2022 08 3 testing the proposed method

August 3, 2022

1 About this notebook

In this notebook, I explored the problem of the K-means algorithm for community detection from graph embedding. Then, I propose a remedy based on a simple statistical model that respects the fact that the embedding is generated by matrix factorization. I'll show that the clustering optimizes a Hamiltonian in the same form as the modularity, which enables us to determine the number of communities without the ground-truth. I demonstrate that the proposed method works better than the K-means algorithm, and can recover communities almost perfectly without the number of communities given in priori.

2 An issue of the K-means algorithm

It is well known that the K-means algorithm performs poorly for imbalanced clusters. This problem is critical because many communities are skewed in size. We found this problem in large networks generated by the LFR model. Let us demonstrate the problem.

Load the data and embedding by node2vec. We use a network with a clear community structure, with mixing rate $\mu = 0.2$.

Define a function that calculates the element-centric similarity

```
[2]: def calc_esim(y, ypred):
    """Element centric similarity."""
```

```
ylab, y = np.unique(y, return_inverse=True)
  ypredlab, ypred = np.unique(ypred, return_inverse=True)
  Ka, Kb = len(ylab), len(ypredlab)
  K = np.maximum(Ka, Kb)
  N = len(y)
  UA = sparse.csr_matrix((np.ones_like(y), (np.arange(y.size), y)), shape=(N,_
→K))
  UB = sparse.csr_matrix(
       (np.ones_like(ypred), (np.arange(ypred.size), ypred)), shape=(N, K)
  )
  nA = np.array(UA.sum(axis=0)).reshape(-1)
  nB = np.array(UB.sum(axis=0)).reshape(-1)
  nAB = (UA.T @ UB).toarray()
  nAB_rand = np.outer(nA, nB) / N
  # Calc element-centric similarity
  Q = np.maximum(nA[:, None] @ np.ones((1, K)), np.ones((K, 1)) @ nB[None, :])
  Q = 1 / np.maximum(Q, 1)
  S = np.sum(np.multiply(Q, (nAB**2))) / N
   # Calc the expected element-centric similarity for random partitions
  Q = np.maximum(nA[:, None] @ np.ones((1, K)), np.ones((K, 1)) @ nB[None, :])
  Q = 1 / np.maximum(Q, 1)
  Srand = np.sum(np.multiply(Q, (nAB_rand**2))) / N
  Scorrected = (S - Srand) / (1 - Srand)
  return Scorrected
```

Do clustering by K-means and OPTICS (i.e, a better version of DBSCAN)

```
[3]: from sklearn.cluster import KMeans from sklearn.cluster import OPTICS

# Normalize the vector of each node to have unit length. This normalization improves clustering.

X = np.einsum("ij,i->ij", emb, 1 / np.maximum(np.linalg.norm(emb, axis=1), imple=24))

X = emb.copy()

# Clustering
kmeans = KMeans(n_clusters=len(set(node_table["membership"])), random_state=0).

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```

```
# Evaluate the clustering
score_kmeans = calc_esim(node_table["membership"], kmeans.labels_)
print(f"Element-centric similarity:")
print(f"K-means: {score_kmeans}")
```

Element-centric similarity: K-means: 0.8268771134418029

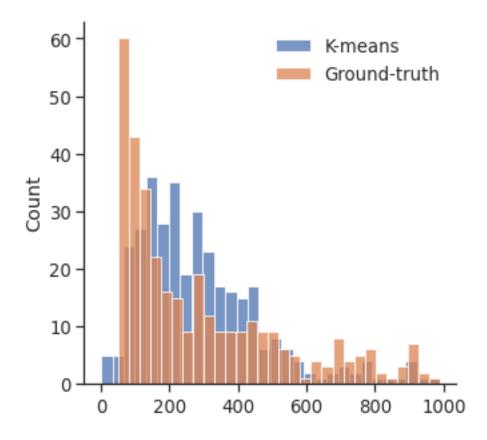
Cluster size distributions

```
[4]: import matplotlib.pyplot as plt
import seaborn as sns

clus_sz = np.unique(node_table["membership"], return_counts=True)[1]
clus_sz_kmeans = np.unique(kmeans.labels_, return_counts=True)[1]

sns.set_style('white')
sns.set(font_scale=1.2)
sns.set_style('ticks')
fig, ax = plt.subplots(figsize=(5,5))
sns.histplot(clus_sz_kmeans, bins = 30, label = "K-means", ax = ax)
sns.histplot(clus_sz_ bins = 30, color = sns.color_palette().as_hex()[1], label_u

--- "Ground-truth", ax = ax)
ax.legend(frameon = False)
sns.despine()
```



The cluster size distribution for the planted communities is right-skewed and fat-tailed, i.e., many communities are small (less than 100) but large communities (of size greater than 900) also exist. The K-means algorithm detected size-homogeneous communities.

2.0.1 Testing off-the-shelf algorithms for imbalanced clustering

What if we use another clustering algorithm that can find imbalanced clusters? The results are worse than the K-means algorithm. Let us use two density-based methods, DBSCAN and OPTICS. OPTICS is a variant of DBSCAN that fixes some issues of the DBSCAN.

(Unfortunately, it didn't finish in 30 mins so I terminated. For smaller graph, the score is less than 0.1)

```
dbscan = DBSCAN().fit(X)
optics = OPTICS().fit(X)

# Evaluate the clustering
score_dbscan = calc_esim(node_table["membership"], dbscan.labels_)
score_optics = calc_esim(node_table["membership"], optics.labels_)

print(f"Element-centric similarity:")
print(f"DBSCAN: {score_dbscan}")
print(f"OPTICS: {score_optics}")
```

```
KeyboardInterrupt
                                          Traceback (most recent call last)
/home/skojaku/projects/embcom/notebooks/2022_08_1_test_vector_clustering/main.
→ipynb Cell 12 in <cell line: 9>()
      <a href='vscode-notebook-cell://ssh-remote%2Blab/home/skojaku/projects/</pre>
→embcom/notebooks/2022_08_1_test_vector_clustering/main.
→ipynb#ch0000011vscode-remote?line=6'>7</a> # Clustering
      <a href='vscode-notebook-cell://ssh-remote%2Blab/home/skojaku/projects/</pre>
→embcom/notebooks/2022_08_1_test_vector_clustering/main.
ipynb#ch0000011vscode-remote?line=7'>8</a> dbscan = DBSCAN().fit(X)
----> <a href='vscode-notebook-cell://ssh-remote%2Blab/home/skojaku/projects/
→embcom/notebooks/2022_08_1_test_vector_clustering/main.
→ipynb#ch0000011vscode-remote?line=8'>9</a> optics = OPTICS().fit(X)
     <a href='vscode-notebook-cell://ssh-remote%2Blab/home/skojaku/projects/</pre>
→embcom/notebooks/2022_08_1_test_vector_clustering/main.
→ipynb#ch0000011vscode-remote?line=10'>11</a> # Evaluate the clustering
     <a href='vscode-notebook-cell://ssh-remote%2Blab/home/skojaku/projects/</pre>
→embcom/notebooks/2022_08_1_test_vector_clustering/main.
→ipynb#ch0000011vscode-remote?line=11'>12</a> score_dbscan =

→calc_esim(node_table["membership"], dbscan.labels_)
File ~/anaconda3/envs/authordynamics/lib/python3.9/site-packages/sklearn/cluste/
 → optics.py:302, in OPTICS.fit(self, X, y)
    291 if self.cluster_method not in ["dbscan", "xi"]:
    292
            raise ValueError(
                "cluster_method should be one of 'dbscan' or 'xi' but is %s"
    293
    294
                % self.cluster_method
    295
    297 (
    298
            self.ordering_,
    299
            self.core_distances_,
    300
            self.reachability_,
    301
            self.predecessor_,
--> 302 ) = memory.cache(compute_optics_graph)(
    303
            X=X.
    304
            min samples=self.min samples,
    305
            algorithm=self.algorithm,
    306
            leaf size=self.leaf size,
```

```
307
            metric=self.metric,
    308
            metric_params=self.metric_params,
    309
            p=self.p,
            n_jobs=self.n_jobs,
    310
    311
            max eps=self.max eps,
    312 )
    314 # Extract clusters from the calculated orders and reachability
    315 if self.cluster method == "xi":
File ~/anaconda3/envs/authordynamics/lib/python3.9/site-packages/joblib/memory.
 →py:349, in NotMemorizedFunc.__call__(self, *args, **kwargs)
    348 def __call__(self, *args, **kwargs):
--> 349
            return self.func(*args, **kwargs)
File ~/anaconda3/envs/authordynamics/lib/python3.9/site-packages/sklearn/cluste:/
 →_optics.py:530, in compute_optics_graph(X, min_samples, max_eps, metric, p,_u
 →metric params, algorithm, leaf size, n jobs)
    526 nbrs.fit(X)
    527 # Here we first do a kNN query for each point, this differs from
    528 # the original OPTICS that only used epsilon range queries.
    529 # TODO: handle working_memory somehow?
--> 530 core_distances_ = _compute_core_distances_(
            X=X, neighbors=nbrs, min_samples=min_samples, working_memory=None
    531
    532 )
    533 # OPTICS puts an upper limit on these, use inf for undefined.
    534 core_distances_[core_distances_ > max_eps] = np.inf
File ~/anaconda3/envs/authordynamics/lib/python3.9/site-packages/sklearn/cluste:/
optics.py:394, in compute core distances (X, neighbors, min samples,
→working_memory)
    392 slices = gen_batches(n_samples, chunk_n_rows)
    393 for sl in slices:
--> 394
            core_distances[sl] = neighbors.kneighbors(X[sl], min_samples)[0][:,
→-1]
    395 return core_distances
File ~/anaconda3/envs/authordynamics/lib/python3.9/site-packages/sklearn/
→neighbors/_base.py:749, in KNeighborsMixin.kneighbors(self, X, n_neighbors, __
 →return distance)
    746
            else:
    747
                kwds = self.effective_metric_params_
--> 749
            chunked_results = list(
    750
                pairwise_distances_chunked(
    751
                    Χ,
    752
                    self._fit_X,
    753
                    reduce_func=reduce_func,
                    metric=self.effective_metric_,
    754
    755
                    n_jobs=n_jobs,
```

```
756
                    **kwds.
    757
                )
    758
            )
    760 elif self._fit_method in ["ball_tree", "kd_tree"]:
            if issparse(X):
    761
File ~/anaconda3/envs/authordynamics/lib/python3.9/site-packages/sklearn/metric /
 →pairwise.py:1712, in pairwise distances chunked(X, Y, reduce func, metric, ___
 →n jobs, working memory, **kwds)
   1710 else:
   1711
            X \text{ chunk} = X[sl]
-> 1712 D_chunk = pairwise_distances(X_chunk, Y, metric=metric, n_jobs=n_jobs,__
 →**kwds)
   1713 if (X is Y or Y is None) and PAIRWISE_DISTANCE_FUNCTIONS.get(
   1714
            metric, None
   1715 ) is euclidean distances:
            # zeroing diagonal, taking care of aliases of "euclidean",
   1716
   1717
   1718
            D chunk.flat[sl.start :: num samples(X) + 1] = 0
File ~/anaconda3/envs/authordynamics/lib/python3.9/site-packages/sklearn/metric /
 →pairwise.py:1884, in pairwise distances(X, Y, metric, n jobs,,,
 →force_all_finite, **kwds)
   1881
                return distance.squareform(distance.pdist(X, metric=metric,__
 →**kwds))
            func = partial(distance.cdist, metric=metric, **kwds)
   1882
-> 1884 return parallel pairwise(X, Y, func, n jobs, **kwds)
File ~/anaconda3/envs/authordynamics/lib/python3.9/site-packages/sklearn/metric /
→pairwise.py:1425, in _parallel_pairwise(X, Y, func, n_jobs, **kwds)
   1422 X, Y, dtype = return_float_dtype(X, Y)
   1424 if effective_n_jobs(n_jobs) == 1:
            return func(X, Y, **kwds)
-> 1425
   1427 # enforce a threading backend to prevent data communication overhead
   1428 fd = delayed(_dist_wrapper)
File ~/anaconda3/envs/authordynamics/lib/python3.9/site-packages/sklearn/metric /
 →pairwise.py:327, in euclidean_distances(X, Y, Y_norm_squared, squared, __
 →X norm squared)
            if Y_norm_squared.shape != (1, Y.shape[0]):
    321
    322
                raise ValueError(
    323
                    f"Incompatible dimensions for Y of shape {Y.shape} and "
    324
                    f"Y_norm_squared of shape {original_shape}."
    325
--> 327 return _euclidean_distances(X, Y, X_norm_squared, Y_norm_squared,_u
 →squared)
```

3 Proposed clustering method

Many graph embedding explicitly or implicitly generates embedding based on matrix factorization. Additionally, the matrix takes a similar form of the modularity matrix. This observation can be utilized to improve the clustering.

Suppose a graph embedding that generates an embedding U that factorizes a matrix R by

$$\mathbf{R} \simeq \mathbf{U}\mathbf{U}^{\top} \tag{1}$$

where \mathbf{U} is the $N \times K$ matrix, N is the number of nodes. and K is the number of embedding dimensions. Previous approach assumes that if two nodes belong to the same communities, they have a similar embedding. This motivates the use of off-the-shelf clustering algorithms like K-means. Here, I propose another clustering method by focusing on the fact that the embedding is generated by factorization of \mathbf{R} .

Let us consider a simple problem, where we are given two nodes and asked to predict whether they belong to the same community or not based on a similarity of the two nodes. More specifically, let u_i and u_j be the embedding vectors for nodes i and j, and g_i and g_j be the communities to which i and j belong to, respectively. We use a logistic function to calculate the probability that i and j belong to the same community, i.e.,

$$P(g_i = g_j) = \frac{1}{1 + \exp(-w_1 u_i^\top u_j + b_0)}$$
 (2)

where w_1 is the regression coefficient, and b_0 is the intercept. This step enables us to calculate the log-likelihood for community assignment g_1, \ldots, g_N , i.e.,

$$\mathcal{L}(g_1, \dots, g_N, w_1, b_0) = \sum_{i,j} \left[\delta(g_i, g_j) \log P(g_i = g_j) + (1 - \delta(g_i, g_j)) \log(1 - P(g_i = g_j)) \right]. \tag{3}$$

If we know the model parameters w_1 and b_1 , we can find the community assignment by maximizing $\mathcal{L}(g_1,\ldots,g_N,w_1,b_0)$. This can be done efficiently by noting that $\mathcal{L}(g_1,\ldots,g_N,w_1,b_0)$ can be

rewritten in a form similar to the modularity:

$$\mathcal{L}(g_1, \dots, g_N, w_1, b_0) = \sum_{i,j} \left[\delta(g_i, g_j) \log \frac{P(g_i = g_j)}{1 - P(g_i = g_j)} + \log(1 - P(g_i = g_j)) \right]$$
(4)

$$= \sum_{i,j} \delta(g_i, g_j) \log \frac{P(g_i = g_j)}{1 - P(g_i = g_j)} + \text{const.}$$

$$\tag{5}$$

$$\propto \sum_{i,j} (w_1 u_i^{\mathsf{T}} u_j - b_0) \delta(g_i, g_j), \tag{6}$$

which can be optimized efficiently using the Louvain algorithm, with a modification for vector data (I'll show you later).

How to estimate model parameters w_1 and b_0 The model parameters are not given in practice. If we have a ground-truth community assignment $\{g_1, \ldots, g_N\}$, we can find the model parameters by maximizing $\mathcal{L}(g_1, \ldots, g_N, w_1, b_0)$ with respect to w_1 and b_0 .

In practice, however, we don't know the ground-truth community assignment. What can we do? The idea is that we don't need the community assignment but $\delta(g_i, g_j)$. If the embedding captures communities, a node and its closest neighbor would belong to the same community.

Building on this idea, I assume that $\delta(g_i, g_j) = 1$ if node i is among the k-closest neighbor of j, or vise versa. Otherwise, $\delta(g_i, g_j) = 0$. I sample all pairs of the nearest neighbors (i, j) and label them as $Y_{ij} = 1$. Additionally, I randomly sample node pairs (i', j') uniformly at random and label them as $Y_{ij} = 0$. Then, I find w_1 and b_0 by maximizing the log-likelihood:

$$\hat{\mathcal{L}}(\{Y_{ij}\}_{i,j}, w_1, b_0) = \sum_{i,j} \left[Y_{ij} \log P(g_i = g_j) + (1 - Y_{ij}) \log(1 - P(g_i = g_j)) \right]. \tag{7}$$

Once we find w_1 and b_0 , we fix them and maximize $\mathcal{L}(g_1, \ldots, g_N, w_1, b_0)$ (not $\hat{\mathcal{L}}$!) with respect to the community assignment g_1, \ldots, g_N . As mentioned before, this can be done using a Louvain algorithm with a modification to vector data.

4 Proof of concept

Let us find w_0 and b_1 by maximizing $\hat{\mathcal{L}}$. First, I sample k-nearest neighbors and random node pairs to train the logistic regression model:

```
[6]: import faiss

def find_knn_edges(
    emb,
    num_neighbors,
    target=None,
    metric="dotsim",
    device=None,
):

    k = int(np.minimum(num_neighbors + 1, emb.shape[0]).astype(int))
```

```
indices, distances = find_knn(
        emb if target is None else target,
        emb,
        num_neighbors=k,
        metric=metric,
        device=device,
    )
    r = np.outer(np.arange(indices.shape[0]), np.ones((1, indices.shape[1]))).
 →astype(
        int
    )
    r, c, distances = (
        r.reshape(-1),
        indices.astype(int).reshape(-1),
        distances.reshape(-1),
    )
    if len(r) == 0:
        return r, c, distances
    return r, c, distances
def find_knn(target, emb, num_neighbors, metric="dotsim", device=None):
    if metric == "dotsim":
        index = faiss.IndexFlatIP(emb.shape[1])
    else:
        index = faiss.IndexFlatL2(emb.shape[1])
    if device is None:
        index.add(emb.astype(np.float32))
        distances, indices = index.search(target.astype(np.float32),__
 →k=num_neighbors)
    else:
        try:
            gpu_id = int(device[-1])
            res = faiss.StandardGpuResources()
            index = faiss.index_cpu_to_gpu(res, gpu_id, index)
            index.add(emb.astype(np.float32))
            distances, indices = index.search(
                target.astype(np.float32), k=num_neighbors
        except RuntimeError:
            if metric == "dotsim":
                index = faiss.IndexFlatIP(emb.shape[1])
                index = faiss.IndexFlatL2(emb.shape[1])
```

```
index.add(emb.astype(np.float32))
    distances, indices = index.search(
        target.astype(np.float32), k=num_neighbors
    )
    return indices, distances

rpos, cpos, vpos = find_knn_edges(emb, num_neighbors=100, device = "cuda:0")
    cneg = np.random.choice(emb.shape[0], len(cpos))
    vneg = np.array(np.sum(emb[rpos, :] * emb[cneg, :], axis=1)).reshape(-1)
```

Then, we train the logistic regression model to obtain w_1 and b_0 :

w0=3.0148082488745, b1=20.205910141840178

Using the parameters, we find the communities using a Louvain algorithm for vector data:

```
[10]: import numba
      def louvain(Z, w1, b0, num_neighbors=100, iteration = 50, device = "cuda:0", u
       →return_member_matrix=False):
          """"Louvain algorithm for vecto data
          :param Z: embedding
          :type Z: numpy.ndarray
          :param w1: regression coefficient
          :type w1: float
          :param b0: intercept
          :type b0: float
          :param num_neighbors: Number of neighbors, defaults to 100
          :type num_neighbors: int, optional
          :param iteration: The maximum number of iterations, defaults to 50
          :type iteration: int, optional
          :param device: _description_, defaults to "cuda:0"
          :type device: str, optional
          :param return_member_matrix: _description_, defaults to False
          :type return_member_matrix: bool, optional
          :return: _description_
          :rtype: _type_
          11 11 11
```

```
# Initialize the intermediate variables
  num_nodes = Z.shape[0]
  node_size = np.ones(num_nodes)
  U = sparse.identity(num_nodes, format="csr")
  Vt = Z.copy()
   # The main loop for the Louvain algorithm
  while True:
       # Find the community assignment for the given graph
       # using a label switching algorithm
       cids_t = label_switching(
           Z=Vt,
          num_neighbors=num_neighbors,
           rho=b0/w1,
           node_size=node_size,
           epochs=iteration,
           device=device,
       )
       # This is to make the community labels continuous integer variables
       _, cids_t = np.unique(cids_t, return_inverse=True)
       # If no merging, we are good to go out from the loop
       if int(max(cids_t) + 1) == Vt.shape[0]:
           break
       # If two nodes are merged, we created an aggregated network, where
       # a node represents a community.
      num_nodes_t = len(cids_t)
      k = int(np.max(cids_t) + 1)
      Ut = sparse.csr_matrix((np.ones(num_nodes_t), (np.arange(num_nodes_t),_u

cids_t)), shape=(num_nodes_t, k))

      U = U @ Ut
      Vt = Ut.T @ Vt
      node_size = np.array(Ut.T @ node_size).reshape(-1)
  if return_member_matrix:
      return U
  cids = np.array((U @ sparse.diags(np.arange(U.shape[1]))).sum(axis=1)).
→reshape(
       -1
  return cids
```

```
# Clustering based on a label switching algorithm
def label_switching(Z, rho, num_neighbors=50, node_size=None, device=None, __
⇒epochs=50):
    num_nodes, dim = Z.shape
    if node_size is None:
        node_size = np.ones(num_nodes)
    Z = Z.copy(order="C").astype(np.float32)
    # Construct the candidate graph
    Z1 = np.hstack([Z, np.ones((num_nodes, 1))])
    Zrho = np.hstack([Z, -rho * node_size.reshape((-1, 1))])
    r, c, v = find_knn_edges(
        Zrho,
        target=Z1,
        num neighbors=num neighbors,
        metric="cosine",
        device=device,
    A = sparse.csr_matrix((v, (r, c)), shape=(num_nodes, num_nodes))
    return _label_switching_(
        A_indptr=A.indptr,
        A_indices=A.indices,
        Z=Z,
        num_nodes=num_nodes,
        rho=rho,
        node_size=node_size,
        epochs=epochs,
    )
#@numba.jit(nopython=True, cache=True)
def _label_switching_(A_indptr, A_indices, Z, num_nodes, rho, node_size,_
\rightarrowepochs=100):
    Nc = np.zeros(num_nodes)
    cids = np.arange(num_nodes)
    Vc = Z.copy()
    Vnorm = np.sum(np.multiply(Z, Z), axis=1).reshape(-1)
    for nid in range(num_nodes):
        Nc[nid] += node_size[nid]
```

```
for _it in range(epochs):
        order = np.random.choice(num nodes, size=num nodes, replace=False)
        updated_node_num = 0
        for _k, node_id in enumerate(order):
            # Get the weight and normalized weight
            neighbors = A_indices[A_indptr[node_id] : A_indptr[node_id + 1]]
            # Calculate the grain
            c = cids[node id]
            clist = np.unique(cids[neighbors])
            next\_cid = -1
            dqmax = 0
            qself = (
                np.sum(Z[node_id, :] * Vc[c, :])
                - Vnorm[node_id]
                - rho * node_size[node_id] * (Nc[c] - node_size[node_id])
            )
            for cprime in clist:
                if c == cprime:
                    continue
                dq = (
                    np.sum(Z[node_id, :] * Vc[cprime, :])
                    - rho * node_size[node_id] * Nc[cprime]
                ) - qself
                if dqmax < dq:</pre>
                    next_cid = cprime
                    dqmax = dq
            if dqmax \le 1e-16:
                continue
            Nc[c] -= node_size[node_id]
            Nc[next_cid] += node_size[node_id]
            Vc[c, :] -= Z[node_id, :]
            Vc[next_cid, :] += Z[node_id, :]
            cids[node_id] = next_cid
            updated_node_num += 1
        if (updated_node_num / np.maximum(1, num_nodes)) < 1e-3:</pre>
            break
    return cids
gs = louvain(emb, w1, b0, device = "cuda:0")
```

Calculate the element-centric similarity of the detected clusters:

```
[11]: score_proposed = calc_esim(node_table["membership"], gs)
    print(f"Element-centric similarity:")
    print(f"Proposed: {score_proposed}")
```

Element-centric similarity: Proposed: 0.9977265100317768

Although it's not perfect, it detected communities the best among all the methods tested above, without telling it the true number of communities. Also, the proposed method runs in speed comparable to the K-means.

5 Summary & Discussion

5.0.1 Why the proposed method works so well?

Let us focus on the modularity embedding, where $\mathbf{R} = \mathbb{A} - \langle \mathbf{A} \rangle$ is the modularity matrix. Because the embeddings are generated by matrix factorization, we can recover \mathbf{R} from the embedding with a good accuracy,

$$\mathbf{R} = \mathbb{A} - \mathbb{E}[\mathbf{A}] \simeq \mathbf{U}\mathbf{U}^{\top}.\tag{8}$$

If the modularity can detect communities (which it does for stochastic block models), two nodes i and j in different communities have a negative similarity $R_{ij} < 0$ while those in the same community have a positive similarity $R_{ij} > 0$. In other words, we may obtain a good clustering by setting $\delta(g_i, g_j)$ according to the sign of R_{ij} , provided that the noise is small (which it does for large networks). The point is that we can get a good community assignment by thresholding the dot similarity.

This argument can be applied to other graph embedding methods. In fact, the matrix for node2vec, DeepWalk, and LINE can be also rewritten in form of the modularity matrix, as shown in our manuscript.

In practice, R_{ij} has random fluctuations and can be systematically biased due to a small dimension and/or training algorithm (e.g., a gradient descent may be trapped in a local minima). Thus, we may be better by learning the decision boundary b_0 to decide $\delta(g_i, g_j)$ from a given embedding, instead of using a fixed b_0 (e.g., $b_0 = 0$ for the modularity maximization).

The choice of node similarity metrics is critical for clustering but this point has been largely overlooked (in my knowledge). The K-means algorithms as well as DBSCAN and OPTICS focus on the Euclidean distance between nodes. But if we consider how the graph embedding is generated, dot similarity is the one that encodes the similarity in the given network. The proposed method does clustering based on the dot similarity.

5.0.2 Next step

Evaluate the performance of the proposed method for the multipartition model and LFR benchmark.