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Multi-type Clustering for the Identification of lncRNA-disease Relationships

Gianvito Pio, Francesco Serafino, Emanuele Barracchia,
Domenica D'Elia, Donato Malerba and Michelangelo Ceci

Dipartimento di Informatica, Università degli Studi di Bari "Aldo Moro", Bari, Italy

CNR- Institute for Biomedical Technologies, Bari, Italy

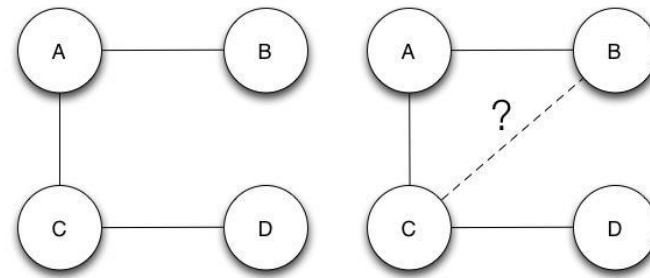


National Research
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MAESTRA
LEARNING FROM MASSIVE, INCOMPLETELY
ANNOTATED, AND STRUCTURED DATA

Introduction



ncRNA/DNA or mRNA interactions are currently **hot topics** in biology

- The first influence the latter by modulating their expression capacity
- non-coding RNAs can be:
 - **short** non-coding RNA (e.g., miRNAs)
 - **long** non-coding RNA (lncRNAs, > 200nt long)

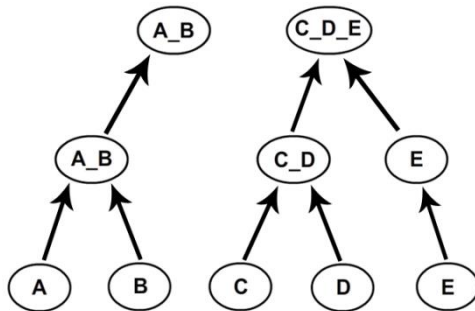
lncRNAs are also responsible of **diseases**

- **poor** amount of experimentally **evaluated interactions**
- **only positive examples** of interactions are available

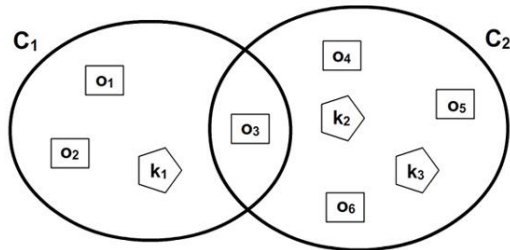
Multi-type Clustering

Idea: identification of heterogenous clusters of lncRNAs and diseases from network data (lncRNAs, miRNAs, target genes, diseases)

- Hierarchical Clustering



- Multi-type and overlapping



- Facilitates the understanding of results by human experts
- Allows choosing globally-based or locally-based predictions
- Catches relationships among objects of multiple types, which can be involved in different sub-networks

Prediction of relationships

1. Extraction of **experimentally validated** interactions from the network
2. Extraction of a **hierarchy of multi-type clusters** by applying our multi-type clustering algorithm
3. Generation of all the possible **new interactions**
4. For each hierarchical level:
 - Determine a **score** for each unknown interaction as the **combination** of the cohesiveness values associated with the clusters it belongs to
 - Return **new interactions** with their associated **score**

Cohesiveness: average strength of the relationships in the cluster

Computation of the prediction score

- Let $s(t_i)$ be the score associated to the pair t_i
- Let G_{t_i} be the set of clusters t_i belongs to
 - If $|G_{t_i}| = 1$ and $G' \in G_{t_i}$, $s(t_i) = \text{cohes}(G')$
 - Otherwise, we consider some combination strategies:
 1. **Max:** $s(t_i) = \max_{G_{j'} \in G_{t_i}} \text{cohes}(G_{j'})$
 2. **Min:** $s(t_i) = \min_{G_{j'} \in G_{t_i}} \text{cohes}(G_{j'})$
 3. **Avg:** $s(t_i) = \frac{1}{|G_{t_i}|} \sum_{G_{j'} \in G_{t_i}} \text{cohes}(G_{j'})$
 4. **Custom:** $s(t_i) = f(G_{t_i})$

The proposed custom combination strategy aims at rewarding those interactions falling in multiple (highly-cohesive) clusters.

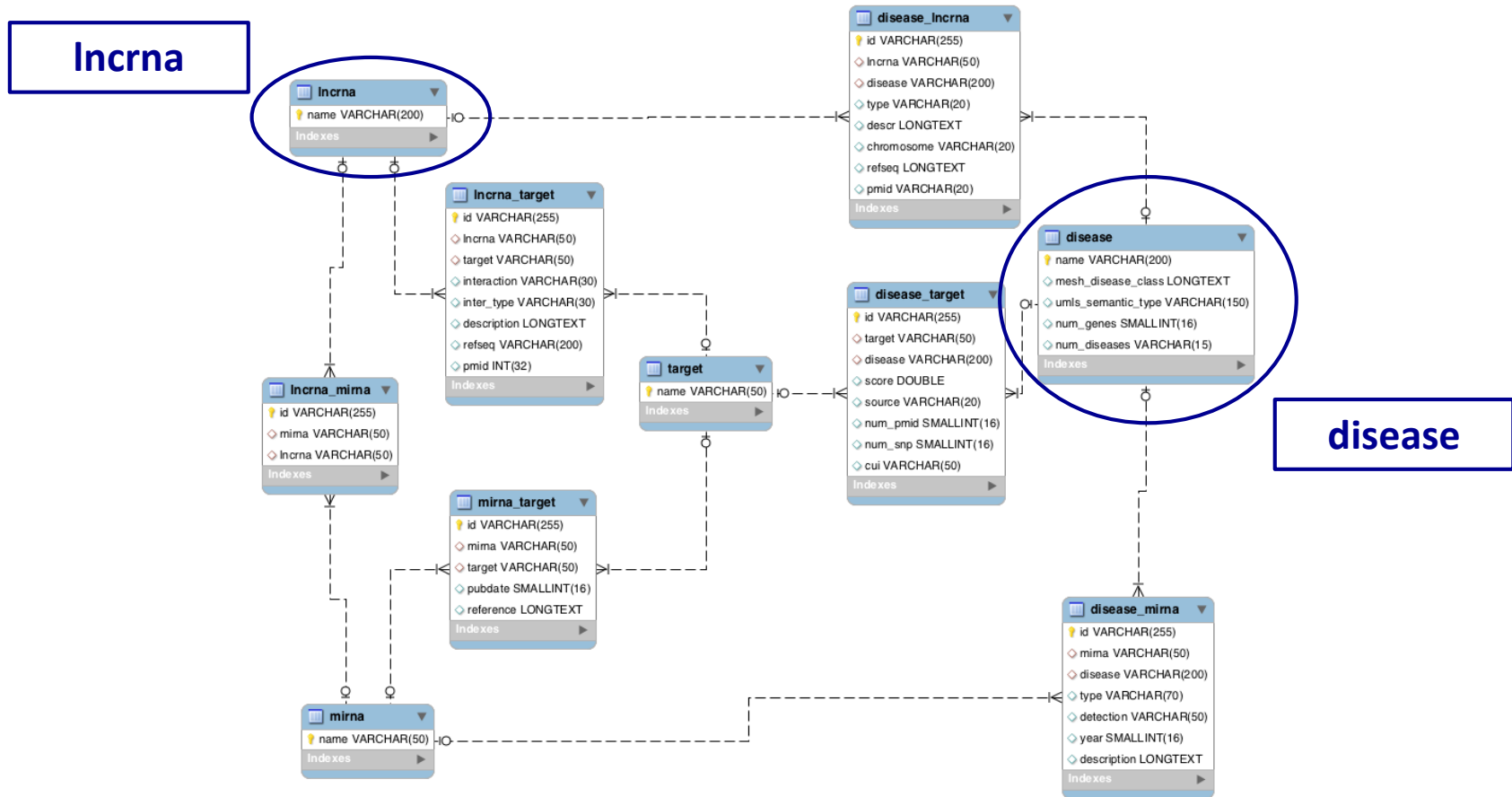
Experiments - Evaluation

- Systems
 - LP-MTRCLUS (Our System)
 - HOCCLUS2
- Measure
 - True Positive Rate $TPR = \frac{TP}{TP+FN}$
- Evaluation performed
 - By moving a threshold on the prediction scores
 - On the first three hierarchical levels

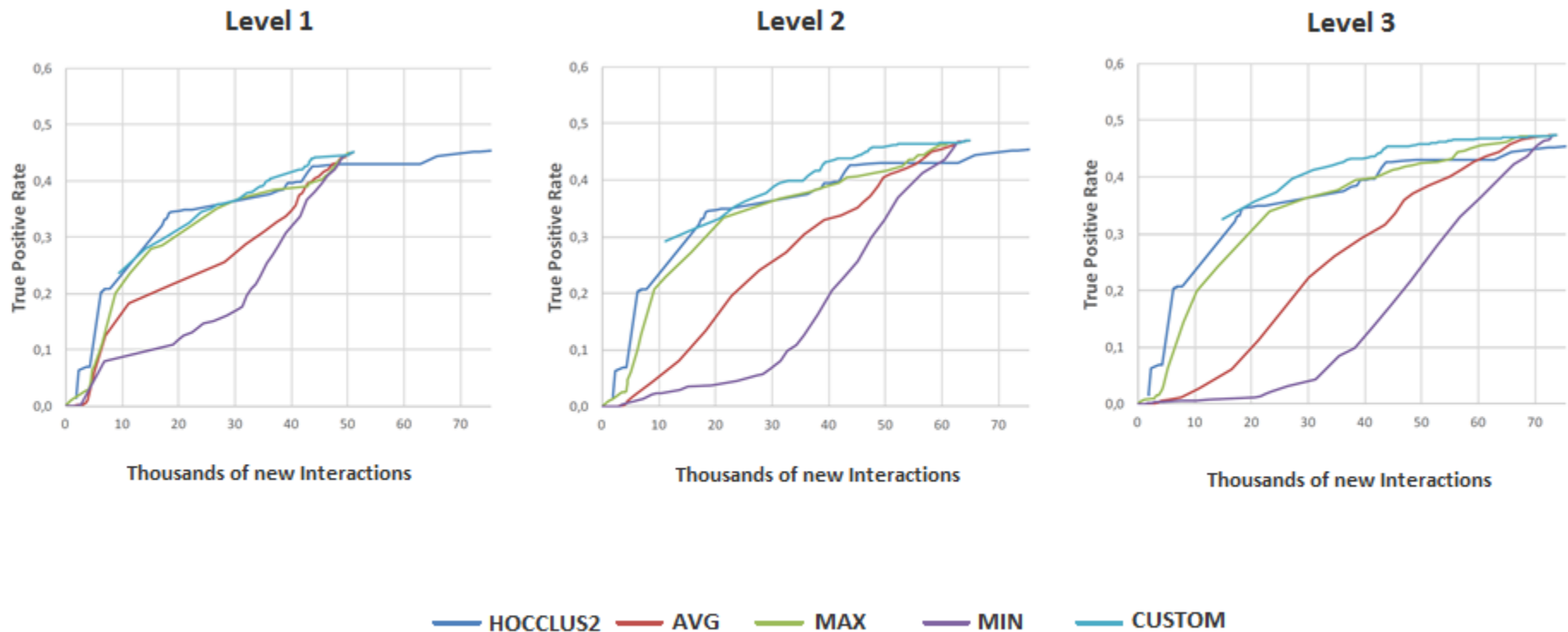
Experiments - Dataset

- We built an heterogeneous network starting from:
 - “Base Pairing between miRNAs and Their Non-mRNA Targets” [Helwak et al.] (miRNA:lncRNA)
 - “lncRNA interaction data” [Chen et al. 2013] (lncRNA:target_genes)
 - “lncRNA-disease association data” [Chen et al. 2013] (lncRNA:diseases)
 - DisGeNET (diseases:target_genes)
 - Mir2Disease [Jiang et al. 2009] (miRNA:target_genes, miRNA:diseases)

Experiments - Dataset



Results



Conclusions and Future Works

- Multi-type clustering can be **fruitfully exploited for Link Prediction** purposes
- The proposed strategy for combining the scores allows us to **perform accurate predictions that outperform competitors and baseline approaches**
- As future work we intend to evaluate our system:
 - On interactions among objects of **more than 2 different types**
 - By considering the possible **type of relationships** among objects



Questions: tomorrow 10:20-11:20 – Poster P7
Thanks for your attention

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