

Expressive Graph Embeddings via Homomorphism Counts

Pascal Welke CAIML Seminar on 25. November 2024

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Learning on structured data

chemistry prof.

chemistry prof.

?

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Learning on structured data

Neural methods achieve remarkable results in graph learning

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- molecule synthesis and prediction
- modeling of human social behavior

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Neural methods achieve remarkable results in graph learning

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but come with

- significant resource demands
- too much complexity to be interpretable
- which hinders application in many scenarios

The goal

Vectorial graph representations that

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Vectorial graph representations that

- yield semantically and structurally meaningful distances
- are interpretable
- are adaptable to given data

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We want our graph representation function *ϕ* to be

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$$
G \simeq H : \phi(G) = \phi(H)
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• complete

for all non-isomorphic graphs

$$
G \not\simeq H: \ \phi(G) \neq \phi(H)
$$

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- **Typical solution**: drop completeness for efficiency
	- most practical graph kernels, GNNs, Weisfeiler Leman test, ...

[Message Passing and the Weisfeiler Leman Algorithm](#page-28-0)

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- Message passing models this kind of behavior as a simultaneous round based process

The message passing framework

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r_{k+1}(v) = \mathrm{upd}_k (r_k(v), \ \mathrm{agg}_k (\{\{r_k(w) \mid w \in N(v)\}\}))
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- \bullet ${\sf upd}_k: \mathcal{X}_k \times \mathcal{X}'_k \to \mathcal{X}_{k+1}$ $\sf updates$ the representation of *v* given its old representation and the aggregate of the neighbors

We will omit **k** in the notation of upd_k and agg_k when upd_o = upd₁ = ...

$$
r_{k+1}^{WL}(v) = \#_{k}\left(r_{k}^{WL}(v), \ \left\{ \left\{ r_{k}^{WL}(w) \mid w \in N\left(v\right) \right\} \right\} \right)
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- \bullet $\#_k: \mathcal{X}_k \times \mathbb{N}^{\mathcal{X}_k} \to \mathcal{X}_{k+1}$ is a perfect hash function

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$$
r^{MPNN}_{k+1}(v) = \text{MLP}_k^{\text{UPD}}\left(r^{MPNN}_k(v), \text{ MLP}_k\left(\sum_{w \in N(v)} r^{MPNN}_k(w)\right)\right)
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\bullet \ \ r_0^{MPNN}: V(G) \to \mathbb{R}^d
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Where

•
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- Graph level tasks are solved by summing together all node representations, then a final MLP

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- Graph level tasks are solved by summing together all node representations, then a final MLP
- Training can be done with gradient descent

[Message Passing and the Weisfeiler Leman Algorithm](#page-28-0) | **[Issues](#page-60-0)**

Isomorphic Graphs have Identical WL Label Histograms

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Nonisomorphic Graphs Can Have Identical Label Histograms

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- Whenever WL cannot distinguish two graphs, *any* MPNN cannot compute different representations
- MPNNs are incomplete
- Their incompleteness can be bounded by the incompleteness of the WL algorithm

[Homomorphism Counts as Graph Representations](#page-71-0)
Homomorphism

A *homomorphism* from *H* to *G* is a function

$$
h: V(H) \to V(G)
$$

such that

 $(v, w) \in E(H) \Longrightarrow (h(v), h(w)) \in V(G)$

Counting Homomorphisms

Given *H* and *G*, we can ask *how many* homomorphisms exist from *H* to *G*?

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There are twelve homomorphisms from *H* to *G*!

 φ ^{*n*}(*G*)

G Ω Y \tilde{m} φ ^{*n*}(*G*)

20 60

60

. . .

. . . 120

> . . .

1 $\overline{1}$ $\overline{1}$ $\overline{1}$ \perp $\overline{1}$ $\frac{1}{2}$ $\overline{1}$ $\frac{1}{2}$ $\overline{1}$ $\frac{1}{2}$ $\frac{1}{2}$ $\frac{1}{2}$ $\frac{1}{2}$ $\frac{1}{2}$ $\frac{1}{2}$ $\overline{1}$ $\frac{1}{2}$ $\overline{1}$

 $\sqrt{ }$ $\overline{1}$ 260 $\frac{1}{2}$ $\overline{}$ $\overline{1}$ $\overline{}$ $\frac{1}{2}$ $\overline{}$ 340 $\frac{1}{2}$ $\frac{1}{2}$ $\frac{1}{2}$ $\frac{1}{2}$ $\overline{1}$ $\frac{1}{2}$ $\overline{1}$

. . .

 \circ

. . .

. . . **Theorem [Lovász 1967].** Two graphs *G* and *H* are isomorphic iff $\varphi_n(G) = \varphi_n(H)$

We can count homomorphisms (for some graphs) in practice!

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- Homomorphism counting is fixed parameter tractable
- The parameter is called tree-width
- If the pattern *H* has tree-width *k*, the homomorphisms from *H* to any *G* can be counted in $O(|V(G)|^k)$

φ n (*G*)

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φ n (*G*)

How to select the patterns?

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We will now see two variants how to select patterns

Graph Homomorphism Convolution (GHC) ([NT and Maehara \(2020\)](#page-196-0)

• Introduce homomorphism counts as feature vectors of graphs

Graph Homomorphism Convolution

Hoang NT¹² Takanori Maehara¹

Abstract

In this paper, we study the graph classification problem from the graph homomorphism perspective. We consider the homomorphisms from \ddot{F} to G, where G is a graph of interest (e.g. molecules or social networks) and F belongs to some family of graphs (e.g. paths or non-isomorphic trees). We show that graph homomorphism numbers provide a natural invariant (isomorphism invariant and F-invariant) embedding maps which can be used for graph classification. Viewing the expressive power of a graph classifier by the Findistinguishable concept, we prove the universality property of graph homomorphism vectors in approximating F-invariant functions. In practice, by choosing F whose elements have bounded treewidth, we show that the homomorphism method is efficient compared with other methods.

1. Introduction

1.1. Background

In many fields of science, objects of interest often exhibit irregular structures. For example, in biology or chemistry, molecules and protein interactions are often modeled as Geometric (deep) learning (Bronstein et al., 2017) is an important extension of machine learning as it generalizes learning methods from Euclidean data to non-Euclidean data. This branch of machine learning not only deals with learning irregular data but also provides a proper means to combine meta-data with their underlying structure. Therefore, geometric learning methods have enabled the application of machine learning to real-world problems: From categorizing complex social interactions to generating new chemical molecules. Among these methods, graph-learning models for the classification task have been the most important subject of study.

Let X' be the space of features (e.g., $X = \mathbb{R}^d$ for some positive integer d). V be the space of outcomes (e.g., $V =$ $\{0, 1\}$), and $G = (V(G), E(G))$ be a graph with a vertex set $V(G)$ and edge set $E(G) \subset V(G) \times V(G)$. The graph classification problem is stated follow¹ .

Problem 1 (Graph Classification Problem). *We are given a set of tuples* $\{(G_i, x_i, y_i) : i = 1, \ldots, N\}$ *of graphs* $G_i = (V(G_i), E(G_i))$, vertex features $x_i: V(G_i) \rightarrow X_i$. and outcomes $y_i \in Y$. The task is to learn a hypothesis h *such that* $h((G_i, x_i)) \approx y_i$. ²

Problem 1 has been studied both theoretically and empirically. Theoretical graph classification models often discuss

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Graph Homomorphism Convolution (GHC) ([NT and Maehara \(2020\)](#page-196-0)

- Introduce homomorphism counts as feature vectors of graphs
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Graph Homomorphism Convolution (GHC) ([NT and Maehara \(2020\)](#page-196-0)

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	- The first 13 trees
	- Cycles up to length 7

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	- The first 13 trees
	- Cycles up to length 7
- Use an SVM with these features

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Hoang NT¹² Takanori Maehara¹

Abstract

In this paper, we study the graph classification problem from the graph homomorphism perspective. We consider the homomorphisms from \ddot{F} to G, where G is a graph of interest (e.g. molecules or social networks) and F belongs to some family of graphs (e.g. paths or non-isomorphic trees). We show that graph homomorphism numbers provide a natural invariant (isomorphism invariant and F -invariant) embedding maps which can be used for graph classification. Viewing the expressive power of a graph classifier by the Findistinguishable concept, we prove the universality property of graph homomorphism vectors in approximating F-invariant functions. In practice, by choosing F whose elements have bounded treewidth, we show that the homomorphism method is efficient compared with other methods.

1. Introduction

1.1. Background

In many fields of science, objects of interest often exhibit irregular structures. For example, in biology or chemistry, molecules and protein interactions are often modeled as Geometric (deep) learning (Bronstein et al., 2017) is an important extension of machine learning as it generalizes learning methods from Euclidean data to non-Euclidean data. This branch of machine learning not only deals with learning irregular data but also provides a proper means to combine meta-data with their underlying structure. Therefore, geometric learning methods have enabled the application of machine learning to real-world problems: From categorizing complex social interactions to generating new chemical molecules. Among these methods, graph-learning models for the classification task have been the most important subject of study.

Let X' be the space of features (e.g., $X = \mathbb{R}^d$ for some positive integer d). V be the space of outcomes (e.g., $V =$ $\{0, 1\}$), and $G = (V(G), E(G))$ be a graph with a vertex set $V(G)$ and edge set $E(G) \subset V(G) \times V(G)$. The graph classification problem is stated follow¹ .

Problem 1 (Graph Classification Problem). *We are given a set of tuples* $\{(G_i, x_i, y_i) : i = 1, \ldots, N\}$ *of graphs* $G_i = (V(G_i), E(G_i))$, vertex features $x_i: V(G_i) \rightarrow X_i$. and outcomes $y_i \in Y$. The task is to learn a hypothesis h *such that* $h((G_i, x_i)) \approx y_i$. ²

Problem 1 has been studied both theoretically and empirically. Theoretical graph classification models often discuss

GHC: Experimental results

(b) Benchmark datasets

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(b) Benchmark datasets

• Good results on some synthetic datasets

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(b) Benchmark datasets

- Good results on some synthetic datasets
- Competitive results on (smaller) benchmark datasets

GHC is incomplete

• GHC in practice requires a fixed, user defined choice of the pattern set $\mathcal F$

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- GHC in practice requires a fixed, user defined choice of the pattern set $\mathcal F$
- This allows to bound the expressivity of GHC by an extension of the WL algorithm: k -WL ([Neuen \(2024\)](#page-196-1))

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Expectation-Complete Graph Representations with Homomorphisms

ICML 2023

Pascal Welke*, Maximilian Thiessen*, Fabian Jogl, and Thomas Gärtner

TU Wien Vienna | Austria Research Unit Machine Learning

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- Asymptotically, our graph representation is complete.
- \Rightarrow allows to adapt to challenging learning tasks without domain knowledge
- \Rightarrow works well in practice

What if we keep completeness ...

. .. in expectation?

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Expectation complete graph embeddings

Let $\phi_X : \mathcal{G} \to V$ depend on a random variable X drawn from a distr. D over a set X

Expectation complete graph embeddings

Let $\phi_{\mathsf{X}}: \mathcal{G} \to \mathsf{V}$ depend on a random variable X drawn from a distr. D over a set \mathcal{X} We call *ϕ^X* complete in expectation if the expectation

$$
\mathop{\mathbb{E}}_{X \sim \mathcal{D}}[\phi_X(\cdot)] = \sum_{t \in \mathcal{X}} \Pr(X = t) \phi_t(\cdot)
$$

is a complete graph embedding
Sampling X_1, X_2, X_3, \ldots will eventually make the joint embedding

 $(\phi_{X_1}(G), \phi_{X_2}(G), \phi_{X_3}(G), \dots)$

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What if we keep completeness in expectation ... efficiently

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φ n (*G*)

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Theorem $(\sqrt{1$ CML [2023](#page-196-0))

Computing the expectation-complete graph embedding $\phi_{X}(G)$ *with* $X \sim \mathcal{D}$ *takes polynomial time in* $V(G)$ *in expectation for all* $G \in \mathcal{G}_n$ *.*

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	- universal approximation results

Efficient and expectation-complete GNNs

We can make any (message passing) GNN expectation-complete

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Empirical results

Table 1. Performance of different GNNs on 9 OGB benchmarks and ZINC. Baseline of a GNN with homorphism counts is the same GNN without homomorphism counts. Results for GNNs with homorphism counts are averaged over 9 different random samples of pattern graphs.

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Table 2. Accuracy on synthetic data

Method	CSL.	PAULUS25
GIN	$10.00 + 0.00$	7.14 ± 0.00
GNTK	$10.00 + 0.00$	7.14 ± 0.00
GHC-Tree	$10.00 + 0.00$	$7.14 + 0.00$
GHC-Cycle	100.0 ± 0.00	7.14 ± 0.00
WL.	$10.00 + 0.00$	7.14 ± 0.00
Ours	$37.67 + 9.11$	100.0 ± 0.00

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- [Beaujean et al \(2021\)](#page-194-1)
- BSc thesis [2023](#page-195-0)
- KDD [2020](#page-196-1))
- fast and precise in practice

[Homomorphism Counts as Node Representations](#page-135-0)

Connecting homomorphism counting and message passing

• So far, message passing and homomorphism counting have touched, but not really interacted

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- Homomorphism counts can also be included in the message passing

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Graph Homomorphism Convolution $(F-MPNNS)$ $(Barccos(6)$ et al (2021)

add hom-counts here

• This architecture is more expressive than WL

Pascal Welke Expressive Graph Embeddings via Homomorphism Counts 46/60

Graph Neural Networks with Local Graph Parameters

Pablo Barceló^{1, 2}, Floris Geerts¹, Juan Reutter^{1, 2}, Maksimilian Ryschkov³ ¹ Department of Computer Science, PUC, Chile ² Millennium Institute for Foundational Research on Data, Chile ³ Department of Computer Science, University of Antwerp, Belgium [pbarcelo,jreutter]@ing.puc.cl, [floris.geerts,maksimilian.ryschkov]@uantwerpen.be

Abstract

Various recent proposals increase the distinguishing power of Graph Neural Networks (GNNs) by propagating features between k-tuples of vertices. The distinguishing power of these "higher-order" GNNs is known to be bounded by the k-dimensional Weisfeiler-Leman (WL) test, yet their O(n limit their applicability. Other proposals infuse GNNs with local higher-order graph k) memory requirements structural information from the start, hereby inheriting the desirable $O(n)$ memory requirement from GNNs at the cost of a one-time, possibly non-linear, preprocessing step. We propose local graph parameter enabled GNNs as a framework for studying the latter kind of approaches. We precisely characterize their distinguishing power, in terms of a variant of the WL test, and in terms of the graph structural properties that they can take into account. Local graph parameters can be added to any GNN architecture, and are cheap to compute. In terms of expressive power, our proposal lies in the middle of GNNs and their higher-order counterparts. Further, we propose several techniques to aid in choosing the right local graph parameters. Our results connect GNNs with deep results in finite model theory and finite variable logics. Our experimental evaluation shows that adding local graph parameters often has a positive effect on a variety of GNNs, datasets and graph learning tasks.

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- It is incomparable to 2-WL

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Graph Homomorphism Convolution (\mathcal{F} -MPNNs) \overline{B} $\$

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- Can be bounded by $\mathcal{F}\text{-}\mathsf{WL}$ (!)

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Experimental Results

(a) Results for the ZINC dataset show that homomorphism (hom) counts of eveles improve every model. We compare the mean shedute error (MAE) of each model without any homomorphism count (baseline), against the model augmented with the homcount and with subgraph isomorphism (iso) counts of C_2-C_{10} .

(b) The effect of different cycles for the GAT model over the ZINC dataset, using mean absolute error

MAE $0.47 + 0.02$ $0.45 + 0.01$ $0.34 + 0.02$ $0.31 + 0.01$ $0.28 + 0.01$ $0.23 + 0.01$ $0.22 + 0.01$

Table 2: Results for the PATTERN dataset show that homomorphism counts improve all models except GatedGCN. We compare weighted accuracy of each model without any homomorphism count (base- α are the model augmented with the counts of the set F that showed best performance (best F.

$MODEL + BEST \mathcal{F}$	ACCURACY BASELINE	ACCURACY BEST
$GAT{K_3, K_4, K_5}$	$78.83 + 0.60$	$85.50 + 0.23$
$GCN{K2, K3, K5}$	$71.42 + 1.38$	$82.49 + 0.48$
GraphSage $\{K_3, K_4, K_5\}$	70.78 ± 0.19	85.85 ± 0.15
MoNet $\{K_3, K_4, K_5\}$	85.90 ± 0.03	86.63 ± 0.03
GatedGCN {0}	86.15 ± 0.08	86.15 ± 0.08

Table 3: All models improve the Hits@50 metric over the COLLAR dataset. We compare each model without any homomorphism count (baseline) against the model augmented with the counts of the set of patterns that showed best performance (best F).

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- Cycle counting seems to be important ;)

[GNNs can Count Homomorphisms – Implicitly](#page-150-0)

Practical problem

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Practical problem

- 1-WL is sometimes not expressive enough
- In particular, it is insensitive to the number of cycles
- 2-FWL is already impractical

Weisfeiler and Leman Go Loopy: A New Hierarchy for Graph Representational Learning

NeurIPS 2024 (oral)

Raffaele Paolino*, Sohir Maskey*, Pascal Welke, and Gitta Kutyniok

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- we propose a generalized message passing architecture
- it can distinguish graphs with different *r*-cycle counts
- it can homomorphism-count all *r*-cactus graphs (strictly more expressive than 1-WL)
- fast in practice, s.o.t.a. results

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$$
c_{v}^{(4\cdot\prime)} = \{ (\begin{array}{cc} \circ & \circ & \circ \\ \circ & \circ & \circ \end{array}, \begin{array}{c} \circ & \circ & \circ \\ \circ & \circ & \circ \end{array}, \begin{array}{c} \circ & \circ & \circ \\ \circ & \circ & \circ \end{array} \},
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Pascal Welke | Expressive Graph Embeddings via Homomorphism Counts **54/60 SACES** 54/60

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A complete representation for cycles:

 $\mathcal{C}^{(t+1)}\left(\left\{\begin{array}{c} \lambda\\ \lambda\end{array}\right\}\right)=\mathcal{C}IN\left(\left\{\begin{array}{c} \lambda\\ \lambda\end{array}\right\}+\mathcal{C}IN\left(\left\{\begin{array}{c} \lambda\\ \lambda\end{array}\right\}\right)$

Empirical results

Table 4: Normalized test MAE (\downarrow) on graph regression,
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Table 4: Normalized test MAE (\) on graph regression, OM9 dataset. Top three models as \mathbb{T}^{st} , $[2^{nd}]$, 3^{rd} .

Table 3: Test MAE (1) on graph regression, ZINC dataset. Top three models as $\overline{1^{st}}$, $\overline{2^{nd}}$, $\overline{3^{rd}}$.

We have seen different hierarchies of expressiveness

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- increasing the size of $\mathcal F$ in $(NT$ and Maehara (2020)

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Open questions

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How are they connected?

Can we collect most of our results in one architecture?

Deep Homomorphism Networks

• Message passing can be generalized to homomorphism counting

Deep Homomorphism Networks

Takanori Maehara* Roku, Inc. Cambridge, UK tmaehara@roku.com

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Abstract

Many real-world graphs are large and have some characteristic subgraph patterns, such as triangles in social networks, cliques in web graphs, and cycles in molecular networks. Detecting such subgraph patterns is important in many applications; therefore, establishing graph neural networks (GNNs) that can detect such patterns and run fast on large graphs is demanding. In this study, we propose a new GNN layer, named *graph homomorphism layer*. It enumerates local subgraph patterns that match the predefined set of patterns \mathcal{P}^{\bullet} , applies non-linear transformations to node features, and aggregates them along with the patterns. By stacking these ' , applies non-linear transformations layers, we obtain a deep GNN model called *deep homomorphism network (DHN)*. The expressive power of the DHN is completely characterised by the set of patterns generated from \mathcal{P}^{\bullet} by graph-theoretic operations; hence, it serves as a useful theoretical tool to analyse the expressive power of many GNN models. Furthermore, $perated from P[*]$ by graph-theoretic operations; hence, it serves as a useful the model runs in the same time complexity as the graph homomorphisms, which is fast in many real-word graphs. Thus, it serves as a practical and lightweight model that solves difficult problems using domain knowledge.

1 Introduction

Deep Homomorphism Networks

- Message passing can be generalized to homomorphism counting
- We have to use a node-weighted variant of homomorphisms, though

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1 Introduction

Deep Homomorphism Network Architecture

• Homomorphism counts can be weighted by the node weights

$$
\text{bar}\left(\left(\overline{f}_{\cdot \rho}^{*}\right)_{\perp} \left(\overline{f}_{\cdot \rho}^{*}\right)\right) = \sum_{\text{Teth}_{\text{int}}\left(F_{\cdot \rho}^{*}\right) \in \mathcal{T}_{\text{per}}}\prod_{\rho \in V(F)} \mu_{\rho}\left(\overline{x}_{\overline{n}_{\rho\lambda}}\right)
$$

Deep Homomorphism Network Architecture

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$$
\text{var}\left(\left(\overline{f}_{1}^{*}f\right)_{1}\left(\overline{f}_{1}^{*}\times\right)\right)=\sum_{\substack{\text{The Hom}\left(F_{1}^{*}\left(e^{*}\right)\text{ Hence }f\right)\\ \text{elementarys.}}}\mu_{f}\left(x_{\overline{\eta}_{f2}}\right)
$$

Deep Homomorphism Network Architecture

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- Node weights can be computed by learnable functions
- Suitable pattern sets P allow to obtain architectures as powerful as our previous examples

$$
\int_{\mathbb{R}^2} \left(\left(\overline{f}_1 \right)^2 + \left(\overline{f}_1 \right)^2 \right) = \sum_{\substack{\overline{f} \in \mathcal{H}_{\mathbf{M}} \left(\overline{f}_1 \right)^2 \neq \mathbf{M} \text{ with } \mathbf{M} \neq \mathbf{M} \text{ with } \mathbf{M} \text{ with }
$$

$$
G^{\mathcal{H}}L_{3^*}\left((G^*_{,x})^*_{;}\rho_{,i}\mathfrak{f}_{\rho_{,i}},\mathfrak{F}^*_{\epsilon}g^*\mathfrak{f}\right):=\rho_{,i}\left(\text{diag}\left((\mathfrak{f}^*_{,i}/\mathfrak{f}_{\rho_{,i}}),(\mathfrak{f}^*_{,i},\mathfrak{f})\right):P^*\epsilon\mathfrak{F}^*\right)
$$

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ICML [2023](#page-196-2) KDD [2020](#page-196-4) PhD thesis [2019](#page-196-5)

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	- Generalization bounds of GNNs using homomorphism counts $(Lie tal (2024))$

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– Intricate results linking homomorphism counting and the k -WL test $(N_{\text{even}} (2024))$

[Lanzinger and Barceló \(2024\)](#page-195-1)

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- Intricate results linking homomorphism counting and the k -WL test ([Neuen \(2024\)](#page-196-6)) [Lanzinger and Barceló \(2024\)](#page-195-1)
- Homomorphism bases (aka spasms) of patterns allow to compute and learn(!) very **powerful graph invariants** $(\text{lin et al } (2024))$ $(\text{Dell et al } (2018))$ $(\text{Curticapean et al } (2017))$

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