

Topology & Groups, Motifs, Communities

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What is Topology?

- The shape of the network
 - Overall structure = pattern of nodes and relations
 - Overall structure as a whole
 - Overall structure as the sum of the parts
- Approaches
 - Organization theory approach
 - Engineering computer network (related to the original experimental psychology approach)
 - Component approach statistics and mathematics
 - Stylized forms approach physics, network science



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Images Networks

Images Networks

Fing Star Hierarchical Mesh

Extended Star Hierarchical Mesh

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Common Topologies

Social Networks

Network Science

- Erdos-Renyi, i.e., random graph
- Scale Free
- Lattice
- Small World (Lattice Ring)
- Cellular
- Core-periphery

Fully connected

Organization Theory

- Hierarchy
- Flat hierarchy
- Matrix
- Team

Router & Engineering

- Bus
- Ring
- Star
- Extended Star
- Hierachy (Tree)
- Mesh
- Line
- (Fully-Connected)

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Why is Knowing the Topology Important?

- Topology places limits on the empirical range of node level metrics and graph level metrics
- Topology impacts the distribution of node level metrics
- Knowing the topology gives you a high level view of what is going on



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Measuring Topology

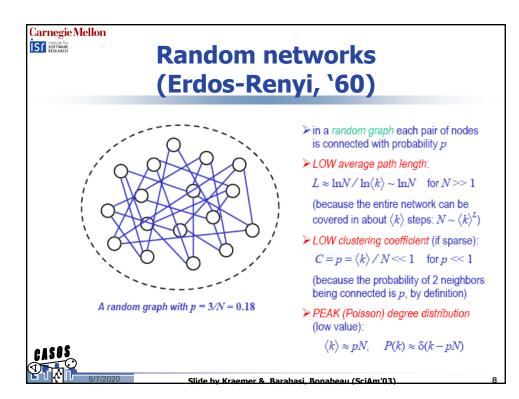
- Graph level indicators
 - Measures s.t. there is one measure for the graph
 - May or may not be indicative of topology
 - Key metrics
 - Density
 - Size
 - Limit what topology is possible
 - Always provide these
- Measured by graph level indicators
 - Hierarchy
 - Centralization
 - Clustering coefficient
 - Degree distribution



But there is not a single metric for each topology

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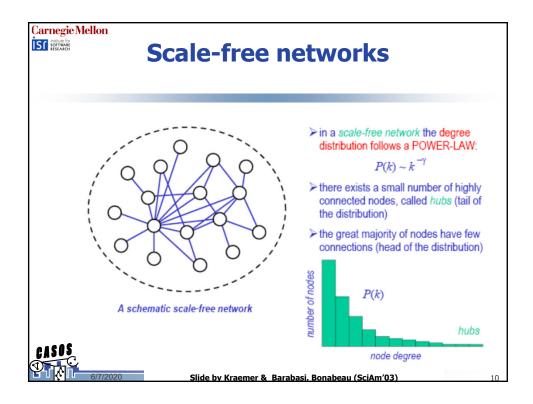


Random Networks

- Most common form studied
- Statistical tests to decide if your network is random
- Easy to generate
- Good mathematical properties
- · Very different than real world networks



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Properties of Scale Free Networks

- A small number of nodes contribute heavily to connectivity.
 - These nodes are called hubs.
- Any two nodes, even in a very large network, can be connected via few other intermediary nodes.
- A power law has a characteristic (constant) exponent (dimension).
 - Regardless of size ... the dimension stays the same.
 - Thus the term "scale-free".
- Scale-free networks are "self similar".
 - Any part of the network is statistically similar to the whole network.
 - Self similarity is the key feature of fractals.
- Scale-free networks are "robust".
 - It can operate with the random removal of a few nodes.
 - Connectivity failure occurs when a hub is removed.
- Scale-free networks tend to promote high speed transfer of information or energy.
 - Hubs have a combination of high global connectivity with highly developed local clustering.
 - This leads to rapid information diffusion.

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As Opposed to Random Network

- In a random network, each node contributes approximately the same to the overall connectivity of the network.
- Any two nodes are not guaranteed to connect.
- There is no characteristic (constant) exponent (dimension).
- Random networks are "self similar". * debated
 - Any part of the network is statistically similar to the whole network.
 - Self similarity is the key feature of fractals.
- Random networks are "robust".
 - It can operate with the random removal of a few nodes.
 - Connectivity failure occurs when a hub is removed.
- Information tends to move slowly in a random network.



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Hierarchy

- Unified chain of command
- Breadth
- Depth
- Information flows up
 - With information loss
- Decisions and commands flow down
- Information compressed as it goes up
- Consequent cap on performance



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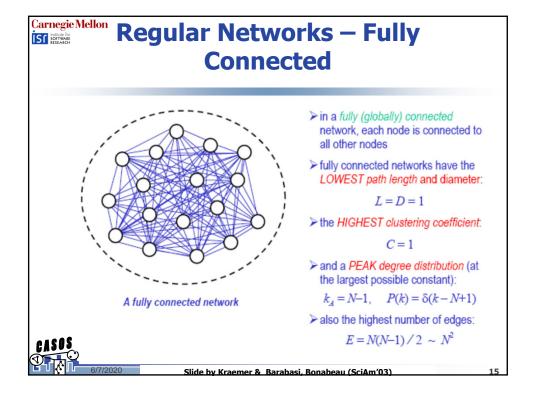
Measures of Hierarchy

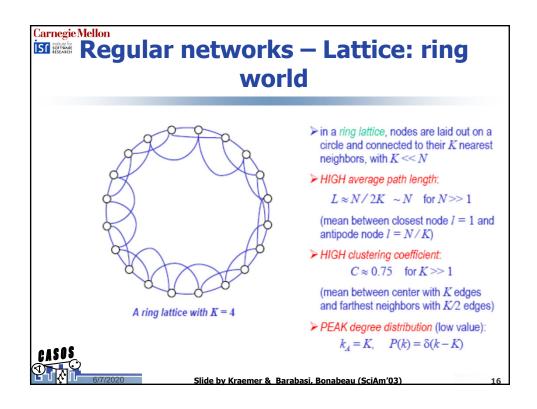
- Krackhardt Hierarchy
- Breadth
- Depth
- Centralization (based on degree)
- Distribution for Clustering Coefficient



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Small World

What is your Erdos Number?http://xkcd.com/599/



Six degrees of Kevin Bacon?



• Stanley Milgram - Small world experiment



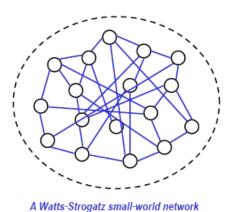


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Small-world networks (Watts-Strogatz, '98)



a network with small-world EFFECT is ANY large network that has a low average path length:

$$L \leq N$$
 for $N >> 1$

- > famous "6 degrees of separation"
- the Watts-Strogatz (WS) small-world MODEL is a hybrid network between a regular lattice and a random graph
- WS networks have both the LOW average path length of random graphs:

$$L \sim \ln N$$
 for $N >> 1$

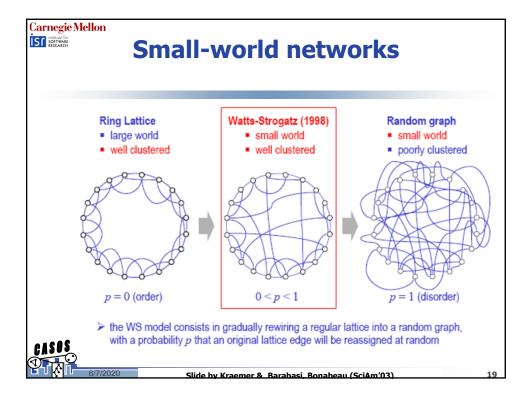
➤ and the HIGH clustering coefficient of regular lattices:

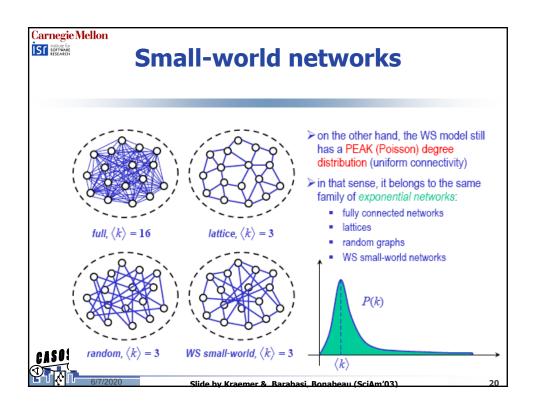
 $C \approx 0.75$ for K >> 1

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Slide by Kraemer & Barabasi, Bonabeau (SciAm'03)









Other Common Topologies

- Core-Periphery
 - A network where there is a substructure that has a set of members that are very densely connected, and then a set of others that are connected to only a few of the core members
- Cellular
 - A network where there are a set of substructures such that each substructure is densely connected and each of these substructures is connected to only one or two other substructures. Most members only have connections within there cell.



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Groups Motifs Community Detection



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Three Topics

- What is a group?
- How do you assess groups?
- How do you find groups?



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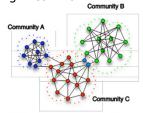
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What is a Group? Community? Motif?

- · Any number of entities considered as a unit
- Nominal group "named" collective e.g., nurses
- · Collection of entities with features in common
- Small Group
 - 3-15 members
 - Able to communicate freely & openly with all group members
 - Norms
 - Roles
 - Common purpose
- Community: A set of connected nodes with something in common
- Motif: Predefined pattern
 Communit





CASOS Pikit

(a) Community without overlapping

(b) Community B & C are overlapped

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Why "group" Nodes? Grouping Provides a Useful Summary

- Find communities that are likely to
 - Share attributes
 - Share information / beliefs
 - Experience the same future influences
 - Have similar goals / strategies in selecting links
- Use observed member traits to predict unobserved.
- Find unique individuals (local leaders, spanners, etc.)



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Why are Groups Important? Structuralism as Social Phenomenon

- Similar nodes have similar outcomes
 - If two nodes occupy the same position, then they will get the same results, even if unconnected to each other
 - Even if only connected to similar others cohesion
 - Only if connected to same others equivalence
- Networks with similar structures will have similar outcomes
 - Similar structures = similar topology
 - E.g., Similarly structured teams will have similar performance outcomes
- Members of group will have similar outcomes
 - Ideas, attitudes, illnesses, behaviors
 - Due to interpersonal transmission
 - Transference
 - Influence / persuasion
 - Co-construction of beliefs & practices
 - As in communities of practice



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4 conceptual reasons for why groups matter

Cohesion

- Because the nodes have the same kind of position relations to same type of other nodes
- Network region might contain cohesive subgroups

Equivalence

- Because the nodes have the same linkages - relations to the same other nodes

Distinction

- Because the nodes are different from other nodes around them, anomalies
- Similarity
 - Because the nodes have the same kind of features



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How Do I Know that the Group I **Found Makes Sense?**

Recognizable

- Are members similar on some dimension?
 - Statistical members on attributes or links in rest of meta-network
- Are groups distinctive?
 - Ties, lack of ties, or patterns of ties are different

Coverage

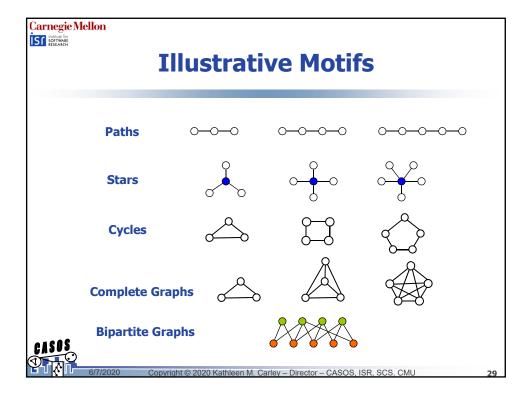
- Are the members correct?
 - · Optimal clustering/breaking
 - Comparison of results of grouping algorithms

Theoretically sound

 Does algorithm generate groups that meet the theoretical criteria?







Groups

- Set of nodes that meet some criteria a node set
- Goal is to extract these automatically based on node properties (such as – how they are connected)
- · Finding groups is pattern analysis
- 2 types of approaches mechanistically
 - Bottom up combine
 - E.g., Clustering nodes
 - E.g., Cluster "dyads" or "links"
 - Top down split entire set into subsets
 - E.g. break up groups (Concor)
 - E.g. segregate set of links
- 2 types of approaches based on need
 - Locate members, locate anomalies
- Break the network (locate components, sub-cells, ...), segregate links



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Groups & Positions

- Groups Cliques, clusters, components, cores, circles, etc.
- Subgraph any collection of points selected from a whole graph of a network.
 - examples random selection, males and females, people who smoke, etc.
- Goal:
 - discovers the underlying structure
 - using a criterion find the largest sub-graph possible that maintains this criterion
 - the sub-graph is maximal



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Community or Group Detection Methods

Non Overlapping

- Components
- Minimum-cut method
- Hierarchical clustering
- Girvan-Newman algorithm
- Modularity maximization
- Louvain method

Overlapping

- Clique Percolation
- FOG
- K-core



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Finding Groups

- Components
 - Isolates
- Nominal Groups
- Group Identification Algorithms
- Community Detection Algorithms/ Optimization Algorithms
- Similarity Based Algorithms
- Issues:
 - number of groups/communities within the network is typically unknown



groups are often of unequal size and density

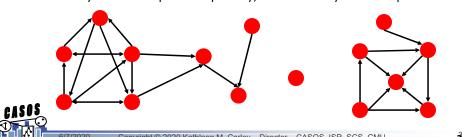
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Terminology: Components

- A subgraph S of a graph G is a component if S is maximal and connected
- If G is a digraph, then
 - S is a weak component if it is a component of the underlying (undirected) graph
 - S is a strong component if for all dyads u,v in S, there is a path from u to v
- Finding components is the first step in analysis of large graphs
 - Analyze each component separately, or discard very small components





Isolates

- A node not connected to any other nodes in a network
- Each isolate is its own component
- Dealing with isolates
 - Delete them
 - Often used with large networks
 - Lump into there own group
 - Often used when issues of cohesion need to be addressed
 - Leave each as their own component
 - · Often used with small networks



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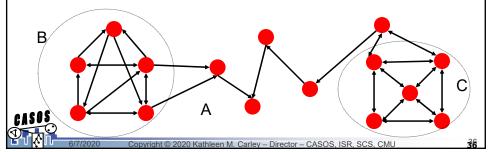
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Terminology: K-Cores Clique algorithm

- A maximal subgraph S such that for all u in S, α(u,S) >= k
 - each point is adjacent to k other points
 - S=A is 1-core & 2-core; B and C 3-core
 - There is no 4-core or higher
- All nodes in a k-core have a degree greater than or equal to k.
- Finds large regions within which cohesive subgroups may be found
- Identifies fault lines across which cohesive subgroups do not span





Terminology: K-Cores

- An area within a graph of high cohesion.
 - Dense heterogenous groups
- 1k-core is a component
 - every node has one connection
 - Every node is connected to every other node by some path
- 2k-core drops all nodes of degree one, then finds the connected components
- The higher the k, the higher the core's density
- K-core collapse process of increasing k until the core collapses
 - The point where the greatest number of nodes drops out.



 The pattern of the core collapse indicates the degree of clumpiness in the core.

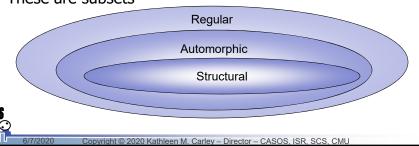
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Groups and Equivalences

- Many grouping mechanisms are based on equivalences
- Common ones:
 - Structural
 - Regular
 - Automorphic *At least as defined in JMS paper in 1994.
- These are subsets





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Terminology: Equivalance

- An equivalence is just the relation E induced by a partition
- Is any relation that satisfies 3 conditions:
 - Transitivity: (a,b), $(b,c) \in E$ implies $(a,c) \in E$
 - Symmetricity: (a,b) ∈ E iff (b,a) ∈ E
 - Reflexivity: (a,a) ∈ E



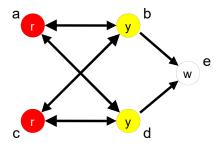
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Structural Equivalence

- A coloration C is structurally equivalent
 - if C(u)=C(v) iff N(u)=N(v)
 - N(u) = N(v) iff $N^i(u)=N^i(v)$ and $N^o(u)=N^o(v)$
- In other words two nodes are structurally equivalent if they are connected to the exact same set of others





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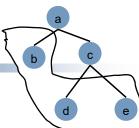
Structural Equivalence

- Structurally indistinguishable
 - Same degree, centrality, belong to same number of cliques, etc.
 - Only the label on the node can distinguish it from those equivalent to it.
 - Perfectly substitutable: same contacts, resources
- Face the same social environment
 - Similar forces affecting them same influencers
 - On average, hear things equally early, influenced similarly, have similar things to cope with



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CONCOR



- Works by splitting groups
- Specify number of splits
- Recursively splits partitions, user selects n splits.
 - n splits → 2^n groups
- At each split, divides nodes based on maximum correlation in outgoing connections.
- Builds a hierarchical decomposition
- Calculates correlation between each pair of rows/columns
 - Then the correlation of the correlations ...
 - Repeats until reaches "stableness"
 - Then splits the nodes into two groups based on the correlation





CONCOR

- Finds ZERO blocks
- Issues
 - First correlation does most of the work
 - Heuristic approach
 - Located groups are "cliques" and often only regularly equivalent
- PRO: Only commonly used algorithm detects relaxed structural equivalence. (except arguable PCA)
- CON: Top down splitting of nodes imposes structure
- CON: Requires user to choose a power of 2 for the number of groups.



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Girvan Newman's method (partition the nodes)

- The Girvan–Newman algorithm detects communities by progressively removing edges (with high betweeness centrality) from the original network.
- These edges are believed to connect communities
- Algorithm stops when there are no edges between the identified communities.

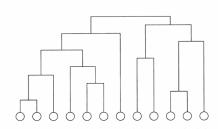


Fig. 2. An example of a small hierarchical clustering tree. The circles at the bottom represent the vertices in the network, and the tree shows the order in which they join together to form communities for a given definition of the weight W_0 of connections between vertex pairs.

http://www.jstor.org/stable/pd f/3058918.pdf

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Newman-Girvan

- Detects groups
 - "community structure"
 - A community consists of a subset of nodes within which the node-node connections are dense, and the edges to nodes in other communities are less dense
- Procedure:
 - Calculate betweenness of all existing edges in the network
 - Remove edge with the highest betweenness is removed
 - Recalculate betweenness of all edges affected by the removal
 - Repeat until no edges remain
- Procedure to find optimal grouping
- **Fast**

Groups sometimes difficult to interpret

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Newman-Girvan

- NG takes divisive approach
- Finds edge (link) with highest betweeness
- Removes that link
- Calculates community groups
- · Repeats process (finds edge with largest betweenness, deletes it, calculates communities)
- At each step need to calculate index of fit





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Newman-Girvan

- Modularity
 - Consider a matrix e (k x k) in which elements indicate the fraction of edges in the 2 groups
 - Trace of matrix is the sum of the main diagonal
 - High values of the trace indicate a good partition of the network (because it would indicate all the links are within communities).
- Row and column sums indicate cross group links
- Modularity is the sum of the difference between the diagonal and the off-diagonal elements
- Higher the number the more partitioned the network is



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How Good is the Grouping? Modularity

Modularity is defined as:

Q = # edges within communities - expected # edge of a null model network (same size)

Where "expected" come from a "null model" to compare our network against: networks with the same n and m, where edges are placed at random

$$Q = \frac{1}{2m} \sum_{C \in \mathcal{P}} \sum_{i,j \in C} \left[A_{ij} - P_{ij} \right] \qquad \begin{cases} \text{if } P_{ij} = \langle k \rangle^2 / 2, & \text{then } Q \equiv Q_{\text{unif}} \\ \text{if } P_{ij} = k_i k_j / 2m, & \text{then } Q \equiv Q_{\text{conf}}. \end{cases}$$

- A scale value between -1 and 1 that measures the density of edges inside communities to edges outside communities
- Larger values of Q indicating stronger community structure.
- Goal: assign nodes to community to maximize Q





Louvain method (partition the nodes)

- Goal: optimize modularity → theoretically results in the best possible grouping of the nodes of a given network (it depends on the function of the network, the reason behind clustering)
- The Louvain Method of community detection:
 - find small communities by optimizing modularity locally on all nodes,
 - then each small community is grouped into one node
 - then the first step is repeated
- Visualization: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=dGa-TXpoPz8



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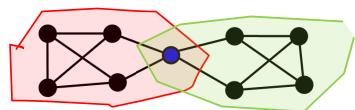
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What is FOG?

- Fuzzy, Overlapping Groups
 - Multiple group memberships
 - Varying strength of membership
 - No arbitrary assignments on boundary spanners
 - · Reveals details of interstitial roles

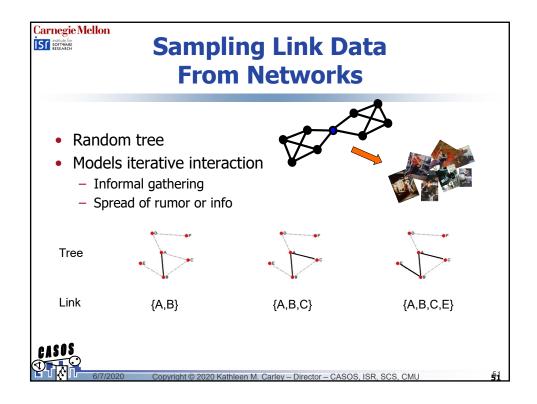


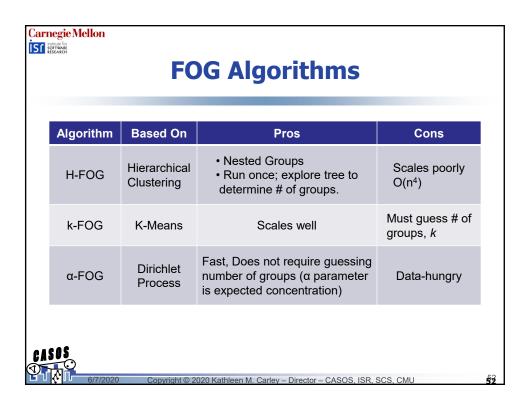
Designed for Link Data or Network Data

Generative model (rather than pattern matching)

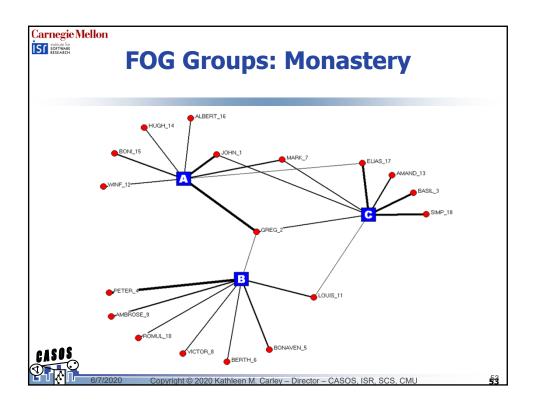
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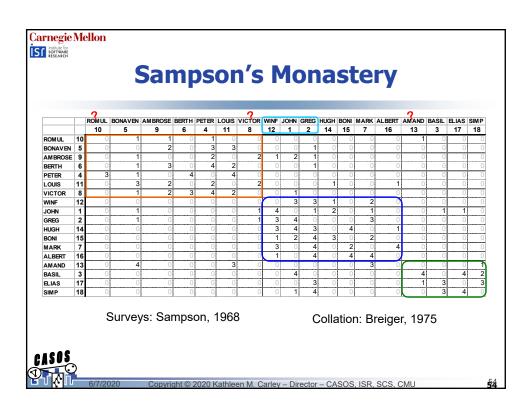












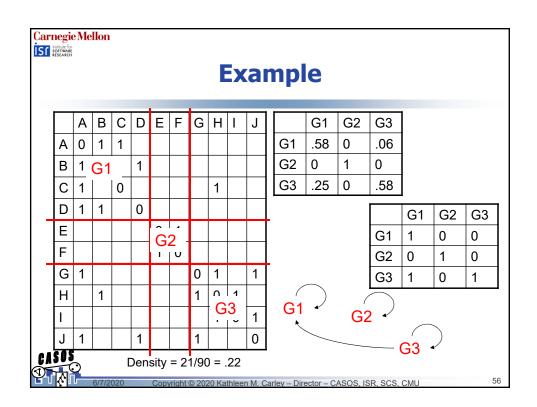


Block Modeling

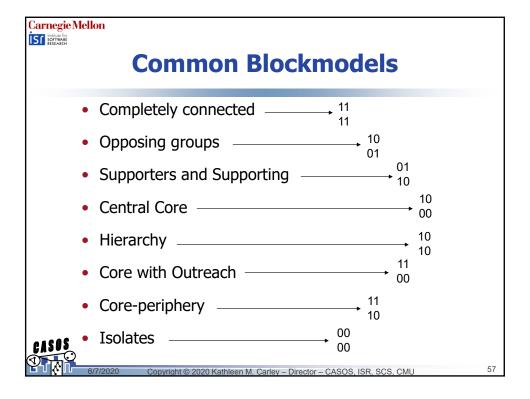
- A block model is a reduced form representation such that nodes are divided into a set of mutually exclusive groups
- The resulting groups can then be analyzed as a network such that
 - The group's connection to itself is the density of the connections among members
 - For each pair of groups, the inter-group connection is the density of the connections of group 1 (row) to group 2 (column)
 - The resulting block matrix can be turned into a binary matrix by simply comparing the level of connections in the block to the overall density of the original matrix such that there if the value of the cell is >= to the overall density then we replace it with a 1, else 0

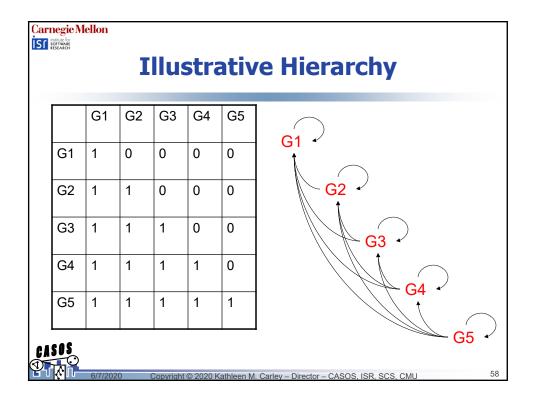


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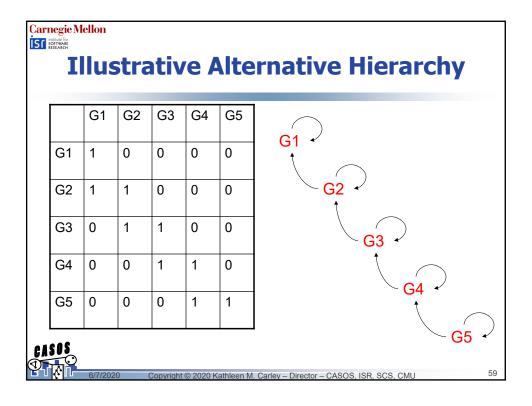


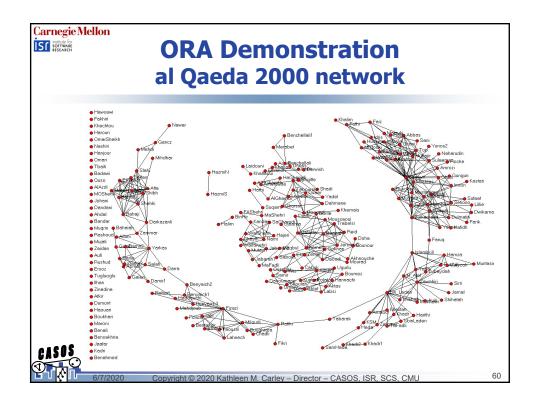




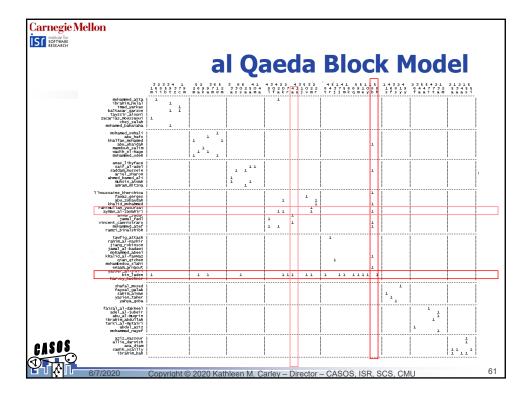












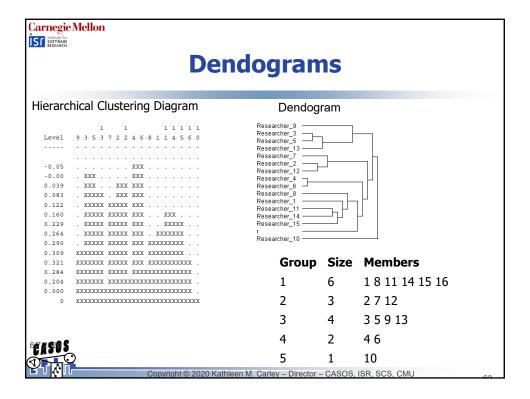
Dendograms

- Hierarchical representation of groups
- Identify "entry"
- Generable from either clustering or breaking tools
- Evaluation
 - Visual
 - Using cutting rule e.g., avg density within/between
 - A: For each group calculate density then divide by number of groups
 - B: For each pair of groups calculate between density then divide by number of pairs of groups (not counting group to itself)
 - Divide A by B
 - Can also use Krackhardt EI index



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Summary

- Why Group?
 - Reconstruct "real" groups
 - Find individuals who might be or act similarly
 - Find individuals who have unusual community ties/
- CONCOR: Structural Similarity
 - Finds groups with similar roles in network, even if dispersed
- Newman-Girvan/Louvain: Cohesive Communities
 - Finds unusually dense clusters, even in large networks
 - If big data use Louvain very fast
- FOG: Fuzzy, Overlapping Groups
 - Gives better understanding of individuals spanning groups
 - Analyzes network data or raw link data

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