

2009

Discovery of core-nodes in event-based social networks

Shaojie Yuan

University of Wollongong, sy395@uow.edu.au

Quan Bai

University of Wollongong, quan@uow.edu.au

Minjie Zhang

University of Wollongong, minjie@uow.edu.au

Khin Than Win

University of Wollongong, win@uow.edu.au

Follow this and additional works at: <https://ro.uow.edu.au/infopapers>



Part of the [Physical Sciences and Mathematics Commons](#)

Recommended Citation

Yuan, Shaojie; Bai, Quan; Zhang, Minjie; and Win, Khin Than: Discovery of core-nodes in event-based social networks 2009.

<https://ro.uow.edu.au/infopapers/3270>

Research Online is the open access institutional repository for the University of Wollongong. For further information contact the UOW Library: research-pubs@uow.edu.au

Discovery of core-nodes in event-based social networks

Abstract

Most previous actor-node ranking algorithms for event-based social networks only consider how many events an actor participates in. However in event-based social networks, we should also consider the influence of events when we rank actor-nodes. In this paper we formally define event-based social networks and related concepts, then we propose rules to construct an event-based social network. Algorithms are presented to discover the activity and importance of each actor-node. We test the algorithms by analysing the DBLP data set. In the experiment actors in DBLP data set are ranked based on their activity, importance, and combination of activity and importance, respectively.

Disciplines

Physical Sciences and Mathematics

Publication Details

Win, K. T., Yuan, S., Bai, Q. & Zhang, M. 2009, "Discovery of core-nodes in event-based social networks", in Y. Xiao, Y. Chen, D. Zhang & H. Deng (eds), Proceedings of Sixth International Conference on Fuzzy Systems and Knowledge Discovery, Conference Publishing Services, USA, pp. 430-434.

Discovery of Core-Nodes in Event-Based Social Networks

Shaojie Yuan, Quan Bai, Minjie Zhang and Khin Than Win
 School of Computer Science & Software Engineering
 University of Wollongong
 Wollongong, Australia
 email: {sy395, quan, minjie, win}@uow.edu.au

Abstract—Most previous actor-node ranking algorithms for event-based social networks only consider how many events an actor participates in. However in event-based social networks, we should also consider the influence of events when we rank actor-nodes. In this paper we formally define event-based social networks and related concepts, then we propose rules to construct an event-based social network. Algorithms are presented to discover the activity and importance of each actor-node. We test the algorithms by analysing the DBLP data set. In the experiment actors in DBLP data set are ranked based on their activity, importance, and combination of activity and importance, respectively.

Keywords—Knowledge Discovery, Event-Based Social Network, Data Mining, Ranking.

I. INTRODUCTION

In recent years, knowledge discovery and data analysis in dynamic social networks are becoming important topics in various application domains, including law enforcement, economic analysis and disease control. Researchers from different areas, such as sociology, mathematics and computer science, try to use various techniques to explore useful knowledge and reveal hidden patterns in dynamic social networks. Event-based social networks are a category of dynamic social networks. All the event-based social networks have a common feature that the events in the social network are immanently temporal. In other words, all the events have a time stamp to indicate when the events have happened [1]. So how to represent nodes and events, how to represent the relationship between the nodes and events and how to construct an event-based social network for efficient discovery important nodes become significant issues.

The motivation of this research is to find a method to construct a generic event-based social network for efficient knowledge discovery. This model should be able to not only analyse actors in the network, but also analyse events. Furthermore, the model could also be used to analyse relationships between actors and events.

The rest of this paper is arranged as follows. Formal definitions and network construction rules are proposed in Section II. In Section III, algorithms for evaluating importance and activity of actor-nodes and influence of event-nodes are introduced. A case study is presented in Section IV. In the case study, we use the DBLP data set as an example to demonstrate the use of the proposed methods.

In Section V, related work and discussion are presented to highlight the motivation of this research. Finally, the paper is concluded and the future work is outlined in Section VI.

II. EVENT-BASED SOCIAL NETWORK STRUCTURE

In this paper, we put forward an assumption that all network changes are caused by events in an Event-Based Social Network (*EBSN*). An actor in an *EBSN* may have a new relationship when an event happens. For example, Mark is Mary's husband after their marriage. The relationship between the two actors (i.e. Mark and Mary) is established after the event (i.e. get married) happens. In an *EBSN*, an event could create a (set of) new relationship(s) or change a (set of) relationship(s). Formal definitions of *EBSN*, *actor-nodes*, *event-nodes*, *lbAEs*, *lbEEs* and *core-nodes* are given in Subsection II-A.

A. Definitions in an Event-Based Social Network Structure

Definition 1 An *Event-Based Social Network (EBSN)* is a bipartite directed graph. It is defined by a two tuple $EBSN = (N, C)$, where

- $N = \{n_1, \dots, n_s\}$ is a finite set which contains all the vertices in the network.
- $C = \{c_1, \dots, c_r\}$ is a finite set which contains all the arcs in the network, where $c_i = (n_j, n_k)$ with $n_j, n_k \in N$.

An *EBSN* is a bipartite graph as there are two types of nodes in the graph, i.e. actor-node and event-node.

Definition 2 An *actor-node* a_m is a node which represents an actor in an *EBSN*. It can be defined by a three-tuple, $a_m = (ID, activity, importance)$ where

- *ID* is a unique string which identifies different actor-nodes.
- *Activity* shows how active an actor-node is in a particular domain. It is defined by a four-tuple, $activity = (value, domain, time_0, time_1)$ where
 - *value* is a non-negative number which indicates the value of activity.
 - *domain* is a string that presents a specified field in which the activity is.
 - *time₀* and *time₁* are time tags which show the activity in period from *time₀* to *time₁*.

- *importance* indicates an actor's influence in an *EBSN*. It is defined by a four-tuple, $importance = (value, domain, time_0, time_1)$, where
 - *value* is a non-negative number which expresses the value of importance.
 - *domain* is a string that presents a specified field in which the importance is.
 - $time_0$ and $time_1$ are time tags which show the importance in period between $time_0$ and $time_1$.

Definition 3 An *event-node* e_q is a node which represents an event in an *EBSN*. It can be defined by a four-tuple, $e_q = (ID, influence, domain, time)$, where

- *ID* is a unique string which identifies event-nodes,
- *influence* is a non-negative number which expresses the value of influence.
- *domain* is a string that presents to which field the event belongs.
- *time* is a time tag indicates when this event has happened.

Definition 4 A *lBAE* (*link between Actor-Node and Event-Node*) is a directed arc which can be defined by a two-tuple, $lBAE = (a_i, e_j)$ where

- $a_i \in A$ ($0 < i$) where A is a finite node set which contains all actor-nodes of an *EBSN*.
- $e_j \in E$ ($0 < j$) where E is a finite node set which contains all event-nodes of an *EBSN*.

A *lBAE* represents an arc which connects an actor-node and an event-node in an *EBSN*. It indicates that actor a_i participates in event e_j . We use *lBAE* to represent a set of *lBAE* which contains all the *lBAE* of an *EBSN*.

Definition 5 A *lBEE* (*link between Event-Node and Event-Node*) is another type of directed arcs which can be defined by a two-tuple, $lBEE = (e_i, e_j)$ where

- $e_i, e_j \in E$; $e_i.time < e_j.time$ and $0 < i, 0 < j$

A *lBEE* connects two *event-nodes* in an *EBSN*. It represents that an event e_j is affected by another event e_i . It directs from e_i to e_j . We use *lBEE* to represent a set of *lBEE* which is composed of all the *lBEE* of an *EBSN*.

Definition 6 A *core-node* a_n is an actor-node which has $(a_n.activity.value - \overline{A.activity.value} > 0) \wedge (a_n.importance.value - \overline{A.importance.value} > 0)$ where

- $\overline{A.activity.value} = \frac{\sum_{i=1}^{\#(A)} a_i.activity.value}{\#(A)}$ where $\#(A)$ equals the number of elements in set A .
- $\overline{A.importance.value} = \frac{\sum_{i=1}^{\#(A)} a_i.importance.value}{\#(A)}$ where $\#(A)$ equals the number of elements in set A .

A *core-node* describes an actor-node which has higher value of both activity and importance than the average values. In other words, all *core-nodes* are active and important.

B. Rules to Construct an *EBSN*

Most previous social network visualization approaches [2] only treat actors as nodes in a social network. In our *EBSN*,

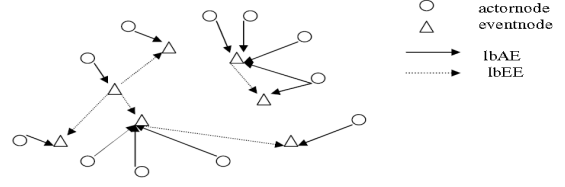


Figure 1. Event-Based Social Network

we treat actors and events as two types of nodes in the network to make the model carry more information. Figure 1 shows a simple *EBSN*. It can be seen in Figure 1 that there are two types of nodes, *actor-nodes* and *event-nodes* (refer to Definition 2 and Definition 3), and two types of arcs, *lBAEs* and *lBEEs* (refer to Definition 4 and Definition 5).

In this research, we define a set of rules to construct an *EBSN*.

Rule 1: An *actor-node* could only directly connect to an *event-node(s)*.

In an *EBSN*, an *actor-node* could connect to an *event-node(s)* via *lBAE(s)*. In an event-based social network, people might have a number of types of relations with others, but the relations among them do not exist at the beginning. In this paper, the interactions are events which are represented by *event-nodes*. The relations are created by interactions. Rule 1 only allows an actor-node to connect to an *event-node(s)*. For example, Bob does not know Winly until an event happened, e.g. both of them attended a same conference.

Rule 2: The relation between an *actor-node* and an *event-node* could only direct from an *actor-node* to an *event-node*. In other words, there are only unidirectional relations in an *EBSN*.

The reason behind the rule is that *actor-nodes* could choose whether or not to participate in an event-node.

Rule 3: An *event-node* e_m may affect another *event-node* e_n , if so, then $(e_m, e_n) \in lBEE$, and $e_m.time < e_n.time$.

Rule 4: An *event-node* has to be connected by at least one *actor-node*.

This can be explained as each event happens because of involvement of at least one actor.

III. ALGORITHMS TO DISCOVER CORE-NODES

To discover *core-nodes* in an *EBSN*, we need to rank *actor-nodes* based on their activity and importance. The next subsection introduces algorithms to discover the values of the activity and importance of an *actor-node*.

A. Knowledge Discovery Based on Actor-Nodes

In this section, based on previous definitions we propose an algorithm to discover the activity and importance of an *actor-node*.

- 1) An algorithm to discover the activity of an actor-node.

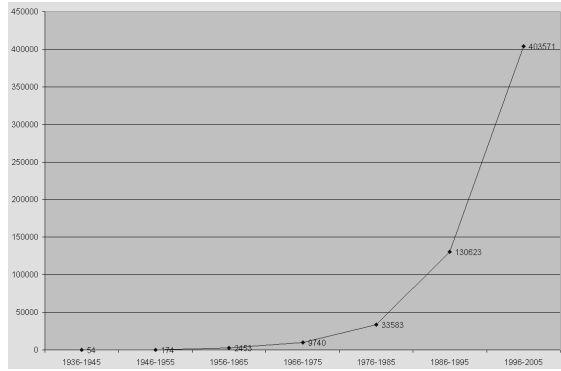


Figure 2. The numbers of authors in DBLP in different periods

Year	First	Second	Third
1996	A. L. S.-Vincentelli	K. G. Shin	R. Tamassia
1997	K. G. Shin	S. Jajodia	J. R. Hancock
1998	M. Potkonjak	H. Garcia-Molina	I. Pomeranz
1999	E. R. Hancock	A. N. Choudhary	M. Potkonjak
2000	B. Hancock	T. S. Huang	E. R. Hancock
2001	H. Zhang	T. S. Huang	H. Yan
2002	M. T. Kandemir	E. R. Hancock	S. K. Das
2003	H. Zhang	W. Li	H. Seidel
2004	W. Gao	H. Zhang	M. Li
2005	M. T. Kandemir	W. Gao	L. Jiao

Table I

TOP THREE ACTIVE AUTHORS IN DIFFERENT YEARS

Year	First	Second	Third
1996	A. L. S.-Vincentelli	K. G. Shin	S. M. Reddy
1997	K. G. Shin	E. R. Hancock	E. Bertino
1998	P. S. Yu	T. S. Huang	H. Garcia-Molina
1999	E. R. Hancock	T. S. Huang	E. Bertino
2000	B. Hancock	T. S. Huang	E. R. Hancock
2001	T. S. Huang	Ho. Zhang	E. R. Hancock
2002	Ma.t T. Kandemir	S. M. Reddy	E. R. Hancock
2003	W. Li	M. T. Kandemir	H. Seidel
2004	W. Wang	W. Gao	C. Chang
2005	C. Chang	M. T. Kandemir	P. S. Yu

Table II

TOP THREE IMPORTANT AUTHORS IN DIFFERENT YEARS

Year	First	Second	Third
1996	A. L. S.-Vincentelli	K. G. Shin	S. M. Reddy
1997	K. G. Shin	E. R. Hancock	S. Jajodia
1998	H. Garcia-Molina	S. M. Reddy	P. S. Yu
1999	E. R. Hancock	T. S. Huang	E. Bertino
2000	B. Hancock	T. S. Huang	E. R. Hancock
2001	T. S. Huang	H. Zhang	E. R. Hancock
2002	M. T. Kandemir	E. R. Hancock	S. M. Reddy
2003	W. Li	M. T. Kandemir	H. Seidel
2004	W. Gao	W. Wang	H. Zhang
2005	C. T. Kandemir	C. Chang	W. Gao

Table III

TOP THREE CORE AUTHORS IN DIFFERENT YEARS

are only four years from year 2006 to year 2009 which less than a period, the information from 2006 to 2009 is not used.

C. Size of the EBSN

Figure 2 shows the numbers of *actor-nodes* in different periods. From this figure we can see that the number of *actor-nodes* in the *EBSN* grows fast, especially from the period 1986-1995 to the period 1996-2005. The number of *actor-nodes* increases from 130623 to 403571 which means that the number of researchers studying on ‘database’ in the period 1996-2005 increases more than three times than that of in the period 1985-1996.

D. Actor-Node Ranking

An *actor-node* in the *EBSN* represents an author in the DBLP data set. There are two numerical attributes of an *actor-node*, *activity.value* and *importance.value*. Since in the period of 1996-2005 the *EBSN* has more actors and events than in other periods, we focus on ranking in that period.

Table I describes the *actor-node* ranking based on *activity* from year 1996 to year 2005.

Table II shows the *actor-node* ranking based on *importance* from year 1996 to year 2005. Comparing Table I with Table II, we find that only in year 2000 the ranking result of top three active *actor-nodes* are same as top three important *actor-nodes*. Actually, in year 2000 the fourth active *actor-node* is different from the fourth important *actor-node*. Hence, we can conclude that in most years the

ranking result of important *actor-node* and active *actor-node* are different.

Table III exhibits the top three core-nodes in different years. Table III is different from Table I and Table II. The core-nodes ranking is based on both the importance and the activity ranking results. We believe that the core-nodes rank is an important indicator because it combines both the activity and importance information in a domain.

Figure 3 records the *activity* values of top active *actor-nodes* from the year 1996 to the year 2005. In the graph, the stacked area indicates the author’s *activity* value, and the x-axis is the year. The change of stacked area reveals the author’s research “trend”. If the stacked area increases, then we call the author in the developing period, otherwise we call the author in the developed period. There are only eight *actor-nodes* in Figure 3. Refer to Table I, We can see two of them, i.e. HongJiang Zhang and Mahmut T. Kandemir, are two years’ top active *actor-nodes*.

Figure 4 demonstrates the *importance* values of top important *actor-nodes* from the year 1996 to the year 2005. In the figure, the stacked area presents author’s *importance* value. If the stacked area increases, we say that the author’s influence is in a developing period. This will give us some hints if we need to choose a researcher for a project. If the candidates have the same importance value, then we choose the one whose influence is in a developing period.

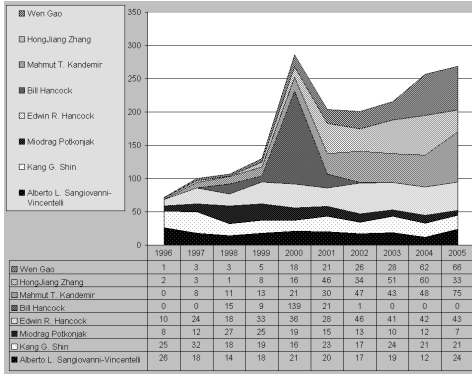


Figure 3. Top active authors in different years

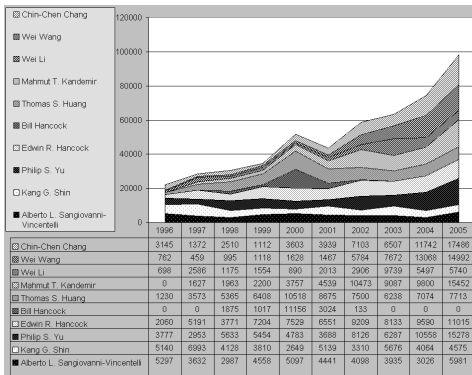


Figure 4. Top important authors in different years

V. RELATED WORK AND DISCUSSION

Generally, there are three ways to analyse an dynamic social network [3]. The first method is to analyse a snapshot of a time point. This method only analyses very limited information of the network. It could hardly get high accurate results. The second method is to analyse an aggregate network which aggregate all events into a single network. This method actually treats the event-based social network as a static network, and achieves a statistic summary for the network. It could not catch the sequence of the events. The third method is to analyse series of aggregated networks. This method is suitable for event-based social networks because it analyses all information an event-based social network contains, and it respects the temporal elements in networks. In the area of social network analysis, most current studies use the first two methods [3]. Fiaidhi and Mohammed [4] ranked authors in DBLP based on their publications, and they use “author collaboration score” to rank authors which is a relative number. Their model makes use of the second method which treats the network as a static network. O’Madadhain et al. [1] defined a model for event-based ranking. Their model used the third method to construct the social network which analyses a series of aggregate networks. Their model could catch the dynamic features

of the network, but they only focused on the actors. The events should also be concerned as events are the power of evolution in the event-based social network. Different from these methods, we firstly use the third method to construct an event-based social network. Then the authors are ranked based on their publications and the citation of their publications. In other words, we rank an actor-node based on the influence of the event-nodes which the actor-node participates in. Furthermore, we analysed the network as a dynamic network, and ranked authors in different years relied on their activity value and importance value through the proposed approach. We defined core-nodes which consider both the importance ranking result and activity ranking result. Table III shows the top three core-nodes. We also exploit “developing period” and “developed period” to describe an author’s trends. Such information can be used to evaluate core researchers in different fields, and the trends of their impact. This work could be employed in other event-based social networks. The case study provides an example of how to use the EBSN.

VI. CONCLUSION

In this paper we formally defined an Event-Based Social Network (EBSN), an actor-node, an event-node, a core-node, a lbAE and a lbEE, and introduced how to construct an EBSN. We proposed algorithms to discover the activity and importance of an actor-node, and the influence of an event-node. Then we used the definitions and algorithms to construct an EBSN which is built on the DBLP data. After that we ranked the authors based on their publications and the number of citations of their publications in different years. We also used “developing period” and “developed period” to describe an author’s trend. The EBSN could also be borrowed to analyse other event-based social network, such as email network. The future research will focus on pattern discovery and link mining in EBSN.

REFERENCES

- [1] J. O’Madadhain, J. Hutchins, and P. Smyth, “Prediction and ranking algorithms for event-based network data,” *SIGKDD Explor. Newsl.*, vol. 7, no. 2, pp. 23–30, 2005.
- [2] J. Zhang, J. Tang, and J. Li, “Expert finding in a social network,” in *Advances in Databases: Concepts, Systems and Applications*, ser. LNCS, vol. 4443/2008. Springer Berlin / Heidelberg, 2007, pp. 1066–1069.
- [3] C. Tantipathananandh, T. Berger-Wolf, and D. Kempe, “A framework for community identification in dynamic social networks,” in *KDD ’07: Proceedings of the 13th ACM SIGKDD international conference on Knowledge discovery and data mining*. New York, NY, USA: ACM, 2007, pp. 717–726.
- [4] J. Fiaidhi and S. Mohammed, “Detecting some collaborative academic indicators based on social networks: A dblp case study,” in *Proceedings of World Conference on Educational Multimedia, Hypermedia and Telecommunications 2008*. Chesapeake, VA: AACE, January 2008, pp. 6150–6157. [Online]. Available: <http://go.edlitlib.org/p/29234>