

Different approaches to influence in social networks

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 - ▶ Social learning, “Herd behavior”, “Informational cascades”

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- ▶ Different approaches are applied to study influence concepts: **theoretical investigations**, **empirical study**, **experiments**.

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 - ▶ *Internalization* = people accept a belief or behavior and agree both publicly and privately (informational conformity).

- ▶ Sherif's autokinetic experiment (Sherif, 1936) - first experiment on informational social influence. Participants placed in a dark room are asked to estimate the amount a small dot of light moved. *How many people change their opinions to bring them in line with the opinion of a group?*

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- ▶ **McKelvey & Kerr (1988)** - using similar procedures they find significantly less conformity in groups of friends as compared to groups of strangers.

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- ▶ **Latane & Bourgeois (2001)** - using these three factors, they construct a mathematical model to predict the amount of conformity that occurs with some degree of accuracy.

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 - ▶ The author focuses on the effect of the individual thresholds (i.e., the proportion or number of others that make their decision before a given agent) on the collective behavior, he discusses an equilibrium in a process occurring over time and the stability of equilibrium outcomes.

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- ▶ Interpersonal influence model - Friedkin (1999), Friedkin & Johnsen (1990, 1999), Friedkin & Cook (1990).
 - ▶ The authors study a framework, in which social attitudes depend on the attitudes of neighbors and evolve over time. In their model, agents start with initial attitudes and then mix in some of their neighbors' recent attitudes with their starting attitudes.

Studying influence in political science

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 - ▶ directly by influencing the behavior of policymakers ([the influence function models](#))
 - ▶ indirectly by influencing the behavior of voters ([the vote function models](#)).
- ▶ For more surveys of theoretical and empirical literature on this issue, see, e.g., [Sloof \(1998\)](#), [Drazen \(2000\)](#), [Persson & Tabellini \(2000\)](#), [Grossman & Helpman \(2001\)](#); see also [Potters & Sloof \(1996\)](#), and [Austen-Smith \(1997\)](#).

Leadership in sociology and marketing (1/2)

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- ▶ Opinion leaders form an attractive group for marketing and policy purposes, because their existence (or non-existence) in a society and their relations to their followers may have a considerable impact on market behavior.

Leadership in sociology and marketing (2/2)

- ▶ **The two-step flow of communication theory** - the communication process is a two-step process, in which information distributed by mass media first reaches the opinion leaders; see Lazarsfeld et al. (1944), Katz & Lazarsfeld (1955).

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 - ▶ *flow of information* from the mass media to the members of the society (one-step process);
 - ▶ *flow of influence* on beliefs and behavior (two-step process) - opinion leaders form their own opinion based on additional information provided by experts, and then they try to influence the behavior of their followers.

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- ▶ **Similar approach is applied in works on:**
 - ▶ influence activities by **Milgrom and Roberts (1988)**
 - ▶ conformity by **Bernheim (1994)** - a model of social interaction in which individuals are assumed to care about status (popularity, esteem, respect) and about actions (consumption); see also **Akerlof (1980)** and **Jones (1984)**.

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Leadership in economics (1/5)

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- ▶ DeMarzo (1992) - examines the set of outcomes sustainable by a leader with the power to make suggestions which are important even if players can communicate and form coalitions. The author considers both finite-horizon games and infinite-horizon two-player repeated games.

Leadership in economics (2/5)

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 - ▶ [Van den Brink et al. \(2009\)](#) define the satisfaction and power scores for opinion leaders - followers structures and examine common properties of these scores.
 - ▶ This research is in some respect also related to work on opinion leaders and the [Condorcet Jury Theorem \(Estlund, 1994\)](#) and to models on organizational hierarchies based on subordinates and their superiors, where an organizational choice is to be made; see, e.g., [Hammond & Thomas \(1990\)](#).

- ▶ [Hermalin \(1998\)](#) - an important contribution to the literature on leadership, which has been tested in several experiments. The author presents a model of leadership which captures the feature that following is a voluntary activity. He considers:

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Leadership in economics (3/5)

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- ▶ [Meidinger & Villeval \(2002\)](#) test these two signaling devices: leadership-by-example and leadership-by-sacrifice.

- ▶ Potters et al. (2007) conduct an experiment on the effect of leadership in a voluntary contribution game both in an asymmetric and full information environment. They find that leading by example increases contributions if the leader has private information about the returns from contributing.

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- ▶ [Potters et al. \(2005\)](#) show that the followers choose to contribute sequentially and the contributions are larger in the sequential-move than in the simultaneous-move game.
- ▶ [Andreoni \(1998\)](#), [List & Lucking-Reiley \(2002\)](#), [Vesterlund \(2003\)](#), [Shang & Croson \(2007\)](#) - an asymmetric information with informed leaders and uninformed followers, and a positive effect of early contributions on later contributions.

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Research on influence in cooperative game theory (CGT)

- ▶ A *simple game* is an ordered pair (N, \mathcal{W}) , where $N = \{1, 2, \dots, n\}$ denotes the set of players and \mathcal{W} is a subset of the powerset 2^N .

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- ▶ A *voting game* is a monotone simple game (N, \mathcal{W}) with $\mathcal{W} \neq \emptyset$ and $\emptyset \notin \mathcal{W}$.

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- ▶ This influence relation is defined as follows:
 - ▶ Voter i is said to be **at least as influential as** voter j , if whenever j can transform a losing coalition into a winning one by joining it, i can achieve the same *ceteris paribus*.

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 - ▶ $(S_1, S_2, S_3) \in \mathcal{W}$ is called a winning partition or a majority.
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 - ▶ Assuming that voters i and j have the same initial degree of approval, i is said to be at least as influential as j if whenever j can transform a losing partition into a winning one by an upward shift in her level of approval, i can achieve the same by the identical shift *ceteris paribus*.

Research on influence in CGT - Command games (1/3)

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- ▶ For each $k \in N$, where N is the set of players, a simple game (N, \mathcal{W}_k) is built, called the **command game for k** , with the set of winning coalitions defined by

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- ▶ We can recover the boss and approval sets for k

$$Boss_k = \{S \subseteq N \setminus k \mid S \in \mathcal{W}_k\} = \mathcal{W}_k \cap 2^{N \setminus k}$$

$$App_k = \{S \subseteq N \setminus k \mid S \cup k \in \mathcal{W}_k \text{ but } S \notin \mathcal{W}_k\}.$$

We have $Boss_k \cap App_k = \emptyset$.

- ▶ Given $\{(N, \mathcal{W}_k), k \in N\}$, the **command function** $\omega : 2^N \rightarrow 2^N$ is defined as

$$\omega(S) := \{k \in N \mid S \in \mathcal{W}_k\}, \forall S \subseteq N.$$

$\omega(S)$ is the *set of all members that are 'commandable' by S* , and $\omega(\emptyset) = \emptyset$, $\omega(N) = N$, and $\omega(S) \subseteq \omega(S')$ if $S \subset S'$.

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- ▶ How to define a fair distribution of "power" in an organization $(N, \{(N, \mathcal{W}_k) \mid k \in N\})$?

Research on influence in CGT - Command games (3/3)

- ▶ The authors define an *authority distribution* $\pi = (\pi_1, \dots, \pi_n)$, where $\pi_i \geq 0$ and $\sum_{i \in N} \pi_i = 1$, and create the *power transition matrix* of the organization, which is the stochastic matrix $P = [P(j, k)]_{j, k=1}^n$ such that

$$P(j, k) := Sh_k(N, \mathcal{W}_j)$$

and $Sh_k(N, \mathcal{W}_j)$ is the *Shapley-Shubik index* of k in the command game for j . If $P(j, k) > 0$, then some of j 's "power" transfers to k . $P(j, j)$ is j 's personal discretion.

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- ▶ They use a Markov chain to describe the organization's long-run authority π . The authority distribution π is assumed to satisfy the *authority equilibrium equation* given by

$$\pi = \pi P, \text{ i.e., } \pi_k = \sum_{j \in N} \pi_j P(j, k), \forall k \in N.$$

$\pi_j P(j, k)$ is the authority flowing from j to k . The existence of π is known from the Markovian theory.

Research on influence in CGT - Confucian model (1/2)

Four players in the society, i.e., $N = \{1, 2, 3, 4\}$, with the king (1), the man (2), the wife (3), and the child (4). The rules are:

- (i) The man follows the king;
- (ii) The wife and the child follow the man;
- (iii) The king should respect his people.

By virtue of the rules (i) and (ii), we have:

$$\mathcal{W}_2 = \{1, 12, 13, 14, 123, 124, 134, 1234\}$$

$$\mathcal{W}_3 = \mathcal{W}_4 = \{2, 12, 23, 24, 123, 124, 234, 1234\}$$

$$Boss_2 = \{1, 13, 14, 134\}, \quad Boss_3 = \{2, 12, 24, 124\}$$

$$Boss_4 = \{2, 12, 23, 123\}, \quad App_2 = App_3 = App_4 = \emptyset.$$

How can we translate the rule (iii) into the set \mathcal{W}_1 of winning coalitions in the command game for player 1?

Research on influence in CGT - Confucian model (2/2)

If $\mathcal{W}_1 = \{1234\}$, then $Boss_1 = \emptyset$, $App_1 = \{234\}$, and

$$\omega(1) = \omega(13) = \omega(14) = \omega(134) = \{2\}$$

$$\omega(2) = \omega(23) = \omega(24) = \omega(234) = \{3, 4\}$$

$$\omega(3) = \omega(4) = \omega(34) = \emptyset, \omega(12) = \omega(123) = \omega(124) = \{2, 3, 4\}.$$

$$P = [Sh_k(N, \mathcal{W}_j)]_{j,k=1}^n = \begin{bmatrix} \frac{1}{4} & \frac{1}{4} & \frac{1}{4} & \frac{1}{4} \\ 1 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 & 0 & 0 \end{bmatrix}$$

$$\begin{cases} \pi_1 = \frac{1}{4}\pi_1 + \pi_2 \\ \pi_2 = \frac{1}{4}\pi_1 + \pi_3 + \pi_4 \\ \pi_3 = \frac{1}{4}\pi_1 \\ \pi_4 = \frac{1}{4}\pi_1 \\ \pi_1 + \pi_2 + \pi_3 + \pi_4 = 1 \end{cases}$$

Hence, the authority distribution $\pi = \frac{1}{9}(4, 3, 1, 1)$.

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Research on influence in social networks

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- ▶ Game theoretic approach to influence based on using social networks:
 - ▶ Social networks play a central role in the formation of opinions.
 - ▶ It is therefore critical to have a good understanding of how the structure of such networks affects the diffusion of information.

The Hoede-Bakker index (1/3)

SOCIAL NETWORK, PLAYERS, INFLUENCE

inclinations i → → decisions B_i → group decision
(‘yes’ or ‘no’) influence function B $gd(B_i)$

- ▶ A social network with the set of players $N := \{1, \dots, n\}$

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- ▶ $gd : B(I) \rightarrow \{+1, -1\}$ **group decision function**, where $B(I)$ - the set of all decision vectors under B .

The Hoede-Bakker index (2/3)

- ▶ The Hoede-Bakker index (Hoede and Bakker, 1982)

$$HB(k) = \frac{1}{2^{n-1}} \cdot \sum_{\{i: i_k=+1\}} gd(Bi)$$

where for each $i \in I \in \{-1, +1\}^n$, $gd(B(-i)) = -gd(Bi)$.

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- ▶ Rusinowska & de Swart (2006) - Generalization and modifications of the index that coincide with other power indices

$$GHB(k) = \frac{1}{2^n} \cdot \left(\sum_{\{i: i_k=+1\}} gd(Bi) - \sum_{\{i: i_k=-1\}} gd(Bi) \right)$$

- ▶ Rusinowska (2008) - the not-preference-based GHB
- ▶ Rusinowska (2009) - other modifications of the GHB.

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- ▶ What does the index really measure?
'net Success' = Success – Failure, not always Decisiveness!

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- ▶ A model of influence with a **continuum of actions**
- ▶ Work in progress: **iterating influence**.

Basic influence index of a coalition on a player

- ▶ For $S \subseteq P$ such that $|S| \geq 2$:

$$I_S := \{i \in I \mid \forall k, j \in S : i_k = i_j\}$$

For each $i \in I_S$, let $i_S := i_k$ for some $k \in S$.

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$I_{S \rightarrow j}$ = set of inclination vectors of potential influence of S on j

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- ▶ **Weighted influence indices** - definitions and properties.

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 - ▶ [simple games \(2010b, with Stefan Bolus\)](#).

Relation Algebra (1/2)

- ▶ R is a relation with domain X and range Y :

$$R : X \leftrightarrow Y$$

$X \leftrightarrow Y$ is the **type** of R .

- ▶ Instead of $(x, y) \in R$ we use Boolean matrix notation:

$$R_{x,y} \quad (\text{or } R_x \text{ if the range is a singleton set})$$

- ▶ Signature of relation algebra:

- ▶ Constants: $0, I, 1$.
- ▶ Operations: $R \cup S, R \cap S, R S, \bar{R}, R^T$.
- ▶ Tests: $R \subseteq S, R = S$.

- ▶ A relation $v : X \leftrightarrow Y$ is a **column vector** if $v = v L$.
- ▶ The normal case is $v : X \leftrightarrow \mathbf{1}$, where $\mathbf{1} := \{\perp\}$ is a singleton set. Then we define for subsets Y of X :

$$v \text{ represents } Y \iff Y = \{x \in X : v_x\}$$

Relation Algebra (2/2)

- ▶ A non-empty column vector v is a **column point** if $vv^T \subseteq I$.
- ▶ Further relational modeling of sets via **membership relation** $M : X \leftrightarrow 2^X$, such that for all $x \in X$ and subsets Y of X :

$$M_{x,Y} \iff x \in Y$$

- ▶ **Projection relations** $\pi : X \times Y \leftrightarrow X$ and $\rho : X \times Y \leftrightarrow Y$:

$$\pi_{u,x} \iff u_1 = x \qquad \rho_{u,y} \iff u_2 = y$$

- ▶ Given a column vector $v : X \leftrightarrow \mathbf{1}$, one can compute the **injective embedding mapping**

$$inj(v) : Y \leftrightarrow X$$

which describes Y as a subset of X in such a way that $inj(v)_{y,x}$ holds iff $y = x$ for all $y \in Y$ and $x \in X$.

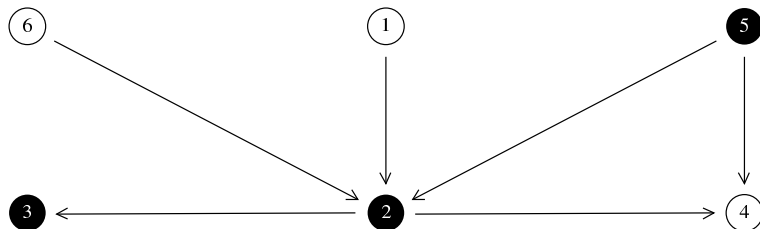
Dependency graph

N - set of players

$D : N \leftrightarrow N$ the **dependency relation**, where

$D_{j,k}$ holds iff there is an arc from j to k
(k is dependent on j)

$N = \{1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6\}$, D_{62} , D_{12} , D_{52} , D_{54} , D_{23} , D_{24}



Computing decision vectors

Let N be the set of players and $D : N \leftrightarrow N$ be the relation of the dependency graph. Then the **set of the dependent players** relation-algebraically is described by the column vector

$$\text{depend}(D) := D^T L$$

of type $[N \leftrightarrow \mathbf{1}]$, where the used L has type $[N \leftrightarrow \mathbf{1}]$ too.

Theorem

Let $d := \text{depend}(D)$. Given the influence rule 'following only unanimous trend-setters', the relation

$$D\text{vec}(D) = (M \cap (\overline{dL} \cup (dL \cap D^T M \cap D^T \overline{M}))) \cup (dL \cap \overline{D^T M})$$

of type $[N \leftrightarrow 2^N]$ column-wisely enumerates the set $B(I)$.

For all $X \in 2^N$, if the X -column of M equals $i : N \leftrightarrow \mathbf{1}$ then, under the assumed rule, the **X -column of $D\text{vec}(D)$ equals $B_i : N \leftrightarrow \mathbf{1}$.**

Computing group decisions (1/2)

For the **group decisions under majority**, we need a row vector $m : \mathbf{1} \leftrightarrow 2^N$ such that for all $X \in 2^N$ we have

$$m_{\perp, X} \text{ iff } |X| \geq \left\lceil \frac{|N|}{2} \right\rceil + 1.$$

In RELVIEW such a vector can be easily obtained with the help of the base operation **cardfilter**

$$m := \overline{\text{cardfilter}(L, w)}^T$$

where the first argument $L : 2^N \leftrightarrow \mathbf{1}$ describes the entire powerset 2^N , and the second argument $w : W \leftrightarrow \mathbf{1}$ determines the threshold for majority by its length, i.e., fulfills $|W| = \left\lceil \frac{|N|}{2} \right\rceil + 1$.

Theorem

Let the row vector $gdv(D)$ of type $[\mathbf{1} \leftrightarrow 2^N]$ be defined by

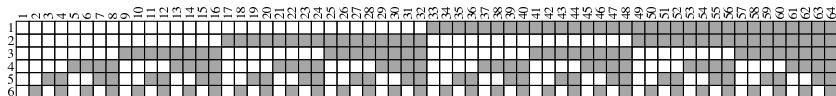
$$gdv(D) := m\text{syq}(M, D\text{vec}(D))$$

where $\text{syq}(R, S) := \overline{R^T S} \cap \overline{R^T S}$ is by definition the **symmetric quotient** of R and S . Then for all $X \in 2^N$:

If the decision vector $Bi : N \leftrightarrow \mathbf{1}$ equals the X -column of $D\text{vec}(D)$, then $gdv(D)_{\perp, X}$ holds iff the number of 1-entries in Bi is at least $\lfloor \frac{|N|}{2} \rfloor + 1$ (group decision by majority).

Example - Decision vectors and group decisions

Inclination vectors:



D_{62} , D_{12} , D_{52} , D_{54} , D_{23} , D_{24} . Applied to the relation D , we get the following representation of $Dvec(D)$ in RELVIEW:



Applied to the relation D and a column vector w of length 4 (the threshold of majority), we get the following row vector $gdv(D)$:



The generalized Hoede-Bakker index

Here YES = 1, NO = 0.

Given B and gd , we define:

$$I^+(B, gd) := \{i \in I \mid gd(Bi) = 1\}$$

$$I^-(B, gd) := \{i \in I \mid gd(Bi) = 0\}$$

and for each $k \in N$:

$$I_k^{++}(B, gd) := \{i \in I \mid i_k = 1 \wedge gd(Bi) = 1\}$$

$$I_k^{+-}(B, gd) := \{i \in I \mid i_k = 1 \wedge gd(Bi) = 0\}$$

$$I_k^{-+}(B, gd) := \{i \in I \mid i_k = 0 \wedge gd(Bi) = 1\}$$

$$I_k^{--}(B, gd) := \{i \in I \mid i_k = 0 \wedge gd(Bi) = 0\}$$

The **generalized Hoede-Bakker index** of a player $k \in N$:

$$\text{GHB}_k(B, gd) := \frac{|I_k^{++}| - |I_k^{+-}| + |I_k^{--}| - |I_k^{-+}|}{2^n}$$

Modifications of the Hoede-Bakker index

$$M_1\text{GHB}_k(B, gd) := \frac{|I_k^{++}| - |I_k^{-+}|}{|I^+|}$$

$$M_2\text{GHB}_k(B, gd) := \frac{|I_k^{--}| - |I_k^{+-}|}{|I^-|}$$

$$M_3\text{GHB}_k(B, gd) := \frac{|I_k^{++}| + |I_k^{--}|}{2^n}$$

$$M_4\text{GHB}_k(B, gd) := \frac{|I_k^{++}|}{|I^+|} \quad \text{MGHB}(B, gd) := \frac{|I^+|}{2^n}$$

$M_1\text{GHB}$ - Coleman's index 'to prevent action'

$M_2\text{GHB}$ - Coleman's index 'to initiate action'

$M_3\text{GHB}$ - Rae index $M_4\text{GHB}$ - König-Bräuninger index

MGHB - Coleman's 'power of a collectivity to act'

Computing power indices

Theorem

Let a player $k \in N$ be described by a column point $p : N \leftrightarrow \mathbf{1}$ in the relational sense. Let $g := gdv(D)$ be the group decision row vector. Let the four vectors $ipp(p, g)$, $ipm(p, g)$, $imp(p, g)$ and $imm(p, g)$ of type $[\mathbf{1} \leftrightarrow 2^P]$ be defined as follows:

$$\begin{aligned}ipp(p, g) &:= p^T M \cap g & ipm(p, g) &:= p^T M \cap \bar{g} \\imp(p, g) &:= p^T \bar{M} \cap g & imm(p, g) &:= p^T \bar{M} \cap \bar{g}\end{aligned}$$

Then we have for all $X \in 2^N$: If the X -column of M equals the inclination vector $i : N \leftrightarrow \mathbf{1}$, then we have that

$$\begin{aligned}ipp(p, g)_{\perp, X} \text{ holds iff } i &\in I_k^{++} & ipm(p, g)_{\perp, X} \text{ holds iff } i &\in I_k^{+-} \\imp(p, g)_{\perp, X} \text{ holds iff } i &\in I_k^{-+} & imm(p, g)_{\perp, X} \text{ holds iff } i &\in I_k^{--}\end{aligned}$$

(i.e., the row vector $ipp(p, g)$ precisely designates those columns of the membership relation M which belong to the set I_k^{++} , etc.)

Computing influence indices (1/2)

Theorem

Assume $s : N \leftrightarrow \mathbf{1}$ as description of the coalition $S \subseteq N$ and the row vector $is(s)$ of type $[\mathbf{1} \leftrightarrow 2^N]$ to be defined as

$$is(s) := [s^T, s^T] \overline{(\overline{\pi M} \cup \rho M) \cap (\overline{\rho M} \cup \pi M)}$$

where $M : N \leftrightarrow 2^N$ is the membership relation, and $\pi : N \times N \leftrightarrow P$ and $\rho : N \times N \leftrightarrow P$ are the projection relations.

Then we have for all $X \in 2^N$: If the X -column of M equals the inclination vector $i : N \leftrightarrow \mathbf{1}$, then $is(s)_{\perp, X}$ holds iff $i \in I_S$.

Hence, the row vector $is(s)$ precisely designates those columns of the membership relation M which belong to the set I_S .

Computing influence indices (2/2)

Theorem

Assume $s : N \leftrightarrow \mathbf{1}$ to describe the coalition $S \subseteq N$, the column point $p : N \leftrightarrow \mathbf{1}$ to describe the player $j \in N$, the column point $q \subseteq s$ to describe some player $k \in S$, and the row vector $potinf(s, p)$ of type $[\mathbf{1} \leftrightarrow 2^N]$ to be defined as

$$potinf(s, p) := ((r \cup r') \cap \overline{r \cap r'}) inj(is(s)^T)$$

where $r := p^T M inj(is(s)^T)^T$, $r' := q^T M inj(is(s)^T)^T$.

Then we have for all $X \in 2^N$: If the X -column of M equals the inclination vector $i : N \leftrightarrow \mathbf{1}$, then $potinf(s, p)_{\perp, X}$ holds iff $i \in I_{S \rightarrow j}$.

Consequently, the set $I_{S \rightarrow j}^*(B)$ is described by the row vector

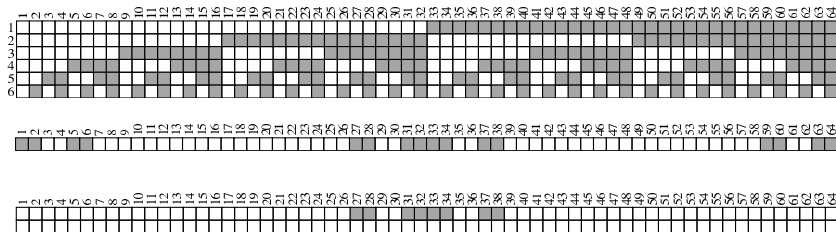
$$inf(s, p, D) := potinf(s, p) \cap \overline{(r \cup r') \cap \overline{r \cap r'}} inj(is(s)^T)$$

now with $r := p^T D vec(D) inj(is(s)^T)^T$ and
 $r' := q^T M inj(is(s)^T)^T$.

Example - Influence indices (1/2)

The RELVIEW-representations of I , I_S , $I_{S \rightarrow j}$ and $I_{S \rightarrow j}^*(B)$, for $S = \{2, 3, 5\}$, $j = 1$ and $B =$ 'following only unanimous trend-setters'.

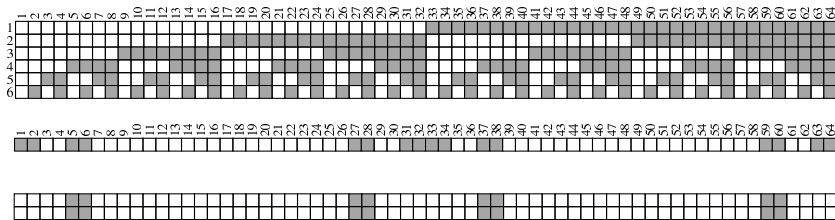
The first picture is $M : N \leftrightarrow 2^N$, the second one is the row vector $is(s) : \mathbf{1} \leftrightarrow 2^N$, where the column vector $s : N \leftrightarrow \mathbf{1}$ describes S . The row vector precisely designates those columns of the matrix where the entries 2, 3 and 5 have the same color.



Because $I_{S \rightarrow 1}^*(B) = \emptyset$, it follows that $\bar{d}(B, 235 \rightarrow 1) = 0$.

Example - Influence indices (2/2)

For $j = 4$, $S = \{2, 3, 5\}$ and $B =$ 'following only unanimous trend-setters', the RELVIEW-representations of the sets I , I_S , $I_{S \rightarrow j}$ and $I_{S \rightarrow j}^*(B)$ are respectively:



Hence,

$$\bar{d}(B, 235 \rightarrow 4) = 1.$$

Sets of followers

The **set of followers** of coalition $\emptyset \neq S \subseteq N$ under the influence function B is defined as

$$F_B(S) := \{j \in N \mid \forall i \in I_S : (Bi)_j = i_S\}.$$

Theorem

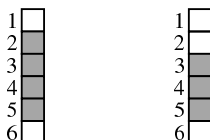
Assume $s : N \leftrightarrow \mathbf{1}$ to describe the coalition $S \subseteq N$, and the column point $q \subseteq s$ to describe some player $k \in S$. Furthermore, let $M : P \leftrightarrow 2^N$ be the membership relation. If the column vector $follow(D, s)$ of type $[N \leftrightarrow \mathbf{1}]$ is defined as

$$follow(D, s) := syq(Q^T, R^T q)$$

with relations $R := M inj(is(s)^T)^T$ and $Q := Dvec(D) inj(is(s)^T)^T$, then for all $j \in P$ we have $follow(D, s)_{j,\perp}$ iff $j \in F_B(S)$.

Example - Sets of followers

The left column vector describes the set of followers of $S = \{2, 3, 5\}$ under the influence rule 'following only unanimous trend-setters' and the right column vector does the same with 'following the majority of the trend-setters'.



The Dutch Parliament Example (1/2)

$$N := \{CDA, CU, D66, GL, PvdA, PvdD, PVV, SGP, SP, VVD\}$$

GL	SP	PvdA	D66	PvdD	CDA	VVD	CU	SGP	PVV
7	25	33	3	2	41	22	6	2	9

CDA - Christen-Democratisch Appel (Christian Democrats)

CU - Christen Unie (Christian Union)

D66 - Democraten66 (Democrats 66)

GL - GroenLinks (Green Left)

PvdA - Partij van de Arbeid (Labor Party)

PvdD - Partij voor de Dieren (Animal Party)

PVV - Partij voor de Vrijheid (Party for Freedom)

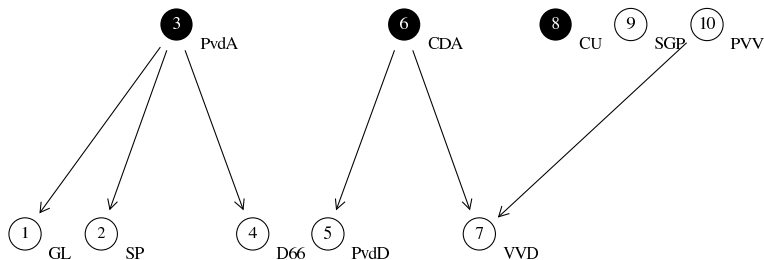
SGP - Staatkundig Gereformeerde Partij (Political Reformed Party)

SP - Socialistische Partij (Socialist Party)

VVD - Volkspartij voor Vrijheid en Democratie (People's Party for Freedom and Democracy)

The Dutch Parliament Example (2/2)

The RELVIEW-representation of the dependency relation and the coalition $S = \{CDA, CU, PvdA\}$



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- ▶ Although all problems are hard since they deal with sets of exponential size, the BDD based implementation of RELVIEW is of immense help.
- ▶ Example of the very efficient BDD-implementation of relations
 - RELVIEW needs on a Sun Fire-280R workstation (750 MHz, 4 GByte main memory, running Solaris) only 0.04 seconds to compute the group decision vector in the case of the Dutch parliament. Note the symmetric quotient $syq(M, WDvec(D))$ used here has type $[2^N \leftrightarrow 2^N]$. Regarded as a Boolean matrix, this means that it has 2^{150} rows and columns.

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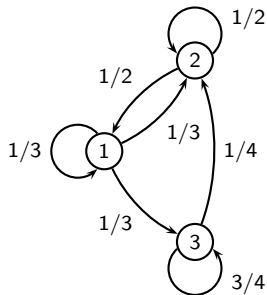
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- ▶ The interactions are determined by a stochastic matrix T , where T_{ij} represents the weight or trust that agent i places on the current belief of agent j in forming i 's belief for the next period.
- ▶ The beliefs are updated over time so that

$$p(t) = Tp(t - 1) = T^t p(0)$$

Updating process in the DeGroot model (1/2)

Example - Updating in the DeGroot model (Jackson, 2008)

$$T = \begin{bmatrix} 1/3 & 1/3 & 1/3 \\ 1/2 & 1/2 & 0 \\ 0 & 1/4 & 3/4 \end{bmatrix}$$



Let the vector of beliefs be initially $p(0) = \begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ 0 \\ 0 \end{bmatrix}$.

Updating process in the DeGroot model (2/2)

$$p(1) = Tp(0) = \begin{bmatrix} 1/3 & 1/3 & 1/3 \\ 1/2 & 1/2 & 0 \\ 0 & 1/4 & 3/4 \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ 0 \\ 0 \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} 1/3 \\ 1/2 \\ 0 \end{bmatrix}$$

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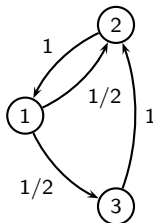
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- ▶ Under what conditions does the updating process converge to a well-defined limit?
- ▶ A social influence matrix T is convergent if $\lim_t T^t p$ exists for all initial vectors of beliefs p .

Convergence in the DeGroot model (1/5)

Example - Convergence (Jackson, 2008)

$$T = \begin{bmatrix} 0 & 1/2 & 1/2 \\ 1 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 & 0 \end{bmatrix}$$



$$T^2 = \begin{bmatrix} 1/2 & 1/2 & 0 \\ 0 & 1/2 & 1/2 \\ 1 & 0 & 0 \end{bmatrix}, \quad T^3 = \begin{bmatrix} 1/2 & 1/4 & 1/4 \\ 1/2 & 1/2 & 0 \\ 0 & 1/2 & 1/2 \end{bmatrix}$$

Convergence in the DeGroot model (2/5)

$$T^t \rightarrow \begin{bmatrix} 2/5 & 2/5 & 1/5 \\ 2/5 & 2/5 & 1/5 \\ 2/5 & 2/5 & 1/5 \end{bmatrix}$$

No matter what initial beliefs $p(0)$ are, the agents end up with limiting beliefs corresponding to the entries of

$$p(\infty) = \lim_t T^t p(0)$$

where

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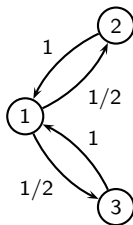
The example

- ▶ shows that beliefs converge over time
- ▶ illustrates that the agents reach a consensus and that agents 1 and 2 have twice as much influence over the limiting beliefs as agent 3 does.

Convergence in the DeGroot model (3/5)

Example - Nonconvergence (Jackson, 2008)

$$T = \begin{bmatrix} 0 & 1/2 & 1/2 \\ 1 & 0 & 0 \\ 1 & 0 & 0 \end{bmatrix}$$



$$T^2 = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 1/2 & 1/2 \\ 0 & 1/2 & 1/2 \end{bmatrix}, \quad T^3 = \begin{bmatrix} 1/2 & 1/2 & 1/0 \\ 1 & 0 & 0 \\ 1 & 0 & 0 \end{bmatrix}, \quad T^4 = T^2, \dots$$

Convergence in the DeGroot model (4/5)

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- ▶ **If T is strongly connected and aperiodic, then it is convergent.**

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- ▶ The matrix T is convergent if and only if every set of nodes that is strongly connected and closed is aperiodic. (Golub & Jackson, 2010)

Consensus in the DeGroot model

- ▶ A group of agents A *reaches a consensus* under T for an initial vector of beliefs $p(0)$ if

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- ▶ For λ_t constant over time, this corresponds to the DeGroot model;
- ▶ Otherwise the updating varies over time and an agent places more (or less) weight on his own belief over time.
- ▶ **Krause (2000) (Only Weighting Those with Similar Beliefs)**
An agent pays attention only to other agents whose beliefs do not differ much from his own, i.e., he places equal weight on all opinions that are within some distance of his own current opinion, and weight zero otherwise.
For consensus reaching, see **Lorenz (2005)**, **Jackson (2008)**.

Generalizations of the DeGroot model (2/2)

Friedkin and Johnsen (1990, 1997) (Time-Varying Weight on Own Beliefs)

- ▶ The updating always mixes in some weight on an agent's initial beliefs. The rule is

$$p(t) = D\hat{T}p(t-1) + (I - D)p(0)$$

D is an $n \times n$ matrix with positive entries only along the diagonal, $D_{ii} \in (0, 1)$ indicates the extent to which i pays attention to others' attitudes.

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- ▶ Consensus may never be reached (e.g., $n = 2$, $D_{ij} = 1/2$, $\hat{T}_{12} = \hat{T}_{21} = 1$)

An agent is always averaging his original belief with the latest belief of the other agent:

$$p_i(t) = \frac{p_j(t-1)}{2} + \frac{p_i(0)}{2}.$$

If $p_1(0) = 1$, $p_2(0) = 0$, then $p_1(t) \rightarrow 2/3$, $p_2(t) \rightarrow 1/3$.

Social influence in the DeGroot model (1/3)

- ▶ How does each agent in the social network influence the limiting belief? (Jackson, 2008)

Social influence in the DeGroot model (1/3)

- ▶ How does each agent in the social network influence the limiting belief? (Jackson, 2008)
- ▶ Consider a closed and strongly connected group of agents. Let T be aperiodic. Hence, all beliefs converge and a consensus is reached. Let $p(0)$ be an arbitrary starting belief vector and $p(\infty) = (p^\infty, \dots, p^\infty)$ be the vector of limiting consensus beliefs. We search for an influence vector $s \in [0, 1]^n$ such that $\sum_i s_i = 1$ and

$$p^\infty = s \cdot p(0) = \sum_i s_i p_i(0).$$

If such an s exists, then the limiting beliefs would be weighted averages of the initial beliefs, and the relative weights would be the influences of the agents on the final consensus beliefs.

Social influence in the DeGroot model (2/3)

- ▶ Suppose that an influence vector exists. Since starting with $p(0)$ or with $p(1) = Tp(0)$ yields the same limit, we have $s \cdot p(1) = s \cdot p(0)$, and therefore $s \cdot (Tp(0)) = s \cdot p(0)$, which has to hold for every $p(0)$. Hence,

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- ▶ When T is strongly connected, aperiodic, and row stochastic, there is a unique such unit eigenvector that has all positive values.
- ▶ Since $s \cdot p(0)$ must lead to the same belief as any entry of $p(\infty) = (p^\infty, \dots, p^\infty) = T^\infty p(0)$, each row of T^∞ must converge to s .

Social influence in the DeGroot model (3/3)

- ▶ **Example (contd)** (Jackson, 2008)

$$T = \begin{bmatrix} 0 & 1/2 & 1/2 \\ 1 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 & 0 \end{bmatrix}, \quad T^t \rightarrow \begin{bmatrix} 2/5 & 2/5 & 1/5 \\ 2/5 & 2/5 & 1/5 \\ 2/5 & 2/5 & 1/5 \end{bmatrix}$$

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- ▶ This social influence measure is related to the eigenvector-based centrality measures - [Katz's prestige measure \(1953\)](#), [eigenvector centrality of Bonacich \(1972, 1987\)](#), [Bonacich & Lloyd \(2001\)](#).

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- ▶ [DeMarzo et al. \(2003\)](#) - the agents in a network try to estimate some unknown parameter, which allows updating to vary over time, i.e., an agent may place more or less weight on his own belief over time. Moreover, the authors show the phenomenon of unidimensional opinions: they study the case of multidimensional opinions, in which each agent has a vector of beliefs, and they show that often the individuals' opinions can be well approximated by a one-dimensional line, where an agent's position on the line determines his position on all issues.

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- ▶ [Koster, Lindner, Napel \(2010\)](#)

Social learning models

- ▶ Literature on **social learning** in the context of social networks - Banerjee (1992), Ellison (1993), Ellison & Fudenberg (1993, 1995), Bala & Goyal (1998, 2001), Gale & Kariv (2003), Celen & Kariv (2004), Banerjee & Fudenberg (2004).

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- ▶ In social learning models agents observe choices over time and update their beliefs accordingly (different from the models in which the choices depend on the influence of others).
- ▶ **Bayesian learning model** - Bala & Goyal (1998), also Jackson (2008) - Agents are connected in an undirected social network and in each period they simultaneously choose among a finite set of actions. The payoffs to the actions are random, and their distribution depends on an unknown state of nature. The agents have identical tastes and face the same uncertainty about the actions. In each period, besides observing his own outcome, an agent also observes choices and outcomes of the neighbors.

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 - ▶ Informational cascades form quickly as people decide to ignore their internal signals and follow what other people are doing (Bikhchandani et al., 1992; Anderson & Holt, 1997).
 - ▶ Grabisch & Rusinowska (2010a) formalize a similar phenomenon as the mass psychology function.

Hamlet: *Do you see yonder cloud that's almost in shape of a camel?*

Polonius: *By th'mass, and 'tis: like a camel, indeed.*

Hamlet: *Methinks it is like a weasel.*

Polonius: *It is back'd like a weasel.*

Hamlet: *Or like a whale.*

Polonius: *Very like a whale.*

William Shakespeare (1600) *Hamlet*, Act 3, Scene 2

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