

Stanford CS224W: Graph as Matrix: PageRank, Random Walks and Embeddings

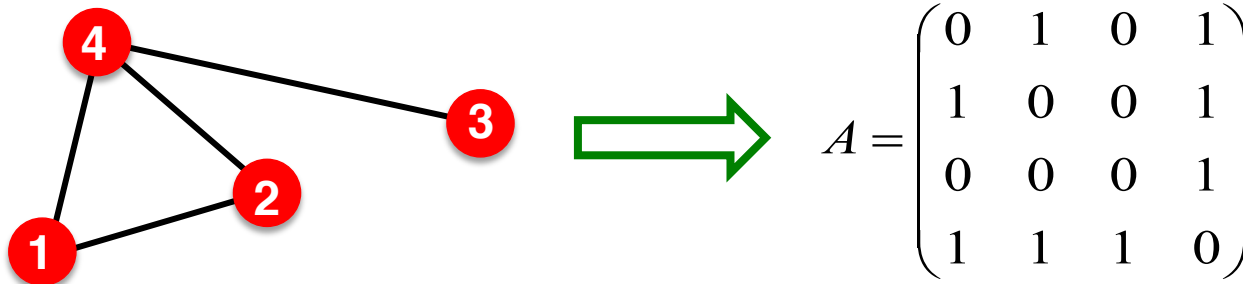
CS224W: Machine Learning with Graphs
Jure Leskovec, Stanford University
<http://cs224w.stanford.edu>



Graph as Matrix

In this lecture, we investigate graph analysis and learning from a matrix perspective.

- Treating a graph as a matrix allows us to:
 - Determine node importance via **random walk** (PageRank)
 - Obtain node embeddings via **matrix factorization (MF)**
 - View other **node embeddings** (e.g. Node2Vec) as MF
- **Random walk, matrix factorization and node embeddings are closely related!**



Stanford CS224W: PageRank (aka the Google Algorithm)

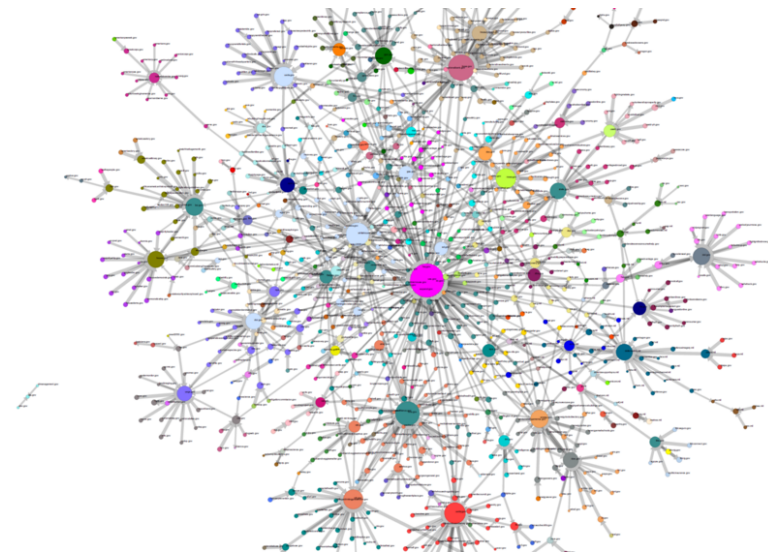
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Example: The Web as a Graph

Q: What does the Web “look like” at a global level?

- **Web as a graph:**
 - Nodes = web pages
 - Edges = hyperlinks
- **Side issue: What is a node?**
 - Dynamic pages created on the fly
 - “dark matter” – inaccessible database generated pages



The Web as a Graph

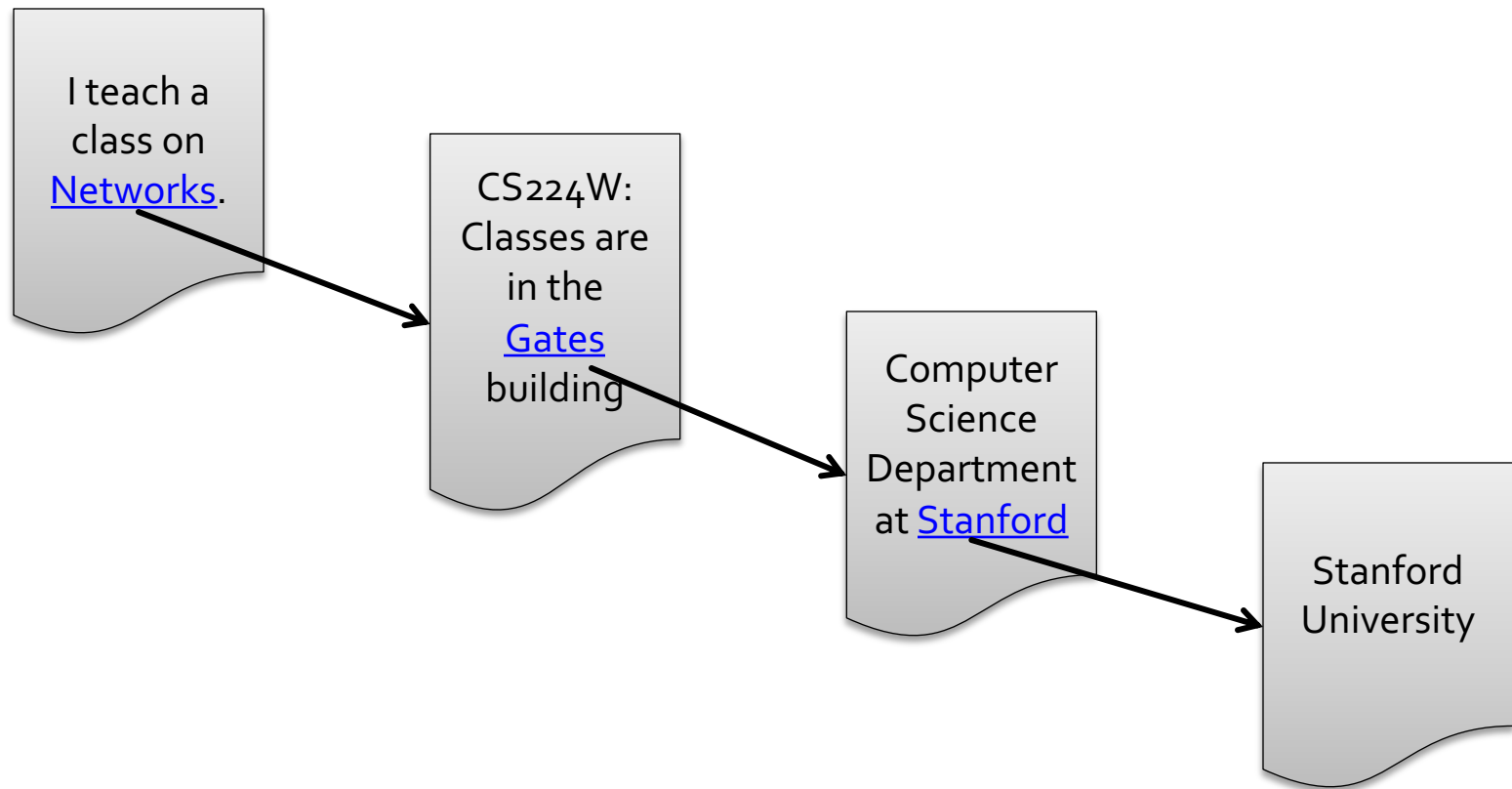
I teach a
class on
Networks.

CS224W:
Classes are
in the
Gates
building

Computer
Science
Department
at Stanford

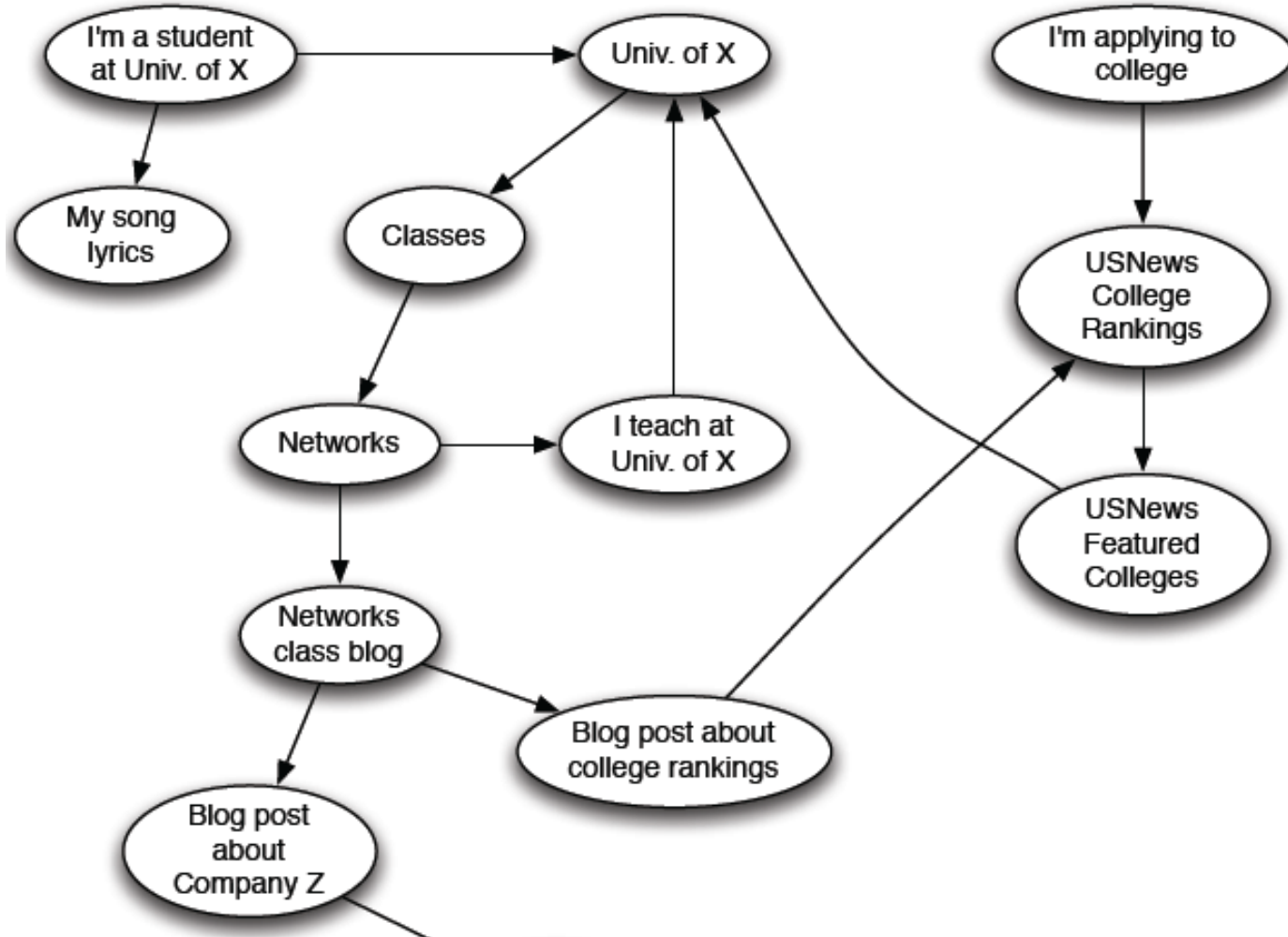
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The Web as a Graph

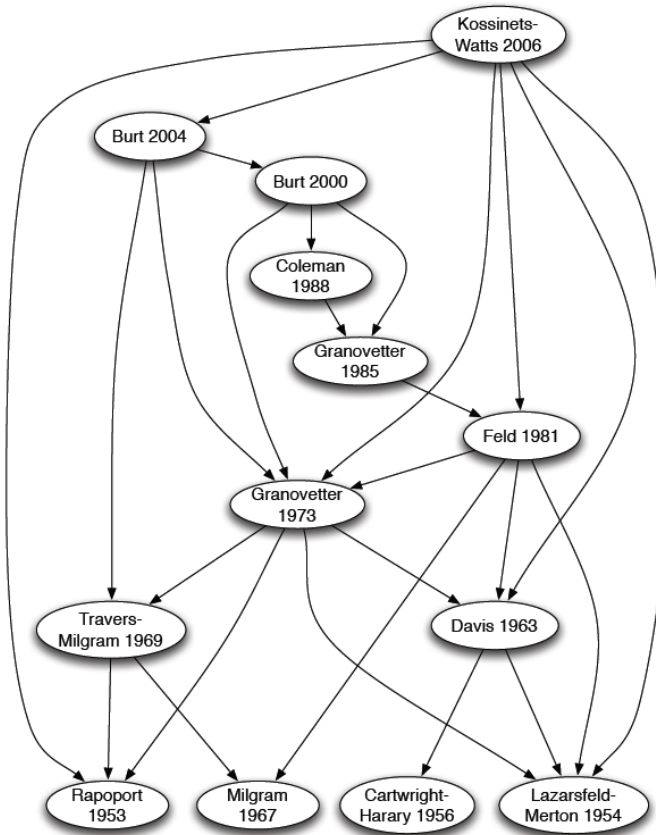


- In early days of the Web links were **navigational**
- Today many links are **transactional** (used not to navigate from page to page, but to post, comment, like, buy, ...)

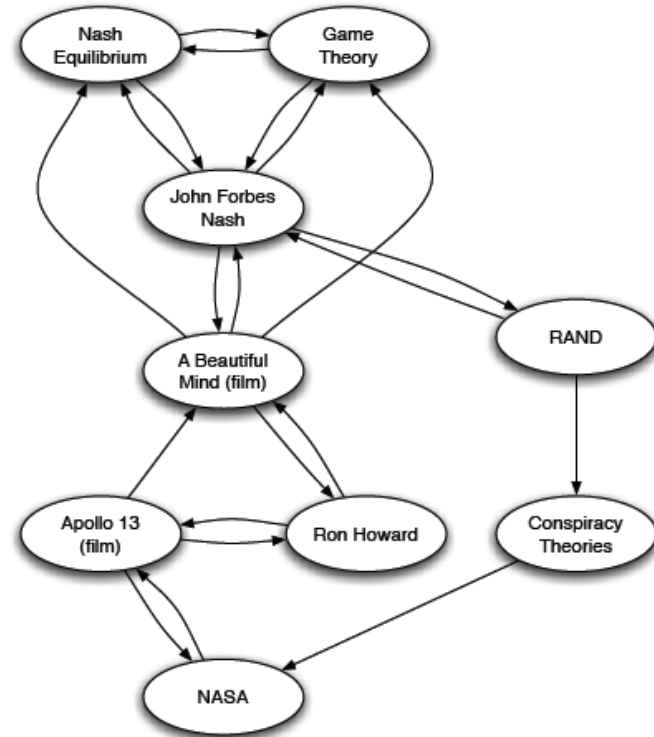
The Web as a Directed Graph



Other Information Networks



Citations



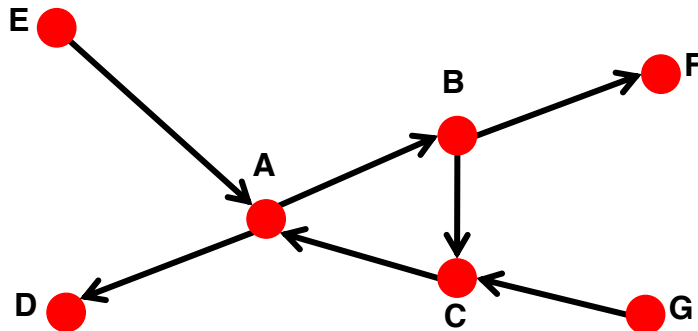
References in an Encyclopedia

What Does the Web Look Like?

- How is the Web linked?
- What is the “map” of the Web?

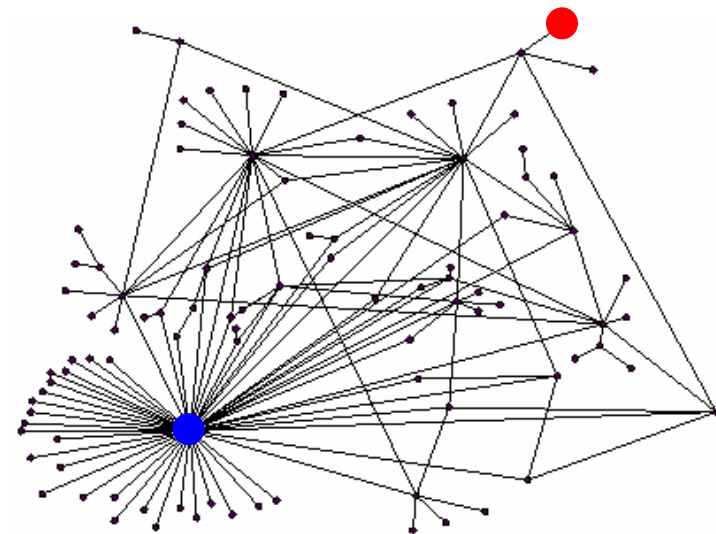
Web as a directed graph [Broder et al. 2000]:

- Given node v , what nodes can v reach?
- What other nodes can reach v ?



Ranking Nodes on the Graph

- All web pages are not equally “important”
thispersondoesnotexist.com vs. www.stanford.edu
- There is large diversity in the web-graph node connectivity.
- So, let's rank the pages using the web graph link structure!



Link Analysis Algorithms

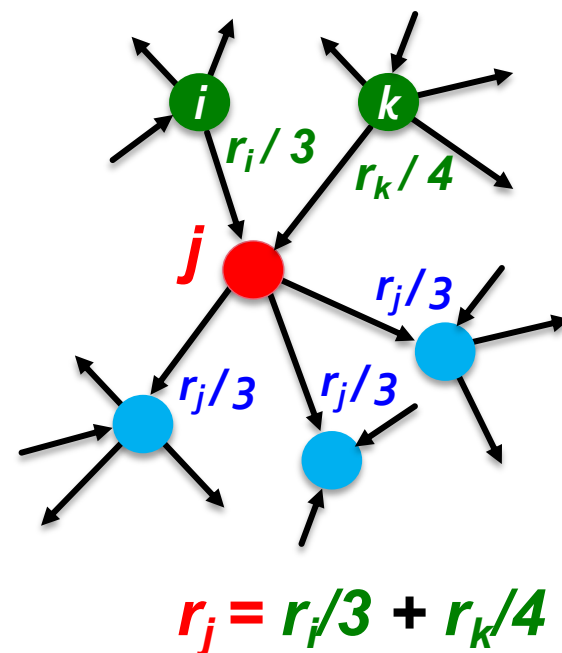
- We will cover the following **Link Analysis approaches** to compute the **importance** of nodes in a graph:
 - PageRank
 - Personalized PageRank (PPR)
 - Random Walk with Restarts

Links as Votes

- **Idea: Links as votes**
 - Page is more important if it has more links
 - In-coming links? Out-going links?
- **Think of in-links as votes:**
 - www.stanford.edu has 23,400 in-links
 - thispersondoesnotexist.com has 1 in-link
- **Are all in-links equal?**
 - Links from important pages count more
 - Recursive question!

PageRank: The “Flow” Model

- A “vote” from an important page is worth more:
 - Each link’s vote is proportional to the **importance** of its source page
 - If page i with importance r_i has d_i out-links, each link gets r_i / d_i votes
 - Page j ’s own importance r_j is the sum of the votes on its in-links



PageRank: The “Flow” Model

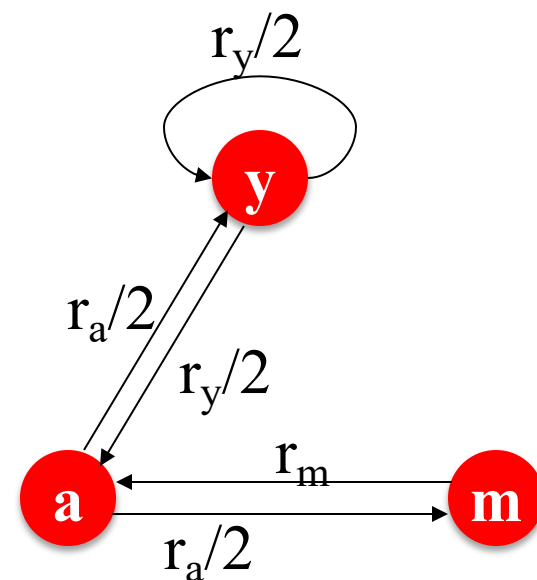
- A page is important if it is pointed to by other important pages
- Define “rank” r_j for node j

$$r_j = \sum_{i \rightarrow j} \frac{r_i}{d_i}$$

d_i ... out-degree of node i

You might wonder: Let’s just use Gaussian elimination to solve this system of linear equations. Bad idea!

The web in 1839



“Flow” equations:

$$r_y = r_y/2 + r_a/2$$

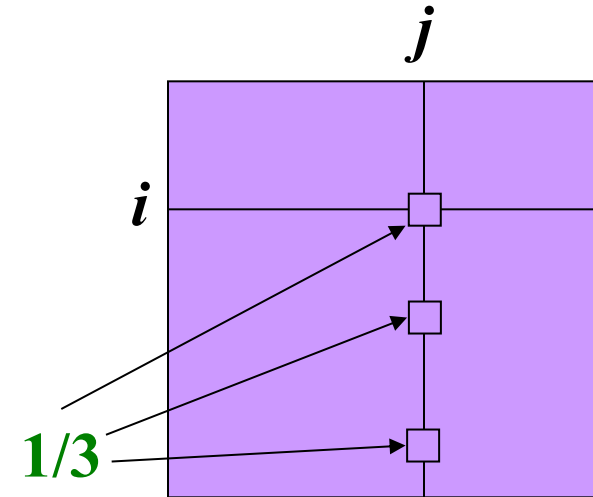
$$r_a = r_y/2 + r_m$$

$$r_m = r_a/2$$

PageRank: Matrix Formulation

- **Stochastic adjacency matrix M**

- Let page j have d_j out-links
- If $j \rightarrow i$, then $M_{ij} = \frac{1}{d_j}$
 - M is a **column stochastic matrix**
 - Columns sum to 1



- **Rank vector r** : An entry per page

- r_i is the importance score of page i
- $\sum_i r_i = 1$

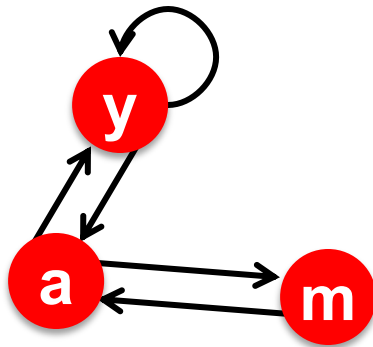
- **The flow equations can be written**

$$r = M \cdot r$$

$$r_j = \sum_{i \rightarrow j} \frac{r_i}{d_i}$$

M

Example: Flow Equations & M



	r_y	r_a	r_m
r_y	$1/2$	$1/2$	0
r_a	$1/2$	0	1
r_m	0	$1/2$	0

$$r_y = r_y/2 + r_a/2$$

$$r_a = r_y/2 + r_m$$

$$r_m = r_a/2$$

$$\begin{matrix} r_y \\ r_a \\ r_m \end{matrix} = \begin{matrix} 1/2 & 1/2 & 0 \\ 1/2 & 0 & 1 \\ 0 & 1/2 & 0 \end{matrix} \begin{matrix} r_y \\ r_a \\ r_m \end{matrix}$$

$r \qquad M \qquad r$

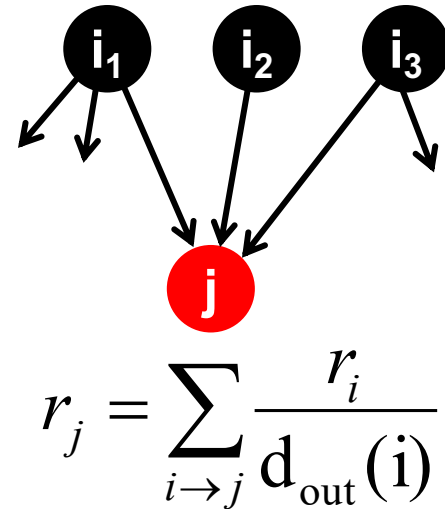
Connection to Random Walk

- **Imagine a random web surfer:**

- At any time t , surfer is on some page i
- At time $t + 1$, the surfer follows an out-link from i uniformly at random
- Ends up on some page j linked from i
- Process repeats indefinitely

- **Let:**

- $\mathbf{p}(t)$... vector whose i^{th} coordinate is the prob. that the surfer is at page i at time t
- So, $\mathbf{p}(t)$ is a probability distribution over pages

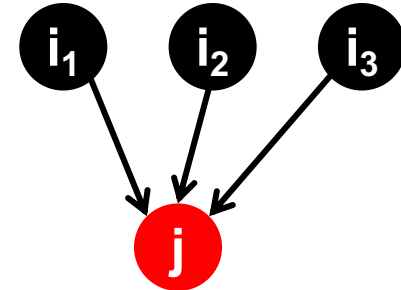


The Stationary Distribution

- **Where is the surfer at time $t+1$?**

- Follow a link uniformly at random

$$\mathbf{p}(t+1) = \mathbf{M} \cdot \mathbf{p}(t)$$



$$p(t+1) = M \cdot p(t)$$

- Suppose the random walk reaches a state

$$\mathbf{p}(t+1) = \mathbf{M} \cdot \mathbf{p}(t) = \mathbf{p}(t)$$

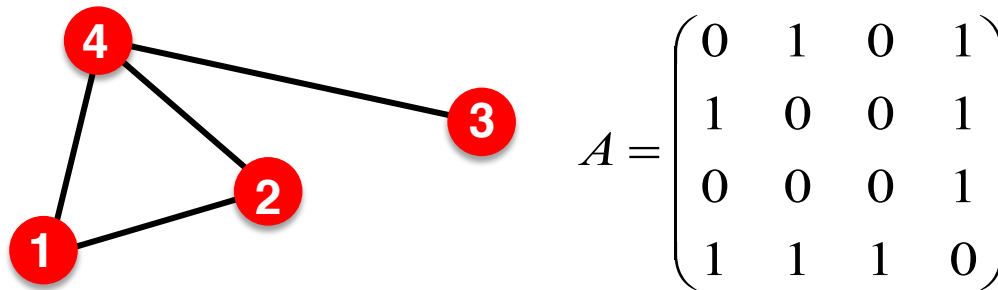
then $\mathbf{p}(t)$ is **stationary distribution** of a random walk

- **Our original rank vector \mathbf{r} satisfies $\mathbf{r} = \mathbf{M} \cdot \mathbf{r}$**

- **So, \mathbf{r} is a stationary distribution for the random walk**

Recall Eigenvector of A Matrix

- Recall from lecture 2 (eigenvector centrality), let $A \in \{0, 1\}^{n \times n}$ be an adj. matrix of undir. graph:



- Eigenvector of adjacency matrix: vectors satisfying $\lambda \mathbf{c} = A \mathbf{c}$
- \mathbf{c} : eigenvector; λ : eigenvalue
- Note:
 - This is the definition of eigenvector centrality (for undirected graphs).
 - PageRank is defined for directed graphs

Eigenvector Formulation

- The flow equation:

$$1 \cdot r = M \cdot r$$

$$\begin{array}{|c|} \hline r_y \\ \hline r_a \\ \hline r_m \\ \hline \end{array} = \begin{array}{|ccc|} \hline 1/2 & 1/2 & 0 \\ \hline 1/2 & 0 & 1 \\ \hline 0 & 1/2 & 0 \\ \hline \end{array} \begin{array}{|c|} \hline r_y \\ \hline r_a \\ \hline r_m \\ \hline \end{array}$$

$r \qquad M \qquad r$

- So the rank vector r is an **eigenvector** of the stochastic adj. matrix M (with eigenvalue 1)
 - Starting from any vector u , the limit $M(M(\dots M(M u)))$ is the **long-term distribution** of the surfers.
 - **PageRank** = Limiting distribution = **principal eigenvector** of M
 - **Note**: If r is the limit of the product $MM \dots Mu$, then r satisfies the **flow equation** $1 \cdot r = Mr$
 - So r is the **principal eigenvector** of M with eigenvalue 1
- **We can now efficiently solve for r !**
 - The method is called **Power iteration**

PageRank: Summary

- **PageRank:**
 - Measures importance of nodes in a graph using the link structure of the web
 - Models a random web surfer using the **stochastic adjacency matrix M**
 - PageRank solves $\mathbf{r} = M\mathbf{r}$ where \mathbf{r} can be viewed as both the **principle eigenvector of M** and as **the stationary distribution of a random walk** over the graph

Stanford CS224W: PageRank: How to solve?

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PageRank: How to solve?

Given a graph with n nodes, we use an iterative procedure:

- Assign each node an initial page rank
- Repeat until convergence ($\sum_i |r_i^{t+1} - r_i^t| < \epsilon$)
 - Calculate the page rank of each node

$$r_j^{(t+1)} = \sum_{i \rightarrow j} \frac{r_i^{(t)}}{d_i}$$

d_i out-degree of node i

Power Iteration Method

- Given a web graph with N nodes, where the nodes are pages and edges are hyperlinks
- **Power iteration:** a simple iterative scheme

- Initialize: $\mathbf{r}^0 = [1/N, \dots, 1/N]^T$

- Iterate: $\mathbf{r}^{(t+1)} = \mathbf{M} \cdot \mathbf{r}^t$

- Stop when $|\mathbf{r}^{(t+1)} - \mathbf{r}^t|_1 < \varepsilon$

$$r_j^{(t+1)} = \sum_{i \rightarrow j} \frac{r_i^{(t)}}{d_i}$$

d_i out-degree of node i

$|x|_1 = \sum_1^N |x_1|$ is the **L₁** norm

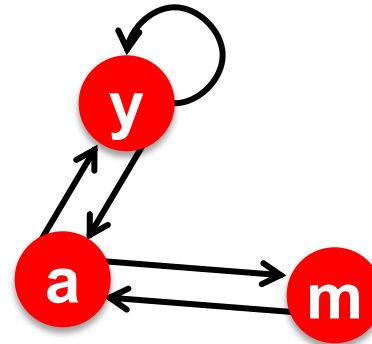
Can use any other vector norm, e.g., Euclidean

About 50 iterations is sufficient to estimate the limiting solution.

PageRank: How to solve?

■ Power Iteration:

- Set $r_j \leftarrow 1/N$
- **1:** $r'_j \leftarrow \sum_{i \rightarrow j} \frac{r_i}{d_i}$
- **2:** If $|r - r'| > \epsilon$:
 - $r \leftarrow r'$
- **3:** go to **1**



	y	a	m
y	1/2	1/2	0
a	1/2	0	1
m	0	1/2	0

$$\begin{aligned}r_y &= r_y/2 + r_a/2 \\r_a &= r_y/2 + r_m \\r_m &= r_a/2\end{aligned}$$

■ Example:

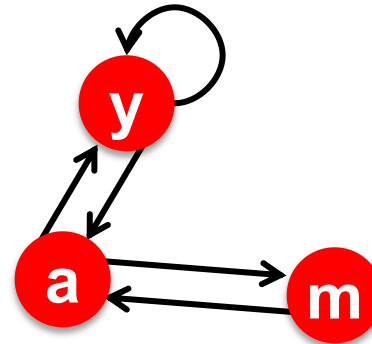
$$\begin{pmatrix} r_y \\ r_a \\ r_m \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} 1/3 \\ 1/3 \\ 1/3 \end{pmatrix}$$

Iteration 0, 1, 2, ...

PageRank: How to solve?

■ Power Iteration:

- Set $r_j \leftarrow 1/N$
- **1:** $r'_j \leftarrow \sum_{i \rightarrow j} \frac{r_i}{d_i}$
- **2:** If $|r - r'| > \epsilon$:
 - $r \leftarrow r'$
- **3:** go to **1**



	y	a	m
y	1/2	1/2	0
a	1/2	0	1
m	0	1/2	0

$$\begin{aligned}
 r_y &= r_y/2 + r_a/2 \\
 r_a &= r_y/2 + r_m \\
 r_m &= r_a/2
 \end{aligned}$$

■ Example:

$$\begin{pmatrix} r_y \\ r_a \\ r_m \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} 1/3 \\ 1/3 \\ 1/3 \end{pmatrix} \quad \begin{pmatrix} 1/3 \\ 3/6 \\ 1/6 \end{pmatrix} \quad \begin{pmatrix} 5/12 \\ 1/3 \\ 3/12 \end{pmatrix} \quad \begin{pmatrix} 9/24 \\ 11/24 \\ 1/6 \end{pmatrix} \quad \dots \quad \begin{pmatrix} 6/15 \\ 6/15 \\ 3/15 \end{pmatrix}$$

Iteration 0, 1, 2, ...

PageRank: Three Questions

$$r_j^{(t+1)} = \sum_{i \rightarrow j} \frac{r_i^{(t)}}{d_i} \quad \text{or equivalently} \quad r = Mr$$

- Does this converge?
- Does it converge to what we want?
- Are results reasonable?

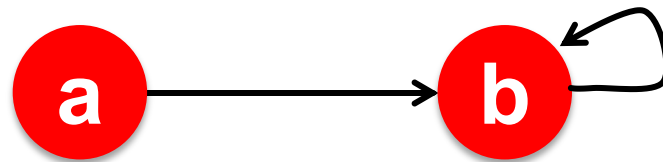
PageRank: Problems

Two problems:

- **(1)** Some pages are **dead ends** (have no out-links)
 - Such pages cause importance to “leak out”
- **(2) Spider traps** (all out-links are within the group)
 - Eventually spider traps absorb all importance

Does this converge?

- The “Spider trap” problem:



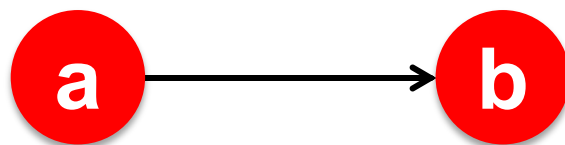
$$r_j^{(t+1)} = \sum_{i \rightarrow j} \frac{r_i^{(t)}}{d_i}$$

- Example:

	Iteration: 0,	1,	2,	3...
r_a	1	0	0	0
r_b	0	1	1	1

Does it converge to what we want?

- The “Dead end” problem:



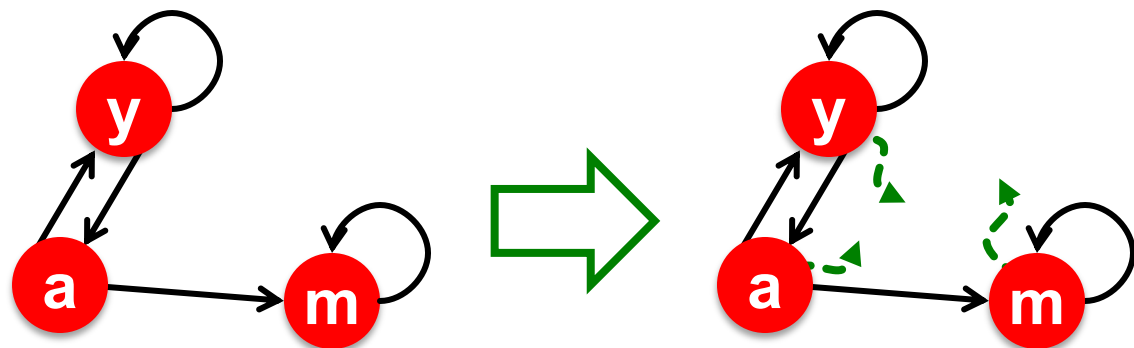
$$r_j^{(t+1)} = \sum_{i \rightarrow j} \frac{r_i^{(t)}}{d_i}$$

- Example:

	Iteration: 0,	1,	2,	3...
r_a	1	0	0	0
r_b	0	1	0	0

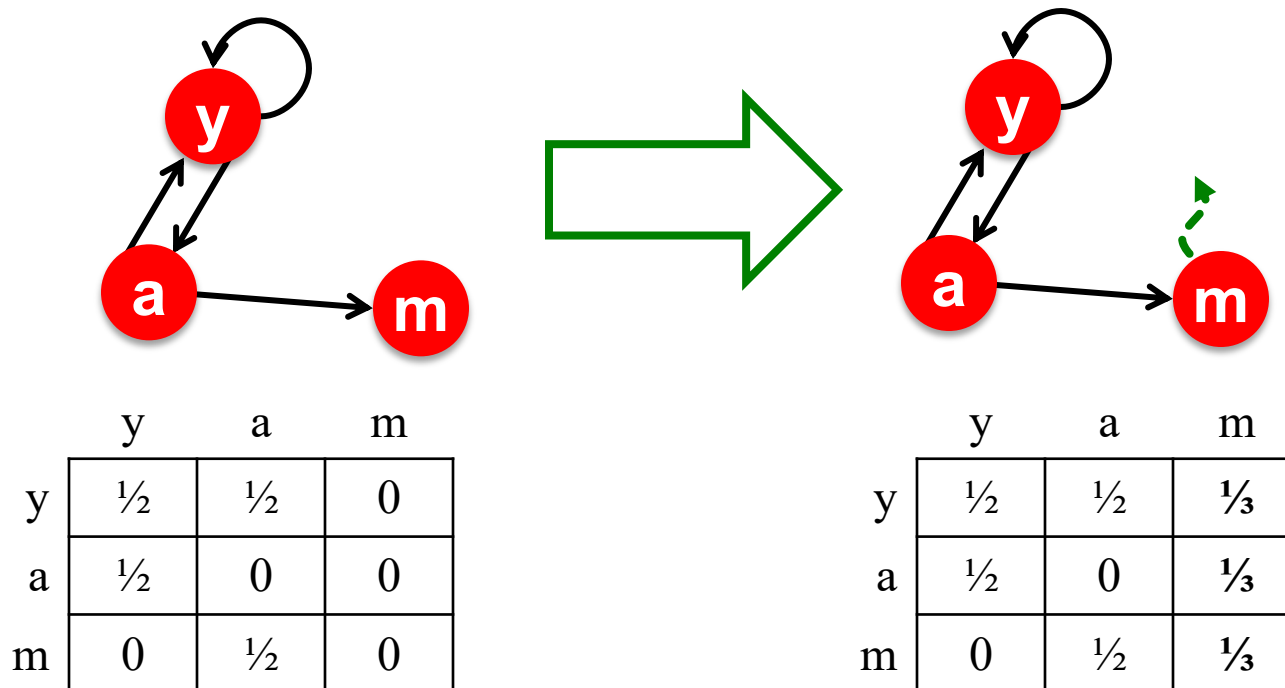
Solution to Spider Traps

- **Solution for spider traps:** At each time step, the random surfer has two options
 - With prob. β , follow a link at random
 - With prob. $1-\beta$, jump to a random page
 - Common values for β are in the range 0.8 to 0.9
- **Surfer will teleport out of spider trap within a few time steps**



Solution to Dead Ends

- **Teleports:** Follow random teleport links with total probability **1.0** from dead-ends
 - Adjust matrix accordingly



Why Teleports Solve the Problem?

Why are dead-ends and spider traps a problem and **why do teleports solve the problem?**

- **Spider-traps** are not a problem, but with traps PageRank scores are **not** what we want
 - **Solution:** Never get stuck in a spider trap by teleporting out of it in a finite number of steps
- **Dead-ends** are a problem
 - The matrix is not column stochastic so our initial assumptions are not met
 - **Solution:** Make matrix column stochastic by always teleporting when there is nowhere else to go

Solution: Random Teleports

- Google's solution that does it all:

At each step, random surfer has two options:

- With probability β , follow a link at random
- With probability $1-\beta$, jump to some random page

- **PageRank equation** [Brin-Page, 98]

$$r_j = \sum_{i \rightarrow j} \beta \frac{r_i}{d_i} + (1 - \beta) \frac{1}{N}$$

d_i ... out-degree
of node i

This formulation assumes that M has no dead ends. We can either preprocess matrix M to remove all dead ends or explicitly follow random teleport links with probability 1.0 from dead-ends.

The Google Matrix

- **PageRank equation** [Brin-Page, '98]

$$r_j = \sum_{i \rightarrow j} \beta \frac{r_i}{d_i} + (1 - \beta) \frac{1}{N}$$

- **The Google Matrix G :**

[1/N]_{N×N}...N by N matrix
where all entries are 1/N

$$G = \beta M + (1 - \beta) \left[\frac{1}{N} \right]_{N \times N}$$

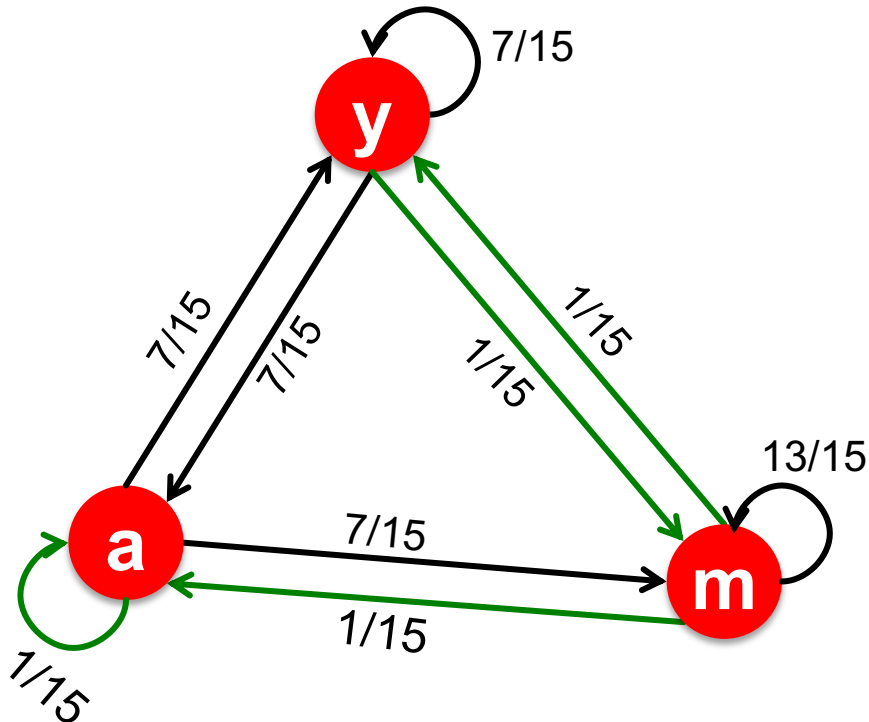
- **We have a recursive problem: $r = G \cdot r$**

And the Power method still works!

- **What is β ?**

- In practice $\beta = 0.8, 0.9$ (make 5 steps on avg., jump)

Random Teleports ($\beta = 0.8$)



$$0.8 \begin{bmatrix} 1/2 & 1/2 & 0 \\ 1/2 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 1/2 & 1 \end{bmatrix} + 0.2 \begin{bmatrix} 1/3 & 1/3 & 1/3 \\ 1/3 & 1/3 & 1/3 \\ 1/3 & 1/3 & 1/3 \end{bmatrix}$$

$$\begin{matrix} y \\ a \\ m \end{matrix} \begin{bmatrix} 7/15 & 7/15 & 1/15 \\ 7/15 & 1/15 & 1/15 \\ 1/15 & 7/15 & 13/15 \end{bmatrix}$$

G

$$\begin{matrix} y \\ a \\ m \end{matrix} = \begin{matrix} 1/3 & 0.33 & 0.24 & 0.26 & 7/33 \\ 1/3 & 0.20 & 0.20 & 0.18 & \dots & 5/33 \\ 1/3 & 0.46 & 0.52 & 0.56 & 21/33 \end{matrix}$$

PageRank Example

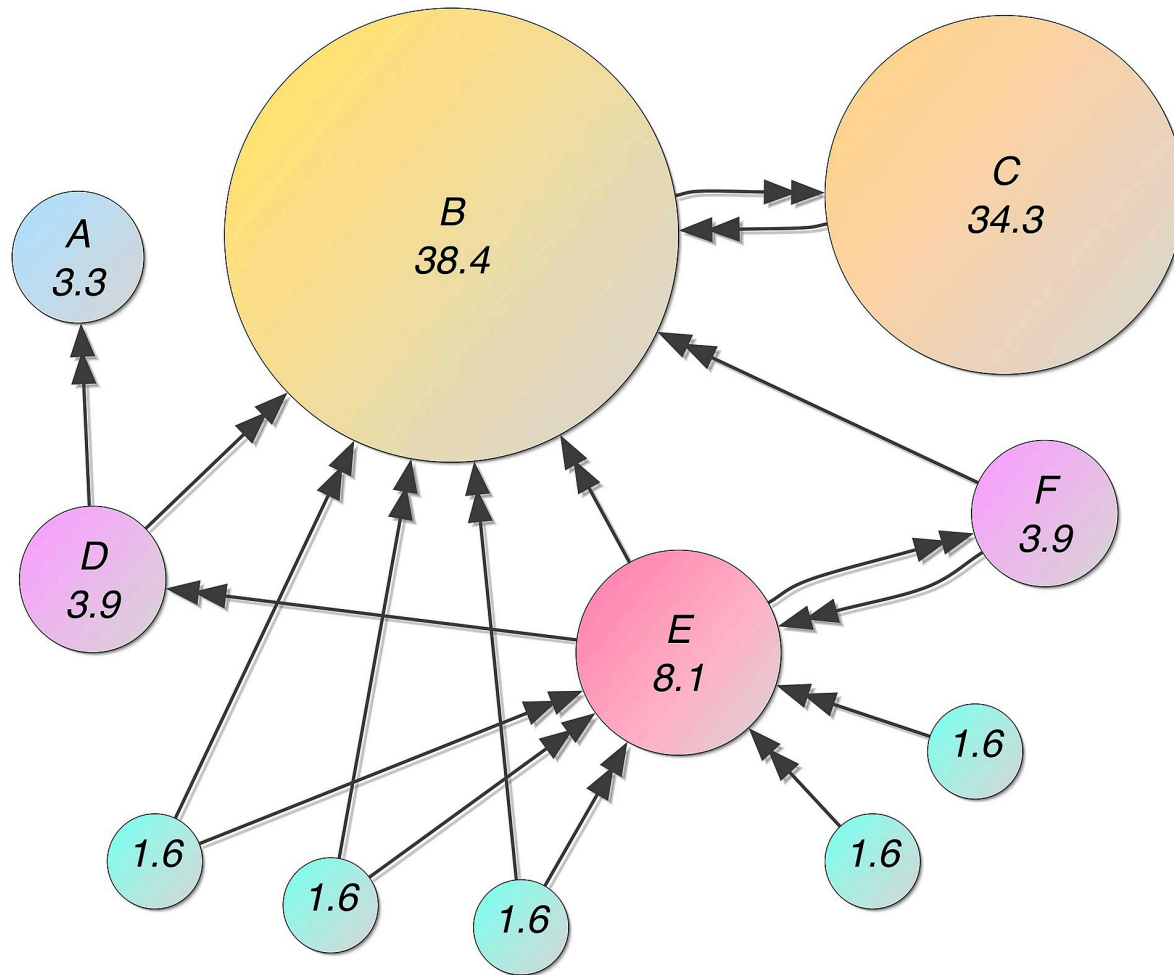


Image credit: [Wikipedia](#)

Solving PageRank: Summary

- PageRank solves for $\mathbf{r} = \mathbf{G}\mathbf{r}$ and can be efficiently computed by power iteration of the stochastic adjacency matrix (\mathbf{G})
- Adding random uniform teleportation solves issues of dead-ends and spider-traps

Stanford CS224W: Random Walk with Restarts and Personalized PageRank

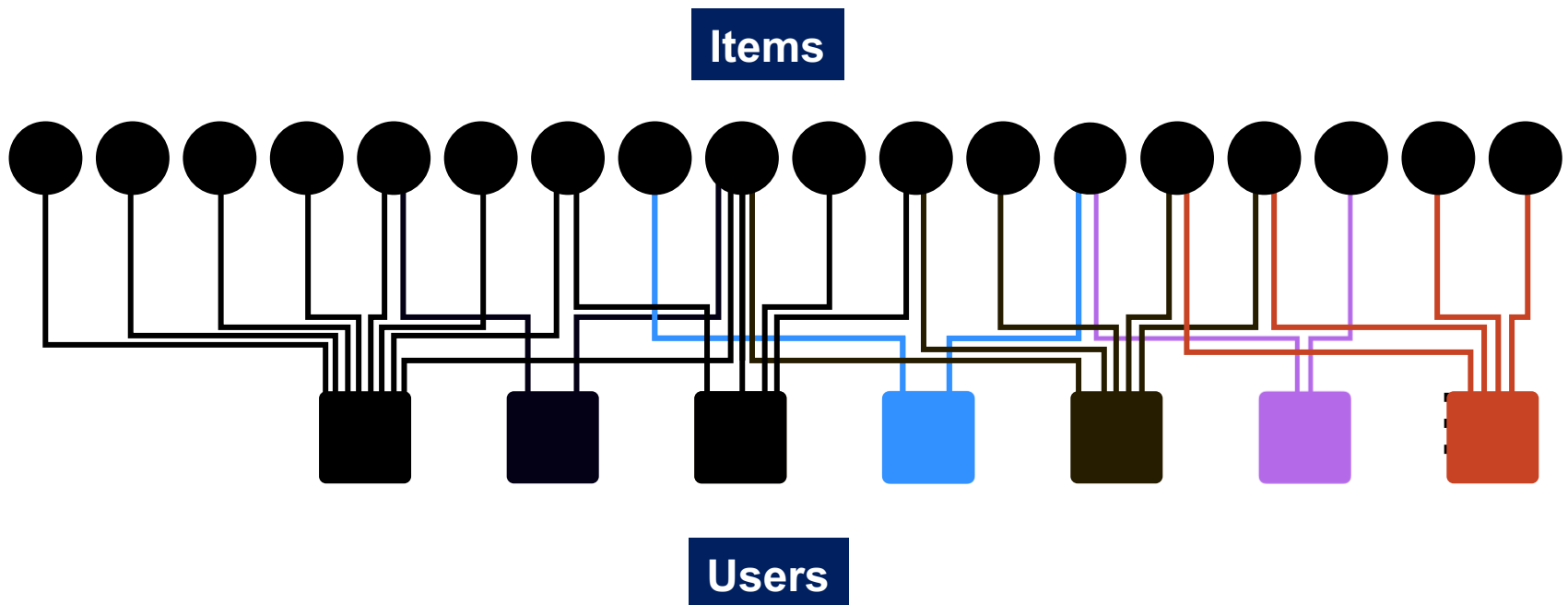
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Example: Recommendation

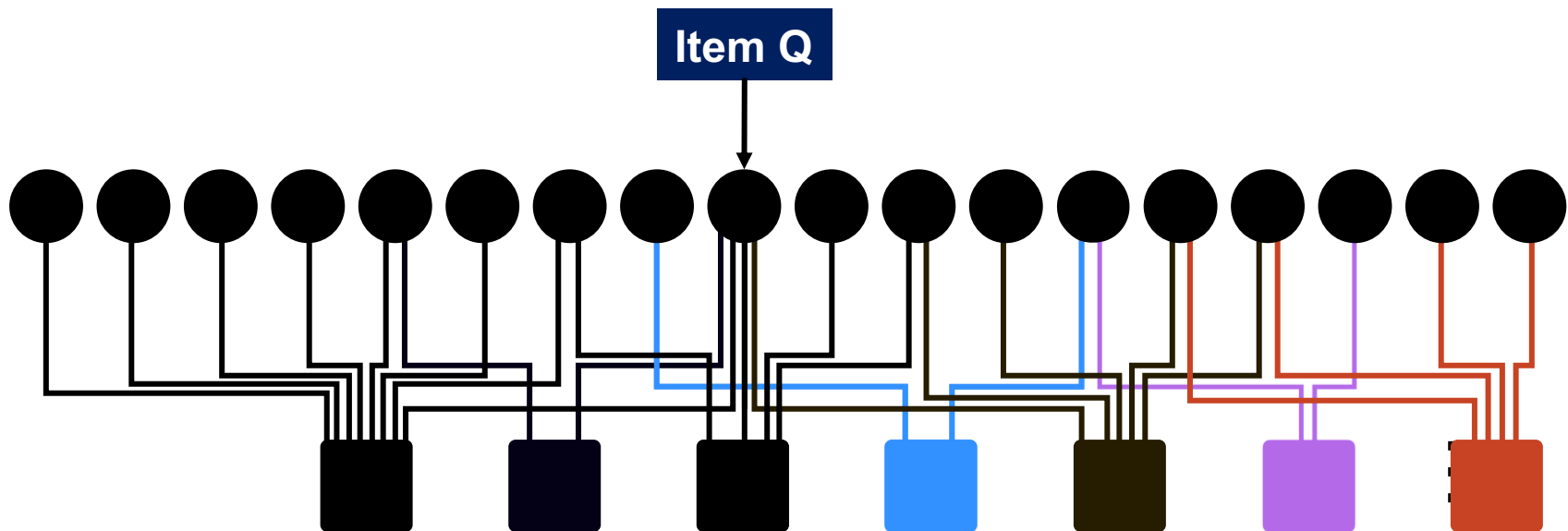
- **Given:**

A bipartite graph representing user and item interactions (e.g. purchase)



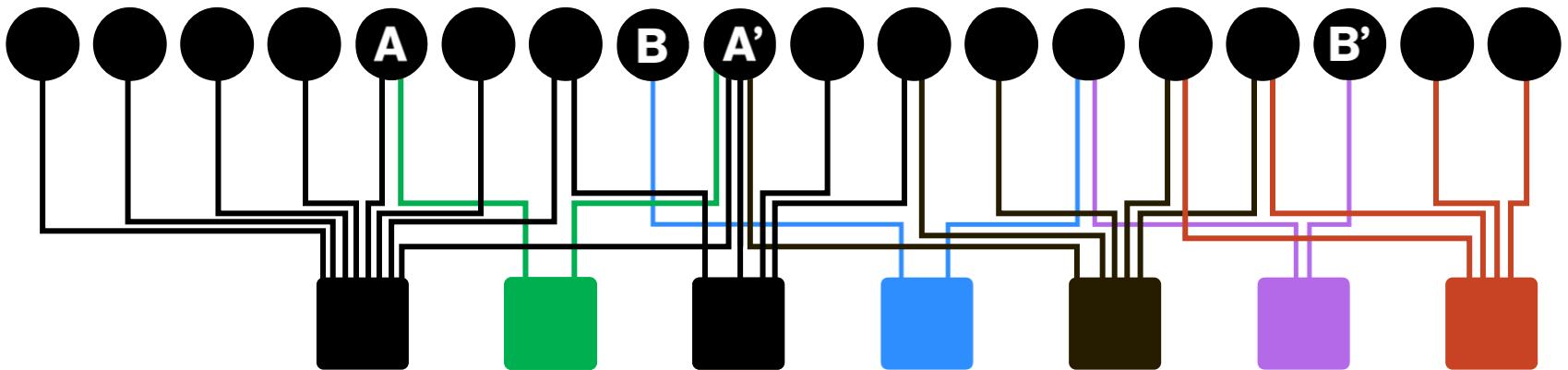
Bipartite User-Item Graph

- **Goal:** Proximity on graphs
 - What items should we recommend to a user who interacts with item Q?
 - **Intuition:** if items Q and P are interacted by similar users, recommend P when user interacts with Q



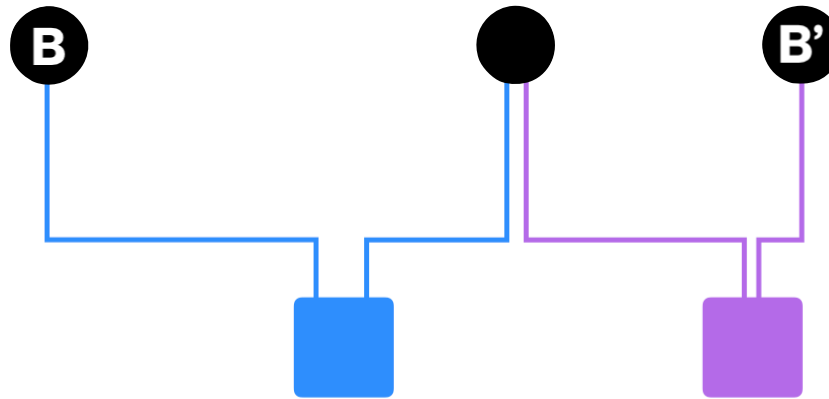
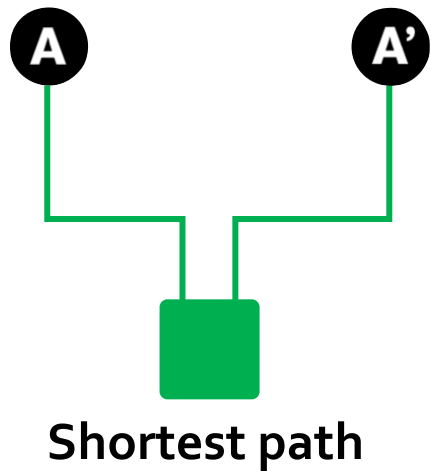
Bipartite User-to-Item Graph

- Which is more related A,A' or B,B'?



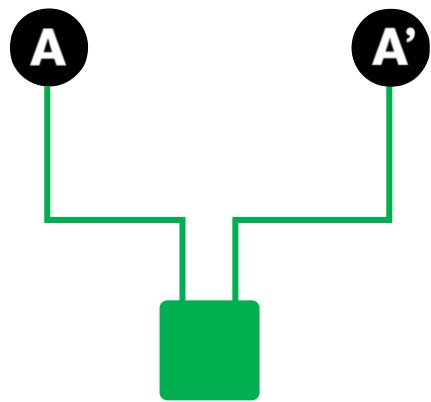
Node proximity Measurements

- Which is more related A,A', B,B' or C,C'?

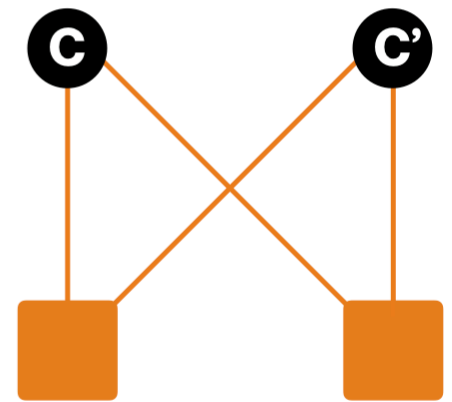
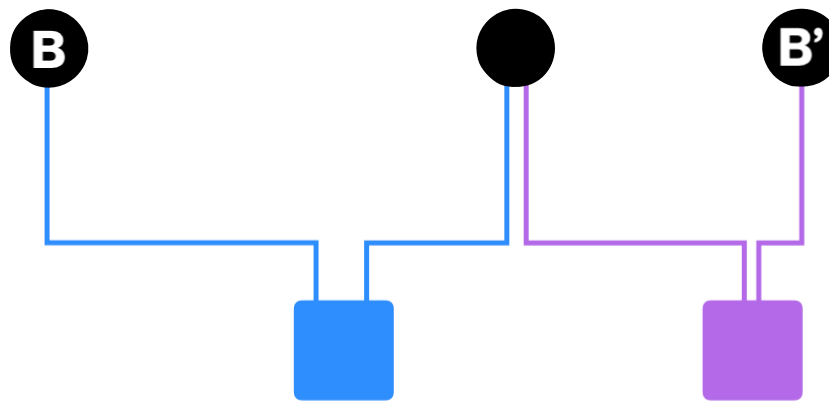


Node proximity Measurements

- Which is more related A,A', B,B' or C,C'?



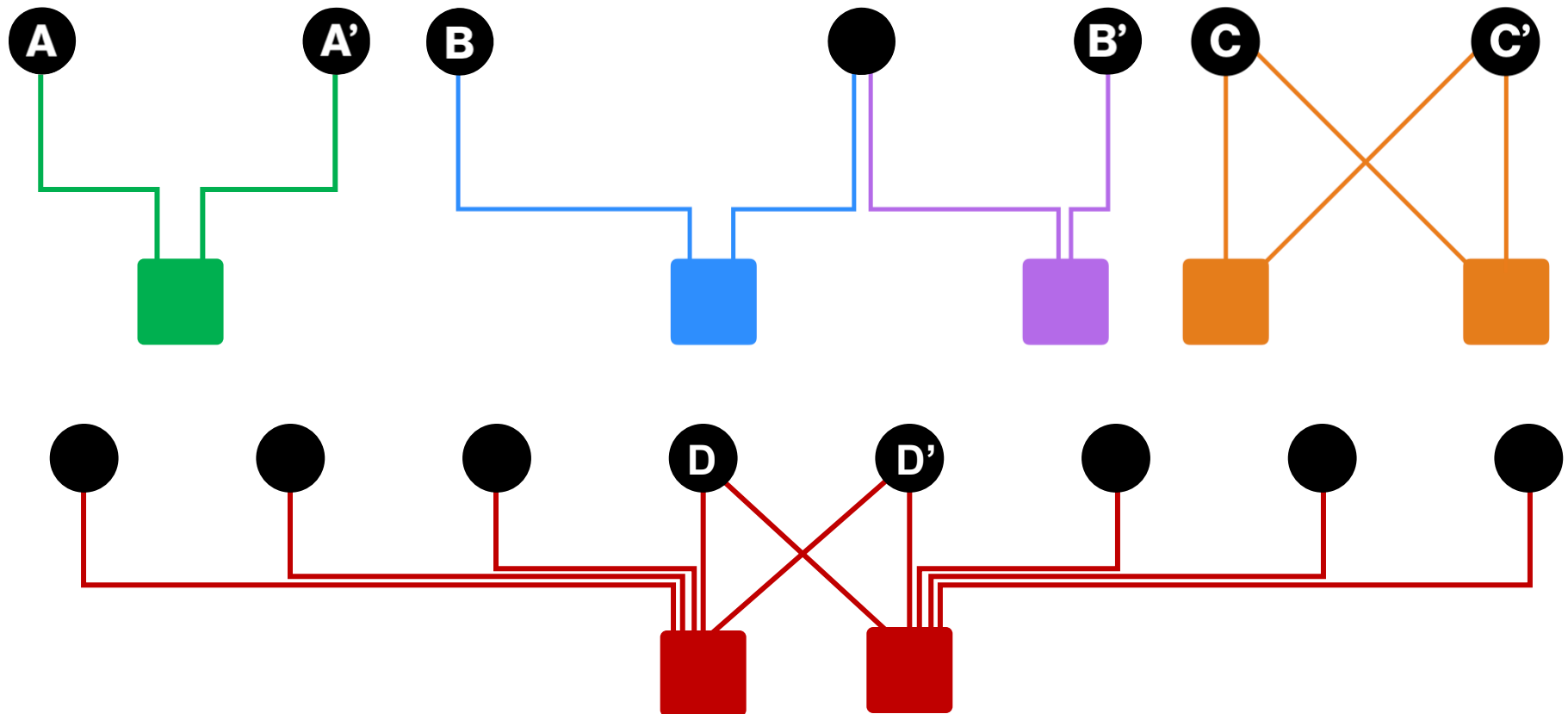
Shortest path



Common Neighbors

Node proximity Measurements

- Which is more related A,A', B,B' or C,C'?



Personalized Page Rank/Random Walk with Restarts

Proximity on Graphs

- **PageRank:**
 - Ranks nodes by “importance”
 - Teleports with uniform probability to any node in the network
- **Personalized PageRank:**
 - Ranks proximity of nodes to the teleport nodes S
- **Proximity on graphs:**
 - **Q:** What is most related item to **Item Q**?
 - **Random Walks with Restarts**
 - Teleport back to the starting node: $S = \{Q\}$

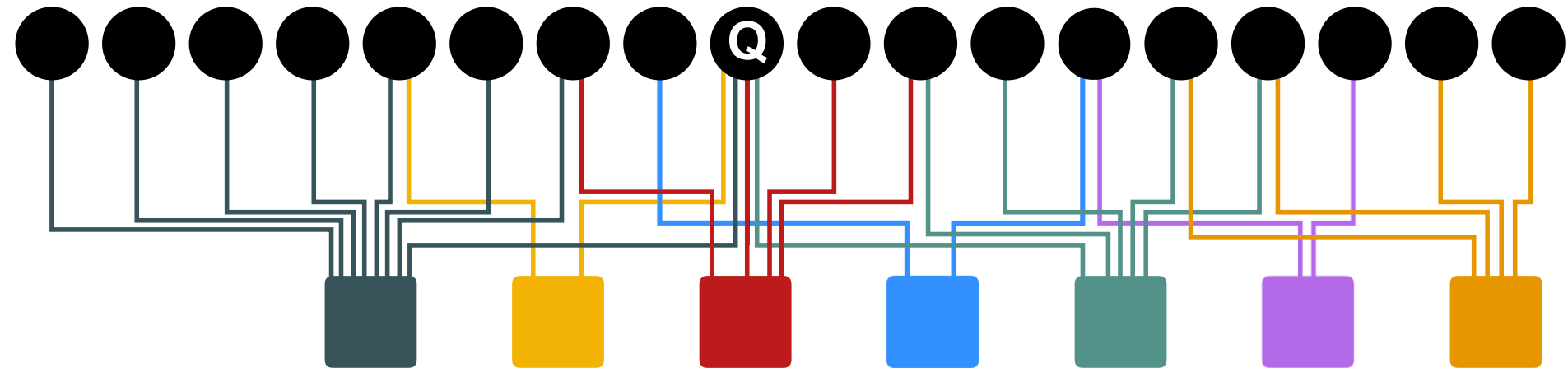
Idea: Random Walks

■ Idea

- Every node has some importance
- Importance gets evenly split among all edges and pushed to the neighbors:
- **Given a set of QUERY_NODES, we simulate a random walk:**
 - Make a step to a random neighbor and record the visit (visit count)
 - With probability ALPHA, restart the walk at one of the QUERY_NODES
 - The nodes with the highest visit count have highest proximity to the QUERY_NODES

Random Walks

- **Idea:**
 - Every node has some importance
 - Importance gets evenly split among all edges and pushed to the neighbors
- Given a set of **QUERY NODES Q**, simulate a random walk:



Random Walk Algorithm

■ Proximity to query node(s) Q :

ALPHA = 0.5

QUERY_NODES =



```
item = QUERY_NODES.sample_by_weight( )  
for i in range( N_STEPS ):
```

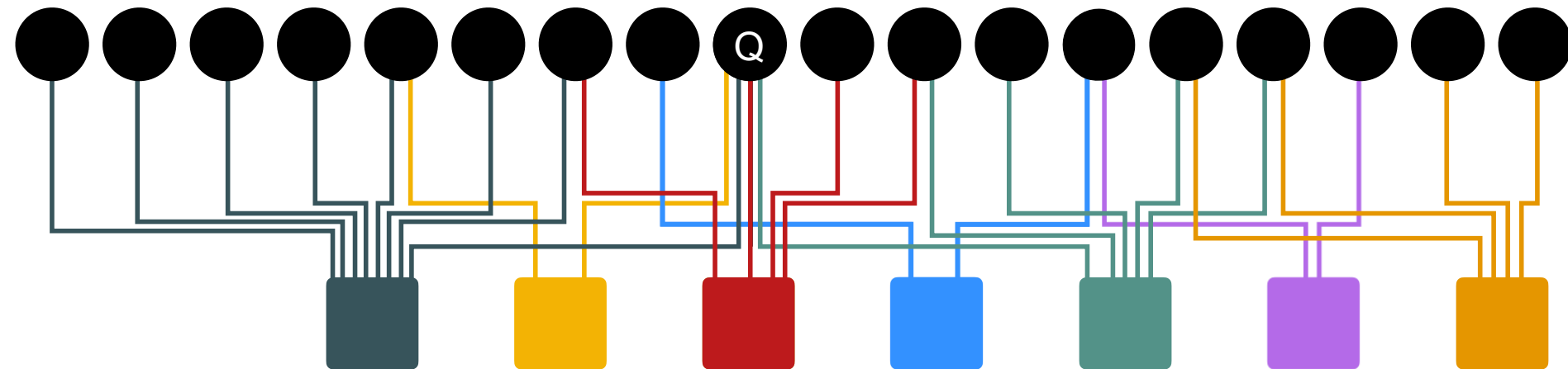
```
    user = item.get_random_neighbor( )
```

```
    item = user.get_random_neighbor( )
```

```
    item.visit_count += 1
```

```
    if random( ) < ALPHA:
```

```
        item = QUERY_NODES.sample.by_weight ( )
```



Random Walk Algorithm

■ Proximity to query node(s) Q :

$\text{ALPHA} = 0.5$

$\text{QUERY_NODES} =$



```
item = QUERY_NODES.sample_by_weight( )  
for i in range( N_STEPS ):
```

```
    user = item.get_random_neighbor( )
```

```
    item = user.get_random_neighbor( )
```

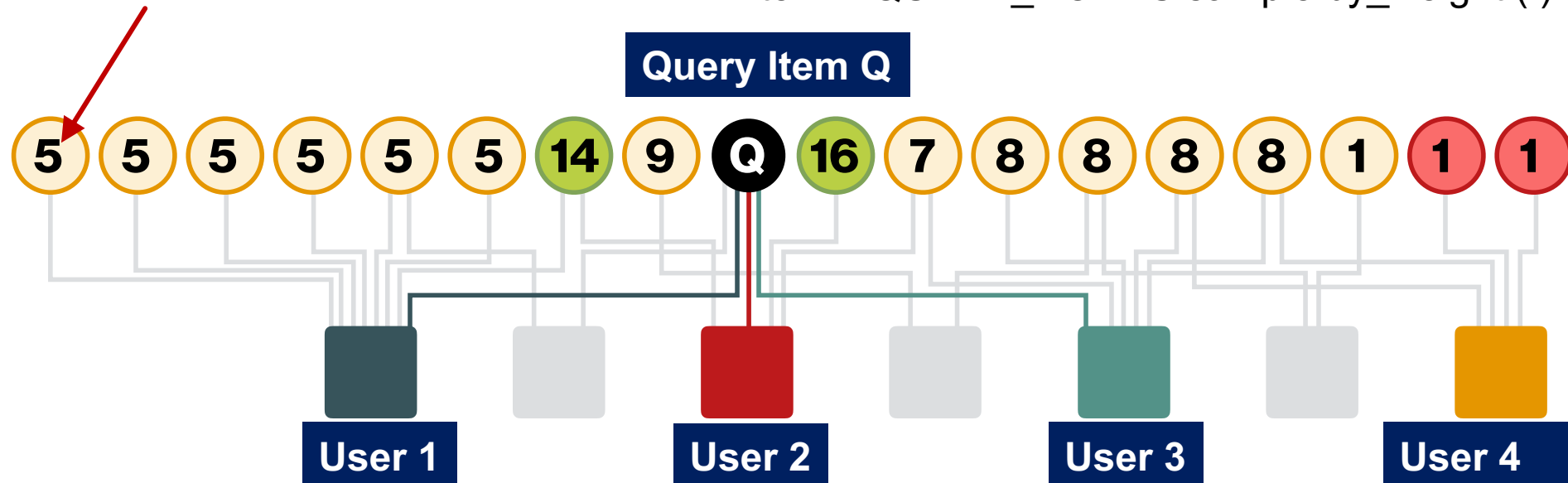
```
    item.visit_count += 1
```

```
    if random( ) < ALPHA:
```

```
        item = QUERY_NODES.sample.by_weight ( )
```

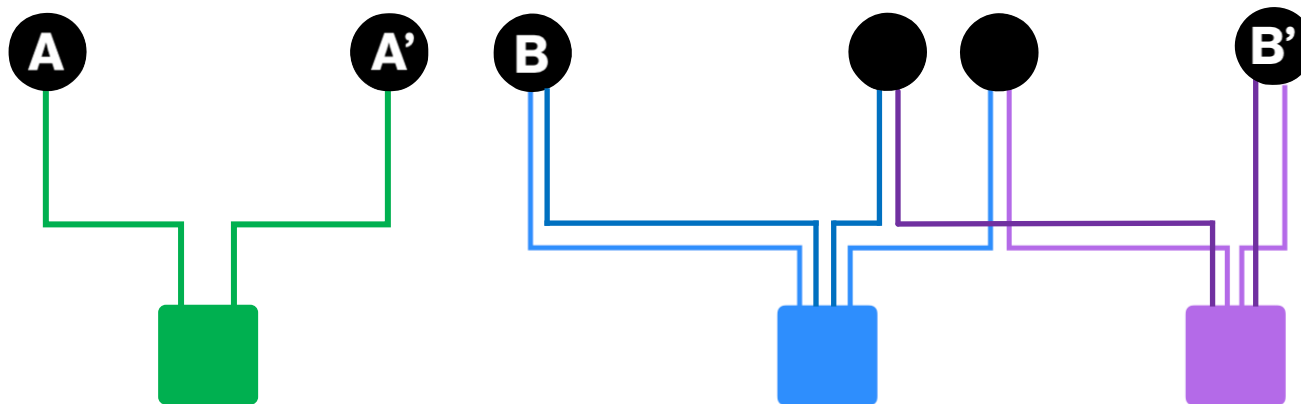
Number of visits by
random walks starting at Q

Query Item Q



Benefits

- Why is this a good solution?
- Because the “similarity” considers:
 - Multiple connections
 - Multiple paths
 - Direct and indirect connections
 - Degree of the node



Summary: Page Rank Variants

■ PageRank:

- Teleports to any node
- Nodes can have the same probability of the surfer landing:
 $S = [0.1, 0.1, 0.1, 0.1, 0.1, 0.1, 0.1, 0.1, 0.1, 0.1]$

■ Topic-Specific PageRank aka Personalized PageRank:

- Teleports to a specific set of nodes
- Nodes can have different probabilities of the surfer landing there:

$$S = [0.1, 0, 0, 0.2, 0, 0, 0.5, 0, 0, 0.2]$$

■ Random Walk with Restarts:

- Topic-Specific PageRank where teleport is always to the same node:

$$S = [0, 0, 0, 0, 1, 0, 0, 0, 0, 0]$$

Summary

- A graph is naturally represented as a matrix
- We defined a random walk process over the graph
 - Random surfer moving across the links and with random teleportation
 - Stochastic adjacency matrix M
- PageRank = Limiting distribution of the surfer location represented node importance
 - Corresponds to the leading eigenvector of transformed adjacency matrix M .

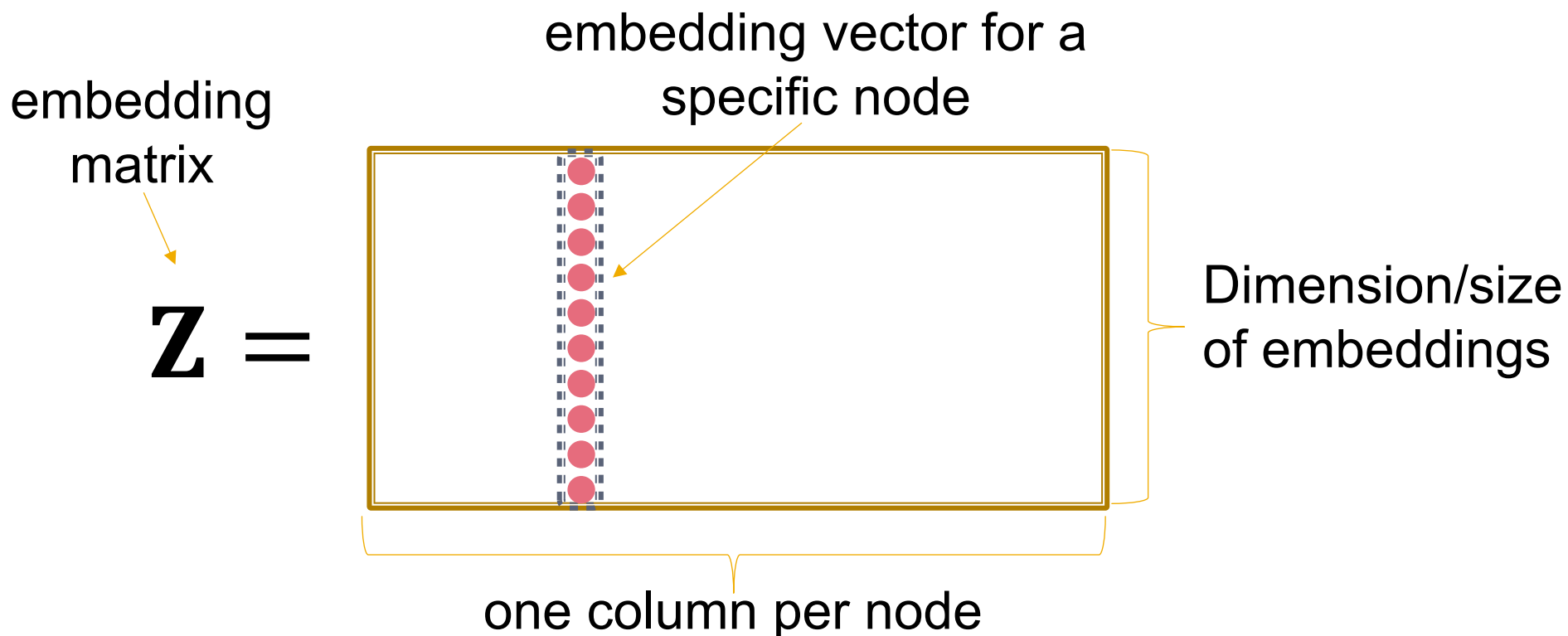
Stanford CS224W: Matrix Factorization and Node Embeddings

CS224W: Machine Learning with Graphs
Jure Leskovec, Stanford University
<http://cs224w.stanford.edu>



Embeddings & Matrix Factorization

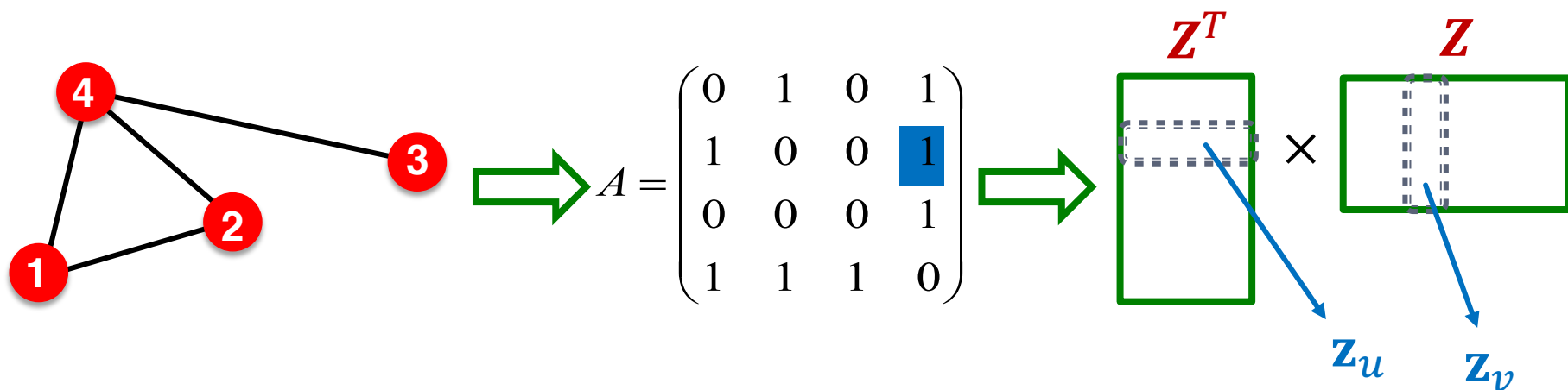
- **Recall:** encoder as an embedding lookup



Objective: maximize $\mathbf{z}_v^T \mathbf{z}_u$ for node pairs (u, v) that are **similar**

Connection to Matrix Factorization

- Simplest **node similarity**: Nodes u, v are similar if they are connected by an edge
- This means: $\mathbf{z}_v^T \mathbf{z}_u = A_{u,v}$
which is the (u, v) entry of the graph adjacency matrix A
- Therefore, $\mathbf{Z}^T \mathbf{Z} = A$



Matrix Factorization

- The embedding dimension d (number of rows in \mathbf{Z}) is much smaller than number of nodes n .
- Exact factorization $\mathbf{A} = \mathbf{Z}^T \mathbf{Z}$ is generally not possible
- However, we can learn \mathbf{Z} approximately
- **Objective:** $\min_{\mathbf{Z}} \|\mathbf{A} - \mathbf{Z}^T \mathbf{Z}\|_2$
 - We optimize \mathbf{Z} such that it minimizes the L2 norm (Frobenius norm) of $\mathbf{A} - \mathbf{Z}^T \mathbf{Z}$
 - Note in lecture 3 we used softmax instead of L2. But the goal to approximate \mathbf{A} with $\mathbf{Z}^T \mathbf{Z}$ is the same.
- Conclusion: **inner product decoder with node similarity defined by edge connectivity is equivalent to matrix factorization of \mathbf{A}**

Random Walk-based Similarity

- **DeepWalk** and **node2vec** have a more complex **node similarity** definition based on random walks
- **DeepWalk** is equivalent to matrix factorization of the following complex matrix expression:

$$\log \left(\text{vol}(G) \left(\frac{1}{T} \sum_{r=1}^T (D^{-1}A)^r \right) D^{-1} \right) - \log b$$

- **Explanation in next slide**

[Network Embedding as Matrix Factorization: Unifying DeepWalk, LINE, PTE, and node2vec](#), WSDM 18

Random Walk-based Similarity

Volume of graph

$$vol(G) = \sum_i \sum_j A_{i,j}$$

Diagonal matrix D
 $D_{u,u} = \deg(u)$

$$\log \left(vol(G) \left(\frac{1}{T} \sum_{r=1}^T (D^{-1}A)^r \right) D^{-1} \right) - \log b$$

context window size

See Lec 3 slide 30:

$$T = |N_R(u)|$$

Power of normalized adjacency matrix

Number of negative samples

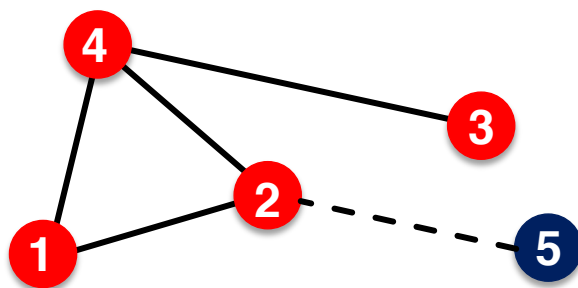
- **Node2vec** can also be formulated as a matrix factorization (albeit a more complex matrix)
- Refer to the paper for more detailed proofs.

Network Embedding as Matrix Factorization: Unifying DeepWalk, LINE, PTE, and node2vec, WSDM 18

Limitations (1)

Limitations of node embeddings via matrix factorization and random walks

- Cannot obtain embeddings for nodes not in the training set



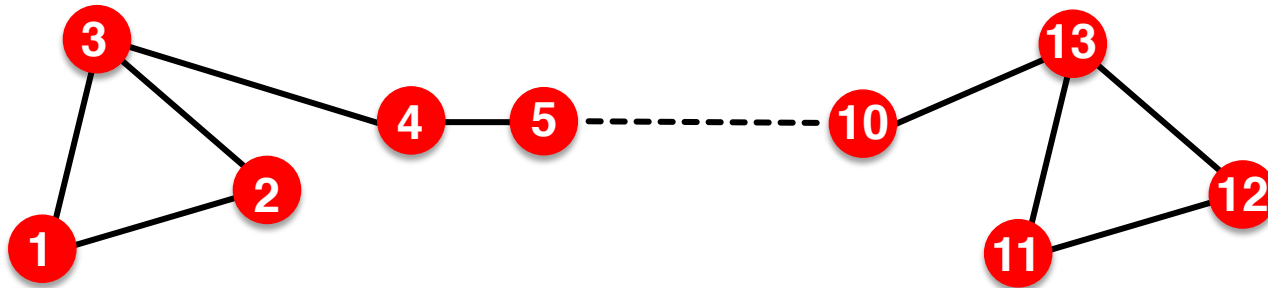
Training set

A newly added node 5 at test time
(e.g. new user in a social network)

**Cannot compute its embedding
with DeepWalk / node2vec. Need to
recompute all node embeddings.**

Limitation (2)

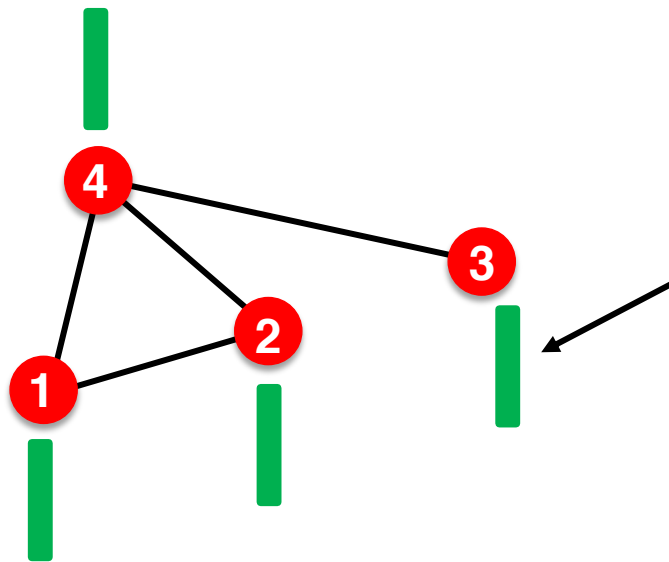
- Cannot capture **structural similarity**:



- Node 1 and 11 are **structurally similar** – part of one triangle, degree 2
- However, they have very **different** embeddings
 - It's unlikely that a random walk will reach node 11 from node 1
- **DeepWalk and node2vec do not capture structural similarity**

Limitations (3)

- Cannot utilize node, edge and graph features



Feature vector
(e.g. protein properties in a protein-protein interaction graph)

DeepWalk / node2vec embeddings do not incorporate such node features

Solution to these limitations: Deep Representation Learning and Graph Neural Networks

(To be covered in depth next week)

Summary

- **PageRank**
 - Measures importance of nodes in graph
 - Can be efficiently computed by **power iteration of adjacency matrix**
- **Personalized PageRank (PPR)**
 - Measures importance of nodes with respect to a particular node or set of nodes
 - Can be efficiently computed by **random walk**
- **Node embeddings** based on random walks can be expressed as **matrix factorization**
- **Viewing graphs as matrices plays a key role in all above algorithms!**