



# AdaProp: Learning Adaptive Propagation for Graph Neural Network based Knowledge Graph Reasoning

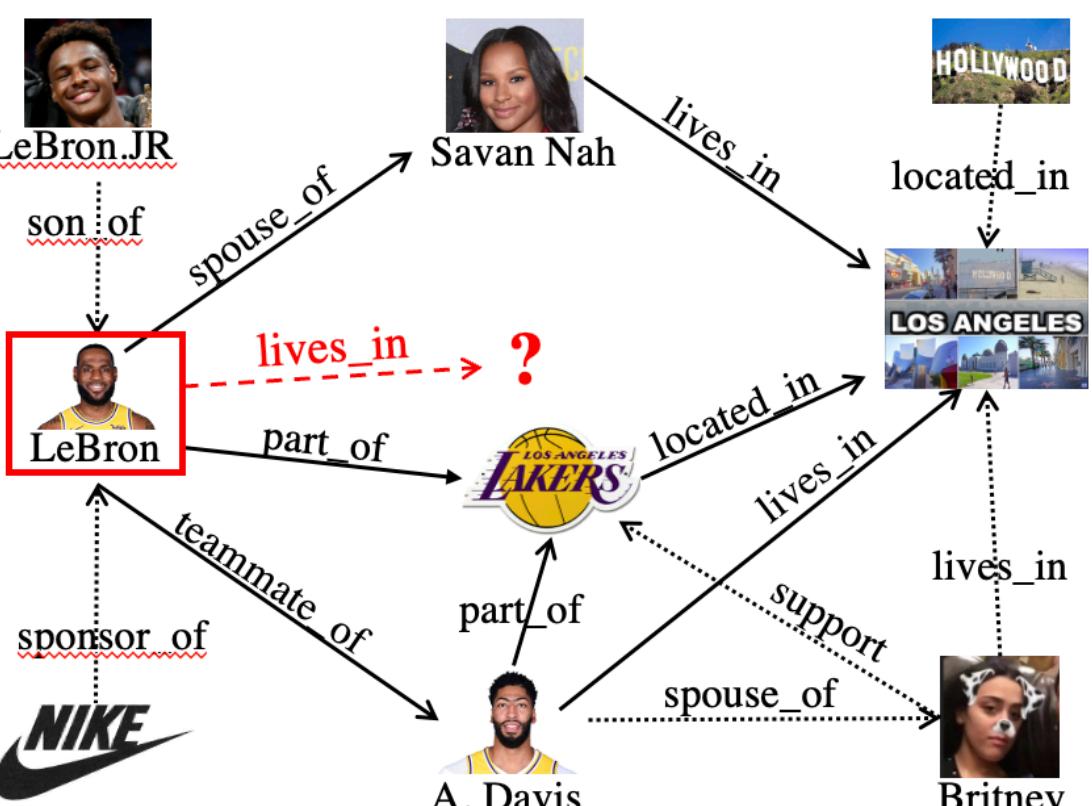
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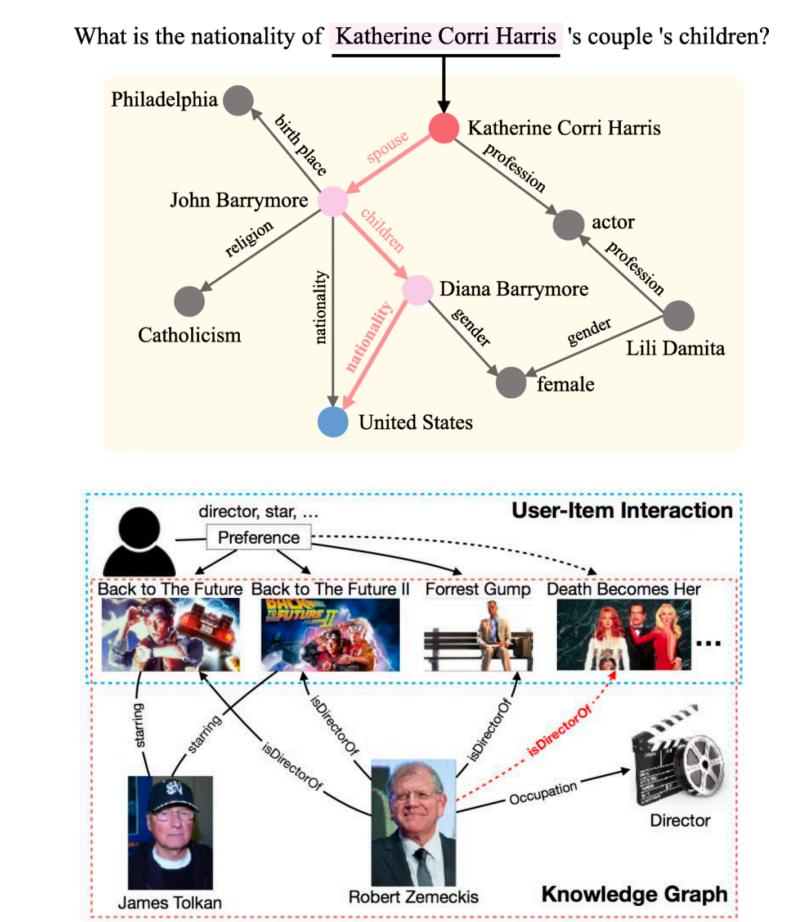
**TL;DR:** An important design component of GNN-based KG reasoning methods is called the propagation path, which contains a set of involved entities in each propagation step. Existing methods use hand-designed propagation paths, ignoring the correlation between the entities and the query relation. In addition, the number of involved entities will explosively grow at larger propagation steps. In this work, we are motivated to learn an adaptive propagation path in order to filter out irrelevant entities while preserving promising targets.

## Background: KG Reasoning

KG reasoning with query: (LeBron, lives\_in, ?)



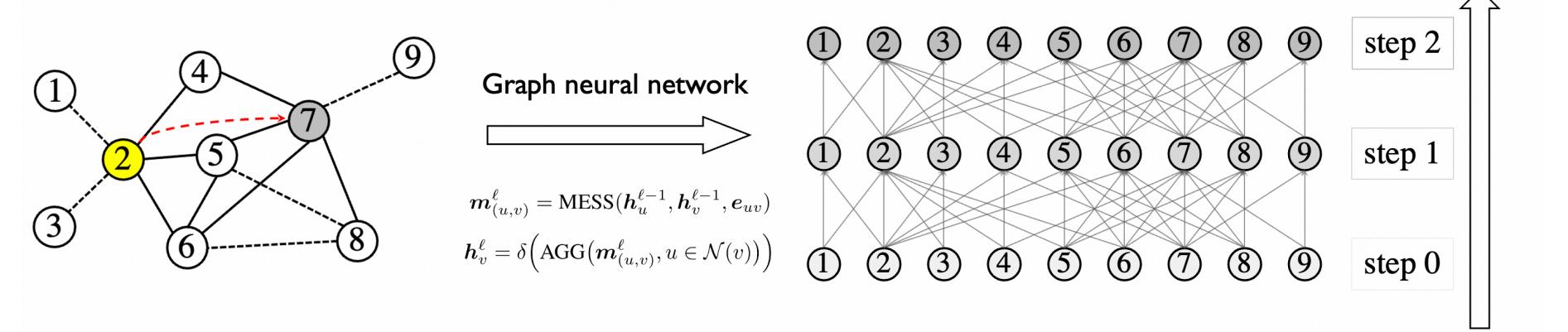
Applications: QA / Recommendation



### Graph Neural Network-based methods for KG reasoning

- propagate the message with the graph structure
- update entity representation at each propagation step

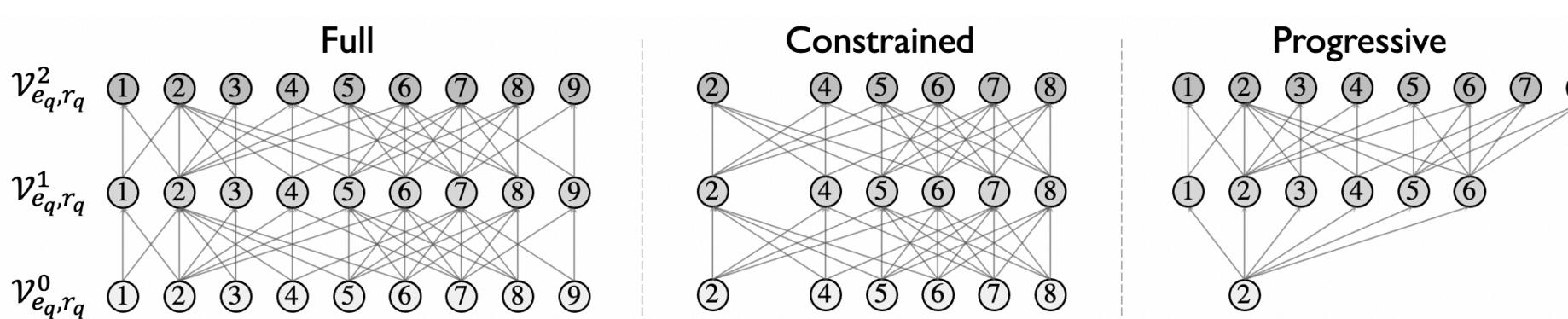
#### Graph / Subgraph



## The Propagation Path

### Query-dependent propagation path $\hat{g}_{e_q, r_q}^L$

- $\hat{g}_{e_q, r_q}^L = \{\mathcal{V}_{e_q, r_q}^0, \mathcal{V}_{e_q, r_q}^1, \dots, \mathcal{V}_{e_q, r_q}^L\}$  as the sets of involved entities
- in each propagation step for query  $(e_q, r_q, ?)$



#### Problems when $L$ is large

- Full propagation: large memory cost & over-smoothing
- Constrained propagation: extremely high inference cost
- Progressive propagation: exponentially increased nodes

## Problem & Challenges

**Problem formulation:** Reduce the size of propagation path through **sampling**

$$\begin{aligned} \hat{g}_{e_q, r_q}^L &= \{\mathcal{V}_{e_q, r_q}^0, \mathcal{V}_{e_q, r_q}^1, \dots, \mathcal{V}_{e_q, r_q}^L\}, \\ \text{s.t. } \mathcal{V}_{e_q, r_q}^\ell &= \begin{cases} \{e_q\} & \ell = 0 \\ S(\mathcal{V}_{e_q, r_q}^{\ell-1}) & \ell = 1 \dots L \end{cases} \end{aligned}$$

**Two challenges of the sampling strategy  $S(\cdot)$ :**

- the target answer  $e_a$  is unknown given  $(e_q, r_q, ?)$
- semantic dependency is complex

**Existing sampling approaches are not applicable**

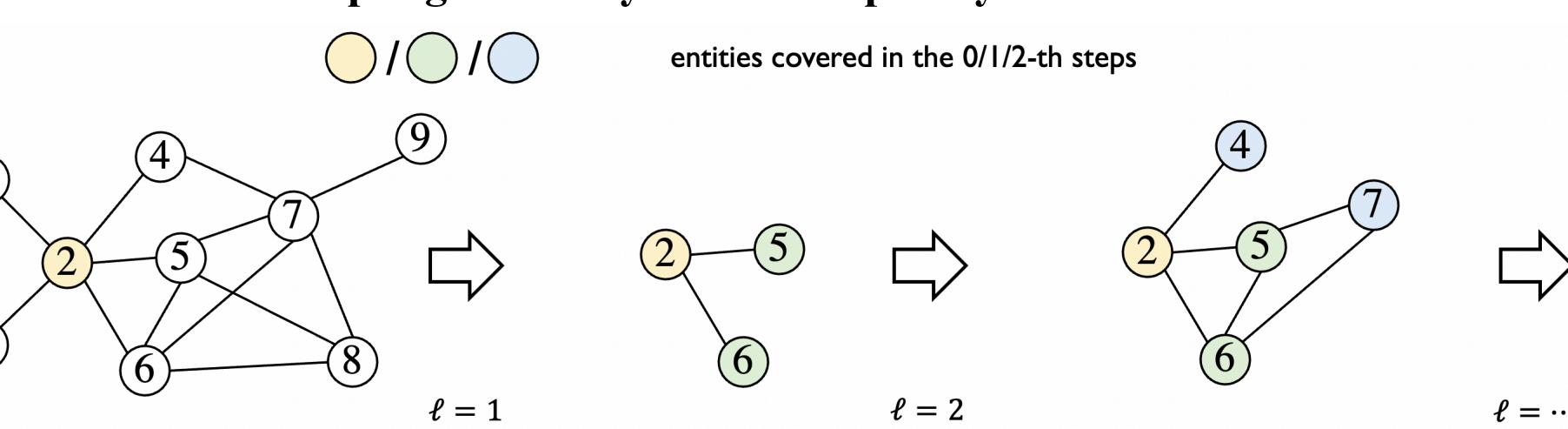
- no target preserving
- no relation consideration
- no direct supervision

## Method: adaptively sample semantically relevant entities during propagation

### Design1: Connection-preserving Incremental Sampling

**Key idea:** Preserve the previous entities & sample from the newly visited ones  $\mathcal{V}_{e_q, r_q}^0 \subseteq \mathcal{V}_{e_q, r_q}^1 \dots \subseteq \mathcal{V}_{e_q, r_q}^L$

**Incremental sampling with only linear complexity**



**Details in each step: Candidate generation and sampling**

#### Candidate generation:

the newly-visit neighboring entities of last step

$$\bar{\mathcal{V}}_{e_q, r_q}^\ell := \text{CAND}(\mathcal{V}_{e_q, r_q}^{\ell-1}) = N(\mathcal{V}_{e_q, r_q}^{\ell-1}) \setminus \mathcal{V}_{e_q, r_q}^{\ell-1}.$$

e.g. ① ③ ④ ⑤ ⑥ when  $l = 1$   
① ③ ④ ⑦ ⑧ when  $l = 2$

#### Candidate sampling:

sample  $K$  entities without replacement from candidates

$$\mathcal{V}_{e_q, r_q}^\ell := \mathcal{V}_{e_q, r_q}^{\ell-1} \cup \text{SAMP}(\bar{\mathcal{V}}_{e_q, r_q}^\ell).$$

e.g. ⑤ ⑥ when  $l = 1$   
④ ⑦ when  $l = 2$

### Design2: Learning-based and Semantic-aware Distribution

**Key idea:** Introduce a parameterized distribution & borrow knowledge from the GNN  $\mathcal{V}_{e_q, r_q}^\ell = S(\mathcal{V}_{e_q, r_q}^{\ell-1}; \theta^\ell)$

#### Parameterized sampling distribution:

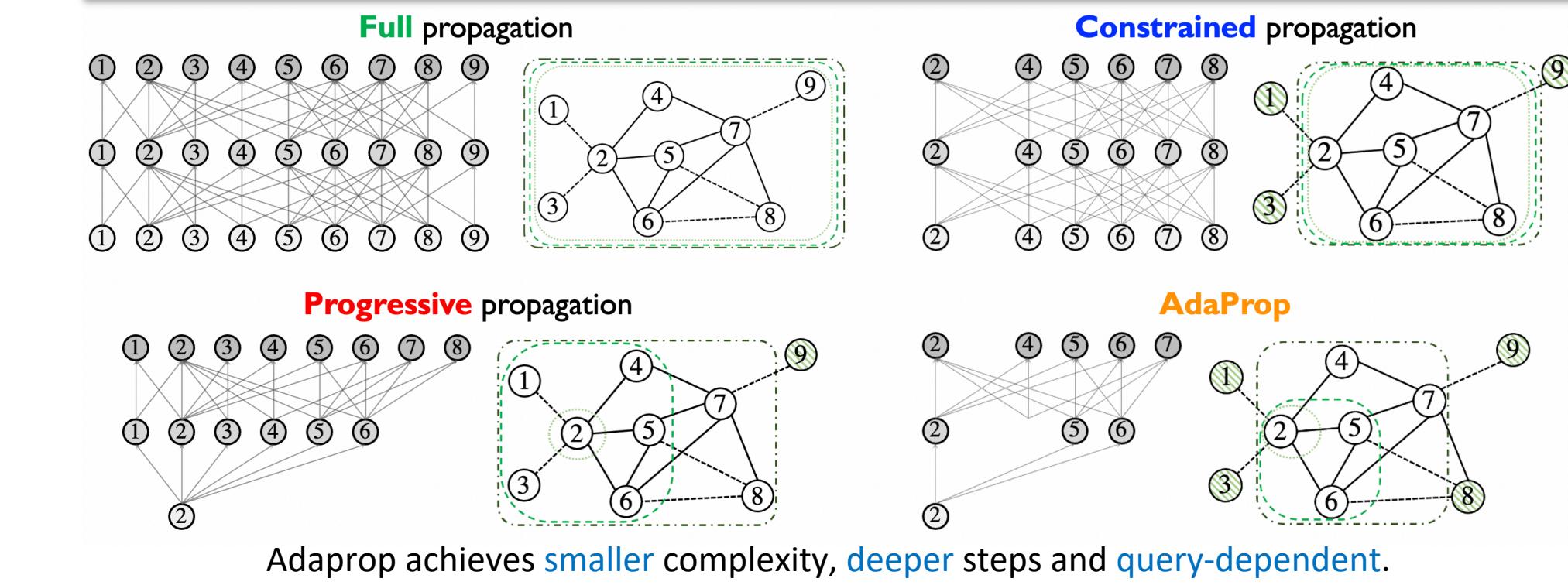
- Sharing the knowledge in GNN representations  $\mathbf{h}_e^\ell$
- Adaptive based on the learnable parameters  $\theta^\ell$

$$p^\ell(e) := \exp(g(\mathbf{h}_e^\ell; \theta^\ell)/\tau) / \sum_{e' \in \bar{\mathcal{V}}_{e_q, r_q}^\ell} \exp(g(\mathbf{h}_{e'}^\ell; \theta^\ell)/\tau)$$

#### Learning strategy:

- Gumbel-trick to enable backward propagation on hard samples
- Sampling: get top-K based on gumbel-logits  
 $G_e := g(\mathbf{h}_e^\ell; \theta^\ell) - \log(-\log U_e)$  with  $U_e \sim \text{Uniform}(0, 1)$  for the candidate entities
- Enable backpropagation: straight-through estimation  
 $\mathbf{h}_e^\ell = (1 - \text{no\_grad}(p^\ell(e))) + p^\ell(e) \cdot \mathbf{h}_e^\ell$  for the selected entities

## An overall comparison with existing propagation schemes



## Comprehensive Experiments

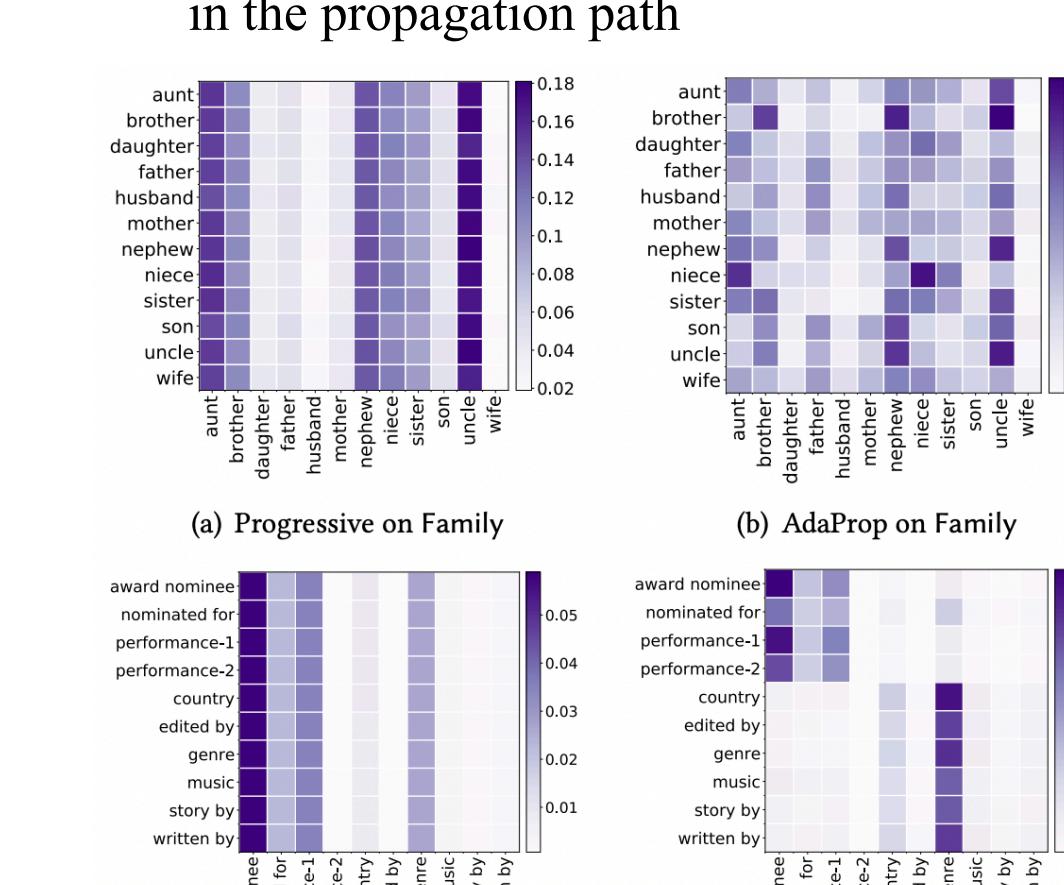
### Evaluation with transductive settings

type	models	Family	MRR	UMLS	WN18RR	FB15k237	NELL-995	YAGO3-10		
		MRR	H@1	H@10	MRR	H@1	H@10	MRR	H@1	H@10
non-GNN	ConvE	0.912	83.7	98.2	0.937	92.2	96.7	0.427	39.2	49.8
	QuatE	0.941	89.6	99.1	0.944	90.5	99.3	0.480	44.0	55.1
	RotatE	0.921	86.6	98.8	0.925	86.3	99.3	0.477	42.8	57.1
	MINERVA	0.885	82.5	96.1	0.825	72.8	96.8	0.448	41.3	51.3
	DRUM	0.934	88.1	99.6	0.813	97.4	97.6	0.486	42.5	58.6
	RNN4Logit	0.881	85.7	90.7	0.842	77.2	96.5	0.483	44.6	55.8
	RLogic	-	-	-	-	-	-	0.47	44.3	53.7
GNNs	CompGCN	0.933	88.3	99.1	0.927	86.7	99.4	0.479	44.3	54.6
	NBPNNet	0.989	98.8	98.9	0.948	92.0	99.5	0.551	49.7	66.0
	RED-GNN	0.992	98.8	99.7	0.964	94.6	99.0	0.533	48.5	65.1
	AdaProp	0.988	98.6	99.0	0.969	95.6	99.5	0.562	49.9	67.1

### Evaluation with inductive settings

metric	methods	WN18RR				FB15k237				NELL-995			
		V1	V2	V3	V4	V1	V2	V3	V4	V1	V2	V3	V4
	RuleN	73.0	69.4	40.7	68.1	44.6	59.9	60.0	60.5	76.0	51.4	53.1	48.4
	Neural LP	77.7	74.7	47.6	70.2	46.8	58.6	57.1	59.3	87.1	56.4	57.6	53.9
	DRUM	77.7	74.7	47.6	70.2	47.4	59.5	57.1	59.3	87.3	54.0	57.7	53.1
Hit@10 (%)	GraIL	76.0	77.6	40.9	68.7	42.9	42.4	42.4	38.9	56.5	49.6	51.8	50.6
	CoMPILE	74.7	74.3	40.6	67.0	43.9	45.7	44.9	35.8	44.6	51.5	42.1	42.1
	NBPNNet	82.7	79.9	56.3	70.2	51.7	63.9	58.8	55.9	79.5	63.5	60.6	59.1
	RED-GNN	79.9	78.0	52.4	72.1	48.3	62.9	60.3	62.1	86.6	60.1	59.4	55.6
	AdaProp	86.6	83.6	62.6	75.5	55.1	65.9	63.7	63.8	88.6	65.2	61.8	60.7

### Heatmaps of relation type ratios in the propagation path



### Exemplar propagation paths on FB15k237-v1 dataset

