

GL Applied Data Science Program

Network Analysis

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Overview

Overview of this week / module:

- Data collection and visualization for exploratory data analysis
- Network analysis
- Unsupervised learning - clustering

Overview of this lecture:

- Examples of networks and representing networks
- Summary statistics of a network
- Centrality measures - finding important nodes in a network

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Network

A **network** (or **graph**) G is a collection of **nodes** (or **vertices**) V connected by **links** (or **edges**) E . The network is denoted by $G = (V, E)$.

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Network research:

- In recent years network research witnessed a big change:
 - From study of a single graph on 10-100 nodes to the statistical properties of large networks on millions of nodes
 - Characterize the structure of networks
 - Identify important nodes / edges in a network
 - Identify missing links in a network

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Examples of networks

Network	Vertex	Edge
World Wide Web	web page	hyperlink
Internet	computer	network protocol interaction
power grid	generating station / substation	transmission line
friendship network	person	friendship
gene regulatory network	gene	regulatory effect
neural network	neuron	synapse
transportation	airport	direct flight
Netflix	person / movie	rating

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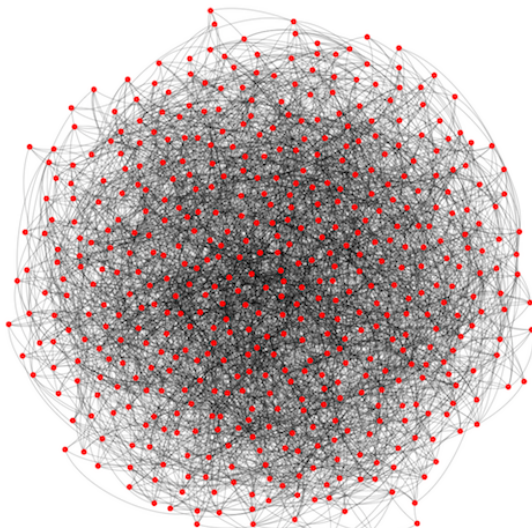
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Different kinds of networks

- **simple network**: undirected network with at most one edge between any pair of vertices and no self-loops
 - e.g. Internet, power grid, telephone network
- **multigraph**: self-loops and multiple links between vertices possible
 - e.g. neural network, road network
- **directed network**: $i \rightarrow j$ does not imply $j \rightarrow i$
 - e.g. World Wide Web, food web, citation network
- **weighted network**: with edge weights or vertex attributes
 - e.g. transportation networks
- **bipartite network**: edges between but not within classes
 - e.g. recommender systems such as Netflix
- **hypergraph**: generalized 'edges' for interaction between > 2 nodes
 - e.g. protein-protein interaction network

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Large networks look like hairballs



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Representation of a network

Two common representations of a network $G = (V, E)$:

- **adjacency list**

- undirected graph $1 - 2 - 3$: $E = \{\{1, 2\}, \{2, 3\}\}$
- directed graph $1 \rightarrow 2 \leftarrow 3$: $E = \{(1, 2), (3, 2)\}$

- **adjacency matrix** of size $n \times n$ (where $n = |V|$) with

$$A_{ij} = \begin{cases} 1 & \text{if } (i, j) \in E \\ 0 & \text{otherwise} \end{cases}$$

- For weighted graph, A_{ij} can be non-binary

How does the adjacency matrix of an undirected graph look like? How to count the number of friends or suggest new friends in a social network?

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Representation of a network

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Quantitative measures of networks

Some quantitative measures of networks to describe structural patterns of a network and to compare networks:

- connected components
- degree distribution
- diameter and average path length
- homophily or assortative mixing

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Connected Components

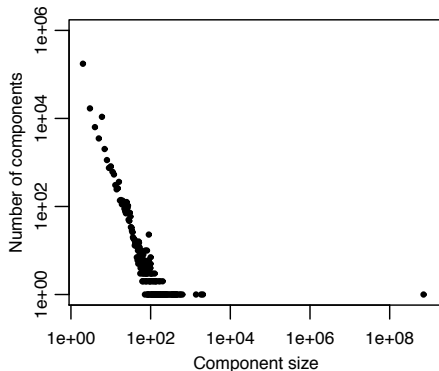
Connected component: set of nodes that are reachable from one another

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Connected Components

Connected component: set of nodes that are reachable from one another

- Many networks consist of one large component and many small ones



Component size distribution in the 2011 Facebook network on a log-log scale. Most vertices (99.91%) are in the largest component.

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Degree distribution of the Internet

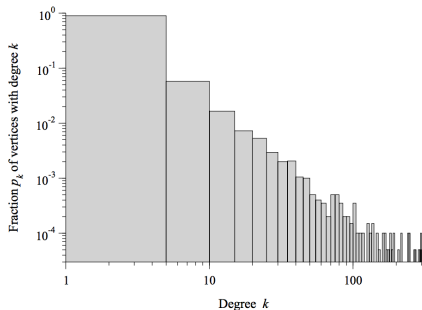
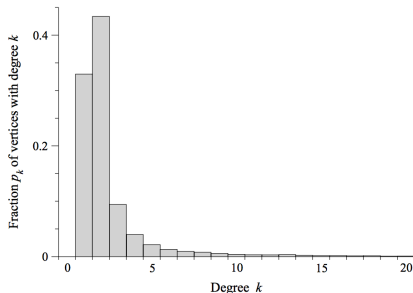
Degree of a node: number of edges connected to a node

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Degree distribution of the Internet

Degree of a node: number of edges connected to a node

- Many networks show a **power-law degree distribution** (i.e., distribution that is linear in log-log plot)

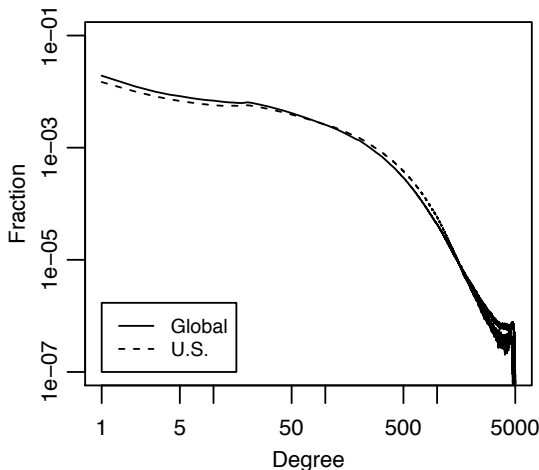


Figures from Chapter 8 in “Networks: An Introduction” by

M.E.J. Newman (2010)

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Degree distribution of Facebook network



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From: The Anatomy of the Facebook Social Graph by Ugander et al. (2011)
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Diameter of a graph

- Let d_{ij} denote the length of the **geodesic path** (or shortest path) between node i and j
- The **diameter** of a network is the largest distance between any two nodes in the network:

$$\text{diameter} = \max_{i,j \in V} d_{ij}$$

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- If network is not connected, one often computes the diameter in the largest component.
- Algorithms for finding shortest paths: **breadth-first search** for unweighted graph, **Dijkstra's algorithm** for weighted graphs

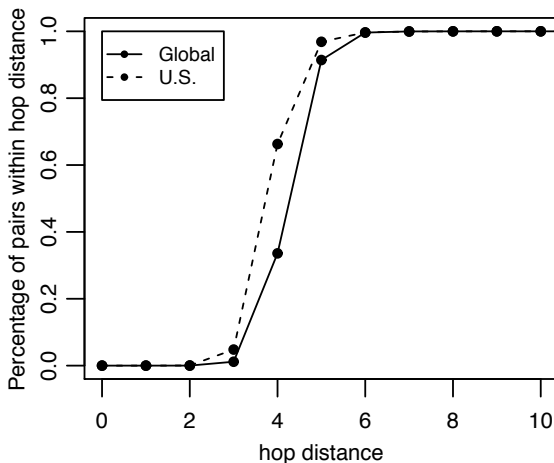
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Small-world and 6 degrees of separation

- Concept of **6 degrees of separation** was made famous by sociologist Stanley Milgram and his study “The Small World Problem” (1967)
- In his experiment participants from a particular town were asked to get a letter to a particular person in a different town by passing it from acquaintance to acquaintance.
- 18 out of 96 letters made it in an average of 5.9 steps, suggesting that the diameter of the social network in the US is 6
- Any reasons why we should take the conclusion of 6 degrees of separation with a grain of salt?

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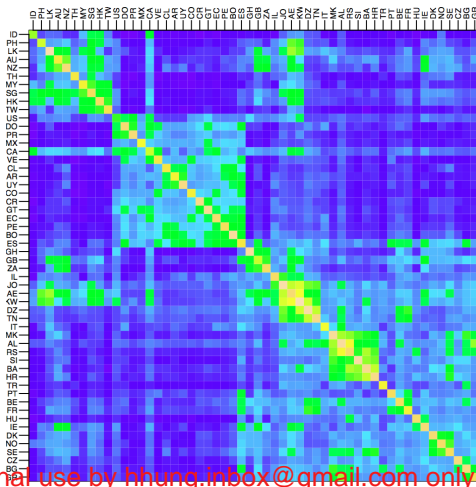
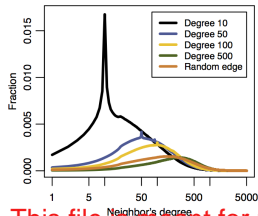
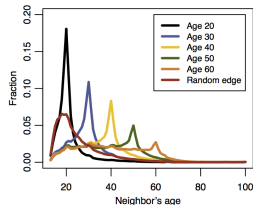
Diameter of Facebook (2011)



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Homophily

Homophily (or assortative mixing): tendency of people to associate with others that are similar



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Find important nodes in a network

Centrality measure: A measure that captures importance of a node's position in the network; there are many different centrality measures:

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- **degree centrality**

- Simple and intuitive: individuals with more connections have more influence and more access to information.
- Does not capture “cascade of effects”: importance better captured by having connections to important nodes

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- **eigenvector centrality**

- score that is proportional to the sum of the score of all neighbors is captured by largest eigenvector of adjacency matrix
- builds the foundation for Google's PageRank algorithm

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- **betweenness centrality**

- measures the extent to which a node lies on paths between other nodes

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Which centrality measure to use

Choice of centrality measure depends on application!

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In a friendship network:

- high degree centrality: most popular person
- high eigenvector centrality: most popular person that is friends with popular people
- high closeness centrality: person that could best inform the group
- high betweenness centrality: person whose removal could best break the network apart

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Case study: CAVIAR (criminal network in Montreal)

- Data based on 11 wiretap warrants from 1994-1996 → 11 periods
- Mandate of CAVIAR project: Seize drugs, arrests only in period 11
- 11 seizures total with monetary losses for traffickers of \$32 mio
 - phase 4: 1 seizure \$ 2.5mio, 300kg of marijuana
 - phase 6: 3 seizures \$ 1.3mio, 2 x 15kg of marijuana, 1 x 2 kg of cocaine
 - phase 7: 1 seizure \$ 3.5mio, 401kg of marijuana
 - phase 8: 1 seizure \$ 0.4mio, 9kg of cocaine
 - phase 9: 2 seizures \$ 4.3mio, 2kg of cocaine + 1 x 500kg marijuana
 - phase 10: 1 seizure \$ 18.7mio, 2200kg of marijuana
 - phase 11: 2 seizures \$ 1.3mio, 12kg of cocaine + 11kg of cocaine

Unique opportunity to study changes in the structure of a criminal network
in upheaval by police forces

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Case study: CAVIAR (criminal network in Montreal)

- network consists of 110 (numbered) players: 1-82 are traffickers, 83-110 are non-traffickers (financial investors, accountants, owners of various importation businesses, etc.)
- initially, investigation targeted Daniel Serero, alleged mastermind of drug network in downtown Montreal
- initially marijuana was imported to Canada from Morocco
- after first seizure in phase 4, traffickers reoriented to cocaine import from Colombia, transiting through the United States



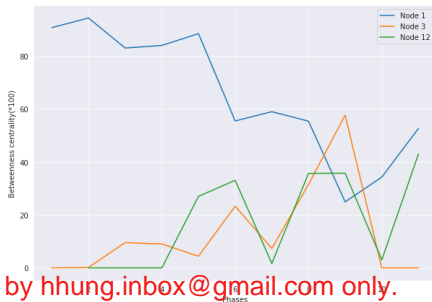
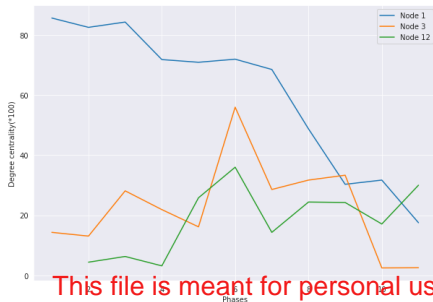
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Case study: CAVIAR (criminal network in Montreal)

Role of the different actors:

- Daniel Serero (node 1): mastermind of the network
- Pierre Perlini (node 3): principal lieutenant of Serero (executes his instructions)
- Ernesto Morales (node 12): principal organizer of the cocaine import, intermediary between the Colombians and the Serero organization



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Optional: Additional thoughts - Criminal networks

- Given a social network and k criminal suspects, how to determine other suspects?
- Same question is extremely important in biology: given certain genes that are known to cause a certain disease, determine other candidate genes (e.g. based on protein-protein interaction network for determining autism genes: <http://dx.doi.org/10.1101/057828>)
- How do we identify nodes that are “between” a given set of seed nodes?

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Optional: Steiner trees

Determine a small subnetwork that contains the given suspects / genes and connects these nodes

Steiner tree:

- shortest subnetwork that contains a given set of nodes
- NP-complete problem
- there exist polynomial time approximations

⇒ use collection of approximate Steiner trees for further analysis:
autism interactome / criminal interactome

For genomics applications, see:

<http://fraenkel-nsf.csbi.mit.edu/steinernet/tutorial.html>

⇒ compute nodes with high betweenness centrality in interactome to obtain candidate genes / suspects

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References

- Chapters 1 - 10 (but mostly chapters 6 - 8) in
M. E. J. Newman. *Networks: An Introduction*. 2010.
- For an analysis of the Facebook network:
J. Ugander, B. Karrer, L. Backstrom and C. Marlow. *The Anatomy of the Facebook Social Graph*. 2011.
- For more information on the CAVIAR network:
C. Morselli. *Inside Criminal Networks* (Springer, New York).
Chapter 6: Law-enforcement disruption of a drug-importation network. 2009.

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