

COMP4434 Big Data Analytics

Lecture 11 PageRank

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PageRank Motivation: How to organize the Web?

- First try: Human curated **Web directories**

- Yahoo, DMOZ, LookSmart

- Second try: **Web search**

- **Information Retrieval** investigates:

Finding relevant docs in a small and trusted set

- Newspaper articles, Patents, etc.

- **But:** Web is **huge**, full of untrusted documents, random things, web spam, etc.

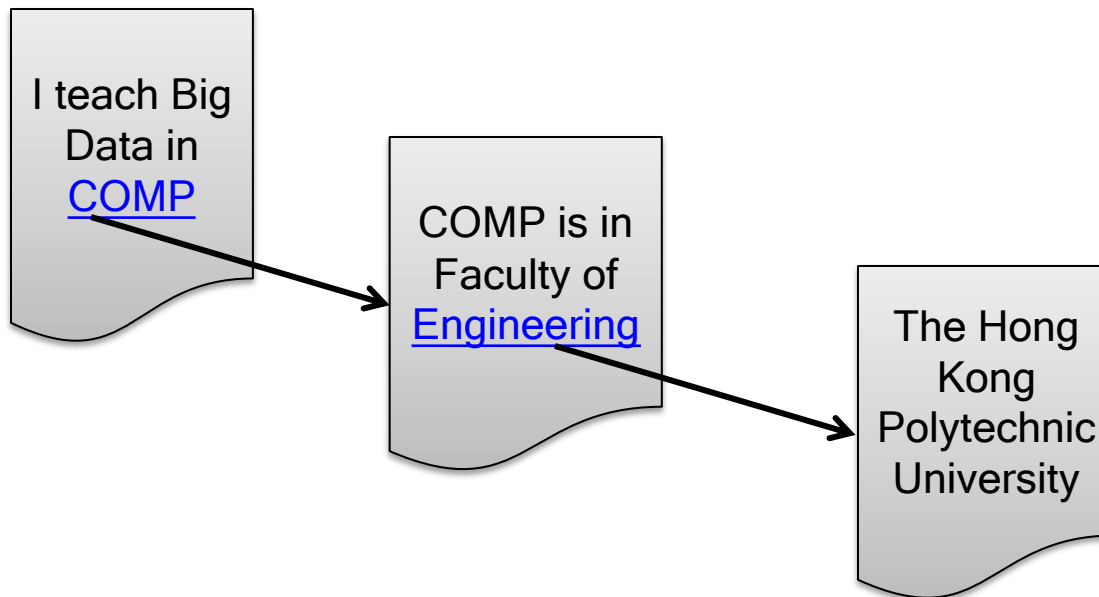


Challenges in Web Search

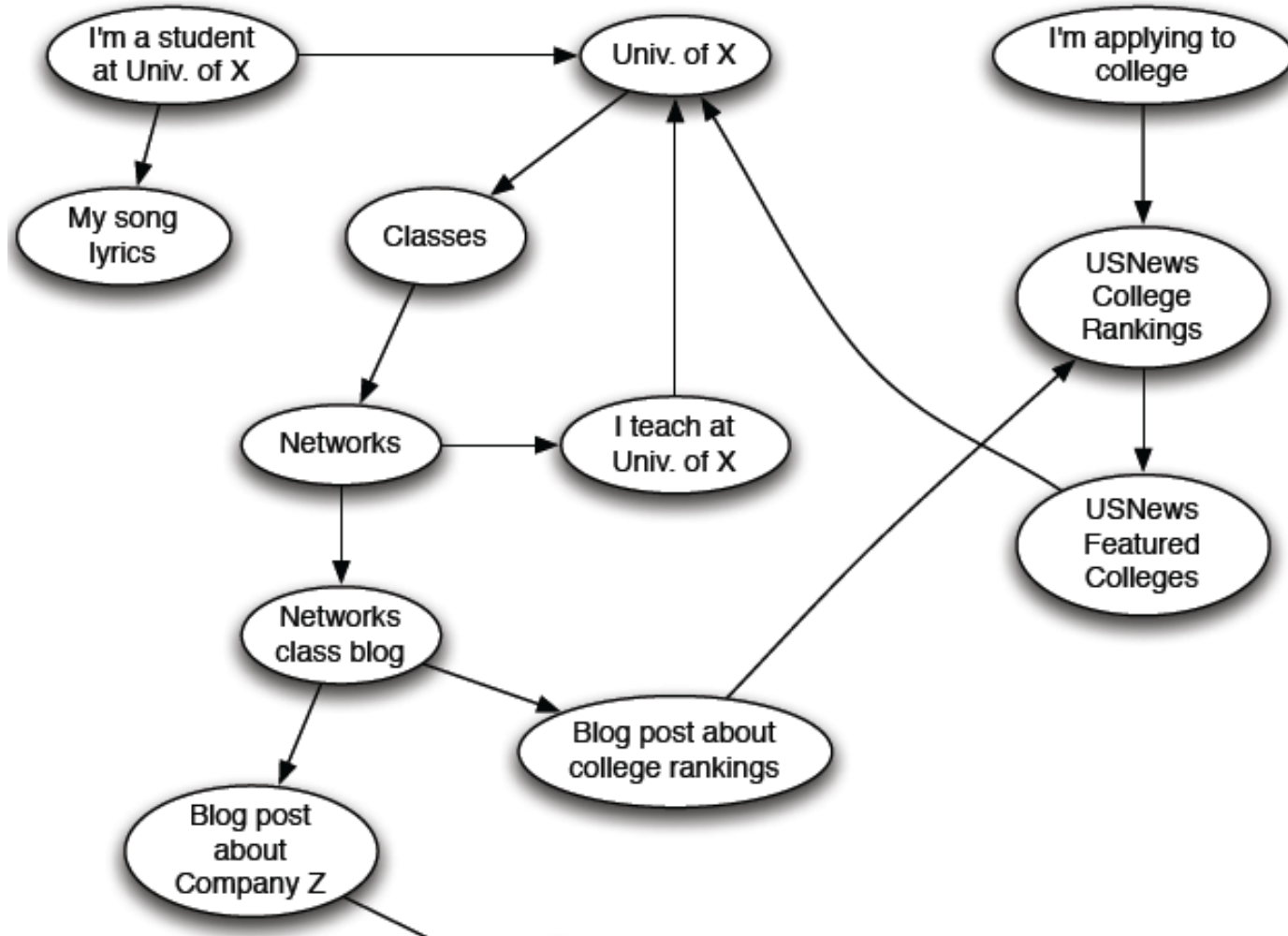
- (1) Web contains many sources of information
Who to “trust”?
 - **Trick:** Trustworthy pages may point to each other!
- (2) What is the “best” answer to query “newspaper”?
 - No single right answer
 - **Trick:** Pages that actually know about newspapers might all be pointing to many newspapers

Hint: Web as a Directed Graph

- Nodes: Webpages
- Edges: Hyperlinks



Web as a Directed Graph



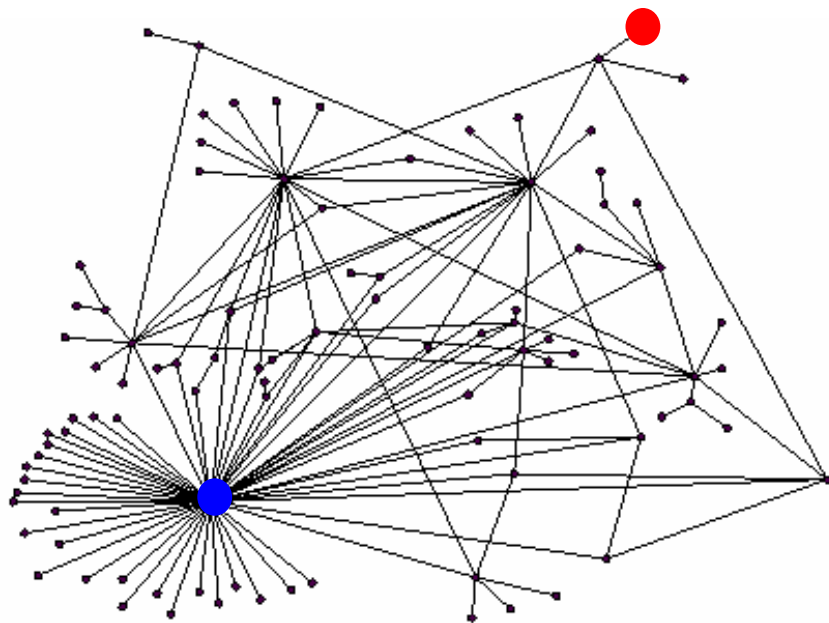
Ranking Nodes on the Graph

- All web pages are not equally “important”

<https://xhuang31.github.io> vs.

<https://www.polyu.edu.hk>

- There is large diversity in the web-graph node connectivity.
Let's rank the pages by the link structure!



Example of Node Ranking

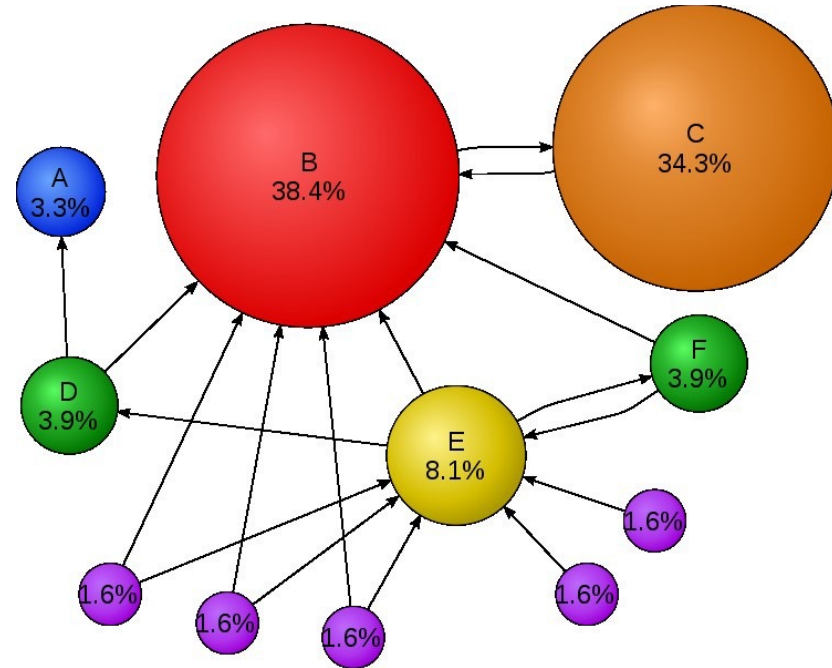
- Page Ranking
- Social Ranking
- Paper Ranking
- Scholar Ranking
-

Idea: Links as votes

- Page is more important if it has more links
 - In-coming links? Out-going links?
- **Think of in-links as votes:**
 - www.stanford.edu has 23,400 in-links
 - <https://xhuang31.github.io> has 0 in-link
- **Are all in-links are equal?**
 - Links from important pages count more
 - Recursive question!

Google PageRank

- **In-coming links!** Out-going links?
- A page with high PageRank value
 - Many pages pointing to it, or
 - There are some pages that point to it and have high PageRank values
- Example:
 - Page C has a higher PageRank than Page E, even though it has fewer links to it
 - The link it has is of a much higher value



Is Page == “Webpage”?

- Born in March 26, 1973
- Found Google at September 4, 1998
- As of Nov 2024, own an estimated net worth of \$163 billion (No.15 Richest)
- Begins from “Larry Page and Sergey Brin developed PageRank at Stanford University in 1996” as part of a research project about a new kind of search engine.

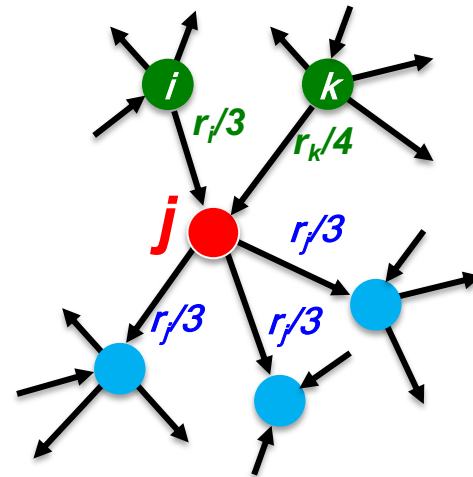


Larry Page
Co-founder of Google

Simple Recursive Formulation

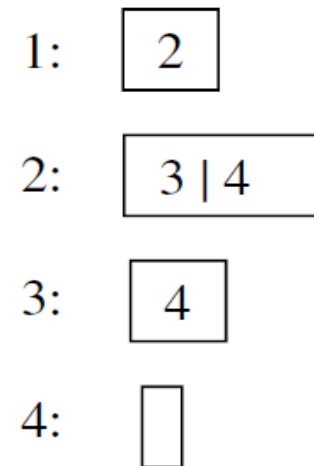
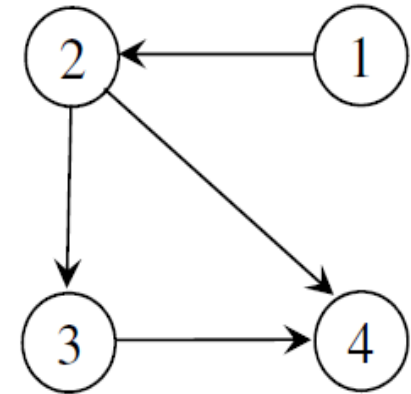
- Each link's vote is proportional to the **importance** of its source page
- If page j with importance $PR(j)$ has n out-links, each link gets $PR(j) / n$ votes
- Page j 's own importance is the sum of the votes on its in-links

$$PR(j) = PR(i)/3 + PR(k)/4$$



How to Represent a Graph

- **Graph model** $G = (V, E)$
 - V is a set of pages
 - E is a set of edges
 - Each edge $(u, v) \in E$ represents that page u points/references to page v
- **Adjacent List**
 - A data structure for a graph
 - $Adj[u] = \{v: (u, v) \in E\}$ contains each vertex v being adjacent to u
 - Example: $Adj[2] = \{3, 4\}$

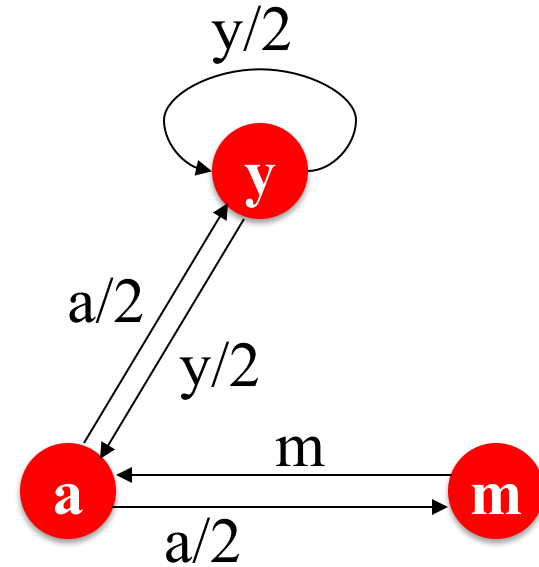


PageRank: The “Flow” Model

- A “vote” from an important page is worth more
- A page is important if it is pointed to by other important pages
- Define a “rank” r_j for page j

$$r_j = \sum_{i \rightarrow j} \frac{r_i}{d_i}$$

d_i ... out-degree of node i



“Flow” equations:

$$r_y = r_y/2 + r_a/2$$

$$r_a = r_y/2 + r_m$$

$$r_m = r_a/2$$

Solving the Flow Equations

Flow equations:

$$r_y = r_y/2 + r_a/2$$

$$r_a = r_y/2 + r_m$$

$$r_m = r_a/2$$

- 3 equations, 3 unknowns, no constants
 - No unique solution
 - All solutions equivalent modulo the scale factor
- Additional constraint forces uniqueness:
 - $r_y + r_a + r_m = 1$
 - Solution: $r_y = \frac{2}{5}, r_a = \frac{2}{5}, r_m = \frac{1}{5}$
- But, we need a better method for large web-size graphs

PageRank: Matrix Formulation

- **Stochastic adjacency matrix M**

- Let page i has d_i out-links
- If $i \rightarrow j$, then $M_{ji} = \frac{1}{d_i}$ else $M_{ji} = 0$
- M is a **column stochastic matrix**
 - Columns sum to 1

- **Rank vector r :** vector with an entry per page

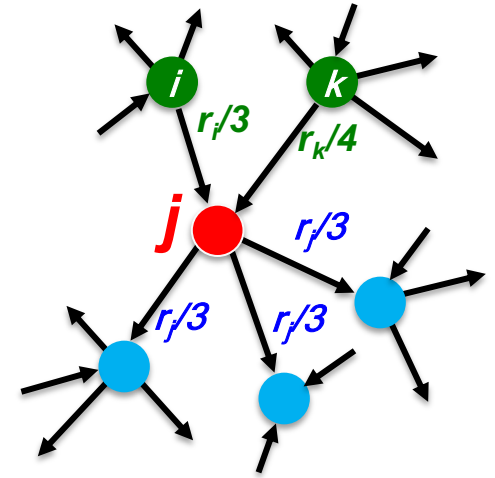
- r_i is the importance score of page i
- $\sum_i r_i = 1$

$$r_j = \sum_{i \rightarrow j} \frac{r_i}{d_i}$$

- **The flow equations can be written**

$$r = M \cdot r$$

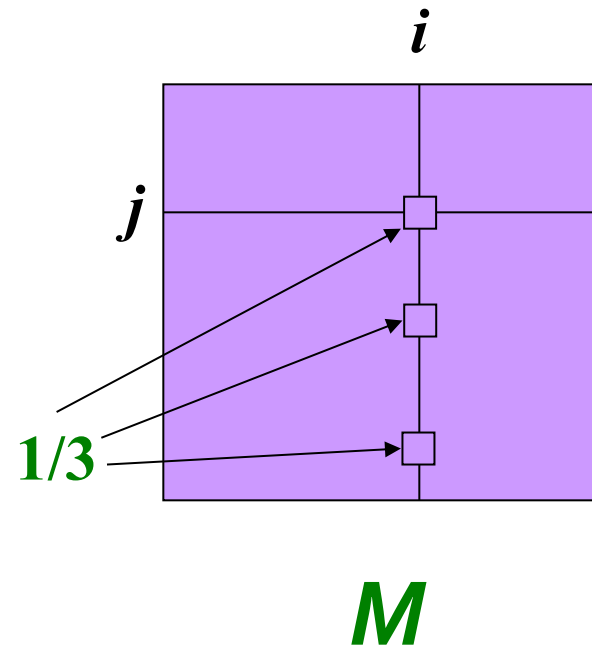
Example



- Remember the flow equation:
- Flow equation in the matrix form

$$M \cdot r = r$$

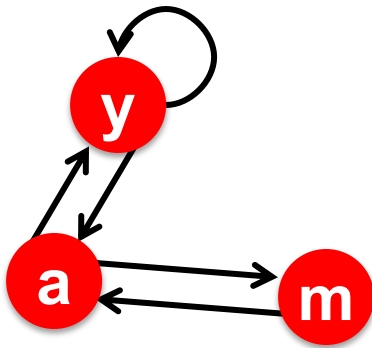
- Suppose page i links to 3 pages, including j



$$M \cdot r = r$$

$$r_j = \sum_{i \rightarrow j} \frac{r_i}{d_i}$$

Example: Flow Equations & M



	y	a	m
y	$\frac{1}{2}$	$\frac{1}{2}$	0
a	$\frac{1}{2}$	0	1
m	0	$\frac{1}{2}$	0

$$r = M \cdot r$$

$$r_y = r_y/2 + r_a/2$$

$$r_a = r_y/2 + r_m$$

$$r_m = r_a/2$$

$$\begin{bmatrix} y \\ a \\ m \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} \frac{1}{2} & \frac{1}{2} & 0 \\ \frac{1}{2} & 0 & 1 \\ 0 & \frac{1}{2} & 0 \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} y \\ a \\ m \end{bmatrix}$$

Power Iteration Method

- Given a web graph with N nodes, where the nodes are pages and edges are hyperlinks
- **Power iteration:** a simple iterative scheme
 - Suppose there are N web pages
 - Initialize: $\mathbf{r}^{(0)} = [1/N, \dots, 1/N]^T$
 - Iterate: $\mathbf{r}^{(t+1)} = \mathbf{M} \cdot \mathbf{r}^{(t)}$
 - Stop when $\|\mathbf{r}^{(t+1)} - \mathbf{r}^{(t)}\|_1 < \varepsilon$

$$r_j^{(t+1)} = \sum_{i \rightarrow j} \frac{r_i^{(t)}}{d_i}$$

d_i out-degree of node i

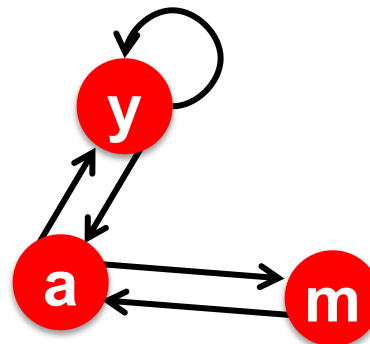
$\|\mathbf{x}\|_1 = \sum_{1 \leq i \leq N} |x_i|$ is the **L₁** norm

Can use any other vector norm, e.g., Euclidean

PageRank: How to solve?

■ Power Iteration:

- Set $r_j = 1/N$
- **1:** $r'_j = \sum_{i \rightarrow j} \frac{r_i}{d_i}$
- **2:** $r = r'$
- Go to **1**



	y	a	m
y	$\frac{1}{2}$	$\frac{1}{2}$	0
a	$\frac{1}{2}$	0	1
m	0	$\frac{1}{2}$	0

$$\mathbf{r}_y = \mathbf{r}_y / 2 + \mathbf{r}_a / 2$$

$$\mathbf{r}_a = \mathbf{r}_y / 2 + \mathbf{r}_m$$

$$\mathbf{r}_m = \mathbf{r}_a / 2$$

■ Example:

$$\begin{bmatrix} \mathbf{r}_y \\ \mathbf{r}_a \\ \mathbf{r}_m \end{bmatrix} = \begin{array}{ccccc} 1/3 & 1/3 & 5/12 & 9/24 & 6/15 \\ 1/3 & 3/6 & 1/3 & 11/24 & \dots & 6/15 \\ 1/3 & 1/6 & 3/12 & 1/6 & & 3/15 \end{array}$$

Iteration 0, 1, 2, ...

Why Power Iteration works? (1)

Details!

- **Power iteration:**

A method for finding dominant eigenvector (the vector corresponding to the largest eigenvalue)

- $\mathbf{r}^{(1)} = \mathbf{M} \cdot \mathbf{r}^{(0)}$
- $\mathbf{r}^{(2)} = \mathbf{M} \cdot \mathbf{r}^{(1)} = \mathbf{M}(\mathbf{M}\mathbf{r}^{(0)}) = \mathbf{M}^2 \cdot \mathbf{r}^{(0)}$
- $\mathbf{r}^{(3)} = \mathbf{M} \cdot \mathbf{r}^{(2)} = \mathbf{M}(\mathbf{M}^2\mathbf{r}^{(0)}) = \mathbf{M}^3 \cdot \mathbf{r}^{(0)}$

- **Claim:**

Sequence $\mathbf{M} \cdot \mathbf{r}^{(0)}, \mathbf{M}^2 \cdot \mathbf{r}^{(0)}, \dots \mathbf{M}^k \cdot \mathbf{r}^{(0)}, \dots$ approaches the dominant eigenvector of \mathbf{M} (\mathbf{M} is stochastic/Markov matrix)

- **NOTE:** \mathbf{x} is an eigenvector with the corresponding eigenvalue λ if:

$$\mathbf{M}\mathbf{x} = \lambda\mathbf{x}$$

Optimal \mathbf{r} is the first or principal eigenvector of \mathbf{M} , with corresponding eigenvalue 1

Why Power Iteration works? (2)

Details!

- **Claim:** Sequence $\mathbf{M} \cdot \mathbf{r}^{(0)}, \mathbf{M}^2 \cdot \mathbf{r}^{(0)}, \dots \mathbf{M}^k \cdot \mathbf{r}^{(0)}, \dots$ approaches the dominant eigenvector of \mathbf{M}

NOTE: \mathbf{x} is an eigenvector with the corresponding eigenvalue λ if:

$$\mathbf{M}\mathbf{x} = \lambda\mathbf{x}$$

- **Proof:**

- Assume \mathbf{M} has n linearly independent eigenvectors, $\mathbf{x}_1, \mathbf{x}_2, \dots, \mathbf{x}_n$ with corresponding eigenvalues $\lambda_1, \lambda_2, \dots, \lambda_n$, where $\lambda_1 > \lambda_2 > \dots > \lambda_n$
- Vectors $\mathbf{x}_1, \mathbf{x}_2, \dots, \mathbf{x}_n$ form a basis and thus we can write:
$$\mathbf{r}^{(0)} = c_1 \mathbf{x}_1 + c_2 \mathbf{x}_2 + \dots + c_n \mathbf{x}_n$$
- $$\begin{aligned}\mathbf{M}\mathbf{r}^{(0)} &= \mathbf{M}(c_1 \mathbf{x}_1 + c_2 \mathbf{x}_2 + \dots + c_n \mathbf{x}_n) \\ &= c_1(\mathbf{M}\mathbf{x}_1) + c_2(\mathbf{M}\mathbf{x}_2) + \dots + c_n(\mathbf{M}\mathbf{x}_n) \\ &= c_1(\lambda_1 \mathbf{x}_1) + c_2(\lambda_2 \mathbf{x}_2) + \dots + c_n(\lambda_n \mathbf{x}_n)\end{aligned}$$
- **Repeated multiplication on both sides produces**
$$\mathbf{M}^k \mathbf{r}^{(0)} = c_1(\lambda_1^k \mathbf{x}_1) + c_2(\lambda_2^k \mathbf{x}_2) + \dots + c_n(\lambda_n^k \mathbf{x}_n)$$

Why Power Iteration works? (3)

- **Claim:** Sequence $M \cdot r^{(0)}, M^2 \cdot r^{(0)}, \dots M^k \cdot r^{(0)}, \dots$ approaches the dominant eigenvector of M
- **Proof (continued):**
 - Repeated multiplication on both sides produces

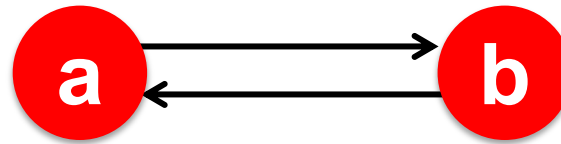
$$M^k r^{(0)} = c_1(\lambda_1^k x_1) + c_2(\lambda_2^k x_2) + \dots + c_n(\lambda_n^k x_n)$$
 - $$M^k r^{(0)} = \lambda_1^k \left[c_1 x_1 + c_2 \left(\frac{\lambda_2}{\lambda_1} \right)^k x_2 + \dots + c_n \left(\frac{\lambda_n}{\lambda_1} \right)^k x_n \right]$$
 - Since $\lambda_1 > \lambda_2$ then fractions $\frac{\lambda_2}{\lambda_1}, \frac{\lambda_3}{\lambda_1} \dots < 1$
 and so $\left(\frac{\lambda_i}{\lambda_1} \right)^k = 0$ as $k \rightarrow \infty$ (for all $i = 2 \dots n$).
 - **Thus:**
$$M^k r^{(0)} \approx c_1(\lambda_1^k x_1)$$
 - Note if $c_1 = 0$ then the method won't converge
 - The largest eigenvalue of a stochastic matrix is always 1.

PageRank: Three Questions

$$r_j^{(t+1)} = \sum_{i \rightarrow j} \frac{r_i^{(t)}}{d_i} \quad \text{or equivalently} \quad \mathbf{r} = \mathbf{M}\mathbf{r}$$

- Does this converge?
- Does it converge to what we want?
- Are results reasonable?

Does this converge?



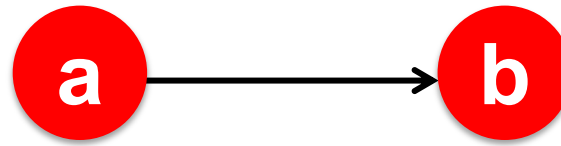
$$r_j^{(t+1)} = \sum_{i \rightarrow j} \frac{r_i^{(t)}}{d_i}$$

■ Example:

$$\begin{array}{l} r_a \\ r_b \end{array} = \begin{array}{cccc} 1 & 0 & 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 & 0 & 1 \end{array}$$

Iteration 0, 1, 2, ...

Does it converge to what we want?



$$r_j^{(t+1)} = \sum_{i \rightarrow j} \frac{r_i^{(t)}}{d_i}$$

■ Example:

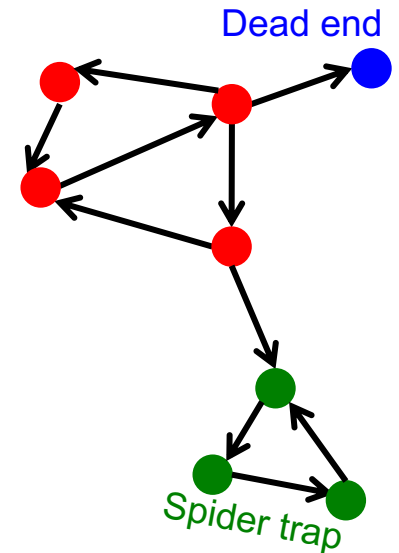
$$\begin{array}{l} r_a \\ r_b \end{array} = \begin{array}{cccc} 1 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 & 0 & 0 \end{array}$$

Iteration 0, 1, 2, ...

PageRank: Problems

2 problems:

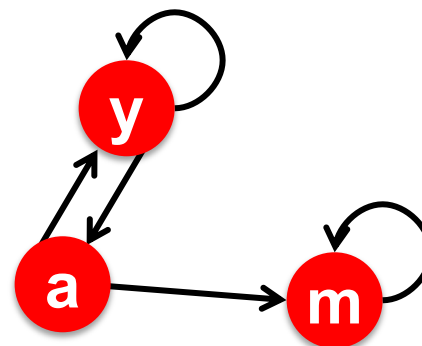
- (1) Some pages are **dead ends** (have no out-links)
 - “Vote” has “nowhere” to go to
 - Such pages cause importance to “leak out”
- (2) **Spider traps:**
(all out-links are within the group)
 - “Vote” gets “stuck” in a trap
 - And eventually spider traps absorb all importance



Problem: Spider Traps

Power Iteration:

- Set $r_j = 1$
- $r_j = \sum_{i \rightarrow j} \frac{r_i}{d_i}$
 - And iterate



m is a spider trap

	y	a	m
y	1/2	1/2	0
a	1/2	0	0
m	0	1/2	1

$$r_y = r_y/2 + r_a/2$$

$$r_a = r_y/2$$

$$r_m = r_a/2 + r_m$$

Example:

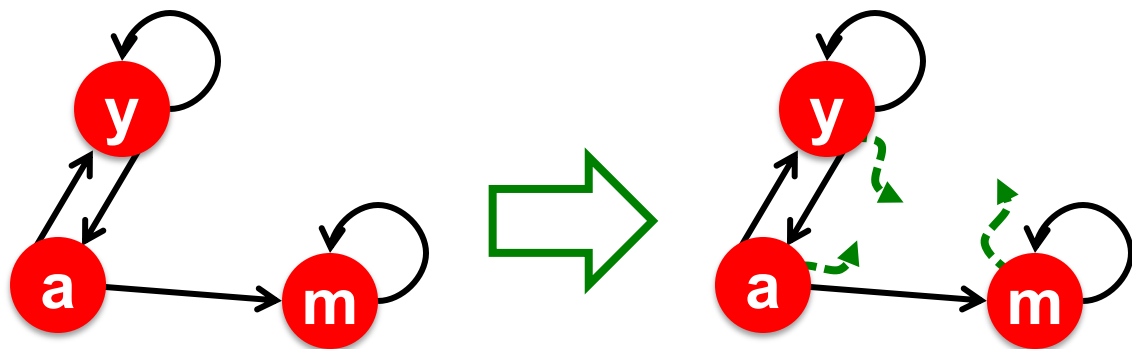
$$\begin{pmatrix} r_y \\ r_a \\ r_m \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} 1/3 & 2/6 & 3/12 & 5/24 & & 0 \\ 1/3 & 1/6 & 2/12 & 3/24 & \dots & 0 \\ 1/3 & 3/6 & 7/12 & 16/24 & & 1 \end{pmatrix}$$

Iteration 0, 1, 2, ...

All the PageRank score gets “trapped” in node m.

Solution: Teleports!

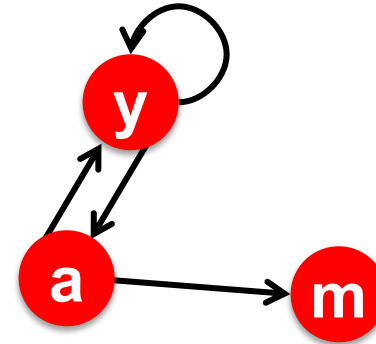
- The Google solution for spider traps: **At each time step, the “vote” has two options**
 - With prob. β , follow a link at random
 - With prob. $1-\beta$, jump to some random page
 - Common values for β are in the range 0.8 to 0.9
- **“Vote” will teleport out of spider trap within a few time steps**



Problem: Dead Ends

Power Iteration:

- Set $r_j = 1$
- $r_j = \sum_{i \rightarrow j} \frac{r_i}{d_i}$
 - And iterate



	y	a	m
y	1/2	1/2	0
a	1/2	0	0
m	0	1/2	0

$$r_y = r_y/2 + r_a/2$$

$$r_a = r_y/2$$

$$r_m = r_a/2$$

Example:

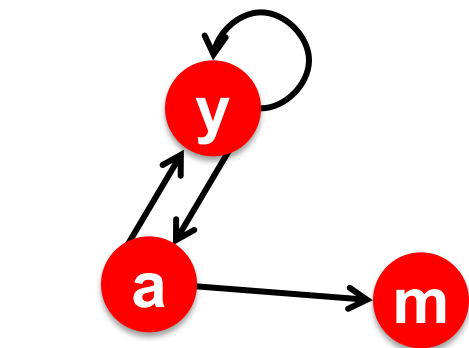
$$\begin{bmatrix} r_y \\ r_a \\ r_m \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} 1/3 & 2/6 & 3/12 & 5/24 & & 0 \\ 1/3 & 1/6 & 2/12 & 3/24 & \dots & 0 \\ 1/3 & 1/6 & 1/12 & 2/24 & & 0 \end{bmatrix}$$

Iteration 0, 1, 2, ...

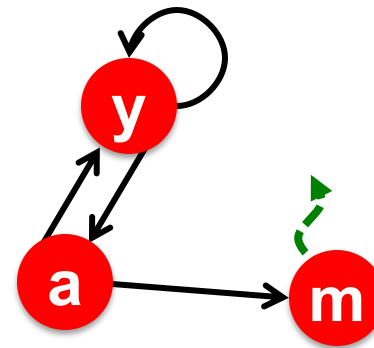
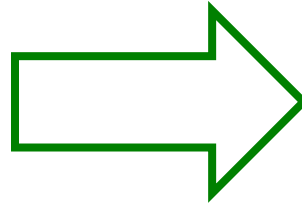
Here the PageRank “leaks” out since the matrix is not stochastic.

Solution: Always Teleport!

- **Teleports:** Follow random teleport links with probability 1.0 from dead-ends
 - Adjust matrix accordingly



	y	a	m
y	$\frac{1}{2}$	$\frac{1}{2}$	0
a	$\frac{1}{2}$	0	0
m	0	$\frac{1}{2}$	0



	y	a	m
y	$\frac{1}{2}$	$\frac{1}{2}$	$\frac{1}{3}$
a	$\frac{1}{2}$	0	$\frac{1}{3}$
m	0	$\frac{1}{2}$	$\frac{1}{3}$

Why Teleports Solve the Problem?

- **Spider-traps** are not a problem, but with traps PageRank scores are **not** what we want
 - **Solution:** Never get stuck in a spider trap by teleporting out of it in a finite number of steps
- **Dead-ends** are a problem
 - The matrix is not column stochastic so our initial assumptions are not met
 - **Solution:** Make matrix column stochastic by always teleporting when there is nowhere else to go

Solution: Random Teleports

- Google's solution that does it all:

At each step, random surfer has two options:

- With probability β , follow a link at random
- With probability $1-\beta$, jump to some random page

- **PageRank equation** [Larry Page and Sergey Brin 1998]

$$r_j = \sum_{i \rightarrow j} \beta \frac{r_i}{d_i} + (1 - \beta) \frac{1}{N}$$

d_i ... out-degree
of node i

This formulation assumes that M has no dead ends. We can either preprocess matrix M to remove all dead ends or explicitly follow random teleport links with probability 1.0 from dead-ends.

The Google Matrix

- PageRank equation [Brin-Page, '98]

$$r_j = \sum_{i \rightarrow j} \beta \frac{r_i}{d_i} + (1 - \beta) \frac{1}{N}$$

- The Google Matrix A :

$$A = \beta M + (1 - \beta) \left[\frac{1}{N} \right]_{N \times N}$$

$[1/N]_{N \times N} \dots N$ by N matrix
where all entries are $1/N$

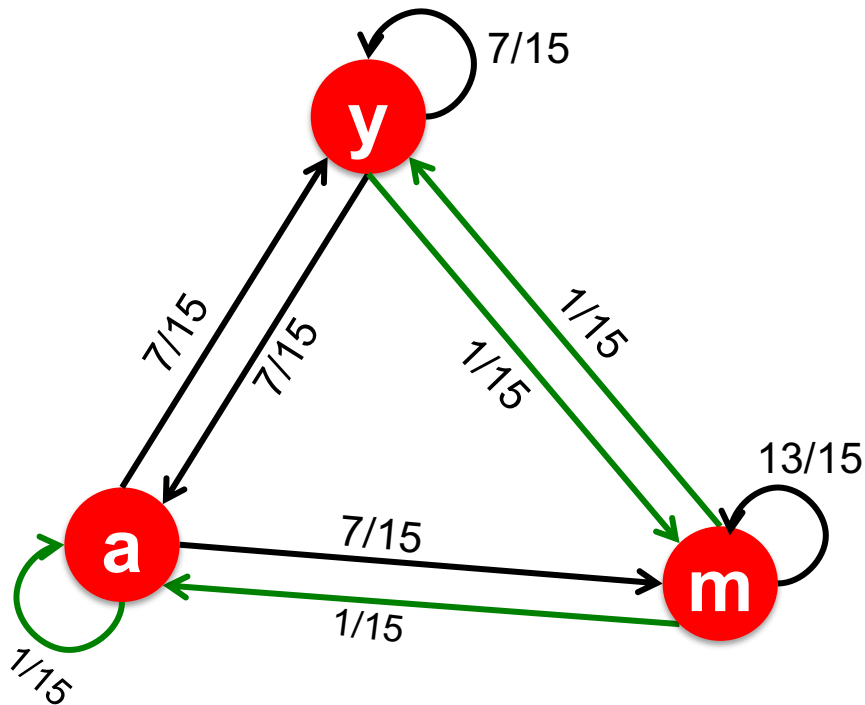
- We have a recursive problem: $\mathbf{r} = \mathbf{A} \cdot \mathbf{r}$

And the Power method still works!

- What is β ?

- In practice $\beta = 0.8 \sim 0.9$ (make 5 steps on avg., jump)

Random Teleports ($\beta = 0.8$)



$$0.8 \begin{matrix} \mathbf{M} \\ \begin{bmatrix} 1/2 & 1/2 & 0 \\ 1/2 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 1/2 & 1 \end{bmatrix} \end{matrix} + 0.2 \begin{matrix} [1/N]_{N \times N} \\ \begin{bmatrix} 1/3 & 1/3 & 1/3 \\ 1/3 & 1/3 & 1/3 \\ 1/3 & 1/3 & 1/3 \end{bmatrix} \end{matrix}$$

$$\mathbf{A} = \begin{matrix} & \begin{matrix} y & a & m \end{matrix} \\ \begin{matrix} y \\ a \\ m \end{matrix} & \begin{bmatrix} 7/15 & 7/15 & 1/15 \\ 7/15 & 1/15 & 1/15 \\ 1/15 & 7/15 & 13/15 \end{bmatrix} \end{matrix}$$

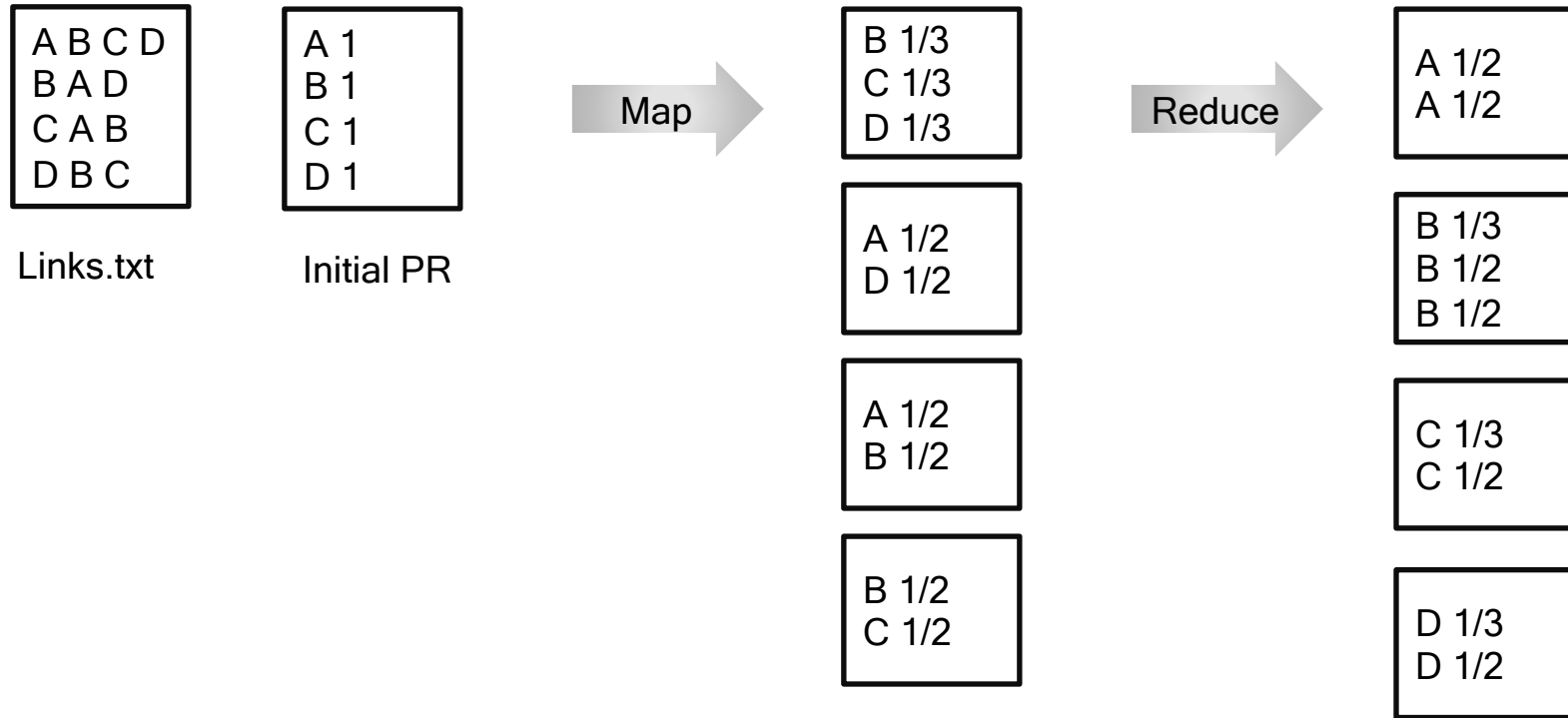
$$\begin{matrix} y \\ a \\ m \end{matrix} = \begin{matrix} 1/3 & 0.33 & 0.24 & 0.26 \\ 1/3 & 0.20 & 0.20 & 0.18 & \dots \\ 1/3 & 0.46 & 0.52 & 0.56 \end{matrix} \quad \begin{matrix} 7/33 \\ 5/33 \\ 21/33 \end{matrix}$$

MapReduce Program for PageRank

```
Map(key, value) {  
    // key:          a page,  
    // value:        page rank of the page  
  
    For each page in Adj[key]  
        emit(page, PR(key)/sizeof(Adj[key]));  
}
```

```
Reduce(key, values) {  
    // key:          a page,  
    // values:        a list of page ranks from all its incoming pages  
  
    PR(key)=1- $\beta$ ;  
    For each pagerank in values  
        PR(key) = PR(key) +  $\beta$ *pagerank;  
    emit(key, PR(key));  
}
```

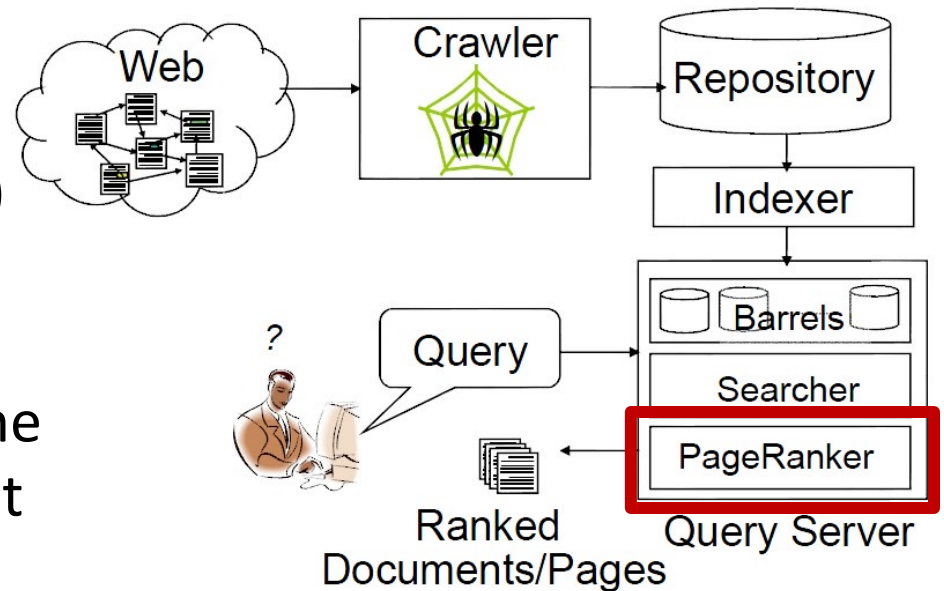
MapReduce Program for PageRank



Web Search Engines

- Indexer

- Process the retrieved pages/documents and represents them in **efficient search data structures** (inverted files)



- Query Server

- Accept the query from the user and return the result pages by consulting the search data structure