Link Prediction in Weighted Networks



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Binary vs. Integer weighted networks



Binary Undirected Graph (Disregarding weight information)



Does weight carry important information for the modeling of structure in networks?

The link prediction problem



- 1. Predict where a non-zero weight will become active by treating a set of 🔁 links as zeros (see also Liben-Nowell and Kleinberg 2007, Clausset and Newman 2008). ->Realistic problem in networks in order to predict where links will emerge,
 - straightforward to implement, admit comparison to non-statistical models that returns a link scoring function.
- 2. Predict links and non-links based on treating sets of links and non-links as missing in the model estimation (see for instance, Miller et al. 2010). ->Principled framework for predictive modeling, can be implemented using marginalization or imputation.

We will use the first approach (treating ?=0).





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Predictive performance quantified by AUC



• Area Under Curve (AUC) of the Receiver Operating Characteristic (ROC) on hold out data



Benefit of the AUC is that it is not influenced by class-imbalance issues, i.e. in networks #links<<"#non-links

We will treat from 1 % to 99 % of the links as missing (i.e. unobserved) by setting them to zero and use AUC to quantify ability to account for links.

Models of graphs

 Stochastic Block Model (Holland et al. 1983, Snijders and Nowikcki 1997, Nowicki and Snijders 2001) Aii . . sii

$$A_{ij} \sim Bernoulli(\eta_{z_i z_j}) = \eta_{z_i z_j}^{i_j} (1 - \eta_{z_i z_j})^{A^{i_j}}$$
$$A_{ij} \sim Poisson(\eta_{z_i z_j}) = \frac{\eta_{z_i z_j}^{A_{ij}}}{A_{ij}!} \exp(-\eta_{z_i z_j})$$

Inference by Stochastic search See Karrer and Newman 2071 • Degree Corrected Stochastic Block Model (Karreer and Newman 2011) $(0, 0)^{A_{ii}}$

$$A_{ij} \sim Poisson(\theta_i \eta_{z_i z_j} \theta_j) = \frac{(\theta_i \eta \theta_j)_{z_i z_j}}{A_{ij}!} \exp(-\theta_i \eta_{z_i z_j} \theta_j)$$

 Non-negative matrix factorization and symmetric NMF (Lee and Seung2001, Ding et al, 2005, Greeene et al. 2008, Wang et al. 2010, Ball et al., 2011) . . 4..

$$A_{ij} \sim Poisson(\boldsymbol{w}_{i:}\boldsymbol{h}_{j}) = \frac{(\boldsymbol{w}_{i:}\boldsymbol{h}_{j})^{A_{ij}}}{A_{ij}!} \exp(-\boldsymbol{w}_{i:}\boldsymbol{h}_{j})$$
$$A_{ij} \sim Poisson(\boldsymbol{w}_{i:}\boldsymbol{w}_{j}) = \frac{(\boldsymbol{w}_{i:}\boldsymbol{w}_{j})^{A_{ij}}}{A_{ij}!} \exp(-\boldsymbol{w}_{i:}\boldsymbol{w}_{j})$$



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Research questions:



• Are binary graphs better modeled by Bernoulli than Poisson likelihood?

 $A_{ij} \sim Bernoulli(\eta_{z_i z_j}) = \eta_{z_i z_j}^{A_{ij}} (1 - \eta_{z_i z_j})^{A^{ij}} \quad \text{vs.} \quad A_{ij} \sim Poisson(\eta_{z_i z_j}) = \frac{\eta_{z_i z_j}^{A_{ij}}}{A_{ij}!} \exp(-\eta_{z_i z_j})$

• Are edge-weights useful for the prediction of links?



Are detection thresholds influenced by model complexity?



Are predictions of edge-weight influenced by model complexity?



All questions are adressed by link prediction following the framework of (Liben-Nowell and Kleinberg 2007, Clausset and Newman 2008).

Networks considered

- **Political Blogs:** The Political Blogs-network is assembled by (Adamic and Glance, 2005). The nodes are political blogs about US politics, and the edges are links between them, all captured on a single day in 2005. We only consider the largest connected component containing 1222 vertices, and 16718 edges containing no weight information.
- Yeast: The Yeast network is assembled by (Sun et. al., 2003). The vertices represent proteins in budding yeast, and the edges interactions between them. The network has 2361 vertices, and 6647 edges, and the edges contains no weight information.
- **US Power Grid:** The US Power Grid network (Tsaparas, 2006), models the structure of the power grid in Western US. The network has 4941 vertices, 6595 edges and contains no weight information.
- NIPS: The NIPS-network is a co-authorship dataset assembled by (Globerson et. al., 2005), containing information on publications of the NIPS-conferences from 1988 to 2003. Vertices corresponds to the authors, and edges to joint publications. The weight of an edge is the number of joint publications by the authors. The network has 2865 vertices and 4734 edges.
- **Geom:** The Geom network (Batagelj, 2006) is a collaboration network from computational geometry. Vertices corresponds to the authors, and edges to joint publications. The weight of an edge is the number of joint publications by the authors. The network contains 7343 vertices and 11898 edges.
- **Metabolic pathways:** The metabolic pathways network is an integer weighted network of metabolic pathways in 43 organisms (Jeong, et al. 2000), where vertices are the substrates, and edges are the metabolic reactions. The weight of an edge, corresponds to multiple metabolic reactions between a pair of substrates. The network has 453 vertices, and 2026 edges.

Binary

Are binary graphs better modeled by Bernoulli than Poisson likelihood?



No it doesn't seem to be the case. This is also expected as the Bernoulli distribution can be approximated by Poisson distribution (se paper for details).

Are edge-weights useful for the prediction of links?



Are detection thresholds influenced by model complexity?





No, It appears that complex models in general outperform simpler models regardless of the fraction of links observed in the networks.

Are predictions of edge-weight influenced by



Yes, it appears that complex models in general overfits to the links treated as zeros, thus complex models are less able to recover edge weight compared to simpler less flexible models.

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Discussion

We considered four models of increasing complexity

Stochastic Block Model Degree Stochastic Block Model Non-negative Matrix Factorization (NMF) Symmetric NMF



- We applied link prediction treating links as zeros.
- We considered the following four questions analyzing six real networks Are binary graphs better modeled by Bernoulli than Poisson likelihood? Not really Are edge-weights useful for the prediction of links? Not really Are detection thresholds influenced by model complexity? Not in our experiments, complex models outperform simpler models.

Are predictions of edge-weight influenced by model complexity? Yes it appears so.





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