Social diffusion

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21.04.2014



Two classes of models

- Viral propagation:
 - virus and infection, rumors, news
 - SI, SIS, SIR
- Decision based models:
 - adoption of innovation, joing a political party
 - Threshold models

*We will talk about social diffusion , not a physical diffusion process

 $\mathsf{Everett}$ Rogers (sociologist) , "Diffusion of innovation" book, 1962 Theory that trys to explain how, why, at what rate new ideas, innovations, spread around



Frank Bass, 1969, "A new product growth model for consumer durables"

- Growth model of how new products get adopted
- Two types of agents, two key parameters:
 - p innovation or spontanious adoption rate (coefficient of innovation)
 - q rate of immitation (coefficient of immitation)
- Let F(t) fraction of agents adopted by time t

$$F(t+1) = F(t) + p(1-F(t))\delta t + q(1-F(t))F(t)\delta t$$

$$\frac{dF(t)}{dt} = (p+qF(t))(1-F(t))$$

• if only innovators, q = 0, exponential function:

$$\frac{dF(t)}{dt} = p(1 - F(t))$$

• if only immitators, p = 0, logistic function:

$$\frac{dF(t)}{dt} = qF(t)(1-F(t))$$

Bass Diffusion model

Soltion of Bass model - S-curve. When F(0) = 0

$$F(t) = \frac{1 - e^{-(p+q)t}}{1 + \frac{q}{p}e^{-(p+q)t}}$$



Emprical $p \sim 0.01 - 0.03$, $q \sim 0.3 - 0.5$, when t in years

Threshold models of Collective Behavior. Mark Granovettor, 1978

- Adoption of innovation, voting, applause, leaving social occasion, riots
- Group of people, each to make a decision
- Binary mutually exclusive decision: adopt/reject, stay/go, join/not join
- Every person has own preference, decision threshold
- Costs and benefits depends on how many others make which choice
- Dynamical proces with equilibrium outcome (final proportion of making each decision)
- Example: insitgator + crowd
 5, 5, 5, 5, 5, 5, 5, 5, 5
 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9 (domino effect)
 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9

Threshold models

- Let i's threshold level $\theta(i)$, x number of participans
- if $x \ge \theta(i)$ join, $x < \theta(i)$ not joint
- Let f(x) number of people with thresholod level $\theta = x$ F(x) - number of people with $\theta \le x$ (cumulative function)

$$F(x) = \sum_{x'}^{x} f(x')$$

- Initial state x₀ -already joined
- First time step: there are F(x₀) people with threshold θ ≤ x ready to join

$$x_1 = F(x_0)$$
$$x_2 = F(x_1)$$
$$x_{t+1} = F(x_t)$$

• Fixed point of the dynamical model

$$x^* = F(x^*)$$

Granovetter model





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Granovetter model



Granovetter model



Let u and v are players, and A and b are possible strategies Payoffs

- if u and v both adopt behavior A, each get payoff a > 0
- if u and v both adopt behavior B, each get payoff b > 0
- if u and v adopt oppsoite behavior, each get payoff 0





Node v to make decision A or B, p - portion of type A neighbors To accept A: $a \cdot p \cdot d > b \cdot (1-p) \cdot d$ p > b/(a+b)

Cascades



a = 3, b = 2, threshold p > 2/5

- Influence comes only from NN N(i) nodes, w_{ij} influence $i \rightarrow j$
- Require $\sum_{j \in N(i)} w_{ji} \leq 1$
- Each node has a random acceptance threshold from $\theta_i \in [0, 1]$
- Activation: fraction of active nodes exceeds threshold

$$\sum_{active \ j \in N(i)} w_{ji} > \theta_i$$

- Initial set of active nodes A_o , iterative process with discrete time steps
- Progressive process, only nonactive \rightarrow active

Maximal Cascades



- Inital set of active nodes A_o
- Cascade size $\sigma(A_o)$ number of active nodes when propagation stops
- Find k-set of nodes A_o that produces maximal cascade $\sigma(A_o)$
- k-set of "maximum influence"nodes
- NP-hard

Submodular functions

• Set function f is submodular, if for sets S, T and $S \subseteq T$, $\forall v \notin T$

$$f(S \cup \{v\}) - f(S) \ge f(T \cup \{v\}) - f(T)$$

- Function of diminishing returns
- Function f is monotone, $f(S \cup \{v\}) \ge f(S)$

Theorem

Let F be a monotone submodular function and

let S^* be the k-element set achieving maximal f.

Let S be a k-element set obtained by repeatedly, for k-iterations, including an element producing the largest marginal increase in f.

$$f(S) \geq (1-\frac{1}{e})f(S^*)$$

Nemhauser, Wolsey, and Fisher, 1978

• σ ()- submodular function (D. Kempe, J. Kleinberg, E. Tardos, 1993)

$$\sigma(S) \geq (1 - \frac{1}{e})\sigma(S^*)$$

• Greedy algorithm for maximum influence set finds a set S such that its influence set $\sigma(S)$ is within 1/e = 0.367 from the optimal (maximal) set $\sigma(S^*)$, $\sigma(S) \ge 0.629\sigma(S^*)$

Approximation algorithm

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Algorithm: Greedy optimization

Input: Graph G(V, E), k

Output: Maxumum influence set S

Set S \leftarrow 0

for i = 1 : k do

\lfloor \text{ select } v = \arg \max_{u \in V \setminus S} (\sigma(S \cup \{u\}) - \sigma(S))

\lfloor S \leftarrow S \cup \{v\}
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Linear threshold model



network: collaboration graph 10,000 nodes, 53,000 edges

- Threshold Models of Collective Behavior Mark S. Granovetter, American Journal of Sociology 83(6):1420-1443, 1978.
- Maximizing the Spread of Influence through a Social Network, D. Kempe, J. Kleinberg, E. Tardos, 2003
- Influential Nodes in a Diffusion Model for Social Networks, D. Kempe, J. Kleinberg, E. Tardos