Algorithms and Applications in Social Networks

2025/2026, Semester A

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Lesson #4

- Similarity in networks
- Network structure
- Communities
- Detection of communities

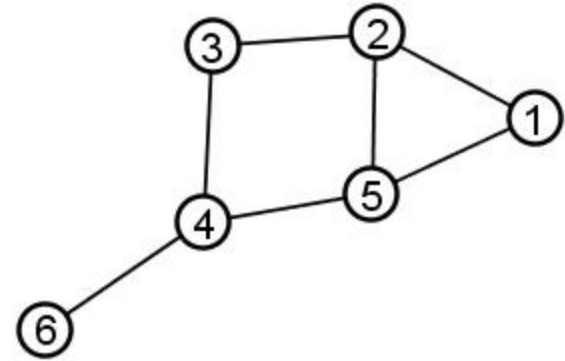# Similarity in Networks

Properties of Network

- Global (per network):
  - Average clustering coefficient
  - Degree distribution
  - Diameter
  - …
- Local (per node):
  - Degree
  - Node centrality
  - …
- Pairwise:
  - Similarity
  - …

Similarity

- Jaccard Similarity: [N (v) = Neighbors(v)]

$$J(a, b) = \frac{|N(a) \cap N(b)|}{|N(a) \cup N(b)|}$$

J(2, 4) = |{3, 5, 6} ∩ {1, 3, 5}| /
|{3, 5, 6} ∪ {1, 3, 5}| = 2/4 = 0.5

Similarity
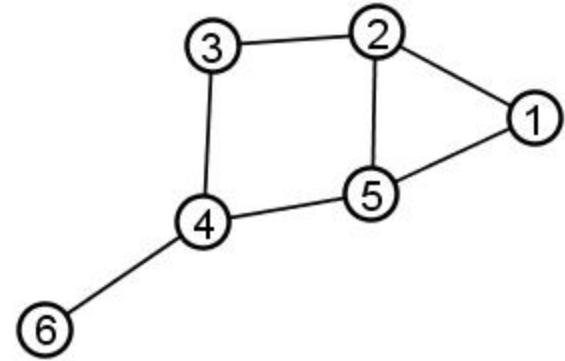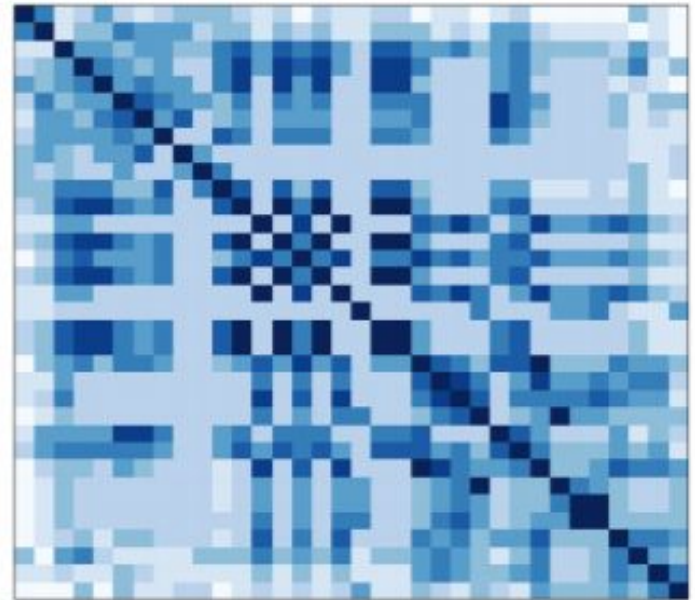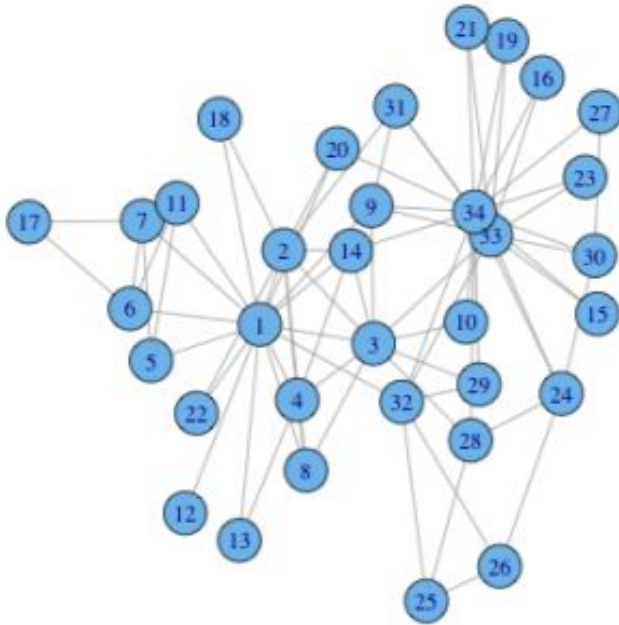
- Cosine Similarity:

$$cos(a,b) = (a * b) / (|a|*|b|)$$

(2) = (1, 0, 1, 0, 1, 0)
(4) = (0, 0, 1, 0, 1, 1)
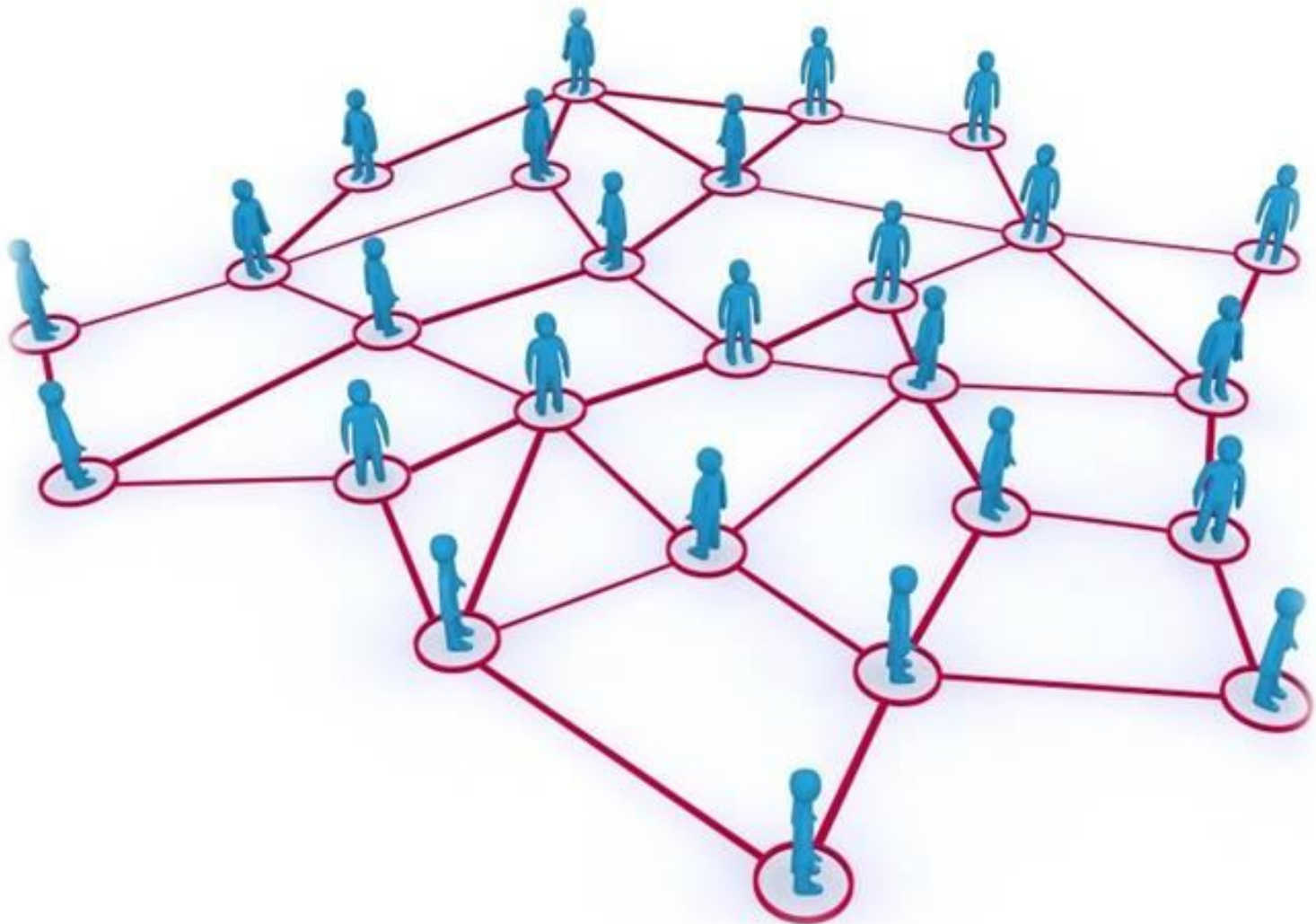
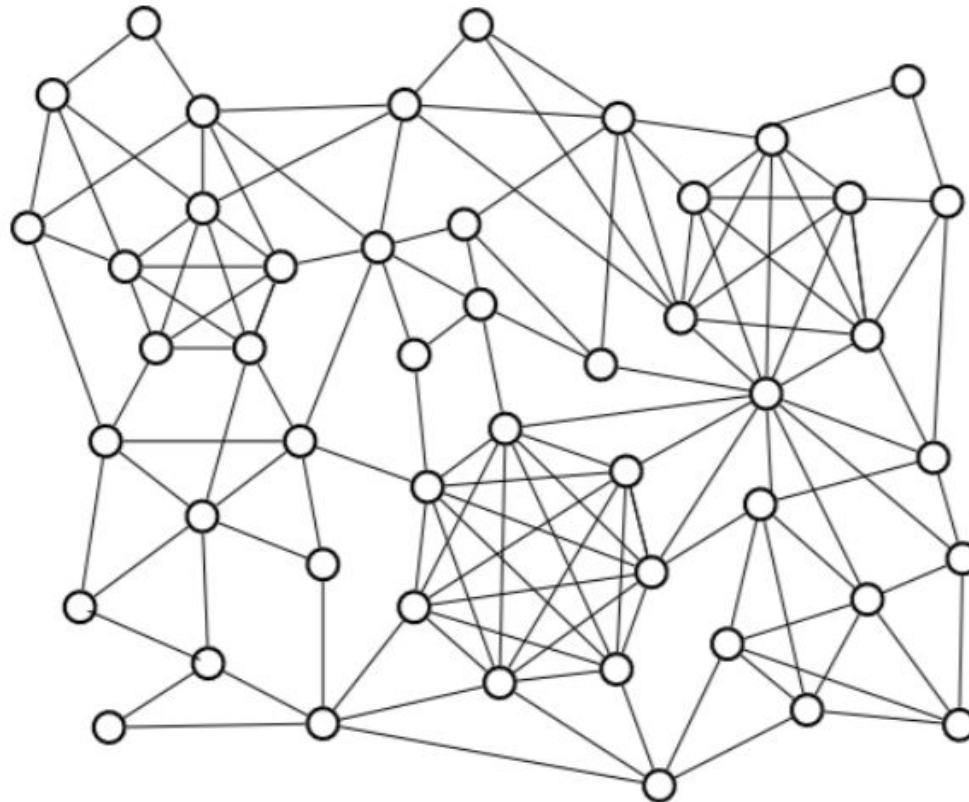cos((2), (4)) = 2 / 3

Similarity

Network Structure
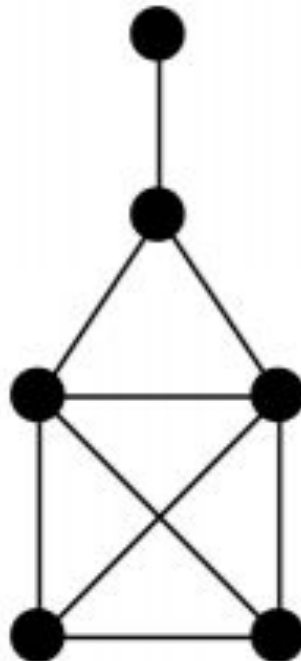
Network Structure

Graph cliques

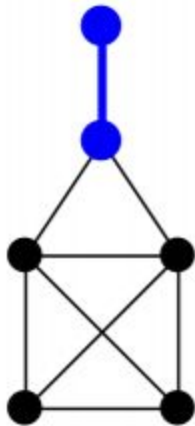- Clique is a complete subgraph.
- Cliques can overlap

Graph cliques

- **Maximal clique** – a clique that cannot be extended by adding more nodes
- **Maximum clique** – a clique of a maximum size

Graph cliques

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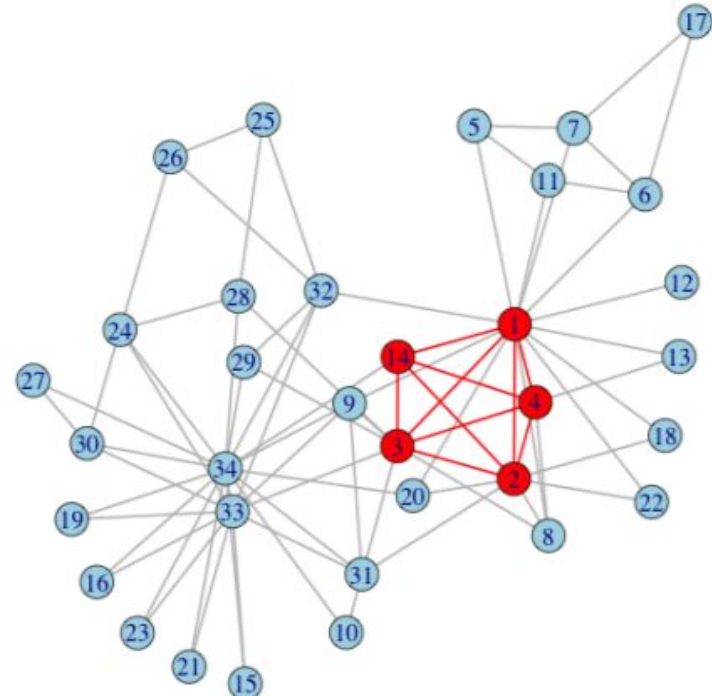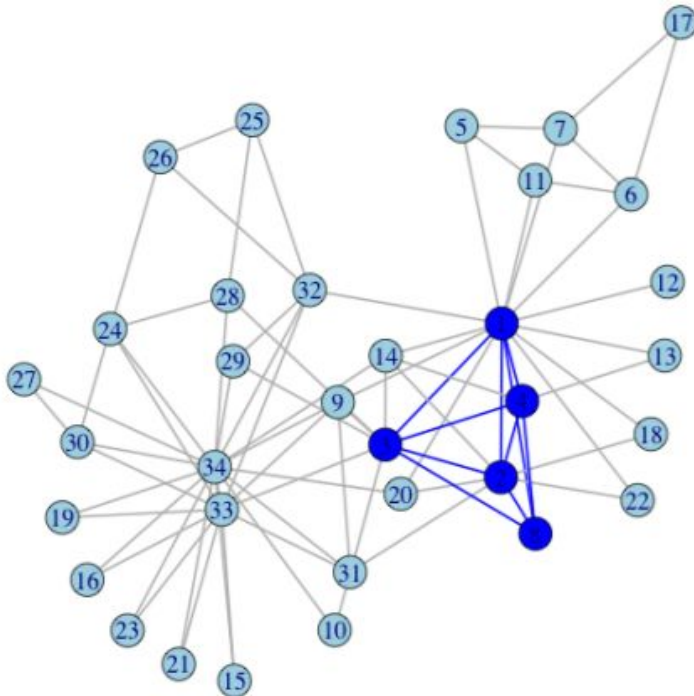Maximal   Maximal & Maximum   Not maximal   Not clique

Graph cliques
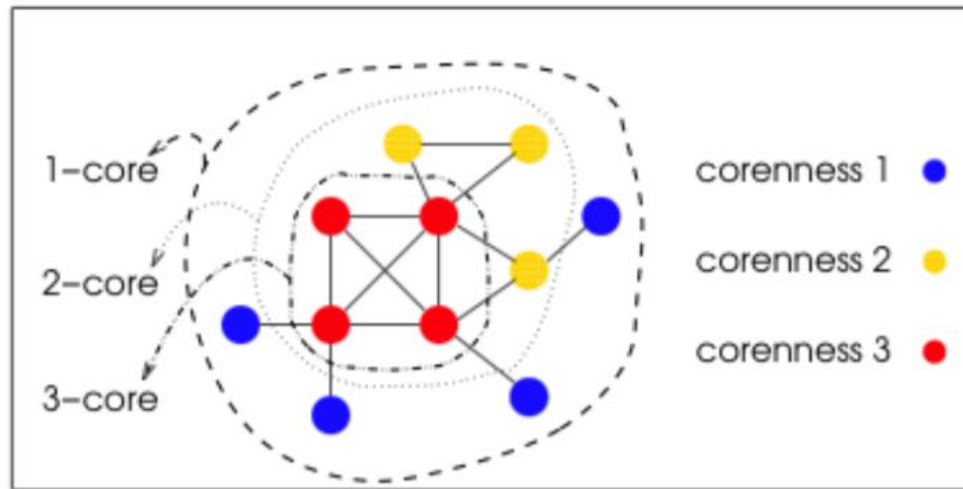
Maximal cliques:

Size: 2   3   4   5

\#: 11 21 2   2

Graph cliques

Computation of cliques:

- Finding a clique of size k: $O(n^k k^2)$
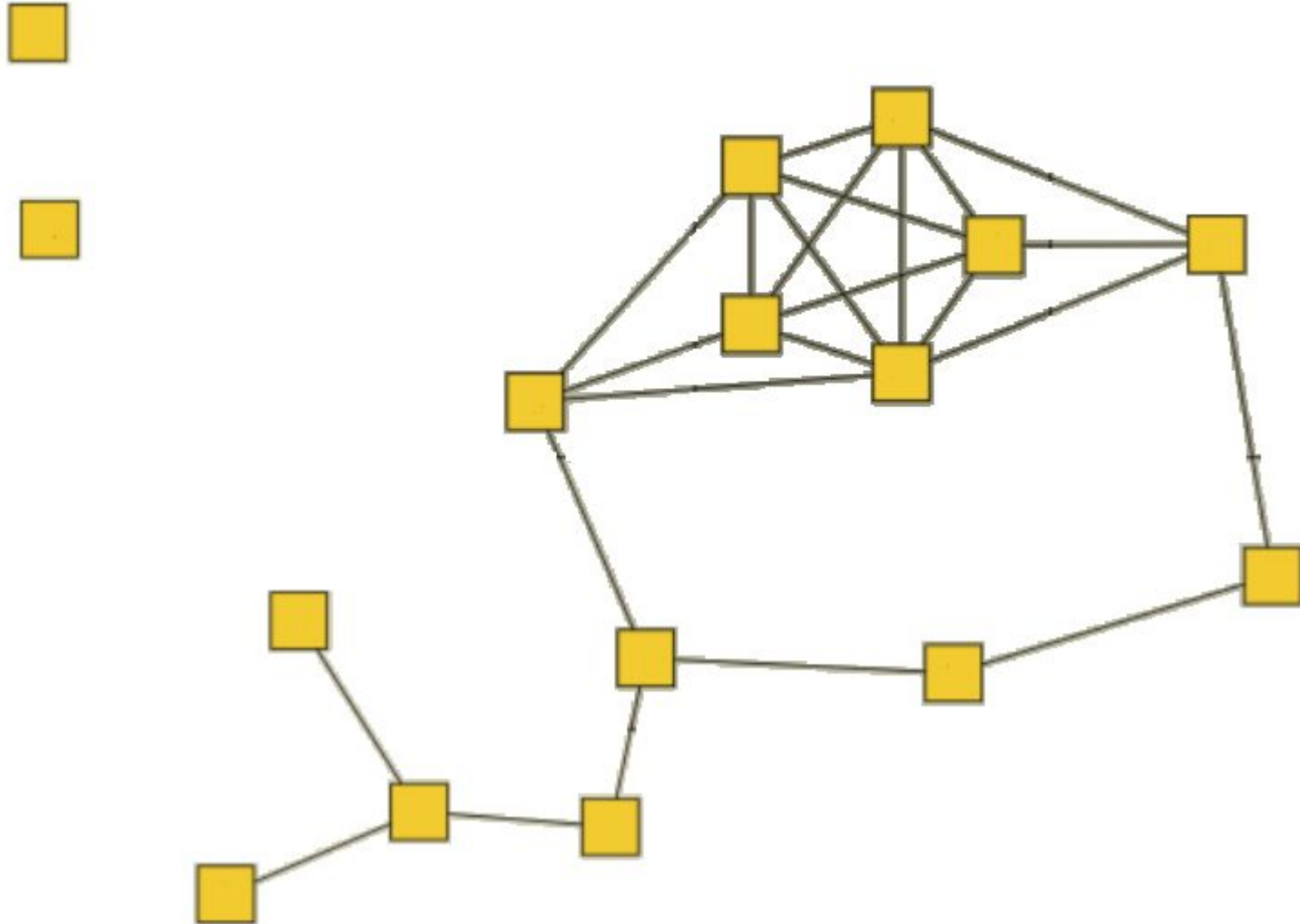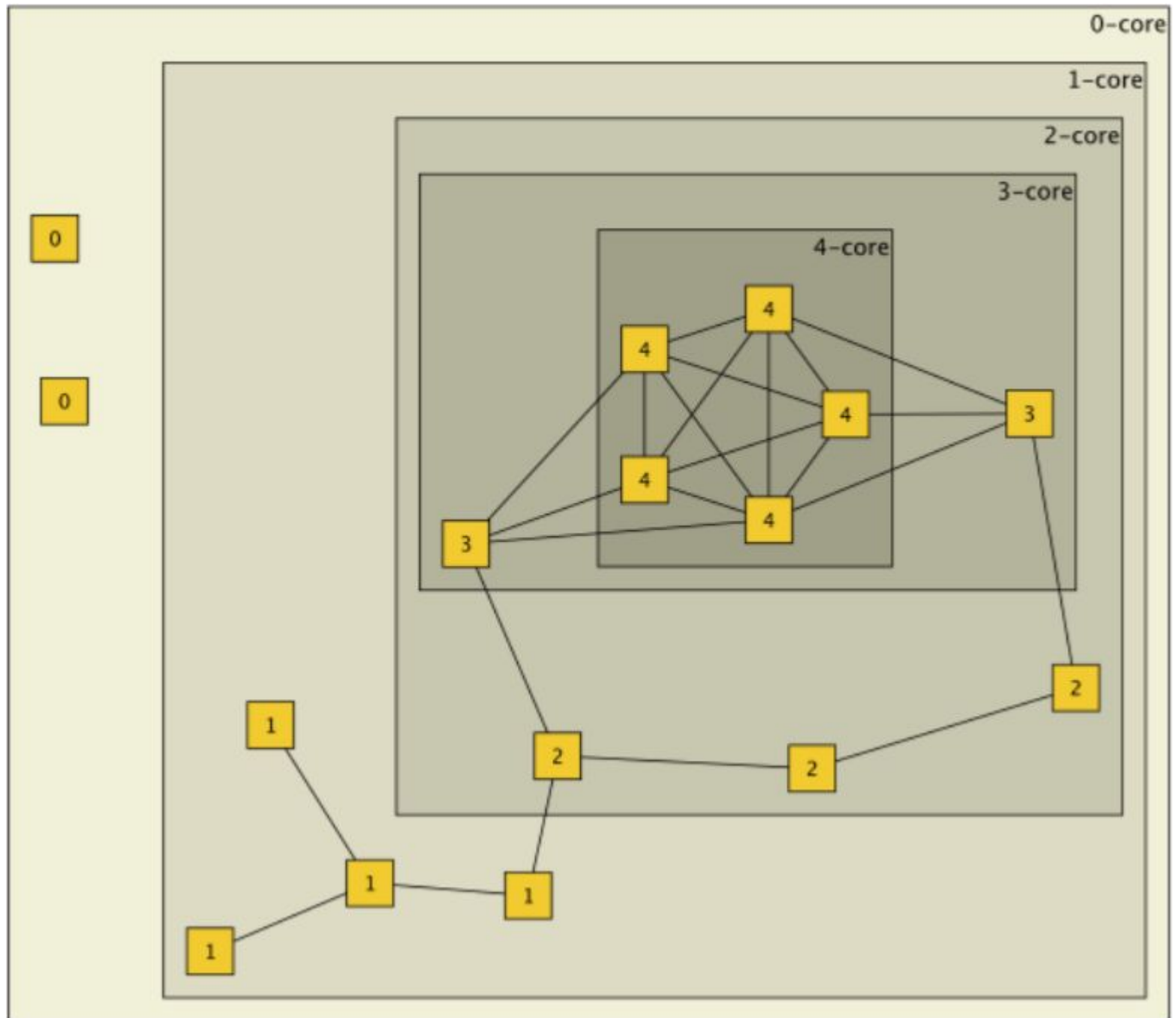- Finding maximum clique: $O(3^{n/3})$
- Easier in sparse graphs…

Graph Core

- A **k-core** is the largest subgraph S such as each node is connected to at least k nodes in S

- Every node in k-core has degree >= k
- (k+1)-core is always a subgraph of k-core
- Core number of node is the highest "k" of the k-core that contains this node
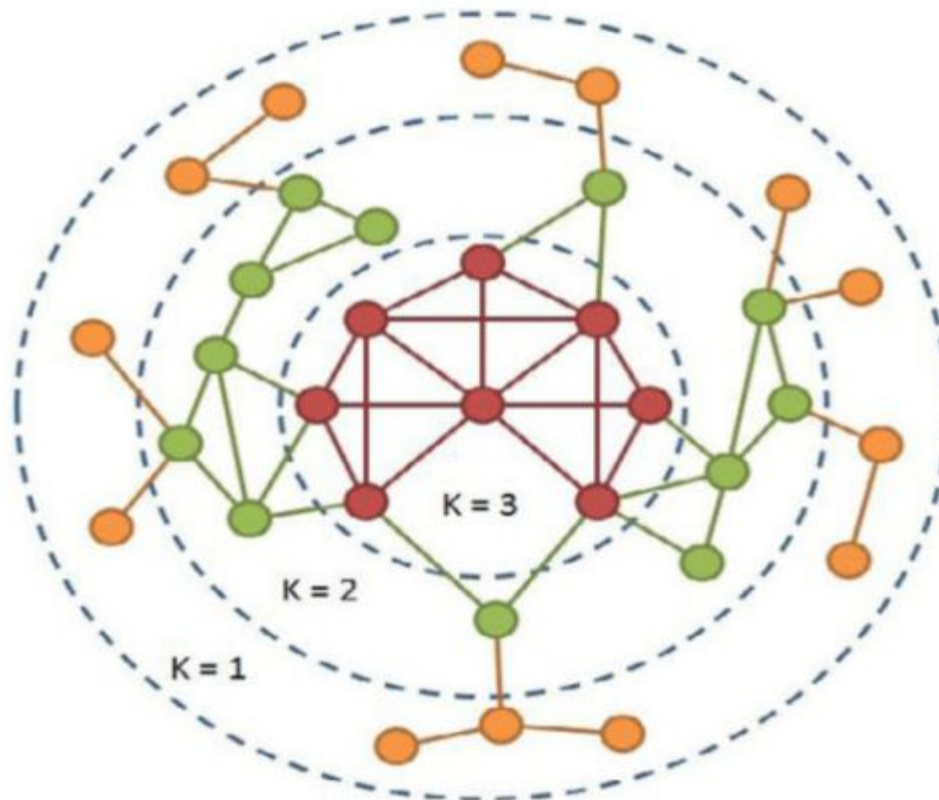
Graph Core - Example

0-core

1-core

2-core

3-core

4-core

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k-core decomposition

Input: Graph G(V, E)

Output: core[v] – core number for each node

1: Store degree of v in degree[v]

2: Sort V by degree[v] (ascending)

3: **For each** v **in** V:

4:    core[v] = degree[v]

5:    **For each** u **in** neighbors(v):

6:          **If** degree[u] > degree[v]:

7:                degree[u] -= 1

8:                Sort V by degree[v]

k-core decomposition

Recursively delete all nodes with degree less then k, the remaining graph is k-core
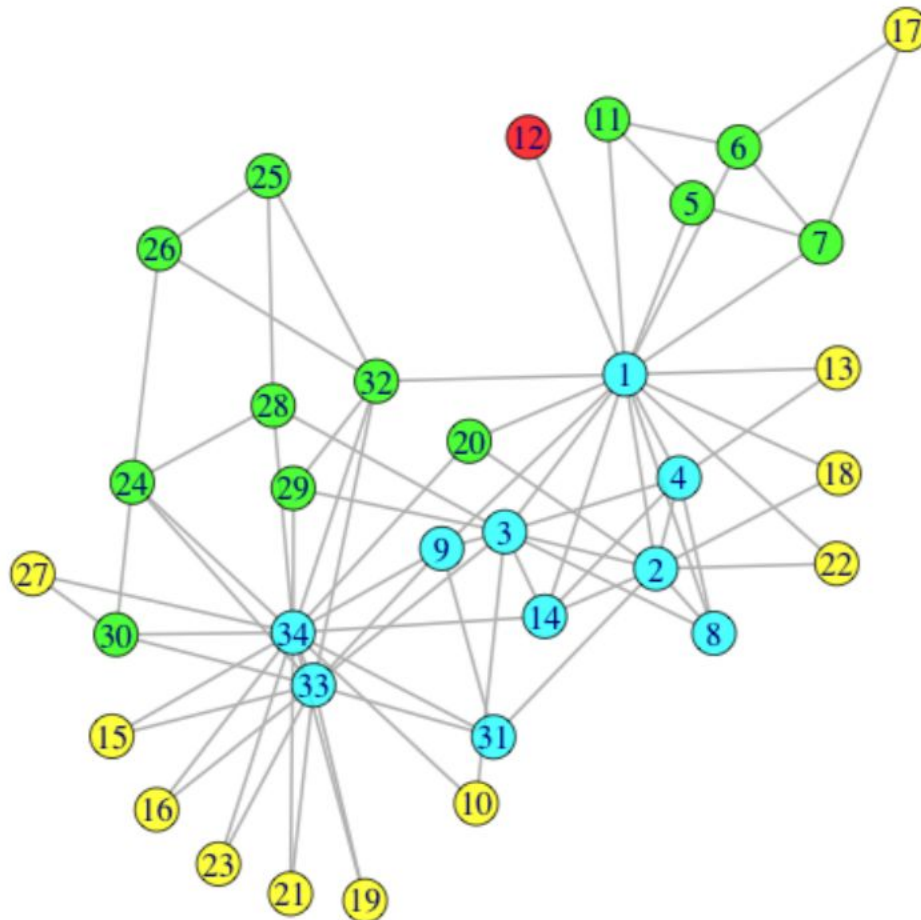
k-core decomposition

Zachary karate club k-core decomposition:
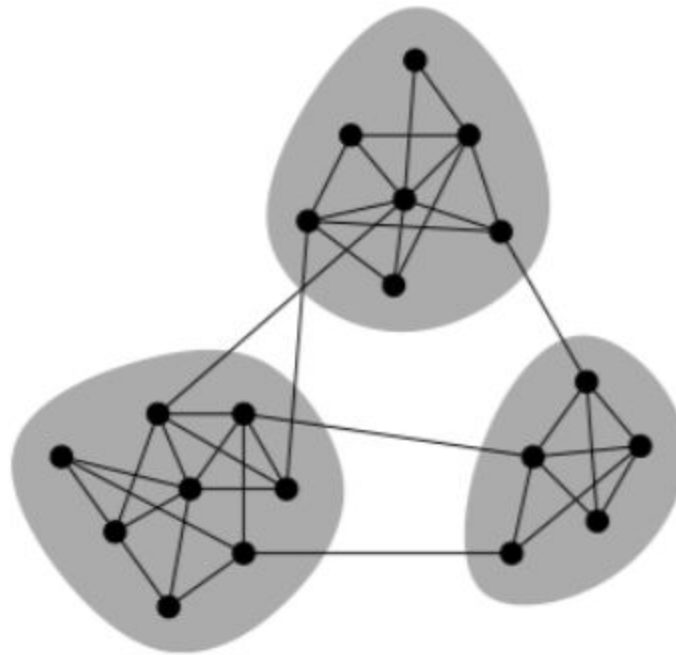
Red – 1

Yellow – 2

Green – 3

Blue – 4

Network Communities

Community

Network Communities are group of vertices such that vertices inside the group connected with many more edges than between groups
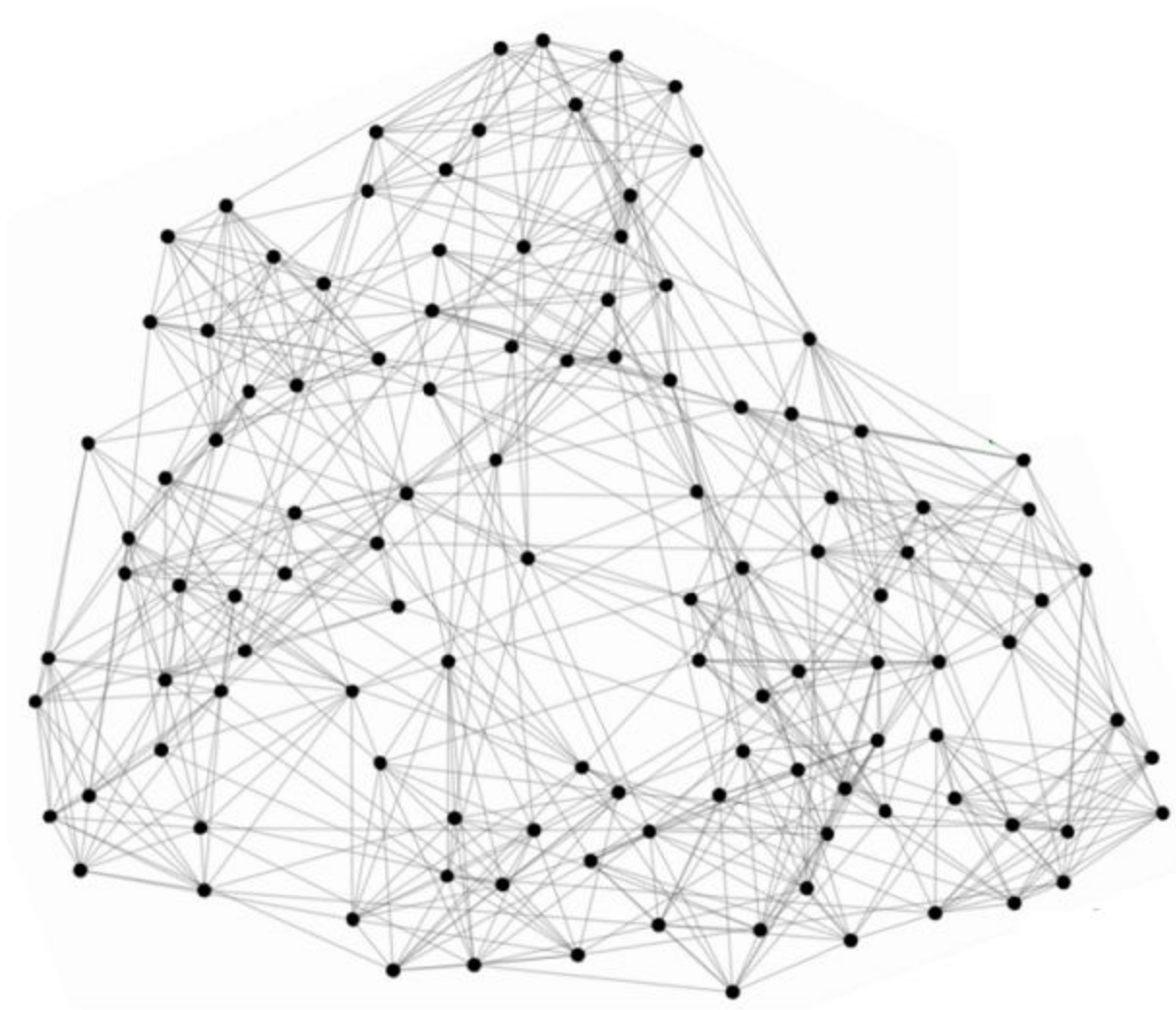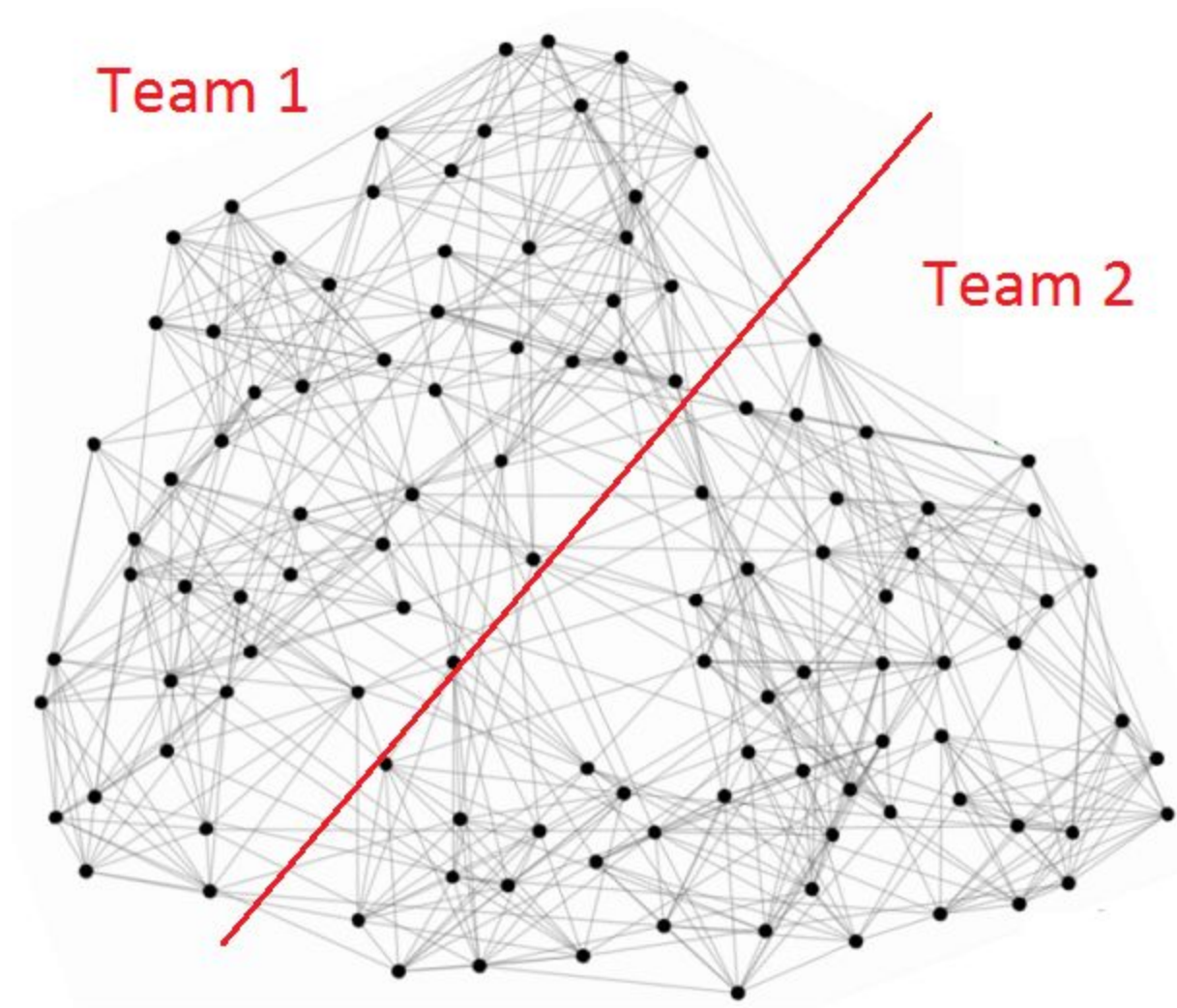
Community Types

Communities can be either:

- Non-Overlapping
  - Country of residence
  - Working place
  - Favorite football club

- Overlapping
  - Types of friends (friends from school, army, work)
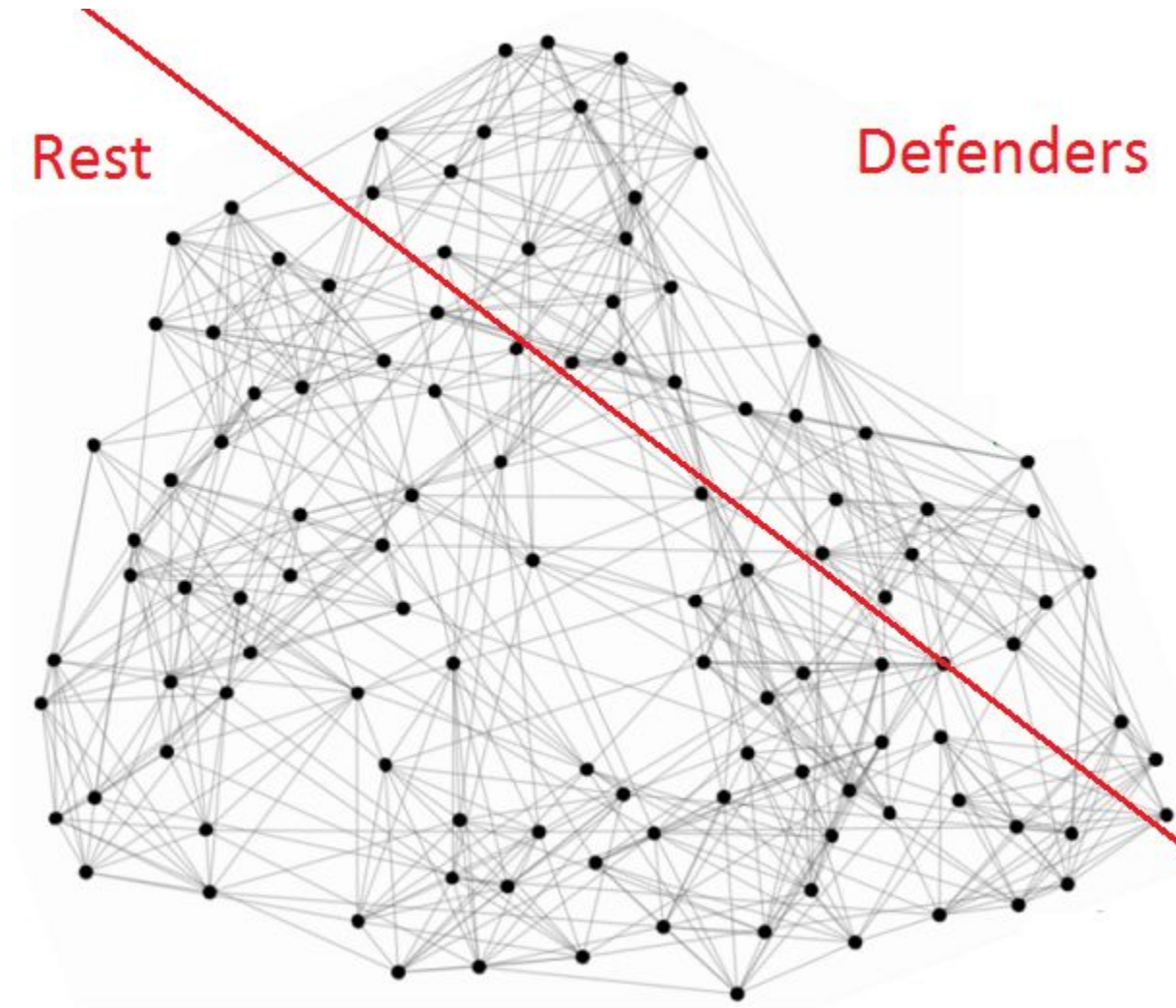 - Groups of interest
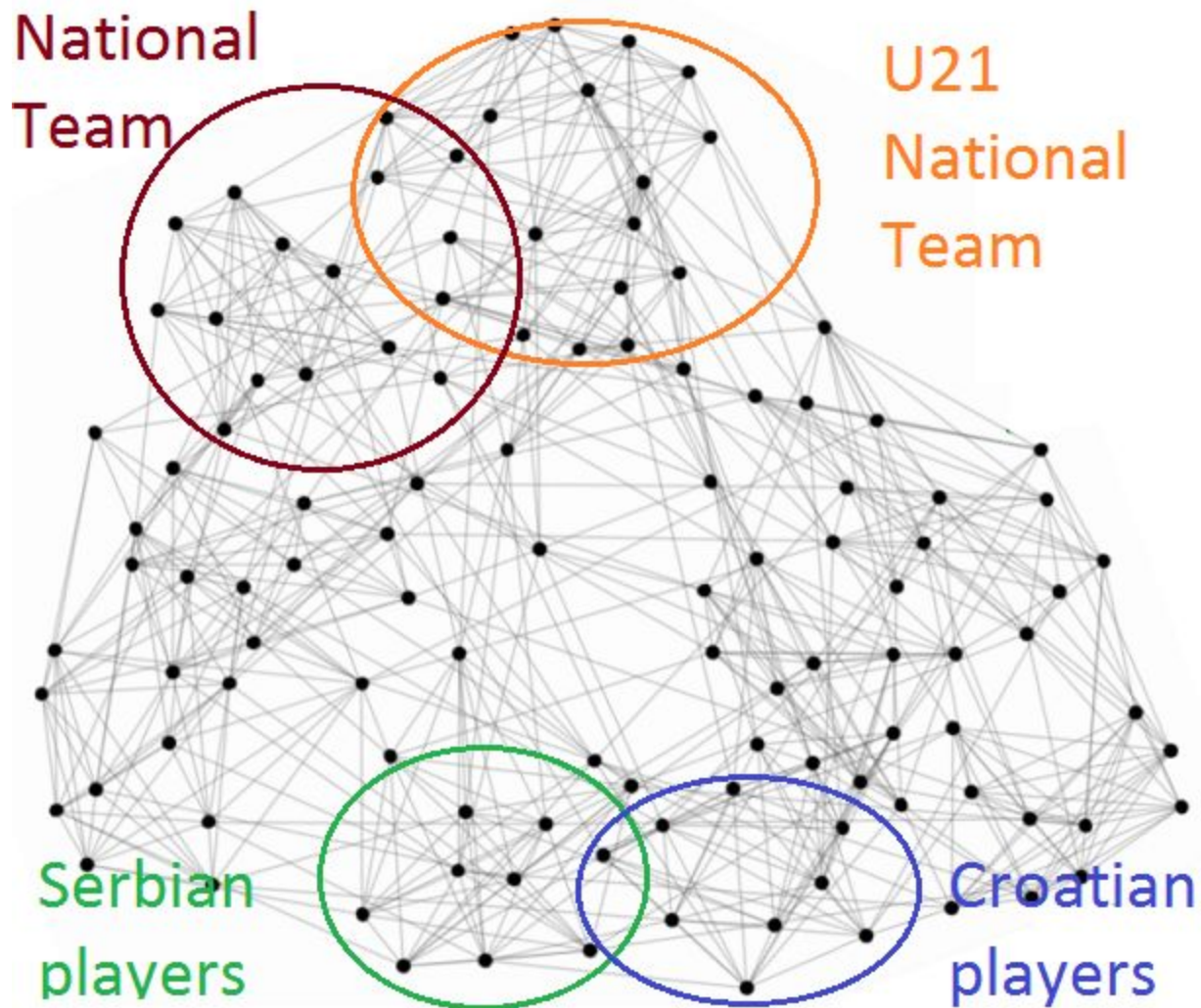
Example – Soccer teams

Example – Non-overlapping

Team 1

Team 2

Example – Non-overlapping

Rest

Defenders

Example – Overlapping

National Team

U21 National Team

Serbian players

Croatian players

Example

Example

What makes community?

- Mutuality of edges.
  - Almost everyone in the group has edge to one another
- Compactness.
  - Closeness or reachability of group members in small number of steps, not necessarily adjacency
- Density of edges.
  - High frequency of edges within the group
- Separation.
  - Higher frequency of ties among group members compared to non-members

Community density

- Network density:

$$\rho = \frac{m}{n(n-1)/2}$$

- Inter-community density:

$$\delta_{int}(C) = \frac{m_s}{n_s(n_s-1)/2}$$

- External edges density:

$$\delta_{ext}(C) = \frac{m_{ext}}{n_c(n-n_c)}$$

Community has:

$$\delta_{int} > \rho, \; \delta_{ext} < \rho$$

n_s – nodes in S , m_s – edges in S, m_{ext} – edges from S outside

Modularity

Modularity:

$$Q = \frac{1}{2m} \sum_{ij} \left(A_{ij} - \frac{k_i k_j}{2m} \right) \delta(c_i, c_j), = \sum_u (e_{uu} - a_u^2)$$

e_{uu} - fraction of edges within community u

$a_u = \sum_u e_{uv}$ - fraction of ends of edges attached to nodes in u

$$\delta_{ij} = \begin{cases} 0 & \text{if } i \neq j, \\ 1 & \text{if } i = j. \end{cases}$$ - Kronecker Delta

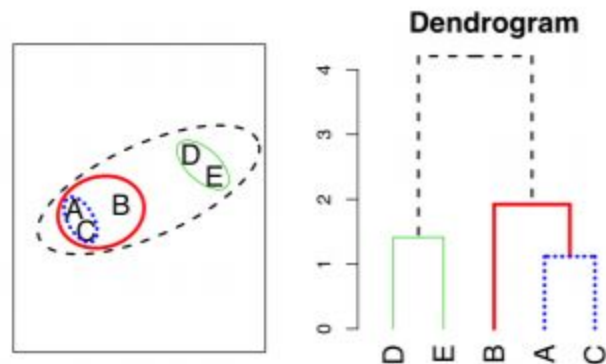Higher modularity score – better community
Single community – Q = 0

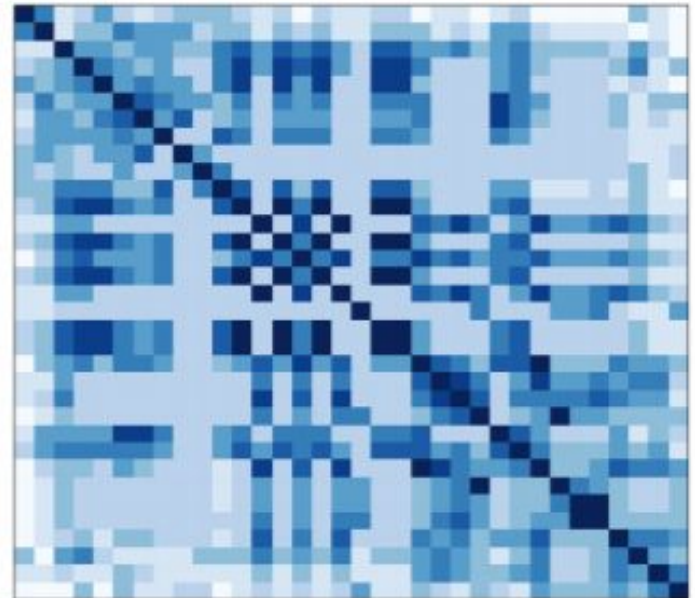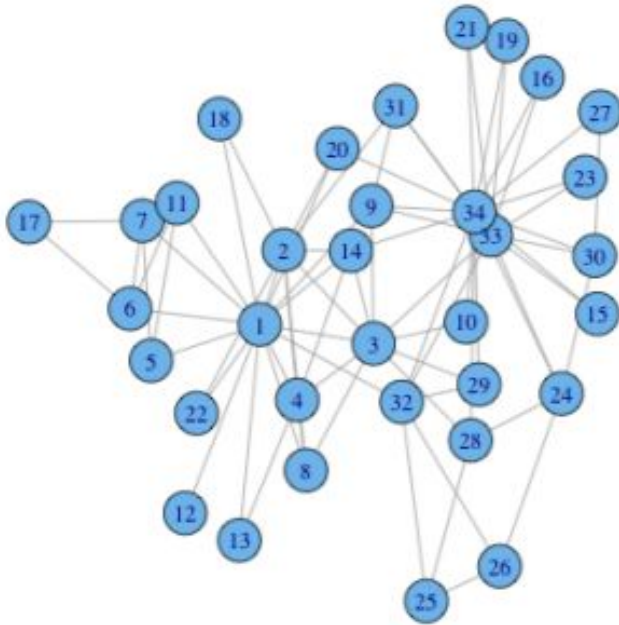# **Detection of Communities**

Similarity Based Clustering

- Define similarity between every two nodes:
  - Jaccard
  - Cosine
  - …
- Build similarity matrix (compute all-pairs similarity)
- Group together nodes with high similarity
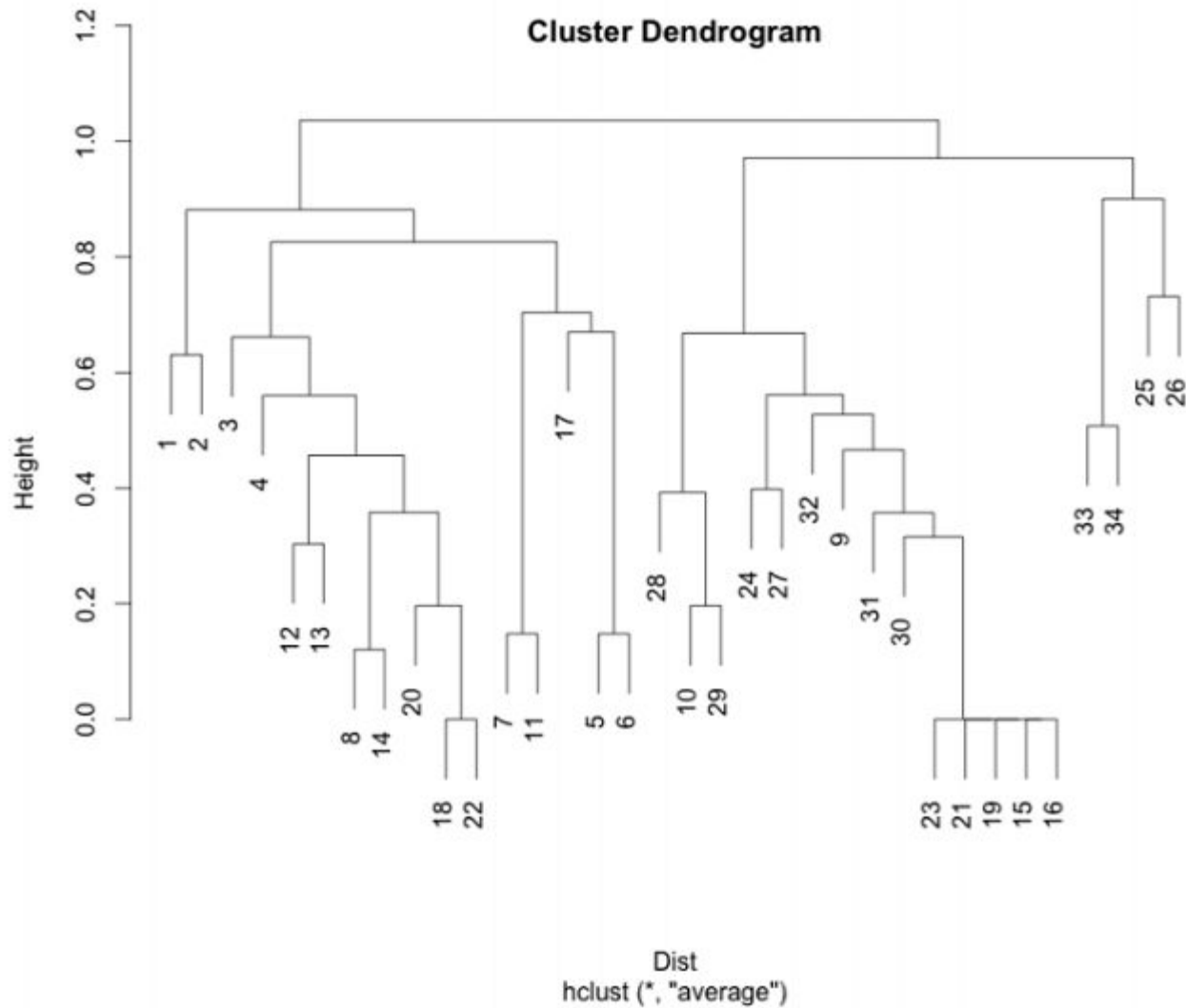
Agglomerative clustering

- Assign each vertex to a group of its own
- Find two groups with the highest similarity and join them in a single group
- Calculate similarity between groups:
  - single-linkage clustering (most similar in the group)
  - complete-linkage clustering (least similar in the group)
  - average-linkage clustering (mean similarity between groups)
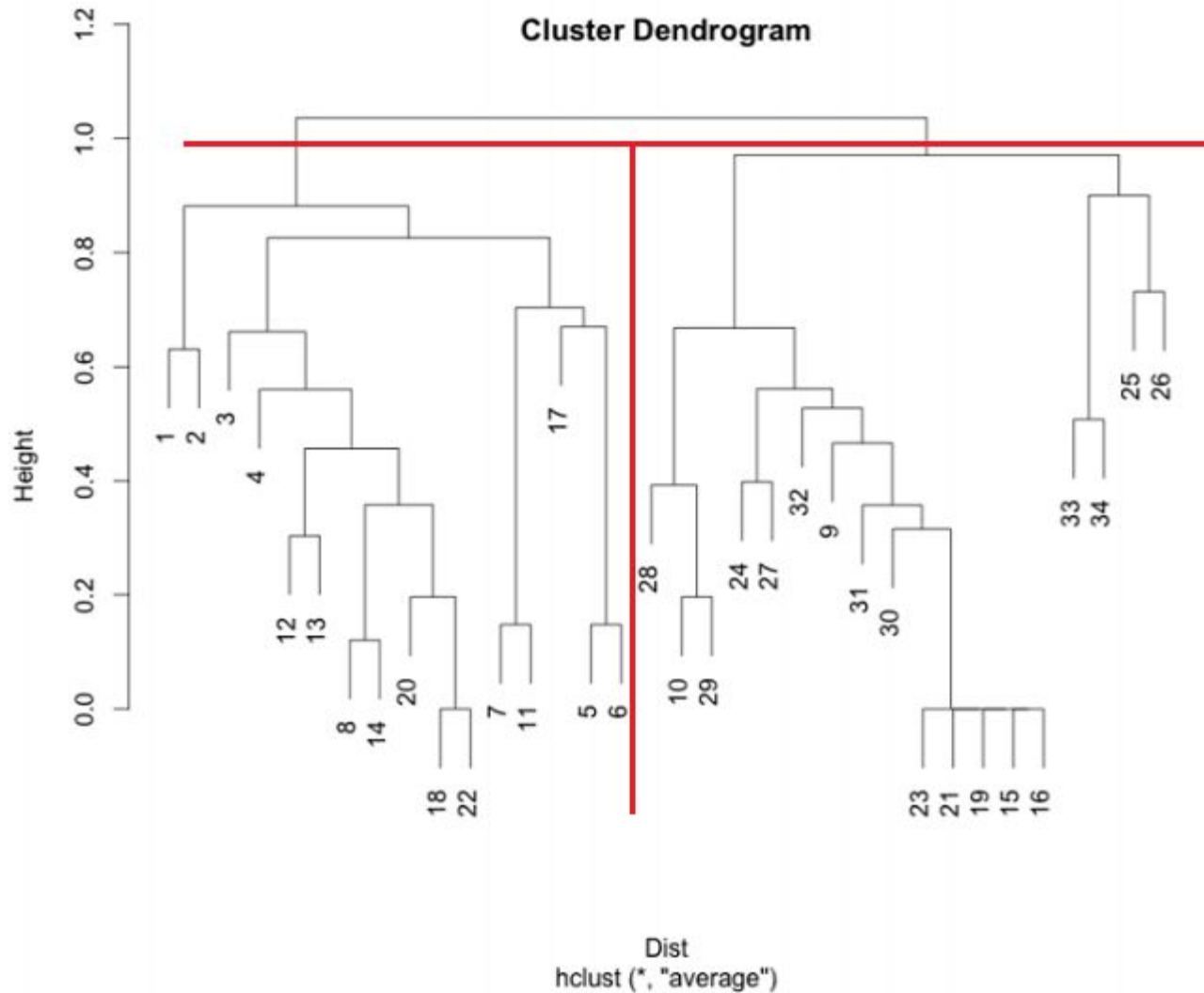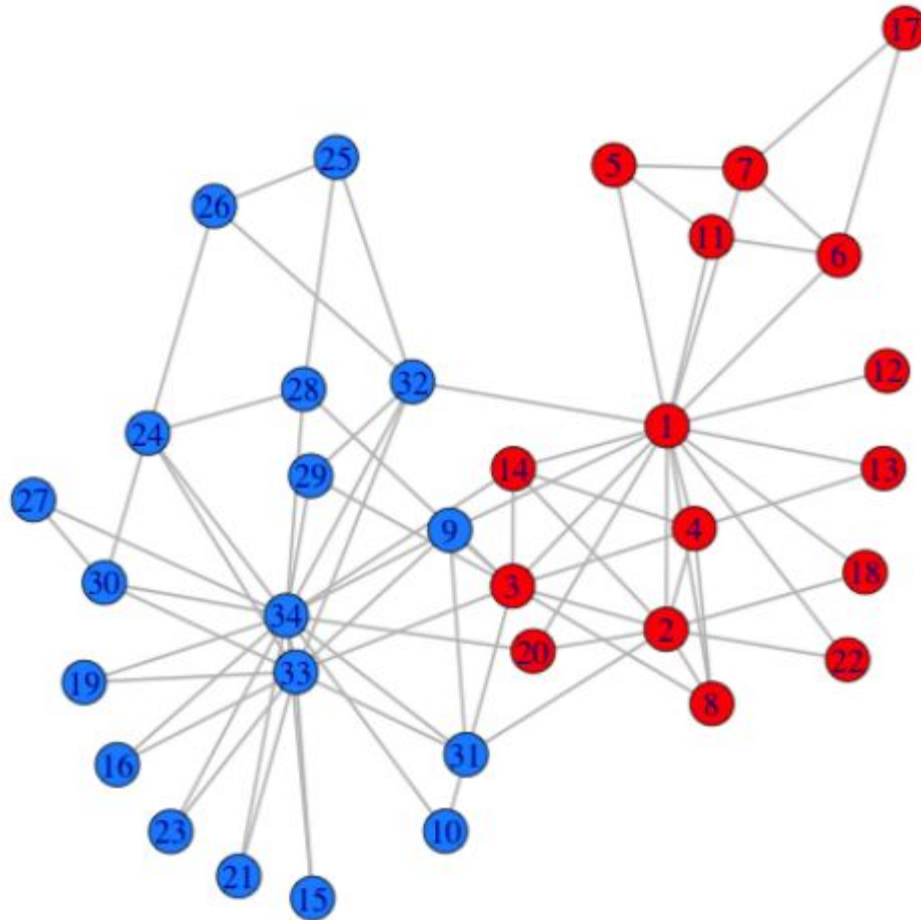- Repeat until all joined into single group
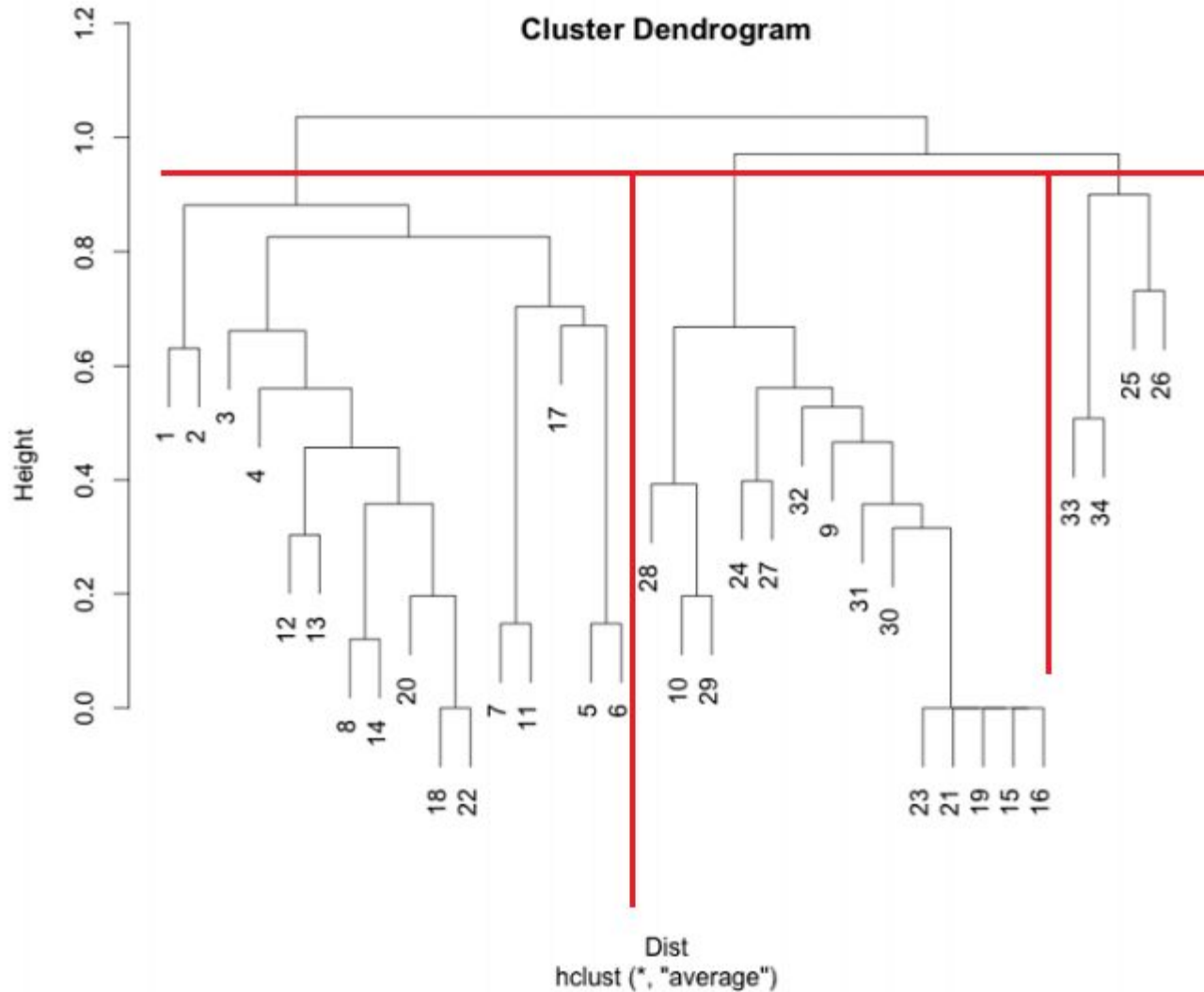

Dendrogram

Similarity

Karate club example

Cluster Dendrogram

Dist
hclust (*, "average")

Karate club example

Cluster Dendrogram

Dist
hclust (*, "average")

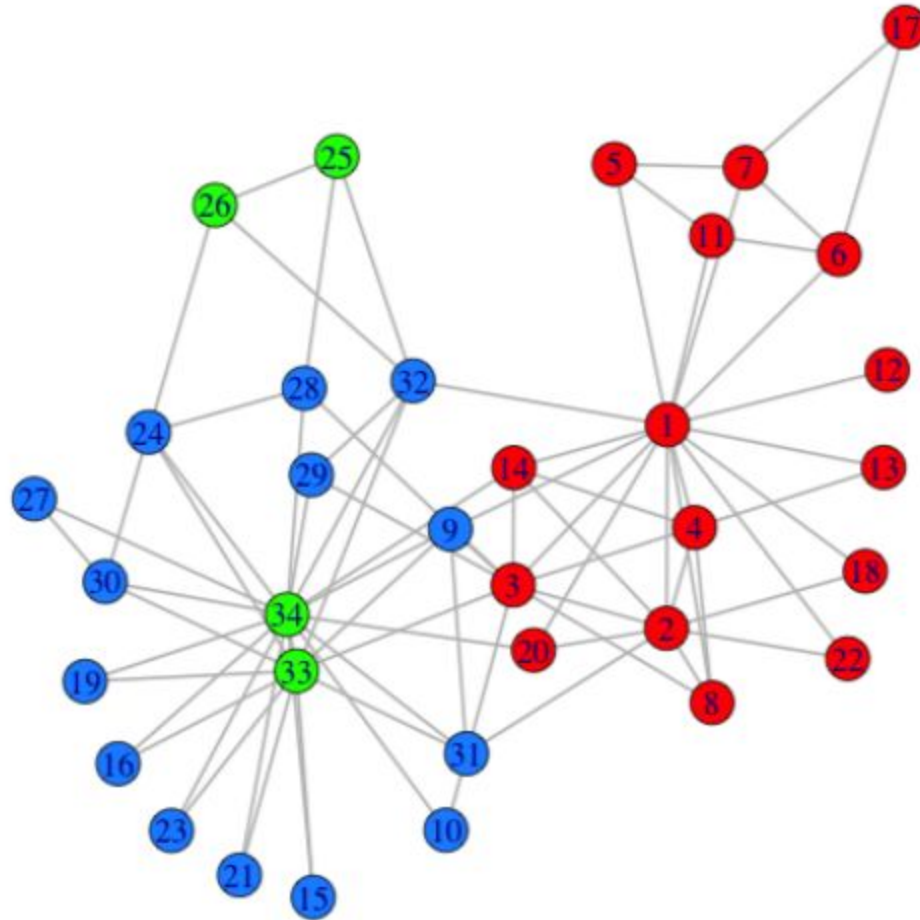# Karate club example

Karate club example

Cluster Dendrogram

Karate club example

Graph Partitioning

Combinatorial problem:

- Number of ways to divide n nodes into n1, n2 nodes (n1+n2 = n), bi-partitioning
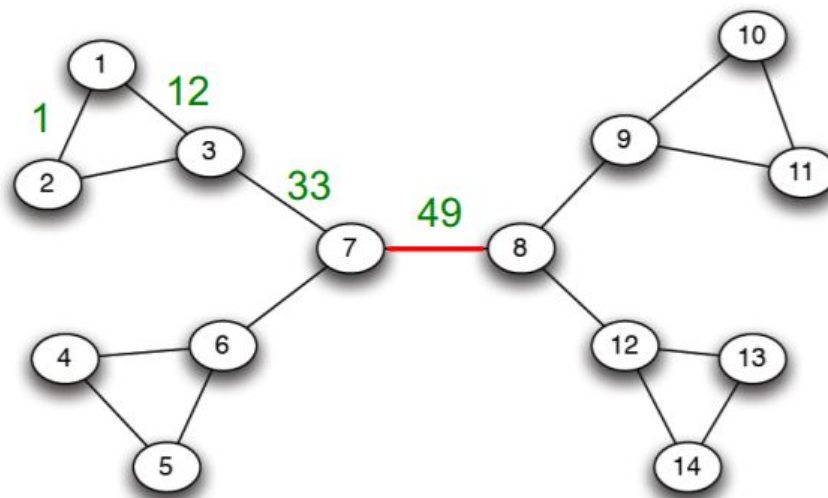
# of combinations = n! / (n1! * n2!)

Community Detection

- Setup:
  - Undirected sparse graph (m << n^2)
  - Non-overlapping communities
  - Each community should be connected
  - Exact solution NP-hard, hence we are using heuristics / approximate algorithms

Edge Betweenness

- Number of shortest paths going via edge e

$$C_B(e) = \sum_{s \neq t} \frac{\sigma_{st}(e)}{\sigma_{st}}$$

Newman-Girvan algorithm

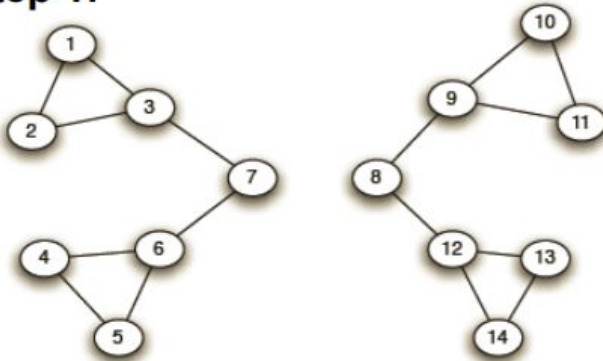**Algorithm:** Newman-Girvan, 2004

Input: graph G(V,E)

Output: Dendrogram

repeat

　　For all $e \in E$ compute edge betweenness $C_B(e)$;
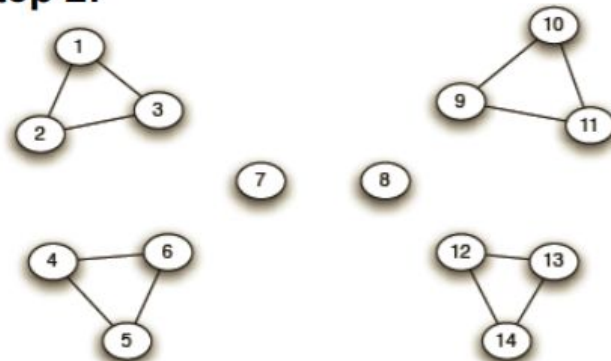
　　remove edge e_i with largest $C_B(e_i)$;
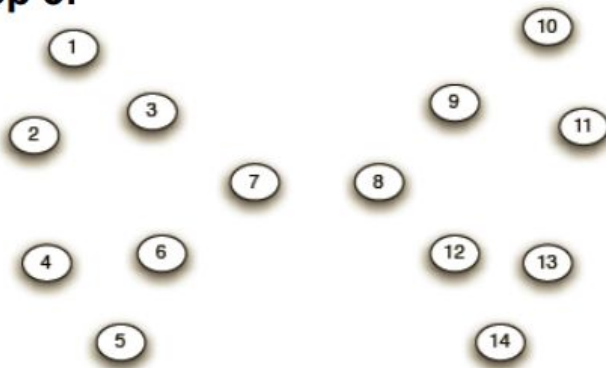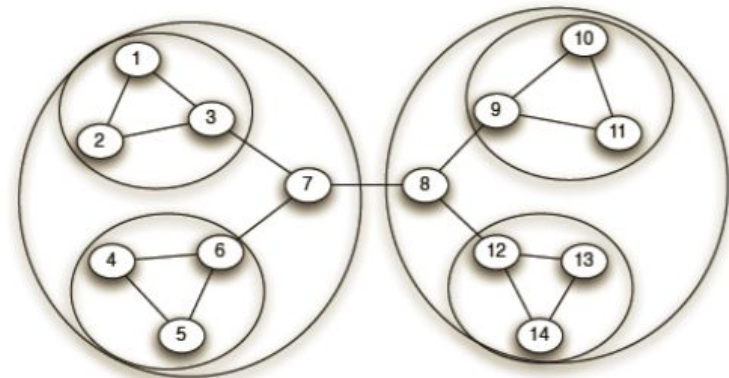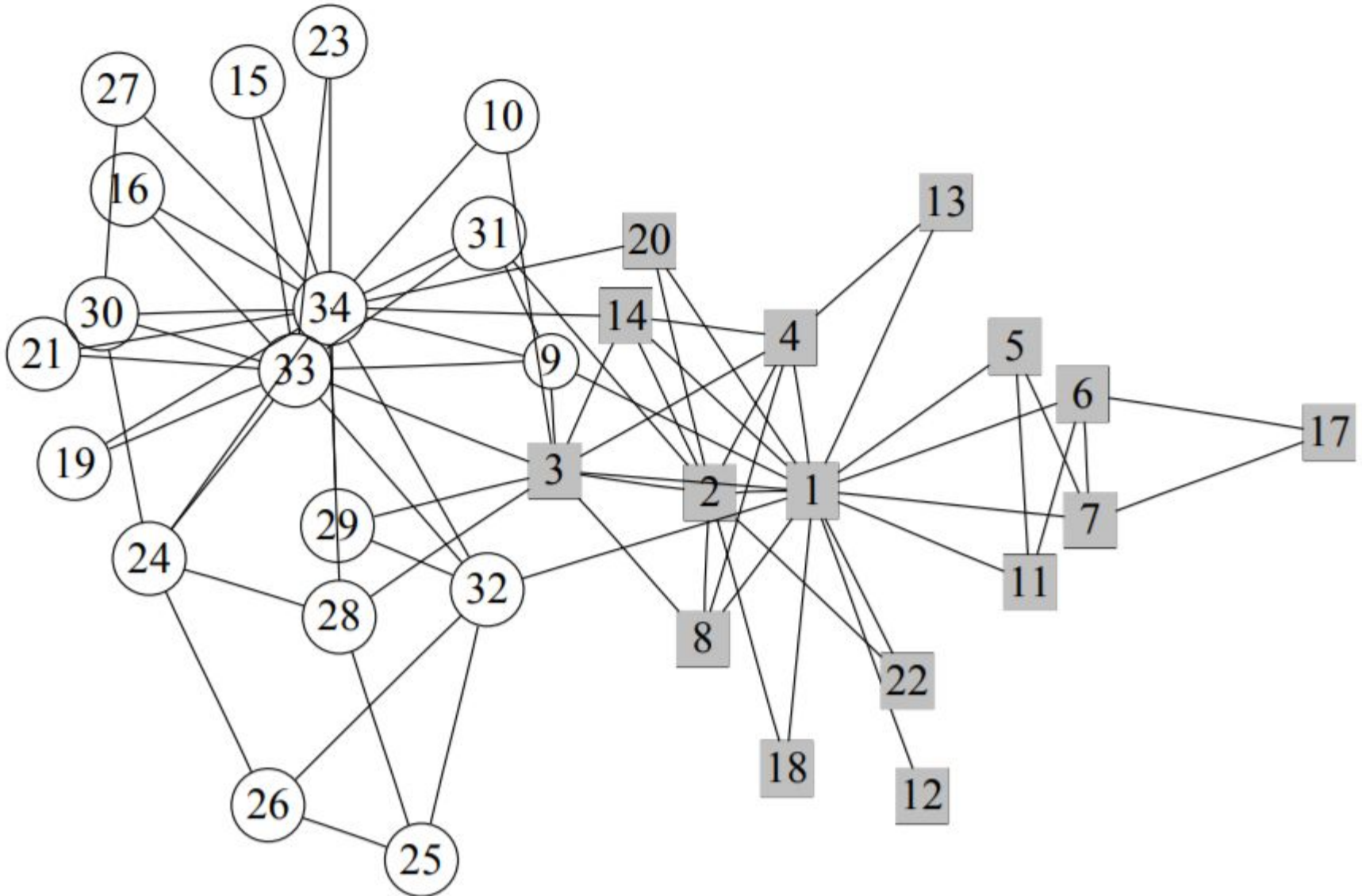
until *edges left*;

Step-by-step
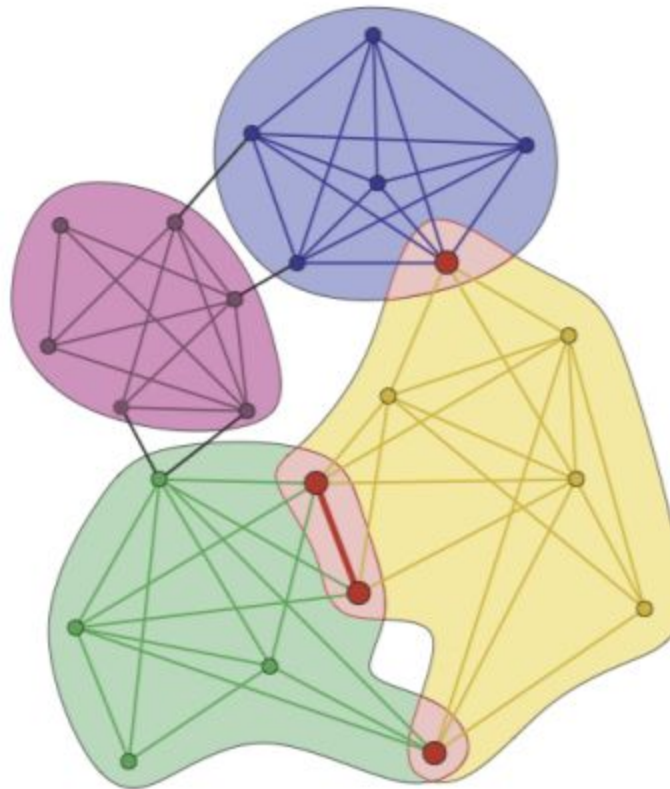
Karate club example

Karate club example

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Overlapping Communities

- Next lesson we will extend the community detection task to find overlapping communities

Thank you!
Questions?