

Statistical Properties of Optimal Paths

Shlomo Havlin
Bar-Ilan University
Department of Physics
Ramat-Gan 52900 Israel
havlin@ophir.ph.biu.ac.il

ABSTRACT

We study the statistical properties of optimal paths in weighted complex networks with general distribution of weights. We find a general criterion for the strength of disorder and show the relation of optimal paths properties to percolation, in both strong and weak disorder limits. Transport in weighted networks is dominated by the minimum spanning tree (MST), the tree connecting all nodes with the minimum total weight. We find that the MST can be partitioned into two distinct components, having significantly different transport properties, characterized by centrality, the number of times a node (or link) is used by transport paths. One component, superhighways, is the infinite incipient percolation cluster, for which we find that nodes (or links) with high centrality dominate. For the other component, roads, which includes the remaining nodes, low centrality nodes dominate. We find also that the distribution of the centrality for the infinite incipient percolation cluster satisfies a power law, with an exponent smaller than that for the entire MST. The significance of this finding is that one can improve significantly the global transport by improving a tiny fraction of the network, the superhighways. References [1] [3] [2].

1. REFERENCES

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