



The Multiple Flavours of Multilevel Issues for Networks

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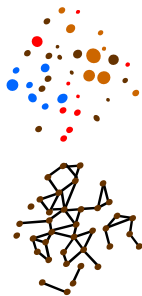
Then I learned that for sociologists, there is interest in the theoretical distinction between the levels: e.g., pupils in schools exemplify not only *multiple populations* for which inference sample \Rightarrow population is important, but also **individuals in social contexts**, and different sets of actors mutually interacting.

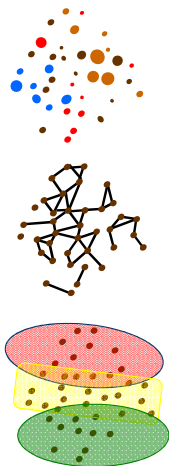
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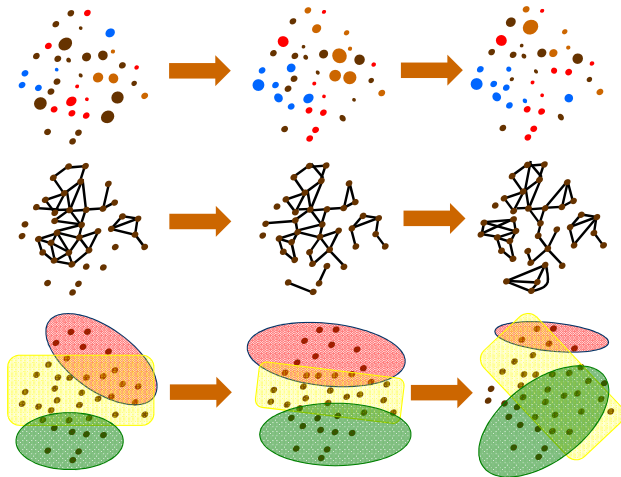
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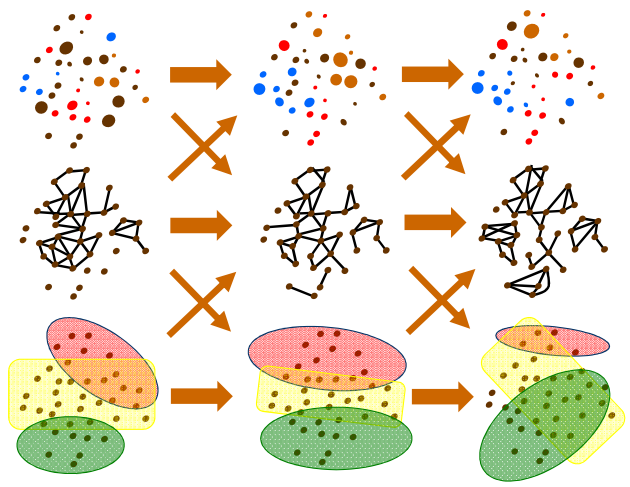
This variety further multiplies when you think of network analysis.











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random/unexplained variability associated with each 'level'.

- 1 levels in one network
- 2 multiple parallel networks:
replication, populations of networks
- 3 multiple actor sets
and multiple types of relation
- 4 actor sets with nested structure
- 5 large networks

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1

One Network, Multiple Levels

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Level 0 *Network*

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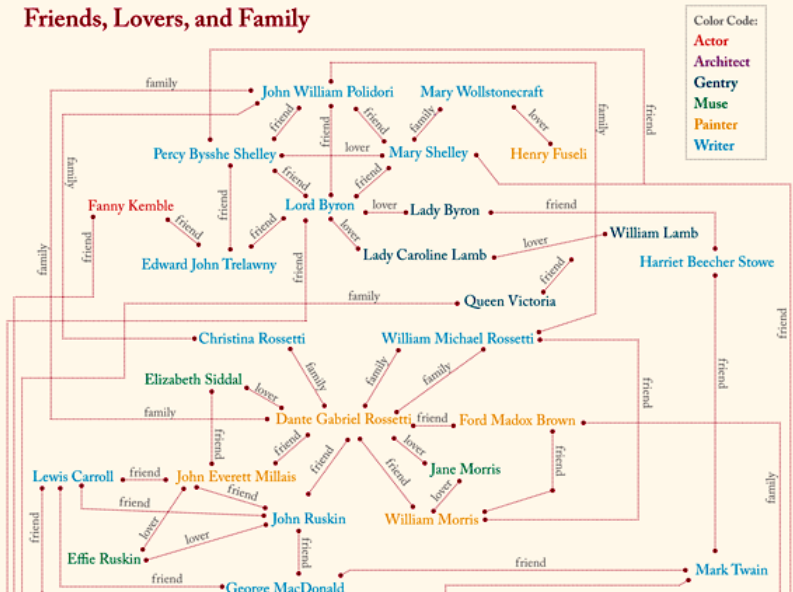
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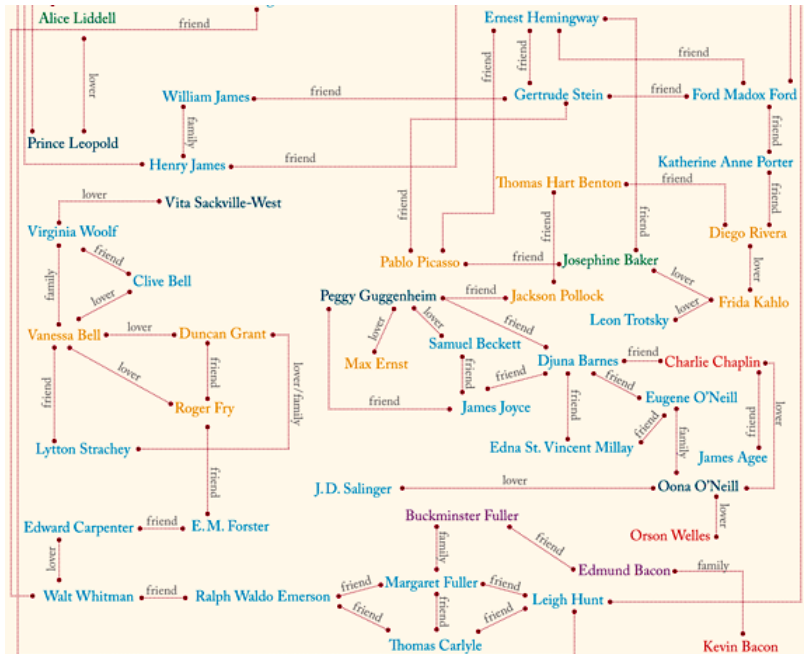
Theoretical interest for the distinction between the actor and dyad levels becomes even more interesting with **multivariate** networks.

Lapham's Quarterly literary magazine published in June 2010 a network showing friends, lovers and family relations and running from Mary Wollstonecraft to, amongst many others, William Morris and Leon Trotsky.

Friends, Lovers, and Family



Levels in One Network



Multilevel issues in multivariate networks

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Here the various levels are not nested:

ties, dyads, actors, triads, subgroups, ...,

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Dyad level

direct association
(within tie)
entrainment



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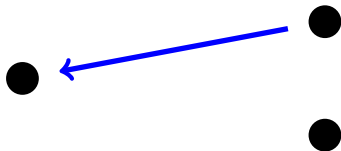
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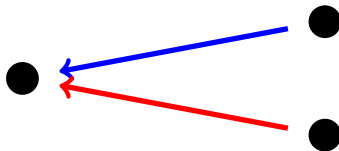
Actor level

mixed popularity



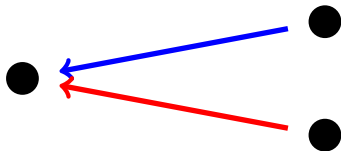
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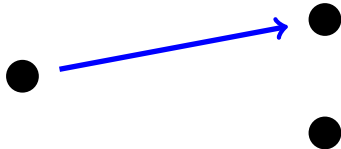


Actor level

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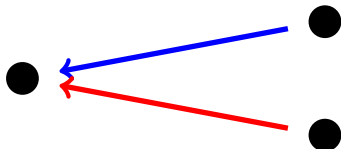


mixed activity

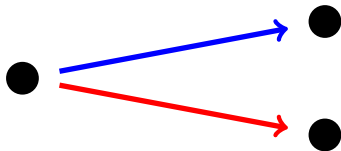


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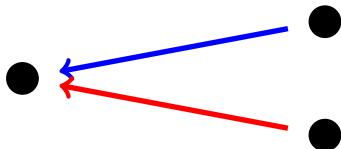


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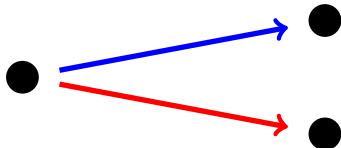


Actor level

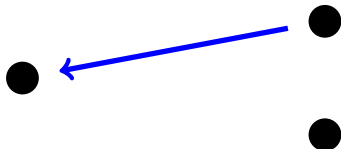
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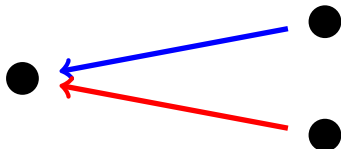


mixed twopathity

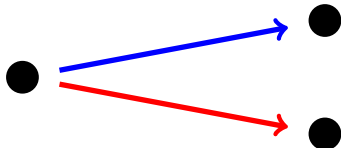


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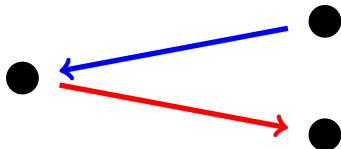
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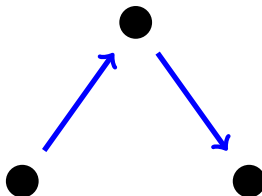


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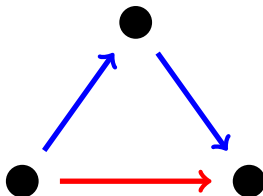
Triad level

mixed
transitive closure



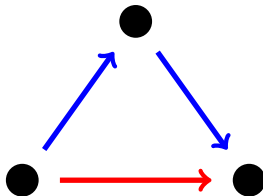
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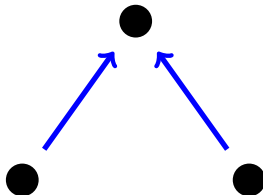


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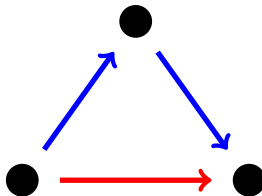


agreement \Rightarrow
red tie

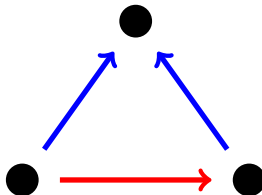


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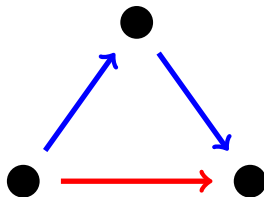


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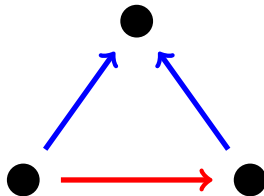


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... and other tie orientations ...

Multivariate Stochastic Actor-Oriented Models

This shows that in multivariate networks the researcher is confronted almost automatically by multilevel issues.

The co-evolution of multivariate networks (i.e., multiple interdependent networks on one node set) can be studied by Stochastic Actor-oriented Models using **RSiena**; see Snijders, Lomi, and Torló (*Social Networks*, 2013).

Dynamics of multivariate networks can be represented by stochastic actor-oriented models as a direct extension of such models for single networks.

Multivariate dynamics modeled as continuous-time Markov chain, with state = the multivariate network, where tie variables change one by one.

Note that in Markov process modeling, extending the state space means relaxing the Markov assumption: the current state then provides more information.

2

Multiple Parallel Networks

Multilevel network analysis in the sense of analyzing multiple similar networks, mutually independent, permits research to transcend the level of network as case studies, and to *generalize to a population of networks*.

This was proposed by Snijders & Baerveldt (*J. Math. Soc.* 2003).

Also see Entwisle, Faust, Rindfuss, & Kaneda (*AJS*, 2007).

Sample from Population of Networks

Suppose we have a sample indexed by $j = 1, \dots, N$
from a population of networks,
where the networks are similar in some sense;
stochastic replicates of each other;

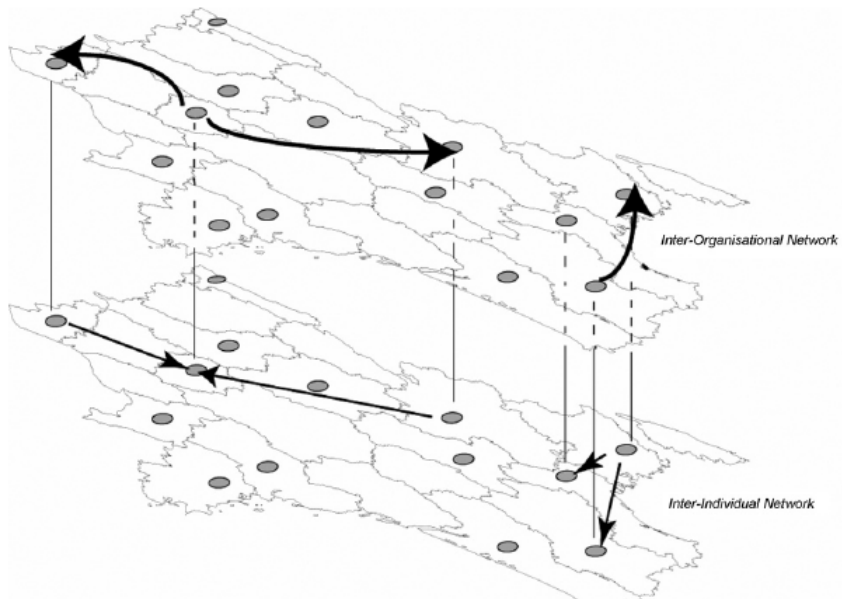
Sample from Population of Networks

Suppose we have a sample indexed by $j = 1, \dots, N$ from a population of networks, where the networks are similar in some sense; stochastic replicates of each other; they all are regarded as realizations of processes obeying the same model, but having different parameters $\theta_1, \dots, \theta_j, \dots, \theta_N$.

This can be studied in **RSienaTest** using the function `sienaBayes`.

3

Multiple Actor Sets and Multiple Relations



Multilevel network analysis with multiple actor types was pioneered by Breiger (*Social Forces*, 1974), Hedstrøm, Sandell & Stern (*AJS*, 2000) and Lazega, Jourda, Mounier & Stofer (*Social Networks*, 2008).

In 2013 an important paper appeared in *Social Networks* by Peng Wang, Garry Robins, Pip Pattison, and Emmanuel Lazega defining a multilevel network as a network with nodes of several types, distinguishing between types of ties according to types of nodes they connect.

Longitudinal data of linked networks with multiple actor types also can be analyzed using *RSiena*, thanks to the flexible design by Kristis Boitmanis and Ruth Ripley.

4

Networks with Nested Node Sets

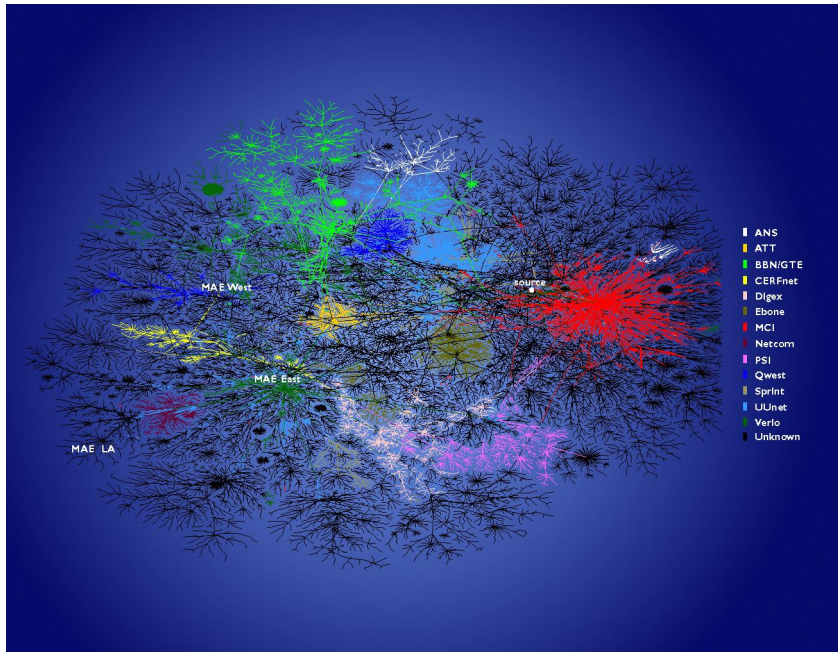
Networks with Nested Node Sets

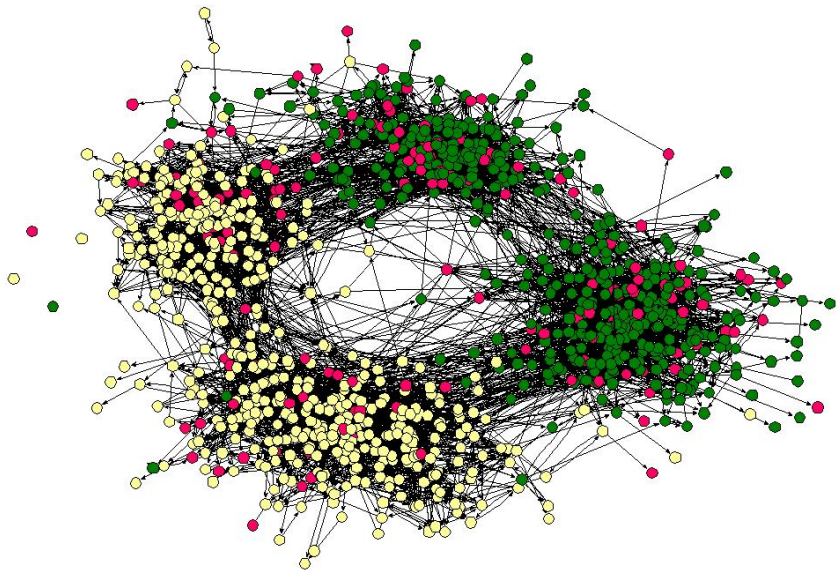
Networks with nested node sets
lead to special considerations.

An example will be given where this is handled
by a multivariate network: Within and Between.

5

Large Networks





A collection of many groups ~ many 'parallel' networks is really a case of a large network where between-group ties are ignored.

The applicability of our usual network models to large groups (hundreds of actors and more) seems limited by the fact that we still do not know a lot about how the large-scale structure of networks differs from the small-scale and medium-scale structures;

and large networks must be full of heterogeneity where, e.g., ERGM parameters will not be constant in all 'regions' of the network
– but how to define such 'regions'?

This is not treated in this course...

