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A generalized critical condition for the emergence of a giant component in random graphs with given degrees

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The structure of random graphs

The $G_{n,p}$ model (Erdős-Rényi)

Consider K_n (the complete graph on n vertices), and retain each one of its edges, independently, with probability p .

- One of the main questions is:

Given $p = p(n)$, is there a component with at least cn vertices, with probability that tends to 1 as $n \rightarrow \infty$?
Such a component is called a *giant component*.



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The phase transition

A classical result by Erdős and Rényi:

- If $p > \frac{1+c}{n}$, then with probability $\rightarrow 1$, as $n \rightarrow \infty$, $G_{n,p}$ has a (unique) giant component, whereas every other component has $O(\log n)$ vertices;
- if $p < \frac{1-c}{n}$, then all the components of $G_{n,p}$ have $O(\log n)$ vertices, with probability $1 - o(1)$.



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Random graphs with given degrees

For any integer $n \geq 1$, we let $\mathbf{d}_n = (d_1, \dots, d_n)$ be a vector of non-negative integers with

$$\sum_{i=1}^n d_i \text{ even.}$$

- This is a *degree sequence*, in the sense that on the set of vertices $\{1, \dots, n\}$,
vertex i has degree d_i .
- We consider the set of all *simple* graphs on the vertex-set $\{1, \dots, n\}$ whose degree sequence is \mathbf{d}_n .
- We let $G(\mathbf{d}_n)$ be a random graph uniformly chosen among all *simple* graphs whose degree sequence is \mathbf{d}_n .



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Why do we study them

- It is a “natural” model (e.g. random 3-regular graphs);
- many real-world random networks have (almost) fixed degrees.



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The Molloy-Reed Theorem

- Let $D_i(n)$ be the number of elements in $\mathbf{d}_n = (d_1, \dots, d_n)$ that are equal to i .

$$D_i(n) = \# \text{ vertices that have degree } i \text{ in } \mathbf{d}_n.$$

- Assume that $\lambda_i := \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \frac{D_i(n)}{n}$ exists and

$$\sum_{i \geq 1} i \lambda_i < \infty.$$

- Let

$$Q := \sum_{i \geq 1} i(i-2)\lambda_i.$$



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Let $\Delta(n) = \max_i \{d_i\}$ be the maximum degree of the degree sequence \mathbf{d}_n .

Assume that the sequence of degree sequences $\{\mathbf{d}_n\}$ is *well-behaved*.

- If $\Delta(n) \leq n^{1/4-\epsilon}$ and $Q > 0$, then

$G(\mathbf{d}_n)$ has a component of order *at least* ϵn ,
with probability $\rightarrow 1$, as $n \rightarrow \infty$.

- If $\Delta(n) \leq n^{1/8-\epsilon}$ and $Q < 0$, then

the largest component of $G(\mathbf{d}_n)$ has no more than $\Delta(n)^2 \log(n)$
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The term *Well-behaved* means:

- the ratios $i(i-2)D_i(n)/n$ converge uniformly to $i(i-2)\lambda_i$, for all $i \geq 1$.

For every $\epsilon > 0$, there exists n_0 such that for all $i \geq 1$ and all $n > n_0$

$$\left| \frac{i(i-2)D_i(n)}{n} - i(i-2)\lambda_i \right| < \epsilon;$$



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Well-behaved degree sequences II

If

$$\mathcal{L} := \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \sum_{i \geq 1} i(i-2)D_i(n)/n,$$

then the sum approaches the limit uniformly.

- if $\mathcal{L} < \infty$, then for all $\epsilon > 0$ there exist i^* and n_0 such that for all $n > n_0$

$$\left| \sum_{i=1}^{i^*} i(i-2)D_i(n)/n - \mathcal{L} \right| < \epsilon;$$

- if $\mathcal{L} = \infty$, then for all $T > 0$ there exist i^* and n_0 such that for all $n > n_0$

$$\sum_{i=1}^{i^*} i(i-2)D_i(n)/n > T.$$



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⇒ two conditions imply that $\mathcal{Q} = \mathcal{L}$.



Our assumptions

- Our work

We aim to

the removal of the conditions regarding uniformity.

Our assumptions: with $D = D(n) = \sum_{i \geq 1} iD_i(n)$,

- For every $i \geq 1$, $\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \frac{iD_i(n)}{D(n)} =: \delta_i \geq 0$;
- $\Delta(\mathbf{d}_n) \leq D^{1/2-\epsilon}$, where $\epsilon > 0$ is an arbitrary constant;
- $\frac{\sum_{i=1}^n d_i^2}{D} = O(D^{1/2-\epsilon})$.



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For $s \in [0, 1]$, we set

$$F(s) := \sum_{i \geq 1} \delta_i s^{i-1}.$$

Let s_0 be the smallest fixed point of F in $[0, 1]$.

Theorem [F. and Reed]

Under our assumptions, with probability $1 - o(1)$

- if $s_0 < 1$, then the largest component of $G(\mathbf{d}_n)$ has at least cn vertices for some $c > 0$;
- if $s_0 = 1$, then *for every* $c > 0$ every component of $G(\mathbf{d}_n)$ has at most cn vertices.



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Example

If we consider a degree sequence with $\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \frac{D_1(n)}{D}, \frac{2D_2(n)}{D} > 0$,

$$\frac{D_1(n)}{D} + \frac{2D_2(n)}{D} = 1 - o(1) \text{ and } n^{2/3} \text{ vertices of degree } n^{1/4},$$

our theorem implies that $G(\mathbf{d}_n)$ has not a giant component a.s..

However,

$$\sum_{i \geq 1} \frac{i(i-2)D_i(n)}{n} =: \mathcal{L} = \Theta \left(\frac{(n^{1/4})^2 \cdot n^{2/3}}{n} \right) = \Theta(n^{1/6})$$

but

$$\mathcal{Q} := \sum_{i \geq 1} i(i-2)\lambda_i = (-1)\lambda_1 < 0.$$



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But again in this case

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Proof Idea I

We study the *core* of $G(\mathbf{d}_n)$.

The *core* of a graph G the maximum subgraph of minimum degree at least two.

The core of G can be recovered by repeatedly removing the vertices of degree 1 of G .

We refer to this process as the *stripping process*.



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- We have proved the following:

Theorem [F. and Reed]

Under our assumptions, the core of $G(\mathbf{d}_n)$ has total degree

$$D(1 - s_0)^2 + o(D).$$

- So

Summary

The giant component emerges, when a core of linear total degree emerges.

- This had been observed for degree sequences satisfying stronger conditions by Fernholz and Ramachandran (2003).



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Proof Idea III

- $s_0 < 1$

We get a core of total degree $\approx D(1 - s_0)^2$ and we show that

1. if the core contains a linear number of vertices, then it has a component with linear number of vertices;
2. if the core does not contain a linear number of vertices, then it contains a component of total degree $\approx D(1 - s_0)^2$ and a large number of vertices of degree 2 attached to it.



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Proof Idea IV

- $s_0 = 1$

We expose the components that contain the vertices of high degree (at least $\log^2 n$)

we show that their total degree does not exceed ϵD with high probability.

Then we condition on these components, and we show that this is the case for the remaining vertices.



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- determine its size;
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- determine the size of the second largest component;
- determine the structure of the small components.



Some natural questions:

- determine if there is a unique giant component;
- determine its size;
- determine the size of the second largest component;
- determine the structure of the small components.



Thank you!

