

# **Graph Neural Networks**

## **Lecture 6**

Danila Biktimirov  
Applied Computer Science  
Neapolis University Pafos

21 March 2025

# Overview

---

1. Previously on...
2. Architectures

# Previously on...

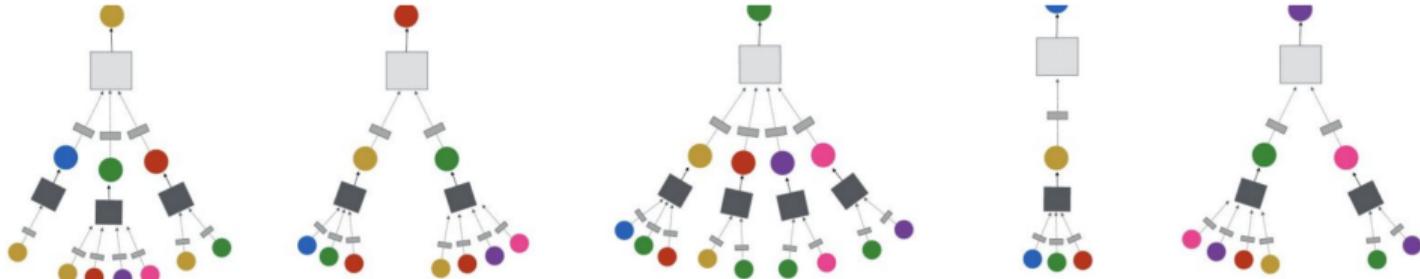
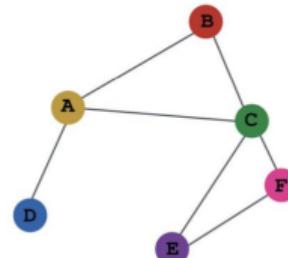
## Recap: Label Propagation

---

- Information propagation in a semi-supervised format
- State updates for each unlabeled node until convergence
- Convergence is not guaranteed

# Recap: Graph Convolutions

---



## Recap: Deep Encoder of a GCN

---

**Basic approach:** Average neighbor messages and apply a neural network

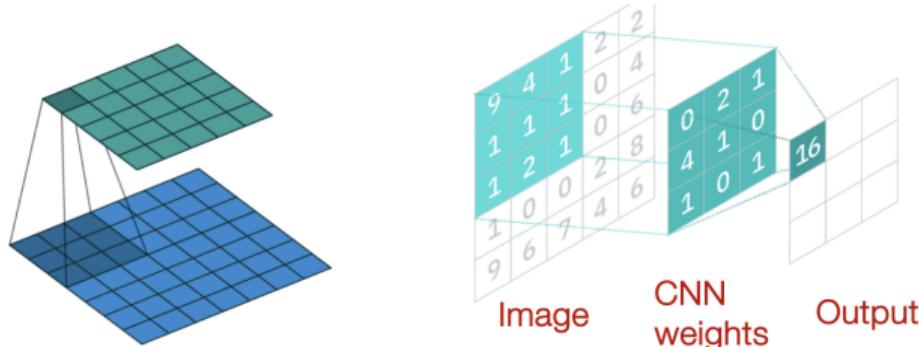
- Initial 0-th layer embeddings are equal to node features:  $h_v^0 = x_v$
- Update rule:

$$h_v^{(k+1)} = \sigma \left( W_k \sum_{u \in N(v)} \frac{h_u^{(k)}}{|N(v)|} + B_k h_v^{(k)} \right), \quad \forall k \in \{0, \dots, K-1\}$$

- **Final embedding:**  $z_v = h_v^{(K)}$

# Convolutional Neural Network

Convolutional neural network (CNN) layer with 3x3 filter:



CNN formulation:

$$h_v^{(l+1)} = \sigma \left( \sum_{u \in N(v) \cup \{v\}} W_l^u h_u^{(l)} \right), \quad \forall l \in \{0, \dots, L-1\}$$

# GNN vs. CNN

---

**GNN formulation:**

$$h_v^{(l+1)} = \sigma \left( \mathbf{W}_l \sum_{u \in N(v)} \frac{h_u^{(l)}}{|N(v)|} + B_l h_v^{(l)} \right), \quad \forall l \in \{0, \dots, L-1\}$$

**CNN formulation:**

$$h_v^{(l+1)} = \sigma \left( \sum_{u \in N(v)} \mathbf{W}_l^u h_u^{(l)} + B_l h_v^{(l)} \right)$$

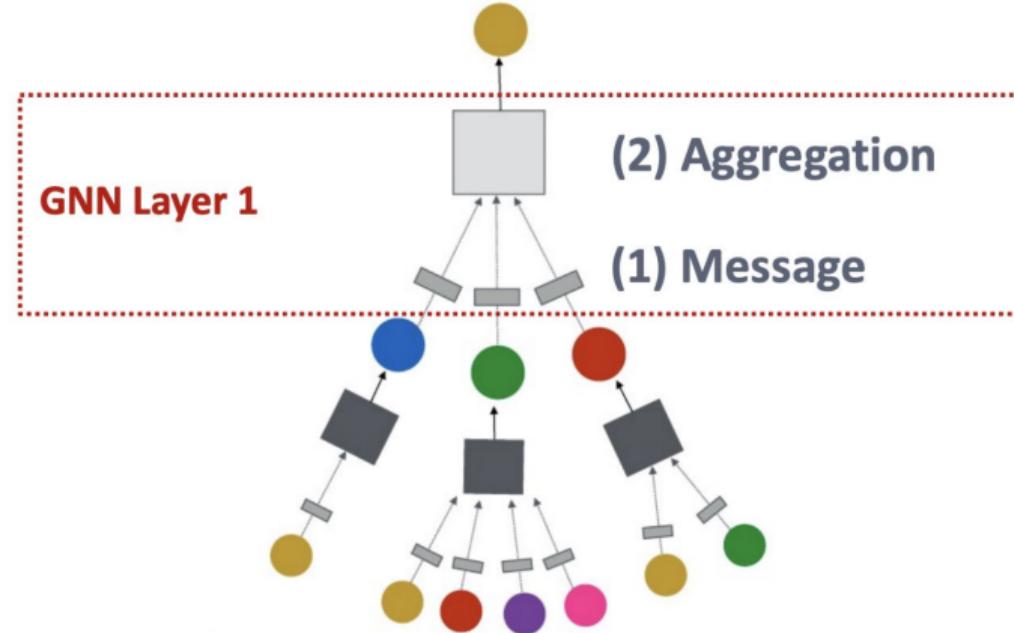
# GNN/Transformer

---

Fully connected text graph

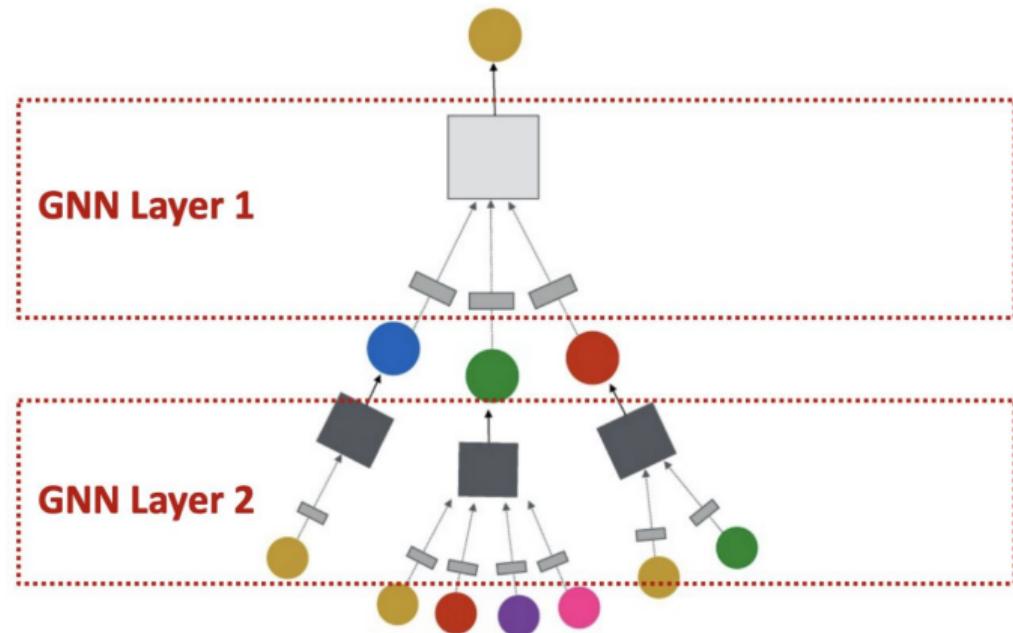
# Parts of GNN

---



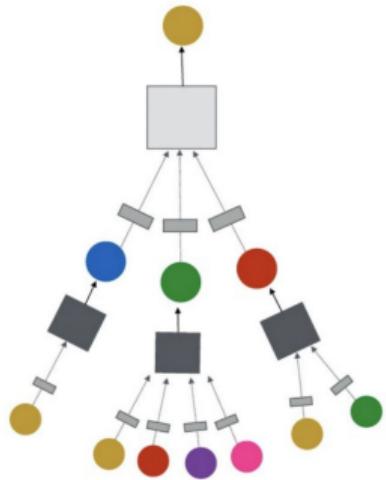
# Parts of GNN

---



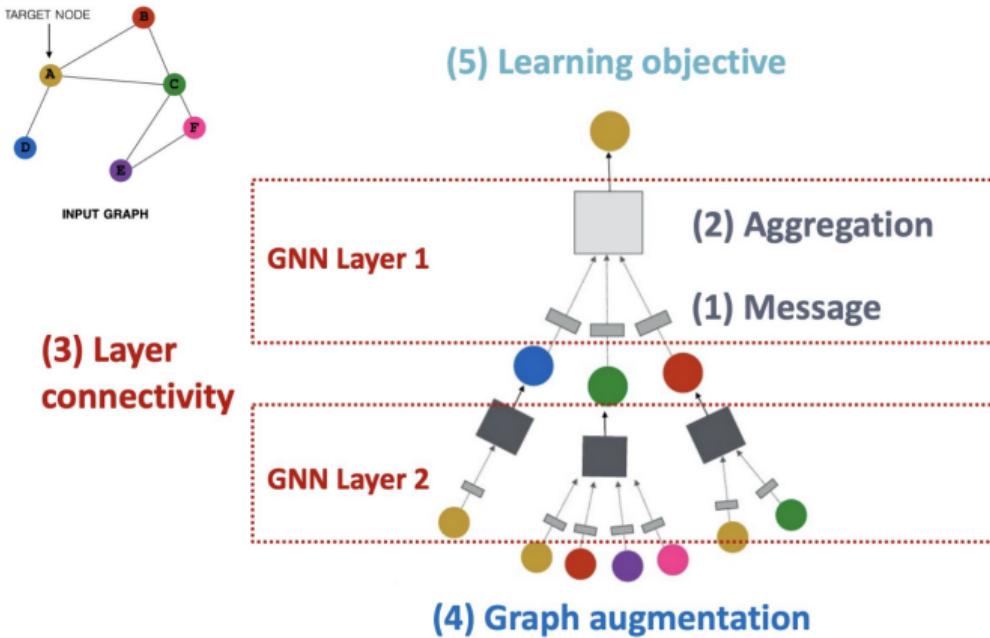
# Parts of GNN

---



# Parts of GNN

---



# Message

---

$$\mathbf{m}_u^{(l)} = \text{MSG}^{(l)} \left( \mathbf{h}_u^{(l-1)} \right)$$

# Aggregation

---

$$\mathbf{h}_v^{(I)} = \text{AGG}^{(I)} \left( \left\{ \mathbf{m}_u^{(I)}, u \in N(v) \right\} \right)$$

## Problems with the First Two Steps

---

The information at the top node might be lost. It must be preserved.

1)

$$\mathbf{m}_u^{(l)} = \mathbf{W}^{(l)} \mathbf{h}_u^{(l-1)}$$

$$\mathbf{m}_v^{(l)} = \mathbf{B}^{(l)} \mathbf{h}_v^{(l-1)}$$

2)

$$\mathbf{h}_v^{(l)} = \text{CONCAT} \left( \text{AGG} \left( \left\{ \mathbf{m}_u^{(l)}, u \in N(v) \right\} \right), \mathbf{m}_v^{(l)} \right)$$

# GCN (Graph Convolutional Network)

---

$$\mathbf{h}_v^{(l)} = \sigma \left( \mathbf{W}^{(l)} \sum_{u \in N(v)} \frac{\mathbf{h}_u^{(l-1)}}{|N(v)|} \right)$$

$$\mathbf{m}_u^{(l)} = \frac{1}{|N(v)|} \mathbf{W}^{(l)} \mathbf{h}_u^{(l-1)}$$

$$\mathbf{h}_v^{(l)} = \sigma \left( \text{Sum} \left( \left\{ \mathbf{m}_u^{(l)}, u \in N(v) \right\} \right) \right)$$

# GraphSAGE

---

$$\mathbf{h}_v^{(I)} = \sigma \left( \mathbf{W}^{(I)} \cdot \text{CONCAT} \left( \mathbf{h}_v^{(I-1)}, \text{AGG} \left( \left\{ \mathbf{h}_u^{(I-1)}, \forall u \in N(v) \right\} \right) \right) \right)$$

1) Inside AGG

$$\mathbf{h}_{N(v)}^{(I)} \leftarrow \text{AGG} \left( \left\{ \mathbf{h}_u^{(I-1)}, \forall u \in N(v) \right\} \right)$$

2) Full update

$$\mathbf{h}_v^{(I)} \leftarrow \sigma \left( \mathbf{W}^{(I)} \cdot \text{CONCAT} \left( \mathbf{h}_v^{(I-1)}, \mathbf{h}_{N(v)}^{(I)} \right) \right)$$

# GraphSAGE AGG

---

$$\text{AGG} = \sum_{u \in N(v)} \frac{\mathbf{h}_u^{(l-1)}}{|N(v)|}$$

$$\text{AGG} = \text{Mean} \left( \left\{ \text{MLP}(\mathbf{h}_u^{(l-1)}), \forall u \in N(v) \right\} \right)$$

$$\text{AGG} = \text{LSTM} \left( \left[ \mathbf{h}_u^{(l-1)}, \forall u \in \pi(N(v)) \right] \right)$$

## L2 Normalization

---

$$\mathbf{h}_v^{(l)} \leftarrow \frac{\mathbf{h}_v^{(l)}}{\|\mathbf{h}_v^{(l)}\|_2} \quad \forall v \in V, \quad \text{where } \|\mathbf{u}\|_2 = \sqrt{\sum_i u_i^2} \quad (\ell_2\text{-norm})$$

# GAT (Graph Attention Network)

---

$$\mathbf{h}_v^{(l)} = \sigma \left( \sum_{u \in N(v)} \alpha_{vu} \mathbf{W}^{(l)} \mathbf{h}_u^{(l-1)} \right)$$

$$\alpha_{vu} = \frac{1}{|N(v)|}$$

## Issues:

- In GCN/GraphSAGE,  $\alpha_{vu}$  is uniform.
- The problem: all nodes are equally important.

## Attention Score Calculation

---

$$e_{vu} = a \left( \mathbf{W}^{(l)} \mathbf{h}_u^{(l-1)}, \mathbf{W}^{(l)} \mathbf{h}_v^{(l-1)} \right)$$

$$e_{AB} = a \left( \mathbf{W}^{(l)} \mathbf{h}_A^{(l-1)}, \mathbf{W}^{(l)} \mathbf{h}_B^{(l-1)} \right)$$

# Attention Score Computation

---

$$\alpha_{vu} = \frac{\exp(e_{vu})}{\sum_{k \in N(v)} \exp(e_{vk})}$$

**Weighted sum** based on the **final attention weight**

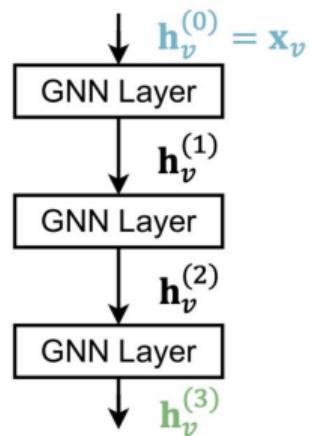
$$\mathbf{h}_v^{(l)} = \sigma \left( \sum_{u \in N(v)} \alpha_{vu} \mathbf{W}^{(l)} \mathbf{h}_u^{(l-1)} \right)$$

**Weighted sum using**  $\alpha_{AB}, \alpha_{AC}, \alpha_{AD}$ :

$$\mathbf{h}_A^{(l)} = \sigma \left( \color{red}{\alpha_{AB} \mathbf{W}^{(l)} \mathbf{h}_B^{(l-1)}} + \color{green}{\alpha_{AC} \mathbf{W}^{(l)} \mathbf{h}_C^{(l-1)}} + \color{blue}{\alpha_{AD} \mathbf{W}^{(l)} \mathbf{h}_D^{(l-1)}} \right)$$

# Sequential Processing

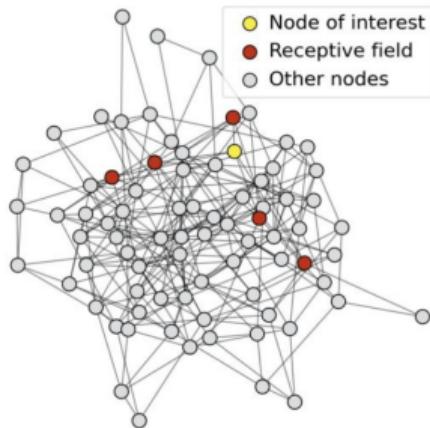
---



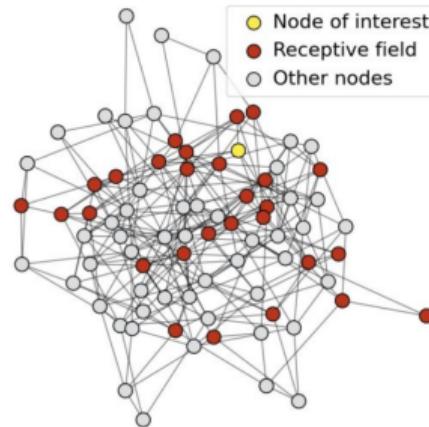
# Receptive Field

---

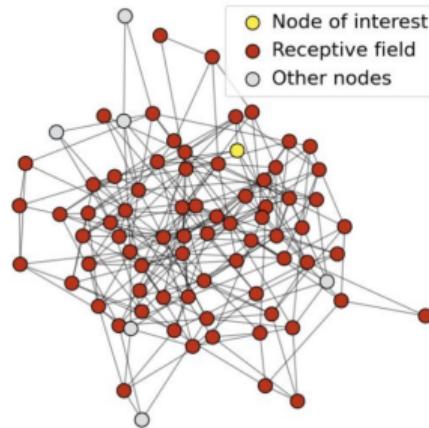
**Receptive field for  
1-layer GNN**



**Receptive field for  
2-layer GNN**

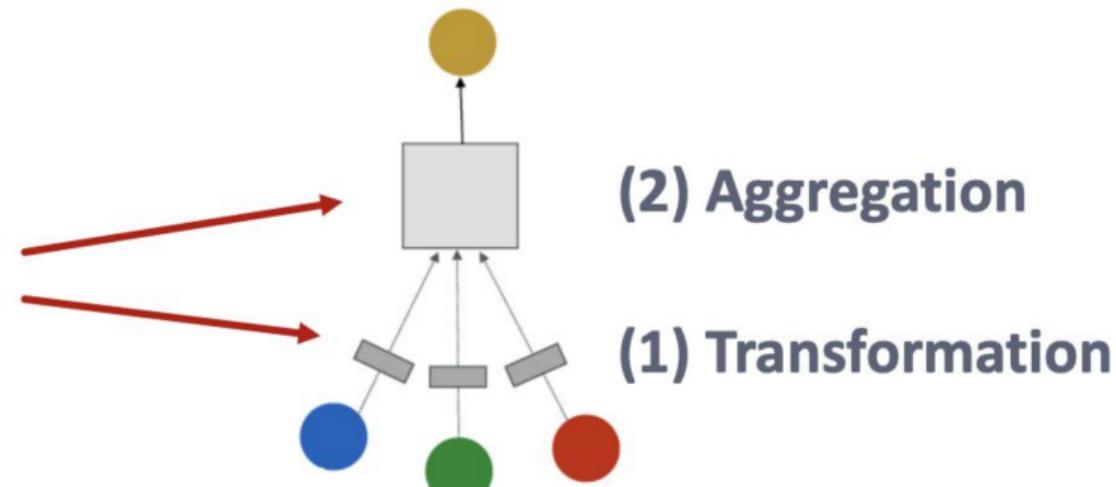


**Receptive field for  
3-layer GNN**



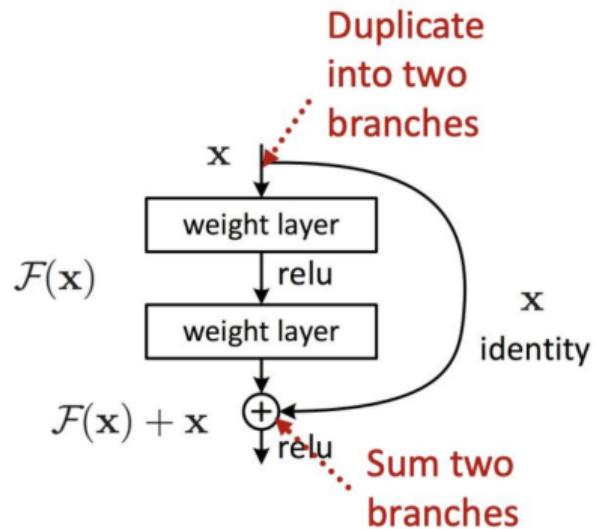
## Solution 1

---



# Skip-Connections

---



# Example

- A standard GCN layer

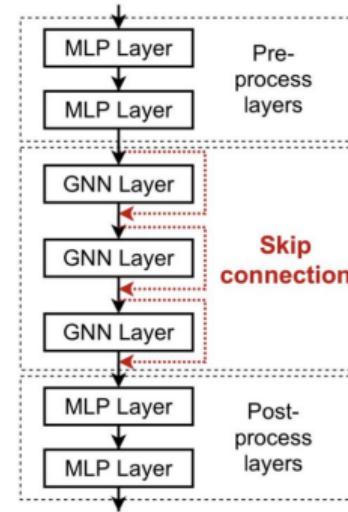
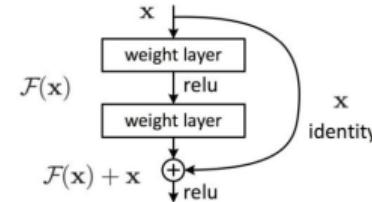
- $\mathbf{h}_v^{(l)} = \sigma \left( \sum_{u \in N(v)} \mathbf{W}^{(l)} \frac{\mathbf{h}_u^{(l-1)}}{|N(v)|} \right)$

This is our  $F(\mathbf{x})$

- A GCN layer with skip connection

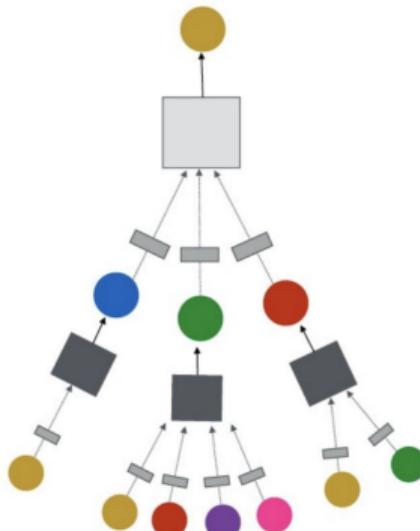
- $\mathbf{h}_v^{(l)} = \sigma \left( \sum_{u \in N(v)} \mathbf{W}^{(l)} \frac{\mathbf{h}_u^{(l-1)}}{|N(v)|} + \mathbf{h}_v^{(l-1)} \right)$

$F(\mathbf{x})$       +       $\mathbf{x}$



# Graph Augmentation

---



(4) Graph augmentation

# Problems

---

- No features
- Sparse
- Dense
- Large

# Solutions

---

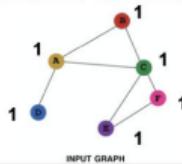
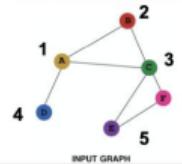
- No features - augmentation
- Sparse - add connections
- Dense - use sampling
- Large - sample subgraphs

## No Features

---

1. Add constant features to all nodes
2. Add node identifiers

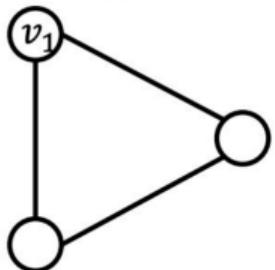
# Comparison

	<b>Constant node feature</b>	<b>One-hot node feature</b>
	 <p>INPUT GRAPH</p>	 <p>INPUT GRAPH</p>
<b>Expressive power</b>	<b>Medium.</b> All the nodes are identical, but GNN can still learn from the graph structure	<b>High.</b> Each node has a unique ID, so node-specific information can be stored
<b>Inductive learning (Generalize to unseen nodes)</b>	<b>High.</b> Simple to generalize to new nodes: we assign constant feature to them, then apply our GNN	<b>Low.</b> Cannot generalize to new nodes: new nodes introduce new IDs, GNN doesn't know how to embed unseen IDs
<b>Computational cost</b>	<b>Low.</b> Only 1 dimensional feature	<b>High.</b> $O( V )$ dimensional feature, cannot apply to large graphs
<b>Use cases</b>	<b>Any graph, inductive settings</b> (generalize to new nodes)	<b>Small graph, transductive settings</b> (no new nodes)

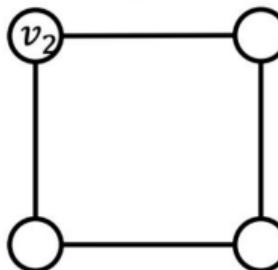
# Cycles

---

$v_1$  resides in a cycle with length 3



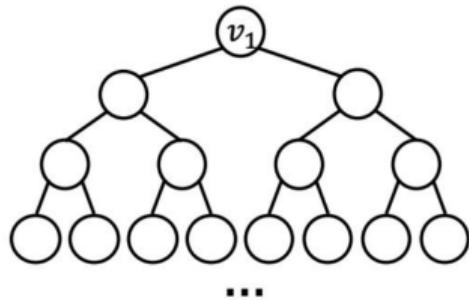
$v_1$  resides in a cycle with length 4



$v_1$  resides in a cycle with infinite length



The computational graphs for node  $v_1$  are always the same



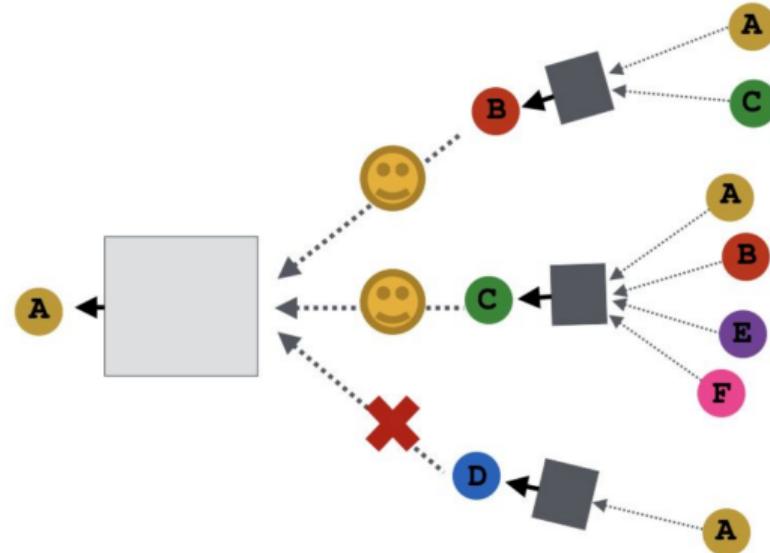
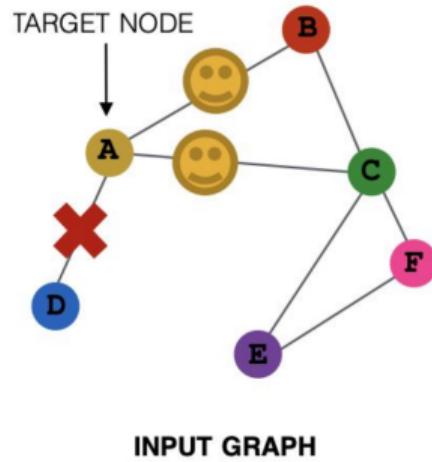
## Adding Nodes/Edges

---

- Distance Reduction

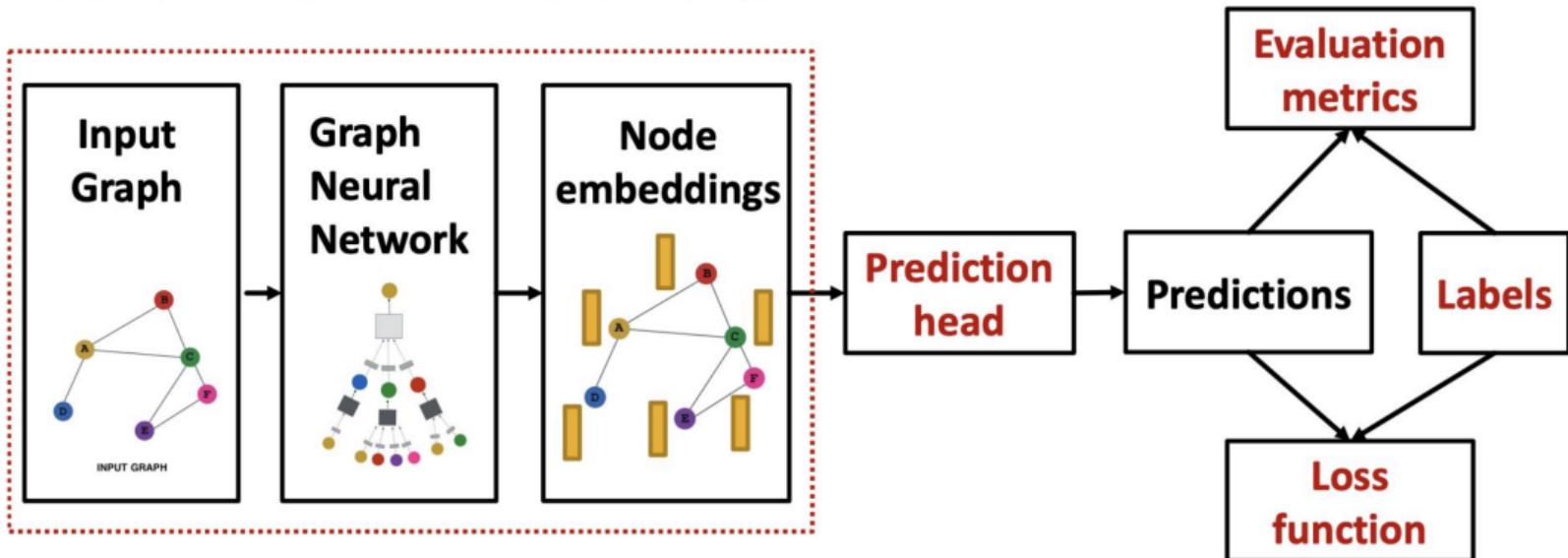
# Neighbor Sampling

---



# Training

---



**Output of a GNN: set of node embeddings**

# Hierarchical Global Pooling

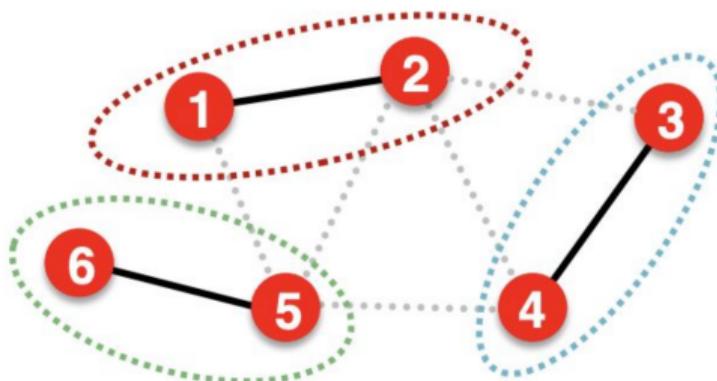
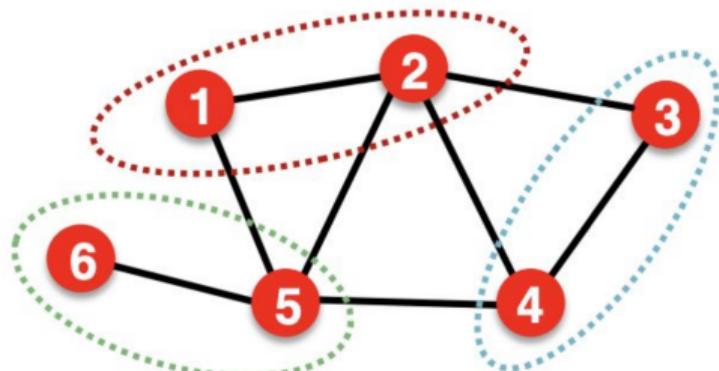
---

$$\{-1, -2, 0, 1, 2\}$$

$$\{-10, -20, 0, 10, 20\}$$

# Splitting

---



# The End?