Non-IID Transfer Learning on Graphs

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Abstract

Transfer learning refers to the transfer of knowledge or information from a relevant source domain to a target domain. However, most existing transfer learning theories and algorithms focus on IID tasks, where the source/target samples are assumed to be independent and identically distributed. Very little effort is devoted to theoretically studying the knowledge transferability on non-IID tasks, e.g., cross-network mining. To bridge the gap, in this paper, we propose rigorous generalization bounds and algorithms for cross-network transfer learning from a source graph to a target graph. The crucial idea is to characterize the cross-network knowledge transferability from the perspective of the Weisfeiler-Lehman graph isomorphism test. To this end, we propose a novel Graph Subtree Discrepancy to measure the graph distribution shift between source and target graphs. Then the generalization error bounds on cross-network transfer learning, including both cross-network node classification and link prediction tasks, can be derived in terms of the source knowledge and the Graph Subtree Discrepancy across domains. This thereby motivates us to propose a generic graph adaptive network (**GRADE**) to minimize the distribution shift between source and target graphs for cross-network transfer learning. Experimental results verify the effectiveness and efficiency of our **GRADE** framework on both cross-network node classification and cross-domain recommendation tasks.

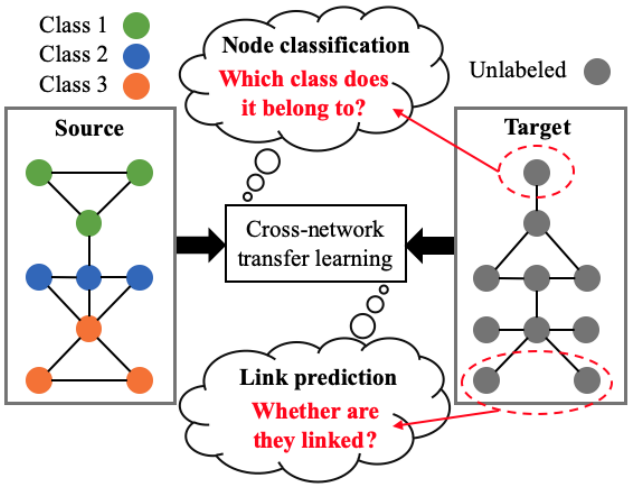


Figure 1: Illustration of the cross-network transfer learning (best viewed in color). Given a labeled source graph (color indicates node label) and an unlabeled target graph, cross-network transfer learning tackles the classification and link prediction tasks in the target graph, by leveraging the auxiliary information from the source graph.

Introduction

Transfer learning (Pan and Yang 2009) tackles the knowledge transferability from a source domain to a relevant target domain under a distribution shift. It has been theoretically shown (Ben-David et al. 2010; Zhang et al. 2019a; Acuna et al. 2021) that the generalization performance of a learning algorithm can be improved by leveraging the knowledge from the source domain, when the source and target domains have the same labeling space (also known as domain adaption (Pan and Yang 2009; Zhao et al. 2019)). To be more specific, the expected target error could be bounded in terms of the prediction error of the source domain and the distribution discrepancy across domains. It thus motivates a line of practical approaches with domain discrepancy minimization in the latent feature space (Ganin et al. 2016; Acuna et al. 2021). However, it is noteworthy that most of the existing theoretical guarantees and empirical algorithms hold the IID assumption that all the source/target samples are drawn independently from an identical source/target distribution. This hinders their applications on other tasks with non-IID data, e.g., node classification (Kipf and Welling 2017; Wu and He 2019; Tang et al. 2020) and recommendation (Zhao, Li, and Fu 2019; Zhou et al. 2021a,b) across domains.

In this paper, we focus on studying the problem of cross-network transfer learning, where the knowledge can be transferred from a source graph to a target graph[1]. To be specific, we consider the following cross-network mining tasks (see Figure 1). (1) Node classification (e.g., cross-network role identification (Zhu et al. 2021)): It aims to predict the class labels of nodes, by leveraging the knowledge from a source graph with fully labeled nodes. Following (Wu et al. 2020), we consider the unsupervised learning

[1]In this paper, we use "graph" and "network" interchangeably to denote the graph-structured data in every domain.

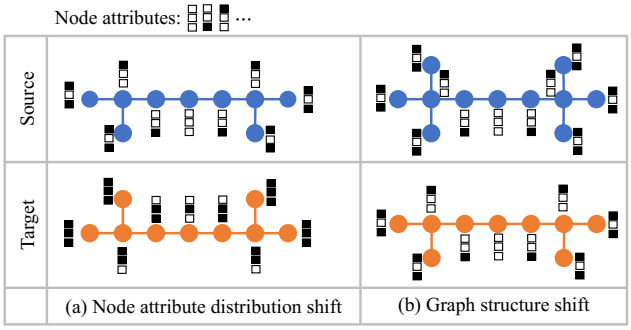


Figure 2: Illustration of distribution shift on graphs. (a) Source and target graphs share the same graph structure, but they have different node attribute distributions (node attribute is assumed to be a 3-dimensional feature vector, where the "black" box denotes 1 and the "white" box denotes 0). (b) Source and target graphs share a similar node attribute distribution but different graph structures.

scenarios where the target domain has no label information. (2) Link prediction (e.g., cross-domain recommendation (Li and Tuzhilin 2020; Zhao, Li, and Fu 2019)): It predicts the missing links in the incomplete target graph, by leveraging knowledge from a complete source graph. The unique challenge of cross-network transfer learning lies in the interdependence nature of nodes within the graph. As shown in Figure 2, the distribution shift between source and target graphs can be induced by node attribute and graph structure.

We start by developing a novel distribution discrepancy measure named Graph Subtree Discrepancy between source and target graphs. This is motivated by the connection of existing message-passing graph neural networks (Hamilton, Ying, and Leskovec 2017; Xu et al. 2018, 2019) and Weisfeiler-Lehman graph kernel (Weisfeiler and Leman 1968; Shervashidze et al. 2011). On one hand, the Weisfeiler-Lehman graph kernel holds that the non-parametric graph similarity can be decomposed into the similarity of a sequence of subtrees rooted at every node. On the other hand, message-passing graph neural networks tend to iteratively aggregate the messages from nodes' local neighborhoods in a parametric way. Then, Graph Subtree Discrepancy is designed to measure the distribution shift of graphs by estimating the similarity/difference of subtree representations learned from a message-passing graph neural network. As a result, it can inherit the benefits of high expressiveness from message-passing graph neural networks and feasible explanations from the Weisfeiler-Lehman graph kernel. Based on Graph Subtree Discrepancy, the generalization error bounds of cross-network transfer learning can be derived for cross-network mining tasks. By empirically minimizing the error upper bounds, we propose a generic graph adaptive network (**GRADE**) for cross-network transfer learning. The efficacy of the proposed **GRADE** framework is confirmed on various cross-network mining data sets. The major contributions of this paper are summarized as follows.

- We propose a novel Graph Subtree Discrepancy to measure the distribution shift of nodes' data distribution between source and target graphs. The generalization error bounds of cross-network transfer learning can then be derived based on Graph Subtree Discrepancy.
- We propose a generic Graph Adaptive Network (**GRADE**) framework for cross-network transfer learning, followed by the instantiations on cross-network node classification and cross-domain recommendation tasks.
- Extensive experiments demonstrate the effectiveness of our proposed **GRADE** framework on cross-network node classification and cross-domain recommendation tasks.

Related Work

Transfer Learning

Transfer learning (Pan and Yang 2009) refers to the knowledge transferability from a source domain to a relevant target domain. It is theoretically guaranteed (Mansour, Mohri, and Rostamizadeh 2009; Ben-David et al. 2010; Acuna et al. 2021; Wu and He 2021, 2022a,b; Wu et al. 2022a,b) that under mild conditions, the generalization performance of a learning algorithm on the target domain can be improved by leveraging the knowledge from the source domain. One common assumption behind those theoretical guarantees is that all the source/target samples are drawn independently from an independent and identical source/target probability distribution. More recently, (Levie, Isufi, and Kutyniok 2019; Ruiz, Chamon, and Ribeiro 2020; Zhu et al. 2021) proposed to analyze the transferability of graph neural networks using graphons or ego-graphs. Nevertheless, those works explore whether graph neural networks are transferable given two graphs. In contrast, in this paper, by using a hypothesis-dependent Graph Subtree Discrepancy, we show how knowledge can be transferred across graphs. The resulting theoretical analysis provides insight into designing practical cross-network transfer learning algorithms.

Cross-Network Mining

Cross-network mining aims to exhibit the informative patterns from multiple relevant networks/graphs for a variety of mining tasks, e.g. cross-network node classification (Wu et al. 2020; Zhang et al. 2019b; Zhu et al. 2021), multi-domain graph clustering (Ni et al. 2015), cross-domain recommendation (Zhao, Li, and Fu 2019; Li and Tuzhilin 2020), etc. There are two lines of solutions in exploring the knowledge transferability among different graphs. One is (Fang et al. 2015; Wu et al. 2020; Zhang et al. 2019b; Dai et al. 2022) that it extracts the signature subgraphs or consistent aggregation patterns from source and target graphs without a theoretical explanation. The other one is (Hu et al. 2020a,b; Qiu et al. 2020; Han et al. 2021) that it first pre-trains the graph neural networks on a large source graph for encoding the general graph structures, and then fine-tunes on the target graph for extracting the task-specific information. This might lead to a sub-optimal solution for unsupervised cross-network node classification tasks where no labeled target nodes are available for fine-tuning.

Preliminaries

Notation

Suppose that a graph is represented as $G = (V, E)$, where $V = \{v_1, \cdots, v_n\}$ is the set of n nodes and $E \subseteq V \times V$ is the edge set in the graph. In this paper, we consider the attributed graph. That is, each node is associated with a D-dimensional feature vector $x_v \in \mathbb{R}^D$. In the node classification task, each node is associated with a class label $y_v \in \{1, \cdots, C\}$, where C is the total number of classes. The graph G can also be represented by an adjacency matrix $A \in \mathbb{R}^{n \times n}$, where A_{ij} is the similarity between v_i and v_j on the graph. In the context of cross-network network mining, we denote $G^s = (V^s, E^s, X^s)$ and $G^t = (V^t, E^t, X^t)$ to be the source and target graphs, respectively. The associated adjacent matrices of source and target graphs are represented as A^s and A^t, respectively.

Problem Setting

Following (Wu et al. 2020; Zhu et al. 2021), we formally define the cross-network transfer learning problem as follows.

Definition 1. *(***Cross-Network Transfer Learning***) Given a source graph G^s and a target graph G^t, cross-network transfer learning aims to improve the prediction performance of node classification or link prediction in the target graph by using knowledge from the source graph, with the assumption that source and target graphs are related.*

As illustrated in Figure 2, the distribution shift across graphs can be induced by both node attribute[2] and graph structure. Compared to standard transfer learning (Ben-David et al. 2010), the additional distribution shift over complex graph structure leads to a much more challenging cross-network transfer learning problem setting.

Theoretical Results

In this section, we propose a novel Graph Subtree Discrepancy (GSD) to measure the distribution shift across graphs.

Connection of WL Kernels and GNNs

Weisfeiler-Lehman graph subtree kernel (Shervashidze et al. 2011) aims to measure the semantic similarity of a pair of input graphs. It learns a sequence of Weisfeiler-Lehman subgraphs for an input graph G: $\{G_0, G_1, \cdots, G_m, \cdots\} = \{(V, E, f_0), (V, E, f_1), \cdots, (V, E, f_m), \cdots\}$, where $G_0 = G$ and $f_0(v)$ denotes the raw node attributes of v for any $v \in G$. The "relabeling" function f_j $(j = 1, \cdots, m, \cdots)$ aims to represent the subtree structure rooted at $v \in G$ into a novel representation at every iteration (see Definition 2). Then, the structural information around node v can be represented as a sequence of Weisfeiler-Lehman subtrees $\{f_0(v), f_1(v), \cdots, f_m(v), \cdots\}$ with different depths m.

Definition 2. *(Weisfeiler-Lehman Subtree (Shervashidze et al. 2011)) Given a graph $G = (V, E)$ associated with initial node attributes $f_0(v)$ for $v \in V$, the Weisfeiler-Lehman subtree of depth m rooted at $v \in V$ can be represented as $f_m(v) := f_m\left(f_{m-1}(v); \cup_{u \in N(v)} f_{m-1}(u)\right)$ where $N(v)$ denotes the nearest neighbors of root node v.*

Note that in the original work (Shervashidze et al. 2011), the "relabeling" function of the WL subtree is simply given by the hashing table due to the discrete node attributes in the graph. Later, it is revealed (Hamilton, Ying, and Leskovec 2017; Wu, He, and Xu 2019; Geerts, Mazowiecki, and Perez 2021) that this WL subtree can actually recover the crucial message-passing modular in many popular message-passing GNNs, where the "relabeling" function $f_m(\cdot)$ is instantiated by deep neural networks for learning continuous node representation. We observe that for single graph mining task, e.g., node classification and link prediction, only the message-passing philosophy of the Weisfeiler-Lehman subtree is studied to design the graph neural networks (Hamilton, Ying, and Leskovec 2017; Kipf and Welling 2017). It maps the structurally equivalent nodes within one graph into the same low-dimensional representation in a latent feature space. However, in the context of cross-network transfer learning, we highlight that the following WL subtree kernel sheds light on measuring the distribution shift of source and target graphs in the feature space learned by GNNs.

Definition 3. *(Weisfeiler-Lehman Subtree Kernel (Shervashidze et al. 2011)) Given any two graphs $G = (V, E)$ with n nodes and $G' = (V', E')$ with n' nodes, the Weisfeiler-Lehman subtree kernel on two graphs G and G' with M iterations is defined as:*

$$k(G, G') = \frac{1}{nn'} \sum_{m=0}^{M} \sum_{v \in G} \sum_{v' \in G'} \delta\left(f_m(v), f_m(v')\right)$$

where $\delta(\cdot, \cdot)$ is the Dirac kernel, that is, it is 1 when its arguments are equal and 0 otherwise, and $f_m(v)$ represents the subtree pattern of depth m rooted at v.

The WL subtree kernel on graphs G and G' is rewritten as

$$k(G, G') = \sum_{m=0}^{M} s\left(\hat{\mathbb{P}}(G_m), \hat{\mathbb{Q}}(G'_m)\right)$$

where $\hat{\mathbb{P}}$ (or $\hat{\mathbb{Q}}$) is the empirical node distribution of graph G (or G'), i.e., $\hat{\mathbb{P}}(\tau|G_m) = \frac{1}{n}\sum_{i=1}^{n} \delta(f_m(v_i), \tau)$ for any subtree pattern τ. Here $s(\cdot, \cdot)$ is an inner product metric to measure the distribution similarity of $\hat{\mathbb{P}}(G_m)$ and $\hat{\mathbb{Q}}(G'_m)$, i.e., $s(\hat{\mathbb{P}}(G_m), \hat{\mathbb{Q}}(G'_m)) = \langle(\hat{\mathbb{P}}(\tau_1|G_m), \cdots, \hat{\mathbb{P}}(\tau_k|G_m), \cdots), (\hat{\mathbb{P}}(\tau_1|G'_m), \cdots, \hat{\mathbb{P}}(\tau_k|G'_m), \cdots)\rangle$. Furthermore, we have the following observations. (1) This nonparametric graph kernel (Shervashidze et al. 2011) can be exploited to measure the distribution shift between source and target graphs by counting the occurrence of subtrees when the node attributes are discrete. However, it might suffer when using continuous node attribute to estimate the graph similarity (or distribution discrepancy in the context of cross-network transfer learning). (2) Previous works (Wu et al. 2020; Zhu et al. 2021; Dai et al. 2022) focus on characterizing the distribution discrepancy over only the m^{th} subtree representation. They can thereby partially reveal the distribution discrepancy between source and target graphs in practice.

[2] In this paper, we consider that source and target graphs share the same node attribute space, but they might have different node attribute distributions.

Graph Subtree Discrepancy

Inspired by the connection of the WL subtree kernel and message-passing GNNs, we propose a parametric Graph Subtree Discrepancy (GSD). GSD measures the distribution discrepancy of graphs in the latent feature space induced by the message-passing GNNs.

Following WL subtree kernel (Shervashidze et al. 2011), we assume that given a graph $G = (V, E)$, the WL subtrees (i.e., $\{f_m(v)|v \in V\}$) with a fixed depth m are conditionally independent with respect to WL subgraph G_{m-1} at depth $m-1$, i.e., $f_m(u) \perp f_m(v)|G_{m-1}$. In this case, given the WL subgraph G_{m-1}, the subtree representations $\{f_m(v)|v \in V\}$ can thus be considered as IID samples. This tells us that the subtree (at depth m) distribution shift of source and target graphs can be measured by any existing distribution discrepancy measures, e.g, JS-divergence (Ben-David et al. 2010; Ganin et al. 2016), discrepancy distance (Mansour, Mohri, and Rostamizadeh 2009), Maximum Mean Discrepancy (Gretton et al. 2012) and f-divergence (Acuna et al. 2021). Therefore, our Graph Subtree Discrepancy can be formally defined as follows.

Definition 4. *(Graph Subtree Discrepancy) Given two graphs $G^s = (V^s, E^s)$ and $G^t = (V^t, E^t)$, the graph subtree discrepancy between them can be defined as:*

$$d_{GSD}\left(G^s, G^t\right) = \lim_{M\to\infty} \frac{1}{M+1} \sum_{m=0}^{M} d_b\left(G^s_m, G^t_m\right) \quad (1)$$

where $d_b(\cdot,\cdot)$ is the base domain discrepancy.

For example, we can use the discrepancy distance (Mansour, Mohri, and Rostamizadeh 2009) to instantiate the base domain discrepancy $d_b(\cdot,\cdot)$, which is defined as

$$d_b(G^s_m, G^t_m) = \sup_{h,h'\in\mathcal{H}} \left|\mathbb{E}_{v\in V^s}\left[L\left(h\left(f_m(v)\right), h'(f_m(v))\right)\right] - \mathbb{E}_{v\in V^t}\left[L\left(h\left(f_m(v)\right), h'(f_m(v))\right)\right]\right| \quad (2)$$

We see that GSD recursively estimates the subtrees' distribution discrepancy between source and target graphs at different depths. Here the subtree representation can be learned by existing passage-passing GNNs (Hamilton, Ying, and Leskovec 2017; Veličković et al. 2018; Xu et al. 2019).

Error Bounds

Next, we derive the error bounds for cross-network transfer learning based on GSD. Let $\mathcal{H}$ be the hypothesis space. For any hypothesis $h \in \mathcal{H}$, the node classification error on graph G of a message-passing GNN (with L convolutional layers) can be defined as $\epsilon(h \circ f) = \mathbb{E}_{v\in G}[\mathcal{L}(h(f(v)), y)]$, where $f(\cdot)$ extracts the node representation and $\mathcal{L}(\cdot,\cdot)$ is the loss function. Without loss of generality, we focus on the commonly used GNNs with the feature extraction $f(v) = f_L(v)$ (using only the output of the final graph convolutional layer (Kipf and Welling 2017; Hamilton, Ying, and Leskovec 2017; Veličković et al. 2018)). The following theorem shows that in the cross-network node classification, the expected error in the target graph can be bounded in terms of the classification error in the source graph and the distribution discrepancy across graphs.

Theorem 1. *(Cross-Network Node Classification) Assume that there are a source graph G^s and a target graph G^t and the base domain discrepancy $d_b(\cdot,\cdot)$ of GSD is instantiated by the discrepancy distance (see Eq. (2)). Given a message-passing GNN with the feature extractor f and the hypothesis $h \in \mathcal{H}$, the node classification error in the target graph can be bounded as follows.*

$$\epsilon_t(h \circ f) \le \epsilon_s(h \circ f) + d_{GSD}\left(G^s, G^t\right) + \lambda^* + R^*$$

where $\lambda^* = \mathbb{E}_{v\in V^t}[\mathcal{L}(h^s_*(f(v)), h^t_*(f(v)))]$ measures the prediction difference of optimal source and target hypotheses on the target nodes, and $R^* = \mathbb{E}_{v\in V^s}[\mathcal{L}(y, h^s_*(f(v)))] + \mathbb{E}_{v\in V^t}[\mathcal{L}(h^t_*(f(v)), y)]$ is the Bayes error on the source and target graphs. y is the class label of v. In this case, $h^s_* \in \arg\min_{h\in\mathcal{H}} \mathbb{E}_{v\in V^s}[\mathcal{L}(h(f(v)), y)]$ and $h^t_* \in \arg\min_{h\in\mathcal{H}} \mathbb{E}_{v\in V^t}[\mathcal{L}(h(f(v)), y)]$ are the optimal source and target hypotheses, respectively.

Compared to previous work (Zhu et al. 2021), our error bound of Theorem 1 is hypothesis-dependent. That is, the knowledge transferability can be enhanced, if the message-passing GNN learns a latent feature space such that the subtree distribution shift of source and target graphs is minimized. This is in sharp contrast to previous work which focuses on evaluating the transferability of a trained GNN model. Therefore, Theorem 1 provides insights on designing practical cross-network transfer learning algorithms by minimizing the error upper bound.

We have similar results for cross-network link prediction. That is, the label space of link prediction is $\mathcal{Y} = \{0, 1\}$, where $y = 1$ if the link of a pair of nodes exists, $y = 0$ otherwise. In this case, the loss of the intra-graph link prediction is defined as $\epsilon(h \circ f) = \mathbb{E}_{u,v\in V\times V}[\mathcal{L}(h([f_L(u)||f_L(v)]), y)]$, where $[\cdot||\cdot]$ denote the vector concatenation.

Theorem 2. *(Cross-Network Link Prediction) With assumptions in Theorem 1, and let $\mathcal{L}(y, \tilde{y}) = |y - \tilde{y}|$ and the hypothesis class $\mathcal{H}$ is given by the multi-layer perceptrons, if the loss of the link prediction is defined as $\epsilon^{link}(h \circ f) = \mathbb{E}_{u,v\in V\times V}[\mathcal{L}(h([f_L(u)||f_L(v)]), y)]$, then the link prediction error in the target graph can be bounded as follows.*

$$\epsilon^{link}_t(h) \le \epsilon^{link}_t(h) + d_{GSD}\left(G^s, G^t\right) + \lambda^*_{link} + R^*_{link}$$

where $\lambda^*_{link} = \mathbb{E}_{(u,v)\in V^t\times V^t}[\mathcal{L}(h^s_*([f(u)||f(v)]), h^t_*([f(u)||f(v)]))]$ measures the difference of optimal source and target hypotheses on the target graph, and $R^*_{link} = \mathbb{E}_{(u,v)\in V^s\times V^s}[\mathcal{L}(y, h^s_*([f(u)||f(v)]))] + \mathbb{E}_{(u,v)\in V^t\times V^t}[\mathcal{L}(h^t_*([f(u)||f(v)]), y)]$ is the Bayes error. In this case, $h^s_* \in \arg\min_{h\in\mathcal{H}} \mathbb{E}_{(u,v)\in V^s\times V^s}[\mathcal{L}(h([f(u)||f(v)]), y)]$, and $h^t_* \in \arg\min_{h\in\mathcal{H}} \mathbb{E}_{(u,v)\in V^t\times V^t}[\mathcal{L}(h([f(u)||f(v)]), y)]$ are optimal source and target hypothesises, respectively.

Proposed Framework

In this section, we propose a cross-network transfer learning framework named Graph Adaptive Network (**GRADE**).

Objective Function

The objective function of a generic cross-network transfer learning framework (**GRADE**) is summarized as follows.

$$\min_{\theta} C(G^s;\theta) + \lambda \cdot d_{GSD}(G^s, G^t;\theta) \tag{3}$$

where θ denotes all the trainable parameters. $C(G^s;\theta)$ is the task-specific loss function on the source graph, and $d_{GSD}(G^s, G^t;\theta)$ is the discrepancy minimization between source and target graphs. $\lambda \geq 0$ is a hyper-parameter to balance these terms. Note that $C(G^s;\theta)$ might also contain the task-specific loss function on the target graph, if label information is partially available in the target domain.

Algorithms

Following the framework of Eq. (3), we present the instantiated algorithms for two cross-network mining tasks, including cross-network node classification (**GRADE-N**) and cross-domain recommendation (**GRADE-R**).

Cross-Network Node Classification We focus on the cross-network node classification setting from a source graph with labeled nodes to a target graph with only unlabeled nodes. The goal is to identify the class label of every node in the target domain, by leveraging the relevant knowledge from the source domain. The objective function of **GRADE-N** can be instantiated as follows.

$$\begin{aligned}\min_{\theta_f,\theta_h} \quad & \mathcal{L}\left(h\left(f(G^s;\theta_f);\theta_h\right), Y^s\right) \\ & + \lambda \cdot d_{GSD}\left(f(G^s;\theta_f), f(G^t;\theta_f)\right)\end{aligned} \tag{4}$$

where $f(\cdot)$ is the message-passing graph neural network function parameterized by θ_f, and $h(\cdot)$ is the classifier function (MLP is adopted in the experiments) parameterized by θ_h. $\mathcal{L}(\cdot,\cdot)$ is the cross-entropy loss function for cross-network node classification in the experiments (mean square error loss function can be applied for regression task).

Specifically, we adopt Graph Convolutional Network (GCN) (Kipf and Welling 2017) as the base model to extract the subtree representations of a graph. Then, the subtree pattern of depth m rooted at v can be represented as follows.

$$f_m(v) = \sigma\Big(\sum\nolimits_{u\in\{v\}\cup N(v)} \widehat{a}_{vu} W^m f_{m-1}(u)\Big) \tag{5}$$

where $\widehat{A} = (\widehat{a}_{vu}) \in \mathbb{R}^{n\times n}$ (n is the number of nodes) is the re-normalization of the adjacency matrix A with added self-loops, and W^m is the trainable matrix at m^{th} layer. $\sigma(\cdot)$ is the non-linear activation function. After M iterations, we obtain the sequence of subtree representations rooted at v: $f_0(v), f_1(v), \cdots, f_M(v)$, where $f_0(v)$ is the raw node attributes of v. Following (Kipf and Welling 2017), the final representation $f_M(v)$ can be applied to identify the class label of node v. In addition, we consider finite iterations (e.g., M) of the message-passing graph neural network for estimating GSD. That is,

$$d_{GSD}\left(f(G^s;\theta_f), f(G^t;\theta_f)\right) = \frac{1}{M+1}\sum_{m=0}^{M} d_b\left(G^s_m, G^t_m\right) \tag{6}$$

Cross-Domain Recommendation Cross-domain recommendation learns the user preference in the target domain, by leveraging the rich information from a relevant source domain. The objective function of **GRADE-R** can be instantiated as follows.

$$\begin{aligned}\min_{\theta_f,\theta_{h'}} \quad & \mathcal{L}\left(h'\left(f(G^s;\theta_f);\theta_{h'}\right)\right) + \mathcal{L}\left(h'\left(f(G^t;\theta_f);\theta_{h'}\right)\right) \\ & + \lambda \cdot d_{GSD}\left(f(G^s;\theta_f), f(G^t;\theta_f)\right)\end{aligned} \tag{7}$$

where $f(\cdot)$ is the message-passing graph neural network function parameterized by θ_f, and $h'(\cdot)$ is the link prediction function parameterized by $\theta_{h'}$.

More specifically, we adopt GCN (see Eq. (5)) as the base model $f(\cdot)$ to extract the subtree representations of a graph. The graph subtree discrepancy $d_{GSD}(\cdot,\cdot)$ can also be given by Eq. (6) over those subtree representations. In addition, following (He et al. 2017; Zhao, Li, and Fu 2019), we adopt the multi-layer perceptron as the link prediction function $h'(\cdot)$ to infer whether a link of two nodes exists. That is,

$$h'\left((u,v), y_{uv};\theta_{h'}\right) = \text{BCE}\left(\text{MLP}_{\theta_{h'}}\left(f(u)||f(v)\right), y_{uv}\right)$$

where y_{uv} is the link label (i.e., $y_{uv}=1$ if u and v are linked, $y_{uv}=0$ otherwise) for any $u,v \in V^s$ or $u,v \in V^t$. Here $\text{BCE}(\cdot)$ denotes the binary cross-entropy, and $\text{MLP}_{\theta_{h'}}(\cdot)$ is a multi-layer perceptron function.

Experiment

Experimental Setup

Data Sets For cross-network node classification, we use the following data sets: Airport networks (Ribeiro, Saverese, and Figueiredo 2017) (Brazil, USA and Europe); Citation network (Wu et al. 2020; Tang et al. 2008) (ACMv9 (A) and DBLPv8 (D)); Social network (Shen et al. 2020; Li et al. 2015) (Blog1 (B1) and Blog2 (B2)); and Agriculture data (Wang et al. 2021) (Maize (M) and Maize_UNL (MU)).

For cross-domain recommendation, we evaluate the models on the Amazon data set (He and McAuley 2016). We adopt two pairs of real-world cross-domain data sets from Amazon-5cores, including CD and Music, Book and Movie. Note that most existing cross-domain recommendation algorithms (Hu, Zhang, and Yang 2018; Zhang et al. 2020) assume that source and target domains have the same group of users. To validate the effectiveness of our proposed approach, we consider two scenarios: (1) Overlapping users: following (Hu, Zhang, and Yang 2018), source and target domains have the same group of users; (2) Disjoint users: the users of source and target domains are different.

Baselines For cross-network node classification, we use the following baselines: (1) SourceOnly: GCN (Kipf and Welling 2017), SGC (Wu et al. 2019), GCNII (Chen et al. 2020); (2) Feature-only adaptation: DAN (Long et al. 2015), DANN (Ganin et al. 2016), MDD (Zhang et al. 2019a); (3) Cross-network adaptation: AdaGCN (Dai et al. 2022), UDAGCN (Wu et al. 2020), EGI (Zhu et al. 2021).

For cross-domain recommendation, we use the following baselines: (1) Single-domain recommendation: BPR (Rendle et al. 2009), NeuMF (He et al. 2017); (2) Cross-domain recommendation: CoNet (Hu, Zhang, and Yang

Methods	USA → Brazil	USA → Europe	Brazil → USA	Brazil → Europe	Europe → USA	Europe → Brazil	Avg.
GCN	$0.366_{\pm 0.011}$	$0.371_{\pm 0.004}$	$0.491_{\pm 0.011}$	$0.452_{\pm 0.012}$	$0.439_{\pm 0.001}$	$0.298_{\pm 0.022}$	0.403
SGC	$0.527_{\pm 0.022}$	$0.430_{\pm 0.009}$	$0.432_{\pm 0.005}$	$0.479_{\pm 0.000}$	$0.447_{\pm 0.002}$	$0.481_{\pm 0.011}$	0.466
GCNII	$0.344_{\pm 0.086}$	$0.393_{\pm 0.025}$	$0.470_{\pm 0.056}$	$0.494_{\pm 0.018}$	$0.460_{\pm 0.012}$	$0.542_{\pm 0.011}$	0.450
DAN	$0.504_{\pm 0.020}$	$0.393_{\pm 0.000}$	$0.436_{\pm 0.006}$	$0.393_{\pm 0.010}$	$0.436_{\pm 0.003}$	$0.542_{\pm 0.000}$	0.451
DANN	$0.500_{\pm 0.005}$	$0.386_{\pm 0.011}$	$0.402_{\pm 0.048}$	$0.350_{\pm 0.062}$	$0.436_{\pm 0.000}$	$0.538_{\pm 0.005}$	0.435
MDD	$0.500_{\pm 0.005}$	$0.378_{\pm 0.000}$	$0.402_{\pm 0.048}$	$0.350_{\pm 0.062}$	$0.402_{\pm 0.048}$	$0.477_{\pm 0.081}$	0.418
AdaGCN	$0.466_{\pm 0.065}$	$0.434_{\pm 0.004}$	$\mathbf{0.501_{\pm 0.003}}$	$0.486_{\pm 0.021}$	$0.456_{\pm 0.034}$	$0.561_{\pm 0.081}$	0.484
UDA-GCN	$\mathbf{0.607_{\pm 0.059}}$	$0.388_{\pm 0.007}$	$0.497_{\pm 0.005}$	$\mathbf{0.510_{\pm 0.019}}$	$0.434_{\pm 0.042}$	$0.477_{\pm 0.024}$	0.486
EGI	$0.523_{\pm 0.013}$	$0.451_{\pm 0.011}$	$0.417_{\pm 0.021}$	$0.454_{\pm 0.046}$	$0.452_{\pm 0.029}$	$\mathbf{0.588_{\pm 0.011}}$	0.481
GRADE-N	$0.550_{\pm 0.062}$	$\mathbf{0.457_{\pm 0.027}}$	$0.497_{\pm 0.010}$	$0.506_{\pm 0.004}$	$\mathbf{0.463_{\pm 0.001}}$	$\mathbf{0.588_{\pm 0.032}}$	**0.510**

Table 1: Cross-network node classification on the Airport network

Methods	Citation		Social	
	A → D	D → A	B1 → B2	B2 → B1
GCN	$0.44_{\pm 0.01}$	$0.57_{\pm 0.05}$	$0.41_{\pm 0.03}$	$0.45_{\pm 0.04}$
SGC	$0.43_{\pm 0.00}$	$0.61_{\pm 0.00}$	$0.33_{\pm 0.11}$	$0.27_{\pm 0.06}$
GCNII	$0.47_{\pm 0.00}$	$0.56_{\pm 0.01}$	$0.39_{\pm 0.02}$	$0.47_{\pm 0.06}$
DAN	$0.34_{\pm 0.01}$	$0.42_{\pm 0.06}$	$0.41_{\pm 0.02}$	$0.42_{\pm 0.02}$
DANN	$0.37_{\pm 0.02}$	$0.38_{\pm 0.01}$	$0.41_{\pm 0.02}$	$0.42_{\pm 0.02}$
MDD	$0.35_{\pm 0.03}$	$0.39_{\pm 0.03}$	$0.39_{\pm 0.01}$	$0.42_{\pm 0.02}$
AdaGCN	$0.45_{\pm 0.01}$	$0.57_{\pm 0.04}$	$0.50_{\pm 0.06}$	$0.52_{\pm 0.03}$
UDA-GCN	$\mathbf{0.52_{\pm 0.03}}$	$0.60_{\pm 0.01}$	$0.47_{\pm 0.01}$	$0.47_{\pm 0.01}$
EGI	$0.49_{\pm 0.04}$	$0.40_{\pm 0.01}$	$0.49_{\pm 0.03}$	$0.52_{\pm 0.01}$
GRADE-N	$0.48_{\pm 0.01}$	$\mathbf{0.64_{\pm 0.01}}$	$\mathbf{0.57_{\pm 0.04}}$	$\mathbf{0.54_{\pm 0.01}}$

Table 2: Cross-network node classification on the citation and social networks

Methods	M → MU		MU → M	
	MAE	R^2	MAE	R^2
GCN	$0.49_{\pm 0.01}$	$0.13_{\pm 0.02}$	$0.68_{\pm 0.03}$	$0.30_{\pm 0.05}$
GCNII	$0.47_{\pm 0.02}$	$0.19_{\pm 0.06}$	$0.69_{\pm 0.04}$	$0.25_{\pm 0.02}$
DANN	$0.49_{\pm 0.00}$	$0.10_{\pm 0.01}$	$0.72_{\pm 0.03}$	$0.19_{\pm 0.07}$
RSD	$0.52_{\pm 0.01}$	$0.02_{\pm 0.06}$	$0.73_{\pm 0.01}$	$0.17_{\pm 0.05}$
AdaGCN	$0.45_{\pm 0.06}$	$0.25_{\pm 0.08}$	$\mathbf{0.65_{\pm 0.02}}$	$\mathbf{0.35_{\pm 0.04}}$
UDA-GCN	$0.45_{\pm 0.07}$	$0.26_{\pm 0.09}$	$0.68_{\pm 0.01}$	$0.27_{\pm 0.00}$
GRADE-N	$\mathbf{0.35_{\pm 0.04}}$	$\mathbf{0.53_{\pm 0.09}}$	$\mathbf{0.65_{\pm 0.01}}$	$\mathbf{0.35_{\pm 0.03}}$

Table 3: Plant phenotyping on the agriculture data set

2018), PPGN (Zhao, Li, and Fu 2019), CGN (Zhang et al. 2020), EGI (Zhu et al. 2021).

Model Configuration We adopt two hidden layers in the base GCN model when implementing the **GRADE**[3] algorithms. We set $\lambda = 0.02$ for cross-network node classification and $\lambda = 0.1$ for the cross-domain recommendation.

Cross-Network Node Classification

Table 1 and Table 2 provide the cross-network node classification results of **GRADE-N**. Here we report the classification accuracy, i.e., mean and standard deviation over 5 runs. We observe that (1) the cross-network node classification algorithms outperform the vanilla graph neural networks and the feature-only adaptation methods, and (2) in most cases, the proposed **GRADE-N** algorithm improves the node classification performance (up to 13%) over baselines.

In addition, we investigate the effectiveness of **GRADE-N** on the regression task. In this case, we use mean square error (MSE) as the loss function of Eq. (4). Table 3 provides the results of **GRADE-N** on the agriculture data set. Here we use two regression evaluation metrics: mean absolute error (MAE) and R^2. Since MDD (Zhang et al. 2019a) focuses only on the classification setting, we use another state-of-the-art adaptation regression baseline RSD (Chen et al. 2021) in our experiments. It is observed that our proposed **GRADE-N** outperforms the state-of-the-art baselines for both MAE (lower is better) and R^2 (higher is better).

Cross-Domain Recommendation

Results on overlapping users Table 4 provides the cross-domain recommendation results on the Amazon data set. Here we use three recommendation metrics to evaluate our algorithms: hit ratio (HR@k), mean reciprocal rank (MRR@k), and normalized discounted cumulative gain (NDCG@k) where k is 10. Following (Hu, Zhang, and Yang 2018; Zhang et al. 2020), we only consider the users shared by both source and target domains. We have the following observations. (1) Single-domain recommendation methods study the user preference in the target domain from limited observed user-item interactions. They have inferior performance due to network sparsity. (2) Cross-domain recommendation methods improve the model performance by leveraging the user preference information from the source domain. (3) The proposed **GRADE-R** outperforms the state-of-the-art cross-domain recommendation baselines.

Results on disjoint users Table 5 provides the results when the users of source and target domains are disjoint. Most existing cross-domain recommendation approaches (Hu, Zhang, and Yang 2018; Zhang et al. 2020) cannot be applied to this scenario, because they require the shared users to explore common knowledge across domains. Thus, we only consider the single-domain recommenda-

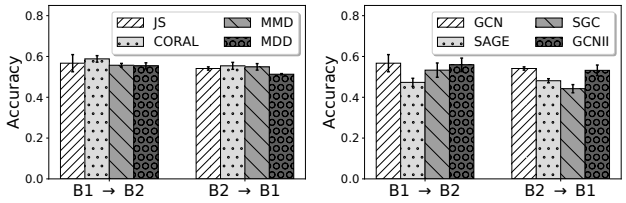
[3]https://github.com/jwu4sml/GRADE

Methods	CD → Music			Music → CD			Book → Movie		
	HR@10	MRR@10	NDCG@10	HR@10	MRR@10	NDCG@10	HR@10	MRR@10	NDCG@10
BPRMF	$0.18_{\pm 0.00}$	$0.06_{\pm 0.00}$	$0.09_{\pm 0.00}$	$0.26_{\pm 0.01}$	$0.10_{\pm 0.01}$	$0.13_{\pm 0.01}$	$0.20_{\pm 0.00}$	$0.07_{\pm 0.00}$	$0.10_{\pm 0.00}$
NeuMF	$0.27_{\pm 0.01}$	$0.10_{\pm 0.01}$	$0.15_{\pm 0.01}$	$0.33_{\pm 0.01}$	$0.11_{\pm 0.02}$	$0.16_{\pm 0.01}$	$0.29_{\pm 0.02}$	$0.10_{\pm 0.01}$	$0.15_{\pm 0.01}$
CoNet	$0.41_{\pm 0.02}$	$0.16_{\pm 0.00}$	$0.21_{\pm 0.01}$	$0.33_{\pm 0.01}$	$0.12_{\pm 0.02}$	$0.17_{\pm 0.02}$	$0.32_{\pm 0.02}$	$0.12_{\pm 0.02}$	$0.16_{\pm 0.02}$
CGN	$0.36_{\pm 0.02}$	$0.12_{\pm 0.02}$	$0.18_{\pm 0.02}$	$0.48_{\pm 0.04}$	$0.19_{\pm 0.02}$	$0.26_{\pm 0.03}$	$0.36_{\pm 0.03}$	$0.14_{\pm 0.02}$	$0.19_{\pm 0.02}$
PPGN	$0.42_{\pm 0.02}$	$0.18_{\pm 0.01}$	$0.23_{\pm 0.01}$	$0.56_{\pm 0.04}$	$0.28_{\pm 0.03}$	$0.34_{\pm 0.04}$	$0.49_{\pm 0.01}$	$0.24_{\pm 0.01}$	$0.29_{\pm 0.01}$
EGI	$\mathbf{0.45}_{\pm \mathbf{0.01}}$	$\mathbf{0.20}_{\pm \mathbf{0.00}}$	$\mathbf{0.25}_{\pm \mathbf{0.01}}$	$\mathbf{0.60}_{\pm \mathbf{0.01}}$	$0.27_{\pm 0.02}$	$0.34_{\pm 0.01}$	$0.46_{\pm 0.02}$	$0.22_{\pm 0.02}$	$0.27_{\pm 0.01}$
GRADE-R	$\mathbf{0.45}_{\pm \mathbf{0.01}}$	$\mathbf{0.20}_{\pm \mathbf{0.00}}$	$\mathbf{0.25}_{\pm \mathbf{0.00}}$	$\mathbf{0.60}_{\pm \mathbf{0.01}}$	$\mathbf{0.31}_{\pm \mathbf{0.01}}$	$\mathbf{0.37}_{\pm \mathbf{0.01}}$	$\mathbf{0.51}_{\pm \mathbf{0.02}}$	$\mathbf{0.25}_{\pm \mathbf{0.00}}$	$\mathbf{0.30}_{\pm \mathbf{0.01}}$

Table 4: Cross-domain recommendation on Amazon data set with overlapping users

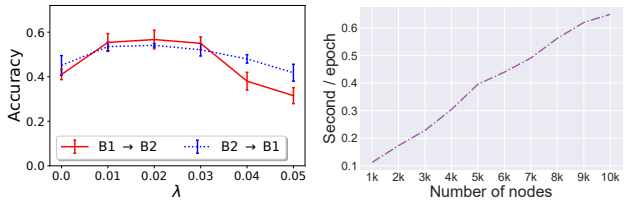
Methods	CD → Music			Music → CD			Book → Movie		
	HR@10	MRR@10	NDCG@10	HR@10	MRR@10	NDCG@10	HR@10	MRR@10	NDCG@10
BPRMF	$0.17_{\pm 0.01}$	$0.06_{\pm 0.00}$	$0.08_{\pm 0.00}$	$0.12_{\pm 0.00}$	$0.04_{\pm 0.00}$	$0.06_{\pm 0.00}$	$0.17_{\pm 0.00}$	$0.06_{\pm 0.00}$	$0.08_{\pm 0.00}$
NeuMF	$0.28_{\pm 0.02}$	$0.10_{\pm 0.01}$	$0.14_{\pm 0.01}$	$0.13_{\pm 0.01}$	$0.04_{\pm 0.00}$	$0.06_{\pm 0.00}$	$0.23_{\pm 0.01}$	$0.08_{\pm 0.00}$	$0.12_{\pm 0.00}$
NeuMF(S+T)	$0.31_{\pm 0.01}$	$0.12_{\pm 0.01}$	$0.17_{\pm 0.01}$	$0.16_{\pm 0.02}$	$0.06_{\pm 0.01}$	$0.08_{\pm 0.01}$	$0.27_{\pm 0.02}$	$0.11_{\pm 0.01}$	$0.15_{\pm 0.01}$
EGI	$\mathbf{0.42}_{\pm \mathbf{0.01}}$	$0.17_{\pm 0.03}$	$0.22_{\pm 0.02}$	$\mathbf{0.23}_{\pm \mathbf{0.04}}$	$0.10_{\pm 0.01}$	$0.13_{\pm 0.02}$	$0.25_{\pm 0.00}$	$0.15_{\pm 0.00}$	$0.17_{\pm 0.00}$
GRADE-R	$\mathbf{0.42}_{\pm \mathbf{0.00}}$	$\mathbf{0.19}_{\pm \mathbf{0.00}}$	$\mathbf{0.24}_{\pm \mathbf{0.00}}$	$0.22_{\pm 0.03}$	$\mathbf{0.11}_{\pm \mathbf{0.00}}$	$\mathbf{0.14}_{\pm \mathbf{0.01}}$	$\mathbf{0.32}_{\pm \mathbf{0.06}}$	$\mathbf{0.19}_{\pm \mathbf{0.02}}$	$\mathbf{0.22}_{\pm \mathbf{0.03}}$

Table 5: Cross-domain recommendation on Amazon data set with disjoint users



(a) Base discrepancy (b) Base GNN

Figure 3: Performance of GRADE-N with different base discrepancies and base GNNs on social network



(a) Hyper-parameter sensitivity (b) Efficiency analysis

Figure 4: Model analysis of GRADE-N

tion baselines BPRMF (Rendle et al. 2009), NeuMF (He et al. 2017), and cross-domain recommendation baseline EGI (Zhu et al. 2021). In addition, we also extend NeuMF to the cross-domain recommendation scenarios by incorporating the recommendation loss in the source domain (denoted as "NeuMF (S+T)"). It is observed that the proposed **GRADE-R** outperforms the baselines by a large margin (up to 18% on HR@10) when the users are disjoint.

Analysis

Flexibility Figure 3 shows the performance of **GRADE-N** with different base discrepancies and base graph neural network architectures on social networks. It shows that our **GRADE** framework is flexible to incorporate existing domain discrepancy measures (i.e., JS-divergence (Ganin et al. 2016), CORAL (Sun and Saenko 2016), MMD (Gretton et al. 2012) and MDD (Zhang et al. 2019a)) and message-passing graph neural networks (i.e., GCN (Kipf and Welling 2017), SAGE (Hamilton, Ying, and Leskovec 2017), SGC (Wu et al. 2019) and GCNII (Chen et al. 2020)).

Hyper-parameter Sensitivity We investigate the impact of λ on **GRADE-N**. Figure 4(a) shows the results on the social networks. It shows that the proposed **GRADE-N** can achieve much better performance for $\lambda \in (0.01, 0.03)$. Thus, we use $\lambda = 0.02$ in the experiments.

Computational Efficiency We investigate the computational efficiency of **GRADE** framework. Following (Kipf and Welling 2017), we report the running time (measured in seconds wall-clock time) per epoch on the synthetic source and target graphs. Both graphs have n (i.e., $n_s = n_t = n$) nodes and $2n$ edges. As shown in Figure 4(b), we observe that the wall-clock time of **GRADE-N** is linear with respect to the number of nodes within the source and target graphs.

Conclusion

In this paper, we study the problem of cross-network transfer learning. We start by providing the theoretical analysis of cross-network transfer learning based on Graph Subtree Discrepancy. Then we propose a novel **GRADE** framework for cross-network transfer learning. Experiments demonstrate the effectiveness and efficiency of our **GRADE** framework.

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