# A study of the impact of BRAC's programme on the community networks in a village Matlab, Bangladesh

Shamim Ara
Abbas Bhuiya
AMR Chowdhury

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Research and Evaluation Division, BRAC, 75, Mohakhali, Dhaka - 1212

## INTRODUCTION:

BRAC delivers the multi-sectors integrated programme in the community for the development services. The Rural Development programme (RDP) is the largest multi-sectoral integrated programme activity through which BRAC delivers its development services in the community. It utilizes the village organizations (VOs) as the vehicles for reaching its services like income-generation, non-formal primary education (NFPE) and essential health care (EHC) to the rural people (RDP half-yearly report, 1995). In the year 1992 BRAC introduced RDP in some of the areas of the International Centre for Diarrhoeal Disease Research, Bangladesh (ICDDR,B) in Matlab as a collaborative partner and thus created a new opportunity on the impact of socioeconomic interventions (Baseline survey, 1991). ICDDR,B provides extensive maternal and child health and family planning services in its treatment area while its comparison area is provided only free ORS from the centre. The normal government and health services are provided in both the areas. This paper presents a study of the impact of BRAC on the community Network in a village in the BRAC's study area in Matlab, which forms a part of the comparison area of this project. This study was carried out in a Matlab village, Fatepur where a similar study was carried out before the BRAC was initiated (Anwar et al., 1993).

## OBJECTIVES

The general objective of this study was to learn about the community networks in a village in the BRAC area in Matlab.

Actual data collection for this research was carried out during July-August, 1995. For comparison between 1991 and 1995 secondary sources were used. The original respondents or the starters were randomly selected from different broad occupational groups with probability proportionate to the size of the group. Accordingly, one occupation was selected from every 40 households. These occupational groups were agriculture laborer, boatman, businessman, day laborer, beggar, agriculture, service, and household work and rickshaw puller. One male, heads of the household and a female (a responsible housewife) from a neighboring household were chosen for interview from each occupation. The original sample of respondents or the starters were asked to name their sociometric referrals who then became respondents in a second phase of data gathering; then the second stage of snowballs were asked to name further sociometric referrals to constitute the respondents at the third stage. In this procedure there were 18 respondents as starters, 60 as the second phase referrals and 71 as the third phase referrals; that made a total of 149 respondents in this investigation for three round of snowballs. The questionnaire for sociometric referrals was related to (i) health (ii) social and (iii) economic issues. The more specific questions that required to be answered by the respondents for sociometric data collection on the above three issues are as follows: Of the people living in your village or locality, who would you take advice from/give advice to regarding the members of your household about, (1) health problems (diarrhoea, fever, whooping cough or any female disease) and family planning/birth control, (2) socio-conflict issues (birth or death events, matrimonial affairs, religious ceremonies/festivals, and arbitration/disputes/rivalries/educational etc.) and (3) economic/financial matters (credit, loan, debt, earning and spending).

## CHARACTERISTICS OF THE STUDY VILLAGE

Fatepur is one of the villages in the comparison area under the Matlab project of ICDDR,B. This village was included under BRAC's Programme along with other villages in the year 1992. The village is situated within the Meghna-Dhonagoda Embankment project in the Matlab thana. It is within a radius of two and half a kilometer northwest from the headquarters of Matlab thana. It is easily accessible by rickshaw and requires only crossing of a small river on which the Matlab Bazar stands. The village has 410 households with a population of 2298. The male to female population ratio is equal: 50.4% VS 49.6%. Agriculture, agricultural laborers and non-agricultural day laborers are the major occupations in the village. The other minor occupations include fisherman, boatman, rickshaw-puller, and businessman and service employees. According to rapid rural appraisal (RRA) carried out in the village four socio-economic categories of households (A, B, C and D) were identified. The households falling in category A comprises of those owning more than 250 decimals of land, including services employees and established business. 16% of the households belong to this category. The households in category B comprise of those owning 50 to 250 decimals of land including the sharecroppers, small businessmen and petty service employees. The households in category C are those having <50 decimals of land, day laborers and small businessmen. Categories B and C comprise of 30% of the households. Households in category D comprise of 54% of the households who are the land less people, the poorest of the poor and the beggars. There is only one primary school and one high school in the village. The village is yet to be included in the rural electrification scheme. BRAC runs two non-

formal primary education (NFPE) schools in the village. There are two village organizations (VOs) under BRAC's programme. Two Sastho Shebikas of BRAC have been working in this village.

## ANALYSIS OF RESULTS

The paper presents community networks (health, social and economic) and leadership overlap or replication of leadership in 1995 (post RDP) and compares these with those in 1991 (pre-RDP) in Fatepur, a village in BRAC Programme area. In this paper only the top ten sociometric referrals (scores) will be shown in tabular forms by registration identification (RID) numbers and or simple rank order to examine overlaps or replication in networks leadership positions in 1995 and between 1991 and 1995. The demographic and socio-economic characteristics of only the top ten scorers in various networks for 1995 will be compared and their implications for network relationship will be discussed.

## RESULTS

### Network relationship in 1991:

Leadership overlap between networks by the rank order of network leaders and their RID numbers is presented in table 1. One network leader (referral) replicated his position in all the three networks, health, social and economic: He was belong 2$^{nd}$ position in health network, 7$^{th}$ position in social network and 4$^{th}$ position in economic network. Two network leaders replicated their positions between two networks, social and economic: One such network leader in the social network (rank order 1) replicated his position to the economic network in the same rank order. Another one of the two network leaders

changed his position from the social network (rank order 9) to the economic network (rank order 10).

**Table: 1 Leadership overlap between networks by rank order of network leaders and their registration identification (RID) numbers in 1991.**

| Rank order of network leaders | Snowball number of network leaders | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| | Health network | Social network | Economic network |
| 1 | F53 | M52 | M52 |
| 2 | M33 | M75 | M103 |
| 3 | M48 | M06 | M86 |
| 4 | M72 | M86 | M33 |
| 5 | M03 | M58 | M58 |
| 6 | F91 | M31 | M106 |
| 7 | F01 | M33 | M34 |
| 8 | F25 | M28 | M16 |
| 9 | M105 | M99 | M35 |
| 10 | F40 | M118 | M99 |

**Network relationship in 1995:**

Leadership overlap between network by rank order of network leaders and their RID numbers in 1995 is presented in table 2. One network leader replicated his position in all the three networks health, social and economic. He was belonging 3rd position in health network, 4th position in social network and 7th position in economic network. Two network leaders (referrals) replicated their positions between two networks. One of them replicated her position from the health network (rank order 5) to the economic network (rank order 1). Another one network leader replicated his position from the social network (rank order 1) to the economic network (rank order 9).

**Table: 2 Leadership overlap between networks by rank order of network leaders and their registration identification (RID) numbers in 1995.**

| Rank order of network leaders | Snowball number of network leaders | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| | Health network | Social network | Economic network |
| 1 | M105 | M144 | M144 |
| 2 | F106 | M80 | M80 |
| 3 | M218 | F129 | F129 |
| 4 | M138 | M218 | M218 |
| 5 | M139 | F152 | F152 |
| 6 | F117 | M03 | M03 |
| 7 | M122 | M209 | M209 |
| 8 | M123 | M30 | M30 |
| 9 | F58 | M60 | M60 |
| 10 | M44 | M170 | M170 |

**Differences between 1991 and 1995 on network relationship:**

Leadership overlaps or replicated within network by rank order of network leaders and their RID numbers in 1991 and 1995 is presented in table 3. Three leaders from the health network replicated their positions between 1991 and 1995: rank order 3, 4, and 7 replicated their position to rank order 10, 1 and 9 respectively. Six network leaders from the social network replicated their position between1991 and 1995; rank order 1, 2, 3, 4, 9 and 10 replicated their positions to rank order 9,2,6,1,10 and 4 respectively. One network leader in 1991 from the economic network replicated his position, (rank order 3) to rank order 9 in 1995. A network leader who replicated his position between the social network (rank order 9) and the economic network (rank order 10) in 1991 replicated his position in the social network (rank order 10) in 1995. Another one network leader, who replicated his position between the social network and the economic network (rank order 1 in both networks) in 1991 replicated his leadership position in the social network (rank order 9) in 1995.

**Table: 3** **Leadership overlap within networks by rank order of network leaders and their registration identification (RID) numbers in 1991 and 1995.**

| Rank order of network leaders | RID number of network leaders | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | Health network | | Social network | | Economic network | |
| | 1991 | 1995 | 1991 | 1995 | 1991 | 1995 |
| 1 | ✣1V06007604 | ✡1V06019001 | 1V06007601 | 1V06021905 | 1V06007601 | 1V06022202 |
| 2 | 1V06005702 | 1V06019002 | ❋1V06019701 | ❋1V06019701 | 1V06025808 | 1V06029401 |
| 3 | **✷1V06007003** | 1V06033001 | ***1V06001701*** | ♥1R00012306 | **1V06021905** | 1V06021001 |
| 4 | ✡1V06019001 | 1V06022201 | 1V06021905 | *1V06033001* | 1V06005702 | ✣1V06024202 |
| 5 | 1N00002403 | 1V06022202 | 1V06008101 | ♥1V06022802 | 1V06008108 | ✣1V06017802 |
| 6 | 1V06022302 | ✧1V06021202 | 1V06005501 | ***1V06001701*** | 1V06026901 | 1V06028402 |
| 7 | ***❀1D98033206*** | 1V06020403 | 1V06005702 | 1V06030903 | 1V06005941 | 1V06033001 |
| 8 | 1V06005004 | 1V06021107 | 1V06005201 | 1V06004103 | 1V06004103 | ✣1V06027801 |
| 9 | 1V06026702 | ***❀1D98033206*** | 1V06025541 | **1V06007601** | 1V06005903 | **1V06021905** |
| 10 | 1V06006404 | **✷1V06007003** | *1V06033001* | **1V06025541** | 1V06025541 | 1V06012001 |

✣ICDDR,B ex-staff, ✷Staff of THC, ✡Village quack, ❀ICDDR,B staff relative, ❋ Rich and old man,

✧Ayurvedic practitioner, ♥BRAC NFPE teacher, ✣BRAC VO member

Table 4 presents male and female distribution of network leaders by their rank order in 1991 and 1995. Male and female ratio of network leaders was 5 : 5 in 1991 vs. 6 : 4 in 1995 in the health network; 10 : 0 in 1991 vs. 8 : 2 in 1995 in the social network and 10 : 0 in 1991 vs. 5 : 5 in 1995 in the economic network.

**Table: 4 Distribution of male and female network leader by rank order of network leaders in 1991 and 1995**

| Rank order of network leaders | Health network | | Social network | | Economic network | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | 1991 | 1995 | 1991 | 1995 | 1991 | 1995 |
| 1 | F | M | M | M | M | F |
| 2 | M | F | M | M | M | M |
| 3 | M | M | M | F | M | M |
| 4 | M | M | M | M | M | F |
| 5 | M | F | M | F | M | F |
| 6 | F | F | M | M | M | F |
| 7 | F | M | M | M | M | M |
| 8 | F | M | M | M | M | F |
| 9 | M | F | M | M | M | M |
| 10 | F | M | M | M | M | M |
| M/F ratio | 5:5 | 6:4 | 10:0 | 8:2 | 10:0 | 5:5 |

Note : M = Male, F = Female

**Demographic and socio-economic characteristics of network leaders:**

Table 5 shows the demographic and socio-economic characteristics of the health network leaders by their rank orders in 1995. Mean age of the leaders is 54.2 years. The leaders predominantly belong to two occupations, agriculturists (include a village quack and

elderly person not working) and housewives (include a quack's wife in her reproductive age and an Ayurvedic practitioner and an ICDDR,B staff relative). Majority of the leaders belongs to the upper middle socio-economic status (category b) in the community.

**Table: 5 Demographic and socio-economic characteristics of health network leaders by rank orders in 1995**

| Rank order | Snowball Number | Health Network | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | Age (years) | Occupation | Socio-economic status |
| 1 | M105 | 58 | Agriculture (Village quack) | B |
| 2 | F106 | 44 | Housewife (wife of village quack) | B |
| 3 | M218 | 60 | Agriculture | A |
| 4 | M138 | 73 | Agriculture | B |
| 5 | M139 | 66 | Agriculture | B |
| 6 | F117 | 58 | Housewife (Ayurvedic practitioner) | B |
| 7 | M122 | 62 | Agriculture (Does not work) | A |
| 8 | M123 | 48 | Agriculture | C |
| 9 | F58 | 33 | Housewife (ICDDR,B staff relative) | A |
| 10 | M44 | 40 | Service (Staff of THC) | B |
| Mean age | | 54.2 | | |

Table 6 presents the demographic and socio-economic characteristics of the social network leaders by their rank orders in 1995. Mean age of the leaders is 59 years. The network leaders are predominantly the elderly persons who do not work or otherwise, lead a retired life and agriculture. Majority of them represents the upper socio-economic status (category A) in the community.

**Table: 6 Demographic and socio-economic characteristics of social network leaders by rank orders in 1995**

| Rank order | Snowball Number | Social Network | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | Age (years) | Occupation | Socio-economic status |
| 1 | M144 | 58 | Business | A |
| 2 | M80 | 81 | Does not work | A |
| 3 | F129 | 30 | Service (BRAC NFPE teacher) | C |
| 4 | M218 | 60 | Agriculture | A |
| 5 | F152 | 32 | Service (BRAC NFPE teacher) | B |
| 6 | M03 | 58 | Agriculture | B |
| 7 | M209 | 52 | Agriculture | B |
| 8 | M30 | 68 | Agriculture | A |
| 9 | M60 | 80 | Does not work | A |
| 10 | M170 | 71 | Retired | A |
| Mean age | | 59.0 | | |

Table 7 presents the demographic and the socio-economic characteristics of the economic network leaders by their rank orders in 1995. Mean age of the leaders is 56 years. The network leaders are predominantly elderly housewives (includes only one from reproductive age) and agriculturists. They represent the upper, the upper middle and the lower middle categories of the socio-economic status i.e. (A, B and C).

**Table: 7 Demographic and socio-economic characteristics of economic network leaders by rank orders in 1995**

| Rank order | Snowball Number | Age (years) | Economic Network | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | | Occupation | Socio-economic status |
| 1 | M144 | 66 | Housewife | B |
| 2 | M80 | 72 | Agriculture | A |
| 3 | F129 | 56 | Agriculture | B |
| 4 | M218 | 52 | Housewife (BRAC VO member) | C |
| 5 | F152 | 51 | Housewife (BRAC VO member) | B |
| 6 | M03 | 51 | Housewife | C |
| 7 | M209 | 60 | Agriculture | A |
| 8 | M30 | 40 | Housewife (BRAC VO member) | D |
| 9 | M60 | 58 | Business | A |
| 10 | M170 | 54 | Service | C |
| Mean age | | 56.0 | | |

**Frequency of referrals by rank orders of network:**

Those sociograms shows the frequency of referrals for the network leaders in 1991 and 1995. Highest frequency of referrals for the health network is 69 and 22 in 1991 and 1995 respectively, for social network, 60 and 28 respectively and for the economic network 23 and 22 respectively. Mean frequency of referrals for the health network is 22.5 and 14.0 in 1991 and 1995 respectively, for social network, 22.0 and 16.3 respectively and for the economic network 13.1 and 9.7 respectively (Aappindix - 1).

**Impact on BRAC's programme:**

One BRAC's VO member (rank order 2) was found among the health network leaders in 1995. She was doctor's wife. She could meet to others VO member in weekly VO meeting and give advice to them. Two BRAC NFPE teachers were identified among the social network leaders in 1995 (rank order 3 and 5). They could good advice for education of children to the villagers. Three BRAC VO members were identified in the economic network in 1995 (rank order 4, 5 and 8). Villagers go to them for advice of credit related issues. BRAC VO members take loan from BRAC RDP office and then they help to the villagers. Other way, VO members give advice to the villagers that what is the procedure for getting BRAC loan. But those people were not replicated their leadership position in any network in 1991.

DISCUSSION:

Leadership overlap or replication of leadership was found to take place more often within the same network than between the health, social and economic networks. The replication of inter-network leadership was found to take place more often between the social and the economic than between the health and social or the health and economic networks. One network leader replicated his position between three-network health, social and economic in 1991: two network leaders replicated their positions between the same two networks, the social and the economic in the same year. One network leader replicated his position between the three networks, health, social and economic in 1995: two network leaders in the same year replicated their positions; one between the health and the economic networks and the other between the social and economic networks. The replication of within network leadership was observed to take place more frequently in the social network followed by the health and economic network. Between 1991 and 1995 three network leaders replicated their positions in the health network, six in the social network and one in the economic network.

Only one BRAC VO member found a place in the health network in 1995; two of the BRAC's NFPE teachers were referred as leaders in the social network and three of BRAC's VO members were referred in the economic network in the same year. The overall female leadership did not gain much in the health network between 1991 and 1995, but there had been considerable gain in the female leadership positions in the social and economic networks between 1991 and 1995. The health, social and economic network leaders representing BRAC in 1995 were all female workers i.e. VO members of BRAC. The findings of the study suggest that there had been apparent impact of the

BRAC's intervention through RDP and NFPE on the community networks, particularly social and economic. The programs of BRAC in the study village had evidently resulted in empowerment of some the women in the community networks.

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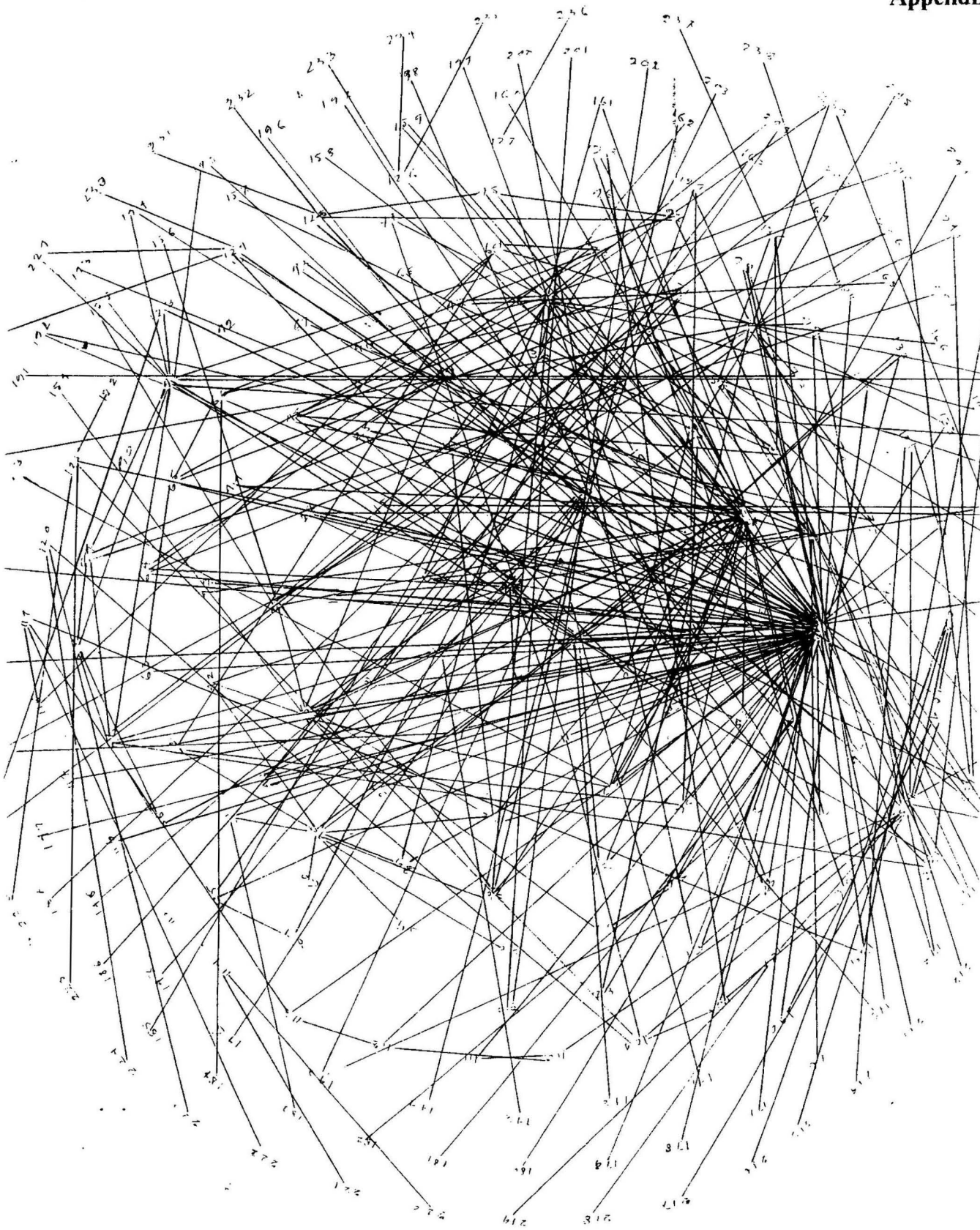

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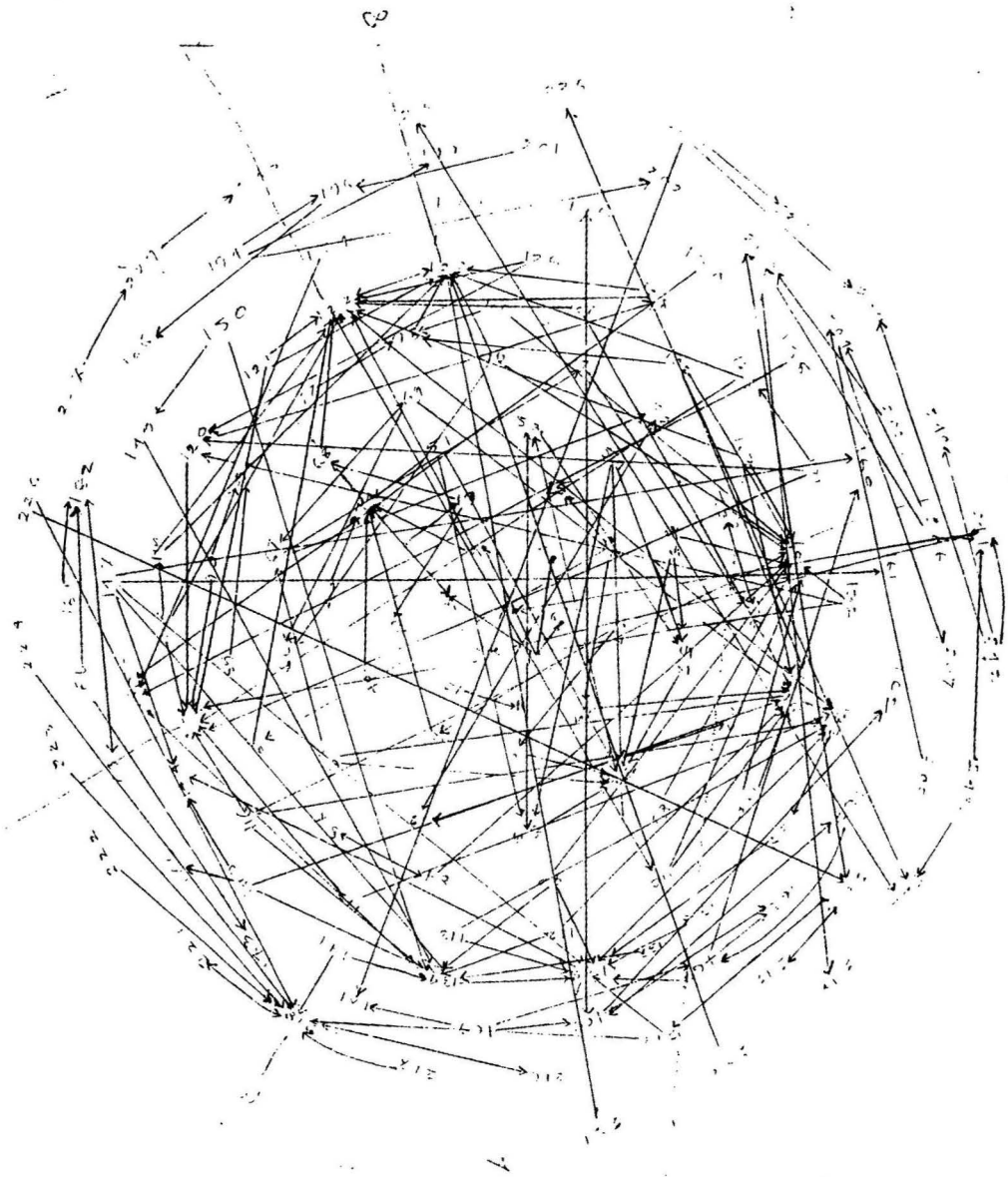

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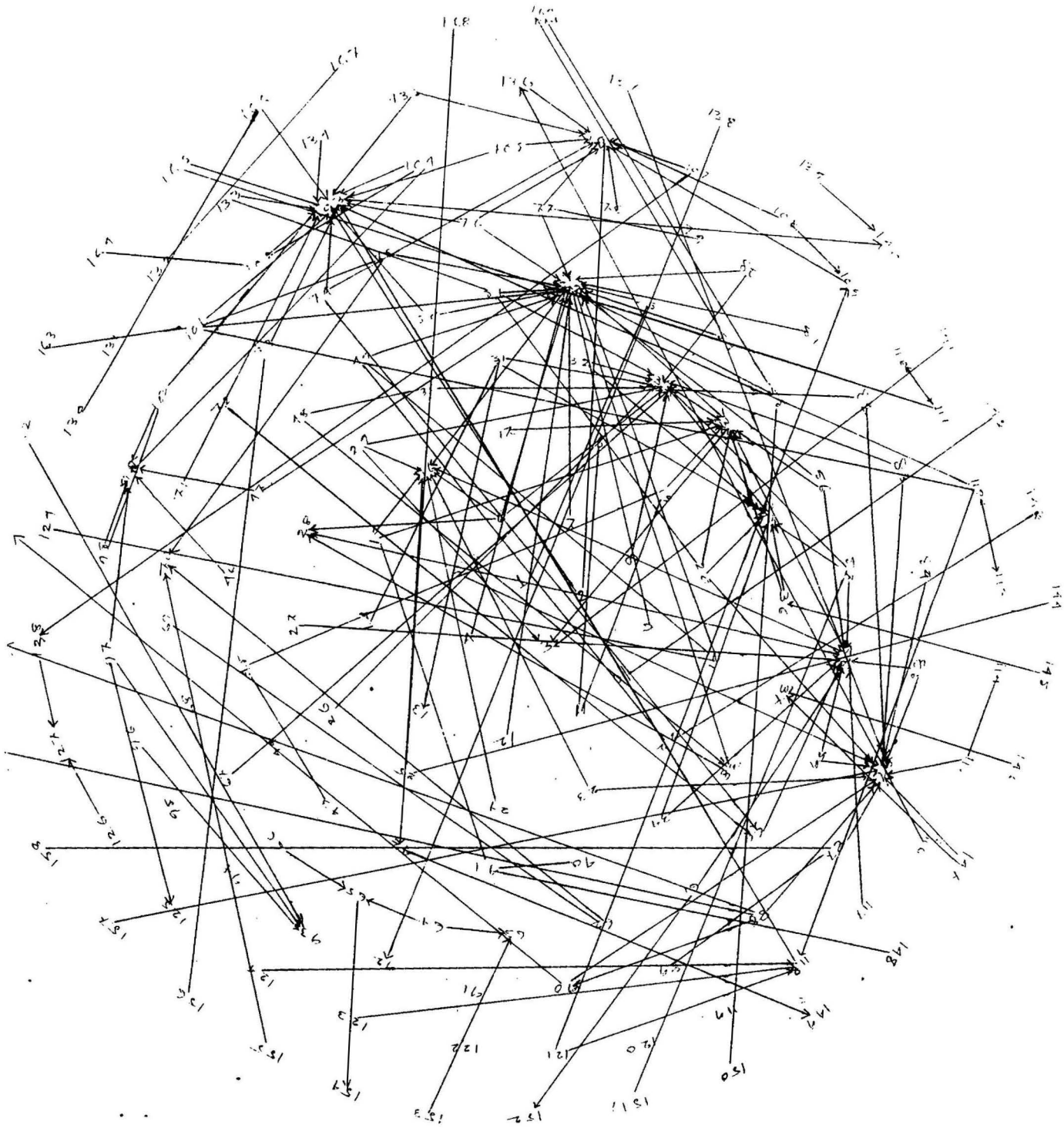

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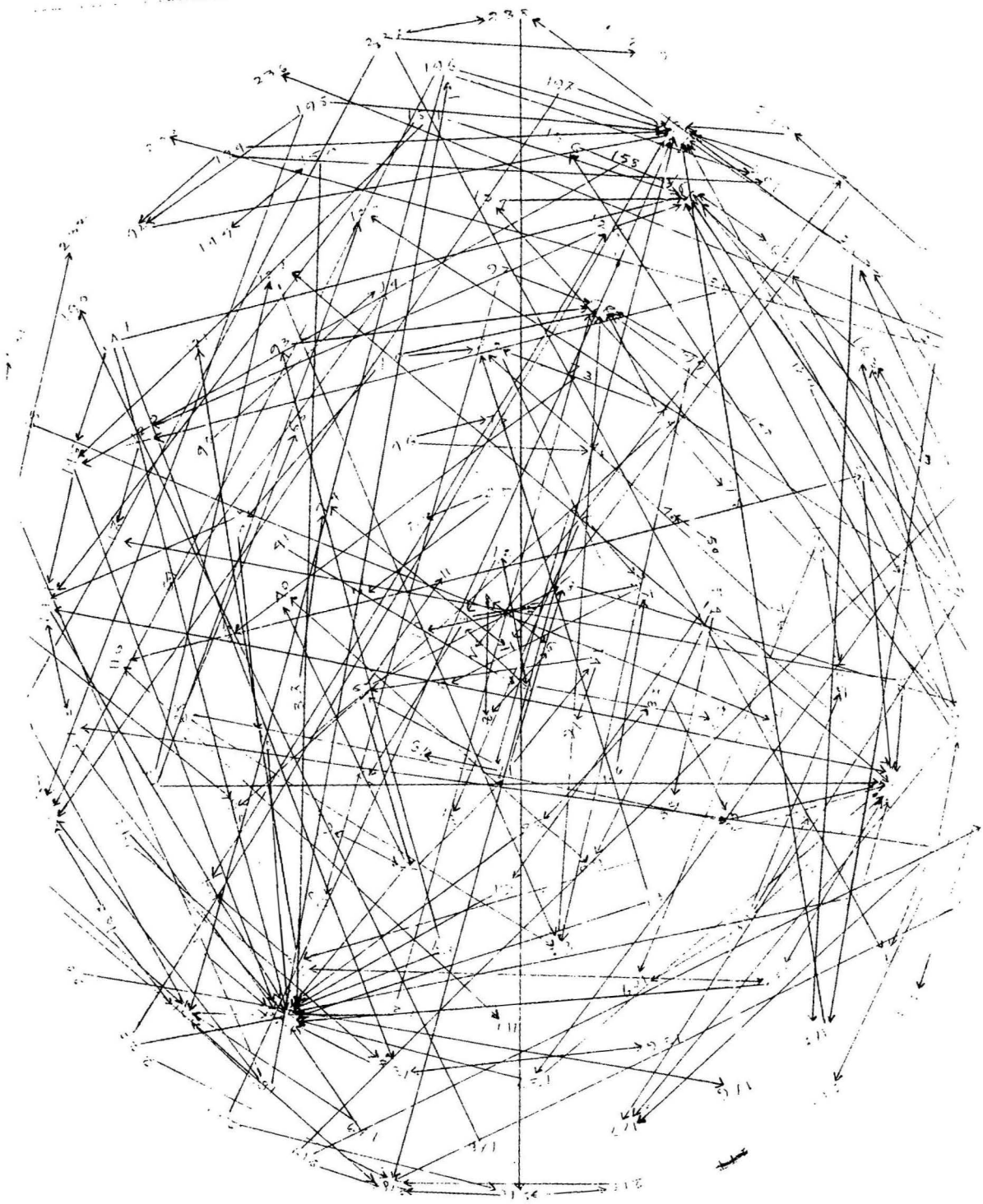

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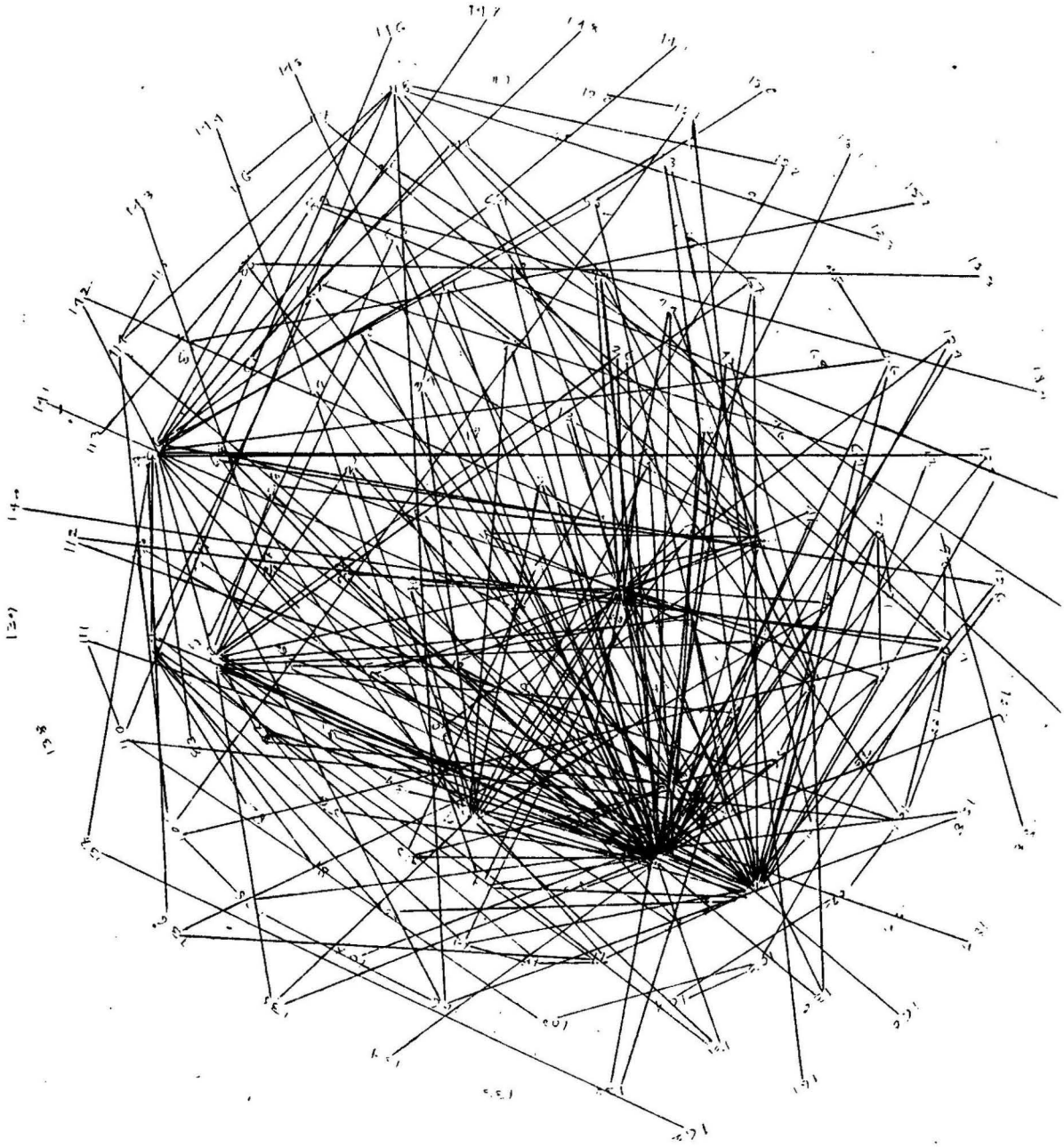
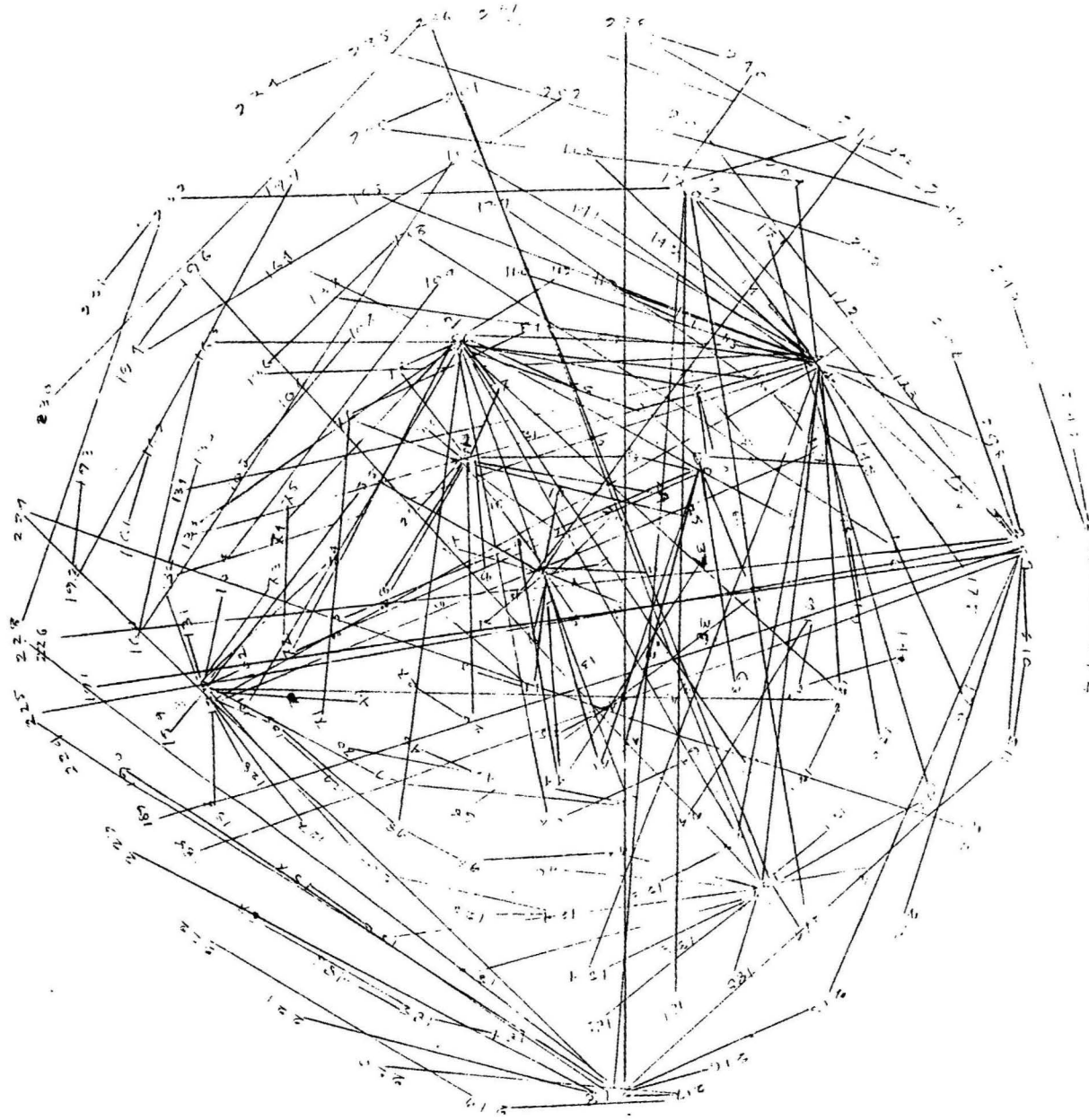


Social Network – 1991



**Social Network – 1995**