Dynamic Graph Sampling Service for Real-time GNN Inference at Scale

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Background

GNN Inference Service on Dynamic Graph
In industrial GNN scenarios, sampling-based mini-batch training is widely adopted to scale out GNN applications to very large graphs, where receptive fields for vertices are obtained via neighbor sampling during both model training and inference. Since the structure and attributes of real-world graphs change continuously, it is imperative that the inferred vertex representation can accurately reflect these dynamic updates in real-time. GNN inference services on dynamic graph must achieve latency-related SLOs. For example, GNN-based real-time recommendation systems often require stable millisecond-level latency performance.

Challenge

(1) High time complexity of K-hop sampling;
(2) I/O overheads of disk-based/distributed graph storage;
(3) Imbalanced workload due to graph skewness.

System Overview

Target:
Real-time GNN inference service on large-scale dynamic graph.

Insights:
GNN inference service is query-aware.

Architecture:
DGS decouples graph sampling and GNN inference physically.

Sampling worker: Each sampling worker is responsible for a specific graph partition: conducting pre-sampling for the decomposed one-hop sampling queries and delivering the sampling results to the serving workers.

Serving worker: Each serving worker caches the sampling results of K one-hop queries received from sampling workers and serves the inference requests for a partition of vertices in the graph.

DGS is open-sourced as a part of Graph-Learn: https://github.com/alibaba/graph-learn

Key Designs

Sampling Worker
Step 1: Decompose K-hop query into K 1-hop queries
Example: 2-hop Query
\[ g.V("user", feed_id).alias("seed") .OutV("click").sample(2).by("random") .OutV("swing").sample(2).by("random").values \]
Decomposed into:
- 1-hop query \( Q_1 \):
  \[ V.OutV("click").sample(2).by("random") \]
- 1-hop query \( Q_2 \):
  \[ V.OutV("swing").sample(2).by("random") \]
Exclusively store the 1 hop samples on sampling workers.

Step 2: Event-driven reservoir sample
Graph update event: \( \text{Edge}_\text{Type} (\text{src}_v, \text{dst}_v, \text{timestamp}) \)
E.g., \( \text{click}(1, 5, T_1); \text{swing}(4, 8, T_2) \)
Reservoir sampling: Randomly replace existing samples

Step 3: Update the subscription table

Serving Worker
Handle inference request for a partition of vertices
Generate K-hop samples by local KV Lookups.

Evaluation

Settings:
(1) Real Alibaba e-commerce datasets, #V=240M, #E=6.1B;
(2) 2-hop random sampling query, fan-outs=[15,10];
(3) Single machine with 64 * Intel(R) Xeon(R) CPU E5-2682 v4, 256GB host memory, 960GB SAMSUNG NVMe SSD

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