



# Graph Neural Networks (GNNs) Learning on Networks

*Cris Ababei*  
*Dept. of Electrical and Computer Engineering*



MARQUETTE  
UNIVERSITY

**BE THE DIFFERENCE.**

1

1

PART 1  
GNNs

2

2

1

# Graph Data

3

3

## Graphs

- Represent a certain way we describe and capture relationships in data
- Particular kind of data structure that is nonlinear and abstract

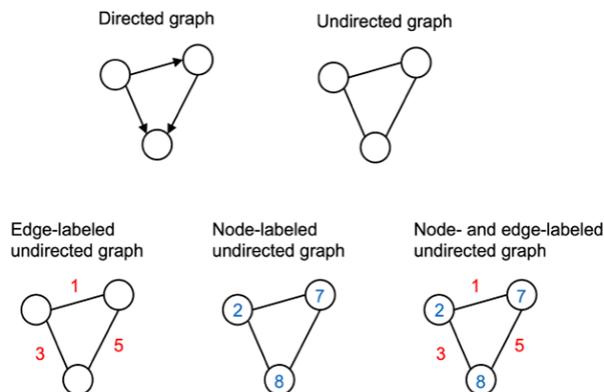


Figure 18.1: Common types of graphs

[\*B3-Raschka] Sebastian Raschka, Yuxi Liu, and Vahid Mirjalili, [Learning with PyTorch and Scikit-Learn: Develop machine learning and deep learning models with Python](#), Packt Publishing, 2022.

4

4

# Why Graphs?

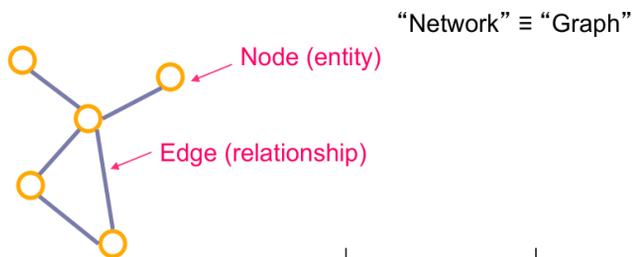
- Many real-world systems are **relational**, not Euclidean:
  - Molecules (atoms bonded)
  - Social networks (people connected)
  - Transportation networks
  - Knowledge graphs
  - Citation networks
  - Protein structures
  - Recommender systems
- A GNN can naturally capture **dependencies across neighbors**, similar to how CNNs capture local patterns in images.

5

5

# What are networks?

- Networks are collections of entities joined by relationships

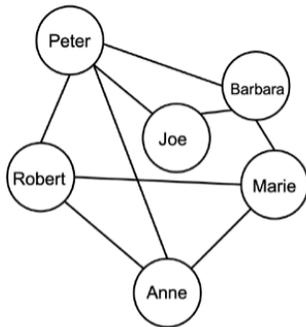


points	lines	
vertices	edges, arcs	math
nodes	links	computer science
sites	bonds	physics
actors	ties, relations	sociology

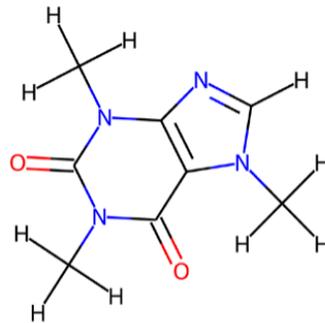
6

6

## Examples - undirected



Friend graph



Molecular graph of caffeine

Figure 18.2: Two examples of undirected graphs

7

7

## Examples - directed

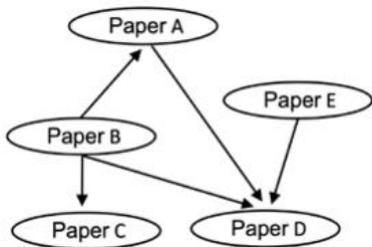
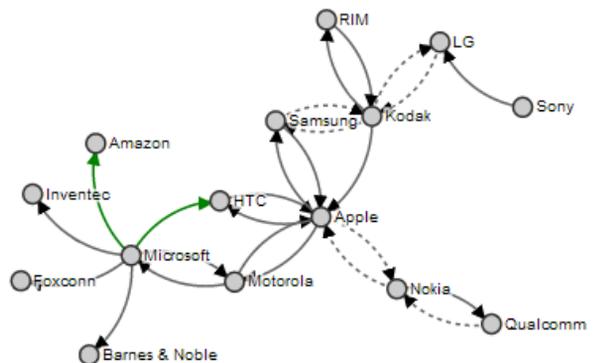


Figure 18.3: An example of a directed graph



8

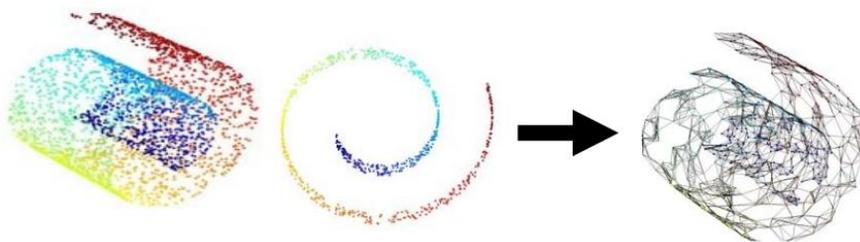
8



## Creating a network from a surface

- Sample points from the surface
- Connect each point to the  $k$  closest points as measured by Euclidean distance

$$\text{dist}(\mathbf{x}_i, \mathbf{x}_j) = \|\mathbf{x}_i - \mathbf{x}_j\|_2$$



11

11

## Creating a network from data

Medical Patients

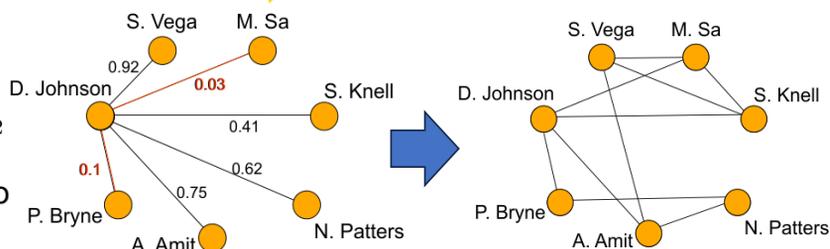
Name	Age	Weight	Height	HR	SBP	DBP	SpO <sub>2</sub>	...
D. Johnson	32	153	70	82	134	72	98%	...
S. Knell	47	169	65	130	169	93	99%	...
P. Bryne	42	128	61	102	129	77	98%	...
A. Amit	39	191	68	121	143	92	96%	...
...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...



- 1.) Measure the distance between pairs

$$\text{dist}(\mathbf{x}_i, \mathbf{x}_j) = \|\mathbf{x}_i - \mathbf{x}_j\|_2$$

- 2.) Connect each patient to its  $k$  nearest neighbors



12

12

# Graph Convolutions

Key component for building GNNs

13

13

## Recall from CNNs

- For CNNs, the **filter** can be viewed as a **detector for a specific feature**.
- This approach to feature detection is well-suited for images for several reasons, for instance, the following **priors** we can place on image data:
  1. **Shift-invariance**: We can still recognize a feature in an image regardless of where it is located (for example, after translation). A cat can be recognized as a cat whether it is in the top left, bottom right, or another part of an image.
  2. **Locality**: Nearby pixels are closely related.
  3. **Hierarchy**: Larger parts of an image can often be broken down into combinations of associated smaller parts. A cat has a head and legs; the head has eyes and a nose; the eyes have pupils and irises.

14

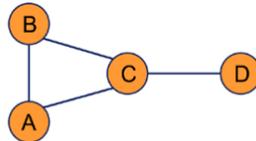
14

# Graphs also have natural priors that justify a convolutional approach

- Both kinds of data, images and graphs, share the **locality prior**:
  - However, how we define locality differs. In images, the prior is on locality in 2D space, while with graphs, it is structural locality - a node that is one edge away is more likely to be related than a node five edges away.
- A strict prior for graph data is **permutation invariance**:
  - Ordering of the nodes does not affect the output.

15

15



Adjacency matrix 1:	Adjacency matrix 2:	Adjacency matrix 3:
$\begin{matrix} \mathbf{D} \\ \mathbf{B} \\ \mathbf{A} \\ \mathbf{C} \end{matrix} \begin{bmatrix} 0 & 0 & 0 & 1 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 & 1 \\ 0 & 1 & 0 & 1 \\ 1 & 1 & 1 & 0 \end{bmatrix}$	$\begin{matrix} \mathbf{A} \\ \mathbf{C} \\ \mathbf{D} \\ \mathbf{B} \end{matrix} \begin{bmatrix} 0 & 1 & 0 & 1 \\ 1 & 0 & 1 & 1 \\ 0 & 1 & 0 & 0 \\ 1 & 1 & 0 & 0 \end{bmatrix}$	$\begin{matrix} \mathbf{A} \\ \mathbf{B} \\ \mathbf{C} \\ \mathbf{D} \end{matrix} \begin{bmatrix} 0 & 1 & 1 & 0 \\ 1 & 0 & 1 & 0 \\ 1 & 1 & 0 & 1 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 & 0 \end{bmatrix}$

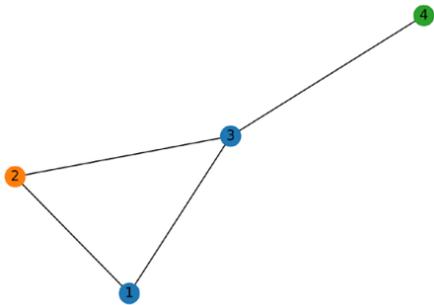
Figure 18.5: Different adjacency matrices representing the same graph

- Since the same graph can be represented by multiple adjacency matrices, any graph convolution needs to be permutation invariant
- While image convolutional operators are standardized, there are many different kinds of graph convolutions
- **Development of new graph convolutions is a very active area of research**

16

16

# Implementing a basic graph convolution



$n \times n$  adjacency matrix  $A$

$n \times f_{in}$  node feature matrix  $X$

$$A = \begin{bmatrix} 0 & 1 & 1 & 0 \\ 1 & 0 & 1 & 0 \\ 1 & 1 & 0 & 1 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 & 0 \end{bmatrix}$$

$$X = \begin{matrix} & \text{G} & \text{B} & \text{O} \\ \begin{bmatrix} 0 & 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 \\ 0 & 1 & 0 \\ 1 & 0 & 0 \end{bmatrix} \end{matrix}$$

## Installing NetworkX

NetworkX is a handy Python library for manipulating and visualizing graphs. It can be installed via pip:

```
pip install networkx
```

We used version 2.6.2 to create the graph visualizations in this chapter. For more information, please visit the official website at <https://networkx.org>.

17

17

# Graph convolutions

With graph convolutions, we can interpret each row of  $X$  as being an embedding of the information that is stored at the node corresponding to that row. Graph convolutions update the embeddings at each node based on the embeddings of their neighbors and themselves. For our example implementation, the graph convolution will take the following form:

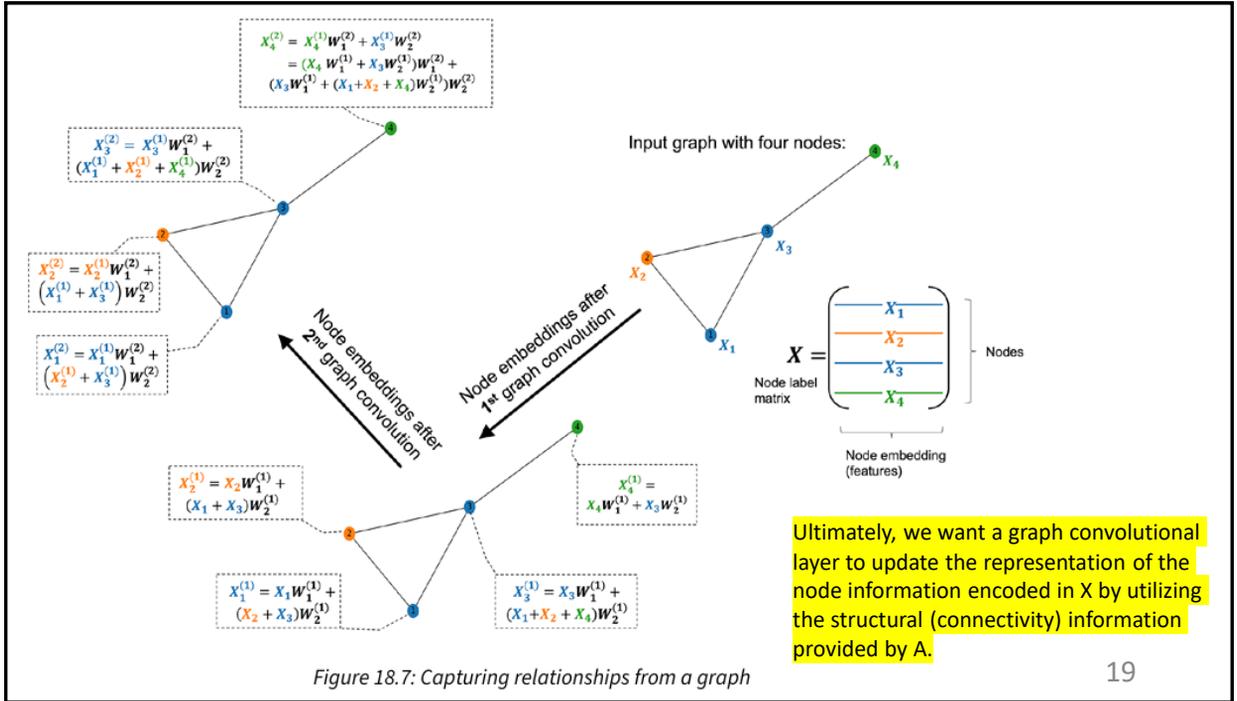
$$x'_i = x_i W_1 + \sum_{j \in N(i)} x_j W_2 + b$$

Here,  $x'_i$  is the updated embedding for node  $i$ ;  $W_1$  and  $W_2$  are  $f_{in} \times f_{out}$  matrices of learnable filter weights; and  $b$  is a learnable bias vector of length  $f_{out}$ .

The two weight matrices  $W_1$  and  $W_2$  can be considered filter banks, where each column is an individual filter. Note that this filter design is most effective when the locality prior on graph data holds. If a value at a node is highly correlated with the value at another node many edges away, a single convolution will not capture that relationship. Stacking convolutions will capture more distant relationships, as illustrated in Figure 18.7 (we set the bias to zero for simplicity):

18

18



## Message-passing framework

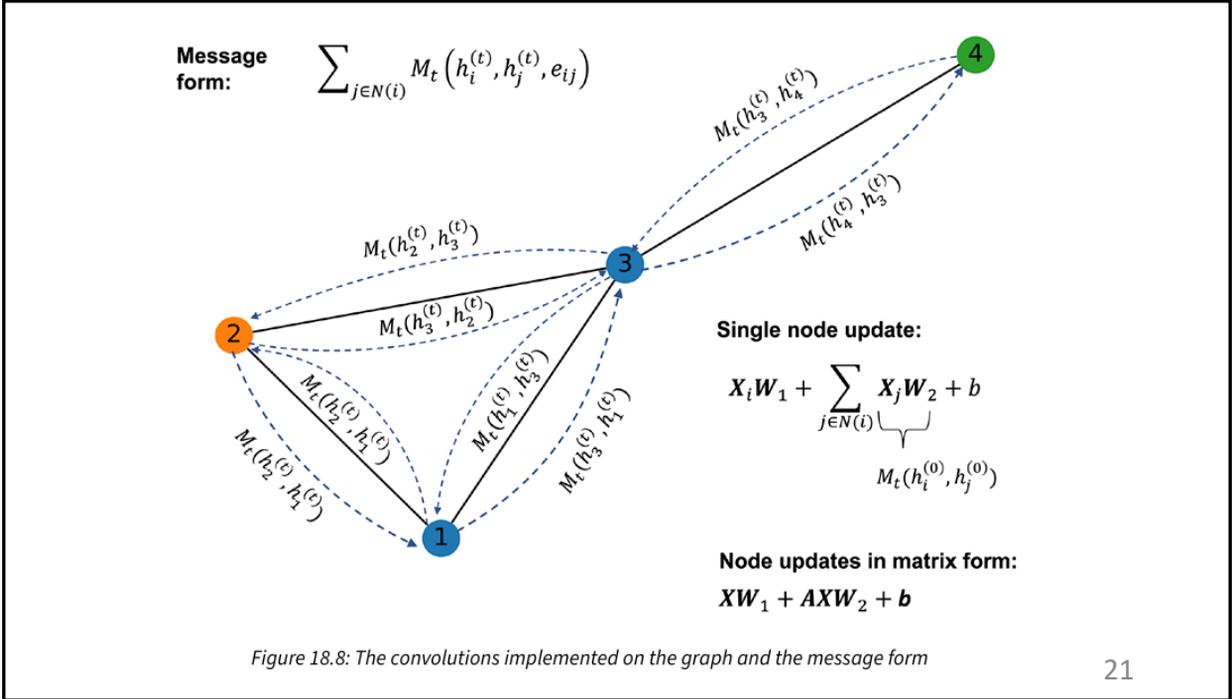
- Framework presented in: Neural Message Passing for Quantum Chemistry by Justin Gilmer and colleagues, 2017, <https://arxiv.org/abs/1704.0121>

In this **message-passing framework**, each node in the graph has an associated hidden state  $h_i^{(t)}$ , where  $i$  is the node's index at time step  $t$ . The initial value  $h_i^{(0)}$  is defined as  $X_i$ , which is the row of  $X$  associated with node  $i$ .

Each graph convolution can be split into a message-passing phase and a node update phase. Let  $N(i)$  be the neighbors of node  $i$ . For undirected graphs,  $N(i)$  is the set of nodes that share an edge with node  $i$ . For directed graphs,  $N(i)$  is the set of nodes that have an edge whose endpoint is node  $i$ . The message-passing phase can be formulated as follows:

$$m_i = \sum_{j \in N(i)} M_t(h_i^{(t)}, h_j^{(t)}, e_{ij})$$

Here,  $M_t$  is a message function. In our example layer, we define this message function as  $M_t = h_j^{(t)} W_2$ . The node update phase with the update function  $U_t$  is  $h_i^{(t+1)} = U_t(h_i^{(t)}, m_i)$ . In our example layer, this update is  $h_i^{(t+1)} = h_i^{(t)} W_1 + m_i + b$ .



# Implementing a GNN in PyTorch from scratch

# What Is a Graph Neural Network?

A **Graph Neural Network (GNN)** is a neural architecture designed to operate on **graph-structured data**.

Graphs consist of:

- **Nodes (vertices)**
- **Edges (relationships)**
- Optional: node features, edge features, global graph features

Formally, a graph  $G = (V, E)$  where:

- $V$  = set of nodes,  $|V| = N$
- $E$  = set of edges
- $X \in \mathbb{R}^{N \times d}$  = node feature matrix
- $A \in \mathbb{R}^{N \times N}$  = adjacency matrix

23

23

## Defining the NodeNetwork model

```
import networkx as nx
import torch
from torch.nn.parameter import Parameter
import numpy as np
import math
import torch.nn.functional as F

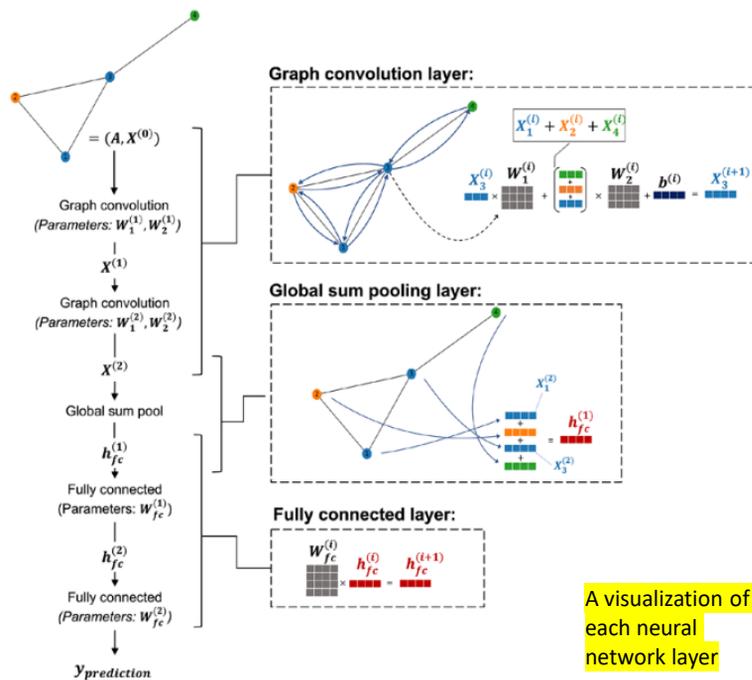
class NodeNetwork(torch.nn.Module):
    def __init__(self, input_features):
        super().__init__()
        self.conv_1 = BasicGraphConvolutionLayer (
            input_features, 32)
        self.conv_2 = BasicGraphConvolutionLayer(32, 32)
        self.fc_1 = torch.nn.Linear(32, 16)
        self.out_layer = torch.nn.Linear(16, 2)

    def forward(self, X, A, batch_mat):
        x = F.relu(self.conv_1(X, A))
        x = F.relu(self.conv_2(x, A))
        output = global_sum_pool(x, batch_mat)
        output = self.fc_1(output)
        output = self.out_layer(output)
        return F.softmax(output, dim=1)
```

24

24

## Structure of the network



25

## Graph convolution layers and global pooling

- See **S.Raschka's** book for implementation details in Python of GNN from scratch:
  - Coding the NodeNetwork's graph convolution layer
  - Adding a global pooling layer to deal with varying graph sizes
  - Preparing the DataLoader
  - Using the NodeNetwork to make predictions
- Also for:
  - Implementing a GNN using the PyTorch Geometric library

26

26

## PART 2

### Code Time!

27

27

### **Code Time**

- See demonstration and discussion in class.
- See also links in the “Code Examples” for this lecture assignment.

28

28

# Conclusion

## Takeaways

29

29

## Summary

A Graph Neural Network:

- processes **non-Euclidean, relational data**
- aggregates neighbor information
- updates node embeddings layer-by-layer
- learns representations for nodes, edges, or whole graphs

Core equation:

$$h_i^{(k+1)} = \text{UPDATE}(h_i^{(k)}, \text{AGGREGATE}(\{h_j^{(k)} : j \in \mathcal{N}(i)\}))$$

Where:

- $h_i^{(k)}$  = embedding of node  $i$  at layer  $k$
- $\mathcal{N}(i)$  = neighbors of  $i$
- AGGREGATE = mean, sum, max, attention, etc.
- UPDATE = MLP, GRU, etc.

30

30

## References and Credits

Many of the teaching materials for this course have been adapted from various sources. We are very grateful and thank the following professors, researchers, and practitioners for sharing their teaching materials (in no particular order):

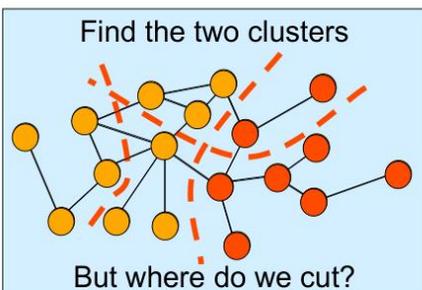
- Yaser S. Abu-Mostafa, Malik Magdon-Ismael and Hsuan-Tien Lin. <https://amlbook.com/slides.html>
- Ethem Alpaydin. <https://www.cmpe.boun.edu.tr/~ethem/i2ml3e/>
- Natasha Jaques. <https://courses.cs.washington.edu/courses/cse446/25sp/>
- Lyle Ungar. <https://alliance.seas.upenn.edu/~cis520/dynamic/2022/wiki/index.php?n=Lectures.Lectures>
- Aurelien Geron. <https://github.com/ageron/handson-ml3>
- Sebastian Raschka. <https://github.com/rasbt/machine-learning-book>
- Trevor Hastie. <https://www.statlearning.com/resources-python>
- Andrew Ng. <https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLoROMvodv4rMiGQp3WXShtMGgzqpfVfbU>
- Richard Povinelli. <https://www.richard.povinelli.org/teaching>
- ... and many others.

31

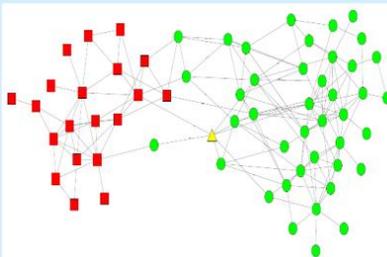
31

## Appendix A: Graph Partitioning

Goal: Partition the graph into multiple groups (*clusters*)



Social network of 62 dolphins  
(Lusseau et al., 2003)



Predict how the community will split when  $\triangle$  departs

32

32

## Spectral Clustering

- Algorithms that cluster points using eigenvectors of matrices derived from the data
- Obtain data representation in the low-dimensional space that can be easily clustered
- Variety of methods that use the eigenvectors differently

33

33

## Spectral Clustering

- Empirically very successful
- Authors disagree:
  - Which eigenvectors to use
  - How to derive clusters from these eigenvectors
- Two general methods

34

34

# Definitions

- $n \times n$  **Adjacency matrix A.**
  - $A(i,j)$  = weight on edge from  $i$  to  $j$
  - If the graph is undirected  $A(i,j)=A(j,i)$ , i.e. A is symmetric
- $n \times n$  **Transition matrix P.**
  - P is row stochastic
  - $P(i,j)$  = probability of stepping on node  $j$  from node  $i$   
 $= A(i,j)/\sum_i A(i,j)$
- $n \times n$  **Laplacian Matrix L.**
  - $L(i,j)=\sum_i A(i,j)-A(i,j)$
  - Symmetric positive semi-definite for undirected graphs
  - Singular

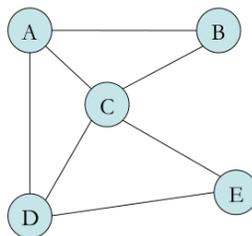
35

35

# Definitions

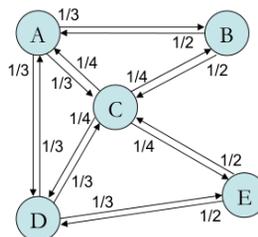
Adjacency Matrix

$$A = \begin{bmatrix} & 1 & 1 & 1 & \\ 1 & & 1 & & \\ 1 & 1 & & 1 & 1 \\ 1 & & 1 & & 1 \\ & & & 1 & 1 \end{bmatrix}$$



Transition Matrix

$$P = \begin{bmatrix} & 1/3 & 1/3 & 1/3 & \\ 1/2 & & 1/2 & & \\ 1/4 & 1/4 & & 1/4 & 1/4 \\ 1/3 & & 1/3 & & 1/3 \\ & & & 1/2 & 1/2 \end{bmatrix}$$



36

36

# Spectral Graph Analysis

Graph Laplacian

$$L = D - A \quad D = \text{diag}(d)$$

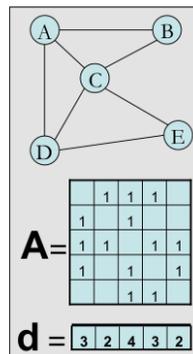
	A	B	C	D	E
A					
B					
C					
D					
E					

 $=$ 

	3				
		2			
			4		
				3	
					2

 $-$ 

		1	1	1	
	1		1		
	1	1		1	1
	1		1		1
			1	1	



Take the *eigendecomposition* of  $L$

$$L = Q \Lambda Q^T$$

$\Lambda = \begin{bmatrix} \lambda_1 & & & & \\ & \lambda_2 & & & \\ & & \lambda_3 & & \\ & & & \lambda_4 & \\ & & & & \lambda_5 \end{bmatrix}$

37

37

## Eigenvectors

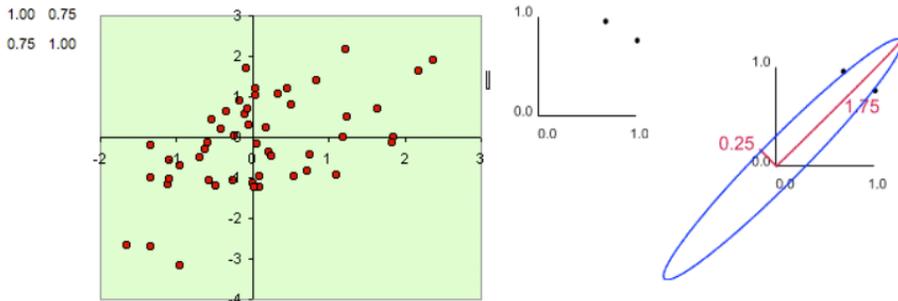
- Intuitive definition: An eigenvector is a direction for a matrix
- An eigenvector of an  $n \times n$  matrix  $A$  is a vector such that  $Av = \lambda v$ , where  $v$  is the eigenvector and  $\lambda$  is the corresponding eigenvalue
  - Multiplying vector  $v$  by the scalar  $\lambda$  effectively stretches or shrinks the vector
- An  $n \times n$  matrix should have  $n$  linearly independent eigenvectors

38

38

# Eigenvectors Illustrated

- Consider an elliptical data cloud. The eigenvectors are then the major and minor axes of the ellipse



39

39

# Spectral Graph Analysis

$$L = Q \Lambda Q^T$$

$Q = \begin{bmatrix} | & | & | & | & | \\ q_1 & q_2 & q_3 & q_4 & q_5 \\ | & | & | & | & | \end{bmatrix}$ 
 $\Lambda = \begin{bmatrix} \lambda_1 & & & & \\ & \lambda_2 & & & \\ & & \lambda_3 & & \\ & & & \lambda_4 & \\ & & & & \lambda_5 \end{bmatrix}$ 
 $Q^T = \begin{bmatrix} q_1^T \\ q_2^T \\ q_3^T \\ q_4^T \\ q_5^T \end{bmatrix}$

Eigenvector  $q_1$  is constant

Eigenvalue  $\lambda_1 = 0$

3	-1	-1	-1	
-1	2	-1		
-1	-1	4	-1	-1
-1	-1	3	-1	
		-1	-1	2

	$q_1$	$q_2$	$q_3$	$q_4$	$q_5$
A	0.45	-0.27	-0.5	-0.65	0.22
B	0.45	-0.65	0.5	0.27	0.22
C	0.45	-0.00	0.00	0.00	-0.89
D	0.45	0.27	-0.5	0.65	0.22
E	0.45	0.65	0.5	-0.27	0.22

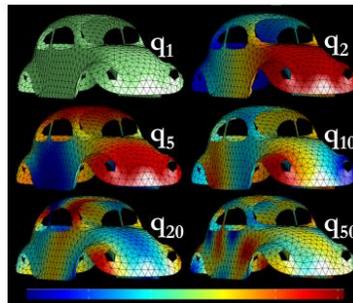
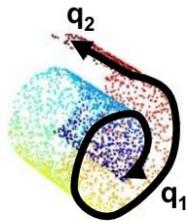
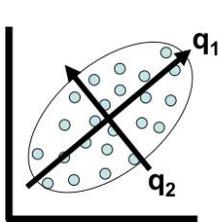
	1	2	3	4	5
1	0.00	0	0	0	0
2	0	1.59	0	0	0
3	0	0	3.00	0	0
4	0	0	0	4.41	0
5	0	0	0	0	5.00

40

40

## Spectral Graph Analysis

$$L = Q \Lambda Q^T$$



41

41

## Method #1

- Partition using only one eigenvector at a time
- Use procedure recursively
- Example: Image Segmentation
  - Uses 2<sup>nd</sup> (smallest) eigenvector to define optimal cut
  - Recursively generates two clusters with each cut

42

42

## Method #2

- Use  $k$  eigenvectors ( $k$  chosen by user)
- Directly compute  $k$ -way partitioning
- Experimentally has been seen to be “better”

43

43

## Spectral Clustering Algorithm (by Ng, Jordan, and Weiss)

- Given a set of points  $X = \{\mathbf{x}_1, \dots, \mathbf{x}_n\}$
- Form the affinity matrix

$$A_{ij} = \exp\left(-\frac{\|\mathbf{x}_i - \mathbf{x}_j\|_2^2}{2\sigma^2}\right) \quad \forall i \neq j \quad A_{ii} = 0$$

- Define diagonal matrix  $D_{ii} = \sum_k A_{ik}$
- Form the matrix  $\mathbf{L} = \mathbf{D}^{-1/2} \mathbf{A} \mathbf{D}^{-1/2}$
- Stack the  $k$  largest eigenvectors of  $\mathbf{L}$  to form the columns of the new matrix:  $\mathbf{E} = [\mathbf{e}_1 \ \mathbf{e}_2 \ \dots \ \mathbf{e}_k]$
- Normalize each of  $\mathbf{E}$ 's rows to have unit length
- Cluster rows of  $\mathbf{E}$  into  $k$  clusters using K-means

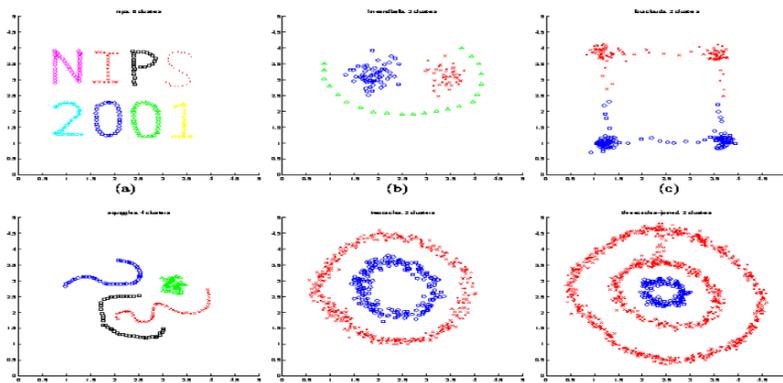
44

44

# Why?

Q: If we eventually use K-means, why not just apply K-means to the original data?

A: This method allows us to cluster non-convex regions

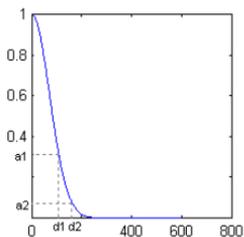


45

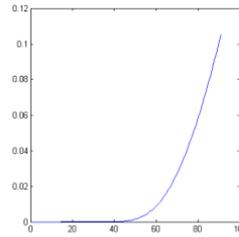
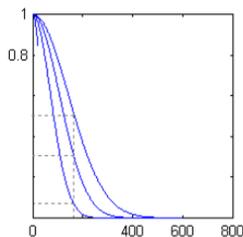
45

# Nature of the Affinity Matrix

$$A_{ij} = e^{-(s_i - s_j)^2 / 2\sigma^2} \quad i \neq j \quad A_{ii} = 0$$



“closer” vertices will get larger weight



Weight as a function of  $\sigma$

46

46

## User's Prerogative

- Choice of  $k$ , the number of clusters
- Choice of scaling factor
  - Realistically, search over  $\sigma^2$  and pick value that gives the tightest clusters
- Choice of clustering method

47

47

## (Some) References

- Alpert et al. Spectral partitioning with multiple eigenvectors
- Brand & Huang. A unifying theorem for spectral embedding and clustering
- Belkin & Niyogi. Laplasian maps for dimensionality reduction and data representation
- Blatt et al. Data clustering using a model granular magnet
- Buhmann. Data clustering and learning
- Fowlkes et al. Spectral grouping using the Nystrom method
- Meila & Shi. A random walks view of spectral segmentation
- Ng et al. On Spectral clustering: analysis and algorithm
- Shi & Malik. Normalized cuts and image segmentation
- Weiss et al. Segmentation using eigenvectors: a unifying view

48

48

# Community Structures

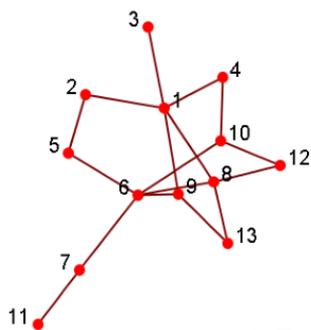
## Community Detection

- A community is a set of nodes between which the interactions are (relatively) frequent  
a.k.a. group, subgroup, module, cluster
- Community detection  
a.k.a. grouping, clustering, finding cohesive subgroups
  - Given: a social network
  - Output: community membership of (some) actors
- Applications
  - Understanding the interactions between people
  - Visualizing and navigating huge networks
  - Forming the basis for other tasks such as data mining

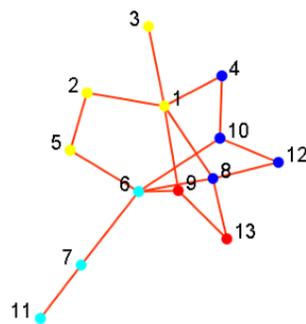
49

49

## Visualization after Grouping



4 Groups:  
{1,2,3,5}  
{4,8,10,12}  
{6,7,11}  
{9,13}



(Nodes colored by  
Community Membership)

50

50

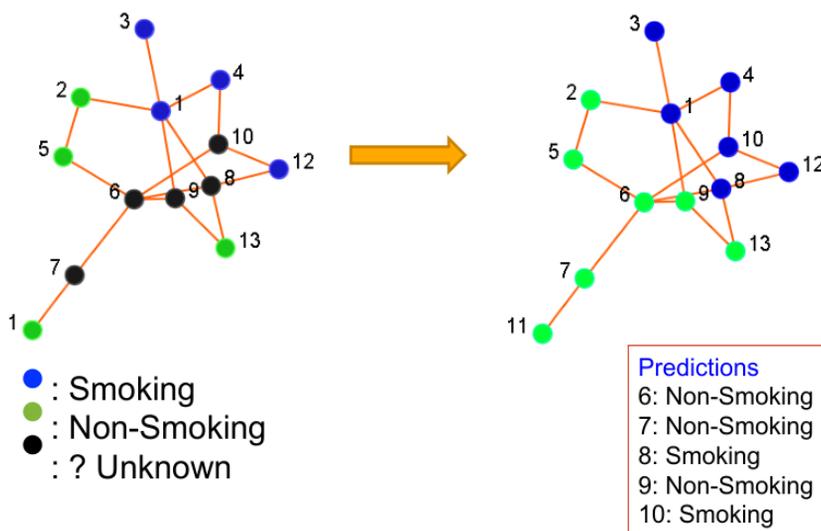
# Classification

- User Preference or Behavior can be represented as class labels
  - Whether or not clicking on an ad
  - Whether or not interested in certain topics
  - Subscribed to certain political views
  - Like/Dislike a product
- Given
  - A social network
  - Labels of some actors in the network
- Output
  - Labels of remaining actors in the network

51

51

# Visualization after Prediction

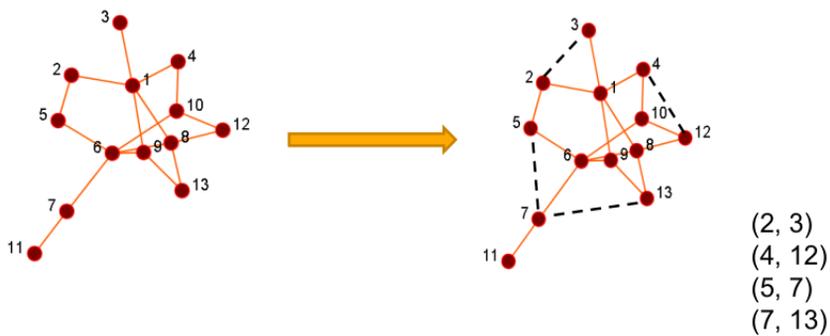


52

52

## Link Prediction

- Given a social network, predict which nodes are likely to get connected
- Output a list of (ranked) pairs of nodes
- Example: Friend recommendation in Facebook



53

53



## PRINCIPLES OF COMMUNITY DETECTION

54

54

# Communities

- **Community:** “subsets of actors among whom there are relatively strong, direct, intense, frequent or positive ties.”
  - Wasserman and Faust, *Social Network Analysis, Methods and Applications*
- Community is a set of actors interacting with each other *frequently*
- A set of people without interaction is NOT a community
  - e.g. people waiting for a bus at station but don't talk to each other

55

55

# Example of Communities

## Communities from Facebook

	Name: <b>Social Computing</b> Type: Organizations Members: 14 members
	Name: <b>Social Computing</b> Type: Internet & Technology Members: 12 members
	Name: <b>Social Computing Magazine</b> Type: Internet & Technology Members: 34 members
	Name: <b>Trustworthy Social Computing</b> Type: Internet & Technology Members: 28 members
	Name: <b>Social Computing for Business</b> Type: Internet & Technology Members: 421 members
	Name: <b>UCLA Social Sciences Computing</b>

## Communities from Flickr

	<b>! * Urban LIFE In Metropolis !!!!</b> 4,286 members   31 discussions   89,045 items   Created 46 months ago   <a href="#">Join?</a> UrbanLIFE, People, Parties, Dance, Musik, Life, Love, Culture, Food and Everything what we could imagine by hearing that word URBANLIFE! Have some FUN! Please add... ( <a href="#">more</a> )	
	<b>Islam is The Way Of Life (Muslim World)</b> 619 members   13 discussions   2,685 items   Created 23 months ago   <a href="#">Join?</a> The word islam is derived from the Arabic verb astama, which means to accept, surrender or submit. Thus, Islam means submission to and acceptance of God, and believers must... ( <a href="#">more</a> )	
	<b>* THE CELEBRATION OF ~LIFE~ (Post1~Award1) [only living things]</b> 4,871 members   22 discussions   40,519 items   Created 21 months ago   <a href="#">Join?</a> WELCOME TO THE CELEBRATION OF ~LIFE~ (Post1~Award1) PLEASE INVITE & COMMENT USING only THE CODES FOUND BELOW! ☆ ☆ This group is for sharing BEAUTIFUL, TOP QUALITY images... ( <a href="#">more</a> )	
	<b>"Enjoy Life!"</b> 2,027 members   10 discussions   39,916 items   Created 23 months ago   <a href="#">Join?</a> There are lovely moments and adorable scenes in our lives. Some are in front of you, and some are just waiting to be discovered. A gaze from someone we love, might touch the... ( <a href="#">more</a> )	
	<b>Baby's life</b> 2,047 members   185 discussions   30,302 items   Created 32 months ago   <a href="#">Join?</a> This group is designed to highlight milestones and important events in your baby's life (ie 1st time smiling/crawling/sitting in a high chair/reading/playing etc). It can also be... ( <a href="#">more</a> )	

Only group members pool

56

56

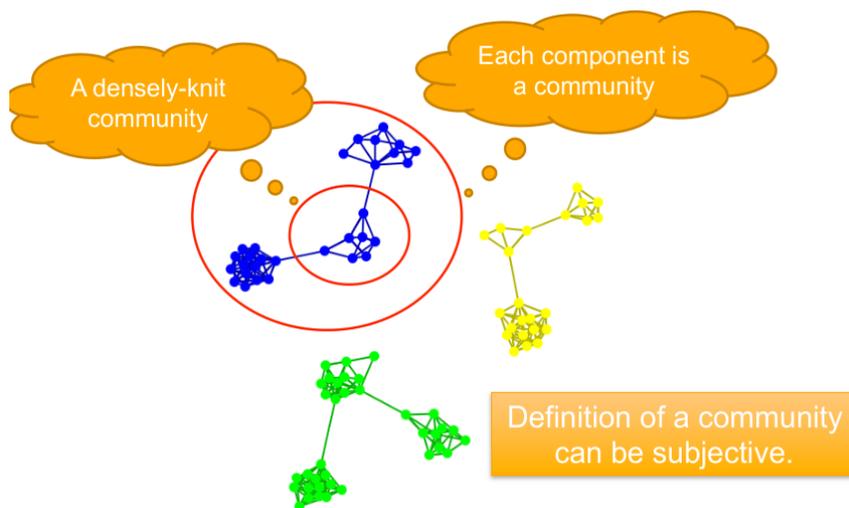
# Community Detection

- **Community Detection:** “formalize the strong social groups based on the social network properties”
- Some social media sites allow people to join groups
  - Not all sites provide community platform
  - Not all people join groups
- Network interaction provides rich information about the relationship between users
  - Is it necessary to extract groups based on network topology?
  - Groups are *implicitly* formed
  - Can complement other kinds of information
  - Provide basic information for other tasks

57

57

# Subjectivity of Community Definition



58

58

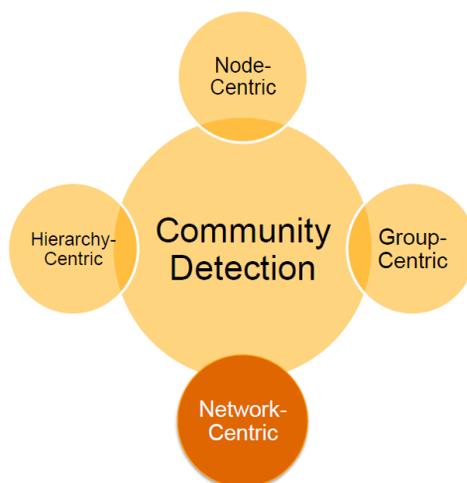
## Taxonomy of Community Criteria

- Criteria vary depending on the tasks
- Roughly, community detection methods can be divided into 4 categories (not exclusive):
- **Node-Centric Community**
  - Each node in a group satisfies certain properties
- **Group-Centric Community**
  - Consider the connections **within a group** as a whole. The group has to satisfy certain properties without zooming into node-level
- **Network-Centric Community**
  - Partition **the whole network** into several disjoint sets
- **Hierarchy-Centric Community**
  - Construct a **hierarchical structure** of communities

59

59

## Network-Centric Community Detection



60

60

# Network-Centric Community Detection

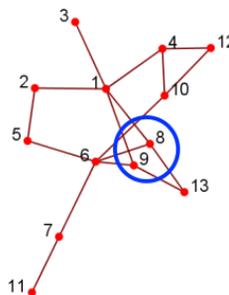
- To form a group, we need to consider the connections of the nodes globally.
- Goal: **partition the network into disjoint sets**
- Groups based on
  - Node Similarity
  - Latent Space Model
  - Block Model Approximation
  - Cut Minimization
  - Modularity Maximization

61

61

# Node Similarity

- Node similarity is defined by how similar their interaction patterns are
- Two nodes are **structurally equivalent** if they connect to the same set of actors
  - e.g., nodes 8 and 9 are structurally equivalent
- Groups are defined over equivalent nodes
  - Too strict
  - Rarely occur in a large-scale
  - Relaxed equivalence class is difficult to compute
- In practice, use **vector similarity**
  - e.g., cosine similarity, Jaccard similarity



62

62

## Vector Similarity Based on Adjacency Matrix

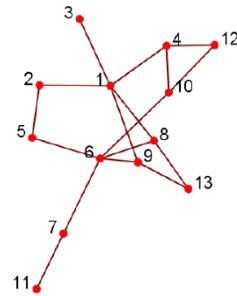
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
a vector →	5					1							
structurally equivalent	8	1				1							1
	9	1				1							1

**Cosine Similarity:**  $\text{similarity} = \cos(\theta) = \frac{A \cdot B}{\|A\| \|B\|}$

$$\text{sim}(5,8) = \frac{1}{\sqrt{2} \times \sqrt{3}} = \frac{1}{\sqrt{6}}$$

**Jaccard Similarity:**  $J(A,B) = \frac{|A \cap B|}{|A \cup B|}$

$$J(5,8) = \frac{|\{6\}|}{|\{1,2,6,13\}|} = 1/4$$



63

63

## Clustering based on Node Similarity

- For practical use with huge networks:
  - Consider the connections as features
  - Use Cosine or Jaccard similarity to compute vertex similarity
  - Apply classical k-means clustering Algorithm

---

**Algorithm 1** Basic K-means Algorithm.

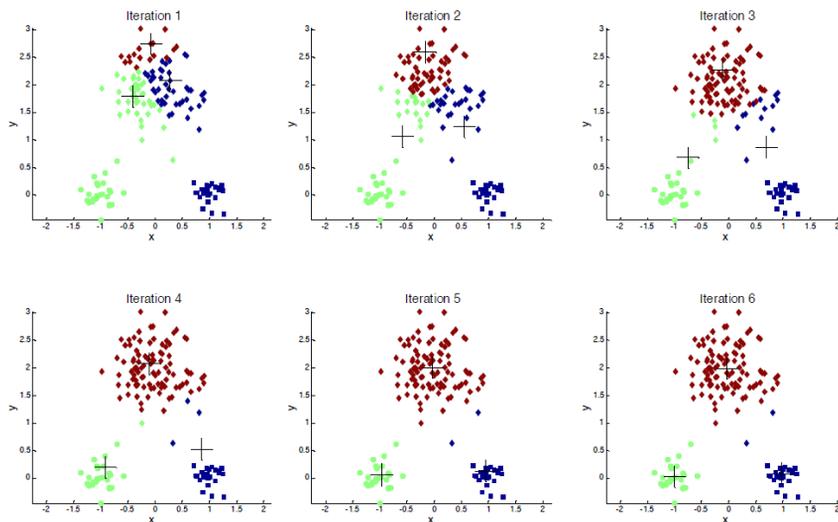
---

- 1: Select  $K$  points as the initial centroids.
  - 2: **repeat**
  - 3:   Form  $K$  clusters by assigning all points to the closest centroid.
  - 4:   Recompute the centroid of each cluster.
  - 5: **until** The centroids don't change
- 

64

64

# Illustration of k-means clustering



65

65

# Block-Model Approximation



Network Interaction Matrix

Block Structure

➤ **Objective:** Minimize the difference between an interaction matrix and a block structure

$$\min_{S, \Sigma} \|A - S\Sigma S^T\|_F$$

s.t.  $S \in \{0,1\}^{n \times k}, \Sigma \in R^{k \times k}$  is diagonal

S is a community indicator matrix

- **Challenge:** S is discrete, difficult to solve
- **Relaxation:** Allow S to be continuous satisfying  $S^T S = I_k$
- **Solution:** the top eigenvectors of A
- **Post-Processing:** Apply k-means to S to find the partition

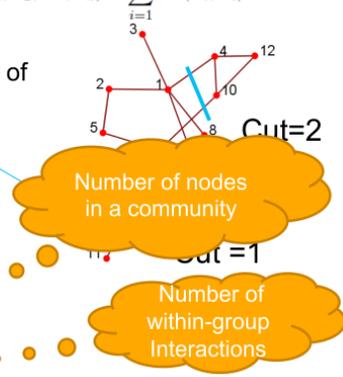
66

66

# Cut-Minimization

- Between-group interactions should be infrequent
- **Cut**: number of edges between two sets of nodes
- **Objective**: minimize the cut  $cut(C_1, C_2, \dots, C_k) = \sum_{i=1}^k cut(C_i, \bar{C}_i)$

- Limitations: often find communities of only one node
- Need to consider the group size



- Two commonly-used variants:

$$\text{Ratio-cut}(C_1, C_2, \dots, C_k) = \sum_{i=1}^k \frac{cut(C_i, \bar{C}_i)}{|V_i|}$$

$$\text{Normalized-cut}(C_1, C_2, \dots, C_k) = \sum_{i=1}^k \frac{cut(C_i, \bar{C}_i)}{vol(V_i)}$$

# Graph Laplacian

- Cut-minimization can be relaxed into the following min-trace problem

$$\min_{S \in \mathbb{R}^{n \times k}} Tr(S^T L S) \quad s.t. \quad S^T S = I$$

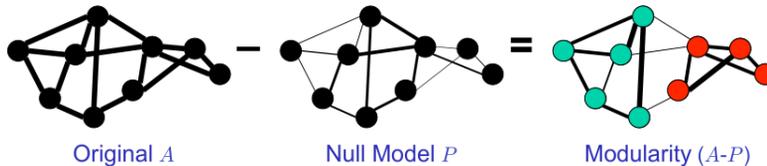
- L is the (normalized) **Graph Laplacian**

$$\begin{aligned} L &= D - A \\ \text{normalized-}L &= I - D^{-1/2} A D^{-1/2} \end{aligned} \quad D = \begin{pmatrix} d_1 & 0 & \dots & 0 \\ 0 & d_2 & \dots & 0 \\ \vdots & \vdots & \vdots & \vdots \\ 0 & 0 & \dots & d_n \end{pmatrix}$$

- **Solution**: S are the eigenvectors of L with smallest eigenvalues (except the first one)
- **Post-Processing**: apply k-means to S
  - a.k.a. **Spectral Clustering**

# Graph Modularity

- Relational network given by  $G = (V, A)$   
 $V$ : set of  $n$  vertices     $A$ :  $n \times n$  adjacency matrix,  $m$  total edges
- Newman-Girvan (2006) graph modularity



– Measures the global community structure of  $G$ :

$$Q(C) = \frac{1}{2m} \sum_{i,j} (A_{ij} - P_{ij}) \delta(C_i, C_j) \quad P_{ij} = \frac{d_i d_j}{2m}$$

↑  
Kronecker delta

– Foundation for a large number of methods (Fortunato, 2010)

69

69

# Modularity Maximization

- Modularity** measures the group interactions compared with the **expected random connections** in the group
- In a network with  $m$  edges, for two nodes with degree  $d_i$  and  $d_j$ , expected random connections between them are

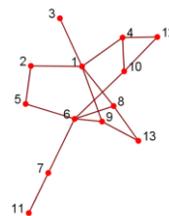
$$d_i d_j / 2m$$

- The interaction utility in a group:

$$\sum_{i \in C, j \in C} A_{ij} - d_i d_j / 2m$$

- To partition the group into multiple groups, we maximize

$$\frac{1}{2m} \sum_C \sum_{i \in C, j \in C} A_{ij} - d_i d_j / 2m$$



Expected Number of edges between 6 and 9 is  
 $5 \cdot 3 / (2 \cdot 17) = 15/34$

70

70

## Modularity Matrix

- The modularity maximization can also be formulated in matrix form

$$Q = \frac{1}{2m} \text{Tr}(S^T B S)$$

- B is the modularity matrix

$$B_{ij} = A_{ij} - d_i d_j / 2m$$

- **Solution:** top eigenvectors of the modularity matrix

71

71

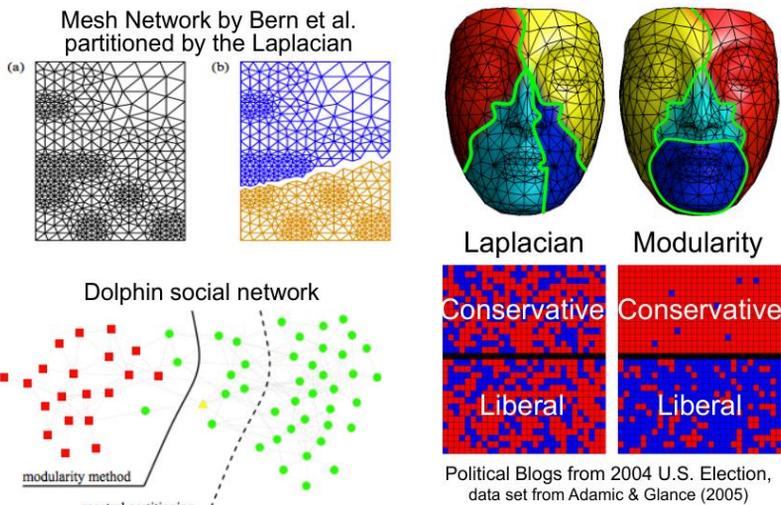
## Properties of Modularity

- Properties of modularity:
  - Between (-1, 1)
  - Modularity = 0 if all nodes are clustered into one group
  - Can automatically determine optimal number of clusters
- Resolution limit of modularity
  - Modularity maximization might return a community consisting multiple small modules

72

72

# Graph Laplacian vs Graph Modularity



73

73

# Recap of Network-Centric Community

## ■ Network-Centric Community Detection

### ■ Groups based on

- Node Similarity
- Latent Space Models
- Cut Minimization
- Block-Model Approximation
- Modularity maximization

■ **Goal:** Partition network nodes into several disjoint sets

■ **Limitation:** Require the user to specify the number of communities beforehand

74

74