Network Science as the Dual of Statistics

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If statistics is concerned with the collection, management, analysis, presentation, and interpretation of data, then so is network science. The distinction lies neither in a universal network theory nor the complex systems of certain application domains but (i) an incidence structure relating the units of observation and (ii) a corresponding focus on dependencies among observations. While not mainstream, this view clears away some of the smoke and mirrors obscuring the close relationship between statistics and network science.