

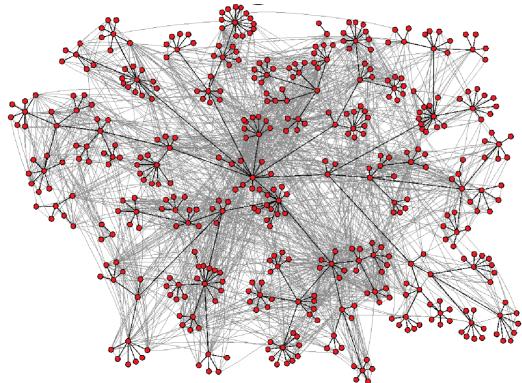
Social Network Data Analysis

MIE223

Winter 2025

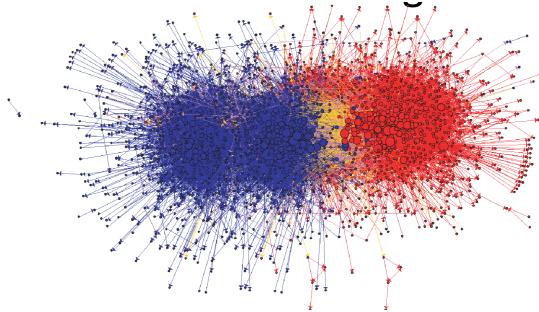
1 Social Network Analysis

1.1 Networks: An organization - HP Labs



not a lot of inter-team communication as they are present together. the network represents the email communication between the teams. holistic interconnectivity exists where the center dot is. there is a clear tree hierarchy, with clumpiness where certain nodes have high degree connections. social networks are not random, they are structured.

1.2 Political blogs



the network represents the links between political blogs. the network is divided into two main groups, with a few blogs connecting the two groups. there are a lot of echo chambers.

1.3 A View of Facebook via 10 M links



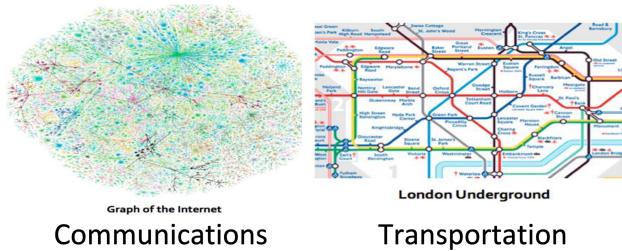
data is generated by a process, which is subject to selection biases.

1.4 Why Networks?

Behind each of these complex systems there is an intricate wiring diagram, a network that defines the interactions between system components.

Understanding the network is key to understand the behaviors of such complex system.

1.5 Networks



1.6 Application domains in network analysis

- Social (people-people) networks (social network)
- Information networks (social network)
- Organization and political networks (social network)
- Computer networking
- Biology
- Transportation networks

2 EXAMPLES OF PROBLEMS IN SOCIAL NETWORKS

2.1 E.g. 1: Small-world phenomena

how do you decide which nodes connect to what in a social network? there is a tree pattern in the connections, where there are supernodes with multiple connections and other nodes where they only have a few connections. you are more likely to friend a node if that node already has a lot of friends.

there is a power law connection in how nodes with many connections tend to gain more connections. these have a natural hierachal structure and are not random.

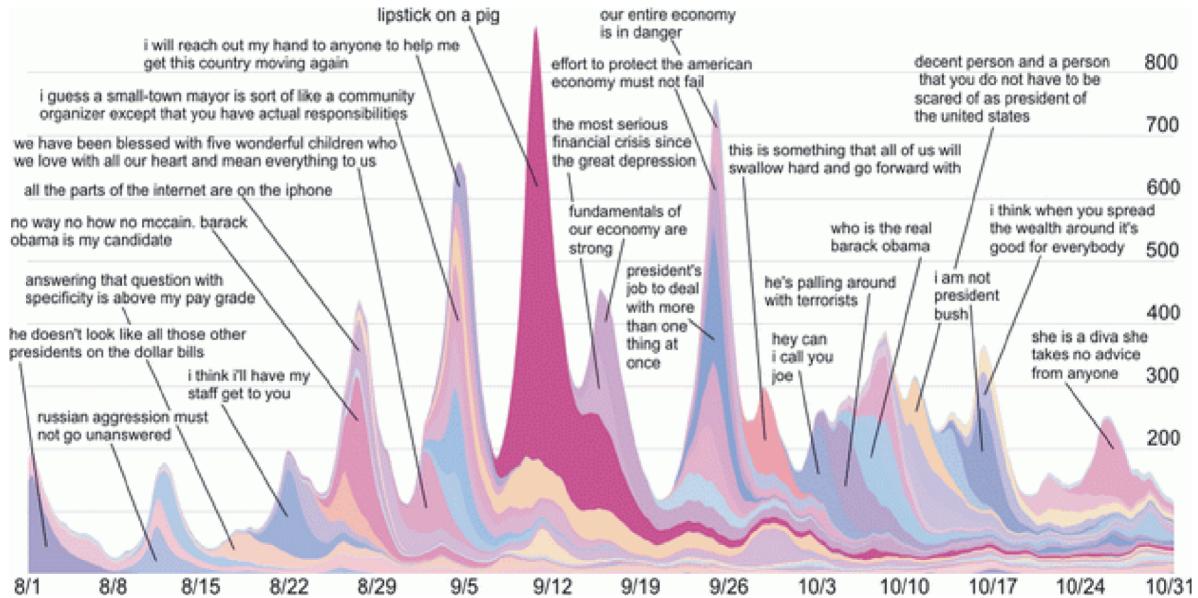
2.2 E.g. 1 (cont.): Link prediction

“Given a snapshot of a social network, can we infer which new interactions among its members are likely to occur in the near future?”

- What are the measurements?
- – “proximity” and “similarity” between two unconnected nodes
- What are application domains?
- – social networks, friend recommendation; product / webpage recommendation; predicting academic collaborations; predicting merger and acquisitions ...
- How to measure performance?
- – use future held-out data, conversion rate, ..

there is a connectivity such that you are more likely to connect to people your friends are connected to

2.3 E.g. 2: Tracking Memes – What goes Viral?



what is it about "lipstick on a pig" that makes it go viral? it is novel, it is surprising, it is interesting, it is complex, it is emotional it is a story, it is a narrative, it is a meme.

2.4 E.g. 3: Community detection

- Why detect communities?
- Simplified network structure and “big picture”

- Explain actions and positions
- Better predictions
- What defines a community?
- Interaction
- Profile
- Dynamics
- ...

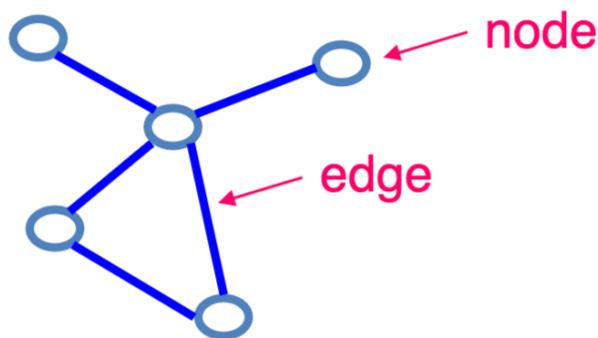
3 Social Network Analysis: Preliminaries

3.1 What are networks?

Note 1. Networks are sets of nodes connected by edges.

“Network” = “Graph”

points	lines	
vertices	edges, arcs	math
nodes	links	computer science
sites	bonds	physics
actors	ties, relations	sociology



3.2 Network elements: edges

Directed (also called arcs, links): $A \rightarrow B$

Undirected: $A \leftrightarrow B$ or $A - B$

Undirected is a subset of directed such that all undirected links have directed links

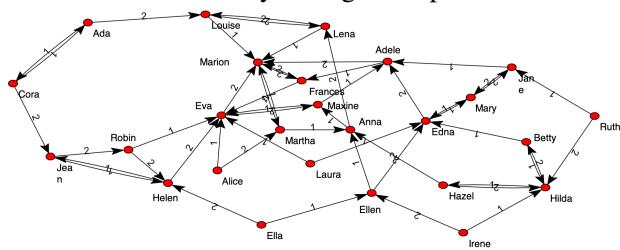
3.3 Edge attributes

Examples

- weight (e.g. frequency of communication)
- ranking (best friend, second best friend...)
- type (friend, relative, co-worker)
- properties depending on the structure of the rest of the graph: e.g. betweenness

3.4 Directed networks

Girls' school dormitory dining-table partners, 1st and 2nd choices (Moreno, The sociometry reader, 1960)



3.5 Document Elements In Twitter

- User
- Mention
- Hashtag
- Hyperlink

4 Data representation

1. Adjacency matrix
2. Edge list
3. Adjacency list

4.1 (1) Adjacency matrices

Representing edges (who is adjacent to whom) as a matrix

$$A_{ij} = \begin{cases} 1 & \text{if node } i \text{ has an edge to node } j \\ 0 & \text{if node } i \text{ does not have an edge to } j \end{cases}$$

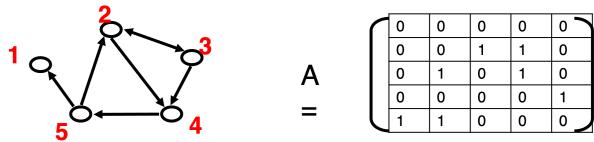
$A_{ii} = 0$ unless the network has self-loops



$A_{ij} = A_{ji}$ if the network is undirected,
or if i and j share a reciprocated edge



4.2 (1) Adjacency matrices example

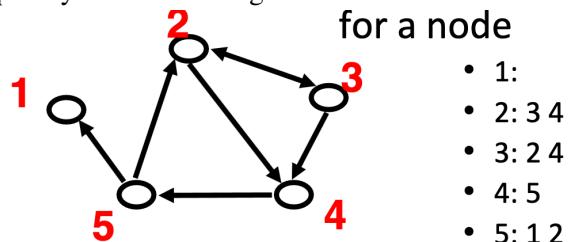


4.3 (2) Edge list

- Edge list
- 2, 3
- 2, 4
- 3, 2
- 3, 4
- 4, 5
- 5, 2
- 5, 1

4.4 (3) Adjacency lists

are easier to work with if network is
• large • sparse
quickly retrieve all neighbors for a node



stored as a key (dictionary) instead of a list. use a sparse matrix in python to store this.

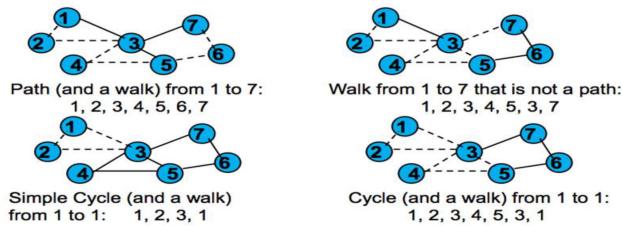
5 Computing metrics

1. Path and distance
2. In/Out degree
3. Centrality

5.1 Distances in a Network

- Path: a walk (i_1, i_2, \dots, i_k) with each node i_j distinct
- Cycle: a walk where $i_1 = i_k$
- Geodesic: a shortest path between two nodes

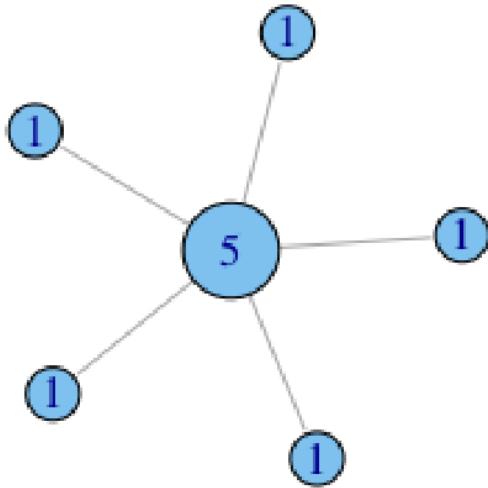
Paths, Walks, Cycles...



6 Who is the Center of a network?

6.1 Local view of the Social Network

Note 2. One centrality definition: Nodes with more friends are more central.



Assumption: the connections that your friend has don't matter, it is what they can do directly that does (e.g. go have a beer with you, help you build a deck...)

6.2 Indegree and Outdegree