



## Part II

# Basic GNNs & Applications

## Lecture 05

### Introduction to Graph Convolution Networks (GCN)

- ❑ Learn GCN fundamentals and its significance in graph-based data analysis.
- ❑ Understand message passing and smart normalization in GCNs.
- ❑ Apply GCNs to various graph-based tasks for valuable insights.



## Fundamental Concepts of Vanilla GNN

### Challenges and Limitations of Vanilla GNN

#### Recall of Vanilla GNN

##### Global Transition Function (Message Passing):

- The vanilla GNN employs a simple layer-wise propagation rule:

$$\Psi_W(H^{(k)}, A) = H^{(k+1)}$$

Learned  
Parameters

$$H^{(k)} = \begin{bmatrix} h_1^T \\ h_2^T \\ \vdots \\ h_{|v|}^T \end{bmatrix}$$

Adjacency  
Matrix

$$H^{(k+1)} = \begin{bmatrix} \psi_W(h_1^{(k)}, h_{s_1}^{(k)})^T \\ \psi_W(h_2^{(k)}, h_{s_2}^{(k)})^T \\ \vdots \\ \psi_W(h_{|v|}^{(k)}, h_{s_{|v|}}^{(k)})^T \end{bmatrix}$$

$$H^{(k+1)} = \Psi(A H^{(k)} W^{(k)})$$

Layer (k+1)

Activation  
Function

Wight Matrix  
at Layer (k)

#### Self-Loop Enforcing

$$\tilde{A} = A + I$$

$$H^{(k+1)} = \Psi(\tilde{A} H^{(k)} W^{(k)})$$



# Challenges and Limitations of Vanilla GNN

## Recall of Vanilla GNN

Dataset	MLP	Vanilla GNN
Cora	51.90%	72.50%
Facebook	75.21%	84.85%

```
# Create a new class named VanillaGNN for our GNN
class VanillaGNN(nn.Module):
    # Initialize the VanillaGNN
    def __init__(self, dim_in, dim_h, dim_out):
        super().__init__()
        # Initialize 2 VanillaGNNLayer layers
        self.gnn1 = VanillaGNNLayer(dim_in, dim_h)
        self.gnn2 = VanillaGNNLayer(dim_h, dim_out)
```

```
# Perform the Forward pass of the VanillaGNN
```

```
def forward(self, x, adjacency):
```

```
    # Apply the 1st GNN layer
```

```
    h = self.gnn1(x, adjacency)
```

```
    # Apply ReLU activation
```

```
    h = torch.relu(h)
```

```
    # Apply the 2nd GNN layer
```

```
    h = self.gnn2(h, adjacency)
```

```
    # Return Log softmax for classification
```

```
    return F.log_softmax(h, dim=1)
```

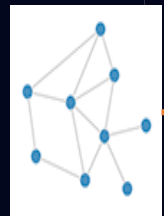
```
# ..... Other def Functions .....
```

LIMITATIONS  
OF VANILLA  
GNN

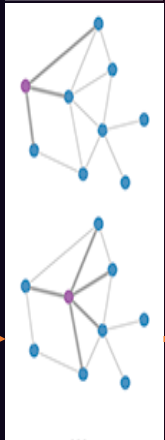
GCN

MODELS  
COMPARISON

Input

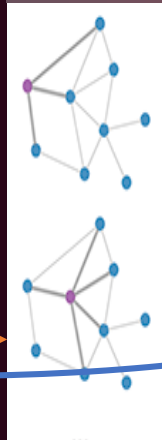


$gnn_1$



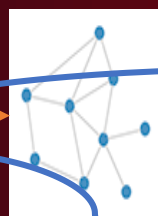
$\psi = ReLU$

$gnn_2$



$\psi = SoftMax$

Output





## Challenges and Limitations of Vanilla GNN

### Unbalanced Neighbor Counts

In real-world graphs, nodes often have varying **numbers of neighbors**.

**Example:** **Node 1** has **3** neighbors, while **node 2** has only **1**.

### Unanticipated Problem:

Vanilla GNN layers treat all neighbors **equally** with a simple aggregation operation.

No consideration for the difference in **neighbor counts**.

### Consequence Inconsistent Embeddings

**Node 1** (with **1,000** neighbors) and **Node 2** (with only **1** neighbor) create **embeddings** with vastly distinct scales.

This scale variation hinders **meaningful comparisons** between **embeddings**.

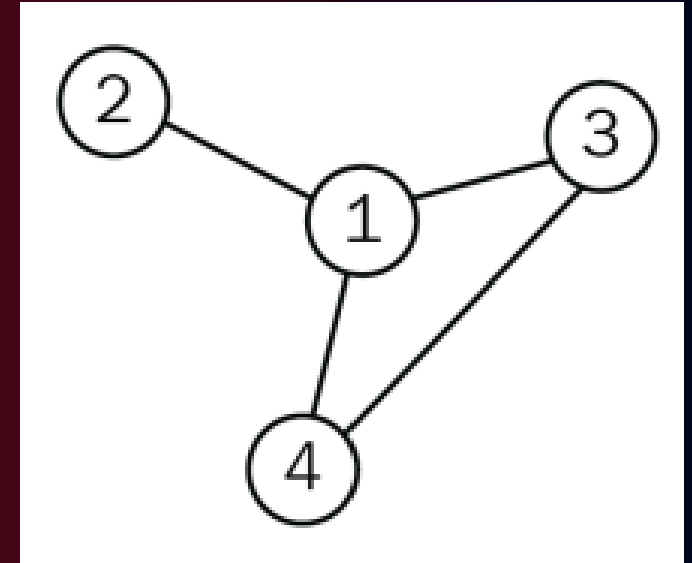


Fig. – Simple graph where nodes have different numbers of neighbors

$A$  or  $\tilde{A}$  is typically not normalized.



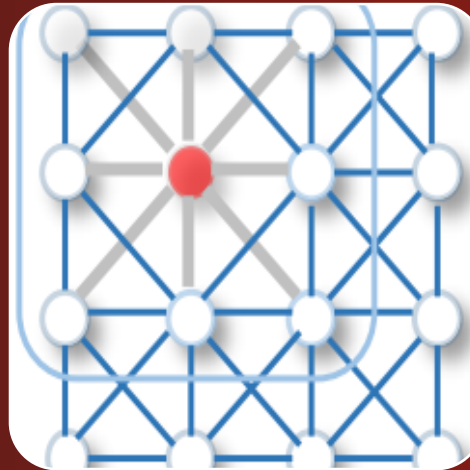
# Graph Convolutional Networks (GCN)

## Inspiration From 2d Conv

### Addressing These Limitations:

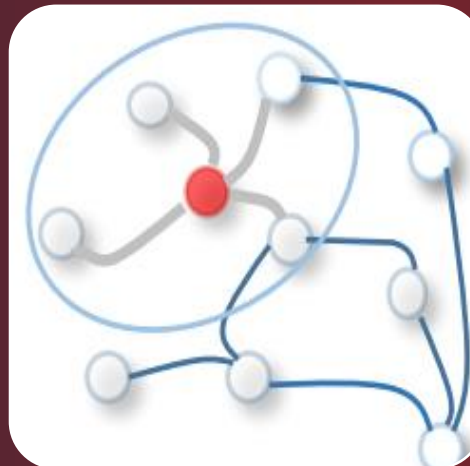
Researchers have proposed more advanced methods like **Graph Convolutional Networks (GCNs)**.

**GCNs** aim to tackle the issues of **vanilla GNNs** through **normalization** and more **sophisticated weight assignments**.



### 2D Convolution:

- Treats each image pixel as a node.
- Neighbors determined by fixed grid size (The filter size).
- Computes weighted average of pixel values with fixed-size, ordered neighbors.
- Neighbors are ordered and consistently sized.



### Graph Convolution:

- Aims to obtain a hidden representation of a target node.
- Simple approach: average the node features of the target node and its neighbors.
- Graph neighbors are unordered and variable in size.
- Adaptable to diverse and irregular data structures.



# Graph Convolutional Networks (GCN)

## Normal Normalization

Normalizing  $A$  or  $\tilde{A}$  such that all rows sum to **one** →  
Taking the average of neighboring node features:

$$D^{-1}A$$

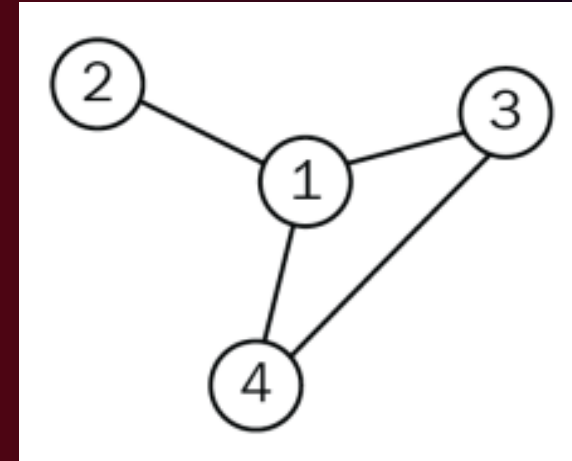
or

$$\tilde{D}^{-1}\tilde{A}$$

Where:

- $D$  is the diagonal node degree matrix of  $A$
- $\tilde{D}$  is the diagonal node degree matrix of  $\tilde{A}$

$$\tilde{A} = A + I$$



A\_delta:

```

[[1. 1. 1. 1.]
 [1. 1. 0. 0.]
 [1. 0. 1. 1.]
 [1. 0. 1. 1.]]
  
```

Adjacency Matrix A:

```

[[0 1 1 1]
 [1 0 0 0]
 [1 0 0 1]
 [1 0 1 0]]
  
```

D\_delta:

```

[[4. 0. 0. 0.]
 [0. 2. 0. 0.]
 [0. 0. 3. 0.]
 [0. 0. 0. 3.]]
  
```

Degree Matrix D:

```

[[3 0 0 0]
 [0 1 0 0]
 [0 0 2 0]
 [0 0 0 2]]
  
```



# Graph Convolutional Networks (GCN)

## Normal Normalization

Normalizing  $A$  or  $\tilde{A}$  such that all rows sum to **one** →  
Taking the average of neighboring node features:

$$D^{-1}A$$

or

$$\tilde{D}^{-1}\tilde{A}$$

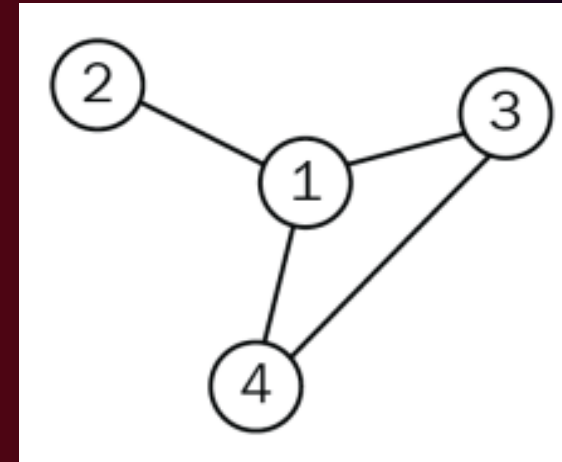
Where:

- $D$  is the diagonal node degree matrix of  $A$
- $\tilde{D}$  is the diagonal node degree matrix of  $\tilde{A}$

$$\tilde{A} = A + I$$

This normalizes neighboring node features

Rows Sum to 1


 $D^{-1}:$ 

```
[[0.33 0.  0.  0. ]
 [0.  1.  0.  0. ]
 [0.  0.  0.5 0. ]
 [0.  0.  0.  0.5]]
```

 $D_{\Delta}^{-1}:$ 

```
[[0.25 0.  0.  0. ]
 [0.  0.5  0.  0. ]
 [0.  0.  0.33 0. ]
 [0.  0.  0.  0.33]]
```

 $D^{-1}.A:$ 

```
[[0.  0.33 0.33 0.33]
 [1.  0.  0.  0. ]
 [0.5 0.  0.  0.5 ]
 [0.5 0.  0.5 0. ]]
```

$$D^{-1}A$$

 $D_{\Delta}^{-1}.A_{\Delta}:$ 

```
[[0.25 0.25 0.25 0.25]
 [0.5 0.5 0.  0. ]
 [0.33 0.  0.33 0.33]
 [0.33 0.  0.33 0.33]]
```

$$\tilde{D}^{-1}\tilde{A}$$





# Graph Convolutional Networks (GCN)

## Symmetric Normalization

Normal  
Normalization

The multiplication  $\tilde{D}^{-1}\tilde{A}$  results in an **imbalance**, where nodes with **higher degrees** have more **influence** in the **message passing**.

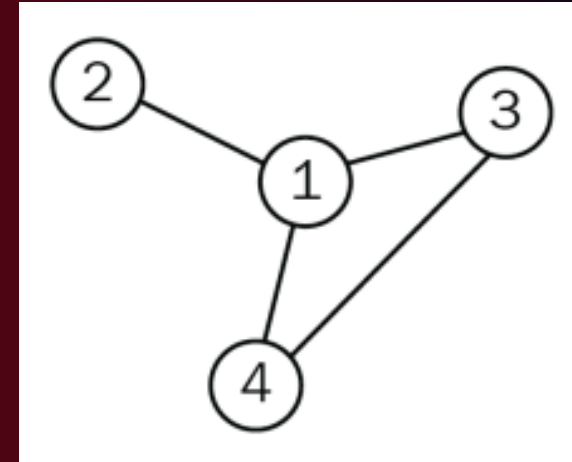
Symmetric  
Normalization

We use instead:

$$\tilde{D}^{-1/2} \tilde{A} \tilde{D}^{-1/2}$$

$\tilde{D}^{-1/2}$  is the diagonal matrix with the **square root** of node degrees.

This form of normalization ensures that the **propagation weights** are **equally distributed among neighboring nodes**.



```
Symmetric Normalization ( $D^{-1/2} * A * D^{-1/2}$ ):  
[[0.   0.58 0.41 0.41]  
 [0.58 0.   0.   0.  ]  
 [0.41 0.   0.   0.5 ]  
 [0.41 0.   0.5  0.  ]]
```

Kipf, Thomas N., and Max Welling. "Semi-supervised classification with graph convolutional networks." arXiv preprint arXiv:1609.02907 (2016).





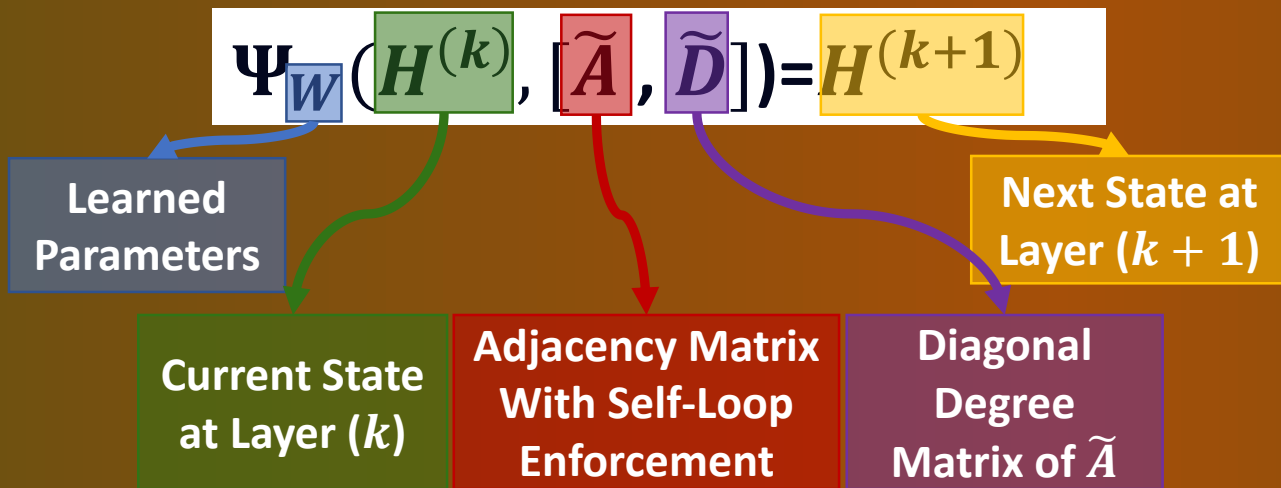
# Graph Convolutional Networks (GCN)

## Overview of GCN

### Fundamental Concepts of GCN

#### Global Transition Function (Message Passing):

- The GCN employs a specific layer-wise propagation rule:



$$H^{(k+1)} = \Psi(\tilde{D}^{-1/2} \tilde{A} \tilde{D}^{-1/2} H^{(k)} W^{(k)})$$



# Graph Convolutional Networks (GCN)

## Manual Implementing of the GCN Layer:

01 `__init__()`

02 `forward()`

```
# ...Import necessary libraries
class GCNLayer(nn.Module):
    def __init__(self, in_features, out_features):
        # Initialize the GCNLayer with input and output feature
        # dimensions.
        super(GCNLayer, self).__init__()
        # Create a learnable weight parameter.
        # This weight matrix will be fine-tuned during training.
        self.weight =
            nn.Parameter(torch.FloatTensor(in_features,
                                            out_features))
        # Initialize the weight matrix using the Xavier (Glorot)
        # initialization method.
        # Xavier initialization helps with the convergence of
        # the neural network.
        nn.init.xavier_uniform_(self.weight)
        # Rest of the methods...
```



# Graph Convolutional Networks (GCN)

## Manual Implementing of the GCN Layer:

01 `__init__()`

02 `forward()`

```
# ...Import necessary libraries
class GCNLayer(nn.Module):
    def forward(self, x, adjacency):
        # Compute symmetric normalization
        # Calculate the degree of each node
        degree = torch.sum(adjacency, dim=1)
        # Calculate the reciprocal square root of the degree
        degree_sqrt_inv = 1.0 / torch.sqrt(degree)
        # Create a diagonal matrix with the degree_sqrt_inv
        D_sqrt_inv = torch.diag(degree_sqrt_inv)
        # Apply symmetric normalization to the adjacency matrix
        adjacency = torch.mm(torch.mm(D_sqrt_inv, adjacency),
                              D_sqrt_inv)

        # Compute the support (feature transformation)
        support = torch.mm(x, self.weight)
        # Perform the graph convolution using the normalized
        # adjacency
        output = torch.spmv(adjacency, support)
        return output
```



# Graph Convolutional Networks (GCN)

## Implementation the GCN:

### 01 Class Overview

### 02 \_\_init\_\_()

### 03 forward()

```
# Create a new class named GCN
class GCN(nn.Module):
    def __init__(self, dim_in, dim_h, dim_out):
        # Initialize the GCN class with input, hidden, and
        # output layer dimensions
    def forward(self, x):
        # Perform the forward pass of the GCN
    def accuracy(self, y_pred, y_true):
        # Calculate the accuracy of predictions
    def fit(self, data, epochs):
        # Train the model
    def test(self, data):
        # Evaluate the model
```



# Graph Convolutional Networks (GCN)

## Implementation the GCN:

### 01 Class Overview

### 02 `__init__()`

### 03 `forward()`

```
# Create a new class named GCN
class GCN(nn.Module):
    def __init__(self, dim_in, dim_h, dim_out):
        super().__init__()
        self.gcn1 = GCNLayer(dim_in, dim_h)
        self.gcn2 = GCNLayer(dim_h, dim_out)
```

## Implementation the GCN With the Built-In **GCNConv** Module:

```
from torch_geometric.nn import GCNConv
# Create a new class named GCN
class GCN(nn.Module):
    def __init__(self, dim_in, dim_h, dim_out):
        super().__init__()
        self.gcn1 = GCNConv(dim_in, dim_h)
        self.gcn2 = GCNConv(dim_h, dim_out)
```



# Graph Convolutional Networks (GCN)

## Implementation the GCN:

- 01 Class Overview
- 02 `__init__()`
- 03 **`forward()`**

```
# Create a new class named GCN
class GCN(nn.Module):
    def forward(self, x, adjacency):
        h = self.gcn1(x, adjacency)
        h = torch.relu(h)
        h = self.gcn2(h, adjacency)
        return F.log_softmax(h, dim=1)
```



# Graph Convolutional Networks (GCN)

## Building, Training, and Testing the GCN With the Cora Dataset:

01 Class Overview

02 `__init__()`

03 `forward()`

04 Building, Training, and Testing the GCN

```
# Create a GCN instance with specified input, hidden, and output dimensions
```

```
gcn = GCN(dataset.num_features, 16, dataset.num_classes)
```

```
# Print the model architecture
```

```
print(gcn)
```

```
GCN(  
    (gcn1): GCNLayer()  
    (gcn2): GCNLayer()  
)
```





# Graph Convolutional Networks (GCN)

## Building, Training, and Testing the GCN With the Cora Dataset – Manual GCN Layer

01 Class Overview

02 `__init__()`

03 `forward()`

04 Building, Training, and Testing the GCN

```
# Train the GCN model on the given data for a specified number of epochs (100 in this case) and the adjacency matrix.
```

```
gcn.fit(data, epochs=100, adjacency=adjacency)
```

Epoch	0	Train Loss: 2.762	Train Acc: 20.00%	Val Loss: 2.77	Val Acc: 12.00%
Epoch	20	Train Loss: 0.931	Train Acc: 82.86%	Val Loss: 1.53	Val Acc: 55.80%
Epoch	40	Train Loss: 0.187	Train Acc: 100.00%	Val Loss: 0.89	Val Acc: 76.60%
Epoch	60	Train Loss: 0.055	Train Acc: 100.00%	Val Loss: 0.77	Val Acc: 76.20%
Epoch	80	Train Loss: 0.038	Train Acc: 100.00%	Val Loss: 0.76	Val Acc: 76.00%
Epoch	100	Train Loss: 0.034	Train Acc: 100.00%	Val Loss: 0.76	Val Acc: 76.60%

```
# Test the model and get accuracy
```

```
test_acc = gcn.test(data, adjacency=adjacency)  
print(f'\nGCN test accuracy: {test_acc*100:.2f}%')
```

```
GCN test accuracy: 80.30%
```



# Graph Convolutional Networks (GCN)

## Building, Training, and Testing the GCN With the Cora Dataset – Built-In **GCNConv** Module

01 Class Overview

02 `__init__()`

03 `forward()`

04 Building, Training, and Testing the GCN

```
# Train the GCN model on the given data for a specified number of epochs (100 in this case) and the adjacency matrix.
```

```
gcn.fit(data, epochs=100, adjacency=adjacency)
```

Epoch	0	Train Loss: 1.932	Train Acc: 15.71%	Val Loss: 1.94	Val Acc: 15.20%
Epoch	20	Train Loss: 0.099	Train Acc: 100.00%	Val Loss: 0.75	Val Acc: 77.80%
Epoch	40	Train Loss: 0.014	Train Acc: 100.00%	Val Loss: 0.72	Val Acc: 77.20%
Epoch	60	Train Loss: 0.015	Train Acc: 100.00%	Val Loss: 0.71	Val Acc: 77.80%
Epoch	80	Train Loss: 0.017	Train Acc: 100.00%	Val Loss: 0.71	Val Acc: 77.00%
Epoch	100	Train Loss: 0.016	Train Acc: 100.00%	Val Loss: 0.71	Val Acc: 76.40%

```
# Test the model and get accuracy
```

```
test_acc = gcn.test(data, adjacency=adjacency)
print(f'\nGCN test accuracy: {test_acc*100:.2f}%')
```

```
GCN test accuracy: 79.70%
```



LIMITATIONS  
OF VANILLA  
GNN

GCN

MODELS  
COMPARISON

## Models Comparison

Dataset	MLP	Vanilla GNN	GCN
Cora	51.90%	72.50%	79.70%
		+20.60%	+27.80%



## Models Comparison

### Vanilla GNN:

**Graph-Based Layers:** Employs graph-based layers for iterative node embedding updates.

**Adjacency Matrix:** Incorporates topological information from the graph's adjacency matrix.

**Message Passing:** Utilizes message passing to aggregate information from neighboring nodes.

**Graph Structure:** Considers the entire neighborhood of each node, capturing graph structure.

### GCN (Graph Convolutional Network):

**Graph-Based Layers:** Similar to Vanilla GNN, it employs graph-based layers for iterative node embedding updates.

**Smart Normalization:** Improves upon Vanilla GNN by correctly normalizing features during message passing.

**Message Passing:** Also utilizes message passing to aggregate information from neighboring nodes.

**Graph Structure:** Like Vanilla GNN, it considers the entire neighborhood of each node, capturing graph structure.



ÉCOLE SUPÉRIEURE EN INFORMATIQUE

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# THANK YOU

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