



AUC-oriented Graph Neural Network for Fraud Detection

Mengda Huang¹, Yang Liu¹, Xiang Ao^{1*}, Kuan Li¹,
Jianfeng Chi², Jinghua Feng², Hao Yang², Qing He^{1*}

¹  中国科学院计算技术研究所
INSTITUTE OF COMPUTING TECHNOLOGY, CHINESE ACADEMY OF SCIENCES

²  Alibaba Group
阿里巴巴集团

- Background
- Method: AO-GNN
- Experiments
- Conclusion



BACKGROUND: FRAUD DETECTION TASK

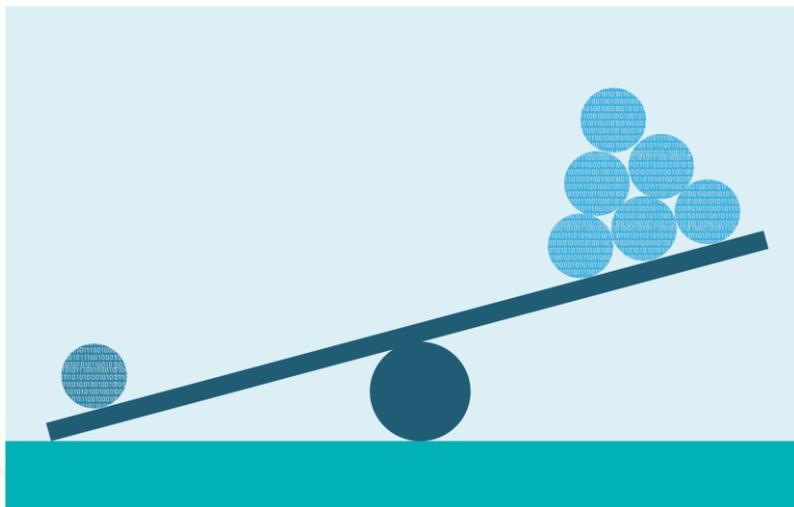
Fraud detection tasks become easier when discrete entities are built as graphs.



Task: Distinguish whether a node in a graph is a fraudulent node or a benign node.



BACKGROUND: CHALLENGES



Label Imbalance:

In practical scenarios, fraud samples are often very rare.



I got 99.9% accuracy by classifying all nodes as benign nodes!

Overfitting on Majority:

Such models are highly accurate but fail to learn from the data to identify fraudsters.



Find a metric unbiased
to label distribution and
maximize it!



AUC-oriented training tends to obtain a model with the competitive ability for classifying both benign nodes and fraud nodes.

$$AUC(\mathcal{M}_G^\omega) = \mathbb{P}(\mathcal{M}_G(\omega; \mathbf{v}) \geq \mathcal{M}_G(\omega; \mathbf{v}') | y_{\mathbf{v}} = 1, y_{\mathbf{v}'} = 0)$$



BACKGROUND : STOCHASTIC AUC MAXIMIZATION

$$AUC(\mathcal{M}_G^\omega) = \mathbb{P}(\mathcal{M}_G(\omega; \mathbf{v}) \geq \mathcal{M}_G(\omega; \mathbf{v}') | y_{\mathbf{v}} = 1, y_{\mathbf{v}'} = 0)$$



Maximize its
unbiased
estimation

$$\max_{\omega} \mathbb{E}_{\mathbf{v}, \mathbf{v}'} [\mathbb{I}(\mathcal{M}_G(\omega; \mathbf{v}) \geq \mathcal{M}_G(\omega; \mathbf{v}') | y_{\mathbf{v}} = 1, y_{\mathbf{v}'} = 0)]$$



L2 convex
surrogates

$$\min_{\omega \in \mathbb{R}^d} \mathbb{E}_{\mathbf{v}, \mathbf{v}'} [(1 - (\mathcal{M}_G(\omega; \mathbf{v}) - \mathcal{M}_G(\omega; \mathbf{v}'))^2 | y_{\mathbf{v}} = 1, y_{\mathbf{v}'} = 0)]$$



$$\min_{\omega \in \mathbb{R}^d} \mathbb{E}_{\mathbf{v}, \mathbf{v}'} [(1 - (\mathcal{M}_{\mathcal{G}}(\omega; \mathbf{v}) - \mathcal{M}_{\mathcal{G}}(\omega; \mathbf{v}'))^2 | y_{\mathbf{v}} = 1, y_{\mathbf{v}'} = 0]$$

THEOREM 1. *The optimizing problem above is equivalent to*

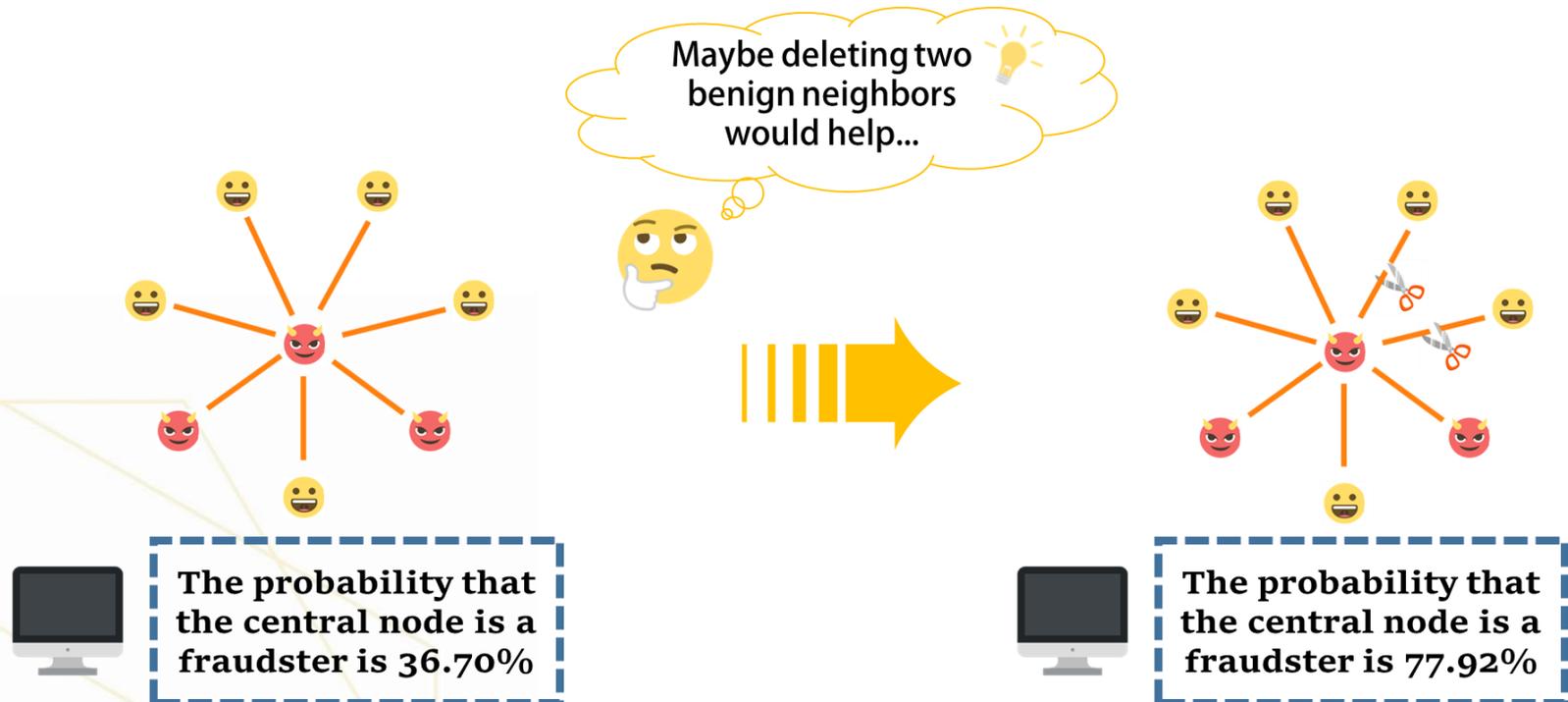
$$\min_{\omega \in \mathbb{R}^d, \{a, b\} \in \mathbb{R}^2} \max_{\alpha \in \mathbb{R}} \mathbb{E}_{\mathbf{v}} [\mathcal{L}_{AUC}(\omega, a, b, \alpha, \mathbf{v} | p)],$$

where p is the ratio of fraud nodes, and

$$\begin{aligned} \mathcal{L}_{AUC}(\omega, a, b, \alpha, \mathbf{v} | p) = & \mathbb{I}(y = 1) [(1 - p)(\mathcal{M}_{\mathcal{G}}(\omega; \mathbf{v}) - a)^2 \\ & + 2(p - 1)(1 + \alpha)\mathcal{M}_{\mathcal{G}}(\omega; \mathbf{v})] \\ & + \mathbb{I}(y = 0) [p(\mathcal{M}_{\mathcal{G}}(\omega; \mathbf{v}) - b)^2 \\ & + 2p(1 + \alpha)\mathcal{M}_{\mathcal{G}}(\omega; \mathbf{v})] + p(1 - p)\alpha^2. \end{aligned}$$



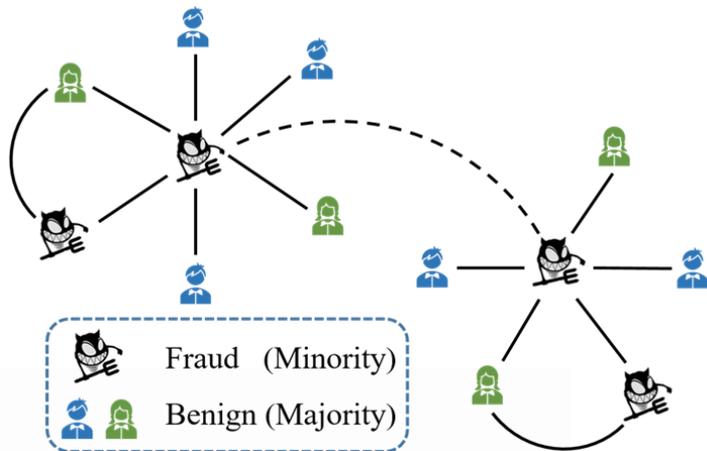
BACKGROUND: OBSERVATION



AUC is not maximized!



BACKGROUND: CHALLENGES



Polluted Topology:

Fraudulent nodes often confuse their identities by interacting with other nodes.

$$\arg \max_{\omega} AUC(\mathcal{M}_G^{\omega})$$



$$\arg \max_{\omega, \Pi} AUC(\mathcal{M}_G^{\omega} | \Pi)$$

Π is a topological cleaner

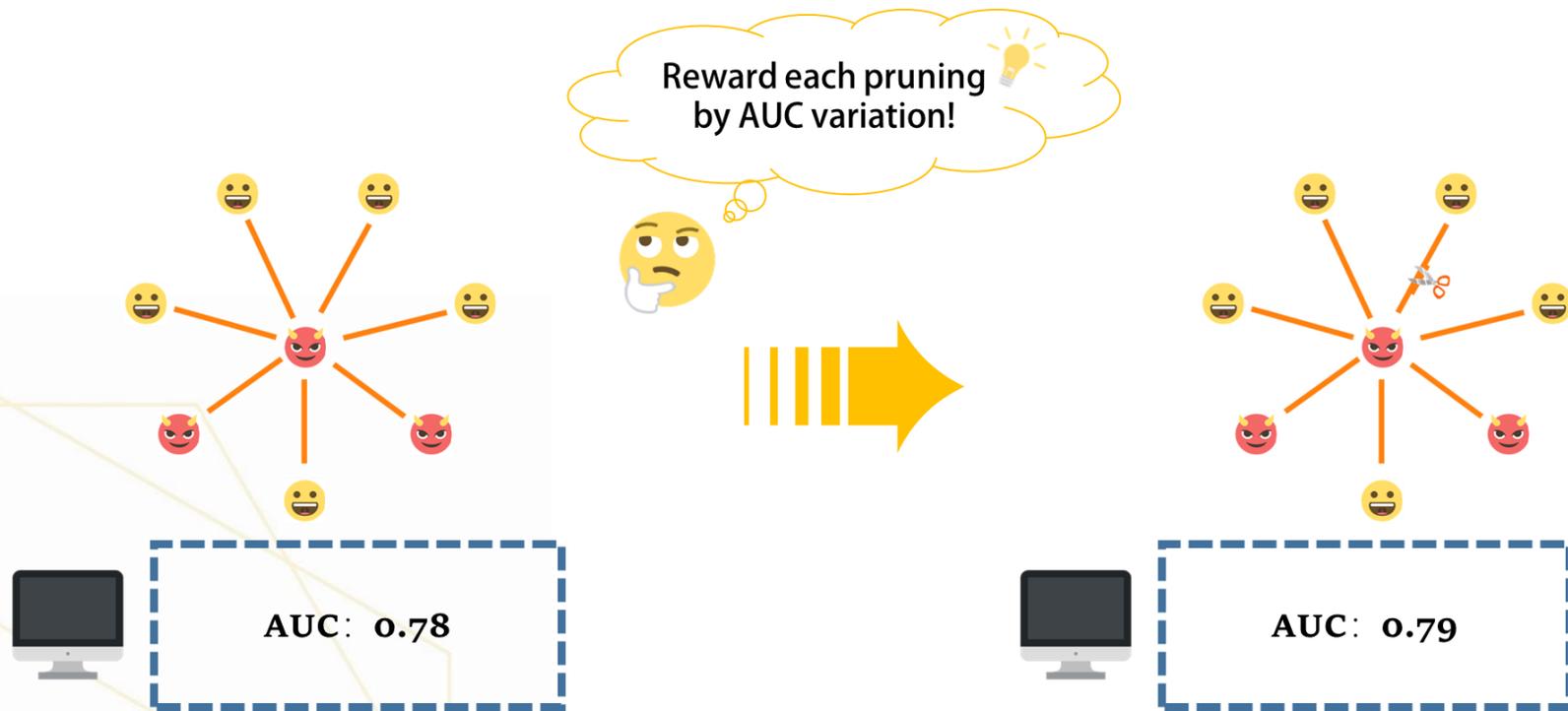
Algorithm 1: AUC maximization with GNN

input : A multi-relation graph \mathcal{G} , a GNN architecture $\mathcal{M}_{\mathcal{G}}$

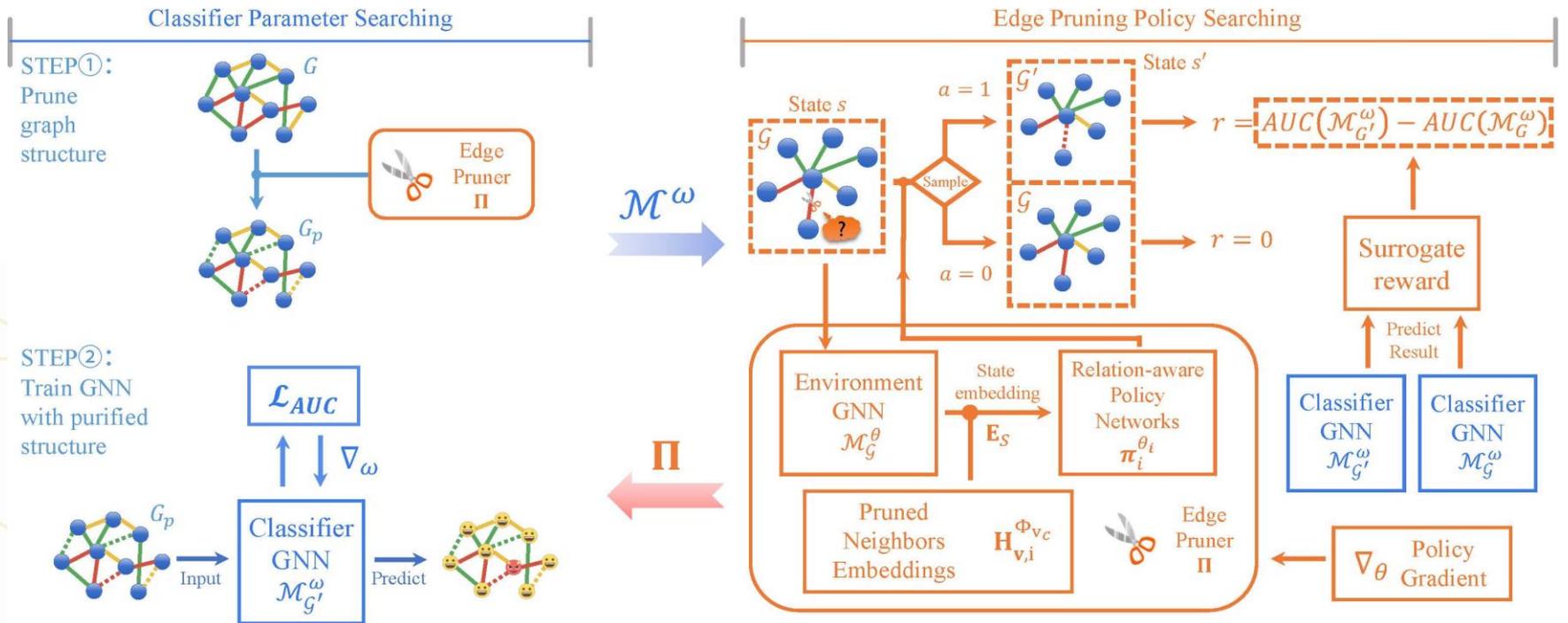
- 1 Initialize $\mathcal{M}_{\mathcal{G}} \leftarrow \mathcal{M}_{\mathcal{G}}^{\omega}$ with random parameters;
- 2 Initialize Π as a random function;
- 3 **while** *Break Condition is False* **do**
- 4 $\omega \leftarrow \arg \max_{\omega} AUC(\mathcal{M}_{\mathcal{G}}^{\omega} | \Pi);$ // Parameter searching
- 5 $\Pi \leftarrow \arg \max_{\Pi} AUC(\mathcal{M}_{\mathcal{G}}^{\omega} | \Pi);$ // Policy searching
- 6 **end**

return : A GNN $\mathcal{M}_{\mathcal{G}}^{\omega}$, Pruning policy Π

AO-GNN: EDGE PRUNING MDP



AO-GNN: MODEL OVERVIEW



- Parameter sharing: all policy networks to share a GNN layer
- Halting Mechanism: restrict the maximum number of deleting for each node
- Surrogate reward: reduces the complexity of returning reward from $O(n \log n)$ to $O(n)$

$$\mathcal{R}(s, a, s') = F(y_{v_c}) \cdot \begin{cases} |\{p_v | p_v \in (p_{v_c}, p'_{v_c}], y_v \neq y_{v_c}\}|, & p'_{v_c} \geq p_{v_c} \\ - |\{p_v | p_v \in [p'_{v_c}, p_{v_c}), y_v \neq y_{v_c}\}|, & p'_{v_c} < p_{v_c} \end{cases}$$

Our datasets vary in many dimensions.

YelpChi: spam reviews detection

Amazon: fraud users detection

Books: fake-order item detection

Dataset	#Node	#Edge	Relations	Relation#Edges
YelpChi	45,954;	3,846,979	R-U-R	49,315
	14.5%		R-T-R	573,616
	Fraud		R-S-R	3,402,743
Amazon	11,944;	4,398,392	U-P-U	165,608
	9.5%		U-S-U	3,566,479
	Fraud		U-V-U	1,036,737
Books	1,418; 1.9%	3,695	Co-purchase	3,695

EXPERIMENT: PERFORMANCE COMPARISON

Method	Dataset	YelpChi		
	Metric	AUC	F1-macro	GMean
Baselines	GCN	0.5983±0.0049	0.5620±0.0067	0.4365±0.0262
	GAT	0.5715±0.0029	0.4879±0.0230	0.1659±0.0789
	GraphSAGE	0.5439±0.0025	0.4405±0.1066	0.2589±0.1864
	DR-GCN	0.5921±0.0195	0.5523±0.0231	0.4038±0.0742
	GraphConsis	0.6983±0.0302	0.5870±0.0200	0.5857±0.0385
	CARE-GNN	0.7619±0.0292	0.6332±0.0094	0.6791±0.0359
	PC-GNN	0.8178±0.0014	0.6400±0.0230	0.7395±0.0130
Ablation	AO-GNN _{woP}	0.8680±0.0020	0.7182±0.0177	0.7484±0.0125
	AO-GNN _{woC}	0.8545±0.0177	0.7063±0.0129	0.7305±0.0241
	AO-GNN _{R-P}	0.8302±0.0286	0.6936±0.0351	0.7192±0.0586
Ours	AO-GNN	0.8805±0.0008	0.7042±0.0051	0.8134±0.0232

Method	Dataset	Amazon		
	Metric	AUC	F1-macro	GMean
Baselines	GCN	0.8369±0.0125	0.6408±0.0694	0.5718±0.1951
	GAT	0.8102±0.0179	0.6464±0.0387	0.6675±0.1345
	GraphSAGE	0.7589±0.0046	0.6416±0.0079	0.5949±0.0349
	DR-GCN	0.8295±0.0079	0.6488±0.0364	0.7963±0.0091
	GraphConsis	0.8741±0.0334	0.7512±0.0325	0.7677±0.0486
	CARE-GNN	0.9067±0.0112	0.8990±0.0073	0.8962±0.0018
	PC-GNN	0.9586±0.0014	0.8956±0.0077	0.9030±0.0044
Ablation	AO-GNN _{woP}	0.9588±0.0008	0.8956±0.0026	0.8740±0.0137
	AO-GNN _{woC}	0.9392±0.0166	0.8914±0.0041	0.8828±0.0267
	AO-GNN _{R-P}	0.9197±0.0238	0.8827±0.0135	0.8602±0.0164
Ours	AO-GNN	0.9640±0.0020	0.8921±0.0045	0.9096±0.0105

RQ1 Does AO-GNN outperform state-of-the-art GNN-based fraud detection models?

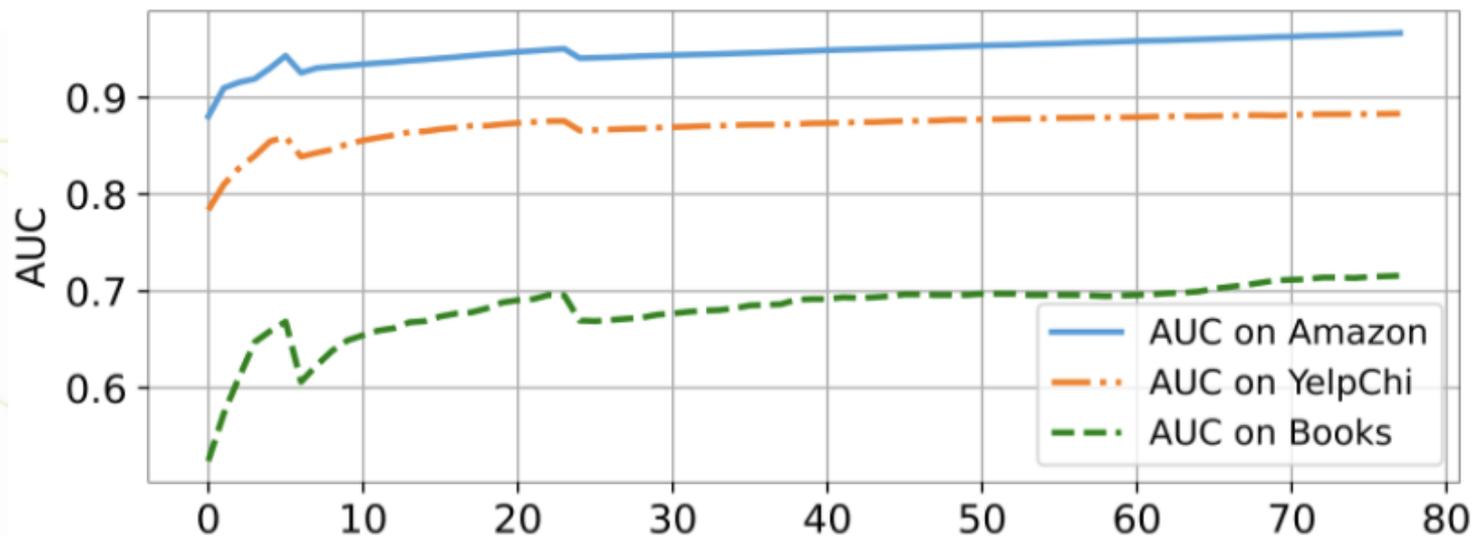
RQ2 How significant are the classifier parameter searching and the edge pruning policy searching in boosting AUC?

Method	Dataset	Books		
	Metric	AUC	F1-macro	GMean
Baselines	GCN	0.4538±0.1977	0.2374±0.2065	0.0000±0.0000
	GAT	0.4006±0.2023	0.2058±0.1623	0.0000±0.0000
	GraphSAGE	0.4761±0.1508	0.2464±0.2004	0.0000±0.0000
	DR-GCN	0.5131±0.1579	0.3048±0.2454	0.0000±0.0000
	GraphConsis	0.5647±0.1281	0.2912±0.1325	0.0000±0.0000
	CARE-GNN	0.6267±0.0462	0.4050±0.0996	0.4861±0.0811
	PC-GNN	0.6431±0.0189	0.4951±0.0037	0.5244±0.1012
Ablation	AO-GNN _{woP}	0.6720±0.0111	0.4131±0.0102	0.4829±0.0519
	AO-GNN _{woC}	0.5821±0.1397	0.2901±0.2102	0.3711±0.1919
	AO-GNN _{R-P}	0.5604±0.1733	0.2845±0.2329	0.3068±0.1240
Ours	AO-GNN	0.7174±0.0158	0.5503±0.0141	0.6127±0.0252

EXPERIMENT: AUC EVOLVING PROCESS STUDY

RQ3 How does AUC evolved in parameter searching?

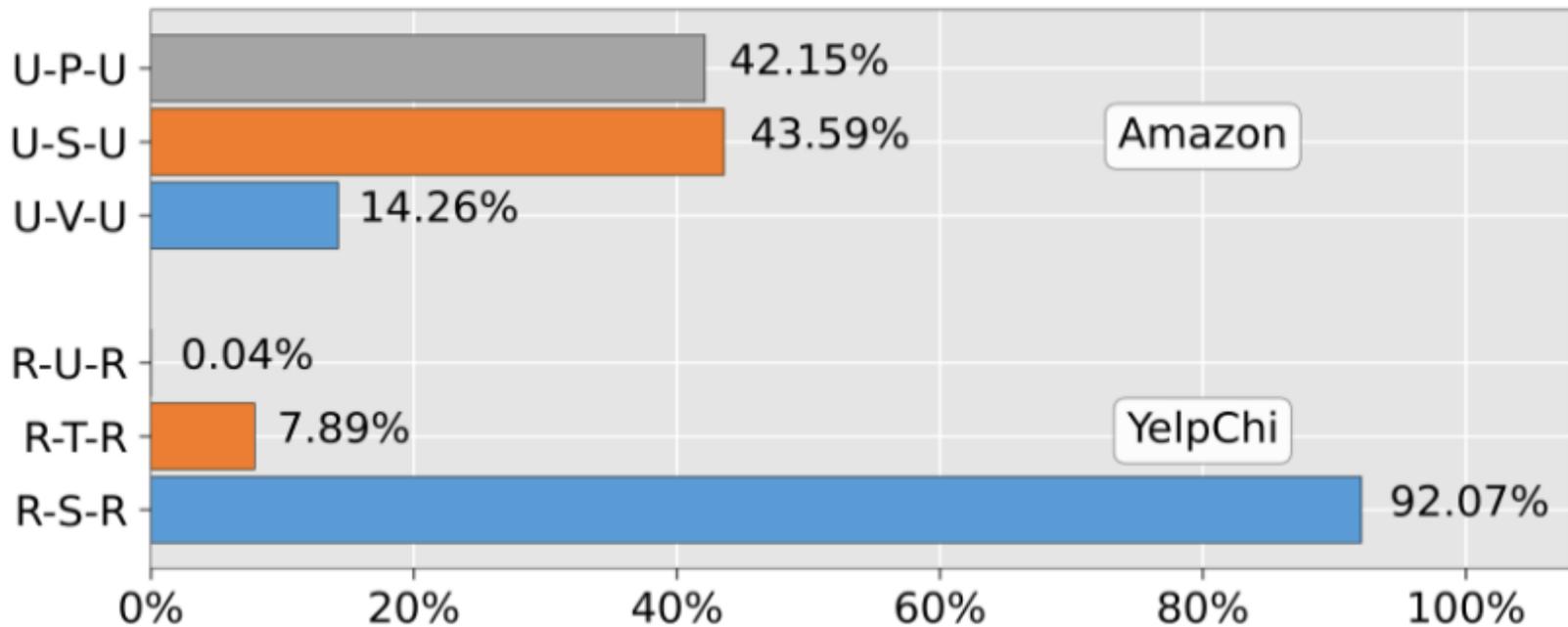
- After each falling, the AUC curves gain a longer-lasting growth and higher upper bound



EXPERIMENT: PRUNED EDGES STUDY

RQ4 What kind of edges are easier to be pruned?

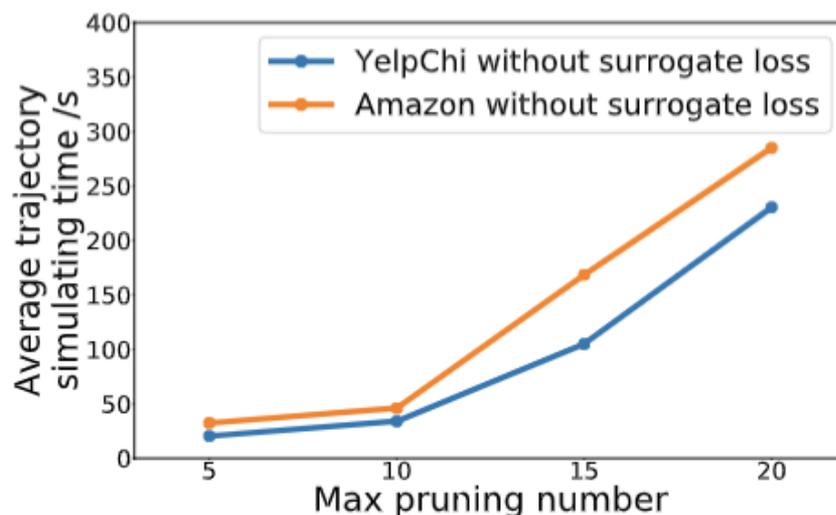
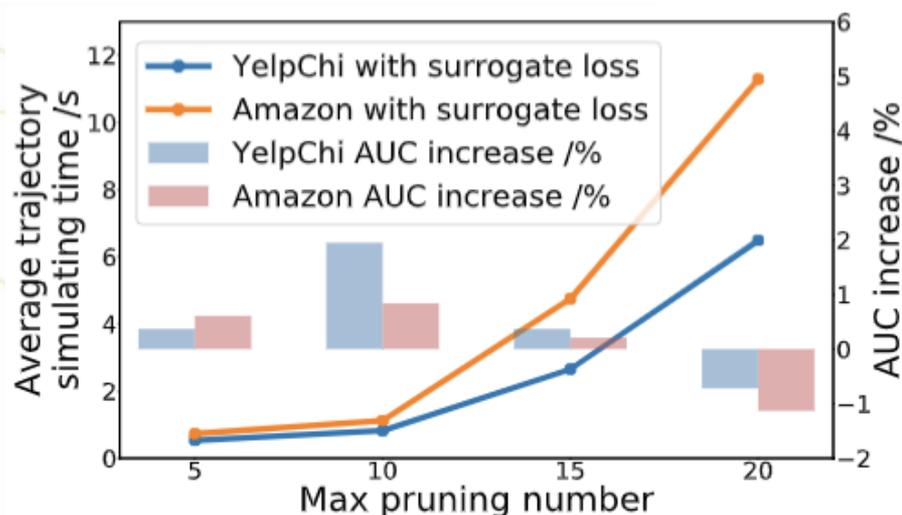
- R-U-R edges are hardly pruned in YelpChi.
- U-P-U edges are very noisy in Amazon.



EXPERIMENT: ACCELERATE MECHANISMS STUDY

RQ5 How effective are RL accelerating mechanisms?

- Surrogate loss accelerates trajectory simulating 25-30 times.
- Pruning 10 edges per node achieves best AUC improvement.



CONCLUSION

- We propose a novel GNN-based model for fraud detection from the standpoint of AUC maximization.
- We formulate neighbors choosing as an MDP with a theoretical guarantee of maximizing AUC and solve it by Deep RL.
- Experiments on three public datasets demonstrate that AO-GNN clearly outperforms the state-of-the-art baselines.



AUC-oriented Graph Neural Network for Fraud Detection

Thanks for listening!
Email: huangmengda19s@ict.ac.cn

