

# Modularity: a redemption ?, resolution limit and graph expansion

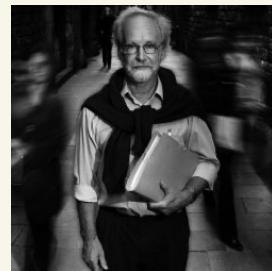
Fiona Skerman, Vilhelm Agdur,



Nina Kamičev,

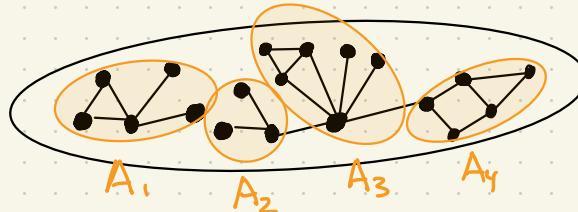


Baptiste Louf, Colin McDiarmid



# Modularity 'meas. of how well a graph can be clustered'

$G$



$$A = \{A_1, \dots, A_4\}$$

graph  $G$ ,  $m$  edges.  $A = \{A_1, \dots, A_k\}$  vertex partition

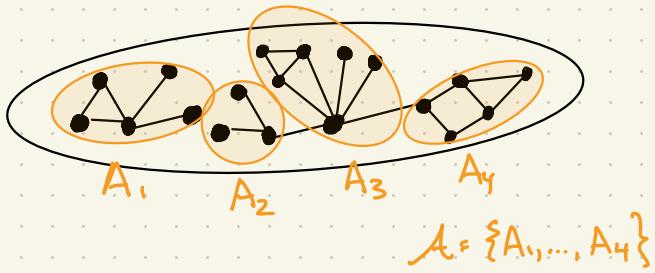
score of partition  $A$ ,  $q_A(G) =$

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"high vals taken to indicate  
more community structure"

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## Community Detection

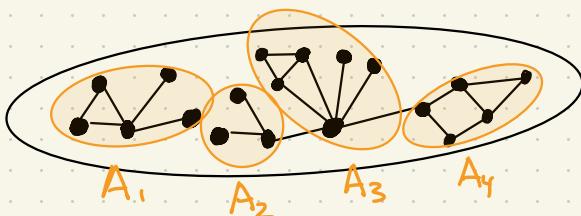
input graph  $G = (V, E)$   
 vertices nodes  
 edges (weighted)

output vertex partition  $A$   
 'community division'

- modularity score NP-hard to opt.
- Louvain ~ modularity based  
 & Leiden ~ iteratively build a partition  
 local choices - maximise mod.
- most popular methods use modularity

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"edge contrib."    "degree tax"

$$\rightarrow \frac{|A|^2}{n^2} \text{ for regular graphs}$$

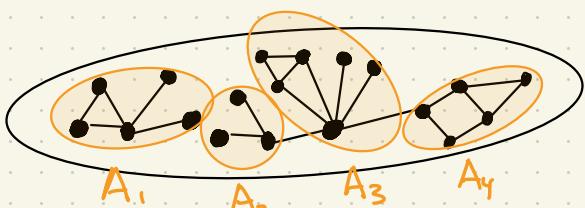
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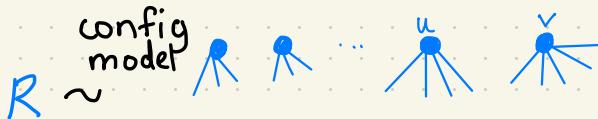
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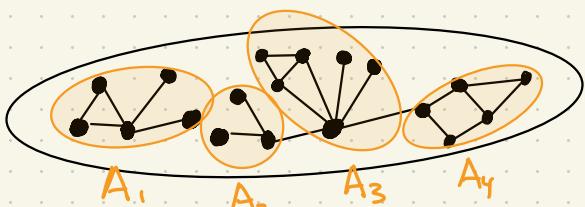
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$$q_A(G) \approx \frac{1}{m} (e_G^{\text{int}}(A) - \mathbb{E}[e_R^{\text{int}}(A)])$$

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$$\cdot u \approx v \quad \mathbb{E}[\# \text{edges } u \sim v \text{ in } R] = \frac{d_u d_v}{2m-1}$$

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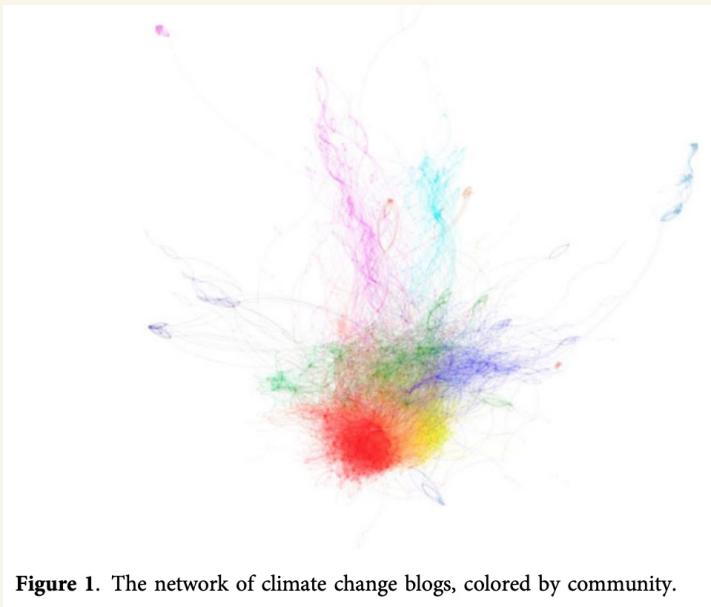
$$q_A(G) \approx \frac{1}{m} (e_G^{\text{int}}(A) - \mathbb{E}[e_R^{\text{int}}(A)])$$

$$\cdot \mathbb{E}[\# \text{edges within parts of } A \text{ in } R] = \sum_{A \in A} \frac{\text{vol}(A)(\text{vol}(A)-1)}{2m(2m-1)}$$

## Example : Linguistics

$V = 3\text{MO}$  climate change blogs

$E \sim$  based on links between blogs



Elgesam D , Steskal L. + Diakopoulos

"Structure and content of the discourse on climate change in the blogosphere"

Environmental Communication '2015 .

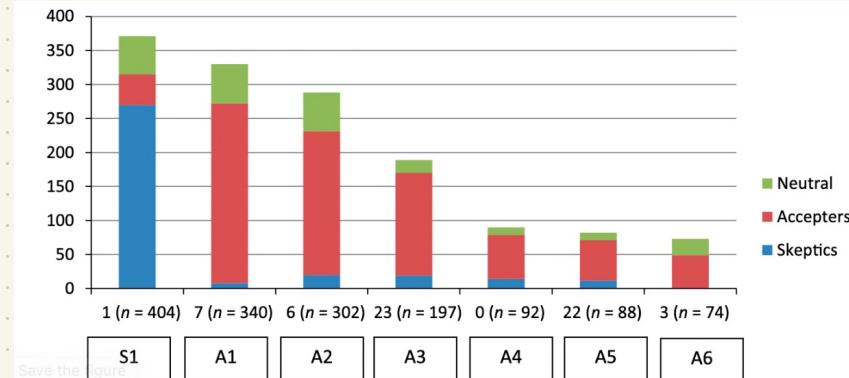


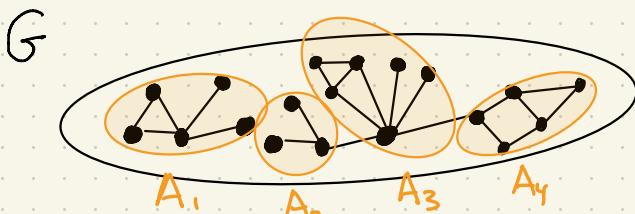
Figure 3. The distribution of skeptical, accepting, and neutral blogs in the seven largest among the central groups of blogs concerned with climate change.

Table 5. The top 15 collocates around "climate" in communities 1 (skeptic), 23 (accepter), and 7 (accepter) computed with the point-wise mutual information metric.

Top collocates of "CLIMATE" in the skeptical community S1	Top collocates of "CLIMATE" in the accepter community A3	Top collocates of "CLIMATE" in the accepter community A1
1 CLIMATE	1 DENIERS	1 POPPIN
2 SKEPTICS	2 SKEPTICS	2 DENIERS
3 ALARMISM	3 CLIMAT	3 SKEPTICS
4 DENIERS	4 DECADAL	4 OBAMA
5 IPCC	5 CONTRARIANS	5 WWW
6 DECADAL	6 OBAMA	6 EU'S
7 ALARMISTS	7 NOAA'S	7 CLIMATE
8 CLIMAT	8 AGW	8 YVO
9 CHANGE	9 WWW	9 NOAA'S
10 INTERGOVERNMENTAL	10 DENIER	10 WILDFIRES
11 OBAMA	11 CLIMATE	11 CHANGE'S
12 ANTHROPOGENIC	12 VAPOR	12 IPCC
13 AGW	13 ANTHROPOGENIC	13 ALARMISM
14 IPCC'S	14 ALARMISM	14 PACHAURI
15 WARMING	15 CONTRARIAN	15 DENIER

Reference corpus: The British National Corpus, approximately 100 million words.

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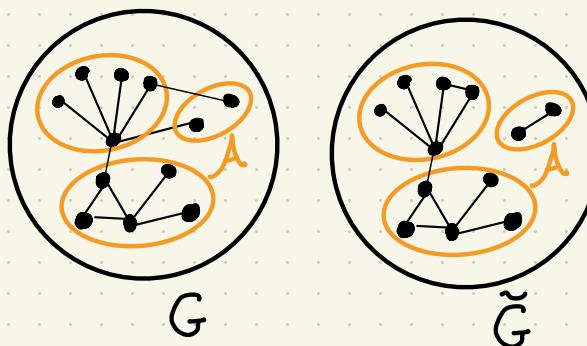
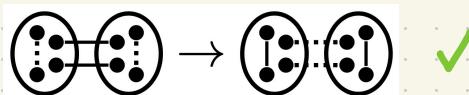
"edge contrib." "degree tax"

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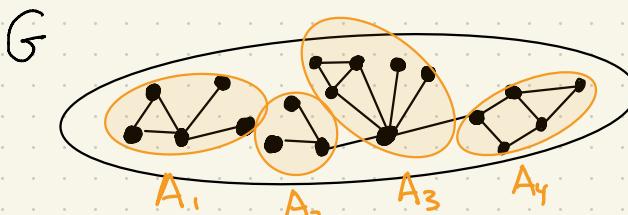
$\text{vol}(A) = \# \text{edges in set } A$

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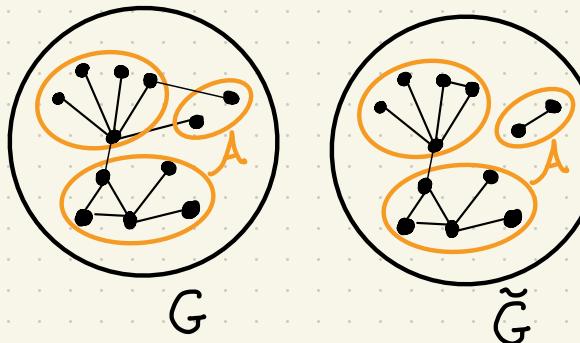
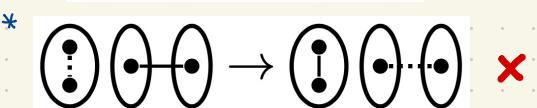
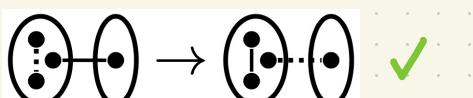
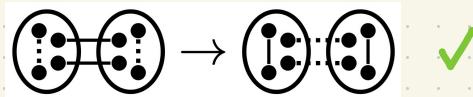


$$A = \{A_1, \dots, A_4\}$$

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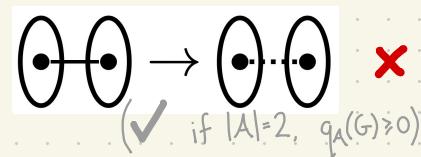
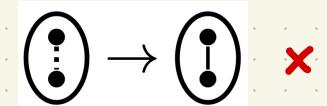
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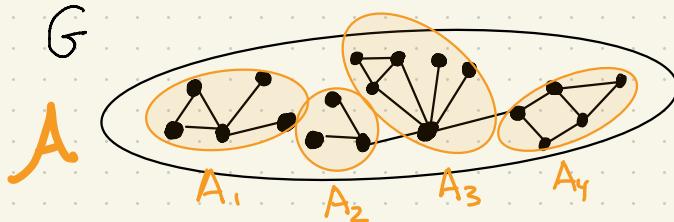
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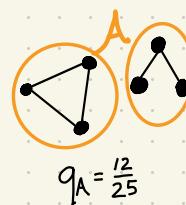
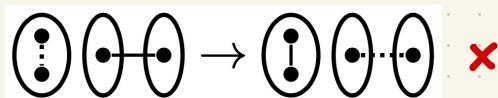
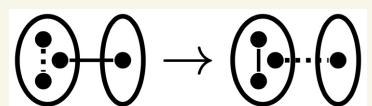
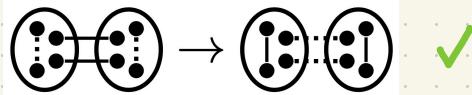
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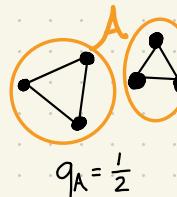
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$$q_A = \frac{12}{25}$$

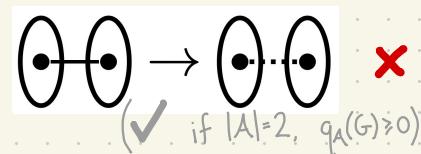
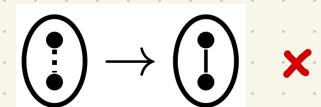


$$q_A = \frac{1}{2}$$

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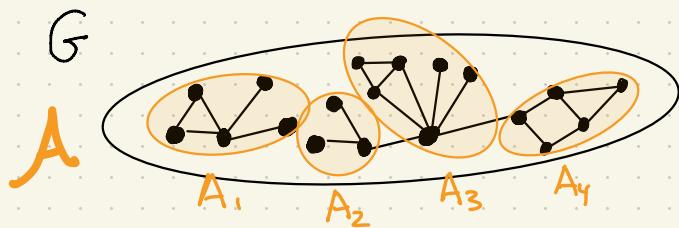
$$\text{vol}(A) = \sum_{u \in A} d_u$$



(✓ if  $|A|=2$ ,  $q_A(G) \geq 0$ )



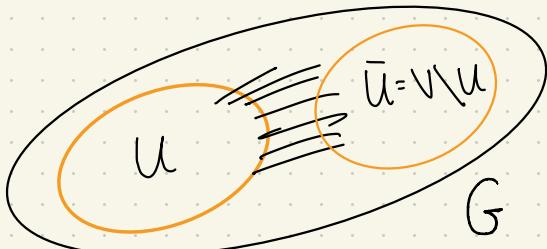
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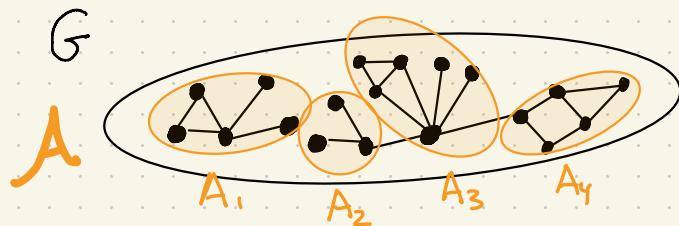
conductance

$$h_G = \min_{U \subseteq V(G)} \frac{e(U, \bar{U})}{\min\{\text{vol}(U), \text{vol}(\bar{U})\}}$$

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$$h_G \leq \hat{h}_G \leq 2h_G$$

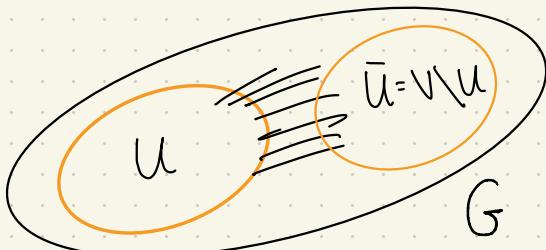
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Robustness  $|q^*(G+!) - q^*(G)| < \frac{2}{e(G)}$

but  $h_{G+!} = \hat{h}_{G+!} = 0$  disconnected!

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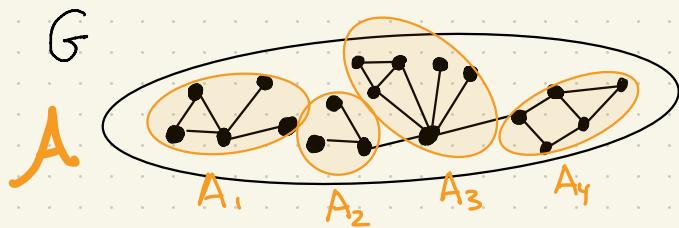
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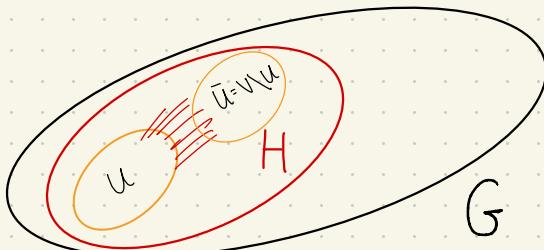
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## Expansion of Subgraphs



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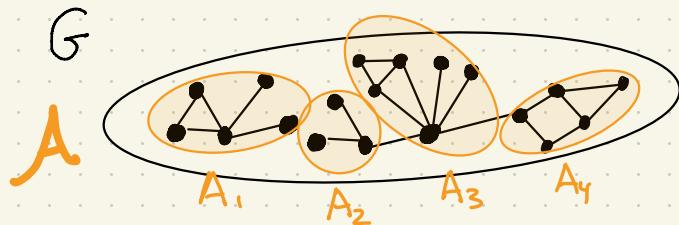
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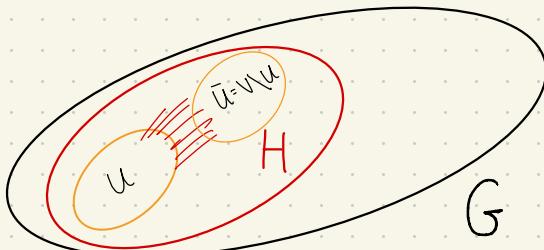
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Thm (informal)

$G$  has  $q^*(G) \sim 1$

$\Leftrightarrow$

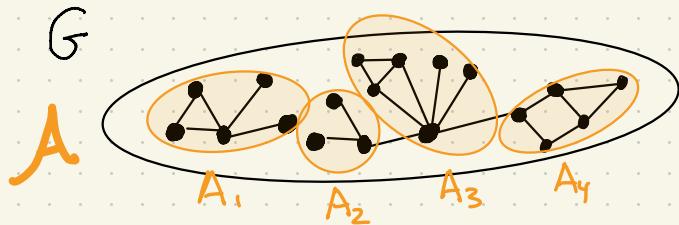
$G$  has no large expander subgraphs

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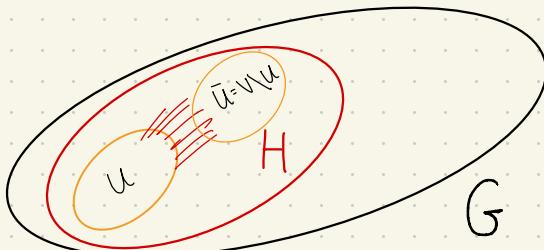
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$$\hat{h}_H = \min_{U \subseteq V(H)} \frac{e(U, \bar{U}) \text{vol}(H)}{\text{vol}(U) \text{vol}(\bar{U})}$$

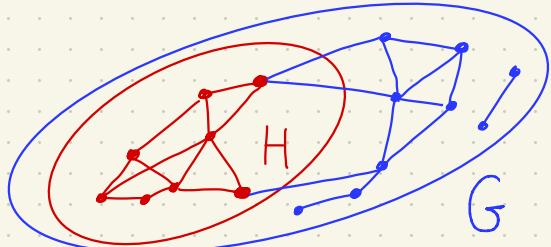
Thm (informal)

$G$  has  $q^*(G) \sim 1$

$\Leftrightarrow$

$G$  has no large expander subgraphs

# Modularity + Expansion of Subgraphs



$$\alpha = \frac{e(H)}{e(G)}$$

Thm (informal)

$G$  has  $q^*(G) \sim 1$

$\Leftrightarrow$

$G$  has no large expander subgraphs

Thm

$\forall 0 < \alpha < 1, \forall \varepsilon > 0,$

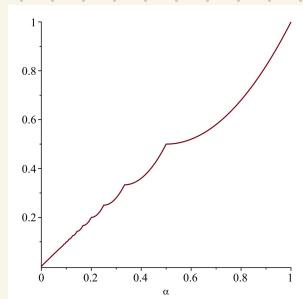
(a)  $G$  has subgraph  $H$ ,  $\frac{e(H)}{e(G)} > \alpha$ ,  $h_H \geq \alpha$

$$\Rightarrow q^*(G) \leq 1 - \alpha^2$$

(b)  $\exists \delta > 0: q^*(G) \leq 1 - f(\alpha) - \varepsilon$

$\Rightarrow G$  has induced subgraph  $H$ ,

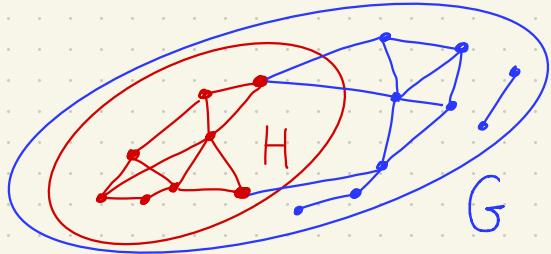
$$\frac{e(H)}{e(G)} \geq \alpha, h_H \geq \delta.$$



$$f(\alpha) := \max \left\{ \sum x_i^2 : 0 \leq x_i \leq \alpha, \sum x_i = 1 \right\}$$

NB.  $f(\alpha) \approx \alpha$   
for small  $\alpha$ .

# Modularity + Expansion of Subgraphs



$$\alpha = \frac{e(H)}{e(G)}$$

Thm  $\forall 0 < \alpha < 1, \forall \varepsilon > 0,$

(a)  $G$  has subgraph  $H$ ,  $\frac{e(H)}{e(G)} > \alpha$ ,  $h_H \geq \alpha$

$$\Rightarrow q^*(G) \leq 1 - \alpha^2$$

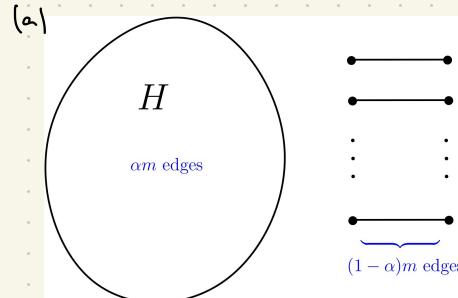
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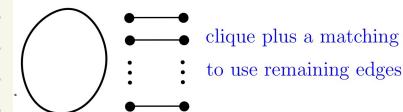
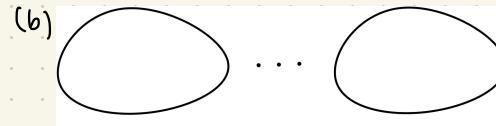
$$\frac{e(H)}{e(G)} > \alpha, h_H \geq \delta.$$

$$f(\alpha) := \max \left\{ \sum x_i^2 : 0 \leq x_i \leq \alpha, \sum x_i = 1 \right\}$$

N.B.  $f(\alpha) \approx \alpha$   
for small  $\alpha$



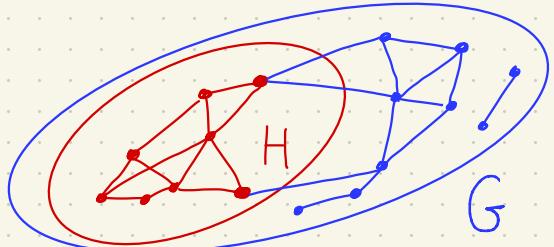
$$q^*(G_H) > 1 - \alpha^2 - \varepsilon$$



$$q^*(G_\alpha) < 1 - f(\alpha) + \varepsilon$$

any  $H$ , with  $\frac{e(H)}{e(G)} > \alpha$   
is disconnected

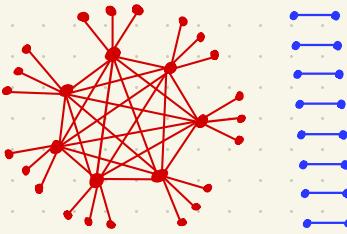
# Modularity + Expansion of Subgraphs



$$\alpha = \frac{e(H)}{e(G)}$$

H k-clique,  $\ell \geq 1$  leaves @ each v

$$\hat{h}_H = \frac{k}{2\ell+k-1}$$



Thm

$$\forall 0 < \alpha < 1, \forall \varepsilon > 0,$$

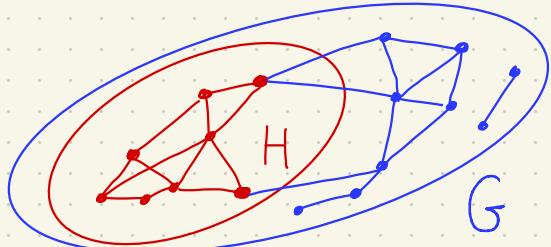
(a) G has subgraph H,  $\frac{e(H)}{e(G)} > \alpha$ ,  $\hat{h}_H$   
 $\Rightarrow q^*(G) \leq 1 - \alpha \min \{ \alpha, \hat{h}_H \}$

$$\forall \varepsilon > 0 \quad \forall \hat{\delta}, \alpha \quad 0 < \alpha, \hat{\delta} < 1$$

$$\exists G, H \text{ st. } |\hat{h}_H - \hat{\delta}|, |\alpha - \alpha| < \varepsilon$$

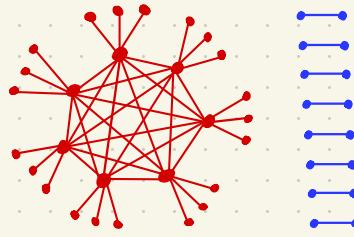
$$q^*(G) \geq 1 - \alpha \min \{ \alpha, \hat{h}_H \} - \varepsilon$$

# Modularity + Expansion of Subgraphs



$$\alpha = \frac{e(H)}{e(G)}$$

$H$   $k$ -clique,  $\ell \geq 1$  leaves @ each v  
 $\hat{h}_H = \frac{k}{2\ell+k-1}$



Thm  $\forall 0 < \alpha < 1, \forall \varepsilon > 0,$

(a)  $G$  has subgraph  $H$ ,  $\frac{e(H)}{e(G)} \geq \alpha$ ,  $\hat{h}_H$

$$\Rightarrow q^*(G) \leq 1 - \alpha \min \{ \alpha, \hat{h}_H \}$$

$\exists G, H$  st.  $|\hat{h}_H - \hat{s}|, |\alpha - \hat{s}| < \varepsilon$

$$q^*(G) \geq 1 - \alpha \min \{ \alpha, \hat{h}_H \} - \varepsilon$$

(b)  $\forall \alpha, \delta > 0$ : any  $H$  an induced subgraph of  $G$

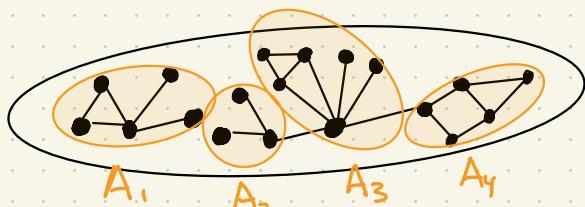
with  $\frac{e(H)}{e(G)} \geq \alpha$  has  $h_H \leq \delta$ .

$$\Rightarrow q^*(G) \geq 1 - f(\min \{ 1, \alpha + \frac{3}{2}\delta \}) - \frac{3}{2}\delta \lceil \log_2(\alpha^{-1}) \rceil$$

$$f(\alpha) := \max_i \left\{ \sum_i x_i^2 : 0 \leq x_i \leq \alpha, \sum_i x_i = 1 \right\} \quad \text{NB. } f(\alpha) \approx \alpha \text{ for small } \alpha$$

# Modularity 'meas of how well a graph can be clustered'

$G$



$$A = \{A_1, \dots, A_4\}$$

$$q_A(G) = \sum_{A \in A} \frac{e(A)}{m} - \frac{\text{vol}(A)^2}{(2m)^2} = \frac{1}{2m} \sum_{A \in A} \sum_{u, v \in A} \mathbf{1}_{[u \sim v]} - \frac{d_u d_v}{2m}$$

"edge contrib."   "degree tax"

$d_u = \# \text{edges incident to } u$

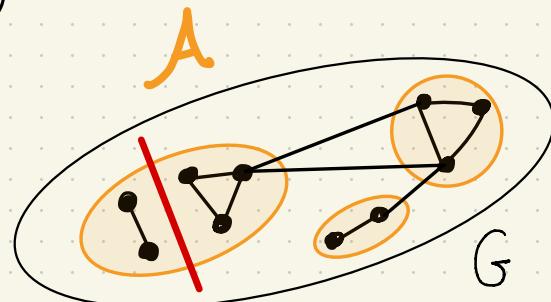
$\text{vol}(A) = \# \text{edges in set } A$

$$\text{vol}(A) = \sum_{u \in A} d_u$$

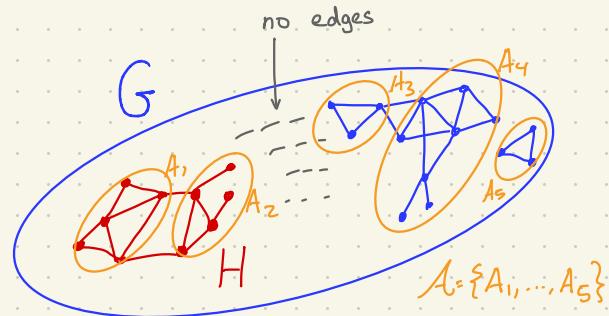
Obs

A optimal partition of  $G$  i.e.  $q_A(G) = q^*(G)$

$\Rightarrow \forall A \in A \quad G[A] \text{ conn. (+ isolated vert)}$



## Resolution Limit

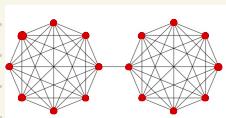


FORTUNATO + BARTHÉLEMY 2007.

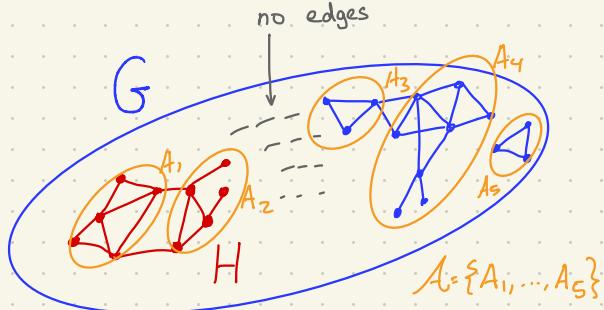
$H$  is a connected component in graph  $G$ .

•  $\forall H : e(H) < \sqrt{2} e(G) \Rightarrow H$  not split

•  $H$  'dumbbell graph'  $e(H) > \sqrt{2} e(G) \Rightarrow H$  split



## Resolution Limit

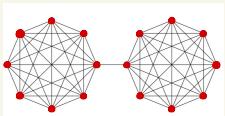


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Let  $\hat{h}_H = \min_{U \subseteq V(H)} \frac{e(U, \bar{U}) \text{vol}(H)}{\text{vol}(U) \text{vol}(\bar{U})}$ .

conductance:

$$h_H = \min_{U \subseteq V(H)} \frac{e(U, \bar{U})}{\min\{\text{vol}(U), \text{vol}(\bar{U})\}}. \quad h_H \leq \hat{h}_H \leq 2h_H$$

Thm

$H$  is a connected component in graph  $G$

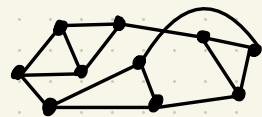
Then  $\forall H : e(H) < \hat{h}_H e(G) \Rightarrow H \text{ not split}$

$e(H) > \hat{h}_H e(G) \Rightarrow H \text{ split}$

# Modularity : A Redemption?

- PROBLEM: RANDOM GRAPHS HAVE HIGH MODULARITY

RANDOM d-REG



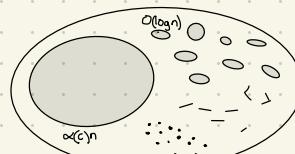
$\exists c$  s.t. whp

$$\frac{c}{\sqrt{d}} < q^*(G_{n,d}) < 2/\sqrt{d}$$

[LICHÉV + MITSCHE] whp

$$0.667 < q^*(G_{n,3}) < 0.789998$$

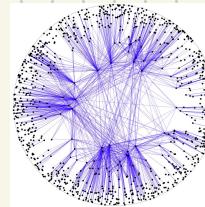
ERDŐS- RÉNYI



$$\frac{1}{n} < p < 0.99 \quad \text{whp}$$

$$q^*(G_{n,p}) = \Theta\left(\frac{1}{\sqrt{np}}\right) = \Theta\left(\frac{1}{\sqrt{d}}\right)$$

RANDOM HYPERBOLIC



$$q^*(G_n) = 1 - o(1) \quad \text{whp}$$

PHYSICAL REVIEW E 70, 025101(R) (2004)

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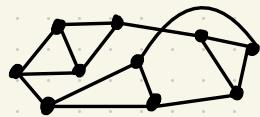
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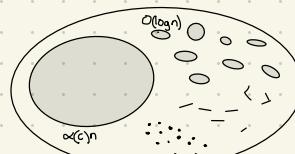
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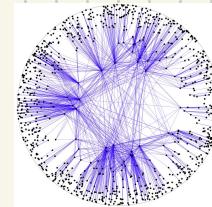
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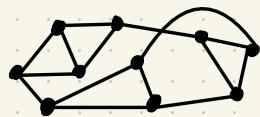
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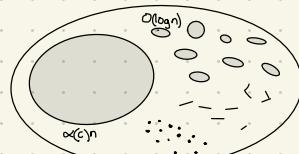
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$$\frac{c}{\sqrt{d}} < q^*(G_{n,d}) < 2/\sqrt{d}$$

[LICHEV + MITSCHE] whp

$$0.667 < q^*(G_{n,3}) < 0.79$$

ERDÖS-RENYI



$$\frac{1}{n} < p < 0.99 \quad \text{whp}$$

$$q^*(G_{n,p}) = \Theta\left(\frac{1}{\sqrt{np}}\right) = \Theta\left(\frac{1}{\sqrt{d}}\right)$$

CHUNG-LU

$$(w_1, \dots, w_n) \quad \bar{w} = \frac{1}{n} \sum_i w_i \quad w_i^3 = o(\bar{w}n) \quad \forall i$$

$$P[ij \text{ edge}] = \frac{w_i w_j}{\bar{w} n}$$

$$q^*(G_{n,w}) \leq \frac{4}{\sqrt{w}}$$

$$w_{\min} \gg \log^2 n$$

$$w_{\min} = \Omega(1)$$

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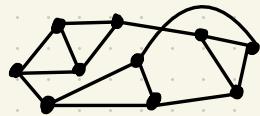
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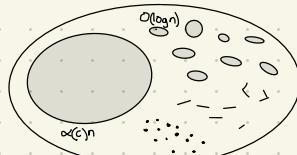
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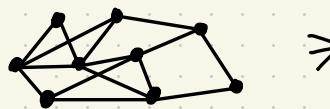
ERDÖS-RENYI



$$\frac{1}{n} < p < 0.99 \quad \text{whp}$$

$$q^*(G_{n,p}) = \Theta\left(\frac{1}{\sqrt{np}}\right) = \Theta\left(\frac{1}{\sqrt{d}}\right)$$

PREF. ATTACHMENT ( $h \geq 2$ )



[RYBARCZYK + SULKOWSKA] (upper bound)

$$\text{whp} \quad q^*(G_n^h) = \tilde{\Theta}\left(\frac{1}{\sqrt{h}}\right)$$

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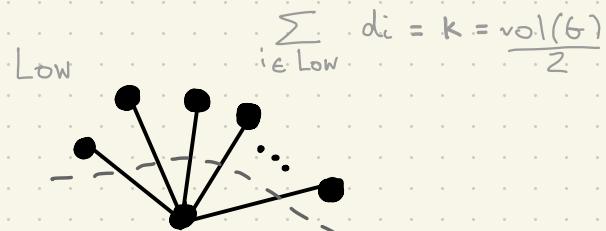
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star  
 $q^*=0$

**Theorem 1.1.** Let  $G$  be an  $n$ -vertex graph with average degree  $\bar{d} \geq 1$ ,  $L = \{v \in G \mid d_v < Cd\bar{d}\}$  for some  $C > 1$ , and assume that  $\text{vol}(L) \geq (1 + \gamma)m = (1 + \gamma)\frac{n\bar{d}}{2}$  for some  $\gamma > 0$ .  
If  $\Delta(G)n^{-1} = o(1)$  and  $\bar{d}^{10}n^{-1} = o(1)$ , then

$$q^*(G) \geq \frac{0.26\gamma}{\sqrt{Cd\bar{d}}}(1 + o(1)).$$

# Modularity : A Redemption?

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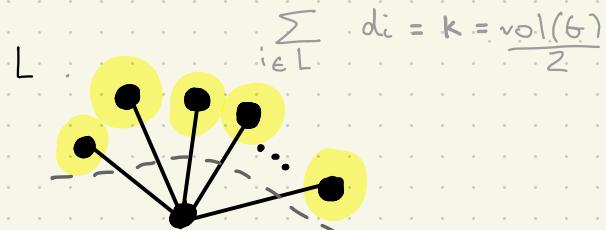
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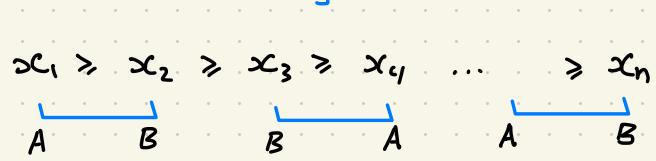
**Theorem 1.1.** Let  $G$  be an  $n$ -vertex graph with average degree  $\bar{d} \geq 1$ ,  $L = \{v \in G \mid d_v < Cd\bar{d}\}$  for some  $C > 1$ , and assume that  $\text{vol}(L) \geq (1 + \gamma)m = (1 + \gamma)\frac{n\bar{d}}{2}$  for some  $\gamma > 0$ . If  $\Delta(G)n^{-1} = o(1)$  and  $\bar{d}^{10}n^{-1} = o(1)$ , then

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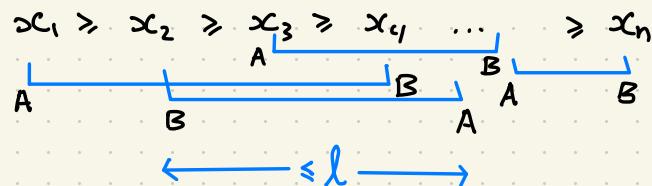
Proof Idea

$$q^*(G) = \Omega(d^{1/2}) , \quad d = o(n^{1/10}).$$

Load balancing    n even



$$\left| \sum_{i \in A} x_i - \sum_{i \in B} x_i \right| \leq \sum_{i \text{ odd}} x_i - \sum_{i \text{ even}} x_i$$
$$= x_{\max} - x_2 + x_3 - \dots - x_{\min}$$
$$\leq x_{\max} - x_{\min}$$



$$\left| \sum_{i \in A} x_i - \sum_{i \in B} x_i \right| \leq l(x_{\max} - x_{\min})$$

## Robustness

- Robust to small perturbations in edge set

$$\left| q^*(G) - q^*(G \setminus E) \right| < \frac{2|E|}{e(G)}$$

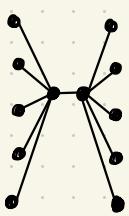
# Robustness

## - OPEN

- Robust to small perturbations in edge set

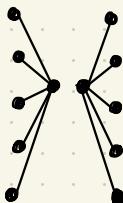
$$\frac{-2}{e(G)} < q^*(G) - q^*(G \setminus \tilde{e}) < \frac{2}{e(G)}$$

m-edge G:



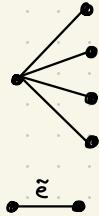
G

Need  $\frac{1}{m}$



$G \setminus \tilde{e}$

Need  $\frac{2}{m}$



G



$G \setminus \tilde{e}$

delete 1

edge

possible inc

$$\frac{1}{m} \leq ? < \frac{2}{m}$$

possible dec

$$\frac{2}{m}$$

OPEN

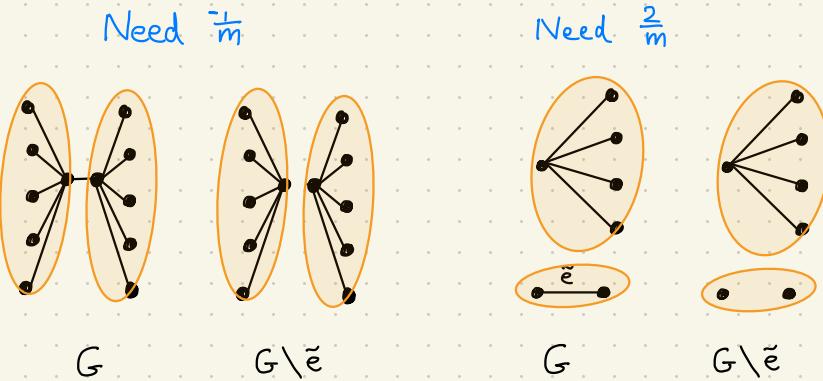
# Robustness

## - OPEN

- Robust to small perturbations in edge set

$$\frac{-2}{e(G)} < q^*(G) - q^*(G \setminus \tilde{e}) < \frac{2}{e(G)}$$

m-edge G:



delete 1

edge

possible inc

$$\frac{1}{m} \leq ? < \frac{2}{m}$$

possible dec

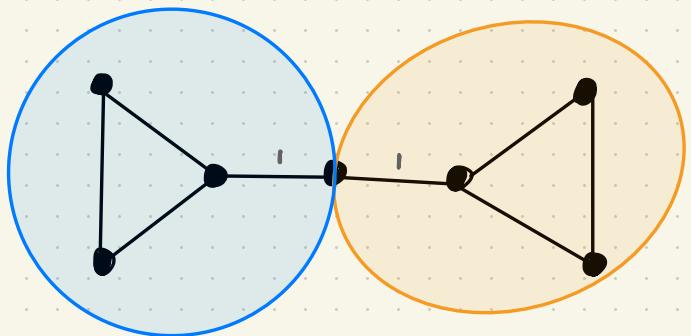
$$\frac{2}{m}$$

OPEN

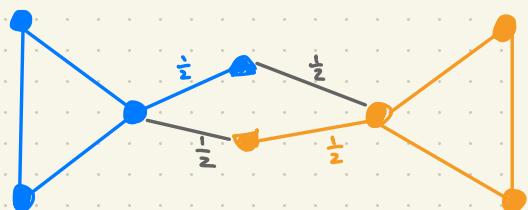
## Overlapping Communities - OPEN

$G$ ,  $n$  vert. Q: #parts in OPT partition finite?  $\leq 2^n$ ?

Usual Mod: Yes.  $\leq n$  parts ( $\leq \frac{n}{2}$  parts if no isol. vert)

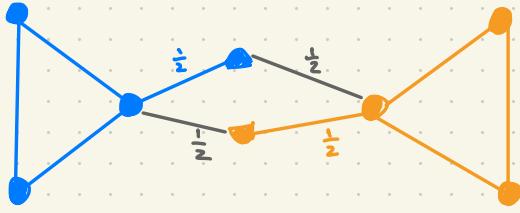


ss

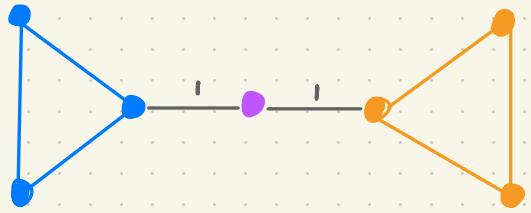


$$q = \frac{3\frac{1}{2} + 3\frac{1}{2}}{8} - \frac{7^2 + 7^2}{8^2} \approx 0.375$$

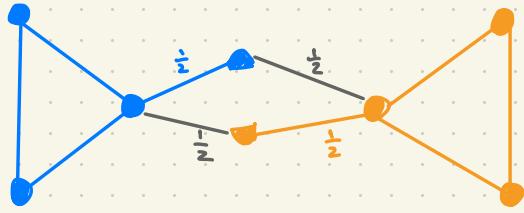
# Overlapping Communities - OPEN



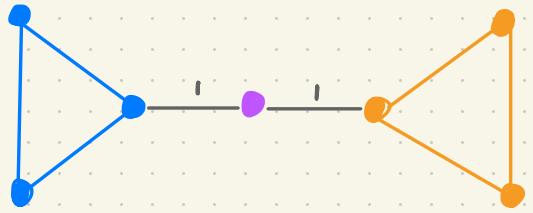
$$q = \frac{3\frac{1}{2} + 3\frac{1}{2}}{8} - \frac{8^2 + 8^2}{16^2} \approx 0.375$$



## Overlapping Communities - OPEN

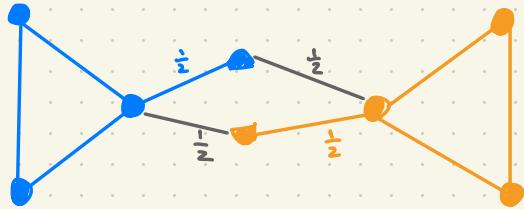


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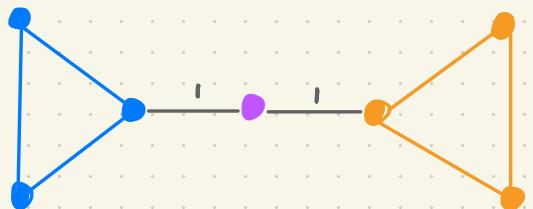


$$q = \frac{3 + 3}{8} - \frac{7^2 + 2^2 + 7^2}{16^2} \approx 0.353$$

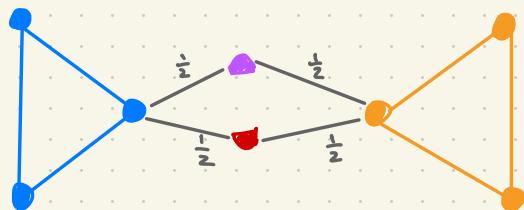
# Overlapping Communities - OPEN



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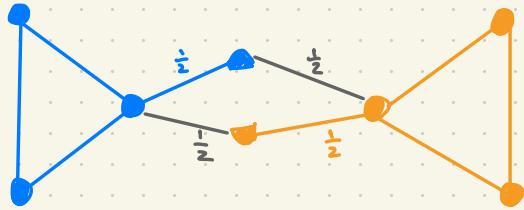


$$q = \frac{3 + 3}{8} - \frac{7^2 + 2^2 + 7^2}{16^2} \approx 0.353$$

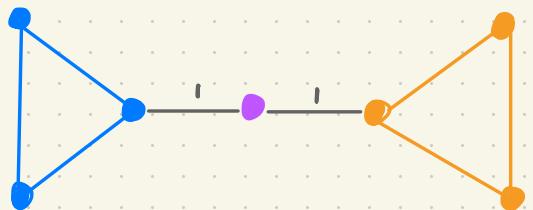


$$q = \frac{3 + 3}{8} - \frac{7^2 + 1^2 + 1^2 + 7^2}{16^2} \approx 0.360$$

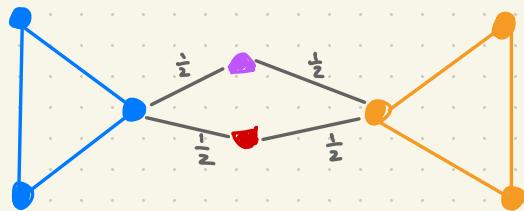
# Overlapping Communities - OPEN



$$q = \frac{3\frac{1}{2} + 3\frac{1}{2}}{8} - \frac{8^2 + 8^2}{16^2} \approx 0.375$$



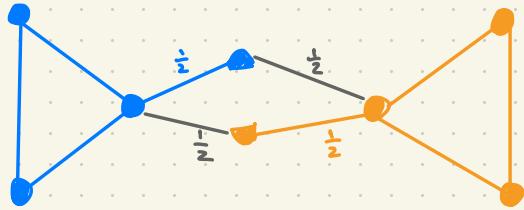
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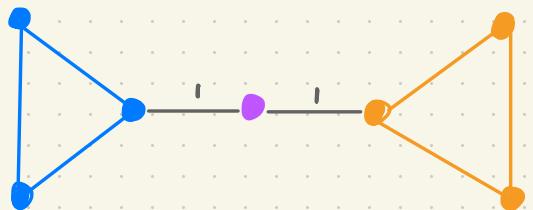
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$$q = \frac{3 + 3}{8} - \frac{7^2 + \frac{4}{k} + 7^2}{16^2} \approx 0.368$$

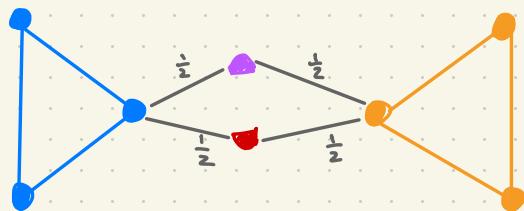
# Overlapping Communities - OPEN



$$q = \frac{3\frac{1}{2} + 3\frac{1}{2}}{8} - \frac{8^2 + 8^2}{16^2} \approx 0.375$$



$$q = \frac{3 + 3}{8} - \frac{7^2 + 2^2 + 7^2}{16^2} \approx 0.353$$



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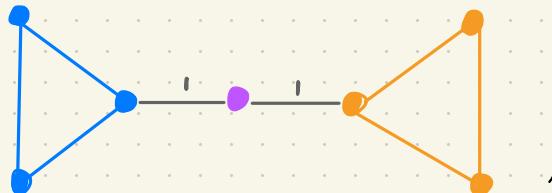
## Overlapping Communities - OPEN

$G$ ,  $n$  vert. Q: #parts in OPT partition finite?  $\leq 2^n$ ?

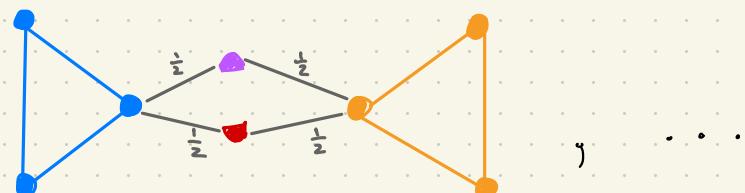
Usual Mod: Yes.  $\leq n$  parts ( $\leq \frac{n}{2}$  parts if no isol. vert)

Conj - for some graphs no finite #parts achieves OPT.

You can get "bad" parts to disappear ...



?



?

...

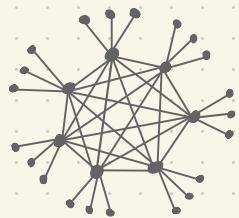
OPEN

## Upper Bound for Modularity in terms of conductance $h_G$

Cor  $\forall G: q^*(G) \leq 1 - \min\{\hat{h}_G, 1\} \leq 1 - h_G$

Tight for  $\hat{h}_G$ :  $\forall \hat{\delta} \ 0 < \hat{\delta} \leq 1 \ \forall \varepsilon > 0 \ \exists G$  s.t.

$$|\hat{h}_G - \hat{\delta}| < \varepsilon \quad q^*(G) > 1 - \hat{h}_G - \varepsilon$$



### Construction

$G$   $k$ -clique,  $l \geq 1$  leaves @ each v

$$\hat{h}_G = \frac{k}{2l+k-1} \quad q^*(G) \geq 1 - \hat{h}_G - o_k(1)$$

Open

What is the optimal  $f$  s.t.

$\forall G: q^*(G) \leq 1 - f(h_G) ?$

By

 construction  $x \leq f(x) \leq 2x$

$$q^*(G) \geq 1 - 2h_G - o_k(1)$$

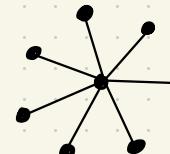
Recall

$$h_G = \min_{U \subseteq V(G)} \frac{e(U, \bar{U})}{\min\{\text{vol}(U), \text{vol}(\bar{U})\}}$$

$$\hat{h}_G = \min_{U \subseteq V(G)} \frac{e(U, \bar{U}) \cdot \text{vol}(G)}{\text{vol}(U) \cdot \text{vol}(\bar{U})}$$

$$q^* \leq 1 - h_G$$

$$S = 1$$



$$q^* = 0 \\ \Rightarrow f(1) = 1$$

$$S \leq \varepsilon$$



$$q^* \geq 1 - \varepsilon \\ \Rightarrow f(0) = 0$$