Analysis of Large Graphs: Link Analysis, PageRank

Advanced Search Techniques for Large Scale Data Analytics

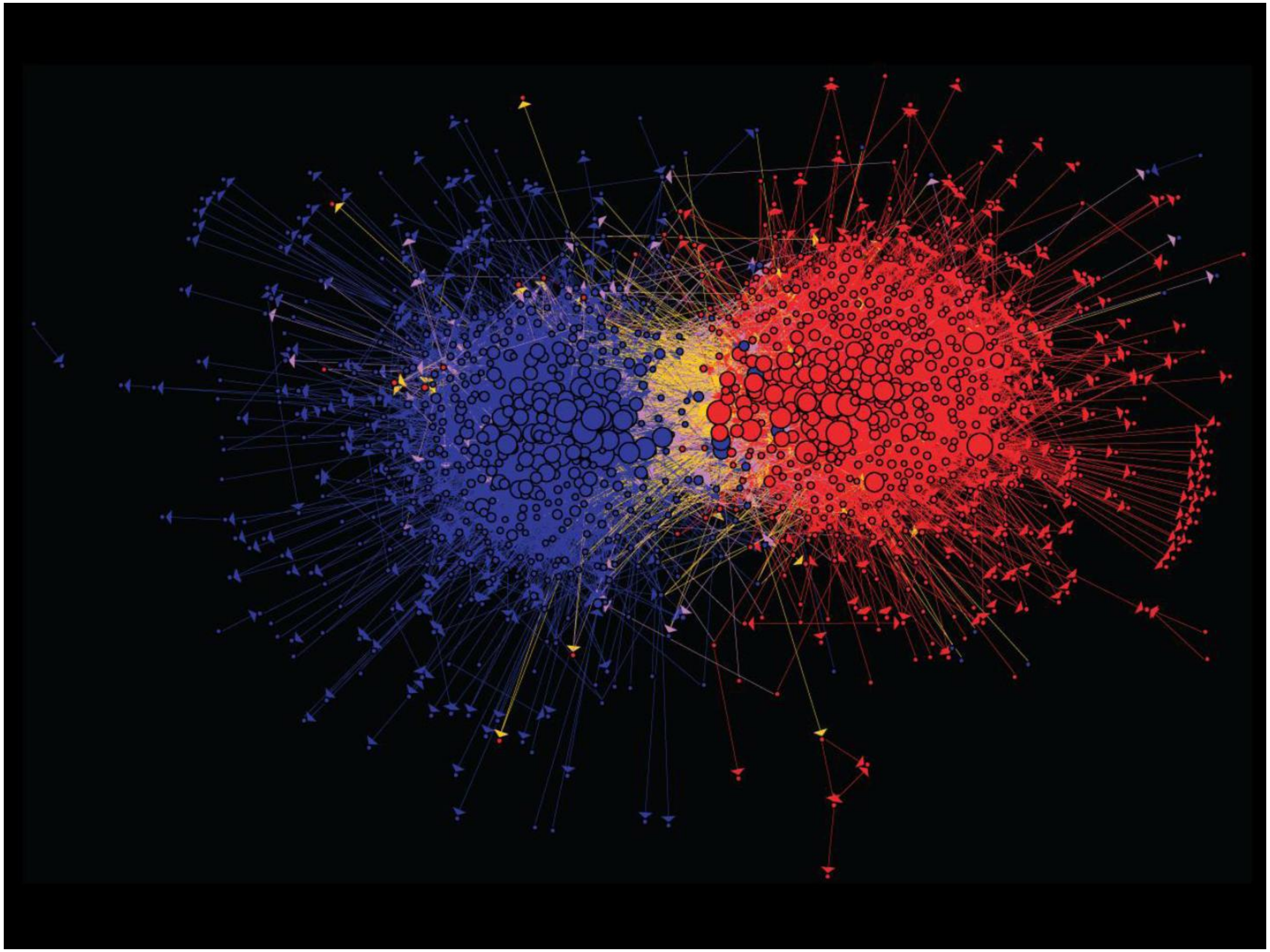
Pavel Zezula and Jan Sedmidubsky
Masaryk University
http://disa.fi.muni.cz

Graph Data: Social Networks

Facebook social graph

4-degrees of separation [Backstrom-Boldi-Rosa-Ugander-Vigna, 2011]

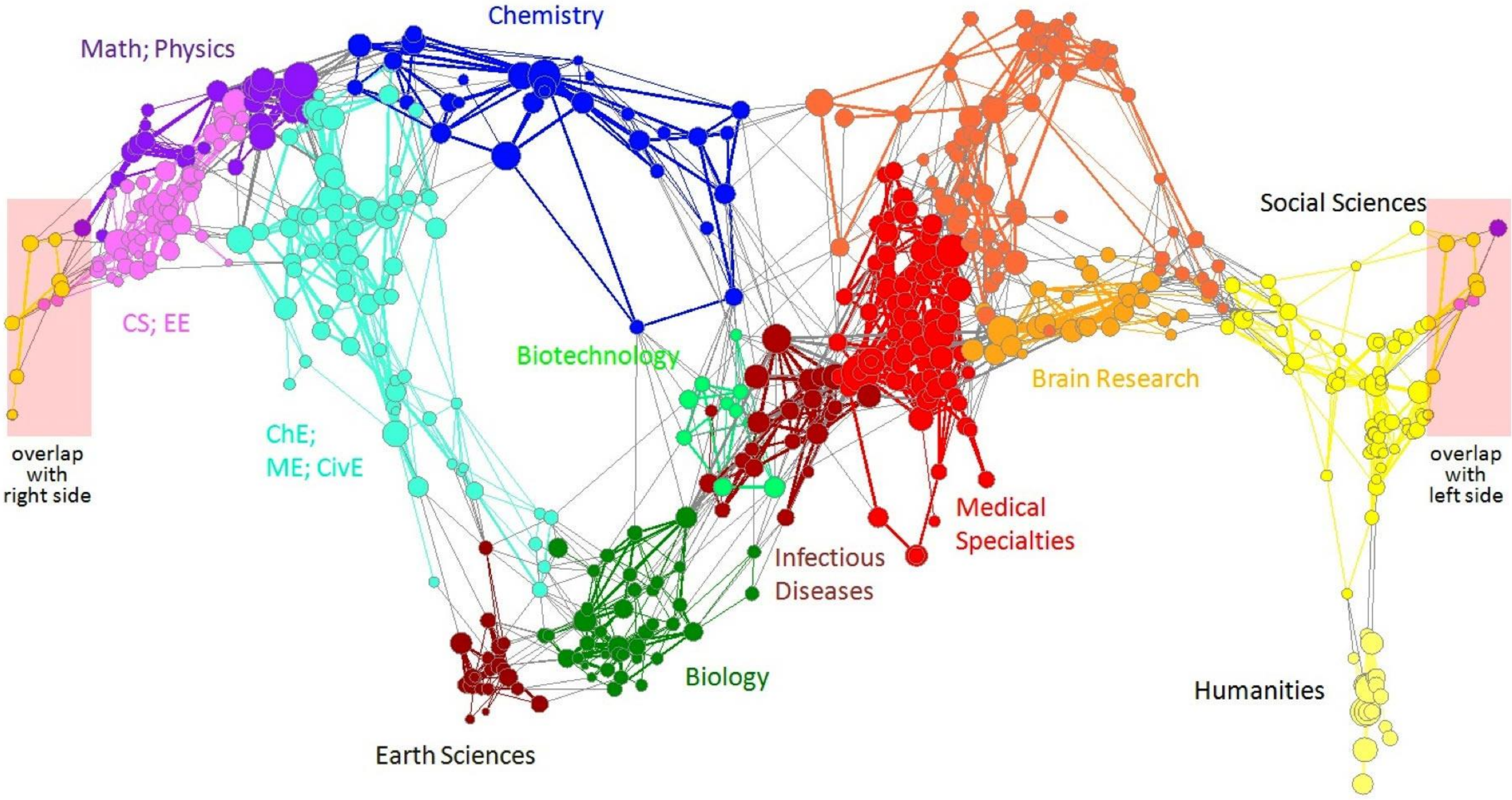
Graph Data: Media Networks



Connections between political blogs

Polarization of the network [Adamic-Glance, 2005]

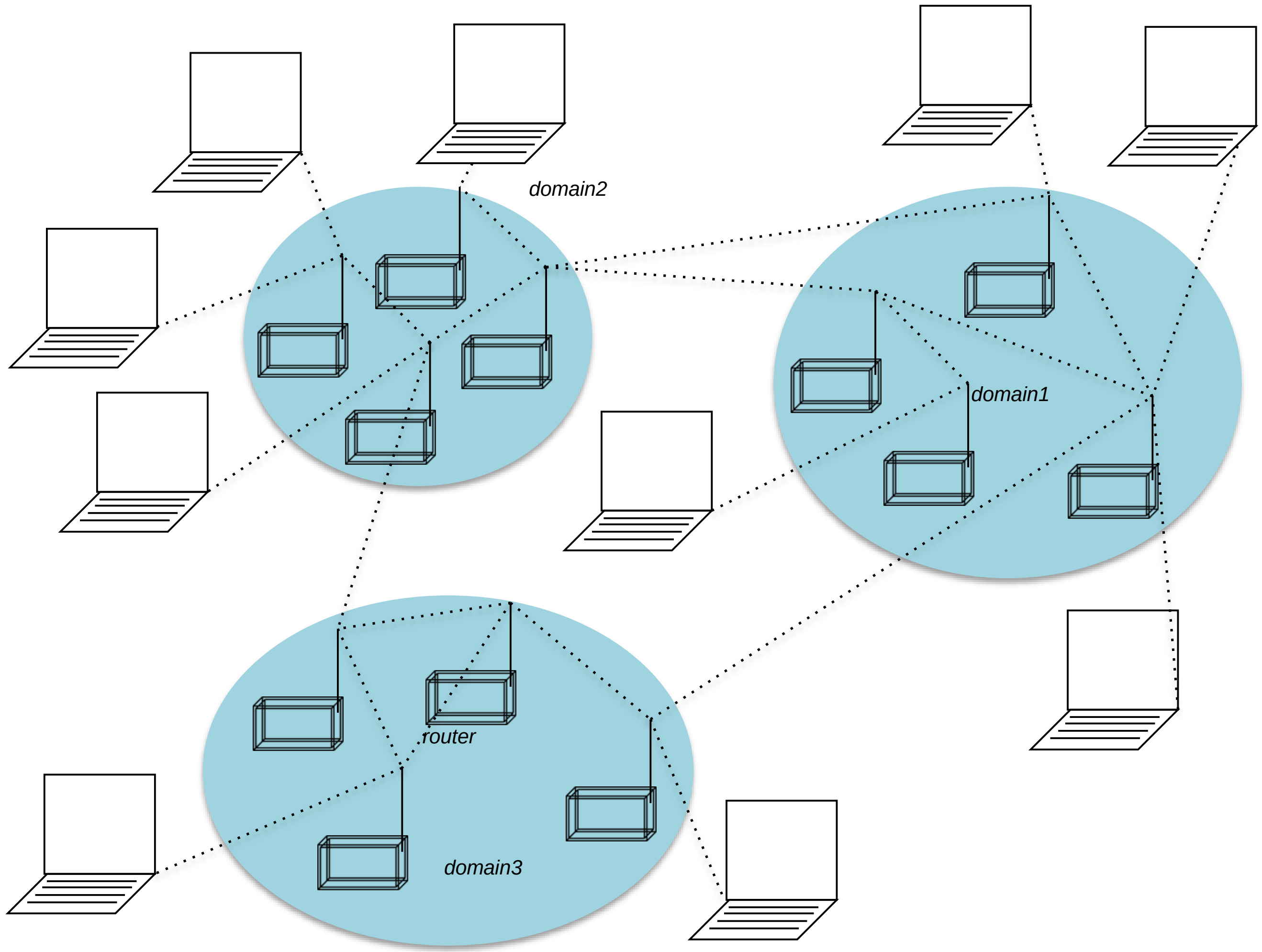
Graph Data: Information Nets



Citation networks and Maps of science

[Börner et al., 2012]

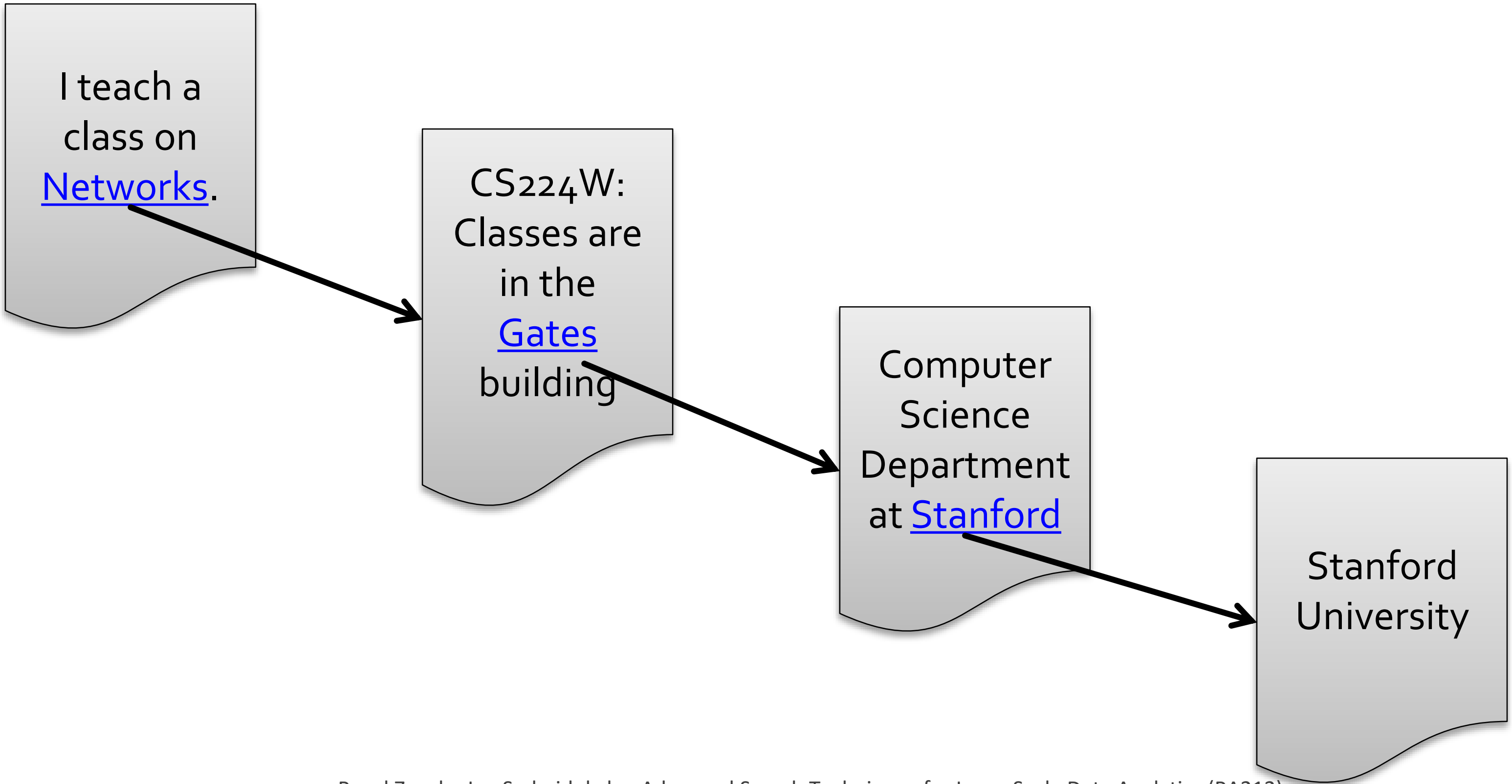
Graph Data: Communication Nets



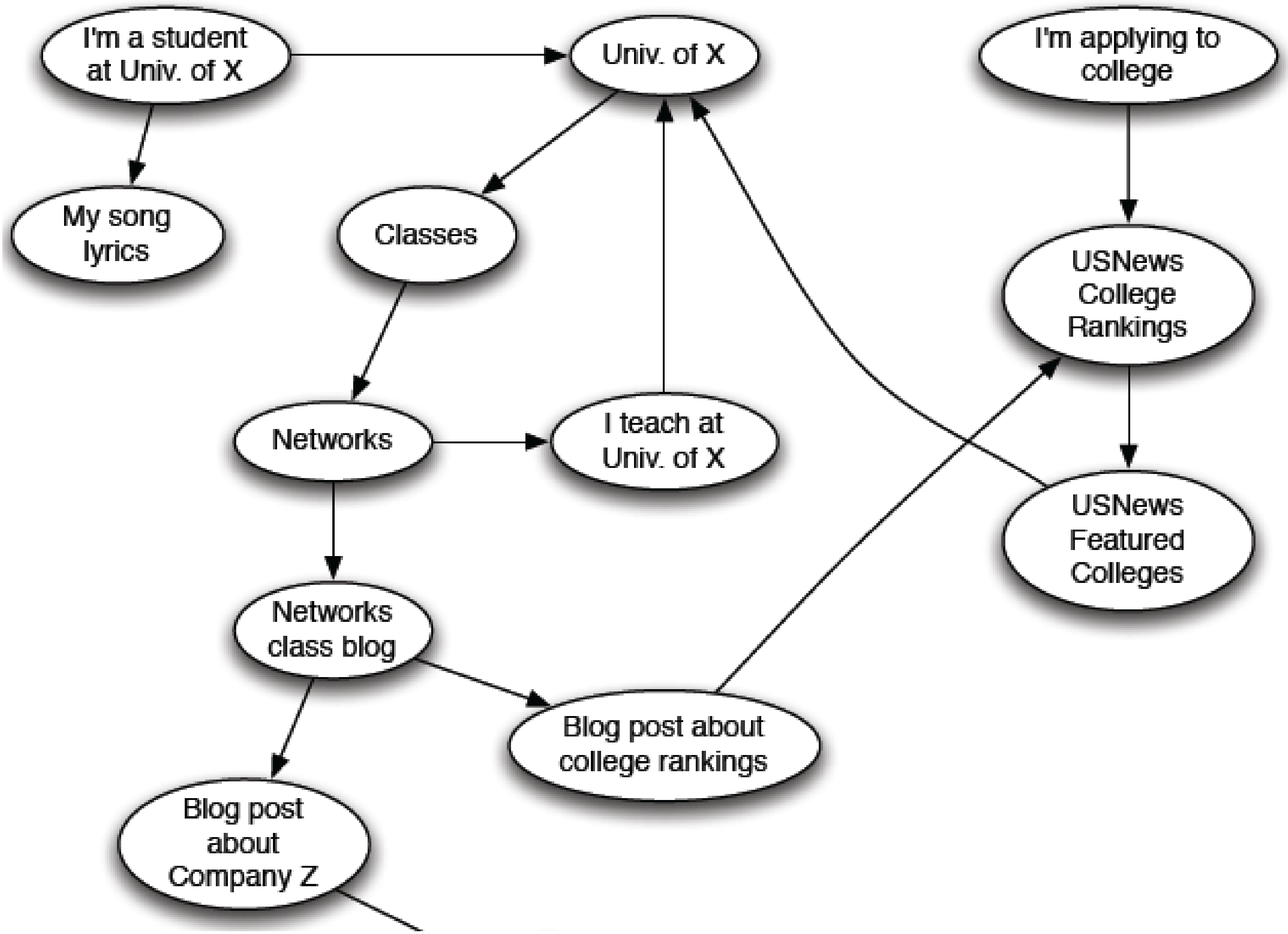
Internet

Web as a Graph

- **Web as a directed graph:**
  - **Nodes: Webpages**
  - **Edges: Hyperlinks**



Web as a Directed Graph



Broad Question

- **How to organize the Web?**
- **First try:** Human curated **Web directories**
  - Yahoo, DMOZ, LookSmart
- **Second try: Web Search**
  - **Information Retrieval** investigates: Find relevant docs in a small and trusted set
    - Newspaper articles, Patents, etc.
  - **But:** Web is **huge**, full of untrusted documents, random things, web spam, etc.

Web Search: 2 Challenges

2 challenges of web search:

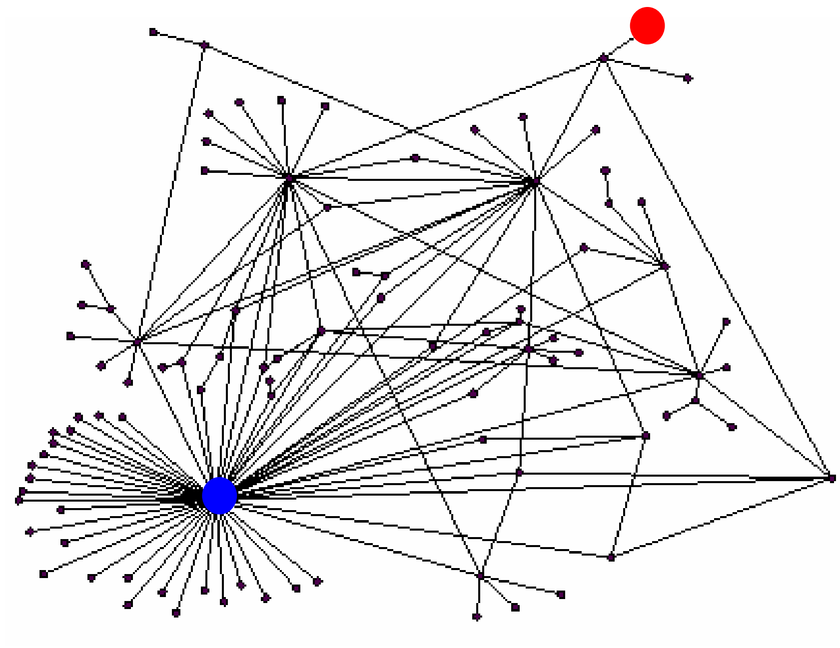
- **(1) Web contains many sources of information Who to "trust"?**
  - **Trick:** Trustworthy pages may point to each other!
- **(2) What is the "best" answer to query "newspaper"?**
  - No single right answer
  - **Trick:** Pages that actually know about newspapers might all be pointing to many newspapers

Ranking Nodes on the Graph

- **All web pages are not equally "important"**

  www.joe-schmoe.com vs. www.stanford.edu

- There is large diversity in the web-graph node connectivity.
  Let's rank the pages by the link structure!



Link Analysis Algorithms

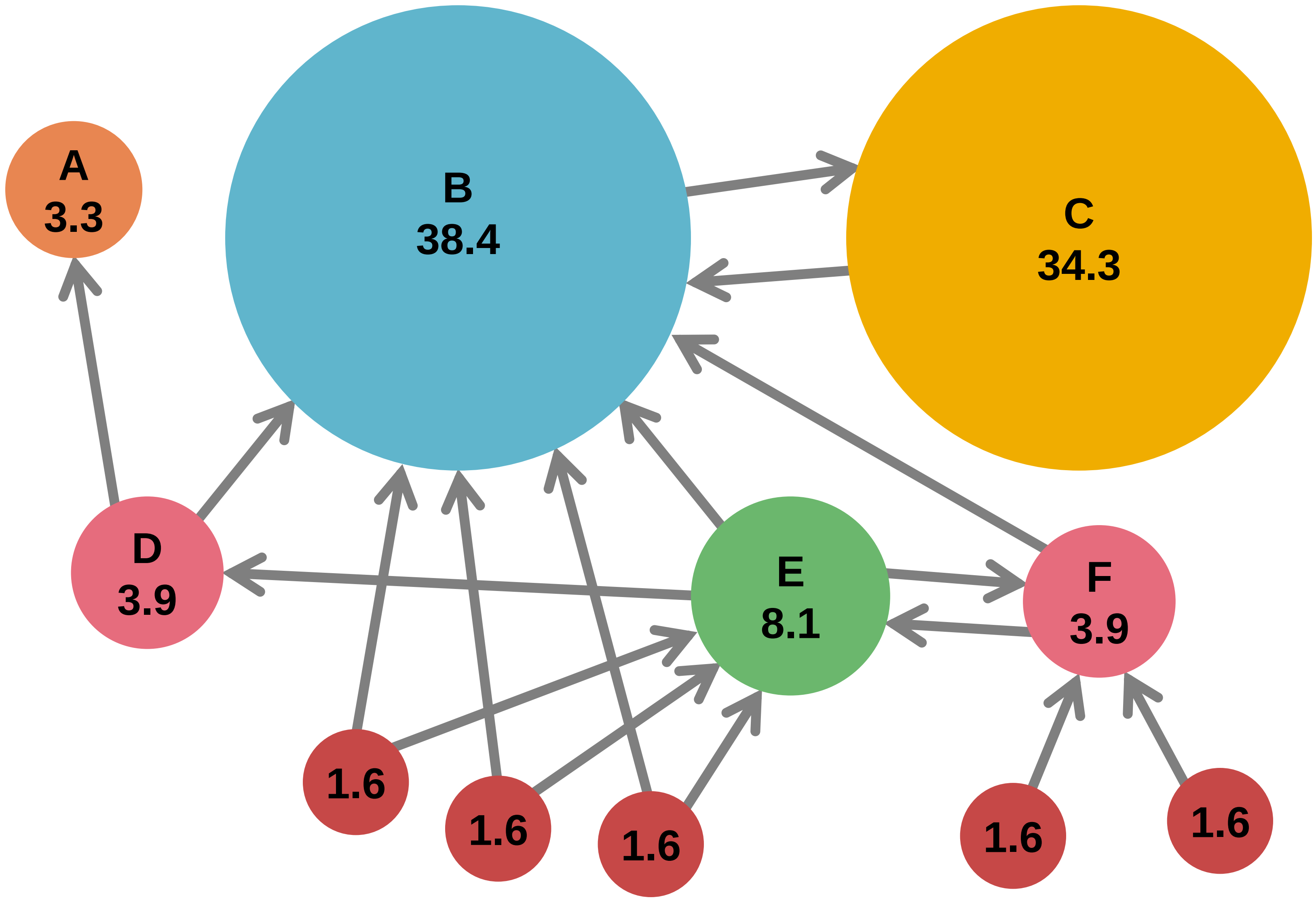
- We will cover the following **Link Analysis approaches** for computing **importances** of nodes in a graph:
  - Page Rank
  - Topic-Specific (Personalized) Page Rank
  - Web Spam Detection Algorithms

PageRank:
The “Flow” Formulation

Links as Votes

- **Idea: Links as votes**
  - **Page is more important if it has more links**
    - In-coming links? Out-going links?
- **Think of in-links as votes:**
  - www.stanford.edu has 23,400 in-links
  - www.joe-schmoe.com has 1 in-link
- **Are all in-links are equal?**
  - **Links from important pages count more**
  - Recursive question!

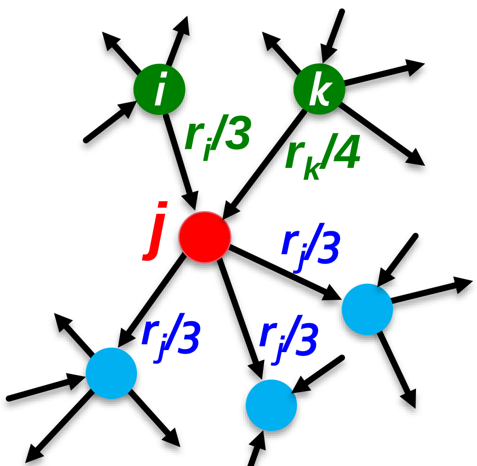
Example: PageRank Scores



Simple Recursive Formulation

- Each link's vote is proportional to the **importance** of its source page
- If page ***j*** with importance r_j has ***n*** out-links, each link gets r_j / n votes
- Page ***j***'s own importance is the sum of the votes on its in-links

$$r_j = r_i/3 + r_k/4$$



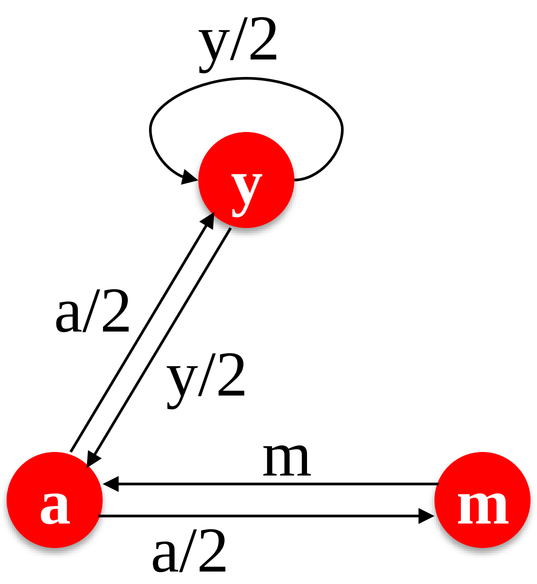
PageRank: The "Flow" Model

- A "vote" from an important page is worth more
- A page is important if it is pointed to by other important pages
- Define a "rank" r_j for page j

$$r_j = \sum_{i \to j} \frac{r_i}{\mathrm{d}_i}$$

d_i … out-degree of node i

The web in 1839



"Flow" equations:

$r_y = r_y/2 + r_a/2$

$r_a = r_y/2 + r_m$

$r_m = r_a/2$

Solving the Flow Equations

Flow equations:

$r_y = r_y/2 + r_a/2$

$r_a = r_y/2 + r_m$

$r_m = r_a/2$

- **3 equations, 3 unknowns, no constants**
  - No unique solution
  - All solutions equivalent modulo the scale factor
- **Additional constraint forces uniqueness:**
  - $\boldsymbol{r_y + r_a + r_m = 1}$
  - **Solution:** $\boldsymbol{r_y = \frac{2}{5},\ r_a = \frac{2}{5},\ r_m = \frac{1}{5}}$
- **Gaussian elimination method works for small examples, but we need a better method for large web-size graphs**
- **We need a new formulation!**

PageRank: Matrix Formulation

- **Stochastic adjacency matrix $\boldsymbol{M}$**
  - Let page i has d_i out-links
  - If $i \rightarrow j$, then $M_{ji} = \frac{1}{d_i}$ else $M_{ji} = 0$
    - $\boldsymbol{M}$ is a **column stochastic matrix**
      - Columns sum to 1
- **Rank vector $\boldsymbol{r}$:** vector with an entry per page
  - r_i is the importance score of page i
  - $\sum_i r_i = 1$
- **The flow equations can be written**

$$r_j = \sum_{i \rightarrow j} \frac{r_i}{\mathrm{d_i}}$$

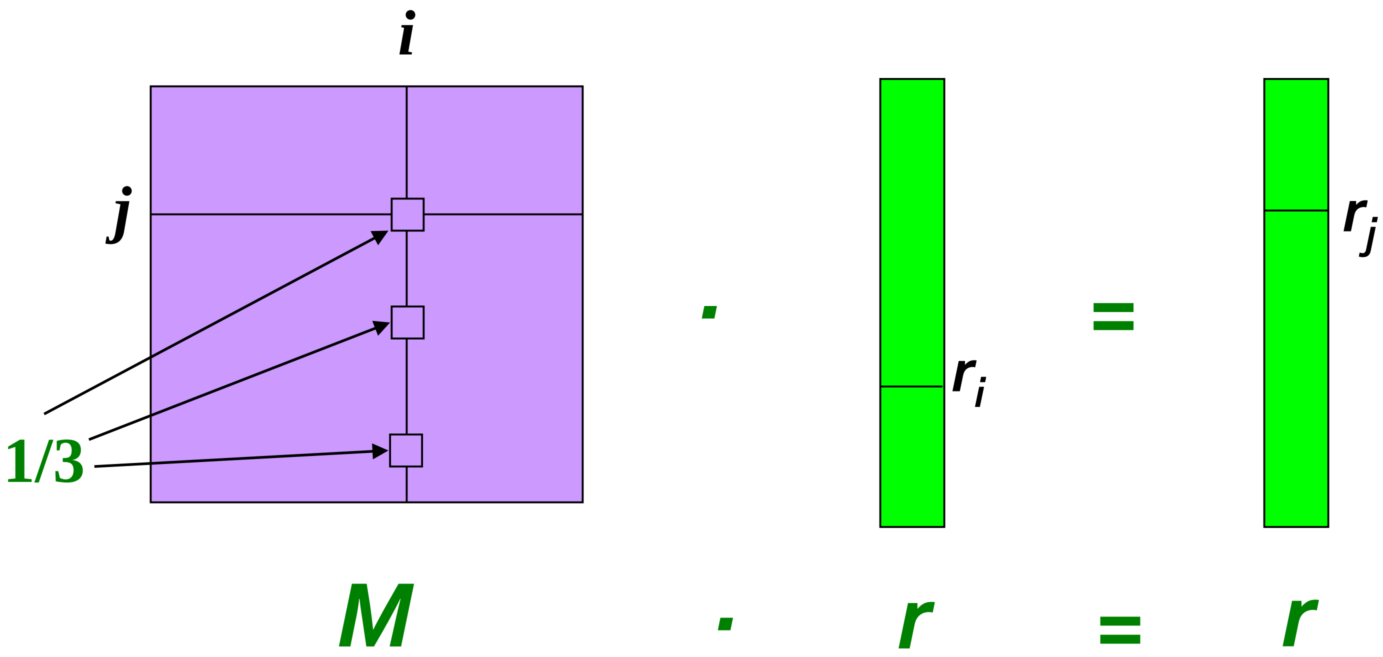
$$\boldsymbol{r} = \boldsymbol{M} \cdot \boldsymbol{r}$$

Example

- **Remember the flow equation:** $r_j = \sum_{i \to j} \frac{r_i}{d_i}$
- **Flow equation in the matrix form**

$$\boldsymbol{M} \cdot \boldsymbol{r} = \boldsymbol{r}$$

  - **Suppose page *i* links to 3 pages, including *j***



Eigenvector Formulation

- The flow equations can be written

$$\boldsymbol{r} = \boldsymbol{M} \cdot \boldsymbol{r}$$

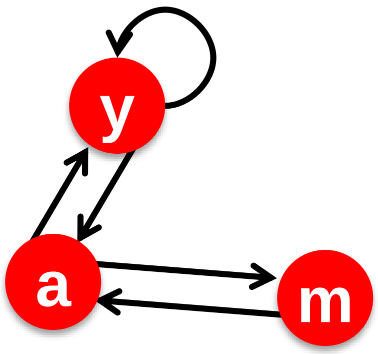
- So the **rank vector** ***r*** is an **eigenvector** of the stochastic web matrix ***M***
  - In fact, its first or principal eigenvector, with corresponding eigenvalue ***1***
    - Largest eigenvalue of ***M*** is **1** since ***M*** is column stochastic (with non-negative entries)
      - *We know* ***r*** *is unit length and each column of* ***M*** *sums to one, so* $\boldsymbol{Mr} \leq \boldsymbol{1}$

NOTE: ***x*** is an eigenvector with the corresponding eigenvalue **λ** if:

$$\boldsymbol{Ax} = \boldsymbol{\lambda x}$$

- **We can now efficiently solve for *r*!**
  The method is called Power iteration

Example: Flow Equations & M



	y	a	m
y	½	½	0
a	½	0	1
m	0	½	0

r = M·r

$$r_y = r_y/2 + r_a/2$$
$$r_a = r_y/2 + r_m$$
$$r_m = r_a/2$$

$$\begin{bmatrix} y \\ a \\ m \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} ½ & ½ & 0 \\ ½ & 0 & 1 \\ 0 & ½ & 0 \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} y \\ a \\ m \end{bmatrix}$$

Power Iteration Method

- **Given a web graph with *n* nodes, where the nodes are pages and edges are hyperlinks**
- **Power iteration:** a simple iterative scheme
  - Suppose there are *N* web pages
  - Initialize: $\mathbf{r}^{(0)} = [1/N,....,1/N]^T$
  - Iterate: $\mathbf{r}^{(t+1)} = \mathbf{M} \cdot \mathbf{r}^{(t)}$
  - Stop when $|\mathbf{r}^{(t+1)} - \mathbf{r}^{(t)}|_1 < \varepsilon$

$|\mathbf{x}|_1 = \sum_{1\le i\le N}|x_i|$ is the $\mathbf{L_1}$ norm

Can use any other vector norm, e.g., Euclidean

$$r_j^{(t+1)} = \sum_{i \to j} \frac{r_i^{(t)}}{\mathrm{d_i}}$$

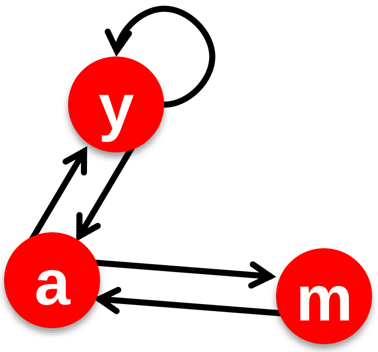
d_i …. out-degree of node i

PageRank: How to solve?

- **Power Iteration:**
  - Set $r_j = 1/N$
  - **1:** $r'_j = \sum_{i \to j} \frac{r_i}{d_i}$
  - **2:** $r = r'$
  - Goto **1**
- **Example:**

$$\begin{bmatrix} r_y \\ r_a \\ r_m \end{bmatrix} = \begin{matrix} 1/3 \\ 1/3 \\ 1/3 \end{matrix}$$

Iteration 0, 1, 2, …



	y	a	m
y	½	½	0
a	½	0	1
m	0	½	0

$r_y = r_y/2 + r_a/2$

$r_a = r_y/2 + r_m$

$r_m = r_a/2$

PageRank: How to solve?

- **Power Iteration:**
  - Set $r_j = 1/N$
  - **1:** $r'_j = \sum_{i \to j} \frac{r_i}{d_i}$
  - **2:** $r = r'$
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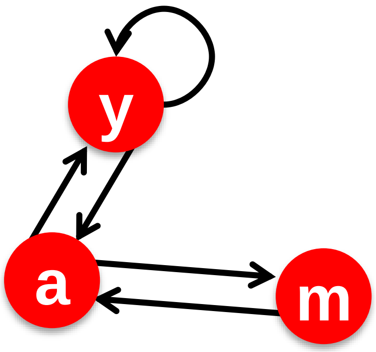


	y	a	m
y	½	½	0
a	½	0	1
m	0	½	0

$r_y = r_y/2 + r_a/2$

$r_a = r_y/2 + r_m$

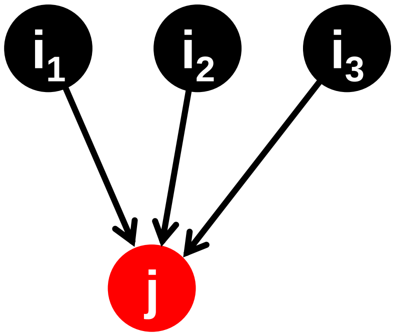
$r_m = r_a/2$

- **Example:**

r_y	1/3	1/3	5/12	9/24		6/15
r_a =	1/3	3/6	1/3	11/24	…	6/15
r_m	1/3	1/6	3/12	1/6		3/15

Iteration 0, 1, 2, …

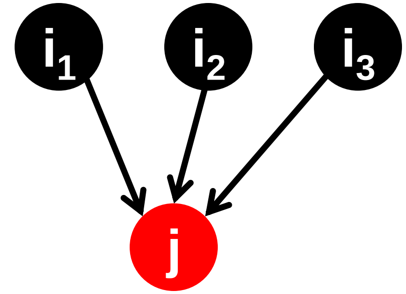
Random Walk Interpretation



$$r_j = \sum_{i \to j} \frac{r_i}{\mathrm{d}_{\mathrm{out}}(\mathrm{i})}$$

- **Imagine a random web surfer:**
  - At any time t, surfer is on some page i
  - At time $t + 1$, the surfer follows an out-link from i uniformly at random
  - Ends up on some page j linked from i
  - Process repeats indefinitely
- **Let:**
  - $p(t)$ … vector whose i^{th} coordinate is the prob. that the surfer is at page i at time t
  - So, $p(t)$ is a probability distribution over pages

The Stationary Distribution



$$p(t+1) = \mathrm{M} \cdot p(t)$$

- **Where is the surfer at time $t+1$?**
  - Follows a link uniformly at random

    $$\boldsymbol{p}(\boldsymbol{t}+1) = \boldsymbol{M} \cdot \boldsymbol{p}(\boldsymbol{t})$$

- Suppose the random walk reaches a state

  $$\boldsymbol{p}(\boldsymbol{t}+1) = \boldsymbol{M} \cdot \boldsymbol{p}(\boldsymbol{t}) = \boldsymbol{p}(\boldsymbol{t})$$

  then $\boldsymbol{p}(\boldsymbol{t})$ is **stationary distribution** of a random walk
- **Our original rank vector** $\boldsymbol{r}$ satisfies $\boldsymbol{r} = \boldsymbol{M} \cdot \boldsymbol{r}$
  - **So, $\boldsymbol{r}$ is a stationary distribution for the random walk**

Existence and Uniqueness

- **A central result from the theory of random walks (a.k.a. Markov processes):**

For graphs that satisfy **certain conditions**, the **stationary distribution is unique** and eventually will be reached no matter what the initial probability distribution at time **t = 0**

PageRank:
The Google Formulation

PageRank: Three Questions

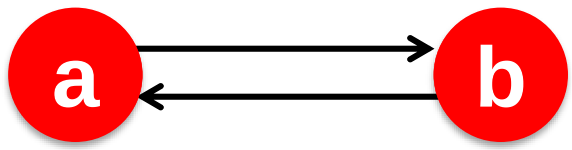
$$r_j^{(t+1)} = \sum_{i \to j} \frac{r_i^{(t)}}{\mathrm{d}_\mathrm{i}}$$

or
equivalently

$$r = Mr$$

- **Does this converge?**
- **Does it converge to what we want?**
- **Are results reasonable?**

Does this converge?



$$r_j^{(t+1)} = \sum_{i \to j} \frac{r_i^{(t)}}{\mathrm{d}_i}$$

- **Example:**

r_a	=	1	0	1	0
r_b		0	1	0	1

Iteration 0, 1, 2, …

Does it converge to what we want?

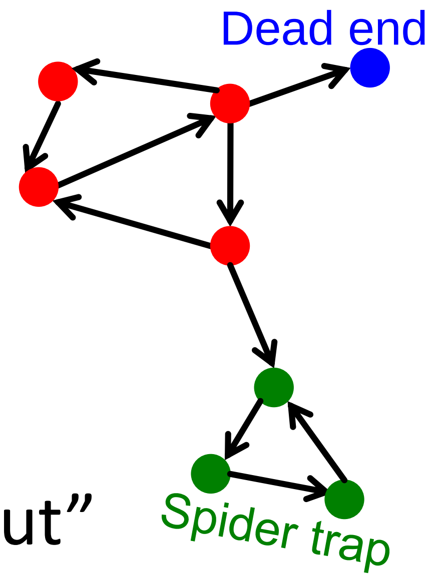
$$r_j^{(t+1)} = \sum_{i \to j} \frac{r_i^{(t)}}{\mathrm{d_i}}$$

- **Example:**

r_a	=	1	0	0	0
r_b		0	1	0	0

Iteration 0, 1, 2, …

PageRank: Problems



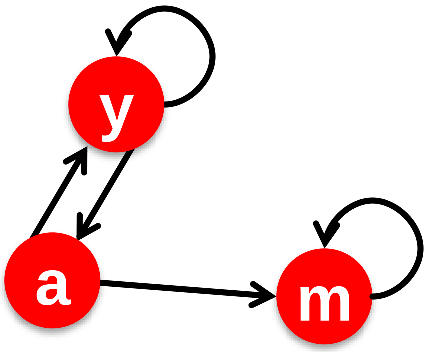
2 problems:

- **(1)** Some pages are **dead ends** (have no out-links)
  - Random walk has "nowhere" to go to
  - Such pages cause importance to "leak out"

- **(2) Spider traps:** (all out-links are within the group)
  - Random walked gets "stuck" in a trap
  - And eventually spider traps absorb all importance

Problem: Spider Traps

- **Power Iteration:**
  - Set $r_j = 1$
  - $r_j = \sum_{i \to j} \frac{r_i}{d_i}$
    - And iterate



m is a spider trap

	y	a	m
y	½	½	0
a	½	0	0
m	0	½	1

$r_y = r_y/2 + r_a/2$

$r_a = r_y/2$

$r_m = r_a/2 + r_m$

- **Example:**

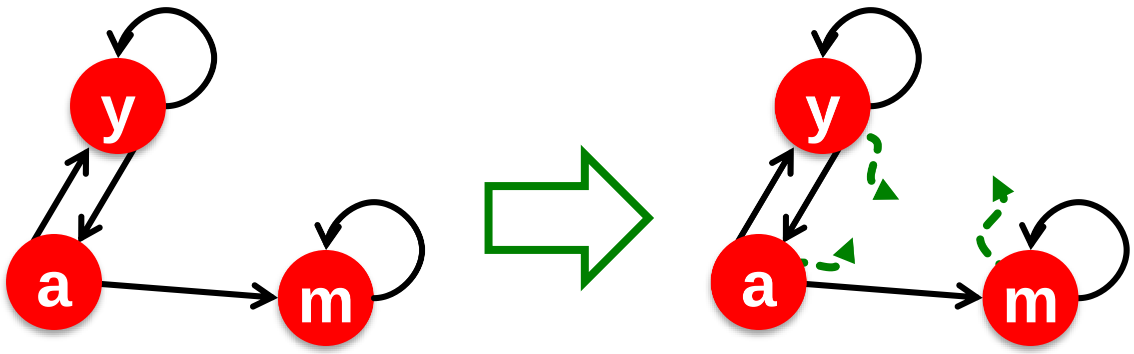
$$\begin{bmatrix} r_y \\ r_a \\ r_m \end{bmatrix} = \begin{matrix} 1/3 & 2/6 & 3/12 & 5/24 & & 0 \\ 1/3 & 1/6 & 2/12 & 3/24 & \ldots & 0 \\ 1/3 & 3/6 & 7/12 & 16/24 & & 1 \end{matrix}$$

Iteration 0, 1, 2, …

All the PageRank score gets "trapped" in node m.

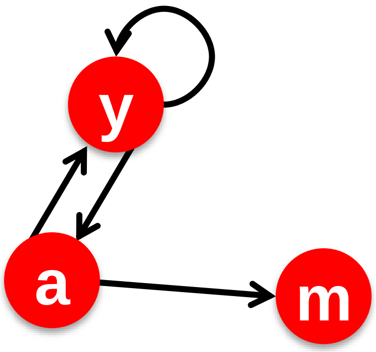
Solution: Teleports!

- **The Google solution for spider traps: At each time step, the random surfer has two options**
  - With prob. β, follow a link at random
  - With prob. **1-**β, jump to some random page
  - Common values for β are in the range 0.8 to 0.9
- **Surfer will teleport out of spider trap within a few time steps**



Problem: Dead Ends

- **Power Iteration:**
  - Set $r_j = 1$
  - $r_j = \sum_{i \to j} \frac{r_i}{d_i}$
    - And iterate



	y	a	m
y	½	½	0
a	½	0	0
m	0	½	0

$r_y = r_y/2 + r_a/2$

$r_a = r_y/2$

$r_m = r_a/2$

- **Example:**

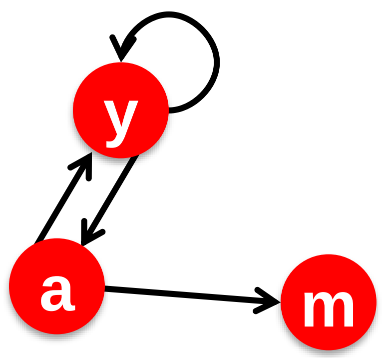
$$\begin{bmatrix} r_y \\ r_a \\ r_m \end{bmatrix} = \begin{matrix} 1/3 & 2/6 & 3/12 & 5/24 & & 0 \\ 1/3 & 1/6 & 2/12 & 3/24 & \ldots & 0 \\ 1/3 & 1/6 & 1/12 & 2/24 & & 0 \end{matrix}$$

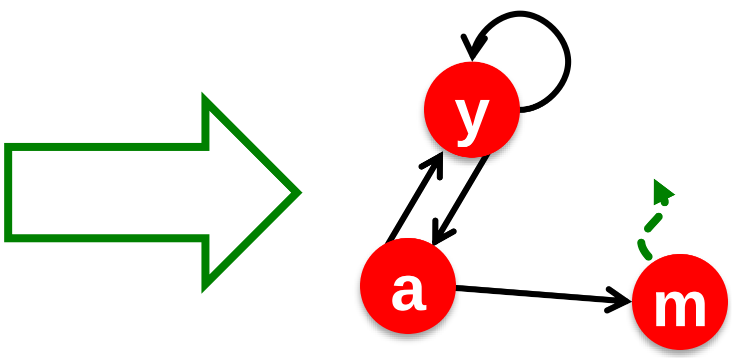
Iteration 0, 1, 2, …

Here the PageRank "leaks" out since the matrix is not stochastic.

Solution: Always Teleport!

- **Teleports:** Follow random teleport links with probability 1.0 from dead-ends
  - Adjust matrix accordingly





	y	a	m
y	½	½	0
a	½	0	0
m	0	½	0

	y	a	m
y	½	½	⅓
a	½	0	⅓
m	0	½	⅓

Why Teleports Solve the Problem?

Why are dead-ends and spider traps a problem and why do teleports solve the problem?

- **Spider-traps** are not a problem, but with traps PageRank scores are **not** what we want
  - **Solution:** Never get stuck in a spider trap by teleporting out of it in a finite number of steps
- **Dead-ends** are a problem
  - The matrix is not column stochastic so our initial assumptions are not met
  - **Solution:** Make matrix column stochastic by always teleporting when there is nowhere else to go

Solution: Random Teleports

- **Google's solution that does it all:**
  At each step, random surfer has two options:
  - With probability β, follow a link at random
  - With probability $1\text{-}\beta$, jump to some random page
- **PageRank equation** [Brin-Page, 98]

$$r_j = \sum_{i \to j} \beta \frac{r_i}{d_i} + (1 - \beta) \frac{1}{N}$$

d_i ... out-degree of node i

This formulation assumes that M has no dead ends. We can either preprocess matrix M to remove all dead ends or explicitly follow random teleport links with probability 1.0 from dead-ends.

The Google Matrix

- **PageRank equation** [Brin-Page, '98]

$$r_j = \sum_{i \to j} \beta \frac{r_i}{d_i} + (1-\beta)\frac{1}{N}$$

- **The Google Matrix *A*:**

$[1/N]_{NxN}$…N by N matrix where all entries are 1/N

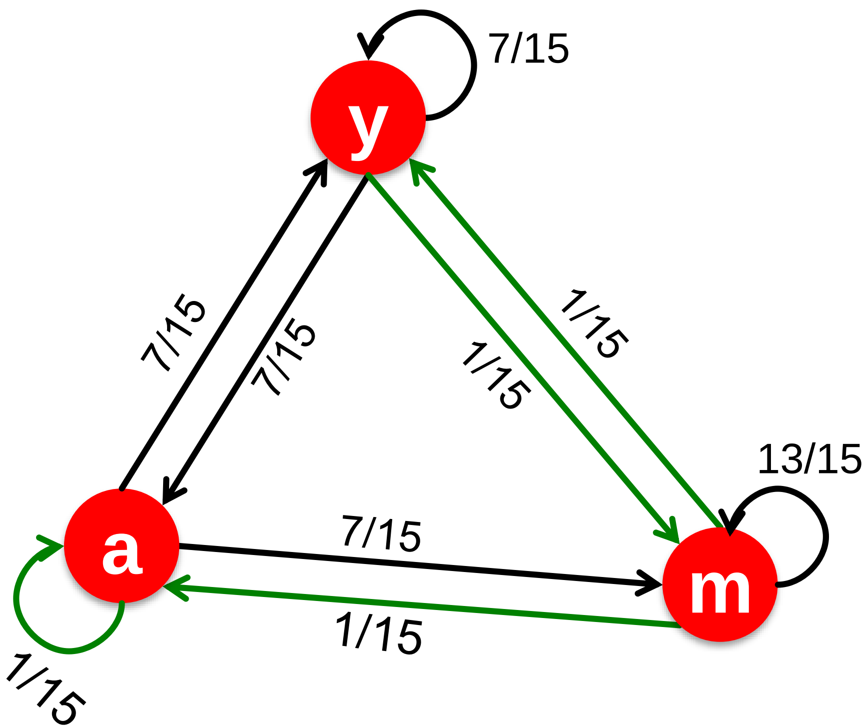
$$A = \beta\, M + (1-\beta)\left[\frac{1}{N}\right]_{N \times N}$$

- **We have a recursive problem:** $\boldsymbol{r} = \boldsymbol{A} \cdot \boldsymbol{r}$

  And the Power method still works!

- **What is β?**
  - In practice β =0.8,0.9 (make 5 steps on avg., jump)

Random Teleports ($\beta = 0.8$)



$$0.8 \underbrace{\begin{bmatrix} 1/2 & 1/2 & 0 \\ 1/2 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 1/2 & 1 \end{bmatrix}}_{\mathbf{M}} + 0.2 \underbrace{\begin{bmatrix} 1/3 & 1/3 & 1/3 \\ 1/3 & 1/3 & 1/3 \\ 1/3 & 1/3 & 1/3 \end{bmatrix}}_{[1/N]_{N\times N}}$$

$$\mathbf{A} = \begin{array}{c} y \\ a \\ m \end{array} \begin{bmatrix} 7/15 & 7/15 & 1/15 \\ 7/15 & 1/15 & 1/15 \\ 1/15 & 7/15 & 13/15 \end{bmatrix}$$

$$\begin{array}{c} y \\ a \\ m \end{array} = \begin{array}{c} 1/3 \\ 1/3 \\ 1/3 \end{array} \quad \begin{array}{c} 0.33 \\ 0.20 \\ 0.46 \end{array} \quad \begin{array}{c} 0.24 \\ 0.20 \\ 0.52 \end{array} \quad \begin{array}{c} 0.26 \\ 0.18 \\ 0.56 \end{array} \quad \ldots \quad \begin{array}{c} 7/33 \\ 5/33 \\ 21/33 \end{array}$$

How do we actually compute the PageRank?

Computing Page Rank

- **Key step is matrix-vector multiplication**
  - $r^{new} = A \cdot r^{old}$
- Easy if we have enough main memory to hold **A**, **r**^{old}, **r**^{new}
- **Say N = 1 billion pages**
  - We need 4 bytes for each entry (say)
  - 2 billion entries for vectors, approx 8GB
  - Matrix **A** has N^2 entries
    - 10^{18} is a large number!

$$\mathbf{A} = \beta \cdot \mathbf{M} + (1-\beta)\,[1/N]_{N \times N}$$

$$A = 0.8 \begin{bmatrix} \frac{1}{2} & \frac{1}{2} & 0 \\ \frac{1}{2} & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & \frac{1}{2} & 1 \end{bmatrix} + 0.2 \begin{bmatrix} 1/3 & 1/3 & 1/3 \\ 1/3 & 1/3 & 1/3 \\ 1/3 & 1/3 & 1/3 \end{bmatrix}$$

$$= \begin{bmatrix} 7/15 & 7/15 & 1/15 \\ 7/15 & 1/15 & 1/15 \\ 1/15 & 7/15 & 13/15 \end{bmatrix}$$

Matrix Formulation

- Suppose there are ***N*** pages
- Consider page ***i***, with $\mathbf{d}_i$ out-links
- We have $M_{ji} = 1/|d_i|$ when $i \to j$
  and $M_{ji} = 0$ otherwise
- **The random teleport is equivalent to:**
  - Adding a **teleport link** from ***i*** to every other page and setting transition probability to $(1-\beta)/N$
  - Reducing the probability of following each out-link from $1/|d_i|$ to $\beta/|d_i|$
  - **Equivalent:** Tax each page a fraction $(1-\beta)$ of its score and redistribute evenly

Rearranging the Equation

- $\boldsymbol{r} = \boldsymbol{A} \cdot \boldsymbol{r}$, **where** $\boldsymbol{A_{ji} = \beta\, M_{ji} + \frac{1-\beta}{N}}$
- $r_j = \sum_{\mathrm{i}=1}^{N} A_{ji} \cdot r_i$
- $r_j = \sum_{i=1}^{N} \left[\beta\, M_{ji} + \frac{1-\beta}{N}\right] \cdot r_i$

  $= \sum_{\mathrm{i}=1}^{N} \beta\, M_{ji} \cdot r_i + \frac{1-\beta}{N} \sum_{\mathrm{i}=1}^{N} r_i$

  $= \sum_{\mathrm{i}=1}^{N} \beta\, M_{ji} \cdot r_i + \frac{1-\beta}{N}$ since $\sum r_i = 1$
- **So we get:** $\boldsymbol{r = \beta\, M \cdot r + \left[\frac{1-\beta}{N}\right]_N}$

Note: Here we assumed **M** has no dead-ends

[x]$_N$ … a vector of length *N* with all entries *x*

Sparse Matrix Formulation

- We just rearranged the **PageRank equation**

$$r = \beta M \cdot r + \left[\frac{1-\beta}{N}\right]_N$$

  - where $[(1-\beta)/N]_N$ is a vector with all N entries $(1-\beta)/N$

- ***M*** is a **sparse matrix!** (with no dead-ends)
  - 10 links per node, approx 10N entries
- So in each iteration, we need to:
  - Compute $r^{new} = \beta M \cdot r^{old}$
  - Add a constant value $(1-\beta)/N$ to each entry in r^{new}
    - **Note if M contains dead-ends then $\sum_j r_j^{new} < 1$ and we also have to renormalize r^{new} so that it sums to 1**

PageRank: The Complete Algorithm

- **Input: Graph G and parameter β**
  - Directed graph G (can have **spider traps** and **dead ends**)
  - Parameter β
- **Output: PageRank vector r^{new}**
  - **Set:** $r_j^{old} = \frac{1}{N}$
  - **repeat until convergence:** $\sum_j \left| r_j^{new} - r_j^{old} \right| > \varepsilon$
    - $\forall j$: $\boldsymbol{r'^{new}_j = \sum_{i \to j} \beta \frac{r_i^{old}}{d_i}}$

      $\boldsymbol{r'^{new}_j = 0}$ if in-degree of $\boldsymbol{j}$ is **0**
    - **Now re-insert the leaked PageRank:**

      $\forall \boldsymbol{j}$: $\boldsymbol{r_j^{new} = r'^{new}_j + \frac{1-S}{N}}$ **where:** $S = \sum_j r'^{new}_j$
    - $\boldsymbol{r^{old} = r^{new}}$

If the graph has no dead-ends then the amount of leaked PageRank is **1-β**. But since we have dead-ends the amount of leaked PageRank may be larger. We have to explicitly account for it by computing **S**.

Sparse Matrix Encoding

- Encode sparse matrix using only nonzero entries
  - Space proportional roughly to number of links
  - Say 10N, or 4*10*1 billion = 40GB
  - **Still won't fit in memory, but will fit on disk**

source node	degree	destination nodes
0	3	1, 5, 7
1	5	17, 64, 113, 117, 245
2	2	13, 23

Some Problems with PageRank

- **Measures generic popularity of a page**
  - Will ignore/miss topic-specific authorities
  - **Solution:** Topic-Specific PageRank (**next**)
- **Uses a single measure of importance**
  - Other models of importance
  - **Solution:** Hubs-and-Authorities
- **Susceptible to Link spam**
  - Artificial link topographies created in order to boost page rank
  - **Solution:** TrustRank

Topic-Specific PageRank

Topic-Specific PageRank

- **Instead of generic popularity, can we measure popularity within a topic?**
- **Goal:** Evaluate Web pages not just according to their popularity, but by how close they are to a particular topic, e.g. “sports” or “history”
- **Allows search queries to be answered based on interests of the user**
  - **Example:** Query “Trojan” wants different pages depending on whether you are interested in sports, history and computer security

Topic-Specific PageRank

- Random walker has a small probability of teleporting at any step
- **Teleport can go to:**
  - **Standard PageRank: Any page with equal probability**
    - To avoid dead-end and spider-trap problems
  - **Topic Specific PageRank: A topic-specific set of "relevant" pages (teleport set)**
- **Idea: Bias the random walk**
  - When walker teleports, she pick a page from a set ***S***
  - ***S*** contains only pages that are relevant to the topic
    - E.g., Open Directory (DMOZ) pages for a given topic/query
  - For each teleport set ***S***, we get a different vector r_S

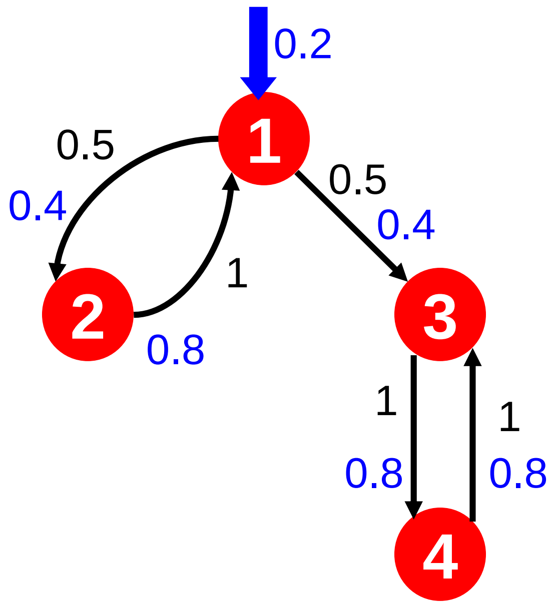
Matrix Formulation

- **To make this work all we need is to update the teleportation part of the PageRank formulation:**

$$A_{ij} = \begin{cases} \beta M_{ij} + (1-\beta)/|S| & \textbf{if } i \in S \\ \beta M_{ij} + 0 & \textbf{otherwise} \end{cases}$$

  - ***A*** is stochastic!
- We weighted all pages in the teleport set ***S*** equally
  - **Could also assign different weights to pages!**
- **Compute as for regular PageRank:**
  - Multiply by ***M***, then add a vector
  - Maintains sparseness

Example: Topic-Specific PageRank



Suppose $S = \{1\}$, $\beta = 0.8$

Node	Iteration 0	1	2	…	stable
1	0.25	0.4	0.28		0.294
2	0.25	0.1	0.16		0.118
3	0.25	0.3	0.32		0.327
4	0.25	0.2	0.24		0.261

S={1}, β=0.90:
r=[0.17, 0.07, 0.40, 0.36]
S={1} , β=0.8:
r=[0.29, 0.11, 0.32, 0.26]
S={1}, β=0.70:
r=[0.39, 0.14, 0.27, 0.19]

S={1,2,3,4}, β=0.8:
r=[0.13, 0.10, 0.39, 0.36]
S={1,2,3} , β=0.8:
r=[0.17, 0.13, 0.38, 0.30]
S={1,2} , β=0.8:
r=[0.26, 0.20, 0.29, 0.23]
S={1} , β=0.8:
r=[0.29, 0.11, 0.32, 0.26]

TrustRank:
Combating the Web Spam

What is Web Spam?

- **Spamming:**
  - Any deliberate action to boost a web page’s position in search engine results, incommensurate with page’s real value
- **Spam:**
  - Web pages that are the result of spamming
- This is a very broad definition
  - **SEO** industry might disagree!
  - SEO = search engine optimization
- Approximately **10-15%** of web pages are spam

Web Search

- **Early search engines:**
  - Crawl the Web
  - Index pages by the words they contained
  - Respond to search queries (lists of words) with the pages containing those words
- **Early page ranking:**
  - Attempt to order pages matching a search query by “importance”
  - **First search engines considered:**
    - **(1)** Number of times query words appeared
    - **(2)** Prominence of word position, e.g. title, header

First Spammers

- As people began to use search engines to find things on the Web, those with commercial interests tried to **exploit search engines** to bring people to their own site – whether they wanted to be there or not
- **Example:**
  - Shirt-seller might pretend to be about "movies"
- **Techniques for achieving high relevance/importance for a web page**

First Spammers: Term Spam

- **How do you make your page appear to be about movies?**
  - **(1)** Add the word movie 1,000 times to your page
  - Set text color to the background color, so only search engines would see it
  - **(2)** Or, run the query "movie" on your target search engine
  - See what page came first in the listings
  - Copy it into your page, make it "invisible"
- **These and similar techniques are term spam**

Google's Solution to Term Spam

- **Believe what people say about you, rather than what you say about yourself**
  - Use words in the anchor text (words that appear underlined to represent the link) and its surrounding text
- PageRank as a tool to measure the "importance" of Web pages

Why It Works?

- **Our hypothetical shirt-seller looses**
  - Saying he is about movies doesn’t help, because others don’t say he is about movies
  - His page isn’t very important, so it won’t be ranked high for shirts or movies
- **Example:**
  - Shirt-seller creates 1,000 pages, each links to his with “movie” in the anchor text
  - These pages have no links in, so they get little PageRank
  - So the shirt-seller can’t beat truly important movie pages, like IMDB

Google vs. Spammers: Round 2!

- Once Google became the dominant search engine, spammers began to work out ways to fool Google

- **Spam farms** were developed to concentrate PageRank on a single page

- **Link spam:**
  - Creating link structures that boost PageRank of a particular page

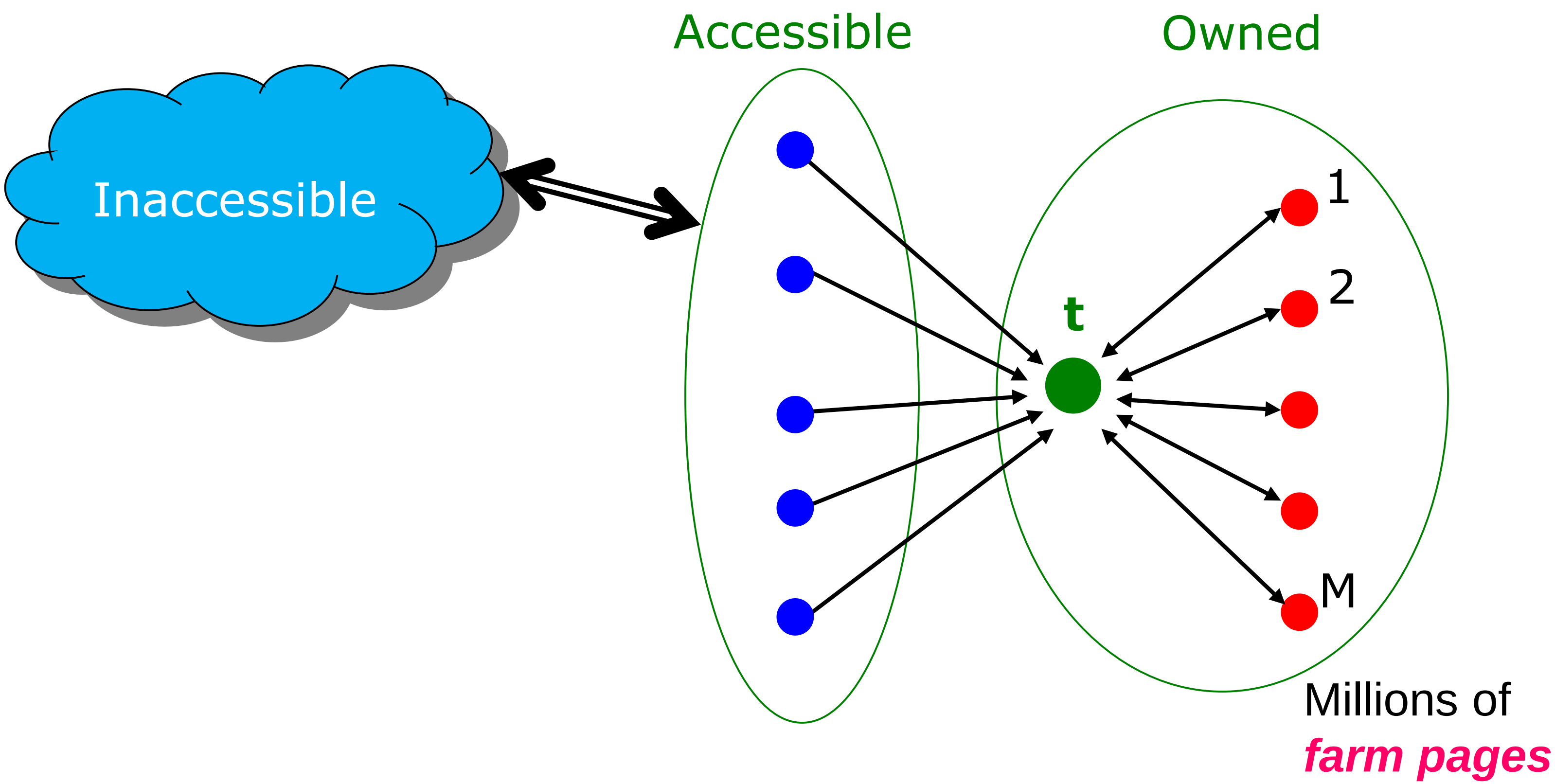
Link Spamming

- **Three kinds of web pages from a spammer's point of view**
  - **Inaccessible pages**
  - **Accessible pages**
    - e.g., blog comments pages
    - spammer can post links to his pages
  - **Owned pages**
    - Completely controlled by spammer
    - May span multiple domain names

Link Farms

- **Spammer's goal:**
  - Maximize the PageRank of target page ***t***
- **Technique:**
  - Get as many links from accessible pages as possible to target page ***t***
  - Construct "link farm" to get PageRank multiplier effect

Link Farms



One of the most common and effective organizations for a link farm

TrustRank:
Combating the Web Spam

Combating Spam

- **Combating term spam**
  - Analyze text using statistical methods
  - Similar to email spam filtering
  - Also useful: Detecting approximate duplicate pages
- **Combating link spam**
  - **Detection and blacklisting of structures that look like spam farms**
    - Leads to another war – hiding and detecting spam farms
  - **TrustRank** = topic-specific PageRank with a teleport set of **trusted pages**
    - Example: .edu domains, similar domains for non-US schools

TrustRank: Idea

- **Basic principle: Approximate isolation**
  - It is rare for a “good” page to point to a “bad” (spam) page
- Sample a set of **seed pages** from the web
- Have an **oracle** (**human**) to identify the good pages and the spam pages in the seed set
  - **Expensive task,** so we must make seed set as small as possible

Why is it a good idea?

- **Trust attenuation:**
  - The degree of trust conferred by a trusted page decreases with the distance in the graph
- **Trust splitting:**
  - The larger the number of out-links from a page, the less scrutiny the page author gives each out-link
  - Trust is **split** across out-links

Hubs and Authorities

- HITS (Hypertext-Induced Topic Selection)
  - **Is a measure of importance of pages or documents, similar to PageRank**
  - Proposed at around same time as PageRank ('98)
- Goal: Say we want to find good newspapers
  - Don't just find newspapers. Find "experts" – people who link in a coordinated way to good newspapers
- Idea: Links as votes
  - **Page is more important if it has more links**
    - In-coming links? Out-going links?

PageRank and HITS

- **PageRank and HITS are two solutions to the same problem:**
  - **What is the value of an in-link from *u* to *v*?**
  - In the PageRank model, the value of the link depends on the links **into** *u*
  - In the HITS model, it depends on the value of the other links **out of** *u*
- **The destinies of PageRank and HITS post-1998 were very different**