

# CURSOR: Scalable Mixed-Order Hypergraph Matching with CUR Decomposition

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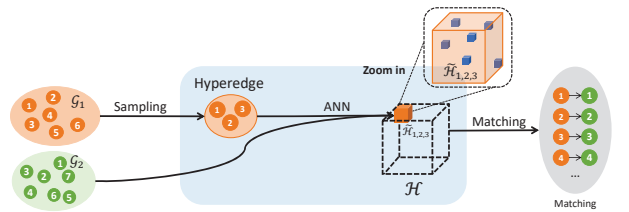
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## Abstract

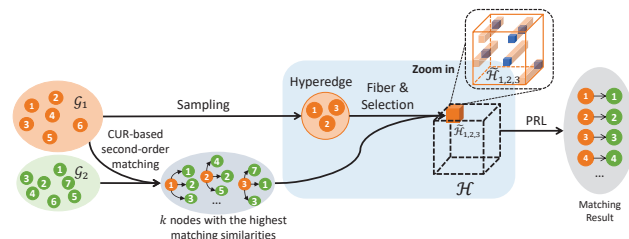
To achieve greater accuracy, hypergraph matching algorithms require exponential increases in computational resources. Recent  $kd$ -tree-based approximate nearest neighbor (ANN) methods, despite the sparsity of their compatibility tensor, still require exhaustive calculations for large-scale graph matching. This work utilizes CUR tensor decomposition and introduces a novel cascaded second and third-order hypergraph matching framework (CURSOR) for efficient hypergraph matching. A CUR-based second-order graph matching algorithm is used to provide a rough match, and then the core of CURSOR, a fiber-CUR-based tensor generation method, directly calculates entries of the compatibility tensor by leveraging the initial second-order match result. This significantly decreases the time complexity and tensor density. A probability relaxation labeling (PRL)-based matching algorithm, specifically suitable for sparse tensors, is developed. Experiment results on large-scale synthetic datasets and widely-adopted benchmark sets demonstrate the superiority of CURSOR over existing methods. The tensor generation method in CURSOR can be integrated seamlessly into existing hypergraph matching methods to improve their performance and lower their computational costs.

## 1. Introduction

Finding the correspondences between a pair of feature sets by graph-matching has many applications in computer vision and pattern recognition tasks like feature tracking [11, 23, 39], image classification [36], object detection [24], and gene-drug association identification [5]. The second-order graph matching (pairwise matching) problem is a quadratic assignment problem (QAP), which is NP-hard [18]. Efforts to find soft-constraint approximate solutions



(a) Traditional ANN-based hypergraph matching



(b) The proposed CURSOR with PRL-based matching

Figure 1. The comparison between the traditional ANN-based framework and CURSOR. Instead of calculating the whole tensor block (the light orange area in (a)) and extracting the highest compatibilities in each block (the blue cubes), CURSOR only calculates a small number of block fibers (the light orange area in (b)) and retains fewer elements in these fibers, effectively reducing computational costs for large-scale hypergraph matching. The method chooses the fibers based on the second-order matching result. CURSOR calculates fibers in all three tensor modes, and only one is shown in (b) for clarity.

[7, 8, 21, 32] have been limited to the representation of pairwise compatibilities.

Higher-order graphs, known as hypergraphs [9, 12, 19, 20, 30], integrate better geometric information and handle transformations like scaling and rotation better. The hypergraph matching problem considers the compatibility between two hypergraphs as a high-order tensor. The objective function aims to find the maximization over all permutations of the features. A  $kd$ -tree-based approximate near-

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est neighbor (ANN) method [9] to reduce the space and time complexity of the hypergraph matching algorithm has been used in many hypergraph matching algorithms (e.g. RRWHM [20], BCAGM [30] and ADGM [19]). ANN-based methods compute the sparse compatibility tensor by searching for nearest neighbors between randomly sampled hyperedges in the source graph and all the hyperedges in the target graph. Large-scale  $k^{\text{th}}$ -order hypergraph matching with  $n_2$  points in the target graph has  $O(n_2^k)$  time and space complexity for the compatibilities of each source graph hyperedge. Achieving a higher matching accuracy requires as many of the highest compatibilities as possible to increase the probability of finding the ground truth paired hyperedges, resulting in a denser compatibility tensor.

To address the above scalability issue, this work proposes a novel scalable hypergraph matching framework, CURSOR, based on cascaded mixed-order models with CUR decomposition. The comparison of CURSOR and traditional ANN-based methods is illustrated in Fig. 1. The traditional ANN-based methods construct the compatibility tensor directly with the nearest neighbors between the randomly sampled source hyperedges and all target ones. CURSOR first computes a roughly intermediate result with the proposed CUR-based second-order matching algorithm, drastically reducing the memory footprint of the compatibility matrices for large-scale graph matching. Subsequently, a small-scale target hyperedge subset, represented as third-order fiber tensors, can be generated utilizing the second-order results to calculate the compatibility tensor, substantially decreasing the computation complexity. The tensor generation method in CURSOR can integrate seamlessly into almost all existing state-of-the-art hypergraph matching algorithms [9, 12, 19, 20, 30] and significantly increase their matching performance at lower computational cost.

The contributions of this work are:

- We propose a novel cascaded second and third-order CUR-based hypergraph matching framework, CURSOR, to deal with large-scale problems. Under the same memory limitations, CURSOR can handle a more than ten times larger-scale hypergraph matching problem than current state-of-the-art algorithms.
- CURSOR contains a fiber-CUR-based compatibility tensor generation method using the rough matching result from the CUR-based second-order graph matching algorithm, which efficiently decreases the computational complexity and selects the proper sparse tensor entries.
- A PRL-based tensor matching algorithm is developed to significantly accelerate convergence during the matching process and increase the accuracy of matching.
- Experiment results show that CURSOR provides state-of-the-art matching accuracy by effectively finding the essential non-zero entries in the compatibility tensor.

## 2. Related Works

### 2.1. Hypergraph Matching

Second-order graph-matching algorithms [7, 8, 10, 21, 32] represented the geometric consistency between a pair of features as the edges of a graph to avoid ambiguities like repeated patterns and textures. These algorithms pursued an approximate solution as the problem is known to be NP-hard. Among them, Leordeanu and Herbert [21] and Cour *et al.* [8] estimated the rank-1 approximation of the compatibility matrix with power iteration as the flattening of the assignment matrix. Cho *et al.* [7] provided a novel random walk view for graph matching with a reweighting jump scheme and reduced the constraints in its iterative process. Recently, Wang *et al.* [32] proposed a functional representation for graph matching with the additional goal of avoiding the compatibility matrix construction. The performance of second-order methods was limited with the restriction to the normal graph embedding pairwise relationships.

In the past decade, to overcome the limitation of pairwise similarity, various hypergraph matching algorithms [9, 12, 19, 20] were developed based on the structural compatibilities between the higher-order hyperedges of two hypergraphs. In order to avoid the enormous computational cost of a full compatibility tensor, Duchenne *et al.* [9], extending the SM algorithm proposed by [21] to a higher order, constructed the sparse compatibility tensor with an ANN-based method, which is frequently used for generating compatibility tensors in later hypergraph matching works. Lee *et al.* [20] introduced the method of [7] to reweighted walk hypergraph matching problems, enforcing the matching constraint with a bi-stochastic normalization scheme. Lê-Huu and Paragios [19] decomposed the problem under different constraints and handled it with an alternating direction method of multipliers. Khan *et al.* [16] directly applied CUR decomposition to the full compatibility matrix and tensor at the cost of a higher space complexity than the ANN-based method. Although the ANN-based method can significantly decrease the time complexity during the matching process, it still has an enormous computational cost to calculate the compatibility tensor.

With the rise of deep learning, various learning-based graph-matching algorithms were proposed to learn the parameters as deep feature extraction hierarchies in a data-driven way [3, 4, 15, 26, 31, 34, 38]. Inspired by Wang *et al.* [33], Liao *et al.* [25] proposed the first unified hypergraph neural network, HNN-HM. Unlike the sparse compatibility tensor widely used in ANN-based algorithms, the dense deep feature matrices or tensors require more computation resources. Therefore, compared with ANN-based algorithms, the learning-based hypergraph matching algorithms can only handle much smaller-scale problems under the same memory constraint.

## 2.2. CUR Matrix and Tensor Decomposition

CUR decomposition [27] is used to compute the low-rank approximation of a matrix with the actual rows and columns. Assume a matrix  $\mathbf{A} \in \mathbb{R}^{m \times n}$ . By selecting  $c$  columns and  $r$  rows from  $\mathbf{A}$  as  $\mathbf{C} \in \mathbb{R}^{m \times c}$  and  $\mathbf{R} \in \mathbb{R}^{r \times n}$ , the low-rank approximation of  $\mathbf{A}$  can be formulated as  $\mathbf{C}(\mathbf{C}^\dagger \mathbf{A} \mathbf{R}^\dagger) \mathbf{R}$ , where  $\dagger$  is the pseudoinverse and  $\mathbf{C}^\dagger \mathbf{A} \mathbf{R}^\dagger$  represents the matrix  $\mathbf{U}$ . Cai *et al.* [2] showed that if  $\text{rank}(\mathbf{A}) < \min\{c, r\}$ ,  $\mathbf{U}$  can be directly represented by the intersection of  $\mathbf{C}$  and  $\mathbf{R}$  as its pseudoinverse. Xu *et al.* [37] proposed CUR+ to calculate the matrix  $\mathbf{U}$  with randomized matrix entries instead of the whole matrix when the matrix is not low rank. For tensor CUR decomposition, randomized fiber CUR decomposition can extend the CUR decomposition to the tensor [1]. The method first samples  $c_l$  fibers on mode- $l$  and expands the fibers as matrix  $\mathbf{C}_l$  along mode- $l$ . The intersection of all samples forms tensor  $\mathcal{R}$  and  $\mathbf{U}_l$  is the pseudoinverse of the mode- $l$  expansion of  $\mathcal{R}$ . The fiber CUR decomposition of the tensor  $\mathcal{H}$  can be represented as:

$$\mathcal{H} \approx \mathcal{R} \times_{l=1}^k (\mathbf{C}_l \mathbf{U}_l) \quad (1)$$

where  $\times_l$  represents tensor times matrix along the  $l^{\text{th}}$  mode. The performance of the CUR decomposition is highly dependent on the selection of  $\mathbf{C}$  and  $\mathbf{R}$  (or  $\mathcal{R}$  in high order). Key samples can result in an approximation with high accuracy. Therefore, one of the most essential tasks of CUR decomposition is to find the required samples with less computation.

## 3. Method

### 3.1. Problem Setup

We follow the problem settings in [21]. Considering a pair of matched graphs  $\mathcal{G}_1 = (\mathcal{V}_1, \mathcal{E}_1)$  and  $\mathcal{G}_2 = (\mathcal{V}_2, \mathcal{E}_2)$ , the correspondences between  $\mathcal{G}_1$  and  $\mathcal{G}_2$  can be represented as a binary assignment matrix  $\mathbf{X} \in \{0, 1\}^{n_1 \times n_2}$  where  $n_1 = |\mathcal{V}_1|$  and  $n_2 = |\mathcal{V}_2|$ . To solve the NP-hard graph matching problem, we denote the elements of the assignment matrix with soft constraint as  $X_{ij} \in [0, 1]$ , where  $X_{ij}$  is the probability that the  $i^{\text{th}}$  node in  $\mathcal{V}_1$  matches the  $j^{\text{th}}$  node in  $\mathcal{V}_2$ . Following [9], we suppose every node in  $\mathcal{G}_1$  matches exactly one node in  $\mathcal{G}_2$ , and every node in  $\mathcal{G}_2$  matches at most one node in  $\mathcal{G}_1$ , i.e.,  $\forall i, \sum_j X_{ij} = 1$  and  $\forall j, \sum_i X_{ij} \leq 1$ . In the rest of the paper, we call  $\mathcal{G}_1$  the source graph and  $\mathcal{G}_2$  target graph.

The compatibility matrix of second-order graph matching,  $\mathbf{H} \in \mathbb{R}^{n_1 n_2 \times n_1 n_2}$ , is the unfold of the fourth-order tensor  $\hat{\mathcal{H}} \in \mathbb{R}^{n_1 \times n_2 \times n_1 \times n_2}$  where  $\hat{H}_{i_1, j_1, i_2, j_2}$  represents the similarity between edges  $(i_1, i_2)$  and  $(j_1, j_2)$ . The soft-constraint assignment matrix is flattened as  $\mathbf{x}$ . The second-order graph-matching problem can be represented as the optimization of the function:

$$\begin{aligned} \max_{\mathbf{x}} \quad & \mathbf{x}^T \mathbf{H} \mathbf{x} \\ \text{s.t.} \quad & \sum_{j \in \text{ind}_i} x_j = 1, \forall i \end{aligned} \quad (2)$$

where  $\text{ind}_i = \{(i-1)n_2 + 1, \dots, in_2\}$  represents the index set of the  $i^{\text{th}}$  row of  $\mathbf{X}$ . The compatibility matrix is symmetric, which means the compatibility between  $(i_1, i_2)$  and  $(j_1, j_2)$  is the same as that between  $(i_2, i_1)$  and  $(j_2, j_1)$ . Equation (2) can be cast into a classical Rayleigh quotient problem, and  $\mathbf{x}$  is proved to be associated with the main eigenvector of  $\mathbf{H}$  [9], which can be calculated with methods such as power iteration.

The  $k^{\text{th}}$ -order hypergraph-matching problem can be extended to:

$$\begin{aligned} \max_{\mathbf{x}} \quad & \mathcal{H} \otimes_1 \mathbf{x} \otimes_2 \dots \otimes_k \mathbf{x} \\ \text{s.t.} \quad & \sum_{j \in \text{ind}_i} x_j = 1, \forall i \end{aligned} \quad (3)$$

where the  $k^{\text{th}}$ -order supersymmetric tensor  $\mathcal{H}$  represents the compatibility between the hyperedges in the two graphs [9].  $\otimes_l$  is the mode- $l$  product of the tensor and vector, which is calculated as:

$$(\mathcal{H} \otimes_l \mathbf{x})_{i_1, \dots, i_{l-1}, i_{l+1}, \dots, i_k} = \sum_{i_l} H_{i_1, \dots, i_l, \dots, i_k} x_{i_l} \quad (4)$$

### 3.2. CUR-based Second-Order Graph Matching

Dealing with large-scale graph matching problems, with thousands of paired nodes, is not feasible due to the terabytes of computer memory required for the compatibility matrix  $\mathbf{H}$ . CURSOR estimates the low-rank approximation of the compatibility matrix with CUR decomposition. Instead of directly generating the whole matrix with huge memory usage, it calculates a small number of rows and columns. Because of the symmetric property of the compatibility matrix, the column sampling is sufficient to decrease the computational complexity. By randomly selecting  $c$  columns from  $\mathbf{H}$  as  $\mathbf{C}$ , the second-order compatibility matrix can be decomposed into two smaller-sized matrices  $\mathbf{C} \in \mathbb{R}^{n_1 n_2 \times c}$  and  $\mathbf{U}_* \in \mathbb{R}^{c \times c}$ . Following CUR+ [37],  $\mathbf{U}_*$  is calculated as:

$$\mathbf{U}_* = \arg \min_{\mathbf{U}} \|\mathbf{R}_\Omega(\mathbf{H}) - \mathbf{R}_\Omega(\mathbf{C} \mathbf{U} \mathbf{C}^T)\|_F \quad (5)$$

where  $\mathbf{R}_\Omega(\cdot)$  is the symbol used in the original work of CUR+ [37] to represent the matrix entries, including the randomly selected entries and all the intersection elements of  $\mathbf{C}$  and  $\mathbf{C}^T$ .  $\|\cdot\|_F$  represents the Frobenius norm of the matrix. The multiplication of  $\mathbf{H} \mathbf{x}$  to update  $\mathbf{x}$  in every iteration can be simplified as:

$$\mathbf{H} \mathbf{x} \approx \mathbf{C} \mathbf{U}_* (\mathbf{C}^T \mathbf{x}) \quad (6)$$

which reduces the time and space complexity in every iteration from  $O(n_1^2 n_2^2)$  to  $O(cn_1 n_2)$ . For large-scale graph matching problems,  $c \ll n_1 n_2$ .

The assignment matrix,  $\mathbf{X}$ , is calculated with the CUR decomposition of  $\mathbf{H}$  by applying a soft-constraint second-order graph-matching algorithm, like SM [21] or RRWM [7]. For  $i \in \{1, \dots, n_1\}$ , the  $k$  entries with highest probabilities in  $\mathbf{X}_{i,:}$  are found as the best  $k$  match set  $\mathcal{P}_i^k = \{s_{ij}\}_{j=1}^k$ , where  $s_{ij}$  represents the index of the  $j^{\text{th}}$  highest probability in  $X_{i,:}$ . The detailed algorithm is shown in Algorithm 1. The CUR-based method may lead to lower matching accuracy with fewer sampled rows and columns if only second-order matching is applied. However, it can provide a rough result to follow with higher-order graph matching, thereby avoiding the infeasible large-scale computations.

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**Algorithm 1** CUR-based second-order graph matching

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**Input** Point sets  $P_1, P_2$  with size  $n_1, n_2$ , column indices  $I$ , entry indices  $J \supseteq I, k$   
**Output** Best  $k$  match set  $\mathcal{P}^k = \{\mathcal{P}_1^k, \dots, \mathcal{P}_{n_1}^k\}$ .  
 $\mathbf{C} \leftarrow \mathbf{H}(:, I)$  {calculate columns with  $P_1, P_2$ }  
 $\mathbf{U}_* \leftarrow \text{CUR}(\mathbf{C}, \mathbf{H}(J, J))$  {Based on Eq. (5).}  
 $\mathbf{x} \leftarrow \text{Matching}(\mathbf{C}\mathbf{U}_*\mathbf{C}^T)$   
 $\mathbf{X} \leftarrow \text{reshape}(\mathbf{x})$   
**for**  $i = 1, \dots, n_1$  **do**  
    {Find  $k$  entries with highest probabilities for  $X(i, :)$ }  
     $\mathcal{P}_i^k \leftarrow \{s_{ij}\}_{j=1}^k$   
**end for**

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### 3.3. Fiber-CUR-based Tensor Generation

The ANN-based method searches for the highest compatibilities in all target hyperedges, which is time and space-consuming for large-scale hypergraph matching. Based on randomized fiber CUR decomposition, the third-order compatibility tensor can be generated with the pairwise graph-matching result to reduce the computational cost. The second-order matching result from Algorithm 1 is  $\mathcal{P}^k$ , where  $k \ll n_2$ . The method does not need to compare the hyperedge  $(i_1, i_2, i_3) \in \mathcal{E}_1$  with all the hyperedges in the target hypergraph, but with the hyperedge set  $\{(j_1, j_2, :), (j_1, :, j_3), (:, j_2, j_3)\} \in \mathcal{E}_2$  where  $j_1 \in \mathcal{P}_{i_1}^k, j_2 \in \mathcal{P}_{i_2}^k$ , and  $j_3 \in \mathcal{P}_{i_3}^k$ . The  $r$  highest entries from each hyperedge's calculated compatibilities in the source graph are selected. Since each hyperedge is compared with fewer target hyperedges,  $r$  is much smaller than the number of selected compatibilities  $r_1$  in [9].

The light blue areas in Fig. 1 illustrate the comparison between the prior ANN-based tensor generation methods and the proposed fiber-CUR-based method in terms of the tensor structure. The compatibility between hyperedge  $(i_1, i_2, i_3)$  in the source graph and all the hyperedges

in the target graph can be represented as the tensor block  $\mathcal{H}_{i_1, i_2, i_3} = H_{\text{ind}_{i_1}, \text{ind}_{i_2}, \text{ind}_{i_3}}$  (orange cubes in Fig. 1). Traditional ANN-based methods first randomly select  $t$  tensor blocks, then calculate each tensor block with  $n_2^3$  time and space complexity and reserve the  $r_1$  highest entries in each block. In CURSOR, with the second-order graph matching result  $\mathcal{P}^k$ , only the corresponding fibers of each tensor block,  $\mathcal{C}$  are estimated, and the  $r$  highest entries are selected. Consequently, the algorithm's complexity reduces from  $O(tn_2^3 + tr_1)$  to  $O(tk^2 n_2 + tr)$  where  $r \ll r_1$ . As only the highest compatibilities matter, there is no need to calculate the redundant  $\mathbf{U}$  and  $\mathcal{R}$  in Eq. (1). Compared with the original randomized fiber CUR decomposition, the compatibility tensor requires less computation. The fibers in  $\mathcal{C}$  are selected based on  $\mathcal{P}^k$  rather than by random sampling and are closer to the key samples. Therefore, the ground truth matching compatibility can be located with a higher probability, resulting in higher matching accuracy. The total algorithm is given as Algorithm 2.

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**Algorithm 2** Fiber-CUR-based tensor generation

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**Input** Point sets  $P_1, P_2$  with size  $n_1, n_2$ , best  $k$  initial guess set  $\mathcal{P}^k = \{\mathcal{P}_1^k, \dots, \mathcal{P}_{n_1}^k\}$   
**Output** Sparse tensor  $\mathcal{H}$   
 $\mathcal{H} \leftarrow$  empty tensor  
 $\mathcal{I} \leftarrow$  hyperedges randomly sampled from  $P_1$   
**for**  $i = (i_1, i_2, i_3) \in \mathcal{I}$  **do**  
     $e \leftarrow \text{computeHyperedgeFeature}(i, P_1)$   
     $\mathcal{F} \leftarrow$  empty feature set  
    {Calculate corresponding fibers in all directions.}  
     $\mathcal{J}_1 \leftarrow \{(1 : n_2, j_2, j_3)\}, j_2 \in \mathcal{P}_{i_2}^k, j_3 \in \mathcal{P}_{i_3}^k$   
     $\mathcal{J}_2 \leftarrow \{(j_1, 1 : n_2, j_3)\}, j_1 \in \mathcal{P}_{i_1}^k, j_3 \in \mathcal{P}_{i_3}^k$   
     $\mathcal{J}_3 \leftarrow \{(j_1, j_2, 1 : n_2)\}, j_1 \in \mathcal{P}_{i_1}^k, j_2 \in \mathcal{P}_{i_2}^k$   
     $\mathcal{J} = \text{set}(\mathcal{J}_1, \mathcal{J}_2, \mathcal{J}_3)$   
    **for**  $j \in \mathcal{J}$  **do**  
         $f \leftarrow \text{computeHyperedgeFeature}(j, P_2)$   
         $\mathcal{F} \leftarrow \mathcal{F} \cup f$   
    **end for**  
     $\mathcal{S} \leftarrow$  search for  $r$  highest similarities( $\mathcal{F}, e$ )  
    **for**  $s \in \mathcal{S}$  **do**  
         $\text{ind}(i, j_s) \leftarrow$  index of  $\mathcal{H}(i, \text{index}(s))$   
         $\mathcal{H}(\text{ind}(i, j_s)) \leftarrow$  compatibility( $e, s$ )  
    **end for**  
**end for**

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### 3.4. PRL-based Matching Algorithm

To accelerate the convergence of the matching process, a fast hypergraph matching algorithm was developed based on probabilistic relaxation labeling (PRL) that takes advantage of the high sparsity of the compatibility tensor. The original PRL algorithm [13] updates the probability that a label is assigned to an object with a set of specified com-

patibilities, and has been applied in several graph matching problems [6, 28, 35]. For each  $i \in \mathcal{G}_1$  and  $j \in \mathcal{G}_2$ ,  $p_i(j)$  represents the probability that  $i$  is associated with  $j$ , which can be updated according to the following equation:

$$p_i^{(k+1)}(j) = \frac{p_i^{(k)}(j)[1 + q_i^{(k)}(j)]}{\sum_m p_i^{(k)}(m)[1 + q_i^{(k)}(m)]} \quad (7)$$

with

$$q_i^{(k)}(j) = \sum_{l=1}^{n_1} d_{il} \left[ \sum_{m=1}^{n_2} r_{il}(j, m) p_l^{(k)}(m) \right] \quad (8)$$

where  $d_{il}$  is a weight factor representing the influence of  $l$  on  $i$  and  $\sum_l d_{il} = 1$ . The factor  $r_{il}(j, m) \in [-1, 1]$  denotes the relationship between the pairwise feature of edge  $(i, l) \in \mathcal{E}_1$  and  $(j, m) \in \mathcal{E}_2$ .

In our work, define  $R_{il}(j, m) = 0.5(r_{il}(j, m) + 1) \in [0, 1]$  and set  $d_{il} = n_1^{-1}$ . By replacing the weighting factor  $p_i^{(k)}(j)$  in Eq. (7) with updated probabilities, it gives

$$p_i^{(k+1)}(j) = \frac{[\sum_l \sum_m R_{il}(j, m) p_l^{(k)}(m)]^2}{\sum_i [\sum_l \sum_m R_{il}(j, m) p_l^{(k)}(m)]^2} \quad (9)$$

which contributes to a more consistent result and faster convergence. Define

$$R_{i_1 i_2}(j_1, j_2) = \begin{cases} M_{i_1, j_1} & i_1 = i_2 \text{ and } j_1 = j_2 \\ \hat{H}_{i_1, j_1, i_2, j_2} & \text{otherwise} \end{cases} \quad (10)$$

where  $\hat{H}_{i_1, j_1, i_2, j_2}$  is the corresponding value in the compatibility matrix  $\mathbf{H}$  and  $M_{i_1, j_1}$  is related to the first-order compatibility between node  $i_1 \in \mathcal{G}_1$  and  $j_1 \in \mathcal{G}_2$ . Since  $\hat{H}_{i, j, i, j} = 0$  for all  $i, j$ , the numerator of Eq. (9) can be updated as:

$$\hat{p}_i^{(k+1)}(j) = (M_{i, j} p_i^{(k)}(j) + \sum_l \sum_m \hat{H}_{i, j, l, m} p_l^{(k)}(m))^2 \quad (11)$$

Denote  $\delta$  as  $\sum_l \sum_m \hat{H}_{i, j, l, m} p_l^{(k)}(m)$ . To increase the corresponding true matching  $p_{i_0}^{(k)}(j_0)$  consistently during every iteration,  $\hat{p}_{i_0}^{(k+1)}(j_0)$  must satisfy  $(M_{i_0, j_0} p_{i_0}^{(k)}(j_0) + \delta)^2 \geq p_{i_0}^{(k)}(j_0)$ , which leads to

$$\delta \geq 0.25 M_{i_0, j_0}^{-1} \quad (12)$$

If Eq. (12) is guaranteed, the probabilities can converge fast. The detailed derivation of the PRL-based method can be found in the supplement.

To extend the algorithm to third-order hypergraph matching, replace the probability set  $\mathbf{p} = \{p_i(j)\}$  with the vector  $\mathbf{x}$ , the column-wise flattening of soft-constraint assignment matrix  $\mathbf{X}$ . After normalization, rewrite Eq. (11) as

$$\hat{\mathbf{x}}^{(k+1)} = (\alpha \hat{\mathbf{m}} \odot \mathbf{x}^{(k)} + (1 - \alpha) \mathcal{H} \otimes_1 \mathbf{x}^{(k)} \otimes_2 \mathbf{x}^{(k)})^2 \quad (13)$$

where  $\odot$  is the element-wise multiplication and  $\alpha \in [0, 1]$  is a balance weight between the first and third-order compatibilities. The square calculation in Eq. (13) is also element-wise. The first-order compatibility vector  $\hat{\mathbf{m}}$  is obtained by column-wise flattening  $\hat{\mathbf{M}}$ . The steps are shown in Algorithm 3. For a tensor with high sparsity, the non-zero entries of  $\mathcal{H} \otimes_1 \mathbf{x}^{(k)} \otimes_2 \mathbf{x}^{(k)}$  are concentrated. Therefore  $\mathbf{x}^{(k)}$  has a fast convergence speed if the ground truth compatibility entries are selected in the sparse tensor. According to Eq. (12), a lower  $\alpha$  can be set for the tensor with high sparsity to achieve faster convergence.

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### Algorithm 3 PRL-based hypergraph matching

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**Input** Sparse compatibility tensor  $\mathcal{H}$ , initial assignment matrix  $\mathbf{X}$ , first-order compatibility vector  $\hat{\mathbf{m}}$ ,  $\alpha$   
**Output** Soft-constraint assignment matrix  $\mathbf{X}$   
**repeat**  
 $\mathbf{x} \leftarrow \text{flatten}(\mathbf{X})$   
 $\delta \leftarrow \mathcal{H} \otimes_1 \mathbf{x} \otimes_2 \mathbf{x}$   
 $\mathbf{x} \leftarrow \alpha \hat{\mathbf{m}} \odot \mathbf{x} + (1 - \alpha) \delta$   
 $\mathbf{x} \leftarrow \mathbf{x} \odot \mathbf{x}$   
 $\mathbf{X} \leftarrow \text{reshape}(\mathbf{x})$   
 $\mathbf{X} \leftarrow \text{norm}(\mathbf{X})$  {Normalize across columns}  
**until**  $\mathbf{X}$  converges

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## 4. Experiments

CURSOR was compared with four learning-free third-order ANN-based hypergraph matching algorithms: Tensor Matching (TM) [9], Hypergraph Matching via Reweighted Random Walks (RRWHM) [20], BCAGM in third-order (BCAGM3) [30], and Alternating Direction Graph Matching (ADGM)[19]. The experiments were conducted on the original implementations provided by their authors. The proposed tensor generation method was integrated into each of these algorithms, represented as CURSOR+TM/RRWHM/BCAGM3/ADGM in the experiments. The all-ones vector was set as the starting point, and the Hungarian algorithm [17] turned the output into a proper matching. CURSOR was also compared with the state-of-the-art deep-learning-based algorithm HNN-HM [25] on the House and Hotel dataset, which is relatively small-scale. Since HNN-HM failed for datasets with  $n_1 > 40$  under the same memory constraint, it was not compared with CURSOR on other datasets. The hyperparameter  $\alpha$  in Algorithm 3 was set to 0.2 during the experiments. The experiments were run on a computer with an Intel Core i7-9700 CPU @ 3.00 GHz and 16 GB of memory. All quantitative results were obtained by 50 trials. Due to space limitations, the ablation studies and parameter sensitivity analysis are given in the supplement.

The compatibility features for each order and the param-

				ADGM			CURSOR				
$n_1$	$n_2$	$\sigma$	$t$	$r_1$	Memory ( $\mathcal{H}$ )	Accuracy	$c$	$k$	$r$	Memory ( $\mathbf{H} + \mathcal{H}$ )	Accuracy
30	30	0.02	900	900	89.35MB	1	15	5	5	0.62MB	1
30	50	0.02	1500	2500	413.88MB	1	15	5	5	0.82MB	1
50	50	0.02	2500	2500	701.80MB	1	20	7	7	2.37MB	1
50	100	0.02	5000	10000	5.45GB	0.974	100	10	10	9.62MB	0.982
100	100	0.02	10000	10000	11.28GB	1	100	15	20	30.65MB	1
300	300	0.01	30000	-*	-	-	200	20	20	215.92MB	1
500	500	0.01	50000	-	-	-	300	25	30	783.85MB	0.969
800	800	0.005	80000	-	-	-	400	30	50	2.02GB	0.973
1000	1000	0.005	100000	-	-	-	500	50	80	5.03GB	0.992

Table 1. Results on the synthetic dataset with ADGM and CURSOR.

\*System runs out of memory.

eters for the experiments were set as:

**First-order compatibility.** The first-order compatibility matrix  $\mathbf{M}$  in Eq. (13) for all experiments was calculated as:

$$M_{i,j} = \exp(-\gamma_0 \|f_i - f_j\|_2) \quad (14)$$

where  $f_i$  and  $f_j$  are the normalized coordinates of  $i^{\text{th}}$  point in  $P_1$  and  $j^{\text{th}}$  point in  $P_2$ , respectively. The coordinates are normalized by subtracting the mean value of the coordinates in each set.  $\gamma_0$  is the inverse of the mean value of all the distances from points in  $P_1$  to the ones in  $P_2$ .  $\mathbf{M}$  is then flattened column-wise as the first-order compatibility vector  $\hat{\mathbf{m}}$ .

**Second-order compatibility matrix.** The pairwise compatibility feature calculation of CURSOR followed [16], which found a balance between rotation and scale invariance.  $c$  columns, as  $\mathbf{C}$ , and another  $3c^2$  entries of  $\mathbf{H}$  were randomly selected with a uniform distribution for the CUR decomposition. The soft-constraint assignment matrix was computed with the second-order PRL-based algorithm presented in Eq. (11).

**Third-order compatibility tensor.** Following [9], the same third-order compatibility feature calculation for the ANN-based and CURSOR methods was applied. The same  $t$  randomly selected hyperedges in the source graph were used for all the methods. The ANN-based and CURSOR methods generated the tensor with  $r_1$  and  $r$  highest compatibilities from the target graph, respectively.

#### 4.1. Large-Scale Random Synthetic Dataset

One thousand two-dimensional points,  $P$ , were sampled from a Gaussian distribution  $\mathcal{N}(0, 1)$ . Then, Gaussian deformation noise  $\mathcal{N}(0, \sigma^2)$  was added to  $P$  as point set  $Q$ . During the experiments,  $n_1$  points from  $P$  were selected as source graph  $\mathcal{G}_1$ , and  $n_2$  points containing the corresponding matching of  $\mathcal{G}_1$  and outliers from  $Q$  were chosen as target graph  $\mathcal{G}_2$ .

CURSOR was evaluated on synthetic datasets with increasing problem scales. Results of the ADGM algorithm based on ANN, whose accuracy was the highest among all the prior state-of-the-art hypergraph matching algorithms, were given. The parameter settings of ADGM, including  $t$  and  $r_1$ , strictly followed the original work [19]. CURSOR can deal with large-scale scenarios and achieve privilege-matching accuracy with much less memory usage (Table 1). CURSOR was capable of solving 1000-vs-1000 matching problems with high accuracy, while ADGM failed to generate the tensor when  $n_1 > 100$  under the same memory constraint. A more detailed memory footprint analysis and the potential bottleneck of CURSOR will be provided in the supplement.

#### 4.2. Templates with Specific Shapes

To analyze the robustness of CURSOR to different shape deformations, middle-scale templates with specific shapes, which have been commonly used in previous works [14, 16, 29, 32] were evaluated. Four 2D templates were chosen: whale with 150 points, Chinese character with 105 points, UCF fish with 98 points, and tropical fish with 91 points. The target points were generated by rotation, scaling, with noise and outliers added. For CURSOR,  $c = 100$ ,  $k = 5$ ,  $r = 25$  and for ANN-based methods,  $r_1 = 300$ . For both types of methods  $t = 0.3n_1n_2$ .

Different deformations were added on all the target points. For the rotation case, the source points were rotated with angle  $\theta \in [-30^\circ, 30^\circ]$ , then noise with  $\sigma = 0.02\sigma_0$ , where  $\sigma_0$  is the standard deviation of all the source point coordinates, was added. For the scaling case, only the  $x$ -coordinate of the 2D point was scaled with the scaling factor  $s = 1.1^\beta$ , where  $\beta \in [-5, 5]$ , then noise with  $\sigma = 0.02\sigma_0$  was added. To evaluate variant noise level, we vary noise with  $\sigma$  ranging from 0 to  $0.1\sigma_0$  with step  $0.01\sigma_0$ . To add outliers, assume the mean value of the source points is  $\mu_0$  and randomly add  $n_l$  outliers from a Gaussian distribution

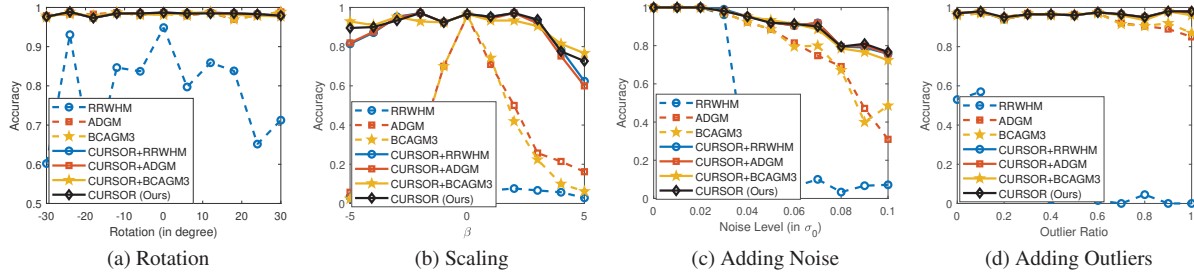


Figure 2. Matching result with deformation (a) rotation with angle  $[-30^\circ, 30^\circ]$ , (b) scale on  $x$ -coordinate with scale factor  $1.1^\beta$  where  $\beta \in [-5, 5]$ , (c) adding noise with  $\sigma/\sigma_0 = [0, 0.1]$ , and (d) adding  $n_l$  outliers where the outlier ratio =  $n_l/n_1$ .

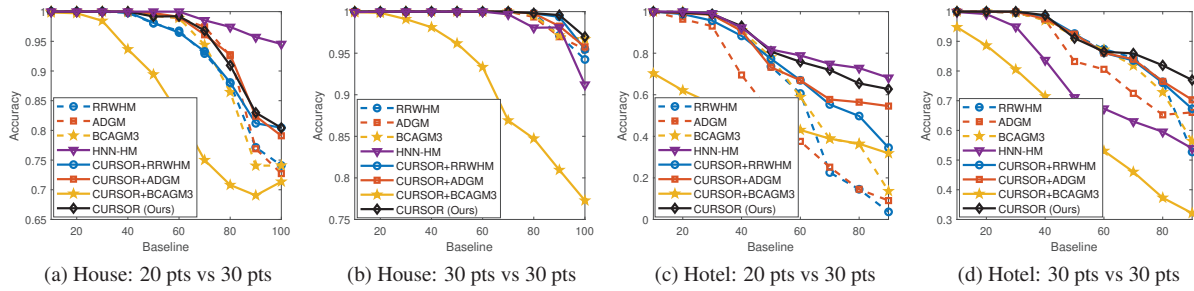


Figure 3. Comparison results on the House and Hotel dataset with various matching algorithms. The dashed curves represent the matching results on the compatibility tensors using ANN. The solid curves with the same color denote the matching accuracy on tensors generated by CURSOR with the same hypergraph matching algorithms.

$\mathcal{N}(\mu_0, \sigma_0^2)$ , where the outlier ratio  $n_l/n_1 \in [0, 1]$ .

Due to the rotational invariance of hyperedge features, almost all the algorithms show an average accuracy of nearly 1 under a variant of rotation deformation whether ANN or CURSOR (Fig. 2). The curves of other three cases demonstrate that the matching algorithms with CURSOR outperform ANN. For example, with scaling, the hyper-edge features were substantially damaged because the scaling process only scaled the  $x$ -coordinate of the target points. As the scale factor increased, the matching results of the ANN-based algorithms significantly decreased. In contrast, CURSOR generated compatibility tensors with higher robustness. The performance of the ANN matching algorithms was significantly improved and became competent after integrating the CURSOR tensor generation method. RRWHM performed much worse than other algorithms in all the cases but with the assistance of the compatibility tensor generated by CURSOR, its results became stable and showed comparable results to the other algorithms.

### 4.3. CMU House and Hotel Dataset

Previous works used the CMU House and Hotel datasets to evaluate the matching algorithms [9, 19, 20, 25, 30]. These datasets have 30 manually labeled feature points on a rotating 3D house or hotel model tracked over 111 and 101-frame image sequences, respectively. The experiment set-

tings of [19] were followed by matching all possible pairs with baseline (the separation between frames) varying from 10 to 100 in intervals of 10 for the House dataset and from 10 to 90 for the Hotel dataset.  $n_1$  points were randomly selected in the first image to match all the points in the second for both datasets, where  $n_1$  equaled 20 and 30 as two separate experiments.  $t = n_1 n_2$  tuples were selected from the first image. For ANN-based methods,  $r_1 = 200$  nearest neighbors were chosen for each hyperedge. For CURSOR,  $r$  was set to 25 and  $c = 300$ . For the learning-based HNN-HM, the training process of [25] on the House dataset was followed and the model was validated on both datasets.

The sequence-matching results are given in Fig. 3. All the learning-free-based matching algorithms combined with CURSOR surpassed the original ANN-based ones except for the BCAGM3 algorithm. The BCAGM3 algorithm with CURSOR frequently made descent errors during the experiment as its matching accuracy heavily decreased when the compatibility tensor was too sparse. CURSOR obtained comparable matching accuracy to the state-of-the-art learning-free algorithms when the outlier number was ten and achieved the best matching accuracy under the 30-vs-30 case on the House dataset. For the Hotel dataset, CURSOR achieved a much higher matching accuracy than ANN, but was less accurate than HNN-HM on 20-vs-30 problems as HNN-HM was specifically trained on the House Dataset.

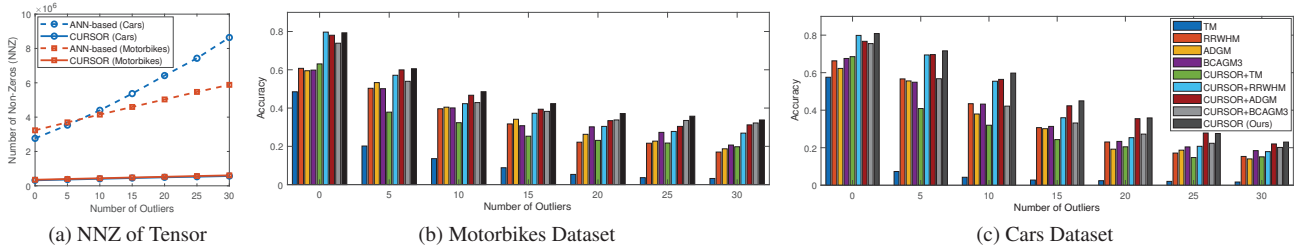


Figure 4. The Cars and Motorbikes datasets with CURSOR and state-of-the-art hypergraph matching algorithms. (a) The number of non-zero compatibilities with ANN-based methods and CURSOR. The matching accuracy on the (b) Motorbikes and (c) Cars datasets.

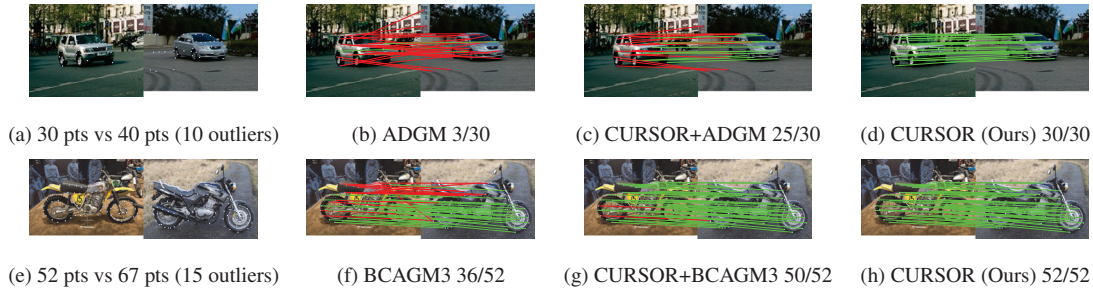


Figure 5. Car and Motorbike matching examples. Top row Car dataset, bottom row Motorbike dataset. Each example shows the matched results with the highest accuracy among trials. The green and red lines denote matches and mismatches, respectively.

It is noteworthy that CURSOR solved the matching problem with a unified model while HNN-HM must first train separating models in different datasets to achieve a better matching result. More detailed analysis will be provided in the supplement to show the effectiveness of CURSOR.

#### 4.4. Car and Motorbike Dataset

The Car and Motorbikes dataset [22] consists of 30 real-life car image pairs and 20 motorbike image pairs, and was used in previous works to evaluate matching algorithms [19, 20, 30]. In this experiment, all inlier points in both images were kept and labeled outlier points were randomly chosen in the second image, with the number varying from 0 to 30 in step of 5. Every image pair in both datasets was matched.  $t = n_1 n_2$  hyperedges were selected in the first image. For ANN-based methods,  $r_1$  was set as  $0.3n_1 n_2$ . CURSOR selected  $r = 50$  highest compatibilities in each tensor block. During experiments  $k = 10$  and  $c = 300$ .

Figure 4a reported the average number of non-zero elements in the compatibility tensors generated by the two types of methods. The average accuracy with the ANN-based methods and CURSOR was shown in Fig. 4b and Fig. 4c. All algorithms integrated with CURSOR consistently improved their matching performance with a compatibility tensor more than ten times sparser than the ANN-based methods. In most cases, the default PRL-based matching algorithm achieved higher accuracy. Figure 5 shows matching examples. Combined with CURSOR,

other hypergraph matching algorithms showcased fewer mismatches. CURSOR, with the PRL-based algorithm, obtained the highest matching accuracy.

## 5. Conclusion

We propose CURSOR, a cascaded mixed-order hypergraph matching framework based on CUR decomposition for scalable graph matching. The framework contains a CUR-based second-order graph matching algorithm and a fiber-CUR-based tensor generation method, which significantly decreases the computational cost, and can be seamlessly integrated into existing state-of-the-art hypergraph matching algorithms to enhance their performance. A PRL-based hypergraph matching algorithm for sparse compatibility tensors is developed to accelerate the convergence. Experiment results demonstrated that CURSOR contributes to a higher matching accuracy with a sparser tensor, which has more potential utility in the big-data era. In future work, we plan to develop a more principled adaptive scheme to optimize the parameters of CURSOR so that it can perform better with fewer computations on larger-scale tasks.

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