

# Graph Neural Networks

Naeemullah Khan

[naeemullah.khan@kaust.edu.sa](mailto:naeemullah.khan@kaust.edu.sa)



جامعة الملك عبد الله  
للعلوم والتقنية  
King Abdullah University of  
Science and Technology

KAUST Academy  
King Abdullah University of Science and Technology

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- ▶ Convolutional filters can be generalized to graphs giving us Graph Convolutional Neural Networks (GCNNs).
- ▶ Several processes have a sequential nature. To learn from them, we need dedicated architectures.
- ▶ Recurrent Neural Networks (RNNs) are designed to work with sequential data.
- ▶ We define Graph Recurrent Neural Networks (GRNNs) as particular cases of RNNs.
- ▶ Hidden and observed state are propagated through graph filters to update the hidden states and to predict outputs.
- ▶ Time and spatial Gating is used to deal with the problem of vanishing gradients in GRNNs.

- So far, we have been learning from graphs and we assume graphs are given.
- But how are these graphs generated?



Image credit: [Medium](#)

## Social Networks

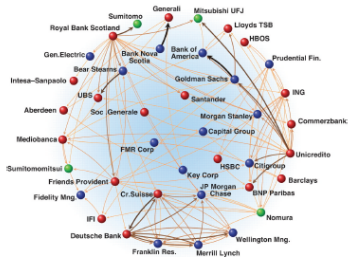
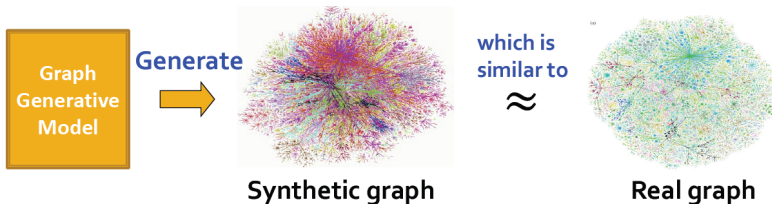


Image credit: [Science](#)

## Economic Networks

- ▶ We want to generate realistic graphs, using graph generative models.
- ▶ Some applications include Drug discovery, material design, Social network modeling, etc.



# Why do we study graph generation?

- ▶ **Insights:** We can understand the formulation of graphs.
- ▶ **Predictions:** We can predict how will the graph further evolve.
- ▶ **Simulations:** We can use the same process to general novel graph instances.
- ▶ **Anomaly detection:** We can decide if a graph is normal / abnormal.

► Given:

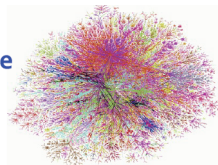
- Graphs sampled from  $p_{data}(G)$

► Goal:

- Learn the distribution  $p_{model}(G)$
- Sample from  $p_{model}(G)$



Generate



Synthetic graph

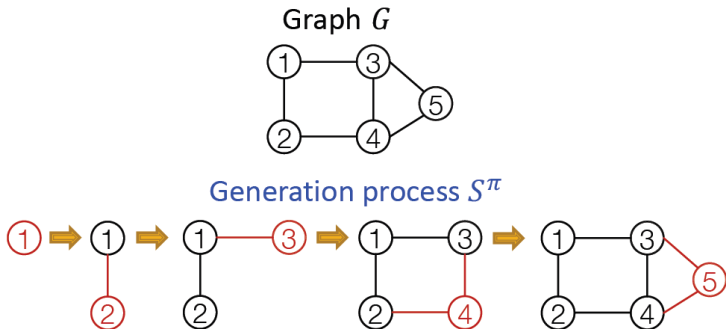
which is  
similar to



Real graph

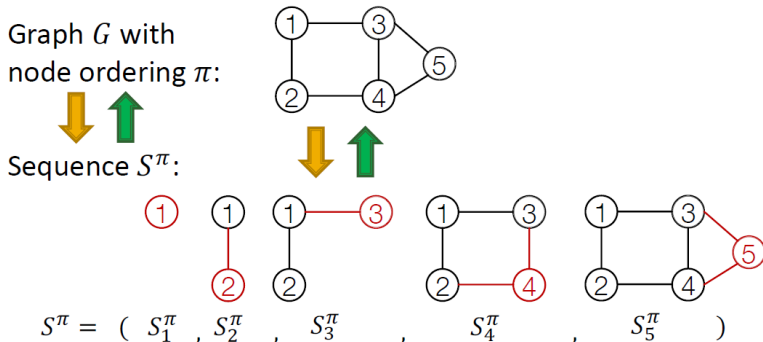
- ▶ We want to learn a generative model from a set of data points (i.e., graphs)  $\{x_i\}$ .
  - $p_{data}(x)$  is the data distribution, which is never known to us, but we have sampled  $x_i \sim p_{model}(x)$ .
  - $p_{model}(x; \theta)$  is the model, parameterized by  $\theta$ , that we use to approximate  $p_{data}(x)$ .
- ▶ Goal:
  - Make  $p_{model}(x; \theta)$  close to  $p_{data}(x)$  (Density estimation).
  - Make sure we can sample from  $p_{model}(x; \theta)$  (Sampling)

- We can generate graphs via sequentially adding nodes and edges.

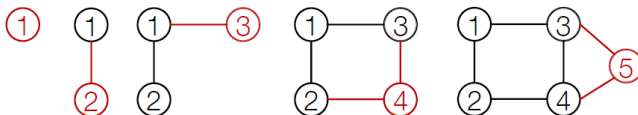




- Graph  $G$  with node ordering  $\pi$  can be uniquely mapped into a sequence of node and edge additions  $S^\pi$ .

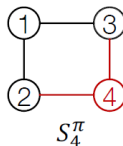


- ▶ The sequence  $S^\pi$  has two levels ( $S$  is a sequence of sequences):
  - Node-level: add nodes, one at a time.
  - Edge-level: add edges between existing nodes.
- ▶ Node-level: At each step, a new node is added.



$$S^\pi = ( \underbrace{S_1^\pi}_{\text{"Add node 1"}}, \underbrace{S_2^\pi}_{\text{"Add node 2"}}, \underbrace{S_3^\pi}_{\text{"Add node 3"}}, \dots, \underbrace{S_4^\pi}_{\text{"Add node 4"}}, \underbrace{S_5^\pi}_{\text{"Add node 5"}} )$$

- ▶ Each Node-level step is an edge-level sequence.
- ▶ Edge-level: At each step, add a new edge.

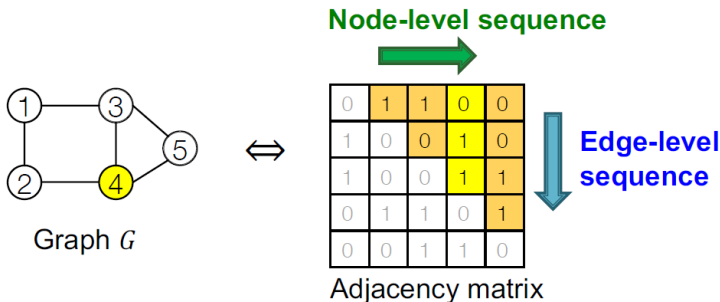


$$S_4^\pi = ( S_{4,1}^\pi, S_{4,2}^\pi, S_{4,3}^\pi )$$

“Not connect 4, 1”   “Connect 4, 2”   “Connect 4, 3”

0   1   1

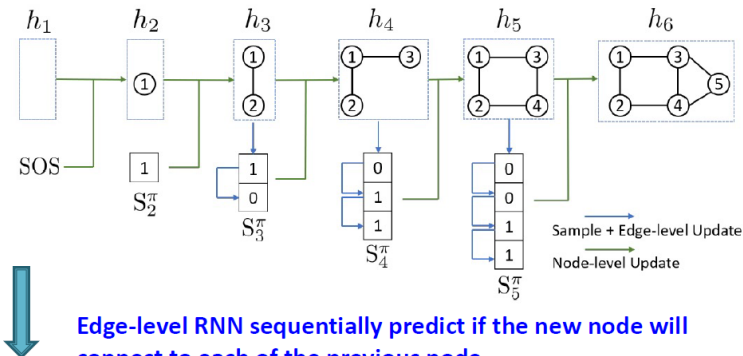
- ▶ Summary: A graph + a node ordering = A sequence of sequences
- ▶ Node ordering is randomly selected.



- ▶ We have transformed graph generation problem into a sequence generation problem.
- ▶ Need to model two processes:
  - Generate a state for a new node (Node-level sequence).
  - Generate edges for the new node based on its state (Edge-level sequence).
- ▶ We can use Recurrent Neural Networks (RNNs) to model these processes.

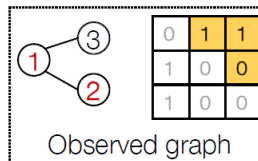
- ▶ **Add a new node:** We run Node RNN for a step, and use its output to initialize Edge RNN.
- ▶ **Add new edges for the new node:** We run Edge RNN to predict if the new node will connect to each of the previous nodes.
- ▶ **Add another new node:** We use the last hidden state of Edge RNN to run Node RNN for another step.
- ▶ **Stop graph generation:** If Edge RNN outputs EOS at step 1, we know no edges are connected to the new node. We stop the graph generation.

Node-level RNN generates the initial state for edge-level RNN



Edge-level RNN sequentially predict if the new node will connect to each of the previous node

Assuming **Node 1** is in the graph  
Now adding **Node 2**



Node  
RNN

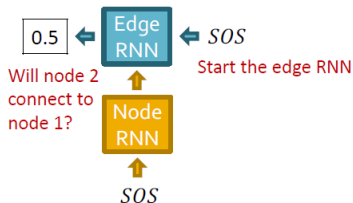
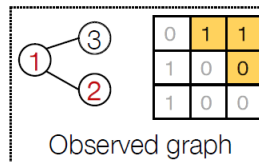


*SOS*

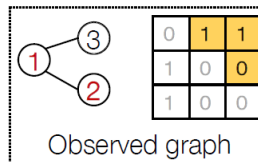
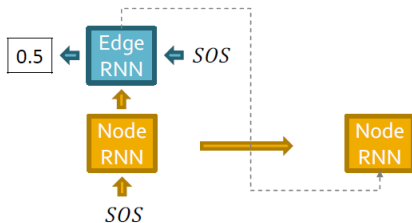
Start the node RNN



Edge RNN predicts how  
**Node 2** connects to **Node 1**



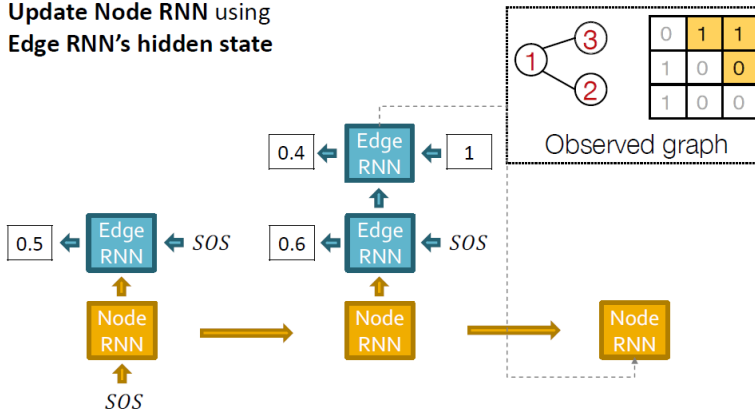
**Update Node RNN using  
Edge RNN's hidden state**



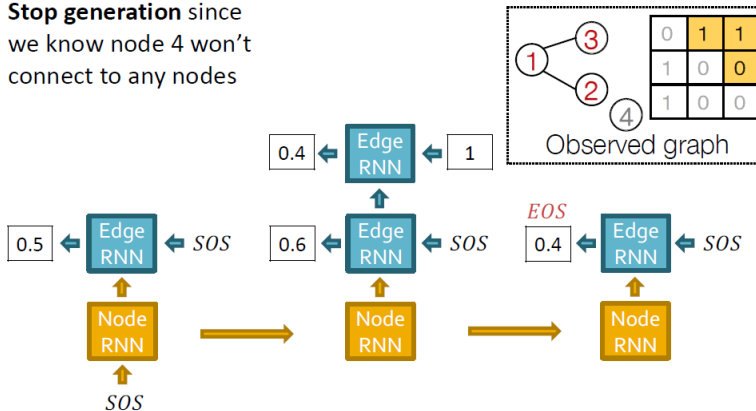
Observed graph



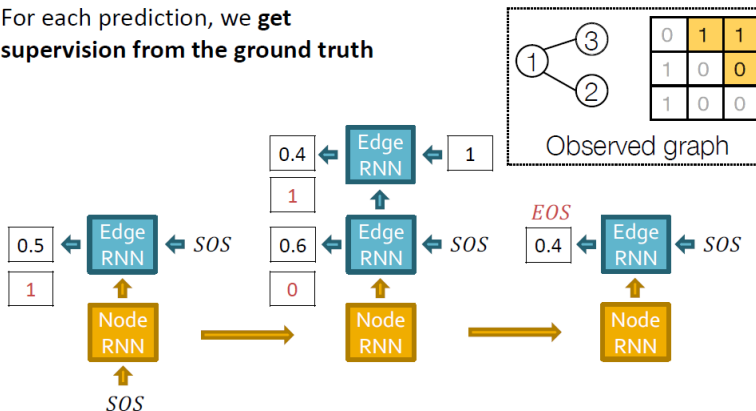
Update Node RNN using  
Edge RNN's hidden state



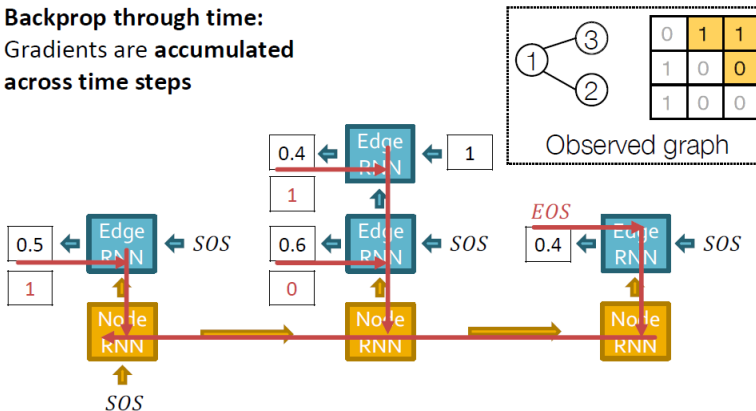
**Stop generation** since we know node 4 won't connect to any nodes



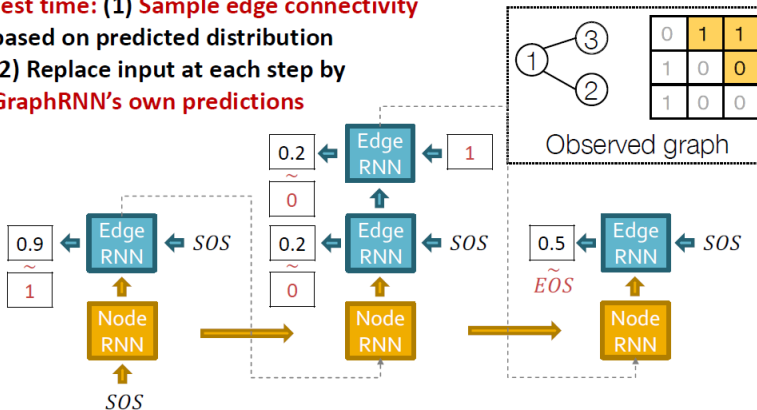
For each prediction, we **get supervision from the ground truth**



**Backprop through time:**  
Gradients are **accumulated**  
**across time steps**

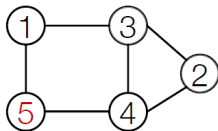


**Test time: (1) Sample edge connectivity based on predicted distribution**  
**(2) Replace input at each step by GraphRNN's own predictions**





- ▶ Any node can connect to any prior node.
- ▶ Too many steps for edge generation.
  - Need to generate full adjacency matrix.
  - Complex too-long edge dependencies
- ▶ How do we limit this complexity?



Random node ordering:

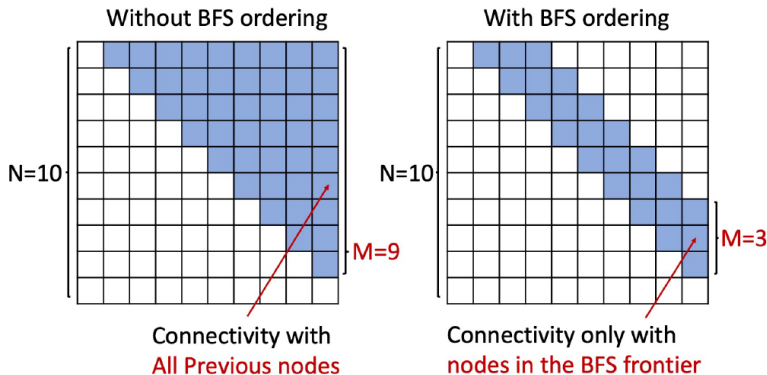
**“Recipe” to generate the left graph:**

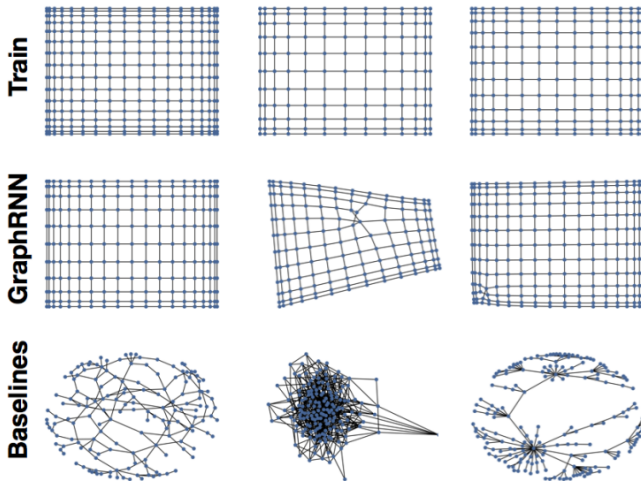
- Add node 1
- Add node 2
- Add node 3
- Connect 3 with 2 and 1
- Add node 4
- ...

- ▶ We can employ BFS ordering for the nodes
  - Since Node 4 doesn't connect to Node 1
  - We know all Node 1's neighbors have already been traversed
  - Therefore, Node 5 and the following nodes will never connect to node 1
  - We only need memory of 2 "steps" rather than  $n - 1$  steps.
- ▶ Benefits:
  - Reduces possible node orderings (From  $O(n!)$  to number of distinct BFS orderings).
  - Reduces steps for edge generation (Reducing number of previous nodes to look at).

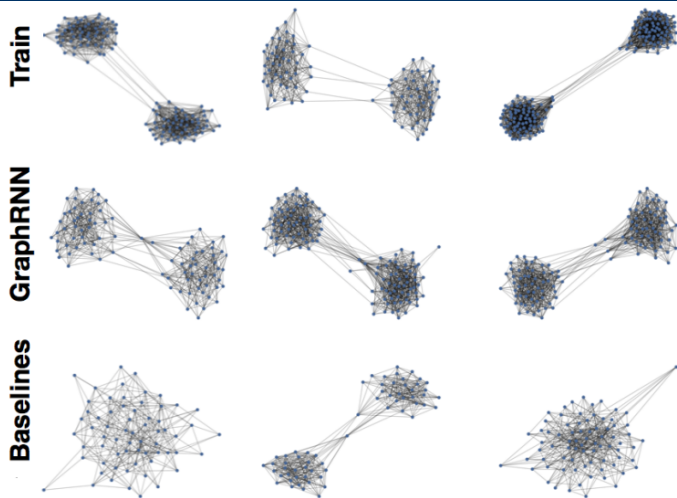
- BFS reduces the number of steps for edge generation.

## Adjacency matrices

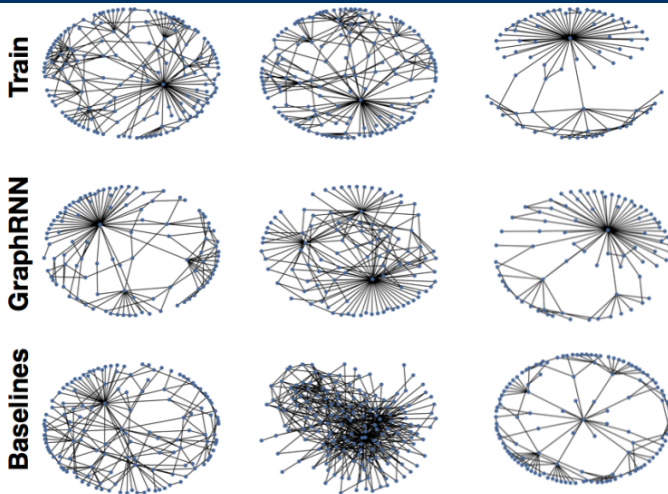




**Figure 2:** Visualization of graphs from Grid dataset generated by GraphRNN and some baseline methods (Kronecker, MMSB and B-A)

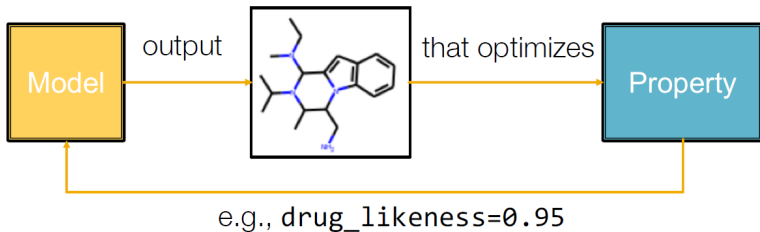


**Figure 3:** Visualization of graphs from Community dataset generated by GraphRNN and some baseline methods (Kronecker, MMSB and B-A)



**Figure 4:** Visualization of graphs from Ego dataset generated by GraphRNN and some baseline methods (Kronecker, MMSB and B-A)

- Can we learn a model that can generate valid and realistic molecules with optimized property scores?



- ▶ Graph Convolutional Policy Network (GCPN). It combines graph representation + RL.
- ▶ Key component of GCPN:
  - **Graph Neural Network** captures graph structural information.
  - **Reinforcement learning** guides the generation towards the desired objectives.
  - **Supervised training** imitates examples in given datasets.



- ▶ A ML agent **observes** the environment, takes an **action** to interact with the environment, and receives positive or negative **reward**.
- ▶ The agent then **learns** from this loop.
- ▶ **Key idea:** Agent can directly learn from environment, which is a blackbox to the agent



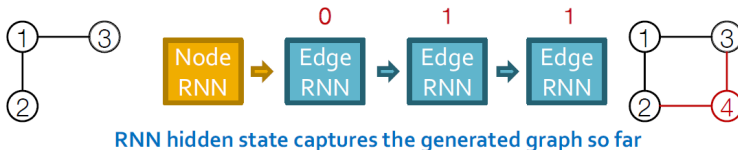
## ► Commonality of GPCN & GraphRNN:

- Generate graphs sequentially.
- Imitate a given graph dataset.

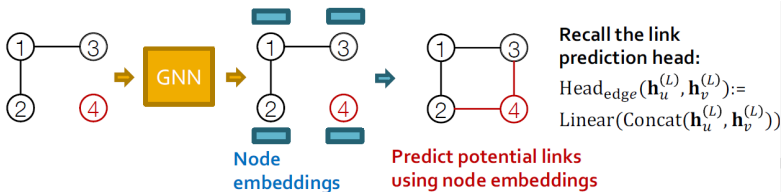
## ► Main Differences:

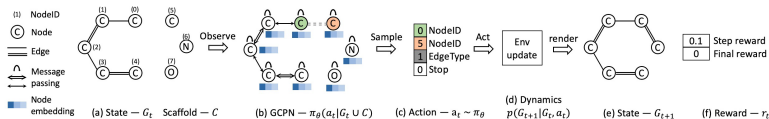
- GPCN uses GNN to predict the generation action (GNNs are more expressive than RNNs but are more computationally expensive).
- GPCN further uses RL to direct graph generation to our goals (this enables goal directed graph generation).

- **GraphRNN**: predict action based on RNN hidden states.

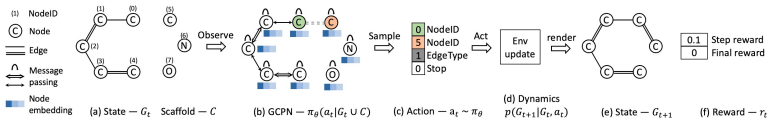


- **GPCN**: predict action based on GNN node embeddings.

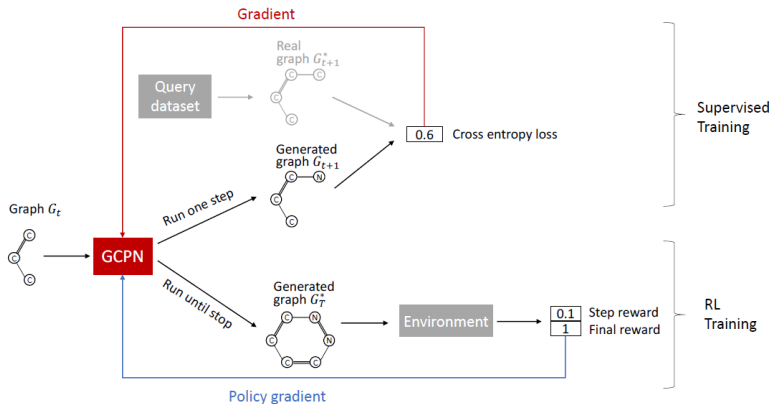




- (a) Insert nodes
- (b,c) Use GNN to predict which nodes to connect
- (d) Take an action (check chemical validity)
- (e, f) Compute reward

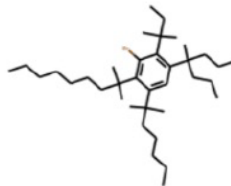


- **Step reward:** Learn to take valid action.
  - At each step, assign small positive reward for valid action.
- **Final reward:** Optimize desired properties
  - At the end, assign positive reward for high desired property.
- **Reward = Final reward + Step reward**

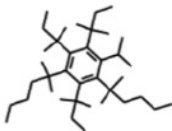




7.98



7.48

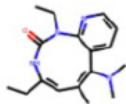


7.12

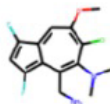


23.88\*

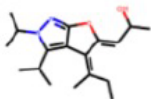
**Figure 5:** Property optimization: Generate molecules with high specified property score



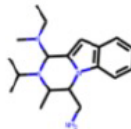
0.948



0.945



0.944

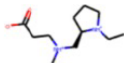


0.941

**Figure 6:** Property optimization: Generate molecules with high specified property score (Molecular Weight).

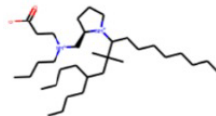


Starting structure

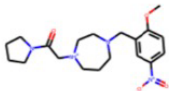


-8.32

Finished structure

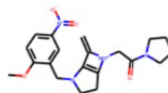


-0.71



-5.55

**Increase the  
solubility in  
octanol**



-1.78

**Figure 7:** Constrained optimization: Edit a given molecule for a few steps to achieve higher property score (Molecular Weight).

- ▶ Complex graphs can be successfully generated via sequential generation using deep learning.
- ▶ Two of the ways that we can do this by leveraging RNNs or Reinforcement Learning.
- ▶ In GraphRNN, we sequentially predict nodes and then edge connections for these nodes.
- ▶ In GCPN (RL based method), the model predicts potential links using node embeddings.

These slides have been adapted from

- ▶ Jure Leskovec, Stanford CS224W: [Machine Learning with Graphs](#)
- ▶ You et al., [GraphRNN: Generating Realistic Graphs with Deep Auto-regressive Models](#)
- ▶ You et al., [Graph Convolutional Policy Network for Goal-Directed Molecular Graph Generation](#)