

1 Recap: Weighted graphs: Traveling salesman problem
Shortest path ~ Dijkstra's algorithm
Minimal spanning trees
Transport networks (max. flow
min. "cut")

D3. Random walks on graphs.

Notes by Malcolm Brooks,
expanded from notes of Pierre Portal
with influences from Judy-anne Osborn .

Unfortunately, Random walks are not covered in our text by Epp, nor in the books by Johnsonbaugh or Kolman et. al.

Announcements: Poll to appear on Wattle to select
review lecture topics. (for next week)

Random walks: idea

Let G be a digraph with n vertices $V = V(G) = \{1, \dots, n\}$ and (directed) edge set $E = E(G)$.

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Before each step, you choose where to go next probabilistically :

If you are at a vertex i you go to vertex j with probability p_{ij} .

[If $(i, j) \notin E$, then, of course, $p_{ij} = 0$.]

Random walks: definition

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For any given n let B_n denote the set of **basis vectors** $\{\mathbf{e}_1, \dots, \mathbf{e}_n\}$ where \mathbf{e}_i is the $n \times 1$ vector with 1 as the i -th entry (*i.e.* in row i) and all other entries zero. *E.g.*, for $n = 3$: $\mathbf{e}_2 = \begin{bmatrix} 0 \\ 1 \\ 0 \end{bmatrix}$

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Then $X_k = (T')^k \mathbf{e}_i = (q_j)_{1 \leq j \leq n}$ say gives, for $1 \leq j \leq n$, the probability q_j of being at the vertex j after k steps, starting from vertex i .

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approaches S as N gets large,

$$\frac{1}{N} \sum_{k=0}^{N-1} T^k X$$

↑
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↓
state at time k.

i.e. $T^k X \rightarrow S$
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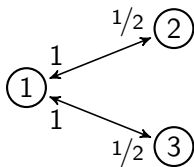
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Idea for the Google algorithm: If G is the Web graph, then, for some suitable transition matrix T , q_j is the relative importance of the page j . We will explore this idea later, but first some examples of random walks.

Example 1

Consider a graph G with adjacency matrix A and a random walk on G with transition matrix T , where

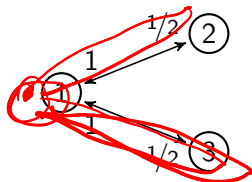
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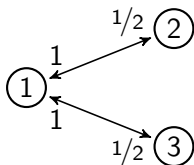


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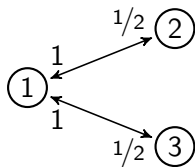
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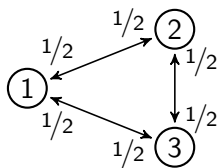
This is confirmed by checking that $T'S = S$.

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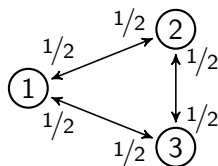


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We see that no one vertex is favoured over any other.

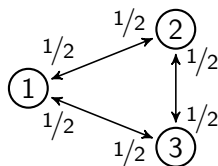
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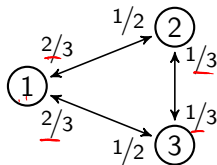
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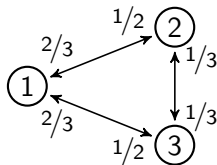
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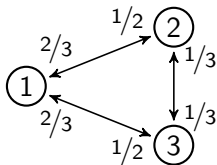


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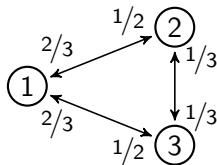
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But what should the probabilities p and q be?

Can you guess?

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The steady state vector is $S = \begin{bmatrix} 4/10 \\ 3/10 \\ 3/10 \end{bmatrix}$. As you can check, $T'S = S$.

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The name “PageRank” is a trademark of Google, and the PageRank process has been patented (U.S. Patent 6,285,999).

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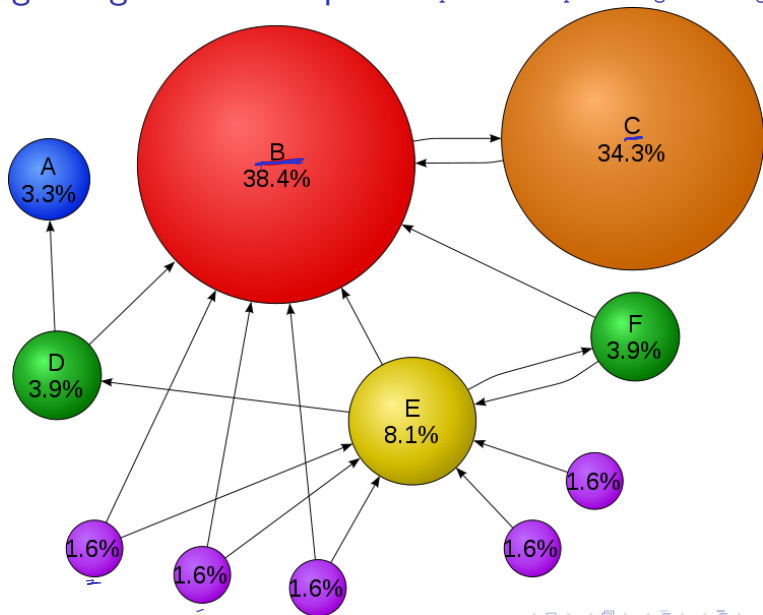
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In the following diagram the sizes of the vertices indicate their importance, as calculated by the PageRank algorithm. The only input to the algorithm was the digraph itself plus a 'damping' factor of 85%, to be discussed later.

Google PageRank Example

<http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/PageRank>

Basic transition probabilities

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Formally, for any webgraph G let n be the number of vertices (pages) and for each vertex i let n_i be the number vertices to which i is linked:

$$n = |V(G)|$$

$$n_i = |\{j : (i,j) \in E(G)\}|$$

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Then the basic probability p_{ij} of a transition from vertex i to j is given by

$$p_{ij} = \begin{cases} 1/n_i & \text{if } n_i \neq 0 \text{ and } (i, j) \in E(G) \\ 1/(n-1) & \text{if } n_i = 0 \text{ and } i \neq j \quad (\text{but see footnote})^1 \leftarrow \\ 0 & \text{otherwise} \end{cases}$$

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The basic transition matrix is $T = (p_{ij})_{1 \leq i, j \leq n}$.

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Example 4A

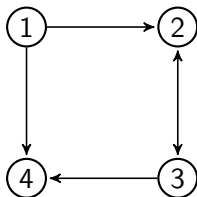
Here is a tiny example of basic transition probabilities - with just $n = 4$ vertices :

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

Example 4A

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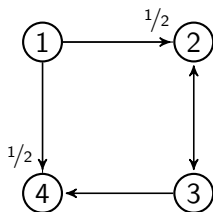
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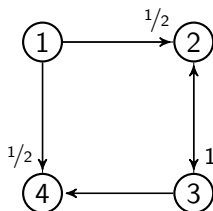
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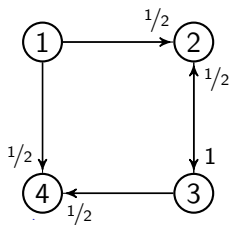
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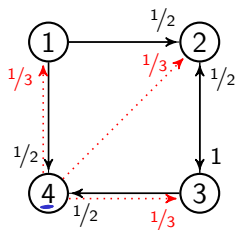
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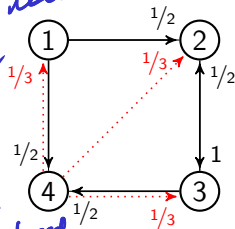


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needs to be replaced.

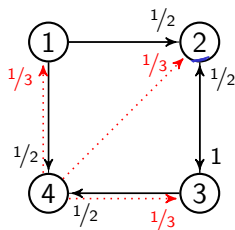


$$T = \begin{bmatrix} 0 & 1/2 & 0 & 1/2 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 1/2 & 0 & 1/2 \\ 1/3 & 1/3 & 1/3 & 0 \end{bmatrix}$$

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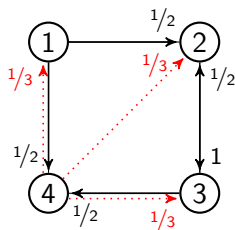
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Solving, by computer, $(T' - I)S = 0$ with the usual replacement last equation, gives steady state solution $S = \frac{1}{13} \begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ 4 \\ 5 \\ 3 \end{bmatrix} \approx \begin{bmatrix} .08 \\ .31 \\ .38 \\ .23 \end{bmatrix}$.

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So on this basis, vertex 3 is most important and vertex 1 least.

The damping factor ($1 - \alpha$)

The PageRank algorithm assumes that, at any time k , there is a small probability α that, irrespective of what links are available at the current page, the surfer chooses to teleport randomly to any page on the web; *i.e.* the surfer acts as if there were *no* links from the current page.

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Thus the modified probability for transition from vertex i to j is

$$m_{ij} = \underbrace{\alpha/n}_{\text{random jump}} + (1 - \alpha) \underbrace{p_{ij}}_{\text{follow hyperlinks.}}$$

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Thus the modified probability for transition from vertex i to j is

$$m_{ij} = \alpha/n + (1 - \alpha)p_{ij}.$$

In practice, Google uses a damping factor of 85%, *i.e.* $\alpha = 0.15$.

The modified transition matrix M and PageRank vector \mathcal{PR}

The modified transition probabilities lead to a modified transition matrix

$$M = (m_{ij})_{1 \leq i, j \leq n} = (\alpha/n + (1 - \alpha)p_{ij})_{1 \leq i, j \leq n}$$

The modified transition matrix M and PageRank vector \mathcal{PR}

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$$\begin{aligned} M = (m_{ij})_{1 \leq i, j \leq n} &= (\alpha/n \mathbf{1} + (1 - \alpha)p_{ij})_{1 \leq i, j \leq n} \\ &= (\alpha/n) \mathbf{U} + (1 - \alpha) \mathbf{T}, \end{aligned}$$

where \mathbf{U} is the $n \times n$ all-1's matrix and \mathbf{T} is the basic transition matrix.

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As indicated earlier, the PageRank algorithm defines the rank of page i of the webgraph to be the i -th entry in the **PageRank vector** \mathcal{PR} , which in turn is defined as the steady state vector for the random walk on the webgraph with transition matrix M .

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As indicated earlier, the PageRank algorithm defines the rank of page i of the webgraph to be the i -th entry in the **PageRank vector** \mathcal{PR} , which in turn is defined as the steady state vector for the random walk on the webgraph with transition matrix M .

Thus \mathcal{PR} is defined as the probability vector solution to the equation

$$M' \mathcal{PR} = \mathcal{PR}.$$

Calculating PR

Expanding the defining equation $M'PR = PR$ gives

$$\begin{aligned} PR &= ((\alpha/n)U + (1 - \alpha)T')PR && \text{since } U' = U \\ &= (\alpha/n)\underline{UPR} + (1 - \alpha)T'PR && (**) \end{aligned}$$

$$U'PR = \begin{bmatrix} \vdots & \vdots & \vdots & \vdots \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} p_1 \\ \vdots \\ p_n \end{bmatrix}$$

$$= \begin{bmatrix} p_1 + \dots + p_n \\ \vdots \\ p_1 + \dots + p_n \end{bmatrix}$$

$$= \begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ \vdots \\ 1 \end{bmatrix}$$

Calculating \mathcal{R}

Expanding the defining equation $M'\mathcal{R} = \mathcal{R}$ gives

$$\begin{aligned}\mathcal{R} &= ((\alpha/n)U + (1 - \alpha)T')\mathcal{R} && \text{since } U' = U \\ &= (\alpha/n)U\mathcal{R} + (1 - \alpha)T'\mathcal{R} && (\star\star)\end{aligned}$$

Now each entry of the product $U\mathcal{R}$ is the sum of all the entries in \mathcal{R} , and since \mathcal{R} is a probability vector that sum is 1. Hence $U\mathcal{R} = \mathbf{1}$ where $\mathbf{1}$ is the $n \times 1$ vector of all 1's.

Calculating \overline{PR}

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$$(I - (1-\alpha)T')\overline{PR} = (\alpha/n)\mathbf{1}$$

(subtract $(1-\alpha)T'\overline{PR}$ from both sides)

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For small to moderate n this equation can be solved directly (by computer).

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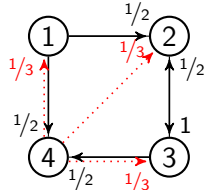
invariably if $\alpha \neq 0$

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- Notes:
- When $\alpha = 0$ this equation reverts to the basic steady state equation.
 - When $\alpha \neq 0$ the fact that we have used $U\overline{PR} = \mathbf{1}$ means that it is no longer necessary, nor appropriate, to replace the last row of this matrix equation by all 1's, as in the case of $\alpha = 0$.

Example 4B

For example 4A we had:

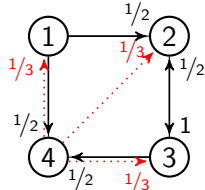
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$$S = \begin{bmatrix} .08 \\ .31 \\ .38 \\ .23 \end{bmatrix}$$

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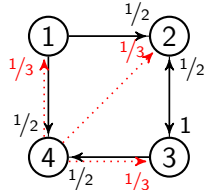
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Let's see what happens if we apply a damping factor of 90%; i.e. $\alpha = 0.1$.

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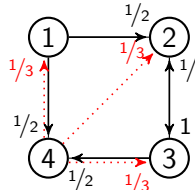
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We need to solve the equation $(I - (1 - \alpha)T')PR = (\alpha/n)\mathbf{1}$ where:

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We need to solve the equation $(I - (1 - \alpha)T')$ $PR = (\alpha/n)\mathbf{1}$ where:

$$(I - (1 - \alpha)T') = I - (0.9)T'$$

$$= \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 & 0 & -0.3 \\ -0.45 & 1 & -0.45 & -0.3 \\ 0 & -0.9 & 1 & -0.3 \\ -0.45 & 0 & -0.45 & 1 \end{bmatrix}$$

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$$A = \begin{bmatrix} 0 & 1 & 0 & 1 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 & 0 & 1 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \end{bmatrix} \quad \begin{array}{c} \text{Diagram: 4 nodes (1, 2, 3, 4) in a square. Solid black arrows: 1 to 2 (1/2), 2 to 3 (1/2), 3 to 4 (1), 4 to 1 (1/2). Dotted red arrows: 1 to 3 (1/3), 2 to 4 (1/3), 3 to 1 (1/3), 4 to 2 (1/3).} \end{array} \quad T = \begin{bmatrix} 0 & 1/2 & 0 & 1/2 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 1/2 & 0 & 1/2 \\ 1/3 & 1/3 & 1/3 & 0 \end{bmatrix} \quad S = \begin{bmatrix} .08 \\ .31 \\ .38 \\ .23 \end{bmatrix}$$

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$$(I - (1 - \alpha)T') = I - (0.9)T' \quad \parallel \parallel \quad (\alpha/n)\mathbf{1} = \frac{0.1}{4} \begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ 1 \\ 1 \\ 1 \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} 0.025 \\ 0.025 \\ 0.025 \\ 0.025 \end{bmatrix}$$

Example 4B (cont.)

Solving the equation

$$\begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 & 0 & -0.3 \\ -0.45 & 1 & -0.45 & -0.3 \\ 0 & -0.9 & 1 & -0.3 \\ -0.45 & 0 & -0.45 & 1 \end{bmatrix} \mathcal{R} = \begin{bmatrix} 0.025 \\ 0.025 \\ 0.025 \\ 0.025 \end{bmatrix}$$

on the computer gives,

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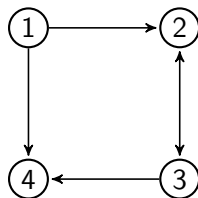
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The PageRank of vertex 1 increases because it now has teleporting 'inputs' from all vertices, not just vertex 4.

PR is a "smoothed out" version of S.



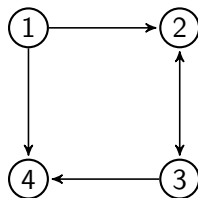
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The PageRank of vertex 1 increases because it now has teleporting ‘inputs’ from all vertices, not just vertex 4. This increase is at the expense of the stronger vertices 2 and 3.

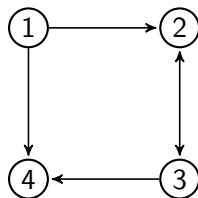
Example 4B (cont.)

Solving the equation

$$\begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 & 0 & -0.3 \\ -0.45 & 1 & -0.45 & -0.3 \\ 0 & -0.9 & 1 & -0.3 \\ -0.45 & 0 & -0.45 & 1 \end{bmatrix} \mathcal{PR} = \begin{bmatrix} 0.025 \\ 0.025 \\ 0.025 \\ 0.025 \end{bmatrix}$$

on the computer gives, to two decimal places,

$$\mathcal{PR} = \begin{bmatrix} .10 \\ .30 \\ .37 \\ .23 \end{bmatrix} \quad \text{compared to} \quad S = \begin{bmatrix} .08 \\ .31 \\ .38 \\ .23 \end{bmatrix} \quad \text{without damping.}$$



The PageRank of vertex 1 increases because it now has teleporting ‘inputs’ from all vertices, not just vertex 4. This increase is at the expense of the stronger vertices 2 and 3. Vertex 4 gains about as much as it loses.

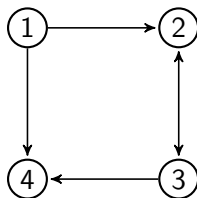
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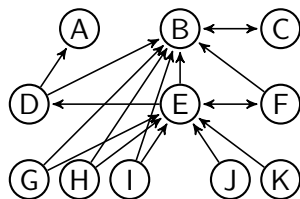
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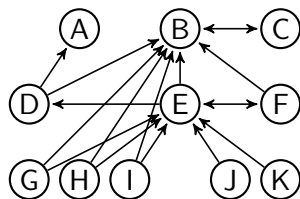
The PageRank of vertex 1 increases because it now has teleporting ‘inputs’ from all vertices, not just vertex 4. This increase is at the expense of the stronger vertices 2 and 3. Vertex 4 gains about as much as it loses. This is what you expect with damping.

Example 5



At left is the Wikipedia example we saw earlier of a miniweb of 11 pages and 17 hyperlinks. Colours, variable sizes and PageRanks have been removed and the bottom five vertices have been labelled G to K, following the given labelling of the top six vertices. The layout is similar to that in the original.

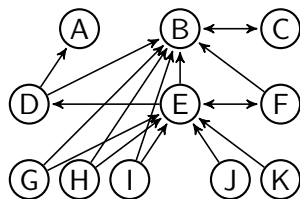
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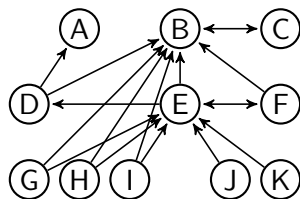


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Using the steady state method we have been discussing, we will derive the PageRanks given on the Wikipedia diagram.

Step 1: Compile the adjacency matrix A .

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

Example 5 (cont.)

Step 2: Compile the basic transition matrix T .

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In each row i of A , count the number n_i of 1's in the row then:

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In each row i of A , count the number n_i of 1's in the row then:

- If $n_i \neq 0$ replace each 1 with $1/n_i$.
- If $n_i = 0$ then
 - if n (the total number of pages) is small (less than 10 say) replace all but the i -th (diagonal) entry by $1/(n-1)$ (we did this in Example 4B)
 - but for $n \geq 10$ (as here and for WWW) replace every entry by $1/n$.

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For our Wikipedia example we get

$$T = \begin{bmatrix} 1/11 & 1/11 & 1/11 & 1/11 & 1/11 & 1/11 & 1/11 & 1/11 & 1/11 & 1/11 & 1/11 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 1/2 & 1/2 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 1/3 & 0 & 1/3 & 0 & 1/3 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 1/2 & 0 & 0 & 1/2 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 1/2 & 0 & 0 & 1/2 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 1/2 & 0 & 0 & 1/2 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 1/2 & 0 & 0 & 1/2 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 1 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 1 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \end{bmatrix}$$

Example 5 (cont.)

Step 3: Compile the matrix $(I - (1 - \alpha)T')$

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For each row i of T

1. multiply each entry by $(1 - \alpha)$ and put the *negative* of this in the corresponding position in the i -th *column* of $(I - (1 - \alpha)T')$;
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Google uses an 85% damping factor, so we set $(1 - \alpha) = 0.85$.

Example 5 (cont.)

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For example 'Gauss-Jordan Elimination' in the *Matrix Reshish* online matrix calculator, gives

$$PR = \begin{bmatrix} 0.032919 \\ 0.384644 \\ 0.343127 \\ 0.039112 \\ 0.080937 \\ 0.039112 \\ 0.016180 \\ 0.016180 \\ 0.016180 \\ 0.016180 \\ 0.016180 \end{bmatrix} \approx \begin{bmatrix} 3.3\% \\ 38.4\% \\ 34.3\% \\ 3.9\% \\ 8.1\% \\ 3.9\% \\ 1.6\% \\ 1.6\% \\ 1.6\% \\ 1.6\% \\ 1.6\% \end{bmatrix}$$

Iterative Approximation method

When n is huge, as it is with the WWW, solving the the $n \times n$ linear system $(I - (1 - \alpha)T')PR = (\alpha/n)\mathbf{1}$ becomes computationally infeasible.

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When n is huge, as it is with the WWW, solving the the $n \times n$ linear system $(I - (1 - \alpha)T')\mathcal{R} = (\alpha/n)\mathbf{1}$ becomes computationally infeasible.

A computationally simpler method starts from the defining equation:

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Recall that $M = (\alpha/n)U + (1 - \alpha)T$ is the modified transition matrix.

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P_0 is arbitrary and $P_k = M'P_{k-1}$ for $k \geq 1$ (so $P_k = (M')^k P_0$).

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Each iteration takes a weighted average of teleporting and hyperlinking.

Example 4C

In Example 4B we used the equation-solving method to find \mathcal{PR} .

For $T = \begin{bmatrix} 0 & 1/2 & 0 & 1/2 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 1/2 & 0 & 1/2 \\ 1/3 & 1/3 & 1/3 & 0 \end{bmatrix}$ and $\alpha = 0.1$ we found $\mathcal{PR} = \begin{bmatrix} .10 \\ .30 \\ .37 \\ .23 \end{bmatrix}$ to 2d.p.

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Let's try the same problem using iterative approximation:

$$P_0 = \begin{bmatrix} .25 \\ .25 \\ .25 \\ .25 \end{bmatrix} \quad P_k = \begin{bmatrix} .025 \\ .025 \\ .025 \\ .025 \end{bmatrix} + \begin{bmatrix} 0 & 0 & 0 & .3 \\ .45 & 0 & .45 & .3 \\ 0 & .9 & 0 & .3 \\ .45 & 0 & .45 & 0 \end{bmatrix} P_{k-1}$$

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Results of the first ten iterations, rounded to 2d.p. Calcs used 15d.p.

k	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
P_k	.10	.10	.09	.10	.09	.10	.09	.10	.09	.10
	.33	.29	.31	.30	.31	.30	.31	.30	.30	.30
	.33	.39	.35	.38	.36	.37	.36	.37	.37	.37
	.25	.22	.25	.22	.24	.23	.24	.23	.24	.23

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Pretty good after just 2 iterations! Within 1%-point after 4 iterations.

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End of Course Notes.