RelWire: Metric Based Rewiring

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Abstract

Oversquashing is a major hurdle to the application of geometric deep learning and graph neural networks to real world applications. Recent work has found connections between oversquashing and commute times, effective resistance, and the eigengap (or spectral gap) of the underlying graph. Graph rewiring is the most promising technique to alleviate this issue. Some prior work adds edges locally to highly negatively curved subgraphs. These local changes, however, have a small effect on global statistics such as commute times and the eigengap. Other prior work uses the spectrum of the graph Laplacian to target rewiring to increase the eigengap. These approaches, however, make large structural and topological changes to the underlying graph. We use ideas from geometric group theory to present RELWIRE, a rewiring technique based on the geometry of the graph. We explore topological properties of different rewiring techniques and show that RELWIRE is Pareto optimal: it has the best balance between improvement in eigengap and commute times and minimizing changes in the topology of the underlying graph, while performing comparably well on downstream tasks.

Keywords: Persistent Homology, Hierarchical Hyperbolic Spaces, Oversquashing

1. Introduction

Graph neural networks (GNNs) are a promising generalization of fully connected neural networks based upon the premise that many real world data sets exhibit graphical structure. That is, data points are related to one another in complex ways that are best captured by relations on a graph, with vertices being the data points and edges the relations between those points. Hence, GNNs are methods for aggregating information across the relation graph and then propagating those updates. All of these methods, however, seem to suffer from a structural problem: oversquashing.

Oversquashing is a challenging problem to define. The problem was initially observed in [2], where the authors create the neighbors match problem in which the task is to match a target subgraph with a template subgraph. They noticed that the feature vectors could not store enough information, a problem that they called oversquashing. However, since then, oversquashing has been defined in a different manner. Following [63], who defined the *influence* of a node on another as $\left\|\frac{\partial x_i^{(\ell)}}{\partial x_j^{(0)}}\right\|$, where $x_i^{(\ell)}$ is the feature at the *ith* node after ℓ layers of message passing, the perspective on oversquashing has shifted. Since then a variety of papers [58, 45, 10, 21] have defined oversquashing to be the problem of having nodes with small influence on each other (i.e., small Jacobian), including theoretical connections between oversquashing and structural properties like commute time [21] and eigengaps. As a result, many recent works have introduced the notion of "rewiring" a graph, adding edges or relations between the data points so as to improve the performance of GNNs. These methods leverage notions from spectral graph theory (e.g., effective resistance, spectral or eigengap),

discrete graph geometry (e.g., graph curvature), and random walks (via commute time). All of these methods make large structural changes to the underlying graph, some more effective than others, which are aimed at affecting one or more of the above quantities.

In this paper, we present a novel graph rewiring regime, RELWIRE, which imports techniques from geometric group theory. We use the geometry of the underlying graph to define two relations between the graph's edges, one which roughly encodes negative curvature and the other flat curvature. RELWIRE is effective at improving GNN performance not only in terms of commute time and eigengap, but also on downstream tasks. Moreover, we develop a novel framework for structure analysis. As with all rewiring techniques, our regime intentionally changes a graph's geometry. Nonetheless, it is a long-standing assumption in the area that graph structure matters. This leads us to ask: *What kind of non-geometric structural information matters?* We look to topology for an answer. By utilizing techniques from topological data analysis, we develop two quantitative measures of topological distortion and show that RELWIRE achieves a novel balance as compared to existing rewiring methods: it effectively alleviates oversquashing while preserving graph structure.

Contributions The main contributions are as follows:

- We define two new topological distance called the rank and distance that can be used to measure the structural changes to a graph after rewiring. (Section 3)
- We present a new method for rewiring graphs, RELWIRE. Our method uses new ideas and concepts that have not been applied to the field of geometric deep learning before. Specifically, it introduces a new global notion of curvature. (Section 4)
- We present topological differences between RELWIRE and prior rewiring techniques. (Section 5). We extensively test on real world data to show that RELWIRE is Pareto optimal for the graph statistics. That is, it performs the best at improving eigengap and commute times while simultaneously preserving the graph topology.

Other Related Work: In this paper, we will compare against transductive methods, but there are also inductive methods for graph rewiring such as [3, 27, 18] and other methods such as [44, 11, 5]. The use of other geometries, especially hyperbolic geometries, has been widely considered; embeddings [55, 46, 54, 47, 36], and geometric graph neural networks [16, 15, 65, 37]. Finally, there are mixed curvature geometries [17, 56, 66, 64, 39, 38, 26].

2. Background and Problem Setup

Prior work has shown that the norm of Jacobian J (which controls oversquashing) can be bounded by a variety of graph properties, deriving bounds of the following form: $J := \left\| \frac{\partial x_i^{(\ell)}}{\partial x_j^{(0)}} \right\| \leq c_{act}^{\ell} T_{ij}^{\ell}$. Here $x_i^{(\ell)}$ is the feature at the i^{th} node after ℓ layers of message passing,

 c_{act} is a constant from the architecture of the neural network, and T_{ij} is a topological statistic of the graph. Specifically, T can be dependent on commute times [21], the curvature [58, 45], or the effective resistance of the graph [10], which is closely related to commute time, see Appendix A.7. Following this, in recent work, [20] looked at the Hessian instead of the Jacobian and again showed that its norm can be bounded using the commute times. Importantly, prior work shows that these quantities can be improved via graph rewiring. In this paper, we are interested in the problem of graph rewiring. That is, given a graph G, we

want to add k edges to improve graph statistics mentioned above while preserving structural information.

Preserving structural information. One of the foundational principles of GNNs was that the structure of the graph had important information, and there are many tasks that illustrate this. One example of this is the NeighborsMatch problem from [2], which was the first paper to identify oversquashing. For this, the task is to identify the labeled node whose neighbor subgraph is exactly the same as the given query node. Hence, changing the graph structure changes the answer, making structural integrity critical. Another example comes from the (real world) ZINC dataset of molecules, where the task is to predict a value that depends on the number of cycles with at least 6 atoms. Once again, changing the graph structure would change the answer.

On the other hand, if we are trying to rewire a graph to alleviate oversquashing while not caring about the graph structure, then a natural extreme conclusion might be to use the complete graph. This was explored in [58, 32] among other papers, and they saw that this did not have the best performance. At the very least, this indicates that the graph structure is not always irrelevant and, moreover, that more fine-tuned approaches can get better results. However, the process of graph rewiring changes this structure. Hence, we are interested in quantifying this change and keeping it to a minimum. To do this, we introduce two notions of distance that measure the change in relevant topological features of rewired graphs relative to the base graph; see Section 3. The use of topology to measure distances between graphs appears in [49, 52].

3. Capturing topological distortion: Distances from persistent homology

In this paper, we consider two notions of distances between graphs using topological information. The first is based on comparing 1-dimensional information, which is already quite powerful in the context of graphs. The second is based on techniques from topological data analysis, which takes into account higher dimensional features of the graphs. This latter machinery is called *persistence homology*, as it attempts to capture "persistent" homological features as one takes larger samples of the space. The following is a minimal treatment of persistent homology, see [53, 1] for more details.

These topological calculations involve integral homology groups. The integral d^{th} -homology group of a topological space X, denoted $H_d(X;\mathbb{Z})$, is an abelian group which encodes certain d-dimensional topological features up to a natural topological equivalence. The rank of $H_d(X;\mathbb{Z})$ —namely the number of its Z-factors—encodes the number of d-dimensional "holes", and is called the d^{th} Betti number β_d . Notably, in dimensions 0 and 1, these numbers have concrete meanings: β_0 encodes the number of connected components of X, and β_1 encodes the number of loops on X (up to homotopy). In what follows, we will want to consider the homology of simplicial complexes obtained by iteratively adding higher dimensional simplices, with our starting point being a graph. This sequence of simplicial complexes, called a *filtration*, as well as a notion of how topological features can appear and vanish along the filtration, which is called *persistence*; see [35, 34, 6] and Appendix A.6

In this paper, we consider two different filtrations where the base complex is a graph. The first is a standard filtration known as the Vietoris-Rips filtration. The idea behind the Vietoris-Rips filtration is that it transforms a metric space into a filtration of simplicial complexes,

which, in the context of a graph, involves introducing higher dimensional topological features that are derived from the geometry of the graph. The second is the filtration defined by the subsequent addition of edges by a graph rewiring procedure, in which every level G_k is a graph. We will use these filtrations to define distances, with the first type of distance being similar to those used in prior work such as [53, 28]. Using a persistence diagram, we can generalize Betti numbers to a more expressive quantity known as the Betti curve [31, 30]. We then use this to define the Betti distance between persistence diagrams. In practice, we will use the Betti distance to compute the higher dimensional "topological distortion" from a base graph G and some other graph G' built from G by adding edges via a rewiring process.

Definition 1 (Betti Distance) Given two graphs G, G', the betti distance is the L_2 norm of the difference between their respective Betti curves for their respective Vietoris-Rips filtrations $\{VR_r(G)\}_{r\in\mathbb{R}_+}$ and $\{VR_r(G')\}_{r\in\mathbb{R}_+}$.

Our second notion of distance measures 1-dimensional topological distortion. A graph filtration $G_0 \subset G_1 \subset \cdots$ has G_i a simplicial graph for each *i*. Graph filtrations naturally arise in the iterative graph rewiring procedures considered in this paper. Since simplicial graphs have no homology beyond dimension 1 and all edges have length 1, the only relevant features of a graph filtration are loops, and each birth and death happens at integer time values. Hence, their Betti curves are step functions, and we obtain:

Lemma 2 (Rank distance) If $G_0 \subset G_1 \subset \cdots$ and $G'_0 \subset G'_1 \subset \cdots$ are two graph filtrations, then their persistence distance equals $\operatorname{average}_i|\operatorname{rank} H_1(G_i;\mathbb{Z}) - \operatorname{rank} H_1(G'_i;\mathbb{Z})|$. Hence we call the persistence distance between a pair of graph filtrations the rank distance.

4. RelWire: relations on graphs

Hierarchical hyperbolicity [8] is an axiomatic framework for studying hybrid spaces that exhibit aspects of coarse negative, flat, and positive curvature. This hierarchical approach builds on work in several areas of low dimensional topology, including mapping class groups ([40], Teichmüller spaces ([13, 51, 22]), and hyperbolic 3-manifolds ([41, 14]). These *hierarchically hyperbolic spaces* (HHSes) are coarsely built out of hyperbolic spaces, which are combined in both negative and flat curvature ways based on various *relations* between the spaces. We will apply a simplified version of this hierarchical framework to study the curvature properties of graphs. In particular, we will use the geometry of a fixed graph to induce two (mutually exclusive) types of relations among its edges.

In our setting, the ambient space X = G is a simplicial graph, and this philosophy becomes quite simple: the spaces in the hierarchy are the edges of the graph, and a projection of a vertex of G to an edge E is a collection of its endpoints. Specifically, given a vertex $v \in G^{(0)}$ and an edge E of G, the projection $\pi_E(v) \subset E^{(0)}$ of v to E is the endpoint of E which is closest in G to v. When both endpoints are equidistant to v, then we set $\pi_E(v) = E^{(0)}$ to be both endpoints. With these projections defined, we define our (simplified) relations.

The first relation, called *orthogonal*, encodes flat curvature. In the setting of an HHS X, when two hyperbolic spaces U, V in the hierarchy are orthogonal, the product map $\pi_U \times \pi_V : X \to U \times V$ is surjective, and there is a coarsely isometrically embedded flat



Figure 1: Here are two simple graphs in which: (a) all adjacent edges are independent and (b) all edges are transverse.

subspace of X (see e.g. Subsection 5B of [7]). For instance, \mathbb{R}^2 is an HHS where the hyperbolic spaces are the coordinate axes (i.e., copies of \mathbb{R}), and the flat subspace corresponding to their product is the whole ambient space $\mathbb{R} \times \mathbb{R} = \mathbb{R}^2$. We will say two edges E_1, E_2 are *independent* when $\pi_{E_1} \times \pi_{E_2} : G \to E_1^{(0)} \times E_2^{(0)}$ is surjective. Otherwise, we will say that E_1, E_2 are *transverse*. Roughly, this notion of transversality encodes negative curvature (see, e.g., [9]). While the connection between independence/transversality and flat/negative curvature is not exact, the connection is more than a vague analogy:

Lemma 3 Let E_1, E_2 be edges of a simplicial graph G. If for E_1, E_2 we have that they 1. are contained in a clique subgraph of G, then E_1, E_2 are independent; 2. are separated by vertex v with $\pi_{E_1}(v)$ and $\pi_{E_2}(v)$ both singletons, then E_1, E_2 are transverse.

Much more is true in practice. For instance, most edges in a given loop will be pairwise independent. More refined geometric relations are capable of exactly encoding the equivalence between independence and being in a loop, but these conditions are difficult to state and even slower to implement algorithmically.

Remark 4 (Global vs. local curvature) As every pair of edges in a graph satisfies one of our two relations, they are both capable of capturing local and global properties of the graph. While item (2) of Lemma 3 says that independence is frequently more locally focused, transversality captures negative curvature in a fundamentally different way than existing notions of graph curvature.

RELWIRE We present our new rewiring technique RELWIRE(Algorithm 1). The basic idea is to eliminate negative curvature by adding edges, so the main task is to identify pairs of vertices which belong to the most transverse edge pairs, weighted by their distance in the graph. We begin by determining for each pair of edges if they are independent or transverse. Then for each pair of nodes u, a, we consider all neighboring edges of the form (u, v) and (a, b) for all $v \in \mathcal{N}(u)$ and $b \in \mathcal{N}(a)$. Then we define $r(u, a) := d(u, a) \sum_{\substack{v \in \mathcal{N}(u) \\ b \in \mathcal{N}(a)}} \mathbb{1}\{(u, v) \not\perp (a, b)\}.$

We then connect the k node pairs that are not adjacent in the graph that have the highest r values, where k is our rewiring parameter. That is, for a pair of nodes, we count the number

of transverse edge pairs that the two nodes are in. We then weight this count by the distance between the two nodes and connect the pairs of nodes with the highest weighted r value. As discussed above, transversality captures some notion of negative curvature at both the local and global scale of the graph. Hence, connecting a highly transverse distant pair morally helps remove negative curvature at a global level. Time time complexity and empirical run times can be found in Appendix A.8.

Algorithm 1 RelWire

- 1: Input: G Graph, k number of edges added
- 2: Compute shortest distance d(u, v) between all pairs of nodes u, v.
- 3: Compute $T: E \times E \to \{0, 1\}$ such that $T(e_1, e_2) = 1$ if and only if $e_1 \not\perp e_2$.
- 4: Compute $r(u, a) = d(u, a) \sum_{v \in \mathcal{N}(u), b \in \mathcal{N}(a)} T((u, v), (a, b)).$ 5: Connect the k non-adjacent node pairs with largest r value.
- 6: Return: Rewired Graph

Connecting RelWire to topology. By Lemma 3, one should expect that RelWire, applied to a very large graph, will identify a "maximally transverse" pair of vertices p, q which are very far apart in the graph. Many of the vertices v occurring along any geodesic between p, q will likely be separators, in the sense of item 2 of that lemma. Adding an edge between p, q then creates a number of loops containing these separators. On the other hand, one should expect any such separator v to participate in a comparable number of transverse pairs with both p, q, making it likely that RelWire will fill in the loops it creates. This philosophy is most clearly illustrated in Figure 4.

5. Preserving the topology

In this section, we explore the topological differences between RELWIRE, FOSR, GTR, and SDRF. We will do this using the standard example of a barbell graph G (two K_5 connect by a path with 6 edges) that has been used in prior work such as [32, 20, 21, 58]. We shall use all four methods to add between one and nine edges, and we shall see that the results are quite different. Some of the rewired graphs can be seen Figure 4 in the appendix. To understand the topological distortion caused by rewiring, we compute both the rank and Betti distances relative to the underlying graph.



Figure 2: Figure showing the ranks of the first homology group of the rewired graphs, $\frac{1}{\lambda_2}$, the average commute times, as well as the Betti distance between the rewired graph and the original graph for RELWIRE, SDRF, GTR, and FOSR.

Figure 2 in the appendix shows the ranks for adding up to 9 edges. Here, we see that RELWIRE initially introduces a loop, and the rank increases to 1, while successive edges fill in that loop. On the other hand, both FOSR and GTR create a loop with each successive edge addition. Finally, it is not clear what SDRF does to the topology. We also analyze how rewiring affects the statistics related to oversquashing, i.e., average commute times and eigengaps of the graph. These quantities, along with the Betti distance to the original graph, are plotted in Figure 2. As we can see, RELWIRE, GTR, and FOSR have the best average commute times and eigengaps. On the other hand, we see that FOSR and GTR result in large topological changes, whereas RELWIRE has relatively little effect on the topology.

| Dataset | Eigengap | | | | В | Betti Distance | | | | Commute Times | | | |
|---------|----------|------|------|------|---------|----------------|-----|------|---------|---------------|-----|------|--|
| | Relwire | FOSR | GTR | SDRF | Relwire | FOSR | GTR | SDRF | Relwire | FOSR | GTR | SDRF | |
| Zinc | 0.09 | 0.07 | 0.13 | 0.03 | 2.7 | 3.5 | 5.2 | 0.9 | 10 | 11 | 9.2 | 13 | |
| ESOL | 0.4 | 0.37 | 0.40 | 0.21 | 1.7 | 3.0 | 3.5 | 0.7 | 6.1 | 6.3 | 5.7 | 7.0 | |
| BACE | 0.05 | 0.03 | 0.08 | 0.02 | 3.5 | 3.8 | 5.9 | 1.0 | 14 | 15 | 13 | 18 | |
| Lipo | 0.08 | 0.06 | 0.12 | 0.03 | 3.1 | 3.7 | 5.3 | 1.0 | - | - | - | - | |
| Tox21 | 0.24 | 0.22 | 0.26 | 0.12 | 2.2 | 3.2 | 4.3 | 0.7 | - | - | - | - | |
| Mutag | 0.18 | 0.15 | 0.23 | 0.10 | 2.2 | 3.2 | 4.2 | 1.3 | 7.7 | 8 | 7.2 | 8.8 | |
| Enzymes | 1.10 | 1.10 | 1.30 | 0.06 | 2.5 | 3.5 | 4.6 | 1.2 | - | - | - | - | |
| AIDS | 0.46 | 0.44 | 0.49 | 0.31 | 1.0 | 2.9 | 3.0 | 0.6 | 4.5 | 4.4 | 4.1 | 4.8 | |
| Alkane | 0.46 | 0.47 | 0.43 | 0.24 | 0.4 | 2.9 | 3.0 | 0.4 | 4.8 | 4.6 | 4.2 | 5.2 | |
| Linux | 0.60 | 0.62 | 0.57 | 0.3 | 0.6 | 2.9 | 2.7 | 0.4 | 3.9 | 3.8 | 3.6 | 4.3 | |

Table 1: Eigengap λ_2 , average commute times, and Betti distance for the rewired graphs.

To further validate our method on real data¹, we took ten different datasets with roughly $\sim 50,000$ graphs for rewiring (see the Appendix A). We rewired these datasets by adding three edges using RELWIRE, FOSR, GTR, and SDRF. We then computed the spectral gap for each of the graphs in the dataset and took the average spectral gap for each dataset. Similarly, we computed the average commute times for each of the graphs and then averaged that as well. Note that for three of the datasets (Lipo, Tox21, and Enzymes) all rewiring strategies produced disconnected graphs, hence we did not compute the commute times for these datasets. Finally, we computed the Betti distance. Table 1 has the various statistics. The values in green are the best observed values, while those in blue are the second best.

Here, we can see there is a tradeoff between the eigengap and commute times with the Betti distance. In particular, GTR greatly decreases the eigengap and commute times at the expense of transforming the topology, as measured by large Betti distance. On the other hand, SDRF relatively preserves the topology as well as the eigengap and commute times. Hence, if we are to reduce oversquashing while preserving the graph structure, we must find a balance. In this regard, we see that RELWIRE is Pareto optimal in that we have the second best eigengap, commute times, and Betti distance.

Betti Curve for Rank Persistence In the previous experiments, we only added a fixed number of edges to the graphs. As with the barbell graph example, it is interesting to see

^{1.} All code can be found anonymized at Github

how the statistics change as we vary the number of edges added. Hence, we took Texas and Cornell from the WebKb dataset [50] and added up to 100 edges. Figure 3 shows the results for Texas. The one for Cornell can be seen in the Appendix. Here we see that RELWIRE has the best eigengap, FOSR has the best rank distance, and GTR has the best commute times. There are many other interesting aspects to the curves. The first is the jump discontinuity in the rank of the first homology group from FOSR. This implies that FOSR reaches a critical number of edges, after which adding loops is no longer beneficial and starts eliminating loops. On the other, GTR and SDRF seem to always add loops. RELWIRE on the other hand, seems to always want to eliminate topological loops. The jump discontinuity in the rank of the first homology group for FOSR seems to correlate with the jump discontinuity in the eigengap curve. However, interestingly, we see no discontinuity in the commute times curve.



Figure 3: Comparing the four rewiring methods: in (a), rank distance; (b) eigengap (λ_2^{-1}) , and (c) the average commute times, each as a function of the number of edges added.

6. Graph Regression and Classification: When is topology important

We show that preserving the topology helps with downstream tasks. To do so, we take 11 datasets - ZINC, Peptides from the LRGB dataset, Lipo, BACE, and ESOL from the MoleculeNet dataset, and the six datasets from the TUDataset. The six datasets from the TUDataset are for graph classification, and the other datasets are for graph regression. For each dataset, we considered twelve different models. Specifically, we use 4 different architectures - GCN, GraphConv, GAT, and GIN, and depths of 3, 4, and 5 layers. For each of the twelve different models, we trained the model five times for seven different rewiring techniques - RELWIRE, FOSR, SDRF, GTR, no rewiring, replacing the graph with the fully connected graph, and replacing the graph with the empty graph. We then picked the trial with the best validation accuracy and looked at the corresponding test accuracy. Next, we ranked the different rewiring techniques with ranks from 0 (best) to 6 (worst). Finally, we computed the average rank over the twelve models. This is reported in Table 2.

As we can see, RELWIRE has the best mean rank for Graph Classification but doesn't do as well for Graph Regression. Further, since we tried four different architectures, it is interesting to see how well the rewiring technique depends on the architecture used. Table 3 presents the mean rank averaged over all three depths and eleven datasets. Here, we see that despite the fact that RELWIRE does not do well for Graph Regression, we see that RELWIRE has the best overall performance when using the GCN architecture.

It is also interesting to note what happens when RELWIRE does badly. Specifically, if we look at Lipo dataset, we see that RELWIRE does very badly. Hence, this suggests that

preserving the topological structure is not relevant to this task. This is further verified by seeing that the method with the best performance is replacing the graph with the complete graph. Our experiment further highlights that the connection between rewiring and the performance on the downstream task is not straightforward and can depend on many factors, including the architecture of the model, the type of data, and the type of rewiring.

| Dataset | None | Full | Empty | RelWire | FOSR | GTR | SDRF |
|----------|-------------------|-----------------|---------------|----------------------------|-----------------|-----------------|---------------|
| IMDB | $ 3.25\pm0.57$ | 3.25 ± 0.59 | 3.58 ± 0.58 | 1.67 ± 0.50 | 4.25 ± 0.46 | 2.75 ± 0.69 | 2.25 ± 0.45 |
| Reddit | 2.00 ± 0.46 | N/A | 5.00 ± 0.00 | 2.08 ± 0.45 | 1.92 ± 0.38 | 1.75 ± 0.35 | 2.25 ± 0.46 |
| Collab | 1.75 ± 0.45 | N/A | 5.00 ± 0.00 | 1.42 ± 0.40 | 2.33 ± 0.45 | 2.17 ± 0.32 | 2.33 ± 0.43 |
| Mutag | 1.17 ± 0.58 | 3.33 ± 0.70 | 1.83 ± 0.42 | 3.42 ± 0.53 | 4.08 ± 0.36 | 2.92 ± 0.51 | 4.25 ± 0.41 |
| Proteins | 3.25 ± 0.39 | 0.92 ± 0.56 | 6.00 ± 0.00 | 2.00 ± 0.35 | 3.08 ± 0.42 | 2.33 ± 0.40 | 3.42 ± 0.51 |
| Enzymes | 1.33 ± 0.45 | 5.50 ± 0.19 | 4.67 ± 0.36 | 2.50 ± 0.58 | 2.58 ± 0.47 | 2.58 ± 0.45 | 1.83 ± 0.41 |
| Peptides | $ 4.00 \pm 0.12 $ | N/A | 4.92 ± 0.08 | $ 1.58\pm0.15$ | 1.42 ± 0.15 | 0.00 ± 0.00 | 3.08 ± 0.08 |
| Lipo | 4.92 ± 0.45 | 0.67 ± 0.50 | 2.08 ± 0.62 | 4.00 ± 0.43 | 2.58 ± 0.45 | 3.67 ± 0.31 | 3.08 ± 0.42 |
| BACE | 0.92 ± 0.29 | 5.42 ± 0.19 | 5.50 ± 0.15 | 2.83 ± 0.44 | 2.17 ± 0.32 | 1.58 ± 0.45 | 2.58 ± 0.38 |
| ESOL | 2.58 ± 0.63 | 3.33 ± 0.64 | 5.17 ± 0.21 | 2.58 ± 0.50 | 1.50 ± 0.50 | 1.83 ± 0.37 | 4.00 ± 0.41 |
| Zinc | 1.25 ± 0.39 | 5.67 ± 0.14 | 5.25 ± 0.18 | $\left 3.25\pm0.39\right.$ | 2.08 ± 0.29 | 2.25 ± 0.30 | 1.25 ± 0.46 |

Table 2: Table with the mean rank and standard error for each dataset and rewiring method averaged over the twelve different models considered for Graph Classification and Regression. The cells in green are the best, while the cells in blue are the second best.

| | None | Full | Empty | RelWire | FOSR | GTR | SDRF |
|----------------------|---------------|---------------|-----------------|-------------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|
| GCN | 3.58 ± 0.35 | 4.79 ± 0.44 | 5.73 ± 0.24 | 3.12 ± 0.28 | 3.97 ± 0.28 | 3.21 ± 0.28 | 3.61 ± 0.31 |
| GC | 3.42 ± 0.35 | 5.91 ± 0.34 | 5.42 ± 0.34 | 3.36 ± 0.27 | 3.36 ± 0.26 | 2.91 ± 0.27 | 3.61 ± 0.25 |
| GAT | 3.24 ± 0.33 | 4.88 ± 0.42 | 5.09 ± 0.33 | 4.03 ± 0.35 | 3.45 ± 0.30 | 3.48 ± 0.27 | 3.82 ± 0.31 |
| GIN | 3.36 ± 0.36 | 5.18 ± 0.43 | 5.58 ± 0.26 | $ 3.42 \pm 0.24 $ | 3.39 ± 0.28 | 3.06 ± 0.31 | 4.00 ± 0.27 |

Table 3: Table with the mean rank and standard error for each architecture and rewiring method averaged over the three different and eleven datasets.

7. Conclusion

We use ideas from geometric group theory to develop a new rewiring technique known as RELWIRE using a new curvature-like relation on edges. We introduce a new topological distance, which measures how rewiring changes the structure of a graph. We also show that different rewiring techniques have different topological properties and that whether we should preserve the topological information is dependent on the data and the task. We show that compared to other methods, RELWIRE is Pareto optimal in that it makes small topological changes to the graph and makes big changes to statistics connected to oversquashing, such as eigengap and commute times. We test RELWIRE on the downstream task of graph classification and report positive results.

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Appendix A. Appendix

A.1. Barbell Experiment

Figure 4 shows the rewired graphs for k = 1, 2, 3.

A.2. Datasets

Specifically, we look at The ZINC dataset [57, 25], which consists of 10,000 molecular graphs. From [61], we look at ESOL, which is the water solubility of 1,128 compounds, BACE, which 1,522 compounds representing the inhibitors or human β -secretase 1, Lipophilicity, which is 4,200 drug compounds, and Tox21 measure the toxicity of 7831 compounds. From the TUDataset [42, 29], we use MUTAG [19], which consists of 188 nitroaromatic compounds and ENZYMES [12] which is a dataset of 600 protein tertiary structures obtained from the BRENDA enzyme database. We also use Proteins [12], which is a collection 1113 to determine if a protein is an enzyme. Additionally, Reddit, Collab, and IMDB are social



Figure 4: Rewired barbell graph.

networks. Finally, we use three datasets from [4] consisting of 1520 graphs in total. The statistics for the datasets can be seen in Table 4.

| | | | | U | | | |
|-----------|-------|--------|-------|----------|--------|-------|---------|
| | AIDS | Alkane | Linux | Proteins | Collab | IMDB | Reddit |
| Nodes | 8.9 | 8.9 | 7.6 | 39.1 | 74.5 | 19.8 | 429.6 |
| Edges | 17.6 | 15.8 | 13.9 | 145.6 | 4914.4 | 193.1 | 995.5 |
| # Graphs | 700 | 150 | 1000 | 1113 | 5000 | 1000 | 2000 |
| | Zinc | ESOL | BACE | Lipo | Tox21 | Mutag | Enzymes |
| Nodes | 23.2 | 13.3 | 34.1 | 27 | 18.6 | 17.9 | 32.6 |
| Edges | 49.8 | 27.4 | 73.7 | 59 | 38.6 | 39.6 | 124.3 |
| # Graphs | 10000 | 1128 | 1513 | 4200 | 7831 | 188 | 600 |

Proceedings Track

Table 4: Table showing the average sizes of the graphs in each dataset.

A.3. Graph Tasks

As we see from the Table, we don't have any consistent trends. However, we do see that RELWIRE does perform well on average. This lack of trends is further supported by [59], where they do node classification tests on different data sets. This suggests that more work needs to be done to understand when graph rewiring is helpful.

Data Split For each dataset, we used an 80/10/10 split random split.

Models All of the models had the following structure we had ℓ convolutional layers for $\ell \in \{2, 3, 4\}$. This is followed by global mean pooling and then a linear layer. The hidden dim for each model is 64 dimensional.

The architectures we used are GCN [33], GraphConv [43], GAT [60], and GIN [62]. For GIn we used a 2-layer ReLU network with hidden dim 64.

Optimization For all methods, we used Adam optimizer with the default parameters. We also used cosine annealing as the learning rate decay.

For the smaller datasets, we used batch sizes of 10 to 25 and trained them for 100 epochs, and for the bigger datasets, we used a batch size of 100 and trained it for 100 epochs.

For the graph regression tasks, we used the mean squared. For graph classification, we used the cross entropy loss to train the modes.

For testing, we used the MSE loss and accuracy to rank the models.

Computing Test Error We trained each model five times. We then picked the trial with the smallest validation accuracy and then reported the corresponding test accuracy.

Computer Resource All datasets were accessed using Pytorch Geometric [24]. The models were all trained on Google Colab using a V100 GPU and pytorch geometric.

For rewiring, for used the official implementations of FOSR and GTR. For SDRF, we used the implementation from the LOG conference tutorial on graph rewiring [3].

A.4. WebKd Experiments

In Figure 5, we show the graphs for Cornell.



Figure 5: Graph properties for Cornell for the different rewiring methods.

A.5. Proof

Lemma 5 Let E_1, E_2 be edges of a simplicial graph G. If for E_1, E_2 we have that they 1. are contained in a clique subgraph of G, then E_1, E_2 are independent; 2. are separated by vertex v with $\pi_{E_1}(v)$ and $\pi_{E_2}(v)$ both singletons, then E_1, E_2 are transverse.

Proof We start by proving (1). For this let $E_i = (u, v)$ and $E_2 = (a, b)$. Then since this is a clique with all edge weights equal to 1. We have that

$$\pi_{E_1}(a) = \{u, v\}$$
 and $\pi_{E_2}(u) = \{a, b\}.$

Thus, we have independence.

For (2), we note that since v separates the graph into at least two components G_1, G_2 such that $E_1 \in G_1$ and $E_2 \in G_2$. Then we see that for all $x \in G_1$, we have that

$$\pi_{E_2}(x) = \pi_{E_2}(v).$$

Similarly for all $x \in G_2$, we have that

$$\pi_{E_1}(x) = \pi_{E_1}(v).$$

Then since $\pi_{E_1}(v), \pi_{E_2}(v)$ are singletons, we see that we cannot get all four projection pairs. Thus, the edges are transverse.

A.6. Topology Definitions

Definition 6 (Simplicial Complexes) A k-simplex C is the convex hull of k + 1 affinely independent vectors. A simplicial complex \mathcal{K} is a collection of simplices such that for every $C \in \mathcal{C}$ every face of C is in \mathcal{K} and for every $C_1, C_2 \in \mathcal{K}$, if $C_1 \cap C_2$ is not empty then $C_1 \cap C_2$ is a face of both. The d-skeleton of \mathcal{K} , denoted $\mathcal{K}^{(d)}$, is the simplicial subcomplex of \mathcal{K} consisting of simplices of dimension at most d.

Definition 7 (Filtration) A filtration of simplicial complexes is a collection of nested simplicial complexes $G_0 \subset G_1 \subset \cdots$. The complex G_k is called the k^{th} level of the filtration.

Definition 8 (Persistence) Given a filtration $G_0 \subset G_1 \subset \cdots \subset G_k$, we can compute the homology groups for each G_i . Then, for any feature (homology class), we can compute the first level k at which the feature appears, called the birth of the feature, and the level at which the feature disappears, called the death. This collection of birth and death tuples is known as the persistence diagram.

Definition 9 (Vietoris-Rips filtration) Let $X = \{x_1, \ldots, x_n\}$ be a collection of data points and d a metric on X. Then for any $r \in \mathbb{R}_+$, the Vietoris-Rips simplicial complex $VR_r(X)$ is defined by

$$VR_{r}(X) = \{ [x_{i_{1}}, \dots, x_{i_{k}}] : \forall j, \ell, d(x_{i_{j}}, x_{i_{\ell}}) \leq r \}.$$

We call $\{VR_r(X)\}_{r\in\mathbb{R}_+}$ the Vietoris-Rips Filtration.

Definition 10 (Betti Curve) Let P be a persistence diagram. The Betti curve $\beta : \mathbb{R} \to \mathbb{N}$ is a function where $\beta(r)$ is the number of features (counted with multiplicity) whose birth b and death d satisfy $b \leq r < d$.

A.7. Prior Rewiring Works: SDRF, FOSR, and GTR

raphEigengap, Commute time, and Curvature.

In this section, we detail connections between oversquashing and different statistics. See Appendix A.7 for a description of prior work that we compare against. We start by setting up notation for the paper. Throughout the paper, G = (V, E) will refer to a graph on the vertex set V with edges E. We shall have that G has n nodes and m edges. Let A denote the adjacency matrix of the graph, and let D denote the degree matrix of the graph. Then the *Combinatorial Laplacian* is L(G) := D - A. The *eigengap* or spectral gap $\lambda_2(G)$ is the second largest eigenvalue of the Combinatorial Laplacian L(G). Finally, the *Cheeger constant* h_G is defined as $\min_{(C_1,C_2)} \frac{|cut(C_1,C_2)|}{|C_1||C_2|}$. Here $cut cut(C_1,C_2)$ is a disjoint partition of the nodes V and the size of a cut is $|cut(C_1,C_2)| := |\{(u,v) \in E, u \in C_1, v \in C_2\}|$. We can see that the Cheeger constant tells how connected the graph is, giving it a clear relation to oversquashing. However, the Cheeger constant is difficult to compute but can be well approximated by the eigengap.

$$\frac{\lambda_2(G)}{2} \le h_G \le \sqrt{2\lambda_2(G)} \text{ and } 2h_G \ge \lambda_2(G) \ge \frac{h_G^2}{2}$$

Having a large $\lambda_2(G)$ results in a large Cheeger constant and a better connected graph. Methods such as [32] optimize for the eigengap.

Another measure that is believed to be related to oversquashing is commute time. Consider a random walk on G with transition probabilities given by $P = D^{-1}A$. The hitting time H(i, j) is the expected time for a random walk starting at node i to hit node j. The commute time is CT(i, j) = H(i, j) + H(j, i). These notions are very related to effective resistance of a graph and are directly optimized by some rewiring techniques [10].

The final property related to oversquashing is graph curvature. As discussed in [58], the Ricci curvature is a natural method for measuring information dispersion on a manifold. Similar to the Ricci curvature on manifolds, Ricci curvature has also been defined for graphs [48] and has been used for rewiring [58]. This has been formalized by recent work such as [45],

RelWire Proceedings Track

where the authors show that negative curvature results in the sharply decaying importance of distant nodes. Thus, increasing the curvature of the graphs helps alleviate oversquashing. Methods such as [58, 23] optimize for this quantity.

A.7.1. Prior Methods

We review the existing rewiring methods against which we compare our own method REL-WIRE.

SDRF As we have seen, the curvature of a graph is related to oversquashing. Thus, [58] design a method to increase the curvature of negatively curved areas. However, the Ollivier Ricci curvature is computationally expensive to calculate, hence they approximate it using a notion called Balanced Forman Curvature Ric(i, j). In [58] show that if Ric(i, j) > k for all edges then we have that $\frac{k}{2} \le h_G \le \frac{\lambda_2}{2}$. Thus, showing the connection between the curvature and other quantities such as the eigengap and the Cheeger constant. They then create a method that finds the most negatively curved edge and then add the edge that increases the curvature of this edge the most.

FOSR In [32], they showed that if f is the second eigenvector for the normalized Laplacian $(I - D^{-1/2}AD^{-1/2}))$ then adding an edge *i*, increases the second eigenvalue by

$$\frac{2f_if_j}{\sqrt{1+d_i}\sqrt{1+d_j}} + 2\lambda_2 \left[f_i^2 \left(\frac{\sqrt{d_i}}{\sqrt{1+d_i}} - 1\right) + f_j^2 \left(\frac{\sqrt{d_j}}{\sqrt{1+d_j}} - 1\right) \right].$$

They use this method to design an algorithm FOSR, that maximizes the first order term.

GTR Another notion of relevance is the total resistance of a graph, G. Let L be the Combinatorial Laplacian of a graph. Then the resistance R(i, j) between nodes i and j is given by $R(i,j) = (1_i - 1_j)^T L^{\dagger} (1_i - 1_j)$. Here 1_i is the indicator vector for the *i*th node and L^{\dagger} is the pseudoinverse of the Combinatorial Laplacian. The total resistance R_{tot} is $R_{tot} = \sum_{i,j} R(i,j)$. Then the biharmonic distance B(i,j) between nodes *i* and *j* is given by

 $B(i,j) = \sqrt{(1_i - 1_j)^T (L^{\dagger})^2 (1_i - 1_j)}.$ [10] show that the increase in the total resistance of adding an edge (i,j) is given by $\frac{B(i,j)^2}{1+R(i,j)}$. Hence they design a method GTR that maximizes this quantity. This quantity is related to the eigengap as well [10], where the maximum resistance between any two pairs of nodes R_{max} is bounded by

$$\frac{1}{n\lambda_2} \le R_{max} \le \frac{1}{\lambda_2}.$$

A.8. Run Time

Time complexity. Let n be the number of nodes in the graph, m be the number of edges we start with, and k the number of edges we want to add. For RelWire, there are 4 steps. The first step is the All Pair Shortest Path, which takes $O(n^2 \log(n) + nm)$. Next is to determine independence, this can be done naively in $O(m^2n)$ time. Specifically for each pair of edges E_1, E_2 , we look at all the projections and see if the map $\pi_{E_1} \times \pi_{E_2} : G \to E_1^{(0)} \times E_2^{(0)}$

is surjective. Finally, determining which edges to add can be done in $O(k \log(m))$ time. Thus the total time complexity is $O(n^2 \log(n) + m^2 n + k \log(m))$.

In addition to time complexity, we see the amount of time taken in practice. We note that different methods require different forms of computation. For SDRF, FOSR, and GTR we use pytorch on a machine with V100 GPU and 50GB RAM on Google Cloud. For RelWire, python is not the best language due to the combinatorial nature of the method, hence we use Julia. For this we use a personal laptop with an i5 processor, no GPU, and 8gb of RAM.

For practical use cases, we would need to do a hyperparameter search for the number of edges added. Hence we see how much time it takes to get rewired graphs for each number of edges from 1 to k.

| Dataset | Added Edges | GTR | FoSR | SDRF | RelWire |
|-----------|-------------|------------------|--------------------------|-------------------------|------------------------|
| Wisconsin | 300 | < 1 second | $\sim 20~{\rm seconds}$ | $\sim 12~{\rm minutes}$ | < 1 second |
| Wisconsin | 3000 | < 1 second | $\sim 8.5~{\rm minutes}$ | > 1 hour | < 1 second |
| Cora | 1000 | \sim 6 seconds | > 1 hour | > 1 hour | $\sim 7~{\rm minutes}$ |
| CiteSeer | 1000 | \sim 4 seconds | > 1 hour | > 1 hour | \sim 6 minutes |

Table 5: Runtime Comparison of Different Algorithms on Various Datasets for different number of added edges.

From the above we can see that GTR is fastest. However, the point of this experiment is not to determine which method is fastest but as to whether RelWire can scale well. Here we can clearly see that the method does scale well.

Implementation notes: We use the official implementation go GTR and FOSR, and the implementation of SDRF from the LOG 2022 rewiring tutorial.

A.9. Raw Tables

As mentioned, we do extensive experimentation. Specifically, we consider 6 comparison methods (7 methods, including ours), 11 datasets, 4 different GNN architectures, and 3 different depths for each network. Hence, we have 924 data points for comparison. For each of these 924 experimental settings, we did five trials. To succinctly present these and interpret the results, we presented the results in Tables 2, 3, and 4 in the paper. Here, we provide the raw tables.

Here, we present one table for each of the 12 architectures (model type and depth). We present the test mse/accuracy for the trial with the best validation mse/accuracy. Note that we are doing graph regression for Peptides, Lipo, BACE, ESOL, and ZINC. So we present MSE, and smaller is better. We are doing graph classification for IMDB, MUTAG, REDDIT, PROTEIN, COLLAB, and ENZYMES. So, we present classification accuracy, and larger is better.

RelWIRE Proceedings Track

| Dataset | None | Full | Empty | RelWire | FOSR | GTR | SDRF |
|----------------|-------|-------|-------|---------|-------|-------|-------|
| PeptidesStruct | 0.635 | NA | 0.634 | 0.528 | 0.556 | 0.500 | 0.566 |
| Lipo | 1.571 | 1.525 | 1.567 | 1.534 | 1.539 | 1.563 | 1.532 |
| BACE | 0.224 | 0.231 | 0.235 | 0.225 | 0.222 | 0.221 | 0.219 |
| ESOL | 1.639 | 1.547 | 1.650 | 1.291 | 1.282 | 1.482 | 1.748 |
| Zinc | 4.951 | 5.937 | 5.620 | 5.268 | 5.096 | 4.695 | 4.380 |
| IMDB | 0.500 | 0.550 | 0.530 | 0.570 | 0.420 | 0.510 | 0.480 |
| Reddit | 0.650 | NA | 0.555 | 0.630 | 0.625 | 0.645 | 0.680 |
| Collab | 0.622 | NA | 0.296 | 0.614 | 0.596 | 0.596 | 0.606 |
| Mutag | 0.842 | 0.895 | 0.842 | 0.895 | 0.842 | 0.895 | 0.842 |
| Proteins | 0.736 | 0.745 | 0.566 | 0.736 | 0.736 | 0.745 | 0.728 |
| Enzymes | 0.267 | 0.183 | 0.233 | 0.267 | 0.233 | 0.283 | 0.233 |

Table 6: GCN Depth 3

| Dataset | None | Full | Empty | RelWire | FOSR | GTR | SDRF |
|----------------|-------|-------|-------|---------|-------|-------|-------|
| PeptidesStruct | 0.503 | NA | 0.548 | 0.440 | 0.456 | 0.391 | 0.502 |
| Lipo | 1.710 | 1.529 | 1.715 | 1.635 | 1.601 | 1.612 | 1.605 |
| BACE | 0.212 | 0.228 | 0.228 | 0.217 | 0.212 | 0.199 | 0.206 |
| ESOL | 1.210 | 1.369 | 1.532 | 1.374 | 1.223 | 1.210 | 1.322 |
| Zinc | 4.874 | 5.776 | 5.753 | 4.439 | 4.709 | 4.948 | 4.823 |
| IMDB | 0.470 | 0.430 | 0.450 | 0.590 | 0.410 | 0.450 | 0.430 |
| Reddit | 0.615 | NA | 0.560 | 0.650 | 0.570 | 0.595 | 0.655 |
| Collab | 0.628 | NA | 0.258 | 0.606 | 0.608 | 0.614 | 0.654 |
| Mutag | 0.842 | 0.842 | 0.842 | 0.842 | 0.842 | 0.842 | 0.842 |
| Proteins | 0.705 | 0.753 | 0.566 | 0.736 | 0.745 | 0.720 | 0.705 |
| Enzymes | 0.250 | 0.200 | 0.233 | 0.233 | 0.233 | 0.217 | 0.233 |

Table 7: GCN Depth 4

| Dataset | None | Full | Empty | RelWire | FOSR | GTR | SDRF |
|----------------|-------|-------|-------|---------|-------|-------|-------|
| PeptidesStruct | 0.494 | NA | 0.535 | 0.416 | 0.434 | 0.358 | 0.445 |
| Lipo | 1.756 | 1.525 | 1.738 | 1.648 | 1.630 | 1.653 | 1.695 |
| BACE | 0.192 | 0.205 | 0.226 | 0.208 | 0.198 | 0.188 | 0.199 |
| ESOL | 0.943 | 1.408 | 1.410 | 1.202 | 1.635 | 1.254 | 1.232 |
| Zinc | 4.749 | 5.025 | 5.262 | 4.622 | 4.439 | 4.561 | 4.422 |
| IMDB | 0.440 | 0.460 | 0.480 | 0.480 | 0.470 | 0.510 | 0.520 |
| Reddit | 0.580 | NA | 0.560 | 0.635 | 0.645 | 0.690 | 0.615 |
| Collab | 0.634 | NA | 0.220 | 0.636 | 0.618 | 0.626 | 0.616 |
| Mutag | 0.842 | 0.842 | 0.842 | 0.789 | 0.842 | 0.842 | 0.789 |
| Proteins | 0.711 | 0.753 | 0.566 | 0.720 | 0.696 | 0.688 | 0.705 |
| Enzymes | 0.250 | 0.150 | 0.233 | 0.250 | 0.183 | 0.200 | 0.217 |

Table 8: GCN Depth 5

| Dataset | None | Full | Empty | RelWire | FOSR | GTR | SDRF |
|----------------|-------|-------|-------|---------|-------|-------|-------|
| PeptidesStruct | 0.496 | NA | 0.655 | 0.389 | 0.374 | 0.308 | 0.451 |
| Lipo | 1.774 | 1.598 | 1.550 | 1.748 | 1.705 | 1.765 | 1.693 |
| BACE | 0.173 | 0.227 | 0.233 | 0.176 | 0.168 | 0.158 | 0.174 |
| ESOL | 1.177 | 0.879 | 1.772 | 0.980 | 0.905 | 1.032 | 0.983 |
| Zinc | 3.901 | 6.461 | 5.380 | 4.322 | 3.986 | 4.246 | 3.747 |
| IMDB | 0.540 | 0.400 | 0.480 | 0.490 | 0.520 | 0.570 | 0.540 |
| Reddit | 0.675 | NA | 0.570 | 0.570 | 0.640 | 0.670 | 0.655 |
| Collab | 0.578 | NA | 0.504 | 0.564 | 0.598 | 0.568 | 0.570 |
| Mutag | 0.789 | 0.842 | 0.895 | 0.842 | 0.789 | 0.842 | 0.842 |
| Proteins | 0.680 | 0.793 | 0.566 | 0.703 | 0.695 | 0.711 | 0.720 |
| Enzymes | 0.350 | 0.217 | 0.200 | 0.383 | 0.367 | 0.317 | 0.317 |

Table 9: GraphConv Depth 3

| Dataset | None | Full | Empty | RelWire | FOSR | GTR | SDRF |
|----------------|-------|-------|-------|---------|-------|-------|-------|
| PeptidesStruct | 0.471 | NA | 0.570 | 0.369 | 0.346 | 0.285 | 0.417 |
| Lipo | 2.074 | 1.596 | 1.646 | 2.023 | 1.892 | 1.950 | 1.971 |
| BACE | 0.134 | 0.279 | 0.229 | 0.164 | 0.165 | 0.157 | 0.191 |
| ESOL | 0.638 | 1.282 | 1.599 | 0.896 | 0.799 | 0.863 | 1.128 |
| Zinc | 3.142 | 9.793 | 5.756 | 3.548 | 3.837 | 3.559 | 3.435 |
| IMDB | 0.510 | 0.420 | 0.520 | 0.560 | 0.430 | 0.530 | 0.560 |
| Reddit | 0.685 | NA | 0.540 | 0.730 | 0.725 | 0.710 | 0.685 |
| Collab | 0.614 | NA | 0.514 | 0.622 | 0.620 | 0.626 | 0.602 |
| Mutag | 0.842 | 0.684 | 0.842 | 0.842 | 0.789 | 0.842 | 0.789 |
| Proteins | 0.758 | 0.668 | 0.566 | 0.742 | 0.710 | 0.711 | 0.693 |
| Enzymes | 0.367 | 0.183 | 0.117 | 0.333 | 0.333 | 0.333 | 0.400 |

Table 10: GraphConv Depth 4

| Dataset | None | Full | Empty | RelWire | FOSR | GTR | SDRF |
|----------------|-------|---------|-------|---------|-------|-------|-------|
| PeptidesStruct | 0.446 | NA | 0.543 | 0.362 | 0.331 | 0.275 | 0.404 |
| Lipo | 2.147 | 8.155 | 1.718 | 2.104 | 1.985 | 2.193 | 2.130 |
| BACE | 0.125 | 0.238 | 0.232 | 0.160 | 0.183 | 0.183 | 0.182 |
| ESOL | 1.415 | 3.061 | 1.427 | 0.728 | 0.852 | 0.682 | 0.978 |
| Zinc | 3.279 | 125.248 | 5.584 | 3.436 | 3.422 | 3.265 | 3.085 |
| IMDB | 0.480 | 0.520 | 0.460 | 0.540 | 0.480 | 0.600 | 0.510 |
| Reddit | 0.705 | NA | 0.560 | 0.705 | 0.725 | 0.710 | 0.750 |
| Collab | 0.620 | NA | 0.504 | 0.592 | 0.630 | 0.608 | 0.578 |
| Mutag | 0.895 | 0.737 | 0.842 | 0.737 | 0.789 | 0.842 | 0.789 |
| Proteins | 0.725 | 0.580 | 0.574 | 0.767 | 0.727 | 0.727 | 0.727 |
| Enzymes | 0.533 | 0.200 | 0.117 | 0.367 | 0.367 | 0.317 | 0.350 |

Table 11: GraphConv Depth 5

RelWIRE Proceedings Track

| Dataset | None | Full | Empty | RelWire | FOSR | GTR | SDRF |
|----------------|-------|-------|-------|---------|-------|-------|-------|
| PeptidesStruct | 0.519 | NA | 0.629 | 0.463 | 0.507 | 0.434 | 0.539 |
| Lipo | 1.673 | 1.616 | 1.573 | 1.663 | 1.682 | 1.639 | 1.667 |
| BACE | 0.206 | 0.229 | 0.233 | 0.218 | 0.204 | 0.215 | 0.214 |
| ESOL | 1.334 | 1.464 | 1.675 | 1.500 | 1.037 | 1.324 | 1.867 |
| Zinc | 4.898 | 5.968 | 5.066 | 5.567 | 4.424 | 4.989 | 4.345 |
| IMDB | 0.400 | 0.410 | 0.530 | 0.480 | 0.440 | 0.520 | 0.450 |
| Reddit | 0.605 | NA | 0.560 | 0.650 | 0.650 | 0.605 | 0.585 |
| Collab | 0.496 | NA | 0.362 | 0.568 | 0.540 | 0.516 | 0.548 |
| Mutag | 0.842 | 0.842 | 0.842 | 0.737 | 0.842 | 0.842 | 0.789 |
| Proteins | 0.720 | 0.745 | 0.566 | 0.728 | 0.736 | 0.736 | 0.711 |
| Enzymes | 0.250 | 0.167 | 0.200 | 0.233 | 0.200 | 0.200 | 0.233 |

Table 12: GAT Depth 3

| Dataset | None | Full | Empty | RelWire | FOSR | GTR | SDRF |
|----------------|-------|-------|-------|---------|-------|-------|-------|
| PeptidesStruct | 0.518 | NA | 0.549 | 0.406 | 0.407 | 0.375 | 0.460 |
| Lipo | 1.788 | 1.610 | 1.695 | 1.863 | 1.863 | 1.776 | 1.796 |
| BACE | 0.163 | 0.238 | 0.232 | 0.200 | 0.193 | 0.192 | 0.205 |
| ESOL | 0.805 | 1.087 | 1.472 | 1.443 | 1.115 | 0.925 | 1.332 |
| Zinc | 4.563 | 5.937 | 5.177 | 5.023 | 4.619 | 4.955 | 4.554 |
| IMDB | 0.480 | 0.610 | 0.510 | 0.510 | 0.480 | 0.510 | 0.580 |
| Reddit | 0.645 | NA | 0.560 | 0.675 | 0.610 | 0.570 | 0.600 |
| Collab | 0.598 | NA | 0.306 | 0.578 | 0.554 | 0.522 | 0.564 |
| Mutag | 0.842 | 0.842 | 0.842 | 0.842 | 0.842 | 0.842 | 0.842 |
| Proteins | 0.695 | 0.753 | 0.566 | 0.711 | 0.688 | 0.696 | 0.671 |
| Enzymes | 0.217 | 0.183 | 0.233 | 0.233 | 0.267 | 0.250 | 0.267 |

Table 13: GAT Depth 4

| Dataset | None | Full | Empty | RelWire | FOSR | GTR | SDRF |
|----------------|-------|-------|-------|---------|-------|-------|-------|
| PeptidesStruct | 0.502 | NA | 0.539 | 0.396 | 0.393 | 0.355 | 0.424 |
| Lipo | 1.907 | 1.676 | 1.736 | 1.935 | 1.756 | 1.869 | 1.831 |
| BACE | 0.186 | 0.224 | 0.231 | 0.182 | 0.204 | 0.204 | 0.196 |
| ESOL | 1.042 | 1.407 | 1.378 | 1.383 | 1.001 | 0.894 | 1.293 |
| Zinc | 3.851 | 5.131 | 5.681 | 4.459 | 4.379 | 4.435 | 4.182 |
| IMDB | 0.490 | 0.510 | 0.460 | 0.490 | 0.480 | 0.570 | 0.650 |
| Reddit | 0.715 | NA | 0.535 | 0.630 | 0.630 | 0.640 | 0.605 |
| Collab | 0.548 | NA | 0.346 | 0.558 | 0.592 | 0.550 | 0.546 |
| Mutag | 0.842 | 0.789 | 0.842 | 0.737 | 0.842 | 0.789 | 0.842 |
| Proteins | 0.688 | 0.738 | 0.566 | 0.705 | 0.688 | 0.688 | 0.703 |
| Enzymes | 0.217 | 0.217 | 0.250 | 0.217 | 0.267 | 0.267 | 0.267 |

Table 14: GAT Depth 5

| Dataset | None | Full | Empty | RelWire | FOSR | GTR | SDRF |
|----------------|-------|-------|-------|---------|-------|-------|-------|
| PeptidesStruct | 0.480 | NA | 0.540 | 0.383 | 0.362 | 0.305 | 0.434 |
| Lipo | 1.823 | 1.552 | 1.708 | 1.723 | 1.670 | 1.723 | 1.669 |
| BACE | 0.148 | 0.236 | 0.237 | 0.166 | 0.163 | 0.144 | 0.173 |
| ESOL | 1.585 | 0.886 | 1.520 | 1.035 | 1.180 | 1.354 | 1.529 |
| Zinc | 4.080 | 4.966 | 5.598 | 4.511 | 4.179 | 4.234 | 4.838 |
| IMDB | 0.490 | 0.500 | 0.500 | 0.520 | 0.520 | 0.440 | 0.510 |
| Reddit | 0.635 | NA | 0.590 | 0.650 | 0.655 | 0.705 | 0.660 |
| Collab | 0.514 | NA | 0.474 | 0.582 | 0.564 | 0.566 | 0.564 |
| Mutag | 0.842 | 0.684 | 0.842 | 0.842 | 0.737 | 0.842 | 0.789 |
| Proteins | 0.680 | 0.793 | 0.566 | 0.693 | 0.710 | 0.718 | 0.680 |
| Enzymes | 0.300 | 0.167 | 0.167 | 0.217 | 0.233 | 0.317 | 0.267 |

Table 15: GIN Depth 3

| Dataset | None | Full | Empty | RelWire | FOSR | GTR | SDRF |
|----------------|-------|-------|-------|---------|-------|-------|-------|
| PeptidesStruct | 0.457 | NA | 0.564 | 0.371 | 0.346 | 0.283 | 0.413 |
| Lipo | 1.704 | 1.541 | 1.742 | 1.851 | 1.845 | 1.846 | 1.959 |
| BACE | 0.138 | 0.279 | 0.242 | 0.165 | 0.177 | 0.176 | 0.183 |
| ESOL | 1.469 | 0.954 | 1.494 | 1.033 | 0.934 | 1.133 | 1.620 |
| Zinc | 3.630 | 5.117 | 5.341 | 4.019 | 4.031 | 3.967 | 4.235 |
| IMDB | 0.480 | 0.510 | 0.450 | 0.520 | 0.490 | 0.480 | 0.500 |
| Reddit | 0.710 | NA | 0.625 | 0.625 | 0.640 | 0.660 | 0.670 |
| Collab | 0.650 | NA | 0.496 | 0.636 | 0.618 | 0.642 | 0.622 |
| Mutag | 0.842 | 0.684 | 0.842 | 0.842 | 0.789 | 0.895 | 0.789 |
| Proteins | 0.703 | 0.777 | 0.566 | 0.710 | 0.727 | 0.727 | 0.693 |
| Enzymes | 0.300 | 0.150 | 0.167 | 0.300 | 0.283 | 0.317 | 0.400 |

Table 16: GIN Depth 4

| Dataset | None | Full | Empty | RelWire | FOSR | GTR | SDRF |
|----------------|-------|-------|-------|---------|-------|-------|-------|
| PeptidesStruct | 0.462 | NA | 0.566 | 0.366 | 0.340 | 0.284 | 0.408 |
| Lipo | 1.973 | 1.600 | 1.731 | 1.934 | 1.807 | 1.951 | 1.861 |
| BACE | 0.147 | 0.247 | 0.239 | 0.195 | 0.177 | 0.198 | 0.183 |
| ESOL | 1.284 | 1.848 | 1.443 | 0.797 | 0.691 | 0.976 | 1.114 |
| Zinc | 3.639 | 6.103 | 5.022 | 4.019 | 3.707 | 3.668 | 3.776 |
| IMDB | 0.590 | 0.530 | 0.510 | 0.540 | 0.540 | 0.500 | 0.570 |
| Reddit | 0.650 | NA | 0.550 | 0.695 | 0.735 | 0.710 | 0.680 |
| Collab | 0.650 | NA | 0.500 | 0.656 | 0.648 | 0.656 | 0.674 |
| Mutag | 0.895 | 0.737 | 0.842 | 0.789 | 0.789 | 0.842 | 0.895 |
| Proteins | 0.718 | 0.739 | 0.574 | 0.711 | 0.710 | 0.735 | 0.742 |
| Enzymes | 0.400 | 0.167 | 0.183 | 0.267 | 0.333 | 0.350 | 0.333 |

Table 17: GIN Depth 5

