CMSC 474, Introduction to Game Theory

21. Social Networks

Guest Lecturer: Aravind Srinivasan University of Maryland

Topics Covered

- 1. Networks come in a variety of forms: even social networks can mean online social networks, family and friends, social-contact networks etc.
- 2. Section 16.4 (Bayes' Rule in Herding) from Easley-Kleinberg: http://www.cs.cornell.edu/home/kleinber/networks-book/networks-bookch16.pdf
- 3. Early web-search, and how Kleinberg's hubs-and-authorities made link structure a fundamental ingredient: http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/HITS_algorithm (a brief discussion without going into the details of the algorithm)

• 4. Structural balance theory: Sections 5.1 and 5.2 from Easley-Kleinberg: http://www.cs.cornell.edu/home/kleinber/networks-book/networks-bookch05.pdf, as well as a very quick discussion of the dynamics of network sentiment from http://www.pnas.org/content/early/2010/12/27/1013213108.full.pdf+html

Topics Covered

- 5. Brief discussion of maximizing influence: http://www.cs.cornell.edu/home/kleinber/kdd03-inf.pdf
- 6. The network effect, protests, the Mac commercial from Super Bowl 1984: brief discussion of Section 19.6 from http://www.cs.cornell.edu/home/kleinber/networksbook/networks-book.pdf
- 7. General discussion of how the social sciences are becoming "hard sciences" due to the availability of data.