A decorative network graph in the top-left corner, featuring a complex web of nodes and edges. Some nodes are highlighted with blue circles, and others with blue dots. The graph is rendered in a light gray color with blue accents.

# Link Prediction in Large Directed Graphs

**Dario Garcia-Gasulla**  
**Ulises Cortés**



## Overview

- ◎ Motivation
- ◎ State of the Art
- ◎ Hypothesis
- ◎ Hierarchical Link Prediction
- ◎ Computational Models
- ◎ Data Sets & Results
- ◎ Conclusions
- ◎ Discussion & Future Work



## Overview

### ● Motivation

● State of the Art

● Hypothesis

● Hierarchical Link Prediction

● Computational Models & Designs

● Data Sets & Results

● Conclusions

● Discussion & Future Work



# Motivation

Objects Data      **INTERNET!**      Object-object Data

In Data Mining and Machine Learning ...  
From *intra-entity* to *inter-entity* patterns

***“One small step for data, one giant leap for data science”***



# Motivation

## New family of domains

- Web graphs
- Social networks
- Biological networks
- Product recommendation
- Terrorist associations
- ....

## Typically **LARGE**

- but, *how large?*



## Motivation

Whole new set of problems

- Rank entities based on importance
- Find groups of entities
- Discover association patterns
- Predict new relations

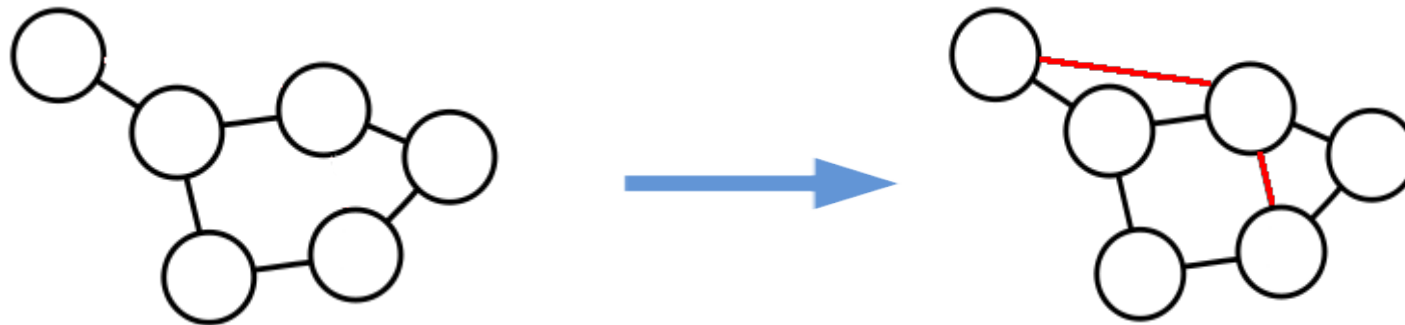
Let us call it just **Graph Mining**



# Motivation

## Link Prediction

- Find new relations given the structure of a graph



# Motivation

## Link Prediction

Needle in a haystack

*-How many friends you do have in Facebook?*

*-How many friends you do NOT have?*

we need **PRECISION**

An ocean of variables depending on one another

*Friends define friendship*

we need **SCALABILITY**





## Overview

① Motivation

② State of the Art

③ Hypothesis

④ Hierarchical Link Prediction

⑤ Computational Models & Designs

⑥ Data Sets & Results

⑦ Conclusions

⑧ Discussion & Future Work



# State of the Art

## Compute statistics on the **graph**

Bayes / Markov (Getoor and Taskar, 2007)

Tensors (Nickel et al., 2011)

## Compute the likelihood of the **graph**

Hierarchies (Clauset et al., 2008)

Communities (Stochastic block models)

## Compute **entity-entity** similarities

Number of paths



# State of the Art

## Similarity-based Link Prediction

-Scalable



-Parallelizable



-Unprecise



We look for common neighbors... *how far?*

-*Local*: 2-steps. It works, but not well enough.

-*Global*: No limit. Poor scaling. Disappointing results.

-*Quasi-local*: Unknown variable distance. Best!

But wait, *unknown* distance?



# State of the Art

## Similarity-based: The essence

- How many common neighbors we have? (Newman, 2001)
- How many rare common neighbors we have? (Adamic and Adar, 2003) (Zhou, 2009)

**Common Neighbors**

$$s_{x,y}^{CN} = |\Gamma(x) \cap \Gamma(y)|$$

**Adamic/Adar**

$$s_{x,y}^{AA} = \sum_{z \in \Gamma(x) \cap \Gamma(y)} \frac{1}{\log(|\Gamma(z)|)}$$

**Resource Allocation**

$$s_{x,y}^{RA} = \sum_{z \in \Gamma(x) \cap \Gamma(y)} \frac{1}{|\Gamma(z)|}$$

## Overview

- ① Motivation
- ② State of the Art
- ③ Hypothesis
- ④ Hierarchical Link Prediction
- ⑤ Computational Models & Designs
- ⑥ Data Sets & Results
- ⑦ Conclusions
- ⑧ Discussion & Future Work



# Hypothesis

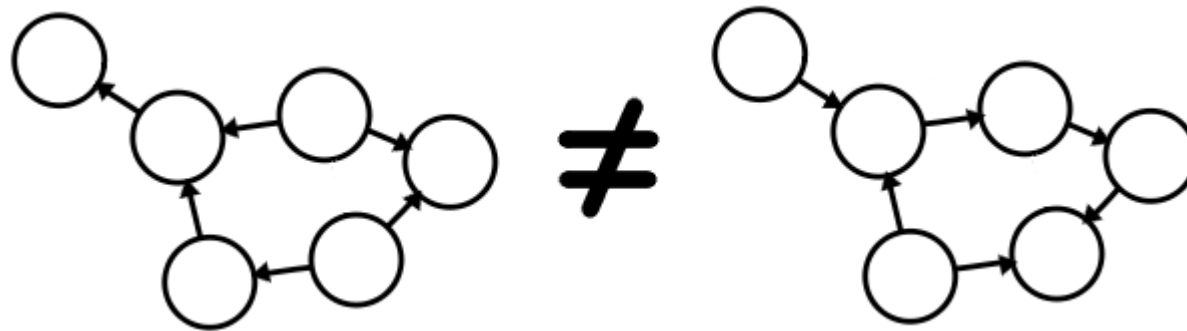
Currently, paths are the only measure

Not really expressive... *isn't there anything else?*

Directionality of edges

Asymmetric relations are frequent

But what do directions *mean?*



# Hypothesis

The most basic asymmetry: Hierarchies

Knowledge does not get any simpler than that

*Specialization* → *Generalization*

*Descendant* → *Ancestor*

What do the descendants and ancestors of an entity tell us about that entity?

↳ *After meeting a thousand cats, what do you know about “**cat**”?*

↳ *After meet animals with claws, what do you know about “**cat**”?*

↳ *Quite a lot actually...*



## Overview

- ① Motivation
- ① State of the Art
- ① Hypothesis
- ① **Hierarchical Link Prediction**
- ① Computational Models & Designs
- ① Data Sets & Results
- ① Conclusions
- ① Discussion & Future Work

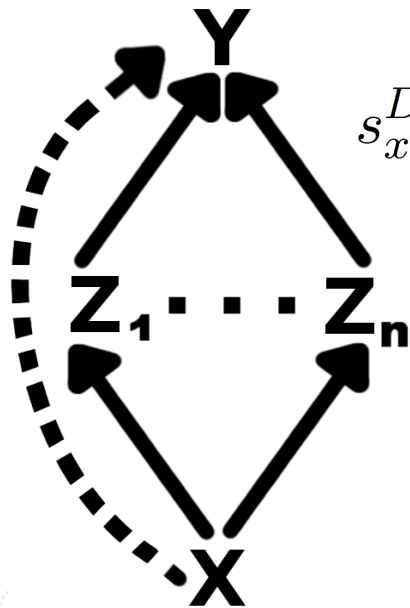




# Hierarchical Link Prediction

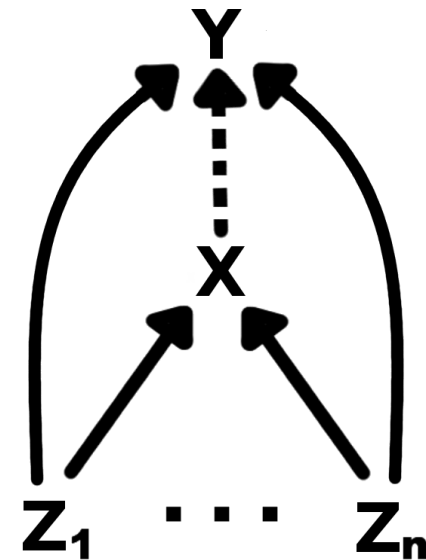
## © The INFerence score: $x \rightarrow y$ ?

- Given the generalizations of  $x$ ,  $A(x)$ , is  $x \rightarrow y$  coherent? *Deductive reasoning (DED)*
- Given the specializations of  $x$ ,  $D(x)$ , is  $x \rightarrow y$  coherent? *Inductive reasoning (IND)*



$$s_{x \rightarrow y}^{DED} = \frac{|A(x) \cap D(y)|}{|A(x)|}$$

$$s_{x \rightarrow y}^{IND} = \frac{|D(x) \cap D(y)|}{|D(x)|}$$



# Hierarchical Link Prediction

## The INFerence score

Just add the evidence:  $INF = DED + IND$

**But INF is purely *proportional*:**

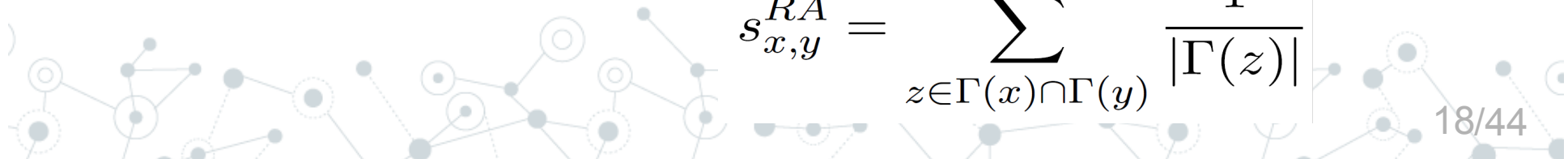
$$s_{x \rightarrow y}^{DED} = \frac{|A(x) \cap D(y)|}{|A(x)|} \quad s_{x \rightarrow y}^{IND} = \frac{|D(x) \cap D(y)|}{|D(x)|}$$

While all top scores are  
***accumulative***:

$$s_{x,y}^{CN} = |\Gamma(x) \cap \Gamma(y)|$$

$$s_{x,y}^{AA} = \sum_{z \in \Gamma(x) \cap \Gamma(y)} \frac{1}{\log(|\Gamma(z)|)}$$

$$s_{x,y}^{RA} = \sum_{z \in \Gamma(x) \cap \Gamma(y)} \frac{1}{|\Gamma(z)|}$$



# Hierarchical Link Prediction

## INFERENCE modifications

Accumulative scores: ***Skip low-degree vertices. Rich get richer.***

Proportional evidence is important too: ***Make it hybrid***

$$s_{x \rightarrow y}^{DED\_LOG} = \frac{|A(x) \cap D(y)|}{|A(x)|} * \log(|A(x)|)$$

Deduction is more reliable: **INF\_2D = 2\*DED + IND**

INF\_LOG, **INF\_LOG\_2D** a new family of hybrid scores

$$s_{x \rightarrow y}^{IND\_LOG} = \frac{|D(x) \cap D(y)|}{|D(x)|} * \log(|D(x)|)$$





## Overview

- ① Motivation
- ① State of the Art
- ① Hypothesis
- ① Hierarchical Link Prediction
- ① **Computational Models & Designs**
- ① Data Sets & Results
- ① Conclusions
- ① Discussion & Future Work



# Computational Models & Designs

## Similarity-based is scalable ... enough?

Graph with 1M vertices  $\rightarrow 1 \cdot 10^{12}$  similarities  
Unfeasible to compute them one by one!

## Similarity-based is parallelizable ... how?

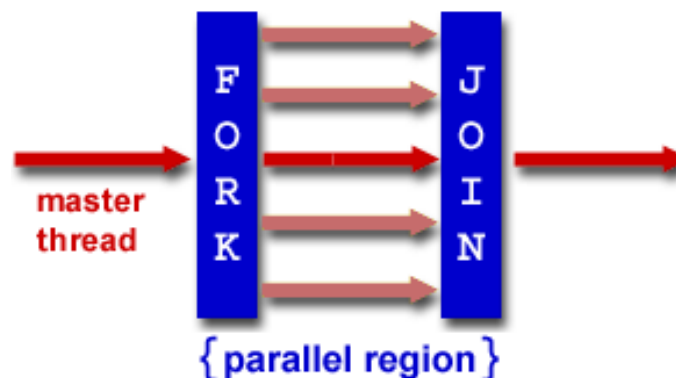
Very parallel... **embarrassingly** parallel!  
Similarities are independent of one another  
Parallel computing models are a must



# Computational Models & Designs

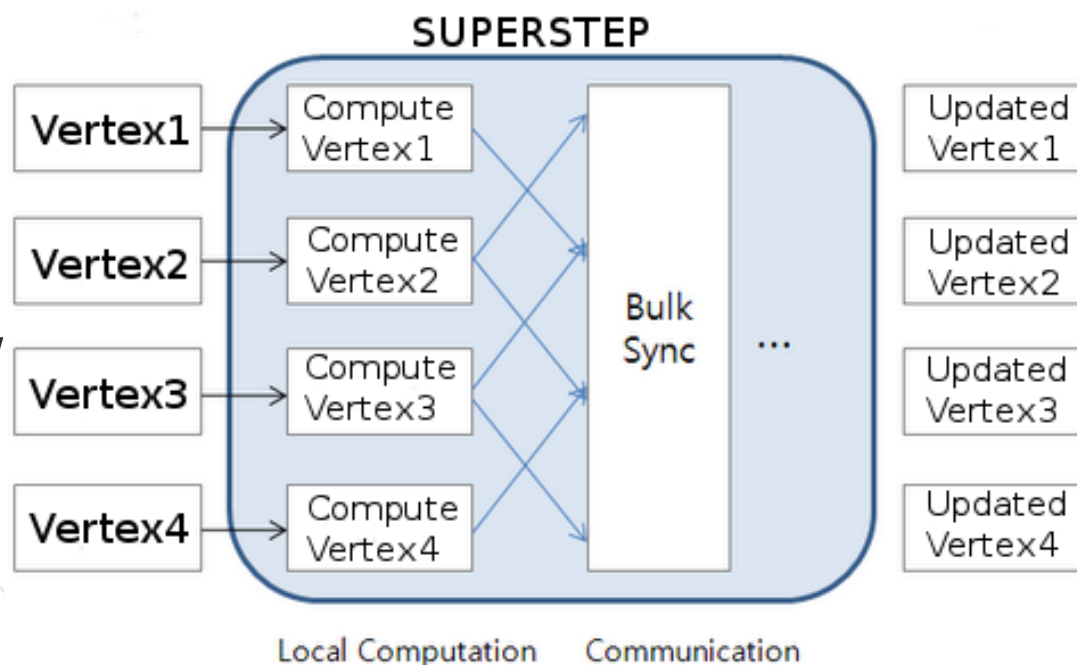
## General parallel computing model

- Fork-join (OpenMP)
- Tested on MareNostrum (BSC)



## Graph-specific parallel computing model

- Pregel (ScaleGraph)
- Tested on TSUBAME (UCD/JSTCrest)



# Computational Models & Designs

Different algorithmic designs are possible

## Intersection-based

$\forall v^1 \in \mathbf{N}$

$\forall v^2 \in \mathbf{N}$

$\text{intersection}(\text{neigh}(v^1), \text{neigh}(v^2))$

## Traverse-based

$\forall v \in \mathbf{N}$

$\forall \text{neigh}(v)$

$\forall \text{neigh}(\text{neigh}(v))$



## Computational Models & Designs

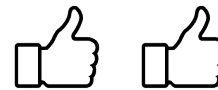
### Intersection-based

- All  $v_1, v_2$  paths found at the same time
- High complexity:  $O(N^2 \cdot k)$
- High locality



### Traverse-based

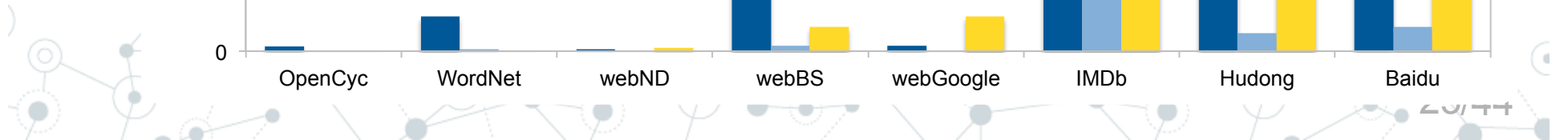
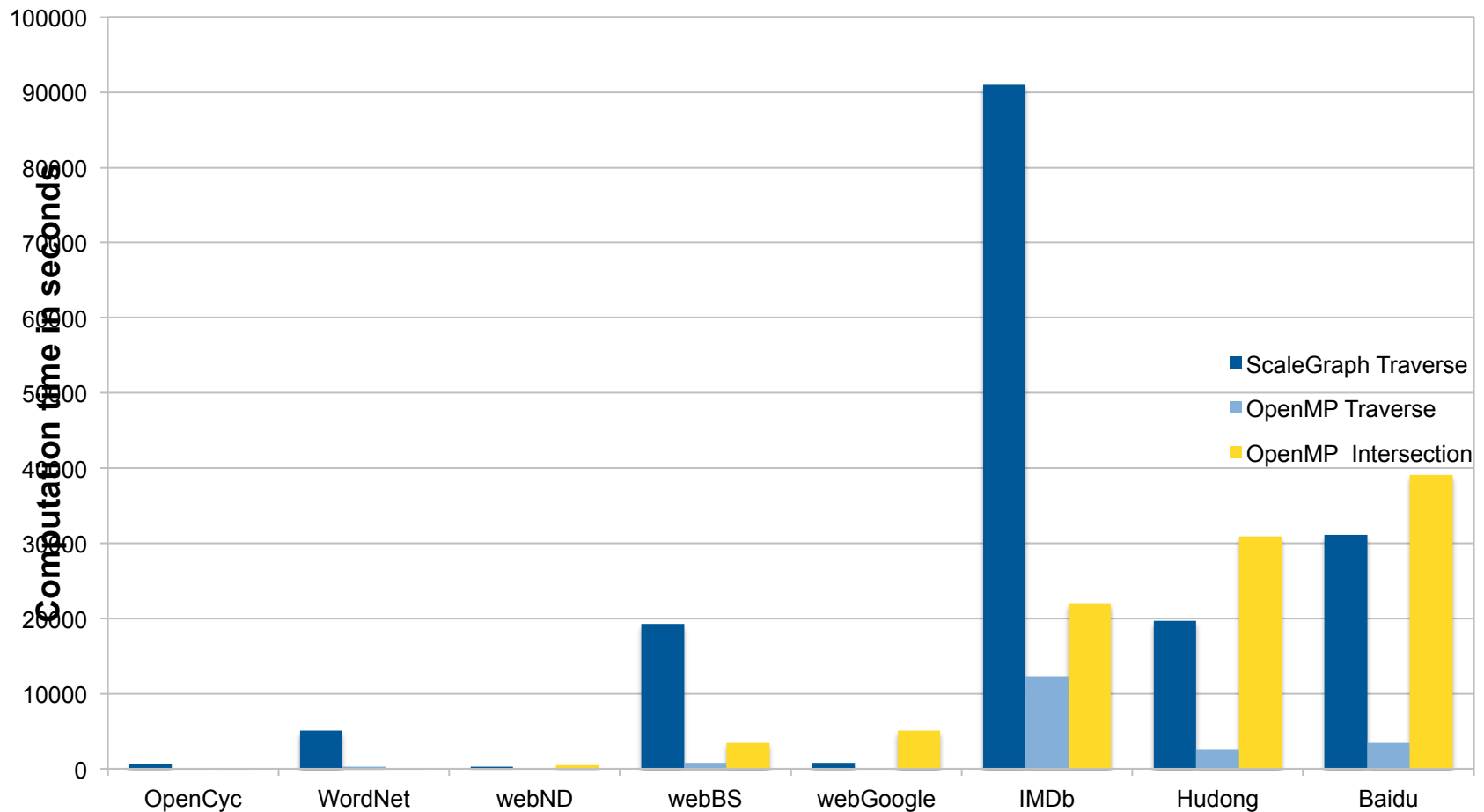
- $v_1, v_2$  paths found one at a time
- Low complexity:  $O(N \cdot k^3)$
- No locality





# Computational Models & Designs

## Computation times of both designs

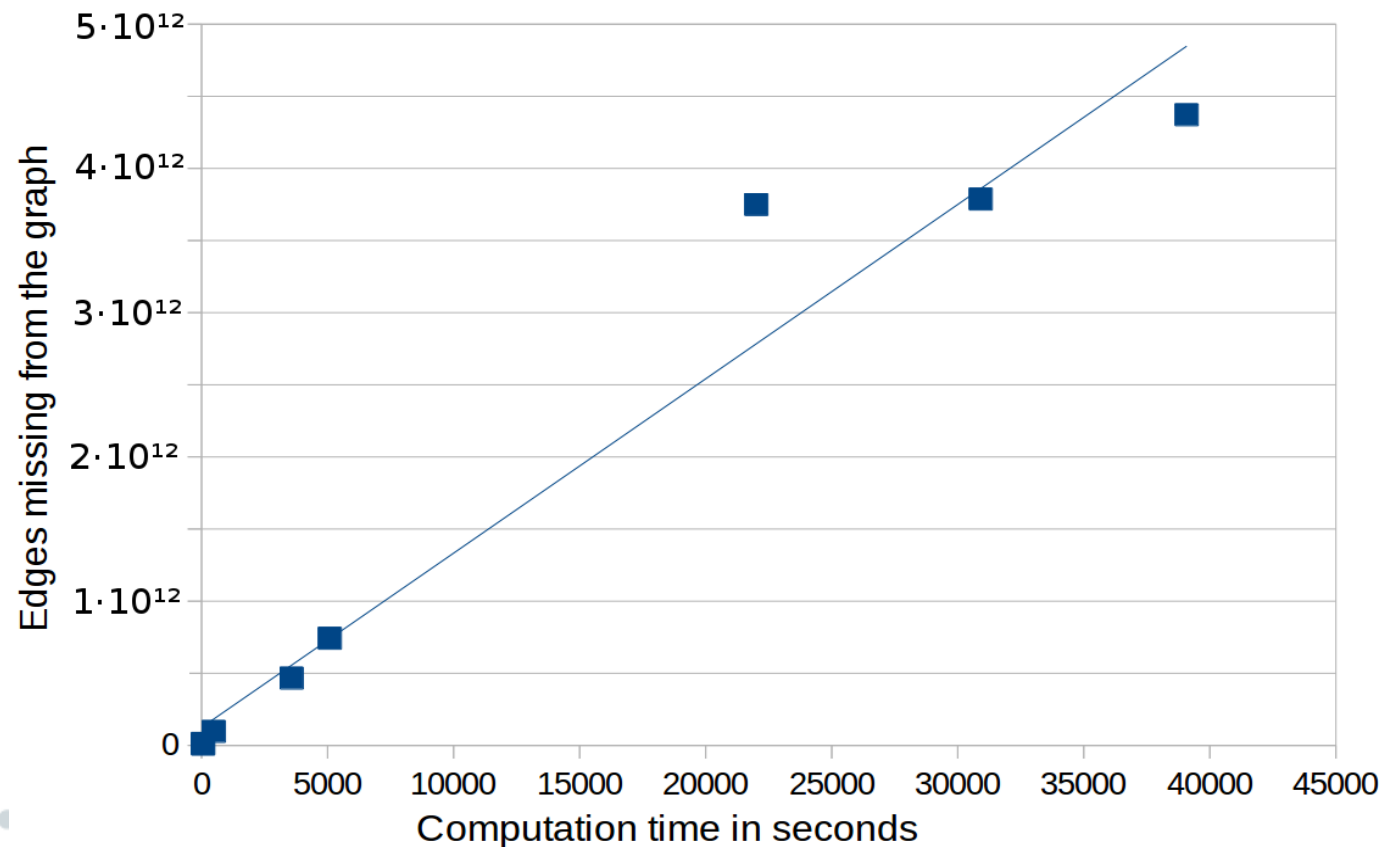


# Computational Models & Designs

Intersection design: Good for superhubs (locality)

-Cost based on missing edges

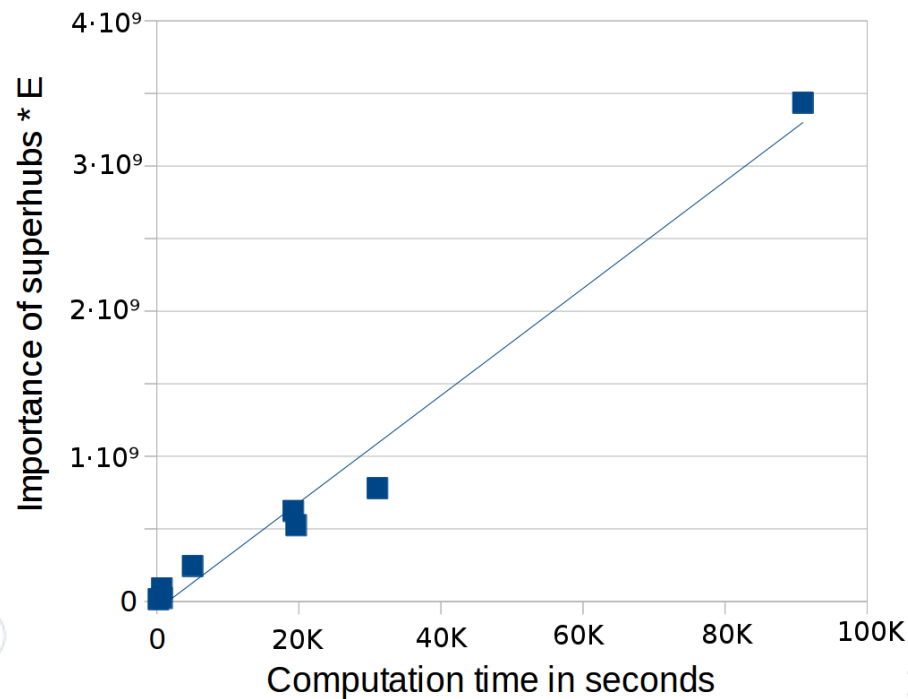
*OpenMP  
computation  
times and  
regression*



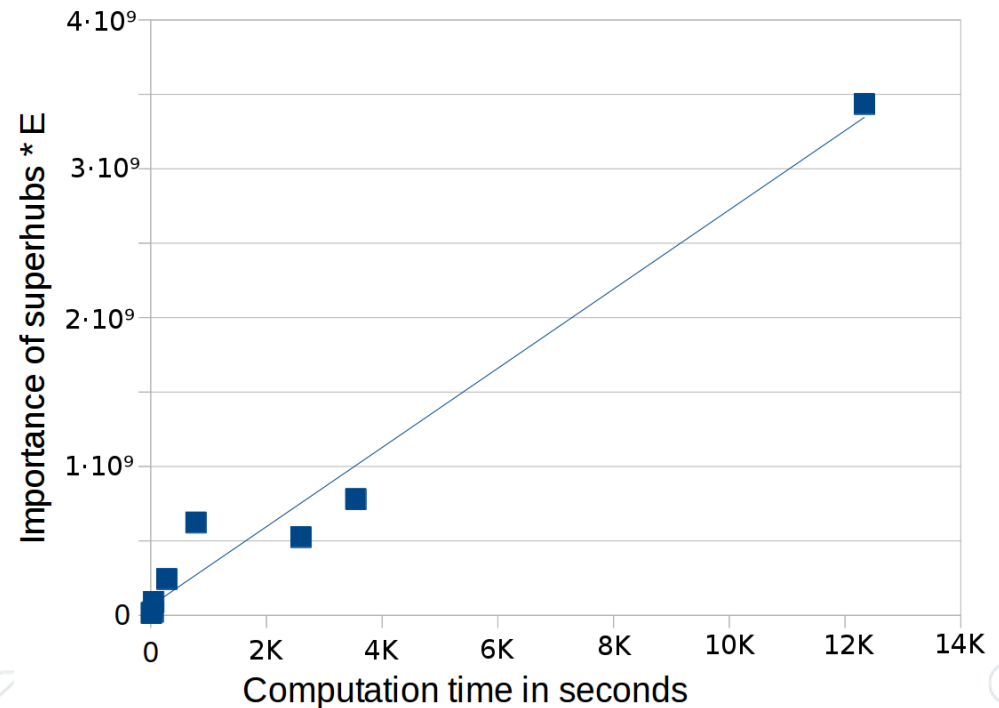
# Computational Models & Designs

Traverse design: Good for all but superhubs (complexity)  
-Cost based on graph size and superhubs relevance

ScaleGraph



OpenMP



# Computational Models & Designs

## OpenMP

- Control over data-structures (type, order)

## ScaleGraph

- Designed for large-scale graphs
- Automatic management of data and communications

## What is a small/large graph?

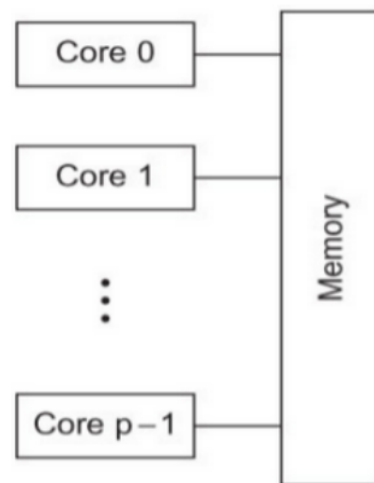
- Requires lots of memory
- Requires lots of computing units



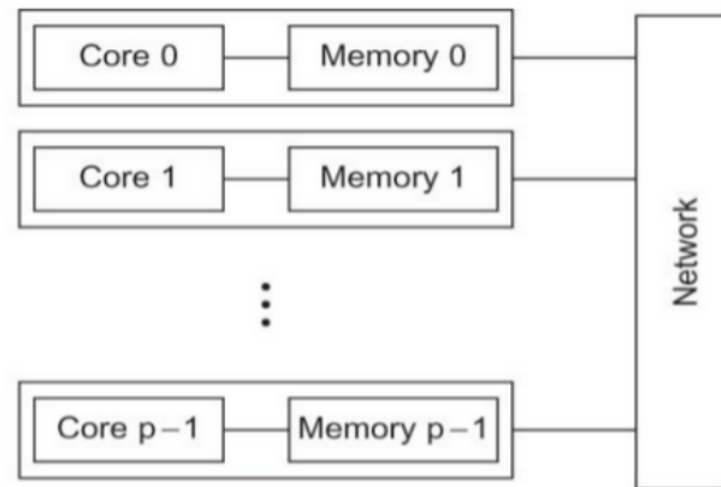
# Computational Models & Designs

Single machines have a limit of memory and of computing units. Eventually...

**Shared memory paradigm**



**Distributed memory paradigm**



OpenMP/ScaleGraph

| OmpSs/ScaleGraph

<https://pm.bsc.es/ompss>



## Overview

- Motivation
- State of the Art
- Hypothesis
- Hierarchical Link Prediction
- Computational Models & Designs
- Data Sets & Results
- Conclusions
- Discussion & Future Work



## Data Sets & Results

**INF** assumes hierarchical directionality... should work on hierarchical graphs

Wordnet (lexical hyponym/hypernym)

89K vertices, 698K edges

OpenCyc (ontological subClass, instanceOf)

116K vertices, 345K edges

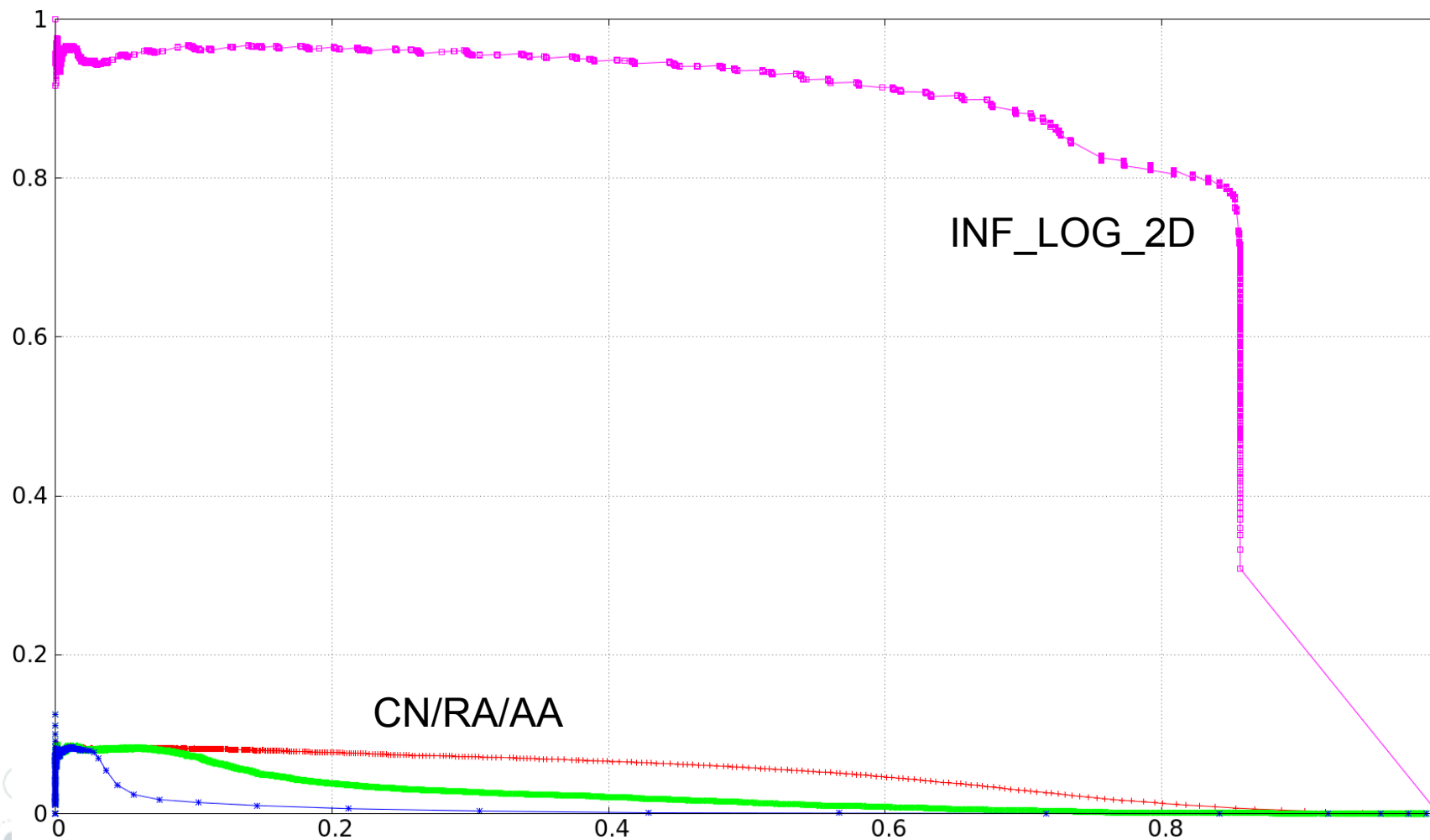
**Evaluation through AUC – Precision/Recall curves**

**-Random remove of 10% for test**



## Data Sets & Results

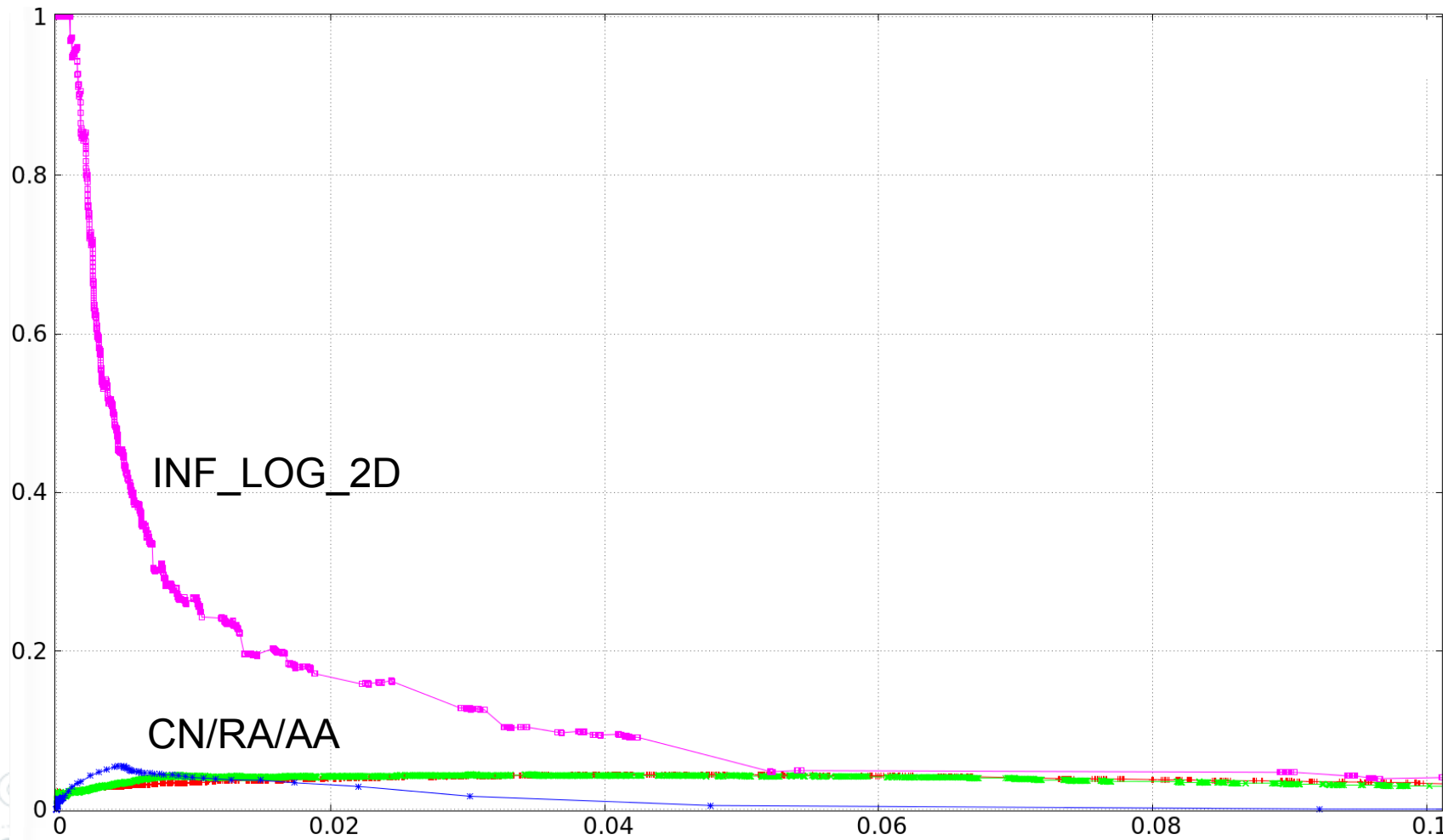
© WordNet — RA (red), AA (green) CN (blue), INF\_LOG\_2D (pink)





## Data Sets & Results

OpenCyc — RA (red), AA (green) CN (blue), INF\_LOG\_2D (pink)



## Data Sets & Results

So it work for hierarchical graphs... what about non-hierarchical ones?

-IMDb (movies, directors, genres and tags)

λ 1.9M vertices, 7.5M edges

-Web graphs\* (web pages and hyperlinks)

λ Notre Dame: 325K vertices, 1.5M edges

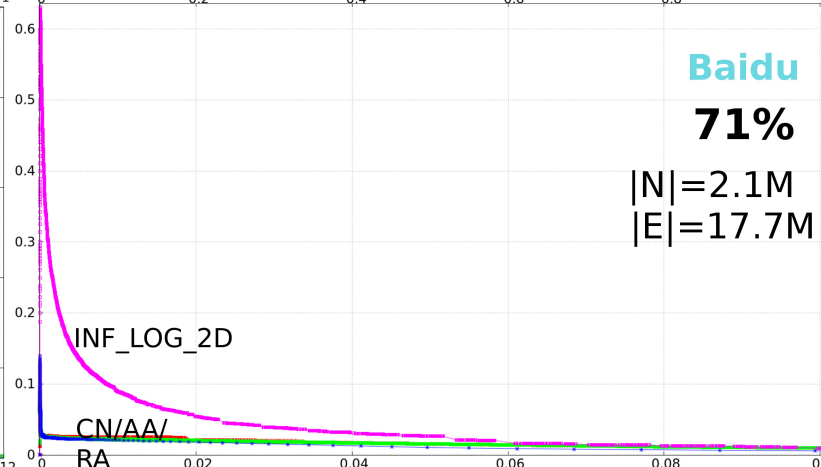
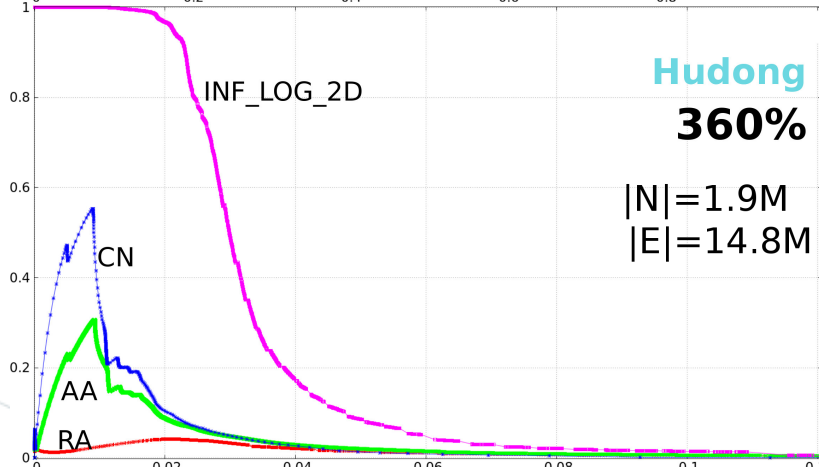
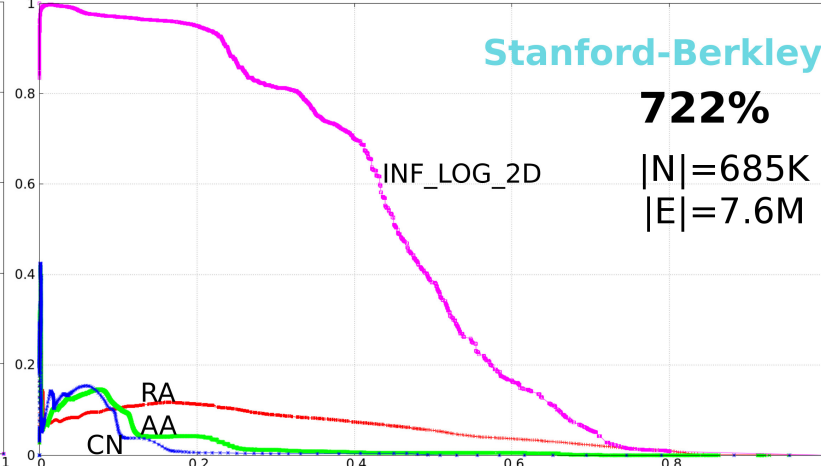
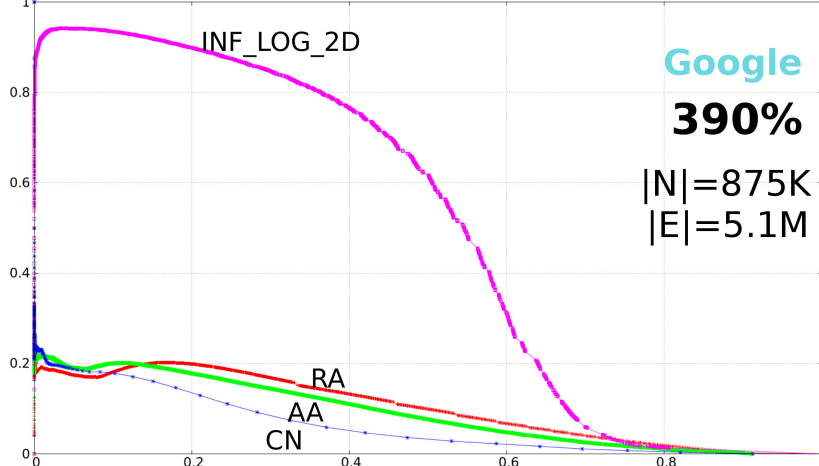
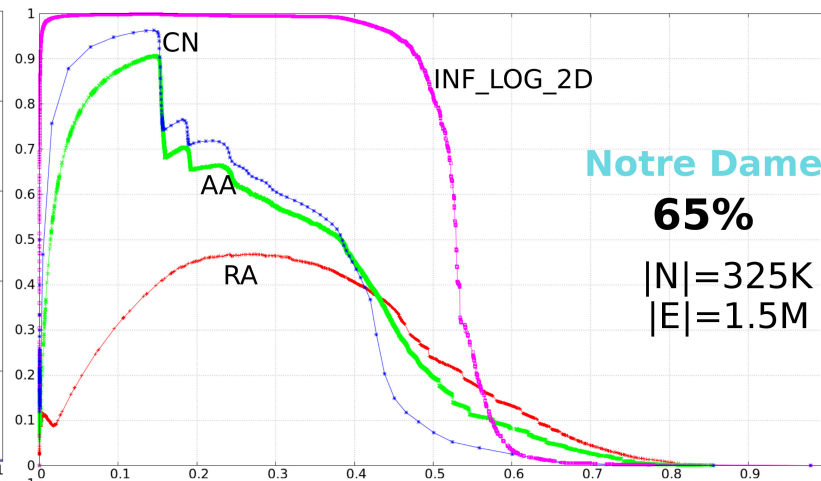
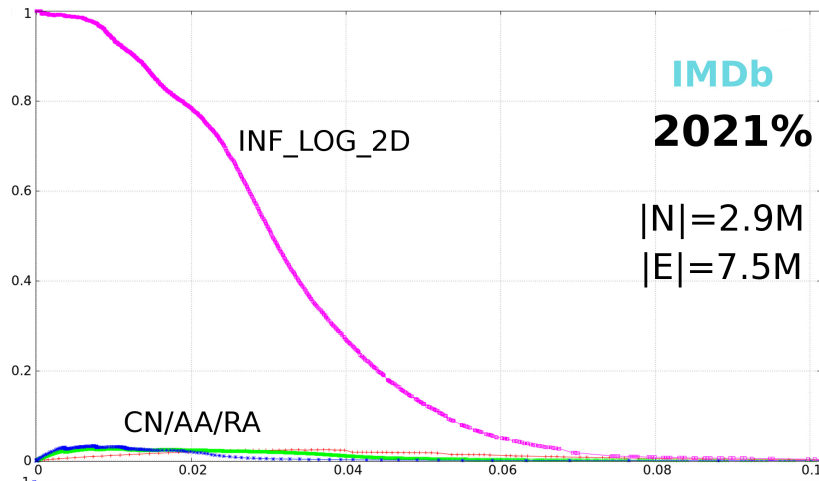
λ Stanford-Berkley: 685K vertices, 7.6M edges

λ Google: 875K vertices, 5.1M edges

λ Hudong: 1.9M vertices, 14.8M edges

λ Baidu: 2.1M vertices, 17.7M edges





## Overview

- ① Motivation
- ① State of the Art
- ① Hypothesis
- ① Hierarchical Link Prediction
- ① Computational Models & Designs
- ① Data Sets & Results
- ① **Conclusions**
- ① Discussion & Future Work



## Conclusions

- ◎ Hierarchies are latent in some large graphs  
*-“Naturally!”*
- ◎ Hierarchies can be used for Link Prediction  
*-“No they can't. They should!”*
- ◎ It is feasible to do large-scale Link Prediction  
*-“Link Prediction and HPC: a perfect couple”*



## Conclusions

### ◎ INFerence

- Do not build a model, just use it
- Proportional-Accumulative* scores
- Huge leap in predictive performance

λ **Precision**

**Scalability**

### ◎ Evaluation under class super-imbalance

- Do not do it all, just do it right



## Overview

- ① Motivation
- ① State of the Art
- ① Hypothesis
- ① Hierarchical Link Prediction
- ① Computational Models & Designs
- ① Data Sets & Results
- ① Conclusions
- ① Discussion & Future Work



## Discussion & Future Work

- Data-intensive tasks: Cost, data structures and locality
- Large-scale graphs
  - OmpSs/Scalegraph on cluster
- HPC & Graph Mining: Models, algorithms, ...
- Traverse vs intersection design





## Discussion & Future Work

- Applications
  - Search engines, product recommendation, research support, etc.
- Improving INFerence
  - Tunned parameters
  - Quasi-local INF
- Deep Learning + Graph Mining





**Thanks**

KEMLg  
BSC

[dariog@lsi.upc.edu](mailto:dariog@lsi.upc.edu)

[dario.garcia@bsc.es](mailto:dario.garcia@bsc.es)

[ia@cs.upc.edu](mailto:ia@cs.upc.edu)



## Credits

Special thanks to all the people who made and released these awesome resources for free:

- © [Simple line icons](#) by Mirko Monti
- © [E-commerce icons](#) by Virgil Pana
- © [Streamline iconset](#) by Webalys
- © Presentation template by [SlidesCarnival](#)
- © Photographs by [Unsplash](#) & [Death to the Stock Photo \(license\)](#)

