

## Community Detection in Sparse Networks Using the Symmetrized Laplacian Inverse Matrix (SLIM)

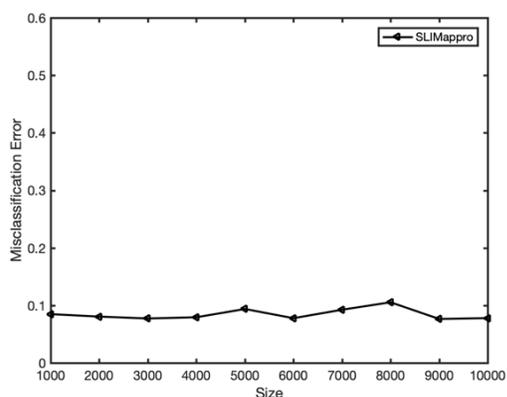
Bing-Yi Jing<sup>1</sup>, Ting Li<sup>2</sup>, Ningchen Ying<sup>1</sup> and Xianshi Yu<sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup>*Hong Kong University of Science and Technology* and <sup>2</sup>*Hong Kong Polytechnic University*

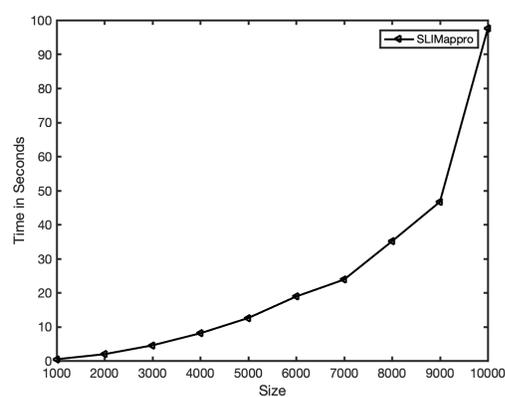
### Supplementary Material

#### S1 Simulation with varying $n$ .

We previously brought up an approximation approach SLIMappro to address the case where  $n$  is large and the calculation of  $\hat{W}$  is time consuming. In section 4.2.3, we examined this method by networks with  $n = 1200$ . Here, we provide more simulation results for the SLIMappro, demonstrating its performance when  $n$  is large.



(a) ERROR RATE with varying  $n$ .



(b) Time consumption in seconds on the SLIMappro.

Figure 1: Performance of the SLIMappro with networks of varying  $n$ : Networks are simulated from the SBM with  $K = 3$ ,  $\rho = 0$ ,  $\pi = (1/3, 1/3, 1/3)$ ,  $\lambda = 4$  and  $\beta = 0.08$  with 20 repetitions; (a) reports the average missclassification rate of SLIMappro; (b) reports the average time consumption of SLIMappro in seconds.

## S2 Proof of Theorem 3.1

For the SLIM with regularization, misclassification comes from two sources: the difference between  $M_\tau$  and  $\hat{M}_\tau$  and the randomness of the clustering method, i.e., k-means. For convenience, we omit the subscript  $\tau$  in  $M_\tau$  and  $\hat{M}_\tau$ , and we use  $M_0$  to specify the original one if needed.

### S2.1 Misclassification Rate of K-means Algorithm

The following lemma describes the eigen-structure of  $M$  and is similar to Lemma 2.1 in Lei and Rinaldo (2015).

**Lemma S2.1.** Let the pair  $(\Theta, B)$  parametrize the SBM with  $K$  communities, where  $B$  is of full rank. Let  $\alpha < 1$ , which makes  $I - D^{-1}P\alpha$  invertible. Let  $UHU^T$  be the eigen-decomposition of  $M - I$ . Then  $U = \Theta X$  where  $X \in \mathbb{R}^{K \times K}$  and  $\|X_{k*} - X_{l*}\| = \sqrt{n_k^{-1} + n_l^{-1}}$  for all  $1 \leq k < l \leq K$ .

*Proof.* Clearly  $M - I$  is a block matrix of rank  $K$ . Let  $O$  be a  $K \times K$  full rank matrix and

$$M - I = \Theta O \Theta^T = \Theta \Delta^{-1} \Delta O \Delta (\Theta \Delta^{-1})^T \text{ here } \Delta = \text{diag}(\sqrt{n_1}, \dots, \sqrt{n_K}).$$

Let  $ZHZ^T = \Delta O \Delta$  be the eigen-decomposition of  $\Delta O \Delta$ . Because  $M - I = UHU^T$ , we have  $U = \Theta \Delta^{-1} Z$  and  $X = \Delta^{-1} Z$ . The rows of  $X$  are perpendicular to each other and the  $k$ th row has length  $\|(\Delta Z)_{k*}\| = \sqrt{1/n_k}$ . In addition, the eigenvector of  $M$  is the same with  $M - I$ 's.  $\square$

Now, we bound the error of k-means by citing Lemma 5.3 in Lei and Rinaldo (2015).

**Lemma S2.2.** For  $\varepsilon > 0$  and any two matrices  $\hat{U}, U \in \mathbb{R}^{n \times K}$  such that  $U = \Theta X$  with  $\Theta \in \mathbb{F}_{n, K}$ ,  $X \in \mathbb{R}^{K \times K}$ , let  $(\hat{\Theta}, \hat{X})$  be the  $(1 + \varepsilon)$ -approximate solution to the k-means problem (see Kumar et al. (2004)), and  $\bar{U} = \hat{\Theta} \hat{X}$ . For any  $\delta_k \leq \min_{l \neq k} \|X_{k*} - X_{l*}\|$ , define  $S_k = \{i \in G_k(\Theta) : \|\bar{U}_{i*} - U_{i*}\| \geq \delta_k/2\}$ , then

$$\sum_{k=1}^K |S_k| \delta_k^2 \leq 4(4 + 2\varepsilon) \|\hat{U} - U\|_F^2. \quad (\text{S2.1})$$

Moreover, if

$$4(4 + 2\varepsilon)\|\hat{U} - U\|_F^2/\delta_k^2 < n_k \quad \text{for all } k, \quad (\text{S2.2})$$

then there exists a  $K \times K$  permutation matrix  $J$  such that  $\hat{\Theta}_{G^*} = \Theta_{G^*}J$ , where  $G = \bigcup_{k=1}^K (G_k \setminus S_k)$ .

In the next lemma, similar to Lemma 5.1 in Lei and Rinaldo (2015), we bound  $\|\hat{U} - U\|_F$  by  $\|\hat{M} - M\|$ . Here  $\|F\|$  is the operator norm of matrix  $F$ .

**Lemma S2.3.** Assume that  $M \in \mathbb{R}^{n \times n}$  is a symmetric matrix with singular value  $\gamma_1 \geq \dots \geq \gamma_n$ . Let  $\hat{M}$  be any symmetric matrix and  $\hat{U}, U \in \mathbb{R}^{n \times K}$  be the  $K$  leading eigenvectors of  $\hat{M}$  and  $M$ , respectively. Then there exists a  $K \times K$  orthogonal matrix  $Q$  such that

$$\|\hat{U} - UQ\|_F \leq \frac{2\sqrt{2K}}{|\gamma_K - \gamma_{K+1}|} \|\hat{M} - M\|.$$

*Proof.* The proof follows the lines of Lemma 5.1 in Lei and Rinaldo (2015) using the Davis-Kahan  $\sin \Theta$  theorem, and hence omitted.  $\square$

**Remark S2.1.** Under Condition 3.1, we can calculate the eigenvalues of  $M$ . It can be shown that the eigenvalues of  $D^{-1}P$  are  $\lambda_1 = 1, \lambda_2 = \dots = \lambda_K = (a - b)(a + (K - 1)b + K\tau)^{-1}, \lambda_{K+1} = \dots = \lambda_n = 0$ . And the eigenvalues of  $M$  are  $\gamma_1 = \alpha(1 - \alpha)^{-1} + 1, \gamma_2 = \dots = \gamma_K = \alpha\lambda_2(1 - \alpha\lambda_2)^{-1} + 1, \gamma_{K+1} = \dots = \gamma_n = 1$ . So we have

$$\|\hat{U} - UQ\|_F \leq \frac{2\sqrt{2K}}{\alpha} \left| 1 - \alpha + \frac{Kb}{a - b} + \frac{K\tau}{a - b} \right| \|\hat{M} - M\|$$

## S2.2 Concentration of $\hat{M}$

We now bound  $\|\hat{M} - M\|$ . Following Le et al. (2017), we handle the sparsity issue by separating nodes into core points, whose degree is close to the mean, and extreme points, which have a vary large or a very small degree. The main differences from Le et al. (2017) are: the random walk Laplacian matrix is asymmetric instead of symmetric; and we control the low degree nodes by adding a constant  $\tau$  and the high degree nodes by replacing their degree by  $c\tau$ , here  $c$  is a sufficiently large constant.

We first bound  $\|\hat{M} - M\|$  by the corresponding difference of their random walk Laplacian matrices.

**Lemma S2.4.** If  $\alpha < 1/\sqrt{c+1}$  then

$$\|\hat{M} - M\| \leq \frac{\alpha}{(1 - \sqrt{c+1}\alpha)^2} \|\hat{D}^{-1}A - D^{-1}P\|.$$

*Proof.* Using lemma S2.5 and the condition of  $\alpha$  we have  $\|\hat{D}^{-1}A\alpha\| \leq \sqrt{\hat{d}_{max}/\hat{d}_{min}}\alpha \leq \sqrt{(c+1)\tau/\tau}\alpha < 1$ . Therefore  $\|\hat{W}\| = \|(I - \hat{D}^{-1}A\alpha)^{-1}\| \leq (1 - \|\hat{D}^{-1}A\alpha\|)^{-1} \leq (1 - \sqrt{c+1}\alpha)^{-1}$ . So

$$\begin{aligned} \|\hat{M} - M\| &\leq \|\hat{W} - W\| \\ &= \|\hat{W}(W^{-1} - \hat{W}^{-1})W\| \\ &\leq \alpha\|\hat{W}\|\|W\|\|\hat{D}^{-1}A - D^{-1}P\| \\ &\leq \frac{\alpha}{(1 - \sqrt{c+1}\alpha)^2} \|\hat{D}^{-1}A - D^{-1}P\|. \end{aligned}$$

□

**Lemma S2.5.** Let  $L(A) = \hat{D}^{-1}A$  be the transition matrix of  $A$ , and  $d_{max} = \max[D_{ii}]$ ,  $d_{min} = \min[D_{ii}]$ . Then

$$\|L(A)\| \leq \sqrt{d_{max}/d_{min}}.$$

*Proof.* From the definition of  $L(A)$  we have

$$\begin{aligned} \|L(A)\| &= \|D^{-\frac{1}{2}}D^{-\frac{1}{2}}AD^{-\frac{1}{2}}D^{\frac{1}{2}}\| \\ &\leq \|D^{-\frac{1}{2}}\|\|D^{-\frac{1}{2}}AD^{-\frac{1}{2}}\|\|D^{\frac{1}{2}}\| \\ &\leq \sqrt{\frac{d_{max}}{d_{min}}}\|D^{-\frac{1}{2}}AD^{-\frac{1}{2}}\|. \end{aligned}$$

It can be easily checked that  $\|D^{-1/2}AD^{-1/2}\| = 1$ . This completes the proof. □

Similar to Theorem 1.2 in Le et al. (2017), we can bound  $\|\hat{D}^{-1}A - D^{-1}P\|$  as follows.

**Lemma S2.6.** Let  $A_0$  be a random matrix generated from the SBM. For any  $C' > 0$ , there exists some  $C > 0$  such that

$$\|\hat{D}^{-1}A - D^{-1}P\| \leq C\sqrt{\frac{\log d}{d}}$$

with probability at least  $1 - n^{-C'}$  uniformly over  $\tau \in [C_1d, C_2d]$  for some sufficiently large constants  $C_1, C_2$ , where  $d = np_{max} + 1$  and  $p_{max} = \max_{u \geq v} P_{uv}$ .

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*Proof.* First, there is a set of nodes with degrees close to their expected degree. From Lemma S2.7 we can find a set  $J$  containing all but at most  $n/d$  nodes from  $[n]$  which satisfies:

$$\|(\hat{D}^{-1}A - D^{-1}P)_{JJ}\| \leq C_3 \left( \frac{\sqrt{d \log d}(d + 2\tau + \sqrt{d \log d})}{\tau^2} \right).$$

Now, let us deal with the residual. We consider nodes with a high degree in the original network first. By applying the SLIM with regularization, we have already changed the degree of these nodes to  $\tau$ . From Lemma S2.9 we can find a set  $J_1$  containing at most  $n/(4\tau)$  nodes from  $[n]$  which satisfies:

$$\|(\hat{D}^{-1}A - \hat{D}^{-1}P)_{J_1 \times [n] \cup ([n] - J_1) \times J_1}\| \leq \frac{C_4}{\sqrt{\tau}}.$$

In addition, it is easy to show that  $J \cap J_1 = \emptyset$ . Let  $J_2 = [n] - J_1 - J$ . We have  $\max\{\hat{d}_u : u \in J_2\} < 4\tau$ . Then we decompose the left nodes into two blocks  $J_2 \times [n]$  and  $([n] - J_2) \times J_2$ . The first block has at most  $n/d$  rows, so Lemma S2.10 indicates that

$$\|L(A_\tau)_{J_2 \times [n]}\| \leq \sqrt{\frac{\max\{\hat{d}_u : u \in J_2\} + \tau}{\min\{\hat{d}_u : u \in J_2\} + \tau}} \|\mathcal{L}(A_\tau)_{J_2 \times [n]}\| \leq 3 \left( \frac{2}{\sqrt{d}} + \frac{\sqrt{40r \log d}}{\sqrt{\tau}} \right).$$

Similarly, from Lemma S2.11, we have

$$\|L(P_\tau)_{J_2 \times [n]}\| \leq \sqrt{\frac{\max\{d_u : u \in J_2\} + \tau}{\min\{d_u : u \in J_2\} + \tau}} \|\mathcal{L}(P_\tau)_{J_2 \times [n]}\| \leq 3 \left( \frac{2}{\sqrt{d}} + \frac{2}{\sqrt{\tau}} \right).$$

As for  $([n] - J_2) \times J_2$ , we can bound it in the same way. Finally we complete the proof using the triangle inequality and taking  $\tau = C_5 d$  with a sufficiently large constant  $C_5 > 0$ .  $\square$

**Lemma S2.7.** For any  $C' > 0$ , there exists some  $C > 0$  such that with probability at least  $1 - n^{-C'}$ , there exists a subset  $J \subset [n]$  satisfying  $n - |J| \leq n/d$ ,  $\max_{v \in J} |d_v - \hat{d}_v| \leq C\sqrt{d \log d}$  and

$$\|(\hat{D}^{-1}A - D^{-1}P)_{JJ}\| \leq C \left( \frac{\sqrt{d \log d}(d + 2\tau + \sqrt{d \log d})}{\tau^2} \right),$$

where  $d = np_{max} + 1$ .

*Proof.* The existence of such a subset  $J$  satisfying  $n - |J| \leq n/d$  and  $\max_{v \in J} |d_v - \hat{d}_v| \leq C\sqrt{d \log d}$  can be proved by Lemma 14 in Gao et al. (2017) from the beginning to inequation (85). Now let

$$A = (A_\tau)_{JJ}, \quad \hat{D} = (\hat{D}_\tau)_{JJ}, \quad P = (P_\tau)_{JJ}, \quad D = (D_\tau)_{JJ}.$$

We have  $\|D^{-1}\| \leq \frac{1}{\tau}$ ,  $\|P\| \leq d + \tau$ . We also have

$$\|D^{-1} - \hat{D}^{-1}\| \leq \max_{v \in J} \left| \frac{1}{d_v + \tau} - \frac{1}{\hat{d}_v + \tau} \right| \leq \frac{C\sqrt{d \log d}}{\tau^2}.$$

Finally, we obtain

$$\begin{aligned} \|\hat{D}^{-1}A - D^{-1}P\| &= \|\hat{D}^{-1}A - D^{-1}A + D^{-1}A - D^{-1}P\| \\ &\leq \|\hat{D}^{-1} - D^{-1}\| \|A\| + \|D^{-1}\| \|A - P\| \\ &\leq \|\hat{D}^{-1} - D^{-1}\| (\|P\| + \|A - P\|) + \|D^{-1}\| \|A - P\| \\ &\leq C \left( \frac{\sqrt{d \log d} (d + 2\tau + \sqrt{d \log d})}{\tau^2} \right) \end{aligned}$$

for some constant  $C > 0$ . This completes the proof.  $\square$

The following result is Lemma 11 in Gao et al. (2017).

**Lemma S2.8.** For any  $\tau > C(1 + np_{max})$  with some sufficiently large  $C > 0$ , we have

$$|\{u \in [n] : d_u \geq \tau\}| \leq \frac{n}{\tau}$$

with probability at least  $1 - e^{-C'n}$  for some constant  $C' \geq 0$ .

**Lemma S2.9.** For any  $\tau > Cd$  with some sufficiently large  $C > 0$ ,  $J_1 = \{u \in [n] : \hat{d}_u > \tau\}$ , there exists a positive constant  $C_1$ . We have

$$\|(\hat{D}^{-1}A - \hat{D}^{-1}P)_{J_1 \times [n] \cup ([n] - J_1) \times J_1}\| \leq \frac{C_1}{\sqrt{\tau}},$$

with probability at least  $1 - e^{-C'n}$  for some constant  $C' \geq 0$ .

*Proof.* From Lemma S2.8,  $|J_1| \leq n/\tau$  with probability at least  $1 - e^{-C'n}$  for some

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constant  $C' \geq 0$ .

$$\begin{aligned}
\|(\hat{D}^{-1}A - \hat{D}^{-1}P)_{J_1 \times [n] \cup ([n]-J_1) \times J_1}\| &\leq \|(\hat{D}^{-1}A - \hat{D}^{-1}P)_{J_1 \times [n] \cup ([n]-J_1) \times J_1}\|_F \\
&\leq \sqrt{2n|J_1| \max\left(\frac{1}{n} - \frac{1}{d_{i,j} + \tau}(P_{i,j} + \frac{\tau}{n})\right)} \\
&< \frac{\sqrt{2n}}{\sqrt{\tau}} \left(\frac{1}{n} + \frac{1}{\tau}(p_{max} + \frac{\tau}{n})\right) \\
&\leq \frac{C_1}{\sqrt{\tau}}
\end{aligned}$$

for some positive constant  $C_1$ . □

The following lemma is derived from Theorem 4.1 in Le et al. (2017).

**Lemma S2.10.** Let  $A_0$  be a random matrix from the SBM. Then for any  $r \geq 1$  the following holds with probability  $1 - 2n^{-2r}$ . Any sub-matrix  $\mathcal{L}(A_\tau)_{\mathcal{I} \times \mathcal{J}}$  of the regularized Laplacian  $\mathcal{L}(A_\tau)$  with at most  $n/d$  rows or columns satisfies

$$\|\mathcal{L}(A_\tau)_{\mathcal{I} \times \mathcal{J}}\| \leq \frac{2}{\sqrt{d}} + \frac{\sqrt{40r \log d}}{\sqrt{\tau}} \text{ for any } \tau > 0.$$

Here  $\mathcal{L}(A) = D^{-1/2}AD^{-1/2}$  is the symmetric normalized Laplacian of  $A$ .

Similarly, we can bound the Laplacian of the regularized  $P_\tau$ .

**Lemma S2.11.** Let matrix  $P$  as assumption. Then any sub-matrix  $\mathcal{L}(P_\tau)_{\mathcal{I} \times \mathcal{J}}$  of the regularized Laplacian  $\mathcal{L}(P_\tau)$  with at most  $n/d$  rows or columns satisfies

$$\|\mathcal{L}(P_\tau)_{\mathcal{I} \times \mathcal{J}}\| \leq \frac{2}{\sqrt{d}} + \frac{2}{\sqrt{\tau}} \text{ for any } \tau > 0.$$

Finally, we are ready to prove Theorem 3.1 now.

*Proof.* From Lemma S2.1 we have  $UQ = \Theta XQ = \Theta X'$  where  $\|X'_{k*} - X_{l*}\| = \sqrt{1/n_k + 1/n_l}$ . Here  $Q$  is a  $K \times K$  orthogonal matrix. Then, we choose  $\delta_k = \sqrt{n_k^{-1} + \max\{n_l : l \neq k\}^{-1}}$  in Lemma S2.2 so that  $n_k \delta_k^2 \geq 1$  for all  $k$ . We have  $L(\hat{\Theta}_\tau, \Theta) \leq \sum_{k=1}^K |S_k| (n_k^{-1} + \max\{n_l : l \neq k\}^{-1}) \leq 4(4+2\varepsilon) \|\hat{U}_\tau - UQ\|_F^2$ . Then, using Lemma S2.3, we have  $L(\hat{\Theta}_\tau, \Theta) \leq C_1 \|\hat{M} - M\|^2 (\gamma_{\tau,K} - \gamma_{\tau,K+1})^{-2}$  for some positive

constant  $C_1$ . Following Lemma S2.4, we have  $L(\hat{\Theta}_\tau, \Theta) \leq C\|\hat{D}^{-1}A - D^{-1}P\|(\gamma_{\tau,K} - \gamma_{\tau,K+1})^{-2}$ . We obtain the final result by applying Lemma S2.6.

□

## Bibliography

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# List of Notation

$A$	Adjacency matrix $A$ , which is an $n \times n$ 0–1 symmetric matrix.
$A_\tau$	$A_\tau = A + \frac{\tau}{n} \mathbf{1}\mathbf{1}^T$ and then set $A_{\tau J_1^*} = \frac{\tau}{n}$ and $A_{\tau^* J_1} = \frac{\tau}{n}$ .
$B$	$K \times K$ matrix with $b_{ij}$ indicating the connecting probability between a pair of nodes from community $i$ and $j$ .
$D$	The expected degree diagonal matrix which is equal to $\text{diag}(P\mathbf{1}\mathbf{1})$ .
$D_\tau$	The expected regularized degree diagonal matrix which is equal to $\text{diag}(P_\tau \mathbf{1}\mathbf{1})$ .
$F_{\mathcal{I}^*}$	For a matrix $F$ and index sets $\mathcal{I} \subseteq [n]$ , $F_{\mathcal{I}^*}$ is the sub-matrix of $F$ consisting of the corresponding rows.
$I_K$	The $K \times K$ identity matrix.
$J_1$	$J_1 = \{u \in [n] : \hat{d}_u \geq \tau\}$ .
$K$	Number of communities.
$L(F)$	For any matrix $F$ , $L(F) = D_F^{-1}F$ which is the transition matrix of $F$ .
$L(\hat{\Theta}, \Theta)$	The overall proportion of misclassification nodes, $L(\hat{\Theta}, \Theta) = n^{-1} \min_{J \in E_K} \ \hat{\Theta}J - \Theta\ _0$ .
$M$	$M = \frac{1}{2}((I - D^{-1}P\alpha) + (I - D^{-1}P\alpha)^T)$ .
$M_\tau$	$M_\tau = \frac{1}{2}((I - D_\tau^{-1}P_\tau\alpha) + (I - D_\tau^{-1}P_\tau\alpha)^T)$ .

List of Notation

$P$	Edge probability matrix $P$ , with $P = \Theta B \Theta^T$ .
$P_\tau$	$P_\tau = P + \frac{\tau}{n} \mathbf{1} \mathbf{1}^T$ .
$\Theta$	Membership matrix, $\Theta \in \mathbb{F}_{n,K}$ , and $\Theta_{i,g_i} = 1$ .
$\alpha$	$\alpha = e^{-\gamma}$ .
$\hat{D}$	The degree diagonal matrix which is equal to $diag(A \mathbf{1} \mathbf{1})$ .
$\hat{D}_\tau$	The regularized degree diagonal matrix which equal to $diag(A_\tau \mathbf{1} \mathbf{1})$ .
$\hat{M}_\tau$	$\hat{M}_\tau = \frac{1}{2}((I - \hat{D}_\tau^{-1} A_\tau \alpha) + (I - \hat{D}_\tau^{-1} A_\tau \alpha)^T)$ .
$\hat{M}$	$\hat{M} = \frac{1}{2}((I - \hat{D}^{-1} A \alpha) + (I - \hat{D}^{-1} A \alpha)^T)$ .
$\hat{\Theta}$	Estimated membership matrix, $\hat{\Theta} \in \mathbb{F}_{n,K}$ .
$\hat{d}_i$	The degree of node $i$ , which is $\hat{D}_{i,i}$ .
$\hat{d}_{\tau,i}$	The regularized degree of node $i$ , which is $\hat{D}_{\tau,i,i}$ .
$\mathbb{F}_{n,K}$	The collection of all $n \times K$ matrices where each row has only one 1 and $(K - 1)$ 0's.
$\tau$	The regularization number which is in $[C_1 d, C_2 d]$ for relatively large positive $C_1$ and $C_2$ .
$d$	$d = np_{max} + 1$ .
$diag(F)$	For any matrix $F$ , $diag(F)$ denotes the matrix obtained by setting all off-diagonal entries of $F$ to 0.
$n$	Number of nodes.
$n_i$	Number of nodes belonging to community $i$ .
$p_{max}$	$p_{max} = \max_{u \geq v} P_{uv}$ .
$\mathbf{1}_K$	The $K \times 1$ vector of 1's.