Introduction to Stochastic Actor-Oriented Models Fundamentals of SAOMs

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Preamble

- All material is on the workshop repository https://github.com/johankoskinen/CHDH-SNA
 - ▶ Download the RMarkdown file CHDH-SNA-2.Rmd
- In order to run the Markdown you need
 - ▶ The R-package **R**
 - ► The RStudio interface R Studio
- We will predominantly use the packages
 - sna
 - network
 - RSiena



Outline of workshops

- (Basic) Introduction to SAOM (Thursday AM)
 - SAOM as an agent-based model
 - How to estimate a SAOM
- Analysing data with SAOM
 - Different model specifications
 - Different types of data
 - ▶ Trouble shooting and dealing with common issues
- Extensions to SAOM
 - Even more types of data
 - ► Likelihood-based estimation
 - Settings and imperfect data



The two basic types of data

NETWORK

nodes: Andras, Per, Zsofia have **ties:** Andras \rightarrow Per

BEHAVIOUR

attributes of nodes: Andras, Per,

Zsofia drink

Zsofia does not smoke





We have observations on NETWORK and BEHAVIOUR

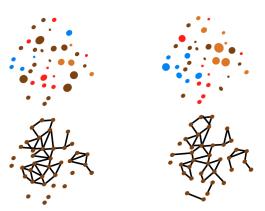


At some fixed points in time

starting at t_0 followed by t_1 $t_0 < t_1$



We have observations on NETWORK and BEHAVIOUR

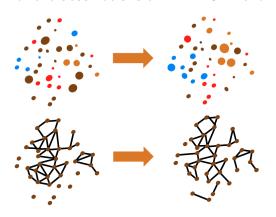


At some fixed points in time

starting at t_0 followed by t_1 $t_0 < t_1$



We have observations on NETWORK and BEHAVIOUR

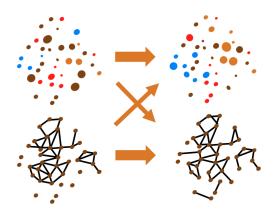


At some fixed points in time

starting at t_0 followed by t_1 $t_0 < t_1$



We have observations on NETWORK and BEHAVIOUR

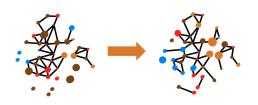


Especially the **co-evolution**:

selection influence



We have observations on NETWORK and BEHAVIOUR

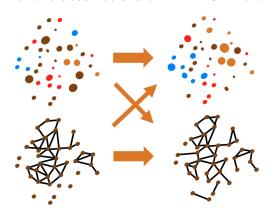


Especially the **co-evolution**:

selection influence



We have observations on NETWORK and BEHAVIOUR



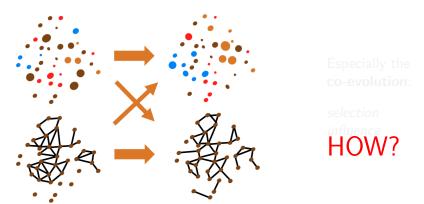
Especially the **co-evolution**:

selection influence



The SAO Model

We have **observations** on NETWORK and BEHAVIOUR

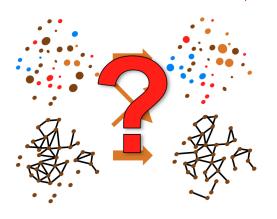


inferential task: explain how t_0 change into t_1



The SAO Model

Assume **PARTIAL observations** on a process



observations:

at t_0 and t_1

the rest:

missing

the process explains how t_0 change into t_1



The SAO Model

Assume PARTIAL observations on a process



observations:

at t_0 and t_1

the rest:

missing

the process explains how t_0 change into t_1



What type of data do we want to explain: adjacency matrix

Data represented as adjacency matrices

$$\mathbf{x} = \left(egin{array}{ccccc} . & 0 & 0 & 0 & 1 \\ 1 & . & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 1 & 1 & . & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & . & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 & 1 & . \end{array}
ight)$$

where $x_{ij} = 1$ or 0 according to wether $i \rightarrow j$ or not.



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What type of data do we want to explain: longitudinal

Data represented as adjacency matrices where elements change

$$x(t_0) = \left(egin{array}{ccccc} . & 0 & 0 & 0 & 1 \ 1 & . & 0 & 0 & 0 \ 1 & 1 & . & 0 & 0 \ 0 & 0 & 0 & . & 0 \ 0 & 0 & 1 & 1 & . \end{array}
ight)$$



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What type of data do we want to explain

Data represented as adjacency matrices where elements change

$$x(t_1) = \left(egin{array}{ccccc} . & \mathbf{1} & 0 & 0 & 1 \ 1 & . & 0 & 0 & 0 \ 1 & \mathbf{0} & . & 0 & 0 \ 0 & 0 & 0 & . & 0 \ \mathbf{1} & 0 & 1 & 1 & . \end{array}
ight)$$



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What type of data do we want to explain

Data represented as adjacency matrices where elements change

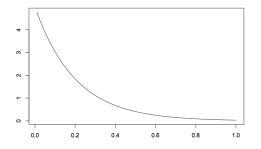
$$x(t_2) = \left(egin{array}{ccccc} . & 1 & 0 & 1 & 1 \ 1 & . & 0 & 0 & 1 \ 1 & 1 & . & 0 & 0 \ 0 & 0 & 0 & . & 0 \ 1 & 0 & 0 & 1 & . \end{array}
ight)$$



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SAOM: the rate of change

At random points in time, at rates λ_i



nodes/individuals/actors are given opportunities to change



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SAOM: the direction of change

Conditional on an actor having an opportunity for change the probability for each outcome

- o is modelled like multinomial logistic regression
- reflects the attractiveness of the outcome to the actor

Micro-step

When actor i has opportunity to change

They may toggle x_{ij} to $1 - x_{ij}$

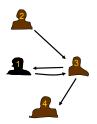
We call the new network

$$X(i \rightsquigarrow j)$$

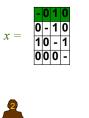
the network X that differs in exactly **one** tie-variable x_{ij}





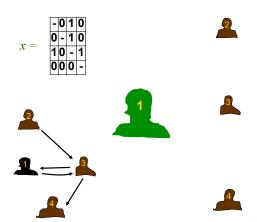




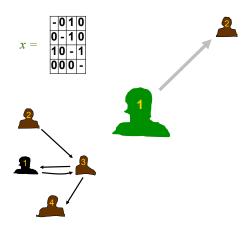




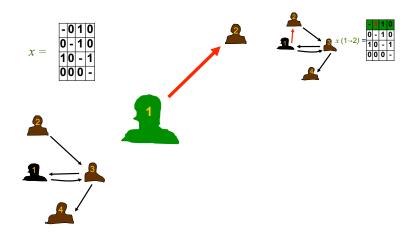




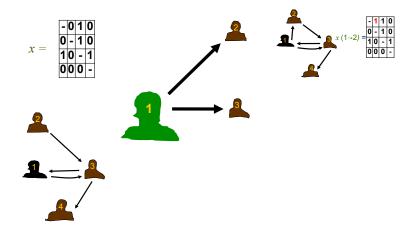




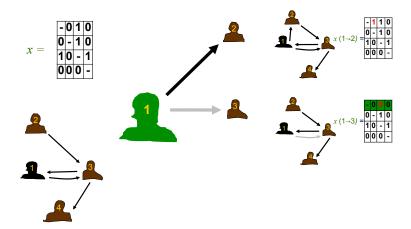




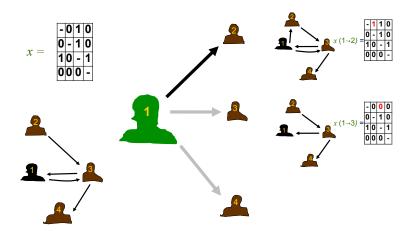




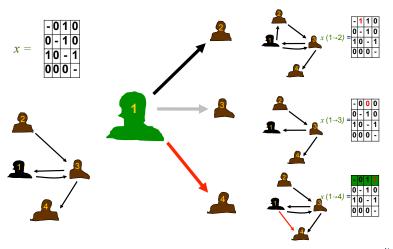




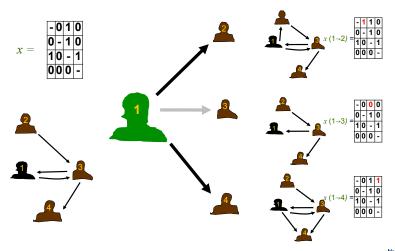














Probability of a change

Of the three changes (for j=2,3,4) available to i (here 1) the probability that i toggles the tie $i \rightarrow j$ is given by

One-step jump probability

$$p_{ij}(\beta, \underbrace{X}) = \frac{\exp\left(f_i(\beta, \underbrace{X(i \leadsto j)})\right)}{\sum_{\substack{\text{new network} \\ h=1}}},$$
current network
$$\underbrace{\sum_{h=1}^{n} \exp\left(f_i(\beta, X(i \leadsto h))\right)}_{\text{all possible changes}}$$

where

- $X(i \leadsto j)$ is the network resulting from the change
- \bullet β are statistical parameters
- f_i describes the attractiveness of $X(i \rightsquigarrow j)$ to i



Probability of a change: utility

One-step jump probability: can be derived as:

- Each network X has **untility** $U_i(X, t)$ for i
- Actor i chooses network X that maximises $U_i(X, t)$

If (random) utility has form

$$U_i(X,t) = \underbrace{f_i(\beta,X)}_{\text{objective function}} + \epsilon_{it}.$$

random component

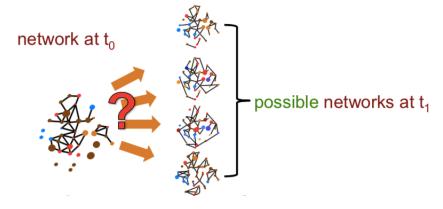
Actors are (myopically) maximising the utility of their network ties



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Agent-based: Change driven by incremental updates



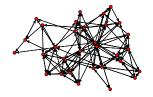


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Markdown: https://raw.githubusercontent.com/johankoskinen/CHDH-SNA/main/Markdowns/CHDH-SNA-2.Rmd

```
library('RSiena')
library('network')
library('sna')
tmp3[is.na(tmp3)] <- 0 # remove missing
tmp4[is.na(tmp4)] <- 0 # remove missing
par(mfrow = c(1,2))
coordin <- plot(as.network(tmp3))
plot(as.network(tmp4),coord=coordin)</pre>
```









Let us assume that *i* ONLY cares about not having too many or two few ties:

$$f_i(\beta, X) = \exp\left\{\beta \sum_j x_{ij}\right\}$$

meaning that

$$p_{ij}(\beta, X) = \frac{\exp\left\{\beta(1 - 2x_{ij})\right\}}{\sum_{h=1}^{n} \exp\left\{\beta(1 - 2x_{ih})\right\}},$$

because if

- currently $x_{ij} = 1$, then
- the number of ties for i in $X(i \rightsquigarrow j)$ will be one less (-1),
- and if currenlty $x_{ij} = 0 \dots$



Simulation settings: actors only care about degree

Let the rate be equal for all $\lambda_i = \lambda = 5.7288$

- √ is each iteration, actor with shortest waiting time 'wins' (and gets to change)
- ✓ on average every actor gets 5.7 opportunities to change

and set
$$\beta = -0.7349$$

- \checkmark if $\beta = 0$ actor would not care if tie was added or deleted
- \checkmark here β < 0 meaning that actor wants less than half of the possible ties



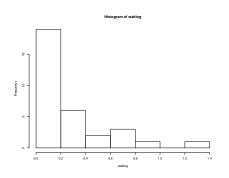
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van de Bunt data set



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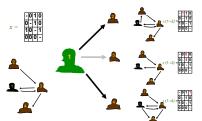
Model: rate





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Model: conditional one-step change probability



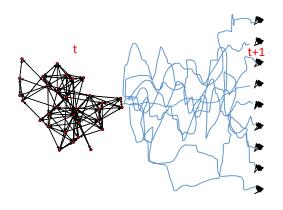
$$\begin{array}{l} \Pr(1 \sim 2) = \\ \frac{e^{-0.7349}}{e^{-0.7349} + e^{1.1059} + e^{-0.7349} + 1} = 0.1185 \\ \Pr(1 \sim 3) = \\ \frac{e^{1.1059}}{e^{-0.7349} + e^{1.1059} + e^{-0.7349} + 1} = 0.5156 \\ \Pr(1 \sim 4) = \\ \frac{e^{-0.7349}}{e^{-0.7349} + e^{1.1059} + e^{-0.7349} + 1} = 0.1185 \end{array}$$

Of course, in van de Bunt every actor has 31+1 choices for change



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Now let us simulate





Simulate from t_0 to t_1 (simOnly = TRUE)

The object sim_ans will now contain 1000 simulated networks



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Extract networks

```
n <- dim(tmp4)[1]
mySimNets <- reshapeRSienaDeps( sim_ans , n )</pre>
```

The object mySimNets is a 1000 by n by n array of adjacency matrices



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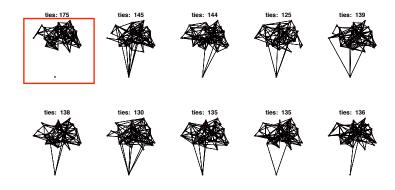
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```
pdf(file='simnets1.pdf', width = 9,height =4.5)
par(mfrow=c(2,5), oma = c(0,4,0,0) + 0.1,
   mar = c(5,0,1,1) + 0.1)
plot(as.network(tmp4),coord=coordin,
              main=paste('ties:',sum(tmp4) ) )
apply(mySimNets[1:9,,],1,function(x)
                  plot(as.network(x),
                       coord=coordin,
                       main=paste('ties: ',sum(x))) )
dev.off()
```



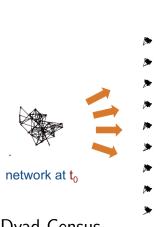
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The observed at t_1 and possible netowrks at t_1





Simulated networks v t_1 obs



Dyad Census

```
> dyad.census(tmp4)
    Mut Asym Null
[1,] 46 83 367
> dyad.census(mySimNets[1:9,,])
     Mut Asym Null
[1,] 23
          128 345
 [2,] 25
          133 338
 [3,] 17
          136 343
          134 342
      20
 [5,]
      16
          143
               337
 [6,]
      21
          136
               339
      26
          118 352
 [8,]
      23
          128 345
 Γ9. 7
      30
          122 344
```

Conclusions

A process where i ONLY cares about not having too many or two few ties does to replicate the reciprocity at t_1 Assume that i ALSO cares about

having ties $i \rightarrow j$ reciprocated $j \rightarrow i$

$$f_i(\beta, X) = \exp \left\{ \beta_d \sum_{j} x_{ij} + \beta_r \sum_{j} x_{ij} x_{ji} \right\}$$

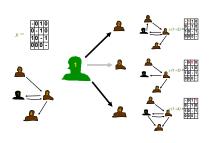
meaning that probability that i toggles relationship to j

$$p_{ij}(\beta, X) = \frac{\exp \left\{ \frac{\beta_d (1 - 2x_{ij}) + \beta_r (1 - 2x_{ij}) x_{ji} \right\}}{\sum_{h=1}^{n} \exp \left\{ \frac{\beta_d (1 - 2x_{ih}) + \beta_r (1 - 2x_{ih}) x_{hi} \right\}},$$



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Model



Objective function:

$$\beta_d \sum_j x_{ij} + \beta_r \sum_j x_{ij} x_{ji}$$

- adding $1 \rightarrow 2$: β_d
- deleting $1 \rightarrow 3$: $\beta_d \beta_r$
- adding $1 \rightarrow$ 4: β_d

Our simulated networks had too few reciprocated dyads so we need to set $\beta_r \dots$



Simulation settings: actors care abbut degree and reciprocity

Let the rate be equal for all $\lambda_i = \lambda = 6.3477$

✓ on average every actor gets 6.3 opportunities to change

and set
$$\beta_d = -1.1046$$

✓ here β_d < 0 - actors do not want too many ties

and set
$$\beta_r = 1.2608$$

 \checkmark here $\beta_r > 0$ - actors prefer reciprocated to assymetric ties



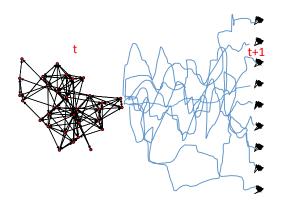
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van de Bunt data set



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Now let us simulate





Simulate from t_0 to t_1 now with reciprocity (simOnly = TRUE)

The object sim_ans will now contain 1000 simulated networks NOTE: this piece of code is unchanged



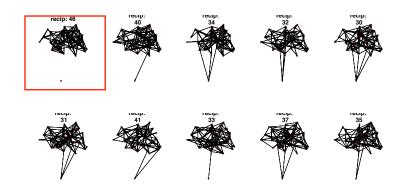
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Plot observed network and 9 simulated



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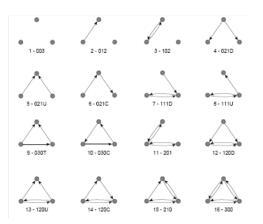
The observed at t_1 and possible netowrks at t_1





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Simulated networks v t_1 obs: triad census





Simulated networks v t_1 obs: triad census

```
> triad.census(tmp4)

003 012 102 021D 021U 021C 111D 111U 030T 030C 201 120D 120U 120C 210 300

[1,] 2078 1329 745 146 80 52 65 217 37 0 68 16 65 10 30 22

> triad.census(my5imNets[1:9,])

003 012 102 021D 021U 021C 111D 111U 030T 030C 201 120D 120U 120C 210 300

[[,] 1968 1381 718 95 84 160 148 224 16 4 77 13 13 17 33 9

[[,] 2073 1397 687 102 75 158 129 181 18 2 68 14 13 23 13 7 9

[3,] 2073 1397 687 102 75 158 129 181 18 2 68 14 13 23 13 7

[4,] 2185 1313 733 78 60 132 102 102 102 102 102 102 102 102 28 4

[5,] 2040 1340 766 89 64 155 129 189 18 7 82 12 11 19 27 12

[6,] 2206 1403 669 76 68 135 122 143 17 6 64 8 12 9 17 12

[7,] 1788 1357 760 113 89 169 195 238 30 11 98 14 16 34 37 11

[8,] 2164 1301 681 70 65 136 168 174 12 5 91 15 8 30 28 12

[9,] 1988 1383 729 111 67 151 148 173 26 10 82 13 22 19 32 6
```

Reciprocity is clearly not enough to explain the incidence of *transitive triangles* and *simmelian ties* (3 Mutual 0, Assymetric, 0 Null)

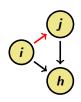


Assume that i ALSO cares about closure

$$f_i(\beta, X) = \exp \left\{ \beta_d \sum_{j} x_{ij} + \beta_r \sum_{j} x_{ij} x_{ji} + \beta_t s_{i,t}(x) \right\}$$

Modelled through, e.g.

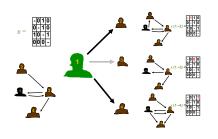
transitive triplets effect, number of transitive patterns in i's ties $(i \rightarrow j, j \rightarrow h, i \rightarrow h)$ $s_{i,t}(x) = \sum_{i,h} x_{ij} x_{jh} x_{ih}$



transitive triplet



Model



Objective function including $s_{i,t}(x)$:

- adding $1 \rightarrow 2$: ... + β_t
- deleting $1 \rightarrow 3$: no change in closure
- adding $1 \rightarrow 4$: ... + β_t

Our simulated networks had too few 030T and 300 so we need to set $\beta_t \dots$



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Assume actors care about degree, reciprocity, and closure

Let the rate be equal for all $\lambda_i = \lambda = 7.0959$

✓ on average every actor gets 7 opportunities to change

and set
$$\beta_d = -1.6468$$

 \checkmark here $\beta_d < 0$ - actors do not want too many ties

and set
$$\beta_r = 0.8932$$

 \checkmark here $\beta_r > 0$ - actors prefer reciprocated to assymetric ties

and set
$$\beta_t = 0.2772$$

 \checkmark here $\beta_t > 0$ - actors prefer ties that close open triads



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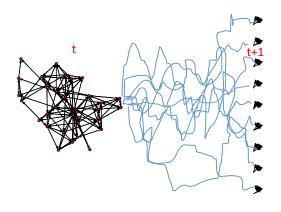
van de Bunt data set

```
myeff <- includeEffects(myeff, recip,include=TRUE)</pre>
myeff <- includeEffects(myeff, transTrip,include=TRUE)</pre>
myeff$initialValue[
              myeff$shortName == 'Rate'] <- 7.0959</pre>
myeff$initialValue[
         myeff$shortName =='density'][1] <- 1.6468</pre>
myeff$initialValue[
           myeff$shortName =='recip'][1] <- 0.8932</pre>
myeff$initialValue[
           myeff$shortName =='transTrip'][1] <- 0.2772</pre>
```



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Now let us simulate





Simulate from t_0 to t_1 now with transitivity (simOnly = TRUE)

NOTE: this piece of code is unchanged



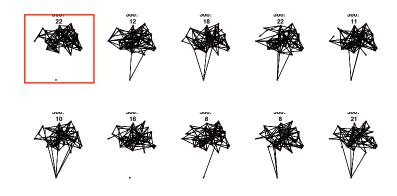
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Plot observed network and 9 simulated



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The observed at t_1 and possible netowrks at t_1





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Simulated networks v t_1 obs: triad census

```
> triad.census(tmp4)
003 012 102 0210 0210 0210 1110 1110 030T 030C 201 120D 120U 120C 210 300
[1,] 2078 1329 745 146 80 52 65 217 37 0 68 16 65 10 30 22
> triad.census(mySimNets[1:9,,])
003 012 102 0210 0210 0210 1110 1110 030T 030C 201 120D 120U 120C 210 300
[1,] 2029 1223 662 108 79 159 138 257 36 6 82 19 35 29 68 30
[2,] 2163 1292 727 89 62 125 136 160 15 4 61 9 23 25 29 40
[3,] 2551 1191 657 44 34 84 88 143 5 0 78 6 16 16 14 27 22
[4,] 1990 1430 576 100 84 173 128 200 23 10 103 12 38 22 45 26
[5,] 2219 1390 631 103 83 121 84 175 25 5 45 8 21 9 31 10
[6,] 2031 1218 799 75 56 109 136 213 15 9 114 15 25 25 25 61 59
[7,] 2079 1443 597 104 72 160 97 206 24 4 54 17 24 24 38 17
[8,] 2105 1256 1256 756 9 103 55 126 78 184 22 6 41 12 25 8 46 20
```

Reciprocity togehter with transitivity seems enough to explain the incidence of *transitive triangles* and *simmelian ties* (3 Mutual 0, Assymetric, 0 Null)



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What effects are there?

- RSiena Manual http://www.stats.ox.ac.uk/~snijders/siena/RSiena_Manual.pdf check for shortName
- scroll through the effects available to you for your data myeff check for shortName
- also effectsDocumentation(myeff)

Where did I get these numbers?



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Estimation by Method of Moments: data

Basics for data

- You need at least 2 observations on X(t) for waves t_0 , t_1
- ullet First observations is fixed and contains no information about heta
- No assumption of a stationary network distribution



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Estimation by Method of Moments: procedure

How to estimate $\theta = (\lambda, \beta)$?

- ullet pick starting values for heta
- ullet simulate from $X(t_0)$ until t_1 call the simulated network (-s) $X_{
 m rep}$
- if statistic $Z_k(X_{rep})$ for parameter k is different to $Z_k(X_{obs})$, adjust accordingly



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Estimation by Method of Moments: aim

For suitable statistic $Z=(Z_1,\ldots,Z_K)$, i.e., K variables which can be calculated from the network; the statistic Z_k must be *sensitive* to the parameter θ_k e.g. number of mutual dyads is sensitive to the reciprocity parameter (as we have seen)

The MoM estimate is a value: $\hat{\theta}$ of θ such that for

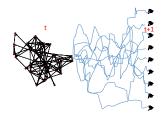
- observed stats $Z(X_{\rm obs})$
- ullet and the the expected value $\mathsf{E}_{ heta}(\mathsf{Z}(\mathsf{X}_{\mathrm{rep}}))$

$$E_{\hat{\theta}}\left\{Z(X_{\mathrm{rep}})\right\} = Z(X_{\mathrm{obs}}).$$



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Method of Moments matches the moments



Do we have to do this for every update of the parameter θ ?



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Robbins-Monro algorithm

The moment equation $E_{\hat{\theta}}\{Z\}=z$ cannot be solved by analytical or the usual numerical procedures

Stochastic approximation (Robbins-Monro, 1951)

Iteration step:

$$\hat{\theta}_{N+1} = \hat{\theta}_N - a_N D^{-1}(z_N - z) ,$$
 (1)

where z_N is a simulation of Z with parameter $\hat{\theta}_N$,

D is a suitable matrix, and $a_N \rightarrow 0$.



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Computer algorithm has 3 phases:

- brief phase for preliminary estimation of $\partial E_{\theta} \{Z\}/\partial \theta$ for defining D;
- estimation phase with Robbins-Monro updates, where a_N remains constant in subphases and decreases between subphases;



Convergence¹

We say that $E_{\hat{\theta}}\{Z\} = z$ is approximately satisfied if, for each statistic $Z_k(X_{\rm obs})$ is within 0.1 standard deviation of $E_{\hat{\theta}}(Z(X_{\rm rep}))$. This is provided in the output as the *convergence t-ratio* (and the overall maximum convergence ratio is less than 0.25)



Change to BEHAVIOUR



Satisfaction with new state: f_i + random component



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Change to BEHAVIOUR

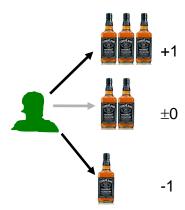


Satisfaction with new state: f_i + random component



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Change to BEHAVIOUR



Satisfaction with new state: f_i + random component



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For the behaviours, the formula of the change probabilities is $p_{ihv}(\beta,z) = \frac{\exp(f(i,h,v))}{\sum_{k,u} \exp(f(i,k,u))} \text{ where } f(i,h,v) \text{ is the objective function}$

calculated for the potential new situation after a behaviour change, $f(i, h, v) = f_i^z(\beta, z(i, h \rightsquigarrow v))$.

Again, multinomial logit form.



Things that go into the objective functions - selection

Homophily effects: counts of the number of ties to people that are "like me"





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Things that go into the objective functions - influence

Controls:

- Gender
- Age
- Education

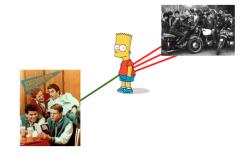
For influence effects: immitation persuation etc



Things that go into the objective functions - influence

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Things that go into the objective functions - influence

Controls:

- Gender
- Age
- 6 Education



For influence effects: immitation persuation etc



Summary

What is the purpose of having the embedded Markov Chain in continuous time?

DYNAMICS

can model change of *tie* as dependent on current ties AND behaviour can model change in *behaviour* as dependent on current behaviour AND the behavior of those you are tied to



Summary

What is the purpose of having the embedded Markov Chain in continuous time?

STATISTICAL

This is a statistical model that has estimable parameters for selection and influence

This is a generative model from which we can also generate replicate data AND assess GOF



Summary

What is the purpose of having the embedded Markov Chain in continuous time?

STATISTICAL

This is a statistical model that has estimable parameters for selection and influence

This is a generative model from which we can also generate replicate data AND assess GOF Compare

- Generalized Estimation Equations
- Regressing behaviour wave 1 on wave 0



Example: 50 girls in a Scottish secondary school

```
Study of smoking initiation and friendship (starting age 12-13 years) (following up on earlier work by P. West, M. Pearson & others). with sociometric & behavior questionnaires at three moments, at appr. 1 year intervals.
```

```
Smoking: values 1–3;
drinking: values 1–5;
covariates:
gender, smoking of parents and siblings (binary),
money available (range 0–40 pounds/week).
```



Rename data that was automatically loaded



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Define dependent/independent data

```
friendship <- sienaDependent(friendshipData)
drinking <- sienaDependent( drink, type = "behavior" )
smoke1 <- coCovar( smoke[ , 1 ] )</pre>
```



Join data and get effects



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Define structural network effects

NBeff <- includeEffects(NBeff, transTrip, transRecTrip)</pre>



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Define covariate effects on the network (selection)



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Define effects on drinking (influence)



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Define estimation settings and estimate



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Result selection

Effect	par.	(s.e.)	t stat.	
constant friendship rate (period 1)	6.21	(1.08)	-0.0037	
constant friendship rate (period 2)	5.01	(0.87)	0.0042	
outdegree (density)	-2.82	(0.27)	-0.0809	
reciprocity	2.82	(0.35)	0.0559	
transitive triplets	0.90	(0.16)	0.0741	
transitive recipr. triplets	-0.52	(0.24)	0.0695	
smoke1 alter	0.07	(0.17)	0.0343	
smoke1 ego	-0.00	(0.15)	0.0747	
smoke1 similarity	0.25	(0.24)	0.0158	
drinking alter	-0.06	(0.15)	0.0158	
drinking squared alter	-0.11	(0.14)	0.0704	
drinking ego	0.04	(0.13)	0.0496	
drinking squared ego	0.22	(0.12)	0.0874	
drinking diff. squared	-0.10	(0.05)	0.0583	
annuarement trational < 0.00				

convergence t ratios all < 0.09.

Overall maximum convergence ratio 0.19.



Result Influence

Effect	par.	(s.e.)	t stat.
rate drinking (period 1)	1.31	(0.34)	-0.0692
rate drinking (period 2)	1.82	(0.54)	0.0337
drinking linear shape	0.42	(0.24)	0.0301
drinking quadratic shape	-0.56	(0.33)	0.0368
drinking average alter	1.24	(0.81)	0.0181

convergence t ratios all < 0.09.

Overall maximum convergence ratio 0.19.



Everything you need to know (including scipts for all kinds of data) is avaiable at http://www.stats.ox.ac.uk/~snijders/siena/

