

# Variational perspective on local graph clustering

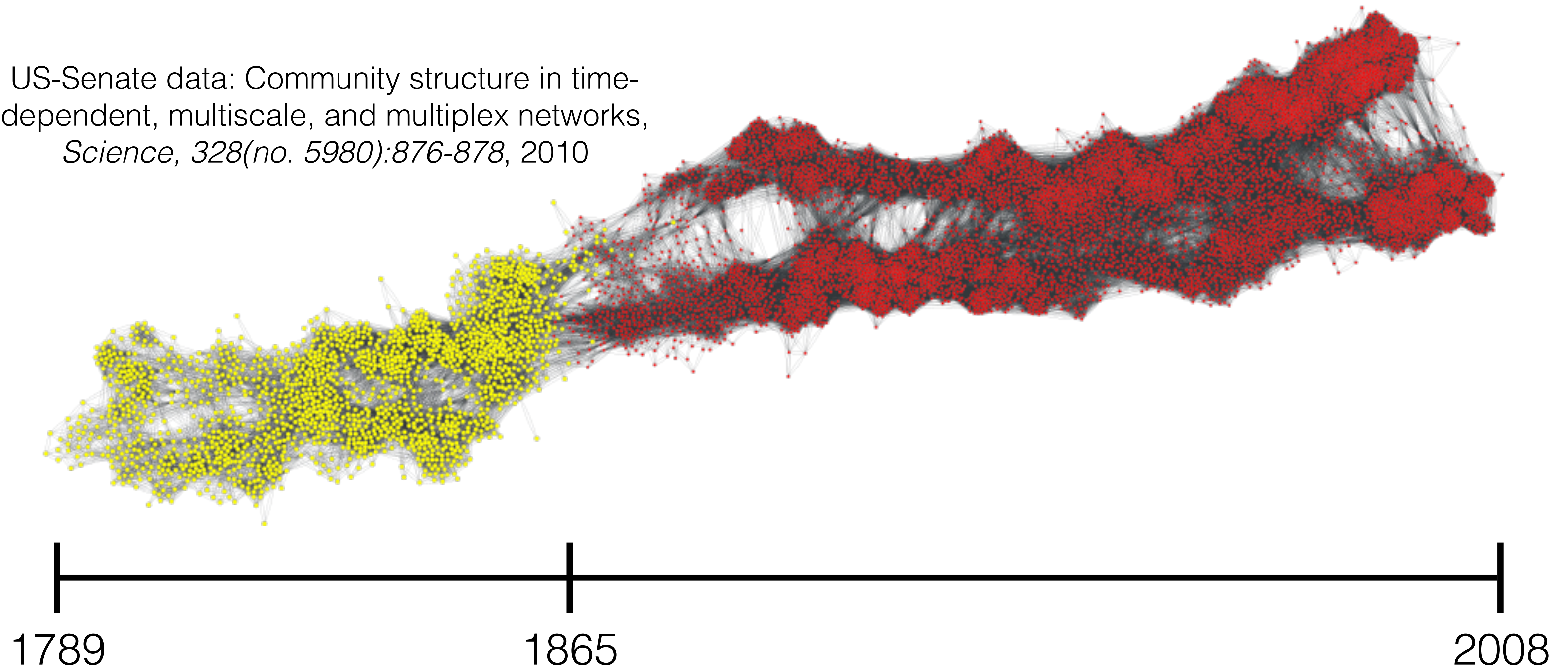
Kimion Fountoulakis

Postdoctoral Fellow at UC Berkeley, International Computer Science Institute

Assistant Professor at CS Waterloo

# Past and present studies focus on **global** trends of the data

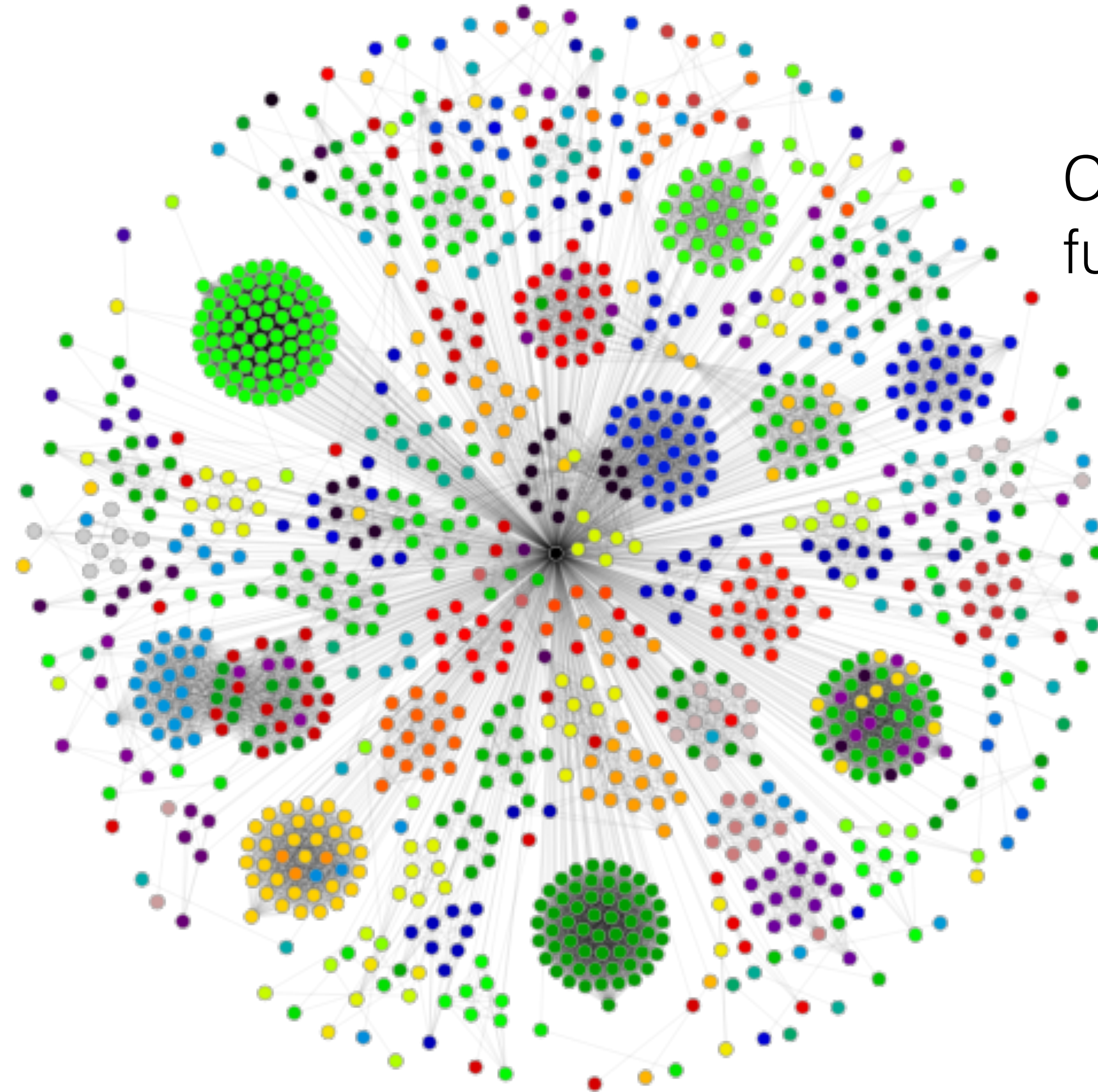
US-Senate data: Community structure in time-dependent, multiscale, and multiplex networks,  
*Science*, 328(no. 5980):876-878, 2010



The American civil war ended in 1865



But, most real data have rich **local** structure

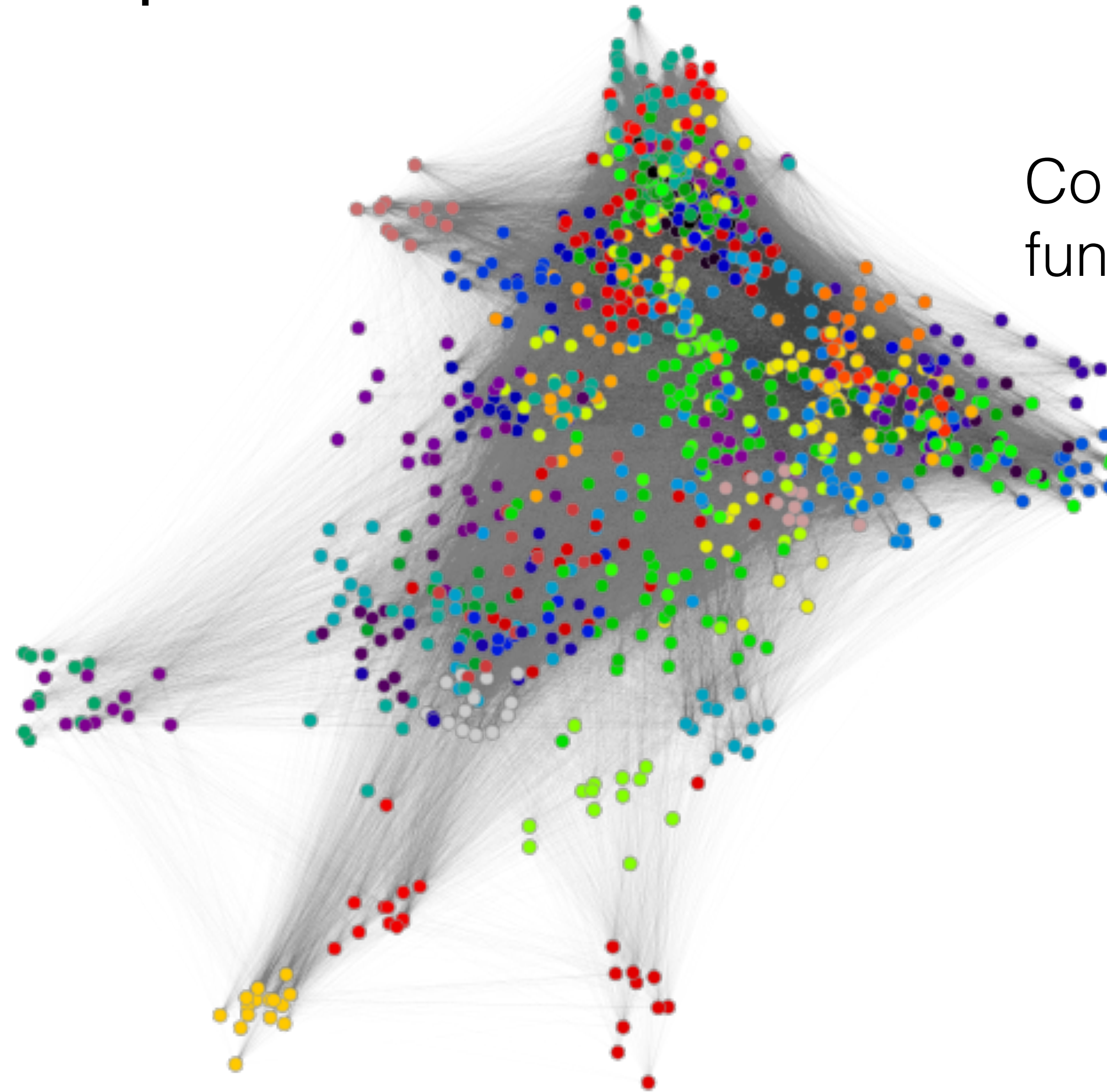


Color denotes similar function

Data: The MIPS mammalian protein-protein interaction database. *Bioinformatics*, 21(6):832-834, 2005



And can be very complex



Color denotes similar  
function

Data: The MIPS mammalian protein-protein interaction database. *Bioinformatics*, 21(6):832-834, 2005

# Outline

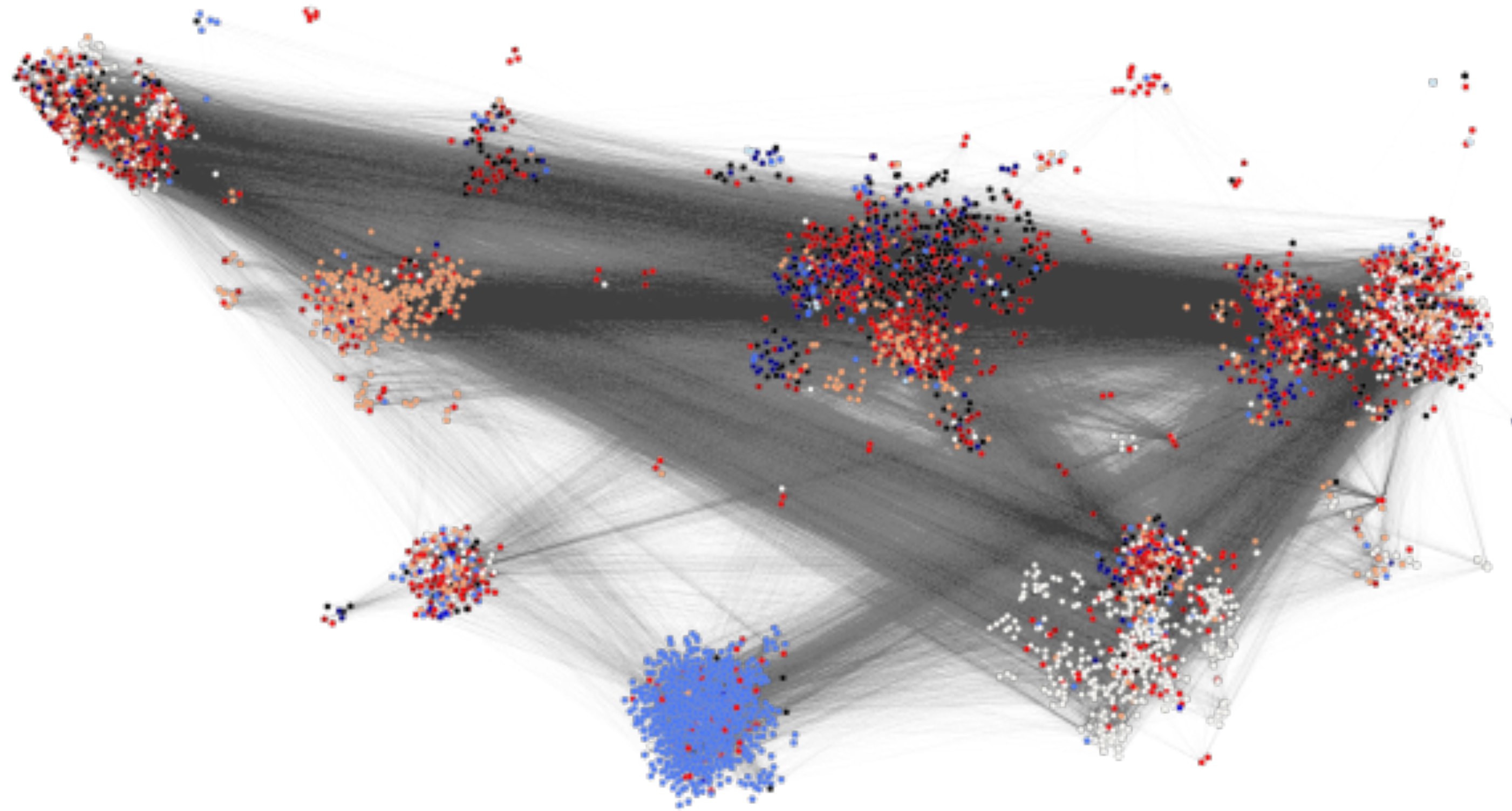
1. Local graph clustering, definition, examples
2. Example of a state-of-the-art method
3. Variational model
4. Proximal gradient descent

# What is local graph clustering and why is it useful?

- Definition: find set of nodes  $A$  given a seed node in set  $B$ 
  - Set  $A$  has good precision/recall w.r.t set  $B$
  - The running time depends on  $A$  instead of the whole graph
- Scalable to graphs with billions of edges
- Ideal for finding small clusters and small neighborhoods

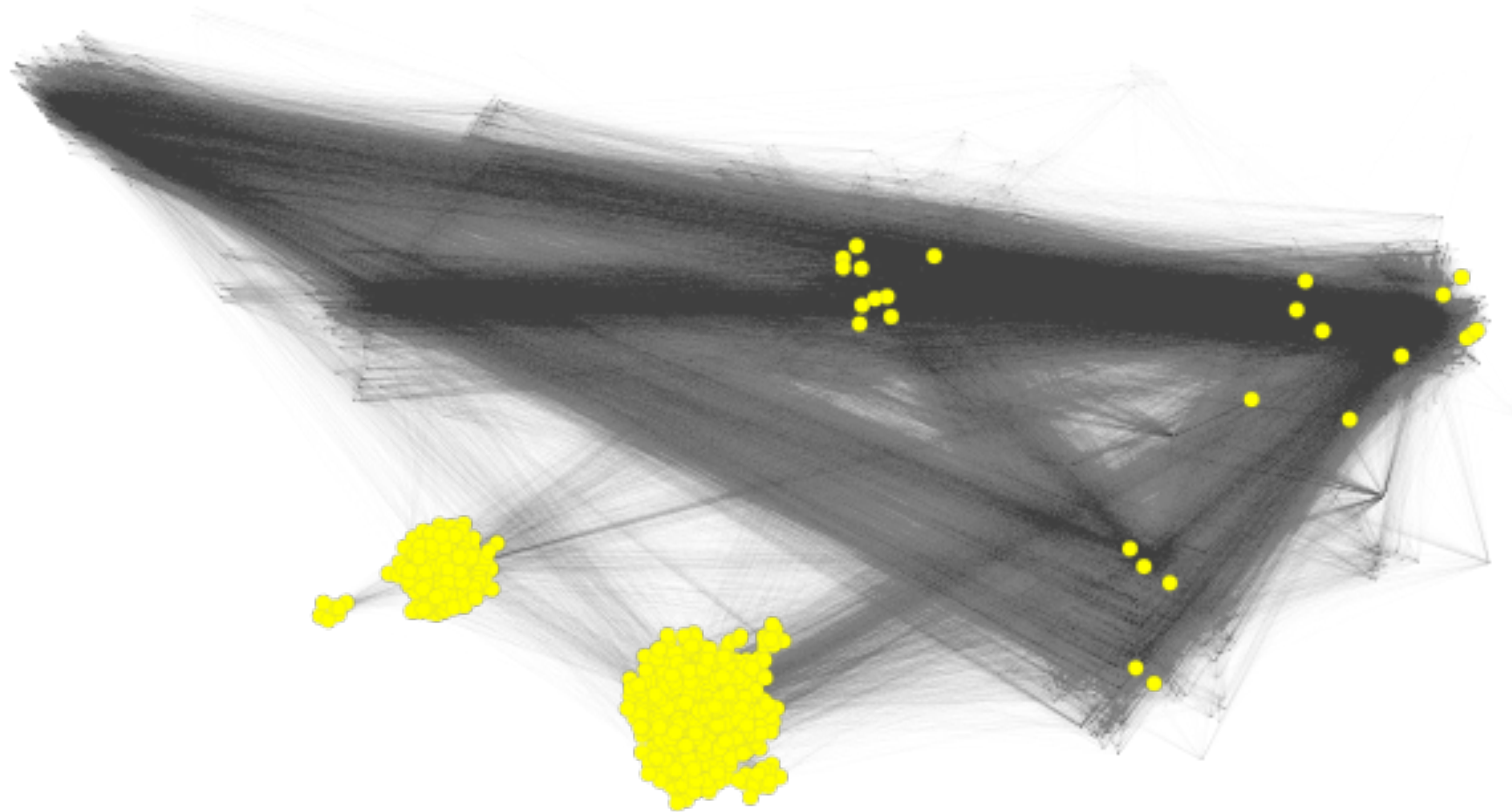


# Facebook social network: colour denotes class year



Data: Facebook John Hopkins, A. L. Traud, P. J. Mucha and M. A. Porter, Physica A, 391(16), 2012

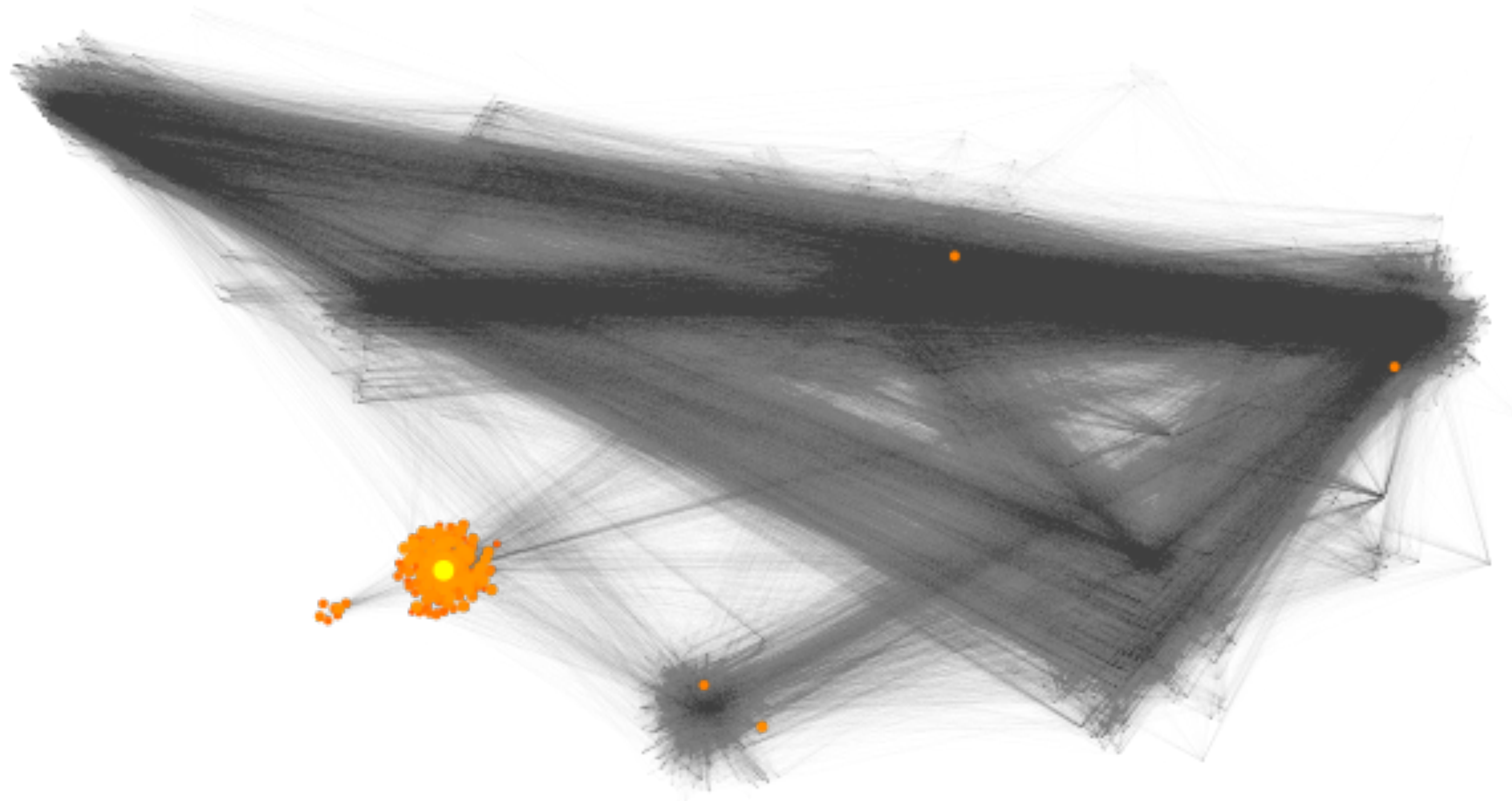
# Global spectral: finds 20% of the graph



Data: Facebook John Hopkins, A. L. Traud, P. J. Mucha and M. A. Porter, Physica A, 391(16), 2012

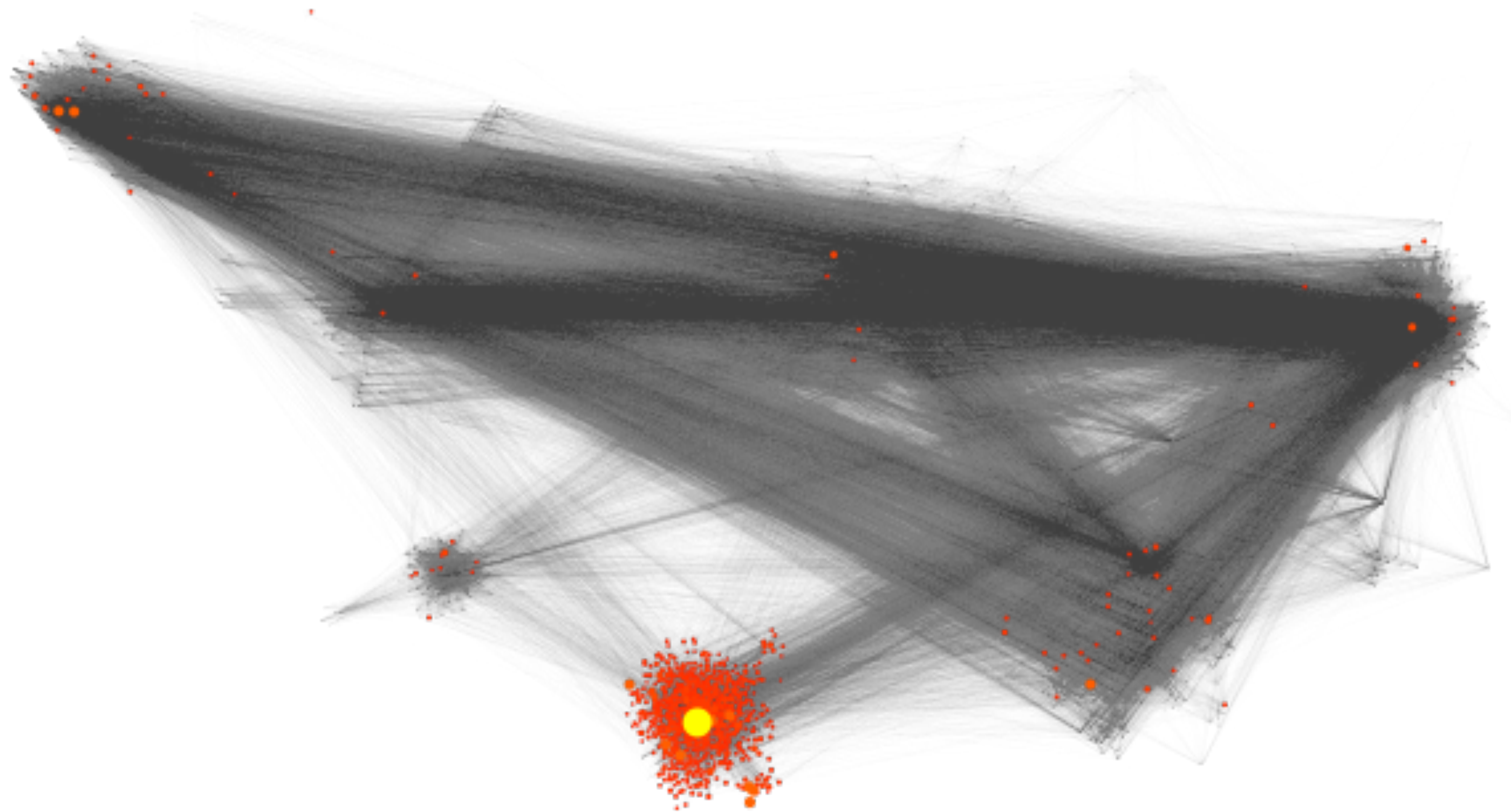


# Local graph clustering: finds 3% of the graph



Data: Facebook John Hopkins, A. L. Traud, P. J. Mucha and M. A. Porter, Physica A, 391(16), 2012

# Local graph clustering: finds 17% of the graph

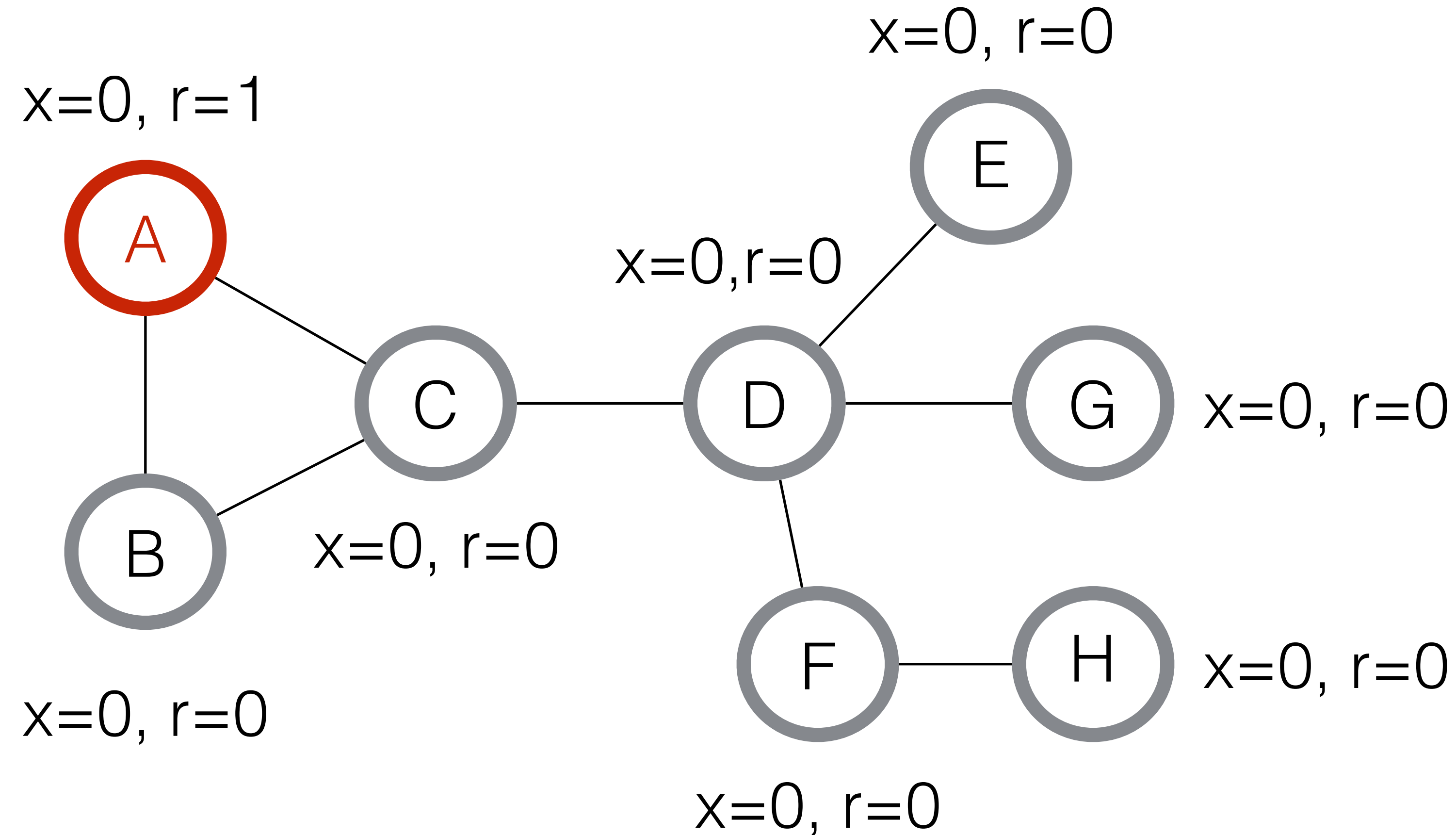


Data: Facebook John Hopkins, A. L. Traud, P. J. Mucha and M. A. Porter, Physica A, 391(16), 2012



# Approximate Personalized PageRank

Algorithm idea: iteratively spread probability mass around the graph.

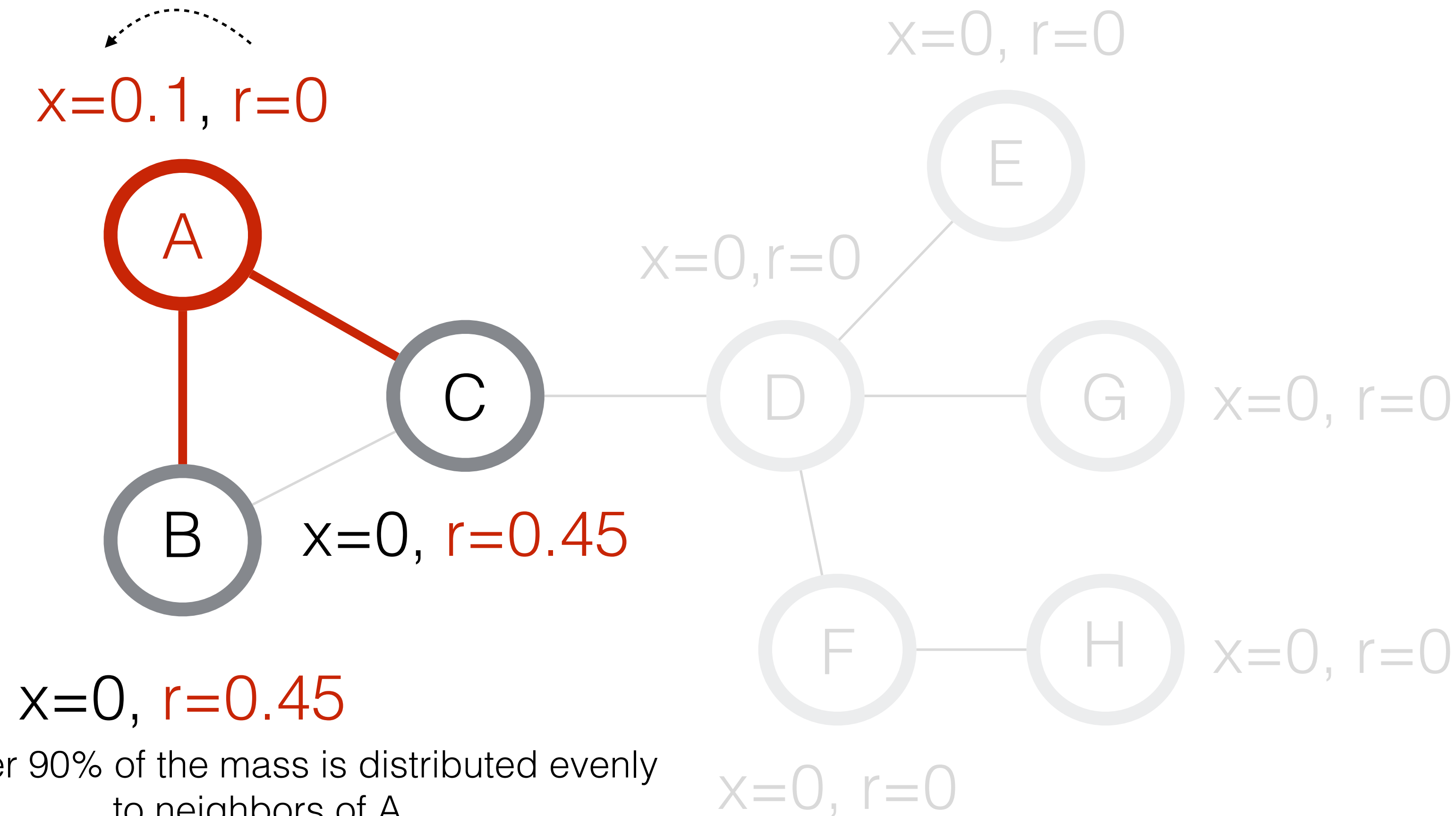


# Approximate Personalized PageRank

Algorithm idea: iteratively spread probability mass around the graph.

Transfer **alpha** (10%) mass from r to x

$$\alpha = 0.1$$

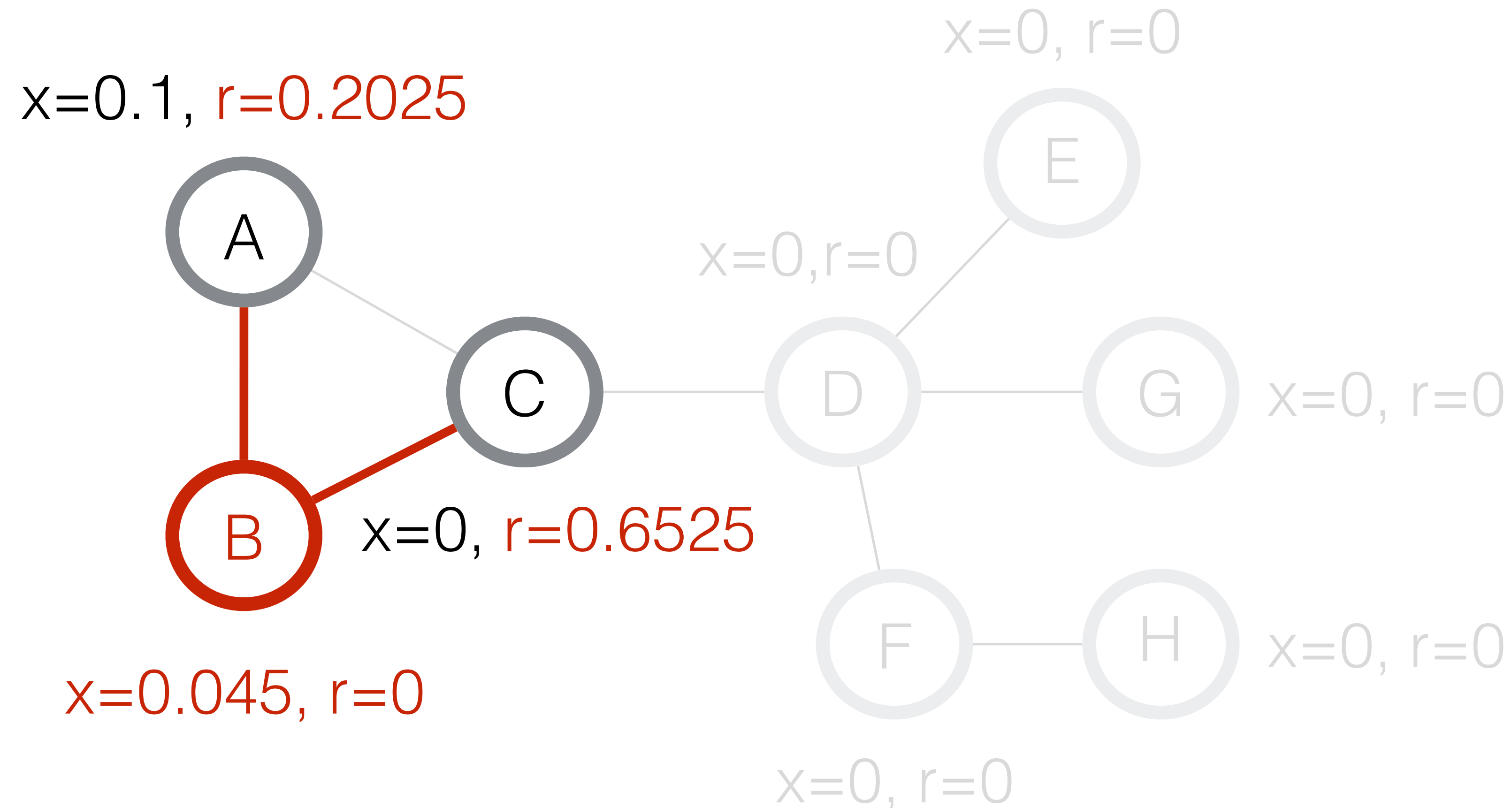




# Approximate Personalized PageRank

Algorithm idea: iteratively spread probability mass around the graph.

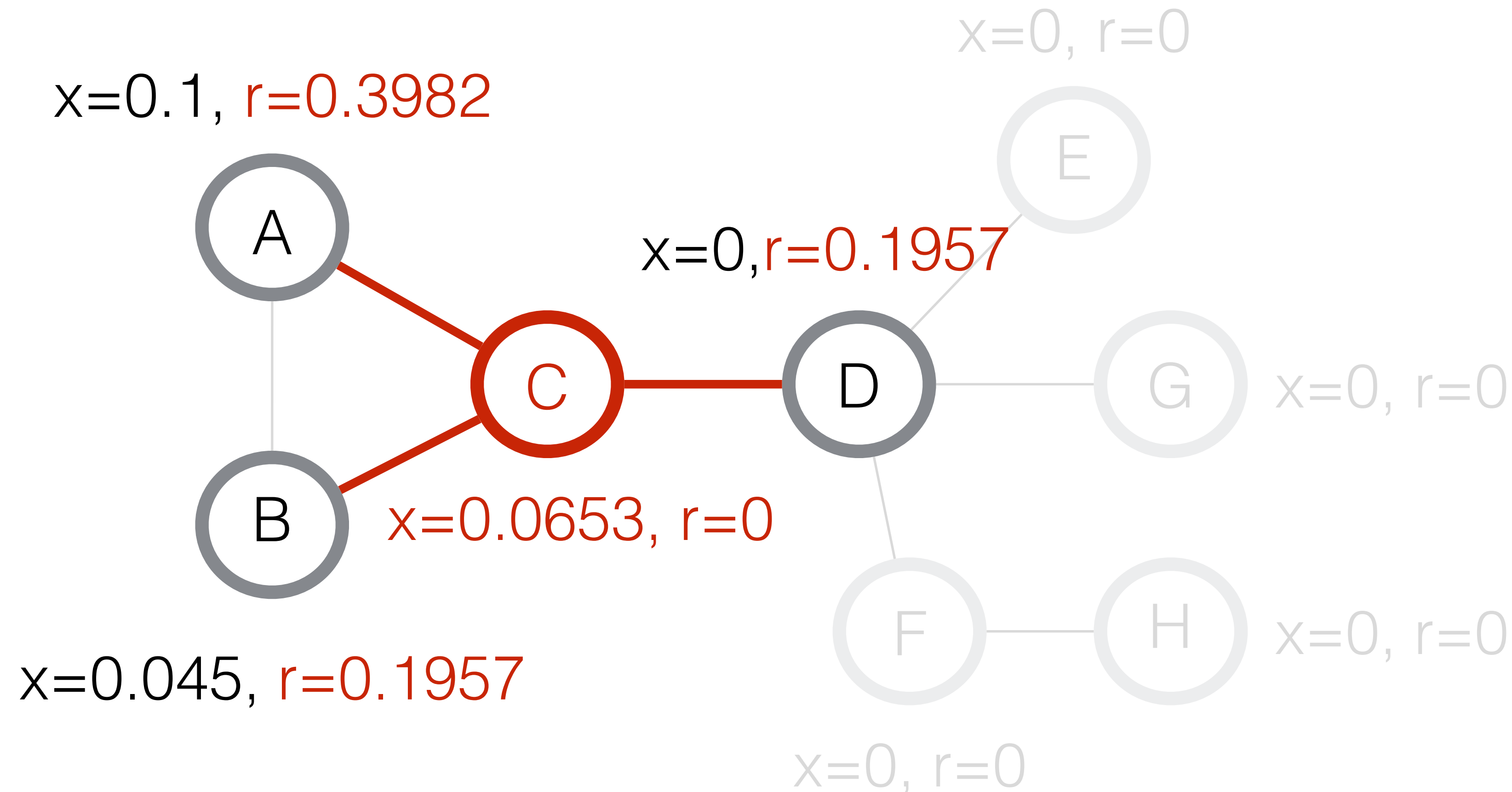
$$\alpha = 0.1$$



# Approximate Personalized PageRank

Algorithm idea: iteratively spread probability mass around the graph.

$$\alpha = 0.1$$





# Approximate Personalized PageRank

Algorithm idea: iteratively spread probability mass around the graph until

$$\max_i \frac{r_i}{d_i} \leq \rho \alpha$$

- $\rho$ : termination parameter
- $d_i$ : number of edges of node  $i$

# Variational model of APPR

$$\text{minimize } \frac{1-\alpha}{2} \|Bx\|_2^2 + \alpha \|H(\mathbf{1} - x)\|_2^2 + \alpha \|Zx\|_2^2 + \rho\alpha \|Dx\|_1$$

where

- B: is the incidence matrix
- D: Degree matrix
- H = diag(initial prob. dist. over nodes)
- Z = D - H
- $\alpha$ : teleportation parameter
- $\rho$ : l1-reg. hyper-parameter

**Observation:** The optimality conditions of the l1-regularized version of the problem imply the early termination criterion of APPR.



# Termination conditions vs optimality conditions

Termination criteria of Approximate Personalized PageRank

$$\max_i \frac{r_i}{d_i} \leq \rho\alpha$$

Optimality conditions of the variational model

$$\frac{r_i}{d_i} = \rho\alpha, \quad x_i \neq 0$$

$$\frac{r_i}{d_i} \leq \rho\alpha, \quad x_i = 0$$

# Properties of the variational problem

-**Theorem:** The volume of the optimal solution is bounded by  $1/\rho$

$$\text{vol}(S_*) = \sum_{i \in S_*} d_i \leq \frac{1}{\rho}$$

-**Theorem:** Same combinatorial theoretical guarantees for local graph clustering

-**Crucial:** The model decouples the output from the algorithm.

# Sketch of proof

- **Theorem:** The volume of the optimal solution is bounded by  $1/\rho$

$$\text{vol}(S_*) = \sum_{i \in S_*} d_i \leq \frac{1}{\rho}$$

**Result 1:** Negative partial derivatives are bounded from below

$$\rho \alpha d_i^{1/2} \leq -\nabla_i f(x_*) \quad \forall i \in S_* \Rightarrow \text{vol}(S_*) \rho \alpha \leq \|D^{1/2} \nabla f(x_*)\|_1$$

**Result 2:** Gradients are bounded from above

$$\|D^{1/2} \nabla f(x_*)\|_1 \leq \alpha$$

Results 1 + 2 use proof-by-algorithm + strong convexity, Results 1 + 2 give the final result



# Proximal gradient descent for local graph clustering

$$f(x) := \frac{1-\alpha}{2} \|Bx\|_2^2 + \alpha \|H(\mathbf{1} - x)\|_2^2 + \alpha \|Zx\|_2^2 \quad g(x) := \rho\alpha \|Dx\|_1$$

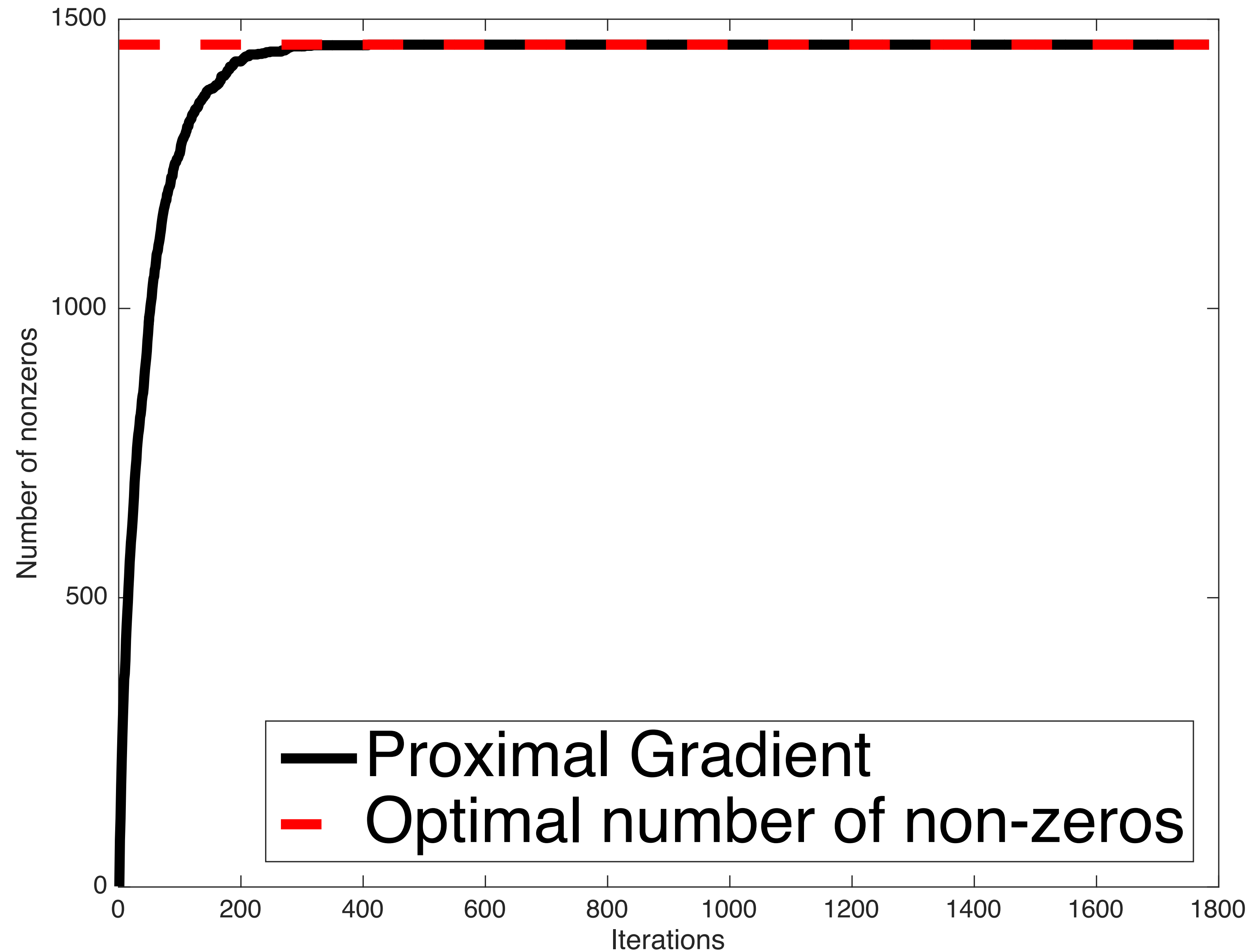
Proximal gradient descent

$$x_{k+1} := \operatorname{argmin}_x g(x) + \underbrace{f(x_k) + \langle \nabla f(x_k), x - x_k \rangle}_{\text{first-order Taylor approximation}} + \underbrace{\frac{1}{2} \|x - x_k\|_2^2}_{\text{upper bound on the approximation error}}$$

Requires careful implementation to avoid excessive running time

- Need to maintain a set of non-zero nodes
- Update  $x$  and gradient only for non-zero nodes and their neighbors at each iteration

# Theorem: non-decreasing non-zero nodes



# Sketch of proof

- **Theorem:** non-decreasing non-zero nodes

**Result 1:** Using induction we get that negative partial derivatives are bounded

$$-\nabla_i f(x_k) \geq \rho \alpha d_i^{1/2} \quad \forall i \in S_k \quad \text{and} \quad -\nabla_i f(x_k) < \rho \alpha d_i^{1/2} \quad \forall i \in [n] \setminus S_k \quad \forall k$$



Using the definition of a proximal step

**Result 2:** The mass of the variables is non-decreasing

$$x_k \leq x_{k+1} \quad \forall k$$

**Results 1 + 2 give**  $S_k \subseteq S_{k+1}$



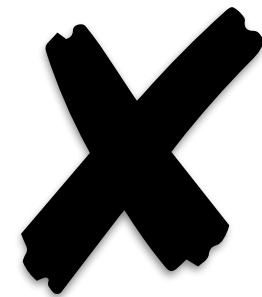
# Worst-case running times

Weighted graphs

Unweighted graphs

Prox. grad.  $\mathcal{O}\left(\frac{(|\mathcal{S}_*| + \widehat{\text{vol}}(\mathcal{S}_*))}{\mu} \log\left(\frac{2}{\epsilon^2 \rho^2 \alpha^2 \min_j d_j}\right)\right) \quad \mathcal{O}\left(\frac{2}{\rho \mu} \log\left(\frac{2}{\epsilon^2 \rho^2 \alpha^2 \min_j d_j}\right)\right).$

APPR

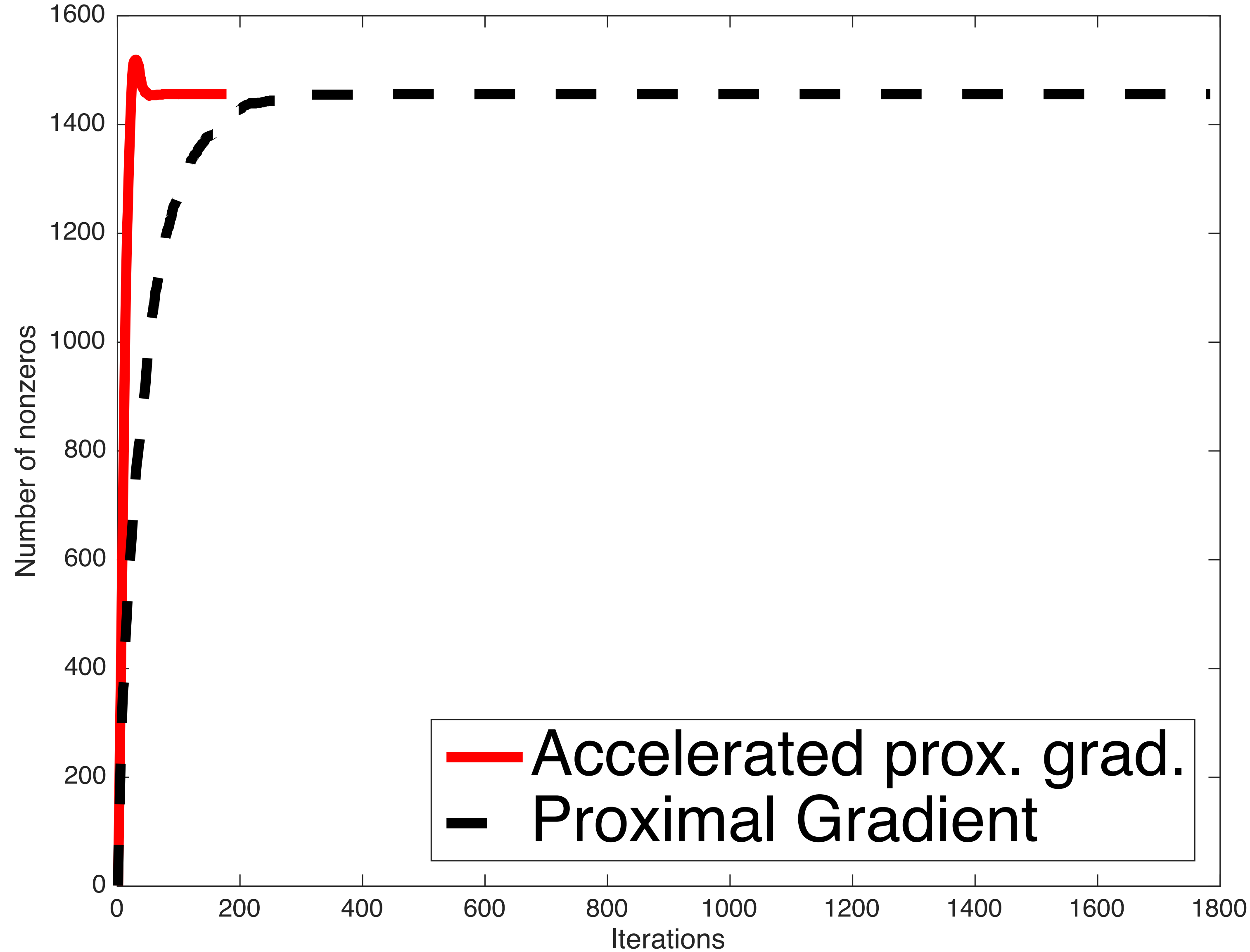


$$\frac{1}{\alpha \rho}$$

$$\mu := \alpha + \frac{1 - \alpha}{4} \lambda_{\min}(\mathcal{L}_{\mathcal{S}_*})$$

$\mathcal{L}_{\mathcal{S}_*}$  : sub-matrix of normalized Laplacian

# Open problem: is accelerated prox. grad. a local algorithm?



Gradient descent running time

$$\mathcal{O}\left(\frac{(|\mathcal{S}_*| + \widehat{\text{vol}}(\mathcal{S}_*))}{\mu} \log\left(\frac{2}{\epsilon^2 \rho^2 \alpha^2 \min_j d_j}\right)\right)$$

Accel. gradient descent

$$\mathcal{O}\left(\frac{\text{vol}(\mathcal{G})}{\sqrt{\mu}} \log\left(\frac{2}{\epsilon^2 \rho^2 \alpha^2 \min_j d_j}\right)\right)$$



$$\mathcal{O}\left(\frac{|\mathcal{S}_*| + \text{vol}(\mathcal{S}_*)}{\sqrt{\mu}} \log\left(\frac{2}{\epsilon^2 \rho^2 \alpha^2 \min_j d_j}\right)\right)$$

## **LocalGraphClustering** on **GitHub**

- Written in Python with C++ routines when required
- Graph analytics on 100 million edges graph on a 16GB RAM laptop
- Demonstrations on social and bioinformatics networks
- 8 Python notebooks with numerous examples and graph visualizations
- Video presentations
- 12 methods and pipelines



# References



**“An optimization approach to locally-biased graph algorithms”, K. Fountoulakis, D. Gleich, M. Mahoney Proceedings IEEE, 2016**



**“Variational perspective on local graph clustering”, K.Fountoulakis, F. Khorasani, J. Shun, X. Cheng, M. Mahoney, Math. Prog., 2017**



**“Capacity Releasing Diffusion for Speed and Locality”, D. Wang, K. Fountoulakis, M. Mahoney, S. Rao, ICML 2017**



**“Parallel Local Graph Clustering”, J. Shun, F. Khorasani, K. Fountoulakis, M. Mahoney, VLDB, 2016**

Thank you!

# Parallel local graph clustering methods in shared memory

- Why shared memory? Currently the largest publicly available graphs can be stored in computers with shared memory
- We parallelize 4 local spectral methods + rounding
  1. Approximate PageRank (as demonstrated in previous slides)
  2. Nibble
  3. Deterministic HeatKernel Approximate PageRank
  4. Randomized HeatKernel Approximate PageRank
  5. Sweep cut rounding algorithm

Based on



**Parallel Local Graph Clustering, J. Shun, K. Fountoulakis, F. Khorasani, M. Mahoney, VLDB, 2016**



# Overview of results

- 3-16x faster than serial version
- Parallelization allowed us to solve problems of billions of nodes and edges.

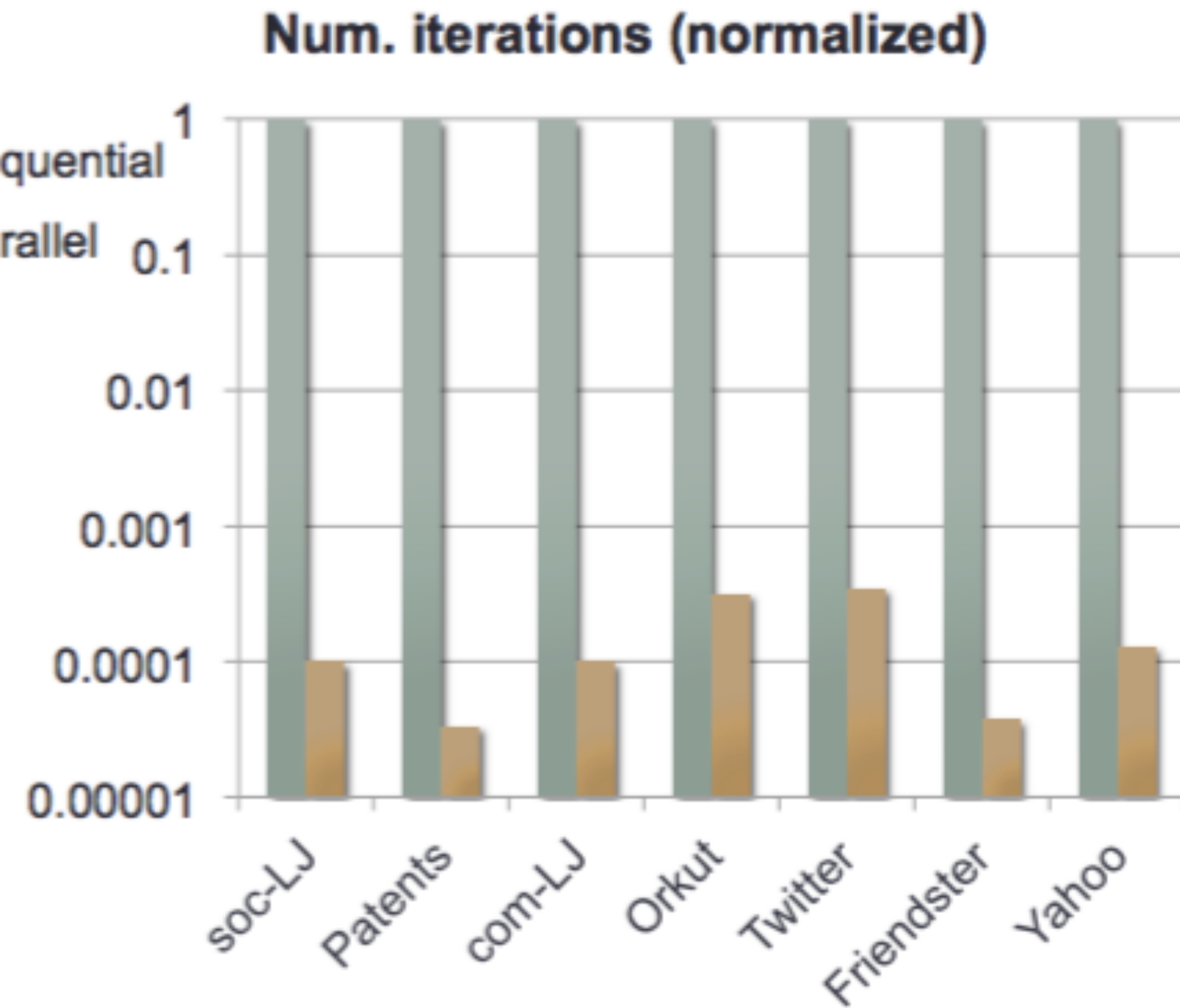
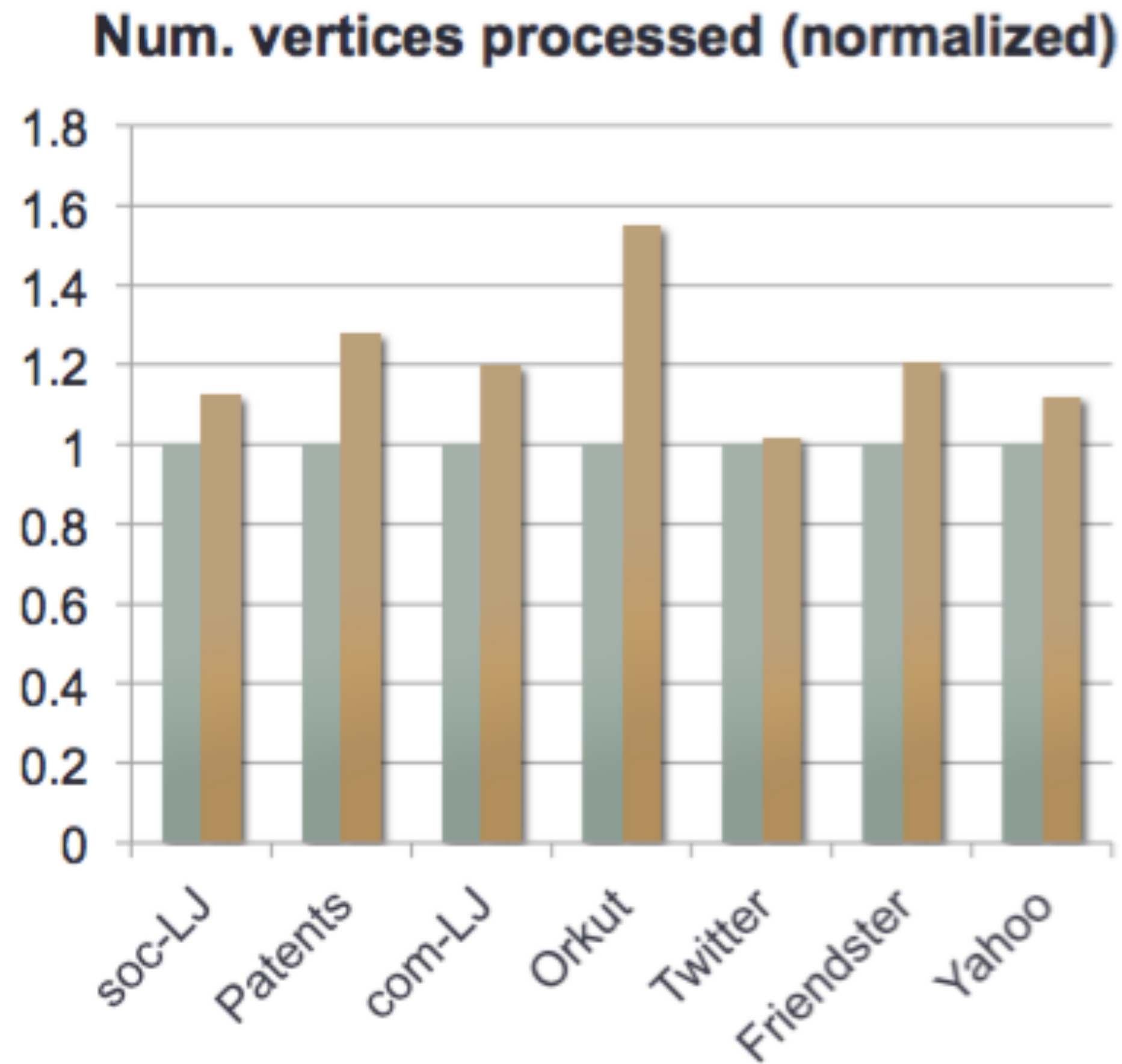
# An example: Parallel Approximate Personalized PageRank

- Serial version: picks a node from candidates to distribute mass to its neighbors
- Parallel: pick **all** nodes from candidates and distribute mass simultaneously
- Asymptotic work (FLOPS) remains the same
  - But work is parallelized
  - We pay a small communication cost among cores

# Data

Input graph	Num. vertices	Num. edges
soc-JL	4,847,571	42,851,237
cit-Patents	6,009,555	16,518,947
com-LJ	4,036,538	34,681,189
com-Orkut	3,072,627	117,185,083
Twitter	41,652,231	1,202,513,046
Friendster	124,836,180	1,806,607,135
Yahoo	1,413,511,391	6,434,561,035

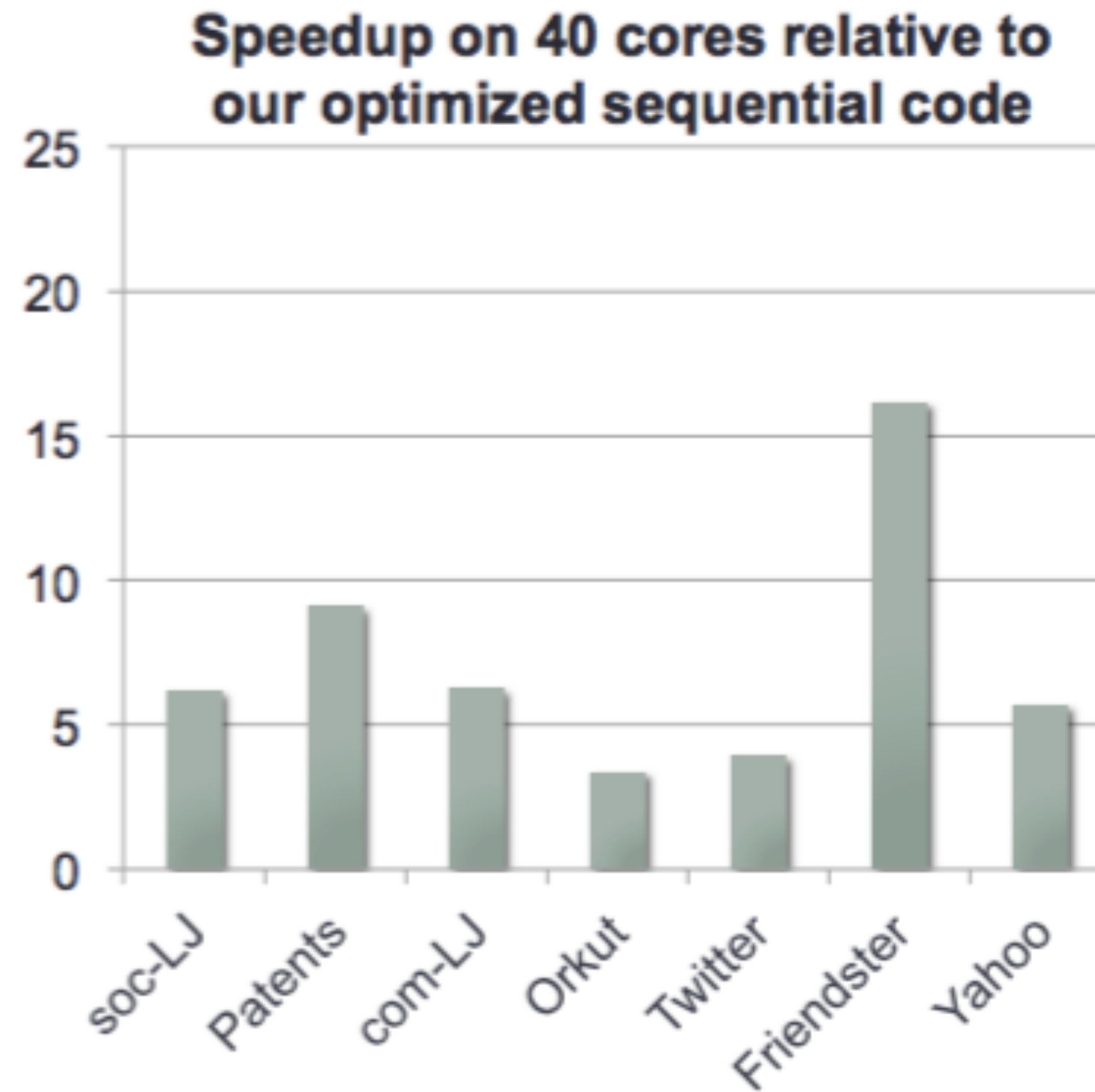
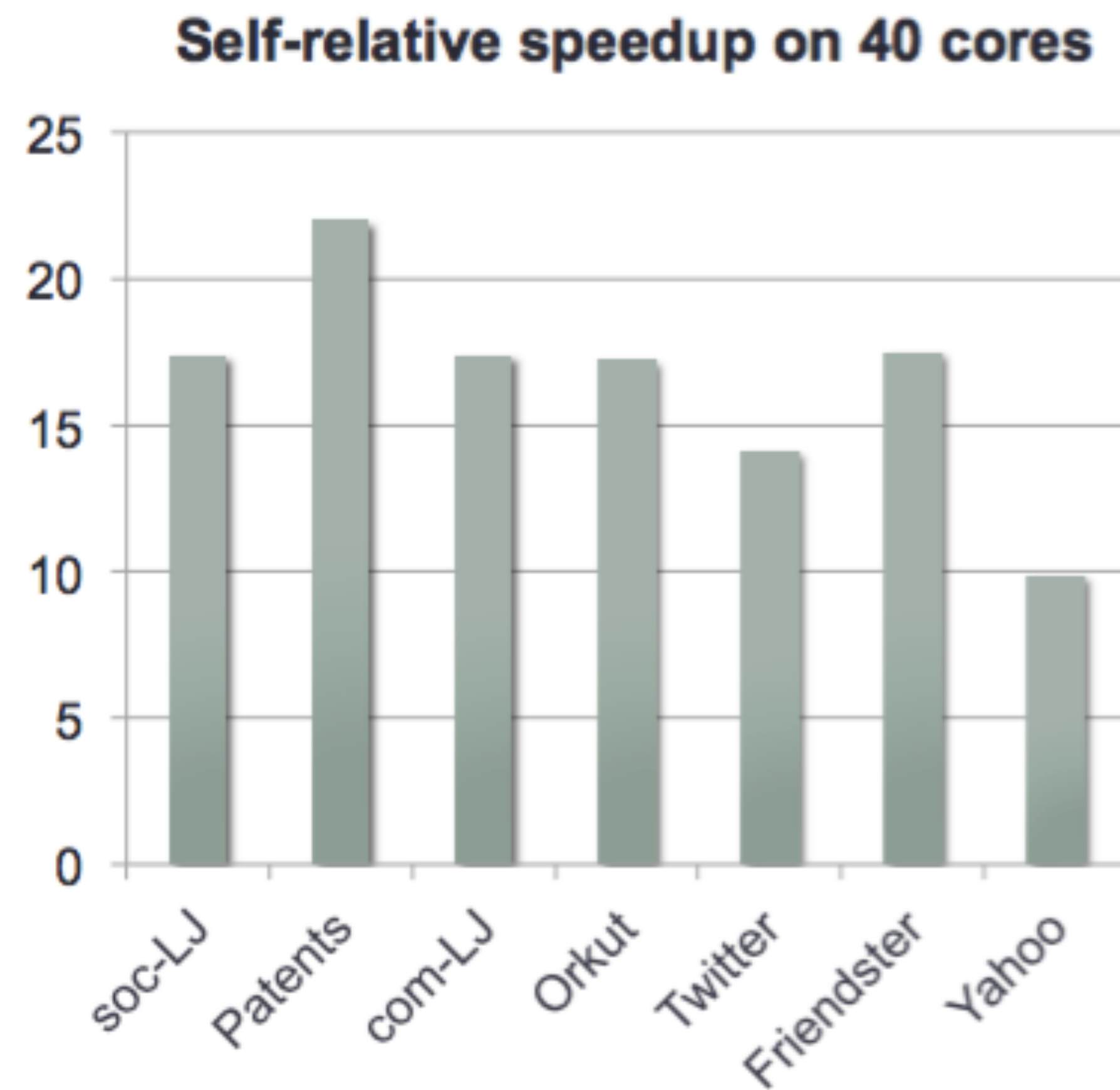
# Performance



- Slightly more work for the parallel version
- Number of iterations is significantly less



# Performance



- 3-16x speed up
- Speedup is limited by small active set in some iterations and memory effects