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# Unit Ball Model for Embedding Hierarchical Structures in the Complex Hyperbolic Space

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## Abstract

1 Learning the representation of data with hierarchical structures in the hyperbolic  
2 space attracts increasing attention in recent years. Due to the constant negative  
3 curvature, the hyperbolic space resembles tree metrics and captures the tree-like  
4 properties naturally, which enables the hyperbolic embeddings to improve over  
5 traditional Euclidean models. However, many real-world hierarchically structured  
6 data such as taxonomies and multitree networks have varying local structures and  
7 they are not trees, thus they do not ubiquitously match the constant curvature  
8 property of the hyperbolic space. To address this limitation of hyperbolic embed-  
9 dings, we explore the complex hyperbolic space, which has the variable negative  
10 curvature, for representation learning. Specifically, we propose to learn the em-  
11 beddings of hierarchically structured data in the unit ball model of the complex  
12 hyperbolic space. The unit ball model based embeddings have a more powerful  
13 representation capacity to capture a variety of hierarchical structures. Through  
14 experiments on synthetic and real-world data, we show that our approach improves  
15 over the hyperbolic embedding models significantly.

## 16 1 Introduction

17 Representation learning of data with hierarchical structures is an important machine learning task with  
18 many applications, such as taxonomy induction (Fu et al., 2014) and hypernymy detection (Shwartz  
19 et al., 2016). In recent years, the hyperbolic embeddings (Nickel and Kiela, 2017, 2018) have been  
20 proposed to improve the traditional Euclidean embedding models (Nickel et al., 2011; Bordes et al.,  
21 2013). The constant negative curvature of the hyperbolic space produces several manifestations,  
22 where the most desirable property for representation learning is that the hyperbolic space can be  
23 regarded as a continuous approximation to trees (Krioukov et al., 2010). The hyperbolic space is  
24 capable of embedding any finite tree while preserving the distances approximately (Gromov, 1987).  
25 As a result of the tree-like properties, the hyperbolic space is more suitable to embed hierarchically  
26 structured data than Euclidean space.

27 However, the real-world hierarchically structured data are usually not trees since they can have  
28 varying local structures while being tree-like globally. For example, although the taxonomies such as  
29 WordNet (Miller, 1995) and YAGO (Suchanek et al., 2007) have underlying hierarchical structures,  
30 they contain many 1- $n$  (1 child links to multiple parents) cases and multitree structures (Griggs et al.,  
31 2012), which are much more complicated than trees. Thus, the general hierarchically structured data  
32 cannot ubiquitously match the constant negative curvature property of the hyperbolic space.

33 To address the challenge, in this paper, we present a new approach to learning the embeddings of  
34 hierarchically structured data. Specifically, we embed the data with hierarchical structures into the  
35 unit ball model of the complex hyperbolic space. The unit ball model is a projective geometry based  
36 model to identify the complex hyperbolic space. One of the main differences between the complex

37 and the real hyperbolic space is that the curvature is no longer constant in the complex hyperbolic  
38 space. Instead, it has the variable negative curvature. In practice, the variable negative curvature  
39 makes the unit ball model based embeddings more flexible in handling varying structures while the  
40 tree-like properties retain the superiority in hierarchies.

41 For empirical evaluation, we first compare our approach with the hyperbolic embedding methods on  
42 tree structures to show that the complex hyperbolic space maintains the tree-like properties. Then we  
43 evaluate our approach and the baselines on various hierarchically structured data, including synthetic  
44 graphs and real-world taxonomies. The experimental results demonstrate the advantages of our  
45 approach. To summarize, our work has the following main contributions:

- 46 1. We present a novel embedding approach, which takes advantage of the variable negative  
47 curvature of the complex hyperbolic space, to handle data with complicated and various  
48 hierarchical structures. To the best of our knowledge, our work is the first to propose  
49 complex hyperbolic embeddings.
- 50 2. We introduce the embedding algorithm in the unit ball model of the complex hyperbolic  
51 space. We formulate the learning and Riemannian optimization in the unit ball model.
- 52 3. We evaluate our approach with experiments on an extensive range of synthetic and real-world  
53 data and show the remarkable improvements of our approach.

## 54 2 Related work

55 **Hyperbolic embeddings.** Hyperbolic embedding methods have become the leading approach for  
56 representation learning of hierarchical structures. (Nickel and Kiela, 2017) learned the representations  
57 of hierarchical graphs in the Poincaré ball model of the hyperbolic space and obtained high-quality  
58 embeddings for taxonomies. (Ganea et al., 2018a) introduced the hyperbolic entailment cones  
59 to formally define the partial ordering relation. (Nickel and Kiela, 2018) proposed to learn the  
60 embeddings in the hyperboloid model (also known as the Lorentz model) of the hyperbolic space to  
61 avoid the numerical instabilities of the Poincaré ball model. These methods learned the hyperbolic  
62 embeddings by Riemannian optimization (Bonnabel, 2013), which was further improved by the  
63 Riemannian adaptive optimization (Bécigneul and Ganea, 2019). Additionally, (Yu and Sa, 2019)  
64 used an integer-based tiling to solve the numerical instabilities in the hyperbolic embeddings.

65 Another branch of study (Sala et al., 2018; Sonthalia and Gilbert, 2020) learned the hyperbolic  
66 embeddings through combinatorial construction. Instead of optimizing the soft-ranking loss by  
67 Riemannian SGD to preserve the hierarchical relationships as in (Nickel and Kiela, 2017, 2018),  
68 the construction-based methods minimize the reconstruction distortion and focus on the graph  
69 reconstruction task. Remarkably, TreeRep (Sonthalia and Gilbert, 2020) can exactly recover the  
70 original tree structure when the given graph is a tree. However, both the optimization-based and  
71 construction-based hyperbolic embeddings suffer from the limitation in hierarchical graphs with  
72 varying local structures. To tackle the challenge, (Gu et al., 2019) extended the construction-based  
73 method by jointly learning the curvature and the embeddings of data in a product manifold. Although  
74 it can provide a better representation than a single space with constant curvature, it is impractical to  
75 search for the best manifold combination among enormous combinations for each new structure.

76 Note that our complex hyperbolic embedding model is different from the hyperbolic embedding  
77 methods (Nickel and Kiela, 2017, 2018) or the product manifold embeddings (Gu et al., 2019) since  
78 the geometrical spaces are typically of different characteristics. The  $n$ -dimensional ( $n$ -d) complex  
79 hyperbolic space is not simply the  $2n$ -d hyperbolic space or the product of two  $n$ -d hyperbolic spaces.  
80 Section 3 will show that their geometries differ markedly.

81 Motivated by the promising results of previous works, extensions to the multi-relational graph  
82 hyperbolic embeddings (Balazevic et al., 2019; Chami et al., 2020; Sun et al., 2020) and hyperbolic  
83 neural networks (Ganea et al., 2018b; Gülçehre et al., 2019; Liu et al., 2019; Chami et al., 2019; Dai  
84 et al., 2021; Shimizu et al., 2021) were explored. Notably, (Chami et al., 2019, 2020) leverages  
85 the trainable curvature to compensate for the disparity between the actual data structures and the  
86 constant-curvature hyperbolic space, where each layer in the graph neural network or each relation  
87 in the multi-relational graph has its own curvature parameterization. Since we only focus on the  
88 single-relation graph embeddings and taxonomy embeddings in this work, we do not evaluate the  
89 multi-relational knowledge graph embedding models or the neural networks in our tasks.

90 **Complex embeddings.** The traditional knowledge graph embeddings were learned in the real  
 91 Euclidean space (Nickel et al., 2011; Bordes et al., 2013; Yang et al., 2015) and were used for  
 92 knowledge graph inference and reasoning. In recent years, several works suggested utilizing the  
 93 complex Euclidean space for inferring more relation patterns, such as ComplEx (Trouillon et al.,  
 94 2016) and RotatE (Sun et al., 2019). The computation operations and transformations in the complex  
 95 space have been demonstrated to be effective in the knowledge graph embeddings. The success of  
 96 the complex embeddings reveals the potential of the complex space and inspires us to explore the  
 97 complex hyperbolic space.

## 98 3 Preliminaries

### 99 3.1 Curvature

100 Before introducing the hyperbolic geometry and the complex hyperbolic geometry, we need to give  
 101 the definition of *curvature*, which describes the curve of Riemannian manifolds and controls the rate  
 102 of geodesic deviation. In this paper, *curvature* refers to the *sectional curvature*.

103 **Definition 1** (Curvature). *Given a Riemannian manifold and two linearly independent tangent vectors*  
 104 *at the same point,  $\mathbf{u}$  and  $\mathbf{v}$ , the (sectional) curvature is defined as*

$$K(\mathbf{u}, \mathbf{v}) = \frac{\langle R(\mathbf{u}, \mathbf{v})\mathbf{v}, \mathbf{u} \rangle}{\langle \mathbf{u}, \mathbf{u} \rangle \langle \mathbf{v}, \mathbf{v} \rangle - \langle \mathbf{u}, \mathbf{v} \rangle^2},$$

105 where  $R$  is the Riemann curvature tensor, defined by the convention  $R(\mathbf{u}, \mathbf{v})\mathbf{w} = \nabla_{\mathbf{u}}\nabla_{\mathbf{v}}\mathbf{w} -$   
 106  $\nabla_{\mathbf{v}}\nabla_{\mathbf{u}}\mathbf{w} - \nabla_{[\mathbf{u}, \mathbf{v}]}\mathbf{w}$ .

### 107 3.2 Hyperbolic geometry

108 Hyperbolic space<sup>1</sup> is a homogeneous space with constant negative curvature. Here *constant* means  
 109 constant both at all points and in all pairs of directions. In the hyperbolic space  $\mathbb{H}_{\mathbb{R}}^n(K)$  of dimension  
 110  $n$  and curvature  $K < 0$ , the volume of a ball grows exponentially with its radius  $\rho$ :

$$\text{vol}(B_{\mathbb{H}_{\mathbb{R}}^n(K)}(\rho)) \sim e^{\sqrt{-K}(n-1)\rho}. \quad (1)$$

111 Contrastively, in the Euclidean space  $\mathbb{E}^n$ , the curvature is 0 and the volume of a ball grows polynomi-  
 112 ally with its radius:

$$\text{vol}(B_{\mathbb{E}^n}(\rho)) = \frac{\pi^{\frac{n}{2}}}{\Gamma(\frac{n}{2})}\rho^n \sim \rho^n. \quad (2)$$

113 The exponential volume growth rate enables the hyperbolic space to have powerful representation  
 114 capability for tree structures since the number of nodes grows exponentially with the depth in a tree,  
 115 while the Euclidean space is too flat and narrow to embed trees.

### 116 3.3 Complex hyperbolic geometry

117 Complex hyperbolic space is a homogeneous geometry of variable negative curvature. Its ambient  
 118 Hermitian vector space  $\mathbb{C}^{n,1}$  is the complex Euclidean space  $\mathbb{C}^{n+1}$  endowed with a Hermitian form  
 119  $\langle \mathbf{z}, \mathbf{w} \rangle$ , where  $\mathbf{z}, \mathbf{w} \in \mathbb{C}^{n+1}$ . Then the Hermitian space  $\mathbb{C}^{n,1}$  can be divided into three subsets:  
 120  $V_- = \{\mathbf{z} \in \mathbb{C}^{n,1} | \langle \mathbf{z}, \mathbf{z} \rangle < 0\}$ ,  $V_0 = \{\mathbf{z} \in \mathbb{C}^{n,1} - \{\mathbf{0}\} | \langle \mathbf{z}, \mathbf{z} \rangle = 0\}$ , and  $V_+ = \{\mathbf{z} \in \mathbb{C}^{n,1} | \langle \mathbf{z}, \mathbf{z} \rangle >$   
 121  $0\}$ . Let  $\mathbb{P}$  be a projection map  $\mathbb{P} : \mathbb{C}^{n,1} - \{z_{n+1} = 0\} \rightarrow \mathbb{C}^n$ , i.e.,

$$\mathbb{P} : \begin{bmatrix} z_1 \\ \dots \\ z_{n+1} \end{bmatrix} \mapsto \begin{bmatrix} z_1/z_{n+1} \\ \dots \\ z_n/z_{n+1} \end{bmatrix}, \text{ where } z_{n+1} \neq 0. \quad (3)$$

122 Then the complex hyperbolic space  $\mathbb{H}_{\mathbb{C}}^n$  and its boundary  $\partial\mathbb{H}_{\mathbb{C}}^n$  are defined using the projectivization:

$$\mathbb{H}_{\mathbb{C}}^n = \mathbb{P}V_-, \quad \partial\mathbb{H}_{\mathbb{C}}^n = \mathbb{P}V_0. \quad (4)$$

123 The curvature of the complex hyperbolic space is summarized by (Goldman, 1999) as follows:

<sup>1</sup>In this paper, we use *hyperbolic space* to refer to real hyperbolic space and *hyperbolic embeddings* to refer to real hyperbolic embeddings for avoiding wordiness.

124 **Theorem 1.** *The curvature is not constant in  $\mathbb{H}_{\mathbb{C}}^n$ . It is pinched between  $-1$  (in the directions of*  
125 *complex projective lines) and  $-1/4$  (in the directions of totally real planes).*

126 We leave the full proof in Appendix A. The non-constant curvature, which we expect to be favorable  
127 for embedding various hierarchical structures, is one of the main differences between  $\mathbb{H}_{\mathbb{C}}^n$  and the real  
128 hyperbolic space  $\mathbb{H}_{\mathbb{R}}^n$ .

129 The complex hyperbolic space also has the tree-like exponential volume growth property. The volume  
130 of a ball with radius  $\rho$  in  $\mathbb{H}_{\mathbb{C}}^n$  is given by

$$\text{vol}(B_{\mathbb{H}_{\mathbb{C}}^n}(\rho)) = \frac{8^n \sigma_{2n-1}}{2n} \sinh^{2n}(\rho/2) \sim \frac{8^n \sigma_{2n-1}}{2n} e^{n\rho}, \quad (5)$$

131 where  $\sigma_{2n-1} = 2\pi^n/n!$  is the Euclidean volume of the unit sphere  $S^{2n-1} \in \mathbb{C}^n$ .

132 From the properties of the complex hyperbolic geometry, we expect that the complex hyperbolic  
133 space can naturally handle data with diverse local structures in virtue of the variable curvature as  
134 presented in Theorem 1 while preserving the tree-like properties as shown in Eq. (5).

## 135 4 Unit ball embeddings

136 We propose to embed the hierarchically structured data into the unit ball model of the complex  
137 hyperbolic space. In this section, We introduce our approach in detail.

### 138 4.1 The unit ball model

139 The unit ball model is one model used to identify the complex hyperbolic space, which can be derived  
140 via the projective geometry (Goldman, 1999). We now provide the derivation sketch.

141 Take the Hermitian form of  $\mathbb{C}^{n,1}$  in Section 3.3 to be a standard Hermitian form:

$$\langle\langle \mathbf{z}, \mathbf{w} \rangle\rangle = z_1 \bar{w}_1 + \cdots + z_n \bar{w}_n - z_{n+1} \bar{w}_{n+1}, \quad (6)$$

142 where  $\bar{w}$  is the conjugate of  $w$ . Take  $z_{n+1} = 1$  in the projection map  $\mathbb{P}$  in Eq. (3), then from Eq. (4),  
143 we can derive the formula of the unit ball model:

$$\mathcal{B}_{\mathbb{C}}^n = \{(z_1, \cdots, z_n, 1) \mid |z_1|^2 + \cdots + |z_n|^2 < 1\}, \quad (7)$$

144 where  $|\cdot|$  is the Euclidean norm.

145 The metric on  $\mathcal{B}_{\mathbb{C}}^n$  is Bergman metric, which takes the formula below in 2-d case:

$$ds^2 = \frac{-4}{\langle\langle \mathbf{z}, \mathbf{z} \rangle\rangle^2} \det \begin{bmatrix} \langle\langle \mathbf{z}, \mathbf{z} \rangle\rangle & \langle\langle d\mathbf{z}, \mathbf{z} \rangle\rangle \\ \langle\langle \mathbf{z}, d\mathbf{z} \rangle\rangle & \langle\langle d\mathbf{z}, d\mathbf{z} \rangle\rangle \end{bmatrix}. \quad (8)$$

146 The distance function on  $\mathcal{B}_{\mathbb{C}}^n$  is given by

$$d_{\mathcal{B}_{\mathbb{C}}^n}(\mathbf{z}, \mathbf{w}) = \text{arcosh}\left(2 \frac{\langle\langle \mathbf{z}, \mathbf{w} \rangle\rangle \langle\langle \mathbf{w}, \mathbf{z} \rangle\rangle}{\langle\langle \mathbf{z}, \mathbf{z} \rangle\rangle \langle\langle \mathbf{w}, \mathbf{w} \rangle\rangle} - 1\right), \quad (9)$$

147 where the Hermitian form  $\langle\langle \mathbf{z}, \mathbf{w} \rangle\rangle$  is defined in Eq. (6).

### 148 4.2 Embeddings in the unit ball model

149 Given the hierarchical data containing a set of nodes  $X = \{x_p\}_{p=1}^m$  and a set of edges  $E =$   
150  $\{(x_p, x_q) \mid x_p, x_q \in X\}$ , we aim to learn the embeddings of the nodes  $\mathbf{Z} = \{\mathbf{z}_p\}_{p=1}^m$ , where  $\mathbf{z}_p \in \mathcal{B}_{\mathbb{C}}^n$ .

151 The objective of the embeddings is to recover the structures of input data, including the distances  
152 between the nodes as well as the partial order in the hierarchies. Here we adopt the soft ranking  
153 loss used in the Poincaré ball embeddings (Nickel and Kiela, 2017) and the hyperboloid embed-  
154 dings (Nickel and Kiela, 2018), which aims at preserving the hierarchical relationships among nodes:

155

$$L = \sum_{(x_p, x_q) \in E} \log \frac{e^{-d_{\mathcal{B}_{\mathbb{C}}^n}(\mathbf{z}_p, \mathbf{z}_q)}}{\sum_{x_k \in \mathcal{N}(x_p)} e^{-d_{\mathcal{B}_{\mathbb{C}}^n}(\mathbf{z}_p, \mathbf{z}_k)}}, \quad (10)$$

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**Algorithm 1** RSGD of the unit ball embeddings.

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**Input:** initialization  $\mathbf{z}^{(0)}$ , number of iterations  $T$ , learning rates  $\{\eta^{(t)}\}_{t=1}^T$ .  
**for**  $t = 1$  **to**  $T$  **do**  
    Compute  $\frac{\partial d_{\mathcal{B}_{\mathbb{C}}^n}}{\partial \mathbf{x}}$  and  $\frac{\partial d_{\mathcal{B}_{\mathbb{C}}^n}}{\partial \mathbf{y}}$  by Eqs. (14) and (15).  
    Compute  $\nabla_E L(\mathbf{z})$  and  $\nabla_R L(\mathbf{z})$  by Eq. (13).  
    Update  $\mathbf{z}^{(t)}$  by Eq. (17).  
**end for**

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156 where  $\mathcal{N}(x_p) = \{x_k : (x_p, x_k) \notin E_{\mathcal{T}}\} \cup \{x_p\}$  is the set of negative examples for  $x_p$  together with  
157  $x_p$ .  $d_{\mathcal{B}_{\mathbb{C}}^n}$  is the distance function in the unit ball model given in Eq. (9). The minimization of  $L$  makes  
158 the connected nodes closer in the embedding space than those with no observed edges.

159 Note that instead of manually setting the curvature of the learning space or training the curvature  
160 as extra parameters, we learn the embeddings directly in the complex hyperbolic space, where the  
161 curvature is variable. The learned embeddings are located in different submanifolds of the unit ball  
162 model, whose curvatures are different.

### 163 4.3 Riemannian optimization in the unit ball model

164 We learn the embeddings  $\mathbf{Z} = \{\mathbf{z}_p\}_{p=1}^m$  through solving the optimization problem with constraint:

$$\mathbf{Z} \leftarrow \arg \min_{\mathbf{Z}} L \quad s.t. \forall \mathbf{z}_p \in \mathbf{Z}, \mathbf{z}_p \in \mathcal{B}_{\mathbb{C}}^n. \quad (11)$$

165 For the optimization problems in Riemannian manifolds, (Bonnabel, 2013) presented the Riemannian  
166 stochastic gradient descent (RSGD) algorithm, which we employ to optimize Eq. (11). To update an  
167 embedding  $\mathbf{z} \in \mathcal{B}_{\mathbb{C}}^n$ ,<sup>2</sup> we need to obtain its Riemannian gradient  $\nabla_R$ . Specifically, denote  $\mathcal{T}_{\mathbf{z}}\mathcal{B}_{\mathbb{C}}^n$  as  
168 the tangent space of  $\mathbf{z}$ , then the embedding is updated at the  $t$ -th iteration by

$$\mathbf{z}^{(t)} \leftarrow \mathbf{z}^{(t-1)} - \eta^{(t)} \nabla_R L(\mathbf{z}), \quad (12)$$

169 where  $\eta^{(t)}$  is the learning rate at the  $t$ -th iteration and  $\nabla_R L(\mathbf{z}) \in \mathcal{T}_{\mathbf{z}}\mathcal{B}_{\mathbb{C}}^n$  is the Riemannian gradient  
170 of  $L(\mathbf{z})$ . Then the Riemannian gradient  $\nabla_R$  can be derived from rescaling the Euclidean gradient  
171  $\nabla_E$  with the inverse of the metric tensor  $ds^2$  and applying the chain rule of differential functions:

$$\nabla_R L(\mathbf{z}) = \frac{1}{ds^2} \nabla_E L(\mathbf{z}) = \frac{1}{ds^2} \frac{\partial L(\mathbf{z})}{\partial d_{\mathcal{B}_{\mathbb{C}}^n}(\mathbf{z}, \mathbf{w})} \nabla_E d_{\mathcal{B}_{\mathbb{C}}^n}(\mathbf{z}, \mathbf{w}), \quad (13)$$

172 where  $ds^2$  is in Eq. (8) and  $\frac{\partial L(\mathbf{z})}{\partial d_{\mathcal{B}_{\mathbb{C}}^n}(\mathbf{z}, \mathbf{w})}$  is trivial to compute from Eq. (10).

173 In practical training, we implement and compute the complex hyperbolic embedding as its real part  
174 and imaginary part, i.e.,  $\mathbf{z} = \mathbf{x} + i\mathbf{y}$ , where  $i$  represents the *imaginary unit*, i.e.,  $i^2 = -1$ . In order to  
175 get the gradient of the distance function  $\nabla_E d_{\mathcal{B}_{\mathbb{C}}^n}(\mathbf{z}, \mathbf{w})$  in Eq. (13), we get the partial derivative with

176 regard to the real part and the imaginary part, i.e.,  $\nabla_E d_{\mathcal{B}_{\mathbb{C}}^n}(\mathbf{z}, \mathbf{w}) = \frac{\partial d_{\mathcal{B}_{\mathbb{C}}^n}(\mathbf{z}, \mathbf{w})}{\partial \mathbf{x}} + i \frac{\partial d_{\mathcal{B}_{\mathbb{C}}^n}(\mathbf{z}, \mathbf{w})}{\partial \mathbf{y}}$ .

177 The partial derivatives of the unit ball model distance take the following formulas:

$$\frac{\partial d_{\mathcal{B}_{\mathbb{C}}^n}}{\partial \mathbf{x}} = \frac{4}{\sqrt{p^2 - 1}} \left( \frac{Re(\langle \mathbf{z}, \mathbf{w} \rangle \mathbf{w})}{\langle \mathbf{z}, \mathbf{z} \rangle \langle \mathbf{w}, \mathbf{w} \rangle} - \frac{\langle \mathbf{z}, \mathbf{w} \rangle \langle \mathbf{w}, \mathbf{z} \rangle \mathbf{x}}{\langle \mathbf{z}, \mathbf{z} \rangle^2 \langle \mathbf{w}, \mathbf{w} \rangle} \right), \quad (14)$$

$$\frac{\partial d_{\mathcal{B}_{\mathbb{C}}^n}}{\partial \mathbf{y}} = \frac{4}{\sqrt{p^2 - 1}} \left( \frac{Im(\langle \mathbf{z}, \mathbf{w} \rangle \mathbf{w})}{\langle \mathbf{z}, \mathbf{z} \rangle \langle \mathbf{w}, \mathbf{w} \rangle} - \frac{\langle \mathbf{z}, \mathbf{w} \rangle \langle \mathbf{w}, \mathbf{z} \rangle \mathbf{y}}{\langle \mathbf{z}, \mathbf{z} \rangle^2 \langle \mathbf{w}, \mathbf{w} \rangle} \right), \quad (15)$$

178 where  $p = \cosh(d_{\mathcal{B}_{\mathbb{C}}^n}(\mathbf{z}, \mathbf{w}))$ ,  $Re(\cdot)$  and  $Im(\cdot)$  denote the real and the imaginary part respectively.  
179 The full derivation of Eqs. (14) and (15) is given in Appendix B.

180 Since the embedding  $\mathbf{z}$  should be constrained within the unit ball model, we apply the same projection  
181 strategy as (Nickel and Kiela, 2017) via a small constant  $\varepsilon$ :

$$proj(\mathbf{z}) = \begin{cases} \mathbf{z}/(|\mathbf{z}| - \varepsilon) & \text{if } |\mathbf{z}| \geq 1, \\ \mathbf{z} & \text{otherwise.} \end{cases} \quad (16)$$

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<sup>2</sup>Here we omit the subscript of  $\mathbf{z}_p$  for concision.

Table 1: The real-world datasets statistics.

	ICD10	YAGO3-wikiObjects	WordNet-noun
Nodes	19,155	17,375	82,115
Edges	78,357	153,643	743,086
Depth	6	16	20
Training edges	70,521	138,277	668,776
Valid/Test edges	3,918	7,683	37,155
$\delta$ -hyperbolicity	0.0	1.0	0.5

182 To sum up, the update of  $\mathbf{z}$  at the  $t$ -th iteration is

$$\mathbf{z}^{(t)} \leftarrow \text{proj}(\mathbf{z}^{(t-1)} - \eta^{(t)} \nabla_{RL} L(\mathbf{z})) = \text{proj}(\mathbf{z}^{(t-1)} - \eta^{(t)} \frac{1}{ds^2} \nabla_{EL} L(\mathbf{z})). \quad (17)$$

183 The RSGD steps of the unit ball embeddings are presented in Algorithm 1.

## 184 5 Experiments

185 In this section, we evaluate the performances of our approach on tree structures and various hier-  
 186 archical structures, including synthetic graphs and real-world taxonomies. We focus on the graph  
 187 reconstruction and link prediction tasks. For more experiments, please refer to Appendix D.

### 188 5.1 Experimental settings

#### 189 5.1.1 Data

190 We use synthetic and real-world data that exhibit underlying hierarchical structures to evaluate our  
 191 approach. The details are as follows.

192 **Synthetic.** We generate various balanced trees and compressed graphs using NetworkX package (Hag-  
 193 berg et al., 2008).<sup>3</sup> For **balanced trees**, we generate the balanced tree with degree  $r$  and depth  $h$ . For  
 194 **compressed graphs**, we generate  $k$  random trees on  $m$  nodes and then aggregate their edges to form  
 195 a graph. Some examples of the synthetic data are given in Appendix D.1.

196 **ICD10.** The 10-th revision of International Statistical Classification of Diseases and Related Health  
 197 Problems (ICD10)<sup>4</sup> (Brämer, 1988) is a medical classification list provided by the World Health  
 198 Organization. The classification list forms a tree structure. We construct its full transitive closure as  
 199 the ICD10 dataset.

200 **YAGO3-wikiObjects.** YAGO3<sup>5</sup> (Mahdisoltani et al., 2015) is a huge semantic knowledge base. It  
 201 provides a taxonomy derived from Wikipedia and WordNet. We extract the Wikipedia concepts and  
 202 entities that are descendants of  $\langle \text{wikicat\_Objects} \rangle$  as well as the hypernymy edges among them. We  
 203 compute the transitive closure of the sampled taxonomy to construct the YAGO3-wikiObjects dataset.

204 **WordNet-noun.** WordNet<sup>6</sup> (Miller, 1995) is a large lexical database. The hypernymy relation among  
 205 all nouns forms a noun hierarchy. We use its full transitive closure as the WordNet-noun dataset.

206 For each real-world dataset, we randomly split the edges into train-validation-test sets with the ratio  
 207 90%:5%:5%. We make sure that any node in the validation and test sets must occur in the training set  
 208 since otherwise, it cannot be predicted. But the edges in the validation and test sets do not occur in the  
 209 training set since they are disjoint. We provide the statistics of the real-world datasets in Table 1. The  
 210 Gromov’s  $\delta$ -hyperbolicity (Gromov, 1987) measures the tree-likeness of graphs (refer to Appendix C  
 211 for definition). The lower  $\delta$  corresponds to the more tree-like graph and trees have 0  $\delta$ -hyperbolicity.

#### 212 5.1.2 Tasks

213 We evaluate the following two tasks:

<sup>3</sup><https://networkx.org/documentation/stable/reference/generators.html>

<sup>4</sup><https://www.who.int/standards/classifications/classification-of-diseases>

<sup>5</sup><https://yago-knowledge.org/>

<sup>6</sup><https://wordnet.princeton.edu/>

214 **Graph reconstruction.** We train the embeddings of the full data and then reconstruct it from the  
215 embeddings. The task evaluates representation capacity.

216 **Link prediction.** We train the embeddings on the training set and predict the edges in the test set.  
217 The task evaluates generalization performance.

### 218 5.1.3 Baselines

219 We compare our approach **UnitBall** to the following methods: the state-of-the-art combinatorial  
220 construction-based hyperbolic embedding method **TreeRep** (Sonthalia and Gilbert, 2020), the  
221 optimization-based hyperbolic embeddings in the **Poincaré** ball model (Nickel and Kiela, 2017) and  
222 the **Hyperboloid** model (Nickel and Kiela, 2018), the simple **Euclidean** embedding model using the  
223 same loss function with (Nickel and Kiela, 2017, 2018). Recall that we use the same loss function  
224 with Poincaré and Hyperboloid but learn in the unit ball model. Therefore, the comparisons among  
225 UnitBall, Poincaré, Hyperboloid, and Euclidean reveal the representation capacities of different  
226 geometrical models in different spaces.

227 For the baselines, we use their public codes to train the embeddings. For all methods, the hyperparam-  
228 eters are tuned on each validation set for link prediction task and on balanced tree-(15,3) for graph  
229 reconstruction task. The hardware information is given in Appendix D.2 and the hyperparameters  
230 are listed in Appendix D.3. In all experiments, we report the mean results over 5 running executions.  
231 The code of our approach will be publicly available after the publishing of the paper.

### 232 5.1.4 Evaluation

233 We use the mean average precision (**MAP**), mean reciprocal rank (**MRR**), and **Hits@N** as our  
234 evaluation metrics, which are widely used for evaluating ranking and link prediction. The details of  
235 prediction steps and the evaluation metrics are given in Appendix D.4.

236 The  $n$ -d complex hyperbolic embeddings have around double parameters of the  $n$ -d real embeddings  
237 since the  $n$ -d complex hyperbolic vectors have  $n$ -d real part and  $n$ -d imaginary part. For a fair  
238 comparison, in each experimental setting, we compare our  $n$ -d complex hyperbolic embeddings of  
239 UnitBall against the  $2n$ -d embeddings of the baselines. The results will also demonstrate that the  $n$ -d  
240 complex hyperbolic space is not simply the  $2n$ -d hyperbolic space, they have different capacities.

## 241 5.2 Graph reconstruction

### 242 5.2.1 Results on balanced trees

243 To compare the representation capacities of UnitBall and the hyperbolic embedding models for the  
244 tree structures, we first evaluate the graph reconstruction task on the synthetic balanced trees. A  
245 balanced tree- $(r, h)$  has degree  $r$  and depth  $h$ , so it has  $r^0 + \dots + r^d$  nodes and  $r^0 + \dots + r^d - 1$  edges.  
246 The  $\delta$ -hyperbolicity of any balanced tree is 0. We embed the balanced trees into 20-d hyperbolic  
247 space for the baselines and 10-d complex hyperbolic space for UnitBall.

248 Figure 1 presents the MAP and Hits@3 scores with varying  $r$  and  $h$ . We see that when the tree  
249 is in small scale, e.g.,  $(r, h) = (15, 3), (10, 2), (10, 3)$ , all methods have very good performances,  
250 demonstrating the expected powerful capacities of hyperbolic geometry and complex hyperbolic  
251 geometry on tree structures. However, when the breadth or the depth increases, the performances of  
252 Poincaré and Hyperboloid drop rapidly, suggesting that the optimization-based embeddings in  $\mathbb{H}_{\mathbb{R}}^{20}$   
253 are not effective enough for reconstructing trees of such scales.

254 In comparison, UnitBall and TreeRep achieve stable performances for larger trees. TreeRep learns  
255 a tree structure from the data as an intermediate step and then embeds the learned trees into the  
256 hyperbolic space using Sarkar’s construction (Sarkar, 2011). When the input data is a tree, TreeRep  
257 exactly recovers the original tree structure. Figure 1 shows that UnitBall achieves comparable or even  
258 better performances than TreeRep on the balanced trees. The results demonstrate that UnitBall does  
259 not compromise on trees. It produces high-quality embeddings for tree structures.

### 260 5.2.2 Results on compressed graphs

261 To illustrate the benefits of UnitBall on varying hierarchical structures, we now evaluate on the  
262 synthetic compressed graphs. The compressed graphs have local tree structures while being more

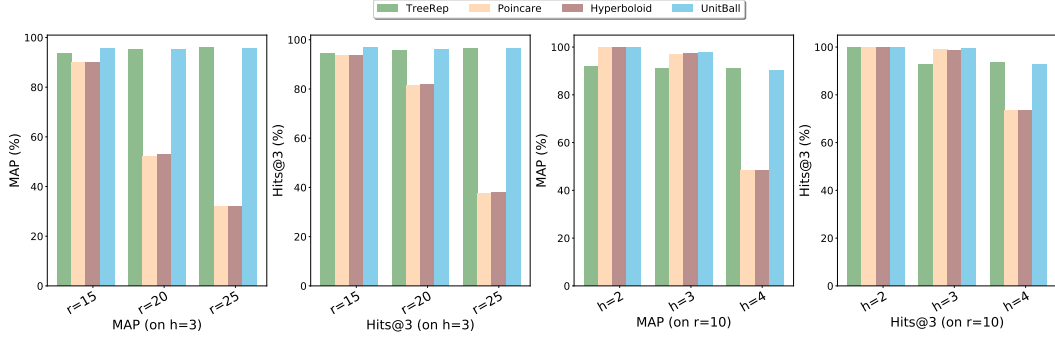
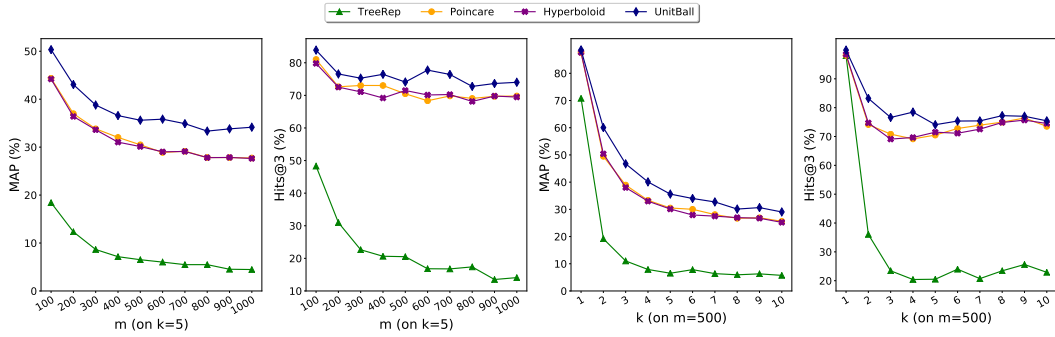


Figure 1: Evaluation of graph reconstruction on synthetic balanced trees in 20-d embedding spaces (10-d complex hyperbolic space for UnitBall).  $r$  represents the degree while  $h$  represents the depth.



$m(k=5)$	100	200	300	400	500	600	700	800	900	1000
Edges	478	982	1474	1,965	2,468	2,976	3,476	3,983	4,468	4,970
$\delta$ -hyperbolicity	1.0	1.0	1.0	1.0	1.0	1.5	1.5	1.5	1.5	1.5

$k(m=500)$	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
Edges	499	998	1,496	1,985	2,468	2,966	3,452	3,939	4,426	4,890
$\delta$ -hyperbolicity	0.0	2.5	1.5	1.0	1.0	1.0	1.0	1.0	1.0	1.0

Figure 2: Evaluation of graph reconstruction on synthetic compressed graphs in 20-d embedding spaces (10-d complex hyperbolic space for UnitBall).  $m$  represents the number of nodes in the graph while  $k$  represents the number of random trees aggregated to the graph ( $k$  controls the denseness and noise level of the graph). The statistics of the compressed graphs are provided in the tables.

263 complicated than trees. Each compressed graph- $(m, k)$  consists of  $m$  nodes and is aggregated from  $k$   
 264 random trees on the  $m$  nodes. The bigger  $k$  corresponds to the denser and noisier graph.

265 Figure 2 depicts the reconstruction results as a function of varying  $m$  and  $k$ . The results on the  
 266 compressed graphs are not as good as on balanced trees, especially with the increase of  $m$  and  $k$ , which  
 267 represents the increase of graph scale and denseness respectively. Notably, UnitBall outperforms  
 268 all other methods on the challenging data, showing that UnitBall handles the noisy locally tree-like  
 269 structures better. TreeRep has comparable results with other methods when  $(m, k) = (500, 1)$  since  
 270 when  $k = 1$ , the graph is exactly a tree, i.e.,  $\delta = 0$ . However, when  $k > 1$  and  $\delta > 0$ , TreeRep cannot  
 271 achieve promising results, because when the data metrics deviate from tree metrics, it does not help  
 272 much to learn a tree structure from the data as an intermediate step.

### 273 5.3 Link prediction

#### 274 5.3.1 Overall results

275 In this section, we evaluate the performances on the link prediction task for the real-world taxonomies.  
 276 Table 2 presents the results in 32-d embedding spaces for baselines and 16-d complex hyperbolic space  
 277 for UnitBall. Predicting missing links requires stronger generalization capacity than reconstructing  
 278 graphs, and UnitBall still has the best performances on all three datasets. Besides, we see that  
 279 Euclidean shows shortages on these hierarchically-structured data, which is consistent with the results  
 280 in previous works (Nickel and Kiela, 2017, 2018). Similar to the results on the graph reconstruction  
 281 task, Poincaré and Hyperboloid have very close performances, while Hyperboloid has slightly better  
 282 results. They have significant improvements over Euclidean, but they still fall behind UnitBall, which



Table 2: Evaluation of taxonomy link prediction in 32-d embedding spaces (16-d complex hyperbolic space for UnitBall). The best results are shown in boldface. The second best results are underlined.

	ICD10			YAGO3-wikiObjects			WordNet-noun		
	MAP	MRR	Hits@3	MAP	MRR	Hits@3	MAP	MRR	Hits@3
Euclidean	3.75	3.72	2.39	4.85	4.45	2.78	5.59	5.36	3.16
TreeRep	4.96	7.92	8.49	20.19	21.85	27.19	9.30	9.98	11.90
Poincaré	<u>35.24</u>	<u>34.45</u>	52.71	30.06	28.47	41.61	25.46	23.99	<u>27.80</u>
Hyperboloid	34.80	34.01	<u>52.88</u>	<u>30.80</u>	<u>29.21</u>	<u>43.17</u>	<u>25.65</u>	<u>24.15</u>	27.50
UnitBall	<b>47.88</b>	<b>46.96</b>	<b>70.28</b>	<b>33.33</b>	<b>31.85</b>	<b>47.41</b>	<b>27.29</b>	<b>25.93</b>	<b>32.95</b>

Table 3: Evaluation of taxonomy link prediction in different embedding dimensions (the embedding dimension for UnitBall is half of other models). The best results are shown in boldface. The second best results are underlined.

	YAGO3-wikiObjects								
	8-dimensional			32-dimensional			128-dimensional		
	MAP	MRR	Hits@3	MAP	MRR	Hits@3	MAP	MRR	Hits@3
Euclidean	1.02	0.92	0.57	4.85	4.45	2.78	16.67	15.76	15.97
TreeRep	16.91	17.48	27.53	20.19	21.85	27.19	21.18	23.44	32.84
Poincaré	29.70	28.13	41.64	30.06	28.47	41.61	29.93	28.35	41.53
Hyperboloid	<u>30.87</u>	<u>29.28</u>	<u>43.50</u>	<u>30.80</u>	<u>29.21</u>	<u>43.17</u>	<u>30.68</u>	<u>29.07</u>	<u>42.86</u>
UnitBall	<b>31.40</b>	<b>29.98</b>	<b>44.25</b>	<b>33.33</b>	<b>31.85</b>	<b>47.41</b>	<b>32.76</b>	<b>31.28</b>	<b>46.25</b>

283 demonstrates our claims that the non-constant negative curvature of the complex hyperbolic space  
 284 addresses the varying hierarchical structures on real-world datasets.

285 We notice that TreeRep does not perform well on the link prediction task. As mentioned in Section 2,  
 286 the combinatorial construction-based embedding methods (Sala et al., 2018; Gu et al., 2019; Sonthalia  
 287 and Gilbert, 2020) target on minimizing the reconstruction distortion of data and they can achieve  
 288 very good results on the graph reconstruction task. But minimizing the reconstruction distortion may  
 289 overfit the training set, thus resulting in the unpromising generalization performance for unobserved  
 290 edges. Hence, they are more suitable to learn the representation of graph data without missing links.  
 291 We also evaluate TreeRep on the real-world taxonomy reconstruction task in Appendix D.5.

### 292 5.3.2 Exploring the embedding dimensions

293 In this section, we explore the performances in different embedding dimensions. The results on  
 294 YAGO3-wikiObjects are presented in Table 3. Results on other datasets are in Appendix D.6. We find  
 295 that with the increase of the embedding dimension, Euclidean can have big improvements, but its  
 296 performances in 128-d still cannot surpass other methods in 8-d. TreeRep also achieves better results  
 297 with the increase of dimension, but overall its performances on the link prediction task are not very  
 298 promising. By comparison, Poincaré, Hyperboloid, and UnitBall achieve great results steadily. 8-d  
 299 is already enough for Poincaré and Hyperboloid to handle the link prediction task. We notice that  
 300 UnitBall has small improvements from 4-d to 16-d, then converges to the stable performance. The  
 301 results demonstrate that the Euclidean embeddings need to increase the dimension to better model  
 302 the increasing complex hierarchies, while the complex hyperbolic space and the hyperbolic space  
 303 have strong generalization competence for hierarchical structures.

## 304 6 Conclusion

305 In this paper, we present a novel approach for learning the embeddings of hierarchical structures in  
 306 the unit ball model of the complex hyperbolic space. We characterize the geometrical properties of  
 307 the complex hyperbolic space, including the variable negative curvature and the exponential growth  
 308 of volume of geodesic balls, which are beneficial for data with various hierarchical structures. We  
 309 exemplify the superiority of our approach over the graph reconstruction task and the link prediction  
 310 task on both synthetic and real-world data, which cover the tree structures as well as the general  
 311 hierarchical structures. The empirical results show that our approach outperforms the hyperbolic  
 312 embedding methods in terms of representation capacity and generalization performance.

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## 388 Checklist

- 389 1. For all authors...
- 390 (a) Do the main claims made in the abstract and introduction accurately reflect the paper’s  
391 contributions and scope? [Yes]
- 392 (b) Did you describe the limitations of your work? [Yes] The discussions on the limitations  
393 of our work are mainly presented in Experiments both in the paper and in Appendix.
- 394 (c) Did you discuss any potential negative societal impacts of your work? [No]
- 395 (d) Have you read the ethics review guidelines and ensured that your paper conforms to  
396 them? [Yes]
- 397 2. If you are including theoretical results...
- 398 (a) Did you state the full set of assumptions of all theoretical results? [Yes] See Section 3  
399 and 4.
- 400 (b) Did you include complete proofs of all theoretical results? [Yes] See Appendix A and  
401 B.

- 402 3. If you ran experiments...
- 403 (a) Did you include the code, data, and instructions needed to reproduce the main exper-
- 404 imental results (either in the supplemental material or as a URL)? [No] The code is
- 405 proprietary for this moment. The code will be released after the the publishing of the
- 406 paper.
- 407 (b) Did you specify all the training details (e.g., data splits, hyperparameters, how they
- 408 were chosen)? [Yes] See Section 5.1 and Appendix D.3.
- 409 (c) Did you report error bars (e.g., with respect to the random seed after running experi-
- 410 ments multiple times)? [No] We report the mean results over 5 running times.
- 411 (d) Did you include the total amount of compute and the type of resources used (e.g., type
- 412 of GPUs, internal cluster, or cloud provider)? [Yes] See Appendix D.2.
- 413 4. If you are using existing assets (e.g., code, data, models) or curating/releasing new assets...
- 414 (a) If your work uses existing assets, did you cite the creators? [Yes] See Section 5.1.1.
- 415 The data are publicly available. We cite the corresponding references and give the
- 416 public data links.
- 417 (b) Did you mention the license of the assets? [No]
- 418 (c) Did you include any new assets either in the supplemental material or as a URL? [No]
- 419 We do not create new datasets. We sample a taxonomy from YAGO3 and will release it
- 420 after the the publishing of the paper.
- 421 (d) Did you discuss whether and how consent was obtained from people whose data you're
- 422 using/curating? [No]
- 423 (e) Did you discuss whether the data you are using/curating contains personally identifiable
- 424 information or offensive content? [No]
- 425 5. If you used crowdsourcing or conducted research with human subjects...
- 426 (a) Did you include the full text of instructions given to participants and screenshots, if
- 427 applicable? [N/A]
- 428 (b) Did you describe any potential participant risks, with links to Institutional Review
- 429 Board (IRB) approvals, if applicable? [N/A]
- 430 (c) Did you include the estimated hourly wage paid to participants and the total amount
- 431 spent on participant compensation? [N/A]