

## Community evolution in dynamic social networks

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**Abstract**-This paper proposed a framework and an algorithm for identifying communities in dynamic social networks. In order to handle the drawbacks of traditional approaches for social network analysis, we utilize the community similarities and infrequent change of community members combined with community structure optimization to develop a *Group*-based social community identification model to analyze the change of social interaction network with multiple time steps. According to this model, we introduced a greed-cut algorithm and depth-search-first approach and combine them to develop a new algorithm for dynamic social interaction network recognition (called ADSIN). In addition, we conduct experiments on the dataset of *Southern Women*, the experiment results validate the accuracy and effectiveness of ADSIN.

**Key words**-social network; community recognition; time step;  $\varphi$  connectivity graph

### I. INTRODUCTION

Social Interaction Network (SIN) refers to relationship network between individuals in their social activities, some common characteristics in SIN members are often revealed in SIN, such as common blood, common careers, common interests and hobbies, even common illegal crime motive. Investigators in public security authorities tend to lock the parties' social circle or gang members in SIN as soon as possible during the detection process, it has an important practical significance in community identification and its analysis in party-centric SIN.

At present, social community identification method underscoring SIN dynamic is under way of research. The related work includes: group coloring heuristics<sup>[1]</sup> is a framework to identify a community and its dynamic in its own social network which is based on graph coloring theory with dynamic programming, exhaustive search, maximum match and Greedy Heuristics approach, but this model has some limitation in its real use: its algorithm is too complicated, and it suits for small size social network.

This paper develops a novel algorithm for dynamic social interaction network recognition (ADSIN), as a result of pruning edges and depth search optimization adopted in ADSIN, ADSIN's time complexity is reduced greatly compared with community recognition based on group coloring heuristics model, further more, ADSIN is simple and suits for large social network analysis.

The remainder of this paper is organized as follows. In Section II, we introduce some concepts and terminology

cited in this paper. Section III contains the core of the paper where we present algorithm motivation. The experiment and analysis appears in section IV. Finally, we present our conclusions in Section V.

### II. DEFINITIONS AND PROBLEM STATEMENTS

#### Definition 1: Group

$G=\{x_1, x_2, \dots, x_n\}$  is a set for time step  $P$ , entity  $x_i (i \in [1, n])$  interacts only with entities in set  $G$  and doesn't interact with entities in any other sets, then  $G$  is *Group*.

#### Definition 2: a Set of Group

$G_i (i=1, \dots, n)$  is a set for time step  $P$ ,  $SG=\{G_1, G_2, \dots, G_n\}, G_i \cap G_j = \Phi$ , where  $i \neq j, i, j \in [1, n]$ , then  $SG$  is a *set of Group* or *Group set*.

To demonstrate social structure with dynamic setting, assumed that observe a certain amount of social individual in a certain way in a period of time and record the individual interactions at every record time point. Suppose that the input is a group form containing these individuals at every time point. Given an entity set  $X=\{x_1, x_2, \dots, x_n\}$ , group  $g$  is defined as a subset of  $X$ , assumed the inputs are a series partition of  $X: P_1, P_2, \dots, P_T$ . every partition is a time unit and the intersection between these partition  $P_i$  is null. For every time unit, group set defines as  $SG_i=\{g_1, g_2, \dots, g_k\}$ , where  $g_1, \dots, g_k$  are disjoint entity sets, is defined as an index of partition belong to  $g$ . If  $g$  belongs to  $P_i$ , then  $P(g)=i$ .

#### Definition 3: Time Step for Group Set

Given a time step  $P_1, P_2, \dots, P_T$  of an entity set  $X$ ,  $\text{Sim}(\cdot)$  is a group set similarity measure function, group set  $SG=\{SG_1, SG_2, \dots, SG_T\}$ ,  $SG_t=\{g_1, \dots, g_k\}$  is a group set for every time step  $t$ , hence we have:

(1) There is no similarity definitely between any two group for a given time step;

(2) In addition to not observed groups, any one group in subset of group set  $SG$  for a former time is similar definitely with one group in that of  $SG$  for a latter time.

(3) If there is a group  $G$  in group set  $SG$  for former time is not similar with any other groups for latter time, then the  $G$  is a not observed group.

#### Definition 4: similarity between groups

Given two adjacent time steps  $P_i, P_j$  and two group sets  $SG_i, SG_j$  corresponding to time steps  $P_i, P_j$  respectively, and  $g_i \in SG_i, g_j \in SG_j$ , if  $g_i$  is similar to  $g_j$ , then

$Sim(g_i, g_j) = \max(Sim(g_i, SG_j))$ , where  $\max(Sim(g_i, SG_j))$  is the maximum similarity between  $g_i$  and all groups in  $SG_j$ .

### III. ALGORITHM IDEA & DESCRIPTION

#### A. Algorithm Idea

The proposed model is expressed by a right-weighted and multi-division directed graph as  $G=(V, \omega, E)$ , the  $V$  express the nodes of the graph, the  $\omega$  expresses the right weigh and  $E$  expresses the relationships among the nodes. The Specific rules are as follows:

- (1) The formula  $V=\{V_1, \dots, V_T\}$ ,  $V_i (i \in [1, T])$  is the group set  $SG_i$  in the time step  $P_i$ . If the time steps  $P(g_i)$  and  $P(g_j)$  are adjacent and  $Sim(g_i, g_j) = \max(Sim(g_i, SG_j))$ , then  $(g_i, g_j) \in E$ .
- (2) The right weight  $\omega(g_i, g_j) = Sim(g_i, g_j)$ .
- (3)  $E = \{E_1, \dots, E_k\}$ ,  $E_i = \{e_i(V_x, V_y) | \forall x \in V \wedge \forall y \in V \wedge V_x \neq V_y\} (i \in [1, K])$ , the  $E_i$  expresses the relationship  $i$  of the graph.

#### B. Hypothesis and Measurements

In order to measure the group members' aggregations, we assuming the individuals aggregation for the first time to this group are 0 and we propose the three measurement elements: in-degree value, out-degree value and constant value.  $\alpha, \beta, \gamma$  are used to calculate the individuals interactions in the group.

**In-degree value:** Supposing there is an edge from  $g_t$  to  $g_{t+1}$ , if an individual  $x$  at time step  $t$  does not belong to group  $g_t$ , but belongs to group  $g_{t+1}$  at time step  $t+1$ , then we get the aggregation of individual values  $x$  decreased by  $\alpha$ .

**Out-degree value:** Supposing there is an edge from  $g_t$  to  $g_{t+1}$ , if an individual  $x$  belongs to group  $g_t$  at time step  $t$ , but not belongs to group  $g_{t+1}$  at time step  $t+1$ , then we get the aggregation of individual values  $x$  decreased by  $\beta$ .

**Constant value:** Supposing there is an edge from  $g_t$  to  $g_{t+1}$ , if an individual  $x$  belongs to group  $g_t$  at time step  $t$ , and belongs to group  $g_{t+1}$  at time step  $t+1$ , then we get the aggregation of individual values  $x$  increased by  $\gamma$ .

#### C. Algorithm Description

Based on the above-mentioned definitions, ADSIN algorithm is as follows:

**Step1** Determine the time observing point, that is, dividing the time steps, and statistic the group set for each time step.

**Step2** Calculate the similarity of groups between the adjacent time steps, and build relationships set model graph algorithms.

**Step3** Do the pruning treatment to the model graph, when some nodes for the previous time step point to the same node the next time step, select the largest similarity associated node and retain it, cut the other nodes associated with the node.

**Step4** Find the maximum connected graph which path

length is greater than  $\varphi$ , use depth-search-first approach at this step.

**Step5** Calculate each group member aggregation of the connected graph, if a group member's aggregation  $> \xi$ , then it is a real member of the group, finally we can obtain a group clustering. Removed Just connected graph from the graph, we jump back to **Step4**, until there is no connected graph which maximum path length is greater than  $\varphi$ , the algorithm ends.

#### D. Time Complexity Analysis

We make  $T$  as the total number of time steps,  $n$  as the number of group sets for each time step,  $m$  as the member number for each group set. According to Algorithm Description above mentioned, we can analyze that the computational complexity of the algorithm which calculated the similarity of groups between adjacent time steps is  $O(Tmn^2)$ ; Greed-cut algorithm will traversal all the vertices of the group, the complexity is  $O(nT)$ ; The depth-search-first approach can find the maximum connected graph which the path length is larger than  $\varphi$ , for the depth-search connect graph is beginning to search the group vertices which don't have in-degree value, so its complexity is  $O(nT)$ .

## IV. EXPERIMENTAL RESULTS

#### A. Experiment Results

We apply the ADSIN algorithm to the southern women data set<sup>[2]</sup>, the result is shown in Figure 1.

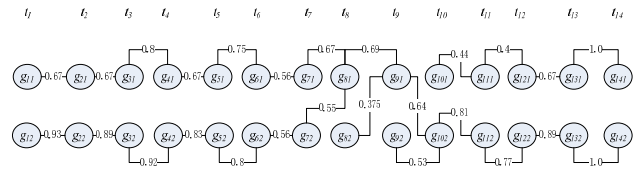


Figure 1. Dynamic Social Network Model Used by ADSIN's Algorithm

From Figure 1, there exist two group vertices for the previous time step pointing to the same vertices for the next time step in the model graph, and that is to say, we should optimize the model graph. We can obtain the model graph shown in Figure 2 with the cutting algorithm. In the optimized graph, besides one single node, there leave three community groups.

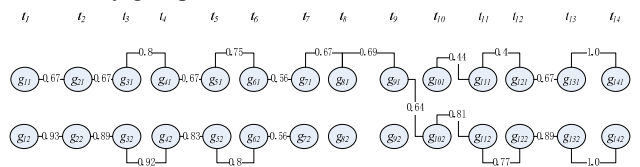


Figure 2. Dynamic Social Network Model After Optimized Community Structure

#### B. Experiment Results Analysis

At first, we set the parameters as  $(\alpha, \beta, \gamma) = (1, 1, 3)$ , the aggregation  $\xi = 1$ , connected graph coefficient  $\varphi = 1$ , then we can figure out the aggregations for all the

community group members, which is shown in Table I , and this result will also display all the members and community groups.

Secondly, we set the aggregation  $\xi$  and connected graph coefficient  $\varphi$  again. To exclude the fake members and get all the real community members, we need set  $\xi =12$  and  $\varphi=6$ . That setting can exclude some fake members and community groups and the result is shown in Table II, which only display the members and the community groups whose parameters are larger than given parameters.

Finally ,we can see that the aggregation of No.16 between two communities is nearly equal in the Table II . So we can set definitely the entity belongs to the two communities during the experiment time. This is the overlapped community structure, which do not against the real social structure. Moreover, we also can see some group members belong to neither of the two communities like the member number 6. Its aggregation is 8 and it only appear in community 1. But it is excluded out for its small aggregation, which means it wandering around the community 1, so we could not make sure which community it belongs to. Seeing from Table II, we can get community recognition results in Table III.

Table III. Result Sets for Community Member Recognition

| Group Number | Group Members           |
|--------------|-------------------------|
| 1            | 1,2,3,4,5,7,8,9,16      |
| 2            | 10,11,12,13,15,16,17,18 |

As the Table III shows, we can obtain that this result of the proposed algorithm is similar with the result given by Freeman<sup>[3]</sup>, however, there still exist differences that entity number 6 is belonging to the community 1 with 21 kinds of different social networks recognition algorithms, but based on the proposed algorithm, the member is wandering around community 1 and need to be observing. That is, this algorithm result is definitely fitting the fact.

## V. CONCLUSIONS

This paper analyzed the disadvantages of traditional social network recognition algorithm. In order to characterize the dynamic of reality social activities, we defined groups, group sets, time steps for group sets, and the similarity for the groups set; with community structure optimization algorithm, we used Group-based social network recognition model to analyze the change of social network recognition in the multi-time steps and then based on this model, we proposed a new social dynamic networking algorithms, ADSIN of the social network recognition, the innovation of the algorithm are as follows:

(1) a Novel group-based social network recognition model.

(2) With the greed-cut algorithm and depth-search-first approach, we optimized the community structure and reduce

the computational complexity.

Compared this model with the former dynamic model, we reduce the complexity with greed-cut algorithm and depth-search-first approach, and this model can be applied in large social network analysis. Based on the verification on the *Southern Women* classical data sets, This algorithm has more accuracy and validity, and the analysis of the results shows more objectively.

In terms of our future work, we will employ some new data mining approaches that has been proposed in literatures [6-9] to improve the predict accuracy of the proposed approach.

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Table I. Results 1 for Community Recognition

| Group Number | Group Members  | aggregation          |                      |
|--------------|--|----------------------|----------------------|
|              |  | Member Number--Value | Member Number--Value |
| 1            | g11,g21,g31,g41,g51,g61,g71,g81,g91,g102,g112,g122,g132,g142 | key-value:3--35      | key-value:5--13      |
|              |  | key-value:1--31      | key-value:10--12     |
|              |  | key-value:2--23      | key-value:17--6      |
|              |  | key-value:4--23      | key-value:18--6      |
|              |  | key-value:7--18      | key-value:15--3      |
|              |  | key-value:9--18      | key-value:13--2      |
|              |  | key-value:16--17     | key-value:11--1      |
|              |  | key-value:8--15      | key-value:6--8       |
|              |  | key-value:10--14     | key-value:8--10      |
|              |  | key-value:7--8       | key-value:16--18     |
| 2            | g12,g22,g32,g42,g52,g62,g71                                  | key-value:17--18     | key-value:13--14     |
|              |  | key-value:18--18     | key-value:14--11     |
|              |  | key-value:9--6       | key-value:11--18     |
|              |  | key-value:15--14     | key-value:12--18     |
| 3            | g101,g111,g121,g131,g141                                     | key-value:15--5      | key-value:14--12     |
|              |  | key-value:13--4      | key-value:12--4      |

Table II. Results 2 for Community Recognition

| Group Number | Group Members               | aggregation (Member Number--Value) $\xi = 15$  | aggregation (Member Number--Value) $\xi = 13$  |
|--------------|-----------------------------|--|--|
|              |                             | 1  | g11,g21,g31,g41,g51,g61,g71,g81,g91,g102,g112,g122,g132,g142   |
| 2            | g12,g22,g32,g42,g52,g62,g71 | key-value:17--18;key-value:18--18<br>key-value:16--18;key-value:11--18<br>key-value:12--18 | key-value:10--14;key-value:17--18<br>key-value:18--18;key-value:15--14<br>key-value:16--18;key-value:13--14<br>key-value:11--18;key-value:12--18 |