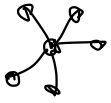


# Adjacency Matrix Eigenvalues, Jan 22, 2025

To start, compute adjacency eigvals of star graph



$$M = \begin{pmatrix} 0 & 1 & 1 & \dots & 1 \\ \vdots & & & & \\ & & 0 & & \\ & & & \ddots & \\ & & & & 0 \end{pmatrix} = v\delta_1^T + \delta_1 v^T \text{ where } v(a) = \begin{cases} 0 & a=1 \\ 1 & \text{o.w.} \end{cases}$$

i.  $M$  has rank 2, so  $n-2$  eigvals are 0.

ii.  $\text{Tr}(M) = \sum_i \mu_i = 0$ . So, non-zero eigvals are  $\mu_1 > 0 > \mu_n$

$$\mu_n = -\mu_1$$

iii. Consider  $M^2$ ,  $\text{eigvals}(M^2) = (\text{eigvals}(M))^2$

$$M^2 = \begin{pmatrix} n-1 & 0 & 0 & \dots & 0 \\ 0 & \boxed{1 & 1 & \dots & 1} \\ 0 & & \ddots & & \\ 0 & & & \ddots & \\ 0 & & & & 1 \end{pmatrix} \quad \text{Tr}(M^2) = 2(n-1) = \mu_1^2 + \mu_n^2$$

$$\mu_1 = \sqrt{n-1} \quad \mu_n = -\sqrt{n-1}$$

Eigvals are  $\pm\sqrt{n-1}, 0^{n-2}$

Last lecture saw Laplacian eigenvalues  $0 = \lambda_1 \leq \lambda_2 \leq \dots \leq \lambda_n$

$\lambda_1 = \lambda_2$  iff disconnected.

Today, look at Adjacency eigenvalues  $\mu_1 \geq \mu_2 \geq \dots \geq \mu_n$

If  $d$ -regular,  $\mu_i = d - \lambda_i$ ,  $\mu_1 = d$

But, interested in irregular case.

Will show  $\mu_1 = \mu_2$  iff disconnected,  $\mu_n = -\mu_1$  iff bipartite,

chromatic #  $\leq 1 + \lfloor \mu_1 \rfloor$  ? probably next lecture

Thm 1 For a weighted graph,  $d_{\text{ave}} \leq \mu_1 \leq d_{\text{max}}$ ,  $d_{\text{max}} = \max \text{ vertex degree}$

proof  $d_{\text{ave}} = \frac{1}{n} \sum_a d(a) = \frac{\mathbf{1}^T \mathbf{d}}{n} = \frac{\mathbf{1}^T \mathbf{M} \mathbf{1}}{\mathbf{1}^T \mathbf{1}} \leq \mu_1$  by Courant-Fischer

Let  $\psi_1$  be eigenv of  $\mu_1$ ,  $a \in \arg \max_a \psi_1(a)$ . wlog  $\psi_1(a) \geq 0$ .

$$\begin{aligned} \mu_1 \cdot \psi_1(a) &= (\mathbf{M} \psi_1)(a) = \sum_{b \sim a} w_{a,b} \psi_1(b) \leq \sum_{b \sim a} w_{a,b} \psi_1(a) = \psi_1(a) d(a) \\ &= \psi_1(a) d_{\text{max}}(a) \quad (*) \end{aligned}$$

Is this a good bound? Answer 1:

Thm 2 If  $\mu_1 = d_{\text{max}}$  and  $G$  connected, then  $d_{\text{ave}} = d_{\text{max}}$

That is,  $G$  is  $\mu_1$ -regular.

proof: If have equality in (\*),

then  $d(a) = d_{\max}$  and  $\varphi_i(b) = \varphi_i(a) \forall b \sim a$

So,  $b \in \arg \max_a \varphi_i(a)$ , and can apply this arg to every

neighbor of  $a$ . As  $G$  is connected, eventually reach every vertex

and conclude  $\varphi_i = \varphi_i(a) \cdot \mathbb{1}$ ,  $d(b) = d_{\max} \forall b \in V$ .

Answer 2:  $\mu_1$  does a lot of work

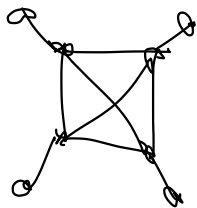
For  $S \subseteq V$ , let  $G(S)$  be subgraph induced on  $S$ .

Vertex set is  $S$ , edges  $\{(a,b) \in E : a \in S, b \in S\}$

prop 3  $d_{\text{ave}}(G(S)) \leq \mu_1$

proof. Consider  $\mathbb{1}_S$ . 
$$\mu_1 \geq \frac{\mathbb{1}_S^T M \mathbb{1}_S}{\mathbb{1}_S^T \mathbb{1}_S} = \frac{\sum_{a,b \in S} w_{a,b}}{|S|} = d_{\text{ave}}(G(S))$$

And, we can have  $d_{\text{ave}}(G(S)) > d_{\text{ave}}(G)$



$$d_{\text{ave}} = 2\frac{1}{2}$$

$$\mu_1 = 3.303\dots$$

But  $\mu_1(G(S)) \leq \mu_1(G)$ , always

(Next class)

Answer 3: can be a poor bound on  $\mu_1$

Ex: star on  $n$  vertices   $n=6$ ,  $d_{\text{ave}} = \frac{2(n-1)}{n}$   $\mu_1 = \sqrt{n-1}$

If goal is an upper bound on  $\mu_1$ , can do better

Def For an arbitrary matrix  $M$ ,  $\|M\|_{\infty} \stackrel{\text{def}}{=} \max_a \sum_b |M(a,b)|$

Thm 4  $M\psi = \mu\psi \rightarrow |\mu| \leq \|M\|_{\infty}$

proof let  $a \in \arg \max_a |\psi(a)|$ . Then

$$\begin{aligned} |\mu| \cdot |\psi(a)| &= |(M\psi)(a)| = \left| \sum_b M(a,b) \psi(b) \right| \leq |\psi(b)| \left( \sum_b |M(a,b)| \right) \\ &\leq |\psi(a)| \cdot \|M\|_{\infty} \end{aligned}$$

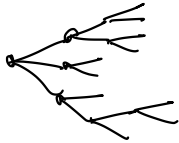
To improve bound for star, let  $M = \begin{pmatrix} 0 & 1 & \dots & 1 \\ \vdots & 0 & & 0 \end{pmatrix}$ ,  $d = n-1$

let  $D = \begin{pmatrix} \sqrt{d} & & & \\ & 1 & & \\ & & \ddots & \\ & & & 1 \end{pmatrix}$ , and consider  $D^{-1}MD = \begin{pmatrix} 0 & \sqrt{d} & \dots & \sqrt{d} \\ \vdots & & & 0 \end{pmatrix}$

$D^{-1}MD$  has same eigenvals as  $M$ ,  $(M\psi = \mu\psi \Leftrightarrow (D^{-1}MD)(D^{-1}\psi) = \mu(D^{-1}\psi))$

But  $\|D^{-1}MD\|_{\infty} = \sqrt{d} \geq \mu_1$ , which is tight.

In the book, we do the same for all  $d$ -ary trees:



we prove  $\mu_1 \leq 2\sqrt{d-1}$ . is tight.

$2\sqrt{d-1}$  comes up a lot

# Symmetric Perron-Frobenius Theory

For a connected, weighted graph

a.  $\mu_1$  has a strictly positive eigenvector

b.  $\mu_1 > \mu_2$

c.  $\mu_1 \geq |\mu_n|$

lem 5 let  $M\psi = \mu\psi$ ,  $\psi(a) \geq 0 \forall a$ ,  $\psi \neq \bar{0}$ .

Then  $\psi(a) > 0 \forall a$

proof Assume by way of contradiction  $\exists a$  s.t.  $\psi(a) = 0$

$G$  connected  $\Rightarrow \exists (b,c) \in E$  s.t.  $\psi(b) = 0 < \psi(c)$

$$\underline{0 = \mu\psi(b) = (M\psi)(b) = \sum_{z \sim b} M(b,z)\psi(z) \geq M(b,c)\psi(c) > 0}$$

$\uparrow \geq 0$                        $\uparrow \geq 0$

proof of PF

a. Let  $\psi_i \in$  unit eigenvectors of  $\mu_i$ . Let  $x(a) = |\psi_i(a)|$ ,  $\forall a$

Will show  $x \in$  unit eigenvectors of  $\mu_1$ . lem 5  $\rightarrow x(a) > 0 \forall a$

$$\mu_i = \psi_i^T M \psi_i = \sum_{a,b} M(a,b) \psi_i(a) \psi_i(b) \leq \sum_{a,b} M(a,b) (|\psi_i(a)| |\psi_i(b)|)$$

$$= x^T M x \leq \mu_1. \text{ Maximum, } x^T x = \psi_i^T \psi_i \Rightarrow x \in \text{eigenvectors of } \mu_1$$

b.  $\mu_2 < \mu_1$ . Let  $\psi_2$  be a unit eigenvector of  $\mu_2$ .

As  $\psi_2^T \psi_1 = 0$ ,  $\psi_2$  has pos and neg entries.

Let  $\gamma(a) = |\psi_2(a)|$ ,  $\forall a$ .

$$\mu_2 = \psi_2^T M \psi_2 \leq \gamma^T M \gamma \leq \mu_1$$

Assume, wlog,  $\mu_2 = \mu_1$ . So,  $\gamma$  is non-neg eigenvector of  $M$ ,

$\xrightarrow{\text{lem 5}}$   $\gamma$  strictly pos  $\rightarrow \psi_2$  never zero

Connected  $\rightarrow \exists (a,b) \in E$  s.t.  $\psi_2(a) < 0 < \psi_2(b)$

$\rightarrow \psi_2^T M \psi_2 < \gamma^T M \gamma$ , because  $M(a,b) \psi_2(a) \psi_2(b) < 0 < M(a,b) \gamma(a) \gamma(b)$

~~✗~~

c. Let  $\psi_n \in$  unit eigenvector of  $\mu_n$ .  $\gamma(a) = |\psi_n(a)|$ ,  $\forall a$

$$|\mu_n| = |\psi_n^T M \psi_n| \leq \gamma^T M \gamma \leq \mu_1 \quad (*)$$

Thm If  $G$  connected,  $\mu_n = -\mu_1$  iff  $G$  is bipartite

proof  $\Rightarrow (*)$  tight  $\Rightarrow \gamma$  is pos eigenvector of  $M$ ,  $\psi_n(a) > 0$ ,  $\forall a$

$$\Rightarrow \left| \sum_{a,b} M(a,b) \underbrace{\psi_n(a) \psi_n(b)}_{\gamma} \right| = \sum_{a,b} M(a,b) |\psi_n(a)| \cdot |\psi_n(b)|$$

all these terms have same sign.

As in part b,  $\exists (a,b) \in E$  s.t.  $\psi_n(a) < 0 < \psi_n(b)$ , so sign is  $-$   
 $\Rightarrow$  for all  $(a,b) \in E$ ,  $\psi_n(a) \psi_n(b) < 0$ .

Bipartition into pos and neg entries in  $\Psi_n$

$\Leftarrow$  Will show for Bipartite  $\mu$  equal  $\Leftrightarrow -\mu$  equal

G bipartite  $\Rightarrow$  Can order vertices so that

$$M = \begin{pmatrix} 0 & B \\ B^T & 0 \end{pmatrix} \text{ for some } B$$

$$\text{Let } M \begin{pmatrix} x_0 \\ x_1 \end{pmatrix} = \mu \begin{pmatrix} x_0 \\ x_1 \end{pmatrix} \text{ so } \begin{pmatrix} 0 & B \\ B^T & 0 \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} x_0 \\ x_1 \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} Bx_1 \\ B^T x_0 \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} \mu x_0 \\ \mu x_1 \end{pmatrix}$$

$$\text{Then } M \begin{pmatrix} x_0 \\ -x_1 \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} 0 & B \\ B^T & 0 \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} x_0 \\ -x_1 \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} -Bx_1 \\ B^T x_0 \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} -\mu x_0 \\ \mu x_1 \end{pmatrix} = -\mu \begin{pmatrix} x_0 \\ -x_1 \end{pmatrix}$$

So,  $-\mu$  is an eigenvalue.

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Next 2 lectures: make qualitative quantitative.

Bipartite  $\Leftrightarrow$  2-colorable.

$$\text{chromatic number} \geq 1 + \frac{\mu_1}{-\mu_n} \quad (\text{Hoffman})$$

Connected  $\Leftrightarrow \mu_2 < \mu_1 \rightarrow \mu_2 \ll \mu_1 \Leftrightarrow$  very connected

$$\lambda_2 \gg 0 \quad (\text{Fiedler / Cheeger})$$

$\mu_1 \gg |\mu_n| \Leftrightarrow$  far from bipartite (Trevisan)