Opinions among Friends

Description:
With the advent of websites like Orkut.com and MySpace.com, the there has been a surge in the trend of online friendship networks. Such networks are generally in the form of closed communities, where people sharing common interests become friends. We want to analyze how such networks of friends differ in their opinions. We consider 3 main domains of opinion matching which are *Entertainment* (movies, music, and games), *Technology* (music players, mobile phones and laptops) and *Current Events* (like the US presidential elections).

Task:
One of the important components is to get the opinion measures of people about products/entities. We plan to use Opinmind.com for this purpose. Opinmind.com is a website which searches opinions about entities from web logs (blogs). It displays in two different columns the positive and the negative opinions along with the corresponding link to blog. Since blogs are maintained by an individual the link to a blog may be considered as a link to a person. Thus two graphs, one for the people who share a common opinions and for the people who share contrasting opinions can be formed from the opinion analysis.

By limiting the search for opinions only from MySpace.com, we can form a friends network for the people who opinions we consider. Now we have 2 networks, one for the agreement in opinion, second for the disagreement in opinion and the third being the friendship network over a particular domain. The important questions that can be asked now are:

- How do the opinion and friendship networks compare that is, are the opinion networks a subset of the friendship network?
- What are the opinions of the people in a friendship network? Do they always agree or do they always disagree or is it a random set?
- What is the effect of different domains on the above two a questions? Is the behavior independent or dependant upon the domain under consideration?
- What are the effects that locality has on opinions? Do people from the same areas have the same opinions and do people from different locations always disagree in their opinions?
- …..
- ….