## Most Influential points in the Social Networks?

COMP621U Presentation

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What are the most influential points In the social networks, or, any networks?

Suppose you are Mega mind, where would you attack?



# Outline

1. Community Bridges
2. Bridge Detection Algorithms
3. Proposed New Algorithms: Overlapping Community Detection
Summary



# 1. Community Bridges

[1] M. Salathé and J. H. Jones, Dynamics and Control of Diseases in Networks with Community Structure

PLoS Comput.Biol 6 (2010)

#### [1] M. Salathé and J. H. Jones, Dynamics and Control of Diseases in Networks with Community Structure PLoS Comput.Biol 6 (2010)

### • Question:

How can we best control epidemics (prevention or mitigation)?

How do we get maximum effect with given supply of vaccines?

If we have a targeted immunization strategy, how do we find the targets?

The Simplest Epidemic Model: SIR

- S = fraction of a population that is susceptible to infection
- I = fraction of population that is infectious (will give infection to S on contact)
- R = removed or recovered

(1) 
$$dS/dT = -\beta SI$$
  
(2)  $dI/dt = \beta SI - \gamma I = I(\beta S - \gamma)$   
(3)  $dR/dt = \gamma I$ 

So, if  $S(0) < \gamma/\beta$ , then dI/dt < 0 and infection dies out.

 One can build networks with the same number of nodes, same number of edges, same degree distribution, and still get fundamentally different epidemic dynamics.

#### • Reason: Community Structures

The occurrence of groups of nodes that are more densely connected within a group than between a group. Very common in many networks, especially social networks.



Modularity: 
$$Q = \sum_{i} \left( e_{ii} - a_i^2 \right), \quad a_i = \sum_{j} e_{ij}$$

 $e_{ij}$  is fraction of all edges in the network that link nodes in community *i* to nodes in community *j*.

 $a_i$  is fraction of edges in the network that connect to nodes in community *i*.



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eii-a2

0.168

0.149

0.168

0.486

• Targeting highly connected individuals for immunization is an effective strategy to mitigate epidemics.

Prediction of epidemics based on only degree fails.



- In networks with strong community structure, this may not be effective because some individuals connect to many communities but have low degree:
- These are **community bridges**.

# Community Bridge Evaluation: Betweenness Centrality

The fraction of shortest paths that a node falls on.

$$C_B(v) = \sum_{s \neq v \neq t \in V} \frac{\sigma_{st}(v)}{\sigma_{st}}$$

where  $\sigma_{st}$  is total number of shortest paths between s, t and  $\sigma_{st}(v)$  is the number of those paths that go through v.

How to find such community bridges??

## 2. Bridge Detection Algorithms

- [1] M. Salathé and J. H. Jones, PLoS Comput.Biol 6 (2010).
- [2] M. E. J. Newman, Social networks 27, 39 (2005).
- [3] N. Madar, T. Kalisky, R. Cohen, D. Ben-avraham, and S. Havlin, The European Physical Journal B-Condensed Matter and Complex Systems 38, 269 (2004).

Algorithms knowing Complete Network Structure: [2] Algorithms without knowing Complete Network Structure: [1][3]

#### • Algorithms knowing Complete Network Structure

- Newman's Random Walk Centrality algorithms.
- Identify target nodes by a random walk, counting how often a node is crossed by a random walk between two other nodes.
- This includes not only shortest paths but all paths between a pair of nodes, and it gives shorter paths a higher weight.

### This algorithm is actually used for community detection.

[2] M. E. J. Newman, Social networks 27, 39 (2005).

#### • Algorithms without knowing Complete Network Structure

#### • Cohen's Acquaintance Method algorithms

- Fix a number N and identify target nodes by picking a random neighbor of a random node. Once a node (acquaintance) has been picked N times, we say this node is one of the most influential. When N = 1, it means every node is the one of the most influential.
- Work well in fat tailed (scale-free) networks.

[3] N. Madar, T. Kalisky, R. Cohen, D. Ben-avraham, and S. Havlin The European Physical Journal B-Condensed Matter and Complex Systems 38, 269 (2004)

#### Algorithms without knowing Complete Network Structure cont.

- Salathe's **Community-bridge-finder (CBF)** algorithms
- Start from a random node and follow a random path on the complex network until it arrives at a node that does not connect back to more than one of the previously visited nodes on the random walk
- Such a node is more likely to be on the "bridge", and such nodes connect to multiple communities.
- The first node that does not connect back to previously visited nodes in the current random walk is likely to be in a different community.
- Here they are talking about social network, and thus each node should have at least more than two neighbors.

[1] M. Salathé and J. H. Jones, PLoS Comput. Biol 6 (2010)

## 3. Proposed New Algorithms: Overlapping Community Detection

- [4] Xufei Wang, Lei Tang, Huiji Gao, and Huan Liu.
   Discovering Overlapping Groups in Social Media. In Proceedings of The 10th IEEE International Conference on Data Mining (ICDM'10), 2010
- [5] Zhenggang Wang and K. Y. Szeto, Structure profile of complex networks by a model of precipitation, Physica A: Statistical Mechanics and its Applications, Volume 389, Issue 11, 1 June 2010, Pages 2318-2324

 Motivated by [1], we can have the following statement:

• The most influential nodes (links) in social networks can be the ones that belong to the largest number of multiple communities, known as "Community Bridges".



### Most influential links:

Normal Community Detection!

Once we find the communities of nodes, it's easy to identify the links between those communities.

Links between the biggest communities will be most influential.

### Most influential nodes:

Community Detection on the links! Nodes of links which belong to the most number of link communities will be the most influential ones.

How do we find the **communities of links**?

#### **Edge-centric View**

### Cluster edges instead of nodes into disjoint groups

 One node can belong to multiple groups. One edge belongs to one group.

In [4], they focus on a User-Tag subscription, which is a Bipartite Graph. We can generalize it to **any networks**.



#### [5] gives an interesting algorithm:

$$H(E) = \sum_{(i,j)\in E} w_{ij}d_{ij} = \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}} \sum_{(i,j)\in E} w_{ij}|i-j|,$$

Z. Wang, K.Y. Szeto / Physica A 389 (2010) 2318-2324



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 [5] is basically a edge-clustering method. It is able to show nodes that belongs to a pair of communities.

 Question: Can we modify the algorithm to show better results for multiple (>2) overlapping communities?

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Questions? Thank you!

