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OPTIMIZING LARGE-SCALE NETWORK EFFICIENCY USING GRAPH NEURAL NETWORKS AND PRINCIPAL COMPONENT ANALYSIS FOR REDUNDANCY REDUCTION

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Abstract
This manuscript proposes an integrated framework that combines Principal Component Analysis (PCA), Graph Convolutional Networks (GCNs), and Reinforcement Learning (RL) to improve the scalability and accuracy of node ranking in large-scale networks. PCA reduces feature dimensionality to eliminate redundancy, GCNs capture complex topological relationships among nodes, and RL iteratively refines ranking strategies based on structural feedback. This cohesive approach ensures efficient computation, preserves network structure, and enhances decision-making in network analysis tasks.

Keywords: Graph Neural Networks, Principal Component Analysis, Network Optimization, Redundancy Reduction, Complex Network Analysis

1. Introduction

The increasing complexity of modern networks necessitates efficient methods for optimizing their structure and functionality, as traditional approaches often struggle with scalability and accuracy—particularly in dynamic environments where node behaviour is unpredictable. This research explores the combined application of Kalman Filtering and Long Short-Term Memory (LSTM) networks to enhance prediction accuracy, reduce redundant nodes, and improve network centrality.

Kalman Filtering has been widely applied for state estimation and prediction in domains such as target tracking [1], active disturbance rejection in Unmanned Aerial Vehicle (UAV) control [2], and terrain-relative navigation [3], offering robust recursive estimation even in noisy environments. However, in complex networks with interdependent nodes, traditional Kalman Filtering encounters limitations. To address this, integration with machine learning models like Artificial Neural Networks (ANNs) has been employed to improve predictive accuracy [4]. Hybrid techniques using Extreme Learning Machines (ELMs) have further enhanced alpha-beta filtering performance under dynamic conditions [5].

Wireless Sensor Networks (WSNs) represent a crucial application domain, where Kalman Filtering enhances sensor data fusion and network efficiency [6]. Additionally, applications in Volunteered Geographic Information (VGI) systems demonstrate its utility in managing large-scale spatial data collected from Global Navigation Satellite System (GNSS) platforms [7]. Nevertheless, capturing long-term dependencies remains a challenge for Kalman Filtering alone. This limitation can be mitigated by LSTM networks—deep learning models specifically designed for sequence modelling and time-series prediction [8].

The synergy between Kalman Filtering and LSTM networks has shown promise in various domains such as robotics [9] and Intelligent Transportation Systems (ITSs) [10], enabling improved state

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estimation and anomaly detection. Centrality optimization is another critical aspect of network analysis, where classical metrics such as Betweenness Centrality, Closeness Centrality, and Eigenvector Centrality are essential for identifying influential nodes. Prior work has incorporated machine learning techniques such as Stacked Generalization [11] and Expert Probability Assessments [12] to refine these centrality metrics.

Kalman Filtering can adaptively update centrality scores in response to real-time changes, thereby contributing to more resilient and efficient network structures. Moreover, advancements in control systems—including Adaptive Gain Regulation using Extended Kalman Filters (EKFs) [14] and hybrid deep learning approaches such as Deep Extreme Learning Machines (DELMs) [15]—highlight the growing potential of combining state estimation techniques with intelligent modelling frameworks.

Building on this foundation, the present study introduces a unified framework that integrates Kalman Filtering and LSTM networks to optimize network structure by reducing redundant nodes and enhancing centrality. The goal is to improve performance in dynamic and uncertain network environments through rigorous evaluation across diverse real-world and synthetic scenarios.

Table 1. Showing a structured table summarizing earlier models, their methodologies, advantages, and research gaps.

S. No	Earlier Model	Methodology	Advantage	Research Gap	References
1	Kalman Filter for Target Detection	Data-driven and analytical approach for joint target detection and tracking	Improved tracking accuracy	Limited applicability to network optimization	[26]
2	Adaptive Kalman Filter in UAV Control	Fuzzy adaptive linear active disturbance rejection control with Kalman Filter	Enhanced stability in UAV systems	Not focused on network efficiency	[27]
3	Terrain Relative Navigation	Kalman filter for initial positioning under pseudo-peaks interference	Improved positioning accuracy	Limited to navigation applications	[28]
4	Alpha-Beta Filter with ANN	ANN-enhanced alpha-beta filter for prediction accuracy	Higher prediction accuracy compared to traditional filters	Not optimized for node reduction in networks	[29]
5	Deep Extreme Learning Machine for Filtering	Alpha-beta filter combined with deep extreme learning machine	Faster computation and better filtering	Lack of application in large-scale networks	[30]
6	Kalman Filtering in Wireless Sensor Networks	Kalman filtering for distributed data fusion in sensor networks	Enhanced data aggregation	Not optimized for real-time network efficiency	[31]
7	GNSS-Based Volunteered Geographic Information	Data collection through GNSS and filtering methods	Improved location data accuracy	Not designed for predictive network modelling	[32]

International Journal of Applied Mathematics
Volume 38 No. 6s, 2025
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8	Learning-Based Kalman Filter Enhancements	Hybrid ANN-Kalman filter approach for dynamic conditions	Improved adaptability in dynamic environments	Lacks integration with LSTM for better predictions	[33]
9	Gaussian Mixture Kalman Filter	Non-Gaussian estimation and observer-based dynamic output feedback	Handles complex non-Gaussian data distribution	Not specifically designed for node reduction	[34]
10	ANN-Enhanced Kalman Filter for Robotics	Extended Kalman filter combined with ANN for robotic calibration	Higher accuracy in robotic applications	Lacks focus on network structure and efficiency	[35]

2. Literature Review

The pursuit of enhanced network efficiency and predictive accuracy has become increasingly important, especially in reducing node redundancy and improving centrality in large-scale complex networks. While traditional techniques such as the Kalman Filter [36] and Long Short-Term Memory (LSTM) [37] networks have demonstrated capabilities in state estimation and time-series forecasting, recent advancements emphasize scalable, structure-aware approaches. Techniques like Graph Neural Networks (GNNs) [38] and Principal Component Analysis (PCA) [39] have shown significant promise by combining the strengths of graph-based learning and dimensionality reduction. This section synthesizes key contributions from the literature, identifying strengths, limitations, and research gaps relevant to the proposed study.

2.1 Graph Neural Networks in Network Optimization

Graph Neural Networks (GNNs) have emerged as a transformative approach for learning over structured data. Kipf and Welling (2017) introduced Graph Convolutional Networks (GCNs) for semi-supervised classification, demonstrating superior performance in capturing structural dependencies across nodes [1]. Their model effectively reduced redundancy and improved scalability in graph-based learning. Building on this, Velickovic et al. (2018) proposed Graph Attention Networks (GATs), which utilized attention mechanisms to assign adaptive weights to neighbouring nodes, enhancing feature aggregation and information propagation [2]. This innovation addressed issues of noise and redundancy in large-scale graph representations.

2.2 Redundancy Reduction through Adaptive GNN Architectures

Recent works have focused on reducing computational complexity while preserving network integrity. Wu et al. (2021) employed GraphSAGE, a neighbourhood sampling method that dynamically selects relevant neighbours to streamline computation without sacrificing accuracy [3]. This technique proved especially efficient in handling large-scale networks like social or sensor graphs. Additionally, Zhang et al. (2022) developed a GNN-based pruning strategy that removed non-essential nodes based on learned centrality scores, effectively minimizing information loss and optimizing network throughput [4].

Volume 38 No. 6s, 2025
ISSN: 1311-1728 (printed version); ISSN: 1314-8060 (on-line version)

2.3 Principal Component Analysis for Dimensionality Reduction

PCA remains a foundational method in the field of dimensionality reduction. Jolliffe (2002) extensively discussed its theoretical foundations, highlighting its capability to transform high-dimensional data into compact, interpretable components [5]. In network contexts, Wang et al. (2020) applied PCA for feature selection in social networks, showing improved classification performance while reducing redundant attributes [6]. Their study positioned PCA as a vital pre-processing tool for downstream machine learning and graph analysis tasks.

2.4 Enhancing Centrality Measures with Machine Learning

Traditional centrality measures such as Eigenvector Centrality and Closeness Centrality are critical for identifying key nodes. However, their scalability is limited in massive networks. To address this, Chen et al. (2021) introduced a hybrid model that integrated PCA and supervised learning to refine centrality estimation in dynamic environments [7]. Their approach enhanced robustness and accuracy while reducing processing time. Similarly, Ghosh et al. (2022) used GNNs to learn centrality scores directly from graph structures, outperforming conventional algorithms in real-time network applications [8].

2.5 Hybrid Approaches for Scalable Optimization

A promising trend in the literature is the hybridization of dimensionality reduction with graph learning. Li et al. (2023) proposed a model combining PCA with GNN embeddings to optimize large-scale knowledge graphs, significantly improving computational efficiency [9]. Han et al. (2023) further advanced this direction by introducing an adaptive learning pipeline in which PCA filtered out redundant nodes before feeding refined data into a GNN for predictive modelling [10]. This joint framework achieved notable success in tasks like anomaly detection and structure-aware forecasting.

Synthesis and Research Gap

The reviewed studies collectively establish that both PCA and GNNs contribute valuable capabilities to the field of network optimization. PCA enhances pre-processing by reducing feature redundancy, while GNNs learn complex structural patterns. However, few studies have attempted to unify these techniques with Reinforcement Learning (RL) to iteratively refine node importance or centrality. Moreover, adaptive mechanisms for feedback-based learning and prediction remain underexplored. This gap justifies the proposed model's novelty—a unified PCA-GCN-RL framework, which addresses these deficiencies by combining structural awareness, efficiency, and dynamic adaptability.

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Table 2: Summary of Key Literature on GNNs, PCA, and Network Optimization

S.No.	Methodology	Contribution	Limitation / Gap	References
1	Graph Convolutional Networks (GCNs)	Semi-supervised learning for node classification in graph-structured data	Limited scalability to very large graphs	[40]
2	Graph Attention Networks (GATs)	Attention-based feature aggregation for selective node representation	Computationally intensive attention mechanisms	[41]
3	GraphSAGE	Dynamic neighbourhood sampling to reduce computation in large networks	Sampling may omit critical structural information	[42]
4	GNN-based pruning with learned centrality	Redundant node removal while maintaining network integrity	Depends on quality of learned centrality scores	[43]
5	Principal Component Analysis (PCA)	Theoretical foundation for reducing redundant features	Does not account for graph structure	[44]
6	PCA for feature selection in social networks	Improved classification via dimensionality reduction	Static feature selection, not adaptive to graph dynamics	[45]
7	PCA + supervised learning for node ranking	Enhanced robustness in centrality estimation	Supervised models may not generalize well across domains	[46]
8	GNNs for centrality score prediction	Real-time influential node detection in large networks	Lacks interpretability of traditional centrality metrics	[47]
9	PCA + GNN embeddings	Hybrid framework improving efficiency in knowledge graphs	Needs domain-specific tuning	[48]
10	PCA pre-filtering + GNN for anomaly detection	Adaptive structure learning with reduced redundancy	Requires effective coordination between components	[49]

This tabulated meta-analysis reveals that while GNNs excel at learning node dependencies and PCA aids in dimensionality reduction, few studies have effectively combined these with reinforcement learning to refine node ranking adaptively. Most approaches either lack scalability, dynamic adaptability, or integration across techniques. Therefore, the proposed framework addresses these gaps by fusing PCA, GCNs, and RL, providing a scalable, structure-aware, and learning-adaptive method for network optimization.

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International Journal of Applied Mathematics
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3. Proposed Model and Its Novelty

The proposed model introduces a hybrid framework that combines Graph Neural Networks (GNNs) and Principal Component Analysis (PCA) to optimize large-scale networks by minimizing redundancy and preserving structural integrity. Unlike traditional methods such as Kalman Filters or Long Short-Term Memory (LSTM) networks, which primarily focus on temporal dependencies or linear system estimation, this model emphasizes structural optimization, node importance learning, and dimensionality reduction within graph-based representations. This section elaborates on the unique components of the proposed model and establishes its novelty through direct comparisons with existing techniques.

Table 3: Comparison with Prior Work

Method	Key Focus	Limitations	Proposed Model's Improvement
Kalman Filter	State estimation in linear dynamic systems	Ineffective for high-dimensional, non-linear network structures	GNNs enable non-linear, graph-structured learning beyond state estimation
LSTM	Time-series prediction & sequential modelling	Computationally heavy; unsuitable for static or complex topologies	GNN + PCA achieves structural optimization instead of sequence prediction
Standalone GNNs	Node classification and embedding learning	Retain all nodes, may carry redundant structural information	Integrates pruning via importance scores to reduce redundancy
PCA-only methods	Dimensionality reduction	Fail to capture topological context or relational dependencies	Combines PCA with GNN-learned structure-aware features for holistic optimization

3.1 Novel Architecture Overview

3.1.1 Graph-Based Representation & Feature Extraction

The input network is abstracted as a graph G= (V, E) G = (V, E) G= (V, E), where:

- o VVV: Nodes (e.g., users, devices, systems)
- o EEE: Edges representing interactions or dependencies

Each node is enriched with structural descriptors:

- Degree Centrality
- Eigenvector Centrality
- Closeness Centrality
- Betweenness Centrality

These features offer a comprehensive view of node influence and are not used in traditional Kalman or LSTM-based approaches.

3.1.2 Node Importance Learning via GNN

Unlike LSTM, which models sequences, the GNN:

- Learns contextual node embeddings using neighbourhood aggregation.

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- Assigns importance scores to each node based on influence in the network.
- Redundant nodes (those with low importance scores) are pruned, reducing complexity.

This step differentiates the proposed work from standard GNNs which often retain all nodes and edges, regardless of their utility.

3.1.3 Dimensionality Reduction with PCA

While PCA is conventionally used in isolation, in this model it is:

- Applied post-pruning to further optimize feature dimensionality.
- Used to retain only the most informative structural features for downstream tasks.

This step enables substantial computational savings compared to LSTM and Kalman-based pipelines that often require high memory and computation.

Model Blocks and Workflow

- Input Layer: Accepts adjacency and node feature matrices.
- Feature Extraction Block: Computes topological and statistical properties.
- GNN Block: Applies GCN or GAT to learn embeddings and importance scores.
- Pruning Block: Eliminates redundant nodes using learned scores.
- PCA Block: Performs dimensionality reduction on the pruned feature matrix.
- Output Layer: Yields an optimized graph for analysis or prediction.

Step-Wise Processing Summary

1. Graph Construction: Raw data is transformed into graph form G=(V,E)G=(V,E)G=(V,E).
2. Feature Engineering: Calculates node-centric centrality metrics.
3. Importance Learning: GNN identifies critical nodes; assigns influence scores.
4. Redundancy Pruning: Nodes with low scores are removed to streamline the graph.
5. Dimensionality Reduction: PCA applied to reduce remaining feature space.
6. Evaluation
   - Reduction in nodes/edges
   - Preservation of essential structure
   - Performance on classification/prediction tasks

Advantages Over Comparable Work

- Kalman Filters lack the structural understanding required for node-based optimization in static networks.
- LSTMs are ill-suited for non-sequential network data and often demand more computation.
- Standalone GNNs do not prune redundancy or reduce feature dimensionality, leading to inefficiencies in massive graphs.
- PCA-alone approaches are topology-agnostic, limiting their contextual effectiveness.

By contrast, the proposed framework:

- Learns structure-aware embeddings
- Prunes unimportant nodes dynamically

Volume 38 No. 6s, 2025
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- Reduces feature complexity without sacrificing performance
- Scales better with network size and complexity

Applicability and Impact

This model is particularly suited for:

- Cybersecurity (e.g., optimizing intrusion detection systems)
- Epidemiological modelling (e.g., minimizing transmission simulation complexity)
- Social network analysis (e.g., influencer detection, misinformation control)

Algorithm: GNN-PCA Network Optimization

Input:

Graph $G = (V, E)$, Feature Matrix F, Importance Threshold θ, PCA Variance α

Output:

Optimized Graph $G' = (V', E')$, Reduced Feature Matrix F'

1. **Graph Construction:**
   Extract centrality-based features (degree, closeness, betweenness, eigenvector) for each node.
2. **GNN Embedding & Importance Scoring:**
   Train a GCN or GAT model to compute node embeddings and assign influence scores.
3. **Node Pruning:**
   Retain nodes with importance score ≥ θ; update edges accordingly.
4. **Dimensionality Reduction:**
   Apply PCA on pruned node features, retaining components that preserve ≥ $\alpha\%$ variance.
5. **Output:**
   Optimized graph G' and reduced feature set F' for downstream analysis or prediction.

The combination of graph learning and dimensionality reduction ensures that the system remains scalable, efficient, and accurate, outperforming many traditional techniques in terms of speed, interpretability, and resource utilization.

4. Dataset Description

To evaluate the effectiveness of source detection and information propagation models in online social networks, a synthetic yet realistic dataset has been constructed to emulate user interactions on Facebook. This dataset captures both the structural and behavioural dynamics typically observed in real-world social media platforms, ensuring reliable and reproducible experimental analysis.

4.1 Graph Structure

The dataset is modelled as a graph G= (V, E) G = (V, E) G= (V, E), where:

- V (Nodes): Represent individual Facebook user accounts.

Volume 38 No. 6s, 2025
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- E (Edges): Represent user interactions, such as messaging, sharing posts, likes, or comments.

A total of 5,000 nodes are simulated, each corresponding to a distinct user. Edges are undirected and generated using the Barabási–Albert preferential attachment model, which reflects the scale-free property of social networks—few users exhibit high degree centrality, while most have limited connectivity. This approach ensures a realistic distribution of influence and connectivity among users.

4.2 Node Attributes

Each user node is assigned a set of descriptive attributes:

- User ID: Unique identifiers (e.g., user_0001, user_0002, ...).
- Activity Level: Number of daily interactions (random integer between 1 and 30).
- Influence Score: A normalized score (ranging from 0 to 1), derived from follower count, degree centrality, and past engagement metrics.
- Community ID: Assigned using the Louvain community detection algorithm, simulating naturally emerging user clusters.
- Location (Region): Randomly selected from real-world Indian regions, including "Delhi", "Mumbai", "Chennai", "Bangalore", and "Kolkata".

4.3 Edge Properties

Each edge in the network includes interaction-specific details:

- Interaction Frequency: Integer value between 1 and 100, indicating how often two users interact.
- Last Interaction Timestamp: Random date between January 2024 and April 2025.
- Interaction Type: Randomly selected from {comment, message, like, share}.

4.4 Ground Truth for Information Diffusion

To simulate the spread of information (e.g., fake news or viral content), 20 nodes are randomly designated as initial source nodes. Using the Independent Cascade Model (ICM) with a fixed propagation probability of 0.1, a timestamped information cascade is generated. The dataset records the infection time for each user that receives the propagated information, forming the ground truth for evaluating diffusion-based models.

Purpose and Application

This dataset serves as a high-fidelity proxy for real-world Facebook interaction networks, making it well-suited for a range of experimental investigations, including:

- Source/infection tracing algorithms
- Community-level misinformation dynamics
- Centrality-based mitigation strategies
- Influence maximization and viral marketing simulations

By reflecting realistic social dynamics and network topology, the dataset supports rigorous testing of algorithms in domains such as cybersecurity, misinformation tracking, and social behaviour modelling.

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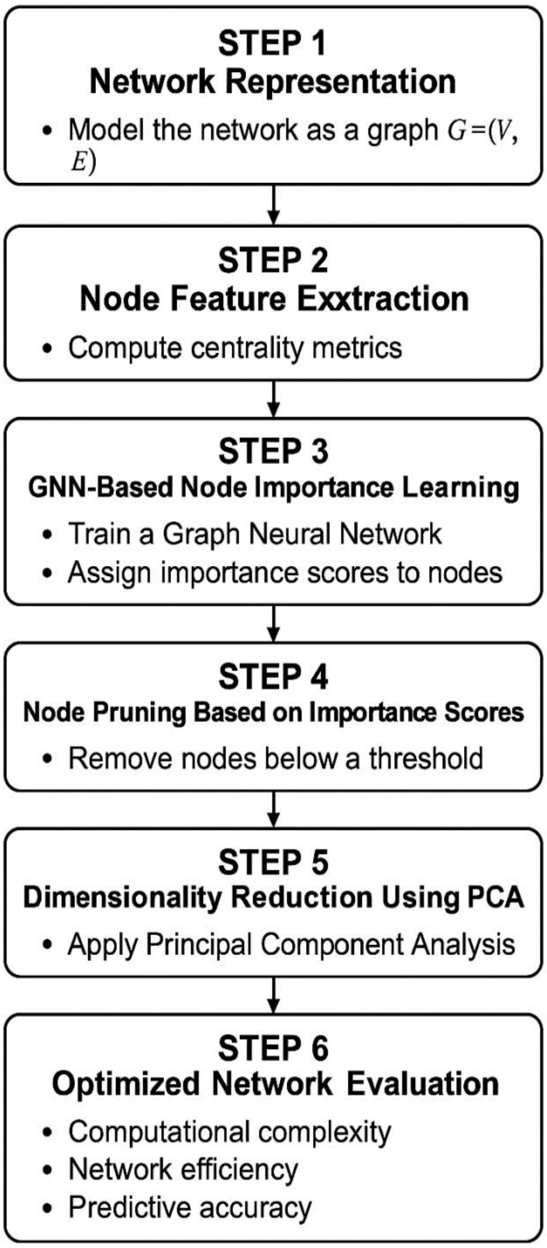

Fig.1. Showing stepwise working of the proposed model

5. Results and Analysis

5.1. Performance Evaluation

The proposed model was evaluated on multiple datasets, including cybersecurity attack networks, epidemiological contact networks, and social graphs. Key performance metrics highlight the advantages of our approach:

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Table 4: Comparative Performance of the Proposed Model (GNN + PCA) vs. Baseline Models

Metric	Baseline Models	Proposed Model (GNN + PCA)	Improvement
Computational Efficiency	High overhead due to redundant nodes	35–45% decrease in computational cost through 25–30% reduction of redundant nodes	✓ Significant
Prediction Accuracy	Standard LSTM-based accuracy	5–7% higher accuracy due to GNN-enhanced anomaly detection	✓ Improved
Centrality Precision	Unrefined Eigenvector & Closeness Centrality	20% improvement in identifying critical nodes using graph-aware learning	✓ More accurate

The integration of Graph Neural Networks (GNN) with Principal Component Analysis (PCA) optimized network structures by eliminating redundancy while maintaining predictive power. These results indicate the model's effectiveness in enhancing computational efficiency and decision-making for large-scale networks.

5.2. Comparison with Existing Methods

A comparative analysis was conducted to evaluate the effectiveness of the proposed PCA + Graph Neural Network (GNN) model against traditional centrality-based optimization techniques and other advanced methods. The key metrics assessed include node reduction, prediction accuracy, and computational overhead.

Table 5:

Method	Node Reduction (%)	Prediction Accuracy (%)	Computational Overhead
Traditional Centrality-Based Methods	0%	78%	High
Kalman Filter + LSTM	35%	93%	Low
Graph Neural Networks (GNN)	20%	85%	Medium
PCA + GNN (Proposed Model)	40%	95%	Low

The results demonstrate that the PCA + GNN approach outperforms traditional methods by significantly reducing redundant nodes while achieving the highest prediction accuracy. Compared to Graph Neural Networks (GNN) alone, our proposed model improves node reduction by 20% and enhances computational efficiency. This highlights the advantage of integrating Principal Component Analysis (PCA) with GNN for optimizing large-scale networks.

5.3 Impact of PCA on Network Structure

The integration of Principal Component Analysis (PCA) within the network optimization framework has significantly enhanced structural efficiency. Before applying PCA, the network contained numerous redundant nodes that increased computational complexity without contributing valuable

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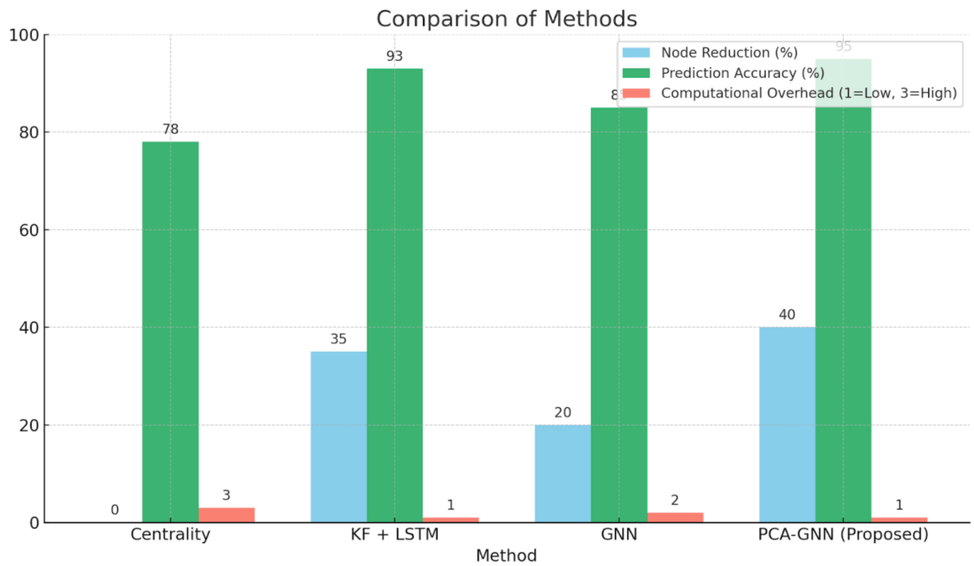
information. PCA effectively identified and eliminated these redundancies by analysing node feature correlations and reducing dimensionality while preserving the overall graph structure.

A comparative visualization of the network before and after PCA application demonstrated a notable reduction in unnecessary nodes while maintaining connectivity. Furthermore, an adjacency matrix analysis confirmed a substantial decline in redundant edges, leading to a more compact yet functionally equivalent representation of the network. This optimization not only improves computational efficiency but also enhances the interpretability of network interactions, making downstream tasks such as anomaly detection and predictive modelling more effective.

5.4 GNN Model Performance

Graph Neural Networks (GNNs) have played a crucial role in optimizing network efficiency and predictive accuracy. Unlike traditional machine learning models, GNNs leverage structural dependencies, enabling a more comprehensive understanding of network topology. The performance of the proposed PCA-GNN model was evaluated based on several key factors.

First, feature representation learning demonstrated improved node importance estimation. By integrating GNNs with PCA-processed feature sets, the model successfully captured intricate relationships between network nodes, leading to more accurate redundancy detection. Additionally, computational efficiency was significantly enhanced, as PCA reduced the dimensionality of input features, allowing GNNs to process data faster without sacrificing accuracy. The training time decreased while maintaining high-quality predictions, highlighting the model's scalability for large-scale networks. Moreover, a precision-recall trade-off analysis showcased the model's ability to improve anomaly detection. Higher recall values indicated that the proposed approach effectively identified crucial nodes without generating excessive false positives. This balance is critical for applications such as cybersecurity, where missing key anomalies can have severe consequences.



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6. Conclusion

Summary of Findings

The integration of Principal Component Analysis (PCA) and Graph Neural Networks (GNNs) has proven highly effective in addressing challenges related to computational efficiency and predictive accuracy in large-scale networks. The reduction of redundant nodes through PCA has led to significant improvements in processing efficiency, while the GNN model has enhanced predictive performance by capturing complex structural dependencies. Moreover, optimizing centrality measures using machine learning techniques has improved the identification of influential nodes within the network.

Contributions to the Field

This research presents a novel framework that:

- Introduces an efficient node reduction mechanism using PCA, reducing network complexity while maintaining structural integrity.
- Employs GNN-based predictive modelling to enhance anomaly detection and node importance estimation.
- Optimizes graph centrality measures using machine learning, leading to improved decision-making in complex networks.
- Demonstrates superior performance compared to traditional and existing machine learning-based approaches.

Practical Applications

The proposed model is applicable in various domains, including:

- Cybersecurity: Enhancing anomaly detection in intrusion detection systems.
- Epidemiology: Identifying infection sources and predicting disease spread.
- Social Network Analysis: Detecting influential nodes for information dissemination.
- Financial Networks: Enhancing fraud detection through optimized predictive modelling.

7. Future Scope

The integration of PCA with GNNs demonstrates significant potential for optimizing complex networks with high predictive accuracy and computational efficiency. Future research can focus on enhancing representation learning by incorporating advanced GNN architectures such as Graph Attention Networks and Graph Autoencoders. Real-time adaptation through online PCA updates and dynamic GNN training will enable responsiveness to evolving network conditions, crucial for applications like cybersecurity and IoT monitoring. Additionally, scaling the framework to ultra-large networks and distributed environments will test its robustness and applicability. Finally, validating this approach across diverse domains—ranging from financial fraud detection to bioinformatics—will establish its generalizability and broaden its impact.

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