Analyzing the evolution of the European Parliament Social Network

Á. Bernát, M. Marits

2023-11-10



The European Parliament

We are analyzing a dataset of European Parliament members.



We are analyzing a dataset of European Parliament members.

Our dataset is a list of amendments to laws that includes information on the MEPs who contributed to each law



We are analyzing a dataset of European Parliament members.

Our dataset is a list of amendments to laws that includes information on the MEPs who contributed to each law

We transformed this into a 'social network' graph, where MEPs are nodes and co-sponsorship of amendments is represented by edges

We want to analyze the changes in the social network of the European Parliament over time.

We want to analyze the changes in the social network of the European Parliament over time.

For this, we picked two important properties of the network to investigate:

We want to analyze the changes in the social network of the European Parliament over time.

For this, we picked two important properties of the network to investigate:

► Centrality of groups/MEPs

We want to analyze the changes in the social network of the European Parliament over time.

For this, we picked two important properties of the network to investigate:

- ► Centrality of groups/MEPs
- Cohesion of the network

Centralities: in a similar manner to node centralities, the centrality of a group can be calculated.

Centralities: in a similar manner to node centralities, the centrality of a group can be calculated.

We will measure the centralities of certain groups in the MEP social network graph.

Centralities: in a similar manner to node centralities, the centrality of a group can be calculated.

We will measure the centralities of certain groups in the MEP social network graph.

Closeness centrality, Betweenness centrality

Centralities: in a similar manner to node centralities, the centrality of a group can be calculated.

We will measure the centralities of certain groups in the MEP social network graph.

Closeness centrality, Betweenness centrality

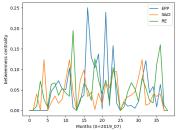
e.g: $S \subset V$ is a set of nodes

closeness(S) =
$$\frac{|V - S|}{\sum_{u \in |V - S|} d_{S,u}}$$

Further Improvements: Choosing a more telling subgraph (commitees).

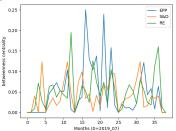
Further Improvements: Choosing a more telling subgraph (commitees).

Betwenness centrality of parties:

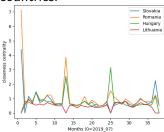


Further Improvements: Choosing a more telling subgraph (commitees).

Betwenness centrality of parties:



Closeness centrality of countries:



Cohesion: a measure of how well-connected a network is

Cohesion: a measure of how well-connected a network is

We will measure the cohesion of certain subgraphs of the MEP social network

Cohesion: a measure of how well-connected a network is

We will measure the cohesion of certain subgraphs of the MEP social network

Our measure of cohesion is that we find the proportion of edges that are present – i.e. the proportion of MEP-pairs that worked together

Cohesion: a measure of how well-connected a network is

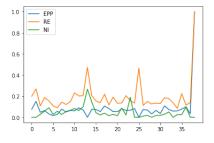
We will measure the cohesion of certain subgraphs of the MEP social network

Our measure of cohesion is that we find the proportion of edges that are present - i.e. the proportion of MEP-pairs that worked together

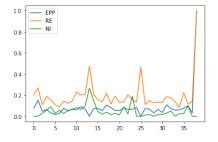
$$cohesion = \frac{\#edges}{\binom{n}{2}}$$

We want to analyze the changes in cohesion over time: for example the cohesion of specific parties

We want to analyze the changes in cohesion over time: for example the cohesion of specific parties

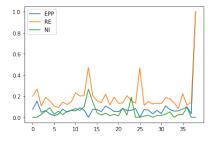


We want to analyze the changes in cohesion over time: for example the cohesion of specific parties



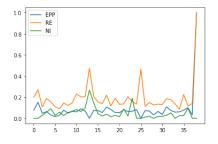
We make use of the 'committee' system of the EP to achieve this:

We want to analyze the changes in cohesion over time: for example the cohesion of specific parties



We make use of the 'committee' system of the EP to achieve this: Committee members work together on a specific set of law changes

We want to analyze the changes in cohesion over time: for example the cohesion of specific parties



We make use of the 'committee' system of the EP to achieve this: Committee members work together on a specific set of law changes We will analyze the changes in cohesion based on the committees Thanks for watching