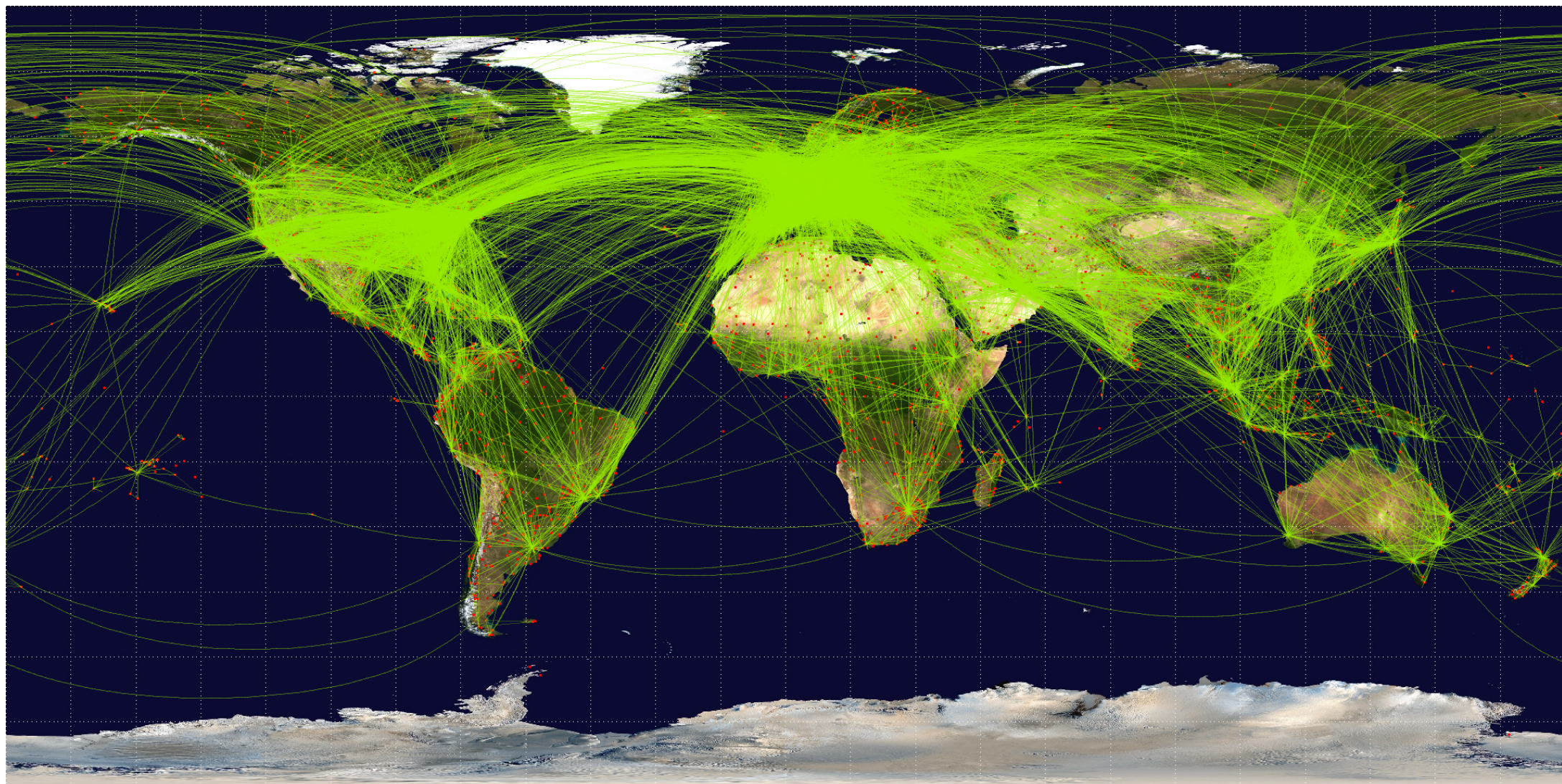
## Airline route map network

- Nodes: airports
- Links: airplane connections



Guimera et.al. (2004)

Note: the cumulative distribution of a power law is also a line on a log-log plot

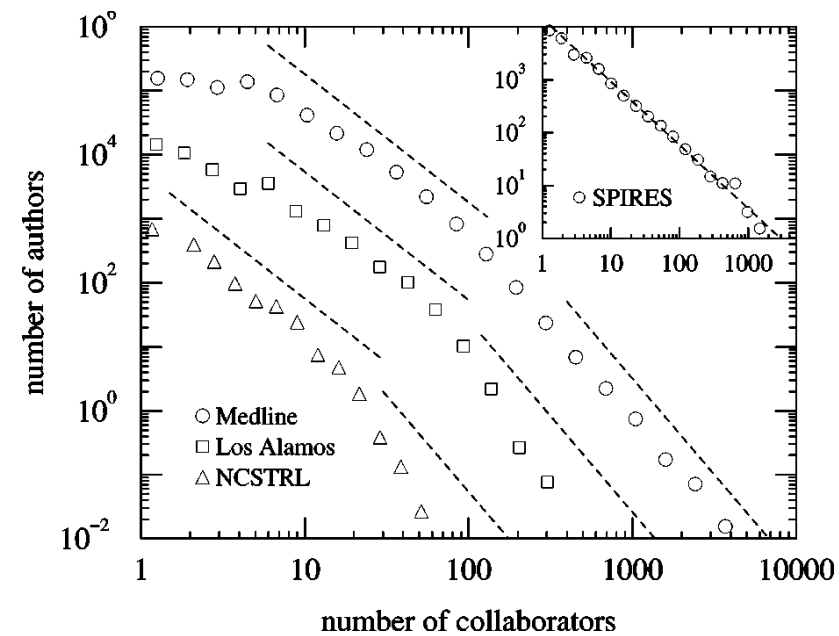




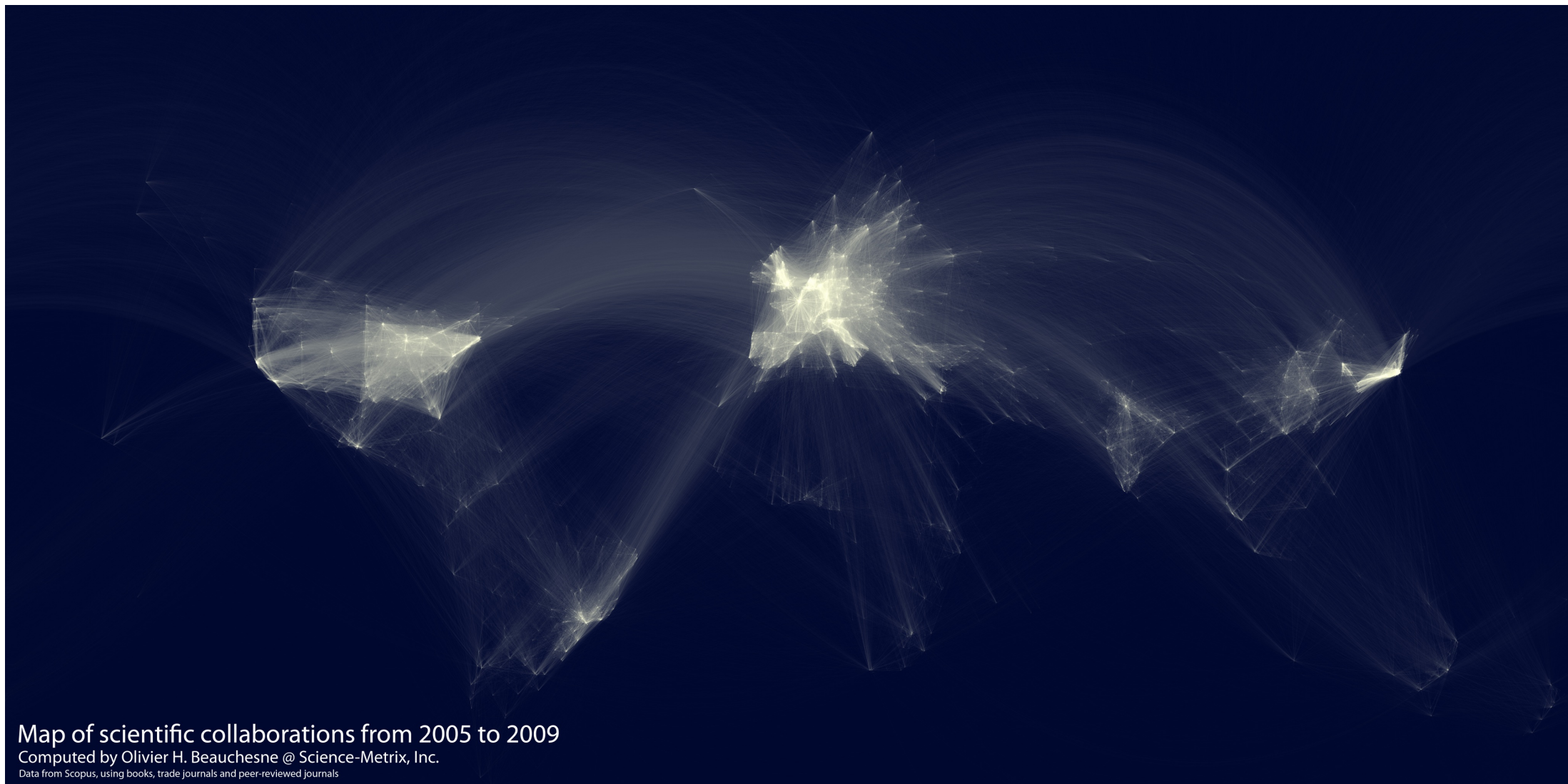
# Scale-free networks - other examples

## Scientific collaborations

- Nodes: scientists (here geo-localised)
- Links: common papers



Newman (2001)



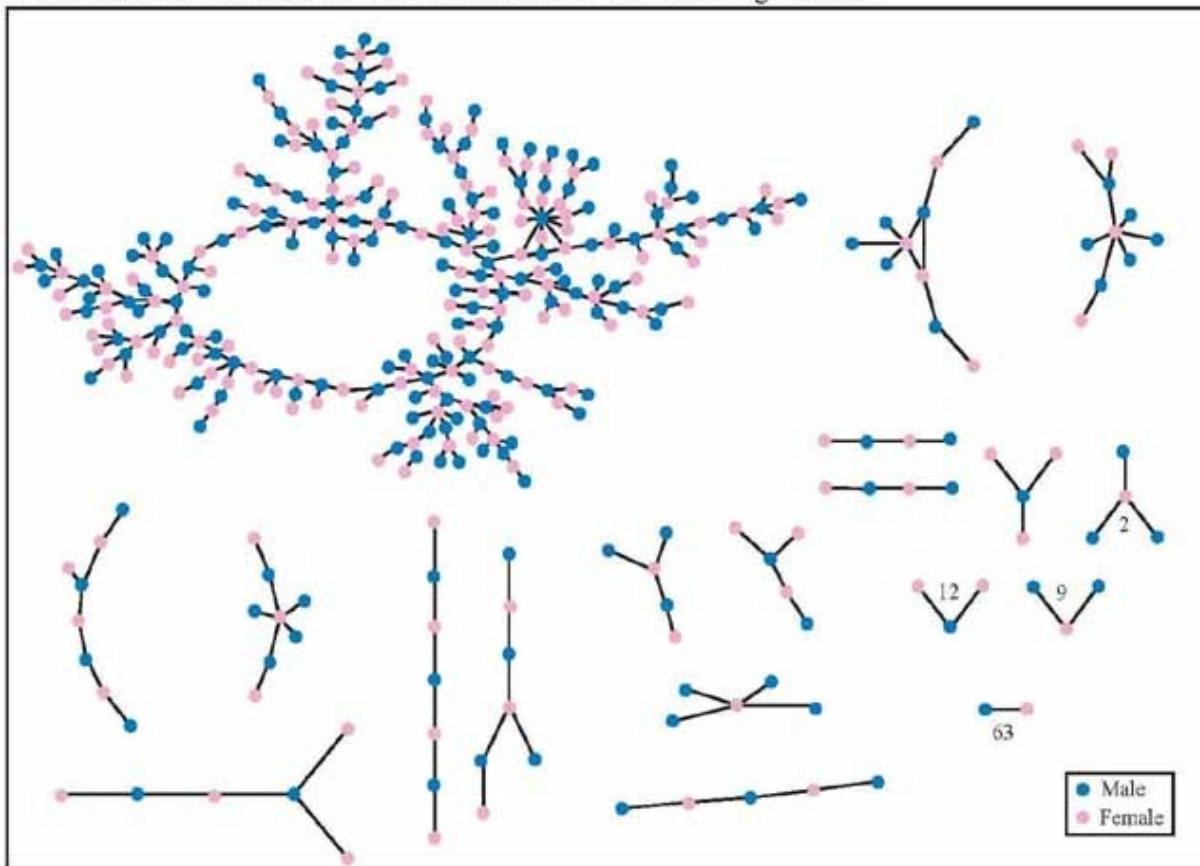
# Scale-free networks - other examples

## Sexual-interaction networks

- Nodes: individuals
- Links: sexual incursion

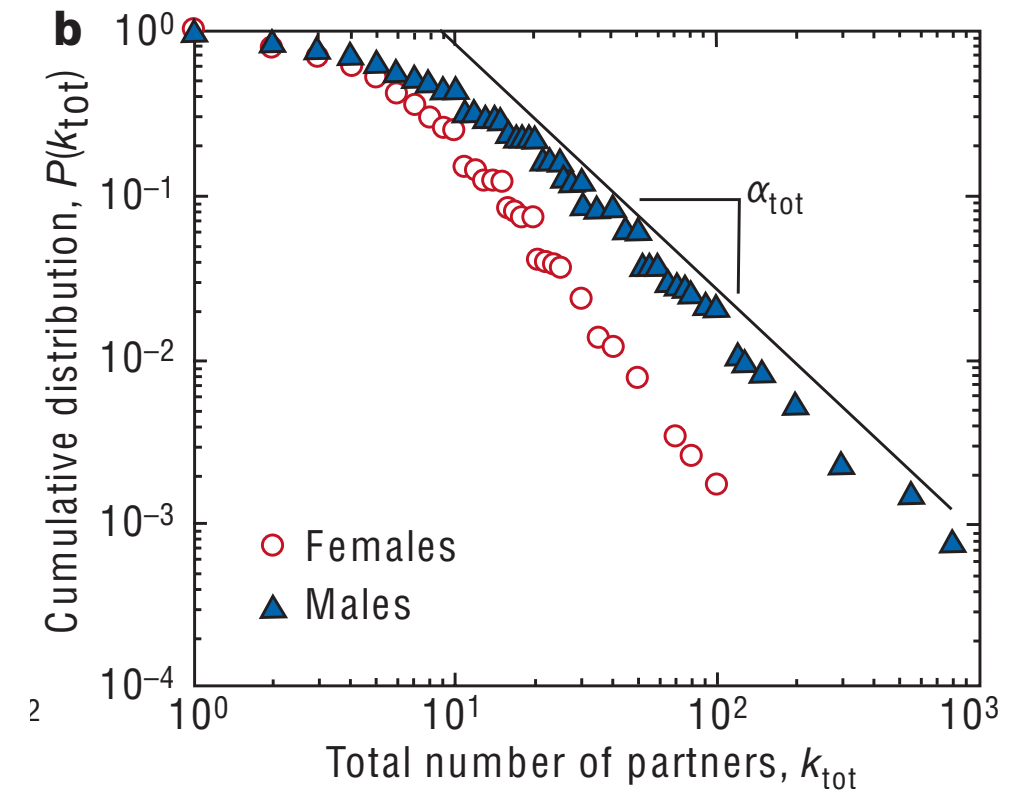
Bearman et.al. (2004)

The Structure of Romantic and Sexual Relations at "Jefferson High School"



Each circle represents a student and lines connecting students represent romantic relations occurring within the 6 months preceding the interview. Numbers under the figure count the number of times that pattern was observed (i.e. we found 63 pairs unconnected to anyone else).

Liljeros et.al. (2001)

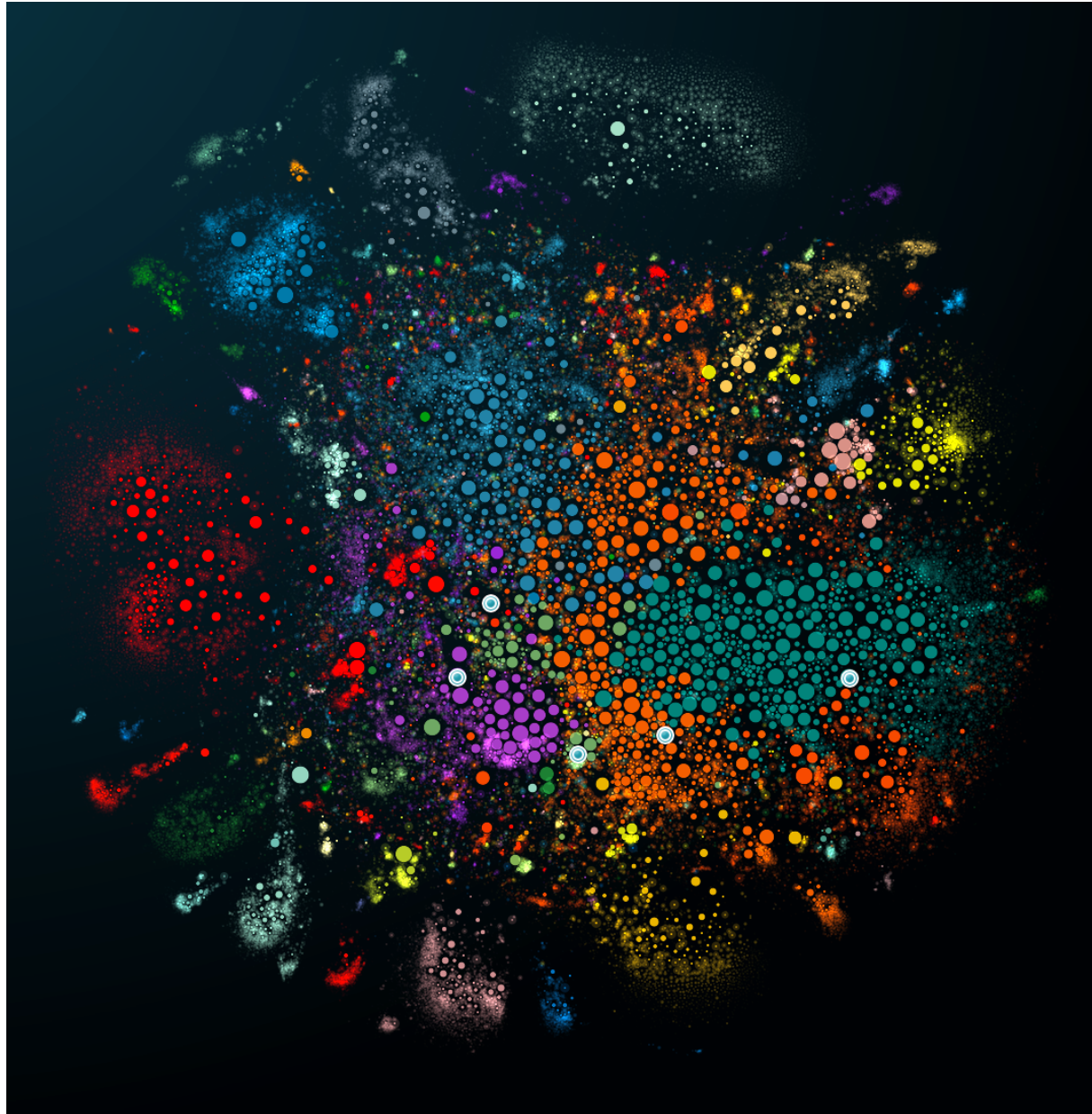




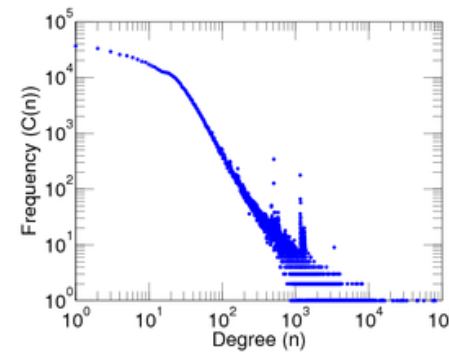
# Scale-free networks - other examples

## Online social networks

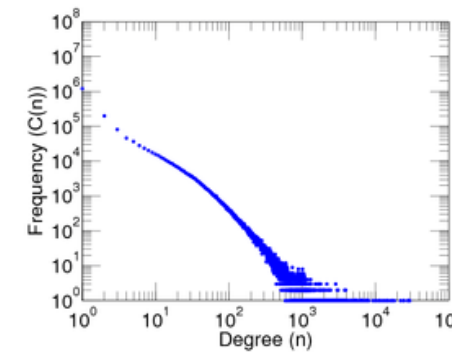
- Nodes: individuals
- Links: online interactions



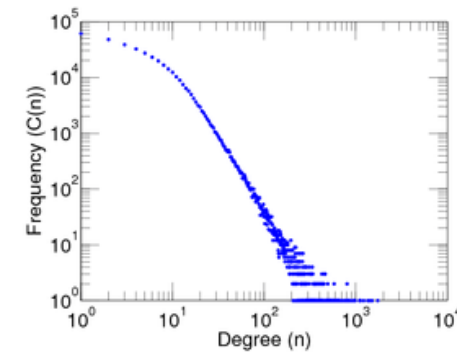
Social network of Steam  
<http://85.25.226.110/mapper>



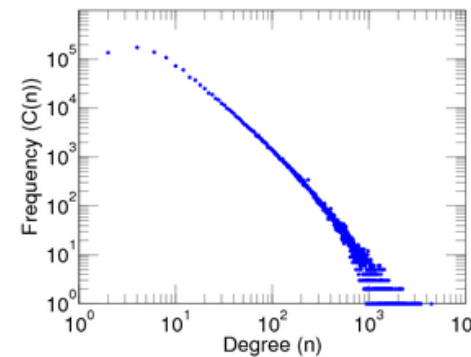
Catster/Dogster Familylinks/Friendships



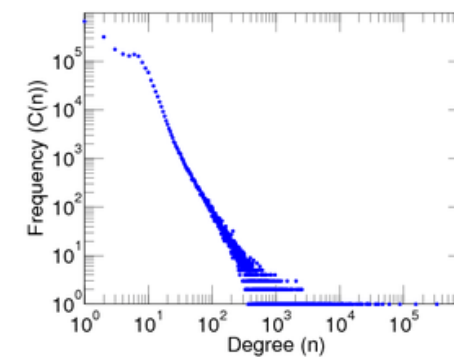
Chinese Wikipedia internal links



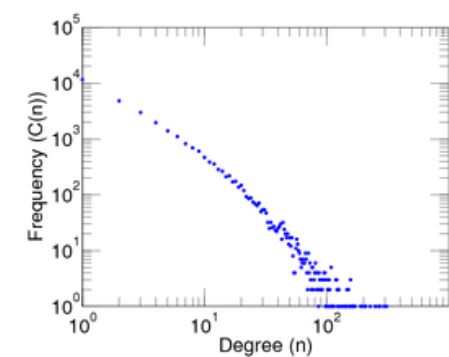
CiteSeer



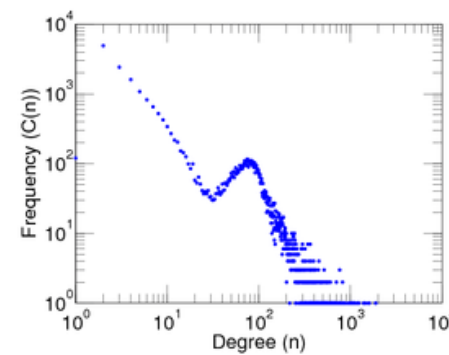
DBLP



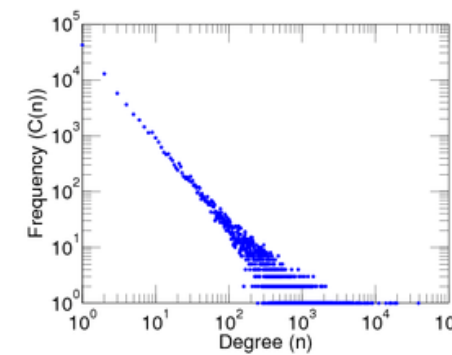
DBpedia



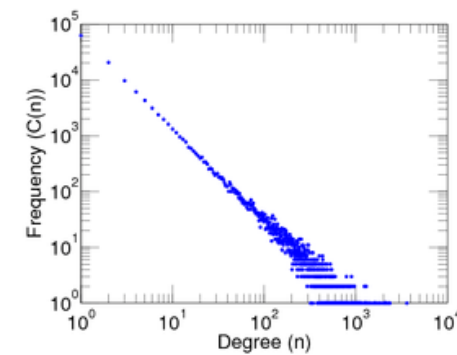
Digg



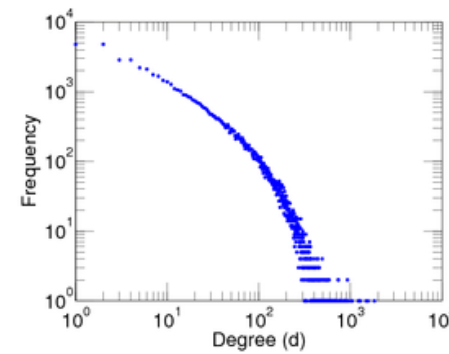
Edinburgh Associative Thesaurus



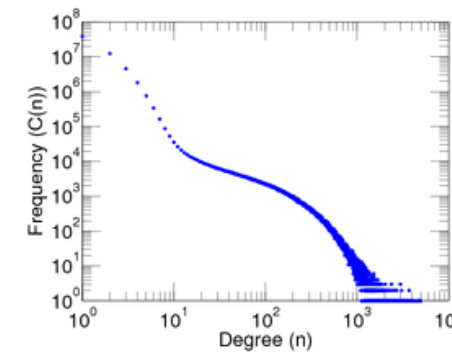
Enron



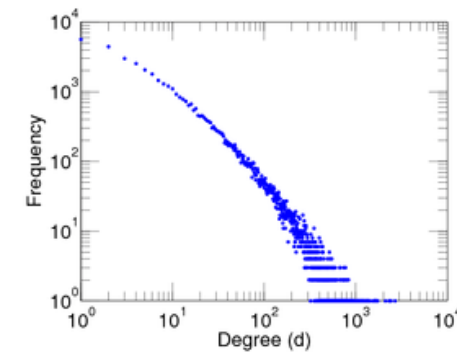
Epinions trust



Facebook friendships



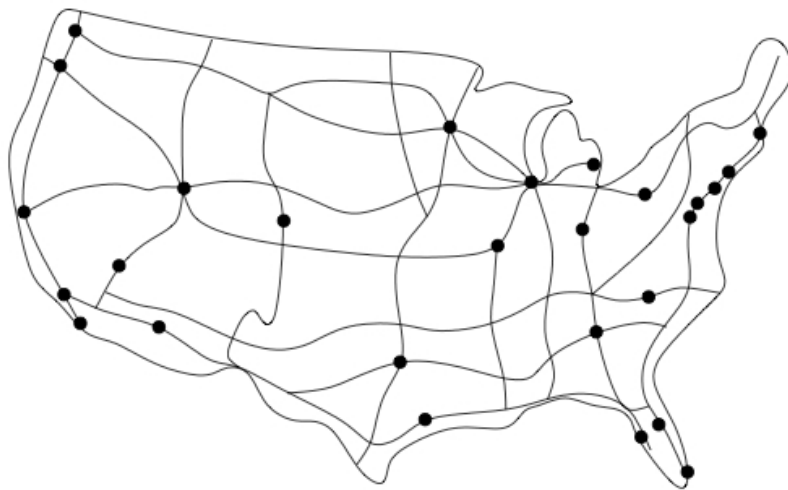
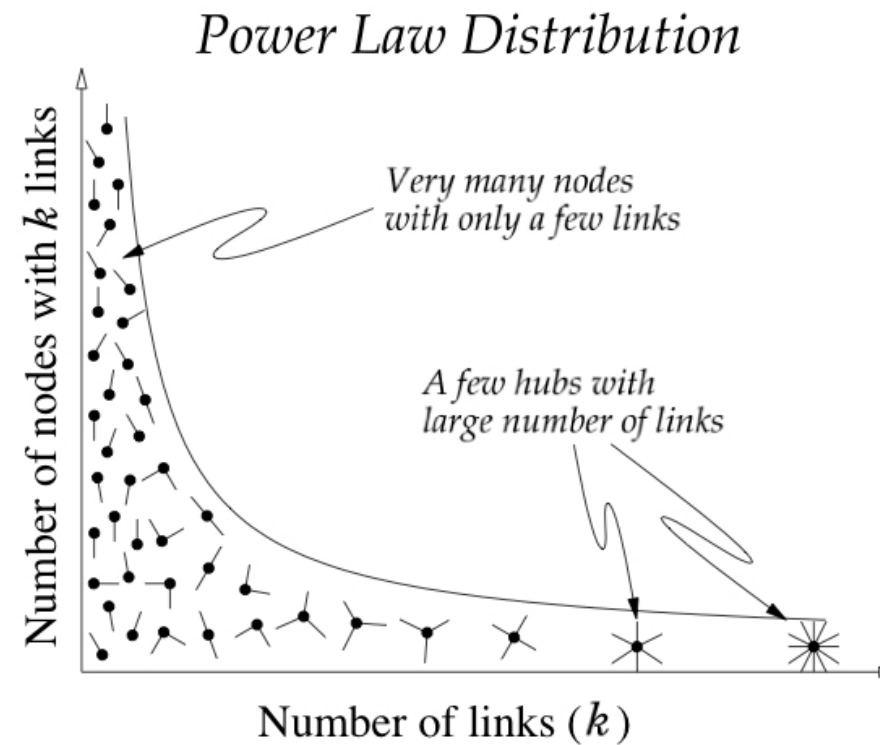
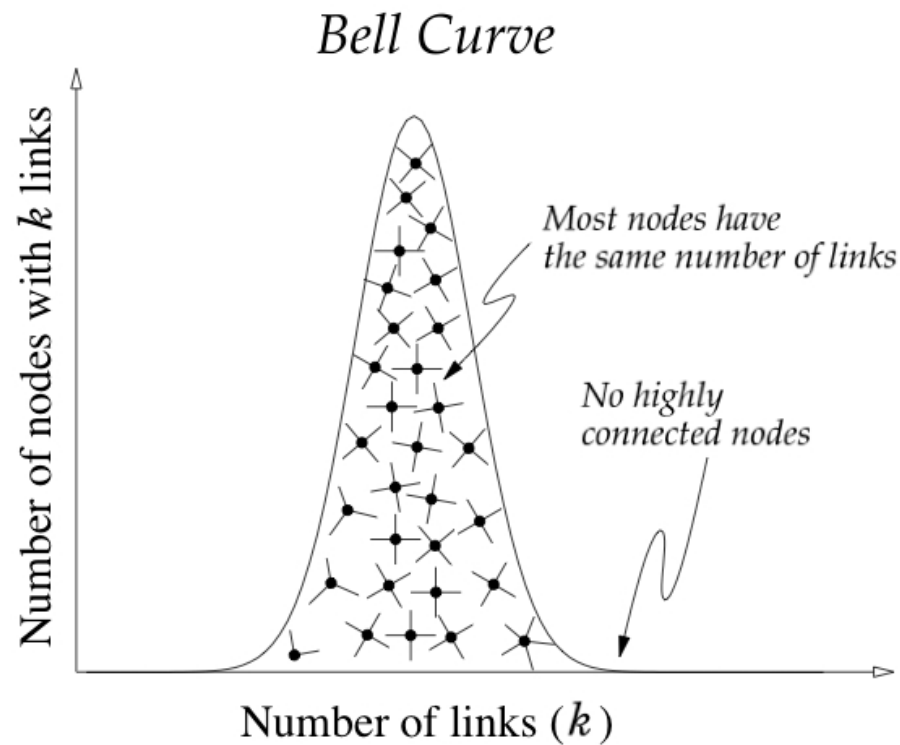
Facebook social graph



Facebook wall posts

# Scale-free distribution

## What does it mean?



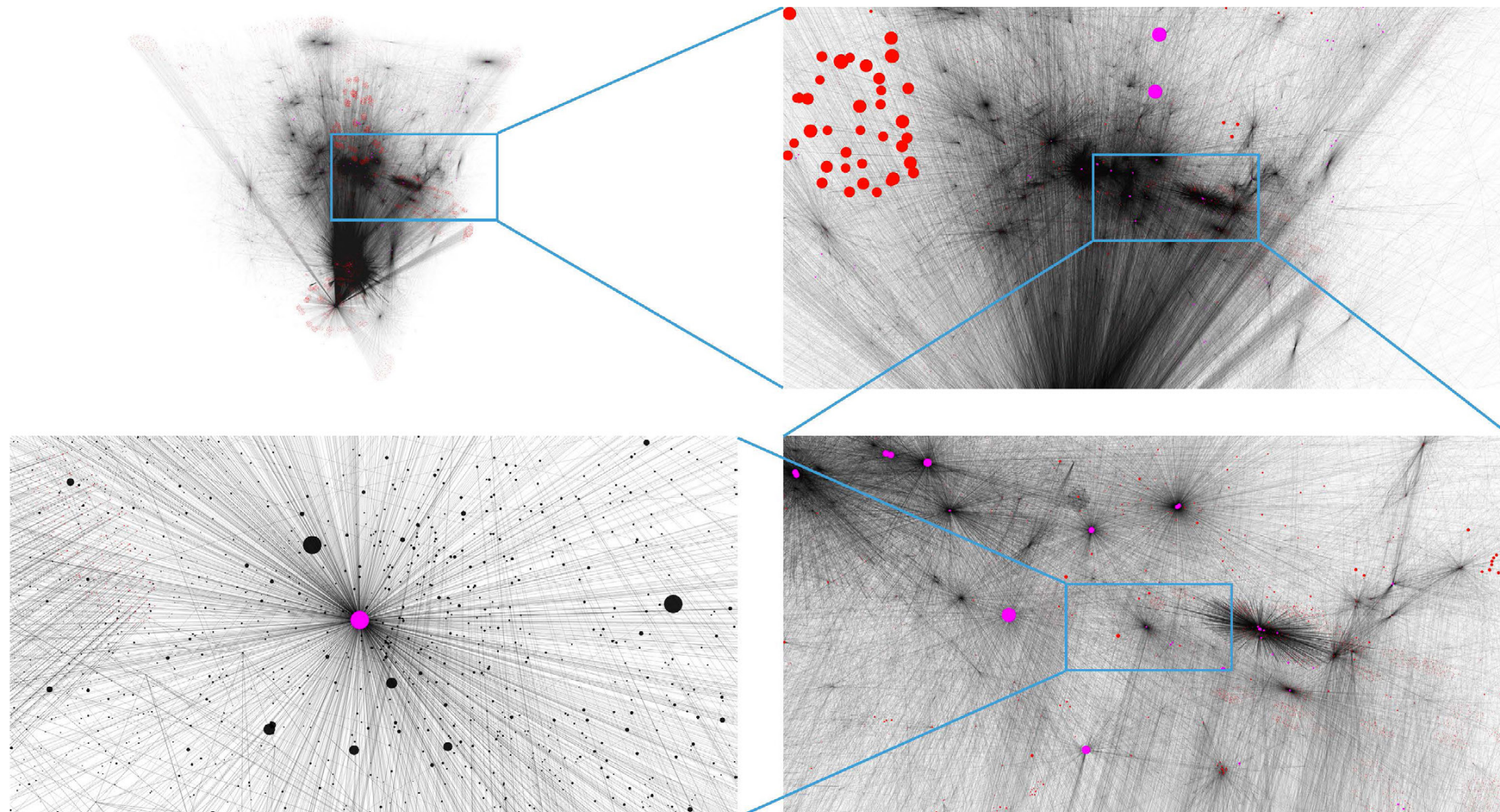
AL. Barabási, *Linked* (2002)

Degree fluctuations have no characteristic scale (scale invariant)



# Scale-free networks

Idea of *scale free*



## Proper definition

Initial definition:  $P(k) \sim Ck^{-\alpha} = C \frac{1}{k^\alpha}$

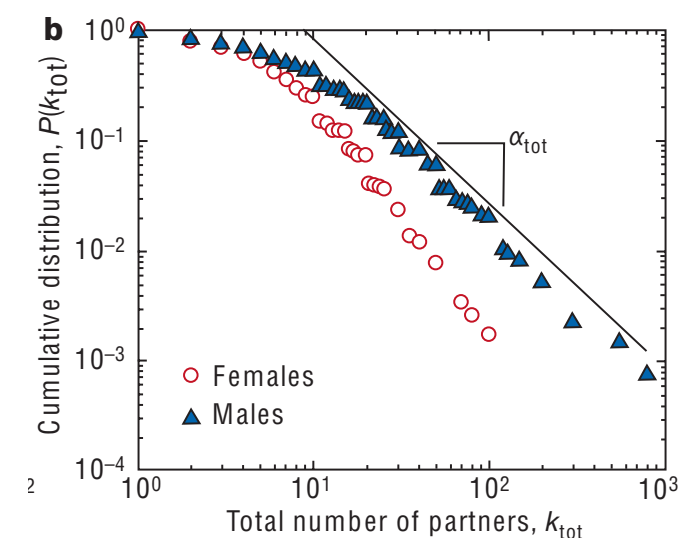
To have a proper degree distribution, we need

$$\int P(k) = 1 = \int Ck^{-\alpha} = C \int k^{-\alpha}.$$

We also know that in most cases, there is a *lower bound* from which the law holds. ( $k_{\min}$ )

From this, we define the normalisation constant:

$$C = \frac{1}{\int_{k_{\min}}^{\infty} k^{-\alpha} dk} = (\alpha - 1)k_{\min}^{\alpha-1}$$





## Proper definition

$$P(k) \sim Ck^{-\alpha}$$

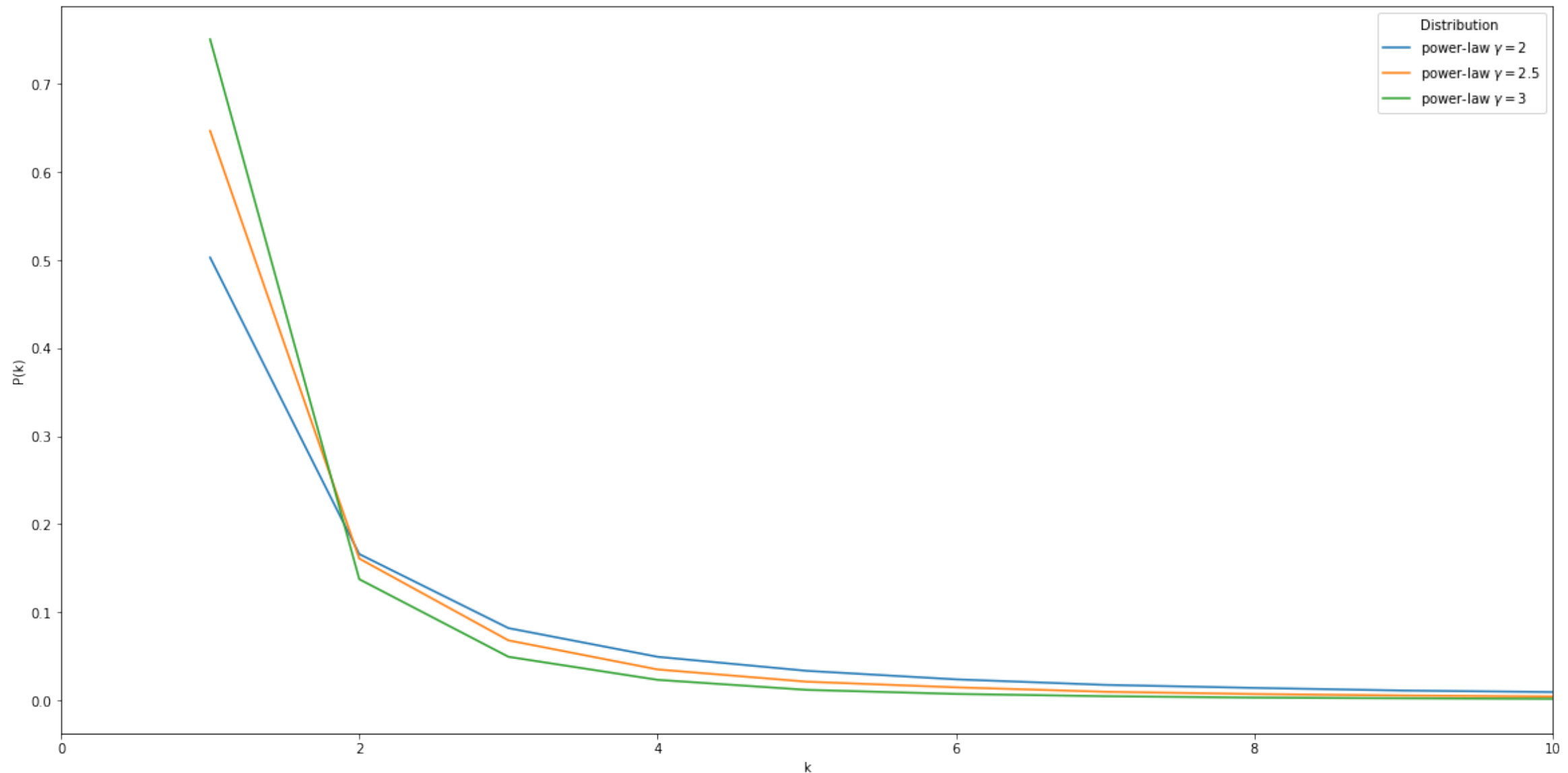
$$C = \frac{1}{\int_{k_{\min}}^{\infty} k^{-\alpha} dk} = (\alpha - 1)k_{\min}^{\alpha-1}$$

$$P(k) = (\alpha - 1)k_{\min}^{\alpha-1}k^{-\alpha}$$

$$P(k) = \frac{\alpha - 1}{k_{\min}} \left( \frac{k}{k_{\min}} \right)^{-\alpha}$$

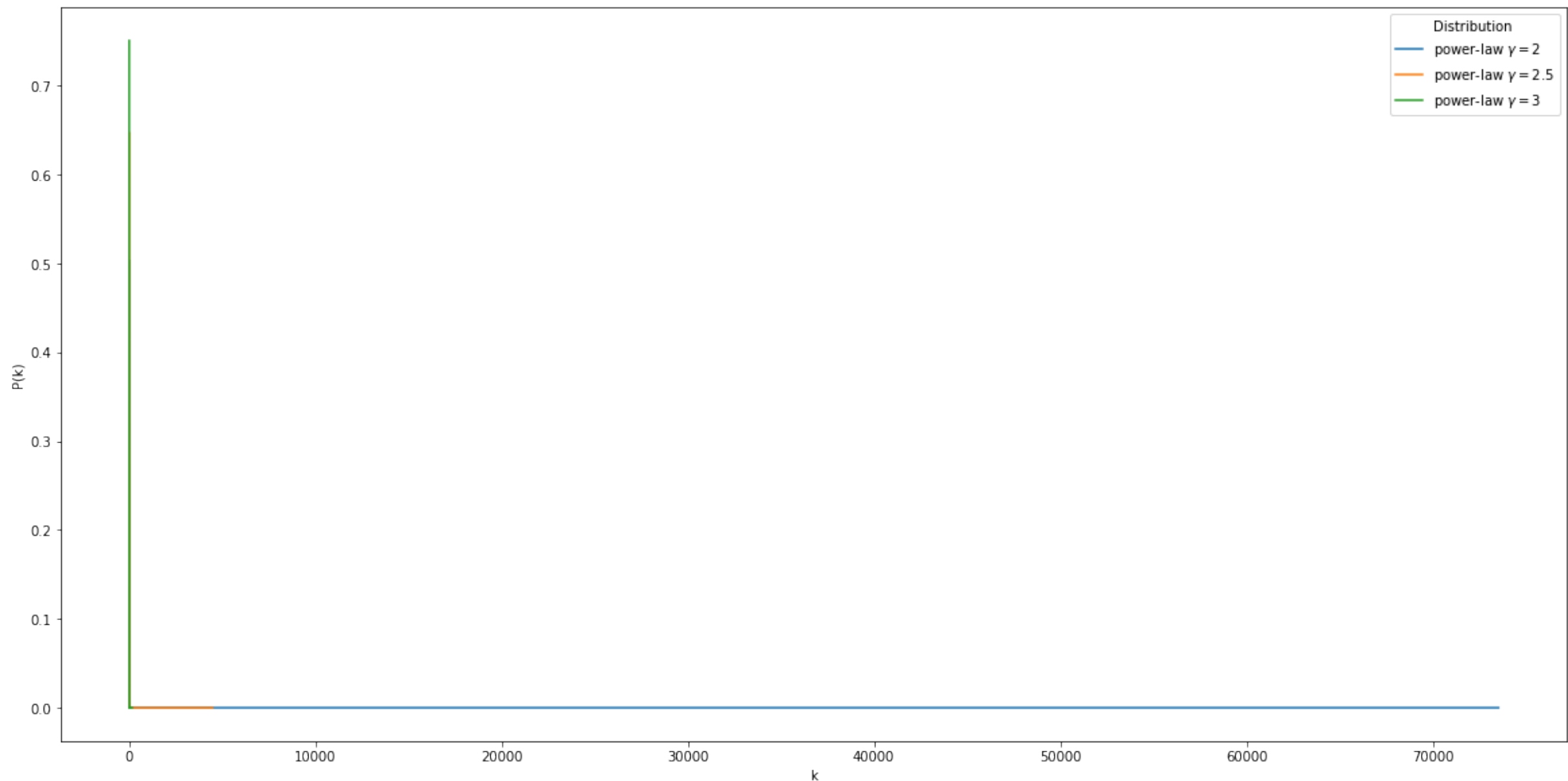
# Scale-free networks

Power law plotted with a linear scale, for  $k \leq 10$   
(100 000 samples)



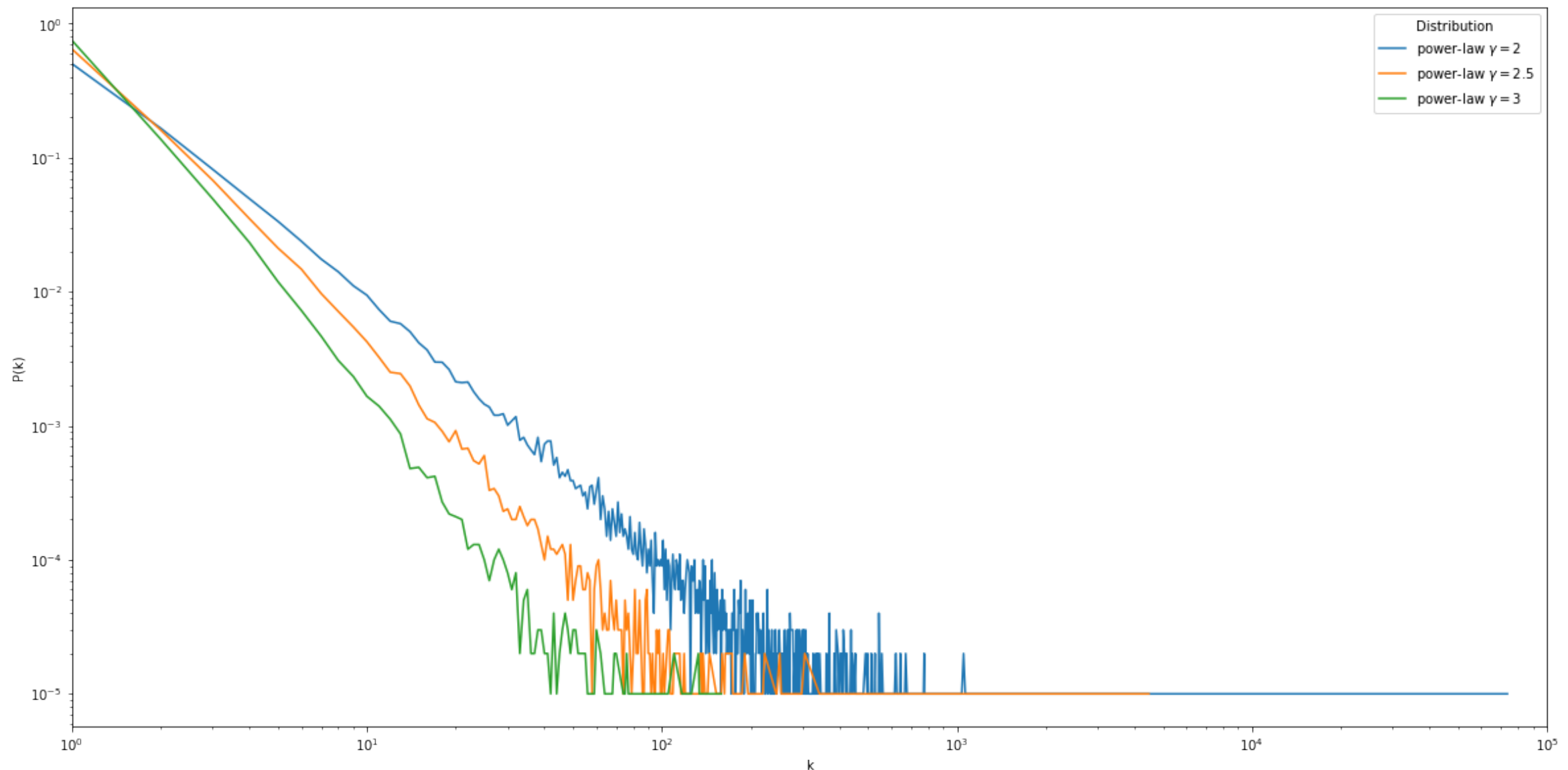
# Scale-free networks

Power law plotted with a linear scale, for  $k < 100000$   
(100 000 samples)



# Scale-free networks

Power law plotted with a log-log scale, for  $k < 1000000$   
(100 000 samples)

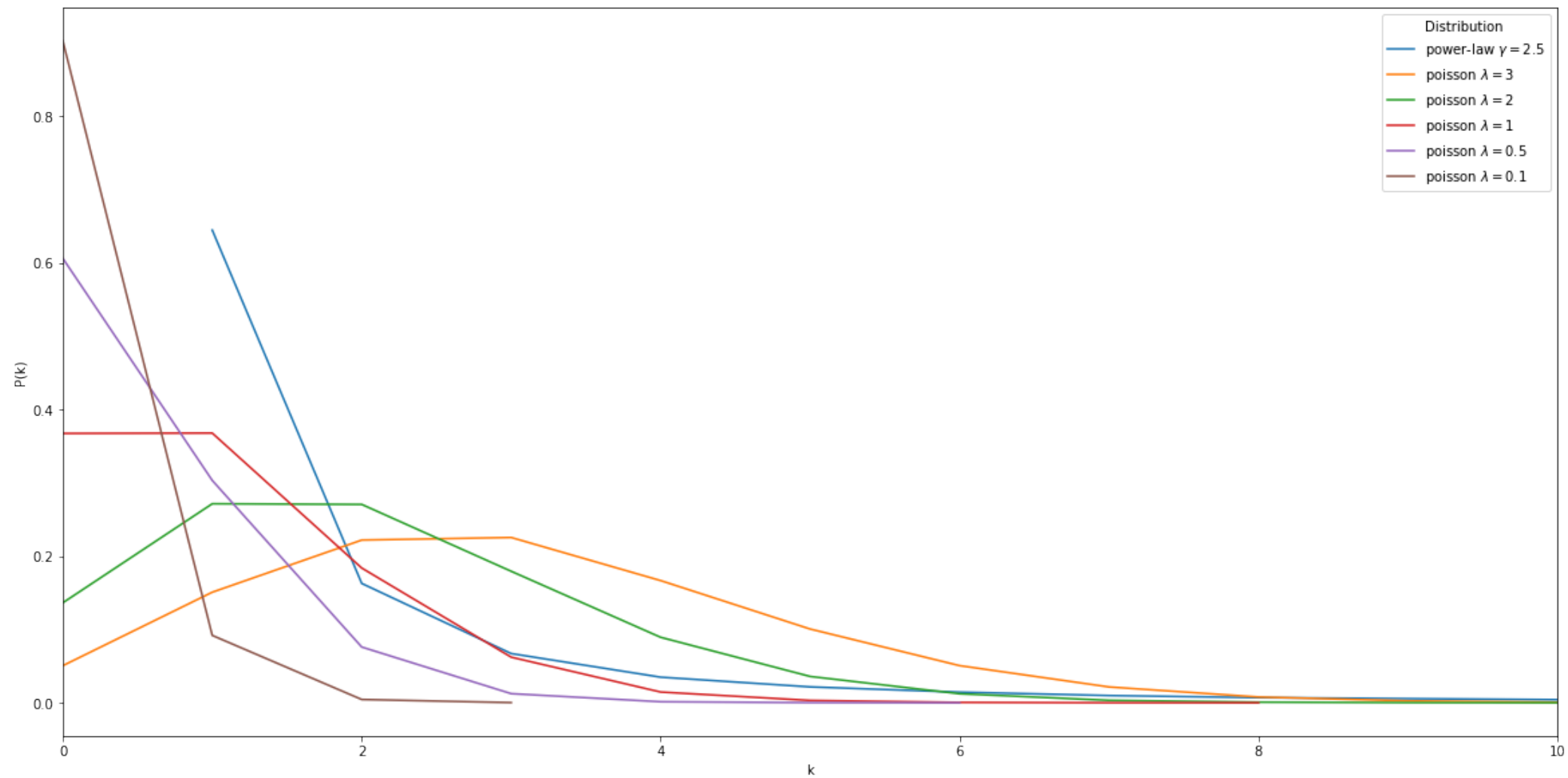




# Scale-free networks

## Comparing a poisson distribution and a power law

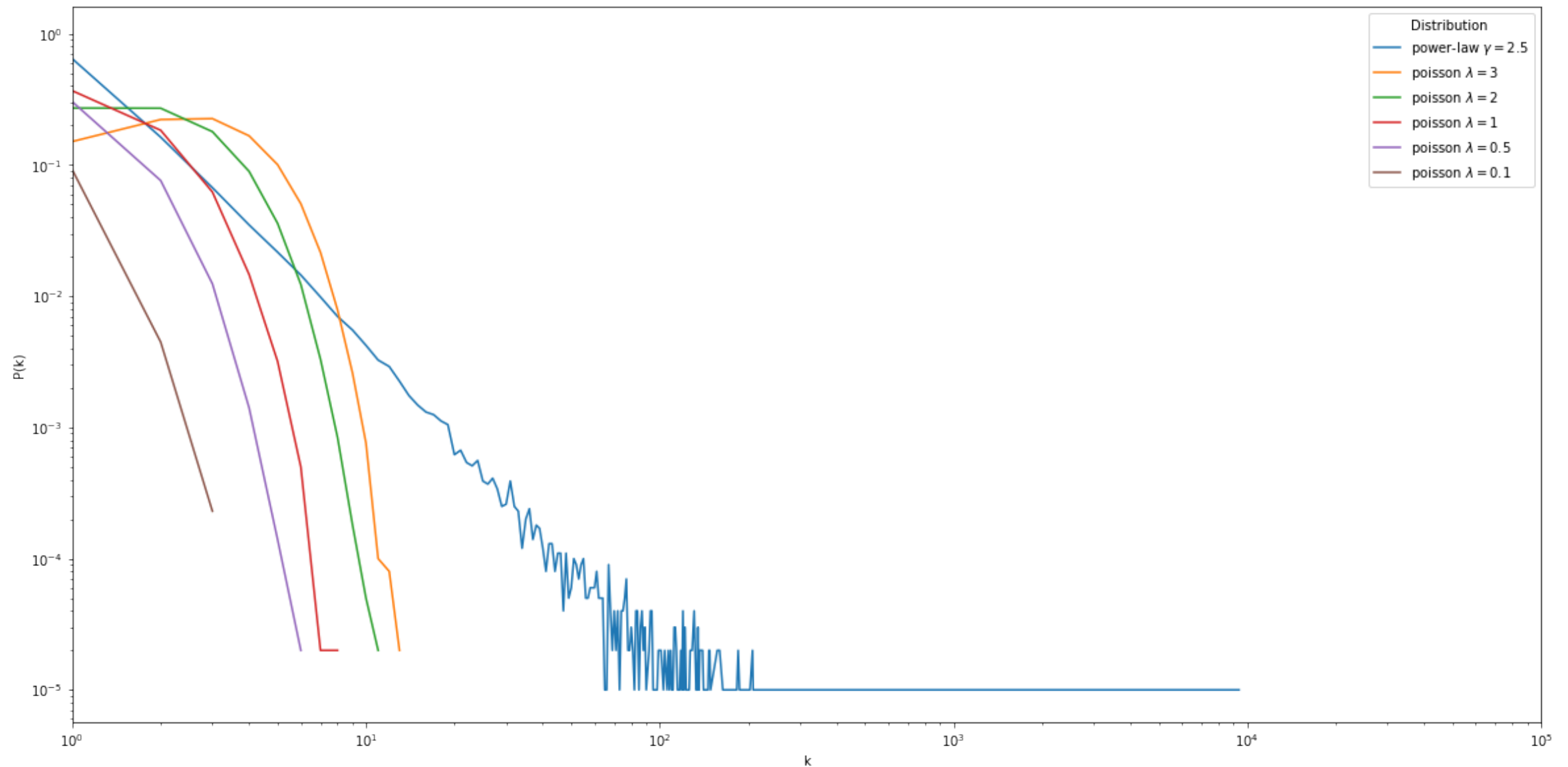
$$\frac{\lambda^k e^{-\lambda}}{k!}$$



# Scale-free networks

## Comparing a poisson distribution and a power law

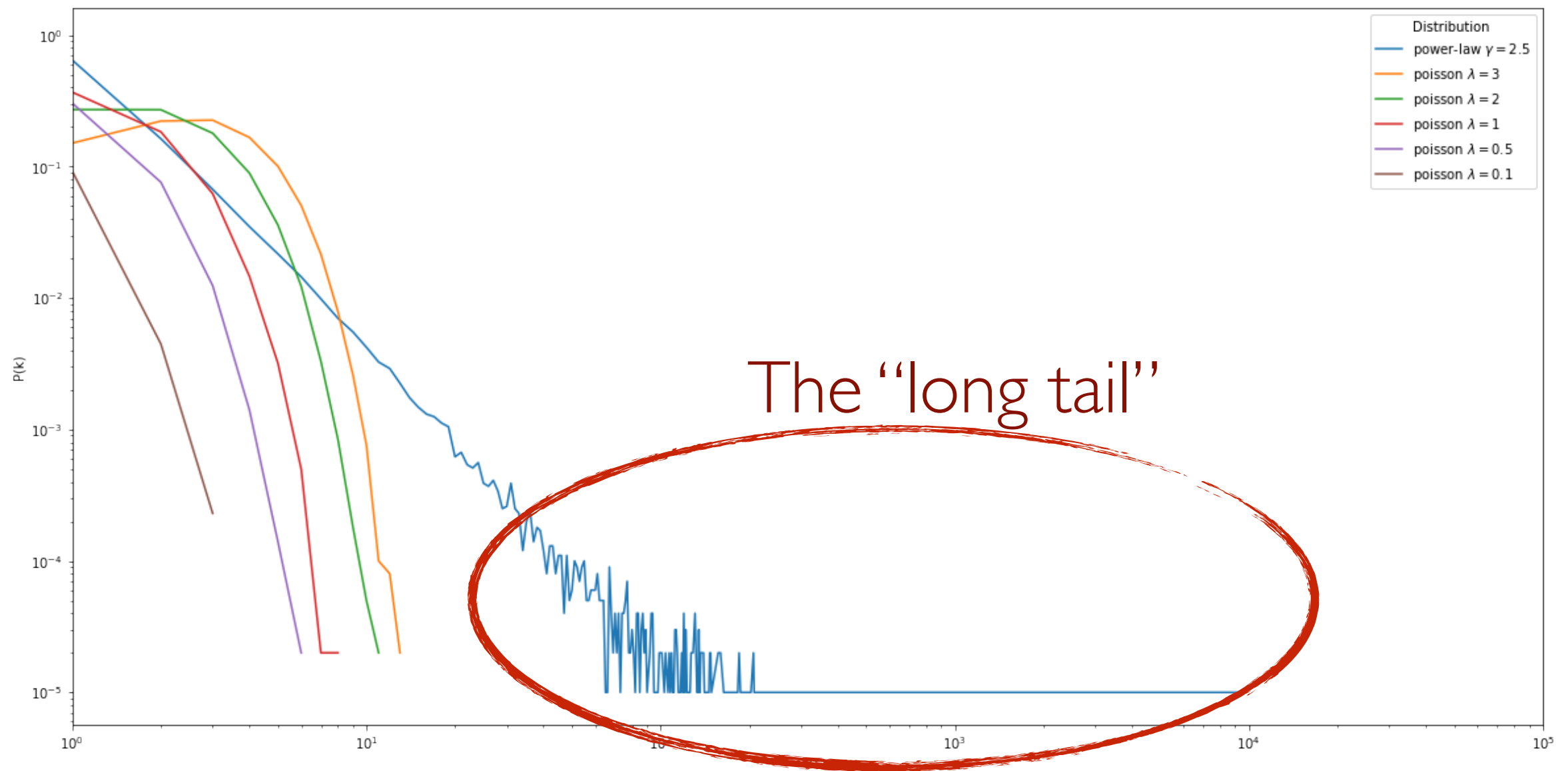
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# Scale-free networks

## Comparing a poisson distribution and a power law

$$\frac{\lambda^k e^{-\lambda}}{k!}$$

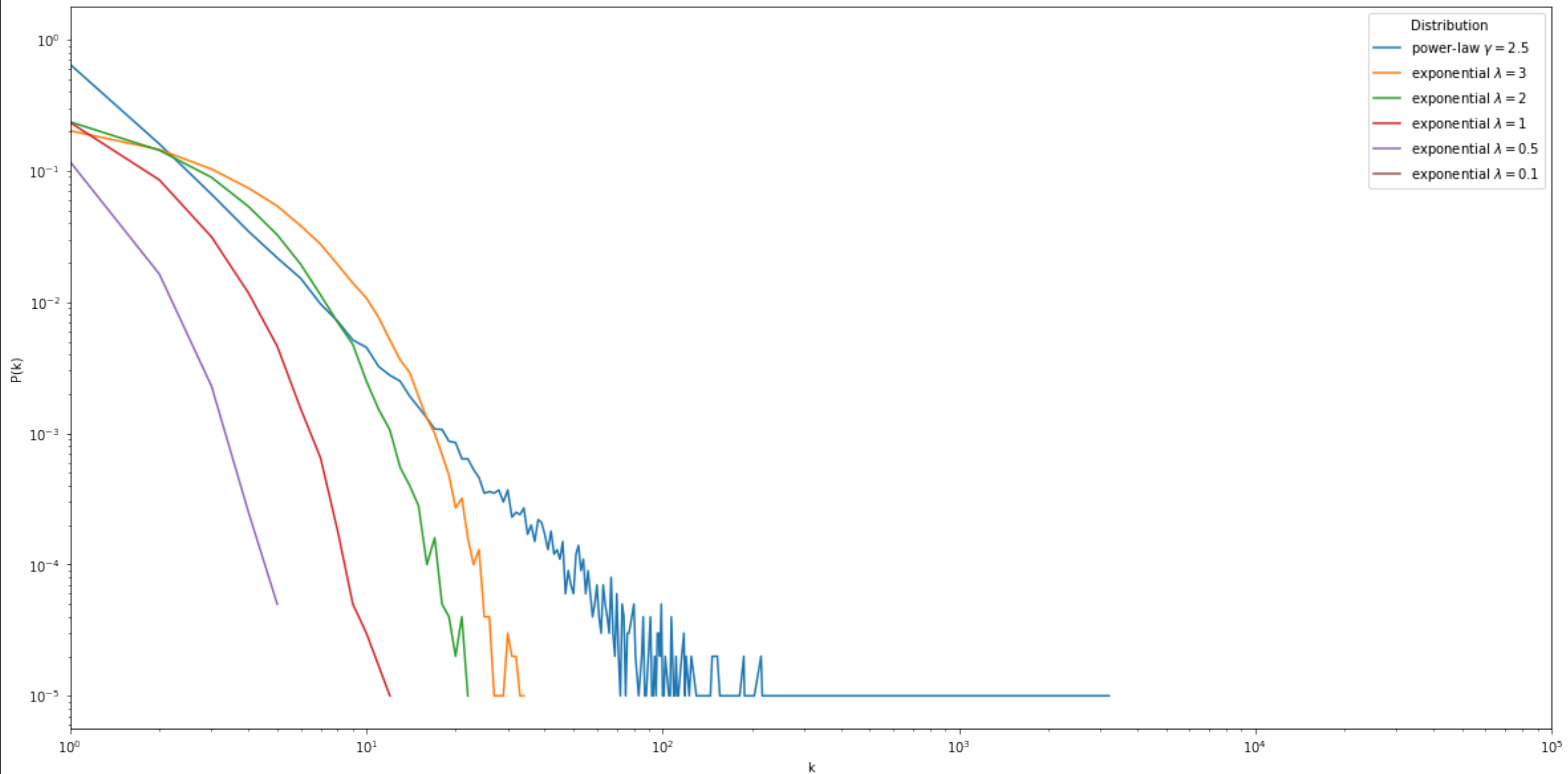




# Scale-free networks

## Comparing an exponential distribution and a power law

$$\begin{cases} \lambda e^{-\lambda k} & k \geq 0, \\ 0 & k < 0. \end{cases}$$



## Moments

Distribution:

$$P(k) = (\alpha - 1)k_{\min}^{\alpha-1}k^{-\alpha}$$

(central) Moments:

$$\langle k^m \rangle = \int_{k_{\min}}^{\infty} k^m p(k) dk$$

Reminder:

$\langle k^1 \rangle$	Average
$\langle k^2 \rangle$	Variance
$\langle k^3 \rangle$	Skewness
...	

## Moments

Distribution:

$$P(k) = (\alpha - 1)k_{\min}^{\alpha-1}k^{-\alpha}$$

(central) Moments:

$$\langle k^m \rangle = \int_{k_{\min}}^{\infty} k^m p(k) dk$$

$$\langle k^m \rangle = (\alpha - 1)k_{\min}^{\alpha-1} \int_{k_{\min}}^{\infty} k^{-\alpha+m} dk$$



Defined for  $\alpha > m + 1$ ,  
Otherwise diverge (+inf)

$$\int x^n dx = \frac{1}{n+1} x^{n+1} + c, n \neq -1$$

$$\langle k^m \rangle = k_{\min}^m \left( \frac{\alpha - 1}{\alpha - 1 - m} \right)$$



## Moments

Distribution:

$$P(k) = \frac{\alpha - 1}{k_{\min}} \left( \frac{k}{k_{\min}} \right)^{-\alpha}$$

(central) Moments:

$$\langle k^m \rangle = k_{\min}^m \left( \frac{\alpha - 1}{\alpha - 1 - m} \right)$$

Defined for  $\alpha > m + 1$ ,  
Otherwise diverge (+inf)

=> Mean:

$$\langle k \rangle = \frac{\alpha - 1}{\alpha - 2} k_{\min}$$

(But diverges for  $\alpha \leq 2$ )

=> Variance:

$$\langle k^2 \rangle = \frac{\alpha - 1}{\alpha - 3} k_{\min}^2$$

(But diverges for  $\alpha \leq 3$ )

# Moments

What does divergence means in practice ?

We can always *compute* the mean and variance, given samples of a distribution (e.g., an observe degree distribution)

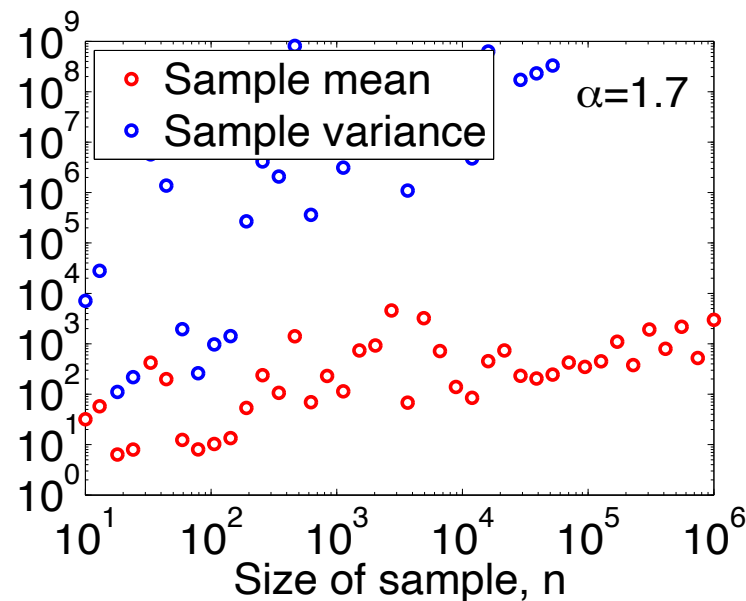
=>The value computed depends on the **size** of the sample, it is not a characteristic of the distribution.

Moments are *dominated* by elements in the long tail. Some events are rare, but they have so large values, that if observed, they are strong enough to modify substantially the corresponding moment. And they appear frequently enough so that the mean will continue to shift when increasing the sample size

## Moments

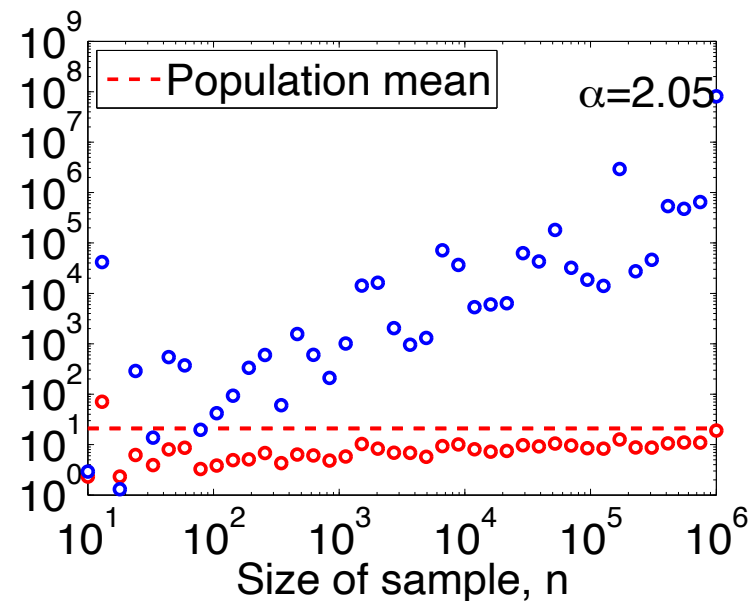
$$\alpha < 2$$

Mean diverge



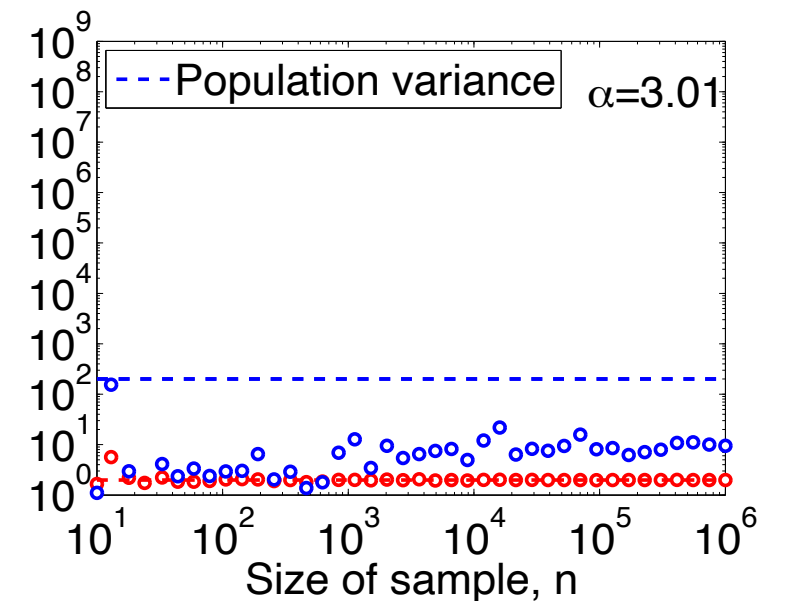
$$2 < \alpha < 3$$

Mean well defined,  
Variance diverge



$$\alpha > 3$$

Mean and variance  
defined



=> Even when well defined, **moments converge very slowly**

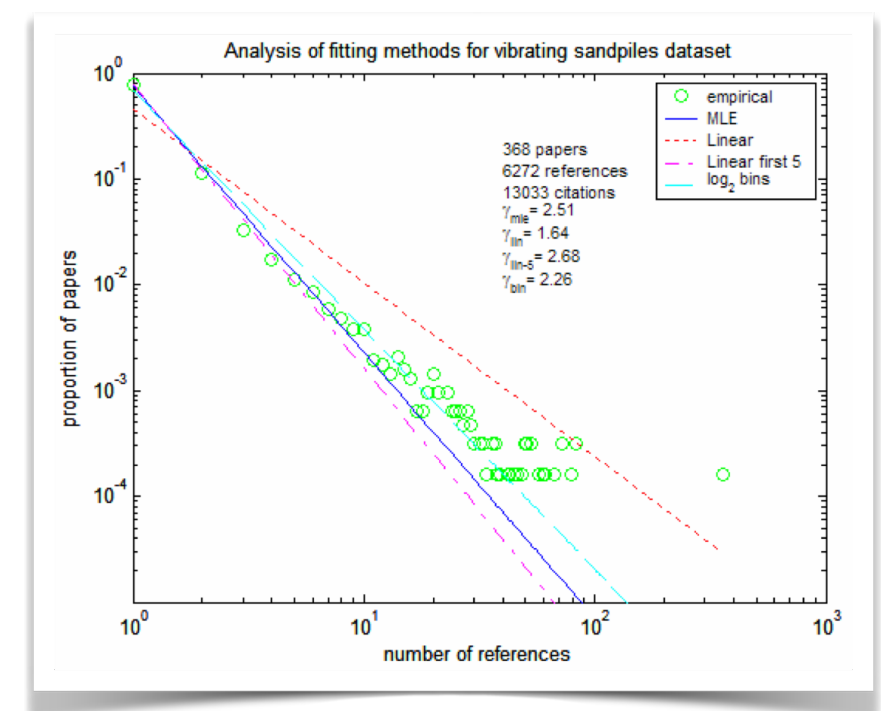
# Computing the exponent of an observed network

**Method I:** find the slope of the line of the log-log plot

Problem: most of data is on first values, so we *overfit* based on a few values in the long tail

## More advanced method:

Maximum Likelihood Estimation (MLE)



[Fitting to the Power-Law Distribution, Goldstein et al.]  
<https://arxiv.org/vc/cond-mat/papers/0402/0402322v1.pdf>



# Scale-free networks

Network	Size	$\langle k \rangle$	$\kappa$	Exponent		$\ell_{real}$	$\ell_{rand}$	$\ell_{pow}$	Reference
				$\gamma_{out}$	$\gamma_{in}$				
WWW	325 729	4.51	900	2.45	2.1	11.2	8.32	4.77	Albert, Jeong, and Barabási 1999
WWW	$4 \times 10^7$	7		2.38	2.1				Kumar <i>et al.</i> , 1999
WWW	$2 \times 10^8$	7.5	4000	2.72	2.1	16	8.85	7.61	Broder <i>et al.</i> , 2000
WWW, site	260 000				1.94				Huberman and Adamic, 2000
Internet, domain*	3015–4389	3.42–3.76	30–40	2.1–2.2	2.1–2.2	4	6.3	5.2	Faloutsos, 1999
Internet, router*	3888	2.57	30	2.48	2.48	12.15	8.75	7.67	Faloutsos, 1999
Internet, router*	150 000	2.66	60	2.4	2.4	11	12.8	7.47	Govindan, 2000
Movie actors*	212 250	28.78	900	2.3	2.3	4.54	3.65	4.01	Barabási and Albert, 1999
Co-authors, SPIRES*	56 627	173	1100	1.2	1.2	4	2.12	1.95	Newman, 2001b
Co-authors, neuro.*	209 293	11.54	400	2.1	2.1	6	5.01	3.86	Barabási <i>et al.</i> , 2001
Co-authors, math.*	70 975	3.9	120	2.5	2.5	9.5	8.2	6.53	Barabási <i>et al.</i> , 2001
Sexual contacts*	2810			3.4	3.4				Liljeros <i>et al.</i> , 2001
Metabolic, <i>E. coli</i>	778	7.4	110	2.2	2.2	3.2	3.32	2.89	Jeong <i>et al.</i> , 2000
Protein, <i>S. cerev.</i> *	1870	2.39		2.4	2.4				Jeong, Mason, <i>et al.</i> , 2001
Ythan estuary*	134	8.7	35	1.05	1.05	2.43	2.26	1.71	Montoya and Solé, 2000
Silwood Park*	154	4.75	27	1.13	1.13	3.4	3.23	2	Montoya and Solé, 2000
Citation	783 339	8.57			3				Redner, 1998
Phone call	$53 \times 10^6$	3.16		2.1	2.1				Aiello <i>et al.</i> , 2000
Words, co-occurrence*	460 902	70.13		2.7	2.7				Ferrer i Cancho and Solé, 2001
Words, synonyms*	22 311	13.48		2.8	2.8				Yook <i>et al.</i> , 2001b

Albert, R. *et al.* Rev. Mod. Phys. (2002)

Exponents of real-world networks are usually between 2 and 3

# Scale-free networks

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Words, synonyms*	22 311	13.48		2.8	2.8

- Average values are not reliable since the convergence is very slow
- Furthermore, average values are meaningless since the fluctuations are infinitely large (diverging variance)

Albert, R. et.al. Rev. Mod. Phys. (2002)

# Scale-free networks

Why do most of the real networks have degree exponent between 2 and 3?

- If the exponent is smaller than 2, the distribution is so skewed that we expect to find nodes with a degree *larger* than the size of the network => not possible in finite networks

# Scale-free networks

## Why do most of the real networks have degree exponent between 2 and 3?

- To detect a scale-free network its degree distribution needs to span through several (at least 2-3) orders of magnitude  $\Rightarrow K_{max} \sim 10^3$
- If the exponent is large ( $>3$ ), large degrees become so rare that the size of the sample (i.e., size of observed network) must be enormous to indeed observe such an edge
- Example: let's choose  $\gamma=5$ ,  $K_{min}=1$  and  $K_{max} \sim 10^3$

$$K_{\max} = K_{\min} N^{\frac{1}{\gamma-1}}$$

$$N = \left( \frac{K_{\max}}{K_{\min}} \right)^{\gamma-1} \approx 10^{12}$$

We need to observe  $10^{12}$  nodes to observe a node of degree 1000 for exponent=5

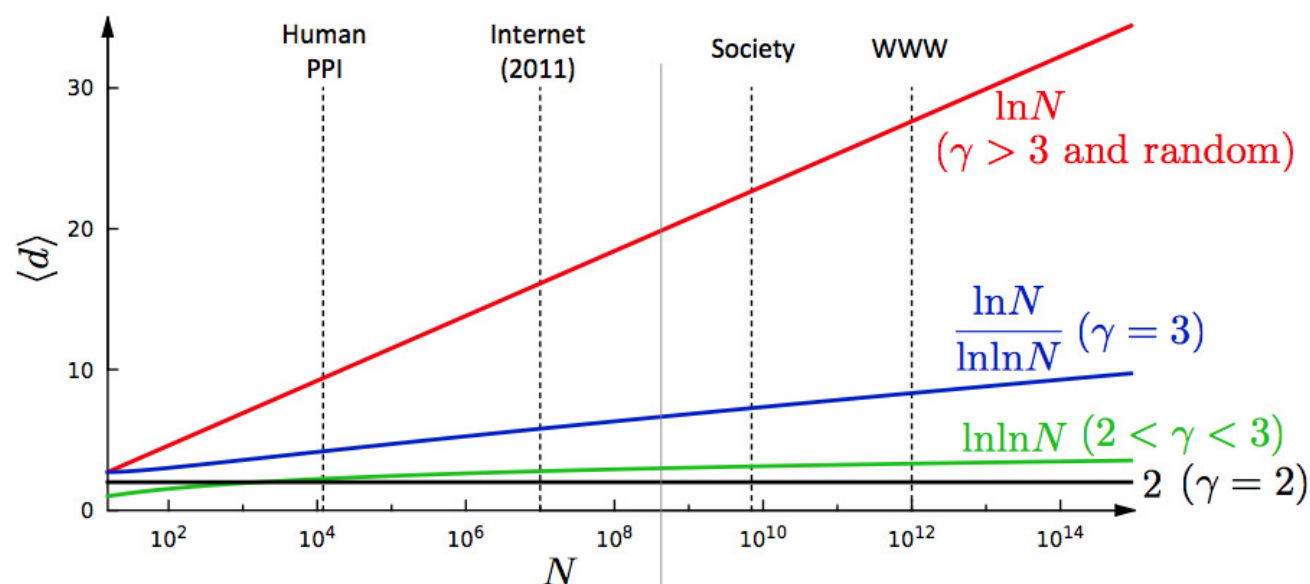
=> Forget about (single planet) social networks...



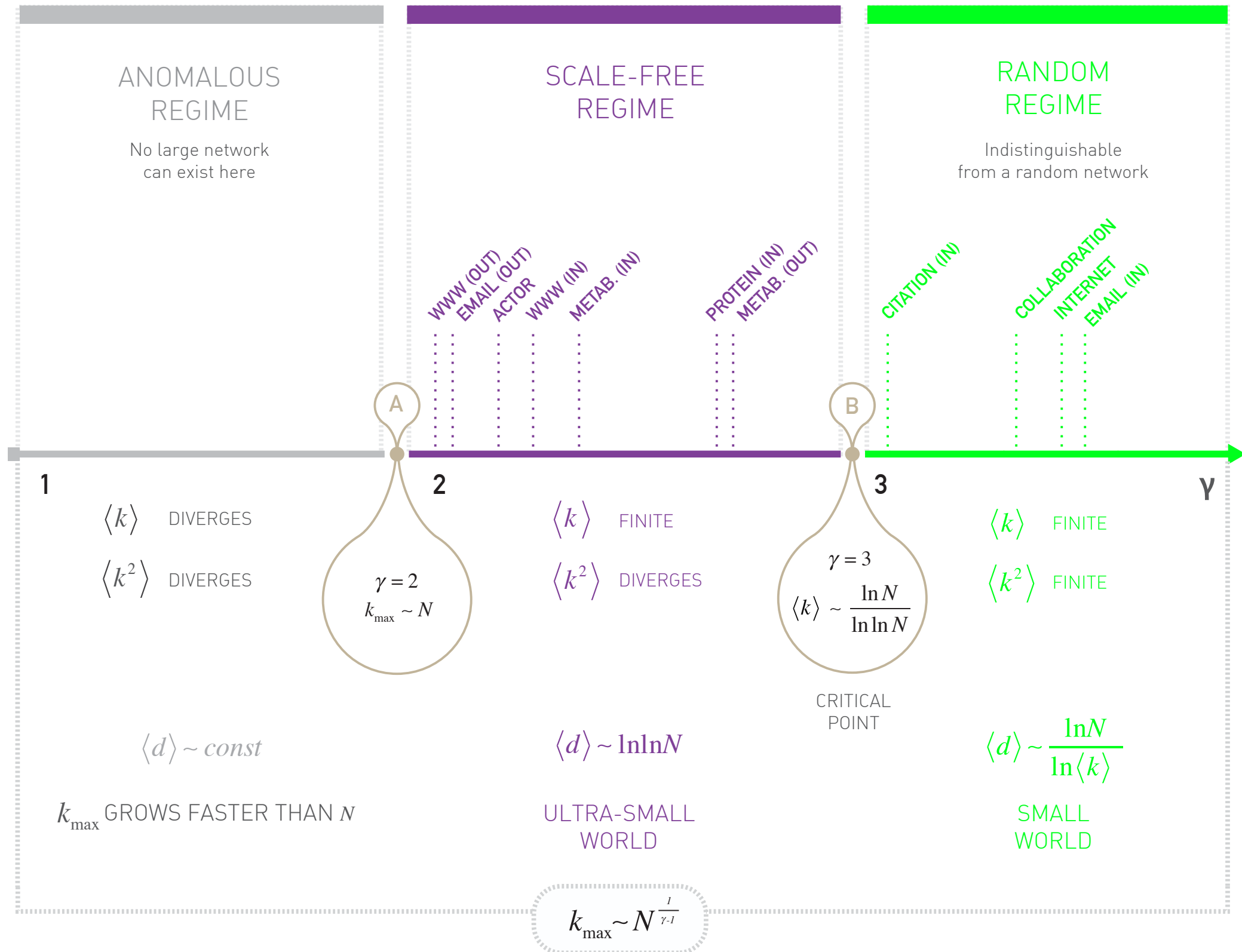
# Scale-free networks - distances

Ultra Small World	$\langle l \rangle \sim$	$const.$	$\gamma = 2$	Size of the biggest hub is of order $O(N)$ . Most nodes can be connected within two layers of it, thus the average path length will be independent of the system size.
		$\frac{\ln \ln N}{\ln(\gamma - 1)}$	$2 < \gamma < 3$	The average path length increases slower than logarithmically. In a random network all nodes have comparable degree, thus most paths will have comparable length. In a scale-free network the vast majority of the path go through the few high degree hubs, reducing the distances between nodes.
		$\frac{\ln N}{\ln \ln N}$	$\gamma = 3$	Some key models produce $\gamma=3$ , so the result is of particular importance for them. This was first derived by Bollobas and collaborators for the network diameter in the context of a dynamical model, but it holds for the average path length as well.
Small World		$\ln N$	$\gamma > 3$	The second moment of the distribution is finite, thus in many ways the network behaves as a random network. Hence the average path length follows the result that we derived for the random network model earlier.

Cohen, Havlin Phys. Rev. Lett. 90, 58701(2003); Cohen, Havlin and ben-Avraham, in Handbook of Graphs and Networks, Eds. Bornholdt and Shuster (Wiley-VCH, NY, 2002) Chap. 4; Confirmed also by: Dorogovtsev et al (2002), Chung and Lu (2002); (Bollobas, Riordan, 2002; Bollobas, 1985; Newman, 2001

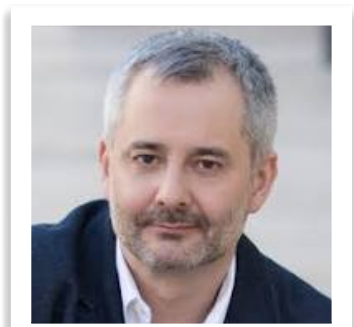


# Scale-free networks - summary



# Scale-free networks

- Are real networks really Scale Free ?
- In most real networks, the scale free stands only for *a range* of degrees, i.e., between a minimum degree and maximum degree different than those observed (cut-offs)
- Some other distributions, in particular log-normal distributions, might “look like” power-law



Albert-László Barabási

*Emergence of scaling in random networks (1999)*



Aaron Clauset

Scale-free networks are rare (2018)

Love is All You Need - Clauset's fruitless search for scale-free networks (2018)



Petter Holme

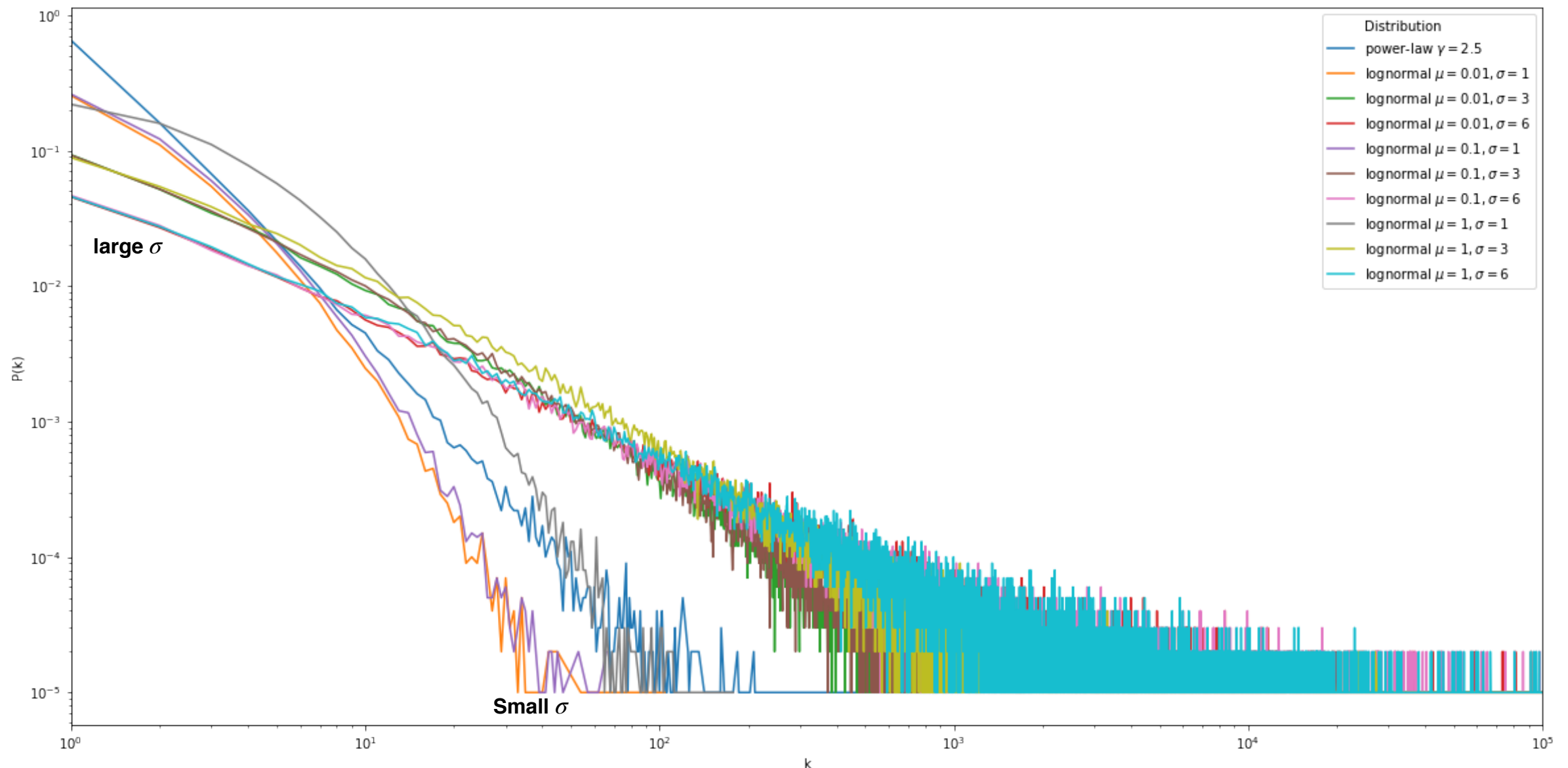
**Rare and everywhere:** Perspectives on scale-free networks (2019)

# Scale-free networks

## Comparing a log-normal distribution and a power law

Log-normal distribution = Probability distribution of a random variable whose logarithm is normally distributed

$$\frac{1}{k\sigma\sqrt{2\pi}} \exp\left(-\frac{(\ln k - \mu)^2}{2\sigma^2}\right) \quad k^{-\alpha}$$



$\mu$   
 $\sigma$  Mean, std of the log of the variable



# Scale-free networks



Albert-László Barabási  
@barabasi

@aaronclauset Every 5 years someone is shocked to re-discover that a pure power law does not fit many networks. True: Real networks have predictable deviations. Hence forcing a pure power law on these is like...fitting a sphere to the cow. Sooner or later the hoof will stick out.

## 4.13.4 Systematic Fitting Issues

The procedure described above may offer the impression that determining the degree exponent is a cumbersome but straightforward process. In reality, these fitting methods have some well-known limitations: **Network Science, Chapter 4, pg 159**

1. A pure power law is an idealized distribution that emerges in its form (4.1) only in simple models (**Chapter 5**). In reality, a whole range of processes contribute to the topology of real networks, affecting the precise shape of the degree distribution. These processes will be discussed in **Chapter 6**. If  $p_k$  does not follow a pure power law, the methods described above, designed to fit a power law to the data, will inevitably fail to detect statistical significance. While this finding can mean that the network is not scale-free, it most often means that we have not yet gained a proper understanding of the precise form of the degree distribution. Hence we are fitting the wrong functional form of  $p_k$  to the dataset.



Albert-László Barabási @barabasi · Jan 15, 2018

Replying to @barabasi

Chapter 6 in Network Science [networksciencebook.com/chapter/6](http://networksciencebook.com/chapter/6) discusses what you should be fitting to the degree distribution of \*real\* scale-free networks. You are right: Pure power laws are predictably rare. Scale-free networks are not.

1

21

45



Aaron Clauset @aaronclauset · Jan 15, 2018

Replying to @barabasi

Yes, science is hard and real data often messy. But it is worrying how criticisms of harsh statistical evaluations can be interpreted as a belief that "disagreement with data" (as Feynman would put it) should not be held against a favored theory or model.

3

5

18



Albert-László Barabási @barabasi · Jan 15, 2018

We are on the same page. The question is, what you test and what you conclude. There are multiple processes that contribute to the degree distribution that modify the power law. Hence testing for power laws only you are ignoring them all, leading to misleading takeaway message.

2

4

10



Aaron Clauset @aaronclauset · Jan 15, 2018

Perhaps. I feel good about the accuracy of our conclusions: we used rigorous statistical methods, tested 5 distributions, considered 5 levels of evidence, across nearly 1000 network datasets. The goal was to be thorough and to treat the SF hypothesis as falsifiable.

1

3

14



Albert-László Barabási @barabasi · Jan 15, 2018

The effort is amazing. The conclusions are less so. The feather falls slower than the rock, yet gravitation is not wrong. We add friction. You need to fit for each system the  $P_k$  that is right for it. That is hard, I know. Otherwise you ignore 20 year of work by hundreds.

2

4

6



Aaron Clauset @aaronclauset · Jan 15, 2018

It seems easy to get confused here: an empirical power-law degree distribution is evidence for SF structure, but no deviation from the power law can be evidence against SF structure? It is reasonable to believe a fundamental phenomena would require less customized detective work.

# Scale-free networks



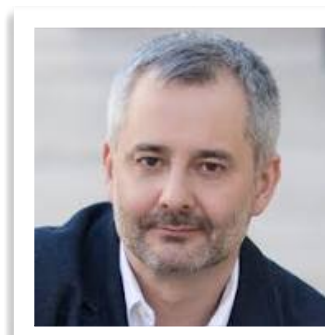
Aaron Clauset

-Rigorous **statistical tests** show that observed degree distributions are not compatible with a power law distribution (high p-values)

-Compared with different distributions, in particular log-normal, most degree distributions are more likely to be generated by something else than power laws

**A whole scientific article dedicated to the controversy:**

Jacomy, M. (2020). Epistemic clashes in network science: Mapping the tensions between idiographic and nomothetic subcultures. *Big Data & Society*, 7(2), 2053951720949577.



Albert-László Barabási

-Networks are real objects, not mathematical abstraction, therefore they are sensible to **noise** (real life limits...)



-Power law is a **good, simple model** of degree distributions of a class of networks

-20 years of **fruitful research** based on this model

# The Barabási-Albert model

**of scale-free  
networks**

# Emergence of hubs

## What did we miss with the earlier network models?

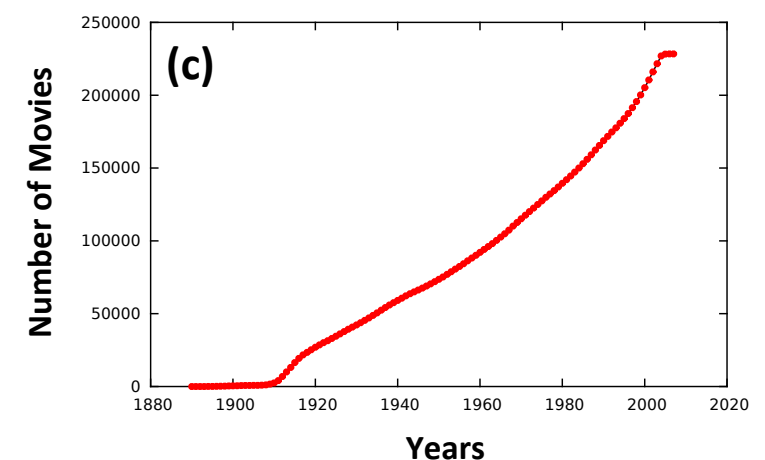
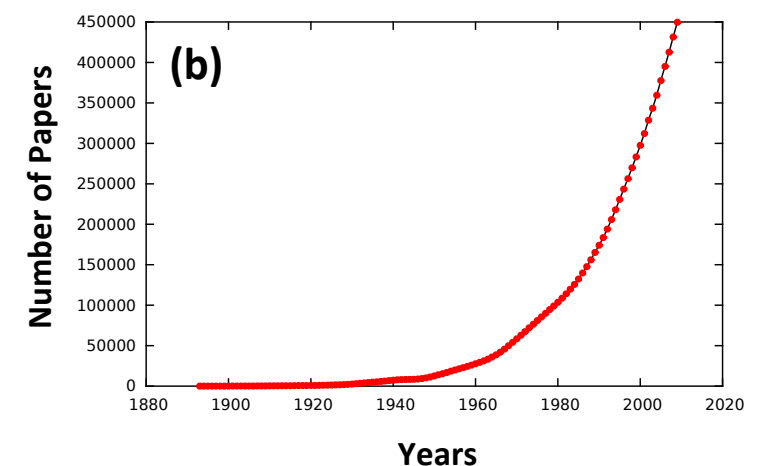
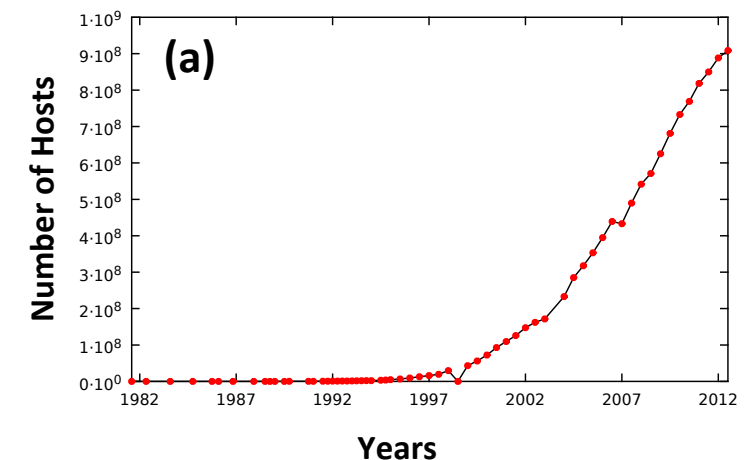
### 1. Networks are evolving

- Networks are not static but growing in time as new nodes are entering the system

### 2. Preferential attachment

- Nodes are not connected randomly but tends to link to more attractive nodes

- Pólya urn model (1923)
- Yule process (1925)
- Zipf's law (1941)
- Cumulative advantage (1968)
- Preferential attachment (1999)
- Pareto's law - 80/20 rule
- The rich get richer phenomena
- etc.



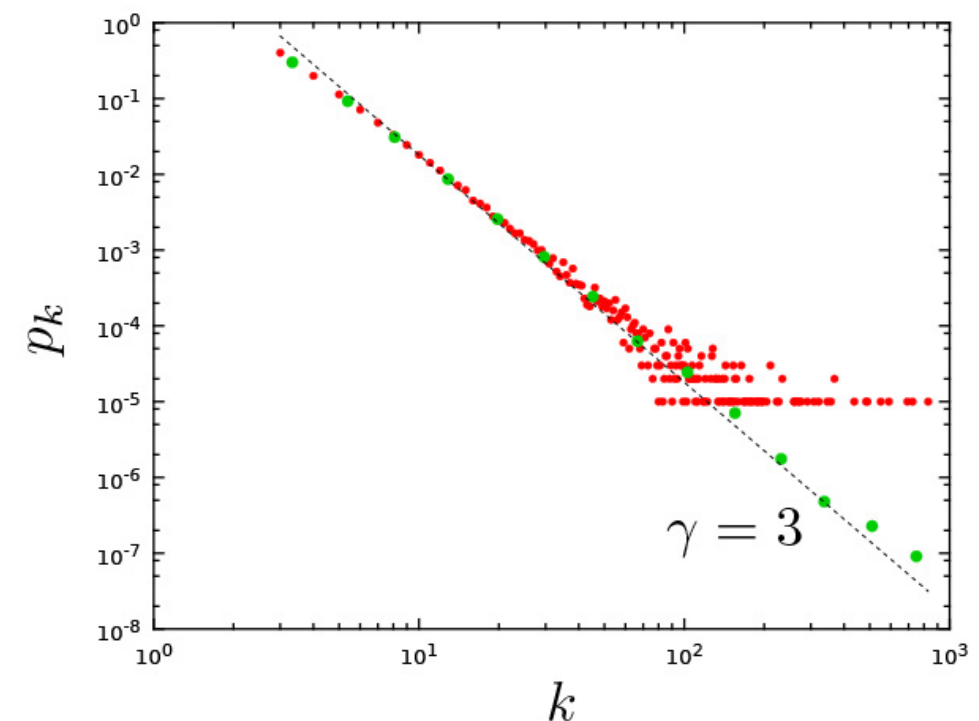
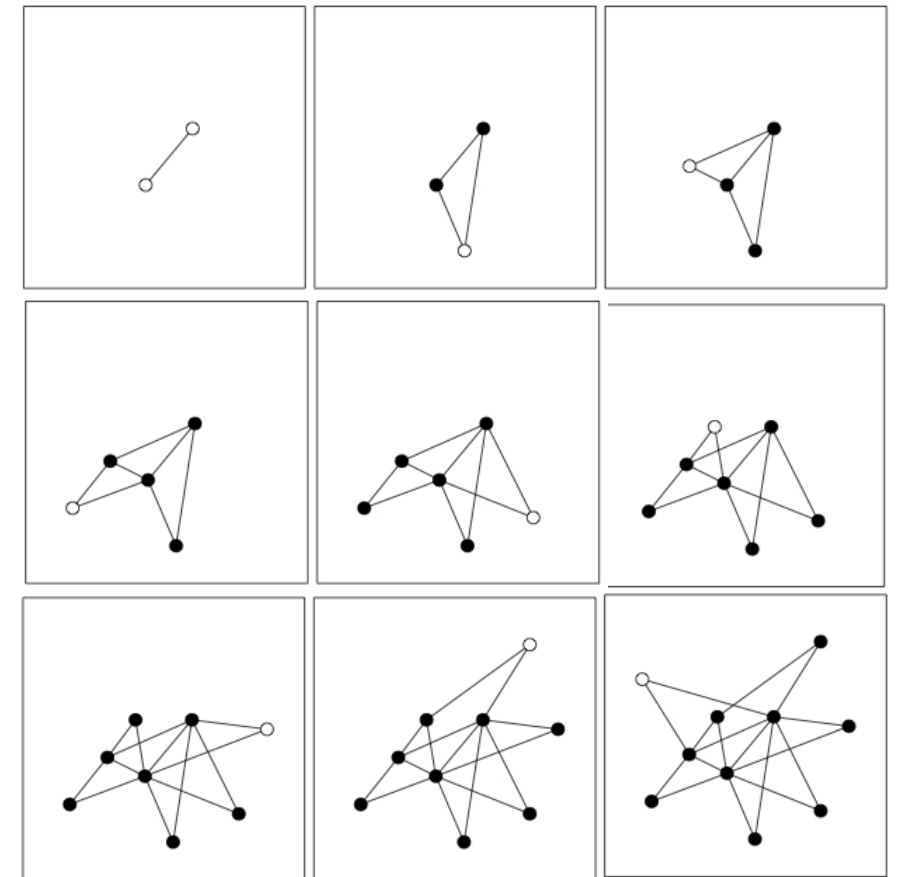


# The Barabási-Albert model

1. Start with  $m_0$  connected nodes
2. At each timestep we add a new node with  $m$  ( $\leq m_0$ ) links that connect the new node to  $m$  nodes already in the network.
3. The probability  $\pi(k)$  that one of the links of the new node connects to node  $i$  depends on the degree  $k_i$  of node  $i$  as

$$\Pi(k_i) = \frac{k_i}{\sum_j k_j}$$

- The emerging network will be scale-free with **degree exponent  $\gamma=3$**  independently from the choice of  $m_0$  and  $m$



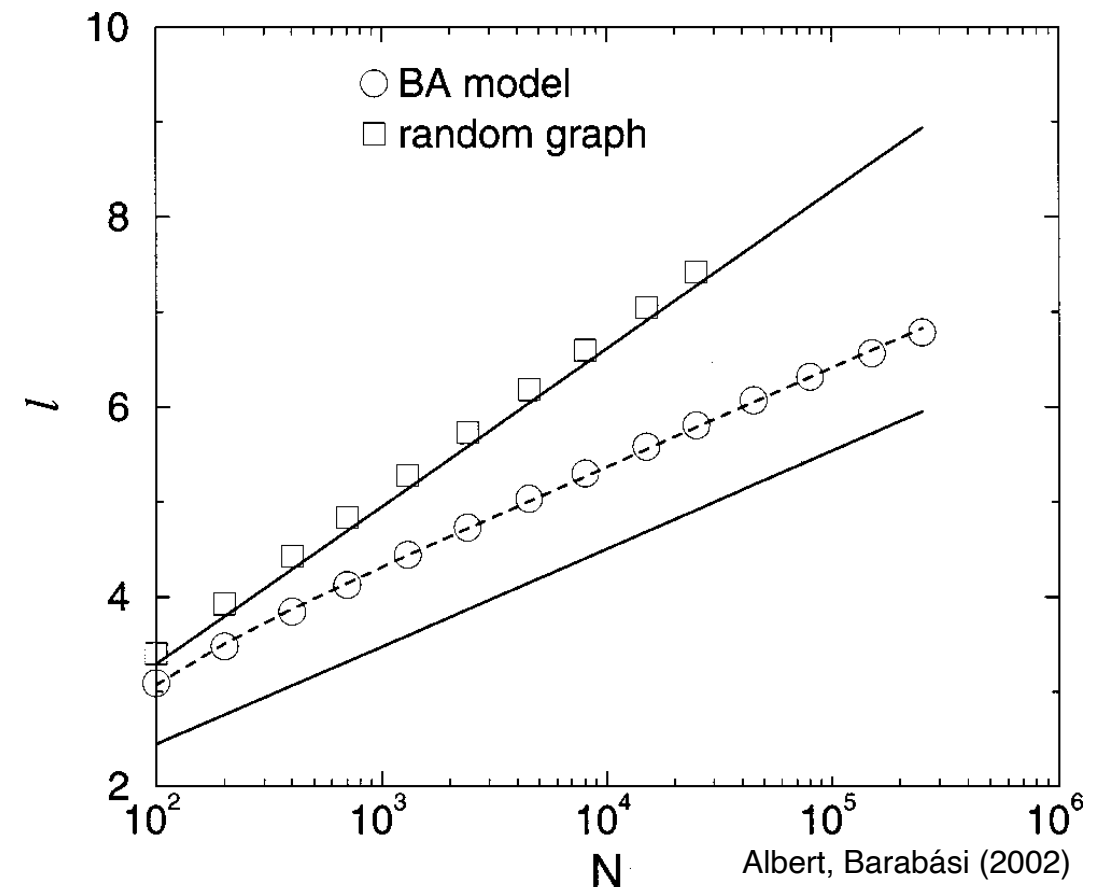
# The BA model - path length

Ultra Small World	< l > ~	$const.$	$\gamma = 2$	Size of the biggest hub is of order $O(N)$ . Most nodes can be connected within two layers of it, thus the average path length will be independent of the system size.
		$\frac{\ln \ln N}{\ln(\gamma - 1)}$	$2 < \gamma < 3$	The average path length increases slower than logarithmically. In a random network all nodes have comparable degree, thus most paths will have comparable length. In a scale-free network the vast majority of the path go through the few high degree hubs, reducing the distances between nodes.
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Small World		$\ln N$	$\gamma > 3$	The second moment of the distribution is finite, thus in many ways the network behaves as a random network. Hence the average path length follows the result that we derived for the random network model earlier.

$$\langle l \rangle = \frac{\ln N}{\ln \ln N}$$

## Ultra Small World network

Bollobás, Riordan (2001)

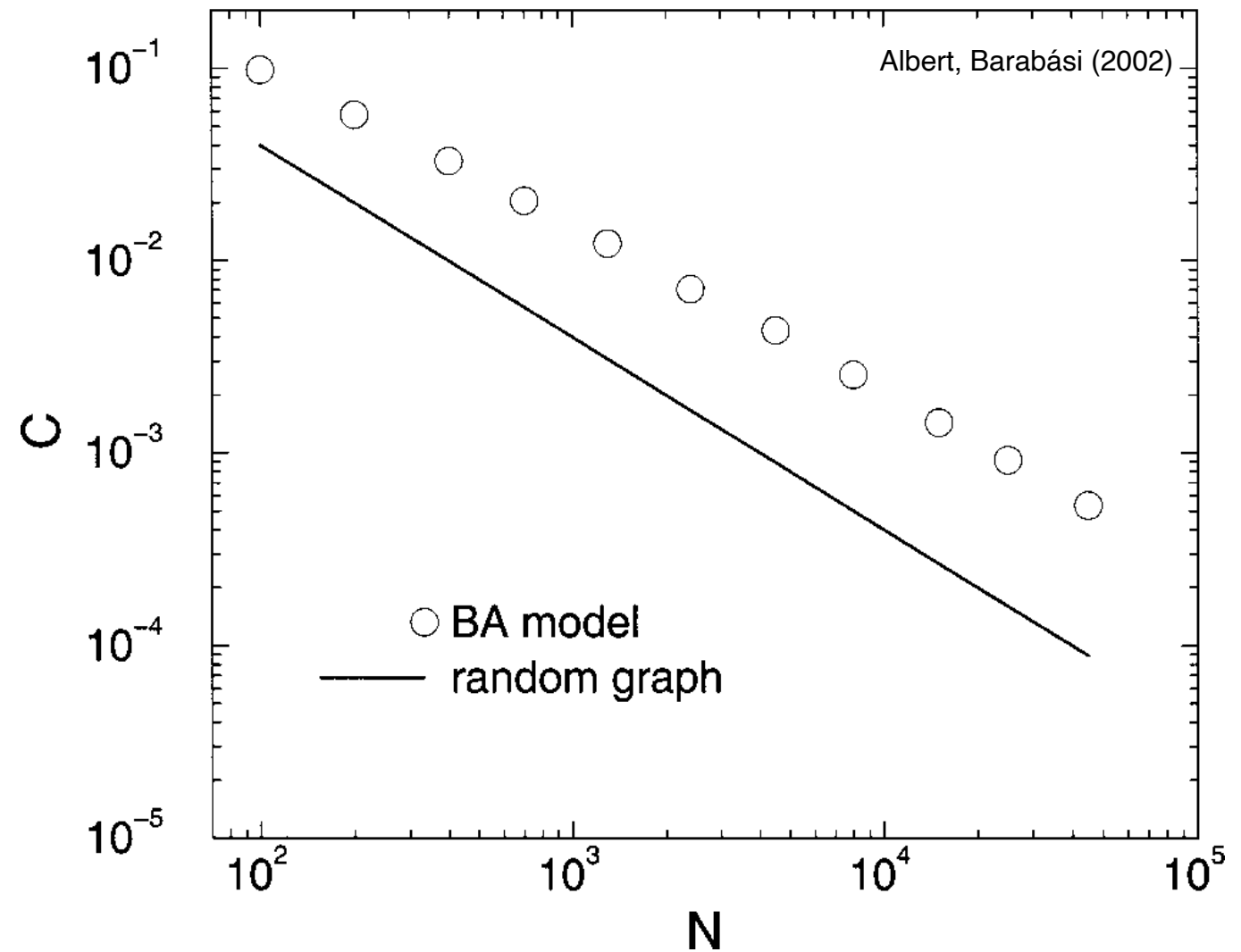


# The BA model - clustering coefficient

- The clustering coefficient decreases with the system size as

$$C = \frac{m}{4} \frac{(\ln N)^2}{N}$$

- It is 5 times more than for random graphs



# ER Random Network - catch up

Network	Degree distribution	Path length	Clustering coefficient
Real world networks	broad	short	large
Regular lattices	constant	long	large
ER random networks	Poissonian	short	small
WS small-world networks	exponential	short	large
BA scale-free networks	power-law	short	Rather small



**(some)**

**Other random  
models**

# Other scale-free models

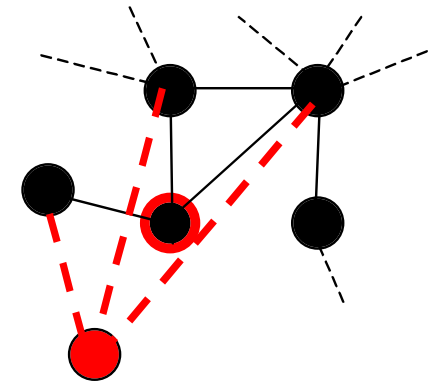
## The vertex-copying model

- Motivation:

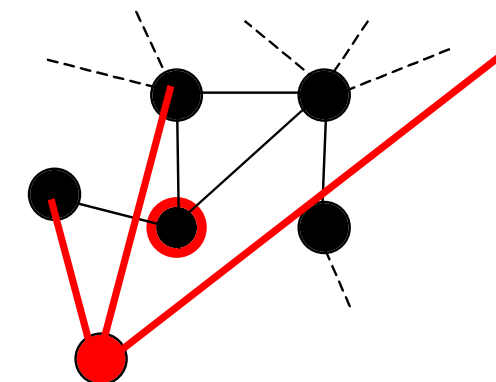
- Citations network or WWW where links are often copied
- Local explanation to preferential attachment

1. Take a small seed network
2. Pick a random vertex
3. Make a copy of it
4. With probability  $p$ , move each edge of the copy to point to a random vertex
5. Repeat 2.-4. until the network has grown to desired size of  $N$  vertices

### 1. copy a vertex



### 2. rewire edges with $p$



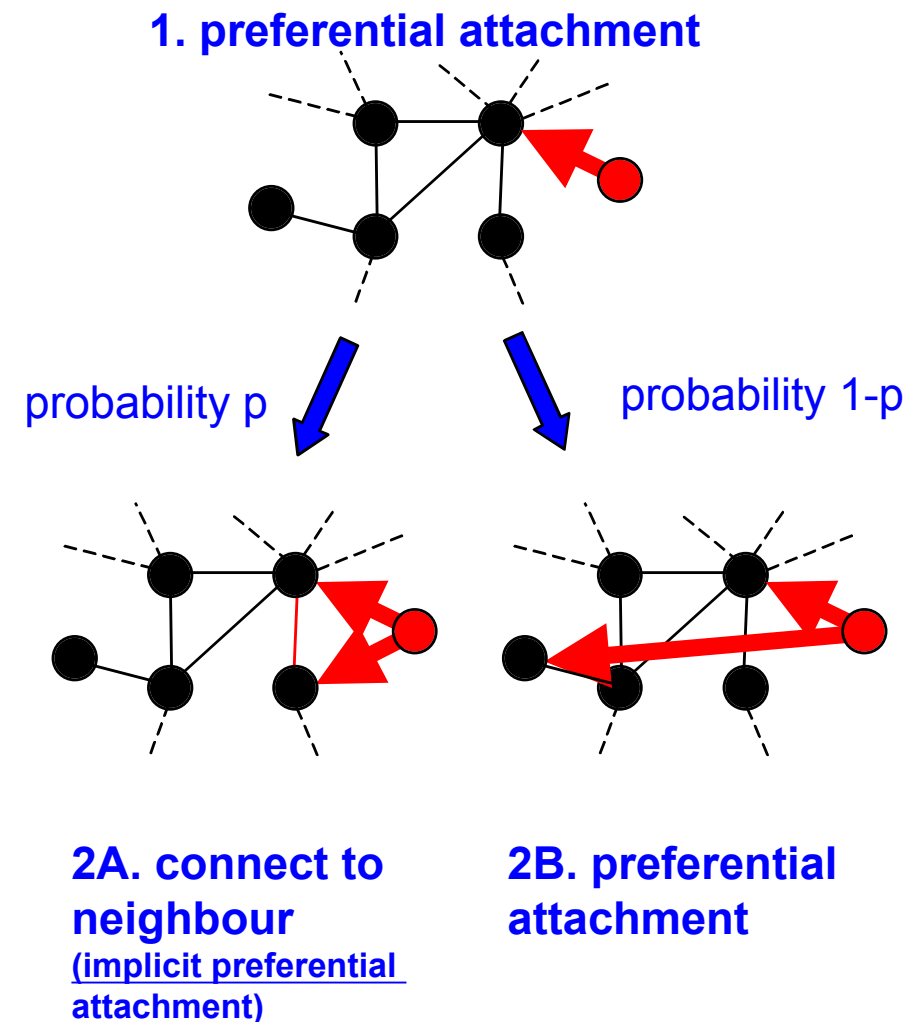
- Asymptotically scale-free with exponent  $\gamma \geq 3$

# Other scale-free models

## The Holme-Kim model

- Motivation: **more realistic clustering coefficient**

1. Take a small seed network
2. Create a new vertex with  $m$  edges
3. Connect the first of the  $m$  edges to existing vertices with a probability proportional to their degree  $k$  (just like BA)
4. With probability  $p$ , connect the next edge to a random neighbour of the vertex of step 3., otherwise do 3. again
5. Repeat 2.-4. until the network has grown to desired size of  $N$  vertices



$$C(k) \propto \frac{1}{k}$$

for large  $N$ , ie clustering more realistic! This type of clustering is found in many real-world networks.

# ER Random Network - catch up

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BA scale-free networks	power-law	short	Rather small
Other models	power-law	short	Large

Complex models can have all three properties,  
But what is the point if they are themselves quite  
complex?

# End notes

- “All models are wrong, but some are useful”
- ER models and Configuration models are used as reference models in a very large number of applications
- WS, BA models are more “making a point” type models: simple processes can explain some non-trivial properties of networks, unfound in random networks.
- Correlation is not causation. Are these simple processes the “cause” ? Maybe, maybe not, sometimes...