

Conditional Forecasting of Margin Calls Using Dynamic Graph Neural Networks

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1. Motivation
2. Dynamic Graph Neural Networks (DGNNs)
3. Problem formulation
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5. Results

- Despite regulatory efforts¹, **derivatives markets** have seen recurrent episodes of **instability** in recent years (e.g. the Nasdaq Clearing member failure, the COVID-19 “dash for cash” in March 2020, nickel market volatility in March 2022, the European energy crisis, and the UK gilt market turmoil in October 2022).

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Research question: Can we forecast margin calls in stressed derivatives markets, by leveraging available transaction-level historical data?

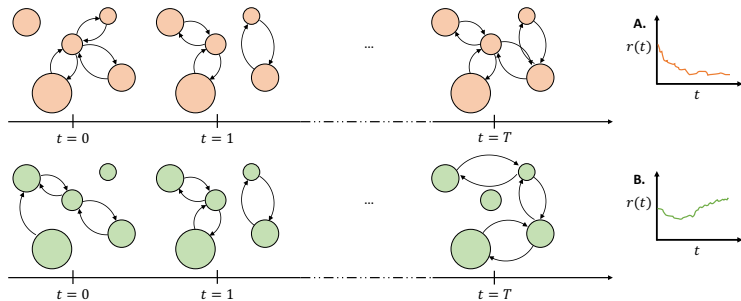
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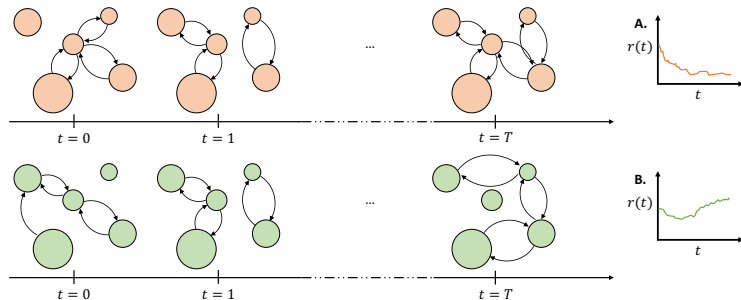
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- Recent systemic risk events in the derivatives market are due to **feedback loops** arising from the **dynamic** and **adaptive** behavior of the market participants.



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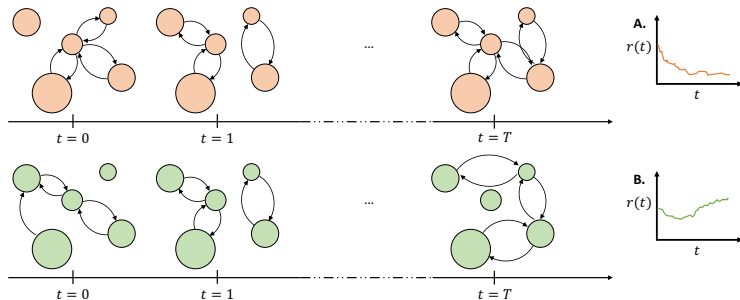
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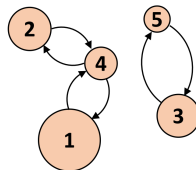
- But research on insolvency and illiquidity cascades has focused so far only on *static* financial networks.
- Research question:** Can we develop a **Dynamic Graph Neural Network (DGNN)** method to **solve m -steps ahead forecasting problems in dynamic financial networks**,
conditionally on macro-economic stress test scenarios?

Dynamic Graph Neural Networks (DGNNs)

Graph Neural Networks (GNN)

Let $\mathcal{G} = (V, X, E)$ be a graph:

- $V = \{1, \dots, N\}$ set of vertices,
- $X \in \mathbb{R}^{N \times C}$ node features,
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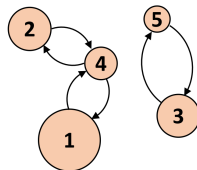


Goal: solve a non-linear **node regression** task, $Y = f(X) \in \mathbb{R}^N$, by exploiting the graph structure (because we know that the nodes' behavior can impact their neighbors).

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A **Graph Convolutional Network (GCN)** by [Kipf and Welling, 2017] consists of ℓ layers that recursively aggregate information from all nodes that are at most ℓ edges away ($\ell \leq \text{diameter}(G)$):

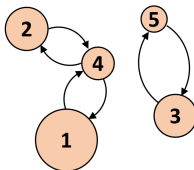
$$\begin{cases} h^{(1)} &= \sigma(A X W^{(1)}) \\ h^{(2)} &= \sigma(A h^{(1)} W^{(2)}) \\ \vdots & \\ h^{(\ell)} &= \sigma(A h^{(\ell-1)} W^{(\ell)}) =: \text{GCN}^{(\ell)}(A, X) \in \mathbb{R}^{N \times P} \end{cases}$$

where $A \in \mathbb{R}^{N \times N}$ is the adjacency matrix and σ is an element-wise non-linearity.

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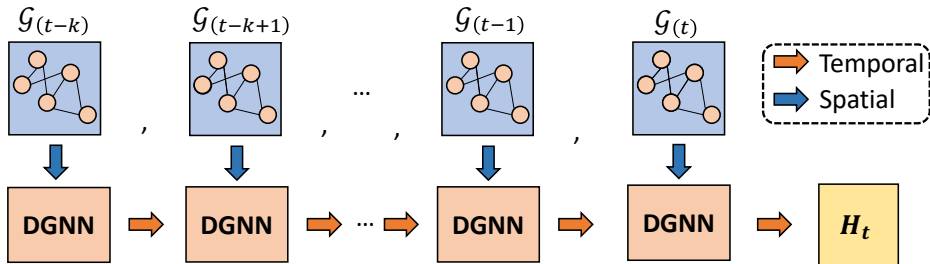
where $A \in \mathbb{R}^{N \times N}$ is the adjacency matrix and σ is an element-wise non-linearity.

The **hidden variables** $h^{(\ell)}$ extracted by the model can be used solve the regression task, i.e. $Y \approx \tilde{f}(h^{(\ell)})$, where $\tilde{f}$ may even be linear.

Dynamic Graph Neural Networks (DGNNs)

For dynamic graphs, $\mathcal{G}_t = (V_t, X_t, E_t)$, we must use a DGNN, for instance the **GC-LSTM** model⁴:

- extracts h_t from the graph $\mathcal{G}_t$ at time t using a Graph Convolutional Network (GCN) (spatial dimension),
- propagates h_t from time t to time $t + 1$ using a Recurrent Neural Network (RNN) (temporal dimension).

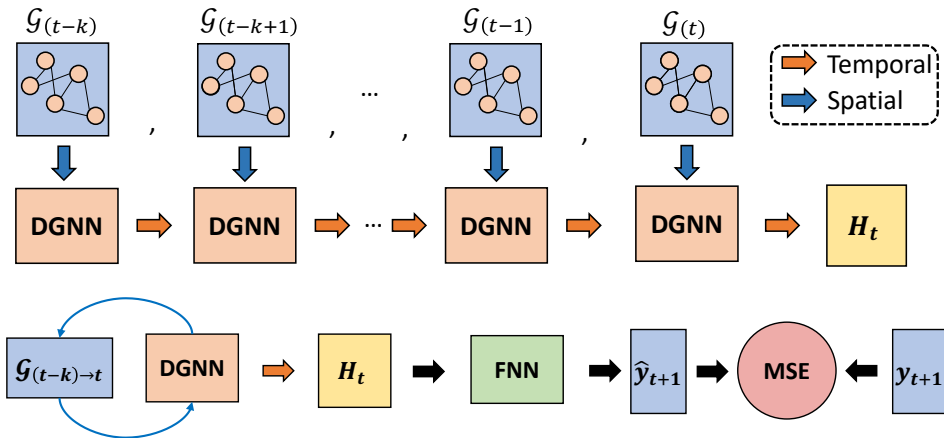


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Problem: we want to forecast margin calls in a network of heterogeneous market participants that dynamically exchange Interest Rate Swaps⁵ (IRS).

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Let $(\Omega, \mathcal{A}, (\mathcal{A}_t)_{t \geq 0}, \mathbb{Q})$ be a filtered probability space⁶ and let $r(t)$ be a **reference rate** with Cox-Ingersoll-Ross (CIR) dynamics:

$$\begin{cases} dr(t) = \kappa(\theta - r(t))dt + \sigma\sqrt{r(t)}dW_t, \\ r(0) \in \mathbb{R}_+. \end{cases}$$

We denote the **bond price** by $p(t, T)$ and the corresponding **daily term structure** by $R(t, T)$.

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Then the **value of an Interest Rate Swap** on the reference rate $r(t)$ at time t is:

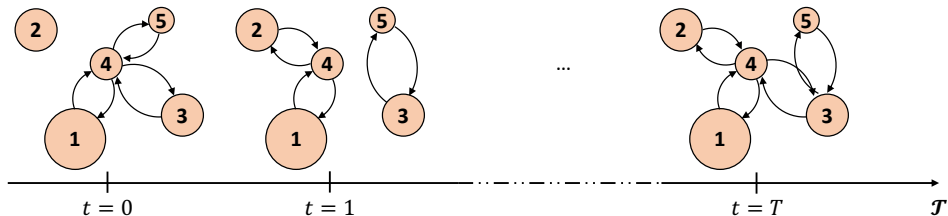
$$V(t) = \delta N \left(p(t, T) (1 + K(T - t_0)) - \prod_{t_i \in (t_0, t] \cap \mathcal{T}} (1 + r(t_i)(t_i - t_{i-1})) \right),$$

where N is the notional, t_0 the start date, T the maturity, K the fixed interest rate, and $\delta \in \{-1, +1\}$.

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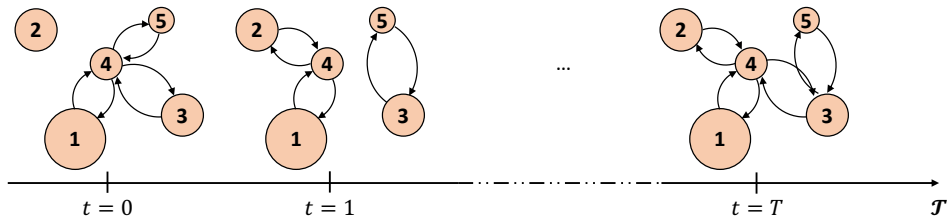
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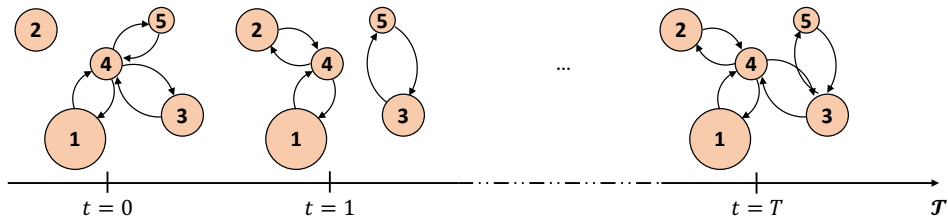
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- **edges** $(i, j) \in E_t$ represent **IRS contracts** and follow a point process $\left(t_k^{(i,j)}, N_k^{(i,j)}, K_k^{(i,j)}, T_k^{(i,j)}, \delta_k^{(i,j)}\right)_{k \in \mathbb{N}}$ with intensity conditional on $r(t)$ and $\mathbf{X}_t$:

$$\lambda_t^{(i,j)}(r(t), x_i(t), x_j(t)) = \gamma \cdot \exp\{\eta + (\theta + \beta \cdot g(x_i(t), x_j(t)))r(t)\}, \quad g(x_i(t), x_j(t)) = \begin{cases} +1 & (\text{hub-private}) \\ 1/3 & (\text{hub-hub}) \\ -1 & (\text{private-private}) \end{cases}$$

Problem formulation

Forecasting target:

At time t_l , for each counterparty i , we want to forecast its total m -steps ahead variation margin:

$$M^{(i)}(t_{l+m}) := \sum_{j \in \mathcal{N}_i(t)} \sum_{k \in \mathbb{N}} V_k^{(i,j)}(t_{l+m}) - (1 + r(t_{l+m})\Delta t) V_k^{(i,j)}(t_{l+m-1}),$$

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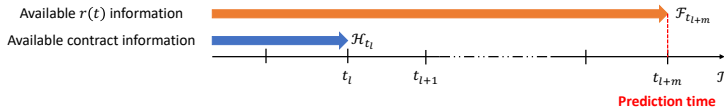
A successful forecasting method must take into account:

- the valuation of **existing contracts** (by time t_l):

$$\mathcal{H}_t = \sigma((t_k, N_k, K_k, T_k, \delta_k), k \in \mathbb{N} \text{ such that } t_k \leq t)$$

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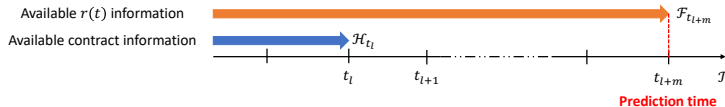
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The **ground truth** (benchmark) is simply the risk-neutral expectation:

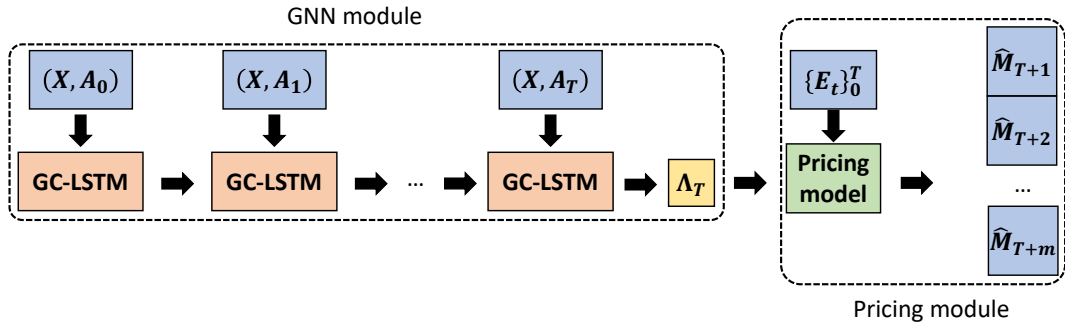
$$\prod_{t_i \in (t_l, t_{l+m}] \cap \mathcal{T}} (1 + r(t_i)\Delta t)^{-1} \mathbb{E}^{\mathbb{Q}} [M(t_{l+m}) \mid \mathcal{F}_{t_{l+m}} \vee \mathcal{H}_{t_l}].$$

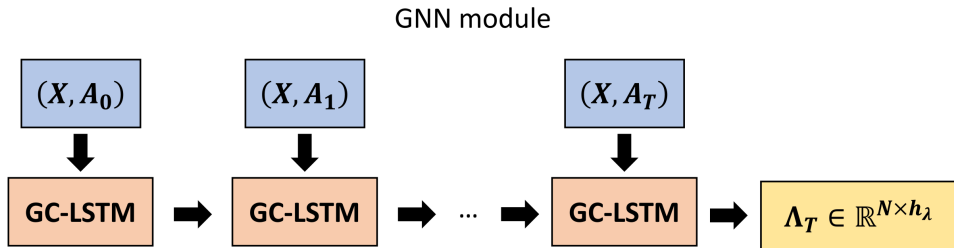
Proposed method

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We propose a novel DGNN architecture to solve this conditional forecasting problem, which consists of:

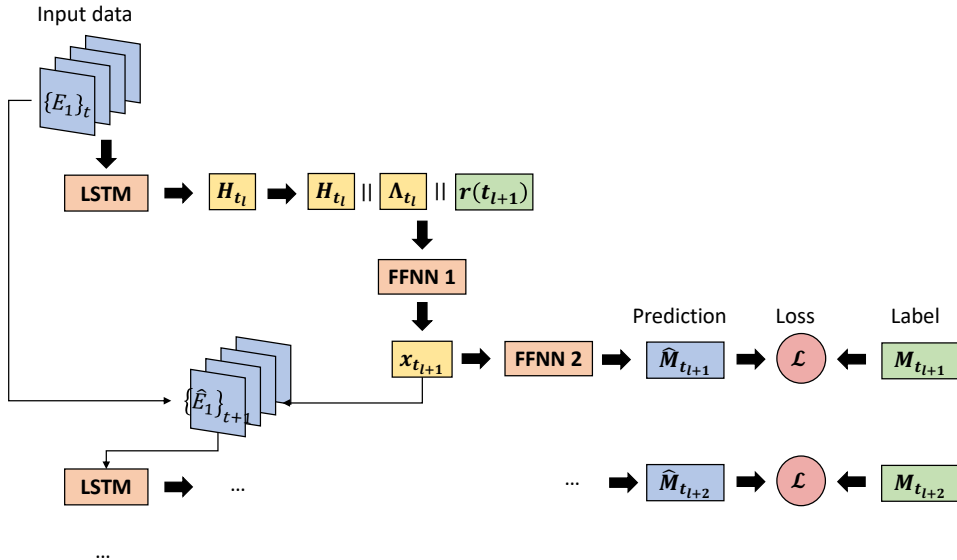
- a **GNN module**,
- a **Pricing module**.



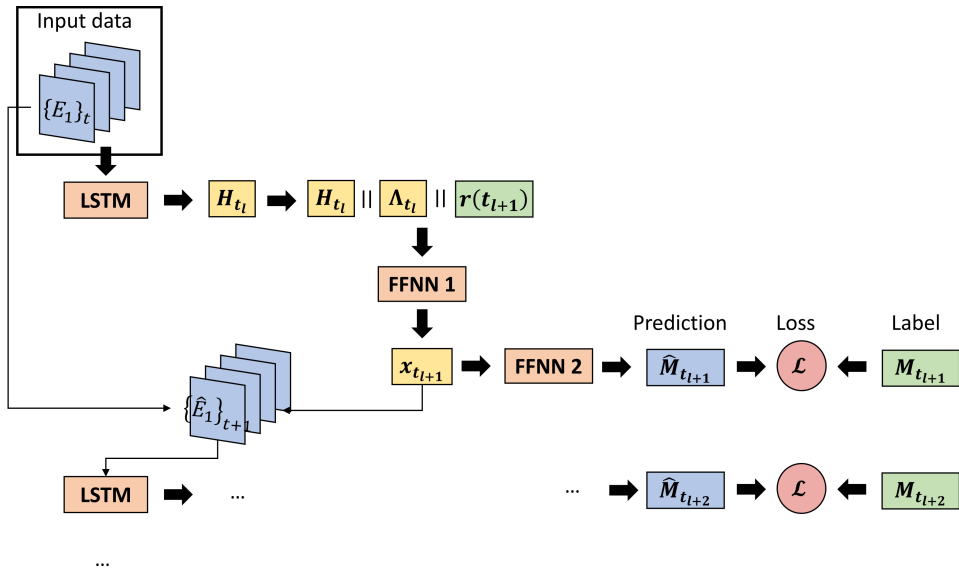


- The GNN module is a standard GC-LSTM to capture the network dynamics.
- The output Λ_T is a hidden state representation of the intensity process, to model contracts in the future.

Proposed method - Pricing module



Pricing module



$\{E_t\}_{t=t_l-k}^{t_l}$

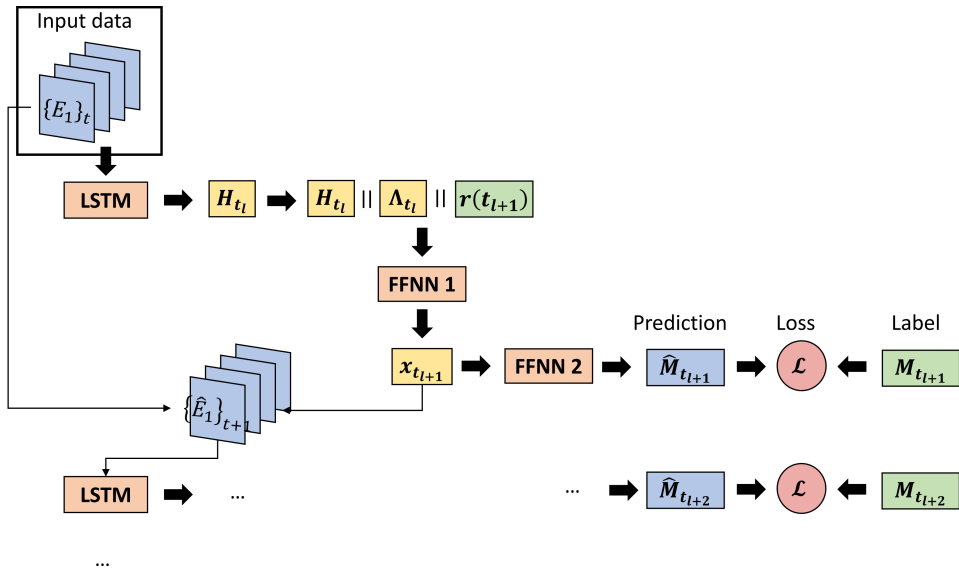
=

$\left[\frac{(T-t)}{365}, p(t_0, T), p(t, T), B(t_0), B(t), \delta\right]$	...		
$\left[\frac{(T-t-1)}{365}, p(t_0, T), p(t+1, T), B(t_0), B(t+1), \delta\right]$	...		...
...			
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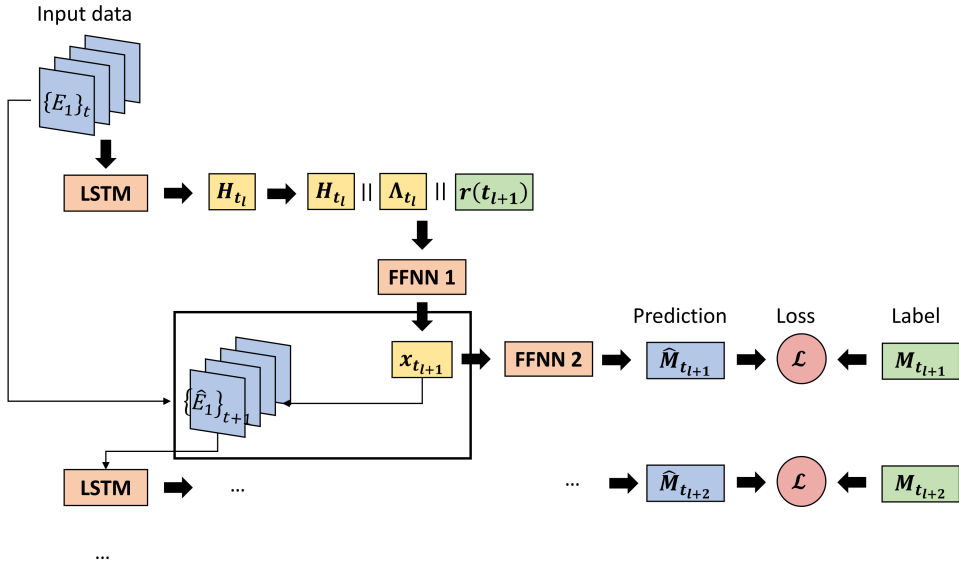
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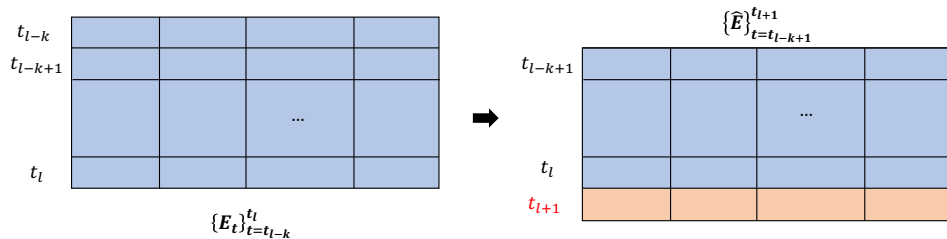
$\max_{t \in \mathcal{T}}(N_{active}(t)) \cdot 6$

Proposed method - Pricing module

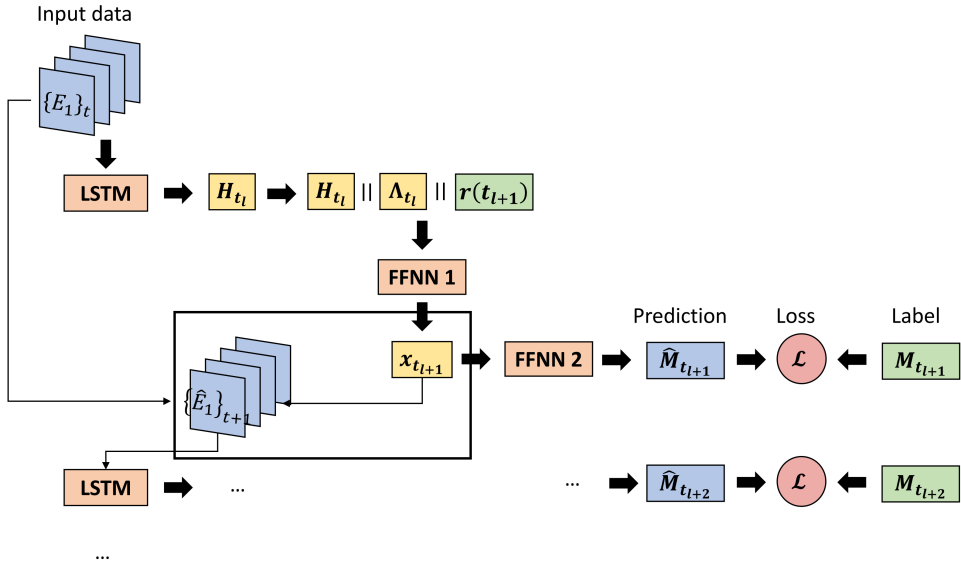


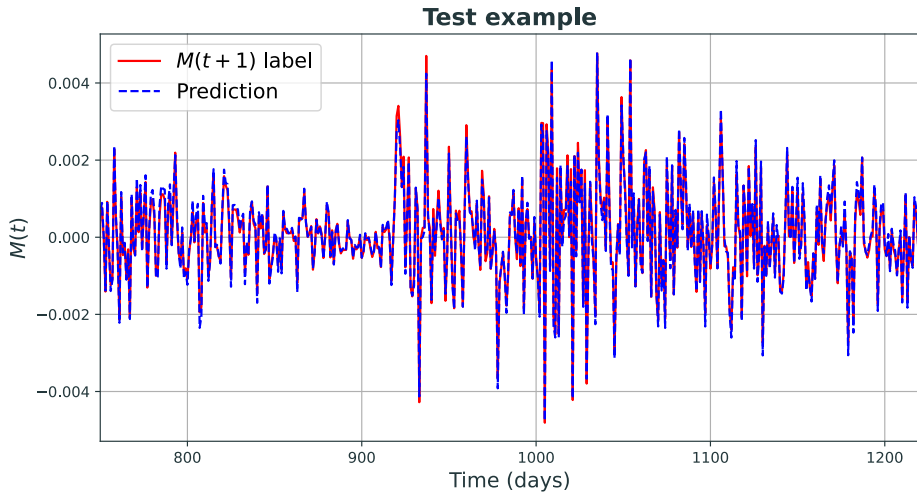
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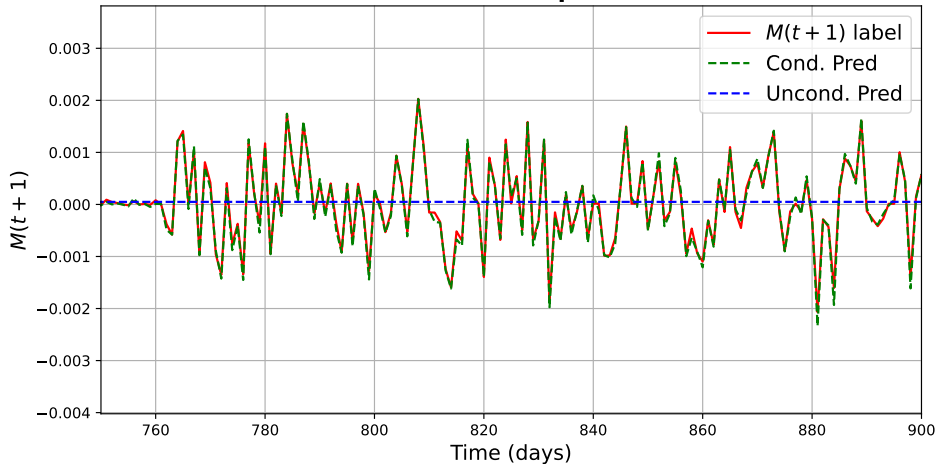
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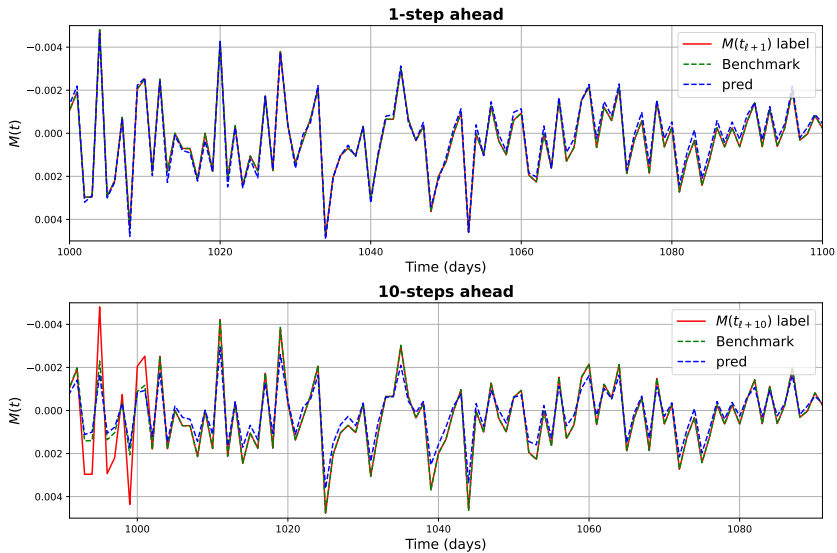


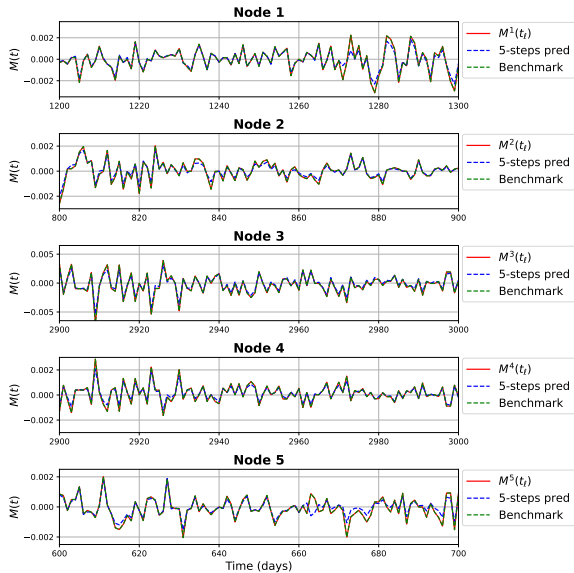
- One-step ahead stressed margin call forecast for one node in the network.

Test example



- The conditioning future interest rate trajectory (stress test scenario) is fundamental.





Methodology:

- We introduced a **Dynamic Graph Neural Network (DGNN) model** for solving an m -steps ahead **margin call forecasting** problem in a fully dynamic network, **conditionally on stress test scenarios** (such as future trajectories of a reference rate).
- The model is modular, can be easily adapted to various derivatives markets, and produces **accurate forecasts up to a 21-day horizon**.

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Thank you for your attention!



Chen, J., Wang, X., and Xu, X. (2022).

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Applied Intelligence, pages 1–16.



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Data windowing

