

Chapter 7

Community Detection and Profiling in Location– Based Social Networks

Zhu Wang

Northwestern Polytechnical University, China

Daqing Zhang

TELECOM SudParis, France

Xingshe Zhou

Northwestern Polytechnical University, China

Bin Guo

Northwestern Polytechnical University, China

Zhiwen Yu

Northwestern Polytechnical University, China

ABSTRACT

Due to the proliferation of GPS-enabled smartphones, Location-Based Social Networking (LBSNs) services have been experiencing a remarkable growth over the last few years. Compared with traditional online social networks, a significant feature of LBSNs is the coexistence of both online and offline social interactions, providing a large-scale heterogeneous social network that is able to facilitate lots of academic studies. One possible study is to leverage both online and offline social ties for the recognition and profiling of community structures. In this chapter, the authors attempt to summarize some recent progress in the community detection problem based on LBSNs. In particular, starting with an empirical analysis on the characters of the LBSN data set, the authors present three different community detection approaches, namely, link-based community detection, content-based community detection, and hybrid community detection based on both links and contents. Meanwhile, they also address the community profiling problem, which is very useful in real-world applications.

DOI: 10.4018/978-1-4666-4695-7.ch007

1. INTRODUCTION

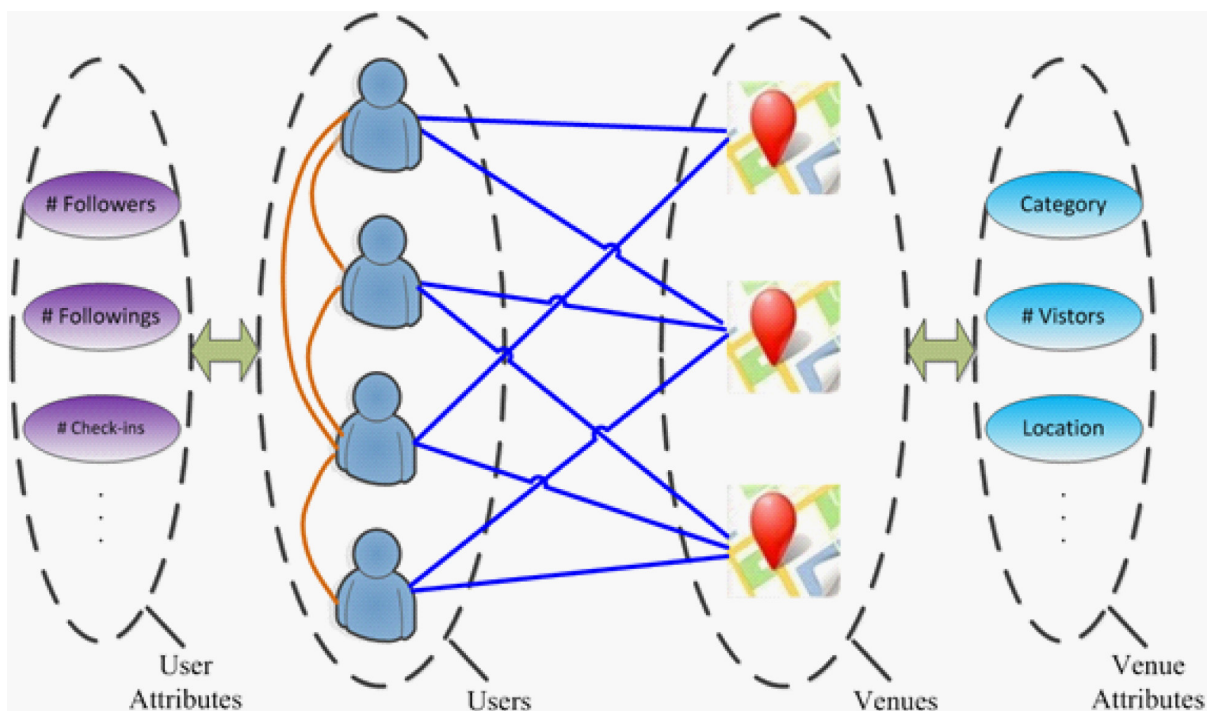
The recent surge of location-based social networks (LBSNs, e.g., Foursquare and Facebook Places) driven by the increasing popularity of smart phones is bringing a new set of opportunities for research scientists and application developers. Compared with traditional online social networks (e.g., Facebook, Twitter), a distinct characteristic of LBSNs is the co-existence of both online and offline social interactions, as shown in Figure 1. On one hand, LBSNs support typical online social networking facilities, e.g., making friends, sharing comments and photos. On the other hand, LBSNs also support offline social interactions, e.g., checking in places. In other words, LBSNs are heterogeneous social networks which consist of both online and offline social links (Guo, Zhang, Wang, Yu & Zhou, 2013). Meanwhile, vertices in LBSNs usually have multiple attributes, e.g., attributes of a user might include number of followers, number of followings, and number of check-ins; a venue

might have attributes such as category, number of check-ins and number of visitors.

One fundamental issue in social network analysis is to detect user communities. A community is typically thought of as a group of users who are densely interconnected compared to the other users in the network (Newman & Girvan, 2004; Fortunato, 2010). Specifically, discovering communities of LBSN users who visit similar physical places are able to facilitate many applications, such as direct marketing, friend recommendation, and community sensing (Zhang, Guo & Yu, 2011). However, unlike social networks (e.g., Flickr, Facebook) which provide explicit groups for users to subscribe or join, the notion of community in LBSNs is not well defined. In order to capitalize on the huge number of potential users, quality community detection and profiling approaches are needed.

Firstly, unlike social networks which only contain a single type of social interaction, the co-existence of online/offline social interactions

Figure 1. An example of LBSN



16 more pages are available in the full version of this document, which may be purchased using the "Add to Cart" button on the publisher's webpage:

www.igi-global.com/chapter/community-detection-and-profiling-in-location-based-social-networks/88814

Related Content

Chinese-Braille Translation Based on Braille Corpus

Xiangdong Wang, Yang Yang, Hong Liu and Yueliang Qian (2016). *International Journal of Advanced Pervasive and Ubiquitous Computing* (pp. 56-63).

www.irma-international.org/article/chinese-braille-translation-based-on-braille-corpus/179246

Survey of Online Identity Management Techniques on Blockchain

Monica Gahlawat (2020). *International Journal of Security and Privacy in Pervasive Computing* (pp. 19-28).

www.irma-international.org/article/survey-of-online-identity-management-techniques-on-blockchain/264447

Modeling of Across-Chain Network Dynamic Competition for MNC in Industrial Cluster

Chunling Liu, Jizi Li, Guo Li and Xiaogang Cao (2011). *International Journal of Advanced Pervasive and Ubiquitous Computing* (pp. 30-49).

www.irma-international.org/article/modeling-across-chain-network-dynamic/66064

RFID Technologies and Applications

Christian Kaspar, Adam Melski, Britta Lietke, Madlen Boslau and Svenja Hagenhoff (2010). *Ubiquitous and Pervasive Computing: Concepts, Methodologies, Tools, and Applications* (pp. 44-53).

www.irma-international.org/chapter/rfid-technologies-applications/37776

Web & RFID Technology: New Frontiers in Costing and Process Management for Rehabilitation Medicine

Massimo Memmola, Giovanna Palumbo and Mauro Rossini (2010). *Ubiquitous and Pervasive Computing: Concepts, Methodologies, Tools, and Applications* (pp. 623-647).

www.irma-international.org/chapter/web-rfid-technology/37810