Natural Language is All a Graph Needs

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Abstract

 The emergence of large-scale pre-trained lan- guage models, such as ChatGPT, has revolu- tionized various research fields in artificial in- telligence. Transformers-based large language models (LLMs) have gradually replaced CNNs and RNNs to unify fields of computer vision and natural language processing. Compared with the data that exists relatively indepen- dently such as images, videos or texts, graph is a type of data that contains rich structural and relational information. Meanwhile, natural language, as one of the most expressive medi- ums, excels in describing complex structures. However, existing work on incorporating graph learning problems into the generative language modeling framework remains very limited. As the importance of LLMs continues to grow, it becomes essential to explore whether LLMs can also replace GNNs as the foundation model **for graphs.** In this paper, we propose **Instruct-** GLM (Instruction-finetuned Graph Language **Model**), systematically design highly scalable prompts based on natural language instructions, and use natural language to describe the geo- metric structure and node features of the graph for instruction tuning an LLM to perform learn- ing and inference on graphs in a generative manner. Our method exceeds all competi- tive GNN baselines on ogbn-arxiv, Cora and PubMed datasets, which demonstrates the ef- fectiveness of our method and sheds light on generative large language models as the foun- dation model for graph machine learning. Our code will be released once published.

⁰³⁵ 1 Introduction

Before the advent of Transformers [\(Vaswani et al.,](#page-11-0) [2017\)](#page-11-0), various artificial intelligence domains with different inductive biases had diverse foundational model architectures. For instance, CNNs [\(He et al.,](#page-9-0) [2016;](#page-9-0) [Szegedy et al.,](#page-11-1) [2016\)](#page-11-1) were designed with con- siderations for spatial invariance in images, leading to superior performance in computer vision tasks

[\(Deng et al.,](#page-9-1) [2009;](#page-9-1) [Lin et al.,](#page-10-0) [2014\)](#page-10-0). Memory- **043** enhanced models like RNNs [\(Elman,](#page-9-2) [1990\)](#page-9-2) and **044** [L](#page-8-0)STM [\(Hochreiter and Schmidhuber,](#page-9-3) [1997;](#page-9-3) [Cho](#page-8-0) **045** [et al.,](#page-8-0) [2014\)](#page-8-0) were widely used for handling sequen- **046** tial data such as natural language [\(Sarlin et al.,](#page-11-2) **047** [2020\)](#page-11-2) and audio [\(Chen et al.,](#page-8-1) [2021\)](#page-8-1). Graph Neural **048** Networks (GNNs) excel in capturing topological **049** information by employing message passing and ag- **050** gregation mechanisms, making them a preferred **051** choice in the field of graph learning for a long time **052** $(Kipf and Welling, 2016; Veličković et al., 2017;$ 053 [Hamilton et al.,](#page-9-4) [2017;](#page-9-4) [Han et al.,](#page-9-5) [2023a\)](#page-9-5). **054**

In recent years, the AI community has witnessed **055** the emergence of numerous powerful pre-trained **056** Large Language Models (LLMs) [\(Devlin et al.,](#page-9-6) **057** [2018;](#page-9-6) [Raffel et al.,](#page-10-2) [2020;](#page-10-2) [Brown et al.,](#page-8-2) [2020;](#page-8-2) [Tou-](#page-11-4) **058** [vron et al.,](#page-11-4) [2023;](#page-11-4) [Ouyang et al.,](#page-10-3) [2022\)](#page-10-3), which are **059** driving huge advancements and lead to the pursuit **060** of possible Artificial General Intelligence (AGI) **061** [\(Bubeck et al.,](#page-8-3) [2023\)](#page-8-3). Under this background, there **062** is a trend towards unification in model architectures **063** across different domains. Specifically, pre-trained **064** Transformers have demonstrated remarkable per- **065** formance on various modalities, such as images **066** [\(Dosovitskiy et al.,](#page-9-7) [2020\)](#page-9-7) and videos [\(Arnab et al.,](#page-8-4) **067** [2021\)](#page-8-4) in computer vision, text in natural language **068** processing [\(Singh et al.,](#page-11-5) [2021\)](#page-11-5), structured data in **069** graph machine learning [\(Ying et al.,](#page-12-0) [2021\)](#page-12-0), person- **070** alized data in recommender systems [\(Geng et al.,](#page-9-8) **071** [2022\)](#page-9-8), decision sequences in reinforcement learn- **072** ing [\(Di Palo et al.,](#page-9-9) [2023\)](#page-9-9), and visual-text pairs in **073** multimodal tasks [\(Radford et al.,](#page-10-4) [2021\)](#page-10-4). There has **074** even been Transformers capable of handling twelve **075** modalities [\(Zhang et al.,](#page-12-1) [2023b\)](#page-12-1). **076**

Besides model architecture, the unification of **077** processing method in handling multimodal data is **078** [a](#page-10-2)lso a significant trend worth attention. T5 [\(Raffel](#page-10-2) **079** [et al.,](#page-10-2) [2020\)](#page-10-2) established a text-to-text framework, **080** unifying all NLP tasks as a sequence generation **081** [p](#page-10-4)roblem. Moreover, models like CLIP [\(Radford](#page-10-4) **082** [et al.,](#page-10-4) [2021\)](#page-10-4) utilize image-text pairs to accomplish **083**

Figure 1: Illustration of the InstructGLM Framework. We fine-tune InstructGLM under a Multi-task Multi-prompt instruction tuning framework, enabling it to solve various graph machine learning tasks with the structure information purely described by natural language.

 multimodal tasks with the images captioned by natural language. As for reinforcement learning, [Di Palo et al.](#page-9-9) [\(2023\)](#page-9-9) employs natural language to describe environmental states for the agent which successfully solves many reinforcement learning (RL) problems. P5 [\(Geng et al.,](#page-9-8) [2022\)](#page-9-8) further con- tributes to this trend by reformulating all personal- ized recommendation tasks as language modeling tasks via prompts. The aforementioned works col- lectively demonstrate that employing natural lan- guage for multimodal information representation has emerged as a prominent and promising trend.

 However, in graph machine learning, such an exploration still remains limited. Existing methods that utilize large language models for graph tasks can be roughly categorized into two types: 1) Com- bining LLMs and GNNs, where the LLM acts as a feature extractor or data augmentation module to enhance the downstream GNNs' performance [\(He et al.,](#page-9-10) [2023;](#page-9-10) [Mavromatis et al.,](#page-10-5) [2023;](#page-10-5) [Zhao](#page-12-2) [et al.,](#page-12-2) [2023\)](#page-12-2). Such kind of methods often require training multiple models, incurring significant com- putational overhead and tend to easily inherit draw- [b](#page-8-5)acks of GNNs such as over-smoothing [\(Cai and](#page-8-5) [Wang,](#page-8-5) [2020\)](#page-8-5). 2) Only relying on Transformers but necessitating novel designs of token embedding for nodes and edges [\(Kim et al.,](#page-10-6) [2022\)](#page-10-6) or creating complex graph attention module to learn structural [i](#page-10-7)nformation [\(Dwivedi and Bresson,](#page-9-11) [2020;](#page-9-11) [Nguyen](#page-10-7) [et al.,](#page-10-7) [2022\)](#page-10-7). This type of method demands local attention calculation on every node during each optimization step, leading to considerable compu-tation costs and thus limiting each node's scope

to only 1-hop neighbors. Meanwhile, the com- **117** plex pipeline with special attention mechanisms or **118** token representations prevents the model from di- **119** rectly observing and learning structural information **120** like GNNs, thus restricting further improvement on **121** performance. **122**

To address the issues present in LLM-based **123** graph learners and bridge the gap of natural lan- **124** guage based graph learning, we propose Instruct- **125** GLM (Instruction-finetuned Graph Language **126** Model). Given that LLMs have been dominant in **127** many AI domains, we aim to answer the question: **128** Can LLMs also replace GNNs as the foundation **129** model in graph machine learning? Intuitively, **130** as one of the most expressive medium, natural lan- **131** guage is adept at describing complex structures **132** such that InstructGLM owns following advantages **133** over GNNs: **134**

- 1) *Flexibility*. A natural language sentence is **135** capable of effectively describing the connec- **136** tivity at any desired hop levels and interme- **137** diate paths without iterative message passing **138** and aggregation. Even multimodal features of **139** the nodes and edges can be directly integrated **140** into natural language prompts, making natu- **141** ral language a very flexible medium to convey **142** both structural and content information on the **143** graph. **144**
- 2) *Scalability*. Injecting graph structure into mul- **145** tiple natural language sentences enables mini- **146** batch training and independent gradient prop- **147** agation, which further allows easy scalability **148**

149 to distributed training and inference on mas-**150** sive graphs with low machine communication **151** overhead.

152 3) *Compatibility*. Aided by structure descrip-

154 mulate various graph learning pipelines as **155** language modeling tasks, thus fits well into

- **156** the LLM-based multimodal processing frame-
- **158** ing with other AI tasks such as vision, lan-**159** guage and recommendation to construct uni-

160 fied AI systems.

161 In this paper, we focus on tackling node classi-**162** fication, while augmenting it with self-supervised

163 link prediction to enhance the performance. We **164** design a series of scalable graph prompts for gener-**165** ative LLMs [\(Wei et al.,](#page-11-6) [2021;](#page-11-6) [Chung et al.,](#page-8-6) [2022\)](#page-8-6).

166 Specifically, we systematically employ natural lan-**167** guage to describe the graph's topology according

168 to the prompts. The graph structure is clearly **169** and intuitively provided to LLMs without com-

170 plex pipelines tailored to graphs. Therefore, we **171** can handle graph tasks efficiently and succinctly by

172 the vanilla Transformer architecture [\(Vaswani et al.,](#page-11-0)

173 [2017\)](#page-11-0) and language modeling objective [\(Zhang and](#page-12-3) **174** [Sabuncu,](#page-12-3) [2018\)](#page-12-3) in a generative manner. Overall,

175 our contributions can be summarized by the follow-**176** ing four points:

177 • To the best of our knowledge, we are the first

178 propose to purely using natural language for **179** graph structure representation and perform in-

180 struction tuning on a generative LLM to solve **181** graph-related problems. We eliminate the re-

182 quirement of designing specific complex atten-**183** tion mechanisms tailored for graphs. Instead, **184** we offer a concise and efficient natural language

185 processing interface for graph machine learning,

186 which exhibits high scalability to a unified mul-

187 timodal and multitask framework, aligning with

188 the current trend in other AI domains.

189 • Inspired by various message passing mechanisms

190 in GNNs, we have designed a series of rule-based, **191** highly scalable instruction prompts for general

192 graph structure representation and graph machine **193** learning. Although in this paper, our focus lies

194 in exploring instruction tuning on large language

195 models, these prompts can also be used for zero-**196** shot experiments on LLMs.

197 • We conduct self-supervised link prediction as an **198** generic auxiliary task and further investigate its

153 tions, InstructGLM can consistently refor-

157 work, paving the way to integrate graph learn-

influence on the primary task under a multitask **199** instruction tuning framework. This exploration **200** holds valuable insights for future LLM-based **201** multitask graph learning, demonstrating the sig- **202** nificance of self-supervised link prediction for **203** large language models' better structure under- **204** standing on graphs. **205**

• We implement extensive experiments on three **206** widely used datasets: ogbn-arxiv, Cora, and 207 PubMed. The results demonstrate our Instruct- **208** GLM outperforms previous competitive GNN **209** baselines and Transformer-based methods across **210** all three datasets, achieving the top-ranked perfor- **211** mance. These findings validate the effectiveness **212** of our method and underscore the trend of lever- **213** aging generative large language models as the **214** foundation model for graph machine learning. **215**

2 Related Work **²¹⁶**

2.1 GNN-based Methods **217**

Graph Neural Networks (GNNs) [\(Zhou et al.,](#page-12-4) [2020;](#page-12-4) **218** [Wu et al.,](#page-11-7) [2020;](#page-11-7) [Han et al.,](#page-9-5) [2023a;](#page-9-5) [Wu and Wang,](#page-11-8) **219** [2022\)](#page-11-8) have been dominant in graph machine learn- **220** ing for a long period. Leveraging message passing **221** and aggregation, GNNs excel in simultaneously **222** learning node features and graph topology. Overall, **223** GNNs with various message passing mechanisms **224** [c](#page-9-4)an be categorized as spatial-based ones [\(Hamil-](#page-9-4) **225** [ton et al.,](#page-9-4) [2017;](#page-11-3) Veličković et al., 2017; [Xu et al.,](#page-11-9) **226** [2018a;](#page-11-9) [Monti et al.,](#page-10-8) [2017\)](#page-10-8) and spectral-based ones **227** [\(Kipf and Welling,](#page-10-1) [2016;](#page-10-1) [Defferrard et al.,](#page-9-12) [2016;](#page-9-12) **228** [Yadati et al.,](#page-12-5) [2019\)](#page-12-5). Inherently, GNNs easily suf-
229 fer from over-smoothing [\(Cai and Wang,](#page-8-5) [2020\)](#page-8-5), **230** with various regularization techniques like Mix-
231 Hop, Jump Knowledge and EdgeDrop [\(Xu et al.,](#page-11-10) **232** [2018b;](#page-11-10) [Abu-El-Haija et al.,](#page-8-7) [2019;](#page-8-7) [Rong et al.,](#page-11-11) [2019\)](#page-11-11) **233** proposed to mitigate such an overfitting. Another **234** major drawback of GNNs is their inability to di- **235** rectly process non-numeric raw data like text or **236** images, requiring additional feature engineering **237** techniques like BoW, TF-IDF, or Skip-gram as a **238** preprocessing step [\(Wang et al.,](#page-11-12) [2021\)](#page-11-12). Its lack of **239** compatibility with existing large-scale generative **240** models presents a significant challenge for inte- **241** gration with other AI domains such as vision and **242** language into a unified intelligent system. **243**

2.2 Transformers-based Methods **244**

Attention-based Transformer models can be uti- **245** lized for graph processing by representing nodes **246** and edges as distinct tokens [\(Müller et al.,](#page-10-9) [2023\)](#page-10-9). **247**

 However, it is computationally intensive for han- dling large-scale graphs and the global weighted average of attention mechanism can not effectively capture the graph's topology [\(Kim et al.,](#page-10-6) [2022\)](#page-10-6). To mitigate the issue, some methods incorporate graph structure information into attention matrices [\(Ying et al.,](#page-12-0) [2021;](#page-12-0) [Park et al.,](#page-10-10) [2022\)](#page-10-10), while others restrict attention to local subgraphs [\(Nguyen et al.,](#page-10-7) [2022\)](#page-10-7) or ingeniously design graph orthogonal vec- tors for node and edge tokens[\(Kim et al.,](#page-10-6) [2022\)](#page-10-6). These newly designed complex pipelines result in indirect representation of graph structure and sig- nificantly increasing the learning difficulty. The only work similar to ours is [Zhang et al.](#page-12-6) [\(2021a\)](#page-12-6), which utilizes natural language templates tailored to biological concept linking [\(Sokal and Crovello,](#page-11-13) [1970;](#page-11-13) [Wang et al.,](#page-11-14) [2023b\)](#page-11-14). However, it is difficult for extension beyond classification due to the use of encoder-only model [\(Liu et al.,](#page-10-11) [2019\)](#page-10-11). Addition- ally, its natural language templates are not designed for general graph learning thus not as expressive and flexible as ours.

270 2.3 Fuse GNN and Transformers

 GNNs excel at learning structure, while Transform- ers are proficient in capturing multi-modality fea- [t](#page-8-8)ures. To combine the advantages of both, [Chien](#page-8-8) [et al.](#page-8-8) [\(2021\)](#page-8-8) and [Duan et al.](#page-9-13) [\(2023\)](#page-9-13) utilizes multi- neighbor prediction and LoRa [\(Hu et al.,](#page-9-14) [2021\)](#page-9-14), respectively, to incorporate graph structure into language models, generating enhanced feature for downstream GNNs. [Mavromatis et al.](#page-10-5) [\(2023\)](#page-10-5) em- ploys GNNs to perform knowledge distillation on LMs, [Zhao et al.](#page-12-2) [\(2023\)](#page-12-2) trains GNNs and LMs iter- atively in a variational inference framework, while [Rong et al.](#page-11-15) [\(2020\)](#page-11-15) attempts to replace attention heads with GNNs to better capture global informa- tion. The main drawback of the aforementioned methods is the lack of decoupling between Trans- formers and GNNs, results in training multiple models and incurs significant computational over- head [\(Nguyen et al.,](#page-10-7) [2022\)](#page-10-7). Moreover, the model performance is still susceptible to inherent issues of GNNs, such as over-smoothing [\(Yang et al.,](#page-12-7) [2020\)](#page-12-7) and the pipeline of multi-model training is usually very complex compared to the simplicity of a single generative LLM framework.

294 2.4 Large Language Model based Methods

295 Inspired by the remarkable zero-shot capabilities, **296** leveraging LLMs in graph problems has attracted **297** considerable attention. Existing works have included utilizing LLM to select the most suitable **298** graph processor based on the query [\(Zhang,](#page-12-8) [2023\)](#page-12-8), **299** employing LLM's zero-shot explanations for data **300** augmentation to obtain advanced graph features **301** [\(He et al.,](#page-9-10) [2023\)](#page-9-10), generating prompts and bench- **302** marks for graph construction, evaluation, biology **303** [a](#page-10-12)nd structural reasoning [\(Han et al.,](#page-9-15) [2023b;](#page-9-15) [Jiang](#page-10-12) **304** [et al.,](#page-10-12) [2023;](#page-10-12) [Qian et al.,](#page-10-13) [2023;](#page-10-13) [Guo et al.,](#page-9-16) [2023\)](#page-9-16). **305** There are three works sharing similarities with ours. **306** [Guo et al.](#page-9-16) [\(2023\)](#page-9-16) attempts to complete graph tasks 307 by describing graphs. However, it uses complex for- **308** mal languages like [\(Brandes et al.,](#page-8-9) [2013;](#page-8-9) [Himsolt,](#page-9-17) **309** [1997\)](#page-9-17) but not flexible natural language. [Wang et al.](#page-11-16) **310** [\(2023a\)](#page-11-16) and [Chen et al.](#page-8-10) [\(2023\)](#page-8-10) both explore using **311** natural language with LLM for graph problems, **312** with [\(Wang et al.,](#page-11-16) [2023a\)](#page-11-16) focusing on mathemat- 313 ical problems on small graphs while [\(Chen et al.,](#page-8-10) **314** [2023\)](#page-8-10) concentrating on node classification in Text- **315** Attributed Graphs (TAGs) [\(Hu et al.,](#page-9-18) [2020\)](#page-9-18). In com- **316** parison, our natural language instruction prompts **317** exhibit better scalability, applicable to both small **318** and large graphs and not limited to specific graph **319** type. Besides, the three related works only ex- **320** plored the basic capability of LLM for graph tasks **321** in a zero-shot setting. Their performance does not **322** surpass GNN baselines for the most of time with **323** the model freezed, merely demonstrating the po- **324** tential of LLM as an option for graph tasks. By **325** contrast, we successfully bridge this gap by con- **326** ducting instruction tuning on generative LLMs with **327** simple prompts, achieving experimental results that **328** surpass all competitive GNN baselines. **329**

3 InstructGLM **³³⁰**

In this section, we introduce our proposed Instruct- **331** GLM, a framework utilizing natural language for **332** both graph structure and node features description **333** to a generative LLM and further addresses graph- **334** related problems by instruction-tuning. We start **335** with notation setup, followed by an introduction 336 to the instruction prompts' design principles, and **337** then we illustrate the pipeline with further details. **338**

3.1 Preliminary **339**

Formally, a general graph can be represented as **340** $\mathcal{G} = (\mathcal{V}, \mathcal{A}, E, \{\mathcal{N}_v\}_{v \in \mathcal{V}}, \{\mathcal{E}_e\}_{e \in E})$, where \mathcal{V} is 341 the set of nodes, $E \subseteq V \times V$ is the edge set, 342 $\mathcal{A} \in \{0,1\}^{|\mathcal{V}| \times |\mathcal{V}|}$ is the adjacent matrix, \mathcal{N}_v is the 343 node feature of $v \in V$ and \mathcal{E}_e is the edge feature of 344 $e \in E$. It is worth noting that the node feature and 345 edge feature can be various modalities in diverse **346**

399

 forms. For example, node feature can be textual information in citation networks or social networks, visual images in photography graphs, user profile in customer systems, and even video or audio sig- nals in movie networks, while edge feature can be product reviews in user-item interaction graph of recommender systems.

354 3.2 Instruction Prompt Design

 In order to comprehensively convey the structural information of a graph and ensure the adaptability of the created instruction prompts to various types of graphs, we have systematically designed a set of graph description prompts centered around an central node. These prompts can be differentiated based on the following three questions: i) What is the largest hop level of neighbor information about the central node in the prompt? ii) Does the prompt include node features or edge features? iii) For prompts with large (≥ 2) hop level neighbors about the central node, does the prompt encompass information about the intermediate nodes or paths along the corresponding connecting route?

 Regarding the first question, prompts can be clas- sified into two types: those exclusively contain 1-hop connection information, and those with a maximum of 2-hop or 3-hop connection details. Prior works have shown that utilizing up to 3-hop connectivity is sufficient for excellent performance **[\(Hamilton et al.,](#page-9-4) [2017;](#page-11-3) Veličković et al., 2017; [Kipf](#page-10-1)** [and Welling,](#page-10-1) [2016\)](#page-10-1), while information beyond 3- hop typically owns a minor impact on improvement [a](#page-12-9)nd might even lead to negative effects [\(Zhang](#page-12-9) [et al.,](#page-12-9) [2021b;](#page-12-9) [Cai and Wang,](#page-8-5) [2020\)](#page-8-5). Therefore, the maximum level of neighbor information included in the prompts is up to three. However, benefit- ing from the flexibility of natural language, our designed prompts can actually accommodate struc- tural information of any hop level. As for the latter two questions, there are two possible scenarios for each question, i.e., if or not to include the node or edge features in the prompt, and if or not to include the connecting route information in the prompt.

389 We then denote an instruction prompt as $\mathcal{T}(\cdot)$ such that $\mathcal{I} = \mathcal{T}(v, \mathcal{A}, \{N_v\}_{v \in \mathcal{V}}, \{\mathcal{E}_e\}_{e \in E})$ is the input natural language sentence to LLM and v is the central node of this prompt. For instance, the simplest form of a graph description prompt con-taining at most 2-hops neighbor information is:

 $\mathcal{T}(v, \mathcal{A}) = \{v\}$ is connected with 395 $\{[v_2]_{v_2 \in \mathcal{A}_2^v}\}$ within two hops. while its most detailed form which includes node 396 features, edge features and corresponding interme- **397** diate paths should be: **398**

$$
\mathcal{T}(v, \mathcal{A}, \{\mathcal{N}_v\}_{v \in \mathcal{V}}, \{\mathcal{E}_e\}_{e \in E}) = \{(v, \mathcal{N}_v)\} \text{ is}
$$
\n
$$
\text{connected with } \{[(v_2, \mathcal{N}_{v_2})]_{v_2 \in \mathcal{A}_2^v}\}
$$
\n
$$
\text{within two hops through } \{[(v_1, \mathcal{N}_{v_1})]_{v_1 \in \mathcal{A}_1^v}\}
$$
\n
$$
\text{and featured paths } \{[(\mathcal{E}_{(v, v_1)}, \mathcal{E}_{(v_1, v_2)})]\}
$$
\n
$$
v_1 \in \mathcal{A}_1^v, v_2 \in \mathcal{A}_1^{v_1}\}, \text{respectively.}
$$

where A_k^v represents the list of node v's k-hop 400 neighbor nodes. Essentially, the above prompt **401** should contain all 2-hop paths with node and **402** edge features like $(v, \mathcal{N}_v) \xrightarrow{\mathcal{E}_{(v,v_1)}} (v_1, \mathcal{N}_{v_1}) \xrightarrow{\mathcal{E}_{(v_1,v_2)}}$ 403 (v_2, \mathcal{N}_{v_2}) centering at node v. All our instruction 404 prompts are summarized in Appendix [F.](#page-14-0) **405**

3.3 Generative Instruction Tuning for Node **406 Classification** 407

[I](#page-10-15)n prompt engineering [\(Li and Liang,](#page-10-14) [2021;](#page-10-14) [Lester](#page-10-15) **408** [et al.,](#page-10-15) [2021;](#page-10-15) [Shin et al.,](#page-11-17) [2020\)](#page-11-17) or in-context learning **409** [\(Dong et al.,](#page-9-19) [2022\)](#page-9-19), pretrained models are usually **410** [f](#page-8-6)rozen. Instruction Tuning [\(Wei et al.,](#page-11-6) [2021;](#page-11-6) [Chung](#page-8-6) **411** [et al.,](#page-8-6) [2022\)](#page-8-6), however, directly conveys the require- **412** ments of downstream tasks to pretrained models by **413** fusing the original input data with task-specific in- **414** structional prompts under the framework of multi- **415** prompt training. This facilitates remarkably ef- **416** fective fine-tuning, especially when coupled with **417** human feedback (RLHF) [\(Ouyang et al.,](#page-10-3) [2022\)](#page-10-3). In- **418** struction Tuning has already become an indispens- **419** able technique for fine-tuning the most powerful **420** large language models. **421**

In this paper, we introduce InstructGLM as **422** a multi-prompt instruction-tuning framework for **423** graph learning. Specifically, we employ a genera- **424** tive large language model with an encoder-decoder **425** or decoder-only architecture as the backbone, then **426** fuse all of our designed instruction prompts, which **427** are spanning at different hop levels with diverse **428** structural information, together as input to LLM, **429** enabling mutual enhancement among the instruc- **430** tions. By exclusively using natural language to **431** depict graph structures, we succinctly present the **432** graph's geometry to the LLM and provide a pure **433** NLP interface for all graph-related tasks, make **434** them solvable through a unified pipeline in genera- **435** tive manner. Worth noting that we concentrate on **436** solving node classification task in this study. We 437 train InstructGLM to strictly generate the category **438** **439** label in natural language, and the prevalent Nega-**440** tive Log-Likelihood (i.e. NLL) Loss in language **441** modeling are selected as our objective function.

442 Given $G = (\mathcal{V}, \mathcal{A}, E, \{\mathcal{N}_v\}_{v \in \mathcal{V}}, \{\mathcal{E}_e\}_{e \in E})$ and **a** specific instruction prompt $\mathcal{T} \in \{ \mathcal{T}(\cdot) \}$, we de- note x and y as LLM's input and target sentence, respectively. Then our pipeline can be formed as:

⁴⁴⁶ P^θ (y^j | x, y<j) = LLM^θ (x, y<j), **448** x = Concatenate(P; I; Q) |y|

447

449

$$
\mathcal{L}_{\theta} = -\sum_{j=1}^{|\mathbf{y}|} \log P_{\theta} \left(\mathbf{y}_j \mid \mathbf{x}, \mathbf{y}_{< j} \right)
$$

451 where $\mathcal{I} = \mathcal{T}(v, \mathcal{A}, \{N_v\}_{v \in \mathcal{V}}, \{\mathcal{E}_e\}_{e \in E})$ is the 452 graph structure description centering at node $v \in V$, \angle denotes the NLL loss, \mathcal{P} and \mathcal{Q} are the task- specific instruction prefix and query. Specifically, for node classification, we design P and Q for node 456 classification as follows: $P = 'Classify$ the central node into one of the following categories: [<*All category*>]. Pay attention to the multi-hop link re-**lationships between the nodes.'** and $Q = 'Which'$ 460 category should $\{v\}$ be classified as?'. More de-tails of the pipeline are depicted in Figure [2](#page-13-0).

 Our InstructGLM actually shares essential simi- larities in mechanism with various GNNs, and thus covering their advantages. First, we mix prompts with diverse hop-level information together dur- [i](#page-8-7)ng training, which is akin to MixHop [\(Abu-El-](#page-8-7) [Haija et al.,](#page-8-7) [2019\)](#page-8-7) in performing graph convo- lutions on subgraphs extracted at different hop levels. Second, Jumping Knowledge [\(Xu et al.,](#page-11-10) [2018b\)](#page-11-10) combines outcomes from different convolu- tion layers via jump connections, which is aligned with our prompts featuring intermediate informa- tion and high-hop-level neighbors. Additionally, due to LLM's input length limit, similar to Graph- SAGE [\(Hamilton et al.,](#page-9-4) [2017\)](#page-9-4), we conduct neigh- bor sampling for the central node when filling the prompts to form a mini-batch training. This op- eration also resembles graph regularization tech- niques like DropEdge [\(Rong et al.,](#page-11-11) [2019\)](#page-11-11) for pre- venting over-smoothing [\(Chen et al.,](#page-8-11) [2020a\)](#page-8-11). Fur- thermore, compared to GNNs, our InstructGLM exhibits stronger expressive capabilities. Even a single graph description that contains intermediate paths and k-hop neighbor information is equiva- lent to a k-layer GNN in expressiveness. There- fore, InstructGLM can readily accommodate the inductive bias of graph tasks without any alterations on LLM's architecture and pipeline. For instance, since our inputs are centralized graph descriptions **489** that directly exhibit the corresponding multi-hop **490** neighbors, self-attention [\(Vaswani et al.,](#page-11-0) [2017\)](#page-11-0) ap- **491** plied on such inputs can be seen as an advanced **492** weighted average aggregation mechanism of GATs **493** (Veličković et al., [2017;](#page-11-3) [Li et al.,](#page-10-16) [2021\)](#page-10-16), facilitating 494 InstructGLM to effectively grasp different neigh- **495** bors' varying importance to the central node. **496**

3.4 Auxiliary Self-Supervised Link Prediction **497**

Both SuperGAT [\(Kim and Oh,](#page-10-17) [2022\)](#page-10-17) and DiffPool **498** [\(Ying et al.,](#page-12-10) [2018\)](#page-12-10) introduce auxiliary link predic- **499** tion task, thus successfully obtain better node rep- **500** resentations and performance for node or graph **501** classification, demonstrating that model's compre- **502** hension of graph structure can be significantly en- **503** hanced by such an auxiliary task. Inspired by them, 504 also to remove the restriction that our instruction **505** prompts can only treat labeled training nodes as **506** central nodes in single-task semi-supervised learn- **507** ing, we introduce self-supervised link prediction **508** as a foundational auxiliary task for InstructGLM. **509** Given arbitrary hop level and central node, we ran-
510 domly select a neighbor or non-neighbor at this hop **511** level as the candidate. Then we instruct our model **512** to either discriminate whether there is a connec- **513** tion at this hop level between the central node and **514** the candidate node (discriminative prompt) or di- **515** rectly generate the correct neighbor in a generative **516** manner (generative prompt). 517

Given $\mathcal{G} = (\mathcal{V}, \mathcal{A}, E, \{ \mathcal{N}_v \}_{v \in \mathcal{V}}, \{ \mathcal{E}_e \}_{e \in E})$, the 518 pipeline of link prediction aligns exactly with node **519** classification. The only distinction lies in the **520** newly designed task-specific prefix and two dif- **521** ferent query templates for it. Specifically, we de- **522** sign P and Q for link prediction as follows: $P = 523$ 'Perform link prediction for the central node. Pay **524** attention to the multi-hop link relationships be- **525** tween the nodes.', $Q_{\text{generative}} = \text{`Which other}$ 526 node will be connected to $\{v\}$ within $\{h\}$ hop?' 527 and $\mathcal{Q}_{discriminative}$ = 'Will $\{\tilde{v}\}$ be connected to 528 $\{v\}$ within $\{h\}$ hop?', where v is the central node, 529 \tilde{v} is the candidate node and h is the specified hop 530 level. We enable arbitrary node to act as central **531** node via self-supervised link prediction and ensure **532** a multi-task multi-prompt framework. **533**

4 Experiments **⁵³⁴**

4.1 Experimental Setup **535**

In this paper, we primarily utilize InstructGLM for **536** node classification, also conduct self-supervised **537** link prediction as an auxiliary task. Specifically, we select the following three popular citation graphs: ogbn-arxiv [\(Hu et al.,](#page-9-18) [2020\)](#page-9-18), Cora, and PubMed [\(Yang et al.,](#page-12-11) [2016\)](#page-12-11), in which every node represents an academic paper on a specific topic, with its title and abstract included in raw text format. All of our experiments report test accuracy as our met- rics and employ the dataset's default numerical node embedding to extend the LLM's vocabulary by adding node-wise new tokens. Implementation details and elaborated dataset-specific statistics are summarized in Appendix [C](#page-13-1) and [D.](#page-14-1)

550 4.2 Main Results

 Our results achieve single-model state-of-the-art performance, surpassing all single graph learners across all three datasets, including both representa- tive GNN models and graph Transformer models, which demonstrates the promising trend for large language models to serve as the foundation model for graph learning.

558 4.2.1 ogbn-arxiv

559 For the ogbn-arxiv, we adopt same dataset splits **560** as in the OGB open benchmark [\(Hu et al.,](#page-9-18) [2020\)](#page-9-18), i.e. 54%/18%/28%. We select top-ranked GNNs

Method	OGB	GIANT
MLP	55.50 ± 0.23	73.06 ± 0.11
GAMLP	56.53 ± 0.16	73.35 ± 0.08
GraphSAGE	71.19 ± 0.21	74.35 ± 0.14
GCN	71.74 ± 0.29	73.29 ± 0.01
DeeperGCN	71.92 ± 0.16	
ALT-OPT	72.76 ± 0.00	
UniMP	73.11 ± 0.20	
LEGNN	73.37 ± 0.07	
GAT	73.66 ± 0.11	74.15 ± 0.05
AGDN	73.75 ± 0.21	76.02 ± 0.16
RvGAT	74.02 ± 0.18	75.90 ± 0.19
DRGAT	74.16 ± 0.07	76.11 ± 0.09
CoarFormer	71.66 ± 0.24	
SGFormer	72.63 ± 0.13	
Graphormer	72.81 ± 0.23	
E ₂ EG	73.62 ± 0.14	
Flan-T5-base	73.51 ± 0.16	74.45 ± 0.11
Flan-T5-large	74.67 ± 0.08	74.80 ± 0.18
Llama-7b	75.70 ± 0.12	76.42 ± 0.09

Table 1: Results on ogbn-arxiv. We report accuracy on GNNs (Top), Graph Transformers (Middle) and our InstructGLM with different backbones (Bottom).

from the OGB Leaderboard^{[1](#page-6-0)}, including DRGAT, 561 RevGAT and etc., as the baselines [\(Zhang et al.,](#page-12-12) **562** [2022a;](#page-12-12) [Hamilton et al.,](#page-9-4) [2017;](#page-9-4) [Kipf and Welling,](#page-10-1) **563** [2016;](#page-10-1) [Li et al.,](#page-10-18) [2020;](#page-10-18) [Han et al.,](#page-9-5) [2023a;](#page-9-5) [Shi et al.,](#page-11-18) **564** [2020;](#page-11-18) [Yu et al.,](#page-12-13) [2022a;](#page-12-13) Veličković et al., [2017;](#page-11-3) [Sun](#page-11-19) 565 [et al.,](#page-11-19) [2020;](#page-11-19) [Li et al.,](#page-10-16) [2021;](#page-10-16) [Zhang et al.,](#page-12-14) [2023a\)](#page-12-14). **566** Several most powerful Transformer-based single- **567** model graph learners like Graphormer are also con- **568** sidered as compared methods against our Instruct- **569** [G](#page-12-0)LM. [\(Kuang et al.,](#page-10-19) [2021;](#page-10-19) [Wu et al.,](#page-11-20) [2023;](#page-11-20) [Ying](#page-12-0) **570** [et al.,](#page-12-0) [2021;](#page-12-0) [Dinh et al.,](#page-9-20) [2022\)](#page-9-20) **571**

We instruction-finetune Flan-T5 [\(Chung et al.,](#page-8-6) 572 [2022\)](#page-8-6) and Llama-v1 (LoRA) [\(Touvron et al.,](#page-11-4) [2023;](#page-11-4) **573** [Hu et al.,](#page-9-14) [2021\)](#page-9-14) as the backbone for our In- **574** structGLM. The experimental results in Table [1](#page-6-1) **575** demonstrate that both models outperform all the **576** GNNs and Transformer-based methods. Particu- **577** larly, when using Llama-v1-7b as the backbone on **578** the OGB feature, our InstructGLM attains a 1.54% improvement over the best GNN method and a **580** 2.08% improvement over the best Transformer- **581** based method. Meanwhile, we also obtain new **582** SoTA performance on the GIANT feature. **583**

4.2.2 Cora & PubMed 584

Table 2: Results on Cora and PubMed. We report accuracy on GNNs (Top), Graph Transformers (Middle) and our InstructGLM with different backbones (Bottom).

¹ [https://ogb.stanford.edu/docs/leader_](https://ogb.stanford.edu/docs/leader_nodeprop/) [nodeprop/](https://ogb.stanford.edu/docs/leader_nodeprop/)

Table 3: Ablation Study Results. In particular, since Cora is equipped with the sparsest semantic feature (Bag of Words) among the three datasets (ogbn-arxiv with Skip-gram and PubMed with TF-IDF.), we can observe that introducing multi-hop structural information provides the greatest performance gain on Cora.

 In terms of the compared methods for Cora and PubMed datasets [\(He et al.,](#page-9-10) [2023\)](#page-9-10), we select those top-ranked GNNs from the two corresponding **benchmarks**^{[2](#page-7-0) [3](#page-7-1)} with 60%/20%/20% train/val/test [s](#page-8-7)plits, including Snowball, RevGAT and etc. [\(Abu-](#page-8-7) [El-Haija et al.,](#page-8-7) [2019;](#page-8-7) [Pei et al.,](#page-10-20) [2020;](#page-10-20) [Wu et al.,](#page-11-21) [2019;](#page-11-21) [He et al.,](#page-9-21) [2021;](#page-9-21) [Bo et al.,](#page-8-12) [2021;](#page-8-12) [Chen et al.,](#page-8-13) [2020b;](#page-8-13) [Luan et al.,](#page-10-21) [2022\)](#page-10-21). Besides, the three most powerful Transformer-based single-model graph learners on these 2 benchmarks, i.e., CoarFormer, Graphormer, and GT [\(Dwivedi and Bresson,](#page-9-11) [2020\)](#page-9-11), are also considered.

 We instruction-finetune Flan-T5 and Llama-v1 (LoRA) as the backbone for our InstructGLM. The experimental results in Table [2](#page-6-2) show that our InstructGLM outperforms all the GNNs and Transformer-based methods. Specifically, Instruct- GLM achieves a 1.02% improvement over the best GNN method and a 2.08% improvement over the best Transformer-based method on Cora dataset, while also achieves a 3.18% improvement over the best GNN and a 4.87% improvement over the best Transformer-based method on PubMed dataset.

608 4.3 Ablation Study

 In our experiments, two crucial operations that contributes to the remarkable performance of In- structGLM in node classification are multi-prompt instruction-tuning, which provides multi-hop graph structure information to the LLM, and the utiliza- tion of self-supervised link prediction as an aux- iliary task. To validate the impact of the two key components on model performance, we conduct ab- lation experiments on all three datasets, the results are shown in Table [3.](#page-7-2)

 Regarding the *Hop Info* column, *Structure-Free- Tuning* indicates fine-tuning the model on titles and abstracts of the nodes. While *1-hop* and *Multi-hop* mean that we utilize prompts that merely include

[node-classification-on-cora-60-20-20-random](https://paperswithcode.com/sota/node-classification-on-cora-60-20-20-random) 3 [https://paperswithcode.com/sota/](https://paperswithcode.com/sota/node-classification-on-pubmed-60-20-20-random)

information from 1-hop neighbors and prompts that **623** include information from neighbors with higher **624** hop levels, respectively. The experimental results **625** show that incorporating multi-hop information and **626** including link prediction task can both enhance the **627** model's performance for node classification. **628**

4.4 Instruction Tuning at Low Label Ratio **629**

In previous experiments, our data splits all ensured **630** a relatively high ratio of labeled training nodes. To **631** further investigate the robustness of our Instruct- **632** GLM, we conduct experiments on the PubMed **633** dataset using its another widely-used splits with **634** extremely low label ratio. Specifically, we have **635** only 60 training nodes available in this setting thus **636** the label ratio is 0.3%. Despite the challenge, our **637** InstructGLM successfully achieve new SoTA per- **638** formance with 89.6% test accuracy on the corre- **639** sponding leaderboard^{[4](#page-7-3)}. Detailed comparison with 640 all competitive baselines and more results analysis **641** under this setting are summarized in Appendix [B](#page-12-15) **642**

5 Conclusions **⁶⁴³**

To the best of our knowledge, this paper is the **644** first one that purely represents graph structure via **645** natural language description then further perform **646** instruction-tuning on generative LLMs to effec- **647** tively solve graph learning problems, demonstrat- **648** ing the huge potential of LLMs as the founda- **649** tional model for graphp machine learning. Our **650** InstructGLM outperforms all single-model GNNs **651** and Transformer-based graph learners on ogbn- **652** arxiv, Cora, and PubMed datasets. Overall, In- **653** structGLM provides a powerful natural language **654** processing interface for graph machine learning, **655** with Transformer-based generative LLM and nat- **656** ural language as the driving force, it further con- **657** tributes to the trend of unifying foundational model **658** architecture and pipeline across multiple areas for **659** the AGI pursuit in the future. 660

² [https://paperswithcode.com/sota/](https://paperswithcode.com/sota/node-classification-on-cora-60-20-20-random)

[node-classification-on-pubmed-60-20-20-random](https://paperswithcode.com/sota/node-classification-on-pubmed-60-20-20-random)

⁴ [https://paperswithcode.com/sota/](https://paperswithcode.com/sota/node-classification-on-pubmed-with-public) [node-classification-on-pubmed-with-public](https://paperswithcode.com/sota/node-classification-on-pubmed-with-public)

⁶⁶¹ Limitations

 The primary limitation of our InstructGLM lies in the input token limit of the large language model (LLM). For example, Flan-T5 can only accept a maximum sentence input length of 512, while Llama allows for 2048. When dealing with large- scale graphs, the instruction prompts we construct may not encompass all high-order neighbors within a single natural language sentence due to the lim- itations of sentence length. The simplest solution to this problem is to construct multiple graph de- scription sentences for each training node (central node) to enumerate all possible neighbors at corre- sponding hop level. However, this leads to a rapid increase in the training data volume. In this work, learning from GraphSAGE [\(Hamilton et al.,](#page-9-4) [2017\)](#page-9-4), we repeatedly perform random sampling from the multi-hop neighbor lists of the central node until the sentence length reaches the input token limit to mitigate this issue. Despite our implementation achieving impressive results, we believe that im- proved neighbor sampling and selection strategies can help InstructGLM better address graph-related tasks, especially in the context of applications in- volving extremely large-scale graphs like knowl- edge graphs [\(Pan et al.,](#page-10-22) [2023\)](#page-10-22). Also, many valu- able works about employing InstructGLM beyond node classification and link prediction are still un- der exploration, more potential future directions are discussed in Appendix [E.](#page-14-2)

⁶⁹¹ Ethics Statement

 Our method is proposed to provide a powerful nat- ural language processing interface for graph ma- chine learning tasks. Under normal and appropriate usage circumstances, there is no obvious evidence or tendency that our method will lead to significant negative societal impacts.

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A Detailed Pipeline Illustration **¹¹⁶⁸**

Further detailed pipeline is depicted in Figure [2.](#page-13-0) 1169

B Instruction Tuning at Low Label Ratio **¹¹⁷⁰**

Table 4: Results on PubMed with 60 training nodes. We report accuracy on GNNs (Top), Graph Transformers (Middle) and our InstructGLM with different backbones (Bottom).

To further investigate the scalability and robust- **1171** ness of our InstructGLM, we conduct experiments **1172**

Figure 2: Illustration of InstructGLM. We use graph prompts to describe each node's multi-hop connectivity and meta features in a scalable mini-batch manner, conveying graph structure concisely and intuitively by pure natural language for learning. Subsequently, we instruct LLM to generate responses for various graph learning tasks in a unified language modeling pipeline. We also expand LLM's vocabulary by creating a new and unique token for every node. More specifically, we set the graph's inherent node feature vectors (e.g. BoW, OGB) as the embedding for these new tokens (depicted as red vectors in the figure) and employ LLM's pre-trained embedding (depicted as blue vectors in the figure) for natural language tokens.

 on the PubMed dataset using its another widely- used splits with extremely low label ratio. Specifi- cally, we have only 60 training nodes available in this setting thus the label ratio is 0.3%.

 We consider top-ranked GNNs from the corre-1178 sponding leaderboard^{[5](#page-13-2)}, including SAIL, ALT-OPT, GRAND etc., as the GNN baselines. [\(Luan et al.,](#page-10-23) [2019;](#page-10-23) [Kim and Oh,](#page-10-17) [2022;](#page-10-17) [Feng et al.,](#page-9-22) [2020;](#page-9-22) [Han](#page-9-5) [et al.,](#page-9-5) [2023a;](#page-9-5) [Yu et al.,](#page-12-16) [2022b\)](#page-12-16) We also include the three most outstanding Transformer-based graph learners under this dataset setting, i.e. ANS-GT, NodeFormer and SGFormer. [\(Zhang et al.,](#page-12-17) [2022b;](#page-12-17) [Wu et al.,](#page-11-22) [2022,](#page-11-22) [2023\)](#page-11-20) We then instruction-finetune Flan-T5 and Llama as the backbone for our Instruct- GLM. The experimental results in Table [4](#page-12-18) demon- strate that InstructGLM outperforms all the GNNs methods with an improvement of 5.8% against the best GNN baseline, while also surpassing the best Transformer-based model by 9.3%, success- fully achieve new SoTA performance on the leader-**1193** board.

¹¹⁹⁴ C Implementation Details

 We employ a multi-prompt instruction-tuning framework for all of our experiments and report test accuracy as our metric. Also, we employ a simple MLP over the default feature embedding of the node tokens to align their dimension with the natural language word token embeddings. All of all our experiments are conducted on four 40G

A100 GPUs. **1202**

For ogbn-arxiv dataset, we adopt the same **1203** [d](#page-9-18)ataset splits as in the OGB open benchmark [\(Hu](#page-9-18) **1204** [et al.,](#page-9-18) [2020\)](#page-9-18), which is 54%/18%/28%. It takes 3.5 **1205** hours per epoch for Flan-T5-Large and 6 hours per **1206** epoch for Llama-7b during training. For Cora and **1207** PubMed datasets, we use the version that contains **1208** raw text information proposed in [\(He et al.,](#page-9-10) [2023\)](#page-9-10) **1209** and employ a 60%/20%/20% train/val/test splits for **1210** our experiments. It takes about 1.5 hours per epoch **1211** for Flan-T5-Large (770M) and 2.5 hours per epoch **1212** for Llama-v1-7b-LoRA (18M) during training. **1213**

To investigate InstructGLM's performance un- **1214** [d](#page-12-11)er low-label-ratio training setting, following [Yang](#page-12-11) **1215** [et al.](#page-12-11) [\(2016\)](#page-12-11), we conduct further experiments on **1216** the PubMed dataset with the fixed 20 labeled train- **1217** ing nodes per class at a 0.3% label ratio, and it **1218** takes about 5 minutes per epoch for Flan-T5-Large **1219** and 15 minutes per epoch for Llama-v1-7b during **1220** training due to limited labeled data. **1221**

For both normal setting and low-label-ratio set- **1222** ting, the inference time is about 35ms on Flan-T5- **1223** Large and 450ms on Llama-7b per graph prompt **1224** sentence. **1225**

In terms of hyper-parameter selection, we per- **1226** form grid search within the specified range for the **1227** following parameters: (learning rate: 1e-5, 3e-5, **1228** 8e-5, 1e-4, 3e-4, 1e-3), (batch size: 32, 64, 128, **1229** [2](#page-10-24)56, 512). We employed the AdamW [\(Loshchilov](#page-10-24) **1230** [and Hutter,](#page-10-24) [2017\)](#page-10-24) optimizer with a weight decay at **1231** 0. All experiments are conducted with 4 epochs. **1232**

⁵ [https://paperswithcode.com/sota/](https://paperswithcode.com/sota/node-classification-on-pubmed-with-public) [node-classification-on-pubmed-with-public](https://paperswithcode.com/sota/node-classification-on-pubmed-with-public)

Table 5: Dataset Statistics

¹²³³ D Dataset Statistics

1234 The detailed statistics of the datasets are shown in **1235** Table [5.](#page-14-3)

¹²³⁶ E Detailed Discussions on Future Work

 In this paper, we conduct extensive experiments on Text-Attributed Graphs (TAG) to showcase the powerful capabilities of our proposed InstructGLM in solving graph machine learning problems. Our instruction prompts designed to describe graph structures in natural language demonstrate high generality and scalability, making them applicable to almost all types of graphs. Potential valuable fu-ture work can be explored along three dimensions:

- **1246** For TAGs, our experiments only used the de-**1247** fault OGB-feature embeddings. Future work can **1248** consider using more advanced TAG-related em-**1249** bedding features such as LLM-based features **1250** like TAPE [\(He et al.,](#page-9-10) [2023\)](#page-9-10) and SimTeG [\(Duan](#page-9-13) **1251** [et al.,](#page-9-13) [2023\)](#page-9-13). Additionally, leveraging LLM for **1252** Chain-of-Thought [\(Wei et al.,](#page-11-23) [2022\)](#page-11-23), structure in-**1253** formation summary, and other data augmentation **1254** techniques to generate more powerful instruction **1255** prompts will be a promising research direction **1256** for graph language models.
- **1257** InstructGLM can be integrated into frameworks **1258** like GAN and GLEM [\(Goodfellow et al.,](#page-9-23) [2014;](#page-9-23) **1259** [Zhao et al.,](#page-12-2) [2023\)](#page-12-2) for multi-model iterative train-**1260** ing, or utilize off-the-shelf GNNs for knowl-**1261** edge distillation [\(Mavromatis et al.,](#page-10-5) [2023\)](#page-10-5). Also, **1262** classic graph machine learning techniques like **1263** label reuse, Self-Knowledge Distillation (Self-**1264** KD), Correct & Smooth can further enhance the **1265** model's performance.
- 1266 Benefiting from the powerful expressive ability **1267** of natural language and the highly scalable de-**1268** sign of our instruction prompts, InstructGLM can **1269** be easily extended within a unified generative lan-**1270** guage modeling framework to various kinds of **1271** graphs, addressing a wide range of graph learning **1272** problems. For instance, our designed instruction **1273** prompts can be further used for link prediction

and inductive node classification tasks. And only **1274** with slight modifications to our prompts, tasks 1275 such as graph classification, intermediate node 1276 & path prediction and even relation-based ques- **1277** tion answering tasks in knowledge graphs with **1278** rich edge features are potentially to be effectively **1279** deployed. **1280**

F Instruction Prompts **¹²⁸¹**

In this appendix, we present all our designed in- **1282** struction prompts. It is worth noting that we fol- **1283** low the following conventions when numbering the **1284** prompts: **1285**

- The length of each prompt number is 4. **1286**
- The first digit represents the task index, where **1287** 1 represents the node classification task and 2 **1288** represents the link prediction task. **1289**
- The second digit represents whether node fea- **1290** tures or edge features (such as text information) **1291** other than numerical feature embedding are used **1292** in the prompt. 1 means not used and 2 means **1293 used.** 1294
- The third digit represents the maximum hop or- **1295** der corresponding to the structural information **1296** considered in this prompt. 1 represents only the **1297** 1-hop neighbors are included, while 2 and 3 rep- **1298** resent the structural information including 2-hop **1299** and 3-hop neighbors, respectively. **1300**
- The fourth digit represents whether the interme- **1301** diate node information (i.e. the path) in the high- **1302** order connection is considered in this prompt. If **1303** the digit is even, it means that the intermediate **1304** node is considered, while an odd digit indicates **1305** otherwise. **1306**
- Specially, in node classification task, we de- **1307** signed a graph-structure-free prompt and num- **1308 bered it as 1-0-0-0. 1309**

1310 F.1 Node Classification

1311 Task-specific prefix:

Classify the paper according to its topic into one of the following categories:{{All Category List $\{\}$. \n Node represents academic paper with a specific topic, link represents a citation between the two papers. Pay attention to the multi-hop link relationship between the nodes.

1312 Prompt ID: 1-1-1-1

Input template:

 ${\{central node\}}$ is connected with ${\{1-hop\}}$ neighbor list}} within one hop. Which category should {{central node}} be classified as?

Target template: {{category}}

1313 Prompt ID: 1-1-2-1

Input template:

{{central node}} is connected with {{2-hop neighbor list}} within two hops. Which category should {{central node}} be classified as?

Target template: {{category}}

1314 Prompt ID: 1-1-2-2

Input template:

{{central node}} is connected with {{2-hop neighbor list}} within two hops through {{the corresponding 1-hop intermediate node list}}. respectively. Which category should {{central node}} be classified as?

Target template: {{category}}

1315 Prompt ID: 1-1-3-1

Input template:

{{central node}} is connected with {{3-hop neighbor list}} within three hops. Which category should {{central node}} be classified as?

Target template: {{category}}

1316 Prompt ID: 1-1-3-2

Input template:

{{central node}} is connected with {{3-hop neighbor list}} within three hops through {{the corresponding 2-hop intermediate path list}}, respectively. Which category should {{central node}} be classified as?

Target template: {{category}}

1317 Prompt ID: 1-2-1-1

Input template:

({{central node}},{{text feature}}) is connected with {{1-hop neighbor list attached with text feature}} within one hop. Which category should ({{central node}},{{text feature}}) be classified as?

Target template: {{category}}

Prompt ID: 1-2-2-1 1318

Input template:

({{central node}},{{text feature}}) is connected with ${f2-hop}$ neighbor list attached with text feature}} within two hops. Which category should ({{central node}},{{text feature}}) be classified as?

Target template: {{category}}

Prompt ID: 1-2-2-2 1319

Input template:

({{central node}},{{text feature}}) is connected with {{2-hop neighbor list attached with text feature}} within two hops through {{the corresponding 1-hop intermediate node list attached with text feature}}, respectively. Which category should ({{central node}},{{text feature}}) be classified as?

Target template: {{category}}

Prompt ID: 1-2-3-1 1320

Input template:

({{central node}},{{text feature}}) is connected with {{3-hop neighbor list attached with text feature}} within three hops. Which category should ({{central node}},{{text feature}}) be classified as?

Target template: {{category}}

Prompt ID: 1-2-3-2 1321

Input template:

({{central node}},{{text feature}}) is connected with {{3-hop neighbor list attached with text feature}} within three hops through ${$ {the corresponding 2-hop intermediate path list attached with text feature}}, respectively. Which category should ({{central node}}, {{text feature}}) be classified as?

Target template: {{category}}

Prompt ID: 1-0-0-0 1322

Input template:

{{central node}} is featured with its {{text feature}}. Which category should {{central node}} be classified as?

Target template: {{category}}

1323 F.2 Link Prediction

1324 Task-specific prefix:

Perform Link Prediction for the central node:\n Node represents academic paper with a specific topic, link represents a citation between the two papers. Pay attention to the multi-hop link relationship between the nodes.

1325 Prompt ID: 2-1-1-1

Input template:

{{central node}} is connected with {{1-hop neighbor list}} within one hop. Will {{candidate} node}} be connected with {{central node}} within one hop?

Target template: {{yes/no}}

1326 Prompt ID: 2-1-1-2

Input template:

{{central node}} is connected with {{1-hop neighbor $list$ } within one hop. Which other node will be connected to ${[central node]}$ within one hop?

Target template: {{node_id}}

1327 Prompt ID: 2-1-2-1

Input template:

{{central node}} is connected with {{2-hop neighbor list}} within two hops. Will ${$ {candidate} node}} be connected to {{central node}} within two hops?

Target template: {{yes/no}}

1328 Prompt ID: 2-1-2-2

Input template:

{{central node}} is connected with {{2-hop neighbor list}} within two hops through {{the corresponding 1-hop intermediate node list}}, respectively. Will {{candidate node}} be connected to {{central node}} within two hops through {{the specified 1-hop intermediate node}}?

Target template: {{yes/no}}

1329 Prompt ID: 2-1-2-3

Input template:

{{central node}} is connected with {{2-hop neighbor list}} within two hops. Which other node will be connected to {{central node}} within two hops?

Target template: {{node_id}}

1330 Prompt ID: 2-1-2-4

Input template:

{{central node}} is connected with {{2-hop neighbor list}} within two hops through {{the corresponding 1-hop intermediate node list}}, respectively. Which other node will be connected to $\{$ {central node}} within two hops through $\{$ {the specified 1-hop intermediate node}}?

Target template: {{node_id}}

Prompt ID: 2-1-3-1 1331

Input template:

{{central node}} is connected with {{3-hop neighbor list}} within three hops. Will {{candidate node}} be connected with {{central node}} within three hops?

Target template: {{yes/no}}

Prompt ID: 2-1-3-2 1332

Input template:

{{central node}} is connected with {{3-hop neighbor list}} within three hops through {{the corresponding 2-hop intermediate path list}}, respectively. Will {{candidate node}} be connected to {{central node}} within three hops through {{the specified 2-hop intermediate path}}?

Target template: {{yes/no}}

Prompt ID: 2-1-3-3 1333

Input template:

{{central node}} is connected with {{3-hop neighbor list}} within three hops. Which other node will be connected to ${[central node]}$ within three hops?

Target template: {{node_id}}

Prompt ID: 2-1-3-4 1334

Input template:

{{central node}} is connected with {{3-hop neighbor list}} within three hops through {{the corresponding 2-hop intermediate path list}}, respectively. Which other node will be connected to {{central node}} within three hops through {{the specified 2-hop intermediate path}}?

Target template: {{node_id}}

Prompt ID: 2-2-1-1 1335

Input template:

({{central node}},{{text feature}}) is connected with {{1-hop neighbor list attached with text feature}} within one hop. Will ({{candidate node}},{{candidate text feature}}) be connected to ({{central node}},{{text feature}}) within one hop?

Target template: {{yes/no}}

1336 Prompt ID: 2-2-1-2

Input template:

({{central node}},{{text feature}}) is connected with {{1-hop neighbor list attached with text feature}} within one hop. Which other node will be connected to ({{central node}},{{text feature}}) within one hop?

Target template: {{node_id}}

1337 Prompt ID: 2-2-2-1

Input template:

({{central node}},{{text feature}}) is connected with {{2-hop neighbor list attached with text feature}} within two hops. Will ({{candidate node}},{{candidate text feature}}) be connected to ({{central node}},{{text feature}}) within two hops?

Target template: {{yes/no}}

1338 Prompt ID: 2-2-2-2

Input template:

({{central node}},{{text feature}}) is connected with ${f2-hop}$ neighbor list attached with text feature}} within two hops through {{the corresponding 1-hop intermediate node list attached with text feature}}, respectively. Will ({{candidate node}},{{candidate text feature}}) be connected to ({{central node}},{{text feature}}) within two hops through $({}$ {the} specified 1-hop intermediate node attached with text feature}})?

Target template: {{yes/no}}

1339 Prompt ID: 2-2-2-3

Input template:

({{central node}},{{text feature}}) is connected with {{2-hop neighbor list attached with text feature}} within two hops. Which other node will be connected to ({{central node}},{{text feature}}) within two hops?

Target template: {{node_id}}

1340 Prompt ID: 2-2-2-4

Input template:

({{central node}},{{text feature}}) is connected with {{2-hop neighbor list attached with text feature}} within two hops through {{the corresponding 1-hop intermediate node list attached with text feature}}, respectively. Which other node will be connected to $({\{}$ {central node}},{{text feature}}) within two hops through ({{the specified 1-hop intermediate node attached with text feature}})?

Target template: {{node_id}}

Prompt ID: 2-2-3-1 1341

Input template:

({{central node}},{{text feature}}) is connected with {{3-hop neighbor list attached with text feature}} within three hops. Will ({{candidate node}},{{candidate text feature}}) be connected with ({{central node}},{{text feature}}) within three hops?

Target template: {{yes/no}}

Prompt ID: 2-2-3-2 1342

Input template:

({{central node}},{{text feature}}) is connected with ${f3-hop}$ neighbor list attached with text feature}} within three hops through {{the corresponding 2-hop intermediate path list attached with text feature}}, respectively. Will ({{candidate node}},{{candidate text feature}}) be connected to ({{central node}},{{text feature}}) within three hops through {{the specified 2-hop intermediate path attached with text feature}}?

Target template: {{yes/no}}

Prompt ID: 2-2-3-3 1343

Input template:

({{central node}},{{text feature}}) is connected with {{3-hop neighbor list attached with text feature}} within three hops. Which other node will be connected to ({{central node}},{{text feature}}) within three hops?

Target template: {{node_id}}

Prompt ID: 2-2-3-4 1344

Input template:

({{central node}},{{text feature}}) is connected with {{3-hop neighbor list attached with text feature}} within three hops through {{the corresponding 2-hop intermediate path list attached with text feature}}, respectively. Which other node will be connected to ({{central node}},{{text feature}}) within three hops through {{the specified 2-hop intermediate path attached with text feature}}?

Target template: {{node_id}}

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