

000 BEYOND ENTITY CORRELATIONS: DISENTANGLING 001 EVENT CAUSAL PUZZLES IN TEMPORAL KNOWLEDGE 002 GRAPHS 003

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010 ABSTRACT 011

012 Existing Temporal Knowledge Graph (TKG) representation learning approaches
013 focus on modeling entity or relation correlations. However, since TKG datasets
014 are constructed from events, which inherently contain heterogeneous causalities,
015 *focusing solely on entity or relation level correlations is inadequate for event pre-*
016 *dition in TKGs.* Although a TKG structural causal model can be established as a
017 theoretical framework for event level causality disentangling, practical disentangle-
018 ment is non-trivial due to the lack of explicit supervision signals. To this end,
019 we propose a Heterogeneous Event causality Disentangling Representation learn-
020 ing Approach (**HEDRA**) for TKG reasoning, which is the first work that *focuses*
021 *on disentangling heterogeneous causalities at the event level* in TKGs. Specif-
022 ically, a counterfactual detector module is proposed to disentangle non-causality
023 by leveraging event importance and distributional discrepancies of event repres-
024 entations. Moreover, an Instrumental Variable (IV)-guided disentangling module is
025 proposed to disentangle spurious causality by constructing IVs, which can pro-
026 duce robust event representations against spurious causality through multi-view
027 causality subgraphs. Finally, an evolutionary orthogonal module is proposed to
028 separate dynamic causality from static causality for event prediction. Comprehen-
029 sive experiments on five real-world datasets demonstrate that HEDRA achieves
030 the state-of-the-art performance. The source code of HEDRA is available at
031 <https://anonymous.4open.science/r/HEDRA-8A2F>.
032

033 1 INTRODUCTION

034 Temporal Knowledge Graphs (TKGs) are dynamic graphs composed of events (s, r, o, t) , where s
035 and o denote subject and object entities, r specifies the relation between them, and t indicates the
036 timestamp (Chen & Chen, 2024). TKG representation learning maps temporally evolving entities
037 and relations into a continuous low-dimensional vector space to capture both temporal evolution and
038 structural information in TKGs (Li et al., 2022). The event prediction task then leverages the repres-
039 entations learned from historical events to infer which relations are likely to occur between entities
040 in the future. TKG representation learning underpins downstream applications, e.g., knowledge rea-
041 soning and anomaly detection (Saxena et al., 2021). The variety of correlations among entities and
042 the complexity of temporal patterns make effective TKG representation learning challenging.

043 **Existing TKG representation learning approaches focus on modeling correlations among entities or**
044 **relations.** Some approaches construct entity graphs, where entities serve as nodes and relations be-
045 **tween them serve as edges, and learn representations based on graph reachability (Li et al., 2022; Bai**
046 **et al., 2023; Chen et al., 2024b; Zhang et al., 2024).** **Other approaches introduce derived structures,**
047 **e.g., entity groups, hypergraphs, and evolutionary clusters, to capture high-order correlations among**
048 **entities or relations that are not directly connected (Zhang et al., 2022; Tang & Chen, 2024; Tang**
049 **et al., 2024; Chen & Chen, 2024).** However, since TKG datasets are constructed from events, which
050 **inherently contain heterogeneous causalities, *focusing solely on entity or relation level correlations***
051 ***is inadequate for event prediction in TKGs.***

052 In fact, static causality and dynamic causality are ubiquitous in dynamic graphs. Here, static causal-
053 ity refers to time-invariant causal dependencies, whereas dynamic causality captures time-dependent
causal dependencies that evolve across timestamps (Zhao & Zhang, 2024). In addition, TKGs also

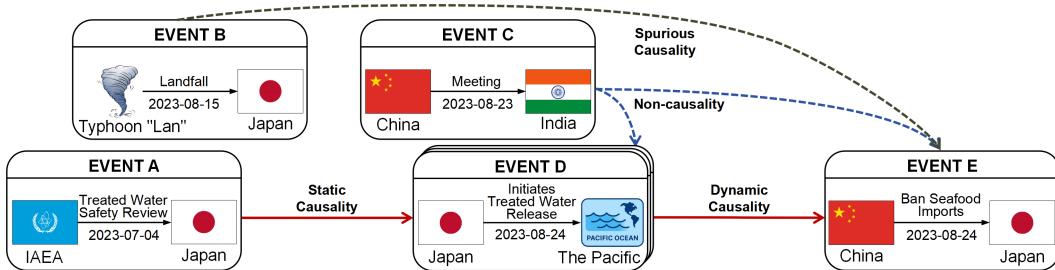


Figure 1: An example of heterogeneous causalities at the event level. IAEA denotes the International Atomic Energy Agency.

include non-causality that does not benefit event prediction and spurious causality that impedes the model’s acquisition of causally relevant discriminative information for event prediction. Figure 1 illustrates heterogeneous causalities at the event level, i.e., static causality, dynamic causality, non-causality, and spurious causality. First, the IAEA comprehensive safety review (Event A) provided the institutional framework that underpinned Japan’s decision to begin the treated water release (Event D), exemplifying static causality. Second, when Japan initiated the discharge, China announced an immediate ban on Japanese seafood imports on the same day (Event E), illustrating dynamic causality. Third, the BRIC, i.e., an international organization comprising Brazil, Russia, India, and China, summit held in Johannesburg (Event C) is non-causality with respect to these events. Fourth, Typhoon “Lan” made landfall in Japan and disrupted transport (Event B). Overemphasis on Event B could mislead the model to attribute export changes to Typhoon effects rather than the policy driven seafood ban, demonstrating spurious causality.

Although a structural causal model tailored to event level causalities in TKGs can be posited, it is non-trivial to disentangle static causality, dynamic causality, non-causality, and spurious causality at the event level in TKGs. The challenge lies in identifying and estimating them from observational data, since *existing TKGs lack explicit supervision signals to distinguish these causalities*.

To address the aforementioned challenges, we propose a **Heterogeneous Event causality Disentangling Representation learning Approach (HEDRA)** for temporal knowledge graph reasoning. *To the best of our knowledge, HEDRA is the first work that focuses on disentangling heterogeneous causalities at the event level in TKGs*, which constructs event representations from quadruples and progressively disentangles non-causality, spurious causality, static causality, and dynamic causality among TKG events. Our contributions are summarized as follows:

- We propose a TKG structural causal model to formally define non-causality, spurious causality, static causality, and dynamic causality, which establishes a theoretical framework for event level causality disentangling in TKGs.
- We propose a counterfactual detector module to disentangle non-causality in TKGs by leveraging event importance and distributional discrepancies of event representations, which includes a contrastive loss to encourage event pairs with low non-causality weights to be closer and those with high non-causality weights to be more separated.
- We propose an Instrumental Variable (IV)-guided disentangling module to disentangle spurious causality in TKGs by constructing IVs, which can produce robust event representations against spurious causality through multi-view causality subgraphs. In addition, we propose an evolutionary orthogonal module to separate dynamic causality from static causality for downstream event prediction.
- Experiments on five real-world datasets demonstrate that HEDRA achieves the state-of-the-art performance. HEDRA outperforms the runner-up by an average of 5.70%, 7.51%, 7.21%, and 2.30% in MRR, Hits@1, Hits@3, and Hits@10, respectively.

2 RELATED WORK

TKG Representation Learning. TKG representation learning approaches modeling pairwise correlations typically combine Graph Convolutional Networks (GCNs) and Recurrent Neural Networks

108 to capture structural information and temporal evolution, respectively (Li et al., 2021b; Sun et al.,
 109 2021; Li et al., 2022; Bai et al., 2023; Chen et al., 2024b). In addition to pairwise correlations,
 110 high-order correlations among three or more entities or relations are modeled through derived struc-
 111 tures, i.e., communities, hypergraphs, and evolutionary clusters (Zhang et al., 2022; Tang & Chen,
 112 2024; Tang et al., 2024; Chen & Chen, 2024). However, TKG datasets, e.g., ICEWS, centered on
 113 international political events, inherently involve complex causal dependencies. Focusing solely on
 114 entity or relation level correlations is therefore inadequate for event prediction in TKGs. To address
 115 this, we propose HEDRA, the first framework to disentangle heterogeneous causalities at the event
 116 level in TKGs.

117 **Graph Causality Learning.** Static graph causal learning approaches primarily focus on modeling
 118 spatial causality within static graphs. These approaches generally aim to reveal causality by gener-
 119 ating interpretable subgraphs (Luo et al., 2020; Yuan et al., 2020; Ying et al., 2019; Fan et al., 2022;
 120 Gao et al., 2023). Dynamic graphs, prevalent in real-world scenarios, have motivated research on
 121 dynamic graph causal learning, which typically explores both spatial causality and temporal causal-
 122 ity (Zhao & Zhang, 2024; Chen et al., 2024a). Despite progress in dynamic graph causal learning,
 123 most approaches mainly model static and dynamic causalities while overlooking spurious causal-
 124 ity, which impedes the acquisition of causally relevant information for event prediction. Moreover,
 125 there is no theoretical framework to disentangle heterogeneous causalities at the event level in TKGs.
 126 To fill this gap, we propose HEDRA, which constructs event representations from quadruples and
 127 progressively disentangles non-causality, spurious causality, static causality, and dynamic causality
 128 among events in TKGs. The comprehensive related works can be found in Appendix A.

129 3 PRELIMINARIES

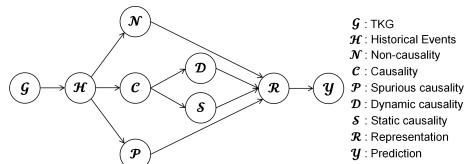
130 3.1 DEFINITIONS

132 **Definition (TKG).** A TKG is defined as a sequence of timestamped events, each represented as
 133 $\mathcal{G} = \{(s, r, o, t) | s \in \mathcal{E}, r \in \mathcal{R}, o \in \mathcal{E}, t \in \mathcal{T}\}$, where \mathcal{E} , \mathcal{R} , and \mathcal{T} denote the sets of entities,
 134 relations, and timestamps, respectively. \mathcal{G}^t denotes the set of events at timestamp t .

136 **Task (Event Prediction).** The event prediction task in TKGs aims to estimate the probability distri-
 137 bution over candidate relations between a subject entity s and an object entity o , conditioned on the
 138 historical event sequence $\mathcal{G}^{1:T-1}$. Formally, this task can be expressed as $p(\hat{r}|s, o, \mathcal{G}^{1:T-1})$, where
 139 T denotes the total number of historical timestamps.

140 3.2 EVENT LEVEL TKG STRUCTURAL CAUSAL MODEL

142 The event level TKG structural causal model
 143 (SCM) is shown in Figure 2, which comprises
 144 nine variables: TKG \mathcal{G} , historical events \mathcal{H} ,
 145 non-causality \mathcal{N} , causality \mathcal{C} , spurious causal-
 146 ity \mathcal{P} , dynamic causality \mathcal{D} , static causality \mathcal{S} ,
 147 representation \mathcal{R} , and prediction \mathcal{Y} . The
 148 explanations of the TKG SCM are as follows:
 149



150 Figure 2: Event level TKG SCM.
 151

- 152 • $\mathcal{G} \rightarrow \mathcal{H} \rightarrow \mathcal{C}$: Historical events \mathcal{H} are derived from the TKG \mathcal{G} , within which the genuine causal
 153 regularities are distilled as causality \mathcal{C} .
- 154 • $\mathcal{P} \leftarrow \mathcal{H} \rightarrow \mathcal{N}$: Historical events \mathcal{H} give rise to both non-causality \mathcal{N} and spurious causality \mathcal{P} .
 155 Specifically, \mathcal{N} denotes correlations irrelevant to event prediction, while \mathcal{P} denotes correlations
 156 that obstruct the model from capturing causally relevant discriminative information.
- 157 • $\mathcal{D} \leftarrow \mathcal{C} \rightarrow \mathcal{S}$: Causality \mathcal{C} can be disentangled into dynamic causality \mathcal{D} and static causality \mathcal{S} ,
 158 both of which jointly drive the learning of high-quality entity and relation representations \mathcal{R} .
- 159 • $\mathcal{N} \rightarrow \mathcal{R} \leftarrow \mathcal{P}$: Non-causality \mathcal{N} and spurious causality \mathcal{P} interfere with the representation
 160 learning process, introducing noise and consequently diminishing the quality of representation \mathcal{R} .
- 161 • $\mathcal{R} \rightarrow \mathcal{Y}$: The objective of HEDRA is to leverage the learned representations \mathcal{R} for event pre-
 162 diction, where the target \mathcal{Y} is ideally determined by dynamic causality \mathcal{D} and static causality \mathcal{S}
 163 through \mathcal{R} , with the effects of non-causality \mathcal{N} and spurious causality \mathcal{P} suppressed.

162 From the TKG SCM, two backdoor paths exist between \mathcal{C} and \mathcal{Y} , i.e., $\mathcal{C} \leftarrow \mathcal{H} \rightarrow \mathcal{N} \rightarrow \mathcal{R} \rightarrow \mathcal{Y}$ and
 163 $\mathcal{C} \leftarrow \mathcal{H} \rightarrow \mathcal{P} \rightarrow \mathcal{R} \rightarrow \mathcal{Y}$, where \mathcal{N} and \mathcal{P} act as confounders that bias the estimation of the causal
 164 effect $\mathcal{C} \rightarrow \mathcal{Y}$ and thereby interfere with event prediction. Moreover, when estimating the effect of
 165 \mathcal{D} on \mathcal{Y} , the path $\mathcal{D} \leftarrow \mathcal{C} \rightarrow \mathcal{S} \rightarrow \mathcal{R} \rightarrow \mathcal{Y}$ makes \mathcal{S} a confounder; symmetrically, when estimating
 166 the effect of \mathcal{S} on \mathcal{Y} , the path $\mathcal{S} \leftarrow \mathcal{C} \rightarrow \mathcal{D} \rightarrow \mathcal{R} \rightarrow \mathcal{Y}$ makes \mathcal{D} a confounder.

167 **Backdoor Adjustment.** HEDRA aims to progressively disentangle non-causality, spurious causality,
 168 static causality, and dynamic causality, ultimately leveraging static and dynamic causalities for
 169 event prediction. To this end, it is essential to block backdoor paths so that the model focuses on the
 170 causal effect of \mathcal{C} . Within this framework, do-calculus (Pearl et al., 2000) provides a principled tool
 171 to eliminate the influence of confounders. Specifically, when estimating the causal effect of \mathcal{C} on \mathcal{Y} ,
 172 adjustments for \mathcal{N} and \mathcal{P} are required, while estimation of the effect of \mathcal{D} on \mathcal{Y} requires adjusting for
 173 \mathcal{S} . Formally, the backdoor adjustment is expressed as (see Appendix B for derivation):
 174

$$P(\mathcal{Y} \mid \text{do}(\mathcal{D})) = \sum P(\mathcal{Y} \mid \text{do}(\mathcal{D}), \mathcal{S}) P(\mathcal{S} \mid \text{do}(\mathcal{D})) = \sum P(\mathcal{S}) \sum P(\mathcal{T}) \sum P(\mathcal{P}) \sum P(\mathcal{Y} \mid \mathcal{G}). \quad (1)$$

175 However, implementing such backdoor adjustments in TKGs poses significant challenges, since
 176 existing TKGs lack explicit supervision signals to distinguish non-causality, spurious causality, static
 177 causality, and dynamic causality.
 178

179 **Our Solution.** To address the above challenge, we propose HEDRA, a framework designed to pro-
 180 gressively disentangle heterogeneous event causalities in TKGs. At each timestamp, entity and re-
 181 lation representations are updated through a relation-aware GCN, followed by event representation
 182 construction. The counterfactual detector module disentangles non-causality by leveraging event
 183 importance and distributional discrepancies, guided by a contrastive loss. The Instrumental Variable
 184 (IV)-guided disentangling module introduces IVs to disentangle spurious causality, with a robust-
 185 ness loss based on multi-view causality subgraphs. The evolutionary orthogonal module further
 186 disentangles dynamic and static causalities under orthogonality constraints, while an evolutionary
 187 loss preserves the temporal dependence of dynamic components and the temporal independence of
 188 static components. Finally, by modeling dynamic and static causalities across timestamps, an event
 189 graph is constructed and processed with event GCNs to refine entity and relation representations for
 190 event prediction. The framework of HEDRA is illustrated in Figure 3.
 191

4 METHODOLOGY

4.1 EVENT REPRESENTATION CONSTRUCTION MODULE

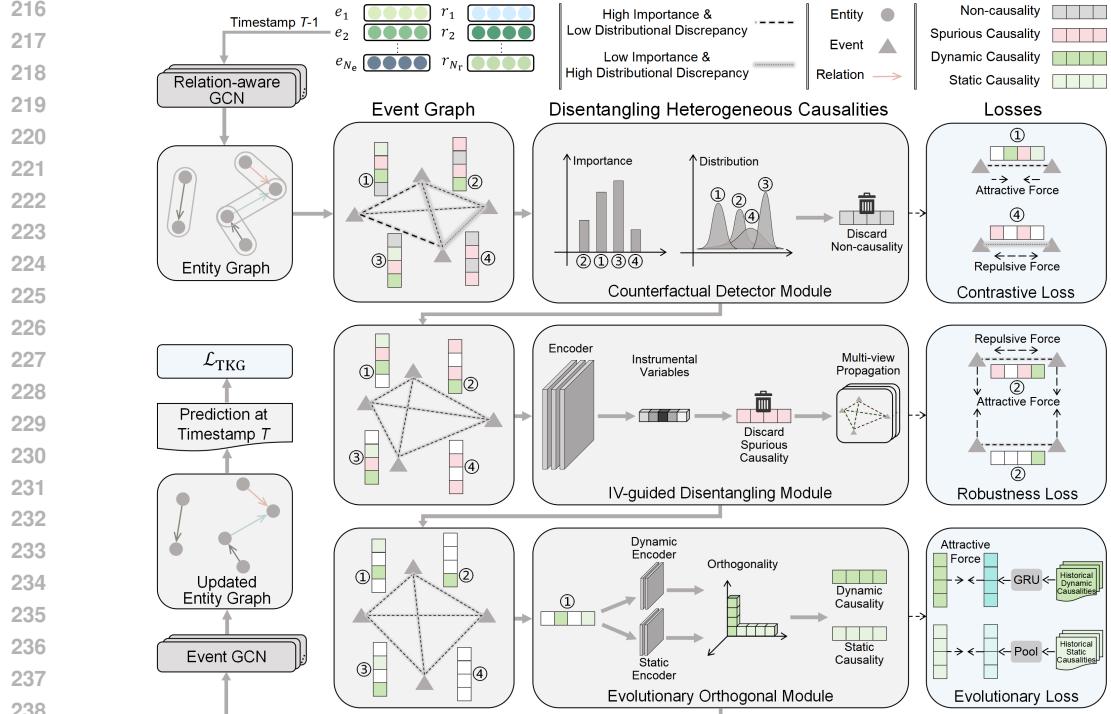
192 **Relational Message Passing.** Structural dependencies among entities and re-
 193 lations at timestamp t are modeled by a relation-aware GCN as: $\mathbf{h}_o^{t,l+1} =$
 194 $\text{RReLU}\left(\frac{1}{d_o} \sum_{(s,r) \in \mathcal{N}_o^t} \mathbf{W}_1(\mathbf{h}_s^{t,l} + \mathbf{h}_r^{t,l}) + \mathbf{W}_2 \mathbf{h}_o^{t,l}\right)$, where $\mathcal{N}_o^t = \{(s,r) | (s,r,o) \in \mathcal{G}^t\}$ denotes
 195 the set of subject-relation pairs forming incoming edges to object at timestamp t . $\mathbf{h}_s^{t,l}$, $\mathbf{h}_o^{t,l}$, and
 196 $\mathbf{h}_r^{t,l}$ represent the layer- l representations of subject, object, and relation at timestamp t , respectively.
 197 \mathbf{W}_1 and \mathbf{W}_2 are learnable parameters for neighbor aggregation and the self-loop, respectively. d_o is
 198 the in-degree of object. Entity and relation representations are randomly initialized. For brevity, the
 199 layer index l is omitted in subsequent sections.
 200

201 **Relation Update.** The relation representation at timestamp t is influenced jointed by the r -related
 202 entity representations at the same timestamp and its historical representation. Formally, let $\mathbf{h}_{\mathcal{V}_{\text{ent}}(r)}^t$
 203 denote the r -related entity representations at timestamp t . The update of relation representation is
 204 formulated as $\mathbf{h}_r^t = \text{pool}([\mathbf{h}_{\mathcal{V}_{\text{ent}}(r)}^t; \mathbf{h}_r^{t-1}])$, where $[\cdot; \cdot]$ denotes concatenation. pool is mean
 205 pooling.
 206

207 **Event Representation Construction.** To capture the semantic interactions among subjects, rela-
 208 tions, and objects at each timestamp, event representations are constructed by jointly encoding the
 209 three components of a TKG fact. Formally, for the quadruple (s, r, o, t) with subject representation
 210 \mathbf{h}_s^t , relation representation \mathbf{h}_r^t , and object representation \mathbf{h}_o^t , the event representation is formulated
 211 as $\mathbf{h}_{\text{event}}^t = f_{\text{MLP}}([\mathbf{h}_s^t; \mathbf{h}_r^t; \mathbf{h}_o^t])$, where f_{MLP} denotes a multi-layer perceptron.
 212

4.2 COUNTERFACTUAL DETECTOR MODULE

213 **Candidate Graph.** To avoid the quadratic complexity of fully connecting all event pairs, a candidate
 214 graph is constructed through k -nearest-neighbors (Cover & Hart, 1967) in the representation space.
 215

Figure 3: The framework of HEDRA, illustrated with timestamp $T-1$ as an example.

Let $\{\mathbf{h}_{\text{event},i}^t\}_{i=1}^E$ denote the set of event representations at timestamp t , where E is the number of events. The binary adjacency matrix is $\mathbf{C} \in \{0, 1\}$, with $C_{ij} = 1$ indicating a candidate edge $i \rightarrow j$.

Event Importance. Higher edge importance implies increased probability of causal dependency between events. For each candidate edge $i \rightarrow j$, the event importance is computed as:

$$e_{ij} = \text{LeakyReLU}\left(\mathbf{a}^\top [\mathbf{W}_3 \mathbf{h}_{\text{event},i}^t; \mathbf{W}_4 \mathbf{h}_{\text{event},j}^t]\right), \quad A_{ij} = \frac{\exp(e_{ij})}{\sum_{k \in \mathcal{N}^{\text{in}}(j)} \exp(e_{kj})}, \quad (2)$$

where $\mathbf{W}_3, \mathbf{W}_4$, and \mathbf{a} are learnable parameters. $\mathcal{N}^{\text{in}}(j) = \{k \mid C_{kj} = 1\}$ means the in-degree of event j . $A_{ij} \in [0, 1]$ is the importance weight on edge $i \rightarrow j$.

Distributional Discrepancy. Larger distributional discrepancy between event representations implies decreased probability of causal dependency. Each event representation is mapped to parameters of a diagonal Gaussian posterior through multi-layer perceptrons f_μ and f_σ as:

$$\mu_i = f_\mu(\mathbf{h}_{\text{event},i}^t), \quad \sigma_i = \text{softplus}(f_\sigma(\mathbf{h}_{\text{event},i}^t)), \quad (3)$$

where μ_i and σ_i are the mean and standard deviation vectors of the Gaussian $q_i = \mathcal{N}(\mu_i, \text{diag}(\sigma_i^2))$, respectively. For a candidate edge $i \rightarrow j$, the distributional discrepancy is the Kullback–Leibler divergence (Kullback & Leibler, 1951) between q_i and q_j as:

$$D_{ij} = \text{KL}(q_i \parallel q_j) = \frac{1}{2} \sum_{d=1}^D \left[\log \frac{\sigma_{j,d}^2}{\sigma_{i,d}^2} + \frac{\sigma_{i,d}^2 + (\mu_{i,d} - \mu_{j,d})^2}{\sigma_{j,d}^2} - 1 \right], \quad (4)$$

where D is the dimension of representations.

Non-causality Mask. Event importance and distributional discrepancy are fused on the candidate graph to produce a soft non-causality mask as:

$$\mathbf{S} = (\alpha_{\text{attn}} \cdot \text{logit}(A + \varepsilon) - \beta_{\text{KL}} \cdot D) \odot \mathbf{C}, \quad \mathbf{M}^{\text{NC}} = \mathbf{1} - \sigma(\mathbf{S}), \quad (5)$$

where α_{attn} and β_{KL} are fixed loss-weight coefficients satisfying $\alpha_{\text{attn}} + \beta_{\text{KL}} = 1$ and are set to 0.5 in all experiments to give equal weight to event importance and distributional discrepancy. ε is a small constant for numerical stability. σ is the sigmoid function and logit is its inverse. \odot denotes the Hadamard product. $\mathbf{1}$ is the all ones matrix. The larger A_{ij} decreases M_{ij}^{NC} and indicates

higher causal dependency likelihood, whereas the larger D_{ij} increases M_{ij}^{NC} and indicates higher non-causality likelihood.

Contrastive Loss. A contrastive loss is proposed to encourage event pairs with low non-causality weights to be closer and those with high non-causality weights to be more separated. Let $s_{ij} = \cos(\mathbf{h}_{\text{event},i}^t, \mathbf{h}_{\text{event},j}^t)$ denote cosine similarity, let $\tau > 0$ be the temperature, and let $\mathcal{P} = \{(i, j) \mid i \neq j, C_{ij} = 1\}$ be the set of candidate pairs. The contrastive loss is formulated as:

$$\mathcal{L}_{\text{con}} = \frac{1}{|\mathcal{P}|} \sum_{(i,j) \in \mathcal{P}} \left[(1 - M_{ij}^{\text{NC}}) (-\log \sigma(s_{ij}/\tau)) + M_{ij}^{\text{NC}} (-\log(1 - \sigma(s_{ij}/\tau))) \right]. \quad (6)$$

4.3 IV-GUIDED DISENTANGLING MODULE

Instrumental Variable Score. After non-causality has been disentangled, edges between event pairs may still mix genuine and spurious causalities. In causal learning, the Instrumental Variable (IV) approach is commonly employed to disentangle them (Gao et al., 2023). Accordingly, an IV encoder f_{IV} , implemented as a multi-layer perceptron, is adopted to produce the IV score for each edge $i \rightarrow j$ as:

$$\Pi_{ij} = f_{\text{IV}}(\mathbf{h}_{\text{event},i}^t, \mathbf{h}_{\text{event},j}^t, \text{logit}(A_{ij} + \varepsilon), -D_{ij}). \quad (7)$$

Herein, only standard TKG quadruples are observed, and no causality labels are available. The IV encoder produces scores that are used solely inside the IV-guided disentangling module (IVDM) to separate genuine from spurious causalities. This design enforces a neural analogue of the exclusion restriction, since Π_{ij} does not directly enter the final scoring function. Conditioned on the observed history graph and current event representations, Π_{ij} is assumed to be approximately independent of the unobserved noise in the genuine-versus-spurious split, playing the role of the standard IV independence assumption.

Spurious Causality Mask. Let $\mathbf{M}^{\text{C}} = \mathbf{1} - \mathbf{M}^{\text{NC}}$ denote the complement of the non-causality mask. Based on the IV score, the gated matrix $\tilde{\mathbf{\Pi}} = \mathbf{M}^{\text{C}} \odot \mathbf{\Pi}$ is employed to disentangle genuine and spurious causalities as:

$$\theta_{\alpha} = \text{Quantile}_{\alpha}(\{\tilde{\Pi}_{ij} : M_{ij}^{\text{C}} > 0\}), \quad \mathbf{M}^{\text{P}} = \mathbb{I}\{\tilde{\mathbf{\Pi}} \geq \theta_{\alpha} \mathbf{1}\}, \quad \overline{\mathbf{M}}^{\text{P}} = \mathbf{1} - \mathbf{M}^{\text{P}}, \quad (8)$$

where $\alpha \in (0, 1)$ specifies the fraction of top-scoring edges. θ_{α} is the α -quantile of IV scores. \mathbf{M}^{P} selects the top- α edges as genuine causality while $\overline{\mathbf{M}}^{\text{P}}$ retains the remainder as spurious causality.

Multi-view Propagation. Although the spurious causality mask partitions the edges into genuine and spurious causalities, the IV scores may be imperfect in practice. To enhance robustness, three subgraphs are constructed: the genuine-view subgraph G_{gen} with \mathbf{M}^{P} , the spurious-view subgraph G_{spur} with $\overline{\mathbf{M}}^{\text{P}}$, and the all-view subgraph G_{all} combining both. Heterogeneous convolution is applied on each subgraph to derive complementary event representations, which is formulated as:

$$\mathbf{H}_{\text{gen}}^t = \text{HConv}(G_{\text{gen}}, \mathbf{H}_{\text{event}}^t), \quad \mathbf{H}_{\text{spur}}^t = \text{HConv}(G_{\text{spur}}, \mathbf{H}_{\text{event}}^t), \quad \mathbf{H}_{\text{all}}^t = \text{HConv}(G_{\text{all}}, \mathbf{H}_{\text{event}}^t), \quad (9)$$

where $\text{HConv}(\cdot)$ denotes heterogeneous event convolution.

Robustness Loss. To enhance robustness under imperfect IV estimation, a robustness loss is designed based on different subgraph propagation views, consisting of alignment and separation terms. The alignment term draws the all-view representations toward the genuine-view representations, while the separation term pushes the spurious-view representations away from the genuine-view representations. This process is formulated as:

$$\mathcal{L}_{\text{rob}} = \lambda_{\text{align}} \underbrace{\frac{1}{E} \sum_{i=1}^E [-\log \sigma(s(\mathbf{h}_{\text{all},i}^t, \mathbf{h}_{\text{gen},i}^t)/\tau)]}_{\mathcal{L}_{\text{align}}} + \lambda_{\text{sep}} \underbrace{\frac{1}{E} \sum_{i=1}^E [-\log(1 - \sigma(s(\mathbf{h}_{\text{spur},i}^t, \mathbf{h}_{\text{gen},i}^t)/\tau))]}_{\mathcal{L}_{\text{sep}}}, \quad (10)$$

where λ_{align} and λ_{sep} are fixed trade-off coefficients with $\lambda_{\text{align}} + \lambda_{\text{sep}} = 1$ and are set to 0.5 in all experiments to give equal weight to the alignment and separation terms.

4.4 EVOLUTIONARY ORTHOGONAL MODULE

Static and Dynamic Causalities Masks. To disentangle static and dynamic causalities, each event representation is projected into a static component and a raw dynamic component by two multi-layer

324 perceptron encoders f_{stat} and f_{dyn} as:

$$\mathbf{h}_{\text{event},i}^{S,t} = f_{\text{stat}}(\mathbf{h}_{\text{gen},i}^t), \quad \mathbf{h}_{\text{event},i}^{\text{raw},D,t} = f_{\text{dyn}}(\mathbf{h}_{\text{gen},i}^t). \quad (11)$$

327 Then, the dynamic component is obtained by orthogonalizing the raw dynamic component with
328 respect to the static component as:

$$\mathbf{h}_{\text{event},i}^{D,t} = \mathbf{h}_{\text{event},i}^{\text{raw},D,t} - \frac{\langle \mathbf{h}_{\text{event},i}^{\text{raw},D,t}, \mathbf{h}_{\text{event},i}^{S,t} \rangle}{\|\mathbf{h}_{\text{event},i}^{S,t}\|_2^2 + \epsilon} \mathbf{h}_{\text{event},i}^{S,t}. \quad (12)$$

332 A classifier f_{MLP} is employed to distinguish dynamic from static causality, as follows:

$$p_{ij}^D = \sigma\left(f_{\text{MLP}}\left(\left[|\mathbf{h}_{\text{event},i}^{D,t} - \mathbf{h}_{\text{event},j}^{D,t}|; |\mathbf{h}_{\text{event},i}^{S,t} - \mathbf{h}_{\text{event},j}^{S,t}|\right]\right)\right). \quad (13)$$

335 Herein, the dynamic causality mask is defined as $\mathbf{M}^D = \mathbb{I}\{p_{ij}^D > 0.5\} \odot \mathbf{M}^P$, and the static
336 causality mask as $\mathbf{M}^S = \mathbf{1} - \mathbf{M}^D$.

338 **Evolutionary Loss.** An evolutionary loss is designed to preserve the temporal dependence of dy-
339 namic components and the temporal independence of static components as:

$$\mathcal{L}_{\text{evo}} = \lambda_{\text{dyn}} \underbrace{\frac{1}{|\mathcal{G}|} \sum_{g \in \mathcal{G}} \left\| \mathbf{h}_{\text{event},g}^{D,t} - f_{\text{GRU}}(\tilde{\mathbf{h}}_{\text{event},g}^{D,1:t-1}) \right\|_2^2}_{\mathcal{L}_{\text{dyn}}} + \lambda_{\text{stat}} \underbrace{\frac{1}{|\mathcal{G}|} \sum_{g \in \mathcal{G}} \left\| \mathbf{h}_{\text{event},g}^{S,t} - \bar{\mathbf{h}}_{\text{event},g}^{S,1:t-1} \right\|_2^2}_{\mathcal{L}_{\text{stat}}}, \quad (14)$$

344 where λ_{dyn} and λ_{stat} are fixed trade-off coefficients satisfying $\lambda_{\text{dyn}} + \lambda_{\text{stat}} = 1$ and are set to
345 0.5 in all experiments to give equal weight to the dynamic and static components. \mathcal{G} is the set of
346 (s, r, o) groups. $\bar{\mathbf{h}}_{\text{event},g}^{S,1:t-1}$ denotes the group-level mean of the static components, and $\tilde{\mathbf{h}}_{\text{event},g}^{D,1:t-1}$ is
347 the historical memory of the dynamic components.

348 **Static and Dynamic Causalities Modeling.** Static and dynamic causalities are essential for event
349 prediction in TKGs. To exploit them explicitly, message passing is conducted in the static-view
350 subgraph G_{stat} and the dynamic-view subgraph G_{dyn} . Heterogeneous convolution is applied to the
351 genuine-view representations $\mathbf{H}_{\text{gen}}^t$, and the resulting static-view and dynamic-view representations
352 are fused and normalized to update event representations as:

$$\mathbf{H}_{\text{evo}}^t = \text{Norm}\left(W_5\left[\text{HConv}(G_{\text{dyn}}, \mathbf{H}_{\text{gen}}^t); \text{HConv}(G_{\text{stat}}, \mathbf{H}_{\text{gen}}^t)\right]\right). \quad (15)$$

355 Updated entity and relation representations $\overline{\mathbf{H}}_{\text{e}}$ and $\overline{\mathbf{H}}_{\text{r}}$ are obtained via inverse event construction.

357 4.5 EVENT PREDICTION

359 ConvTransE (Shang et al., 2019) is employed as the decoder to estimate the relation probability
360 distribution for a given entity pair as $p(\hat{\mathbf{r}}|s, o, \mathcal{G}^{1:T-1}) = \sigma(\overline{\mathbf{H}}_{\text{r}} \text{ConvTransE}(\overline{\mathbf{e}}_s, \overline{\mathbf{e}}_o))$, where $\hat{\mathbf{r}}$ denotes
361 the predicted probability vector over relations and $\overline{\mathbf{H}}_{\text{r}}$ is the relation representation matrix. The
362 training objective for event prediction is to minimize the cross-entropy loss:

$$\mathcal{L}_{\text{TKG}} = -\frac{1}{N_{\text{S}}} \sum_{i=1}^{N_{\text{S}}} \sum_{j=1}^{N_{\text{r}}} (y_{i,j} \log p_{i,j} + (1 - y_{i,j}) \log(1 - p_{i,j})), \quad (16)$$

366 where N_{S} and N_{r} denote the number of training samples and relations, respectively. $y_{i,j}$ is the
367 ground-truth label for relation j in sample i (1 if the event occurs, 0 otherwise), and $p_{i,j}$ is the
368 predicted probability. The overall training objective of HEDRA integrates multiple components:

$$\mathcal{L} = (1 - \lambda_{\text{con}} - \lambda_{\text{rob}} - \lambda_{\text{evo}}) \mathcal{L}_{\text{TKG}} + \lambda_{\text{con}} \mathcal{L}_{\text{con}} + \lambda_{\text{rob}} \mathcal{L}_{\text{rob}} + \lambda_{\text{evo}} \mathcal{L}_{\text{evo}}, \quad (17)$$

370 where λ_{con} , λ_{rob} , and λ_{evo} are scalar coefficients for contrastive, robustness, and evolutionary losses,
371 respectively. All hyperparameters are constrained within $[0, 1]$.

373 5 EXPERIMENTS

375 5.1 EXPERIMENTAL SETUP

377 **Datasets and Experimental Settings.** HEDRA is evaluated on five widely adopted real-world
TKG datasets: ICEWS14, ICEWS18, GDELT, WIKI, and YAGO (Trivedi et al., 2017; Li et al.,

378 Table 1: The performance of HEDRA and the compared approaches on ICEWS14 and ICEWS18.
 379 An asterisk (“*”) indicates that HEDRA significantly outperforms the compared approaches based
 380 on pairwise t-tests at a 95% confidence level. The best performance is highlighted in **bold**, while the
 381 runner-up is underlined.

Approach	ICEWS14				ICEWS18			
	MRR	Hits@1	Hits@3	Hits@10	MRR	Hits@1	Hits@3	Hits@10
TTransE (WWW 2018)	22.36*	13.41*	24.40*	39.64*	16.39*	8.43*	17.21*	31.72*
TA-TransE (EMNLP 2018)	20.94*	13.77*	24.11*	36.06*	21.64*	14.11*	24.89*	37.64*
RE-NET (EMNLP 2020)	38.53*	22.53*	44.47*	<u>74.05*</u>	39.63*	23.55*	45.70*	75.66
Glean (KDD 2020)	36.07*	22.17*	39.52*	64.75*	35.15*	22.02*	38.07*	64.24*
RE-GCN (SIGIR 2021)	40.85*	28.15*	45.33*	68.53*	40.68*	27.01*	46.31*	69.51*
DACHA (TKDD 2022)	40.69*	27.28*	45.79*	68.44*	40.80*	27.83*	45.26*	69.21*
<u>TiRGN (IJCAI 2022)</u>	41.28*	29.52*	46.69*	70.66*	42.26*	30.19*	46.99*	73.90*
EvoExplore (KBS 2022)	28.11*	13.97*	33.45*	57.67*	29.82*	18.50*	30.08*	58.01*
GTRL (TKDE 2024)	38.57*	27.36*	42.15*	66.35*	38.43*	27.48*	43.06*	67.82*
DHyper (TOIS 2024)	41.71*	29.37*	45.69*	69.32*	42.84*	29.96*	47.52*	70.82*
DECRL (NeurIPS 2024)	42.90*	30.49*	47.06*	70.01*	43.36*	30.64*	47.96*	71.12*
HEDRA	<u>47.86</u>	<u>35.28</u>	<u>53.32</u>	<u>75.65</u>	<u>46.77</u>	<u>33.66</u>	<u>52.33</u>	<u>75.64</u>
Improvement	11.56%	15.71%	13.30%	2.16%	7.86%	9.86%	9.12%	-0.03%

394
 395
 396 2021b). ICEWS14 and ICEWS18 are derived from the Integrated Crisis Early Warning System
 397 (Boschee et al., 2015), which records political events at daily granularity. GDELT, sourced from
 398 the Global Database of Events, Language, and Tone (Leetaru & Schrodt, 2013), captures human
 399 activities with timestamps at 15-minute intervals. WIKI and YAGO are organized at the yearly
 400 level, which are constructed from Wikipedia and YAGO3 (Mahdisoltani et al., 2013), respectively.
 401 The Mean Reciprocal Rank (MRR) and Hits@1/3/10 are adopted as evaluation metrics. Detailed
 402 statistics of the datasets and other experimental settings are provided in Appendix C.1. Unless
 403 otherwise stated, all loss-weight coefficients in HEDRA, including α_{attn} and β_{KL} , and λ_{align} and
 404 λ_{sep} , are treated as fixed design choices and set to 0.5 in all experiments. They are introduced to
 405 balance the corresponding components and keep them on a comparable scale, rather than to serve as
 406 dataset-specific tuning knobs. A representative sensitivity study on α_{attn} and λ_{align} on ICEWS14
 407 dataset is reported in Appendix C.4, indicating that HEDRA is robust to moderate changes of these
 408 coefficients within a reasonable range.

409 **Baselines.** HEDRA is compared with eleven representative TKG representation learning
 410 approaches, grouped as follows: shallow encoder based approaches, i.e., TTransE (Leblay & Chekol,
 411 2018) and TA-TransE (Garcia-Duran et al., 2018); **GNN based approaches**, i.e., RE-NET (Jin et al.,
 412 2020), Glean (Deng et al., 2020), RE-GCN (Li et al., 2021b), DACHA (Chen et al., 2021), and
 413 TiRGN (Li et al., 2022); and derived structure approaches, i.e., EvoExplore (Zhang et al., 2022),
 414 GTRL (Tang & Chen, 2024), DHyper (Tang et al., 2024), and DECRL (Chen & Chen, 2024). De-
 415 tailed descriptions of these baselines are provided in Appendix C.2. Since some approaches do not
 416 target event prediction task and others collapse relations into four coarse-grained categories that
 417 differs from our settings, to ensure a fair comparison, we follow the official implementations of all
 418 baselines and tune hyperparameters to report the results.

419 5.2 PERFORMANCE COMPARISON

420
 421 The performance of HEDRA with the compared approaches on the ICEWS14, ICEWS18, WIKI,
 422 YAGO, and GDELT datasets is presented in Tables 1, 2, and 3. It can be observed that HEDRA
 423 achieves average improvements of 5.70%, 7.51%, 7.21%, and 2.30% over the runner-up in terms
 424 of MRR and Hits@1/3/10 on five datasets, respectively. **On ICEWS18 dataset, HEDRA yields a**
 425 **slightly lower Hits@10 than RE-NET.** This difference can be attributed to RE-NET’s global graph
 426 mechanism, which aggregates broader historical information and tends to retain more potentially
 427 relevant candidates within the top-10 range, whereas HEDRA is designed to emphasize event level
 428 causality disentanglement and improve the quality of the top ranks, leading to more pronounced
 429 gains in MRR, Hits@1, and Hits@3. Overall, these results show that disentangling heterogeneous
 430 event level causalities while discarding non-causality and spurious causality enables HEDRA to
 431 capture more discriminative entity and relation representations. The computational complexity of
 432 HEDRA can be found in Appendix C.3. The observed runtime increase is acceptable in light of the
 433 significant performance gains.

432 Table 2: The performance of HEDRA and the compared approaches on WIKI and YAGO. Since the
 433 YAGO dataset contains only 10 relation types, the Hits@10 metric is not statistically meaningful
 434 and is therefore denoted as “–”. Other notations follow Table 1.

436	437	Approach	WIKI			YAGO		
			MRR	Hits@1	Hits@3	Hits@10	MRR	Hits@1
438	439	TTransE (WWW 2018)	69.64*	62.54*	71.57*	84.84*	88.35*	81.49*
440	441	TA-TransE (EMNLP 2018)	70.76*	66.26*	74.32*	88.47*	87.16*	85.53*
442	443	RE-NET (EMNLP 2020)	75.29*	57.08*	90.25*	97.64*	92.24*	89.43*
444	445	Glean (KDD 2020)	91.76*	86.18*	90.55*	92.84*	90.19*	88.90*
446	447	RE-GCN (SIGIR 2021)	98.24*	97.60*	98.68*	99.41*	98.45*	97.75*
448	449	DACHA (TKDD 2022)	75.86*	68.91*	78.79*	90.91*	92.54*	89.17*
450	451	TIRGN (IJCAI 2022)	99.00*	98.53*	99.35*	99.53*	98.53*	97.91*
452	453	EvoExplore (KBS 2022)	78.71*	73.13*	81.42*	88.43*	93.92*	91.47*
454	455	GTRL (TKDE 2024)	92.68*	89.18*	92.34*	95.63*	92.36*	90.71*
456	457	DHyper (TOIS 2024)	OOM	OOM	OOM	OOM	94.38*	92.03*
458	459	DECRL (NeurIPS 2024)	93.20*	90.91*	94.33*	98.14*	95.84*	94.15*
460	461	HEDRA	99.14	98.73	99.48	99.79	99.12	98.77
462	463	Improvement	0.14%	0.20%	0.13%	0.26%	0.60%	0.88%
464	465							0.41%

448 Table 3: The performance of HEDRA and the compared approaches on GDELT. “TLE” indicates a
 449 single epoch exceeded 24 hours. “OOM” indicates out of memory. Other notations follow Table 1.

450	451	Approach	MRR	Hits@1	Hits@3	Hits@10
452	453	TTransE (WWW 2018)	15.09*	4.71*	13.69*	39.72*
454	455	TA-TransE (EMNLP 2018)	20.67*	10.23*	19.88*	35.89*
456	457	RE-NET (EMNLP 2020)	TLE	TLE	TLE	TLE
458	459	Glean (KDD 2020)	17.91*	8.21*	16.65*	39.18*
460	461	RE-GCN (SIGIR 2021)	21.35*	11.20*	21.73*	44.53*
462	463	DACHA (TKDD 2022)	TLE	TLE	TLE	TLE
464	465	TIRGN (IJCAI 2022)	22.46*	12.10*	22.33*	45.89*
466	467	EvoExplore (KBS 2022)	18.72*	7.71*	18.37*	43.87*
468	469	GTRL (TKDE 2024)	19.51*	8.40*	19.26*	41.07*
470	471	DHyper (TOIS 2024)	OOM	OOM	OOM	OOM
472	473	DECRL (NeurIPS 2024)	22.74*	12.56*	22.57*	45.07*
474	475	HEDRA	24.64	13.93	25.53	49.02
476	477	Improvement	8.36%	10.91%	13.11%	6.82%

5.3 ABLATION STUDY

464 To assess the contribution of each component in HEDRA, ablation studies are
 465 performed on the ICEWS14 dataset, as shown in Table 4. Specifically,

466 HEDRA-w/o-CDM removes the counterfactual detector module with the

467 contrastive loss. HEDRA-w/o-EI and HEDRA-w/o-DD remove the event im-

468 portance and the distributional discrepancy for constructing the non-causality

469 mask, respectively. HEDRA-w/o-IVDM removes the IV-guided

470 disentangling module with the robustness loss, and HEDRA-w/o-EOM excludes the

471 evolutionary orthogonal module with the evolutionary loss. Since all ablated

472 variants still share the same event level causality disentanglement framework,

473 which provides a strong backbone compared with traditional entity level

474 baselines, module-wise ablations tend to result in numerically modest

475 performance drops and at the same time reflect the robustness of HEDRA.

476 The ablation results show that HEDRA-w/o-CDM exhibits only a modest performance drop, sug-
 477 gesting that the non-causality removed by the counterfactual detector module provides limited ben-
 478 efit to event prediction. In contrast, HEDRA-w/o-IVDM suffers a substantial performance degra-
 479 dation, demonstrating that the IV-guided disentangling module plays a critical role in eliminating
 480 spurious causality that impedes the model’s acquisition of causally relevant discriminative infor-
 481 mation, which is essential for event prediction in TKGs. The hyperparameter sensitivity analysis
 482 can be found in Appendix C.4. The results indicate that the performance of HEDRA is insensitive to the
 483 history window length but shows a notable dependence on the neighbor count which is defined in
 484 the candidate graph.

477 Table 4: The performance of HEDRA and its variants.
 478 The best performance is highlighted in **bold**.

479	480	Approach	MRR	Hits@1	Hits@3	Hits@10
481	482	HEDRA-w/o-CDM	47.11	34.25	52.12	75.04
483	484	HEDRA-w/o-EI	47.34	34.65	52.33	75.39
485	486	HEDRA-w/o-DD	47.25	34.46	52.63	75.35
487	488	HEDRA-w/o-IVDM	46.47	33.77	51.65	74.75
489	490	HEDRA-w/o-EOM	46.24	33.49	51.79	74.10
491	492	HEDRA	47.86	35.28	53.32	75.65

486 Table 5: Top-5 predicted relations for two representative test samples on ICEWS14. Correctly
 487 predicted relations are indicated by a leading check mark (✓) and highlighted in **bold**.

Test sample 1: {Barack Obama, ?, Xi Jinping, 2014/11/13}	
DECRL	HEDRA
✓ Sign formal agreement Host a visit Express intent to meet or negotiate	✓ Sign formal agreement Express intent to meet or negotiate
✓ Consult ✓ Make statement	✓ Make statement ✓ Make a visit ✓ Consult
Test sample 2: {Police (Hong Kong), ?, Protester (Hong Kong), 2014/11/29}	
DECRL	HEDRA
✓ Make statement Arrest, detain, or charge with legal action Investigate Return, release person(s) ✓ Use conventional military force	✓ Make statement Arrest, detain, or charge with legal action Fight with small arms and fight weapons ✓ Use conventional military force Investigate

499 5.4 CASE STUDY

501 Table 5 compares the predictions of HEDRA and the runner-up approach DECRL on
 502 two representative ICEWS14 test samples, one exhibiting a positive relational trend and
 503 the other a negative trend. Specifically, the table lists the top five predicted
 504 relations for test sample 1 {Barack Obama, ?, Xi Jinping, 2014/11/13} and test sample 2
 505 {Police (Hong Kong), ?, Protester (Hong Kong), 2014/11/29}. For test sample 1, more ground-
 506 truth relations are correctly identified by HEDRA, which predicts “Make a visit” rather than the
 507 inverse “Host a visit”, indicating that event level causal disentangling better models relation
 508 directionality. By contrast, DECRL, which primarily captures entity correlations, struggles to distinguish
 509 relation directions. For test sample 2, only negative relations are predicted by HEDRA, whereas
 510 DECRL outputs the positive relation “Return, release person(s)”, likely because it does not consider
 511 heterogeneous causalities at the event level in TKGs, which can lead to predictions with senti-
 512 ment opposite to the ground-truth relations. [In Appendix C.5, additional diagnostics of the training](#)
 513 [dynamics and IV-guided disentangling behavior are presented, together with few-shot robustness](#)
 514 [experiments on ICEWS14 and ICEWS18 datasets](#). Another case study can be found in Appendix
 515 C.6.

516 6 CONCLUSIONS AND FUTURE WORK

518 In this paper, based on a TKG structural causal model that establishes the theoretical framework for
 519 event level causality disentangling, a **Heterogeneous Event causality Disentangling Representation**
 520 **learning Approach (HEDRA)** is proposed, which is the first work that focuses on disentangling
 521 heterogeneous causalities at the event level in TKGs. [Comprehensive experiments are conducted](#)
 522 [on five real-world datasets, including the comparison with baselines, ablation study, hyperparameter](#)
 523 [sensitivity analysis, running time analysis, training dynamics analysis, few-shot relations prediction,](#)
 524 [and case studies, which demonstrate the superior performance of HEDRA](#).

525 Future work includes replacing the fixed quantile rule in the IV-guided module with a learned, data-
 526 driven calibration mechanism for selecting genuine edges, designing lightweight global memory
 527 modules to enhance long-range history modeling and Hits@10 on large-scale datasets, and fur-
 528 ther reducing computational overhead via sparser causal subgraph construction, more efficient event
 529 causality disentangling, and sparsity-aware distributed implementations on datasets such as GDELT.
 530 Another promising direction is to combine HEDRA with LLM-based event prediction frameworks,
 531 using LLMs to provide semantic priors for event and relation representations and to leverage tex-
 532 tual context for data-sparse and long-tail relations, while preserving explicit event level causality
 533 disentangling.

535 7 ETHICS STATEMENT

537 All authors have read and adhere to the ICLR Code of Ethics. This work uses publicly available
 538 benchmarks and introduces no new data collection. It involves no human subjects, no personally
 539 identifiable information, and no sensitive attributes. There are no conflicts of interest. We do not
 identify any ethical concerns specific to this submission.

540 8 REPRODUCIBILITY STATEMENT
541542 The source code of HEDRA is available at <https://anonymous.4open.science/r/HEDRA-8A2F>. Hyperparameters and protocol details are described in the paper and the appendix
543 to facilitate end-to-end reproduction.
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659 A COMPREHENSIVE RELATED WORK

660 A.1 TKG REPRESENTATION LEARNING

662 Current TKG representation learning approaches primarily aim to model correlations among entities
 663 or relations, which can be categorized into two main categories: modeling pairwise correlations
 664 between entities or relations and modeling high-order correlations among entities or relations.

665 TKG representation learning approaches modeling pairwise correlations typically combine Graph
 666 Convolutional Networks (GCNs) and Recurrent Neural Networks to capture structural information
 667 and temporal evolution, respectively (Li et al., 2021b; 2022; Bai et al., 2023). For example, RE-GCN
 668 (Li et al., 2021b) combines GCNs with Gated Recurrent Units (GRUs) to capture structural and tem-
 669 poral information, respectively. Similarly, TiRGN (Li et al., 2022) uses multi-relational GCNs and
 670 GRUs to capture the structural information of entities across different temporal patterns. These ap-
 671 proaches generally stack multiple layers of networks to model pairwise correlations between distant
 672 entities, which can result in over-smoothing. To address this, some TKG representation learning
 673 approaches introduce paths or subgraphs to model pairwise correlations between distant entities or
 674 relations more effectively (Li et al., 2021a; Sun et al., 2021; Chen et al., 2024b; Zhang et al., 2024).
 675 For example, CluSTeR (Li et al., 2021a) and TITer (Sun et al., 2021) utilize reinforcement learn-
 676 ing to discover cross-temporal clue paths that model pairwise correlations between entities. LogCL
 677 (Chen et al., 2024b) constructs both local and global subgraphs based on queries to achieve a similar
 678 goal.

679 In addition to pairwise correlations, high-order correlations among three or more entities or relations
 680 are modeled through derived structures, i.e., communities, hypergraphs, and evolutionary clusters
 681 (Zhang et al., 2022; Tang & Chen, 2024; Tang et al., 2024; Chen & Chen, 2024). For example,
 682 EvoExplore (Zhang et al., 2022) leverages dynamic communities based on soft modularity to model
 683 implicit correlations among multiple entities. DHyper (Tang et al., 2024) introduces hypergraph neu-
 684 ral networks to capture high-order correlations among entities and among relations. DECRL (Chen
 685 & Chen, 2024) uses deep evolutionary clustering to construct evolutionary clusters for capturing
 686 high-order correlations among entities.

687 However, TKG datasets, e.g., ICEWS, centered on international political events, inherently involve
 688 complex causal dependencies. Focusing solely on entity or relation level correlations is therefore
 689 inadequate for event prediction in TKGs. To address this, we propose HEDRA, the first framework
 690 to disentangle heterogeneous causalities at the event level in TKGs.

691 A.2 GRAPH CAUSALITY LEARNING

693 Graph causal learning approaches can be divided into static graph causal learning approaches and
 694 dynamic graph causal learning approaches.

695 Static graph causal learning approaches primarily model spatial causality in static graphs by gen-
 696 erating interpretable subgraphs (Luo et al., 2020; Yuan et al., 2020; Ying et al., 2019; Fan et al.,
 697 2022; Gao et al., 2023). For example, PGExplainer (Luo et al., 2020) employs prior knowledge
 698 to pre-define subgraphs, thereby providing interpretability to static graphs. XGNN (Yuan et al.,
 699 2020) employs reinforcement learning to iteratively expand interpretable subgraphs. More recent
 700 approaches generate subgraphs using learnable methods. For example, GNNExplainer (Ying et al.,
 701 2019) uses mutual information to add or remove nodes and edges to generate subgraphs. RCGRL
 (Gao et al., 2023) relies on GNN-derived edge weights for generating subgraphs.

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Table 6: The statistics of datasets.

Dataset	#Entity	#Relation	#Training	#Validation	#Test	Interval
ICEWS14	7,128	230	74,845	8,514	7,371	24 hours
ICEWS18	23,033	256	373,018	45,995	49,545	24 hours
GDELT	7,691	240	1,734,399	238,765	305,241	15 mins
WIKI	12,554	24	539,286	67,538	63,110	1 year
YAGO	10,623	10	161,540	19,523	20,026	1 year

710 Dynamic graphs, prevalent in real-world scenarios, have motivated research on dynamic graph
711 causal learning, which typically explores both spatial causality and temporal causality (Zhao &
712 Zhang, 2024; Chen et al., 2024a). For example, DyGNNExplainer (Zhao & Zhang, 2024) utilizes
713 disentangling methods to uncover spatio-temporal causality. CSI (Chen et al., 2024a) generates
714 causal subgraphs by deriving query-related subgraphs and applying attention mechanisms to model
715 spatio-temporal causality within dynamic graphs.

716 Despite progress in dynamic graph causal learning, most approaches mainly model static and dy-
717 namic causalities while overlooking spurious causality, which impedes the acquisition of causally
718 relevant information for event prediction. Moreover, no theoretical framework exists to disentangle
719 heterogeneous causalities at the event level in TKGs. To fill this gap, we propose HEDRA, which
720 constructs event representations from quadruples and progressively disentangles non-causality, spu-
721 rious causality, static causality, and dynamic causality among events in TKGs.

722 B BACKDOOR ADJUSTMENT DERIVATION

723 The detailed derivation process of backdoor adjustment is shown as follows:

$$\begin{aligned}
P(\mathcal{Y} \mid \text{do}(\mathcal{D})) &= \sum P(\mathcal{Y} \mid \text{do}(\mathcal{D}), \mathcal{S}) P(\mathcal{S} \mid \text{do}(\mathcal{D})) \\
&= \sum P(\mathcal{Y} \mid \text{do}(\mathcal{C})) P(\mathcal{S}) \\
&= \sum P(\mathcal{S}) \sum P(\mathcal{Y} \mid \text{do}(\mathcal{C}), \mathcal{T}, \mathcal{P}) P(\mathcal{T}, \mathcal{P} \mid \text{do}(\mathcal{C})) \\
&= \sum P(\mathcal{S}) \sum P(\mathcal{Y} \mid \mathcal{G}) P(\mathcal{T}, \mathcal{P}) \\
&= \sum P(\mathcal{S}) \sum P(\mathcal{T}) \sum P(\mathcal{P}) \sum P(\mathcal{Y} \mid \mathcal{G}).
\end{aligned} \tag{18}$$

724 This derivation illustrates how the adjustment effectively blocks the backdoor paths involving \mathcal{N} , \mathcal{P} ,
725 and \mathcal{S} , thereby ensuring unbiased estimation of causal effects.

726 C EXPERIMENTS APPENDIX

727 C.1 DATASET STATISTICS AND EXPERIMENTAL SETTINGS

728 Detailed statistics of the datasets are summarized in Table 6. HEDRA is implemented in Python
729 with PyTorch and trained on an NVIDIA RTX 5090 GPU. The Neural Network Intelligence (NNI)¹
730 toolkit is employed to automatically explore hyperparameter configurations. The search spaces of
731 key hyperparameters are defined as follows: N_{layer} , the number of layers, ranges from 1 to 5 with
732 a step size of 1; N_{window} , the length of historical windows, ranges from 1 to 14 with a step size of
733 1; and k , the number of k -nearest neighbors in the candidate graph, ranges from 3 to 15 with a step
734 size of 2. A maximum of 30 trials are conducted in the NNI search process, with the Tree-structured
735 Parzen Estimator (Bergstra et al., 2015) employed as the optimization algorithm. The final selected
736 hyperparameters are summarized in Table 7.

737 Hyperparameters λ_{con} , λ_{rob} , and λ_{evo} are all set to 0.1, controlling the magnitude of contrastive,
738 robustness, and evolutionary losses, respectively. The Adam optimizer (Kingma & Ba, 2014) is
739 applied with an initial learning rate of 0.01. The batch size is 16, and the representation dimension
740 is 200. Results are averaged over five independent runs.

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1¹<https://github.com/microsoft/nni>

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Table 7: The final choices of key hyperparameter values.

Hyperparameter	Search space	ICEWS14	ICEWS18	GDELT	WIKI	YAGO
N_{layer} N_{window} k	$\{1, 2, 3, 4, 5\}$ $\{1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14\}$ $\{3, 5, 7, 9, 11, 13, 15\}$	2 10 13	2 2 11	1 2 9	1 4 7	2 6 9

C.2 DESCRIPTION OF BASELINES

To validate the effectiveness of HEDRA, we compare it against eleven representative TKG representation learning approaches, which are summarized as follows:

Shallow Encoder based Approaches:

- **TTransE** (Leblay & Chekol, 2018) augments TransE by embedding temporal information into entity representations.
- **TA-TransE** (Garcia-Duran et al., 2018) extends TransE by incorporating RNN-based modeling to capture time-aware relation representations.

GNN based Approaches:

- **RE-NET** (Jin et al., 2020) combines GCNs for capturing structural information together with RNNs to model temporal dependencies.
- **Glean** (Deng et al., 2020) leverages composition-based GCNs to encode entity interactions and employs GRUs to model temporal evolution.
- **RE-GCN** (Li et al., 2021b) integrates relation-aware GCNs with autoregressive GRUs to jointly capture structural and temporal dependencies.
- **DACHA** (Chen et al., 2021) introduces dual GCNs for structure information encoding and incorporates a self-attentive mechanism to learn relation-aware temporal representations.
- **TiRGN** (Li et al., 2022) introduces RGCNs to capture graph structural information and a double recurrent mechanism to model temporal dependencies.

Structure Derived Approaches:

- **EvoExplore** (Zhang et al., 2022) employs dynamic community structure to characterize the evolution of local structural patterns.
- **GTRL** (Tang & Chen, 2024) introduces group structure to model distant and indirectly connected entities, and integrates GRUs for temporal reasoning.
- **DHyper** (Tang et al., 2024) leverages hypergraph neural networks to model high-order dependencies among entities and relations.
- **DECRL** (Chen & Chen, 2024) represents the SOTA structure derived approach by employing deep evolutionary clustering to trace the temporal evolution of high-order correlations among entities.

C.3 COMPLEXITY ANALYSIS

The time complexity of relation-aware GCN is $O((N_e + N_r)D^2)$, where N_e and N_r are the numbers of entities and relations, respectively. D is the dimension of representations. The time complexity of the event representation construction module is $O(E^2D + ED^2)$, where E is the number of events. The time complexity of the counterfactual detector module is $O(E^2D + ED^2)$. The time complexity of the IV-guided disentangling module is $O((E + N_r)D^2)$. The time complexity of the evolutionary orthogonal module is $O(ED^2)$. For the event prediction module, the time complexity is $O(D)$. Therefore, the total time complexity of HEDRA is $O(E^2D + (N_e + N_r + E)D^2)$.

A comparison of the per-epoch training and inference times of DHyper, DECRL, and HEDRA on the ICEWS14 dataset is provided in Table 8. Compared with DECRL, HEDRA improves MRR and Hits@1 by 11.56% and 15.71%, respectively, and provides more accurate predictions of relation directionality and sentiment, which are crucial for real-world applications. [Plotted as latency–MRR](#)

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Table 8: Running time (in seconds) comparison.

Approach	Traning time	Inference time
DHyper (TOIS 2024)	636.85	91.43
DECRL (NeurIPS 2024)	907.47	142.82
HEDRA	1226.63	195.15

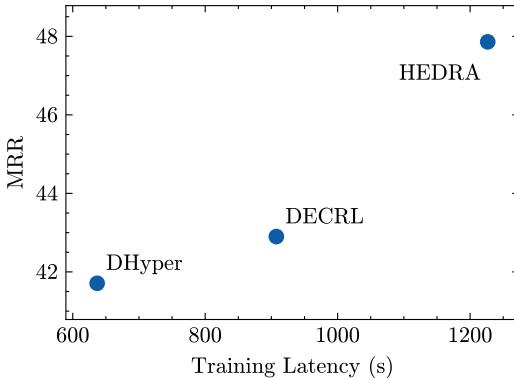


Figure 4: Latency–MRR Pareto frontier comparing DHyper, DECRL, and HEDRA.

points, these three approaches form a clear Pareto frontier, as shown in Figure 4. DHyper occupies the low-latency, lower-accuracy end, DECRL provides an intermediate trade-off, and HEDRA lies at the high-accuracy, higher-latency corner. On ICEWS14 dataset, HEDRA improves MRR over DHyper from 41.71 to 47.86, yielding an absolute gain of 6.15 MRR points (approximately 15% relative improvement), and over DECRL from 42.90 to 47.86, corresponding to an absolute gain of 4.96 MRR points (approximately 12% relative improvement). These gains come at the cost of roughly 2 \times and 1.3 \times higher training latency, respectively. Overall, this latency–accuracy trade-off suggests that the additional runtime of HEDRA is justified when higher predictive accuracy is prioritized over absolute latency.

To quantify the resource footprint of HEDRA across datasets, Table 9 summarizes the parameter counts, peak CUDA memory, and wall-clock training time on ICEWS14 and GDELT datasets. On ICEWS14 dataset, HEDRA uses 20.7M parameters, reaches a peak CUDA memory footprint of 2.95 GB, and requires 1226.63 s (\approx 0.34 GPU hours) of training time, with an inference time of 195.15 s. On GDELT dataset, whose number of events is about 20 \times that of ICEWS14 dataset, HEDRA uses 22.1M parameters, reaches a peak CUDA memory of 9.91 GB, and requires 14274.41 s (\approx 3.97 GPU hours) of training time. Consequently, when moving from ICEWS14 to GDELT, the parameter count increases only modestly (\sim 6%), peak memory grows by about 3.4 \times , and wall-clock training time increases by about 11.6 \times , which is substantially sub-linear in the dataset size increase.

C.4 HYPERPARAMETER SENSITIVITY ANALYSIS

The sensitivity analysis of the key hyperparameters of HEDRA, i.e., the length of historical windows N_{window} and the number of neighbors k , on the ICEWS14 dataset is shown in Figure 5. It can be observed that the length of historical windows has only a minor impact on performance, indicating that disentangling event level causalities enables HEDRA to learn robust entity and relation representations. In contrast, the number of neighbors has a significant effect, as it directly determines the size of the candidate graph. As k increases, the performance gradually improves and then remains relatively stable when $k > 7$. In addition, Figure 6 reports a representative sensitivity study on the loss-weight coefficients α_{attn} and λ_{align} on ICEWS14 dataset, using the same curve-based visualization, indicating that HEDRA is robust to moderate changes of these coefficients within a reasonable range and that the default symmetric setting around 0.5 lies in a near-optimal region.

Table 9: Resource statistics of HEDRA on ICEWS14 and GDELT.

Dataset	Parameters (M)	Peak CUDA memory (GB)	Training time (s)
ICEWS14	20.7	2.95	1226.63
GDELT	22.1	9.91	14274.41

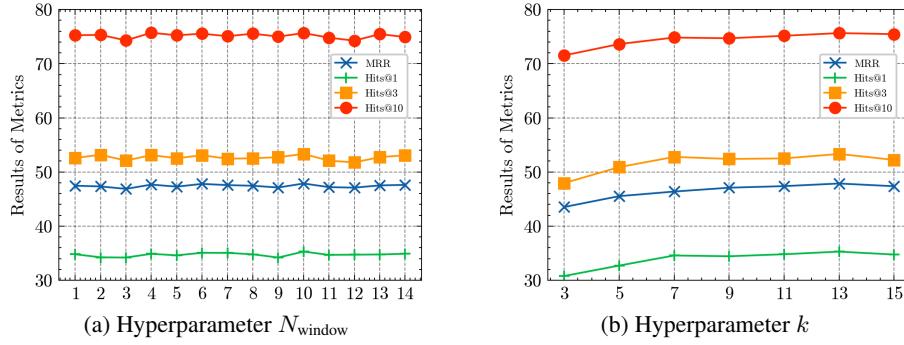


Figure 5: Hyperparameter sensitivity analysis.

C.5 MODEL ANALYSIS

This subsection reports additional diagnostics on the training dynamics and IV-guided disentangling behaviour on ICEWS14 dataset, as well as the robustness of HEDRA on few-shot relations on ICEWS14 and ICEWS18 datasets.

Training Dynamics and IV-guided Module. Four loss terms are monitored during training: the event prediction loss L_{TKG} , the contrastive loss L_{con} , the robustness loss L_{rob} , and the evolutionary loss L_{evo} . To quantify how mass evolves on spurious causal edges inside the causal branch, a diagnostic statistic \bar{p}_s is introduced as:

$$\bar{p}_s = \frac{1}{|\mathcal{E}_s|} \sum_{e \in \mathcal{E}_s} p_s(e), \quad (19)$$

where \mathcal{E}_s denote the set of edges currently assigned to the spurious-causality set, and $p_s(e)$ denote the probability that edge e belongs to spurious causality.

Table 10 reports the evolution of the loss terms and \bar{p}_s over the 10 epochs on ICEWS14 dataset. All four losses decrease smoothly over epochs without noticeable oscillation or divergence, indicating that the interactions among the contrastive, robustness, and evolutionary losses keep the optimization process stable. \bar{p}_s increases from 0.817 at epoch 1 to approximately 0.852 by epochs 7 and then saturates. Since the fraction of edges assigned to the spurious set is approximately fixed by construction, this increase in \bar{p}_s indicates that the IV-guided module becomes progressively more

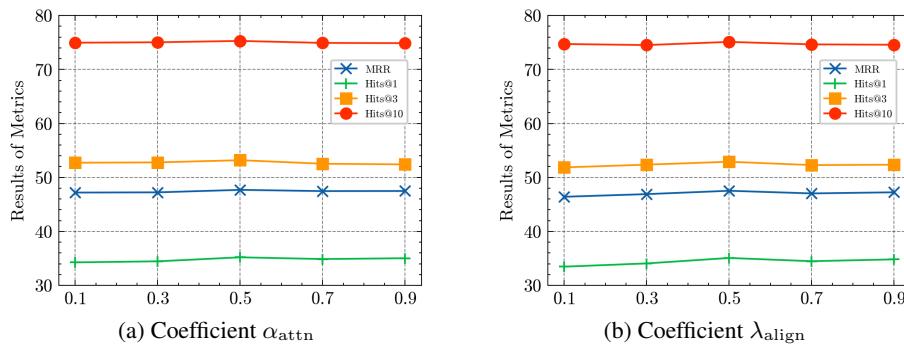


Figure 6: Coefficient sensitivity analysis.

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Table 10: Training dynamics and spurious-mass diagnostic on ICEWS14. The epoch marked with *
921 corresponds to the best validation MRR.
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Table 10: Training dynamics and spurious-mass diagnostic on ICEWS14. The epoch marked with *
999 corresponds to the best validation MRR.

Epoch	L_{TKG}	L_{con}	L_{rob}	L_{evo}	\bar{p}_s
1	3.8341	0.5589	0.8724	0.3108	0.817
2	3.2442	0.2589	0.2644	0.0152	0.837
3	3.1236	0.2396	0.2350	0.0033	0.843
4	3.0461	0.2308	0.2262	0.0024	0.847
5	2.9763	0.2260	0.2210	0.0018	0.850
6	2.9166	0.2225	0.2182	0.0016	0.851
7	2.8641	0.2225	0.2159	0.0014	0.852
8*	2.8230	0.2197	0.2150	0.0014	0.852
9	2.7895	0.2192	0.2140	0.0013	0.852
10	2.7730	0.2184	0.2137	0.0013	0.852

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Table 11: Few-shot relation performance of HEDRA on ICEWS14 and ICEWS18.

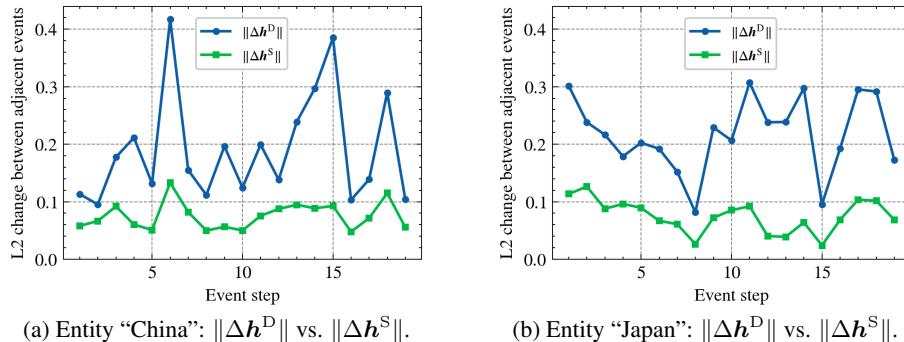
Dataset	MRR	Hits@1	Hits@3	Hits@10
ICEWS14	26.68	11.96	29.79	62.63
ICEWS18	17.44	8.53	14.64	38.44

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confident about which edges are spurious and concentrates spurious-causality mass on them. As a result, these edges are more strongly down-weighted during message passing and decoding, which is the intended behaviour. The best validation MRR on ICEWS14 dataset is reached around epoch 8, when \bar{p}_s has essentially flattened, suggesting that performance gains coincide with the model’s improved ability to identify and suppress spurious causality, while later epochs mainly refine representations on top of this learned genuine-versus-spurious partition.

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Few-shot Relations. To examine robustness on relations with limited supervision, a few-shot relation setting is constructed on ICEWS14 and ICEWS18 datasets. For each dataset, 20% of the relations are randomly selected, only 20% of their quadruples are retained for training, and evaluation is performed solely on this subset of relations. Under this highly sparse supervision, HEDRA achieves the results in Table 11, indicating that the model retains a non-trivial level of robustness for relations with limited training data.

C.6 ANOTHER CASE STUDY

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For each entity on the ICEWS14 dataset, all associated events are first grouped by timestamp, and only one event per timestamp is randomly chosen and retained. The most recent 20 distinct timestamps are then chronologically ordered to construct trajectories that characterize the temporal evolution of the entity. Figure 7 illustrates the stepwise magnitudes of change in both dynamic and static components between consecutive events. For China and Japan, the dynamic component is observed to vary more and by larger amounts than the static component, indicating that short-term shocks are absorbed by the dynamic component while long-term semantics remain stable in the static component, consistent with the goal of HEDRA to disentangle dynamic and static causalities.



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Figure 7: Case study of stepwise changes over the last 20 events. Δ denotes the first difference between consecutive events and $\|\cdot\|$ denotes the Euclidean norm.

972 **D THE USE OF LARGE LANGUAGE MODELS**
973974 We used a large language model (ChatGPT) only to aid writing, including grammar correction and
975 minor phrasing edits. All suggestions were reviewed and edited by the authors, who take full re-
976 sponsibility for the content.

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