



# OPEN Hierarchical contrastive learning for multi-label text classification

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Multi-label text classification presents a significant challenge within the field of text classification, particularly due to the hierarchical nature of labels, where labels are organized in a tree-like structure that captures parent-child and sibling relationships. This hierarchy reflects semantic dependencies among labels, with higher-level labels representing broader categories and lower-level labels capturing more specific distinctions. Traditional methods often fail to deeply understand and leverage this hierarchical structure, overlooking the subtle semantic differences and correlations that distinguish one label from another. To address this shortcoming, we introduce a novel method called Hierarchical Contrastive Learning for Multi-label Text Classification (HCL-MTC). Our approach leverages the contrastive knowledge embedded within label relationships by constructing a graph representation that explicitly models the hierarchical dependencies among labels. Specifically, we recast multi-label text classification as a multi-task learning problem, incorporating a hierarchical contrastive loss that is computed through a carefully designed sampling process. This unique loss function enables our model to effectively capture both the correlations and distinctions among labels, thereby enhancing the model's ability to learn the intricacies of the label hierarchy. Experimental results on widely-used datasets, such as RCV1-v2 and WoS, demonstrate that our proposed HCL-MTC model achieves substantial performance gains compared to baseline methods.

**Keywords** Contrastive learning, Hierarchical structure, Multi-task, Multi-label text classification

The task of text classification, a cornerstone of natural language processing (NLP), has recently attracted increased interest. Its applications span a wide range of fields, including sentiment analysis<sup>1–4</sup>, document categorization<sup>5</sup>, medical codes prediction<sup>6</sup>, legal studies<sup>7</sup>, patent classification<sup>8</sup>, and financial analysis<sup>9</sup>. Among these, Multi-label Text Classification (MTC) stands out as a particularly complex challenge. In MTC, the goal is to assign multiple labels to a given text, where the set of labels often exhibits a hierarchical structure. This structure implies a relationship between labels, such that information pertaining to one label can influence the inference of another, thereby adding complexity to the classification task.

The current approaches to the MTC task can be broadly classified into two categories: (1) methods that predict labels using textual information alone, and (2) approaches that combine both label and textual information for prediction. The first category of methods relies on local and global features extracted by text encoders to forecast labels. Notable examples include CNN-based models<sup>10–12</sup> that address data imbalance issues caused by a lack of samples for child labels. Other works in this category focus on incorporating semantic information from text<sup>11</sup>. While these methods are effective at capturing textual subtleties, they generally fail to account for relationships between labels.

The second category of methods aims to integrate textual and label information. Strategies include weight initialization<sup>13</sup>, learning label hierarchies<sup>14–16</sup>, and the use of capsule networks<sup>16,17</sup>. These approaches improve the efficiency of MTC by leveraging label information but often achieve only a superficial understanding of the label hierarchy. The graph convolutional network (GCN)-based model<sup>18</sup> shows promise in learning a deep label hierarchy but does not fully exploit label information, focusing exclusively on correlative aspects and overlooking label distinctiveness.

Despite substantial progress, a critical gap in research persists: the majority of current methods do not effectively utilize both the distinctive and correlative aspects of label information to optimize hierarchical multi-label classification. This shortcoming restricts the effectiveness of these models, especially in complex, hierarchical label structures where both types of information are essential for accurate classification.

The concurrent consideration of correlative and distinctive information is fundamental to achieving a deep understanding of the label hierarchy, thus improving the effectiveness of MTC. As depicted in Fig. 1, the similarity  $s_{23}$  between nodes 2 and 3 represents distinctive information, which is presumed to be maximized

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# Active Learning For Hierarchical Text Classification

**L Cohen**

A decorative graphic element consisting of a light blue horizontal bar with a rounded right end, and a red circular glow behind it.

### **Active Learning For Hierarchical Text Classification:**

*Advances in Knowledge Discovery and Data Mining, Part I* Pang-Ning Tan, Sanjay Chawla, Chin Kuan Ho, James Bailey, 2012-05-10 The two volume set LNAI 7301 and 7302 constitutes the refereed proceedings of the 16th Pacific Asia Conference on Knowledge Discovery and Data Mining PAKDD 2012 held in Kuala Lumpur Malaysia in May 2012 The total of 20 revised full papers and 66 revised short papers were carefully reviewed and selected from 241 submissions The papers present new ideas original research results and practical development experiences from all KDD related areas The papers are organized in topical sections on supervised learning active ensemble rare class and online unsupervised learning clustering probabilistic modeling in the first volume and on pattern mining networks graphs time series and outlier detection and data manipulation pre processing and dimension reduction in the second volume **Advances in Knowledge**

**Discovery and Data Mining** Jian Pei, Vincent S. Tseng, Longbing Cao, Hiroshi Motoda, Guandong Xu, 2013-04-05 The two volume set LNAI 7818 LNAI 7819 constitutes the refereed proceedings of the 17th Pacific Asia Conference on Knowledge Discovery and Data Mining PAKDD 2013 held in Gold Coast Australia in April 2013 The total of 98 papers presented in these proceedings was carefully reviewed and selected from 363 submissions They cover the general fields of data mining and KDD extensively including pattern mining classification graph mining applications machine learning feature selection and dimensionality reduction multiple information sources mining social networks clustering text mining text classification imbalanced data privacy preserving data mining recommendation multimedia data mining stream data mining data preprocessing and representation *Data Classification* Charu C. Aggarwal, 2014-07-25 Comprehensive Coverage of the

Entire Area of Classification Research on the problem of classification tends to be fragmented across such areas as pattern recognition database data mining and machine learning Addressing the work of these different communities in a unified way *Data Classification Algorithms and Applications* explores the underlying algorithms of classification as well as applications of classification in a variety of problem domains including text multimedia social network and biological data This comprehensive book focuses on three primary aspects of data classification Methods The book first describes common techniques used for classification including probabilistic methods decision trees rule based methods instance based methods support vector machine methods and neural networks Domains The book then examines specific methods used for data domains such as multimedia text time series network discrete sequence and uncertain data It also covers large data sets and data streams due to the recent importance of the big data paradigm Variations The book concludes with insight on variations of the classification process It discusses ensembles rare class learning distance function learning active learning visual learning transfer learning and semi supervised learning as well as evaluation aspects of classifiers **Chinese**

**Computational Linguistics** Maosong Sun, Xuanjing Huang, Heng Ji, Zhiyuan Liu, Yang Liu, 2019-10-14 This book constitutes the proceedings of the 18th China National Conference on Computational Linguistics CCL 2019 held in Kunming China in

October 2019 The 56 full papers presented in this volume were carefully reviewed and selected from 134 submissions They were organized in topical sections named linguistics and cognitive science fundamental theory and methods of computational linguistics information retrieval and question answering text classification and summarization knowledge graph and information extraction machine translation and multilingual information processing minority language processing language resource and evaluation social computing and sentiment analysis NLP applications KDD...,2003 **International Journal of Market Research**,2010 *Proceedings of the ... International Conference on Information and Knowledge Management*,2004 *CIKM 2004* David A. Evans,2004 **Proceedings of the ... SIAM International Conference on Data Mining**,2005 **IJCAI**,2007 **Proceedings of the ... Annual International ACM SIGIR Conference on Research and Development in Information Retrieval**,2005 Journal of Machine Learning Research,2007 An international forum covering all areas of machine learning Active Learning Simon Tong,2001 *Handbook of Research on Web Log Analysis* Bernard J. Jansen,Amanda Spink,Isak Taksai,2009 This book reflects on the multifaceted themes of Web use and presents various approaches to log analysis Provided by publisher *IEEE Workshop on Content-Based Access of Image and Video Libraries (CBAILV 2001)*,2001 This workshop held in December 2001 on Kauai discussed various means for retrieving information from digital images and video The proceedings features 20 papers grouped into the four themes of image content analysis and object based retrieval video content analysis content based querying and v **Proceedings AAI ... National Conference on Artificial Intelligence**,2005 **Advances in Intelligent Data Analysis**,2003 **Proceedings of the Twenty-third AAI Conference on Artificial Intelligence and the Twentieth Innovative Applications of Artificial Intelligence Conference** American Association for Artificial Intelligence,2008 **Classification Literature Automated Search Service**,1993 Library & Information Science Abstracts,2007

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