# Exercise one: Analyzing an offline and online social networks

## Question 1 (3 points):

* Find out the node ID of

1. highest degree = S54
2. highest betweenness = S37
3. highest closeness = S37
4. highest eigenvector in the Highschool network = S110

* Afbeelding met diagram

  Automatisch gegenereerde beschrijvingAfbeelding met diagram

  Automatisch gegenereerde beschrijvingHighlight the above nodes in the Highschool network;

Afbeelding met grafiek, diagram

Automatisch gegenereerde beschrijving

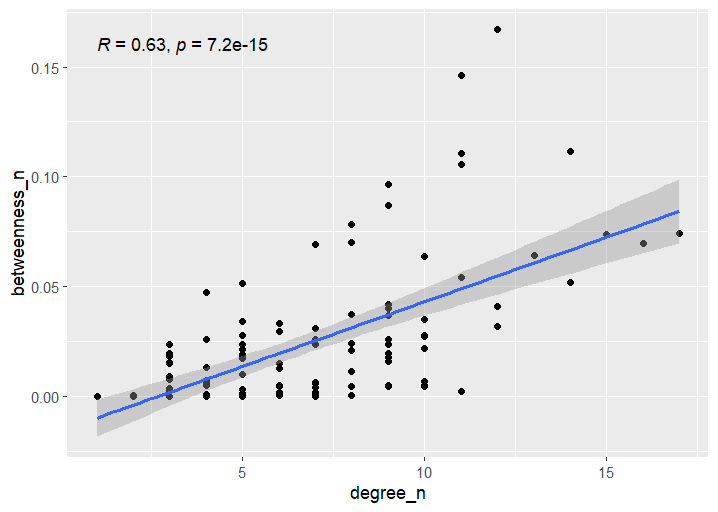
* Explain why these metrics identify the same node or different nodes as the most central one.

All these metrics are calculated in a different way which causes different outputs for the most central node. However according to the betweenness and closeness S37 is the most central. This is probably because these 2 methods both use the shortest path in deciding which node is the most central.

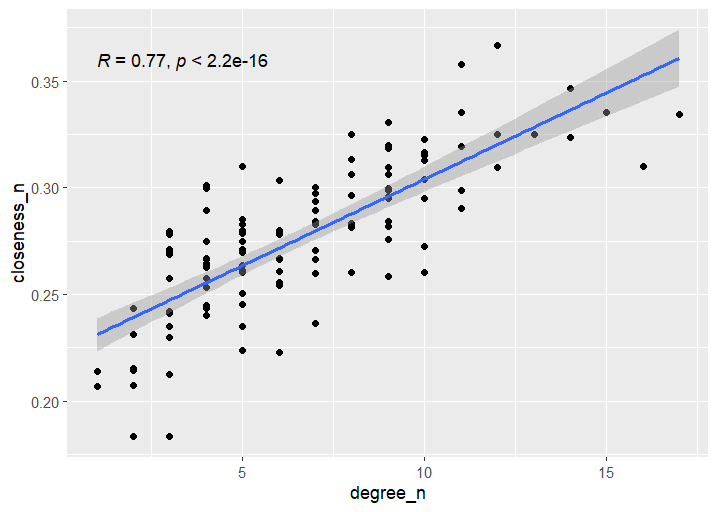
## Question 2 (5 points):

* Study the correlations for all the nodes in the Highschool network between

1. degree and betweenness,



1. degree and closeness,



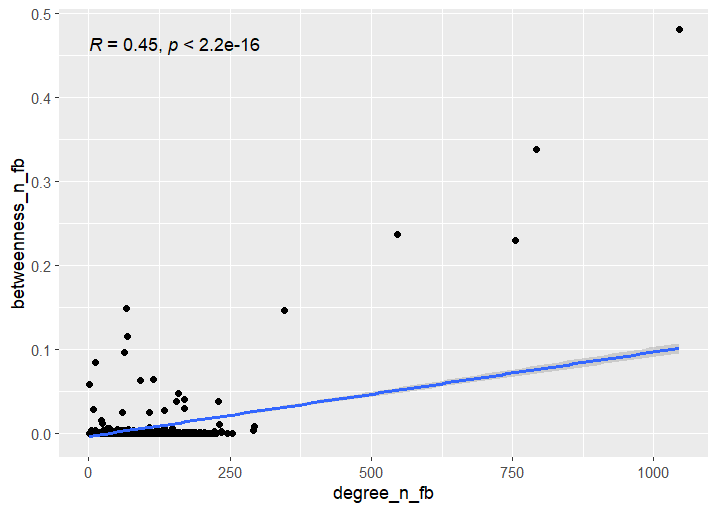
1. degree and eigenvector

Afbeelding met grafiek

Automatisch gegenereerde beschrijving

* Study the correlations for all the nodes in the Facebook network between;

1. degree and betweenness,

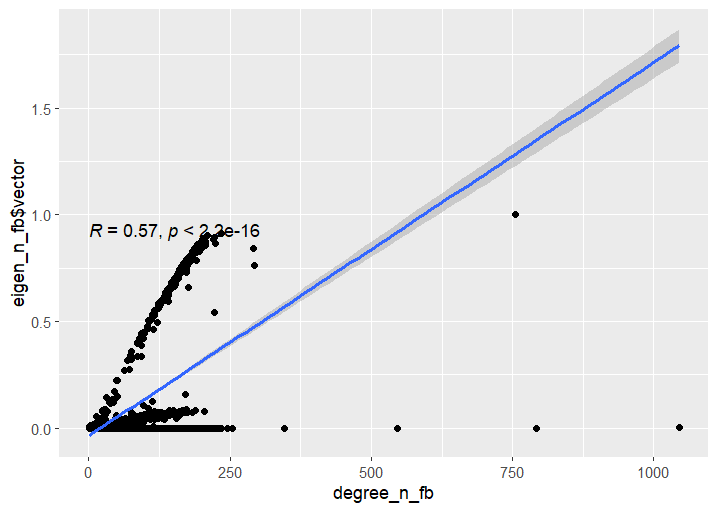


1. degree and closeness,

Afbeelding met grafiek

Automatisch gegenereerde beschrijving

1. degree and eigenvector



* From the above results, how well do different metrics correlate with each other? Which centrality metric will you use and why? Overall the correlations in the high school network is higher. For the high school network its best to use the closeness centrality since it correlates the best with the degree. For the Facebook network this would be the eigenvector centrality, however this might differ if the outliers are removed from the network.

## Question 3 (5 points):

* For both the Highschool and Facebook networks, calculate the shortest path lengths between every pair of two nodes. How many percentage of nodes can be reached within 6 path lengths? Does “six degree of separation” apply to each network?
* Study the degree distribution of these two networks, are they similar? Then use degree distribution to explain the degree of separation you answered above.

## Question 4, 4 points:

Now you will analyze the meso-scale structure of the Highschool network. First, check out the node attributes of Highschool network. You can find 1) the gender and 2) the residential hall of each student. A hypothesis can be formed as: If two students share some common characteristics, such as living in the same residential hall or of the same gender, their chance of being friends are higher. Test the above hypothesis by the following steps

1. Visualize the network and color the nodes by gender and residential hall, respectively.

Afbeelding met grafiek

Automatisch gegenereerde beschrijving

1. Build 8 subgraphs of the original network according to gender and residential hall: 1 subgraph for female student, 1 subgraph for male student, 1 subgraph for students with unknown gender, and 5 subgraphs for students living in residential hall from 1501 to 1505, respectively. For example, to build a subgraph of all female students, you should keep all the nodes of female students and the edges between them. Other nodes and edges are removed.
2. Study the edge density of all the subgraph and compare them to the edge density of the original network. What is your conclusion for the hypothesis?

* Density for female friends is 0.0551786521935776
* Density for male friends is 0.0514285714285714
* Density for unknown friends is 0.1
* Density for 1501 friends is 0.12987012987013
* Density for 1502 friends is 0.0980392156862745
* Density for 1503 friends is 0.152046783625731
* Density for 1504 friends is 0.0758620689655173
* Density for 1505 friends is 0.0965909090909091
* Density for the whole network is 0.0536512667660209

Comparing the network density with all the subgraphs partly confirms the hypothesis for the study halls. However for gender this is not the case only for the unknown gender, but these are small in size.

Afbeelding met grafiek

Automatisch gegenereerde beschrijving

Figure 1 Unknow gender graph

## Question 5 (4 points):

To better understand the meso-scale structure, we will study community detection algorithm. One important stand of community detection algorithm is based on modularity, which tries to maximize the difference between the actual number of edges in a community and the expected number of edges in the community. However optimizing modularity in a network is NP-hard, therefore have to use heuristics.

1. Calculate the modularity of the Highschool network if community is merely identified by
   * 1. gender and
     2. residential hall, respectively.

gender modularity 4.78267523722059e-05

hall modularity 0.17559113865932

1. Search the Louvain Community Detection and explain the algorithm in your own words. The Louvain algorithm is an unsupervised community detection algorithmdivided in 2 phases: Modularity Optimization and Community Aggregation. The algorithm will start by randomly ordering all the nodes in the network in the modularity optimization phase. Then it will optimize modularity by merging communities of nodes until no significant increase in modularity is reached. After this phase all nodes belonging to the same community are merged in one big node to build a new network. In this network nodes represent communities from the previous phase and edges represent the sum of the weights of the edges between nodes in those communities. (Rita, 2020)
2. Use the Louvain Community Detection to identify communities in the Highschool network. Compare the modularity value produced by the Louvain algorithm to those in 1), and explain the reasons for the differences.

Modularity by the Louvain algorithm: 0.701644

The modularity of the Louvain algorithm is way higher compared to the networks identified by gender or residential hall. This is because the Louvain algorithm tries to create communities which improves the modularity.

**Self-exercise:** we did not cover all the network metrics in the above exercise, such as local and global clustering coefficient, diameter and component. But some of them might appear in the exam. Within your own group, explain to each other the meaning and possible application of other network metrics that are not covered in the above exercise. Check if your understanding are aligned. Reach your tutor if you have unsolved issues.

# Exercise two: Network formation models

## Question 6 (3 points):

1. Develop three networks with the same number of vertices (n), but different probability (p); Name them as ER1, ER2, and ER3. Develop the plots of ER1, ER2 and ER3, describe how these three graphs look differently as p increase and explain why.

The value for P indicates how likely a node is connected another node. So as the value of P gets higher more connections/edges appear. This also increases the density of the graph.

Afbeelding met grafiek

Automatisch gegenereerde beschrijving

Figure 2 ER1

Afbeelding met cravatte, accessoire

Automatisch gegenereerde beschrijving

Figure 3 ER2

Afbeelding met grafiek

Automatisch gegenereerde beschrijving

Figure 4 ER3

1. For a large n (e.g., n=1000), study the relation between clustering coefficient of the network and p, and explain the reason for such a relation. (You can use the function of transitivity (graph.object) to calculate clustering coefficient).

Transitivity: 0.2001041 and the chosen P value was 0.2.

As the probability of connection p increases, the transitivity of the network also increases. This is because as more edges are added to the network, nodes become more likely to form triangles, and therefore the transitivity increases.

## Question 7 (2 points):

Check the clustering coefficient and average path length of the Regular, SW1, SW2 and SW3. Describe the trend of clustering coefficient and average path length as p increase. Which graph does mimic the desirable attributes of a small world network?

SW1\_clustering\_coef: 0.6777076

SW1\_avg\_path\_length: 8.394292

SW2\_clustering\_coef: 0.6387643

SW2\_avg\_path\_length : 4.26903

SW3\_clustering\_coef: 0.3706598

SW3\_avg\_path\_length: 2.919309

The clustering coefficient and average path length decreases as P gets higher. Small world networks are a type of network that have both local clustering and short average path lengths between nodes. They are characterized by a few highly connected hubs that are interconnected to many less connected nodes. So in this case the SW2 graph represents the small world network the best since the average path length is way shorter than in SW1 and the clustering coefficient did not decrease that much.

## Question 8 (5 points):

You might realize not every value of p can return you a small-world network that you are looking for. Then a question arises as how can one find the range of p. In the Figure 2 of Watts and Strogatz (1998) (<https://www-nature-com.proxy.library.uu.nl/articles/30918>), it explains how can one decide the range of p by looking at the dynamics between path length and clustering coefficient.

Afbeelding met grafiek

Automatisch gegenereerde beschrijving

Figure 2 Characteristic path length L(p) and clustering coefficient C(p) for the family of randomly rewired graphs described in Fig. 1. Here L is defined as the number of edges in the shortest path between two vertices, averaged over all pairs of vertices. The clustering coefficient C(p) is defined as follows. Suppose that a vertex v has kv neighbours; then at most kvðkv 2 1Þ=2 edges can exist between them (this occurs when every neighbour of v is connected to every other neighbour of v). Let Cv denote the fraction of these allowable edges that actually exist. Define C as the average of Cv over all v. For friendship networks, these statistics have intuitive meanings: L is the average number of friendships in the shortest chain connecting two people; Cv reflects the extent to which friends of v are also friends of each other; and thus C measures the cliquishness of a typical friendship circle. The data shown in the figure are averages over 20 random realizations of the rewiring process described in Fig.1, and have been normalized by the values L(0), C(0) for a regular lattice. All the graphs have n ¼ 1;000 vertices and an average degree of k ¼ 10 edges per vertex. We note that a logarithmic horizontal scale has been used to resolve the rapid drop in L(p), corresponding to the onset of the small-world phenomenon. During this drop, C(p) remains almost constant at its value for the regular lattice, indicating that the transition to a small world is almost undetectable at the local level.

1. Start with a regular network of size=300, nei=6, first reproduce the Figure 2 of Watts and Strogatz (1998). Then provide the range of p which can turn this regular network (size=300, nei=6) into a small-world network.
2. Do you need to rewire significant amount of connections to make the network smallworld-like?
3. In the paper of Watts and Strogatz (1998), they pointed out that the value of p has two important implications:

“The idealized construction above reveals the key role of short cuts. It suggests that the small-world phenomenon might be common in sparse networks with many vertices, as even a tiny fraction of short cuts would suffice.” “Thus, infectious diseases are predicted to spread much more easily and quickly in a small world; the alarming and less obvious point is how few short cuts are needed to make the world small.”

Use your own words to explain these two implications. For the second implication, connect it with the spread of COVID.