# Link-Based Ranking

Class	Algorithmic Methods of Data Mining
Program	M. Sc. Data Science
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#### Sources:

- Fei Li's lecture on PageRank
- Evimaria Terzi's lecture on link analysis.
- Paolo Boldi, Francesco Bonchi, Carlos Castillo, and Sebastiano Vigna. 2011. Viscous democracy for social networks. Commun. ACM 54, 6 (June 2011), 129-137. [link]

# Purpose of Link-Based Ranking

- Static (query-independent) ranking
- Dynamic (query-dependent) ranking
- Applications:
  - Search in social networks
  - Search on the web

#### Given a set of connected objects



#### Assign some weights



#### Alternatives

- Various centrality metrics
  - Degree, betweenness, ...
- Classical algorithms
  - HITS / Hubs and Authorities
  - PageRank

#### HITS (Hubs and Authorities)

# HITS

- Jon M. Kleinberg. 1999. Authoritative sources in a hyperlinked environment. J. ACM 46, 5 (September 1999), 604-632. [DOI]
- Query-dependent algorithm
  - Get pages matching the query
  - Expand to 1-hop neighborhood
  - Find pages with good out-links ("hubs")
  - Find pages with good in-links ("authorities")

#### Root set = matches the query



Root Set

#### Base set S = root set plus 1-hop neighbors



Base set S is expected to be small and topically focused.

#### Base graph S of *n* nodes



#### Bipartite graph of 2n nodes





#### Bipartite graph of 2n nodes

0) Initialization:

$$h_1 = h_2 = h_3 = h_4 = h_5 = 1$$

1) Iteration:

$$a_i = \sum_{j \to i} h_j$$

2) Normalization:

$$a_i = \frac{a_i}{\sum_j a_j}$$

 $h_i = \sum_{i \to j} a_j$ 

$$h_i = \frac{h_i}{\sum_j h_j}$$



# Try it!



Complete the table. Which one is the biggest hub? Which the biggest authority? Does it differ from ranking by degree?

#### What are we computing?

$$a^{t} = A^{T}h^{t-1}$$

$$h^{t} = Aa^{t-1}$$
replacing :  $a^{t} = A^{T}Aa^{t-1}$ 
after convergence :  $a = A^{T}Aa$ 

- Vector a is an eigenvector of  $A^{T}A$
- Conversely, vector h is an eigenvector of  $AA^{T}$









• HITS favors the largest dense sub-graph

After *n* iterations:



#### PageRank

## PageRank

- The pagerank citation algorithm: bringing order to the web by L Page, S Brin, R Motwani, T Winograd - 7th World Wide Web Conference, 1998 [link].
- Designed by Page & Brin as part of a research project that started in 1995 and ended in 1998 ... with the creation of Google

#### A Simple Version of PageRank

$$P_i = c \sum_{j \to i} \frac{P_j}{N_j}$$

- $N_j$ : the number of forward links of page j
- c: normalization factor to ensure  $||P||_{L1} = |P_1 + ... + P_n| = 1$

#### An example of Simplified PageRank



First iteration of calculation

#### An example of Simplified PageRank



Second iteration of calculation

#### An example of Simplified PageRank



Convergence after some iterations

#### A Problem with Simplified PageRank

#### A loop:



During each iteration, the loop accumulates rank but never distributes rank to other pages!

#### An example of the Problem



**First iteration** 

#### An example of the Problem



Second iteration ... see what's happening?

#### An example of the Problem



Convergence

# What are we computing? $p^{t} = Ap^{t-1}$ after convergence : p = Ap

- p is an eigenvector of A with eigenvalue 1
- This (power method) can be used if A is:
  - Stochastic (each row adds up to one)
  - Irreducible (represents a strongly connected graph)
  - Aperiodic (does not represent a bipartite graph)

## Markov Chains

- Discrete process over a set of states
- Next state determined by current state and current state only (no memory of older states)
  - Higher-order Markov chains can be defined
- Stationary distribution of Markov chain is a probability distribution such that p = Ap
- Intuitively, *p* represents "the average time spent" at each node if the process continues forever

# Random Walks in Graphs

- Random Surfer Model
  - The simplified model: the standing probability distribution of a random walk on the graph of the web. simply keeps clicking successive links at random
- Modified Random Surfer
  - The modified model: the "random surfer" simply keeps clicking successive links at random, but periodically "gets bored" and jumps to a random page based on the distribution of E
  - This guarantees irreducibility
  - Pages without out-links (dangling nodes) are a row of zeros, can be replaced by E, or by a row of 1/n

#### Modified Version of PageRank

$$P_i = \alpha \sum_{j \to i} \frac{P_j}{N_j} + (1 - \alpha)E_i$$

E(i): web pages that "users" jump to when they "get bored"; Uniform random jump => E(i) = 1/n

#### An example of Modified PageRank



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# Variant: personalized PageRank

 Modify vector E(i) according to users' tastes (e.g. user interested in sports vs politics)



# PageRank and internal linking

- A website has a maximum amount of Page Rank that is distributed between its pages by internal links [depends on internal links]
- The maximum amount of Page Rank in a site increases as the number of pages in the site increases.
- By linking poorly, it is possible to fail to reach the site's maximum Page Rank, but it is not possible to exceed it.

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# PageRank as a form of actual voting (liquid democracy)

- If alpha = 1, we can implement liquid democracy
  - In liquid democracy, people chose to either vote or to delegate their vote to somebody else
- If alpha < 1, we have a sort of "viscous" democracy where delegation is not total

# PageRank as a form of liquid democracy





One of these two graphs has alpha = 0.9.

The other has alpha = 0.2.

Which one is which?



## **PageRank Implementation**

- Suppose there are n pages and m links
- Trivial implementation of PageRank requires O(m+n) memory
- Streaming implementation requires O(n) memory ... how?
- More on PageRank to follow in another lecture ...