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**ADVANCED CAPITA SELECTA  
ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE (H02A8A)**  
Metaheuristics - Report

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Academic year 2016–2017

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# 1 introduction

Networks are ever so present in the world, due to the rise of social media and the emergence of Big Data<sup>1</sup> over the last decade. The detection of communities<sup>2</sup> in these large networks has grown in importance. Communities can be seen as fairly independent parts of the graph. Certain elements can be present in multiple communities. This concept can be compared to a person being part of multiple groups of friends on social networks at the same time. A community implies important information about relationships between topology and network functionality. The information contained in these graphs can be of utmost importance to understanding the data that is being dealt with. The problem has been proven to be NP-hard [?].

Seeing that this problem is NP-hard the most interesting approach would be to use a meta-heuristic. A lot of work has been done with genetic algorithms INSERT CITATIONS. In this scientific report a method is presented to help tackle this problem. An attempt is made to decrease the amount of nodes and with that the length of chromosomes in the genetic algorithm. With this we hope to improve the speed of the existing algorithms without decreasing their accuracy.

## 2 Background

This chapter will explain some elements to be able to understand the contents of this scientific report. The focus will be put on graph theory and genetic algorithms. For both of these the basics will be shortly mentioned and the reasoning behind why they are important for this work.

### 2.1 Graph Theory

Graph theory is the mathematical theory of the properties and applications of graphs. A graph  $G = [V, E]$  is a collection of vertices (points) and edges (lines). An edge connects two vertices or creates a loop for one vertex. Graphs can have a certain properties, e.g. directed, undirected, weighted or complete. Certain combinations of these properties are also possible.

In directed graphs an edge has an orientation, e.g.  $A \rightarrow B$ . This says that A has a connection to B, but B does not have a connection to A. Normally in an undirected graph an edge might look like  $A - B$ , which implies a connection in both ways.

Edges in the graph can contain a certain scoring-function, if this is the case then it's called a weighted graph. An common example of this is the euclidean distance between the two vertices the edge connects together. A graph is complete when all nodes are connected to each other. A graph  $G' = [V', E']$  is a subgraph of  $G$  if  $V' \subset V$ ,  $E' \subset E$  and  $E'$  only including edges between the vertices of  $V'$ . A complete subgraph is called a **clique**. There are other properties for graphs, but they are not required for the understanding of this report.

### 2.2 Genetic Algorithm

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<sup>1</sup>Big data is a term for data sets that are so large or complex that traditional data processing applications are inadequate to deal with them.

<sup>2</sup>A network is said to have community structure if the nodes of the network can be easily grouped into (potentially overlapping) sets of nodes such that each set of nodes is densely connected internally.

### 3 Relevant research

A large amount of research has gone into community detection in the last several decades. Finding a good way to approach this issue has been particularly hard because it is not trivial to come up with an exact definition of a community and a metric to compare different methods of partitioning. As the amount of data being gathered grows at an incredible pace, so has the size of the networks which need to be analysed. After a short introduction for both domains that are being combined, some relevant papers are mentioned and discussed.

#### 3.1 Genetic Algorithms

Traditional approaches simply do not scale to many thousands, let alone millions, of nodes. Because the problem is NP-hard, calculating the optimal solution for large networks is an unreachable goal. Genetic algorithms provide a way to still find solutions in such large networks. One such algorithm was introduced in a recent paper by Li et al. [?], using a multi-agent approach. Most algorithms for community detection assume that each node can only be a part of a single community. In many cases, this is simply not true. Overlapping community detection algorithms can be divided into two groups: node-based algorithms and link-based algorithms [?].

##### 3.1.1 MagMaNet

In the paper by Li et al. [?] every agent is a candidate solution for the community detection problem. Each agent “lives” in a lattice structure. In this lattice, candidate solutions compete with their direct neighbours. Due to this reasoning, agents can perceive and react to their direct environment. All agents work together to achieve the common goal, which is to optimize the fitness function. A candidate solution is in this case a division of the network in communities.

This paper brings the interesting element of local searches which slowly get adapted by their surroundings. A missing element is the fact that vertices can be a part of multiple communities. This problem will be tackled by some of the

##### 3.1.2 Overlapping communities

The node-based algorithms focus directly on the nodes and try to detect communities by looking at how nodes are related. The link-based algorithms are built with the assumption that the links between nodes are actually more important than the nodes themselves. Not the individuals, but the relations between the individuals define the community. The links are divided into communities, and only afterwards is that translated to the nodes. Generally, link-based algorithms have been shown to yield superior results, but at a much higher computational cost. Ding et al. [?] have proposed a new approach which attempts to improve on the computational cost typically associated with a link-based algorithm using network decomposition. This algorithm is not genetic, but others have proposed several different genetic overlapping community detection algorithms [?, ?, ?].

#### 3.2 Graph Theory

## 4 Hypothesis

### 4.1 Hypothesis

The main focus of this research is to see if the equal performance can be achieved with a pre-processed representation of the original community graph using a combination of previously existing algorithms. These algorithms will be further explained in Chapter [?].

### 4.2 Goal

The goal of this research is to see if we can achieve similar performance with a reduced version of the graph.

### 4.3 Research questions

#### 4.3.1 Main research question

Does the reduction of a graph have any influences on the performance of current state of the art, mainly on the time that is required to reach reasonably good results?

#### 4.3.2 Other research questions

To reduce the complexity of the main research question, some smaller research questions have been chosen.

What kind of influence does the replacement of a small cliques by a single node have on the information in the graph?

Can all of the information of the graph be retained while still reducing the size?

Is it worth to preprocess a graph before applying the meta-heuristic?

What differences are there between the algorithm with and without the preprocessing?

## References