

# Hierarchical Graph Neural Networks

A seminar presentation for HO-GNN WS2024/25

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#### Content

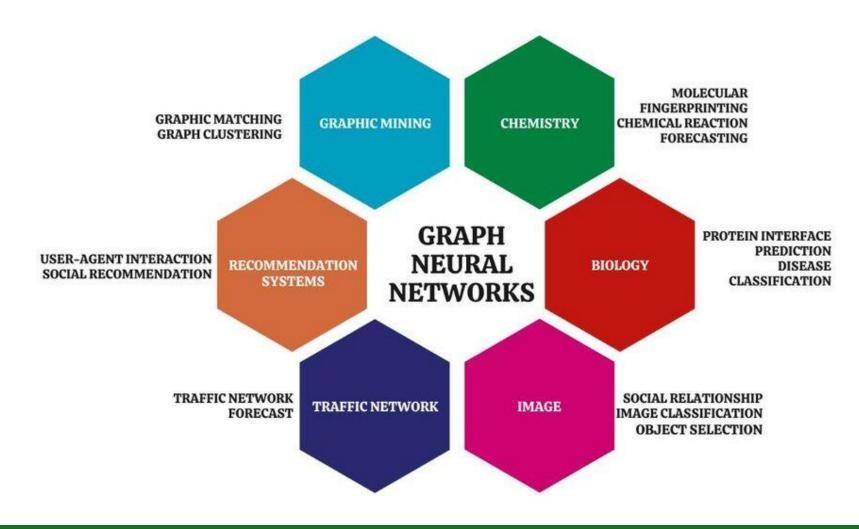


- 1. Introduction
- 2. Background
- 3. Observing Hierarchy in Graph Datasets
- 4. Fundamentals of Hierarchical GNNs
- 5. Diffpool Mechanism
- 6. Challenges and Limitations

#### 1. Introduction



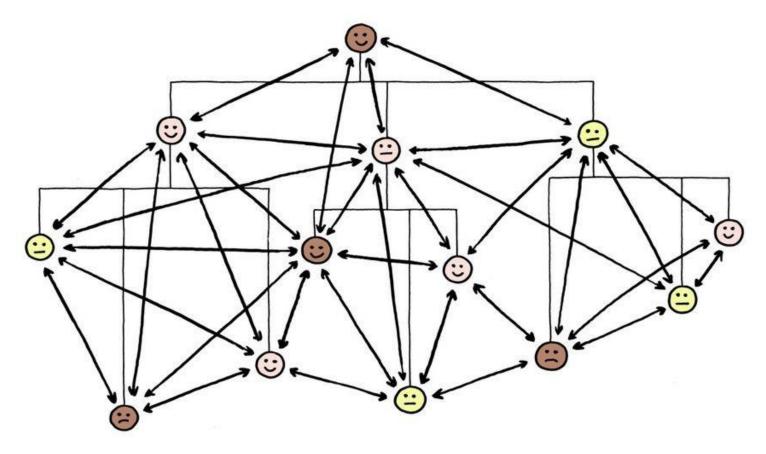
Motivation == Graphs are everywhere



### 1. Introduction



Objective == Learning the hierarchy in the graphs

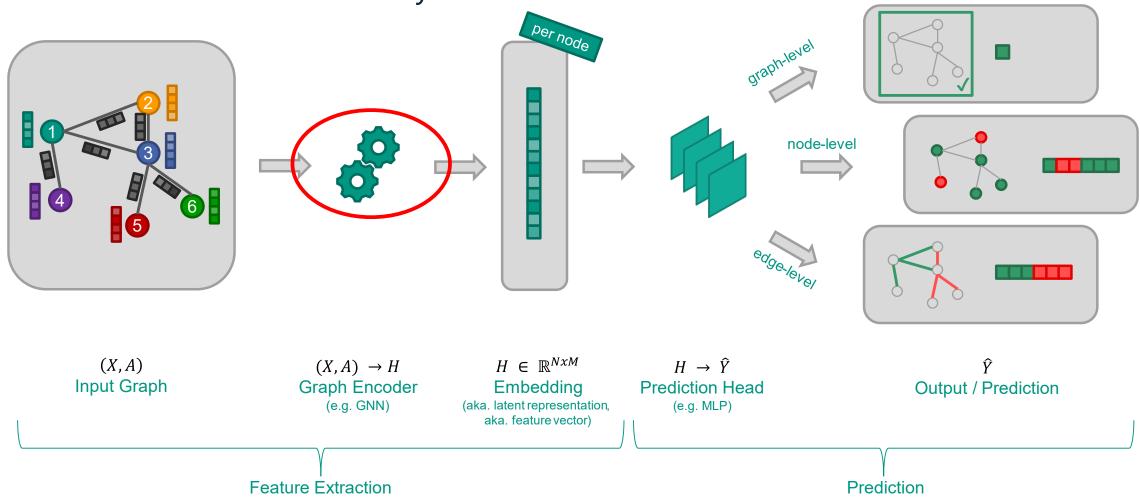


<u>Scientists at Indian Institute of Science, Bangalore used Hierarchical GNNs for Speaker diarization problem.</u>

### 2. Background



What are GNNs? How do they work?



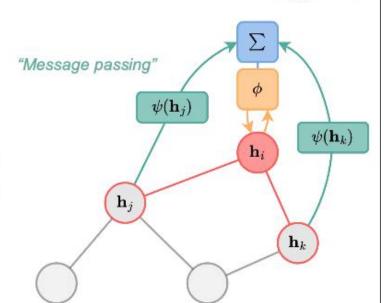
### 2. Background



#### A blueprint for GNNs

GNN layer at depth (l)

$$\mathbf{h}_i^{(l+1)} = \phi \left( egin{array}{c} \mathbf{P} ext{-invariant} & \operatorname{Message} \ \operatorname{aggregator} & \operatorname{module} \ \end{array} 
ight) \left( \mathbf{h}_i^{(l)}, igoplus \psi \left( \mathbf{h}_j^{(l)} 
ight) 
ight) \ \sum_{\substack{j \in \mathcal{N}(i) \ \operatorname{module} \ \end{array}} \psi \left( \mathbf{h}_j^{(l)} 
ight) 
ight) \ \mathcal{N}(i) = \{j \mid \mathbf{A}(i,j) = 1\}$$



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## Uniform Processing Across Layers

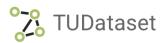
Each layer uniformly transforms neighbour node features using ψ (e.g., via a weight matrix) before aggregation, applying the same operations irrespective of the layer depth.

#### Simple Aggregation Method

Uses a straightforward aggregation function ⊕, typically a mean or weighted sum, without adapting to node features or graph complexity, reinforcing the flat architecture design.

27.01.25 Kickoff\_slides.pdf





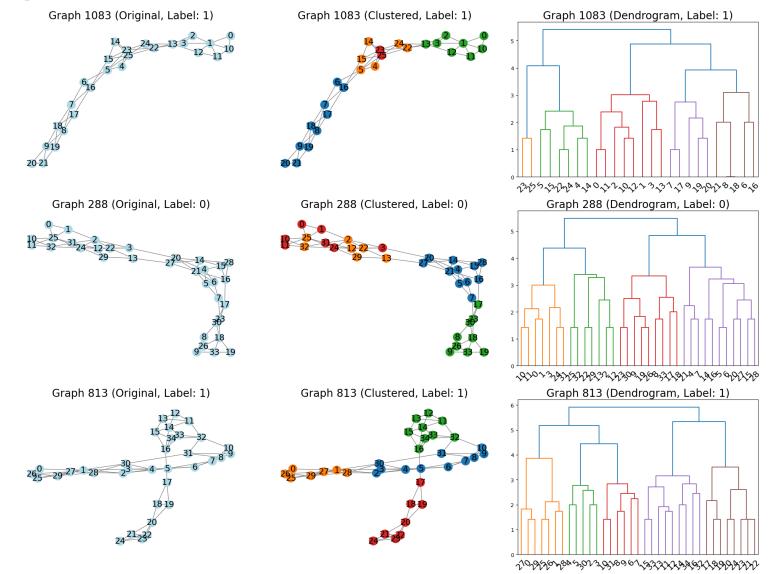
Docs

### Bioinformatics

| Name          | Source | Statistics |         |               | Labels/Attributes |                |                |               |          |               | Download<br>(ZIP) |
|---------------|--------|------------|---------|---------------|-------------------|----------------|----------------|---------------|----------|---------------|-------------------|
|               |        | Graphs     | Classes | Avg.<br>Nodes | Avg. Edges        | Node<br>Labels | Edge<br>Labels | Node<br>Attr. | Geometry | Edge<br>Attr. |                   |
| DD            | [6,22] | 1178       | 2       | 284.32        | 715.66            | +              | -              | -             | -        | -             | DD                |
| ENZYMES       | [4,5]  | 600        | 6       | 32.63         | 62.14             | +              | -              | +<br>(18)     | -        | -             | ENZYMES           |
| KKI           | [26]   | 83         | 2       | 26.96         | 48.42             | +              | _              | _             | _        | _             | KKI               |
| OHSU          | [26]   | 79         | 2       | 82.01         | 199.66            | +              | -              | -             | -        | -             | OHSU              |
| Peking_1      | [26]   | 85         | 2       | 39.31         | 77.35             | +              | -              | -             | -        | -             | Peking_1          |
| PROTEINS      | [4,6]  | 1113       | 2       | 39.06         | 72.82             | +              | -              | + (1)         | -        | -             | PROTEINS          |
| PROTEINS_full | [4,6]  | 1113       | 2       | 39.06         | 72.82             | +              | -              | +<br>(29)     | -        | -             | PROTEINS_full     |

27.01.25 https://chrsmrrs.github.io/datasets/docs/datasets/

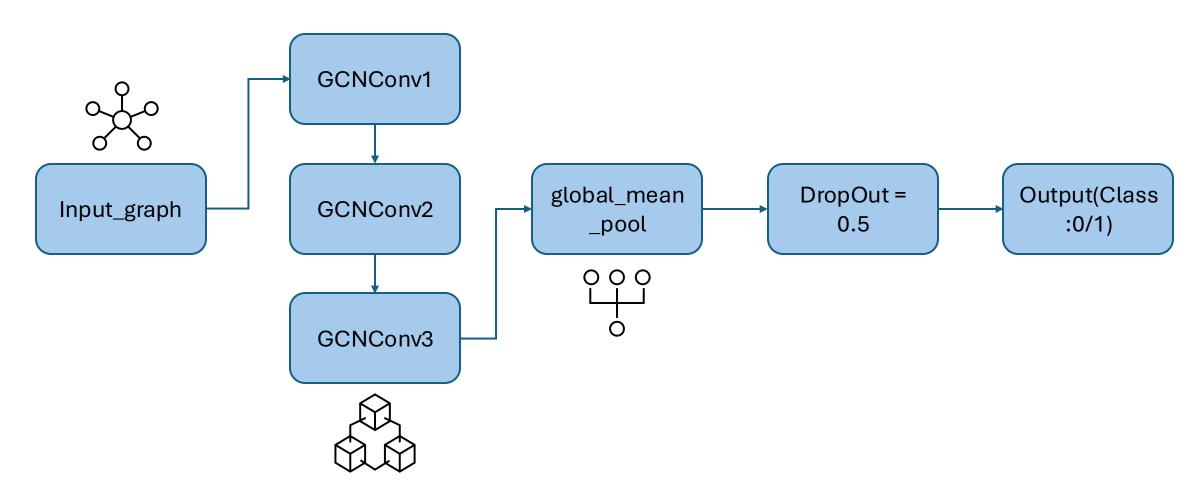




https://chrsmrrs.github.io/datasets/docs/datasets/



#### **Model Architecture**





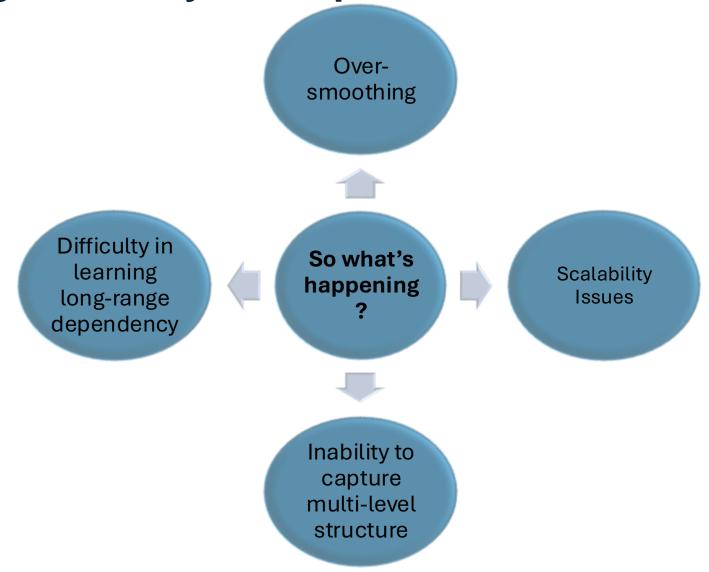
#### **Overview of results**



Final Test Accuracy: 0.7232, Test Loss: 0.5846



**Analysis** 



27.01.25



### **Analysis – Diving Deep**

| Problem  | Culprit   |  |   |
|--|---|--|---|
| Over-Smoothing                                 | <pre>self.conv1 = GCNConv(dataset.num_node_features, hidden_channels) self.conv2 = GCNConv[hidden_channels, hidden_channels] self.conv3 = GCNConv(hidden_channels, hidden_channels)</pre> |  | Stacking multip<br>layers without p<br>distinct node fe<br>incorporate diff |
| Scalability Issues                             |   |  | layers of abstra  |
| Inability to Capture Multi-Scale<br>Structures |   |  |   |
| Difficulty in Learning long-range dependencies |   |  |   |

iple GCN preserving features of fferent action



### **Analysis – Diving Deep**

| Problem  | Culprit  |   |
|--|--|---|
| Over-Smoothing                                 | <pre>self.conv1 = GCNConv(dataset.num_node_features, hidden_channels) self.conv2 = GCNConv(hidden_channels, hidden_channels) self.conv3 = GCNConv(hidden_channels, hidden_channels)</pre>                                | Using a static batch size for processing large, complex graphs like proteins, where |
| Scalability Issues                             | <pre>train_loader = DataLoader(train_dataset, batch_size=64, shuffle=True) val_loader = DataLoader(val_dataset, batch_size=64, shuffle=False) test_loader = DataLoader(test_dataset, batch_size=64, shuffle=False)</pre> | node and edge counts vary, can cause scalability issues and inefficiencies in       |
| Inability to Capture Multi-Scale<br>Structures |  | memory and computational resources.   |
| Difficulty in Learning long-range dependencies |  |   |



### **Analysis – Diving Deep**

| Problem  | Culprit  |  |
|--|--|--|
| Over-Smoothing                                 | <pre>self.conv1 = GCNConv(dataset.num_node_features, hidden_channels) self.conv2 = GCNConv(hidden_channels, hidden_channels) self.conv3 = GCNConv(hidden_channels, hidden_channels)</pre>                                |  |
| Scalability Issues                             | <pre>train_loader = DataLoader(train_dataset, batch_size=64, shuffle=True) val_loader = DataLoader(val_dataset, batch_size=64, shuffle=False) test_loader = DataLoader(test_dataset, batch_size=64, shuffle=False)</pre> | The mod convoluti                        |
| Inability to Capture Multi-Scale<br>Structures | <pre>def forward(self, x, edge_index, batch):     x = F.relu(self.conv1(x, edge_index))     x = F.relu(self.conv2(x, edge_index))     x = F.relu(self.conv3(x, edge_index))     x = global_mean_pool(x, batch)</pre>     | global mea<br>the ability<br>scale featu |
| Difficulty in Learning long-range dependencies |  | hierarchical<br>proteins.                |

27.01.25



### **Analysis – Diving Deep**

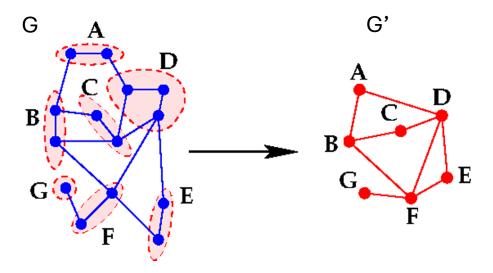
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|--|--|
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| Inability to Capture Multi-Scale<br>Structures | <pre>def forward(self, x, edge_index, batch):     x = F.relu(self.conv1(x, edge_index))     x = F.relu(self.conv2(x, edge_index))     x = F.relu(self.conv3(x, edge_index))     x = global_mean_pool(x, batch)</pre>     |
| Difficulty in Learning long-range dependencies | <pre>x = F.relu(self.conv1(x, edge_index)) x = F.relu(self.conv2(x, edge_index)) x = F.relu(self.conv3(x, edge_index))</pre>   |

While graph convolutions theoretically capture long-range dependencies through layer stacking, in practice, the repetitive application of uniform convolutions across entire graphs fails to effectively address long-range interactions in large, complex structures.

#### 4. Fundamentals of Hierarchical GNN



#### **Graph Coarsening**



$$H^{(l+1)} = C^{(l)}H^{(l)}W^{(l)}$$

- $\mathbf{H}^{(l)}$  is the matrix of node features at layer (l)
- **W**<sup>(l)</sup> is the weight matrix at layer (l), which transforms the node features.
- C<sup>(l)</sup> is the coarsening matrix which reduces the number of nodes by merging them

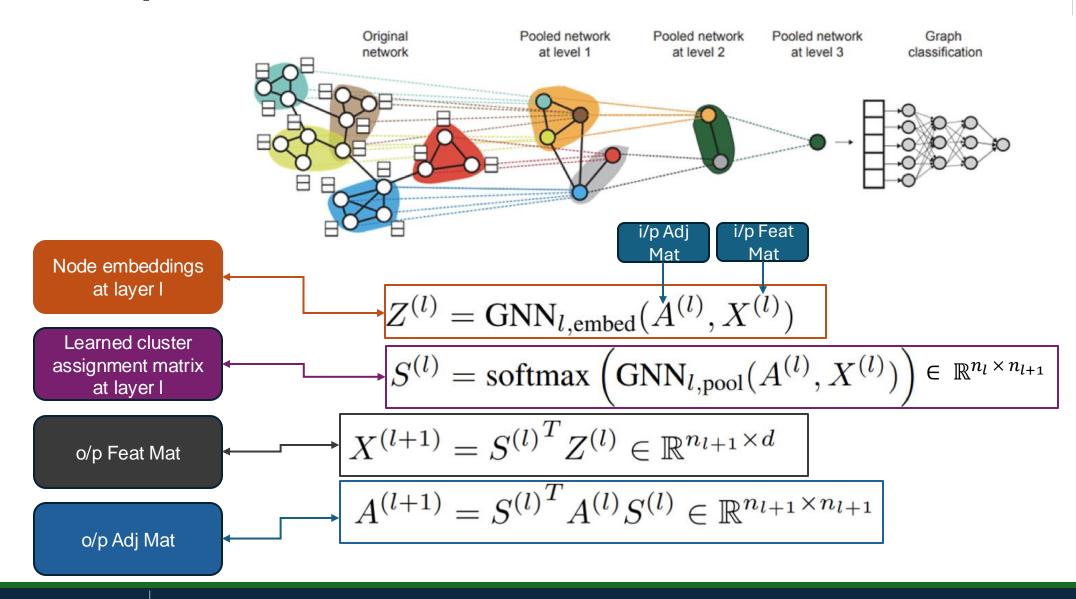
#### **Capturing the Hierarchy**

$$H^{(l+1)} = \sigma(Aggregate(C^{(l)}H^{(l)})W^{(l)})$$

- $oldsymbol{\sigma}$  is a nonlinear activation function that introduces nonlinearity
- AGGREGATE could be a function like sum, mean, or more complex learned function, which combines features of the nodes which have been merged together.

### 5. Diffpool Mechanism





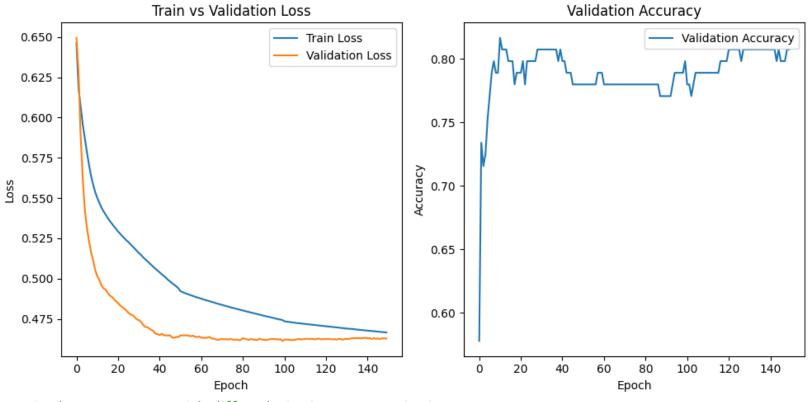
### 5. Diffpool Mechanism - Implementation



```
class GNN(torch.nn.Module):
   def __init__(self, in_channels, hidden_channels, out_channels, normalize=False, lin=True):
       super().__init__()
       self.conv1 = DenseSAGEConv(in_channels, out_channels, normalize)
       self.bn1 = torch.nn.BatchNorm1d(out_channels)
       self.lin = torch.nn.Linear(out channels, out channels) if lin else None
   def forward(self, x, adj, mask=None):
       x = self.conv1(x, adj, mask).relu()
       x = self.bn(1, x)
       if self.lin is not None:
           x = self.lin(x).relu()
       return x
   def bn(self, i, x):
       batch_size, num_nodes, num_channels = x.size()
       x = x.view(-1, num channels)
       x = getattr(self, f'bn{i}')(x)
       x = x.view(batch size, num nodes, num channels)
       return x
class Net(torch.nn.Module):
   def __init__(self, num_features, num_classes):
       super().__init__()
       self.gnn1_pool = GNN(num_features, 64, ceil(0.25 * 640))
       self.gnn1_embed = GNN(num_features, 64, 64, lin=False)
       self.lin1 = torch.nn.Linear(64, 64)
       self.lin2 = torch.nn.Linear(64, num_classes)
   def forward(self, x, adj, mask=None):
       s = self.gnn1_pool(x, adj, mask)
       x = self.gnn1\_embed(x, adj, mask)
       x, adj, _, _ = dense_diff_pool(x, adj, s, mask)
       x = x.mean(dim=1)
       x = self.lin1(x).relu()
       x = self.lin2(x)
       return F.log_softmax(x, dim=-1)
```

### 5. Diffpool Mechanism - Implementation





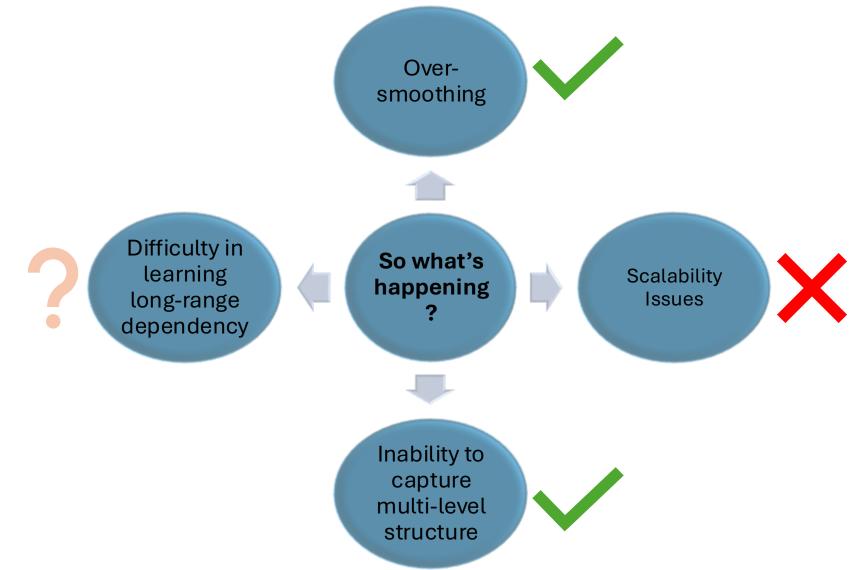
Final Test Accuracy with diffpool: 0.78, Test Loss: 0.48

Final Test Accuracy w/o: 0.7232, Test Loss: 0.5846

### 5. Diffpool Mechanism



### **Analysis**



### 6. Tying it all up



# Flat GNN methods

Hierarchical Learning w Diffpool

Operates at a single level of graph representation, which may limit the complexity of patterns captured.

Struggles with large data due to computation limitations Risk of over-smoothing can still exist, but controlled through hierarchical processing.

Learns multi-level hierarchical representations, potentially capturing deep patterns

Better handles larger graphs through hierarchical reductions

### **Questions**





## Thank you!!!



