

# Emerging Models and Paradigms in Network Science

## Part #4: Higher-Order Interactions

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# Introduction

- Over the past decades, a variety of complex systems has been successfully described as networks whose interacting pairs of nodes are connected by links.
- Yet, complex systems exhibit interactions that often occur in groups of three or more nodes:
  - These cannot be described simply in terms of dyads, e.g., pairwise connections.
- Such interactions make the *higher-order architecture* of complex systems.
- Taking the higher-order structure of these systems into account can:
  - **Enhance our modeling capacities**, and
  - **Help us understand and predict dynamical behavior**.
- As for network science, a novel context is emerging: *networks beyond pairwise interactions* [4].

# Complex Systems

- If we take an ecosystem and break it into pieces, chances are that our understanding of population dynamics will be slim at best:
  - Explain epileptic seizures starting from the individual neurons of the human brain;
  - Viral rumors spreading across societies from individual human psychology;
- What is missing?
  - **The rich pattern of nonlinear interactions between the system components.**
- Reductionism: the collective behaviors of a complex system can be simply understood and predicted by considering the units of the system in isolation [2].
  - Nowadays, this idea has been completely abandoned.
- Networks emerged as a reference modeling tool for complex systems.

# Network Science is Not Enough

- Networks = collection of nodes (the elementary units of the systems) + edges (existence of interactions between pairs of such units).
- Applications to real-world systems are only possible if we describe interactions in detailed and varied ways:
  - Message networks require a *direction*,
  - Flow networks require a *weight*,
  - Contact networks require a *time*.
- However, a reasonable question arises:
  - **Are networks themselves enough to provide a complete description of complex systems?**

## ... Probably Not!

- An important limitation of networks is that **they capture pairwise interactions exclusively!**
- Yet, many empirical systems seem to display group interactions:
  - Social systems [6], neuroscience [11], ecology [8], biology [12], etc.
  - Neuronal dynamics display mesoscopic behaviors that require interactions among multiple neurons to be predicted [7].
  - Three or more species routinely compete for food and territory [9].
  - Social mechanisms, such as peer-pressure or collaborations, inherently go beyond the idea of dyadic connections [5].
- Different approaches leveraged the language of pairwise networks to describe interactions of *higher-order*:
  - Bipartite graphs [10]
- **Is there a mathematical framework that can explicitly and naturally describe group interactions?**
  - **Simplicial complexes** and **hypergraphs**

# Low- and High-Order Representations

- An *interaction set* is a set  $I = \{p_0, p_1, \dots, p_{k-1}\}$  containing an arbitrary number  $k$  of basic elements of the system under study.
  - We indicate them as *nodes* or *vertices*.
- Interactions can be classified by the number of entities they involve:
- We denote the *order* (or *dimension*) of an interaction involving  $k$  nodes to be  $k - 1$ :
  - A node interaction with itself only is a 0-order interaction.
  - An interaction between two nodes is a 1-order interaction.
  - An interaction between three nodes is a 2-order interaction, and so on.
- We consider *higher-order interactions* to be  $k$ -interactions with  $k \geq 2$ .
  - Low-order interactions are those with  $k \leq 1$ .
- *Higher-order systems* are those systems displaying interactions in groups of more than two elements.

# Interacting System

- We define an *interacting system*  $(V, \mathcal{I})$  as the family of interactions  $\mathcal{I} = \{I_0, \dots, I_n\}$  taking place on a node set  $V$ .
- Example:
  - $V = \{a, b, c, d, e\}, \mathcal{I} = \{[a, b, c], [a, d], [d, c], [c, e]\}$ .
  - $\mathcal{I}$  contains three 1-interactions and one 2-interaction.
- While the complete information about the systems is given in  $\mathcal{I}$ , the study of most interesting properties of the system requires the choice of a **representation**.

# Graph-based Representation I

- A simple graph  $G = (V, E)$ .
- The most natural choice to represent  $\mathcal{I}$  is to unfold each higher-order interaction in  $\mathcal{I}$  in terms of 1-interactions built from pairs of nodes in  $I$ .
  - $\mathcal{I}_G = \{[a, b], [b, c], [c, a], [a, d], [d, c], [c, e]\}$ .
- Despite the power of graph representations, it is impossible to explicitly describe group interactions.
  - For instance, it is impossible to tell from  $\mathcal{I}_G$  whether the original interaction set contained  $[a, c, d]$  or not.



## Graph-based Representation II

- A bipartite graph is defined by two node sets  $(U, W)$  and an edge set  $E$  containing only edges  $(u, w)$  such that  $u \in U$  and  $w \in W$ .
  - A bipartite graph is generally used to represent higher-order interactions in the following way:
    - $U = V, W = \mathcal{I}$ , and the links in  $E$  connect a node (in  $V$ ) to an interaction (of arbitrary order in  $W$ ) in which it is involved.
- While this representation is useful, the nodes of the original system do not interact directly with each other anymore.
  - Their relation is always mediated by the interaction layer ( $W$ ), which is of a different nature from the node layer itself.
- One could argue that *cliques* are a convenient way to analyze higher-order interactions:
  - A clique of size  $k$  is defined as a fully connected subgraph of  $k$  nodes.
  - In our example, both sets  $a, b, c$  and  $a, d, c$  form 3-cliques.
  - Conversely, in  $\mathcal{I}_G$  we only had a true 2-interaction in  $[a, b, c]$ , while the fictitious one  $[a, d, c]$  is emerging as a byproduct of  $[a, d] \cup [d, c]$  with the  $[a, c]$  edge induced by  $[a, b, c]$ .
  - Thus, if we consider all cliques present at the graph level, we would find a 2-interaction that was not included in the original interaction set!

# Higher-order Representations I

- Why not encode interactions exactly as they are?
- *Simplices*
  - A  $k$ -simplex  $\sigma$  is a set of  $k + 1$  nodes  $\sigma = \{p_0, p_1, \dots, p_k\}$ .
  - Dimension of a simplex = order of an interaction.
- *Simplicial Complexes*
  - A simplicial complex is a collection of  $n$  simplices  $K = \{\sigma_0, \sigma_1, \dots, \sigma_n\}$  such that for every  $k$ -simplex  $\sigma = \{p_0, p_1, \dots, p_k\} \in K$ , all its subfaces of any dimension belong to  $K$  too.
  - For instance, if  $\{a, b, c\} \in K$ , then  $\{a\}, \{b\}, \{c\}, \{a, b\}, \{a, c\}, \{b, c\} \in K$  must hold.

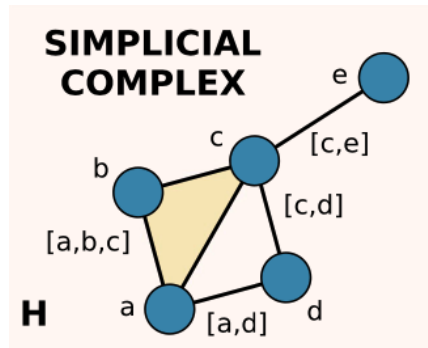


Figure: A simplicial complex. Source: [4]

# Higher-order Representations I

- Simplicial complexes overcome some of the problems encountered with lower dimensional representations.
- However, **they are limited by the requirement on the existence of all subfaces**, which in some cases poses a too restrictive constraint:
  - Collaborations in scientific papers: a paper by three authors and none by the corresponding pairs of authors.
  - Gene pathways: exactly four genes are needed to perform a function, but the subgroups are not responsible for any function on their own.

# Higher-order Representations II

- *Hypergraphs*

- A hypergraph is defined by a node set  $V$  and a set of hyperedges  $H$  that specify which nodes participate in which way within an interaction.
  - Each hyperedge  $h \in H$  is a non-empty subset of  $V$ , that is  $h \subseteq V$  and  $h \neq \emptyset$ .

- Hypergraphs provide the most general and unconstrained description of higher-order interactions.
  - Note that a hypergraph can include a 2-interaction without any requirements on the existence of 1-interactions related to it.
  - It is also possible to define hyperedges that include other hyperedges.
  - Such flexibility comes with additional complexity in treating them.

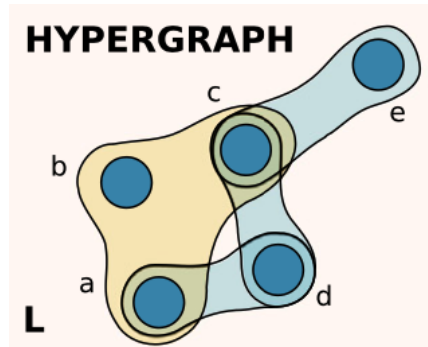


Figure: A hypergraph. Source: [4]

# Measures and Structures

- In what follows, we mainly focus on hypergraphs. See [4] for a discussion on simplicial complexes.
  - Nevertheless, almost all concepts hold for simplicial complexes also.
- We'll take a look at different measures on hypergraphs:
  - Matrix representations and properties of higher-order systems,
  - Duality and line graphs,
  - Walks, paths, and centrality measures,
  - Clustering coefficient.

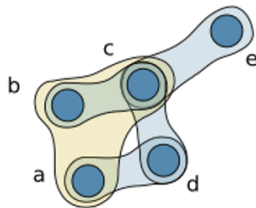
# Matrix Representations: The Incidence Matrix

- The incidence matrix of a hypergraph  $\mathcal{H} = (V, H)$  is a  $n \times m$  matrix  $I = \{I_{i\alpha}\}$  where  $n = |V|$  and  $m = |H|$ .
  - The entry  $I_{i\alpha}$  in row  $i$  and column  $\alpha$  is 1 if node  $i$  is involved in hyperedge  $\alpha$ , 0 otherwise.
  - In hypergraphs allowing for a node to be represented more than once in each hyperedge, it can be useful to weight the entries of the incidence matrix  $I$ .
- $I$  can be useful to characterize various properties of a hypergraph, thus of a higher-order system.
- The *degree* of a node  $i$  in  $\mathcal{H}$  is the sum of the elements of the  $i$ th-row of  $I$ , and we denote it as  $d(i) = \sum_{\alpha \in H} I_{i\alpha}$ .
  - $d(i)$  indicates the number of hyperedges containing the node  $i$ .
- The *size* of a hyperedge  $\alpha$  in  $\mathcal{H}$  is the number of nodes involved in it, that is  $size(\alpha) = \sum_{i \in V} I_{i\alpha}$ .

# Matrix Representation: The Adjacency Matrix

- From  $I$ , we can construct another matrix that fully encodes the connectivity of the hypergraph, that is, the *adjacency matrix*  $A$ .
  - We define  $A = II^T - D$ , where  $D$  is the diagonal matrix whose diagonal entries are the number of hyperedges a node belongs to, that is its degree.
  - $A$  is a  $n \times n$  matrix whose elements  $a_{ij}$  for  $i \neq j$  are the number of hyperedges that contain both  $i$  and  $j$ .
  - In the case of weighted hyperedges, we can write  $A = IWI^T - D$ , where  $I$  is the incidence matrix,  $W$  is the diagonal matrix with the weights of the hyperedges along the diagonal, and  $D$  is a diagonal matrix with the degrees of the nodes along the diagonal [14].
- Another useful structure is the *intersection profile*  $P = I^T I$  which is a  $m \times m$  matrix whose elements  $P_{\alpha\beta}$  count the number of nodes in common between two hyperedges  $\alpha$  and  $\beta$ , where  $m$  is the number of hyperedges.

# Matrix Representation – Example



**Incidence  
matrix**

**A**

|   | [a,b,c] | [b,c] | [c,d] | [a,d] | [c,e] |
|---|---------|-------|-------|-------|-------|
| a | 1       |       |       |       |       |
| b | 1       | 1     |       |       |       |
| c | 1       | 1     | 1     |       |       |
| d |         |       | 1     | 1     |       |
| e |         |       |       |       | 1     |

**Intersection  
profile**

|         | [a,b,c] | [b,c] | [c,d] | [a,d] | [c,e] |
|---------|---------|-------|-------|-------|-------|
| [a,b,c] | 1       | 1     | 1     |       |       |
| [b,c]   | 1       | 1     | 1     |       |       |
| [c,d]   |         | 1     | 1     | 1     |       |
| [a,d]   |         |       | 1     | 1     |       |
| [c,e]   |         |       |       |       | 1     |

**Adjacency  
matrix/tensor  
(nodes)**

**I**

|   | a | b | c | d | e |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| a |   | 1 | 1 |   |   |
| b | 1 | 1 | 1 |   |   |
| c | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 |   |
| d |   |   | 1 | 1 |   |
| e |   |   |   |   | 1 |

Figure: A hypergraph  $H$  and its matrix representations. Source [4]



# Hypergraph Properties

- There are different ways to refer to common hypergraph properties:
- The *order* of a hypergraph is its number of nodes, i.e.,  $n = |V|$ .
- The *size* of a hypergraph is its number of hyperedges, i.e.,  $m = |H|$ .
- The *size* of a hyperedge  $h \in H$  is its cardinality, i.e.,  $|h|$ .
- The *degree* of a node  $i$  is the number of hyperedges containing it, i.e.,  $d(i) = |\{h \in H : i \in h\}|$ .
  - In the literature, the degree is often called *hyperdegree*, while the former is defined as the number of neighbors of  $i$ , i.e., the number of nodes that share at least one hyperedge with  $i$ .
- A hypergraph is said to be  $k$ -uniform if all hyperedges have size  $k$ .

# Dual Hypergraph

- Let  $H = (V, E)$  be a hypergraph with node set  $\{v_1, \dots, v_n\}$  and family of edges  $E = \{e_1, \dots, e_m\}$ .
- The *dual hypergraph* of  $H$ , denoted as  $H^* = (E^*, V^*)$ , has node set  $E^* = \{e_1^*, \dots, e_m^*\}$  and family of hyperedges  $V^* = \{v_1^*, \dots, v_n^*\}$ , where  $v_i^* = \{e_k^* : v_i \in e_k\}$ .
  - Practically speaking, the dual of a hypergraph is the hypergraph constructed by swapping the roles of nodes and edges.
  - The dual of a hypergraph with incidence matrix  $I$  is the hypergraph associated with the transposed incidence matrix  $I^T$ .
  - $(H^*)^* = H$ .

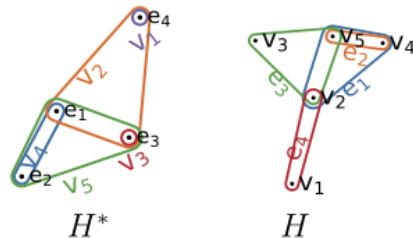


Figure: A hypergraph  $H$  and its dual  $H^*$ .  
Source: [1]

# Line Graph

- Let  $H = (V, E)$  be a hypergraph with node set  $\{v_1, \dots, v_n\}$  and family of edges  $E = \{e_1, \dots, e_m\}$ .
- The *line graph* of  $H$ , denoted as  $L(H)$ , is the graph on vertex set  $\{e_1^*, \dots, e_m^*\}$  and edge set  $\{\{e_i^*, e_j^*\} : e_i \cap e_j \neq \emptyset \text{ for } i \neq j\}$ .
  - Practically speaking, the line graph of a hypergraph is a graph having as nodes the original hyperedges, where a link between two nodes indicates that the two corresponding hyperedges share at least one node in the hypergraph.
- The literature reports different names for these objects:
  - $L(H)$  is the *line graph*, *representative graph*, or *intersection graph*,
  - $L(H)$  and  $L(H^*)$  are often referred to as *top and bottom projections* of  $H$ ,
  - $L(H^*)$  is the *2-section*, *clique graph*, or *clique expansion*.

# Line Graph and Dual Hypergraph – Example

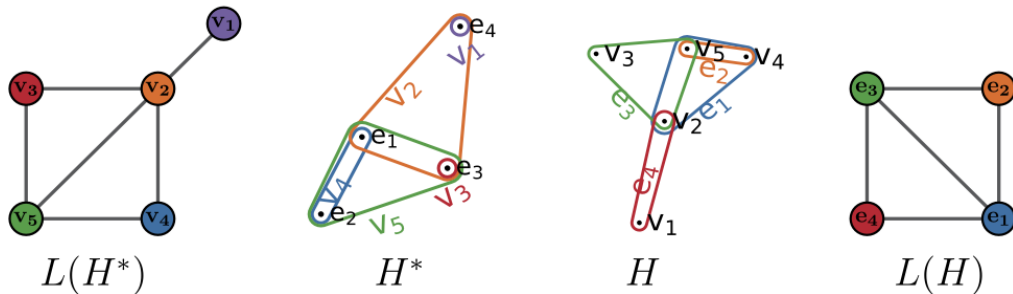


Figure: A hypergraph  $H$ , its dual  $H^*$ , the line graphs  $L(H)$  and  $L(H^*)$

# From Graph Walks to Hypergraph Walks

- One of the most fundamental concepts in graph theory is that of a walk.
- For a graph  $G = (V, E)$ , a *walk of length  $k$*  is a sequence of nodes  $v_0, v_1, \dots, v_k$  such that each pair of successive vertices are adjacent.
  - Any valid graph walk can be equivalently expressed as either a sequence of adjacent vertices or a sequence of incident edges.
- Such observation no longer holds for hypergraphs.
  - Two hyperedges can intersect at any number of nodes, and two nodes can belong to any number of shared hyperedges.
- In the literature, two walk concepts have been defined:
  - Walks on the node level – consisting of successively adjacent nodes,
  - Walks on the hyperedge level – consisting of successively intersecting hyperedges.
- Both notions are captured when duality is considered:
  - A node-based walk on  $H$  is simply a hyperedge-based walk on  $H^*$ .

# From Graph Walks to Hypergraph Walks

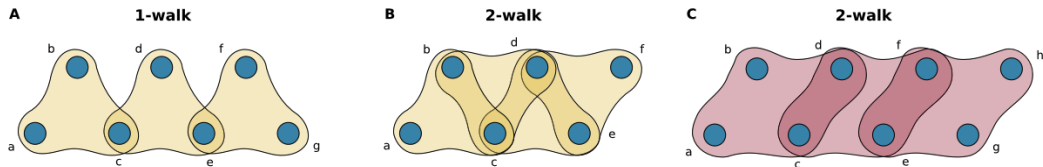


Figure: A 1-walk, and two 2-walks. Source: [4]

# $s$ -walk

- Given  $s > 0$ , an  $s$ -walk of length  $k$  between two hyperedges  $f$  and  $g$  is a sequence of hyperedges

$$f = e_{i_0}, e_{i_1}, \dots, e_{i_k} = g$$

where for  $j = 1, \dots, k$ , we have  $s \leq |e_{i_{j-1}} \cap e_{i_j}|$  and  $i_{j-1} \neq i_j$ .

- Notation from [1].

- Given this definition, a number of basic yet important properties, measures, and structures can be defined on hypergraphs:
  - $s$ -connected components,
  - $s$ -distance,
  - $s$ -paths,
  - etc.
- In the literature, the framework under which these definitions apply is referred to as “the  $s$ -walk framework” [1].

# Connected Components

- For a hypergraph  $H = (V, E)$ , a subset of hyperedges  $C \subseteq E$  is called  $s$ -connected if there exists an  $s$ -walk between all  $f, g \in C$ , and is further called an  $s$ -connected component if there is no  $s$ -connected  $J \subseteq E$  such that  $C \subsetneq J$ .
  - Note that the order of an  $s$ -connected component is bounded above by  $|E_s|$ , where  $E_s = \{e \in E : |e| \geq s\}$ .
- This concept is particularly useful in analyzing the structure and dynamics of hypergraphs.

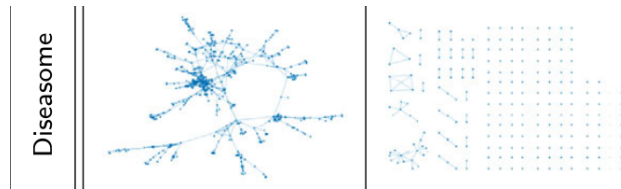


Figure: 1-components (left) and 2-components (right) within the dataset *Diseasome* in [1]



# s-line Graph

- Let  $H = (V, E)$  be a hypergraph with node set  $V = \{v_1, \dots, v_n\}$  and edge set  $E \supset E_s$  where  $E_s = \{e \in E : |e| \geq s\} = \{e_1, \dots, e_k\}$ , for an integer  $s \geq 1$ .
- The *s-line graph* of  $H$ , denoted by  $L_s(H)$ , is the graph on vertex set  $\{e_1^*, e_k^*\}$  and edge set  $\{\{e_i^*, e_j^*\} : |e_i \cap e_j| \geq s \text{ for } i \neq j\}$ .
  - Each node in the *s-line graph* represents a hyperedge with at least  $s$  nodes in the hypergraph, and two nodes are linked in the *s-line graph* if their corresponding hyperedges intersect in at least  $s$  vertices in the hypergraph.

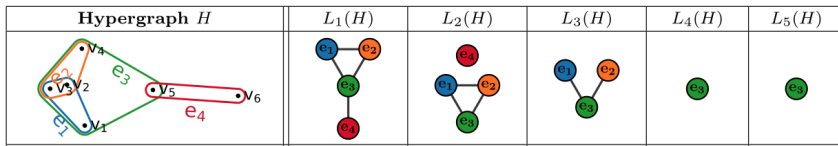


Figure: Line graphs for a hypergraph. Source: [1]

# Distance and Centrality

- Let  $H = (V, E)$  be a hypergraph and  $E_s = \{e \in E : |e| \geq s\}$ . We define the  $s$ -distance function  $d_s : E_s \times E_s \rightarrow \mathbb{Z}_{\geq 0}$  by

$$d_s(f, g) = \begin{cases} \text{length of the shortest } s\text{-walk,} & \text{if an } s\text{-walk between } f, g \text{ exists;} \\ \infty, & \text{otherwise} \end{cases}$$

- Note that  $(E_s, d_s)$  is a metric space [1].
- Measures based on distance:
  - The  $s$ -eccentricity of a hyperedge  $f$  is  $\max_{g \in E_s} d_s(f, g)$ .
  - The  $s$ -diameter is the maximum  $s$ -eccentricity over all edges in  $E_s$ , while the  $s$ -radius is the minimum.
  - The average  $s$ -distance of  $H$  is  $\binom{|E_s|}{2}^{-1} \sum_{f, g \in E_s} d_s(f, g)$ .
  - The  $s$ -closeness centrality of a hyperedge  $f$  is  $\frac{|E_s|-1}{\sum_{g \in E_s} d_s(f, g)}$ .
- These measures are generally computed for the largest  $s$ -component of the hypergraph.
  - These can also be defined on a per-component basis [1].

# Paths, Cycles, and Clustering Coefficients I

- For a hypergraph  $H = (V, E)$ , let the sequence of hyperedges  $\omega = (e_{i_0}, e_{i_1}, \dots, e_{i_k})$  be an  $s$ -walk of length  $k$ , and let  $I_j = e_{i_{j-1}} \cap e_{i_j}$  be the  $j$ -th intersection.
- The  $s$ -walk can be also defined as:
  1. An  $s$ -trace if  $i_x \neq i_y$  for all  $x \neq y$  (all hyperedges are pairwise distinct by label);
  2. An  $s$ -meander if  $\omega$  is an  $s$ -trace in which  $I_x \neq I_y$  for all  $x \neq y$  (all intersections are pairwise distinct);
  3. An  $s$ -path if  $\omega$  is an  $s$ -meander in which  $I_x \setminus I_y \neq \emptyset$  for all  $x \neq y$  (no intersection is included in another).
- This categorization can help in defining high-order substructures or motifs that cannot be determined from the  $s$ -line graph alone.

## Paths, Cycles, and Clustering Coefficients II

- In some cases, we need these definitions to be *closed*, i.e.,  $e_{i_o} = e_{i_k}$ .
- For a hypergraph  $H$ , an  $s$ -triangle is a closed  $s$ -path of length 3, and an  $s$ -wedge is an  $s$ -path of length 2. For an  $s$ -wedge  $e_o, f, e_2$ , we say  $f$  is the center of the  $s$ -wedge.
  - The  $s$ -local clustering coefficient of a hyperedge  $f \in E_s$  is given by:

$$s\text{-LCC}(f) = \begin{cases} \frac{\text{number of } s\text{-triangles containing } f}{\text{number of } s\text{-wedges centered at } f} & \text{if } f \text{ is the center of an } s\text{-wedge;} \\ 0 & \text{otherwise} \end{cases}$$

- The  $s$ -global clustering coefficient of a hypergraph  $H$  is given by:

$$s\text{-GCC}(H) = \frac{3 \cdot \text{total number of } s\text{-triangles}}{\text{total number of } s\text{-wedges}}$$

# Applications

- Hypernetwork Science allows us to study and investigate novel and old concepts in complex systems exhibiting higher-order interactions.
- A plethora of work related to hypergraphs and hypernetworks is starting to appear in the literature.
- We now discuss two recent works on hypernetwork science:
  - **Segregation measures on hypernetworks**
    - Failla, A., Rossetti, G. and Cauteruccio, F. (2024) Beyond Boundaries: Capturing Social Segregation on Hypernetworks. *In peer-review, available from authors.*
  - **Approaches for the hypergraph Influence Maximization problem**
    - Auletta, V., Cauteruccio, F. and Ferraioli, D. (2024) Heuristics for the Influence Maximization Problem on Hypergraphs. *In peer-review, available from authors.*

# Segregation measures on hypernetworks I

- Segregation is generally defined as the extent to which system entities are separated or clustered based on certain attributes or features.
  - Understanding segregation is crucial for insights into system structure and dynamics, with implications for social equity, cohesion, resilience, and functionality.
- Current research lacks studies on segregation in hypernetworks due to higher-order interaction complexity.
- This work aims to:
  - Define a framework for extending pairwise segregation measures to hypernetworks.
  - Introduce *Random Walk HyperSegregation* (RWHS), a novel measure for hypernetwork segregation.
  - Propose two RWHS variants: (i) meet-wise and (ii) jump-wise RWHS.
- Experiments on synthetic and real-world hypernetwork topologies.

## Segregation measures on hypernetworks II

- We deal with node-attributed hypergraphs:
  - Let  $L$  be a set of node labels (e.g., political group),
  - A node-attributed hypergraph  $H_L = (V, E, L)$  is a hypergraph  $H$  where to each node is assigned a label (a group)  $l \in L$ .
- We propose a *segregation measure schema*, i.e., a general framework to extend classical segregation measures to hypernetworks, defined as

$$\mathfrak{F} = \langle H_L, f^{ie}(\cdot), \rho(\cdot) \rangle$$

where

- $H_L$  is a node-attributed hypergraph,
- $f^{ie} : E \rightarrow [0, 1]$  is a generalized hyperedge type function,
- $\rho : H_L \rightarrow [-1, 1]$  is a generalized segregation measure.

## Segregation measures on hypernetworks III

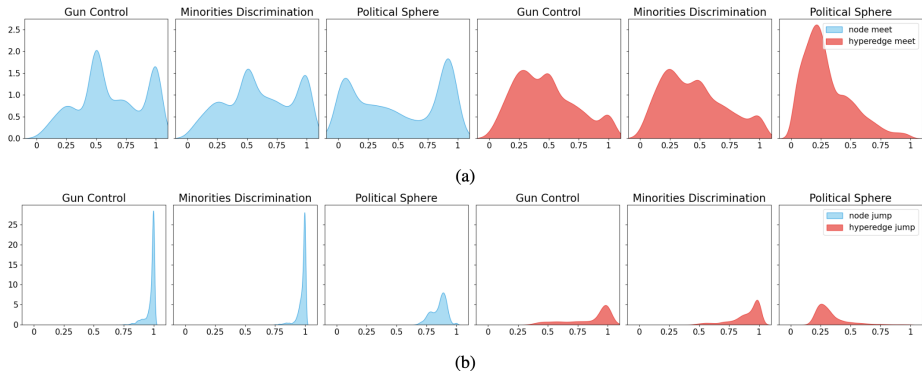
- $f^{ie}(e_i)$  indicates whether the hyperedge  $e_i \in E$  is *internal* or *external* w.r.t. a provided definition
  - This depends on the context, and it is based on the labels of the contained nodes.
  - For instance, we define  $e_i$  as internal only if all its nodes belong to the same group, i.e., have the same label.
- $\rho(H_L)$  indicates how segregated the hypernetwork is; we extend it with two classical measures
  - $\rho_{E-I}(H_L)$  is based on the classical E-I index, which calculates the ratio of the net difference between inter-group (external) and intra-group (internal) ties to the overall number of ties.
  - $\rho_Q(H_L)$  is based on Gupta's Q index, which was introduced to analyze the effects of mixing patterns of sexual contacts on the spread of the HIV epidemic.



## Segregation measures on hypernetworks IV

- We then propose a random walker model to leverage random walks on the hypernetworks as effective proxies for information flow.
  - The aim is to analyze walkers' behaviors to infer whether segregation occurs.
- We deal with a collection of  $t$  random walks starting from a node  $v_i$  of length  $k$ , and we denote it as  $W_i^{t,k}$ .
- We define a segregation measure called Random Walk HyperSegregation (RWHS), which is based on the collection  $W_i^{t,k}$  and provides two variants:
  - Meet-wise RWHS – the ratio of nodes in the same group as  $v_i$  that appears in the collection of random walks starting from it.
  - Jump-wise RWHS - it counts the pairs of subsequent steps (in the random walks) whose nodes belong to the same group.

# Segregation measures on hypernetworks V



**Figure:** Meet-wise (a) and Jump-wise (b) RWHS score distribution on the *Reddit Politics* dataset. The y-axis represents the density estimate. The RWHS perfectly captures the general tendency for higher segregation than expected at random.

# IM on Hypergraphs

- The Influence Maximization (IM) problem has been widely analyzed in graph topologies.
- Still very limited interest in hypergraph topologies.
- We propose two families of approaches to tackle the IM problem on hypergraphs:
  - SMARTPROPS – a general algorithm that exploits the centrality values of nodes in order to select the best seeds.
  - HC and ES – two metaheuristics based on *hill-climbing* and *evolution strategy*, respectively.

# IM on Hypergraphs - The IM problem

- Let us define a hypergraph  $H = (V, E)$ , a value  $k \in \mathbb{Z}_{>0}$ , and a diffusion process model on hypergraph  $\sigma_H$
- The IM problem consists in finding a subset  $S^* \subseteq V, |S| = k$ , such that the expected number of infected nodes is maximized.
  - Formally,

$$S^* = \operatorname{argmax}_{S \subseteq V, |S|=k} \sigma_H(S)$$

where  $\sigma_H(S)$  indicates the number of reached nodes at the end of the diffusion process starting from nodes in  $S$ .

- $S$  is also called the *seed node set*.
- Diffusion process models are theoretical frameworks designed to simulate how information spreads through a network.
  - Well-known ones are Independent Cascade, Linear Threshold, etc [3].

# IM on Hypergraphs - The IM problem

- We use the Susceptible-Infected (SI) model with Contact Process (CP) dynamics on hypergraphs [13].
  - In SICP, a node can be either in a susceptible (S) or infected (I) state.
  - An S-state node can be infected by each of its neighbors in the I-state with a given infection rate  $\beta$ .
- The diffusion works as follows:
  1. Nodes in  $S$  are set to be infected (I-state), and others are set as S-state.
  2. At each time step  $t$ , we find the I-state nodes.
    - For each I-state node  $v_i$ , we find the set  $E_i$  of all hyperedges  $E_i$  containing  $v_i$ .
    - A hyperedge  $e_j$  is chosen from  $E_i$  uniformly at random, and each of the S-state nodes in  $e_j$  will be infected by  $v_i$  with probability  $\beta$ .
  3. The diffusion terminates after  $T$  steps, and  $\sigma_H(S)$  is the number of nodes in I-state.



**Figure:** An example of diffusion in the SICP model. Source: [13]

# IM on Hypergraphs - SMARTPROPS

- SMARTPROPS is a general algorithm to identify an optimal seed node set.
- The idea is to evaluate nodes w.r.t. a given property  $\phi$ , and select the top- $k$  ones to define the seed node set.
- We propose four variants of SMARTPROPS, each one based on a specific property:
  - SMARTDEG –  $\phi$  is the degree of each node in  $H$ .
  - SMARTHYPERDEG –  $\phi$  is the hyperdegree of each node in  $H$ .
  - SMARTSHAPDEG –  $\phi$  is the Shapley Degree value of each node in  $H$  computed on the line graph  $L(H)$ .
  - SMARTSHAPCLOSE –  $\phi$  is the Shapley Closeness value of each node in  $H$  computed on the line graph  $L(H)$ .

---

**Algorithm 1** Pseudocode of the SMARTPROPS algorithm

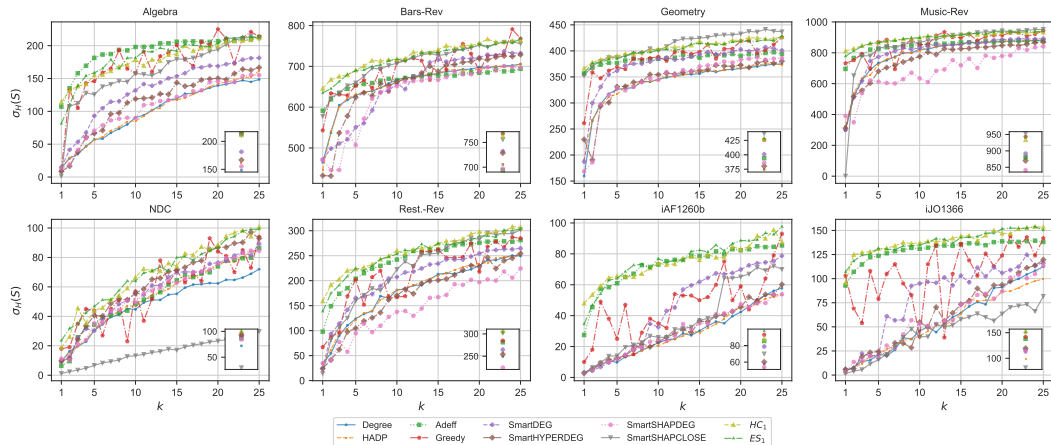
---

```
1: function SMARTPROPS( $H, k, \phi, \rho$ )
2:   Input: hypergraph  $H(V, E)$ ,  $k \in \mathbb{Z}_{>0}$ , node property
   function  $\phi : V \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ , node threshold function  $\rho : V \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ 
3:   Output:  $R^* \subseteq V$ 
4:    $snodes \leftarrow \text{SORTEDDESC}(V, \phi)$ 
5:    $R^* \leftarrow \text{QUEUE}()$ 
6:   PUSH( $R^*, \text{GET}(snodes, 1)$ )
7:    $i \leftarrow 2$ 
8:   while SIZE( $R^*$ ) <  $k$  do
9:      $v_i \leftarrow \text{GET}(snodes, i)$ 
10:     $th_i \leftarrow \rho(v_i)$ 
11:     $c_i \leftarrow 0$ 
12:    for  $e_j \in E_i$  do
13:       $c \leftarrow |\{u_q \in R^* : u_q \in e_j\}|$ 
14:      if  $c > 0$  then  $c_i \leftarrow c_i + 1/c$ 
15:      if  $c_i \geq th_i$  then PUSH( $R^*, \text{GET}(snodes, i)$ )
16:     $i \leftarrow i + 1$ 
17:   return  $R^*$ 
```

---

Figure: Pseudocode of SMARTPROPS

# IM on Hypergraphs - Experiments







**Figure:** Values of  $\sigma_H(S)$  averaged over 100 runs. SICP  $\beta = 0.01$  and  $T = 25$ . Datasets available from [13]









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