# RELEVANCE OF NEGATIVE LINKS IN GRAPH PARTITIONING

A Case Study Using Votes From the European Parliament

2<sup>nd</sup> European Network Intelligence Conference (ENIC) 22 September 2015

Israel Mendonça, Rosa Figueiredo, Vincent Labatut & Philippe Michelon



# SIGNED NETWORKS

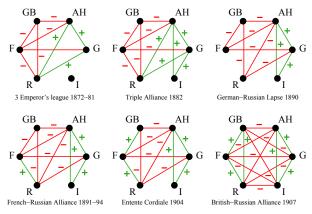
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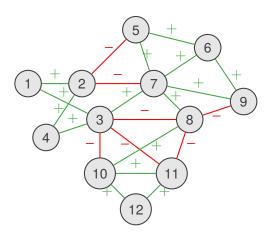
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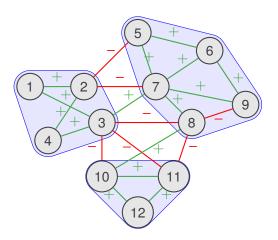
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- Modeling of systems containing antithetical relationships
- Ex.: evolution of pre-WWI alliances between countries [AKR06]



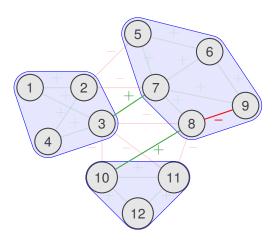
Correlation Clustering problem: minimize the imbalance



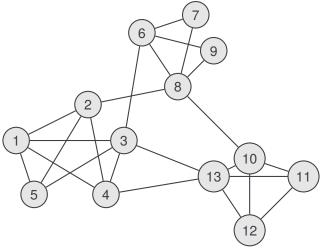
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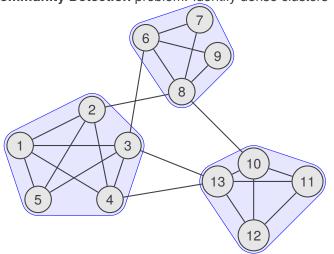


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- Community Detection problem: identify dense clusters



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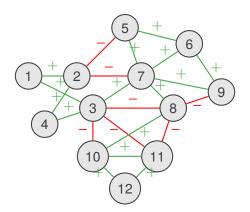
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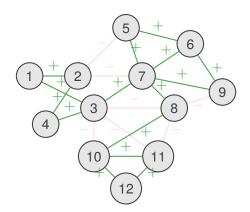
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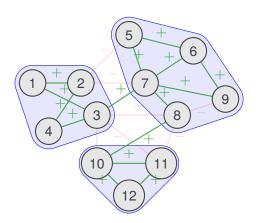
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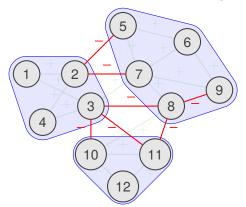
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- Continuous limitations:
  - Only 2 datasets, both social networking services
  - Imbalance assessed only locally
- Proposed method:
  - Consider a different dataset, modeling a different type of relationships
  - Compare community detection and correlation clustering algorithms

#### DATA EXTRACTION

#### Raw data:

- Nature: Voting activity at the European Parliament
- Source: VoteWatch Europe
- Period: 7<sup>th</sup> term (June 2009–June 2014)
- Size: 840 MEPs, 1426 documents, 21 topics

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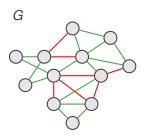
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- Voting Agreement Index:
  - Compares two MEPs
  - Ranges from −1 to +1
  - Document-wise agreement averaged over all documents
    - Agreement: +1 (For vs. For, Against vs. Against)
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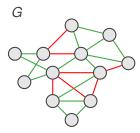
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- Networks:
  - Nodes: Members of the European Parliament (MEPs)
  - Weighted: voting agreement index values
  - Modes: 264 (time × topics)

- Correlation clustering (G)
  - Parallel Iterated Local Search (pILS) [LDFF15]

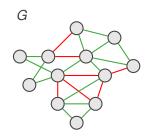
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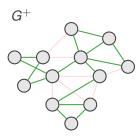


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  - Parallel Iterated Local Search (pILS) [LDFF15]
- $\bigcirc$  Community detection ( $G^+$  and  $\overline{G^-}$ )
  - InfoMap [RB08]
  - EdgeBetweenness [NG04]
  - WalkTrap [PL05]
  - FastGreedy [CNM04]

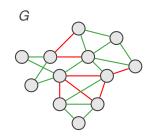


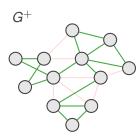
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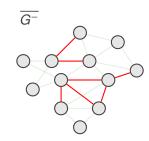




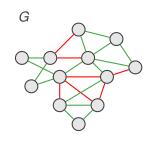
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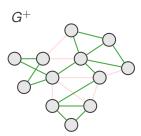


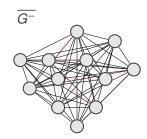




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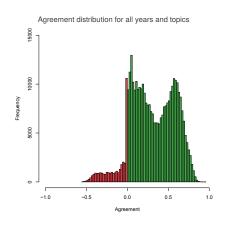




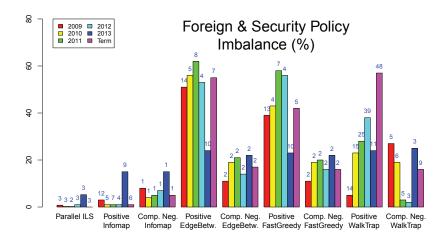


#### **EXTRACTED NETWORKS**

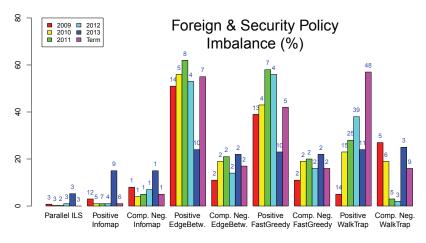
- Same observations for all topics/durations
- Positive side: bimodal distribution
  - Left peak: certain MEPs are frequently absent
  - Right peak: most MEPs often vote similarly
- Negative side: less extreme values
  - Clear majority, in average



#### PARTITION COMPARISON



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Partition comparison: near-zero NMI

#### CONCLUSION

- Considering negative links on our dataset leads to:
  - Lower imbalance (at least 3 times better)
  - Only InfoMap outputs CC-like results (imbalance)
  - Different partitions (fewer clusters)
- Contradiction with Esmailian et al.'s conclusions
  - (but not their results)
- O Perspectives:
  - Consider more data, different types of networks (collection)
  - Exhaustive exploration of vote-based extraction methods
  - Political interpretation of the VoteWatch results

## **ONLINE RESOURCES**

- Data available on Figshare:
  - http://dx.doi.org/10.6084/m9.figshare.1545599
- R source code available on GitHub:
  - https://github.com/CompNet/NetVotes

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