
Algorithms for Big Data (XI)

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Next, we introduced **spectral graph theory**.

We will see how to design **almost-linear** algorithms for graph problems using spectral tools.

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For symmetric matrices, the spectrum is well-structured.

SPECTRAL DECOMPOSITION THEOREM

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Theorem

An $n \times n$ symmetric matrix A has n **real** eigenvalues $\lambda_1, \dots, \lambda_n$ with corresponding eigenvectors $\mathbf{v}_1, \dots, \mathbf{v}_n$ which are **orthonormal**. Moreover, it holds that

$$A = V\Lambda V^T,$$

where $V = [\mathbf{v}_1 \quad \mathbf{v}_2 \quad \dots \quad \mathbf{v}_n]$ and $\Lambda = \text{diag}(\lambda_1, \dots, \lambda_n)$.

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We already verified the following identity:

$$\forall \mathbf{x} \in \mathbb{R}^{[n]} : \mathbf{x}^T L \mathbf{x} = \sum_{\{u,v\} \in E} (x(u) - x(v))^2.$$

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Let $M \in \mathbb{R}^{n \times n}$ be a matrix. The **Rayleigh quotient** is

$$\forall \mathbf{x} \in \mathbb{R}^n, \quad R_M(\mathbf{x}) = \frac{\langle \mathbf{x}, M\mathbf{x} \rangle}{\langle \mathbf{x}, \mathbf{x} \rangle}.$$

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It is clear that if λ is an eigenvalue of M with eigenvector \mathbf{v} , then

$$R_M(\mathbf{v}) = \frac{\langle \mathbf{v}, M\mathbf{v} \rangle}{\langle \mathbf{v}, \mathbf{v} \rangle} = \frac{\langle \mathbf{v}, \lambda\mathbf{v} \rangle}{\langle \mathbf{v}, \mathbf{v} \rangle} = \lambda.$$

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Theorem (Courant-Fischer Theorem)

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Corollary

$$\lambda_1 = \min_{\mathbf{x} \in \mathbb{R}^n \setminus \{\mathbf{0}\}} R_M(\mathbf{x}), \quad \lambda_n = \max_{\mathbf{x} \in \mathbb{R}^n \setminus \{\mathbf{0}\}} R_M(\mathbf{x}).$$

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Choose nonzero $\mathbf{x} \in X \cap \text{span}(\mathbf{v}_k, \dots, \mathbf{v}_n)$.

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Assume $\lambda_1 \leq \lambda_2 \leq \dots \leq \lambda_n$ be the eigenvalues of N , then

- ▶ $\lambda_1 = 0$;
- ▶ $\lambda_n \leq 2$ and $\lambda_n = 2$ if and only if one of components of G is bipartite;
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Theorem

$$\lambda_k = \max_{\substack{\mathbf{x} \perp \text{span}(\mathbf{v}_1, \dots, \mathbf{v}_{k-1}) \\ \mathbf{x} \neq \mathbf{0}}} R_M(\mathbf{x})$$

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Both L and N are **positive semi-definite**.

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$$R_N(\mathbf{x}) = \frac{\langle \mathbf{x}, \left(D^{-\frac{1}{2}}LD^{-\frac{1}{2}} \right) \mathbf{x} \rangle}{\langle \mathbf{x}, \mathbf{x} \rangle} = \frac{\langle D^{-\frac{1}{2}}\mathbf{x}, LD^{-\frac{1}{2}}\mathbf{x} \rangle}{\langle D^{-\frac{1}{2}}\mathbf{x}, DD^{-\frac{1}{2}}\mathbf{x} \rangle} = \frac{\langle \mathbf{y}, L\mathbf{y} \rangle}{\langle \mathbf{y}, D\mathbf{y} \rangle},$$

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It is an **exercise** to prove the theorem in the previous slide for general graphs.

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It is useful to view L as an **operator**, namely

$$L\mathbf{x}(i) = \deg(i)x(i) - \sum_{\{i,j\} \in E} x(j).$$

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- ▶ $\lambda_0 = 0, \lambda_1 = \lambda_2 = \dots = \lambda_{n-1} = 1, \lambda_n = n$;
- ▶ $\mathbf{v}_1 = \mathbf{1}, \mathbf{v}_i = \mathbf{e}_i - \mathbf{e}_{i+1}$ for $2 \leq i < n, \mathbf{v}_n = (n-1)\mathbf{e}_1 - \sum_{2 \leq j \leq n} \mathbf{e}_j$.

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One can naturally define a random walk: standing at vertex i , move to one of its randomly chosen neighbour j .

If we use denote $P = (p_{ij})$ such that $p_{ij} = \begin{cases} 1/d & \text{if } \{i, j\} \in E \\ 0 & \text{otherwise} \end{cases}$, then

$$\mathbf{x}_{t+1} = P^T \mathbf{x}_t,$$

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We can make P **lazy** by defining $\tilde{P} = \frac{1}{2} (I + P)$.

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Proof by Spectral Decomposition Theorem.