



## 15-826: Multimedia Databases and Data Mining

Lecture #9: Fractals – examples & algo's  
*C. Faloutsos*



## Must-read Material

- Christos Faloutsos and Ibrahim Kamel, *Beyond Uniformity and Independence: Analysis of R-trees Using the Concept of Fractal Dimension*, Proc. ACM SIGACT-SIGMOD-SIGART PODS, May 1994, pp. 4-13, Minneapolis, MN.

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2



## Recommended Material

optional, but **very** useful:

- Manfred Schroeder *Fractals, Chaos, Power Laws: Minutes from an Infinite Paradise*  
 W.H. Freeman and Company, 1991
  - Chapter 10: boxcounting method
  - Chapter 1: Sierpinski triangle

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## Outline

Goal: 'Find **similar / interesting** things'

- Intro to DB
- Indexing - similarity search
- Data Mining

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## Indexing - Detailed outline

- primary key indexing
- secondary key / multi-key indexing
- spatial access methods
  - z-ordering
  - R-trees
  - misc
- fractals
  - intro
  - applications
- text

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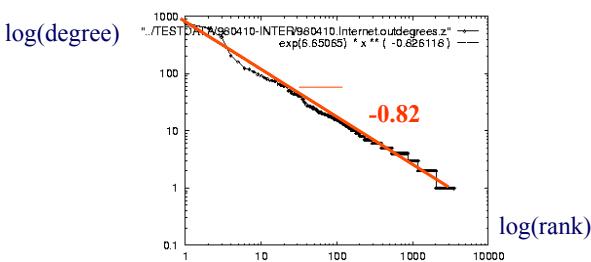
## Road map

- Motivation – 3 problems / case studies
- Definition of fractals and power laws
- Solutions to posed problems
- More tools and **examples**
- Discussion - putting fractals to work!
- Conclusions – practitioner's guide
- Appendix: gory details - boxcounting plots

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## More power laws on the Internet



log(degree)

log(rank)

-0.82

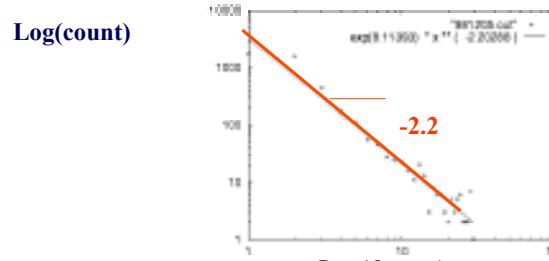
degree vs rank, for Internet domains (log-log) [sigcomm99]

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## More power laws - internet

- pdf of degrees: (slope: 2.2 )

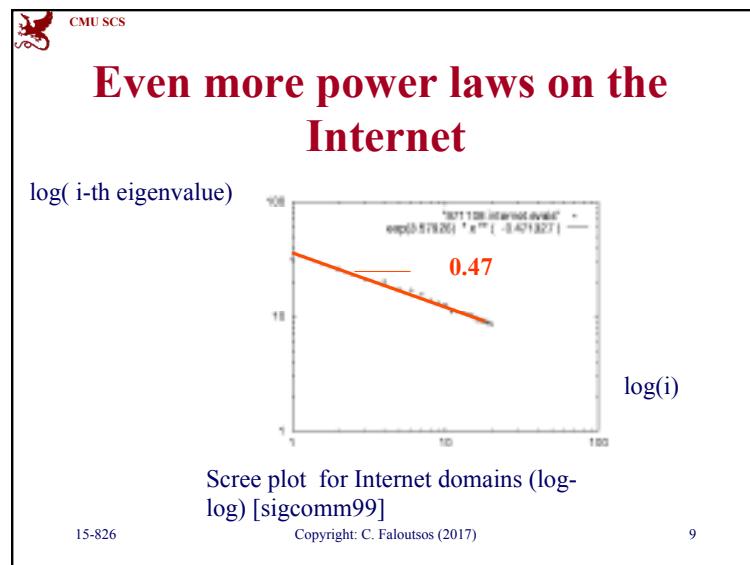


Log(count)

-2.2

Log(degree)

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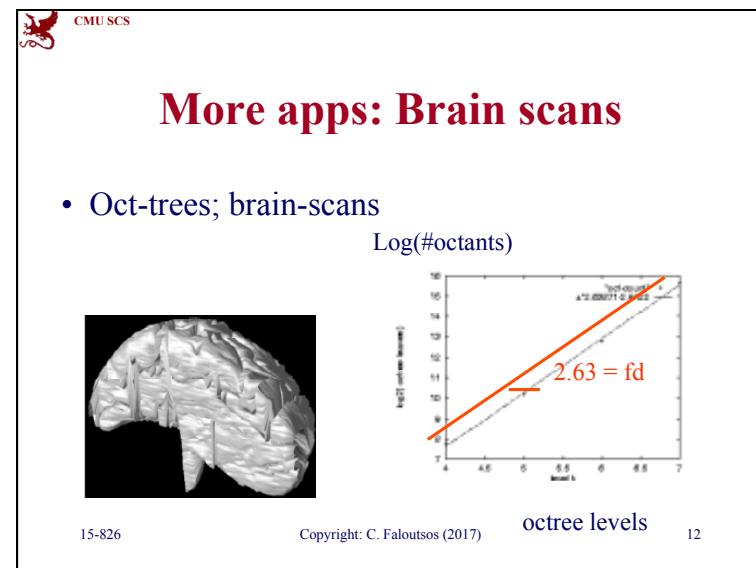
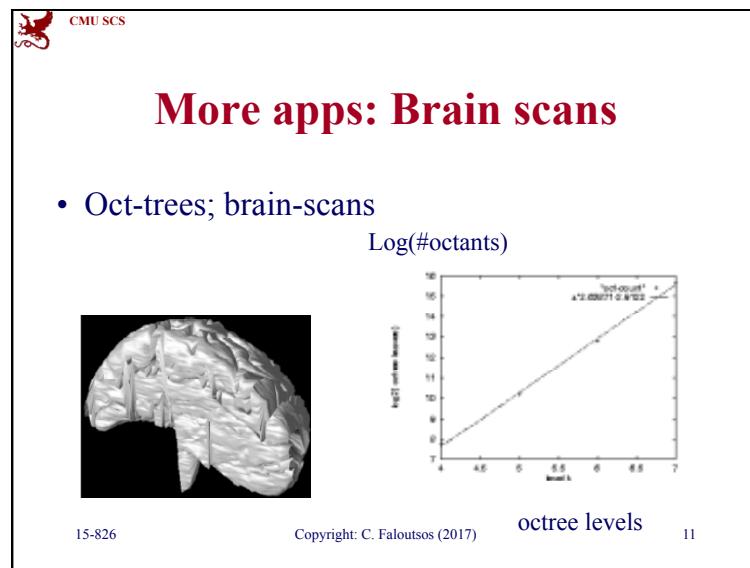
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## Fractals & power laws:

appear in numerous settings:

- **medical**
- geographical / geological
- social
- computer-system related

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## More apps: Medical images

[Burdett et al, SPIE '93]:

- benign tumors:  $fd \sim 2.37$
- malignant:  $fd \sim 2.56$

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## More fractals:

- cardiovascular system: 3 (!)
- lungs: 2.9



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## Fractals & power laws:

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- social
- computer-system related

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## More fractals:

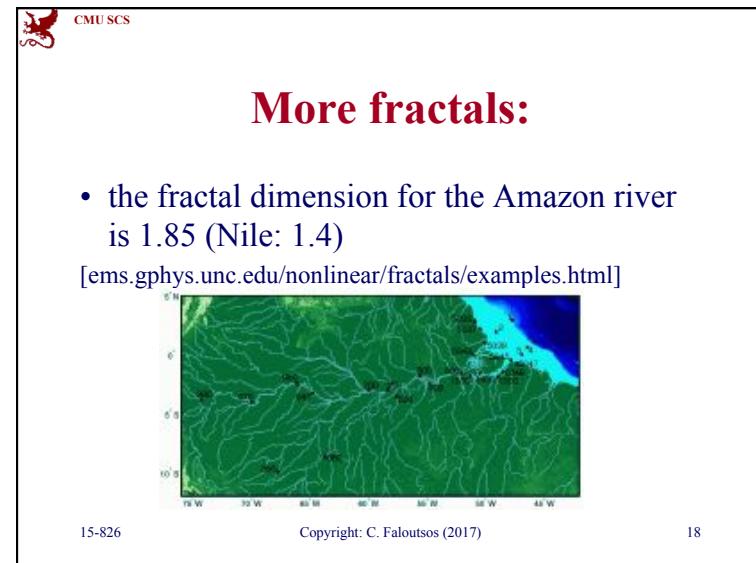
- Coastlines: 1.2-1.58



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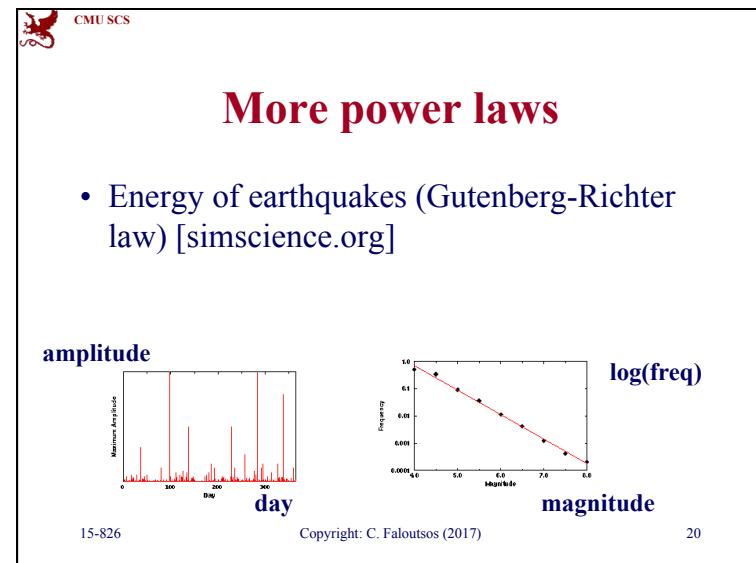
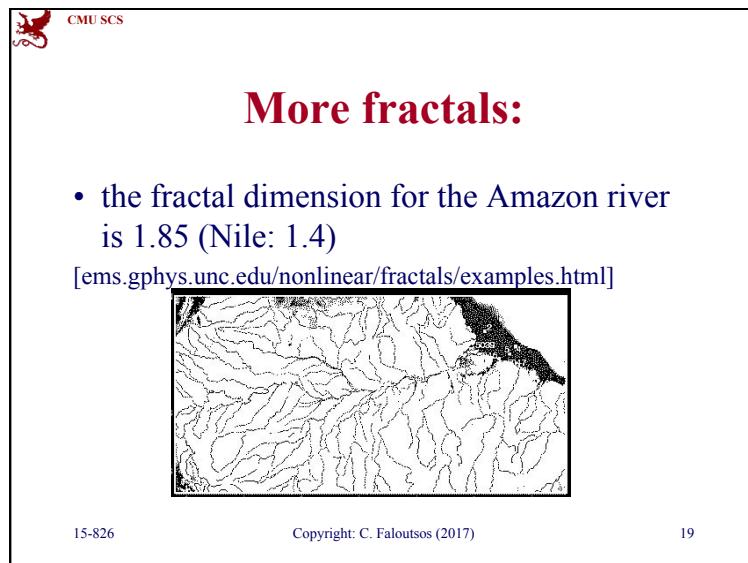
16



## More fractals:

- the fractal dimension for the Amazon river is 1.85 (Nile: 1.4)

[ems.gphys.unc.edu/nonlinear/fractals/examples.html]



## More power laws

- Energy of earthquakes (Gutenberg-Richter law) [simscience.org]

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## Fractals & power laws:

appear in numerous settings:

- medical
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- computer-system related

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## More fractals:

stock prices (LYCOS) - random walks: 1.5

**1 year**  **2 years** 

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## Even more power laws:

- Income distribution (Pareto's law)
- size of firms
- publication counts (Lotka's law)

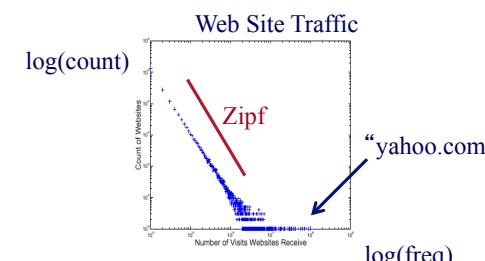
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## Even more power laws:

- web hit counts [w/ A. Montgomery]

**Web Site Traffic**



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## Fractals & power laws:

appear in numerous settings:

- medical
- geographical / geological
- social
- **computer-system related**

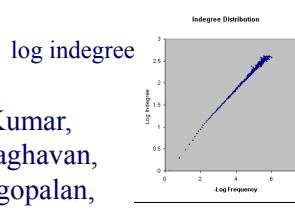
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## Power laws, cont'd

- In- and out-degree distribution of web sites [Barabasi], [IBM-CLEVER]

from [Ravi Kumar, Prabhakar Raghavan, Sridhar Rajagopalan, Andrew Tomkins ]



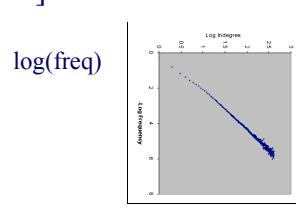
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## Power laws, cont'd

- In- and out-degree distribution of web sites [Barabasi], [IBM-CLEVER]

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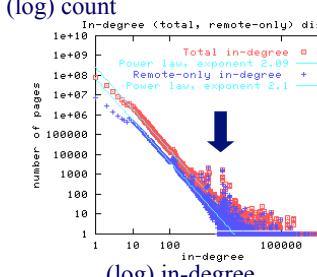
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## “Foiled by power law”

- [Broder+, WWW' 00]

(log) count



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## “Foiled by power law”

- [Broder+, WWW’ 00]

(log) count

“The anomalous bump at 120 on the x-axis is due a large clique formed by a single spammer”

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## Power laws, cont’ d

- In- and out-degree distribution of web sites [Barabasi], [IBM-CLEVER]
- length of file transfers [Crovella+Bestavros ‘96]
- duration of UNIX jobs [Harchol-Balter]

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## Even more power laws:

- Distribution of UNIX file sizes
- web hit counts [Huberman]

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## Road map

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- Conclusions – practitioner’ s guide
- Appendix: gory details - boxcounting plots

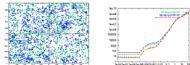
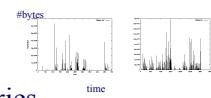
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## What else can they solve?

- ✓ separability [KDD' 02]
  - forecasting [CIKM' 02]
  - dimensionality reduction [SBBD' 00]
  - non-linear axis scaling [KDD' 02]
- ✓ disk trace modeling [Wang+ '02]
  - selectivity of spatial/multimedia queries [PODS' 94, VLDB' 95, ICDE' 00]
  - ...

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## Settings for fractals:

Points; areas (-> fat fractals), eg:

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## Settings for fractals:

Points; areas, eg:

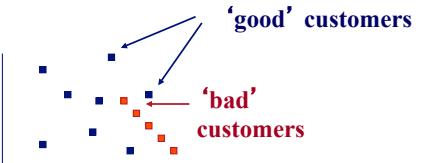
- cities/stores/hospitals, over earth's surface
- time-stamps of events (customer arrivals, packet losses, criminal actions) over time
- regions (sales areas, islands, patches of habitats) over space

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## Settings for fractals:

- customer feature vectors (age, income, frequency of visits, amount of sales per visit)



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## Some uses of fractals:

- Detect non-existence of rules (if points are uniform)
- Detect non-homogeneous regions (eg., legal login time-stamps may have different fd than intruders' )
- Estimate number of neighbors / customers / competitors within a radius

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## Multi-Fractals

Setting: points or objects, w/ some value, eg:

- cities w/ populations
- positions on earth and amount of gold/water/oil underneath
- product ids and sales per product
- people and their salaries
- months and count of accidents

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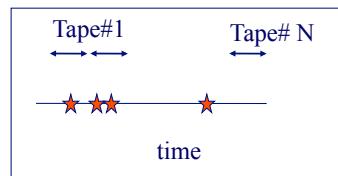
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## Use of multifractals:

- Estimate tape/disk accesses
  - *how many of the 100 tapes contain my 50 phonecall records?*
  - *how many days without an accident?*



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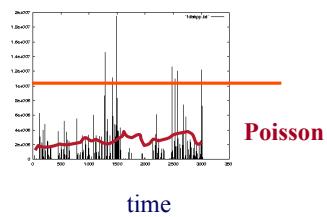
39



## Use of multifractals

- how often do we exceed the threshold?

#bytes



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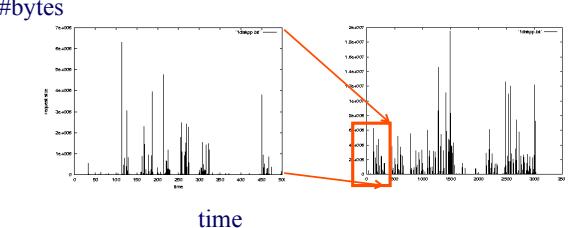
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## Use of multifractals cont' d

- Extrapolations for/from samples



#bytes

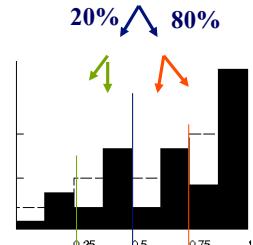
time

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## Use of multifractals cont' d

- *How many distinct products account for 90% of the sales?*



20% ↗ 80%

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## Conclusions

- Real data often **disobey** textbook assumptions (Gaussian, Poisson, uniformity, independence)

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## Conclusions

- Real data often **disobey** textbook assumptions (Gaussian, Poisson, uniformity, independence)

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## Conclusions - cont'd

Self-similarity & power laws: appear in **many** cases

Bad news:  
lead to skewed distributions  
(no Gaussian, Poisson, uniformity, independence, mean, variance)

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## Conclusions - cont'd

Self-similarity & power laws: appear in **many** cases

Bad news:  
lead to skewed distributions  
(no Gaussian, Poisson, uniformity, independence, mean, variance)

Good news: 

- ‘correlation integral’ for separability
- rank/frequency plots
- 80-20 (multifractals)
- (Hurst exponent,
- strange attractors,
- renormalization theory,
- ++)

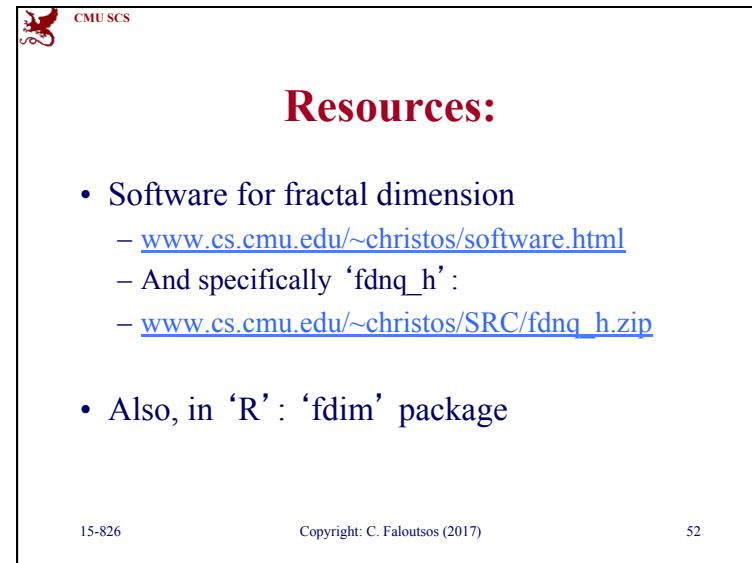
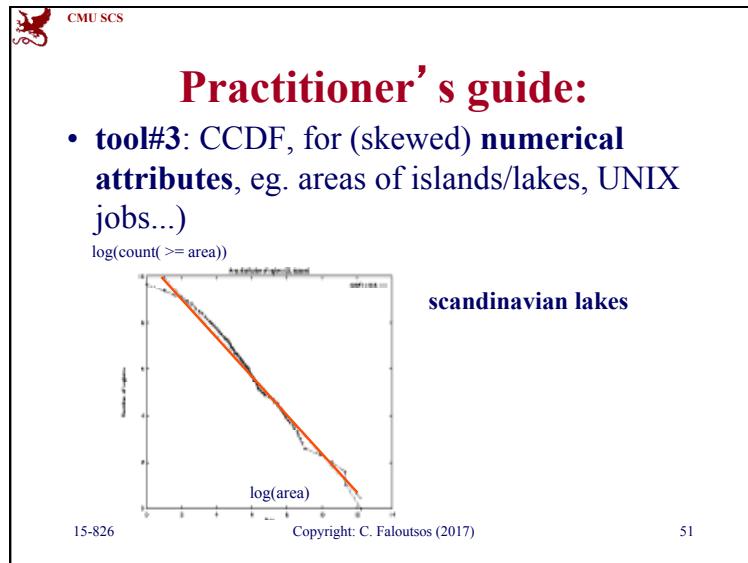
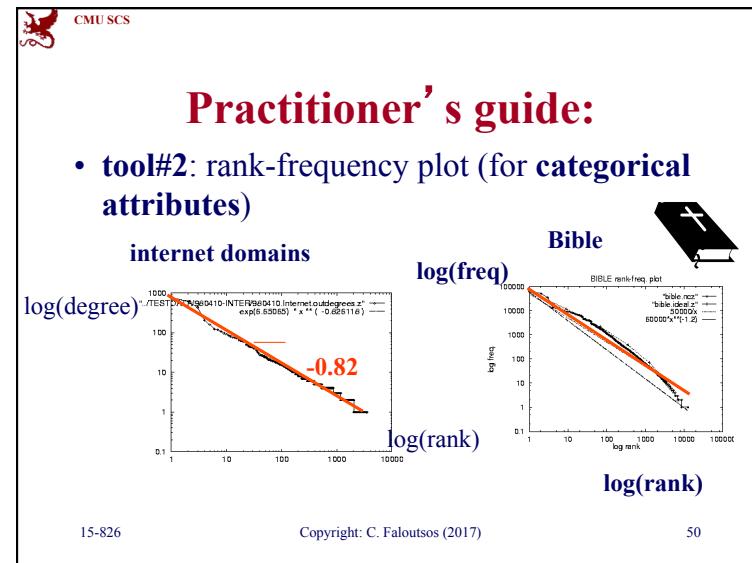
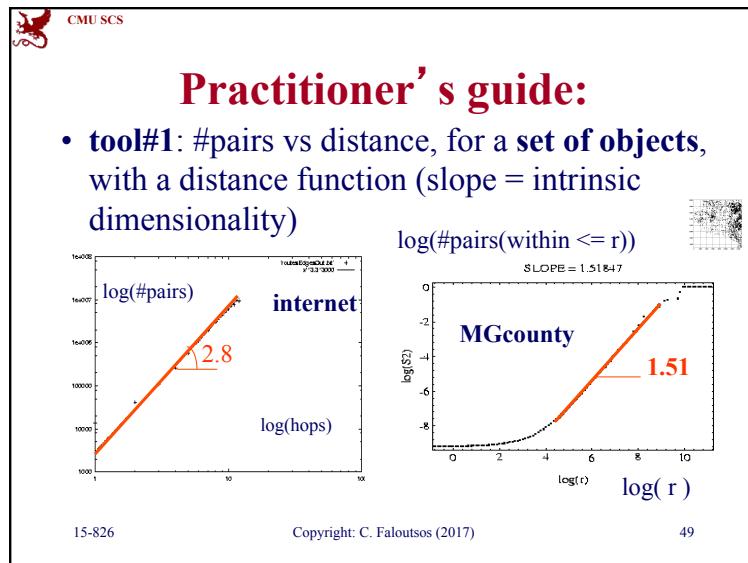
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## Conclusions

- tool#1: (for points) ‘correlation integral’ :** (#pairs within  $\leq r$ ) vs (distance  $r$ )
- tool#2: (for categorical values) rank-frequency plot (a’ la Zipf)**
- tool#3: (for numerical values) CCDF:** Complementary cumulative distr. function (#of elements with value  $\geq a$  )

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## Books

- Strongly recommended intro book:
  - Manfred Schroeder *Fractals, Chaos, Power Laws: Minutes from an Infinite Paradise* W.H. Freeman and Company, 1991
- Classic book on fractals:
  - B. Mandelbrot *Fractal Geometry of Nature*, W.H. Freeman, 1977

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## References

- [vl95] Alberto Belussi and Christos Faloutsos, *Estimating the Selectivity of Spatial Queries Using the 'Correlation' Fractal Dimension* Proc. of VLDB, p. 299-310, 1995
- [Broder+ '00] Andrei Broder, Ravi Kumar, Farzin Maghoul, Prabhakar Raghavan, Sridhar Rajagopalan, Raymie Stata, Andrew Tomkins, Janet Wiener, *Graph structure in the web*, WWW' 00
- M. Crovella and A. Bestavros, *Self similarity in World wide web traffic: Evidence and possible causes*, SIGMETRICS '96.

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- [pods94] Christos Faloutsos and Ibrahim Kamel, *Beyond Uniformity and Independence: Analysis of R-trees Using the Concept of Fractal Dimension*, PODS, Minneapolis, MN, May 24-26, 1994, pp. 4-13

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- [vl96] Christos Faloutsos, Yossi Matias and Avi Silberschatz, *Modeling Skewed Distributions Using Multifractals and the '80-20 Law'* Conf. on Very Large Data Bases (VLDB), Bombay, India, Sept. 1996.

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## References

- [vl96] Christos Faloutsos and Volker Gaede *Analysis of the Z-Ordering Method Using the Hausdorff Fractal Dimension* VLD, Bombay, India, Sept. 1996
- [sigcomm99] Michalis Faloutsos, Petros Faloutsos and Christos Faloutsos, *What does the Internet look like? Empirical Laws of the Internet Topology*, SIGCOMM 1999

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- [icde99] Guido Proietti and Christos Faloutsos, *I/O complexity for range queries on region data stored using an R-tree* International Conference on Data Engineering (ICDE), Sydney, Australia, March 23-26, 1999
- [sigmod2000] Christos Faloutsos, Bernhard Seeger, Agma J. M. Traina and Caetano Traina Jr., *Spatial Join Selectivity Using Power Laws*, SIGMOD 2000

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## References

- [Wang+' 02] Mengzhi Wang, Anastassia Ailamaki and Christos Faloutsos, [Capturing the spatio-temporal behavior of real traffic data](#) Performance 2002 (IFIP Int. Symp. on Computer Performance Modeling, Measurement and Evaluation), Rome, Italy, Sept. 2002

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## Appendix - Gory details

- Bad news: There are more than one fractal dimensions
  - Minkowski fd; Hausdorff fd; Correlation fd; Information fd
- Great news:
  - they can all be computed fast!
  - they usually have nearby values

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## Fast estimation of fd(s):

- How, for the (correlation) fractal dimension?
- A: Box-counting plot:  $\log(\text{sum}(\pi^2))$

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## Definitions

- $\pi_i$  : the percentage (or count) of points in the  $i$ -th cell
- $r$ : the side of the grid

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## Fast estimation of fd(s):

- compute  $\text{sum}(\pi^2)$  for another grid side,  $r'$

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## Fast estimation of fd(s):

- etc; if the resulting plot has a linear part, its slope is the correlation fractal dimension  $D_2$

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## Definitions (cont' d)

- Many more fractal dimensions  $D_q$  (related to Renyi entropies):

$$D_q = \frac{1}{q-1} \frac{\partial \log(\sum p_i^q)}{\partial \log(r)} \quad q \neq 1$$

$$D_1 = \frac{\partial \sum p_i \log(p_i)}{\partial \log(r)}$$

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## Hausdorff or box-counting fd:

- Box counting plot:  $\log(N(r))$  vs  $\log(r)$
- $r$ : grid side
- $N(r)$ : count of non-empty cells
- (Hausdorff) fractal dimension  $D_0$ :

$$D_0 = -\frac{\partial \log(N(r))}{\partial \log(r)}$$

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## Definitions (cont' d)

- Hausdorff fd:

$r$  —  $\log(\# \text{non-empty cells})$

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## Observations

- $q=0$ : Hausdorff fractal dimension
- $q=2$ : Correlation fractal dimension (**identical** to the exponent of the number of neighbors vs radius)
- $q=1$ : Information fractal dimension

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## Observations, cont' d

- in general, the  $D_q$ 's take similar, but not identical, values.
- except for perfectly self-similar point-sets, where  $D_q = D_{q'}$  for any  $q, q'$

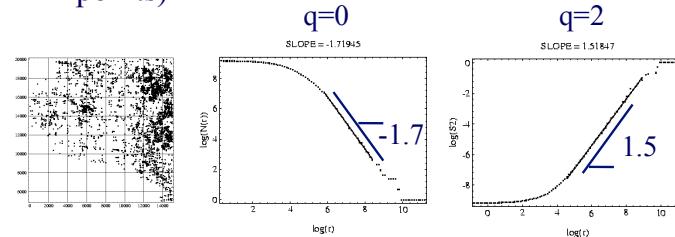
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## Examples: MG county

- Montgomery County of MD (road end-points)

$q=0$   $q=2$



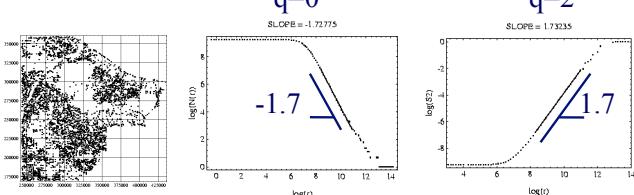
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## Examples: LB county

- Long Beach county of CA (road end-points)

$q=0$   $q=2$



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## Conclusions

- many fractal dimensions, with nearby values
- can be computed quickly ( $O(N)$  or  $O(N \log(N))$ )
- (code: on the web:
  - [www.cs.cmu.edu/~christos/SRC/fdq\\_h.zip](http://www.cs.cmu.edu/~christos/SRC/fdq_h.zip)
  - Or 'R' ('fdim' package)

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