

A Network Model for Dynamic Textual Communications with Application to Government Email Corpora

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Interaction-Partitioned Topic Model (IPTM)

- Probabilistic model for time-stamped textual communications (e.g. emails, cosponsorship of bills, international sanctions)
- Integration of two generative models:
 - Latent Dirichlet allocation (LDA) for topic-based contents
 - Dynamic exponential random graph model (ERGM) for ties
- IPTM assigns each topic to an “interaction pattern,” which is governed by a set of dynamic network features

“who communicates with whom about what, and when?”

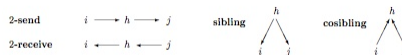
Content Generating Process: LDA (Blei et al., 2003)

- For each topic $k = 1, \dots, K$:
 1. Topic-word distribution $\phi^{(k)} \sim \text{Dirichlet}(\beta, \mathbf{u})$
 2. Topic-IP distribution $c_k \sim \text{Uniform}(1, C)$
- For each document $d = 1, \dots, D$:
 - 3-1. Document-topic distribution $\theta^{(d)} \sim \text{Dirichlet}(\alpha, \mathbf{m})$
 - 3-2. For each word in a document $n = 1$ to $N^{(d)}$:
 - (a) Choose a topic $z_n^{(d)} \sim \text{Multinomial}(\theta^{(d)})$
 - (b) Choose a word $w_n^{(d)} \sim \text{Multinomial}(\phi^{(z_n^{(d)})})$
 - 3-3 Calculate the distribution of interaction patterns within a document:

$$p_c^{(d)} = \left(\sum_{k:c_k=c} N^{(k|d)} \right) / N^{(d)}, \quad (1)$$

Dynamic Network Features (Perry and Wolfe, 2012)

- $\mathbf{x}_t^{(c)}(i, j)$ is the network statistics at time t , for interaction pattern c
 - Degree: outdegree and indegree
 - Dyadic: send and receive
 - Triadic: 2-send, 2-receive, sibling and cosibling



- Partition the past 384 hours (=16 days) into 3 sub-intervals

$$[t - 384h, t) = [t - 384h, t - 96h) \cup [t - 96h, t - 24h) \cup [t - 24h, t),$$

then define the interval-based statistics for $l \in \{1, 2, 3\}$ and $c \in \{1, \dots, C\}$

$$\text{outdegree}_{t,l}^{(c)}(i) = \sum_{d:t^{(d)} \in I_t^{(l)}} p_c^{(d)} \cdot I\{i \rightarrow \forall j\} \quad \text{send}_{t,l}^{(c)}(i, j) = \sum_{d:t^{(d)} \in I_t^{(l)}} p_c^{(d)} \cdot I\{i \rightarrow j\}$$

$$\text{indegree}_{t,l}^{(c)}(j) = \sum_{d:t^{(d)} \in I_t^{(l)}} p_c^{(d)} \cdot I\{\forall i \rightarrow j\} \quad \text{receive}_{t,l}^{(c)}(i, j) = \sum_{d:t^{(d)} \in I_t^{(l)}} p_c^{(d)} \cdot I\{j \rightarrow i\}$$

Stochastic Intensity

- $\lambda_{ij}^{(d)}(t) = P\{\text{for document } d, i \rightarrow j \text{ occurs in time interval } [t, t + dt)\}$:

$$\lambda_{ij}^{(d)}(t) = \sum_{c=1}^C p_c^{(d)} \cdot \exp\left\{\lambda_0^{(c)} + \mathbf{b}^{(c)T} \mathbf{x}_t^{(c)}(i, j)\right\}, \quad (2)$$

where $\lambda_0^{(c)}$ is the baseline hazards for the interaction pattern c and $\mathbf{b}^{(c)}$ is a vector of coefficients in \mathbf{R}^p .

- For multicast interactions – single sender i and multiple receivers J :

$$\lambda_{iJ}^{(d)}(t) = \sum_{c=1}^C p_c^{(d)} \cdot \exp\left\{\lambda_0^{(c)} + \frac{1}{|J|} \sum_{j \in J} \mathbf{b}^{(c)T} \mathbf{x}_t^{(c)}(i, j)\right\}, \quad (3)$$

which is obtained by taking the average of $\mathbf{b}^{(c)T} \mathbf{x}_t^{(c)}(i, j)$ across the receivers.

- Probability of i sends a document to j (or J) is a mixture of contents and history of interactions

Tie Generating Process

1. For each sender $i \in \{1, \dots, A\}$, choose a binary vector $J_i^{(d)}$ of length $(A - 1)$, by applying Gibbs measure (Fellows and Handcock, 2017)

$$P(J_i^{(d)}) = \frac{1}{Z(\delta, \log(\lambda_i^{(d)}))} \exp \left\{ \log(1(\sum_{j \in \mathcal{A} \setminus i} J_{ij}^{(d)} > 0)) + \sum_{j \in \mathcal{A} \setminus i} (\delta + \log(\lambda_{ij}^{(d)})) J_{ij}^{(d)} \right\}, \quad (4)$$

where δ is a real-valued intercept controlling the recipient size and $Z(\delta, \log(\lambda_i^{(d)}))$ is the normalizing constant.

2. For each sender $i \in \mathcal{A}$, generate the time increments

$$\Delta T_{iJ_i} \sim \text{Exp}(\lambda_{iJ_i}^{(d)}).$$

3. Set timestamp, sender, and receivers simultaneously:

$$t^{(d)} = t^{(d-1)} + \min(\Delta T_{iJ_i})$$

$$i^{(d)} = i_{\min(\Delta T_{iJ_i})}$$

$$J^{(d)} = J_{i^{(d)}}$$

Inference - Pseudocode

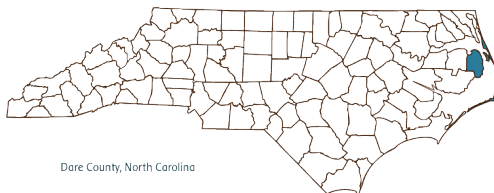
Algorithm 1 Markov Chain Monte Carlo (MCMC)

Set initial values $\mathcal{Z}^{(0)}$, $\mathcal{C}^{(0)}$, and $(\mathcal{B}^{(0)}, \delta^{(0)})$

```
for  $o=1$  to  $O$  do
  for  $d=1$  to  $D$  do
    for  $i \in \mathcal{A}_{\setminus i_o^{(d)}}$  do
      for  $j \in \mathcal{A}_{\setminus i}$  do
        | Sample the latent edge  $J_{ij}^{(d)}$  via Gibbs sampling
      end
    end
    for  $n=1$  to  $N^{(d)}$  do
      | Sample the topic assignments via Gibbs sampling
      |  $z_n^{(d)} \sim \text{Multinomial}(p^{\mathcal{Z}})$ 
    end
  end
  for  $k=1$  to  $K$  do
    | Sample the interaction pattern assignments via Gibbs sampling
    |  $C_k \sim \text{Multinomial}(p^{\mathcal{C}})$ 
  end
  for  $n=1$  to  $n_B$  do
    | Sample the interaction pattern parameters  $\mathcal{B}$  via Metropolis-Hastings
  end
  for  $n=1$  to  $n_\delta$  do
    | Sample the receiver size parameter  $\delta$  via Metropolis-Hastings
  end
end
end
```

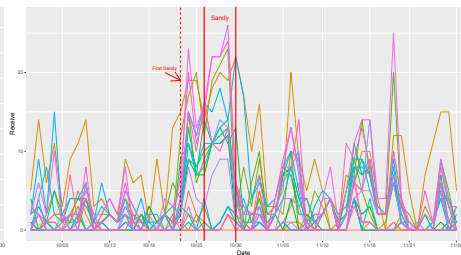
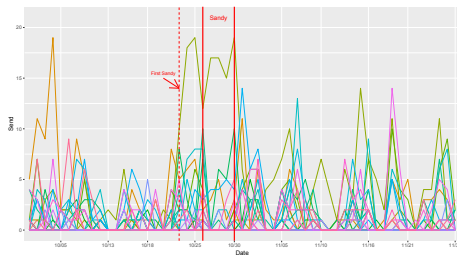
Data: North Carolina Dare county email data

- $D = 1456$ emails between $A = 27$ county government managers, covering 2 month periods (October 1 - November 30) in 2013

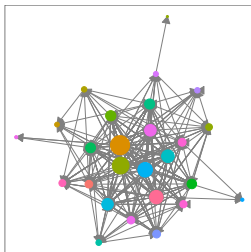


Dare County, North Carolina

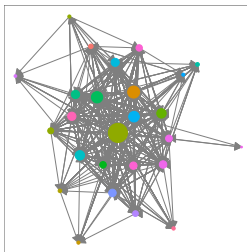
Effect of Hurricane Sandy on Email Exchange



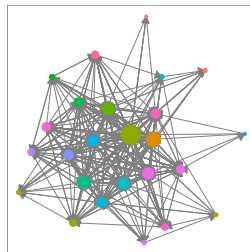
Pre-Sandy



Sandy



Post-Sandy



Department

- Building Inspections
- County Extension
- County Manager
- Detention
- Elections
- Emergency Services
- Finance
- Health
- HR
- Information Technology
- Library
- Parks and Recreation
- Planning
- Public Information
- Register of Deeds
- Senior Center
- Sheriff
- Soil Conservation
- Solid Waste and Recycling
- Tax Administrator
- Transportation
- Veteran Services

IPTM Result

Conclusion

- Joint modeling of ties (sender, receiver, time) and contents
- Allowance of multicast – multiple senders and/or receivers
- Possible application to