

# Dense sub-graphs

Introduction to Network Science

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Topic 13

# Sources

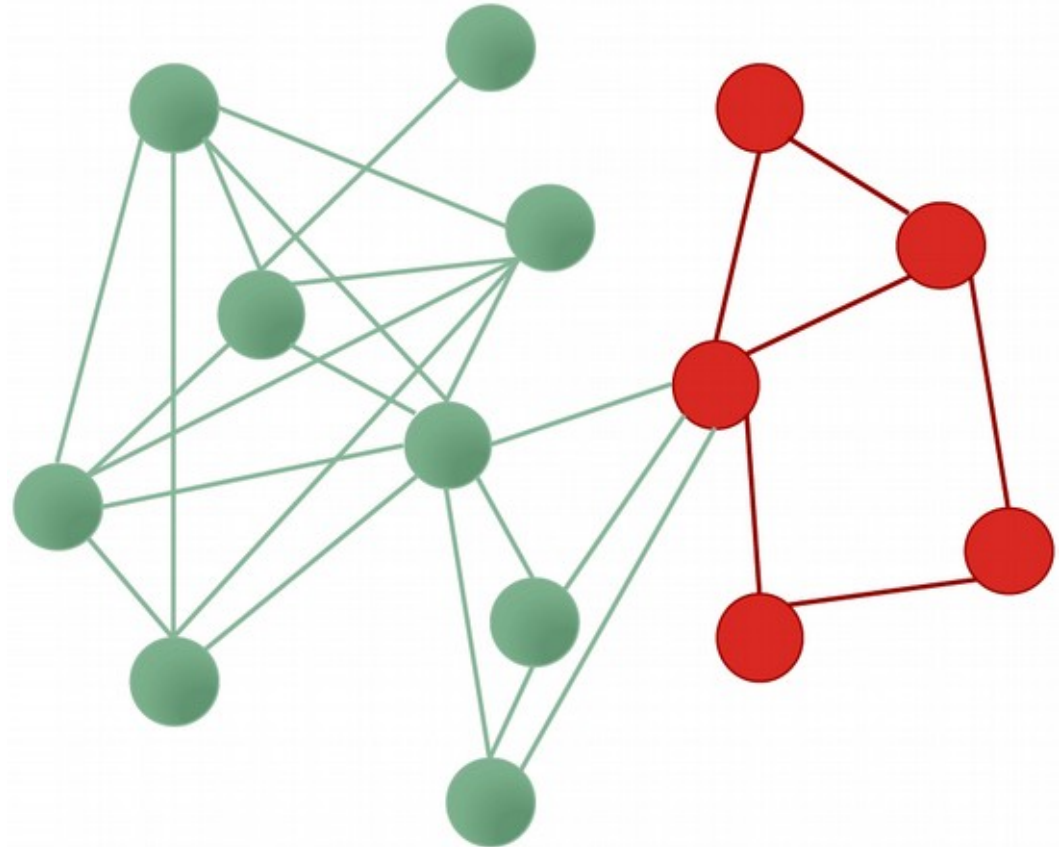
- Barabási 2016 Chapter 9
- [Networks, Crowds, and Markets](#) Ch 3
- C. Castillo (2017) [Dense Sub-Graphs](#)
- Tutorial by A. Beutel, L. Akoglu, C. Faloutsos [[Link](#)]
- Frieze, Gionis, Tsourakakis: “Algorithmic techniques for modeling and mining large graphs (AMAZING)” [[Tutorial](#)]
- A survey of algorithms for dense sub-graph discovery [[link](#)]

# Communities

2 communities	[previous topic]
1 community	<b>[this topic]</b>
3+ communities	[next topic/course]

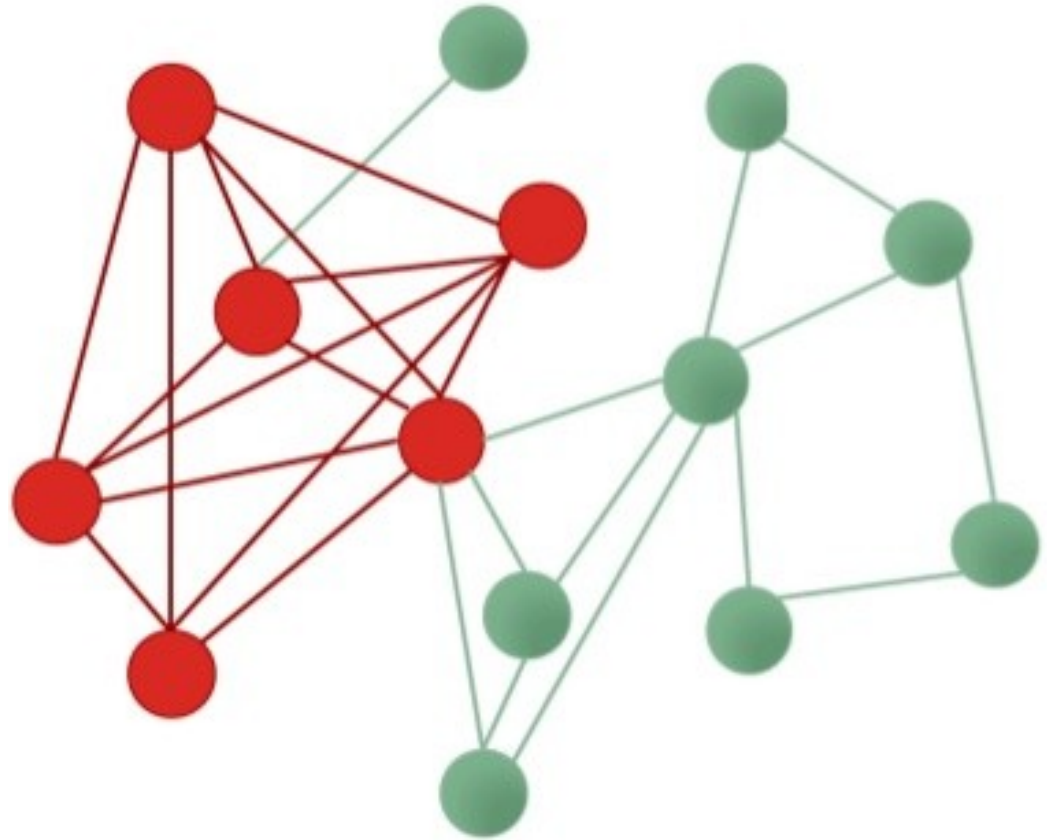
# What is a sub-graph?

Subset of  
nodes, and  
edges among  
those nodes



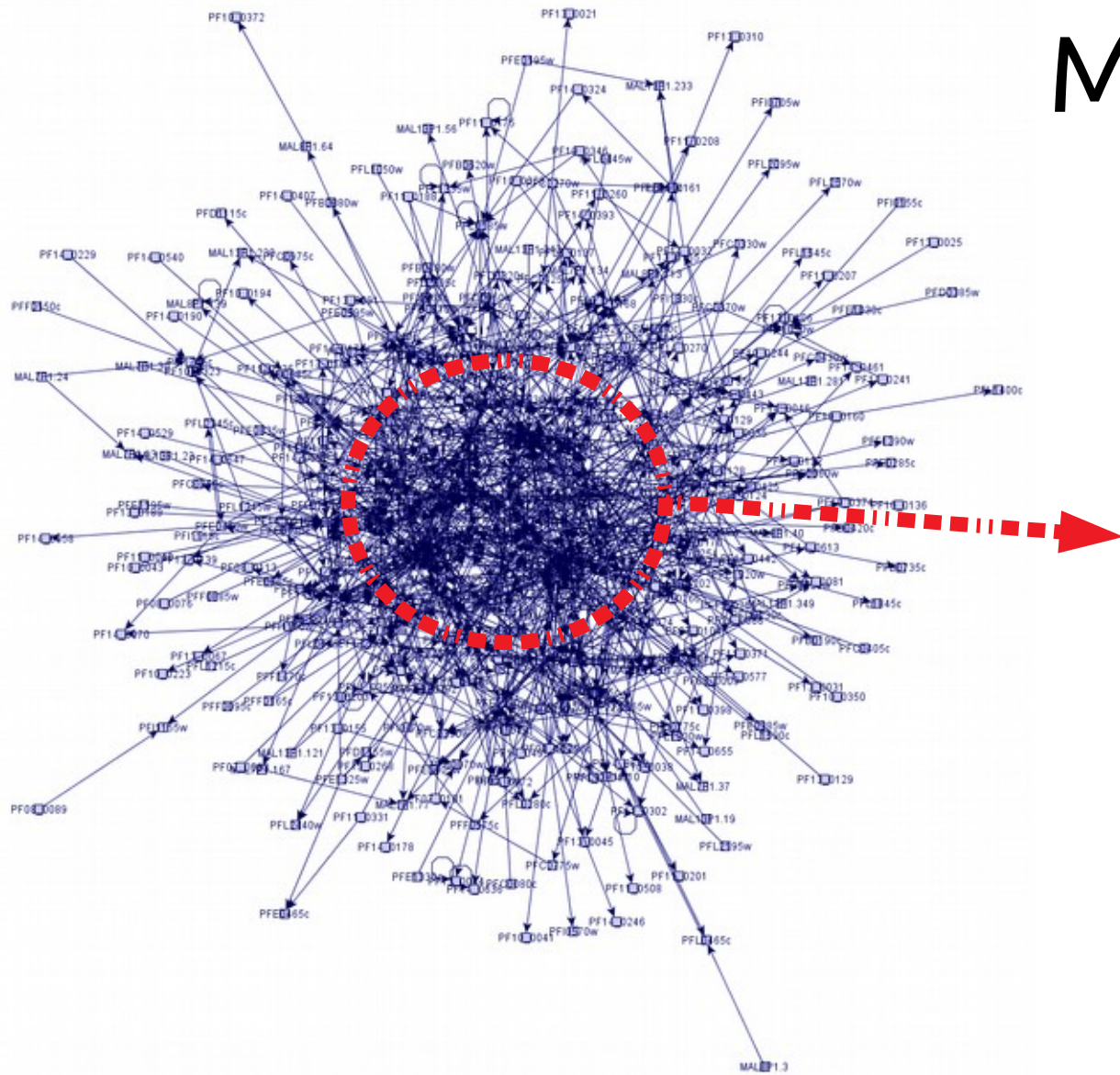
# Densest sub-graph

Sub-graph  
having the  
maximum  
density

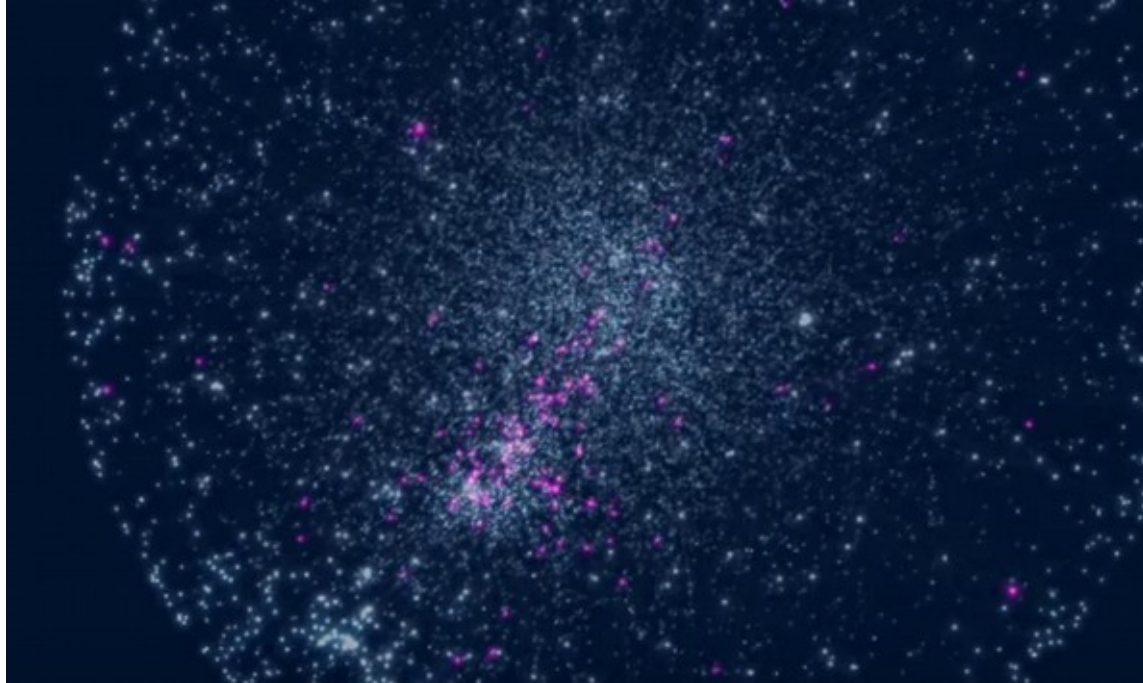


# Many graphs look like “hairballs”

Sometimes, at the center these graphs may have an interesting dense sub-graph



# Asthma-related genes



[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=VU\\_7FHAKMgA](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=VU_7FHAKMgA)

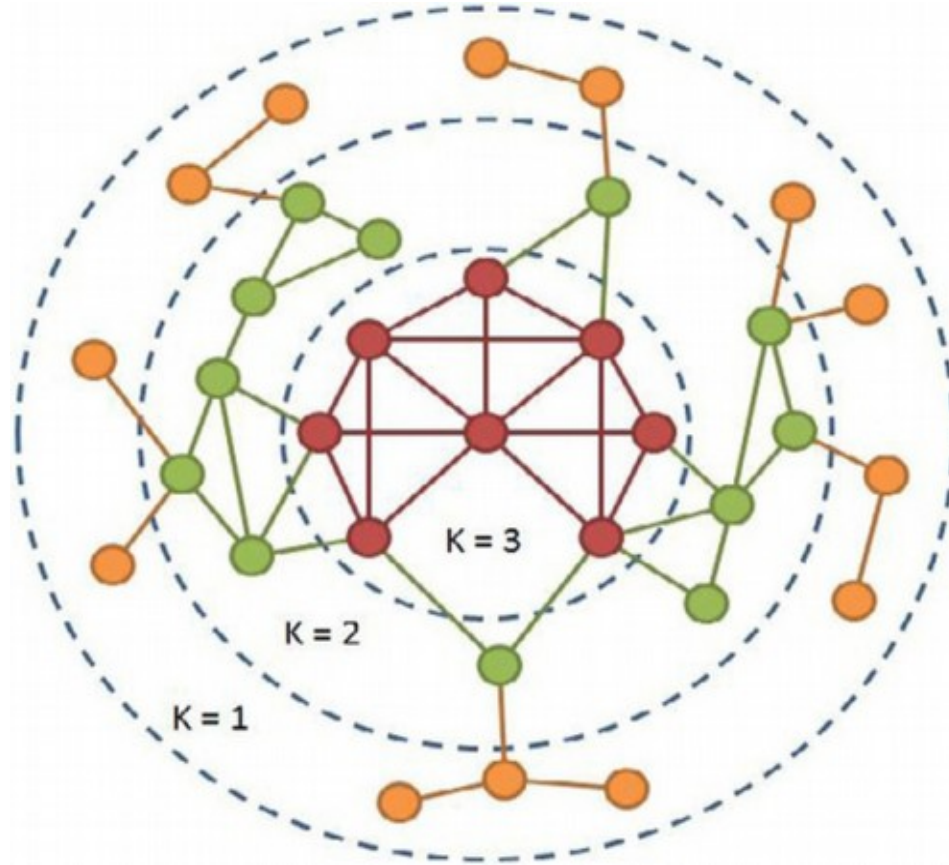
# k-core decomposition



# k-core decomposition

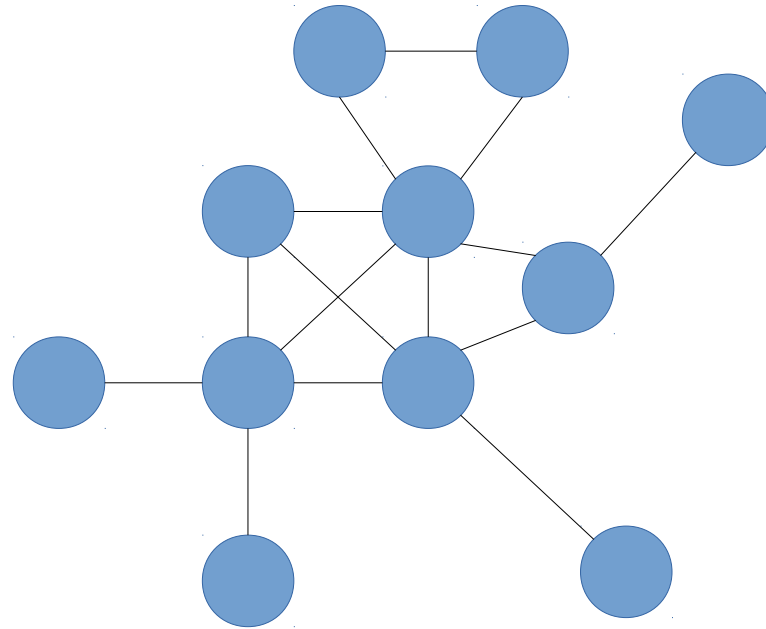
- Remove all nodes having degree 1
  - Those are in the 1-core
- Remove all nodes having degree 2 *in the remaining graph*
  - Those nodes are in the 2-core
- Remove all nodes having degree 3 *in the remaining graph*
  - Those nodes are in the 3-core
- Etc.

# Example



# Try it!

How many nodes are there in each core of this graph?



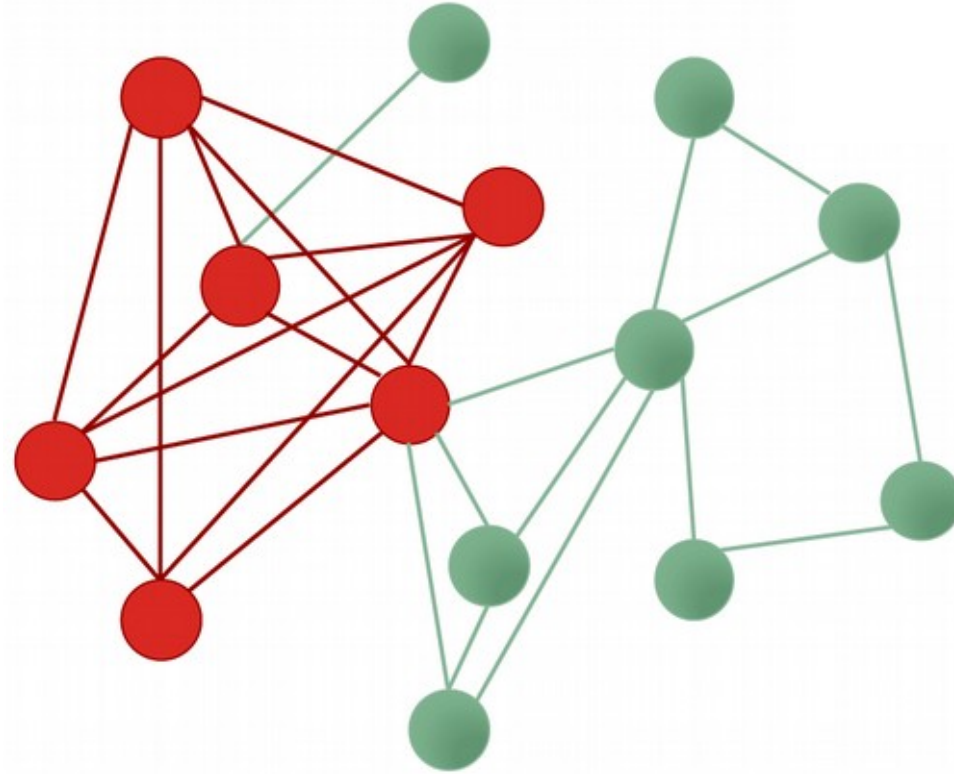
<http://www.cpt.univ-mrs.fr/~barrat/NHM.pdf>

# Density-based methods

# Density measures

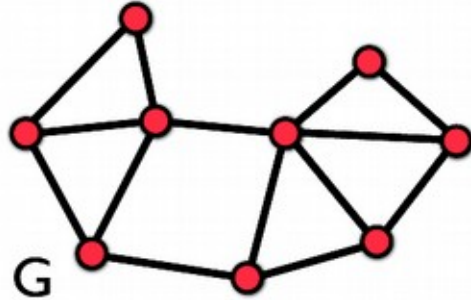
- Density = Average degree =  $2|E|/|V|$ 
  - Sometimes just  $|E|/|V|$
- Edge ratio = 
$$\frac{2|E|}{|V|(|V| - 1)}$$
- What is  $|V|(|V| - 1)/2$ ?

# Densest sub-graph



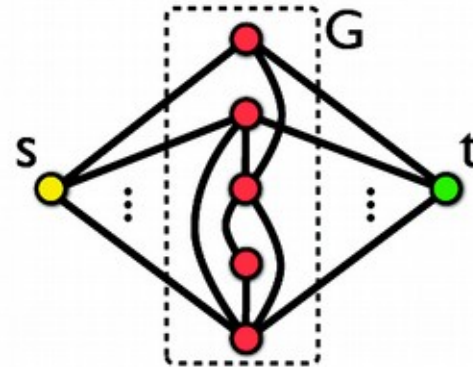
# Goldberg's algorithm (1)

- consider first degree density  $d$



- is there a subgraph  $S$  with  $d(S) \geq c$ ?
- transform to a min-cut instance

- on the transformed instance:
- is there a cut smaller than a certain value?



# Goldberg's algorithm (2)

is there  $S$  with  $d(S) \geq c$  ?

$$\frac{2|E(S, S)|}{|S|} \geq c$$

$$2|E(S, S)| \geq c|S|$$

$$\sum_{u \in S} \deg(u) - |E(S, \bar{S})| \geq c|S|$$

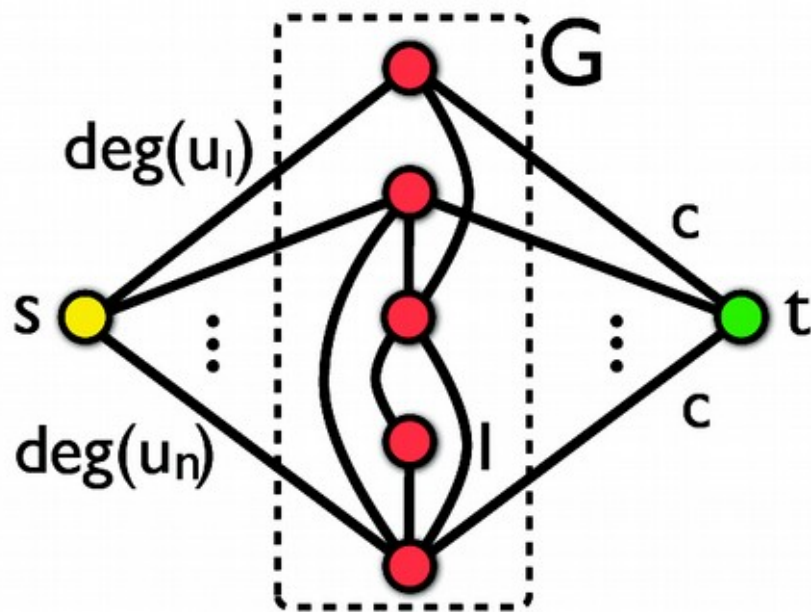
$$\sum_{u \in S} \deg(u) + \sum_{u \in \bar{S}} \deg(u) - \sum_{u \in \bar{S}} \deg(u) - |E(S, \bar{S})| \geq c|S|$$

$$\sum_{u \in \bar{S}} \deg(u) + |E(S, \bar{S})| + c|S| \leq 2|E|$$



# Goldberg's algorithm (3)

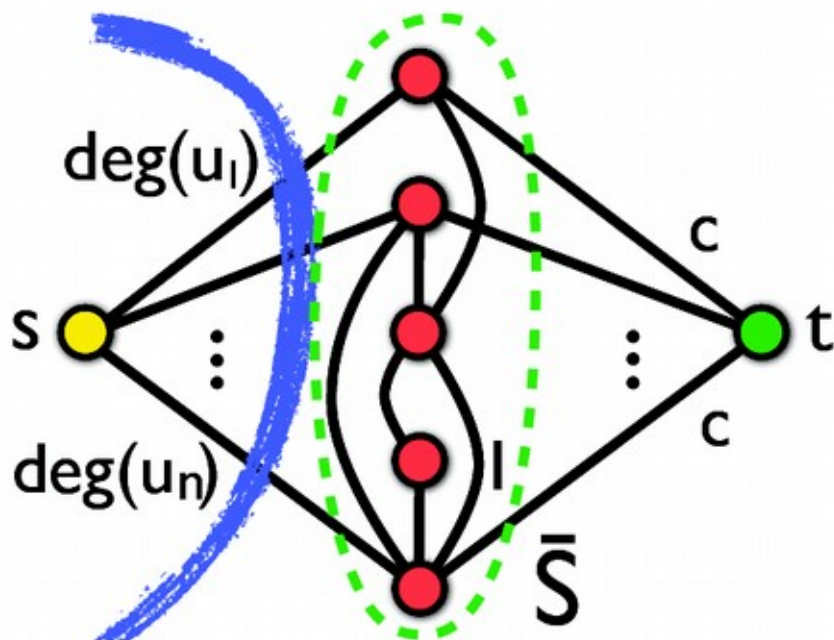
- transformation to min-cut instance



- is there  $S$  s.t.  $\sum_{u \in \bar{S}} \deg(u) + |e(S, \bar{S})| + c|S| \leq 2|E|$  ?

# Goldberg's algorithm (4)

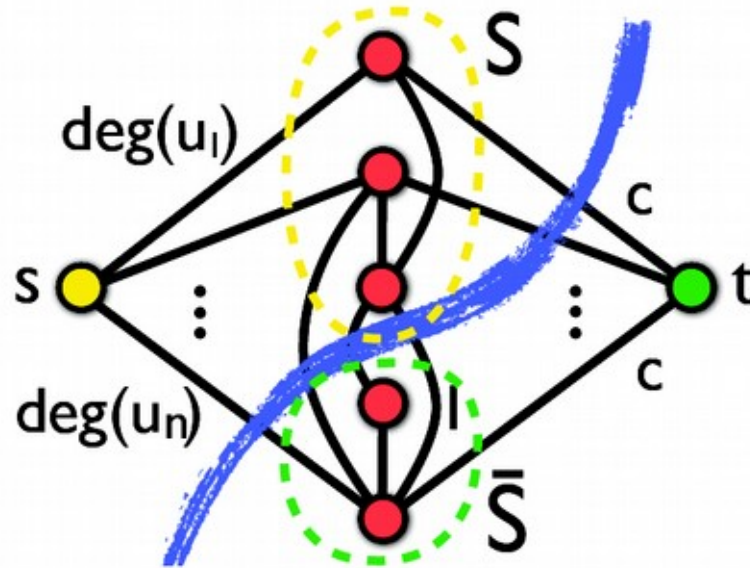
- transform to a min-cut instance



- is there  $S$  s.t.  $\sum_{u \in \bar{S}} \deg(u) + |e(S, \bar{S})| + c|S| \leq 2|E|$  ?
- a cut of value  $2|E|$  always exists, for  $S = \emptyset$

# Goldberg's algorithm (5)

- transform to a min-cut instance



- is there  $S$  s.t.  $\sum_{u \in \bar{S}} \deg(u) + |e(S, \bar{S})| + c|S| \leq 2|E|$  ?
- $S \neq \emptyset$  gives cut of value  $\sum_{u \in \bar{S}} \deg(u) + |e(S, \bar{S})| + c|S|$

If this exists for non-empty  $S$ , then  $S$  is a sub-graph of density  $c$

# Goldberg's algorithm (6)

- to find the densest subgraph perform binary search on  $c$ 
  - logarithmic number of min-cut calls
  - each min-cut call requires  $O(|V||E|)$  time
- problem can also be solved with one min-cut call using the **parametric max-flow algorithm**

# A faster algorithm

- Charikar, M. (2000). Greedy approximation algorithms for finding dense components in a graph. In APPROX.
- Approximate algorithm (by a factor of 2)

# Greedy algorithm

**input:** undirected graph  $G = (V, E)$

**output:**  $S$ , a dense subgraph of  $G$

- 1     set  $G_n \leftarrow G$
- 2     for  $k \leftarrow n$  downto 1
  - 2.1     let  $v$  be the smallest degree vertex in  $G_k$
  - 2.2      $G_{k-1} \leftarrow G_k \setminus \{v\}$
- 3     output the densest subgraph among  $G_n, G_{n-1}, \dots, G_1$

Compute density as  $|V|/|E|$

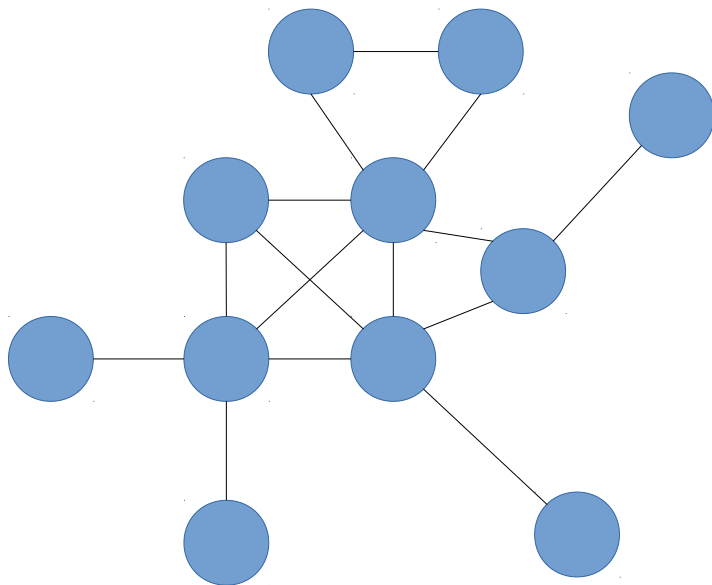
# Try it!

$$\text{Density} = |E|/|V|$$

**input:** undirected graph  $G = (V, E)$

**output:**  $S$ , a dense subgraph of  $G$

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- 3 output the densest subgraph among  $G_n, G_{n-1}, \dots, G_1$



Advanced materials  
(not included in the exam)



# Approximation guarantee

- $S^*$  = optimal sub-graph (highest density)
- $\text{density}(S^*) = \lambda = |e(S^*)| / |S^*|$
- For all  $v$  in  $S^*$ ,  $\deg(v) \geq \lambda$ , because

$$\frac{|e(S^*)|}{|S^*|} \geq \frac{|e(S^* \setminus v)|}{|S^* \setminus v|} = \frac{|e(S^*)| - \deg_{S^*}(v)}{|S^*| - 1}$$

Because of optimality of  $S^*$

# Approximation guarantee (cont)

$$\frac{|e(S^*)|}{|S^*|} \geq \frac{|e(S^* \setminus v)|}{|S^* \setminus v|} = \frac{|e(S^*)| - \deg_{S^*}(v)}{|S^*| - 1}$$

Hence,

$$\deg_{S^*}(v) \geq \frac{|e(S^*)|}{|S^*|} = \text{density}(S^*) = \lambda$$

# Approximation guarantee (cont.)

- Now, let's consider when greedy removes the **first** vertex of the optimal solution  $v \in S^*$
- At that point, all the vertices of the remaining subgraph (S) have degree  $\geq \lambda$ , because  $v$  has degree  $\geq \lambda$
- Hence, this subgraph has more than  $\frac{\lambda|S|}{2}$  edges, and density more than  $\frac{\frac{\lambda|S|}{2}}{|S|} = \frac{\lambda}{2}$

**Hence this is a 2-approximate algorithm**