**Diffusion of academic achievements: social selection and social influence in student social networks**

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**Abstract**: Peer group effects show the influence of student social environment on their individual achievements. Traditionally, a social environment is considered by researchers of peer effects as exogenously given. However, significant peers that affect performance are often those that are deliberately chosen. Students might choose their friends among peers with similar academic achievements. Dynamic analysis of student social networks and academic achievements is needed to disentangle social selection and social influence processes in network formation. Using data about friendship and advice networks of first year undergraduate students, we show that friends tend to assimilate achievements of each other and choose advisers with similar grades. We explain results with social segregation based on student performance.