



# CS 579: Computational Complexity. Lecture 11

Expansion and  
Eigenvalues

Alexandra Kolla

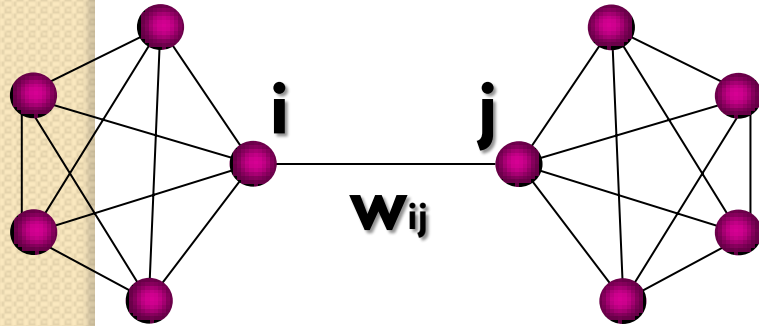


In the next few minutes:

Why spectral graph theory is both natural  
and magical

# Representing Graphs

Obviously, we can represent a graph with an  $n \times n$  matrix



$V$ :  $n$  nodes  
 $E$ :  $m$  edges

$G = \{V, E\}$

$$A_{ij} = \begin{cases} w_{ij} & \text{weight of edge } (i, j) \\ 0 & \text{if no edge between } i, j \end{cases}$$

Adjacency matrix

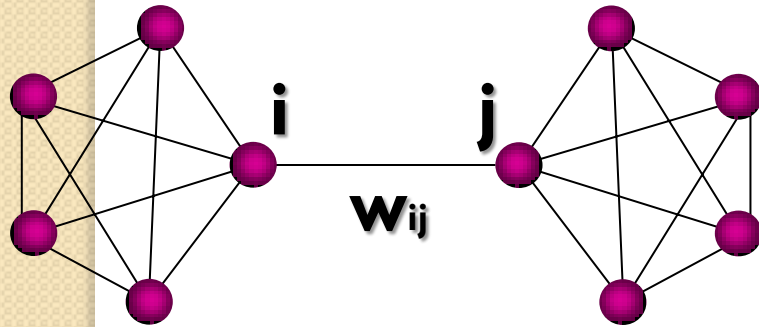
$i$   $j$


$A =$

$w_{ij}$

# Representing Graphs

Obviously, we can represent a graph with an  $n \times n$  matrix



$V$ :  $n$  nodes  
 $E$ :  $m$  edges

$G = \{V, E\}$

What is not so obvious, is that once we have matrix representation view graph as **linear operator**

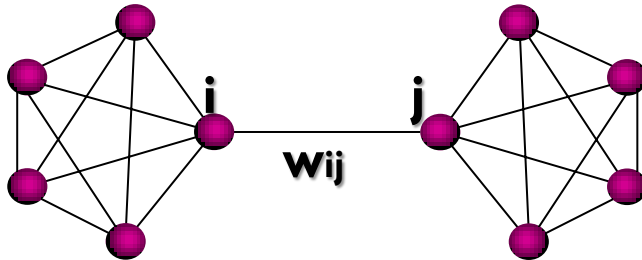
- Can be used to multiply vectors.
- Vectors that don't rotate but just scale = eigenvectors.
- Scaling factor = eigenvalue

$$A : \mathbb{R}^n \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^n$$

$$Ax = \mu x$$

Amazing how this point of view gives information about graph

# "Listen" to the Graph



Adjacency matrix

A =

i		w <sub>ij</sub>			

List of eigenvalues  
 $\{\mu_1 \geq \mu_2 \geq \dots \geq \mu_n\}$ : graph SPECTRUM

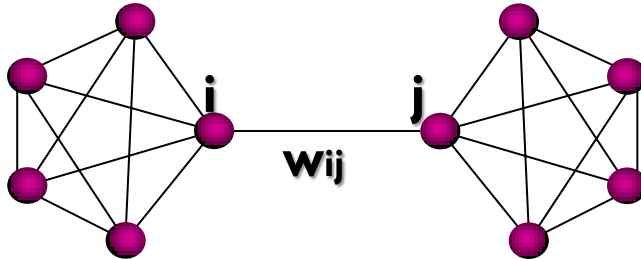
Eigenvalues reveal **global** graph properties  
not apparent from edge structure

A drum:

**Hear** shape of the drum



# "Listen" to the Graph



Adjacency matrix

$A =$

$i$		$w_{ij}$			

List of eigenvalues

$\{\mu_1 \geq \mu_2 \geq \dots \geq \mu_n\}$ : graph SPECTRUM

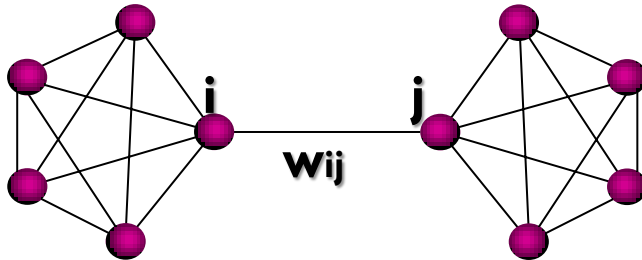
Eigenvalues reveal **global** graph properties  
not apparent from edge structure

**Hear** shape of the drum

Its sound:



# "Listen" to the Graph



Adjacency matrix

$A =$

$i$		$w_{ij}$			

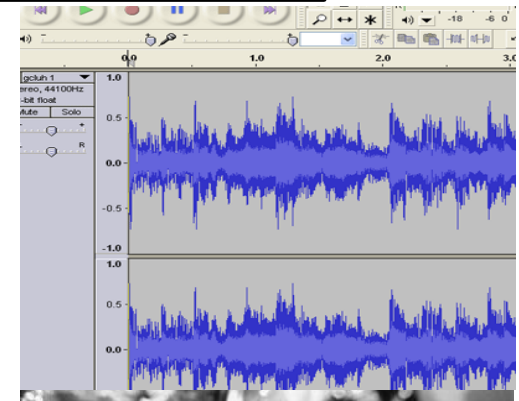
List of eigenvalues

$\{\mu_1 \geq \mu_2 \geq \dots \geq \mu_n\}$ : graph SPECTRUM

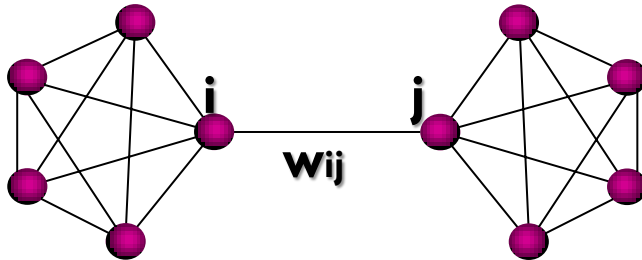
Eigenvalues reveal **global** graph properties  
not apparent from edge structure

**Hear** shape of the drum

Its sound  
(eigenfrequencies):



# "Listen" to the Graph



Adjacency matrix

$A =$

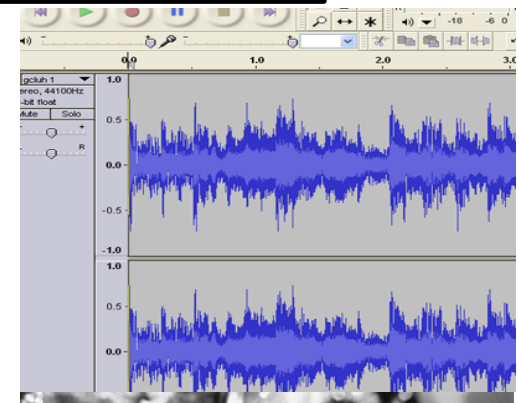
$i$		$w_{ij}$			

List of eigenvalues

$\{\mu_1 \geq \mu_2 \geq \dots \geq \mu_n\}$ : graph SPECTRUM

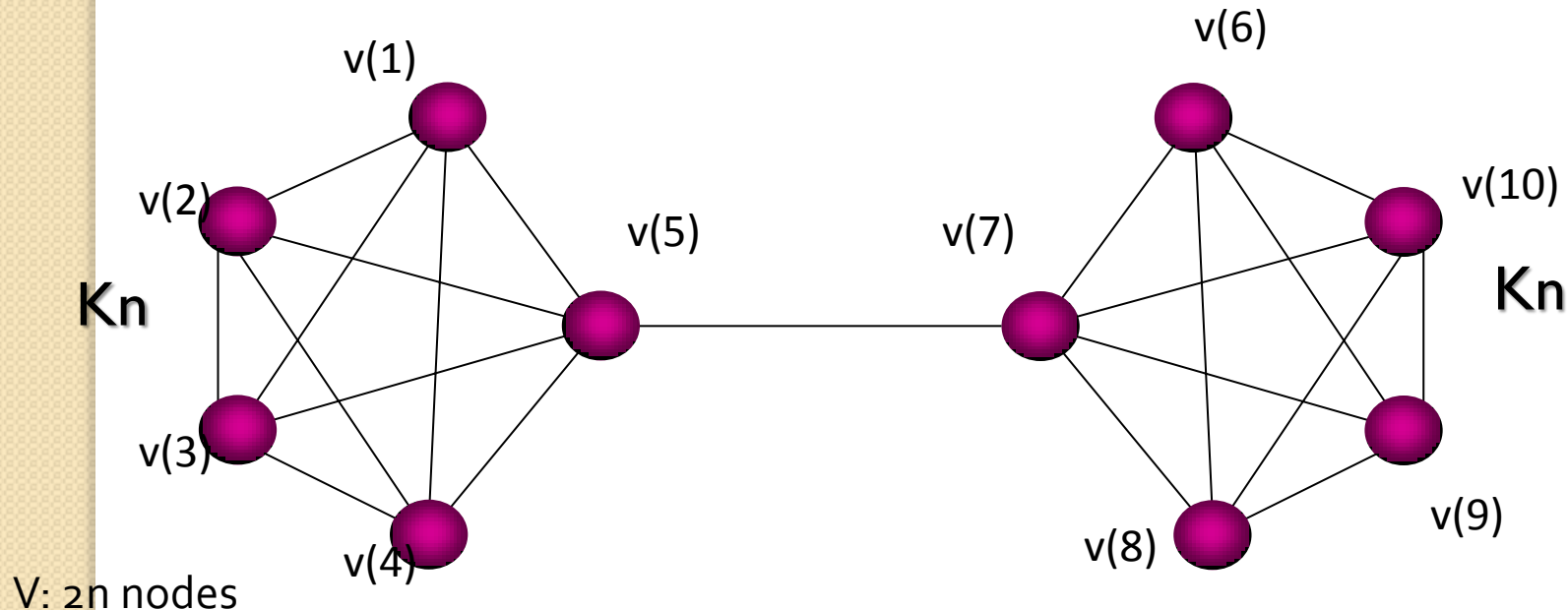
Eigenvalues reveal **global** graph properties  
not apparent from edge structure

If graph was a drum,  
**spectrum** would be its **sound**





# Eigenvectors are Functions on Graph



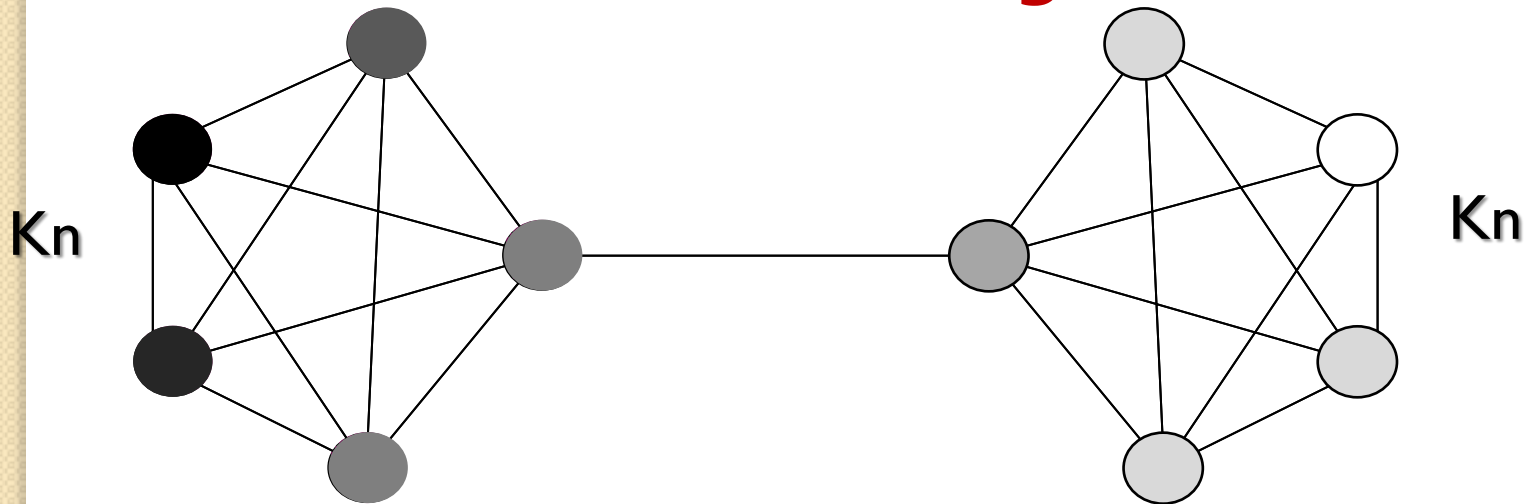
$$v \in \mathfrak{R}^n, \quad v: V \rightarrow \mathfrak{R}$$

$$Av = \mu v$$

$$v(i) = \text{value at node } i$$

# Eigenvectors are Functions on Graph

“Coloring”



$V$ :  $2n$  nodes

$$v \in \mathfrak{R}^n, \quad v: V \rightarrow \mathfrak{R}$$

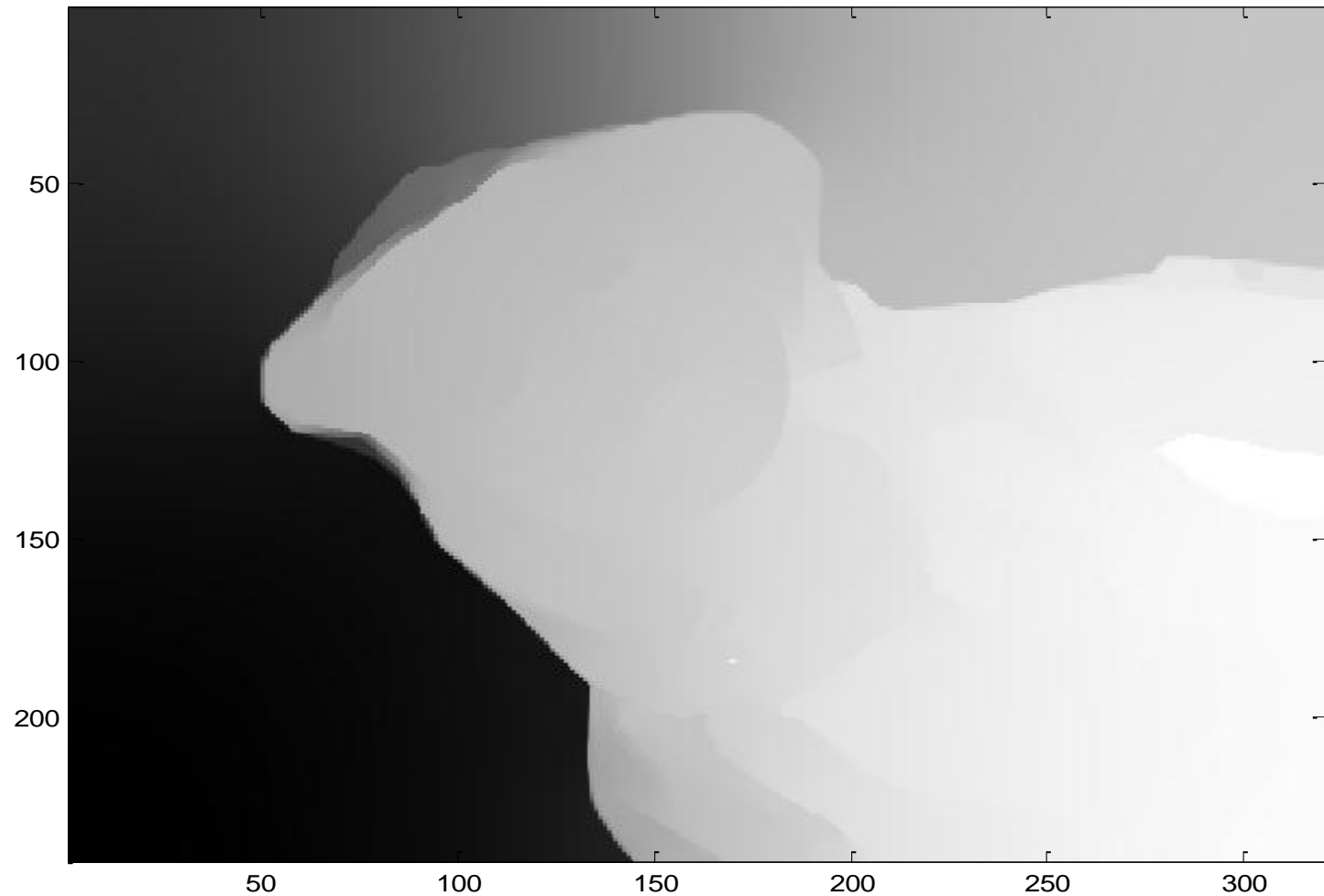
$$Av = \mu v$$

$v(i)$  = value at node  $i$   different shade of grey

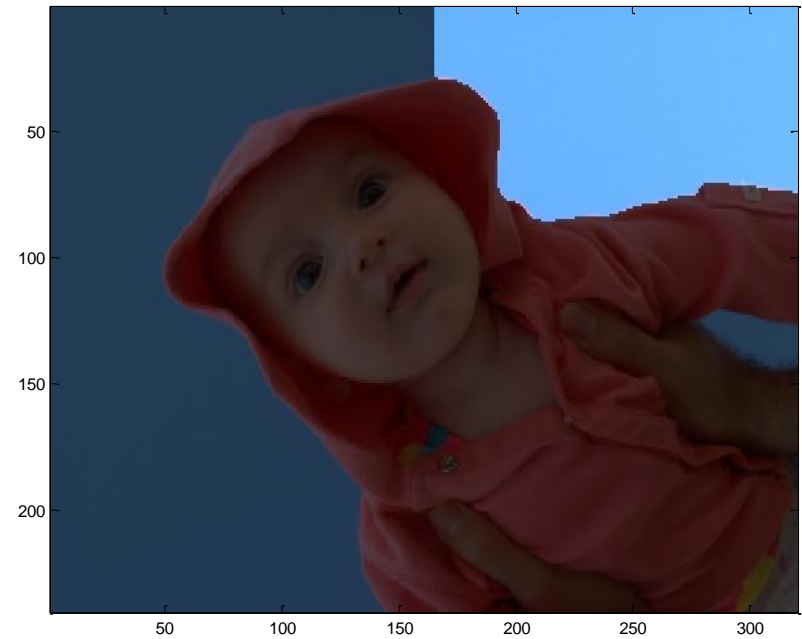
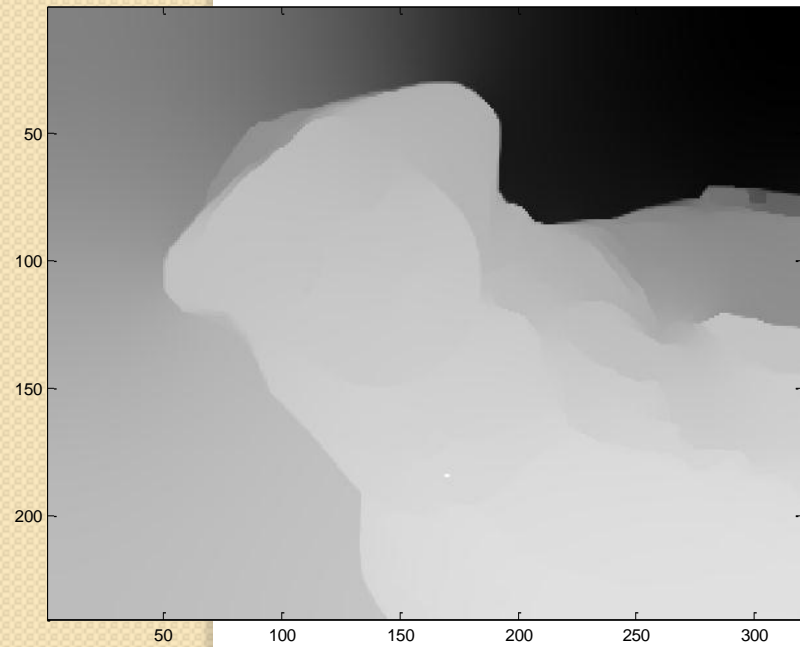
# So, let's See the Eigenvectors



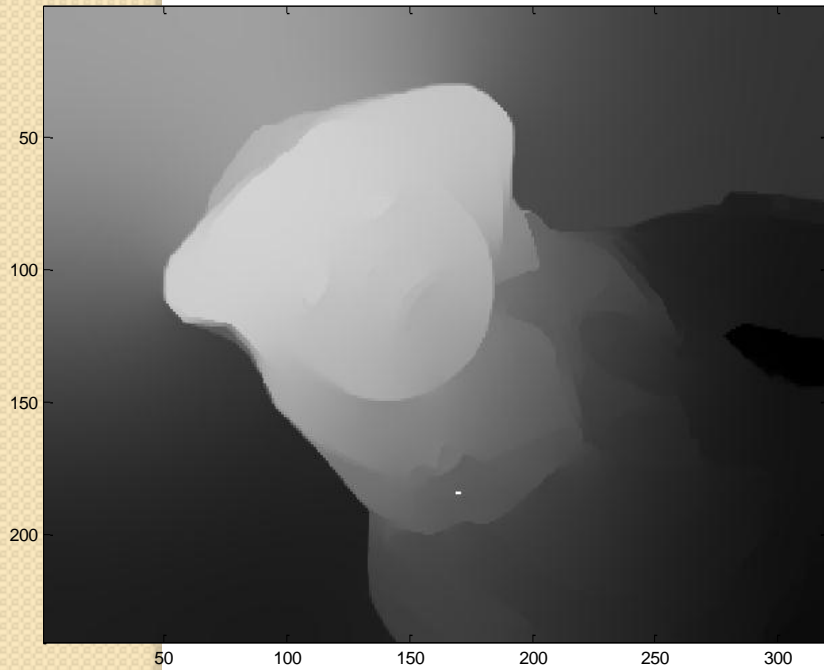
# The second eigenvector



# Third Eigenvector



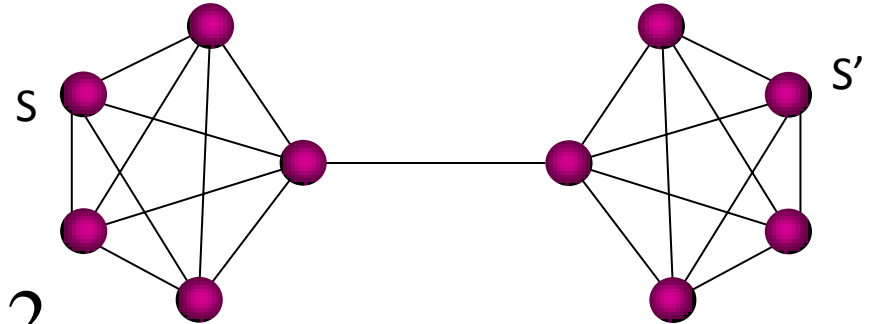
# Fourth Eigenvector



# Cuts and Algebraic Connectivity

Cuts in a graph:

$$\text{cut}(S, S') = \frac{E(S, S')}{|S|}, |S| \leq n/2$$

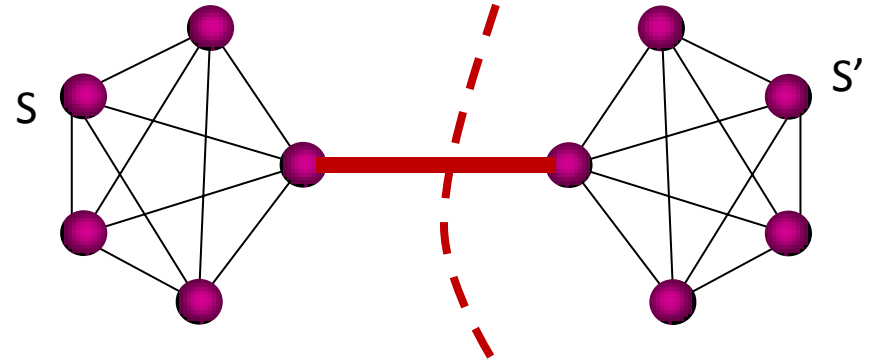


Graph not well-connected when “easily” cut in two pieces

# Cuts and eigenvalues

Edge-expansion:

$$h(G) = \min_{S: |S| \leq n/2} \frac{E(S, \bar{S})}{|S|}$$



Graph not well-connected when “easily” cut in two pieces

Would like to know Sparsest Cut but NP  
hard to find

How does algebraic connectivity relate to standard connectivity?

**Theorem(Cheeger-Alon-Milman):**  $\lambda_2 \leq h(G) \leq \sqrt{2d_{\max}} \sqrt{\lambda_2}$



# Today

- More on eigenvectors and eigenvalues.
- Eigenvalues of  $d$ -regular graphs.
- Relation between eigenvalues and expansion (Cheeger, part 1).

# A Remark on Notation

For convenience, we will often use the bra-ket notation for vectors:

- We denote vector  $v = \begin{pmatrix} v_1 \\ \dots \\ v_n \end{pmatrix}$  with a "bra":  $|v\rangle$
- We denote the transpose vector  $v^T = (v_1 \quad \dots \quad v_n)$  with a "ket":  $\langle v|$
- We denote the inner product  $v^T u$  between two vectors  $v$  and  $u$  with a "braket":  $\langle v|u\rangle = \langle v, u\rangle$

# Eectors and Evalues

- Vector  $v$  is evector of matrix  $M$  with evalue  $\lambda$  if  $Mv = \lambda v$ .
- We are interested (almost always) in symmetric matrices, for which the following special properties hold:
  - If  $v_1, v_2$  are eectors of  $A$  with evalues  $\lambda_1, \lambda_2$  and  $\lambda_1 \neq \lambda_2$ , then  $v_1$  is orthogonal to  $v_2$ . (Proof)
  - If  $v_1, v_2$  are eectors of  $A$  with the same evalue  $\lambda$ , then  $v_1 + v_2$  is as well. The multiplicity of evalue  $\lambda$  is the dimension of the space of eectors with evalue  $\lambda$ .
  - Can assume that eigenvectors have unit length, since every multiple of an eigenvector is also an eigenvector.

# Evectors and Evalues

- Generally,  
 $Mv = \lambda v \Rightarrow (M - \lambda I)v = 0 \Rightarrow \det(M - \lambda I) = 0.$
- The determinant is an n-degree polynomial and has n roots, counting multiplicities.
- Every n-by-n symmetric matrix has n evalues  $\{\lambda_1 \leq \dots \leq \lambda_n\}$  counting multiplicities, and an orthonormal basis of corresponding evectors  $\{v_1, \dots, v_n\}$ , so that  $Mv_i = \lambda_i v_i$
- If we let V be the matrix whose i-th column is  $v_i$ , and D the diagonal matrix whose i-th diagonal is  $\lambda_i$ , we can compactly write  $MV=VD$ . Multiplying by  $V^T$  on the right, we obtain the eigendecomposition of M:

$$M = MV V^T = VD V^T = \sum_i \lambda_i v_i v_i^T$$

# Some eigenvalue theorems

- **Theorem 1.** Let  $M \in R^{n \times n}$  symmetric.  
Then  $\lambda_1 = \max_{x \in R^n, ||x||=1} \{x^T M x\}$ , where  
 $x^T M x = \sum_{i,j} x(i)x(j)M(i,j)$ .
- Similarly,  $\lambda_2 = \max_{x \in R^n, ||x||=1, x \perp x_1} \{x^T M x\}$
- $\max\{|\lambda_2|, \dots, |\lambda_n|\} = \max_{x \in R^n, ||x||=1} \{|x^T M x|\}$

# Some eigenvalue theorems

- **Theorem 2.** Let  $G$  be a  $d$ -regular graph and  $M$  its adjacency matrix. Let  $\lambda_1, \lambda_2, \dots, \lambda_n$  be its eigenvalues and  $x_1, x_2, \dots, x_n$  the corresponding eigenvectors. Then  $\lambda_1 = d$ . Moreover,  $x_1 = (1, \dots, 1)$ .

# Eigenvalues and connectivity

- **Theorem 2'.** Let  $G$  be a  $d$ -regular graph and  $M$  its adjacency matrix. Let  $\lambda_1, \lambda_2, \dots, \lambda_n$  be its eigenvalues and  $x_1, x_2, \dots, x_n$  the corresponding eigenvectors. Then  $\lambda_1 = d$ . If  $\lambda_2 = d$  then the graph is disconnected. The converse is also true (ex). Alternatively,  $h(G) = 0$  iff  $\lambda_2 = d$ .
- Generally, the more connected the graph is, the smaller  $\lambda_2$  is.

# Eigenvalues and expansion

- **Cheeger's Inequality:**

$$\frac{d - \lambda_2}{2} \leq h(G) \leq \sqrt{d(d - \lambda_2)}$$

- Both upper and lower bounds are tight (up to constant), as seen by path graph and complete binary tree.