

# Fast Truss Community Query in Large-scale Dynamic Graphs

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**Abstract** Recently, there has been significant interest in the study of the community search problem in social and information networks: given one or more query nodes, find densely connected communities containing the query nodes. However, most existing algorithms require linear computational time to the size of the found community for each specific  $K$  value. Therefore, state-of-the-art algorithms have limited scalability in large scale graphs, where communities grow to millions of edges.

In this paper, given an undirected graph  $G$  and a set of query nodes  $Q$ , we study community query using the  $k$ -truss based community model. We formulate our problem of finding a connected truss community, as finding a connected  $k$ -truss subgraph with all possible  $k$  that contains  $Q$ . The state-of-art approximation algorithm can achieve this goal with a time complexity of  $O(n'm')$  where  $n'$  and  $m'$  are the size of the result truss community. For queries that only identity and exact size of communities are required, We construct an index structure that can retrieve there information of all connected  $k$ -truss communities that contain  $Q$  with all possible  $K$  values. The algorithm can run in  $\sum_{u \in Q} d(u)$ , where  $d(u)$  is the degree of vertex  $u$ . We prove that this is the optimal time complexity for truss community query. Extensive experiments on real-world networks show the effectiveness and efficiency of our algorithms.

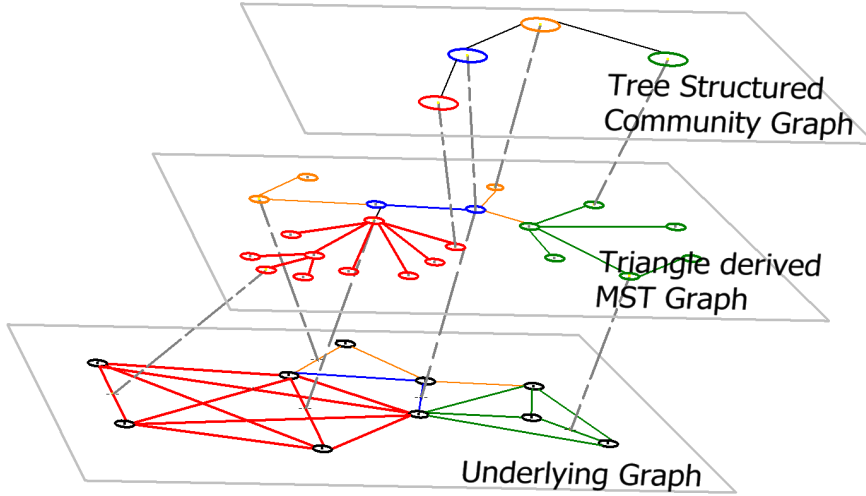
**Keywords**  $K$ -truss · dynamic graph · query process

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## 1 Introduction



**Fig. 1** Two layer index structure for k-truss community queries.

Community structures naturally exist in many real-world networks such as social, biological, collaboration, and communication networks. The task of community detection is to identify all communities in a network, which is a fundamental and well-studied problem in the literature. Recently, several papers have studied a related but different problem called community search, which is to find the community containing a given set of query nodes. The need for community search naturally arises in many real application scenarios, where one is motivated by the discovery of the communities in which given query nodes participate. Since the communities defined by different nodes in a network may be quite different, community search with query nodes opens up the prospects of user-centered and personalized search, with the potential of the answers being more meaningful to a user Huang et al (2014). As just one example, in a social network, the community formed by a person's high school classmates can be significantly different from the community formed by her family members which in turn can be quite different from the one formed by her colleagues McAuley and Leskovec (2012).

Various community models have been proposed based on different dense subgraph structures such as k-core Sozio and Gionis (2010); Cui et al (2014); Li et al (2015), k-truss Huang et al (2014), quasi-clique Cui et al (2013), weighted densest subgraph Wu et al (2015), to name a few major examples. Of these, the k-truss as a definition of cohesive subgraph of a graph  $G$ , requires that each edge be contained in at least  $(k - 2)$  triangles within this subgraph. It is well known that most of real-world social networks are triangle-based, which always have high local clustering coefficient. Triangles are known as the fundamental building blocks of networks Wang and Cheng (2012). In a social network, a

triangle indicates two friends have a common friend, which shows a strong and stable relationship among three friends. Intuitively, the more common friends two people have, the stronger their relationship. In a  $k$ -truss, each pair of friends is "endorsed" by at least  $(k - 2)$  common friends. Thus, a  $k$ -truss with a large value of  $k$  signifies strong inner-connections between members of the subgraph. Huang et al. Huang et al (2014) proposed a community model based on the notion of  $k$ -truss as follows. Given one query node  $q$  and a parameter  $k$ , a  $k$ -truss community containing  $q$  is a maximal  $k$ -truss containing  $q$ , in which each edge is "triangle connected" with other edges. Triangle connectivity is strictly stronger than connectivity. The  $k$ -truss community model works well to find all overlapping communities containing a query node  $q$ . We extended this model for the case of multiple query nodes.

As the time complexity of the state-of-art approximation algorithm can calculate the connected truss community containing all query vertices with the largest  $k$  with a time complexity of  $O(n'm')$  where  $n'$  and  $m'$  are the size of the result truss community. Although the linear time complexity for retrieve the whole community is optimal, these algorithms have limited scalability in large scale graphs, where communities grow to millions of edges. In many applications, such as query if a set of users are involved in same community and how cohesive is the community, only the information, such as the identity, the  $k$  and the size, of the community are required rather than the detailed community itself. For these queries, We construct an index structure that can retrieve information of all connected  $k$ -truss communities that contain  $Q$  with all possible  $K$  values. The algorithm can run in  $\sum_{u \in Q} d_u$ , where  $d_u$  is the degree of vertex  $u$ . We prove that this is the optimal time complexity for truss community query. Note that if further details of found truss communities are required, our index structure can also retrieve the exact community with linear time complexity to the community size which is also the optimal time complexity. Figure 1 shows an example of our two level index structures: the induced MST graph and the tree-structured community graph.

The rest of this paper is organized as follows. In Section 6 we show previous works on community search and detection. Section 2 provides notations and definitions used in this paper. We explain the two layered index structure for truss community search in Section 3. Section 4 discusses index update algorithm for dynamic graphs. The evaluations of our algorithm are in Section 5. We conclude our work in Section 7.

*Note 1* add more application Durmaz et al (2017)

## 2 Preliminaries

In our problem, we consider an undirected, unweighted graph  $G = (V, E)$ . The number of vertices is denoted as  $n = |V|$  and number of edges is denoted as  $m = |E|$ . If the graph is weighted, we use  $w_u$  and  $w_e$  to denote the weight of vertex  $u$  and edge  $e$ . We define the set of neighbors of a vertex  $v$  in  $G$  as

$N_v = u \in V : (v, u) \in E$ , and the degree of  $v$  as  $d_v = |N_v|$ . We define a triangle in  $G$  as a cycle of length 3. Let  $u, v, w \in V$  be the three vertices on the cycle, and we denote this triangle by  $\Delta_{uvw}$ . Then we define several key concepts in this paper as follows.

**Definition 1 (Edge support)** *The support of an edge  $e_{u,v} \in E$  is defined as  $s_{e,G} = |\Delta_{uvw} : w \in V|$ . We denote it as  $s_e$  when the context is clear.*

**Definition 2 (Trussness)** *The trussness of a subgraph  $H \in G$  is the minimum support of edges in  $H$  plus 2, denoted by  $\tau_H = \min\{(s_{e,H} + 2) : e \in E_H\}$ . The trussness of an edge  $e$  is defined as:  $\tau_e = \max_{H \in G}\{\tau_H : e \in E_H\}$ .*

**Definition 3 (K-truss subgraph)** *Given a graph  $G$  and  $k \geq 2$ ,  $H \subseteq G$  is a  $k$ -truss if  $\forall e \in E_H, s_{e,H} \geq (k - 2)$ .*

**Definition 4 (Maximal k-truss subgraph)**  *$H$  is a maximal  $k$ -truss subgraph if it is not a subgraph of another  $k$ -truss subgraph with same trussness  $k$  in  $G$ .*

We use the same triangle adjacency and triangle connectivity definition as in Huang et al (2014) listed below.

**Definition 5 (Triangle adjacency)**  $\Delta_1, \Delta_2$  are adjacent if they share a common edge, i.e.,  $\Delta_1 \cap \Delta_2 \neq \emptyset$ .

**Definition 6 (Triangle connectivity)**  $\Delta_1, \Delta_2$  are triangle connected if they can reach each other through a series of adjacent triangles, i.e., for  $1 \leq i < n, \Delta_i \cap \Delta_{i+1} \neq \emptyset$ .

**Definition 7 (Triangle connected graph)** *Two edge  $e_1, e_2$  are triangle connected in a subgraph  $H$  if there are two triangle  $\Delta_1, \Delta_2$  in  $H$  and  $e_1 \in \Delta_1, e_2 \in \Delta_2$ , either  $\Delta_1 = \Delta_2$ , or  $\Delta_1$  is triangle connected with  $\Delta_2$  in  $H$ . A graph  $G$  is triangle connected if all pairs of edges in  $G$  are triangle connected.*

Finally, we define  $k$ -truss community based on the definition of  $k$ -truss subgraph and triangle connectivity as follows.

**Definition 8 (K-truss community)** *A  $k$ -truss community is a maximal triangle connected  $k$ -truss subgraph.*

Figure 2 shows several examples of  $k$ -truss communities. The whole example graph is a 3-truss as every edge has support of at least 1. Note that there are 2 separate 4-truss communities in Figure 2 as they are not triangle connected with each other.

**K-truss Community Search** The problem of studied in this paper is defined as follows. Given a graph  $G(V, E)$ , a set of query vertices  $Q \in V$ , find all truss communities containing  $Q$  with maximum  $k$ , a specific  $k$  or any possible  $k$ .

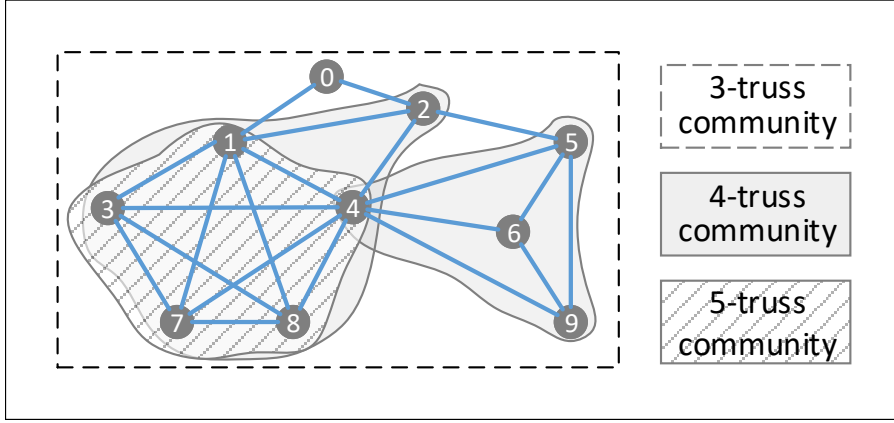


Fig. 2 An example graph for k-truss community

### 3 Indexed K-truss Community Search

We propose to solve k-truss community search problem using an index based approach. This section describes how to process a k-truss community search query on a static graph, including induced MST graph construction, creating tree-structured community graph, performing various kind of queries on the preprocessed index. In the next section, we describe index update procedure on dynamic graphs.

#### 3.1 Induced MST Graph

[\*\*\*\*\* use counting sort \*\*\*\*\*]

We first design an induced MST graph then propose the query algorithm based on it.

**Induced MST Graph Construction.** We first compute the edge trussness of graph  $G_o$  and then construct a new graph  $G_m$ , which we called induced MST graph, based on the graph  $G_o$  and its edges' trussness. We define the induced MST graph as follows.

**Definition 9 (induced MST graph)** *The induced MST graph is a weighted maximum spanning forest that each edge  $e$  in  $G_o$  is represented as a vertex  $x$  in  $G_m$ . An edge  $y$  in  $G_m$  represents that the two edges, which are represented by the two adjacent vertices of  $y$ , are contained in the same triangle in  $G_o$ . The weight of the each vertex in  $G_m$  is its represented edge's trussness in  $G_o$ . The weight of each edge in  $G_m$  is the lowest edge trussness of its related triangle's edges in  $G_o$ .*

We denote  $G'_m$  as the graph that is constructed the same way as  $G_m$  but with all triangles in  $G_o$  as edges, i.e.,  $G_m$  is the maximum spanning forest

of  $G'_m$ . We refer to lowest edge trussness of a triangle as the weight of the triangle.

We have the following theorem for vertex weights and edge weights in induced MST graph  $G_m$ .

**Theorem 1** *In induced MST graph  $G_m$ , for each vertex  $x$  and each of its adjacent edge  $y$ , we have  $w_x \geq w_y$ .*

*Proof* According to Definition 9,  $w_x$  is the trussness of the represented edge  $e$  in  $G_o$  while  $w_y$  is the lowest trussness of edges in the represented triangle  $\Delta$  in  $G_o$ . We have  $\tau_e \geq \tau_\Delta$ , therefore,  $w_x \geq w_y$ .

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**Algorithm 1:** Induced MST graph construction

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**Data:**  $G_o(V_o, E_o)$ , edge trussness  $\{\tau_e, e \in E_o\}$   
**Result:**  $inducedMSTgraphG_m(V_m, E_m)$

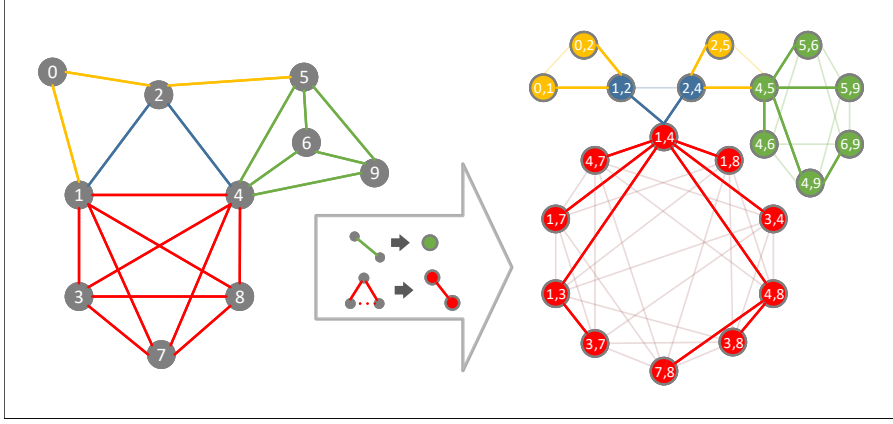
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1   $visited \leftarrow \emptyset$ ;
2  for  $(u, v) \in E_o$  do
3      suppose  $u$  is the lower degree end of  $(u, v)$ ;
4       $V_m \leftarrow V_m \cup \{(u, v), \tau_{(u, v)}\}$ ;
5      for  $w \in N_u$  do
6          if  $(v, w) \in E_o$  and  $\Delta_{uvw} \notin visited$  then
7               $visited \leftarrow visited \cup \Delta_{uvw}$ ;
8               $\tau_{\Delta_{uvw}} = \min(\tau_{(u, v)}, \tau_{(u, w)}, \tau_{(v, w)})$ ;
9               $V_m \leftarrow V_m \cup \{(u, w), \tau_{(u, w)}\}$ ;
10              $V_m \leftarrow V_m \cup \{(v, w), \tau_{(v, w)}\}$ ;
11              $E_m \leftarrow E_m \cup \{((u, v), (u, w)), \tau_{\Delta_{uvw}}\}$ ;
12              $E_m \leftarrow E_m \cup \{((u, v), (v, w)), \tau_{\Delta_{uvw}}\}$ ;
13              $E_m \leftarrow E_m \cup \{((u, w), (v, w)), \tau_{\Delta_{uvw}}\}$ ;
14         end
15     end
16 end
17 run Kruskal's algorithm on  $G_m$ ;
18 return  $G_m$ 

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The truss decomposition algorithm Wang and Cheng (2012) is used to compute trussness of all edges  $\{\tau_e, e \in E_o\}$  in  $G_o$ . Although it is possible to directly compute k-truss communities based on edge trussness with BFS traversals, such an algorithm suffers from high time complexity for redundant edge access Huang et al (2014). algorithm 1 uses both  $G_o$  and edge trussness as inputs to construct the induced MST graph  $G_m$  for optimal query time. The algorithm iterates through all edges of  $G_o$  and create a vertex in  $G_m$  for each edge  $(u, v)$  in  $G_o$  with weight  $\tau_{(u, v)}$ . Then for each unvisited neighbor triangle  $\Delta_{uvw}$  of edge  $(u, v)$ , the algorithm creates three edges  $((u, v), (u, w))$ ,  $((u, v), (v, w))$  and  $((u, w), (v, w))$  in  $G_m$  with same weight  $\tau_{\Delta_{uvw}} = \min(\tau_{(u, v)}, \tau_{(u, w)}, \tau_{(v, w)})$ . After that, one can simply run Kruskal's algorithm to get the maximum spanning forest.



**Fig. 3** An example induced MST graph of the example graph in Figure 2

We show an example of induced MST graph in Figure 3. We outline the induced MST graph of the example graph in Figure 2 with bold lines. The rest lines are edges that are generated by algorithm 1 but discarded by Kruskal's algorithm.

*Note 2* some possible error of time complexity in Huang et al (2014) The time and space complexity for computation of edge trussness of  $G_o$  are  $O(\sum_{(u,v) \in E_o} \min\{d_u, d_v\})$  and  $O(m)$  respectively Huang et al (2014). Listing all the triangles in  $G_o$  takes  $O(\sum_{(u,v) \in E_o} \min\{d_u, d_v\})$  time and  $O(\sum_{(u,v) \in E_o} \min\{d_u, d_v\})$  space. Finally, running Kruskal's algorithm takes  $O(\sum_{(u,v) \in E_o} \min\{d_u, d_v\} \log m)$  time. As  $G_m$  is a maximum spanning forest, so the induced MST graph index takes  $O(|V_m|) = O(m)$  space.

**Query on Induced MST Graph.** To query the  $k$ -truss communities of a query vertex  $q$  in  $G_o$ , the algorithm iterate through adjacent edges of the vertex  $q$ . For each neighbor edge  $(u, q)$  that is unvisited by the algorithm, it is marked as a seed edge for a new community  $C_i$ . Suppose the edge  $(u, q)$  in  $G_o$  is represented as a vertex  $x$  in  $G_m$ , the algorithm starts a BFS/DFS from vertex  $x$  in  $G_m$  and only expands through edges with weight  $\geq k$  to find the connected component  $CC$ . Then if finds the represented edge  $e$  of each vertex  $v \in CC$  and adds  $e$  to the community  $C_i$ . The union of all communities  $A = \bigcup C_i$  is all the  $k$ -truss communities the vertex  $q$  belongs to.

**Theorem 2** *The union of all communities  $\bigcup C_i$  found by algorithm 2 is the union of all the  $k$ -truss communities containing query vertex  $q$ .*

*Proof* According to Definition 9, a vertex  $x$  in induced MST graph  $G_m$  with weight  $w_x \leq k$  means the represented edge  $e$  in  $G_o$  has trussness  $\tau_e \leq k$  and thus can be included in a  $k$ -truss community. An edge  $(x, y)$  in induced MST graph  $G_m$  with weight  $w_{(x,y)} \leq k$  means the represented triangle  $\triangle$  in  $G_o$  has all three edges with trussness higher or equal to  $k$  and thus the triangle is

included in a  $k$ -truss community containing all three edges of it. Adjacent edges in  $G_m$  means adjacent triangles in  $G_o$  and connected components in  $G_m$  means triangle connected components in  $G_o$ . So, BFS/DFS search starts with a seed vertex  $x$  with weight constraint will find the maximal connected component including  $x$  which representing the  $k$ -truss community that  $e$  belongs to in  $G_o$  ( $x$  represents  $e$  in  $G_m$ ). Therefore, performing such BFS/DFS searches on each edge of the query vertex will find all the  $k$ -truss communities that the query vertex belongs to.

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**Algorithm 2:** Query on induced MST graph

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**Data:**  $G_o(V_o, E_o)$ ,  $G_m(V_m, E_m)$ , an integer  $k$ , a query vertex  $q$

**Result:** a union of all  $k$ -truss communities  $\bigcup C_i$  containing  $q$

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1  $i \leftarrow 0$ ,  $visited \leftarrow \emptyset$ ;
2 for  $u \in N_q$  do
3   if  $(u, q) \notin visited$  then
4     find representing vertex  $x$  of  $(u, q)$  in  $G_m$ ;
5      $CC \leftarrow$  connected component containing  $x$  with edges of weight  $\geq k$ ;
6      $C_i \leftarrow \emptyset$ ;
7     for  $v \in CC$  do
8       find represented  $e$  of  $v$  in  $G_o$ ;
9        $visited \leftarrow visited \cup e$ ;
10       $C_i \leftarrow C_i \cup e$ ;
11    end
12     $i \leftarrow i + 1$ ;
13  end
14 end
15 return  $\bigcup C_i$ 

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Since the query process is performing a BFS on a maximum spanning forest, each query takes  $O(|A|)$  time and  $O(|A|)$  space, where  $|A|$  is the number of edges in  $A$ . Although such time complexity is already optimal if the detailed communities are required. We propose a new index structure that can be constructed upon the induced MST graph to further reduce the time complexity if details of  $k$ -truss communities are not required.

### 3.2 Tree-structured Community Graph

We first show how to construct the tree-structured community graph based on induced MST graph. Then we design an algorithm to efficiently query the tree-structured community graph.

**Tree-structured Community Graph Construction.** A key observation in Cohen (2008) is that, for  $k \geq 2$ , each  $k$ -truss of  $G_o$  is the subgraph of a  $(k-1)$ -truss of  $G_o$ . With this observation, for  $k$ -truss communities, we have the following theorem.



**Theorem 3** *A  $k$ -truss community  $C_k$  is the subgraph of a  $l$ -truss community  $C_l$ , if  $C_k$  and  $C_l$  are triangle connected and  $l < k$ . If  $k$ -truss community  $C_k$  is the subgraph of both  $l_1$ -truss community  $C_{l_1}$  and  $l_2$ -truss community  $C_{l_2}$ , then  $l_1 \neq l_2$ .*

*Proof* For the first part, since  $l < k$ , if edges in  $C_k$  are triangle connected through triangles with trussness of  $k$ , then they are also triangle connected through triangles with trussness of  $l$ .

*Note 3* do we call it  $k$ -truss or  $l_1$ -truss. For the second part, suppose  $l_1 = l_2$ , then edges in  $C_{l_1}$  and  $C_{l_2}$  are triangle connected through  $C_k$ . So  $C_{l_1} \cup C_{l_2}$  meets the definition of  $k$ -truss community (Definition 8) and becomes a larger  $k$ -truss community. This contradicts with  $C_{l_1}$  and  $C_{l_2}$  are  $k$ -truss communities themselves, i.e., they are maximal  $k$ -truss.

According to Theorem 3, we can build another tree-structured index upon our existing induced MST graph to further facilitate KTruss computation. In this new tree-structured index, we use vertices to represent  $k$ -truss communities, i.e., we assign each  $k$ -truss community an unique ID and a representing vertex in the new index. If one  $k$ -truss community is the subgraph of another  $k$ -truss community, we assign an edge to connect the representing vertices. Each vertex can have a list associated with it including the status of the related  $k$ -truss community, such as the trussness of the community, the size of the community, etc. We call this new index the tree-structured community graph and denote it as  $G_t$ . For each vertex of  $G_t$ , we also have meta data of the represented  $k$ -truss communities, e.g., the trussness, the size, etc., stored with it. These meta-data can be gathered very easily through the index construction process. For the ease of query, we build a hash table  $h$  that for each edge  $e$  in  $G_o$  (vertex  $x$  in  $G_m$ ), we record the ID of the  $k$ -truss community that includes it with highest order  $k$ . We denote such a  $k$ -truss community as  $C^{max}$ . We have the following theorem for  $G_t$ .

**Theorem 4** *The tree-structured community graph  $G_t$  is a forest.*

*Proof* First, according to Theorem 3, there is only one ancestor for each  $k$ -truss community for . Also, there is no inter level edges according to the definition of maximal KTruss. So, if the graph contains a loop, then a KTruss may contains more than 1 ancestors.

Second,  $G_t$  can be disconnected as not all  $k$ -truss communities are triangle connected with each other.

algorithm 3 shows the procedure to build the tree-structured community graph  $G_t$ . The algorithm uses BFS to traverse the induced MST graph  $G_m$ . For each vertex  $x$ , if it does not have a parent vertex in the BFS traversal, then the algorithm uses it as a seed vertex to create a new index tree. Otherwise it is combined to the same index tree  $T \in G_t$  as its parent vertex  $y$ . According to Theorem 1, we have the following equation.

**Algorithm 3:** Tree-structured community graph Construction

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**Data:**  $G_m(V_m, E_m)$   
**Result:**  $G_t(V_t, E_t)$ ,  $h$

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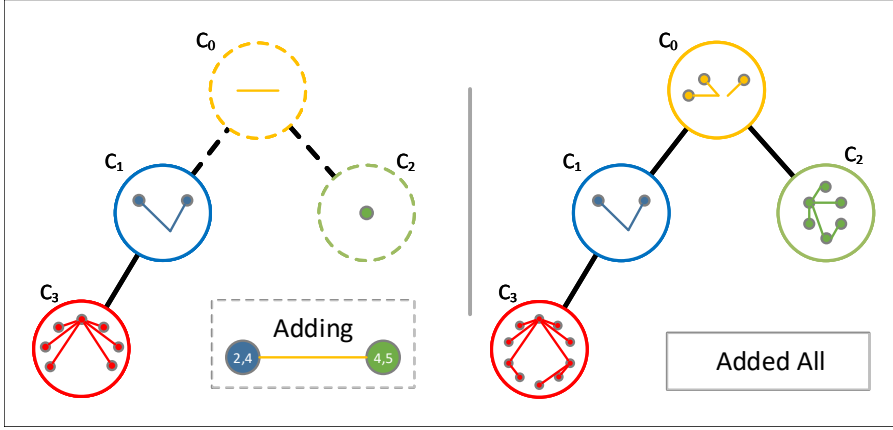
1  $Q \leftarrow \emptyset$ ,  $parent \leftarrow \emptyset$ ;
2 while  $V_m \neq \emptyset$  do
3    $seed \leftarrow$  an unvisited vertex in  $V_m$ ,  $Q \leftarrow Q \cup seed$ ;
4   while  $Q \neq \emptyset$  do
5      $x = Q.pop()$ ;
6     for  $z \in N_x$  do
7        $Q \leftarrow Q \cup z$ ,  $parent[z] \leftarrow x$ ;
8     end
9     if  $x \in parent$  then
10       $y \leftarrow parent[x]$ ,  $C_a \leftarrow C_y^{max}$ ;
11      while  $\tau_{C_a} > w_{(x,y)}$  do
12         $C_c \leftarrow C_a$ ,  $C_a \leftarrow$  parent of  $C_a$  in  $G_t$ ;
13        if  $C_a = \emptyset$  then
14           $\tau_{C_a} \leftarrow -1$   $\triangleright$  Reach the top of the tree.
15        end
16      end
17      if  $\tau_{C_a} < w_{(x,y)}$  then
18        if  $w_{(x,y)} = w_x$  then
19          create  $C_x^{max}$ ,  $h[x] \leftarrow C_x^{max}$ ;
20           $C_x^{max}.parent \leftarrow C_a$ ,  $C_c.parent \leftarrow C_x^{max}$ ;
21        else
22          create  $C_x^{max}$ ,  $h[x] \leftarrow C_x^{max}$ ;
23          create  $C_{(x,y)}$ ,  $C_{(x,y)}.parent \leftarrow C_a$ ;
24           $C_c.parent \leftarrow C_{(x,y)}$ ;
25           $C_x^{max}.parent \leftarrow C_{(x,y)}$ ;
26        end
27      else
28        if  $w_{(x,y)} = w_x$  then
29           $h[x] \leftarrow C_a$ ;
30        else
31          create  $C_x^{max}$ ,  $h[x] \leftarrow C_x^{max}$ ;
32           $C_x^{max}.parent \leftarrow C_a$ ;
33        end
34      end
35    else
36      create  $C_x^{max}$ ,  $h[x] \leftarrow C_x^{max}$ ;
37       $V_t \leftarrow V_t \cup C_x^{max}$ ;
38    end
39    remove  $x$  from  $V_m$ ;
40  end
41 end
42 return  $G_t(V_t, E_t)$ ,  $h$ 

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$$w_x \geq w_{(x,y)}, w_y \geq w_{(x,y)} \quad (1)$$

An example is shown in Figure 4



**Fig. 4** An example tree-structured community graph of the induced MST graph in Figure 3

**Theorem 5** For a vertex  $x$  and its neighbor vertex  $y$  in induced MST graph  $G_m$ , if their representing edges in  $G_o$  are contained in the same  $k$ -truss community with trussness of  $k$ , then  $k \leq w_{(x,y)}$ .

*Proof* Since  $G_m$  is the maximum spanning forest, it has the cycle property, i.e., for any cycle in  $G'_m$ , if the weight of an edge in the cycle is smaller than the individual weights of all the other edges in the cycle, then this edge cannot belong to a maximum spanning forest. So there is no path in  $G'_m$  between  $x$  and  $y$  that has all edges with weight  $> w_{(x,y)}$ . Suppose  $x$  and  $y$  representing  $e_x$  and  $e_y$  in  $G_o$ , this means that  $e_x$  is not triangle connected to  $e_y$  through edges in  $G_o$  with trussness  $> w_{(x,y)}$ . Therefore, it is not possible for  $e_x$  and  $e_y$  to exist in the same  $k$ -truss community with  $k > w_{(x,y)}$ .

Having a parent  $y$  in the BFS search only means that the vertex  $x$  can be combined to the current index tree  $T$ . We still have a problem to solve: On which part of  $T$  should the algorithm add the vertex  $x$ ? According to Theorem 5 and Equation 1, the algorithm needs to backtrack  $T$  from  $C_y^{max}$  to find an ancestor vertex  $C_a$  that meets  $\tau_{C_a} \leq w_{(x,y)}$  and use it as the merge point of  $x$ . We refer to the index vertices  $C_y^{max}, \dots, C_i, \dots, C_a$  as the backtrack branch for vertex  $x$  in  $T$  and denote it as  $B$ .

Once the algorithm has found  $C_a$ , it needs to check the relations of  $\tau_{C_a}$ ,  $w_{(x,y)}$  and  $w_x$  to decide how to merge vertex  $x$  to  $T$ . Note that they follow  $\tau_{C_a} \leq w_{(x,y)} \leq w_x$ , so we have 4 cases shown in algorithm 3. As long as  $\tau_{C_a} \neq w_x$ , we create a new index vertex  $C_x^{max}$  with trussness  $\tau_{C_x^{max}} = w_x$ . If  $\tau_{C_a} < w_{(x,y)} < w_x$ , we also create a new index vertex  $C_{(x,y)}$  with trussness  $\tau_{C_{(x,y)}} = w_{(x,y)}$ . Then we adjust the tree structure of  $T$  with new index vertices. Finally, we update the hash table to record in which index vertex  $x$  is.

For each vertex of  $G_m$ , the backtrack procedure takes  $O(k_{max})$  time, where  $k_{max}$  is the highest trussness of any  $k$ -truss community in  $G_o$ . Since the index construction process is a BFS on a maximum spanning tree, the tree-structured

community graph construction algorithm takes  $O(k_{max}m)$  time. As each vertex in  $G_t$  represents a k-truss community in  $G_o$ , and  $G_t$  is a forest. The algorithm takes  $O(m)$  space and the index size is also  $O(m)$  space. Although in practice, the size of  $G_t$  is much smaller than  $O(m)$ .

**Query on Tree-structured Community Graph.** Tree-structured community graph supports three basic types of k-truss community queries of a single query vertex  $q$  as listed below.

- K-truss query: Given a vertex  $q$  and an integer  $k$ , find the k-truss community that contains  $q$ .
- Max-k-truss query: Given a vertex  $q$ , find the k-truss community with highest possible trussness that contains  $q$ .
- Any-k-truss query: Given a vertex  $q$ , find all the k-truss communities that contains  $q$ .

Max-k-truss query is naturally supported by simply looking up the hash table  $h$  and comparing trussness of  $h[x_e]$  for each neighbor edge. We show the queries process algorithms for k-truss query and any-k-truss query in algorithm 4. A common operation used in both query algorithms is what we called backtrack branch search, which is defined in Definition 10 below. We can see that if a specific  $k$  is provided, the backtrack branch search will stop once the trussness falls below  $k$ . On the other hand, if no  $k$  is provided, a value of 0 is used and the search will reach the root of the tree.

**Definition 10 (Backtrack branch search)** *Given a vertex  $C_0 \in G_t$  and an integer  $k$ , the backtrack branch search returns a list of vertices  $C_0, \dots, C_i, \dots$  that  $C_{i+1}$  is the parent vertex of  $C_i$  in  $G_t$  and any vertex  $C_i$  meets  $\tau_{C_i} \geq k$ . We refer to the searching results  $C_0, \dots, C_i, \dots$  as backtrack branch and denote it as  $B$ .*

Tree-structured community graph also supports all three types of queries when the input is a set of query vertices  $Q$ . The query process algorithms simply takes intersections of the query results of each individual query vertex for k-truss queries and any-k-truss queries. For max-k-truss queries, the query process algorithm needs to calculate the least common ancestors in  $G_t$  of the results of each individual query vertex.

For single vertex queries, the time complexity is  $O(d_q)$  for max-k-truss queries and  $O(\sum_{e \in N_q} \tau_{h[x_e]})$  for k-truss and any-k-truss queries. The space complexity is  $O(1)$  for max-k-truss queries,  $O(d_q)$  for k-truss queries and  $\sum_{e \in N_q} \tau_{h[x_e]}$  for any-k-truss queries. For multiple vertices max-k-truss queries, since the least common ancestor computation takes  $O(H)^1$  time, where  $H$  is the height of the tree. The query time is  $O(\sum_{q \in Q} (\max_{e \in N_q} \tau_{h[x_e]} + d_q))$  and the space is  $O(\max_{q \in Q} \max_{e \in N_q} \tau_{h[x_e]})$ . Multiple vertices k-truss queries take  $O(\sum_{q \in Q} \sum_{e \in N_q} \tau_{h[x_e]})$  time and  $O(\max_{q \in Q} d_q)$  space. For multiple vertices

<sup>1</sup>  $O(H)$  is for simple online algorithm, off-line algorithms can achieve time complexity of  $O(1)$  Bender and Farach-Colton (2000).

**Algorithm 4:** Query on Tree-structured community graph

**Data:**  $G_o(V_o, E_o)$ ,  $G_t(V_t, E_t)$ , the hash table  $h$ , a query vertex  $q$  or a set of query vertices  $Q$ , [an integer  $k$ ]

**Result:** a set of  $k$ -truss community IDs  $R$

```

1 function branch_search ( $C \in G_t, G_t, [k = 0]$ )
2    $B \leftarrow \emptyset$ ;
3   while  $C \neq \emptyset$  and  $\tau_C \geq k$  do
4      $B \leftarrow B \cup C$ ;
5      $C \leftarrow C.parent$ ;
6   end
7   return  $B$ 
8 end

9 function query_k ( $q, G_o, G_t, k$ )
10   $R \leftarrow \emptyset$ ;
11  for  $e \in N_q$  do
12     $B \leftarrow \text{branch\_search}(h[x_e], G_t, k)$ ;
13    if  $\tau_{B[-1]} = k$  then
14       $R \leftarrow R \cup B[-1]$ ;
15    end
16  end
17  return  $R$ 
18 end

19 function query_anyk ( $q, G_o, G_t$ )
20   $R \leftarrow \emptyset$ ;
21  for  $e \in N_q$  do
22     $B \leftarrow \text{branch\_search}(h[x_e], G_t)$ ;
23     $R \leftarrow R \cup B$ ;
24  end
25  return  $R$ 
26 end

```

▷  $B[-1]$  is the last element in  $B$

any- $k$ -truss queries, the time and space complexity is  $O(\sum_{q \in Q} \sum_{e \in N_q} \tau_{h[x_e]})$  and  $O(\max_{q \in Q} \sum_{e \in N_q} \tau_{h[x_e]})$  respectively.

#### 4 Dynamic updates

This section describes update procedures of both induced MST graph and tree-structured community graph in dynamic graphs. We focus on edge insertion/deletion as vertex insert/deletion can be represented by inserting/deleting an isolated vertex and several following edge insertions/deletions.

The scope of affected edges when a new edge is inserted/deleted has been well studied in Huang et al (2014). When an edge  $e_0$  has been added/removed from  $G_o$ , the affected edges, i.e., with trussness changes, are either directly forming new triangles of weight  $\geq \tau_{e_0}$  or are triangle connected to the new edge  $e_0$  with all triangles of weight  $\geq \tau_{e_0}$ . With this rule, the authors of Huang et al (2014) also developed an efficient algorithm to calculate edge trussness updates.

We can then proceed to update the induced MST graph  $G_m$  once edge trussness in  $G_o$  have been updated. For the insertion of an edge  $e_0$ , a new vertex  $x_0$  is added to  $G_m^{prime}$  with several new adjacent edges and updated weight of some vertices and edges. All we need to do is maintain the maximum spanning tree  $G_m$  with these changes in  $G_m^{prime}$ . As maintaining Minimum spanning tree is a well studied area with highly efficient algorithms Cattaneo et al (2002), we omit the details here.

*Note 4* are there problems if we dont update vertex and edges in order? Once we have updated  $G_m$ , we can proceed to update the tree-structured community graph  $G_t$ . There are two types of changes for the update of  $G_m$ . One is vertex based that includes adding the new vertex  $x_0$  and updating weights of other affected vertices. For a vertex  $x$  that have updated weight, according to Theorem 1, the algorithm needs to create a new child vertex of current vertex  $h[x]$  in  $G_t$  based on the new weight. Note that this update is incomplete in the sense that we haven't taken into account the weight changes of the adjacent edges.

---

**Algorithm 5:** Zipper (Combine two branches)

---

**Data:** An inserted/updated edge  $(x, y) \in G_m$

**Result:** None

```

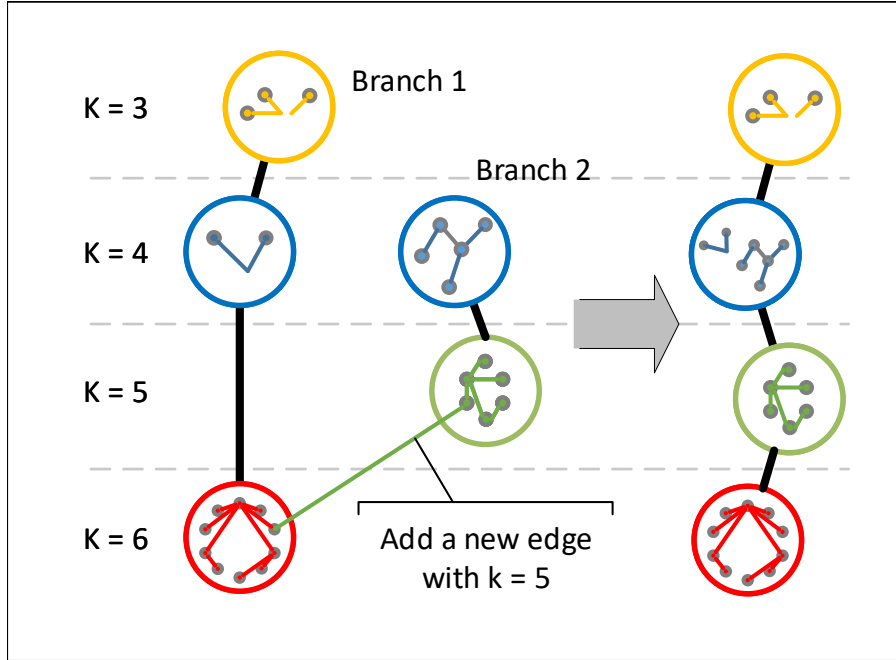
1  $C_x \leftarrow h[x], C_y \leftarrow h[y];$ 
2  $k \leftarrow w_{(x,y)};$ 
3 while  $\tau_{C_x} > k$  do  $C_x \leftarrow C_x.parent$  ;
4 while  $\tau_{C_y} > k$  do  $C_y \leftarrow C_y.parent$  ;
5  $C \leftarrow \emptyset$  ▷ Assume  $\tau_\emptyset = -1$ ;
6 while  $C_x \neq \emptyset$  or  $C_y \neq \emptyset$  do
7   if  $\tau_{C_x} > \tau_{C_y}$  then
8     if  $C \neq \emptyset$  then  $C.parent \leftarrow C_x;$ 
9      $C \leftarrow C_x, C_x \leftarrow C_x.parent;$ 
10  else if  $\tau_{C_x} < \tau_{C_y}$  then
11    if  $C \neq \emptyset$  then  $C.parent \leftarrow C_y;$ 
12     $C \leftarrow C_y, C_y \leftarrow C_y.parent;$ 
13  else
14     $C_c \leftarrow \text{combine}(C_x, C_y);$ 
15    if  $C \neq \emptyset$  then  $C.parent \leftarrow C_c;$ 
16     $C \leftarrow C_c, C_x \leftarrow C_x.parent, C_y \leftarrow C_y.parent;$ 
17  end
18 end

```

---

Another type of change is that a new edge is added to  $G_m$  or an edge has updated weight. This happens when a new triangle is formed in  $G_o$  or the lowest trussness of edges in a triangle has changed. For a new edge  $(x, y)$  in  $G_m$ , if  $x$  and  $y$  belongs to different connected components in  $G_m$ , then we need to combine the two branches of trees to which  $h[x]$  and  $h[y]$  belongs. We call this procedure zipper as shown in algorithm 5. In this way, K-Truss communities with trussness lower than the weight of the edge are combined together and

the rest of high trussness communities become two separate children branch. An example is shown in Figure 5.



**Fig. 5** An example of zipper operation when adding a new edge.

*Note 5* add a theorem here? However, if a new edge is inserted in  $G_m$  without join two disconnected parts, another edge with lower weight in  $G_m$  must have been deleted to maintain the minimum spanning tree. In this case, if the two ends of the new edge  $h[x]$  and  $h[y]$  is different, we can still use zipper procedure to combine these two branches. The only difference is that we need to apply the zipper procedure from the least common ancestor of  $h[x]$  and  $h[y]$ . Same goes for an edge with updated weight, as it can be viewed as deleting the edge with old weight and inserting a new edge with updated weight.

The update procedure for edge deletion in  $G_o$  follows a similar process. It involves a vertex removal and vertex weight decreasing as well as several edge deletion and edge weight decreasing in  $G_m$ . Similarly, in  $G_t$ , we use a procedure to 'unzip' the branch of a deleted edge into two separate branches or a partially separated branch.

When using the zipper procedure to combine two branches (or divide one branch), we may have performance issues when updating the hashtable  $h$ . As one vertex change in  $G_t$  may involve several entries to be updated in  $h$ . So how do we solve this problem....

*Note 6* add time complexity analysis

**Table 1** Datasets

Dataset	Type	$ V_{wcc} $	$ E_{wcc} $	$ \triangle $	$k_{max}$
Wiki	Communication	2.4M	4.7M		
Skitter	Internet	1.7M	11.1M		
Livejournal	Social	4.8M	43.4M		
Hollywood	Collaboration	1.1M	56.3M		
Orkut	Social	3M	117M		
Sinaweibo	Social	58.7M	261.3M		
Webuk	Web	39.3M	796.4M		
Friendster	Social	65M	1.8B		

Datasets with the number of vertices and edges in the largest weakly connected components, the number of triangles and the maximum trussness of the graph.

## 5 Evaluations

In this section, we evaluate our proposed index structure for k-truss community queries on real-world networks.

### Datasets

We evaluate our algorithm on 8 graphs from different disciplines as shown in table 1. To simplify our experiments, we treat them as undirected, un-weighted graphs and only use the largest weakly connected component of each graph. All datasets are collected from Stanford Network Analysis Project Leskovec and Krevl (2014) and Network Repository ?.

### Experiment settings

We evaluate our algorithms, we use a Cloudfab Ricci et al (2014) c8220 server with two 10-core 2.2GHz E5-2660 processors and 256GB memory. All algorithms are implemented in C++.

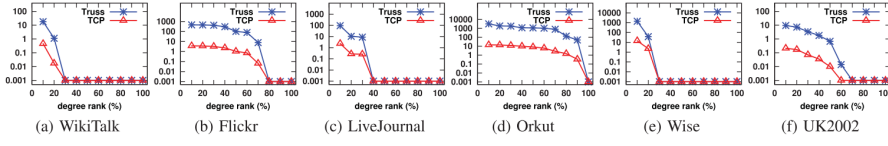
#### 5.1 Query time

We evaluate the query time of various types of k-truss community queries on our index structure. We first evaluate the single vertex k-truss community search and compare the query time with the TCP index proposed in Huang et al (2014). Then we evaluate multi query vertices scenarios and show the results for k-truss query, max-k-truss query and any-k-truss query. Note that queries for exact truss communities can be executed by perform the certain truss community information query to get the id of the truss community first and then perform a BFS on induced MST graph. The latter procedure is exactly same as the single vertex k-truss community search. Therefore we do not include it in our experiments.

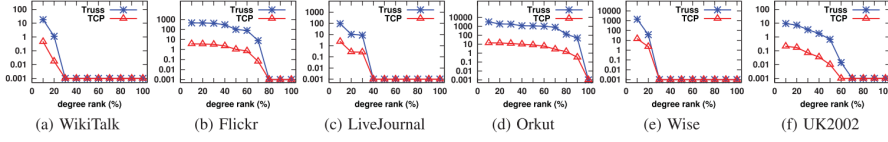
For single vertex k-truss community search, in figure 7 and figure 6, we shows that our index outperforms the TCP index proposed in Huang et al (2014). We first fix  $k = 10$  for all networks and show the k-truss community search time for vertices with various degrees on different graphs in figure 6.



NOTE: EXAMPLE Figures, does not include real data!!!

**Fig. 6** Single vertex query for exact truss community search.

NOTE: EXAMPLE Figures, does not include real data!!!

**Fig. 7** Single vertex query for exact truss community search.**Table 2** Comparison of Index Construction

Dataset	Graph Size	Index Size		Index Time	
		TCP	Our	TCP	Our
Wiki	57	296	187	138	117
Skitter	149	485	430	873	682
Livejournal	635	3174	2699	1686	1557
Hollywood	791	4628	4012	4788	3966
Orkut	1769	8174	5742	3342	2884
Sinaweibo	4050				
Webuk	13999				
Friendster	32364				

We can see that ... Then we use same set of vertices and show the results of various  $k$  on different graphs in figure 7. We can see that ...

## 5.2 Index construction time and size

We show in this section the index size and index construction time of our scheme compared to TCP-index in table 2. Both indices are generated in memory and we show the size of the data structures that hold the index. We exclude the truss decomposition time for both scheme so that the index construction time only shows how long it takes to generate a certain index with edge trussness provided.

We can see in table 2 that our scheme have smaller index size for most graphs and takes shorter time to generate the index compared to the TCP-index. The index size of our scheme is ... smaller than ... The index construction time of our scheme is ... faster than ...

### 5.3 Index update time

The index update time upon graph changes, i.e. edge deletion, is shown in ...

## 6 Related Works

Our work is most related to the inspiring work Huang et al (2014) which introduce the notion of k-truss community based on triangle connectivity. An index structure call TCP is proposed in Huang et al (2014) that each vertex holds their maximum spanning forest based on edge trussness of their ego-network. Triangle connected k-truss communities mitigate the "free-rider" issue but at the cost of slow computation efficiency especially for vertices belongs to large k-truss communities so that they are not able to meet requirements of queries in some cases. We have use this work as a comparison in section section 5.

The notion of triangle connected k-truss community is also referred to as  $k-(2, 3)$  nucleus in Sariyüce and Pinar (2016) where they propose an approach based on disjoint-set forest to speed up the process of nuclues decomposition. We are more emphasize on the fast query process rather speed up the truss decomposition. Also the tree-structured community graph is easier to maintain for dynamic graphs.

Our work falls in the category of cohesive subgraph mining Koujaku et al (2016); Sozio and Gionis (2010); Cui et al (2014); Li et al (2015); Cui et al (2013); McAuley and Leskovec (2012), such as clique Bron and Kerbosch (1973); Rossi et al (2014), k-core Cheng et al (2011); Shin et al (2016), k-truss Huang et al (2014); Wang and Cheng (2012); Cohen (2008); Huang et al (2015, 2016) and quasi-clique Tsourakakis et al (2013). An  $\alpha$ -adjacency  $\gamma$ -quasi- $k$ -clique model is introduced by Cui et al (2014) for online searching of overlapping communities.  $\rho$ -dense core is a pseudo clique recently introduced by Koujaku et al (2016) that is able to deliver optimal solution for graph partition problems. The pattern of k-core structures is studied by Shin et al (2016) for applications such as finding anomalies in real world graphs, approximate degeneracy of large-scale graphs and so on. K-truss decomposition is also studied in Huang et al (2016) for probabilistic graphs.

## 7 Conclusion

In this paper, we describe ...

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