

# HINGCN: Heterogeneous information network revisited with GCN

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## ABSTRACT

GCN on HIN.

## KEYWORDS

Semi-supervised classification; graph convolution; heterogeneous information network

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## 1 INTRODUCTION

Dan:TODO

Our main contributions are:

- We proposed a heterogeneous graph convolution algorithm that is capable of capturing edge information.
- Dan:don't know
- We conduct extensive experiments to evaluate the performance of HINGCN against 9 other classification methods. Our results show that HINGCN performs very well against the competitors. In particular, it is very robust in that it consistently performs well over all the datasets tested. Also, it outperforms others by wide margins for datasets that are highly multi-scale.

The rest of the paper is organized as follows. Section 2 mentions related works on heterogeneous graph neural networks, graph embedding and described several semi-supervised classification algorithms. Section 4 presents the HINGCN algorithm. Section 5 describes the experiments and presents experimental results. Finally, Section 6 concludes the paper.

## 2 RELATED WORK

### 2.1 Heterogeneous graph neural networks

Dan:TODO

### 2.2 Heterogeneous graph embedding

Dan:TODO

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Table 1: Description of symbols

Notation	Description
$\Phi$	Meta-path
$N^\Phi$	Set of neighbors with respect to a given meta-path $\Phi$
$h^{(t)}$	Node embedding at layer $t$ ; $h^{(0)}$ is input node feature
$r^{(t)}$	Edge embedding at layer $t$ ; $r^{(0)}$ is input edge feature
$e_{i,j}^\Phi$	Similarity of node pair $(i,j)$ under meta-path $\Phi$
$a_{i,j}^\Phi$	Attention of node pair $(i,j)$ under meta-path $\Phi$
$W_F$	Weight matrix of fully connected layer $F$
$\sigma$	Sigmoid function
$\oplus$	Concatenate function
$z_i$	Output embedding for node $i$

## 3 PRELIMINARY

*Definition 1. Heterogeneous Information Networks (HIN)*[4].

Let  $T = \{T_1, \dots, T_m\}$  be a set of  $m$  object types. For each type  $T_i$ , let  $n_i$  and  $X_i = x_{i1}, \dots, x_{in_i}$  be the number and the set of objects of type  $T_i$ , respectively. An HIN is a graph  $G = (V, E)$ , where  $V = \bigcup_{i=1}^m X_i$ , and  $E$  is a set of links, each represents a binary relation between two objects in  $V$ . If  $m = 1$  (i.e., there is only one object type),  $G$  reduces to a homogeneous information network.

EXAMPLE 1. Dan:TODO

*Definition 2. Metapath*[7]. A meta-path  $\Phi$  is a path defined on

a graph schema. Meta-path  $\Phi: T_1 \xrightarrow{R_1} \dots \xrightarrow{R_l} T_{l+1}$  defines a composite relation  $R = R_1 \circ \dots \circ R_l$  that relates objects of type  $T_1$  to objects of type  $T_{l+1}$ . We say a path  $p = (x_1 x_2 \dots x_{l+1})$  between  $x_1$  and  $x_{l+1}$  in network  $G$  follows the meta-path  $\Phi$ , if each object is of type  $T_i$  and each link  $ei = \langle x_i x_{i+1} \rangle$  belongs to each relation  $R_i$  in  $\Phi$ . We say that  $p_{x_1 \rightsquigarrow x_{l+1}}$  is an instance of meta-path  $\Phi$ , denoted by  $p_{x_1 \rightsquigarrow x_{l+1}} \vdash \Phi$ . Moreover, in this paper we say  $x_v$  is a meta-path  $\Phi$  related neighbor of  $x_u$ , denoted by  $x_v \in N^\Phi(x_u)$

EXAMPLE 2. In Fig. ??, Dan:TODO

The notations throughout the rest of paper are shown in Table 1.

## 4 ALGORITHM

In this section we describe our HINGCN algorithm. Figure ??(c) shows a flow diagram of HINGCN. Dan:TODO:signposting

#### 4.1 Edge features as supplementary information

According to research findings of Xu et al. [8], discriminative power of a graph neural network determines its representation capability. We claim that information is loss if we only consider adjacency of target type vertices. [Dan:TODO:relate this example to the example figure used in preliminary section](#) For example, in long tailed meta-path *APCPA*, a shrunk *A-A* adjacency loses information from intermediate *PCP* nodes. And a graph neural network using only adjacency information cannot distinguish between two instance  $p_1 = (a_1 p_1 c_1 p_2 a_2)$  and  $p_2 = (a_1 p_3 c_2 p_4 a_2)$ . Therefore we propose to enhance expressivity of our network by adding additional edge feature to homogeneous *A-A* edges. These edge features are designed to effectively distinguish different intermediate nodes between meta-path instances. We propose edge features that is composed of three different components, namely path count, intermediate node embeddings and PathSim[7].

•**Path Count.** Different object pairs have different number of path instance between them and this number may reflect object similarity under a given meta-path. We propose to record this count of path between objects  $x_u$  and  $x_v$  under meta-path  $\Phi$  by:

$$c(x_u, x_v) = |\{p_{x_u \rightsquigarrow x_v} : p_{x_u \rightsquigarrow x_v} \vdash \Phi\}|$$

•**Intermediate object embedding.** To discriminate between different intermediate objects, we propose to use a sum of pre-trained node embedding as a component of edge feature. This node embedding can be trained from heterogeneous embedding algorithms such as [1, 2]. Given a meta-path instance  $p = (x_1 x_2 \dots x_{l+1})$ , we calculate

$$o(x_1, x_{l+1}) = \frac{1}{(l+1) \cdot c(x_1, x_{l+1})} \sum_{i=1}^{l+1} e_i$$

where  $e_i$  is embedding of object  $x_i$ . Division of number of vertices  $l+1$  and path count  $c(x_u, x_v)$  is proposed to normalize intermediate object embedding to the scale of input object embeddings. Since path count is extracted and recorded as  $c(x_u, x_v)$ , there is no additional loss of in doing so.

•**PathSim.** PathSim is proposed in [7] to measure similarity between two objects of a same type on a heterogeneous graph. Given a symmetric meta-path  $\Phi$ , PathSim between  $x_u$  and  $x_v$  is:

$$s(x_u, x_v) = \frac{2 \times |\{p_{x_u \rightsquigarrow x_v} : p_{x_u \rightsquigarrow x_v} \vdash \Phi\}|}{|\{p_{x_u \rightsquigarrow x_u} : p_{x_u \rightsquigarrow x_u} \vdash \Phi\}| + |\{p_{x_v \rightsquigarrow x_v} : p_{x_v \rightsquigarrow x_v} \vdash \Phi\}|}$$

The edge feature between objects  $x_u$  and  $x_v$  under meta-path  $\Phi$  is therefore concatenated as:

$$r_{\Phi}^{(0)}(x_u, x_v) = c(x_u, x_v) \oplus o(x_u, x_v) \oplus s(x_u, x_v) \quad (1)$$

#### 4.2 Aggregating node embedding

[Dan:TODO](#) We utilize a dot product attention mechanism to aggregate node embedding from its neighbor. Given a meta-path  $\Phi$ , we update vertex embedding as follow. First we apply MLP layers on node embedding and its neighbor respectively:

$$\hat{h}_i = W_{a1}^{(t)}(\tanh(W_{a2}^{(t)} h_i^{(t)})) \quad (2)$$

and

$$n_{i,j} = W_{a3}^{(t)}(\tanh(W_{a4}^{(t)}(h_j^{(t)} \oplus r_{i,j}^{(t)}))) \quad (3)$$

Here edge feature  $r_{i,j}^{(t)}$  is concatenated to vertex feature of the neighbors, in order to provide additional information. The importance of a neighbor  $j$  to object  $i$  is then calculated as:

$$\tilde{a}_{i,j}^{(t)} = \hat{h}_i^T \cdot n_{i,j} \quad (4)$$

Then we normalize this importance coefficient by softmax function:

$$a_{i,j}^{(t)} = \text{softmax}(\tilde{a}_{i,j}^{(t)}) = \frac{\exp(\tilde{a}_{i,j}^{(t)})}{\sum_{k \in N_i^{\Phi}} \exp(\tilde{a}_{i,k}^{(t)})} \quad (5)$$

Finally the output of the node aggregation layer is a weighted sum of neighbor embeddings:

$$h_i^{(t+1)} = \text{ReLU}(W_{h1} \cdot \sum_{j \in N_i^{\Phi}} a_{i,j}^{(t)} \cdot (h_j^{(t)} \oplus r_{i,j}^{(t)}) + W_{h2} \cdot h_i^{(t)}) \quad (6)$$

#### 4.3 Aggregating edge embedding

[Dan:TODO](#) In multi-layer propagation, we propose to update embeddings of edge as well.

$$r_{i,j}^{(t+1)} = \text{ReLU}(W_{r1} \cdot (h_i^{(t)} \oplus h_j^{(t)} \oplus r_{i,j}^{(t)}) + W_{r2} \cdot r_{i,j}^{(t)}) \quad (7)$$

#### 4.4 Dealing with over-smoothing via adaptive depth

[Dan:TODO:relate this example to the example figure used in preliminary section](#) Plain GCNs often degrades rapidly as number of layers increases [5, 6]. Stacking four or more layers into GCNs cause over-smoothing problem and features of vertices tends to converge to the same value. In heterogeneous graphs, this problem is even more severe. Let's consider again meta-path *APCPA*. A two layer  $a_1 a_2 a_3$  propagation on the shrunk *A-A* homo-graph actually passes across 8 edges on the underlying heterogeneous graph, which is a terrible number of layers for plain graph convolution networks. To alleviate the over-smoothing problem, in equation 6 and 7, we have already included residual connections [3] in updating rule. And we propose to further improve the problem by creating jumping connections [9].

$$h_i^{(final)} = h_i^{(0)} \oplus h_i^{(1)} \dots \oplus h_i^{(t)} \quad (8)$$

#### 4.5 Aggregation across different meta-path semantics

[Dan:need some intuition/justification shit](#) Given a node  $i$ , and its set of embeddings under different semantics, a metapath aggregator is a function  $\gamma$  in the form of  $y_i = \gamma_{\Theta}(\{x_{i,1}, x_{i,2}, \dots, x_{i,p}\})$ , where  $x_{i,p}$  is the embedding of node  $i$  under metapath  $p$ , and  $y_i$  is the aggregated embedding of node  $i$  in the HIN.  $\Theta$  is the learnable parameters of the aggregator. Here we propose several metapath aggregators.

##### • Attention

$$\tilde{h}_i^{\Phi p} = W_{m1} \cdot \tanh(W_{m2} \cdot h_i^{\Phi p}) \quad (9)$$

$$\tilde{w}_i^{\Phi p} = W_w \cdot \sigma(\tilde{h}_i^{\Phi p}) \quad (10)$$

$$w_i^{\Phi p} = \text{softmax}(\tilde{w}_i^{\Phi p}) = \frac{\exp(\tilde{w}_i^{\Phi p})}{\sum_q \exp(\tilde{w}_i^{\Phi q})} \quad (11)$$

$$z_i = \text{ReLU}(\sum_p w_i^{\Phi_p} \cdot h_i^{\Phi_p}) \quad (12)$$

• **Gated linear unit** Inspired by forget gate mechanisms in recurrent networks (RNN) [Dan:TODO:cite](#), we compute a soft gate between 0 (low importance) and 1 (high importance) to represent different importance to each embedding entry. We make the element-wise gated sum layer as follows:

$$o_i^{\Phi_p} = \sigma(W_o \cdot h_i^{\Phi_p}) \quad (13) \quad \tilde{h}_i^{\Phi_p} = \tanh(W_z \cdot h_i^{\Phi_p}) \quad (14)$$

Finally, we have

$$z_i = \sum_p o_i^{\Phi_p} \odot \tilde{h}_i^{\Phi_p} \quad (15)$$

The gated unit  $o_{\Phi_p}$  with sigmoid output (ranged (0,1)) is used to control which elements are to be aggregated in the output.

• **Other aggregators** In preliminary experiments, **Concat**, **Max-Pooling** and **Mean** aggregators did not generate a better result, and we omit results of these aggregators in experiment section.

#### 4.6 HINGCN: Semi-supervised classification on Heterogeneous Information Network via Graph Convolution Networks

After meta-path aggregation layer, the embeddings are fed to a 2-layer MLP for final output. In semi-supervised classification tasks, we minimize the Cross-Entropy loss and the model generates final prediction based on the largest output value. Finally, HINGCN is summarized in Algorithm 1.

To this end, we summarize ROSC as follows. ROSC first computes the TKNN graph  $\mathcal{G}$  and the associated weight matrix  $\mathcal{W}_K$ . Then it applies power iteration to generate  $p$  pseudo-eigenvectors that form a  $p \times n$  matrix  $X$ . After whitening and normalization on  $X$ , the coefficient matrix  $Z^*$  can be calculated by solving Eq. ??, which further leads to the construction of a rectified similarity matrix  $\tilde{Z}$ . Since  $\tilde{Z}$  has the grouping effect, the standard spectral clustering methods (e.g., NCuts) will be finally applied to derive more robust clustering results. The time complexity of ROSC will be no more than the standard spectral clustering methods, which is  $O(n^3)$  in general. In the future, we will attempt to improve it.

## 5 EXPERIMENT

We conducted extensive experiments to evaluate the performance of HINGCN. This section summarizes our results. We compare the various methods using three popular measures, namely, *accuracy*, *micro-F1*, and *macro-F1*. These measures evaluate clustering quality and their values range from 0 to 1, with a larger value indicating a better clustering quality.

### 5.1 Datasets

A summary of statistics of the datasets are shown in table ??.

• **DBLP**: We extract a subset of DBLP which contains 4057 authors ( $A$ ), 14328 papers ( $P$ ) and 20 conferences ( $C$ ). 8789 terms of papers

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#### Algorithm 1 HINGCN

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**Input:**  $S, k$ .

**Output:**  $C = \{C_1, \dots, C_k\}$

- 1: Compose edge features  $r^{(0)}$  according to Equation 1
  - 2: Compute the TKNN graph and the reachability matrix  $\mathcal{W}$
  - 3: Calculate  $W = D^{-1}S$ , where  $D_{ii} = \sum_j S_{ij}$
  - 4: Apply PI on  $W$  and generate  $p$  pseudo-eigenvectors  $\{\mathbf{v}_r\}_{r=1}^p$
  - 5:  $X = \{\mathbf{v}_1^T; \mathbf{v}_2^T; \dots; \mathbf{v}_p^T\}$ ;  $X = \text{whiten}(X)$
  - 6: Normalize each column vector  $\mathbf{x}$  of  $X$  such that  $\mathbf{x}^T \mathbf{x} = 1$
  - 7: Calculate the coefficient matrix  $Z^*$  by Eq. ??
  - 8: Construct  $\tilde{Z} = (|Z^*| + |(Z^*)^T|)/2$
  - 9: Run standard spectral clustering methods, e.g., NCuts, with  $\tilde{Z}$  as the similarity matrix to obtain clusters  $C = \{C_r\}_{r=1}^k$
  - 10: **return**  $C = \{C_1, \dots, C_k\}$
- 

are aggregated to each author as feature, after tf-idf transformation. Here we select meta-paths  $\{APA, APAPA, APCPA\}$  for experiments.

- **Yelp**: A standard spectral clustering method with symmetric normalization.
- **Freebase**: A standard spectral clustering method with symmetric normalization.

### 5.2 Algorithms for comparison

We evaluate HINGCN and 9 other methods. To demonstrate effectiveness of our edge update mechanism and meta-path GLU layer, we also includes two variants of HINGCN.

- **Node2vec**: A standard spectral clustering method with symmetric normalization.
- **Metpath2vec**: A standard spectral clustering method with divisive normalization.
- **GCN**: A self-tuning spectral clustering method for multi-scale clusters. It uses eigenvector rotation to estimate the number of clusters. To make a fair comparison, we directly set  $k$  as in other methods.
- **GAT**: A power iteration based method which generates only one pseudo-eigenvector.
- **HAN**: A hierarchical semi-supervised graph attention network that employs node-level attention and meta-path level attention.
- **HINGCN<sub>ed</sub>**: A variant of HINGCN which replace update of edge embedding by identity propagation.
- **HINGCN<sub>at</sub>**: A variant of HINGCN which uses attention mechanism for meta-path level aggregation.
- **HINGCN**: The proposed semi-supervised classification method based on heterogeneous graph convolution networks.

### 5.3 Experiment setup

[Dan:TODO](#) We implement HINGCN using PyTorch. We use the same learning rate 0.001. The models are trained with two NVIDIA 1080Ti GPUs using data parallelism. The batch size is 1024 for each GPU. We stack two graph aggregators, and each aggregator samples 16 neighbors for both training and testing. Each aggregator is then followed by a ReLU activation layer and a dropout layer with dropout rate 0.5. Output dimension of the layers are set to 64 and 32 respectively. For dataset without node features, we encode a 1-hot matrix as input feature. As mentioned in section [Dan:TODO](#),

we ensemble edge feature from pre-trained path-sim and node embeddings. These node embeddings are trained using Node2vec with default parameters on the underlying graph neglecting heterogeneity.

The parameters of all the baseline methods are set according to their original papers. For each method and dataset, we run the experiment 10 times and report average results.

## 5.4 Performance results

We apply all 10 methods on DBLP. Due to space limitations, for each category of methods, we only show the best performing one. They are, namely, NJW, PIC- $k$ , FUSE, and ROSC.

## 6 CONCLUSIONS

In this paper we studied the effectiveness of semi-supervised classification methods in handling heterogeneous information network data.

Future work: in this paper we propose to use hand-crafted edge features to enhance missing information in the shrinking homogeneous graph. One possible approach would be automatic learning of edge features to provide an end-to-end solution to heterogeneous graph embedding problems.

## 7 ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

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