
3D Infomax improves GNNs for Molecular Property Prediction

Hannes Stärk*
Technical University of Munich

Dominique Beaini
Valence Discovery

Gabriele Corso
MIT

Prudencio Tossou
Valence Discovery

Christian Dallago
Technical University of Munich

Stephan Günnemann
Technical University of Munich

Pietro Liò
University of Cambridge

Abstract

Molecular property prediction is one of the fastest-growing applications of deep learning with critical real-world impacts. Including 3D molecular structure as input to learned models improves their predictions for many molecular properties. However, this information is infeasible to compute at the scale required by most real-world applications. We propose pre-training a model to understand the geometry of molecules given only their 2D molecular graph. Using methods from self-supervised learning, we maximize the mutual information between a 3D summary vector and the representations of a Graph Neural Network (GNN) such that they contain latent 3D information. During fine-tuning on molecules with unknown geometry, the GNN still generates implicit 3D information and can use it to inform downstream tasks. We show that 3D Infomax provides significant improvements for a wide range of molecular properties, such as a 22% average MAE reduction on eight quantum mechanical properties. Crucially, the learned representations can be effectively transferred between datasets with vastly different molecules.

1 Introduction

The understanding of molecular and quantum chemistry is a rapidly growing area for deep learning with models having direct real-world impacts in quantum chemistry (Dral 2020), protein structure prediction (Jumper et al. 2021), materials science (Schmidt et al. 2019), and drug discovery (Stokes et al. 2020). In particular, for the task of molecular property prediction, GNNs have had great success (Yang et al. 2019).

GNNs operate on the molecular graph by updating each atom’s representation based on the atoms connected to it via covalent bonds. However, these models mostly cannot reason about other important interatomic forces that depend on the atoms’ relative positions in space. Previous works have shown that using the atoms’ 3D coordinates in space improves the accuracy of molecular property prediction (Schütt et al. 2017; Klicpera, Groß, et al. 2020; Liu et al. 2021; Klicpera, Becker, et al. 2021).

However, using classical methods to explicitly compute a molecule’s geometry before predicting its properties is computationally infeasible for many real-world applications. Even recent machine learning methods for conformation generation (Xu et al. 2021; Shi et al. 2021; Ganea et al. 2021) are still too slow for large scale screening.

Our Solution: 3D Infomax We pre-train GNNs to capture implicit 3D information in their latent vectors using publicly available molecular structures. The GNN is pre-trained by maximizing the mutual information between its embedding of a molecular graph and a representation capturing the 3D

*Correspondence to hannes.staerk@tum.de

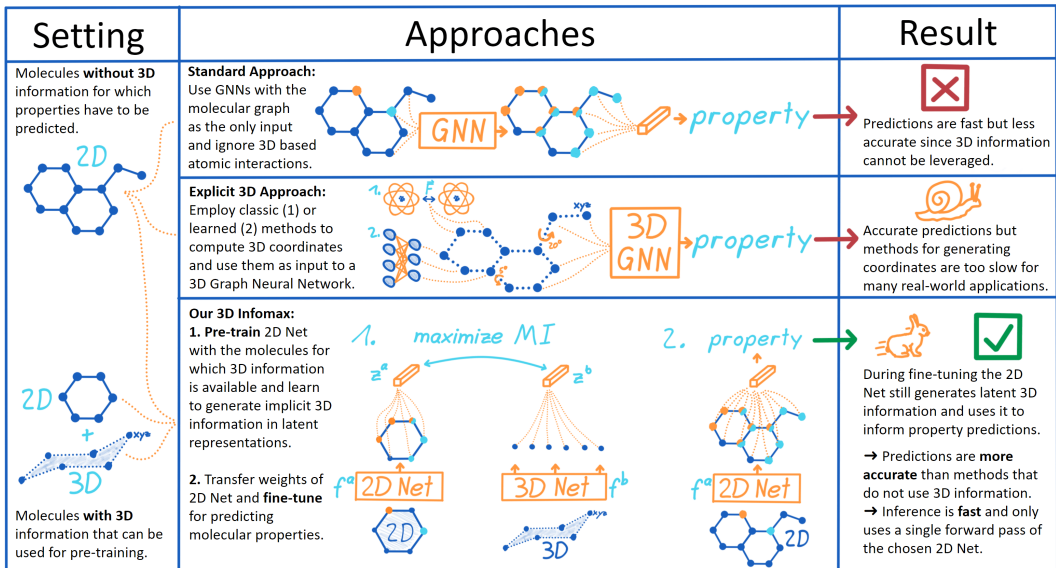


Figure 1: The considered problem setting and the motivation for our pre-training approach.

information that is produced by a separate network. This forces the GNN to learn to generate latent 3D information using only the information given by the 2D molecular graphs. After pre-training, the weights can be transferred and fine-tuned on molecular datasets where no 3D information is available. For those molecules, the GNN is still able to generate implicit 3D information and the network can use it to inform its property predictions.

We analyze our method’s performance by pre-training with multiple 3D datasets before evaluating on 10 quantum mechanical molecular properties. 3D Infomax improves property predictions by large margins with a 22% average MAE reduction for the QM9 dataset’s properties. Furthermore, the learned representations are highly generalizable. Indeed, significant improvements are obtained even when the molecular space of the pre-training dataset is vastly different (e.g., in size) from the kinds of molecules in the downstream tasks.

2 Method

Our method consists of two steps: (1) A model is pre-trained using molecules with known geometry. (2) The pre-trained model is fine-tuned to predict properties from 2D molecular graphs. The goal during pre-training is that the 2D network learns to generate latent information about 3D structure and quantum mechanics, which can be used to improve molecular property predictions during fine-tuning.

The pre-training uses two different models, as visualized in the last row of Figure 1. Firstly, the model that should be pre-trained which we call *2D network* f^a since it takes 2D molecular graphs $G = (\mathcal{V}, \mathcal{E})$ with atoms \mathcal{V} and bonds \mathcal{E} to generate a latent representation of a molecule $f^a(G) = z^a \in \mathbb{R}^{d_z}$. Secondly, we define the *3D network* f^b as the model which encodes the atoms’ 3D coordinates $R = \{r_v\}_{v \in \mathcal{V}}$ in a 3D representation $f^b(R) = z^b \in \mathbb{R}^{d_z}$.

Contrastive Learning To teach the 2D GNN f^a to generate 3D information from the 2D graph inputs, we maximize the mutual information between the latent 2D representations z^a and 3D representations z^b . Intuitively we wish to maximize the agreement between z^a and z^b if they come from the same molecule. For this purpose, we use contrastive learning (visualized in Figure 3) for which we consider a batch of N molecules and the networks produce multiple representations z_i^a and z_i^b . The first objective of contrastive learning is to maximize the representation’s similarity if they are a positive pair, meaning that they come from the same molecule with the same index i . The second part is to enforces dissimilarity between negative pairs z_i^a and z_k^b where $i \neq k$. In this work, we use the cosine similarity $\text{sim}(z^a, z^b) = z^a \cdot z^b / (\|z^a\| \|z^b\|)$ and optimize the models using the popular normalized temperature-scaled cross entropy (NTXent) (Chen et al. 2020).

Multiple Conformers For most molecules, there are multiple plausible 3D configurations called *conformers*. Instead of only using the most probable conformer (with the lowest energy), we found that leveraging structural information from multiple conformers provides significant benefits. To achieve this, we now consider the c many highest probability conformers $\{R_i^j\}_{j \in \{1 \dots c\}}$ of the i -th molecule. For every molecule the 3D network now takes all conformers as input and produces their latent 3D representations $\{z_{i,j}^b\}_{j \in \{1 \dots c\}}$. These conformers can be seen as additional positive samples. Thus, the objective is to maximize the similarity between z_i^a and all conformer representations $z_{i,j}^b$ that come from the same molecule. As such we modify the NTXent loss to sum over the similarities of all conformers and obtain our final objective with the temperature parameter τ :

$$\mathcal{L}_{NTXent}^{multi3D} = -\frac{1}{N} \sum_{i=1}^N \left[\log \frac{\sum_{j=1}^c e^{\text{sim}(z_i^a, z_{i,j}^b)/\tau}}{\sum_{k=1, k \neq i}^N \sum_{j=1}^c e^{\text{sim}(z_i^a, z_{k,j}^b)/\tau}} \right]. \quad (1)$$

3D Network The 3D coordinates of molecules have a certain set of symmetries that the 3D network should capture. Under rotation or translation, a molecule’s properties do not change. Therefore, the 3D representation z^b should not change either and be invariant to these transformations. Our 3D network achieves this as a GNN operating on the fully connected graph of a molecule with the atom distances as edge features. All node features in the first layer are the same learned vector which is initialized from a standard normal distribution. The message passing layers iteratively encode the 3D information into the node features which are pooled to produce the complete 3D representation z^b .

3 Experiments

Setup We choose Principal Neighborhood Aggregation (PNA) (Corso et al. 2020) as the GNN architecture to pre-train due to its simplicity and state-of-the-art performance for multiple molecular tasks. For pre-training, we use three datasets of molecules with 3D information: QM9 (Ramakrishnan et al. 2014), GEOM-Drugs (Axelrod and Gomez-Bombarelli 2020), and QMugs (Isert et al. 2021). More precisely, we pre-train three different instances of PNA (1) on 50k molecules from QM9 using a single conformer, (2) on 140k of GEOM-Drugs with 5 conformers and, (3) on 620k of QMugs using 3 conformers. For comparison, we pre-train baselines by either predicting the properties of GEOM-Drugs’ pre-training subset (labeled *Prop Pred*) or by using Graph Contrastive Learning (GraphCL) (You et al. 2020), a strong conventional contrastive learning approach that uses the full GEOM-Drugs dataset. All pre-training methods use a batch size of 500.

After pre-training, the models are fine-tuned on 50k molecules from QM9 (in Table 1) or 140k from GEOM-Drugs (in Table 2) that have no overlap with the molecules from the pre-training data. On the same molecules, we also train PNA with random weight initialization (labeled *Rand Init*) to compare how much the downstream performance is improved by the different pre-training methods. Furthermore, we train and test the 3D GNN Spherical Message Passing (SMP) (Liu et al. 2021) on the same molecules with 3D coordinates generated by RDKit’s ETKDG algorithm (Landrum 2016) which can be done in a fast manner (labeled *RDKit SMP*). Lastly, we evaluate SMP using the accurate ground truth 3D conformers of QM9 which were computed with time-consuming simulations that would be infeasible for many real-world applications. All experimental settings (including SMP and GraphCL) are detailed in Appendix C and we provide all code to reproduce the results: <https://github.com/HannesStark/3DInfomax>.

Results Table 1 shows that 3D Infomax pre-training leads to large improvements over the randomly initialized baseline and over GraphCL with all three pre-training datasets. After 3D pre-training on one half of QM9, the average of the MAE decreases by 22%. Comparing 3D Infomax on GEOM-Drugs with GraphCL shows that even though the latter is pre-trained on two times as many molecules from the same dataset, 3D Infomax is always better by a large margin.

Pre-training with the disjoint half of QM9 performs best since it shares the molecular space of the test set. Nevertheless, the learned representations also generalize well: pre-training on GEOM-Drugs and QMugs leads to improvements of 19% and 18% respectively, even though QM9 contains much smaller molecules with on average 18 atoms compared to the 44.4 atoms for the drug-like molecules of GEOM-Drugs.

Table 1: MAE for predicting the properties of one half of QM9’s molecules. **3D Infomax** is tested with three different pre-training datasets and **GraphCL** uses a two times larger subset of GEOM-Drugs. **True 3D SMP** is a 3D GNN using explicit 3D coordinates (hidden from other methods). Details on confidence intervals are in Appendix C. Colors indicate **improvement** (lower MAE) or **worse** performance compared to the randomly initialized (**Rand Init**) model.

Target	Rand Init	Pre-training baselines		Our 3D Infomax			RDKit	<i>True 3D SMP</i>
		GraphCL	PropPred	QM9	Drugs	QMugs	SMP	
μ	0.4133 \pm 0.003	0.3937	0.3975	0.3507	0.3512	0.3668	0.4344	0.0726
α	0.3972 \pm 0.014	0.3295	0.3732	0.3268	0.2959	0.2807	0.3020	0.1542
homo	82.10 \pm 0.33	79.57	93.11	68.96	70.78	70.77	82.51	56.19
lumo	85.72 \pm 1.62	80.81	99.84	69.51	71.38	78.10	80.36	43.58
gap	123.08 \pm 3.98	120.08	131.99	101.71	102.59	103.85	114.24	85.10
r2	22.14 \pm 0.21	21.84	29.21	17.39	18.96	18.00	22.63	1.51
ZPVE	15.08 \pm 2.83	12.39	11.17	7.966	9.677	12.06	5.18	2.69
c_v	0.1670 \pm 0.004	0.1422	0.1795	0.1306	0.1409	0.1208	0.1419	0.0498

While 3D Infomax yields large improvements, the MAE is still substantially higher than that of SMP which uses the 3D information explicitly. One reason for this is likely that QM9’s properties are conformer-specific. There might be a maximum accuracy that can be achieved if only the molecule is known and not for which conformer the property should be predicted. Nevertheless, this performance gap suggests that there is still room for improvement.

Table 2 further confirms that 3D Infomax substantially improves quantum property predictions and generalizes out-of-distribution. Our method outperforms GraphCL, even though GraphCL also sees the fine-tuning molecules during pre-training. Moreover, we observe strong generalization when pre-training with QM9 and fine-tuning on GEOM-Drugs. In this case, the pre-training data only contains the elements C, H, N, O, and F while the target data contains eleven additional elements that are unseen during pre-training.

Such consistent and out-of-distribution improvements can be explained by the type of information captured with 3D Infomax. Learning to reason about molecular geometry and its impact does not depend on the data’s molecular space and therefore it is not necessary to have a high similarity between the molecules during pre-training and fine-tuning.

Another advantage of 3D Infomax is its comparably fast convergence. Pre-training on 620k molecules of QMugs with 3 conformers takes 12 hours, compared to 71 hours for GraphCL on 280k molecules of GEOM-Drugs.

4 Conclusion

Our 3D Infomax method enables a GNN to generate latent 3D and quantum information from 2D molecular graphs which can then be used during fine-tuning to improve molecular property predictions. We found consistently large improvements for quantum properties, overshadowing the gains possible with conventional self-supervised learning (SSL) methods. Furthermore, the learned 3D knowledge can be transferred across highly different types of molecules since the representations capture a principled form of information that is known to be useful for molecular tasks.

Broader Impact We see the most important application and the largest possible positive societal impact of our method in the domain of drug discovery. Our 3D Infomax method improves molecular property predictions through the use of implicit 3D information while retaining the inference speed of a standard GNN operating on 2D molecular graphs. This means that our approach can be used when predicting the properties of vast amounts of molecules to identify potential drug candidates and in large virtual screening. Applications to materials science, could also help in developing new materials

for energy storage or energy generation (e.g., solar panels), which are crucial for transitioning to clean energy and preventing climate change.

We believe that the greatest possible risk to be side effects such as practitioners blindly trusting molecular property predictions of learned models. Research on explainability of GNN’s predictions would be crucial for solving this problem. Additional possible risks come from malicious applications of molecular property predictions, such as developing chemical or biological weapons.

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Checklist

The checklist follows the references. Please read the checklist guidelines carefully for information on how to answer these questions. For each question, change the default **[TODO]** to **[Yes]**, **[No]**, or

[N/A] . You are strongly encouraged to include a **justification to your answer**, either by referencing the appropriate section of your paper or providing a brief inline description. For example:

- Did you include the license to the code and datasets? [Yes] See Section
- Did you include the license to the code and datasets? [No] The code and the data are proprietary.
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Please do not modify the questions and only use the provided macros for your answers. Note that the Checklist section does not count towards the page limit. In your paper, please delete this instructions block and only keep the Checklist section heading above along with the questions/answers below.

1. For all authors...
 - (a) Do the main claims made in the abstract and introduction accurately reflect the paper’s contributions and scope? [Yes] We improve property predictions through 3D pre-training and the representations do generalize well.
 - (b) Did you describe the limitations of your work? [Yes] See the 5th paragraph in Section 3 and the Conclusion.
 - (c) Did you discuss any potential negative societal impacts of your work? [Yes] See the last paragraph in Section 4
 - (d) Have you read the ethics review guidelines and ensured that your paper conforms to them? [Yes]
2. If you are including theoretical results...
 - (a) Did you state the full set of assumptions of all theoretical results? [N/A]
 - (b) Did you include complete proofs of all theoretical results? [N/A]
3. If you ran experiments...
 - (a) Did you include the code, data, and instructions needed to reproduce the main experimental results (either in the supplemental material or as a URL)? [Yes] We provide all code via <https://github.com/HannesStark/3DInfomax> in Section 3
 - (b) Did you specify all the training details (e.g., data splits, hyperparameters, how they were chosen)? [Yes] See Section C.
 - (c) Did you report error bars (e.g., with respect to the random seed after running experiments multiple times)? [Yes] We provide standard deviations and the seeds they were calculated from.
 - (d) Did you include the total amount of compute and the type of resources used (e.g., type of GPUs, internal cluster, or cloud provider)? [Yes] See Section C.5.
4. If you are using existing assets (e.g., code, data, models) or curating/releasing new assets...
 - (a) If your work uses existing assets, did you cite the creators? [Yes] See Section C.5 for used libraries and we cite (Liu et al. 2021) for SMP.
 - (b) Did you mention the license of the assets? [Yes] See Section C.5.
 - (c) Did you include any new assets either in the supplemental material or as a URL? [Yes] See <https://github.com/HannesStark/3DInfomax> in Section 3
 - (d) Did you discuss whether and how consent was obtained from people whose data you’re using/curating? [Yes] See Section C.5.
 - (e) Did you discuss whether the data you are using/curating contains personally identifiable information or offensive content? [Yes] The data is described as data of molecules and it is clear that it does not contain any information relevant to privacy.
5. If you used crowdsourcing or conducted research with human subjects...
 - (a) Did you include the full text of instructions given to participants and screenshots, if applicable? [N/A]
 - (b) Did you describe any potential participant risks, with links to Institutional Review Board (IRB) approvals, if applicable? [N/A]
 - (c) Did you include the estimated hourly wage paid to participants and the total amount spent on participant compensation? [N/A]

A Method Details

A.1 Multiple Conformers

For each molecule $(G_i, \{R_i^j\}_{j \in \{1 \dots c_i\}})$ we choose the c highest energy conformers to have a fixed number of them. If there are fewer than c conformers for a molecule ($c_i < c$) then the lowest energy conformer is repeated. For every molecule the 3D network takes all c conformers $\{R_i^j\}_{j \in \{1 \dots c\}}$ as input and produces their latent 3D representations $\{z_{i,j}^b\}_{j \in \{1 \dots c\}}$ which we can see as additional positive samples.

A.2 3D Network

Here we describe the 3D network in greater detail and call it *Net3D*. It encodes the 3D information given by the pairwise Euclidean distances of atoms. Therefore, the method is $E(3)$ invariant, and the positions of all atoms are uniquely defined up to $E(3)$ symmetry. Of course, using all pairwise ℓ_2 -distances also means that the method’s complexity is quadratic in the number of atoms in the molecule.

Net3D can be seen as a GNN operating on the complete graph of each molecular graph. Given a molecule (G, R) , all the pairwise distances $\{d_{uv} = \|r_u - r_v\|_2 \mid u, v \in \mathcal{V} \wedge u \neq v\}$ are first mapped to a higher dimensional space using high-frequency functions and those encodings are used as input to the network with learnable weights. This is motivated by (1) the fact that there are only small variations in distances for atoms that are connected by bonds and (2) the findings of Rahaman et al. 2019 deep neural networks optimized with stochastic gradient descent having a bias towards learning lower frequency functions. They show that using mappings as described leads to deep networks better fitting data with high-frequency variation which is further supported by Tancik et al. 2020 who show empirically and theoretically that multi-layer perceptrons (MLPs) fail to learn high frequencies. This scenario is present in our case with small differences in bond lengths. Additionally, these distances and their small variations might be the most important ones with the assumption that atom pairs that have small distances have the most relevant interactions.

The mapping $\gamma : \mathbb{R} \mapsto \mathbb{R}^{2F+1}$ which we use before passing the 3D information to MLPs is defined as

$$\gamma(d_{uv}) = (d_{uv}, \sin(d_{uv}/2^0), \cos(d_{uv}/2^0), \dots, \sin(d_{uv}/2^{F-1}), \cos(d_{uv}/2^{F-1})), \quad (2)$$

where the number of frequencies F is a hyperparameter that is set to 4 in our experiments. This is inspired by the positional encoding as it is used in Transformers Vaswani et al. 2017 with the different purpose of providing an ordering in a set. With a similar purpose as in our application, this strategy was successfully previously used by Mildenhall et al. 2020 in image synthesis and by Zhong et al. 2020 in a method for inferring the 3D structure of proteins from projections.

The l -th layer of Net3D takes two sets as input. First, $n^2 - n$ edge representations $\{d_{uv}^l \in \mathbb{R}^{d_d} \mid u, v \in \mathcal{V} \wedge u \neq v\}$ (the edges of a complete graph without self-loops). In the first layer they are given by the encoded distances fed through an initial feed-forward network $MLP_{init} : \mathbb{R}^{2F+1} \mapsto \mathbb{R}^{d_d}$ which projects them to the hidden dimension of the edges $d_{uv}^0 = MLP_{init}(\gamma(d_{uv}))$. The second input is a set of n atom representations $\{h_1^l, \dots, h_n^l\}$ with dimensionality \mathbb{R}^{d_h} . In the first layer, the atom representations are all set to the same learned vector that is initialized with a standard normal. With \parallel meaning concatenation, every layer updates the edge and atom representations and iteratively encodes 3D information into them as follows:

$$m_{uv} = MLP_{edge}([h_u^l \parallel h_v^l \parallel d_{uv}^l]) \quad (3)$$

$$d_{uv}^{l+1} = d_{uv}^l + m_{uv} \quad (4)$$

$$h_u^{l+1} = MLP_h([h_u^l \parallel \sum_{\substack{v=1 \\ v \neq u}}^n m_{uv} * \text{sigmoid}(MLP_{softedge}(m_{uv}))]). \quad (5)$$

The layer is parameterized by three MLPs where the first one updates the edges $MLP_{edge} : \mathbb{R}^{2d_h+d_d} \mapsto \mathbb{R}^{d_d}$. The second one updates the atom representations $MLP_h : \mathbb{R}^{d_h+d_d} \mapsto \mathbb{R}^{d_h}$. The third one $MLP_{softedge} : \mathbb{R}^{d_d} \mapsto \mathbb{R}$ is followed by the logistic sigmoid function to create a value between 0 and 1 that can be seen as a soft edge weight telling us how probable an edge is for each message m_{uv} as it is done by Satorras et al. 2021.

To produce the final 3D representation z^b , all atom representations are aggregated by concatenating their mean, their maximum, and their standard deviation and feeding this through a final feed-forward network $MLP : \mathbb{R}^{3d_h} \mapsto \mathbb{R}^{d_z}$.

B Explanatory Illustrations

In Figure 2 and Figure 3 we provide additional illustrations for our proposed method.

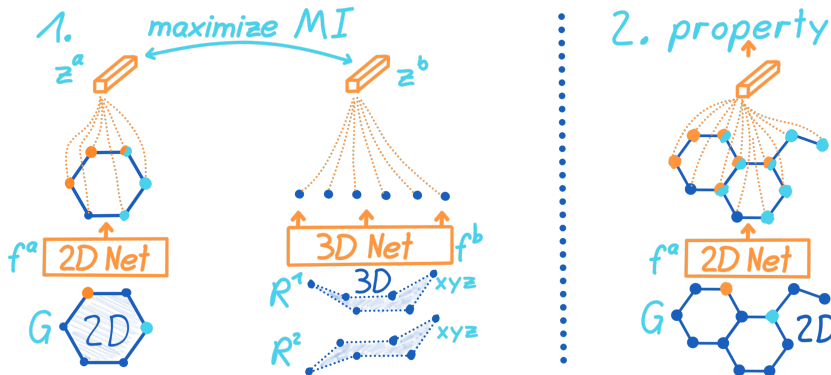


Figure 2: General overview of our latent space SSL methods. In step 1. we pre-train a 2D network by forcing it to generate a 2D representation z^a that has high mutual information with a 3D representation z^b coming from an encoder that has only 3D information as its input. After the 2D model has learned to generate latent 3D information through this pre-training, we transfer its weights and fine-tune it to predict molecular properties for molecules where we do not have the 3D information available.

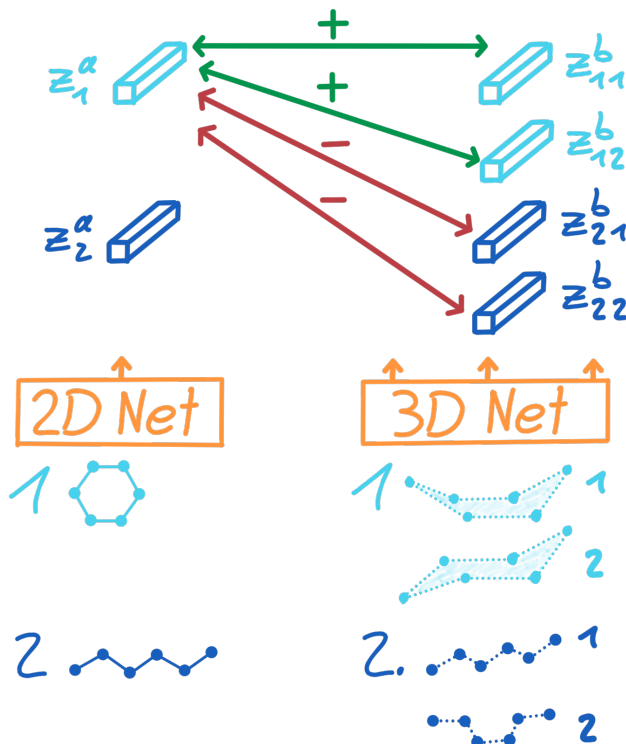


Figure 3: Explanatory illustration for contrastive learning with multiple conformers. This example displays a batch of two molecules with their 2D graphs on the left and the corresponding 3D conformers on the right where each molecule has two plausible conformers. To learn a joint embedding space the contrastive loss enforces high similarity between latent representations that come from the same molecule while encouraging dissimilarity if the latent representations belong to different molecules in the batch. Here this is depicted for the first molecule but the same loss is calculated for the second. The final loss is the average of those two.

C Experimental Details

The standard deviation of energy of the highest occupied molecular orbital (homo) and the Gibbs free energy is estimated with six seeds, the rest uses four.

C.1 Data Details

The pre-training datasets which we use are the following:

1. **QM9**² (Ramakrishnan et al. 2014) contains 134k stable small organic molecules of 5 atom types (CHONF). Every molecule has the 3D coordinates of one low-energy conformer and is annotated with 12 quantum mechanical properties as regression targets. The molecules are considered very small, with at most 9 heavy atoms.
2. **GEOM-Drugs**³ (Axelrod and Gomez-Bombarelli 2020) consists of 304k realistically-sized biologically and pharmacologically relevant molecules of 16 atom types, annotated with multiple 3D conformers, the ensemble Gibbs free energy, and the ensemble energy as regression targets. For the average molecule, 70% of the Boltzmann weight is captured by just three conformers as can be seen in Figure 4 where we also provide a histogram for the number of molecules that have a certain amount of conformers⁵.

²https://github.com/klicperajo/dimenet/blob/master/data/qm9_eV.npz

³<https://github.com/learningmatter-mit/geom>

3. **QMugs**⁴ (Isert et al. 2021) has 665k drug-like molecules with three diverse conformers each and multiple conformer specific quantum mechanical properties as regression tasks.

Table 3: Statistics of the used datasets.

Dataset	#Molecules	Avg. #Atoms	Avg. #Bonds	split
QM9	130 831	18.0	18.6	random
GEOM-Drugs	304 293	44.4	46.4	random
QMugs	665 911	30.6	33.4	random

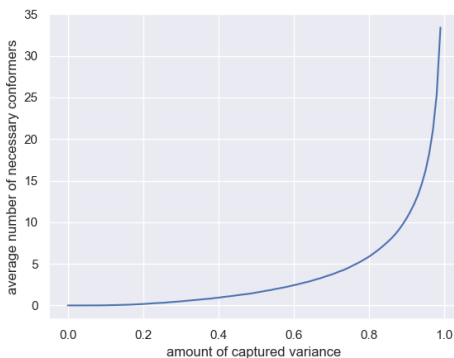


Figure 4: Average number of conformers necessary to cover a certain amount of Boltzmann weight in GEOM-Drugs. For a given amount of cumulative Boltzmann weight on the horizontal axis, the vertical axis shows the average number of conformers necessary to pass that threshold.

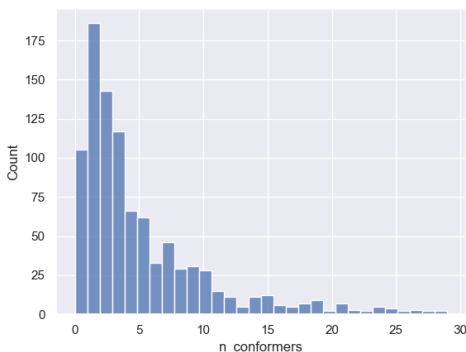


Figure 5: Histogram of how many molecules there are in GEOM-Drugs with a certain amount of conformers. The histogram is created for 1000 molecules of GEOM-Drugs.

C.2 Units

For the GEOM-Drugs dataset, all reported numbers have the unit kcal/mol, Gibbs refers to the ensemble Gibbs free energy, and $\langle E \rangle$ to the ensemble energy.

C.3 Conventional pre-training Baseline GraphCL

The conventional pre-training method that we compare against is GraphCL (You et al. 2020) since it is the work with the strongest results in a consistent comparison for molecular tasks. GraphCL uses the usual self-supervised objective where the model has to learn to produce representations that are invariant with respect to augmentations. You et al. 2020 evaluated different such augmentations and in our baseline, we use randomly dropping nodes since they found strong results on molecular tasks with this augmentation. We use their node-drop ratio of 0.2 and the only difference of our setup is that we use a batch size of 500 which we found to work better in our setting instead of their 256.

⁴<https://www.research-collection.ethz.ch/handle/20.500.11850/482129>

Table 4: Units of Quantum mechanical properties.

μ	α	$homo$	$lumo$	gap	$r2$	$ZPVE$	c_v
D	a_0^3	meV	meV	meV	a_0^2	meV	$\frac{cal}{molK}$

C.4 Parameter Details

The hyperparameters for SMP are taken from the official repository⁵ where Liu et al. 2021 provide their code and we predict gap even though it could be calculated as $|homo - lumo|$. The parameter search space and final parameters for the PNA architecture is specified in Table 5 and those of Net3D in Table 6.

Pre-training: We use Adam with a start learning rate of 8×10^{-5} and a batch size of 500. The learning rate schedule during pre-training starts with 700 optimization steps of linear warmup followed by the schedule given by the *ReduceLROnPlateau* scheduler by PyTorch⁶ with reduction parameter 0.6, patience 25 and a cooldown of 20.

Fine-tuning quantum mechanical properties: We use Adam with a start learning rate of 7×10^{-5} , weight decay 1×10^{-11} and a batch size of 128. For the learning rate schedule, we first perform warmup as follows. We consider three different sets of learnable parameters: (1) the batch norm parameters, (2) all newly initialized parameters that were not transferred, and (3) all parameters. For these sets, we increase the learning rate in this order from 0 to the start learning rate with linear interpolation. For parameter group one we warm-up for 700 steps, 700 steps for group 2, and 350 steps for group 3. After that we use the schedule given by the *ReduceLROnPlateau* with reduction parameter 0.5, patience 25 and a cooldown of 20.

Table 5: Search space for the 2D network PNA through which we searched to obtain a strong baseline performance on the homo property of the QM9 dataset. The parameters were tuned in the order in which they are listed in this table from top to bottom. After this was completed for all parameters we performed a second round of tuning for a subset of them. The final parameters are marked in **bold**.

Parameter	Search Space
propagation depth	[4, 5, 6, 7]
hidden dimension	[40, 50, 75, 90, 100, 150, 200 , 300]
message MLP layers	[1, 2 , 3]
update MLP layers	[1 , 2, 3]
aggregators	[mean, max, min, std, sum], [mean, max, min], [mean, max, sum], [mean , max , min , std], [max, sum], [sum]
scalers	[identity], [identity , amplification , attenuation]
readout aggregators	[mean], [sum], [mean, max, sum], [mean , max , min , sum]
dropout	[0 , 0.05, 0.1, 0.2]
batchnorm after MLPs	True/False
batchnorm in MLPs	True/False
readout MLP layers	[1, 2 , 3]
batchnorm momentum	[0.1 , 0.9, 0.93]

C.5 Implementation

All experiments were implemented in *PyTorch* (Paszke et al. 2017) using the deep learning libraries for processing graphs *Pytorch Geometric* (Fey and Lenssen 2019) and *Deep Graph Library* (Wang et al. 2019). The code we use for SMP (Liu et al. 2021) is under the GNU General Public License v3.0 and we use their implementation after discussing it with the first author of the paper and under the consideration that their project welcomed our contributions to their library.

The experiments were conducted on two different machines while the same system was always used in direct comparisons. The first machine has an AMD Ryzen 1700 CPU @ 3.70Ghz, 16GB of RAM,

⁵<https://github.com/divelab/DIG>

⁶https://pytorch.org/docs/stable/generated/torch.optim.lr_scheduler.ReduceLROnPlateau.html

Table 6: Search space for the 3D network Net3D through which we searched to obtain a strong baseline performance on the homo property of the QM9 dataset and we considered the size of the network where parameters leading to less memory use are preferred. The parameters were tuned in the order in which they are listed in this table from top to bottom. After this was completed for all parameters we performed a second round of tuning for a subset of them. The final parameters are marked in **bold**.

Parameter	Search Space
propagation depth	[1 , 3, 4, 5]
hidden dimension	[10, 20 , 40, 60, 80, 100]
F used in $\gamma : \mathbb{R} \mapsto \mathbb{R}^{2F+1}$	[0, 3, 4 , 8, 10, 50]
message MLP layers	[1 , 2, 3]
update MLP layers	[1 , 2, 3]
readout aggregators	[mean], [sum], [mean , max , min], [mean, max, min, sum]
dropout	[0 , 0.05, 0.1, 0.2, 0.5]
batchnorm after MLPs	True/False
readout MLP layers	[1 , 2, 3]
batchnorm momentum	[0.1, 0.9, 0.93]

and an Nvidia GTX 1060 GPU with 6GB vRAM. The second system contains two Intel Xeon Gold 6248 CPUs @ 2.50GHz each with 20/40 cores, 400GB of RAM, and four Quadro RTX 8000 GPUs with 46GB vRAM of which only a single one was used for each experiment. All mentions and of training time refer to the second system.