# Comparing Temporal Graphs <br> with Time Warping 

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Joint work with<br>Vincent Froese, Brijnesh Jain and Rolf Niedermeier.

## Temporal Graphs



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$G_{1}$
$G_{2}$
$G_{3}$
$G_{4}$


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$G_{2}$
$G_{3}$
$G_{4}$

$\mathcal{G}$





Main Question
How can we measure the similarity / distance between two temporal graphs $\mathcal{G}, \mathcal{H}$ ?

## Graph distance using vertex signatures

G
H


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- Computation in cubic time using Jonker-Volgenant (or Hungarian).


## Time Warping

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Solution: Time warping - assign each layer to the other one it resembles most (no crossings allowed!).

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\operatorname{dtgw}-\operatorname{dist}(\mathcal{G}, \mathcal{H})=\min _{W \in \mathscr{W})} \min _{M \in \mathcal{M}} \sum_{(t, u) \in W} C_{M}\left(G_{t}, H_{u}\right)
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Good news: Time warping can be solved by a dynamic program in quadratic time ...
Bad news: ... if all pairwise distances are known in advance.

Pairwise distances


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- ... you can check in polynomial time whether $\operatorname{dtg} \mathrm{w}-\operatorname{dist}(\mathcal{G}, \mathcal{H})=0$.

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- Usually reaches a stable state after 2-5 rounds.
- Depends surprisingly little on your initial guess.
- Seems to produce good results.


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## Result

- $86 \%$ of people correctly identified, using only $\sigma(v)=\operatorname{deg}(v)$.
- Robust against misaligned times.

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- Can you find approximation algorithms with guaranteed approximation quality?
- Which vertex signatures work best in different settings?


[^0]:    ${ }^{2}$ sociopatterns.org

