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# Expert Search Engine Using Co-Diffusion

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**Abstract—** Expert search has been studied in different contexts, e.g., enterprises, academic communities. We examine a general expert search problem: searching experts on the web, where millions of web pages and thousands of names are considered. It has mainly two challenging issues: 1) web pages could be of varying quality and full of noises; 2) The expertise evidences scattered in web pages are usually vague and ambiguous. We propose to leverage the large amount of co-occurrence information to assess relevance and reputation of a person name for a query topic. The co-occurrence structure is modeled using a hyper graph, on which a heat diffusion based ranking algorithm is proposed. Query keywords are regarded as heat sources, and a person name which has strong connection with the query (i.e., frequently co-occur with query keywords and co-occur with other names related to query keywords) will receive most of the heat, thus being ranked high. Experiments on the ClueWeb09 web collection show that our algorithm is effective for retrieving experts and outperforms baseline algorithms significantly this work would be regarded as one step toward addressing the more general entity search problem without sophisticated NLP techniques.

**Keywords—** Expert search, Web mining, Hyper graph, Diffusion, Co-occurrence, Re-ranking.

## I. INTRODUCTION

Expert search gained increasing attention from both industry and academia. Variant expert search problems were also identified and addressed in other domains such as question answering, online forums and academic society. Recently, the desire to find experts on a variety of daily life topics is increasing. We are observing a rising search paradigm that allows users to search for people who can answer their natural language questions. However, this system requires users to register and join a community. In contrast, the Web contains a huge amount of information about people (e.g. personal home pages, blogs, Web news). It is possible to build a powerful expert search engine by exploiting the information about people on the Web. In this paper we propose a general expert search problem: expert search on the Web, which considers ordinary Web pages and people names. This problem is different from organizational expert search and is more like Google where our goal is to return a list of experts with reasonable quality.

It has new challenges:

- A. Compared to an organization's repository, ordinary Web pages could be of varying quality and full of noises.
- B. The expertise evidences scattered in webpages are usually vague and ambiguous. In particular, we aim to address the new challenging issues by leveraging the linkage of experts exhibited on the web: 1) Relevance 2) Reputation 3) Trust worthiness

## II. PROPOSED SYSTEM

### A. System Architecture

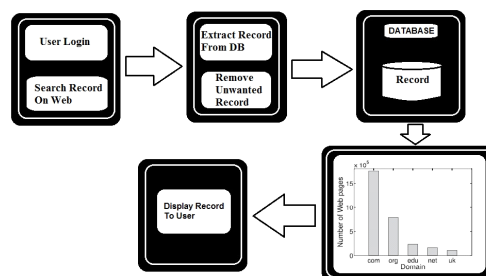


Fig. 1: System Architecture

### 1) Working Modules of Proposed System

a) *Heterogeneous Hyper-graph*: In a hyper graph, each edge (called hyper edge) can connect two or more vertices. In the

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problem setting, there are three types of objects: people (names), words, and web pages, denoted by P, W, and D, respectively. By the co-occurrence relationships among P and W established by web pages, It can construct a heterogeneous hyper graph  $GP;W(V, E)$  where V contains vertices representing all the people and words and each  $e \in E$  corresponds to a webpage. A toy example is shown in w(e) is the Page Rank score of es corresponding webpage. The problem is, given P, W, GP,W and query keywords from W, to rank P according to their expertise in the topic represented by the query.

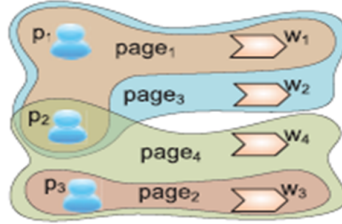


Fig. 2: An Example of Heterogeneous Hyper-graph

*b) Diffusion:* Heat diffuses in a medium from positions with higher temperatures to those with lower temperatures. The most important property of heat diffusion is that the heat flow rate at a point is proportional to the second order derivative of heat with respect to the space at that point. Different medium have different thermal conductivity coefficients. The diffusion model is constructed as follows: At time t, each vertex  $i \in V$  will receive an amount of heat from its neighbors.

*c) Ranking:* There are two possible schemes to implement our algorithm:

- i. To perform Model Construction on the entire web collection and for each query, only need to perform the Diffusion and Ranking part in Algorithm 1. In other words, the first phase of Algorithm 1 needs to be done only once. Then, the constructed model is used for all queries. This scheme call as Global Ranking;
- ii. First obtain related web pages for a query by querying the web collection.
  - *Global Ranking*  
In Global Ranking the algorithm can diffuse heat to partially relevant or even irrelevant pages, while Local Ranking can perform more focused diffusion.
  - *Local Ranking*  
In Local Ranking, it can also compute more focused heat normalization term  $d(i)$  for people. Thus, Local Ranking could perform better than Global Ranking.

*d) Web mining:* Web mining - is the application of data mining techniques to discover patterns from the Web. According to analysis targets, web mining can be divided into three different types, which are Web usage mining, Web content mining and Web structure mining.

### B. System Implementation Plan

#### 1) Algorithm Technique

Algorithm 1: Co-occurrence Diffusion

Input:  $H_p$ : weighted incidence matrix between people and pages;

$H_w$ : weighted incidence matrix between words and pages;

$W_e$ : diagonal matrix containing PageRank scores of pages;

f: the query vector;  $\gamma_{pp}$ ,  $\gamma_{ww}$ ,  $\gamma_{pw}$ : thermal conductivity between people, between words, between people and words, respectively.

Output: a ranked list of names according to the query

- 1 Model Construction
- 2 Compute the number of distinct co-occurring people  $Co(i)$  for each person  $i$  from  $H_p$
- 3 Construct degree matrices  $D_p$ ,  $D_w$ ,  $D_{ep}$ ,  $D_{ew}$  from  $H_p$ ,  $H_w$  and  $W_e$
- 4 Construct heat normalization matrices  $D_p^{-1}$  by  $D_p$  and  $Co(i)$ 's, and  $D_w^{-1} = D_w$
- 5  $L_{pp} = \gamma_{pp} D_p^{-1/2} H_p W_e D_{ep}^{-1} H_p^T D_p^{-1} - (\gamma_{pp} + \gamma_{pw}) D_p^{-1/2} D_p^{-1}$
- 6  $L_{pw} = \gamma_{pw} D_p^{-1/2} H_p W_e D_{ew}^{-1} H_w^T D_w^{-1}$

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7    $L_{wp} = \gamma_{pw} D_w^{-1/2} H_w W_e D_{ep}^{-1} H_p^T D_p^{-1}$ 
8    $L_{ww} = \gamma_{ww} D_w^{-1/2} H_w W_e D_{ew}^{-1} H_w^T D_w^{-1} - (\gamma_{ww} + \gamma_{pw}) D_w^{1/2} D_w^{-1}$ 
9   Construct L by  $L_{pp}$ ,  $L_{pw}$ ,  $L_{wp}$  and  $L_{ww}$ 
10  Diffusion and Ranking
11  for  $k=1$  to  $n$  do
12      |  $f = (I + L)^{-1} f$ 
13  end
14  Rank people names according to  $f$ 

```

Algorithm 2: One Time Re-Ranking

Input:  $H_p, H_w, H_e, \gamma_{pp}, \gamma_{ww}, \gamma_{pw}$ : as defined in Algorithm 1;  
*Top*: top  $k$  names after the first run of CoDiffusion;  
*Scores*: corresponding ranking scores of the top  $k$  names  
Output: a ranked list of people names

```

1   Initialization query vector  $f = 0$ 
2   for  $i = 1$  to  $k$  do
3       |  $f_{Top(i)} = scores(i)$ 
4   end
5   Invoke CoDiffusion without global normalization using
   Parameters  $H_p, H_w, W_e, f, \gamma_{pp}, \gamma_{ww}$  and  $\gamma_{pw}$ 
6   Return the ranked list generated by CoDiffusion

```

Algorithm 3: Iterative Re-Ranking

Input:  $H_p, H_w, W_e, \gamma_{pp}, \gamma_{ww}, \gamma_{pw}$ : as defined in  
Algorithm 1; *Top*, *Scores*: as defined in  
Algorithm 2;  $k_0$ : deduction of  $k$  in each iteration;  
*Iter\_num*: number of iteration  
Output: a ranked list of people names

```

1   for  $j=1$  to Iter_num do
2       Initialize query vector  $f = 0$ 
3       for  $i = 1$  to Length(Top) do
4           |  $f_{Top(i)} = scores(i)$ 
5       end
6       Find pages containing at least two names in Top and
       Construct corresponding  $H'_p, H'_w$  and  $W'_e$ 
7       Invoke CoDiffusion without global normalization
       Using parameters  $H'_p, H'_w$  and  $W'_e, \gamma_{pp}, \gamma_{ww}, \gamma_{pw}, f$ 
8       Set Top and Scores to the top  $k - j * k_0$  names and
       Their corresponding scores outputted by CoDiffusion
9   end
10  Return a ranked list according to Top

```

### C. System Features

1. Diffusion model defines the experts.
2. Experts provide the quality web pages information.
3. Here we display strong connection query related results as a output content.

## III. RESULT

### A. Performance Evaluation Result

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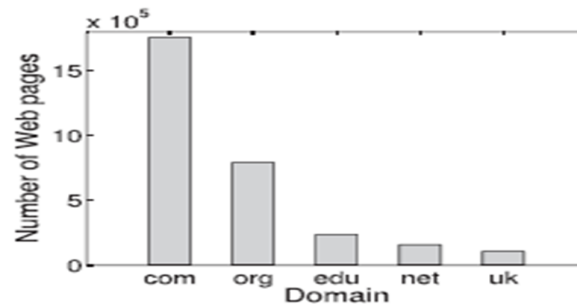


Fig. 3 Top five domains in our data set

### IV. CONCLUSION

In this paper we implemented a general expert search problem on the Web. We proposed not to deep parse Web pages for expert search. Instead, it is possible to leverage co-occurrence relationships such as name-keyword co-occurrences and name-name co-occurrences to rank experts. A ranking algorithm called Co-Diffusion was developed based on this concept. Co-Diffusion adopts a heat diffusion model on heterogeneous hyper-graphs to capture expertise information encoded in these co-occurrence relationships. Experiments on ClueWeb09 and two benchmark datasets consisting of research queries demonstrated that Co-Diffusion outperformed the baseline algorithms significantly. Experiments on conductivity coefficients verified that co-occurrences were indeed useful. We also explored queries other than research related topics and showed that Co-Diffusion could return good results and outperform baselines. Finally, we tried using re-ranking to boost performance.

### V. ACKNOWLEDGMENT

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