

# Neural Relational Inference for Interacting Systems

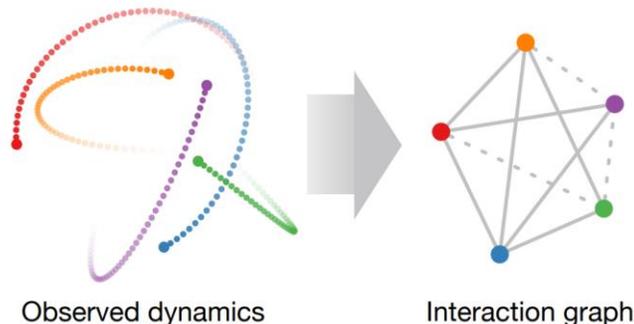
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# Introduction

- Interacting system is an **interplay of components** in dynamics
- A wide range of dynamical systems in physics, biology, sports, and other areas can be seen as **groups of interacting components**
  - Example: A movement of basketball player can influence other basketball player
- Recent works for dynamical model of interacting systems
  - Implicit interaction model (GNNs)
    - Send messages over the fully-connected graph,
      - Where the interactions are modeled implicitly by message passing or attention mechanisms

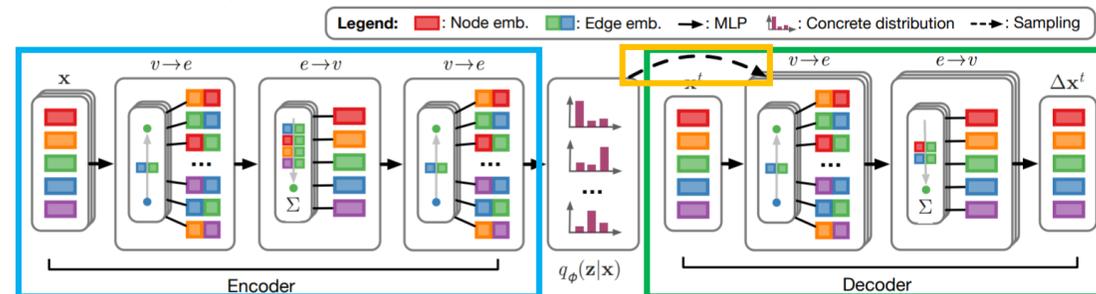


# Neural Relational Inference Model (NRI)

- Overview

- Model: Variational auto-encoder with (discrete) edge types as discrete latent variables to solve the problem of inferring an explicit interaction structure
  - Encoder and decoder are GNN-based
- Main intuition
  - Encoder**: Generates latent interaction probability distribution (how the system interacts)
  - Decoder**: Learns dynamical model (trajectory prediction) constrained by the interaction probability distribution of encoder
  - Trained jointly using **Gumbel softmax trick** as straight-through gradient estimator
- Target
  - Simultaneously learn to predict the edge types and learn the dynamical model in **unsupervised way**
  - Formalize the model as a variational autoencoder(VAE) with evidence lower bound(ELBO):

$$\mathcal{L} = E_{q_{\phi}(z|x)}[\log p_{\theta}(x|z)] - KL[q_{\phi}(z|x)||p_{\theta}(z)]$$



# Neural Relational Inference Model

- Single node-to-node message passing operation in GNN
  - Similar to “Neural Message Passing for Quantum Chemistry” (Justin Glimer et al.)
  - Node-to-Edge and Edge-to-Node

$$v \rightarrow e : \mathbf{h}_{(i,j)}^l = f_e^l([\mathbf{h}_i^l, \mathbf{h}_j^l, \mathbf{x}_{(i,j)}])$$

$$e \rightarrow v : \mathbf{h}_j^{l+1} = f_v^l([\sum_{i \in \mathcal{N}_j} \mathbf{h}_{(i,j)}^l, \mathbf{x}_j])$$

- Difference between existing VAE and NRI model
  1. Decoder ignores latent code  $z$ 
    - Train the decoder to predict **multiple time steps** (not a single step)
  2. Latent distribution is discrete
    - Use **continuous relaxation** in order to use the reparameterization trick

# Neural Relational Inference Model

## Encoder

- Since we do not know underlying graph,
  - Use a GNN on the fully-connected graph to predict latent graph structure
- Model the edge type posterior as  $q_\phi(z_{ij}|x) = \text{softmax}(h_{(i,j)}^2)$

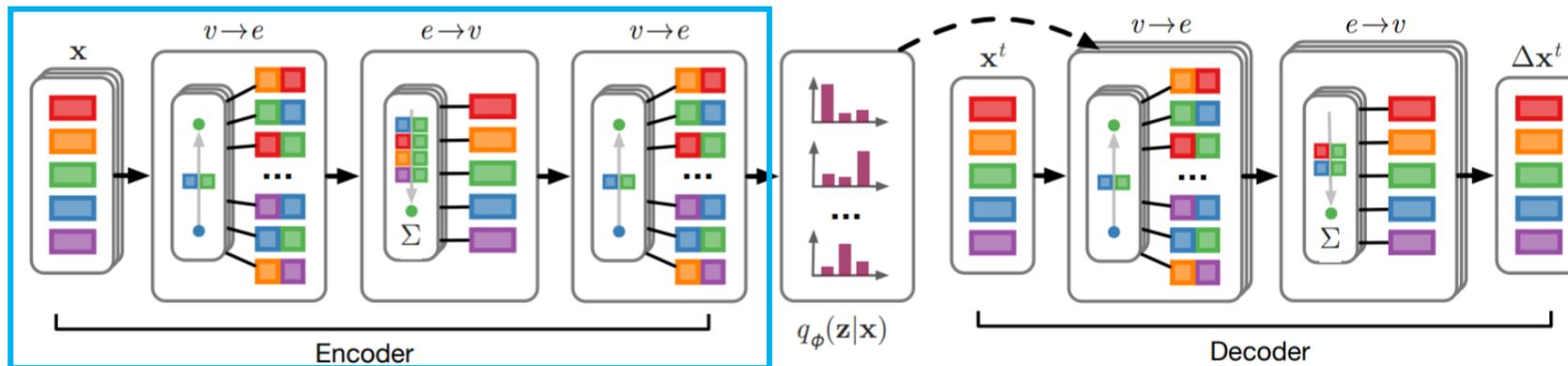
$$\mathbf{h}_j^1 = f_{\text{emb}}(\mathbf{x}_j)$$

$$v \rightarrow e: \quad \mathbf{h}_{(i,j)}^1 = f_e^1([\mathbf{h}_i^1, \mathbf{h}_j^1])$$

$$e \rightarrow v: \quad \mathbf{h}_j^2 = f_v^1(\sum_{i \neq j} \mathbf{h}_{(i,j)}^1)$$

$$v \rightarrow e: \quad \mathbf{h}_{(i,j)}^2 = f_e^2([\mathbf{h}_i^2, \mathbf{h}_j^2])$$

Legend: ■: Node emb. ■■: Edge emb.  $\rightarrow$ : MLP  $\uparrow \downarrow$ : Concrete distribution  $-\!-\!-\rightarrow$ : Sampling



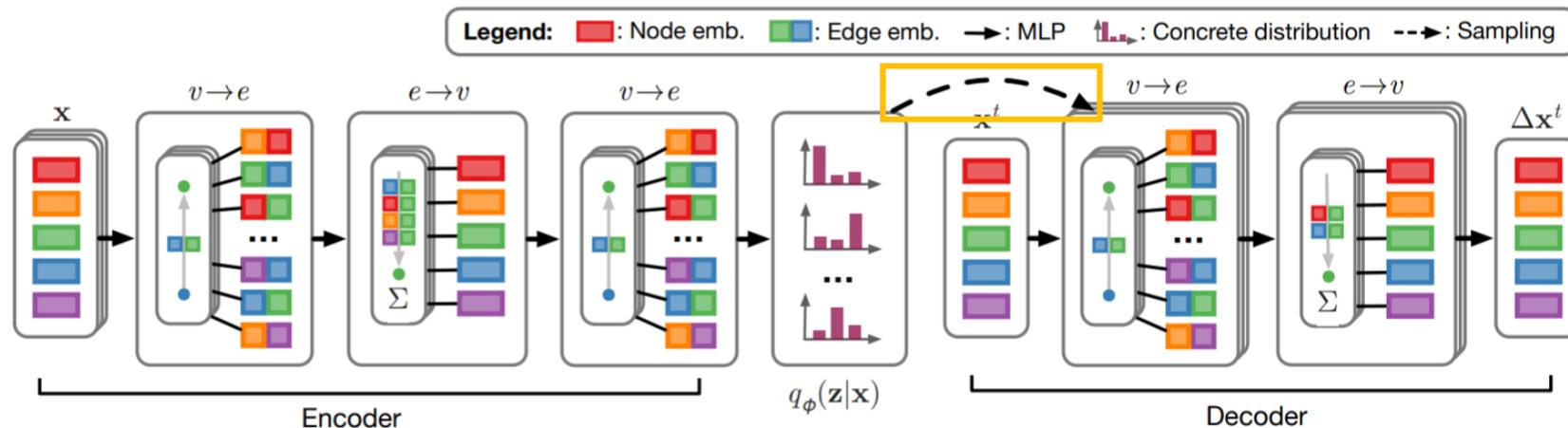
# Neural Relational Inference Model

- Sampling

- The operation of selecting  $z_{ij}$  is a discrete decision – therefore, we cannot directly propagate gradients through it.
- Can use the **Gumbel softmax** trick to circumvent this:

$$z_{ij} = \text{softmax}((\mathbf{h}_{(i,j)}^2 + \mathbf{g})/\tau)$$

- Where  $g_k \sim \text{Gumbel}(0,1)$  and  $\tau$  is a temperature parameter (converges to one-hot when  $\tau \rightarrow 0$ )
- This is a **continuous approximation** to the discrete distribution



# Neural Relational Inference Model

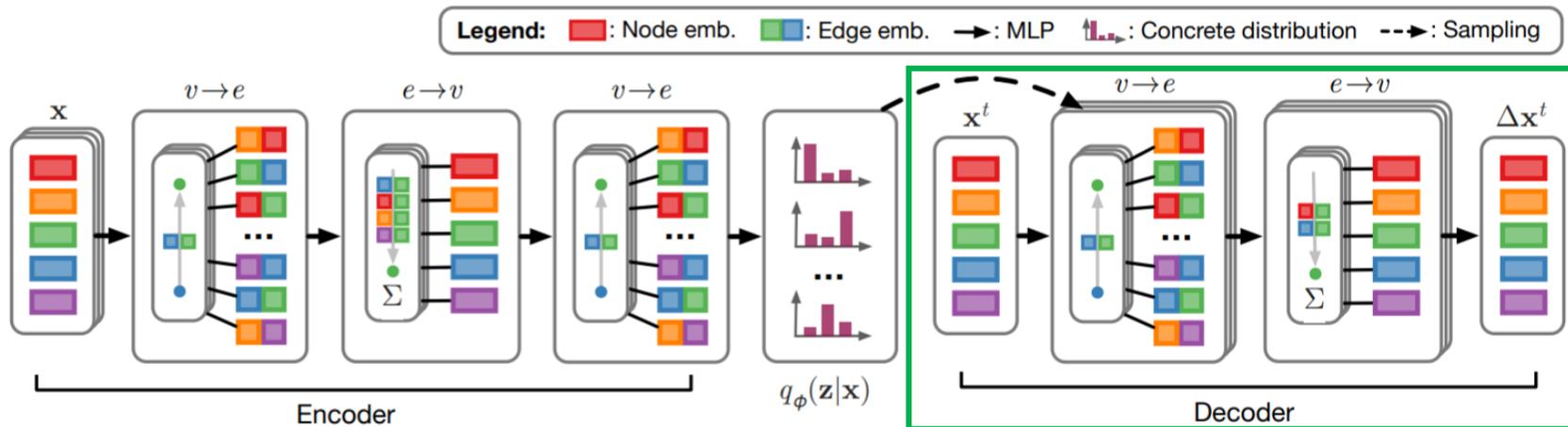
## Decoder

- Predict the future continuation of dynamics for interacting system
  - With Markovian assumption,  $p_\theta(x^{t+1} | x^t, \dots, x^1, \mathbf{z})$
- Can use any GNN algorithms as our decoder (since it is conditioned on the graph  $\mathbf{z}$ )

$$v \rightarrow e : \tilde{\mathbf{h}}_{(i,j)}^t = \sum_k z_{ij,k} \tilde{f}_e^k([\mathbf{x}_i^t, \mathbf{x}_j^t])$$

$$e \rightarrow v : \boldsymbol{\mu}_j^{t+1} = \mathbf{x}_j^t + \tilde{f}_v(\sum_{i \neq j} \tilde{\mathbf{h}}_{(i,j)}^t)$$

$$p(\mathbf{x}_j^{t+1} | \mathbf{x}^t, \mathbf{z}) = \mathcal{N}(\boldsymbol{\mu}_j^{t+1}, \sigma^2 \mathbf{I})$$



# Experiments

- Evaluation with various datasets
  - Physics simulation, Motion capture, Sport tracking data etc.
  - NRI can learn to discover ground-truth relations with very high accuracy

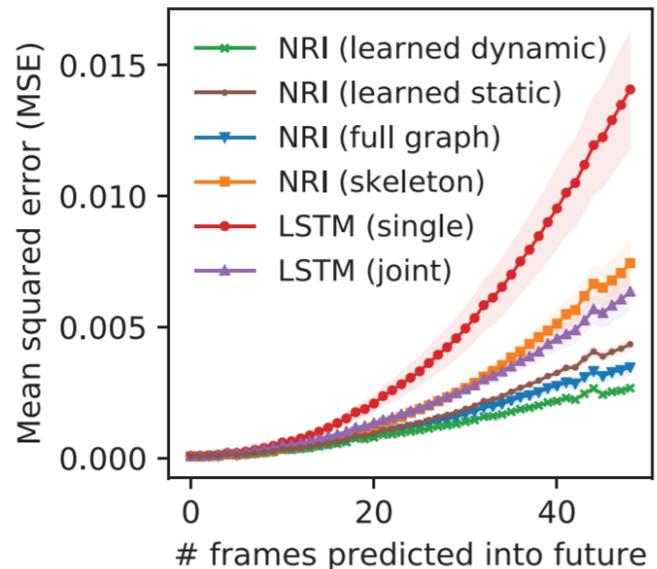
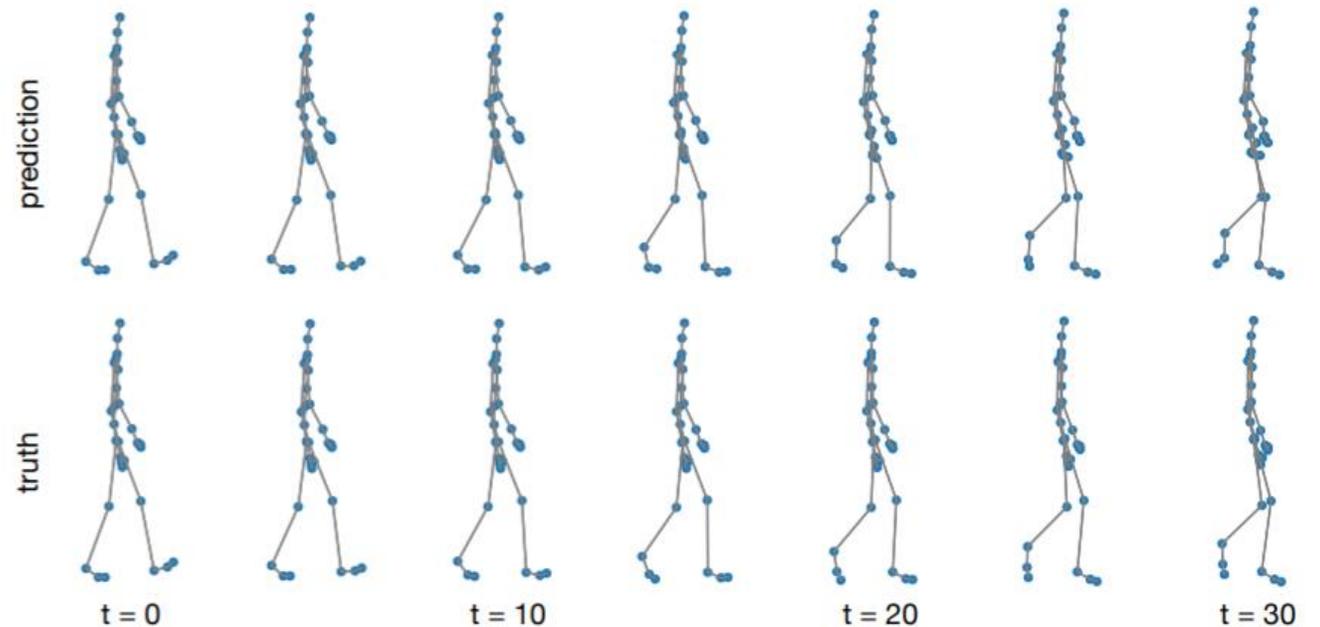


Figure 6. Test MSE comparison for motion capture (walking) data



# Conclusion

- NRI is a versatile model for inferring latent interaction graphs from pointwise trajectories
- Latent graph discovery is still in its early phases
- Limitations
  - Sparsity – Most real-world graphs are sparse but proposed model need to start with complete graph and gradually discover sparsity



# 실험수행 과정 및 결과 (링크: [https://github.com/cws7777/gcn\\_finalproject](https://github.com/cws7777/gcn_finalproject))

- 코드가 공개되어있어 해당 코드 기반으로 실험을 수행
  - 코드 내부에 몇 가지 에러사항 수정
    - train.py
      - Line 93: os.mkdir → os.makedirs
      - Line 46: default = 'log' → default='./logs'
    - lstm\_baseline.py
      - Line 94: args.suffix 부분 수정
  - 코드 실행 과정
    - data/generate\_data.py 실행 (command: "python generate\_data.py", 소요시간: 8시간)
    - train.py 실행(command: "python train.py", 소요시간 12시간)
    - lstm\_baseline.py 실행 (command: "python lstm\_baseline.py", 소요시간 17시간)
  - Github 링크의 **참고사항**
    - Github에는 data/generate\_data.py에서 생성한 데이터를 올릴 수가 없었습니다. **(25MB 이상은 업로드 불가)**
    - 직접 실험을 돌리실 경우, 저에게 메일을 주시면 제가 데이터 파일들을 보내드리겠습니다. (wschoi@snu.ac.kr)
    - 직접적으로 실험을 안돌리셔도 **logs 폴더**에 가보시면, 제가 돌렸던 **실험 log**들이 있습니다.
      - 첫 번째 폴더(exp2020-06-18T10:51:31.601871)가 **NRI에 대한 실험**이며 그 안에 저장된 model과 log.txt가 있습니다.
        - log.txt는 epoch 마다 이전 epoch과 비교하여 좋은 성능 결과값이 나오는 것을 찍어놓은 log입니다.
      - 두 번째 폴더(exp2020-06-18T17:20:49.331843)는 **lstm\_baseline에 대한 실험**이며 그 안에 저장된 log.txt가 있습니다.
        - log.txt는 epoch 마다 이전 epoch과 비교하여 좋은 성능 결과값이 나오는 것을 찍어놓은 log입니다.

# 실험수행 과정 및 결과 (링크: [https://github.com/cws7777/gcn\\_finalproject](https://github.com/cws7777/gcn_finalproject) )

- 코드가 공개되어있어 해당 코드 기반으로 실험을 수행
  - 실험을 돌리기위한 python 및 library requirement
    - Python 2.7 또는 3.6
    - Pytorch **0.2** → 0.2 이상 버전으로 돌릴 경우 simulation decoder가 **break** 나게 되며 실험이 되지 않음
  - '/data/generate\_dataset.py'를 통해 데이터 생성 ('python generate\_dataset.py')
    - 데이터 생성 소요시간: 8시간
    - Physical simulation(spring) dataset
    - location, velocity, edge에 대한 training(50000개), validation(10000개), test(10000개) .npz 생성
    - 코드 수행 캡처

```
(nri_test) choiws@choiws:~/Desktop/nri_test/data$ python generate_dataset.py
_springs5
Generating 50000 training simulations
Generating 10000 test simulations
Generating 10000 validation simulations
```



```
Iter: 9900, Simulation time: 0.4425368309020996
(nri_test) choiws@choiws:~/Desktop/nri_test/data$ ls
edges_test_springs5.npz  edges_valid_springs5.npz  __init__.py  loc_train_springs5.npz  __pycache__  synthetic_sim.pyc  vel_train_springs5.npz
edges_train_springs5.npz  generate_dataset.py  loc_test_springs5.npz  loc_valid_springs5.npz  synthetic_sim.py  vel_test_springs5.npz  vel_valid_springs5.npz
```

- Syntetic\_sim.py의 경우 generate\_dataset.py에서 데이터 생성시 사용되는 python 파일

# 실험수행 과정 및 결과 (링크: [https://github.com/cws7777/gcn\\_finalproject](https://github.com/cws7777/gcn_finalproject) )

## ■ 코드의 구조 설명

### ■ 파일 별 설명

#### ■ lstm\_baseline.py

- 해당 논문에서 LSTM (joint)와 같은 것으로 우리가 알고 있는 기존 LSTM과 비슷한 모델이며 제안하는 모델과 비교하기 위함
  - 다른점: 입력 MLP를 통과한 모든 objects의 input representation을 concatenation
  - RecurrentBaseline class (Line 97 ~ 179)

#### ■ modules.py

- NRI 모델에서 사용하는 variational autoencoder에서 encoder와 decoder의 종류가 정의 되어있는 곳
  - MLP Encoder (Line 89 ~ 147) : 2-layer MLP(hidden and output dim. of 256, batch norm., drop out, and ELU activation)
    - node2edge (Line 113 ~ 116) : receiver와 sender feature의 edge concatenation을 반환
    - edge2node (Line 118 ~ 123) : 모든 incoming edge features를 sum으로 accumulate
  - MLP Decoder (Line 415 ~ 521) : All/Single time-step 예측
    - single\_step\_forward (Line 436 ~ 482) : single time-step 예측에 대한 forward function
    - forward (Line 484 ~ 521) : all time-step 예측에 대한 forward function
  - CNNEncoder (Line 150 ~ 226) : trajectory size 변화 encoding을 허용
    - CNN (Line 46 ~ 86) : 1D convolutions with attention
  - RNN Decoder (Line 524 ~ 651) : single step 예측에 GRU 업데이트 방식을 추가
    - single\_step\_forward (Line 553 ~ 600) : GRU 방식 (Line 586 ~ 590)
  - Simulation Decoder (Line 229 ~ 412) : 각 데이터셋에 따른 Ground-truth 시뮬레이터
    - Motion의 Newtonian equation integrator (Line 242 ~ 267)

# 실험수행 과정 및 결과 (링크: [https://github.com/cws7777/gcn\\_finalproject](https://github.com/cws7777/gcn_finalproject) )

## ■ 코드의 구조 설명

### ■ 파일 별 설명

#### ■ utils.py

- 대표적으로 제안한 모델에서 Sampling할 때 사용되는 Gumbel Softmax, 데이터를 로드하는 load\_data 등의 utils가 있음
  - Gumbel Softmax (Line 69 ~ 108) : pytorch community 및 ericjang이라는 유저의 github에서 가져온 코드

#### ■ train.py

- 여러가지 argument들을 기반으로 training과 test를 수행하는 main 파일
- Encoder와 Decoder 종류를 사용자가 argument로 설정하고 module.py에서 불러와 수행 (Line 117 ~ 141)
- Train (Line 184 ~ 292)
  - 설정한 모듈들을 불러와 train을 진행하고 Epoch 별로 train과 validation의 MSE, NLL 등의 수치를 print (Line 267 ~ 276)
  - 성능이 좋은 모델들은 저장 (Line 277 ~ 290)
- Test (Line 295 ~ 383)
  - train을 기반으로 저장된 best 모델을 불러옴 (Line 305 ~ 306)
  - test를 진행하고 Epoch 별로 nll\_test, mse\_test, 등을 print (Line 365 ~ 372)

#### ■ train\_enc.py와 train\_dec.py

- Encoder와 decoder를 따로 train 할 수 있도록 코드를 나눠 놓음
- train.py에 있는 코드 부분을 따로 나눠놓은 코드이며 train.py에서 동작하는 방식과 같음

# 실험수행 과정 및 결과 (링크: [https://github.com/cws7777/gcn\\_finalproject](https://github.com/cws7777/gcn_finalproject))

- 데이터 생성 후, 실험 진행 ('python train.py')
  - 논문에 기재되어있는 실험 결과와 reproducing 결과 비교
    - 공개한 코드는 해당 논문에서 Table 1과 Table 2에서의 Springs 부분
      - Table 1. Accuracy of unsupervised interaction recovery에서의 NRI (learned) 부분
      - Table 2. MSE in predicting future states for simulations with 5 interacting objects에서의 NRI (learned) 부분
  - 실험 세팅 (prediction\_steps = 10, num\_atoms(objects) = 5)

```
(nri_test) choiws@choiws:~/Desktop/nri_test$ python train.py
Namespace(batch_size=128, cuda=True, decoder='mlp', decoder_dropout=0.0, decoder_hidden=256, dims=4, dynamic_graph=False, edge_types=2, encoder='mlp', encoder_dropout=0.0, encoder_hidden=256, epochs=500, factor=True, gamma=0.5, hard=False, load_folder='', lr=0.0005, lr_decay=200, no_cuda=False, no_factor=False, num_atoms=5, prediction_steps=10, prior=False, save_folder='./logs', seed=42, skip_first=False, suffix='_springs5', temp=0.5, timesteps=49, var=5e-05)
Using factor graph MLP encoder.
Using learned interaction net decoder.
```

## 실험 reproduce 결과

Table 1. Accuracy (in %) of unsupervised interaction recovery.

Model	Springs	Charged	Kuramoto
	5 objects		
Corr. (path)	52.4±0.0	55.8±0.0	62.8±0.0
Corr. (LSTM)	52.7±0.9	54.2±2.0	54.4±0.5
NRI (sim.)	99.8±0.0	59.6±0.8	-
<b>NRI (learned)</b>	<b>99.9±0.0</b>	<b>82.1±0.6</b>	<b>96.0±0.1</b>
Supervised	99.9±0.0	95.0±0.3	99.7±0.0

## NRI(learned) model

```
Optimization Finished!
Best Epoch: 0492
-----Testing-----
nll_test: 76.4134466094 kl_test: -0.0015021029 mse_test: 0.0000397987 acc_test: 0.9986847310
MSE: [ 0.00000032942, 0.000000131017, 0.000000292691, 0.000000515906, 0.000000798559, 0.000001138511, 0.000001533449, 0.000001981092, 0.000002478713, 0.000003023529, 0.000003612710, 0.000004243413, 0.000004913697, 0.000005621429, 0.000006365979, 0.000007146337, 0.000007961426, 0.000011093128, 0.000014427284, 0.000017692602 ]
./logs/exp2020-06-18T10:51:31.601871/
```

Prediction steps	Springs		
	1	10	20
Static	7.93e-5	7.59e-3	2.82e-2
LSTM (single)	2.27e-6	4.69e-4	4.90e-3
LSTM (joint)	4.13e-8	2.19e-5	7.02e-4
NRI (full graph)	1.66e-5	1.64e-3	6.31e-3
<b>NRI (learned)</b>	<b>3.12e-8</b>	<b>3.29e-6</b>	<b>2.13e-5</b>
NRI (true graph)	1.69e-11	1.32e-9	7.06e-6

## LSTM(baseline) model

```
Optimization Finished!
Best Epoch: 0472
-----Testing-----
nll_test: 199.0037110341 mse_test: 0.000104064436 mse_baseline_test: 0.0001205871
MSE: [ 0.00000022443, 0.000000111469, 0.000000318527, 0.000000732543, 0.000001500170, 0.000002852601, 0.000005140345, 0.000008876621, 0.000014790002, 0.000023887296, 0.000037526344, 0.000057476394, 0.000086006447, 0.000126022132, 0.000181158044, 0.000255900319, 0.000355729368, 0.000489608559, 0.000663363608, 0.000886167516 ]
MSE Baseline: [ 0.000078298188, 0.000312591990, 0.000701709709, 0.001244124258, 0.001937958645, 0.002780992072, 0.003770666430, 0.004904094152, 0.006178058218, 0.00758918904, 0.009133122861, 0.010806214996, 0.012603825890, 0.014521185309, 0.016553251073, 0.018694678321, 0.020939871669, 0.023285211995, 0.025722427294, 0.028244880959 ]
./logs/exp2020-06-18T17:20:49.331843/
```