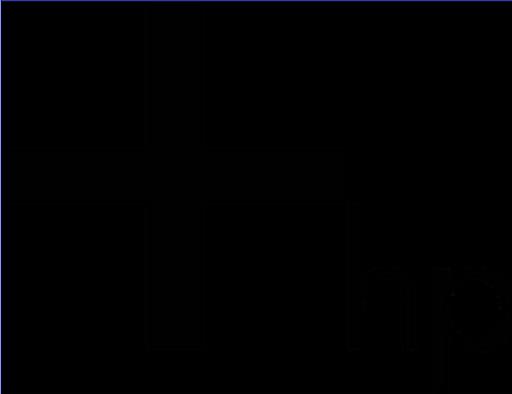


# Harvesting Social Knowledge

**Bernardo A. Huberman**

**Information Dynamics Laboratory  
HP Labs**



# motivation

a key differentiator of great organizations is their ability to extract, aggregate, analyze, and properly act on information quickly



# tapping tacit knowledge within social networks

- discover informal communities
- determine how information flows through these communities
- use that knowledge to discover what people are about and harvest their preferences and knowledge

# discovering communities



*Bruegel, Peter the Younger. Village Feast*

traditional methods accurate but laborious

# informal communities

communities that form around tasks or topics

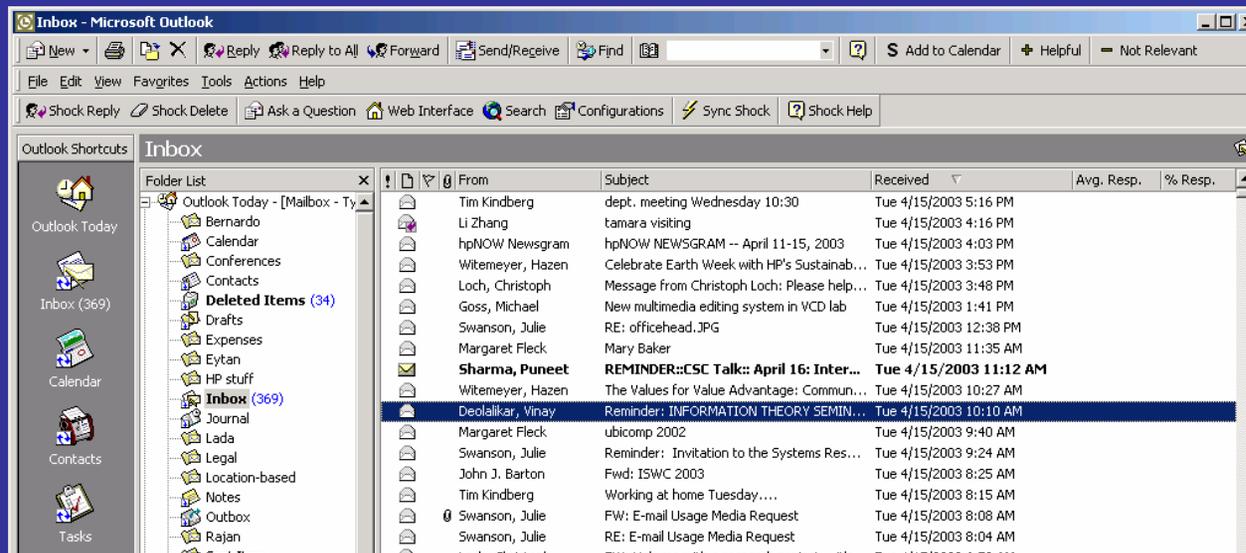
- scientific and technical communities (ziman, crane)
- bureaucracies (crozier)
  
- how they grow and evolve to solve problems (huberman & hogg)
  
- how information flows within organizations (allen)

the measurement problem: interviews and surveys are accurate but time consuming. worse, they don't scale

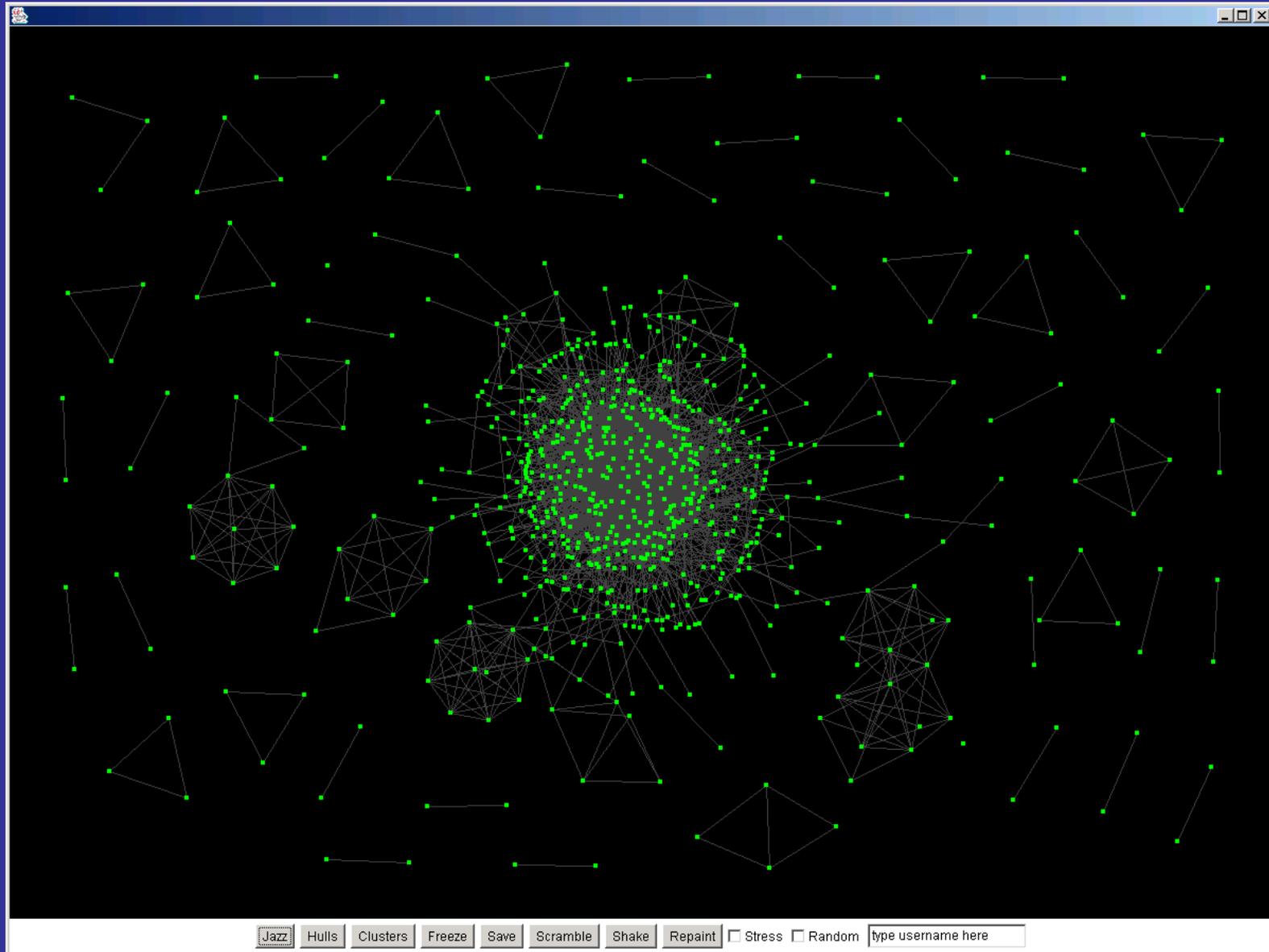
# uncovering communities with e-mail

tyler, huberman and wilkinson, in *Communities and Technologies*, Kluwer Academic (2003)

- e-mail is a rich source of communication data
  - virtually everyone in the “knowledge economy” uses it
  - It provides data in a convenient format for research

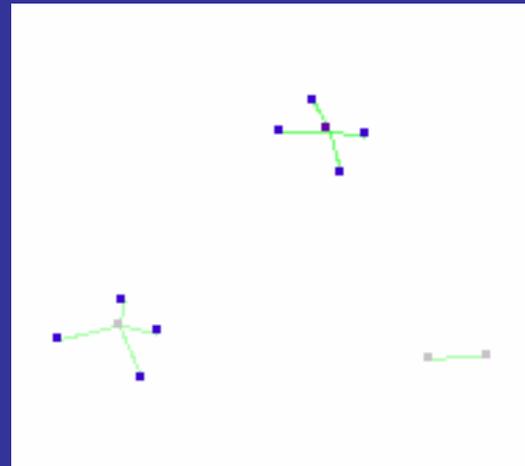
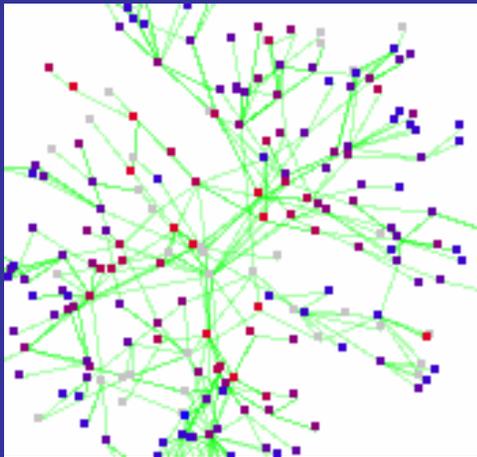


# hp labs email network



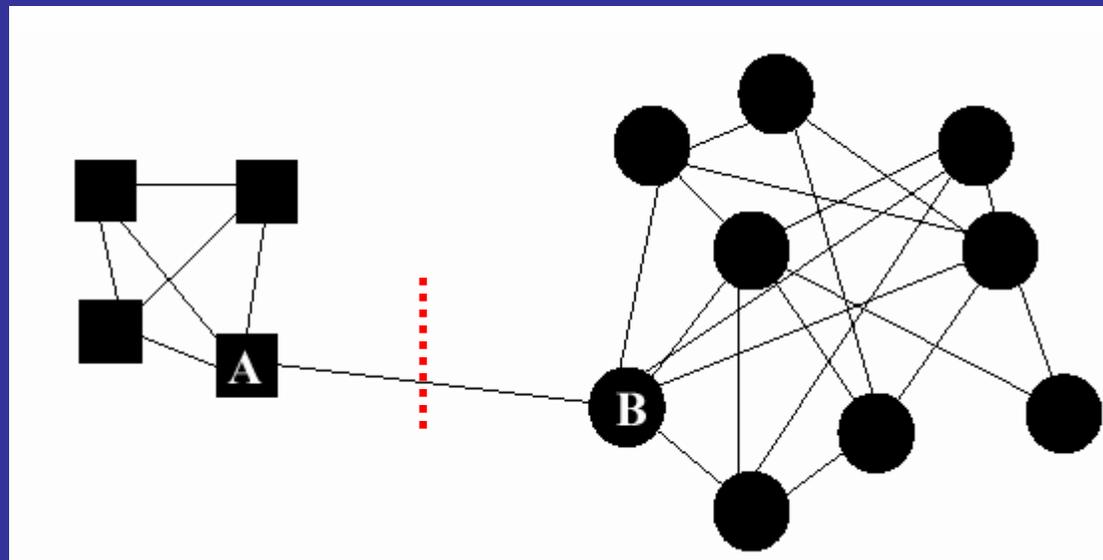
# our goal

- decompose an organization's email network (dense and jumbled) into communities of practice (clean and distinct)



# find communities using betweenness centrality

a graph has community structure if it consists of groups of nodes with many more links within each group than between different groups



betweenness of an edge: number of shortest paths that traverse it

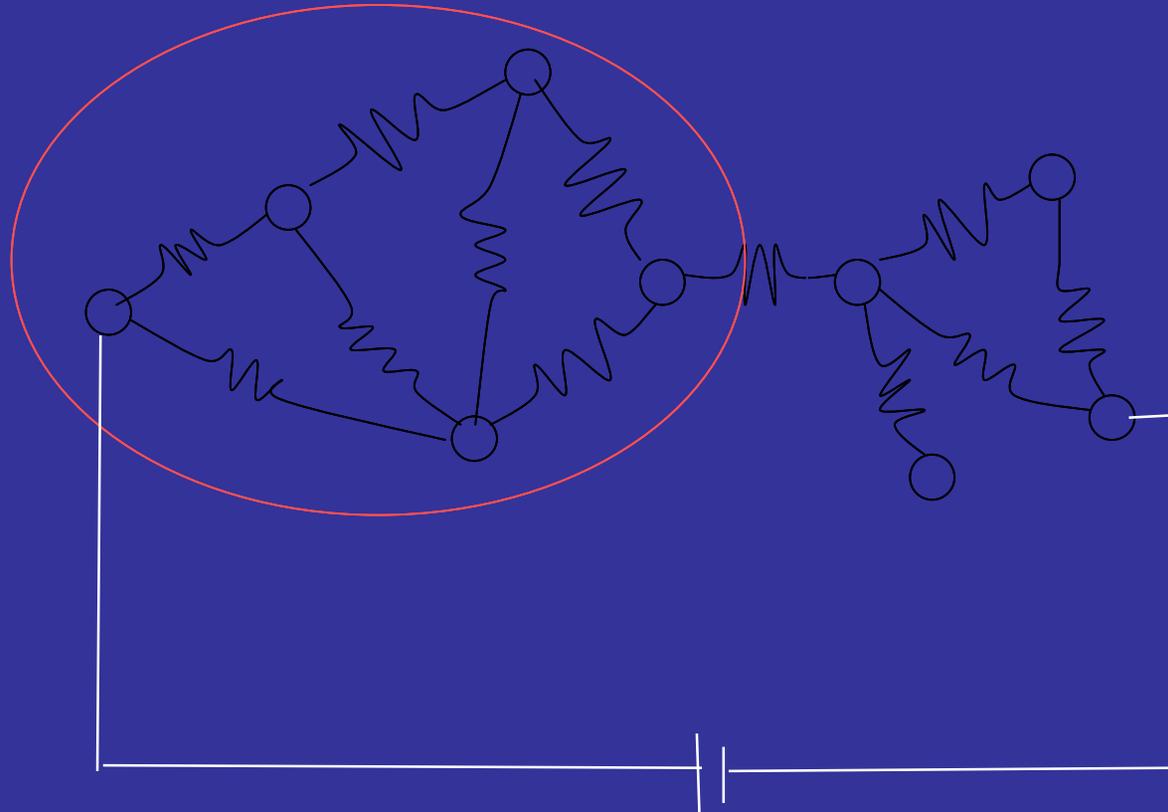
# a problem

betweenness centrality is slow (scales as the cube of the number of nodes (Brandes, Girvan and Newman, Wilkinson and Huberman))

we have designed an algorithm that runs much faster (linearly in the number of nodes (*Wu and Huberman, Eur. Phys. Journal B38, 331-338 (2004).*)).

# a different method

wu and huberman *Eur. Phys. Journal, B38, 331 (2004)*



# examples

rragan HPL Advanced Studies  
olmos HPL Advanced Studies  
samuels HPL Advanced Studies  
saifi HPL Advanced Studies  
zhiyong HPL Advanced Studies  
gunyoung HPL Advanced Studies  
larade HPL Advanced Studies

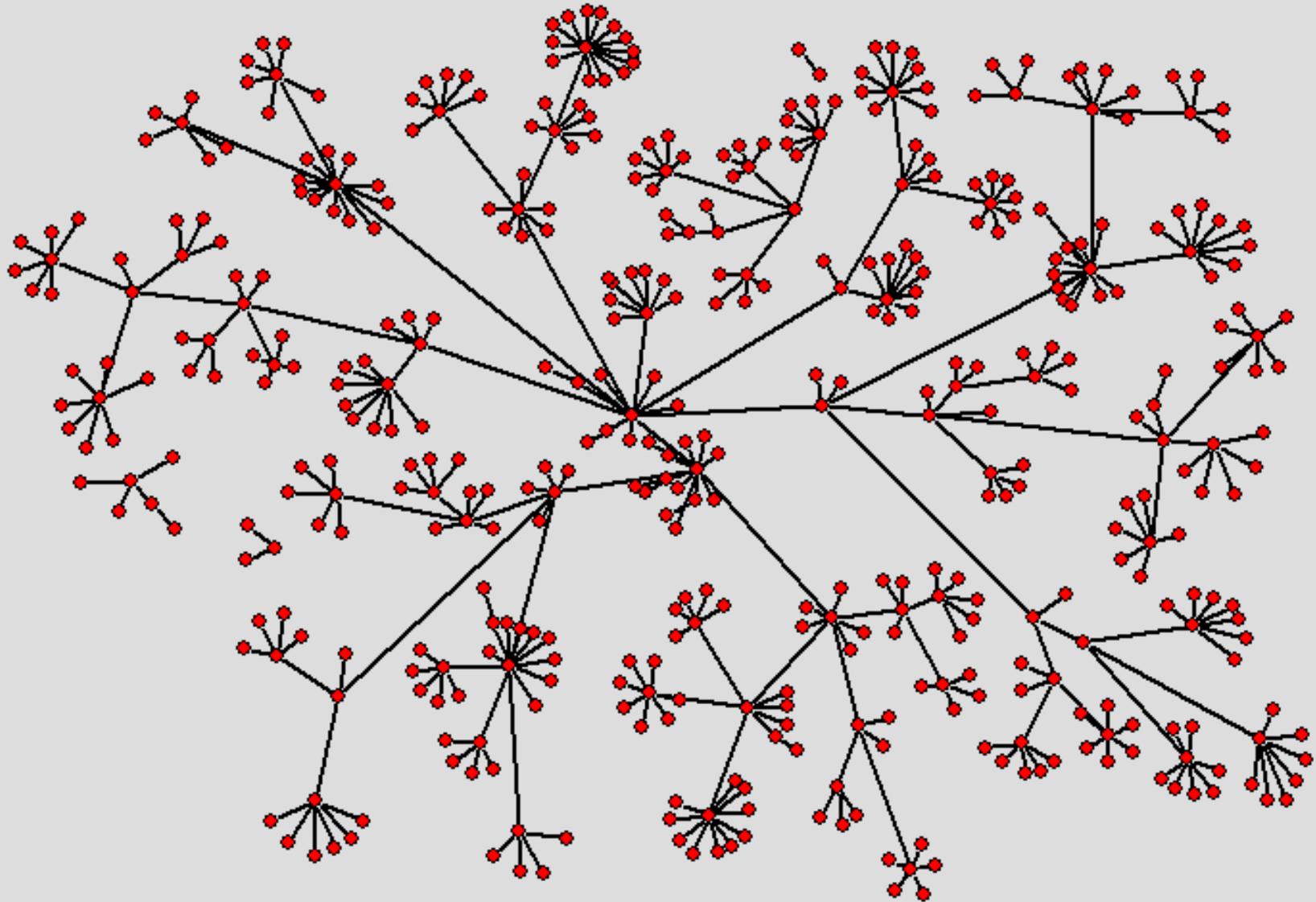
penrose Mobile & Media Systems Lab  
mistyr HPL Advanced Studies  
vinayd HPL Advanced Studies  
seroussi HPL Advanced Studies  
tsachyw HPL Advanced Studies

reedrob University Relations  
carterpa University Relations  
sbrodeur University Relations  
pruyne Internet Systems & Storage Lab  
bouzon University Relations  
lmorell University Relations  
marcek University Relations

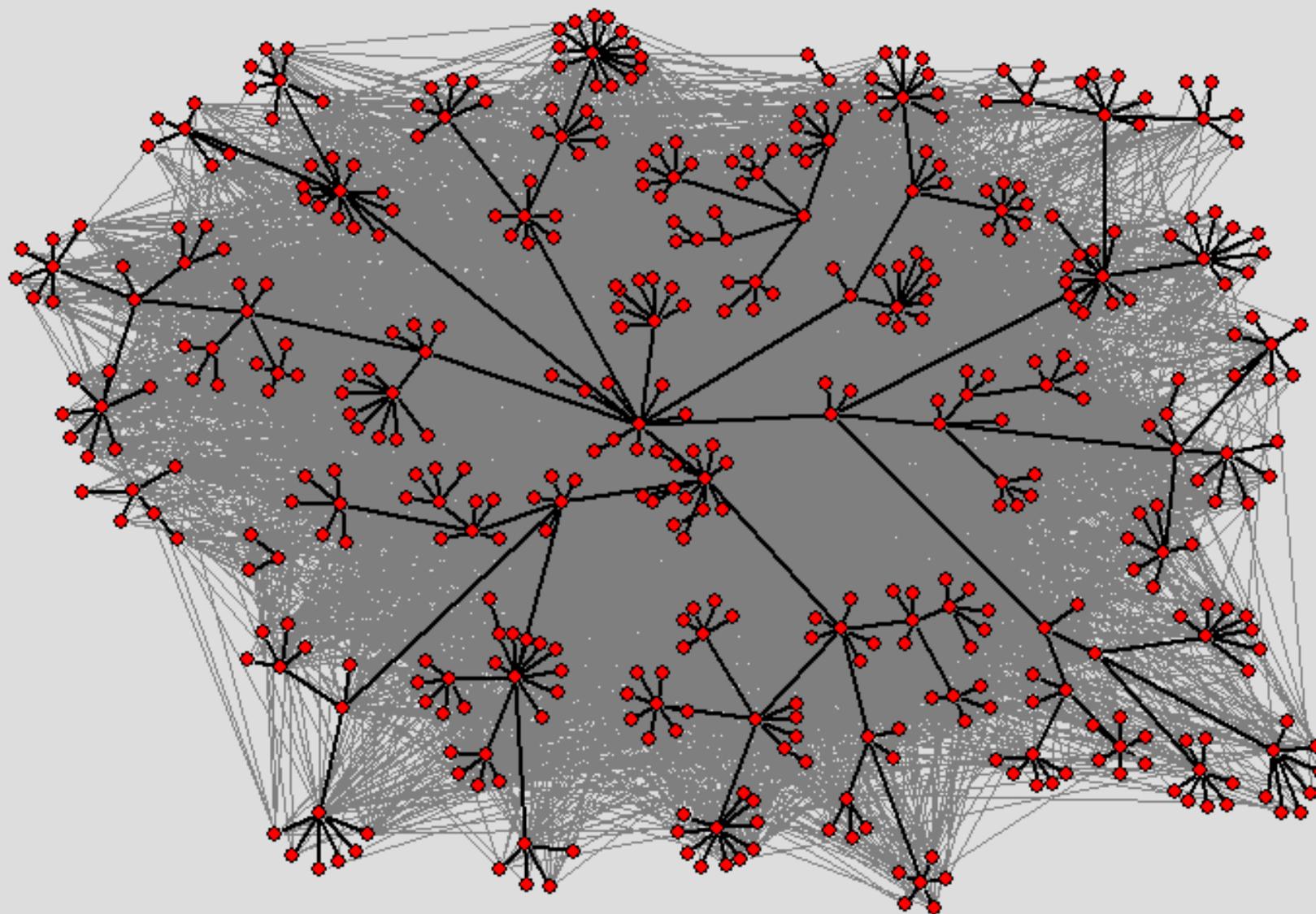
venky Mobile & Media Systems Lab  
dohlberg HPL Advanced Studies  
kvincent Hardcopy Tech Lab  
pmcc University Relations  
trangvu HPL Communications  
markstei HPL Advanced Studies  
hollerb HPL Research Operations  
krishnav Handheld HQ  
babcock REWS Americas  
gita Solutions & Services Tech Cntr  
bgee HPL - Research Operations  
meisi HPL - Research Operations  
henze Information Access Lab

kuekes HPL Advanced Studies  
thogg Systems Research Lab  
kychen Intelligent Enterprise Tech Lb  
lfine Systems Research Lab  
akarp Intelligent Enterprise Tech Lb

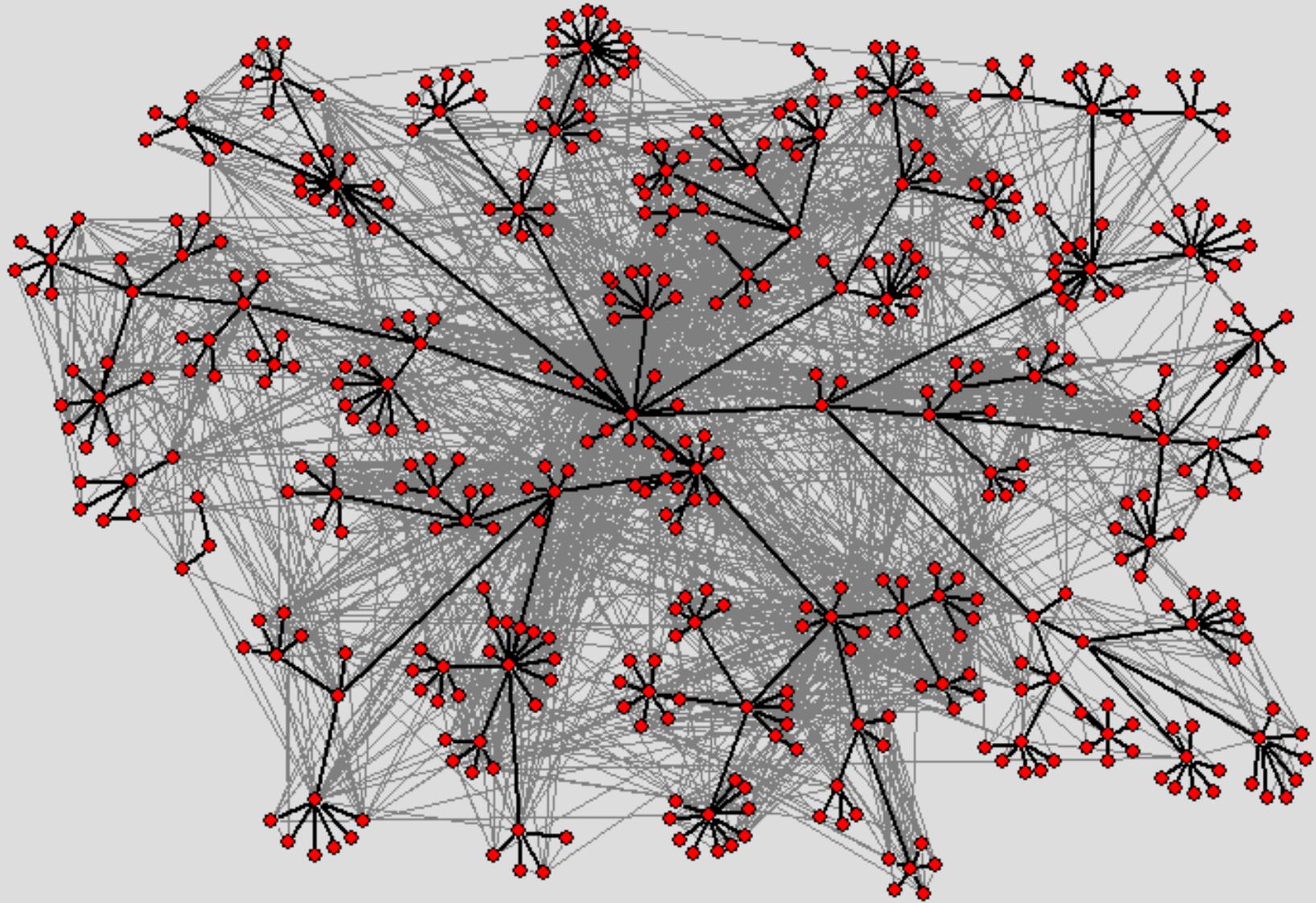
# organizational hierarchy



email correspondents scrambled

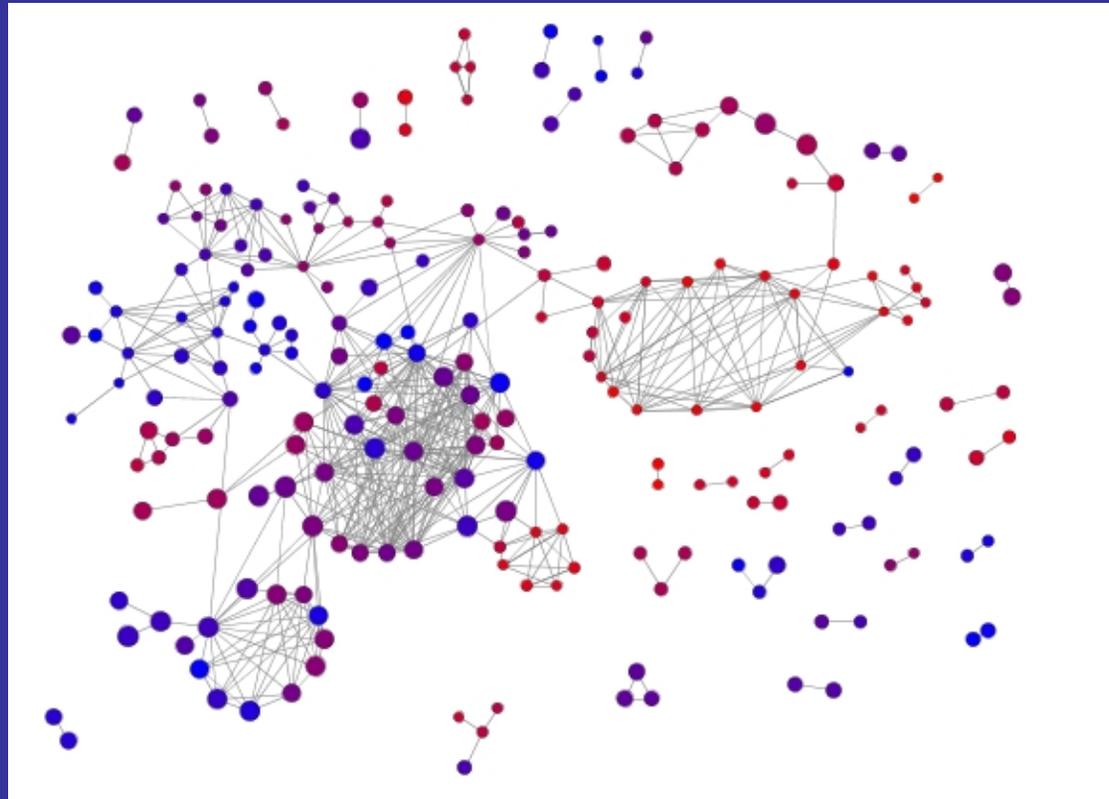


# actual email correspondence



# document similarity by usage

similarity: overlap in users accessing documents



earlier documents are blue, later ones are red.  
size of node reflects the number of users accessing the document.

I. adamic

# HPS-mining knowledge briefs

**Paul Johansen**



SAM

AMCI

Tech Consulting

Systems Integration

32 docs viewed

Paul Johansen is a consultant with the .NET Solutions group within the Central EMS Practice in Minneapolis, Minnesota. Paul specializes in e-commerce UI and middle tier development and their related Microsoft technologies. In his spare time he enjoys the freezing Minnesota weather, cheering for the Vikings, Twins, Wolves and Wild and traveling the world.

## users similar to Paul Johansen

sim	name	unit	group	function	family	#docs
	<u><a href="#">John R Bugarin</a></u>	SAM	AMCI	Solution Architech	Systems Integration	30
0.35		John Bugarin is a member of the .NET Results North American Team. He has extensive experience developing customized solutions in Domino, Microsoft, and WebSphere. He is certified MCSD for .NET, MCAD for .NET, MCSD for Visual Studio 6.0, MCSE for Windows 2000, and MCDBA for MSSQL 2000.				
	<u><a href="#">Tom Kern</a></u>	SAM	AMCI	Tech Consulting	Systems Integration	236
0.29		Tom Kern is a consultant for the Enterprise Microsoft Services .Net Solutions practice. Tom has worked on a variety of custom software projects based on Microsoft technologies.				
	<u><a href="#">Martyn Dowsett</a></u>	SEM	EMCI	Tech Consulting	Systems Integration	46
0.26		Martyn Dowsett is a member of EMEA C&I currently working with Microsoft .NET . He has been designing, developing, and testing various kinds of software since 1979 and has experienced many examples of "how not to do things". He has worked on many projects and is experienced in the full project lifecycle. His current interests are round all things .Net.				

# a new people finder

there is a trove of information in power point presentations, public repositories within the organization, and the internal website of the enterprise

peoplefinder<sup>2</sup> allows you to find out what people are *about*, as opposed to where in the organization they belong

it also discovers who is working on what

<http://shock.hpl.hp.com/peoplefinder/>

e. adar and I. adamic

HP logo on the left, "PeopleFinder<sup>2</sup>" in the center, and "@hp" on the right. Search fields for "PeopleFinder:" and "Search:" are on the right side.

Search by: [Person](#)      [Department](#)      [Topic](#)

PeopleFinder<sup>2</sup>             [Advanced Search](#)

PLEASE NOTE: We are searching both the internal and external pages for high quality matches, this usually takes a few seconds. If you want a quick demo, try the [cached](#) searches.

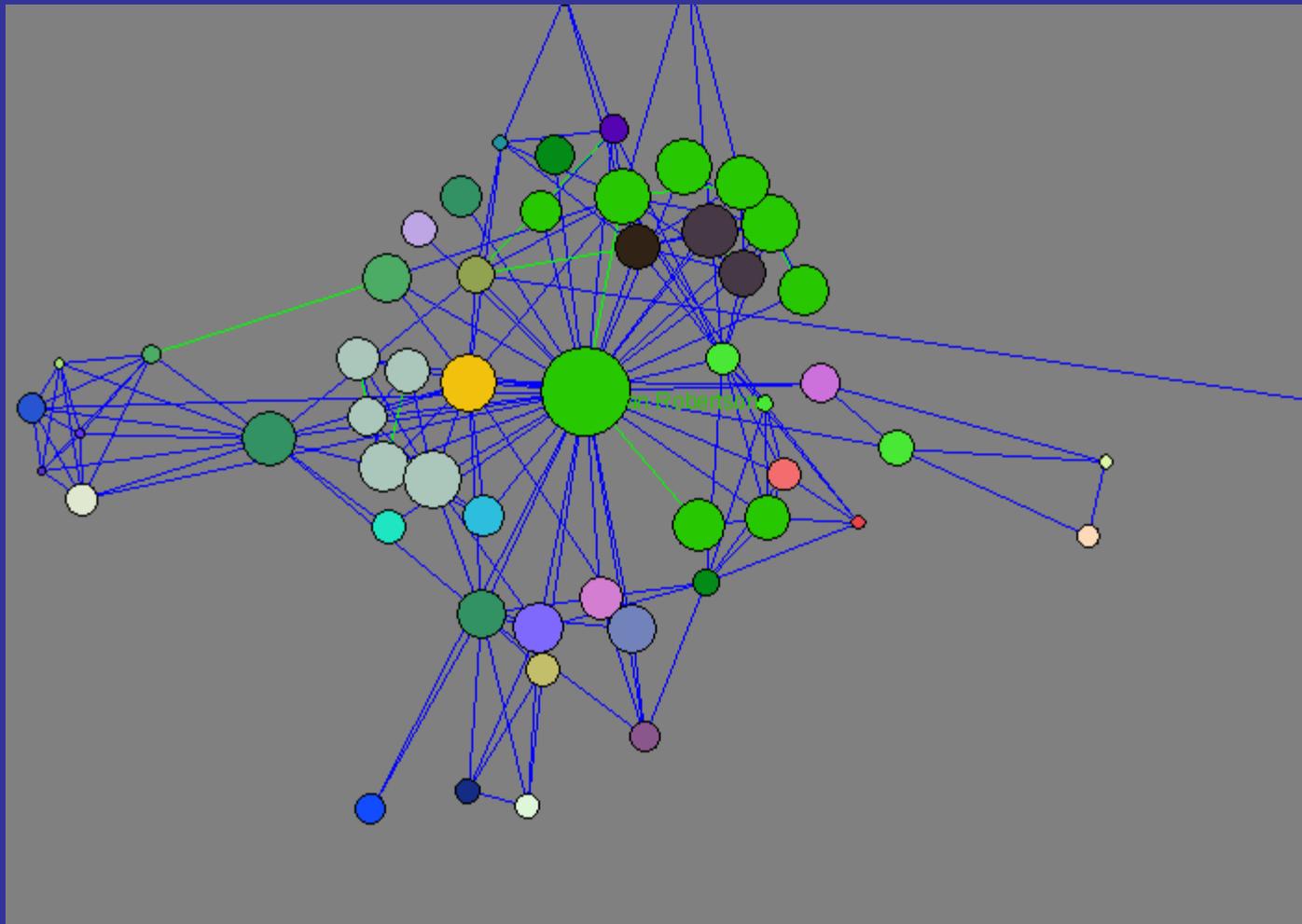
Beta system, results may be unstable (DB data from: 9/2004)

People associated with *rfid* 

enter your SEA (e.g. "joe.schmoe@hp.com") to see how you can connect to these people

Score	Name
100.00	<a href="#">Ian Robertson</a> (GOIT SC Corp Logistics) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <a href="#">See matches...</a></li> </ul>
83.33	<a href="#">Lucien Repellin</a> (CSG Ent Mfg Ind Vert - WW) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <a href="#">See matches...</a></li> </ul>
83.33	<a href="#">Nancy Brokopp</a> (Mobile & Media Systems Lab) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <a href="#">See matches...</a></li> </ul>
66.66	<a href="#">Dick Lampman</a> (HPL Director) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <a href="#">See matches...</a></li> </ul>
50.00	<a href="#">Salil Pradhan</a> (Mobile & Media Systems Lab) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <a href="#">See matches...</a></li> </ul>

related individuals to ian robertson



# information flow

how does information flow in a community or organization?

does the structure of the social network affect it?

how far does it spread?

Wu, Adamic and Huberman

# recommendation networks

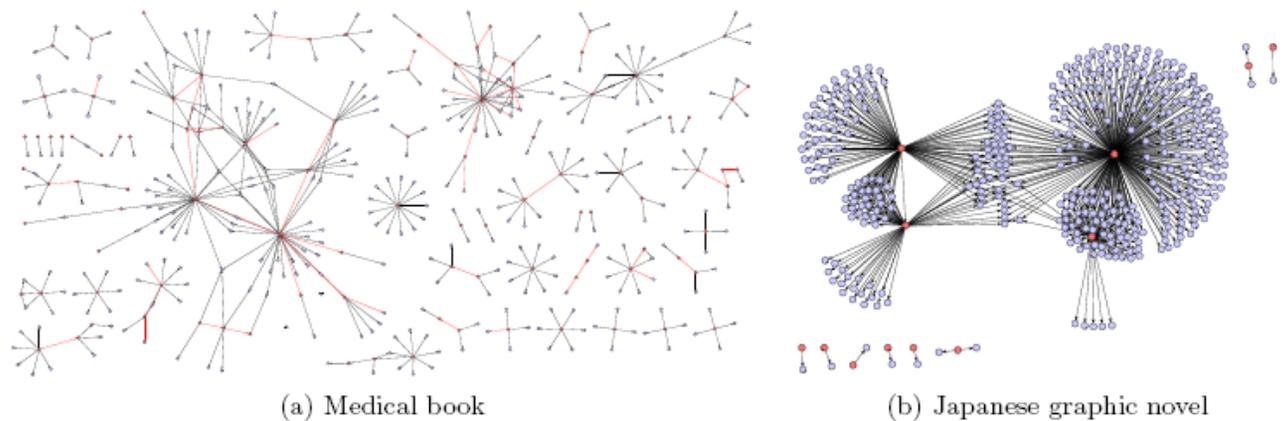
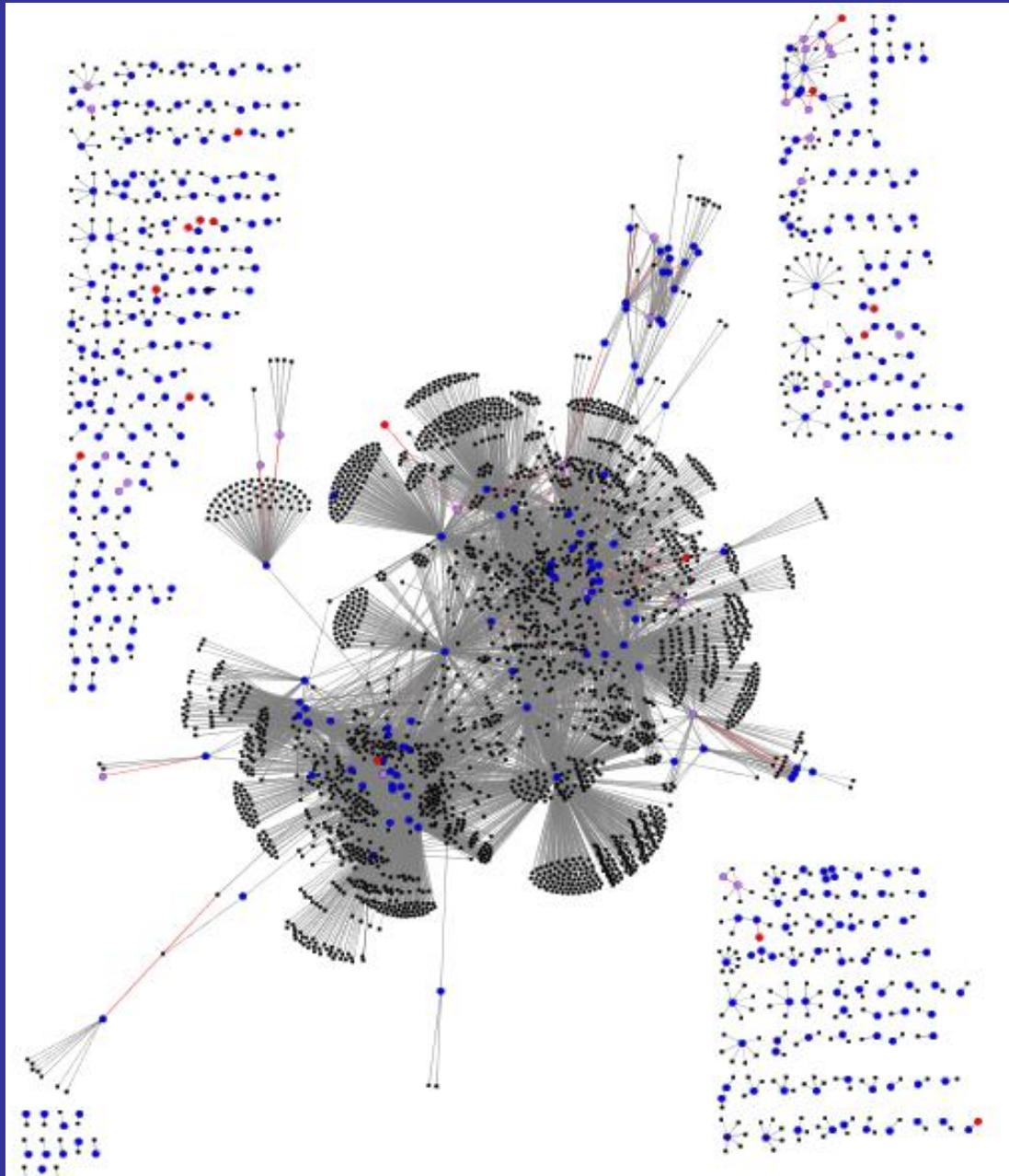


Figure 1: Examples of two product recommendation networks: (a) First aid study guide *First Aid for the USMLE Step*, (b) Japanese graphic novel (manga) *Oh My Goddess!: Mara Strikes Back*.

15 million recommendations and 4 million customers



## product recommendation network

- purchase following a recommendation
- customer recommending a product
- customer not buying a recommended product

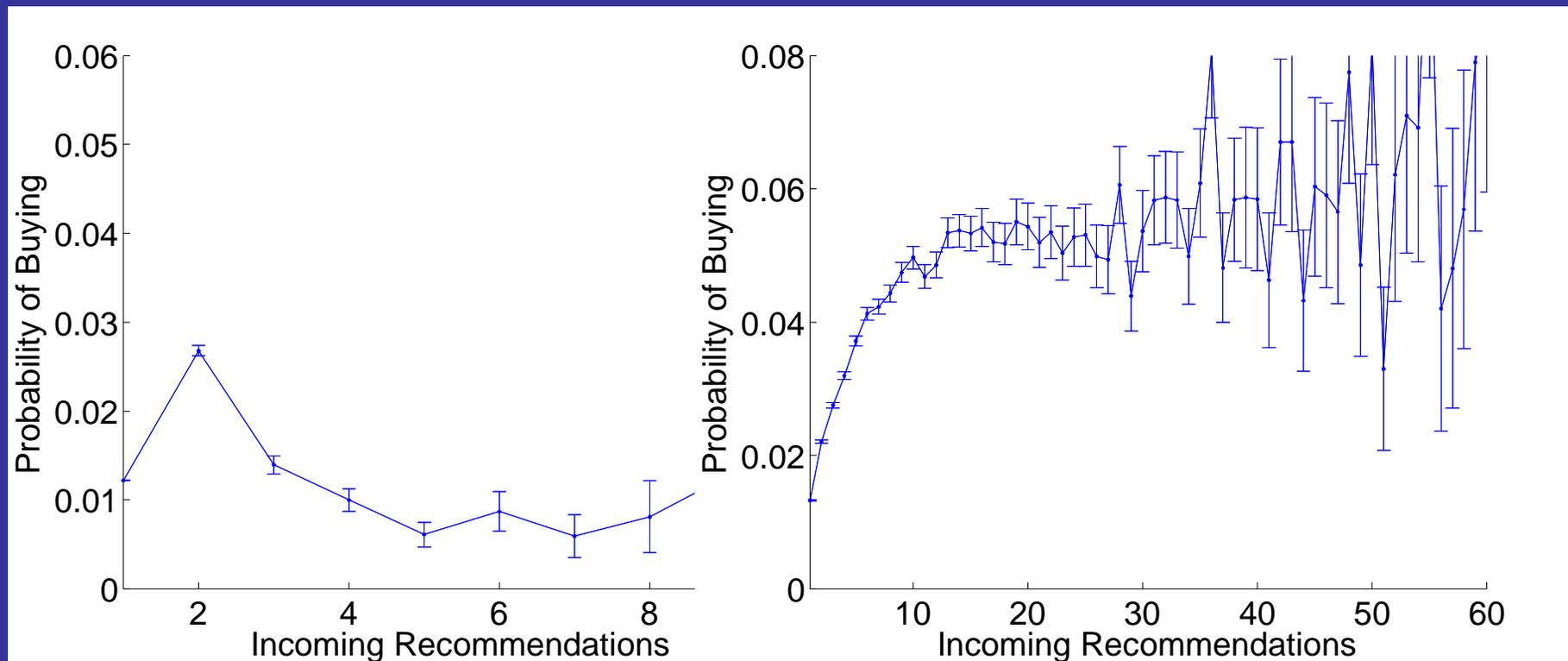
# observations on product groups

- there are relatively few DVD titles, but DVDs account for ~ 50% of recommendations.
- recommendations per person
  - DVD: 10
  - books and music: 2
  - VHS: 1
- recommendations per purchase
  - books: 69
  - DVDs: 108
  - music: 136
  - VHS: 203
- Overall there are 3.69 recommendations per node on 3.85 different products.
- music recommendations reached about the same number of people as DVDs but used only 1/5 as many recommendations
- book recommendations reached by far the most people – 2.8 million.
- networks are highly disconnected

# does receiving more recommendations increase the likelihood of buying?

BOOKS

DVDs

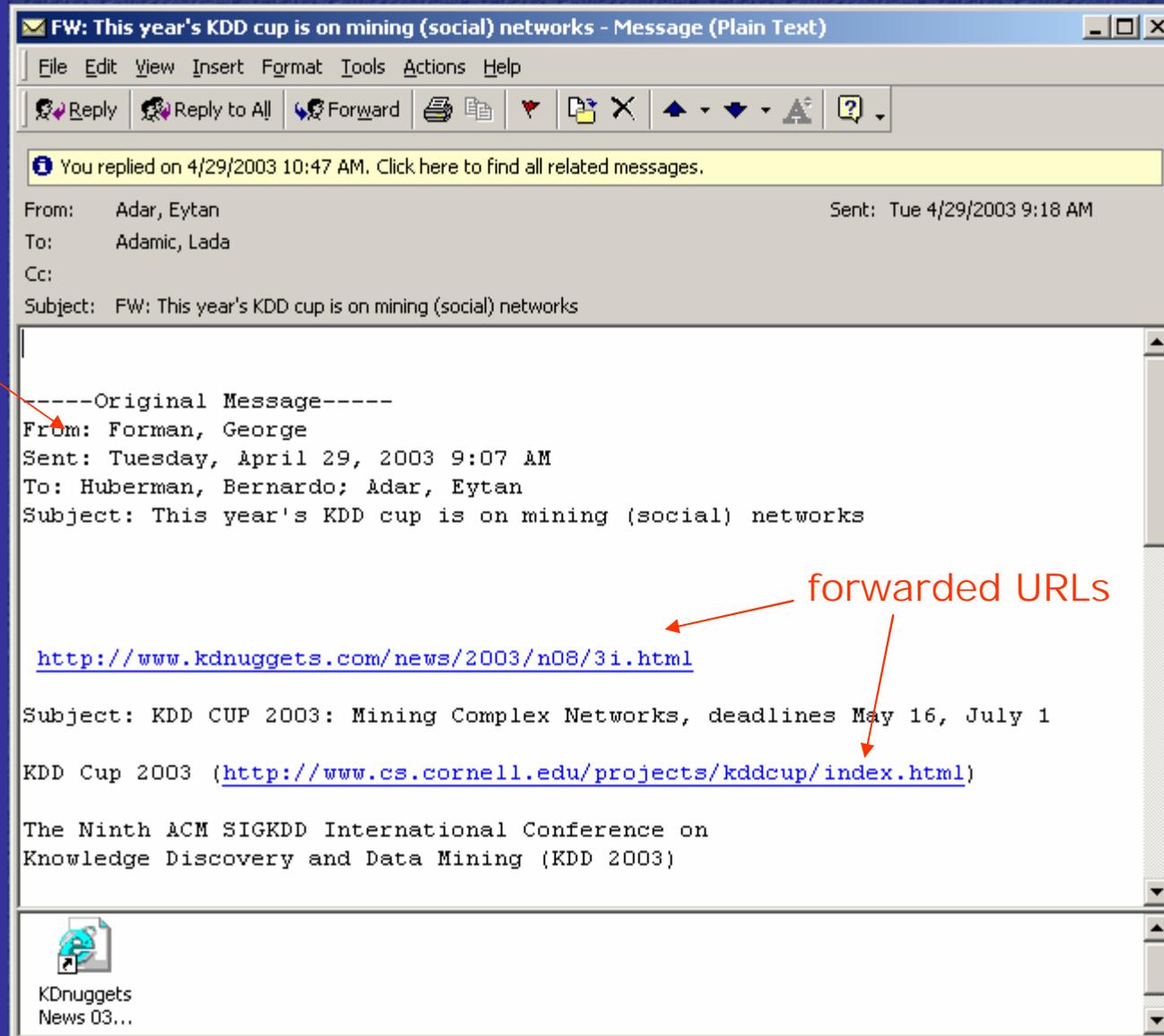


## so, how effective is viral marketing?

- recommendations do not propagate very far (on average)
- but there are rare instances where the information chain is long
- they are not very effective at eliciting purchases

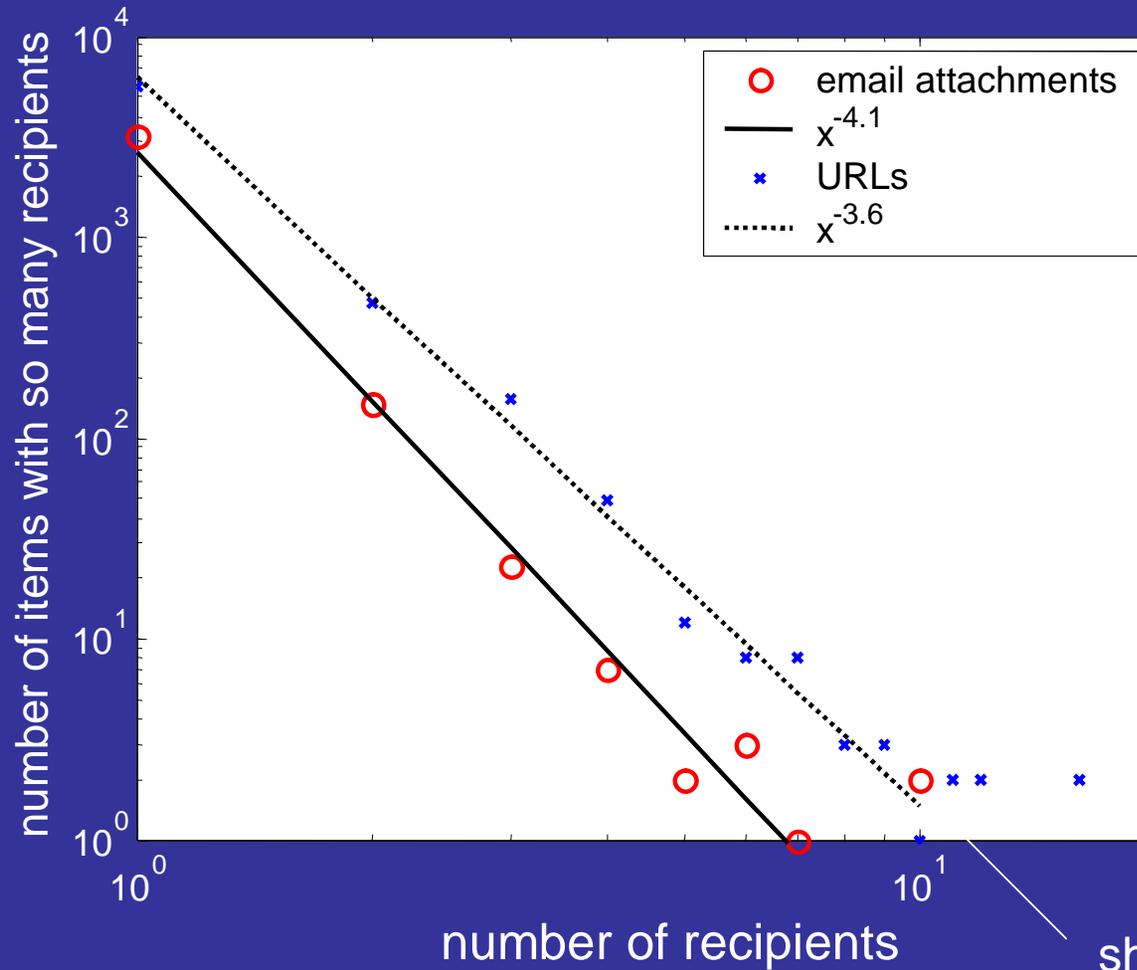
# an experiment with forwarding messages

forwarded message



# results

average = 1.1 for attachments, and 1.2 for URLs



ads at the bottom of hotmail & yahoo messages

short term expense control

## collaborative tagging

a new, fast growing trend

in science: nature's *connotea*, *citeulike*

social: *delicious*, yahoo's *myweb*

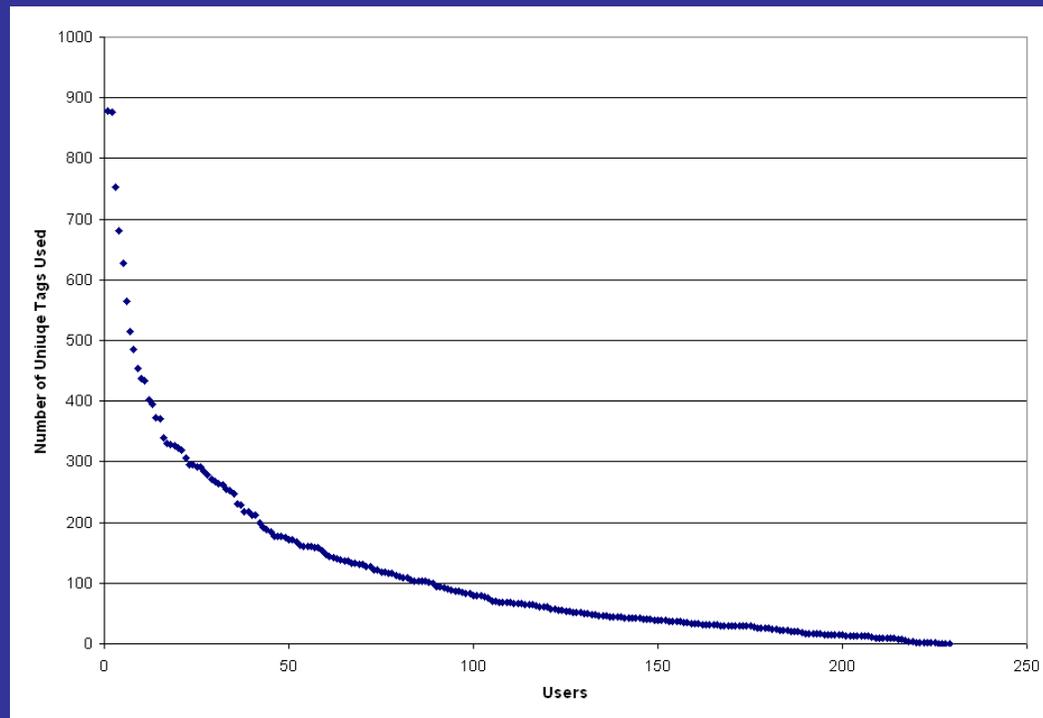
and not collaborative but tagging nonetheless: *flickr*,  
*technorati*

# delicious dynamics

a social tagging system: not only can one see one's own bookmarks, one can also see all of every other user's bookmarks.

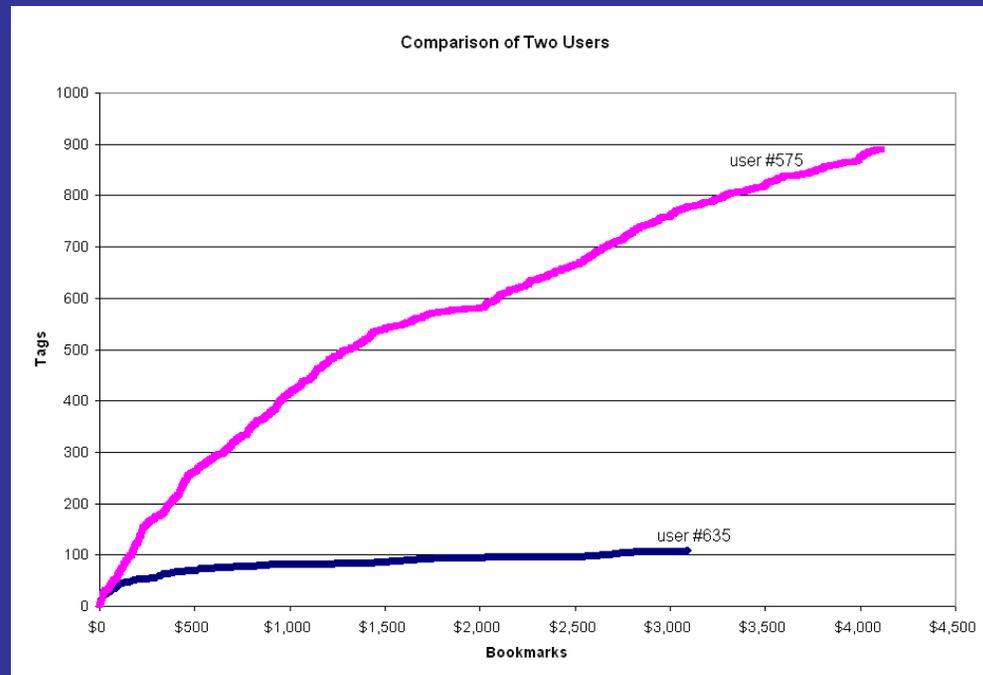
s. golder and b. huberman

number of tags in each user's tag list, in decreasing order.

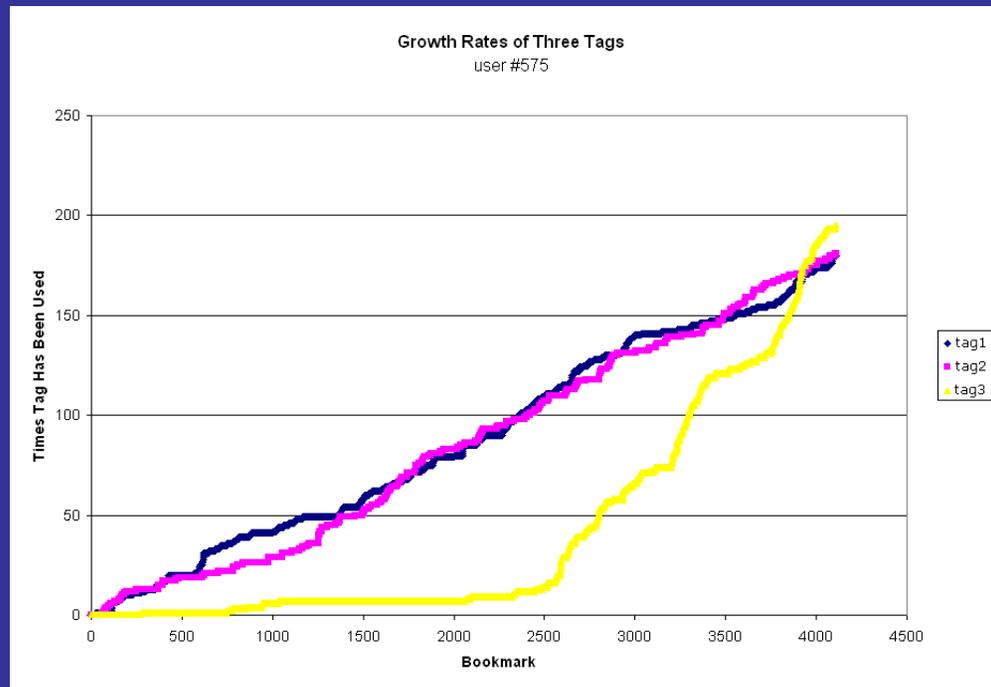


power law graph

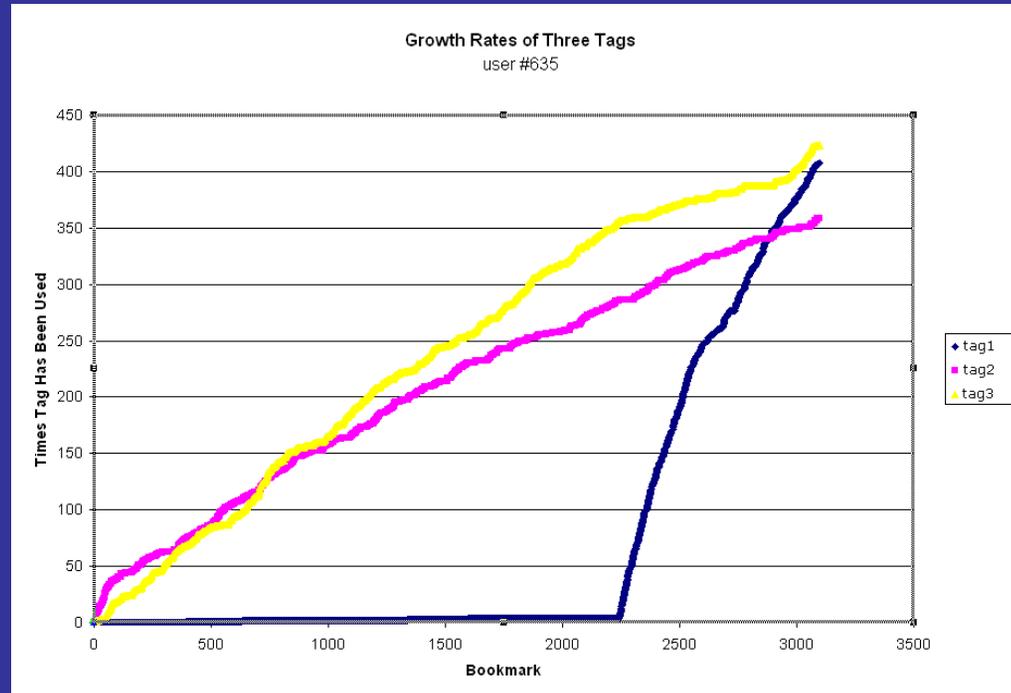
# user behavior



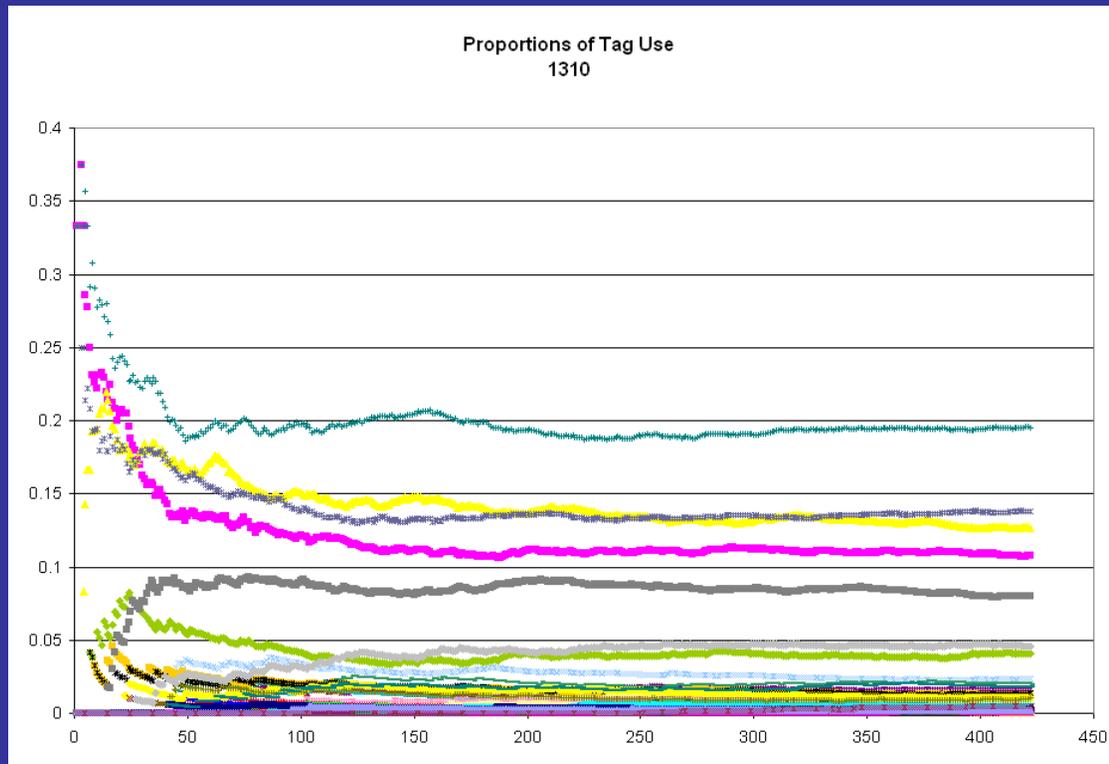
# user behavior



# user behavior

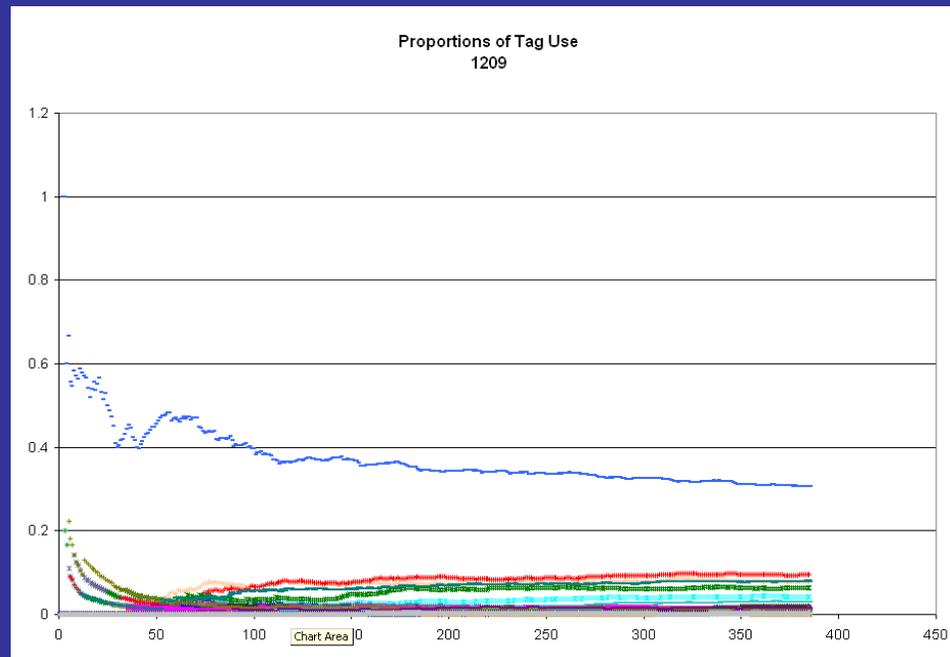


# patterns in tagging dynamics



relative fractions of tags for a given, fixed, URL (vertical axis) as a function of time (horizontal axis) as measured in units of bookmarks added

# patterns in tagging dynamics

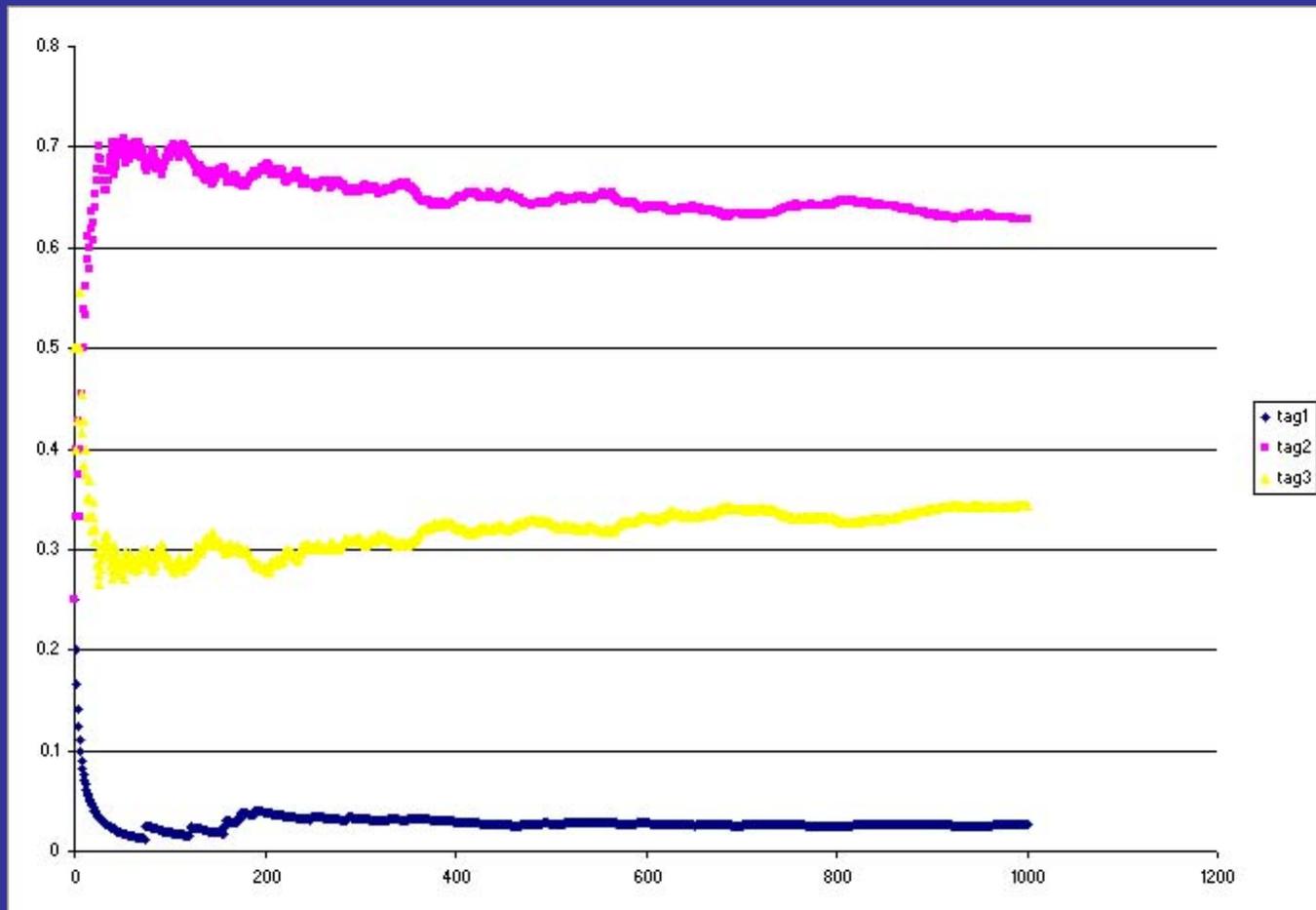


# tagging dynamics

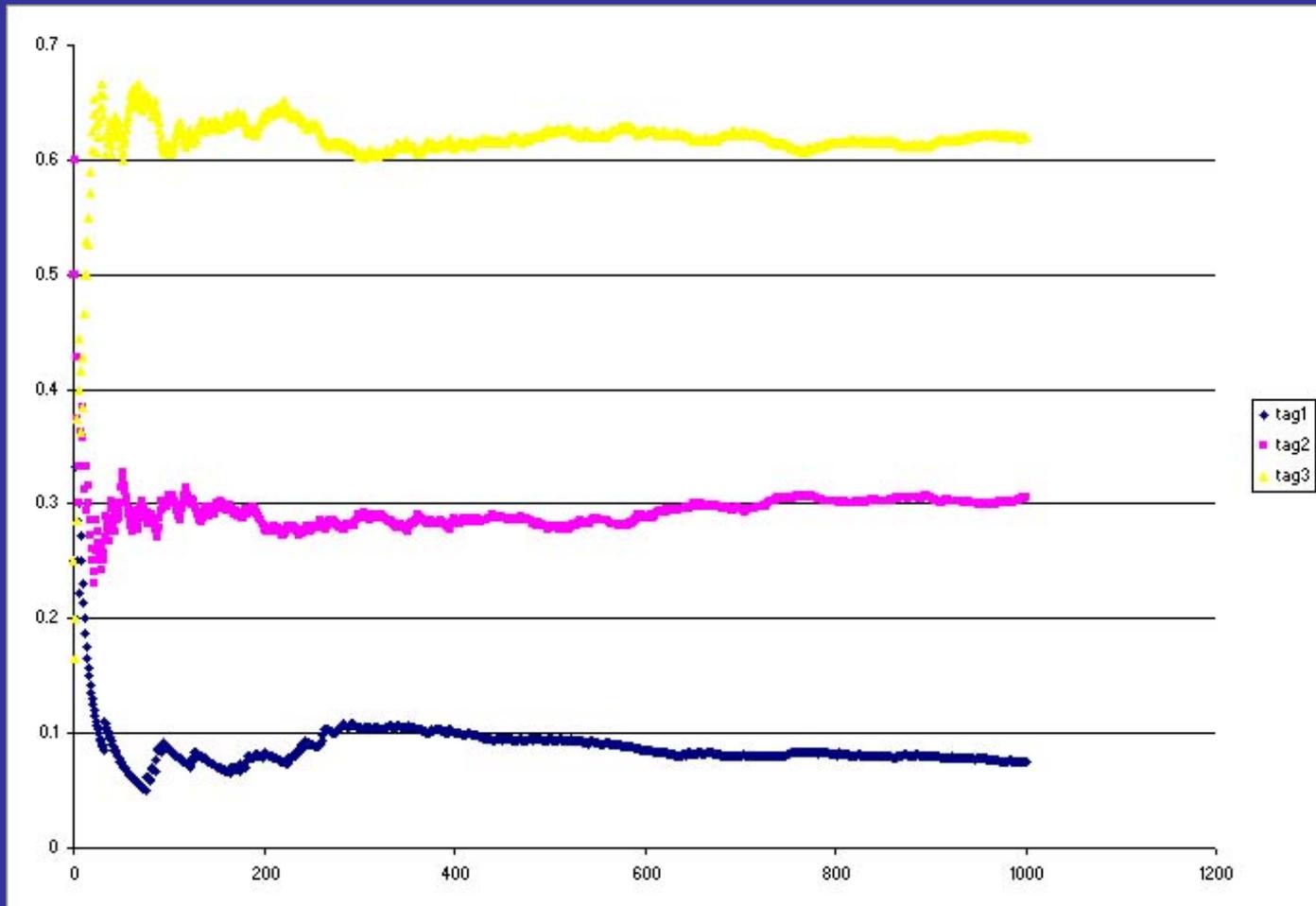
after the first 100 or so bookmarks, each tag's frequency is a nearly fixed proportion of the total frequency of all tags used

a nascent consensus seems to form, not affected by the addition of further tags.

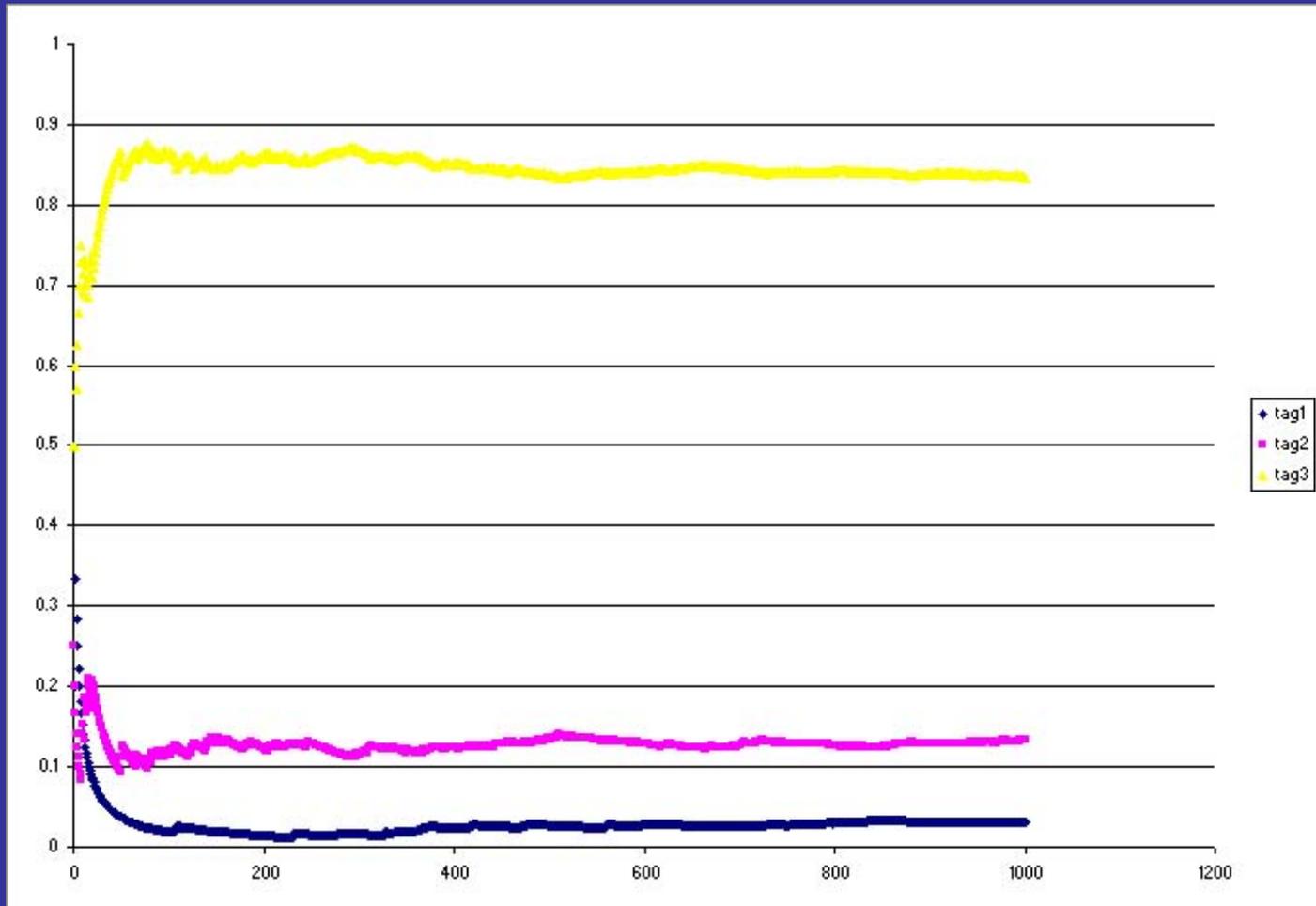
# eggenberger-polya process



# eggenberger-polya process



# eggenberger-polya process



it is all about the power of the implicit  
for more information go to:

<http://www.hpl.hp.com/research/idl>