

# Accelerating Regular Path Queries over Graph Database with Processing-in-Memory

Ruoyan Ma<sup>1</sup>, Shengan Zheng<sup>1</sup>, Guifeng Wang<sup>1</sup>, Jin Pu<sup>1</sup>, Yifan Hua<sup>1</sup>, Wentao Wang<sup>2</sup>, Linpeng Huang<sup>1</sup>  
<sup>1</sup>Shanghai Jiao Tong University <sup>2</sup>Peking University

## ABSTRACT

Regular path queries (RPQs) in graph databases are bottlenecked by the memory wall. Emerging processing-in-memory (PIM) technologies offer a promising solution to dispatch and execute path matching tasks in parallel within PIM modules. We present Moctopus, a PIM-based data management system for graph databases that supports efficient batch RPQs and graph updates. Moctopus employs a PIM-friendly dynamic graph partitioning algorithm, which tackles graph skewness and preserves graph locality with low overhead for RPQ processing. Moctopus enables efficient graph update by amortizing the host CPU's update overhead to PIM modules. Evaluation of Moctopus demonstrates superiority over the state-of-the-art traditional graph database.

## KEYWORDS

Regular Path Query, Processing-in-Memory, path matching, graph partition, load balance

## 1 INTRODUCTION

The rise of graph data in volume and complexity has spurred a growing interest in graph databases from both academic[9, 10, 19] and industries[18, 24]. *Regular path queries* (RPQs) are one of the most essential classes of queries on graph databases. When evaluating RPQ over a graph, graph databases return all endpoint pairs of matched paths in the graph.

Unfortunately, RPQs on traditional graph databases face the "memory wall" bottleneck. Processing RPQ involves a large amount of pointer chasing, which triggers a considerable number of random memory accesses for accessing the neighborhood nodes, forcing most data accesses to use DRAM memory rather than cache. The excessive data movement results in high access latency and high bandwidth consumption that constrain the performance and incur considerable energy costs, which is also known as the "memory wall".

Processing-in-Memory (PIM) [6, 20] enables computations and processing within the device's memory, which offers a promising solution to the "memory wall" challenge. PIM systems are typically structured with a powerful host CPU and a set of PIM modules with wimpy cores. The host CPU dispatches data-intensive computational tasks to PIM modules, and gathers the results after the PIM modules finish the computation. The PIM modules execute these data-intensive computations within the memory modules that integrate computational resources, reducing data movement to

the host CPU for processing. This results in improved performance for applications that deal with high data intensity or suffer from low cache locality [12, 13]. PIM has been widely used in the field of graphs and databases for graph analysis [7, 14, 26] and database indexing[15, 16].

PIM systems face significant challenges for performing RPQs over graph databases. The first challenge is the imbalanced load distribution among PIM modules, especially with highly skewed graphs. Many real-world graphs [11, 21, 22] exhibit varying degrees of skewness, characterized by few high-degree (out-degree) nodes and many low-degree nodes. High-degree nodes need more computing and bandwidth resources given their large neighborhood. Consequently, PIM systems often suffer from a load imbalance situation, where some PIM modules are overloaded with high-degree nodes, while others are underutilized. The second challenge is the high communication overhead of PIM-based graph databases, which consists of CPU-PIM communication (CPC) and inter-PIM communication (IPC). On the commodity UPMEM[6] platform, the bandwidth of these two communication modes is less than 2% of intra-PIM bandwidth[13]. To minimize IPC overhead, the graph partitioning algorithm needs to preserve graph locality, as many next-hops in different PIM modules would incur high IPC costs otherwise. The third challenge is dynamic graph management with constant insertion and deletion of nodes and edges, and the graph storage engine needs to efficiently handle frequent updates.

We present Moctopus, a PIM-based data management system for graph databases that leverages the unique features of PIM to achieve high performance for RPQs and graph updates. By harnessing the parallel capabilities of PIM modules, Moctopus significantly accelerates path matching and graph update operations. Moctopus relies on a novel graph partitioning algorithm that exploits the PIM features with *locality-aware node distribution* and *greedy-adaptive load balancing*. To handle different types of workloads, Moctopus adopts a labor-division approach that leverages the strengths of both the host CPU and the PIM modules. Specifically, high-degree nodes demonstrating a good locality access pattern are assigned to the host CPU, whereas low-degree nodes are assigned to PIM modules. Thus, the PIM modules can overcome the load imbalance issue that stems from graph skewness by avoiding the high-degree nodes. Instead of randomly assigning graph nodes to PIM modules using a hash function, we can record the partitioning state by keeping track of previous partitioning decisions and achieve more precise graph partitioning among PIM modules. To preserve graph locality among PIM modules with low overhead, we propose a greedy-adaptive method that combines the greedy method and adaptive method. The two-stage load balancing method uses a radical greedy heuristic to reduce partitioning overhead, then migrates incorrectly partitioned nodes to enhance graph locality. Besides, it uses a dynamic capacity constraint to enforce load balance across PIM modules. The graph

Shengan Zheng (shengan@sjtu.edu.cn) and Linpeng Huang (lphuang@sjtu.edu.cn) are corresponding authors. Shengan Zheng is with MoE Key Lab of Artificial Intelligence, AI Institute, Shanghai Jiao Tong University. This work is supported by National Key Research and Development Program of China (Grant No. 2022YFB4500303), National Natural Science Foundation of China (NSFC) (Grant No. 62227809), the Fundamental Research Funds for the Central Universities, and Shanghai Municipal Science and Technology Major Project (Grant No. 2021SHZDZX0102).

partitioning algorithm achieves PIM-friendliness by balancing the workload and preserving the locality of the graph among PIM modules. For graph updates, high-degree nodes are more likely to be updated frequently and consume more CPU resources. To address this challenge, Moctopus employs heterogeneous graph storage for high-degree nodes to ease the CPU's load and delegate complex update operations to PIM modules.

We implement Moctopus on the commodity PIM system, UPMEM[6]. We compare Moctopus with RedisGraph[4] and the scheme of the widely-used hash using real-world graphs to demonstrate Moctopus's superiority. RedisGraph is a state-of-the-art in-memory graph database. The benchmark of processing a typical RPQ,  $k$ -hop path query on 15 real-world graphs shows that Moctopus is up to 10.67x faster than RedisGraph. Compared with the widely-used hash scheme, Moctopus effectively reduces communication overhead. Furthermore, fully exploiting high parallel intra-PIM bandwidth, Moctopus is remarkably faster than RedisGraph regarding graph update, with an average of 30.01x for insertion and 52.59x for deletion.

In summary, this paper makes the following contributions:

(1) We present Moctopus, a PIM-based data management system for graph databases that supports efficient batch RPQs and graph updates. To the best of our knowledge, it's the first design to accelerate path matching queries over graph database with PIM.

(2) We propose a PIM-friendly dynamic graph partitioning algorithm that tackles graph skewness and preserves graph locality with low overhead. With PIM-friendly graph partitioning, Moctopus successfully addresses the challenges of load imbalance and communication bottleneck during performing RPQs.

(3) We achieve efficient graph update with heterogeneous graph storage for high-degree nodes by amortizing the host side's update cost to the PIM side.

(4) We implement and evaluate the Moctopus on a commercial PIM system, demonstrating the Moctopus's superiority. Compared with the state-of-the-art traditional graph database, our system achieves up to 10.67x speedups for RPQ and 209.31x speedups for graph update.

## 2 BACKGROUND

### 2.1 Graph Database and Graph Partition

As the volume of data continues to expand, traditional single-node graph databases are no longer adequate to meet the growing demands. More databases seek to partition graphs across multiple computing nodes. The PIM architecture is similar to the distributed graph database, for both involve multiple nodes participating in computation.

**Graph database.** Graph databases utilize the property graph model[8] to represent graph data. In a property graph, nodes represent distinct entities, and (directed) edges are employed to depict the relationships between pairs of entities. Nodes and edges have labels and property-value pairs to describe their attributes. For processing RPQs, paths composed of entities and relationships are considered first-class citizens. Focusing on path matching and for simplicity, we use an adjacency matrix to present a simplified property graph (directed graph), in which non-essential features (labels and property-value records) are excluded.

**Graph partition for distributed graph database.** There are two graph partition solutions for the existing distributed graph database:

(1) Master-slave replication. Master-slave replication refers to replicating data from a primary database (master) to one or more secondary databases (slaves). The most popular graph database, Neo4j[3], adopts this solution. For this approach, each computing node stores the global graph. Nevertheless, the PIM module is constrained by limited local memory capacity (for UPMEM, 64MB), which renders the storage of the complete global graph nearly unfeasible.

(2) Hash partition. This widely-used method assigns graph nodes to computing nodes according to a consistent hashing function. The representative distributed graph databases are G-Tran [10] and ByteGraph [18]. However, since graph nodes are randomly assigned to PIM modules, this method overlooks the locality within the graph, resulting in high IPC overhead. Besides, graph skewness causes severe load imbalance among PIM modules.

**Graph partition for preserving graph locality.** There are two graph partition solutions for preserving graph locality: the greedy method and adaptive method. Linear Deterministic Greedy (LDG) [23] is a good representative of the greedy method. LDG uses a greedy heuristic that assigns a graph node to the partition containing most of its neighbors, effectively preserving graph locality. However, the assignment could be more time-consuming for traversing all computing nodes. Besides, LDG is unsuitable for dynamic graphs within graph databases because it requires prior knowledge of the graph structure, such as the number of nodes and edges. For the adaptive method[25], new graph nodes are randomly assigned to computing nodes according to a hash function, and computing nodes iteratively migrate graph nodes to generate partitions with good locality. This technique supports dynamic graphs with nodes and edges constantly inserted and deleted but has a huge communication overhead for migrating nodes.

The graph partitioning algorithm in Moctopus leverages the strengths of both greedy method and adaptive method.

### 2.2 PIM architecture

With the UPMEM, Processing-in Memory DIMMs are already commercially available. The PIM model comprises two main components: a powerful host CPU with supreme controlling authority (the host side) and a set of  $P$  PIM modules (the PIM side). Each PIM module consists of an on-bank processor (PIM processor) and a local memory (for UPMEM, 64MB). Despite its simplicity, the PIM processor remains general-purpose. It facilitates a range of interactions between the host CPU and the PIM modules, allowing the host CPU to transmit executable code to the PIM modules, launch the code, and monitor its completion. IPC can be realized by leveraging CPC through CPU forwarding data. The bandwidth of CPC and IPC is expensive. Despite having 2048 PIM modules and delivering 1.28TB/s of intra-PIM bandwidth[13], the system can only offer roughly 25GB/s total CPC and IPC bandwidth.

### 2.3 Matrix-based graph operations

Graphs can be represented by matrices, and graph algorithms can be implemented by matrix-based operations. In graph database scenarios, graph pattern matching can be translated into a set of matrix

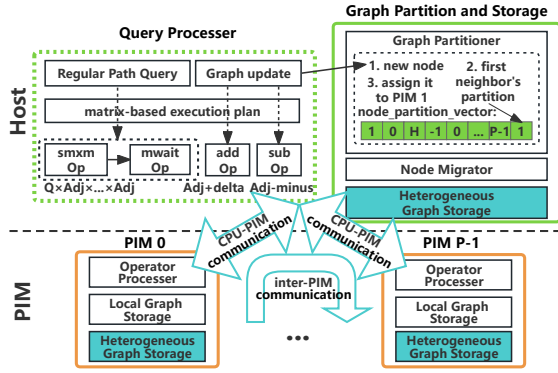


Figure 1: The architecture of the Moctopus with  $P$  PIM modules.

multiplications. The GraphBLAS[17], an established mathematical framework, defines a core set of matrix-based graph operations that can be used to implement a wide class of graph algorithms. Owing to the high serial and parallel processing performance of matrix-based operations, RedisGraph employs GraphBLAS to support efficient graph queries[4].

Similar to RedisGraph, Moctopus’s execution plan is composed of matrix-based graph operations, aiming to exploit the parallelism of PIM modules by leveraging the natural parallelism of matrix operations. For example, if we want to find two hops away nodes from fixed source nodes (the batch 2-hop path query in Figure 2), the matrix-based execution plan would be  $ans = Q \times Adj \times Adj$ , where  $Q$  is a matrix containing source nodes information,  $Adj$  stands for the adjacent matrix, and  $ans$  is a matrix containing destination nodes information. The rows of the  $Q$  identify a query in a batch of queries, and the columns represent source nodes. The rows of the  $ans$  identify a query in a batch of queries, and the columns represent destination nodes.

### 3 DESIGN

In this section, we introduce the design of the Moctopus, supporting efficient batch RPQs and graph updates. The key design is a PIM-friendly graph partitioning algorithm, aiming to reduce communication costs and achieve load balance during path matching.

#### 3.1 System architecture

Figure 1 shows the overall design of the Moctopus. Moctopus adopts an adjacency matrix to represent a graph and uses matrix-based operations to query the graph. The graph is partitioned across the host side and PIM side. Leveraging both sets of resources, Moctopus achieves efficient RPQs and graph updates. As depicted in Figure 1, the main components of Moctopus include:

1) The Query Processor. When processing batch RPQs and graph updates, the Query Processor generates execution plans composed of matrix-based operators, and dispatches these operators to PIM modules for processing. RPQ will be translated into a  $smxm$  operator for path matching and a  $mwait$  operator for reducing the result. Graph update is abstracted into add operator and sub operator. Like the map-reduce model, inherently parallel tasks (matrix-based operators) are mapped to  $P$  PIM modules for execution, exploiting the high parallel intra-PIM bandwidth.

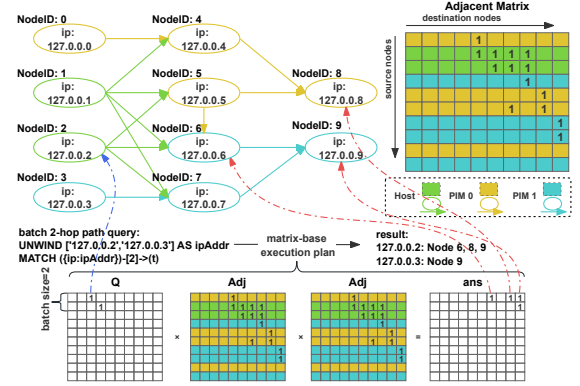


Figure 2: Example of partitioning a routing connection graph in property graph and adjacency matrix view, and the matrix-based execution plan of a batch 2-hop path query.

2) The Graph Partitioner and Node Migrator. To fully leverage the potential of PIM and achieve efficient path matching, the graph should be partitioned across computing nodes (the host CPU and  $P$  PIM modules). Through the collaboration of the Graph Partitioner and Node Migrator, Moctopus achieves dynamic graph partitioning. The graph partitioning algorithm performs a disjoint partitioning by graph node among computing nodes. It is PIM-friendly, achieving load balance among PIM modules and maintaining graph locality with low overhead. The Graph Partitioner assigns new graph nodes according to a radical greedy heuristic (described in Section 3.2.2). As shown in Figure 1, when processing graph updates, if an endpoint node appears for the first time in the inserting edge stream, the Graph Partitioner will identify it as a new node and assign it considering the history partitioning decisions stored in `node_partitioning_vector`. The Node Migrator is responsible for relocating new high-degree nodes to the host side and migrating incorrectly partitioned nodes to appropriate partitions.

3) The Operator Processor. Each PIM module contains an Operator Processor. The Operator Processor is responsible for parsing and processing operators received from the host CPU.

4) The Local Graph Storage and Heterogeneous Graph Storage. Since Moctopus adopts a disjoint partitioning by graph node, as shown in Figure 2, the adjacency matrix is partitioned across the  $1 + P$  computing nodes by row, and every computing node maintains an adjacency matrix segment. Given hash map’s excellent concurrency and scalability, each PIM module stores corresponding adjacency matrix segment in local graph storage using a hash map. The hash map stores the mapping of row ID (NodeID) to row data (the next-hop data, i.e., NodeIDs of next-hop). Nevertheless, simple local graph storage cannot meet the demands of frequent updates on the host side. By introducing heterogeneous graph storage, we make optimizations for storing the adjacency matrix segment maintained by the host CPU.

In the remainder of this section, we will describe in detail the PIM-friendly dynamic graph partitioning algorithm (Section 3.2) and optimizations for graph storage (Section 3.3).

#### 3.2 Graph partition

Moctopus takes graph partition as the first-order design consideration, aiming to achieve load balance among PIM modules and preserve graph locality with low overhead. In this section, we describe

the PIM-friendly graph partitioning algorithm composed of a labor-division approach and a greedy-adaptive method. For the labor-division approach, Moctopus treats high- and low-degree nodes differently to tackle graph skewness and leverage the strengths of both the host CPU and the PIM modules. For the greedy-adaptive method, Moctopus tries to assign and migrate adjacent nodes to the same PIM module under low overhead, aiming to reduce IPC overhead during path matching.

**3.2.1 locality-aware node distribution.** To address load imbalance caused by graph skewness and leverage the strengths of the host side and the PIM side, we propose a labor-division approach that the host side handles high-degree nodes and the PIM side deals with low-degree nodes. As shown in Figure 2, the host CPU handles nodes 1 and 2 (high-degree nodes), and the rest nodes are partitioned into PIM 0 and PIM 1.

**Migrate high-degree nodes to the host side.** High-degree nodes tend to be accessed more frequently and need more computing and bandwidth resources, causing serve load imbalance among PIM modules. As the graph grows, a low-degree node may have more connections and turn into a high-degree node. At this point, the Node Migrator will migrate the node from the PIM side to the host side. Since PIM modules no longer handle high-degree nodes, the load imbalance caused by graph skewness naturally dissipates.

**Leverage the strengths of the host side and the PIM side.** The labor-division approach also concurrently aligns with the PIM architecture. The two components of the PIM architecture, the host side and the PIM side, prefer different workloads. The distributed PIM side prefers uniformly random memory access workloads to exploit high parallel intra-PIM bandwidth, while the host side with a powerful CPU prefers continuous and skewed memory access workloads with good locality. Correspondingly, high-degree nodes tend to be accessed more frequently, and fetching their large amounts of next-hop's NodeIDs exhibits continuous memory access, satisfying the host side's preference. Low-degree nodes with few next hops are likely to be accessed randomly, satisfying the PIM side's taste. Through dispatching path matching tasks associated with high-degree nodes to the CPU side and low-degree nodes to the PIM side, the Moctopus can leverage the advantages of both sets of resources.

**3.2.2 greedy-adaptive load balancing.** To preserve graph locality with low overhead and support dynamic graphs, we propose a greedy-adaptive method to partition low-degree nodes among PIM modules. The greedy-adaptive method combines the greedy method and adaptive method. When receiving a new graph node, the method uses a radical greedy heuristic that assigns it according to its first neighbor. The radical greedy heuristic significantly reduces partitioning overhead but might cause incorrectly partitioned nodes. As performing path matching, PIM modules detect these incorrectly partitioned nodes, then the host CPU migrates them to correct partitions to enhance graph locality.

**Balance locality and overhead.** The key to preserving graph locality is placing adjacent nodes on the same PIM module. The radical greedy heuristic does not aim for optimal locality, but rather a satisfactory trade-off between graph locality and partitioning overhead. Instead of assigning a graph node to the partition containing most of its neighbors, the radical greedy heuristic employs a

more assertive approach by assigning a graph node to the partition housing its first neighbor. For PIM systems, the former method requires traversing numerous PIM modules, potentially up to tens or hundreds, in order to determine the appropriate partition, leading to substantial partitioning overhead. The radical greedy heuristic sacrifices some graph locality and tolerates a few incorrectly partitioned, but it only requires minimal partitioning overhead.

**Enhance locality by migration.** When performing RPQs, Moctopus utilizes an adaptive method to recover the graph locality sacrificed for low partitioning overhead. During path matching, PIM modules simultaneously detect incorrectly partitioned nodes that miss most of the next-hop nodes in the local PIM module, effectively overlapping detection overhead with path matching query processing. Then, the host CPU migrates them to the partitions containing most of their neighbors. With more neighbors on the same module, Moctopus enhances graph locality.

It is worth noting that the labor-division approach (Section 3.2.1) makes a graph easier to partition on the PIM side, as high-degree nodes have been migrated to the host side. Ideally, the graph without high-degree nodes becomes multiple disconnected subgraphs. In most cases, the radical greedy method has well maintained graph locality among PIM modules, only leaving a few nodes to migrate. Ultimately, the CPU only has to deal with a small amount of migration overhead.

**Radical greedy heuristic and migration brings flexibility.** Besides its low partitioning overhead, a critical factor in our decision to employ the radical greedy heuristic is its flexibility. Moctopus makes graph node assignment decisions upon inserting the first edge of a graph node rather than delaying until the whole graph is established, accommodating the demands of partitioning dynamic graphs in graph databases. Additionally, migration adapts to graph changes. As the graph changes over time, the partitioning accuracy may deteriorate, leaving some incorrectly partitioned nodes. Moctopus migrates these nodes at runtime to maintain graph locality as the graph evolves.

**Enforce load balance by a dynamic constraint.** When assigning graph nodes, we use a dynamic assigned node's capacity constraint to enforce load balance across PIM modules. The dynamic capacity constraint is set to 1.05x the average number of assigned nodes among PIM modules, increasing with graph scale. When the number of assigned nodes in a PIM module exceeds the capacity constraint, new graph nodes will be allocated into the PIM modules below the capacity constraint using a hash algorithm to avoid the load imbalance case where most graph nodes are assigned to a few PIM modules. Decreasing the proportion of capacity constraint can facilitate load balance but at the expense of decreased graph locality.

Eventually, the PIM-friendly graph partitioning algorithm achieves load balance among PIM modules and maintains graph locality with low overhead. Additionally, it is flexible enough to support dynamic graphs in graph databases.

### 3.3 Optimizations for graph storage

In Moctopus, every computing node needs to manage graph nodes assigned to it and maintains an adjacent matrix segment to store

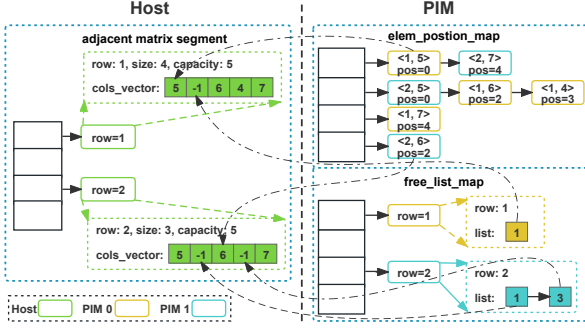


Figure 3: Heterogeneous graph storage for high-degree nodes.

these graph data. PIM modules can leverage high parallel intra-PIM bandwidth to provide high performance for querying and updating low-degree nodes. Nevertheless, high-degree nodes on the host side tend to be accessed and updated more frequently, placing substantial pressure on the host CPU. To alleviate the host CPU’s load, Moctopus uses heterogeneous graph storage for high-degree nodes, achieving efficient query and update simultaneously by amortizing the host side’s update cost to the PIM side.

**Efficient graph query.** On the host side, the most efficient approach for graph querying is to store the next-hop data (NodeIDs of next-hop) of high-degree nodes in a contiguous memory array (cols\_vector in Figure 3). Consequently, when accessing a graph node, Moctopus requires only one memory fetch to acquire its next-hop data, further improving memory accessing locality on the host side.

**Efficient graph update.** When inserting or deleting an edge, Moctopus has to traverse the cols\_vector to determine if the edge already exists. To avoid the time-consuming traversal, Moctopus maintains two supplementary hash maps (elem\_position\_map and free\_list\_map in Figure 3) for storing high-degree nodes on the PIM side. The elem\_position\_map stores the mapping of edge to the edge’s position in cols\_vector, and the free\_list\_map stores the free positions in col\_vector. For graph update, the host CPU only assumes simple tasks of writing data to a certain position within the cols\_vector, while the PIM side undertakes complex operations of edge retrieval and space management. For example, Moctopus follows this process to insert an edge  $\langle 1, 2 \rangle$  in Figure 3. Firstly, the elem\_position\_map confirms that the edge does not exist. Then, the free\_list\_map allocates a free space for the edge and the position is 1. Next, update the elem\_position\_map by inserting (edge =  $\langle 1, 2 \rangle$ , pos = 1). Finally, the host CPU writes 2 to position 1 of the cols\_vector with row = 1.

Eventually, it forms heterogeneous graph storage for high-degree nodes, where the CPU side enhances memory access locality while the PIM side overtakes the majority of update expenses.

## 4 EVALUATION

### 4.1 Evaluation Setup

**Dataset.** Our experiments use 15 real-world graphs from the SNAP[5] dataset. The 15 large-scale graphs (Trace ID #1-#15) with the number of nodes exceeding 200K are shown in Table 1, where nodes with out-degrees exceeding 16 are considered high-degree nodes.

**Baselines.** We use RedisGraph[4] as a baseline system to evaluate our PIM system. By representing the data as sparse matrices and employing highly optimized sparse matrix operations[2], RedisGraph delivers a fast and efficient way to store, manage, and process graphs[1].

We also implement the PIM-hash system as a contrast system, where all graph nodes are distributed to PIM modules using a hash function, as the scheme of hash partition is widely used in distributed graph databases[10, 18].

**Configurations.** We use a server with two Intel(R) Xeon(R) Silver 4126 CPUs and 20 UPMEM DIMMs as the host system. Each CPU has 16 cores at 2.10 GHz, and the L3 cache size is 22MB. Each UPMEM DIMM has two ranks; each rank has 64 PIM modules. RedisGraph utilizes a dedicated CPU core, exclusively benefiting from L3 cache and memory bandwidth. Moctopus and PIM-hash use a dedicated CPU core and 64 PIM modules (a rank).

**Workload Setup.** For simplicity, our evaluation focuses on a typical RPQ,  $k$ -hop path query with a fixed start node. The start node is randomly selected, and RPQs are processed in batch (batch size = 64K). To show graph update performance, we randomly select 64K edges for insertion and deletion.

### 4.2 Performance of RPQs

Figure 4 shows the run time of processing  $k$ -hop path queries on Moctopus, PIM-hash, and RedisGraph. Under the 15 real-world graphs from the SNAP dataset, Moctopus has the best performance. For the graphs with less skewness (#1, #2, #3, #7, #13, #14, and #15), Moctopus outperforms RedisGraph by 2.54-10.67x. By dispatching path matching tasks to PIM modules and reducing data movement, Moctopus breaks the "memory wall" bottleneck of path matching and achieves high performance. When handling highly skewed graphs (#5, #6, #8, #11, and #12), Moctopus outperforms the PIM-hash up to 2.98x. On the one hand, Moctopus tackles graph skewness with the locality-aware node distribution, achieving load balance among PIM modules; on the other hand, Moctopus distributes skewed workloads to the host CPU, leveraging the strengths both of the host side and the PIM side.

We further analyze the IPC cost during path matching. Figure 5 shows the IPC cost for Moctopus and PIM-hash processing 3-hop path queries. For  $k=3$ , Moctopus reduces the IPC cost by 89.56% on average compared with PIM-hash, demonstrating that our graph partitioning algorithm effectively preserves graph locality, ultimately enabling more next-hops hit in local PIM modules.

It is observed that Moctopus’s performance significantly deteriorates compared to RedisGraph as  $k$  increases. The reason is that, for most graphs except for road network graphs (#1, #2, and #3), the number of matched paths increases significantly with the increase of  $k$ , causing CPC and reduction to become the performance bottleneck. For long path queries, we only perform  $k$ -hop path queries ( $k=4, 6, \text{ and } 8$ ) on road network graphs, and Moctopus outperforms RedisGraph by 6.00-9.71x.

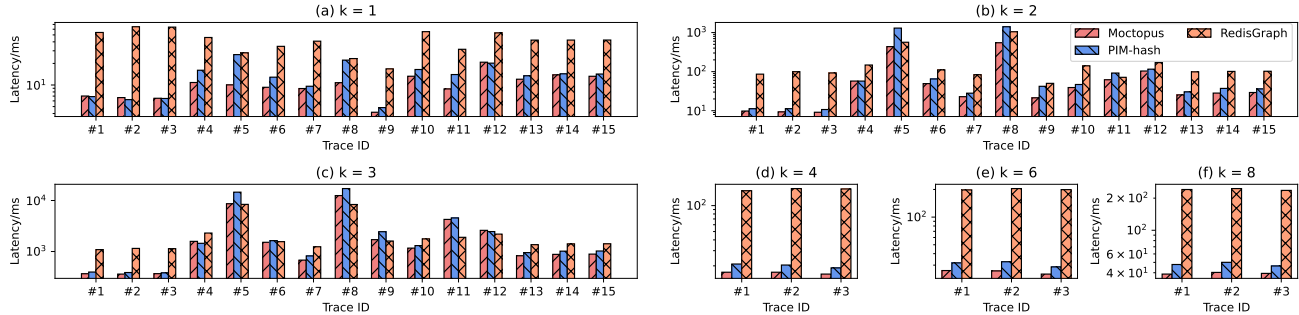
### 4.3 Performance of graph update

Figure 6 shows the run-time of graph update (insert 64k edges and delete 64k edges) on the 15 real-world graphs from the SNAP dataset. Exempt from IPC and reduction stages, the graph update

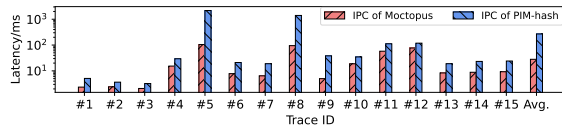


**Table 1: The real-world graphs from SNAP dataset used in our experiments.**

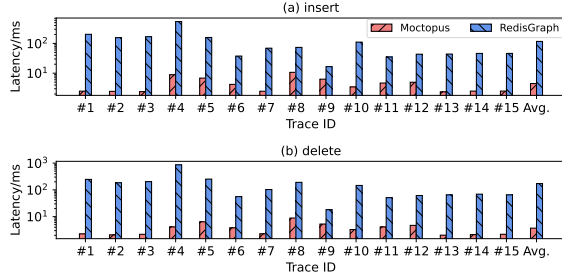
Name	roadNet-CA	roadNet-PA	roadNet-TX	cit-patents	com-youtube	com-DBLP	com-amazon	wiki-Talk	email-EuAll	web-Google	web-NotreDame	web-Stanford	amazon0312	amazon0505	amazon0601
Trace ID	#1	#2	#3	#4	#5	#6	#7	#8	#9	#10	#11	#12	#13	#14	#15
nodes	1,965,206	1,088,092	1,379,917	3,774,768	1,134,890	317,080	334,863	2,394,385	265,214	875,713	325,729	281,903	262,111	410,236	403,394
high-degree nodes%	0	0	0	2.83	2.07	3.10	0.62	0.50	0.29	1.29	2.86	4.84	0	0	0



**Figure 4: Run-time of  $k$ -hop path queries (log scale).**



**Figure 5: IPC cost of Moctopus and PIM-hash processing 3-hop path queries (log scale).**



**Figure 6: Run-time of graph update (log scale).**

workloads can fully utilize the intra-PIM bandwidth, resulting in exceptional performance. Compared with RedisGraph, Moctopus achieves up to 81.45x higher throughput with an average of 30.01x for insertion and achieves up to 209.31x higher throughput with an average of 52.59x for deletion. For the graphs with a high proportion of graph data stored on the host side, the host CPU’s load becomes a bottleneck of graph update. Thanks to the heterogeneous graph storage for high-degree nodes, Moctopus amortizes the host side’s update cost to the PIM side, still achieving good graph update performance with an average spreading time of 50-160ns.

## 5 CONCLUSION

In this paper, we present Moctopus, the first PIM system for accelerating path matching over graph database with Processing-in-Memory. Moctopus successfully supports efficient batch RPOs and graph updates. The dynamic graph partitioning algorithm in Moctopus successfully tackles graph skewness and preserves graph locality with low overhead. With PIM-friendly graph partitioning, Moctopus addresses the challenges of load imbalance and communication bottleneck during performing RPOs. The optimizations for graph storage enables frequent graph update by amortizing the host side’s update cost to the PIM side. Evaluation against RedisGraph and the widely-used hash scheme shows that Moctopus is a

PIM-friendly design and can achieve high path matching and graph update performance.

## REFERENCES

- [1] 2018. Benchmarking RedisGraph 1.0. <https://redis.com/blog/new-redisgraph-1-0-achieves-600x-faster-performance-graph-databases/>.
- [2] 2023. GraphBLAS. <https://graphblas.org/>.
- [3] 2023. Neo4J. <https://neo4j.com/>.
- [4] 2023. RedisGraph. <https://redis.io/docs/stack/graph/design/>.
- [5] 2023. SNAP dataset. <http://snap.stanford.edu/snap/>.
- [6] 2023. UPMEM Technology. <https://www.upmem.com/technology/>.
- [7] Junwhan Ahn et al. 2015. A scalable processing-in-memory accelerator for parallel graph processing. In *ISCA*.
- [8] Renzo Angles. 2018. The Property Graph Database Model. In *AMW*.
- [9] Maciej Besta et al. 2023. The Graph Database Interface: Scaling Online Transactional and Analytical Graph Workloads to Hundreds of Thousands of Cores. In *SC*.
- [10] Hongzhi Chen et al. 2022. G-tran: a high performance distributed graph database with a decentralized architecture. *VLDB* (2022).
- [11] Faloutsos et al. 1999. On power-law relationships of the internet topology. *ACM SIGCOMM COMP COM* (1999).
- [12] Christina Giannoula et al. 2021. Syncron: Efficient synchronization support for near-data-processing architectures. In *HPCA*.
- [13] Juan Gómez-Luna et al. 2021. Benchmarking a new paradigm: An experimental analysis of a real processing-in-memory architecture. *arXiv* (2021).
- [14] Yu Huang et al. 2020. A heterogeneous PIM hardware-software co-design for energy-efficient graph processing. In *IPDPS*.
- [15] Hongbo Kang et al. 2023. PIM-tree: A Skew-resistant Index for Processing-in-Memory. In *HOPC*. 13–14.
- [16] Hongbo Kang et al. 2023. PIM-trie: A Skew-resistant Trie for Processing-in-Memory. In *SPAA*.
- [17] Jeremy Kepner et al. 2015. Graphs, matrices, and the GraphBLAS: Seven good reasons. *Procedia Computer Science* (2015).
- [18] Changji Li et al. 2022. ByteGraph: a high-performance distributed graph database in ByteDance. *VLDB* (2022).
- [19] Wim Martens et al. 2022. Representing paths in graph database pattern matching. *arXiv* (2022).
- [20] Onur Mutlu et al. 2022. A modern primer on processing in memory. In *Emerging Computing: From Devices to Systems: Looking Beyond Moore and Von Neumann*.
- [21] Mark EJ Newman. 2005. Power laws, Pareto distributions and Zipf’s law. *Contemporary physics* (2005).
- [22] Evangelos Papalexakis et al. 2016. Power-Hop: a pervasive observation for real complex networks. *PLoS one* (2016).
- [23] Isabelle Stanton et al. 2012. Streaming graph partitioning for large distributed graphs. In *SIGKDD*.
- [24] Yuanyuan Tian. 2023. The world of graph databases from an industry perspective. *SIGMOD* (2023).
- [25] Luis Vaquero et al. 2013. Adaptive partitioning for large-scale dynamic graphs. In *SOCC*.
- [26] Mingxing Zhang et al. 2018. GraphP: Reducing communication for PIM-based graph processing with efficient data partition. In *HPCA*.