

# Graph Learning SD212

## 5. Heat Diffusion

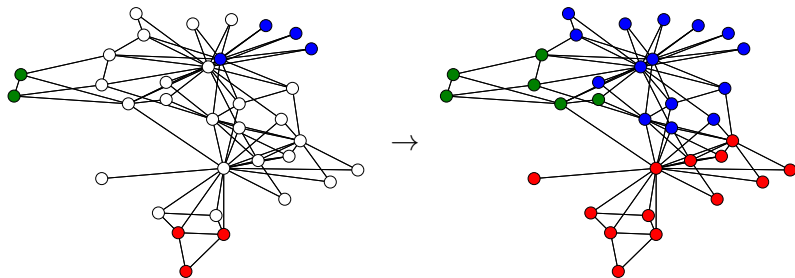
Thomas Bonald

2023– 2024



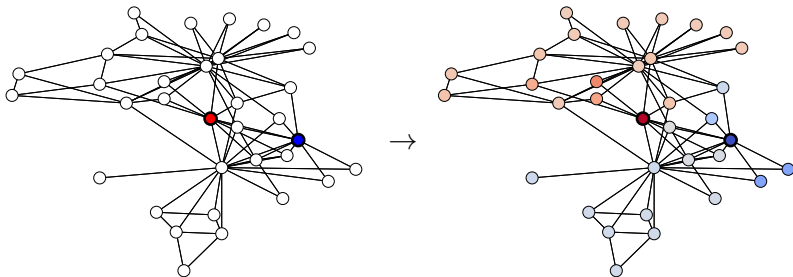
# Motivation

## Classification (semi-supervised learning)



# Motivation

## Contrastive ranking



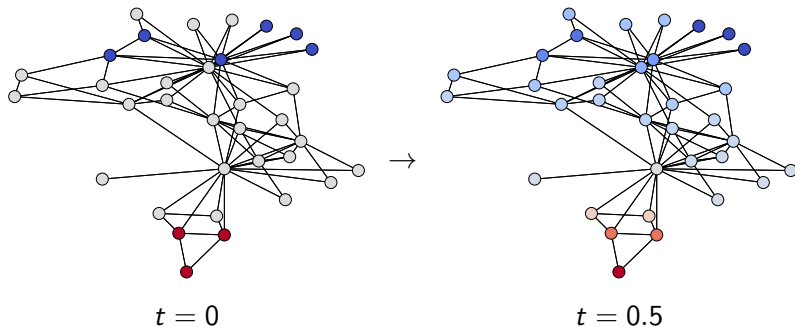
# Outline

1. Heat diffusion
2. Dirichlet problem
3. Applications
4. Extensions

# Heat diffusion (continuous time)

Evolution of the **temperature**  $T_i$  of each node  $i$  :

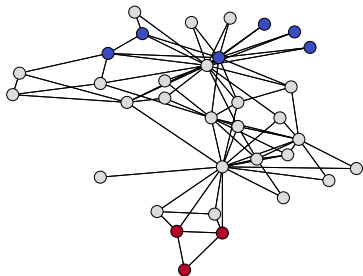
$$\frac{dT_i}{dt} = \sum_j A_{ij}(T_j - T_i)$$



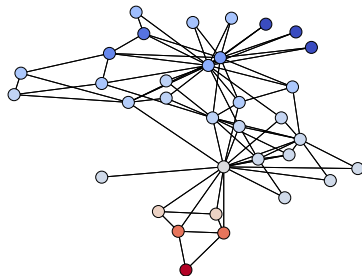
# Heat equation (continuous time)

Vectorial representation:

$$\frac{dT}{dt} = - \underbrace{(D - A)}_L T$$



$t = 0$



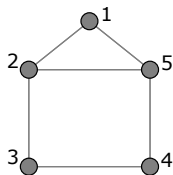
$t = 0.5$

# Laplacian matrix

## Definition

$$L = D - A \quad \text{with} \quad D = \text{diag}(A1)$$

Example:



$$L = \begin{bmatrix} 2 & -1 & & & -1 \\ -1 & 3 & -1 & & -1 \\ & -1 & 2 & -1 & \\ & & -1 & 2 & -1 \\ -1 & -1 & & -1 & 3 \end{bmatrix}$$

# Laplacian matrix

## Definition

$$L = D - A$$

## Properties

- ▶ Symmetric
- ▶ Positive semi-definite



# Laplacian matrix

## Definition

$$L = D - A$$

## Properties

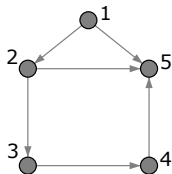
- ▶ Symmetric
- ▶ Positive semi-definite
- ▶ Discrete differential operator

$$L = \nabla^T \nabla$$

with  $\nabla$  the  $m \times n$  **incidence matrix** of the graph

# Incidence matrix

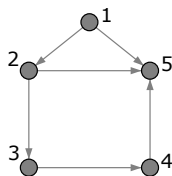
Given some arbitrary direction of the edges:



$$\nabla = \begin{bmatrix} -1 & 1 & & & \\ -1 & & & & 1 \\ & -1 & 1 & & \\ & -1 & & & 1 \\ & & -1 & 1 & \\ & & & -1 & 1 \end{bmatrix}$$

# Incidence matrix

Given some arbitrary direction of the edges:



$$\nabla = \begin{bmatrix} -1 & 1 & & & \\ -1 & & & & 1 \\ & -1 & 1 & & \\ & -1 & & & 1 \\ & & -1 & 1 & \\ & & & -1 & 1 \end{bmatrix}$$

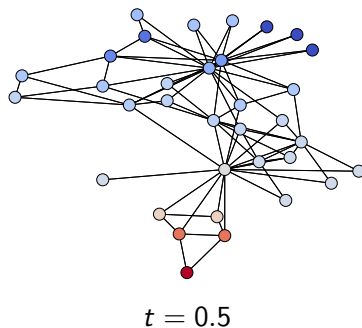
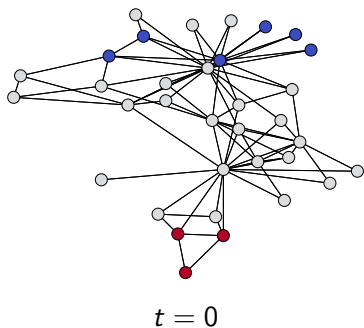
The incidence matrix applied to the vector  $T$  gives the temperature **difference** over the edges:

$$\nabla T = [T_j - T_i]_{i \rightarrow j}$$

# Heat diffusion (continuous time)

Solution to the heat equation:

$$\boxed{\frac{dT}{dt} = -LT} \quad \rightarrow \quad \boxed{T(t) = \underbrace{e^{-Lt}}_{\text{heat kernel}} T(0)}$$

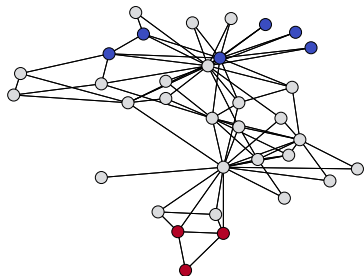


# Heat diffusion (continuous time)

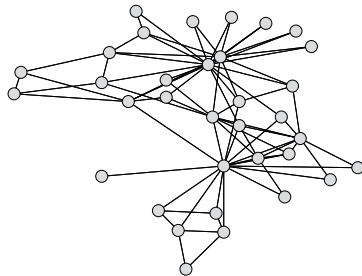
At equilibrium,

$$\boxed{\frac{dT}{dt} = 0} \rightarrow \boxed{LT = 0}$$

This is **Laplace's equation**



$t = 0$



$t \rightarrow +\infty$

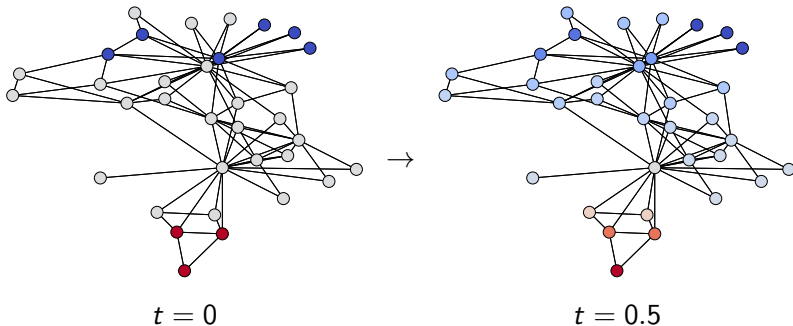
# Conservation (continuous time)

The **average** temperature is constant:

$$\forall t \geq 0, \quad \bar{T}(t) = \bar{T}(0)$$

where

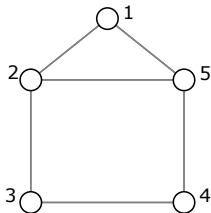
$$\bar{T}(t) = \frac{1}{n} \sum_{i=1}^n T_i(t)$$



## Exercise

Give the **ranking** of nodes in terms of temperatures at time  $t = 0^+$  after heat diffusion in continuous time

The initial vector of temperatures is  $T(0) = \begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ 1 \\ 0 \\ 0 \\ 0 \end{pmatrix}$



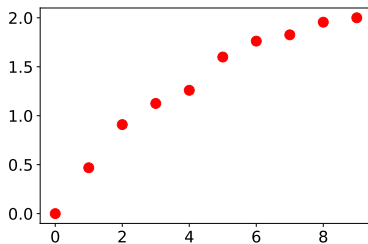
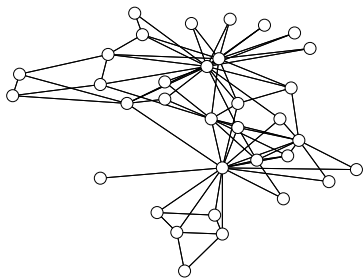
**Hint:**  $e^{-Lt} = I - Lt + o(t)$

# Spectral analysis

Spectral decomposition of the **Laplacian** matrix:

$$L = U\Lambda U^T$$

with  $U^T U = I$ ,  $\Lambda = \text{diag}(\lambda_1, \dots, \lambda_n)$ ,  $\lambda_1 = 0 \leq \lambda_2 \leq \dots \leq \lambda_n$



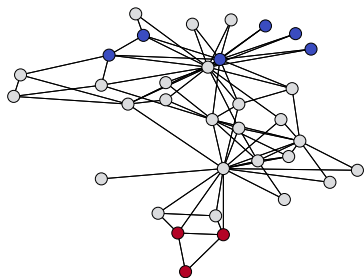
$$\lambda_1 = 0 \leq \lambda_2 \leq \dots \leq \lambda_{10} \leq \dots$$



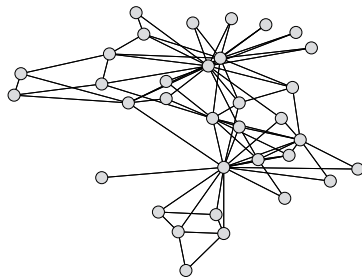
## Convergence (continuous time)

If the graph is connected, then  $0 = \lambda_1 < \lambda_2$  and the convergence is **exponential** at rate  $\lambda_2$ :

$$e^{-Lt} = Ue^{-\Lambda t}U^T \rightarrow \frac{11^T}{n}$$



$t = 0$



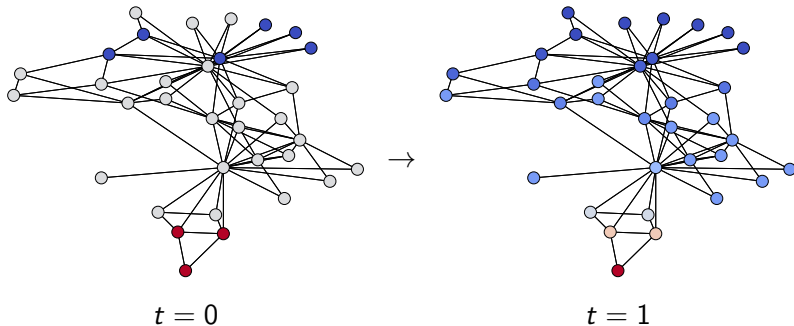
$t \rightarrow +\infty$

# Heat diffusion (discrete time)

Evolution of **temperature**  $T_i$  of each node  $i$ :

$$\forall t = 0, 1, 2, \dots \quad T_i(t+1) = (1 - \alpha) T_i(t) + \frac{\alpha}{d_i} \sum_j A_{ij} T_j(t)$$

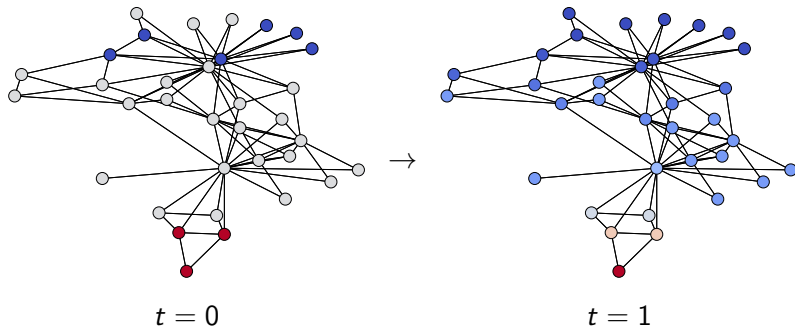
where  $\alpha \in (0, 1)$  is some **damping factor**



# Heat diffusion (discrete time)

Equivalently,

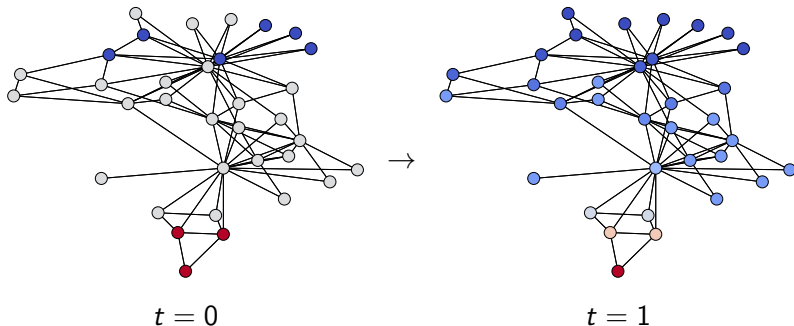
$$\forall t = 0, 1, 2, \dots \quad T_i(t+1) - T_i(t) = \frac{\alpha}{d_i} \sum_j A_{ij} (T_j(t) - T_i(t))$$



# Heat equation (discrete time)

Vectorial representation:

$$\forall t = 0, 1, 2, \dots \quad T(t+1) = ((1 - \alpha)I + \underbrace{\alpha D^{-1}A}_P)T(t)$$

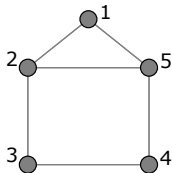


# Transition matrix

## Definition

$$P = D^{-1}A \quad \text{with} \quad D = \text{diag}(A1)$$

Example:



$$P = \begin{bmatrix} & \frac{1}{2} & & & \\ \frac{1}{3} & & \frac{1}{3} & & \frac{1}{2} \\ & \frac{1}{2} & & \frac{1}{2} & \\ \frac{1}{3} & \frac{1}{3} & \frac{1}{2} & \frac{1}{3} & \\ & & & & \frac{1}{2} \end{bmatrix}$$

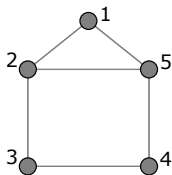
# Impact of damping factor

**Principle:** Walk with probability  $\alpha$ , stop with probability  $1 - \alpha$

New transition matrix

$$P^{(\alpha)} = (1 - \alpha)I + \alpha P$$

Example:  $\alpha = \frac{1}{2}$

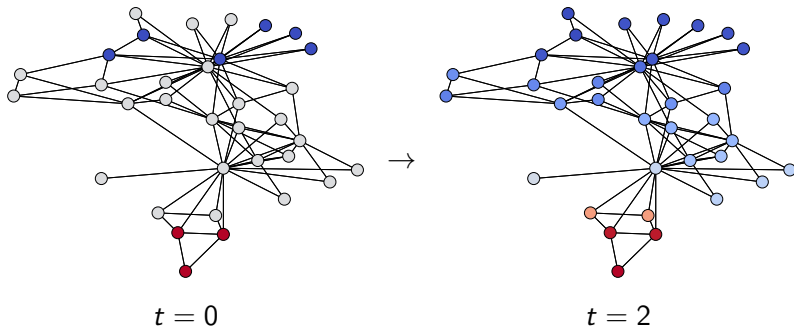


$$P^{(\alpha)} = \begin{bmatrix} \frac{1}{2} & \frac{1}{4} & & & \frac{1}{4} \\ \frac{1}{6} & \frac{1}{2} & & & \frac{1}{6} \\ & \frac{1}{4} & \frac{1}{6} & & \\ & & \frac{1}{2} & \frac{1}{4} & \\ \frac{1}{6} & \frac{1}{6} & & \frac{1}{4} & \frac{1}{2} \end{bmatrix}$$

# Heat diffusion (discrete time)

Solution to the heat equation:

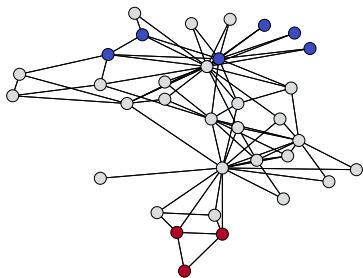
$$T(t) = ((1 - \alpha)I + \alpha P)^t T(0)$$



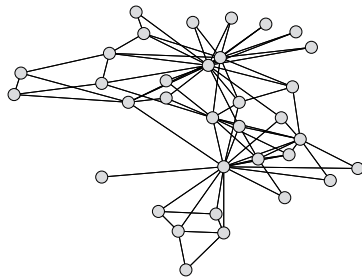
# Heat diffusion (discrete time)

At equilibrium,

$$\boxed{((1 - \alpha)I + \alpha P)T = T} \rightarrow PT = T \rightarrow \boxed{\nabla T = 0}$$



$t = 0$



$t \rightarrow +\infty$



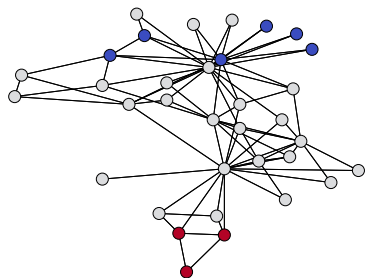
## Conservation (discrete time)

The **weighted average** temperature is constant:

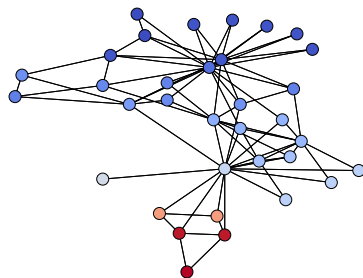
$$\forall t \geq 0, \quad \tilde{T}(t) = \tilde{T}(0)$$

where

$$\tilde{T}(t) = \frac{\sum_i d_i T_i(t)}{\sum_i d_i}$$



$t = 0$

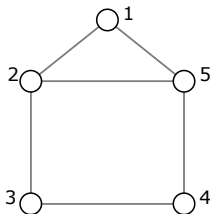


$t = 2$

## Exercise

Give the **ranking** of nodes in terms of temperatures at time  $t = 1$  after heat diffusion in discrete time, with  $\alpha = \frac{1}{2}$

The initial vector of temperatures is  $T(0) = \begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ 1 \\ 0 \\ 0 \\ 0 \end{pmatrix}$

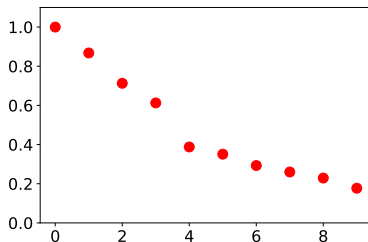
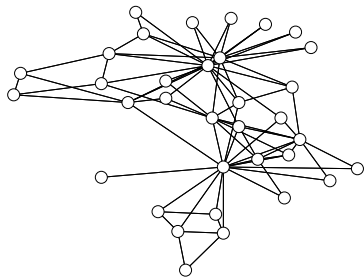


# Spectral analysis

Spectral decomposition of the **transition** matrix:

$$P = V\Gamma V^T D$$

with  $V^T D V = I$ ,  $\Gamma = \text{diag}(\gamma_1, \dots, \gamma_n)$ ,  $\gamma_1 = 1 \geq \gamma_2 \geq \dots \geq \gamma_n$



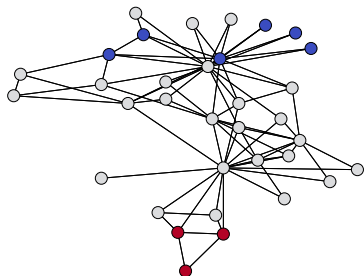
$$\gamma_1 = 1 \geq \gamma_2 \geq \dots \geq \gamma_{10} \geq \dots$$

## Convergence (discrete time)

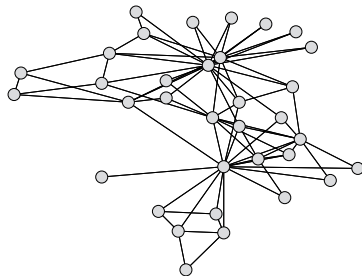
If the graph is connected and not bipartite,

$\gamma_1 = 1 > \gamma_2 \geq \dots \geq \gamma_n > -1$  and the convergence is **geometric**  
at rate  $\max_{k \geq 2} |1 - \alpha + \alpha \gamma_k|$ :

$$((1 - \alpha)I + \alpha P)^t = V((1 - \alpha)I + \alpha \Gamma)^t V^T D \propto_{t \rightarrow \infty} \mathbf{1} \mathbf{1}^T D$$



$t = 0$



$t \rightarrow +\infty$

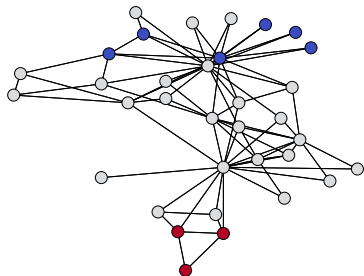
# Outline

1. Heat diffusion
2. **Dirichlet problem**
3. Applications
4. Extensions

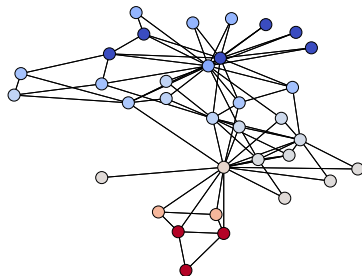
# Diffusion with a boundary

Heat equation with **boundary** conditions:

$$\forall i \text{ free, } \frac{dT_i}{dt} = (LT)_i$$



$t = 0$

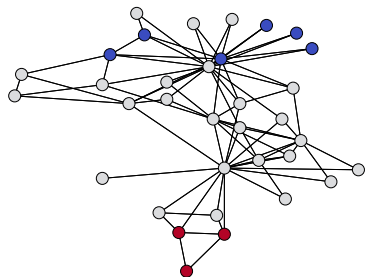


$t = 0.5$

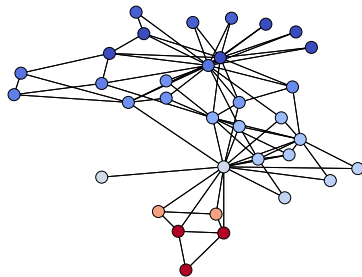
# Dirichlet problem

Equilibrium with **boundary** conditions:

$$\forall i \text{ free, } (LT)_i = 0$$



$t = 0$



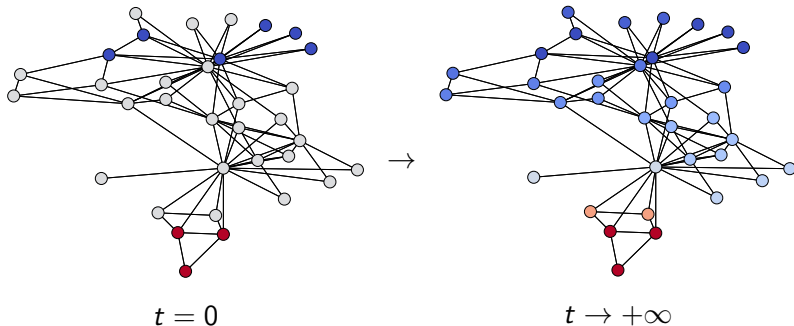
$t \rightarrow +\infty$

## Dirichlet problem

At equilibrium, the temperature of each free node is the **average** of the temperatures of its neighbors:

$$\forall i \text{ free, } T_i = (PT)_i$$

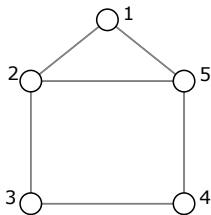
**Note:** Same solution in discrete time



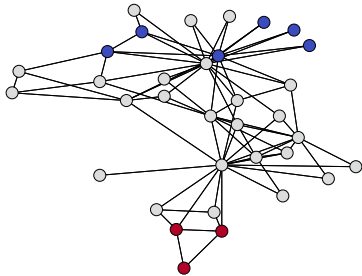


## Exercise

Solve the Dirichlet problem with  $T_1 = 0$  and  $T_4 = 1$ .



## Random walk

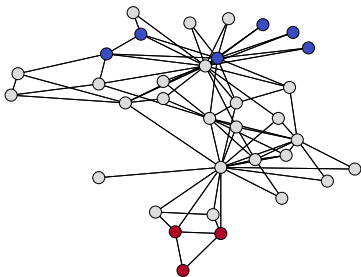


# Random walk

Consider a **random walk** starting from free node  $i$

$$T_i = \sum_j P_{i \rightarrow j} T_j$$

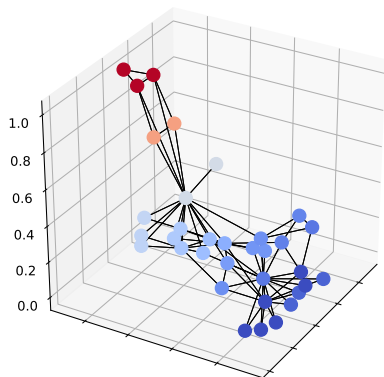
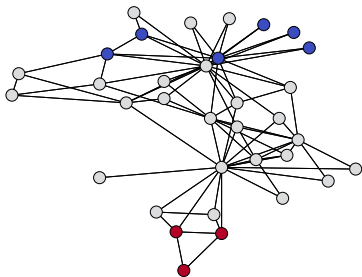
where  $P_{i \rightarrow j}$  is the probability to reach the boundary in  $j$  first



# Regression

The solution to a **regression** problem for the **Dirichlet energy**:

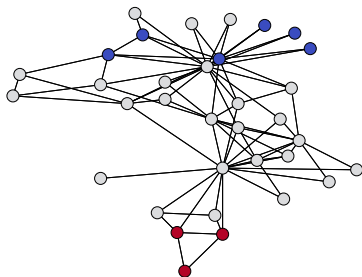
$$E = \frac{1}{2} T^T L T = \frac{1}{2} \|\nabla T\|^2$$



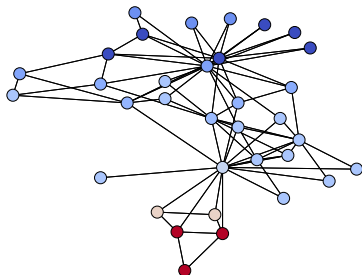
# Computation

Power iteration with boundary condition:

$$\forall i \text{ free, } T_i \leftarrow (PT)_i$$



$t = 0$



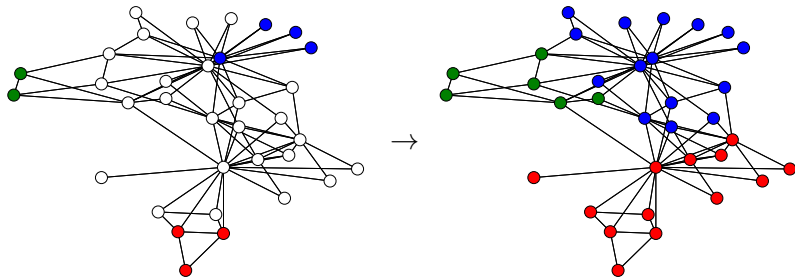
$t = 1$

# Outline

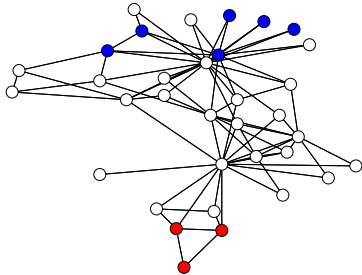
1. Heat diffusion
2. Dirichlet problem
3. **Applications**
4. Extensions

# Classification

Given some nodes with **known labels**, how to **predict** the labels of the other nodes?



## Binary classification

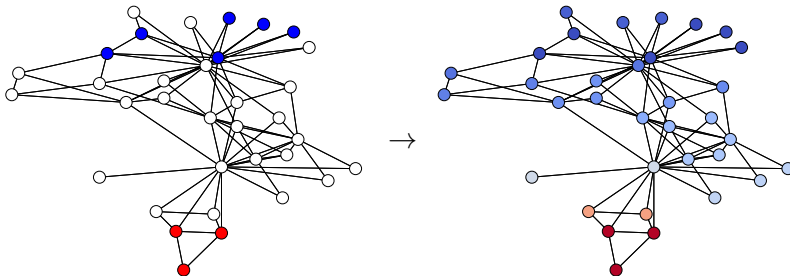




# Binary classification

## Binary classification by diffusion

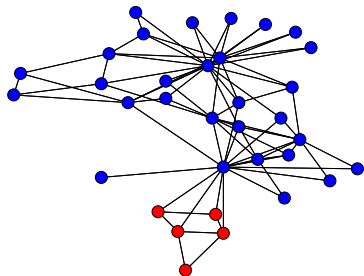
1. Solve the **Dirichlet problem** with boundary given by nodes with known labels
2. Classify nodes by some suitable **threshold**  $\theta$



# Threshold

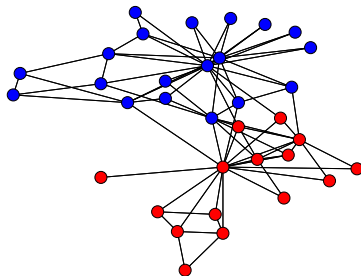
## 1. **Fixed** threshold

$$\theta = \frac{1}{2}$$



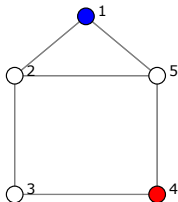
## 2. **Adaptive** threshold

$$\theta = \bar{T} \equiv \frac{1}{n} \sum_{i=1}^n T_i$$

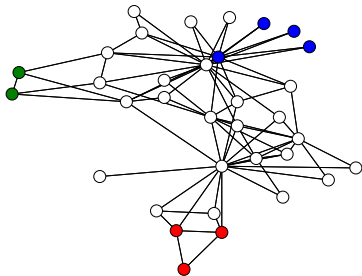


## Exercise

Give the labels of nodes 2, 3, 5 as predicted by diffusion.



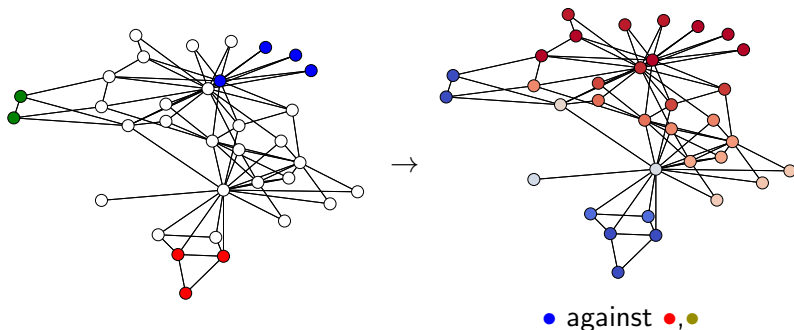
## General case



# General case

## Classification by diffusion

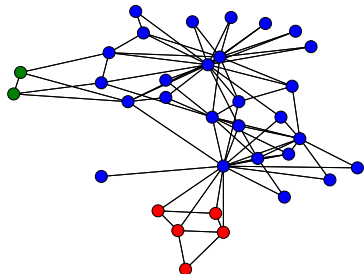
1. Solve one Dirichlet problem **per label** (one-against-others)
2. Classify nodes by selecting the solution of **highest** temperature



# Centering

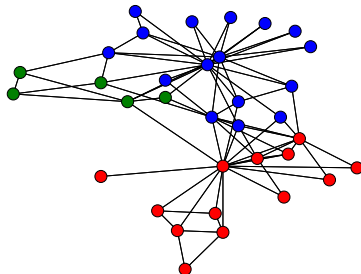
1. **Without** centering

$$\arg \max_k T_i^{(k)}$$



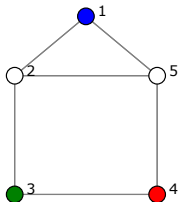
2. **With** centering

$$\arg \max_k (T_i^{(k)} - \bar{T}^{(k)})$$



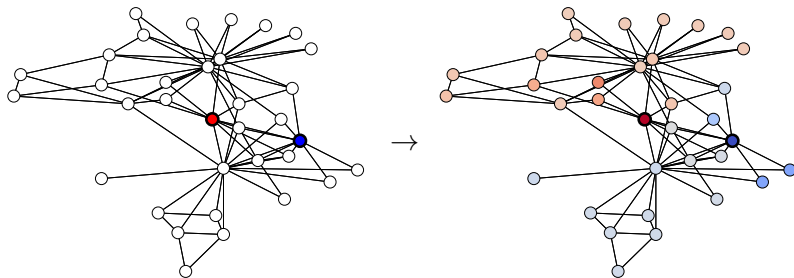
## Exercise

Give the labels of nodes 2, 5 as predicted by diffusion.



# Contrastive ranking

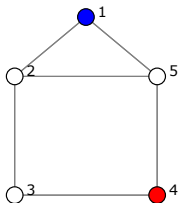
How to rank nodes in the presence of **hot** nodes and **cold** nodes?  
→ solution to the Dirichlet problem





## Exercise

Give the ranking of nodes with 1 hot source (node 4) and 1 cold source (node 1).



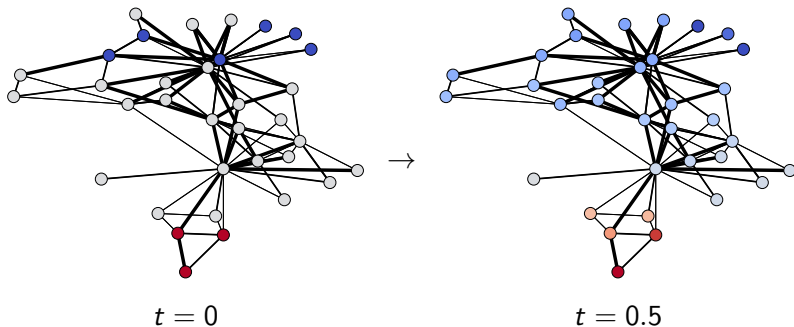
# Outline

1. Heat diffusion
2. Dirichlet problem
3. Applications
4. **Extensions**

## Case of weighted graphs

Evolution of **temperature**  $T_i$  of each node  $i$  :

$$\frac{dT_i}{dt} = \sum_j A_{ij}(T_j - T_i)$$

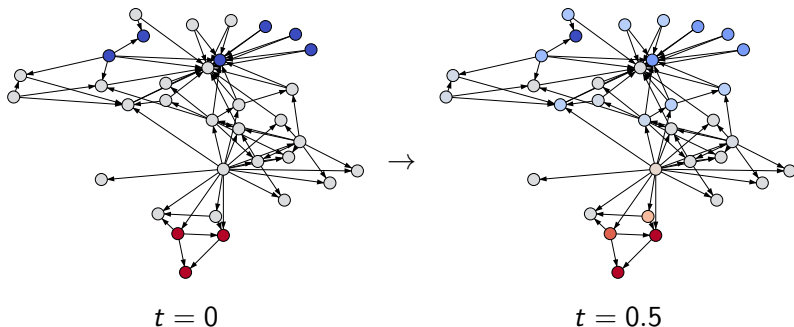


## Case of directed graphs

Evolution of **temperature**  $T_i$  of each node  $i$ :

$$\frac{dT_i}{dt} = \sum_j A_{ij}(T_j - T_i)$$

**Note:** Heat is propagated in **backward** direction

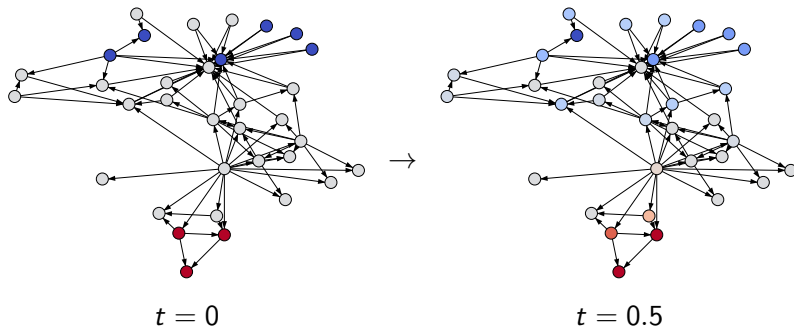


# Heat equation (continuous time)

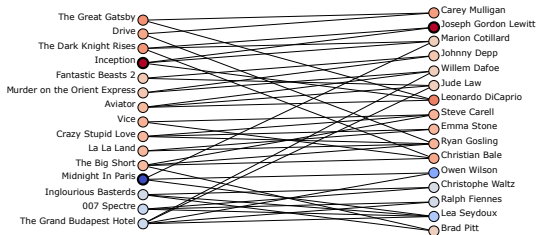
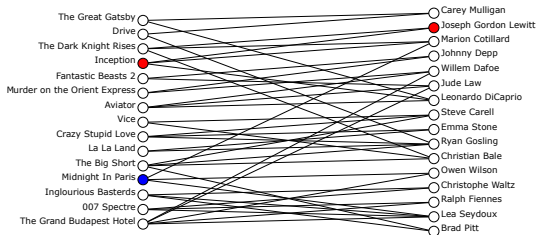
Evolution of the **vector** of temperatures:

$$\frac{dT}{dt} = -(D^+ - A)T$$

**Note:** The temperatures of **sinks** are constant.



# Case of bipartite graphs



# Summary

## Heat diffusion

- ▶ **Heat diffusion**  $\frac{dT}{dt} = -LT$  or  $T \leftarrow PT$
- ▶ The **Dirichlet problem**
- ▶ Application to **classification** and **ranking**
- ▶ Applicable to **weighted**, **directed** and **bipartite** graphs

