# Graph Neural Networks 

A Gentle Introduction

April 2022

## Main Sources

## A Gentle Introduction to Graph Neural Networks

Benjamin Sanchez-Lengeling, Emily Reif, Adam Pearce, Alexander B. Wiltschko
Google Research, https://doi.org/10.23915/distill. 00033
Graph Convolutional Neural Networks (GCNs) Made Simple
WelcomeAIOverloards
https://youtu.be/2KRAOZIULzw

## Agenda

1. What kind of data is naturally phrased as a graph?
2. What makes graphs different from other types of data?
3. Building a GNN
4. Try it out! Build intuition and work with a real-world task

## Graphs

## They're everywhere!

- Real world objects are often defined in terms of their connections to other things
- A set of objects, and the connections between them, are expressed as a graph
- Neural network that operates on graph data = graph neural network (GNN)


## Graphs

- A graph represents the relations (edges) between a collection of entities (nodes)


V Vertex (or node) attributes
e.g., node identity, number of neighbors

E Edge (or link) attributes and directions
e.g., edge identity, edge weight

U Global (or master node) attributes
e.g., number of nodes, longest path

## Graphs

- We can associate directionality to edges

Undirected edge


## Directed edge



- An edge has a source node $v_{s r c}$ and a destination node $v_{d s t}$
- Note: having a single undirected edge is the same as having one directed edge from $v_{s r c}$ to $v_{d s t}$, and another directed edge from $v_{d s t}$ to $v_{s r c}$


## Images as Graphs

- Visualize the connectivity of a graph through its adjacency matrix
- Order the nodes and fill a matrix of ( $n_{\text {nodes }} \times n_{\text {nodes }}$ ) with an entry if two nodes share an edge

| $0-0$ | $\mathbf{1 - 0}$ | $2-0$ | $3-0$ | $4-0$ |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| $0-1$ | $1-1$ | $2-1$ | $3-1$ | $4-1$ |
| $0-2$ | $1-2$ | $2-2$ | $3-2$ | $4-2$ |
| $0-3$ | $1-3$ | $2-3$ | $3-3$ | $4-3$ |
| $0-4$ | $1-4$ | $2-4$ | $3-4$ | $\mathbf{4 - 4}$ |



Adjacency Matrix


## Text as Graphs

- Digitize text by associating indices to each character, word, or token, and representing text as a sequence of these indices
- These graph representations are somewhat redundant (images and text have very regular structure)



## Graph-Valued Data

## Molecules as graphs

- Nodes are atoms and edges are covalent bonds





## Graph-Valued Data

## Molecules as graphs

- Nodes are atoms and edges are covalent bonds



## Graph-Valued Data

## Social networks as graphs

- Represent groups of people by modeling individuals as nodes and their relationships as edges

(Left) Image of the scene from the play "Othello" (Center) Adjacency matrix of the interaction between characters in the play


## The Classes of Graph Prediction What tasks do we want to perform on this data?

1. Graph-level task: predict a single property for the whole graph
2. Node-level task: predict some property for each node in a graph
3. Edge-level task: predict the property or presence of edges in a graph

## Graph-Level Task

## Predict the property of an entire graph

- Predict what the molecule smells like, or if it will bind to a receptor implicated in a disease, etc.

(Input) graphs (Output) labels for each graph (e.g., "does the graph contain two rings?")
- With text, one could do sentiment analysis (identify mood or emotion of an entire sentence)


## Node-Level Task

Predict identity/role of each node in a graph

- Example: Zach's karate club


Allegiance to John A
(Input) graph with unlabeled nodes (Output) graph node labels

## Edge-Level Task

## Predict property or presence of edges in a graph

- Example: Image scene understanding



## Edge-Level Task <br> Predict property or presence of edges in a graph

- Example: Image scene understanding

(Left) initial graph built from the previous visual scene (Right) example edge-labeling of the graph


## Representing Connectivity

## It's the hard part

- Adjacency matrix

1. Sparse (space-inefficient)
2. Not permutation invariant


Two adjacency matrices representing the same graph

## Representing Connectivity <br> It's the hard part



Every adjacency matrix that can describe a small graph of 4 nodes

## Representing Connectivity

## It's the hard part

- Adjacency lists - describe connectivity of edge $e_{k}$ between nodes $n_{i}$ and $n_{j}$ in the $k^{t h}$ entry



## Build a Graph Neural Network

## Using graph neural networks to solve graph prediction tasks

- These model types accept a graph as input, with information loaded into its nodes, edges, and global context
- Progressively transform embeddings without changing the connectivity of the input graph


## Predictions by Pooling Information

 How do we make predictions?- For each node embedding, apply a linear classifier

Final Layer


Node Predictions

final classification $c=0, \ldots$

## Predictions by Pooling Information

1. For each item to be pooled, gather each of their embeddings and concatenate them into a matrix
2. The gathered embeddings are then aggregated, usually via a sum operation


## Predictions by Pooling Information

- If we only have edge-level features, use pooling to route information where it needs to go

Final Layer



$$
\begin{aligned}
& \text { pooling function } \rho \\
& \text { final classification } c=0
\end{aligned}
$$

## Predictions by Pooling Information

- If we only have node-level features and we are trying to predict edge-level information

Final Layer
Node Embeddings


Edge Predictions


> pooling function $\rho$
> final classification $\mathcal{C}=$

## Predictions by Pooling Information

- If we only have edge/node-level features and need to predict a global property, need to gather all edge/node information and aggregate them



## Prediction Review



## Conceptual Application



## Conceptual Application



## Conceptual Application



## Conceptual Application



## Simple Calculation in GNN Layer



## Simple Calculation in GNN Layer



## Simple Calculation in GNN Layer




## Simple Calculation in GNN Layer




## Simple Calculation in GNN Layer




## Simple Calculation in GNN Layer




## Simple Calculation in GNN Layer



## Example

## Twitter Content Abuse



## Example

## Twitter Content Abuse



## Example

## Twitter Content Abuse



## Two Layer Example



## Two Layer Example



## Two Layer Example



## Two Layer Example



## GNN Playground

- Graph-level prediction task with small molecular graphs
- Each molecule is a graph
- Atoms are nodes containing encoding for atomic identity
- Bonds are edges containing encoding for bond type

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## Resources and Sources

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## An Example of Graph Convolutional Networks <br> Zak Jost <br> https://blog.zakjost.com/post/gen citeseer/

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