

applications *bibliometrics*

introduction to *network analysis* (*ina*)

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# study *overview*

## problem

*grouping publications* into clusters based on *citation relations*

## means

*graph partitioning/community detection* methods on *citation networks*

## goals

clusters of *topically related* publications or *research areas*

## wishes

experts should recognize cluster topics

- small differences in cluster sizes

- limited number of tiny clusters

- robustness to small perturbations

- reasonable computational complexity

# citation *networks*

## data

in-house version of *Web of Science database* of CWTS

## networks

*citation networks* represented as *simple undirected graphs*

field	period	# publications	# nodes	# links
Scientometrics	2009-2013	2,402	1,998	5,496
L&IS	1996-2013	43,741	32,628	131,989
Physics	2004-2013	1,314,458	1,233,542	9,838,008
WoS	2004-2013	11,780,132	11,063,916	122,148,955

*Scientometrics* — journals *Journal of Informetrics*, *Scientometrics* and *JASIST*

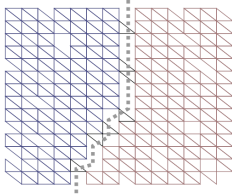
*L&IS* — *Information Science & Library Science* journal subject category

*Physics* — eight *Physics* journal subject categories and *Astronomy & Astrophysics*

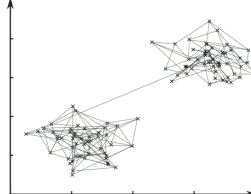
*WoS* — all journal subject categories in *Web of Science*

clustering *perspectives*

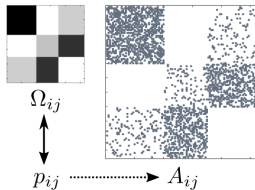
### Cut-based perspective



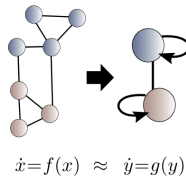
## Clustering perspective



## SBM perspective



## Dynamical perspective



Schaub, Delvenne, Rosvall & Lambiotte (2017) *Appl. Netw. Sci.* 2, 4.

## methods

### 30 *basic/derived* graph partitioning/*community detection* methods

class	method	description
Spectral analysis	Grclus(S L) METIS(S L)	<i>k</i> -means clustering iteration multi-level <i>k</i> -way partitioning
Map equation	Infomap Hiermap	information flows compression hierarchical flows compression
Modularity optimization	Louvain Mouvain SLM	greedy hierarchical optimization multi-level hierarchical optimization smart local moving optimization
Statistical methods	OSLOM	order statistics local optimization method
Label propagation	LPA BPA DPA HPA COPRA	label propagation algorithm balanced propagation algorithm diffusion-propagation algorithm hierarchical propagation algorithm community overlap propagation algorithm
Random walks	Walktrap	random walks hierarchical clustering
Link clustering	Links(S L)	link similarity hierarchical clustering
Graph models	BigClam(S L) CoDA(S L)	cluster affiliation matrix factorization communities through directed affiliations
Ego-networks	DEMON	democratic estimate of modular organization
Cliques	SCP GCE	sequential clique percolation greedy clique expansion
2-step methods	Metilus Gracmap Metimap Louvain Labmap	METIS+Grclus Grclus+Infomap METIS+Infomap Louvain+Infomap LPA+Infomap

*2-step* — *second method* applied to clusters obtained by *first method*

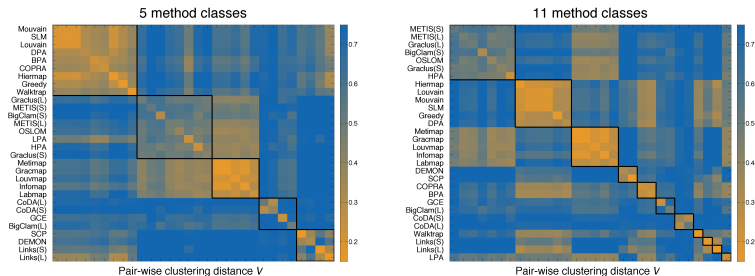
*S|L* — *small|large* clusters

# clustering *distances*

## clusterings

*distances* between clusterings by *considered* methods

10/15 *selected* *representative* methods

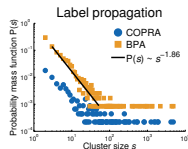
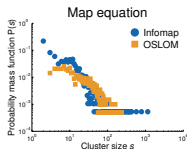
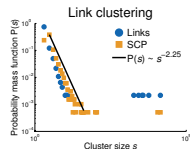
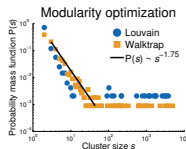
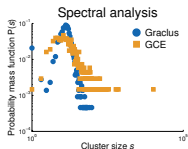


*distance* — normalized *variation of information* of clusterings

# clustering *distributions*

## sizes

*size distributions* of clusterings by *representative* methods  
from *homogeneous* to *inhomogeneous* distributions

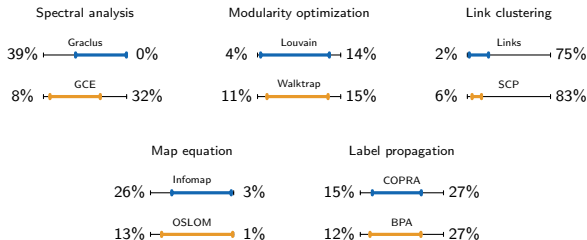


# clustering *degeneracy*

## ranges

*degeneracy diagrams* of clusterings by *representative* methods

*narrowing effective ranges* from left to right



*left-hand side* — % nodes in *tiny clusters* < 15 nodes

*right-hand side* — % nodes in *largest cluster*



# clustering *metrics*

## metrics

*standard metrics* of clusterings by *representative* methods

$\approx 1500$  *clusters* and *decreasing Flake score* from top/bottom

method	# clusters	degree	expansion	Flake	modularity
Grclus	2175	2.4	5.8	52%	0.29
OSLOM	1914	3.8	4.4	37%	0.45
Infomap	1871	5.0	3.2	19%	0.60
Louvain	488	6.8	1.2	3%	0.73
Walktrap	1127	6.5	1.6	7%	0.69
BPA	1002	7.0	1.0	3%	0.66
COPRA	3826	6.8	1.2	15%	0.65
Links	2933	6.4	1.8	20%	0.09
SCP	1969	4.9	3.2	37%	0.22
GCE	682	4.1	4.0	29%	0.43

*degree* — average node *intra-cluster* or *internal degree*

*expansion* — average node *inter-cluster* or *external degree*

*Flake* — % nodes with *larger external than internal degree*

# clustering *bibmetrics*

## bibmetrics

*bibliometric metrics* of clusterings by *representative* methods

*orders*  $\gg 1$  and *increasing coverage* from top/bottom

method	size	orders	diameter	coverage	uncertainty
Grclus	15.0	1.1	3.4	29%	0.42
OSLOM	16.0	2.6	4.8	46%	0.36
Infomap	17.3	2.7	4.3	62%	0.13
Louvain	66.7	3.3	9.1	85%	0.19
Walktrap	29.0	3.4	7.8	80%	0.00
BPA	32.0	3.6	7.3	86%	0.21
COPRA	8.8	4.0	6.9	85%	0.22
Links	10.1	4.3	11.1	78%	0.05
SCP	16.6	4.2	23.1	61%	0.02
GCE	47.8	3.3	12.0	50%	0.24

*orders* — *orders of magnitude* spanned by *cluster sizes*

*diameter* — average within *cluster effective diameter*

*uncertainty* — *variation of information* of clusterings

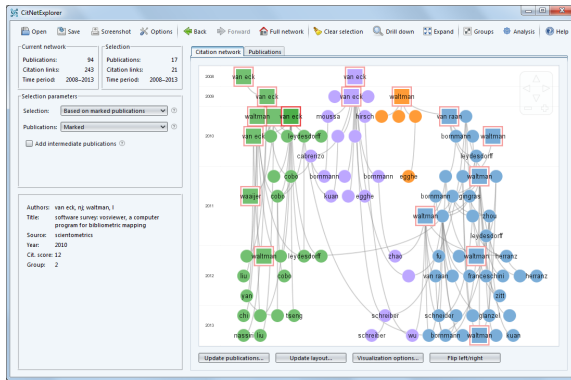
*coverage* — % links *covered by clusters*

clustering *tool*

assessment tool

*CitNetExplorer* for analyzing *citation networks*

freely available at [www.citnetexplorer.nl](http://www.citnetexplorer.nl)



# clustering *resolution*

*clusterings for L&IS* by *representative* methods  
hands-on *expert assessment* for *scientometrics* using *CitNetExplorer*

## low resolution

*Walktrap* and *BPA*

BPA returns *one cluster* covering *scientometrics*

## high resolution

*Graclus(S|L)* and *METIS(S|L)*

Graclus returns *four clusters* covering *h-index*

## topics resolution

*OSLOM*, *Louvain(10)*, *Metimap* and *Infomap*

OSLOM, Louvain(10) return *ambiguous/heterogeneous clusters*

# clustering *assessment*

## expert assessment

largest *scientometrics clusters* by *Metimap* and *Infomap* methods

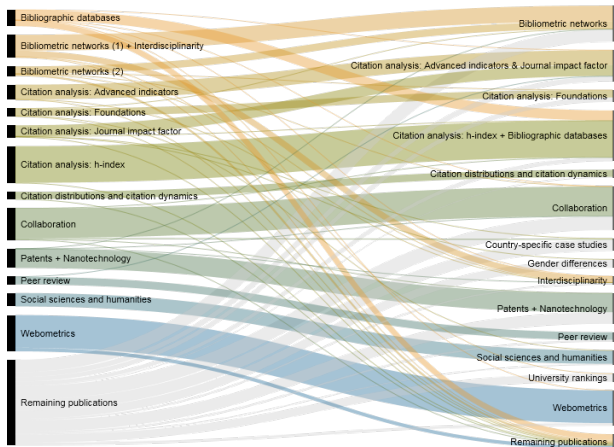
identified *research topics* of clusters covering  $\approx 75\%$  *publications*

method	topic	size
Metimap	Citation analysis: h-index	262
	Webometrics	256
	Collaboration	224
	Bibliometric networks (1) + Interdisciplinarity	163
	Patents + Nanotechnology	137
	Bibliographic databases	115
	Citation analysis: Advanced indicators	107
	Social sciences and humanities	95
	Citation analysis: Journal impact factor	87
	Bibliometric networks (2)	69
	Citation analysis: Foundations	59
Infomap	Citation analysis: h-index + Bibliographic databases	358
	Collaboration	308
	Bibliometric networks	254
	Webometrics	250
	Citation analysis: Advanced indicators & Journal impact factor	220
	Patents + Nanotechnology	216
	Social sciences and humanities	104
	Country-specific case studies	87
	Citation analysis: Foundations	85
	Peer review	67
	Gender differences	59

# clustering *comparison*

## expert comparison

largest *scientometrics clusters* by *Metimap* and *Infomap* methods



# clustering *WoS*

clustering *metrics for WoS* by *fastest* methods

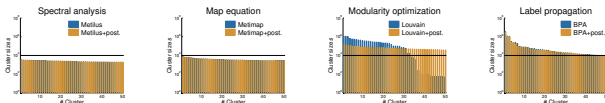
method	size	orders	degree	coverage	Flake	complexity
Metilus	50.0	2.3	5.9	27%	69%	30 min
Metimap	33.2	3.6	10.3	47%	45%	94 min
Louvain	334.4	5.7	18.5	84%	5%	52 min
BPA	105.4	6.2	18.5	84%	7%	66 min

## post-processing

*tiny clusters < 15 nodes merged* by maximizing likelihood

method	size	orders	degree	coverage	Flake	complexity
Metilus+post.	51.5	2.2	5.9	27%	69%	34 min
Metimap+post.	58.9	3.6	10.3	47%	45%	99 min
Louvain+post.	320.9	4.9	15.2	69%	17%	79 min
BPA+post.	167.1	6.2	18.0	82%	9%	114 min

*giant clusters > 10<sup>4</sup> nodes repartitioned* by same method



## conclusions

methods return *substantially different clusterings*

*no method performs satisfactory* by all criteria

straightforward *post-processing performs poorly*

*map equation* methods provide *good trade-off*

## limitations

- limitations of expert assessment of clusterings

- limited number of methods with default parameters

- no directed, overlapping, multi-resolution, principled methods

- no equivalence clusters or co-citation and bibliographic coupling



# clustering *references*



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The many facets of community detection in complex networks.

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Comparison of methods for clustering citation networks.

In *Proceedings of the International Conference on Network Science X*, page 1, Wroclaw, Poland, 2016.

## clustering *references*



Nees Jan Van Eck and Ludo Waltman.

CitNetExplorer: A new software tool for analyzing and visualizing citation networks.  
*J. Infometr.*, 8(4):802–823, 2014.