

Bayesian statistics, AI, and networks for the analysis of the last French presidential election

Pierre Latouche

✉ pierre.latouche@math.cnrs.fr
🌐 <https://lmbp.uca.fr/~latouche/>
🐦 @latouche_pierre

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Joint work

Joint work with: C. Bouveyron, R. Zreik, C. Ocanto, S. Petiot, R. Boutin

Outline

Introduction

STBM

French presidential election

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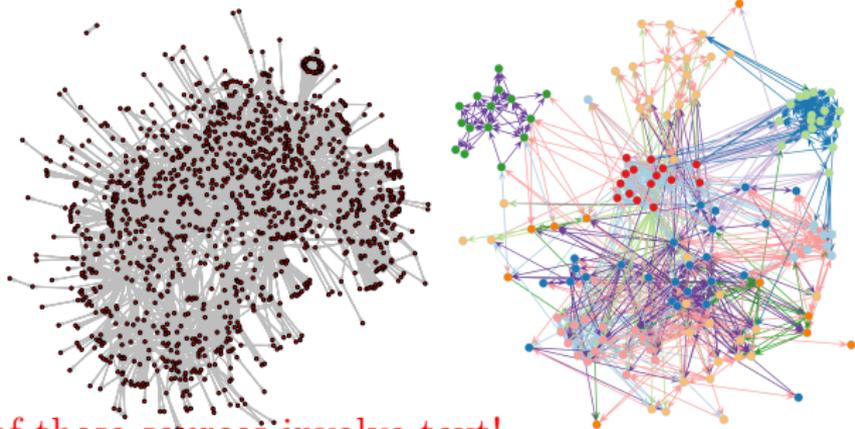
STBM

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Introduction

Networks can be observed **directly or indirectly** from a variety of sources:

- Social websites (Facebook, Twitter, ...),
- Personal emails (from your Gmail, Clinton's mails, ...),
- mails of a company (Enron Email data),
- Digital/numeric documents (Panama papers, co-authorships, ...),
- and even archived documents in libraries (digital humanities).



⇒ most of these sources involve text!

Introduction

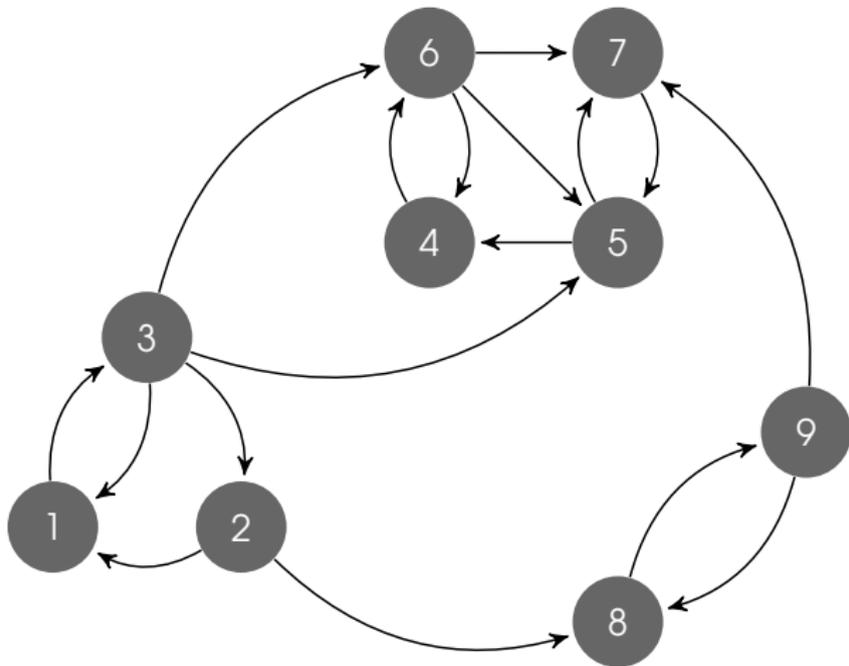


Figure: An (hypothetic) email network between a few individuals.

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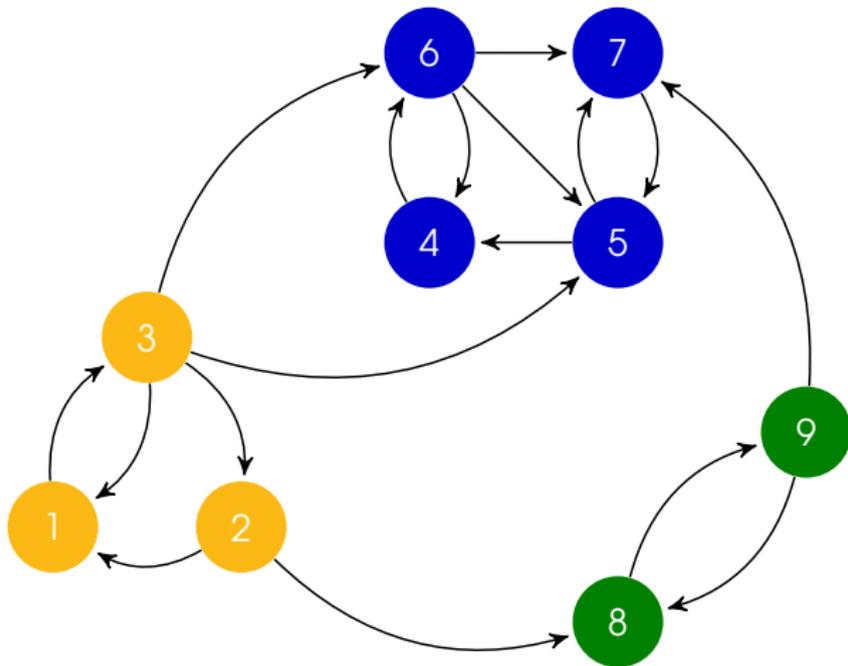


Figure: A typical clustering result for the (directed) binary network.

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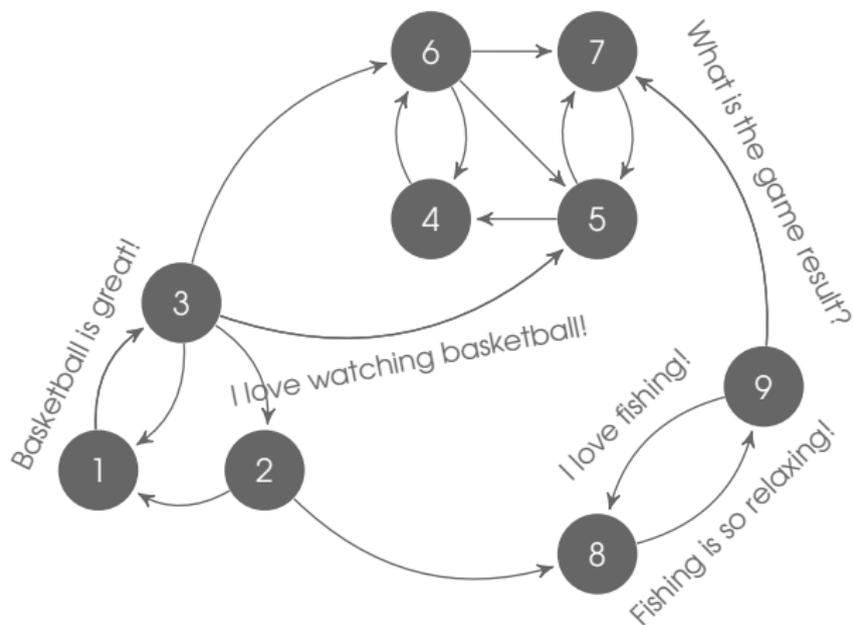


Figure: The (directed) network with textual edges.

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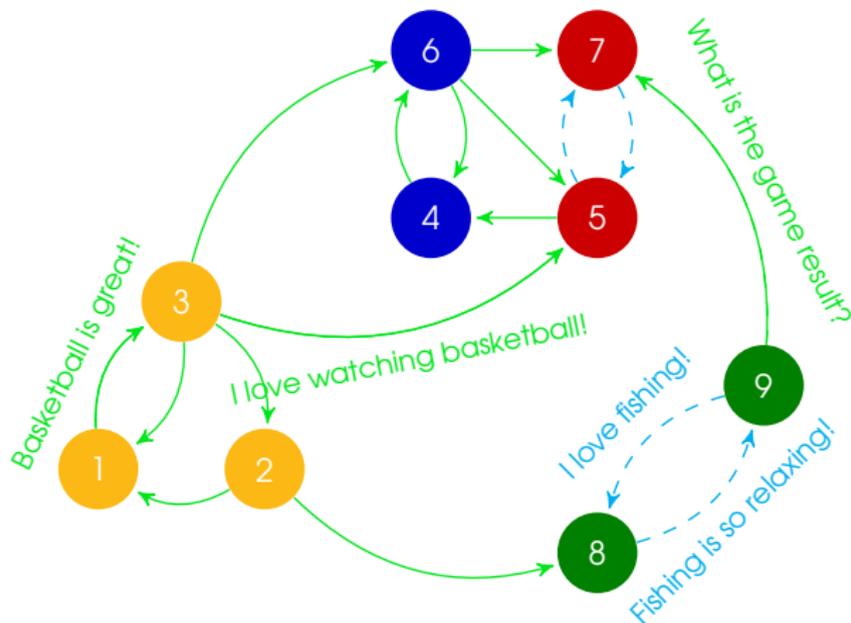


Figure: Expected clustering result for the (directed) network with textual edges.

The stochastic topic block model

the **stochastic topic block model (STBM)** [BLZ16]:

- Generalizes both SBM and LDA models
- Allows to analyze (directed and undirected) networks with textual edges.

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Context and notations

We are interesting in **clustering the nodes of a (directed) network** of M vertices into Q groups:

- The network is represented by its $M \times M$ **adjacency matrix** A :

$$A_{ij} = \begin{cases} 1 & \text{if there is an edge between } i \text{ and } j \\ 0 & \text{otherwise} \end{cases}$$

- If $A_{ij} = 1$, the textual edge is characterized by a set of D_{ij} **documents**:

$$W_{ij} = (W_{ij}^1, \dots, W_{ij}^d, \dots, W_{ij}^{D_{ij}})$$

- Each document W_{ij}^d is made of N_{ij}^d **words**:

$$W_{ij}^d = (W_{ij}^{d1}, \dots, W_{ij}^{dn}, \dots, W_{ij}^{dN_{ij}^d}).$$

Modeling of the edges

Let us assume that edges are generated according to a SBM model:

- Each node i is associated with an (unobserved) group among Q according to:

$$Y_i \sim \mathcal{M}(1, \rho),$$

where $\rho \in [0, 1]^Q$ is the vector of group proportions,

- The presence of an edge A_{ij} between i and j is drawn according to:

$$A_{ij} | Y_{iq} Y_{jr} = 1 \sim \mathcal{B}(\pi_{qr}),$$

where $\pi_{qr} \in [0, 1]$ is the connection probability between clusters q and r .

Modeling of the documents

The generative model for the documents is as follows:

- Each pair of clusters (q, r) is first associated to a **vector of topic proportions** $\theta_{qr} = (\theta_{qrk})_k$ sampled from a Dirichlet distribution:

$$\theta_{qr} \sim \text{Dir}(\alpha),$$

such that $\sum_{k=1}^K \theta_{qrk} = 1, \forall (q, r)$.

- The n th word W_{ij}^{dn} of documents d in W_{ij} is then associated to a **latent topic vector** Z_{ij}^{dn} according to:

$$Z_{ij}^{dn} | \{A_{ij} Y_{iq} Y_{jr} = 1, \theta\} \sim \mathcal{M}(1, \theta_{qr}).$$

- Then, given Z_{ij}^{dn} , the **word** W_{ij}^{dn} is assumed to be drawn from a multinomial distribution:

$$W_{ij}^{dn} | Z_{ij}^{dnk} = 1 \sim \mathcal{M}(1, \beta_k = (\beta_{k1}, \dots, \beta_{kV})),$$

where V is the vocabulary size.

STBM at a glance...

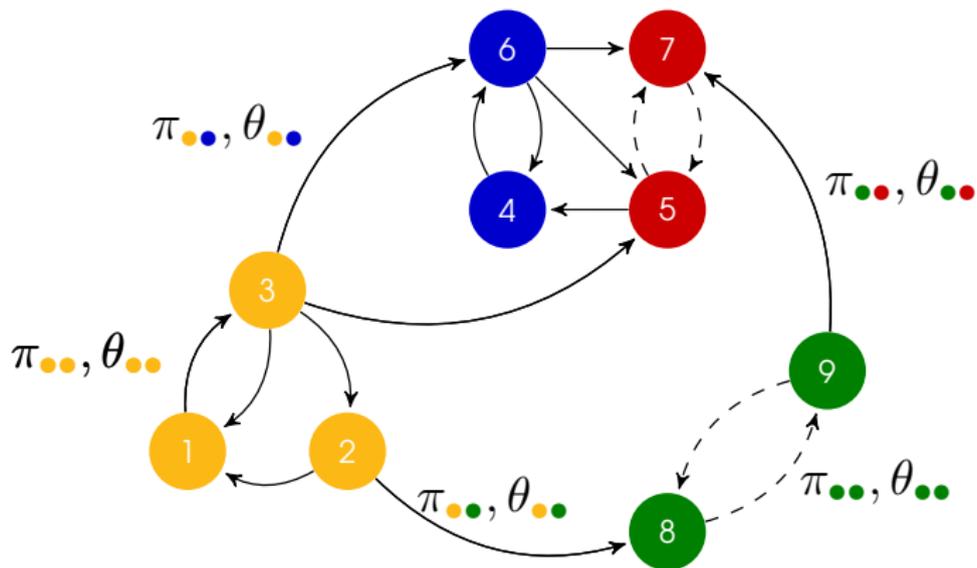


Figure: The stochastic topic block model.

Inference

The **full joint distribution** of the STBM model is given by:

$$p(A, W, Y, Z, \theta | \rho, \pi, \beta) = p(W, Z, \theta | A, Y, \beta) p(A, Y | \rho, \pi).$$

A key property of the STMB model:

- Let us assume that Y is observed (groups are known),
- It is then possible to reorganize the documents $D = \sum_{i,j} D_{ij}$ documents W such that:

$$W = (\tilde{W}_{qr})_{qr} \text{ where } \tilde{W}_{qr} = \left\{ W_{ij}^d, \forall (d, i, j), Y_{iq} Y_{jr} A_{ij} = 1 \right\},$$

- Since all words in \tilde{W}_{qr} are associated with the same pair (q, r) of clusters, they share the same mixture distribution,
- and, simply seeing \tilde{W}_{qr} as a document d , the sampling scheme then corresponds to the one of a LDA model with $D = Q^2$ documents.

Inference

Given the above property of the model, we propose for inference to maximize the **complete data log-likelihood**:

$$\log p(A, W, Y | \rho, \pi, \beta) = \log \sum_Z \int_{\theta} p(A, W, Y, Z, \theta | \rho, \pi, \beta) d\theta,$$

with respect to (ρ, π, β) and $Y = (Y_1, \dots, Y_M)$.

Inference: the C-VEM algorithm

The **C(-V)EM algorithm** makes use of a variational decomposition:

$$\log p(A, W, Y | \rho, \pi, \beta) = \mathcal{L}(R; Y, \rho, \pi, \beta) + \text{KL}(R \| p(\cdot | A, W, Y, \rho, \pi, \beta)),$$

where

$$\mathcal{L}(R(\cdot); Y, \rho, \pi, \beta) = \sum_Z \int_{\theta} R(Z, \theta) \log \frac{p(A, W, Y, Z, \theta | \rho, \pi, \beta)}{R(Z, \theta)} d\theta,$$

and $R(\cdot)$ is assumed to factorize as follows:

$$R(Z, \theta) = R(Z)R(\theta) = R(\theta) \prod_{i \neq j, A_{ij}=1}^M \prod_{d=1}^{D_{ij}} \prod_{n=1}^{N_{ij}^d} R(Z_{ij}^{dn}).$$

Inference: the C-VEM algorithm

The lower bound is given by:

$$\mathcal{L}(R(\cdot); Y, \rho, \pi, \beta) = \tilde{\mathcal{L}}(R(\cdot); Y, \beta) + \log p(A, Y | \rho, \pi),$$

where

$$\tilde{\mathcal{L}}(R(\cdot); Y, \beta) = \sum_Z \int_{\theta} R(Z, \theta) \log \frac{p(W, Z, \theta | A, Y, \beta)}{R(Z, \theta)} d\theta,$$

and $\log p(A, Y | \rho, \pi)$ is the complete data log-likelihood of the SBM model.

Algorithm: maximize the lower bound with respect to $R(\cdot), Y, \rho, \pi, \beta$, in turn

Model selection

- Need to estimate both Q and K

$$\log p(A, W, Y|K, Q) \approx BIC_{LDA|Y}(Y, K, Q) + ICL_{SBM}(Y, Q),$$

where

$$ICL_{SBM} = \max_{\rho, \pi} \log p(A, Y|\rho, \pi, Q) - \frac{Q^2}{2} \log M(M-1) - \frac{Q-1}{2} \log M,$$

and

$$BIC_{LDA|Y} = \max_{\beta} \tilde{\mathcal{L}} - \frac{K(V-1)}{2} \log Q^2.$$

- BIC here: Laplace (Schwarz, G., 1978) + variational approximation
- ICL: as in Biernacki et al. (2000): Stirling + Laplace

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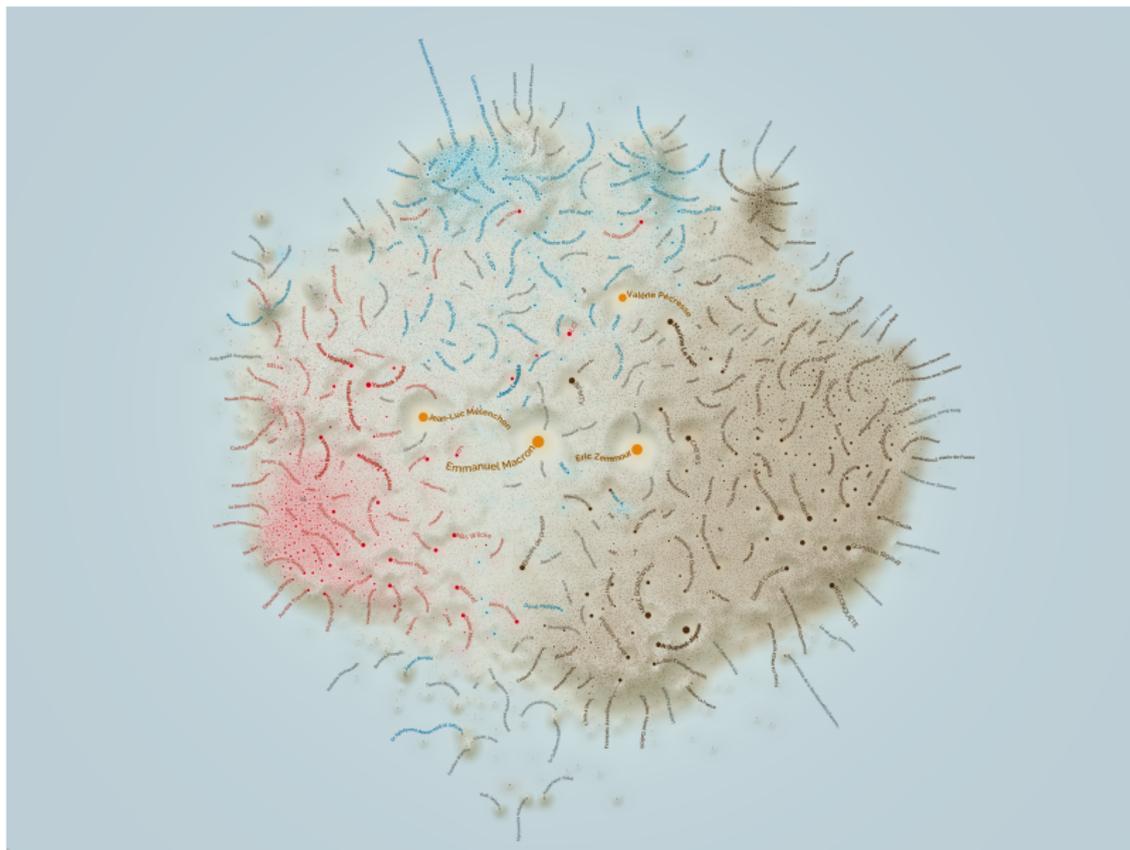
French presidential election

- Analysis of the last French presidential election
- Team:
 - Linkfluence a Meltwater company: G.Fouetillou
 - Linkage: CO, SP, CB, PL
 - M. Jacomy, TANT-lab, Copenhagen
 - 5 journalists of LeMonde : N. Chapuis, M. Goar, S. Auffret, S. Laurent, A. Mestre
- Data:
 - All tweets mentioning at least one of the twelve candidates between the 4th and the 21st of March 2022
 - 11.6 million tweets
 - 53.6%: negative
 - 31.5%: neutrals
 - 14.7%: positive

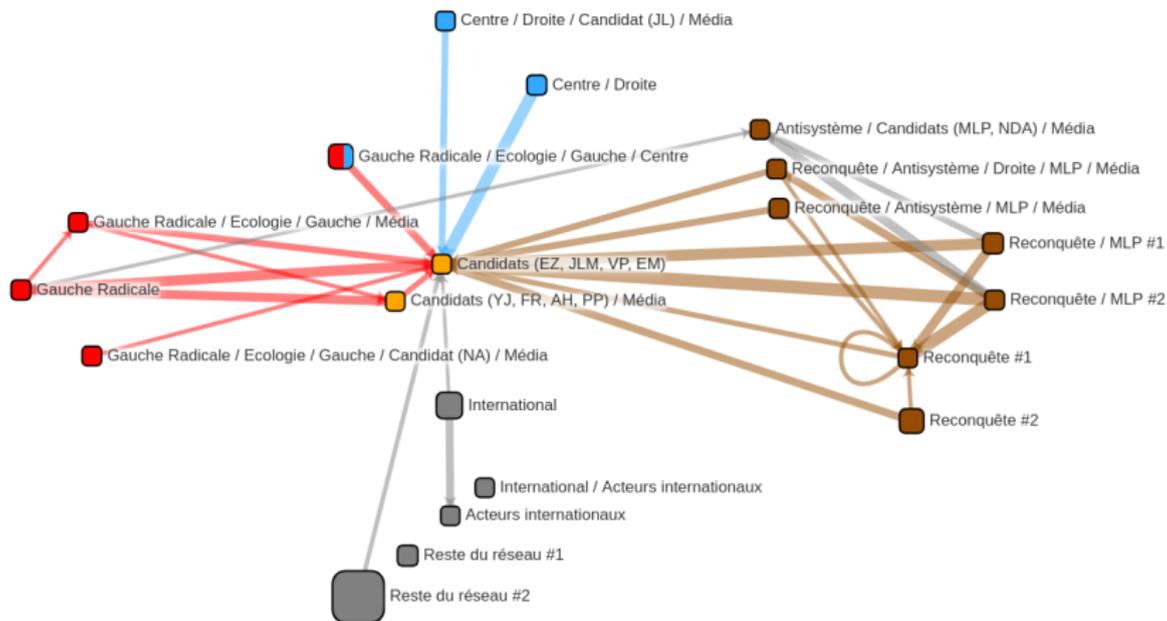
Data

- Nodes = Twitter accounts
- An (directed) edge between two accounts is present if one mentioned or retweeted the other
- If an edge is present, we consider the full text (stacking) of all corresponding tweets
- Focus of the main connected component: 53774 nodes. 597484 edges
- NLP preprocessing
- Look for $Q = 20$ clusters and $K = 8$ with Linkage

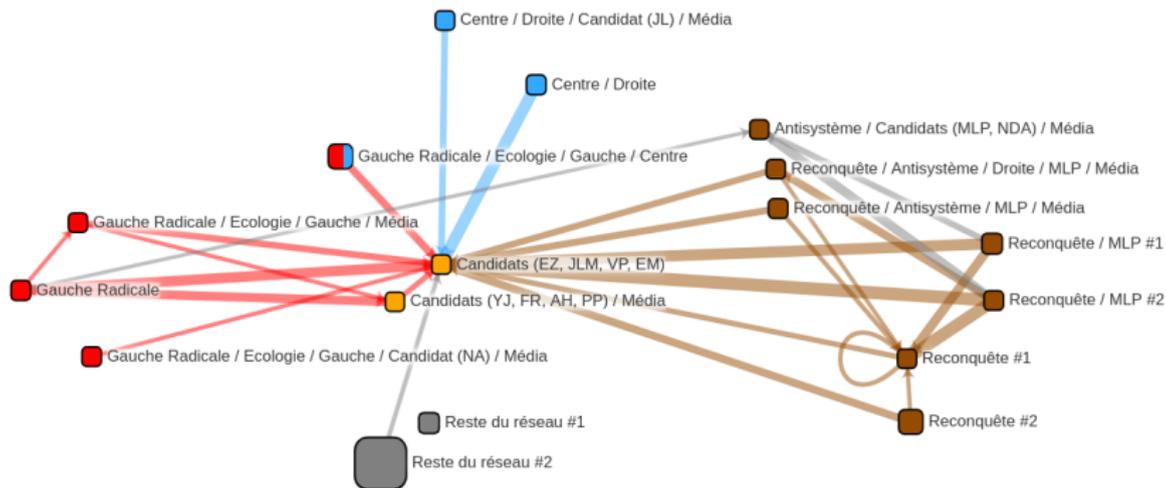
The network



The meta network



The meta network



Conclusions (in short)

- Main core: EZ, JLM, VP, EM
- Second main core: YJ, FR, AH, PP
- Left wing: LFI
- Right wing: Reconquête
- In grey: no connectivity clusters. No statistical decision. In particular: international actors
- Reconquête: use of political astroturfing techniques
- Winner: Reconquête
- Weights:
 - removing the international clusters: Ext Droite: 20%. Gauche radicale: 13%
 - removing all accounts (grey) with no connectivity structures: Ext Droite: 51%. Gauche radicale: 34%

Articles

- A. Mestre, “Eric Zemmour, nouveau président de la fachosphère ?”. In: LeMonde (2022), p1. and p. 16-17 **[link]**.
- S. Laurent, “Comment la gauche sociale-démocrate a perdu la bataille des réseaux sociaux”. In: LeMonde (2022), p. 16-17 **[link]**
- S. Auffret, “Brigitte Macron et Jean-Michel Trogneux, itéraire d’une infox délirante”. In: LeMonde (2022), p. 16-17 **[link]**
- M. Goar, N. Chapuis, “Présidentielle 2022 : faut-il se couper de Twitter, huis clos politique devenu hostile ?”. In: LeMonde (2022), p. 1 and p. 16-19 **[link]**

Conclusion

- STBM: allows to model networks with textual edges
- Extension: ETSBM with ETM / variational auto-encoders
- C-VEM algorithm for inference
- Model selection criterion
- Find clusters of nodes and topics of discussions
- Analysis of the French presidential election

Biblio (1)

-  Charles Bouveyron, Pierre Latouche, and Rawya Zreik, *The stochastic topic block model for the clustering of vertices in networks with textual edges*, *Statistics and Computing* (2016), 1–21.