

Bi-Level Contrastive Learning for Knowledge-Enhanced Molecule Representations

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Background

Task: Molecular Property Prediction

- Definition: Molecular property prediction involves using computational methods and machine learning techniques to estimate various properties of molecules, such as stability, reactivity, solubility, and biological activity.
- Importance:
	- Accelerated Drug Discovery: By predicting properties like toxicity and efficacy, researchers can identify promising drug candidates early, reducing the time and cost associated with experimental testing.
	- Material Science Advancement: Predicting properties such as conductivity or durability aids in designing materials with desired characteristics for various industrial applications.
	- Environmental Impact Assessment …

Task: Molecular Property Prediction

Example:

Aspirin (Acetylsalicylic Acid)

Blood-Brain Barrier Penetration (BBBP) task:

- Can it cross the blood-brain barrier?

Toxicity prediction tasks:

- Is it toxic in high doses?

Solubility prediction:

…

- How soluble is it in water?

Traditional Methods

Simplified Molecular Input Line Entry System (**SMILES**)

Example:

SMILES String

Aspirin $O=C(C)Oc1ccccc1C(=O)O$

Cyclohexane C1CCCCC1

Early approach (linear modeling):

SMILES ➔ one-hot encoding **→** feature vector

Main limitation:

Do not capture structural information (e.g., isomers CH_3CH_2OH and CH_3OCH_3)

GNN-Based Methods

Molecules are graphs

- Atoms as nodes and bonds as edges
- Capturing both the connectivity and spatial relationships

With advances in deep learning, **Graph Neural Networks (GNNs)** have become a prominent tool for learning molecular representations.

GNNs learn by aggregating information from a node's neighbors, making them well-suited to model interactions within molecular structures

GNN-Based Methods

Graph Convolutional Networks (GCN)

Graph Attention Networks (GAT)

GraphSAGE

…

GNN-Based Methods

Node Representation Graph Representation

 -1.0 -0.5 0.0 0.5 1.0 1.5 2.0 2.5

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 $\tilde{\mathbb{R}}z_G=f(\sum h_i)$

GNN-Based Methods – Pre-training

Researchers (Hu et al., ICLR 2020) found that GNN pre-training before fine-tuning effectively improves the performance of downstream tasks.

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Node-level pre-training strategy

GNN-Based Methods – Pre-training

GTransformer by GROVER (Rong et al, NeurIPS 2020)

Rong, Yu, et al. "Self-supervised graph transformer on large-scale molecular data." in NeurIPS 2020

GNN-Based Methods – Pre-training

 $k=1$

(Contextual property: the node-edge counts terms in alphabetical order)

Rong, Yu, et al. "Self-supervised graph transformer on large-scale molecular data." in NeurIPS 2020

Key: C_N-DOUBLE1_O-SINGLE1

Knowledge-Enhanced Methods

KANO (Fang et al., 2023)

- 1. Build ElementKG, which encompasses the knowledge of chemical elements.
- 2. Augment the molecule with ElementKG, and transfer the knowledge to the molecule representation with contrastive learning.

13 Fang, Yin, et al. "Knowledge graph-enhanced molecular contrastive learning with functional prompt." *Nature Machine Intelligence*

NFM ∤ κG **Bi-Interaction Pooling** Layer 1

KGE NFM (Ye et al., 2021)

Concatenate static KG embedding to the protein embedding to predict drug-target interaction.

(Also can be used for molecular property prediction tasks)

Ye, Qing, et al. "A unified drug–target interaction prediction framework based on knowledge graph and recommendation system." *Nature communications*.

Background

Knowledge-Enhanced Methods

Motivation

1. Publicly available biochemical knowlegde bases remained largely unused for the molecule property prediction task.

2. No framework/method is integrating such knowledge into molecular property task.

Motivation

In the biochemical databases, a molecule can be associated with many entities of different types.

For example:

- 1. Statistical properties (structure complexity, mass, rotatable bonds, covalent unit count …)
- 2. Drug (Medication)
- 3. Protein
- **Pathway**
- 5. Disease
- 6. Phenotype
- 7. Other molecules

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Proposed method: **Gode** (**G**raph as a N**ode**)

Step 1: Molecule-Level Pre-training / M-GNN (Molecule Graph Neural Network) Pre-training

- M-GNN is a graph encoder encoding a molecule MG into a vector h_{MG}
- We follow GROVER's pre-training strategy for M-GNN.

Node-level Contextual Property Prediction

- We randomly select a node (atom) v in the molecule, and use its embedding h_v to predict its contextual property. (Multi-class Classification)

$$
\sum_v^{{\mathcal V}_m'}\log P(p_v|{\mathbf h}_v)
$$

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Graph-level Motif Prediction

- The molecule graph embedding h_{MG} is used to predict the presence of functional group motifs in the molecule. (Multi-label Classification)

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\sum_{j=1}^n y_j \log P(M_j|\mathbf{h}_{\text{MG}}) + (1-y_j) \log (1 - P(M_j|\mathbf{h}_{\text{MG}}))
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Step 2.1: KG Embedding Initialization & Molecule-Centric Knowledge Graph Extraction

Table 1: Overview of MolKG, a biochemical dataset we construct from PubChemRDF and PrimeKG.

Triples: 2,523,867 **# Entities: 184,819 # Relations: 39 # Entity Types: 7** # Molecules: 65,454

Entity Types

effect/phenotype, drug, pathway, molecule. gene/protein, disease, value

Relations

drug_protein, contraindication, indication, off-label use, drug_drug, drug_effect, defined_bond_stereo_count, tpsa, rotatable_bond_count, xlogp3-aa, structure_complexity, covalent_unit_count, defined_atom_stereo_count, molecular_weight, hydrogen_bond_donor_count, undefined_bond_stereo_count, isotope_atom_count, exact_mass, mono_isotopic_weight, total_formal_charge, hydrogen_bond_acceptor_count, non-hydrogen_atom_count, tautomer_count, undefined_atom_stereo_count, xlogp3, cooccurence_molecule_molecule, cooccurence_molecule_disease, cooccurence molecule gene/protein, neighbor 2d, neighbor 3d, has same connectivity, has component, has isotopologue, has parent, has_stereoisomer, to_drug, closematch, type, in_pathway

We train a TransE model on the entire MolKG for the initialization of the node embeddings

Step 2.1: KG Embedding Initialization & Molecule-Centric Knowledge Graph Extraction

To get the KG data for each molecule, we extract a κ-hop subgraph from the entire KG to capture a its local neighborhood information.

To avoid over-smoothing, we terminate the expansion of a graph branch upon reaching a non-molecule node

Step 2.2: Molecule-Centric Knowledge Graph Pretraining / K-GNN Pre-training

- K-GNN is a graph encoder encoding a molecule node into a vector h_{KG} We conduct the following task to pre-train K-GNN:

- **(1) Edge Prediction**, a multi-class classification task aiming at correctly predicting the edge type between two nodes.
- **(2) Node Prediction**, a multi-class classification task predicting the category of a node in the molecule-centric subgraph.
- **(3) Node-level Motif Prediction**, a multi-label classification task predicting the motif of the central molecule node.

$$
\mathcal{L}_{\mathrm{K}} = \lambda_{\mathrm{m}} \underbrace{\sum_{j=1}^{n} \mathrm{BCE}(y_{j}, P(M_{j}|\mathbf{h}_{c}))}_{\text{motif prediction}} + \lambda_{\mathrm{e}} \underbrace{\mathrm{CE}(v', P(v'|\mathbf{h}_{v}))}_{\text{node prediction}} + \lambda_{\mathrm{e}} \underbrace{\mathrm{CE}((u, v)', P((u, v')|\mathbf{h}_{u} \oplus \mathbf{h}_{v}))}_{\text{edge prediction}}
$$
\n(3)

Step 3: Contrastive Learning

- We align the same molecule encoded by M-GNN and K-GNN with contrastive learning

To make the task challenging, we divide the negative samples into two groups :

- (1) Randomly sampled from all negative molecule-centric KG subgraphs;
- (2) Sampled from the sub-graphs of the neighbor molecule nodes connected to the positive molecule node

$$
\mathcal{L}_{\text{InfoNCE}} = -\frac{1}{N} \sum_{i=1}^{N} \left[y_i \log(\text{sim}(f(m_i), g(s_i))) + (1 - y_i) \log(1 - \text{sim}(f(m_i), g(s_i))) \right],
$$

 $\mathrm{sim}(f(m_i),g(s_i))) = \frac{\exp{(\tau^{-1}\mathbf{h}_{\mathrm{MG}(i)}^{\mathrm{T}}\mathbf{h}_{\mathrm{KG}(i)})}}{\exp{(\tau^{-1}\mathbf{h}_{\mathrm{MG}(i)}^{\mathrm{T}}\mathbf{h}_{\mathrm{KG}(i)})+1}},$

Step 4: Fine-Tuning

- Fine-tune the pre-trained molecule embedding on the downstream tasks!

For each molecule:

- (1) We encode it with the pre-trained M-GNN and K-GNN.
- (2) We extract additional molecule-level features (as a multihot vector) with RDKit (following previous works).
- (3) We concatenate three embeddings into one, and fine-tune it on downstream classification/regression tasks.

Our method: **Gode** (**G**raph as a N**ode**)

Experiment - Datasets

Six classification tasks:

Experiment - Datasets

Five regression tasks:

Main Result

Table 2: Performance on six classification benchmarks (ROC-AUC, higher is better) and five regression benchmarks (RMSE for FreeSolv, ESOL, Lipophilicity and MAE for QM7/8, lower is better). We report the mean and standard deviation. Top-3 and top-1 results are highlighted in **bold and bold red**, respectively. We highlight the backbone model, and the models that apply the backbone. Table split: Non-KG methods, other KG-based methods, and our method.

Ablation Study

Findings:

1.[C1 vs C3]: KGE initialization is important.

2.[C0 vs C3] and (C8 vs C9): K-GNN training is important.

3.[C2 vs C3]: Contrastive learning is important.

4.[Backbone (blue line) vs C4]: Information can be transferred from K-GNN to M-GNN through contrastive learning.

5.[C3 vs C5] and [C4 vs C6]: 2-hop outperforms 3-hop.

6. $[C4 \text{ vs } C7]$ and $[C6 \text{ vs } C8]$ and $[C3 \text{ vs } C9]$: Functional group features improve results.

Figure 2: Ablation study configurations and results. (Left) Variants. "KGE": KG embedding initialization. " κ ": κ -hop KG subgraph. "Pret.": KG-level pre-training. "Cont.": contrastive learning. "Embedding": input to MLP for fine-tuning. (Right) Performance comparison across different datasets and configurations. We highlight the **best** configuration for each dataset. The dotted blue lines denote the performance achieved by the backbone model (GROVER).

Ablation Study

Table 3: Study the Effects of (top) Bi-level Self-supervised Pre-training and (below) Relationship Exclusion from MolKG.

Findings:

- 1. Both M-GNN and K-GNN pre-training are crucial for the performance gain.
- 2. Different relation types have different impacts on tasks. (e.g., Removing "tautomer count" and "covalent unit count" notably impacted FreeSolv and QM7, suggesting their importance for predicting solvation and quantum properties.)

Visualization

Figure 4: t-SNE visualization of molecule embeddings across two tasks. Each color represents a unique scaffold (molecule substructure). We compare the embeddings from GROVER, GROVER augmented with static KG embeddings from our MolKG, KANO, and GODE. The clustering quality is assessed using the DB index.

- GROVER shows poor separation with intermingled molecule scaffolds
- GROVER + MolKG static embeddings show improved but still overlapping clusters
- GODE achieves:
	- Clearest cluster separation
	- Minimal scaffold overlap
	- Lowest Davies-Bouldin Index,

outperforming KANO and other approaches

Conclusion

Thank you!

Patrick Jiang