# Maximum likelihood inference for large & sparse hidden random graphs

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# Pairwise comparisons based graphs

Zermelo, Math. Z. (1929), Bradley & Terry, Biometrika (1952)...

Weighted edges and an *influence* parameter attached to each node.



Motivations - what to do with pairwise comparison based graphs ? Maximum likelihood - what is known with many observations ? Bayesian setting - comparison graphs in random environment A few algorithms Zermelo, Math. Z. (1929), Bradley & Terry, Biometrika (1952)...

**Nodes** - Latent data *n* individuals characterized by their abilities  $(V_i)_{1 \le i \le n}$ .

#### **Edges - Observations**

Abilities indirectly observed through discrete valued scores  $(X_{i,j})_{(i,j)\in E_n}$  describing the results of the *comparison* between individuals *i* and *j*.

Conditionally on  $V_{1:n}$ , the random variables  $(X_{i,j})_{(i,j)\in E_n}$  are independent with:

 $\mathbb{P}(X_{i,j}=x|V_{1:n})=k(x,V_i,V_j).$ 

Caron & Doucet, JCGS (2012) 
$$k(x, v_i, v_j) = \frac{(\theta v_i)^x v_j^{1-x}}{\theta v_i + v_j}$$

Chatterjee, Diaconis & Sly, AoAP (2011)  $k(x, v_i, v_j) = \left(\frac{v_i v_j}{1 + v_i v_j}\right)^x \left(\frac{1}{1 + v_i v_j}\right)^{1-x}$ .

(Latent) nodes *n* individuals Harry P., Hermione G., Dobby, etc.

(Observed) edges  $X_{i,j}$  is the number of occurrences of two key names *i* and *j* both within a specified distance in the text.



#### Motivations (i) - "social" networks Bonato et al. (2016)

(Latent) nodes *n* individuals Charlie, Bella, etc.

(Observed) edges  $X_{i,j}$  is the number of occurrences of two key names *i* and *j* both within a specified distance in the text.



Open problem predict the degree of a given node, the links between clusters.

(Latent) nodes *n* teams FC Nantes, EA Guinguamp, Stade Rennais, etc. (Observed) edges  $X_{i,j}$  is 3 ( $V_i$  beats  $V_j$ ), 1 (tie) or 0 ( $V_j$  beats  $V_i$ ).



Open problem predict the final ranking of a championship, the minimum number of points to reach a certain goals, detect outliers.

# Motivations (iii) - animal behaviour: fighting ability during male contests

Stapley et al., Biol. Lett. (2006), Firth et al. (2010)

#### (Latent) nodes n = 77 Platysaurus broadleyi.

(Observed) edges  $X_{i,j}$  is 1 ( $V_i$  beats  $V_j$ ), 0 ( $V_j$  beats  $V_i$ ).





Open problem predict the ecosystem mapping, the roles of covariates, ...(u.v. signals) in female choice and in fighting ability.

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(Latent) nodes n (very large) players .
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(Observed) edges X_{i,j} is 1 (V_i beats V_j), 0 (V_j beats V_i).
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Open problem online estimation of the abilities and choose optimal matchmaking to decide future matchings simultaneously.

Zermelo, Math. Z. (1929), Bradley & Terry, Biometrika (1952), David, AMS, (1964) n fixed, number of observed edges  $X_{i,j}$  for each pair (i,j) grows to infinity. Consistency and asymptotic normality of the MLE.

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Simons & Yao, AoS (1999)
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At least one weighted edge  $X_{i,j}$  for each pair (i,j) when *n* goes to infinity. Consistency and asymptotic normality of the MLE.

Chatterjee, Diaconis & Sly, AoAP (2011) One weighted edge  $X_{i,j}$  for each pair (i, j). Probability larger than  $1 - 1/n^2$ , there exists a unique MLE. Supremum norm of the estimation error upper bounded by  $\sqrt{\log n/n}$ .

#### Chétrite, Diel & Lerasle, AoAP (2017)

The abilities are realizations of independent and identically distributed random variables with common distribution  $\pi_{\star}$ .

 $\pi_{\star}$  is relevant to make predictions... what about MLE for  $\pi_{\star}$  ?

n = 100 players, one strength parameter  $\lambda_i \in (0, 1)$  for each.

All players are involved in a game at each time step.

Prior  $(\lambda_i)_{1 \leq i \leq n}$  i.i.d.  $\mathcal{G}(a, b)$ .

$$k(3,\lambda_i,\lambda_j) = rac{\lambda_i}{\lambda_i + heta \lambda_j} \quad ext{and} \quad k(1,\lambda_i,\lambda_j) = rac{( heta^2-1)\lambda_i}{(\lambda_i + heta \lambda_j)( heta \lambda_i + \lambda_j)} \;.$$

Unique solution for the maximum likelihood equations and MLE approximately computed using an Expectation Maximization algorithm.

100 independent Monte Carlo runs with 2000 time steps.





The log-likelihood is given, for all  $\pi \in \Pi$ , by

$$\log \mathbb{P}_{\pi}((X)_{(i,j)\in E_n}) = \log \left(\int \prod_{(i,j)\in E_n} k(X_{i,j}, v_i, v_j) \pi^{\otimes n}(\mathrm{d} v_{1:n})\right)$$

True distribution  $\pi_*$  estimated by the standard maximum likelihood estimator:

$$\hat{\pi}^{E_n} \in \operatorname{argmax}_{\pi \in \Pi} \log \mathbb{P}_{\pi}((X)_{(i,j) \in E_n})$$
.

## Analysis of $\hat{\pi}^{E_n}$ ...

... relies on the asymptotic behavior of  $\log \mathbb{P}_{\pi}((X)_{(i,j)\in E_n})$  when *n* grows to  $\infty$ .

Risk bounds for  $\hat{\pi}^{E_n}$ ? Practical computation of an approximation of  $\hat{\pi}^{E_n}$ ?

#### Prior distribution $\mu$ on $\Pi$ .

The posterior distribution given the observations:

$$\mu(\pi \in A | X_{1:n}) = \frac{\int \prod_{i=1}^{n} k(X_i, v_i, v_{i+1}) \mathbb{1}_A(\pi) \pi^{\otimes n+1}(\mathrm{d} v_{1:n+1}) \mu(\mathrm{d} \pi)}{\int \prod_{i=1}^{n} k(X_i, v_i, v_{i+1}) \pi^{\otimes n+1}(\mathrm{d} v_{1:n+1}) \mu(\mathrm{d} \pi)}$$

Posterior consistency: the posterior distribution concentrates around the true parameter  $\pi_{\star}$  w.r.t. a loss function d. For all  $\varepsilon > 0$ ,

$$\mu\left(\mathsf{d}(\pi,\pi_{\star})<\varepsilon|X_{1:n}\right)\longrightarrow_{n\to\infty}1\,,\quad\mathbb{P}_{\pi_{\star}}-a.s.$$

Minimal requirement, in particular in the context of large dimensional models where it is not possible to construct fully subjective priors... Posterior consistency is established w.r.t. a loss function d if, for all  $\varepsilon > 0$ , Limiting loglikelihood:

$$\frac{1}{n}\log \mathbb{P}_{\pi}(X_{1:n}) - \frac{1}{n}\log \mathbb{P}_{\pi_{\star}}(X_{1:n}) \longrightarrow_{n \to \infty} \mathrm{d}(\pi, \pi_{\star}) , \quad \mathbb{P}_{\pi_{\star}} - a.s.$$

Kullback-Leibler condition: for all  $\varepsilon > 0$ ,  $\mu(\{\pi; d(\pi, \pi_{\star}) < \varepsilon\}) > 0$ .

Test condition: there exists a sequence of tests  $(\phi_n)$  and a sequence of space  $(\Pi_n)$  such that

$$\mu(\Pi_n^c) \leqslant e^{-nr}$$
,  $\mathbb{E}_{\pi_\star}[\phi_n] \leqslant e^{-n\delta}$ ,  $\sup_{\pi \in \Pi_n, d(\pi,\pi_\star) > \varepsilon} \mathbb{E}_{\pi}[1-\phi_n] \leqslant e^{-n\delta}$ .

## Bayesian setting - i.i.d. case

Ghosal et al. AoS (2007a, 2007b), Kruijer et al., EJS (2010), Scricciolo, Bayesian analysis (2014)

 $(X_1, \ldots, X_n)$  are i.i.d. with unknown density  $\pi_*$  on  $\mathbb{R}^d$ .

Limiting loglikelihood:

$$\frac{1}{n}\log \mathbb{P}_{\pi}(X_{1:n}) - \frac{1}{n}\log \mathbb{P}_{\pi_{\star}}(X_{1:n}) \longrightarrow_{n \to \infty} \mathrm{KL}(\pi_{\star}, \pi) , \quad \pi_{\star} - a.s.$$

Prior distribution - Dirichlet process

$$G = \sum_{j \ge 0} p_j \delta_{\theta_j} , \quad \theta_j \sim_{i.i.d.} G_0 , \quad p_j = \vartheta_j \prod_{\ell < j} (1 - \vartheta_\ell) , \quad \vartheta_j \sim_{i.i.d.} \mathcal{B}(1, \alpha) .$$

Sample independently  $\theta \sim G$  and  $\sigma \sim \eta$  and set  $\pi = \varphi_{\theta, \sigma I_d}$ .

Kullback-Leibler condition: for regular  $\pi_{\star}$  ( $\beta$  Holder),  $\pi_{\star}$  can be approximated by finite mixtures of Gaussian distributions so that  $\mu(\{\pi; \operatorname{KL}(\pi, \pi_{\star}) < \varepsilon_n\}) > 0$ , for  $\varepsilon_n^2 \propto n^{-2\beta/(2\beta+1)}$ .

Test condition: upper bound for the entropy (i.e. the number of balls needed to cover finite location mixtures of Gaussian distributions) with at most  $n^{1/(2\beta+1)}$  components.

# **Graphical model**

 $d_0^{E_n}$  graph distance in  $(\{1,\ldots,n\},E_n)$ .

 $d_0^{E_n}(i,j)$  is the minimal length of a path between nodes *i* and *j*.

Random graph decomposed as  $\{V_1, \ldots, V_n\} = \bigcup_{q=0}^n V_q^{E_n}$ , where:

•  $V_0^{E_n} = \{V_1\}$ ;

• for all  $q \ge 1$ ,  $V_q^{E_n}$  is the set of  $V_i$  such that  $d_0^{E_n}(1, i) = q$ .



 $(V_{q+1}^{E_n}, X_q^{E_n})_{q \ge 0}$  is a Markov chain...

# The journey is paved...

$$\frac{1}{n}\log \mathbb{P}_{\pi}\left(X_{1:n}\right) = \frac{1}{n}\sum_{q=1}^{n}\log \mathbb{P}_{\pi}\left(X_{q}\big|X_{1:q-1}\right)$$

## **Forgetting properties**

 $\rho \in (0,1)$  such that for each term and all p' ,

$$\sup_{\pi \in \Pi} \left| \log \mathbb{P}_{\pi} \left( X_q \big| X_{p:q-1} \right) - \log \mathbb{P}_{\pi} \left( X_q \big| X_{p':q-1} \right) \right| \leqslant \rho^{q-p}$$

 $\log \mathbb{P}_{\pi}\left(X_{q} \middle| X_{p':q-1}\right) \text{ converges a.s.}$ 

#### Ergodicity

Approximate log  $\mathbb{P}_{\pi}(X_{1:n})$  by the sum of these limits.

Normalized loglikelihood converges by the ergodic theorem.

# Asymptotic behavior of the loglikelihood



 $(V_{q+1}, X_q)_{q \ge 0}$  extended to a stationary sequence indexed by  $\mathbb{Z}$  with law  $\mathsf{P}_{\pi_{\star}}$ .

#### Assumption

For all  $x \in X, \pi \in \Pi \cup \{\pi_*\}$  and  $v_1, v_2 \in \operatorname{supp}(\pi), k(x, v_1, v_2) \ge \varepsilon$ .

The transition kernel of the Markov chain is uniformly lower bounded

$$P_{\pi}(X_{i-1}, V_i; X_i, A) = \int \mathbb{1}_A(v_{i+1}) \pi(\mathrm{d} v_{i+1}) k(X_i, V_i, v_{i+1}) \geqslant 
u \pi(A) \;.$$

The joint Markov chain  $(V_{i+1}, X_i)_{i \in \mathbb{Z}}$  is unirformly ergodic.

# Asymptotic behavior of the loglikelihood



For all  $p' in <math>\mathbb{Z}$ ,

$$\sup_{\pi\in\Pi} \left|\log\mathsf{P}_{\pi}\left(X_{q}|X_{p:q-1}\right) - \log\mathsf{P}_{\pi}\left(X_{q}|X_{p':q-1}\right)\right| \leqslant \varepsilon^{-1} \left(1-\varepsilon\right)^{q-\rho}.$$

There exists a function  $\ell_{\pi}$  such that for all q in  $\mathbb{Z}$ ,

$$\sup_{\pi\in\Pi} \left|\log \mathsf{P}_{\pi}\left(X_{q}|X_{p:q-1}\right) - \ell_{\pi}(\vartheta^{q}X)\right| \underset{\mathsf{p}\to\infty}{\longrightarrow} 0, \qquad \mathsf{P}_{\pi_{\star}}\text{-a.s} \ .$$

For all  $\pi \in \Pi$ ,  $P_{\pi_{\star}}$ -a.s. and in  $L^{1}(P_{\pi_{\star}})$ ,

$$\frac{1}{n}\log\mathsf{P}_{\pi}\left(X_{0:n}\right)\underset{n\to\infty}{\longrightarrow}\mathsf{L}_{\pi_{\star}}(\pi)=\mathbb{E}_{\pi_{\star}}\left[\ell_{\pi}(X)\right]\ .$$

## $X_1, \ldots, X_n$ i.i.d. observations and $\ell$ a loss function.

Empirical risk minimizer

$$\hat{\theta}_n = \underset{\theta}{\operatorname{argmin}} \sum_{i=1}^n \ell(\theta, X_i) \;.$$

The risk of any  $\theta$  is measured by the excess risk

$$R(\theta) = \mathbb{E}\left[\ell(\theta, X_1)\right] - \mathbb{E}\left[\ell(\theta_{\star}, X_1)\right] \;,$$

where  $\theta_{\star}$  is the minimizer of  $\theta \mapsto \mathbb{E}[\ell(\theta, X_1)]$ .

The normalized empirical criterion satisfies almost surely,

$$rac{1}{n}\sum_{i=1}^n\ell( heta,X_i)
ightarrow\mathbb{E}[\ell( heta,X_1)]\;.$$

The excess risk  $R(\theta)$  is the difference between the asymptotic normalized empirical loss and the minimizer of this quantity.

 $\pi_{\star}$  is actually a minimizer of  $-L_{\pi_{\star}}(\pi)$  over  $\Pi \cup \{\pi_{\star}\}$ .

$$rac{1}{n}\log \mathsf{P}_{\pi}\left(X_{0:n}
ight) \mathop{\longrightarrow}\limits_{n 
ightarrow \infty} \mathsf{L}_{\pi_{\star}}(\pi) = \mathbb{E}_{\pi_{\star}}\left[\ell_{\pi}(X)
ight] \,.$$

Suggests to use  $-L_{\pi_{\star}}(\pi)$  as a proxy for the asymptotic normalized empirical loss:

$$R_{\pi_{\star}}(\pi) = \mathsf{L}_{\pi_{\star}}(\pi_{\star}) - \mathsf{L}_{\pi_{\star}}(\pi)$$
.

$$\mathsf{P}_{\pi_\star}\left(R_{\pi_\star}(\widehat{\pi}) > rac{c}{\sqrt{n}}\left(\log^{1/2}\mathsf{N}(\Pi, \|\cdot\|_{\mathsf{tv}}, \varepsilon) + t
ight)
ight) \leq e^{-t^2}$$
 .

Usual setting,  $t_n \propto \sqrt{n}\varepsilon_n$  and entropy of order  $\sqrt{n}\varepsilon_n$  with  $(\sqrt{n}\varepsilon_n)^{-1} = o(1)$ .

Entropy controlled for bounded in variation functions, Sobolev classes...

Using the forgetting properties,

$$R_{\pi_{\star}}(\widehat{\pi}) = O(n^{-1}) + G_{\pi_{\star}}(X_{1:n}).$$

with

$$G_{\pi\star}(X_{0:n}) = \sup_{\pi} \left| \frac{1}{n} \log \mathbb{P}_{\pi}(X_{0:n}) - \mathbb{E}_{\pi\star} \left[ \frac{1}{n} \log \mathbb{P}_{\pi}(X_{0:n}) \right] \right| \,.$$

 $G_{\pi}(X_{0:n})$  is a function of the strong mixing Markov chain  $(X_q, V_{q+1})_{q \ge 0}$ .

By Dedecker & Guezel (2015), Douc et al. (201?), concentration inequality for this term using bounded difference inequalities: for all t > 0,

$$\mathbb{P}_{\pi_\star}\left(|\mathit{G}_{\pi_\star}(\mathit{X}_{0:n}) - \mathbb{E}_{\pi_\star}\left[\mathit{G}_{\pi_\star}(\mathit{X}_{0:n})
ight]| > t
ight) \leqslant \exp\left(-\mathit{cnt}^2
ight) \,.$$

The expectation is then controlled with Dudley's entropy bound.

## Nonparametric Expectation Maximization (i)



The Expectation Maximization produces a sequence of parameter estimates  $(\hat{\pi}_p)_{p\geq 0}$  following two steps:

Compute the intermediate quantity:

$$\pi\mapsto Q(\widehat{\pi}_p,\pi)=n^{-1}\mathbb{E}_{\widehat{\pi}_p}\left[\sum_{k=0}^{n+1}\log\pi(V_k)\bigg|X_{0:n}
ight]\,,$$

Define  $\widehat{\pi}_{p+1}$  as a maximizer of this intermediate quantity:

$$\widehat{\pi}_{p+1} \in \operatorname{argmax}_{\pi \in \Pi} Q(\widehat{\pi}_p, \pi) \;.$$

#### E-step not available explicitly

$$\pi \mapsto Q(\widehat{\pi}_p, \pi) = n^{-1} \mathbb{E}_{\widehat{\pi}_p} \left[ \sum_{k=0}^{n+1} \log \pi(V_k) \middle| X_{0:n} \right] ,$$

Conditional law of  $V_k$  given  $X_{0:n}$  approximated by a random empirical measure with uniformly weighted particles  $\xi_k^{\ell}$ ,  $1 \leq \ell \leq M$ .

Forward (filt.) pass to approximate the conditional law of  $V_k$  given  $X_{0:k}$ .

 $\Rightarrow$  approximate the filtering distribution by  $\sum_{\ell=1}^{M} \omega_k^{\ell} \delta_{\tilde{\xi}_k^{\ell}}$ .

**Backward (smooth.)** pass to approximate the conditional law of  $V_k$  given  $X_{0:n}$ .

 $\Rightarrow$  approximate the smoothing distribution by  $M^{-1}\sum_{\ell=1}^M \delta_{\xi_{\nu}^{\ell}}.$ 

# Nonparametric Expectation Maximization (ii)



Courtesy of the famous team allegedly responsible for RHabits package.

#### E-step not available explicitly

$$\pi \mapsto Q(\hat{\pi}_{p}, \pi) = n^{-1} \mathbb{E}_{\hat{\pi}_{p}} \left[ \sum_{k=0}^{n+1} \log \pi(V_{k}) \middle| X_{0:n} \right] ,$$
$$\sim (nM)^{-1} \sum_{k=0}^{n+1} \sum_{\ell=1}^{M} \log \pi(\xi_{i}^{\ell}) .$$

Kernel regularization and EM update

Let W be a positive kernel and h > 0.

The quantity to be maximized is approximated by:

$$\widehat{\mathsf{Q}}^{M}(\widehat{\pi}_{p},\pi) = \int \widetilde{\pi}_{p}^{M}(v) \log \pi(v) \mathrm{d}v \; ,$$

where

$$\widetilde{\pi}_p^M: \mathbf{v} \mapsto (nM)^{-1} \sum_{\ell=1}^M \sum_{k=0}^{n+1} W_h\left(\mathbf{v} - \xi_k^\ell\right) \;.$$



Figure 1: Density estimates from the using Monte Carlo nonparametric EM.

## Back to Bayesian setting (i)

Prior distribution  $\mu$  on  $\Pi$ .

The posterior distribution given the observations:

$$\mu(\pi \in A | X_{1:n}) = \frac{\int \prod_{i=1}^{n} k(X_i, v_i, v_{i+1}) \mathbb{1}_A(\pi) \pi^{\otimes n+1}(\mathrm{d} v_{1:n+1}) \mu(\mathrm{d} \pi)}{\int \prod_{i=1}^{n} k(X_i, v_i, v_{i+1}) \pi^{\otimes n+1}(\mathrm{d} v_{1:n+1}) \mu(\mathrm{d} \pi)}$$

The aim is to obtain Bayesian posterior concentration rates around  $\pi_{\star}$ . For all  $\varepsilon > 0$ , define

$$\mathsf{B}_{\star}(\varepsilon) = \{\pi \in \Pi : R_{\pi_{\star}}(\pi) \leqslant \varepsilon\}$$
.

Find sequences  $(\varepsilon_n)$  and  $(\alpha_n)$  such that:

 $\mathsf{P}_{\pi_\star}\left(\mu\left(\mathsf{B}^{\mathsf{c}}_\star(\varepsilon_n)|X_{1:n}\right)>\alpha_n\right)=o(1)\quad\text{or}\quad \mathbb{E}_{\pi_\star}\left[\mu\left(\mathsf{B}^{\mathsf{c}}_\star(\varepsilon_n)|X_{1:n}\right)\right]=o(1)\;.$ 

For all  $\varepsilon > 0$ ,  $\mathsf{B}_\star(\varepsilon) = \{\pi \in \Pi \ : \ R_{\pi_\star}(\pi) \leqslant \varepsilon\} \ .$ 

Requires to build a sequence of spaces  $(\Pi_n)$  such that

$$\mu\left(\mathsf{B}_{\star}(\varepsilon_{n})\right)\geqslant\mathrm{e}^{-c_{1}n\varepsilon_{n}^{2}}\quad\text{and}\quad\mu\left(\mathsf{\Pi}_{n}^{c}
ight)\leqslant\mathrm{e}^{-c_{2}n\varepsilon_{n}^{2}}.$$

and

$$\sqrt{\log N(\Pi_n, \|\cdot\|_{tv}, \varepsilon_n)} \leqslant \sqrt{n}\varepsilon_n$$
.

Choosing  $\varepsilon_n \propto n^{-\beta/(2\beta+1)} (\log n)^{5\beta/(4\beta+2)}$  with  $\alpha_n \propto \exp(-cn\varepsilon_n^2)$ ,

 $\mathsf{P}_{\pi_{\star}}\left(\mu\left(\mathsf{B}^{\mathsf{c}}_{\star}(arepsilon_{n})|X_{1:n}
ight)>lpha_{n}
ight)=o(1)$  .

The unknown distribution  $\pi$  is specified as a mixture model in which some probability density  $\varphi_z$  is mixed with respect to a discrete probability measure P.

The mixture of Dirichlet processes is given by:

$$(\vartheta_j)_{j \ge 1} \underset{\text{i.i.d.}}{\sim} \text{Beta}(1, \alpha) ,$$
  
 $\omega_1 = \vartheta_1 \text{ and for } j \ge 2 , \quad \omega_j = \vartheta_j \prod_{i=1}^{j-1} (1 - \vartheta_i)$   
 $(z_j)_{j \ge 1} \underset{\text{i.i.d.}}{\sim} Q ,$   
 $(\kappa_i, u_i)_{1 \le i \le n+1} \underset{\text{i.i.d.}}{\sim} \sum_{j \ge 1} \mathbb{1}_{u_i < \omega_j} \delta_j(\kappa_i) ,$   
 $V_i \sim \varphi_{z_{\kappa_i}} \text{ for } 1 \le i \le n+1 ,$ 

where Q is a base measure for the parameters  $(z_j)_{j\geq 1}$  of the density  $\varphi_z$ .

#### Target

Joint posterior distribution of  $(V_{1:n+1}, u_{1:n+1}, \kappa_{1:n+1}, z, \vartheta)$ .

## Solution Block Gibbs sampling.

Posterior distribution of  $V_{1:n+1}$  given  $(X_{1:n}, u_{1:n+1}, z, \vartheta)$ ... (Tricky).

Posterior distribution of  $\kappa_i$  given  $(X_{1:n}, V_{1:n+1}, u_{1:n+1}, \vartheta, z)$ ... (Explicit).

Posterior distribution of  $(\vartheta, u_{1:n+1})$  given  $(\kappa_{1:n+1}, \alpha)$ ... (Explicit).

Posterior distribution of z given  $(X_{1:n}, \kappa_{1:n}, V_{1:n+1})$ :

$$z_j \sim Q(z_j) \prod_{i=1, \kappa_i=j}^{n+1} \varphi_{z_j}(V_i)$$
.

Allegedly computationally efficient, with good MCMC mixing properties and robustness to the length of the time series being investigated. Easy to implement and requiring little or no user-interaction..

Integrating out  $\kappa_{1:n+1}$ , the conditional distribution of  $(X_{1:n}, V_{1:n+1})$  given  $(u_{1:n+1}, z, \vartheta)$  is given by

$$p_n(V_{1:n+1}, X_{1:n}) \propto \prod_{i=1}^{n+1} \left( \sum_{j, u_i < \omega_j} \varphi_{z_j}(V_i) \right) \prod_{i=1}^n k(X_i, V_i, V_{i+1}) .$$

The posterior distribution of  $V_{1:n+1}$  given the random variables  $(X_{1:n}, u_{1:n+1}, z, \vartheta)$  is the joint smoothing distribution of  $V_{1:n+1}$  given  $X_{1:n}$  when  $(V_i)_{1 \leq i \leq n+1}$  are independent with  $V_i \sim \sum_{j, u_i < \omega_i} \varphi_{z_j}$  for all  $1 \leq i \leq n+1$ .

Cannot be done explicitly and a Sequential Monte Carlo smoother is used instead.



Figure 2: Results of the EM algorithm btemhometies with 2017-2018 Ligue 1 results.



**Figure 3:** Estimated scores at the end of the championship with *btemhometies* parameter estimates: median (dotted line) and first and last deciles (grey area). Boxplots of the scores obtained with the Block Gibbs Sampler.



**Figure 4:** Estimated scores at the end of the championship with parameter sampled with the target distribution: median (dotted line) and first and last deciles (grey area). Boxplots of the scores obtained with the Block Gibbs Sampler.

#### Some extensions

Numerical results for the nonparametric kernel regularized SMC EM algorithm.

Numerical results for the Bayesian posterior - MCMC.

Regression with covariates for each  $V_i$ .

#### **Challenging issues**

Generic assumptions to extract *n*-regular graphs form general random graphs with the same limiting loglikelihood.

Lower bounds for  $L_{\pi_{\star}}(\pi_{\star}) - L_{\pi_{\star}}(\pi)$  as a function of  $\|\pi_{\star} - \pi\|_{tv}$ .