

# Generalization Guarantee of Training Graph Convolutional Networks with Graph Topology Sampling

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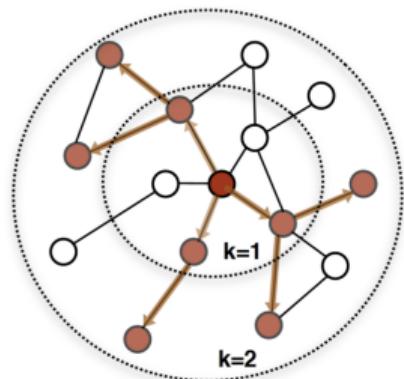
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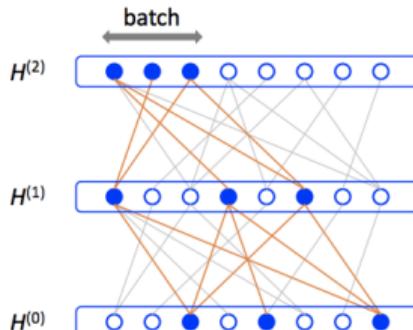
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# Sampling in Graph Neural Network

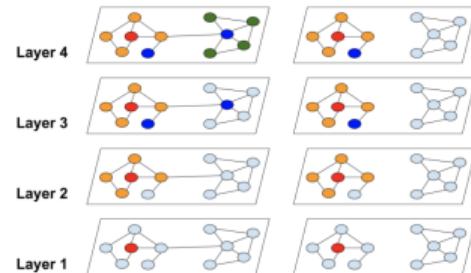
- Graph topology sampling: node-wise, layer-wise, subgraph sampling.
- Why sampling? To reduce computational & memory costs.



GraphSage (Hamilton et al., 2017)



FastGCN (Chen et al., 2018)



Cluster-GCN (Chiang et al., 2019)

*Under what conditions does a graph convolutional network (GCN) learned with graph topology sampling achieve satisfactory generalization?*

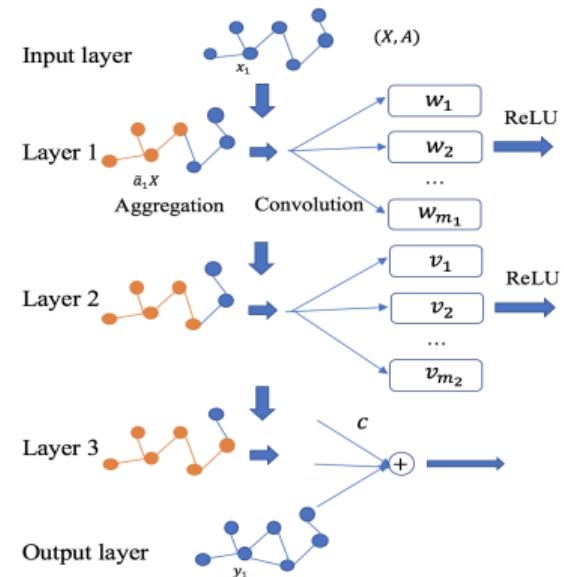
# Problem formulation and GCN Model

Consider a graph with  $N$  nodes and the normalized adjacency matrix  $\mathbf{A} \in \mathbb{R}^{N \times N}$ . We study a semi-supervised node classification problem with  $|\Omega|$  known labels, where  $\Omega \subset [N]$ . The goal is to predict unknown labels in  $[N]/\Omega$ .

- Feature matrix:  $\mathbf{X} \in \mathbb{R}^{N \times d}$ , distribution-free.
- Learner network: three-layer GCN with  $m_1, m_2$  neurons in the two hidden layers.

$$\begin{aligned} F_{\mathbf{A}}(\mathbf{e}_g, \mathbf{X}; \mathbf{W}, \mathbf{V}) &= \mathbf{e}_g^\top \mathbf{A} \cdot \text{ReLU}(\mathbf{r} + \mathbf{B}_2) \mathbf{C}, \\ \mathbf{r} &= \mathbf{A} \cdot \text{ReLU}(\mathbf{A} \mathbf{X} \mathbf{W} + \mathbf{B}_1) \mathbf{V} \end{aligned} \quad (1)$$

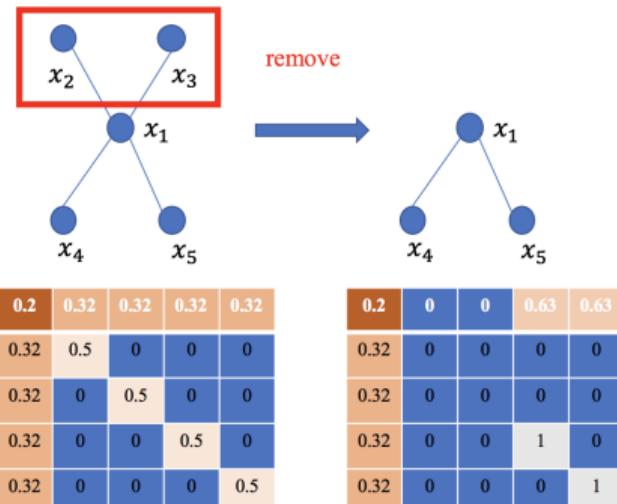
- Loss function: non-negative & convex, including  $\ell_2$  regression and cross entropy
- SGD with graph topology sampling.



# Graph topology Sampling

Categorize the nodes of the graph into different groups based on orders of degree. Implement group-wise uniform sampling.

- Randomly removing nodes and the incident edges.
- Higher sampling rate on higher-degree nodes.
- For sampled nodes, scale the corresponding columns of  $\mathbf{A}$ . For unsampled nodes, set the corresponding columns of  $\mathbf{A}$  to 0.



*Effective adjacency matrix  $\mathbf{A}^*$ :*  $\mathbf{A}^* = \mathbf{A} \cdot \text{diag}(p_1^*, p_2^*, \dots, p_N^*)$ , where  $p_i^*$ ,  $i \in [N]$  is the group-wise sampling probability of node  $i$ .  $\mathbf{A}^*$  is more balanced than  $\mathbf{A}$  for unbalanced graphs.

## Theorem 1 (informal)

For any small  $\gamma$ ,  $\epsilon > 0$ , as long as the overparameterization satisfies

$$m_1 = m_2 = m \geq \text{poly}\left(\|\mathbf{A}^*\|_\infty, \epsilon^{-1}\right), \quad (2)$$

and the sample complexity satisfies

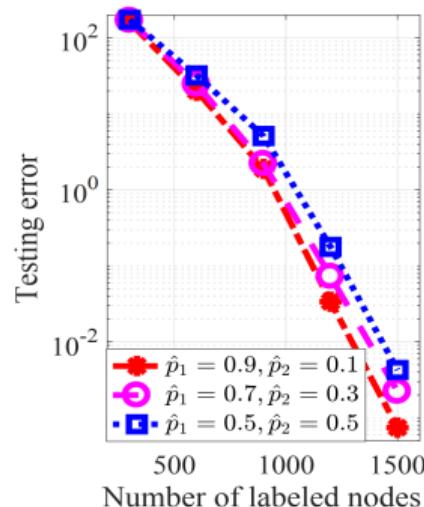
$$|\Omega| \geq \Theta(\text{poly}(\epsilon^{-1}, \|\mathbf{A}^*\|_\infty) \cdot \log N \log m), \quad (3)$$

- Training with graph topology sampling returns a model that has the same performance as the model trained by a GCN with  $\mathbf{A}^*$  as the *effective* adjacency matrix
- A generalization error at most  $(1 + \gamma)\text{OPT}_{\mathbf{A}^*} + \epsilon$ .
- $\text{OPT}_{\mathbf{A}^*}$ : the smallest population risk over the choices of  $\mathbf{C}^*$ ,  $\mathbf{W}_1^*$ ,  $\mathbf{W}_2^*$ ,  $\mathbf{V}_1^*$ ,  $\mathbf{V}_2^*$  in the target function, which is defined as

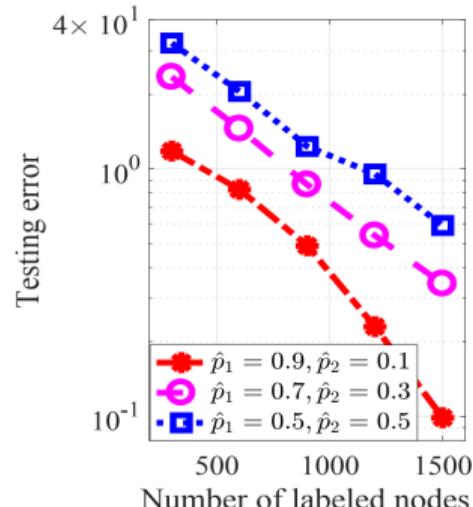
$$F_{\mathbf{A}^*}^*(\mathbf{e}_g, \mathbf{X}) = \mathbf{e}_g^\top \mathbf{A}^* (\Phi(\mathbf{r}_1) \odot \mathbf{r}_2) \mathbf{C}^*, \quad \mathbf{r}_1 = \mathbf{A}^* \phi_1(\mathbf{A}^* \mathbf{X} \mathbf{W}_1^*) \mathbf{V}_1^*, \quad \mathbf{r}_2 = \mathbf{A}^* \phi_2(\mathbf{A}^* \mathbf{X} \mathbf{W}_2^*) \mathbf{V}_2^* \quad (4)$$

## Numerical Results

- Graph sampling reduces the impact of dominating nodes, resulting in a more balanced  $\mathbf{A}^*$ .
- Similar results of FastGCN (Chen et al., 2018).



(a)



(b)

# References

## References

- Hamilton, W., Ying, Z., and Leskovec, J. Inductive representation learning on large graphs. In Advances in neural information processing systems, pp. 1024-1034, 2017.
- Chen, J., Ma, T., and Xiao, C. Fastgcn: Fast learning with graph convolutional networks via importance sampling. In International Conference on Learning Representations, 2018
- Chiang, W.-L., Liu, X., Si, S., Li, Y., Bengio, S., and Hsieh, C.-J. Cluster-gcn: An efficient algorithm for training deep and large graph convolutional networks. In Proceedings of the 25th ACM SIGKDD International Conference on Knowledge Discovery Data Mining, pp. 257-266, 2019.