

## Case Study 2: Document Retrieval

# Spectral Clustering

Machine Learning/Statistics for Big Data  
CSE599C1/STAT592, University of Washington

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## Document Retrieval

- **Goal:** Retrieve documents of interest



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# Task 1: Find Similar Documents

## ■ Setup

- Input: Query article  $X$
- Output: Set of  $k$  similar articles



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# k-Nearest Neighbor

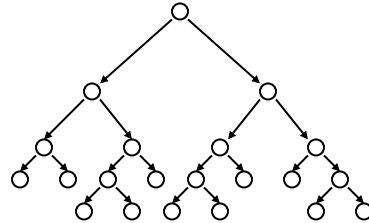
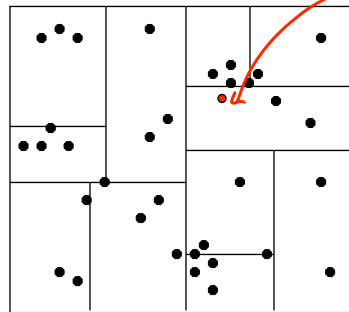
- Articles  $X = \{x^1, \dots, x^N\}$ ,  $x^i \in \mathbb{R}^d$
- Query:  $x \in \mathbb{R}^d$
- k-NN
  - Goal: Find  $k$  articles in  $X$  closest  $x$
  - Formulation:

$$X^{NN} = \{x^{NN_1}, \dots, x^{NN_k}\} \subseteq X$$
$$\text{s.t. } \forall x^i \in X \setminus X^{NN}$$
$$d(x^i, x) \geq \max_{x^{NN_i} \in X^{NN}} d(x^{NN_i}, x)$$

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# Nearest Neighbor with KD Trees



- Traverse the tree looking for the nearest neighbor of the query point.

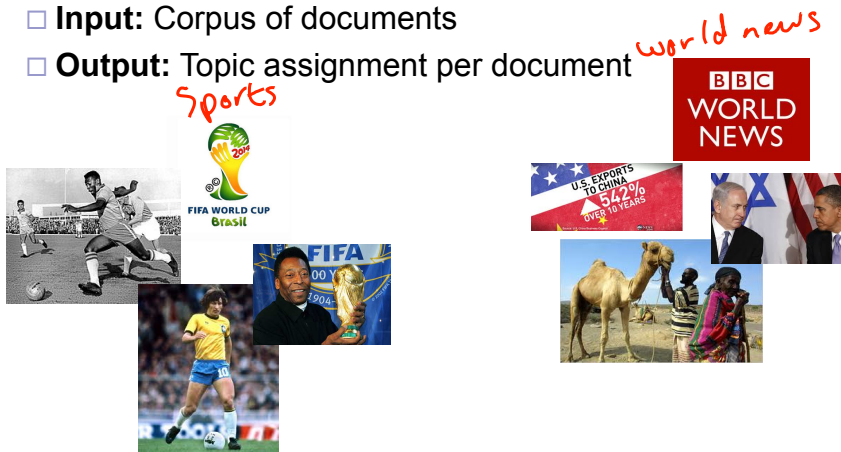
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# Task 2: Cluster Documents

## ■ Setup

- **Input:** Corpus of documents
- **Output:** Topic assignment per document

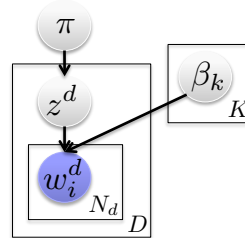


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# A Generative Model

- Documents:  $x^1, \dots, x^D$
- Associated topics:  $z^1, \dots, z^D$
- Parameters:  $\theta = \{\pi, \beta\}$
- Generative model:



$$z^d \sim \pi \quad d=1, \dots, D$$

$$w_i^d | z^d \sim \beta_{z^d} \quad i=1, \dots, N$$

Bayesian approach:

$$\pi \sim \text{Dir}(\alpha_1, \dots, \alpha_K)$$

$$\beta_k \sim \text{Dir}(\lambda_1, \dots, \lambda_V)$$

↑ word prob. for cluster/topic  $z^d$

← size of vocab.  
 $\beta_k$  is a  $V$ -dim pmf

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# Inference

- Two tasks
  - Point estimation:
    - Expectation-Maximization (EM)
  - Characterize posterior:
    - Gibbs sampling
    - Variational methods
    - Stochastic variational inference

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# EM Algorithm

- Initial guess:  $\hat{\theta}^{(0)}$
- Estimate at iteration  $t$ :  $\hat{\theta}^{(t)}$
- E-Step**  
 Compute  $U(\theta, \hat{\theta}^{(t)}) = E[\log p(y | \theta) | x, \hat{\theta}^{(t)}]$
- M-Step**  
 Compute  $\hat{\theta}^{(t+1)} = \arg \max_{\theta} U(\theta, \hat{\theta}^{(t)})$

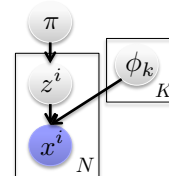
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# Collapsed Gibbs Sampling

$$\pi \sim \text{Dir}(\alpha_1, \dots, \alpha_K) \quad z^i \sim \pi$$

$$\{\mu_k, \Sigma_k\} \sim F(\phi) \quad x^i | z^i \sim N(x^i; \mu_{z^i}, \Sigma_{z^i})$$

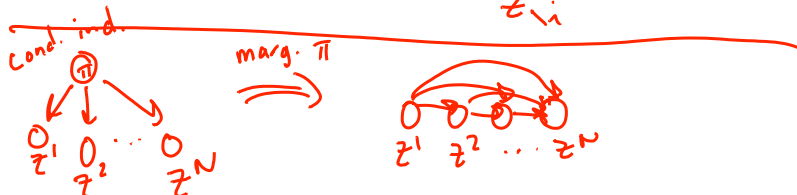


- Collapsed sampler

For  $i=1, \dots, N$

$$z^i(t) \sim p(z^i | z^{1(t)}, \dots, z^{i-1(t)}, z^{i+1(t)}, \dots, z^{N(t)}, X_{1:N}, \alpha, 1)$$

$z_{-i}^{(t)}$



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# Task 3: Mixed Membership Model

- Setup: Document may belong to multiple clusters

The image shows a screenshot of the Education section of The New York Times website. A red circle highlights the word "Education". Three blue arrows point from the article area to the words "EDUCATION", "FINANCE", and "TECHNOLOGY". Below the screenshot, the handwritten text "mixed membership" is written in red.

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# Latent Dirichlet Allocation (LDA)

The diagram illustrates the Latent Dirichlet Allocation (LDA) model. On the left, a table lists topics and their associated words with probabilities. In the center, a document titled "Seeking Life's Bare (Genetic) Necessities" is shown with a network diagram of words and topics. On the right, a bar chart shows topic proportions and assignments for the document. Handwritten red notes provide additional context:

- Topics:** Each topic is a distribution over words. (e.g., "gene 0.04", "dna 0.02", "genetic 0.01")
- Documents:** Each document is a mixture of these corpus-wide topics.
- Topic proportions and assignments:** Every word in the document is assigned to a topic.
- Document-specificity:** Each document has its own prevalence of topics.

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# Variational Methods

- Recall task: Characterize the posterior  $p(\theta, z | x)$ 
  - params
  - latent vars
  - obs
- Turn posterior inference into an optimization task
- Introduce a “tractable” family of distributions over parameters and latent variables
  - Family is indexed by a set of “free parameters”
  - Find member of the family closest to:  $p(\theta, z | x)$ 

call the family  $Q$  and want  $q \in Q$  that is closest to  $p(\theta, z | x)$
- Questions:
  - How do we measure “closeness”?
  - If the posterior is intractable, how can we approximate something we do not have to begin with?

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# Variational Methods

- Similarity measure:
 
$$D(q(z, \theta) || p(z, \theta | x)) = E_q[\log q(z, \theta)] - E_q[\log p(z, \theta | x)]$$

$$= E_q[\log q(z, \theta)] - E_q[\log p(z, \theta | x)]$$

$- \mathcal{L}(q)$        $\neq \log p(x)$
- Evidence lower bound (ELBO)
 
$$\log p(x) = D(q(z, \theta) || p(z, \theta | x)) + \mathcal{L}(q) \geq \mathcal{L}(q)$$

const.      add to a const.
- Therefore, minimizing KL is equivalent to maximizing a lower bound on the marginal likelihood:
  - Max  $\mathcal{L}(q) = \min D(q || p) = \max$  lower bound of  $\log p(x)$ 

← entropy of  $q$

$$\mathcal{L}(q) = E_q[\log p(\theta, z, x)] \neq E_q[\log q(\theta, z)]$$

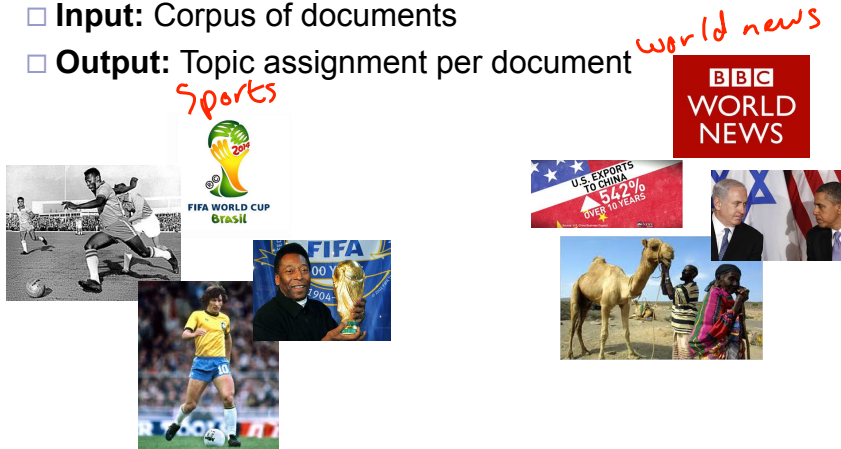
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## Task 2: Cluster Documents

### ■ Setup

- **Input:** Corpus of documents
- **Output:** Topic assignment per document



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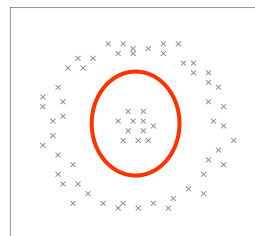
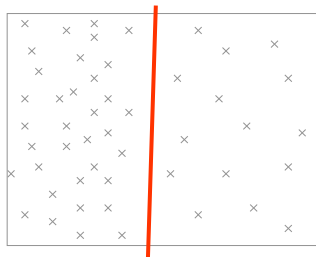
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## New Approach: Spectral Clustering

### ■ **Goal:** Cluster observations

### ■ **Method:**

- Use similarity metric between observations
- Form a similarity graph
- Use standard linear algebra and optimization techniques to cut graph into connected components (clusters)



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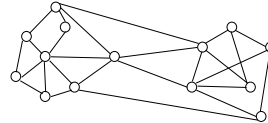
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# Setup

- Data:  $x^1, \dots, x^N$
- Similarity metric:

- Similarity graph
  - Nodes
  - Edge weights



$$G = \{V, E\}$$

- Problem: Want to partition graph such that edges between groups have low weights

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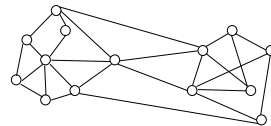
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# Types of Graphs

- **$\epsilon$ -neighborhood:**
  - Only include edges with distances  $< \epsilon$
  - Treat as unweighted

- **k-NN:**
  - Connect  $v_i$  and  $v_j$  if  $v_j$  is a k-NN of  $v_i$
  - Weighted by similarity  $s_{ij}$
  - Directed  $\rightarrow$  undirected

- **Mutual k-NN:**
  - Same as k-NN, but only include mutual k-NN

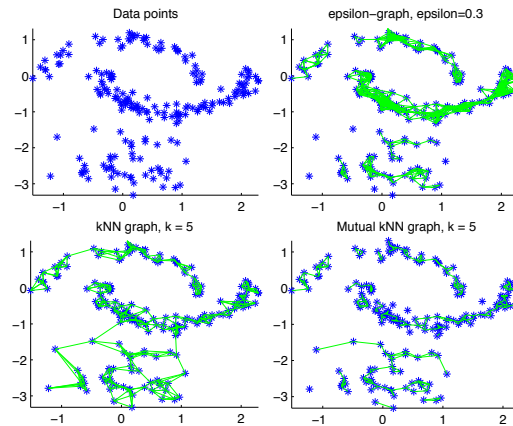


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# Issues with Choosing Graph

- Choosing graph construction techniques and parameters is non-trivial



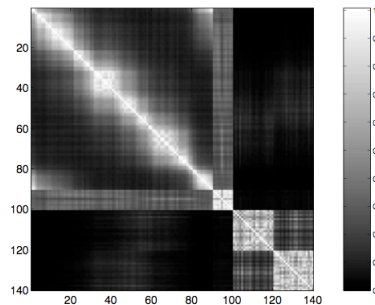
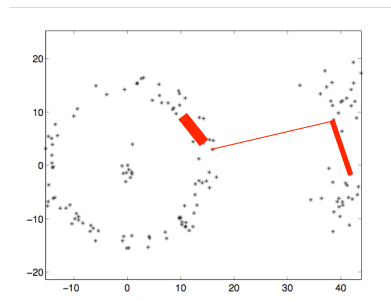
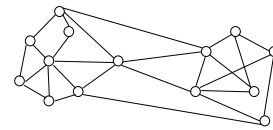
From  
von Luxburg  
2007

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# Graph Terminology I

- Weighted adjacency matrix



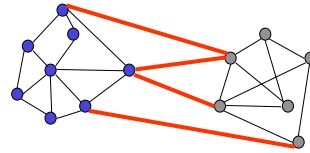
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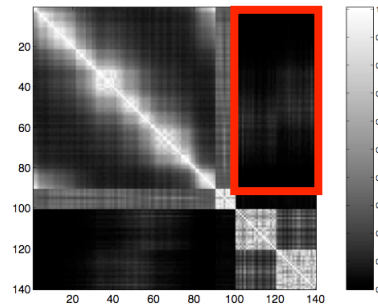
# Graph Cuts

- **Problem:** Partition graph such that edges between groups have low weights

- Define:  $W(A, B) = \sum_{i \in A, j \in B} w_{ij}$



- MinCut problem:



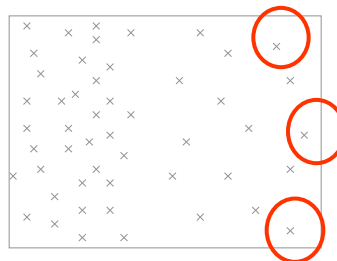
- Trivial to solve for  $k=2$

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# Issues with MinCut

- MinCut favors isolated clusters

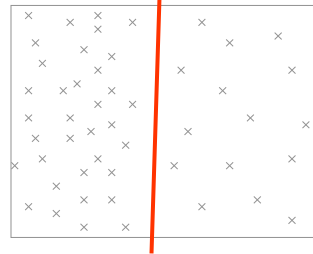


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# Cuts Accounting for Size

- Ratio cuts (RatioCut)
- Normalized cuts (Ncut)
- Lead to “balanced” clusters



- First need more graph terminology...

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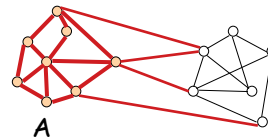
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# Graph Terminology II

- Two measures of size of a subset

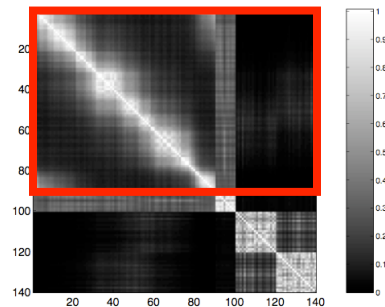
- Cardinality:

$|A|$



- Volume:

$\text{vol}(A)$



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# Cuts Accounting for Size

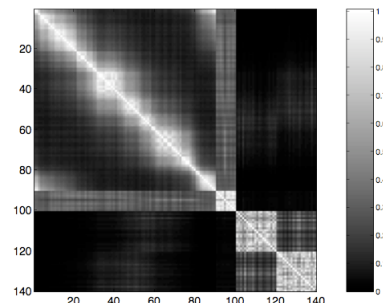
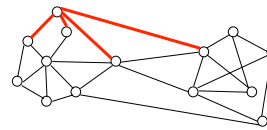
- Ratio cuts (RatioCut)
  - $k=2$
  - General  $k$
- Normalized cuts (Ncut)
  - $k=2$
  - General  $k$
- Problem is NP-hard! Look at relaxation.

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# Graph Terminology III

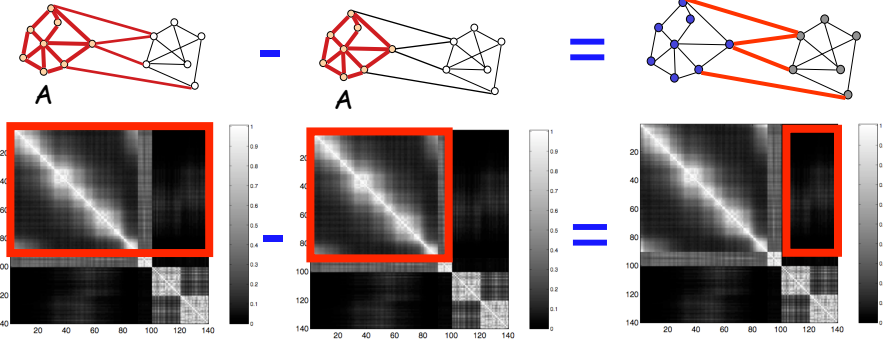
- Degree
- Degree matrix



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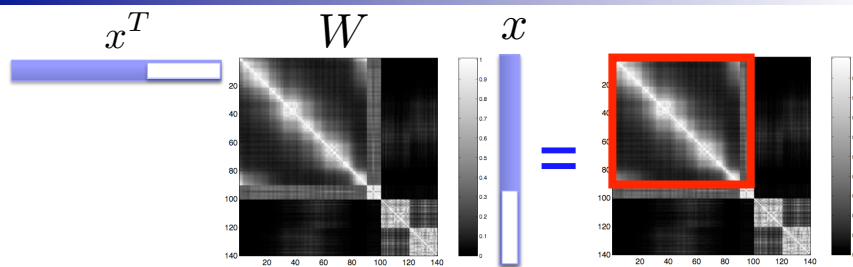
# Restating Cut Metric



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# Restating Cut Metric



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# Restating Cut Metric

$$x^T \begin{bmatrix} d_1 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & d_2 & 0 & 0 \\ \vdots & \vdots & \ddots & \vdots \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & d_N \end{bmatrix} x = \text{Heatmap}$$

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# Restating Cut Metric

$$x^T D x - x^T W x = x^T (D - W) x$$

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# Graph Laplacian

- Definition:
  
- Facts:
  - Symmetric, positive semi-definite
  - Eigenvalues
  
  - Invariance to self-edges
  
  - Inner product in  $L$  space

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# Relationship to Identifying Connected Components

- Proposition:
  - The multiplicity  $k$  of eigenvalue 0 of  $L$  is equal to the number of connected components
  
- Proof: Assume graph is connected ( $k=1$ )

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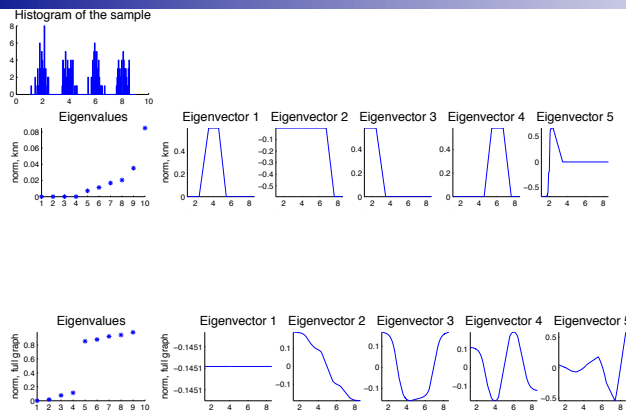
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# Relationship to Identifying Connected Components

- Proposition:
  - The multiplicity  $k$  of eigenvalue 0 of  $L$  is equal to the number of connected components
- Proof: Assume  $k$  connected components

# Example – Mixture of Gaussians



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2007

# Graph Laplacians and Ratio Cuts

- Ratio cuts for  $k=2$
- Define cluster indicator variables:
  - Properties:
- RatioCut
- Reformulating RatioCut problem

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# Relaxation to Formulation

- Let  $f$  be arbitrary continuous vector
- Rayleigh-Ritz Theorem
  - Which vector maximizes objective subject to constraint that the vector is orthogonal to the first eigenvector and has bounded norm?

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## Mapping Back to Partition

- To obtain partition, transform continuous  $f$  to a discrete indicator
- Cluster coordinates
- Return

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## Ratio Cuts for General k

- Define cluster indicator variables:

$$F_{ij} = \begin{cases} 1/\sqrt{|A_j|} \\ 0 \end{cases} \quad F'_{\mathcal{A}} F_{\mathcal{A}} = I$$

- RatioCut

$$\text{RatioCut}(A_1, \dots, A_k) = \sum_{i=1}^k f'_{\mathcal{A}_i} L f_{\mathcal{A}_i} = \text{Tr}(F'_{\mathcal{A}} L F_{\mathcal{A}})$$

- Reformulating RatioCut problem

$$\min_{A_1, \dots, A_k} \text{Tr}(F'_{\mathcal{A}} L F_{\mathcal{A}})$$

- Relaxation

$$\min_{F \in R^{N \times k}} \text{Tr}(F' L F)$$

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## Ratio Cuts for General k

- Relaxation:

$$\min_{F \in \mathbb{R}^{N \times k}} \text{Tr}(F'LF) \quad \text{s.t.} \quad F'F = I$$

- Solution:

- To obtain partition:

## Graph Laplacians and Norm. Cuts

- Normalized cuts for  $k=2$
- Define cluster indicator variables:
  
- Properties:
  
- Ncut
  
- Reformulating Ncut problem

## Relaxation to Formulation

- Let  $f$  be arbitrary continuous vector

- Rayleigh-Ritz Theorem

## Normalized Cuts for General k

- Define cluster indicator variables:

$$F_{ij} = \begin{cases} 1/\sqrt{\text{vol}(A_j)} & v_i \in A_j \\ 0 & \text{ow} \end{cases} \quad \begin{array}{l} F'_A F_A = I \\ F'_A D F_A = I \end{array}$$

- Reformulating RatioCut problem

$$\min_{A_1, \dots, A_k} \text{Tr}(F'_A L F_A) \quad \text{s.t.} \quad F'_A D F_A = I$$

- Relaxation

$$\min_{H \in \mathbb{R}^{N \times k}} \text{Tr}(H' D^{-1/2} L D^{-1/2} H) \quad \text{s.t.} \quad H' H = I$$

- Solution:

- H is matrix of first  $k$  eigenvectors of  $L_{sym}$ , which is equivalent to the approximate F being the first  $k$  eigenvectors of  $L_{rw}$

# Random Walks on Graphs

- Stochastic process with random jumps from  $v_i$  to  $v_j$  wp:
- Transition matrix:
- Connection to graph Laplacian:
- Intuitively, want to partition graph s.t. random walk stays in cluster for a while and rarely jumps between clusters

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# Random Walks on Graphs

- Assume that stationary distribution exists and is unique. Then,
- Proposition:  $\text{Ncut}(A, \bar{A}) = P(A | \bar{A}) + P(\bar{A} | A)$
- Proof:
- Minimizing normalized cuts is equivalent to minimizing the probability of transitioning between clusters

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# Notes

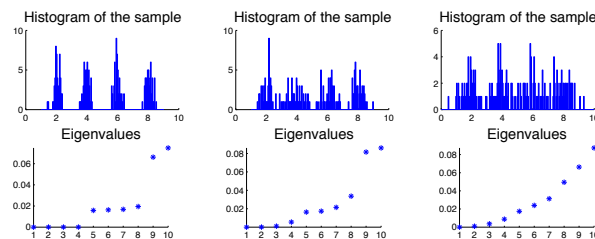
- No guarantee to quality of approximation
- Sensitive to choice of similarity graph (see earlier)
- Which graph Laplacian to use?
  - If degrees in graph vary significantly, then Laplacians are quite different
  - In general,  $L_{rw}$  behaves the best
  - Volume gives better measure of within-cluster similarity than cardinality
  - Normalized cuts has consistency results, Ratio cuts does not

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# Notes

- Choosing the number of clusters  $k$  can be hard
  - Easy when clusters are well-separated



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2007

- k-means to return partition from solution to relaxation is *an* approach, but not the only

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