LINGXIAO ZHAO

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EDUCATION

- **Carnegie Mellon University**   Pittsburgh, PA, USA
  Ph.D. in Machine Learning Joint Public Policy   Aug. 2018 to Now
  Advisor: Prof. Leman Akoglu

- **Carnegie Mellon University**   Pittsburgh, PA, USA
  M.S. in Electrical and Computer Engineering   Aug. 2016 to Dec. 2017
  GPA: 3.90/4.00

- **Xi'an Jiaotong University**   Xi'an, Shaanxi, China
  B.S. in Electrical Engineering   Aug. 2012 to July 2016
  GPA: 91.05/100, Rank: 7/370

WORKING EXPERIENCE

- **Reserach Intern at Snap Inc.**   Advised by *Dr. Neil Shah.*   May 2021 to Aug. 2021
- **Research Intern at IBM**   Advised by *Dr. Charu Aggarwal.*   May 2020 to Aug. 2020

RESEARCH INTEREST

Graph is a powerful representation that captures interactions between identities. GNNs achieve state-of-art performance in a variety of graph-based tasks, while being not well-understood. My work focuses on solving some fundamental problems of GNNs, such as breaking depth-limitation, relaxing homophily requirement, learning better structure, and improving expressiveness.

PUBLICATIONS

Preprint Papers

1. Deep Graph-Level Anomaly Detection
   Under submission
   Saurabh Sawlani, **Lingxiao Zhao**, Leman Akoglu

Published Papers

1. From Stars to Subgraphs: Uplifting Any GNN with Local Structure Awareness
   2022 ICLR
   Lingxiao Zhao, Wei Jin, Leman Akoglu, Neil Shah

2. Graph Condensation for Graph Neural Networks
   2022 ICLR
   Wei Jin, **Lingxiao Zhao**, Shichang Zhang, Yozen Liu, Jiliang Tang, Neil Shah

3. On Using Classification Datasets to Evaluate Graph Outlier Detection: Peculiar Observations
   2021 Big Data Journal
   Lingxiao Zhao, Leman Akoglu

4. Fast Attributed Graph Embedding via Density of States
   2021 IEEE ICDM
   Saurabh Sawlani, **Lingxiao Zhao**, Leman Akoglu

5. Graph unrolling networks: Interpretable neural networks for graph signal denoising
   2021 IEEE Transactions on Signal Processing
   Siheng Chen, Yonina C. Eldar, **Lingxiao Zhao**

6. Beyond Homophily in Graph Neural Networks: Current Limitations and Effective Designs
   2020 NeurIPS
   Jiong Zhu, Yujun Yan, **Lingxiao Zhao**, Mark Heimann, Leman Akoglu, Danai Koutra

7. Connecting Graph Convolutional Networks and Graph-Regularized PCA
   2020 ICML Workshop, under submission to 2022 ICLR
   Lingxiao Zhao, Leman Akoglu

8. PairNorm: Tackling Oversmoothing in GNNs
   ICLR (26.5%), Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, April 2020
   Lingxiao Zhao, Leman Akoglu

9. A Quest for Structure: Jointly Learning the Graph Structure and Semi-Supervised Classification
   27th *ACM CIKM* (17%), Turin, Italy, Oct. 2018.
   Xuan Wu*, **Lingxiao Zhao***, Leman Akoglu. (* equal contribution)

SELECTED RESEARCH PROJECTS

From Stars to Subgraphs: Uplifting Any GNN   Mar. 2021 to Oct. 2021
Proposed the first general framework to boost expressiveness of any GNN

- Designed a general framework to uplift any GNN, by generalizing MPNN's aggregation field from stars to subgraphs and encoding subgraphs with the (base) GNN.
- Proved the expressiveness is strictly better than 1-WL, while being not less powerful than 3-WL.
- Designed effective and efficient realizations: different encodings and distance-to-centroid feature.
- Designed SubgraphDrop that greatly reduces memory cost and still keeps same performance.

Tackling oversmoothing problem in GNNs   March 2019 to Sept. 2019
Proposed the first normalization layer in GNNs, with Prof. Leman Akoglu

- Studied oversmoothing thoroughly with SGC, which decouples the effect of oversmoothing on performance drop of increasing layers from overfitting and vanishing gradient problems.
- Proposed an efficient and effective normalization layer, PairNorm, that "pushes" oversmoothed node representations away from each other. PairNorm greatly improves robustness of depth.
- Studied a new setting: Semi-Supervised Learning with large percentage missing feature problem, where PairNorm greatly boost performance for all three types of GNN (SGC,GCN,GAT).

Optimal Graph Learning for Semi-Supervised Learning   Sep. 2017 to Feb. 2018
Supervised By Prof. Leman Akoglu, Project Link: https://pg-learn.github.io

- Designed a hyper-loss over validation set measuring task-based "optimal" graph for SSL.
- Proposed an algorithm minimizing the hyper-loss based on hyper-gradient of the graph.
- Boosted the runtime 10x faster by using tensor-form update and efficient sparse operation.
- Paralleled it by incorporating and modifying HyperBand, an adaptive resource allocation alg.

COMPUTING SKILLS

Languages: Python, MATLAB, Java, C, C++, LaTeX, Bash
Frameworks: Pytorch, Tensorflow
Large-Scale Computing: MapReduce, Hadoop, Spark, Pig
Web: HTML, CSS, Bootstrap, Jekyll

HONORS and AWARDS

- **SIGIR Student Travel Grant** for attending CIKM 2018   Sep. 2018
- 2nd Prize in Challenge Cup (National Innovation Competition)   Nov. 2015
- Outstanding Student Pacesetter (Only **10** students in **3800** undergraduates)   Oct. 2015
- National Scholarship (Rank **4/370** and **5/370**, respectively)   Oct. 2015, Oct. 2014
- **Outstanding Winner** (highest) In MCM/ICM[1] (Only 19 teams (**0.19%**) worldwide)   April. 2014

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[1] The Mathematical Contest in Modeling/The Interdisciplinary Contest in Modeling: comap.com