# Generative Models for Graphs

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## Many Data are Graphs



Social networks



Information networks



Economic networks





**Biomedical networks** 



Network of neurons

## Why Graphs?

- Universal language for describing complex data
  - Networks/graphs from science, nature, and technology are more similar than one would expect
- Shared vocabulary between fields
  - Computer Science, Social science, Physics, Economics, Statistics, Biology
- Data availability (+computational challenges)
  - Web/mobile, bio, health, and medical
- Impact!
  - Social networking, Social media, Drug design

## Machine Learning with Graphs

Classical ML tasks in graphs:

- Node classification
  - Predict a type of a given node
- Link prediction
  - Predict whether two nodes are linked
- Graph classification
  - Predict the label of a single graph
- Community detection
  - Identify densely linked clusters of nodes
- Network similarity
  - How similar are two (sub)networks

## Node classification



## Link Prediction



## Idea – Aggregate Neighbors

 Key idea: Generate node embeddings based on *local network* neighborhoods



## Idea – Aggregate Neighbors

 Intuition: Nodes aggregate information from their neighbors using neural networks



## Example – GCN, GraphSAGE

- Key idea: Generate node embeddings based on local network neighborhoods
  - Nodes aggregate "messages" from their neighbors using neural networks
- Graph convolutional network
  - Basic variant: average neighborhood information and stack neural networks
- GraphSAGE
  - Generalized neighborhood aggregation



## Graph encoder/decoder



## Graph Generation Problem

• We want to generate realistic graphs



- Goal-directed graph generation
  - Generate graphs that optimize given objectives/constraints
    - Drug molecule generation/optimization

## Challenges for Graph Generation

- Large and discrete variable output space
  - For n nodes we need to generate  $n^2$  values
  - Graph size (nodes, edges) varies



5 nodes: 25 values

## Challenges for Graph Generation

### • Isomorphic graphs

- *n*-node graph can be represented in *n*! ways
- Hard to compute/optimize objective functions (e.g., reconstruction error)



## Challenges for Graph Generation

- Complex dependencies
  - Edge formation has long-range dependencies

#### **Example: Generate a ring graph on 6 nodes:**



Existence of an edge may depend on the entire graph!

## A very General Graph Generation Process

- Loop until not adding new nodes:
  - Add node?
  - Create node
  - Loop until not adding new edges:
    - Add edge?
    - Choose an existing node to create edge



## Generative Models of Graphs

- Stochastic graph models
  - Erdos-Renyi model, Barabasi-Albert model, stochastic block model, smallworld model
  - Nice theory, but limited capacity
- Tree-based models
  - Tons of tree generation models
  - Only works on trees
- Graph grammars
  - Makes hard distinction between what is in the language vs not, hard to use

## Deep Generative Models

Setup:

- Assume we want to learn a generative model from a set of data points (i.e., graphs)  $\{x_i\}$ 
  - $p_{data}(x)$  is the data distribution, which is never known to us, but we have sampled  $x_i \sim p_{data}(x)$
  - $p_{model}(\mathbf{x}; \theta)$  is the model, parametrized by  $\theta$ , that we use to approximate  $p_{data}(\mathbf{x})$

Goal

- 1) Make  $p_{model}(\mathbf{x}; \theta)$  close to  $p_{data}(\mathbf{x})$
- 2) Make sure we can sample from  $p_{model}(x; \theta)$ , i.e., generate examples from  $p_{model}(x; \theta)$

## Deep Generative Models

- 1) Make  $p_{model}(\mathbf{x}; \theta)$  close to  $p_{data}(\mathbf{x})$
- Key principle: maximum likelihood
  - Fundamental approach to modeling distributions

$$\boldsymbol{\theta}^* = \arg \max_{\boldsymbol{\theta}} \mathbb{E}_{\boldsymbol{x} \sim p_{\text{data}}} \log p_{\text{model}}(\boldsymbol{x} \mid \boldsymbol{\theta})$$

- Find  $\theta^*$ , such that for observed data points  $x_i \sim p_{data}(x)$ ,  $\sum_i \log p_{model}(x_i; \theta^*)$  has the highest value, among all possible choices of  $\theta$
- Find the model that is most likely to have generated the observed data *x*

## Deep Generative Models

- 2) Sample from  $p_{model}(\mathbf{x}; \theta)$
- Goal: sample from a complex distribution
- The most common approaches:
  - 1) Sample from a simple noise distribution

• 2) Transform the noise 
$$z_i$$
 via a function  $f(\cdot)$  Use deep neural networks to design  $f$   
 $x_i = f(z_i; \theta)$ 

• **x**<sub>i</sub> follows a complex distribution



## Types of Deep Generative Models

- Variational Autoencoders (VAEs)
  - VAEs, Kingma et al. 2014
- Generative Adversarial Networks (GANs)
  - GANs, Goodfellow et al. 2014
- Deep Auto-regressive Models (ARs)
  - ARs, Oord et al. 2016

Extend to deep graph generative models

VAES, Kingma et al. 2014

- Latent variable model
  - An encoder  $q_{\phi}(\boldsymbol{z}|\boldsymbol{x})$
  - A decoder  $p_{\theta}(\boldsymbol{x}|\boldsymbol{z})$
- Maximizing the likelihood  $\log p(\mathbf{x})$ 
  - Inference intractable since *z* is continuous.
- Maximizing the variational lower-bound  $\mathcal{L}(\phi, \theta; \mathbf{x})$ 
  - Reparametrization trick for jointly optimizing encoder and decoder

$$\mathcal{L}(\phi, \theta; x) = \mathbb{E}_{q_{\phi}(\boldsymbol{z}|\boldsymbol{x})} \log p_{\theta}(\boldsymbol{x}|\boldsymbol{z}) - KL[q_{\phi}(\boldsymbol{z}|\boldsymbol{x})||p(\boldsymbol{z})]$$
Reconstruction Regularization



## GANS, Goodfellow et al. 2014

- A two-player minimax game
  - Generator G:  $z \rightarrow x$
  - Discriminator D:  $x \rightarrow \{0, 1\}$



- Discriminator aims to distinguish between real data and generated data
- Generator aims to fool the discriminator

$$\min_{G} \max_{D} V(D,G) = \mathbb{E}_{\boldsymbol{x} \sim p_{data}(\boldsymbol{x})} [\log D(\boldsymbol{x})] + \mathbb{E}_{\boldsymbol{z} \sim p_{z}(\boldsymbol{z})} [\log(1 - D(G(\boldsymbol{z})))]$$

## ARs, Oord et al. 2016

- Example of deep auto-regressive model
  - Recurrent Neural Networks
- PixelRNN, Pixel CNN (Oord et al. 2016)
  - Generate an image pixel by pixel
  - A neural network is used to model the conditional distribution
- WaveNet (Oord et al. 2016)

$$p(\mathbf{x}) = \prod_{t=1}^{T} p(x_t \mid x_1, \dots, x_{t-1})$$

Input 🔘

#### Output • • • • • • • • • • • • • • •

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GraphVAE (Simonovsky and Komodakis, 2018)

- VAE framework for graph generation
  - Graph as input data
  - Encoder: graph neural networks + gated pooling → graph representation
  - Decoder: output a probabilistic fully-connected graph of predefined maximum size
    - Model the existence of nodes, edges and their attributes independently
    - Graph matching is required

GraphVAE (Simonovsky and Komodakis, 2018)

- Input: graph G = (A, E, F)
  - A: adjacency matrix, E: edge attribute tensor, F: node attribute matrix



GraphVAE (Simonovsky and Komodakis, 2018)

- Input: graph G = (A, E, F)
  - A: adjacency matrix, E: edge attribute tensor, F: node attribute matrix

$$\mathcal{L}(\phi, \theta; \mathbf{x})^{\mathbf{G}} = \mathbb{E}_{q_{\phi}(\mathbf{z}|\mathbf{x})} \log p_{\theta}(\mathbf{x}|\mathbf{z}) - KL[q_{\phi}(\mathbf{z}|\mathbf{x})||p(\mathbf{z})]$$
Reconstruction
Regularization

• New reconstruction loss:

 $\log p(G|z) = \lambda_A \log p(A'|z) + \lambda_F \log p(F|z) + \lambda_E \log p(E|z)$ 

#### GraphVAE (Simonovsky and Komodakis, 2018), graph decoder

- Restrict the domain to the set of all graphs on maximum k nodes (k is around tens)
- Output a probabilistic fully-connected graph  $\tilde{G} = (\tilde{A}, \tilde{E}, \tilde{F})$  on k nodes at once
  - · Model the existence of nodes and edges as Bernoulli variables
  - Model the node and edge attributes as Multinomial variables
  - $\tilde{A} \in [0,1]^{k \times k}$  contains both node probabilities  $\tilde{A}_{aa}$  and edge probabilities  $\tilde{A}_{ab}$  for nodes  $a \neq b$
  - $\tilde{E} \in [0,1]^{k \times k \times d_e}$  indicates the probabilities for edge attributes
  - $\tilde{F} \in [0,1]^{k \times d_n}$  indicates the probabilities for node attributes
- Inference: taking edge- and node-wise argmax in  $\tilde{A}$ ,  $\tilde{E}$ , and  $\tilde{F}$ .
- Graph Matching must be used for calculating the reconstruction loss

Find corresponding  $X \in \{0,1\}^{k \times n}$ , mapping between G and  $\tilde{G}$ , COST

### MolGAN (Cao and Kipf 2018)

- An implicit, likelihood-free generative model for molecule generation
- Combined with reinforcement learning to encourage the generated molecules with desired chemical properties
- Generator: generating molecules from a prior distribution
- **Discriminator**: distinguishing the generated samples and real samples
- Reward network:
  - Learns to assign a reward to each molecule to match a score provided by an external software
  - Invalid molecules always receive zero rewards.

MolGAN (Cao and Kipf 2018), Generator

- A probabilistic fully-connected graph
  - $X \in \mathbb{R}^{N \times T}$ : atom types
  - $A \in R^{N \times N \times T}$ : bond types
- Objective function:  $L(\theta) = \lambda L_{WGAN} + (1 \lambda)L_{RL}$



MolGAN (Cao and Kipf 2018), Discriminator and Reward Network

- Learning molecule/graph representations with a variant of neural message passing algorithms
- Same architectures for discriminator and reward network
- Reward network for approximating the score by an external software
  - Trained with real samples and generated samples



#### GraphRNN, You et al. 2018

• Idea: Generating graphs via sequentially adding nodes and edges



Graph G with node ordering  $\pi$  can be uniquely mapped into a sequence of node and edge additions  $S^{\pi}$ 

- The sequence  $S^{\pi}$  has two levels: node and edge
- Node-level: at each step, a new node is added
- Edge-level: at each step add a new edge





- Transform graph generation problem into a sequence generation problem
- Two processed required:
  - Generate a state for new node (node-level)
  - Generate edges for the new node based on its state (edge-level)
- Approach: RNN

- GraphRNN has two RNNs: node-level RNN and edge-level RNN
- Relationship between two RNNs:
  - Node-level RNN generates the initial state for edge-level RNN
  - Edge-level RNN generates edges for the new node, then update node-level RNN state using generated results

#### GraphRNN, You et al. 2018

Green arrows denote the node-level RNN that encodes the "graph state" vector  $h_i$  in its hidden state, updated by the predicted adjacency vector  $S_i^{\pi}$  for node  $\pi(v_i)$ 

Blue arrows represent the edge-level RNN, whose hidden state is initialized by the graph-level RNN, that is used to predict the adjacency vector  $S_i^{\pi}$  for node  $\pi(v_i)$   $h_1$   $h_2$   $h_3$   $h_4$   $h_5$   $h_6$ 



#### GraphRNN, You et al. 2018

• RNN model

- *s<sub>t</sub>*: State of RNN after time *t*
- x<sub>t</sub>: Input to RNN at time t
- y<sub>t</sub>: Output of RNN at time t
- W, U, V: parameter matrices,  $\sigma(\cdot)$ : non-linearity

$$s_{t-1} \Rightarrow \begin{array}{c} y_t \\ \uparrow (2) \\ RNN \\ cell \\ x_t \end{array} (1) \\ s_t \\ (2) \\ y_t = V \cdot s_t \\ \uparrow \\ x_t \end{array}$$

• More expressive cells: GRU, LSTM, etc.

#### GraphRNN, You et al. 2018

• Goal: generate sequences



Deterministic, not so good

#### GraphRNN, You et al. 2018

• Probabilistic:  $y_t = p_{model}(x_t | x_1, \cdots, x_{t-1}; \theta)$ 



 $x_{t+1}$  is sampled from  $y_t: x_{t+1} \sim y_t$ 



- Training:
- We observe a sequence y\* of edges [1,0,...]
- Principle: Teacher Forcing -- Replace input and output by the real sequence



- Training: Loss L : Binary cross entropy
  - Minimize:

$$L = -[y_1^* \log(y_1) + (1 - y_1^*) \log(1 - y_1)]$$



- If  $y_1^* = 1$ , we minimize  $-\log(y_1)$ , making  $y_1$  higher
- If  $y_1^* = 0$ , we minimize  $-\log(1 y_1)$ , making  $y_1$  lower
- This way,  $y_1$  is **fitting** the data samples  $y_1^*$

- Evaluation:
  - Define similarity metrics for graphs
  - No efficient graph isomorphism test that can be applied to any class of graphs
  - Solution:
    - Visual similarity
    - Graph statistics similarity: degree distribution, cluster coefficient, diameter of graphs, etc.







#### GraphRNN, You et al. 2018

• Visual Similarity:

#### • Graph statistics Similarity:







GCPN: Graph Convolutional Policy Network, You et al. 2018

- Molecule generation as sequential decisions
  - Add nodes and edges
  - A Markov decision process
- Goal: discover molecules that optimize desired properties while incorporating chemical rules.
- GCPN: A general model for **goal-directed graph generation** with RL
  - Optimize adversarial loss and domain-specific rewards with policy gradients
  - Acts in an environment that incorporates domain-specific rules.

GCPN: Graph Convolutional Policy Network, You et al. 2018

#### Goal-Directed Graph Generation

- Optimize a given objective (High scores)
  - e.g., drug-likeness (black box)
- Obey underlying rules (Valid)
  - e.g., chemical valency rules
- Are learned from examples (Realistic)
  - e.g., Imitating a molecule graph dataset

GCPN: Graph Convolutional Policy Network, You et al. 2018

- GCPN = graph representation + reinforcement learning
  - Reinforcement learning optimizes intermediate/final rewards (High scores)
  - Graph Neural Network captures complex structural information, and enables validity check in each state transition (Valid)

• Adversarial training imitates examples in given datasets (Realistic)

GCPN, You et al. 2018, MDP

- $M = (S, A, P, R, \gamma)$ 
  - States  $S = \{s_i\}$  consists of all possible intermediate and final graphs
  - Action  $A = \{a_i\}$  modification made to the current graph at each step
  - State transitional dynamics P
  - Reward function *R*
  - Discount factor  $\gamma$



GCPN, You et al. 2018, State space

- $s_t$  as the intermediate generated graph  $G_t$
- $G_0$  contains a single node that represents a carbon atom



GCPN, You et al. 2018, Action Space

- A set of atoms  $C = \bigcup_{i=1}^{s} C_i$  to be added during each step
- Actions
  - Connecting a new atom  $C_i$  to a node in  $G_t$
  - Connecting existing nodes within  $G_t$



GCPN, You et al. 2018, State Transition Dynamic

- Incorporate domain-specific rules in the state transition dynamics.
   Only carry out actions that obey the **given rules**
- Infeasible actions by the policy network are rejected and state remains same



GCPN, You et al. 2018, Reward Design

- Step rewards: step-wise validity rewards and adversarial rewards
- Final rewards: a sum over domain-specific reward
  - Final property scores, penalization of unrealistic molecules, adversarial rewards



GCPN, You et al. 2018, Results

Starting structure







-0.71



-5.55

-8.32

-1.78



## More

- Generating graphs in other domain
  - 3D mesh reconstruction, scene graphs, knowledge graphs, etc.
- Scale up to large graphs
  - Hierarchical action space, allowing high-level action like adding a structure at a time
  - Leverage the sparse structure of graphs (Dai et al. 2020)
- More on graph neural networks + reinforcement learning
  - Relational deep reinforcement learning (Zambaldi et al. 2018)
- New discrepancy on graphs
  - Gromov Wasserstain distance (Bunne et al. 2019)

## References

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