

1. Let  $G = ([n], E)$  be a  $k$ -regular graph on  $n$  vertices.

$$A_{i,j} = A_{ji} \Rightarrow A \in S_m(\mathbb{R})$$

- (a) Let  $v$  be an eigenvector of  $A$  corresponding to eigenvalue  $\lambda$ .  
Let's assume  $i \in [n]$  s.t.  $|v_i|$  is maximal.

$$Av = \lambda v$$

On the one hand

$$[Av]_i = \sum_{k=1}^n [A]_{i,k} v_k \leq \sum_{k=1}^n [A]_{i,k} |v_i| = |v_i| \sum_{k=1}^n [A]_{i,k} = k|v_i|$$

And on the other hand

$$[Av]_i = \lambda v_i$$

Therefore, any such eigenvector satisfies

$$\lambda v_i \leq k|v_i|$$

if  $v_i > 0 \Rightarrow \lambda \leq k$

if  $v_i < 0$  then let's consider the vector  $-v$  which satisfies

$$A(-v) = (-\lambda)v.$$

For  $-v$  it still holds that  $|v_i|$  is maximal and so from the above equations we get

$$-\lambda v_i \leq k|v_i| \Rightarrow \lambda \geq -k$$

so we conclude

$$|\lambda| \leq k$$

- (b) Let's take the vector  $v$  where  $\forall i \in [n], v_i = 1$

$$[Av]_i = \sum_{j=1}^n A_{ij} v_j = \sum_{j=1}^n A_{ij} = k \Rightarrow Av = kv$$

We have shown some eigenvalue  $\lambda = k$ . Since  $\lambda_1 \geq \lambda_2 \geq \dots \geq \lambda_n$  and  $|\lambda| \leq k$  we can conclude that

$$\lambda_1 = k$$

- (c) Lemma: Let  $G$  be a graph with a connected component  $C$  and let  $v$  be the component's indicator vector, meaning:

$$v_i = \begin{cases} 1 & i \in V(C) \\ 0 & \text{otherwise} \end{cases}$$

then

$$Av = kv$$

Proof:

if  $a \in V(C)$  since  $a$  has  $k$  neighbors and they're all in  $C$  it follows that:

$$[Av]_a = \sum_{j=1}^n A_{kj}v_j = k$$

if  $a \notin V(C)$  then none of  $a$ 's neighbors are in  $C$  and it follows that:

$$[Av]_a = \sum_{j=1}^n A_{kj}v_j = 0$$

Therefore

$$Av = kv$$

$v \in \{v_1, \dots, v_m\}$

Let's suppose that  $G$  has  $m$  connected components,  $C_1, \dots, C_m$ , the indicator vectors for these components  $v_1, \dots, v_m$ , are orthogonal since they do not share any indices, and so there are at least  $m$  orthogonal eigenvectors corresponding to eigenvalue  $k$ , meaning the geometric multiplicity of  $k$  is  $\geq m$ .

For any real symmetric matrix the algebraic multiplicity of an eigenvalue is equal to the geometric multiplicity and so we have shown that  $l \geq m$

Let's show now that  $l \leq m$

Let  $u = (u_1, \dots, u_n)$  be an eigenvector of  $A$  which corresponds to eigenvalue  $k$ .

For each  $i \in [m]$  we can take  $u_{i*} = \max\{u_j \mid j \in C_i\}$ . Let's suppose w.l.o.g. that  $u_{i*} > 0$ .

$$ku_{i*} = [Au]_{i*} = \sum_{j=1}^n A_{i*,j}u_j = \sum_{(i*,j) \in E(G)} u_j$$

The sum on the right side has exactly  $k$  terms and from the left side we know that their average is  $u_{i*}$ , since  $u_{i*}$  is also their maximum we know that

$$\forall j \text{ s.t. } (i*, j) \in E(G), u_j = u_{i*}$$

So we get that for each  $i \in [m]$ ,  $u_j = u_{i*}$  for all  $j \in C_i$ . This means that

$$u = \alpha_1 v_1 + \dots + \alpha_m v_m$$

where

$$\alpha_i = u_{i*}$$

meaning  $u$  is a linear combination of  $v_1, \dots, v_m$  and there are exactly  $m$  eigenvectors of eigenvalue  $k$ .

- (d) Suppose that  $G$  has a bipartite connected component  $C$ , denote the two components comprising  $C$  as  $C_1$  and  $C_2$ .

Consider the following vector  $v \in \mathbb{R}^n : v_i = \begin{cases} 1 & i \in C_1 \\ -1 & i \in C_2 \\ 0 & \text{otherwise} \end{cases}$

$$[Av]_i = \sum_{j=1}^n A_{ij}v_j = \begin{cases} -k & i \in C_1 \\ k & i \in C_2 \\ 0 & \text{otherwise} \end{cases} \Rightarrow [Av]_i = -kv_i$$

$$Av = -kv$$

So there exists an eigenvalue that is equal to  $-k$ . It follows from  $|\lambda_i| \leq k$  and from  $\lambda_1 \geq \lambda_2 \geq \dots \geq \lambda_n$  that

$$\lambda_n = -k$$

Now suppose that  $-k$  is an eigenvalue of  $A$ :

Let's assume that  $G$  has no bipartite connected component, therefore each of the connected components of  $G$  has an odd cycle. Let's consider one such connected component  $C$  of  $G$ .

Suppose that  $|v_{i*}| = \max\{|v_j| \mid j \in [n], j \in C\}$ .

Again we know that

$$-kv_{i*} = [Av]_{i*} = \sum_{j=1}^n A_{i*,j}v_j = \sum_{(i*,j) \in E(G)} v_j$$

So  $-v_{i*}$  is the average of  $v_j$  but also  $|v_j| \leq |v_{i*}|$  therefore  $\forall j \in C, (i*, j) \in E(G), v_j = -v_{i*}$ . Since we can get from  $i_*$  to any other vertex in  $C$  we can conclude by applying this logic recursively that for each vertex  $i$  we choose in  $C, \forall j \in C, (i, j) \in E(G), v_j = -v_{i*}$ . Now if we apply this on the odd cycle in  $C$  we will conclude that

$$v_{i*} = -v_{i*} \Rightarrow v_{i*} = 0 \Rightarrow \forall i \in C, v_i = 0$$

Now apply this logic for all connected components of  $G$  and we get that  $v = 0$  in contradiction of  $v$  being an eigenvector of  $A$ .

- (e) Suppose that  $\lambda$  is an eigenvalue of  $A$  and we need to prove that  $-\lambda$  is also an eigenvalue.

$$\exists v \text{ s.t. } Av = \lambda v$$

$G$  is bipartite, let's denote the sides of  $G$  as  $C_1, C_2$ . Now let's consider the following vector:

$$v'_i = \begin{cases} v_i & i \in C_1 \\ -v_i & i \in C_2 \end{cases}$$

$$[Av']_r = \sum_{i=1}^n A_{ri}v'_i = \sum_{i \in C_1} A_{ri}v_i - \sum_{i \in C_2} A_{ri}v_i = \begin{cases} -\sum_{i \in C_2} A_{ri}v_i = -\lambda v_r = -\lambda v'_r & r \in C_1 \\ \sum_{i \in C_1} A_{ri}v_i = [Av]_r = \lambda v_r = -\lambda v'_r & r \in C_2 \end{cases}$$

$$Av' = -\lambda v'$$

2. Let  $G = K_n$

$$G_A = \begin{bmatrix} 0 & 1 & \dots & 1 & 1 \\ 1 & 0 & 1 & \vdots & 1 \\ \vdots & \vdots & \ddots & 0 & \vdots \\ 1 & 1 & \dots & 1 & 0 \end{bmatrix}$$

$$\begin{aligned} \det(G_A - \lambda I) &= \begin{vmatrix} -\lambda & 1 & \dots & 1 \\ 1 & -\lambda & \dots & 1 \\ \vdots & \vdots & \ddots & \vdots \\ 1 & 1 & \dots & -\lambda \end{vmatrix} = \\ & \stackrel{1 \leq i \leq n-1, \underline{\underline{R_i}} \leftarrow R_i - R_n}{=} \begin{vmatrix} (-\lambda - 1) & 0 & 0 & \dots & 0 & (1 + \lambda) \\ 0 & (-\lambda - 1) & 0 & \dots & 0 & (1 + \lambda) \\ \vdots & \vdots & \vdots & \ddots & \vdots & \vdots \\ 1 & 1 & 1 & \dots & 1 & -\lambda \end{vmatrix} = \\ & \stackrel{1 \leq i \leq n-1, \underline{\underline{R_n}} \leftarrow C_n C_n}{=} \begin{vmatrix} (-\lambda - 1) & 0 & 0 & \dots & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & (-\lambda - 1) & 0 & \dots & 0 & 0 \\ \vdots & \vdots & \vdots & \ddots & \vdots & \vdots \\ 1 & 1 & 1 & \dots & 1 & (-\lambda + n - 1) \end{vmatrix} = \\ & (-\lambda - 1)^{n-1}(-\lambda + n - 1) \end{aligned}$$

Therefore:

$$\lambda_1 = -1, \lambda_2 = (n - 1)$$

3. We have seen in recitation that  $A_{G,i,j}^k$  is the number of length-k paths from i to j in G. A triangle is a length-3 path from a vertex to itself. We can count the number of length-3 paths that start from each vertex and end in that same vertex but this will count each triangle 6 times since there are 6 ways to decide on the order of the vertices in the triangle. Therefore :

$$\# \text{ triangles in } G = \frac{1}{6} \text{tr}(A_G^3)$$

Since A is a real symmetric matrix by the spectral decomposition theorem we can say:

$$A_G = U\Lambda U^T$$

Where U is an orthogonal matrix and  $\Lambda$  is a diagonal  $\Lambda = \text{diag}(\lambda_1, \dots, \lambda_n)$

$$\begin{aligned} \# \text{ triangles in } G &= \frac{1}{6} \text{tr}(A_G^3) = \frac{1}{6} \text{tr}(U\Lambda U^T U\Lambda U^T U\Lambda U^T) = \\ &= \frac{1}{6} \text{tr}(U\Lambda\Lambda\Lambda U^T) = \frac{1}{6} \text{tr}(U^T U \Lambda^3) = \frac{1}{6} \text{tr}(\Lambda^3) = \frac{1}{6} \sum_{i=1}^n \lambda_i^3 \end{aligned}$$

4.  $A \in M_n(\mathbb{R})$ ,  $S = \{x \in \mathbb{R}^n : \|x\| = 1\}$

- (a)  $f : S \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ ,  $f(x) = x^T A x$   
f is bounded:

$$f(x) = \sum_{i,j} x_i a_{ij} x_j \leq \sum_{i,j} |a_{ij}| \leq \sum_{i,j} 1 = n^2$$

f is closed:

f is bounded therefore it has a supremum.

$$L = \sup\{x^T A x : \|x\| = 1\}$$

$\forall \epsilon \exists x \text{ s.t. } f(x) > L - \epsilon$ , let's denote  $\epsilon_n = \frac{1}{n}$ , so we know

$$\exists x_n \text{ s.t. } f(x_n) > L - \frac{1}{n}$$

denote  $f(x_n) = f_n$

$$f_n = x_n^T A x_n \xrightarrow{n \rightarrow \infty} L$$

$\{x_n\}_{n \in \mathbb{N}}$  is a sequence in S and S is compact therefore it has a convergent subsequence,  $\{x_{n_k}\} \rightarrow x_0 \in S$

$$f_{n_k} \stackrel{\text{def}}{=} f(x_{n_k}) \rightarrow L$$

and since  $f$  is continuous it follows that  $f(x_0) = L$  and so  $f$  obtains a maximum.

- (b) Let  $v \in S$  be a vector on which  $f$  is maximal.

Let  $u \in \text{span}(\{v\})^\perp$ ,  $g : \mathbb{R} \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ ,  $g(t) = f\left(\frac{v+tu}{\|v+tu\|}\right)$

$$g(t) = f\left(\frac{v+tu}{\|v+tu\|}\right) = \frac{1}{\|v+tu\|^2}((v+tu)^T A(v+tu)) = \frac{1}{\|v+tu\|^2}(v^T Av + (tu)^T Av + v^T Atu + (tu)^T Atu) \leq v^T Av$$

$$\|v+tu\|^2 = \langle v, v \rangle + \langle v, tu \rangle + \langle tu, v \rangle + \langle tu, tu \rangle = 1 + \langle tu, tu \rangle$$

Therefore

$$(v^T Av + (tu)^T Av + v^T Atu + (tu)^T Atu) \leq (1 + \langle tu, tu \rangle)v^T Av$$

$$\frac{(tu)^T Av + v^T Atu}{\langle tu, tu \rangle} + \frac{(tu)^T Atu}{\langle tu, tu \rangle} \leq v^T Av$$

$$\frac{2u^T Av}{t\langle u, u \rangle} + \frac{u^T Au}{\langle u, u \rangle} \leq v^T Av$$

this holds  $\forall t \in \mathbb{R}$ , if we take small enough  $t$  the inequality will not hold unless  $u^T Av = 0$ .

- (c) Let  $v_2, \dots, v_n \in \mathbb{R}^n$  be an orthonormal basis of  $\text{span}(v)^\perp$  then since  $v_2, \dots, v_n \in \text{span}(v)^\perp$  then from section (b) we have

$$2 \leq i \leq n, \quad v_i^T Av = 0$$

and so  $v, v_1, v_2, \dots, v_n$  is an orthonormal basis of  $\mathbb{R}^n$ .

$Av = \langle Av, v \rangle v + \sum_{i=2}^n \langle Av, v_i \rangle v_i$  since  $v_i \in \text{span}(\{v\})^\perp$  then by section (b)  $\langle Av, v_i \rangle = 0$  and so we get

$$Av = \langle Av, v \rangle v$$

Therefore  $v$  is an eigenvector of  $A$ .

- (d) Let's suppose that  $v_1, \dots, v_k \in \mathbb{R}^n$  are orthonormal eigenvectors of  $A$  and find  $v_{k+1}$  which is orthogonal to  $v_1, \dots, v_k$  and is an eigenvector of  $A$ .

Define  $S = \{x \in \text{span}(\{v_1, \dots, v_k\})^\perp : \|x\| = 1\}$ , suppose that  $f$  is maximized on  $S$  by some vector  $v_{k+1}$ .

$$v_{k+1} \in \text{span}(\{v_1, \dots, v_k\})^\perp \Rightarrow v_1, \dots, v_k \in \text{span}(\{v_{k+1}\})^\perp$$

By section (b) we know that  $1 \leq i \leq k$ ,  $v_i^T v_{k+1} = 0$  and so  $v_1, \dots, v_k, v_{k+1} \in \mathbb{R}^n$  are orthonormal vectors, we can complete these

set to an orthonormal base of  $\mathfrak{R}^n : v_1, \dots, v_k, v_{k+1}, \dots, v_n$ , and so  $v_1, \dots, v_k, v_{k+2}, \dots, v_n \in \text{span}(\{v_{k+1}\})^\perp$  and by section (b) again we know

$$1 \leq i \leq k, k+2 \leq i \leq n \quad , \quad v_i^T v_{k+1} = 0$$

$$Av_{k+1} = \sum_{i=1}^n \langle Av_{k+1}, v_i \rangle v_i = \langle Av_{k+1}, v_{k+1} \rangle v_{k+1}$$