



# Learning to Count Isomorphisms with Graph Neural Networks

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# Outline

- 1 .Introduction**
- 2 .Proposed Model: Count-GNN**
- 3 .Experiments**
- 4 .Conclusions**



# PART 01

# Introduction



# Introduction

**01**

**Isomorphism  
Counting**

**02**

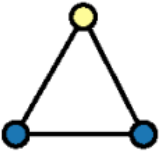
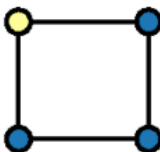
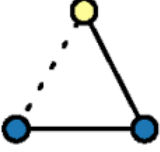
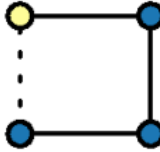
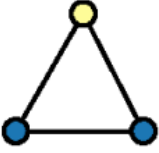
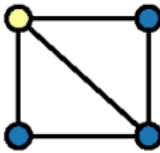
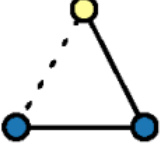
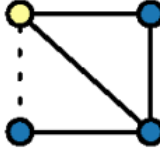
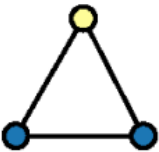
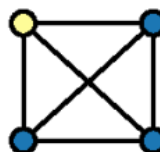
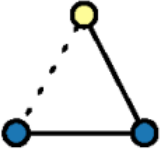
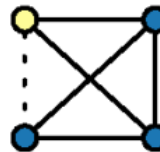
**Related Work**

**03**

**Contribution**

# 01 Isomorphism Counting

## Subgraph Isomorphisms Counting

Pattern	Graph	Count	Pattern	Graph	Count
		0			0
		4			1
		6			2

## 02 Related Work

Exact Database Methods[1][2][3]	Approximate Database Methods[4]	GNN Methods[5][6]
<p><b>Search-Based</b></p> <p><b>Exact Results</b></p> <p><b>Excessive Computation Cost</b></p>	<p><b>Sampling-Based</b></p> <p><b>Approximate Results</b></p> <p><b>Large Computation Cost</b></p>	<p><b>GNN+Counter</b></p> <p><b>Approximate Results</b></p> <p><b>Little Computation Cost</b></p>

[1] Ullmann, J. R. 1976. An algorithm for subgraph isomorphism. JACM.

[2] Cordella, L. P. et al. 2004. A (sub) graph isomorphism algorithm for matching large graphs. PAMI.

[3] Carletti, V. et al. 2017. Challenging the time complexity of exact subgraph isomorphism for huge and dense graphs with VF3. PAMI.

[4] Bressan, M. et al. 2021. Faster motif counting via succinct color coding and adaptive sampling. ACM Trans Knowl Discov Data.

[5] Liu, X. et al. 2020. Neural subgraph isomorphism counting. KDD.

[6] Zhengdao, C. et al. 2020. Can Graph Neural Networks Count Substructures? NeurIPS.

## 02 Related Work

# Shortage of General GNN-based Isomorphism Counting Models

### Node Centric

### Fixed Graph Representation

**Isomorphism  
Counting focus on  
topology  
information**

**Hard to capture  
interaction among  
nodes**

**Distinct structures  
of queries**

**Fixed graph  
representation**

## 03 Contribution

# Count-GNN

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**Edge-Centric Aggregating  
GNN**

**Query-Conditioned Graph  
Modulation**

**Experiments on Four Benchmark Datasets**  
**8x~26x speedups over exact methods**  
**3.1x~6.5x speedups over GNN methods**

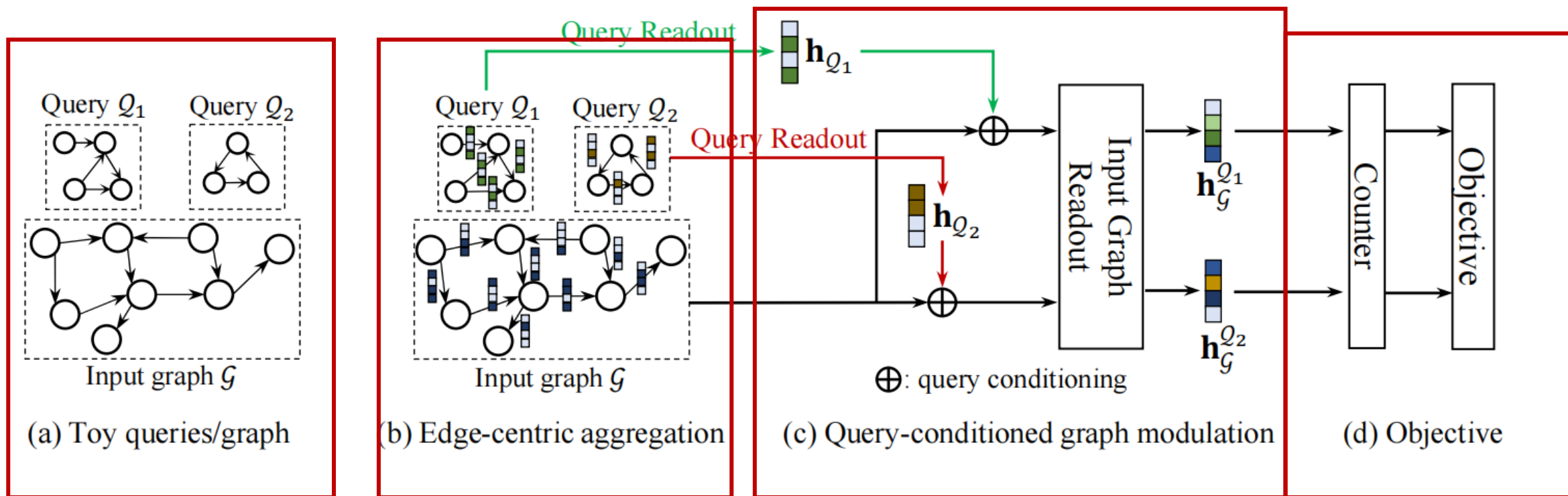


# PART 02

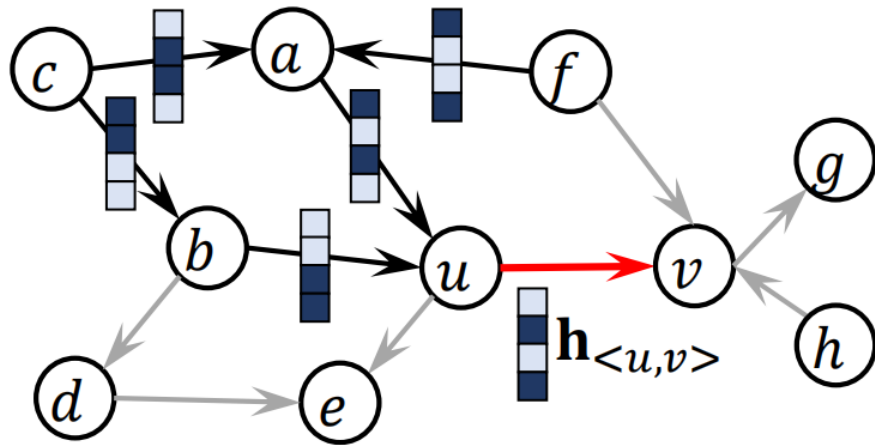
## Proposed Model: Count-GNN



# Overall-Framework



# Edge-Centric Aggregation



(a) Edge-centric aggregation

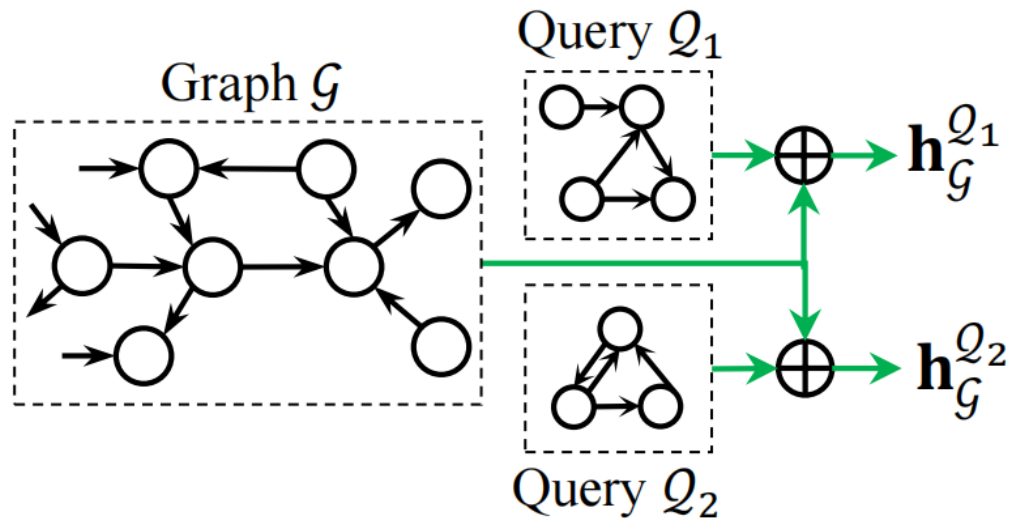
$$\mathbf{h}_{\langle u, v \rangle}^0 = \mathbf{x}_u \parallel \mathbf{x}_{\langle u, v \rangle} \parallel \mathbf{x}_v \in \mathbb{R}^{d_0}$$

$$\mathbf{h}_{\langle u, v \rangle}^l = \sigma(\mathbf{W}^l \mathbf{h}_{\langle u, v \rangle}^{l-1} + \mathbf{U}^l \mathbf{h}_{\langle \cdot, u \rangle}^{l-1} + \mathbf{b}^l)$$

$$\mathbf{h}_{\langle \cdot, u \rangle}^{l-1} = \text{AGGR}(\{\mathbf{h}_{\langle i, u \rangle}^{l-1} \mid \langle i, u \rangle \in E\})$$

- ◆  $\mathbf{x}_*$ : encoded nodes or edges into input features
- ◆  $\parallel$ : concatenation operator
- ◆  $\mathbf{h}_{\langle u, v \rangle}^l$ : message on edge  $\langle u, v \rangle$  in the  $l$ -th layer
- ◆  $\mathbf{h}_{\langle \cdot, u \rangle}^{l-1}$ : message aggregated from the preceding edges of  $\langle u, v \rangle$
- ◆ **AGGR**: aggregation operator
- ◆  $\mathbf{W}^l, \mathbf{U}^l, \mathbf{b}^l$ : learnable parameter

# Query graph representation



(b) Modulation conditioned on queries

$$\mathbf{h}_{\mathcal{Q}} = \sigma(\mathbf{Q} \cdot \text{AGGR}(\{\mathbf{h}_{\langle u,v \rangle} | \langle u,v \rangle \in E_{\mathcal{Q}}\}))$$

$$\tilde{\mathbf{h}}_{\langle u,v \rangle} = (\gamma_{\langle u,v \rangle} + \mathbf{1}) \odot \mathbf{h}_{\langle u,v \rangle} + \beta_{\langle u,v \rangle}$$

$$\gamma_{\langle u,v \rangle} = \sigma(\mathbf{W}_{\gamma} \mathbf{h}_{\langle u,v \rangle} + \mathbf{U}_{\gamma} \mathbf{h}_{\mathcal{Q}} + \mathbf{b}_{\gamma})$$

$$\beta_{\langle u,v \rangle} = \sigma(\mathbf{W}_{\beta} \mathbf{h}_{\langle u,v \rangle} + \mathbf{U}_{\beta} \mathbf{h}_{\mathcal{Q}} + \mathbf{b}_{\beta})$$

$$\mathbf{h}_{\mathcal{G}}^{\mathcal{Q}} = \sigma(\mathbf{G} \cdot \text{AGGR}(\{\tilde{\mathbf{h}}_{\langle u,v \rangle} | \langle u,v \rangle \in E_{\mathcal{G}}\}))$$

- ◆  $\mathbf{Q}$ : encoded nodes or edges into input features
- ◆  $\gamma_{\langle u,v \rangle}, \beta_{\langle u,v \rangle}$ : FiLM factors for scaling and shifting
- ◆  $\odot$ : Hadamard product
- ◆  $\mathbf{W}_{\gamma}, \mathbf{U}_{\gamma}, \mathbf{W}_{\beta}, \mathbf{U}_{\beta}$ : learnable weight matrices
- ◆  $\mathbf{b}_{\gamma}, \mathbf{b}_{\beta}$ : learnable bias vectors

# Counter Module and Overall Objective

## Counter Module

$$\hat{n}(Q, \mathcal{G}) = \text{RELU}(\mathbf{w}^\top \text{MATCH}(\mathbf{h}_Q, \mathbf{h}_{\mathcal{G}}) + b)$$

$$\text{MATCH}(\mathbf{x}, \mathbf{y}) = \text{FCL}(\mathbf{x} \parallel \mathbf{y} \parallel \mathbf{x} - \mathbf{y} \parallel \mathbf{x} \odot \mathbf{y})$$

- ◆ **MATCH**( $\cdot, \cdot$ ): outputs the matchability between its arguments
- ◆ **w, b**: learnable weight vector and bias
- ◆ **FCL**: full connected layer

## Overall Objective

$$\frac{1}{|\mathcal{T}|} \sum_{(Q_i, \mathcal{G}_i, n_i) \in \mathcal{T}} |\hat{n}(Q_i, \mathcal{G}_i) - n_i| + \lambda \mathcal{L}_{\text{FiLM}} + \mu \|\Theta\|_2^2$$

$$\mathcal{L}_{\text{FiLM}} = \sum_{(Q_i, \mathcal{G}_i, n_i) \in \mathcal{T}} \sum_{\langle u, v \rangle \in E_{\mathcal{G}_i}} \|\gamma_{\langle u, v \rangle}\|_2^2 + \|\beta_{\langle u, v \rangle}\|_2^2$$

- ◆  $n_i$ : ground truth
- ◆  $\mathcal{L}_{\text{FiLM}}$ : regularizer on the FiLM factors
- ◆  $\|\Theta\|_2^2$ : learnable weight vector and bias

## Theoretical Analysis of Count-GNN

**Lemma 1** (Generalization). *Count-GNN can be reduced to a node-centric GNN, i.e., Count-GNN can be regarded as a generalization of the latter.*  $\square$

**Theorem 1** (Expressiveness). *Count-GNN is more powerful than node-centric GNNs, which means (i) for any two non-isomorphic graphs that can be distinguished by a node-centric GNN, they can also be distinguished by Count-GNN; and (ii) there exists two non-isomorphic graphs that can be distinguished by Count-GNN but not by a node-centric GNN.*  $\square$

# PART 03

## Experiments



# Datasets & Baselines

## • Datasets

	SMALL	LARGE	MUTAG	OGB-PPA
# Queries	75	122	24	12
# Graphs	6,790	3,240	188	6,000
# Triples	448,140	395,280	4,512	57,940
Avg( $ V_Q $ )	5.20	8.43	3.50	4.50
Avg( $ E_Q $ )	6.80	12.23	2.50	4.75
Avg( $ V_G $ )	32.62	239.94	17.93	152.75
Avg( $ E_G $ )	76.34	559.68	39.58	1968.29
Avg(Counts)	14.83	34.42	17.76	13.83
Max( $ L $ )	16	64	7	8
Max( $ L' $ )	16	64	4	1

## • Baselines

### Conventional GNNs:

GCN , GAT, DPGCNN, GIN, DiffPool

### GNN-based isomorphism counting models:

RGCN-DN, RGCN-Sum, RGIN-DN, RGIN-Sum[2], LRP, DMPNN-LRP[3]

### Exact Approaches:

VF2, Peregrine[1]

[1] Jamshidi, K. et al. 2020. Peregrine: a pattern-aware graph mining system. EuroSys.

[2] Liu, X. et al. 2020. Neural subgraph isomorphism counting. KDD.

[3] Liu, X.; and Song, Y. 2022. Graph convolutional networks with dual message passing for subgraph isomorphism counting and matching. AAAI.



# Empirical Results

Methods	SMALL			LARGE			MUTAG			OGB-PPA		
	MAE ↓	Q-error ↓	Time/s ↓	MAE ↓	Q-error ↓	Time/s ↓	MAE ↓	Q-error ↓	Time/s ↓	MAE ↓	Q-error ↓	Time/s ↓
GCN	14.8 ± 0.5	2.1 ± 0.1	7.9 ± 0.2	33.0 ± 0.4	3.5 ± 1.0	29.8 ± 0.7	19.9 ± 9.7	4.2 ± 1.5	0.88 ± 0.02	36.8 ± 1.4	2.1 ± 0.4	12.5 ± 0.3
GraphSAGE	14.0 ± 2.7	2.5 ± 0.8	<b>7.0</b> ± 0.1	33.8 ± 1.6	<u>3.1</u> ± 0.4	<b>27.5</b> ± 1.3	13.9 ± 2.8	4.7 ± 0.8	0.88 ± 0.02	32.5 ± 4.5	2.5 ± 0.5	<b>11.1</b> ± 0.1
GAT	12.2 ± 0.7	2.0 ± 0.5	14.3 ± 0.3	37.3 ± 5.2	6.0 ± 1.2	59.4 ± 0.7	30.8 ± 6.7	6.0 ± 0.3	0.91 ± 0.01	35.8 ± 2.4	2.2 ± 0.6	30.4 ± 0.8
DPGCNN	16.8 ± 0.7	2.9 ± 0.2	21.7 ± 0.4	39.8 ± 3.7	5.4 ± 1.6	64.8 ± 0.9	27.5 ± 2.5	4.9 ± 0.6	1.54 ± 0.01	38.4 ± 1.2	2.3 ± 0.3	19.4 ± 0.7
DiffPool	14.8 ± 2.6	2.1 ± 0.4	<b>7.0</b> ± 0.1	34.9 ± 1.4	3.8 ± 0.7	32.5 ± 0.7	6.4 ± 0.3	2.5 ± 0.2	0.86 ± 0.00	35.9 ± 4.7	2.7 ± 0.3	15.4 ± 2.2
GIN	12.6 ± 0.5	2.1 ± 0.1	<u>7.1</u> ± 0.0	35.9 ± 0.6	4.8 ± 0.2	33.5 ± 0.6	21.3 ± 1.0	5.6 ± 0.7	0.41 ± 0.01	34.6 ± 1.4	2.5 ± 0.5	<u>12.3</u> ± 0.4
RGCN-Sum	24.2 ± 6.1	3.7 ± 1.2	13.2 ± 0.1	80.9 ± 26.3	6.3 ± 1.3	61.8 ± 0.2	8.0 ± 0.8	<b>1.5</b> ± 0.1	0.89 ± 0.01	34.5 ± 13.6	4.7 ± 0.8	33.0 ± 0.2
RGCN-DN	16.6 ± 2.3	3.2 ± 1.3	48.1 ± 0.2	73.7 ± 29.2	9.1 ± 4.2	105.0 ± 0.4	7.3 ± 0.8	2.6 ± 0.2	1.19 ± 0.04	57.1 ± 15.7	5.0 ± 1.3	31.2 ± 0.1
RGIN-Sum	10.7 ± 0.3	2.0 ± 0.2	12.2 ± 0.0	33.2 ± 2.2	4.2 ± 1.3	61.4 ± 1.0	10.8 ± 0.9	1.9 ± 0.1	0.45 ± 0.02	29.1 ± 1.7	1.2 ± 0.6	21.0 ± 1.2
RGIN-DN	11.6 ± 0.2	2.4 ± 0.0	49.7 ± 1.8	32.5 ± 1.9	4.3 ± 2.0	104.0 ± 1.5	8.6 ± 1.9	3.3 ± 0.8	0.73 ± 0.03	35.8 ± 6.4	4.4 ± 1.1	28.8 ± 0.3
DMPNN-LRP	<u>9.1</u> ± 0.2	<u>1.5</u> ± 0.1	32.4 ± 1.4	<b>28.1</b> ± 1.3	3.4 ± 1.5	184.2 ± 1.8	<u>5.4</u> ± 1.8	<u>1.8</u> ± 1.0	<u>0.13</u> ± 0.05	<b>25.6</b> ± 4.9	<u>1.1</u> ± 1.3	63.0 ± 0.6
Count-GNN	<b>8.5</b> ± 0.0	<b>1.4</b> ± 0.1	<b>7.9</b> ± 0.3	30.9 ± 4.3	<b>2.5</b> ± 0.5	<b>59.2</b> ± 1.7	<b>4.2</b> ± 0.1	1.8 ± 0.0	<b>0.02</b> ± 0.00	28.7 ± 3.9	<b>1.0</b> ± 0.2	<b>18.1</b> ± 0.6
VF2	0	1	1049.2 ± 2.7	0	1	9270.5 ± 5.9	0	1	1.30 ± 0.04	0	1	5836.3 ± 4.8
Peregrine	-	-	72.4 ± 2.0	-	-	904.2 ± 4.5	-	-	0.2 ± 0.03	-	-	450.1 ± 3.9

## • Observations

- Count-GNN achieves 65x ~ 324x speedups over the classical VF2, 8x ~ 26x speedups over Peregrine
- Count-GNN is more efficient than other GNN-based isomorphism counting models
- Count-GNN is more accurate than conventional GNN models by at least 30% improvements in most cases.

# Ablation Study & Parameter Sensitivity

Table 5: Ablation study on Count-GNN.

Methods	SMALL		LARGE		MUTAG	
	MAE	Q-error	MAE	Q-error	MAE	Q-error
Count-GNN\E	11.3	2.07	33.58	4.96	18.63	5.92
Count-GNN\M	8.66	1.46	<b>29.65</b>	3.34	4.41	1.82
Count-GNN	<b>8.54</b>	<b>1.41</b>	30.91	<b>2.46</b>	<b>4.22</b>	<b>1.76</b>

## • Ablation study

- **Count-GNN\E**: replaces the edge-centric aggregation with the node-centric GIN
- **Count-GNN\N**: replaces the query-conditioned modulation with a simple sumpooling as the readout for the input graph
- Count-GNN\E has the lowest accuracy
- Count-GNN\M performs better than Count-GNN\E
- Full model Count-GNN achieves the best performance

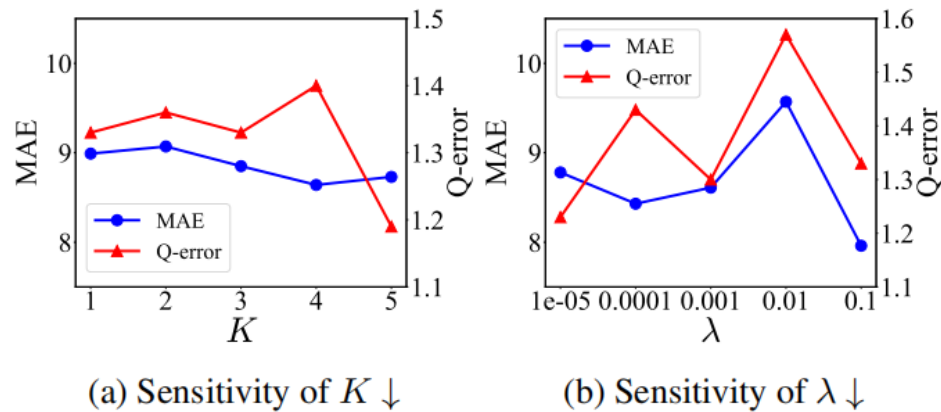


Figure II: Parameters sensitivity on dataset SMALL.

## • Parameters sensitivity

- As  $K$  increases, the performance in terms of MAE and Q-error generally become better, only with one exception on Q-error when  $K = 4$
- $\lambda = 0.01$  may result in an inferior performance. Interval  $[1e-5, 1e-3]$  might be a good range for superior performance of subgraph isomorphism counting.



# PART 04

## Conclusions



## Conclusions

- **Problem**

- Subgraph isomorphic counting

- **Proposed-Model: Count-GNN**

- Edge-centric message passing
- Query-conditioned graph modulation

- **Experiment**

- Count-GNN achieves significant speedups over exact methods
- Count-GNN is more efficient than other GNN-based isomorphism counting models
- Count-GNN is more accurate than conventional GNN models by at least 30% improvements in most cases.

# Thanks!

Paper, data & code available at <https://xingtongyu.netlify.app/>

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