

# Predicting Multi-actor collaborations using Hypergraphs\*

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## Abstract

Social networks are now ubiquitous and most of them contain interactions involving multiple actors (groups) like author collaborations, teams or emails in an organizations, etc. *Hypergraphs* are natural structures to effectively capture multi-actor interactions which conventional dyadic graphs fail to capture. In this work the problem of predicting collaborations is addressed while modeling the collaboration network as a hypergraph network. The problem of predicting future multi-actor collaboration is mapped to hyperedge prediction problem. Given that the higher order edge prediction is an inherently hard problem, in this work we restrict to the task of predicting edges (collaborations) that have already been observed in past. In this work, we propose a novel use of hyperincidence temporal tensors to capture time varying hypergraphs and provides a tensor decomposition based prediction algorithm. We quantitatively compare the performance of the hypergraphs based approach with the conventional dyadic graph based approach. Our hypothesis that hypergraphs preserve the information that simple graphs destroy is corroborated by experiments using author collaboration network from the DBLP dataset. Our results demonstrate the strength of hypergraph based approach to predict higher order collaborations (size>4) which cannot be accomplished using dyadic graph based approach. Moreover, while predicting collaborations of size>2 hypergraphs in most cases provide better results with an average of (10-20)% increase in precision and upto 50% increase in recall for sizes = {3,4} and various training-test splits.

**Keywords.** Collaboration networks, social networks, link prediction, tensors, hypergraphs, team formation.

## 1 Introduction

The problem of understanding group dynamics is central to the field of Social Sciences. Moreover, the increasing use of internet has led to an exponential increase in amount of online interaction data. As examples, social networking sites like Facebook or Twitter, group communication tools like Skype, Google Hangout, Google Docs, Massive Online multi-player games such as World of Warcraft, etc., are generating social networking data at a massive scale. These social datasets provides minute by minute account of interaction along with the structure and the content of these relationships [1].

In the domain of Social Science, a lot of studies have been conducted to understand how groups form, their static as well as dynamic attributes and structures, and

how they evolve over time [2]. The research collaborations in scientific community are an excellent example of social networks in which individuals of various expertise collaborate to solve a research problem. Collaboration networks from scientific research community have been extensively used for studying team dynamics [3][4][5]. Group dynamics has real life applications as well for example in building emergency response teams for natural disasters management, automation of team selection for military operations, etc.

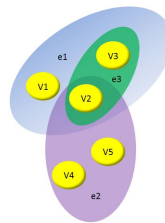


Figure 1: Hypergraph

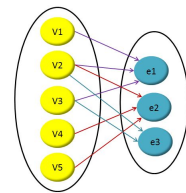


Figure 2: Bipartite of hypergraph (Fig.1)

The above examples reveal that there can be multiple overlapping collaborations which form a network of collaborations. Modeling such collaborations in dynamic settings where relationship between actors is evolving over time is a challenging task. Unfortunately, most of the prior research in social network analysis deals with dyadic interactions or small well-defined groups [6] rather than at the group level. There are some studies that have dealt with group interactions by collapsing the group into dyadic links [4] and therefore, fail to keep the group level information intact. Ghoshal et. al. [7] have used tripartite regular hypergraph which captures folksonomy data but is too restrictive to capture variable size social collaborations. Guimer et al. [8] attempts to model group using node and group attributes which can explain the network structure but fails to deal with individual group evolution. Bipartite graphs (figure 2) as network models have also been used to capture groups [9] where one set of nodes represent event/collectives/groups and the other second set of nodes represent the actors. But in this model the relations between the actors have to be derived as the group relation is not represented in an intact manner [10].

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Hypergraphs are generalization of graphs, which can have more than two node in an edge (rather than simple graphs where only 2 nodes are part of an edge). Therefore, hypergraphs can easily capture the coexistence of more than two entities in a single relation. Figure 1 shows a hypergraph with five nodes and three edges.

**1.1 Related Work** Hypergraphs can easily capture the higher-order relationships while incorporating both group and node level attributes. Moreover, research has shown that several social, biological, ecological and technological systems can be better modeled using hypergraphs than using dyadic proxies [11]. There is an abundant literature of hypergraph theory in past [12] and many work in the spectral theory of hypergraphs recently [13][14]. The past decade has also seen an increasing interest for hypergraphs in machine learning community [15][16]. Hypergraphs have been used to model complex networks in different fields including biology [17], databases [18] and data mining [19]. In the domain of social sciences, Kapoor et al. [10] have proposed with centrality metrics for weighted hypergraphs. Tramasco et al. [20] propose hypergraphs based metrics to evaluate various hypothesis, both semantic and structural, regarding team formation.

Although a lot of work done has been regarding mathematical formulation of hypergraphs, very few works (as stated above) capture the full potential of hypergraph models for real world applications. In this paper, we address the problem of higher order collaboration predictions by modeling it as a hyperedge prediction problem. The collaboration network is modeled as a hypergraph network. Given a previous history of the collaborations we predict collaborations using an supervised approach for hyperedge prediction. In order to capture the time varying hypergraphs and graphs we propose with a novel application of tensor in the form of incidence or hyper-incidence tensors. Our results show that graphs give zero precision (i.e. are completely unable to predict) for higher order groups of size= {5, 6, 7} whereas hypergraph are able to predict. In predicting collaborations (hyperedges) higher than size two i.e. more than two entities, hypergraphs in most cases provide better results with an average of (10-20)% increase in precision and upto 50% increase in recall for sizes = {3, 4} and various training-test splits. The main contributions of the paper are summarized as follows:

- We show a quantitative comparison between graphs and hypergraphs from an applications perspective. This to the best of our knowledge is a pioneer work.

- We propose a novel application of tensors to capture hypergraphs and use the decomposed tensor's factors to come up with a prediction model for higher order groups.
- We have successfully addressed the problem of predicting collaborations of higher order which has been rarely dealt with in the past research as it is a problem of considerable complexity.

The rest of the paper is as follows: Section 2 nails down the various hyperedge prediction problems, Section 3 proposes our hypothesis to be evaluated, Section 4 talks about the tensors based algorithm to capture this hypothesis, Section 5 talks about the experiments conducted and results are discussed, which is followed by conclusion and future work.

## 2 Hyperedge Prediction problems and Preliminaries

In this section we describe how higher order collaboration prediction can be mapped to hyperedge prediction problem.

**2.1 Problem Statement** In this paper we have used research collaborations where a set of authors (*actors*) collaborate for research. Each of these collaboration results in a *publication* and each of these publications represents an instance of this collaboration. This means that the same *collaboration* might result in multiple publications. Each of these *collaboration* is modeled as a hyperedge in a hypergraph whose each vertex represent an *actor*. The problem of *collaboration* prediction can then be treated as a problem of predicting a hyperedge. This further splits in two sub-problems:

- Problem of predicting the hyperedges already observed in past i.e. *old edge* prediction.
- Problem of predicting the hyperedges that have never been observed in past i.e. *new edge* prediction.

To the best of our knowledge these problems have not yet been addressed explicitly. In this paper we are restricting ourselves to the former problem of *old edge* prediction.

**2.2 Problem Definition** Let  $V = \{v_1, v_2, \dots, v_{N_a}\}$  be a set of vertices (*actors*). We represent the hypergraph of *collaborations* using  $HG(V, H)$  where  $H$  is the incidence matrix of hypergraph which we term as *hyper-incidence matrix*. This matrix  $H$  represent the set of hyperedges (*collaborations*)  $\{h_1, h_2, \dots, h_{N_h}\}$  where each hyperedge  $h_k = \{v_1^{h_k}, \dots, v_{|h_k|}^{h_k}\} \subseteq V$ . We divide time

into small snapshots (of size  $w$  as shown in Figure 4) with  $t$  as its index.  $N_c^t$  is the number of *publications* occurred in snapshot  $t$  and there are  $N_t$  number of snapshots in past. We denote the  $i^{th}$  *publication* in the  $t^{th}$  snapshot by  $c_i^{(t)} \forall i = \{1, 2, \dots, N_c^t\}$ . Each of this *publication*  $c_i^{(t)}$  represents some *collaboration* (hyperedge)  $h_k$ . A mapping function  $\phi$  is defined which returns the *collaboration* (hyperedge) represented by a given *publication* such that  $\phi(c_i^{(t)}) = h_k \forall k = \{1, \dots, N_h\}$  where  $N_h$  are the number of distinct *collaborations* (hyperedges) in the past. Size of  $H$  is therefore,  $N_h \times N_a$  and we call  $s_k$  as the cardinality ( of vertices inside  $h_k$ ) of the hyperedge  $h_k$  i.e.  $s_k = |h_k|$ .

The problem of *old link* prediction is now defined as follows: Given a past history of collaborations  $C_{hist} = \{c^{(t)}\}_{t=1}^{N_t}$  our goal for the problem of *old link* prediction is to predict the likelihood of future occurrence of each of the hyperedges  $h_k \forall k = \{1, \dots, N_h\}$  (i.e. *collaborations* already observed in past).

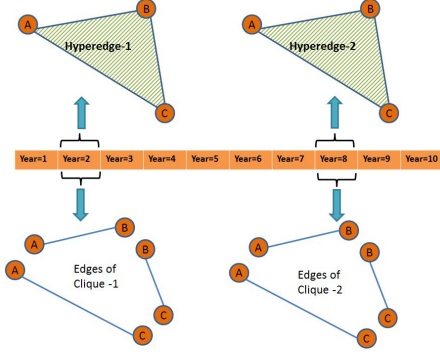


Figure 3: Toy Example showing of two *publications* published by *collaboration* (A, B, C) in year=2 and year=8 with their hyperedge (top) and clique of dyadic edges (bottom) representation.

### 3 Hypothesis

In this section we state the hypothesis which is evaluated in this work. We claim that modeling social collaborations or interactions as hypergraph is likely to conserve a lot of information that is destroyed when modeled as dyadic graphs. The claim is supported by the following examples:

- *Independent dyadic interactions fail to predict higher order interactions* : For example, if A and B talk to each other often and similarly does, the pair (B-C) and (C-A). But this is unable to capture the same information nor can it give a sufficient prediction that (A-B-C) in a group will be interacting together. Whereas if we have seen (A-B-C) together several times this information is completely

different than what we can attain from just observing the individual interaction independently. Thus, there is a blatant need for capturing higher order interaction is a form other than dyadic interactions.

- *Higher order interactions are captured in a much better manner using hypergraphs than a corresponding dyadic clique based representation*: For example as show in Figure 3, a *collaboration* of authors A,B and C produced couple of *publications* in a time window of ten years. Our aim is to predict future likelihood ( $P(A-B-C)$ ) of this *collaboration* A-B-C reoccurring. If we use hyperedge representation then  $P(A-B-C) = 2/10$ . Whereas, on splitting the hyperedges as cliques of dyadic links,  $P(A-B-C) = P(A-B) \times P(B-C) \times P(C-A) = (2/10) \times (2/10) \times (2/10) = (8/1000)$  which is clearly less than the probability using the hyperedge. Hypergraph simply keeps the joint probability information intact.

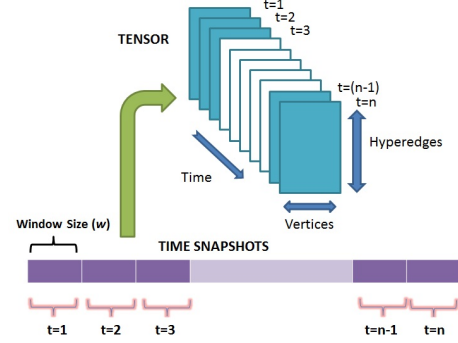


Figure 4: A tensor representation of the temporal information (snapshot size= $w$ ). Each snapshot data is fed in the corresponding hyper-incidence matrix.

## 4 Proposed Approach

This section describes the approach used to capture the above intuition and build a platform to conduct comparative analysis between graphs and hypergraphs. This section is divided into two sections. In the first section the hypergraph modeling using tensors is explained and the next section described the supervised hyperedge prediction.

### 4.1 Collaboration Modeling

#### 4.1.1 Tensor and Incidence matrix representations

A tensor is a multidimensional, or N-way, array [13] and has proven to capture multi-dimensional data effectively [21]. For example Tensors allow to handle time as a separate dimension. This provides more

flexibility to creatively manipulate the temporal dimension. Moreover, the temporal patterns can be captured using tensors to predict future patterns rather than just immediate future. Recently tensors have already proved effective in predicting temporal link prediction by Dunlavy et al [22]. This has encouraged us to capture hypergraphs and graphs using 3-way tensors where the first two dimensions capture the hypergraph/graph incidence matrix and the third dimension captures the temporal information. Keeping the same incidence matrix representation for both graph and hypergraph allows to have a parity comparison between the two models. We denote the tensor for graph and hypergraph using  $\mathcal{Z}_g$  and  $\mathcal{Z}_h$  which represent array of the snapshots of incidence or the hyper-incidence matrix respectively (Figure 4). Snapshot  $t$  refers to a time period  $T = (w * (t - 1), w * t)$ .

Similar to hypergraph we represent graph as  $G(V, E)$  where the graph incidence matrix is  $E$  represent the set of edges  $\{e_1, e_2, \dots, e_{N_g}\}$ . Each edge contains a pair of vertices i.e.  $e_k = \{v_i^{e_k}, v_j^{e_k}\} \subseteq V$  (Section 4.1.2 describes the method to obtain these edges). For the snapshot  $t$  we represent incidence matrix for graph as  $E^{(t)}$  and use  $H^{(t)}$  for the hyper-incidence matrix. Here,  $E^{(t)}$  has the dimension  $(N_g \times N_a)$  where  $N_g$  is the number of distinct dyadic edges between any two actors that have been observed upto current time. Similarly, the dimension of  $H^{(t)}$  is  $(N_h \times N_a)$  where  $N_h$  is the number of distinct multi-actor *collaborations* (hyperedges) between the actors that are observed till now. Note that in  $E^{(t)}$  and  $H^{(t)}$  only information of publications in snapshot  $t$  is stored but they have same dimension for all values of  $t$ .

Therefore,  $\mathcal{Z}_g(:, :, t) = E^{(t)}$  and  $\mathcal{Z}_h(:, :, t) = H^{(t)}$  both representing array of snapshots of respective incidence matrices. Dimension of  $\mathcal{Z}_g$  finally becomes  $N_g \times N_a \times N_t$  and  $\mathcal{Z}_h$  becomes  $N_h \times N_a \times N_t$  dimensional.

**4.1.2 Loading Tensors** Next step is to extract effective modeling information from historical publication data  $C_{hist}$  and feed it into both the graph and hypergraph tensors. The following couple of subsections describe this process for graphs and hypergraphs separately. We are using the following terms interchangeably: hyperedge and collaboration, occurrence of hyperedge and publication; and vertex and actor.

**Hypergraph Case (Line (3-11) of Algorithm 1):** All hyper-incidence matrices  $H^{(t)} \forall t$  have the same dimension and thus, the same number,  $N_h$ , of unique hyperedges. Each one of these hyperedges  $h_k \forall k \in \{1, 2, \dots, N_h\}$  represent a unique collaboration between a subset of actors (vertices) i.e.  $h_k \subseteq V$ . For each of the publication  $c_i^{(t)} \in c^t$  for  $i = \{1, 2, \dots, N_c^{(t)}\}$  find the  $k \in$

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**Algorithm 1** PREDICT-COLLAB( $C_{hist}$ ,  $isHypergraph$ )

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1:  $\mathcal{Z}_h$  tensor (size  $N_h \times N_a \times N_t$ ) initialized to all zeros.
2:  $\mathcal{Z}_g$  tensor (size  $N_g \times N_a \times N_t$ ) initialized to all zeros.
3: if  $isHypergraph$  then
4:   for  $c^{(t)} \in C_{hist}$  do
5:     for  $c_i^{(t)} \in c^{(t)}$  do
6:       Find  $k$  s.t.  $\phi(c_i) == h_k$ 
7:       for  $j$  s.t.  $v_j \in \{v_1^{h_k}, \dots, v_{|h_k|}^{h_k}\} = h_k$  do
8:          $\mathcal{Z}_h(k, j, t) = \mathcal{Z}_h(k, j, t) + \frac{1}{s_k}$ 
9:       end for
10:    end for
11:  end for
12:   $\mathbf{S}_h = \text{BUILD-SIMILARITY-MATRIX}(\mathcal{Z}_h, N_h, N_a)$ 
13:  return HYPERGRAPH-PROB-VECTOR ( $\mathbf{S}_h, N_h, N_a$ )
14: else
15:   for  $c^{(t)} \in C_{hist}$  do
16:     for  $c_i^{(t)} \in c^{(t)}$  do
17:       Find  $k$  s.t.  $\phi(c_i) == h_k$ 
18:        $s_k$  is the cardinality of hyperedge  $h_k$ .
19:       for Each of the  $\binom{s_k}{2}$  dyadic links,  $d_p$  of the hyperedge  $h_k$  as a clique. do
20:         Find  $k'$  s.t. dyadic edge  $d_p$  represents the same subset as  $c_i$ 
21:         for  $j$  s.t.  $v_j \in \{v_1^{d_p}, v_2^{d_p}\} = d_p$  do
22:            $\mathcal{Z}_g(k', j, t) = \mathcal{Z}_g(k', j, t) + \frac{1}{s_k}$ 
23:         end for
24:       end for
25:     end for
26:    $\mathbf{S}_g = \text{BUILD-SIMILARITY-MATRIX}(\mathcal{Z}_g, N_g, N_a)$ 
27:   return GRAPH-PROB-VECTOR ( $\mathbf{S}_g, N_g, N_a$ )
28: end if=0
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**Algorithm 2** BUILD-SIMILARITY-MATRIX ( $\mathcal{Z}, N_a, N_b$ )

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1:  $\mathbf{S}$  similarity matrix of size  $N_a \times N_b$  initialized with all zeros.
2:  $K$  is the number of components.
3:  $[\lambda; \mathbf{A}, \mathbf{B}, \mathbf{C}] = \text{CP-ALS}(\mathcal{Z})$ 
4: for  $k \in \{1, 2, \dots, K\}$  do
5:    $\mathbf{S} = \mathbf{S} + \lambda_k \gamma_k \mathbf{a}_k \mathbf{b}_k^\top$ 
6: end for
7: return  $\mathbf{S}$ 
8: =0
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**Algorithm 3** HYPERGRAPH-PROB-VECTOR ( $\mathbf{S}_h, N_h, N_a$ )

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1:  $\mathbf{p}_h$  is the probability vector for hyperedge likelihood
   of length  $N_h$  initialized to all one.
2: for  $i \in \{1, 2, \dots, N_h\}$  do
3:   for  $p$  s.t.  $v_p \in h_i$  do
4:      $\mathbf{p}_h(i) = \mathbf{p}_h(i) * \mathbf{S}_h(i, p)$ 
5:   end for
6: end for
   return  $\mathbf{p}_h$ 
   =0

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$\{1, 2, \dots, N_h\}$  such that  $c_i^{(t)}$  represents the same subset of vertices as  $h_k$  i.e.  $\phi(c_i^{(t)}) == h_k$ . For this index  $k$  of the hyperedge, the tensor is filled as  $\mathcal{Z}_h(k, j, t) = \frac{m_k}{s_k}$  where  $j$  is the index of each vertex which is the part of the hyperedge  $h_k$ ,  $s_k$  is the cardinality of the hyperedge  $h_k$  and  $m_k$  is the multiplicity of the hyperedge  $h_k$ . Multiplicity is calculated as the log (No. of times  $h_k$  occurred in  $t$ ), in other words how many times a particular *collaboration* published some work in snapshot  $t$ . This process captures the weight of the hyperedge  $h_k$  in the hypergraph tensor. The weight of the hyperedge is modeled as  $(\frac{m_k}{s_k})$ , as this definition of hyperedge weights is shown to give the best results by Kapoor et al.[10]. This whole process is repeated for all the time snapshots.

**Graph Case (Line (14-25) of Algorithm 1):**

In case of graph also the graph-incidence matrices  $G^{(t)}$   $\forall t$  have the same dimension and same number,  $N_g$ , of unique edges. Each of these edges  $g_k$  represent a unique set (dyadic collaboration) between two vertices (actors),  $g_k = \{v_i^{g_k}, v_j^{g_k}\} \subseteq V$ . For each publication  $c_i^{(t)} \in c^t$  for  $i = \{1, 2, \dots, N_c^{(t)}\}$  find the  $k \in \{1, \dots, N_h\}$  such that  $\phi(c_i^{(t)}) == h_k$ . This hyperedge  $h_k$  is broken in to  $\binom{s_c}{2}$  dyadic edges and let us denote each of the dyadic link by  $d_p$ . For each of the  $d_p$  find the index  $k' \in \{1, 2, \dots, N_g\}$  for which the  $d_p$  represents the same edge as  $g_k$ . For this index  $k'$  the tensor is filled as  $\mathcal{Z}_g(k', j, t) = \frac{m_k}{s_k}$  where  $j$  is the index of each vertex which is the part of the edge  $d_p$ ,  $s_k$  is the cardinality of the hyperedge  $h_k$  and  $m_k$  is the multiplicity of the hyperedge  $h_k$ . Thus we model the dyadic link of the clique to get the weight of the original hyperedge [10]. Again, this whole process is repeated for all the time snapshots.

**4.2 Decomposing the tensors (Algorithm 2)**

Next step in the process is to decompose the tensors (loaded in the previous section). These decomposed factors are used in next section for doing *collaboration* prediction. The method proposed in this paper for

decomposition is inspired by CP Scoring using Heuristic (CPH) method of Dunlavy et al. [22] which has already proven successful. This method is based uses the well know CANDECOMP/PARAFAC (CP) [23] tensor decomposition which is analogous to Singular Value Decomposition (SVD) [24] and it converts a tensor into sum of rank one tensors. Given a three dimensional tensor  $\mathcal{X}$  with size  $J_a \times J_b \times J_c$  its CP decomposition is given by:

$$(4.1) \quad \mathcal{X} \approx \sum_{f=1}^F \lambda_f \mathbf{a}_f \circ \mathbf{b}_f \circ \mathbf{c}_f$$

where  $\lambda_f \in R^+$ ,  $\mathbf{a}_f \in R^{J_a}$ ,  $\mathbf{b}_f \in R^{J_b}$ , and  $\mathbf{c}_f \in R^{J_c}$ . Each of the products  $\lambda_f \mathbf{a}_f \circ \mathbf{b}_f \circ \mathbf{c}_f$  is called the *components* whereas  $\mathbf{a}_f$ ,  $\mathbf{b}_f$  and  $\mathbf{c}_f$  are called the *factors* of the decomposition. Note that though  $\|\mathbf{a}_f\| = \|\mathbf{b}_f\| = \|\mathbf{c}_f\| = 1$  but these factors are not orthogonal to each other as it is the case in SVD. Also  $\lambda_f$  is the weight for the  $f^{th}$  component. The decomposition is unique, unlike other tensor decomposition methods, resulting in an attractive method for prediction as the factors can be used directly [22]. Note that matrices  $\mathbf{A}$ ,  $\mathbf{B}$  and  $\mathbf{C}$  contain the factors  $\mathbf{a}_f$ ,  $\mathbf{b}_f$  and  $\mathbf{c}_f$  as column vectors.

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**Algorithm 4** GRAPH-PROB-VECTOR ( $\mathbf{S}_g, N_g, N_a$ )

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1:  $\mathbf{p}_g$  is the probability vector for edge likelihood of
   length  $N_g$  initialized to all one.
2: for  $i \in \{1, 2, \dots, N_g\}$  do
3:    $s_i$  is the cardinality of hyperedge  $h_i$ .
4:   for Each of the  $\binom{s_i}{2}$  dyadic links  $d_p$ , of the
     hyperedge  $h_i$  as a clique. do
5:     for  $p$  s.t.  $v_p \in d_p$  do
6:        $\mathbf{p}_g(i) = \mathbf{p}_g(i) * \mathbf{S}_g(i, p)$ 
7:     end for
8:   end for
9: end for
   return  $\mathbf{p}_g$ 
   =0

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Based upon CPH the similarity between the object  $i$  and  $j$  is contained in a similarity matrix  $\mathbf{S}$  as the entry at  $(i, j)$ . This matrix is defined as follows:

$$(4.2) \quad \mathbf{S} = \sum_{k=1}^K \gamma_k \lambda_k \mathbf{a}_k \mathbf{b}_k^\top$$

where

$$(4.3) \quad \gamma_k = \frac{1}{T_{buf}} \left( \sum_{t=T-T_{buf}+1}^T \mathbf{c}_k(t) \right)$$

$\mathbf{a}_k \mathbf{b}_k^\top$  for the component  $k$  basically represent the similarity between the object pairs in the  $k^{th}$  component. Let the similarity matrix for graph be  $\mathbf{S}_g$  (from decomposition of  $\mathcal{Z}_g$ ) and for hypergraph be  $\mathbf{S}_h$  (from decomposition of  $\mathcal{Z}_h$ ). Compression over  $T_{buf}$  number of past years (buffer) captures the intuition that only the recent past publications are relevant for prediction.

**4.3 Predicting Collaborations** In this step the similarity matrices  $\mathbf{S}_g$  and  $\mathbf{S}_h$  are used for predicting the edges or hyperedges. Interpretation of the similarity matrix in our approach is as follows.  $\mathbf{S}_g(i, j)$  is the likelihood of the  $i^{th}$  dyadic edge occurring in future and also contains vertex  $j$ . Similarly, for case of hypergraph  $\mathbf{S}_h(i, j)$  is the likelihood of the  $i^{th}$  hyperedge along with vertex  $j$  inside it. In short after the tensor decomposition (and the subsequent compression along time dimension) our method outputs a similarity value for all the *actors* for each *collaboration* indicating how likely each of these *actors* can start working with this *collaboration*.

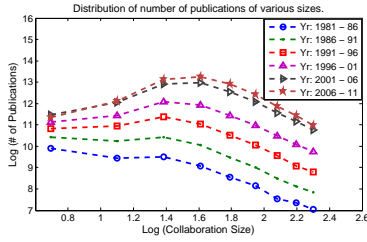


Figure 5: Log-Log Plot depicting of publications over different sizes of collaboration

**4.3.1 Hypergraph Case (Algorithm 3):** If the reassurance of  $i^{th}$  hyperedge reoccurs and also contain  $j^{th}$  vertex is an event. Assuming that all these events for a particular  $i^{th}$  hyperedge for each of the vertices are independent the probability of  $i^{th}$  hyperedge reoccurs is defined as:

$$(4.4) \quad \mathbf{p}_h(i) = \prod_{p \in h_k} \mathbf{S}_h(i, p)$$

**4.3.2 Graph Case (Algorithm 4):** Similarly, in case of graphs the probability of  $i^{th}$  edge reoccurring in future is:

$$(4.5) \quad \mathbf{q}_g(i) = \prod_{p \in g_k} \mathbf{S}_g(i, p)$$

The probability of  $i^{th}$  hyperedge reoccurring using the dyadic edge probabilities is:

$$(4.6) \quad \mathbf{p}_g(i) = \prod_{q \in D} \mathbf{q}_g(q) = \prod_{q \in D} \prod_{p \in g_k} \mathbf{S}_g(q, p)$$

where  $D$  is the set of dyadic edges that are contained in the clique representation of the  $i^{th}$  hyperedge.

The outcome of this whole process (Section 4) is these two vectors:  $\mathbf{p}_g$  and  $\mathbf{p}_h$ . The  $i^{th}$  values of  $\mathbf{p}_g$  and  $\mathbf{p}_h$  are the likelihood of collaboration represented by the  $i^{th}$  hyperedge occurring in future as outputted by graph and hypergraph models respectively. These vectors are used to generate the top- $N$  list as detailed in the Section 5.

## 5 Experimental Analysis

In this section we discuss the experimental setup used to evaluate the performance of the proposed approach. First section describes the dataset, data preprocessing and experimental setup. In the second section, we discuss the various experiments conducted and their analysis.

**5.1 Dataset and Experimental Setup** We have evaluated the performance of the proposed approach using the popular DBLP dataset [25] containing publications from years 1930-2011. For the experiments the dataset is divided into training and test periods (*splits*) as shown in the Table 1 and Table 2. As shown in Table 1 the *splits* are designed with constant training period but variable testing periods. Table 2 contains *splits* with variable training periods and fixed length testing periods. Table 3 provides the statistics of the training and test set. It provides the total sum of edge counts across all the splits in two different ranges of splits: Split A.1 to A.5 and Split B.1 to B.5 as mentioned. However, only the No. of training and No. of old edges are useful statistics about the data for the proposed experiments.

The distribution Figure 5 is a *log-log* plot showing the distribution of publication counts of various collaboration sizes for different 5 year time periods of DBLP dataset. We observe that the distribution (Figure 5) across the different intervals follow a similar pattern. This shows that *splits* that were designed are equivalent as far as conducting experiments is concerned and no bias is involved.

As a preprocessing step, all the single author papers were removed since they do not capture relationships between authors.

For the CP Decomposition (CP-ALS) (that is required for Algorithm 1) Tensor Toolbox [21] is used. To find the parameter  $K$  for the CP-ALS algorithm we use the ensemble method approach proposed by Dunlavy et



Table 1: Training-Testing Splits for variable Testing periods

Split No.	Training Size = 5 yrs	Test Size = 3 yrs	Test Size = 4 yrs	Test Size = 5 yrs
A.1	1981-85	1986-88	1986-89	1986-90
A.2	1986-90	1991-93	1991-94	1991-95
A.3	1991-95	1996-98	1996-99	1996-2000
A.4	1996-2000	2001-03	2001-04	2001-05
A.5	2001-05	2006-08	2006-09	2006-10

Table 2: Training-Testing Splits for variable Testing periods

Split No.	Training Size = 3 yrs	Training Size = 4 yrs	Training Size = 5 yrs	Test Size = 3 yrs
B.1	1983-85	1982-85	1981-85	1986-88
B.2	1988-90	1987-90	1986-90	1991-93
B.3	1993-95	1992-95	1991-95	1996-98
B.4	1998-2000	1997-2000	1996-2000	2001-03
B.5	2003-05	2002-05	2001-05	2006-08

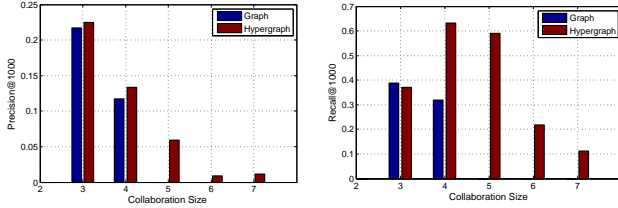
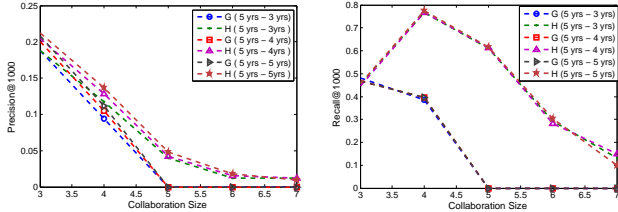


Figure 6: Experiment A: (a) AveragePrecision@1000 (b) AverageRecall@1000

Figure 7: Experiment B (Variable Test Size): (a) AveragePrecision@1000 (b) AverageRecall@1000 al [22] with  $K = \{20, 40, \dots, 200\}$ . Also the parameter  $T_{buf} = 3$  years is taken [22]. We have used the term graph and dyadic graph interchangeably.

**5.2 Evaluation** In this section four experiments are described that evaluate our proposed approach and provide comparative analysis between dyadic and hypergraphs models. Each of the experiment below is conducted using some of the *splits*. The training period of each *split* is used to train the dyadic Graph or Hypergraph models using Algorithm 1. The algorithm is run for both graph and hypergraph case to return the edge ( $\mathbf{P}_g$ ) and hyperedge probability ( $\mathbf{P}_h$ ) vectors. These probability vector contains likelihood values for

Table 3: Total Edges for all the splits for different sizes and variable testing or training periods

Group Size	Split B.1-5				Split A.1-5			
	Training Size (Years)	No. of Training Edges	No. of Old Test Edges	No. of New Test Edges	Test Size (years)	No. of Training Edges	No. of Old Test Edges	No. of New Test Edges
2	3	192652	49537	210719	3	281203	52887	207369
3	3	129719	21242	176313	3	182562	22269	175286
4	3	60847	6121	93987	3	83421	6397	93711
5	3	23386	1502	39044	3	31907	1567	38979
6	3	9625	442	15990	3	13199	456	15976
7	3	4239	153	6851	3	5733	159	6845
2	4	239635	51746	208510	4	281203	61190	301689
3	4	158564	21964	175591	4	182562	24726	253978
4	4	73281	6319	93789	4	83421	6929	136111
5	4	28150	1546	39000	4	31907	1666	56502
6	4	11620	451	15981	4	13199	494	23266
7	4	5023	155	6849	4	5733	168	9921
2	5	281203	52887	207369	5	281203	65816	385474
3	5	182562	22269	175286	5	182562	25853	320284
4	5	83421	6397	93711	5	83421	7178	170603
5	5	31907	1567	38979	5	31907	1702	70431
6	5	13199	456	15976	5	13199	501	29005
7	5	5733	159	6845	5	5733	170	12339

collaborations of different sizes. Each vector is sorted in descending order and the list of top- $N$  elements is taken out. Out of these top- $N$  elements the precision and recall for each size collaboration over test set (old test edges in Table 3) is compared using the following metrics:

$$\text{Precision@N for size-h} = \frac{\# \text{ of size 'h' collaborations correctly predicted out of the top-N list}}{\# \text{ of size 'h' collaborations occurred in Test Period}}$$

$$\text{Recall@N for size-h} = \frac{\# \text{ of size 'h' collaborations correctly predicted out of the top-N list}}{\# \text{ of size 'h' collaborations found in top-N list}}$$

$$\text{AveragePrecision@N for size-h} = \frac{\text{Sum of Precision@N for size-h across all splits}}{\# \text{ of splits}}$$

$$\text{AverageRecall@N for size-h} = \frac{\text{Sum of Recall@N for size-h across all splits}}{\# \text{ of splits}}$$

AveragePrecision@N and AverageRecall@N are used in the experiments for different sizes across all the *splits* (over which the experiment was conducted). This study considers collaborations of size =  $\{2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7\}$  as we are interested only in higher order collaborations (size=2 is used in the analysis as the trivial dyadic case).

**5.2.1 Experiment A** This experiment is conducted over the splits A.1 to A.5 for a fixed test size of 3 years (i.e. from Table 1 column 2 are the training periods and column 3 are the corresponding testing periods). AveragePrecision@1000 and AverageRecall@1000 are show in the Figure 6 (a),(b). As shown in Figure 6(a),(b) for size=3, graphs perform comparably with hypergraphs however for size=4 prediction using hypergraphs show 10% improvement in precision and about 50% in recall.

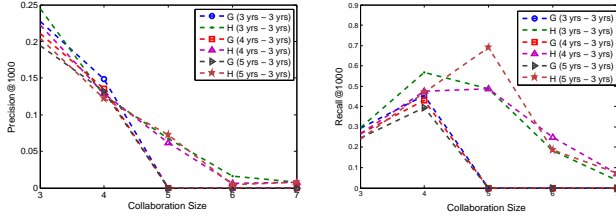


Figure 8: Experiment C (Variable Training Size): (a) AveragePrecision@1000 (b) AverageRecall@1000

For size>5 graphs completely fail to make any predictions however, Hypergraphs maintain the higher order group information intact. Even for the largest collaboration size=7 (Figure 6(a),(b)) hypergraphs give 0.025 precision and 0.1 recall. However, owing to the limited training set for higher order (size> 6) collaboration hypergraph performance is reduced.

**5.2.2 Experiment B** To get further confidence in the prediction power of hypergraphs we ran experiments with predictions over variable testing periods from three to five years using the splits A.1 to A.4 (Table 1) and fixed training size=5 years. The AveragePrecision@1000 and AverageRecall@1000 curves for different testing periods are shown in Figure 7(a),(b). As shown in Figure 7(a),(b), the green, pink and maroon lines (which represent hypergraph) outperform the graph model (lines colored blue, red and gray) for all the sizes. Although for size=3 prediction accuracy using graph model is comparable with the hypergraph based prediction accuracy. However at higher order collaborations hypergraph outperform graphs.

**5.2.3 Experiment C** This experiment compares the prediction power of the two models: graph and hypergraphs, when trained over variable size training periods. The time period splits used in this case are B.1 to B.4 (which has fixed test period of 3 years) over training size from 3 to 5 years as show in the Table 2. AveragePrecision/Recall@1000 curves for different training periods are shown in Figure 8(a),(b). As shown in Fig 8(a) the precision curves for graph model are low for most of the sizes (except for size=4 graph model is comparable to hypergraph). However, the recall curves (Figure 8(b)) for hypergraph based predictions are always higher than graph curves for all size collaborations. Another interesting thing to note is that green curves of hypergraph are above pink and pink is above maroon for many sizes in both Figure 8(a),(b). Similar case is there for graphs (blue above red and red above grey). Thus, increasing the training period in several cases results in decrease in prediction power for both graphs and hypergraphs. This shows that the information about past can act as

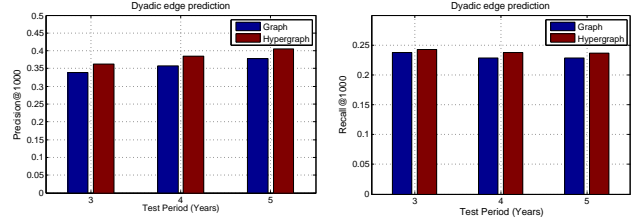


Figure 9: Experiment D (Dyadic Link Prediction): (a) AveragePrecision@1000 (b) AverageRecall@1000 a noise and thus, decrease prediction accuracy.

**5.2.4 Experiment D** This experiment analyzes the trivial case of predicting dyadic links. This experiment is conducted over the splits A.1 to A.5 for a fixed test size of 3 years. Results of this experiment are shown in the Figure 9(a),(b). It is clearly visible that the maroon bars (hypergraph) are for size testing periods (3 to 5 years) are always a slightly higher than blue bars (graphs). This shows that the performance of graphs and hypergraphs is comparable. Although, graphs are themselves sufficiently capture the information needed to predict dyadic links, the proposed tensor model for hypergraph is robust even to predict dyadic links as well.

**5.2.5 Discussion** The above mentioned experiments corroborate about hypergraphs being a better and robust model for higher order collaboration than graphs. Results from these experiments demonstrate higher order collaborations (size>4) cannot be accomplished using dyadic graph based approach. Also collaborations of size> 2 hypergraphs in most cases provide better results with an average of (10-20)% increase in precision and up to 50% increase in recall, for sizes ={3,4} and various training-test splits. In fact our approach is robust for dyadic link prediction as well (Experiment D). Also combined inference from Experiment B and C shows that using the recent (past 3 years) publications we can prediction of a collaboration working together for an extended period of future 5 years.

## 6 Conclusion and Future Work

In this work we have formulated the problem of higher order collaboration prediction. We show that these problems are much harder than the dyadic edge predictions. We make a pioneering attempt to address the *old edge* prediction problem. For this we propose a novel tensor decomposition based approach. We show that tensors are an excellent way to capture temporal hypergraphs since they perform much better in predicting collaborations of size greater than three (in general higher order hyperedges) in comparison to the dyadic graph representation. Moreover, it also turns out that



the hyper-incidence tensor model is robust for dyadic edge prediction as well. In this way we also provide a much needed explicit comparison between graphs and hypergraphs.

In the future we can work on modifying tensor based approach to address the harder problem of *new link* prediction. We can also use the power of tensors to predict exact future patterns (eg: giving a likelihood of publications  $n^{th}$  year in future) by using methods similar to [22]. Another interesting direction is to try out modeling  $K$ -size collaboration as a  $K$ -ary Tensors model.

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