

# Controllability of systems defined on graphs

Kanat Camlibel

Johann Bernoulli Institute of Mathematics and Computer Science  
University of Groningen

Jan C. Willems Center for Systems and Control

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# joint work with

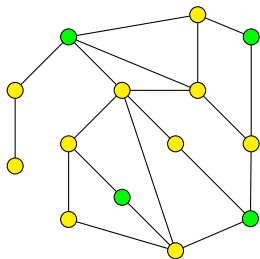
(in alphabetical order)

- Ming Cao
- Nima Monshizadeh
- Shuo Zhang

# outline

- diffusively coupled leader/follower systems
- controllability (a geometric approach)
- graph partitions
- lower/upper bounds for controllable subspace
- systems defined on graphs
- zero forcing and leader selection
- conclusions

# diffusively coupled leader/follower systems



$p$  agents  $V = \{1, 2, \dots, p\}$

communication topology

$G = (V, E)$  an undirected graph

$\ell$  leaders  $V_L = \{v_1, v_2, \dots, v_\ell\}$

$p - \ell$  followers  $V_F = V \setminus V_L$

followers



$$\dot{x}_i = z_i$$

leaders



$$\dot{x}_i = z_i + \mathbf{u}_k \quad \text{where } i = v_k \in V_L$$

diffusive coupling 
$$z_i = \sum_{(i,j) \in E} (x_j - x_i)$$

## overall dynamics

if  $i$  is a follower  $\dot{x}_i = z_i$

if  $i$  is the  $k$ th leader  $\dot{x}_i = z_i + u_k$  where  $i = v_k \in V_L$

diffusive coupling  $z_i = \sum_{(i,j) \in E} (x_j - x_i)$

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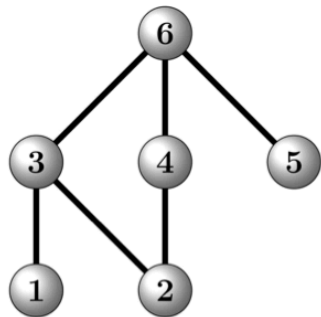
$$x = \text{col}(x_1, x_2, \dots, x_p) \quad u = \text{col}(u_1, u_2, \dots, u_\ell)$$

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$$\dot{x} = -Lx + Mu$$

$$M_{ik} = \begin{cases} 1 & \text{if } i = v_k \\ 0 & \text{otherwise.} \end{cases}$$

# Laplacian of a graph



adjacency matrix:

$$A_{ij}(G) = \begin{cases} 1 & \text{if } (i, j) \in E \\ 0 & \text{otherwise} \end{cases}$$

degree matrix:

$$D(G) = \text{diag}(d_1, d_2, \dots, d_N)$$

Laplacian:

$$L(G) = D(G) - A(G)$$

$A$

||

$$\begin{bmatrix} 0 & 0 & 1 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 & 1 & 0 & 0 \\ 1 & 1 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 1 \\ 0 & 1 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 1 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 1 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 & 1 & 1 & 0 \end{bmatrix}$$

$D$

||

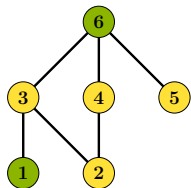
$$\begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 2 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 3 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 2 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 3 \end{bmatrix}$$

$L$

||

$$\begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 & -1 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 2 & -1 & -1 & 0 & 0 \\ -1 & -1 & 3 & 0 & 0 & -1 \\ 0 & -1 & 0 & 2 & 0 & -1 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 1 & -1 \\ 0 & 0 & -1 & -1 & -1 & 3 \end{bmatrix}$$

## example



$$V = \{1, 2, \dots, 6\}$$

$$V_L = \{1, 6\}$$

$$V_F = \{2, 3, 4, 5\}$$

$$\begin{bmatrix} \dot{x}_1 \\ \dot{x}_2 \\ \dot{x}_3 \\ \dot{x}_4 \\ \dot{x}_5 \\ \dot{x}_6 \end{bmatrix} = - \underbrace{\begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 & -1 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 2 & -1 & -1 & 0 & 0 \\ -1 & -1 & 3 & 0 & 0 & -1 \\ 0 & -1 & 0 & 2 & 0 & -1 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 1 & -1 \\ 0 & 0 & -1 & -1 & -1 & 3 \end{bmatrix}}_L \begin{bmatrix} x_1 \\ x_2 \\ x_3 \\ x_4 \\ x_5 \\ x_6 \end{bmatrix} + \underbrace{\begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 \end{bmatrix}}_M \begin{bmatrix} u_1 \\ u_2 \end{bmatrix}$$

$$\text{rank} [M \quad LM \quad \dots \quad L^5 M] = 6.$$

# controllability of diffusively coupled leader/follower systems

$$\dot{x} = Lx + Mu$$

- 
- graph topological conditions
  - leader selection method
  - minimum number of leaders
- 

## geometric approach

- A subspace  $\mathcal{W} \subseteq \mathbb{R}^p$  is ***L*-invariant** if  $Lw \in \mathcal{W}$  whenever  $w \in \mathcal{W}$ .
- A subspace  $\mathcal{W} = \text{im } W$  is ***L*-invariant** if and only if there exists a matrix  $Q$  such that  $LW = WQ$ .  $\text{im} \equiv \text{range}$
- The **controllable subspace**

$$\langle L \mid \text{im } M \rangle := \text{im } M + L \text{im } M + \cdots + L^{p-1} \text{im } M = \text{im} [M \quad LM \quad \cdots \quad L^{p-1}M]$$

is the **smallest *L*-invariant subspace that contains  $\text{im } M$** .



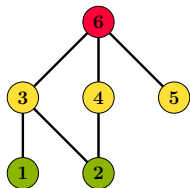
# partitions

$$G = (V, E)$$

Any subset  $C$  of  $V$  is called a *cell*.

A collection of cells  $\pi = \{C_1, C_2, \dots, C_k\}$  is called a *partition* if  $C_i \cap C_j = \emptyset$  for  $i \neq j$  and  $\cup_i C_i = V$ .

The *characteristic matrix* of a partition  $\pi$  is defined as  $P_{ij}(\pi) = \begin{cases} 1 & \text{if } i \in C_j \\ 0 & \text{otherwise.} \end{cases}$



$$\pi = \{\{1, 2\}, \{3, 4, 5\}, \{6\}\}$$

$$P(\pi) = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 & 0 \\ 1 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 \end{bmatrix}$$

## distance partition

**Def.** For any two vertices  $v, w \in V$ ,  $\text{dist}(v, w)$  = the length of the shortest path.

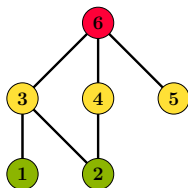
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**Def.** For a given vertex  $v \in V$ , let  $C_i = \{w \in V \mid \text{dist}(v, w) = i\}$  for  $i \geq 1$ . The *distance partition w.r.t.  $v$*  is the partition

$$\pi_D(v) = \{\{v\}, C_1, C_2, \dots, C_k\}.$$

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**Ex.**



$$v = 6$$

$$C_1 = \{3, 4, 5\}$$

$$C_2 = \{1, 2\}$$

$$\pi_D(6) = \{\{6\}, \{3, 4, 5\}, \{1, 2\}\}$$

## a lower bound for the controllable subspace

**Thm.** Consider a multi-agent system  $\dot{x} = Lx + Mu$  with the leader set  $V_L$ . Then,

$$\dim(\langle L \mid \text{im } M \rangle) \geq \max\{\text{card}(\pi_D(v)) \mid v \in V_L\}.$$

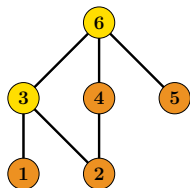
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**Question.** Upper bound?

## almost equitable partitions

**Def.** A partition  $\pi = \{C_1, C_2, \dots, C_k\}$  is said to be *almost equitable* if for any pair  $(i, j)$  with  $1 \leq i \neq j \leq k$ , there exists a number  $b_{ij}$  such that any vertex  $v \in C_i$  has  $b_{ij}$  neighbors in  $C_j$ .

**Ex.**  $\pi = \{\{1, 2, 4, 5\}, \{3, 6\}\}$



$$\underbrace{\begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 & -1 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 2 & -1 & -1 & 0 & 0 \\ -1 & -1 & 3 & 0 & 0 & -1 \\ 0 & -1 & 0 & 2 & 0 & -1 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 1 & -1 \\ 0 & 0 & -1 & -1 & -1 & 3 \end{bmatrix}}_L \underbrace{\begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 \\ 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 \\ 1 & 0 \\ 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 \end{bmatrix}}_{P(\pi)} = \underbrace{\begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 \\ 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 \\ 1 & 0 \\ 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 \end{bmatrix}}_{P(\pi)} \begin{bmatrix} 1 & -1 \\ -2 & 2 \end{bmatrix}$$

## almost equitability and $L$ -invariance

**Lem.** A partition  $\pi$  is almost equitable if and only if  $\text{im } P(\pi)$  is  $L$ -invariant.

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**Fact.** The controllable subspace  $\langle L \mid \text{im } M \rangle$  is the **smallest  $L$ -invariant** subspace containing  $\text{im } M$ .

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**Obs.** Consider a multi-agent system  $\dot{x} = Lx + Mu$  with the leader set  $V_L = \{v_1, v_2, \dots, v_\ell\}$ . If

$$\pi = \{\{v_1\}, \{v_2\}, \dots, \{v_\ell\}, C_1, C_2, \dots, C_k\}$$

is an almost equitable partition, then

$$\text{im } P(\pi) \text{ is } L\text{-invariant} \quad \text{and} \quad \text{im } M \subseteq \text{im } P(\pi).$$

Hence,

$$\langle L \mid \text{im } M \rangle \subseteq \text{im } P(\pi).$$

## a partial order on partitions

**Def.** A partition  $\pi_1$  is *finer* than  $\pi_2$  if each cell of  $\pi_1$  is a subset of some cell of  $\pi_2$ .

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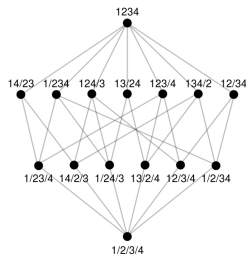
**Notation.**  $\pi_1 \leq \pi_2$       **Ex.**  $\{\{1, 2\}, \{3, 4\}, \{5\}, \{6\}\} \leq \{\{1, 2\}, \{3, 4, 5\}, \{6\}\}$ .

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**Obs.**  $\pi_1 \leq \pi_2 \iff \text{im } P(\pi_1) \supseteq \text{im } P(\pi_2)$ .

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**Fact.** The set of all partitions  $\Pi$  is a **complete lattice** w.r.t. “ $\leq$ ”.



Bell numbers

$p$	$B_p$
1	1
2	2
3	5
4	15
5	52
6	203

## maximal almost equitable partition

**Lem.** Let  $\Pi_{AEP}$  denote the set of **all almost equitable partitions**. For a given partition  $\pi_0$ , define

$$\Pi_{AEP}(\pi_0) = \{\pi \mid \pi \in \Pi_{AEP} \text{ and } \pi \leq \pi_0\}.$$

Then,

$$\pi_{AEP}^*(\pi_0) := \sup \Pi_{AEP}(\pi_0)$$

is almost equitable.

# controllability

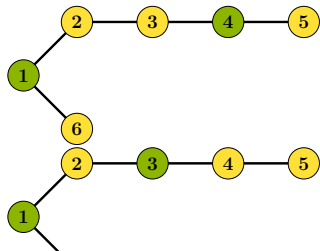
**Thm.** Consider a multi-agent system with single integrator dynamics  $\dot{x} = Lx + Mu$  with the leader set  $V_L = \{v_1, v_2, \dots, v_\ell\}$ . Let

$$\pi_L = \{\{v_1\}, \{v_2\}, \dots, \{v_\ell\}, V \setminus V_L\}.$$

Then,

$$\max\{\text{card}(\pi_D(v)) \mid v \in V_L\} \leq \dim(\langle L \mid \text{im } M \rangle)$$

$$\langle L \mid \text{im } M \rangle \subseteq \text{im } P(\pi_{AEP}^*(\pi_L)).$$



lower bound =  $\dim(\langle L \mid \text{im } M \rangle)$

$\langle L \mid \text{im } M \rangle \subset$  upper bound.

lower bound <  $\dim(\langle L \mid \text{im } M \rangle)$

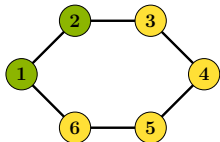


# leader selection

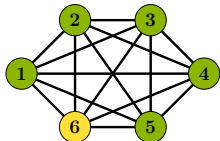
- path graphs (minimum = 1)



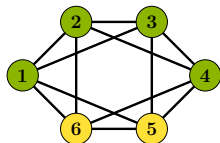
- cycle graphs (minimum = 2)



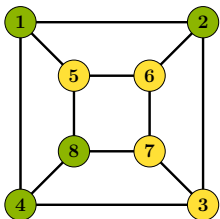
- complete graphs (minimum =  $p - 1$ )



- circulant graphs (not minimum)



- distance-regular graphs (not minimum)



# diffusively coupled leader/follower systems

- $p$  agents  $V = \{1, 2, \dots, p\}$
- communication topology  $G = (V, E)$  an undirected graph
- $\ell$  leaders  $V_L = \{v_1, v_2, \dots, v_\ell\}$  with the dynamics

$$\dot{x}_i = Ax_i + Cz_i + Bu_k \quad \text{where } i = v_k \in V_L$$

- $p - \ell$  followers  $V_F = V \setminus V_L$  with the dynamics

$$\dot{x}_i = Ax_i + Cz_i \quad \text{where } i \in V_F$$

- $x_i \in \mathbb{R}^n$  state     $z_i \in \mathbb{R}^q$  coupling     $u_j \in \mathbb{R}^m$  input
- diffusive coupling

$$z_i = K \sum_{(i,j) \in E} (x_j - x_i)$$

## overall dynamics

if  $i$  is the  $k$ th leader  $\dot{x}_i = Ax_i + Cz_i + Bu_k$

if  $i$  is a follower  $\dot{x}_i = Ax_i + Cz_i$

diffusive coupling  $z_i = K \sum_{(i,j) \in E} (x_j - x_i)$

$$x = \text{col}(x_1, x_2, \dots, x_p) \quad u = \text{col}(u_1, u_2, \dots, u_\ell)$$

$$\dot{x} = \overbrace{(I \otimes A - L \otimes CK)}^{\hat{L}} x + \overbrace{(M \otimes B)}^{\hat{M}} u$$

$$M_{ij} = \begin{cases} 1 & \text{if } i = v_j \\ 0 & \text{otherwise.} \end{cases}$$

# controllability of diffusively coupled leader/follower systems

**Thm.** The system  $\dot{x} = \hat{L}x + \hat{M}u$  where

$$\hat{L} = I \otimes A - L \otimes CK \quad \text{and} \quad \hat{M} = M \otimes B$$

is controllable if and only if

- 1  $\Sigma(L, M)$  is controllable, and
- 2  $\Sigma(A - \lambda CK, B)$  is controllable for each  $\lambda \in \sigma(L)$ .

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second condition is automatically satisfied by

- single integrator (obvious)
- double integrator (Goldin and Raisch, 2010)
- higher order integrators (Jiang et al, 2009)

# systems defined on graphs

so far

$$\dot{x} = Lx + Mu$$

$L$  is the Laplacian of a graph  $G = (V, E)$  and  $M$  encodes a leader set  $V_L \subseteq V$ .

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from now on

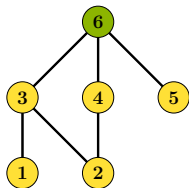
$$\dot{x} = Xx + Mu$$

where  $X \in \mathcal{Q}(G)$  with  $\mathcal{Q}(G)$  is the *qualitative class* of a graph  $G = (V, E)$

$$\mathcal{Q}(G) = \{Y \mid Y_{ij} \neq 0 \text{ for } i \neq j \Leftrightarrow (i, j) \in E\}$$

and  $M$  encodes a leader set  $V_L \subseteq V$ .

---



$$X = \begin{bmatrix} ? & 0 & * & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & ? & * & * & 0 & 0 \\ * & * & ? & 0 & 0 & * \\ 0 & * & 0 & ? & 0 & * \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & ? & * \\ 0 & 0 & * & * & * & ? \end{bmatrix}$$

$$M = \begin{bmatrix} 0 \\ 0 \\ 0 \\ 0 \\ 0 \\ 1 \end{bmatrix}$$

\* : nonzero

? : arbitrary

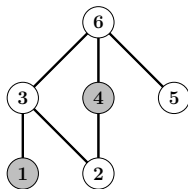
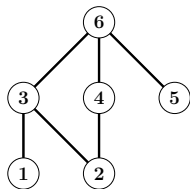
- $(X:V_L)$  is controllable  $\Leftrightarrow (X, M)$  is controllable.

## zero forcing

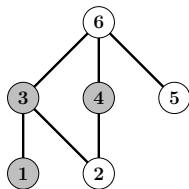
**recipe** given a graph  $G = (V, E)$  and a subset  $W$  of  $V$

- 1 color the vertices in  $W$  **black**
- 2 if  $w$  is a black and has **only one white neighbor**  $v$ , color  $v$  black
- 3 repeat the step 2 until there is no white to color black
- 4 define  $D(W)$ , the **derived set of  $W$** , as the set of all black vertices at the end

Ex.



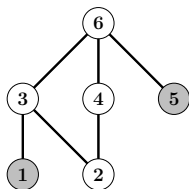
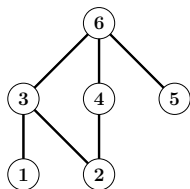
$$W = \{1, 4\}$$



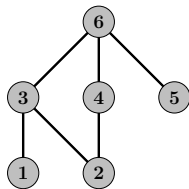
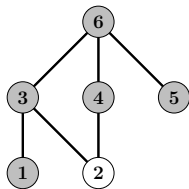
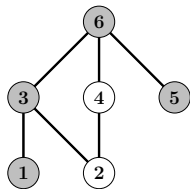
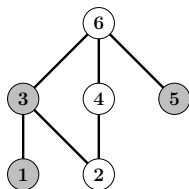
$$D(W) = \{1, 3, 4\}$$

# zero forcing cont'd

Another ex.



$$W = \{1, 5\}$$



$$D(W) = \{1, 2, \dots, 6\}$$

## zero forcing and controllability

$$G = (V, E)$$

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$\dot{x} = Xx + Mu$  where  $X \in \mathcal{Q}(G) := \{Y \mid Y_{ij} \neq 0 \text{ for } i \neq j \Leftrightarrow (i, j) \in E\}$  and  $M$  encodes a leader set  $V_L \subseteq V$ .

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$(G; V_L)$  is controllable  $\iff (X; V_L)$  is controllable for all  $X \in \mathcal{Q}(G)$ .

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**Thm.**  $(G, V_L)$  is controllable  $\iff (G, D(V_L))$  is controllable.

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**Def.** A set  $W \subseteq V$  is a *zero forcing set* for  $G$  if  $D(W) = V$ . The *zero forcing number*  $Z(G)$  is the minimum of  $\text{card}(W)$  over all zero forcing sets  $W$ .

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**Thm.** The following statements hold:

- 1  $(G, V_L)$  is controllable  $\iff V_L$  is a zero forcing set.
- 2  $\ell_{\min}(G) = Z(G)$ .



# zero forcing set and leader selection

- **in general** computing the zero forcing number is an **NP-hard** problem (Aazami, 2008)
- for **tree** graphs: polynomial-time algorithms exist (Hogben, 2010)
- existing **leader selection** methods for **Laplacian** controllability are actually based on zero forcing set/number:

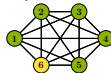
- ▶ path graphs (**minimum = 1**)



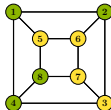
- ▶ cycle graphs (**minimum = 2**)



- ▶ complete graphs (**minimum =  $p - 1$** )



- ▶ distance-regular graphs (**not necessarily minimum**)



# conclusions

## controllability for

- $\dot{x} = Lx + Mu$  : graph topological lower/upper bounds
- $\dot{x} = (I \otimes A - L \otimes CK)x + (M \otimes B)u$  : algebraic necessary and sufficient conditions
- $\dot{x} = Xx + Mu$ ,  $X \in \mathcal{Q}(G)$ : topological necessary and sufficient conditions and leader selection method

## extensions:

- all results are still valid if the graph  $G = (V, E)$  directed and/or weighted
- stronger results for special classes of graphs (such as path, cycle, complete, tree, distance-regular, etc.)
- output controllability
- controllability of switching systems defined on graphs

## future work:

- applications of zero forcing notions to other control problems
  - ▶ disturbance decoupling problem
  - ▶ fault detection