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Title: The Graph Laplacian and the Dynamics of Complex Networks

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# The Graph Laplacian and the Dynamics of Complex Networks

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Sunil Thulasidasan

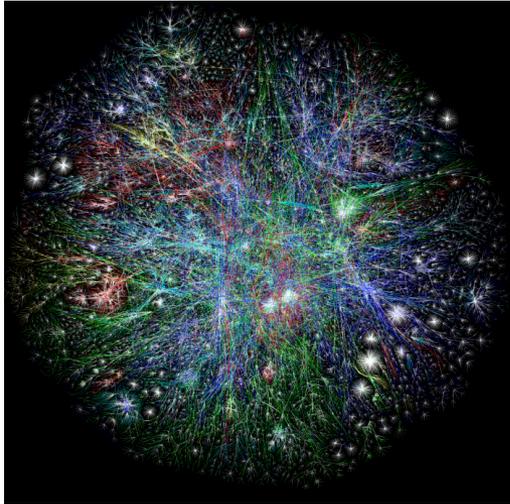
Computational & Statistical Sciences Division

Los Alamos National Laboratory

# Abstract

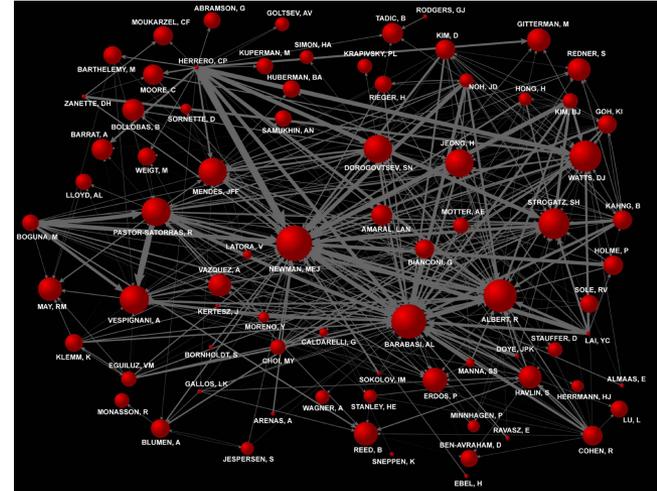
- In this talk, we explore the structure of networks from a spectral graph-theoretic perspective by analyzing the properties of the Laplacian matrix associated with the graph induced by a network. We will see how the eigenvalues of the graph Laplacian relate to the underlying network structure and dynamics and provides insight into a phenomenon frequently observed in real world networks -- the emergence of collective behavior from purely local interactions seen in the coordinated motion of animals and phase transitions in biological networks, to name a few.

# Networks



Internet  
map [opte.org](http://opte.org)

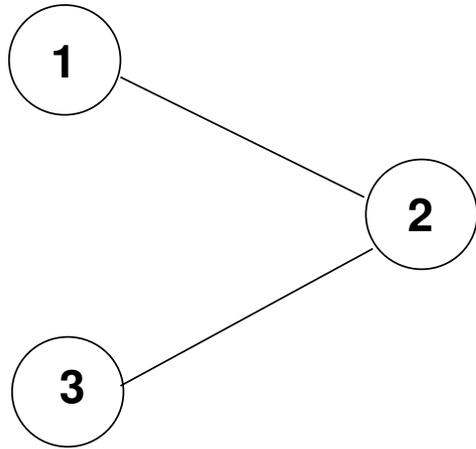
Citation  
network



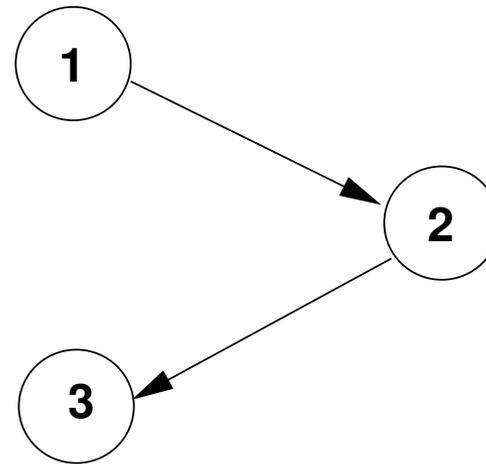
Fish  
School

[uwphotographyguide.com](http://uwphotographyguide.com)

# Graphs



$$G = (V, E)$$
$$V = \{1, 2, 3\}$$
$$E = \{ \{1, 2\}, \{2, 1\}, \{2, 3\}, \{3, 2\} \}$$

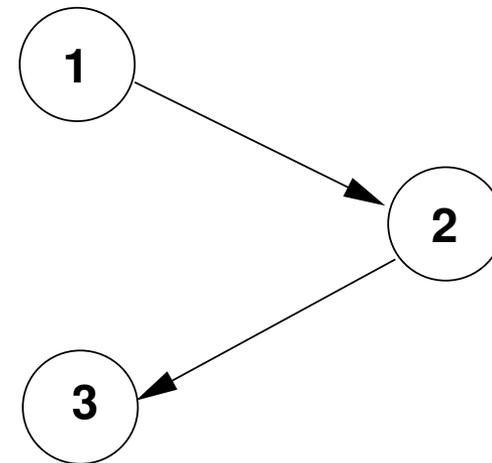
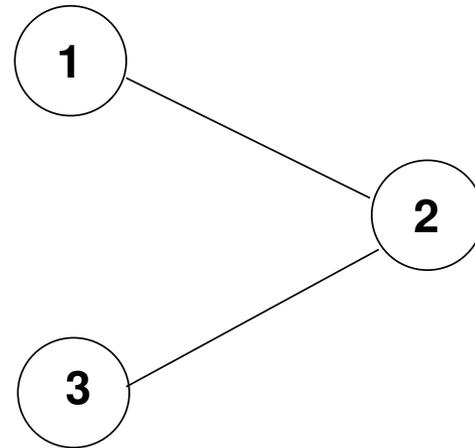


$$G = (V, E)$$
$$V = \{1, 2, 3\}$$
$$E = \{ \{1, 2\}, \{2, 3\} \}$$

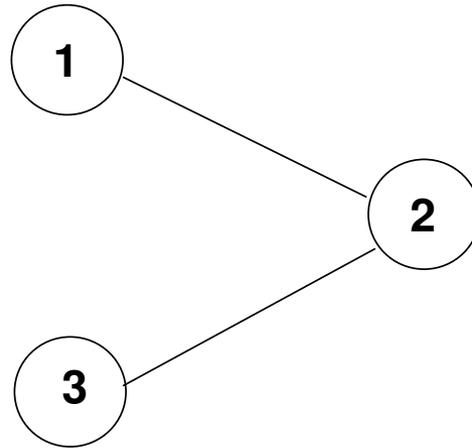
# Adjacency Matrix

$$A = \begin{bmatrix} 0 & 1 & 0 \\ 1 & 0 & 1 \\ 0 & 1 & 0 \end{bmatrix}$$

$$A_D = \begin{bmatrix} 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 1 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 & 0 \end{bmatrix}$$



# Degree matrix



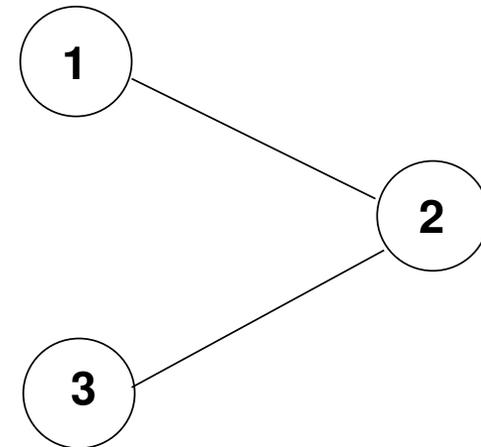
$$\Delta = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 2 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 \end{bmatrix}$$

# Graph Laplacian

$$\mathbf{L}(\mathcal{G}) = \mathbf{\Delta}(\mathcal{G}) - \mathbf{A}(\mathcal{G})$$

$$\mathbf{\Delta} = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 2 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 \end{bmatrix} \quad \mathbf{A} = \begin{bmatrix} 0 & 1 & 0 \\ 1 & 0 & 1 \\ 0 & 1 & 0 \end{bmatrix}$$

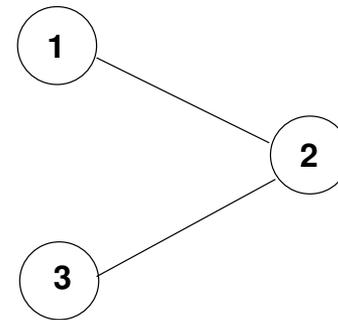
$$\mathbf{L} = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & -1 & 0 \\ -1 & 2 & -1 \\ 0 & -1 & 1 \end{bmatrix}$$



# Graph Laplacian....

- Consider the following neighbor-influenced process on a network

$$\begin{aligned}\dot{x}_i &= C \sum_{j \in \mathcal{N}(i)} (x_j - x_i) \\ \Rightarrow \dot{\mathbf{x}} &= C(\mathbf{A} - \mathbf{\Delta})\mathbf{x} \\ \Rightarrow \dot{\mathbf{x}} + C(\mathbf{D} - \mathbf{A})\mathbf{x} &= 0 \\ \Rightarrow \dot{\mathbf{x}} + C\mathbf{L}\mathbf{x} &= 0\end{aligned}$$



$$L = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & -1 & 0 \\ -1 & 2 & -1 \\ 0 & -1 & 1 \end{bmatrix}$$

# Graph Laplacian....

- A consensus algorithm on networks:

$$\dot{x}_i = \sum_{j \in \mathcal{N}(i)} (x_j - x_i)$$

In compact notation, this becomes:

$$\dot{\mathbf{x}} = -L(G)\mathbf{x}$$

What can we say about the convergence of this process?

# Graph Laplacian eigenvalues

$$\mathbf{L}(\mathcal{G}) = \mathbf{\Delta}(\mathcal{G}) - \mathbf{A}(\mathcal{G})$$

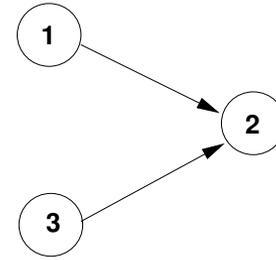
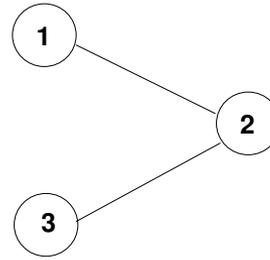
$$L = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & -1 & 0 \\ -1 & 2 & -1 \\ 0 & -1 & 1 \end{bmatrix}$$

$$\begin{bmatrix} 1 & -1 & 0 \\ -1 & 2 & -1 \\ 0 & -1 & 1 \end{bmatrix} * \begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ 1 \\ 1 \end{bmatrix} = 0$$

0 is always an eigenvalue of the Laplacian, and the column of 1's is the Associated eigenvector

# The Incidence Matrix

$$D = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 \\ -1 & -1 \\ 0 & 1 \end{bmatrix}; D^T = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & -1 & 0 \\ 0 & -1 & 1 \end{bmatrix}$$



$$DD^T = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 \\ -1 & -1 \\ 0 & 1 \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} 1 & -1 & 0 \\ 0 & -1 & 1 \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & -1 & 0 \\ -1 & 2 & -1 \\ 0 & -1 & 1 \end{bmatrix} = L$$

$$\left[ D(\mathcal{G}^\circ) D(\mathcal{G}^\circ)^T \right]_{ij} = \sum_{k=1}^m [D(\mathcal{G}^\circ)]_{ik} [D(\mathcal{G}^\circ)]_{kj}$$

If  $i = j$ , then the product is just the degree of  $v_i$ . Else  $-1$  if an edge exists between  $v_i$  and  $v_j$  and  $0$  otherwise. Thus we get back the Laplacian.

# Laplacian properties

$$\begin{aligned}\mathbf{L}(\mathcal{G}) &= \mathbf{D}(\mathcal{G})\mathbf{D}(\mathcal{G})^{\mathbf{T}} \\ \Rightarrow \mathbf{x}^{\mathbf{T}}\mathbf{L}(\mathcal{G})\mathbf{x} &= \mathbf{x}^{\mathbf{T}}\mathbf{D}(\mathcal{G})\mathbf{D}(\mathcal{G})^{\mathbf{T}}\mathbf{x} \\ &= (\mathbf{D}(\mathcal{G})^{\mathbf{T}}\mathbf{x})^{\mathbf{T}}(\mathbf{D}(\mathcal{G})^{\mathbf{T}}\mathbf{x}) \\ &= \|\mathbf{D}(\mathcal{G})^{\mathbf{T}}\mathbf{x}\|_2^2\end{aligned}$$

Then, the Laplacian is positive semi-definite with at least one zero eigenvalue

$$0 = \lambda_1(G) \leq \lambda_2(\mathcal{G}) \leq \dots \lambda_n(G)$$

# Back to consensus...

$$\dot{\mathbf{x}} = -L(\mathcal{G})\mathbf{x}$$

$$\mathbf{x}(t) = e^{-L(\mathcal{G})t}\mathbf{x}_0$$

$$\Lambda(\mathcal{G}) = \mathbf{Diag}([\lambda_1(\mathcal{G}), \dots, \lambda_n(\mathcal{G})]^T)$$

$$\mathbf{x}(t) = e^{-L(\mathcal{G})t}\mathbf{x}_0$$

$$e^{-L(\mathcal{G})t} = e^{(U\Lambda(\mathcal{G})U^T)t}$$

$$= Ue^{-\Lambda(\mathcal{G})}U^T$$

$$= e^{-\lambda_1 t}\mathbf{u}_1\mathbf{u}_1^T + e^{-\lambda_2 t}\mathbf{u}_2\mathbf{u}_2^T \dots e^{-\lambda_n t}\mathbf{u}_n\mathbf{u}_n^T$$

When would  $\lambda_2 = 0$  ?

# $\lambda_2$ and graph connectedness

$$A = \begin{bmatrix} A_1 & 0 & \dots & 0 \\ 0 & A_2 & \dots & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & \ddots & 0 \\ 0 & \dots & & A_c \end{bmatrix}$$

$$L = \begin{bmatrix} L_1 & 0 & \dots & 0 \\ 0 & L_2 & \dots & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & \ddots & 0 \\ 0 & \dots & & L_c \end{bmatrix}$$

# $\lambda_2$ and graph connectedness

$$\begin{bmatrix} L_1 & 0 & \dots & 0 \\ 0 & L_2 & \dots & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & \ddots & 0 \\ 0 & \dots & & L_c \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} z_1 \\ z_2 \\ \vdots \\ z_c \end{bmatrix} = 0$$

$$\begin{bmatrix} z_1 \\ z_2 \\ \vdots \\ z_c \end{bmatrix} = \alpha_1 \begin{bmatrix} \mathbb{1} \\ 0 \\ \vdots \\ 0 \end{bmatrix} + \alpha_2 \begin{bmatrix} 0 \\ \mathbb{1} \\ \vdots \\ 0 \end{bmatrix} + \dots + \alpha_c \begin{bmatrix} 0 \\ 0 \\ \vdots \\ \mathbb{1} \end{bmatrix}$$

Thus, number of connected components is dimension of null space of  $L$

# Flocking/swarming, coupled oscillators etc



Image from National Geographic

$$u_i = \frac{k}{n} \sum_{j=1}^n (\theta_j - \theta_i)$$

$$u_i = \frac{k}{n} \sum_{j=1}^n \sin(\theta_j - \theta_i)$$

- For small phase differences, this linearizes to consensus model.
- For non-linear systems (coupled oscillators) can use positive-semi-definite property of Laplacian to construct potential functions.

# Discrete case consensus

Does this converge?

$$\mathbf{x}_{(k+1)} = \mathbf{x}_k + \Delta t \sum_{j \in N(i)} (\mathbf{x}_j(\mathbf{k}) - \mathbf{x}_i(\mathbf{k}))$$

# Discrete case consensus

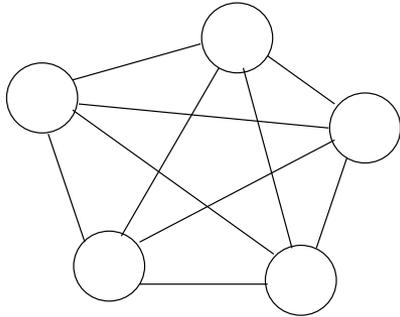
$$\begin{aligned}\mathbf{x}_{(\mathbf{k}+1)} &= \mathbf{x}_{\mathbf{k}} + \Delta t \sum_{j \in N(i)} (\mathbf{x}_j(\mathbf{k}) - \mathbf{x}_i(\mathbf{k})) \\ &= (I - \Delta t L(\mathcal{G})) \mathbf{x}_{\mathbf{k}}\end{aligned}$$

$$\text{Let } I - \Delta t L(\mathcal{G}) \mathbf{x}_{\mathbf{k}} = M$$

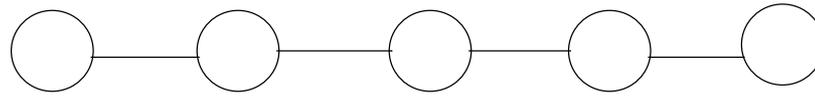
We need

$$\begin{aligned}-1 &< 1 - \Delta t \lambda_i(G) \leq 1 \\ \Rightarrow 0 &< \Delta t \lambda_{\max}(G) < 2 \\ \Rightarrow 0 &\leq \Delta t < \frac{2}{\lambda_{\max}(G)}\end{aligned}$$

# $\lambda_2$ and graph structure



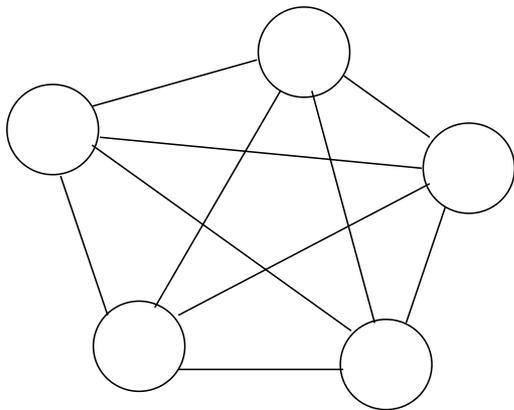
$$\lambda_2 = 5$$



$$\lambda_2 = 0.38$$

$\lambda_2$  is an indication of graph diameter

# $\lambda_2$ and graph resiliency

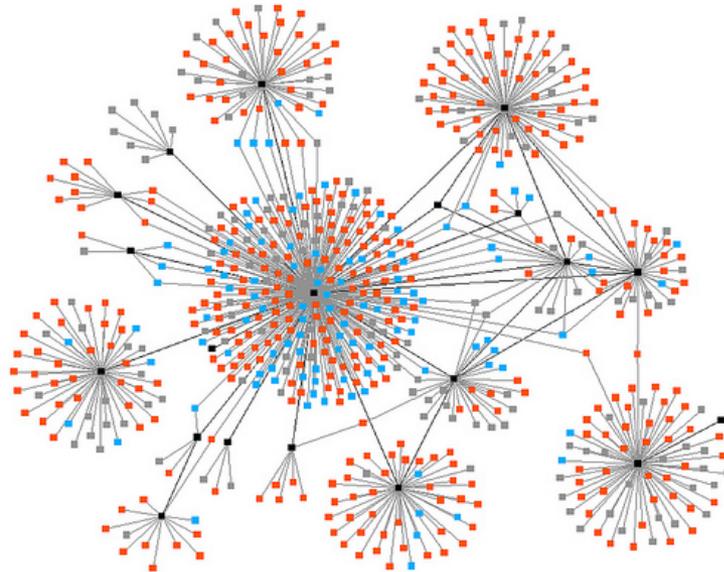


$$\lambda_2(G) \leq \kappa_0(G) \leq \kappa_1(G) \leq d_{\min}(G)$$

where

- ▶  $\kappa_0(G)$  is the node connectivity
- ▶  $\kappa_1(G)$  is the edge connectivity
- ▶  $d_{\min}$  is the minimum degree in  $G$ .

# Small World Networks



- Characterized by low diameter
- High edge resilience
- Fast convergence rate
- In other words, high  $\lambda_2$

Vicsek et al.: “ A Novel Type of Phase Transition in a System of Self-Driven Particles” *Phys. Rev.* , Aug 1995



# Phase transition in physical systems



"... only an extremely unusual crossover could change this tendency. A plausible physical picture... is that there is effective (long range) interaction radius" (*Vicsek 1995*)

Combinatorial phase transition (emergence of connectedness) leads to a physical phase transition.