

## LOOKING FOR YOUR ERDŐS NUMBER?

### USE THE WEB!

Steven J. Wilson swilson@jccc.edu  
 Johnson County Community College

Kansas City Regional Math Tech Expo, October 2014

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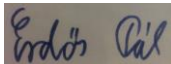
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## Paul Erdős

- 1913-1996
- Born in Hungary
- Prolific mathematician (over 1500 papers)
- Extensive collaborator (over 500 coauthors)



- Sources for more info:
  - *My Brain is Open*, Schechter, 1998 (book)
  - *N is a Number*, Csicsery, 2004 (DVD)




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## Erdős Numbers

- Measure the collaborative distance from Erdős
  - Erdős has number 0
  - Coauthors of Erdős have number 1
  - Coauthors of coauthors of Erdős have number 2
  - And so on ...
- If multiple paths exist, use the shortest path
- If no path exists, then Erdős number is  $\infty$

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## For Purists

- A connection is valid only if there existed
  - A research collaboration
  - Between at least two
  - Mathematicians (often others are allowed)
  - Which resulted in a published paper
- Arguable connection:
  - Erdős and Hank Aaron signed the same baseball

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## Erdős Number Project

• <http://www.oakland.edu/enp/>




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**The Erdős Number Project**

OU Home > The Erdős Number Project > Computing Your Erdős Number

**Computing Your Erdős Number**

Return to Erdős Number Project home page

The first step in computing your Erdős number should be to search the Erdős file to see whether you or your coauthors are listed if you are a coauthor of Paul Erdős, then presumably you know it. If you are a coauthor of a coauthor (i.e., you have Erdős number

If you would like help in determining your Erdős number, write us and we'll do our best to find a short path of coauthorships (no guarantees, but we have pretty good data and automated search methods). If you have published a paper reviewed in

AMERICAN MATHEMATICAL SOCIETY  
**MathSciNet**  
 Mathematical Reviews

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it's probably much more fun, however, for you to try to find the links yourself, using **MathSciNet** if your institution has access. (If it doesn't, then bug them to subscribe!)

Actually **Mathematical Reviews** provides an even easier method. **MathSciNet** will automatically find a path in their database from you to Paul Erdős, or between any two people you wish (there is a special button for selecting Paul Erdős as one end of

There is another website that offers a service like this, run by Microsoft. Click [here](#) to try it.

Microsoft  
**Academic Search**

*For free*

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### Microsoft Academic Search

• <http://academic.research.microsoft.com/VisualExplorer#2019273&1112639>

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### It Knew Me!

- But only one of my collaborators
- And no path to Paul Erdős

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### Another coauthor has a connection!

**NOT**

Summers Kalishman & Sanjeev Arora  
MD @ U New Mexico

László Lovász & Sanjeev Arora  
CS @ Princeton

E Virginia Calkins & Jeffrey C Allen

T L Willoughby & Adela Connolly

G J Dangio & Audrey Evans

Paul Erdős & János Komlós

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