




1. Basics of deep learning ✓
2. Deep learning for graphs 
3. Graph Convolutional Networks
4. GNNs subsume CNNs and Transformers



- **Local network neighborhoods:**
  - Describe aggregation strategies
  - Define computation graphs
- **Stacking multiple layers:**
  - Describe the model, parameters, training
  - How to fit the model?
  - Simple example for unsupervised and supervised training

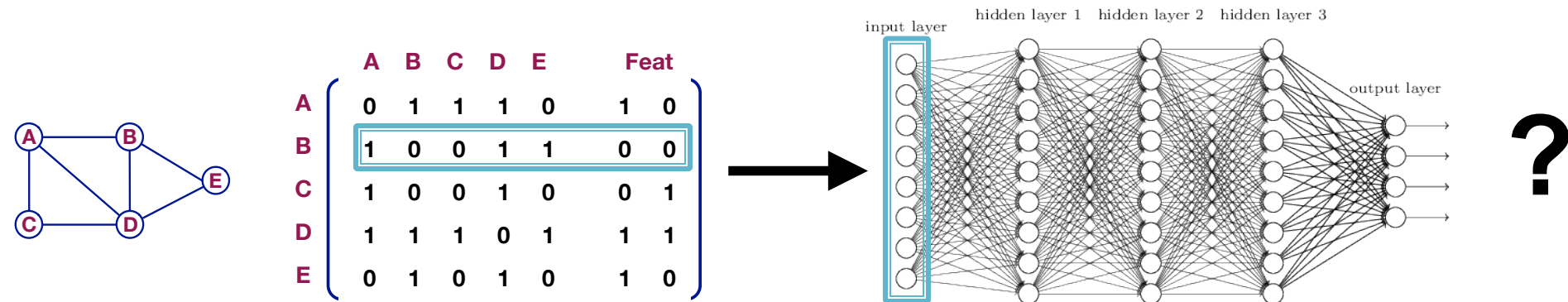


- **Assume we have a graph  $G$ :**
  - $V$  is the **vertex set**
  - $A$  is the **adjacency matrix** (assume binary)
  - $X \in \mathbb{R}^{m \times |V|}$  is a matrix of **node features**
  - $v$ : a node in  $V$ ;  $N(v)$ : the set of neighbors of  $v$ .
  - **Node features:**
    - Social networks: User profile, User image
    - Biological networks: Gene expression profiles, gene functional information
    - When there is no node feature in the graph dataset:
      - Indicator vectors (one-hot encoding of a node)
      - Vector of constant 1:  $[1, 1, \dots, 1]$

# A Naïve Approach



- Join adjacency matrix and features
- Feed them into a deep neural net:

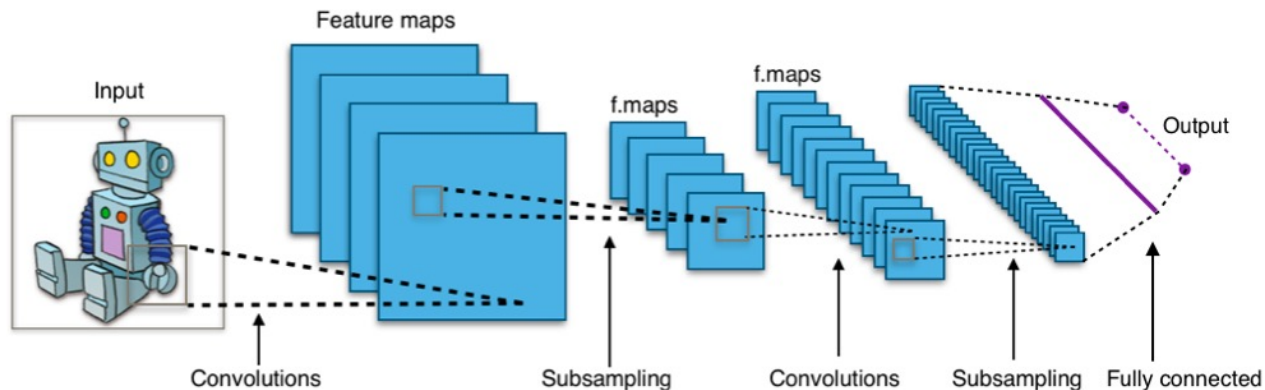
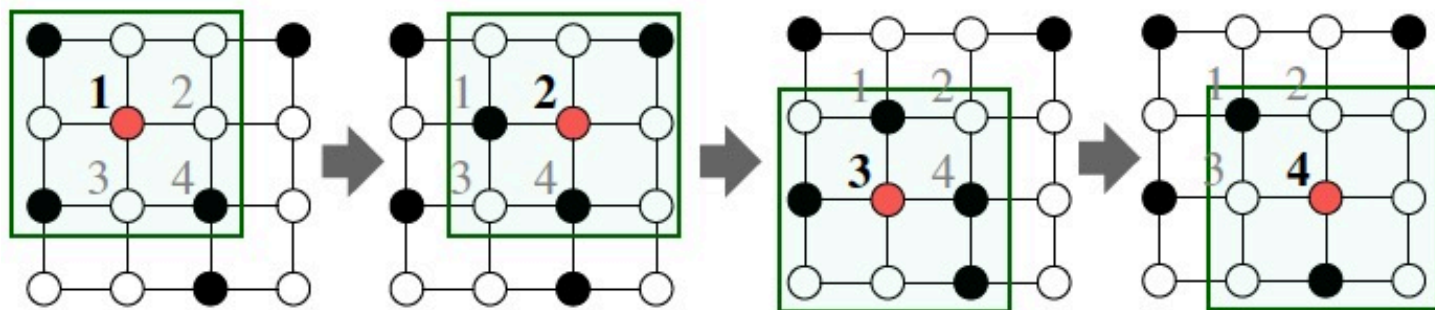


- Issues with this idea:
  - $O(|V|)$  parameters
  - Not applicable to graphs of different sizes
  - Sensitive to node ordering

# Idea: Convolutional Networks



## CNN on an image:

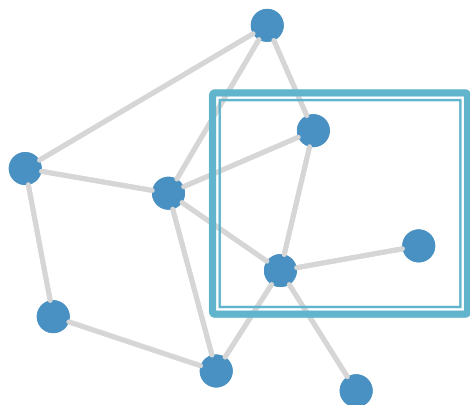


Goal is to generalize convolutions beyond simple lattices  
Leverage node features/attributes (e.g., text, images)

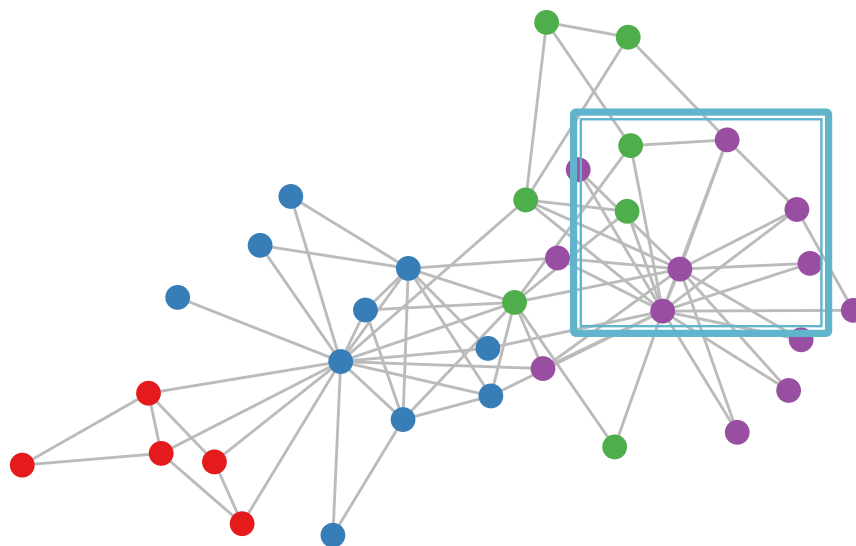
# Real-World Graphs



**But our graphs look like this:**



or this:



- There is no fixed notion of locality or sliding window on the graph
- Graph is permutation invariant

# Permutation Invariance



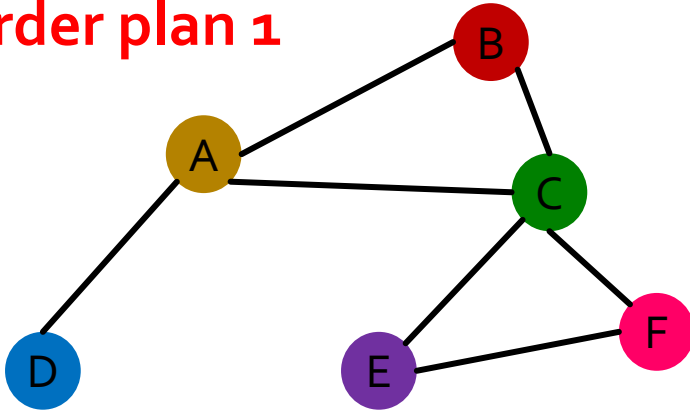
- **Graph does not have a canonical order of the nodes!**
- We can have many different order plans.

# Permutation Invariance



- Graph does not have a canonical order of the nodes!

Order plan 1



Node features  $X_1$

A	—
B	—
C	—
D	—
E	—
F	—

Adjacency matrix  $A_1$

	A	B	C	D	E	F
A						
B						
C						
D						
E						
F						

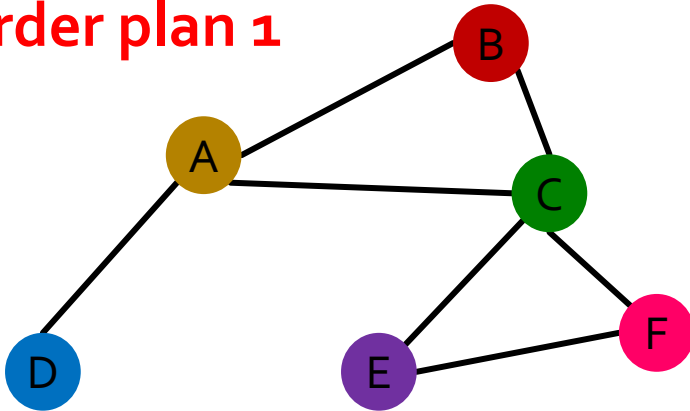


# Permutation Invariance

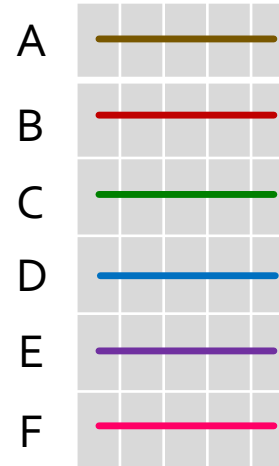


- Graph does not have a canonical order of the nodes!

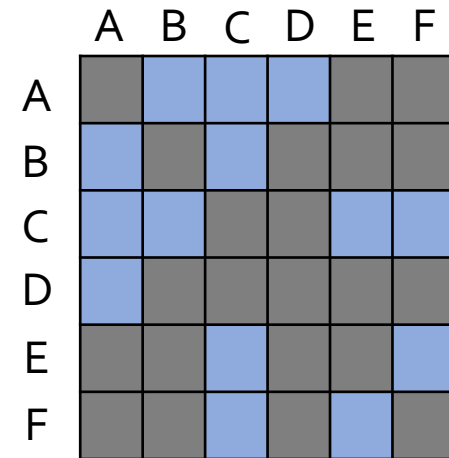
Order plan 1



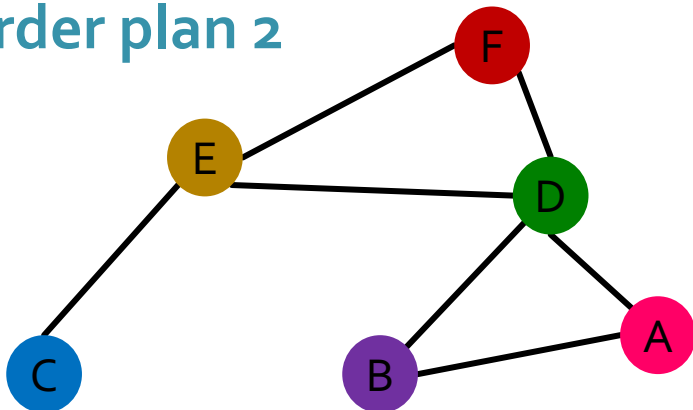
Node features  $X_1$



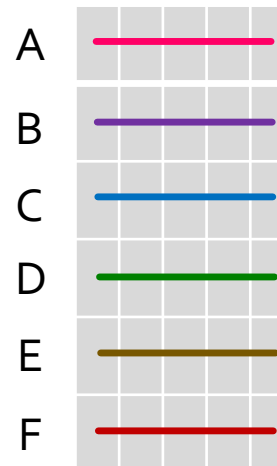
Adjacency matrix  $A_1$



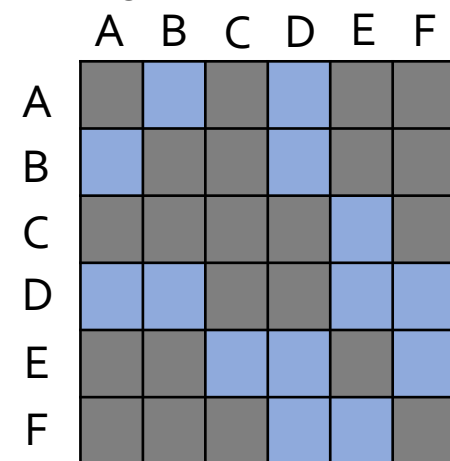
Order plan 2



Node features  $X_2$



Adjacency matrix  $A_2$

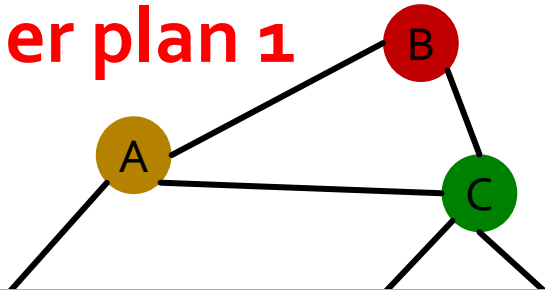


# Permutation Invariance



- Graph does not have a canonical order of the nodes!

Order plan 1



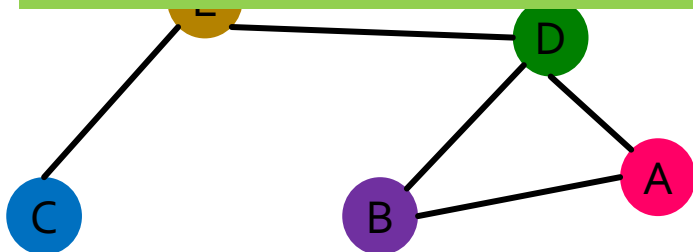
Node feature  $X_1$

A	—
B	—
C	—
D	—

Adjacency matrix  $A_1$

	A	B	C	D	E	F
A						
B						
C						
D						

Graph and node representations  
should be the same for **Order plan 1**  
and **Order plan 2**



C	—
D	—
E	—
F	—

	C	D	E	F
C				
D				
E				
F				

# Permutation Invariance



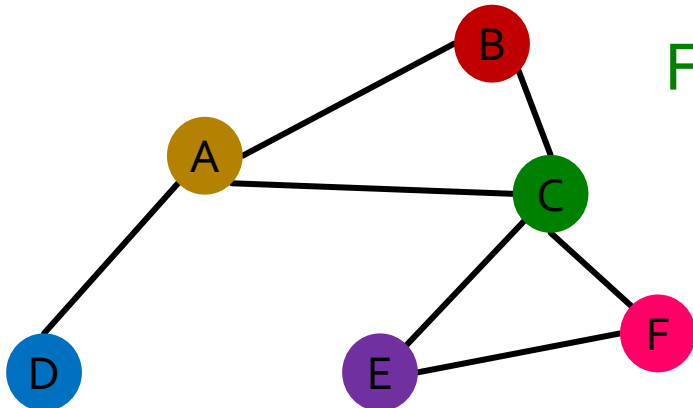
What does it mean by “graph representation is same for two order plans”?

- Consider we learn a function  $f$  that maps a graph  $G = (A, X)$  to a vector  $\mathbb{R}^d$  then

$$f(A_1, X_1) = f(A_2, X_2)$$

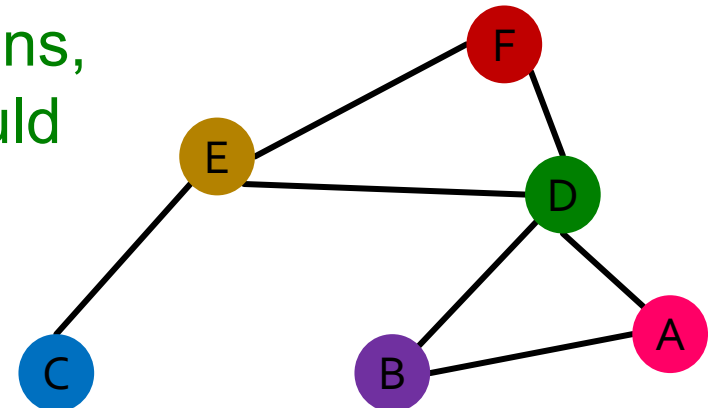
$A$  is the adjacency matrix  
 $X$  is the node feature matrix

Order plan 1:  $A_1, X_1$



For two order plans,  
output of  $f$  should  
be the same!

Order plan 2:  $A_2, X_2$



# Permutation Invariance



What does it mean by “graph representation is same for two order plans”?

- Consider we learn a function  $f$  that maps a graph  $G = (A, X)$  to a vector  $\mathbb{R}^d$ .  
 $A$  is the adjacency matrix  
 $X$  is the node feature matrix
- Then, if  $f(A_i, X_i) = f(A_j, X_j)$  for any order plan  $i$  and  $j$ , we formally say  $f$  is a **permutation invariant function**.

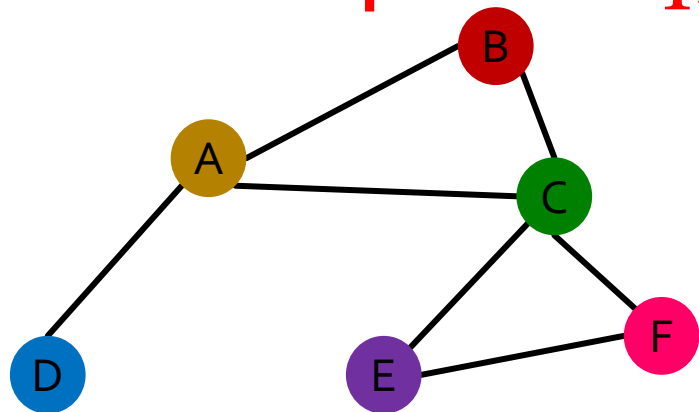
For a graph with  $m$  nodes, there are  $m!$  different order plans.

# Permutation Equivariance



**Similarly for node representation:** We learn a function  $f$  that maps nodes of  $G$  to a matrix  $\mathbb{R}^{m \times d}$ .

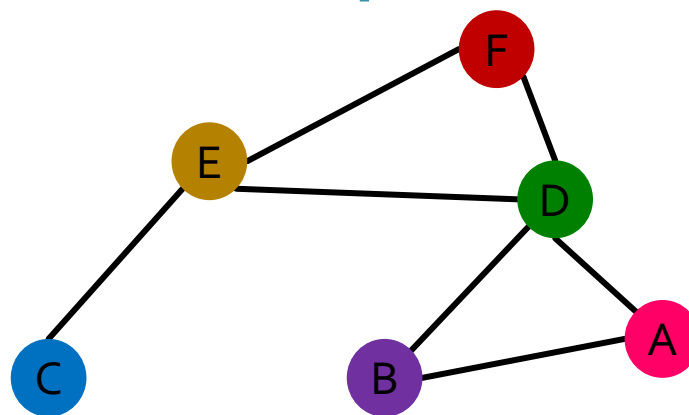
**Order plan 1:  $A_1, X_1$**



$f(A_1, X_1) =$

A		
B		
C		
D		
E		
F		

**Order plan 2:  $A_2, X_2$**



$f(A_2, X_2) =$

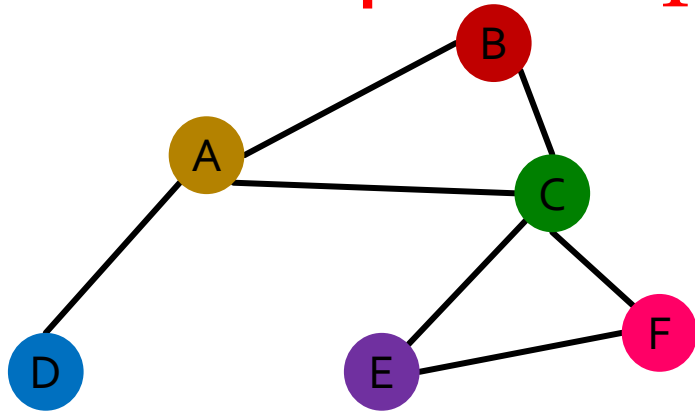
A		
B		
C		
D		
E		
F		

# Permutation Equivariance



**Similarly for node representation:** We learn a function  $f$  that maps nodes of  $G$  to a matrix  $\mathbb{R}^{m \times d}$ .

**Order plan 1:  $A_1, X_1$**

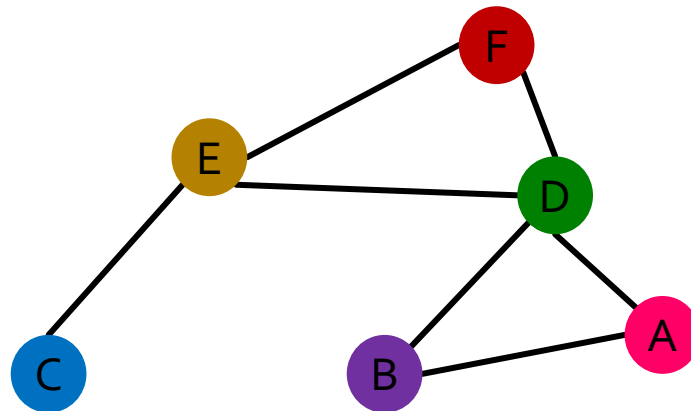


Representation vector  
of the brown node A

A		
B		
C		
D		
E		
F		

$$f(A_1, X_1) =$$

**Order plan 2:  $A_2, X_2$**



$$f(A_2, X_2) =$$

A		
B		
C		
D		
E		
F		

Representation vector  
of the brown node E

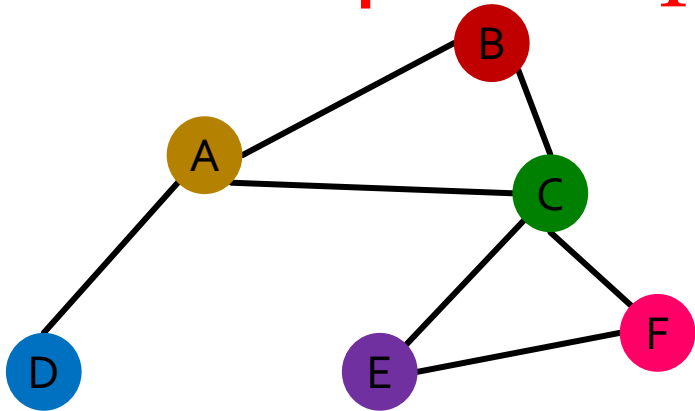
For two order plans, the vector of node  
at the same position is the same!

# Permutation Equivariance



**Similarly for node representation:** We learn a function  $f$  that maps nodes of  $G$  to a matrix  $\mathbb{R}^{m \times d}$ .

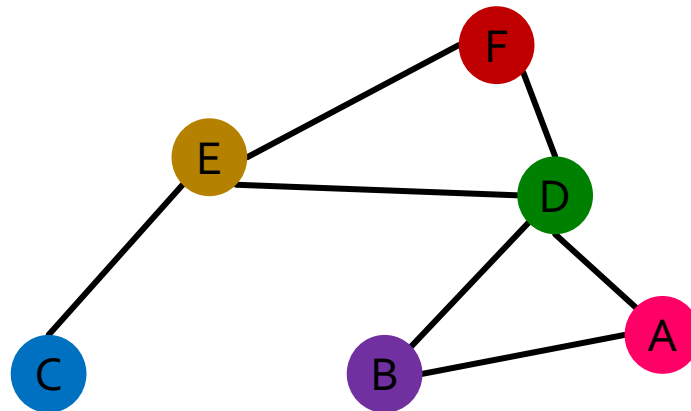
**Order plan 1:  $A_1, X_1$**


$$f(A_1, X_1) =$$

A		
B		
C		
D		
E		
F		

Representation vector  
of the brown node C

**Order plan 2:  $A_2, X_2$**


$$f(A_2, X_2) =$$

A		
B		
C		
D		
E		
F		

Representation vector  
of the brown node D

For two order plans, the vector of node  
at the same position is the same!

# Permutation Equivariance



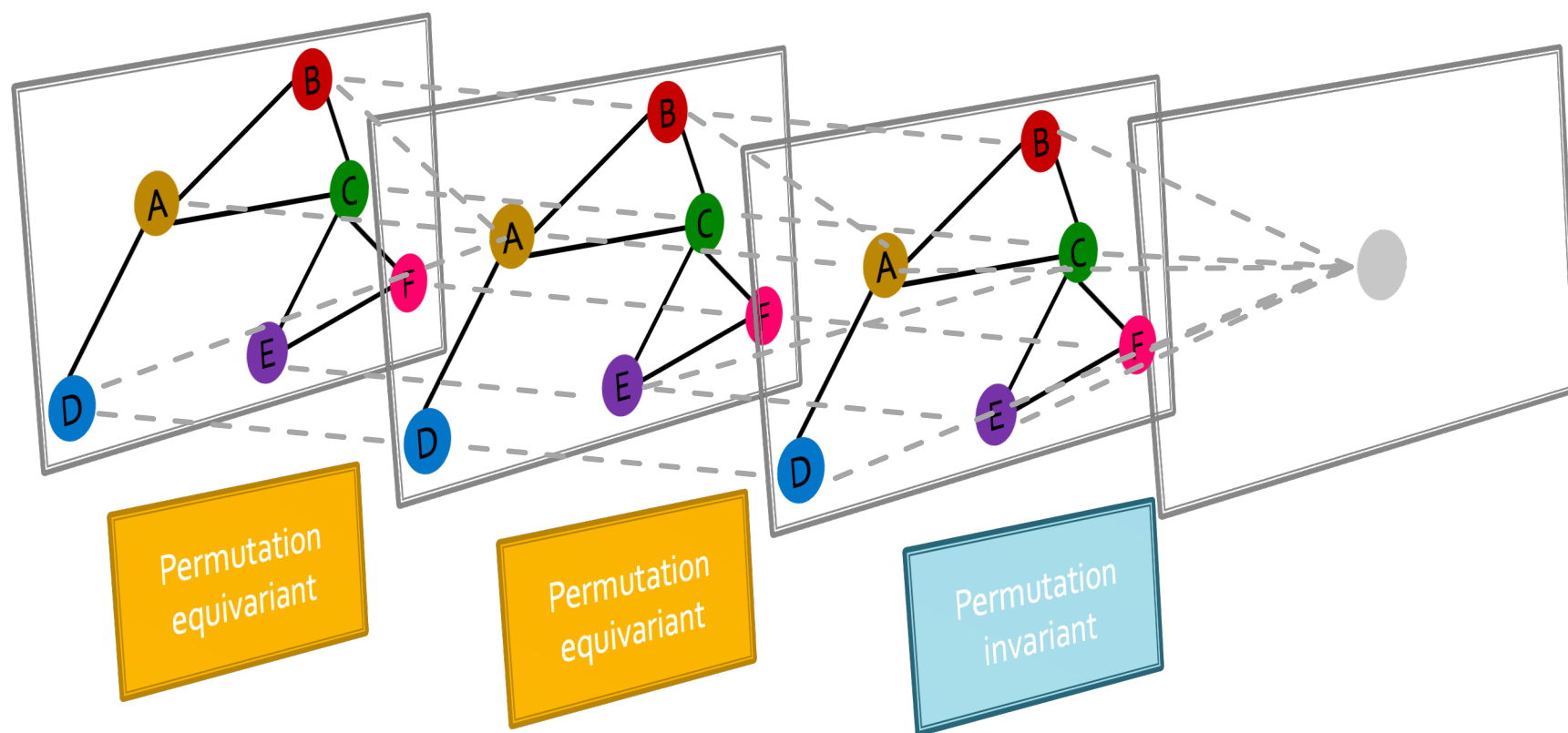
## For node representation

- Consider we learn a function  $f$  that maps a graph  $G = (A, X)$  to a matrix  $\mathbb{R}^{m \times d}$ 
  - graph has  $m$  nodes, each row is the embedding of a node.
- Similarly, if this property holds for any pair of order plan  $i$  and  $j$ , we say  $f$  is a **permutation equivariant function**.



# Graph Neural Network Overview

- Graph neural networks consist of multiple permutation equivariant / invariant functions.

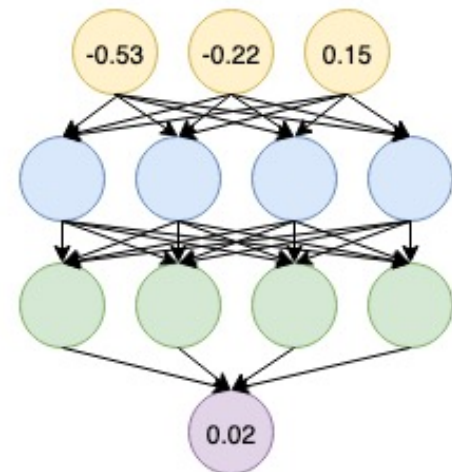
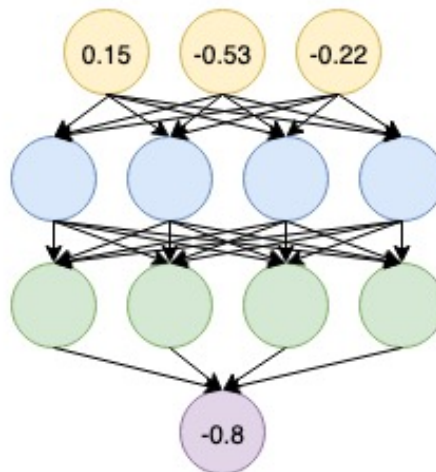
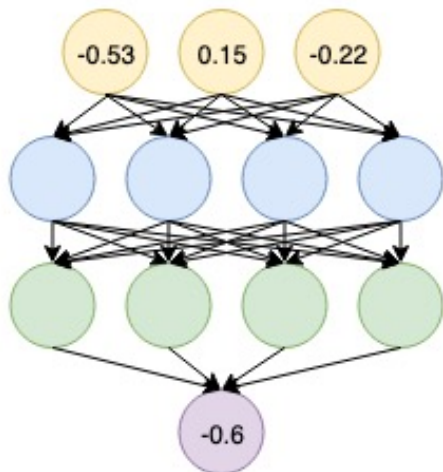


# Graph Neural Network Overview

Are other neural network architectures, e.g., MLPs, permutation invariant / equivariant?

■ **No.**

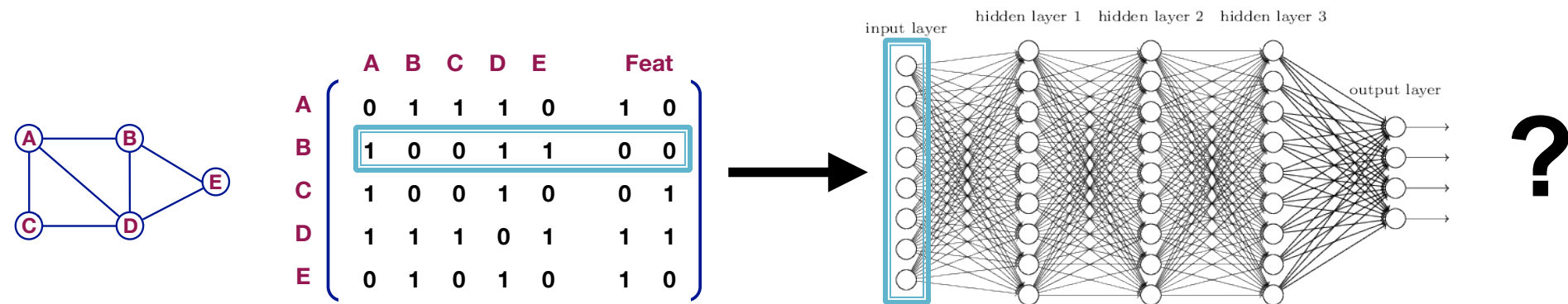
Switching the order of the input leads to different outputs!



# Graph Neural Network Overview

Are other neural network architectures, e.g., MLPs, permutation invariant / equivariant?

■ **No.**



This explains why **the naïve MLP approach fails for graphs!**

# Graph Neural Network Overview

- Are any neural network architecture, e.g.,

**Next: Design graph neural networks that are permutation invariant / equivariant by passing and aggregating information from neighbors!**

?

