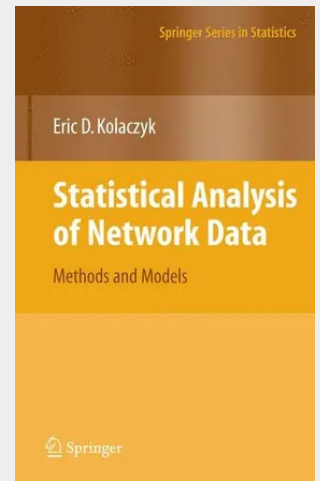


Statistical Analysis of Network Data

Methods and Models

In recent years there has been an explosion of network data – that is, measurements that are either of or from a system conceptualized as a network – from seemingly all corners of science. The combination of an increasingly pervasive interest in scientific analysis at a systems level and the ever-growing capabilities for high-throughput data collection in various fields has fueled this trend. Researchers from biology and bioinformatics to physics, from computer science to the information sciences, and from economics to sociology are more and more engaged in the collection and statistical analysis of data from a network-centric perspective. Accordingly, the contributions to statistical methods and modeling in this area have come from a similarly broad spectrum of areas, often independently of each other. Many books already have been written addressing network data and network problems in specific individual disciplines. However, there is at present no single book that provides a modern treatment of a core body of knowledge for statistical analysis of network data that cuts across the various disciplines and is organized rather according to a statistical taxonomy of tasks and techniques. This book seeks to fill that gap and, as such, it aims to contribute to a growing trend in recent years to facilitate the exchange of knowledge across the pre-existing boundaries between those disciplines that play a role in what is coming to be called 'network science'.

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