

Homophily and Triangles

Social Networks Analysis and Graph Algorithms

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Contents

- *This is all about friends, and friends of friends*
- Homophily
- Clustering coefficient

Sources

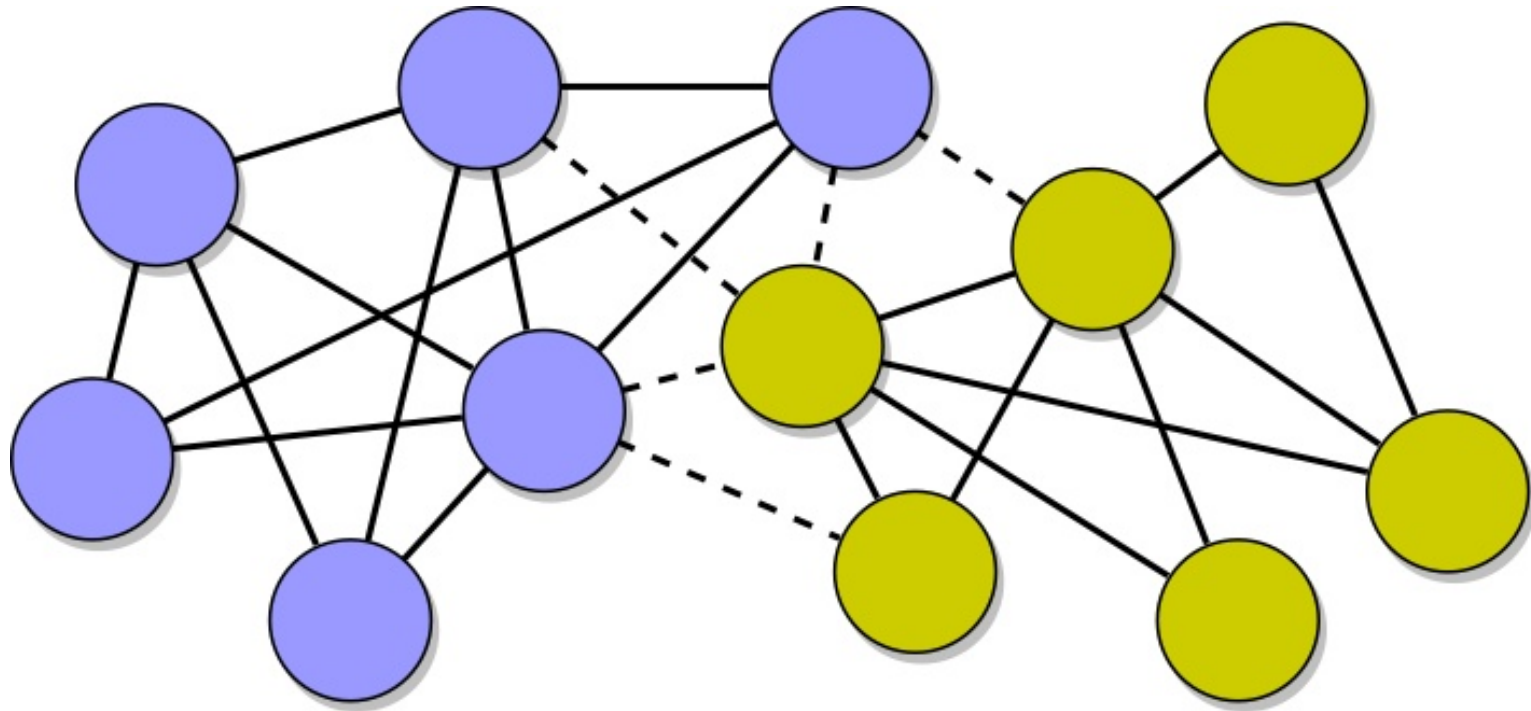
- Albert-László Barabási: Network Science. Cambridge University Press, 2016 (chapter 2).
- Filippo Menczer, Santo Fortunato, and Clayton A. Davis. A First Course in Network Science. Cambridge University Press, 2020 (chapter 2).
- URLs cited in the footer of specific slides

Homophily

Who is a friend? [Homophily]

- In social networks, nodes have characteristics that influence their preferences
 - Age, gender identity, ethnicity, sexual preference, location, topics of interest, artistic sensitivities, ...
- People tend to befriend those who are like them: that is called **homophily**

“Birds of a feather flock together”



Quantifying homophily

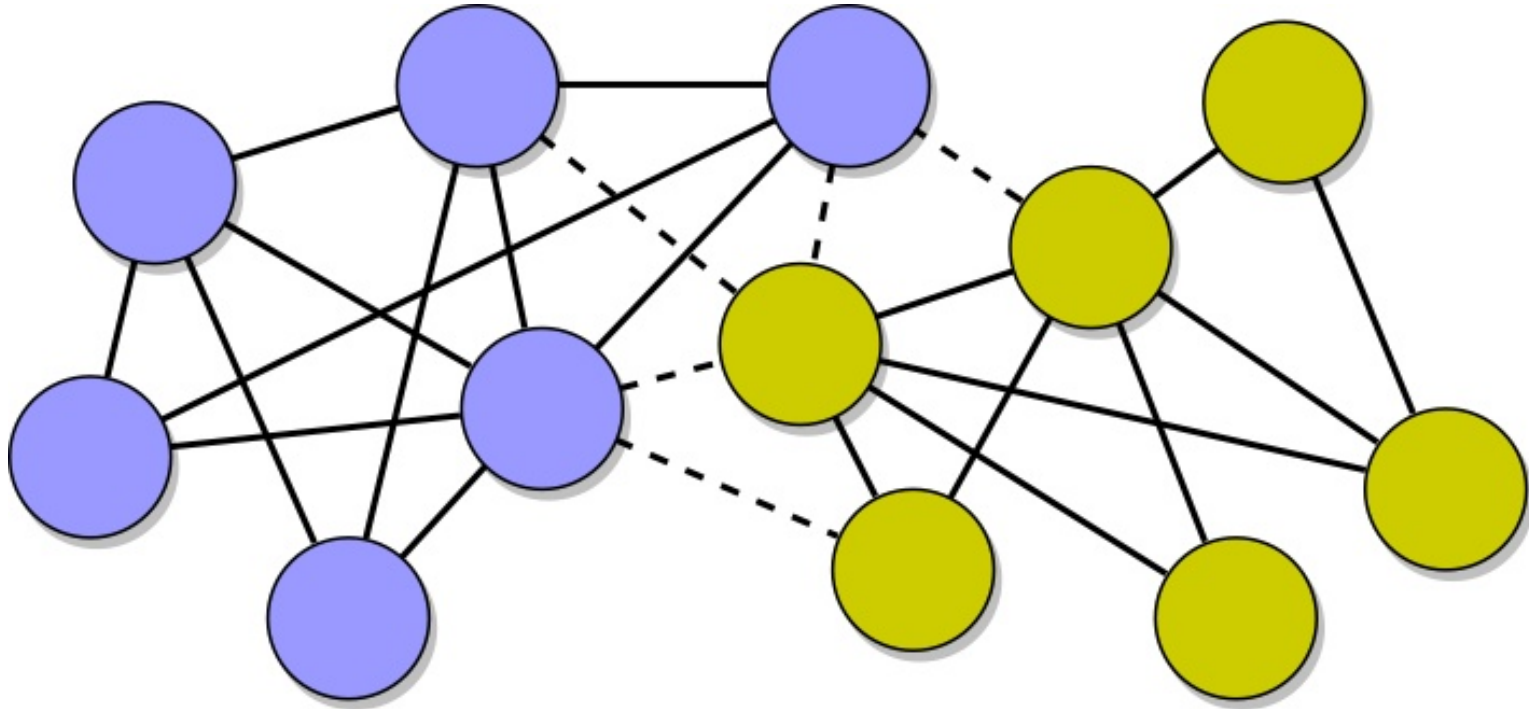
- Let G be a graph of N nodes: N_a “yellow” and N_b “blue”

$$N = N_a + N_b$$

- Let G have L undirected links (including self loops), of which L_{aa} connect yellow to yellow, L_{ab} connect yellow to blue, and L_{bb} connect blue to blue

$$L = L_{aa} + L_{ab} + L_{bb} \quad L_a = L_{aa} + L_{ab} \quad L_b = L_{bb} + L_{ab}$$

$$N_a = 6, N_b = 6, L_a = 14, L_b = 16, L_{ab} = 5,$$



Expected links across groups

If yellow nodes have L_a links placed at random (incl. self loops), how many should go to a blue node?

$$L_b \left(\frac{N_b}{N} \right)$$

Quantifying homophily of a group

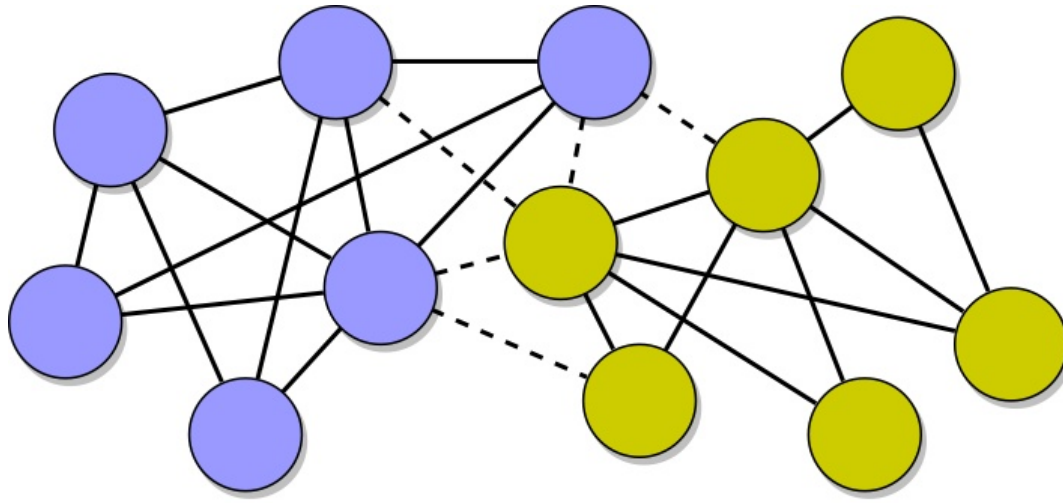
- We compare observed against the **expected number of links crossing to the other group**

$<1 \Rightarrow$ heterophily; $1 \Rightarrow$ neutral; $>1 \Rightarrow$ homophily

$$\text{Homophily}(a) = \frac{L_{ab}}{L_a \left(\frac{N_b}{N} \right)}$$

$$\text{Homophily}(b) = \frac{L_{ab}}{L_b \left(\frac{N_a}{N} \right)}$$

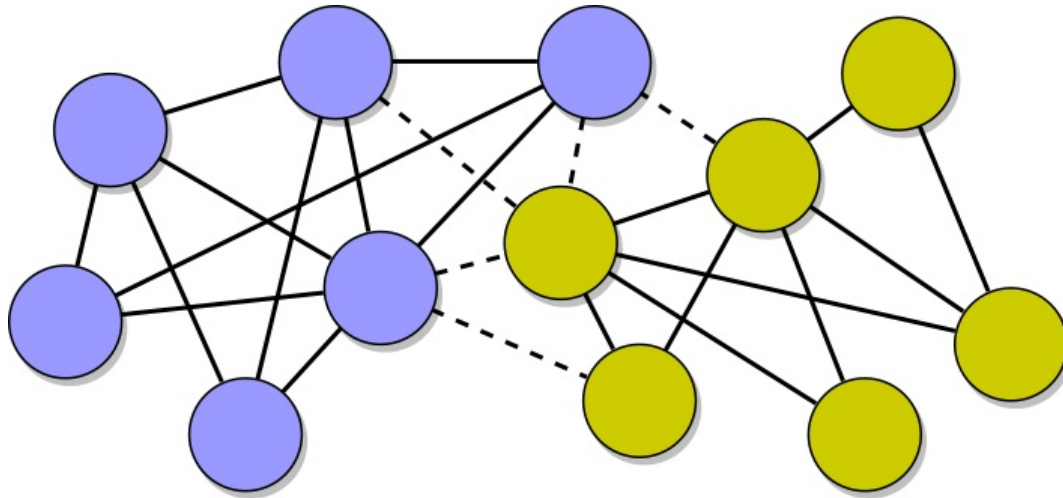
$$\text{Homophily}(a) = 1 - \frac{L_{ab}}{L_a \left(\frac{N_b}{N} \right)} = 1 - \frac{5}{14 \left(\frac{6}{12} \right)} = \frac{2}{7}$$



Yellow nodes are homophilic

$$N_a = 6, N_b = 6, L_a = 14, L_b = 16, L_{ab} = 5,$$

$$\text{Homophily}(b) = 1 - \frac{L_{ab}}{L_b \left(\frac{N_a}{N} \right)} = 1 - \frac{5}{16 \left(\frac{6}{12} \right)} = \frac{3}{8}$$

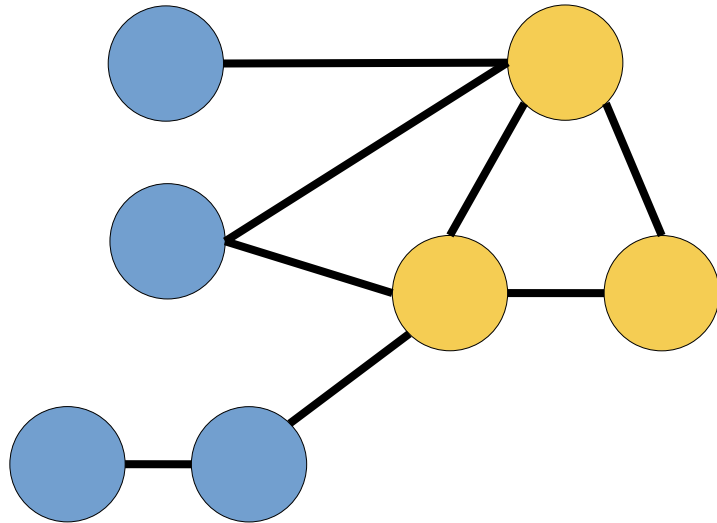


Blue nodes are homophilic

$$N_a = 6, N_b = 6, L_a = 14, L_b = 16, L_{ab} = 5,$$

Exercise

Are yellow/blue nodes homophilic, heterophilic, or neutral



$$\text{Homophily}(a) = \frac{L_{ab}}{L_a \left(\frac{N_b}{N} \right)}$$

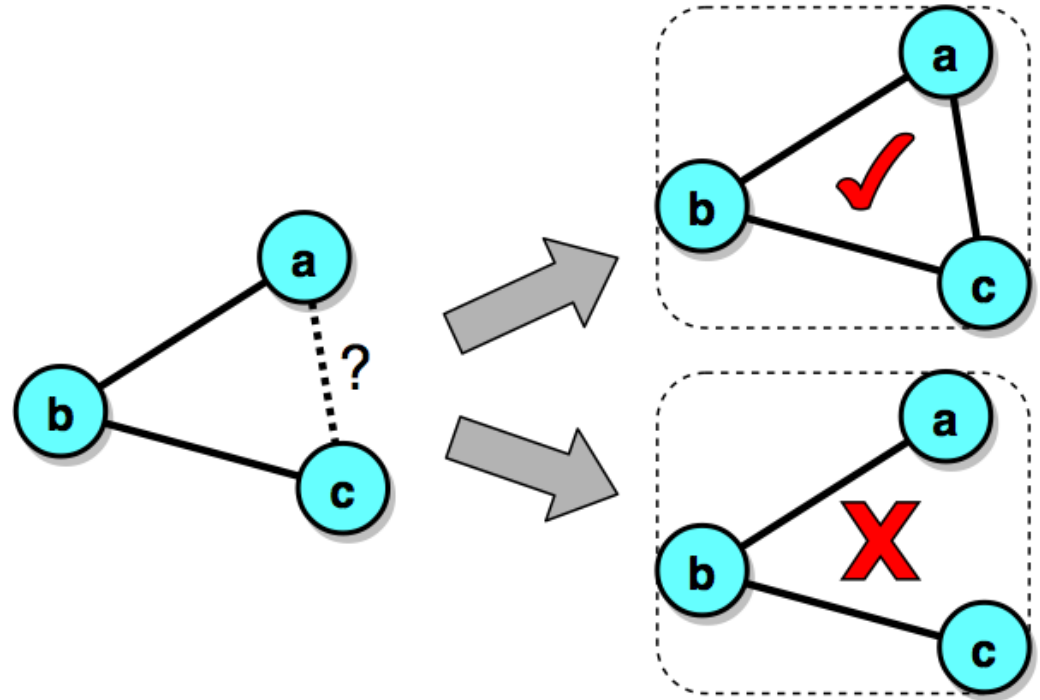
$$\text{Homophily}(b) = \frac{L_{ab}}{L_b \left(\frac{N_a}{N} \right)}$$

Answer in Nearpod
Code to be given during class

Clustering coefficient

Who is a friend? [Triangle closure]

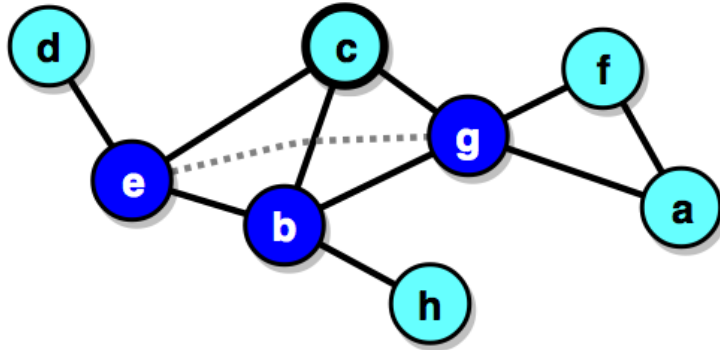
A prevalent way in which we form friendships is by befriending **friends of friends**



Tendency to form triangles

- Other processes of link formation encourage the closing of “V”s into triangles
 - You’re more likely to follow an account u because you see content posted by u and re-posted by an account v that you already follow
- Let’s quantify this

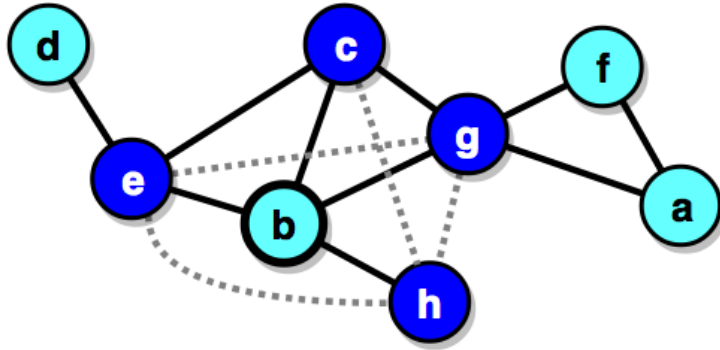
Example 1



Node c has 3 neighbors: a, b, g

They form two triangles out of the possible 3 (the missing one is drawn with a dotted line)

Example 2



Node b has 4 neighbors: e, c, g, h

They form two triangles out of the possible 6 (the missing ones are drawn with a dotted line)

Remember

The maximum number of links between k nodes is

$$\frac{k(k-1)}{2}$$

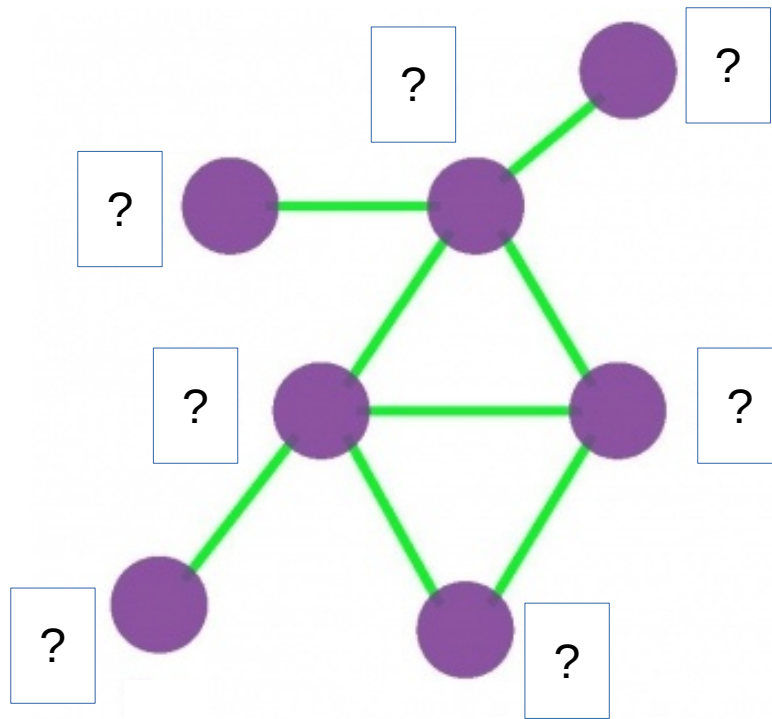
Local clustering coefficient

- The **local clustering coefficient** C_i is a property of a node i
- Let L_i represent the number of links among neighbors of node i

$$C_i = \frac{L_i}{\frac{k_i(k_i-1)}{2}} = \frac{2L_i}{k_i(k_i-1)} \quad C_i \triangleq 0 \text{ if } k_i \leq 1$$

Exercise

What is the local clustering coefficient of each node?



$$C_i = \frac{2L_i}{k_i(k_i - 1)}$$

$$C_i \triangleq 0 \text{ if } k_i \leq 1$$

Draw in Nearpod Draw-It
<https://nearpod.com/student/>
Code to be given during class

Average clustering coefficient (“global clustering coefficient”)

- The **average clustering coefficient** is a property of the entire graph

$$\langle C \rangle = \frac{1}{N} \sum_{i=1}^N C_i$$

Sometimes this is called the *curvature* of a graph

Summary

Things to remember

- How to quantify if a group is
 - Homophilic
 - Heterophilic
 - Neutral
- Local and global clustering coefficient

Practice on your own

- Determine if the set $\{C, D, G\}$ is homophilic or heterophilic
- Calculate local clustering coefficient of each node in this graph

