

Measures of centrality

Last updated: 2019/01/14, 22:05:08

Complex Networks | @networksvox
CSYS/MATH 303, Spring, 2019

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Measures of
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Centrality
measures

- Degree centrality
- Closeness centrality
- Betweenness
- Eigenvalue centrality
- Hubs and Authorities

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Sealie & Lambie
Productions



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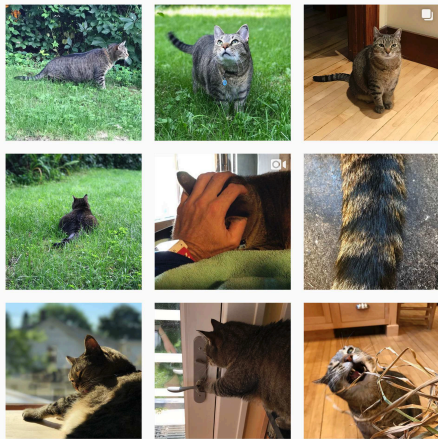


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 On Instagram at [pratchett_the_cat](https://www.instagram.com/pratchett_the_cat) 



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How big is my node?

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Measures of
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 **Basic question:** how 'important' are specific nodes and edges in a network?

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 An important node or edge might:

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How big is my node?

 **Basic question:** how 'important' are specific nodes and edges in a network?

 An **important node or edge** might:

1. **handle** a relatively large amount of the network's traffic (e.g., cars, information);

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 So how do we quantify such a slippery concept as importance?

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 So how do we quantify such a slippery concept as importance?

 We generate ad hoc, reasonable measures, and examine their utility ...

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 One possible reflection of importance is **centrality**.

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- One possible reflection of importance is **centrality**.
- Presumption is that nodes or edges that are (in some sense) in the middle of a network are important for the network's function.

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- Idea of centrality comes from social networks literature^[7].

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- Idea of centrality comes from social networks literature^[7].
- Many flavors of centrality ...
 - Many are topological and quasi-dynamical;
 - Some are based on dynamics (e.g., traffic).

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- We will define and examine a few ...

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- Many flavors of centrality ...
 - Many are topological and quasi-dynamical;
 - Some are based on dynamics (e.g., traffic).
- We will define and examine a few ...
- (Later: see centrality useful in identifying communities in networks.)

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Degree centrality


 Naively estimate importance by **node degree**. [7]


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 Naively estimate importance by **node degree**. [7]

 **Doh:** assumes linearity
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 **Doh:** doesn't take in any non-local information.

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Closeness centrality



Idea: Nodes are more central if they can reach other nodes 'easily.'

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Closeness centrality

 **Idea:** Nodes are more central if they can reach other nodes 'easily.'

 Measure average shortest path from a node to all other nodes.

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Closeness centrality

-  **Idea:** Nodes are more central if they can reach other nodes 'easily.'
-  Measure average shortest path from a node to all other nodes.
-  Define **Closeness Centrality** for node i as


$$\frac{N - 1}{\sum_{j, j \neq i} (\text{shortest distance from } i \text{ to } j)}.$$



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-  General problem with simple centrality measures: what do they exactly mean?




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 Unclear what the exact values of this measure tells us because of its ad-hocness.

 General problem with simple centrality measures: what do they exactly mean?

 Perhaps, at least, we obtain an ordering of nodes in terms of 'importance.'



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Betweenness centrality

 **Betweenness centrality** is based on coherence of shortest paths in a network.

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Betweenness centrality

 **Betweenness centrality** is based on coherence of shortest paths in a network.

 **Idea:** If the quickest way between any two nodes on a network disproportionately involves certain nodes, then they are 'important' in terms of global cohesion.

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-  **Betweenness centrality** is based on coherence of shortest paths in a network.
-  **Idea:** If the quickest way between any two nodes on a network disproportionately involves certain nodes, then they are 'important' in terms of global cohesion.
-  For each node i , count how many shortest paths pass through i .

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-  Call frequency of shortest paths passing through node i the betweenness of i , B_i .

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-  Note: Exclude shortest paths between i and other nodes.
-  Note: works for weighted and unweighted networks.

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Consider a network with N nodes and m edges
(possibly weighted).

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 Consider a network with N nodes and m edges (possibly weighted).

 **Computational goal:** Find $\binom{N}{2}$ shortest paths  between all pairs of nodes.

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 Consider a network with N nodes and m edges (possibly weighted).

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 Traditionally use Floyd-Warshall ↗ algorithm.



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 Computation time grows as $O(N^3)$.


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1. Dijkstra's algorithm  for finding shortest path between two specific nodes,



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
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 See also:


1. Dijkstra's algorithm  for finding shortest path between two specific nodes,
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
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 Newman (2001) ^[4, 5] and Brandes (2001) ^[1] independently derive equally fast algorithms that also compute betweenness.



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
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
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 Computation times grow as:

1. $O(mN)$ for unweighted graphs;
2. and $O(mN + N^2 \log N)$ for weighted graphs.

Shortest path between node i and all others:

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Shortest path between node i and all others:

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 Use **breadth-first search**:

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Shortest path between node i and all others:



Consider unweighted networks.



Use **breadth-first search**:

1. Start at node i , giving it a distance $d = 0$ from itself.

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Shortest path between node i and all others:



Consider unweighted networks.



Use **breadth-first search**:

1. Start at node i , giving it a distance $d = 0$ from itself.
2. Create a list of all of i 's neighbors and label them being at a distance $d = 1$.

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4. Exclude any nodes already assigned a distance.



Shortest path between node i and all others:



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4. Exclude any nodes already assigned a distance.
5. Increment distance d by 1.
6. Label newly reached nodes as being at distance d .
7. Repeat steps 3 through 6 until all nodes are visited.



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4. Exclude any nodes already assigned a distance.
5. Increment distance d by 1.
6. Label newly reached nodes as being at distance d .
7. Repeat steps 3 through 6 until all nodes are visited.



Record which nodes link to which nodes moving out from i (former are 'predecessors' with respect to i 's shortest path structure).



Shortest path between node i and all others:



Consider unweighted networks.



Use **breadth-first search**:

1. Start at node i , giving it a distance $d = 0$ from itself.
2. Create a list of all of i 's neighbors and label them being at a distance $d = 1$.
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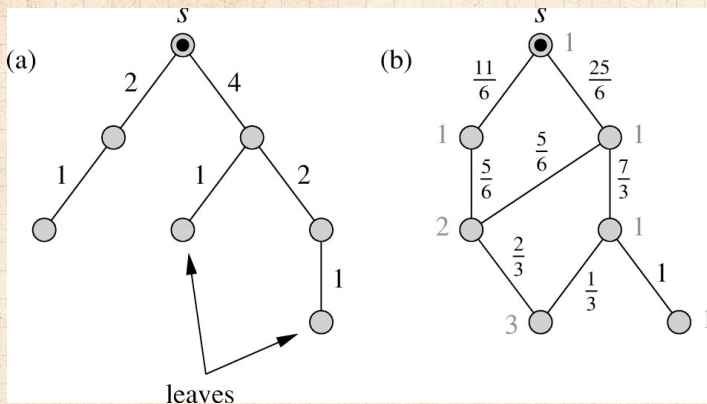
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Newman's Betweenness algorithm: [4]



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- Degree centrality
- Closeness centrality
- Betweenness**
- Eigenvalue centrality
- Hubs and Authorities

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Newman's Betweenness algorithm: ^[4]

1. Set all nodes to have a value $c_{ij} = 0, j = 1, \dots$
(c for count).

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6. Whenever more than one possibility exists, apportion **according to total number of short paths** coming through predecessors.

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6. Whenever more than one possibility exists, apportion **according to total number of short paths** coming through predecessors.
7. Exclude starting node j and i from increment.
8. Repeat steps 2–8 for every node i and obtain **betweenness** as $B_j = \sum_{i=1}^N c_{ij}$.



Newman's Betweenness algorithm: [4]

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For a **pure tree network**, c_{ij} is the number of nodes beyond j from i 's vantage point.

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- For a **pure tree network**, c_{ij} is the number of nodes beyond j from i 's vantage point.
- Same algorithm for computing drainage area in river networks (with 1 added across the board).

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 1. j indexes edges,
 2. and we add one to each edge as we traverse it.
-  For both algorithms, computation time grows as

$$O(mN).$$

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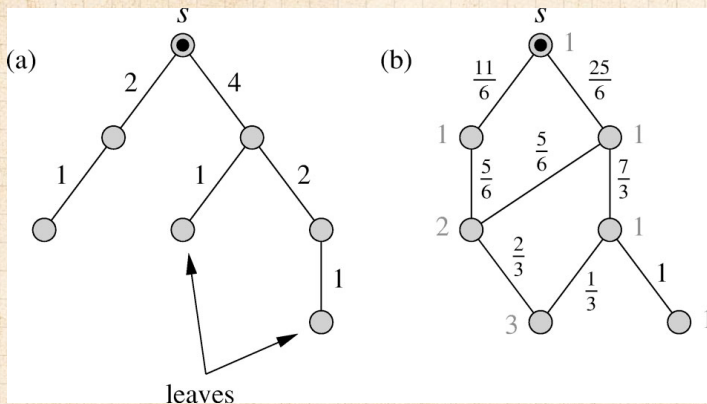
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Important nodes have important friends:



Define x_i as the 'importance' of node i .

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Important nodes have important friends:

 Define x_i as the 'importance' of node i .

 Idea: x_i depends (somehow) on x_j
if j is a neighbor of i .

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- Note: Lots of despair over size of the largest eigenvalue. ^[7] Lose sight of original assumption's non-physicality.

Important nodes have important friends:

 So: solve $\mathbf{A}^T \vec{x} = \lambda \vec{x}$.

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Important nodes have important friends:

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 But which eigenvalue and eigenvector?

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We, the people, would like:

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Important nodes have important friends:



So: solve $\mathbf{A}^T \vec{x} = \lambda \vec{x}$.



But which eigenvalue and eigenvector?



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1. A unique solution.

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So: solve $\mathbf{A}^T \vec{x} = \lambda \vec{x}$.



But which eigenvalue and eigenvector?



We, the people, would like:

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2. λ to be real.

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3. Entries of \vec{x} to be real.

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5. λ to actually mean something ...

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(what does an observation that $x_3 = 5x_7$ mean?)
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 6. Values of x_i to mean something (what does an observation that $x_3 = 5x_7$ mean?) (maybe only ordering is informative ...)
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We rummage around in bag of tricks and pull out the Perron-Frobenius theorem ...



Important nodes have important friends:

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Perron-Frobenius theorem: ↗ If an $N \times N$ matrix A has non-negative entries then:

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3. The dominant real eigenvalue λ_1 is bounded by the minimum and maximum row sums of A :

$$\min_i \sum_{j=1}^N a_{ij} \leq \lambda_1 \leq \max_i \sum_{j=1}^N a_{ij}$$



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2. λ_1 corresponds to left and right 1-d eigenspaces for which we can choose a basis vector that has non-negative entries.
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$$\min_i \sum_{j=1}^N a_{ij} \leq \lambda_1 \leq \max_i \sum_{j=1}^N a_{ij}$$

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Perron-Frobenius theorem: If an $N \times N$ matrix A has non-negative entries then:

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6. Note: Proof is relatively short for symmetric matrices that are strictly positive ^[6] and just non-negative ^[3].



Other Perron-Frobenius aspects:

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Measures of
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Assuming our network is irreducible ↗, meaning there is only one component, is reasonable:

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-  Assuming our network is irreducible , meaning there is only one component, is reasonable: just consider one component at a time if more than one exists.
-  Irreducibility means largest eigenvalue's eigenvector has strictly non-negative entries.
-  Analogous to notion of ergodicity: every state is reachable.



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 (Another term: **Primitive** graphs and matrices.)



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Generalize eigenvalue centrality to allow nodes to have two attributes:

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Generalize eigenvalue centrality to allow nodes to have two attributes:

1. **Authority**: how much knowledge, information, etc., held by a node on a topic.

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Generalize eigenvalue centrality to allow nodes to have two attributes:

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 Best hubs point to best authorities.





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 Known as the HITS algorithm 
(Hyperlink-Induced Topics Search).



Hubs and Authorities



Give each node two scores:

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New story I: a good authority is linked to by good hubs.

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Hubs and Authorities

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- New story I: a good authority is linked to by good hubs.
- Means x_i should increase as $\sum_{j=1}^N a_{ji} y_j$ increases.

Hubs and Authorities



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Linearity assumption:

$$\vec{x} \propto A^T \vec{y} \text{ and } \vec{y} \propto A \vec{x}$$



 So let's say we have

$$\vec{x} = c_1 A^T \vec{y} \text{ and } \vec{y} = c_2 A \vec{x}$$

where c_1 and c_2 must be positive.

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 Above equations combine to give

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where $\lambda = c_1 c_2 > 0$.

 **It's all good:** we have the heart of singular value decomposition before us ...

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We can do this:

 $A^T A$ is symmetric.

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We can do this:

 $A^T A$ is symmetric.

 $A^T A$ is semi-positive definite so its eigenvalues are all ≥ 0 .

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We can do this:

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-  Perron-Frobenius tells us that only the dominant eigenvalue's eigenvector can be chosen to have non-negative entries.

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-  Perron-Frobenius tells us that only the dominant eigenvalue's eigenvector can be chosen to have non-negative entries.
-  So: linear assumption leads to a solvable system.

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-  $A^T A$'s eigenvectors form a joyful orthogonal basis.
-  Perron-Frobenius tells us that only the dominant eigenvalue's eigenvector can be chosen to have non-negative entries.
-  So: linear assumption leads to a solvable system.
-  What would be very good: find networks where we have independent measures of node 'importance' and see how importance is actually distributed.

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Nutshell:

 Measuring centrality is well motivated if hard to carry out well.

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Nutshell:

- Measuring centrality is well motivated if hard to carry out well.
- We've only looked at a few major ones.

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Nutshell:

- Measuring centrality is well motivated if hard to carry out well.
- We've only looked at a few major ones.
- Methods are often taken to be more sophisticated than they really are.

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Nutshell:

- Measuring centrality is well motivated if hard to carry out well.
- We've only looked at a few major ones.
- Methods are often taken to be more sophisticated than they really are.
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- Methods are often taken to be more sophisticated than they really are.
- Centrality can be used pragmatically to perform diagnostics on networks (see structure detection).
- Focus on nodes rather than groups or modules is a homo narrativus constraint.

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Nutshell:

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- Methods are often taken to be more sophisticated than they really are.
- Centrality can be used pragmatically to perform diagnostics on networks (see structure detection).
- Focus on nodes rather than groups or modules is a homo narrativus constraint.
- Possible that better approaches will be developed.

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