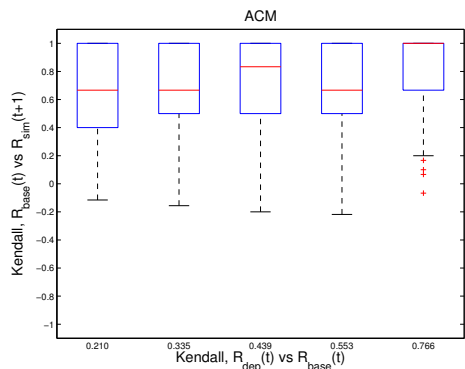


(a) Evaluating Dependency-based Ranking



(b) Evaluating Baseline Co-authorship-based Ranking

Figure 11: ACM

4.5 Case Study Using DBLP, we provide a case study to help illustrate the workings of our proposed social dependency model. For this case study, we use the profile of Associate Professor Duminda Wijesekera. Figure 12 shows the social dependencies of Duminda Wijesekera for the year 2001. The directed edges show Duminda Wijesekera’s dependencies on his co-authors who publish with him in the year 2001. Next to these co-authors are their respective topic distributions for year 2000. From the year 2000 to 2001, we observed that Duminda Wijesekera’s topic in Security has increased from third position to first position [30]. Based on the dependencies, we observe that he depended on Sushil Jajodia most as compared to other co-authors (excluding himself). Based on the co-authors topic distribution, Sushil Jajodia’s topic in Security is the highest which explains why Duminda Wijesekera’s dependency on Sushil Jajodia is the highest [6]. In 2002, Duminda Wijesekera continues to increase his topic in Security [29, 31]. This illustrates how social dependency works based on the two components of interactions as well as content change.

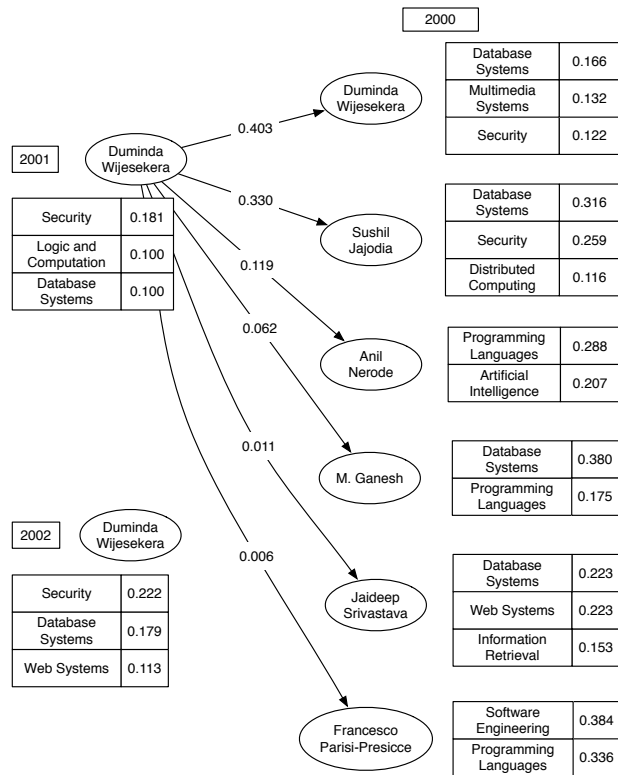


Figure 12: DBLP Case Study

5 Conclusion

In this paper, we address the problem of modeling the evolution of user interaction networks, in order to determine the social dependency weights among users at various time steps. We identify two primary factors to social dependency, namely: interactions between users, and temporal correlation between the users’ topic distributions. We propose a *Decay Topic Model* to model a user’s evolution of content at the topic level, as well as a *Social Dependency Metric* to determine the degree to which a user is dependent on another user. Comprehensive experiments on real-life co-authorship datasets DBLP and ACM show that our proposed models perform well against the baseline (co-authorship count) in two predictive tasks: predicting an author’s ranking of co-authors by social dependency, as well as predicting the author’s topic distribution in the next time step. This validates our hypothesis that we also need to take into account the changing topic preferences of users beyond just interactions (which the co-authorship baseline only models indirectly). For future work, we aim to incorporate additional factors to further improve the model. One is to learn the decay factor δ automatically. Another is to incorporate the

magnitude (e.g., number of interactions) in addition to topic distribution in determining social dependency between users.

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