Discovery group: Data mining for pattern and link discovery

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Structured and heterogeneous data



Mission

We develop novel methods and tools for pattern and link discovery

- Focus on structured and heterogeneous data (graphs, sequences)
- Applications in bioinformatics, genetics and ubicomp
- Collaboration with applied scientists and companies

Projects

Analysis of genetic marker data

- haplotyping of unrelated genotypes (HaploRec)
- association-based gene mapping (TreeDT, HPM)
- Analysis of heterogeneous biological networks (Biomine)
- Context recognition by user situation data analysis

Analysis of genetic marker data

- Goal: Discovery of associations between genomic regions and a disease (gene mapping)
- HaploRec: Haplotyping unrelated individuals using variable-length Markov models (Eronen, Geerts, Toivonen, BMC Bioinformatics 2006)
- TreeDT: gene mapping method measuring disease-association in estimated genealogical trees (Sevon, Toivonen, Ollikainen, IEEE/ACM Transactions on Comp. Biol. and Bioinformatics 2006)
 A medical result: discovery of a novel asthma gene (Science 2004)

Biomine: Analysis of weighted graphs



Millions of heterogeneous nodes and edges in public biological databases

Edge weight = probability

Example 1: Link discovery and analysis

- Goal: discovery and evaluation of non-trivial connections between nodes, e.g., a gene and a disease
- A true link between two nodes is manifested as a subgraph connecting them
- We measure the strength of such a subgraph using two-terminal network reliability (Sevon et al., DILS 2006)
- On-going/future work: use of context-free grammar in complex queries (queries by specific path classes and production rule specific relevance coefficients)



Example 2: Extraction of subgraphs

Goal: extraction of a maximally relevant subgraph for given nodes or connections



- Concepts and methods for probabilistic graphs:
- Removal of edges that contribute least to the two-terminal network reliability (Hintsanen 2007, submitted)
- Compression of probabilistic Prolog theories with minimal reduction to likelihood of given positive and negative examples (De Raedt et al., ILP 2006)



- ContextPhone (IEEE Pervasive Computing 2005, Raento et al)
 - context data collection, distribution, display
 - the first public toolbox for standard mobile phones
- Applications: presence-augmented phonebook, automatic media annotation and distribution, logger
 - used by MIT, Berkeley, Nokia, ...
 - covered e.g. in The New York Times, New Scientist
- Provides unique data for finding patterns and models of interaction
 - Research into algorithms, privacy issues, social networks, ...

Vision

- The importance of data mining in heterogeneous and structured data will grow, especially in scientific applications such as bioinformatics
- We develop novel methods and apply them succesfully to challenging and important applications problems, in collaboration with applied scientists