



If  $P$  is primitive, or  $P$  is aperiodic:  
 [Aperiodic: GCD of all lengths of directed cycles in  $P$  is 1]

then  $\pi^{(t)} \rightarrow \pi$  unique.

We consider a simple and natural setting today.  $G = (Q, E)$  be the support of the PFA.

Let the degree of  $Q_i$  be  $d_i$

Let  $P_{ij} = \frac{1}{d_i}$ . ( $P_{ji} = \frac{1}{d_j}$ )

i.e. we pick a transition at random.

$$P = \begin{pmatrix} \frac{1}{d_1} & \frac{1}{d_1} & \dots & \frac{1}{d_1} \\ \dots & \dots & \dots & \dots \\ \dots & \dots & \frac{1}{d_j} & \dots \end{pmatrix} \quad \text{Note } P \mathbf{1} = \mathbf{1}$$

$$(P^T \pi^{(t)})_i = \sum_j P_{ji} \pi_j^{(t)} = \sum_{\substack{j: (j,i) \\ \in E}} \frac{\pi_j^{(t)}}{d_j}$$

Lemma.  $\pi = \frac{1}{\sum d_i} \begin{pmatrix} d_1 \\ \vdots \\ d_n \end{pmatrix}$  is stationary for  $P$ .

$$\text{Pf. } (P^T \pi)_i = \sum_{j: (j,i) \in E} \frac{\pi_j}{d_j} = \frac{d_i}{\sum d_i} = \pi_i$$

Lemma. If  $G$  is connected and non-bipartite then  $\pi$  is the unique stationary distribution and  $\pi^{(t)} \rightarrow \pi$ .

Q. What is the probability of going from  $i$  to  $j$  in the steady state  $\pi$ ?

$$\pi_i \cdot P_{ij} = \frac{d_i}{\sum d_i} \cdot \frac{1}{d_i} = \frac{1}{\sum d_i} = \frac{1}{2m}$$

"each transition is equally likely".

What we have is a simple random walk on a graph. This is an object of much study and has many applications.

Parameters: Access time  $H(i, j) = E(\# \text{ steps to go from } i \text{ to } j)$

Access time  $\pi(i, j)$  (from  $i$  to  $j$ )

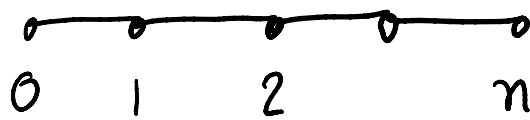
Cover time  $C(i) = E(\# \text{ steps to visit all vertices starting at } i)$

Mixing time  $\tau = \sup_{t \rightarrow \infty} \max_{i, j} |P_{ij}^{(t)} - \pi_j|^{1/t}$

"rate at which  $\pi^{(t)} \rightarrow \pi$ "

### Examples.

1. Path



$H(0, n)?$

$$\pi(0) = \frac{1}{2n} \quad \pi(n) = \frac{1}{2n}$$

$$\pi(i) = \frac{2}{2n} = \frac{1}{n} \quad i=1, 2, \dots, n-1$$

— break —

$$H(i-1, i) = 2i-1$$

$$H(i, j) = H(i, j-1) + 2j-1$$

$$\begin{aligned} H(i, n) &= 2n-1 + 2n-3 + 2n-5 \dots 2i+1 \\ &= \sum_{j=i}^n 2j-1 \end{aligned}$$

$$= \sum_{j=1}^{n-1} 2^{j-1} - \sum_{j=1}^{i-1} 2^{j-1}$$

$$= n^2 - i^2$$

$$H(0, n) = n^2$$

2. Complete graph.

$$P_{ij} = \frac{1}{n-1}$$

$$\pi(i) = \frac{1}{n}$$

$$H(i, j) = n-1.$$

What about Cover time?

— thinking break —

$$0 = t_1 \leq t_2 \leq \dots \leq t_i \leq t_n$$

↖ first time visiting  
i vertices

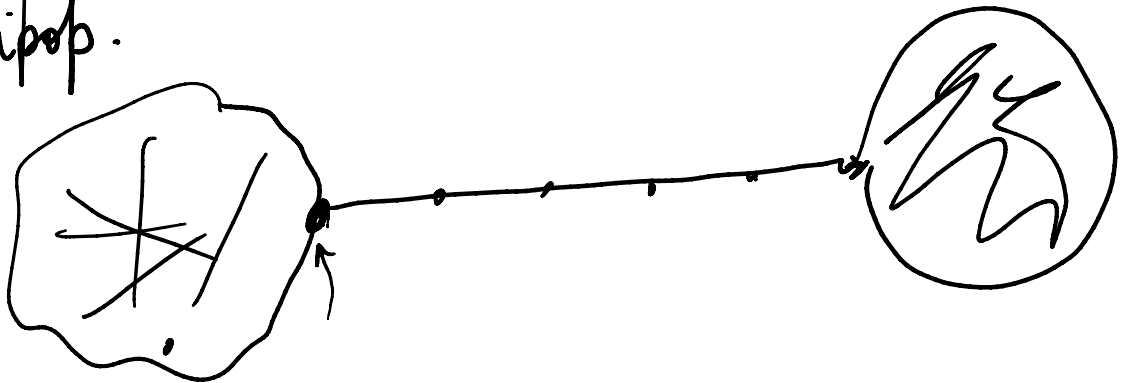
$$P(\text{new vertex after } t_i) = \frac{n-i}{n-1}$$

$$E(t_{i+1} - t_i) = \frac{n-1}{n-i}$$

$$E(t_{i+1} - t_i) = \frac{1}{n-i}$$

$$E(t_n) = \sum_{i=0}^{n-1} E(t_{i+1} - t_i) = \sum_{i=0}^{n-1} \frac{1}{n-i} = (n-1) \sum_{i=1}^{n-1} \frac{1}{i} \approx n \ln n.$$

3. Lollipop.



$$\Theta(n^3).$$

Thm. The cover time for any connected undirected graph is  $O(n^3)$ .

Mixing time

$$P^T \pi = \pi \quad \text{eigenvalue } 1$$

$$\forall v \neq \pi \quad P^T v = \lambda v \quad \lambda < 1$$

If  $P$  is primitive,

$$|\lambda| < 1.$$

$$\chi^2(\pi^{(t+1)}, \pi) \leq \lambda \cdot \chi^2(\pi^{(t)}, \pi).$$

So distance drops by factor  $\lambda$  in each step.

$$D = \begin{pmatrix} d_1 & & & \\ & \ddots & & \\ & & 0 & \\ & & & \ddots \\ 0 & & & & d_n \end{pmatrix}$$

$$P = D^{-1} A \quad \leftarrow \begin{array}{l} \text{adjacency matrix} \\ A_{ij} = 1 \quad (i, j) \in E \end{array}$$

consider

$$\begin{aligned} Q &= D^{\frac{1}{2}} P D^{-\frac{1}{2}} \\ &= D^{-\frac{1}{2}} A D^{\frac{1}{2}} \end{aligned}$$

Lemma.  $Q$  has the same eigenvalues as  $P$ .

Pr. Suppose  $Pv = \lambda v$ .

... suppose  $v \dots$

$$\begin{aligned} Q D^{\frac{1}{2}} v &= D^{\frac{1}{2}} P D^{-\frac{1}{2}} D^{\frac{1}{2}} v \\ &= D^{\frac{1}{2}} P v \\ &= \lambda D^{\frac{1}{2}} v. \end{aligned}$$

$D^{\frac{1}{2}} v$  is an eigenvector of  $Q$  with same eigenvalue.

Thm [Spectral] For any real, symmetric  $n \times n$   $Q$ ,

$$Q = \sum_{i=1}^n \lambda_i v_i v_i^T \quad \lambda_1 \geq \lambda_2 \dots \geq \lambda_n$$

real

$\{v_i\}$  are orthonormal

$$\|v_i\| = 1$$

$$v_i^T v_j = 0 \quad \forall i \neq j$$

Cor.  $Q^{(t)} = \sum_{i=1}^n \lambda_i^t v_i v_i^T$



Cor.  $Q'' = \sum_{i=1} \lambda_i v_i v_i$

Thm  $P_{ij}^{(t)} = \pi_j + \sum_{l=2}^n \lambda_l^t v_{li} v_{lj} \sqrt{\frac{d_j}{d_i}}$

Pf.  $P, Q. \lambda_1 = 1$

$$P^{(t)} = \left( D^{-\frac{1}{2}} Q D^{\frac{1}{2}} \right)^t$$

$$= D^{-\frac{1}{2}} Q^{(t)} D^{\frac{1}{2}}$$

$$= \sum_{l=1}^n \lambda_l^t D^{-\frac{1}{2}} v v^T D^{\frac{1}{2}}$$

$$= \pi \mathbf{1}^T + \sum_{l=2}^n \lambda_l^t D^{-\frac{1}{2}} v v^T D^{\frac{1}{2}}$$

$$P_{ij}^{(t)} = \pi_j + \sum_{l=2}^n \lambda_l^t v_{li} v_{lj} \sqrt{\frac{d_j}{d_i}}$$

$$\therefore |\pi_j^{(t)} - \pi_j| \leq \max_{2 \leq \ell \leq n} |\lambda_\ell|^t \sqrt{\frac{d_j}{d_i}}$$

Starting at  $i \rightarrow$ .

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Surprising fact:

Mixing time can be  $O(\log n)$  for  
an  $n$ -node graph!