

To answer your first question, Let's forget about the GAT equations in the paper and talk about the idea behind GAT.

- In traditional GNNs, a node n 's embedding at l -th layer, h_n^l , is computed by **uniformly** aggregating(i.e. adding) messages from its neighboring node, which gives:
$$h_n^l = W_{self} + \sum MSG(h_N^{l-1}).$$
- The traditional GATs use the attention mechanism to **determine the aggregation weights**, which gives: $h_n^l = W_{self} + \sum a_N MSG(h_N^{l-1})$.
- In these non-edge-attribute GATs, the attention weights are just computed by:
$$a_{dst}^l = W_{attn} \cdot (h_{src}^{l-1} || MSG(h_{dst}^{l-1})).$$
- Our GAT includes edge features to **control the attention weights**. We want to let the edge feature along with the destination node feature decide which part of neighboring information is prioritized in aggregation, which should give:
$$h_n^l = W_{self} + \sum a_N MSG(h_N^{l-1}), \quad a_{dst}^l = W_{attn} \cdot (h_{src}^{l-1} || emb_e || MSG(h_{dst}^{l-1})).$$
 The message function is `fc` or `fc_dst` in our code.
- The paper is wrong about what is being aggregated. In common GAT implementations, its the neighboring **node embeddings** being aggregated. Additionally, our `gat.py` is directly modified from the DGL official implementation and is very similar to the GraphMAE implementation. It is very unlikely to be erroneous.

To answer your second question, please confirm that $a_{dst}^l = W_{attn} \cdot (h_{src}^{l-1} || emb_e || MSG(h_{dst}^{l-1}))$, which means $a_{dst}^l = W_{attn_{src}} \cdot h_{src}^{l-1} + W_{attn_{e|dst}}(emb_e || MSG(h_{dst}^{l-1}))$.