# **Randomised Algorithms**

Lecture 11-12: Spectral Graph Theory and Clustering

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Lent 2022

#### Introduction to (Spectral) Graph Theory and Clustering

Matrices, Spectrum and Structure

A Simplified Clustering Problem

Conductance, Cheeger's Inequality and Spectral Clustering

Illustrations of Spectral Clustering and Extension to Non-Regular Graphs

**Relating Spectrum to Mixing Times** 

Outlook: Glimpse at Image Segmentation (non-examinable)



Source: Wikipedia

#### Seven Bridges at Königsberg 1737









### **Graphs Nowadays: Clustering**



### **Graphs Nowadays: Clustering**



### **Graphs Nowadays: Clustering**



**Goal:** Use spectrum of graphs (unstructured data) to extract clustering (communities) or other structural information.

- Applications of Graph Clustering
  - Community detection
  - Group webpages according to their topics
  - Find proteins performing the same function within a cell
  - Image segmentation
  - Identify bottlenecks in a network
  - • •

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(there is no ground truth (usually), and we cannot learn from mistakes!)

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### **Graphs and Matrices**







- Connectivity
- Bipartiteness
- Number of triangles
- Graph Clustering
- Graph isomorphism
- Maximum Flow
- Shortest Paths
- . . .

#### Matrices

/0	1	0	1\
1	0	1	0
0	1	0	1
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- Eigenvalues
- Eigenvectors
- Inverse
- Determinant
- Matrix-powers
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#### Graphs



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# **Adjacency Matrix**

Adjacency matrix Let G = (V, E) be an undirected graph. The adjacency matrix of G is the n by n matrix **A** defined as  $\mathbf{A}_{u,v} = \begin{cases} 1 & \text{if } \{u, v\} \in E \\ 0 & \text{otherwise.} \end{cases}$ 

# **Adjacency Matrix**



# **Adjacency Matrix**





Properties of **A**:

- The sum of elements in each row/column *i* equals the degree of the corresponding vertex *i*, deg(*i*)
- Since G is undirected, A is symmetric

Eigenvalues and Eigenvectors -

Let  $\mathbf{M} \in \mathbb{R}^{n \times n}$ ,  $\lambda \in \mathbb{C}$  is an eigenvalue of  $\mathbf{M}$  if and only if there exists  $x \in \mathbb{R}^n \setminus \{\mathbf{0}\}$  such that

$$\mathbf{M}\mathbf{X} = \lambda \mathbf{X}.$$

We call x an eigenvector of **M** corresponding to the eigenvalue  $\lambda$ .

Eigenvalues and Eigenvectors \_\_\_\_\_\_

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Graph Spectrum -

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Graph Spectrum Graph Spectrum Let A be the adjacency matrix of a *d*-regular graph *G* with *n* vertices. Then, A has *n* real eigenvalues  $\lambda_1 \leq \cdots \leq \lambda_n$  and *n* corresponding orthonormal eigenvectors  $f_1, \ldots, f_n$ . These eigenvalues associated with their multiplicities constitute the spectrum of *G*. - Eigenvalues and Eigenvectors

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For symmetric matrices: algebraic multiplicity = geometric multiplicity



Exercise: What are the Eigenvalues and Eigenvectors?



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$$\mathbf{A} = \begin{pmatrix} 0 & 1 & 1 \\ 1 & 0 & 1 \\ 1 & 1 & 0 \end{pmatrix}$$

## Exercise 1





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## **Exercise 1**



Solution:

- The three eigenvalues are  $\lambda_1 = \lambda_2 = -1, \lambda_3 = 2$ .
- The three eigenvectors are (for example):

$$f_1 = \begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ 0 \\ -1 \end{pmatrix}, \quad f_2 = \begin{pmatrix} -\frac{1}{2} \\ 1 \\ -\frac{1}{2} \end{pmatrix}, \quad f_3 = \begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ 1 \\ 1 \end{pmatrix}.$$

## Laplacian Matrix

Laplacian Matrix \_\_\_\_\_

Let G = (V, E) be a *d*-regular undirected graph. The (normalised) Laplacian matrix of G is the *n* by *n* matrix L defined as

$$\mathbf{L} = \mathbf{I} - \frac{1}{d}\mathbf{A},$$

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Laplacian Matrix ——

$$\begin{array}{c|ccccc} 1 & -1/2 & 0 & -1/2 \\ \hline \\ 4 & \hline \\ 4 & \hline \\ \end{array} \right) \qquad \qquad \mathbf{L} = \begin{pmatrix} 1 & -1/2 & 0 & -1/2 \\ -1/2 & 1 & -1/2 & 0 \\ 0 & -1/2 & 1 & -1/2 \\ -1/2 & 0 & -1/2 & 1 \end{pmatrix}$$

Properties of L:

- The sum of elements in each row/column equals zero
- L is symmetric

## **Relating Spectrum of Adjacency Matrix and Laplacian Matrix**

Correspondence between Adjacency and Laplacian Matrix -

A and L have the same eigenvectors.
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Proof:

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• Let  $\lambda$  and f be an eigenvalue and eigenvector of **A**, i.e.,  $\mathbf{A} \cdot f = \lambda \cdot f$ .

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$$\mathbf{L} \cdot f = \left(\mathbf{I} - \frac{1}{d}\mathbf{A}\right) \cdot f$$

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$$\mathbf{L} \cdot f = \left(\mathbf{I} - \frac{1}{d}\mathbf{A}\right) \cdot f$$
$$= \mathbf{I} \cdot f - \frac{1}{d}\mathbf{A} \cdot f$$

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• Let  $\lambda$  and f be an eigenvalue and eigenvector of **A**, i.e.,  $\mathbf{A} \cdot f = \lambda \cdot f$ .

Then:

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$$= \mathbf{I} \cdot \mathbf{f} - \frac{1}{d}\mathbf{A} \cdot \mathbf{f}$$
$$= \mathbf{f} - \frac{1}{d}\lambda \cdot \mathbf{f}$$
$$= \left(1 - \frac{\lambda}{d}\right) \cdot \mathbf{f}.$$

• Hence  $(1 - \frac{\lambda}{d}, f)$  is an eigenvalue and eigenvector pair of L.



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Graph Spectrum -
```

Let L be the Laplacian matrix of a *d*-regular graph *G* with *n* vertices. Then, L has *n* real eigenvalues  $\lambda_1 \leq \cdots \leq \lambda_n$  and *n* corresponding orthonormal eigenvectors  $f_1, \ldots, f_n$ . - Lemma

Let **L** be the Laplacian matrix of an undirected, regular graph G = (V, E) with eigenvalues  $\lambda_1 \leq \cdots \leq \lambda_n$ .

- 1.  $\lambda_1 = 0$  with eigenvector **1**
- 2. the multiplicity of the eigenvalue 0 is equal to the number of connected components in *G*

# Let **L** be the Laplacian matrix of an undirected, regular graph G = (V, E)with eigenvalues $\lambda_1 \leq \cdots \leq \lambda_n$ . 1. $\lambda_1 = 0$ with eigenvector **1**

- 2. the multiplicity of the eigenvalue 0 is equal to the number of connected components in *G*
- 3.  $\lambda_n \leq 2$
- 4.  $\lambda_n = 2$  iff there exists a bipartite connected component.



The proof of these properties is based on a powerful characterisation of eigenvalues/vectors!

Courant-Fischer Min-Max Formula Let **M** be an *n* by *n* symmetric matrix with eigenvalues  $\lambda_1 \leq \cdots \leq \lambda_n$ . Then,  $\lambda_k = \min_{\substack{x^{(1)}, \dots, x^{(k)} \in \mathbb{R}^n \setminus \{\mathbf{0}\}, \ i \in \{1, \dots, k\}}} \max_{\substack{x^{(i)}^T \mathbf{M} x^{(i)} \\ \mathbf{X}^{(i)} \perp x^{(i)}}} \frac{\mathbf{M} x^{(i)}}{\mathbf{X}^{(i)}}.$ The eigenvectors corresponding to  $\lambda_1, \dots, \lambda_k$  minimise such expression. Courant-Fischer Min-Max Formula Let **M** be an *n* by *n* symmetric matrix with eigenvalues  $\lambda_1 \leq \cdots \leq \lambda_n$ . Then,  $\lambda_k = \min_{\substack{x^{(1)}, \dots, x^{(k)} \in \mathbb{R}^n \setminus \{\mathbf{0}\}, \\ x^{(i)} \perp x^{(j)}}} \max_{i \in \{1, \dots, k\}} \frac{x^{(i)^T} \mathbf{M} x^{(i)}}{x^{(i)^T} x^{(i)}}.$ The eigenvectors corresponding to  $\lambda_1, \dots, \lambda_k$  minimise such expression.

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$$\lambda_{2} = \min_{\substack{x \in \mathbb{R}^{n} \setminus \{\mathbf{0}\} \\ x \perp f_{1}}} \frac{x^{T} \mathbf{M} x}{x^{T} x}$$

minimised by f2

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#### **Quadratic Forms of the Laplacian**

- Lemma -

Let **L** be the Laplacian matrix of a *d*-regular graph G = (V, E) with *n* vertices. For any  $x \in \mathbb{R}^n$ ,

$$x^T \mathsf{L} x = \sum_{\{u,v\}\in E} \frac{(x_u - x_v)^2}{d}.$$

#### **Quadratic Forms of the Laplacian**

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Proof:

$$\begin{aligned} x^T \mathbf{L} x &= x^T \left( \mathbf{I} - \frac{1}{d} \mathbf{A} \right) x = x^T x - \frac{1}{d} x^T \mathbf{A} x \\ &= \sum_{u \in V} x_u^2 - \frac{2}{d} \sum_{\{u,v\} \in E} x_u x_v \\ &= \frac{1}{d} \sum_{\{u,v\} \in E} (x_u^2 + x_v^2 - 2x_u x_v) \\ &= \sum_{\{u,v\} \in E} \frac{(x_u - x_v)^2}{d}. \end{aligned}$$











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Exercise: What are the Eigenvectors with Eigenvalue 0 of L?



## Exercise 2 Exercise: What are the Eigenvectors with Eigenvalue 0 of L? $\mathbf{A} = \begin{pmatrix} 0 & 1 & 1 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 1 & 0 & 1 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 1 & 1 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 1 & 0 & 1 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 1 & 0 & 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 1 & 0 & 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 1 & 0 & 1 & 0 \end{pmatrix}$ $\mathbf{L} = \begin{pmatrix} 1 & -\frac{1}{2} & -\frac{1}{2} & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ -\frac{1}{2} & 1 & -\frac{1}{2} & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ -\frac{1}{2} & -\frac{1}{2} & 1 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 1 & -\frac{1}{2} & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & -\frac{1}{2} & 1 & -\frac{1}{2} \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & -\frac{1}{2} & 1 \\ \end{pmatrix}$ 0 0 $-\frac{1}{2}$ 0 6 2 3 7 $-\frac{1}{2}$ 0 0

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$$\mathbf{L} = \begin{pmatrix} 1 & -\frac{1}{2} & -\frac{1}{2} & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ -\frac{1}{2} & 1 & -\frac{1}{2} & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ -\frac{1}{2} & -\frac{1}{2} & 1 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 1 & -\frac{1}{2} & 0 & -\frac{1}{2} \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & -\frac{1}{2} & 1 & -\frac{1}{2} \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & -\frac{1}{2} & 1 & -\frac{1}{2} \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & -\frac{1}{2} & 0 & -\frac{1}{2} & 1 \end{pmatrix}$$

Solution:

2

3

- The two smallest eigenvalues are λ<sub>1</sub> = λ<sub>2</sub> = 0.
- The corresponding two eigenvectors are:

$$f_1 = \begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ 1 \\ 0 \\ 0 \\ 0 \\ 0 \end{pmatrix}, \quad f_2 = \begin{pmatrix} 0 \\ 0 \\ 1 \\ 1 \\ 1 \\ 1 \end{pmatrix}$$

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Clustering © Thomas Sauerwald

A Simplified Clustering Problem

 $\begin{array}{c}
 0 \\
 0 \\
 -\frac{1}{2} \\
 0
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1
# Exercise 2 Exercise: What are the Eigenvectors with Eigenvalue 0 of L? $\mathbf{A} = \begin{pmatrix} 0 & 1 & 1 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 1 & 0 & 1 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 1 & 1 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 1 & 0 & 1 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 1 & 0 & 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 1 & 0 & 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 1 & 0 & 1 & 0 \end{pmatrix}$ $\mathbf{L} = \begin{pmatrix} 1 & -\frac{1}{2} & -\frac{1}{2} & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ -\frac{1}{2} & 1 & -\frac{1}{2} & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ -\frac{1}{2} & -\frac{1}{2} & 1 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 1 & -\frac{1}{2} & 0 & -\frac{1}{2} \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & -\frac{1}{2} & 1 & -\frac{1}{2} \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & -\frac{1}{2} & 1 & -\frac{1}{2} \end{pmatrix}$ 6 2 3 Solution: • The two smallest eigenvalues are $\lambda_1 = \lambda_2 = 0$ . Thus we can easily solve the simpli-The corresponding two eigenvectors are: fied clustering problem by computing the eigenvectors with eigenvalue 0 $f_1 = \begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ 1 \\ 0 \\ 0 \end{bmatrix}, \quad f_2 = \begin{bmatrix} 0 \\ 0 \\ 1 \\ 1 \end{bmatrix}$ Next section: A fine-grained approach works even if the clusters are sparsely connected!

Let us generalise and formalise the example before!

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Proof of 2 (multiplicity of 0 equals the no. of connected components):

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1. (" $\Longrightarrow$ "  $cc(G) \le mult(0)$ ). We will show: G has exactly k connected comp.  $C_1, \ldots, C_k \Rightarrow \lambda_1 = \cdots = \lambda_k = 0$ 

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- Clearly, the  $\chi_{C_i}$ 's are orthogonal

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- 1. (" $\Longrightarrow$ "  $cc(G) \le mult(0)$ ). We will show: *G* has exactly *k* connected comp.  $C_1, \ldots, C_k \Rightarrow \lambda_1 = \cdots = \lambda_k = 0$ <sup>a</sup> Take  $\chi_{C_i} \in \{0, 1\}^n$  such that  $\chi_{C_i}(u) = \mathbf{1}_{u \in C_i}$  for all  $u \in V$ 
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#### Conductance, Cheeger's Inequality and Spectral Clustering

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**Relating Spectrum to Mixing Times** 

Outlook: Glimpse at Image Segmentation (non-examinable)

## **Graph Clustering**

Partition the graph into **pieces (clusters)** so that vertices in the same piece have, on average, more connections among each other than with vertices in other clusters



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Moreover, the conductance (edge expansion) of the graph G is

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- φ(G) ∈ [0, 1] and φ(G) = 0 iff G is disconnected
- If G is a complete graph, then  $e(S, V \setminus S) = |S| \cdot (n - |S|)$  and  $\phi(G) \approx 1/2$ .



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## G is disconnected



## $\phi(G) = 0 \iff G$ is disconnected



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What is the relationship between  $\phi(G)$ and  $\lambda_2(G)$  for **connected** graphs?

## $\lambda_2$ versus Conductance (2/2)



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Clustering © Thomas Sauerwald

Conductance, Cheeger's Inequality and Spectral Clustering

## Relating $\lambda_2$ and Conductance

#### Cheeger's inequality -

Let *G* be a *d*-regular undirected graph and  $\lambda_1 \leq \cdots \leq \lambda_n$  be the eigenvalues of its Laplacian matrix. Then,

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- very fast: can be implemented in  $O(|E| \log |E|)$  time

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• Let  $S \subseteq V$  be the subset for which  $\phi(G)$  is minimised. Define  $y \in \mathbb{R}^n$  by:

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Since  $y \perp 1$ , it follows that

$$\begin{split} \lambda_2 &\leq \frac{1}{d} \cdot \frac{\sum_{u \sim v} (y_u - y_v)^2}{\sum_u y_u^2} = \frac{1}{d} \cdot \frac{|E(S, V \setminus S)| \cdot \left(\frac{1}{|S|} + \frac{1}{|V \setminus S|}\right)^2}{\frac{1}{|S|} + \frac{1}{|V \setminus S|}} \\ &= \frac{1}{d} \cdot |E(S, V \setminus S)| \cdot \left(\frac{1}{|S|} + \frac{1}{|V \setminus S|}\right) \\ &\leq \frac{1}{d} \cdot \frac{2 \cdot |E(S, V \setminus S)|}{|S|} = 2 \cdot \phi(G). \quad \Box \end{split}$$

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$$\mathbf{A} = \begin{pmatrix} 0 & 0 & 1 & 1 & 0 & 0 & 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 1 & 1 & 1 & 0 \\ 1 & 0 & 1 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 1 \\ 1 & 0 & 1 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 1 \\ 0 & 1 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 1 & 0 \\ 1 & 1 & 0 & 1 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 & 0 & 1 & 1 & 0 & 0 \end{pmatrix} \quad \mathbf{L} = \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 0 & -\frac{1}{3} & -\frac{1}{3} & 0 & 0 & -\frac{1}{3} & 0 \\ 0 & -\frac{1}{3} & -\frac{1}{3} & -\frac{1}{3} & 0 & 0 & -\frac{1}{3} & 0 \\ -\frac{1}{3} & 0 & -\frac{1}{3} & -\frac{1}{3} & 0 & 0 & 0 & -\frac{1}{3} & 0 \\ 0 & -\frac{1}{3} & 0 & 0 & 1 & -\frac{1}{3} & 0 & 0 & -\frac{1}{3} & 0 \\ 0 & -\frac{1}{3} & 0 & 0 & 1 & -\frac{1}{3} & 0 & -\frac{1}{3} & 0 & -\frac{1}{3} \\ -\frac{1}{3} & -\frac{1}{3} & 0 & 0 & 1 & -\frac{1}{3} & 0 & 0 & 1 \\ -\frac{1}{3} & -\frac{1}{3} & 0 & -\frac{1}{3} & 0 & 0 & 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & -\frac{1}{3} & 0 & -\frac{1}{3} & 0 & 0 & 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & -\frac{1}{3} & 0 & -\frac{1}{3} & 0 & 0 & 1 \end{pmatrix}$$











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Let us now look at an example of a non-regular graph!

The (normalised) Laplacian matrix of G = (V, E, w) is the *n* by *n* matrix

$$L = I - D^{-1/2} A D^{-1/2}$$

where **D** is a diagonal  $n \times n$  matrix s.t.  $\mathbf{D}_{uu} = deg(u) = \sum_{\{u,v\} \in E} w(u, v)$ , and **A** is the weighted adjacency matrix of *G*.

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- $\mathbf{L}_{uv} = \frac{w(u,v)}{\sqrt{d_u d_v}}$  for  $u \neq v$
- L is symmetric
- If G is d-regular,  $\mathbf{L} = \mathbf{I} \frac{1}{d} \cdot \mathbf{A}$ .
# **Conductance and Spectral Clustering (General Version)**

Conductance (General Version) Let G = (V, E, w) and  $\emptyset \subsetneq S \subsetneq V$ . The conductance (edge expansion) of S is  $\phi(S) := \frac{w(S, S^c)}{\min\{\operatorname{vol}(S), \operatorname{vol}(S^c)\}},$ where  $w(S, S^c) := \sum_{u \in S, v \in S^c} w(u, v)$  and  $\operatorname{vol}(S) := \sum_{u \in S} d(u)$ . Moreover, the conductance (edge expansion) of G is  $\phi(G) := \min_{\emptyset \neq S \subsetneq V} \phi(S).$ 

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- 3. Try all n 1 sweep cuts of the form  $(\{1, 2, ..., k\}, \{k + 1, ..., n\})$  and return the one with smallest conductance

Stochastic Block Model 
$$G = (V, E)$$
 with clusters  $S_1, S_2 \subseteq V, 0 \le q 
 $P[\{u, v\} \in E] = \begin{cases} p & \text{if } u, v \in S_i, \\ q & \text{if } u \in S_i, v \in S_j, i \ne j. \end{cases}$$ 

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Number of	Verti	ces	s: 200
Number of	Edges	:	919
Eigenvalue	1	:	-1.1968431479565368e-16
Eigenvalue	2	:	0.1543784937248489
Eigenvalue	3	:	0.37049909753568877
Eigenvalue	4	:	0.39770640242147404
Eigenvalue	5	:	0.4316114413430584
Eigenvalue	6	:	0.44379221120189777
Eigenvalue	7	:	0.4564011652684181
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# **Drawing the 2D-Embedding**



# **Spectral Clustering**

### **Best Solution found by Spectral Clustering**



### **Clustering induced by Blocks**



- Step: 1
- Threshold: 0
- Partition Sizes: 80/120
- Cut Edges: 88
- Conductance: 0.1486

Graph 
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### Additional Example: Stochastic Block Models with 3 Clusters

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 $|V| = 300, |S_i| = 100$   
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#### Spectral embedding



#### **Output of Spectral Clustering**



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small λ<sub>k</sub> means there exist k sparsely connected subsets in the graph (recall: λ<sub>1</sub> = ... = λ<sub>k</sub> = 0 means there are k connected components)

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- For k = 2 use sweep-cut extract clusters. For k ≥ 3 use embedding in k-dimensional space and apply k-means (geometric clustering)





- Given any graph (adjacency matrix)
- Graph Spectrum (computable in poly-time)
  - λ<sub>2</sub> (relates to connectivity)
  - λ<sub>n</sub> (relates to bipartiteness)

- Cheeger's Inequality
  - relates \(\lambda\_2\) to conductance
  - unbounded approximation ratio
  - effective in practice

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**Relating Spectrum to Mixing Times** 

Outlook: Glimpse at Image Segmentation (non-examinable)

Which graph has a "cluster-structure"?



- Which graph has a "cluster-structure"?
- Which graph mixes faster?



**Recall:** If the underlying graph *G* is connected, undirected and *d*-regular, then the random walk converges towards the stationary distribution  $\pi = (1/n, ..., 1/n)$ , which satisfies  $\pi \mathbf{P} = \pi$ .

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Lemma

Consider a lazy random walk on a connected, undirected and *d*-regular graph. Then for any initial distribution x,

$$\left\| \mathbf{x}\mathbf{P}^{t} - \pi \right\|_{2} \leq \lambda^{t},$$

with  $1 = \lambda_1 > \lambda_2 \ge \cdots \ge \lambda_n$  as eigenvalues and  $\lambda := \max\{|\lambda_2|, |\lambda_n|\}$ .

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with  $1 = \lambda_1 > \lambda_2 \ge \cdots \ge \lambda_n$  as eigenvalues and  $\lambda := \max\{|\lambda_2|, |\lambda_n|\}.$   $\Rightarrow$  This implies for  $t = \mathcal{O}(\frac{\log n}{\log(1/\lambda)}) = \mathcal{O}(\frac{\log n}{1-\lambda}),$  $\|x\mathbf{P}^t - \pi\|_{tv} \le \frac{1}{4}.$ due to laziness,  $\lambda_n \ge 0$ 

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 $\Rightarrow$ 

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$$||x\mathbf{P} - \pi||_2^2$$

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$$\text{Hence } \| x \mathbf{P}^{t} - \pi \|_{2}^{2}$$

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Outlook: Glimpse at Image Segmentation (non-examinable)

# Similarity graph

Given  $X = \{x_1, \ldots, x_n\} \in \mathbb{R}^d$ , construct G = (V, E, w):

• 
$$x_i \in X \mapsto v_i \in V$$
  
•  $E = \binom{V}{2}$   
•  $w(v_i, v_j) = \exp\left(-\frac{\|x_i - x_j\|^2}{2\sigma^2}\right)$  (Gaussian similarity function)

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Remarks:

- w(v<sub>i</sub>, v<sub>j</sub>) is large if x<sub>i</sub> is close to x<sub>j</sub>
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From geometric to graph clustering!







Similarity graph: Gaussian with  $\sigma = 0.1$ . Only edges with weight > 0.01 shown.



Similarity graph: Gaussian with  $\sigma = 0.1$ . Only edges with weight  $\geq 0.01$  shown.

Spectral Clustering (variant for non-regular graphs) -

- 1. Compute the eigenvector *x* corresponding to  $\lambda_2$  and  $y = \mathbf{D}^{-1/2}x$ .
- 2. Order the vertices so that  $y_1 \leq y_2 \leq \cdots \leq y_n$
- 3. Choose "sweep" cut  $(\{1, 2, ..., i\}, \{i + 1, ..., n\})$  with smallest conductance



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## Image segmentation

Goal: identify different objects in an image

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Construct similarity graph as follows:

- A pixel *p* is characterised by its position in the image and by its RGB value
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#### Original image



Output SC (Gaussian,  $\sigma = 10$ )



## References

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