

UNIVERSITÀ DEGLI STUDI DI PADOVA

Network Science

A.Y. 24/25

ICT for Internet & multimedia, Data science, Physics of data

Course overview

Network science 24/25



tomaso.erseghe@unipd.it room 217, DEI/A



lectures: wed 8:30-10:00 & fri 16:30-18:00

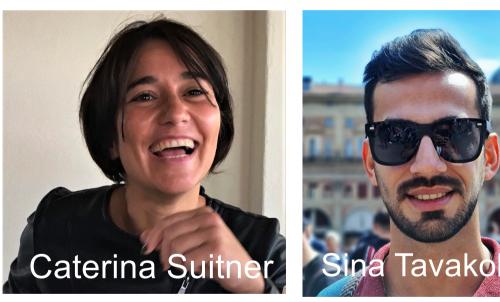
www.dei.unipd.it

office hours: contact me by email



In this course you'll also meet









Basic requirements (that you already satisfy)



Calculus and linear algebra
Familiarity with a programming language
(Python, R, MatLab, C, Java, etc.)
Probability theory / Statistics

Other useful knowledge

Networking processes in economics, telecommunications, semantics, etc ... Otpimization, machine learning, deep learning, etc ...





Which programming language?



very good at scraping data (e.g., via Twitter APIs), polishing, plotting graphs, implementing algorithms

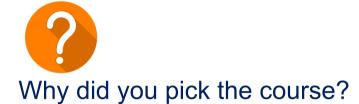
- very good for memory storage, plotting graphs, implementing algorithms
- MatLab An alternative for algorithms and graph plotting
 MATLAB

University license available

https://www.ict.unipd.it/servizi/servizi-utenti-istituzionali/contratti-software-e-licenze/matlab



What about you?





8

Who knows about deep learning?

Which is your background?

Do you know Python? and CoLab?



What do you expect from this course?



Do you have a laptop?



Are you interested in an interdisciplinary work?



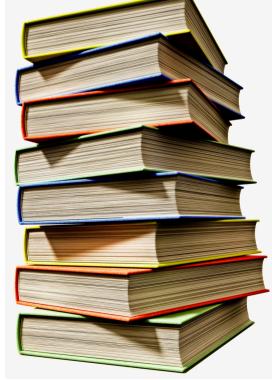


No textbook!

Slides/videos & additional material

available

@ stem.elearning.unipd.it





A few useful books

but we will not cover them completely

■ A.L. Barabási, «Network science»

http://barabasi.com/networksciencebook

(these slides = Ch.1 "Introduction")

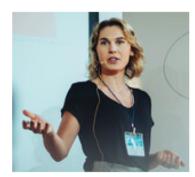
- J. Lescovec, «Machine learning with graphs» http://web.stanford.edu/class/cs224w
- M. Newman, «Networks: an introduction» Oxford University Press, 2010
- R. van der Hofstad, «Random graphs and complex networks»

http://www.win.tue.nl/~rhofstad/NotesRGCN.html



Project based exam

- Written exammultiple choice questions (30 min)2 open questions (30+30 min)
- Project
 extract network analytics using your
 preferred programming language(s)
 oral presentation: slides + code
 10 min presentation (slides)
 5 min for questions



Final grade: 40% written exam, 60% project



Exam sessions

- ☐ Feb 3, 2025 (Mon) 14:00 (written) 15:30 (oral), Le
- ☐ IP day Feb 12, 2025 (Wed) 9:00 (oral), tbd
- □ Feb 19, 2025 (Wed) 14:00 (written) 15:30 (oral), Ae
- July 1, 2025 (Tue) 10:00 (written) 11:30 (oral), Le
- □ Sep 9, 2025 (Tue) 14:00 (written) 15:30 (oral), Le

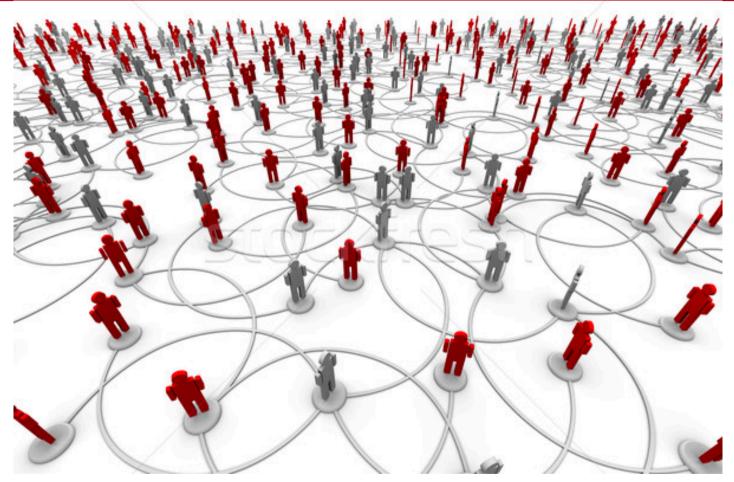
PS: You will be asked to enrol in www.uniweb.unipd.it

Contents

a brief overview



This course is about networks

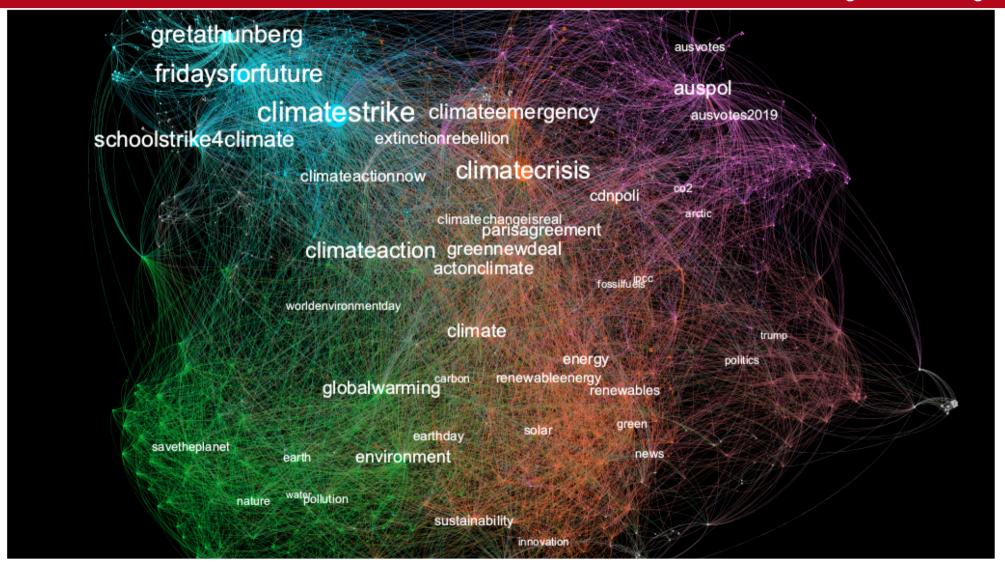


Network = anything that interconnects e.g., people sharing friendship in a social network platform



Network example

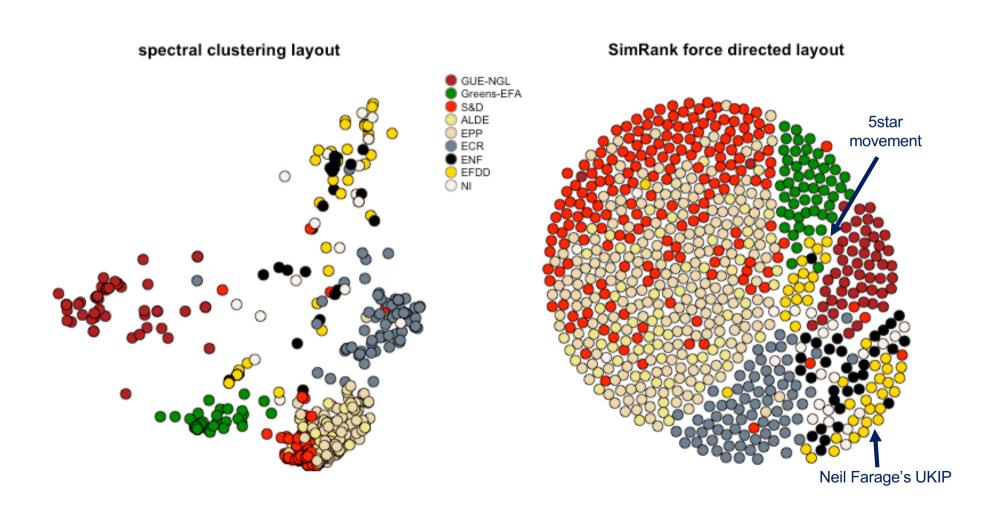
2019 hashtag network related to #climatechange from Twitter, after #gretathunberg





Network examples (cont'd)

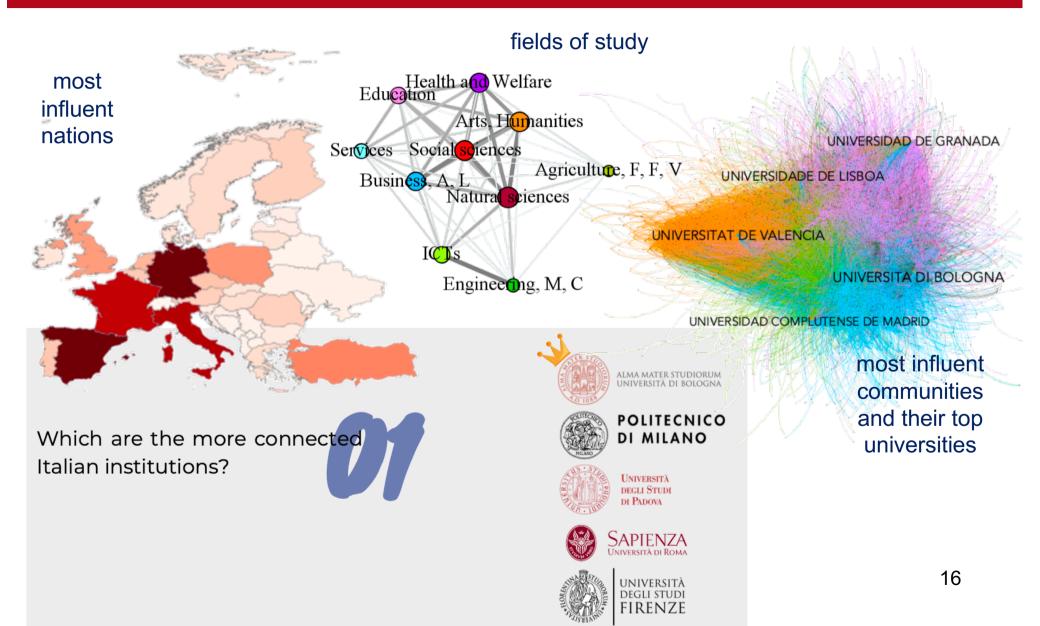
April-May 2016 political network (votes at the EU parliament)





Network examples (cont'd)

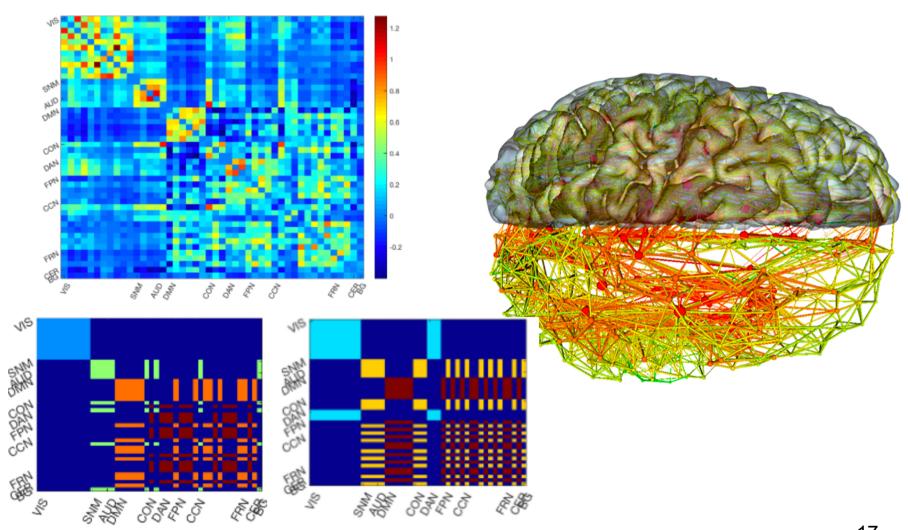
Erasmus exchanges network 2019





Network examples (cont'd)

the brain network – functional connectivity



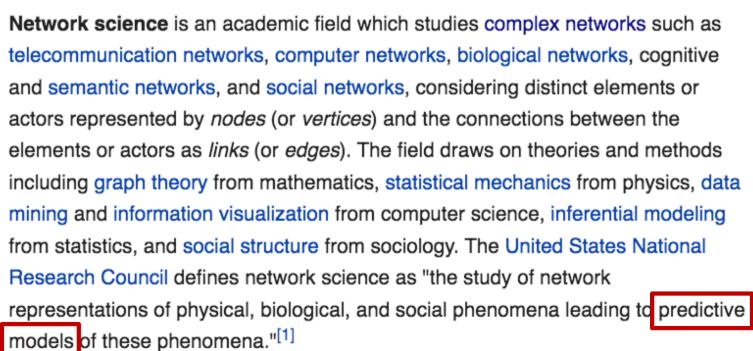


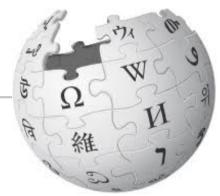
What is then network science?

Network science

From Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia







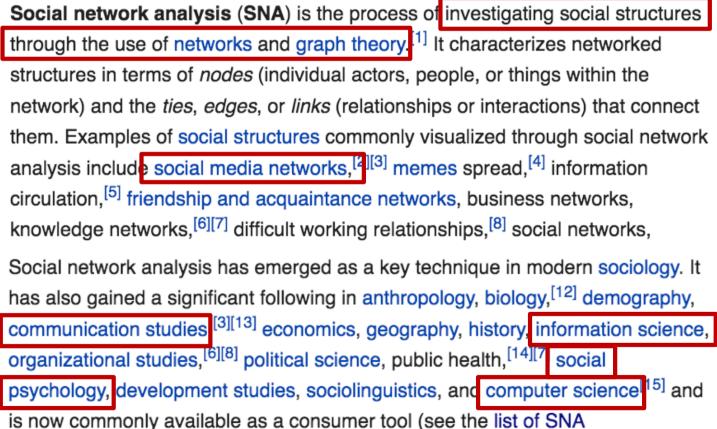


... what about social network analysis?

Social network analysis

From Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia

software).[16][17][18][19]



And how do we study networks?

With a holistic character

(the whole is greater than the sum of its parts)

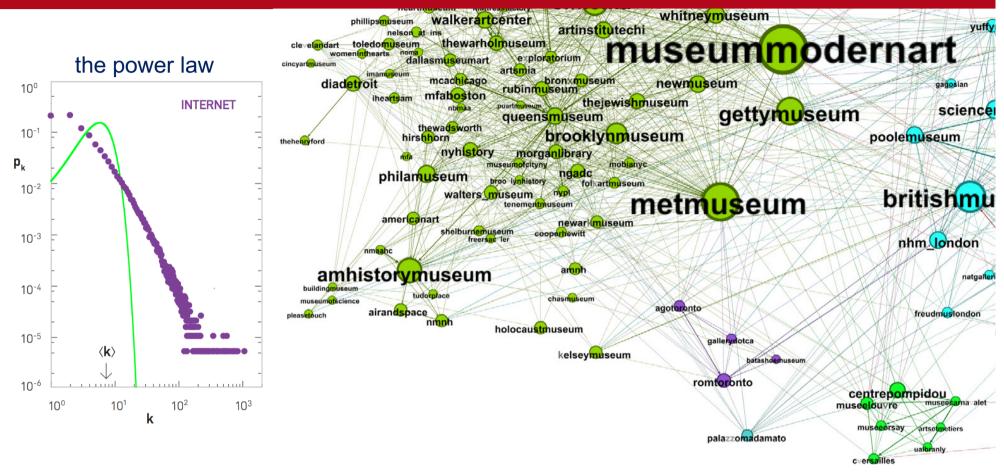
With mathematical rigour

The approach is

```
empirical (driven by concrete data),
precise (requires a proper formalism),
interdisciplinary (can be applied to several fields), and
challenging (in data size and in objectives)
```



And what do we study?

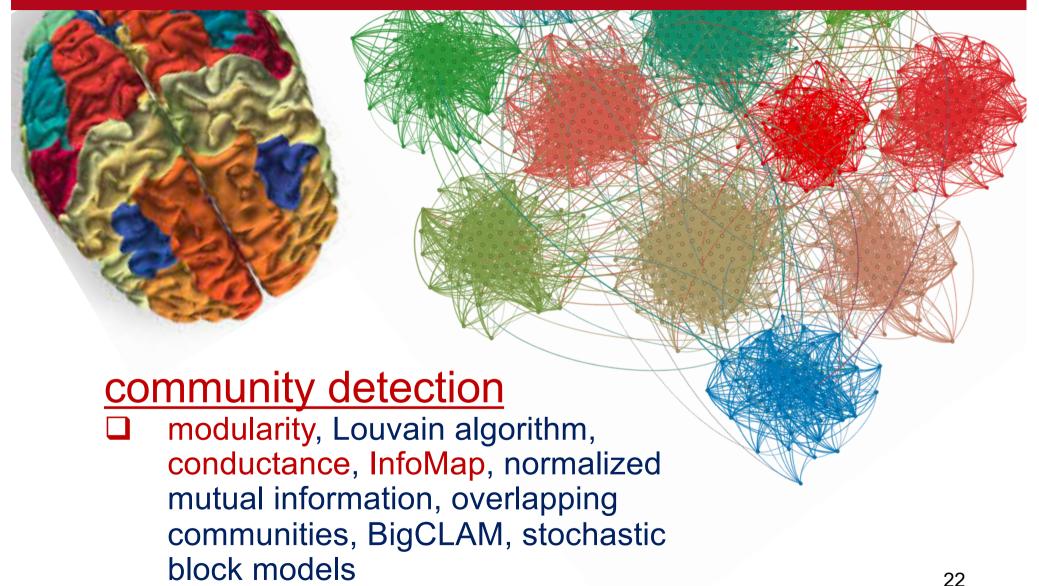


many network analytics, e.g., <u>centrality</u> degree, <u>PageRank</u>, HITS, betweenness, etc.



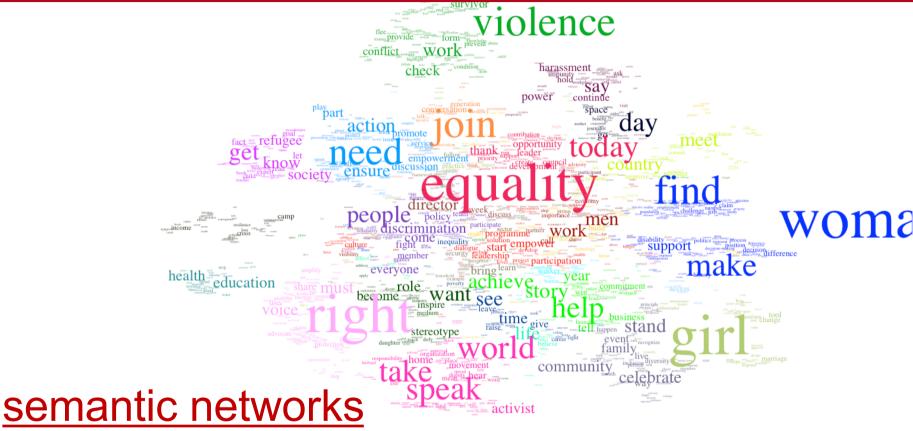


And what do we study? (cont'd)





And what do we study? (cont'd)



network layout, data collection, sentiment analysis, BERTAgent, topic detection, latent Dirichlet allocation, variational autoencoders, BERTopic and the Transformer architecture

Project a brief overview



What about the project?

create your own group (1 to 3 people)

choose your dataset (possibly create your own dataset)

apply the ideas learned during the course

show that you can do clever things

try extracting meaningful measures/analytics that describe an interesting aspect of your network

write good code

each contributor to the group should focus on a different aspect (no everything together)

present the project in a clear and convincing way, using <u>clear and convincing</u> plots



What about interdisciplinary projects?

mainly related to semantic networks

in collaboration with the twin course of Social Network Analysis @ Communication Strategies

SNA students suggest research questions

VS students conceive appropriate algorithmic

solutions

in brainstorming sessions the instructor will help/give feedback ©



Interdisciplinary projects 23/24







Dipartimento di Psicologia dello Sviluppo e della Socializzazione

INTERDISCIPLINARY PROJECTS PRESENTATION

Network Science & Social Networks Analysis

AULA MAGNA LEPSCHY

DEI - VIA GRADENIGO 6 - PADOVA

Thu February, 8, 2024, 9:00



IP examples from past years

on Twitter

- 2019 Evolution of Climate Change Perception on Twitter Focusing on Greta Thunberg Impact
- □ 2019 UN Women Twitter profile's reaction to the MeToo movement
- □ 2020 NBA and Premier League players around #blacklivesmatter and the racial issue on Twitter
- 2020 Republicans vs Democracts on Twitter
- □ 2020 Haters gonna (make you) hate Semantic analysis of hate during 2019 European elections
- □ 2021 Sports brands and eco-sustainability
- 2022 Sexism in Politics
- □ 2022 What is the perception around the world in terms of Menstruation Stigma in 2021?
- □ 2022 Cancel culture on social media Social network analysis on famous cases of cancellation

on TikTok

2022 – PoliTok: How do Italian politicians use TikTok as tool to promote their political ideas and influence the young generation during the 2022 elections?

other

- 2019 Noodles and Spaghetti How people make pasta in eastern countries
- □ 2021 Erasmus+ Programme: a social network analysis study of the 2014-2019 exchanges
- □ 2021 Nationality vs. movie prestige: from the Oscars to International Film Festivals

Calendar



OCTOBER 2024

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
29	30 ir	ntro	2	3	4	5
6 centrality			9	10	11)	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20 C	²¹ ommu	²² nitv	23	24	25	26
detection			30	31	1	2

NOVEMBER 2024

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
27	28	29	30	31	X	2
3	4	5	X	7	X	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22 se	minar
24	25	P day	27	28		yout

DECEMBER 2024

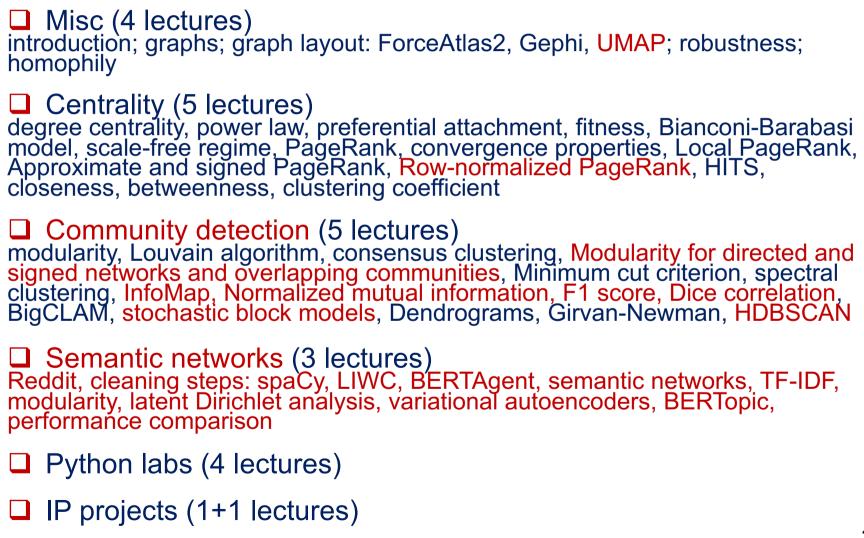
SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
1	² sem	antic (4	5	6 lab	7
	netw	orks				
8	9	lab2	11	12	13)lab	14 3
		Iabz			lab)
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
		lab4				

JANUARY 2025

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
29	30	31	1	2	3	4
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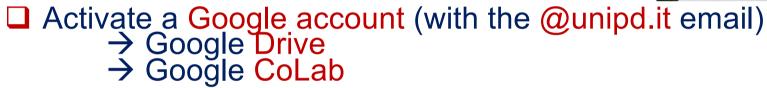
Contents





To do list

- ☐ Enrol @ stem.elearning.unipd.it ◎
- Have a laptop available
- ☐ Ensure you know Python's basics





- Install Gephi on your laptop https://gephi.org/
- Review everything you know about deep learning and/or optimization
- Organize yourselves into working groups (max 3 people)

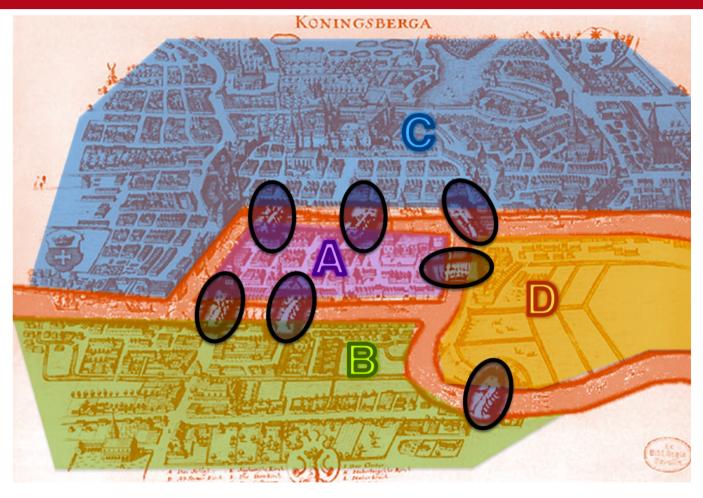


Graphs an introduction



Euler and the 7 bridges of Könisberg

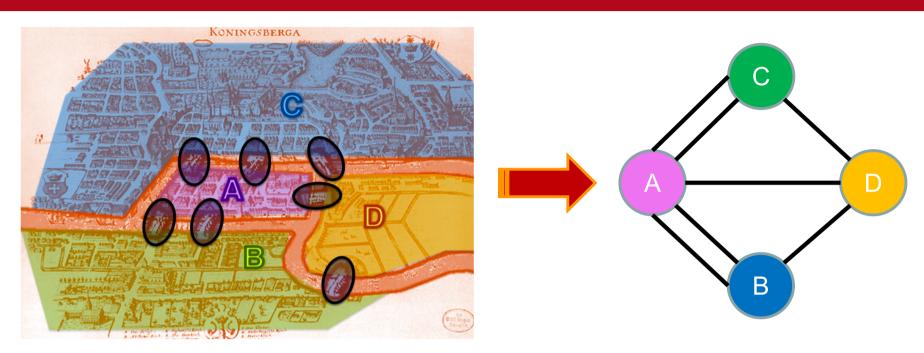
(Prussia, 1736) today Kaliningrad



How to walk through the city by crossing each bridge only once?



Networks as graphs



Graph $\mathcal{G}(\mathcal{V},\mathcal{E})$: network

- \square Vertices (set \mathcal{V}): nodes, people, concepts
- Edges (set ε): links, relations, associations

 mathematics

 technology

 psychology

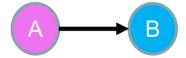
 social
 psychology

 cognition



Directed versus undirected

- □ A connection relationship can have a privileged direction or can be mutual
 - ☐ Either a directed or an undirected link





- If the network has only (un)directed links, it is also called itself (un)directed network
 - Certain networks can have both types



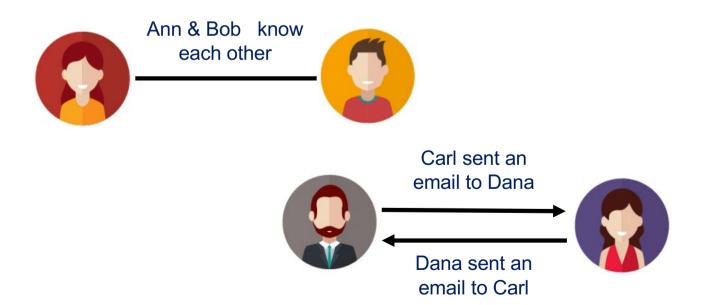
Some examples

network	nodes and links	type
Facebook	Profiles and friendship	undirected
Instagram	Accounts and followers	directed
the www	Webpages and links	directed
citation	Papers and references	directed
social network	People and friends/acquaintances	undirected
movie network	Actors and co-starring	undirected
genealogy	People and parenthood	directed



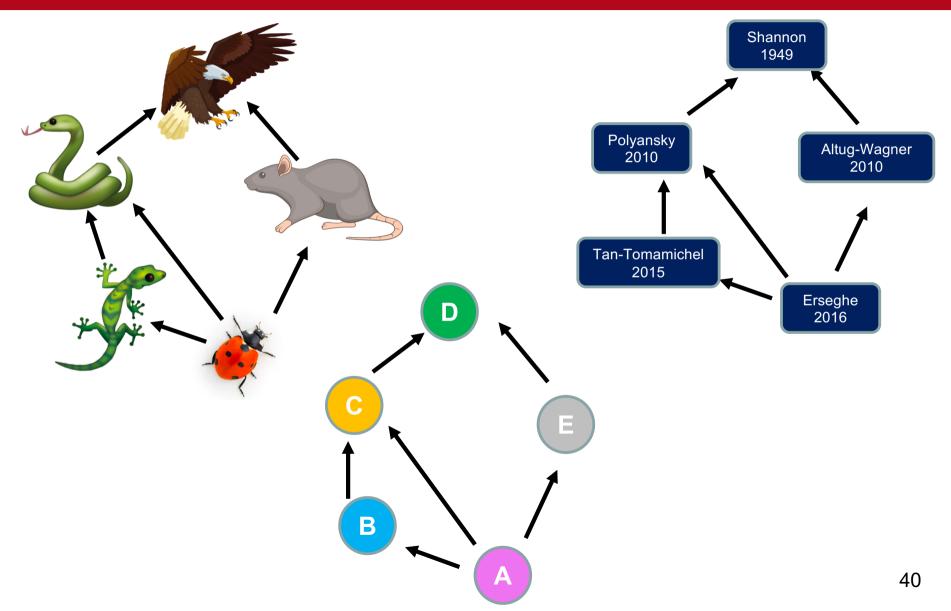
Directed versus undirected

At first glance undirected → directed by duplicating links, but not necessarily quite the same though





Generality of representation

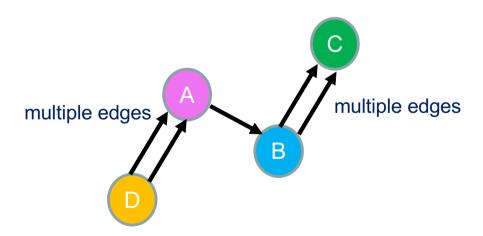


Weighted graps

and adjacency matrix



Multi-graphs (or pseudo-graphs) Some network representations require multiple links (e.g., number of citations from one author to another)

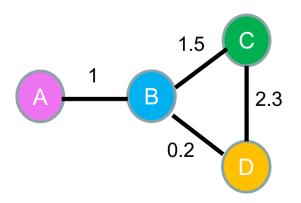




Weighted graph

Usually a weight w_{ij} is associated to a link $(i,j) \in \mathcal{E}$, e.g., to underline that the links are not identical (strong/weak relationships)

Can be seen as a generalization of multi-graphs (weight = # of links)



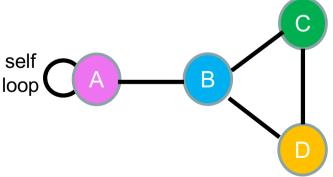




☐ In many networks nodes do not interact with themselves

if $i \in \mathcal{V}$ then $(i,i) \notin \mathcal{E}$

□ To account for self-interactions, we add loops to represent them



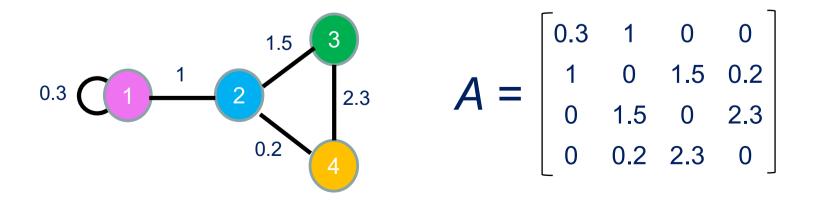
Adjacency matrix

An adjacency matrix $A = [a_{ij}]$ associated to graph $G(\mathcal{V}, \mathcal{E})$ has

entries $a_{ij} = 0$ for $(i,j) \notin \mathcal{E}$ (not a connection)

if nodes *i* and *j* are connected then $a_{ij} \neq 0$

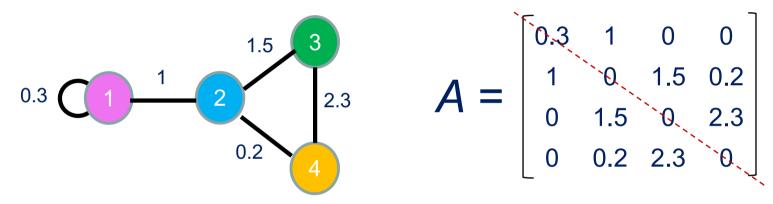
in plain graphs $a_{ii} = 1$ for $(i,j) \in \mathcal{E}$



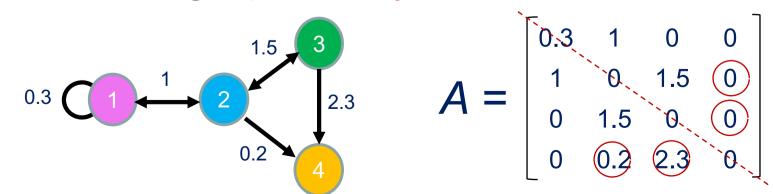




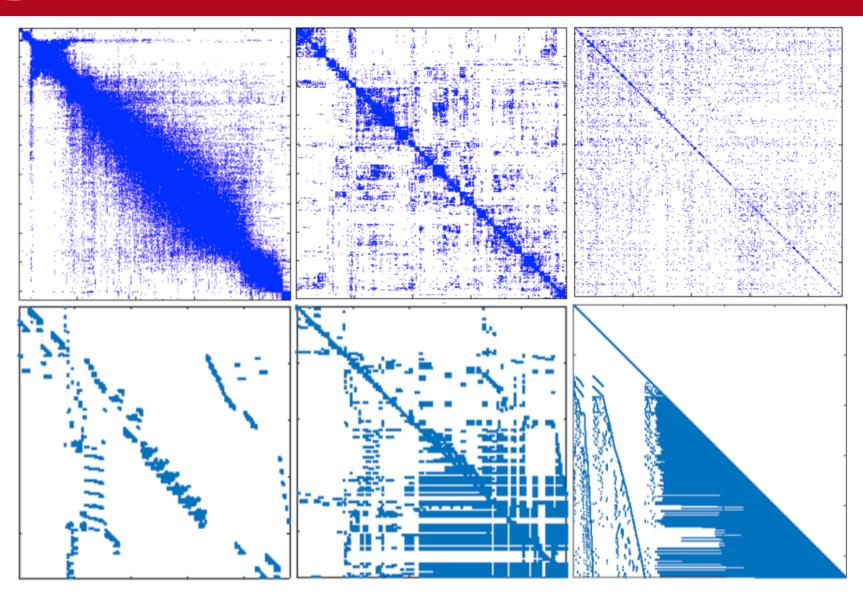
☐ Undirected graph = symmetric matrix



☐ Directed graph = asymmetric matrix



Symmetries

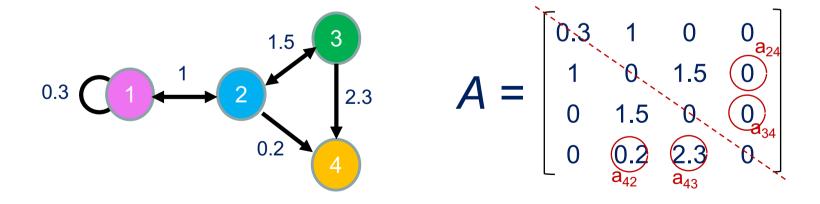






\Box The weight a_{ij} is associated to

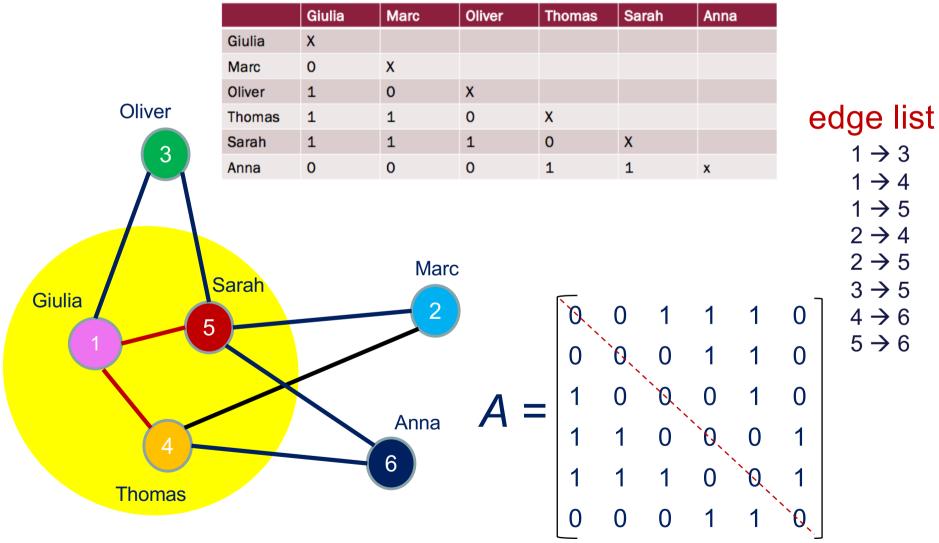
i th row *j* th column directed edge $j \rightarrow i$ starting from node *j* and leading to node *i*





Question

which of these representations do you like best?



Node degree

in directed and undirected networks

Node degree undirected networks

 $k_3 = 2$

The degree k_i of node i in an undirected networks is

the # of links *i* has to other nodes, or the # of nodes *i* is linked to

 $k_1 = 1$ $k_2 = 3$ $k_3 = 1$ $k_4 = 2$

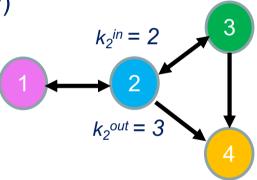
- ☐ The # of nodes is $N = |\mathcal{V}|$
- The # of edges is $L = |\mathcal{E}| = \frac{1}{2} \sum_{i} k_{i}$
- The average degree is $\langle k \rangle = \sum_i k_i / N = 2L / N$



☐ For directed networks we distinguish between

in-degree k_i^{in} = # of entering links out-degree k_i^{out} = # of exiting links

(undirected: $k_i^{in} = k_i^{out}$ due to the symmetry)



The # of links is $L = \sum_{i} k_{i}^{in} = \sum_{i} k_{i}^{out}$ (no need for factor $\frac{1}{2}$)

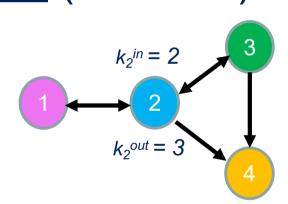
The average # of links is $\langle k^{\dot{\flat}} = L / N \rangle$

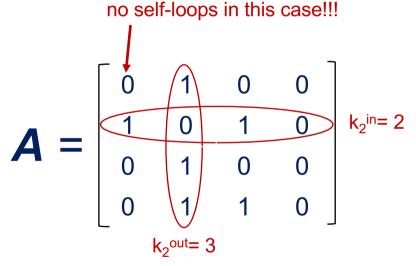


Adjacency matrix and degree

The <u>in</u> (out) degree can be obtained by summing the adjacency matrix over rows (columns)

no self-loops in this case





□ A few useful linear algebra expressions

$$k^{in} = A \cdot 1$$

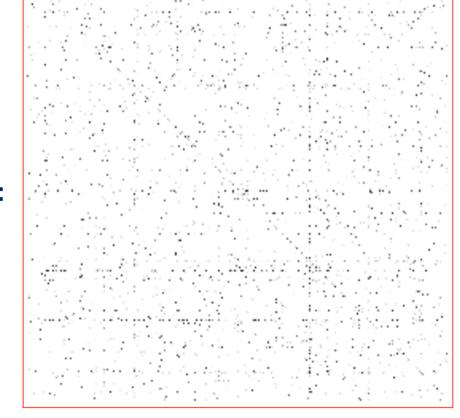
$$k^{out} = A^T \cdot 1 = (1^T \cdot A)^T$$



Real networks are sparse

☐ The adjacency matrix is typically sparse

good for tractability!



protein interaction network



Real networks are sparse

- The maximum degree is $\langle k \rangle_{\text{max}} = N 1$
- ☐ In real networks $\langle k \rangle \ll N 1$

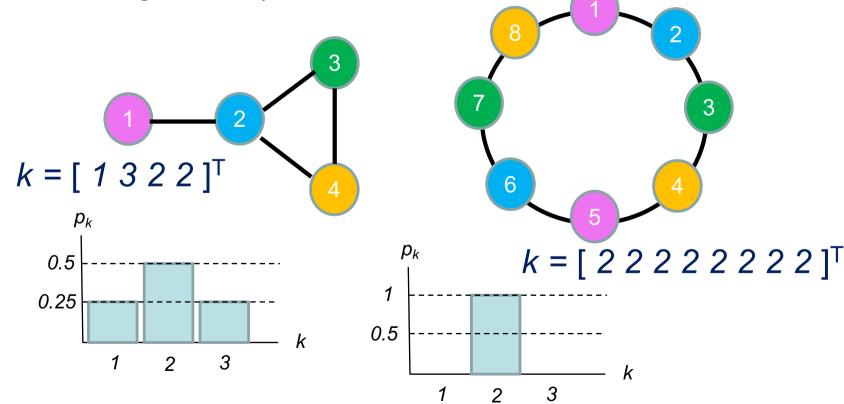
network	type	N	L	<k></k>
www	directed	3.2×10^5	1.5 x 10 ⁶	4.60
Protein	directed	1870	4470	2.39
Co-authorships	undirected	23133	93439	8.08
Movie actors	undirected	7×10^5	29 x 10 ⁶	83.7

Degree distribution

 \square Degree distribution p_k , a probability distr.

 p_k is the fraction of nodes that have degree exactly equal to k (i.e., # of nodes with that

degree / N)

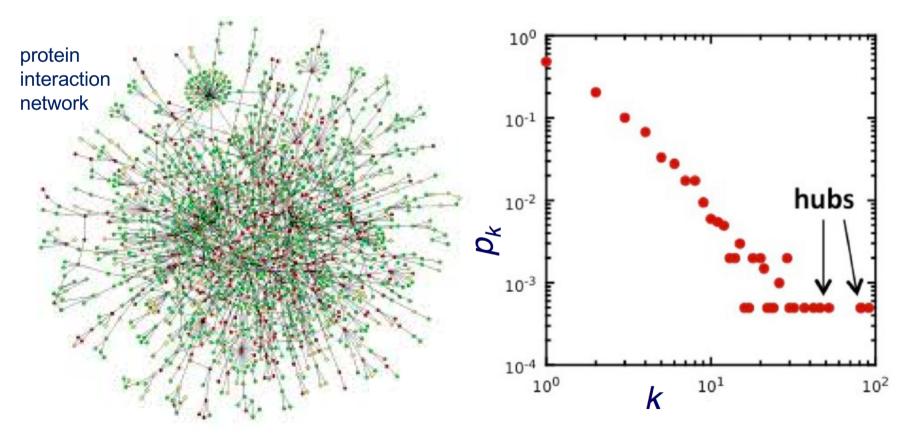




Degree distribution

□ In real world (large) networks, degree distribution is typically heavy-tailed

nodes with high degree = hubs



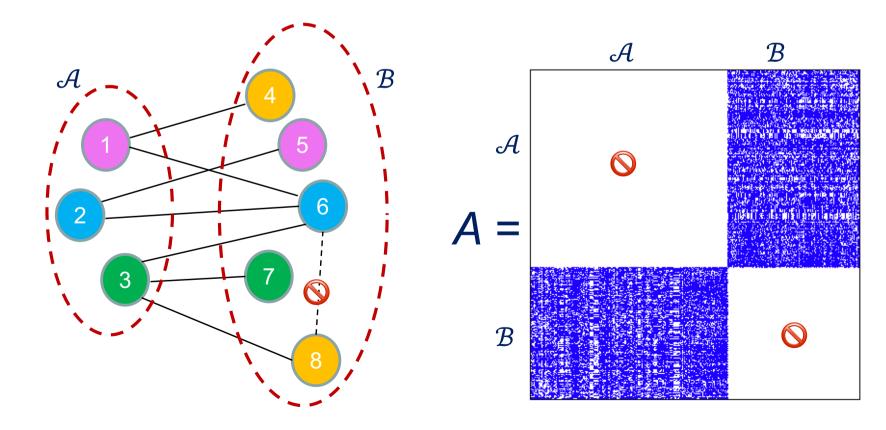
Other graph types

of interest to us



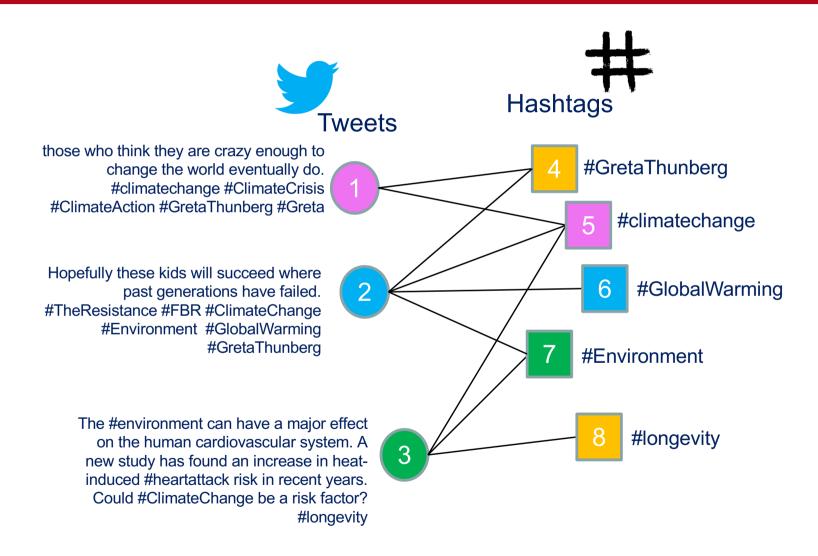


 $lue{}$ Connections are available only between the groups $\mathcal A$ and $\mathcal B$





Bipartite graph example





Bipartite graphs represent memberships/relationships, e.g., groups (A) to which people (B) belong

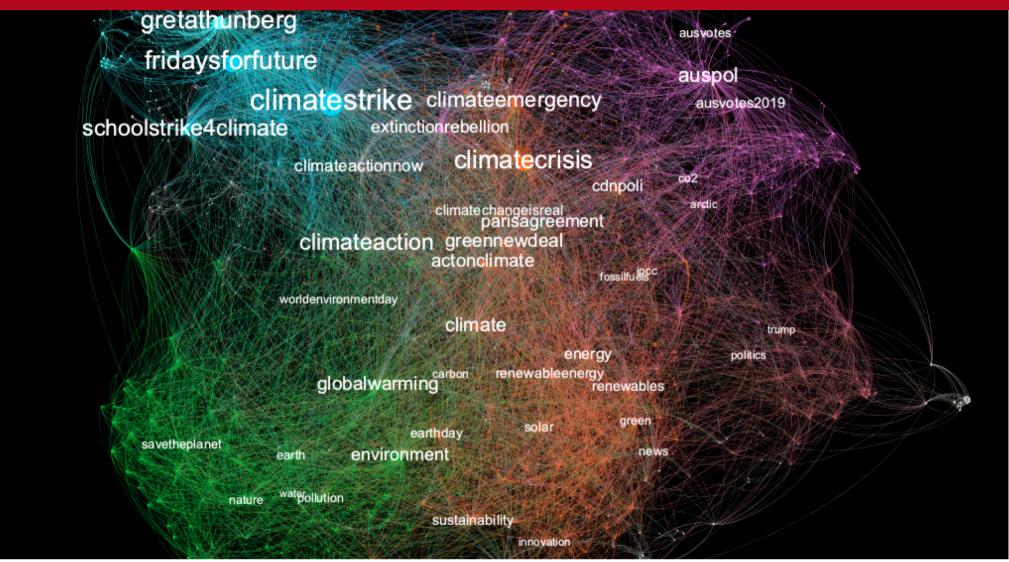
examples: movies/actors, classes/students, conferences/authors

lacktriangle We can build separate networks (projections) for $\mathcal A$ and $\mathcal B$ (sometimes this is useful)

in the movies/actors example being linked can be interpreted in two ways: "actors in the same movie" (projection on \mathcal{B}), or "movies sharing the same actor" (projection on \mathcal{A})



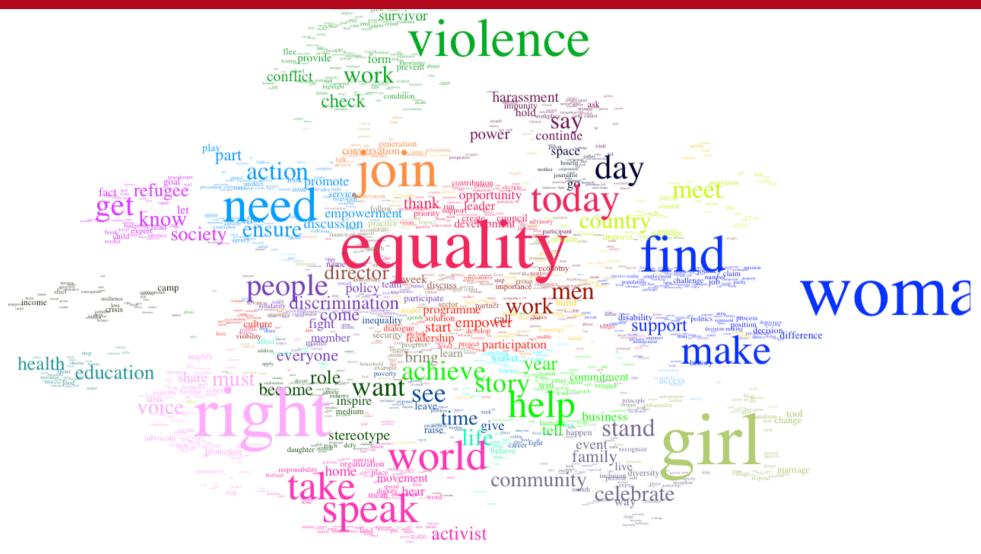
Projection on a semantic network #hashtags that appear in the same tweet are linked





Projection on a semantic network

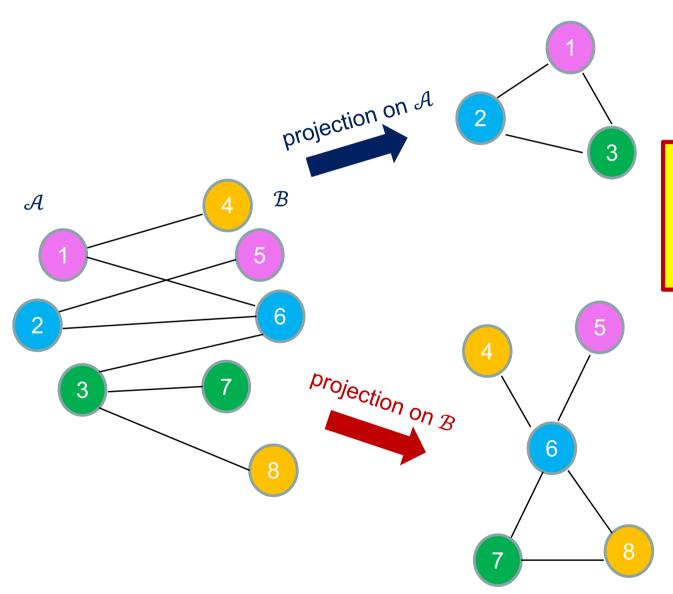
words that appear in the same tweet are linked



#metoo tweets



Abstract example

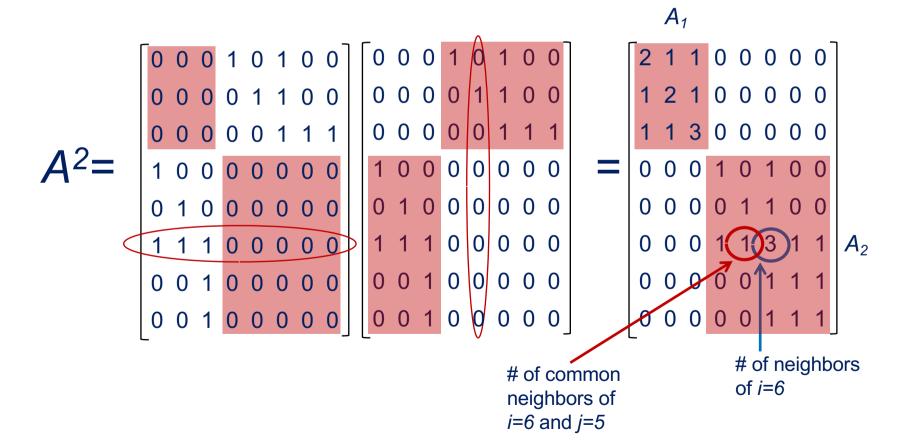


Nodes are linked if they have a common neighbour in \mathcal{B}

PS: we say that nodes *i* and *j* have a common neighbour *k* if both *i* and *j* are connected to *k*

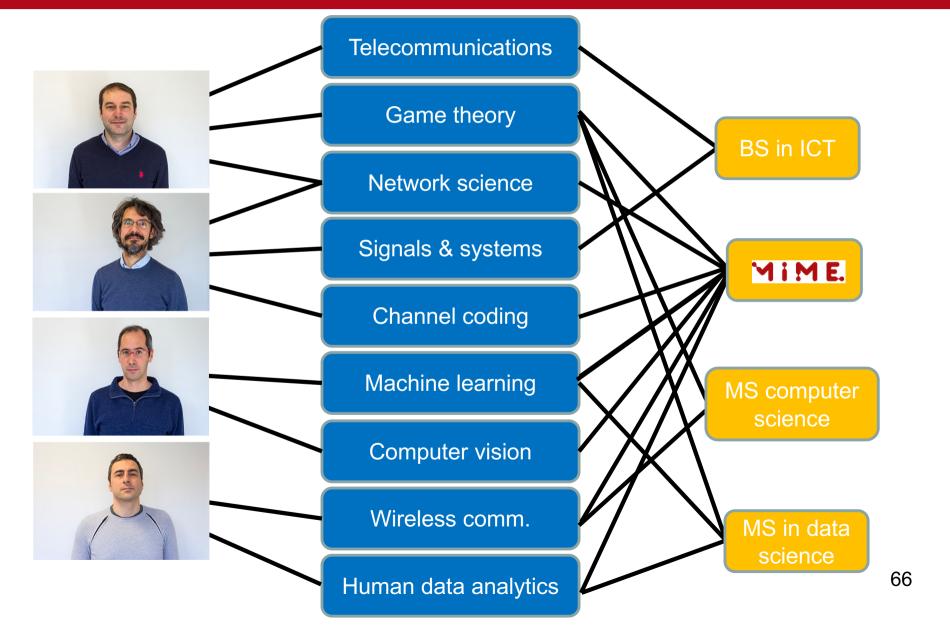
Nodes are linked if they have a common neighbour in \mathcal{A}

The two projections on \mathcal{A} and \mathcal{B} can be obtained by inspecting the squared adjacency matrix A^2





Tri-partite graphs

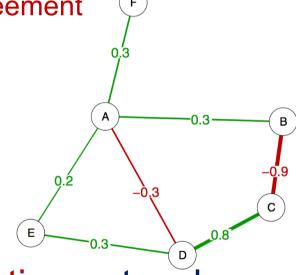






Edges can have signed values

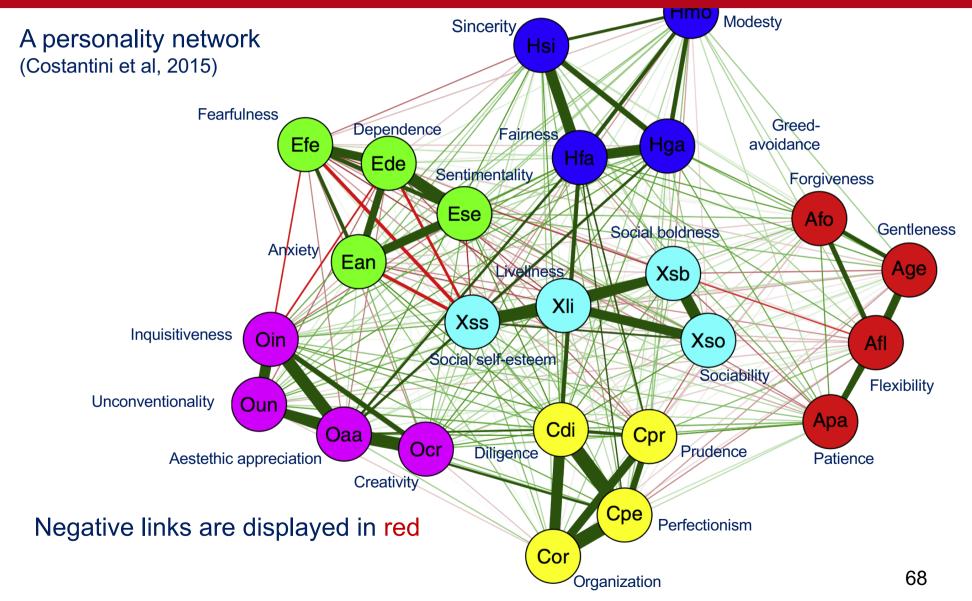
positive if there is an agreement between nodes negative if there's a disagreement



☐ This is typical of correlation networks

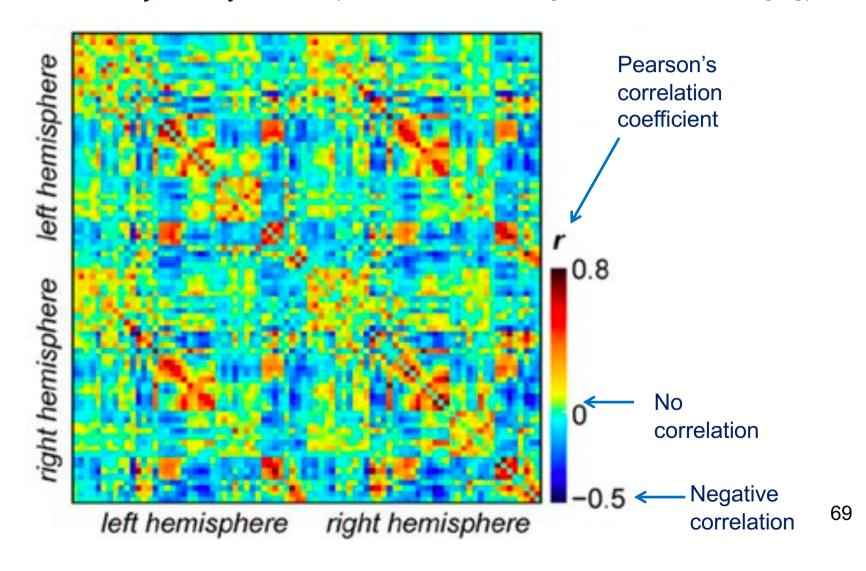


Signed graph example



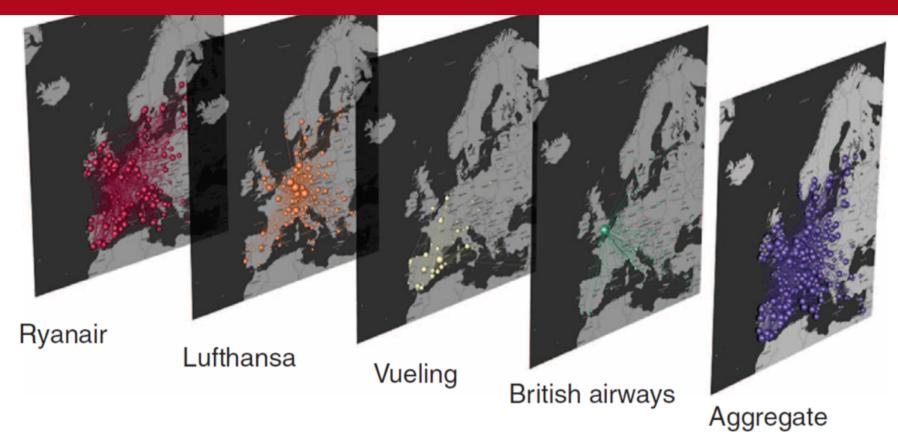
Signed graph example

An fMRI adjacency matrix (fMRI = functional magnetic resonance imaging)





Multi-layer networks

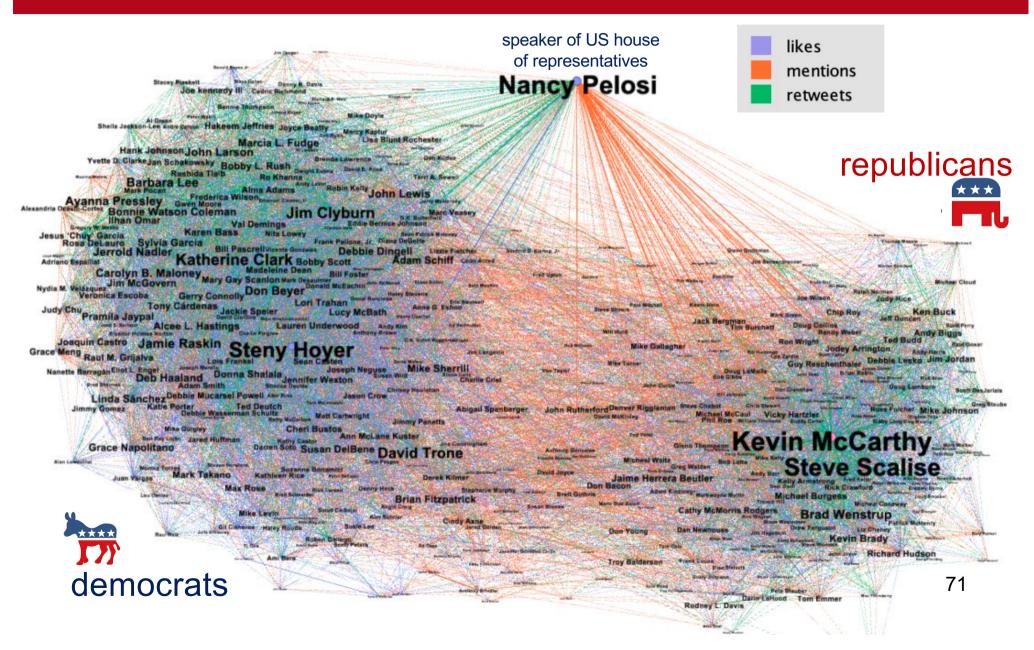


described by a set of adjacency matrices A_{ℓ} average connection $A = \sum_{\ell} A_{\ell}$



An example

US republicans and democrats interactions on Twitter (2020)



Paths and connectivity in graphs



Path

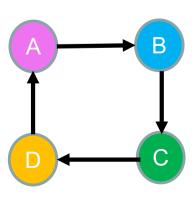
a sequence of interconnected nodes (meaning each pair of nodes adjacent in the sequence are connected by a link)

Path length

of links involved in the path (if the path involves *n* nodes then the path link is *n-1*)

Cycle

path where starting and ending nodes coincide



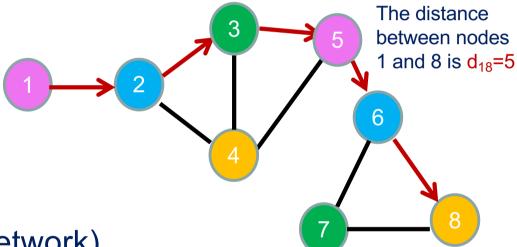




Shortest path (between any two nodes)
the path with the minimum length, which is called

the distance

it is not unique!



Diameter (of the network)
the highest distance in the network

The diameter is d=5

Algorithms

available to compute distances: Dijkstra, Bellman-Ford, BFS



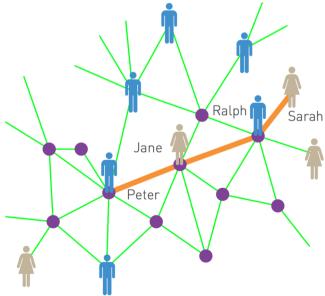


Average path length

average distance between all nodes pairs (apply an algorithm to all node couples, and take the average)

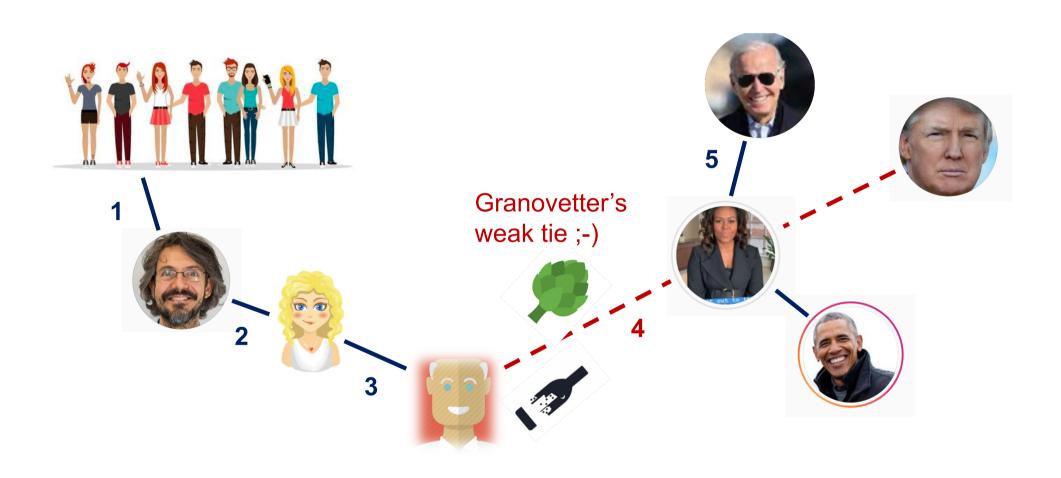
- In real networks distance between two randomly chosen nodes is generally short
- ☐ Milgram [1967]: 6 degrees of separation

What does this mean?
We are more connected than we think





Small world we and the US presidents



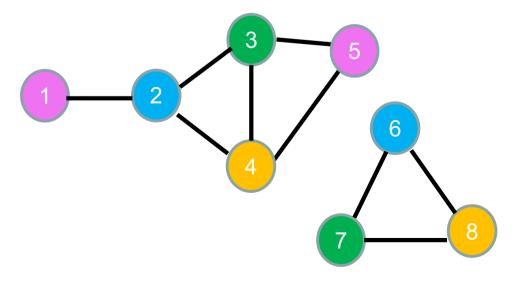


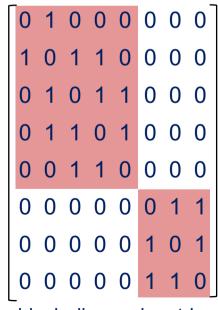
Connectivity in undirected networks

- Connected graph (undirected)
 - for all couples (i,j) there exists a path connecting them

if disconnected, we count the # of connected components (e.g., use BFS and iterate)

- ☐ Giant component (the biggest one)
- ☐ Isolates (the other ones)



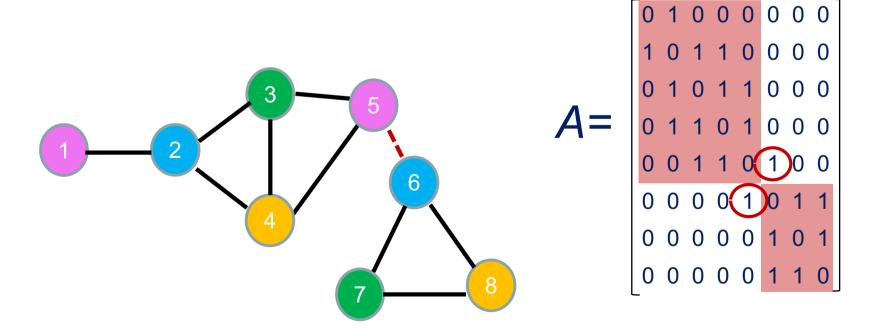


block-diagonal matrix



☐ A bridge is a link between two connected components

its removal would make the network disconnected





Connectivity in directed networks

For directed networks we distinguish between

Strongly connected components

where $i \rightarrow j$ and $j \rightarrow i$ for all choices of (i,j) in the component

Weakly connected components

connected in the undirected sense (i.e., disregard link directions)

Condensation graph

- Strong connectivity induces a partition in disjoint strongly connected sets $V_1, V_2, ..., V_K$
- By reinterpreting the sets as nodes we obtain a condensation graph g^* where $i \rightarrow j$ is an edge if a connection exists between sets $\mathcal{V}_i \rightarrow \mathcal{V}_i$

