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

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Motivation

- In many networks, ties are attributed with text
  - International treaties
  - International sanctions
  - Legislative cosponsorship
  - Discussion networks on social media
- Network models can't model text
- Models for text either...
  - Are not designed for networks
  - Include simplistic network structure

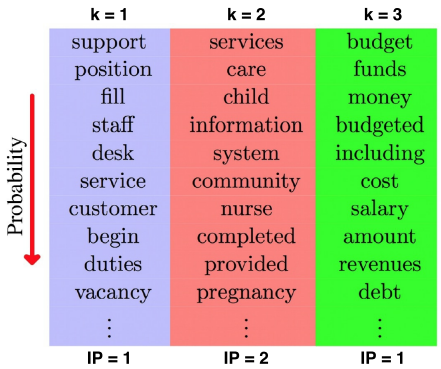
Interaction-Partitioned Topic Model (IPTM)

- Probablistic model for time-stamped textual communications
- Integration of two generative models:
  - Latent Dirichlet allocation (LDA) for topic-based contents
  - Dynamic exponential random graph model (ERGM) for ties

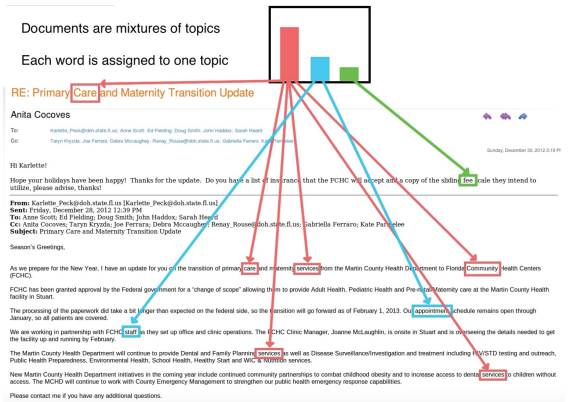
"who communicates with whom about what, and when?"

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

- For each topic $k = 1, ..., K$:
  1. Choose a topic-word distribution over the word types
  2. Choose a topic-interaction pattern assignment



- For each document $d = 1, ..., D$:
  - 3-1. Choose a document-topic distribution
  - 3-2. For each word in a document $n = 1$ to $N^{(d)}$:
    - (a) Choose a topic from document-topic distribution
    - (b) Choose a word from topic-word distribution



  - 3-3 Calculate the distribution of interaction patterns within a document:

$$p_c^{(d)} = \Big(\sum_{k:c_k=c} N^{(k|d)} \Big) / N^{(d)},$$

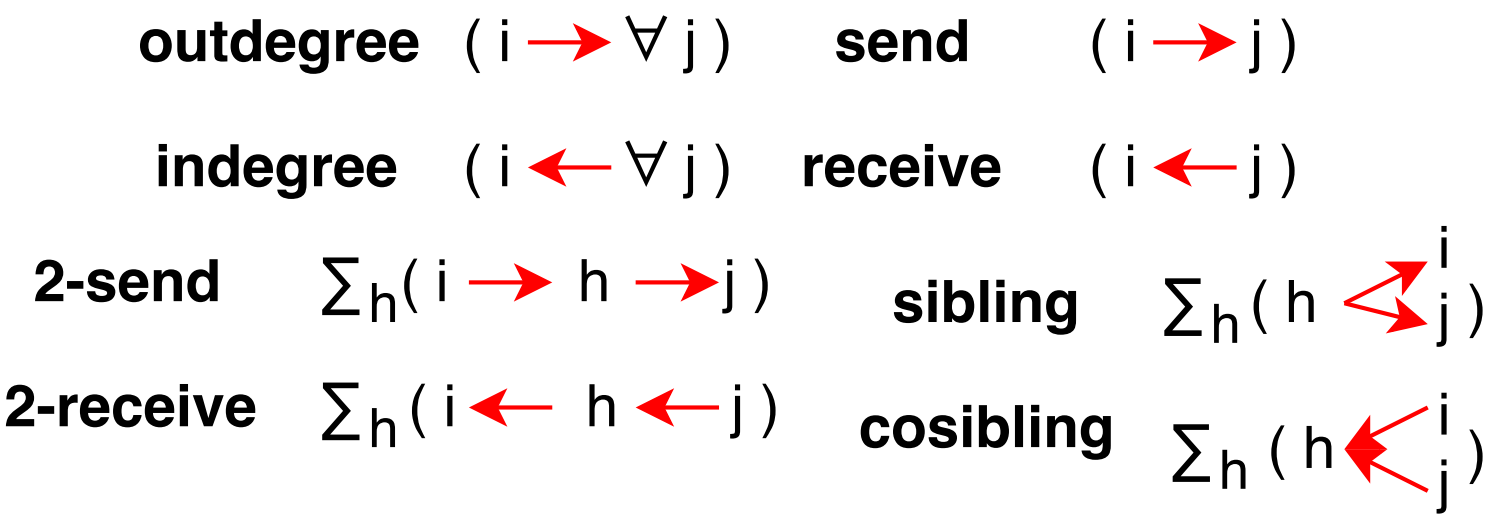
Network Model Components

- Models real time ties
- Ties predicted using recent network structure
  - Vertex attributes
  - Popularity
  - Reciprocity
  - Transitivity
- Sender selects vector of recipients and timing
- Innovative modeling of multicasts

Dynamic Network Features (Perry and Wolfe, 2012)

Current network features modeled

- memory
- reciprocity
- popularity and activity
- transitivity

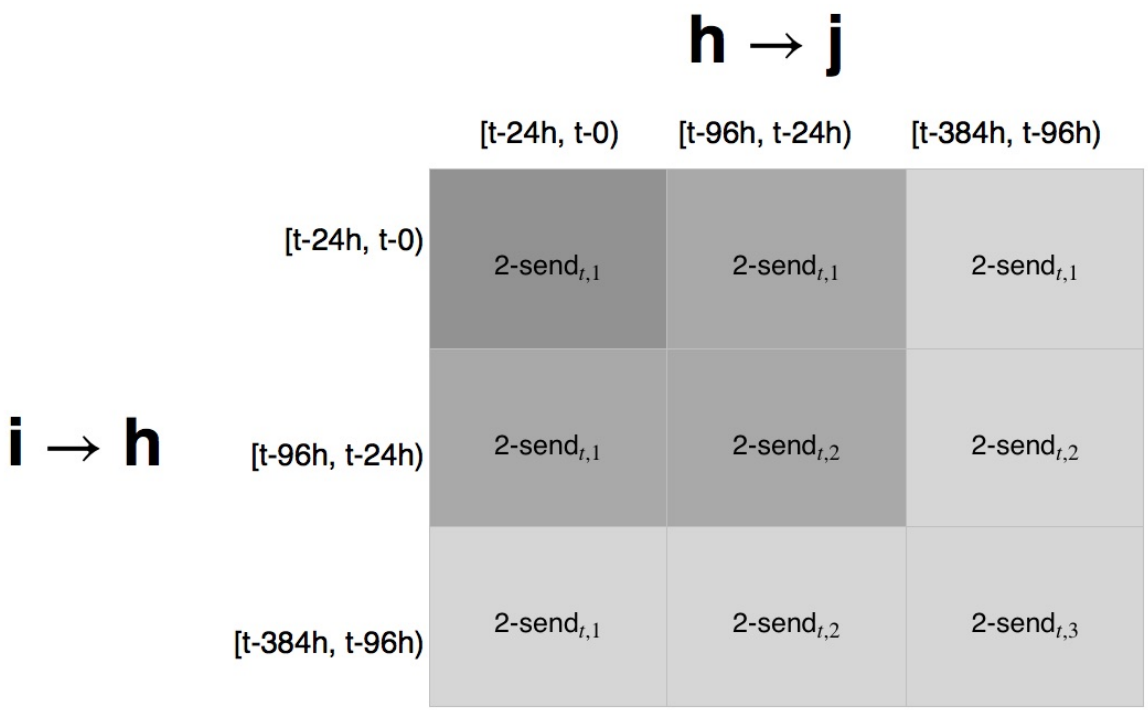


Conditioning feagures on recency

- Network features conditioned on degree of recency
- Partition the past 384 hours (=16 days) into 3 sub-intervals

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

- $\boldsymbol{x}_{t,l}^{(c)}(i,j)$ is the network statistics at time t, for interaction pattern c



Tie Generating Process: Receivers

1. For each sender $i \in \{1, ..., A\}$ and receiver $j \in \{1, ..., A\}$ $(i \neq j)$, calculate the stochastic indensity between i and j:

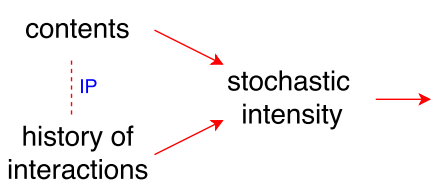
$$\lambda_{ij}^{(d)} = \sum_{c=1}^{C} p_c^{(d)} \cdot \exp\Big\{ \boldsymbol{b}_0^{(c)} + \boldsymbol{b}^{(c)T} \boldsymbol{x}_{t^{(d-1)}}^{(c)}(i,j) \Big\},$$

which is a mixture of contents, baseline interaction rate, and network effects.

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

$$\mathrm{P}(J_i^{(d)}) \propto \exp\Big\{ \sum_{j \in \mathcal{A}_{\setminus i}} (\delta + \log(\lambda_{ij}^{(d)})) J_{ij}^{(d)} \Big\},$$

where δ is a real-valued intercept controlling the recipient size



i	1	2	3	4	·····	A
1	0	1	0	1	·····	1
2	1	0	0	0	·····	0
...			·····			
A	0	0	1	0	·····	0

Tie Generating Process: Sender and Time

3. For each sender $i \in \{1, ..., A\}$, generate the time increments for document d

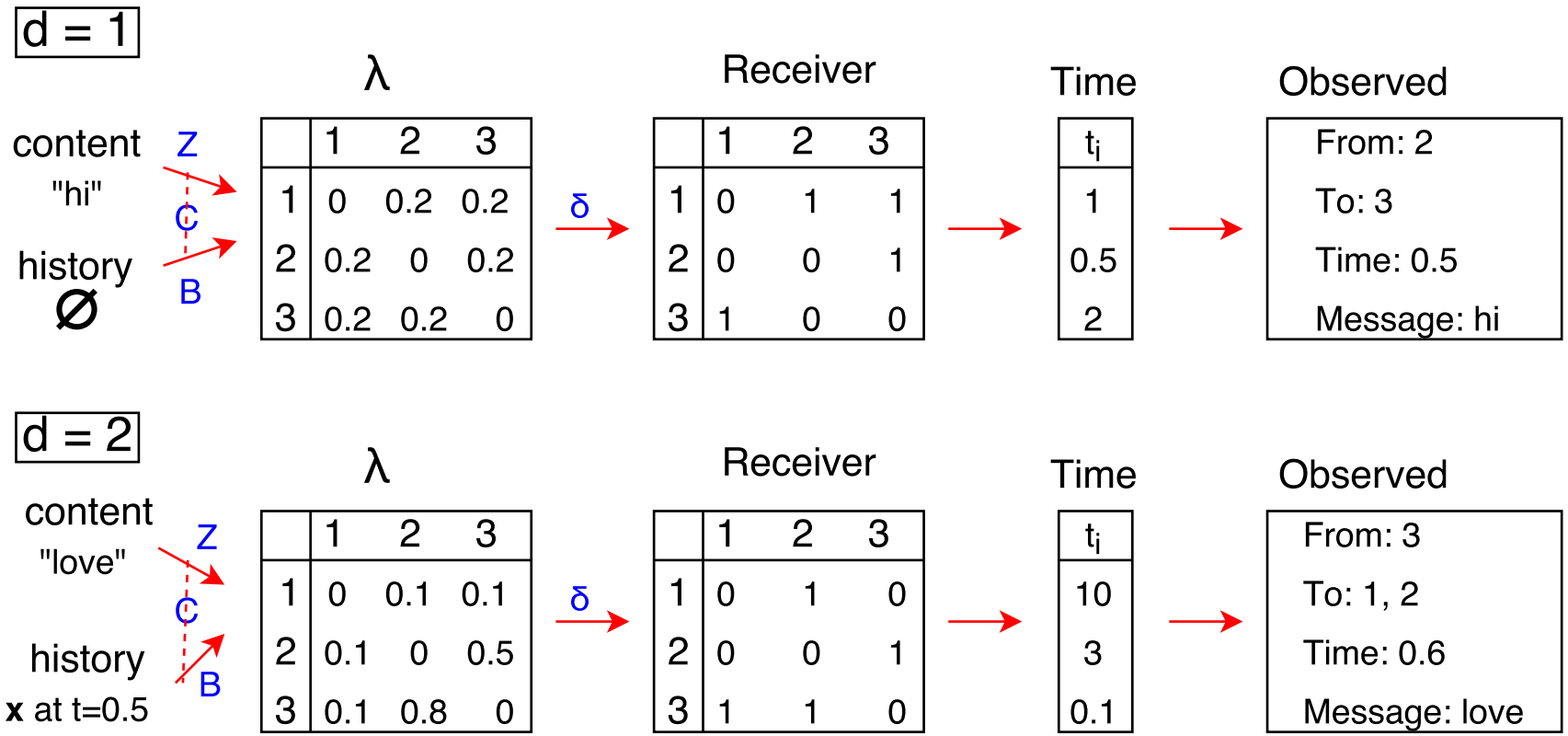
$$\Delta T_{iJ_i}^{(d)} \sim \text{Exponential}(\lambda_{iJ_i}^{(d)}),$$

where $\lambda_{iJ_i}^{(d)} = \sum_{c=1}^{C} p_c^{(d)} \cdot \exp\Big\{\lambda_0^{(c)} + \frac{1}{|J_i|} \sum_{j \in J_i} \boldsymbol{b}^{(c)T} \boldsymbol{x}_{t^{(d-1)}}^{(c)}(i,j)\Big\}$ is the updated sender-specific stochastic intensity given the receivers.

4. Set the observed sender, receivers and timestamp simultaneously:

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

Joint Generating Process



Inference

- Take a Bayesian approach to inference
- $\mathcal{B}$ and δ interpreted at fixed $\mathcal{Z}$ and $\mathcal{C}$

Algorithm 1 MCMC

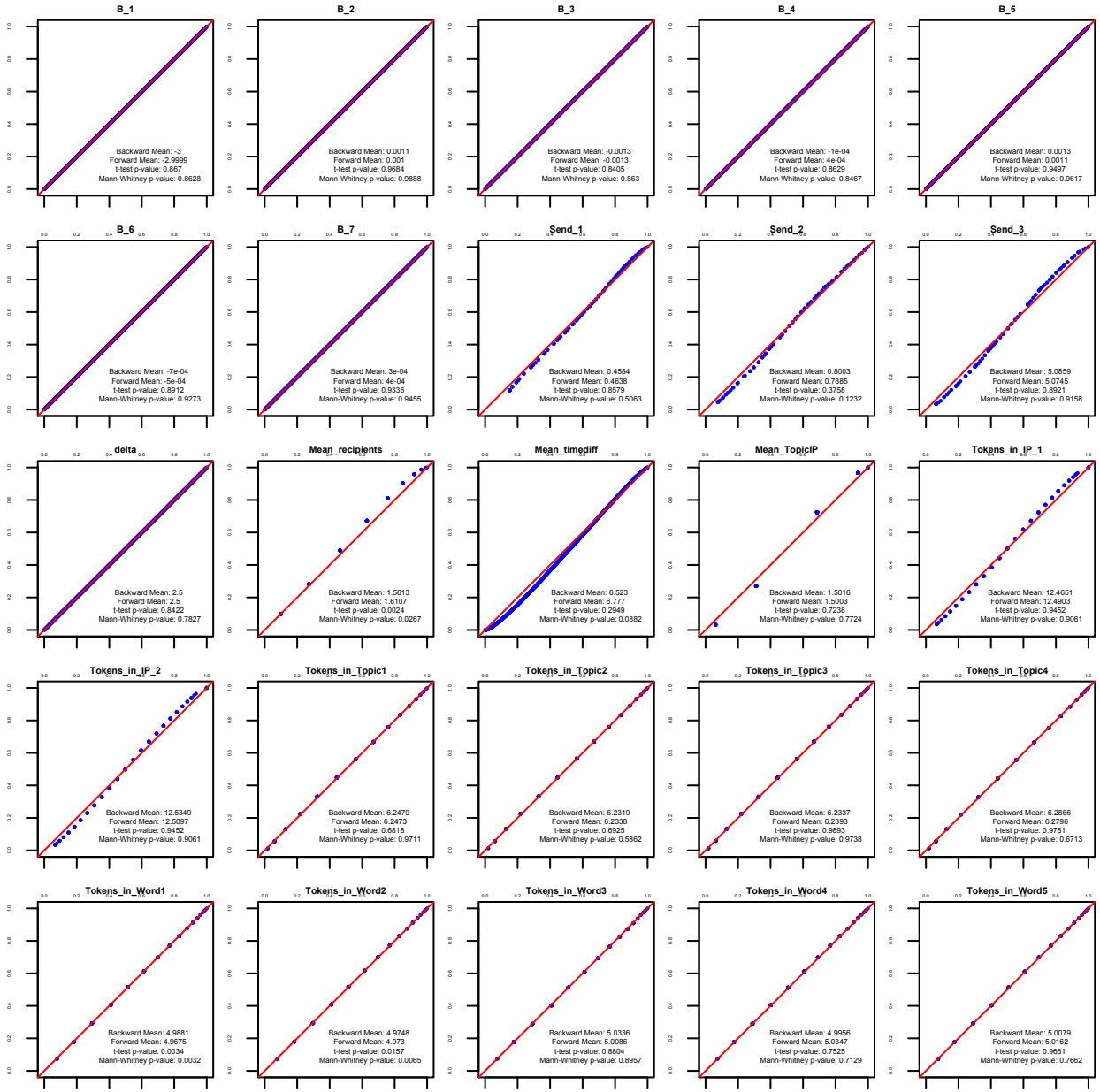
Set initial values $\mathcal{Z}^{(0)}, \mathcal{C}^{(0)}$, and $(\mathcal{B}^{(0)}, \delta^{(0)})$
for *o=1 to O* **do**
  Sample the latent receivers $J_{ij}^{(d)}$ via Gibbs sampling
  Sample the topic assignments $\mathcal{Z}$ via Gibbs sampling
  Sample the interaction pattern assignments $\mathcal{C}$ via Gibbs sampling
  Sample the network effect parameters $\mathcal{B}$ via Metropolis-Hastings
  Sample the receiver size parameter δ via Metropolis-Hastings
end

Getting it Right: Jointly testing math and code

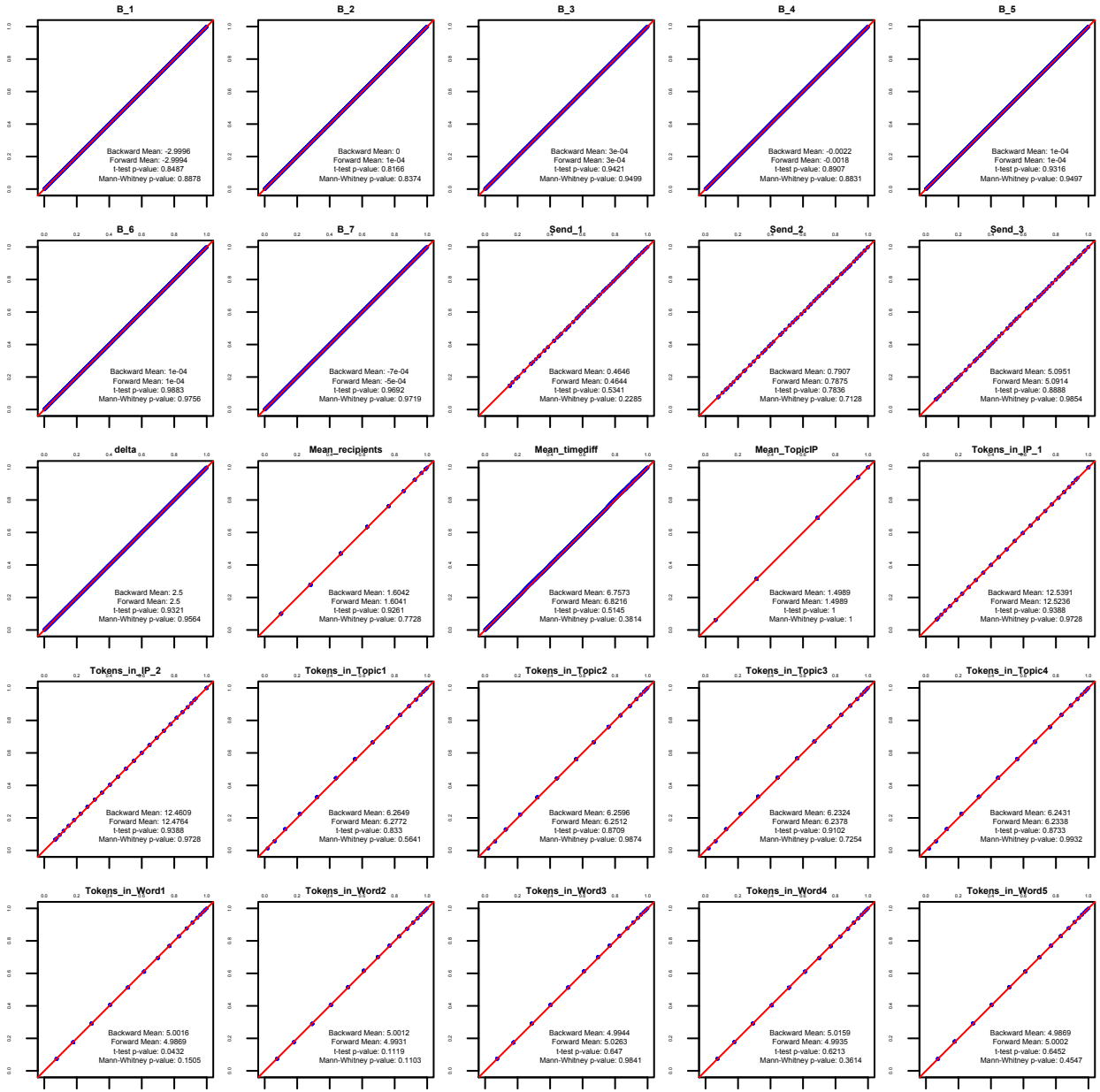
Geweke (2004) proposed a test for Bayesian posterior samplers

- *Forward samples*:
  1. Draw parameters from prior
  2. Draw data conditional on parameters
  3. Repeat
- *Backward samples*:
  1. Start with a forward sample of data
  2. Run inference on data
  3. Generate new data conditioned on inferred parameters
  4. Run inference on new data
  5. Repeat
- Forward samples and backward samples should match

GiR: Results with full model

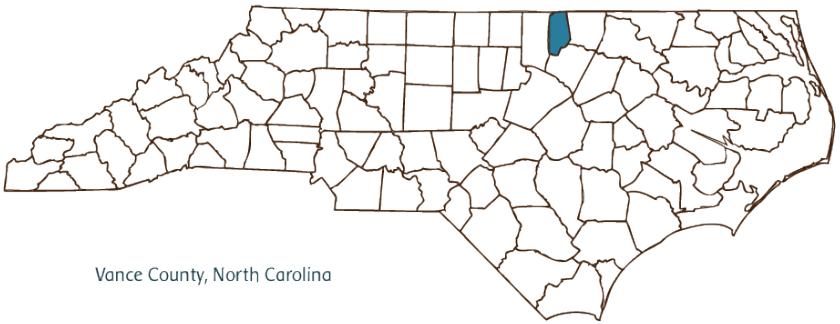


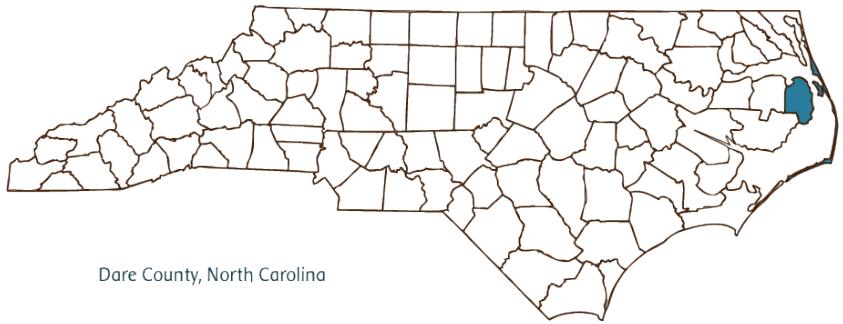
GiR: Results with fixed C



North Carolina county email data

- Dare County:
  - $D = 1456$ emails
  - $A = 27$ county government managers
  - covering 2 month period (October 1 - November 30) in 2012
- Vance County:
  - $D = 183$ emails
  - $A = 17$ county government managers
  - covering 3 month period (September 4 - November 30) in 2012
- Hurricane Sandy passed by NC: October 26 - October 30

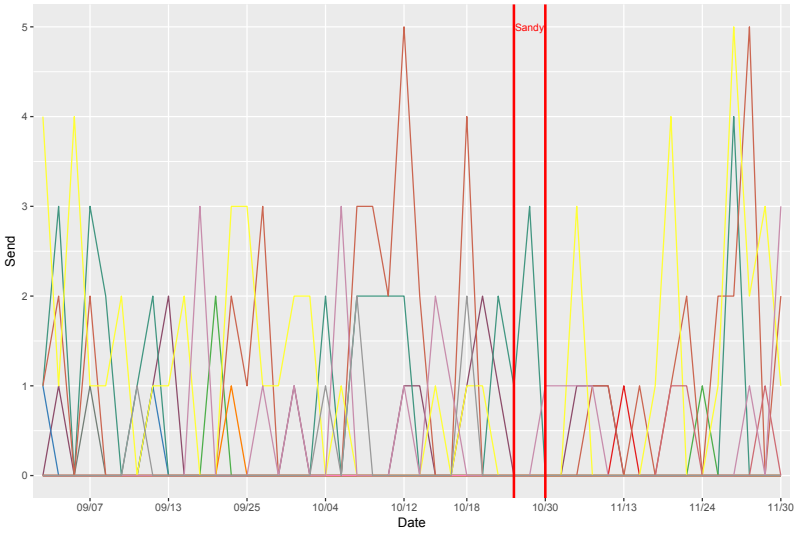


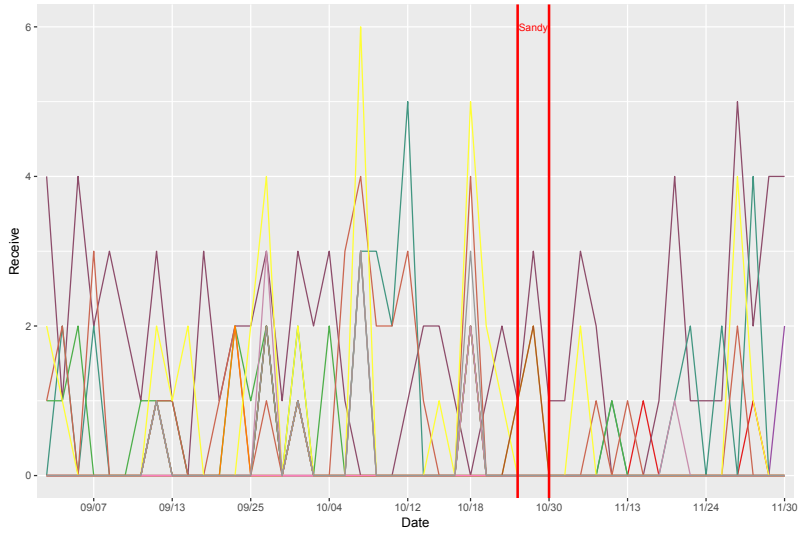


Theoretical considerations

- Personal/friendship topics exhibit reciprocity and transitivity
- Professional communications avoid loops
- Sandy communications represent pattern breakdowns

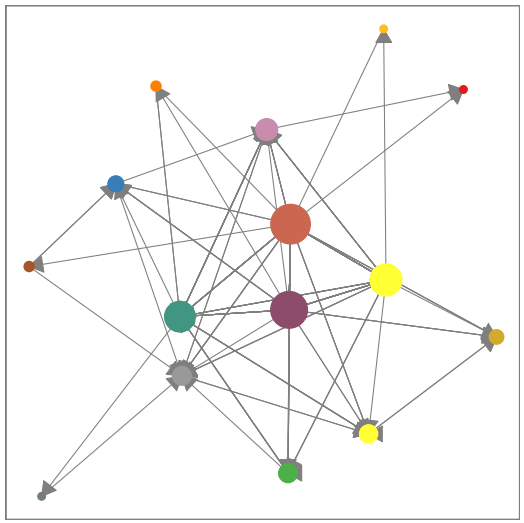
Exploratory Data Analysis: Vance County



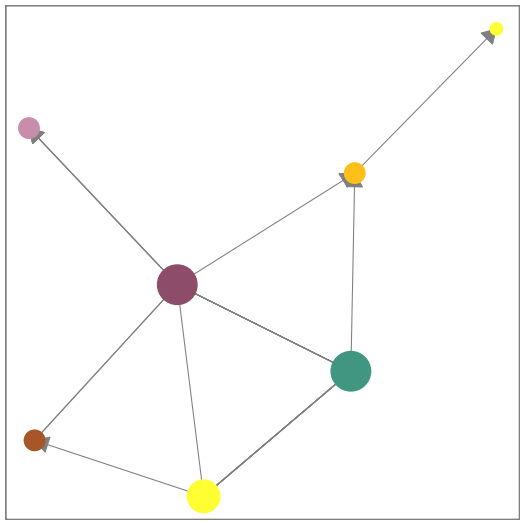


Department
- Building Inspections
- County Extension
- County Manager
- Detention
- Elections
- Emergency Services
- Finance
- Health
- HR
- Information Technology
- Library
- Parks and Recreation
- Planning
- Public Informations
- Register of Deeds
- Senior Center
- Sheriff
- Soil Conservation
- Solid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

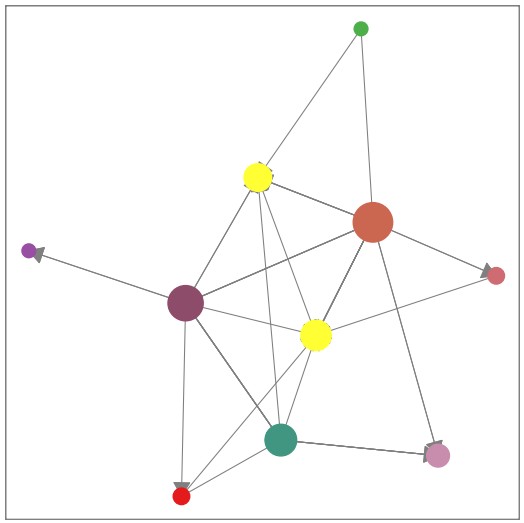
Pre-Sandy



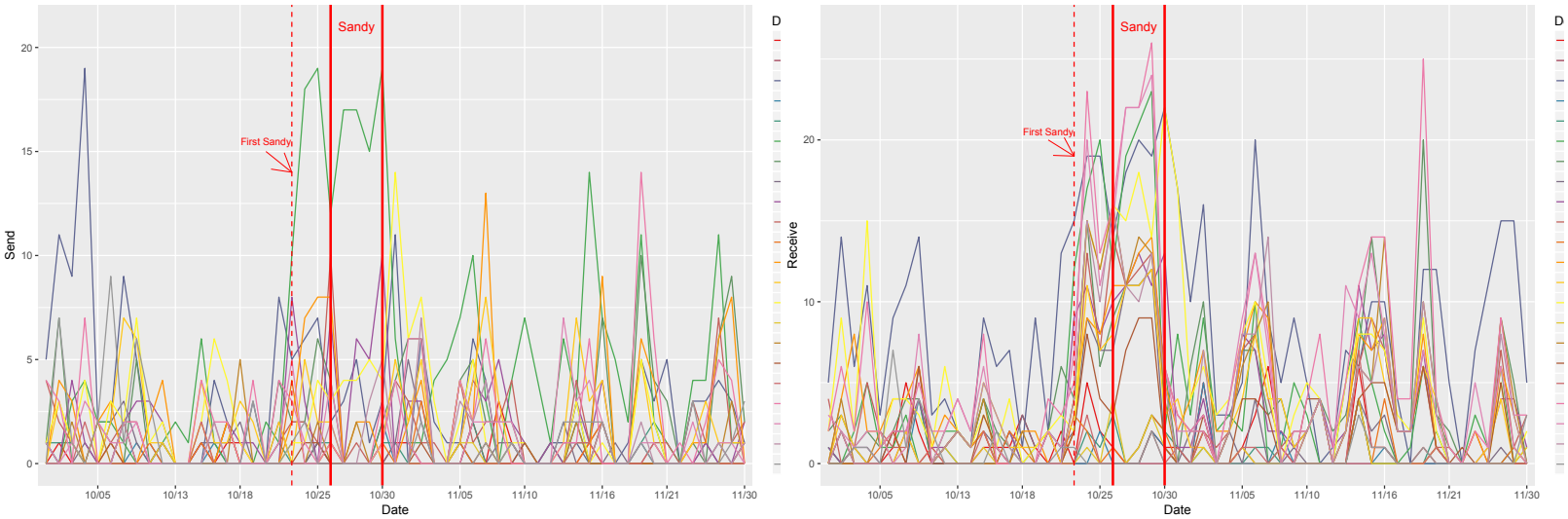
Sandy



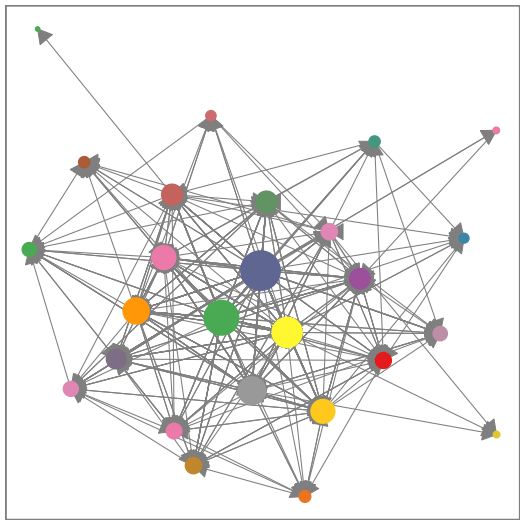
Post-Sandy



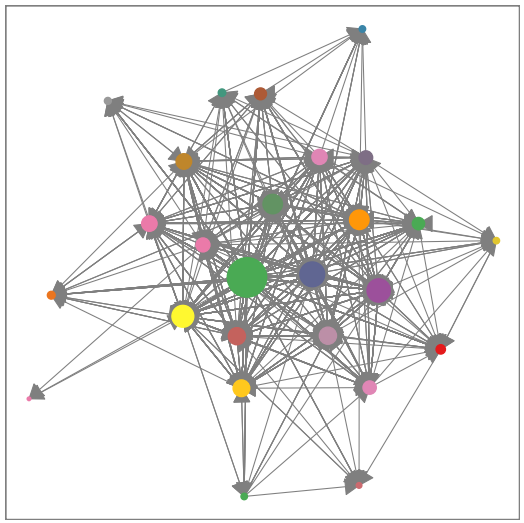
Exploratory Data Analysis: Dare County



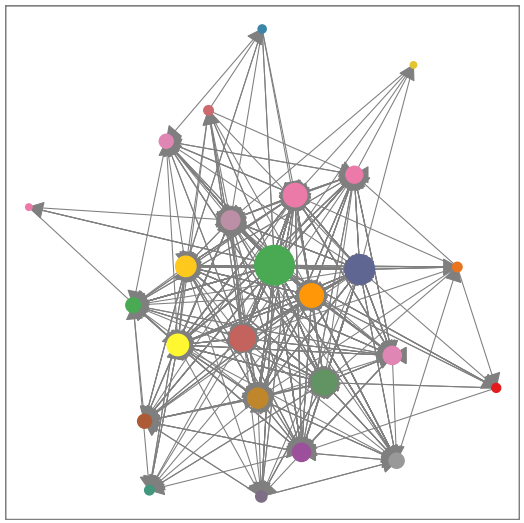
Pre-Sandy



Sandy



Post-Sandy

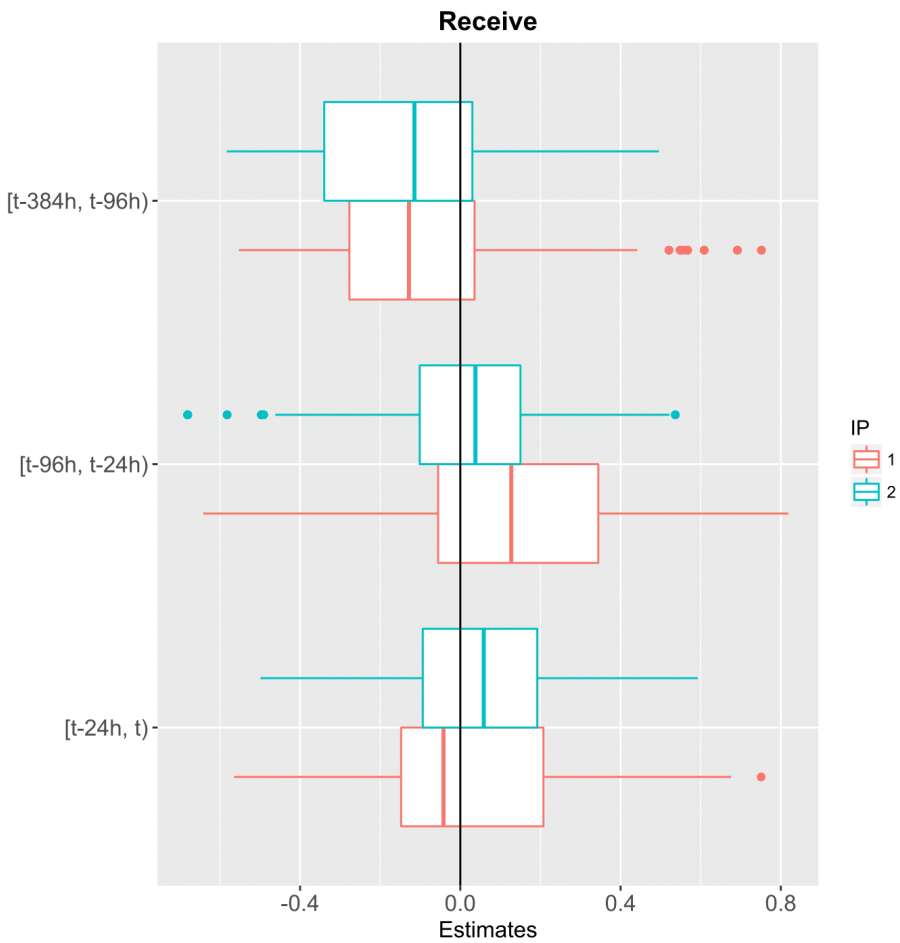


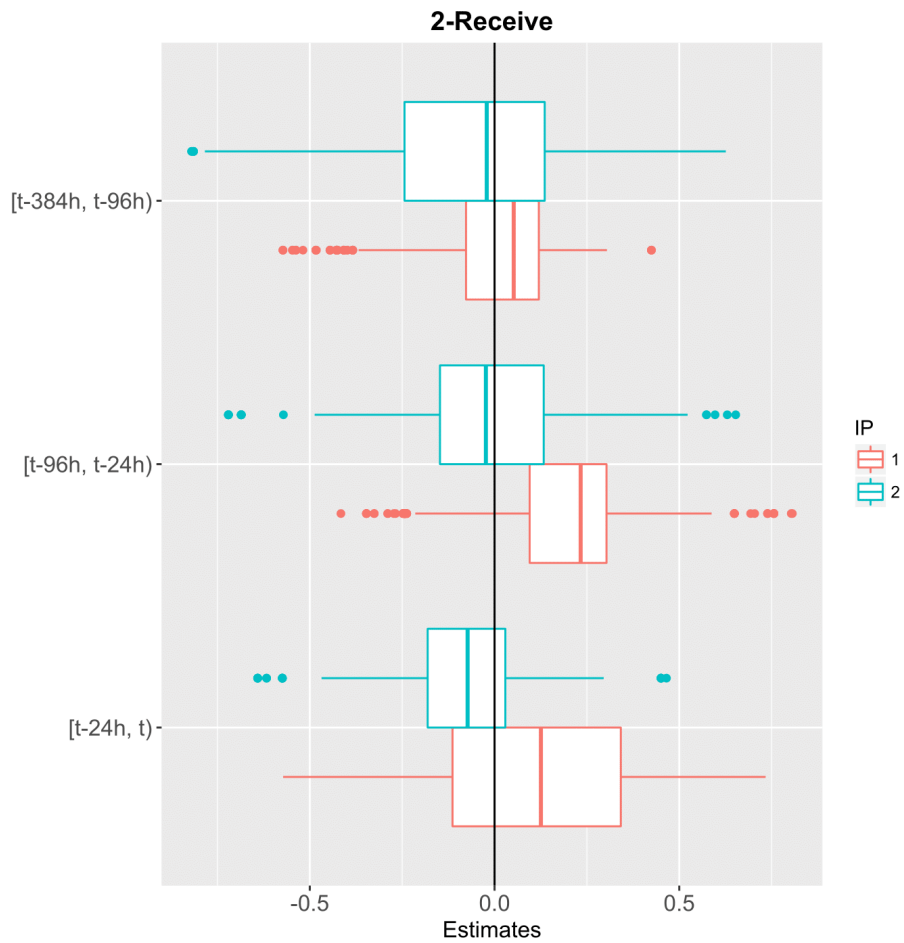
IPTM Result: Topics, Vance County

$C = 2$, $K = 20$ and $O = 500$

IP	**1**	**1**	**1**	**2**	**2**	**2**
Topic	**1** (0.078)	**3** (0.224)	**5** (0.141)	**2** (0.139)	**4** (0.369)	**6** (0.038)
Word	directory	message	operations	phase	dropbox	phones
	switch	electronic	emergency	description	cecd	october
	network	ncgs	office	planning	henderson-vance	will
	address	chapter	communications	board	box	polycom
	extension	response	center	water	commission	intstructions
	tax	public	lines	taps	economic	training
	latest	manager	fax	keep	unemployment	conference
	department	attachments	enp	phone	licensed	three
	henderson	siemens	cem	compliance	rural	finalized
	january	pursuant	suite	signups	development	room
	young	subject	good	meter	reduced	cutover
	wireless	review	asap	suite	financial	contact
	installation	records	henderson	fax	private	thursday
	cutting	jail	street	meeting	labor	folks
	rest	hereto	church	tuesday	force	finishing

IPTM Result: Dynamic Network Effects, Vance County





IPTM Result: Topics, Dare County (IP 1)

$C = 2$, $K = 20$ and $O = 100$

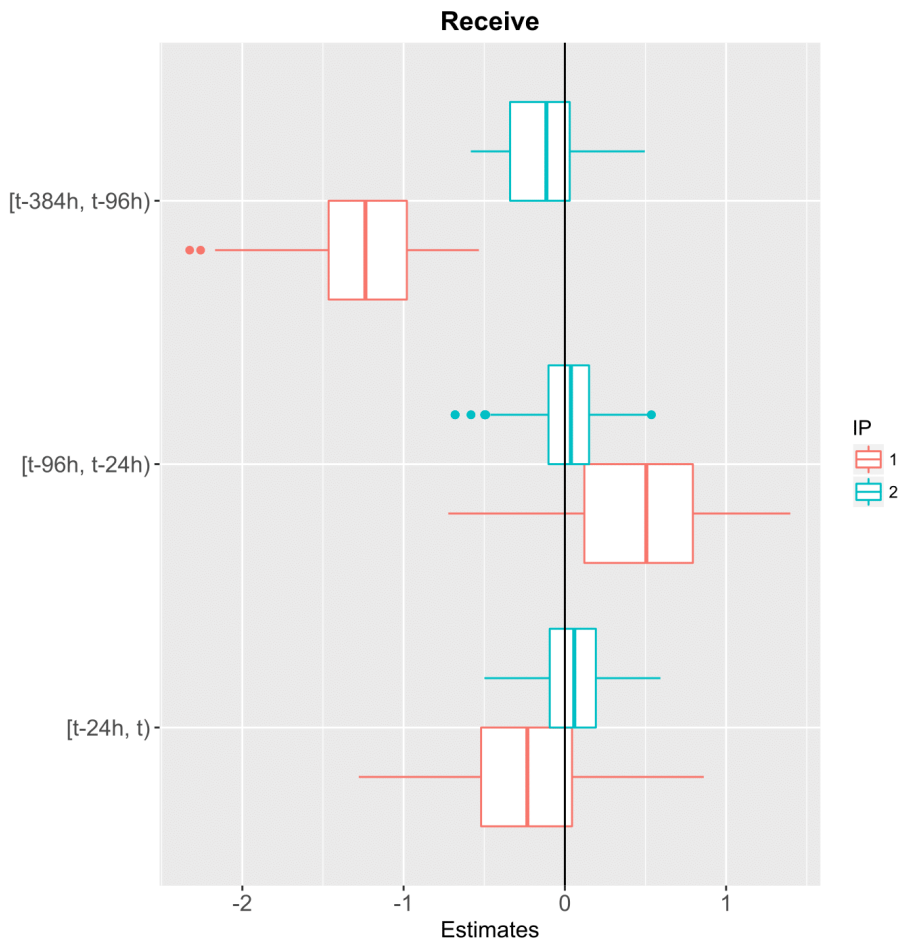
IP	**1**	**1**	**1**	**1**	**1**
Topic	**3** (0.078)	**5** (0.065)	**19** (0.064)	**13** (0.057)	**15** (0.053)
Word	water	planning	phone	questions	contact
	relocation	meter	collins	board	info
	location	room	drive	december	problem
	hills	asked	marshall	call	release
	utilities	needed	director	sheets	check
	mustian	sure	human	agenda	weather
	hydrant	afternoon	resources	nov	priority
	department	cheryl	manteo	hope	readings
	skyco	johnson	phr	item	rodanthe
	kill	issues	fax	weekly	top
	devil	case	box	management	collection
	road	letter	timesheets	internet	located
	lane	antennas	-lsb-	told	health
	tank	inspection	wanted	care	heads
	map	keep	touch	comp	ahead

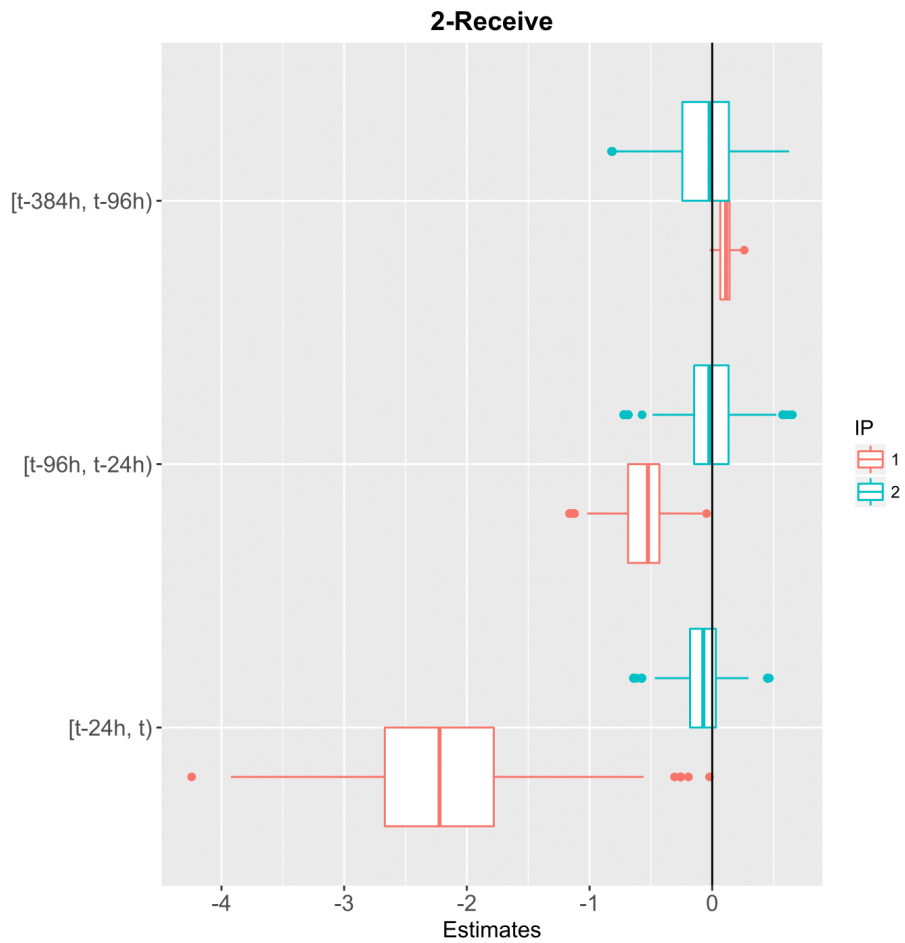
IPTM Result: Topics, Dare County (IP 2)

$C = 2$, $K = 20$ and $O = 100$

IP	**2**	**2**	**2**	**2**	**2**
Topic	**14** (0.058)	**12** (0.047)	**2** (0.045)	**6** (0.044)	**18** (0.036)
Word	time	survey	road	library	status
	hours	voice	mirlo	week	system
	leave	copy	storm	working	area
	monday	discovery	beach	place	south
	administrative	regional	high	best	forecast
	employees	parties	coastal	start	track
	empoyee	disclosed	impacts	visit	pay
	work	elections	saturday	year	move
	day	pin	dot	albemarle	assessment
	friday	sending	night	librarian	opens
	october	prior	winds	web	damage
	storm	editor	hold	learning	well
	tomorrow	students	bridge	east	ocean
	hour	cost	expressed	holiday	operation
	question	residents	normal	system	addition

IPTM Result: Dynamic Network Effects, Dare County





Model fit evaluation

- Forecast topics, ties, and timing of next document
- Compare to one or more models that can generate same predictions

Algorithm 2 Predicting tie data for the next document

Input

1. O, number of outer iterations of inference from which to generate predictions
2. d, the last document to use in inference
3. R, the number of iterations to sample predicted data within each outer iteration

Run burnin iterations
for *o=1 to O* **do**
    run an outer iteration of inference on documents 1 through d
    initialize values for $i^{(d+1)}$, $J^{(d+1)}$, $t^{(d+1)}$, and $\mathcal{Z}^{d+1}$
    for *r=1 to R* **do**
        sample $i^{(d+1)}$, $J^{(d+1)}$, and $t^{(d+1)}$ conditional on $\mathcal{Z}^{d+1}$, via the generative process
        sample $\mathcal{Z}^{d+1}$ via Equation 24
    end
    store $i^{(d+1)}$, $J^{(d+1)}$, $t^{(d+1)}$, and $\mathcal{Z}^{d+1}$
end

Conclusion

- Joint modeling of ties (sender, receiver, time) and contents
- Contribution in distribution for non-empty multicast
- Many potential applications in political science
- Developement of R package 'IPTM'