

Technical Report for OGB Graph property prediction

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Abstract—In this paper, GNN(Graph Neural Network) has been introduced with self-attention layer to solve drug candidate screening problems. Specifically, the model is trained to predict whether a drug molecule can inhibit HIV(Human Immunodeficiency Virus) replication or not. Model with two self-attention layers was used as a baseline and compared with the model with a GNN layer. As a result, the model with GNN layer has showed the same performance with a smaller number of parameters.

Keywords— Drug Discovery, GNN, HIV, Self-Attention

I. INTRODUCTION

RECENT applications of deep learning in drug discovery have shown a promising future. For example, prioritizing drug candidates with machine learning techniques can have save a huge amount of time and money. As the amount of available molecular data increases over time, developing efficient and effective ways of mining molecular data becomes a major issue in drug discovery. DNN(Deep Neural Network) has been known for good performance with an increased amount of data and computing power. To take advantage of it, there have been many deep learning applications in drug discovery including compound property and activity prediction. For example, Mayr *et al* [1] won Tox 21 Challenge on a dataset of 12,000 compounds for 12 toxicity assays with multitask DNN model.

Graph is a set of nodes and edges. A molecule can be represented as a graph where nodes are atoms, and the edges are chemical bonds between the atoms. GNN is a type of neural network that works for graph data aiming to learn a parametric mapping function that embeds nodes, subgraphs, or the entire graph into low-dimensional continuous vector spaces. [2] A embedding of each node is updated by messages that are created from embeddings of neighboring nodes. GNN has been considered an attractive modeling way for molecular property prediction. [3]

While GNN has been gaining attention from drug discovery industry, the attention mechanism has been getting popular in NLP(Natural Language Processing) domain. Self-Attention is a mechanism relating different position of a single sequence in order to compute a representation of the sequence [4] and has become one of the most important concepts in NLP domain. The attention mechanism was also introduced with GNN achieving state-of-the-art accuracies on benchmark datasets for graph classification. [5]

In this paper, GNN on top of self-attention encoder layers has been applied to one of the popular public molecular property prediction datasets called Ogbg-Molhiv to predict whether each

molecule inhibits HIV replication.

II. METHOD

A. Dataset

The ogbg-molhiv dataset contains 41,127 graphs. Each graph represents a molecule. Input nodes features are 9-dimensional, containing atomic number and chirality, as well as other additional features such as formal charge and whether the atom is in the ring. Input edge features are 3-dimensional, containing bond type, bond stereochemistry as well as an additional bond feature indicating whether the bond is conjugated. [6] Task type is a binary classification of whether each molecule inhibits HIV virus replication or not. As the dataset is unbalanced, ROC-AUC was used to evaluate the model's performance. The dataset has been already split into train/val/test sets by a method called scaffold split which is based on the scaffold of the molecules so that the train/val/test set is more structurally different.

B. Network

First, every node feature and edge feature are embedded through embedding layers and used as an input for the encoder layer of the self-attention model. As each molecule could have a different number of atoms, zero-padding was used to handle that situation. The main difference between the common encoder layer of the NLP model and this model is that this model can utilize the edge information by adding an embedded edge matrix to the result of multiplication between queries and keys of a molecule before the softmax function. As a result, compared to a common NLP embedding layer where it extracts the implicit relationship between words, the embedding layer of this model is not only learning the implicit relationship between atoms but also can explicitly use additional information on actual relationships between atoms. [7][Fig.1]

On top of the embedding layer, GNN was selectively used to compare the performance. GNNs use an aggregation function to update the vector representation of each node by transforming and aggregating the vector representations of its neighbors. In this paper, the basic sum function was used to create a message using vectors of neighbors. Then the sum of the neighbor's vectors and its own vector was averaged. This whole process has been implemented through multiplication with an adjacency matrix. [Fig. 2] In the end, a linear output layer was used to predict whether each molecule inhibits HIV virus replication.

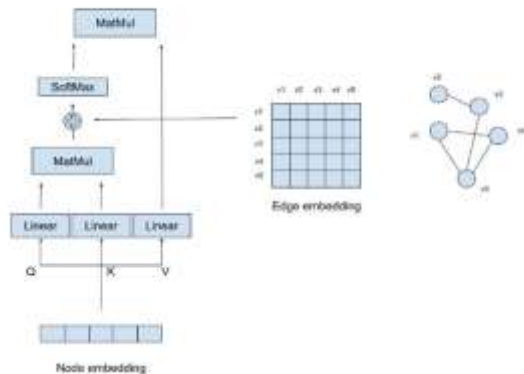


Fig. 1 Self Attention layer with Edge embedding

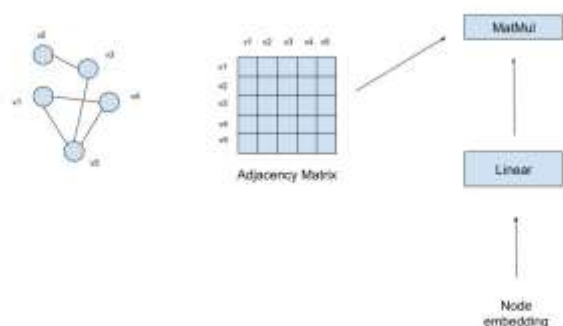


Fig. 2 GNN implementation

C. Training

A deep learning model with 2 self-attention encoding layers was used as a baseline model to be compared with 1 self-attention encoding layer plus the GNN layer. [Fig. 3] Models were trained until validation loss is no longer decreasing.

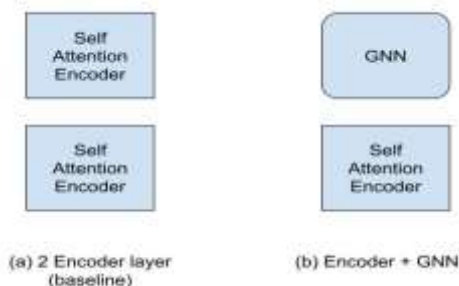


Fig. 3 2 self-attention layers as a baseline and 1 self-attention layer plus GNN

III. RESULT

Although the model with only one encoder layer has a smaller number of parameters, it was still able to show the same performance on the test set. However, it took much bigger epochs to train. [Table. 1] In the public dashboard, even though

the top 4 achieved better performance on the test set, this model outperformed these models in the validation set.

TABLE I
UNITS FOR MAGNETIC PROPERTIES

	2 Encoder layers	1 Encoder + GNN
Test-ROCAUC	0.824	0.824
Valid-ROCAUC	0.837	0.839
# of Parameters	532,418	456,074
Epochs	20	75

IV. DISCUSSION

This paper has shown that using GNN on top of the self-attention encoder layers could work as a more efficient method for a graph dataset by providing the same performance with a lower number of parameters. However, this idea needs to be further proved with future studies.

Also, as a smaller number of parameters is used, this model architecture has one of the possible advantages in minimizing overfitting problems due to reduced model complexity. Nonetheless, considering the drug candidate screening process doesn't necessarily prefer fast decision-making over accuracy, it may need to be further studied to see if this architecture could possibly improve the performance.

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