An On-line Analytical Processing (OLAP) Aggregation Function for Rising Aspects in Collaboration and Social Networks

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Abstract: The overwhelming usage of social and collaboration networks provides the opportunity to analyze evolution of relationships among individuals, like celebrities or co-authors. Discovering such phenomenon in large complex networks is non-trivial due to their large sizes. In this situation, the aggregation functions used in OLAP, are useful to analyze the summarized data. OLAP has successfully proven its worth on multidimensional or complex networks. However, existing aggregations in the current OLAP systems do not produce versatile results in case of social and collaboration networks. This happens because said type of networks have structural connectivity/links among nodes, which cannot be considered by OLAP during its execution. In this situation, a useful discovery in terms of identifying pairs of nodes whose relationships is emerging in recent time, is missed. Such discovery of pairs of nodes is important for various applications such as targeted marketing, future joint partnerships and predicting future correspondence to name a few. In this study, we call such pairs as Rising_Pairs and propose an aggregation function for performing OLAP on network data whose historical information is maintained over a period of times. Using structural information, Rising_Pairs, our proposed aggregation function, discovers the strongly coupled pairs in a network data by emphasizing their recent interactions and attribute similarities. In this way, useful information related to strongly coupled pairs in a network is identified. To verify the effectiveness of our proposal, we implemented it on various types of real-world networks like Facebook, Digital Bibliography and Library Project (DBLP) and Global Positioning System (GPS) trajectory datasets and observed interesting patterns.

Keywords: Social Networks, OLAP, Aggregation Functions, Data Analysis, Bibliographic Data, Rising Phenomenon, Temporal Trends, Summarization

Introduction

Online social networks are extremely popular these days. People are making excessive use of them for wide variety of purposes such as social interaction (Huberman et al., 2008), content sharing (Lange, 2007), community detection (Li and Shen, 2011), viral marketing (Subramani and Rajagopalan, 2003), news sharing (Li Zhang et al., 2004), job recruitment (Calvo-Armengol and Jackson, 2004) and many others. All such tasks are easily performed, hence, the number of users is increasing rapidly. Similarly, many social media users are interested to analyze interactions (in the form of pairs) between the celebrities, they follow. The celebrities can be of type couples of movie actors and actresses or a pair of researchers collaborating together. It is of keen interest of such users to see how the individual relationships and the personal interests of some of the celebrities, are changing with the passage of time. They want to see how their favorites got close to...
each other and adopted similar habits although their initial relationships and similarities were too little. In a nutshell, the recent and growing affiliations of the celebrities, are important to be analyzed compared to their interactions in the past.

To identify aforementioned types of scenario in the domain of bibliographic data, we find that various tools and systems have been developed in literature like Bernabei et al. (2015); Burch et al. (2015); Pflugrad (2017); Mezzanzanica et al. (2018); Cesarini et al. (2018); Mercorio et al. (2019a). Modelling data of DBLP as a social network and then performing various network analysis tasks on this dataset is an interesting area of research as highlighted by Biryukov and Dong (2010). Such analysis on DBLP provides answers to questions such as analyze the research community in the computer science field Babskova et al. (2013) Kumar et al. (2017) Cabot et al. (2018) Mercorio et al. (2019b) Abazi-Bexheti et al. (2019), identifying the field experts Yang et al. (2013) Moreira et al. (2015) Pflugrad (2017), and publication and venue quality analysis Ueda et al. (2017) Fathalla et al. (2018) Herrmannova (2018) Keselman (2019) to name a few. An interesting scenario is when the researchers had co-authored more papers at the start of their collaboration period and have similar research areas. However, there is no joint contribution from them in the recent past and their research interests have also changed. This pair can be regarded as strongly bonded in terms of having large number of joint publications but if their recent interactions are low, then they cannot be titled as tightly connected pairs.

Analyzing interactions among pairs of nodes (referred as celebrities in previous paragraph), over a period of time, in large social networks is computationally expensive (Tang et al., 2009). However, quantitative analysis using various aggregation functions provide useful statistics in an efficient manner. In this regard, OLAP is a useful database tool. Using OLAP, we can perform various analytics like roll-up, drill down, slice and dice. OLAP also makes highly use of various aggregation functions to analyze the summarized data at various levels of granularity.

We observe that many researchers are using OLAP techniques in social and collaboration network datasets (Zhao et al., 2011; Chen et al., 2008; Qu et al., 2011; Queiroz-Sousa and Salgado, 2019; Bleco and Kotidis, 2019; Ghrab et al., 2020). On the other hand, applying aggregation functions during OLAP ignore the structural connectivity among nodes. The exiting aggregation functions produce only the simple summarized results like total number of nodes, maximum edge weight, path length among others. However, analyzing phenomenon like increasing and decreasing trends over the time, cannot be easily captured by them.

In this study, we propose an aggregation function, Rising_Pairs, for performing OLAP on network datasets that estimates the strength of relationship between the pair of nodes over a given period of time. The proposed function discovers the pairs of nodes in a network whose initial coupling was weak, but they are emerging tightly coupled pairs. To identify such pairs, we first build timed stamped construction of social and collaboration networks to maintain the historical interactions in edge attributes between the nodes and their interests/habits as attributes. Rising_Pairs then aggregates the interactions and attributes similarities to find required pairs of nodes. The underlying phenomenon of our proposed function is based on a statistical measure Exponential Moving Average (EMA) (Lawrance and Lewis, 1977) and is published as our conference paper (Khan et al., 2012).

Related Works

OLAP is a useful tool to analyze aggregated data at various levels of granularity. From its success stories on relational data, people have used for variety of data like unstructured (Baars and Kemper, 2008), sequence (Lo et al., 2008), streaming (Han et al., 2005) and many others. OLAP for social networks is another much focused area in the recent past. Zhao et al. (2011; Chen et al., 2008; Qu et al., 2011) the data warehousing and OLAP frameworks are presented for social networks and is comprehensively explained how to take maximum benefit from such decision support tools in this scenario. All of these research studies describe measures as the aggregated graphs, but their focus is not towards utilizing the aggregation functions on the underlying data. Similarly, OLAP is used as a concept in some research studies on graphs to analyze the data at various levels of details. For example, Tian et al. (2008) provides graph summarization using SNAP and k-SNAP operations but resembles much with applying clustering on graphs. Similarly the objectives of graph summarization and compression techniques in (LeFevre and Terzi, 2010; Liu et al., 2008; Navlakha et al., 2008) are significantly different to that of ours.

The motivation of the proposed function, Rising_Pairs, also resembles to finding the closely related vertices in graphs. In this respect, hierarchical clustering (Kauffman and Rousseeuw, 2009) is most similar. However, Rising_Pairs concentrates on the historic relationship pattern of directly connected vertices, analyzes the recent similarity of attributes values. The graph theoretical concept of betweenness centrality is also related but it differs as it helps finding influential nodes in the graph and more inclined towards shortest path problem (Freeman, 1977) and so is the case of measures like vertex between ness and edge between ness (Girvan and Newman, 2002).
The OLAP aggregation functions have shown promising results on relational data. However there are few studies like (Chui et al., 2010; Ravat et al., 2008; 2007) in which the authors have proposed new aggregation functions to perform OLAP on sequence and text data as the existing functions do not satisfy the domain specific requirements.

The concept for historical organization of social networks is related to the model, Time aggregated graph, presented in (George and Shekhar, 2008). The elements of the graph are attached with time varying attributes to capture the values over the passage of time which are quite similar to the edge attributes of the graph organization presented in this study. However, time aggregated graph is designed specifically keeping in mind the requirements of spatiotemporal networks. On the other hand, the motivation for timed historical network is from OLAP perspective whose main task is to support historical analysis. Furthermore, we propose the aggregation of social network’s data at various levels of granularity. The focus of this research is the aggregation function which requires the underlying network data in historical manner. We are in the process of delivering more intensive research work on timed historical network in near future. The main idea of contact network presented in (Shirani-Mehr et al., 2012) also show some similarities to the timed historical network but differs in such a way that it utilized Time Expanded Network (TEN) as its basis for modeling which vary from timed historical network significantly.

The Graph OLAP model presented in (Chen et al., 2008) resembles to the timed historical network as well but differs in such a way that there is no specification to capture the time varying aspects. On the other hand, the timed historical network provides comprehensive details to set the basis for historical analysis with respect to the interaction among the users of the social networks.

Temporal publication trend analysis Song et al. (2014) Orr and Ortiz (2013) Swaraj and Manjula (2016) Seo et al. (2020) Ryu (2020) is another area of research where authors have used DBLP and similar datasets. In Kim et al. (2012), the authors analyze the pattern of publications which eventually help them to identify the scientific output of the research groups. The evolution of communities of researchers with similar topics and interests over a selected time frame is done in Song et al. (2014). A very recent study shows that the single author publication are decreasing with the passage of time and discussed various aspects in their study Ryu (2020). The quality and quantity of publications from a selected group over a time span of around eight years is also evaluated for decision making purpose Seo et al. (2020).

**Historical Organization of Social Networks**

The current snapshot or view of the social network explains the present picture such as number of available persons, current value of their attributes and total number of interactions between any two persons. It is unable to show how the network has evolved with the passage of time, what was the attribute value at given time and what was the interaction strength of an arbitrary pair in a given time.

Organizing the historical view of a social network is suitable to perform the trends analysis. The monitoring of individual relationship patterns and behavioral changes can be accomplished only if historical data is available. Therefore, the analysis using the present-day data yields non-context aware results. Moreover, the motivation is to answer any kind of future unknown requirements for analysis.

Time-stamped attributes can be used to maintain all the historical changes of social networks. As the slowly changing dimensions operate in dimensional modeling (Kimball and Ross, 2011), the time-stamped attributes can also be adopted to capture the changes taking place in social networks. This organization supports the historic and trend analysis vital for deriving more knowledge and decision making. Since, it clearly depicts how the two persons have been interacting with each other over a particular time frame.

Figure 1 (a) illustrates the DBLP co-authorship network at certain instance of time. Each vertex denotes an author having an attribute showing his/her research area. And each edge represents the number of co-authored papers. However, it cannot show their recent collaborative work and previous research interests. On the other hand, in Fig. 1 (b), we can easily analyze the historical co-authorship progress and the research interests.

The aggregated data along with the historical information provides a more robust environment to analyze the data at various levels of granularity and from multiple dimensions. There exists an entirely different variety of information at each granular level, which provides more insights of the underlying data. Figure 1 (c) shows the historical aggregation of Fig. 1 (b). There is a trade-off between the aggregation and structural information at the aggregated level. It becomes difficult to maintain the complete structural semantics of the network at higher levels of hierarchy, as there is an essential need to keep the historical information.

Now we present formal definitions for social network, the time stamped attributes and the historically organized social network to clearly communicate our aim in this study.

**Definition 1. Social Network (SN)**

At given instance of time, say \( T_i \), a social network \( SN \) is defined as a network \( SN = (V, E, VA, EA) \) where \( V \) is the set of vertices \( (\forall v \in V) \), \( E \) is the set of edges \((E \in V, * V)\). \( VA \) and \( EA \) are the attributes attached to vertices and edges respectively.
Definition 2. Vertex Centric Time-Stamped Attributes (VTSA)

Given a set of time intervals \( T = T_1, T_2, ..., T_n \), VTSA is defined as an attribute \( a_i \in A \) of vertex \( V \) having values \( (v_1, v_2, ..., v_n) \) for each interval of time.

Definition 3. Edge-Centric Time-Stamped Attribute (ETSA)

Given a set of time intervals \( T = \{T_1, T_2, ..., T_n\} \), ETSA is defined as an attribute \( a_i \in A \) of edge \( E \) where \( (E \in V_i \times V_j) \) for each pair of vertices. It stores the count of interactions between a pair of vertices \( (u, v) \in V \) at every time interval \( T_i \).

Definition 4. Timed Historical Network (THN)

Given a set of time intervals \( T = \{T_1, T_2, ..., T_n\} \), THN is a collection of social network snapshots \( \{SN_1, SN_2, ..., SN_n\} \) at each time interval \( T_i \). THN is defined as a network \( THN = (V, E, VTSA, ETSA) \) where \( V \) is the set of vertices \( (\forall v \in V) \), \( E \) is the set of edges \( (E \in V_i \times V_j) \), VTSA is the time-stamped vertex attribute and ETSA is the time-stamped edge attribute.

Algorithm 1 is the pseudo code for constructing THN. The basic idea is to integrate all the snapshots of a network obtained at various time intervals to preserve all the topological changes and changes in attributes of nodes. The algorithm takes the snapshots of the network as various intervals of time and the optional list of dimensions through which aggregations are done. At line 1, the while loop iterates through each snapshot of the network. Lines 2-15 operate on the vertices of snapshot. The comparisons for aggregation and procedures at Line 3, 4 and 13 are only performed when the aggregation is required. Lines 5-7 are the vertex existence comparisons and the corresponding steps are performed and attribute values in VTSA. Lines 16-22 operate on the edges for \( (u, v) \) in snapshot. The edge is created along with its ETSA on line 18 if it does not exist. Otherwise the interaction count between a pair for snapshot \( T_i \) is stored in ETSA at line 21.

Proposed Methodology

In this section, we present the proposed aggregation function Rising_Pairs. We begin with its explanation followed by an illustrative example, then discuss the algorithm and finally the performance concerns.

OLAP Aggregation Function: Rising_Pairs

The purpose of the proposed function, Rising_Pairs, is to filter out the strongly coupled pairs of vertices in THN in terms of their higher recent interactions in ETSA and more similarity in the recent values of VTSA. There is more emphasis on the recent behavior rather than on the overall or aggregated one. This is so because there is the possibility that the aggregated value of ETSA for one pair is greater than that of other, but the recent values of former can be much less than those of the later. Similarly, there can be more similarity between the recent VTSA values of one pair than those of the other. A downfall in the recent ETSA values and dissimilarity in the recent VTSA values may mean an ending relationship. Therefore, Rising_Pairs are the pairs of vertices whose recent interaction count is higher and have significant similarities in their attribute values.

The motivation for Rising_Pairs is from the statistical function EMA which is a kind of moving average, but more weight is given to the latest data. EMA is a well-known function in businesses, financial circles and stock markets. It gives more weight to the recent trends in the market. We utilize this concept in social and collaboration networks organized as THN and find the rising pairs by considering their recent behavior. The original formula of EMA is not suitable to serve the needs of social networks as it incorporates the structural information.
Algorithm 1: Historical data organization of social networks

Input: Snapshots of the Social Networks at various time intervals, List of Dimensions
Output: Timed Historical Network, THN

1. while total number of snapshots do
   2. for each \((u, v) \in V\) do
      3. if Dimensions of \((u, v)\) are same with respect to given Dims then
         4. create an aggregated vertex \(av\);
         5. if \(av\) does not exist in THN then
            6. create a vertex and store the current \(Dim\) values in VTSA;
         7. end
      8. else
         9. add current dimension values in corresponding VTSA for time \(T_i\);
      10. end
   11. end
   12. else
   13. create new aggregated vertex and edge for every combination of given Dims;
   14. end
   15. end
   16. for each \(e\) \((u, v)\) do
      17. if \(e\) does not exist in THN then
         18. create an edge \(e\) and store the current interaction count in its ETSA;
      19. end
      20. else
      21. add the current interaction count in corresponding ETSA for time \(T_i\);
   22. end
   23. end
   24. end

In order to identify the rising pairs, there is a need to have some measurable criteria to compare and determine the relationship strength of the pairs. We term it as the Rising_Value of each pair. So, the pairs having higher or comparable Rising_Value to that of the pair having the maximum interactions count and most similar characteristics are regarded as the rising/emerging pairs in the THN. The formal definition of Rising_Value is Rising_Value \((ETSA_i, VTSA_u, VTSA_v, N)\) Return [rising value of given pair]. The function receives as input the historical interactions pattern between a pair in ETSA, the historically organized attributes, VTSA, of each user and the total number of snapshots \(N\). It returns the relationship strength of the given pair. The specification for Rising_Value is given in Equation. 1:

\[
\text{Rising\_value} = \sum_{i=1}^{N} \left( \frac{ETSA_i}{N-i+1} + \text{Sim}(VTSA_u, VTSA_v) \right) \tag{1}
\]

where, \(ETSA_i\) is the value interaction count or edge weight between the pair at time \(T_i\), \(N\) is the total number of snapshots of the THN, \(Sim\) is the similarity between the attribute value of each member \((u, v)\) of the pair at time \(T_i\). The calculations of \(ETSA_i\) and similarity are given in Equation. 2 and 3 respectively. It is necessary to explain the fact that the Equation 1 considers only the single attribute of each user to measure the similarity. This attribute can be hobby in Facebook or research area in DBLP. We believe that Equation 1 can easily be extended to incorporate multiple attributes of the users to measure the similarity:

\[
TSA = \frac{\text{Max}(ETSA) - \text{Min}(ETSA)}{\text{Max}(ETSA) - \text{Min}(ETSA)} \tag{2}
\]

where, \(ETSA\) is the interaction count at time \(T_i\), whereas, \(\text{Min}(ETSA)\) and \(\text{Max}(ETSA)\) are the minimum and maximum number of interactions between the pairs. The interaction count is normalized, in order to overcome the situation when the interaction count of a pair is so high that it cannot be compared with other potential rising pair. This situation is illustrated in Fig. 2:

\[
\text{Sim}(VTSA_u, VTSA_v) = \begin{cases} 
1 & \text{if } (i = N) \\
0 < x < 1 & \text{if } (i < N) \\
0 & \text{if } (i = 0) 
\end{cases} \tag{3}
\]

We formally define the function Rising_Pairs as Rising_Pairs \((THN, Dim_1, Dim_2, ..., Dim_m)\) Return [list of rising pairs]. The function takes as input the THN, a list of dimensions in which to find the rising pairs and returns a list of rising pairs in the THN.

It may be argued that rising pairs can also be computed by writing multiple SQL queries comprising of various existing aggregation functions. However, we believe that sometimes it is not a straightforward job using existing aggregation functions. Therefore, our function avoids the requirements of strong SQL skills and enables the users to focus on data analysis rather than first deriving the data as the case in (Borzsony et al., 2001).

Examples of Rising Pairs

Consider Table 1, it shows the co-authorship pattern of three different pairs of authors of DBLP. THN. The column Time interval shows various time instances when the network snapshots were taken. ETSA represents the number of co-authored papers in each time interval and VTSA displays the resemblance of two authors in terms of similarity of research areas. Rising_Value for each time interval is calculated using Equation 1. Total indicates the aggregated values of each pair.
We observe that the pair 1-2 has highest number of publications and their similarity is initially high, but as the time goes by, there is a decrease in collaborative work and similarity. The net results show much lower Rising_Value compared to other pairs whose situation was opposite to pair 1-2. There lies the effectiveness of the function Rising_Pairs that it brings forth the pairs whose simple quantitative results are not prominent but there is great potential in them. All the existing aggregation functions are limited in their capabilities to explore such underlying phenomenon and merely reflect the summarized results that do not show the actual situation.

**Algorithm**

Algorithm 2 presents the pseudo code for identifying the rising pairs in THN. It takes THN as an input along with the dimension(s) and operates iteratively for each pair of vertices across all the snapshots. At line 1, pair having highest aggregated interactions count using its ETSA is identified and is named as \((u, v)_H\). Line 2 determines its Rising_Value. From lines 3-13, the entire THN is traversed. Lines 4-13 operate on each pair of in THN. At line 5 the Rising_Value of current pair is determined. Lines 6 and 9 compares the rising value of \((u, v)_H\) and that of current pair. If rising value of current pair is high or comparable to that of \((u, v)_H\), it is declared as the rising pair. By comparable, we mean that although it is less than that of \((u, v)_H\) but increasing with the passage of time and is expected to be significant later on.

**Performance Concerns**

The aggregation functions are categorized into distributive, algebraic and holistic functions. The distributive and algebraic functions rely on intermediate results, whereas, the holistic functions need to access the base level tuples for their computation. So, these kind of functions are difficult to optimize (Lenz and Thalheim, 2001). Unfortunately, the proposed function is closer to holistic category. It iterates through each snapshot of network and incrementally calculates the Rising_Value, which is computationally expensive when number of snapshots are really high in number.

**Algorithm 2: Rising Pairs**

**Input:** Timed Historical Network, List of Dimensions

**Output:** List of rising/emerging pairs in the network

1. Identify the pair \((u, v)\in V\) having highest aggregated value of \(ETSA\), known as \((u, v)_H\), in given dimensions;
2. Calculate Rising_Value for \((u, v)_H\) by Equation 1;
3. while \(THN\). End of File do
for each pair \((u, v) \in V\) and \((u, v) \neq (v, u)\) do
  Calculate \(\text{Rising\_Value}\) for \((u, v)\) by Equation 1;
  if \(\text{Rising\_Value\ of\ (u, v)} \leq \text{Rising\_Value\ of\ (u, v)\ in\ the\ previous\ interval}\) then
    declare \((u, v)\) as rising pair;
  end
  else if \(\text{Rising\_Value\ of\ (u, v)} \text{ and } \text{Rising\_Value\ of\ (u, v)\ in\ the\ previous\ interval}\) comparable then
    declare \((u, v)\) as rising pair;
  end
end

### Experimental Study

In order to verify the effectiveness of proposed function, we utilized it on a variety of real-world collaborative and social networks. The reason to select the different kinds of dataset is to show the usefulness of the proposed function in different domains. The emphasis is to highlight the fact that such phenomenon is prevailing in different environments. There is a need to explore new functions, like Rising_Pairs, whose focus is on discovering hidden information.

### Datasets

In this section, we explain the social networks datasets used for validating the Rising_Pairs.

### Facebook

We used the Facebook dataset containing the wall postings between a number of users at various time intervals, made publicly available by (Viswanath et al., 2009). We found the maximum number of wall posts in the year 2008, so we extracted the data for this year only from the dataset. The dataset was then divided into 12 snapshots of one month each in order to arrange it in the form of THN.

### DBLP

The PROXIMITY DBLP1 database is based on data from the DBLP Computer Science Bibliography with additional preparation performed by the Knowledge Discovery Laboratory, University of Massachusetts Amherst.

We divided the dataset into seven partitions of five years each from i.e., [1998-2000), [2000, 2002), [2002, 2004), [2004, 2006), [2006, 2008), [2008, 2010) and [2010, 2012]. Each interaction between any two authors is attached with an attribute, holding the number of co-authored papers in a given time interval. Each author is attached with the attribute specifying his/her research area. The research area is figured out using the conference of publications. Since, all the conferences fall into various research categories, so they are combined according to their Focus of Research (FoR). This creates the dimensional hierarchy for the authors as displayed in Fig. 3. We considered only the first two authors of each paper for co-authorship network. The categorization of conferences into FoRs is achieved using the resources provided by “The Computing Research and Education Association of Australasia (CORE)”2. The observed FoRs are given in Table 2. During data pre-processing, it was found that the name of some of the conferences, existing in DBLP dataset, is missing in the list maintained by CORE.

### GeoLife Trajectory Dataset

This dataset was collected during (Microsoft Research Asia) Geolife project of 182 users in a period of over three years (April 2007-August 2012) and was downloaded from Microsoft research webpage3. The dataset contains 17,621 trajectories with a total distance of about 1.2 million kilometers and a total duration of 48,000+ hours. These trajectories were recorded by different GPS loggers and GPS-phones and have a variety of sampling rates. Ninety-one percent of the trajectories are logged in a dense representation, e.g., every 1.5 seconds or every 5 10 meter per point. A GPS trajectory in this dataset is represented by a sequence of time-stamped points, each of which contains the information about latitude, longitude, date and time and also a label of used transportation mode. Available transportation modes are Walk, Bus, Bike, Car, Taxi and subway. Dataset is distributed into 6 equal time intervals, each containing data of 6 months i.e., [Jan,2007-Jun,2007], [Jun,2007-Dec,2007], [Jan,2008-Jun,2008], [Jun,2008-Dec,2008], [Jan,2009-Jun,2009] and [Jun,2009-Dec,2009]. Moving objects are divided into 11 groups on the basis of their similar locations.

### Table 2: Focus of research for conferences

|   | Information and Computing Sciences                             |   |
|---|----------------------------------------------------------------|---|
| 1 | Computer Software                                             |   |
| 2 | Computation Theory and Mathematics                            |   |
| 3 | Data Format                                                   |   |
| 4 | Other Information and Computing Sciences                      |   |
| 5 | Distributed Computing                                         |   |
| 6 | Artificial Intelligence and Image Processing                  |   |
| 7 | Information Systems                                           |   |
| 8 | Design Practice and Management                                |   |

1http://kdl.cs.umass.edu/data/dblp/dblp-info.html
2http://www.core.edu.au/team
3http://research.microsoft.com/en-us/downloads/b16d359d-d164-469c-9fd4-aaa38f2b2e13/
Experimental Results

In this section, we discuss various aspects of results generated from three different datasets such as Facebook, DBLP and GeoLife Trajectory Data respectively.

Facebook

As OLAP is good at multidimensional data analysis, so vertices must be attached with multiple attributes/dimensions. Unfortunately, the available dataset does not have any user’s attribute due to privacy concerns. In order to overcome this issue, we synthetically generated the similarity between users by declaring two users are more similar if there are high number of wall posts between them. We set a constant similarity value for users according to their number of wall posts; this value was added by a random number between 0 and 1 in order to remove any kind of overweight to any pair. The edge between each pair is attached with the time dimension to aggregate the count of wall postings at various hierarchical levels. The dimensional hierarchy is displayed in Fig. 3.

The roll-up operation is formulated by analyzing the dataset at the “Quarter” level of the dimensional hierarchy. Figure 4 displays the total wall posts between each other of various pairs. The pair “9137-41668” has the highest aggregated count, so can be termed as the most strongly connected. However, when their Rising_Value is considered, we get different observations in Fig. 5. We find that the recent interactions of this pair are very low in recent times while that of “2286-2277” is quite high, though their aggregated count is lower. Hence, it is unfair to declare them as the strongly connected pairs.

DBLP

Now we demonstrate the application of Rising_pairs on DBLP dataset. The function identifies different pairs of authors at various levels of dimensional hierarchy displayed in Fig. 3. There are different criteria at various levels of hierarchy to calculate the similarity of two authors. At FoR level, two authors are similar if they share the same research area; while they are similar when they appear together in the same conference at the conference level. The roll-up operation is formulated in such a way that the rising pairs are discovered at FoRs level. So, we point the rising pairs at the highest level of the dimensional hierarchy.

Figure 6 indicates the total co-authored papers of various authors. We observe that the pair “Irith Pomeranz-Sudhakar M. Reddy” is on top with respect to having highest count but their recent interaction and similarity is lesser to that of “Shusaku Tsumoto-Shoji Hirano”. This fact is also illustrated in Fig. 7 and 8 where the roll-up and drill down operation are displayed, showing the relationship at FoR and conference level. The recent relationship is on the decreasing stages while that of “Shusaku Tsumoto-Shoji Hirano” is better and of other pairs too.
Fig. 4: Total count of interactions from Facebook in 2008

Fig. 5: Rising_Pairs from Facebook in 2008

Fig. 6: Author’s interactions
GeoLife Trajectory

The dataset is divided into hierarchies based on time intervals and person groups respectively. Figure 3 contains the dimensional hierarchy for time and persons respectively. Attribute considered for each transport mode is its effect in densely populated areas. For example, in case of most inhabited zones using public transport as compared to private is better and can put a positive impact on the environment. Weights are assigned to each transport mode based on its influence on the environment in the following order: Walk, Subway, Bike, Bus, Taxi, Car. Maximum weight is acquired by Walk and minimum is assigned to the Car. Similarly, each person group is also assigned weight on the basis of their activeness toward solving densely populated environment. Based on our assumption, weights are assigned in the descending order from Group 1 to Group 11. While applying the similarity measure in Rising_Pairs if an object from an active group (having high attribute value) interacts with more high value transport mode an extra weight is assigned to this pair.

In roll-up operation, the time dimension is rolled up to 1 year. Link of person with each transportation mode in all of time intervals are evaluated. Group 8 is chosen due to maximum availability of trajectory data in all data intervals. Figure 9 shows the total edge value between moving objects of group 8 and all transportation modes and rising pairs are exposed in Fig. 10. It can be observed from these figures that the total edge weight of bike, walk was greater than bus and subway respectively. But, Rising_Value shows totally different results with subway value greater than walk and bus more than the bike.

During Drill-down operation, the rising pairs are identified the lowest level of hierarchy for the time dimension. It can be seen in Fig. 11 that Rising_Value of pair of person and the subway is greater than that of others. In this process, we do not consider the presence of the count which is too high. The function Rising_Pairs is showing the groups that are influencing in positive way to solve the issue of transportation in densely populated areas.
Conclusion

In this study, we proposed an aggregation function, Rising_Pairs, for performing OLAP on collaboration and social networks. The function identifies the strongly connected users in these networks with respect to their recent behavior. It gives more weight to the recent interactions among the people and focuses on users similarities based on their associated attributes. We also proposed the historical and aggregated organization of the underlying networks to perform trend analysis. The significance of historical organization is from the fact that relying on the current status of the network, provides only the limited results. Finally, we validated the
usefulness of the function on various real-life datasets like DBLP, Facebook and Microsoft GeoLife project and observed interesting results. Further research is planned to enhance the computational efficiency of the proposed function. We also have a plan to utilize the function towards community detection in social networks. The intention is to see how the communities evolve over the time.

Acknowledgement
This work is done under the grant received by Deanship of research at Islamic University of Madinah (IUM), Saudi Arabia (10th Takamul 1440-1441 AH - Project No. 39/40). We express our thanks to the administration of FCIS and Research deanship at IUM for their support in every aspect of this work. We would like to acknowledge the work done by all the stakeholders of this project, especially, the students of the FAST University. The content is solely the responsibility of the authors and does not necessarily represent the official views of the Islamic University of Madinah.

Funding Information
This research was funded by Islamic University of Madinah under the grant of 10th Takamul program of academic year 1440-1441 AH and research project number is 39/40.

Author’s Contributions
Waqas Nawaz: The original draft preparation, project administration and funding acquisition was handled by W. Nawaz.
Kifayat Ullah Khan: The conceptualization of the idea, methodology and formal analysis is from K.U. Khan.
Muhammad Shaib Siddiqui: The article was reviewed and edited by M.S. Siddiqui.

Ethics
This article is original and contains unpublished material. The corresponding author confirms that all of the other authors have read and approved the manuscript and no ethical issues involved.

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