Mathematical Methods for Computer Science

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Methods Course Details

- Course title: Mathematical Methods
- Course lecturers:
 - Dr. J. Bradley (Weeks 2-5)
 - Prof. P. Harrison (Weeks 6-10)
- Course code: 145
- Lectures
 - Mondays: 3–4pm, rm 308
 - Wednesdays: 11–12 noon, rm 308 (until and inc. 7th November)
 - Thursdays: 10–11 am, rm 308
- Tutorials
 - Thursdays: 11–12 noon OR Tuesdays 5–6pm
- Number of assessed sheets: 5 out of 8

Assessed Exercises

- Submission: through CATE
 - https://sparrow.doc.ic.ac.uk/~cate/
- Assessed exercises (for 1st half of course):
 - 1. set 8 Oct; due 18 Oct
 - 2. set 15 Oct; due 25 Oct
 - 3. set 22 Oct; due 8 Nov

Recommended Books

You will find one of the following useful – no need to buy all of them:

- Mathematical Methods for Science Students. (2nd Ed). G Stephenson. Longman 1973. [38]
- Engineering Mathematics. (5th Ed). K A Stroud. Macmillan 2001. [21]
- Interactive Computer Graphics. P Burger and D Gillies. Addison Wesley 1989. [22]
- Analysis: with an introduction to proof. Steven R Lay. 4th edition, Prentice Hall, 2005.

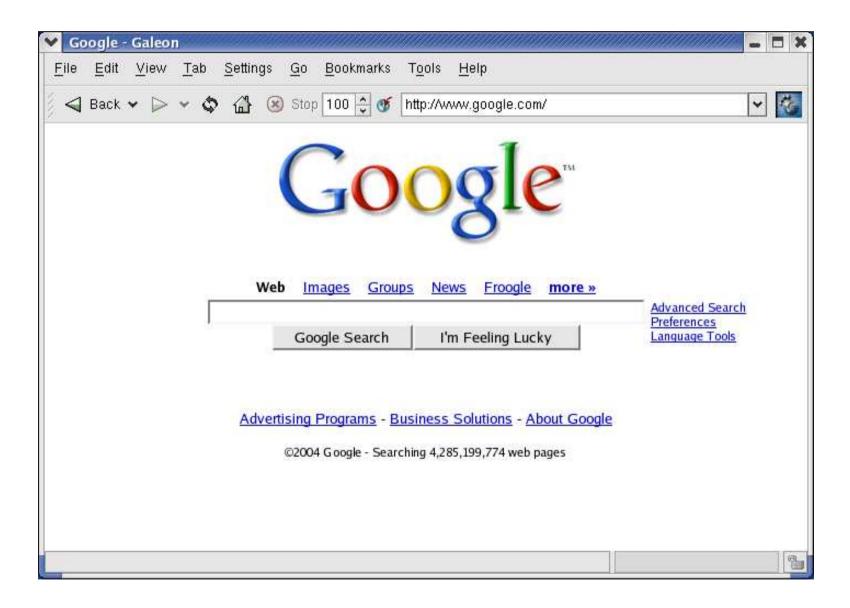
Maths and Computer Science

- Why is Maths important to Computer Science?
- Maths underpins most computing concepts/applications, e.g.:
 - computer graphics and animation
 - stock market models
 - information search and retrieval
 - performance of integrated circuits
 - computer vision
 - neural computing
 - genetic algorithms

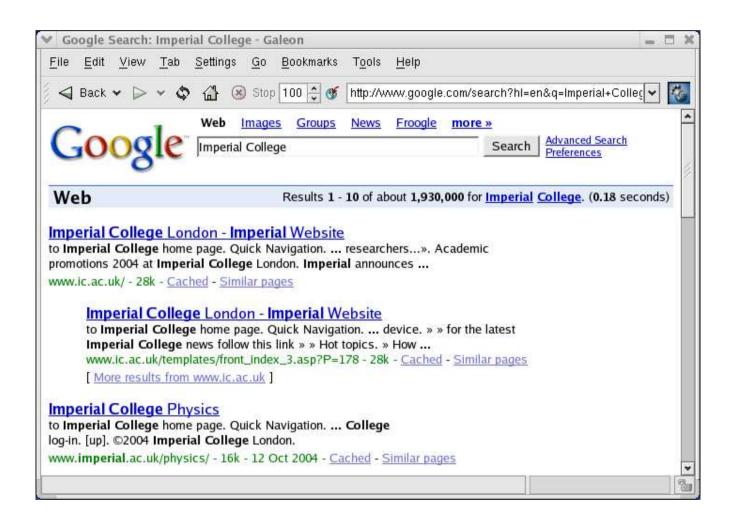
Highlighted Examples

- Search engines
 - Google and the PageRank algorithm
- Computer graphics
 - near photo realism from wireframe and vector representation

Searching with...

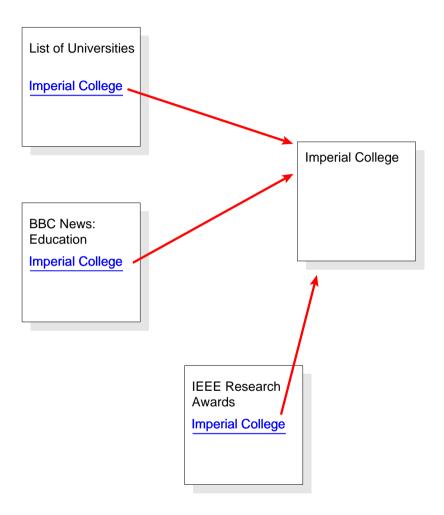


Searching for...



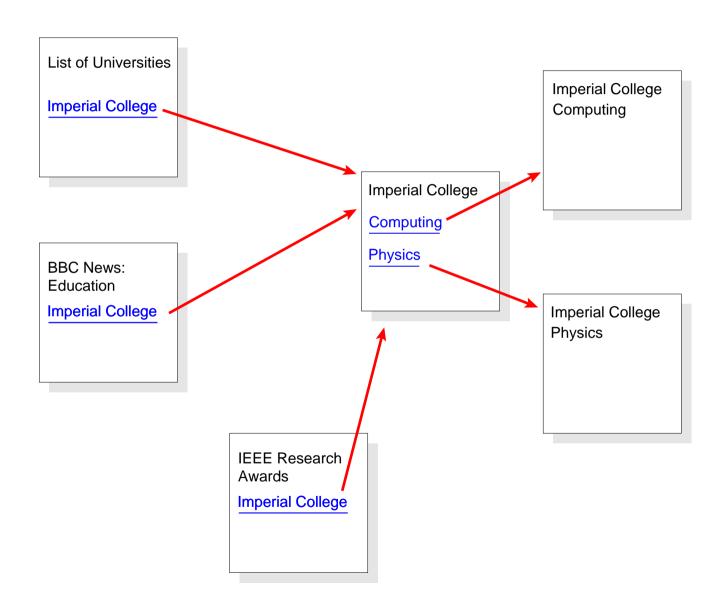
How does Google know to put Imperial's website top?

The PageRank Algorithm



PageRank is based on the underlying web graph

Propagation of PageRank

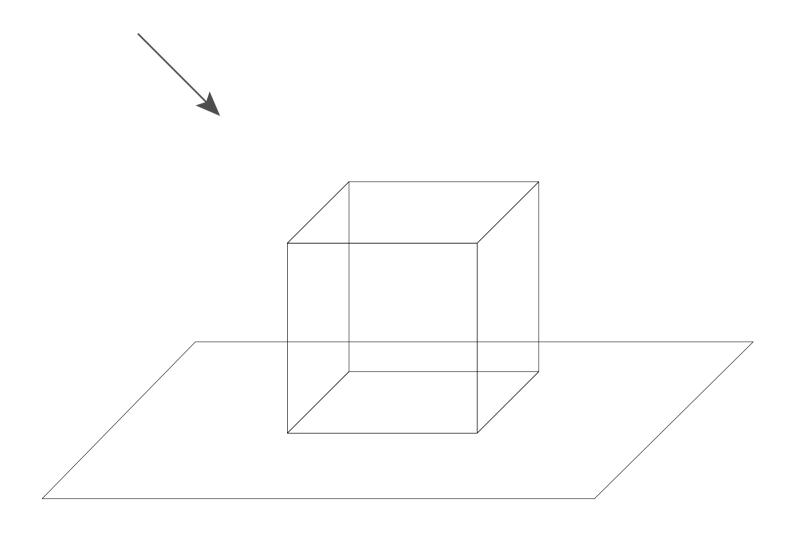


PageRank

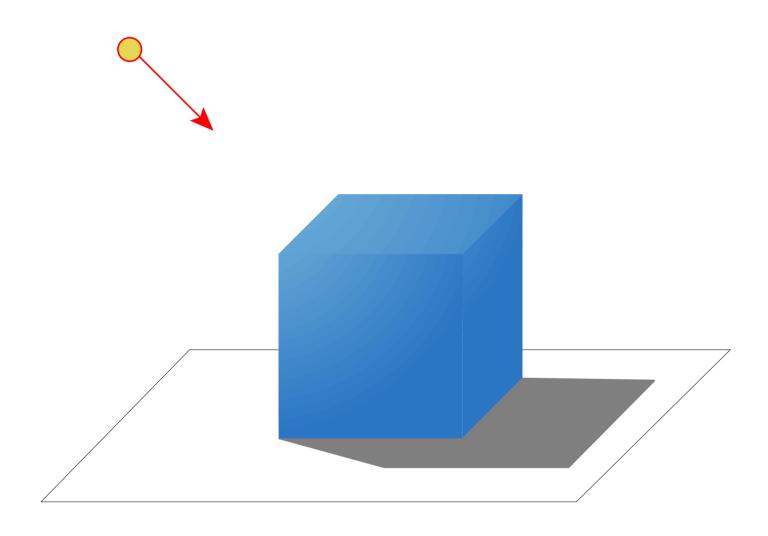
- So where's the Maths?
 - Web graph is represented as a matrix
 - Matrix is 9 billion × 9 billion in size
 - PageRank calculation is turned into an eigenvector calculation
 - Does it converge? How fast does it converge?



Ray tracing with: POV-Ray 3.6



Underlying wiremesh model



How can we calculate light shading/shadow?

- Key points of model are defined through vectors
- Vectors define position relative to an origin

