Comparing Networks by their Group Structure with an application to acculturation networks

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Short Outline

suppose we have several personal networks



- ... and want to determine their differences and similarities
 - number of actors, ties, or connected components, degree distribution, diameter
 - reciprocity, transitivity, clustering coefficient
 - isomorphic, edit distance, common subgraphs

this talk: compare networks by their group structure







Overview

Comparing Networks by their Group Structure

1. example application: towards a network measure for acculturation

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- 2. defining class-level networks
- 3. average class-level networks
- 4. conclusion and future work

traditional usage: outcome of cultures coming into contact

recent usage: measuring the level of integration of **migrants** into a host culture

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Traditional Acculturation Scale (ARSMA II)

[Cuéllar/Arnold/Maldonado'95]

modes of acculturation [Berry'97]

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adopt host culture? - I speak English yes - I speak Spanish - I associate with Anglos assimilation integration - Lassociate with Mexicans - I enjoy English language TV - I enjoy Spanish language TV no ves - My friends now are of Anglo origin maintain original culture? - My friends now are of Mexican origin marginalization separation - . . . no

influence of personal networks?

Traditional Acculturation Scale (ARSMA II)

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 - influence of personal networks?

Data Set www.egoredes.net

approximately 500 respondents (egos):

- 1. (questions about ego) age, years of residence, health, ARSMA II, ...
- 2. (name generator) list of 45 alters
- 3. (questions about alters) born, lives, type of relation, ...
- 4. (ties) which alters know each other

this talk: differences and similarities between these networks (comparison on the **class level**)

special thanks for providing the data goes to the project Acculturation & Personal Networks across cultures ⇒ see talks by Javier Avila, Miranda Lubbers, Chris McCarty, and José Luis Molina on Saturday

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Definition of Class-Level Network

two steps

- 1. defining actor classes, dependent on
 - network structure (e.g., structural/regular equivalence)

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actor attributes (yields labeled classes)

classes become nodes

 defining inter-class ties (how strongly are two classes connected?)

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argentinean woman living in spain



considering *country of origin* and *country of residence* (4 selected classes) (origin) Argentineans living in Argentina (tellowe) Argentineans living in Spain

(host) Spaniards living in Spain

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argentinean woman living in spain



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actor classes become nodes



class-level network



edge weights?

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actor classes become nodes



class-level network



edge weights?

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how strongly are two classes connected?

given: network G = (V, E) and two actor classes A and B

- 1. (un-normalized count) $\#\{(a, b) \in E; a \in A, b \in B\}$ \Rightarrow larger classes will be stronger connected
- 2. (density) $\frac{\#\{(a,b)\in E ; a\in A b\in B\}}{|A|\cdot|B|}$ \Rightarrow tends to zero when class sizes increase (sparsity)
- 3. (avg. number of *B*-neighbors) $\#\{(a,b)\in E; a\in A \\ |A| \}$
- 4. (symmetric normalization)

 \Rightarrow this is what we take

 $\frac{\#\{(a,b)\in E ; a\in Ab\in B\}}{\sqrt{|A|\cdot|B|}}$

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 \Rightarrow this is what we take

Class-Level Network

argentinean woman living in spain





node size = class size darkness = intra-class ties

79 Argentinean Migrants to Spain



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Averaging Class-Level Networks

do Argentineans have different networks than Moroccans? arithmetic mean $\overline{X} = (X_1 + X_2 + \dots + X_N)/N$

how to add networks?



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- add class-sizes
- add un-normalized edge counts
- normalize at the end

Average Networks of ...







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averaging over all migrants that ...

... moved to host country less than 1 year ago





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Dependence on Time of Residence



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Conclusion and Future Work

 comparing networks by their group structure (actor classes defined by attributes)

- very simple and efficient
- allows averaging over sets of networks
- needs meaningful definition of actor classes

future work

- ► acculturation mode ⇔ network structure
- consider classes defined by attributes and ties (e.g., relative regular equivalence [Boyd/Everett'99])

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determine meaningful combinations of attributes