

# Recovering Social Networks from Outcome Data: Identification and an Application to Tax Competition

Áureo de Paula<sup>1</sup> Imran Rasul<sup>2</sup> Pedro CL Souza<sup>3</sup>

<sup>1</sup>University College London and EESP

<sup>2</sup>University College London

<sup>3</sup>PUC-Rio

Solari Lecture



# Networks are Everywhere

- ▶ Social and economic networks mediate many aspects of individual choice and outcomes:
  - *Development*: technology adoption, insurance.
  - *Peer Effects*: learning, delinquency, consumption.
  - *IO*: buyer-supplier networks, strategic interactions. ▶
  - *Macro, Finance and Trade*: contagion, gravity equations. ●
  - *Political Economy*: yardstick competition.
  - More examples: Jackson [2009], de Paula [forthcoming].

## But ...

- ▶ Network information are **not** available in most datasets.
- ▶ When available, usually imperfect:
  - Self-reported data (censoring,  $\neq$  econ int  $\Rightarrow \neq$  ties);
  - Postulated (e.g., classroom, zip code).
- ▶ Hence, empirical analysis of network effects may be challenging.
- ▶ Existing models are **conditioned** on postulated network.
- ▶ Potential for misspecification.

# This Project

- ▶ We study **identification** of the unobserved networks and parameters of interest in a social interactions model ...  
(spatial model with *unobserved* neighbourhood matrix)
- ▶ ... under standard network “intransitivity” hypothesis ...
- ▶ ... and explore estimation strategies.
  - $N$  individuals  $\Rightarrow O(N^2)$  parameters to estimate.
  - High-dimensional model techniques.
  - Consistency and asymptotic distribution.

# The Model

- ▶ Many interdependent outcomes are mediated by connections (“networks”).
- ▶ A popular representation follows the “linear-in-means” specification suggested in Manski [1993]. For example,

$$y_{it} = \alpha_t + \rho_0 \sum_{j=1}^N W_{0,ij} y_{jt} + \beta_0 \mathbf{x}_{it} + \gamma_0 \sum_{j=1}^N W_{0,ij} \mathbf{x}_{jt} + \epsilon_{it}$$

$\Leftrightarrow$

$$\mathbf{y}_{t,N \times 1} = \alpha_t \mathbf{1}_{N \times 1} + \rho_0 \mathbf{W}_{0,N \times N} \mathbf{y}_{t,N \times 1} + \beta_0 \mathbf{x}_{t,N \times 1} + \gamma_0 \mathbf{W}_{0,N \times N} \mathbf{x}_{t,N \times 1} + \epsilon_{t,N \times 1}$$

with  $\mathbb{E}(\epsilon_{it} | \mathbf{x}_t, \alpha_t) = 0$ . 

- ▶ Customary to assume  $\mathbf{W}_0 \mathbf{1} = \mathbf{1}$  and  $|\rho_0| < 1$ .
- ▶ Here we do *not* observe  $\mathbf{W}_0$ .

# A Motivating Example

- ▶ Besley and Case [AER, 1995]: “Incumbent Behavior: Vote-Seeking, Tax-Setting, and Yardstick Competition”

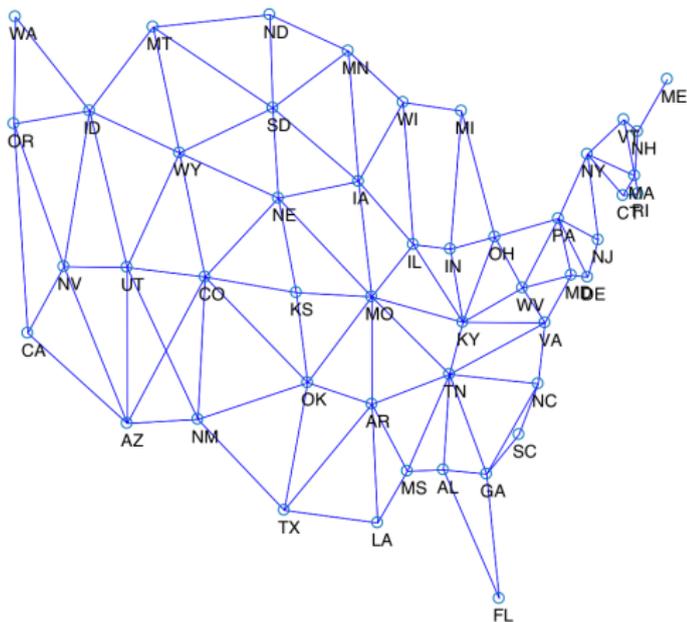
“This paper develops a model of the political economy of tax-setting in a multijurisdictional world, where voters’ choices and incumbent behavior are determined simultaneously. Voters are assumed to make comparisons between jurisdictions to overcome political agency problems. This forces incumbents in to a (yardstick) competition in which they care about what other incumbents are doing.”

- ▶ From data on state tax liabilities from 1962 until 1988, the authors estimate (essentially):

$$\Delta\tau_{it} = \alpha_t + \rho_0 \sum_{j=1}^N W_{0,ij} \Delta\tau_{jt} + \beta_0 x_{it} + \gamma_0 \sum_{j=1}^N W_{0,ij} x_{jt} + \epsilon_{it}$$

- ▶ Neighbouring states are geographically adjacent ones.

► In other words...



- Could there be relevant, non-adjacent states? Do all adjacent states matter?

# (Some) Literature

1. **Spatial Econometrics**, conditional on  $W_0$ .
  - ▶ Kelejian and Prucha [1998, 1999], Lee [2004], Lee, Liu and Lin [2010] and Anselin [2010].
2. **Identification**.
  - ▶ ... conditional on  $W_0$ : Manski [1993], Bramoullé, Djebbari and Fortin [2009], De Giorgi, Pellizzari and Redaelli [2010];
  - ▶ ... not conditional on  $W_0$ : Rose [2015], see also Blume, Brock, Durlauf and Jayaraman [2015].
3. **Estimating  $W_0$** .
  - ▶ Lam and Souza [various].
  - ▶ Manresa [2015], Rose [2015], Gautier and Rose [2016].

# Identification (Known $W_0$ )

- ▶ Manski [1993] and the “reflection problem.”  
( $W_{0,ij} = (N - 1)^{-1}$  if  $i \neq j$ ,  $W_{0,ii} = 0$ )



# Identification (Known $W_0$ )

- ▶ Potential avenue: “exclusion restrictions” in  $W_0$ .

If  $\rho_0\beta_0 + \gamma_0 \neq 0$  and  $\mathbf{I}, W_0, W_0^2$  are linearly independent,  $(\rho_0, \beta_0, \gamma_0)$  is point-identified. (Assuming  $\alpha_t = 0$ .)

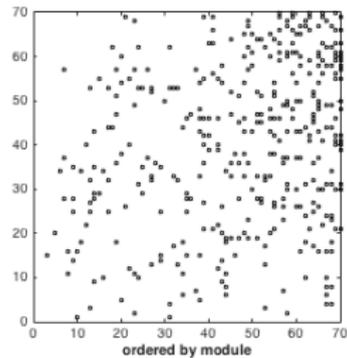
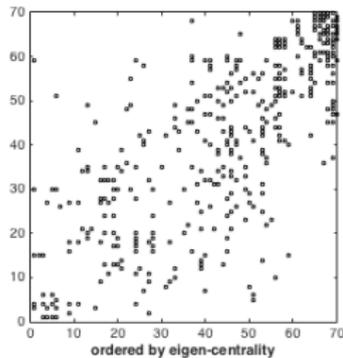
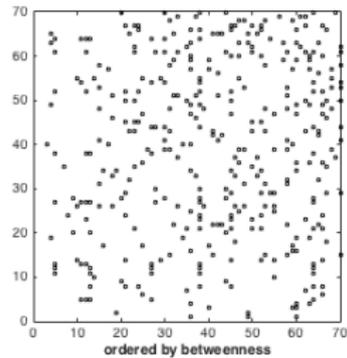
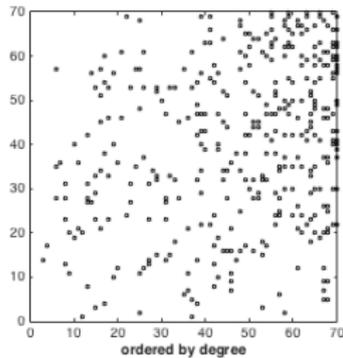
(Bramoullé, Djebbari and Fortin [2009])

- ▶ Linear independence valid generally. In fact,

$\sum_{j=1}^N W_{0,ij} = 1$  and  $\mathbf{I}, W_0, W_0^2$  linearly dependent  $\Rightarrow W_0$  block diagonal with blocks of the same size and nonzero entries are  $(N_l - 1)^{-1}$ .

(Blume, Brock, Durlauf and Jayaraman [2015])

## Figure: High School Friendship Network



# What if $W_0$ is unknown?

- ▶ “If researchers do not know how individuals form reference groups and perceive reference-group outcomes, then it is reasonable to ask whether observed behavior can be used to infer these unknowns” (Manski [1993])

# Identification

- ▶ The model has reduced-form (assuming, for simplicity that  $\alpha_t = 0$ )

$$\mathbf{y}_t = \Pi_0 \mathbf{x}_t + \mathbf{v}_t$$

where

$$\Pi_0 = (\mathbf{I} - \rho_0 \mathbf{W}_0)^{-1} (\beta_0 \mathbf{I} + \gamma_0 \mathbf{W}_0)$$

- ▶ If  $(\rho_0, \beta_0, \gamma_0)$  were known,  $\mathbf{W}_0$  would be identified:

$$\mathbf{W}_0 = (\Pi_0 - \beta_0 \mathbf{I})(\rho_0 \Pi_0 + \gamma_0 \mathbf{I})^{-1}$$

- ▶ In practice,  $(\rho_0, \beta_0, \gamma_0)$  is not known.

# Identification

- ▶ Further assumptions are necessary to identify

$$\theta_0 = (\rho_0, \beta_0, \gamma_0, W_0).$$

- ▶ Take, for example,  $\theta_0$  and  $\theta$  such that  $\beta_0 = \beta = 1$ ,  $\rho_0 = 0.5$ ,  $\rho = 1.5$ ,  $\gamma_0 = 0.5$ ,  $\gamma = -2.5$ ,

$$W_0 = \begin{bmatrix} 0 & 0.5 & 0 & 0 & 0.5 \\ 0.5 & 0 & 0.5 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0.5 & 0 & 0.5 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0.5 & 0 & 0.5 \\ 0.5 & 0 & 0 & 0.5 & 0 \end{bmatrix} \quad W = \begin{bmatrix} 0 & 0 & 0.5 & 0.5 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0.5 & 0.5 \\ 0.5 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0.5 \\ 0.5 & 0.5 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0.5 & 0.5 & 0 & 0 \end{bmatrix}.$$

- ▶ Then  $(I - \rho_0 W_0)^{-1}(\beta_0 I + \rho_0 W_0) = (I - \rho W)^{-1}(\beta I + \rho W)$ .
- ▶ (Notice that  $I$ ,  $W_0$  and  $W_0^2$  are LI and so are  $I$ ,  $W$  and  $W^2$ !)

But ...

- ▶ *If the spectral radius of  $\rho_0 W_0$  is less than one, then an eigenvector of  $W_0$  is also an eigenvector of  $\Pi_0$ .*

Take the reduced-form parameter matrix:

$$\begin{aligned}\Pi_0 &= (I + \rho_0 W_0 + \rho_0^2 W_0^2 + \dots)(\beta_0 \mathbf{I} + \gamma_0 W_0) \\ &= \beta_0 \mathbf{I} + (\rho_0 \beta_0 + \gamma_0) W_0 + \rho_0(\rho_0 \beta_0 + \gamma_0) W_0^2 + \dots\end{aligned}$$

Postmultiplying by  $v_j$ , an eigenvector of  $W_0$ ,

$$\Pi_0 v_j = \frac{\beta_0 + \gamma_0 \lambda_{j,0}}{1 - \rho_0 \lambda_{j,0}} v_j$$

- ▶ If  $W_0$  is nonnegative and irreducible, e.g., only one eigenvector can be chosen to have positive entries.

# Local Identification

- ▶ Can the model identify  $\theta_0 = (\rho_0, \beta_0, \gamma_0, W_0)$ ?
- ▶ Assume:
  - (A1)  $(W_0)_{ii} = 0, i = 1, \dots, N$  (no self-links);
  - (A2)  $\sum_{j=1}^N |(W_0)_{ij}| \leq 1$  for every  $i = 1, \dots, N$  and  $|\rho_0| < 1$ ;
  - (A3) There is  $i$  such that  $\sum_{j=1}^N (W_0)_{ij} = 1$  (normalization);
  - (A4) There are  $l$  and  $k$  such that  $(W_0^2)_{ll} \neq (W_0^2)_{kk} (\Rightarrow \mathbf{I}, W_0, W_0^2$  LI as in Bramoullé, Djebbari and Fortin [2009]);
  - (A5)  $\beta_0 \rho_0 + \gamma_0 \neq 0$  (social effects do not cancel). 
- ▶ *Under (A1)-(A5)  $(\rho_0, \beta_0, \gamma_0, W_0)$  is locally identified.*  
(Application of Rothenberg [1971].)

# Global Identification

- ▶ Under (possibly strong) conditions it is straightforward to obtain global identification.
  
- ▶ *Under Assumptions (A1) and (A3), if  $\rho_0 = 0$ , then  $(\gamma_0, \beta_0, W_0)$  is globally identified.*  
(As in, e.g., Manresa [2015].)
  
- ▶ *Under Assumptions (A1)-(A3) and (A5), if  $\gamma_0 = 0$ , then  $(\rho_0, \beta_0, W_0)$  is globally identified.*  
( $\gamma_0 = 0 \Rightarrow$  exclusion restrictions.)

# Global Identification

- ▶ It is nevertheless possible to strengthen local identification conclusions obtained previously.
- ▶ *Assume (A1)-(A5).  $\{\theta : \Pi(\theta) = \Pi(\theta_0)\}$  is finite.*  
(This obtains as  $\Pi(\theta)$  is a proper mapping.)
- ▶ Let  $\Theta_+ = \{\theta \in \Theta : \rho\beta + \gamma > 0\}$ . Then we can state that:

*Assume (A1)-(A5), then for every  $\theta \in \Theta_+$  we have that  $\Pi(\theta) = \Pi(\theta_0) \Rightarrow \theta = \theta_0$ . That is,  $\theta_0$  is globally identified with respect to the set  $\Theta_+$ .*

# Global Identification

- ▶ This uses the following result:

*Suppose the function  $\Pi(\cdot)$  is continuous, proper and locally invertible with a connected image. Then the cardinality of  $\Pi^{-1}(\{\bar{\Pi}\})$  is constant for any  $\bar{\Pi}$  in the image of  $\Pi(\cdot)$ .*

(see, e.g., Ambrosetti and Prodi [1995], p.46)

- ▶ We show that the mapping  $\Pi : \Theta_+ \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^{N \times N}$  is proper with connected image, and non-singular Jacobian at any point.
- ▶ This implies that the cardinality of the pre-image of  $\{\Pi(\theta)\}$  is finite and constant.
- ▶ Take  $\theta \in \Theta_+$  such that  $\gamma = 0$ . The cardinality of  $\Pi^{-1}(\{\Pi(\theta)\})$  is one for such  $\theta$  and the result follows.

# Global Identification

- ▶ Since an analogous result holds for  $\Theta_- = \{\theta \in \Theta \text{ such that } \rho\beta + \gamma < 0\}$ , we can state that:

*Assume (A1)-(A5). The identified set contains at most two elements.*

- ▶ Furthermore, if  $\rho_0 > 0$  and  $(W_0)_{ij} \geq 0$  one is able to sign  $\rho_0\beta_0 + \gamma_0$  and obtain that:

*Assume (A1)-(A5),  $\rho_0 > 0$  and  $(W_0)_{ij} \geq 0$ . Then  $\theta_0$  is globally identified.*

- ▶ Finally, if  $W_0$  is non-negative and irreducible, one is also able to sign  $\rho_0\beta_0 + \gamma_0$ !

*Assume (A1)-(A5).  $(W_0)_{ij} \geq 0$  and  $W_0$  irreducible. Then  $\theta_0$  is globally identified if  $W_0$  has at least two real eigenvalues or  $|\rho_0| \leq \sqrt{2}/2$ .*

## A Few Remarks

- ▶  $\mathbf{v}_j$  is an eigenvector of  $\Pi_0$  and  $W_0$ : eigencentralities are identified even when  $W_0$  is not.
- ▶ Row-sum normalization of  $W_0$  implies that row-sum of  $\Pi$  is constant: testable hypothesis.
- ▶ We also allow for individual and time specific effects.
- ▶ Analysis extends to multivariate  $\mathbf{x}_{i,t}$ . The reduced-form model is

$$\mathbf{y}_t = \sum_{s=1}^k \Pi_{0,s} \mathbf{x}_{t,s} + \mathbf{v}_t$$

where  $\mathbf{x}_{t,s}$  refers to the  $s$ -th column of  $\mathbf{x}_t$  and

$$\Pi_{0,s} = (\mathbf{I} - \rho_0 W_0)^{-1} (\beta_{0,s} + \gamma_{0,s} W_0).$$

# Estimation Strategies

- ▶  $\Pi$  has  $N^2$  parameters, and possibly  $NT \ll N^2$ .
- ▶ Feasible if  $W$  or  $\Pi$  are sparse.  
(e.g., Atalay et al. [2011] < 1%; Carvalho [2014]  $\approx$  3%; AddHealth  $\approx$  2%).
- ▶ Sparsity on  $W$  or  $\Pi$ ?
  - Explore the relation between structural- and reduced-form sparsities (in paper).

- ▶ Rewrite the model as

$$y_i = x_i^\top \pi_i + v_i$$

stacking all observations for individual  $i$  at  $t = 1, \dots, T$ .

- ▶ **Penalization in the reduced form** (e.g., AdaLasso of Kock and Callot [2015]):

$$\tilde{\pi}_i = \arg \min_{\pi_i \in \mathbb{R}^N} \frac{1}{T} \|y_i - x_i^\top \pi_i\|_2 + 2\lambda_T \|\pi_i\|_1$$

and

$$\hat{\pi}_i = \arg \min_{\pi_i \in \mathbb{R}^N} \frac{1}{T} \|y_i - x_i^\top \pi_i\|_2 + 2\lambda_T \sum_{\tilde{\pi}_{ij} \neq 0} \left| \frac{\pi_{ij}}{\tilde{\pi}_{ij}} \right|$$

with  $\lambda_T$  chosen by BIC).

- ▶ **Penalization in the structural form** (e.g., Adaptive Elastic Net GMM of Caner and Zhang [2014]:
  - $\mathbf{x}_t \perp \epsilon_t \Rightarrow$  moment conditions.

$$\tilde{\theta} = (1 + \lambda_2/T) \cdot \arg \min_{\theta \in \mathbb{R}^p} \left\{ g(\theta)^\top M_T g(\theta) + \lambda_1 \sum_{i,j=1}^n |w_{i,j}| + \lambda_2 \sum_{i,j=1}^n |w_{i,j}|^2 \right\}$$

and

$$\hat{\theta} = (1 + \lambda_2/T) \cdot \arg \min_{\theta \in \mathbb{R}^p} \left\{ g(\theta)^\top M_T g(\theta) + \lambda_1^* \sum_{\tilde{w}_{i,j} \neq 0} \frac{|w_{i,j}|}{|\tilde{w}_{i,j}|^\gamma} + \lambda_2 \sum_{i,j=1}^n |w_{i,j}|^2 \right\}$$

where  $\theta = (\text{vec}(W)^\top, \rho, \beta, \gamma)^\top$  and  $\lambda_1^*$ ,  $\lambda_1$  and  $\lambda_2$  chosen by BIC.)

# Simulations

- ▶ Estimators: GMM Adaptive Elastic Net, Adaptive Lasso, SCAD, OLS.
- ▶  $\rho_0 = 0.3, \beta_0 = 0.4, \gamma_0 = 0.5$ .
- ▶ 1,000 simulations.
- ▶ In the paper:  $N = 15, 30, 50$ .  $T = 50, 100, 150$ .
  
- ▶ Many versions in the paper: time and individual effects, correlated effects, other network generating processes.
- ▶ Here: High School Friendship (Coleman [1964]),  $N = 73, T = 50, 100$ .

Figure: High School Friendship Network

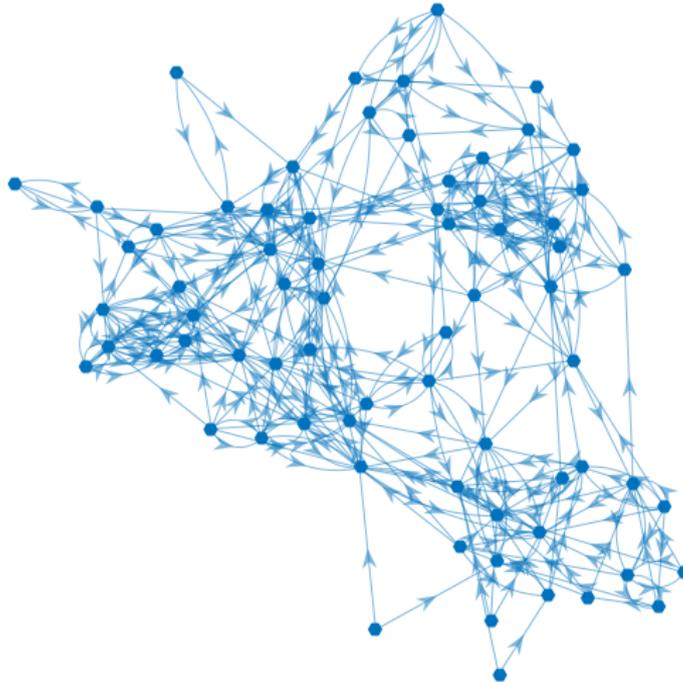
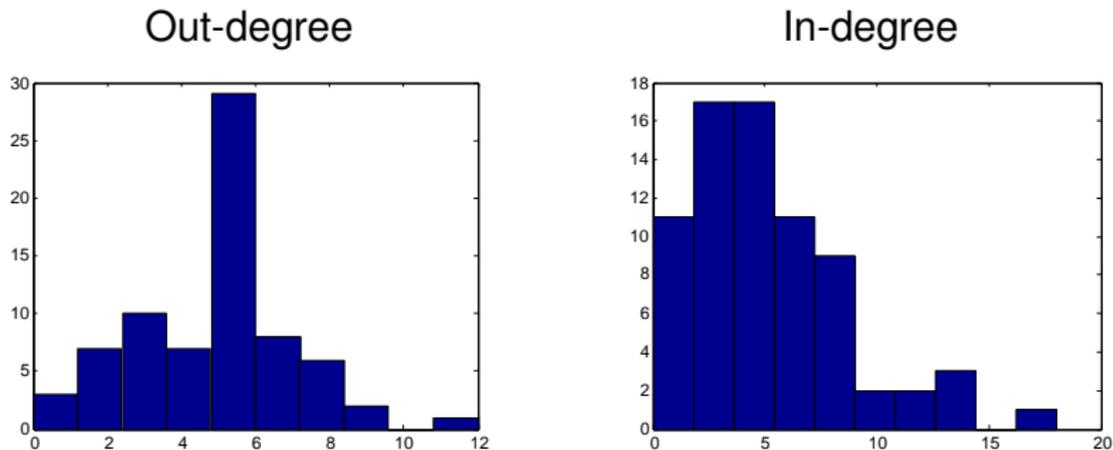


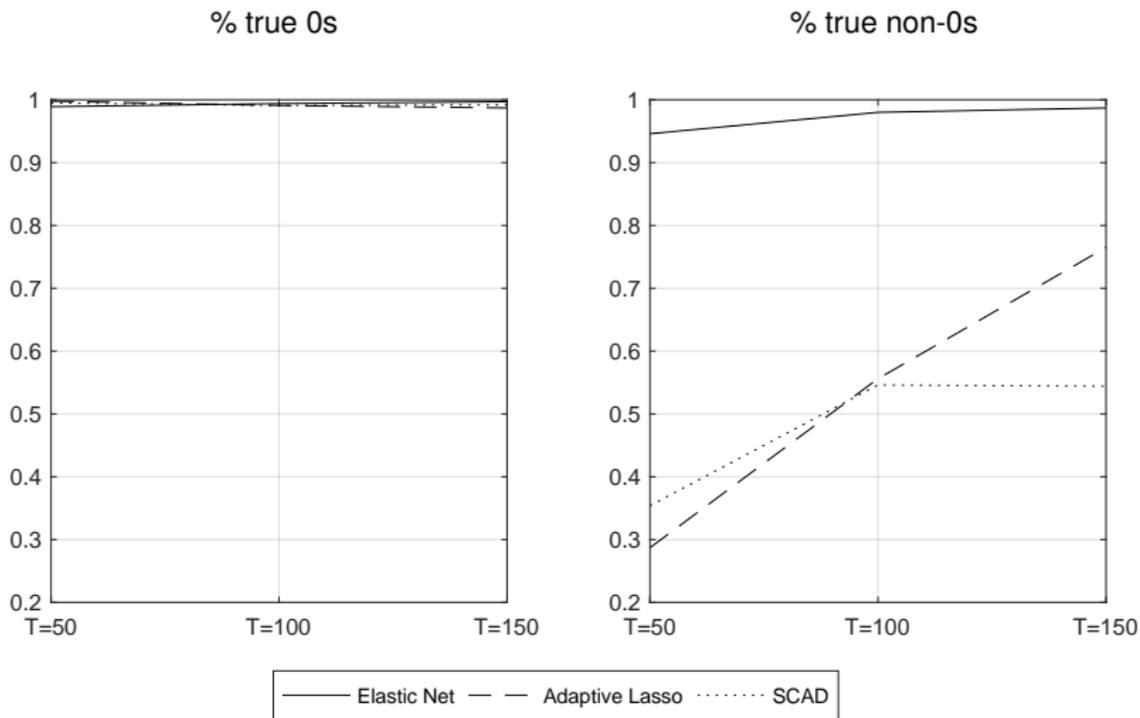
Figure: High School Friendship Network Degree Distribution



# Simulations: High School Friendships

	$\emptyset$	EN	AL	SC	OLS	$\emptyset$	EN	AL	SC	OLS
	n = 73 , T = 50					n = 73 , T = 100				
$mse(\hat{\Pi})$	0.000 (0.000)	0.083 (0.188)	0.356 (0.133)	0.331 (0.127)	—	0.000 (0.000)	0.064 (0.163)	0.244 (0.014)	0.256 (0.038)	3.447 (0.242)
$mse(\hat{W})$	0.000 (0.000)	0.082 (0.183)	0.480 (0.183)	0.682 (0.309)	—	0.000 (0.000)	0.047 (0.118)	0.507 (0.083)	0.618 (0.129)	3.627 (0.637)
% true 0s	1.000 (0.000)	0.989 (0.024)	0.998 (0.001)	0.995 (0.005)	—	1.000 (0.000)	0.994 (0.016)	0.991 (0.003)	0.991 (0.004)	0.005 (0.001)
% true 1s	1.000 (0.000)	0.946 (0.122)	0.287 (0.268)	0.354 (0.257)	—	1.000 (0.000)	0.980 (0.052)	0.556 (0.055)	0.546 (0.131)	0.999 (0.004)
$\hat{\rho} - \rho_0$	0.000 (0.000)	-0.252 (0.063)	-0.252 (0.029)	-0.270 (0.020)	—	0.000 (0.000)	-0.149 (0.066)	-0.258 (0.025)	-0.265 (0.023)	0.026 (0.068)
$\hat{\beta} - \beta_0$	0.000 (0.000)	0.004 (0.013)	-0.351 (0.131)	-0.337 (0.130)	—	0.000 (0.000)	0.003 (0.009)	-0.257 (0.040)	-0.270 (0.051)	-0.039 (0.077)
$\hat{\gamma} - \gamma_0$	0.000 (0.000)	0.101 (0.234)	0.013 (0.093)	-0.057 (0.088)	—	0.000 (0.000)	0.039 (0.104)	-0.053 (0.082)	-0.127 (0.084)	0.499 (0.035)

## Figure: Sparsity pattern



# Yardstick Competition

- ▶ Besley and Case estimate

$$\Delta\tau_{it} = \alpha_t + \rho_0 \sum_{j=1}^N W_{0,ij} \Delta\tau_{jt} + \beta_0 x_{it} + \gamma_0 \sum_{j=1}^N W_{0,ij} x_{jt} + \epsilon_{it}$$

using  $W_0$  as the geographically neighbouring states.

- ▶ We revisit the yardstick competition, **estimating** and **identifying** neighbouring states  $W$

# Yardstick Competition (B&C [1995])

- ▶ Yardstick competition applies to governors not facing term limits.
  - ▶ Compare main effects across two subsamples: governor can run for reelection and cannot run for reelection.
- ▶ Endogeneity:
  - ▶ Neighbours tax rates are endogenous.
  - ▶ IVs: neighbour's change of income per capita lagged and neighbours' change of unemployment rate lagged.
- ▶ Specification:
  - ▶ Controls: neighbors' tax change, state income per capita, state unemployment rate, proportion of young and elderly.
  - ▶ All specifications contain state fixed effects and time effects.

# Empirical Application

- ▶ Sample extension:
  - ▶ Continental US states,  $N = 48$
  - ▶ Original B&C sample: 1962-1988,  $T = 26$  time periods.
  - ▶ Extended sample: 1962-2015,  $T = 53$  time periods.

# Empirical Application

**Table 1: Geographic Neighbors**

Dependent variable: Change in per capital income and corporate taxes

Coefficient estimates, standard errors in parentheses

	Besley and Case [1995] Sample		Extended Sample	
	(1) OLS	(2) 2SLS	(3) OLS	(4) 2SLS
<b>Geographic Neighbors' Tax Change (t - (t-2))</b>	.375*** (.120)	.868*** (.273)	.271*** (.075)	.642*** (.152)
<b>Period</b>	1962-1988	1962-1988	1962-2015	1962-2015
<b>First Stage (F-stat, p-value)</b>		0.004		0.000
<b>Controls</b>	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
<b>State and Year Fixed Effects</b>	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
<b>Observations</b>	1,296	1,248	2,592	2,544

# Empirical Application

**Table 2: Economic Neighbors**

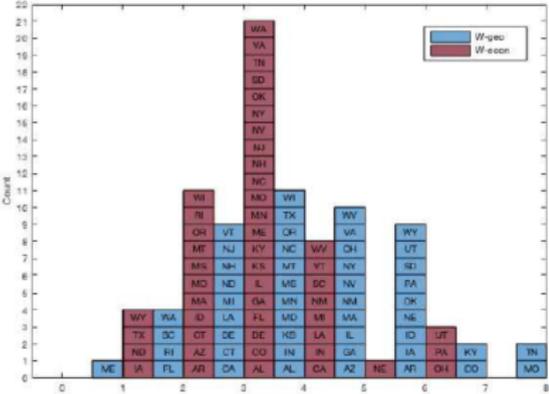
Dependent variable: Change in per capital income and corporate taxes

Coefficient estimates, standard errors in parentheses

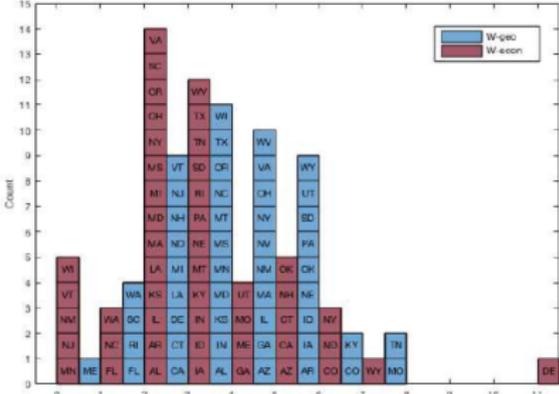
	Not Penalizing Geographic Neighbors			Penalizing Geographic Neighbors			Penalizing Geographic Neighbors			
	No Exogenous Social Effects			No Exogenous Social Effects			Exogenous Social Effects			
	(1) Initial	(2) OLS	(3) 2SLS	(4) Initial	(5) OLS	(6) 2SLS	(7) Initial	(8) OLS	(9) 2SLS: IVs are Characteristics of Neighbors	(10) 2SLS: IVs are Characteristics of Neighbors-of-Neighbors
Economic Neighbors' Tax Change (t - t-2)	.824	.274*** (.057)	.652*** (.061)	.886	.378*** (.061)	.641*** (.060)	.645	.145** (.072)	.332* (.199)	.608*** (.220)
Period	1982-2015			1982-2015			1982-2015			
First Stage (F-stat, p-value)	.000			.000			.000			
Controls	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
State and Year Fixed Effects	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Observations	2,952	2,952	2,544	2,952	2,952	2,544	2,952	2,952	2,544	2,592

# Empirical Application

Panel A: In-degree distribution



Panel B: Out-degree distribution



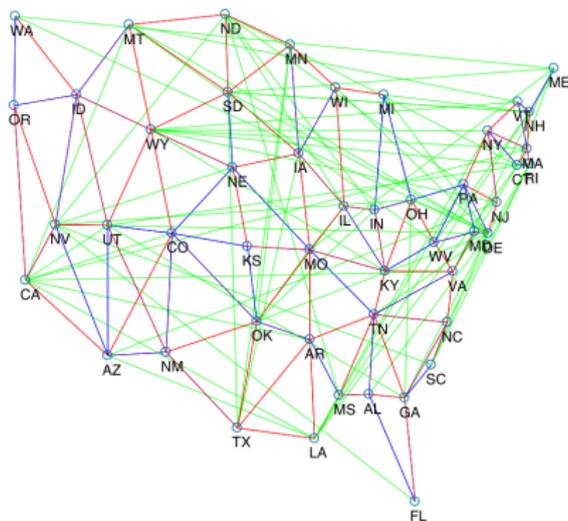
# Empirical Application

Relative to BC network	
Total number of edges	144
... new edges	65
... removed edges	135
Reciprocated edges	29.7%
Clustering	0.0259

green = new edges relative to B&C

blue = existing edges

red = removed edges



- ▶ Large discrepancies between estimated network and geo neighbours
- ▶ Fewer edges relative to Besley and Case
- ▶ Geographically dispersed US tax competition



# Empirical Application

**Table 4: Predicting Links to Economic Neighbors**

Columns 1-7: Linear Probability Model; Column 8: Tobit

Dependent variable (Cols 1-7): =1 if Economic Link Between States Identified

Dependent variable (Col 8): =Weighted Link Between States

Coefficient estimates, standard errors in parentheses

	Geography			Economic and Demographic Homophily	Labor Mobility	Political Homophily	Tax Havens	Tobit, Partial Avg Effects
	(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)	(7)	(8)
Geographic Neighbor	.699*** (.030)		.701*** (.032)	.701*** (.030)	.698*** (.031)	.698*** (.031)	.697*** (.031)	.068*** (.006)
Distance		-.453*** (.033)	-.008 (.024)					
Distance sq.		.0949*** (.007)	.003 (.006)					
GDP Homophily				2.409** (1.183)	2.369* (1.186)	2.296* (1.193)	1.046 (1.150)	.322 (.302)
Demographic Homophily				.222 (.226)	.235 (.226)	.241 (.228)	.256 (.225)	.077 (.067)
Net Migration					.044* (.025)	.044* (.025)	-0.032 (.025)	0.001 (.002)
Political Homophily						-.057 (.042)	-.083** (.042)	-.025* (.014)
Tax Haven Sender							.107*** (.024)	.021*** (.005)
Adjusted R-squared	0.427	0.152	0.427	0.428	0.429	0.429	0.440	-
Observations	2,256	2,256	2,256	2,256	2,256	2,256	2,256	2,256

# Empirical Application

**Table 5: Gubernatorial Term Limits**

Dependent variable: Change in per capital income and corporate taxes

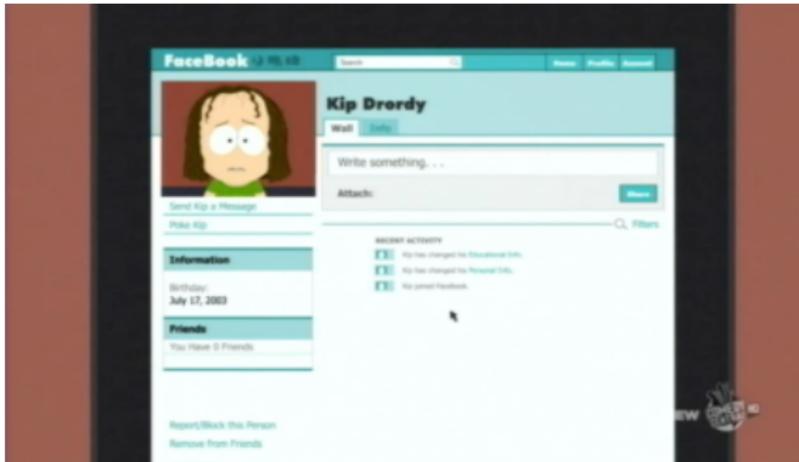
Coefficient estimates, standard errors in parentheses

IVs: Characteristics of Neighbors-of Neighbors

	Penalizing Geographic Neighbors Exogenous Social Effects					
	All Governors		Governor Cannot Run for Re-election		Governor Can Run for Re-election	
	(1) OLS	(2) 2SLS	(3) OLS	(4) 2SLS	(5) OLS	(6) 2SLS
<b>Economic Neighbors' tax change (t - [t-2])</b>	.145** (.072)	.608*** (.220)	.016 (.105)	.937* (.534)	.182** (.084)	.543** (.237)
<b>Period</b>	1962-2015		1962-2015		1962-2015	
<b>First Stage (F-stat, p-value)</b>		.000		.073		.000
<b>Controls</b>	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
<b>State and Year Fixed Effects</b>	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
<b>Observations</b>	2,592	2,592	640	640	1,917	1,917

# Conclusion

- ▶ In this project, we study identification of social connections under standard hypothesis in the literature on social interactions.
- ▶ Sparsity inducing methods can be used for estimation (though further research is welcome!).
- ▶ Empirical application (Besley and Case [1995]).



Thank You!

