USING AGGREGATED RELATIONAL DATA TO FEASIBLY IDENTIFY NETWORK STRUCTURE WITHOUT NETWORK DATA

Online Appendix

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APPENDIX A. IMPLEMENTATION APPENDIX

A.1. Cookbook. The goal of this section is to provide a researcher or policymaker with a practical blueprint for collecting the required data and implementing our latent distance model. We propose this method in situations when the researchers want to estimate social network characteristics but when full social network maps are either infeasible or prohibitively expensive to collect.

In our preferred implementation, the researchers would collect a census of all members of the graph of interest. This approach might be feasible in settings such as a rural village, where typically there is enumeration done and basic demographics are taken for all nodes. However, we recognize that censuses might not be feasible in all settings such as a large urban slum. We include a discussion of such settings in Section A.1.1.

We envision researchers conducting the following steps:

- (1) **Design ARD survey questions:** The first step is to choose which traits to use. This choice will depend on the context of the specific empirical setting. But generally-speaking, the traits should satisfy the following criteria:
 - The traits should satisfy the core assumptions of the model: that in a latent space sense they are located predominantly in one region (the distribution of individuals' latent positions is single-peaked). See Section A.2 for a more detailed discussion of this.
 - The traits should likely be observable by others (because eliciting the information in a survey relies on the observations of the respondent) and should not be subject to much measurement error (respondents should not know so many people with the trait that it is difficult for them to recall everyone, for example).
 - The number of traits should not be very long, both to avoid survey fatigue and keep costs low.¹
- (2) Conduct census survey: The census survey should include the following parts:
 - The ARD traits: Knowing this allows the researcher to calculate the population share of nodes in the graph with each trait k.
 - An additional set of demographic characteristics denoted by X. The vector of Xs allows for the researcher to predict the latent locations of the nodes not included in the ARD survey sample.

See Section A.3 for a sample census questionnaire.

(3) Conduct ARD survey: The researchers will need to decide what share ψ of households will be surveyed. This is simply a budgetary computation, but we suggest that $\psi \ge 0.2$.

¹However, recall that the method requires fixing the positions of three groups on the surface. Therefore, the number should be larger than five.

The ARD survey should contain:

- Link enumeration: This step is useful for providing a clear way to define a link, to aid in the interpretation of the ARD counts, and to decrease measurement error in the ARD counts. This step also gives a direct estimate of each node's degree in the sample. If the friend list methodology is not possible, we discuss how the procedure changes in Section A.1.2.
- ARD responses: For every trait in the ARD list, ask the subject to count within the enumerated list of links, how many have each trait.

See Section A.4 for a sample ARD questionnaire.

- (4) Run the ARD estimation procedure using inputs from the surveys: Online Appendix B details how to download and execute all of the ARD estimation codes in R.
- (5) Estimate the economic parameter of interest: See Online Appendix B for details on the estimation procedure.

A.1.1. *Census Infeasible.* In this subsection we assume that the researcher does not have access to a census of the population and has a vector of attributes for every unit (e.g., household or individual) in the population. Intuitively, the core difference between this context and the prior context is that the researcher does not have the population share by type from the census itself. This is the case for the Hyderabad urban example in Section III.B.

- (3) **ARD survey:** If there is no census, then the researcher should ask every node in the ARD sample whether they have each trait. Then these sampled observations can be used to compute estimates of the population shares.
- (4) **ARD estimation procedure:** Without a census, one cannot follow the procedure in Section II.D to estimate the locations of the non-ARD nodes. Instead:
 - For the 1- ψ share of non-ARD nodes, draw node locations based on latent trait distributions observed in the ARD sample.
 - When drawing graphs, use the estimated latent locations based on the ARD responses for the m ARD survey nodes and from this procedure for the remaining n m nodes.
- A.1.2. Link enumeration is infeasible.
 - (3) **ARD survey:** Ask the subject to reflect on their friends (or links in whatever manner the researcher is trying to collect data).
 - This can be recorded by the enumerators. The number of links gives the degree for each ARD node.

- If the number of links is expected to be too large for respondents to reliably count, use a N-Sum like method (see e.g. McCormick et al. (2010)).
- (4) **ARD estimation procedure:** The one difference in the estimation procedure is that the expected degree of each node needs to be estimated (see Equations 2 and 3), rather than taken directly from survey responses. The code is built to accommodate this case.

A.2. **Discussion of Question Design.** Here, we discuss how to choose ARD traits to enable us to construct a good image of the network. While we leave a precise characterization of optimal questions to future research, we nonetheless can offer practical insights to aid in ARD survey design.

Conceptually ARD traits are those which, under the model, organize the latent space into regions such that nodes with certain traits are more likely to be towards the centers of those regions. Recognizing that under the model, nodes are linked as a function of their distance in this latent space, nodes are more liked to be linked to other nodes with similar such traits. This gives some insight as to which ARD features may be useful to organize the latent space.

Then when we ask, "how many of your friends have been gored by a bull" or "how many of your friends have multiple wives," those that have a positive count of this are going to have to be located somewhere close to the (latent, unknown) location of the cluster of people with this kind of experience. The reason is because we assume that the network that exists forms from the model in Equation 1, so it is most likely that someone who knows a friend that got gored by a bull and another person who has a friend who got gored by a bull are then likely to be in the same part of the latent space. What this means is that we do not need traits that "drive" the latent space per se, but traits that are informative. So a bad example might be a trait where it is peppered throughout the village. Not everyone does it, but many groups do, and so many people at very different points in the latent space are likely to have known someone who has this trait. As such, both (1) how many friends have ever experienced crop loss due to a drought and (2) how many friends do you know who have twins (in a rural setting where IVF is uncommon) would presumably be uninformative. However, something where a subcommunity engages in a practice (multiple wives) would be a better trait.

In sum, a good way to think about a useful trait, in our view, is one that is "single peaked". It should be a characteristic that is likely to be held by one group, not distributed throughout. Furthermore because traits are used to triangulate the latent space, ones that are not essentially redundant should be chosen. If the traits essentially identify the same set of people (e.g., how many friends are Muslim?; how many friends have ever gone to a mosque?), then clearly they do not add value.

A.3. Sample Census Questionnaire.

IDENTIFICATION.

- (1) Date of Interview
- (2) Surveyor Name
- (3) District Name
- (4) SubDistrict Name
- (5) Village Name
- (6) HHID
- (7) GPS of the HH (marked automatically)

HOUSEHOLD IDENTIFIERS.

- (1) What is the name of the respondent ?
- (2) What is the name of the Household Head ?
- (3) What is the caste of the household head?
- (4) What is the sub-caste of the household head?
- (5) Does the Household have an electricity connection?
- (6) What type of roofing material does the household have?
- (7) Does the Household own land ?
- (8) Does the Household have a toilet ?

ARD TRAITS.

- (1) Does the House have 2 or greater than 2 floors?
- (2) Does the respondent own a kirana shop / tea/ sweets shop/PDS shop?
- (3) Has any member in your household migrated to another city for labor or construction work in the last 2 years?
- (4) Does any member in your household own a bike?
- (5) Does the respondents' house have iron/steel gates?
- (6) Has any member in the household passed the 12th Standard?
- (7) Does anyone in your household own a goat/hen?
- (8) Is any member in the household a government Employee?
- (9) Does anyone in your household have a smart phone?
- (10) Did any adult in the household have typhoid, malaria, or cholera in the past six months ?
- (11) Does the house have 5 or greater than 5 children below the age of 18?
- (12) Is anyone in your Household a member of religious or cultural committee at the village level ?

A.4. Sample ARD Questionnaire.

IDENTIFICATION.

- (1) Enter HHID
- (2) Village Name
- (3) District Name
- (4) SubDistrict Name
- (5) Gram Panchayat Name
- (6) Name of the Respondent

FRIEND LIST ELICITATION. Instruction to Enumerator: Note down the list of names as given by the respondent. As you note down the names make sure that names that are repeated are marked, so that at the end of the 3 questions, we have a list of unique friends

- (1) Tell the names of the Household Heads of those families in this village whose house you visit or who visit your house frequently or with whom you socialize frequently ?
- (2) Tell the names of Household Heads of those families in this village who give you advice/ or to whom you give advice on farming/health/financial issues? (Ask each part separately)
- (3) If you urgently needed kerosene/charcoal, rice or money, who do you borrow them from or who borrows it from you? (Ask each part separately)

ARD. Instruction to Enumerator:

- Inform the respondent of the name and no of friends that have been named in the previous section
- Tell the respondent that the questions in this section pertain to the friends named in the previous section

Out of all the households whose name you took in the previous section, how many have the following traits :

- (1) No of floors in the house are greater than or equal to 2?
- (2) No of households out of your friend list who own a kirana shop/ tea/ sweets shop/ PDS?
- (3) No of households out of your friend lis wherein any member migrated to another city for labor/construction work in the last 2 years?
- (4) No of households among your friend list who own a bike?
- (5) No of households among your friend list whose house have iron/steel gates?
- (6) No of households among your friend list wherein any member has passed the 12th Standard?
- (7) No of households among your friend list which own goats/ hen?

- (8) No of households among your friend list where in any member is a government Employee?
- (9) No of households among your friend list where someone has a smart phone?
- (10) No of households among your friend list where any adult has had typhoid, malaria, or cholera in the past six months?
- (11) No of households among your friend list which have 5 or greater than 5 children below the age of 18?
- (12) No of households among your friend list where anyone is a member of religious or cultural committee at the village level?
- (13) No of households among your friend list who belong to the Scheduled Caste?

Appendix B. Detailed Estimation Procedure

This section presents the detailed walk-through for the estimation procedure. We assume the researcher has csv or xls data and is familiar with Stata and (to a lesser degree) R (R Core Team, 2018). We walk the researcher step-by-step moving from the raw data, through Stata, through R (with code provided) which outputs csv files, back to Stata in order to conduct estimation of interest. Of course, if the researcher is comfortable with R, the procedure is far more streamlined and immediate.

- (1) Download ARD code: https://github.com/MengjiePan/BCMP
- (2) Format survey data in the following manner:
 - Create a dataset(csv,xls) that is m ARD nodes by K ARD responses for each village and save each file as ARD_SURVEY_i.csv
 - Create a dataset that is n nodes by the K ARD-trait covariates from the census for each village and save each file as ARD_CENSUS_i.csv
 - Create a dataset that is m ARD nodes by the L covariates from the census (e.g., GPS, household identifiers). Create another dataset that is n m Non ARD nodes by the L covariates from the census(same covariates as used for ARD Nodes). Use L covariates of these two datasets in a distance function to create a n m by m dataset. This will be used in k-nearest neighbours algorithm. Save

```
each file as distance_i.csv
```

```
// import the CENSUS file
use ARD_CENSUS , clear
** Keep id_village and id_hhid as the first 2 variables followed by
** k ard traits( 8 in this example)
keep id_village id_hhid ard_t_floors ard_t_smartph ard_t_child ///
ard_t_migrate ard_t_bike ard_t_gates ard_t_pass ard_t_goat
* If the dataset has j villages with id_village as 1 to j then
forvalues village =1(1)`j`{
preserve
keep if id_village == `village'
// each village csv is saved separately
export delimited using ARD_CENSUS_`village', replace
restore
}
```

```
// import the CENSUS file
use ARD_CENSUS , clear
** Keep id_village and id_hhid as the first 2 variables followed by
** k and traits( 8 in this example)
keep id_village id_hhid and_t_floors and_t_smartph and_t_child ///
and_t_migrate and_t_bike and_t_gates and_t_pass and_t_goat
* If the dataset has j villages with id_village as 1 to j then
forvalues village =1(1)`j`{
preserve
keep if id_village == `village'
// each village csv is saved separately
export delimited using ARD_CENSUS_`village', replace
restore
}
save ARD CENSUS, replace // save dta file ARD CENSUS
```

(3) Copy the downloaded R files in the same folder. The folder structure should be as shown in the figure below(for 4 villages)

ARD_CENSUS.dta ARD_CENSUS_1.csv ARD_CENSUS_2.csv 🔛 ARD_CENSUS_3.csv ARD_CENSUS_4.csv ARD_SURVEY.dta 🛃 ARD_SURVEY_1.csv 🛃 ARD_SURVEY_2.csv ARD_SURVEY_3.csv 🕵 ARD_SURVEY_4.csv 😹 distance_1.csv 😹 distance_2.csv 🔛 distance_3.csv 🔛 distance_4.csv 🚱 example.R 🚱 latent_surface_model.R 🚱 main.R

- (4) Open the file example.R
- (5) Download R Packages igraph(Csardi and Nepusz, 2006), movMF(Hornik and Grün, 2014), xlsx(Dragulescu et al., 2018) (if the datasets are in xls), readstata13(Garbuszus and Jeworutzki, 2018) (if the datasets are in Stata 13,14) [example.R downloads these packages]
- (6) Enter the path to the folder in variable r_folder (Line 24). Running the R Script example.R now should generate the ARD Output in the Folder OUT in the current folder. The steps given next explain the process in detail through code snippets.

(7) Preparing the datasets for constructing ARD :

- The datasets created in Step 2 are imported(Line 36-54) and are named ard_survey, ard_census and distance.all respectively
- Calculate the value of variable total.prop fraction of ties in the network that are made with members of group k, summed over K groups using example.R

(Line no 69-80). The variable villagei stores the ard_census traits.

```
ard_survey_file_list = list.files(pattern='ARD_SURVEY.*\\.csv'
    ard_census_file_list = list.files(pattern="ARD_CENSUS.*\\.csv")
37
    distance_file_list=list.files(pattern="distance.*\\.csv")
39
40
    ard_survey_list = lapply(ard_survey_file_list, read.csv)
    ard_census_list = lapply(ard_census_file_list, read.csv)
41
    distance.all = lapply(distance_file_list, function(i){
42 •
43
      read.csv(i, header=FALSE)
44
45
46
    no_village=length(ard_survey_file_list)
47
    ard_survey=ard_survey_list[[1]]
48
    ard census=ard census list[[1]]
49
50 - for ( i in 2:no_village){
51
      ard survey=rbind(ard_survey,ard_survey_list[[i]])
      ard_census=rbind(ard_census,ard_census_list[[i]])
54
69
    total.prop=NULL
70
    x.axis=NULL
71 - for (vlg in l:no_village) {
72
      villagei=ard_census[which(ard_census$id_village==vlg),]
      villagei[which(villagei<0,arr.ind=T)]=NA</pre>
74
      n=dim(villagei)[1]
75
      temp=sum(x.axis)
76 👻
      for (k in c(3:(k_traits+2))){
77
        x.axis=c(x.axis,sum(as.numeric(villagei[,k]==1),na.rm = T)/length(!is.na
78
79
       total.prop=c(total.prop,sum(x.axis)-temp)
ອກ
```

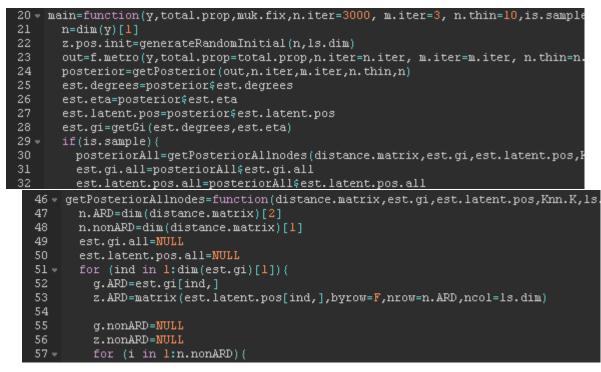
- (8) Estimate the parameters of the model: $(\nu_i, z_i)_{i=1}^m$ for the *m* ARD households, ζ , $(\nu_k, \eta_k)_{k=1}^m$ (the latent trait distribution location and concentration parameters).
 - Use example.R to call(Line 93) main.R, which calls(Line 23) function f.metro in latent_surface_model.R.
 - The call to function main of main.R on Line 93 requires 4 input variables

- -y use the ard_survey dataset that has been imported
- total.prop Calculated in Step 4
- muk.fix the positions of fixed variables calculated in Line 126-127 of example.R
- distance.matrix use the distance.all dataset that has been imported

• The Output of the call to f.metro is stored in variable posterior of main.R

82	source('main.R')
83	g.sims=list()
84	setwd(out_dir)
85	
86 👻	for (vlg in 1:no_village){
87	y=ard_survey[ard_survey\$id_village==vlg,c(3:(k_traits+2))]
88	y[which(y<0,arr.ind=T)]=NA
89	y=as.matrix(y)
90	<pre>muk.fix.ind=sample(l:k_traits,size=4,replace=F)</pre>
91	muk.fix=matrix (rnorm $(\overline{12})$, nrow=4, ncol=3)
92	<pre>muk.fix=sweep(muk.fix,MARGIN=1,1/sqrt(rowSums(muk.fix^2)), `*`)</pre>
93	result=main(y=y,total.prop=total.prop[vlg],muk.fix=muk.fix,n.iter=3000, m.i
94	is.sample=TRUE,distance.matrix=as.matrix(distance.all[[vlg]]),K
95	g.sims=c(g.sims,list(result))
96	<pre>save(g.sims,file="g.sims.RData")</pre>
97	}
20 🔻	<pre>main=function(y,total.prop,muk.fix,n.iter=3000, m.iter=3, n.thin=10,is.sample</pre>
21	$n=dim(\gamma)[1]$
22	z.pos.init=generateRandomInitial(n,ls.dim)
23	out=f.metro(y,total.prop=total.prop,n.iter=n.iter, m.iter=m.iter, n.thin=n.
24	posterior=getPosterior(out,n.iter,m.iter,n.thin,n)
25	est.degrees=posterior\$est.degrees
26	est.eta=posterior\$est.eta
27	est.latent.pos=posterior\$est.latent.pos
28	est.gi=getGi(est.degrees,est.eta)

- (9) Estimate ν_i and z_i for the n m nodes that are in the census but not the ARD sample.
 - main.R (Line no 30) calls function getPosteriorAllnodes in main.R. The call to the function takes variable distance.matrix as an input(which had been passed to function main from example.R in Step 5)
 - Output is stored in variable posteriorAll. The estimated latent positions z_i are stored as an attribute of posteriorAll as est.latent.pos.all
 - getPosteriorAllnodes estimates ν_i and z_i using k-means from distance.matrix variable. This variable has been calculated using the K + L covariates for the m nodes in the ARD sample and n m Non-ARD nodes



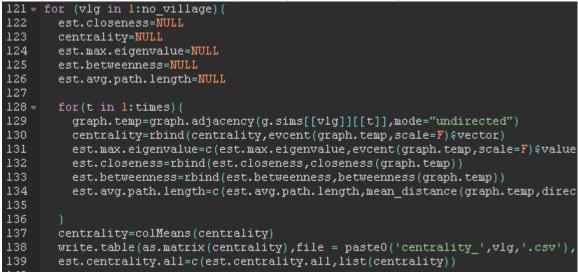
- (10) Draw a set of b = 1, ..., B draws from the network formation probability model (now with estimated parameters for all nodes) from the posterior distribution.
 - Use main.R (Line no 33) to call function simulate.graph.all . The output is stored in variable g.sims. simulate.graph.all calls(Line 108) simulate.graph.once for each run.
 - Draw a parameter vector θ (all the above parameters) from the posterior.
 - Draw a graph g_b given θ_b . (Line 130 function simulate.graph.once)

20 🔻	<pre>main=function(y,total.prop,muk.fix,n.iter=3000, m.iter=3, n.thin=10,is.sample</pre>
21	$n=\dim(y)[1]$
22	z.pos.init=generateRandomInitial(n,ls.dim)
23	out=f.metro(y,total.prop=total.prop,n.iter=n.iter, m.iter=m.iter, n.thin=n.
24	posterior=getPosterior(out,n.iter,m.iter,n.thin,n)
25	est.degrees=posterior\$est.degrees
26	est.eta=posterior\$est.eta
27	est.latent.pos=posterior\$est.latent.pos
28	est.gi=getGi(est.degrees,est.eta)
29 🔻	if(is.sample){
30	posteriorAll=getPosteriorAllnodes(distance.matrix,est.gi,est.latent.pos,F
31	est.gi.all=posteriorAll\$est.gi.all
32	est.latent.pos.all=posteriorAll\$est.latent.pos.all
33	g.sims=simulate.graph.all(est.degrees,est.eta,est.latent.pos,est.gi,est.g
34 🔻	}else{
35	g.sims=simulate.graph.all(est.degrees,est.eta,est.latent.pos,est.gi,est.g

```
101 - simulate.graph.all=function(est.degrees.ARD,est.eta,est.latent.pos.ARD,est.g
102
        g.sims=list()
103
        n.ARD=dim(est.degrees.ARD)[2]
104
        n=dim(est.gi)[2]
105 👳
        for (ind in l:length(est.eta)) {
106
          z=matrix(est.latent.pos[ind,],byrow=F,nrow=n,ncol=ls.dim)
107
          z.ARD=matrix(est.latent.pos.ARD[ind,],byrow=F,nrow=n.ARD,ncol=ls.dim)
108
          g.sims=c(g.sims,list(simulate.graph.once(z=z,g=est.gi[ind,],eta=est.eta[
109
110
        return(g.sims)
111
114 - simulate.graph.once=function(z,g,eta,d.ARD,z.ARD,g.ARD) {
115
       n.ARD=length(g.ARD)
116
       adjexp=matrix(NA,nrow=n.ARD,ncol=n.ARD)
117
       diag(adjexp)=0
118 👻
       for(i in 1:(n.ARD-1)){
119 👻
         for (j in (i+1):n.ARD) {
120
           adjexp[i,j]=adjexp[j,i]=exp(g.ARD[i]+g.ARD[j]+eta*sum(z.ARD[i,]*z.ARD[j
121
122
123
       const=sum(exp(d.ARD))/sum(adjexp)
124
       n=length(g)
125
       adj=matrix(NA,nrow=n,ncol=n)
126
       diag(adj)=0
127 -
128 🔻
129
           p.ij=exp(g[i]+g[j]+eta*sum(z[i,]*z[j,]))*const
130
           edge=rbinom(n=1,size=1,prob=min(p.ij,1))
131
           adj[i,j]=adj[j,i]=edge
132
133
```

(11) Compute network statistics of interest $S(g_b)$ for each draw g_b for b = 1, ..., B.

- Construct your own desired functions
- Or use a suggested code example.R (Line no 115-144)



(12) Import the network characteristics that have been generated in folder OUT

- (13) Import the graph simulations that have been generated from folder OUT/SIMULATION
- (14) Conduct economic estimation of interest. For instance,

$$y_{iv} = \alpha + \beta \frac{1}{B} \sum_{b=1}^{B} S(g)_{iv,b} + \epsilon_{iv},$$

to estimate β , which is the parameter of interest in this example, where *i* is a node and *v* is the independent network for v = 1, ..., V networks in the sample.

```
**MERGE with Census data **
use `CENSUS' , clear
merge 1:1 id_hhid id_village using centrality.dta
reg y centrality_var , cluster(id_village)
```

Appendix C. ARD Questions from Banerjee, Breza, Duflo, and Kinnan (2016)

This section presents the ARD questions used in Banerjee, Breza, Duflo, and Kinnan (2016) that we use in Section III.B.

How many other households do you know in your neighborhood ...

- (1) where a woman has ever given birth to twins?
- (2) where there is a permanent government employee?
- (3) where there are 5 or more children?
- (4) where any child has studied past 10th standard?
- (5) where any adult has had typhoid, malaria, or cholera in the past six months?
- (6) where any adult has been arrested by the police?
- (7) where at least one woman has had a second marriage?
- (8) where at least one man currently has more than one wife?

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