NETWORK ANALYSIS OF THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN LAW SCHOOL COURSES: DATA FROM AN 18 PERSON CARD SORT EXERCISE

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Part of Dissertation Work

- Generally: my works seeks to ascertain the similarity of legal course subjects in terms of their topical relatedness.

- ... and, to distribute those course subjects in a two-dimensional mapping so that they may be quickly perceived by the viewer using the distance-similarity metaphor.
COURSE-COUPLING DEFINED

• The same professor teaching multiple, different courses over some period of time.

• The period of time is one academic year as reflected in the annual directories of the American Association of Law Schools (AALS).
COURSE-COUPLING CONT’D

• Premised on the assumption:
  – in the aggregate, professors teach courses that are conceptually and topically similar to one another.

• Use of course-coupling networks to make structural claims is supported by the use of other co-occurrence data to map domains.
### Teachers_by_School_by_Year

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>DIRECTORY YEAR</th>
<th>SCHOOL ID</th>
<th>SCHOOL</th>
<th>FACULTY ID</th>
<th>LNAME</th>
<th>FNAME</th>
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<tr>
<td>1922-23</td>
<td>10</td>
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### Teachers_by_Subject_by_Year_with_School

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>LNAME</th>
<th>FNAME</th>
<th>SCHOOL</th>
<th>Subject</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
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<td>Felix</td>
<td>Harvard University Law School</td>
<td>Administrative Law</td>
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<td>Harvard University Law School</td>
<td>Federal Jurisdiction and Procedure</td>
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<td>11</td>
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<td>Harvard University Law School</td>
<td>Public Utilities</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>11</td>
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</table>
HUMAN SUBJECTS

• **18 subjects** (11 males, 7 females)

• **Position:**
  – 10 law professors,
  – 4 academic law librarians,
  – 1 Legal Research & Writing Faculty member,
  – 1 History Professor specializing in the history of law,
  – 1 Clinical law professor,
  – 1 person in the legal publishing industry knowledgeable about legal taxonomy.

• **Law Degree:** 16 with law degrees, 2 without law degrees.

• **Institutions:** 14 Indiana University, 2 University of Illinois, 1 University of Alabama, 1 private industry
HUMAN SUBJECTS CON’T

• 4 subjects: 1 level
• 11 subjects: 2 levels
• 1 subject: 3 levels
• 2 subjects: 4 levels

• Level 1, Pairwise Occurrences: 4690
• Level 2, 3, 4 Pairwise Occurrences: ?
Subject 17's Organization

International Law (5)
55 International law
56 International Organizations
54 International Business Transactions
99 Trade Regulation
17 Comparative Law

Professional Training (4)
71 Law Office Management
63 Law and Accounting
84 Payment Systems
87 Professional Responsibility

Technical Skills / Evidence (8)
75 Legal Research and Writing
74 Legal Method
72 Legal Drafting
5 Alternative Dispute Resolution
13 Clinical Teaching
7 Appellate Practice
100 Trial Advocacy
42 Evidence

Business Law plus Consumer Side (9)
10 Business Associations
23 Corporate Finance
46 Financial Institutions
92 Securities Regulation
14 Commercial Law
6 Antitrust
24 Creditors’ and Debtors’ Rights
21 Consumer Law
52 Insurance Law

PROPERTY AND APPLIED PROPERTY (1) (with sub-groupings (15))
88 Property

Transactions and Development (2)
62 Land Use Planning
89 Real Estate Transactions

Environmental & Energy Law (9)
37 Environmental Law
81 Natural Resources
101 Water Rights
83 Oil and Gas
90 Regulated Industries
35 Energy Law
2 Admiralty
82 Ocean Resources
8 Aviation and Space Law

Agricultural Law (1)
4 Agricultural Law

Intellectual Property (1)
53 Intellectual Property

Native American Law (1)
80 Native American Law

Torts (2)
98 Torts
86 Products Liability

Sports/Entertainment/Communications (3)
93 Sports Law
36 Entertainment Law
15 Communications Law
SUBJECT 11’S CATEGORIZATION (4 levels Deep)
Private Law -> Less Business -> Substantive (Statutory / Administrative Law)
All Level 1 Connections – Edge Weight: 18

Visualized with Pajek:
http://vlado.fmf.uni-lj.si/pub/networks/pajek/
All Level 1 Connections – Edge Weight: ≥ 17

Visualized with Pajek:
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All Level 1 Connections – Edge Weight: ≥ 16

Visualized with Pajek:
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All Level 1 Connections – Edge Weight: ≥ 3
All Level 1 Connections – Edge Weight: ≥ 2

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All Level 1 Connections – Edge Weight: ≥ 1

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<td>14-22</td>
<td>Commercial Law - Contracts</td>
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<tr>
<td>21-22</td>
<td>Consumer Law - Contracts</td>
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<tr>
<td>3-22</td>
<td>Agency and Partnership - Contracts</td>
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<tr>
<td>6-22</td>
<td>Antitrust - Contracts</td>
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<td>22-23</td>
<td>Contracts - Corporate Finance</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>22-24</td>
<td>Contracts - Creditors' and Debtors' Rights</td>
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<tr>
<td>22-26</td>
<td>Contracts - Entertainment Law</td>
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<td>22-30</td>
<td>Contracts - Equity</td>
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<td>22-40</td>
<td>Contracts - Estate Planning</td>
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<td>22-41</td>
<td>Contracts - Estates and Trusts</td>
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<td>22-46</td>
<td>Contracts - Financial Institutions</td>
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<td>22-52</td>
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<td>22-54</td>
<td>Contracts - International Business Transactions</td>
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<td>Contracts - Law and Accounting</td>
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<td>Contracts - Local Government</td>
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<td>Contracts - Remedies</td>
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<td>Contracts - Securities Regulation</td>
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<td>22-93</td>
<td>Contracts - Sports Law</td>
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Newline
Contracts, All Level 1 Connections – Edge Weight: ≥ 6

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Contracts, All Level 1 Connections – Edge Weight: ≥ 4

Visualization with Pajek:
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Contracts, All Level 1 Connections

Visualized with Pajek:
http://vlado.fmf.uni-lj.si/pub/networks/pajek/
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