

Clustering, Robustness, and Effective Resistance in Linear Consensus

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University of Minnesota February 10, 2014





networks of dynamical systems are one of *the* enabling technologies of the future







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- steady-state behavior

- interplay between dynamics and graph
- equilibrium configurations

Synthesis

- design of distributed protocols
 design of "good" network
 structures
 - good performance

can we reveal *deep* results describing the underlying behavior of these systems?



What about robustness?



what is the right way to approach *robustness* of networked dynamic systems?



The Consensus Protocol

The consensus protocol is a *distributed and dynamic protocol* used for computing the average of a set of numbers.

Agent Dynamics

$$\dot{x}_i(t) = u_i(t)$$



Information Exchange Network $\mathcal{G} = (\mathcal{V}, \mathcal{E}, \mathcal{W})$ $\mathcal{W} : \mathcal{E} \to \mathbb{R}$ Incidence Matrix $E(\mathcal{G}) \in \mathbb{R}^{|\mathcal{V}| \times |\mathcal{E}|}$ $E(\mathcal{G}) = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ -1 & 1 & -1 & 0 \\ 0 & -1 & 0 & 1 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 & -1 \end{bmatrix}$



The Consensus Protocol

The consensus protocol is a *distributed and dynamic protocol* used for computing the average of a set of numbers.





Robustness in Consensus Networks





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The Consensus Protocol

 $\underbrace{\underbrace{Consensus Protocol}_{i\sim j}}_{(v_{3})} \quad \begin{array}{l} \text{Laplacian Matrix} \\ \bullet \ L(\mathcal{G}) \in \mathbb{R}^{|\mathcal{V}| \times |\mathcal{V}|} \\ \bullet \ L(\mathcal{G}) = E(\mathcal{G})WE(\mathcal{G})^{T} \\ \bullet \ L(\mathcal{G})\mathbbm{1} = 0 \\ e = (v_{i}, v_{j}) \in \mathcal{E} \\ \mathcal{W}(e) = w_{ij} = [W]_{ee} \end{array}$

Theorem 1 Let $\mathcal{G} = (\mathcal{V}, \mathcal{E}, \mathcal{W})$ be a weighted and connected graph with positive edge weights $\mathcal{W}(k) > 0$ for $k = 1, \ldots, |\mathcal{E}|$. Then the consensus dynamics synchronizes; i.e., $\lim_{t\to\infty} x_i(t) = \beta$ for $i = 1, \ldots, |\mathcal{V}|$.

Mesbahi & Egerstedt, Olfati-Saber, Ren



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Synchronization and the Laplacian

$$x(t) = e^{-L(\mathcal{G})t} x_0$$

 $\lim_{t\to\infty} x(t) = \beta \mathbb{1} \Leftrightarrow L(\mathcal{G}) \text{ has only$ **one**eigenvalue at the origin





 $L(\mathcal{G}) \ge 0$



 $\begin{array}{l} L(\mathcal{G}) \geq 0 \\ & \text{has only one} \\ & \text{eigenvalue at} \\ & \text{the zero} \end{array}$

has **more than one** eigenvalue at the zero $L(\mathcal{G})$ has **at least one** negative eigenvalue (indefinite)



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Synchronization and the Laplacian

$$\dot{x}(t) = -L(\mathcal{G})x(t)$$

system behavior depends on the spectral properties of the graph Laplacian











 $L(\mathcal{G}) \ge 0$ has **more than one** eigenvalue at the zero $L(\mathcal{G})$ has **at least one** negative eigenvalue (indefinite)



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Synchronization and the Laplacian

$$\dot{x}(t) = -L(\mathcal{G})x(t)$$

can we understand spectral properties of the Laplacian from the structure of the graph?





 $L(\mathcal{G}) \ge 0$ has **more than one** eigenvalue at the zero





has **at least one** negative eigenvalue (indefinite)



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 $L(\mathcal{G})$

Spanning Trees and Cycles



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Some Properties of $L_e(\mathcal{G})$

Proposition 1 The matrix $L_e(\mathcal{T})R_{(\mathcal{T},\mathcal{C})}WR_{(\mathcal{T},\mathcal{C})}^T$ has the same inertia as $R_{(\mathcal{T},\mathcal{C})}WR_{(\mathcal{T},\mathcal{C})}^T$. Similarly, the matrix $(L_e(\mathcal{T})R_{(\mathcal{T},\mathcal{C})}WR_{(\mathcal{T},\mathcal{C})}^T)^{-1}$ has the same inertia as $(R_{(\mathcal{T},\mathcal{C})}WR_{(\mathcal{T},\mathcal{C})}^T)^{-1}$.

Recall: The *inertia* of a matrix is the number of negative, 0, and positive eigenvalues

Proof:

$$\begin{split} L_e(\mathcal{T}) R_{(\mathcal{T},\mathcal{C})} W R_{(\mathcal{T},\mathcal{C})}^T &\sim L_e(\mathcal{T})^{\frac{1}{2}} R_{(\mathcal{T},\mathcal{C})} W R_{(\mathcal{T},\mathcal{C})}^T L_e(\mathcal{T})^{\frac{1}{2}} \\ L_e(\mathcal{T})^{\frac{1}{2}} R_{(\mathcal{T},\mathcal{C})} W R_{(\mathcal{T},\mathcal{C})}^T L_e(\mathcal{T})^{\frac{1}{2}} & \text{is congruent to} \quad R_{(\mathcal{T},\mathcal{C})} W R_{(\mathcal{T},\mathcal{C})}^T W R_{(\mathcal{T},\mathcal{C})}^T L_e(\mathcal{T})^{\frac{1}{2}} \end{split}$$

congruent matrices have the same inertia



Some Properties of $L_e(\mathcal{G})$

Proposition 1 $L(\mathcal{G}) \ge 0 \Leftrightarrow R_{(\mathcal{T},\mathcal{C})} W R_{(\mathcal{T},\mathcal{C})}^T \ge 0$

The definiteness of the graph Laplacian can be studied through another matrix!

 $R_{(\mathcal{T},\mathcal{C})}WR_{(\mathcal{T},\mathcal{C})}^{'I'}$



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The **effective resistance** between two nodes *u* and *v* is the electrical resistance measured across the nodes when the graph represents an electrical circuit with each edge a resistor



V

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Proposition 1 $L^{\dagger}(\mathcal{G}) = (E_{\tau}^{L})^{T} \left(R_{(\tau,c)} W R_{(\tau,c)}^{T} \right)^{-1} E_{\tau}^{L}$

$$r_{uv} = (\mathbf{e}_u - \mathbf{e}_v)^T L^{\dagger}(\mathcal{G})(\mathbf{e}_u - \mathbf{e}_v)$$

$$E_{\mathcal{T}}^L(\mathbf{e}_u - \mathbf{e}_v) = \begin{bmatrix} \pm 1 \\ 0 \\ \pm 1 \\ 0 \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} \tau_1 \\ \tau_2 \\ \tau_3 \\ \tau_4 \end{bmatrix} u \begin{bmatrix} \tau_1 \\ \tau_2 \\ \tau_3 \\ \tau_1 \end{bmatrix} (\tau_1 - \tau_2) = \mathbf{e}_v \mathbf{e}_v$$
edicates a path from node $\mathcal{G} = \mathcal{T} \cup \mathcal{C}$

 E_{τ}^{L}

indicates a path from node *u* to *v* using only edges in $T_{(\tau,c)} = \underbrace{(E_{\tau}^T E_{\tau})^{-1} E_{\tau}^T}_{T} E(\mathcal{C})$ the spanning tree

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$$r_{uv} = (\mathbf{e}_u - \mathbf{e}_v)^T (E_{\tau}^L)^T \left(R_{(\tau,c)} W R_{(\tau,c)}^T \right)^{-1} E_{\tau}^L (\mathbf{e}_u - \mathbf{e}_v)$$





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$$r_{uv} = (\mathbf{e}_u - \mathbf{e}_v)^T (E_{\tau}^L)^T \left(R_{(\tau,c)} W R_{(\tau,c)}^T \right)^{-1} E_{\tau}^L (\mathbf{e}_u - \mathbf{e}_v)$$

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Signed Graphs

a **signed graph** is a graph with positive and negative edge weights

 $\mathcal{G} = (\mathcal{V}, \mathcal{E}, \mathcal{W})$ $\mathcal{W}:\mathcal{E} \to \mathbb{R}$ $\mathcal{E}_{+} = \{ e \in \mathcal{E} : \mathcal{W}(e) > 0 \}$ $E(\mathcal{G}_+) = E_+ = E_{\mathcal{F}_+} R_{(\mathcal{F}_+, \mathcal{C}_+)}$

 $L(\mathcal{G}) = E(\mathcal{G}_+)W_+E(\mathcal{G}_+)^T - E(\mathcal{G}_-)|W_-|E(\mathcal{G}_-)^T$

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Proposition 1

$$L(\mathcal{G}) \ge 0 \Leftrightarrow \begin{bmatrix} |W_{-}|^{-1} & E_{-}^{T} \\ E_{-} & E_{+}W_{+}E_{+}^{T} \end{bmatrix} \ge 0$$

Proof:

Schur Complement

 $L(\mathcal{G}) = E(\mathcal{G}_+)W_+E(\mathcal{G}_+)^T - E(\mathcal{G}_-)|W_-|E(\mathcal{G}_-)^T$

$$E(\mathcal{G}_{+}) = E_{+} = E_{\mathcal{F}_{+}} R_{(\mathcal{F}_{+},\mathcal{C}_{+})}$$
$$\mathrm{IM}[N_{\mathcal{F}_{+}}] = \mathrm{span}[\mathcal{N}(E_{\mathcal{F}_{+}}^{T})]$$

Identifies how the positive weight graph is partitioned

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If the positive portion weighted graph is connected...

$$L(\mathcal{G}) \ge 0 \Leftrightarrow \left[\begin{array}{cc} |W_{-}|^{-1} & E_{-}^{T} (E_{\mathcal{F}_{+}}^{L})^{T} \\ E_{\mathcal{F}_{+}}^{L} E_{-} & R_{(\mathcal{F}_{+},\mathcal{C}_{+})} W_{+} R_{(\mathcal{F}_{+},\mathcal{C}_{+})}^{T} \end{array} \right] \ge 0$$

 $N_{\mathcal{F}_+} = 1$

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Theorem 1 Assume that \mathcal{G}_+ is connected and $|\mathcal{E}_-| = 1$ and let $\mathcal{E}_- = \{e_- = (u, v)\}$. Let r_{uv} denote the effective resistance between nodes $u, v \in \mathcal{V}$ over the graph \mathcal{G}_+ . Then

$$L(\mathcal{G}) \ge 0 \Leftrightarrow |\mathcal{W}(e_{-})| \le r_{uv}^{-1}$$

Proof:

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A Small-Gain Interpretation

Theorem 1 $(z_{elazo}, 11)$

$$\|\Sigma(\mathcal{G}_{+})\|_{\infty}^{2} = \overline{\sigma} \underbrace{\left[E_{-}^{T} (E_{\mathcal{F}_{+}}^{L})^{T} \left(R_{(\mathcal{F}_{+},\mathcal{C}_{+})} W_{+} R_{(\mathcal{F}_{+},\mathcal{C}_{+})}^{T} \right)^{-1} E_{\mathcal{F}_{+}}^{L} E_{-} \right]}_{r_{uv}(\mathcal{G}_{+})}$$

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Corollary 1 Assume that both \mathcal{E}_+ and $\mathcal{E}_$ are not empty. If \mathcal{G}_+ is not connected, then $L(\mathcal{G})$ is indefinite for any choice of negative weights.

Proof:

$$\begin{bmatrix} |W_{-}|^{-1} & E_{-}^{T}(E_{\mathcal{F}_{+}}^{L})^{T} & E_{-}^{T}N_{\mathcal{F}_{+}} \\ E_{\mathcal{F}_{+}}^{L} & E_{-} & R_{(\mathcal{F}_{+},c_{+})}W_{+}R_{(\mathcal{F}_{+},c_{+})}^{T} & 0 \\ N_{\mathcal{F}_{+}}^{T} & E_{-} & 0 & 0 \end{bmatrix} \text{ permutation}$$

$$\begin{bmatrix} |W_{-}|^{-1} & E_{-}^{T}N_{\mathcal{F}_{+}} \\ N_{\mathcal{F}_{+}}^{T} & E_{-} & 0 \\ E_{-}^{L}N_{\mathcal{F}_{+}}E_{-} & 0 \\ R_{(\mathcal{F}_{+},c_{+})}W_{+}R_{(\mathcal{F}_{+},c_{+})}^{T} \end{bmatrix} \text{ permutation}$$

$$\begin{bmatrix} E_{-}^{T}N_{\mathcal{F}_{+}} \end{bmatrix}_{ik} = \pm 1 \quad \text{if and only if edge k} \\ \text{separates node } u \text{ and } v \quad e_{k} = (u,v)$$

V

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Corollary 1 Assume that both \mathcal{E}_+ and $\mathcal{E}_$ are not empty. If \mathcal{G}_+ is not connected, then $L(\mathcal{G})$ is indefinite for any choice of negative weights.

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Corollary 1 Assume that both \mathcal{E}_+ and $\mathcal{E}_$ are not empty. If \mathcal{G}_+ is not connected, then $L(\mathcal{G})$ is indefinite for any choice of negative weights.

Proof:

$$\begin{aligned} x^T \begin{bmatrix} |W_-|^{-1} & E_-^T N_{\mathcal{F}_+} \\ N_{\mathcal{F}_+}^T E_- & \mathbf{0} \end{bmatrix} x &= \sum_{i \in \mathcal{E}_-} |W_-(i)|^{-1} x_i^2 + \sum_{k \in \text{CUT}_1} \pm 2x_k x_{m+1} + \dots + \sum_{k \in \text{CUT}_c} \pm 2x_k x_{m+c} \\ &< 0 \\ x_i, \ i &= m+1, \dots, m+c \quad \text{can be arbitrarily chosen} \end{aligned}$$

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Graph Cuts and Robustness

The smallest cardinality cut of a graph can be thought of as a **combinatorial robustness measure** for linear consensus protocols

As in the single negative weight edge example, graph cuts act to make an "open circuit"

- max-flow/min-cut algorithms
- minimum cardinality cut algorithms (Karger)

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any single red edge is a cut in the graph

a negative weight on any red edge leads to an indefinite graph Laplacian

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any two edges on the cycle is a cut in the graph

a negative weight on any 2 red edge in a cycle leads to an indefinite graph Laplacian

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any single edge in the cycle can make the Laplacian indefinite

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Computing Negative Weights

$$\min_{W_{-}} \quad \|W_{-}\|$$

s.t.
$$\begin{bmatrix} |W_{-}|^{-1} & E_{-}^{T}(E_{\mathcal{F}_{+}}^{L})^{T} & E_{-}^{T}N_{\mathcal{F}_{+}} \\ E_{\mathcal{F}_{+}}^{L}E_{-} & R_{(\mathcal{F}_{+},\mathcal{C}_{+})}W_{+}R_{(\mathcal{F}_{+},\mathcal{C}_{+})}^{T} & 0 \\ N_{\mathcal{F}_{+}}^{T}E_{-} & 0 & \mathbf{0} \end{bmatrix} \ge 0$$

 infeasible solution —> negative weight edges form a cut of the graph

p

 norm choice can influence structure of Laplacian spectrum

An Optimization Perspective

Consider the following optimization problem

$$\alpha = \min_{x} \frac{1}{2} x^{T} L(\mathcal{G}) x = \min_{y,\zeta} \frac{1}{2} \zeta^{T} W \zeta$$

s.t. $\zeta = E^{T} y$

 $\alpha = 0$

The consensus protocol corresponds to the gradient dynamics

$$\dot{x}(t) = -L(\mathcal{G})x(t)$$

The optimization problem has a bounded solution if and only if the Laplacian is positive semi-definite (i.e. convexity!)

Negative edge weights influence the *convexity* of the quadratic program

V

Difference of Convex (DC) Program

$$\alpha = \min_{y,\zeta_{+},\zeta_{-}} \frac{1}{2} \zeta_{+}^{T} W_{+} \zeta_{+} - \frac{1}{2} \zeta_{-}^{T} |W_{-}| \zeta_{-}$$

s.t. $\zeta_{+} = E_{+}^{T} y, \zeta_{-} = E_{-}^{T} y$

$$g(y) = \min_{\zeta_{+}} \frac{1}{2} \zeta_{+}^{T} W_{+} \zeta_{+} \qquad g^{*}(u) = \sup_{y} \{y^{T} u - g(y)\}$$

s.t. $\zeta_{+} = E_{+}^{T} y$
$$h(y) = \min_{\zeta_{-}} \frac{1}{2} \zeta_{-}^{T} W_{-} \zeta_{-}$$

s.t. $u = E_{+} \lambda_{+}$
s.t. $\zeta_{-} = E_{-}^{T} y$
 $h^{*}(u) = \text{ same form}$

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Difference of Convex (DC) Program

A Duality Result

Lemma 1

$$\alpha = \min_{u} \left\{ \left(\min_{\lambda_{-}} \frac{1}{2} \lambda_{-}^{T} W_{-}^{-1} \lambda_{-} \right) - \left(\min_{\lambda_{+}} \frac{1}{2} \lambda_{+}^{T} W_{+}^{-1} \lambda_{+} \right) \right\}$$

$$u = E_{-} \lambda_{-}, \quad u = E_{+} \lambda_{+}.$$

Theorem 1 $L(\mathcal{G}) \ge 0 \Leftrightarrow \alpha = 0$

What can the optimization perspective tell us?

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Duality and Cooperative Control

a "canonical" networked dynamic system

- Passivity Theory
 - equilibrium independent passivity
 - maximal equilibrium independent passivity (dynamic)

duality in convex optimization

$$\mathcal{P} \min_{x} \sum_{i=1}^{n} J_{i}(x_{i})$$
s.t. $g(x) = 0$

$$\mathcal{L}(x,\lambda) = \sum_{i=1}^{\infty} J_i(x_i) + \lambda^T g(x)$$

$$\mathcal{D} \max_{\lambda} \inf_{x} \mathcal{L}(x,\lambda)$$

- Network Optimization Theory
 - optimal flow problems
 - optimal distribution problems

(static)

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Network Optimization Problems

Optimal Flow Problem

$$\min_{\mathbf{u},\mu} \quad \sum_{i=1}^{|\mathbf{V}|} C_i^{div}(\mathbf{u}_i) + \sum_{k=1}^{|\mathbf{E}|} C_k^{flux}(\mu_k)$$

- s.t. $\mathbf{u} + E\mathbf{\mu} = 0$.
 - u_i: divergence (in/out-flow) at a node
 - μ_k : *flow* on an edge

Optimal Potential Problem

$$\min_{\mathbf{y}, \zeta} \sum_{i=1}^{|\mathbf{V}|} C_i^{pot}(\mathbf{y}_i) + \sum_{k=1}^{|\mathbf{E}|} C_k^{ten}(\zeta_k)$$

s.t. $\zeta = E^{\top} \mathbf{y}.$

- y_i: *potential* at a node
- ζ_k : *tension* (potential difference) on an edge

Dual Optimization Problems defined over the "same" network

$$C_i^{pot}(\mathbf{y}_i) := C_i^{div,*} = -\inf_{\tilde{\mathbf{u}}_i} \left\{ C_i^{div}(\tilde{\mathbf{u}}_i) - \mathbf{y}_i \tilde{\mathbf{u}}_i \right\}$$

Duality and Cooperative Control

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Nonlinear Consensus

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Concluding Remarks

- networked dynamic systems require new tools for robustness analysis
- graph properties have real system theoretic implications

Acknowledgements

Thank-you!

Mathias Bürger

Questions?

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