

Community Detection in Networks

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How the Class Fits Together

Properties

Small diameter,
Edge clustering

Scale-free

Strength of weak ties,
Core-periphery

Densification power law,
Shrinking diameters

Complex Graph Structure

Information virality,
Memetracking

Models

Small-world model,
Erdős-Renyi model

Preferential attachment,
Copying model

Kronecker Graphs

Microscopic model of
evolving networks

Graph Neural Networks

Independent cascade model,
Game theoretic model

Algorithms

Decentralized search

PageRank, Hubs and
authorities

Community detection:
Girvan-Newman, Modularity

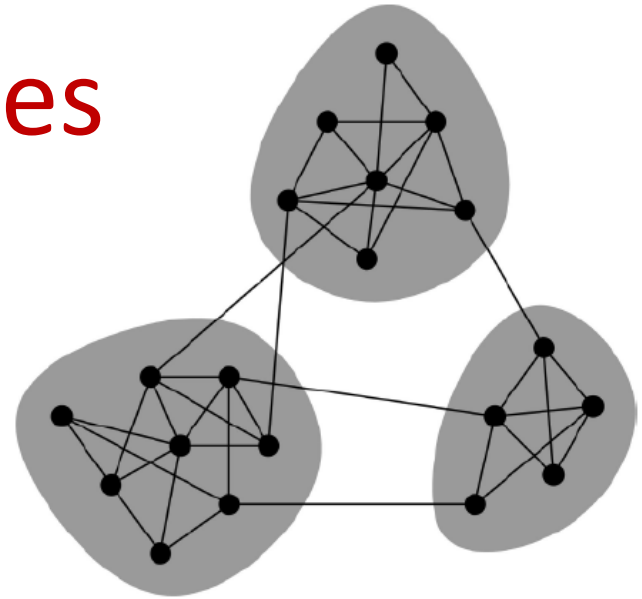
Link prediction,
Supervised random walks

Node Classification
Graph Representation Learning

Influence maximization,
Outbreak detection, LIM

Network Communities

- Granovetter's theory suggest that networks are composed of **tightly connected sets of nodes**

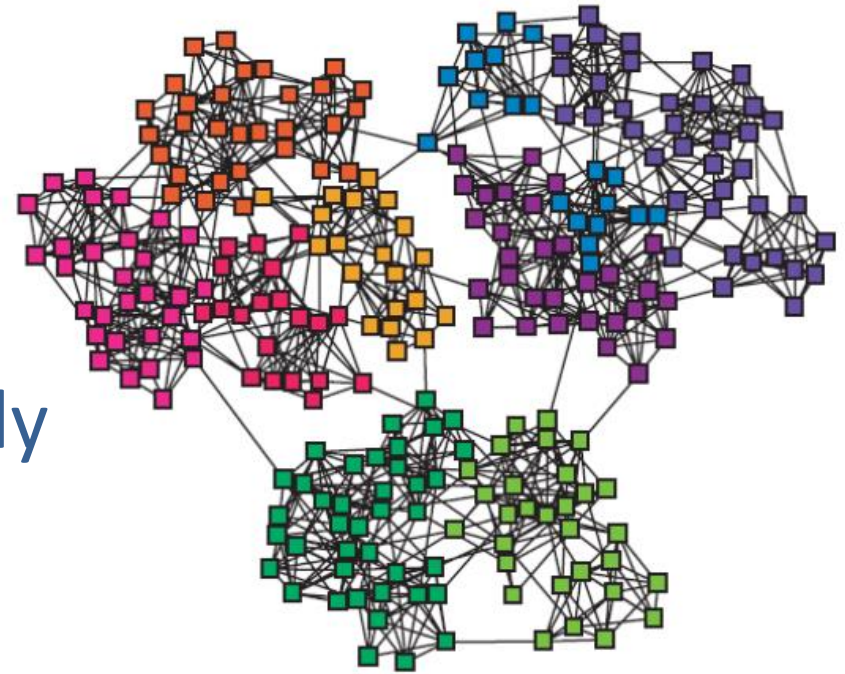


Communities, clusters,
groups, modules

- **Network communities:**
 - Sets of nodes with **lots** of connections **inside** and **few** to **outside** (the rest of the network)

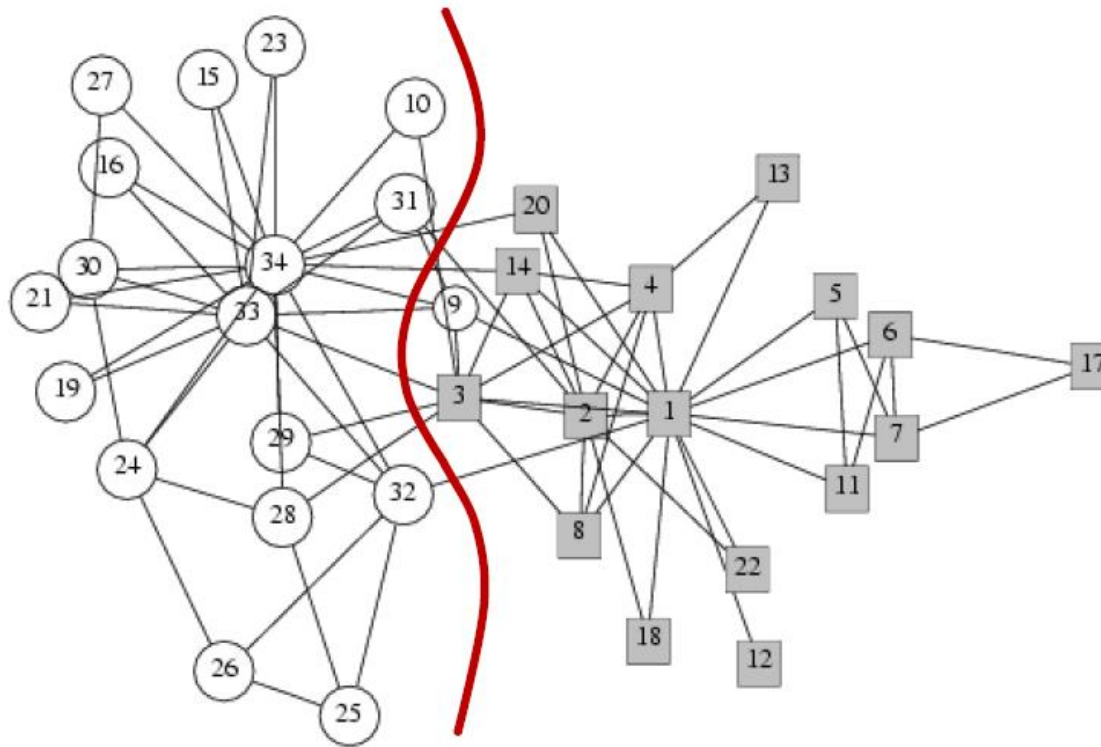
Finding Network Communities

- How to automatically find such densely connected groups of nodes?
- Ideally such automatically detected clusters would then correspond to real groups
- **For example:**



Communities, clusters,
groups, modules

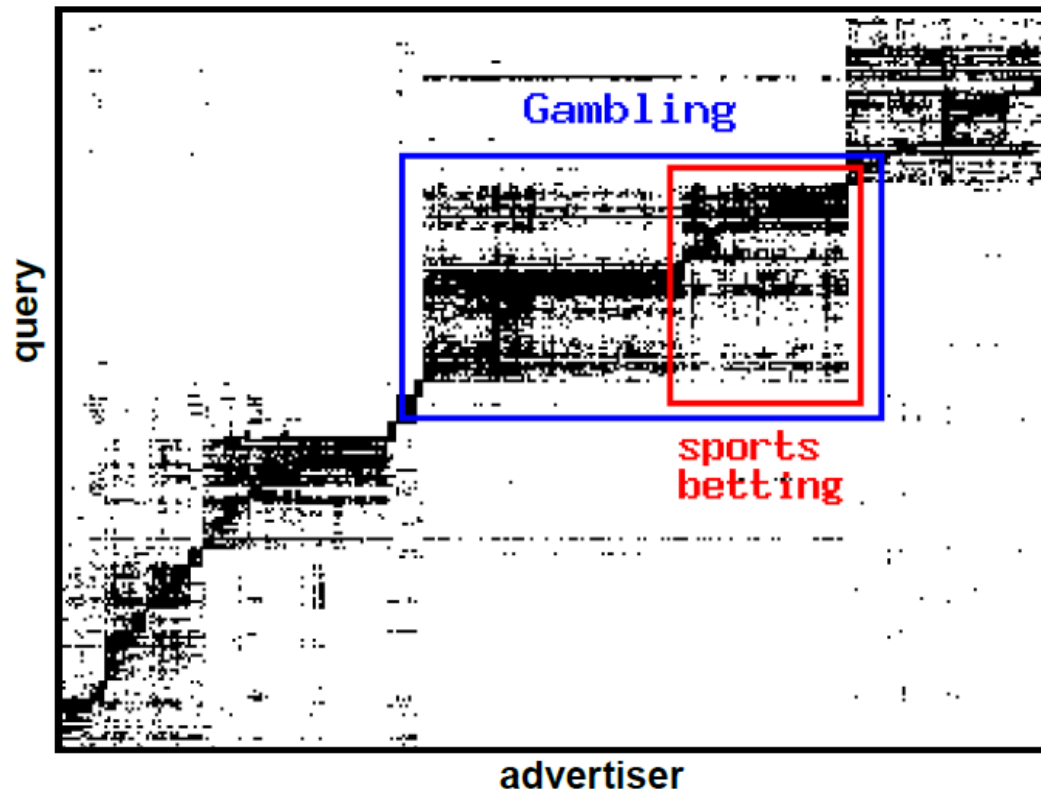
Social Network Data



- **Zachary's (Ph.D.) Karate club network:**
 - Observe social ties and rivalries in a university karate club
 - During observation, conflicts led the group to split
 - Split could be explained by a minimum cut in the network

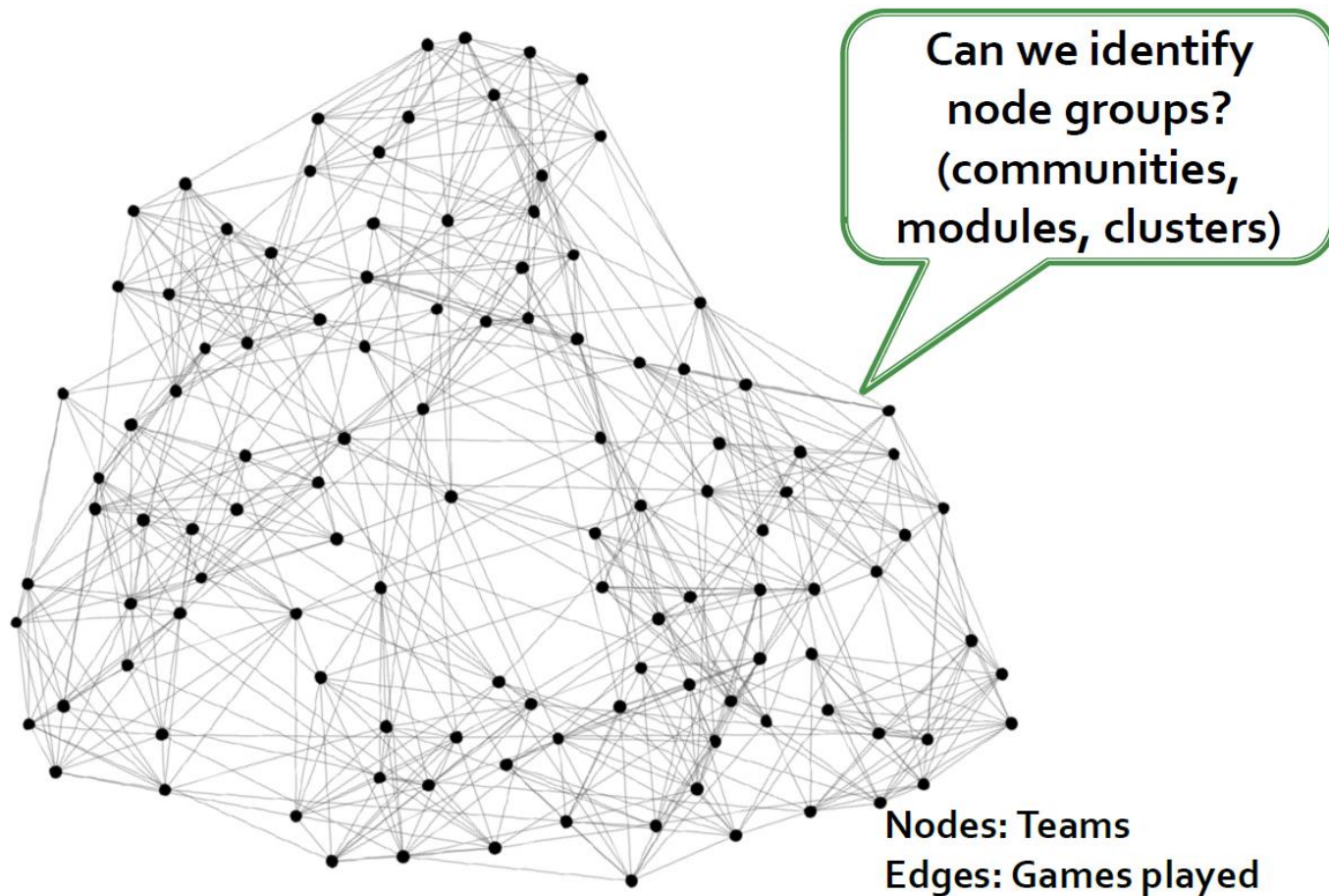
Micro-Markets in Sponsored Search

- Find micro-markets by partitioning the “Query x Advertiser” graph:

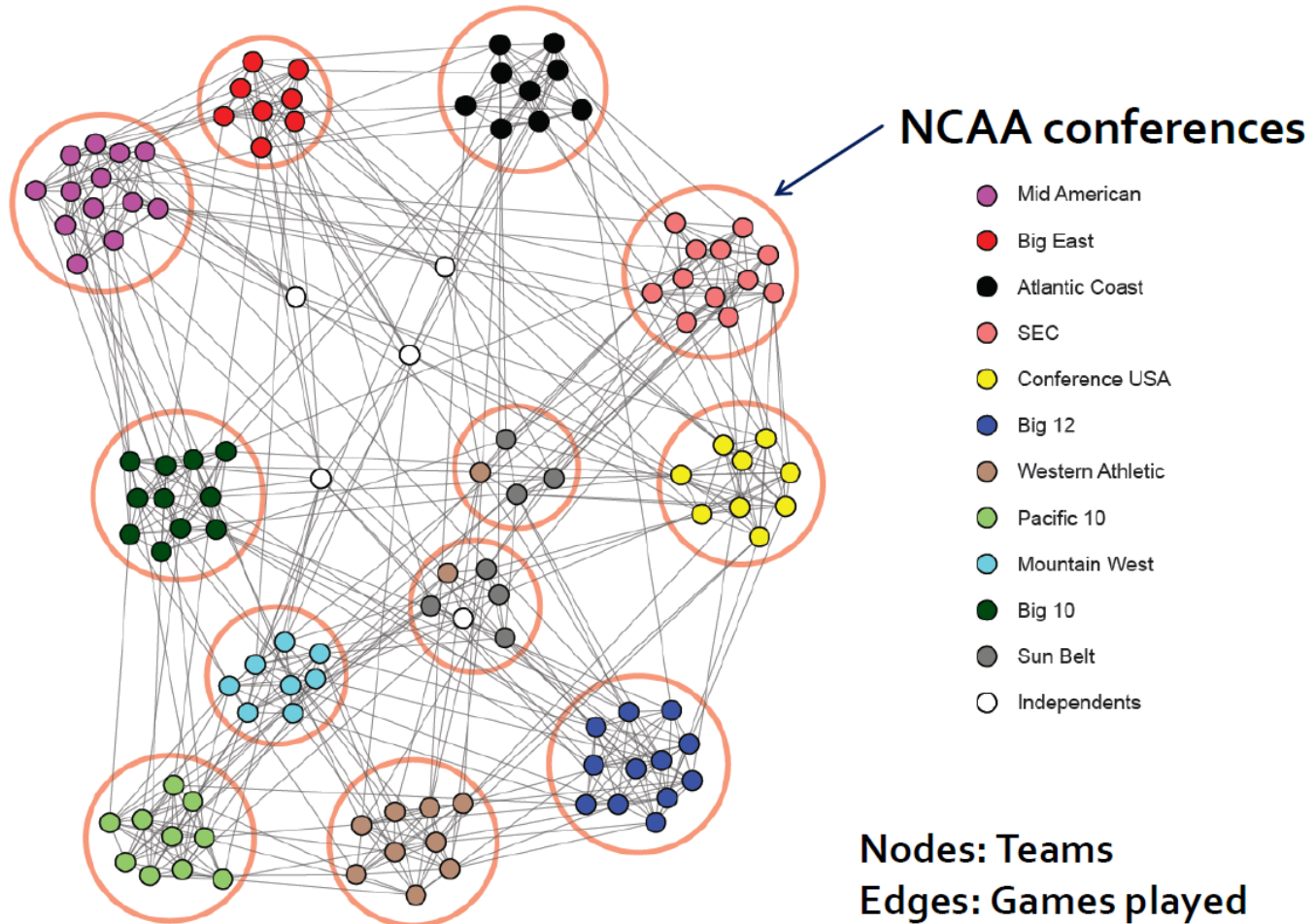


Web search:
keywords and advertisers
bidding with them

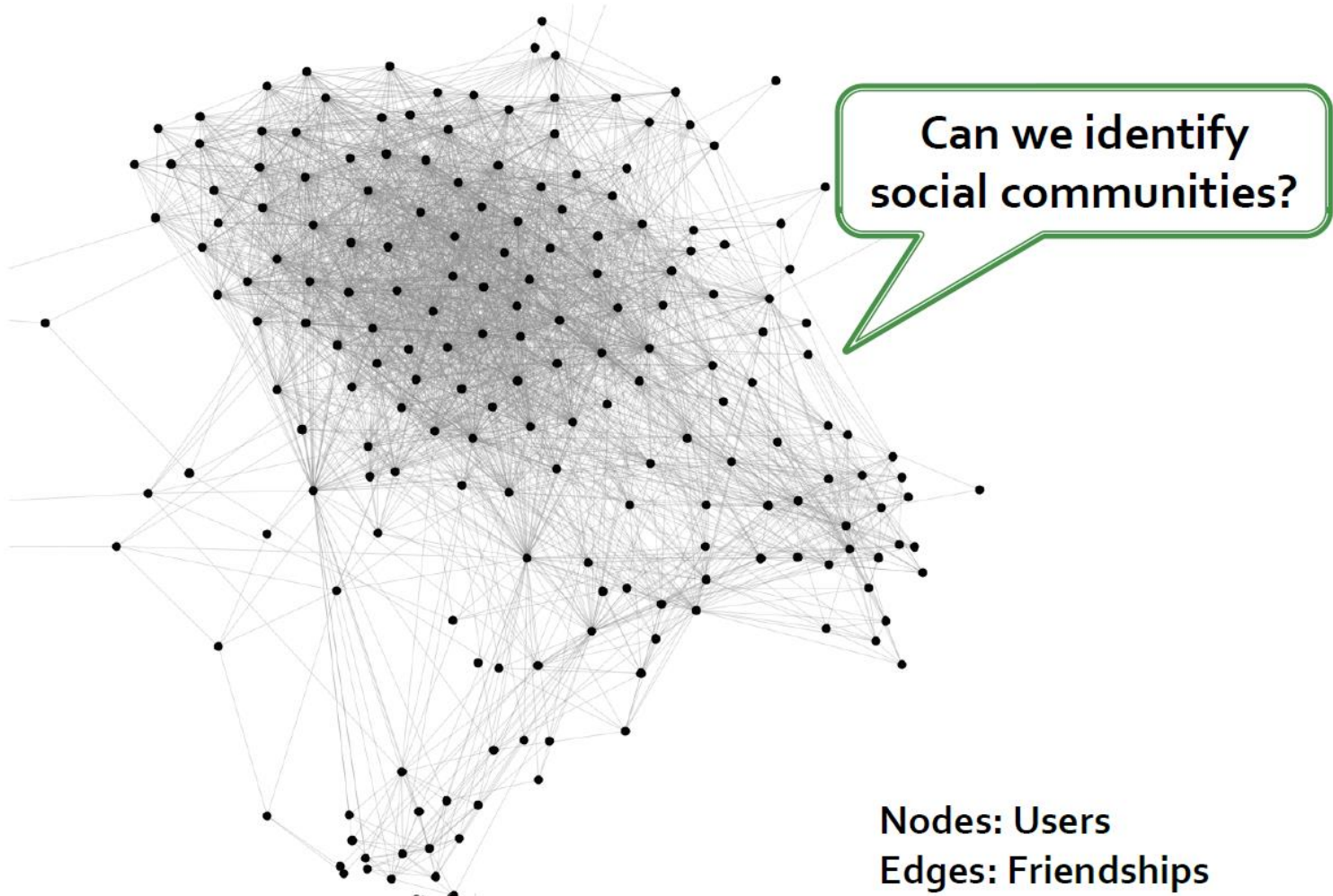
NCAA Football Network



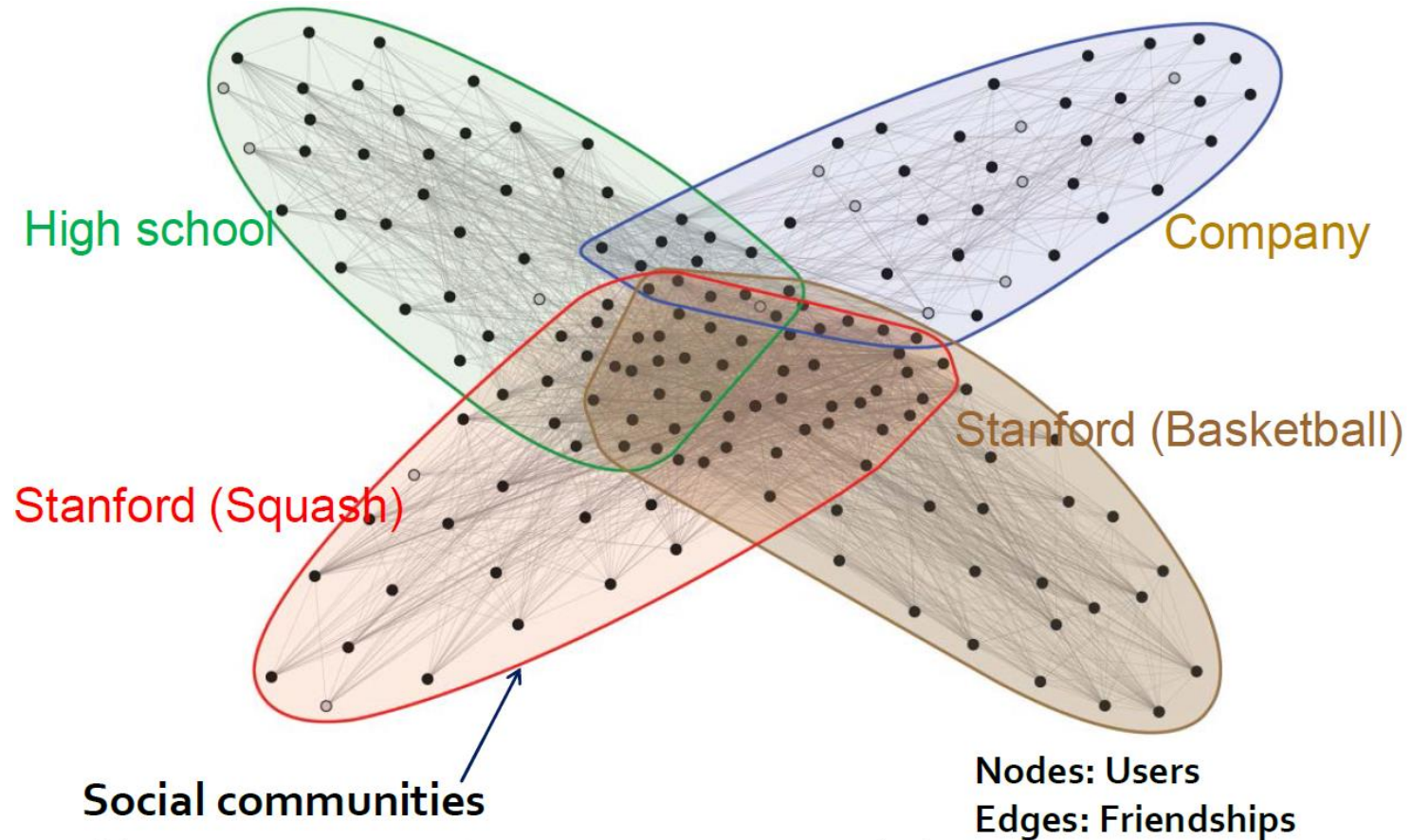
NCAA Football Network



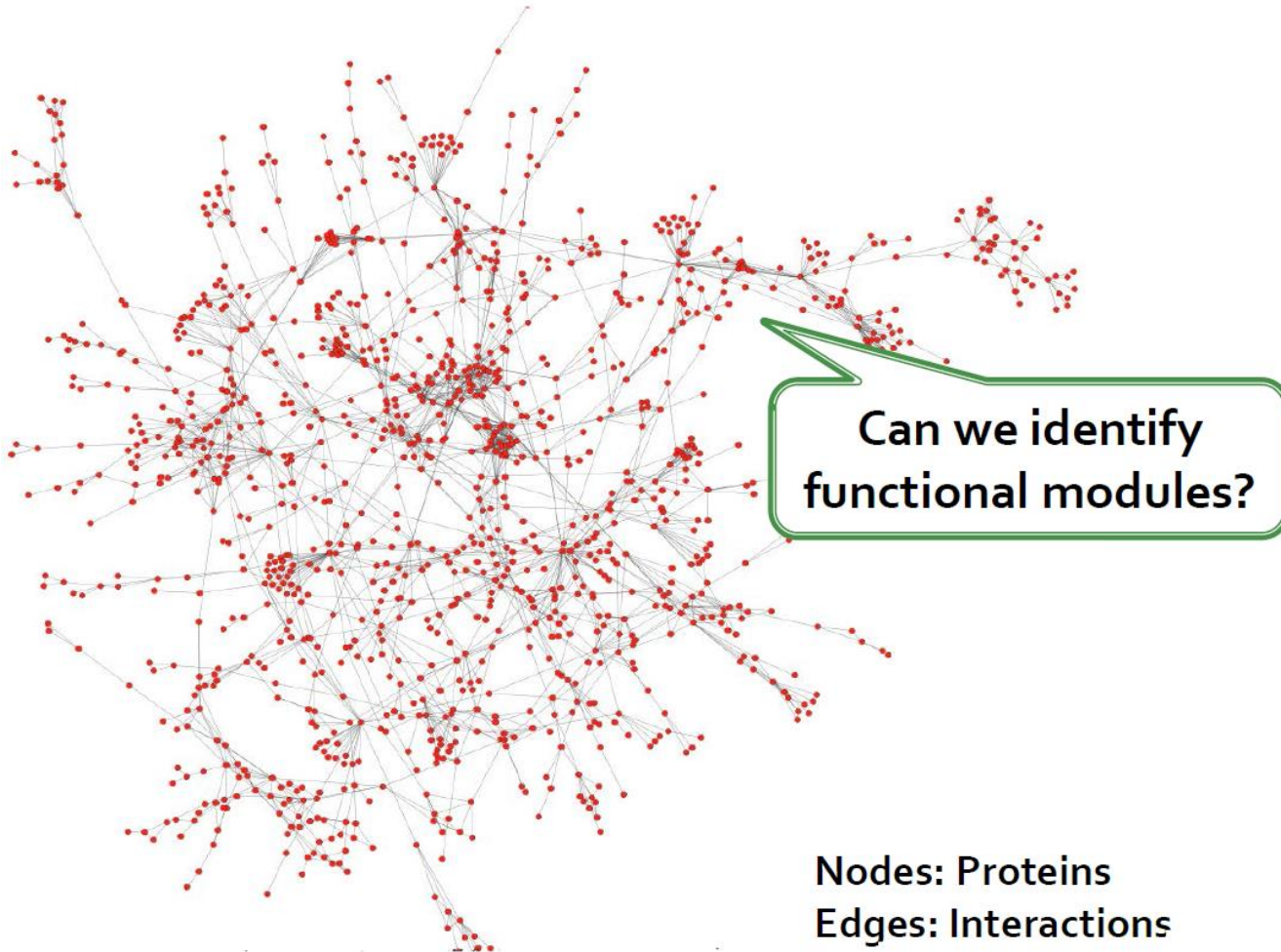
Facebook Ego-network



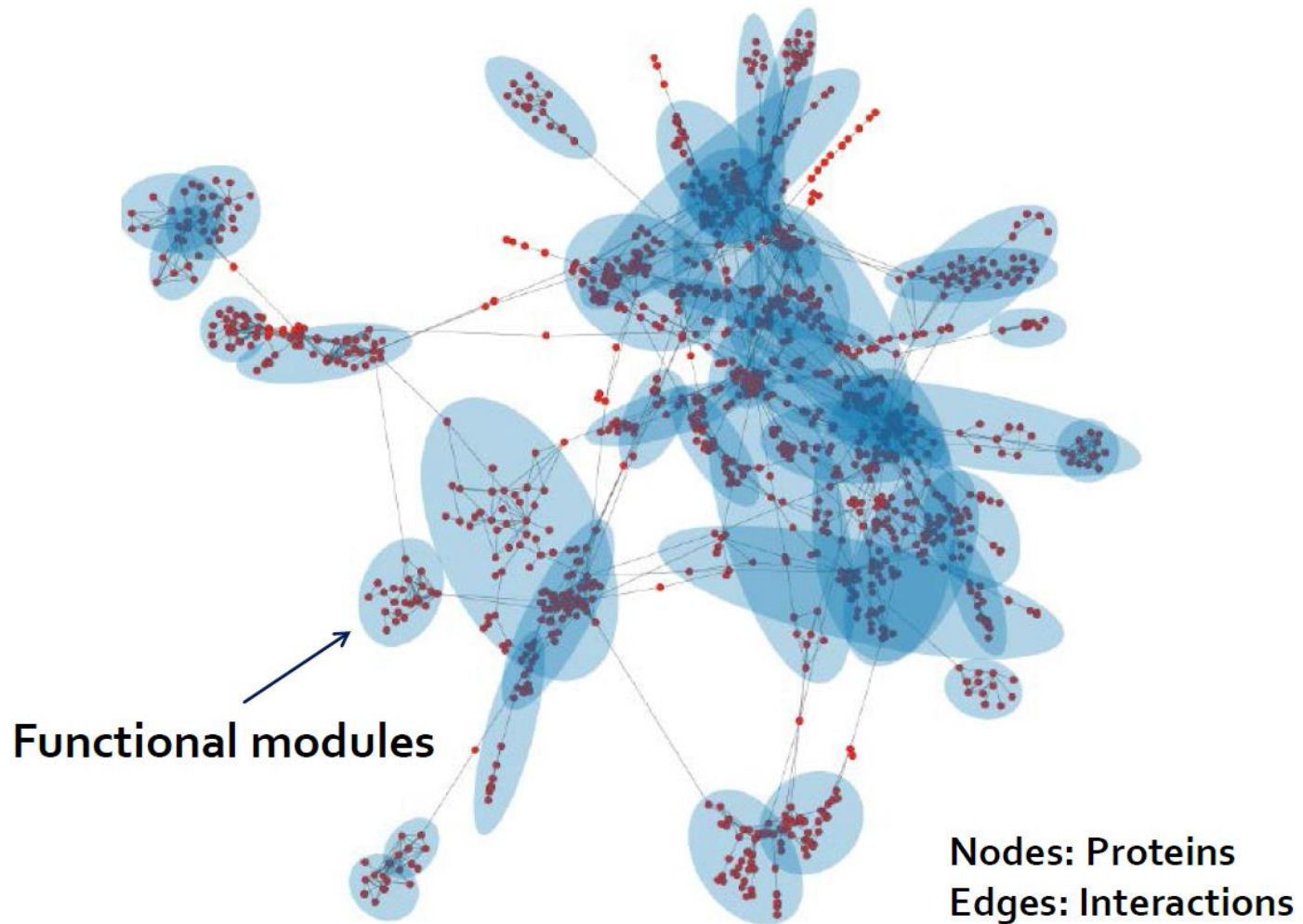
Facebook Ego-network



Protein-Protein Interactions

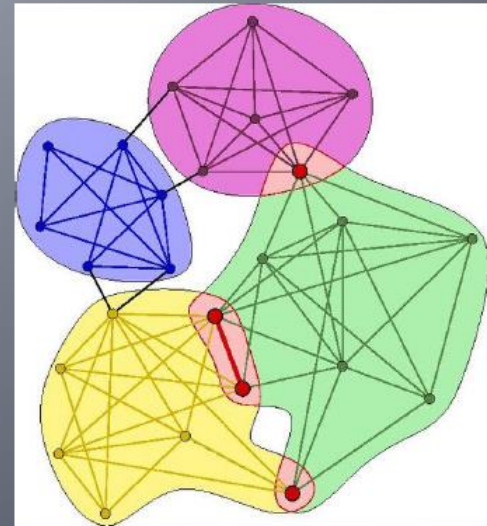
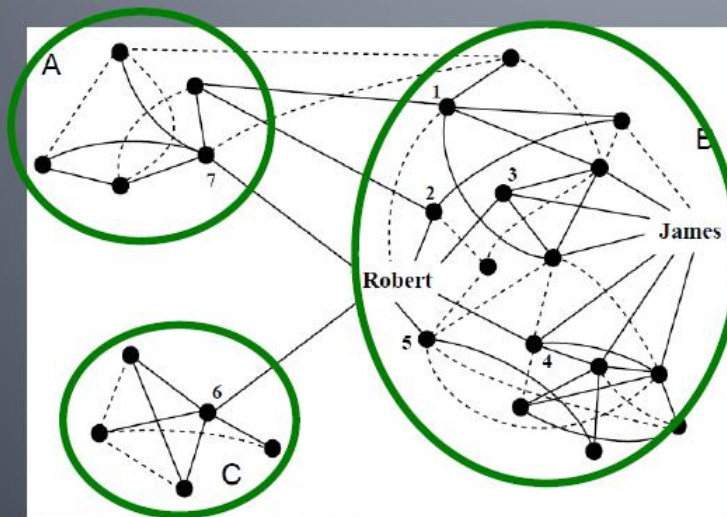


Protein-Protein Interactions



Community Detection

How to find communities?



We will work with **undirected** (unweighted) networks

Partitions and Communities

- An algorithm for **community detection**
 - Choose some **score function f**
 - takes **a network A and a partition P of its vertices** as input
 - returns a **scalar value (score)** as output
 - **Find the partition P that maximizes f**
 - f encodes our beliefs about **what makes a good partition** with respect to representing community structure
 - If **f** prefers assortative structure
 - assigns higher scores to partitions that place more edges within groups than between them
 - maximizing f over all partitions will yield the partition with the most assortative groups possible under f
- **Network partitions (communities):**
 - **a division of a network into k non-empty groups** (communities)
 - **every node v belongs to one and only one group** (community)

$$\text{score} = f(G, P)$$

Partitions and Communities

Combinatorial problem:

- Number of ways to divide network of n nodes in 2 groups (bi-partition):

$$\frac{n!}{n_1!n_2!}, \quad n = n_1 + n_2$$

- Dividing into k non-empty groups (Stirling numbers of the second kind)

$$S(n, k) = \frac{1}{k!} \sum_{j=0}^n (-1)^j C_k^j (k-j)^n$$

there are $S(4, 2) = 7$ possible partitions of a network with $n = 4$ nodes (indexed as 1,2,3,4) partitioned into $k = 2$ groups:

$$\{1\}\{234\}, \{2\}\{134\}, \{3\}\{124\}, \{4\}\{123\}, \{12\}\{34\}, \{13\}\{24\}, \{14\}\{23\}$$

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$$\left\{ \begin{matrix} n \\ k \end{matrix} \right\} = \sum_{j=1}^k (-1)^{k-j} \frac{j^{n-1}}{(j-1)!(k-j)!} = \frac{1}{k!} \sum_{j=0}^k (-1)^{k-j} \binom{k}{j} j^n.$$

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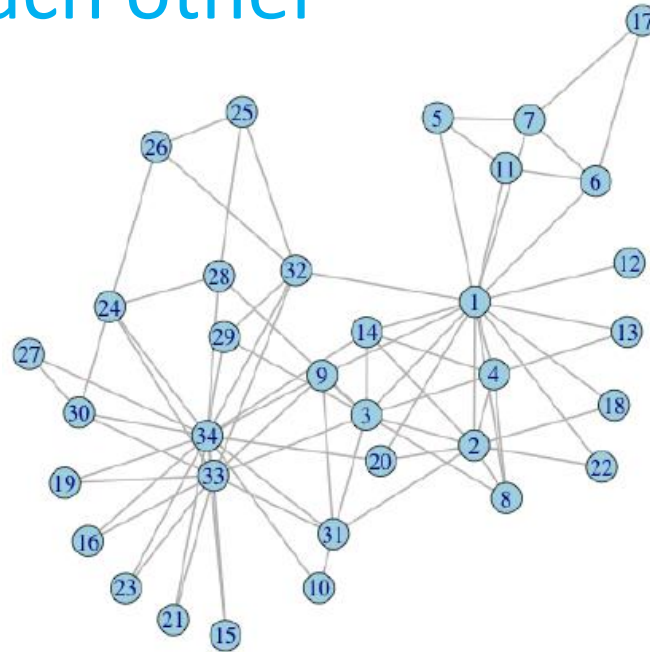
- Number of all possible partitions (n -th Bell number):

$$B_n = \sum_{k=1}^n S(n, k)$$

$$B_{20} = 5,832,742,205,057 \quad \Rightarrow \text{Brute force algorithms won't work}$$
$$\Rightarrow \text{Need Heuristic / Greedy Algorithms}$$

Network communities

- **Network communities** are groups of nodes **similar** to each other



- **Community detection:** assignment of nodes to communities
 - Non-overlapping communities (every node belongs to a single group)

Similarity based clustering

Similarity based node clustering

- Define *similarity measure between nodes based on network structure*
 - Jaccard similarity
 - Cosine similarity
 - Pearson correlation
 - Euclidean distance (dissimilarity)
- Calculate similarity between all pairs of nodes in the graph (similarity matrix)
- Group together nodes with high similarities

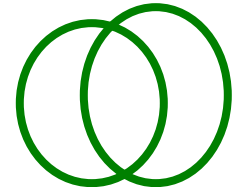
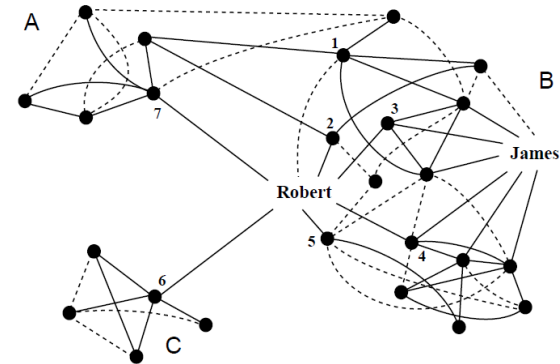
Clustering and Community Finding

How to extract groups?

Many methods:

No community overlaps

- **Hierarchical methods:**
 - Top-down / bottom-up
- **Graph partitioning methods:**
 - Define “edge counting” metric – conductance, expansion, modularity, etc. – and optimize!
- **Spectral methods:** [Lecture Notes on Spectral Graph Methods \(by Mahoney\)](#)
 - Based on eigenvector decomposition of modified graph adjacency matrix
- **Clique percolation method:**
 - To extract overlapping communities in networks



Betweenness and Graph Partitioning

- A way of thinking *networks* in terms of
 - *tightly-knit regions* and *weaker ties* that link them together
 - Clustering coefficient and local bridges
 - What we mean by tightly-knit region?
- *Graph Partitioning*:
 - a method that *takes a network and break it down* into a set of tightly-knit regions, with sparser interconnections between the regions
- What we might *hope* from this method?
 - Need a general way to pull (visually observed) groups out of the data, beyond using just visual intuition

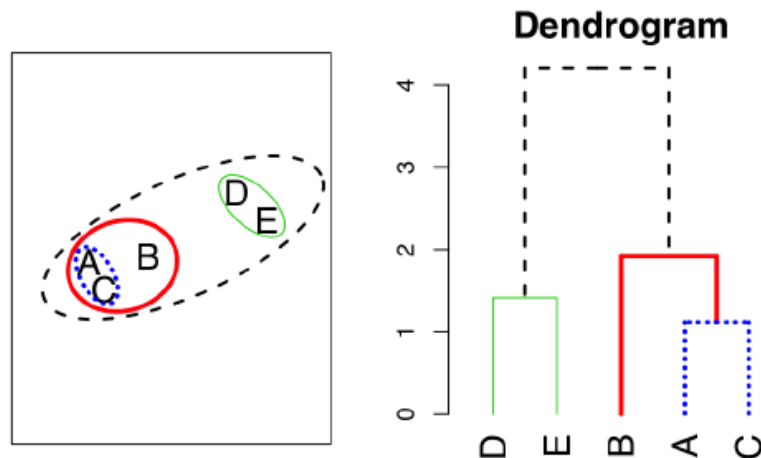
Methods of Graph Partitioning

- **Agglomerative methods** of graph partitioning
 - find nodes that are likely to belong to the same region and merge them together
 - network consists of a large number of *merged chunks*, each containing the seeds of a *densely-connected region*
 - process looks for chunks that should be further merged together
 - regions are assembled “bottom-up”
- **Divisive methods** of graph partitioning
 - Identify and remove the “*spanning links*” between *densely-connected regions*
 - the network begins to fall apart into large pieces
 - spanning links are further identified and removed within these connected components
 - process continues “top-to-bottom”

Hierarchical clustering

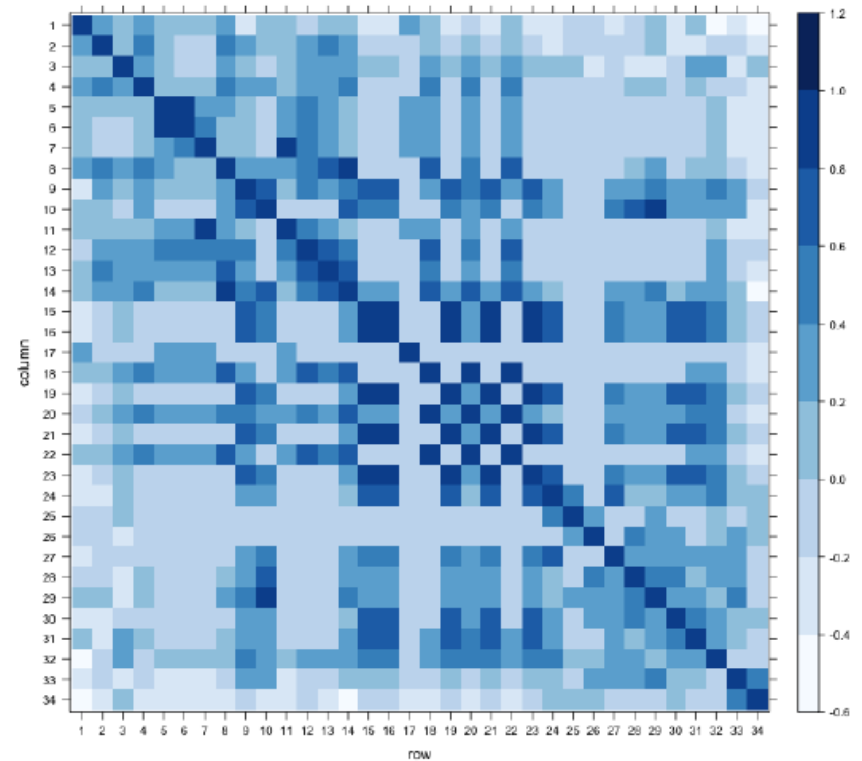
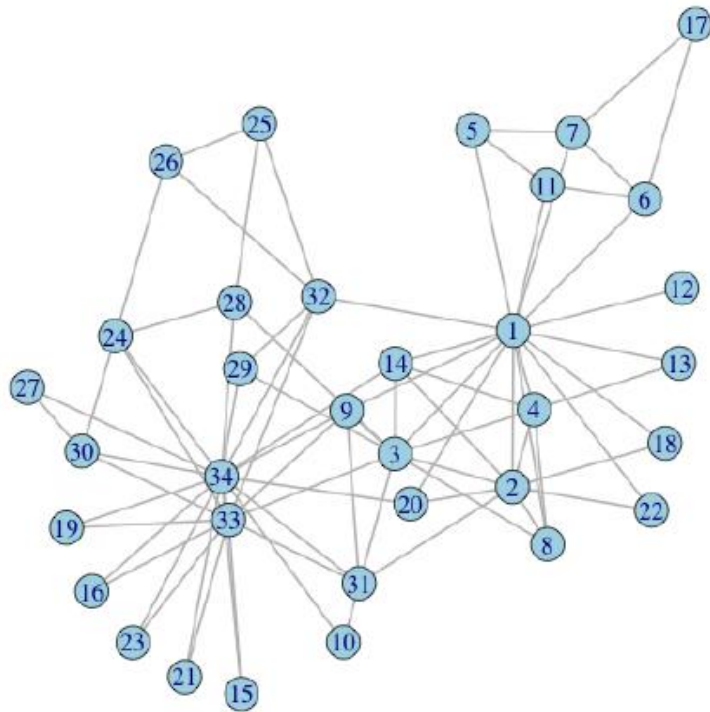
Agglomerative clustering:

- Assign each node to a group of its own
- Find two groups with the **highest similarity** and **join** them in a single group
- Calculate **similarity between groups**:
 - **single-linkage clustering**: most similar in the group
 - **complete-linkage clustering**: least similar in the group
 - **average-linkage clustering**: mean similarity between groups
- Repeat until all joined into single group



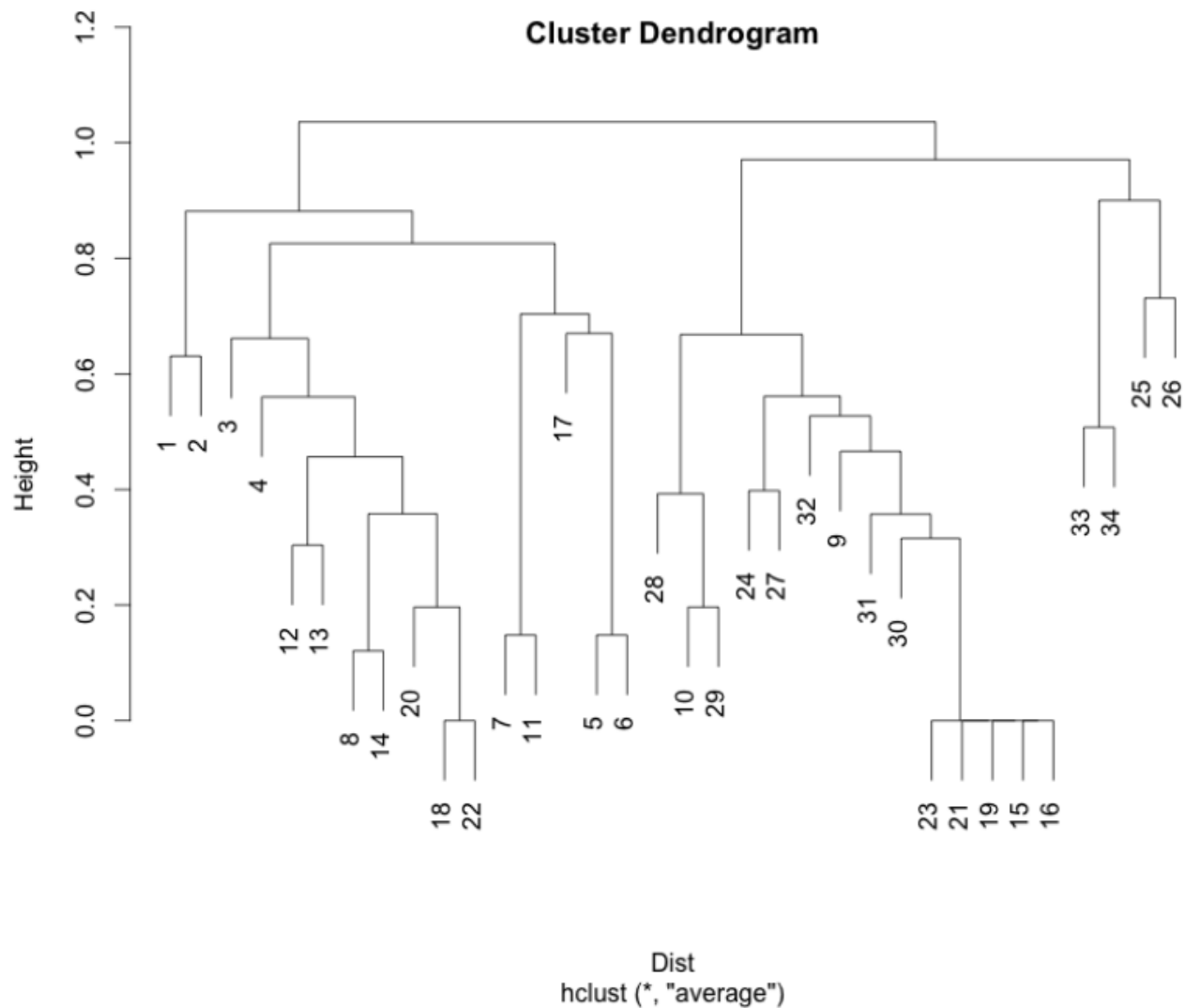
Similarity matrix

Zachary karate club

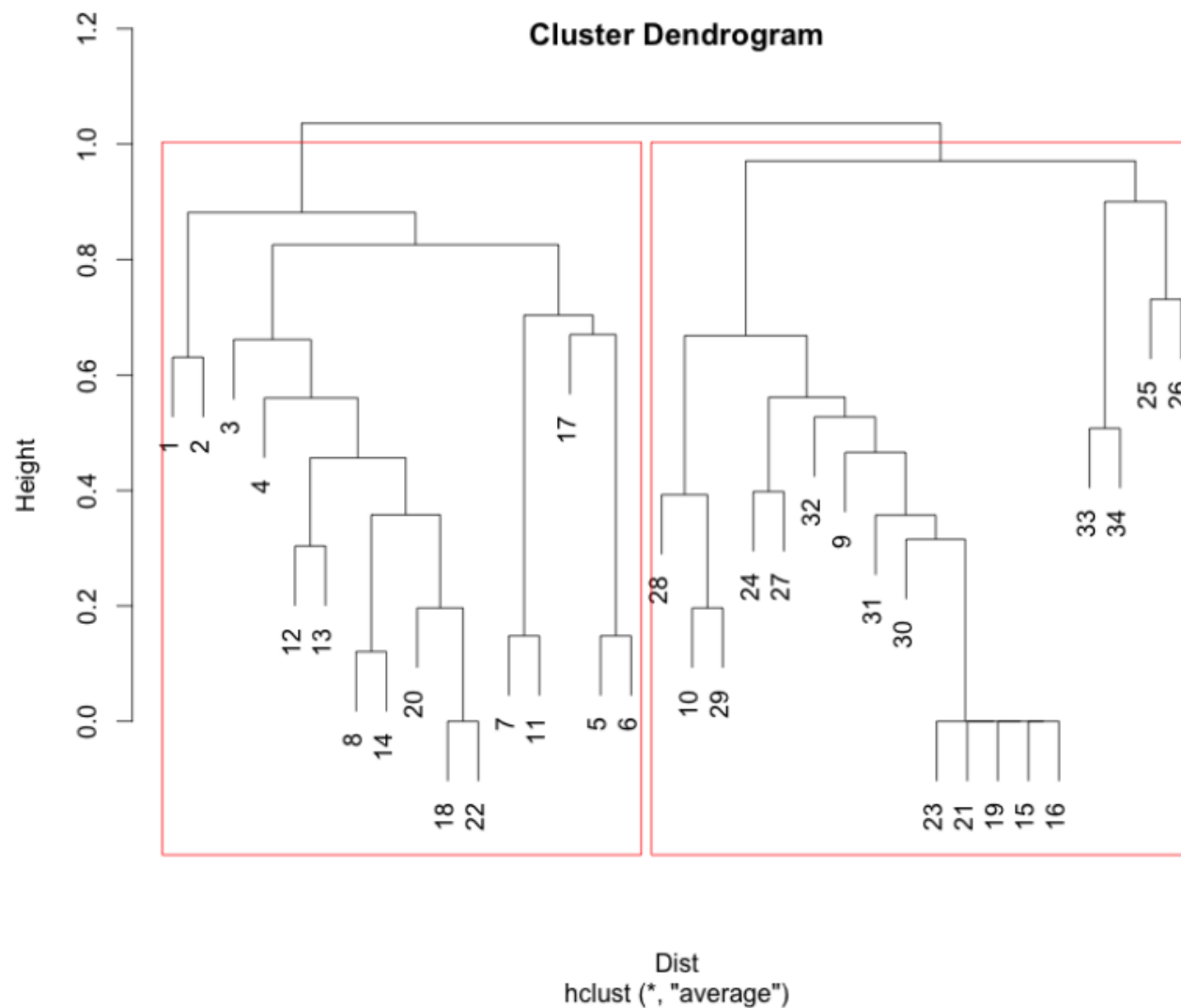


Remember the notions of node equivalences

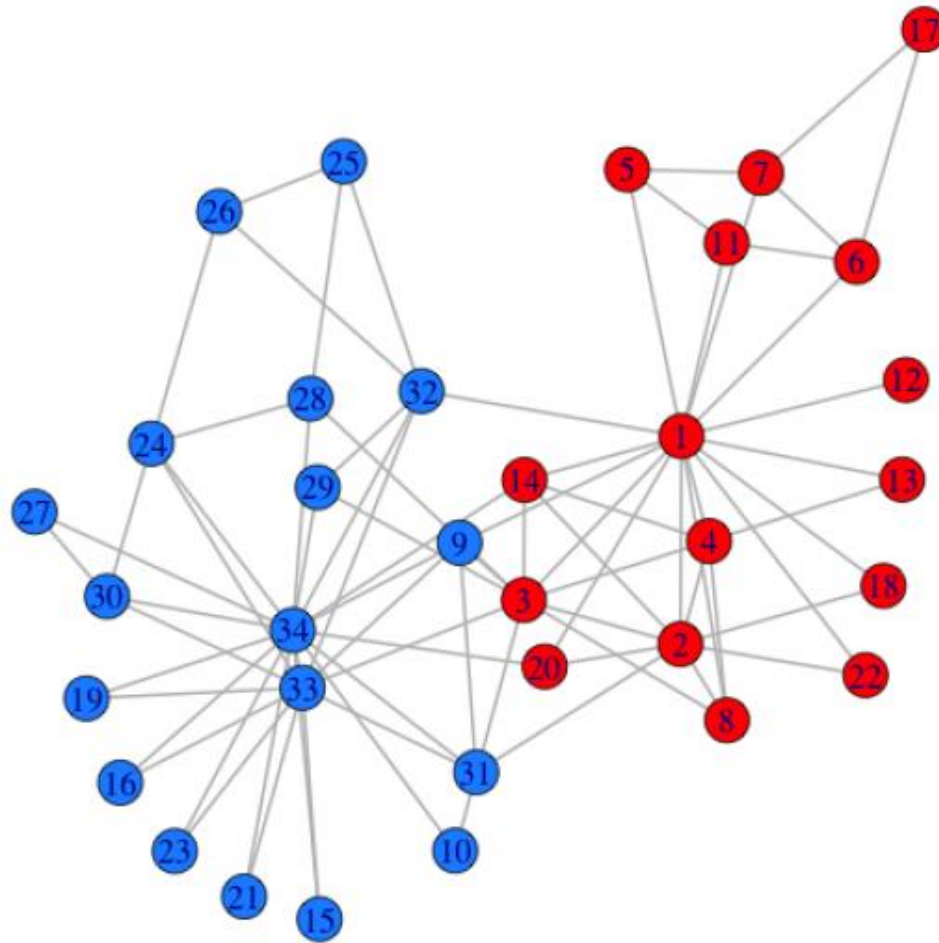
Hierarchical clustering



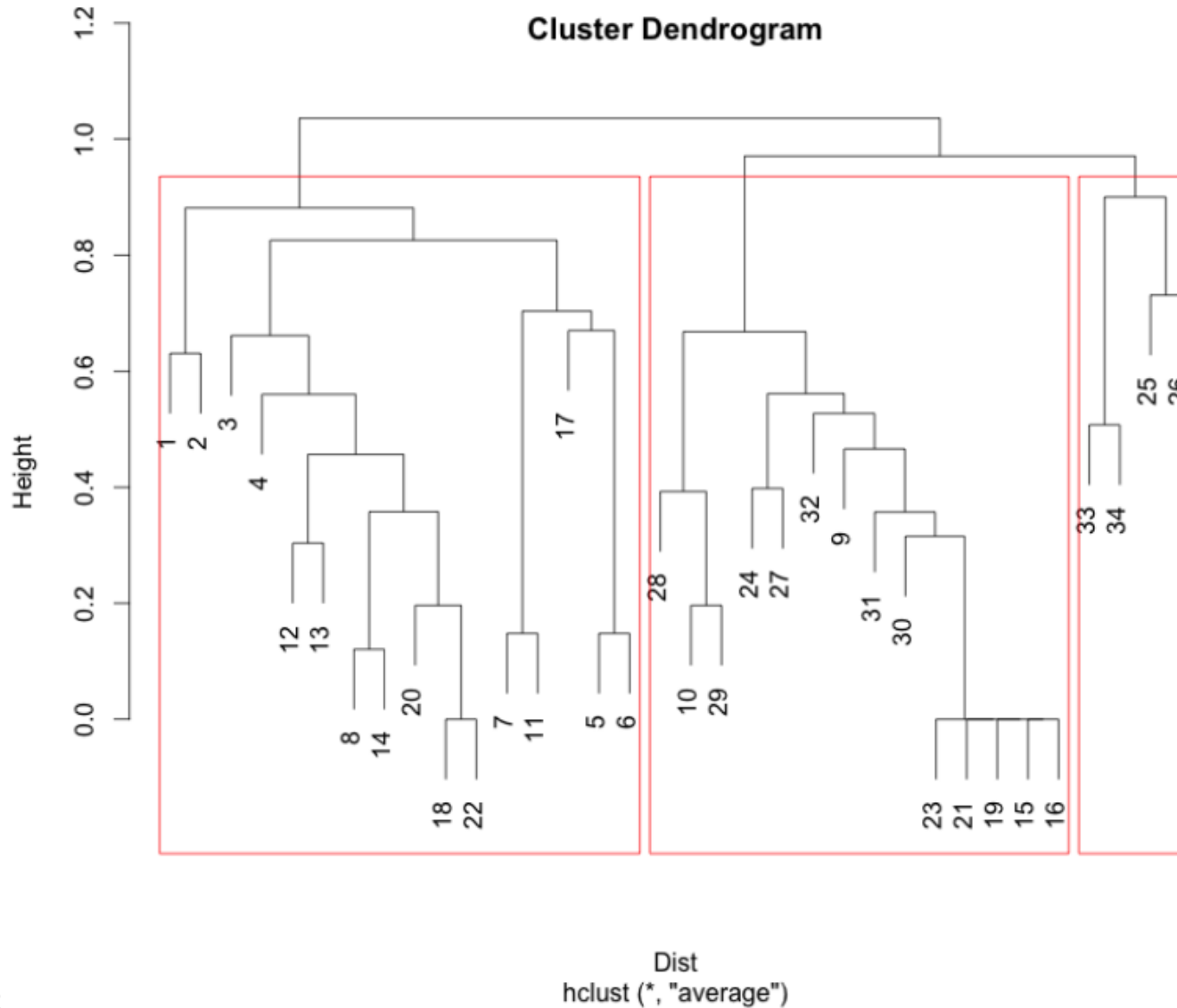
Hierarchical clustering



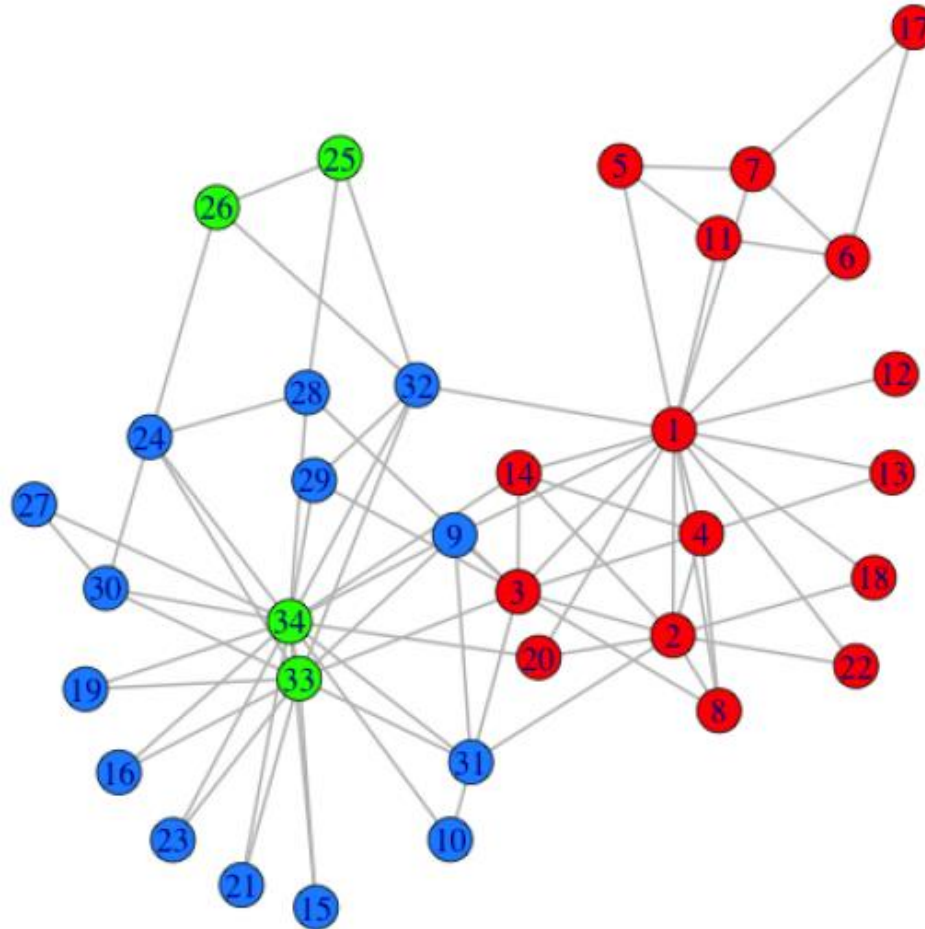
Hierarchical clustering



Hierarchical clustering



Hierarchical clustering

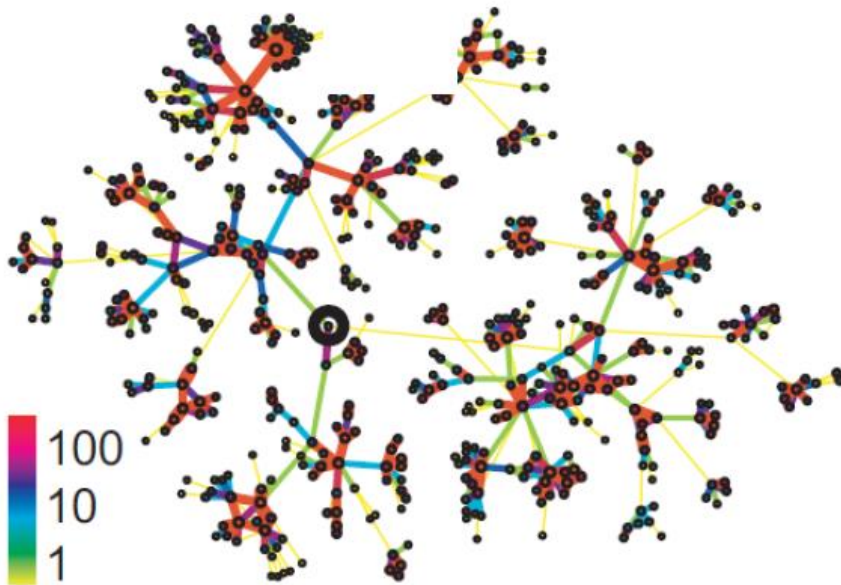
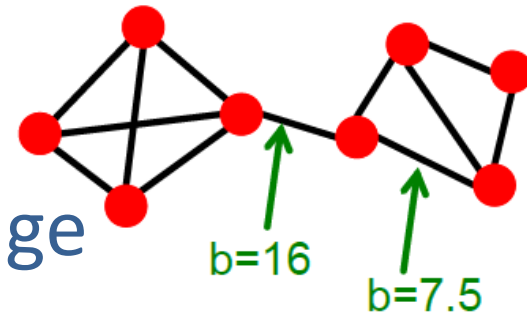


Method 2: *Girvan-Newman*

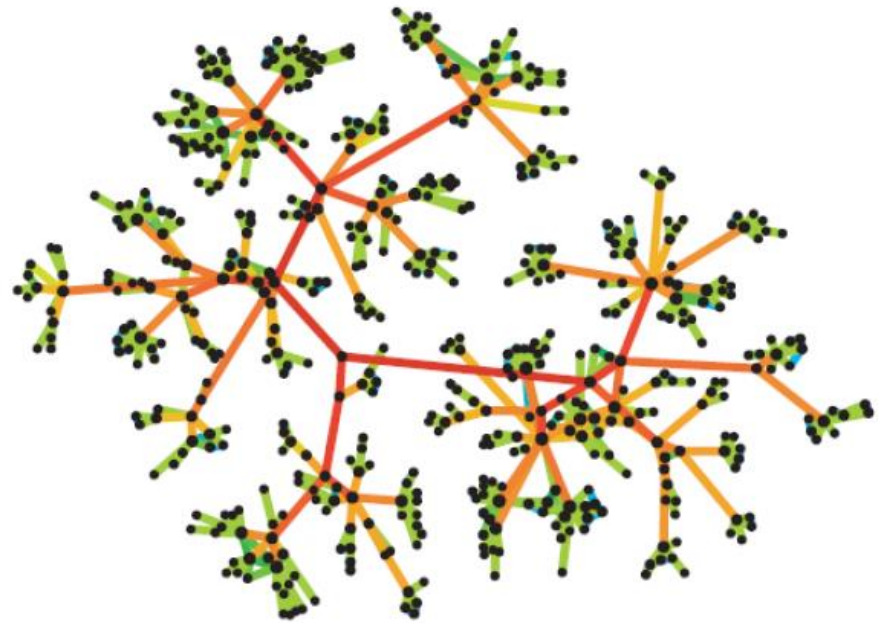
- **Divisive hierarchical clustering** based on the notion of *edge betweenness*:
 - Number of shortest paths passing through the edge
- ***Girvan-Newman Algorithm***:
 - Undirected unweighted networks
 - **Repeat until no edges are left**:
 - Calculate betweenness of edges
 - Remove edges with highest betweenness
 - ***Connected components*** are *communities*
 - Gives a hierarchical decomposition of the network

Strength of Weak Ties

- **Edge betweenness:** Number of shortest paths passing over the edge
- **Intuition:**



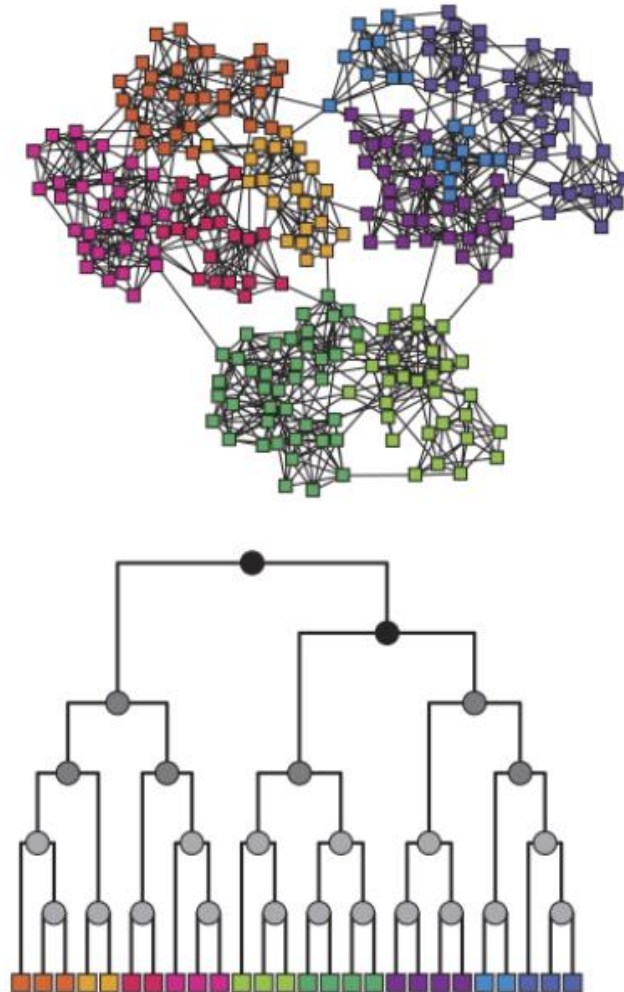
Edge strengths (call volume)
in a real network



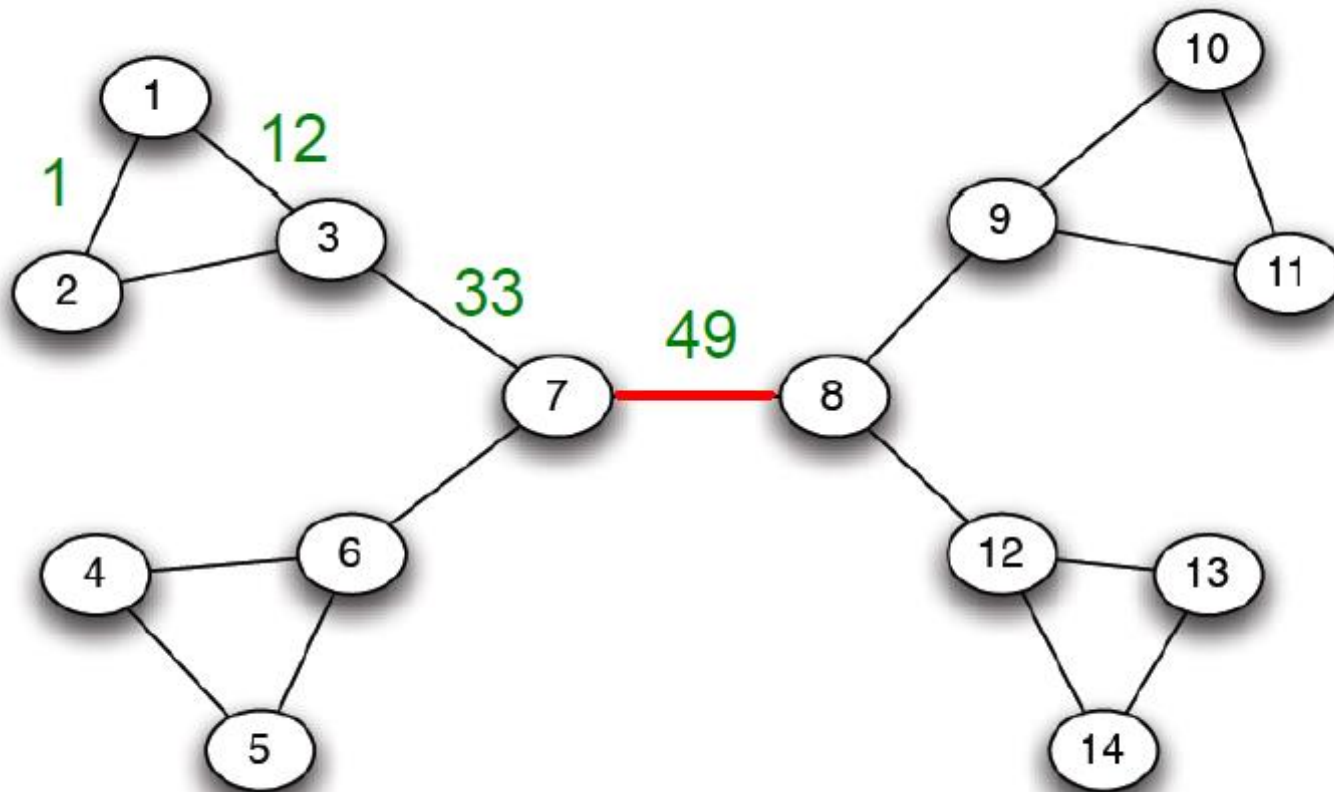
Edge betweenness
in a real network

Edge betweenness

- *Hierarchical algorithm*, dendrogram



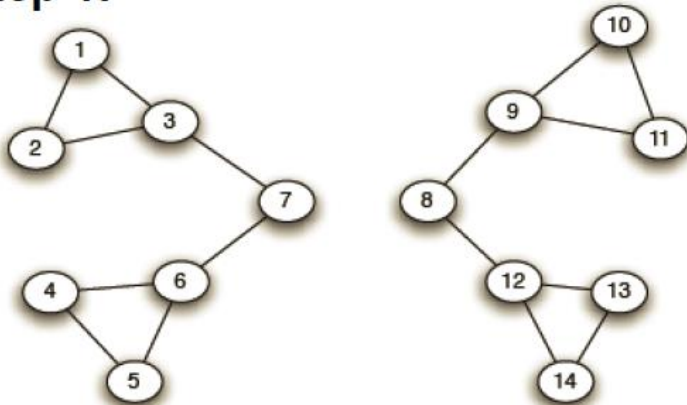
Girvan-Newman: Example



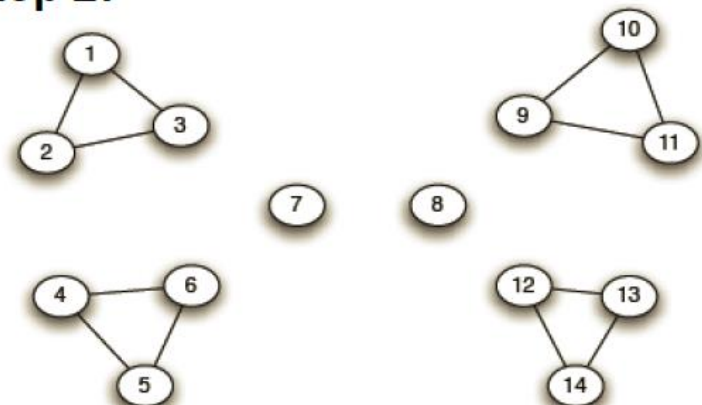
Need to re-compute
betweenness at
every step

Girvan-Newman: Example

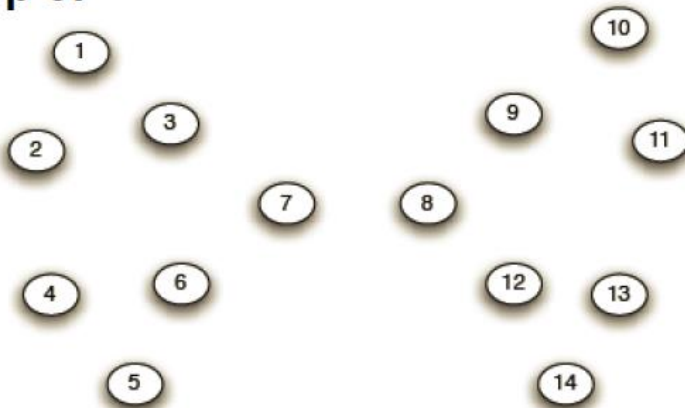
Step 1:



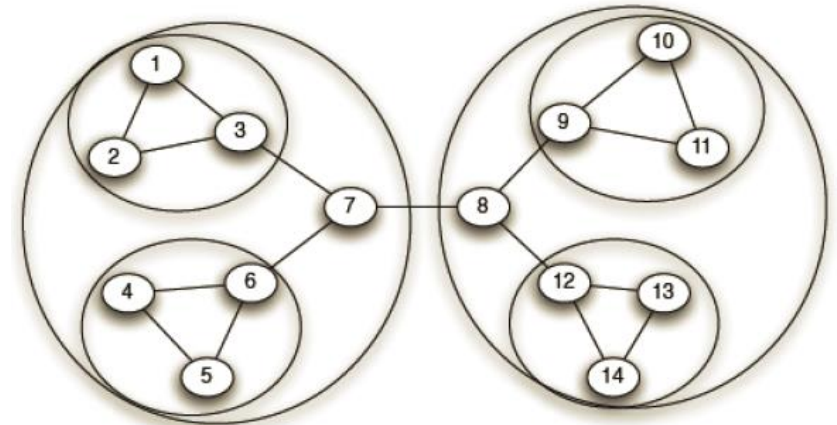
Step 2:



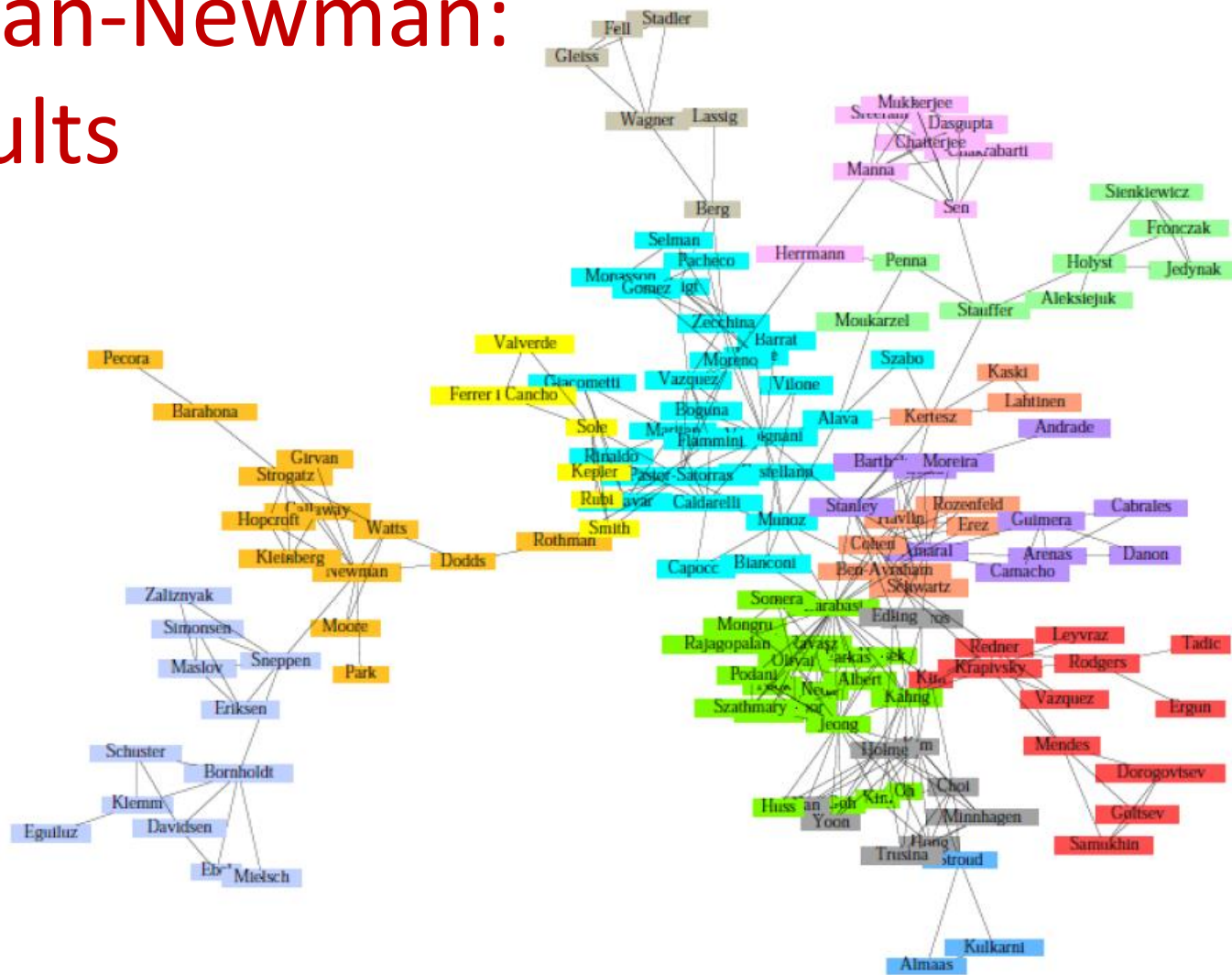
Step 3:



Hierarchical network decomposition:



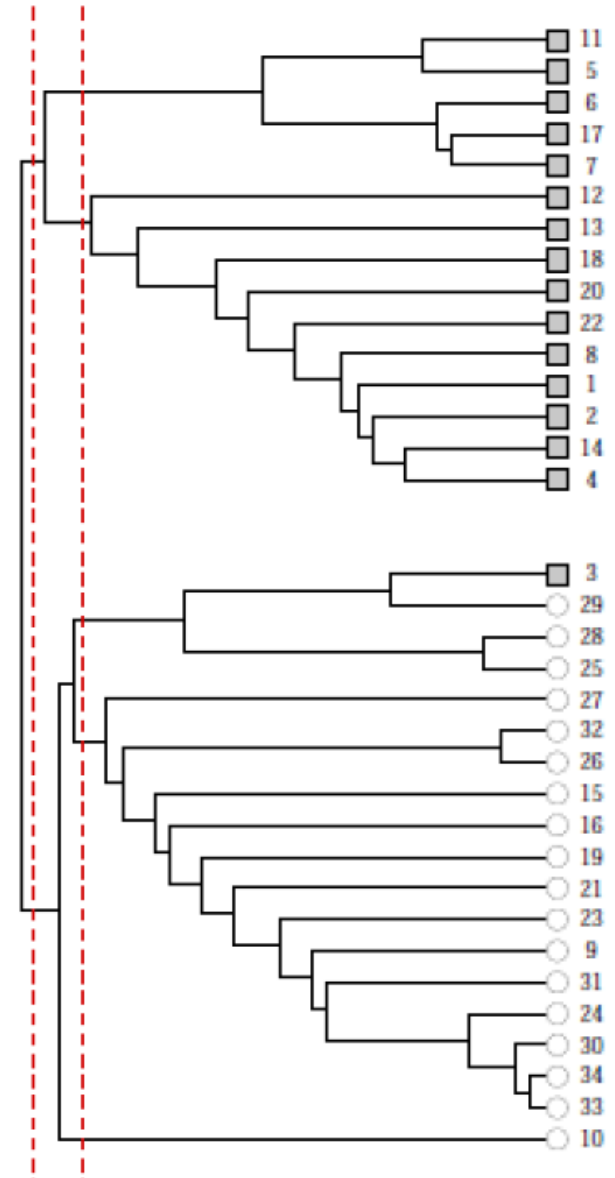
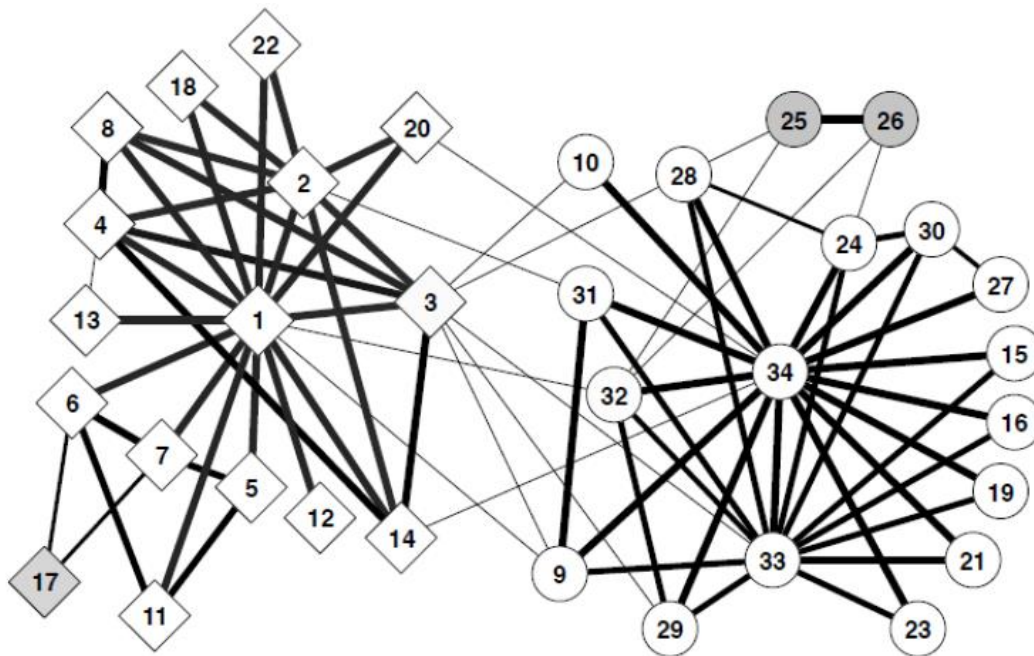
Girvan-Newman: Results



Communities in physics collaborations

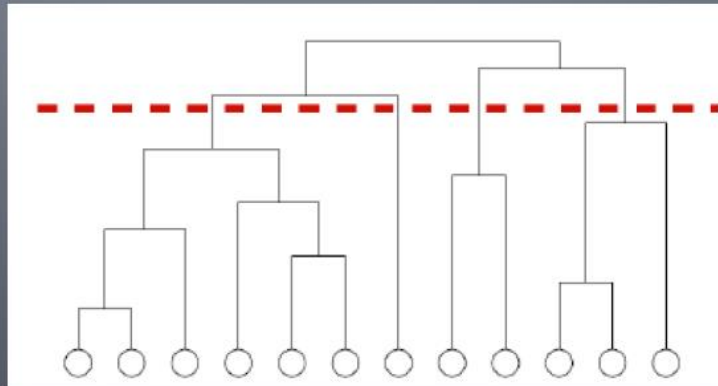
Girvan-Newman: Results

- Zachary's Karate club:
Hierarchical decomposition



We need to resolve 2 questions

1. How to compute betweenness?
2. How to select the number of clusters?

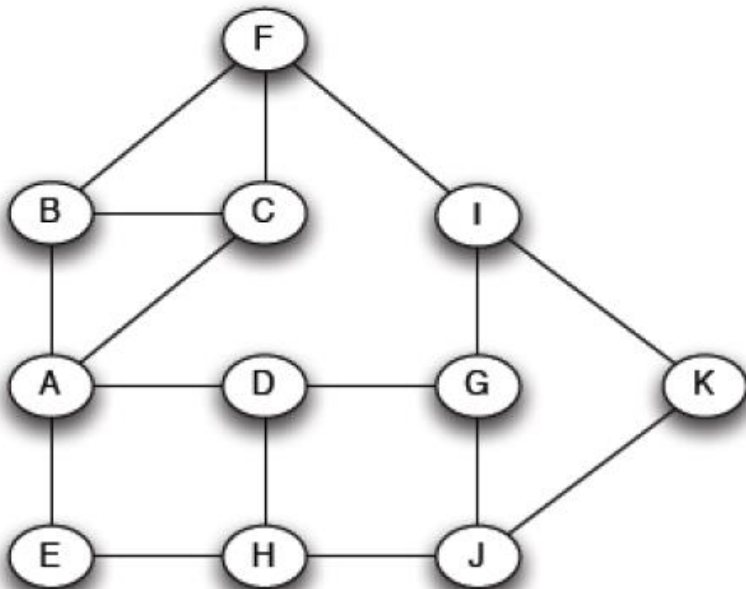


Determine the flow from one node to all other nodes in the graph

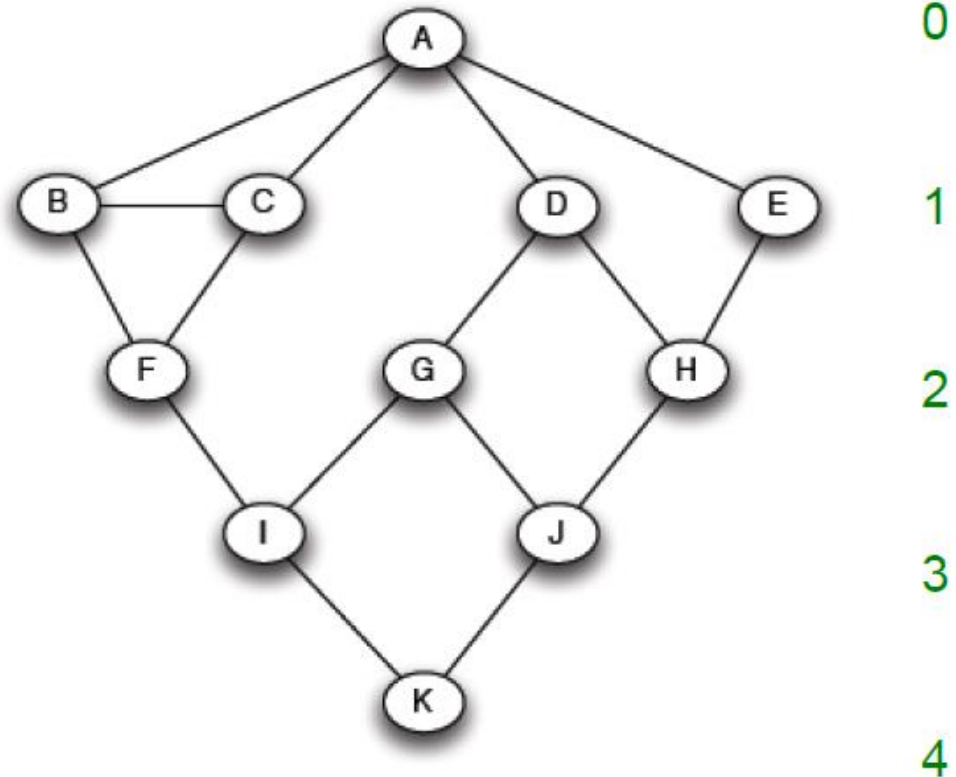
- Perform a breadth-first search of the graph, starting at a node (node A)
- Determine the number of shortest paths from node A to all the other nodes
- Based on these numbers, determine the amount of flow from node A to all other nodes that uses each edge

How to Compute Betweenness?

- Want to compute betweenness of paths starting at node **A** efficiently

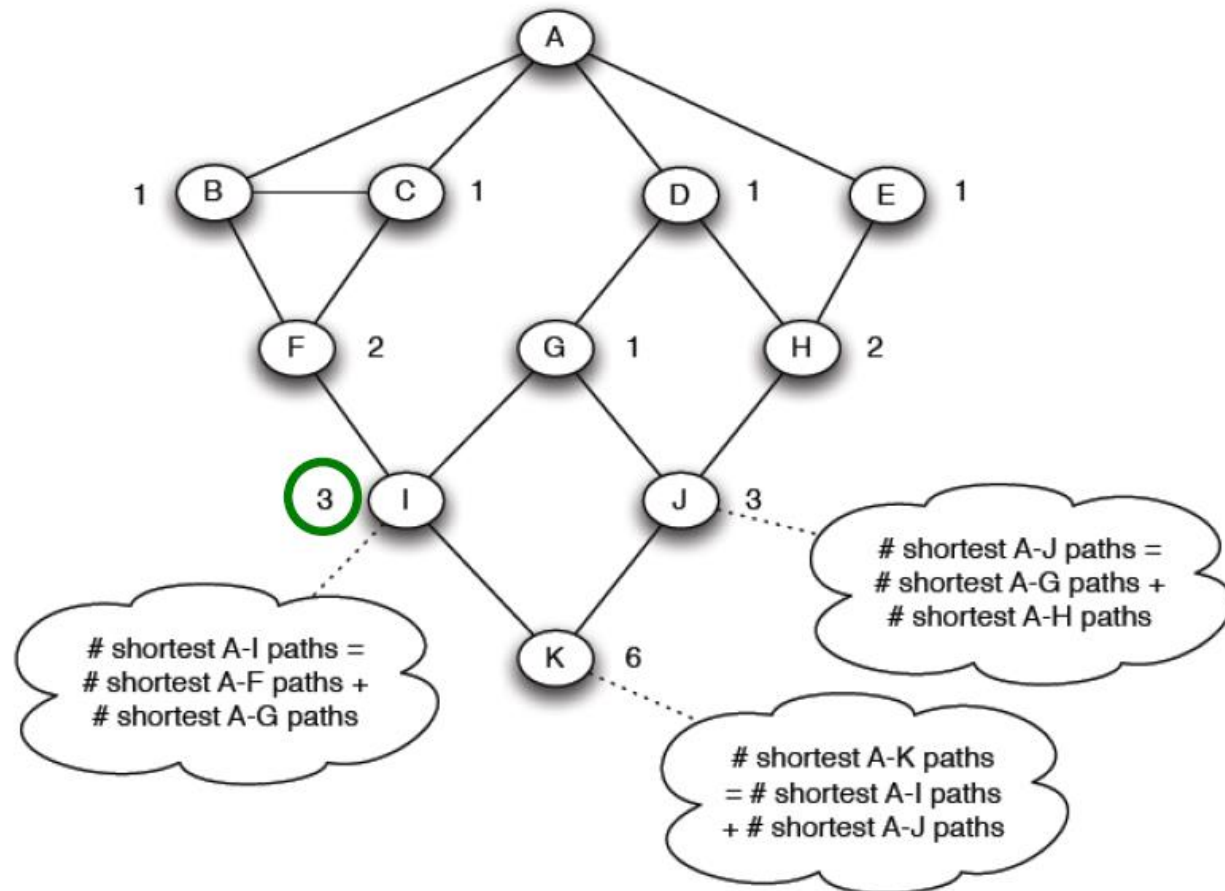


- Breadth first search starting from **A**:



How to Compute Betweenness?

- Count the number of shortest paths from **A** to all other nodes of the network:



How to Compute Betweenness?

- *Compute betweenness by working up the tree:* If there are multiple paths count them fractionally

The algorithm:

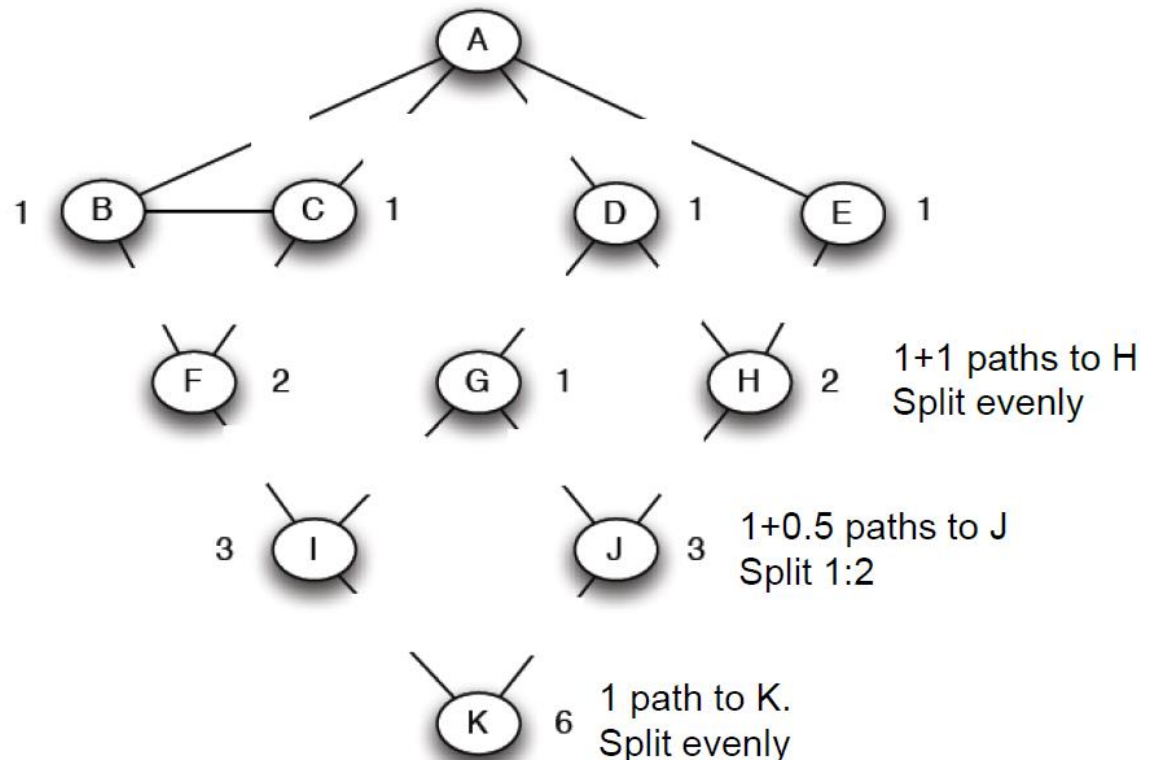
• Add edge flows:

-- node flow =

$1 + \sum \text{child edges}$

-- split the flow up based on the parent value

• Repeat the BFS procedure for each starting node U



How to Compute Betweenness?

- *Compute betweenness by working up the tree:* If there are multiple paths count them fractionally

The algorithm:

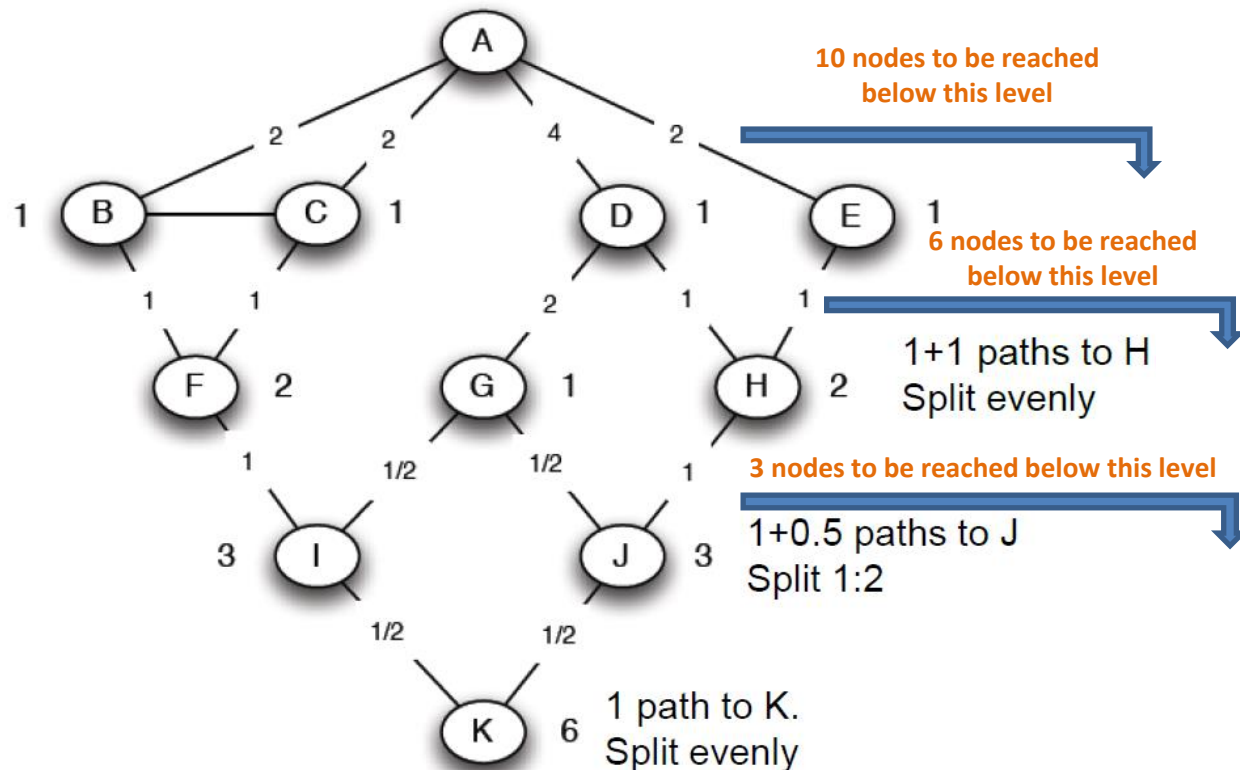
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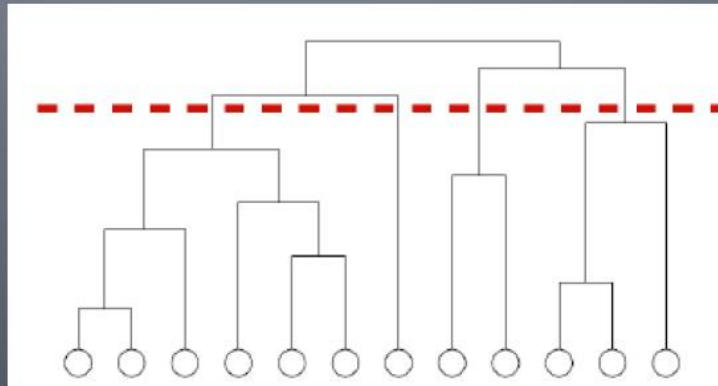
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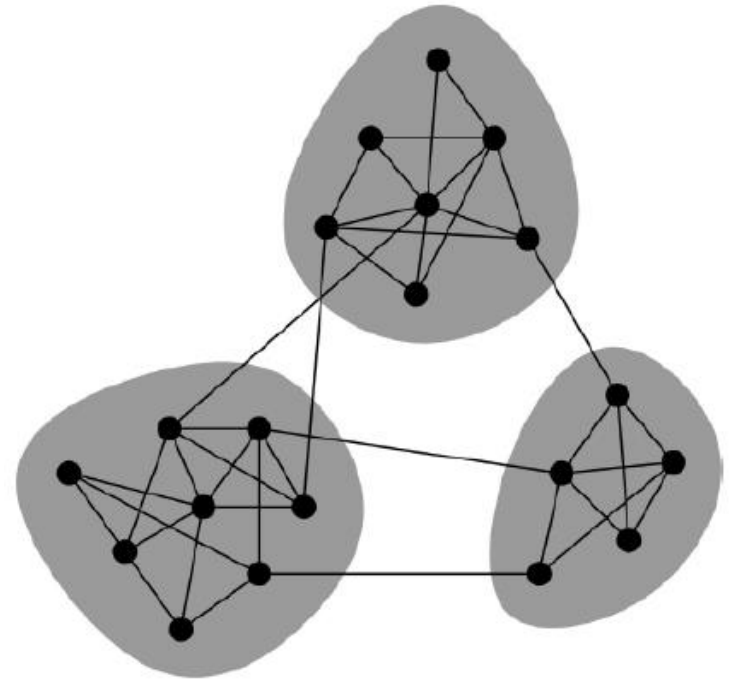
1. How to compute betweenness?
2. How to select the number of clusters?



Network Communities

- **Communities:** sets of *tightly connected nodes*
- Define: **Modularity Q**
 - A measure of how well a network is partitioned into communities
 - Given a partitioning of the network into groups $s \in S$:

$$Q \propto \sum_{s \in S} [\underbrace{(\# \text{ edges within group } s) - (\text{expected } \# \text{ edges within group } s)}_{\text{Need a null model!}}]$$



Null Model: Configuration Model

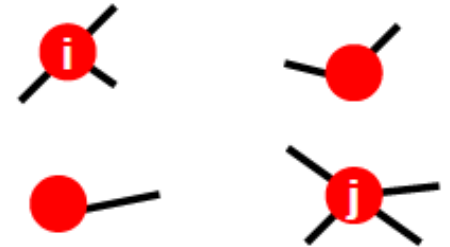
- Given real G on n nodes and m edges, construct rewired network G'

- Same degree distribution but random connections

- Consider G' as a *multigraph*

- The *expected number of edges* between nodes

i and j of degrees k_i and k_j equals to: $k_i \cdot \frac{k_j}{2m} = \frac{k_i k_j}{2m}$



The expected number of edges in (multigraph) G' :

$$\begin{aligned} &= \frac{1}{2} \sum_{i \in N} \sum_{j \in N} \frac{k_i k_j}{2m} = \frac{1}{2} \cdot \frac{1}{2m} \sum_{i \in N} k_i \left(\sum_{j \in N} k_j \right) = \\ &= \frac{1}{4m} 2m \cdot 2m = m \end{aligned}$$

Note:

$$\sum_{u \in N} k_u = 2m$$

Modularity

- **Modularity of partitioning S of graph G :**

- $Q \propto \sum_{s \in S} [(\# \text{ edges within group } s) - (\text{expected } \# \text{ edges within group } s)]$

- $Q(G, S) = \frac{1}{2m} \sum_{s \in S} \sum_{i \in s} \sum_{j \in s} \left(A_{ij} - \frac{k_i k_j}{2m} \right)$

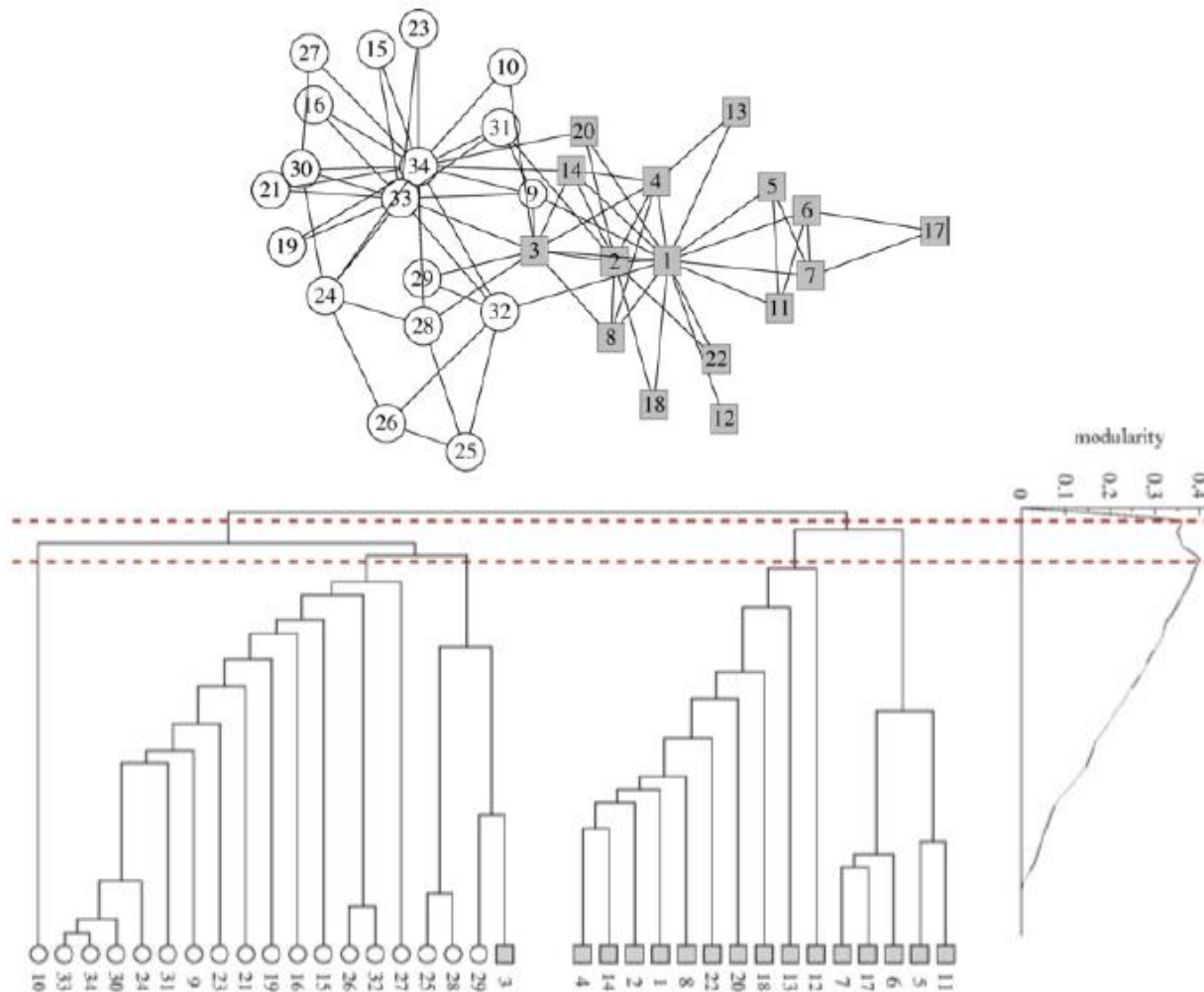
Normalizing cost.: $-1 < Q < 1$

$A_{ij} = 1$ if $i \rightarrow j$,
0 else

- **Modularity values take range $[-1, 1]$**

- It is positive if the number of edges within groups exceeds the expected number
- **$0.3-0.7 < Q$** means significant community structure

Dendrogram and modularity score

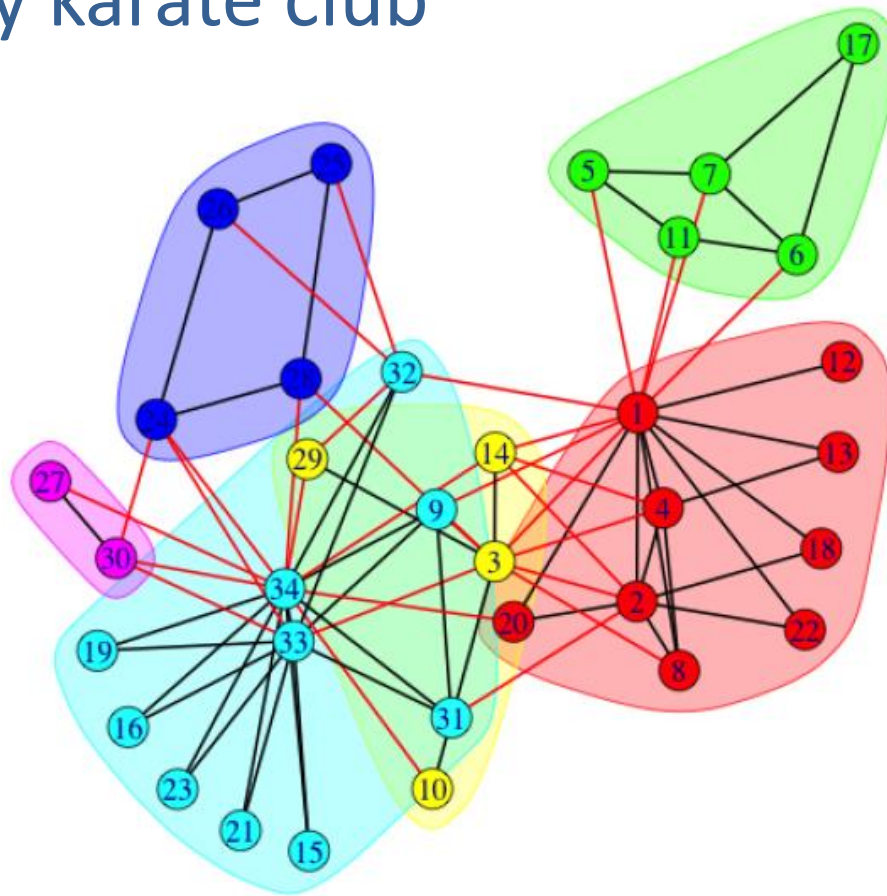


Newman and Girvan, 2004

5/7/2022

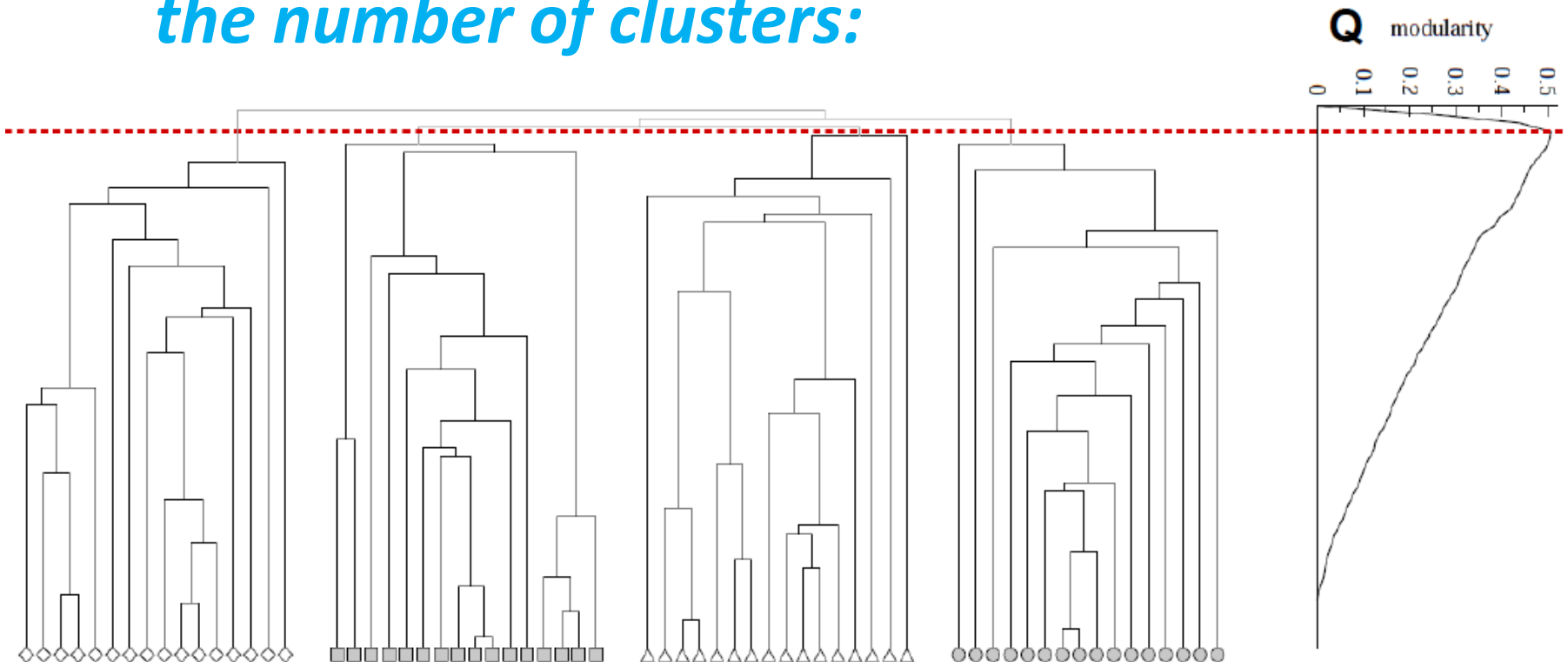
Network communities

- Zachary karate club



Modularity: Number of Clusters

- *Modularity is useful for selecting the number of clusters:*



Next time: Why not optimize Modularity directly?

Modularity

- **Modularity of partitioning S of graph G :**

- $Q \propto \sum_{s \in S} [(\# \text{ edges within group } s) - (\text{expected } \# \text{ edges within group } s)]$

- $Q(G, S) = \frac{1}{2m} \sum_{s \in S} \left[\sum_{i,j \in s} A_{ij} - \sum_{i,j \in s} \frac{k_i k_j}{2m} \right]$

$$= \frac{1}{2m} \sum_{s \in S} \sum_{i \in s} \sum_{j \in s} \left(A_{ij} - \frac{k_i k_j}{2m} \right)$$

Normalizing const.: $-1 < Q < 1$

$A_{ij} = 1$ if $i \rightarrow j$,
0 else

- **Modularity Q tells us whether S represents any significant community structure**

- So, let's find S that maximizes modularity itself!

Method 3: *Modularity Optimization*

- *Let's split the graph into 2 communities*
- **Want to directly optimize modularity:**

$$\blacksquare \max_S Q(G, S) = \frac{1}{2m} \sum_{s \in S} \sum_{i \in s} \sum_{j \in s} \left(A_{ij} - \frac{k_i k_j}{2m} \right)$$

- **Community membership vector s :**

$$\blacksquare s_i = \begin{cases} 1 & \text{if node } i \text{ is in community 1} \\ -1 & \text{if node } i \text{ is in community -1} \end{cases} \quad \frac{s_i s_j + 1}{2} = \begin{cases} 1 & \text{.. if } s_i = s_j \\ 0 & \text{.. else} \end{cases}$$

$$\begin{aligned} Q(G, s) &= \frac{1}{2m} \sum_{i \in N} \sum_{j \in N} \left(A_{ij} - \frac{k_i k_j}{2m} \right) \frac{(s_i s_j + 1)}{2} \\ &= \frac{1}{4m} \sum_{i, j \in N} \left(A_{ij} - \frac{k_i k_j}{2m} \right) s_i s_j \end{aligned}$$

Modularity Matrix

Note: each row/col of **B** sums to **0**: $\sum_j A_{ij} = k_i$,
 $\sum_j \frac{k_i k_j}{2m} = k_i \sum_j \frac{k_j}{2m} = k_i$

- **Define:**

- **Modularity matrix:** $B_{ij} = A_{ij} - \frac{k_i k_j}{2m}$
- **Membership:** $s = \{-1, +1\}$

- **Then:**
$$\begin{aligned} Q(G, s) &= \frac{1}{4m} \sum_{i \in N} \sum_{j \in N} \left(A_{ij} - \frac{k_i k_j}{2m} \right) s_i s_j \\ &= \frac{1}{4m} \sum_{i, j \in N} B_{ij} s_i s_j \\ &= \frac{1}{4m} \sum_i s_i \underbrace{\sum_j B_{ij} s_j}_{= B_{i \cdot} \cdot s} = \frac{1}{4m} s^T B s \end{aligned}$$

- **Task:** Find $s \in \{-1, +1\}^n$ that maximizes $Q(G, s)$

Quick Review of Linear Algebra

- **Symmetric matrix A**

- is Positive Semidefinite: $A = U \cdot U^T$

$$\begin{bmatrix} a_{11} & \dots & a_{1n} \\ \vdots & & \vdots \\ a_{n1} & \dots & a_{nn} \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} x_1 \\ \vdots \\ x_n \end{bmatrix} = \lambda \begin{bmatrix} x_1 \\ \vdots \\ x_n \end{bmatrix}$$

- Then solutions λ, x to equation $A \cdot x = \lambda \cdot x$:

- **Eigenvectors x_i** ordered by the magnitude of their corresponding **eigenvalues λ_i** ($\lambda_1 \leq \lambda_2 \dots \leq \lambda_n$)
 - x_i are **orthonormal** (orthogonal and unit length)
 - x_i form a coordinate system (basis)
 - If A is Positive Semidefinite: $\lambda_i \geq 0$ (and they always exist)

- **Eigendecomposition theorem:** Can rewrite matrix A in terms of its eigenvectors and eigenvalues:

$$A = \sum_i x_i \cdot \lambda_i \cdot x_i^T$$

Modularity Optimization

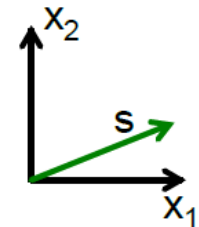
- Rewrite: $Q(G, s) = \frac{1}{4m} s^T B s$ in terms of its eigenvectors x and eigenvalues λ :

$$= s^T \left[\sum_{i=1}^n x_i \lambda_i x_i^T \right] s = \sum_{i=1}^n s^T x_i \lambda_i x_i^T s = \sum_{i=1}^n (s^T x_i)^2 \lambda_i$$

- So, if there would be no other constraints on s then to maximize Q , we make $s = x_n$

- Why? Because $\lambda_n \geq \lambda_{n-1} \geq \dots$

- Remember s has fixed length ($\|s\| = 1$)!
 - Assigns all weight in the sum to λ_n (largest eigenvalue)
 - All other $s^T x_i$ terms are **zero** because of orthonormality



Finding the vector s

- **Let's consider only the first term in the summation (because λ_n is the largest):**

$$\max_s Q(G, s) = \sum_{i=1}^n (s^T x_i)^2 \lambda_i \approx (s^T x_n)^2 \lambda_n$$

- **Let's maximize: $\sum_{j=1}^n s_j \cdot x_{n,j}$ where $s_j \in \{-1, +1\}$**

- **To do this, we set:**

$$s_j = \begin{cases} +1 & \text{if } x_{n,j} \geq 0 \text{ (j-th coordinate of } x_n \geq 0) \\ -1 & \text{if } x_{n,j} < 0 \text{ (j-th coordinate of } x_n < 0) \end{cases}$$

- **Continue the bisection hierarchically**

Summary: Modularity Optimization

■ Fast Modularity Optimization Algorithm:

- Find leading eigenvector x_n of modularity matrix B
- Divide the nodes by the signs of the elements of x_n
- Repeat hierarchically until:
 - If a proposed split does not cause modularity to increase, declare community indivisible and do not split it
 - If all communities are indivisible, stop

■ How to find x_n ? Power method!

- Start with random $v^{(0)}$, repeat :
- When converged ($v^{(t)} \approx v^{(t+1)}$), set $x_n = v^{(t)}$

$$v^{(t+1)} = \frac{Bv^{(t)}}{\|Bv^{(t)}\|}$$

Summary: Modularity based Algorithms

- **Girvan-Newman**

- Based on the “strength of weak ties”
- Remove edge of highest betweenness

- **Modularity:**

- Overall quality of the partitioning of a graph
- Use to determine the number of communities

- **Fast Modularity Optimization:**

- Transform the modularity optimization into an eigenvalue problem

Spectral Clustering Algorithms

- **Three basic stages:**

- 1) Pre-processing**

- Construct a matrix representation of the graph

- 2) Decomposition**

- Compute eigenvalues and eigenvectors of the matrix
 - Map each point to a ***lower-dimensional representation*** based on one or more eigenvectors

- 3) Grouping**

- Assign points to two or more clusters
 - based on the ***new representation***

Many other partitioning methods

- **METIS:**
 - Heuristic but works really well in practice
 - <http://glaros.dtc.umn.edu/gkhome/views/metis>
- **Graclus:**
 - Based on kernel k-means
 - <http://www.cs.utexas.edu/users/dml/Software/gracclus.html>
- **Louvain:**
 - Based on Modularity optimization
 - <http://perso.uclouvain.be/vincent.blondel/research/louvain.html>
- **Clique percolation method:**
 - For finding overlapping clusters
 - <http://angel.elte.hu/cfinder/>