

# A Spike-and-Slab Prior for Dimension Selection in Generalized Linear Network Eigenmodels

---

Joshua Daniel Loyal

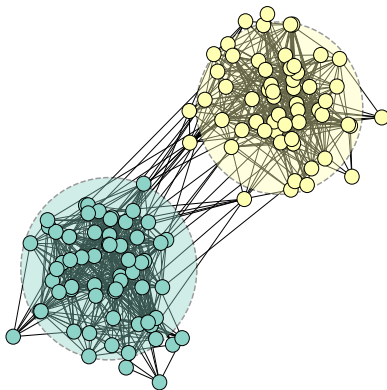
jloyal@fsu.edu

Department of Statistics  
Florida State University

ICSA 2023

June 12th, 2023

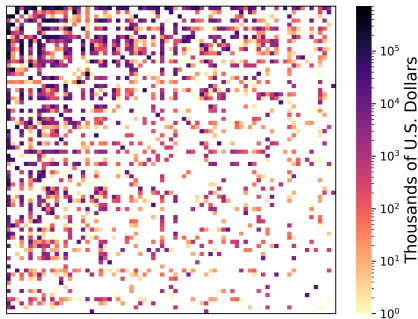
Joint work with Yuguo Chen @ UIUC



# Network Data

A symmetric  $n \times n$  adjacency matrix  $\mathbf{Y}$  with entries  $\{Y_{ij} : 1 \leq i, j \leq n\}$  that describe the relations between pairs of entities, or nodes. The edge variables  $Y_{ij}$  can be binary (0/1) or real-valued, that is, weighted.

## International Trade of Bananas in 2018<sup>1</sup>



$Y_{ij}$  = amount of trade in bananas between nation  $i$  or nation  $j$  in 2018.

<sup>1</sup>Data taken from the BACI database curated by the CEPII.

# The Statistical Problem (Edge-Variable Regression)

**Goal:** Understand the relationship between the edge-variables  $Y_{ij}$  and dyadic covariates  $\{\mathbf{x}_{ij} \in \mathbb{R}^p : 1 \leq i, j \leq n\}$  by modeling  $\mathbb{E}[Y_{ij} \mid \mathbf{x}_{ij}]$ , e.g.,

**The Gravity Model of Trade (Tinbergen, 1962; Anderson, 1979):**

$$\log(\mathbb{E}[Y_{ij} \mid \mathbf{x}_{ij}]) = \beta_1 [\log(\text{GDP}_i) + \log(\text{GDP}_j)] + \beta_2 \log(\text{Dist}_{ij}) + \sum_{k=3}^p \beta_k x_{ij,k}.$$

# The Statistical Problem (Edge-Variable Regression)

**Goal:** Understand the relationship between the edge-variables  $Y_{ij}$  and dyadic covariates  $\{\mathbf{x}_{ij} \in \mathbb{R}^p : 1 \leq i, j \leq n\}$  by modeling  $\mathbb{E}[Y_{ij} \mid \mathbf{x}_{ij}]$ , e.g.,

**The Gravity Model of Trade (Tinbergen, 1962; Anderson, 1979):**

$$\log(\mathbb{E}[Y_{ij} \mid \mathbf{x}_{ij}]) = \beta_1 [\log(\text{GDP}_i) + \log(\text{GDP}_j)] + \beta_2 \log(\text{Dist}_{ij}) + \sum_{k=3}^p \beta_k x_{ij,k}.$$

**Issues:** Traditional conditional independence assumptions always breakdown due to strong network dependencies such as degree, transitivity, and clustering effects.

**Solution:** Introduce latent variables in the form of latent variable network models that capture residual network structure.

# Latent Space Models (LSMs) for Networks (Hoff et al., 2002)

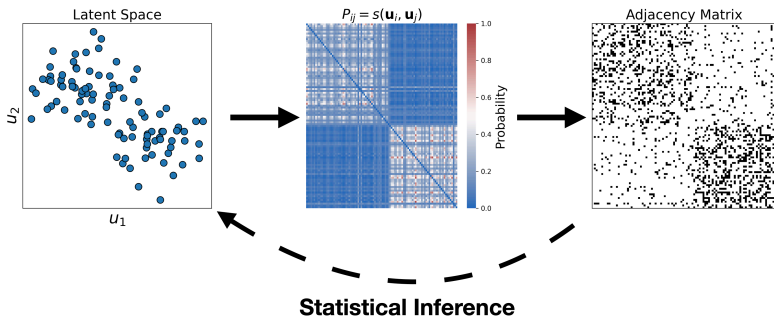
- Nodes are represented with latent positions in  $\mathbb{R}^d$

$$\mathbf{U} = (\mathbf{u}_1, \dots, \mathbf{u}_n)^\top \in \mathbb{R}^{n \times d}.$$

- Edges are conditionally independent given latent positions

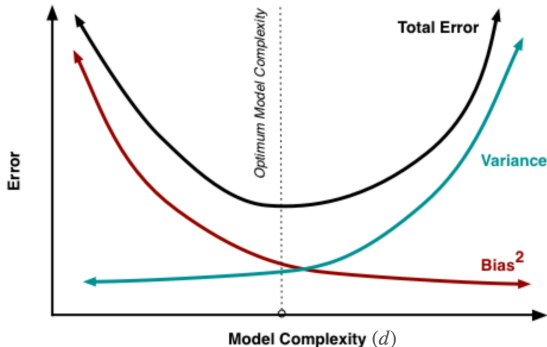
$$Y_{ij} \mid \mathbf{U} \stackrel{\text{ind.}}{\sim} Q(s(\mathbf{u}_i, \mathbf{u}_j)).$$

- Example:  $Y_{ij} \mid \mathbf{U} \stackrel{\text{ind.}}{\sim} \text{Bernoulli}(s(\mathbf{u}_i, \mathbf{u}_j))$ :



# How Do We Choose the Dimension of the Latent Space?

Model complexity is controlled by  $d \Rightarrow$  a bias-variance trade-off.



As  $d$  increases, the model can capture more network structure (lower bias), but results in more estimable parameters (higher variance).

## Previous Approaches

- **Information Criterion:** AIC, BIC, DIC, WAIC, etc.  
Computationally intensive. No theoretical guarantees or post-selection uncertainty quantification.
- **Data Splitting:** K-fold cross-validation ([Hoff, 2005](#); [Li et al., 2020](#)).  
Computationally intensive. Restricted theoretical guarantees (no covariates). No post-selection uncertainty quantification.
- **Bayesian Priors** ([Durante and Dunson, 2014](#); [Guhaniyogi and Rodriguez, 2020](#); [Guha and Rodriguez, 2021](#); [Gwee et al., 2022](#)):  
No theoretical guarantees. Penalization of increasing model complexity only holds in prior expectation. Does this penalization penetrate through to the posterior? How to set hyperparameters?

# Outline of Contributions

A Bayesian LSM with theoretical grounded dimension selection for many edge-variable types (binary, ordinal, non-negative continuous).

1. Generalized Linear Network Eigenmodels (GLNEMs)
2. The Non-Homogeneous Spike-and-Slab Indian Buffet Process
3. Theoretical Results on Dimension Selection
4. Simulation Study
5. Application to the International Banana Trade Network



# Generalized Linear Network Eigenmodels (GLNEMs)

## Generalized Linear Network Eigenmodels (Systematic Component)

For  $1 \leq i \leq j \leq n$  and some strictly increasing link function  $g$ ,

$$g(\mathbb{E}[Y_{ij} \mid \mathbf{x}_{ij}]) = \boldsymbol{\beta}^\top \mathbf{x}_{ij} + [\mathbf{U}\boldsymbol{\Lambda}\mathbf{U}^\top]_{ij} = \boldsymbol{\beta}^\top \mathbf{x}_{ij} + \mathbf{u}_i^\top \boldsymbol{\Lambda} \mathbf{u}_j.$$

- Covariate effects:  $\boldsymbol{\beta} \in \mathbb{R}^p$ .
- Latent positions:  $\mathbf{U} \in \bar{\mathcal{V}}_{d,n} = \{\mathbf{U} \in \mathbb{R}^{n \times d} : \mathbf{U}^\top \mathbf{U} = \mathbf{I}_d, \mathbf{U}^\top \mathbf{1}_n = \mathbf{0}_d\}$ .  
 $\bar{\mathcal{V}}_{d,n}$  is the set of *centered semi-orthogonal matrices*.
- Assortativity matrix:  $\boldsymbol{\Lambda} = \text{diag}(\lambda_1, \dots, \lambda_d) \in \mathbb{R}^{d \times d}$ .
- $\beta_k$  and  $\lambda_h$  quantify the amount of assortative (or disassortativity) associated with the  $k$ -th dyadic covariate and  $h$ -th latent feature.

# Generalized Linear Network Eigenmodels (GLNEMs)

## Generalized Linear Network Eigenmodels (Random Component)

For  $1 \leq i \leq j \leq n$ ,

$$Y_{ij} = Y_{ji} \mid \mathbf{x}_{ij} \stackrel{\text{ind.}}{\sim} Q\left\{\cdot \mid g^{-1}\left(\boldsymbol{\beta}^\top \mathbf{x}_{ij} + [\mathbf{U}\boldsymbol{\Lambda}\mathbf{U}^\top]_{ij}\right), \phi\right\},$$

where  $Q(\cdot \mid \mu, \phi)$  is a member of the exponential dispersion family with mean  $\mu$  and dispersion factor  $\phi$ . That is,  $Y_{ij}$  has a density

$$q(y_{ij}; \theta_{ij}, \phi) = \exp\left\{\frac{y_{ij}\theta_{ij} - b(\theta_{ij})}{\phi} + k(y_{ij}, \phi)\right\},$$

where  $\theta_{ij}$  is the natural parameter and  $b$  and  $k$  are known functions, such that,  $g(b'(\theta_{ij})) = g(\mathbb{E}[Y_{ij} \mid \mathbf{x}_{ij}]) = \boldsymbol{\beta}^\top \mathbf{x}_{ij} + \mathbf{u}_i^\top \boldsymbol{\Lambda} \mathbf{u}_j$ .

**Note:** GLNEMs allows for non-canonical link functions and dispersion.

# Dimension Selection Through Sparsity

Assume under the true model:

$$g(\mathbb{E}[Y_{ij} \mid \mathbf{x}_{ij}]) = \beta_0^\top \mathbf{x}_{ij} + [\mathbf{U}_0 \mathbf{\Lambda}_0 \mathbf{U}_0^\top]_{ij}, \quad \text{with}$$

$$\beta_0 \in \mathbb{R}^p, \quad \mathbf{U}_0 \in \bar{\mathcal{V}}_{d_0, n}, \quad \mathbf{\Lambda}_0 = \text{diag}(\boldsymbol{\lambda}_0) \in \mathbb{R}^{d_0 \times d_0} \text{ with } \|\mathbf{\Lambda}_0\|_0 = d_0.$$

We can embed this model in a higher dimensional model with  $d \geq d_0$ .

# Dimension Selection Through Sparsity

Assume under the true model:

$$g(\mathbb{E}[Y_{ij} \mid \mathbf{x}_{ij}]) = \beta_0^\top \mathbf{x}_{ij} + [\mathbf{U}_0 \mathbf{\Lambda}_0 \mathbf{U}_0^\top]_{ij}, \quad \text{with}$$

$$\beta_0 \in \mathbb{R}^p, \quad \mathbf{U}_0 \in \bar{\mathcal{V}}_{d_0, n}, \quad \mathbf{\Lambda}_0 = \text{diag}(\boldsymbol{\lambda}_0) \in \mathbb{R}^{d_0 \times d_0} \text{ with } \|\mathbf{\Lambda}_0\|_0 = d_0.$$

We can embed this model in a higher dimensional model with  $d \geq d_0$ .

Let  $\mathbf{U} = \begin{bmatrix} \mathbf{U}_0 & \mathbf{U}_1 \end{bmatrix} \in \bar{\mathcal{V}}_{d, n}$  and  $\mathbf{\Lambda} = \text{diag}(\boldsymbol{\lambda}_0, \mathbf{0}_{(d-d_0)})$ , then

$$\mathbf{U} \mathbf{\Lambda} \mathbf{U}^\top = \begin{bmatrix} \mathbf{U}_0 & \mathbf{U}_1 \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} \mathbf{\Lambda}_0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} \mathbf{U}_0^\top \\ \mathbf{U}_1^\top \end{bmatrix} = \mathbf{U}_0 \mathbf{\Lambda}_0 \mathbf{U}_0^\top.$$

**Note:** Likelihood is invariant to column permutations.

# Prior Structure for Bayesian Inference

**Idea:** Take a Bayesian approach and construct a prior that induces posterior zeros in  $\Lambda$ . Two remaining challenges:

1.  $\Lambda \sim \Pi(\Lambda)$ :

*What prior induces an ordering constraint and posterior zeros?*

2.  $\mathbf{U} \sim \Pi(\mathbf{U})$ :

*What is an appropriate prior on  $\bar{\mathcal{V}}_{d,n}$  that allows for computationally efficient inference for a variety of GLNEMs?*

## A Spike-and-Slab Indian Buffet Process (SS-IBP) Prior

Propose the following prior for a collection of random variables  $\{\eta_h\}_{h=1}^d$ . Similar priors in [Ročková and George \(2016\)](#) and [Ohn and Kim \(2022\)](#).

The Non-Homogeneous SS-IBP Truncated at  $d$ :

$\text{SS-IBP}_d(\alpha, \kappa, \mathbb{P}_{\text{spike}}, \mathbb{P}_{\text{slab}})$

$$\eta_h \mid \theta_h \stackrel{\text{ind.}}{\sim} \theta_h \mathbb{P}_{\text{slab}} + (1 - \theta_h) \mathbb{P}_{\text{spike}}, \quad \theta_h = \prod_{\ell=1}^h \nu_\ell, \quad h = 1, \dots, d,$$

$$\nu_1 \stackrel{\text{ind.}}{\sim} \text{Beta}(\alpha, \kappa + 1), \quad \nu_\ell \stackrel{\text{iid}}{\sim} \text{Beta}(\alpha, 1), \quad \ell = 2, \dots, d,$$

where  $\alpha > 0$  and  $\kappa \geq 0$ . Forces  $\theta_1 > \theta_2 > \dots > \theta_d$ .

# A Spike-and-Slab Indian Buffet Process (SS-IBP) Prior

Propose the following prior for a collection of random variables  $\{\eta_h\}_{h=1}^d$ . Similar priors in [Ročková and George \(2016\)](#) and [Ohn and Kim \(2022\)](#).

The Non-Homogeneous SS-IBP Truncated at  $d$ :

SS-IBP $_d(\alpha, \kappa, \mathbb{P}_{\text{spike}}, \mathbb{P}_{\text{slab}})$

$$\eta_h \mid \theta_h \stackrel{\text{ind.}}{\sim} \theta_h \mathbb{P}_{\text{slab}} + (1 - \theta_h) \mathbb{P}_{\text{spike}}, \quad \theta_h = \prod_{\ell=1}^h \nu_\ell, \quad h = 1, \dots, d,$$

$$\nu_1 \stackrel{\text{ind.}}{\sim} \text{Beta}(\alpha, \kappa + 1), \quad \nu_\ell \stackrel{\text{iid}}{\sim} \text{Beta}(\alpha, 1), \quad \ell = 2, \dots, d,$$

where  $\alpha > 0$  and  $\kappa \geq 0$ . Forces  $\theta_1 > \theta_2 > \dots > \theta_d$ .

$$\begin{array}{c} \theta_1 = \nu_1 \quad \mathbb{E}[\theta_1] = \alpha/(\alpha + \kappa + 1) \\ \hline \theta_2 = \nu_2 \theta_1 \\ \hline \theta_3 = \nu_3 \theta_2 \\ \hline \vdots \\ \hline \theta_d = \nu_d \theta_{d-1} \end{array}$$

# A Spike-and-Slab Indian Buffet Process (SS-IBP) Prior

Propose the following prior for a collection of random variables  $\{\eta_h\}_{h=1}^d$ .  
Similar priors in [Ročková and George \(2016\)](#) and [Ohn and Kim \(2022\)](#).

The Non-Homogeneous SS-IBP Truncated at  $d$ :

SS-IBP $_d(\alpha, \kappa, \mathbb{P}_{\text{spike}}, \mathbb{P}_{\text{slab}})$

$$\eta_h \mid \theta_h \stackrel{\text{ind.}}{\sim} \theta_h \mathbb{P}_{\text{slab}} + (1 - \theta_h) \mathbb{P}_{\text{spike}}, \quad \theta_h = \prod_{\ell=1}^h \nu_\ell, \quad h = 1, \dots, d,$$

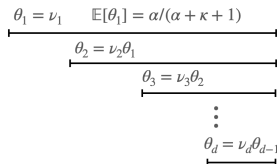
$$\nu_1 \stackrel{\text{ind.}}{\sim} \text{Beta}(\alpha, \kappa + 1), \quad \nu_\ell \stackrel{\text{iid}}{\sim} \text{Beta}(\alpha, 1), \quad \ell = 2, \dots, d,$$

where  $\alpha > 0$  and  $\kappa \geq 0$ . Forces  $\theta_1 > \theta_2 > \dots > \theta_d$ .

$\alpha, \kappa$  controls size of  $\mathbb{E}[\theta_1] = \alpha/(\alpha + \kappa + 1)$ .

$\alpha$  controls rate of shrinkage:

$$\mathbb{E}[\theta_h] = \mathbb{E}[\theta_1] \times [\alpha/(\alpha + 1)]^{h-1}.$$





# Stochastic Ordering Under the SS-IBP $_d(\alpha, \kappa, \mathbb{P}_{spike}, \mathbb{P}_{slab})$

Ordering of  $\{\theta_h\}_{h=1}^d$  induces a stochastic ordering of  $\{\eta_h\}_{h=1}^d$ .

## Proposition 1

For  $\epsilon > 0$  and fixed  $\eta_0 \in \mathbb{R}$ , let  $\mathbb{B}_\epsilon(\eta_0) = \{\eta : |\eta - \eta_0| \leq \epsilon\}$  denote the  $\epsilon$ -ball centered at  $\eta_0$ . Under the SS-IBP $_d(\alpha, \kappa, \mathbb{P}_{spike}, \mathbb{P}_{slab})$ , if

$$\mathbb{P}_{slab}(\mathbb{B}_\epsilon(\eta_0)) < \mathbb{P}_{spike}(\mathbb{B}_\epsilon(\eta_0)),$$

then

$$\mathbb{P}(|\eta_h - \eta_0| \leq \epsilon) < \mathbb{P}(|\eta_{h+1} - \eta_0| \leq \epsilon).$$

# Stochastic Ordering Under the SS-IBP $_d(\alpha, \kappa, \mathbb{P}_{spike}, \mathbb{P}_{slab})$

Ordering of  $\{\theta_h\}_{h=1}^d$  induces a stochastic ordering of  $\{\eta_h\}_{h=1}^d$ .

## Proposition 1

For  $\epsilon > 0$  and fixed  $\eta_0 \in \mathbb{R}$ , let  $\mathbb{B}_\epsilon(\eta_0) = \{\eta : |\eta - \eta_0| \leq \epsilon\}$  denote the  $\epsilon$ -ball centered at  $\eta_0$ . Under the SS-IBP $_d(\alpha, \kappa, \mathbb{P}_{spike}, \mathbb{P}_{slab})$ , if

$$\mathbb{P}_{slab}(\mathbb{B}_\epsilon(\eta_0)) < \mathbb{P}_{spike}(\mathbb{B}_\epsilon(\eta_0)),$$

then

$$\mathbb{P}(|\eta_h - \eta_0| \leq \epsilon) < \mathbb{P}(|\eta_{h+1} - \eta_0| \leq \epsilon).$$

**Remark:** Set  $\eta_0 = 0$ , then  $|\eta_{h+1}|$  is stochastically less than  $|\eta_h|$ :

$$\mathbb{P}(|\eta_1| \leq \epsilon) < \mathbb{P}(|\eta_2| \leq \epsilon) < \cdots < \mathbb{P}(|\eta_d| \leq \epsilon).$$

## An SS-IBP Prior for $\Lambda$ in GLNEMs

We place a non-homogeneous spike-and-slab IBP prior on  $\Lambda$ :

$$\begin{aligned} (\lambda_1, \dots, \lambda_d) &\sim \text{SS-IBP}_d(\alpha, \kappa, \mathbb{P}_{\text{spike}}, \mathbb{P}_{\text{slab}}) \quad \text{with} \\ \mathbb{P}_{\text{spike}} &= \delta_0, \quad \mathbb{P}_{\text{slab}} = \text{Laplace}(\mathbf{b}). \end{aligned}$$

**Corollary 1.** For any  $\epsilon > 0$ ,  $\mathbb{P}(|\lambda_h| \leq \epsilon) < \mathbb{P}(|\lambda_{h+1}| \leq \epsilon)$ .

**Note:** In practice, we represent this process as an exponential scale mixture ([Park and Casella, 2008](#)) with binary indicator variables  $Z_1, \dots, Z_d$ .

# Theoretical Results on Dimension Selection

Assume  $\mathbf{Y}$  is drawn from a GLNEM with true latent space dimension  $d_0$  and true parameters  $\{\beta_0, \mathbf{U}_0, \mathbf{\Lambda}_0\}$ , i.e.,

$$Y_{ij} = Y_{ji} \stackrel{\text{ind.}}{\sim} Q \left\{ \cdot \mid \mathbf{g}^{-1} \left( \beta_0^\top \mathbf{x}_{ij} + [\mathbf{U}_0 \mathbf{\Lambda}_0 \mathbf{U}_0^\top]_{ij} \right), \phi \right\}, \quad 1 \leq i \leq j \leq n$$

$$\beta_0 \in \mathbb{R}^p, \quad \mathbf{U}_0 \in \bar{\mathcal{V}}_{d_0, n}, \quad \mathbf{\Lambda}_0 \in \mathbb{R}^{d_0 \times d_0} \text{ with } \|\mathbf{\Lambda}_0\|_0 = d_0.$$

Let  $\mathbb{E}_0^{(n)}$  denote the expectation under this model.

**Setup:** Since  $d_0$  often grows with  $n$ , we allow  $d \rightarrow \infty$  in the  $\text{SS-IBP}_d$  prior with the hope that the posterior  $\mathbb{P}(\|\mathbf{\Lambda}\|_0 \mid \mathbf{Y})$  concentrates near  $d_0$ .

**Question:** Any theoretical guarantee that the posterior will not overfit?

## Some Assumptions

- A1. (Growth of  $d$  with  $n$ )  $d = \lceil n^\gamma \rceil$  for some  $\gamma \in (0, 1]$ ,
- A2. (Growth of  $d_0$ )  $d_0 = o(\log d)$ ,
- A3. (Bounded scale parameter)  $b = O(d)$ ,
- A4. (Bounded  $\Lambda_0$ )  $\|\Lambda_0\|_\infty \leq K_\lambda$  for some  $K_\lambda > 0$ ,
- A5. (Bounded latent space)  $\max_{1 \leq i \leq n} \|\mathbf{u}_{0,i}\|_2 \leq K_u$  for some  $K_u > 0$ ,
- A6. (Bounded covariate effects)  $\|\beta\|_2 \leq K_\beta$  for some  $K_\beta > 0$ ,
- A7. (Bounded covariates)  $\max_{1 \leq i \leq j \leq n} \|\mathbf{x}_{ij}\|_2 \leq K_x$  for some  $K_x > 0$ ,
- A8. (Bounded variance) For any compact subset  $\mathcal{K} \subset \Theta$ , there exists positive constants  $K_{b,1}, K_{b,2}$  such that
$$K_{b,1} \leq \inf_{\theta \in \mathcal{K}} b''(\theta) \leq \sup_{\theta \in \mathcal{K}} b''(\theta) \leq K_{b,2},$$
- A9. (Inverse link has a bounded derivative)  $\sup_{\{\eta: |\eta| \leq M\}} (g^{-1})'(\eta) \leq K_g$  for some  $K_g > 0$ .

**Note:** The proof of the following theorem is based on machinery developed in [Goshal and van der Vaart \(2007\)](#) and [Jeong and Ghoshal \(2021\)](#) for posterior concentration in sparse generalized linear models.

# The Posterior Concentrates on Low Dimensions on Average

## Theorem 1

Assume  $\mathbf{Y}$  comes from a GLNEM with non-zero latent space dimension  $d_0$  and true parameters  $\{\beta_0, \Lambda_0, \mathbf{U}_0\}$  such that  $\|\Lambda_0\|_0 = d_0$ . Assume the following prior:  $\lambda \sim \text{SS-IBP}_d(1/d, d^{1+\delta}, \mathbb{P}_{\text{spike}}, \mathbb{P}_{\text{slab}})$  for  $\delta > 0$ ,  $\mathbb{P}_{\text{spike}} = \delta_0$ ,  $\mathbb{P}_{\text{slab}} = \text{Laplace}(b)$  for  $b \geq 1$ ,  $\beta \sim N(\mathbf{0}_p, \sigma_\beta^2 \mathbf{I}_p)$ , and  $\mathbf{U} \in \bar{\mathcal{V}}_{d,n}$  with prior probability one.

If **(A1)** - **(A9)** hold, then

$$\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \mathbb{E}_0^{(n)} \Pi \left( \|\Lambda\|_0 > C d_0 \mid \mathbf{Y} \right) = 0,$$

for some  $C > 0$  that only depends on  $\delta$  and  $K_\lambda$ .

# Estimation

Approximate the posterior with samples obtained using Markov Chain Monte Carlo (MCMC).

Propose a Metropolis-within-Gibbs sampler that alternates between sampling

1.  $\psi = \{\beta, \Lambda, \mathbf{U}, \phi, \theta_{1:d}\},$
2. The dimension indicators  $Z_{1:d} = (Z_1, \dots, Z_d) \in \{0, 1\}^d.$

$\psi$ 's high-dimensionality motivates using a gradient-based sampler.

**Challenge:** The requirement that  $\mathbf{U}$  lie in  $\bar{\mathcal{V}}_{d,n}$  poses a challenge for naive gradient updates.

**Solution:** We introduced a new differentiable parameter expansion strategy based on the QR decomposition that has full support on  $\bar{\mathcal{V}}_{d,n}.$

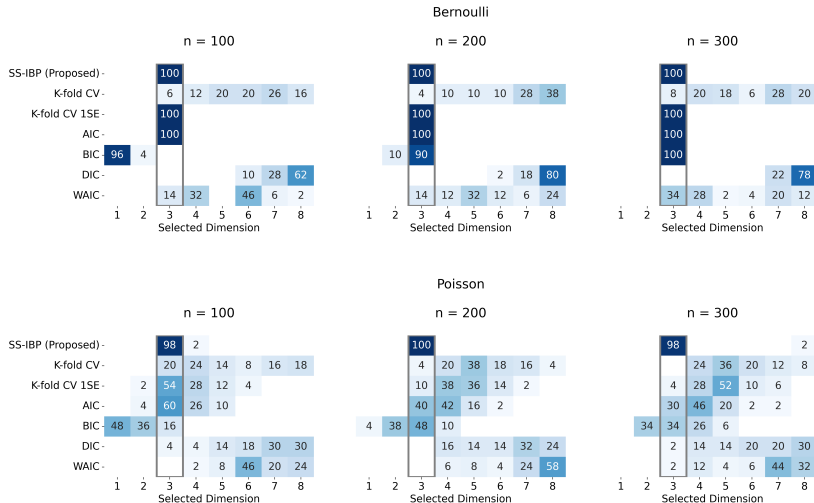
## Simulation Study: Dimension Selection

- Compared the SS-IBP to traditional methods for dimension selection.
- Competitors estimated a sequence of GLNEMs with a non-shrinkage prior for  $\Lambda$  and selected the dimension according to
  - **Information Criterion:** AIC, BIC, DIC, and WAIC.
  - **Data-Splitting:** K-fold cross-validation ( $K = 5$ ).
- All models estimated using Metropolis-within-Gibbs or Hamiltonian Monte Carlo with 5,000 samples after 5,000 iterations of burn-in.



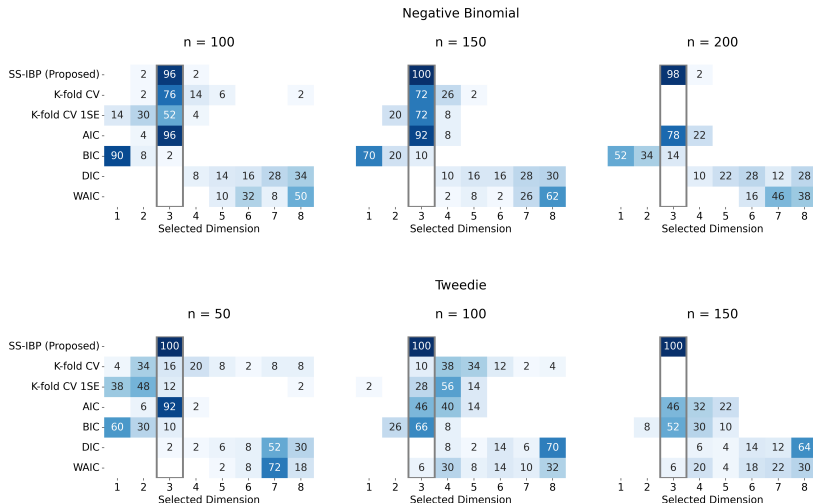
# Simulation Study: Dimension Selection (Canonical Link)

True dimension  $d_0 = 3$ . Cells display percentages out of 50 repetitions.



# Simulation Study: Dimension Selection (Non-canonical Link)

True dimension  $d_0 = 3$ . Cells display percentages out of 50 repetitions.



# International Trade of Bananas

A network of the international trade of bananas in 2018.<sup>1</sup>

- $Y_{ij}$ : the amount of trade of bananas in thousands of U.S. Dollars between nation  $i$  and nation  $j$  in 2018.
- Five dyadic covariates:
  - $\log(\text{GDP}_i) + \log(\text{GDP}_j)$
  - $\log(\text{Distance}_{ij})$
  - $\text{CommLang}_{ij}$
  - $\text{Border}_{ij}$
  - $\text{TradeAgreement}_{ij}$
- $n = 75$  countries,  $p = 5$  covariates.

---

<sup>1</sup>Data taken from the BACI database maintained by the CEPII:

[http://www.cepii.fr/CEPII/en/bdd\\_modele/bdd\\_modele\\_item.asp?id=37](http://www.cepii.fr/CEPII/en/bdd_modele/bdd_modele_item.asp?id=37)

# A Tweedie GLNEM for Non-Negative Continuous Networks

**Systematic Component:** A Gravity Model with Latent Network Effects

$$\log(\mathbb{E}[Y_{ij} \mid \mathbf{x}_{ij}]) = \beta_1 [\log(\text{GDP}_i) + \log(\text{GDP}_j)] + \beta_2 \log(\text{Dist}_{ij}) + \sum_{k=3}^5 \beta_k x_{ij,k} + \mathbf{u}_i^\top \mathbf{\Lambda} \mathbf{u}_j.$$

**Random Component:** The Tweedie Distribution ([Jørgensen, 1987](#))

Compound Poisson-gamma: “Total trade is the sum of individual trades.”

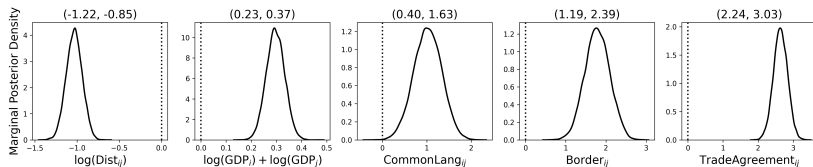
$$Y_{ij} = \begin{cases} \sum_{t=1}^{N_{ij}} Z_{ij,t} & N_{ij} > 0 \\ 0 & N_{ij} = 0. \end{cases}$$

$$N_{ij} \sim \text{Poisson} \left( \frac{\mu_{ij}^{2-\xi}}{\phi(2-\xi)} \right), \quad Z_{ij,t} \stackrel{\text{ind.}}{\sim} \text{Gamma} \left( \frac{2-\xi}{\xi-1}, \frac{\mu_{ij}^{\xi-1}}{\phi(\xi-1)} \right).$$

Proposed as a distribution for trade by [Barabesi et al. \(2016\)](#).

# Covariate Effects

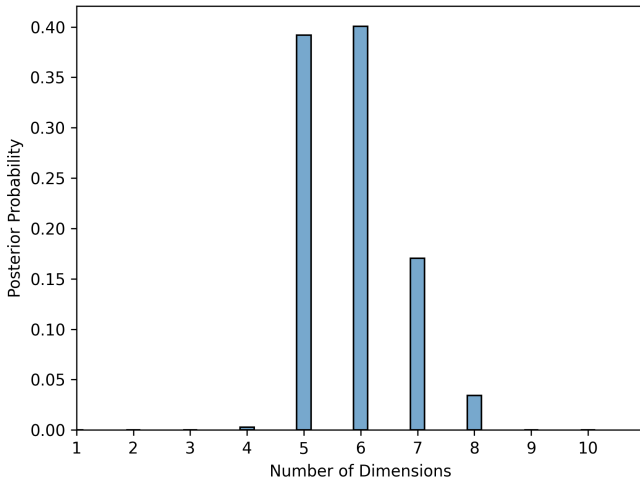
All covariates are significant and the sign of the coefficients for  $\log(\text{GDP}_i) + \log(\text{GDP}_j)$  and  $\log(\text{Dist}_{ij})$  agree with economic theory.



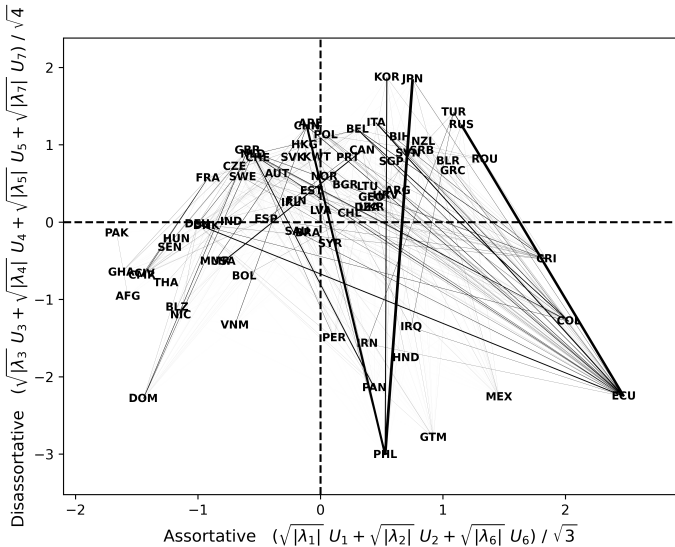
# Residual Network Structure

The dimension of the latent space is uncertain:

$$\mathbb{P}(d_0 = 5 \mid \mathbf{Y}) = 0.39, \mathbb{P}(d_0 = 6 \mid \mathbf{Y}) = 0.40, \mathbb{P}(d_0 = 7 \mid \mathbf{Y}) = 0.17.$$



## The Latent Space Reveals Bipartite Structure



# Conclusion

- Developed a theoretically supported Bayesian approach to dimension selection for a general class of network models we called GLNEMs.
- Demonstrated that the  $SS-IBP_d(\alpha, \kappa, \mathbb{P}_{spike}, \mathbb{P}_{slab})$  prior adapts to  $d_0$  when used as a prior in a GLNEM.
- Scalable inference for large networks is a challenge (currently only tractable for a few hundred nodes).
- Applications to directed networks is an open problem:

$$\mathbf{U}\mathbf{\Lambda}\mathbf{U}^\top \longrightarrow \mathbf{U}\mathbf{S}\mathbf{V}^\top,$$
$$\mathbf{U} \in \bar{\mathcal{V}}_{d,n}, \quad \mathbf{V} \in \bar{\mathcal{V}}_{d,n}, \quad \mathbf{S} = \text{diag}(s_1, \dots, s_d) \succeq 0.$$

- Preprint on website:  
<https://joshloyal.github.io/publications>



- Anderson, J. E. (1979), "A Theoretical Foundation for the Gravity Equation," *The American Economic Review*, 69, 106–116.
- Barabesi, L., Cerasa, A., Perrotta, D., and Cerioli, A. (2016), "Modeling international trade data with the Tweedie distribution for anti-fraud and policy support," *European Journal of Operational Research*, 248.
- Durante, D. and Dunson, D. B. (2014), "Nonparametric Bayes Dynamic Modelling of Relational Data," *Biometrika*, 101, 883–898.
- Goshal, S. and van der Vaart, A. (2007), "Convergence rates of posterior distributions for noniid observations," *The Annals of Statistics*, 35, 192–223.
- Guha, S. and Rodriguez, A. (2021), "Bayesian regression with undirected network predictors with an application to brain connectome data," *Journal of the American Statistical Association*, 116, 581–593.

- Guhaniyogi, R. and Rodriguez, A. (2020), “Joint modeling of longitudinal relational data and exogenous variables,” *Bayesian Analysis*, 15, 477–503.
- Gwee, X. Y., Gormley, I. C., and Flop, M. (2022), “A Latent Shrinkage Position Model for Binary and Count Data,” *arXiv preprint arXiv:2211.13034*.
- Hoff, P. D. (2005), “Bilinear Mixed-Effects Models for Dyadic Data,” *Journal of the American Statistical Association*, 100, 286–295.
- Hoff, P. D., Raftery, A. E., and Handcock, M. S. (2002), “Latent Space Approaches to Social Network Analysis,” *Journal of the American Statistical Association*, 97, 1090–1098.
- Jeong, S. and Ghoshal, S. (2021), “Posterior Contraction in Sparse Generalized Linear Models,” *Biometrika*, 108, 367–379.

## References iii

- Jørgensen, B. (1987), "Exponential Dispersion Models," *Journal of the Royal Statistical Society, Series B*, 49, 127–162.
- Li, L., Levina, E., and Zhu, J. (2020), "Network cross-validation by edge sampling," *Biometrika*, 107, 257–276.
- Ohn, I. and Kim, Y. (2022), "Posterior Consistency for Factor Dimensionality in High-Dimensional Sparse Factor Models," *Bayesian Analysis*, 17, 491–514.
- Park, T. and Casella, G. (2008), "The Bayesian Lasso," *Journal of the American Statistical Association*, 103, 681–686.
- Ročková, V. and George, E. I. (2016), "Fast Bayesian Factor Analysis via Automatic Rotations to Sparsity," *Journal of the American Statistical Association*, 111, 1608–1622.
- Tinbergen, J. (1962), *Shaping the World Economy - Suggestions for an International Economic Policy*, New York: Twentieth Century Fund.

# Parameter Identifiability and Marginal Effect Interpretation

Define the node-averaged covariate matrix

$$\bar{\mathbf{X}} = (1/n) \sum_{j=1}^n (\mathbf{x}_{ij}, \dots, \mathbf{x}_{nj})^\top = (\bar{\mathbf{x}}_1, \dots, \bar{\mathbf{x}}_n)^\top.$$

## Proposition 2

Assume  $\mathbf{Y}$  is drawn from a GLNEM with parameters  $\{\boldsymbol{\beta}, \mathbf{U}, \boldsymbol{\Lambda}, \phi\}$  such that  $\mathbf{U} \in \bar{\mathcal{V}}_{d,n}$  and  $\text{rank}(\bar{\mathbf{X}}) = p$ , then  $\boldsymbol{\beta}$  is identifiable.

**Remark:** The sum-to-zero constraint on  $\mathbf{U}$ 's columns allows us to interpret the  $\beta_k$ 's as marginal effects since

$$n^{-1} \sum_{j=1}^n g(\mathbb{E}[Y_{ij} \mid \mathbf{x}_{ij}]) = \boldsymbol{\beta}^\top \bar{\mathbf{x}}_i,$$

which are not conditioned on keeping the latent positions  $\mathbf{u}_i$  fixed.