



## Abstract

- **Problem:** community detection in temporal graphs  $\{\mathcal{G}_t\}_{t=1,\dots,T}$
- **Goal:** exploit [time label correlation](#) to improve clustering performance
- **Technique:** [physics](#) inspired approach for [spectral clustering](#) in [sparse](#) graphs

[Dynamical Bethe-Hessian matrix](#) for [fast](#) and [improved](#) community detection down to the [detectability threshold](#). Extension to [arbitrary number of classes](#).

## Model and notation (I)

### Dynamical degree-corrected stochastic block model

- $\{\mathcal{G}_t(\mathcal{V}_t, \mathcal{E}_t)\}_{t=1,\dots,T}$  sequence of graphs with  $n$  nodes and  $k$  classes.
- $\eta \in [0, 1]$  class label persistence
- $\ell_t \in \{1, \dots, k\}^n$  label vector at time  $t$ .  $\pi_p$  fraction of nodes with label  $p$

$$\forall i_{t+1} \in \mathcal{V}_{t+1}, \quad \ell_{i_{t+1}} = \begin{cases} \ell_{i_t} & \text{w.p. } \eta \\ a & \text{w.p. } (1-\eta)\pi_a \end{cases}$$

- $C$ : class affinity matrix,  $\Pi = \text{diag}(\boldsymbol{\pi})$ .  $C, \Pi \in \mathcal{M}_{k \times k}$ .
- $A^{(t)}, D^{(t)} = \text{diag}(A^{(t)}\mathbf{1}) \in \mathcal{M}_{n \times n}$ : adjacency and degree matrix of  $\mathcal{G}_t$ .
- $\boldsymbol{\theta}$ : node connectivity.  $\boldsymbol{\theta} \in \mathbb{R}^n$ ;  $\frac{1}{n}\mathbf{1}^T \boldsymbol{\theta} = 1$ ;  $\frac{1}{n}\mathbf{1} \boldsymbol{\theta}^T = \Phi = O_n(1)$ .
- $c = \frac{1}{n}\mathbf{1}^T A \mathbf{1} = O_n(1)$  average degree;  $C\Pi\mathbf{1} = c\mathbf{1}$ .

$$\mathbb{P}(A_{ij}^{(t)} = 1) = \theta_i \theta_j \frac{C_{\ell_i, \ell_j}}{n} \quad \text{i.i.d across time}$$

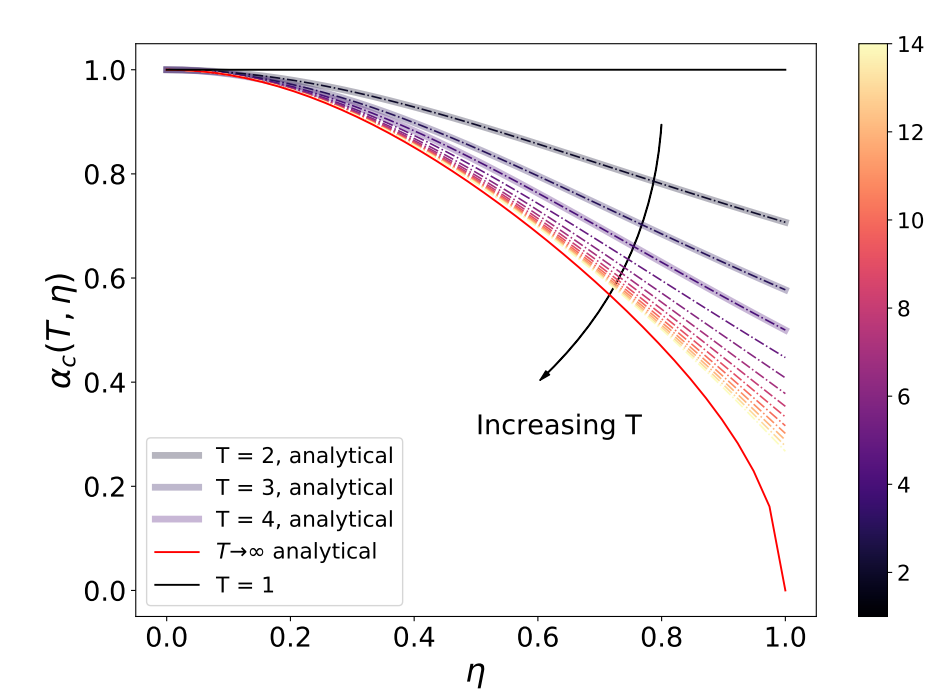
## Dynamical detectability threshold (II)

For  $k = 2$  communities of equal size:  $C_{\ell_i, \ell_j} = c_{\text{in}}$  if  $\ell_i = \ell_j$  and  $c_{\text{out}}$  otherwise, with  $\lambda = \frac{c_{\text{in}} - c_{\text{out}}}{c_{\text{in}} + c_{\text{out}}}$ . Non trivial reconstruction if and only if [1]

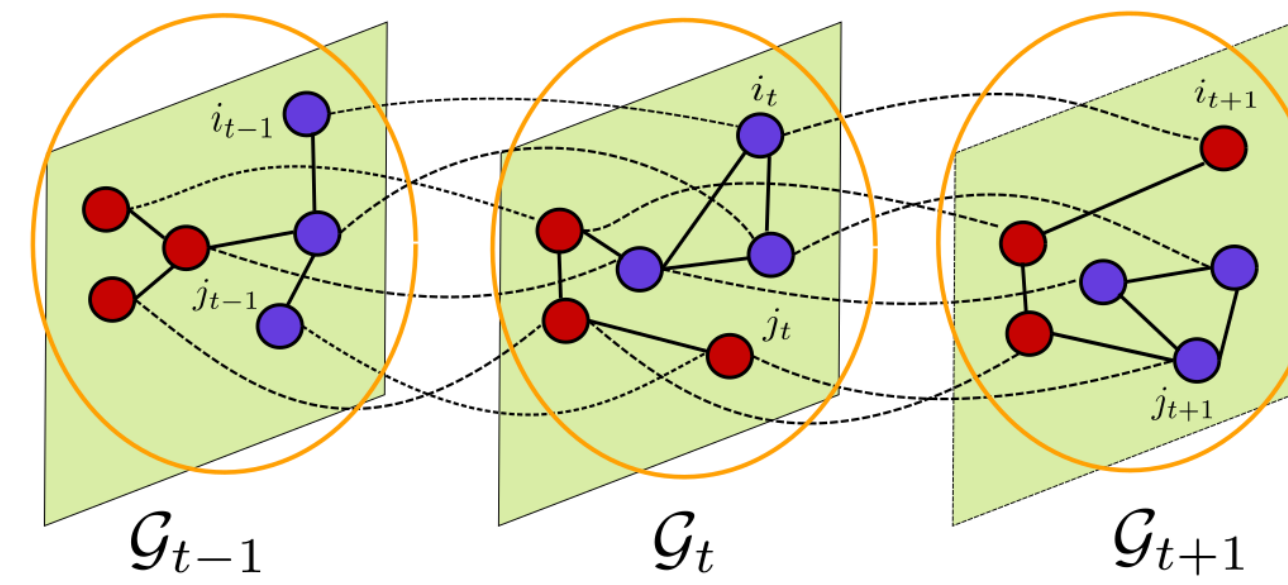
$$\alpha := \sqrt{c\Phi\lambda^2} > \alpha_c(T, \eta)$$

- [Large  \$T\$  and  \$\eta\$  improve performance](#)
- Analytical expression of  $\alpha_c(T, \eta)$  up to  $T = 4$ , otherwise solved numerically

[1] Ghasemian et. al. - [Detectability thresholds and optimal algorithms for community structure in dynamic networks](#) (2016)



## Dynamical Bethe-Hessian matrix (III)



### Dynamical Bethe-Hessian matrix

- Let  $\xi, h \in (0, 1)$
- Let  $\phi_{t=1} = \phi_{t=T} = 1$  and  $\phi_t = 2$ , for all other  $t$ .

The dynamical Bethe-Hessian matrix  $H_{\xi, h} \in \mathbb{R}^{nT \times nT}$  is defined as

$$(H_{\xi, h})_{i_t, j_{t'}} = \begin{cases} \left( \frac{\xi^2 D^{(t)} - \xi A^{(t)}}{1 - \xi^2} + \frac{1 + h^2(\phi_t - 1)}{1 - h^2} I_n \right)_{ij} & \text{if } t = t' \\ \left( -\frac{h}{1 - h^2} I_n \right)_{ij} & \text{if } t = t' \pm 1, \end{cases}$$

### Dynamical non-backtracking matrix

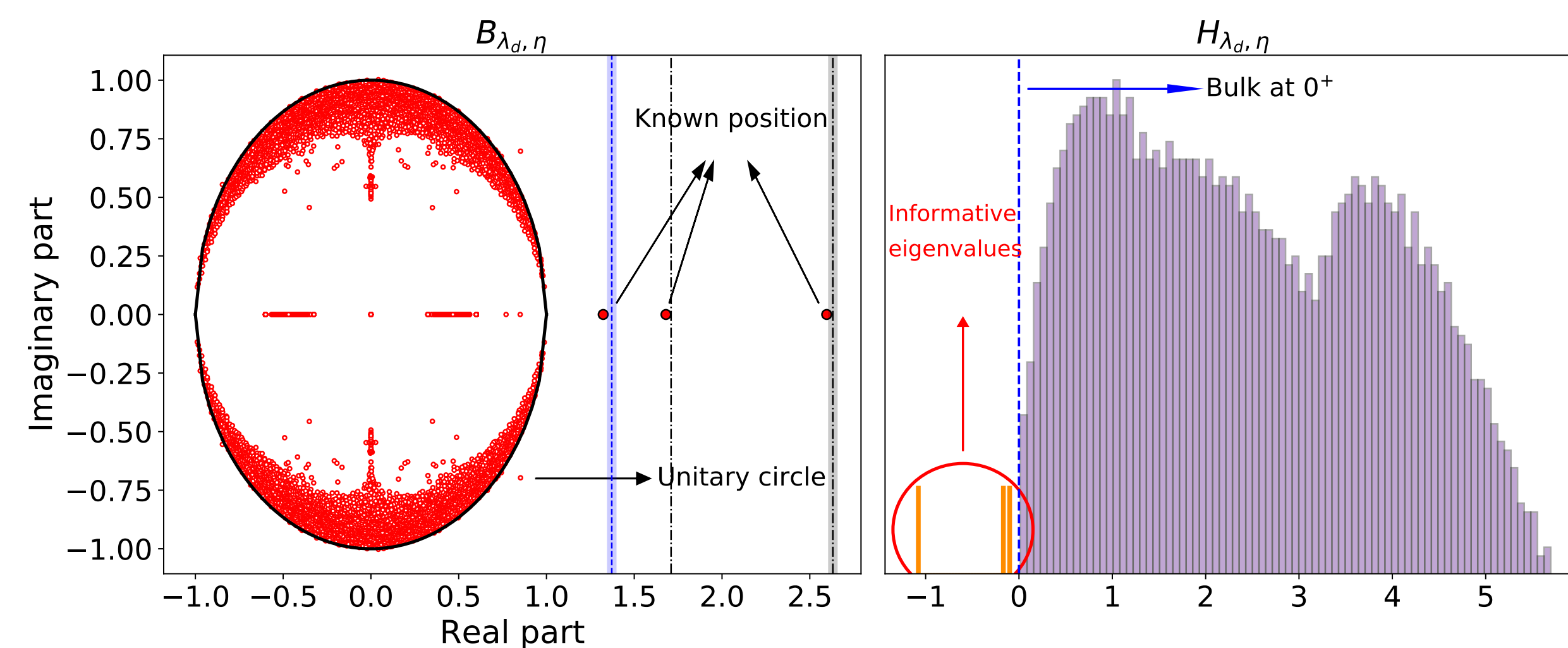
$$(B_{\xi, h})_{(ij)(kl)} = \delta_{jk}(1 - \delta_{kl}) \times \begin{cases} \xi & \text{if } (kl) \text{ spatial edge} \\ h & \text{if } (kl) \text{ temporal edge} \end{cases}$$

Generalized Ihara Bass formula : if  $\exists \mathbf{v}$  s.t.  $B_{\xi, h} \mathbf{v} = \mathbf{v}$ , then  $\det[H_{\xi, h}] = 0$

## Main result (IV)

**Proposition:** suppose the problem is **above the detectability threshold**

$\alpha > \alpha_c(T, \eta)$  and define  $\xi = \lambda_d = \frac{\alpha_c(T, \eta)}{\sqrt{c\Phi}}$ . Then, as  $n \rightarrow \infty$



## Algorithm (V)

**Input :** adjacency matrices  $\{A^{(t)}\}_{t=1,\dots,T}$  of the undirected graphs  $\{\mathcal{G}_t\}_{t=1,\dots,T}$ ; label persistence,  $\eta$ ; number of clusters  $k$ .

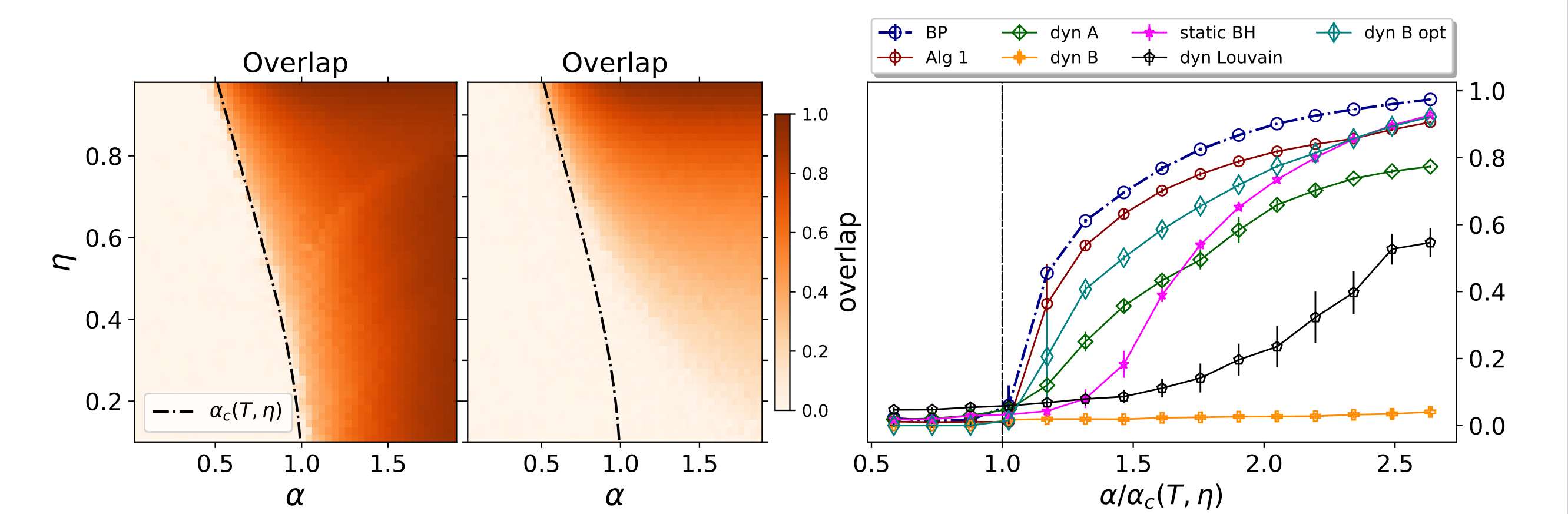
- Compute  $\lambda_d$  and build  $H_{\lambda_d, \eta}$
- Stack the  $m$  eigenvectors of  $H_{\lambda_d, \eta}$  with eigenvalue  $< 0$  in of  $X \in \mathbb{R}^{nT \times m}$
- Normalize the rows of  $X_{i_t} \leftarrow X_{i_t} / \|X_{i_t}\|$
- For each  $t$ , estimate community labels using  $k$ -means on the rows  $\{X_{i_t}\}_{i=1,\dots,n}$ .

**Return** Estimated label vector  $\hat{\ell} \in \{1, \dots, k\}^{nT}$ .

**Efficient Julia implementation at**  
[lorenzodallamico.github.io/CoDeBetHe.jl](https://github.com/lorenzodallamico/CoDeBetHe.jl)

## Performance (VI)

$$\text{ov}(\ell, \hat{\ell}) = \max_{\bar{\ell} \in \mathcal{P}(\hat{\ell})} \frac{1}{1 - \frac{1}{k}} \left( \frac{1}{n} \sum_{i=1}^n \delta_{\ell_i, \bar{\ell}_i} - \frac{1}{k} \right),$$



[1] Ghasemian et. al. - [Detectability thresholds and optimal algorithms for community structure in dynamic networks](#) (2016)  
[2] Mucha et. al. - [Community structure in time-dependent, multiscale, and multiplex networks](#) (2010)  
[3] Keriven, Vaïter - [Sparse and smooth: improved guarantees for spectral clustering in the dynamic stochastic block model](#) (2020)  
[4] Dall'Amico et. al. - [A unified framework for spectral clustering in sparse graphs](#) (2020)

## Research openings

- How to estimate  $\eta$  for all  $\alpha > \alpha_c(T, \eta)$  ?
- Generalization to the case in which  $C, \Pi, \boldsymbol{\theta}$  also evolve through time
- Generalization to the case of  $A^{(t)}$  with additional informative edge dependences.
- Preliminary investigation in the supplementary material.

