Enhancing Attention-based Graph Neural Networks via Cardinality Preservation

Shuo Zhang¹, Lei Xie^{1,2,3}

The Graduate Center, CUNY¹, Hunter College, CUNY²
Weill Cornell Medicine, Cornell University³



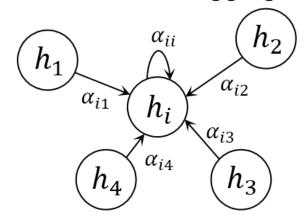




Motivation:

• We focus on the <u>attention-based GNNs</u>, which are GNNs adopting attention mechanism in aggregations. Although they have achieved promising results on various tasks, the understanding of their discriminative power is still missing.

Attention-based Aggregator



Our approach:

- We reveal that previously proposed attention-based GNNs all exhibit <u>limited discriminative power</u>. The *only* reason is that the attention-based aggregators ignore the <u>cardinality information</u> when distinguishing distinct structures.
- We then propose Cardinality Preserved Attention (CPA) models to preserve cardinality in the attention mechanism to avoid the failure cases.
- Our experiments on node and graph classification tasks confirm our theoretical analysis and the improvements from our models.