

# A Semiparametric Network Formation Model with Multiple Linear Fixed Effects

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**This paper:**

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- Unrestricted dependence.
- No distributional assumptions on the unobserved components.



# Introduction

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## Why are they important?

1. **Peer effects:** network endogeneity.
  - ▶ Goldsmith-Pinkham and Imbens 2013.
2. **Policy:** social programs.
  - ▶ Banerjee et al. 2013.
3. **Social meaning:** homophily.
  - ▶ McPherson et al. 2001.

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**Implications:**

- Biased and inconsistent results if these attributes are omitted.

# Friendship network

## Definition (Network)

A network is an ordered pair,  $(\mathcal{N}_n, D^n)$ , where  $\mathcal{N}_n = \{1, \dots, n\}$  is a set of nodes and  $D^n = (D_{ij}^n)$  is a  $n \times n$  adjacency matrix.

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Assume the network is

- **Undirected:**  $D_{ij}^n = D_{ji}^n$  for any  $i, j \in \mathcal{N}_n$ .
- **Unweighted:**  $D_{ij}^n \in \{0, 1\}$  for any  $i, j \in \mathcal{N}_n$ .

Normalize  $D_{ii}^n = 0$  for any  $i \in \mathcal{N}_n$ .

# Example: Friendship network

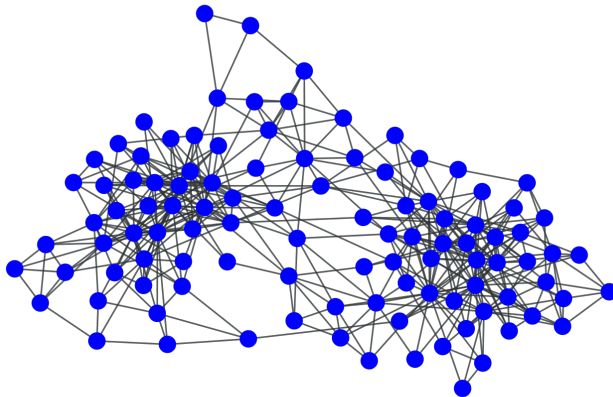


Figure: Undirected Network



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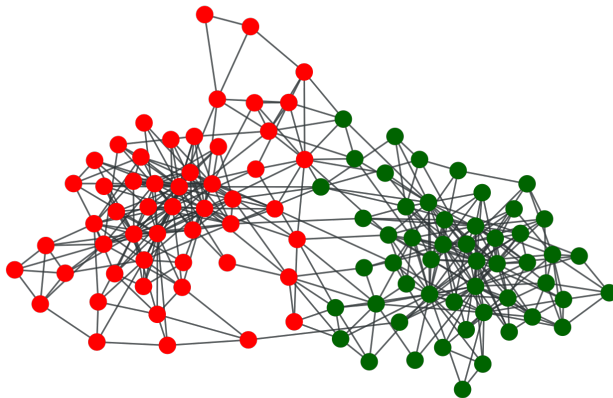


Figure: Homophily on Observed Characteristics

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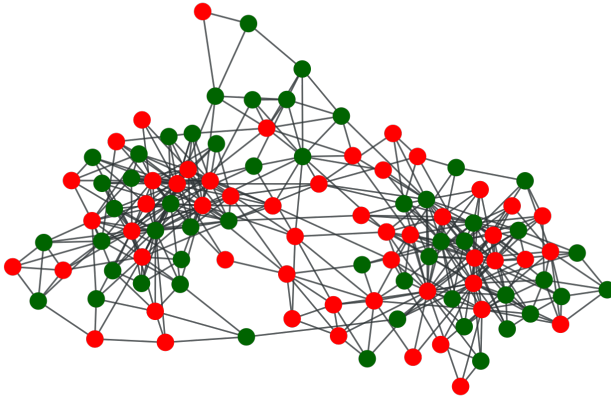


Figure: Unobserved Agent-Specific Heterogeneity

## Model of Interest

Agents  $i, j \in \mathcal{N}_n$  form an **undirected link** according to the equation:

$$D_{ij}^n = \mathbf{1} \left[ X_{ij}^{n'} \beta_0 + \mu_i + \mu_j - \varepsilon_{ij}^n \geq 0 \right], \quad (\text{NF})$$

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- $\varepsilon_{ij}^n$ : pair-specific exogenous factor.
- $\beta_0 \in \mathbb{R}^K$ : unknown parameter.

# Overview

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$$D_{ij}^n = \mathbf{1} \left[ X_{ij}^{n'} \beta_0 + \mu_i + \mu_j - \varepsilon_{ij}^n \geq 0 \right].$$

with **two main features**:

1. Multiple and unobserved agent-specific fixed effects:

$$\mu_i + \mu_j.$$

2. Semiparametric approach:

$$F_{\varepsilon_{ij}^n | \mathbf{x}, \mu} \quad \text{and} \quad F_{\mu | \mathbf{x}} \quad \text{are unrestricted.}$$

**Objective:** Identification and estimation of  $\beta_0$ .



# Main Results

## 1. New identification strategy.

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- ▶ Asymptotics: growing number of agents.

## 3. Empirical application.

- ▶ Friendship network: Add Health dataset.
- ▶ Evidence for homophily on age, Hispanic, and father's education.

# Literature Review

## I. Network Formation.

- **Observed Heterogeneity:** Brock and Durlauf (2005), Christakis, Fowler, Imbens, and Kalyanaraman (2010), Sheng (2012), Boucher and Mourifié (2013), Chandrasekhar and Jackson (2014), Souza (2014), Leung (2015a,b, 2016), Menzel (2015), Ridder and Sheng (2015), Hsieh and Lee (2016), de Paula, Richards-Shubik, and Tamer (2017), and Mele (2017).
- **Unobserved Heterogeneity:** Goldsmith-Pinkham and Imbens (2013), Charbonneau (2014), Auerbach (2016), Dzemski (2017), Graham (2017) and Jochmans (2017).

## II. Semiparametric Methods.

- **Identification:** Andersen (1973), Manski (1985, 1987) and Vytlacil and Yildiz (2007).
- **Maximum Rank:** Han (1987) and Abrevaya (1999).
- **Inference:** Andrews and Schafgans (1998), Newey (1990), Chamberlain (2010), Khan and Tamer (2010) and Khan and Nekipelov (2015).

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2. Identification
3. Inference
4. Simulations
5. Application
6. Conclusions and Extensions

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▶ Cardinality:  $N \equiv \#\mathcal{N}_n^{(2)} = O(n^2)$ .

▶ Each  $(i, j) \in \mathcal{N}_n^{(2)}$  is endowed with  $X_{ij}^n$ , and let

$$\mathbf{X}^n \equiv (X_{12}^n, \dots, X_{n-1,n}^n).$$

## Model - Preferences

Agent  $i$ 's latent marginal benefit of adding the link  $\{ij\}$  to  $D^n$  is

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### Remarks:

Rules out:

- ▶ Network externalities:  $u_{ij}(\mathbf{X}^n, D^n; \beta_0)$ .
- ▶ Unobserved complementarity:  $g(\mu_i, \mu_j)$  as in Candelaria (2016).

# Model - Stability Condition

A network  $D^n$  is **stable with transfers** if for each  $(i, j) \in \mathcal{N}_n^{(2)}$ :

1. for all  $D_{ij} = 1$ ,  $V_{ij}(\mathbf{X}^n, \eta_{ij}; \beta_0) + V_{ji}(\mathbf{X}^n, \eta_{ji}; \beta_0) \geq 0$ ;
2. for all  $D_{ij} = 0$ ,  $V_{ij}(\mathbf{X}^n, \eta_{ij}; \beta_0) + V_{ji}(\mathbf{X}^n, \eta_{ji}; \beta_0) < 0$ .



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2. for all  $D_{ij} = 0$ ,  $V_{ij}(\mathbf{X}^n, \eta_{ij}; \beta_0) + V_{ji}(\mathbf{X}^n, \eta_{ji}; \beta_0) < 0$ .

Equivalently, the network  $D^n$  is **stable with transfers** if:

$$D_{ij} = \mathbf{1} \left[ X'_{ij} \beta_0 + \mu_i + \mu_j - \varepsilon_{ij} \geq 0 \right], \quad \forall (i, j) \in \mathcal{N}_n^{(2)}. \quad (\text{NF})$$

# Model-Assumptions

## Assumption (A1)

The following hold for any  $n$ .

- 1 For any distinct  $(i, k), (j, l) \in \mathcal{N}_n^{(2)}$ :

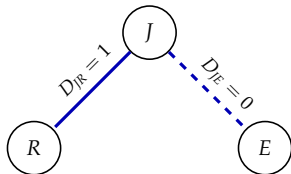
$$\varepsilon_{ik} \perp\!\!\!\perp \varepsilon_{jl} \mid \mathbf{X}^n = \mathbf{x}, \mu^n = \mu, \text{ and } F_{\varepsilon_{ik}|\mathbf{x},\mu} = F_{\varepsilon_{jl}|\mathbf{x},\mu}.$$

- 2 The pdf  $f_{\varepsilon_{il}|\mathbf{x},\mu}$  is positive everywhere for all  $(\mathbf{x}, \mu)$ .

- A1 used in Graham (2017) and Menzel (2015).
- Agnostic about  $F_{\varepsilon_{il}|\mathbf{x},\mu}$  and  $F_{\mu|\mathbf{x}}$ .

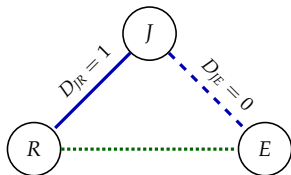
# Identification Strategy

Consider the subnetwork given by  $J, R, E \in \mathcal{N}_n$ .



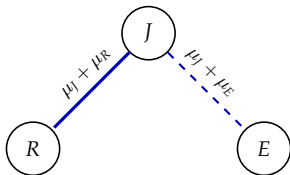
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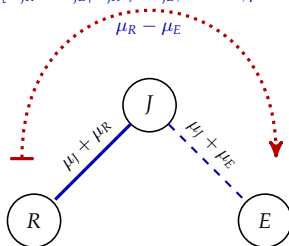
Conditional on  $\{\mathbf{X}^n = \mathbf{x}, \mu^n = \mu\}$ :



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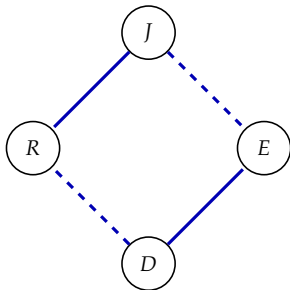
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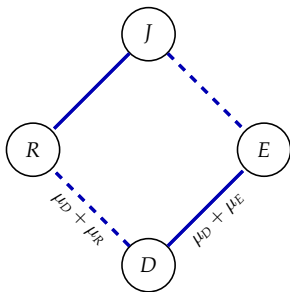
# Identification Strategy

Consider the tetrad given by  $\{J, R, E, D\}$ .



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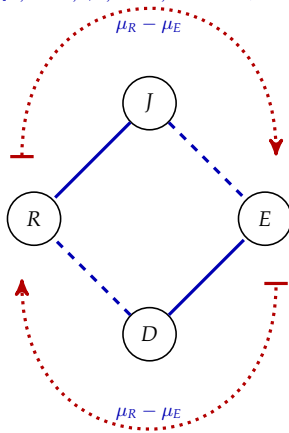




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# Assumptions

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The following hold for any  $n$ , and any distinct  $(i, k), (i, l) \in \mathcal{N}_n^{(2)}$ .

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- 2 Exists  $\Delta_{kl}X_i^{(1)}$  with  $\beta_0^{(1)} \neq 0$  s.t. the cond. density of  $\Delta_{kl}X_i^{(1)}$  is positive everywhere for any  $\Delta_{kl}x_i^{(-1)}$ .

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- Sign of  $\beta_0^{(1)}$  is identified, and scale is normalized:  $|\beta_0^{(1)}| = 1$ .
  - A2 used in Manski(1985,1987), Han (1987) and Abrevaya (1999).

## Assumption (A3)

For any  $i \in \mathcal{N}_n$ ,

$$\text{supp}(\mu_i \mid \mathbf{X}^n = \mathbf{x}) \subseteq [-B, B],$$

for any  $\mathbf{x} \in \text{supp}(\mathbf{X}^n)$ , and some  $B < \infty$ .

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- Intuitively:

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- Let:

$$\mathcal{X}_B = \{\mathbf{x} \in \mathbf{X}^n : \text{for any } i, j, k, l \in \mathcal{N}_n, |\Delta_{kl} x_i \beta_0| \geq 2B, \text{ and} \\ \text{sign} \{\Delta_{kl} x_i \beta_0\} \neq \text{sign} \{\Delta_{kl} x_j \beta_0\}\}$$

## Point Identification

For any distinct  $i, j, l, k \in \mathcal{N}_n$ , let:

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## Point Identification

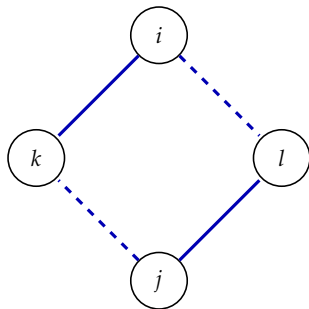
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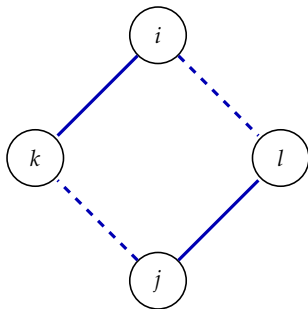
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# Point Identification

## Theorem

- 1 Let assumptions 1-3 hold. Then, for any  $n$ , and any  $i, j, k, l \in \mathcal{N}_n$ :

$$\begin{aligned} \text{Med} \left[ Y_{kl}^{(i)} - Y_{kl}^{(j)} \mid \mathbf{X}^n = \mathbf{x}, \Omega(ijlk) \right] \\ = 2 \times \text{sign} \left\{ [\Delta_{kl}\mathbf{x}_i - \Delta_{kl}\mathbf{x}_j]' \beta_0 \right\}, \end{aligned} \quad (\text{MC})$$

where  $\mathbf{x} \in \mathcal{X}_B$ .

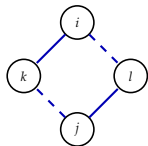
- 2 Let assumptions 1-3 hold. Then  $\beta_0$  is point identified.

## Point Identification

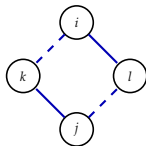
$\Omega(ijlk)$  contains the subnetworks with enough variation to identify  $\beta_0$ .

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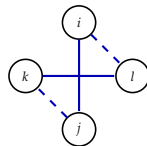
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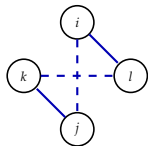
Structure 1.



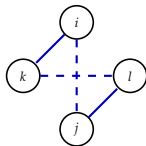
Structure 2.



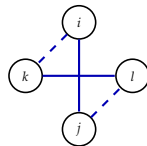
Structure 3.



Structure 4.



Structure 5.



Structure 6.

**Figure:** Subnetwork by the tetrad  $(i, j, k, l)$  in  $\Omega(ijlk)$ .



# Identification Failure

## I. Thin Set

Let

$$\Omega_n \equiv \{\Omega(ijlk) : \text{for any distinct } i, j, k, l \in \mathcal{N}_n\}.$$

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- In the empirical application:  $P(\Omega_n) = 2.24\%$ .
- “Thin set identification” as in Khan and Tamer (2010).

# Thin Set

## Lemma (Sufficient Conditions)

For any  $n$ , the class  $\Omega_n$  has probability zero if for any  $(i, j) \in \mathcal{N}_n^{(2)}$ :

- 1  $D^n$  is empty, i.e.,

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- 3  $D^n$  is homogeneous, i.e.,

$$\text{supp} \left( \mu_i + \mu_j \mid X_{ij} = x, \varepsilon_{ij} = e \right) = [e - x' \beta_0, \infty)$$

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2. A2'': they are all **discrete variables**.

$\Rightarrow$  Bounds for each element of  $\beta_0$  are obtained.

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The identification condition in (MC) suggests an estimator for  $\beta_0$ .

**Limiting objective function:**

$$Q(b) \equiv 2\mathbb{E} \left[ S(\mathcal{X}_B) \times \text{sign} \left\{ [\Delta_{kl}X_i - \Delta_{kl}X_j]' b \right\} \times \left( Y_{kl}^{(i)} - Y_{kl}^{(j)} \right) \mid \Omega(ijlk) \right],$$

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The **semiparametric pairwise difference estimator** is

$$\hat{\beta}_n = \arg \max_{b \in \tilde{\mathcal{B}}} Q_n(b)$$

## Inference

Given a random sample of  $n$  agents, let  $\left\{z_{ij}^n\right\}_{(i,j) \in \mathcal{N}_n^{(2)}} = \left\{D_{ij}^n, x_{ij}\right\}_{(i,j) \in \mathcal{N}_n^{(2)}}$ .



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The **sample analog of  $Q(b)$** :

$$Q_n(b) \equiv \binom{n}{4}^{-1} \sum_{C_{n,4}} h(z_{i_1,3}, z_{i_1,4}, z_{i_2,3}, z_{i_2,4}, b), \quad (\text{Qn})$$

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**Kernel function:**

$$h(z_{i_1,3}, z_{i_1,4}, z_{i_2,3}, z_{i_2,4}, b) \equiv \frac{2}{4!} \sum_{P_4} \left\{ \text{sign} \left\{ [\Delta_{3,4} x_1 - \Delta_{3,4} x_2]' b \right\} \right. \\ \left. \times (y_{3,4}^{(1)} - y_{3,4}^{(2)}) \times \mathbf{1} \left\{ |y_{3,4}^{(1)} - y_{3,4}^{(2)}| = 2 \right\} \times S(x_{i_1,3}, x_{i_1,4}, x_{i_2,3}, x_{i_2,4}, B) \right\},$$

where  $P_4$  denotes the  $4!$  permutations of  $\{i_{1,3}, i_{1,4}, i_{2,3}, i_{2,4}\}$ .

# Choice of B

1. If  $B$  is **known**

$$\mathcal{X}_B = \{\mathbf{x} \in \mathbf{X}^n : \text{for any } i, j, k, l \in \mathcal{N}_n, |\Delta_{kl}x_i b| \geq 2B, \text{ and} \\ \text{sign} \{\Delta_{kl}x_i b\} \neq \text{sign} \{\Delta_{kl}x_j b\}\}$$

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$$\mathcal{X}_B(\gamma_n) = \{\mathbf{x} \in \mathbf{X}^n : \text{for any } i, j, k, l \in \mathcal{N}_n, |\Delta_{kl}x_i b| \geq \gamma_n, \text{ and} \\ \text{sign} \{\Delta_{kl}x_i b\} \neq \text{sign} \{\Delta_{kl}x_j b\}\},$$

with  $\gamma_n \rightarrow \infty$ .

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with  $\gamma_n \rightarrow \infty$ .

$$\sup_{\gamma_n \in \Gamma} \sup_{b \in \tilde{\mathcal{B}}} \|Q_n(b; \gamma_n) - \mathbb{E}[Q_n(b; \gamma_n)]\| \xrightarrow{p} 0.$$

# Assumptions

## Assumption (B1)

*The researcher observes a random sample of  $n$  agents. For each dyad in  $\mathcal{N}_n^{(2)}$ , the researcher observes the link status and dyad-level attributes.*

$$\{D_{ij}, \mathbf{x}_{ij}\}_{(i,j) \in \mathcal{N}_n^{(2)}}.$$

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## Assumption (B2)

*The parameter space  $\tilde{\mathcal{B}}$  is compact and  $\beta_0$  is an interior point of  $\tilde{\mathcal{B}}$ .*

- Used in Han (1987), Sherman (1993, 1994) and Abrevaya (1999).

# Assumptions

## Assumption (B3)

Let  $p_n \equiv \mathbb{P}(\Omega_n)$ , where

- 1  $p_n \rightarrow p_0 \geq 0$ , as  $n \rightarrow \infty$ .
- 2  $\sqrt{N}p_n \rightarrow \infty$ , as  $n \rightarrow \infty$ .

- The probability  $p_n$  is allowed to decay as  $n \rightarrow \infty$ .



# Consistency

## Theorem (Consistency)

*Let assumptions A1, A2, B1-B3 hold. Then,*

$$\hat{\beta}_n - \beta_0 \xrightarrow{p} 0$$

*as  $n \rightarrow \infty$ .*

## Theorem (Asymptotic Normality)

If assumptions A1, A2, B1-B4. hold, then:

$$p_n \sqrt{N}(\hat{\beta}_n - \beta_0) \xrightarrow{d} \mathcal{N}(0, V^{-1} \Delta V^{-1}) \quad (\text{AN})$$

with

$$\begin{aligned} 4V &= \mathbb{E} [\nabla_2 \tau_2(\cdot, \beta_0) \mid \Omega_n], \\ \Delta &= \mathbb{E} [\nabla_1 \tau(\cdot, \beta_0)] [\nabla_1 \tau(\cdot, \beta_0)]'. \end{aligned}$$

Recall that  $N = O(n^2)$ .

# Convergence Rate

The convergence rate depends on the limit of  $p_n \equiv \mathbb{P}(\Omega_n)$ .

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1. Regular Estimator:  $p_n \rightarrow \bar{p} > 0$ , as  $n \rightarrow \infty$ .

2. Irregular Estimator:  $p_n \rightarrow 0$ , as  $n \rightarrow \infty$ .

(Newey 1990, Andrews and Schafgans 1998 and Khan and Tamer 2010).

## Theorem (Information bound)

*In model given by equation (NF), under assumptions A1, A2, B1-B4.*

*If  $p_n \rightarrow 0$ , then the information bound for  $\beta_0$  is **zero**.*

# Adaptive Rate Inference

Consider the “studentized” estimator, as in Andrews and Schafgans (1998) and Khan and Tamer (2010),

$$\hat{\Sigma}_n^{-1/2} \sqrt{N}(\hat{\beta}_n - \beta_0) \xrightarrow{d} \mathcal{N}(\mathbf{0}, I), \quad \text{as } n \rightarrow \infty$$

where  $\hat{\Sigma}_n$ ,

$$\hat{\Sigma}_n = \hat{S}_n / \hat{p}_n^2,$$

and  $\hat{S}_n$  is the Bootstrap estimate of

$$S = V^{-1} \Delta V^{-1}.$$

Subbotin (2007): Bootstrap validity for Maximum Rank estimators.

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# Computation

The objective function  $Q_n(b)$  is a 4th order U-statistic.

- $O(n^4)$  operations.

## Proposition

The estimator  $\hat{\beta}_n$  can be equivalently computed from:

$$\tilde{Q}_n(b) \equiv \frac{1}{n(n-1)(n-2)} \sum_{i \neq j \neq k} S(B) \text{Rank}_{j,k} [(x_{ik} - x_{il})' b] y_{k,l}^{(i)}$$

- $\tilde{Q}_n(b)$  can be computed in  $O(n^3 \log(n))$  operations.

# Simulations

Consider the following model:

$$D_{ij} = \mathbf{1} \left[ X'_{ij} \beta_0 + \mu_i + \mu_j - \varepsilon_{ij} \geq 0 \right], \quad \text{for } (i, j) \in \mathcal{N}_n^{(2)}.$$

1. Dyad-specific attributes,  $X_{ij}$  for  $(i, j) \in \mathcal{N}_n^{(2)}$ :

$$X_{ij} = [z_{i1}z_{j1}, z_{i2}z_{j2}, z_{i3}z_{j3}].$$

where the individual-specific attributes are drawn as:

$$z_{i1} \sim \text{Normal}(0, 3),$$

$$z_{i2} \sim \text{Uniform} \{-1, 0, 1\} \text{ with } p_k = 1/3,$$

$$z_{i3} \sim \text{Uniform}(-2, 2).$$



# Simulations

## 2. Fixed effects:

$$\alpha_i = \lambda (z_{i1} + z_{i2} + z_{i3}) / 3 + (1 - \lambda)\text{Normal}(0, 1),$$

where  $\lambda \in \{1/4, 1/2, 3/4\}$  measures the degree of dependence.

$$\mu_i = \begin{cases} -B & \text{if } \alpha_i < -B \\ \alpha_i & \text{if } -B \leq \alpha_i \leq B, \\ B & \text{if } B < \alpha_i \end{cases},$$

with  $B = 1$ .

## 3. Link-specific disturbance term: $\varepsilon_{ij}^{(2)} \sim \text{Normal}(0, 2)$ .

**True DGP:**  $\beta_0 = [1, 1.5, -1.5]'$

# MC Simulations: Normal(0,2)

	Pairwise Difference				Graham (2015)				$P(\Omega_n)$
	Median	Mean	Bias(%)	RMSE	Median	Mean	Bias(%)	RMSE	
$N = 100$									7.914%
$\beta_2/\beta_1 = 1.5$	1.630	1.585	5.715	0.727	1.651	1.665	7.454	0.437	
$\beta_3/\beta_1 = -1.5$	-1.734	-1.702	13.613	1.836	-1.735	-1.763	15.712	0.438	
$N = 250$									7.376%
$\beta_2/\beta_1 = 1.5$	1.567	1.551	5.061	0.686	1.524	1.512	4.133	0.325	
$\beta_3/\beta_1 = -1.5$	-1.677	-1.632	7.245	1.074	-1.691	-1.674	13.128	0.325	
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$N = 500$									7.148%
$\beta_2/\beta_1 = 1.5$	1.529	1.542	4.761	0.591					
$\beta_3/\beta_1 = -1.5$	-1.572	-1.553	5.281	0.801					

M=500,  $\lambda = 0.5$

## Simulation: Discrete and Bounded Support:

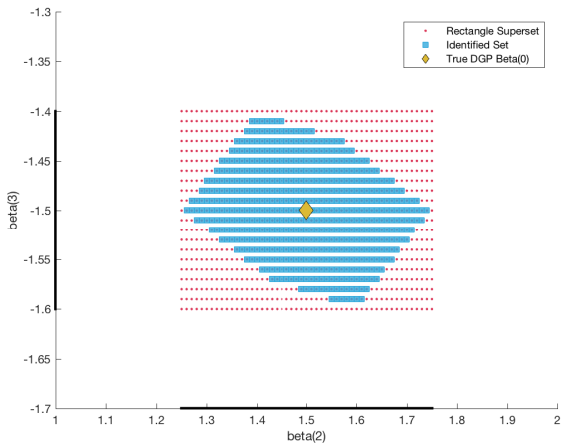
Consider the next specification for the observed covariates:

- $X_{ij}^{(1)}$  takes the values  $\{0, 1, 2, 3, 4\}$ .
- $X_{ij}^{(2)}$  takes the values  $\{-1, 0, 1\}$ .
- $X_{ij}^{(3)}$  takes the values  $\{-1, 0, 1, 2\}$ .

Thus, the support of  $X_{ij}$  contains 60 points.

# Discrete and Bounded Support: Sharp Bounds

Figure: Bounds and Rectangular Superset



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- Saturated high schools: each student nominates at most 5 male and 5 female friends.
- **Wave I In-home interview:** One high school with 319 students.

# Exogenous Covariates

Table: Descriptive Statistics

Variable	Mean	Std. Dev.	Min	Max
Household Income	51.405	29.68	4	200
Age	15.707	1.183	14	19
Female	0.441	0.497	0	1
Grade	10.255	1.085	9	12
Hispanic	0.025	0.150	0	1
White	0.942	0.233	0	1
Black	0.006	0.079	0	1
Asian	0.014	0.121	0	1
Indian	0.029	0.170	0	1
Other races	0.036	0.187	0	1
Overall GPA	2.346	0.956	0	4
Mother's Education	4.240	2.419	0	9
Father's Education	4.147	2.794	0	9

Sample size = 469.

# Estimation Results

	Logistic	Pairwise Difference	Graham (2015)
Age	-1.245***	-0.826	-1.088
Female	-1.875***	0.635**	0.032
Grade	0.764***	1.264*	0.553*
Hispanic	0.772	1.322***	1.100***
White	-3.758***	1.661**	1.544***
Black		0.382	0.085
Asian		-1.172**	-1.491**
Indian	-0.597	-0.318	-0.742
Other races	-0.461	-0.553*	-1.061
Overall GPA	-0.102***	2.436**	2.350**
Mother Education	0.276***	-0.352*	-0.615*
Father Education	0.240***	1.549***	0.748

$P(\Omega) = 2.24\%$

Average Degree = 3.62.

Number of Students = 319.

Number of dyads = 50,721.

\*, \*\*, \*\*\* represents the significant at 10%, 5%, and 1% level.

# Conclusions

1. Semiparametric network model with unobserved heterogeneity.
2. Point identification and sharp bounds for each component of  $\beta_0$ .
3. Semiparametric pairwise difference estimator.
4. Empirical application considers a friendship network.



Thanks!

# Appendix

# Covariates with Bounded Support

## I. At Least One Continuous Covariate

### Assumption (A2')

The following hold for any  $n$ , and any  $i, l, k \in \mathcal{N}_n$ , with  $l \neq k$ .

- 1 The random vector  $\Delta_{kl}X_i$  has a bounded support on  $\mathbb{R}^K$ .
- 2 For some  $\delta > 0$ , there exists an interval  $I_\delta = [-\delta, \delta]$  and a set  $N_\delta \in \mathbb{R}^{K-1}$  such that
  - ▶  $N_\delta$  is not contained in any proper linear subspace of  $\mathbb{R}^{K-1}$ .
  - ▶  $\mathbb{P}(\Delta_{kl}\tilde{X}_i \in N_\delta) > 0$ .
  - ▶ For almost every  $\Delta_{kl}\tilde{x} \in N_\delta$ , the distribution of  $\Delta_{kl}X_i'\beta_0$  conditional on  $\Delta_{kl}\tilde{X}_i = \Delta_{kl}\tilde{x}$  has a probability density that is everywhere positive on  $I_\delta$ .

### Proposition

Let Assumptions A1, A2', and A3 hold; then  $\beta_0$  is point identified.

# Covariates with Bounded Support

## II. Discrete Support

I obtain sharp bounds for each component in  $\beta_0$  using Komarova (2013).

### Assumption (A2'')

For any  $n$ , and any  $i, k, l \in \mathcal{N}_n$ , with  $k \neq l$ .

- 1 The support of  $F_{X_{ik}}$  is not contained in any proper linear space of  $\mathbb{R}^K$ .
- 2 The profile vector of observed attributes  $\mathbf{X}^n \equiv (X_{12}, \dots, X_{n-1,n})$  has a discrete support given by

$$\text{supp}(\mathbf{X}^n) = \{\mathbf{x}^1, \dots, \mathbf{x}^D\},$$

for a finite  $D$ .

# Thin Set

**Table:** Stochastic Dominance and Sparsity

	Empty		Sparse		Dense	
	$E$ [Degree]	$P$ [ $\Omega_n$ ] (%)	$E$ [Degree]	$P$ [ $\Omega_n$ ] (%)	$E$ [Degree]	$P$ [ $\Omega_n$ ] (%)
$\lambda = 0.25$						
Log	20.30	4.32	49.53	16.71	97.15	0.06
LnN	9.34	1.01	36.98	13.73	95.88	0.11
N	19.47	3.84	49.52	18.11	98.56	0.00
Gam	19.54	3.87	49.36	19.63	87.12	1.56
T	28.59	8.30	49.45	18.25	90.54	1.03
$\lambda = 0.5$						
Log	23.56	5.71	49.44	16.95	95.48	0.21
LnN	10.58	1.28	36.62	13.72	92.34	0.47
N	22.44	5.03	49.39	18.58	98.13	0.01
Gam	23.11	5.41	49.32	21.04	76.73	4.72
T	33.90	11.29	49.30	18.84	84.53	2.71
$\lambda = 0.75$						
Log	27.81	7.88	49.30	17.14	91.75	0.86
LnN	12.38	1.74	36.06	13.64	80.39	3.52
N	26.38	6.92	49.21	18.82	96.75	0.07
Gam	27.08	7.34	49.20	22.42	54.40	11.08
T	40.51	15.00	49.26	19.29	72.11	7.27

Notes: N=100, M=500.

# Thin Set

**Table:** Thin Set Simulations: Homogeneous Network

$$\mu = 10 * \text{Bernoulli}(p) + (-5) * (1 - \text{Bernoulli}(p))$$

N=100	$E[\text{Degree}]$	$P[\Omega(ijkl)]$ (%) (%)	Jaccard SI (Mean) (Mean)	Cosine SI (Mean) (Mean)
$p = 0.2$				
Log	37.66	0.38	0.55	0.70
LnN	20.52	0.83	0.35	0.53
N	36.66	0.31	0.60	0.73
Gam	31.14	0.42	0.56	0.70
T	27.30	0.34	0.57	0.70
$p = 0.8$				
Log	92.56	0.12	0.87	0.93
LnN	83.46	1.16	0.74	0.85
N	95.10	0.01	0.91	0.95
Gam	94.42	0.05	0.90	0.94
T	93.26	0.10	0.88	0.93

Notes: M=500.

# Identification Failure

## II. Nonlinear Panel Data Identification Strategy

### Proposition

1. *Let assumption 1 hold; then, for any  $n$ , and any  $i, l, k \in \mathcal{N}_n$ .*

$$\begin{aligned} \text{Med}(D_{ik} - D_{il} | \mathbf{X}^n = x, D_{il} + D_{ik} = 1) \\ = \text{sign} [(x_{ik} - x_{il})' \beta_0 + (\mu_k - \mu_l)] \end{aligned} \quad (\text{MS})$$

2. *Let Assumptions 1 and 2 hold; then, the equation (MS) does not have identification power.*

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