

Unsupervised Alignment of Hypergraphs with Different Scales

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Motivations: Group Interactions are Everywhere!

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<u>
Letting and Conline</u> Q&A

Hypergraph Models Group Interactions

- A **hypergraph** $G = (V, E)$ has a node set V and a hyperedge set E
	- Each **hyperedge** consists of a subset of nodes of any size
- Hypergraphs represent **group interactions** among people/objects

Hypergraph Alignment: Definition

- The focus of this work is **hypergraph alignment**
	- **Given**: two (or more) hypergraphs
	- **to Identify**: the "same nodes" across the hypergraphs

Hypergraph Alignment: Applications

- **User matching in social messaging platforms**
	- **Goal:** to identify the same users in different platforms
	- **Hypergraph:** group chats (hyperedges) among users (nodes)
	- **Applications:** cross-platform marketing and cybersecurity

Hypergraph Alignment: Applications

- **Object matching in images**
	- **Goal:** to match pixels (or features) corresponding to the same objects
	- **Hypergraph:** groups of similar (e.g., w.r.t. colors) pixels (or features)
	- **Applications:** medical imaging, image reconstruction, & surveillance

The image is from Yan et al., "*Discrete Hyper-Graph Matching*", CVPR 2015.

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Roadmap

- 1. Introduction
- **2. Challenges <<**
- 3. Proposed method
- 4. Experiments
- 5. Conclusion

Unsupervised Hypergraph Alignment: Definition

- We address the **unsupervised** hypergraph alignment
	- Given: two hypergraphs G_1 and G_2 , potentially with **different scales**
	- to Identify: correct node correspondences across G_1 and G_2
	- **No ground-truth node correspondences or node attributes are given**

Challenge 1: Absence of Node Attributes

- **Node attributes may not be available** in real-world hypergraphs
	- For example, for messaging platforms, privacy-protection regulations may prevent the disclosure of user information
- It can be desirable to avoid relying on attributes for alignment

Challenge 2: Absence of Supervision

- **Supervision may not be available** in real-world hypergraphs
	- Ground-truth node correspondence may not be available
- It can be desirable to avoid relying on supervision for alignment

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Challenge 3: Scale Disparity of Hypergraphs

- Two hypergraphs may be **substantially different in sizes**
	- One may have (much) more nodes or hyperedges than the other

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Our Contributions

- We propose **HYPERALIGN** for hypergraph alignment
- It directly addresses the aforementioned challenges
	- Challenge 1: Absence of node attribute
	- Challenge 2: Absence of supervision
	- Challenge 3: Scale disparity of two hypergraphs

Proposed Method: Overview

- **HYPERALIGN** learns node embeddings for both hypergraphs
- The embeddings are then used to infer node correspondences

Proposed Method: Overview

- Each step of **HYPERALIGN** specifically addresses a key challenge:
- **Step 1. HyperFeat: node feature extraction** from hypergraph topology
	- Addressing Challenge 1, absence of node attributes
- **Step 2. HyperCL:** contrastive learning as **"pseudo" supervised alignment**
	- Addressing Challenge 2, absence of supervision
- **Step 3. HyperAug:** adversarial learning with **topological augmentation**
	- Addressing Challenge 3, scale disparity of hypergraphs

Step 1. HyperFeat: Overview

- Step 1. HyperFeat: **node feature extraction** from hypergraph topology
	- Addressing Challenge 1, absence of node attributes

Step 1. HyperFeat: Overview (cont.)

- HyperFeat aims to preserve **structural similarities** within each hypergraph
- Structural similarity reflects the count of incident hyperedges of each size

Step 1. HyperFeat: Details

- Node-similarity graph to connect structurally similar nodes
- Random walk with restart (RWR) to obtain a corpus
- Skip-Gram with negative sampling to learn node embeddings from corpus

Step 1. HyperFeat: Theoretical Properties

- HyperFeat has **desirable properties** with a sufficiently large corpus:
	- **Equivalence to implicit matrix factorization**
	- **Invariance to node permutation**
	- **Distinguishability of non-isomorphic hypergraphs**

Step 1. HyperFeat: Summary

- HyperFeat is applied to **each hypergraph** to obtain node features
	- Addressing Challenge 1, absence of node attributes

Step 2. HyperCL: Overview

- Step 2. HyperCL: contrastive learning as **"pseudo" supervised alignment**
	- Addressing Challenge 2, absence of supervision

Step 2. HyperCL: Procedures

- HyperCL creates **two views from each hyperedge** through "corruption"
- For the two views, we know the **ground-truth node correspondences**
- HyperCL **pretrains the encoder** to learn the correspondence

Step 2. HyperCL: Summary

- Contrastive learning serves as a "**pseudo" supervised alignment task**
- Note HyperCL is applied to **each hypergraph** to pretrain the same encoder

Step 3. HyperAug: Overview

- **Step 3. HyperAug:** adversarial learning with **topological augmentation**
	- Addressing Challenge 3, scale disparity of hypergraphs

Step 3. HyperAug: (1) GAN Framework

• HyperAug employs generative adversarial networks (GAN) to **align two node embedding spaces**

Step 3. HyperAug: (2) Hyperedge Augmentation

- **Given:** node embeddings in the current iteration of GAN training,
- **Augment:** hyperedges in both hypergraphs
- **to Resolve**: scale disparity

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Step 3. HyperAug: Details

- For each hyperedge in one input, create a virtual hyperedge in the other
	- For each member, **find the most similar node** in the other hypergraph
		- We use the **node embeddings** in the current iteration
	- Construct **virtual hyperedges** containing the counter-part nodes

Last Step: Inferring Alignment based on Embeddings

- First, we **measure node similarity** based on embeddings
- Then, we **greedily match most similar nodes**

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Experimental Settings

- **Datasets**: 12 real-worlds hypergraphs
- **Preprocessing of each dataset:**

- Two hypergraphs are from non-overlapping intervals of timestamps
- One interval can be (much) longer than the other

• **Performance**: % of correctly estimated pairs among the ground-truth ones

Baselines & Competitors

- **Bipartite graph** based methods:
	- Big-Align [Koutra et al. 2013]
- **Unipartite graph** based methods:

- Node embedding based: REGAL [Heimann et al. 2018]
- Learning based: SANA [Peng et al. 2023] & Grad-Align+ [Park et al. 2022]
- GAN based: UUIL [Li et al. 2018], DANA [Derr et al. 2021], WAlign [Gao et al. 2021]

Q1. Alignment Performance

- **Q1.** How **accurate** is **HYPERALIGN**?
- **A1. HYPERALIGN** consistently outperforms all competitors in all datasets

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Q2. Scale Disparity Ratio of Two Input Hypergraphs

- **Q2.** How does the **scale disparity ratio** affect **HYPERALIGN**'s superiority?
- **A2. HYPERALIGN** is consistently superior across all disparity ratios

Q3. Ablation Studies

• **Q3.** Does each **component** of **HYPERALIGN** contribute to its performance?

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Conclusions: Our Contributions

- **New Problem:** unsupervised alignment of hypergraphs with scale disparity
- **Novel Method: HYPERALIGN,** addressing three challenges:
	- Challenge 1: Absence of node attribute
	- Challenge 2: Absence of supervision
	- Challenge 3: Scale disparity of two hypergraphs
- **Extensive Experiments:** we demonstrate the superiority **HYPERALIGN**

Acknowledgements

- **HYPERALIGN** stands on "the shoulders of giants"
- **Feature Extraction in Graph:**
	- Struc2Vec Ribeiro et al. 2017
- **GAN-Based Alignment of Graphs**
	- DANA [Derr et al. 2021], WAlign [Gao et al. 2021]
- **Contrastive Learning on Graphs**
	- GraphCL [You et al. 2020]