



# Graphs in Machine Learning

## Spectral Clustering: Relaxation

Rayleigh-Ritz and RatioCut Approximation

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Partially based on material by: Ulrike von Luxburg,  
Gary Miller, Doyle & Schnell, Daniel Spielman



# Spectral Clustering: Relaxing Balanced Cuts

Relaxation for (simple) balanced cuts for 2 sets

$$\min_{A,B} \text{cut}(A, B) \quad \text{s.t.} \quad |A| = |B|$$

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What is the relationship with the **smoothness** of a graph function?

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$$\min_{\mathbf{f}} \mathbf{f}^T \mathbf{L} \mathbf{f} \quad \text{s.t.} \quad f_i = \pm 1, \quad \mathbf{f} \perp \mathbf{1}_N, \quad \|\mathbf{f}\| = \sqrt{N}$$

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$$\cancel{f_i = \pm 1} \rightarrow f_i \in \mathbb{R}$$



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Rayleigh-Ritz theorem

If  $\lambda_1 \leq \dots \leq \lambda_N$  are the eigenvalues of real symmetric  $\mathbf{L}$  then

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$$\lambda_N = \max_{\mathbf{x} \neq 0} \frac{\mathbf{x}^T \mathbf{L} \mathbf{x}}{\mathbf{x}^T \mathbf{x}} = \max_{\mathbf{x}^T \mathbf{x} = 1} \mathbf{x}^T \mathbf{L} \mathbf{x}$$

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How can we use it?

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Generalized Rayleigh-Ritz theorem (Courant-Fischer-Weyl)

If  $\lambda_1 \leq \dots \leq \lambda_N$  are the eigenvalues of real symmetric  $\mathbf{L}$  and  $\mathbf{v}_1, \dots, \mathbf{v}_N$  the corresponding orthogonal eigenvectors, then for  $k = 1 : N - 1$

$$\lambda_{k+1} = \min_{\mathbf{x} \neq 0, \mathbf{x} \perp \mathbf{v}_1, \dots, \mathbf{v}_k} \frac{\mathbf{x}^T \mathbf{L} \mathbf{x}}{\mathbf{x}^T \mathbf{x}} = \min_{\mathbf{x}^T \mathbf{x} = 1, \mathbf{x} \perp \mathbf{v}_1, \dots, \mathbf{v}_k} \mathbf{x}^T \mathbf{L} \mathbf{x}$$

$$\lambda_{N-k} = \max_{\mathbf{x} \neq 0, \mathbf{x} \perp \mathbf{v}_N, \dots, \mathbf{v}_{N-k+1}} \frac{\mathbf{x}^T \mathbf{L} \mathbf{x}}{\mathbf{x}^T \mathbf{x}} = \max_{\mathbf{x}^T \mathbf{x} = 1, \mathbf{x} \perp \mathbf{v}_N, \dots, \mathbf{v}_{N-k+1}} \mathbf{x}^T \mathbf{L} \mathbf{x}$$

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objective function of spectral clustering (same - it's magic!)

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<https://misovalko.github.io/mva-ml-graphs.html>

