# GraphReach: Position-Aware Graph Neural Network using Reachability Estimations

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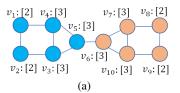
#### **Abstract**

Majority of the existing graph neural networks (GNN) learn node embeddings that encode their local neighborhoods but not their positions. Consequently, two nodes that are vastly distant but located in similar local neighborhoods map to similar embeddings in those networks. This limitation prevents accurate performance in predictive tasks that rely on position information. In this paper, we develop GRAPHREACH, a position-aware inductive GNN that captures the global positions of nodes through reachability estimations with respect to a set of anchor nodes. The anchors are strategically selected so that reachability estimations across all the nodes are maximized. We show that this combinatorial anchor selection problem is NP-hard and, consequently, develop a greedy (1-1/e) approximation heuristic. Empirical evaluation against state-of-the-art GNN architectures reveal that GRAPHREACH provides up to 40% relative improvement in accuracy. In addition, it is more robust to adversarial attacks.

#### 1 Introduction and Related Work

Learning feature-space node embeddings through graph neural networks (GNN) has received much success in tasks such as node classification, link prediction, graph generation, learning combinatorial algorithms, etc. [Hamilton *et al.*, 2017; Kipf and Welling, 2017; Velickovic *et al.*, 2018; Goyal *et al.*, 2020; Manchanda *et al.*, 2020]. GNNs learn node embeddings by first collecting structural and attribute information from the neighborhood of a node and then encoding this information into a feature vector via non-linear transformation and aggregation functions. This allows GNNs to generalize to unseen nodes, i.e., nodes that were not present during the training phase. This *inductive* learning capability of GNNs is one of the key reasons behind their popularity.

Due to reliance on only the neighborhood information, most GNN architectures fail to distinguish nodes that are located in different parts of the graph, but have similar neighborhoods. In the extreme case, if two nodes are located in topologically isomorphic neighborhoods, their learned embeddings are identical. To elaborate, consider nodes  $v_1$  and



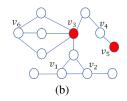


Figure 1: (a) The color of the node indicates its class label. Each node is also characterized by a numerical attribute. (b) The red nodes,  $v_3$  and  $v_5$ , represent the anchor nodes.

 $v_8$  in Fig. 1a. The two nodes belong to two different class labels (node color). However, since their 2-hop neighborhoods are isomorphic to each other, their learned embeddings in a 2-layer Graph Convolutional Network (GCN) are identical, despite the fact that they are far away in the graph. Hence, the GCN will be incapable of correctly predicting that  $v_1$  and  $v_8$  belong to different class labels. Consequently, for predictive tasks that rely on position of a node with respect to the graph, the performance suffers. While node embedding methods such as DeepWalk [Perozzi et al., 2014] and Node2Vec [Grover and Leskovec, 2016] do learn position information, they are transductive in nature, i.e., they fail to generalize to unseen nodes. In addition, they cannot encode attribute information. Our goal, therefore, is to design a GNN that is inductive, captures both position as well as node attribute information in the embeddings, and overcomes the problem of automorphism leading to identical embeddings.

We emphasize that we do not claim position information to be more important than the neighborhood structure. Rather, the more appropriate choice depends on the problem being solved and the dataset. For example, if homophily is the main driving factor behind a prediction task, then embeddings based on local neighborhood structure are likely to perform well. On the other hand, to predict whether two nodes belong to the same community, e.g., road networks, gene interaction networks, etc., positional information is more important.

P-GNN [You et al., 2019] is the first work to address the need for an inductive GNN that encodes position information. P-GNN randomly selects a small number of nodes as anchor nodes. It then computes the shortest path distances of all remaining nodes to these anchor nodes, and embeds this information in a low-dimensional space. Thus, two nodes have similar embeddings if their shortest path distances to the an-

Symbol	Dimensions	Description
$\mathcal{X} = \{\mathbf{x}_v \mid \forall v \in \mathcal{V}\}$	$n \times d$	Original node attributes
$\mathbf{H}^l = \{\mathbf{h}_v^l \mid \forall v \in \mathcal{V}\}$	$n \times d_{hid}$	Feature matrix at layer l
$\mathcal{M}^l = \{ \mathcal{M}^l_v \mid \forall v \in \mathcal{V} \}$	$n \times k \times d_{hid}$	Message Tensor at layer $l$
$\mathbf{W}_{\mathcal{M}}^{l} \ \mathbf{a}_{att}^{l}$	$2 \cdot d_{hid} \times d_{hid}$	Transform $\mathcal{M}^l$
$\mathbf{a}_{att}^{l}$	$2 \cdot d_{hid} \times 1$	Attention vector at layer l
$\mathbf{Z} = \{ \mathbf{z}_v \mid \forall v \in \mathcal{V} \}$	$n \times k$	Output embeddings
$\mathbf{W}_Z$	$d_{hid} \times 1$	Transforms $\mathcal{M}^L$ to <b>Z</b>

Table 1: Matrix notations and descriptions.

chors are similar. To illustrate, we revisit Fig. 1a, and assume that  $v_7$  is an anchor node. Although the 2-hop neighborhoods of  $v_1$  and  $v_8$  are isomorphic, their shortest path distances to  $v_7$  are different and, hence, their embeddings will be different as well. Although P-GNN has shown impressive improvements over existing GNN architectures in link prediction and pairwise node classification, there is scope to improve.

- 1. Holistic Position Inference: Since P-GNN relies only on shortest path distances to compute embeddings, remaining paths of the graph are ignored. Consequently, two nodes can be incorrectly concluded to be in the same position, even if they are not. Fig. 1b illustrates this aspect. Here, nodes  $v_1, v_2$ , and  $v_6$  are all equidistant from the anchors  $v_3$  and  $v_5$  and consequently, their embeddings would be similar. Note, however, that  $v_6$  is located in a different region with several paths of length  $v_6$  to  $v_7$ , whereas  $v_8$  and  $v_9$  have only one path. Thus,  $v_8$  should have a different embedding.
- 2. Semantics: The assumption of shortest path rarely holds in the real world. This has been shown across varied domains such as Wordmorph [Gulyás et al., 2018], Wikispeedia [West and Leskovec, 2012], metro transportation [London, 2017], flight connections [TransStat, 2016], etc. Instead, many short paths are followed [West and Leskovec, 2012].
- 3. Robustness to Adversarial Attacks: Relying only on shortest paths also makes P-GNN vulnerable to adversarial attacks. Specifically, adding a small number of critical edges in the graph can significantly alter the shortest path distances for targeted nodes and, hence, their node embeddings.

To overcome these shortcomings, in this paper, we introduce a new position-aware GNN architecture called **GRAPHREACH**<sup>1</sup>. Our key contributions are as follows:

- GRAPHREACH computes position-aware inductive node embeddings through reachability estimations. Reachability estimations encode the position of a node with respect to all paths in the graph (§2 and §3). This holistic position estimation also ensures that GRAPHREACH is robust to adversarial attacks since a few edge additions or deletions do not substantially alter the reachability likelihoods (§4.5).
- Unlike P-GNN, where anchors are randomly selected, GRAPHREACH strategically selects anchors by framing it as a problem of maximizing *reachability* along with their *attention* weights. We show that maximizing reachability is NP-hard, monotone and submodular. We overcome this bottleneck through a greedy hill-climbing algorithm, which provides a (1-1/e) approximation guarantee (§3.2).
- Extensive empirical evaluation across 8 datasets demonstrates a dramatic relative improvement of up to 40% over P-GNN and other state-of-the-art GNN architectures (§4).

### 2 Problem Formulation

We represent a graph as  $G=(\mathcal{V},\mathcal{E},\mathcal{X},\mathcal{W})$ , where  $\mathcal{V}$  is the set of nodes  $v_i$ , with  $1\leq i\leq n$  and  $\mathcal{E}$  is the set of edges. The attribute set  $\mathcal{X}=\{\mathbf{x}_{v_1},\cdots,\mathbf{x}_{v_n}\}$  has a one-to-one correspondence with the node set  $\mathcal{V}$  where  $\mathbf{x}_{v_i}$  represents the feature vector of node  $v_i\in\mathcal{V}$ . Similarly,  $\mathcal{W}$  has a one-to-one correspondence with  $\mathcal{E}$ , where  $w_{e_i}$  denotes the edge weights.

A node embedding model is a function  $f: \mathcal{V} \to \mathbf{Z}$  that maps the node set  $\mathcal{V}$  to a d-dimensional vector space  $\mathbf{Z} = \{\mathbf{z}_1, \cdots, \mathbf{z}_n\}$ . Our goal is to learn a position-aware node embedding model [You et al., 2019].

**Definition 1** (Position-aware Embedding). A node embedding  $\mathbf{z}_v, \forall v \in \mathcal{V}$  is position-aware if there exists a function  $g(\cdot, \cdot)$  such that  $d(v_i, v_j) = g(\mathbf{z}_i, \mathbf{z}_j)$ , where  $d(v_i, v_j)$  is the distance from  $v_i$  to  $v_j$  in G.

The distance  $d(v_i,v_j)$  should reflect the quality of all paths between  $v_i$  and  $v_j$  wherein, (1)  $d(v_i,v_j)$  is directly proportional to the number of paths between  $v_i$  and  $v_j$ , and (2)  $d(v_i,v_j)$  is inversely proportional to the lengths of the paths between  $v_i$  and  $v_j$ . We capture these aspects in the form of reachability estimations through random walks. Note that,  $d(\cdot,\cdot)$  is not required to be a metric distance function.

Reachability estimations are similar to PageRank [Brin and Page, 1998] and Random Walk with Restarts [Pan et al., 2004]. To the best of our knowledge, GIL [Xu et al., 2020] is the only other GNN framework that uses the concept of reachability estimations. However, GIL does not use reachability to learn node embeddings. Rather, they are used as additional features along with node embeddings for node classification. **Reachability Estimations:** In a fixed-length random walk of length  $l_w$ , we start from an initial node  $v_i$ , and jump to a neighboring node u through an outgoing edge  $e = (v_i, u)$  with transition probability  $p(e) = w_e / \sum_{\forall e' \in N(v_i)} w_{e'}$ . Here,  $N(v_i)$  denotes the set of outgoing edges from  $v_i$ . From node u, the process continues iteratively in the same manner till  $l_w$  jumps. If there are many short paths from  $v_i$  to  $v_j$ , there is a high likelihood of reaching  $v_j$  by a random walk from  $v_i$ . We utilize this property to define a similarity measure:

$$s(v_i, v_j) = \frac{\sum_{k=1}^{n_w} count_k(v_i, v_j)}{l_w \times n_w}$$
 (1)

Here,  $n_w$  denotes the number of random walks started from  $v_i$ , and  $count_k(v_i,v_j)$  denotes the number of times random walker visited  $v_j$  in the  $k^{\text{th}}$  random walk starting from  $v_i$ . The similarity function could also weight the nodes according to the order they appear in a random walk (refer to App. A). From  $s(v_i,v_j)$ , one may define  $d(v_i,v_j)=1-s(v_i,v_j)$ . However, we directly work with similarity  $s(\cdot,\cdot)$  since  $d(v_i,v_j)$  is not explicitly required in our formulation.

# 3 GRAPHREACH

The symbols and notations used through out this paper are summarized in Table 1. All the matrix and vector notations are denoted in bold letters by convention.

#### 3.1 The Architecture

Algo. 1 outlines the pseudocode and Fig. 2 pictorially depicts the architecture. In addition to hyper-parameters and message

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup>Appendices are in https://arxiv.org/abs/2008.09657/.

#### Algorithm 1 GRAPHREACH

**Input:** Graph  $G = (\mathcal{V}, \mathcal{E}, \mathcal{X}, \mathcal{W})$ ; Anchors  $\{a_i\}$ ; Message computation function  $\mathcal{F}$ ; Message aggregation function  $\mathcal{S}$ ; Number of layers L; Non-linear function  $\sigma$ 

Output: Node embedding  $\mathbf{z}_v, \forall v \in \mathcal{V}$ 

8: **return**  $\mathbf{z}_v \in \mathbb{R}^k \leftarrow \sigma(\mathcal{M}_v^L, \mathbf{W}_Z), \forall v \in \mathcal{V}$ 

```
1: \mathbf{h}_{v}^{0} \leftarrow \mathbf{x}_{v}, \forall v \in \mathcal{V}

2: \mathbf{for} \ l = 1, \cdots, L \ \mathbf{do}

3: \mathbf{for} \ v \in \mathcal{V} \ \mathbf{do}

4: \mathbf{for} \ i = 1, \cdots, k \ \mathbf{do}

5: \widehat{\mathcal{M}}_{v}^{l}[i] \leftarrow \mathcal{F}(v, a_{i}, \mathbf{h}_{v}^{l-1}, \mathbf{h}_{a_{i}}^{l-1}) \rhd \text{Msg Computation}

6: \mathcal{M}_{v}^{l} = (\bigoplus_{a_{i} \in \mathcal{A}} \widehat{\mathcal{M}}_{v}^{l}[i]) \cdot \mathbf{W}_{\mathcal{M}}^{l} \rhd \text{Concatenation: Eq. (5)}

7: \mathbf{h}_{v}^{l} \leftarrow \mathcal{S}(\mathcal{M}_{v}^{l}) \rhd \text{Msg Aggr: Eq. (6) and Eq. (8)}
```

passing functions, the input to Algo. 1 includes the graph and k anchor nodes. The details of the anchor selection procedure are discussed in §3.2. In the initial layer, the embedding of a node v is simply its attribute vector  $\mathbf{x}_v$  (line 1). In each hidden layer, a set of messages,  $\mathcal{M}^l$ , is computed using the message computing function  $\mathcal{F}(v,a,\mathbf{h}_v^l,\mathbf{h}_a^l)$  between each node-anchor pair (details in §3.3) (lines 2-6). The component  $\mathcal{M}_v^l[i]$  in  $\mathcal{M}^l$  represents the message received by node v from the  $i^{th}$  anchor node. These messages are then aggregated using an aggregation function  $\mathcal{S}$  (line 7), which we will discuss in detail in §3.4. The aggregated messages thus obtained are propagated to the next layer. In the final layer, the set of messages for each node, i.e.,  $\mathcal{M}_v^l$ , is linearly transformed through a trainable weight matrix  $\mathbf{W}_Z$  (line 8).

#### 3.2 Anchor Selection

Anchors act as our reference points while encoding node positions. It is therefore imperative to select them carefully. Selecting two anchors that are close to each other in the graph is not meaningful since the distance to these anchors from the rest of the nodes would be similar. Ideally, the anchors should be diverse as well as *reachable* from a large portion of nodes.

Formally, let  $\mathcal R$  be the set of all random walks performed across all nodes in  $\mathcal V$ . We represent the reachability information in the form of a *bipartite* graph  $\mathcal B=(\mathcal V_1,\mathcal V_2,\mathcal E_B)$ . Here,  $\mathcal V_1=\mathcal V_2=\mathcal V$ . There is an edge  $e=(u,v)\in\mathcal E_B,\ u\in\mathcal V_1,\ v\in\mathcal V_2$  if there exists a walk in  $\mathcal R$  that starts from v and reaches v. The reachability set of a subset of nodes  $\mathcal A$  is:

$$\rho(\mathcal{A}) = \{ v \mid (u, v) \in \mathcal{E}_B, \ u \in \mathcal{A}, v \in \mathcal{V}_2 \}$$
 (2)

Our objective is to find the set of k anchors  $A^* \subseteq \mathcal{V}_1$ ,  $|A^*| = k$ , that *maximizes* reachability. Specifically,

$$\mathcal{A}^* = \underset{\mathcal{A} \subseteq \mathcal{V}_1, |\mathcal{A}| = k}{\arg \max} \{ |\rho(\mathcal{A})| \}$$
 (3)

**Lemma 1.** The maximization problem in Eq. 3, performed on the bipartite graph formed on the reachability set, is NP-hard.

**Lemma 2.** For any given set of nodes A,  $f(A) = |\rho(A)|$  is monotone and submodular.

The proofs are in App. B and App. C respectively.

For *monotone* and *submodular* optimization functions, the greedy-hill climbing algorithm provides a (1-1/e) approximation guarantee [Nemhauser *et al.*, 1978]. We, thus, follow the same strategy and iteratively add the node that provides highest *marginal* reachability (Algo. 2 in App. D).

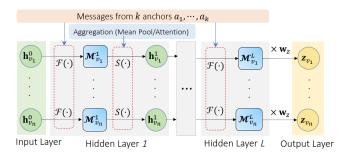


Figure 2: The architecture of GRAPHREACH. Note that aggregation is not performed in the last hidden layer.

**Corollary 1.** *If set* A *is the output of Algo.* 2 *(in App. D), then*  $| \rho(A) | \ge (1 - 1/e) | A^* |$ *, where*  $A^*$  *is the anchor set of size* k *that maximizes reachability coverage.* 

PROOF. Follows from Lemma 2.

**Modeling Reachability Frequency:** The above approach models reachability as a binary occurrence; even if there exists just one walk where  $v \in \mathcal{V}_2$  reaches  $u \in \mathcal{V}_1$ , an edge (u,v) is present in  $\mathcal{B}$ . It does not incorporate the frequency with which u is visited from v. To capture this aspect, we randomly sample X% of the walks from  $\mathcal{R}$  and form the bipartite graph only on this sampled set. Note that the downsampling does not require the bipartite graph to be fully connected. Algo. 2 (in App. D) is next run to select anchors on this bipartite graph. This process is repeated multiple times by drawing multiple samples of the same size from  $\mathcal{R}$  and the final anchor set consists of nodes that are selected in the answer sets the highest number of times. In our experiments, we sample 5 subsets with X=30%.

## 3.3 Message Computation

The message computation function  $\mathcal{F}(v, a, \mathbf{h}_v^l, \mathbf{h}_a^l)$  should incorporate both the position information of node v with respect to the anchor set  $\mathcal{A}$  as well as the node attributes. While node attributes may provide important information that may be useful in the eventual prediction task, position information, in the form of reachability estimations, captures the location of the node in the global context of the graph. To encode these dual needs,  $\mathcal{F}(v, a, \mathbf{h}_v^l, \mathbf{h}_o^l)$  is defined as follows.

$$\mathcal{F}\left(v, a, \mathbf{h}_{v}^{l}, \mathbf{h}_{a}^{l}\right) = \left(\left(s(v, a) \times \mathbf{h}_{v}^{l}\right) \parallel \left(s(a, v) \times \mathbf{h}_{a}^{l}\right)\right) \quad (4)$$

where  $\parallel$  denotes concatenation of vectors. The function  $\mathcal{F}$  takes as input a node v, an anchor a and their respective layer attributes,  $\mathbf{h}_v^l$  and  $\mathbf{h}_a^l$ . It returns a message vector, which is a weighted aggregation of their individual attributes in proportion to their reachability estimations (Eq. 1). Observe that, the reachability estimations are used in both directions to account for an asymmetric distance function.

Due to concatenation, the output message vector is of dimension  $2 \cdot d_{hid}$ , where  $d_{hid}$  is dimension of the node embeddings in the hidden layers. To linearly transform the message vector back into  $\mathbb{R}^{d_{hid}}$ , we multiply it with a weight vector  $\mathbf{W}^l_{\mathcal{M}}$ . The complete global structure information for node v is encompassed in the message matrix  $\mathcal{M}^l_v$  ( $\oplus$  denotes rowwise stacking of message vectors).

$$\mathbf{\mathcal{M}}_{v}^{l} = \left(\bigoplus_{a \in \mathcal{A}} \mathcal{F}\left(v, a, \mathbf{h}_{v}^{l}, \mathbf{h}_{a}^{l}\right)\right) \cdot \mathbf{W}_{\mathbf{\mathcal{M}}}^{l} \tag{5}$$

# 3.4 Message Aggregation

To compute the hidden representation of nodes, messages corresponding to anchors are aggregated for each node. We propose two aggregation schemes.

**1. Mean Pool** (M): In this, a simple mean of the message vectors are taken across anchors.

$$S^{M}(\mathcal{M}_{v}^{l}) = \frac{1}{k} \sum_{i=1}^{k} \mathcal{M}_{v}^{l}[i]$$
 (6)

**2.** Attention Aggregator (A): In mean pooling, all anchors are given equal weight. Theorizing that the information being preserved can be enhanced by capturing the significance of an anchor with respect to a node, we propose to calculate the significance distribution among anchors for each node. Following the Graph Attention Network (GAT) architecture [Velickovic  $et\ al.$ , 2018], we compute attention coefficients of anchors for an anchor-based aggregation. The attention coefficient of the  $i^{th}$  anchor  $a_i$  is computed with trainable weight vector  $\mathbf{a}_{att}^l$  and weight matrix  $\mathbf{W}_{att}^l$ . For node v, the attention weight with respect to anchor i is

$$\alpha_v[i] = \operatorname{sm}\left(\sigma_{att}\left(\left(\mathbf{h}_v^l \cdot \mathbf{W}_{att}^l \parallel \mathcal{M}_v^l[i] \cdot \mathbf{W}_{att}^l\right) \cdot \mathbf{a}_{att}^l\right)\right)$$
 (7)

Here, sm denotes the softmax function. As followed in GAT architecture [Velickovic *et al.*, 2018], we use LeakyReLU as the non-linear function  $\sigma_{att}$  (with negative input slope 0.2).

Finally, the messages are aggregated across anchors using these coefficients.

$$S^{A}(\mathcal{M}_{v}^{l}) = \sum_{i=1}^{k} \alpha_{v}[i] \times \mathcal{M}_{v}^{l}[i] \cdot \mathbf{W}_{att}^{l} + \mathbf{h}_{v}^{l} \cdot \mathbf{W}_{att}^{l}$$
(8)

#### 3.5 Hyper-parameters for Reachability Estimation

Reachability information relies on two key random walk parameters: the length  $l_w$  of each walk, and the total number of walks  $n_w$ . If  $l_w$  is too short, then we do not gather information with respect to anchors more than  $l_w$ -hops away. With  $n_w$ , we allow the walker to sample enough number of paths so that our reachability estimations are accurate and holistic. We borrow an important theorem from [Wadhwa  $et\ al.$ , 2019] to guide our choice of  $l_w$  and  $n_w$ .

**Theorem 1.** [Wadhwa et al., 2019] If there exists a path between two nodes u and v in a graph, with 1-1/n probability the random walker will find the path if the number of random walks conducted,  $n_w$ , is set to  $\Theta(\sqrt[3]{n^2 \ln n})$  with the length of each random walk,  $l_w$ , being set to the diameter of the graph.

#### 3.6 Complexity Analysis

We conduct  $n_w$  random walks of length  $l_w$  for all the n nodes of the graph; this requires  $O(n_w \cdot l_w \cdot n)$  time. For anchor set selection, we sample random walks multiple times and select k anchors using the resulting bipartite graphs formed. The complexity of sampling walks is  $O(n \cdot n_w)$  while selecting the anchors takes  $O(k+k \cdot \log k) = O(k \cdot \log k)$  operations. Considering that each node communicates with k anchors, there are  $O(n \cdot k)$  message computations. The aggregation of messages also requires  $O(n \cdot k)$  operations owing to k messages being aggregated for each of the n nodes. The attention aggregator has an additional step devoted to computation of attention coefficients which takes  $O(n \cdot k)$  time as well.

Datasets	#Nodes	#Edges	#Labels	Diameter	#Attributes
Grid	400	760	-	38	-
Communities	400	3.8K	20	9	-
PPI	56.6K	818K	-	8	50
Email-Complete	986	16.6K	42	7	-
Email	920	7.8K	6	7	-
Protein	43.4K	81K	3	64	29
CoRA	2.7K	5.4K	7	19	1433
CiteSeer	3.3K	4.7K	6	28	3703

Table 2: Characteristics of graph datasets used.

# 4 Experiments

In this section, we benchmark GRAPHREACH and establish that GRAPHREACH provides up to 40% relative improvement over state-of-the-art GNN architectures. The implementation is available at https://github.com/idea-iitd/GraphReach.

# 4.1 Experimental Setup

Please refer to App. E for information on reproducibility. **Datasets:** We evaluate GRAPHREACH on the datasets listed in Table 2. Further details are available in App. E.

**Baselines:** We measure and compare the performance of GRAPHREACH with five baselines: (1) P-GNN [You *et al.*, 2019], (2) GCN [Kipf and Welling, 2017], (3) GRAPH-SAGE [Hamilton *et al.*, 2017], (4) GAT [Velickovic *et al.*, 2018], and (5) GIN [Xu *et al.*, 2019].

**Prediction Tasks:** We evaluate GRAPHREACH on the prediction tasks of *Link Prediction (LP)* and *Pairwise node classification (PNC)* using the *Binary Cross Entropy* (BCE) loss with *logistic activation*, and on *Node Classification (NC)* using the *Negative Log Likelihood* (NLL) loss.

**Setting:** For LP, we evaluate in both inductive and transductive settings, whereas for PNC, only inductive setting is used. **Default Parameters and Design Choices:** Unless specifically mentioned, we set the number of anchors (k) as  $\log^2 n$ . While our experiments reveal that a smaller number of anchors is sufficient, since P-GNN uses  $\log^2 n$  anchors, we keep it the same. The length of each random walk,  $l_w$ , is set to  $graph\ diameter$ , and the number of walks  $n_w$  as 50. We also conducted experiments to analyze how these parameters influence prediction accuracy of GRAPHREACH.

We use *Attention* aggregation (Eq. 8) and simple random walk counts as the similarity function (Eq. 1) to compare with the baselines. For a fair comparison, values of parameters that are common to GRAPHREACH and other baselines are kept the same. Their exact values are reported in App. E.

# 4.2 Comparison with Baselines

**Pairwise Node Classification (PNC):** Table 3a summarizes the performances in PNC. We observe a dramatic performance improvement by GRAPHREACH over all existing GNN architectures. While P-GNN clearly established that encoding global positions of nodes helps in PNC, GRAPHREACH further highlights the need to go beyond shortest paths. Except in Communities, the highest accuracy achieved by any of the baselines is 0.73. In sharp contrast, GRAPHREACH pushes the ROC AUC above 0.90, which is a significant  $\approx 40\%$  relative improvement, on average, over the state-of-the-art.

**Link Prediction (LP):** Table 3b presents the results for LP. Consistent with the trend observed in PNC, GRAPHREACH

Models	Communities	Email	<b>Email-Complete</b>	Protein	Models	Grid-T	Communities-T	Grid	Communities	PPI
GCN	$0.520 \pm 0.025$	$0.515 \pm 0.019$	$0.536 \pm 0.006$	$0.515 \pm 0.002$	GCN	$0.698 \pm 0.051$	$0.981 \pm 0.004$	$0.456 \pm 0.037$	$0.512 \pm 0.008$	$0.769 \pm 0.002$
GRAPHSAGE	$0.514 \pm 0.028$	$0.511 \pm 0.016$	$0.508 \pm 0.004$	$0.520 \pm 0.003$	GRAPHSAGE	$0.682 \pm 0.050$	$0.978 \pm 0.003$	$0.532 \pm 0.050$	$0.516 \pm 0.010$	$0.803 \pm 0.005$
GAT	$0.620 \pm 0.022$	$0.502 \pm 0.015$	$0.511 \pm 0.008$	$0.528 \pm 0.011$	GAT	$0.704 \pm 0.050$	$0.980 \pm 0.005$	$0.566 \pm 0.052$	$0.618 \pm 0.025$	$0.783 \pm 0.004$
GIN	$0.620 \pm 0.102$	$0.545 \pm 0.012$	$0.544 \pm 0.010$	$0.523 \pm 0.002$	GIN	$0.732 \pm 0.050$	$0.984 \pm 0.005$	$0.499 \pm 0.054$	$0.692 \pm 0.049$	$0.782 \pm 0.010$
P-GNN-F	$0.997 \pm 0.006$	$0.640 \pm 0.037$	$0.630 \pm 0.031$	$0.729 \pm 0.176$	P-GNN-F	$0.637 \pm 0.078$	$0.989 \pm 0.003$	$0.694 \pm 0.066$	$\boldsymbol{0.991 \pm 0.003}$	$0.805 \pm 0.003$
P-GNN-E	$\boldsymbol{1.000 \pm 0.001}$	$0.640\pm0.029$	$0.637 \pm 0.037$	$0.631\pm0.175$	P-GNN-E	$0.834\pm0.099$	$0.988\pm0.003$	$0.940\pm0.027$	$0.985\pm0.008$	$0.808\pm0.003$
GRAPHREACH	$1.000\pm0.000$	$\boldsymbol{0.949 \pm 0.009}$	$\textbf{0.935} \pm \textbf{0.006}$	$\textbf{0.904} \pm \textbf{0.003}$	GRAPHREACH	$\textbf{0.945} \pm \textbf{0.021}$	$0.990 \pm 0.005$	$\boldsymbol{0.956 \pm 0.014}$	$0.991 \pm 0.003$	$0.810 \pm 0.002$

(a) Pairwise Node Classification (PNC)

(b) Link Prediction (LP)

Table 3: ROC AUC. (Grid-T and Communities-T indicate performance in transductive settings. P-GNN-E uses exact shortest path distance to all anchors while P-GNN-F is a fast variant of P-GNN that uses truncated 2-hop shortest path distance.)

Took	Dataset	GCN		GRAI	PHSAGE	G.	AT	G	IN	P-(	NN	GRAP	HREACH
Task		S+T	$\mathbf{S}$	S+T	S	S+T	$\mathbf{S}$	S+T	S	S+T	$\mathbf{S}$	S+T	S
LP	CoRA	0.86	0.59	0.85	0.53	0.86	0.51	0.86	0.59	0.81	0.77	0.83	0.84
LP	CiteSeer	0.87	0.61	0.85	0.56	0.87	0.56	0.86	0.68	0.77	0.76	0.77	0.74
PNC	CoRA	0.98	0.50	0.96	0.50	0.98	0.51	0.98	0.52	0.86	0.59	0.96	0.77
PNC	CiteSeer	0.96	0.51	0.95	0.51	0.96	0.50	0.96	0.53	0.77	0.57	0.91	0.61
NC	CoRA	0.92	0.52	0.92	0.50	0.90	0.50	0.90	0.54	0.73	0.50	0.84	0.86
NC	CiteSeer	0.82	0.52	0.82	0.50	0.81	0.50	0.82	0.53	0.73	0.55	0.75	0.71

Table 4: ROC AUC. ('S' denotes the version containing only the graph structure and 'S+T' denotes structure with node attributes.)

outperforms other GNNs across inductive and transductive settings. P-GNN and GRAPHREACH are significantly better than the rest of the architectures. This clearly indicates that position-aware node embeddings help. GRAPHREACH being better than P-GNN suggests that a holistic approach of encoding position with respect to all paths is necessary.

The second observation from Table 3b is that the performance of position-unaware architectures are noticeably better in transductive setting. Since transductive setting allows unique identification of nodes through one-hot encodings, traditional GNN architectures are able to extract some amount of position information, which helps in the prediction. In contrast, for both P-GNN and GRAPHREACH, one-hot encodings do not impart any noticeable advantage as position information is captured through distances to anchors.

We also compare the time taken by the two best performing models (in App. F). On average, GRAPHREACH is 2.5 times faster than P-GNN owing to its strategic anchor selection.

#### 4.3 Difference from Neighborhood-based GNNs

We conducted experiments on attributed graph datasets, with and without attributes for prediction tasks. Table 4 presents the results for CoRA and CiteSeer on LP, PNC and NC.

In addition to the network structures, both CoRA and Cite-Seer, are also accompanied by binary word vectors characterizing each node. When the word vectors are ignored, the performance of neighborhood-aggregation based GNNs are significantly inferior ( $\approx 25\%$ ) to GRAPHREACH. When supplemented with word vectors, they outperform GRAPHREACH ( $\approx 10\%$  better). This leads to the following conclusions. (1) Position-aware GNNs are better in utilizing the structural information. (2) Neighborhood-aggregation based GNNs may be better in exploiting the feature distribution in the neighborhood. (This is not always though, e.g., in PPI and Protein, GRAPHREACH is better than the baselines even when attribute information is used as seen in Tables 3a and 3b). (3) The two approaches are *complementary* in nature and, therefore, good candidates for ensemble learning. To elab-

orate, neighborhood aggregation based architectures rely on homophily [Zhu et al., 2020]. Consequently, if the node property is a function of neighborhood attribute distribution, then neighborhood aggregation performs well. On the other hand, in LP, even if the local neighborhoods of two distant nodes are isomorphic, this may not enhance their chance of having a link. Rather, the likelihood increases if two nodes have many neighbors in common. When two nodes have common neighbors, their distances to the anchors are also similar, and this positional information leads to improved performance.

# 4.4 Ablation Study: Mean Pool versus Attention

In the first two rows of Table 5, we compare the performance of GRAPHREACH with Attention (GRAPHREACH-A) and Mean Pool (GRAPHREACH-M) aggregation functions. As clearly evident, the performance is comparable. In mean pool, the message from each anchor is weighted equally, while when an attention layer is used, GRAPHREACH learns an additional importance weight for each anchor to aggregate messages. The comparable performance of Mean Pool with Attention shows that similarity encoded in the message from each anchor is enough to learn meaningful embeddings; the marginal gain from an additional attention layer is minimal. To further substantiate this claim, we alter Eq. 4 to  $\mathcal{F}\left(v,a,\mathbf{h}_v^l,\mathbf{h}_a^l
ight)=\mathbf{h}_v^l\parallel\mathbf{h}_a^l;$  i.e, contributions of all anchors are made equal. The variant GRAPHREACH-M<sup>-</sup> presents the performance with this modification; as evident, there is a massive drop in accuracy. We also evaluate GRAPHREACH using a similarity function variant (in App. F).

#### 4.5 Adversarial Attacks

We assume the standard black-box adversarial setup where the attacker has knowledge of only the graph and can modify it through addition or deletion of edges [Li et al., 2020; Chang et al., 2020]. Let  $G=(\mathcal{V},\mathcal{E})$  be the test graph which has a colluding subset of nodes  $\mathcal{C}\subseteq\mathcal{V}$ . The nodes in  $\mathcal{C}$  can add as many edges as needed among them so that predictions on  $\mathcal{C}$  are inaccurate. For PNC, we randomly sample 10% nodes from the unseen test graph, and form a clique among these colluding nodes. For LP, we randomly sample 10% of the node pairs from the unseen test graph such that they do not have an edge between them. From this set, we select the top-2% of the highest degree nodes and connnect them to the remaining colluding nodes through an edge. This makes the diameter of the colluding group at most 2.

We perform prediction using pre-trained models of both P-GNN and GRAPHREACH on the test graph and measure the

Models	Communities	Email	Email-Complete	Protein	Models	Grid-T	Communities-T	Grid	Communities	PPI
GR-A	$1.000\pm0.000$	$0.949 \pm 0.009$	$0.935 \pm 0.006$	$0.904 \pm 0.003$	GR-A	$\boldsymbol{0.945 \pm 0.021}$	$0.990 \pm 0.005$	$0.956 \pm 0.014$	$0.991 \pm 0.003$	$0.810 \pm 0.002$
GR-M	$\boldsymbol{1.000 \pm 0.000}$	$0.938 \pm 0.017$	$0.945 \pm 0.004$	$\boldsymbol{0.916 \pm 0.008}$	GR-M	$0.940 \pm 0.018$	$\boldsymbol{0.994 \pm 0.003}$	$0.931 \pm 0.020$	$\boldsymbol{0.993 \pm 0.003}$	$\boldsymbol{0.830 \pm 0.004}$
GR-M <sup>-</sup>	$0.500 \pm 0.000$	$0.500 \pm 0.000$	$0.500 \pm 0.000$	$0.559 \pm 0.007$	GR-M <sup>-</sup>	$0.542 \pm 0.071$	$0.888 \pm 0.046$	$0.500 \pm 0.000$	$0.500\pm0.000$	$0.519 \pm 0.026$
	(a) Pairv	vise Node Class	sification (PNC)				(b) Link I	Prediction (LP)		

Table 5: ROC AUC in PNC and LP for ablation study. (GR stands for GRAPHREACH.)

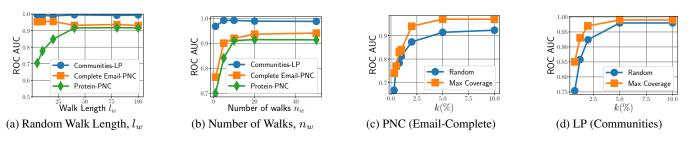


Figure 3: Impact of (a) walk length (b) number of walks and (c-d) number of anchors for PNC and LP, on accuracy of GRAPHREACH.

Dataset	Task		P-GN	N	GRAPHREACH			
		Bf	Af	$\Delta$	Bf	Af	$\Delta$	
Communities Communities	PNC LP	0.92 1.00	0.82 0.89	-0.10 $-0.11$	1.00 1.00	0.98 1.00	$-0.02 \\ -0.00$	

Table 6: Robustness to adversarial attacks. (Bf and Af indicate ROC AUC before and after collusion respectively, while  $\Delta$  denotes the change in accuracy due to collusion.)

ROC AUC on the colluding group. This process is repeated with 5 different samples of colluding groups and the mean accuracy is reported. If the model is robust, despite the collusion, its prediction accuracy should not suffer.

As visible in Table 6, the impact on the accuracy of GRAPHREACH is minimal. On the other hand, P-GNN receives more than 10% relative drop in the performance. This result highlights one more advantage of reachability estimations. Since GRAPHREACH incorporates all paths in its position-aware embeddings, causing a significant perturbation in position with respect to all paths in the network is difficult. In case of P-GNN, perturbing shortest paths is relatively easier and hence there is a higher impact on the performance.

## 4.6 Impact of Parameters

Random Walk Length,  $l_w$ : Fig. 3a presents the result on three datasets covering both PNC and LP. Results on remaining datasets are provided in App. F. On Communities and Email-Complete, the impact of  $l_w$  is minimal. However, in Protein, the accuracy saturates at around  $l_w=40$ . This is a direct consequence of the property that Protein has a significantly larger diameter of 64 than both Communities and Email-Complete (see Table 2). Recall from our discussion in §3.5 that setting  $l_w$  to the graph diameter is recommended for ensuring accurate reachability estimations. The trends in Fig. 3a substantiate this theoretical result.

**Number of Random Walks,**  $n_w$ : Fig. 3b presents the results. As expected, with higher number of walks, the accuracy initially improves and then saturates. From §3.5, we know that  $n_w$  should increase with the number of nodes in the graph to ensure accurate reachability estimations. The trend

in Fig. 3b is consistent with this result. In App. F, we present the results for this experiment on the remaining datasets.

Number of Anchors and Anchor Selection Strategy: Fig. 3(c-d) present the results. In addition to the default anchor selection strategy, we also evaluate the accuracy obtained when an equal number of anchors are selected randomly. Two key properties emerge from this experiment. First, as the number of anchors increases, the accuracy improves till a saturation point. This is expected since with more anchors we have more reference points to accurately encode node positions. Second, the proposed anchor selection strategy is clearly better than random anchor selection. More importantly, the proposed anchor selection strategy saturates at around 2.5% compared to 5% in random. Recall that the dimension of the final embeddings, i.e., the final layer, is equal to the number of anchors. Consequently, this experiment highlights that high quality embeddings can be obtained within a low-dimensional space. A low dimension is preferred in various tasks such as indexing and querying of multi-dimensional points, due to the adverse impacts of *curse-of-dimensionality* [Samet, 2006].

# 5 Conclusions

GNN architectures, despite their impressive success in learning node embeddings, suffer on predictive tasks that rely on positional information. Though P-GNN recognized this need, due to reliance on only shortest paths, the position information captured by P-GNN is not holistic. GRAPHREACH addresses this limitation and builds a different positional model based on reachability estimations to anchors computed strategically through fixed-length random walks. GRAPHREACH achieves a relative improvement of up to 40% over other architectures, while also being robust to adversarial attacks.

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# **Appendix**

# A Order-weighted Similarity

In Eq. 1, the order in which nodes occur in the random walk does not affect the similarity function. To incorporate this sequential aspect, we propose the use of *harmonic* weighting. Formally, let  $o(v_i, v_j, k)$  denote the step count at which  $v_j$  is visited in the  $k^{th}$  random walk originating from node  $v_i$ ; if  $v_j$  was not visited, then  $o(v_i, v_j, k) = \infty$ . The *order-weighted* similarity is defined as:

$$s_o(v_i, v_j) = \sum_{k=1}^{n_w} \frac{1}{o(v_i, v_j, k)}$$
(9)

Please refer to App. F for empirical evaluation of the model with order-weighted similarity function.

## **B** NP-hardness of Anchor Selection

**Theorem 2.** Anchor selection, which is performed on the bipartite graph formed from the reachability set, is NP-hard.

PROOF. We reduce the *Maximum Coverage problem* (*MCP*) to the problem of anchor selection.

**Definition 2** (Maximum Coverage). Given a collection of subsets  $\mathbb{S} = \{S_1, \dots, S_m\}$  from a universal set of items  $U = \{t_1, \dots, t_n\}$  and budget k, choose at most k subsets  $\mathcal{T}^* \subseteq \mathbb{S}$  such that the coverage of items  $\bigcup_{\forall S_i \in \mathcal{T}^*} S_i$  is maximized.

MCP is known to be NP-hard [Cormen et al., 2009].

Given an arbitrary instance of MCP, we construct a bipartite graph  $\mathcal{B}=(\mathcal{V}_1,\mathcal{V}_2,\mathcal{E}_B)$ , where we have a node  $u_i\in\mathcal{V}_1$  corresponding to each subset  $S_i\in\mathbb{S}$ , a node  $v_j\in\mathcal{V}_2$  corresponding to each item  $t_j\in U$  and an edge  $e=(u_i,v_j)\in\mathcal{E}_B$  if  $S_i$  contains item  $t_j$ . With this construction, it is easy to see that  $\mathcal{A}^*\subseteq\mathcal{V}_1,\ |\mathcal{A}^*|=k$  maximizes reachability, i.e.,  $\mid \rho(\mathcal{A}^*)\mid$ , if and only if selecting the subsets corresponding to the nodes in  $\mathcal{A}^*$  maximizes coverage of items from U.  $\square$ 

## C Monotonicity and Submodularity

**Monotonicity:** The function  $f(\mathcal{A}) = |\rho(\mathcal{A})|$  is monotone since adding any node from  $u \in \mathcal{V}_1$  to  $\mathcal{A}$  can only bring in new neighbors from  $\mathcal{V}_2$ . Hence,  $\rho(\mathcal{A} \cup \{u\}) \supseteq \rho(\mathcal{A})$ .

**Submodularity:** A function f(S) is *submodular* if the *marginal gain* from adding an element to a set S is at least as high as the marginal gain from adding it to a superset of S. Mathematically, it satisfies:

$$f(S \cup \{o\}) - f(S) \ge f(T \cup \{o\}) - f(T) \tag{10}$$

for all elements o and all pairs of sets  $S \subseteq T$ .

**Lemma 3.** Reachability maximization is submodular. Specifically, for any given set of nodes A,  $f(A) = |\rho(A)|$  is submodular.

PROOF BY CONTRADICTION: Assume,

$$f(T \cup \{v\}) - f(T) > f(A \cup \{v\}) - f(A) \tag{11}$$

where  $\mathcal{A}$  and T are subsets of  $\mathcal{V}_1$ , such that  $\mathcal{A} \subseteq T$ , and  $v \in \mathcal{V}_1$  of bipartite graph  $\mathcal{B}$ . Given that  $f(\mathcal{A})$  is monotone, Eq. 11 is feasible only if:

$$\rho(\lbrace v \rbrace) \setminus \rho(T) \supseteq \rho(\lbrace v \rbrace) \setminus \rho(\mathcal{A})$$
or,  $\mathcal{A} \not\subseteq T$  (12)

which contradicts the assumption that  $A \subseteq T$ .

## Algorithm 2 Greedy Anchor Selection

```
Input: Graph \mathcal{B} = (\mathcal{V}_1, \mathcal{V}_2, \mathcal{E}_B); number of anchors: k Output: \mathcal{A}: a set of k anchors (nodes)

1: \mathcal{A} \leftarrow \emptyset
2: while |\mathcal{A}| < k do
3: u^* \leftarrow \arg\max_{u \in \mathcal{V}_1} \{|\rho(\mathcal{A} \cup \{u\})| - |\rho(\mathcal{A})|\}
4: \mathcal{A} \leftarrow \mathcal{A} \cup \{u^*\}
5: \mathcal{V}_2 \leftarrow \mathcal{V}_2 \setminus \rho(u^*)
6: \mathcal{V}_1 \leftarrow \mathcal{V}_1 \setminus \{u^*\}
7: return \mathcal{A}
```

#### **D** Anchor Selection Procedure

Algo. 2 outlines the pseudocode for the greedy anchor selection procedure. We start from an empty anchor set  $\mathcal{A}$  (line 1), and in each iteration, add the node  $u \in \mathcal{V}_1$  that has the highest (marginal) degree in  $\mathcal{B}$  to  $\mathcal{A}$  (lines 3-4). Following this operation, we remove u from  $\mathcal{V}_1$  and all neighbors of u from  $\mathcal{V}_2$  (lines 5-6). This process repeats for u iterations (line 2).

## **E** Experimental Setup

All the experiments have been performed on an Intel(R) Xeon(R) Silver 4114 CPU with a clock speed of 2.20GHz. The GPU used was NVIDIA GeForce RTX 2080 Ti (12GB of FB memory). We use PyTorch 1.4.0 and NetworkX 2.3 on CUDA 10.0. GRAPHREACH is implemented in Python 3.7.6. The codebase of all other benchmarked models are obtained from the respective authors.

#### **Datasets**

Below we explain the semantics of each of these datasets.<sup>2</sup>

- Grid is a synthetic 2D grid graph with  $20 \times 20 = 400$  nodes and no features.
- Communities is the connected caveman graph, [Watts, 1999]. It has 20 communities of 20 nodes each.
- PPI is a protein-protein interaction network containing 24 graphs, [Zitnik and Leskovec, 2017]. Each graph on an average has 3000 nodes and 33000 edges. Each node is characterized with a 50-dimensional feature vector.
- Email-Complete is a real-world communication graph from SNAP [Leskovec et al., 2007].
- *Email* dataset is a set of 7 graphs obtained by dividing Email-Complete and has 6 communities. The label of each node denotes which community it belongs to.
- *Protein* is a real graph from [Borgwardt *et al.*, 2005]. It contains 1113 components. Each component on average contains 39 nodes and 73 edges. Each node has 29 features and is labeled with the functional role of the protein.
- *CoRA* is a standard citation network of machine-learning papers with 2.7K documents, 5.4K links and 1433 distinct word vector attributes, divided into seven classes [McCallum *et al.*, 2000].
- CiteSeer is another benchmark citation graph with 3.3K documents, 4.7K links and 3703 distinct word vector attributes, divided into six classes [Giles et al., 1998].

#### **Predictive Tasks**

**Link Prediction (LP):** Given a pair of nodes in a graph, the task is to predict whether there exists a link (edge) between them.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup>All the datasets have been taken from https://github.com/ JiaxuanYou/P-GNN

**Pairwise Node Classification (PNC):** Given two nodes, the task is to predict whether these nodes belong to the same class label or come from different labels.

**Node Classification (NC):** For each node, the task is to predict its class/label.

#### **Setting**

**Transductive learning:** The nodes are assigned a fixed ordering. Consequently, the model needs to be re-trained if the ordering changes. Since the ordering is fixed, *one-hot* vectors can be used as unique identifiers of nodes. We use these one-hot vectors to augment the node attributes.

**Inductive learning:** Only the node attributes are used since under this scenario, the model must generalize to unseen nodes.

## **Train-Validation-Test Setup**

For all prediction tasks, the datasets are individually split in the ratio of 80:10:10 for training, validation and testing, respectively. In LP, the positive set contains actual links present in the graph. The negative set is constructed by sampling an equal number of node pairs that are not linked. A similar strategy is also applied for PNC. In NC, we randomly sample train, validation and test nodes with their corresponding labels. We always ensure that the test data is unseen. When a graph dataset contains multiple graphs, we divide each component into train, validation and test sets.

Each experiment (train and test) is repeated 10 times following which we report the mean *ROC AUC* and the standard deviation.

# **Common Parameters**

The number of hidden layers is set to 2. The hidden embedding dimension is set to 32. All models are trained for 2000 epochs. The learning rate is set to 0.01 for the first 200 epochs and 0.001 thereafter. The drop-out parameter is set to 0.5. Batch size is kept to 8 for Protein and PPI, and 1 for all other datasets. The final embeddings for PNC and LP tasks are passed through 1-layer MLPs characterized by label(v, u) =  $\sigma(\mathbf{z_v}^T \mathbf{z_u})$  where  $\sigma$  is the sigmoid activation function. The final embeddings for NC are passed through LogSoftmax layer to get the log-probabilities of each class. In both LP and PNC, the input is a pair of nodes, while in NC it is a single node. The neural network parameters are tuned using the Adam optimizer [Kingma and Ba, 2015].

## F Performance

#### **Efficiency**

Table 7 shows the time taken by the two best performing models on the three largest datasets. We observe that GRAPHREACH is 2.5 times faster than P-GNN. P-GNN is slower since it samples a new set of anchors in every layer and epoch, which necessitates the need to recompute distances to all anchors. In contrast, GRAPHREACH uses the same set of strategically chosen anchors through all layers. The inference times of both techniques are less than a second and, hence, is not a computational concern.

Dataset	Task	Training	g Time (in sec)	Inference Time (in sec)			
Dataset		P-GNN-E	GRAPHREACH	P-GNN-E	GRAPHREACH		
CoRA		326	111	0.01	0.02		
CiteSeer	LP	537	125	0.01	0.01		
PPI		5901	2980	0.20	0.20		
CoRA		405	265	0.05	0.05		
CiteSeer	PNC	645	381	0.07	0.06		
Protein		13552	11254	0.90	0.90		

Table 7: Training and Inference time comparison

#### **Order-weighted Similarity**

Table 8 presents the performance achieved with order-weighted similarity function. We observe minimal change in accuracies when compared to using frequency counts (Eq. 1). A random walker is more likely to visit nearby nodes from the source than those located far away. Consequently, the *early* nodes that receive higher weights in order-weighted similarity are often the same ones that are visited repeatedly. Hence, order-weighting is correlated to count frequency.

## Impact of Length of Random Walk

The effect of length of walk  $l_w$  is summarized in Table 9a and Table 9b. We observe that for small datasets such as Communities, Email, Email-Complete and PPI, the ROC AUC scores start saturating when  $l_w$  is around 10, which is approximately the diameter of the datasets. The accuracy on the Grid dataset saturates for  $l_w = 20$  (diameter is 38) while for Protein it saturates at  $l_w = 40$  (diameter is 64).

#### **Impact of Number of Random Walks**

As discussed earlier, theoretically, the number of random walks conducted is proportional to the number of nodes of the graph. We observe from results shown in Table 10a and Table 10b that saturation point for all the datasets was achieved for a small number of random walks.

Models	Communities	Email	Email-Complete	Protein	Models	Grid-T	Communities-T	Grid	Communities	PPI
GRAPHREACH-OA	$\boldsymbol{1.000 \pm 0.000}$	$0.937 \pm 0.009$	$0.936 \pm 0.004$	$0.906 \pm 0.004$	GRAPHREACH-OA	$0.935\pm0.025$	$0.990 \pm 0.005$	$\boldsymbol{0.956 \pm 0.014}$	$0.992 \pm 0.004$	$0.822 \pm 0.007$
GRAPHREACH-OM	$1.000\pm0.000$	$0.949 \pm 0.014$	$0.934 \pm 0.004$	$0.909 \pm 0.006$	GRAPHREACH-OM	$0.940 \pm 0.025$	$0.993 \pm 0.003$	$0.951 \pm 0.017$	$0.993 \pm 0.004$	$0.825 \pm 0.003$

(a) Pairwise Node Classification

(b) Link Prediction

Table 8: ROC AUC in PNC and LP for ablation study. GRAPHREACH-OA and GRAPHREACH-OM denote Mean Pool and Attention aggregation, respectively, with order-weighted reachability estimation (Eq. 9).

$l_{\rm w}$	Communities	Email	Email-Complete	Protein	$l_{\mathbf{w}}$	Grid-T	Communities-T	Grid	Communities	PPI
5	$1.000 \pm 0.000$	$0.953 \pm 0.011$	$0.922 \pm 0.003$	$0.704 \pm 0.167$	5	$0.921 \pm 0.033$	$0.989 \pm 0.005$	$0.938 \pm 0.021$	$0.995 \pm 0.002$	$0.815 \pm 0.006$
10	$1.000 \pm 0.000$	$0.955 \pm 0.015$	$0.940 \pm 0.007$	$0.777 \pm 0.168$	10	$0.922 \pm 0.015$	$0.991 \pm 0.003$	$0.939 \pm 0.011$	$0.992 \pm 0.002$	$0.827 \pm 0.005$
20	$1.000 \pm 0.000$	$0.955 \pm 0.010$	$0.934 \pm 0.007$	$0.848\pm0.140$	20	$0.951 \pm 0.014$	$0.993 \pm 0.002$	$0.938 \pm 0.017$	$0.989 \pm 0.002$	$0.833\pm0.001$
40	$1.000 \pm 0.000$	$0.922 \pm 0.020$	$0.937 \pm 0.008$	$0.916 \pm 0.004$	40	$0.952 \pm 0.013$	$0.991 \pm 0.003$	$0.948 \pm 0.020$	$0.995 \pm 0.001$	$0.830 \pm 0.004$
80	$1.000 \pm 0.000$	$0.927 \pm 0.011$	$0.936 \pm 0.005$	$0.918 \pm 0.007$	80	$0.920 \pm 0.033$	$0.993 \pm 0.004$	$0.940 \pm 0.015$	$0.992 \pm 0.004$	$0.823 \pm 0.004$
100	$1.000 \pm 0.000$	$0.921 \pm 0.022$	$0.943 \pm 0.003$	$0.916 \pm 0.004$	100	$0.938 \pm 0.026$	$0.992 \pm 0.003$	$0.935 \pm 0.029$	$0.994 \pm 0.002$	$0.821 \pm 0.005$

(a) Pairwise Node Classification

(b) Link Prediction

Table 9: Effect of the length of random walk on accuracy of GRAPHREACH.

$n_{w}$	Communities	Email	Email-Complete	Protein	$n_{\mathbf{w}}$	Grid-T	Communities-T	Grid	Communities	PPI
1	$0.999 \pm 0.002$	$0.882 \pm 0.018$	$0.765 \pm 0.014$	$0.700 \pm 0.165$	1	$0.739 \pm 0.048$	$0.988 \pm 0.006$	$0.805 \pm 0.036$	$0.968 \pm 0.013$	$0.624 \pm 0.028$
5	$1.000 \pm 0.000$	$0.946 \pm 0.007$	$0.901 \pm 0.008$	$0.841 \pm 0.140$	5	$0.920 \pm 0.021$	$0.991 \pm 0.004$	$0.898 \pm 0.009$	$0.992 \pm 0.002$	$0.790 \pm 0.006$
10	$1.000 \pm 0.000$	$0.909 \pm 0.030$	$0.920 \pm 0.009$	$0.911 \pm 0.004$	10	$0.926 \pm 0.023$	$0.992 \pm 0.002$	$0.941 \pm 0.023$	$0.992 \pm 0.002$	$0.812 \pm 0.003$
20	$1.000 \pm 0.000$	$0.950 \pm 0.014$	$0.937 \pm 0.003$	$0.915 \pm 0.007$	20	$0.935 \pm 0.012$	$0.993 \pm 0.006$	$0.932 \pm 0.019$	$0.989 \pm 0.002$	$0.825 \pm 0.005$
50	$1.000 \pm 0.000$	$0.949 \pm 0.016$	$0.941 \pm 0.003$	$0.914 \pm 0.002$	50	$0.924 \pm 0.026$	$0.990 \pm 0.003$	$0.946 \pm 0.018$	$0.988 \pm 0.002$	$0.834 \pm 0.002$
75	$1.000 \pm 0.000$	$0.936 \pm 0.008$	$0.941 \pm 0.005$	$0.916 \pm 0.003$	75	$0.932 \pm 0.013$	$0.990 \pm 0.004$	$0.961 \pm 0.017$	$0.996 \pm 0.001$	$0.832 \pm 0.005$
100	$1.000 \pm 0.000$	$0.932 \pm 0.021$	$0.939 \pm 0.004$	$0.920 \pm 0.004$	100	$0.949 \pm 0.010$	$0.992 \pm 0.002$	$0.955 \pm 0.016$	$0.992 \pm 0.004$	$0.829 \pm 0.004$
200	$1.000 \pm 0.000$	$0.955 \pm 0.007$	$0.940 \pm 0.004$	$0.916 \pm 0.003$	200	$0.926 \pm 0.018$	$0.993 \pm 0.002$	$0.925 \pm 0.018$	$0.990 \pm 0.002$	$0.824 \pm 0.003$
500	$1.000 \pm 0.000$	$0.947 \pm 0.006$	$0.948 \pm 0.004$	$0.914 \pm 0.006$	500	$0.938 \pm 0.005$	$0.994 \pm 0.001$	$0.938 \pm 0.018$	$0.992 \pm 0.004$	$0.818 \pm 0.006$

(a) Pairwise Node Classification

(b) Link Prediction

Table 10: Effect of the number of walks on accuracy of GRAPHREACH.