

CSI 445/660 – Part 6  
(Centrality Measures for Networks)

- 1 L. Freeman, “Centrality in Social Networks: Conceptual Clarification”, *Social Networks*, Vol. 1, 1978/1979, pp. 215–239.
- 2 S. Wasserman and K. Faust, *Social Network Analysis: Methods and Applications*, Cambridge University Press, New York, NY, 1994.
- 3 M. E. J. Newman, *Networks: An Introduction*, Oxford University Press, New York, NY, 2010.
- 4 Wikipedia entry on Centrality Measures:  
<https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Centrality>

## Some Pioneers on the Topic



- Alex Bavelas (1913–1993) (??)
- Received Ph.D. from MIT (1948) in Psychology.
- Dorwin Cartwright was a member of his Ph.D. thesis committee.
- Taught at MIT, Stanford and the University of Victoria (Canada).



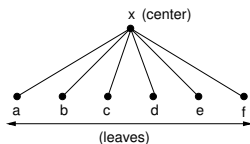
- Harold Leavitt (1922–2007)
- Received Ph.D. from MIT.
- Authored an influential text (“Managerial Psychology”) in 1958.
- Taught at Carnegie Mellon and Stanford.

## Centrality:

- Represents a “measure of importance” .
  - Usually for nodes.
  - Some measures can also be defined for edges (or subgraphs, in general).
- Idea proposed by Alex Bavelas during the late 1940's.
- Further work by Harold Leavitt (Stanford) and Sidney Smith (MIT) led to **qualitative** measures.
- **Quantitative** measures came years later. (Many such measures have been proposed.)

# Point Centrality – A Qualitative Measure

## Example:



- The **center** node is “structurally more important” than the other nodes.

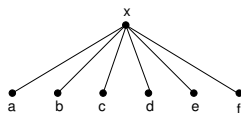
## Reasons for the importance of the center node:

- The center node has the maximum possible degree.
- It lies on the shortest path (“geodesic”) between any pair of other nodes (leaves).
- It is the closest node to each leaf.
- It is in the “thick of things” with respect to any communication in the network.

# Degree Centrality – A Quantitative Measure

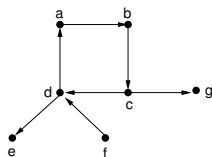
- For an **undirected** graph, the **degree** of a node is the number of edges incident on that node.
- For a **directed** graph, both **indegree** (i.e., the number of incoming edges) and **outdegree** (i.e., the number of outgoing edges) must be considered.

## Example 1:



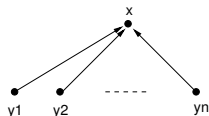
- Degree of  $x = 6$ .
- For all other nodes, degree = 1.

## Example 2:



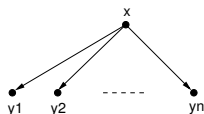
- Indegree of  $b = 1$ .
- Outdegree of  $d = 2$ .

## When does a large indegree imply higher importance?



- Consider the Twitter network.
- Think of  $x$  as a **celebrity** and the other nodes as followers of  $x$ .
- For a different context, think of each node in the directed graph as a web page.
- Each of the nodes  $y_1, y_2, \dots, y_n$  has a link to  $x$ .
- The larger the value of  $n$ , the higher is the “importance” of  $x$  (a crude definition of **page rank**).

When does a large outdegree imply higher importance?



- Consider the hierarchy in an organization.
- Think of  $x$  as the manager of  $y_1, y_2, \dots, y_n$ .
- Large outdegree may mean more “power”.

**Undirected graphs:**

- High degree nodes are called **hubs** (e.g. airlines).
- High degree may also also represent higher **risk**.

**Example:** In disease propagation, a high degree node is more likely to get infected compared to a low degree node.



# Normalized Degree

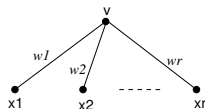
**Definition:** The **normalized degree** of a node  $x$  is given by

$$\text{Normalized Degree of } x = \frac{\text{Degree of } x}{\text{Maximum possible degree}}$$

- Useful in comparing degree centralities of nodes between two networks.

**Example:** A node with a degree of 5 in a network with 10 nodes may be relatively more important than a node with a degree of 5 in a network with a million nodes.

**Weighted Degree Centrality (Strength):**



- Weighted degree (or strength) of  $v = w_1 + w_2 + \dots + w_r$ .

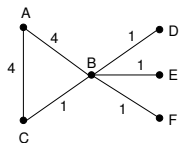
# Degree Centrality (continued)

Assuming an **adjacency list** representation

- for an undirected graph  $G(V, E)$ , the degree (or weighted degree) of all nodes can be computed in **linear** time (i.e., in time  $O(|V| + |E|)$ ) and
- for a directed graph  $G(V, E)$ , the indegree or outdegree (or their weighted versions) of all nodes can be computed in **linear** time.

**Combining degree and strength: ([Opsahl et al. 2009])**

**Motivating Example:**



- A and B have the same strength.
- However, B seems more central than A.

## Proposed Measure by Opsahl et al.:

- Let  $d$  and  $s$  be the degree and strength of a node  $v$  respectively.
- Let  $\alpha$  be a parameter satisfying the condition  $0 \leq \alpha \leq 1$ .
- The combined measure for node  $v = d^\alpha \times s^{1-\alpha}$ .
- When  $\alpha = 1$ , the combined measure is the **degree**.
- When  $\alpha = 0$ , the combined measure is the **strength**.
- A suitable value of  $\alpha$  must be chosen for each context.

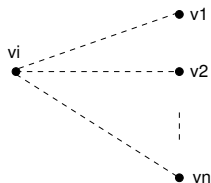
## Assumptions:

- Undirected graphs. (Extension to directed graphs is straightforward.)
- Connected graphs.
- No edge weights. (Extension to weighted graphs is also straightforward.)

## Notation:

- Nodes of the graph are denoted by  $v_1, v_2, \dots, v_n$ . The set of all nodes is denoted by  $V$ .
- For any pair of nodes  $v_i$  and  $v_j$ ,  $d_{ij}$  denotes the number of edges in a shortest path between  $v_i$  and  $v_j$ .

## Farness and Closeness Centralities (continued)



- A schematic showing shortest paths between node  $v_i$  and the other nodes of an undirected graph.

**Definition:** The **farness centrality**  $f_i$  of node  $v_i$  is given by

$$\begin{aligned} f_i &= \text{Sum of the distances between } v_i \text{ and the other nodes} \\ &= \sum_{v_j \in V - \{v_i\}} d_{ij} \end{aligned}$$

**Definition:** The **closeness centrality** (or **nearness centrality**)  $\eta_i$  of node  $v_i$  is given by  $\eta_i = 1/f_i$ .

**Note:** If a node  $x$  has a larger closeness centrality value compared to a node  $y$ , then  $x$  is more central than  $y$ .

## Example 1:

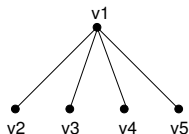


- $f_1 = 1 + 2 + 3 = 6$ . So,  $\eta_1 = 1/6$ .
- $f_2 = 1 + 1 + 2 = 4$ . So,  $\eta_2 = 1/4$ .
- $f_3 = 2 + 1 + 2 = 4$ . So,  $\eta_3 = 1/4$ .
- $f_4 = 3 + 2 + 1 = 6$ . So,  $\eta_4 = 1/6$ .

So, in the above example, nodes  $v_2$  and  $v_3$  are more central than nodes  $v_1$  and  $v_4$ .

# Farness and Closeness Centralities (continued)

## Example 2:



- $f_1 = 4$ . So,  $\eta_1 = 1/4$ .
- For every other node, the farness centrality value = 7; so the closeness centrality value =  $1/7$ .
- Thus,  $v_1$  is more central than the other nodes.

## Remarks:

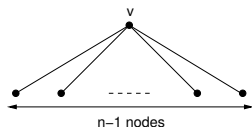
- For any graph with  $n$  nodes, the **farness centrality** of each node is **at least**  $n - 1$ .

**Reason:** Each of the other  $n - 1$  nodes must be at a distance of at least 1.

# Farness and Closeness Centralities (continued)

## Remarks (continued):

- Since the farness centrality of each node is at least  $n - 1$ , the **closeness centrality** of any node must be **at most**  $1/(n - 1)$ .



- For the star graph on the left, the closeness centrality of the center node  $v$  is exactly  $1/(n - 1)$ .
- If  $G$  is an  $n$ -clique, then the closeness centrality of each node of  $G$  is  $1/(n - 1)$ .



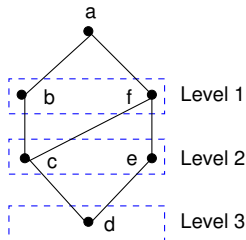
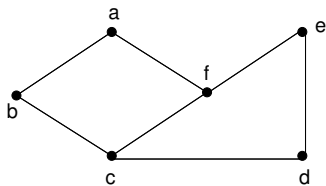
# An Algorithm for Computing Farness and Closeness

**Assumptions:** The given undirected graph is **connected** and does **not** have edge weights.

## Computing Farness (or closeness) Centrality (Idea):

- A Breadth-First-Search (BFS) starting at a node  $v_i$  will find shortest paths to all the other nodes.

### Example:



## An Algorithm for Farness ... (continued)

Let  $G(V, E)$  denote the given graph.

- Recall that the time for doing a BFS on  $G = O(|V| + |E|)$ .
- So, farness (or closeness) centrality for any node of  $G$  can be computed in  $O(|V| + |E|)$  time.
- By carrying out a BFS from each node, the time to compute farness (or closeness) centrality for **all** nodes of  $G$   
 $= O(|V|(|V| + |E|))$ .
- The time is  $O(|V|^3)$  for **dense** graphs (where  $|E| = \Omega(|V|^2)$ )  
and  $O(|V|^2)$  for **sparse** graphs (where  $|E| = O(|V|)$ ).

# Eccentricity Measure

- Recall that **farness centrality** of a node  $v_i$  is given by

$$f_i = \sum_{v_j \in V - \{v_i\}} d_{ij}$$

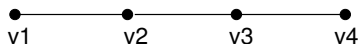
- The **eccentricity**  $\mu_i$  of node  $v_i$  is defined by replacing the **summation** operator ( $\sum$ ) by the **maximization** operator; that is,

$$\mu_i = \max_{v_j \in V - \{v_i\}} \{d_{ij}\}$$

- This measure was studied by two graph theorists (Gert Sabidussi and Seifollah L. Hakimi).
- **Interpretation:** If  $\mu_i$  denotes the eccentricity of node  $v_i$ , then every other node is within a distance of **at most**  $\mu_i$  from  $v_i$ .
- If the eccentricity of node  $x$  is less than that of  $y$ , then  $x$  is more central than  $y$ .

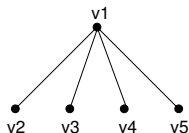
# Examples: Eccentricity Computation

## Example 1:



- $\mu_1 = \max\{1, 2, 3\} = 3.$
- $\mu_2 = \max\{1, 1, 2\} = 2.$
- $\mu_3 = \max\{2, 1, 1\} = 2.$
- $\mu_4 = \max\{3, 2, 1\} = 3.$

## Example 2:

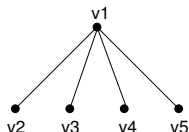


- $\mu_1 = 1.$
- For every other node, eccentricity = 2.

# Eccentricity – Additional Definitions

**Definition:** A node  $v$  of a graph which has the smallest eccentricity among all the nodes is called a **center** of the graph.

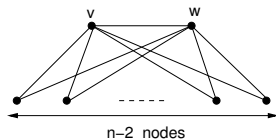
**Example:**



- The center of this graph is  $v_1$ .  
(The eccentricity of  $v_1 = 1$ .)

**Note:** A graph may have two or more centers.

**Example:**



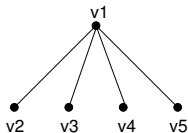
- Both  $v$  and  $w$  are centers of this graph.  
(Their eccentricities are  $= 1$ .)
- If  $G$  is clique on  $n$  nodes, then every node of  $G$  is a center.

## Eccentricity – Additional Definitions (continued)

**Definition:** The smallest eccentricity value among all the nodes is called the **radius** of the graph.

**Note:** The value of the radius is the eccentricity of a center.

**Example:**



- The radius of this graph is 1 (since  $v_1$  is the center of this graph and the eccentricity of  $v_1 = 1$ .)

**Facts:**

- The **largest eccentricity value** is the **diameter** of the graph.
- For any graph, the diameter is at most twice the radius.  
(Students should try to prove this result.)

# An Algorithm for Computing Eccentricity

Let  $G(V, E)$  denote the given graph.

- **Recall:** By carrying out a BFS from node  $v_i$ , the shortest path distances between  $v_i$  and all the other nodes can be found in  $O(|V| + |E|)$  time.
- So, the eccentricity of any node of  $G$  can be computed in  $O(|V| + |E|)$  time.
- By repeating the BFS for each node, the time to compute eccentricity for **all** nodes of  $G = O(|V|(|V| + |E|))$ .
- So, the radius, diameter and all centers of  $G$  can be found in  $O(|V|(|V| + |E|))$  time.

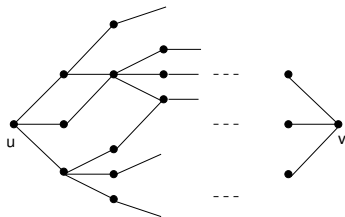
# Random Walk Based Centrality (Brief Discussion)

Ref: [Noh & Rieger 2004]

## Motivation:

- Definitions of centrality measures (such as **closeness** centrality) assume that “information” propagates along shortest paths.
- This may not be appropriate for certain other types of propagation. For example, propagation of diseases is a **probabilistic** phenomenon.

## Idea of Random Walk Distance in a Graph:





## Random Walk Algorithm – Outline:

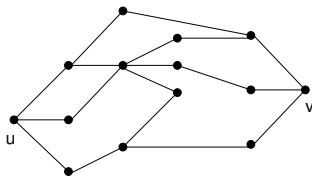
- Suppose we want to find the random walk distance from  $u$  to  $v$ .
- **Initialize:** Current Node =  $u$  and No. of steps = 0.
- **Repeat**
  - 1 Randomly choose a neighbor  $x$  of the Current Node.
  - 2 No. of steps = No. of steps + 1.
  - 3 Set Current Node =  $x$ .

**Until** Current Node =  $v$ .

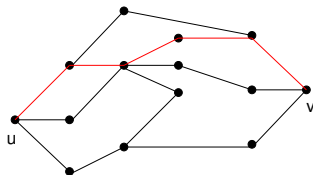
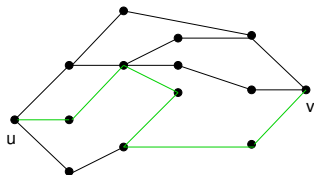
**Note:** In Step 1 of the loop, if the Current Node has degree  $d$ , probability of choosing any neighbor is  $1/d$ .

# Examples of Random Walks

A graph for carrying out a random walk:



Examples of random walks on the above graph:



## Random Walk ... (Brief Discussion)

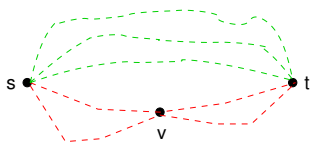
**Definition:** The **random walk distance** (or **hitting time**) from  $u$  to  $v$  is the expected number of steps used in a random walk that starts at  $u$  and ends at  $v$ .

- One can define fairness/closeness centrality measures based on random walk distances.
- **Weakness:** Even for undirected graphs, the random walk distances are **not symmetric**; that is, the random walk distance from  $u$  to  $v$  may **not** be the same as the random walk distance from  $v$  to  $u$ .

# Betweenness Centrality (for Nodes)

- Measures the importance of a node using the **number of shortest paths** in which the node appears.
- Suggested by Bavelas; however, he didn't formalize it.
- The measure was developed by Linton Freeman and J. M. Anthonisse.

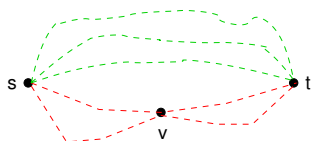
Consider a node  $v$  and two other nodes  $s$  and  $t$ .



- Each shortest path between  $s$  and  $t$  shown in **green doesn't** pass through node  $v$ .
- Each shortest path between  $s$  and  $t$  shown in **red** passes through node  $v$ .

## Betweenness Centrality ... (continued)

**Notation:** Any shortest path between nodes  $s$  and  $t$  will be called an  $s$ - $t$  **shortest path**.



- Let  $\sigma_{st}$  denote the number of all  $s$ - $t$  shortest paths.
- Let  $\sigma_{st}(v)$  denote the number of all  $s$ - $t$  shortest paths that pass through node  $v$ .

Consider the ratio  $\frac{\sigma_{st}(v)}{\sigma_{st}}$  :

- This gives the fraction of  $s$ - $t$  shortest paths passing through  $v$ .
- The larger the ratio, the more important  $v$  is with respect to the pair of nodes  $s$  and  $t$ .
- To properly measure the importance of a node  $v$ , we need to consider all pairs of nodes (not involving  $v$ ).

## Betweenness Centrality ... (continued)

**Definition:** The **betweenness centrality** of a node  $v$ , denoted by  $\beta(v)$ , is defined by

$$\beta(v) = \sum_{\substack{s, t \\ s \neq v, t \neq v}} \left[ \frac{\sigma_{st}(v)}{\sigma_{st}} \right]$$

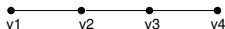
**Interpreting the above formula:** Suppose we want to compute  $\beta(v)$  for some node  $v$ . The formula suggests the following steps.

- Set  $\beta(v) = 0$ .
- For each pair of nodes  $s$  and  $t$  such that  $s \neq v$  and  $t \neq v$ ,
  - 1 Compute  $\sigma_{st}$  and  $\sigma_{st}(v)$ .
  - 2 Set  $\beta(v) = \beta(v) + \sigma_{st}(v)/\sigma_{st}$ .
- Output  $\beta(v)$ .

**Note:** For two nodes  $x$  and  $y$ , if  $\beta(x) > \beta(y)$ , then  $x$  is more central than  $y$ .

# Examples: Betweenness Computation

## Example 1:



**Note:** Here, there is **only one** path between any pair of nodes. (So, that path is also the shortest path.)

Consider the computation of  $\beta(v_2)$  first.

- The  $s$ - $t$  pairs to be considered are:  $(v_1, v_3)$ ,  $(v_1, v_4)$  and  $(v_3, v_4)$ .
- For the pair  $(v_1, v_3)$ :
  - The number of shortest paths between  $v_1$  and  $v_3$  is 1; thus,  $\sigma_{v_1, v_3} = 1$ .
  - The (only) path between  $v_1$  and  $v_3$  passes through  $v_2$ ; thus,  $\sigma_{v_1, v_3}(v_2) = 1$ .
  - So, the ratio  $\sigma_{v_1, v_3}(v_2)/\sigma_{v_1, v_3} = 1$ .
- In a similar manner, for the pair  $(v_1, v_4)$ , the ratio  $\sigma_{v_1, v_4}(v_2)/\sigma_{v_1, v_4} = 1$ .

# Examples: Betweenness Computation (continued)

## Computation of $\beta(v_2)$ continued:



- For the pair  $(v_3, v_4)$ :
  - The number of shortest paths between  $v_3$  and  $v_4$  is 1; thus,  $\sigma_{v_3, v_4} = 1$ .
  - The (only) path between  $v_3$  and  $v_4$  **does not** pass through  $v_2$ ; thus,  $\sigma_{v_3, v_4}(v_2) = 0$ .
  - So, the ratio  $\sigma_{v_3, v_4}(v_2) / \sigma_{v_3, v_4} = 0$ .

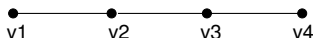
Therefore,

$$\begin{aligned}\beta(v_2) &= 1 \quad (\text{for the pair } (v_1, v_3)) \\ &\quad + 1 \quad (\text{for the pair } (v_1, v_4)) \\ &\quad + 0 \quad (\text{for the pair } (v_3, v_4)) \\ &= 2.\end{aligned}$$

**Note:** In a similar manner,  $\beta(v_3) = 2$ .



## Example 1: (continued)



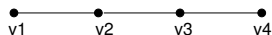
Now, consider the computation of  $\beta(v_1)$ .

- The  $s$ - $t$  pairs to be considered are:  $(v_2, v_3)$ ,  $(v_2, v_4)$  and  $(v_3, v_4)$ .
- For each of these pairs, the number of shortest paths is 1.
- $v_1$  **doesn't** lie on any of these shortest paths.
- Thus, for each pair, the fraction of shortest paths that pass through  $v_1 = 0$ .
- Therefore,  $\beta(v_1) = 0$ .

**Note:** In a similar manner,  $\beta(v_4) = 0$ .

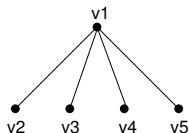
# Examples: Betweenness Computation (continued)

## Summary for Example 1:



- $\beta(v_1) = \beta(v_4) = 0.$
- $\beta(v_2) = \beta(v_3) = 2.$

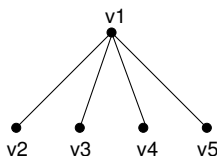
## Example 2:



- Here also, there is **only one** path between any pair of nodes.
- Consider the computation of  $\beta(v_1)$  first.

## Examples: Betweenness Computation (continued)

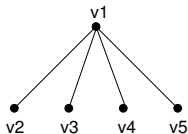
### Computation of $\beta(v_1)$ (continued):



- We must consider all pairs of nodes from  $\{v_2, v_3, v_4, v_5\}$ .
- The number of such pairs = 6. (They are:  $(v_2, v_3)$ ,  $(v_2, v_4)$ ,  $(v_2, v_5)$ ,  $(v_3, v_4)$ ,  $(v_3, v_5)$ ,  $(v_4, v_5)$ .)
- For each pair, there is only one path between them and the path passes through  $v_1$ .
- Therefore, the ratio contributed by each pair is 1.
- Since there are 6 pairs,  $\beta(v_1) = 6$ .

# Examples: Betweenness Computation (continued)

## Computation of $\beta(v_2)$ :



- We must consider all pairs of nodes from  $\{v_1, v_3, v_4, v_5\}$ .
- The number of such pairs = 6.
- For each pair, there is only one path between them and the path **doesn't** pass through  $v_2$ .
- Therefore,  $\beta(v_2) = 0$ .

## Notes:

- In a similar manner,  $\beta(v_3) = \beta(v_4) = \beta(v_5) = 0$ .
- Summary for Example 2:
  - $\beta(v_1) = 6$  and
  - $\beta(v_i) = 0$ , for  $i = 2, 3, 4, 5$ .

# Computing Betweenness: Major Steps

**Requirement:** Given graph  $G(V, E)$ , compute  $\beta(v)$  for each node  $v \in V$ .

**Note:** A straightforward algorithm and its running time will be discussed.

**Major steps:** Consider one node (say,  $v$ ) at a time.

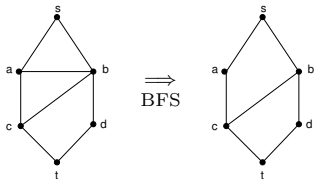
- For a given pair of nodes  $s$  and  $t$ , where  $s \neq v$  and  $t \neq v$ , compute the following values:
  - 1 The no. of  $s$ - $t$  shortest paths (i.e., the value of  $\sigma_{st}$ ).
  - 2 The no. of  $s$ - $t$  shortest paths passing through  $v$  (i.e., the value of  $\sigma_{st}(v)$ ).

**Major Step 1:** Computing the **number** of shortest paths between a pair of nodes  $s$  and  $t$ .

**Method:** Breadth-First-Search (BFS) from node  $s$  followed by a **top down** computation procedure.

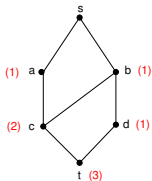
# Example for Major Step 1

## (a) Carrying out a BFS:



**Note:** The edge  $\{a, b\}$  does not play any role in the computation of  $\sigma_{st}$ .

## (b) Computing the value of $\sigma_{st}$ :



- For each node, the value shown in **red** gives the number of shortest paths from  $s$  to that node.
- These numbers are computed through a top-down computation (to be explained in class).
- In this example,  $\sigma_{st} = 3$ .

# Running Time of Major Step 1

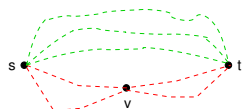
Assume that  $G(V, E)$  is the given graph.

- For each node  $s$ , the time for BFS starting at  $s$  is  $O(|V| + |E|)$ .
- For the chosen  $s$ , computing the  $\sigma_{st}$  value for all other nodes  $t$  can also be done in  $O(|V| + |E|)$  time.
- So, the computation time for each node  $s$  is  $O(|V| + |E|)$ .
- Since there are  $|V|$  nodes, the time for Major Step 1 is  $O(|V|(|V| + |E|))$ .
- The running time is  $O(|V|^3)$  for **dense** graphs and  $O(|V|^2)$  for **sparse** graphs.

## Idea for Major Step 2

**Goal of Major Step 2:** Given an  $(s, t)$  pair and a node  $v$  (which is neither  $s$  nor  $t$ ), compute  $\sigma_{st}(v)$ , the number of  $s$ - $t$  shortest paths **passing through**  $v$ .

**Idea:**



- Compute the the number of of  $s$ - $t$  shortest paths that **don't** pass through  $v$  (i.e., the number of **green** paths). Let  $\gamma_{st}(v)$  denote this value.

- Then,  $\sigma_{st}(v) = \sigma_{st} - \gamma_{st}(v)$ .

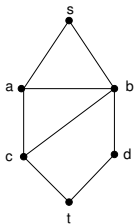
**How can we compute  $\gamma_{st}(v)$ ?**

- If we delete node  $v$  from the graph, all the **green** paths remain in the graph.
- So,  $\gamma_{st}(v)$  can be computed by considering the graph  $G_v$  obtained by deleting  $v$  and all the edges incident on  $v$ .



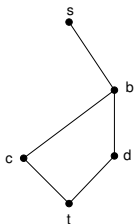
# Example for Major Step 2

**Graph  $G(V, E)$  :**



**Goal:** Compute the number of  $s$ - $t$  shortest paths that **don't** pass through  $a$ .

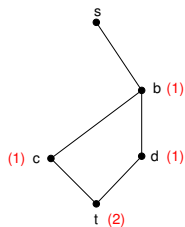
**Graph  $G_a$  :**



- The number of  $s$ - $t$  shortest paths in  $G$  that **don't** pass through  $a$  is the number of  $s$ - $t$  shortest paths in  $G_a$ .
- The required computation is exactly that of Major Step 1, except that it must be done for graph  $G_v$ .

## Example for Major Step 2 (continued)

Graph  $G_a$  :



- For each node, the number in **red** gives the number of shortest paths between  $s$  and the node in  $G_a$ .
- From the figure,  $\gamma_{st}(a) = 2$ .
- Since  $\sigma_{st} = 3$ ,  $\sigma_{st}(a) = 3 - 2 = 1$ .

## Running Time of Major Step 2

As before, assume that  $G(V, E)$  is the given graph.

- For each node  $v \in V$ , the following steps are carried out.
  - Construct graph  $G_v$ . (This can be done in  $O(|V| + |E|)$  time.)
  - For each node  $s$  of  $G_v$ , computing the number of  $s$ - $t$  shortest paths for all other nodes can be done in  $O(|V| + |E|)$  time.
  - Since there are  $|V| - 1$  nodes  $G_v$ , the time for Major Step 2 for each node  $v$  is  $O(|V|(|V| + |E|))$ .
- So, over all the nodes  $v \in V$ , the running time for Major Step 2 is  $O(|V|^2(|V| + |E|))$ .
- The running time is  $O(|V|^4)$  for **dense** graphs and  $O(|V|^3)$  for **sparse** graphs.

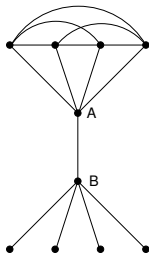
**Algorithm for betweenness computation:** See Handout 6.1.

# Eigenvector Centrality



- Phillip Bonacich (1940–)
- Ph.D., Harvard University, 1968.
- Professor Emeritus of Sociology, UCLA.
- Co-author of a famous text on Mathematical Sociology.

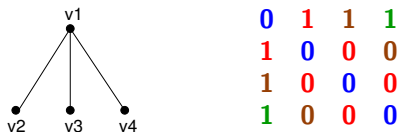
## Degree centrality vs Eigenvector centrality:



- Nodes  $A$  and  $B$  both have degree 5.
- The four nodes (other than  $A$ ) to which  $B$  is adjacent may be “unimportant” (since they don’t have any interactions among themselves).
- So,  $A$  seems more central than  $B$ .
- Eigenvector centrality was proposed to capture this.

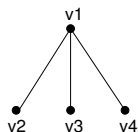
# Eigenvector Centrality (continued)

**Example:** Consider the following undirected graph and its adjacency matrix. (The matrix is **symmetric**.)



- We want the centrality of each node to be a **function** of the centrality values of its neighbors.
- The simplest function is the **sum** of the centrality values.
- A scaling factor  $\lambda$  is used to allow for more general solutions.

# Eigenvector Centrality (continued)



- **Notation:** Let  $x_i$  denote the centrality of node  $v_i$ ,  $1 \leq i \leq 4$ .

The equations to be satisfied by the unknowns  $x_1$ ,  $x_2$ ,  $x_3$  and  $x_4$  are:

$$x_1 = \frac{1}{\lambda} (x_2 + x_3 + x_4)$$

$$x_2 = \frac{1}{\lambda} (x_1)$$

$$x_3 = \frac{1}{\lambda} (x_1)$$

$$x_4 = \frac{1}{\lambda} (x_1)$$

- Must avoid the **trivial** solution  $x_1 = x_2 = x_3 = x_4 = 0$ .
- So, additional constraint:  $x_i > 0$ , for at least one  $i \in \{1, 2, 3, 4\}$ .

## Eigenvector Centrality (continued)

Rewriting the equations, we get:

$$\lambda x_1 = x_2 + x_3 + x_4$$

$$\lambda x_2 = x_1$$

$$\lambda x_3 = x_1$$

$$\lambda x_4 = x_1$$

**Matrix version:**

$$\lambda \begin{bmatrix} x_1 \\ x_2 \\ x_3 \\ x_4 \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} 0 & 1 & 1 & 1 \\ 1 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 1 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 1 & 0 & 0 & 0 \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} x_1 \\ x_2 \\ x_3 \\ x_4 \end{bmatrix}$$

**Note:** The matrix on the right side of the above equation is the **adjacency matrix** of the graph.

## Eigenvector Centrality (continued)

Using  $\mathbf{x}$  for the vector  $[x_1 \ x_2 \ x_3 \ x_4]^T$ , and  $A$  for the adjacency matrix of the graph, the equation becomes:

$$\lambda \mathbf{x} = A \mathbf{x}$$

**Observation:**  $\lambda$  is an **eigenvalue** of matrix  $A$  and  $\mathbf{x}$  is the corresponding **eigenvector**.

**Goal:** To use the numbers in an eigenvector as the centrality values for nodes.

**Theorem:** [Perron-Frobenius Theorem]

If a matrix  $A$  has **non-negative entries** and is **symmetric**, then all the values in the the eigenvector corresponding to the **principal eigenvalue** of  $A$  are **positive**.



# Eigenvector Centrality (continued)

## Algorithm for Eigenvector Centrality:

**Input:** The adjacency matrix  $A$  of an undirected graph  $G(V, E)$ .

**Output:** The eigenvector centrality of each node of  $G$ .

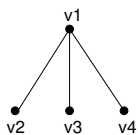
## Steps of the algorithm:

- 1 Compute the principal eigenvalue  $\lambda^*$  of  $A$ .
- 2 Compute the eigenvector  $\mathbf{x}$  corresponding to the eigenvalue  $\lambda^*$ .
- 3 Each component of  $\mathbf{x}$  gives the eigenvector centrality of the corresponding node of  $G$ .

**Running time:**  $O(|V|^3)$ .

# Eigenvector Centrality (continued)

**Example:** Consider the following graph and its adjacency matrix  $A$ .



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

- The characteristic equation for matrix  $A$  is  $\lambda^4 - 3\lambda^2 = 0$ .

- The eigenvalues are:  $-\sqrt{3}$ ,  $0$ ,  $0$  and  $\sqrt{3}$ .

- The principal eigenvalue  $\lambda^*$  of  $A = \sqrt{3}$ .

- The corresponding eigenvector =  $\begin{bmatrix} 0.707 \\ 0.408 \\ 0.408 \\ 0.408 \end{bmatrix}$ .

- Note that the center node  $v_1$  has a larger eigenvector centrality value than the other nodes.

# A Note about Pagerank

- Pagerank is a measure of importance for web pages.
- We must consider **directed** graphs.
- The original definition of pagerank (due to Sergey Brin and Larry Page) relied on the eigenvector centrality measure.

## A definition of pagerank:

- Let  $p_1, p_2, \dots, p_n$  denote  $n$  web pages.
- The adjacency matrix  $A = [a_{ij}]_{n \times n}$  for the web pages is defined by

$$\begin{aligned} a_{ij} &= 1 && \text{if } p_i \text{ has a link to } p_j \\ &= 0 && \text{otherwise.} \end{aligned}$$

## A Note about Pagerank (continued)

- Define another matrix  $M = [m_{ij}]_{n \times n}$  from  $A$  as follows:

$$m_{ij} = \frac{(1-d)}{n} + \frac{d \times a_{ji}}{\text{outdegree}(p_i)}$$

where  $d$ ,  $0 < d < 1$ , is a constant called **damping factor**.

- It is believed that  $d = 0.85$  was used by Google initially. (The exact value is not public.)
- The eigenvector associated with the principal eigenvalue gives the pagerank values.

# Centralization Index for a Graph

- A measure of the extent to which the centrality value of a most central node differs from the centrality of the other nodes.
- Value depends on which centrality measure is used.
- Freeman's definition provides a normalized value.

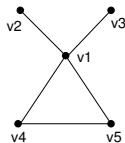
## Definition of Centralization Index:

- Let  $C$  be any centrality measure and let  $G(V, E)$  be a graph with  $n$  nodes.
- **Notation:** For any node  $v \in V$ ,  $C(v)$  denotes the centrality value of  $v$ .
- Let  $v^*$  be a node of maximum centrality in  $G$  with respect to  $C$ .
- Define  $Q_G = \sum_{v \in V} [C(v^*) - C(v)]$ .

## Definition of Centralization Index (continued):

- Let  $Q^*$  be the maximum value of  $Q_G$  over all graphs with  $n$  nodes.
- The **centralization index**  $C_G$  of  $G$  is the ratio  $Q_G/Q^*$ .
- $C_G$  provides an indication of how close  $G$  is to the graph with the maximum value  $Q^*$ .

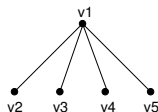
**Example:** We will use the following graph  $G$  and **degree centrality**.



- Node with highest degree centrality =  $v_1$ .

- $$Q_G = \sum_{i=2}^5 [\text{degree}(v_1) - \text{degree}(v_i)] = 10.$$

## Example (continued):



- The graph with the highest value  $Q^*$  for the degree centrality measure is a **star graph** on 5 nodes.
- Thus,  $Q^* = 4 \times 3 = 12$ .
- Since  $Q_G = 10$  and  $Q^* = 12$ ,  $C_G = 10/12 \approx 0.833$ .
- Thus,  $G$  is “very similar to” the star graph on 5 nodes.
- Suppose  $G$  is a clique on 5 nodes.
  - $Q_G = 0$  and so  $C_G = 0$ .
  - In other words, a clique on 5 nodes is “not similar to” the star graph on 5 nodes.

# Applying Centrality Measures

Ref: [Yan & Ding, 2009]

- Used data from 16 journals in Library & Information Science over a period of 20 years.
- Constructed a **co-authorship network**. (Number of nodes  $\approx$  10,600 and number of edges  $\approx$  10,000.)
- Giant component had  $\approx$  2200 nodes.
- Computed closeness, betweenness and eigenvector centrality measures for the nodes in the giant component.
- Also computed the **citation counts** for each author. (This is **not** based on the co-authorship network.)



# Applying Centrality Measures (continued)

- **Focus:** Relationship between centrality values and citation counts.
- Chose the top 30 authors according to each of the centrality measures.

## Summary of Observations:

- Among the three centrality measures, the number of citations had the highest correlation with **betweenness centrality**.
- The number of citations has the lowest correlation with **closeness centrality**.
- Some authors (e.g. Gerry Salton) with very high citation counts don't necessarily have high centrality values.

## **A Review of Concepts Related to Matrices**

# Review of Concepts Related to Matrices

## Example:

$$\begin{bmatrix} 7 & -8 & -14 \\ 2 & 4 & -3 \end{bmatrix}$$

- A matrix with 2 rows and 3 columns.
- Also referred to as a  $2 \times 3$  matrix.
- This matrix is **rectangular**.
- In a **square** matrix, the number of rows equals the number of columns.

**Notation:** For an  $m \times n$  matrix  $A$ ,  $a_{ij}$  denotes the entry in row  $i$  and column  $j$  of  $A$ ,  $1 \leq i \leq m$  and  $1 \leq j \leq n$ .

## Matrix addition or subtraction:

- Two matrices can be added (or subtracted) only if they have the same number of rows and columns.
- The result is obtained by adding (or subtracting) the **corresponding** entries.

## Example:

$$\begin{bmatrix} 7 & -8 & -14 \\ 2 & 4 & -3 \end{bmatrix} + \begin{bmatrix} 3 & 2 & -1 \\ 1 & 2 & -4 \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} 10 & -6 & -15 \\ 3 & 6 & -7 \end{bmatrix}$$

# Review of Matrices (continued)

## Matrix multiplication:

- Given matrices  $P$  and  $Q$ , the product  $PQ$  is defined only when **the number of columns of  $P$  = the number of rows of  $Q$** .
- If  $P$  is an  $m \times n$  matrix and  $Q$  is an  $n \times r$  matrix, the product  $PQ$  is an  $m \times r$  matrix.

**Example:** (The procedure will be explained in class.)

$$\begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 & 3 \\ 2 & 1 & 0 \end{bmatrix} * \begin{bmatrix} 3 & 2 \\ 1 & 2 \\ 2 & 0 \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} 9 & 2 \\ 7 & 6 \end{bmatrix}$$

## Main diagonal of a square matrix:

$$\begin{bmatrix} \mathbf{3} & 4 & 5 & 0 \\ 2 & \mathbf{4} & 3 & 7 \\ 3 & 1 & \mathbf{9} & 4 \\ 7 & 9 & 2 & \mathbf{8} \end{bmatrix}$$

- A  $4 \times 4$  (square) matrix.
- The **main diagonal** entries are in **blue**.

## Review of Matrices (continued)

**Identity Matrix:** For any positive integer  $n$ , the  $n \times n$  **identity** matrix, denoted by  $I_n$ , has 1's along the main diagonal and 0's in every other position.

**Example:** Identity matrix  $I_4$ .

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

**Property:** For any  $n \times n$  matrix  $A$ ,  $I_n A = A I_n = A$ .

**Example:**

$$\begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 1 \end{bmatrix} * \begin{bmatrix} 3 & 2 & 2 & 3 \\ 1 & 2 & 3 & -2 \\ 2 & 1 & 1 & 4 \\ 7 & 5 & 4 & 1 \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} 3 & 2 & 2 & 3 \\ 1 & 2 & 3 & -2 \\ 2 & 1 & 1 & 4 \\ 7 & 5 & 4 & 1 \end{bmatrix}$$

# Review of Matrices (continued)

**Definition:** An  $n \times n$  matrix  $A$  is **symmetric** if  $a_{ij} = a_{ji}$  for all  $i$  and  $j$ ,  $1 \leq i, j \leq n$ .

**Example:**

2	3	7
3	4	9
7	9	6

■ A  $3 \times 3$  symmetric matrix.

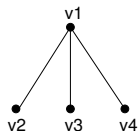
■ Observe the symmetry around the main diagonal.

**Notes:**

■ For any  $n$ , the identity matrix  $I_n$  is symmetric.

■ For any undirected graph  $G$ , its adjacency matrix is symmetric.

**Example:** An undirected graph and its adjacency matrix.



0	1	1	1
1	0	0	0
1	0	0	0
1	0	0	0

## Review of Matrices (continued)

**Definition:** Let  $P$  be an  $m \times n$  matrix, where  $p_{ij}$  is the entry in row  $i$  and column  $j$ ,  $1 \leq i \leq m$  and  $1 \leq j \leq n$ . The **transpose** of  $P$ , denoted by  $P^T$ , is an  $n \times m$  matrix obtained by making each row of  $P$  into a column of  $P^T$ .

**Examples:**

$$P = [1 \ 2 \ 3 \ 4]_{1 \times 4} \qquad P^T = \begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ 2 \\ 3 \\ 4 \end{bmatrix}_{4 \times 1}$$

$$Q = \begin{bmatrix} 7 & -8 & -14 \\ 2 & 4 & -3 \end{bmatrix}_{2 \times 3} \qquad Q^T = \begin{bmatrix} 7 & 2 \\ -8 & 4 \\ -14 & -3 \end{bmatrix}_{3 \times 2}$$

**Note:** If a matrix  $A$  is symmetric, then  $A^T = A$ .

## Review of Matrices (continued)

**Example – Multiplying a matrix by a number (scalar):**

$$3 \times \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 2 \\ -5 & 4 \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} 3 & 6 \\ -15 & 12 \end{bmatrix}.$$

**Determinant of a square matrix:**

- For a  $2 \times 2$  matrix  $A = \begin{bmatrix} a & b \\ c & d \end{bmatrix}$ , the value of the **determinant** is given by

$$\text{Det}(A) = ad - bc.$$

**Example:** Suppose  $A = \begin{bmatrix} 2 & -1 \\ 3 & -2 \end{bmatrix}$ . Then

$$\text{Det}(A) = (-2 \times 2) - (3 \times -1) = -1.$$



## Review of Matrices (continued)

**Example:** Computing the determinant of a  $3 \times 3$  matrix.

$$B = \begin{bmatrix} 3 & 1 & 0 \\ 2 & -1 & 2 \\ 0 & 2 & 1 \end{bmatrix}$$

$\text{Det}(B)$  can be computed as follows.

$$\begin{aligned} \text{Det}(B) &= 3 \times \text{Det} \begin{bmatrix} -1 & 2 \\ 2 & 1 \end{bmatrix} - 1 \times \text{Det} \begin{bmatrix} 2 & 2 \\ 0 & 1 \end{bmatrix} \\ &\quad + 0 \times \text{Det} \begin{bmatrix} 2 & -1 \\ 0 & 2 \end{bmatrix} \\ &= 3(-5) - 1(2) + 0 \\ &= -17. \end{aligned}$$

**Note:** In the expression for  $\text{Det}(B)$ , the signs of the successive terms on the right side **alternate**.

## Review of Matrices (continued)

**Eigenvalues of a square matrix:** If  $A$  is an  $n \times n$  matrix, the **eigenvalues** of  $A$  are the solutions to the **characteristic** equation

$$\text{Det}(A - \lambda I_n) = 0$$

where  $\lambda$  is a variable.

**Example:** Suppose

$$A = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 3 \\ 2 & 2 \end{bmatrix}.$$

Note that

$$\lambda I_2 = \begin{bmatrix} \lambda & 0 \\ 0 & \lambda \end{bmatrix}.$$

So,

$$A - \lambda I_2 = \begin{bmatrix} 1 - \lambda & 3 \\ 2 & 2 - \lambda \end{bmatrix}.$$

Hence,

$$\text{Det}(A - \lambda I_2) = (2 - \lambda)(1 - \lambda) - 6 = \lambda^2 - 3\lambda - 4.$$

## Review of Matrices (continued)

### Example (continued):

So, the characteristic equation for  $A$  is given by

$$\lambda^2 - 3\lambda - 4 = 0$$

- The solutions to this equation are:  $\lambda = 4$  and  $\lambda = -1$ .
- These are the **eigenvalues** of the matrix  $A$ .
- The largest eigenvalue (in this case,  $\lambda = 4$ ) is called the **principal** eigenvalue.
- For each eigenvalue  $\lambda$  of  $A$ , there is a  $2 \times 1$  matrix (vector)  $\mathbf{x}$  such that  $A\mathbf{x} = \lambda\mathbf{x}$ . Such a vector is called an **eigenvector** of the eigenvalue  $\lambda$ . (This vector can be computed efficiently.)
- For the above matrix  $A$ , for the principal eigenvalue  $\lambda = 4$ , an eigenvector  $\mathbf{x}$  is given by

$$\mathbf{x} = \begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ 1 \end{bmatrix}.$$

# Review of Matrices (continued)

## Matrices and linear equations:

### Example:

$$\begin{aligned}3x_1 - 2x_2 + x_3 &= 7 \\x_1 - 3x_2 - 2x_3 &= 0 \\2x_1 + 3x_2 + 3x_3 &= 5\end{aligned}$$

Suppose

$$A = \begin{bmatrix} 3 & -2 & 1 \\ 1 & -3 & -2 \\ 2 & 3 & 3 \end{bmatrix} \quad X = \begin{bmatrix} x_1 \\ x_2 \\ x_3 \end{bmatrix} \quad \text{and} \quad B = \begin{bmatrix} 7 \\ 0 \\ 5 \end{bmatrix}.$$

Then the above set of equations can be written as

$$\begin{bmatrix} 3 & -2 & 1 \\ 1 & -3 & -2 \\ 2 & 3 & 3 \end{bmatrix} * \begin{bmatrix} x_1 \\ x_2 \\ x_3 \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} 7 \\ 0 \\ 5 \end{bmatrix} \quad \text{or} \quad AX = B.$$