## The condensation threshold in stochastic block models

Joe Neeman (with Jess Banks, Cris Moore, Praneeth Netrapalli)
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## Stochastic block model $\mathcal{G}(n, k, a, b)$

1. $n$ nodes, $k$ colors, about $n / k$ nodes of each color
2. connect $u$ to $v$ with probability $\begin{cases}\frac{a}{n} & \text { if the same color } \\ \frac{b}{n} & \text { if different colors }\end{cases}$


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## Definition

$\left(G_{n}, \sigma_{n}\right) \sim \mathcal{G}(n, k, a, b)$ is detectable if there exists $\epsilon>0$ and maps $A_{n}:\{$ graphs $\} \rightarrow$ \{labellings $\}$ such that

$$
\liminf _{n \rightarrow \infty} \operatorname{Pr}\left(\mathrm{O}_{\operatorname{lap}}\left(\sigma_{n}, A_{n}\left(G_{n}\right)\right)>\epsilon\right)>\epsilon .
$$

Otherwise it is undetectable.

## Problem II: distinguishing

Given the (uncolored) graph, did it come from $\mathcal{G}(n, k, a, b)$ or $\mathcal{G}\left(n, \frac{d}{n}\right)$, where $d=\frac{a+(k-1) b}{k}$ ?

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Sequences $\mathbb{P}_{n}$ and $\mathbb{Q}_{n}$ of probability measures are

- contiguous if $\mathbb{P}_{n}\left(A_{n}\right) \rightarrow 0$ iff $\mathbb{Q}_{n}\left(A_{n}\right) \rightarrow 0$
- orthogonal if $\exists A_{n}$ with $\mathbb{P}_{n}\left(A_{n}\right) \rightarrow 0$ and $\mathbb{Q}_{n}\left(A_{n}\right) \rightarrow 1$.


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Say that $\mathcal{G}(n, k, a, b)$ is

- distinguishable if it is orthogonal to $\mathcal{G}\left(n, \frac{d}{n}\right)$
- indistinguishable if it is contiguous with $\mathcal{G}\left(n, \frac{d}{n}\right)$


## Better parametrization

- $\frac{a}{n}=$ within-block edge probability
- $\frac{b}{n}=$ between-block edge probability
- $k=$ number of blocks

$$
\begin{aligned}
d & =\frac{a+(k-1) b}{k} \\
\lambda & =\frac{a-b}{a+(k-1) b}
\end{aligned}
$$

Note $\lambda \in\left[-\frac{1}{R-1}, 1\right]$.

Phase diagram for $k=2$
undetectable,
indistinguishable
(Mossel/N/Sly, Massoulié)

## Conjectured phase diagram for $k=20$

distinguishable
(Decelle, Krzakala, Moore, Zdeborova)

What we know for $k=20$


Theorem (Banks/Moore/N/Netrapalli)

$$
\begin{aligned}
d^{+} & =\frac{2 k \log k}{(1+(k-1) \lambda) \log (1+(k-1) \lambda)+(k-1)(1-\lambda) \log (1-\lambda)} \\
d^{-} & =\frac{2 \log (k-1)}{\lambda^{2}(k-1)}
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$$
\lim _{k \rightarrow \infty} \frac{d^{+}}{d^{-}}=\frac{\mu^{2}}{(1+\mu) \log (1+\mu)-\mu} \text { where } \mu=\frac{a-b}{d}
$$

If $\mu \approx \pm 1$ and $\lim _{k \rightarrow \infty} \frac{d^{+}}{d^{-}} \approx 1$ (planted coloring / giant)

The proofs
detectable (quickly), distinguishable
(Bordenave/Lelarge/Massoulié, Abbe/Sandon)
. 0 - undetectable, indistinguishable (this work)

$d$

## Detecting/distinguishing inefficiently

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Abbe/Sandon improved this for small $d$ by taking the giant
component and pruning trees.



## Indistinguishability

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\frac{d \mathbb{P}_{n}}{d \mathbb{Q}_{n}}=\frac{k^{-n} \sum_{\sigma} \prod_{E} \frac{a \text { or } b}{n} \prod_{E^{c}}\left(1-\frac{a \text { or } b}{n}\right)}{\prod_{E} \frac{d}{n} \prod_{E^{c}}\left(1-\frac{d}{n}\right)}
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$\left(\frac{d \mathbb{P}_{n}}{d \mathbb{Q}_{n}}\right)^{2}=R^{-2 n} \sum_{\sigma, \tau} \prod_{E} \frac{(a \text { or } b)(a \text { or } b)}{d^{2}} \prod_{E^{c}} \frac{\left(1-\frac{a \text { or } b}{n}\right)\left(1-\frac{a \text { or } b}{n}\right)}{\left(1-\frac{d}{n}\right)^{2}}$

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Under $\mathbb{Q}_{n}$, the events $(u, v) \in E$ are all independent, so can compute:

$$
\mathbb{E}_{\mathbb{Q}_{n}}\left(\frac{d \mathbb{P}_{n}}{d \mathbb{Q}_{n}}\right)^{2}=C(1+o(1)) \mathbb{E} \exp \left(X^{\top} B X\right)
$$

where $X$ is a multinomial vector of length $k^{2}$.

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Replacing multinomials with Gaussians,

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Achlioptas-Naor: sufficient condition for the maximum to be at $x=\mathbb{E} X$. (They were studying planted colorings.)

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For the other direction ( $\left.\mathbb{P}_{n}\left(A_{n}\right) \rightarrow 0 \Rightarrow \mathbb{Q}_{n}\left(A_{n}\right) \rightarrow 0\right)$, want to show $\frac{d \mathbb{P}_{n}}{d \mathbb{Q}_{n}}$ bounded away from zero.

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Main thing to check: convergence of second moment.

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Similar to previous second moment computation.

## Summary

Indistinguishability and undetectability follow from an explicit second moment calculation. Use Achlioptas-Naor to estimate the set of parameters where the second moment is finite.



Thank you!

