

Détection et comparaison de structures de réseaux écologiques

**Stage de M2 Mathématiques pour les Sciences du
vivant**

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Rapport de stage

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L'UMR MIA Paris-Saclay

L'UMR MIA Paris-Saclay est une entité de recherche qui regroupe des statisticiens et des informaticiens spécialisés dans la modélisation et l'apprentissage statistique et informatique appliqués à la biologie, l'écologie, l'environnement, l'agronomie et l'agro-alimentaire. Elle est affiliée à AgroParisTech, INRAE et l'Université Paris-Saclay.

Les membres de cette unité possèdent des compétences variées en matière de méthodes d'inférence statistique, telles que les modèles complexes, les modèles à variables latentes, l'inférence bayésienne, l'apprentissage et la sélection de modèle. Ils sont également experts en algorithmique, notamment en généralisation, transfert de domaine et représentation des connaissances.

L'objectif de cette unité est de développer des méthodes statistiques et informatiques originales, à la fois génériques et motivées par des problématiques spécifiques dans le domaine des sciences du vivant. Les activités de recherche s'appuient sur une solide culture dans les disciplines cibles, telles que l'écologie, l'environnement, l'agro-alimentaire, la biologie moléculaire et la biologie des systèmes.

L'unité est structurée en deux équipes de recherche : SOLsTIS (Statistical mOdelling and Learning for environnemenT and lIfe Sciences) et EkINocs (Expert Knowledge, INteractive modellINg and learnINg for understandINg and decisiOn makinG in dINamic Complexe Systems).

Elle est rattachée au département MathNum d'INRAE et au département MMIP d'AgroParisTech.

Les responsables au sein de l'unité sont : Julien Chiquet en tant que Directeur d'unité, Sophie Donnet en tant que Directrice d'unité adjointe, Antoine Cornuéjols en tant que Responsable de l'équipe EkINocs, et Sophie Donnet et Pierre Barbillon en tant que Responsables de l'équipe SOLsTIS.

La figure 1 présente l'organigramme complet de l'unité.

Source : "Accueil | MIA Paris-Saclay", s. d.

Encadrement et vie en stage

Au cours de mon stage, j'étais encadré par Pierre Barbillon et Sophie Donnet et fréquemment en discussion avec eux et Saint-Clair Chabert-Liddell dont j'ai poursuivi les travaux.

Le contexte de travail, au sein des ingénieurs d'études, des doctorants, des chercheurs et des maîtres de conférences, a été pour moi très enrichissant.

Par ailleurs, divers projets entrepris au sein du laboratoire ont permis de nouer des relations amicales en dehors des heures de travail. Par exemple, le projet de construction d'une borne d'arcade pour le laboratoire, impulsé par Julien Chiquet, a été une expérience extrêmement agréable et captivante à laquelle prendre part.

J'ai particulièrement apprécié la disponibilité de toutes les personnes de l'unité qui n'ont jamais hésité à se rendre disponible pour répondre à mes questions. Les nombreux séminaires et le désir de partage de connaissances à travers des formations internes et de l'auto-formation m'a vraiment plu et m'a ouvert à de nouvelles problématiques passionnantes.

Note La suite de ce rapport a été rédigée en anglais.

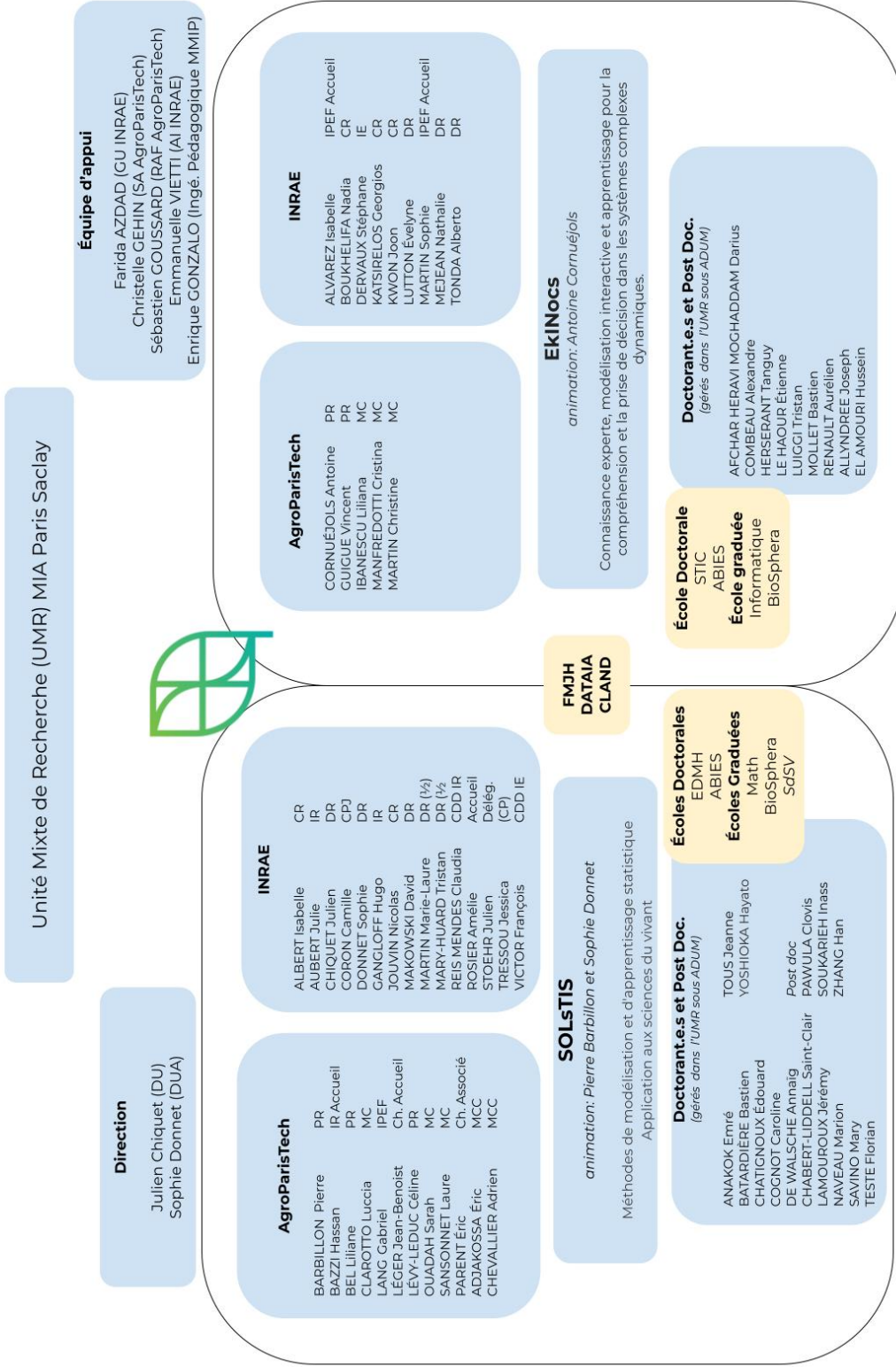


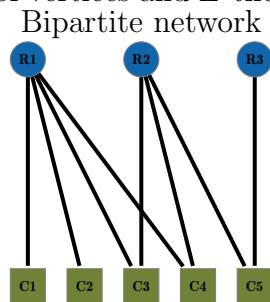
FIGURE 1 : Organigramme de l'UMR

CHAPTER 1

Introduction

1.1 Usage and importance of bipartite graphs

Bipartite graphs, denoted as $G = (U, V, E)$ with U and V two disjoint and independent sets of vertices and E the set of edges connecting U vertices to V vertices.



$$X = \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 1 & 1 & 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 & 1 & 1 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 1 \end{pmatrix}$$

Incidence matrix

X is the *incidence matrix* and is the mathematical object on which computations are performed. It is filled with the following rule:

$$\begin{cases} X_{ij} = 0 & \text{if no interaction is observed between species } i \text{ and } j \\ X_{ij} \neq 0 & \text{otherwise} \end{cases}$$

If the network represents binary observations (like presence-absence) then $X_{ij} \in \mathcal{K} = \{0, 1\}, \forall(i, j)$; if the interactions are weighted (like an abundance count), $X_{ij} \in \mathcal{K} = \mathbb{N}, \forall(i, j)$.

This representation can be used to represent various forms of interactions where two kinds of “actors” interact. Those interactions can be binary or valued and a numeric representation is the incidence matrix, in the above example X .

Among the use case of bipartite graphs one can find the Netflix Problem, which was a prize organized by Netflix to improve its Recommender system. The row nodes are the movies and the columns are the user, at the intersection the value is the review of the user j for the movie i .

Another use is the representation of ecological interactions like plant-pollinator (Ramos-Jiliberto et al., 2010), birds-seed dispersion, prey-predator or host-parasite (Kaszewska-Gilas et al., 2021). For plant-pollinator interactions, the rows are

pollinator species and the columns are plant species, and the intersection is a value, binary if it is a presence/absence or a value if it is an abundance count.

Bipartite graphs are widely used in biology, in various fields, among which the previously cited ecological networks, but also in medicine with biomedical networks, biomolecular networks or epidemiological networks. (Pavlopoulos et al., 2018)

Some interesting results can arise when applying a tool widely used on a particular kind of interactions is used on another kind of interactions. Companies like Netflix use recommender system, to recommend another product to consumers based on their previous interactions. In Desjardins-Proulx et al., 2017 the authors use the *K-nearest neighbour* (KNN) algorithm as a Recommender to predict missing preys for predators in a predator-prey network.

1.2 Latent Block Model

The Latent Block Model (LBM) introduced by Govaert and Nadif, 2010 adapts the Stochastic Block Model (SBM) (Holland et al., 1983; Snijders & Nowicki, 1997) to bipartite graphs.

Please note that we prefer the term “BiSBM“ and will use both LBM and BiSBM to designate the Stochastic Block model applied on bipartite networks.

This model supposes that:

- Row nodes are members of row blocks and column nodes are members of column blocks.
- The connectivity of two individuals is determined by their block memberships.
- An interaction can only occur between a row and a column node.

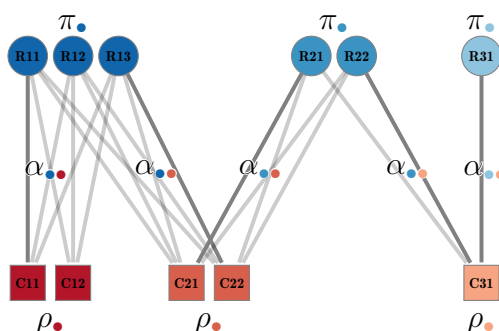


Figure 1.1: An LBM model visualization

- $Q_1 = |\{\bullet, \bullet, \bullet\}|$ given blocks in rows
- $Q_2 = |\{\bullet, \bullet, \bullet\}|$ given blocks in columns

Parameters

- $\pi_\bullet = \mathbb{P}(Z_i = \bullet)$ for rows and $\rho_\bullet = \mathbb{P}(W_j = \bullet)$ for columns
- $\alpha_{\bullet\bullet} = \mathbb{P}(X_{ij} = 1 | Z_i = \bullet, W_j = \bullet)$, probability of connectivity knowing node membership blocks.

On 1.1, π are the probabilities for a row node to belong to the row block of corresponding color, ρ are the probabilities for a column node to belong to the column block of corresponding color and α is a matrix $Q_1 \times Q_2$ of the connectivity parameters between the row and column blocks.

This model can be used to easily generate bipartite graphs with complex and very varied structures. But when trying to determine the structure of a given network we need to find those parameters and as the row and column block memberships are *latent* i.e., they are not known and must be inferred.

For this a common approach is to use a *variational* EM algorithm (proposed for SBM in [Daudin et al., 2008](#) and for LBM in [Govaert and Nadif, 2005](#)) those groups and the required parameters can be inferred by maximizing a lower bound of the likelihood.

1.3 colSBM model, a joint model for a collection of networks

The *colSBM* model introduced by [Chabert-Liddell et al., 2024](#) propose an extension of the SBM model to collections of simple (or unipartite) networks. A collection is a set of networks which nodes are not common or linked between different networks, the interactions have the same valuations and are of the same type.

The model can retrieve the shared structure in a collection, indicate if networks should be grouped in a collection and in a large pool of networks, collections with common structures.

The next step after designing this collection model for unipartite networks was to extend it to the bipartite case.

Structure detection in a collection of bipartite networks

2.1 Definition of a collection

We define a collection of bipartite networks as $\mathbf{X} = (X^1, \dots, X^M)$ the collection of incidence matrix. Moreover, all the networks in the collection have the same type of interaction (e.g., all interactions are binary).

2.2 Separate BiSBM (sep-BiSBM)

A first approach to deal with a collection of networks is to adjust separate BiSBM for each network of the collection.

For network m , let n_1^m (resp. n_2^m) be the number of nodes in row (resp. column) divided into Q_1^m row clusters (resp. Q_2^m column clusters).

Let $Z^m = (Z_i^m, \dots, Z_{n_1^m}^m)$ and $W^m = (W_j^m, \dots, W_{n_2^m}^m)$ be independent latent variables such that $Z_i^m = q$ if row node i of network m belongs to row cluster q ($q \in \{1, \dots, Q_1^m\}$) and $W_j^m = r$ if column node j of network m belong to column block r ($r \in \{1, \dots, Q_2^m\}$). And we have

$$\mathbb{P}(Z_i^m = q) = \pi_q^m, \quad \mathbb{P}(W_j^m = r) = \rho_r^m \quad (2.1)$$

where $\pi_q^m > 0$, $\rho_r^m > 0$, $\sum_{q=1}^{Q_1^m} \pi_q^m = 1$ and $\sum_{r=1}^{Q_2^m} \rho_r^m = 1$. Given the latent variables Z^m, W^m , the X_{ij}^m s are assumed to be independent and distributed as

$$X_{ij}^m | Z_i^m = q, W_j^m = r \sim \mathcal{F}(\cdot; \alpha_{qr}^m) \quad (2.2)$$

where \mathcal{F} is referred to as the emission distribution. \mathcal{F} is chosen to be the Bernoulli distribution for binary interactions, and the Poisson distribution for weighted interactions such as counts. Let f be the density of the emission distribution, then:

$$\log f(X_{ij}^m; \alpha_{qr}^m) = \begin{cases} X_{ij}^m \log(\alpha_{qr}^m) + (1 - X_{ij}^m) \log(1 - \alpha_{qr}^m) & \text{for Bernoulli emission} \\ -\alpha_{qr}^m + X_{ij}^m \log(\alpha_{qr}^m) - \log(X_{ij}^m!) & \text{for Poisson emission} \end{cases} \quad (2.3)$$

Equations (2.1), (2.2) and (2.3) defines the BiSBM model and we will now use a short notation:

$$X^m \sim \mathcal{F}\text{-BiSBM}_{n_1^m, n_2^m}(Q_1^m, Q_2^m, \boldsymbol{\pi}^m, \boldsymbol{\rho}^m, \boldsymbol{\alpha}^m) \quad (\text{sep-BiSBM})$$

where \mathcal{F} encodes the emission distribution, n_1^m, n_2^m are the row and column nodes, Q_1^m, Q_2^m are the number of row and column blocks in network m , $\boldsymbol{\pi}^m = (\pi_q^m)_{q=1, \dots, Q_1^m}$ and $\boldsymbol{\rho}^m = (\rho_r^m)_{r=1, \dots, Q_2^m}$ are the vectors of their proportions. The $Q_1^m \times Q_2^m$ matrix $\boldsymbol{\alpha}^m = (\alpha_{qr}^m)_{\substack{q=1, \dots, Q_1^m \\ r=1, \dots, Q_2^m}}$ are the connectivity parameters, the parameters of the emission distribution. $\alpha_{qr}^m \in \mathcal{A}_{\mathcal{F}}$ where, for the Bernoulli (resp. Poisson) emission distribution, $\mathcal{A}_{\mathcal{F}} = (0, 1)$ (resp. $\mathcal{A}_{\mathcal{F}} = \mathbb{R}^{*+}$). In this *sep-BiSBM* each network m is assumed to follow a *BiSBM* with its own parameters $(\boldsymbol{\pi}^m, \boldsymbol{\rho}^m, \boldsymbol{\alpha}^m)$.

2.3 Definition of the colBiSBM models

2.3.1 A collection of i.i.d bipartite SBM

As for *colSBM* this first model is the most constrained. It assumes that all the networks are the independent realizations of the same Q_1 - Q_2 -BiSBM with identical parameters. The *iid-colBiSBM* is defined as follows:

$$X^m \sim \mathcal{F}\text{-BiSBM}_{n_1^m, n_2^m}(Q_1, Q_2, \boldsymbol{\pi}, \boldsymbol{\rho}, \boldsymbol{\alpha}), \quad \forall m = 1, \dots, M \quad (\text{iid-colBiSBM})$$

where $\forall (q, r) \in \{1, \dots, Q_1\} \times \{1, \dots, Q_2\}$, $\alpha_{qr} \in \mathcal{A}_{\mathcal{F}}$, $\pi_q \in (0, 1]$, $\sum_{q=1}^{Q_1} \pi_q = 1$ and $\rho_r \in (0, 1]$, $\sum_{r=1}^{Q_2} \rho_r = 1$. This model involves $(Q_1 - 1) + (Q_2 - 1) + Q_1 \times Q_2$ parameters, the two first terms corresponding to block proportions on the row and column dimensions and the third term to connectivity parameters.

But the assumption that block proportions are the same among the networks is a strong assumption. In plant-pollinator networks, the proportion of specialist species can differ between networks and thus the model may benefit from not having the same block proportions but sharing a common connectivity structure. The following models relaxes this assumption on either row, column or both.

2.3.2 A collection of bipartite SBM with varying block size on either rows or columns

π -colBiSBM model still assumes that the networks share a common connectivity structure represented by $\boldsymbol{\alpha}$ but that each network has its own row block propor-

tions. For $m \in \{1, \dots, M\}$, the X^m are independent and

$$X^m \sim \mathcal{F} - BiSBM_{n_1^m, n_2^m}(Q_1, Q_2, \boldsymbol{\pi}^m, \boldsymbol{\rho}, \boldsymbol{\alpha}), \quad \forall m = 1, \dots, M \quad (\pi\text{-colBiSBM})$$

where $\forall (q, r) \in \{1, \dots, Q_1\} \times \{1, \dots, Q_2\}$, $\alpha_{qr} \in \mathcal{A}_{\mathcal{F}}$, $\pi_q^m \in [0, 1]$, $\sum_{q=1}^{Q_1} \pi_q^m = 1$, $\forall m \in \{1, \dots, M\}$ and $\rho_r \in (0, 1]$, $\sum_{r=1}^{Q_2} \rho_r = 1$. This model is more flexible than the iid-colBiSBM as it allows some row block proportions to be null in certain networks ($\pi_q^m \in [0, 1]$): if $\pi_q^m = 0$ then the block q is not represented in the network m . The connectivity structure is thus a subset of a large connectivity structure common to all networks. We face the same problems as [Chabert-Liddell et al., 2024](#) and adapt the support S they define for the π -colSBM to the bipartite case by having S^1 of size $M \times Q_1$ the support for the rows and S^2 of size $M \times Q_2$ the support for the columns. Thus $S_{mq}^1 = \mathbb{1}_{\pi_q^m > 0}$ and $S_{mr}^2 = \mathbb{1}_{\rho_r^m > 0}$. In this case, $S^2 = \mathbf{1}$, because there is no freedom on the column dimension.

For a given number of blocks Q_1 , Q_2 and matrix S^1 (S^2 being in this case the matrix full of ones), the number of parameters is:

$$\text{NP}(\pi\text{-colBiSBM}) = \sum_{m=1}^M \left(\sum_{q=1}^{Q_1} S_{mq}^1 - 1 \right) + (Q_2 - 1) + \sum_{\substack{q=1, \dots, Q_1 \\ r=1, \dots, Q_2}} \mathbb{1}_{(S^1, S^2)_{qr} > 0}$$

The first term corresponds to the non-null block proportions in each network. The third quantity accounts for the fact that some blocks may never be represented simultaneously in any network, so the corresponding connection parameters α_{qr} are not useful for defining the model.

ρ -colBiSBM model still assumes that the networks share a common connectivity structure represented by $\boldsymbol{\alpha}$ but that each network has its own column block proportions. For $m \in \{1, \dots, M\}$, the X^m are independent and

$$X^m \sim \mathcal{F} - BiSBM_{n_1^m, n_2^m}(Q_1, Q_2, \boldsymbol{\pi}, \boldsymbol{\rho}^m, \boldsymbol{\alpha}), \quad \forall m = 1, \dots, M \quad (\rho\text{-colBiSBM})$$

where $\forall (q, r) \in \{1, \dots, Q_1\} \times \{1, \dots, Q_2\}$, $\alpha_{qr} \in \mathcal{A}_{\mathcal{F}}$, $\pi_q \in (0, 1]$, $\sum_{q=1}^{Q_1} \pi_q = 1$ and $\rho_r^m \in [0, 1]$, $\sum_{r=1}^{Q_2} \rho_r^m = 1$. This model is more flexible than the iid-colBiSBM as it allows some column block proportions to be null in certain networks ($\rho_r^m \in [0, 1]$): if $\rho_r^m = 0$ then the column block r is not represented in the network m .

“Mirroring” the formulas for the π -colBiSBM we relax the constraints on the column dimension.

For a given number of blocks Q_1 , Q_2 and matrix S^2 (S^1 being in this case the matrix full of ones), the number of parameters is:

$$\text{NP}(\rho\text{-colBiSBM}) = (Q_1 - 1) + \sum_{m=1}^M \left(\sum_{r=1}^{Q_2} S_{mr}^2 - 1 \right) + \sum_{\substack{q=1, \dots, Q_1 \\ r=1, \dots, Q_2}} \mathbb{1}_{(S^1, S^2)_{qr} > 0}$$

$\pi\rho$ -colBiSBM model still assumes that the networks share a common connectivity structure represented by α but that each network has its own row and column block proportions, it is the less constrained model. For $m \in \{1, \dots, M\}$, the X^m are independent and

$$X^m \sim \mathcal{F} - BiSBM_{n_1^m, n_2^m}(Q_1, Q_2, \boldsymbol{\pi}^m, \boldsymbol{\rho}^m, \alpha), \quad \forall m = 1, \dots, M \quad (\pi\rho\text{-colBiSBM})$$

where $\forall (q, r) \in \{1, \dots, Q_1\} \times \{1, \dots, Q_2\}$, $\alpha_{qr} \in \mathcal{A}_{\mathcal{F}}$, $\pi_q^m \in [0, 1]$, $\sum_{q=1}^{Q_1} \pi_q^m = 1$, $\forall m \in \{1, \dots, M\}$ and $\rho_r^m \in [0, 1]$, $\sum_{r=1}^{Q_2} \rho_r^m = 1$.

For a given number of blocks Q_1 , Q_2 and matrices S^1 , S^2 , the number of parameters is:

$$\text{NP}(\pi\rho\text{-colBiSBM}) = \sum_{m=1}^M \left(\sum_{q=1}^{Q_1} S_{mq}^1 - 1 \right) + \sum_{m=1}^M \left(\sum_{r=1}^{Q_2} S_{mr}^2 - 1 \right) + \sum_{\substack{q=1, \dots, Q_1 \\ r=1, \dots, Q_2}} \mathbb{1}_{(S^1 S^2)_{qr} > 0}$$

2.4 Variational estimation of the parameters

In practice, the estimation of the likelihood is not tractable. Following the classical approach defined in [Daudin et al., 2008](#) we use a variational version of the Expectation Maximization (VEM) algorithm.

We maximize a variational lower bound of the log-likelihood of the observed data by approximating $p(\mathbf{Z}, \mathbf{W} | \mathbf{X}; \boldsymbol{\theta})$ with a distribution on \mathbf{Z} and \mathbf{W} named \mathcal{R} defined as $\mathcal{R} = \otimes_{m=1}^M \mathcal{R}_m$.

The lower bound is defined as:

$$\mathcal{J}(\mathcal{R}; \boldsymbol{\theta}) := \sum_{m=1}^M \left(\mathbb{E}_{\mathcal{R}_m}[\ell(X^m, Z^m, W^m; \boldsymbol{\theta})] + \mathcal{H}(\mathcal{R}_m) \right) \leq \ell(\mathbf{X}; \boldsymbol{\theta})$$

\mathbf{Z} and \mathbf{W} are redefined using the *one-hot encoded* conversion (i.e., $Z_i^m = q \rightarrow Z_{iq}^m = 1$ and $W_j^m = r \rightarrow W_{jr}^m = 1$).

When \mathcal{R}_m is issued from the set of the factorizable distributions, we denote $\tau_{iq}^{1,m} = \mathbb{P}_{\mathcal{R}_m}(Z_{iq}^m = 1 | X_{i\bullet}^m)$ and $\tau_{jr}^{2,m} = \mathbb{P}_{\mathcal{R}_m}(W_{jr}^m = 1 | X_{\bullet j}^m)$, thus we have: $\mathbb{P}_{\mathcal{R}_m}(Z_{iq}^m = 1, W_{jr}^m = 1 | X^m) = \mathbb{P}_{\mathcal{R}_m}(Z_{iq}^m = 1 | X_{i\bullet}^m) \times \mathbb{P}_{\mathcal{R}_m}(W_{jr}^m = 1 | X_{\bullet j}^m) = \tau_{iq}^{1,m} \times \tau_{jr}^{2,m}$.

The formula for the entropy per network is thus:

$$\mathcal{H}(\mathcal{R}_m) = - \sum_{i=1}^{n_1} \tau_{i,q}^{1,m} \log \tau_{i,q}^{1,m} - \sum_{j=1}^{n_2} \tau_{j,r}^{2,m} \log \tau_{j,r}^{2,m}$$

And the expectation of the completed log-likelihood under the \mathcal{R}_m variational distribution for network m is:

$$\begin{aligned} \mathbb{E}_{\mathcal{R}_m}[\ell(X^m, Z^m, W^m; \boldsymbol{\theta})] &= \sum_{i=1}^{n_1^m} \sum_{j=1}^{n_2^m} \sum_{q \in \mathcal{Q}_{1,m}} \sum_{r \in \mathcal{Q}_{2,m}} \tau_{i,q}^{1,m} \tau_{j,r}^{2,m} \log f(X_{ij}^m; \alpha_{qr}) \\ &+ \sum_{i=1}^{n_1^m} \sum_{q \in \mathcal{Q}_{1,m}} \tau_{i,q}^{1,m} \log \pi_q^m + \sum_{j=1}^{n_2^m} \sum_{r \in \mathcal{Q}_{2,m}} \tau_{j,r}^{2,m} \log \rho_r^m \end{aligned}$$

And thus the lower bound becomes:

$$\begin{aligned} \mathcal{J}(\boldsymbol{\tau}; \boldsymbol{\theta}) &:= \sum_{m=1}^M \left(\sum_{i=1}^{n_1^m} \sum_{j=1}^{n_2^m} \sum_{q \in \mathcal{Q}_{1,m}} \sum_{r \in \mathcal{Q}_{2,m}} \tau_{i,q}^{1,m} \tau_{j,r}^{2,m} \log f(X_{ij}^m; \alpha_{qr}) \right. \\ &+ \sum_{i=1}^{n_1^m} \sum_{q \in \mathcal{Q}_{1,m}} \tau_{i,q}^{1,m} \log \pi_q^m + \sum_{j=1}^{n_2^m} \sum_{r \in \mathcal{Q}_{2,m}} \tau_{j,r}^{2,m} \log \rho_r^m \\ &\left. - \sum_{i=1}^{n_1} \tau_{i,q}^{1,m} \log \tau_{i,q}^{1,m} - \sum_{j=1}^{n_2} \tau_{j,r}^{2,m} \log \tau_{j,r}^{2,m} \right) \end{aligned}$$

where we identify the variational distribution \mathcal{R} with its parameter $\boldsymbol{\tau}$.

The VEM algorithm alternates between two steps, the variational E step and the M step. The E steps consists in optimizing $\mathcal{J}(\boldsymbol{\tau}; \boldsymbol{\theta})$ for a current value of $\boldsymbol{\theta}$ with respect to $\boldsymbol{\tau}$. And the M step consists of maximizing $\mathcal{J}(\boldsymbol{\tau}; \boldsymbol{\theta})$ with respect to $\boldsymbol{\theta}$ and for a given variational distribution $\boldsymbol{\tau}$.

2.4.1 Variational E step

At this step we maximize with respect to the variational distribution $\boldsymbol{\tau}$:

$$\hat{\boldsymbol{\tau}}^{(t+1)} = \arg \max_{\boldsymbol{\tau}} \mathcal{J}(\boldsymbol{\tau}, \hat{\boldsymbol{\theta}}^{(t)}).$$

And we obtain the following formulae for the $\boldsymbol{\tau}^m$:

$$\begin{aligned} \hat{\tau}_{iq}^{1,m} &\propto \hat{\pi}_q^{m(t)} \prod_{j=1}^{n_2^m} \prod_{r \in \mathcal{Q}_{2,m}^m} f(X_{ij}^m; \hat{\alpha}_{qr}^{(t)})^{\hat{\tau}_{jr}^{2,m(t+1)}} \quad \forall i = 1, \dots, n_1^m, q \in \mathcal{Q}_1^m \\ \hat{\tau}_{jr}^{2,m} &\propto \hat{\rho}_r^{m(t)} \prod_{i=1}^{n_1^m} \prod_{q \in \mathcal{Q}_1^m} f(X_{ij}^m; \hat{\alpha}_{qr}^{(t)})^{\hat{\tau}_{iq}^{1,m(t+1)}} \quad \forall j = 1, \dots, n_2^m, r \in \mathcal{Q}_2^m \end{aligned}$$

which are used to update iteratively the values by a fixed point algorithm with only one step.

2.4.2 M step of the algorithm

At iteration (t) the M-step maximizes the variational bound with respect to the model parameters θ :

$$\widehat{\theta}^{(t+1)} = \arg \max_{\theta} \mathcal{J}(\widehat{\tau}^{(t+1)}, \theta)$$

The following quantities are involved in the obtained formulae:

$$e_{qr}^m = \sum_{i=1}^{n_1^m} \sum_{j=1}^{n_2^m} \tau_{iq}^{1,m} \tau_{jr}^{2,m} X_{ij}^m, \quad n_{qr}^m = \sum_{i=1}^{n_1^m} \sum_{j=1}^{n_2^m} \tau_{iq}^{1,m} \tau_{jr}^{2,m}, \quad n_q^{1,m} = \sum_{i=1}^{n_1^m} \tau_{iq}^{1,m}, \quad n_r^{2,m} = \sum_{j=1}^{n_2^m} \tau_{jr}^{2,m}$$

The block proportions, in free mixture models, $(\pi_q^m)_{q \in \mathcal{Q}_1^m}, (\rho_r^m)_{r \in \mathcal{Q}_2^m}$ are estimated as

$$\begin{aligned} \widehat{\pi}_q^m &= \frac{n_q^{1,m}}{n_1^m} && \text{for } \pi\text{-colBiSBM and } \pi\rho\text{-colBiSBM} \\ \widehat{\rho}_r^m &= \frac{n_r^{2,m}}{n_2^m} && \text{for } \rho\text{-colBiSBM and } \pi\rho\text{-colBiSBM} \end{aligned}$$

while on the other hand,

$$\begin{aligned} \widehat{\pi}_q &= \frac{\sum_{m=1}^M n_q^{1,m}}{\sum_{m=1}^M n_1^m} && \text{for } iid\text{-colBiSBM and } \rho\text{-colBiSBM} \\ \widehat{\rho}_r &= \frac{\sum_{m=1}^M n_r^{2,m}}{\sum_{m=1}^M n_2^m} && \text{for } iid\text{-colBiSBM and } \pi\text{-colBiSBM} \end{aligned}$$

the parameters takes into account all the networks at the same time. The connectivity parameters α_{qr} for all models are estimated as the ratio of the number of interactions between row block q and column block r among all networks over the number of number of possible interactions:

$$\widehat{\alpha}_{qr} = \frac{\sum_{m=1}^M e_{qr}^m}{\sum_{m=1}^M n_{qr}^m}$$

2.5 Model selection

As discussed in [Chabert-Liddell et al., 2024](#), the algorithmic aspect becomes complex when dealing with the bipartite case. Due to the size of the latent space

being \mathbb{N}^2 , conducting a complete exploration of the latent space is practically infeasible. Therefore, in addition to adapting the existing formulas, our contribution to addressing this challenge involved making significant choices, which are outlined below.

The below procedures are implemented in the *colSBM* package, available on <https://github.com/Chabert-Liddell/colSBM>.

2.5.1 The BIC-L criterion for model selection

The Integrated Classified Likelihood (ICL) is a well-established tool in the SBM and LBM domains for selecting the appropriate number of blocks. It was introduced by Daudin et al., 2008; Biernacki et al., 2000. The ICL is derived from an asymptotic approximation of the marginal complete likelihood. In this approach, the model parameters are integrated out using a prior distribution, resulting in a penalized likelihood criterion. By employing the ICL, one can effectively determine the optimal number of blocks for the given problem in a systematic manner. We obtain the following expression

$$\text{ICL} = \max_{\theta} \mathbb{E}_{\hat{\mathcal{R}}}[\ell(\mathbf{X}, \mathbf{Z}, \mathbf{W}; \theta)] - \frac{1}{2} \text{pen}$$

with pen the penalties.

Using the formula $\mathbb{E}_{\hat{\mathcal{R}}}[\ell(\mathbf{X}, \mathbf{Z}, \mathbf{W}; \theta)] \approx \ell(\mathbf{X}; \theta) - \mathcal{H}(\hat{\mathcal{R}})$, it becomes clearer, as highlighted in the existing literature, that the Integrated Classified Likelihood (ICL) gives preference to well-separated blocks by imposing a penalty on the entropy of node grouping. However, the objective of our study extends beyond grouping nodes into coherent blocks. We also aim to assess the similarity of connectivity patterns across different networks. Consequently, we aim to permit models that offer more flexible node grouping without penalizing entropy. This leads us to formulate a BIC-like criterion in the following manner:

$$\text{BIC-L} = \max_{\theta} \mathbb{E}_{\hat{\mathcal{R}}}[\ell(\mathbf{X}, \mathbf{Z}, \mathbf{W}; \theta)] + \mathcal{H}(\hat{\mathcal{R}}) - \frac{1}{2} \text{pen} = \max_{\theta} \mathcal{J}(\hat{\mathcal{R}}, \theta) - \frac{1}{2} \text{pen}$$

We provide below the expression for the penalties for the 4 models that we propose.

iid-colBiSBM For the π and ρ :

$$\text{pen}_{\pi}(Q_1) = (Q_1 - 1) \log\left(\sum_{m=1}^M n_1^m\right), \quad \text{pen}_{\rho}(Q_2) = (Q_2 - 1) \log\left(\sum_{m=1}^M n_2^m\right)$$

For the α :

$$\text{pen}_\alpha(Q_1, Q_2) = Q_1 \times Q_2 \log(N_M)$$

with

$$N_M = \sum_{m=1}^M n_1^m \times n_2^m$$

And thus the BIC-L formula is the following:

$$\text{BIC-L}(\mathbf{X}, Q_1, Q_2) = \max_{\hat{\theta}} \mathcal{J}(\hat{\mathcal{R}}, \hat{\theta}) - \frac{1}{2} [\text{pen}_\pi(Q_1) + \text{pen}_\rho(Q_2) + \text{pen}_\alpha(Q_1, Q_2)]$$

$\pi\rho$ -colBiSBM The support penalties are

$$\text{pen}_{S_1}(Q_1) = -2 \log p_{Q_1}(S_1), \quad \text{pen}_{S_2}(Q_2) = -2 \log p_{Q_2}(S_2)$$

with

$$\log p_{Q_1}(S_1) = -M \log(Q_1) - \sum_{m=1}^M \log \binom{Q_1}{Q_1^{(m)}}, \quad \log p_{Q_2}(S_2) = -M \log(Q_2) - \sum_{m=1}^M \log \binom{Q_2}{Q_2^{(m)}}.$$

And penalties for the ρ and π are

$$\text{pen}_\pi(Q_1, S_1) = \sum_{m=1}^M (Q_1^{(m)} - 1) \log n_1^m, \quad \text{pen}_\rho(Q_2, S_2) = \sum_{m=1}^M (Q_2^{(m)} - 1) \log n_2^m.$$

Penalties for the α

$$\text{pen}_\alpha(Q_1, Q_2, S_1, S_2) = \left(\sum_{q=1}^{Q_1} \sum_{r=1}^{Q_2} \mathbb{1}_{(S_1)^c \cap S_2 > 0} \right) \log(N_M).$$

And the corresponding BIC-L formula,

$$\begin{aligned} \text{BIC-L}(\mathbf{X}, Q_1, Q_2) = & \max_{S_1, S_2} \left[\max_{\theta_{S_1, S_2} \in \Theta_{S_1, S_2}} \mathcal{J}(\hat{\mathcal{R}}, \theta_{S_1, S_2}) \right. \\ & - \frac{1}{2} (\text{pen}_\pi(Q_1, S_1) + \text{pen}_\rho(Q_2, S_2)) \\ & + \text{pen}_\alpha(Q_1, Q_2, S_1, S_2) \\ & \left. + \text{pen}_{S_1}(Q_1) + \text{pen}_{S_2}(Q_2) \right] \end{aligned}$$

2.5.2 Initialization and pairing of the models

First to combine the information from the M networks we fit a collection model for each network at the two points $Q = (1, 2)$ and $Q = (2, 1)$. Using the previously described VEM algorithm we obtain for each network its parameters (ρ, π, α) .

We then compute the marginal laws for each dimension, for each network. Then we order the network blocks by the probabilities obtained in decreasing order.

For the memberships on the columns: $col\ order_m = order(\pi_m \times \alpha_m)$.

For the memberships on the rows: $row\ order_m = order(\rho_m \times {}^t(\alpha_m))$.

Using this order we relabel the memberships for the M fitted collection of a single network. Then we use the M memberships to fit a collection containing the M networks.

2.5.3 Greedy exploration to find an estimation of the mode

Using the previously fitted models for $Q = (1, 2)$ and $Q = (2, 1)$ we choose to perform a greedy exploration to find a first mode.

Meaning that for a given $Q = (Q_1, Q_2)$ we will compute all the possible memberships for the points $Q \in \{(Q_1 + 1, Q_2), (Q_1, Q_2 + 1), (Q_1 - 1, Q_2), (Q_1, Q_2 - 1)\}$, fit the corresponding models and choose the one that maximizes the BIC-L as the next point from which to repeat the procedure. We repeat the procedure until the BIC-L stops increasing 2 times in a row.

When this first estimation of the BIC-L mode has been found we apply the moving window on it.

2.5.4 Moving window to update the block memberships and the BIC-L

The *moving window* is used to update the block memberships on rows and columns and fit new models with those changes. To define the window, we use a center point and a *depth*, giving us the bottom left corner $(Q_{1,center} - depth, Q_{2,center} - depth)$ and the top right corner of the window $(Q_{1,center} + depth, Q_{2,center} + depth)$. All the points in this square will be updated and contribute to the update of the others. This procedure is repeated until convergence of the BIC-L.

The figure 2.1 illustrates the procedure. It consists of two alternating steps:

- the *forward pass*: repeatedly computing the possible splits to fit the current model.
- the *backward pass*: computing the possible merges to fit the current model.

Input : Fitted models for $Q = (1, 2)$ and $Q = (2, 1)$
Output: Estimation of the mode using greedy exploration

Initialize $Q = (1, 2)$ as the starting point Initialize $BIC-L_{\max}$ as the maximum achieved BIC-L value Initialize *consecutive_count* as 0

```

while consecutive_count < 2 do
  Compute possible memberships for
   $Q \in \{(Q_1 + 1, Q_2), (Q_1, Q_2 + 1), (Q_1 - 1, Q_2), (Q_1, Q_2 - 1)\}$ ;
  Fit models with the computed memberships Choose the model with
  the maximum BIC-L as the next point
  if  $BIC-L > BIC-L_{\max}$  then
    |  $BIC-L_{\max} \leftarrow BIC-L$  consecutive_count  $\leftarrow 0$ 
  end
  else
    | consecutive_count  $\leftarrow$  consecutive_count + 1
  end
   $Q \leftarrow$  Next selected point
end

```

Output: Estimation of the mode using greedy exploration

Algorithm 1: Greedy Exploration for Mode Estimation

Forward pass The forward pass consists for a model at (Q_1, Q_2) to compute the possible splits from the block memberships of its “predecessors“. The predecessors are the point at the left $(Q_1 - 1, Q_2)$ and below $(Q_1, Q_2 - 1)$ the current model (if they exist). To update the current model, we take its predecessors block memberships and try to split one of the blocks in two. Then the current model is fitted using this clustering as a starting clustering. Once all the possible splits are fitted, they are compared, keeping the best, in the sense of the BIC-L. If a model was already present it is also compared and the best is chosen as the model for this round at (Q_1, Q_2) .

The procedure then repeats for the point at $(Q_1 + 1, Q_2)$ until it reaches $(Q_{1,center} + depth, Q_2)$ from which it repeats from $(Q_{1,center} - depth, Q_2 + 1)$. This repeats until computing the best model for $(Q_{1,center} + depth, Q_{2,center} + depth)$. *Note on the initialization:* The forward pass starts from the point $(Q_{1,center} + depth, Q_{2,center} + depth)$, so this points needs to have at least a model fitted. In the best case, the greedy exploration will have visited this point. But if the point has not been visited, a model will be fitted from a spectral initialization (i.e the block memberships is computed by using a spectral clustering). From this point, the next model will have at least one predecessor and the procedure can iterate.

Input : Center point $(Q_{1,center}, Q_{2,center})$, depth
Output: Best model with maximum BIC-L in the window

Define bottom left corner $(Q_{1,center} - depth, Q_{2,center} - depth)$
 Define top right corner $(Q_{1,center} + depth, Q_{2,center} + depth)$

while *not converged* **do**

Forward pass:

for $Q_1 \in [Q_{1,center} - depth; Q_{1,center} + depth]$ **do**

for $Q_2 \in [Q_{2,center} - depth; Q_{2,center} + depth]$ **do**

Compute possible splits from predecessors $(Q_1 - 1, Q_2)$ and $(Q_1, Q_2 - 1)$ Fit models with the block membership changes

Compare and keep the best model based on BIC-L

end

end

Backward pass:

for $Q_1 \in [Q_{1,center} + depth; Q_{1,center} - depth]$ **do**

for $Q_2 \in [Q_{2,center} + depth; Q_{2,center} - depth]$ **do**

Compute possible merges from predecessors $(Q_1 + 1, Q_2)$ and $(Q_1, Q_2 + 1)$ Fit models with the block membership changes

Compare and keep the best model based on BIC-L

end

end

Update the best model based on the maximum BIC-L

end

Output: Best model with maximum BIC-L in the window

Algorithm 2: Moving Window Procedure

Backward pass The backward pass consists for a model at (Q_1, Q_2) to compute the possible merges from the block memberships of its “predecessors“. The predecessors are the point at the right $(Q_1 + 1, Q_2)$ and on top $(Q_1, Q_2 + 1)$ of the current model (if the predecessors exist). To update the current model, we take its predecessors block memberships and try to merge two blocks in one. Then the current model is fitted using this clustering as a starting clustering. Once all the possible merges are fitted, they are compared, keeping the best, in the sense of the BIC-L. If a model was already present it is also compared and the best is chosen as the model for this round at (Q_1, Q_2) .

The procedure then repeats for the point at $(Q_1 - 1, Q_2)$ until it reaches $(Q_{1,center} - depth, Q_2)$ from which it repeats from $(Q_{1,center} - depth, Q_2 - 1)$. This repeats until computing the best model for $(Q_{1,center} - depth, Q_{2,center} - depth)$. *Note on the initialization:* The backward pass starts from $(Q_{1,center} + depth, Q_{2,center} + depth)$,

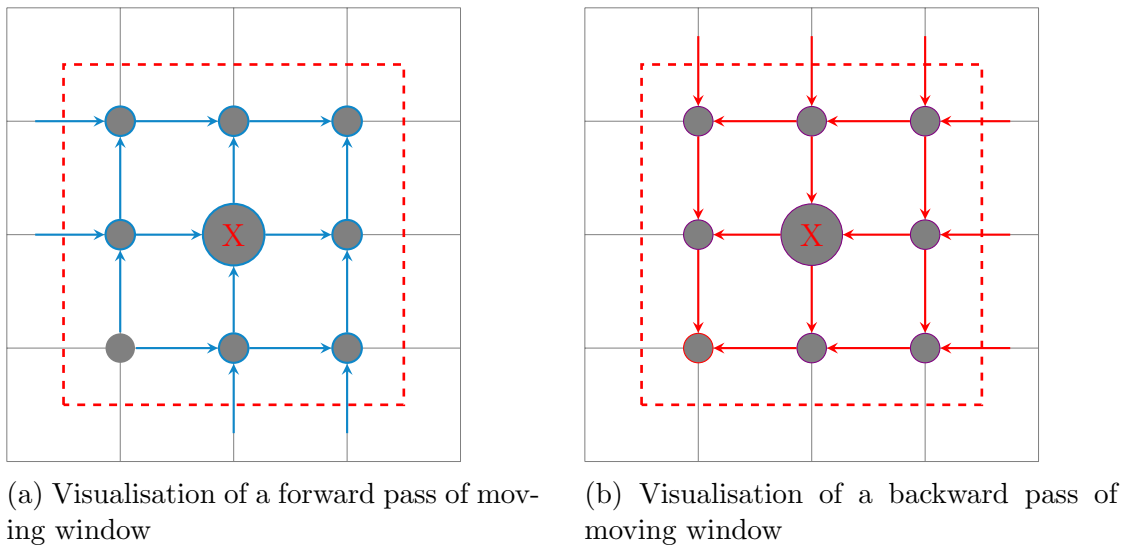


Figure 2.1: Moving window procedure, the center node marked with an **X** is the mode of BIC-L

we know it was initialized at least by the forward pass, no special case here.

At the end of the moving window pass, the model of max BIC-L is the new best fit and the procedure can repeat until convergence.

2.6 Networks clustering

As in Chabert-Liddell et al., 2024 we use a recursive algorithm to determine the best clustering of the given networks. The procedure being the same, we will present it briefly and focus on adjustments.

When networks in a collection do not share the same mesoscale connectivity structure we want to be able to partition them correctly. For this we perform a clustering of networks.

The process of clustering a collection of networks involves discovering a partition $\mathcal{G} = (\mathcal{M}_g)_{g=1,\dots,G}$ of $\{1, \dots, M\}$. Given \mathcal{G} we set the following model on \mathbf{X} :

$$\forall g \in \{1, \dots, G\}, \forall m \in \mathcal{M}_g, X^m \sim \mathcal{F}\text{-BiSBM}(Q_1^g, Q_2^g, \boldsymbol{\pi}^m, \boldsymbol{\rho}^m, \boldsymbol{\alpha}^g)$$

And we defined the score of a given partition \mathcal{G} :

$$Sc(\mathcal{G}) = \sum_{g=1}^G \max_{Q^g=1, \dots, Q_{\max}} \text{BIC-L}((X^m)_{m \in \mathcal{M}_g}, Q_1^g, Q_2^g)$$

Thus the score consists of the sum of the BIC-L of the sub-collections for the partition \mathcal{G} .

2.6.1 Dissimilarity between two networks

The parameters for the dissimilarity are defined as follow:

$$\begin{aligned} \tilde{n}_{qr}^m &= \sum_{i=1}^{n_1^m} \sum_{j=1}^{n_2^m} \hat{\tau}_{iq}^{1,m} \hat{\tau}_{jr}^{2,m}, & \tilde{\alpha}_{qr}^m &= \frac{\sum_{i=1}^{n_1^m} \sum_{j=1}^{n_2^m} \hat{\tau}_{iq}^{1,m} \hat{\tau}_{jr}^{2,m} X_{ij}^m}{\tilde{n}_{qr}^m}, \\ \tilde{\pi}_q^m &= \frac{\sum_{i=1}^{n_1^m} \hat{\tau}_{iq}^{1,m}}{n_1^m}, & \tilde{\rho}_r^m &= \frac{\sum_{j=1}^{n_2^m} \hat{\tau}_{jr}^{2,m}}{n_2^m} \end{aligned}$$

And the dissimilarity between any pair of networks $(m, m') \in \mathcal{M}^2$ is then:

$$D_{\mathcal{M}}(m, m') = \sum_{q=1}^{Q_1} \sum_{r=1}^{Q_2} \max(\tilde{\pi}_q^m, \tilde{\pi}_q^{m'}) \left(\tilde{\alpha}_{qr}^m - \tilde{\alpha}_{qr}^{m'} \right)^2 \max(\tilde{\rho}_r^m, \tilde{\rho}_r^{m'})$$

The above figure (2.2) shows a condensed explanation of the network clustering algorithm.

The idea is to adjust the *colBiSBM* model over the full collection of M networks and then compute the dissimilarity matrix between all networks of the collection. We obtain the collection $\mathcal{G} = \{\mathcal{M}\}$ the trivial partition in a unique group.

Then using the *Kmeans* we split the collection in two sub-collections with the dissimilarity matrix. The two sub-collections are fitted and we compute the score of this new partition $\mathcal{G}^* = \{G_1, G_2\}$.

If $Sc(\mathcal{G}^*) > Sc(\mathcal{G})$ then we repeat the same procedure on G_1 and G_2 . Else we return \mathcal{G} .

We illustrate our capacity to perform a partition of a collection for all *colBiSBM* models in

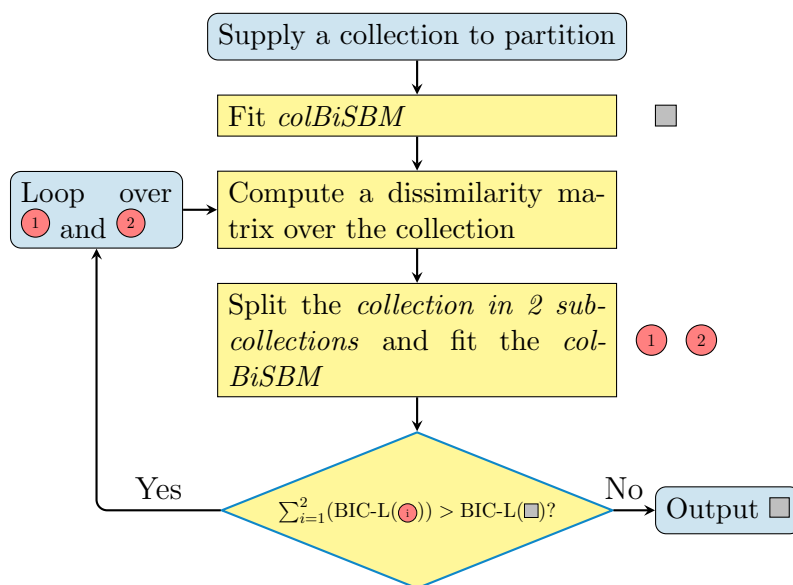


Figure 2.2: Network clustering procedure

CHAPTER 3

Simulation studies

The below simulations are meant to test the capacities of our models. We assess the inference capacities of the algorithm and method, the model selection performances and the clustering capacities.

Reproducibility All the codes used to obtain data and to perform the analysis can be found on the report repository at <https://gitea.polarolouis.fr/polarolouis/rapport-CEI-MIA-2023>.

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