



# CS 598: Spectral Graph Theory. Lecture 18

Graph Sparsification by  
Effective Resistances

Alexandra Kolla

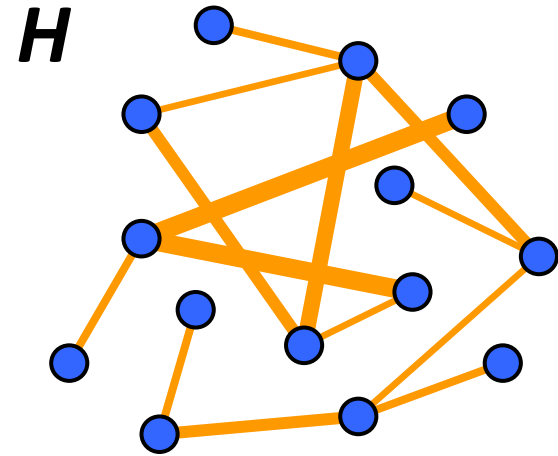
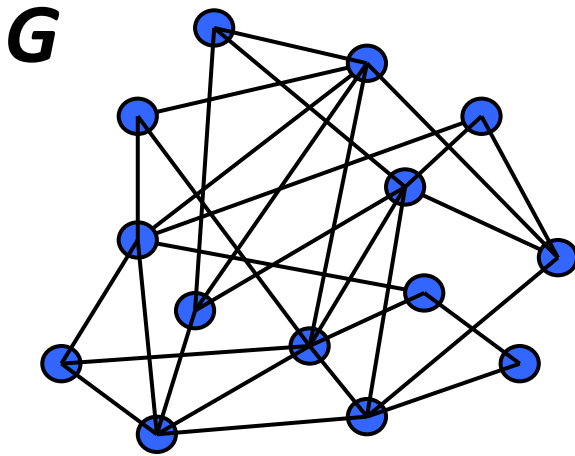
# Today

- Graph approximations.
- Sparsifiers for all graphs.
- Approximating a Projection Operator.
- Matrix Chernoff Bounds.

# Sparsification

Approximate graph  $G$  by sparse graph  $H$

[BK'96],[ST'04],[SS'08],[BSS'09]



$H$  is faster to compute with than  $G$

*Can be used as proxy for  $G$  in computations*

What kind of approximation?

# Graphic Inequalities

- In Lecture 4, we defined

$$G \succcurlyeq H \quad \text{if} \quad L_G \succcurlyeq L_H$$

Or, equivalently,  $v^T L_G v \geq v^T L_H v$  for all  $v$

- We say that  $G$  is an  $\epsilon$  – approximation of  $H$  if

$$(1 - \epsilon)H \preccurlyeq G \preccurlyeq (1 + \epsilon)H$$

# Approximations of the Complete Graph

- Let  $G$  be a  $d$ -regular graph whose adjacency eigenvalues satisfy  $|\alpha_i| \leq \epsilon d$ .
- As its Laplacian eigenvalues satisfy  $\lambda_i = d - \alpha_i$ , all non-zero eigenvalues are between  $(1 - \epsilon)d$  and  $(1 + \epsilon)d$ .
- This means that for all  $x$  orthogonal to the all-one's vector

$$(1 - \epsilon)dx^T x \preceq x^T L_G x \preceq (1 + \epsilon)dx^T x$$

$$(1 - \epsilon)\frac{d}{n}K_n \preceq G \preceq (1 + \epsilon)\frac{d}{n}K_n$$

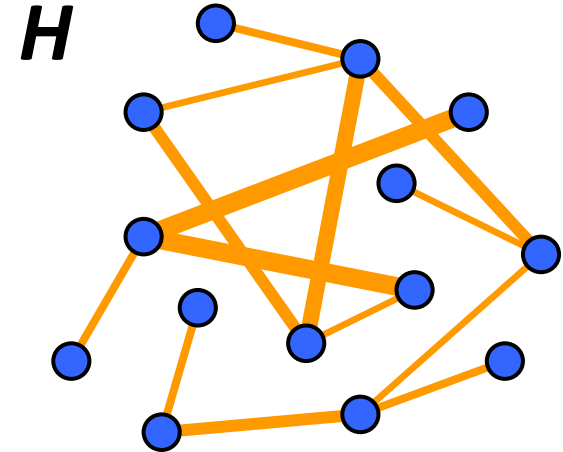
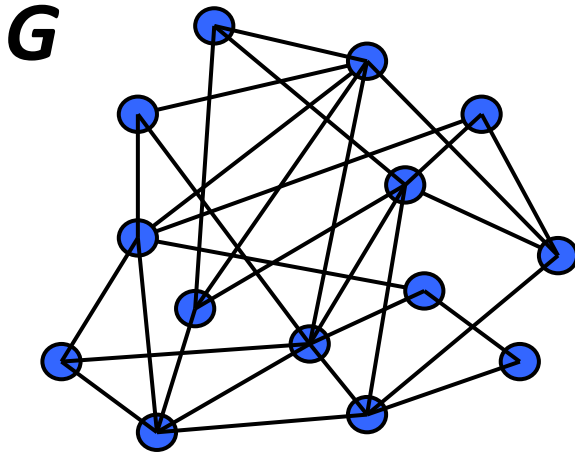
$$\text{For } \epsilon \geq \frac{2}{\sqrt{d}}$$

# Sparsification

- We can approximate a graph with  $O(n^2)$  edges (complete graph) by a graph with  $O(dn)$  edges (expander).
- Today: In general, we can  $\epsilon$ -approximate any graph with another graph that has  $O(\epsilon^{-2}n \log n)$  edges. (can be improved to  $O(\epsilon^{-2}n)$  edges)

# Sparsification

Approximate any graph  $G$  by sparse graph  $H!!!$



- $H$  is faster to compute with than  $G$
- Eigenvalues of  $H$  and  $G$  are similar
- Boundaries of all sets are similar (cuts)
- Effective Resistances are similar
- Solutions of linear equations in the two Laplacians are similar.

# Motivation: Linear System Solving

- Want to solve  $Ax = b$
- Assume  $(1 - \epsilon)A \preceq B \preceq (1 + \epsilon)A$
- B is easier to work with (sparser) than A
- $B^{-1}Ax = B^{-1}b \approx Ix = x$



# Sparsification Plan

- Start with empty graph
- We will randomly sample edges:
- Create probability distribution over edges  $p_e$ , repeatedly use this to choose edges and add to the graph
- If we include an edge, add it with weight  $1/p_e$ .
- $\sum p_e = 1$
- Repeat  $q$  times, for some  $q$  tbd.

# Sparsification Plan

- Equivalently to independently sampling matrices  $R_i, i = 1, \dots, q$  such that

$$R_i = \frac{1}{p_e} L_e \text{ with probability } p_e.$$

- $E(R_i) = \sum_e \frac{1}{p_e} p_e L_e = L = L_G$
- Our sparsifier at the end is:

$$L_H = \frac{1}{q} \sum_{i=1 \text{ to } q} R_i$$

# Sparsification Plan

- $E(L_H) = \frac{1}{q} \sum_{i=1 \text{ to } q} E(R_i) = L_G$
- We need to show that it is close with high probability. Would be true if we had real values random variables, but don't know what happens with matrix values R.V.

# A Transformation

- H is an epsilon approximation of G iff

$$(1 - \epsilon)x^T L_G x \preceq x^T L_H x \preceq (1 + \epsilon)x^T L_G x$$

$$(1 - \epsilon)G \preceq H \preceq (1 + \epsilon)G \Rightarrow$$

$$- \epsilon G \preceq H - G \preceq \epsilon G \Rightarrow$$

$$- \epsilon L_G \preceq L_G - L_H \preceq \epsilon L_G \Rightarrow$$

$$- \epsilon \Pi \preceq \Pi - L_G^{-1/2} L_H L_G^{-1/2} \preceq \epsilon \Pi \Rightarrow$$

$$\left\| L_G^{-1/2} L_H L_G^{-1/2} - \Pi \right\| \leq \epsilon$$

# A Transformation

$$\left\| L_G^{-1/2} L_H L_G^{-1/2} - \Pi \right\| \leq \epsilon$$

Where  $\Pi$  is projection orthogonal to the nullspace.

$$\begin{aligned} E \left( L_G^{-\frac{1}{2}} L_H L_G^{-\frac{1}{2}} \right) \\ = \frac{1}{q} \sum_{i=1 \text{ to } q} E \left( L_G^{-\frac{1}{2}} R_i L_G^{-\frac{1}{2}} \right) = L_G^{-\frac{1}{2}} L_G L_G^{-\frac{1}{2}} = \Pi \end{aligned}$$

# A Transformation

New plan is to sample matrices from

$$M_i = L_G^{-\frac{1}{2}} R_i L_G^{-\frac{1}{2}}$$

With some probability such that at the end, we get a matrix

$$M = \frac{1}{q} \sum \frac{1}{p_e} M_i$$

Which approximates the “identity”, in the sense that is it close w.h.p to  $E(M) = \Pi$

# Choosing the Probabilities

$$M = \frac{1}{q} \sum \frac{1}{p_e} M_i$$

Choose probabilities to be proportional to effective resistances.

$$\begin{aligned} p_e &= \frac{1}{n-1} \left\| L_G^{-\frac{1}{2}} L_e L_G^{-\frac{1}{2}} \right\| = \frac{1}{n-1} b_e^T L_G^{-1} b_e \\ &= \frac{1}{n-1} R_{eff}(e) \end{aligned}$$

- Norm of each matrix  $\|M_i / p_e\| = n - 1$

# Matrix Chernoff Bound

**Theorem.** Let  $\Pi$  be a projection matrix and  $M$  be a random psd matrix such that  $E(M) = \Pi$  and  $\|M\| \leq v$ . Let  $M_1, \dots, M_q$  be i.i.d from  $M$ . Then, for every  $\epsilon > 0$

$$\Pr \left[ \left\| \frac{1}{q} \sum_i M_i - \Pi \right\| \geq \epsilon \right] \leq 2ne^{-\epsilon^2 q / 4v}$$

Finish the result by taking

$$q = 5n \ln(2n) / \epsilon^2 \text{ and observing that } v = n - 1$$



# Matrix Chernoff Bound

**Theorem.** Let  $\Pi$  be a projection matrix and  $M$  be a random psd matrix such that  $E(M) = \Pi$  and  $\|M\| \leq \nu$ . Let  $M_1, \dots, M_q$  be i.i.d from  $M$ . Then, for every  $\epsilon > 0$

$$\Pr \left[ \left\| \frac{1}{q} \sum_i M_i - \Pi \right\| \geq \epsilon \right] \leq 2ne^{-\epsilon^2 q/4\nu}$$

Recall that for i.i.d mean- $\mu$  bounded variables:

$$\Pr[|\sum_i X_i - n\mu| \geq \epsilon n] \leq 2e^{-\epsilon^2 n / \sum (a_i - b_i)^2}$$