Part III: Graph-based spam/fraud detection algorithms and apps



#### Part III: Outline

- Algorithms: relational learning
  - Collective classification
  - Relational inference
  - Applications: fraud and spam detection
    - Online auction fraud
    - Accounting fraud
    - Fake review spam
    - Web spam



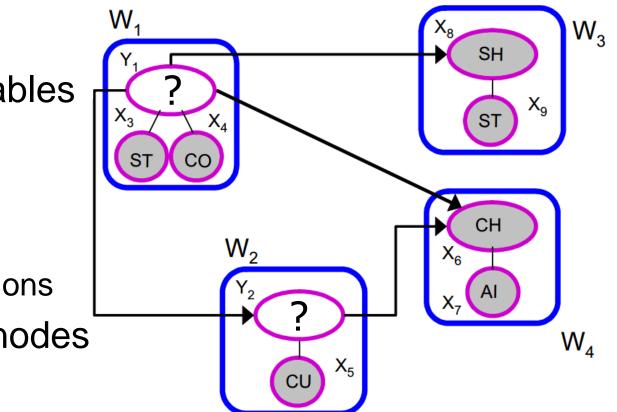
### **Collective classification (CC)**

- Anomaly detection as a classification problem
  - spam/non-spam email, malicious/benign web page, fraud/legitimate transaction, etc.
- Often connected objects → guilt-by-association
- Label of object o in network may depend on:
  - Attributes (features) of o
  - Labels of objects in o's neighborhood
  - Attributes of objects in o's neighborhood
- CC: simultaneous classification of interlinked objects using above correlations



### **Problem sketch**

- Graph (V, E)
- Nodes as variables
  - X: observed
  - Y: TBD
- Edges
  - observed relations
- Goal: label Y nodes



nodes; web pages, edges; hyperlinks, labels; SH or CH: student/course page; features nodes are keywords; ST: student, CO: course, CU: curriculum, AI: artificial intelligence

### **Collective classification applications**

Chakrabarti+'98,

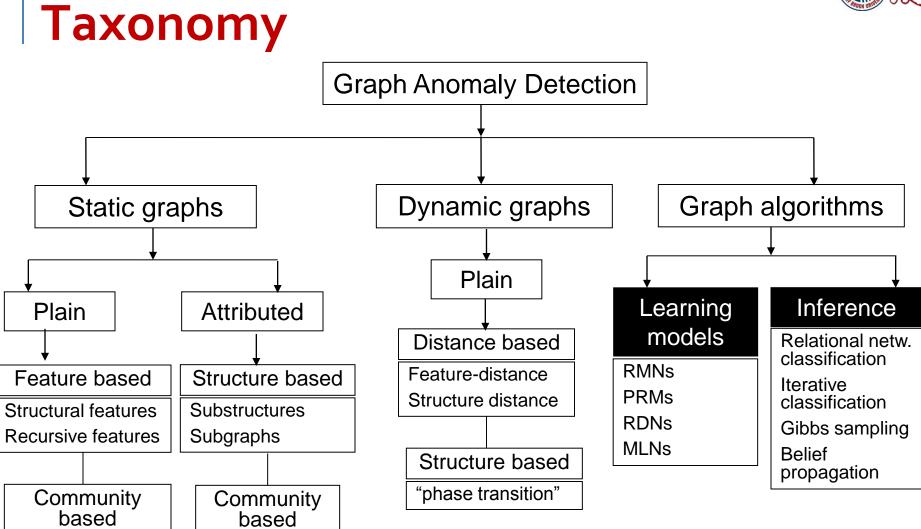
Chechetka+'10

Taskar+'02

Lafferty+'01

- Document classification
- Part of speech tagging
- Link prediction Taskar+'03
- Optical character recognition Taskar+'03
   Anguelov+'05,
- Image/3Ddata segmentation
- Entity resolution in sensor networks Chen+'03
- Spam and fraud detection Pandit+'07, Kang+'11







#### **Collective classification models**

- Relational Markov Networks (RMNs) Taskar, Abbeel, Koller'03
- Relational Dependency Networks (RDNs) Neville&Jensen'07
- Probabilistic Relational Models (PRMs) Friedman, Getoor, Koller, Pfeffer+'99
  - Markov Logic Networks (MLNs)

Richardson&Domingos'o6



### **Collective classification inference**

- Exact inference is NP hard for arbitrary networks
- Approximate inference techniques [in this tutorial]
  - Relational classifier

Macskassy&Provost'03,07

Iterative classification alg. (ICA)

Neville&Jensen'oo, Lu&Getoor'o3, McDowell+'o7

- Gibbs sampling IC
  - Gilks et al. '96
- Loopy belief propagation

Yedidia et al. 'oo

#### Note: All the above are iterative

Macskassy&Provost'03

#### (prob.) Relational network classifier

- "A simple relational classifier"
- Class probability of Y<sub>i</sub> is a weighted average of class probabilities of its neighbors
- Repeat for each Y<sub>i</sub> and label c

$$P(Y_{i} = c) = \frac{1}{Z} \sum_{(Y_{i}, Y_{j}) \in E} w(Y_{i}, Y_{j}) P(Y_{j} = c)$$

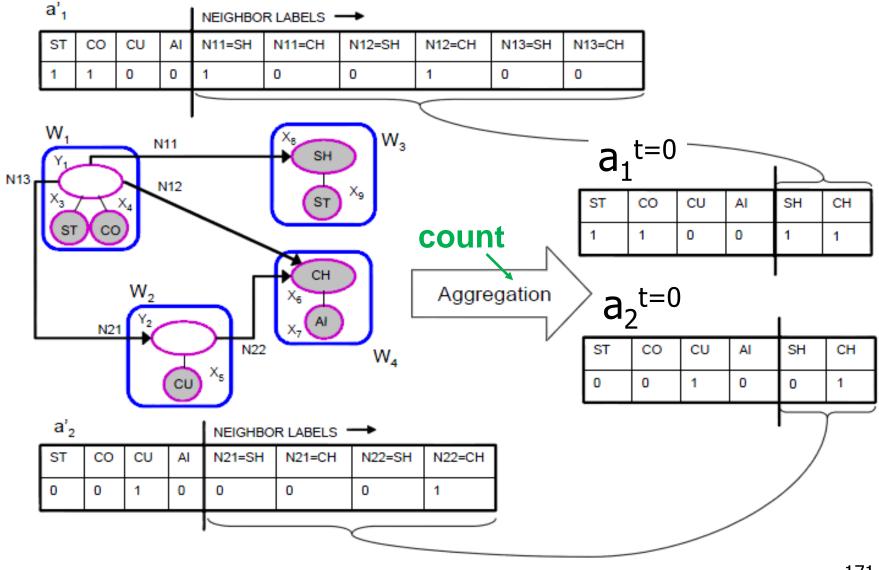
- pRN challenges:
  - Convergence not guaranteed
  - Some initial class probabilities should be biased or no propagation
  - Cannot use attribute info

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- Main idea: classify node Y<sub>i</sub> based on its attributes as well as neighbor set N<sub>i</sub>'s labels
  - Convert each node Yi to a flat vector ai
    - Various #neighbors → aggregation
    - count
    - mode
    - proportion
    - mean
    - exists





Anomaly detection in graph data (WSDM'13)



- Main idea: classify Yi based on Ni
  - Convert each node Yi to a flat vector ai
    - Various #neighbors → aggregation
  - Use local classifier f(ai) (e.g., SVM, kNN, ...) to compute best value for yi
    - Repeat for each node Y<sub>i</sub>
      - Reconstruct feature vector ai
      - Update label to  $f(a_i)$  (hard assignment) argmax<sub> $l \in C$ </sub> f

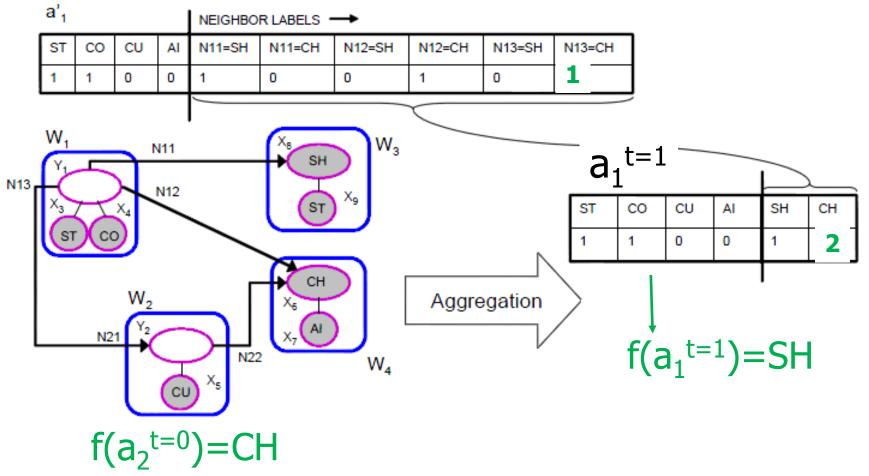
Until class labels stabilize or max # iterations

#### Note: convergence not guaranteed

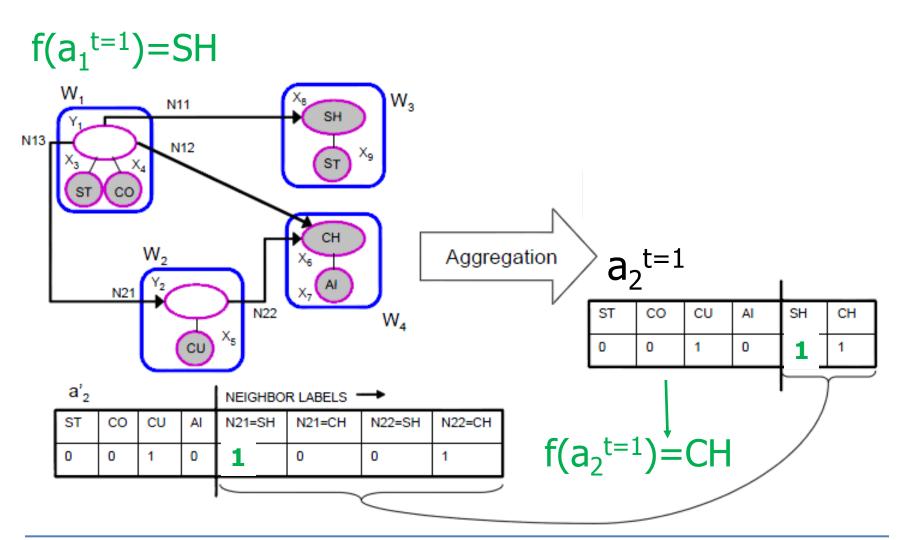
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Bootstrap











### **Gibbs sampling**

Main idea:

Bootstrap

Burn-in

Sample

- Convert each node Yi to a flat vector ai
- Use local classifier f(ai) to compute best value for yi
- Repeat B times for each node Y<sub>i</sub>
  - Reconstruct feature vector ai
  - Update label to f(ai) (hard assignment)
- Repeat S times for each node Y<sub>i</sub>
  - Sample yi from f(ai)
  - Increase count c(i, yi) by 1
- Assign to each Yi label  $y_i \leftarrow \operatorname{argmax}_{l \in \mathcal{L}} c[i, l]$



### IC and GS challenges

- Feature construction for local classifier f
  - f often needs fixed-length vector
  - choice of aggregation (avg, mode, count, ...)
  - choice of relations (in-, out-links, both)
  - choice of neighbor attributes (all?, top-k confident?)
- Local classifier f
  - requires training
  - choice of classifier (LR, NB, kNN, SVM, ...)
- Node ordering for updates (random, diversity based)
- Convergence
- Run time (many iterations for GS)



### **Collective classification inference**

- Exact inference is NP hard for arbitrary networks
- Approximate inference techniques [in this tutorial]
  - Relational classifier

Macskassy&Provost'03,07

Iterative classification alg. (ICA)

Neville&Jensen'oo, Lu&Getoor'o3, McDowell+'o7

- Gibbs sampling IC
  - Gilks et al. '96

Loopy belief propagation

Yedidia et al. 'oo

#### Note: All the above are iterative



Xg

SH

CH

X<sub>6</sub>

 $\Psi_{\underline{2}6}$ 

0.1

0.9

**y**<sub>2</sub>

SH

CH

X<sub>9</sub>

Ψ.

0.5

0.5

У<sub>2</sub>

SH

CH

CU

 $\hat{\Psi}_2$ 

0.5

0.5

 $X_5$ 

Уı

SH

CH

Y\_

 $\Psi_{25}$ 

0.1

0.9

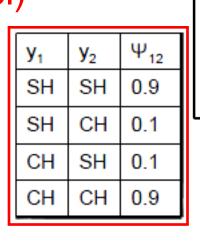
X₄

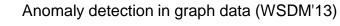
СО

#### **Relational Markov Nets**

- Undirected dependencies
- Potentials on cliques of size 1
- Potentials on cliques of size 2
  - Iabel-attribute)
  - (label-observed label)
    (label-label)

For pairwise RMNs max clique size is 2





 $X_3$ 

ST

У<sub>2</sub>

SH

CH



#### pairwise Markov Random Field

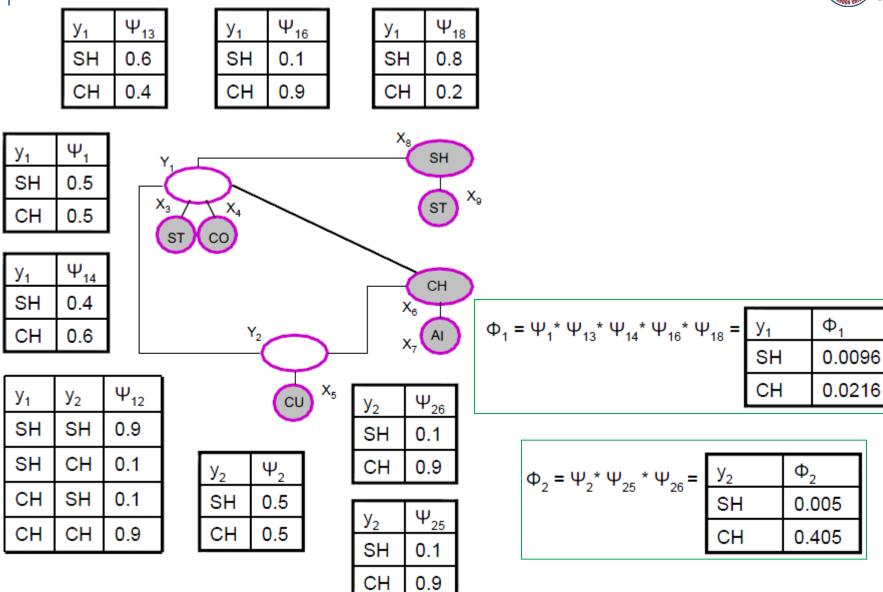
For an assignment y to all unobserved Y, pMRF is associated with probability distr:

$$P(\mathbf{y}|\mathbf{x}) = \frac{1}{\mathcal{Z}(\mathbf{x})} \prod_{Y_i \in \mathcal{Y}} \phi_i(y_i) \prod_{(Y_i, Y_j) \in E} \psi_{ij}(y_i, y_j)$$
Node labels as  
random variables
$$(abel-label)$$
known"
otential
$$\phi_i(y_i) = \psi_i(y_i) \prod_{(Y_i, X_j) \in E} \psi_{ij}(y_i)$$
prior belief
(1-clique potentials)
$$(abel-observed label)$$

$$(abel-attribute)$$

//

р





#### pMRF interpretation

- Defines a joint pdf of all unknown labels
- P(y | x) is the probability of a given world y
- Best label y<sub>i</sub> for Y<sub>i</sub> is the one with highest marginal probability
- Computing one marginal probability P(Y<sub>i</sub> = y<sub>i</sub>) requires summing over exponential # terms
- #P problem → approximate inference → loopy belief propagation



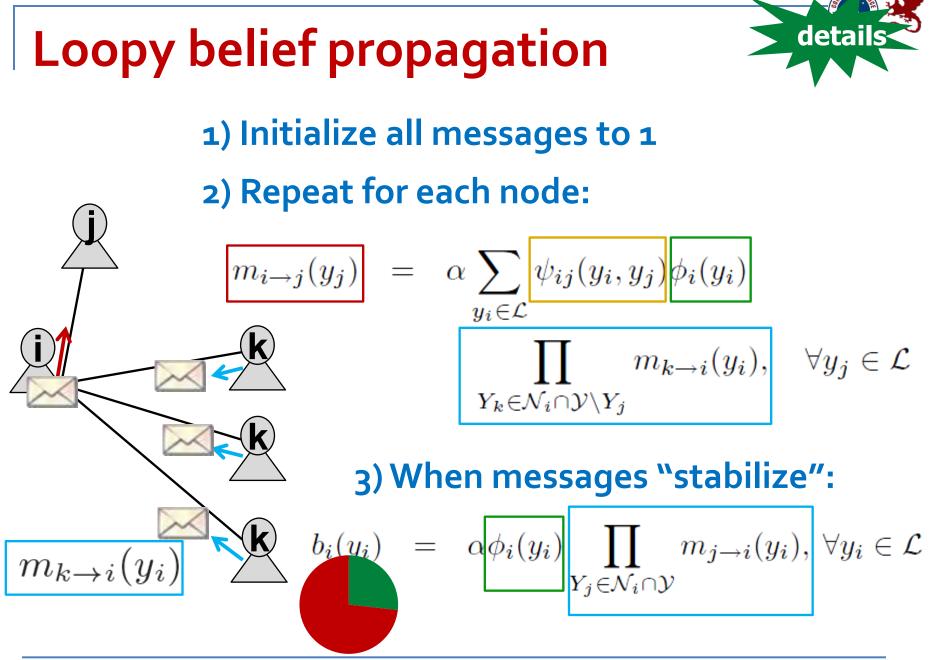
### Loopy belief propagation

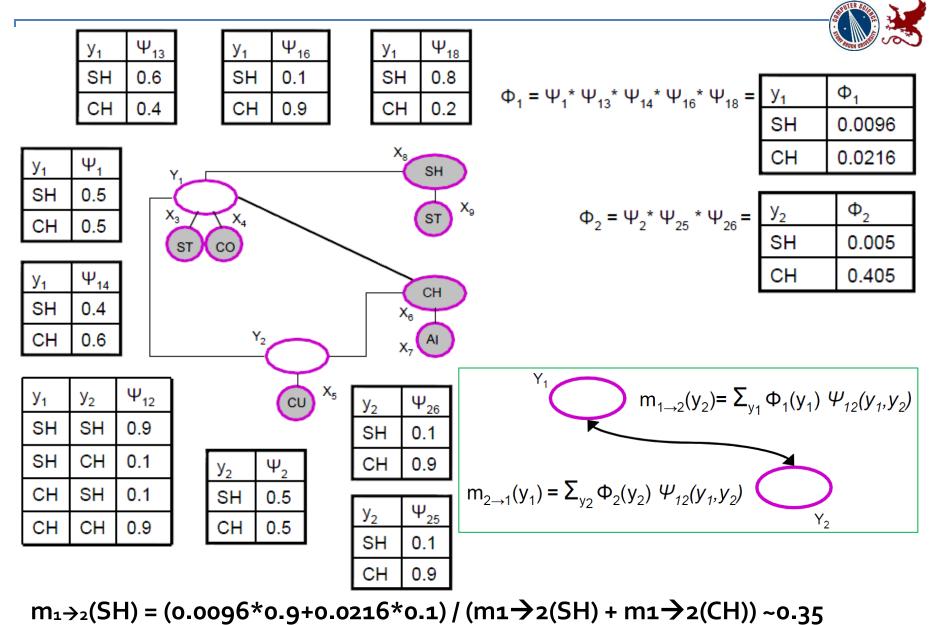
- Invented in 1982 [Pearl] to calculate marginals in Bayes nets.
- Also used to estimate marginals (=beliefs), or most likely states (e.g. MAP) in MRFs
- Iterative process in which neighbor variables "talk" to each other, passing messages

"I (variable x1) believe you (variable x2) belong in these states with various likelihoods..."



When consensus reached, calculate belief





 $m_1 \rightarrow 2(CH) = (0.0096 \times 0.1 + 0.0216 \times 0.9) / (m_1 \rightarrow 2(SH) + m_1 \rightarrow 2(CH)) \sim 0.65$ 



### Loopy belief propagation

#### Advantages:

- Easy to program & parallelize
- General: can apply to any graphical model w/ any form of potentials (higher order than pairwise)

#### **Challenges:**

- Convergence is not guaranteed (when to stop)
   esp. if many closed loops
- Potential functions (parameters)
  - require training to estimate
  - learning by gradient-based optimization: convergence issues during training



#### Taxonomy **Graph Anomaly Detection** Dynamic graphs Graph algorithms Static graphs Plain Learning Inference Plain Attributed models **Distance** based Relational netw. classification **RMNs** Feature-distance Structure based Feature based Iterative **PRMs** Structure distance classification Structural features Substructures **RDNs** Gibbs sampling **Recursive features** Subgraphs **MLNs** Belief Structure based propagation "phase transition" Community Community based based Applications Fraud detection

Spam detection



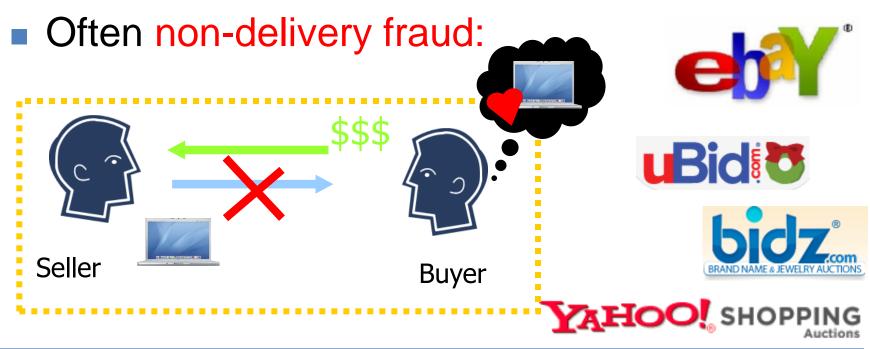
#### Part III: Outline

- Algorithms: relational learning
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  (1) Online auction fraud
  (2) Accounting fraud
  (3) Fake review spam
  (4) Web spam

#### — Chau et al. 'o6

## (1) Online auction fraud

- Auction sites: attractive target for fraud
- 63% complaints to Federal Internet Crime Complaint Center in U.S. in 2006
- Average loss per incident: = \$385







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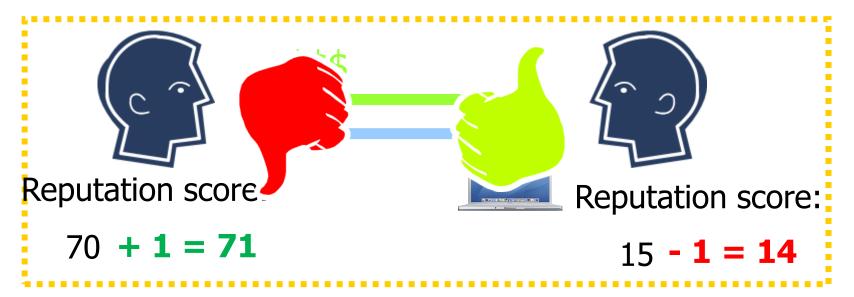
### **Online auction fraud detection**

- Insufficient solution:
  - Easy to fake! Look at individual features login times, session history, etc.
- Harder to fake: graph structure
- Capture relationships between users
- Q: How do fraudsters interact with other users and among each other?
  - $\rightarrow$  in addition to buy/sell relations, there is a feedback mechanism



#### Feedback mechanism

- Each user has a reputation score
- Users rate each other via feedback



# Q: How do fraudsters game the feedback system?

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### Auction "roles"



They form near-bipartite cores (2 roles)



#### accomplice

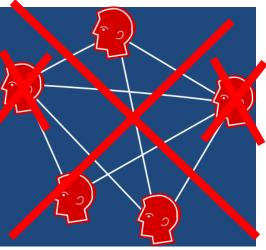
trades w/ honest, looks legit

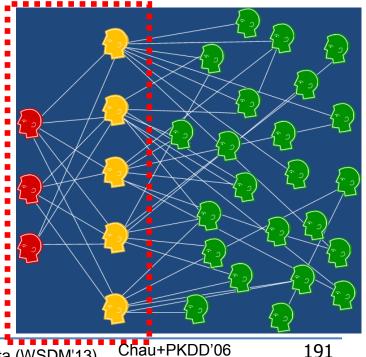
#### fraudster

- trades w/ accomplice
- fraud w/ honest

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Anomaly detection in graph data (WSDM'13)





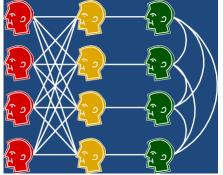
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#### **Detecting online fraud**

- How to find near-bipartite cores? How to find roles (honest, accomplice, fraudster)?
  - Use Belief Propagation!
- How to set BP parameters (potentials)?
  - prior beliefs: prior knowledge, unbiased if none
     compatibility potentials: by insight

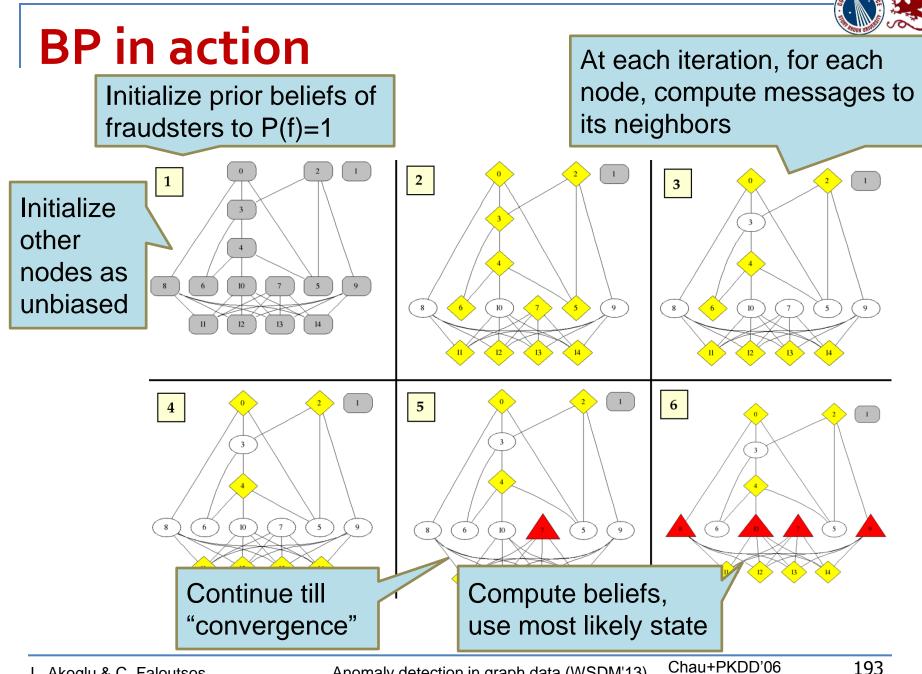
	Fraud	Accomplice	Honest
Fraud	$\varepsilon_p$	$1 - 2\varepsilon_p$	$\boldsymbol{arepsilon}_p$
Accomplice	0.5	$2\varepsilon_p$	$0.5 - 2\varepsilon_p$
Honest	$\varepsilon_p$	$(1-2\varepsilon_p)/2$	$(1-2\varepsilon_p)/2$



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Anomaly detection in graph data (WSDM'13)

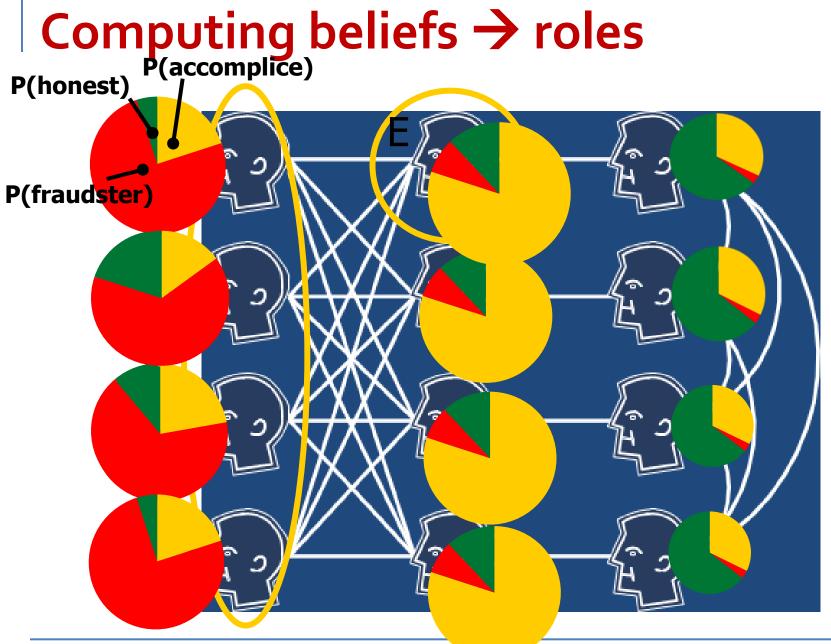
Chau+PKDD'06 192 modified with permission



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Anomaly detection in graph data (WSDM'13) modified with permission



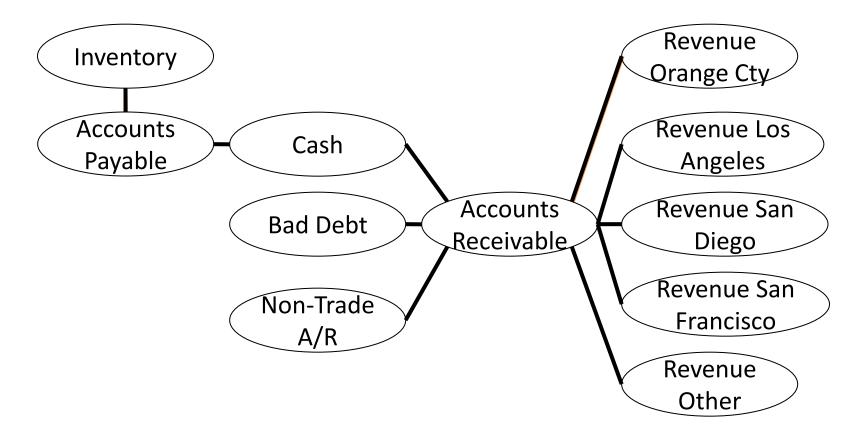


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Anomaly detection in graph data (WSDM'13) Chau+PKDD'06 194 modified with permission

### (2) Accounting fraud

## Problem: Given accounts and their transaction relations, find most risky ones



McGlohon et al. '09



#### **Accounting fraud detection**

Domain knowledge to flag certain nodes prior beliefs

Assume homophily ("guilt by association")
compatibility potentials

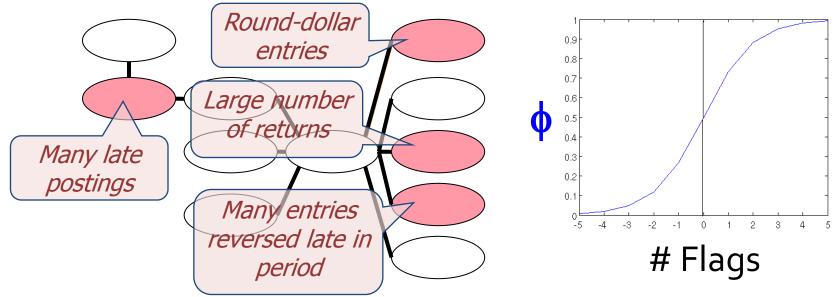
#### Use belief propagation

2 states (risky R, normal NR)

• final beliefs  $\rightarrow$  end risk scores

#### **Social Network Analytic Risk Evaluation**

#### Prior beliefs (noisy domain knowledge)

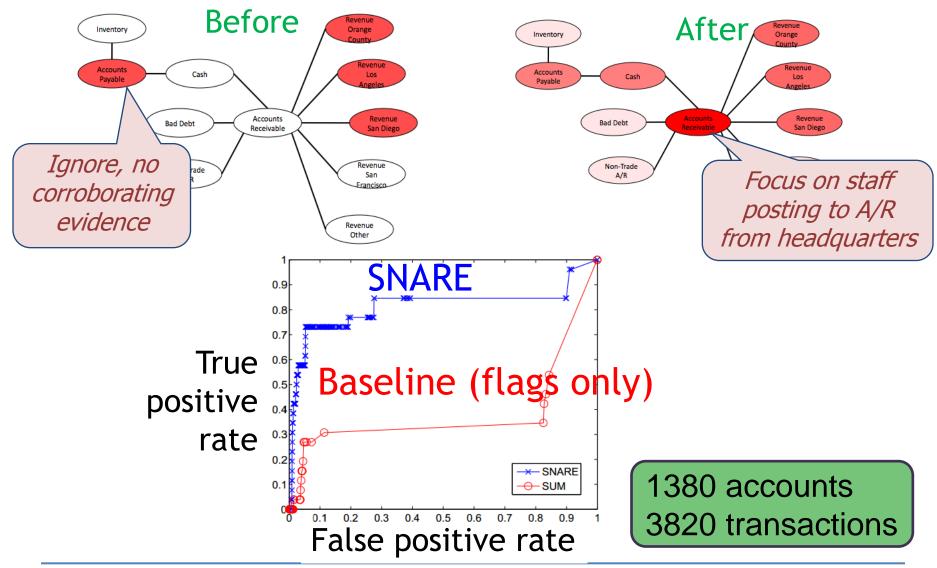


# Compatibility potentials (by homophily) $\overline{\psi_{ij}}$

$\psi_{ij}(x_d, x_c)$	$v_i = x_{NR}$	$v_i = x_R$
$v_j = x_{NR}$	$1 - \epsilon$	$\epsilon$
$v_j = x_R$	$\epsilon$	$1 - \epsilon$

Anomaly detection in graph data (WSDM'13) McGlohon+KDD'09 197 modified with permission

#### **Social Network Analytic Risk Evaluation**



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Anomaly detection in graph data (WSDM'13)

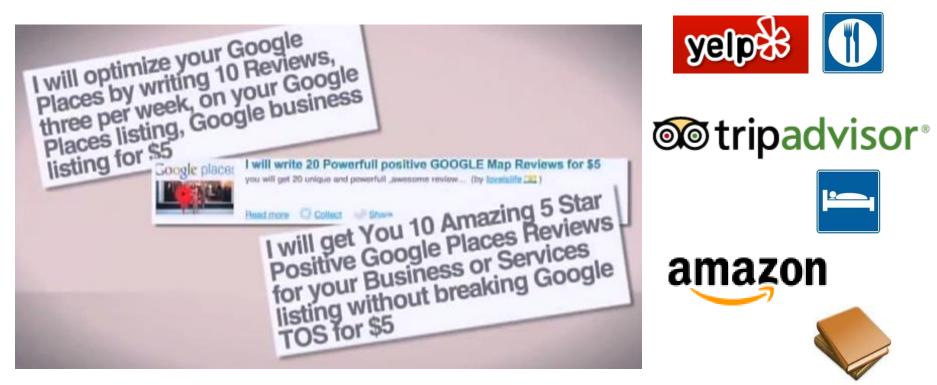
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Google

## (3) Fake review spam

- Review sites: attractive target for spam
- Often hype/defame spam
- Paid spammers



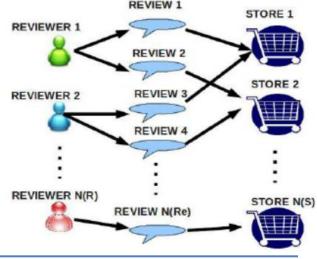


#### Fake review spam detection

- [Jindal & Liu'o8] Behavioral analysis
  - individu <u>fratures</u>, geographic locations, login Easy to fake! tt et al.'11] times,

Language

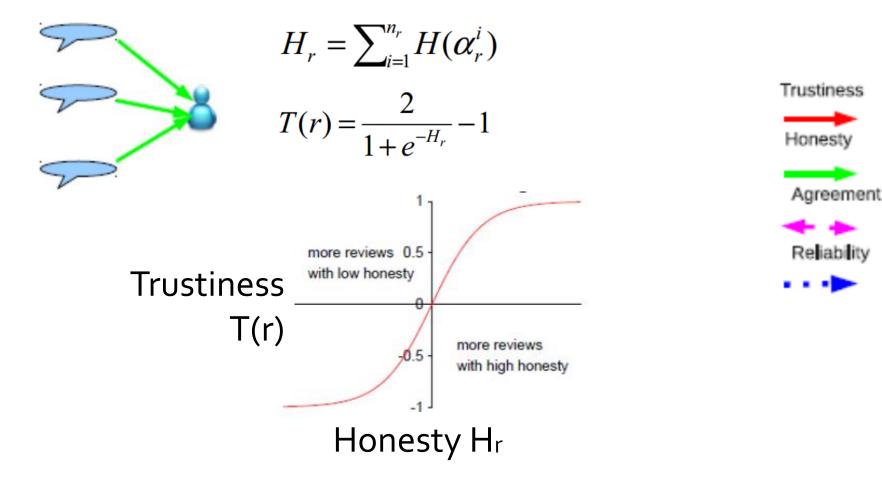
- use of superlatives, many self-referencing, rate of misspell, many agreement words, ...
- Harder to fake: graph structure Capture relationships between reviewers, reviews, stores



201

## **Graph-based detection**

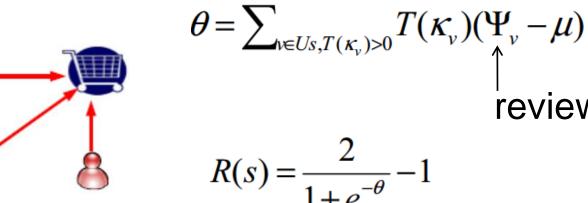
#### Reviewer r **trustiness** T(r)





#### **Graph-based detection**

Store s reliability R(s)



review v rating

Trustiness

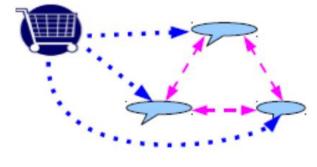






#### **Graph-based detection**

#### Review v honesty H(v)

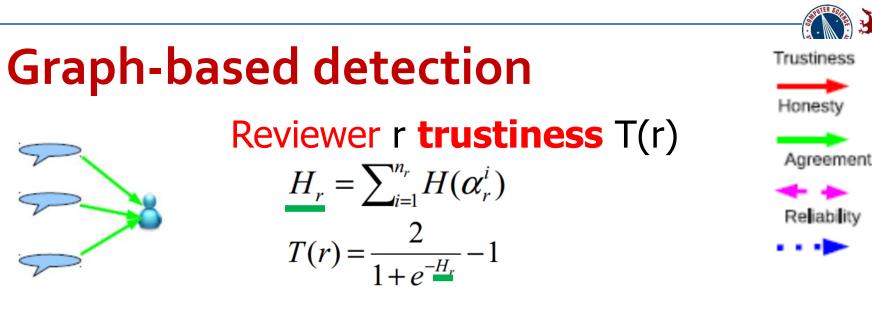


$$A(v,\Delta t) = \sum_{i \in S_{v,a}} T(\kappa_i) - \sum_{j \in S_{v,d}} T(\kappa_j)$$

 $H(v) = |R(\Gamma_v)| A_n(v, \Delta t)$ 

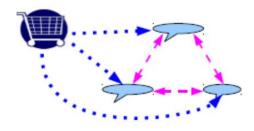
Trustiness







Store s reliability R(s)	-
$\theta = \sum_{v \in Us, T(\kappa_v) > 0} T(\kappa_v) (\Psi_v - \mu)$	$R(s) = \frac{2}{1 + e^{-\theta}} - 1$



Review v honesty H(v)  $A(v,\Delta t) = \sum_{i \in S_{v,a}} T(\kappa_i) - \sum_{j \in S_{v,d}} T(\kappa_j)$   $H(v) = |R(\Gamma_v)| A_n(v,\Delta t)$ 



#### **Graph-based detection**

- Algorithm: iterate trustiness, reliability, and honesty scores in a mutual recursion
  - similar to Kleinberg's HITS algorithm
  - non-linear relations

#### Challenges:

- Convergence not guaranteed
- Cannot use attribute info
- Parameters: agreement time window ∆t, review similarity threshold (for dis/agreement)



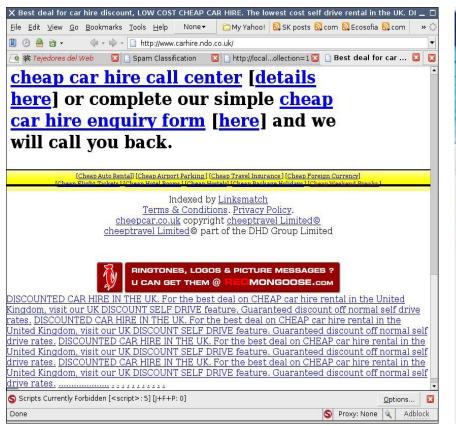
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  - 🔶 Web spam



### (4) Web spam

Spam pages: pages designed to trick search engines to direct traffic to their websites



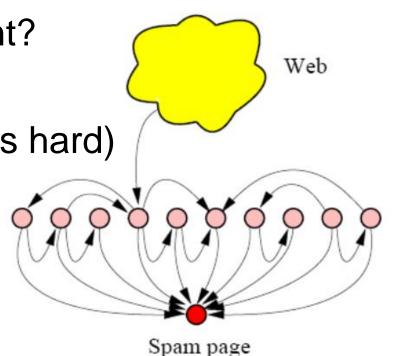




#### Web spam

#### Challenges:

- pages are not independent
- what features are relevant?
- small training set
- noisy labels (consensus is hard)
- content very dynamic



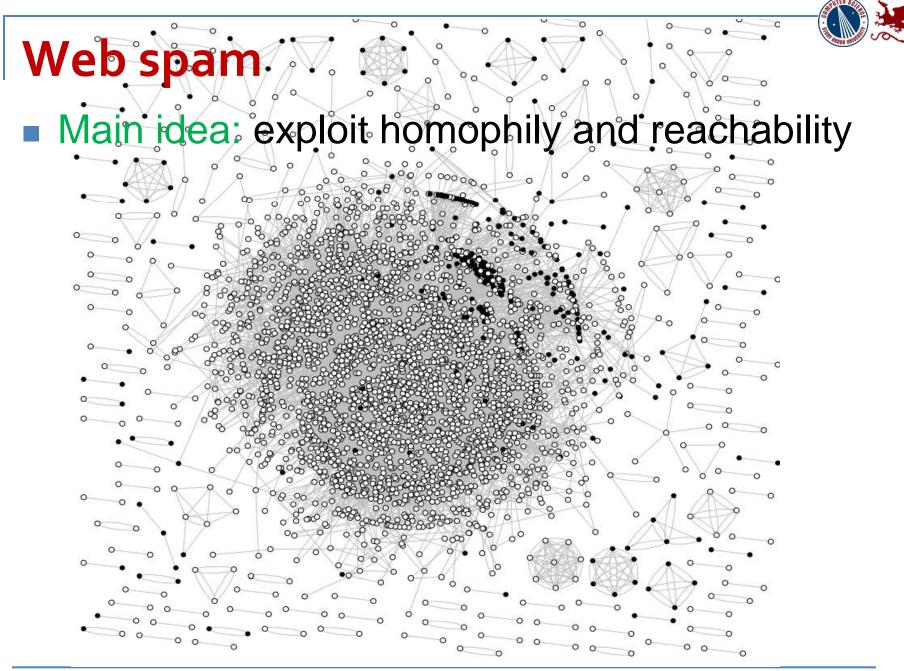
#### Web spam

- Many graph-based solutions
  - TrustRank [Gyöngyi et al. '04]
  - SpamRank [Benczur et al. '05]
  - Anti-trustRank [Krishnan et al. 'o6]
  - Propagating trust and distrust [Wu et al. 'o6]
  - Know your neighbors
  - Guilt-by-association
  - **...**

- [Castillo et al. '07]
- [Kang et al. '11]

normal

spam

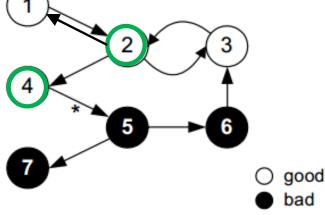


#### [Gyöngyi et al. '04]

## TrustRank: combating web spam

#### Main steps:

- Find seed set S of "good" pages (e.g. using oracle)
- Compute trust scores by biased (personalized) PageRank from good pages
- Intuition: spam pages are hardly reachable from trustworthy pages
  - Hard to acquire direct inlinks from good pages



## **TrustRank mathematically**

Remember PageRank score of a page p:

$$\mathbf{r}(p) = \mathbf{\alpha} \cdot \sum_{q:(q,p) \in \mathcal{E}} \frac{\mathbf{r}(q)}{\mathbf{\omega}(q)} + (1 - \mathbf{\alpha}) \cdot \frac{1}{N}$$

In closed form:

$$\mathbf{r} = \mathbf{\alpha} \cdot \mathbf{T} \cdot \mathbf{r} + (1 - \alpha) \cdot \frac{1}{N} \cdot \mathbf{1}_{N} \quad \mathbf{T}(p,q) = \begin{cases} 0 & \text{if } (q,p) \notin \mathcal{E}, \\ 1/\omega(q) & \text{if } (q,p) \in \mathcal{E}, \end{cases}$$
  
damping factor Transition matrix  
$$\mathbf{r} = \mathbf{\alpha} \cdot \mathbf{T} \cdot \mathbf{r} + (1 - \alpha) \cdot \mathbf{d}$$
  
$$\mathbf{1} = [0, \frac{1}{2}, 0, \frac{1}{2}, 0, 0, 0]$$

Anomaly detection in graph data (WSDM'13)

detai

[Benczur et al. '05]

## SpamRank: link spam detection

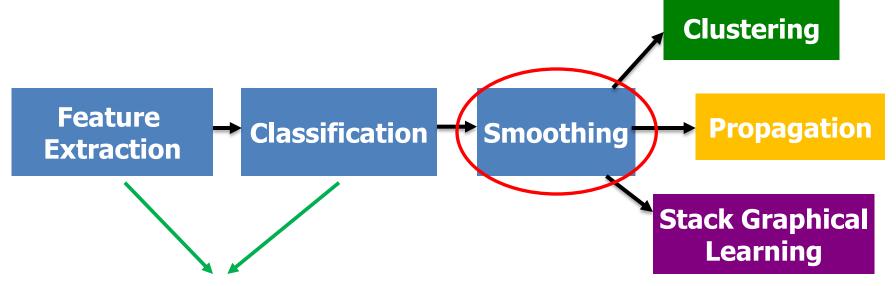
- Intuition: PageRank distribution of "good" set of supporters should be power law (as in entire Web)
  - Page v is a supporter of page i if: PPR<sub>i</sub>(v) > 0

- For each page i
  - get PageRank scores of all supporters of i
  - test PageRank histogram for power law
  - calculate irregularity score s(i)
- SpamRank  $\leftarrow$  PPR( $\mathbf{\dot{s}}$ )

#### Advantage: no user labeling (as for TrustRank)

## "Know your neighbors"

 Graph-based techniques can help improve feature-based classifiers



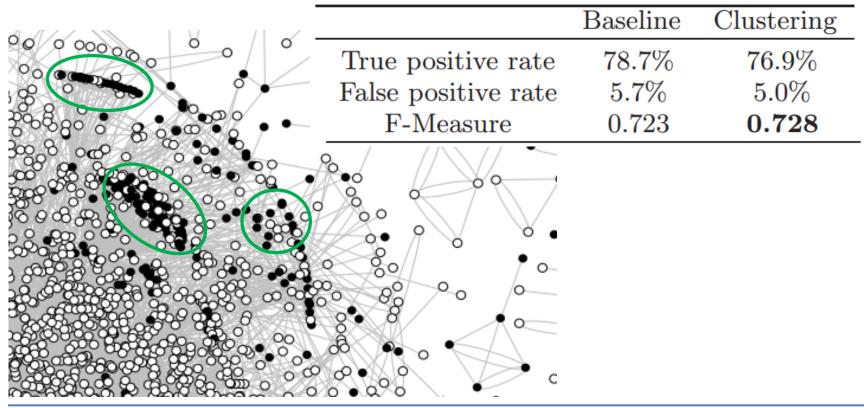
- Graph features: reciprocity, assortativity, TrustRank, PageRank, ...
- Content features: fraction visible text, compression rate, entropy of trigrams, ...

[Castillo et al. '07]



## **Smoothing**-clustering

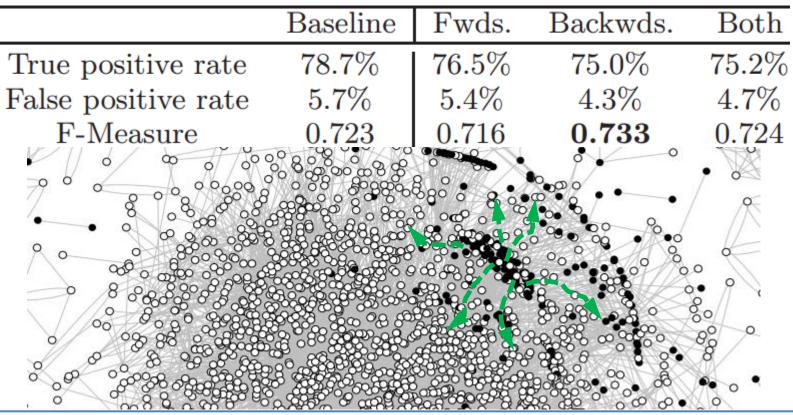
- Split graph into many clusters. (e.g. by METIS)
- If majority of nodes in cluster are spam, then all pages in cluster are spam.





## **Smoothing**-propagation

- Propagate predictions using random walks.
- PPR(\$); s(i): spamicity score by baseline classifier (backward and/or forwards steps)

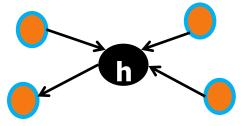




### **Smoothing**-stacked learning

- Create additional features by combining predictions for related nodes
  - e.g., avg. spamicity score *p* of neighbors *r(h)* of *h*

$$f(h) = \frac{\sum_{g \in r(h)} p(g)}{|r(h)|}$$



similar to pRN classifier by Macskassy&Provost
 can repeat, although 1-2 steps add most gain

	Baseline	First pass	Second pass
True positive rate	78.7%	85.2%	88.4%
False positive rate	5.7%	6.1%	6.3%
F-Measure	0.723	0.750	0.763



## Part III: References (alg.s and app.s)

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## **Tutorial Outline**

- Motivation, applications, challenges
- Part I: Anomaly detection in static data
  - Overview: Outliers in clouds of points
  - Anomaly detection in graph data
- Part II: Event detection in dynamic data
  - Overview: Change detection in time series
  - Event detection in graph sequences
- Part III: Graph-based algorithms and apps
   Algorithms: relational learning
  - Applications: fraud and spam detection



#### Conclusions

- Graphs are powerful tools to detect
   Anomalies
  - Events
  - Fraud/Spam
  - in complex real-world data (attributes, (noisy) side information, weights, ...)
- Nature of the problem highly dependent on the application domain
- Each problem formulation needs a different approach



## **Open challenges: research**

- Anomalies in dynamic graphs
  - dynamic attributed graphs (definitions, formulations, real-world scenarios)
  - temporal effects: node/edge history (not only updates)
- Fraud/spam detection: system perspective
  - adversarial robustness
  - cost (to system in measurement, to adversary to fake, to user in exposure)
  - detection timeliness and other system design aspects; e.g. dynamicity, latency



## **Open challenges: practice**

- What makes the results better in practice?
  - better priors?
  - better parameter learning?
  - more data?

• ...

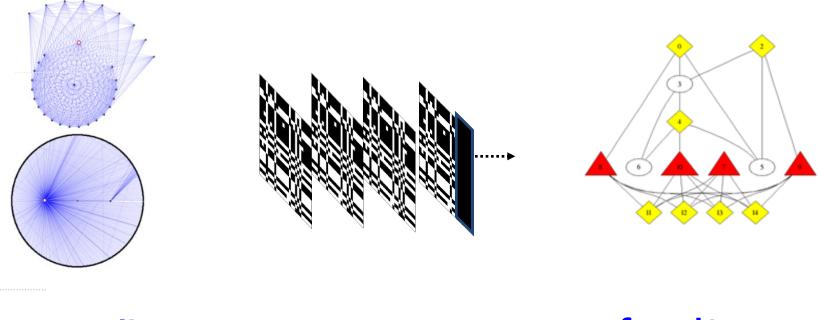
- Graph construction
  - If no network, what to use to build one?
  - If one network,
    - more latent edges? (e.g. review similarity)
    - less edges? (e.g. domain knowledge)
  - If more than one network, how to exploit all?





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#### anomalies

events

#### fraud/spam