

# Multi-Agent Systems

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Consensus/  
Rendezvous

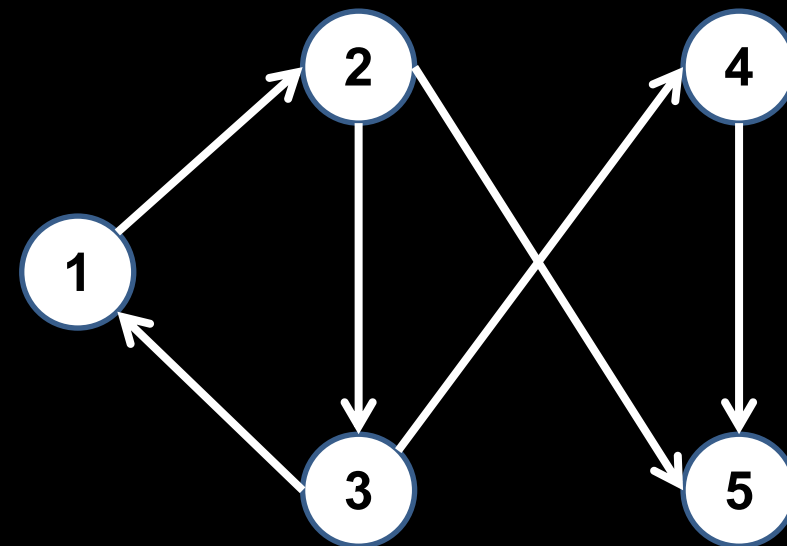
# Multi-agent system

a system of  $n$  interacting agents  
is modeled by graph  $\mathcal{G} = (\mathcal{V}, \mathcal{E})$

node  $v_i \in \mathcal{V}$ : an agent

edge  $(v_j, v_i) \in \mathcal{E}$ : agent  $j$  sends  
information to  $v_i$

example:



# Consensus problem

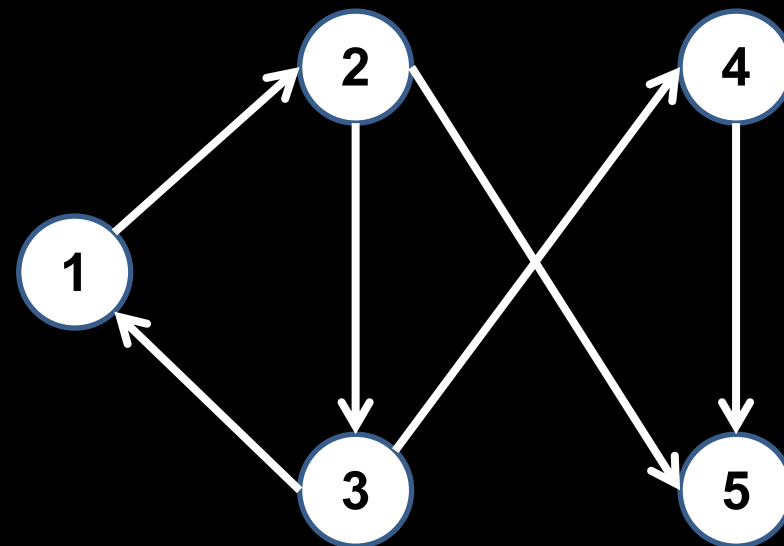
each agent  $v_i$  updates its state based on

$$\dot{x}_i = u_i, \quad x_i, u_i \in \mathbb{R}$$

consensus: design input  $u_i(t)$ ,  $t \geq 0$

s.t.  $(\forall x_1(0), \dots, x_n(0)) (\exists c \in \mathbb{R}) x_i(t) \rightarrow c$   
as  $t \rightarrow \infty$

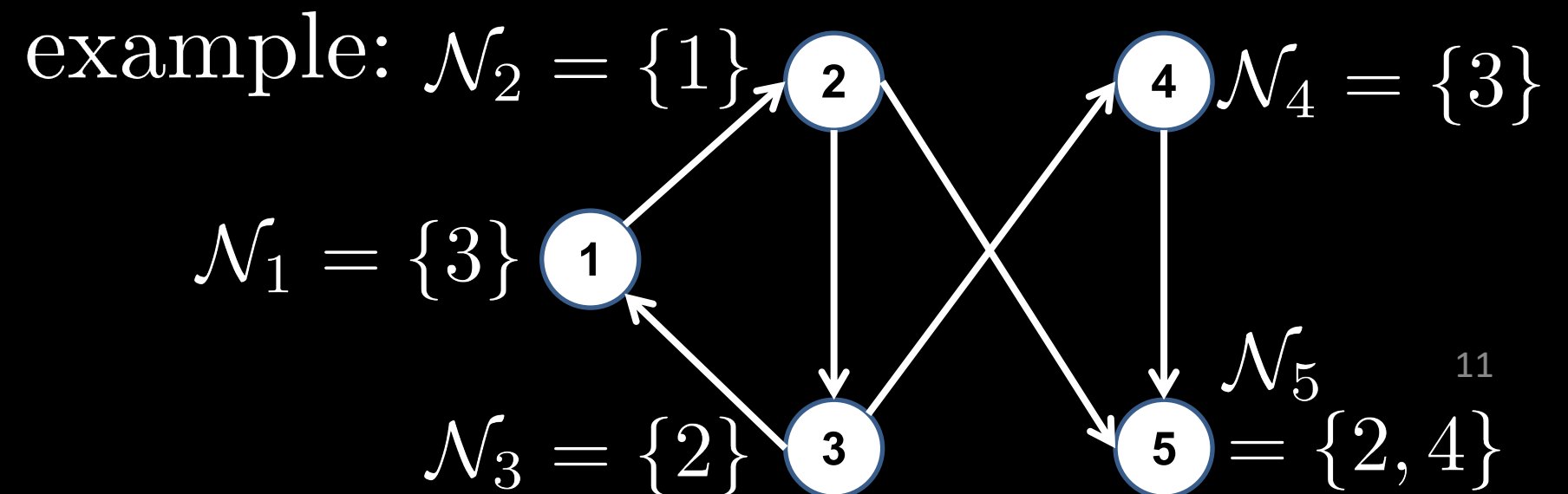
example:



# Distributed algorithm

each agent  $v_i$  can receive information  $x_j(t)$  from neighbor(s)  $j \in \mathcal{N}_i$

distributed algorithm: at time  $t(\geq 0)$   
design  $u_i(t)$  based on information  $x_j(t)$   
where  $j \in \mathcal{N}_i$



# Example

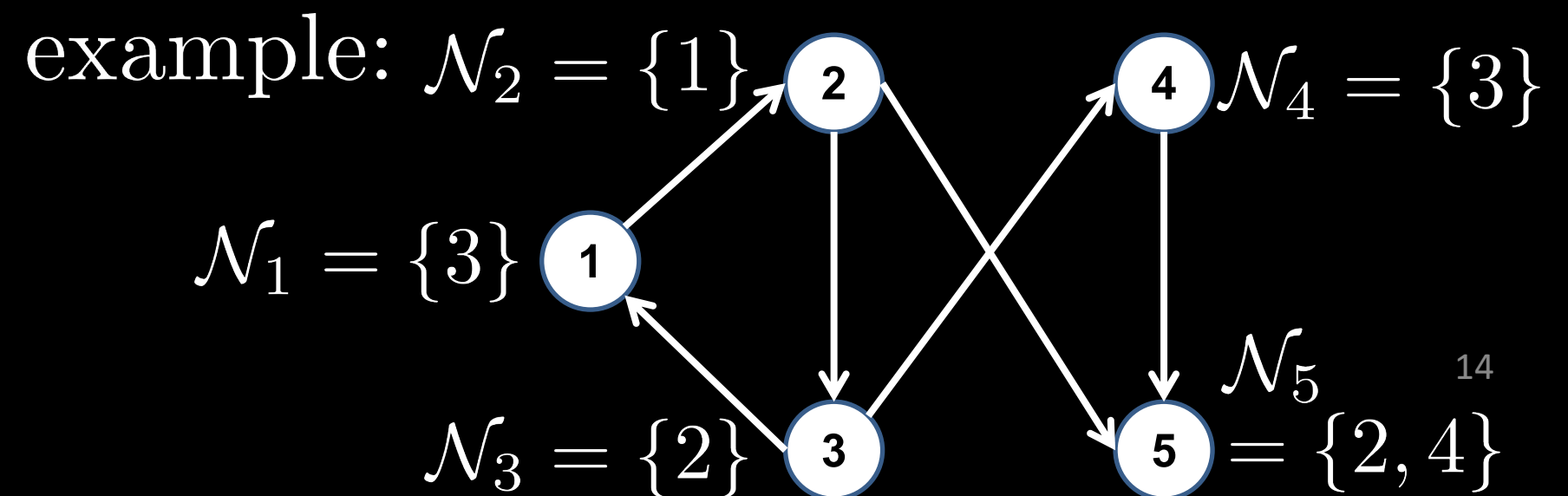
$$\dot{x}_1 = u_1 = x_3 - x_1$$

$$\dot{x}_2 = u_2 = x_1 - x_2$$

$$\dot{x}_3 = u_3 = x_2 - x_3$$

$$\dot{x}_4 = u_4 = x_3 - x_4$$

$$\dot{x}_5 = u_5 = (x_2 - x_5) + (x_4 - x_5)$$



# Example

$$\dot{x}_1 = u_1 = x_3 - x_1$$

$$\dot{x}_2 = u_2 = x_1 - x_2$$

$$\dot{x}_3 = u_3 = x_2 - x_3$$

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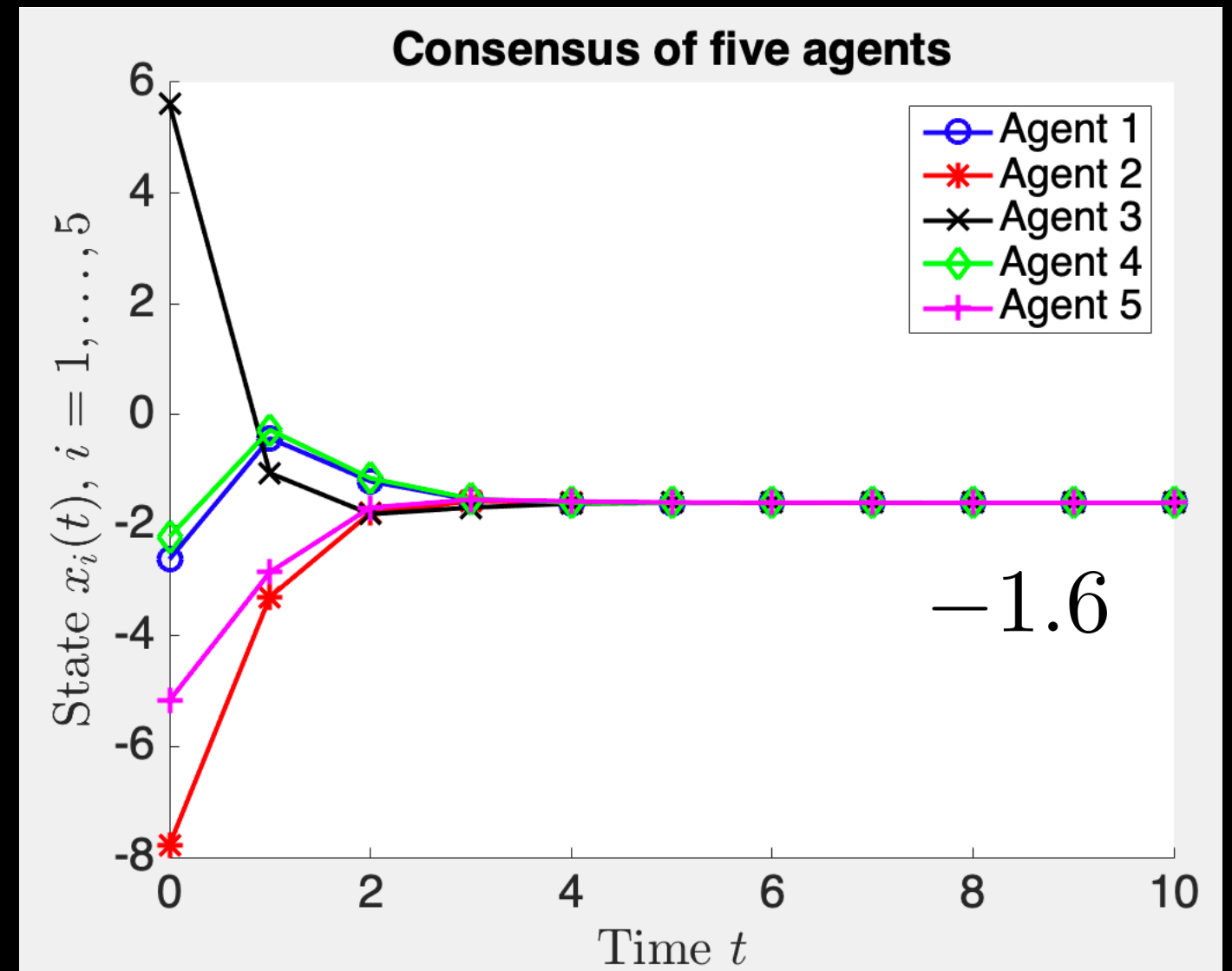
$$\dot{x}_5 = u_5 = (x_2 - x_5) + (x_4 - x_5)$$

$$\dot{x}_i = u_i = \sum_{j \in \mathcal{N}_i} (x_j - x_i)$$

relative state information

# Example

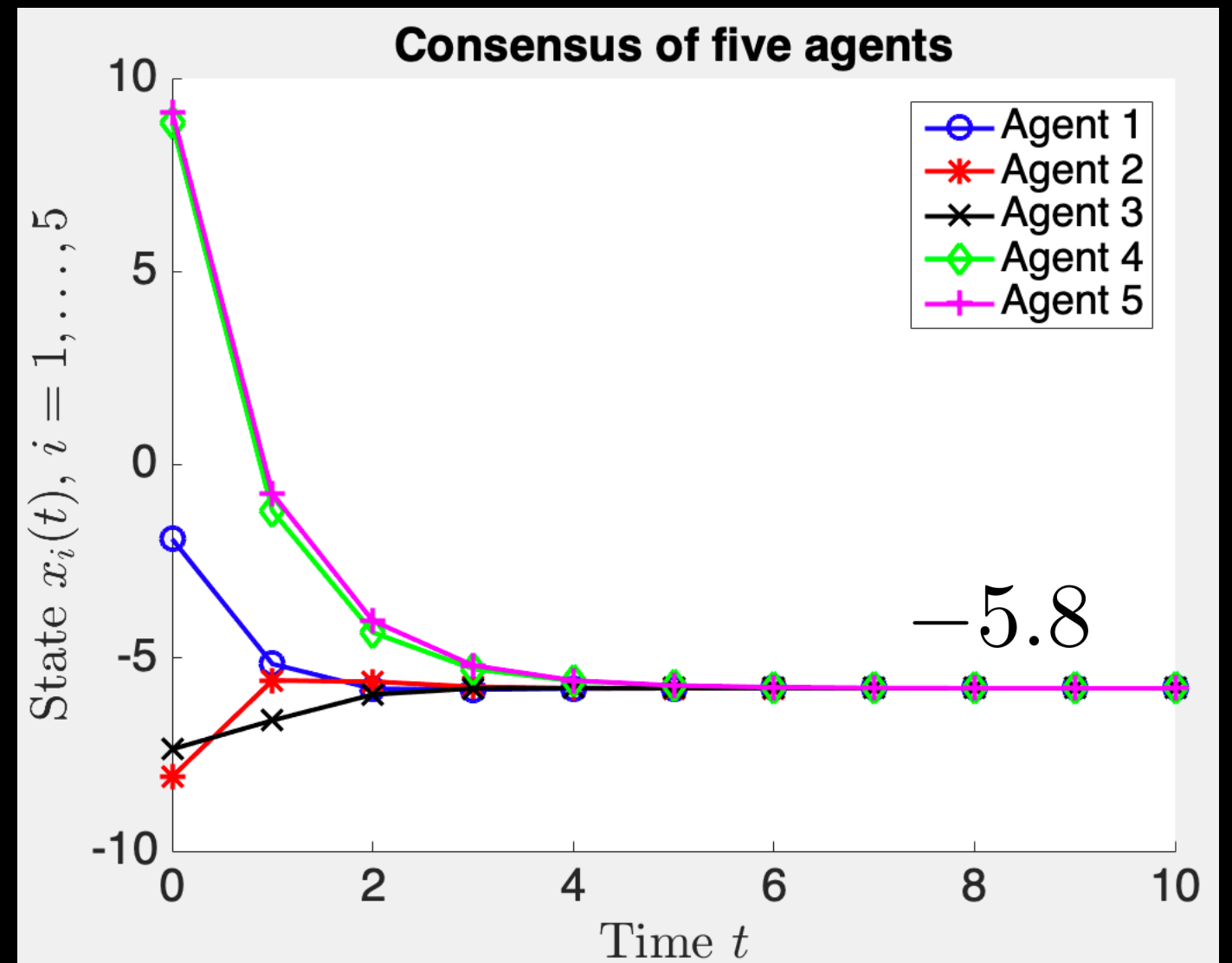
simulation:  $x_1(0) = -2.6$ ,  $x_2(0) = -7.8$   
 $x_3(0) = 5.6$ ,  $x_4(0) = 2.2$ ,  $x_5(0) = -5.2$





# Example

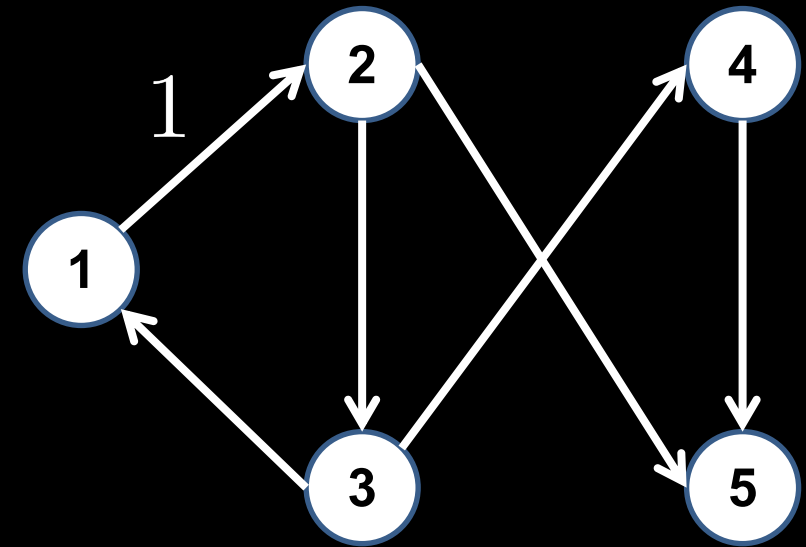
simulation:  $x_1(0) = -1.9, x_2(0) = -8.1$   
 $x_3(0) = -7.4, x_4(0) = 8.8, x_5(0) = 9.1$



# Weighted graph

example:

weighted graph  $\mathcal{G}$



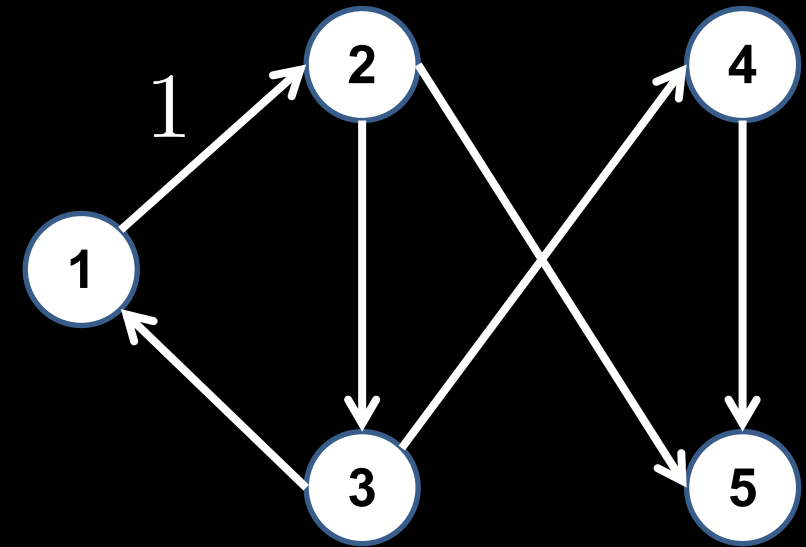
adjacency matrix

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

# Weighted graph

example:

weighted graph  $\mathcal{G}$



Laplacian matrix

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

# Equation

$$\dot{x}_1 = u_1 = x_3 - x_1$$

$$\dot{x}_2 = u_2 = x_1 - x_2$$

$$\dot{x}_3 = u_3 = x_2 - x_3$$

$$\dot{x}_4 = u_4 = x_3 - x_4$$

$$\dot{x}_5 = u_5 = (x_2 - x_5) + (x_4 - x_5)$$

$$\begin{bmatrix} \dot{x}_1 \\ \dot{x}_2 \\ \dot{x}_3 \\ \dot{x}_4 \\ \dot{x}_5 \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} -1 & 0 & 1 & 0 & 0 \\ 1 & -1 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 & -1 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 & -1 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 & 0 & 1 & -2 \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} x_1 \\ x_2 \\ x_3 \\ x_4 \\ x_5 \end{bmatrix}$$

$-L$

# Recap, generalization

a system of  $n$  interacting agents  
is modeled by graph  $\mathcal{G} = (\mathcal{V}, \mathcal{E})$

each agent  $v_i$  updates its state based on

$$\dot{x}_i = u_i, \quad x_i, u_i \in \mathbb{R}$$

Problem: design  $u_i$  to update  $x_i$

$$\text{s.t. } (\forall v_i \in \mathcal{V})(\forall x_i(0))(\exists c) \lim_{t \rightarrow \infty} x_i(t) = c$$

# Recap, generalization

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each agent  $v_i$  updates its state based on

$$\dot{x}_i = u_i, \quad x_i, u_i \in \mathbb{R}$$

Distributed algorithm

$$\dot{x}_i = u_i = \sum_{j \in \mathcal{N}_i} (x_j - x_i)$$

based on information  $x_j(t)$  or

relative information  $x_j(t) - x_i(t)$

from neighbor agent(s)  $j \in \mathcal{N}_i$

# Recap, generalization

a system of  $n$  interacting agents  
is modeled by graph  $\mathcal{G} = (\mathcal{V}, \mathcal{E})$

each agent  $v_i$  updates its state based on

$$\dot{x}_i = u_i, \quad x_i, u_i \in \mathbb{R}$$

$$x := \begin{bmatrix} x_1 \\ \vdots \\ x_n \end{bmatrix}$$

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

# Theorem

a system of  $n$  interacting agents  
is modeled by graph  $\mathcal{G} = (\mathcal{V}, \mathcal{E})$

each agent  $v_i$  updates its state based on

$$\dot{x}_i = u_i, \quad x_i, u_i \in \mathbb{R}$$

$\dot{x} = -Lx$  solves consensus

s.t.  $(\forall v_i \in \mathcal{V})(\forall x_i(0))(\exists c) \lim_{t \rightarrow \infty} x_i(t) = c$

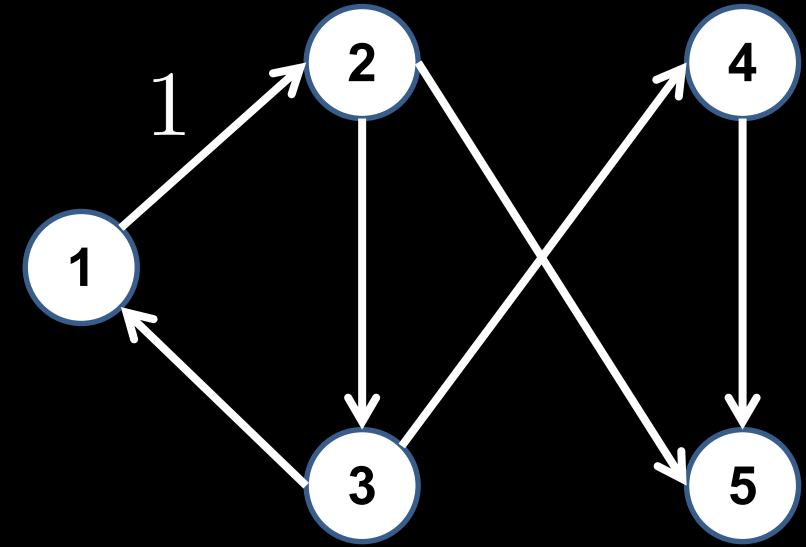
iff  $\mathcal{G}$  contains a spanning tree



# Example

example:

weighted graph  $\mathcal{G}$

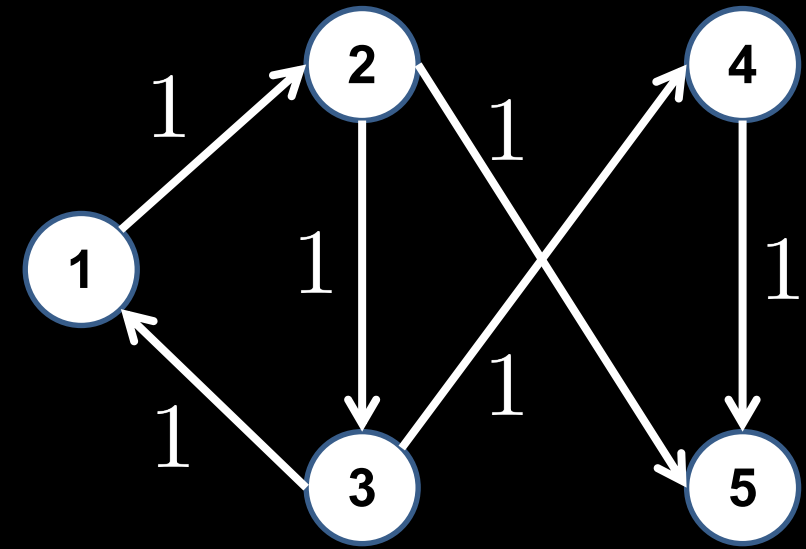


spanning tree (?)

# Example

example:

weighted graph  $\mathcal{G}$



spanning tree (?)

# Example

ordinary Laplacian matrix

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

spanning tree  $\Rightarrow \text{rank}(L) = n - 1$

# Example

ordinary Laplacian matrix

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

spanning tree  $\Rightarrow \text{rank}(L) = 4$

zero row sum, i.e.  $L\underline{\mathbf{1}} = \mathbf{0}$

eigenvector of eigenvalue 0

# Example

ordinary Laplacian matrix

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

spanning tree  $\Rightarrow \text{rank}(L) = 4$

nonzero column sum, i.e.  $\mathbf{1}^\top L \neq 0$

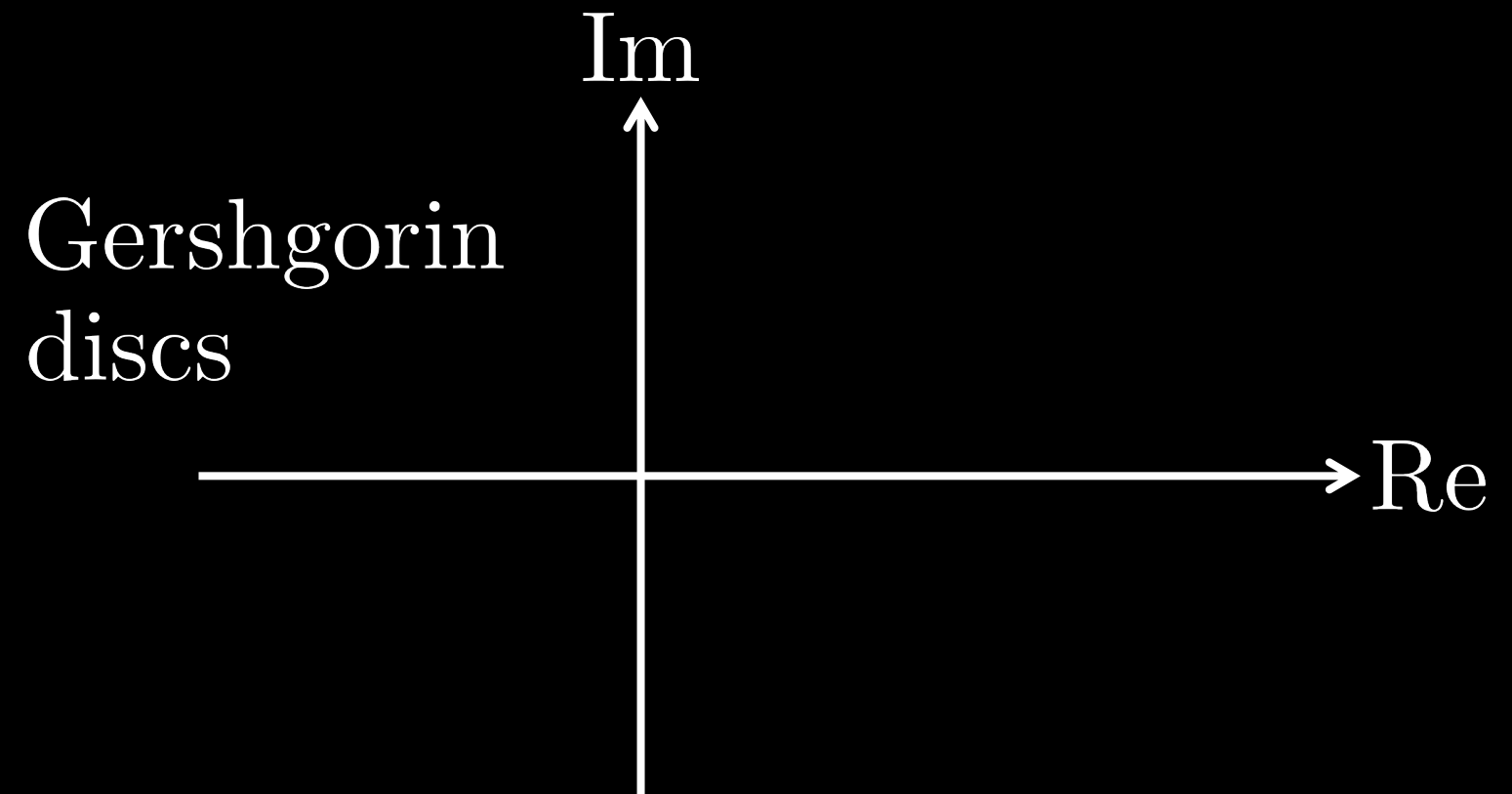
rather  $[\frac{1}{3} \quad \frac{1}{3} \quad \frac{1}{3} \quad 0 \quad 0]$   $L = 0$

left eigenvector of eigenvalue 0

# Example

eigenvalues

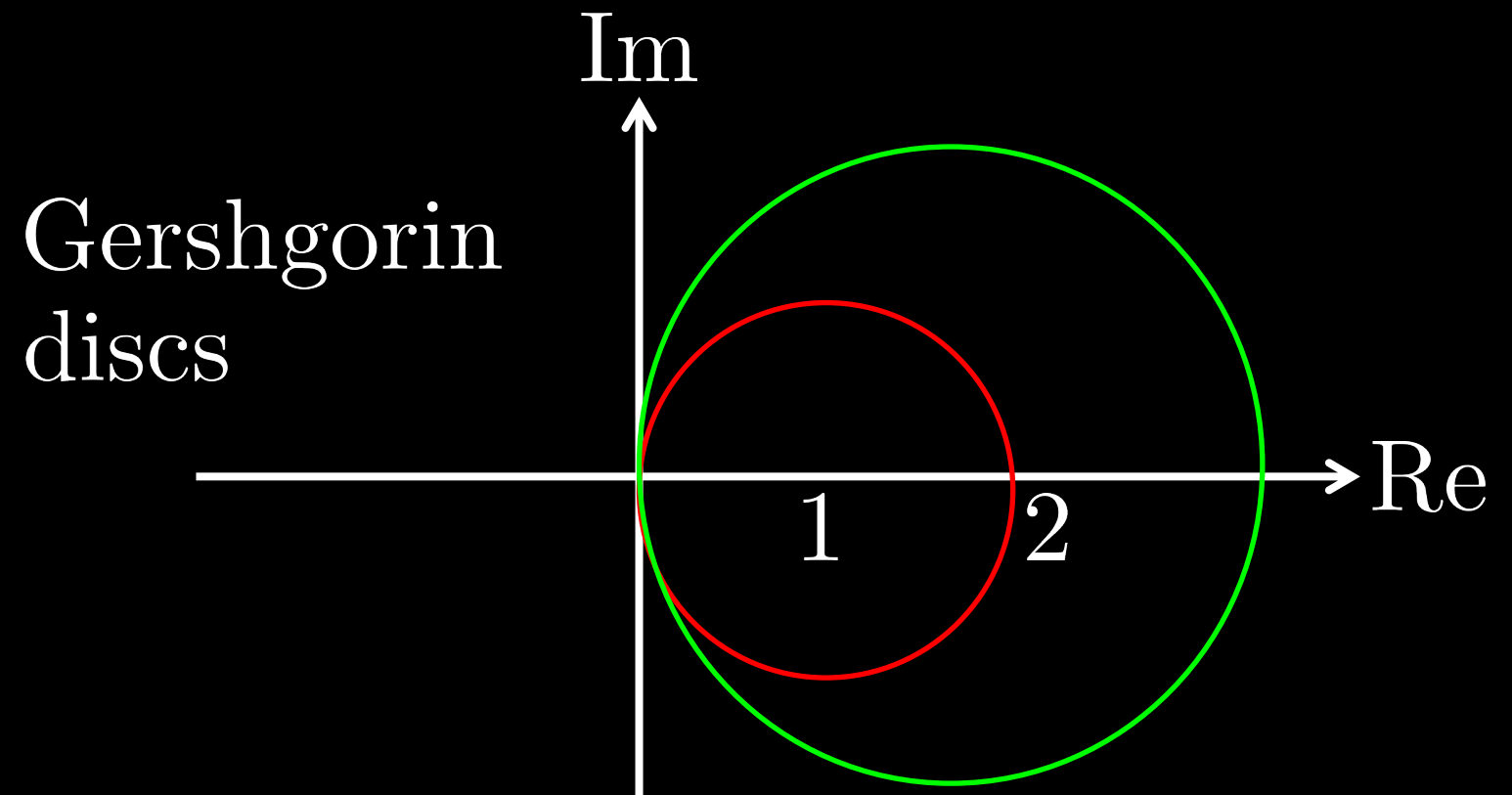
$$L = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 & -1 & 0 & 0 \\ -1 & 1 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & -1 & 1 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & -1 & 1 & 0 \\ 0 & -1 & 0 & -1 & 2 \end{bmatrix}$$



# Example

eigenvalues

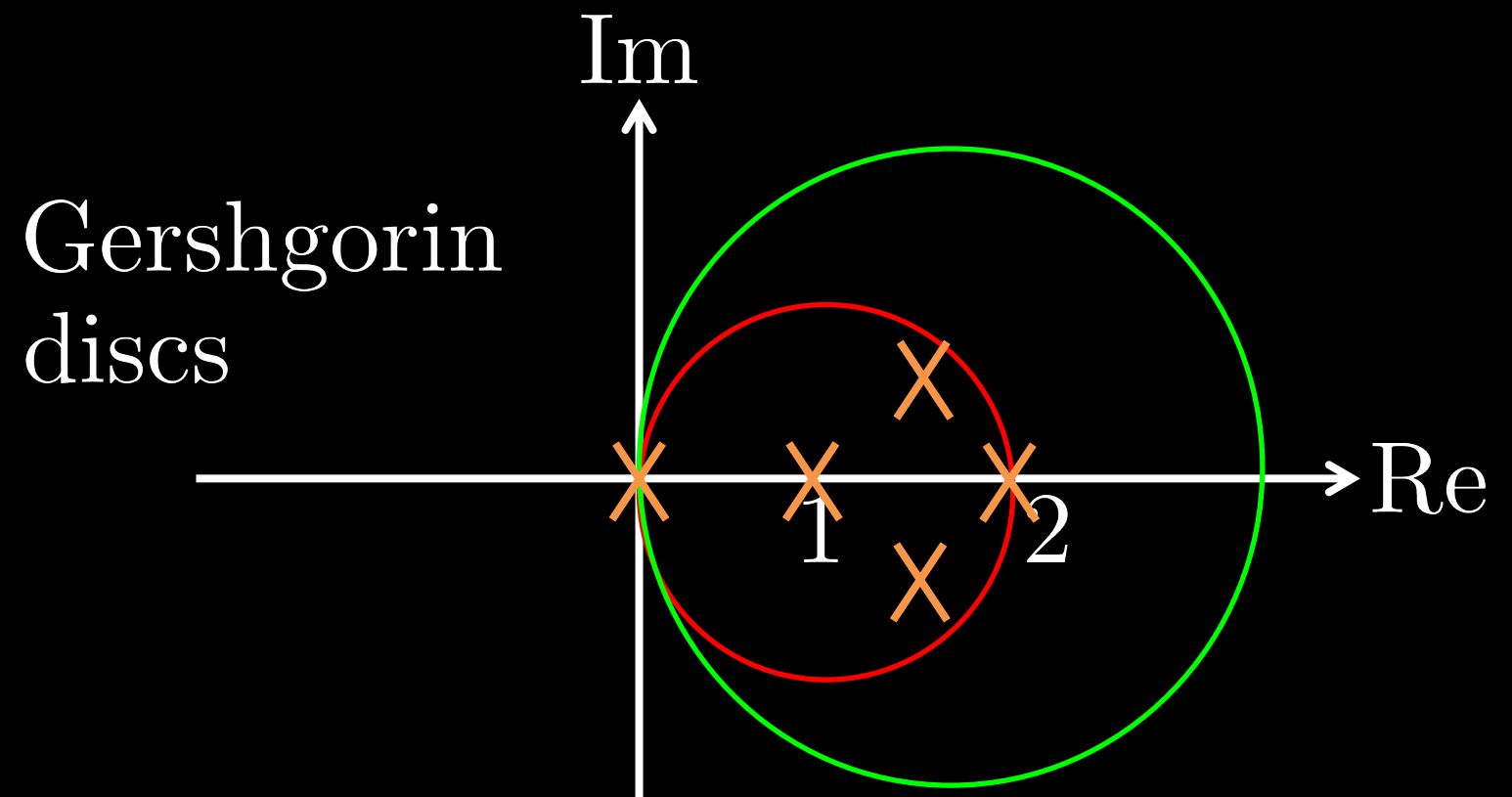
$$L = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 & -1 & 0 & 0 \\ -1 & 1 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & -1 & 1 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & -1 & 1 & 0 \\ 0 & -1 & 0 & -1 & 2 \end{bmatrix}$$



# Example

eigenvalues of  $L$

$$0, 1, 2, \frac{3}{2} \pm \frac{\sqrt{3}}{2}j$$



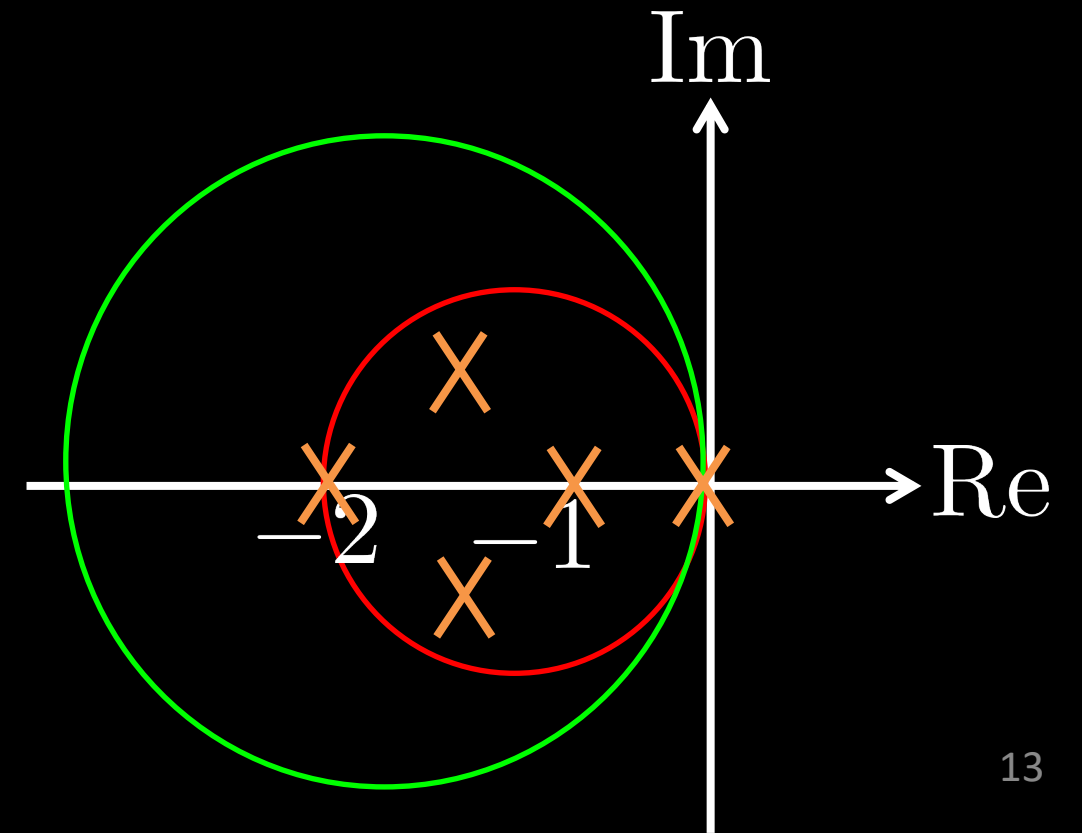


# Example

eigenvalues of  $-L$  (spectrum mapping)

$$0, -1, -2, -\frac{3}{2} \pm \frac{\sqrt{3}}{2}j$$

Gershgorin  
discs



# Example

diagonalization

$$-L = \begin{bmatrix} -1 & 0 & 1 & 0 & 0 \\ 1 & -1 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 & -1 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 & -1 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 & 0 & 1 & -2 \end{bmatrix}$$
$$= VJV^{-1}$$

# Example

diagonalization

$$-L = \begin{bmatrix} -1 & 0 & 1 & 0 & 0 \\ 1 & -1 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 & -1 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 & -1 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 & 0 & 1 & -2 \end{bmatrix}$$
$$= V J V^{-1}$$

$$= [v_1 \ v_2 \ v_3 \ v_4 \ v_5] \begin{bmatrix} 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & -1 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & -2 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & -\frac{3}{2} + \frac{\sqrt{3}}{2}j & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & -\frac{3}{2} - \frac{\sqrt{3}}{2}j \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} w_1^\top \\ w_2^\top \\ w_3^\top \\ w_4^\top \\ w_5^\top \end{bmatrix}$$

$$(w_1^\top v_1 = 1, w_1^\top v_2 = \dots = w_1^\top v_5 = 0)$$

$$v_1 = \mathbf{1}, w_1 = \left[ \frac{1}{3} \ \frac{1}{3} \ \frac{1}{3} \ 0 \ 0 \right]^\top$$

# Example

$$\dot{x} = -Lx, \quad x(0)$$

$$x(t) = ?$$

# Example

$$\dot{x} = -Lx, x(0)$$

$$x(t) = e^{-Lt}x(0)$$

matrix exponential:

$$e^{-Lt} = I + (-Lt) + \frac{1}{2!}(-Lt)^2 + \frac{1}{3!}(-Lt)^3 + \dots$$

# Example

$$\dot{x} = -Lx, x(0)$$

$$x(t) = e^{-Lt}x(0)$$

$$= e^{VJV^{-1}t}x(0)$$

matrix exponential:

$$e^{VJV^{-1}t} = I + (VJV^{-1}t) + \frac{1}{2!}(VJV^{-1}t)^2 + \dots$$

# Example

$$\dot{x} = -Lx, x(0)$$

$$x(t) = e^{-Lt}x(0)$$

$$= e^{VJV^{-1}t}x(0)$$

$$= Ve^{Jt}V^{-1}x(0)$$

matrix exponential:

$$e^{VJV^{-1}t} = I + (VJV^{-1}t) + \frac{1}{2!}(VJV^{-1}t)^2 + \dots$$

# Example

$$\dot{x} = -Lx, x(0)$$

$$x(t) = e^{-Lt} x(0)$$

$$= e^{VJV^{-1}t} x(0)$$

$$= Ve^{Jt}V^{-1}x(0)$$

$$= [v_1 \ v_2 \ v_3 \ v_4 \ v_5] \begin{bmatrix} e^{0t} & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & e^{-t} & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & e^{-2t} & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & e^{(-\frac{3}{2} + \frac{\sqrt{3}}{2}j)t} & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & e^{(-\frac{3}{2} - \frac{\sqrt{3}}{2}j)t} \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} w_1^\top \\ w_2^\top \\ w_3^\top \\ w_4^\top \\ w_5^\top \end{bmatrix} x(0)$$



# Example

$$\dot{x} = -Lx, \quad x(0)$$

$$x(t) = e^{-Lt} x(0)$$

$$= e^{VJV^{-1}t} x(0)$$

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$$= [v_1 \ v_2 \ v_3 \ v_4 \ v_5] \begin{bmatrix} e^{0t} & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & e^{-t} & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & e^{-2t} & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & e^{(-\frac{3}{2} + \frac{\sqrt{3}}{2}j)t} & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & e^{(-\frac{3}{2} - \frac{\sqrt{3}}{2}j)t} \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} w_1^\top \\ w_2^\top \\ w_3^\top \\ w_4^\top \\ w_5^\top \end{bmatrix} x(0)$$

$$\rightarrow [v_1 \ v_2 \ v_3 \ v_4 \ v_5] \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} w_1^\top \\ w_2^\top \\ w_3^\top \\ w_4^\top \\ w_5^\top \end{bmatrix} x(0), \text{ as } t \rightarrow \infty$$

# Example

$$\dot{x} = -Lx, x(0)$$

$$x(t) = e^{-Lt} x(0)$$

$$= e^{VJV^{-1}t} x(0)$$

$$= Ve^{Jt}V^{-1}x(0)$$

$$= [v_1 \ v_2 \ v_3 \ v_4 \ v_5] \begin{bmatrix} e^{0t} & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & e^{-t} & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & e^{-2t} & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & e^{(-\frac{3}{2} + \frac{\sqrt{3}}{2}j)t} & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & e^{(-\frac{3}{2} - \frac{\sqrt{3}}{2}j)t} \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} w_1^\top \\ w_2^\top \\ w_3^\top \\ w_4^\top \\ w_5^\top \end{bmatrix} x(0)$$

$$\rightarrow v_1 w_1^\top x(0) \quad (v_1 = \mathbf{1}, w_1 = [\frac{1}{3} \ \frac{1}{3} \ \frac{1}{3} \ 0 \ 0]^\top)$$

# Example

$$\dot{x} = -Lx, x(0)$$

$$x(t) = e^{-Lt} x(0)$$

$$= e^{VJV^{-1}t} x(0)$$

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$$\rightarrow v_1 w_1^\top x(0) \quad (v_1 = \mathbf{1}, w_1 = [\frac{1}{3} \ \frac{1}{3} \ \frac{1}{3} \ 0 \ 0]^\top)$$

$$= \left( \begin{bmatrix} \frac{1}{3} & \frac{1}{3} & \frac{1}{3} & 0 & 0 \end{bmatrix} x(0) \right) \mathbf{1}$$

# Theorem

a system of  $n$  interacting agents  
is modeled by graph  $\mathcal{G} = (\mathcal{V}, \mathcal{E})$

each agent  $v_i$  updates its state based on

$$\dot{x}_i = u_i, \quad x_i, u_i \in \mathbb{R}$$

$\dot{x} = -Lx$  solves consensus

s.t.  $(\forall v_i \in \mathcal{V})(\forall x_i(0))(\exists c) \lim_{t \rightarrow \infty} x_i(t) = c$

iff  $\mathcal{G}$  contains a spanning tree

Proof: (only if; necessity)

leave it as an exercise

# Theorem

Proof: (if; sufficiency)

if  $\mathcal{G}$  contains a spanning tree

show  $\dot{x} = -Lx$  solves consensus

(i)  $-L$  has a simple eigenvalue 0  
with eigenvector  $\mathbf{1}$

hint: spanning tree  $\Rightarrow \text{rank}(L) = n - 1$

# Theorem

Proof: (if; sufficiency)

if  $\mathcal{G}$  contains a spanning tree

show  $\dot{x} = -Lx$  solves consensus

(ii) all the other  $n - 1$  nonzero eigenvalues  
of  $-L$  have negative real parts

hint: Gershgorin discs for

$$-L = -\text{diag}(A\mathbf{1}) + A$$

# Theorem

Proof: (if; sufficiency)

if  $\mathcal{G}$  contains a spanning tree

show  $\dot{x} = -Lx$  solves consensus

$$(iii) \ x(t) = e^{-Lt}x(0) = e^{VJV^{-1}t}x(0)$$

# Theorem

Proof: (if; sufficiency)

if  $\mathcal{G}$  contains a spanning tree

show  $\dot{x} = -Lx$  solves consensus

$$\begin{aligned} \text{(iii) } x(t) &= e^{-Lt} x(0) = e^{VJV^{-1}t} x(0) \\ &= Ve^{Jt}V^{-1}x(0) \end{aligned}$$

$$= [v_1 \ v_2 \ \cdots \ v_n] \begin{bmatrix} e^{0t} & 0 & \cdots & 0 \\ 0 & e^{\lambda_2 t} & \cdots & 0 \\ \vdots & \vdots & \ddots & \vdots \\ 0 & 0 & \cdots & e^{\lambda_n t} \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} w_1^\top \\ w_2^\top \\ \vdots \\ w_n^\top \end{bmatrix} x(0)$$

( $v_1 = \mathbf{1}$ ,  $w_1^\top v_1 = 1$  ( $w_1$  left eigenvector of eigenvalue 0))



# Theorem

Proof: (if; sufficiency)

if  $\mathcal{G}$  contains a spanning tree

show  $\dot{x} = -Lx$  solves consensus

$$\begin{aligned} \text{(iii) } x(t) &= e^{-Lt} x(0) = e^{VJV^{-1}t} x(0) \\ &= Ve^{Jt}V^{-1}x(0) \end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned} (t \rightarrow \infty) & \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 & \cdots & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & \cdots & 0 \\ \vdots & \vdots & \ddots & \vdots \\ 0 & 0 & \cdots & 0 \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} w_1^\top \\ w_2^\top \\ \vdots \\ w_n^\top \end{bmatrix} x(0) \\ & \rightarrow [v_1 \ v_2 \ \cdots \ v_n] \end{aligned}$$

( $v_1 = \mathbf{1}$ ,  $w_1^\top v_1 = 1$  ( $w_1$  left eigenvector of eigenvalue 0))

# Theorem

Proof: (if; sufficiency)

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( $v_1 = \mathbf{1}$ ,  $w_1^\top v_1 = 1$  ( $w_1$  left eigenvector of eigenvalue 0))

$$= v_1 w_1^\top x(0) = (w_1^\top x(0)) \mathbf{1}$$

# Theorem

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$\dot{x} = -Lx$  solves consensus

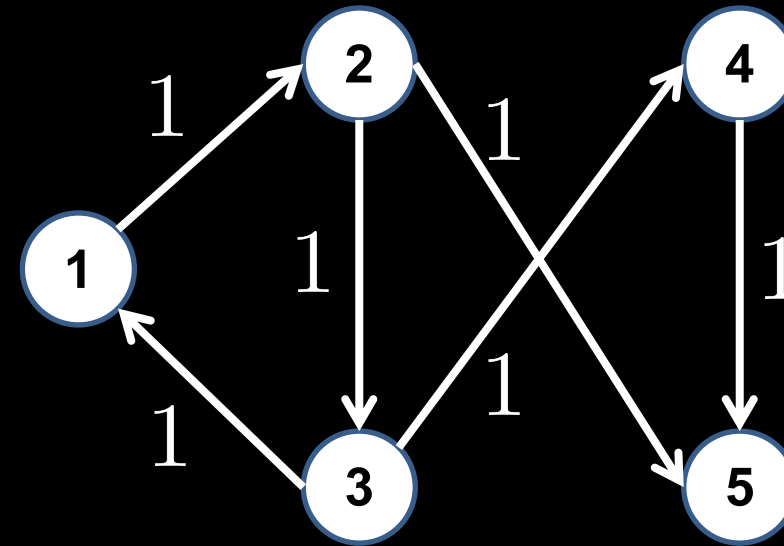
$$\text{s.t. } (\forall v_i \in \mathcal{V})(\forall x_i(0))(\exists c) \lim_{t \rightarrow \infty} x_i(t) = c$$

iff  $\mathcal{G}$  contains a spanning tree

consensus value  $c = w_1^\top x(0)$

where  $w_1^\top L = 0$  and  $w_1^\top \mathbf{1} = 1$

# Example



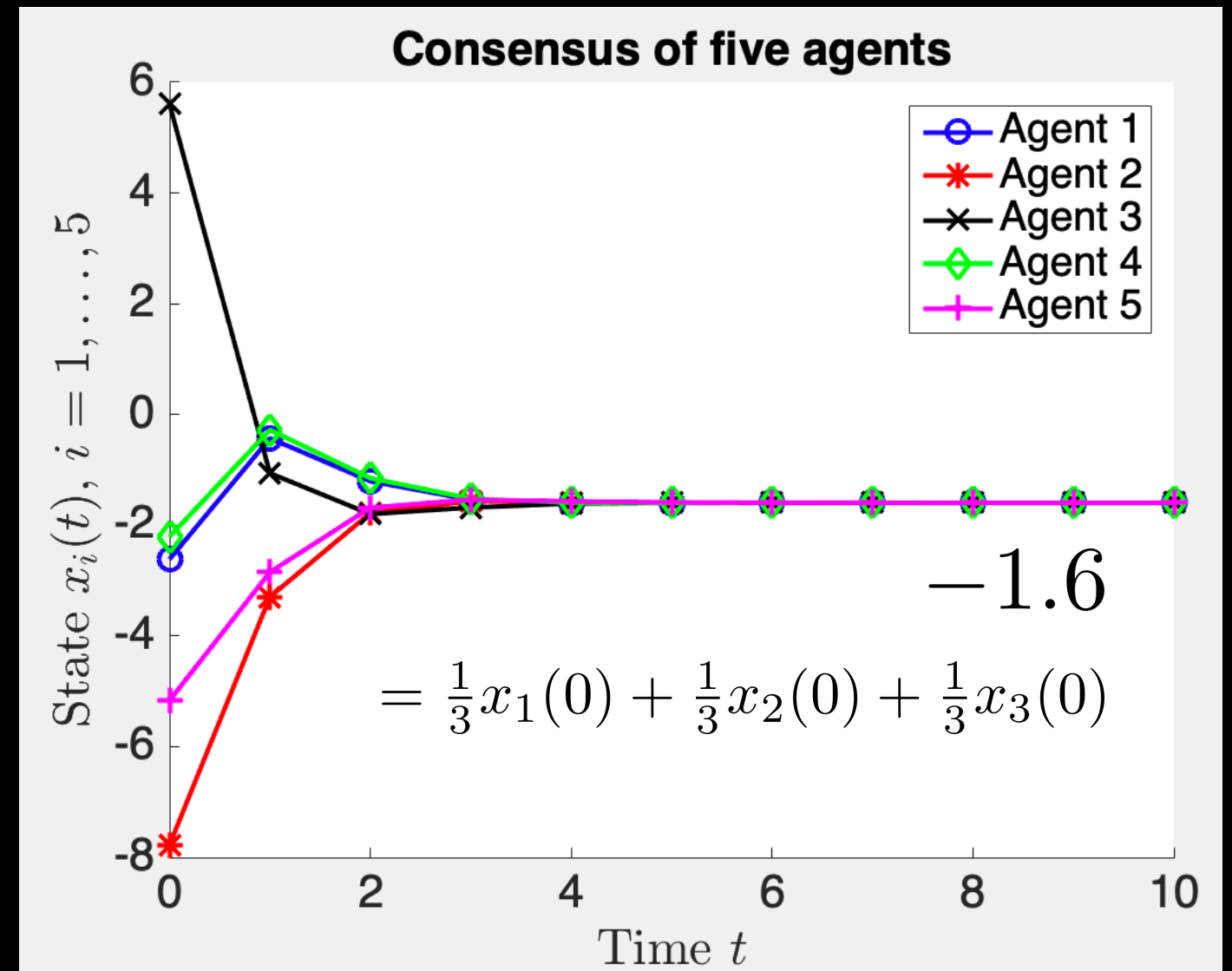
$$L = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 & -1 & 0 & 0 \\ -1 & 1 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & -1 & 1 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & -1 & 1 & 0 \\ 0 & -1 & 0 & -1 & 2 \end{bmatrix}$$

$$\left[ \frac{1}{3} \quad \frac{1}{3} \quad \frac{1}{3} \quad 0 \quad 0 \right] L = 0$$

$$w_1^\top$$

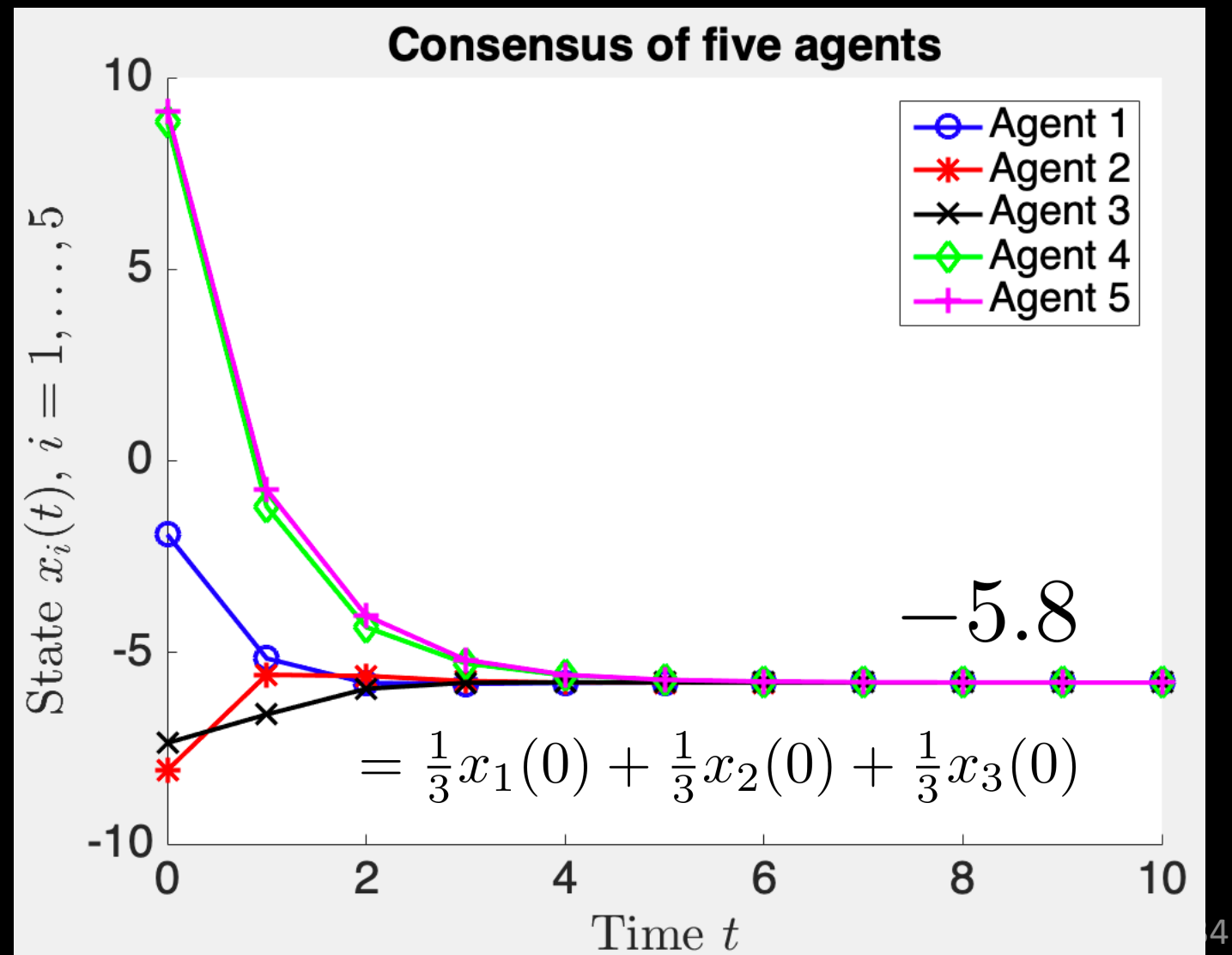
# Example

simulation:  $x_1(0) = -2.6, x_2(0) = -7.8$   
 $x_3(0) = 5.6, x_4(0) = 2.2, x_5(0) = -5.2$

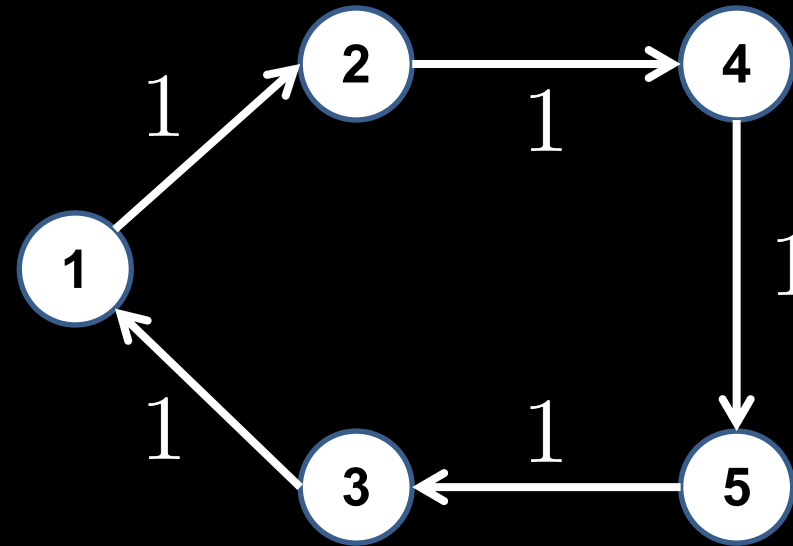


# Example

simulation:  $x_1(0) = -1.9, x_2(0) = -8.1$   
 $x_3(0) = -7.4, x_4(0) = 8.8, x_5(0) = 9.1$



# Example



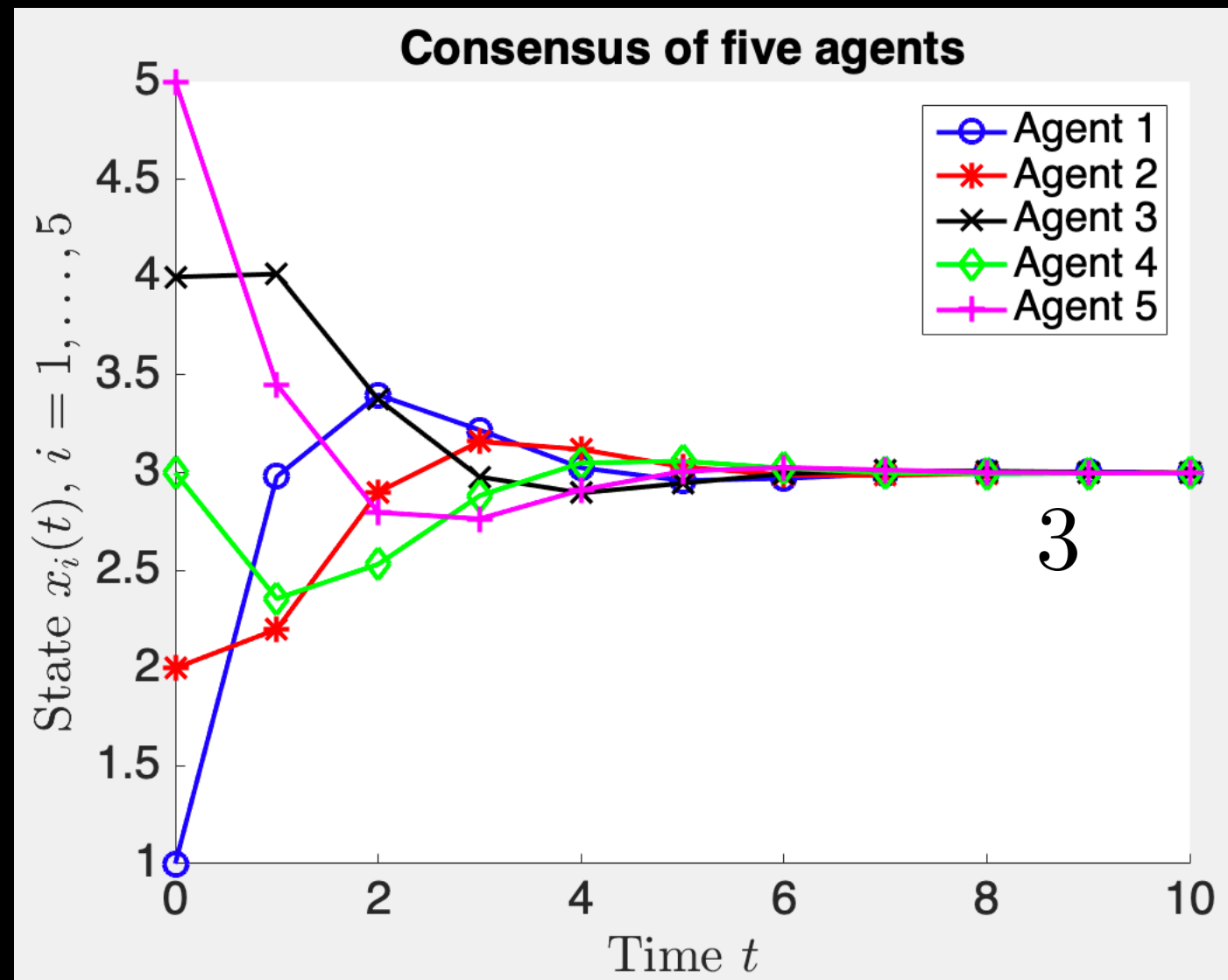
$$L = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 & -1 & 0 & 0 \\ -1 & 1 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 & 0 & -1 \\ 0 & -1 & 0 & 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & -1 & 1 \end{bmatrix}$$

$$\left[ \frac{1}{5} \quad \frac{1}{5} \quad \frac{1}{5} \quad \frac{1}{5} \quad \frac{1}{5} \right] L = 0$$

$$w_1^T$$

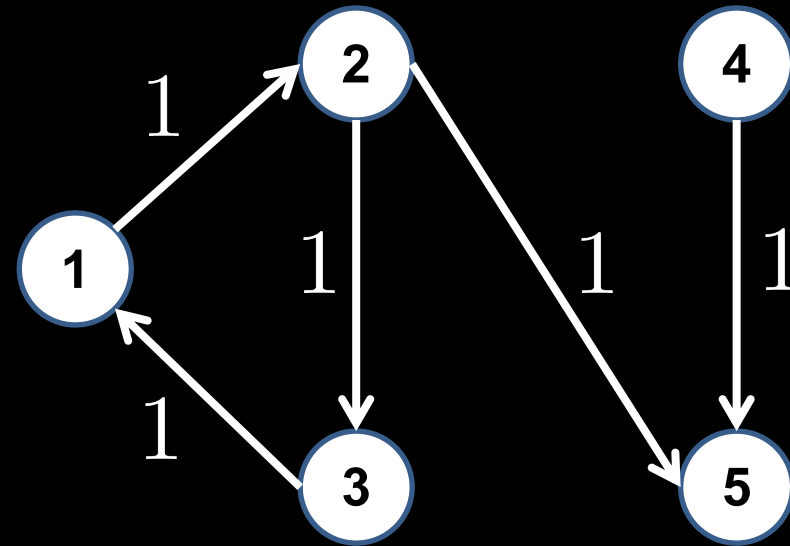
# Example

simulation:  $x_1(0) = 1, x_2(0) = 2$   
 $x_3(0) = 4, x_4(0) = 3, x_5(0) = 5$





# Example

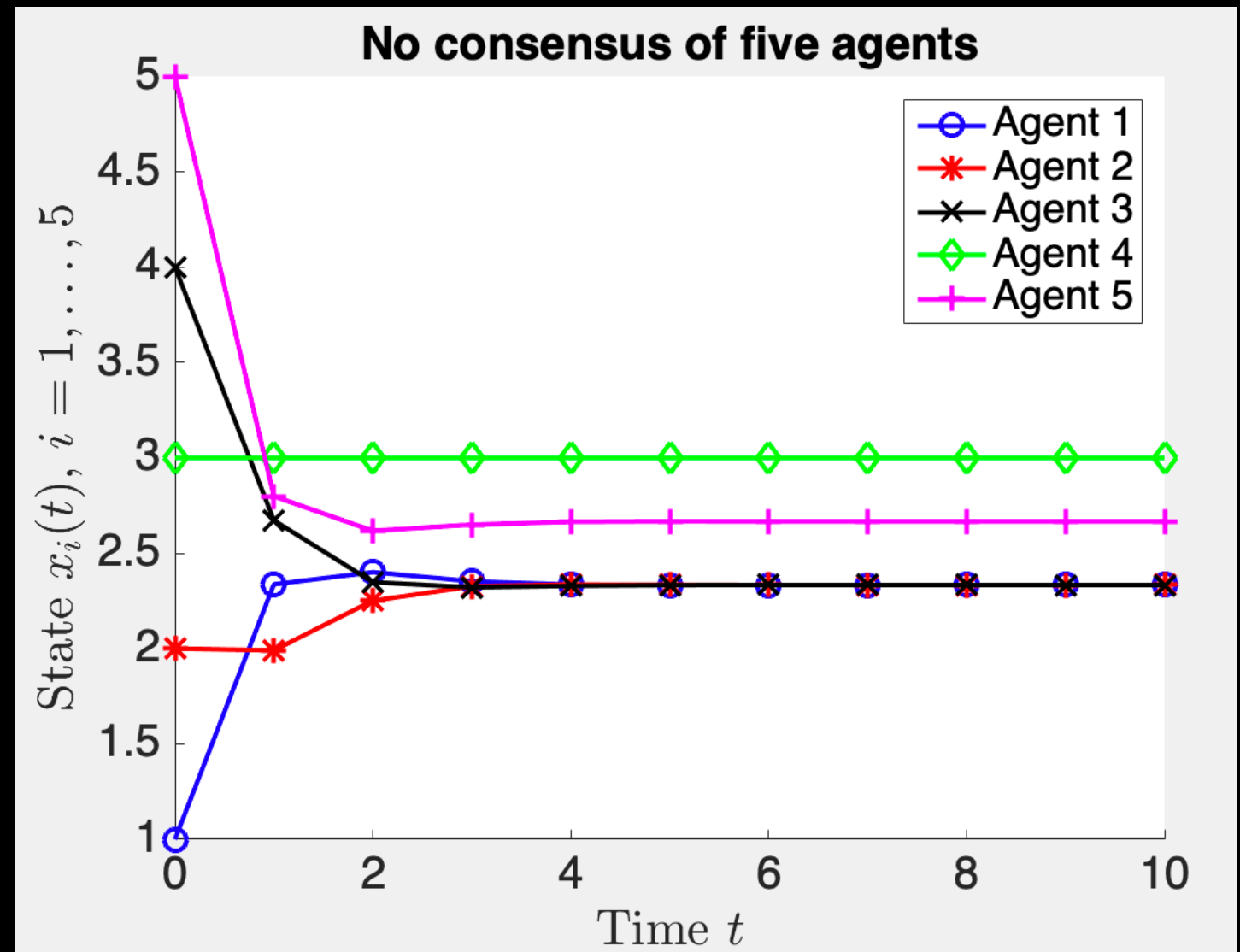


$$L = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 & -1 & 0 & 0 \\ -1 & 1 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & -1 & 1 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & -1 & 0 & -1 & 2 \end{bmatrix}$$

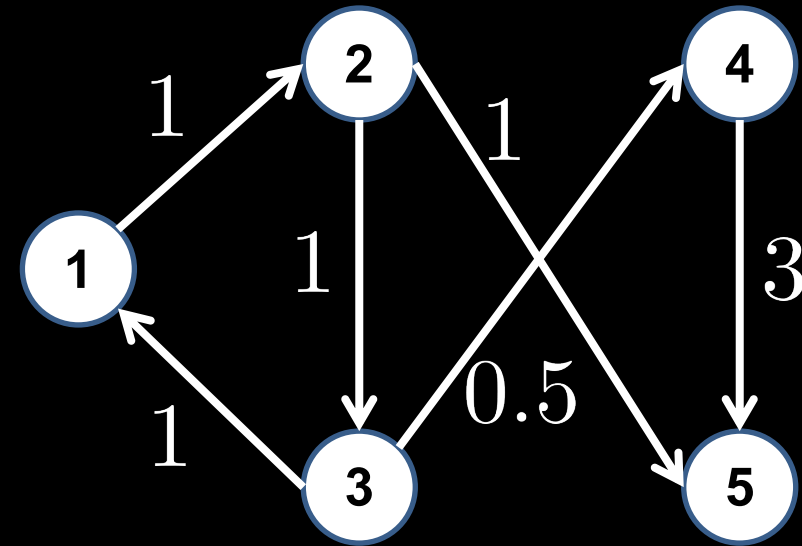
no spanning tree

# Example

simulation:  $x_1(0) = 1, x_2(0) = 2$   
 $x_3(0) = 4, x_4(0) = 3, x_5(0) = 5$



# Example



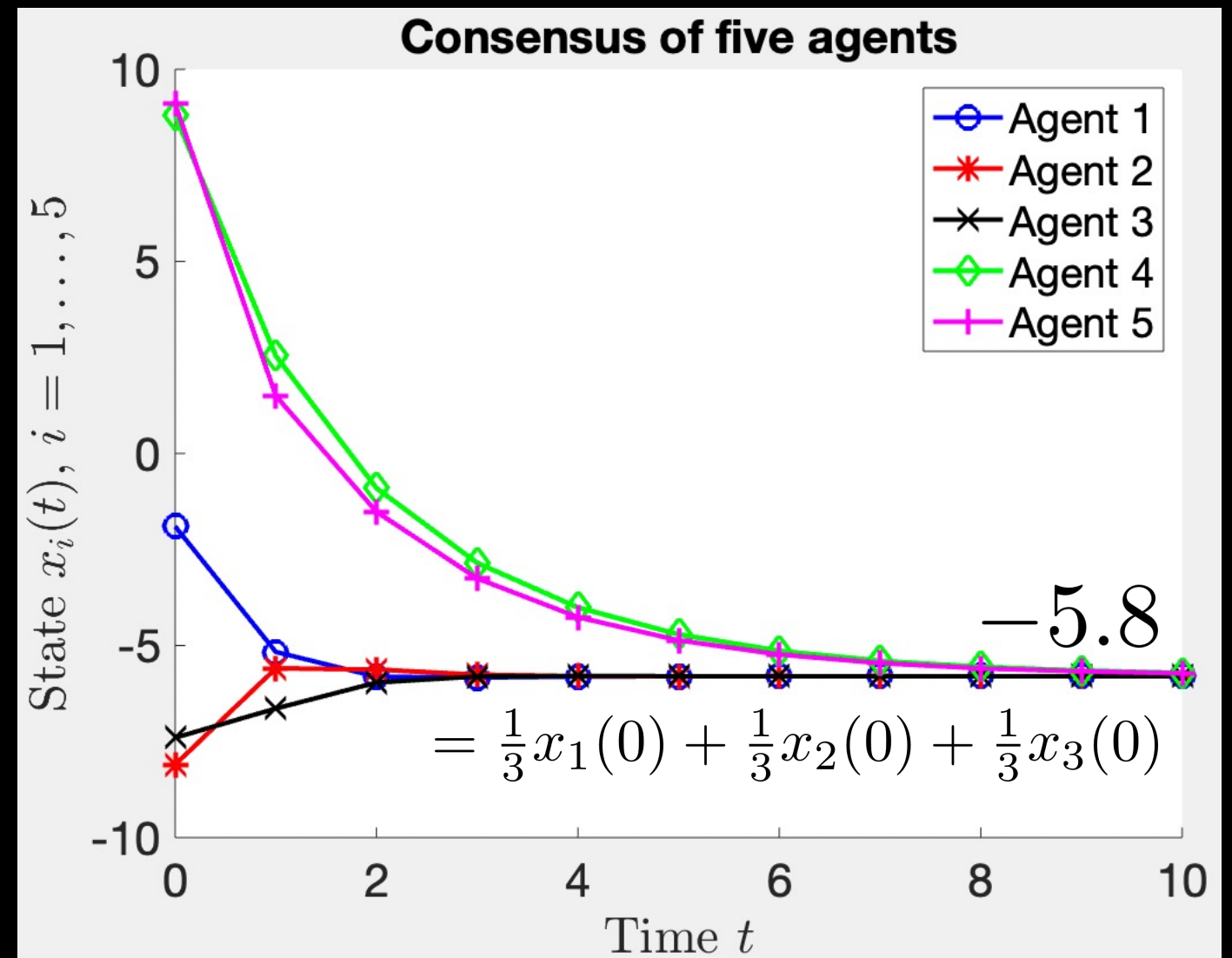
$$L = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 & -1 & 0 & 0 \\ -1 & 1 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & -1 & 1 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & -0.5 & 0.5 & 0 \\ 0 & -1 & 0 & -3 & 4 \end{bmatrix}$$

$$\left[ \frac{1}{3} \quad \frac{1}{3} \quad \frac{1}{3} \quad 0 \quad 0 \right] L = 0$$

$$w_1^\top$$

# Example

simulation:  $x_1(0) = -1.9, x_2(0) = -8.1$   
 $x_3(0) = -7.4, x_4(0) = 8.8, x_5(0) = 9.1$



# Different weights

a system of  $n$  interacting agents  
is modeled by graph  $\mathcal{G} = (\mathcal{V}, \mathcal{E})$

each agent  $v_i$  updates its state based on

$$\dot{x}_i = u_i, \quad x_i, u_i \in \mathbb{R}$$

Distributed algorithm

$$\dot{x}_i = u_i = \sum_{j \in \mathcal{N}_i} a_{ij} (x_j - x_i), \quad a_{ij} > 0$$

$\dot{x} = -Lx$  solves consensus

s.t.  $(\forall v_i \in \mathcal{V})(\forall x_i(0))(\exists c) \lim_{t \rightarrow \infty} x_i(t) = c$

iff  $\mathcal{G}$  contains a spanning tree