Small-World Phenomena and Decentralized Search

CS224W: Social and Information Network Analysis

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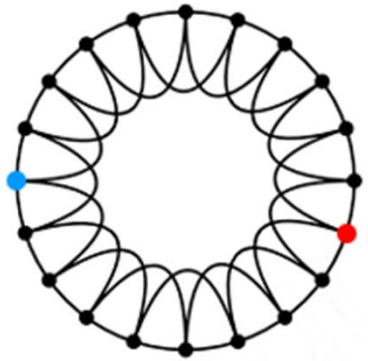
Small-World: How?

- **Could a network with high clustering be at the same time a small world?**
  - How can we at the same time have **high clustering** and **small diameter?**



High clustering
High diameter

Low clustering
Low diameter

  - Clustering implies edge "locality"
  - Randomness enables "shortcuts"

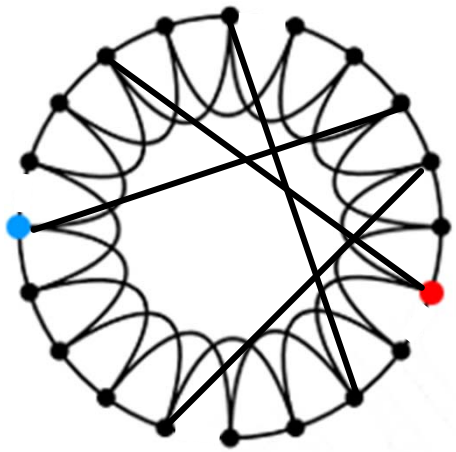
[Watts-Strogatz, '98]

Solution: The Small-World Model

Small-world Model [Watts-Strogatz '98]

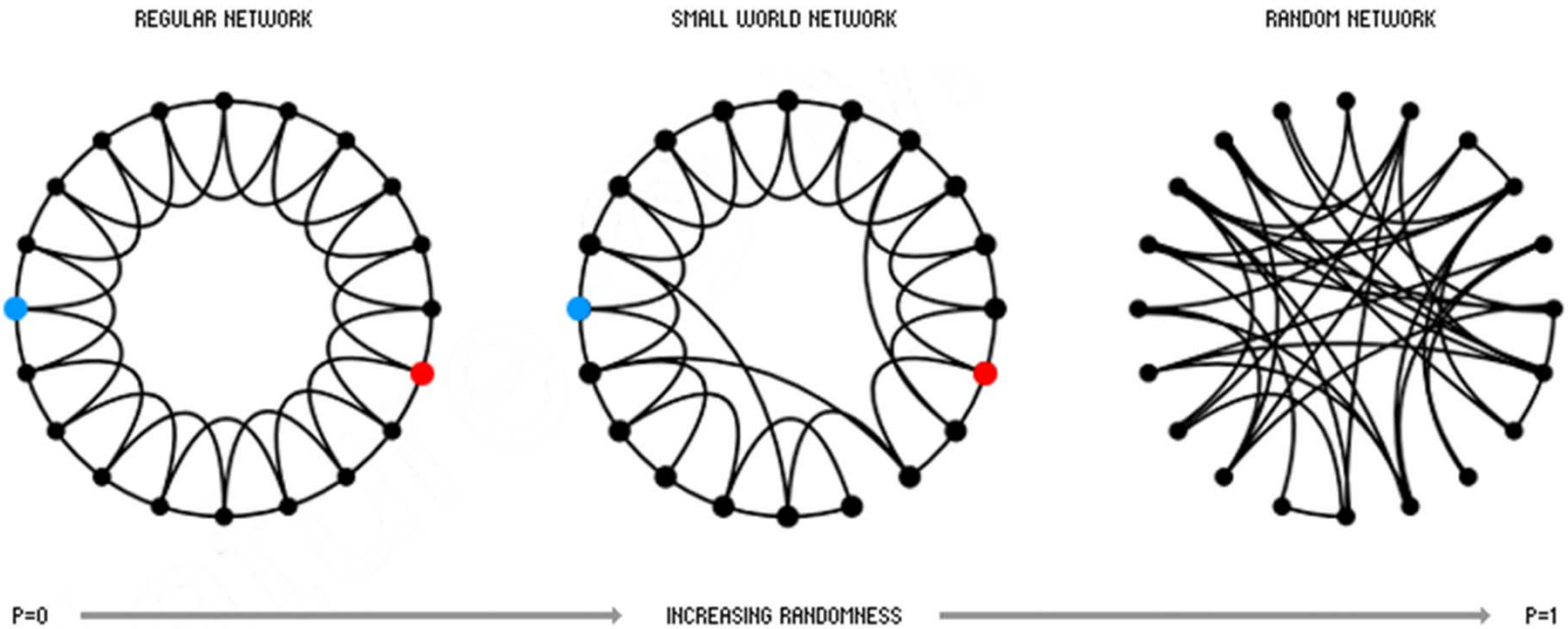
2 components to the model:

- **(1)** Start with a **low-dimensional regular lattice**
  - Has high clustering coefficient
- Now introduce randomness ("shortucts")
- **(2) Rewire:**
  - Add/remove edges to create shortcuts to join remote parts of the lattice
  - For each edge with prob. p move the other end to a random node



The Small-World Model

[Watts-Strogatz, '98]



High clustering
High diameter

$$h = \frac{N}{2\bar{k}} \qquad C = \frac{3}{4}$$

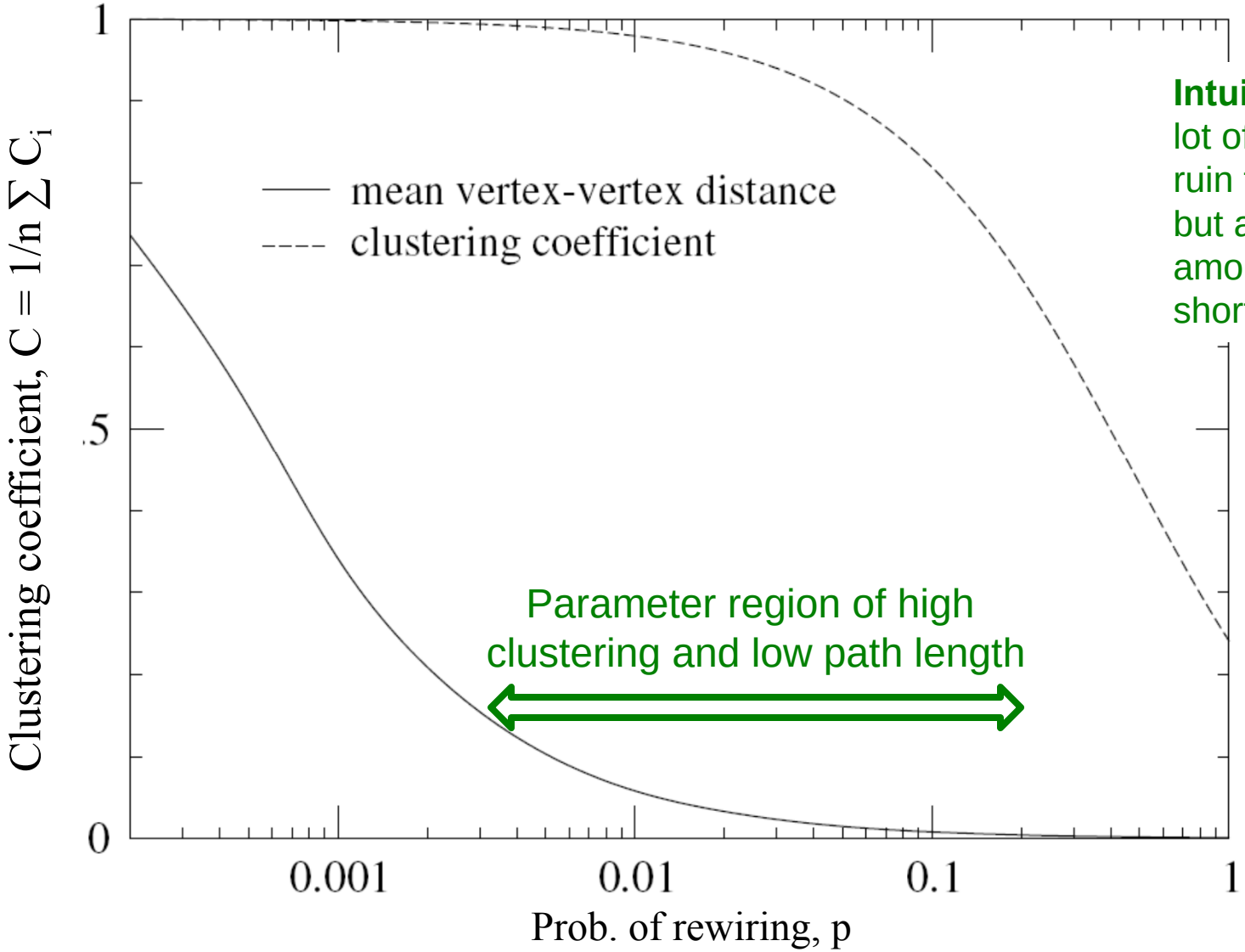
High clustering
Low diameter

Low clustering
Low diameter

$$h = \frac{\log N}{\log \alpha} \qquad C = \frac{\bar{k}}{N}$$

Rewiring allows us to "interpolate" between
a regular lattice and a random graph

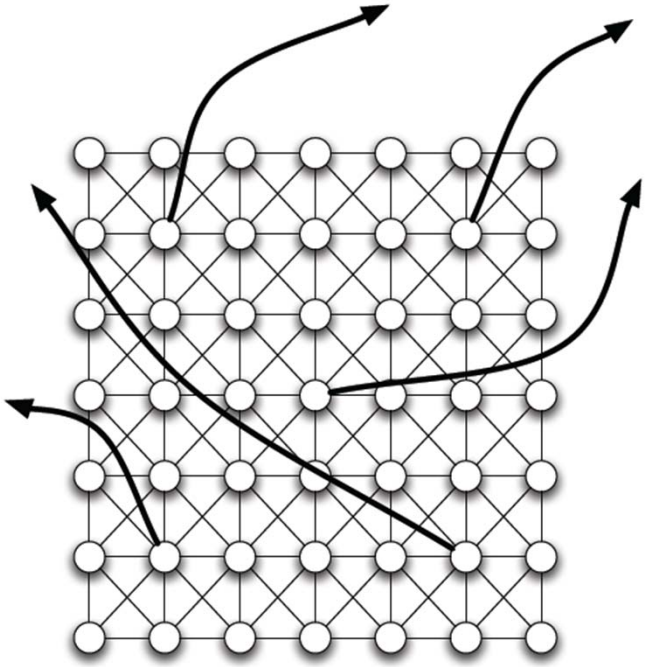
The Small-World Model



Intuition: It takes a lot of randomness to ruin the clustering, but a very small amount to create shortcuts.

Diameter of the Watts-Strogatz

- **Alternative formulation of the model:**
  - Start with a square grid
  - Each node has 1 random long-range edge
    - Each node has 1 spoke. Then randomly connect them.



$$C_i = \frac{2 \cdot e_i}{k_i(k_i - 1)} = \frac{2 \cdot 12}{9 \cdot 8} \geq 0.33$$

There are already 12 triangles in the grid and the long-range edge can only close more.

What's the diameter?

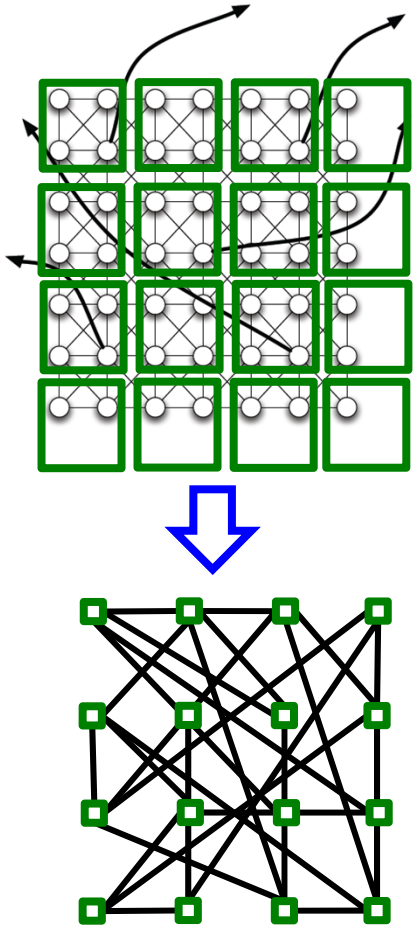
It is *O(log(n))*

Why?

Diameter of the Watts-Strogatz

- **Proof:**
  - Consider a graph where we contract 2x2 subgraphs into supernodes
  - Now we have 4 edges sticking out of each supernode
    - **4-regular random graph!**
  - From Thm. we have short paths between super nodes
  - We can turn this into a path in a real graph by adding at most 2 steps per hop

$\Rightarrow$ **Diameter of the model is** $O(2 \log n) = O(\log n)$



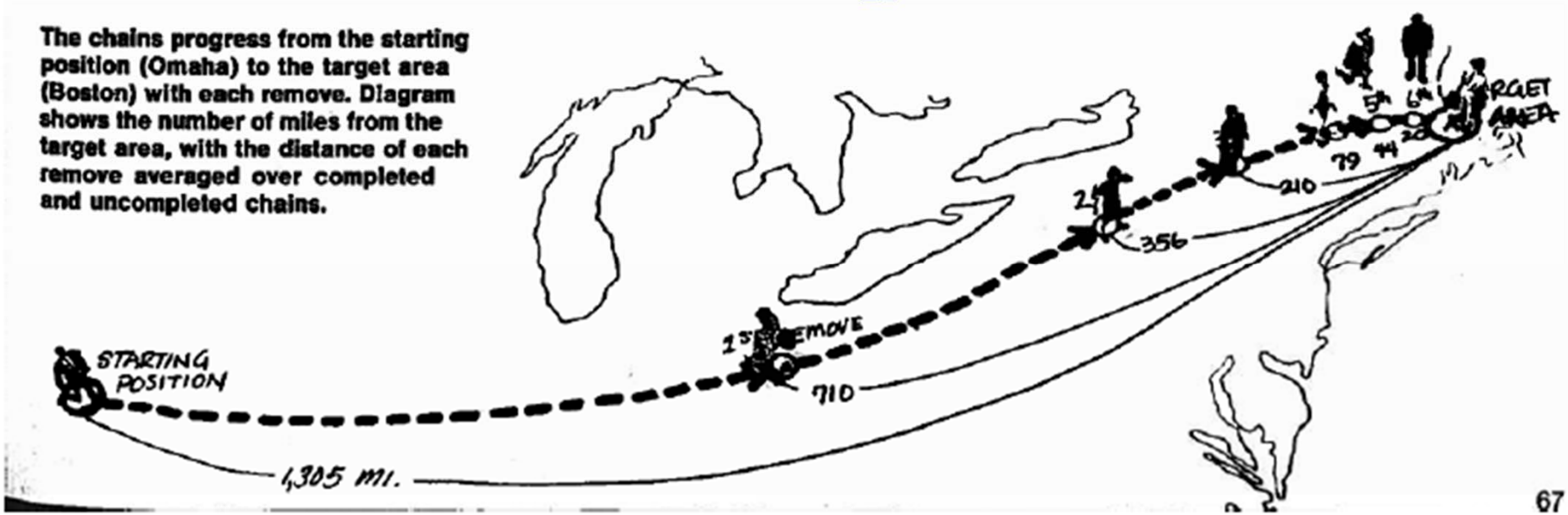
4-regular random graph

Small-World: Summary

- **Could a network with high clustering be at the same time a small world?**
  - Yes! You don't need more than a few random links
- **The Watts-Strogatz Model:**
  - Provides insight on the interplay between clustering and the small-world
  - Captures the structure of many realistic networks
  - Accounts for the high clustering of real networks
  - Does not lead to the correct degree distribution
  - Does not enable **navigation** **(next)**

How to Navigate the Network?

- (1) What is the structure of a social network?
- **(2) What strategies do people use to route and find the target?**

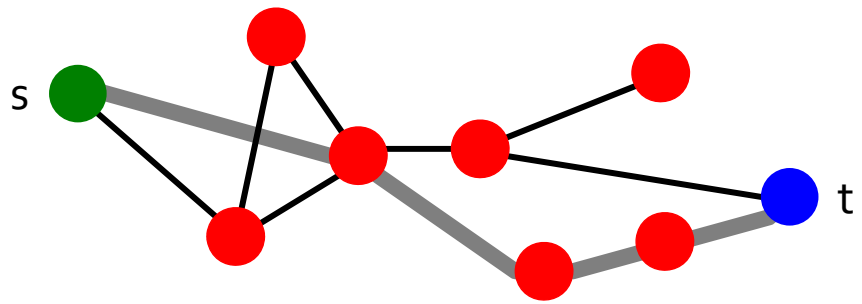


How would you go about finding the path?

Decentralized Search

The setting:

- ***s*** only knows locations of its friends and location of the target ***t***
- ***s*** does not know links of anyone else but itself
- **Geographic Navigation:** ***s*** "navigates" to the node closest to ***t***
- **Search time T:** Number of steps to reach ***t***



Overview of the Results

Searchable

Search time T:

$$O((\log n)^{\beta})$$

Kleinberg's model

$$O((\log n)^{2})$$

Not searchable

Search time T:

$$O(n^{\alpha})$$

Watts-Strogatz

$$O(n^{\frac{2}{3}})$$

Erdős–Rényi

$$O(n)$$

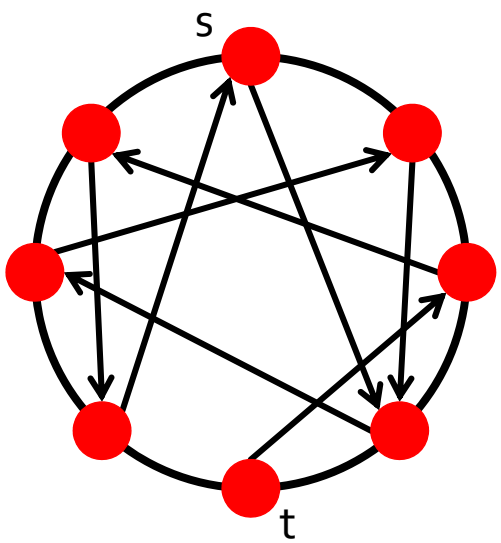
Note: We know these graphs have diameter *O(log n)*.
So in Kleinberg's model search time is polynomial in *log n*,
while in Watts-Strogatz it is exponential (in *log n*).

Navigation in Watts-Strogatz

- **Model:** 2-dim grid where each node has one random edge
  - This is a small-world
- **Fact:** A decentralized search algorithm in Watts-Strogatz model needs $n^{2/3}$ steps to reach t in expectation
  - **Note:** Even though paths of $O(\log n)$ steps exist
- **Note:** All our calculations are asymptotic, i.e., we are interested in what happens as $n \to \infty$

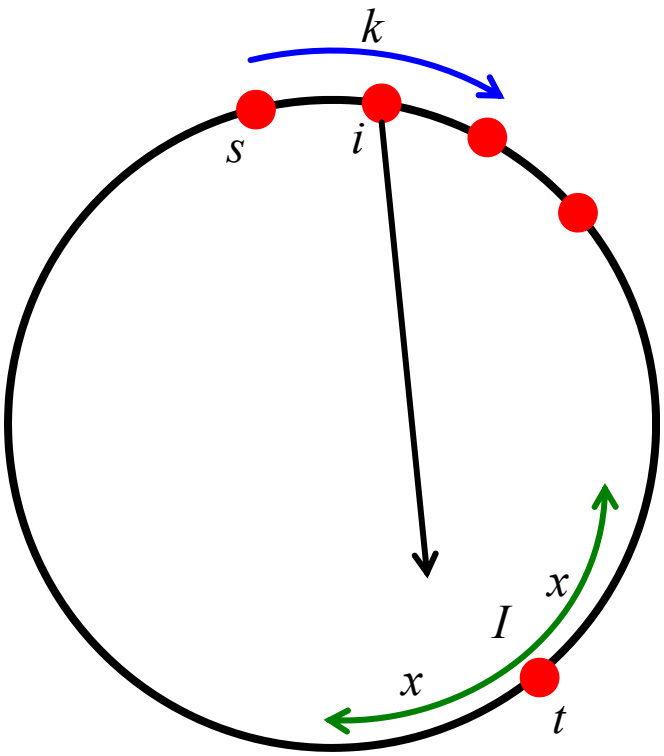
Navigation in Watts-Strogatz

- **Let's do the proof for 1-dimensional case**
- **Want to show Watts-Strogatz is NOT searchable**
  - Bound the search time from below
- **About the proof:**
  - **Setting:** n nodes on a ring plus one random directed edge per node.
  - Search time is now $T \geq O(n^{1/2})$
    - For **d**-dim. case: $T \geq O(n^{d/(d+1)})$
  - **Proof strategy: Principle of deferred decision**
    - Doesn't matter when a random decision is made if you haven't seen it yet
    - Assume random long range links are only created once you get to them



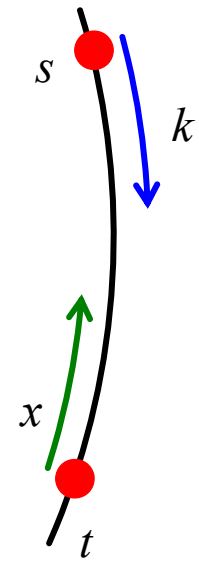
Proof: Search time is $\geq O(n^{1/2})$

- **Claim:**
  - Expected search time is $\geq \frac{1}{4}\sqrt{n}$
- **Let:** E_i= event that long link out of node i points to some node in interval I of width $2 \cdot x$ nodes (for some x) around t
- **Then:** $P(E_i) = 2x/n$
  (haven't seen node i yet, but can assume random edge generation)



Proof: Search time is $\geq O(n^{1/2})$

- E = event that any of the first k nodes search algorithm visits has a link to I
- **Then:** $P(E) = P\left(\bigcup_i^k E_i\right) \leq \sum_i^k P(E_i) = k\frac{2x}{n}$
- **Let's choose** $k = x = \frac{1}{2}\sqrt{n}$



Then:

$$P(E) \leq 2\frac{\left(\frac{1}{2}\sqrt{n}\right)^2}{n} = \frac{1}{2}$$

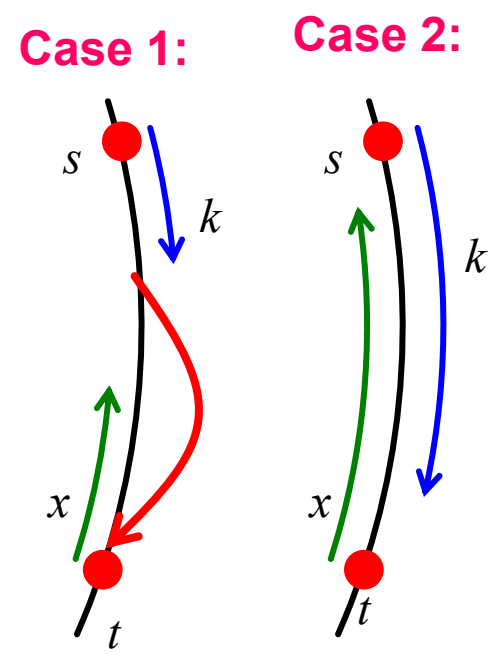
Note: Our alg. is deterministic and will choose to travel via a long- or short-range links using some deterministic rule.

The principle of deferred decision tells us that it does not really matter how we reached node i.
Its prob. of linking to interval I is: $2kx/n$.

Proof: Search time is $\geq O(n^{1/2})$

- **Suppose** initial s is outside I and event E does not happen (first k visited nodes don't point to I)

- **Then** the search algorithm must take $T \geq min(k, x)$ steps to get to t
  - **(1)** Right after we visit k nodes a good long-range link may occur
  - **(2)** x and k "overlap", due to E not happening we have to walk at least x steps

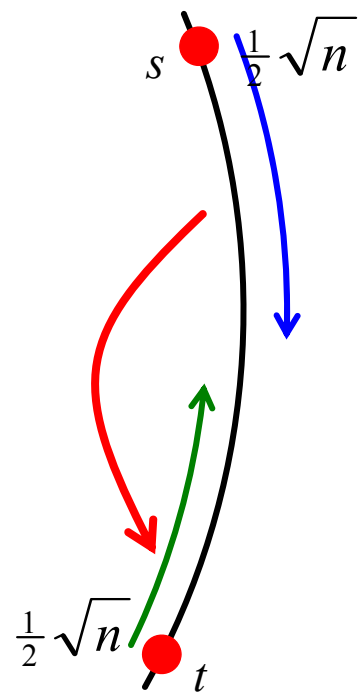


Proof: Search time is $\geq O(n^{1/2})$

- **Claim:** Getting from s to t takes $\geq \frac{1}{4}\sqrt{n}$ steps
- **We want: Search time ≥** $P(not\ E)\cdot \min\{x,k\}$
- **Proof:** We just need to put together the facts
  - **We already showed that for** $x = k = \frac{1}{2}\sqrt{n}$
    - E does not happen with prob. **½**
    - If E does not happen,
      we must traverse $\geq \frac{1}{2}\sqrt{n}$ steps to get in I
  - **The expected time to get to t is then**

$$\geq P(E\ doesn't\ occur)\cdot \min\{x,k\} =$$

$$= \frac{1}{2}\frac{1}{2}\sqrt{n} = \frac{1}{4}\sqrt{n}$$

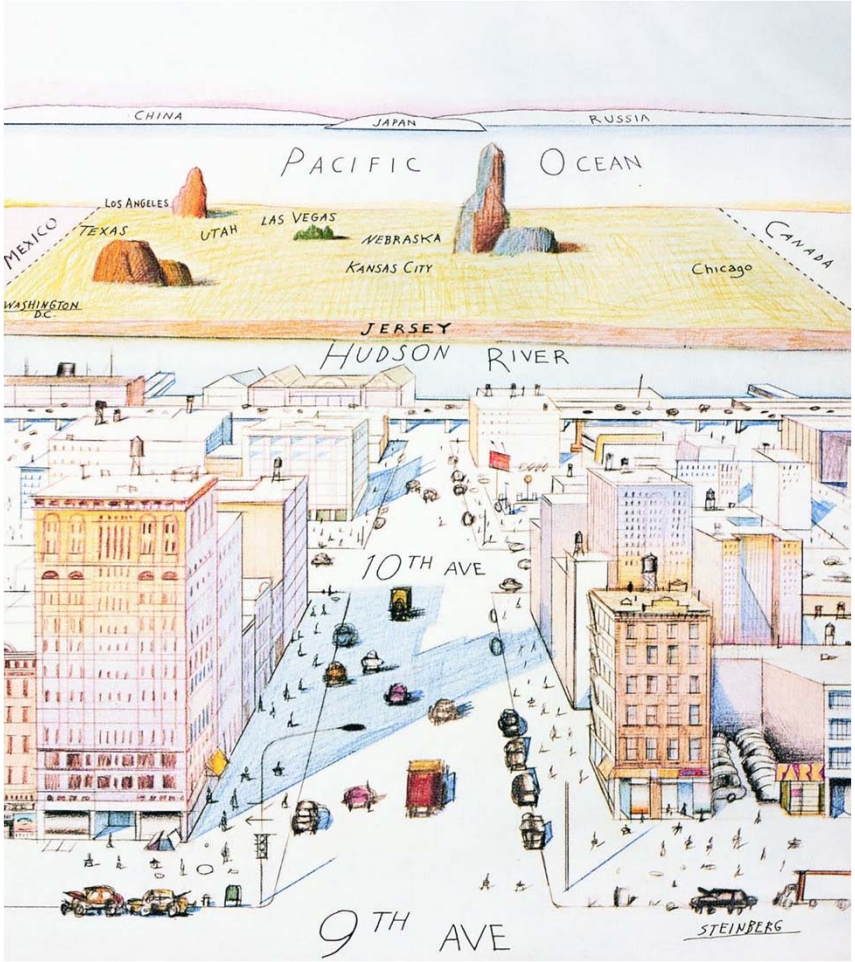


Proof: Search time is $\geq O(n^{1/2})$

- **Algorithm that reaches the lower bound on T:**
  - Walk in the direction of $\boldsymbol{t}$
  - Ignore long-links unless they land in $\boldsymbol{I}$
  - So, with prob. $\frac{\sqrt{n}}{n} = \frac{1}{\sqrt{n}}$ we have a link to $\boldsymbol{I}$
  - It takes $\sqrt{n}$ steps on average to find such link
  - Once we find it. Jump!
  - After that need at most another $\frac{1}{2}\sqrt{n}$ steps to walk towards t
  - **So overall we need $\frac{3}{2}\sqrt{n}$ steps to reach $\boldsymbol{t}$.**
  - **So the Watts-Strogatz model is NOT searchable.**

Navigable Small-World Graph?

- Watts-Strogatz graphs are **not searchable**
- **How do we make a searchable small-world graph?**
- **Intuition:**
  - Our long range links are not random
  - **They follow geography!**



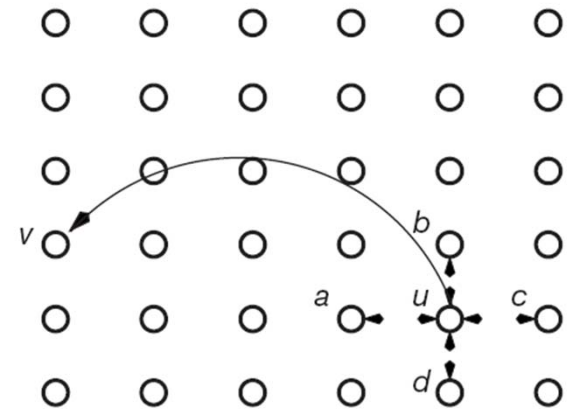
Saul Steinberg, “View of the World from 9th Avenue”

Variation of the Model

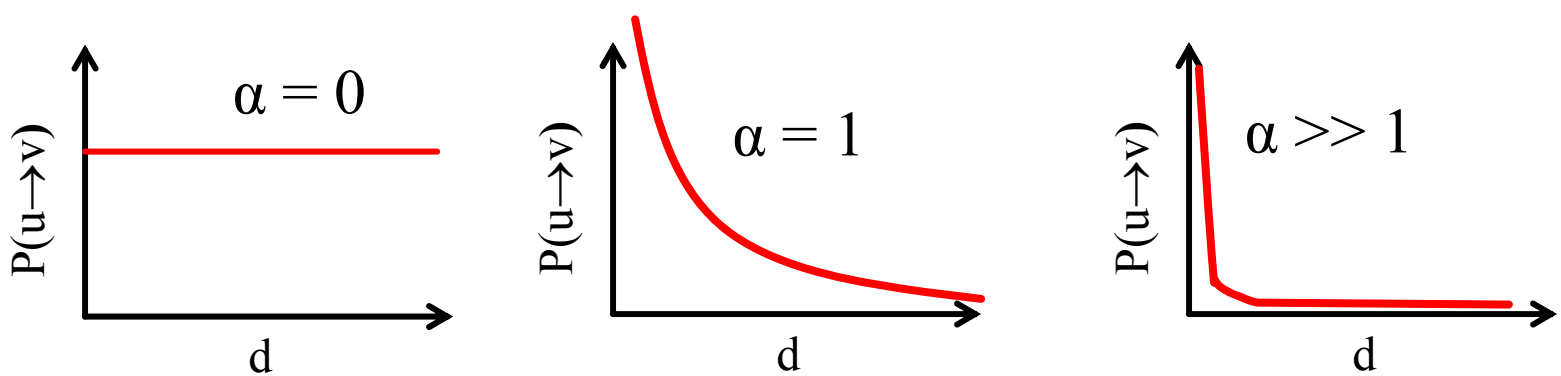
- **Model** [Kleinberg, Nature '01]
  - **Nodes still on a grid**
  - Node has one long range link
  - Prob. of long link to node v:

$$P(u \rightarrow v) \sim d(u,v)^{-\alpha}$$

    - $d(u,v)$ … grid distance between u and v
    - α … parameter ≥ 0



$$P(u \rightarrow v) = \frac{d(u,v)^{-\alpha}}{\sum_{w \neq u} d(u,w)^{-\alpha}}$$

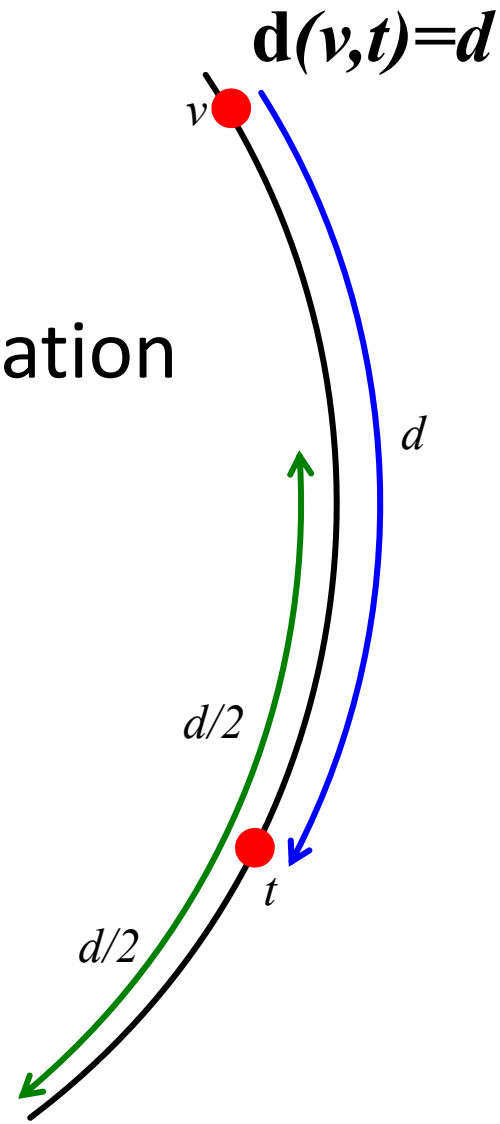


Kleinberg's Model in 1-Dimension

We analyze 1-dim case:

- **Claim:** For $\alpha = 1$ we can get from s to t in $O(\log(n)^2)$ steps in expectation
- **Assume:** $\mathrm{d}(v, t) = d$
- **Set interval:** $I = d$
- **We want to compute**

$$P\begin{pmatrix} \text{Long range} \\ \text{link from } v \\ \text{points to a} \\ \text{node in } I \end{pmatrix} = O\left(\frac{1}{\ln n}\right)$$



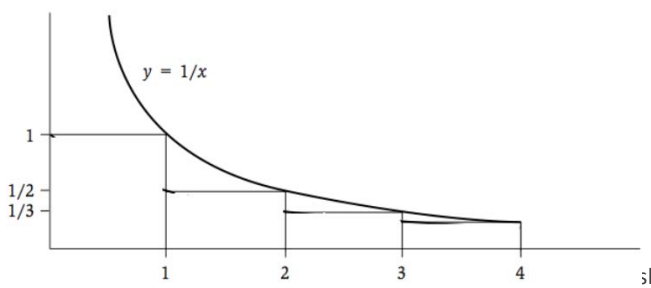
Kleinberg's Model in 1-D

- **We need to calculate:**

$$P(v \rightarrow w) = \frac{d(v, w)^{-1}}{\sum_{u \neq v} d(v, u)^{-1}}$$

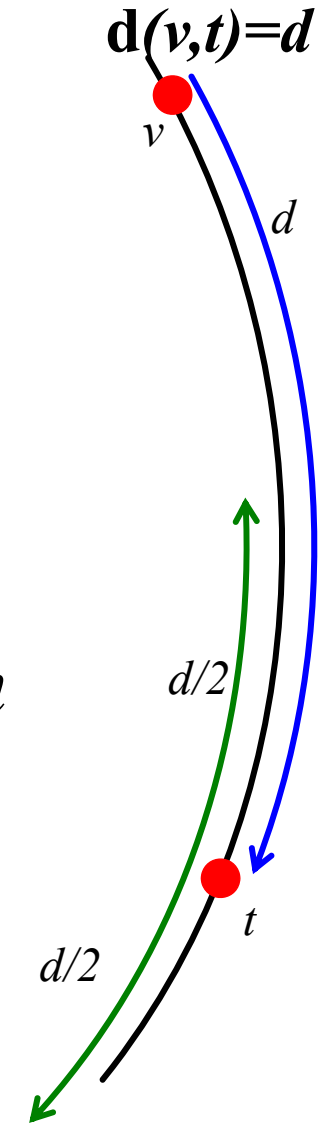
- **What is the normalizing const?**

$$\sum_{u \neq v} d(u, v)^{-1} = \sum_{\substack{\text{all possible} \\ \text{distances } d \\ \text{from } 1 \rightarrow n/2}} 2d^{-1} = 2\sum_{d=1}^{n/2} \frac{1}{d} \leq 2 \ln n$$



Note:

$$\sum_{d=1}^{n/2} \frac{1}{d} \leq 1 + \int_{1}^{n/2} \frac{dx}{x} = 1 + \ln\left(\frac{n}{2}\right) = \ln n$$



Kleinberg's Model in 1-D

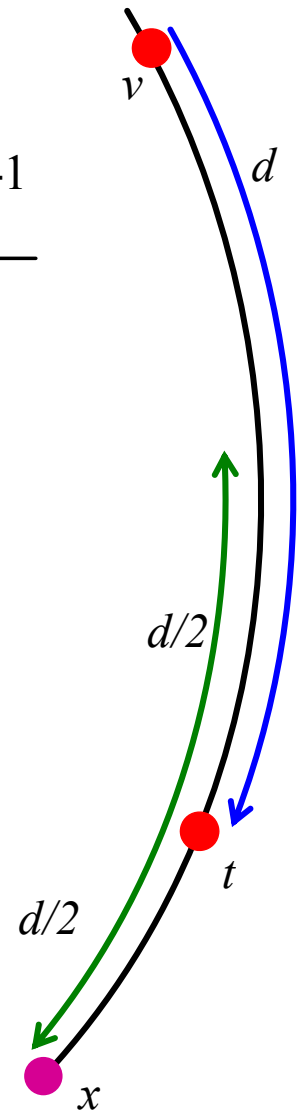
- **We need: *P(v* points to *I)* =**

$$P(v \text{ points to } I) = \sum_{w \in I} \mathrm{P}(\mathrm{v} \rightarrow \mathrm{w}) \geq \sum_{w \in I} \frac{\mathrm{d}(\mathrm{v},\mathrm{w})^{-1}}{2 \ln n}$$

$$= \frac{1}{2 \ln n} \sum_{w \in I} \underbrace{\frac{1}{d(v,w)}} \geq \frac{1}{2 \ln n} d \frac{2}{3d} = \frac{1}{3 \ln n}$$

What's the smallest of these terms?
All terms ≥ 2/(3d)

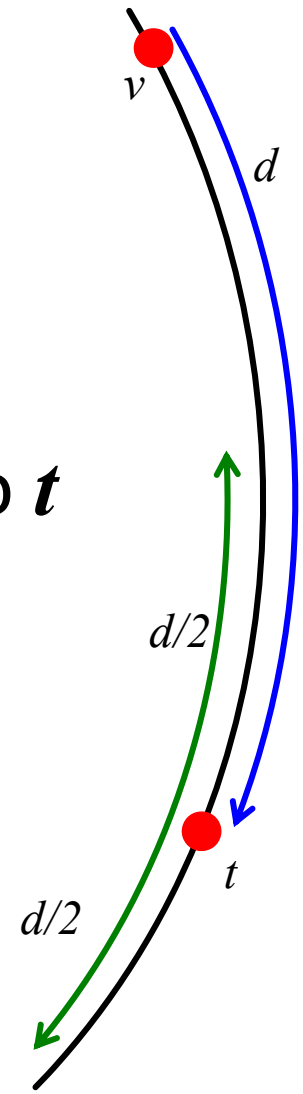
$$= O\left(\frac{1}{\ln n}\right)$$



Note:
d(v, x)=3d/2

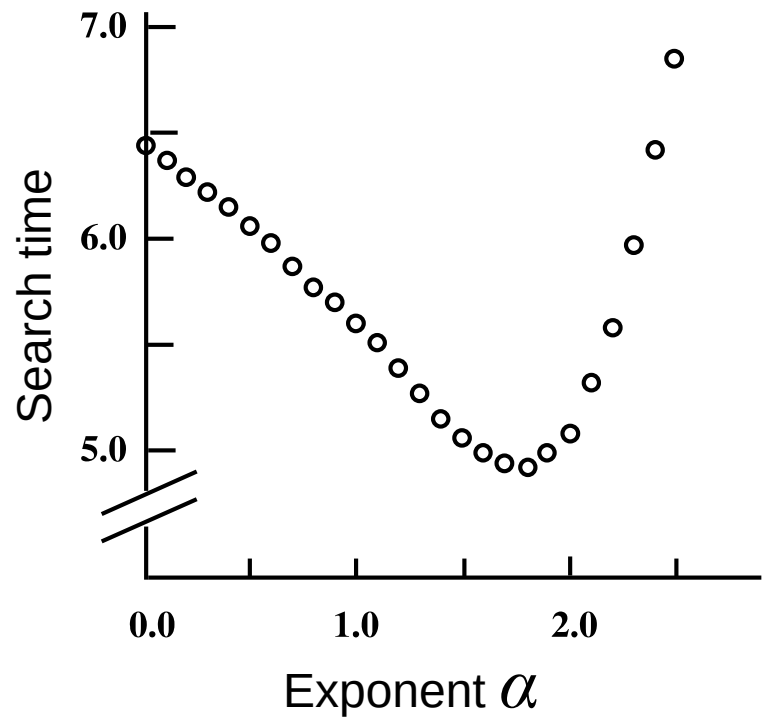
Kleinberg's Model in 1-D

- **We have:**
  - $\boldsymbol{I}$ ... interval of $\boldsymbol{d/2}$ around $\boldsymbol{t}$ (where $d = \mathrm{d}(s,t)$)
  - $\mathbf{P}(\text{long link of } \boldsymbol{v} \text{ points to } \boldsymbol{I}) = \mathbf{1/ln}(\boldsymbol{n})$
- **In expected # of steps $\leq$ $\mathbf{ln}(\boldsymbol{n})$** you get into $\boldsymbol{I}$, and thus you halve the distance to $\boldsymbol{t}$
- **Distance can be halved at most $\mathbf{log_2}(\boldsymbol{n})$ times**, so expected time to reach $\boldsymbol{t}$: $\mathrm{O}(\ln(n)\cdot\log_2(n)) = \mathbf{O(log}(\boldsymbol{n})^2\mathbf{)}$

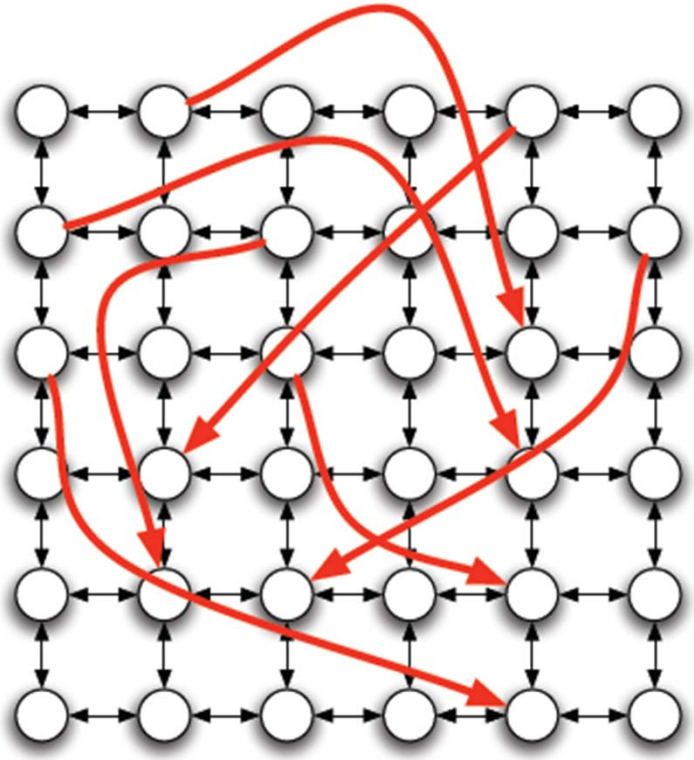


Kleinberg's Model: Search Time

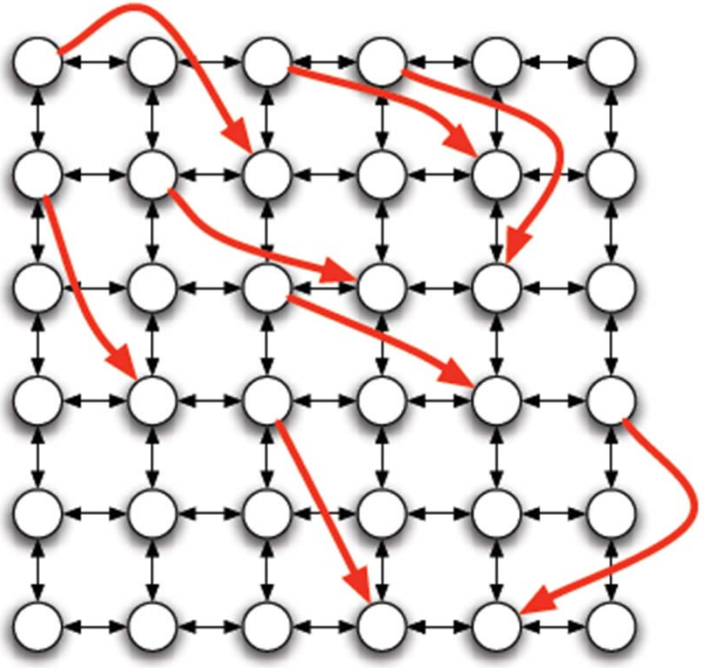
- **We know:**
  - $\alpha = 0$ (i.e., Watts-Strogatz): We need $O(\sqrt{n})$ steps
  - $\alpha = 1$: We need $O(log(n)^2)$ steps



Intuition: Why Search Takes Long



Small α: too many long links



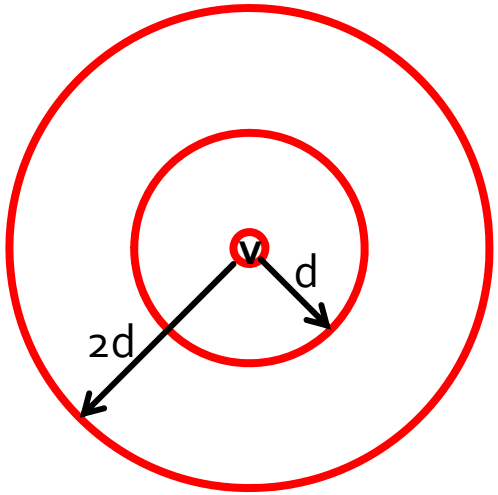
Big α: too many short links

Why Does It Work?

- **How does the argument change for 2-d grid:**
  - $P(u \to v) > 1/Z \cdot size(I) \cdot Prob\ on\ each\ node$

$$\ln n \qquad d^2 \qquad d^{-2} \qquad \Rightarrow \alpha = 2$$

- **Why $P(u \to v) \sim d(u,v)^{-dim}$ works?**
  - Approx uniform over all "scales of resolution"
  - # points at distance d grows as d^{dim}, prob. d^{-dim} of each edge → const. prob. of a link, independent of d

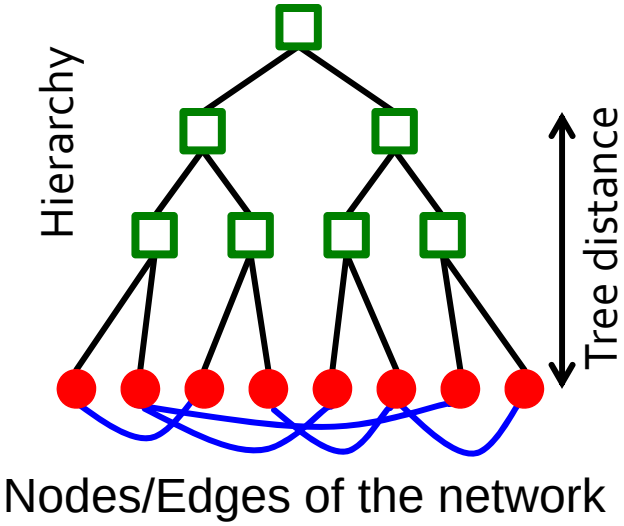


Number of nodes is $\propto d^2$

Prob. of linking each is $\propto d^{-2}$

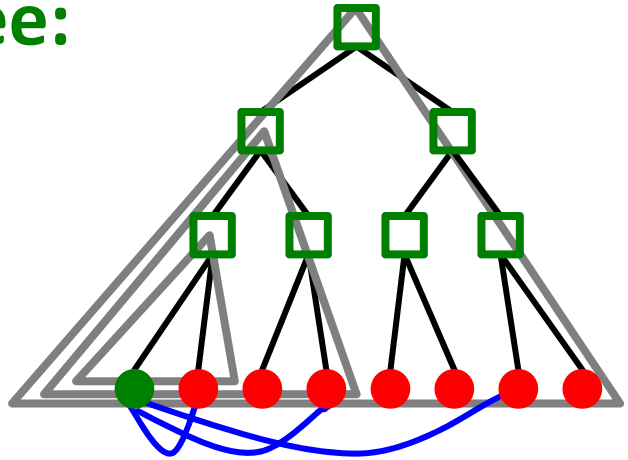
Different Model: Hierarchies

- $h(u,v)$ = tree-distance
  (height of the least common ancestor)
- $P(u \rightarrow v) \sim b^{-\alpha\, h(u,v)}$
- $P(u \rightarrow v)$ is **approx. uniform at all scales of resolution!**
- **How many nodes are at dist. h?** $(b-1)\, b^{h-1} \sim b^h$
  - So we need b^{-h} to cancel, as we wanted for distance independence
- Start at s, want to go to t
  - Only see out links of node you are at
  - But you have the knowledge of where t is in the tree



Different Model: Hierarchies

- **Nodes are in the leaves of a tree:**
  - Departments, topics, …
- Create k edges out of a node
  - Create i-th ($i=1 \ldots k$) edge out of v by choosing $v \rightarrow w$ with prob. $\sim b^{-h(v,w)}$
- **Claim 1:**
  - For any direct subtree T' one of v's links points to T'
- **Claim 2:**
  - Claim 1 guarantees efficient search
- **You will prove C1 & C2 in HW1!**

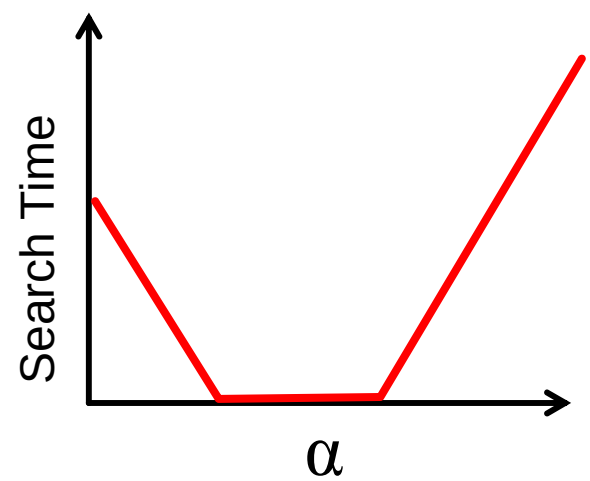


Node has 1 link to each direct subtree

[Watts-Dodds-Newman '02]

Different Model: Hierarchies

- **Extension:**
  - Multiple hierarchies – geography, profession, …
  - Generate separate random graph in each hierarchy
  - Superimpose the graphs
  - **Search algorithm:**
    - Choose a link that gets closest **in any hierarchy**
- **Q: How to analyze the model?**
  - **Simulations:**
    - Search works for a range of alphas
    - Biggest range of searchable alphas for 2 or 3 hierarchies
      - Too many hierarchies hurts

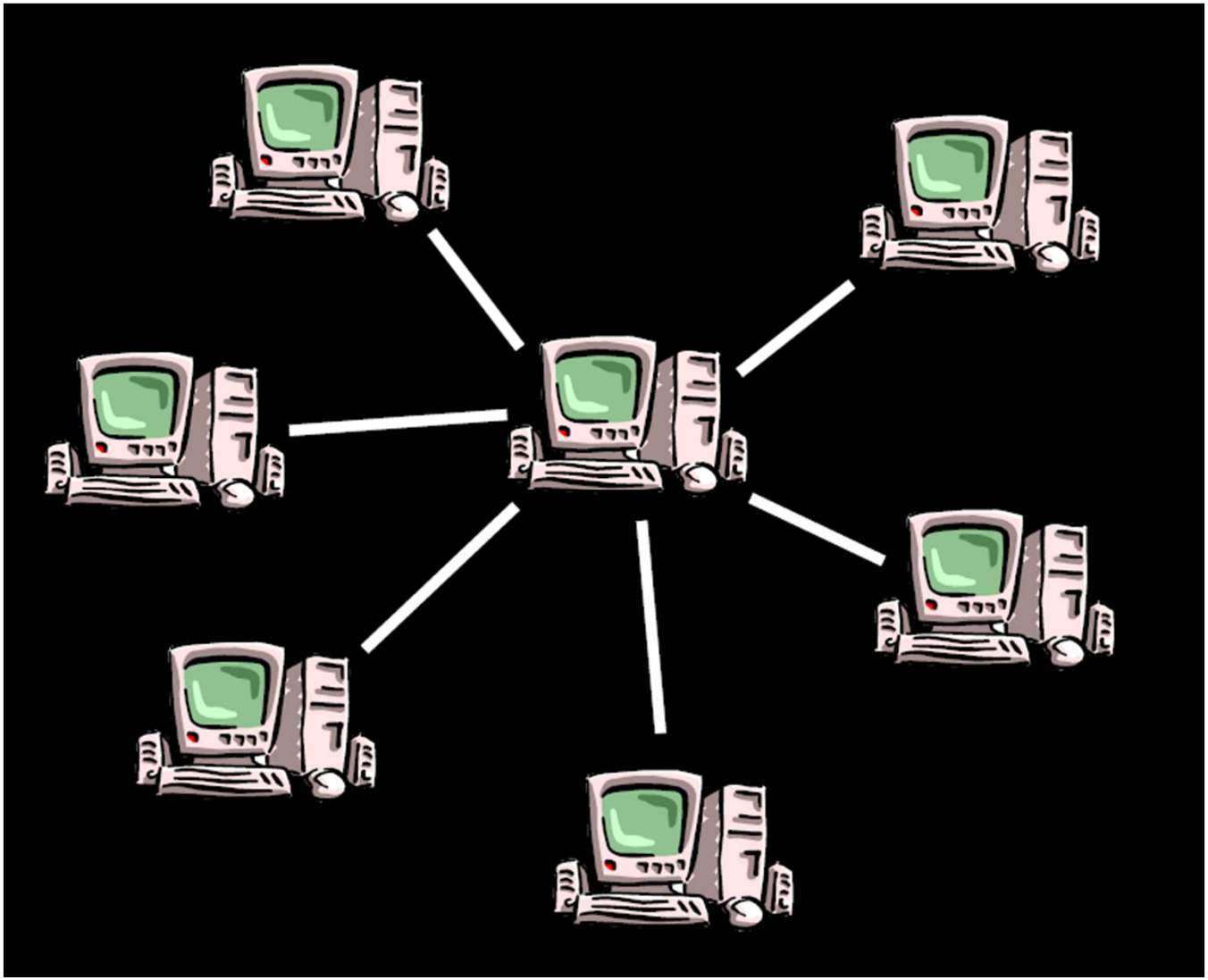


Search in P2P Networks

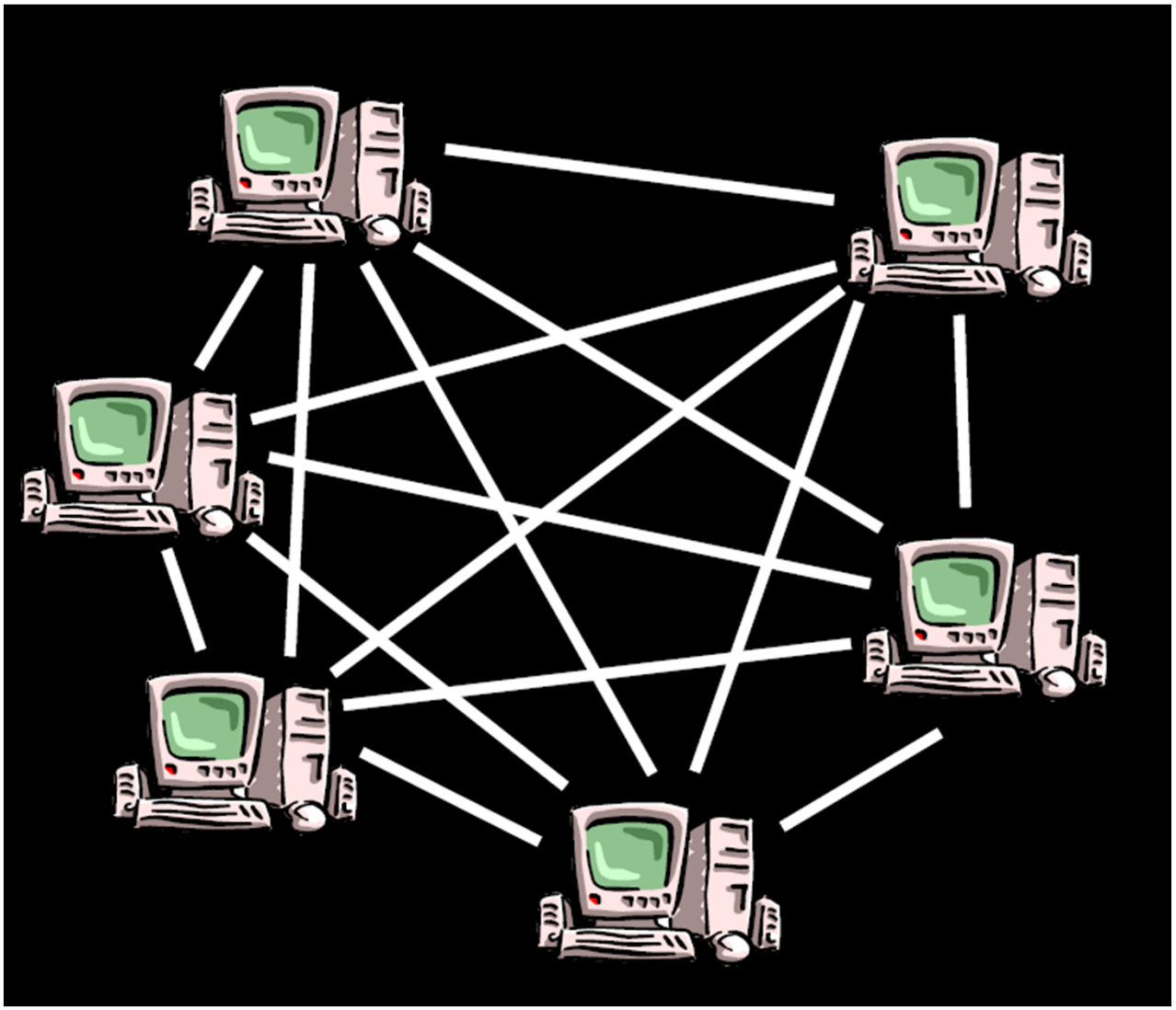
Algorithmic consequence of small-world:

How to find files in Peer-to-Peer networks?

Client – Server



P2P: Only Clients



Napster

- Napster existed from June '99 and July '01
- Hybrid between P2P and a centralized network
- Once lawyers got the central server to shut down, the network fell apart

True P2P networks

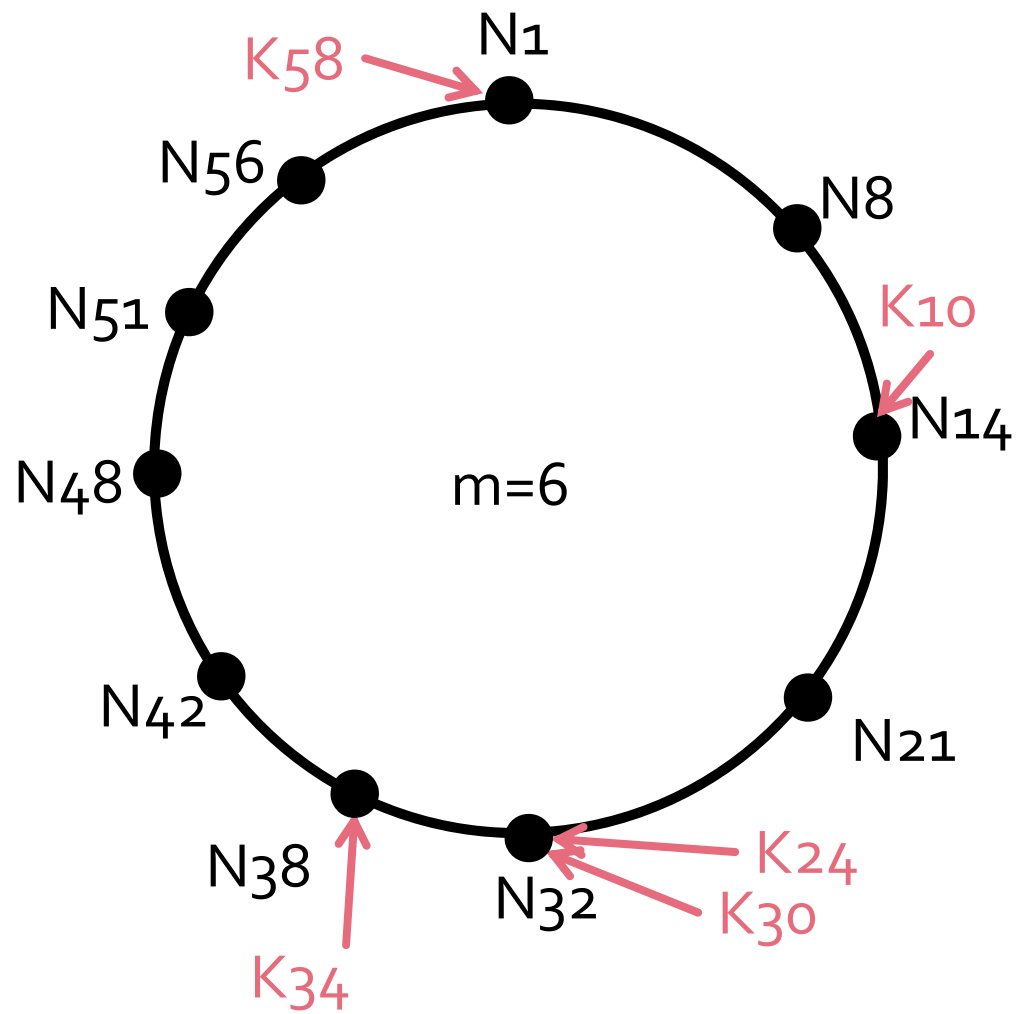
- Networks that can't be turned "off"
  - BitTorrent, ML-donkey, Kazaa, Gnutella
- **Q: Find a file in a net with no central server?**
- **First attempt: Freenet**
  - Random graph of peers who know each other
  - **Query:** Find a file with key x, $x \in [0,2^{64}]$
  - **Algorithm:**
    - If node has it, done
    - Forward query to node with a file having key y as close to x as possible: $\min_y |x - y|$
    - If can't forward, then backtrack
    - Cut off after some # of steps
    - Copy the key x along the path (path compression)
  - **Did not really work well. Do you know why?**

Protocol Chord

- **Protocol Chord consistently maps key (filename) to a node:**
  - **Keys** are files we are searching for
  - Computer that keeps the **key** can then point to the true location of the file
- Keys and nodes have m-bit IDs assigned to them:
  - Node ID is a hash-code of the IP address
  - Key ID is a hash-code of the file

Chord on a Cycle

- Cycle with node ids 0 to 2^{m-1}
- File (key) k is assigned to a node $a(k)$ with ID $\geq k$



Basics

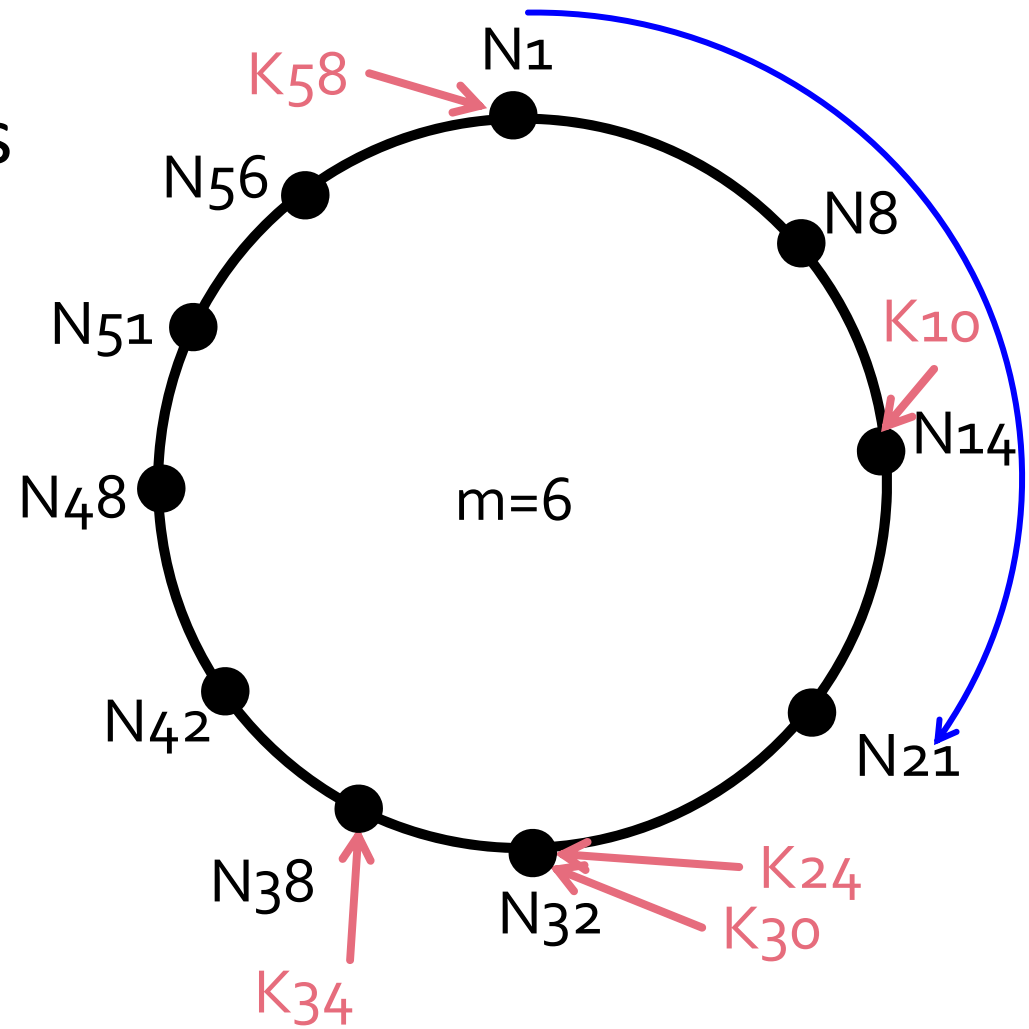
- Assume we have N nodes and K keys (files)
- **How many keys has each node?**

- When a node joins/leaves the system it only needs to talk to its immediate neighbors
  - When node $N+1$ joins or leaves, then only **O(K/N)** keys need to be rearranged

- Each node knows the IP address of its immediate neighbor

Searching the Network

- If every node knows its immediate neighbor then use sequential search
- Search time is ***O(N)***



Faster Search

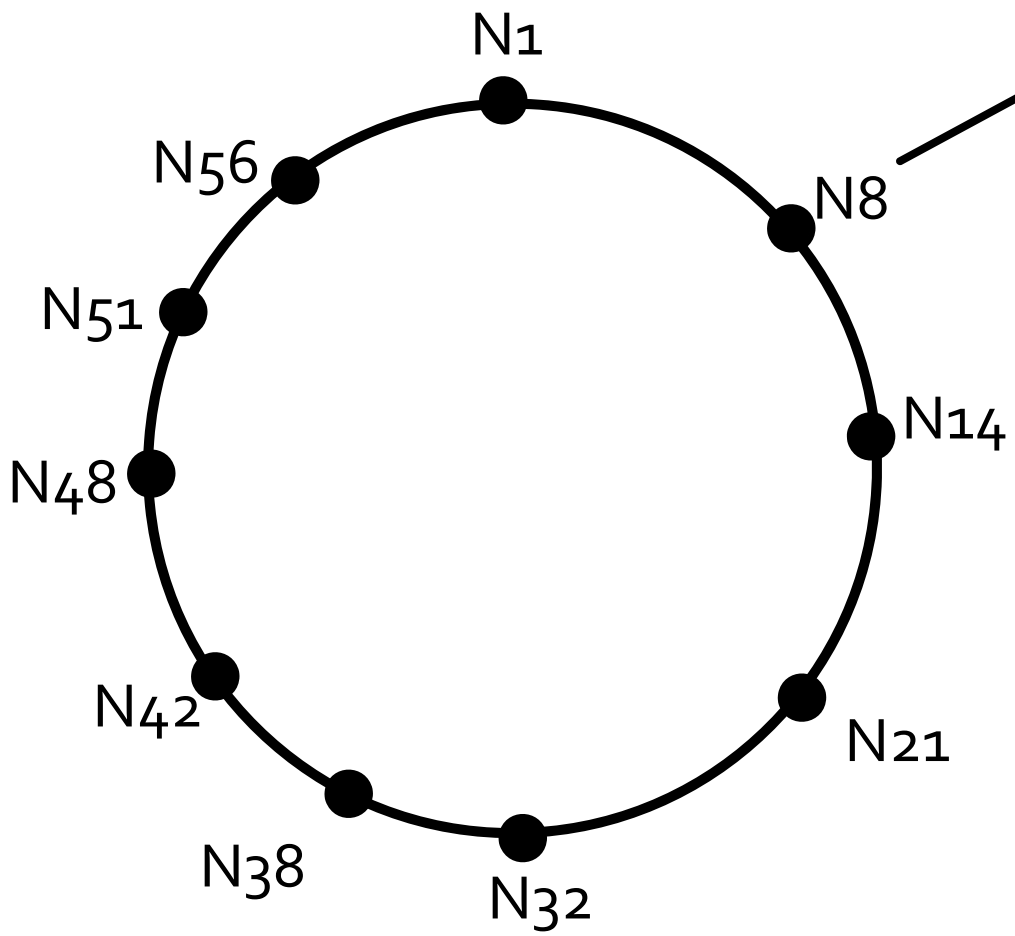
Faster Search:

- A node maintains a table of $m=log(N)$ entries
- i-th entry of a node n contains the address of $(n+2^i)$-th neighbor
  - **Problem:** When a node joins we violate long range pointers of all other nodes
    - Many papers about how to make this work

Search algorithm:

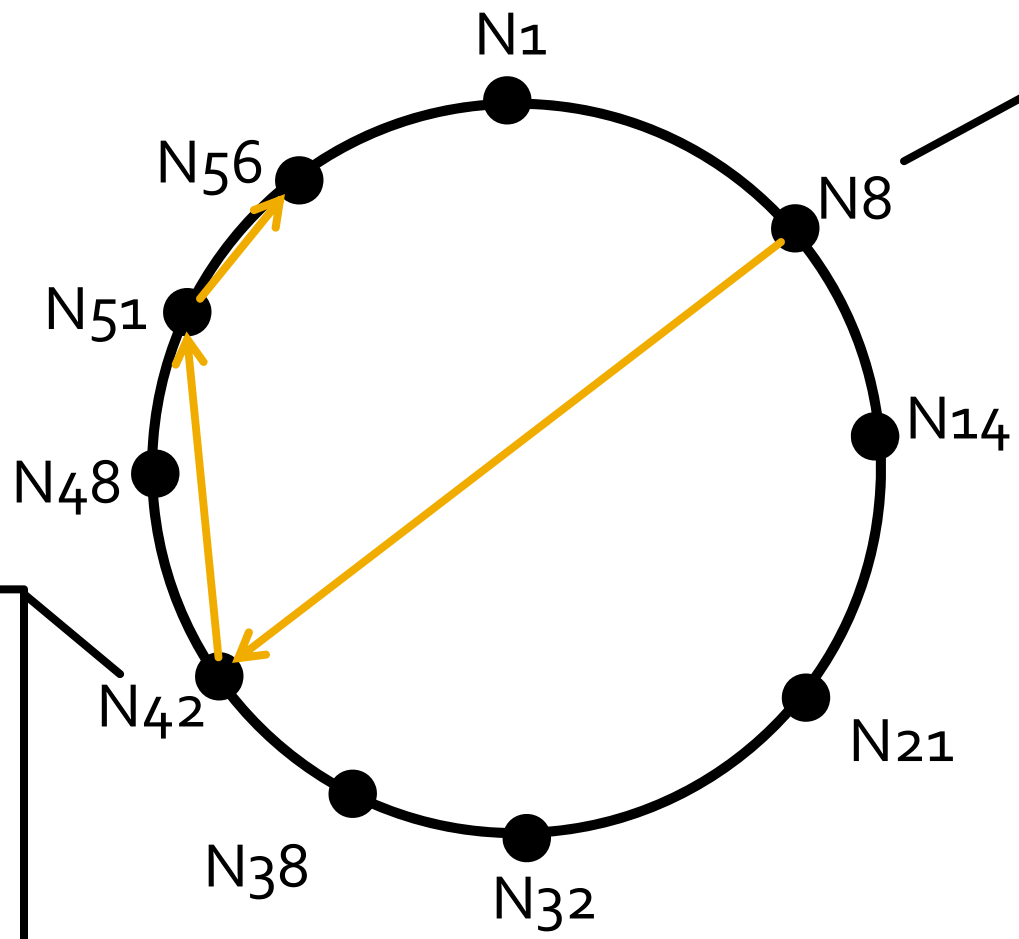
- Take the longest link that does not overshoot
  - With each step we halve the distance to the target!

i-th entry of N has the address of $(N+2^i)$-th node



N8+1 = N14
N8+2 = N14
N8+4 = N14
N8+8 = N21
N8+16 = N32
N8+32 = N42

Find Key with ID 54



N8+1 = N14
N8+2 = N14
N8+4 = N14
N8+8 = N21
N8+16 = N32
N8+32 = N42

N42+1 = N48
N42+2 = N48
N42+4 = N48
N42+8 = N51
N42+16 = N1
N42+32 = N8

How Long Does It Take to Find a Key?

- Search for a key in the network of N nodes visits **O(log N)** nodes

- Assume that node n queries for key k
- Let the key k reside at node t

- **How many steps do we need to reach t?**

O(log N) Steps. Proof:

- We start the search at node n
- Let i be a number such that t is contained in interval $[n+2^{i-1}, n+2^{i}]$
- Then the table at node n contains a pointer to node $n+2^{i-1}$ – the smallest node f from the interval
- **Claim:** f is closer to t than n
- **So, in one step we halved the distance to t**
- We can do this at most $log_2 N$ times
- Thus, we find t in $O(log_2 N)$ steps

How the Class Fits Together

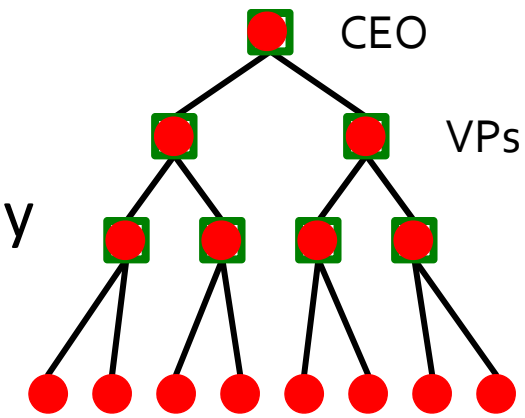
Observations	Models	Algorithms
Small diameter, Edge clustering	Erdös-Renyi model, Small-world model	Decentralized search
Patterns of signed edge creation	Structural balance, Theory of status	Models for predicting edge signs
Viral Marketing, Blogosphere, Memetracking	Independent cascade model, Game theoretic model	Influence maximization, Outbreak detection, LIM
Scale-Free	Preferential attachment, Copying model	PageRank, Hubs and authorities
Densification power law, Shrinking diameters	Microscopic model of evolving networks	Link prediction, Supervised random walks
Strength of weak ties, Core-periphery	Kronecker Graphs	Community detection: Girvan-Newman, Modularity

Empirical Studies of Navigation in Small-World Networks

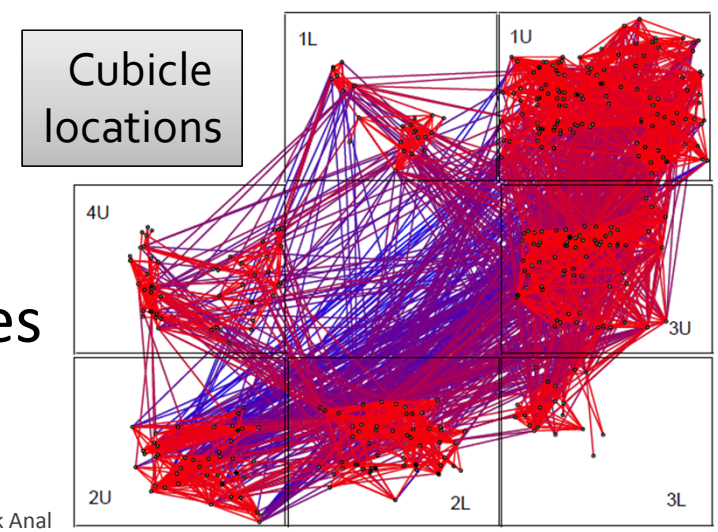
[Adamic-Adar 2005]

Small-World in HP Labs

- **Adamic-Adar 2005:**
  - HP Labs email logs (436 people)
  - Link if u,v exchanged >5 emails each way
  - **Map of the organization hierarchy**
    - How many edges cross groups?
    - Finding:
      $P(u \rightarrow v) \sim 1 / (\text{social distance})^{3/4}$



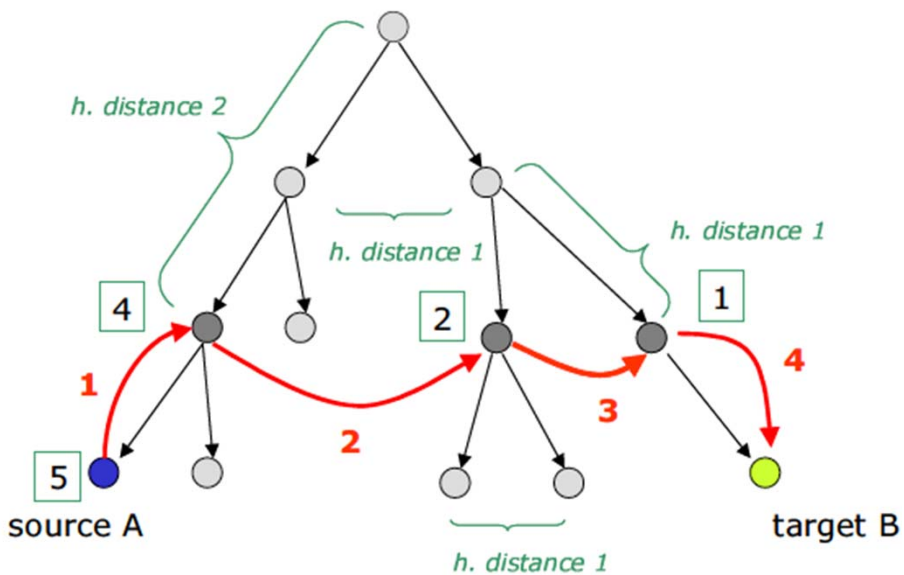
- **Differences from the hierarchical model:**
  - Data has weighted edges
  - Data has people on non-leaf nodes
  - Data not *b*-ary or uniform depth

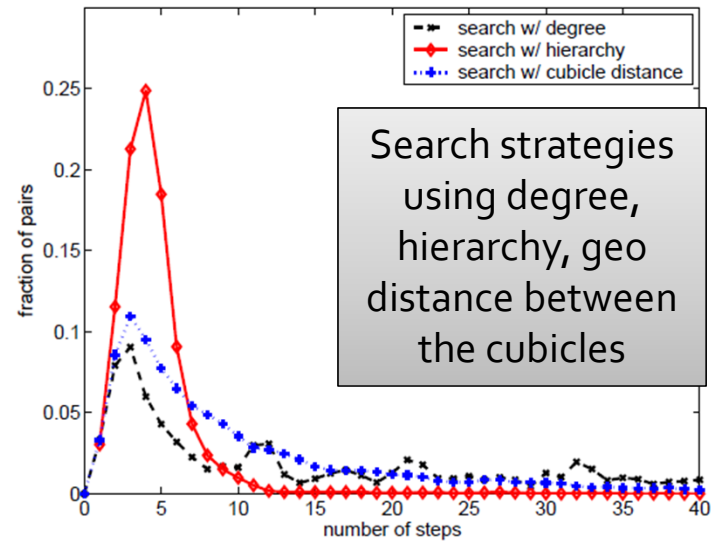


[Adamic-Adar 2005]

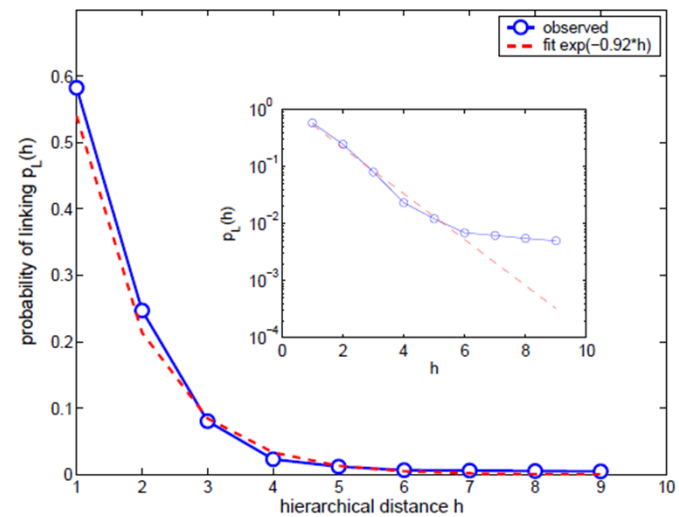
Small-World in HP Labs

- **Generalized hierar. model:**
  - Arbitrary tree defines "groups" = rooted subtrees
  - $P(u \rightarrow v) \sim 1 /$ (size of the smallest group containing u,v)





Search strategies using degree, hierarchy, geo distance between the cubicles



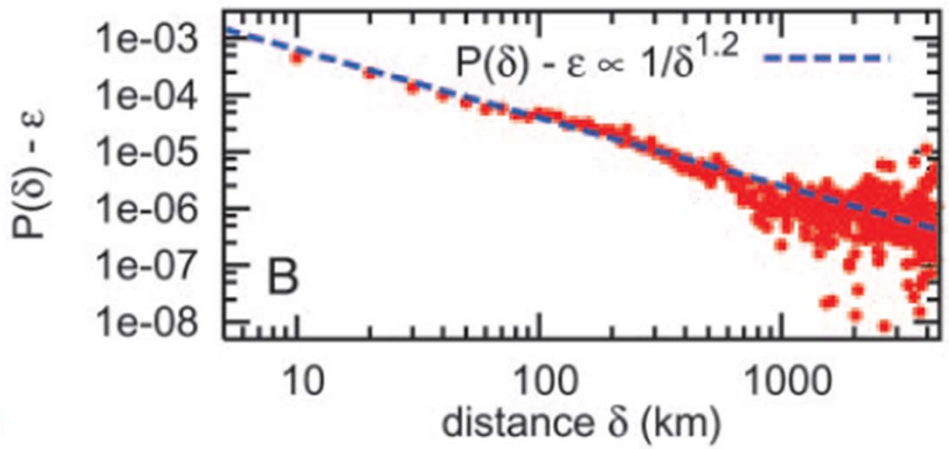
Prob. of link vs. distance in the hierarchy

[Liben-Nowell et al. '05]

Small-World in LiveJournal

Liben-Nowell et al. '05:

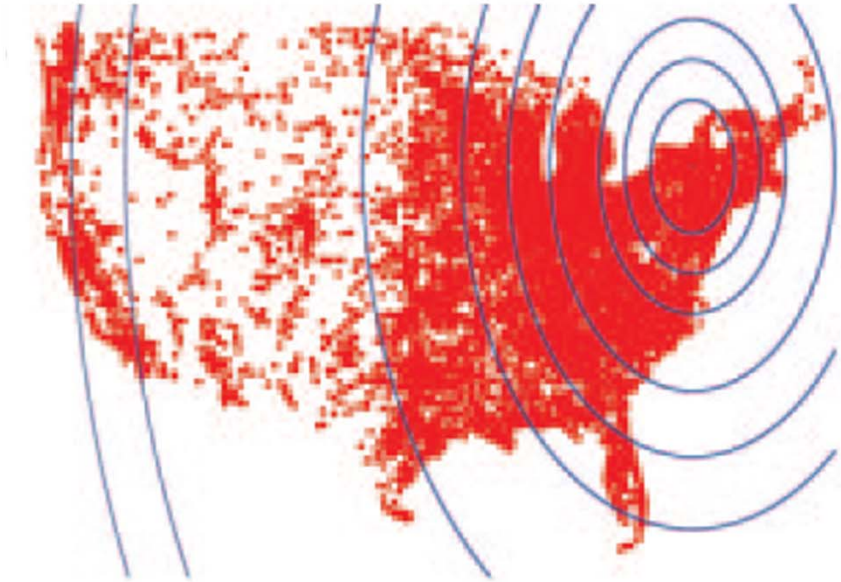
- LiveJournal data
  - Blogers + zip codes
- Link prob.: $P(u,v)=\delta^{-\alpha}$
- α = ?
- **Problem:**
  - Non-uniform population density
- **Solution: Rank based friendship**

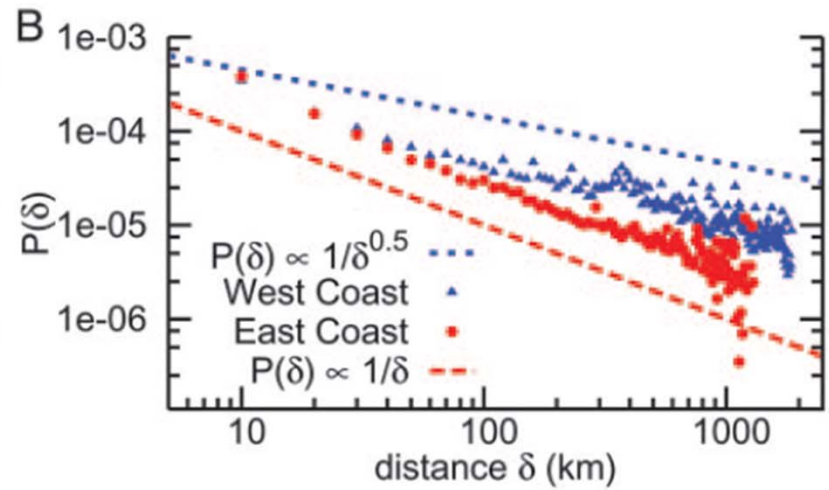


Link length in a network of bloggers (0.5 million bloggers, 4 million links)

Improved Model

[Liben-Nowell et al. '05]





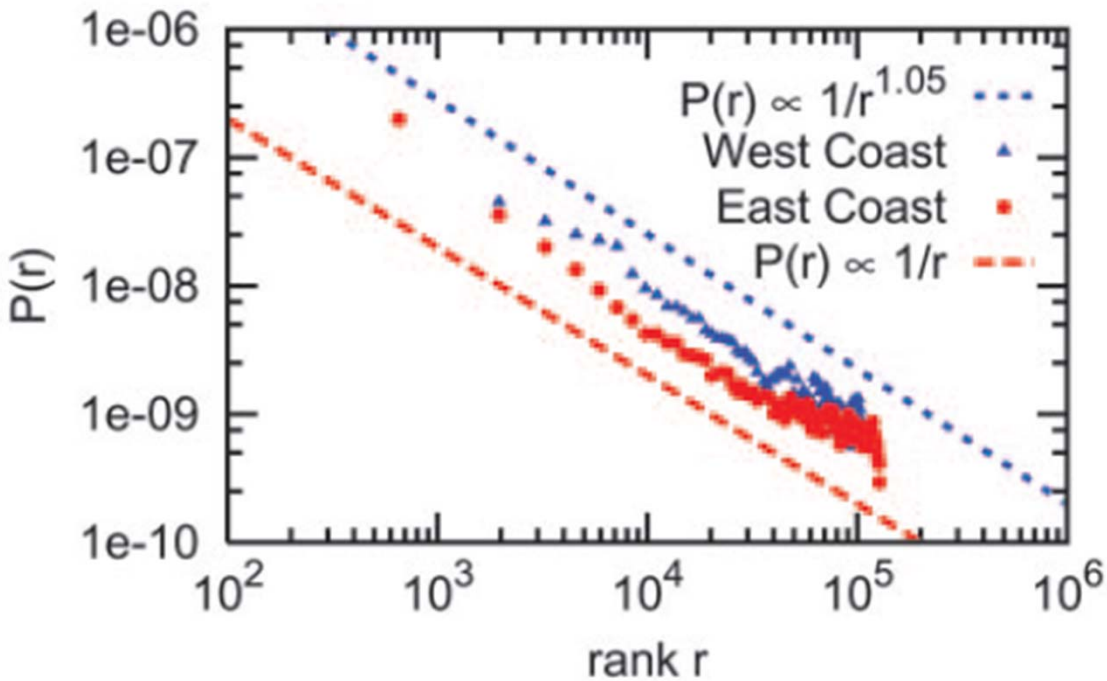
$$rank_u(v) := |\{w : d(u,w) < d(u,v)\}|$$

- $P(u \rightarrow v) = rank_u(v)^{-\alpha}$
- **What is best α?**
  - For equally spaced pairs: α = dim. of the space
  - In this special case $\alpha = 1$ is best for search

[Liben-Nowell et al. '05]

Rank Based Friendships

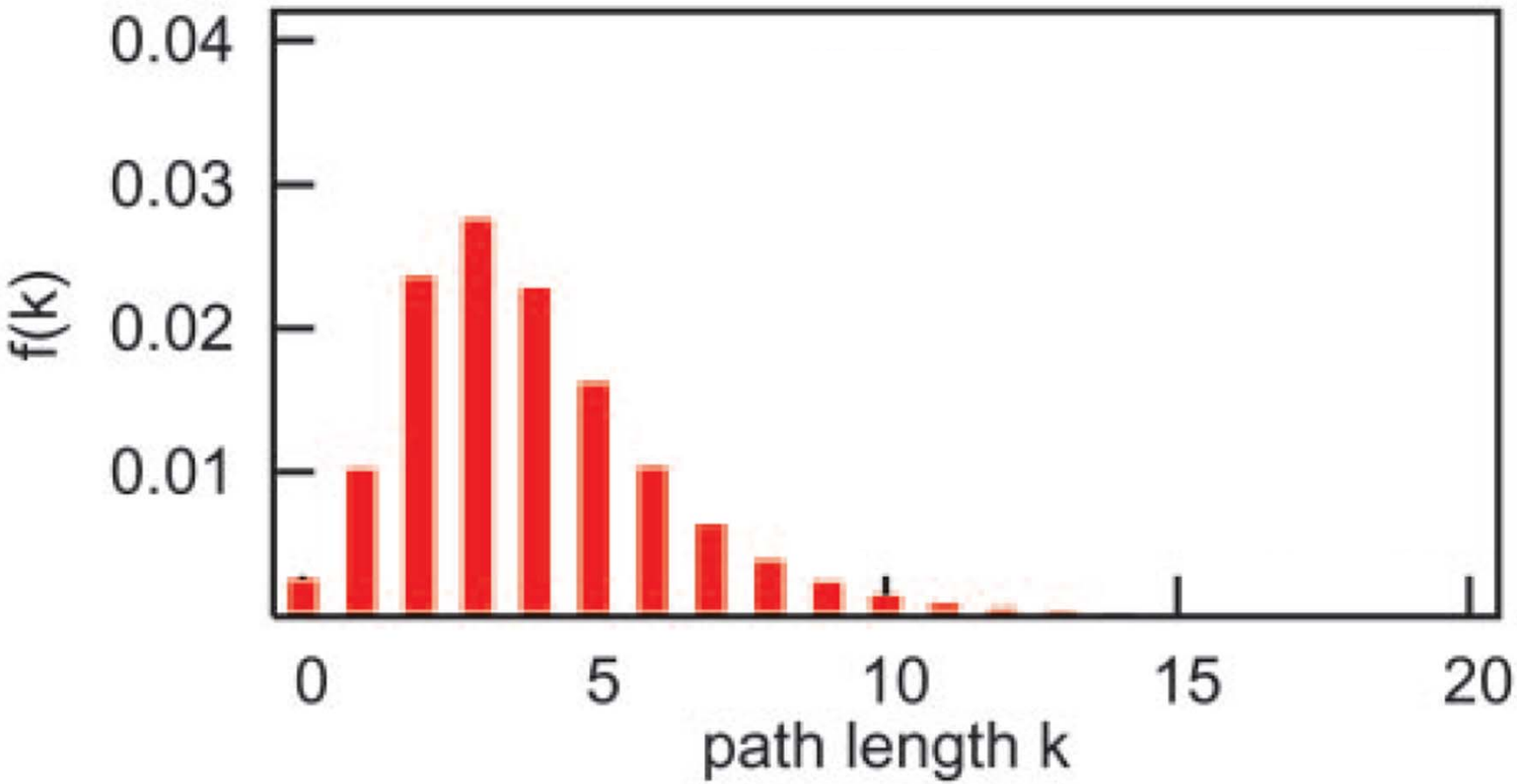
- Close to theoretical optimum of $\alpha = -1$



The difference between the East and West coast disappears!

Geographic Navigation

[Liben-Nowell et al. '05]



- **Decentralized search in a LiveJournal network**
  - 12% searches finish, average 4.12 hops

Q: Why do searchable networks arise?

- **Why is rank exponent close to -1?**
  - Why in any network? Why online?
  - How robust/reproducible?
- Mechanisms that get $\alpha = 1$ purely through local "rearrangements" of links
- **Conjecture** [Sandbeng-Clark 2007]**:**
  - Nodes on a ring with random edges
  - Process of morphing links:
    - **Update step:** Randomly choose s, t, run decentr. search alg.
    - **Path compression:** each node on path updates long range link to go directly to t with some small prob.
  - **Conjecture from simulation:** $P(u \rightarrow v) \sim dist^{-1}$