

Mentor fecundity and protégé performance

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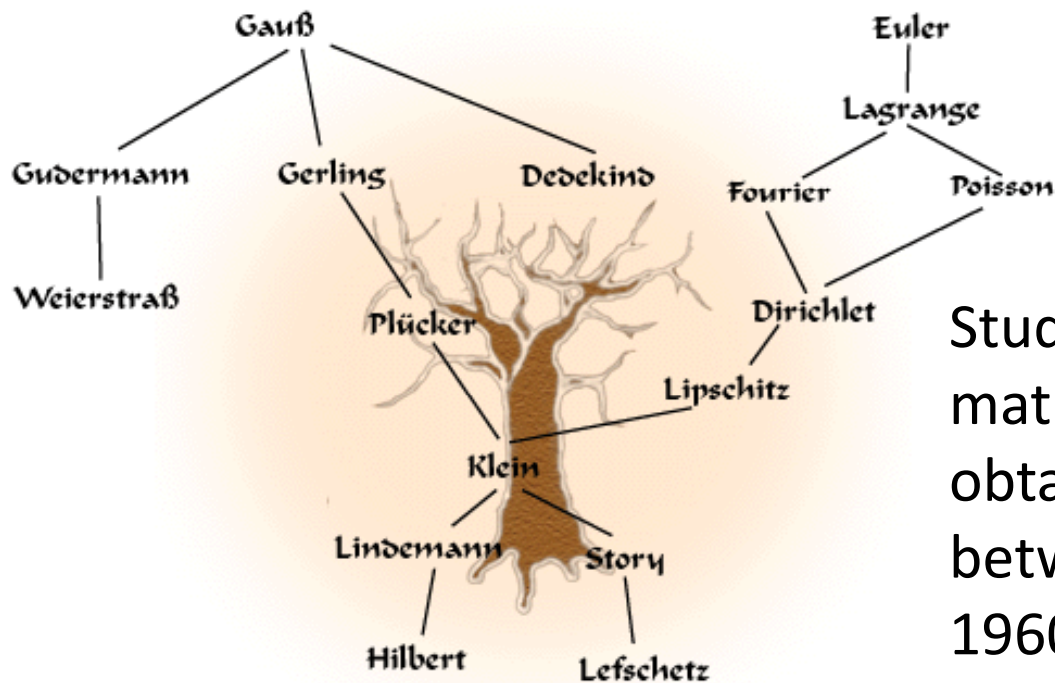
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Questions

- ✓ Does mentor fecundity correlate with other measures of academic productivity and recognition?
- ✓ Does mentor fecundity impact fecundity of protégé?

Large longitudinal database

Mathematics Genealogy Project

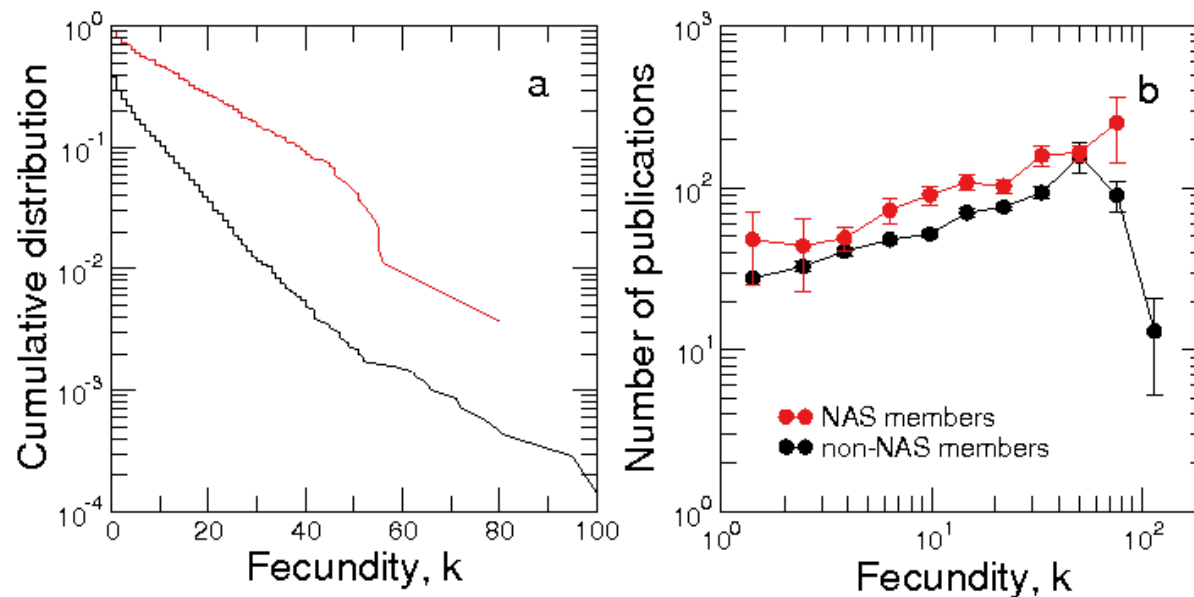


Studied career of 7,259 mathematicians who obtained their *Ph.D.* between 1900 and 1960

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141184 records as of 20 April 2010

Fecundity and academic success



469 members of NAS
4,447 mathematicians with publication counts
7,259 mathematicians with fecundity counts

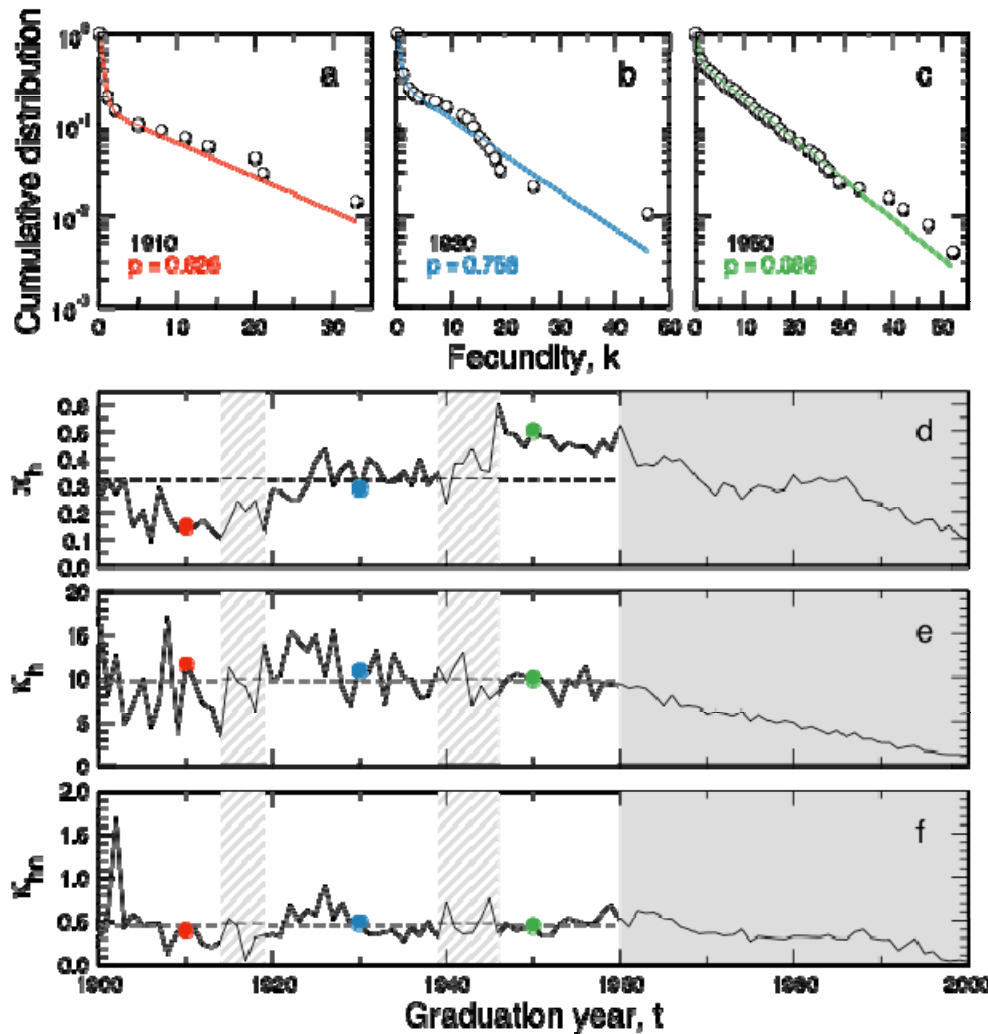
Questions

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Fecundity of proteges

	$k < 3$	$3 \leq k < 10$	$K \geq 10$
1 st third of career			
2 nd third of career			
3 rd third of career			

“Haves” and “have-nots”



$P(k)$ decays exponentially

Fecundity of proteges

	$k < 3$	$3 \leq k < 10$	$K \geq 10$
1 st third of career	37% larger	---	29% larger
2 nd third of career	37% larger	---	---
3 rd third of career	37% larger	---	31% smaller