



International Centre for Theoretical Physics  
South American Institute for Fundamental Research

# **SCHOOL ON COMPLEX NETWORKS AND APPLICATIONS TO NEUROSCIENCES**

## **CONNECTING NETWORKS**

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# OVERVIEW

## I.- Network Interaction

- Consequences of interaction
- Connectors

## II.- Competition

- Centrality
- Strategies
- Competition parameter
- Generality of the results

## III.- Cooperation

- Synchronization
- Single networks
- Interacting networks

# Network Interaction



Hunting ExoEarths | Denisovan DNA in Full | Secrets of Semen

# ScienceNews

MAGAZINE OF THE SOCIETY FOR SCIENCE & THE PUBLIC ■ SEPTEMBER 22, 2012

## Linking Up

Perils and  
promises  
of connecting  
networks



Star Factory

Sickening  
Tattoos

Crime-Solving  
Camera

# NETWORKS INTERACTING WITH OTHER NETWORKS

Example of interconnected networks (Madrid): (A) Suburban railway network, (B) the underground and (C) the tram lines.



Líneas de metro Metro lines	Líneas de tranvía Tram lines	Líneas de ferrocarril Suburban railway lines
<b>Metro de Madrid</b>	<b>Metro Ligero</b>	<b>Periferia Cercanías</b>
1 Pinar de Chamartín - Vallecas	1 Pinar de Chamartín - Las Tablas	C1 Alcobendas - Alcobendas, San Sebastián de los Reyes
2 La Alfranca - Castellanos	2 Colonia Jardín - Estación de Atocha	C2 Guadalupe - Atocha - Chamartín
3 Pinar de Chamartín - Vallecas	3 Colonia Jardín - Estación de Atocha	C3 Alcobendas - Alcobendas
4 Argüelles - Pinar de Chamartín	3 Colonia Jardín - Pinar de Chamartín	C4 Pinto - San Martín de la Vega
5 Avenida de Torres - Casa de Campo	Tranvía de París	C5 Alcobendas - Parla
6 Deseado	Tramway	C6 Alcobendas - Getafe - Alcorcón - Fuenlabrada - Humanes
7 Argüelles - Pinar de Chamartín		C7 Alcobendas - Humanes - Atocha - Chamartín - Pinar de Chamartín - Argüelles - Chamartín - Estación Vieja
8 Argüelles - Pinar de Chamartín		C8 Alcobendas - Chamartín - Villalba
9 Argüelles - Pinar de Chamartín		C9 Alcobendas - Chamartín - El Escorial
10 Argüelles - Pinar de Chamartín		C10 Alcobendas - Chamartín - Cornebelle
11 Plaza España - La Princesa		C11 Getafe - Getafe
12 Argüelles - Pinar de Chamartín		C12 Villalba - Pinar de Chamartín - Alcobendas - Chamartín - Tres Cantos
R Argüelles - Pinar de Chamartín		

Líneas de ferrocarril  
Suburban railway lines

Líneas de metro  
Metro lines

Líneas de tranvía  
Tram lines

The three networks **benefit** from being interconnected but also **compete** for acquiring users.

# INTERACTION HAS CONSEQUENCES ON ALL NETWORKS

## The case of the “savage strike”

Madrid, June 2010: A savage strike at the underground collapses all public transport networks.

**BREAKING NEWS**

23 people dead after attack by nomadic group on three villages in central Nigeria

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### Subway strike causes commuter chaos in Madrid

By the CNN Wire Staff  
June 29, 2010 -- Updated 1345 GMT (2145 HKT)



Long queues for a bus: Commuters in Madrid struggled on Tuesday as a labor strike shut down the Spanish capital's subway.

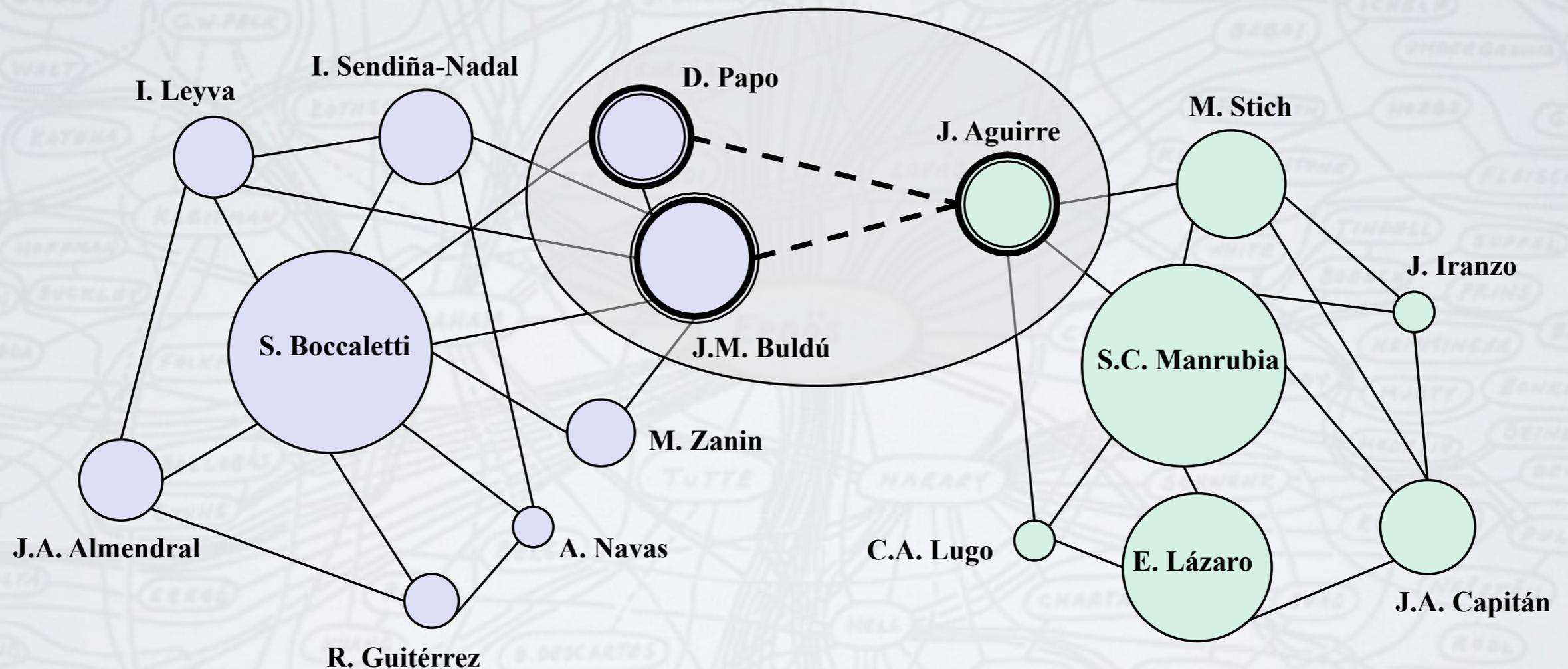
**RELATED TOPICS**  
Madrid  
Spain

**Madrid, Spain** -- Chaos reigned in Madrid Tuesday as a strike shut down the Spanish capital's metro system, forcing roughly 2.5 million riders to fill buses and taxis, reported CNN's sister network CNN Plus.



# INTERACTION HAS CONSEQUENCES ON ALL NETWORKS

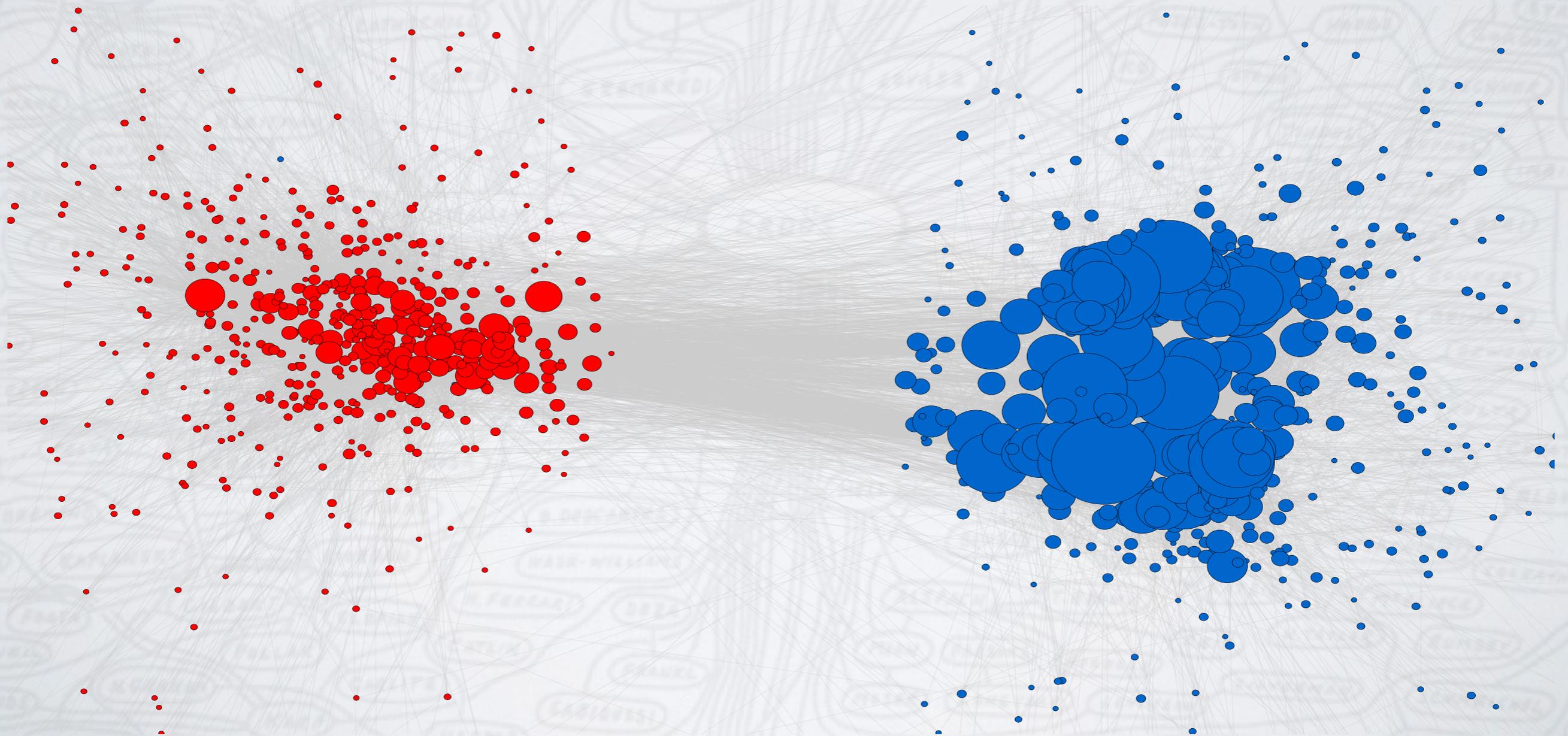
A more positive consequence: knowledge transfer



# NETWORKS INTERACTING BETWEEN THEM

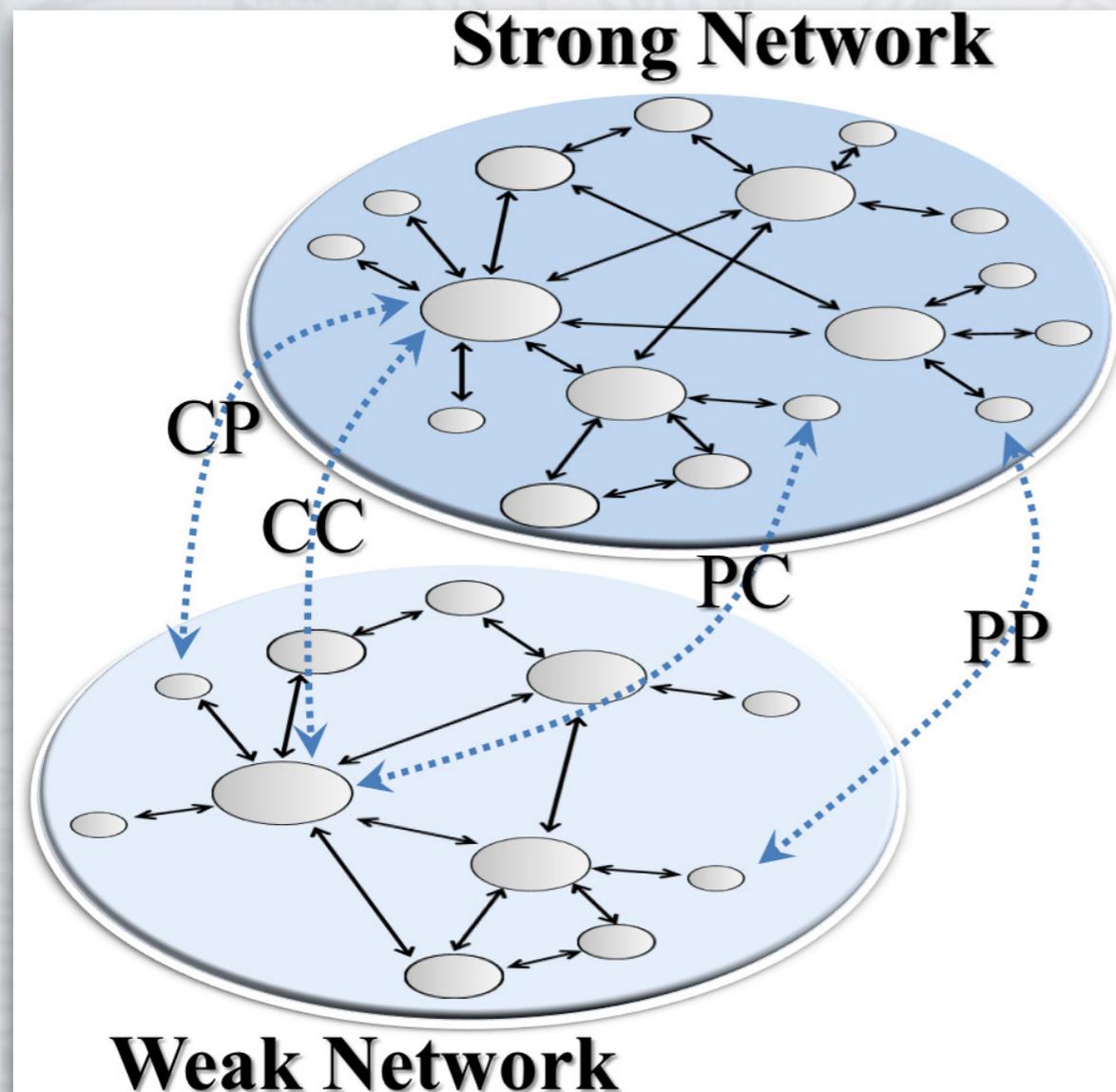
Interacting with other networks leads to changes in the structural/dynamical properties of each network, which leads to a natural question:

**How to create connections between networks?**



# CHOOSING THE ADEQUATE CONNECTORS: GENERAL STRATEGIES

We will focus on the way **connector links** are created:



- \* Links are not created randomly.
- \* We connect nodes according to their centrality (importance).
- \* Central nodes (C) and peripheral nodes (P).
- \* The strong (weak) network is the one with the highest (lowest) largest eigenvalue of the connection matrix.

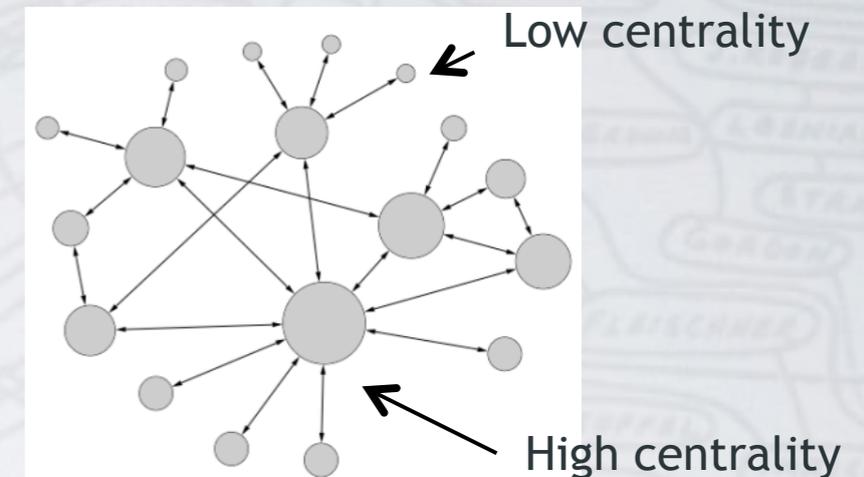
Schematic representation of the different strategies for creating connection paths between two undirected networks: CC, PP, CP and PC.

# CHOOSING THE ADEQUATE CONNECTORS: NODES ARE HETEROGENEOUS

- Importance of a node is quantified by the *eigenvector centrality*:

$$x_k = \gamma^{-1} \sum_j G_{kj} x_j \quad \gamma \vec{x} = \mathbf{G} \vec{x} \quad \vec{x}(t \rightarrow \infty) = \vec{u}_1$$

Interestingly, the eigenvector centrality  $x_k$ , is given by the eigenvector  $u_1$  associated to the first eigenvalue  $\lambda_1$  of  $G$ .



- Now, consider a dynamical process on a network described as:

$$\vec{n}(t+1) = \mathbf{M} \vec{n}(t) \quad M_{ij} \geq 0$$

- The state vector can be expressed as:

$$\vec{n}(t) = \mathbf{M}^t \vec{n}(0) = \sum_{i=1}^m (\vec{n}(0) \vec{u}_i) \lambda_i^t \vec{u}_i$$

$\vec{n}(0)$ : vector of initial conditions  
 $\lambda_i$ : eigenvalue  $i$  of the matrix  $M$   
 $\vec{u}_i$ : eigenvector  $i$  of the matrix  $M$

- Normalizing the state vector such that  $|\vec{n}(t)| = 1$

$$\lim_{t \rightarrow \infty} \left( \frac{\vec{n}(t)}{(\vec{n}(0) \vec{u}_1) \lambda_1^t} \right) = \vec{u}_1$$

The final state is described by the eigenvector  $u_1$  associated to the largest eigenvalue  $\lambda_1$ .

# Competition



# NETWORKS COMPETING BETWEEN THEM

If we want to identify the most convenient **strategies**, first we have to define a ...

TARGET



ACQUIRING CENTRALITY

specifically, eigenvector centrality

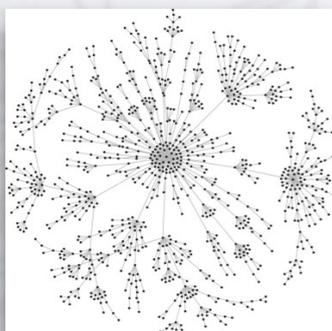


eigenvector  $u_1$  of the largest eigenvalue

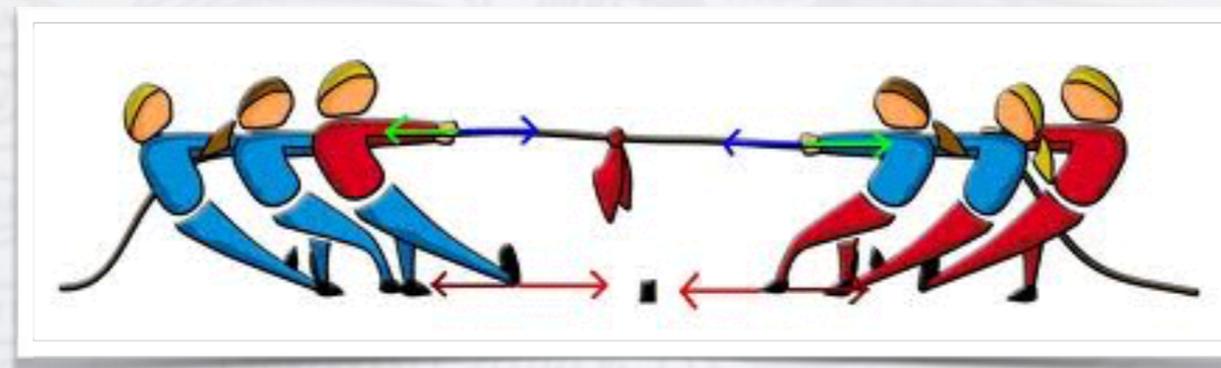
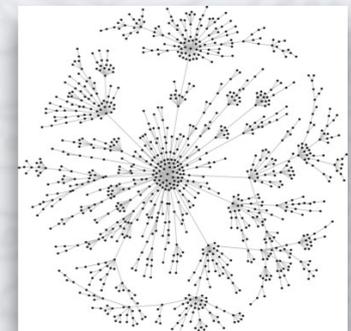


COMPETITION PROCESS

Network A

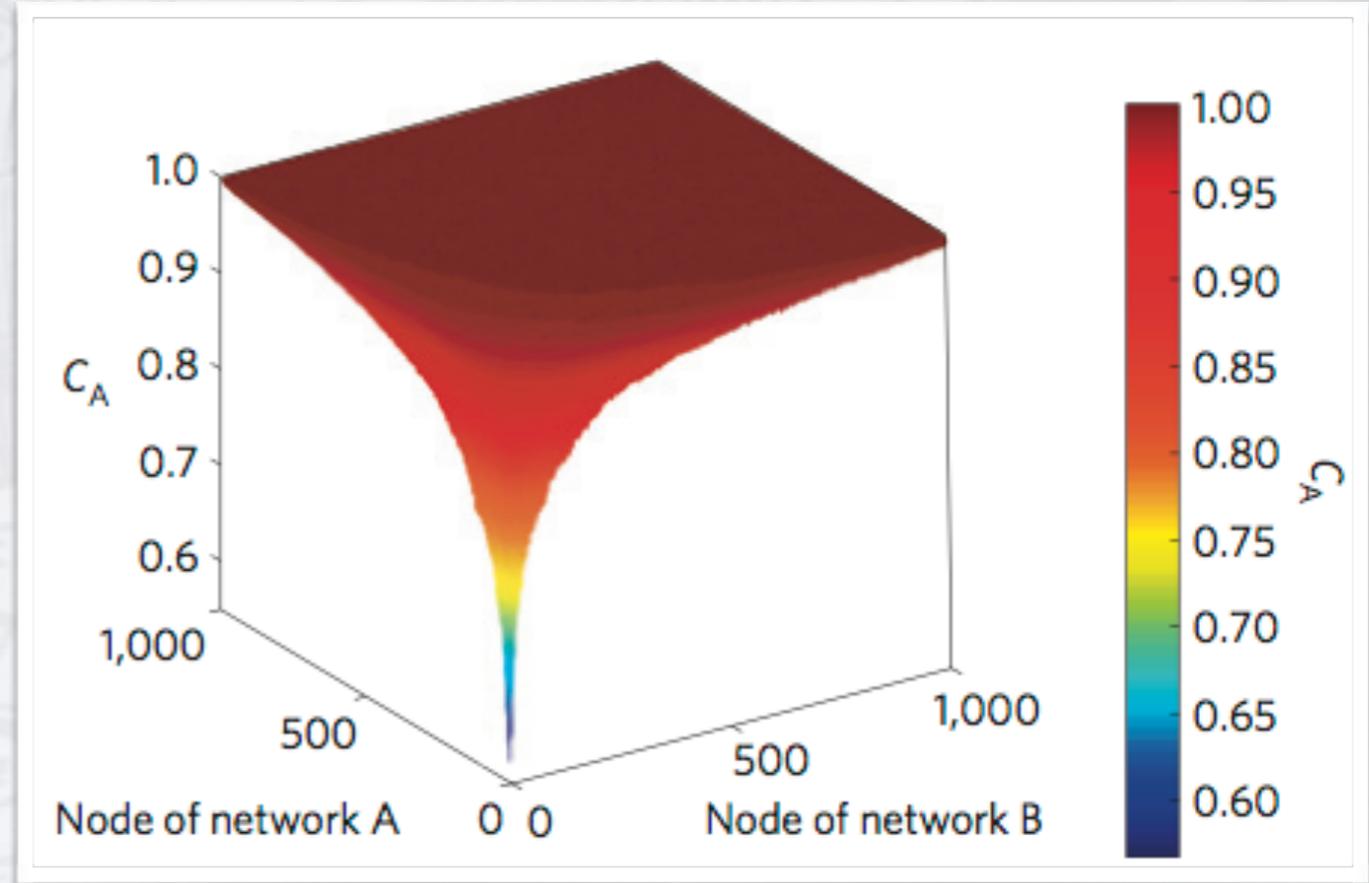
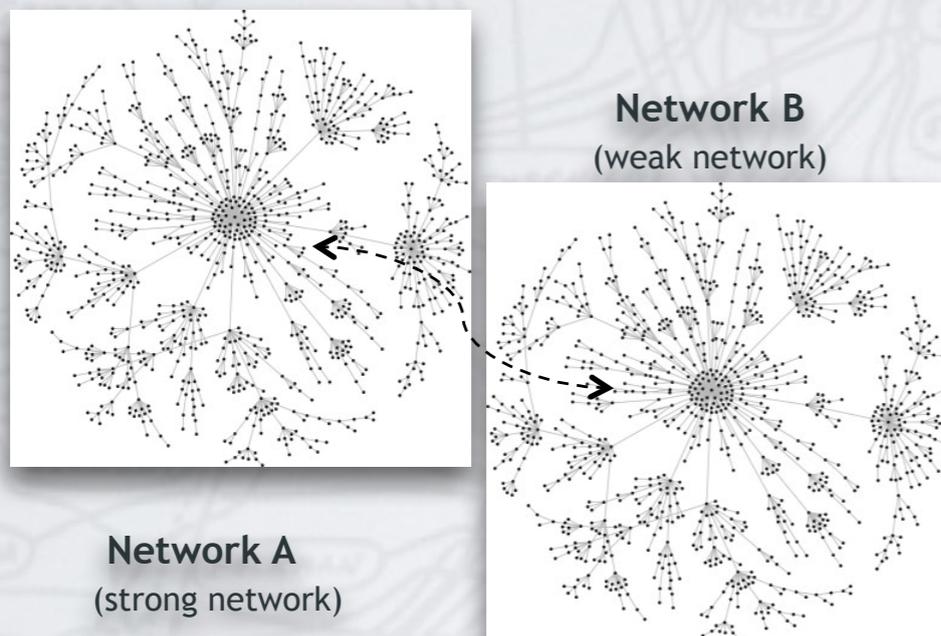


Network B



# NETWORKS COMPETING FOR CENTRALITY

We connect two Barabási-Albert networks with a **unique link in all possible configurations**, according to a weighted connection matrix  $\mathbf{M}$ . Next, we calculate the eigenvector centrality acquired by each network:



\* In this example, the weighted connection matrix  $\mathbf{M}$  represents a replication & mutation process of a population of RNA sequences, where  $\mathbf{M} = (2-m)\mathbf{I} + (m/3L)\mathbf{A}$ .

\*  $C_A$  is the centrality accumulated by network A and it is obtained from the eigenvector associated to the largest eigenvalue of the interconnected network, specifically from the centralities of nodes belonging to A.

Two Barabási-Albert networks A and B of size  $N_A = N_B = 1,000$  and  $L_A = L_B = 2,000$  links, connected by one single connector link in all possible configurations.  $C_A$  is the centrality accumulated by network A. The axes represent the connector nodes in networks A and B, and **nodes are numbered according to their network centrality ranking**. A is the strong network ( $\lambda_{A,1} > \lambda_{B,1}$ ).

# NETWORKS COMPETING FOR CENTRALITY

It is possible to evaluate **how the centrality of the whole network-of-networks will distribute** among each of the sub-networks:

1.- Before the connection:

$$\begin{array}{l}
 A = \{N_A, L_A\} \\
 B = \{N_B, L_B\}
 \end{array}
 \xrightarrow[\substack{A \text{ and } B \text{ get connected} \\ \text{to form } T}]{\lambda_{A,1} > \lambda_{B,1}}
 T = \{N_T, L_T\}
 \begin{array}{l}
 L_T = L_A + L_B + L \\
 N_T = N_A + N_B
 \end{array}$$

connector links  $\{cl\}$

2.- We connect the two networks:

$$P_{ij} = P_{ji} \neq 0 \text{ for } ij \in \{cl\}$$

$$M_T = M_{AB} + \varepsilon P$$

3.- Eigenvector centralities (before and after):

$$u_{T,1} = (c_1, c_2, c_3, c_4, \dots, c_{N-3}, c_{N-2}, c_{N-1}, c_N)$$

$$u_{A,1} = (c_1, c_2, c_3, c_4, \dots, 0, 0, 0, 0)$$

$$u_{B,1} = (0, 0, 0, 0, \dots, c_{N-3}, c_{N-2}, c_{N-1}, c_N)$$

4.- We quantify the centrality of each network:

$$C_A = \sum_{k \in A} (\vec{u}_1)_k / \sum_{k \in T} (\vec{u}_1)_k \quad C_B = 1 - C_A$$

## RESULTS & STRATEGIES

$$\vec{u}_{T,1} \approx \vec{u}_{A,1} + \varepsilon \frac{(\vec{u}_{A,1} P \vec{u}_{B,1})}{\lambda_{A,1} - \lambda_{B,1}} \vec{u}_{B,1}$$

**A. Difference between largest eigenvalues**  $1/(\lambda_{A,1} - \lambda_{B,1})$

**A.** The higher  $\lambda_{A,1} - \lambda_{B,1}$ , the higher  $C_A$

**B. Centrality of the connector nodes**  $(\vec{u}_{A,1} P \vec{u}_{B,1})$

**B1.** The larger the number of terms in  $P$  (connector links), the lower  $C_A$

**B2.** The higher the centrality of the connector nodes, the lower  $C_A$

# NETWORKS COMPETING FOR CENTRALITY

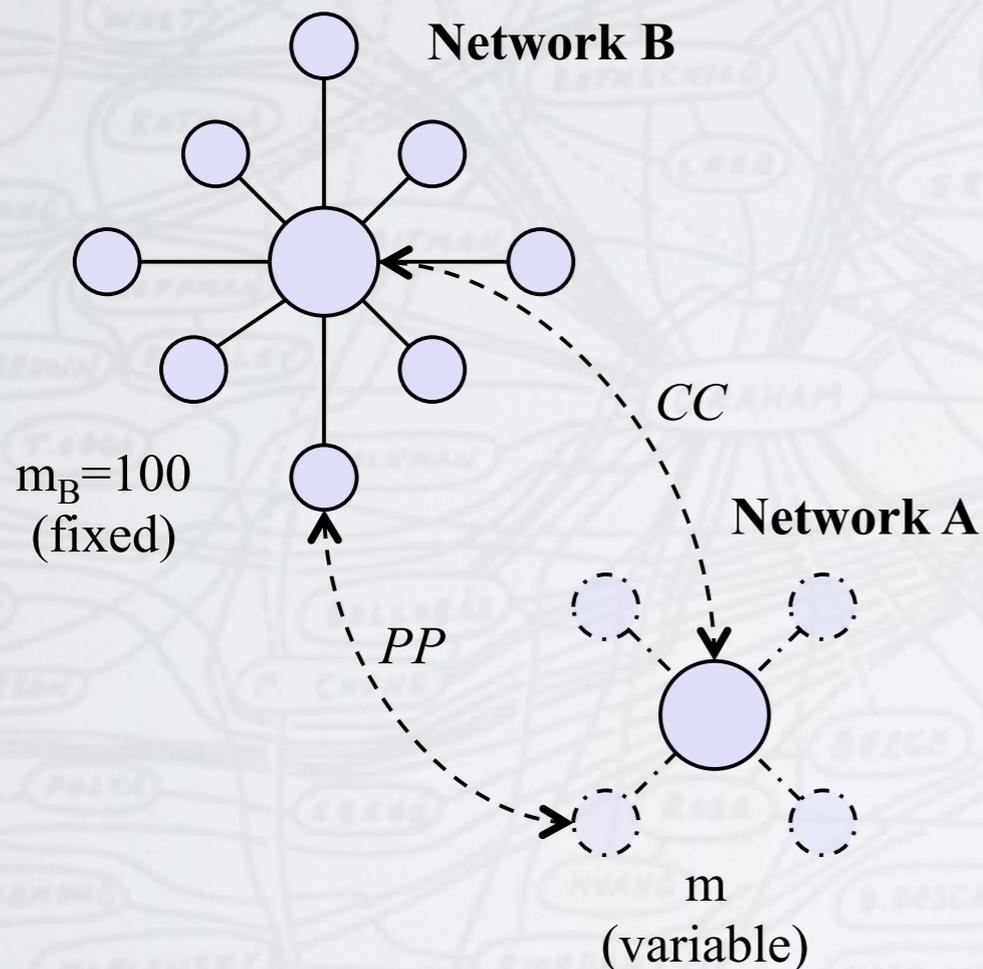
It is possible to define general strategies according to the kind of network:

- A **strong network** should connect through **peripheral** (P) nodes.
- A **weak network** should connect through **central** (C) nodes.
- The **higher the number of inter-connections** the better for the **weak network**.
- **Increasing the largest eigenvalue** of a network increases its centrality.

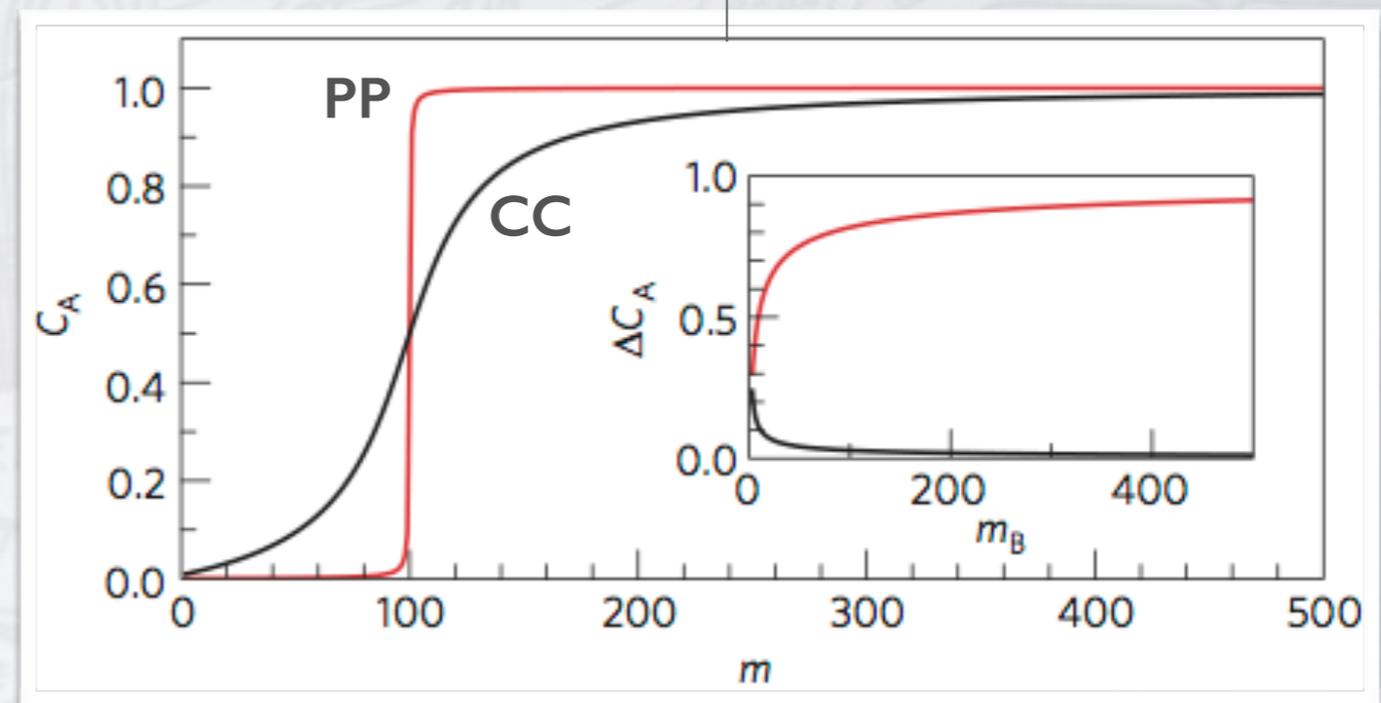
# NETWORKS COMPETING FOR CENTRALITY

As we all know, **size is important** (since it is related to  $\lambda_1$ ):

We connect two star networks of sizes  $m_B=100$  and  $m$  (variable):



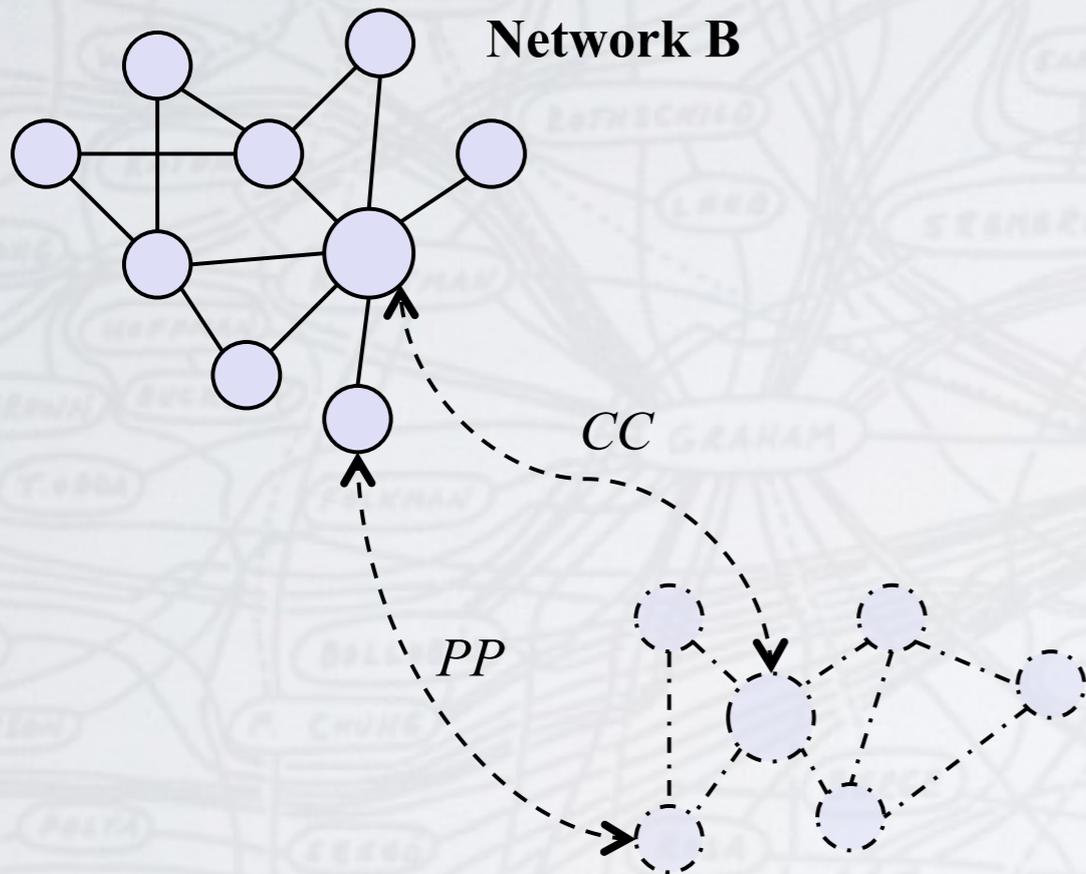
The strategy used in the interconnection determines the smoothness of the transition.



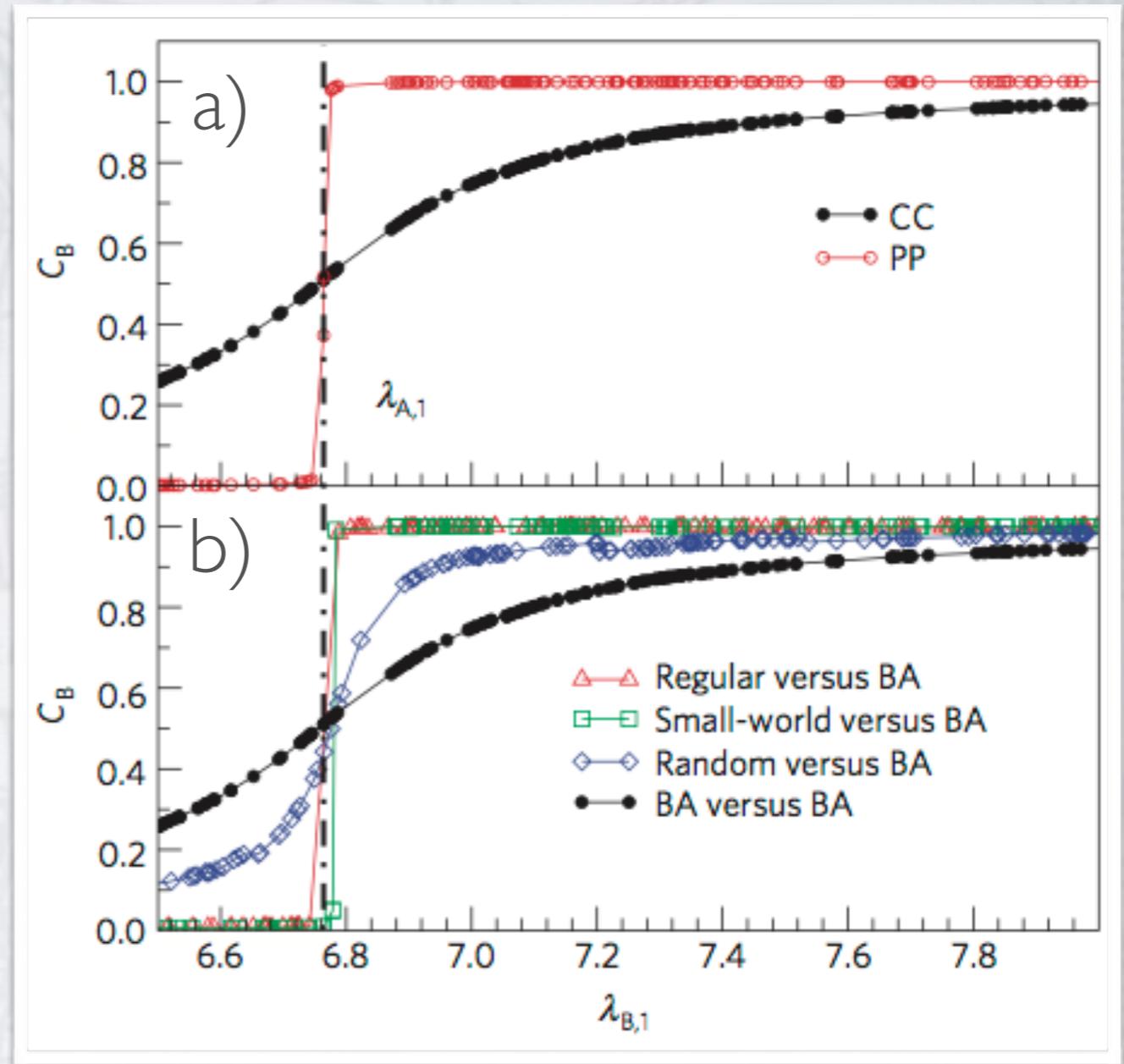
A star network **A** of  $m$  nodes competes, increasing its size (i.e., its  $\lambda_1$ ), against a star network **B** of  $m_B=100$  nodes.  $C_A$  depends on the size  $m$  and on the strategy used to create the connections between both networks ( $CC$  or  $PP$ ). The inset shows how the increase of  $C_A$  at  $m=m_B$  depends on the network size.

# NETWORKS COMPETING FOR CENTRALITY

If a network cannot grow, it may reorganize (**act locally, think globally!**):



*Network A reorganizes its internal structure to increase  $\lambda_{A,1}$*



a) Two connected Barabási-Albert (BA) ( $N_A=N_B=200$  nodes,  $L_A=L_B=400$  links), where network B reorganizes and overcomes network A ( $\lambda_{A,1}=6.76$ ). b) Different initial structures for network B (CC strategy).

# EVALUATING THE COMPETITION IN REAL NETWORKS

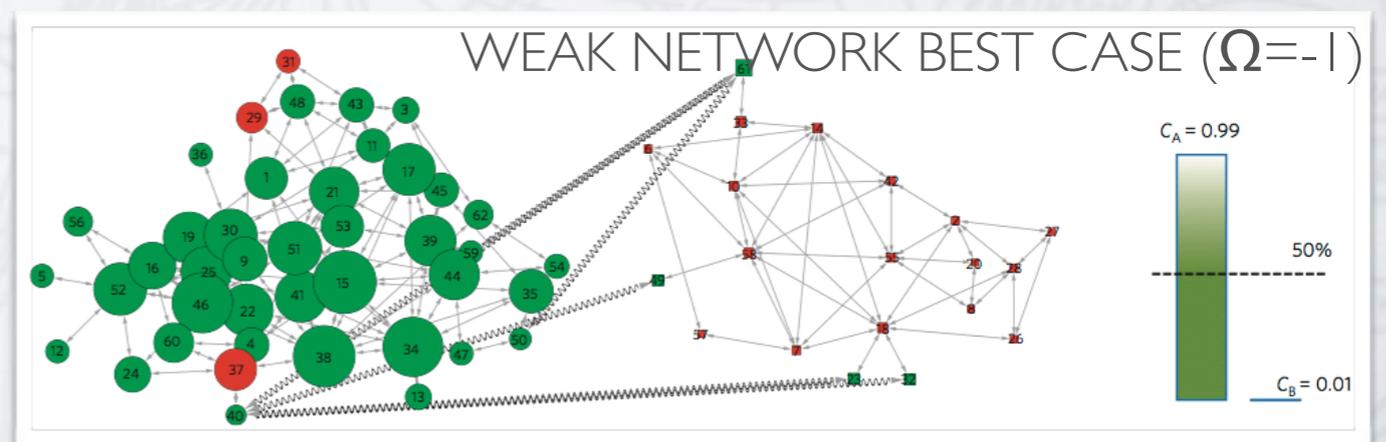
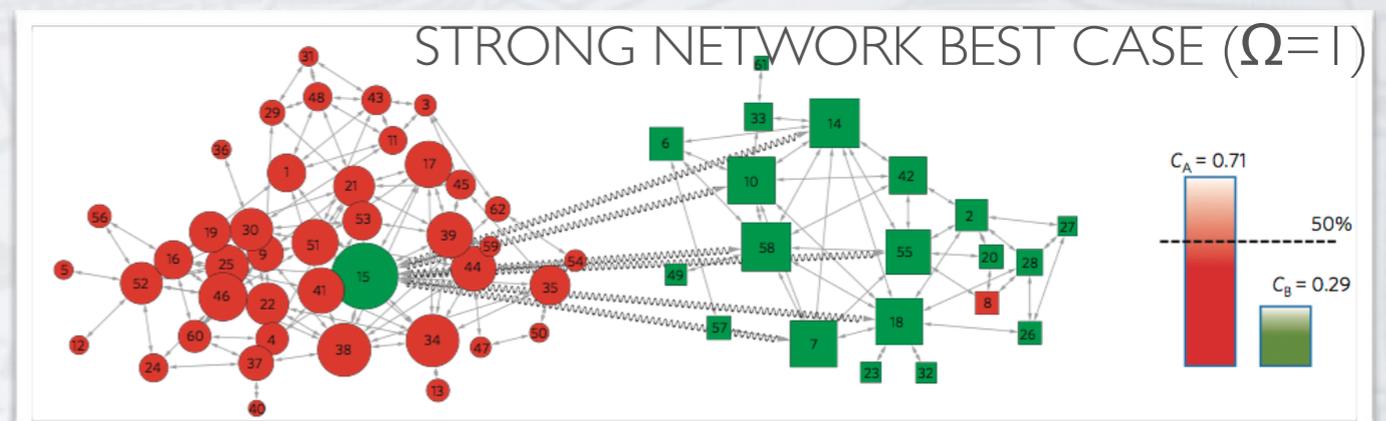
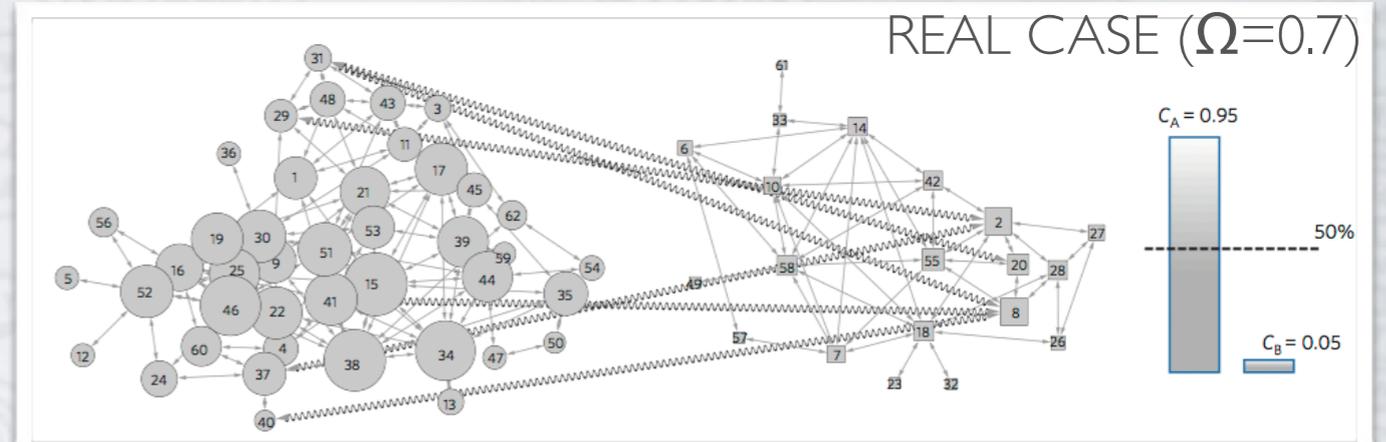
It is possible to define a **competition parameter** that indicates which network benefited from the structure of connections in real cases:

$$\Omega = \frac{2(C_A - C_A^{\min})}{C_A^{\max} - C_A^{\min}} - 1$$

STRONG NETWORK BEST CASE ( $\Omega=1$ )

WEAK NETWORK BEST CASE ( $\Omega=-1$ )

BALANCE OF STRATEGIES ( $\Omega=0$ )

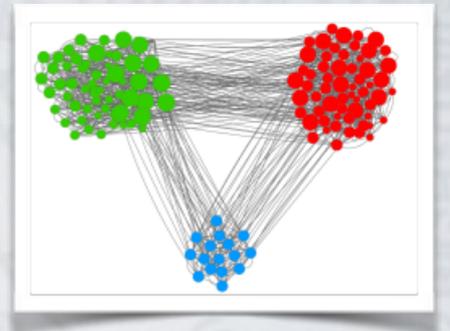


Dolphin network of Doubtful Sound ( $\Omega=0.7$ )

# EVALUATING THE COMPETITION IN REAL NETWORKS

The same methodology can be extended to other cases and applications:

- It is adaptable to **M interacting networks**.
- It also can be applied to **directed networks**.
- Any process related with the **first eigenvector of the transition matrix** and, in general, network processes described by  $n(t+1) = Mn(t)$ :
  - Importance of nodes in a network (e.g., pagerank)
  - Disease spreading (SI or SIR models)
  - Rumor propagation (MT or DK models)
  - Population dynamics (e.g., RNA evolutionary processes)



Maki-Thompson model  
(rumor propagation)



$y(t)$ : Probability of hearing a rumor  
 $\alpha$ : spreading rate  
 $\beta$ : blocking rate  
 $u_1$ : first eigenvector (centrality)

$$\vec{y}(t) \sim e^{[(\alpha+\beta)\lambda_1 - \beta]t} \vec{u}_1$$

# Cooperation



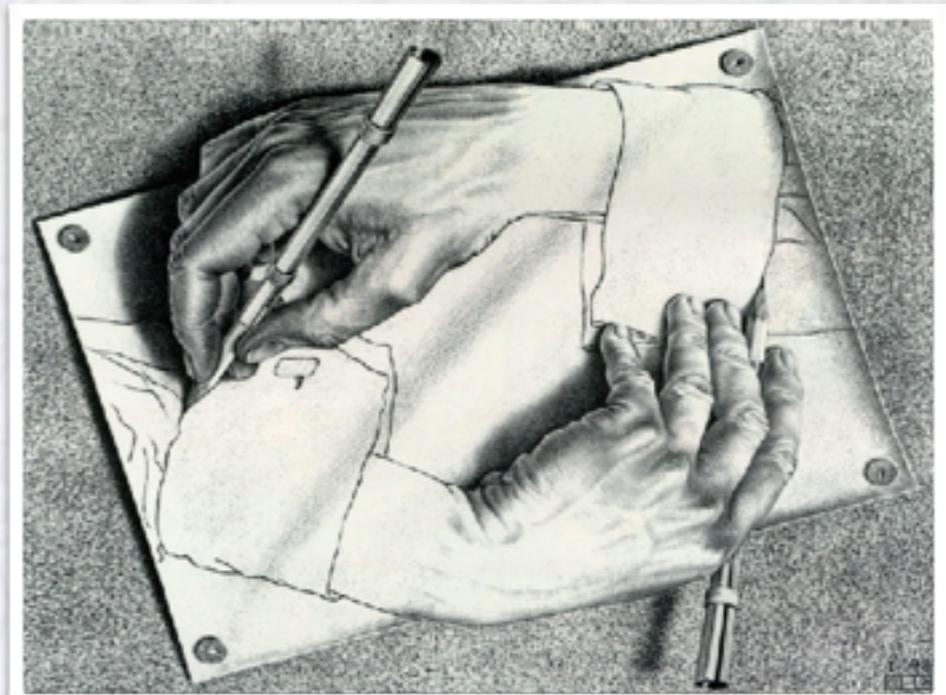
# FROM COMPETITION TO COOPERATION

Instead of competing, networks may be interested in collaborating...



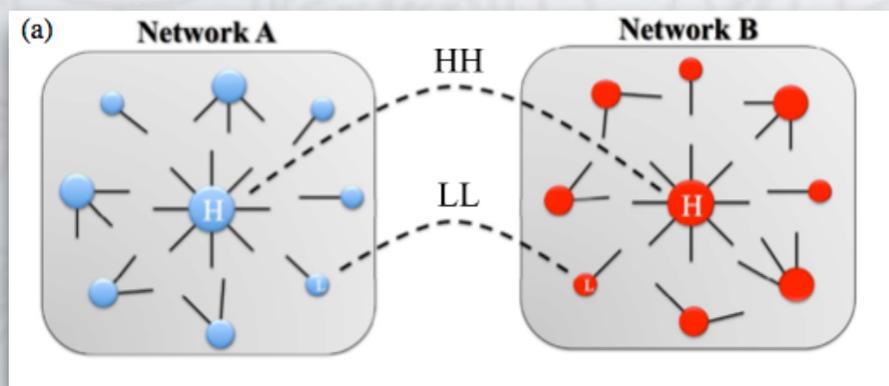
**COMPETITION**

**COOPERATION**

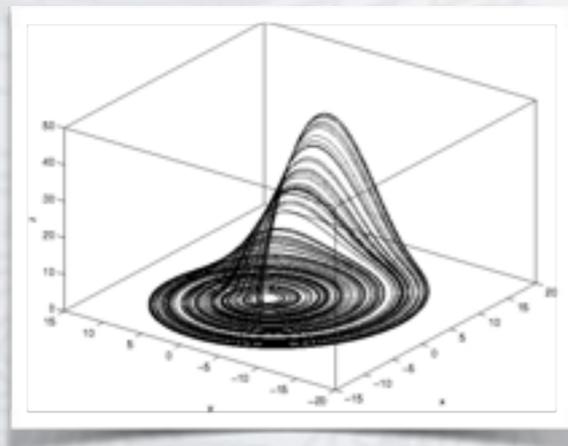


# NETWORKS COOPERATING TO ACHIEVE COMPLETE SYNCHRONIZATION

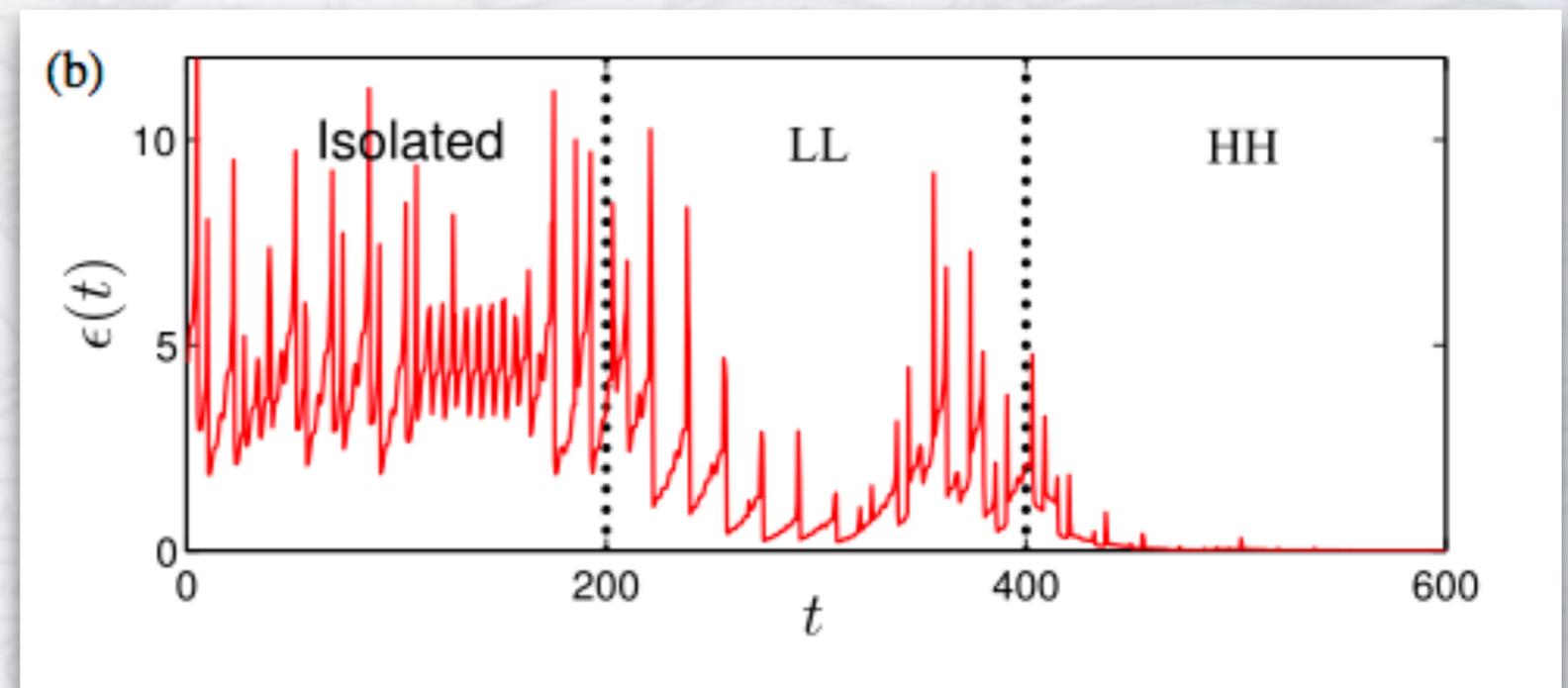
Suppose we are two networks, what is our best connection strategy to achieve complete synchronization?



Schematic representation of the different strategies for creating connection paths between two undirected networks. **High-degree nodes (H)** and **Low-degree nodes (L)**.



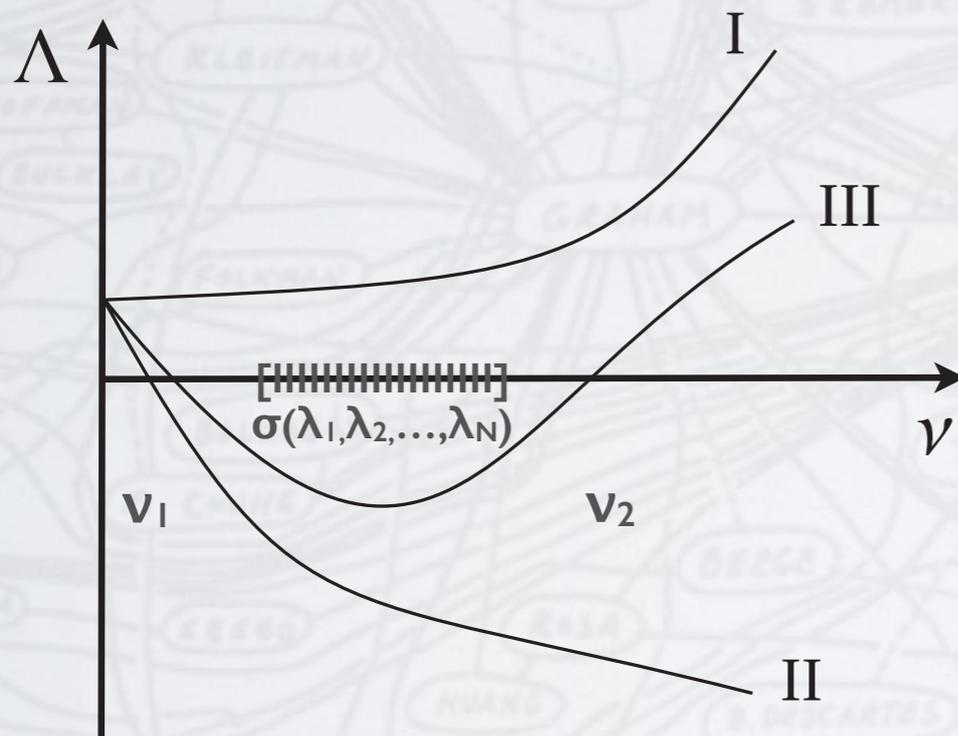
Synchronization error  $\epsilon(t)$  of two interconnected Barabási-Albert networks of  $N=200$  Rössler oscillators at three different stages: isolated, interconnected following a LL strategy, and replacing the LL connection with a HH one.



# COMMON OBJECTIVE: COMPLETE SYNCHRONIZATION IN DIFFUSIVELY COUPLED IDENTICAL SYSTEMS

The Master Stability Function\* (MSF) is a tool to evaluate the **stability of the synchronized state of diffusively coupled dynamical systems:**

$$\dot{\mathbf{x}}_i = \mathbf{F}(\mathbf{x}_i) + \sigma \sum_{j=1}^N a_{ij} w_{ij} [\mathbf{H}(\mathbf{x}_j) - \mathbf{H}(\mathbf{x}_i)] = \mathbf{F}(\mathbf{x}_i) - \sigma \sum_{j=1}^N G_{ij} \mathbf{H}(\mathbf{x}_j)$$



$\nu$  is related with  $\sigma\lambda_i$  where  $\sigma$  is the coupling strength and  $\lambda_i$  are the eigenvalues of the Laplacian matrix ( $G=S-W$ ) and  $\lambda_1 < \lambda_2 < \dots < \lambda_N$ .

\* Pecora & Carroll, PRL 1998

**Class I system:** Not synchronizable

**Class II system:**  $\sigma\lambda_2 > \nu_1$

↓  
(the higher, the better)

**Class III system:**  $\sigma\lambda_2 > \nu_1$

$\sigma\lambda_N < \nu_2$

↓  
 $r = \lambda_N / \lambda_2$   
(the lower, the better)

# STRATEGY FOR A NETWORK IN ISOLATION

If we are considering a **single network**, the best strategy is to connect peripheral nodes and to disconnect central nodes:

PRL 95, 188701 (2005)

PHYSICAL REVIEW LETTERS

week ending  
28 OCTOBER 2005

## Entangled Networks, Synchronization, and Optimal Network Topology

Luca Donetti,<sup>1</sup> Pablo I. Hurtado,<sup>2</sup> and Miguel A. Muñoz<sup>1</sup>

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(Received 9 February 2005; published 24 October 2005)

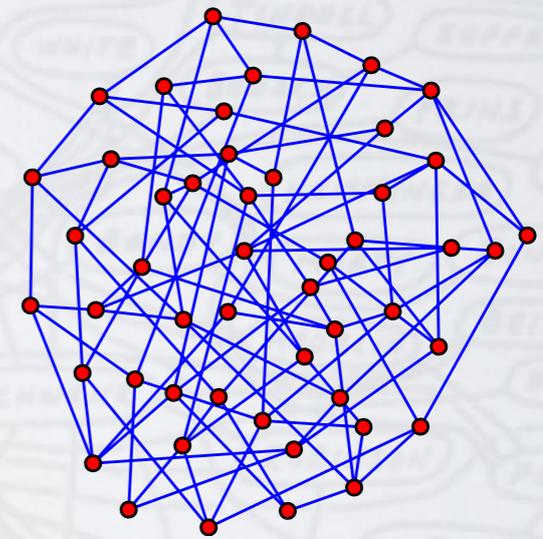
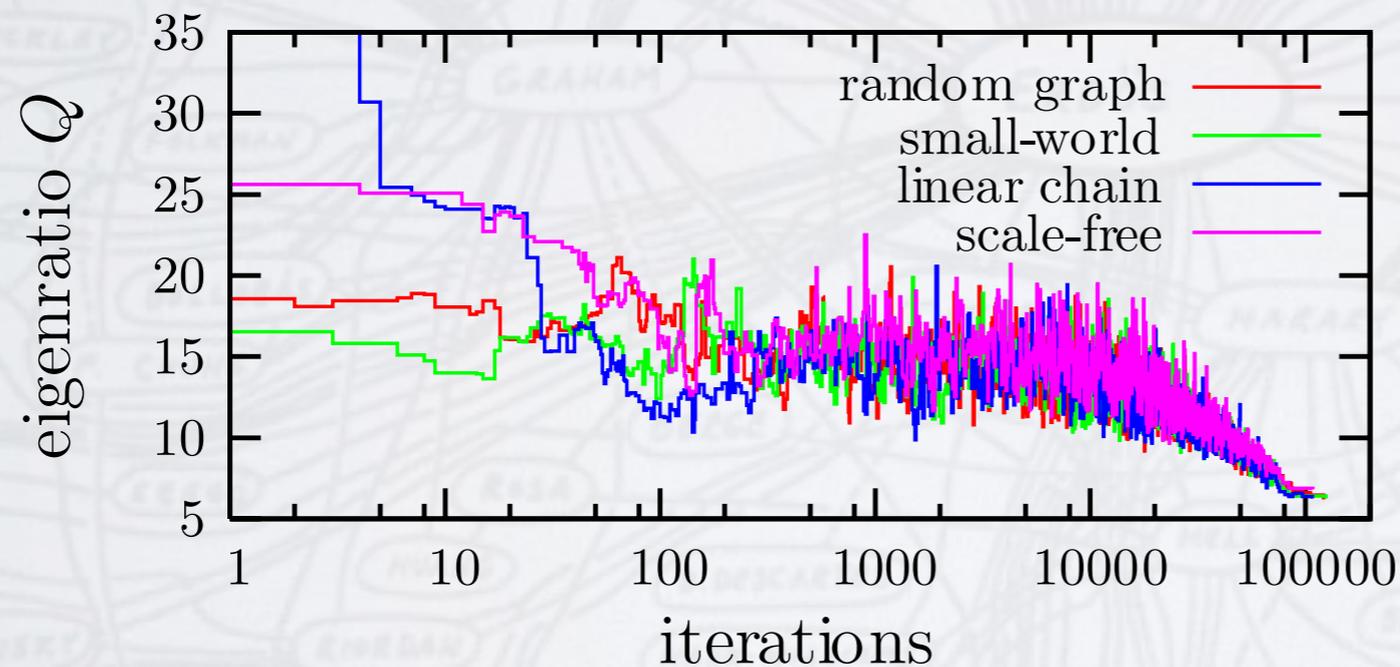
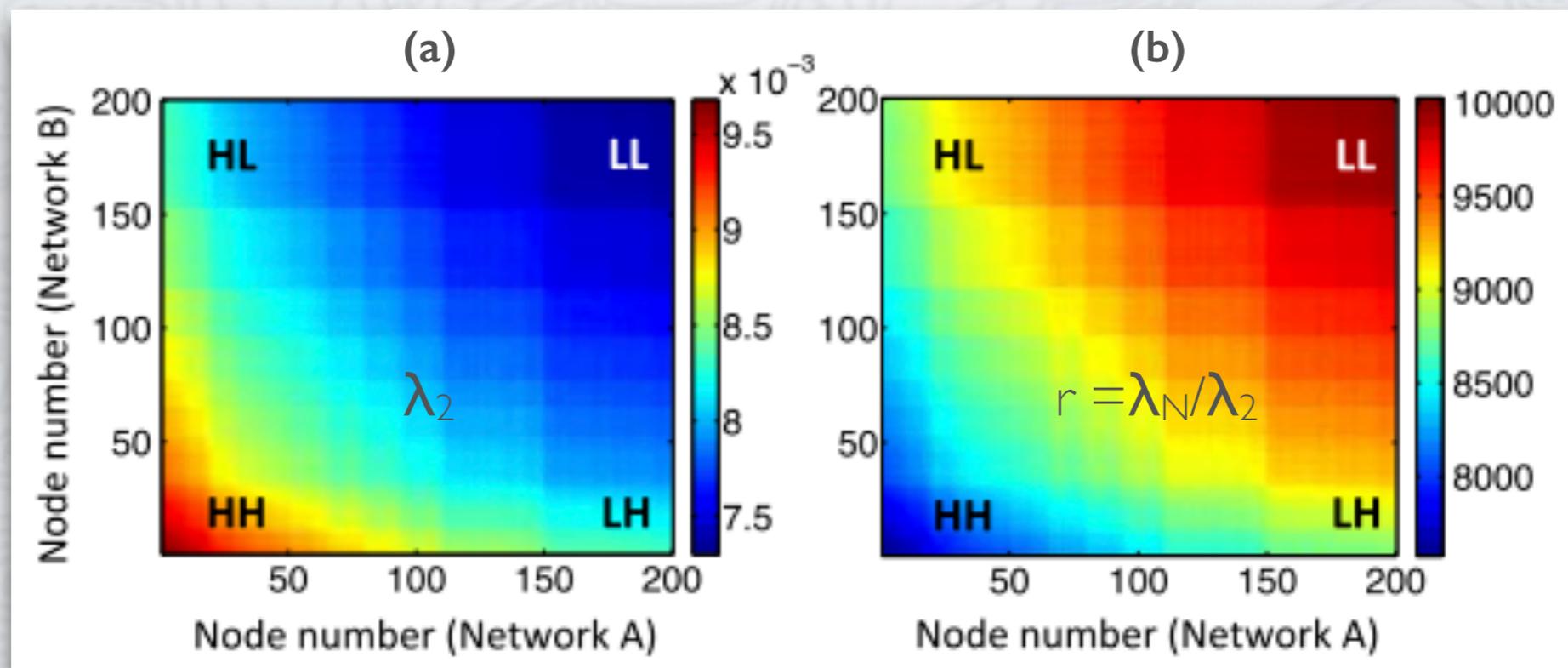


FIG. 1 (color online). Eigenvalue ratio  $Q$  as a function of the number of algorithmic iterations. Starting from different initial conditions, with  $N = 50$ , and  $\langle k \rangle = 4$ , the algorithm converges to networks, as the depicted one (b), with very similar values of  $Q$ .

Networks reorganizing to enhance synchronization (i.e., to minimize the eigenratio  $Q$ ): no matter the initial structure, they become more homogeneous.

# NETWORKS COOPERATING TO ACHIEVE COMPLETE SYNCHRONIZATION

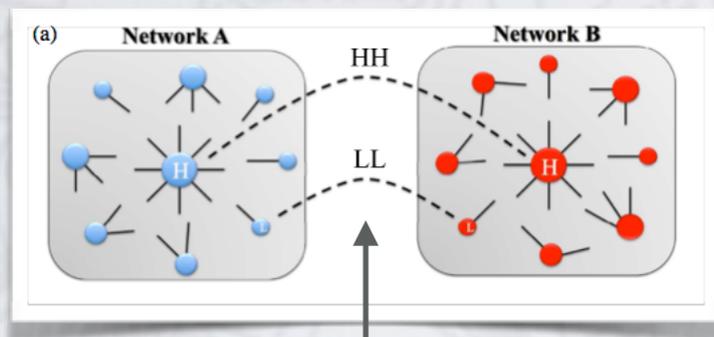
Should we connect or disconnect the hubs?



(a)  $\lambda_2$  of the network-of-networks obtained from connecting two Barabási-Albert networks ( $N=200$ ) with one interlink, in all possible configurations. The node numbers are ordered according to the node degree and, when coinciding, the eigenvector centrality. (b) Eigenratio  $r = \lambda_N / \lambda_2$  for the same case as (a).

# NETWORKS COOPERATING BETWEEN THEM

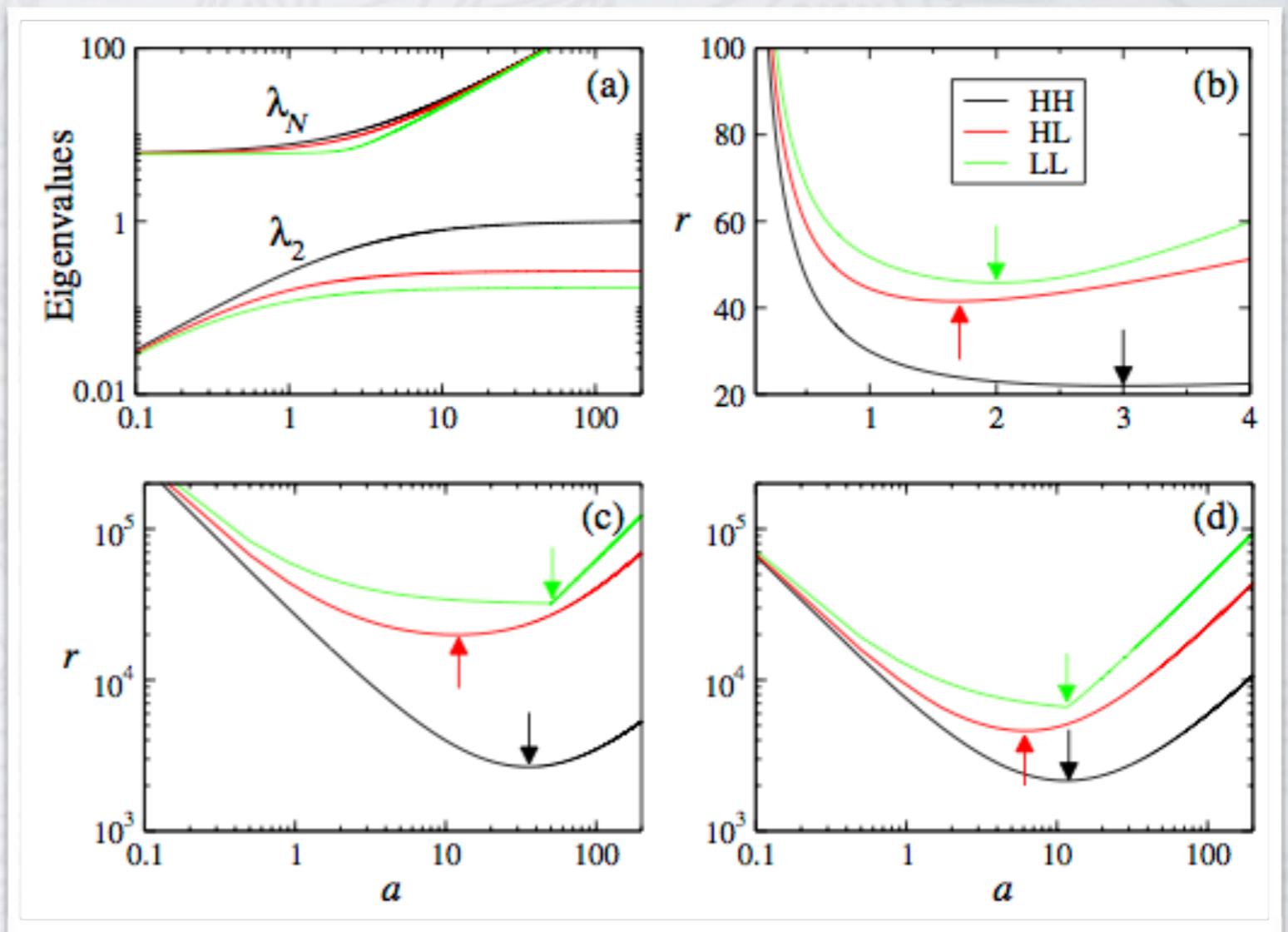
The strategy influences the ability to synchronize but also depends on the transition from a network-of-networks to a “single network”



**a**

(coupling strength)

FIG. 2 (color online). Synchronizability for two networks connected by a single interlink of weight  $a$ . (a)  $\lambda_2$  and  $\lambda_N$  for two star networks of 6 nodes each. (b),(c),(d) Eigenratio  $r$  for (b) two star networks ( $N = 6$ ), (c) two scale-free networks ( $N = 500$ ), and (d) two Erdős-Rényi random networks ( $N = 500$ ). Three connecting strategies are shown: HH (black), HL (red), and LL (green). The minima of the curves (arrows) correspond to maximum synchronizability [34]. Plots (a)–(b) were obtained analytically and (c)–(d) numerically.



High-degree nodes (H) and Low-degree nodes (L).

# COOPERATION IN REAL SYSTEMS: ELECTRONIC CIRCUITS

Can we translate these conclusions to real systems?

Theoretical predictions hold on in experiments where a certain parameter mismatch exists.

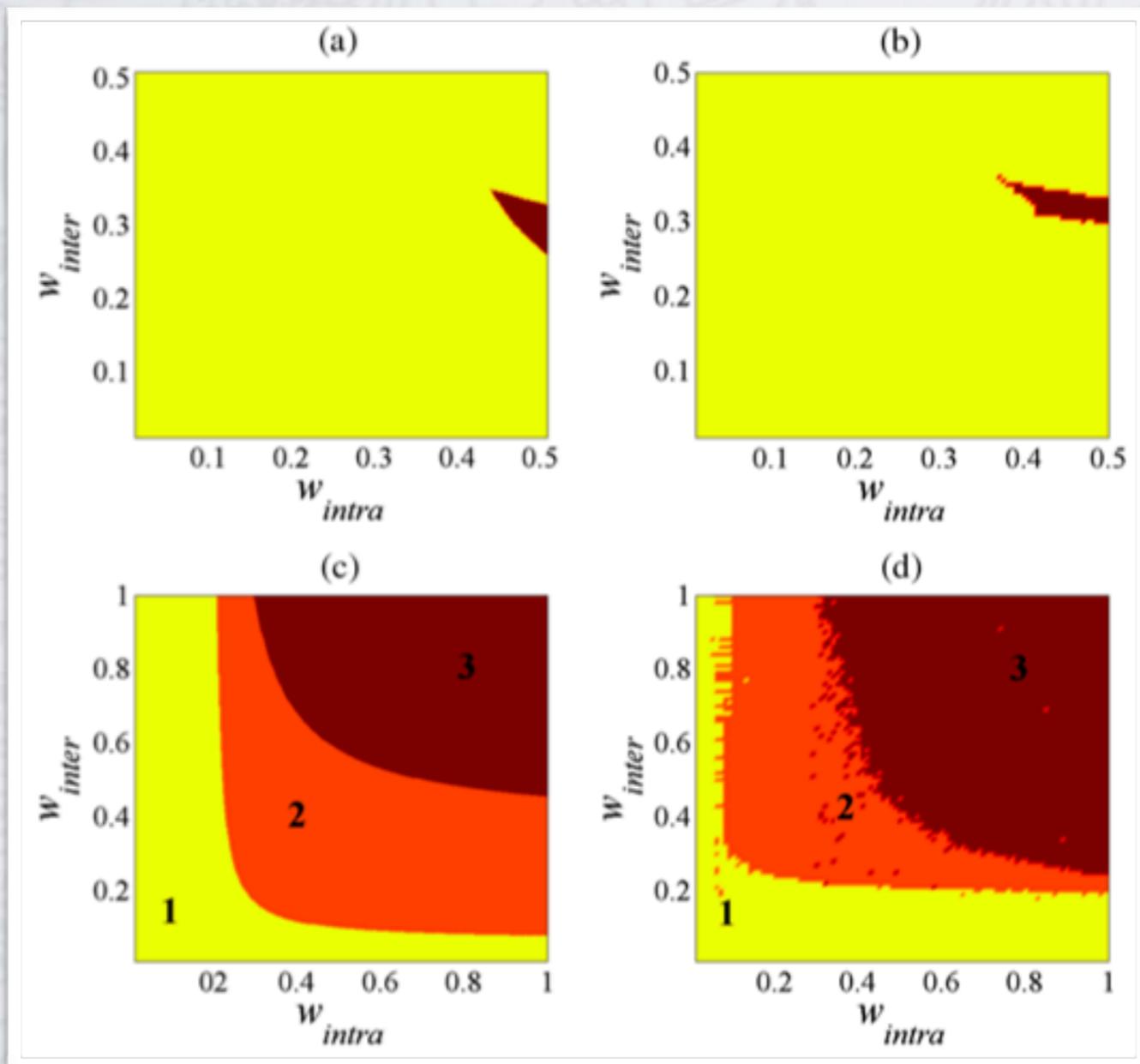


FIG. 4 (color online). Experimental verification of the phenomenology presented here. (a) and (b) show the regions of complete synchronization of two star networks of type III Rössler systems coupled by a HH strategy. Neither HL (LH) nor LL strategies lead to synchronization, as predicted by the theory and confirmed by the experiments (not shown here). (c) and (d) depict class II Rössler systems. Regions correspond to (1) no synchronization, (2) complete synchronization with the HH strategy, and (3) complete synchronization with the HH and the LL strategies. Results are theoretical [(a) and (c)] and experimental [(b) and (d)]. The zeroes of the MSF are  $\nu_1 = 0.107$  and  $\nu_2 = 2.863$  for class III and  $\nu_c = 0.0651$  for class II.

# TAKE HOME MESSAGE

Just one and simple message...

... be aware of the way networks are connected  
between them!

nature  
physics

LETTERS

PUBLISHED ONLINE: 24 FEBRUARY 2013 | DOI: 10.1038/NPHYS2556

## Successful strategies for competing networks

J. Aguirre<sup>1\*</sup>, D. Papo<sup>2</sup> and J. M. Buldú<sup>2,3\*</sup>

PRL 112, 248701 (2014)

PHYSICAL REVIEW LETTERS

week ending  
20 JUNE 2014

### Synchronization of Interconnected Networks: The Role of Connector Nodes

J. Aguirre,<sup>1,2</sup> R. Sevilla-Escoboza,<sup>3,4</sup> R. Gutiérrez,<sup>5</sup> D. Papo,<sup>6</sup> and J. M. Buldú<sup>4,7</sup>

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