



CS 579: Computational Complexity. Lecture 11

Expansion and
Eigenvalues

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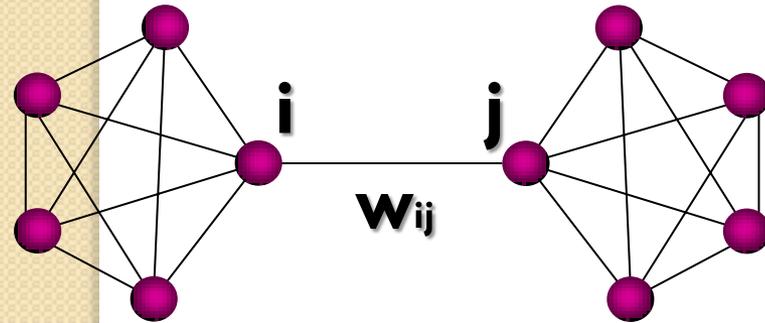
In the next few minutes:

Why spectral graph theory is both natural
and magical

Representing Graphs

Obviously, we can represent a graph with an $n \times n$ matrix

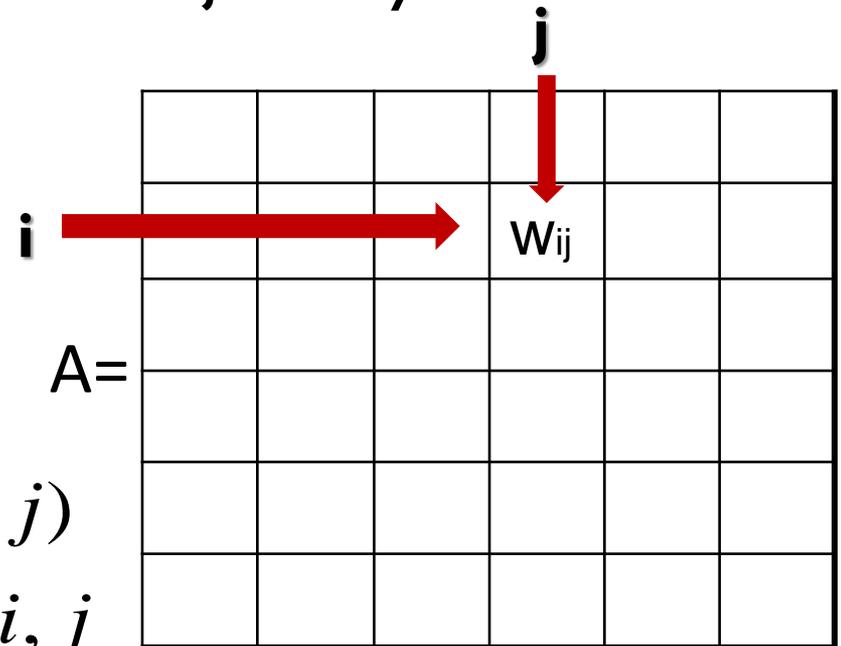
Adjacency matrix



V : n nodes
 E : m edges

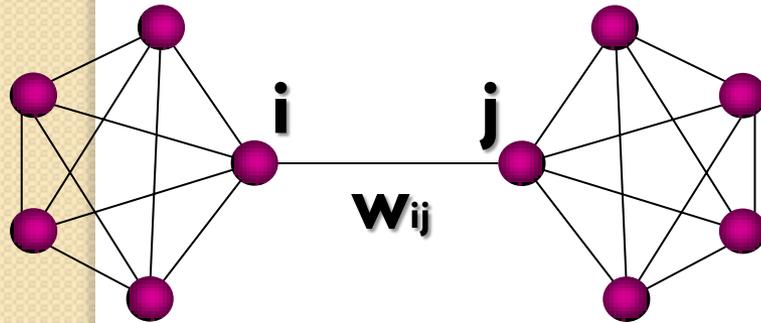
$G = \{V, E\}$

$$A_{ij} = \begin{cases} w_{ij} & \text{weight of edge } (i, j) \\ 0 & \text{if no edge between } i, j \end{cases}$$



Representing Graphs

Obviously, we can represent a graph with an $n \times n$ matrix



What is not so obvious, is that once we have matrix representation view graph as **linear operator**

V: n nodes
E: m edges

$$G = \{V, E\}$$

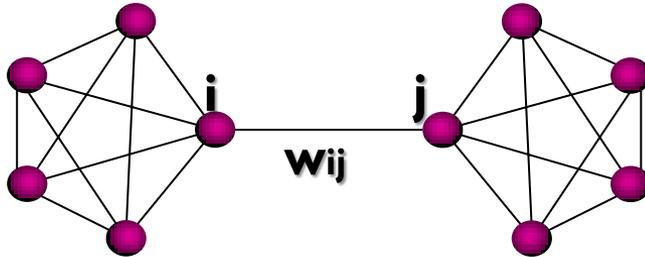
- Can be used to multiply vectors.
- Vectors that don't rotate but just scale = eigenvectors.
- Scaling factor = eigenvalue

$$A : \mathbb{R}^n \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^n$$

$$Ax = \mu x$$

Amazing how this point of view gives information about graph

"Listen" to the Graph



Adjacency matrix

A =

i		w_{ij}			

List of eigenvalues

$\{\mu_1 \geq \mu_2 \geq \dots \geq \mu_n\}$: graph SPECTRUM

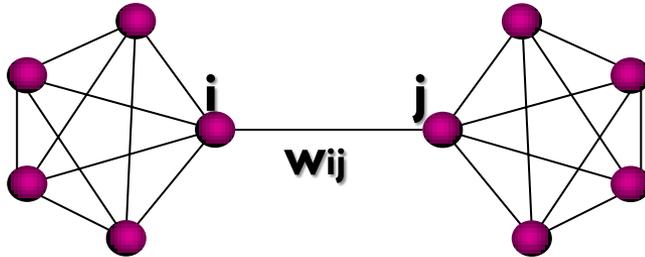
Eigenvalues reveal **global** graph properties
not apparent from edge structure

A drum:

Hear shape of the drum



"Listen" to the Graph



Adjacency matrix

A =

i		w _{ij}			

List of eigenvalues

$\{\mu_1 \geq \mu_2 \geq \dots \geq \mu_n\}$: graph SPECTRUM

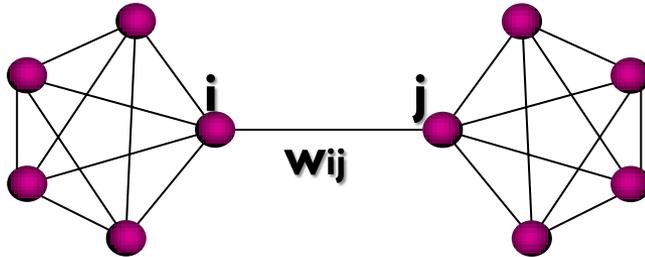
Eigenvalues reveal **global** graph properties
not apparent from edge structure

Hear shape of the drum

Its sound:



"Listen" to the Graph



Adjacency matrix

$A =$

i		W_{ij}			

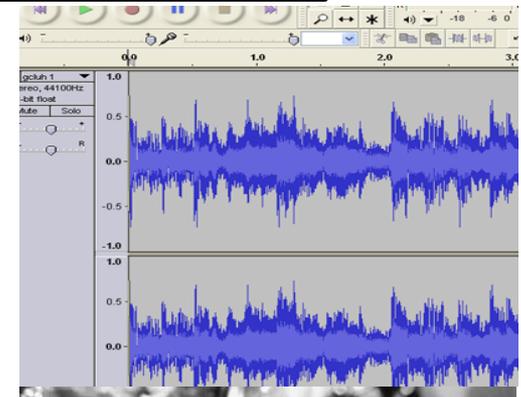
List of eigenvalues

$\{\mu_1 \geq \mu_2 \geq \dots \geq \mu_n\}$: graph SPECTRUM

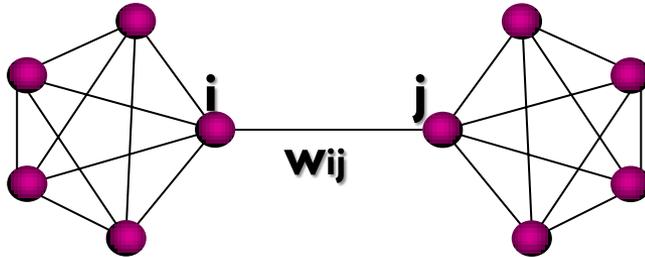
Eigenvalues reveal **global** graph properties
not apparent from edge structure

Hear shape of the drum

Its sound
(eigenfrequencies):



“Listen” to the Graph



Adjacency matrix

$A =$

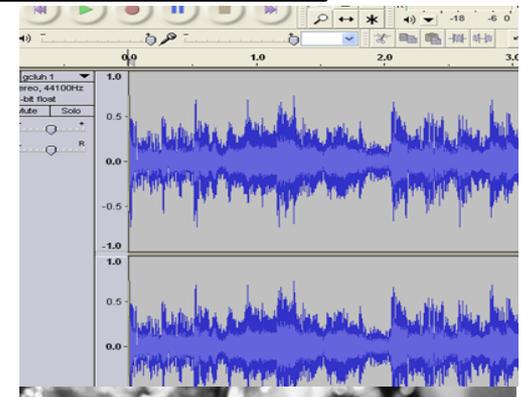
i		w_{ij}			

List of eigenvalues

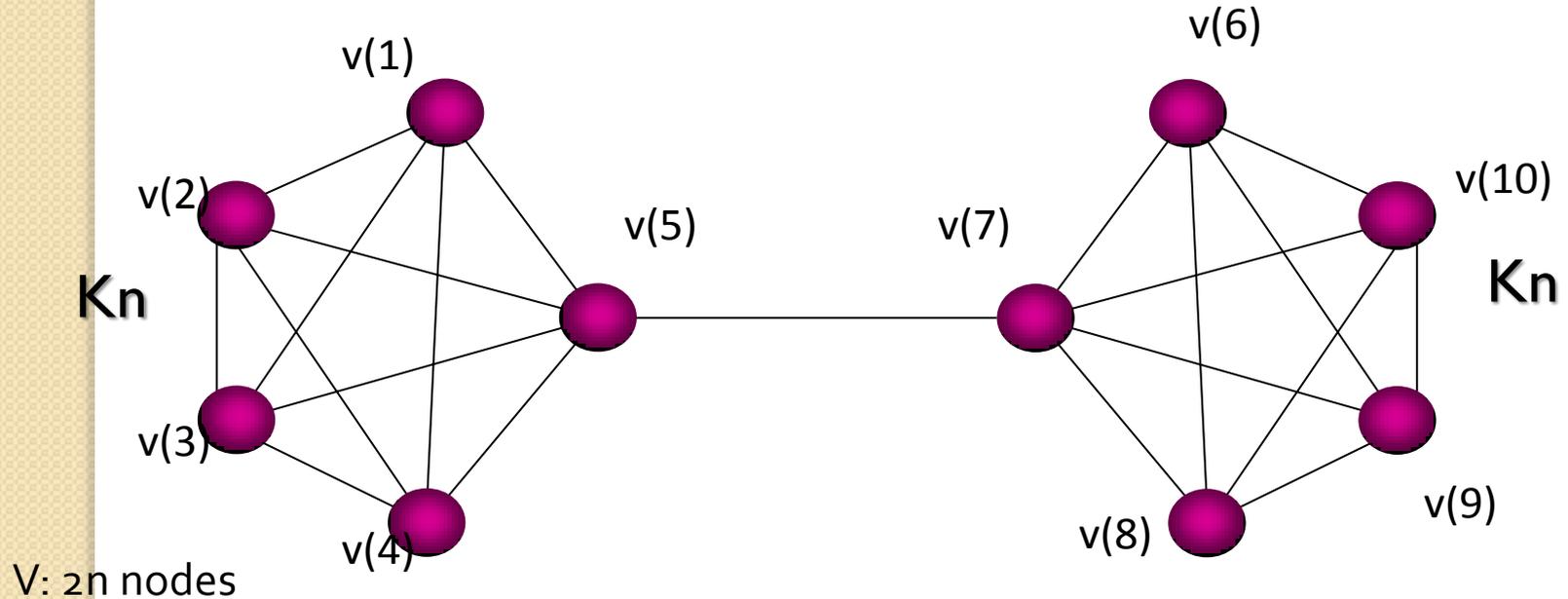
$\{\mu_1 \geq \mu_2 \geq \dots \geq \mu_n\}$: graph SPECTRUM

Eigenvalues reveal **global** graph properties
not apparent from edge structure

If graph was a drum,
spectrum would be its **sound**



Eigenvectors are Functions on Graph



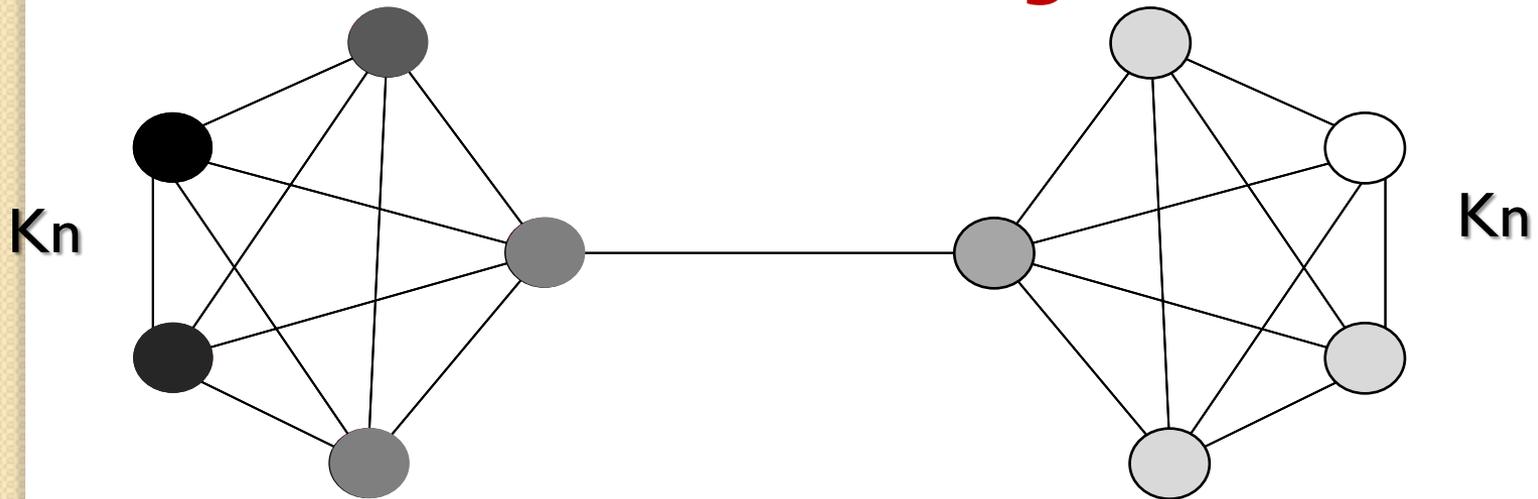
$$v \in \mathfrak{R}^n, \quad v: V \rightarrow \mathfrak{R}$$

$$Av = \mu v$$

$$v(i) = \text{value at node } i$$

Eigenvectors are Functions on Graph

“Coloring”



V : $2n$ nodes

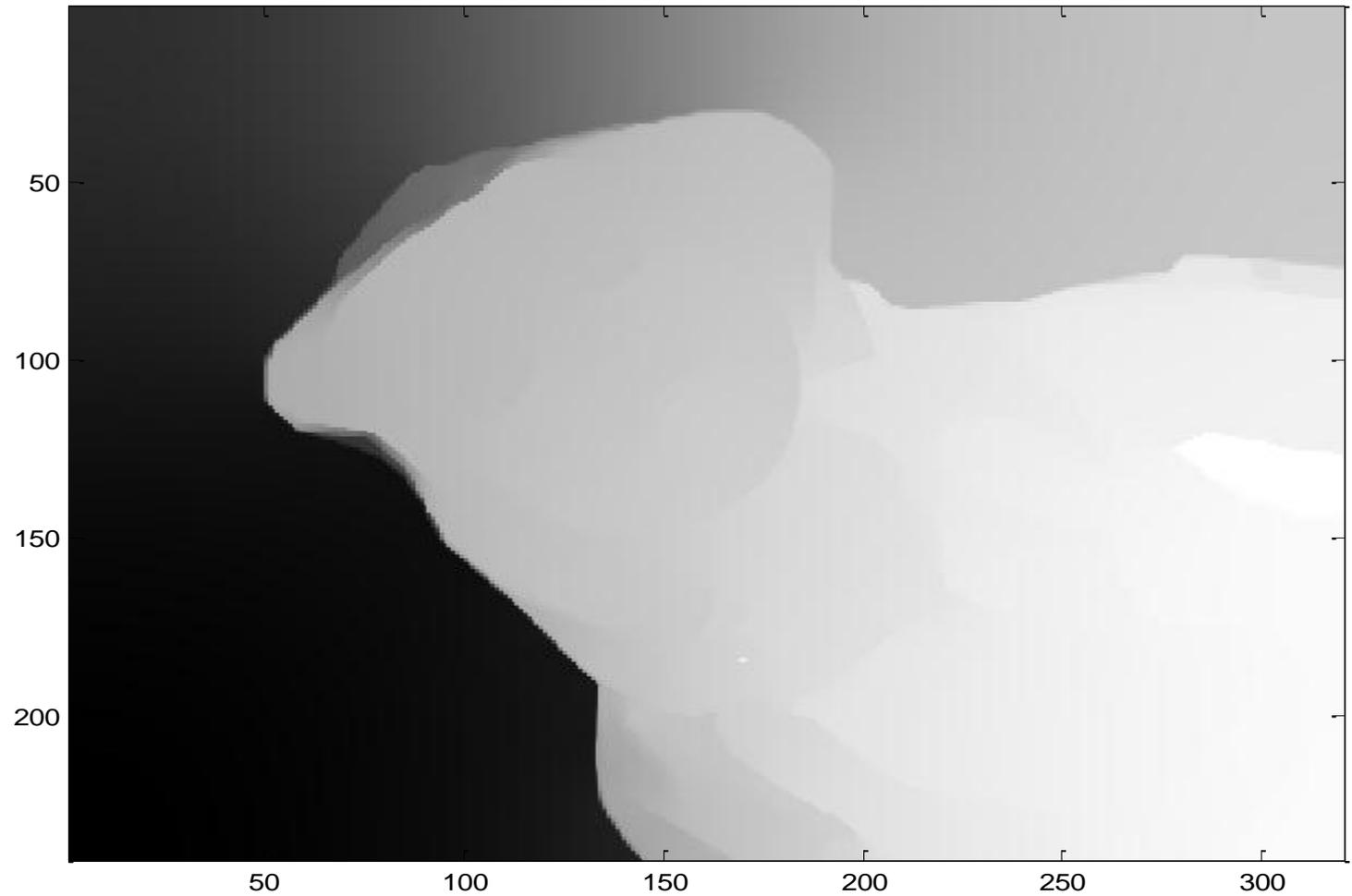
$$v \in \mathfrak{R}^n, \quad v: V \rightarrow \mathfrak{R} \quad Av = \mu v$$

$v(i)$ = value at node i  different shade of grey

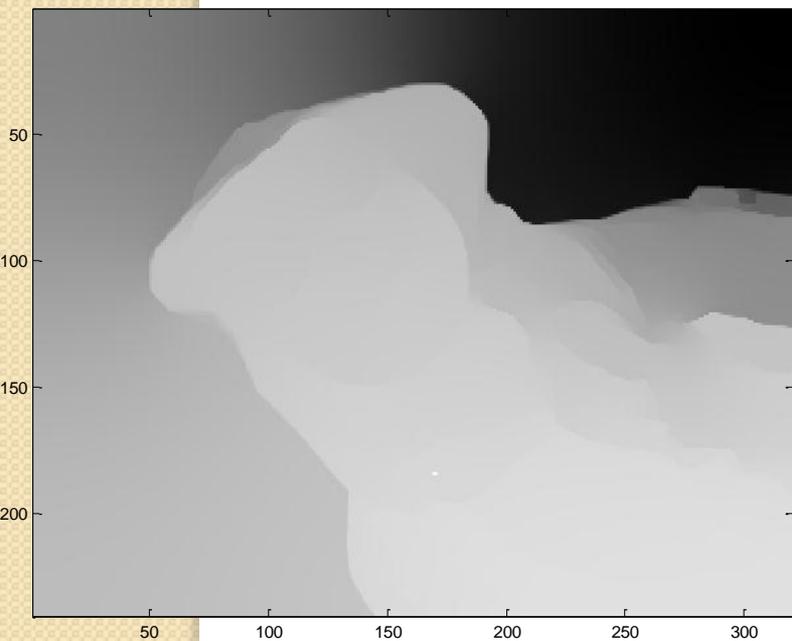
So, let's See the Eigenvectors



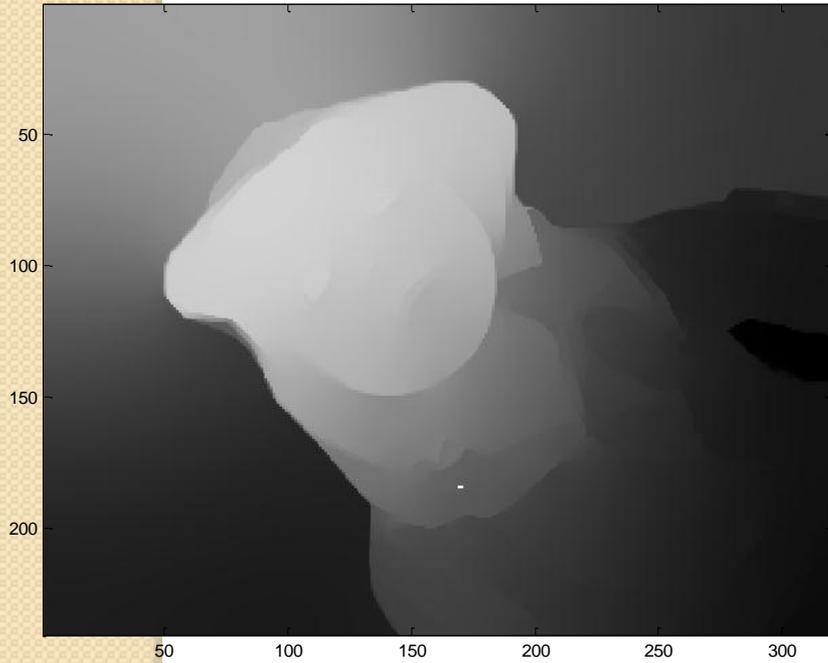
The second eigenvector



Third Eigenvector



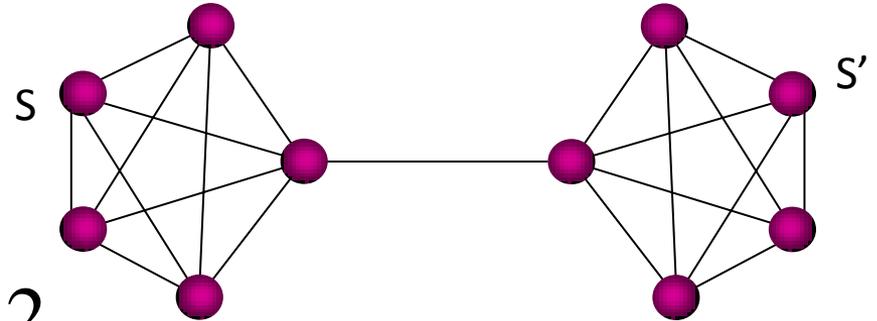
Fourth Eigenvector



Cuts and Algebraic Connectivity

Cuts in a graph:

$$\text{cut}(S, S') = \frac{E(S, S')}{|S|}, |S| \leq n/2$$

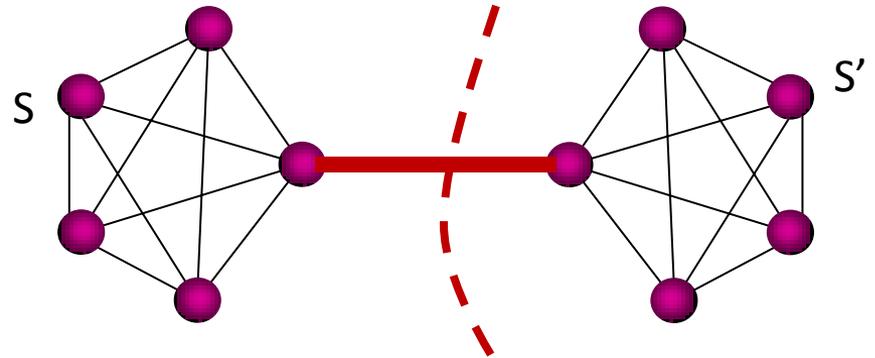


Graph not well-connected when “easily” cut in two pieces

Cuts and eigenvalues

Edge-expansion:

$$h(G) = \min_{S: |S| \leq n/2} \frac{E(S, \bar{S})}{|S|}$$



Graph not well-connected when “easily” cut in two pieces

Would like to know Sparsest Cut but NP
hard to find

How does algebraic connectivity relate to standard connectivity?

Theorem(Cheeger-Alon-Milman): $\lambda_2 \leq h(G) \leq \sqrt{2d_{\max}} \sqrt{\lambda_2}$

Today

- More on eectors and evalues.
- Evalues of d -regular graphs.
- Relation between eigenvalues and expansion (Cheeger, part 1).

A Remark on Notation

For convenience, we will often use the bra-ket notation for vectors:

- We denote vector $v = \begin{pmatrix} v_1 \\ \dots \\ v_n \end{pmatrix}$ with a "bra": $|v\rangle$
- We denote the transpose vector $v^T = (v_1 \quad \dots \quad v_n)$ with a "ket": $\langle v|$
- We denote the inner product $v^T u$ between two vectors v and u with a "bracket": $\langle v|u\rangle = \langle v, u\rangle$

Eectors and Evalues

- Vector v is evector of matrix M with evalue λ if $Mv=\lambda v$.
- We are interested (almost always) in symmetric matrices, for which the following special properties hold:
 - If v_1, v_2 are eectors of A with evalues λ_1, λ_2 and $\lambda_1 \neq \lambda_2$, then v_1 is orthogonal to v_2 . (Proof)
 - If v_1, v_2 are eectors of A with the same evalue λ , then v_1+v_2 is as well. The multiplicity of evalue λ is the dimension of the space of eectors with evalue λ .
 - Can assume that eigenvectors have unit length, since every multiple of an eigenvector is also an eigenvector.

Evectors and Evalues

- Generally,
 $Mv = \lambda v \Rightarrow (M - \lambda I)v = 0 \Rightarrow \det(M - \lambda I) = 0.$
- The determinant is an n-degree polynomial and has n roots, counting multiplicities.
- Every n-by-n symmetric matrix has n evalues $\{\lambda_1 \leq \dots \leq \lambda_n\}$ counting multiplicities, and an orthonormal basis of corresponding evectors $\{v_1, \dots, v_n\}$, so that $Mv_i = \lambda_i v_i$
- If we let V be the matrix whose i-th column is v_i , and D the diagonal matrix whose i-th diagonal is λ_i , we can compactly write $MV=VD$. Multiplying by V^T on the right, we obtain the eigendecomposition of M:

$$M = MV V^T = VD V^T = \sum_i \lambda_i v_i v_i^T$$

Some eigenvalue theorems

- **Theorem 1.** Let $M \in R^{n \times n}$ symmetric.
Then $\lambda_1 = \max_{x \in R^n, \|x\|=1} \{x^T M x\}$, where
 $x^T M x = \sum_{i,j} x(i)x(j)M(i,j)$.
- Similarly, $\lambda_2 = \max_{x \in R^n, \|x\|=1, x \perp x_1} \{x^T M x\}$
- $\max\{|\lambda_2|, \dots, |\lambda_n|\} = \max_{x \in R^n, \|x\|=1} \{|x^T M x|\}$

Some eigenvalue theorems

- **Theorem 2.** Let G be a d -regular graph and M its adjacency matrix. Let $\lambda_1, \lambda_2, \dots, \lambda_n$ be its eigenvalues and x_1, x_2, \dots, x_n the corresponding eigenvectors. Then $\lambda_1 = d$. Moreover, $x_1 = (1, \dots, 1)$.

Eigenvalues and connectivity

- **Theorem 2'**. Let G be a d -regular graph and M its adjacency matrix. Let $\lambda_1, \lambda_2, \dots, \lambda_n$ be its eigenvalues and x_1, x_2, \dots, x_n the corresponding eigenvectors. Then $\lambda_1 = d$. If $\lambda_2 = d$ then the graph is disconnected. The converse is also true (ex). Alternatively, $h(G) = 0$ iff $\lambda_2 = d$.
- Generally, the more connected the graph is, the smaller λ_2 is.

Eigenvalues and expansion

- **Cheeger's Inequality:**

$$\frac{d - \lambda_2}{2} \leq h(G) \leq \sqrt{d(d - \lambda_2)}$$

- Both upper and lower bounds are tight (up to constant), as seen by path graph and complete binary tree.