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► **To cite this version:**

Brahim Douar, Michel Liquière, Chiraz Latiri, Yahya Slimani. Graph-Based Relational Learning with a Polynomial Time Projection Algorithm. *ILP: Inductive Logic Programming*, Jul 2011, Cumberland Lodge, United Kingdom. pp.98-112. lirmm-00757471

**HAL Id: lirmm-00757471**

**<https://hal-lirmm.ccsd.cnrs.fr/lirmm-00757471v1>**

Submitted on 27 Nov 2012

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# Graph-based relational learning with a polynomial time projection algorithm

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**Abstract.** The paper presents a new projection operator for graphs, named AC- projection, which exhibits good complexity properties as opposed to the graph isomorphism ( $\Theta$ -subsumption) operator typically used in graph mining. We study the size of the search space and some practical properties of the projection operator. These properties give us a specialization algorithm using simple local operations. Then we prove experimentally that we can achieve an important performance gain (polynomial complexity projection) without or with non-significant loss of discovered patterns quality.

**Keywords:** Relational learning, Polynomial-complexity projection, Specialization algorithm

## 1 Introduction

One goal of machine learning is the search of patterns to regroup or separate some elements (examples or counter examples). For this goal, logic-based systems have dominated the area of relational concept learning, especially Inductive Logic Programming (ILP) systems. However, a part of first-order logic can naturally be represented as a graph [6].

In order to learn from a relational description, we need a partial order on expressions of the description language (projection operator which gives a partial order between two expressions). To deal with the complexity of such description, some authors limit the description language [1]. In [2], the author uses a different bias. The examples are described by graphs but the projection operator is not an homomorphism ( $\Theta$ -subsumption [4]) or a subgraph isomorphism (OI-subsumption [3]). It is a new matching based on arc consistency named AC-projection.

In this paper we present a novel graph mining algorithm, named AC-miner and based on the AC-projection operator, followed by some experimental evaluation of it on classical graph mining data sets.

## 2 The AC-projection Operator

**Definition 1.** (*Labeled Graph*) A labeled graph can be represented by a 4-tuple,  $G = (V, E, L, l)$ , where

- $V$  is a set of vertices,
- $E \subseteq V \times V$  is a set of edges,
- $L$  is a set of labels,
- $l : V \cup E \rightarrow L$ ,  $l$  is a function assigning labels to the vertices and the edges.

**Definition 2.** (Labeling) Let  $G_1$  and  $G_2$  be two graphs. We named labeling from  $G_1$  into  $G_2$  a mapping  $\mathcal{I} : V(G_1) \rightarrow 2^{V(G_2)} | \forall x \in V(G_1), \forall y \in \mathcal{I}(x), l(x) = l(y)$ .

**Definition 3.** (AC-compatible  $\curvearrowright$ ) Let  $G$  be a graph  $V_1 \subseteq V(G), V_2 \subseteq V(G)$   $V_1$  is AC-compatible with  $V_2$  iff

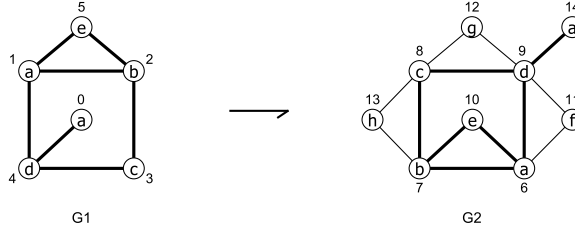
1.  $\forall x_k \in V_1 \exists y_p \in V_2 | (x_k, y_p) \in E(G)$
2.  $\forall y_q \in V_2 \exists x_m \in V_1 | (x_m, y_q) \in E(G)$ .

We note  $V_1 \curvearrowright V_2$

**Definition 4.** (Consistency for one arc) Let  $G_1$  and  $G_2$  be two graphs. We say that a labeling  $\mathcal{I} : V(G_1) \rightarrow V(G_2)$  is consistent with an arc  $(x, y) \in E(G_1)$ , iff  $\mathcal{I}(x) \curvearrowright \mathcal{I}(y)$ .

**Definition 5.** (AC-labeling) Let  $G_1$  and  $G_2$  be two graphs. A labeling  $\mathcal{I}$  from  $G_1$  into  $G_2$  is an AC-labeling iff  $\mathcal{I}$  is consistent with all the arcs  $e \in E(G_1)$ .

**Definition 6.** (AC-projection  $\rightarrow$ ) Let  $G_1$  and  $G_2$  be two graphs. An AC-labeling  $\mathcal{I} : V(G_1) \rightarrow V(G_2)$  is an AC-projection iff  $\forall$  AC-labeling  $\mathcal{I}' : V(G_1) \rightarrow V(G_2)$  and  $\forall x \in V(G_1), \mathcal{I}'(x) \subseteq \mathcal{I}(x)$ . We note it  $G_1 \rightarrow G_2$



**Fig. 1.** An AC-projection example ( $G_1 \rightarrow G_2$ )

**Definition 7.** (AC-equivalent graphs  $\Leftrightarrow$ )

Two graphs  $G_1$  and  $G_2$  are AC-equivalent iff both  $G_1 \rightarrow G_2$  and  $G_2 \rightarrow G_1$  are fulfilled. We note it  $G_1 \Leftrightarrow G_2$ .

We have an equivalence relation between graphs using the AC-projection. The smallest element in this equivalence class will be its unique representative, and for which we give then the name of “AC-reduced graph”.

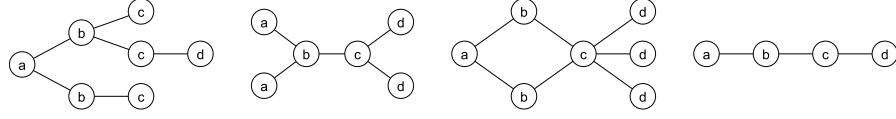


Fig. 2. AC-equivalent graphs and the associated AC-reduced one (extreme right)

### 3 Search space with AC-projection

In this section, we study the size of the search space using AC-projection. We present some properties of the AC-projection, using this properties we can find an upper bound of the search space. We present this result for one labeled graph  $G$ , but these results can be easily extended for  $n$  graphs (one for each example). In this case  $G$  is the disjoint union of the graphs describing the examples. Notation: For a labeled graph  $G:(V,E,L)$  we note  $\mathcal{P}_l(V)$ , the power set of vertices, in  $V$ , with label  $l \in L$ .

**Definition 8.** (*AC-graph*) For a labeled graph  $G:(V,E,L)$  and a set  $P$  of element  $\in \bigcup \mathcal{P}_l(V)$  with  $l \in L$ .

We construct a graph  $G':(V',E',L')$  with:

- a vertex  $v$  for each element in  $P$ . We note  $p(v) \in P$  the associated element.
- The label of a vertex  $v$  in the label of the element in  $p(v)$
- $(V_1, V_2) \in E'$  iff  $p(V_1) \sim p(V_2)$

$G'$  is an AC-graph of  $G$ .

So an AC-graph is built from a list of set of vertices from a graph  $G$ . Now, we study some links between AC-graph and AC-projection.

**Proposition 1.** For each AC-projection between two graphs  $G', G$  there is an associated AC-graph.

*Proof.* Since an AC-projection  $\mathcal{I}$ , gives, for each vertex  $x$  of  $G'$ , a set of vertex of  $G$ . The AC-graph built from an AC-projection is the one build from the set of  $I(x)$ ,  $x \in V'$ .

**Proposition 2.** For each AC-graph  $G'$  of a graph  $G$  we have  $G' \rightarrow G$ .

*Proof.* The labeling  $\mathcal{I}$  with, for each  $V \in G'$ ,  $\mathcal{I}(V) = p(V)$  is an AC-labeling from  $G'$  into  $G$  by construction.

Now for a graph  $G$  we can define a specific AC-graph built from the power set of vertices of  $G$ .

**Definition 9.** (*Max-AC-graph*) For a graph  $G:(V,E,L)$  the Max-AC-graph of  $G$  is the AC-graph built from the set  $P$  of all element  $\in \bigcup \mathcal{P}_l(V)$  with label  $l \in L$ . We note this graph Max-AC-graph( $G$ )

All subgraphs of  $\text{Max-AC-graph}(G)$  has an AC-projection into  $G$ . Since the Max-AC-graph is the biggest AC-graphe, we have our search space. The complexity of the construction of the Max-AC-graph is  $O(2^n)$  where  $n$  is the number of vertices in  $G$ . This complexity is big but for many structural descriptions (graph with homomorphism projection ..) the size of the search space is bigger by an order of magnitude.

## 4 AC-miner: A graph mining approach with a polynomial time projection

In this section we will present a basic algorithm for frequent AC-reduced subgraphs mining. The goal of this algorithm is the construction of a part of the  $\text{Max-AC-graph}(G)$  where  $G$  is the disjoint union of the graphs describing the examples ( $G$  is technically materialized by a graph database  $\mathcal{D}$  in the following). We are using a support parameter ( $\sigma$ ) as a bias which limits the search space.

### 4.1 AC-compatible extension

**Definition 10.** (*Vertex group*) Given a graph database  $\mathcal{D}$ , a vertex group  $\mathcal{V}$  is a set of vertices of the same label  $l$  and belonging to graphs in  $\mathcal{D}$ . The most general vertex group  $\mathcal{V}^l$  is the maximal vertex group of a given label  $l$ .

The AC-compatible extension, is the core operation of the AC-miner algorithm. Given a vertex group  $\mathcal{V}$  and a vertex label  $l$ , the AC-compatible extension consists in finding the maximal subset  $\mathcal{V}$  that is AC-compatible with a maximal subset of the most general vertex group ( $\mathcal{V}^l$ ). The AC-compatible extension is considered to be valid w.r.t. a minimal support parameter ( $\sigma$ ) if and only if the vertices in  $\mathcal{V}$  appears at least in  $\sigma$  graphs of the graph database  $\mathcal{D}$ .

### 4.2 The AC-miner algorithm

The AC-miner algorithm (see Algorithm 1) starts by adding for each vertex label in the graph database  $\mathcal{D}$  its associated most general vertex group  $\mathcal{V}^l$  in the *jobs* list (Algorithm 1 line 1). This list contains the remaining vertex group to extend. Then, based on this list (*jobs*) it starts the main computational loop. During each iteration it will try to make an AC-compatible extension for the current vertex group with each one of the graph database labels (Algorithm 1 line 4). If there is an AC-compatible extension, AC-miner will add (if not already done) the two vertex group children as well as an edge between them to the  $\mathcal{G}$  AC-graphe and the *jobs* list (lines 6-12). The algorithm will iterates till the *jobs* list becomes empty. At this stage, the algorithm will extract all the connected components from the  $\mathcal{G}$  AC-graph. These subgraphs represent the frequent AC-reduced subgraphs.

**Algorithm 1:** AC-miner

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**Input** : Graph database  $\mathcal{D}$ , Minimal Support  $\sigma$ , AC-graphe  $\mathcal{G}$  (local)  
**Output**:  $\mathcal{F}$  = frequent AC-reduced subgraphs

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1  $jobs = \{\cup \mathcal{V}^l | l \in \mathcal{D}.getLabels()\};$ 
2 while  $jobs \neq \emptyset$  do
3    $\mathcal{V} = jobs.getFirst();$ 
4   for  $\{\forall l | l \in \mathcal{D}.getLabels(), l \notin \mathcal{V}.getForbidden()\}$  do
5     if AC-compatible-Extension( $\mathcal{V}, \mathcal{V}^l, \mathcal{V}_{child}, \mathcal{V}_{child}^l, \sigma$ ) then
6       if  $\mathcal{V}_{child} \notin \mathcal{G}$  then
7          $\mathcal{G} = \mathcal{G} \cup \mathcal{V}_{child};$ 
8          $jobs = jobs \cup \mathcal{V}_{child};$ 
9       if  $\mathcal{V}_{child}^l \notin \mathcal{G}$  then
10         $\mathcal{G} = \mathcal{G} \cup \mathcal{V}_{child}^l;$ 
11         $jobs = jobs \cup \mathcal{V}_{child}^l;$ 
12         $\mathcal{G}.addEdge(\mathcal{V}_{child}, \mathcal{V}_{child}^l);$ 
13 return  $\mathcal{G}.getConnectedComponents();$ 

```

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## 5 Experiments And Comparative Study

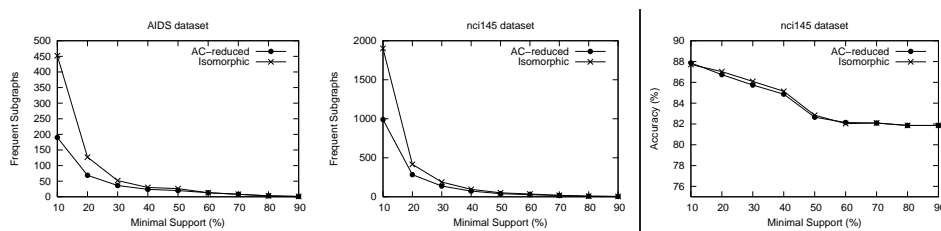
In order to prove the usefulness of the AC-projection for graph mining, we present in the following a qualitative evaluation of the AC-reduced patterns which consists in a calculation of their discriminative power within a supervised graph classification process.

**Datasets:** We carried out classification experiments on two real-world datasets group widely cited in the literature : The anti-cancer screen datasets (nci) and the AIDS antiviral screen data (aids) as in [7].

**Methods:** We evaluated the classification accuracy using two different feature sets : Isomorphic and AC-reduced. Each chemical compound is represented by a binary vector with length equal to the number of mined subgraphs. Each subgraph is mapped to a specific vector index, and if a chemical compound contains a subgraph then the bit at the corresponding index is set to one, otherwise it is set to zero.

**Results:** All classifications have been done using the well-known C4.5 decision tree classifier [5]. We have reported results of the prediction accuracy over 10 cross-validation trials. According to results shown in Figure 3a and 3b, we see that for all datasets we have very few AC-reduced frequent patterns compared to the isomorphic ones. We have on average 35% less patterns. This ratio is bigger for lower supports and can reach up to 58% for the aids dataset with a minimal support of 10%. In the qualitative point of view (Figure 3c) we see that the percentage of correctly classified (PCC) instances is almost the same

for all minimal supports. Taking a more in-depth look to the results, we see that, for some datasets and minimal support values, we even have better PCC for AC-reduced feature set. This is due to the better generalization power of the AC-reduction process, which helped supervised classifiers avoiding over-fitting learning problem.



**Fig. 3.** Comparison of the number of frequent patterns (a,b) and classification accuracy (c) for aids and nci145 datasets

## 6 Conclusion

In this paper, we have studied the use of a new polynomial projection operator named AC-Projection initially introduced in [2]. We have then presented a novel algorithm named AC-miner which proceeds by specialization of expressions using very simple and fast set and neighborhood operators. This simplicity allows us to obtain a very fast algorithm which can be easily adapted for a depth first or a breadth first search strategy and can be easily parallelized as well. AC-miner is intended to mine frequent AC-reduced subgraphs from a graph database. We have experimentally showed that the number of these subgraphs is clearly smaller than isomorphic subgraphs but having a very comparable quality and discriminative power.

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