# **Diffusion on Complex Networks:** A way of probing their large scale structures

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# Motivation

- For many real-world networks it is important to:
  - have information on their modular structure
  - know how to increase their stability and robustness
  - identify critical links
- This is what we set out to do with diffusion!
- Physical Motivation:
  - Consider diffusion on complex networks (ensemble of Random Walkers)
  - Steady state will be reached first *locally*, then *globally*
- *Practical example:* 
  - How easy is it by *random driving*, to reach South America if you start in North America ?

## Outline of the talk

- Background Theory
  - Diffusion Equation for Complex Networks
  - Participation Ratio
- Real-World Examples
  - Zachary's friendship network
  - Internet network (Autonomous System)
- Application
- Conclusions



## **Diffusion on Complex Networks**

Adjacency

matrix

Walker

density

• Conservation of walker density :

$$\rho_i(t+1) - \rho_i(t) = \sum_j \hat{A}_{ij} \frac{\rho_j(t)}{k_j} - \sum_j A_{ji} \frac{\rho_i(t)}{k_i}$$

• In matrix form (T : transfer matrix, k<sub>i</sub>: connectivity of node i)

$$\boldsymbol{\rho}(t+1) = \mathbf{T} \boldsymbol{\rho}(t) \qquad T_{ij} = \frac{A_{ij}}{k_j}$$

• A steady state exists, and is given by the connectivities :

$$\boldsymbol{\rho}(t) = \mathbf{T}^{t} \boldsymbol{\rho}(0) \qquad \Rightarrow \boldsymbol{\rho}_{i}(\infty) \propto \boldsymbol{k}_{i}$$

## Diffusion on Complex Networks, cont.

• The Transfer matrix is *not symmetric*, but it is similar to the symmetric matrix

$$\mathbf{S} = \mathbf{K}\mathbf{T}\mathbf{K}^{-1}$$
  $K_{ij} = \frac{\delta_{ij}}{\sqrt{k_i}}$ 

- Since S is symmetric, the transfer matrix has
  - real eigenvalues,  $\lambda^{(\alpha)}$ , (sorted in decreasing order)
  - due to conservation of walkers  $|\lambda^{(\alpha)}| \leq 1$
  - and  $\lambda^{(1)} = 1$  corresponds to the stationary state
- *Outgoing* currents flowing from node i along each of its links (Technically,  $c^{(\alpha)}$  is the eigenvector for  $T^T$ ):

$$c_i^{(lpha)} \propto rac{
ho_i^{(lpha)}}{k_i}$$

Stationary state : 
$$c_i^{(1)} = \frac{1}{\sqrt{N}}$$

## **Participation Ratio**

• For a normalized (link) current,  $\sum_{i} (c_i^{(\alpha)})^2 = 1$ , the participation ratio (PR) is defined as :

$$\chi_{\alpha} = \left[\sum_{i=1}^{N} \left(c_{i}^{(\alpha)}\right)^{4}\right]^{-1}$$

- For the steady state :  $\chi_1 = N$
- The PR gives a measure of the number of nodes participating significantly in a given eigenmode
- If the mode is related to a module, PR will roughly measure its size

The Null Model : A Randomized Network



- Important : The randomization process should not alter the *degree distribution* of the network!
- The algorithm :
  - Choose two arbitrary nodes (A and C)
  - Choose one of their nearest-neighbors (or links) randomly (B and D)
  - Rewire :  $A \rightarrow D$  and  $C \rightarrow B$  if these links do not exist
- Reference : S. Maslov and K. Sneppen, Science **296**, 910 (2002).

## Results for Real-World Networks

#### Two examples:

- Zachary's Karate club Network (friendship network)
  - The university karate club breaks up due to an internal conflict
  - A small network (N=34; L=72)
  - The modular structure is known!
  - Reference : W.W. Zachary, J. Antropol. Res. 33, 452473 (1977).
- Course-grained Internet Network (Autonomous Systems)
  - Medium sized network (N=6,474; L=12,572)
  - The modular structure is not well-known in advance
  - Reference : National Laboratory of Applied Network Research http://moat.nlanr.net/AS/



## Zachary's friendship Network



#### Zachary's friendship Network, cont.



## Summary: Zachary's friendship Network



Measured Cluster sizes :

$$\chi_2 = 14.0$$
  
 $\chi_3 = 13.3$   
 $\chi_2 \chi_3 = 5.4$ 

Theoretical sizes :  $\mathbf{N} = \mathbf{18}$ 

$$N_{1} = 10$$
  
 $N_{2} = 16$   
 $N_{3} = 5$ 

#### The known modular structure is well reproduced by the diffusion model !

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## Autonomous System Network

We now consider a larger network!



N = 6,474L = 12,572

**Definition:** An Autonomous System (AS) is a connected segment of a network consisting of a collection of subnetworks interconnected by a set of routers.

Nodes : AS numbers

Links : Information sharing

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#### Autonomous System Network, cont.



- The Internet is *indeed* modular
- The modules corresponds roughly to the national structure

The *extreme edges* of the Internet are represented by *Russian and US military* sites !

These country modules *could not* have been detected using spectral analysis of A

Ref : PRE 64, 026704 (2001)

### Autonomous System Network, cont.



- A Module is defined by a PR much larger then its random counterpart (RSFN)
- Number of Modules M=100
- Modularity

$$\sum_{\alpha=1}^{M} \chi_{\alpha} = 5400$$

and avoiding *double counting* gives:

1800/N = 30%

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# Applications



the way to search the WED..

The advantage of Google:

Popular web pages are listed first among the search results!

- This is achieved by associating a PageRatio with each page related to the number of links pointing to this page.
- In our diffusion language this means

$$PageRatio(i) = \rho_i(\infty)$$

Ref: S. Brin and L. Page (1998)

## Conclusions

- ✓ Generalized diffusion to (discreet) complex networks
- ✓ Diffusion goes beyond next-nearest neighbor interaction
- Shown that diffusion may assist in probing the network's (large scale) topology
- Participation ratio is an important quantity that contains information about :
  - ✓ the number of significant modules (relative to a randomized network)
  - $\checkmark$  the size of the modules

## The End

Reference :

K. Eriksen, I. Simonsen, S. Maslov, and K. Sneppen *Modularity and extreme edges of the Internet* Phys. Rev. Lett. **90**, 148701 (2003)



XVIII Max Born Symposium

March 10

**D**NTNU

#### The currents



18