TODYFORMER: TOWARDS HOLISTIC DYNAMIC GRAPH TRANSFORMERS WITH STRUCTURE-AWARE TOKENIZATION

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A APPENDIX

A.1 DATASET STATISTICS

In this section, we provide an overview of the statistics pertaining to two distinct sets of datasets utilized for the tasks of Future Link Prediction (FLP) and Dynamic Node Classification (DNC). The initial set, detailed in Table 1, presents information regarding the number of nodes, edges, and unique edges across seven datasets featured in Table 10 and Table 12. For these three datasets, namely Reddit, Wikipedia, and MOOC, all edge features have been incorporated, where applicable. Furthermore, within this table, the last column represents the percentage of Repetitive Edges, which signifies the proportion of edges that occur more than once within the dynamic graph.

Table 1: Dynamic Graph Datasets. **% Repetitive Edges**: % of edges which appear more than once in the dynamic graph.

Dataset	# Nodes	# Edges	# Unique Edges	Edge Features	Node Labels	Bipartite	% Repetitive Edges
Reddit	11,000	672,447	78,516	✓	✓	✓	54%
Wikipedia	9,227	157,474	18,257	✓	✓	✓	48%
MOOC	7,144	411,749	178,443	√	√	√	53%
LastFM	1980	1,293,103	154,993			√	68%
UCI	1899	59,835	13838			√	62%
Enron	184	125,235	2215				92%
SocialEvolution	74	2,099,519	2506				97%

A.1.1 TGB DATASET

In this section, we present the characteristics of datasets as proposed by the Dynamic Graph Encoder Leaderboard Huang et al. (2023). Similar to previous benchmark datasets, we have conducted comparisons regarding the number of nodes, edges, and type of graphs. Additionally, we report the Number of Steps and the Surprise Index, as defined in Poursafaei et al. (2022), which illustrates the ratio of test edges that were not observed during the training phase.

Table 2: Statistics of TGBL Dynamic Graph Datasets

Dataset	# Nodes	# Edges	# Steps	Edge Features	Bipartite	Surprise Index Poursafaei et al. (2022)
Wiki	9,227	157,474	152,757	✓	✓	0.108
Review	352,637	4,873,540	6,865	✓	✓	0.987
Coin	638,486	22,809,486	1,295,720	√		0.120
Comment	994,790	44,314,507	30,998,030	✓		0.823
Flight	18143	67,169,570	1,385	✓		0.024

A.2 IMPLEMENTATION DETAILS

In this section, we elucidate the intricacies of our implementation, providing a comprehensive overview of the specific parameters our model accommodates during hyperparameter optimization. Subsequently, we delve into a discussion of the optimal configurations and setups that yield the best performance for our proposed architecture.

Furthermore, in addition to an in-depth discussion of the baselines incorporated into our paper, we also offer a comprehensive overview of the respective hyperparameter configurations in this section. We are confident that with the open-sourcing of our code upon acceptance and the thorough descriptions of our model and baseline methodologies presented in the paper, our work is fully reproducible.

A.2.1 EVALUATION PROTOCOL

Transductive Setup: Under the transductive setting, a dataset is split normally by time, i.e., the model is trained on the first 70% of links, validated on %15 and tested on the rest.

Inductive Setup: In the inductive setting, we strive to test the model's prediction performance on edges with unseen nodes. Therefore, following (Wang et al., 2021), we randomly assign 10% of the nodes to the validation and test sets and remove any interactions involving them in the training set. Additionally, to ensure an inductive setting, we remove any interactions not involving these nodes from the test set.

A.2.2 Loss Function

As previously discussed in the main body of this paper, we focus on two specific downstream tasks: Future Link Prediction (FLP) and Dynamic Node Classification (DNC). For the former, we employ the binary cross-entropy loss, while for the latter, our model is trained through the minimization of the cross-entropy loss function. The formula for the binary cross-entropy loss is presented below:

$$H(y, \hat{y}) = -(y \cdot \log(\hat{y}) + (1 - y) \cdot \log(1 - \hat{y})) \tag{1}$$

where $y \in \{0, 1\}$ is the true label, and \hat{y} is the predicted probability that the instance belongs to class 1. Moreover, the formulation of the cross-entropy loss is as follows:

$$H(y, \hat{y}) = -\sum_{i} y_i \cdot \log(\hat{y}_i)$$
 (2)

where i represents the index over all classes, y_i is the true probability of the sample belonging to class i, encoded as a one-hot vector. It is 1 for the true class and 0 for all other classes. Finally, \hat{y}_i is the predicted probability of the sample belonging to class i.

A.2.3 BEST HYPERPARAMETERS FOR BENCHMARK DATASETS.

Table 3 displays the hyperparameters that have been subjected to experimentation and tuning for each dataset. For each parameter, a range of values has been tested as follows:

- Window Size (W): This parameter signifies the window length chosen for selecting the input subgraph based on edge timestamps. It falls within the range of $\in \{16384, 32768, 65536, 262144\}$.
- Number of Patches: This parameter indicates the count of equal and non-overlapping chunks for each input subgraph. It is the range of $\{8, 16, 32\}$.
- #Local Encoders: This parameter represents the number of local encoder layers within each block, and its value falls within the range of ∈ {1,2}.
- Neighbor Sampling (NS) mode: ∈ {uniform, last}. In the case of a uniform Neighbor Sampler (NS), it uniformly selects samples from the 1-hop interactions of a given node. Conversely, in last mode, it samples from the most recent interactions.
- Anchor Node Mode: ∈ {GlobalTarget, LocalInput, LocalTarget} depending on the mechanism of neighbor sampling we can sample from nodes within all patches (LocalInput), nodes within the next patch (LocalTarget), or global target nodes (GlobalTarget).
- Batch Size: $\{8, 16, 32, 64\}$
- Positional Encoding: $\in \{SineCosine, Time2Vec, Identity, Linear\}$

Dataset	Window Size (W)	Number of Patches	#Local Encoders	NS Mode	Anchor Node Mode	Batch Size
Reddit	262144	32	2	uniform	GlobalTarget	8
Wikipedia	65536	8	2	uniform	GlobalTarget	8
MOOC	65536	8	2	uniform	GlobalTarget	8
LastFM	262144	32	2	uniform	GlobalTarget	8
UCI	65536	8	2	uniform	GlobalTarget	8
Enron	65536	8	2	uniform	GlobalTarget	8
SocialEvolution	65536	8	2	uniform	GlobalTarget	8

Table 3: Best Parameters of the model pipeline after Hyperparameter search

SineCosine is utilized as the Positional Encoding (PE) method following the experiments conducted in Appendix A.3.3.

Selecting Best Checkpoint: Throughout all experiments, the models undergo training for a duration of 100 epochs, with the best checkpoints selected for testing based on their validation Average Precision (AP) performance.

A.2.4 BEST HYPERPARAMETERS FOR TGBL DATASET

In this section, we present the optimal hyperparameters used in our architecture design for each TGBL dataset. We conducted hyperparameter tuning for all TGBL datasets; however, due to time constraints, we explored a more limited set of parameters for the large-scale dataset. Despite Todyformer outperforming its counterparts on these datasets, there remains potential for further improvement through an extensive hyperparameter search.

Dataset	Window Size (W)	Number of Patches	First-hop NS size	NS Mode	Anchor Node Mode	Batch Size
TGBWiki	262144	32	256	uniform	GlobalTarget	32
TGBReview	262144	32	64	uniform	GlobalTarget	64
TGBComment	65536	8	64	uniform	GlobalTarget	256
TGBCOin	65536	8	64	uniform	GlobalTarget	96
TGBFlight	65536	8	64	uniform	GlobalTarget	128

Table 4: Optimal Window size W for downstream training.

A.3 MORE EXPERIMENTAL RESULT

In this section, we present the additional experiments conducted and provide an analysis of the derived results and conclusions.

A.3.1 FLP RESULT ON BENCHMARK DATASETS

Table 5 is an extension of Table 10, now incorporating the Wikipedia and Reddit datasets. Notably, for these two datasets, Todyformer attains the highest test Average Precision (AP) score in the Transductive setup. However, it secures the second-best and third-best positions in the Inductive setup for these Wikipedia and Reddit respectively. While the model does not attain the top position on these two datasets for inductive setup, its performance is only marginally below that of state-of-the-art (SOTA) models, which have previously achieved accuracy levels exceeding 99% Average Precision (AP).

A.3.2 FLP VALIDATION RESULT ON TGBL DATASET

As discussed in the paper, Todyformer has been compared to baseline methods using the TGBL dataset. Table 6 represents an extension of Table 11 specifically for validation (MRR). The results presented in both tables are in line with counterpart methods outlined in the paper by Huang et al. (2023). It is important to note that for the larger datasets, TCL, GraphMIxer, and EdgeBank were found to be impractical due to memory constraints, as mentioned in the paper.

Table 5: Future link Prediction Performance in AP (Mean \pm Std). **Bold** font and \underline{ul} font represent first- and second-best performance respectively.

Setting	Model	Wikipedia	Reddit	MOOC	LastFM	Enron	UCI	SocialEvol.
	JODIE	0.956 ± 0.002	0.979 ± 0.001	0.797 ± 0.01	0.691 ± 0.010	0.785 ± 0.020	0.869 ± 0.010	0.847 ± 0.014
Fransductive	DyRep	0.955 ± 0.004	$0.981 \pm 1e$ -4	0.840 ± 0.004	0.683 ± 0.033	0.795 ± 0.042	0.524 ± 0.076	0.885 ± 0.004
i i	TGAT	0.968 ± 0.001	$0.986 \pm 3e$ -4	0.793 ± 0.006	0.633 ± 0.002	0.637 ± 0.002	0.835 ± 0.003	0.631 ± 0.001
psı	TGN	0.986 ± 0.001	0.985 ± 0.001	0.911 ± 0.010	0.743 ± 0.030	0.866 ± 0.006	0.843 ± 0.090	0.966 ± 0.001
펿	CaW	0.976 ± 0.007	$0.988 \pm 2e$ -4	0.940 ± 0.014	$0.903 \pm 1e$ -4	0.970 ± 0.001	0.939 ± 0.008	$0.947 \pm 1e$ -4
1	NAT	0.987 ± 0.001	0.991 ± 0.001	0.874 ± 0.004	$0.859 \pm 1e$ -4	0.924 ± 0.001	0.944 ± 0.002	0.944 ± 0.010
	GraphMixer	0.974 ± 0.001	0.975 ± 0.001	0.835 ± 0.001	0.862 ± 0.003	0.824 ± 0.001	0.932 ± 0.006	$0.935 \pm 3e$ -4
	Dygformer	0.991 ± 0.0001	0.992 ± 0.0001	0.892 ± 0.005	0.901 ± 0.003	0.926 ± 0.001	0.959 ± 0.001	$0.952 \pm 2e$ -4
	DyG2Vec	0.995 ± 0.003	$0.996 \pm 2e$ -4	0.980 ± 0.002	$0.960 \pm 1e$ -4	0.991 ± 0.001	0.988 ± 0.007	$0.987 \pm 2e$ -4
	Todyformer	$0.996 \pm 2e ext{-}4$	$0.998 \pm 8\mathrm{e} ext{-}5$	$0.992 \pm \mathbf{7e\text{-}4}$	$0.976 \pm 3\mathrm{e} ext{-}4$	$0.995 \pm 6\mathrm{e} ext{-}4$	$0.994 \pm 4\mathrm{e} ext{-}4$	$0.992 \pm 1\mathrm{e} ext{-}4$
	JODIE	0.891 ± 0.014	0.865 ± 0.021	0.707 ± 0.029	0.865 ± 0.03	0.747 ± 0.041	0.753 ± 0.011	0.791 ± 0.031
ě	DyRep	0.890 ± 0.002	0.921 ± 0.003	0.723 ± 0.009	0.869 ± 0.015	0.666 ± 0.059	0.437 ± 0.021	$0.904 \pm 3e$ -4
Inductive	TGAT	0.954 ± 0.001	0.979 ± 0.001	0.805 ± 0.006	0.644 ± 0.002	0.693 ± 0.004	0.820 ± 0.005	0.632 ± 0.005
Ą	TGN	0.974 ± 0.001	0.954 ± 0.002	0.855 ± 0.014	0.789 ± 0.050	0.746 ± 0.013	0.791 ± 0.057	0.904 ± 0.023
П	CaW	0.977 ± 0.006	$0.984 \pm 2e$ -4	0.933 ± 0.014	0.890 ± 0.001	0.962 ± 0.001	0.931 ± 0.002	$0.950 \pm 1e$ -4
	NAT	0.986 ± 0.001	0.986 ± 0.002	$0.832 \pm 1e$ -4	0.878 ± 0.003	0.949 ± 0.010	0.926 ± 0.010	0.952 ± 0.006
	GraphMixer	$0.966 \pm 2e$ -4	$0.952 \pm 2e$ -4	0.814 ± 0.002	0.821 ± 0.004	0.758 ± 0.004	0.911 ± 0.004	$0.918 \pm 6e$ -4
	Dygformer	$0.985 \pm 3e$ -4	$0.988 \pm 2e$ -4	0.869 ± 0.004	$0.942 \pm 9e$ -4	0.897 ± 0.003	0.945 ± 0.001	$0.931 \pm 4e$ -4
	DyG2Vec	0.992 ± 0.001	0.991 ± 0.002	0.938 ± 0.010	0.979 ± 0.006	0.987 ± 0.004	0.976 ± 0.002	0.978 ± 0.010
	Todyformer	$0.989 \pm 6e$ -4	0.983 ± 0.002	0.948 ± 0.009	0.981 ± 0.005	$0.989 \pm 8\mathrm{e} ext{-}4$	0.983 ± 0.002	0.9821 ± 0.005

Table 6: (Validation) Future Link Prediction performance in Validation MRR on TGB Leaderboard datasets.

Model	TGBWiki	TGBReview	TGBCoin	TGBComment	TGBFlight	Avg. Rank↓
Dyrep TGN CAWN TCL GraphMixer		$ \begin{array}{c c} 0.356 \pm 0.016 \\ \textbf{0.465} \pm \textbf{0.010} \\ 0.201 \pm 0.002 \\ 0.194 \pm 0.012 \\ 0.411 \pm 0.025 \end{array} $	$ \begin{array}{c c} 0.512 \pm 0.014 \\ 0.607 \pm 0.014 \\ \hline OOM \\ OOM \\ OOM \\ OOM \end{array} $	$\begin{array}{c} 0.291 \pm 0.028 \\ 0.356 \pm 0.019 \\ OOM \\ OOM \\ OOM \end{array}$	$\begin{array}{c} 0.573 \pm 0.013 \\ 0.731 \pm 0.010 \\ \hline OOM \\ OOM \\ OOM \end{array}$	4.2 2.2 3 5
EdgeBank Todyformer	0.799 ± 0.0092	$0.0894 \\ 0.4321 \pm 0.0040$	0.1244 0.6852 ± 0.0021	$0.740\overline{2 \pm 0.0037}$	0.492 0.7932 ± 0.014	4.6 1.2

A.3.3 COMPLEMENTARY SENSITIVITY ANALYSIS AND ABLATION STUDY

In this section, we have presented the specifics of sensitivity and ablation experiments, which, while of lesser significance in our hyper-tuning mechanism, contribute valuable insights. In all tables, the Average Precision scores reported in the table are extracted from the same epoch on the validation set. Table 7 showcases the influence of varying input window sizes and patch sizes on two datasets. Table 8 illustrates the effects of various PEs, including SineCosine, Time2VecKazemi et al. (2019), Identity, Linear, and a configuration utilizing Local Input as the Anchor Node Mode. The table presents a comparison of results for these different PEs. Notably, the architecture appears to be relatively insensitive to the type of PE used, as the results all fall within a similar range. However, it is worth mentioning that SineCosine PE slightly outperforms the others. Consequently, SineCosine PE will be selected as the primary module for all subsequent experiments.

In Table9, an additional ablation study has been conducted to elucidate the influence of positions tagged to each node before being input to the Positional Encoder module. Various mechanisms for adding positions are delineated as follows:

- Without PE: No position is utilized or tagged to the nodes.
- Random Index: An index is randomly generated and added to the embeddings of a given node.
- Patch Index: The index of the patch from which the embedding of the given node originates is used as a position.
- Edge Time: The most recent edge time within its patch is employed as a position.
- Edge Index: The index of the most recent interaction within the corresponding patch is utilized as a position.

As evident from the findings in this table, the validation performance exhibits high sensitivity to the positional encoder's outcomes. Specifically, the model without positional encoder (PE) and the model with random indices manifest the lowest performance among all available options. Consistent

with our expectations from previous experiments, the patch index yields the highest performance, providing a compelling rationale for its incorporation into the architecture.

Table 7: Sensitivity analysis on number of patches and target window size

dataset	Input Window size	Number of Patches	Average Precision ↑
LastFM	262144	8	0.9772
LastFM	262144	16	0.9791
LastFM	262144	32	0.9758
MOOC	262144	8	0.9811
MOOC	262144	16	0.9864
MOOC	262144	32	0.9696
LastFM	16384	32	0.9476
LastFM	32768	32	0.9508
LastFM	65536	32	0.9591
LastFM	262144	32	0.9764
MOOC	16384	32	0.9798
MOOC	32768	32	0.9695
MOOC	65536	32	0.9685
MOOC	262144	32	0.9726

A.4 COMPUTATIONAL COMPLEXITY

A.4.1 QUALITATIVE ANALYSIS FOR TIME AND MEMORY COMPLEXITIES

In this section, we delve into the detailed measurement and discussion of the computational complexity of Todyformer. Initially, we adopt the assumption that the time complexity of Transformers is $O(X^2)$ for an input sequence of length X. The primary complexity of Todyformer encompasses both the complexity of the Message Passing Neural Network (MPNN) component and the complexity of the Transformer. To elaborate further, assuming we have a sparse dynamic graph with temporal attributes, we can replace the complexity of MPNNs with $O(l \times (N+E))$, where N and E represent the number of nodes and edges within the temporal input subgraph, and l is the number of MPNN layers for the Graph Neural Network (GNN) tokenizer. In the transformer part, N unique nodes are fed into the Multihead-Attention module. If the maximum length of the sequence fed to the Transformer is N_a , then the complexity of the Multihead-Attention module is $O(N_a^2)$. Notably, N_a is at most equal to M, the number of patches. This scenario occurs when a node appears in all M patches and has interactions in all patches. Consequently, if L is the number of blocks the final complexity is given by:

$$O(L \times l \times (N+E) + L \times N \times M^2) \approx O(N+E)$$
(3)

The LHS part of Equation 3 can be simplified to RHS if we assume that L, l, and M^2 are negligible compared to N and E. The RHS of this equation is the time complexity of GNNs for sparse graphs.

A.4.2 TRAINING/INFERENCE SPEED

In this section, an analysis of Figure 1 is provided, depicting the performance versus inference time across three sizable datasets. Considering the delicate trade-off between performance and complexity, our models surpass all others in terms of Average Precision (AP) while concurrently

Positional Encoding	Anchor_Node_Mode	Average Precision ↑
SineCosinePos	global target	0.9901
Time2VecPos	global target	0.989
IdentityPos	global target	0.99
LinearPos	global target	0.9886
SineCosinePos	local input	0.9448

Table 8: **Ablation Study on Positional Encoding Options on MOOC Dataset:** This table compares the validation performance at the same epoch across various setups.

Positional Encoding (PE) Input	Average Precision ↑
without PE	0.9872
random index	0.9873
patch index	0.9889
edge time	0.9886
edge index	0.9877

Table 9: Ablation Study on the Input of Positional Encoding on MOOC Dataset: This table compares the validation performance at the same epoch across various types of positions tagged to nodes before PE layer.

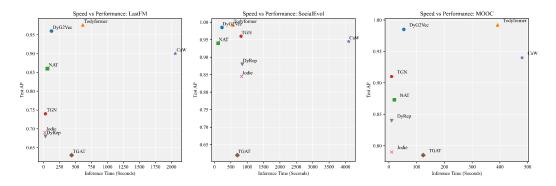


Figure 1: The performance versus inference time across LastFM, SocialEvol and MOOC datasets

positioning in the left segment of the diagrams, denoting the lowest inference time. Notably, as depicted in Figure 4, Todyformer remains lighter and less complex than state-of-the-art (SOTA) models like CAW across all datasets.

A.5 DISCUSSION ON OVER-SMOOTHING AND OVER-SQUASHING

In Figure 2, the blue curve illustrates the Average Precision performance of dynamic graph Message Passing Neural Networks (MPNNs) across varying numbers of layers. Notably, an observed trend indicates that as the number of layers increases, the performance experiences a decline—a characteristic manifestation of oversmoothing and oversquashing phenomena.

Within the same figure, the red square dots represent the performance of MPNNs augmented with transformers, specifically Todyformer with a single block. It is noteworthy that the increase in the number of MPNN layers from 3 to 9 in this configuration results in a comparatively minor performance drop compared to traditional MPNNs.

Furthermore, the yellow circles denote the performance of Todyformer with an alternating mode, where the total number of MPNNs is 9, and three blocks are incorporated. In this setup, a transformer is introduced after every 3 MPNN layers. Strikingly, this configuration outperforms all others, especially those that stack a similar number of MPNN layers without the insertion of a transformer layer in the middle of the architecture. This empirical observation serves as a significant study, highlighting the efficacy of our architecture in addressing oversmoothing and oversquashing challenges.

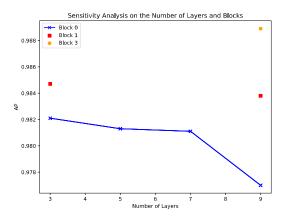


Figure 2: Sensitivity Analysis on the Number of Layers and Blocks on Mooc Dataset

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