1. a. I think it will be interesting to know who are the most discussant people I interact with from different areas of my life.
   b. Subgroups will also be interesting to discover.
   c. Finally, of what types are these subgroups (if they even exists).

2. a. Apparently the most discussant people in my life are Star and Jan downstairs. Spam, spam, spam. Hundreds of “one-sided” email interaction. I’ve sent them both a few emails so it’s not entirely one sided, but it is very close. Strangely enough, I also email myself quite a bit sending myself documents for storage or transfer.

   b and c. Sadly, I wish I could have gotten data from my Yahoo mail client to work (they don’t provide POP3 access for free) so using my CS account made this rather boring. Many of these subgroups are group projects that I had been in. Large numbers of emails that were CC’ed to the same people and came back from the same people CC’ed to my groups. It was especially nice to be able to see the subjects of the emails in that I could easily identify which class I was in and even which project for the most part by searching and replacing anything with “CIS543” in it to be just “CIS543”. This is where knowing “regular expressions” probably would have helped. I can imagine writing a parsing program with some interesting “AI” to search and categorize these things for me.

3. SNA could be very important to finding groups of wrong-doers. Once one person is discovered, I’m sure that even now the FBI (chose them, throw in any other legal 3 letter acronym) use this to investigate the people that these people interact with the most. I can also see it used in “spam” detection where illegal activities are being advertised. Privacy of non-encrypted information sent over the internet has no bearing on privacy in my opinion.

   I do believe there is such a thing as private email, though most of us do not use it on a regular basis. Most email is accessible to anyone that is in the line of fire while it is being sent. Most of the time it is just sent as plain text too! There are encrypted email programs that I’ve heard of that use a cipher that is generated (usually through something like SSH when two computers are directly linked with no outside interaction). That cipher is stored on each person’s machine and is used to encrypt and decrypt emails before they are sent. A long enough encryption algorithm will leave “hackers” using parallel computers hundreds of years of fun before they can use brute force to break the encryption. So in short, the answer is yes there is, and no most of us don’t use it.