# M-Walk: Learning to Walk over Graphs using Monte Carlo Tree Search Yelong Shen<sup>\*1</sup>, Jianshu Chen<sup>\*1</sup>, Po-Sen Huang<sup>\*2</sup>, Yuqing Guo<sup>2</sup>, Jianfeng Gao<sup>2</sup> \*Equal Contribution, <sup>1</sup>Tencent AI Lab, <sup>2</sup>Microsoft Research

### Overview

- Learning to walk over a graph towards a target node given input query and a source node.
- M-Walk consists a recurrent neural network and a Monte Carlo Tree Search (MCTS).
- MCTS is combined with the RNN policy to generate  $\bullet$ trajectories with more positive rewards.
- RNN policy is updated in an off-policy manner from trajectories.
- Experiment results: learn better policies from less number of rollouts compared to policy gradient methods.
- Code: https://github.com/yelongshen/GraphWalk

### Problem Setting

• Given a pair of source node and query, learn to find a target node in a graph.



### Training Algorithm

Alg	orithm 1 M-Walk Training Algorithm
1:	<b>Input:</b> Graph $\mathcal{G}$ ; Initial node $n_S$ ; Query q; Target node $n_T$ ; Maximum Path Length
	Search Number E;
2:	for episode $e$ in $[1E]$ do
3:	Set current node $n_0 = n_S; q_0 = f_{\theta_a}(q, 0, 0, n_0)$
4:	for $t = 0 \dots T_{\max} do$
5:	Lookup from dictionary to obtain $W(s_t, a)$ and $N(s_t, a)$
6:	Select the action $a_t$ with the maximum PUCT value:
	$a_t = \operatorname{argmax}_a \left\{ c \cdot \pi_\theta(a s_t)^\beta \frac{\sqrt{\sum_{a'} N(s_t, a')}}{1 + N(s_t, a)} + \frac{W(s_t, a)}{N(s_t, a)} \right\}$
7:	Update $q_{t+1} = f_{\theta_q}(q_t, h_{A,t}, h_{a_t,t}, n_{t+1})$
8:	if $a_t$ is STOP then
9:	Compute estimated reward value $V_{\theta}(s_t) = Q(s_t, a_t = \text{STOP})$
10:	Add generated path $p$ into a path list
11:	Backup along the path p to update visit count $W(s_t, a)$ and $N(s_t, a)$
12:	Break
13:	end if
14:	end for
15:	end for
16:	for each path p in the path list do
17:	Set reward $r = 1$ if the end of the path $n_t = n_T$ otherwise $r = 0$
18:	Repeatedly update the model parameters with Q-learning:
	$\theta \leftarrow \theta + \alpha \cdot \nabla_{\theta} Q_{\theta}(s_t, a_t) \times \left( r(s_t, a_t) + \gamma \max_{a'} Q_{\theta}(s_{t+1}, a') - Q_{\theta}(s_t, a_t) \right)$

19: **end for** 



$$(a, a_t)$$

## **Experimental Results**

### NELL-995 Link Prediction Performance (MAP) $\bullet$

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Tasks	M-Walk	PG-Walk	Q-Walk	MINERVA	DeepPath	PRA	TransE	TransR
AthletePlaysForTeam	<b>84.7</b> (1.3)	80.8 (0.9)	82.6 (1.2)	82.7 (0.8)	72.1 (1.2)	54.7	62.7	67.3
AthletePlaysInLeague	<b>97.8</b> (0.2)	96.0 (0.6)	96.2 (0.8)	95.2 (0.8)	92.7 (5.3)	84.1	77.3	91.2
AthleteHomeStadium	91.9 (0.1)	91.9 (0.3)	91.1 (1.3)	<b>92.8</b> (0.1)	84.6 (0.8)	85.9	71.8	72.2
AthletePlaysSport	98.3 (0.1)	98.0 (0.8)	97.0 (0.2)	<b>98.6</b> (0.1)	91.7 (4.1)	47.4	87.6	96.3
TeamPlaySports	<b>88.4</b> (1.8)	87.4 (0.9)	78.5 (0.6)	87.5 (0.5)	69.6 (6.7)	79.1	76.1	81.4
OrgHeadquaterCity	<b>95.0</b> (0.7)	94.0 (0.4)	94.0 (0.6)	94.5 (0.3)	79.0 (0.0)	81.1	62.0	65.7
WorksFor	<b>84.2</b> (0.6)	84.0 (1.6)	82.7 (0.2)	82.7 (0.5)	69.9 (0.3)	68.1	67.7	69.2
BornLocation	81.2 (0.0)	<b>82.3</b> (0.6)	81.4 (0.5)	78.2 (0.0)	75.5 (0.5)	66.8	71.2	81.2
PersonLeadsOrg	<b>88.8</b> (0.5)	87.2 (0.5)	86.9 (0.5)	83.0 (2.6)	79.0 (1.0)	70.0	75.1	77.2
OrgHiredPerson	<b>88.8</b> (0.6)	87.2 (0.4)	87.8 (0.9)	87.0 (0.3)	73.8 (1.9)	59.9	71.9	73.7
Overall	89.9	88.9	87.8	87.6	78.8	69.7	72.3	77.5
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### WN18RR Link Prediction Performance

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Metric (%)	M-Walk	PG-Walk	Q-Walk	MINERVA	ComplEx	ConvE	DistMult	NeuralLP
HITS@1	41.4 (0.1)	39.3 (0.2)	38.2 (0.3)	35.1 (0.1)	38.5 (0.3)	39.6 (0.3)	38.4 (0.4)	37.2 (0.1)
HITS@3	44.5 (0.2)	41.9 (0.1)	40.8 (0.4)	44.5 (0.4)	43.9 (0.3)	44.7 (0.2)	42.4 (0.3)	43.4 (0.1)
MRR	43.7 (0.1)	41.3 (0.1)	40.1 (0.3)	40.9 (0.1)	42.2 (0.2)	43.3 (0.2)	41.3 (0.3)	43.5 (0.1)

## Positive Reward Rate Comparison



### Train Rollouts = 32

## Hyperparameter and Error Analysis on WN18RR



## Examples of Paths found by M-Walk

AthleteHomeStadium:
<i>Example 1</i> : athlete ernie banks $\xrightarrow{\text{AthleteHomeStadium}}$ ?
athlete ernie banks $\xrightarrow{\text{AthletePlaysInLeague}}$ SportsLeague
<i>Example 2</i> : coach jim zorn $\xrightarrow{\text{AthleteHomeStadium}}$ ?
coach jim zorn CoachWonTrophy AwardTrophyTourna
<i>Example 3</i> : athlete oliver perez $\xrightarrow{\text{AthleteHomeStadium}}$ ?
athlete oliver perez AthletePlaysInLeague

# Microsoft Research



MCTS Comparison



**Relation: WorksFor** 

Accuracy (%) whe	en the target is in th	e candidate set
100- M-Walk M	IINERVA ConvE	93.3
80- 80.0	77.5	
70- 63.9		-
50- 40- 39.6	44.7	50.8
HITS@1	HITS@3	HITS@10
Percentage	of Out-of-Candidate	e-Set Error
Percentage	of Out-of-Candidate	e-Set Error 93.3
Percentage 100 95 90 85 82 4	of Out-of-Candidate	e-Set Error 93.3 87.4
Percentage 100 95 90 85 82.4 80 75	of Out-of-Candidate	93.3 87.4
Percentage 100 95 90 85 82.4 80 75 70 68.7 65 60	of Out-of-Candidate	e-Set Error 93.3 87.4

ue mlb  $\xrightarrow{\text{TeamPlaysInLeague}^{-1}}$  SportsTeam chicago cubs  $\xrightarrow{\text{TeamHomeStadium}}$  StadiumOrEventVenue wrigley field, (True)

nament super bowl  $\xrightarrow{\text{TeamWonTrophy}^{-1}}$  SportsTeam redskins  $\xrightarrow{\text{TeamHomeStadium}}$  StadiumOrEventVenue fedex field, (True)

 $\xrightarrow{\text{TeamPlaysInLeague}^{-1}} \text{SportsTeam chicago cubs} \xrightarrow{\text{TeamHomeStadium}} \text{StadiumOrEventVenue wrigley field, (False)}$ gue mlb -