
Supplementary Material for: Minimizing Polarization and Disagreement in Social Networks via Link Recommendation

Liwang Zhu, Qi Bao, and Zhongzhi Zhang*

Shanghai Key Lab of Intelligent Information Processing, Fudan University, Shanghai, China
School of Computer Science, Fudan University, Shanghai 200433, China
{19210240147, 20110240002, zhangzz}@fudan.edu.cn

1 Proof of Lemma 4.1

Proof. If we perturb the network with the addition of e , we obtain the new Laplacian $L + \mathbf{b}_e \mathbf{b}_e^\top$. By Sherman-Morrison formula [1], we obtain

$$\left(I + L + \mathbf{b}_e \mathbf{b}_e^\top \right)^{-1} = (I + L)^{-1} - \frac{\Omega \mathbf{b}_e \mathbf{b}_e^\top \Omega}{1 + \mathbf{b}_e^\top \Omega \mathbf{b}_e}.$$

By the definitions of P-D index, $\mathcal{I}(\mathcal{G} + e) = \mathbf{s}^\top (I + L + \mathbf{b}_e \mathbf{b}_e^\top)^{-1} \mathbf{s}$. We can immediately obtain $f(e) = \mathcal{I}(\mathcal{G}) - \mathcal{I}(\mathcal{G} + e) = \frac{(\mathbf{s}^\top \Omega \mathbf{b}_e)^2}{1 + \mathbf{b}_e^\top \Omega \mathbf{b}_e}$. Since the term $(\mathbf{s}^\top \Omega \mathbf{b}_e)^2 = (\mathbf{z}_u - \mathbf{z}_v)^2$ is nonnegative, together with the fact that $0 \leq \mathbf{b}_e^\top \Omega \mathbf{b}_e \leq 2$, we can conclude $f(e) \geq 0$ consequently. \square

2 Proof of Remark 1

Proof. When the opinions s are mean-centered, corresponding variation of the objective could be expressed as

$$\begin{aligned} f(e) &= \bar{\mathbf{s}}^\top \Omega \mathbf{b}_e \mathbf{b}_e^\top \Omega \bar{\mathbf{s}} = \left(\left(\mathbf{s} - \frac{\mathbf{s}^\top \mathbf{1}}{n} \mathbf{1} \right)^\top \Omega \mathbf{b}_e \right)^2 \\ &= \left(\mathbf{s}^\top \Omega \mathbf{b}_e - \frac{\mathbf{s}^\top \mathbf{1}}{n} \mathbf{1}^\top \Omega \mathbf{b}_e \right)^2 = \mathbf{s}^\top \Omega \mathbf{b}_e \mathbf{b}_e^\top \Omega \mathbf{s}, \end{aligned}$$

where the last equality is obtained by the fact that $\mathbf{1}^\top \Omega \mathbf{b}_e = \mathbf{1}^\top \mathbf{b}_e = 0$.

Thus, under the perturbation of the network with a single edge e , it holds that whether the opinions s are mean-centered or not, the variation of our objective i.e. $f(e)$ are the same. The above results complete the proof. \square

3 Proof of Lemma 5.1

Proof. Note, for two matrices A and B , we write $A \preceq B$ to denote that $B - A$ is positive semidefinite. We use $(I + L)_T^{-1}$ to denote the forest matrix associated with graph $\mathcal{G} + T$.

Let E_C be the candidate set, and let T, W be any two subsets of E_C . To begin with, we first derive a lower and an upper bound, respectively, for the marginal benefit function $\rho_T(W) = f(W \cup T) - f(W)$.

*Corresponding author.

On the one hand,

$$\begin{aligned}
\rho_T(W) &= f(W \cup T) - f(W) = \mathcal{I}(G + T) - \mathcal{I}(G + W \cup T) = \mathbf{s}^\top (\mathbf{I} + \mathbf{L})_T^{-1} \mathbf{s} - \mathbf{s}^\top (\mathbf{I} + \mathbf{L})_{W \cup T}^{-1} \mathbf{s} \\
&= \mathbf{s}^\top \left(\sum_{i=1}^{n-1} \frac{1}{1 + \lambda_i(\mathbf{L}_T)} \mathbf{u}_i \mathbf{u}_i^\top - \frac{1}{1 + \lambda_i(\mathbf{L}_{W \cup T})} \mathbf{u}_i \mathbf{u}_i^\top \right) \mathbf{s} \\
&= \mathbf{s}^\top \left(\sum_{i=1}^{n-1} \frac{\lambda_i(\mathbf{L}_{W \cup T}) - \lambda_i(\mathbf{L}_T)}{(1 + \lambda_i(\mathbf{L}_T))(1 + \lambda_i(\mathbf{L}_{W \cup T}))} \mathbf{u}_i \mathbf{u}_i^\top \right) \mathbf{s} \geq \mathbf{s}^\top \left(\frac{\mathbf{L}_{W \cup T} - \mathbf{L}_T}{(1 + \lambda_{n-1}(\mathbf{L}_T))(1 + \lambda_{n-1}(\mathbf{L}_{W \cup T}))} \right) \mathbf{s} \\
&= \mathbf{s}^\top \left(\frac{\sum_{e \in W \setminus T} \mathbf{b}_e \mathbf{b}_e^\top}{(1 + \lambda_{n-1}(\mathbf{L}_T))(1 + \lambda_{n-1}(\mathbf{L}_{W \cup T}))} \right) \mathbf{s}.
\end{aligned}$$

On the other hand,

$$\begin{aligned}
\rho_T(W) &= \mathbf{s}^\top \left(\sum_{i=1}^{n-1} \frac{\lambda_i(\mathbf{L}_{W \cup T}) - \lambda_i(\mathbf{L}_T)}{(1 + \lambda_i(\mathbf{L}_T))(1 + \lambda_i(\mathbf{L}_{W \cup T}))} \mathbf{u}_i \mathbf{u}_i^\top \right) \mathbf{s} \\
&\leq \mathbf{s}^\top \left(\frac{\mathbf{L}_{W \cup T} - \mathbf{L}_T}{(1 + \lambda_1(\mathbf{L}_T))(1 + \lambda_1(\mathbf{L}_{W \cup T}))} \right) \mathbf{s} = \mathbf{s}^\top \left(\frac{\sum_{e \in W \setminus T} \mathbf{b}_e \mathbf{b}_e^\top}{(1 + \lambda_1(\mathbf{L}_T))(1 + \lambda_1(\mathbf{L}_{W \cup T}))} \right) \mathbf{s}.
\end{aligned}$$

Putting the above two bounds together leads to

$$\begin{aligned}
\frac{\sum_{e \in W \setminus T} \rho_e(T)}{\rho_T(W)} &\geq \mathbf{s}^\top \left(\sum_{e \in W \setminus T} \frac{\mathbf{b}_e \mathbf{b}_e^\top}{(1 + \lambda_{n-1}(\mathbf{L}_T))(1 + \lambda_{n-1}(\mathbf{L}_{T+e}))} \right) \mathbf{s} \times \frac{(1 + \lambda_1(\mathbf{L}_T))(1 + \lambda_1(\mathbf{L}_{T \cup W}))}{\sum_{e \in W \setminus T} \mathbf{s}^\top \mathbf{b}_e \mathbf{b}_e^\top \mathbf{s}} \\
&\geq \left(\frac{1 + \lambda_1(\mathbf{L})}{1 + \lambda_{n-1}(\mathbf{L}_{E_C})} \right)^2,
\end{aligned}$$

which implies the lower bounds of γ .

Similarly, we derive the upper bound of the curvature α . Let j be any candidate edge in $W \setminus T$. Then,

$$\frac{\rho_j(W \setminus j \cup W)}{\rho_j(T \setminus j)} \geq \frac{\mathbf{s}^\top \mathbf{b}_j \mathbf{b}_j^\top \mathbf{s}}{(1 + \lambda_{n-1}(\mathbf{L}_T))(1 + \lambda_{n-1}(\mathbf{L}_{T+e}))} \times \frac{(1 + \lambda_1(\mathbf{L}_T))(1 + \lambda_1(\mathbf{L}_{T \cup W}))}{\mathbf{s}^\top \mathbf{b}_j \mathbf{b}_j^\top \mathbf{s}} \geq \left(\frac{1 + \lambda_1(\mathbf{L})}{1 + \lambda_{n-1}(\mathbf{L}_{E_C})} \right)^2,$$

which combining with the definition of curvature completes the proof. \square

4 Proof of Theorem 5.1

Proof. To show the non-submodularity of the function concerned, consider the graph in Figure 1, which is a 5-node path-graph with e_1 and e_2 being inexistent edges. We set initial opinion vector as $\mathbf{s} = (0.25, 0.5, 0.5, 0.5, 0.25)^\top$, and define two edge sets, $T = \emptyset$ and $W = \{e_2\}$. Then,

$$\begin{aligned}
\mathcal{I}(T) &= 0.8295, \mathcal{I}(T + e_1) = 0.8295, \\
\mathcal{I}(W) &= 0.8227, \mathcal{I}(W + e_1) = 0.8220,
\end{aligned}$$

so that

$$\mathcal{I}(T) - \mathcal{I}(T + e_1) = 0 < 0.007 = \mathcal{I}(W) - \mathcal{I}(W + e_1),$$

which violates the definition of submodularity. Thus, it follows that the set function of our problem is non-submodular. \square

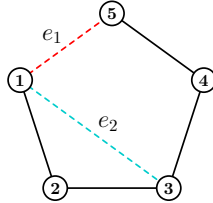


Figure 1: A 5-nodes path-graph where e_1 and e_2 are inexistent edges.

5 Proof of Lemma 6.3

Proof. According to the assumption:

$$(1 - \frac{\epsilon}{12})\|\bar{\mathbf{X}}\mathbf{e}_u\|^2 \leq \|\mathbf{X}'\mathbf{e}_u\|^2 \leq (1 + \frac{\epsilon}{12})\|\bar{\mathbf{X}}\mathbf{e}_u\|^2$$

holds for any node $u \in V$ and

$$(1 - \frac{\epsilon}{12})\|\bar{\mathbf{X}}\mathbf{b}_e\|^2 \leq \|\mathbf{X}'\mathbf{b}_e\|^2 \leq (1 + \frac{\epsilon}{12})\|\bar{\mathbf{X}}\mathbf{b}_e\|^2$$

holds for any pair of nodes u and v connecting an edge e in E .

As \mathcal{G} is connected, there exists a simple path P_{uv} connecting u and v . By applying the triangle inequality twice, we obtain

$$\|\|\tilde{\mathbf{X}}\mathbf{b}_e\| - \|\mathbf{X}'\mathbf{b}_e\|\| \leq \|(\tilde{\mathbf{X}} - \mathbf{X}')\mathbf{b}_e\| \leq \sum_{(a,b) \in P_{uv}} \|(\tilde{\mathbf{X}} - \mathbf{X}')(e_a - e_b)\|.$$

We will upper bound the last term by considering its square:

$$\begin{aligned} \left(\sum_{(a,b) \in P_{uv}} \|(\tilde{\mathbf{X}} - \mathbf{X}')(e_a - e_b)\| \right)^2 &\leq n \sum_{(a,b) \in P_{uv}} \|(\tilde{\mathbf{X}} - \mathbf{X}')(e_a - e_b)\|^2 \leq n \sum_{(a,b) \in E} \|(\tilde{\mathbf{X}} - \mathbf{X}')(e_a - e_b)\|^2 \\ &= n\|(\tilde{\mathbf{X}} - \mathbf{X}')\mathbf{B}^\top\|_F^2 = n\|\mathbf{B}(\tilde{\mathbf{X}} - \mathbf{X}')\|_F^2. \end{aligned}$$

Note that the first inequality is derived by Cauchy-Schwarz Inequality. Below we transform the above-obtained Frobenius norm $n\|\mathbf{B}(\tilde{\mathbf{X}} - \mathbf{X}')\|_F^2$ into the $(\mathbf{I} + \mathbf{L})$ -norm as

$$\begin{aligned} n\|\mathbf{B}(\tilde{\mathbf{X}} - \mathbf{X}')\|_F^2 &= n\text{Tr}\left((\tilde{\mathbf{X}} - \mathbf{X}')^\top \mathbf{B}^\top \mathbf{B}(\tilde{\mathbf{X}} - \mathbf{X}')\right) = n\text{Tr}\left((\tilde{\mathbf{X}} - \mathbf{X}')^\top \mathbf{L}(\tilde{\mathbf{X}} - \mathbf{X}')\right) \\ &\leq n\text{Tr}\left((\tilde{\mathbf{X}} - \mathbf{X}')^\top (\mathbf{I} + \mathbf{L})(\tilde{\mathbf{X}} - \mathbf{X}')\right) = n \sum_{i=1}^p (\tilde{\mathbf{X}}_i - \mathbf{X}'_i)(\mathbf{I} + \mathbf{L})(\tilde{\mathbf{X}}_i - \mathbf{X}'_i)^\top \\ &\leq n\delta_1^2 \sum_{i=1}^p \mathbf{X}'_i(\mathbf{I} + \mathbf{L})(\mathbf{X}'_i)^\top. \end{aligned}$$

Applying the fact that $\mathbf{L} \preceq (n+1)\mathbf{I}$ and $\mathbf{\Omega L \Omega} \preceq \mathbf{\Omega} \preceq \mathbf{I}$, we have

$$\begin{aligned} n\delta_1^2 \sum_{i=1}^p \mathbf{X}'_i(\mathbf{I} + \mathbf{L})(\mathbf{X}'_i)^\top &\leq n\delta_1^2(n+1) \sum_{i=1}^p \mathbf{X}'_i(\mathbf{X}'_i)^\top = n\delta_1^2(n+1)\|\mathbf{X}'\|_F^2 \\ &\leq n\delta_1^2(n+1) \sum_{i=1}^n (1 + \frac{\epsilon}{12})\|\bar{\mathbf{X}}\mathbf{e}_i\|^2 \leq n\delta_1^2(n+1) \sum_{i=1}^n (1 + \frac{\epsilon}{12})\mathbf{e}_i^\top \mathbf{\Omega} \mathbf{e}_i \\ &\leq n\delta_1^2(n+1)(1 + \frac{\epsilon}{12})n. \end{aligned}$$

On the other hand,

$$\begin{aligned} \|\mathbf{X}'\mathbf{b}_e\|^2 &\geq (1 - \frac{\epsilon}{12})\|\bar{\mathbf{X}}\mathbf{b}_e\|^2 = (1 - \frac{\epsilon}{12})\mathbf{b}_e^\top \mathbf{\Omega L \Omega} \mathbf{b}_e \\ &\geq (1 - \frac{\epsilon}{12})\frac{1}{n^2(n+1)^2}\|\mathbf{b}_e\|^2 = 2(1 - \frac{\epsilon}{12})\frac{1}{n^2(n+1)^2}. \end{aligned}$$

The last inequality is obtained for the following reason. Note that \mathbf{b}_e is orthogonal to all-one vector $\mathbf{1}$, an eigenvector of \mathbf{L} associated with the unique eigenvalue 0. Therefore, $\mathbf{b}_e^\top \mathbf{L} \mathbf{b}_e \geq \lambda_{\min}\|\mathbf{b}_e\|^2$ holds. In addition, \mathbf{L} and $(\mathbf{I} + \mathbf{L})^{-1}$ share identical eigenspaces.

Combining the above-obtained results, it follows that

$$\frac{\|\|\tilde{\mathbf{X}}\mathbf{b}_e\| - \|\mathbf{X}'\mathbf{b}_e\|\|}{\|\mathbf{X}'\mathbf{b}_e\|} \leq \frac{\delta_1 n(n+1)\sqrt{(1+\epsilon/12)(n+1)}}{\sqrt{2(1-\epsilon/12)}} \leq \frac{\epsilon}{32},$$

based on which we further obtain

$$\begin{aligned} \left| \|\tilde{\mathbf{X}}\mathbf{b}_e\|^2 - \|\mathbf{X}'\mathbf{b}_e\|^2 \right| &= \left| \|\tilde{\mathbf{X}}\mathbf{b}_e\| - \|\mathbf{X}'\mathbf{b}_e\| \right| \times \left| \|\tilde{\mathbf{X}}\mathbf{b}_e\| + \|\mathbf{X}'\mathbf{b}_e\| \right| \\ &\leq \frac{\epsilon}{32}(2 + \frac{\epsilon}{32})\|\mathbf{X}'\mathbf{b}_e\|^2 \leq \frac{\epsilon}{12}\|\mathbf{X}'\mathbf{b}_e\|^2, \end{aligned}$$

which completes the proof. \square

6 Proof of Lemma 6.5

Proof. Since L is the Laplacian of a connected graph, we can find a path P_{uv} connecting u and v . By applying the triangle inequality, we obtain

$$\begin{aligned} \mathbf{q}^\top \mathbf{b}_e^\top \mathbf{b}_e \mathbf{q} &= (\mathbf{q}_u - \mathbf{q}_v)^2 \leq n \sum_{(a,b) \in P_{uv}} (\mathbf{q}(e_a - e_b))^2 \\ &\leq n \sum_{(a,b) \in E} \|\mathbf{q}(e_a - e_b)\| \leq n \mathbf{q}^\top \mathbf{L} \mathbf{q}, \end{aligned}$$

which implies that

$$\|\mathbf{q}\|_{\mathbf{b}_e \mathbf{b}_e^\top} \leq \sqrt{n} \|\mathbf{q}\|_L.$$

We first bound the value $\left| \|\mathbf{q}\|_{\mathbf{b}_e \mathbf{b}_e^\top} - \|\Omega \mathbf{s}\|_{\mathbf{b}_e \mathbf{b}_e^\top} \right|$ by the triangle inequality

$$\begin{aligned} \left| \|\mathbf{q}\|_{\mathbf{b}_e \mathbf{b}_e^\top} - \|\Omega \mathbf{s}\|_{\mathbf{b}_e \mathbf{b}_e^\top} \right| &\leq \|\mathbf{q} - \Omega \mathbf{s}\|_{\mathbf{b}_e \mathbf{b}_e^\top} \leq \sqrt{n} \|\mathbf{q} - \Omega \mathbf{s}\|_L \\ &\leq \sqrt{n} \delta_3 \|\Omega \mathbf{s}\|_{I+L} = \sqrt{n} \delta_3 \sqrt{\mathbf{s}^\top \Omega \mathbf{s}} \\ &\leq \delta_3 \sqrt{n} \sqrt{\mathbf{s}^\top \mathbf{s}} \quad \text{since } \|\mathbf{s}\|^2 \leq n, \\ &\leq \delta_3 n, \end{aligned}$$

based on which we proceed to bound $\left| \|\mathbf{q}\|_{\mathbf{b}_e \mathbf{b}_e^\top}^2 - \|\Omega \mathbf{s}\|_{\mathbf{b}_e \mathbf{b}_e^\top}^2 \right|$:

$$\begin{aligned} \left| \|\mathbf{q}\|_{\mathbf{b}_e \mathbf{b}_e^\top}^2 - \|\Omega \mathbf{s}\|_{\mathbf{b}_e \mathbf{b}_e^\top}^2 \right| &= \left| \|\mathbf{q}\|_{\mathbf{b}_e \mathbf{b}_e^\top} + \|\Omega \mathbf{s}\|_{\mathbf{b}_e \mathbf{b}_e^\top} \right| \times \left| \|\mathbf{q}\|_{\mathbf{b}_e \mathbf{b}_e^\top} - \|\Omega \mathbf{s}\|_{\mathbf{b}_e \mathbf{b}_e^\top} \right| \\ &\leq (2\|\Omega \mathbf{s}\|_{\mathbf{b}_e \mathbf{b}_e^\top} + \delta_3 n) \delta_3 n \leq (2\sqrt{n} \|\Omega \mathbf{s}\|_L + \delta_3 n) \delta_3 n \\ &\leq (2n + \delta_3 n) \delta_3 n \quad \text{since } \|\mathbf{z}\|^2 \leq n, \delta_3 \leq 1 \text{ and } \Omega \leq \mathbf{L}^\dagger, \\ &\leq 3\delta_3 n^2. \end{aligned}$$

Thus, one has

$$\left| \|\mathbf{q}\|_{\mathbf{b}_e \mathbf{b}_e^\top}^2 - \|\Omega \mathbf{s}\|_{\mathbf{b}_e \mathbf{b}_e^\top}^2 \right| \leq 3\delta_3 n^2 \leq \frac{\epsilon}{3},$$

which leads to the results directly. \square

6.1 Proof of Theorem 6.1

Proof. Using Lemmas 6.3, 6.4, and 6.5, one has

$$\begin{aligned} |\hat{f}(e) - f(e)| &= \left| \frac{\|\mathbf{q}\|_{\mathbf{b}_e \mathbf{b}_e^\top}^2}{1 + \|\tilde{\mathbf{X}} \mathbf{b}_e\|^2 + \|\tilde{\mathbf{Y}} \mathbf{b}_e\|^2} - \frac{\|\Omega \mathbf{s}\|_{\mathbf{b}_e \mathbf{b}_e^\top}^2}{1 + \mathbf{b}_e^\top \Omega \mathbf{b}_e} \right| \\ &\leq \left| \frac{1}{1 - \epsilon/3} \frac{\|\mathbf{q}\|_{\mathbf{b}_e \mathbf{b}_e^\top}^2}{1 + \mathbf{b}_e^\top \Omega \mathbf{b}_e} - \frac{\|\Omega \mathbf{s}\|_{\mathbf{b}_e \mathbf{b}_e^\top}^2}{1 + \mathbf{b}_e^\top \Omega \mathbf{b}_e} \right| \\ &\leq \left| \frac{1}{1 - \epsilon/3} \frac{\|\Omega \mathbf{s}\|_{\mathbf{b}_e \mathbf{b}_e^\top}^2 + \epsilon/3}{1 + \mathbf{b}_e^\top \Omega \mathbf{b}_e} - \frac{\|\Omega \mathbf{s}\|_{\mathbf{b}_e \mathbf{b}_e^\top}^2}{1 + \mathbf{b}_e^\top \Omega \mathbf{b}_e} \right| \\ &= \left| \frac{1}{1 - \epsilon/3} \frac{(\mathbf{z}_u - \mathbf{z}_v)^2 + \epsilon/3}{1 + r_{uv}} - \frac{(\mathbf{z}_u - \mathbf{z}_v)^2}{1 + r_{uv}} \right| \\ &\leq \frac{2\epsilon/3}{1 - \epsilon/3} \leq \frac{4}{5}\epsilon, \quad \text{since } (\mathbf{z}_u - \mathbf{z}_v)^2 \leq 1 \text{ and } 0 \leq r_{uv} \leq 2, \end{aligned}$$

which leads to the result. \square

References

- [1] Carl D Meyer, Jr. Generalized inversion of modified matrices. *SIAM Journal on Applied Mathematics*, 24(3):315–323, 1973.