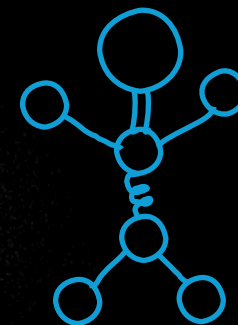


# Learning a Molecule with GNNs



An interactive understanding of expressive GNNs for molecular representation, and how to scale them to infinity 🚀

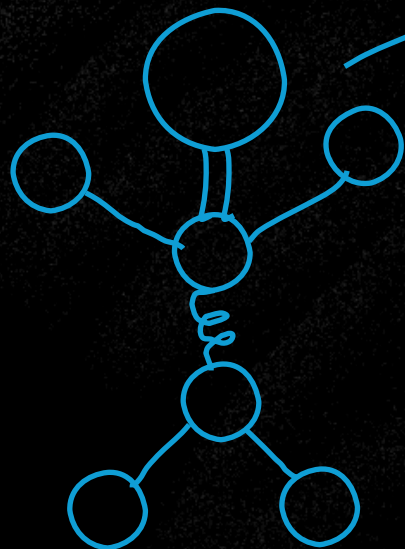
A presentation by Dominique Beaini

Research lead at Valence Labs

Adjunct Prof at Université de Montreal

Associate Industry member at Mila – Quebec AI institute

# Meeting Graphy 🖐️



Hello everyone 🖐️! I'm Dom's assistant for today!

Let's visit the **molecular graph world** together!

We'll first learn **what are graphs** and how to manipulate them

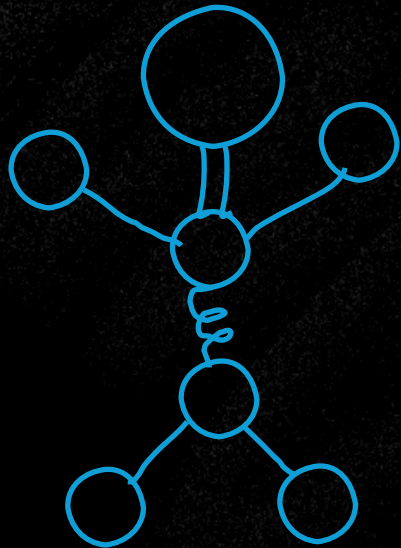
Then we'll look into **standard GNNs** graph neural networks

And how to build more **expressive GNNs** for molecules

Then, we will scale a **Graph Transformer** together

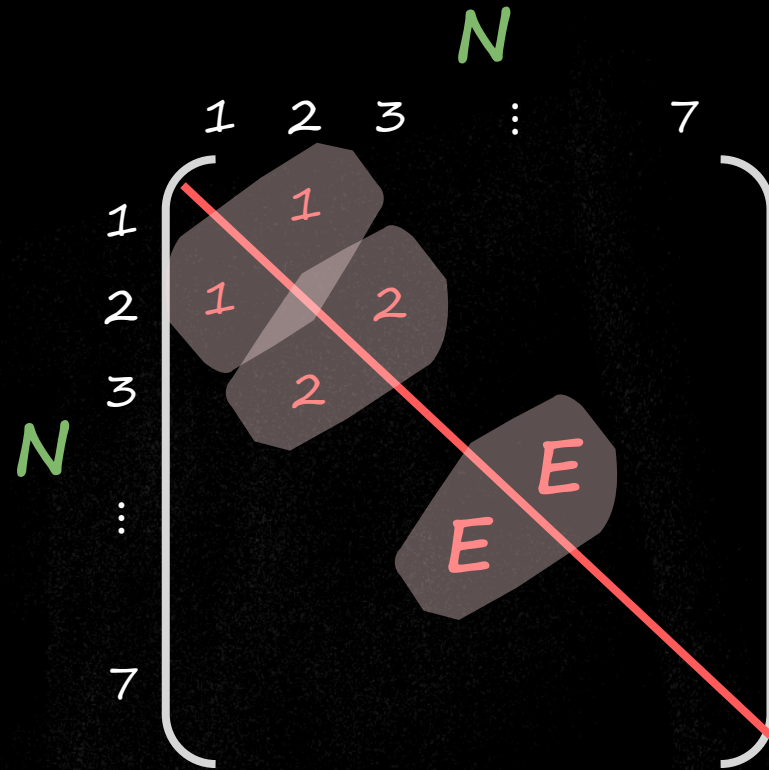
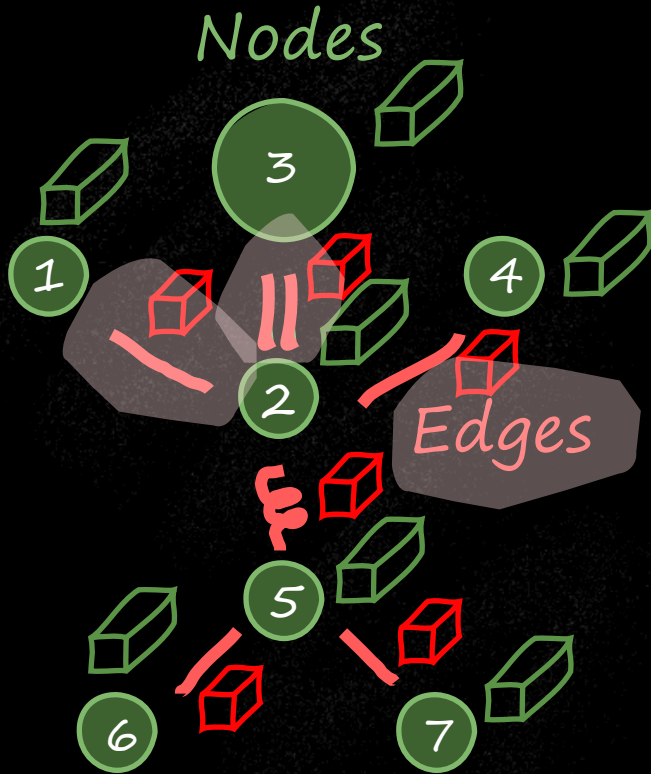
Finally, we'll work through some **applications**

# Anatomy of Graphy 🦴



$$E = m \cdot c^2$$

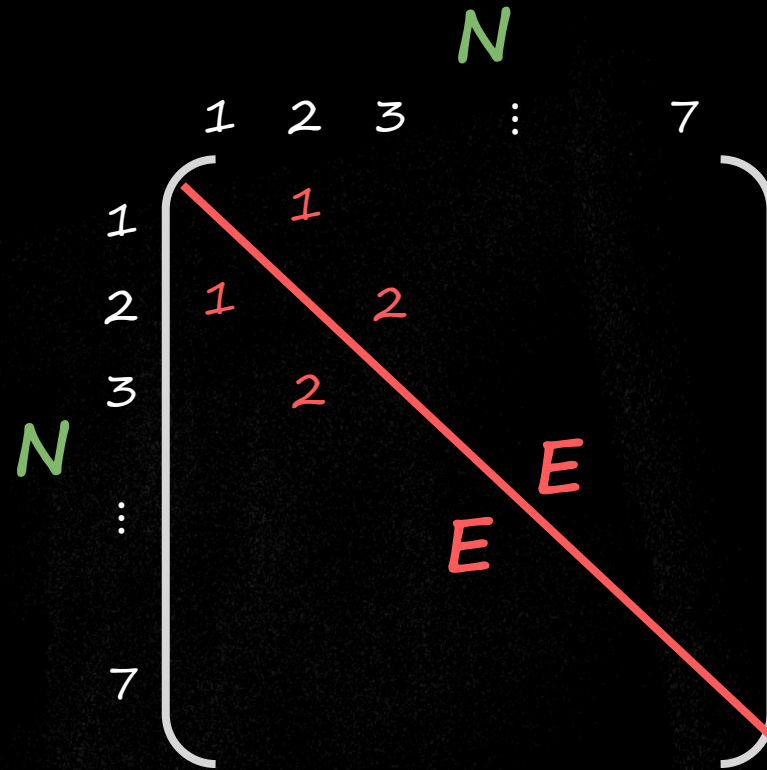
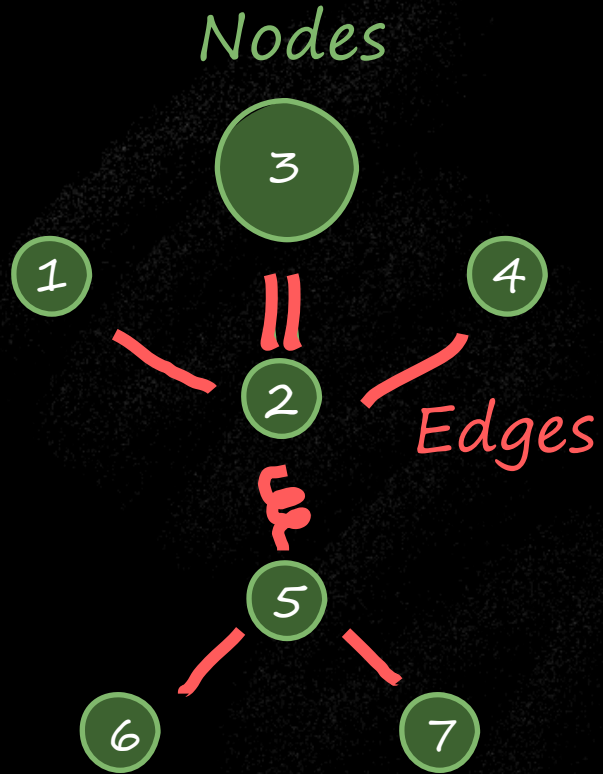
# Anatomy of Graphy 🦴



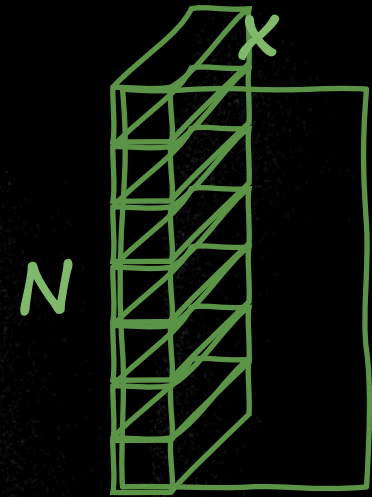
Adjacency matrix



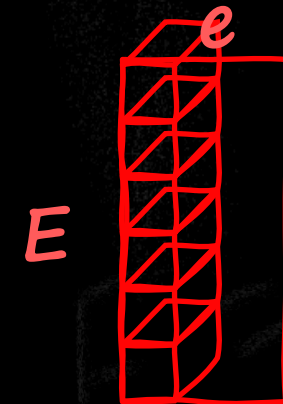
# Anatomy of Graphy 🦴



Adjacency matrix

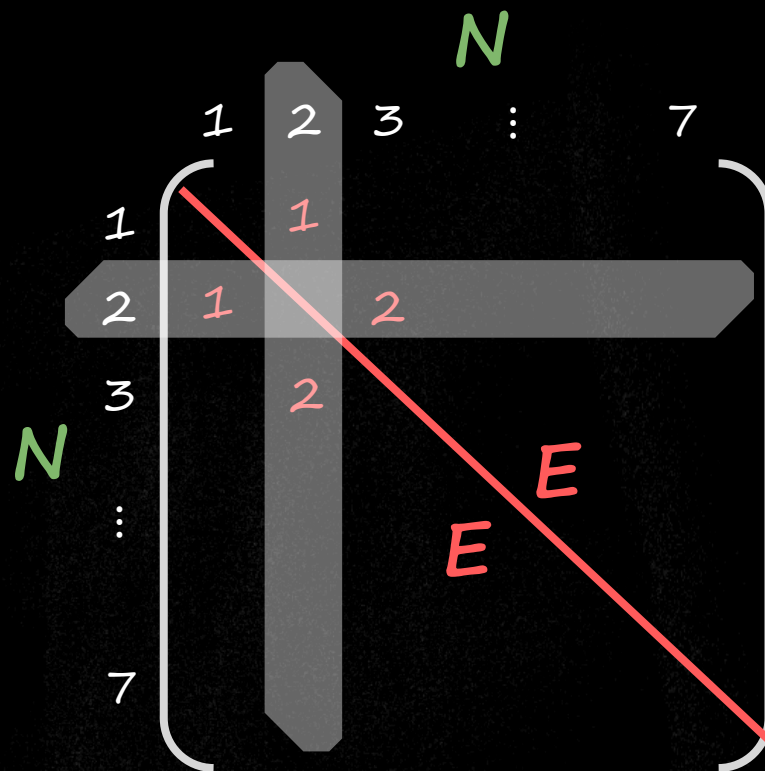
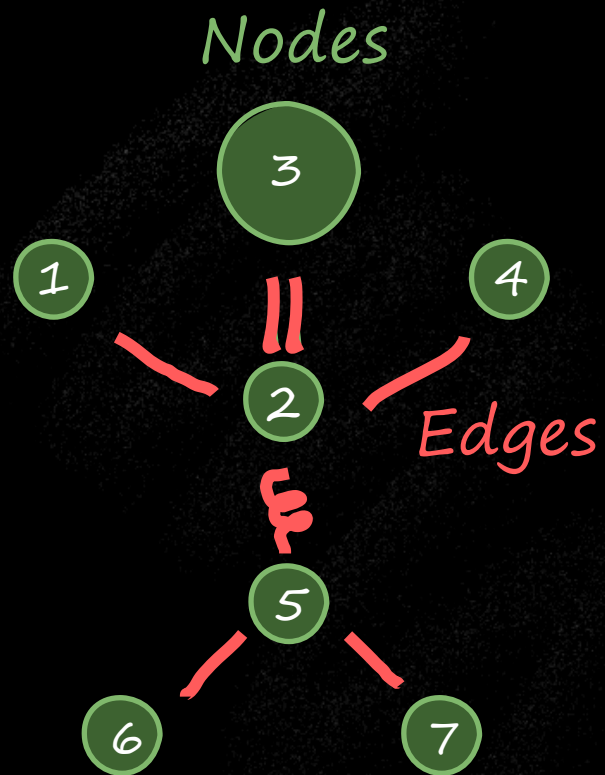


Node feature matrix

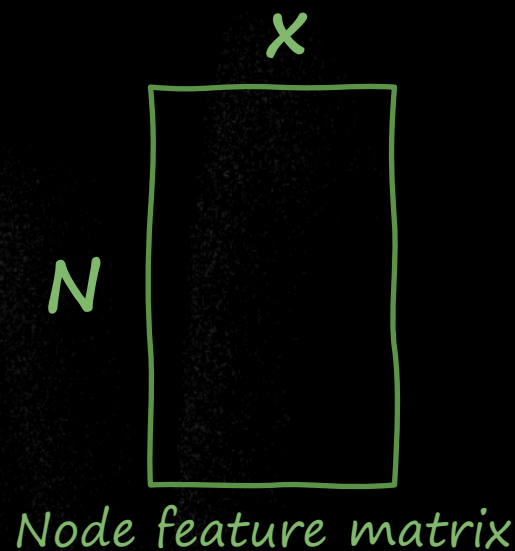


Edge feature matrix

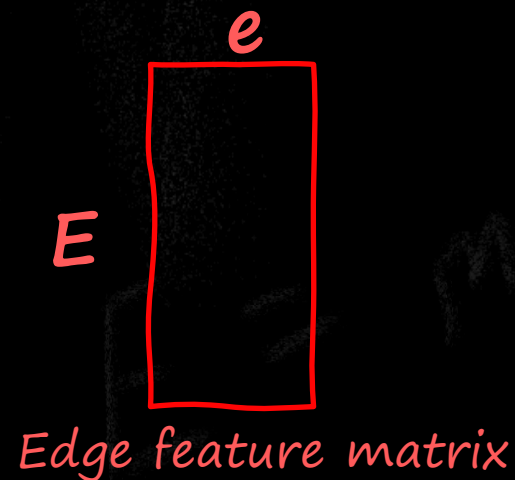
# Permutation invariance



Adjacency matrix

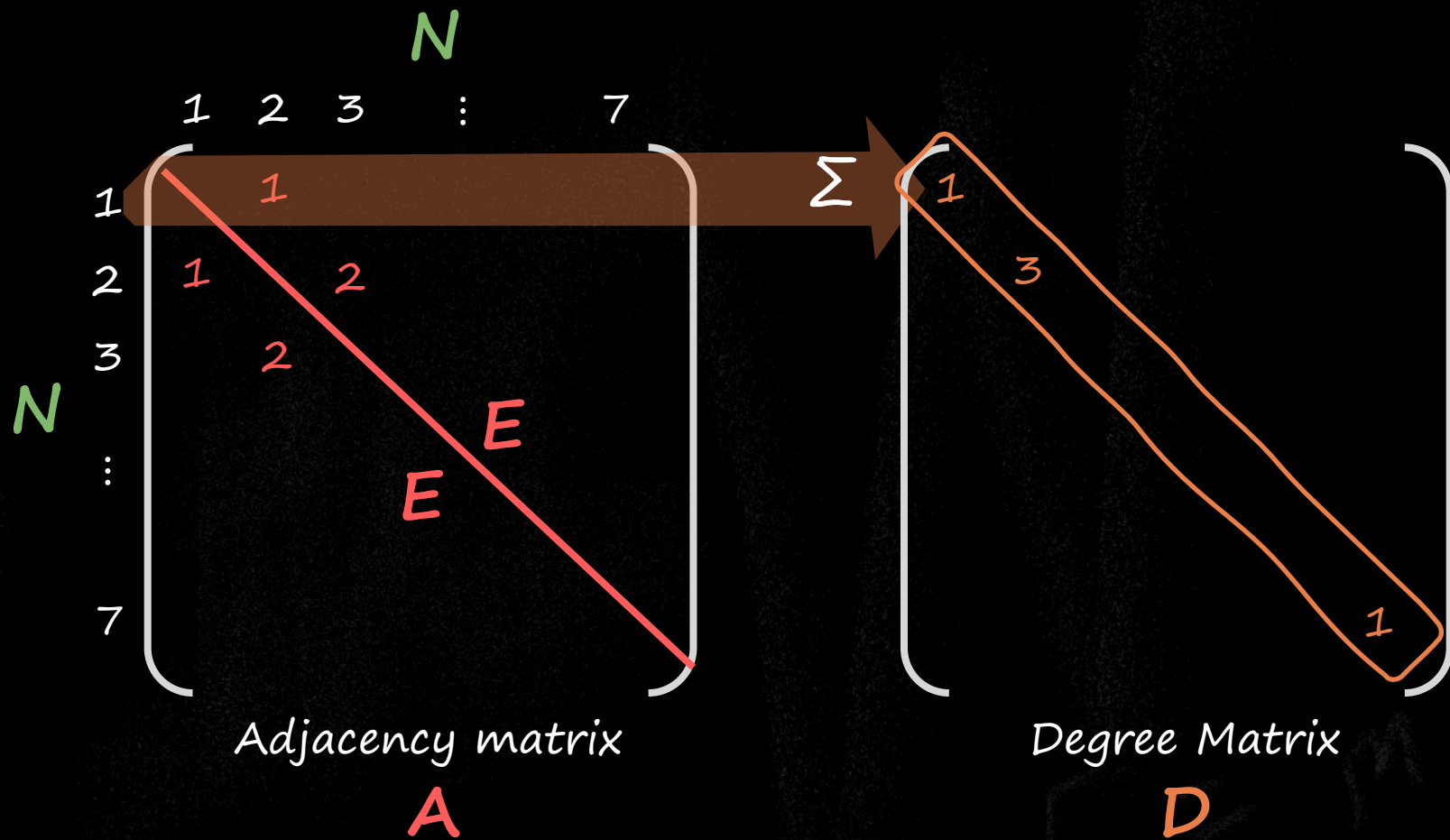
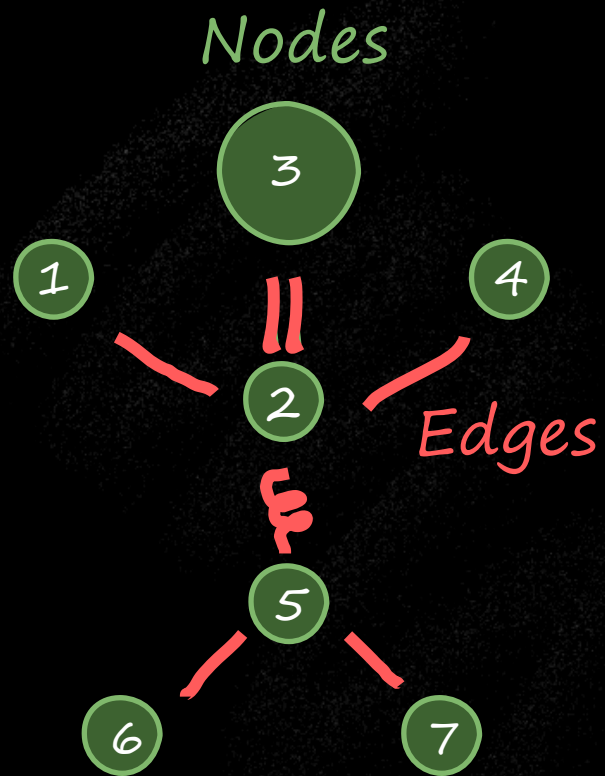


Node feature matrix



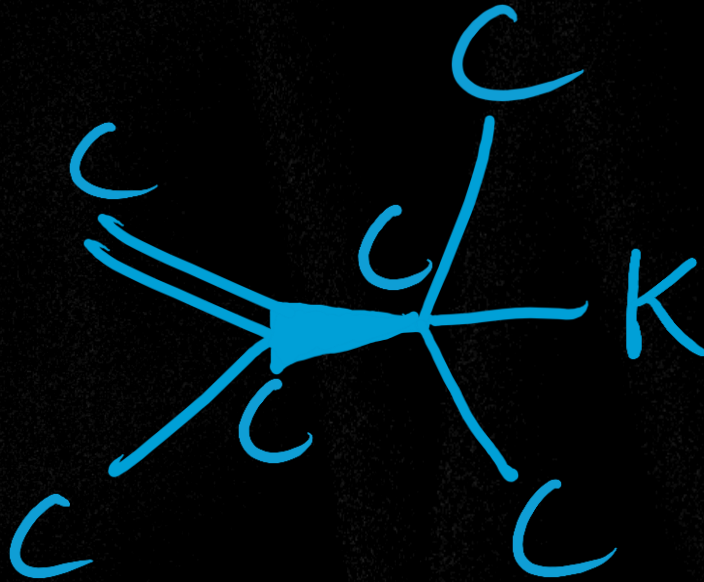
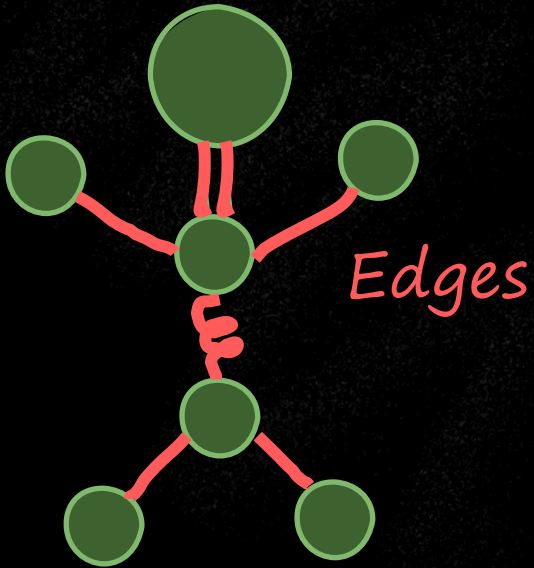
Edge feature matrix

# Laplacian matrix



# Anatomy of a molecule 🦴 🦴

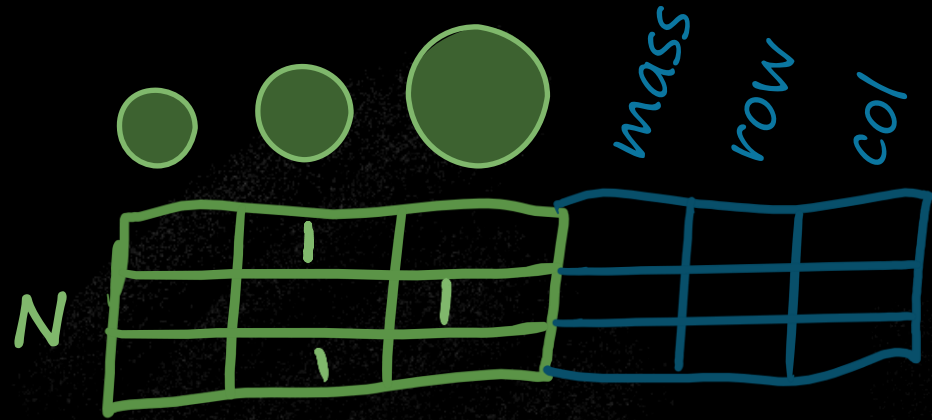
Nodes



Molecules are defined as graphs!

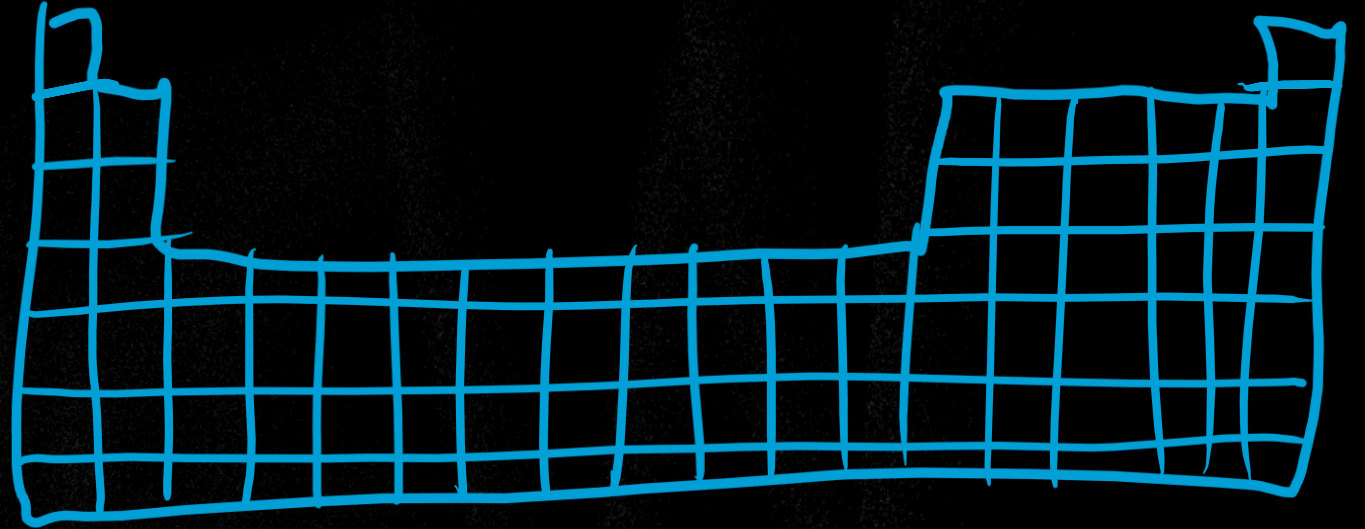
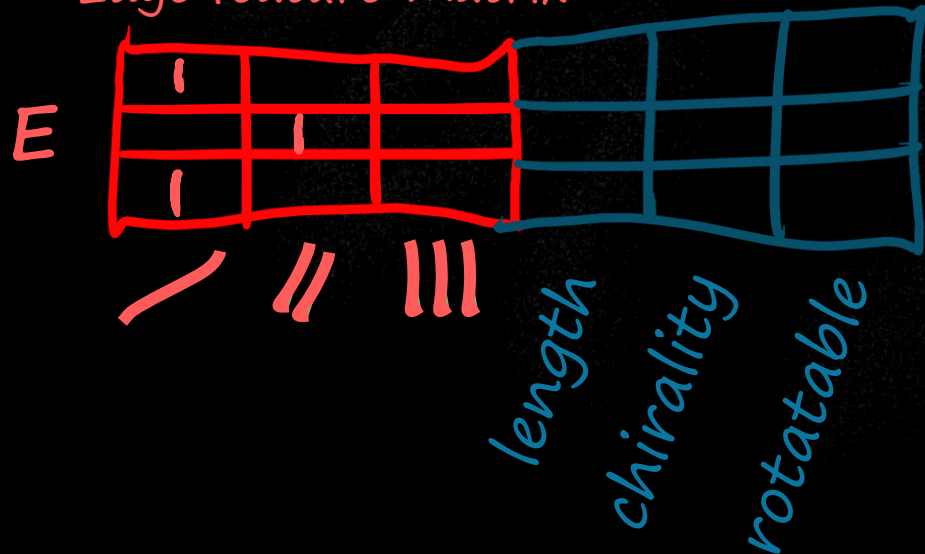


# Anatomy of atoms and bonds

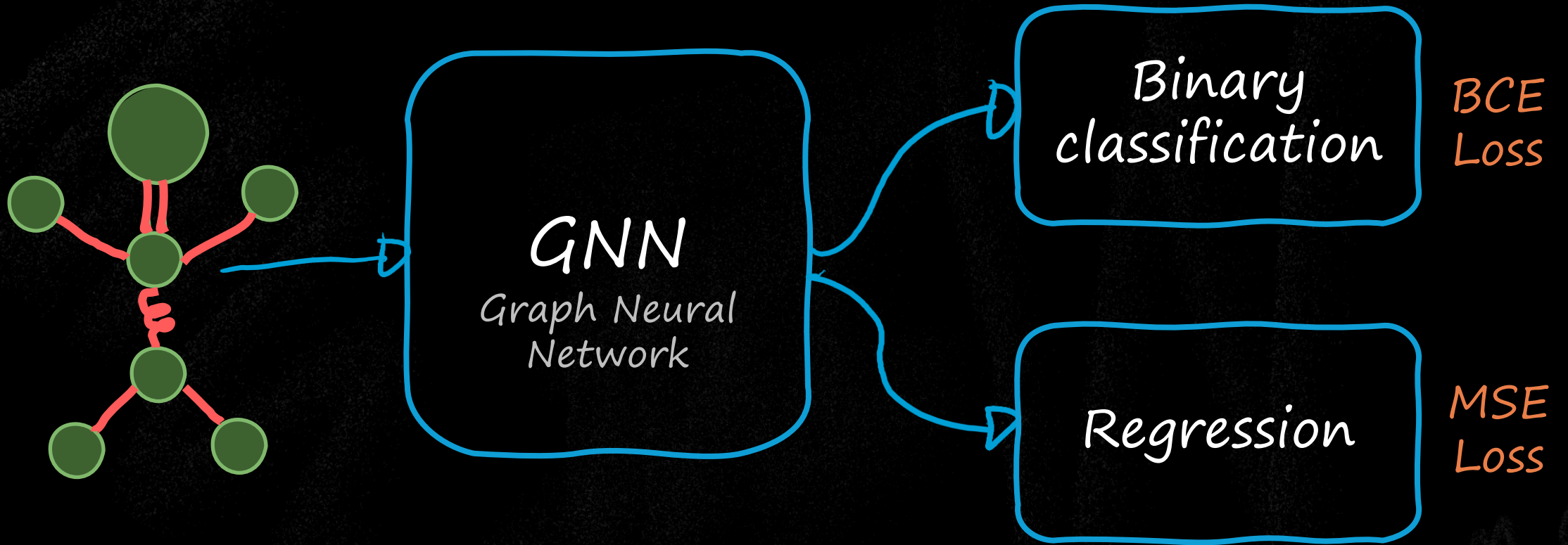


Node feature matrix

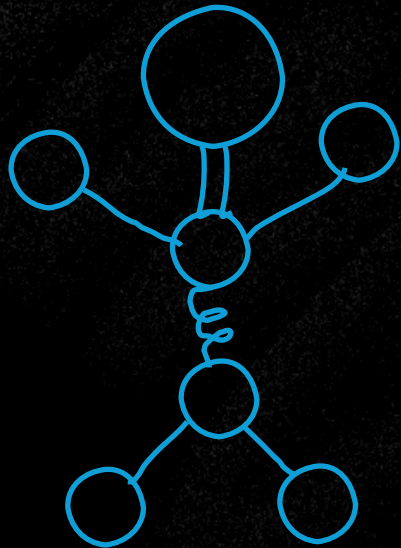
Edge feature matrix



# Molecular Property Prediction



# Designing a GNN 💡



- How do we deal with *permutation invariance*?
- And the *varying #nodes* / neighbors?
- And the isotropy or *lack of direction*?
- And the *expressivity*?

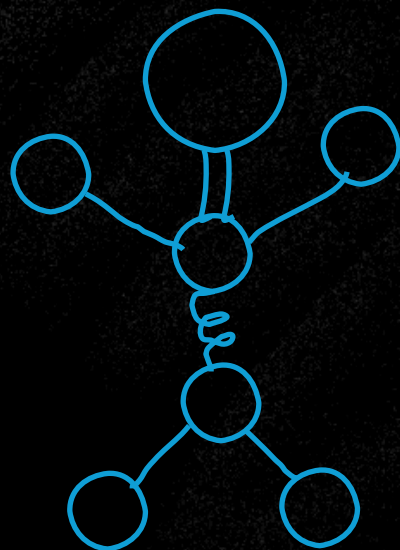
# Designing a GNN 💡

## permutation invariance

- Apply MLPs on each node
- Pass the features on the edges

## varying #nodes

- Aggregation (mean/max/sum)
- Pooling (mean/max/sum)



## lack of direction

- Ignore that it is a problem 🤔

## expressivity

- Make some weird proofs 🤔

Don't worry, I'll show you a better way



# A Microscopic Adventure



*Join me on a microscopic adventure!*

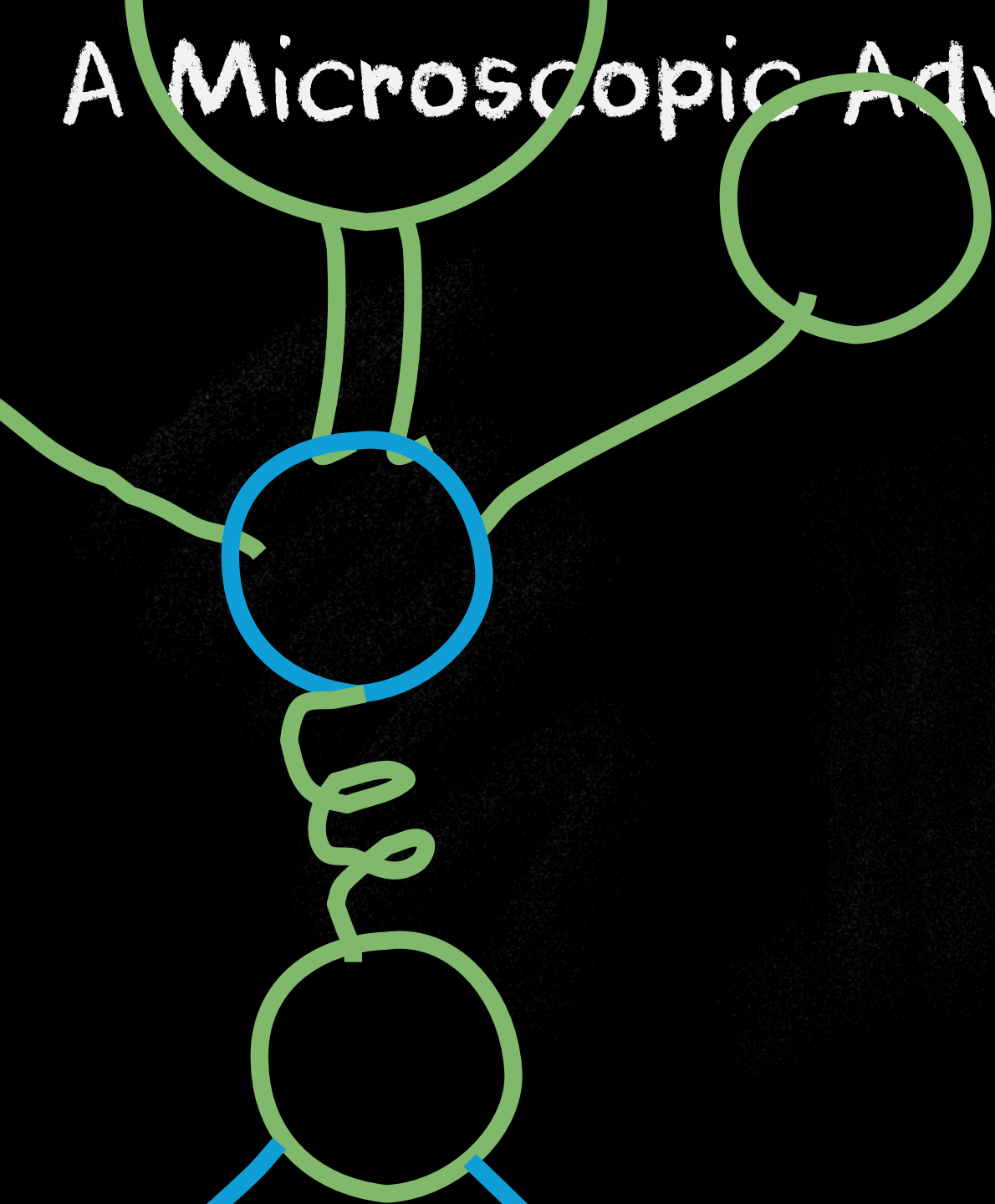
*Jump in the black hole to see the perspective of a node*

*Let's go, don't be afraid!*



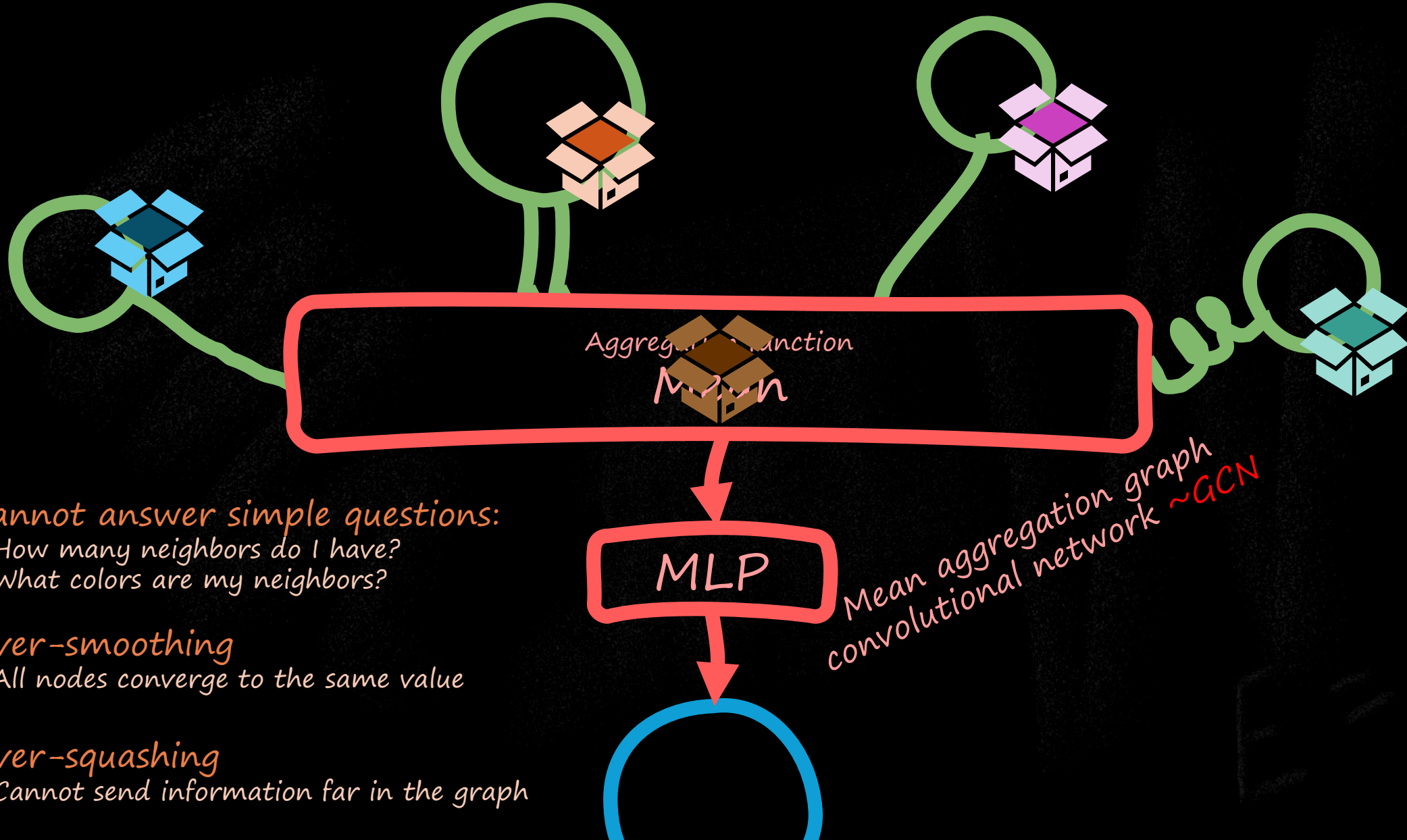
$$E=mc^2$$

# A Microscopic Adventure



$$E = mc^2$$

# Mean Aggregation Conv



Cannot answer simple questions:

How many neighbors do I have?  
What colors are my neighbors?

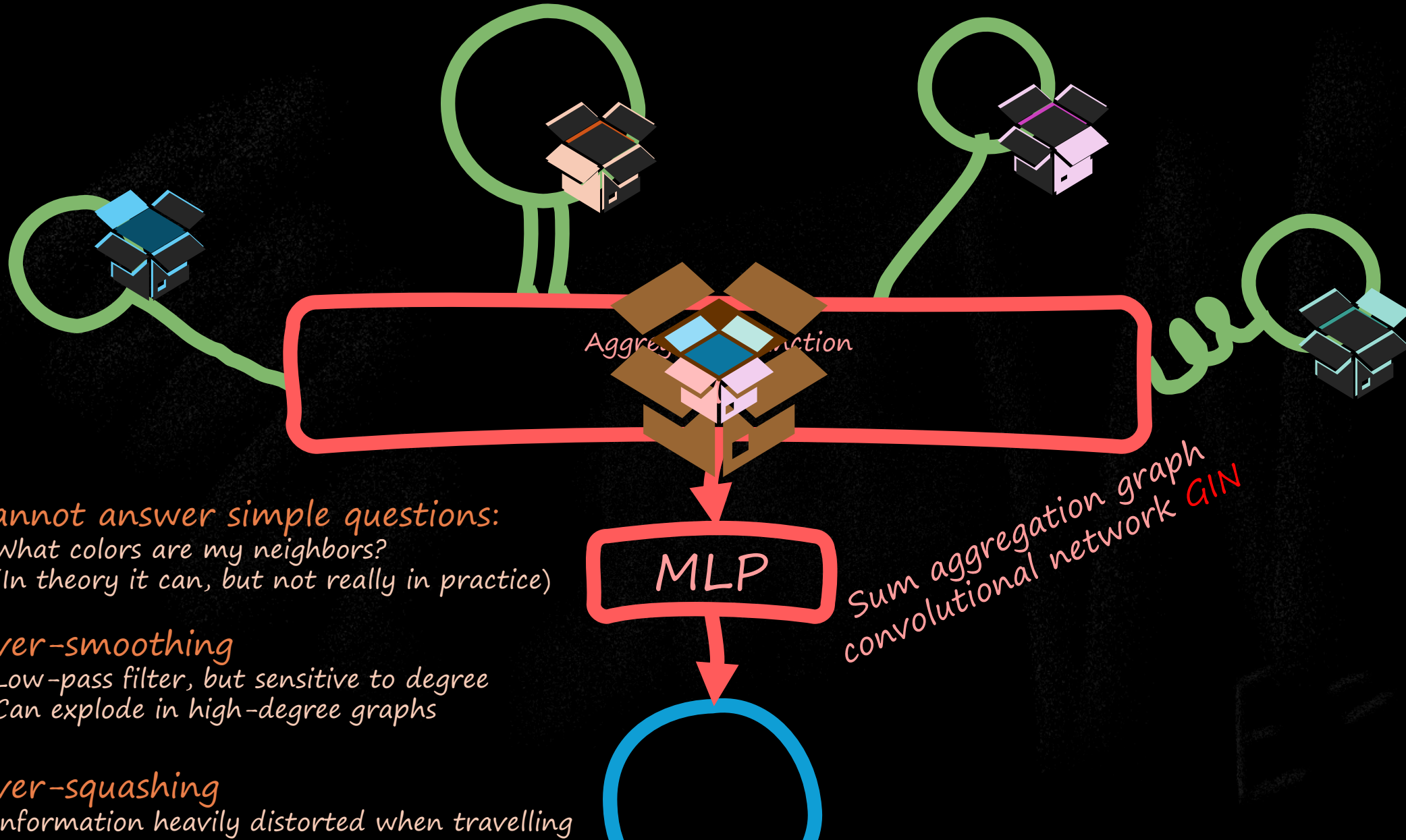
Over-smoothing

All nodes converge to the same value

Over-squashing

Cannot send information far in the graph

# Sum Aggregation Conv



Cannot answer simple questions:  
What colors are my neighbors?  
(In theory it can, but not really in practice)

## Over-smoothing

Low-pass filter, but sensitive to degree  
Can explode in high-degree graphs

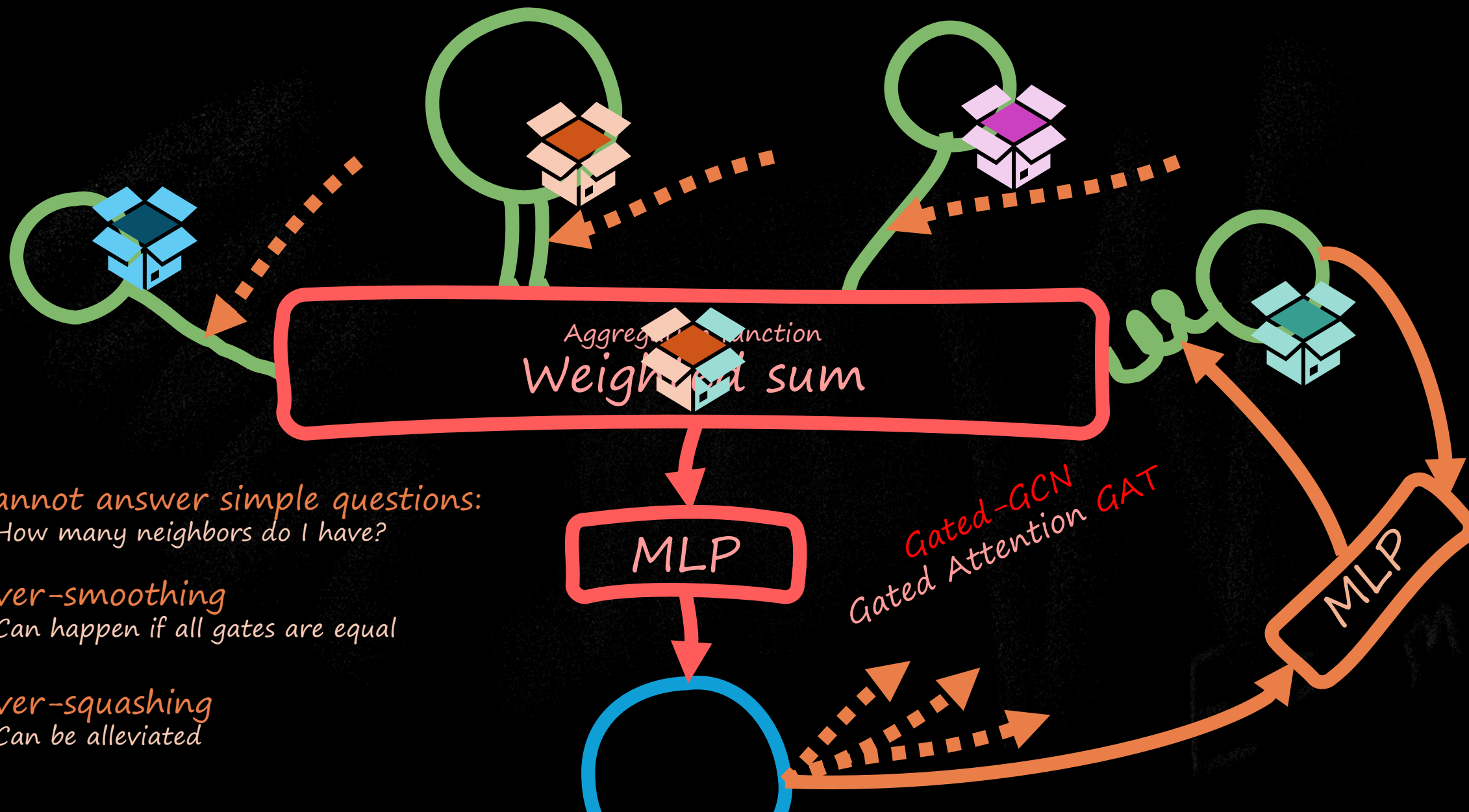
## Over-squashing

Information heavily distorted when travelling

Sum aggregation graph  
convolutional network **GIN**



# Gating 🚪

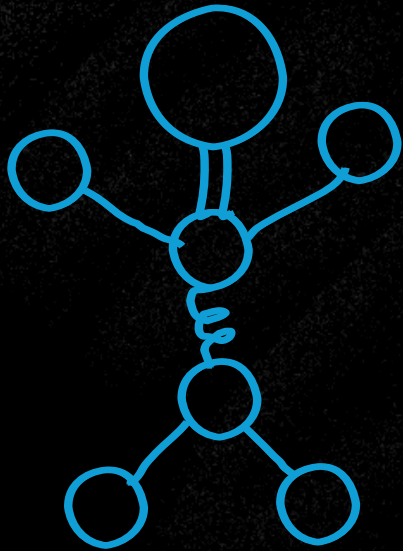


Cannot answer simple questions:  
How many neighbors do I have?

Over-smoothing  
Can happen if all gates are equal

Over-squashing  
Can be alleviated

# Attention is all you need



$$E = mc^2$$

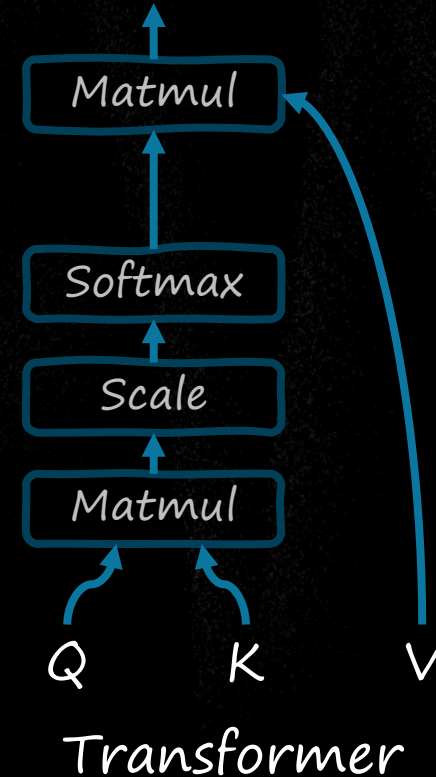
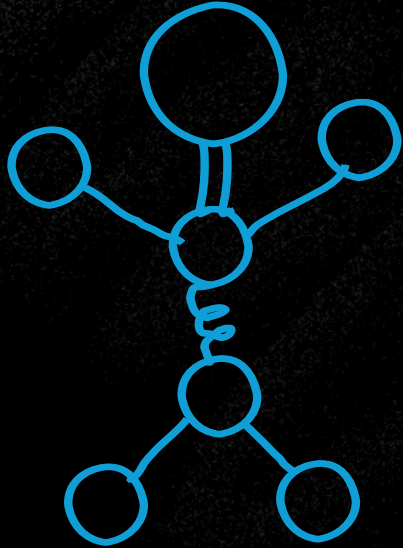
# Attention is all you need

- **ATTENTION IS ALL YOU NEED**

- *Certain conditions apply*

- Read the fingerprints for more details

- You also need good positional and structural encodings, ideally a *biased attention*, *lots and lots of long-range data*, ...

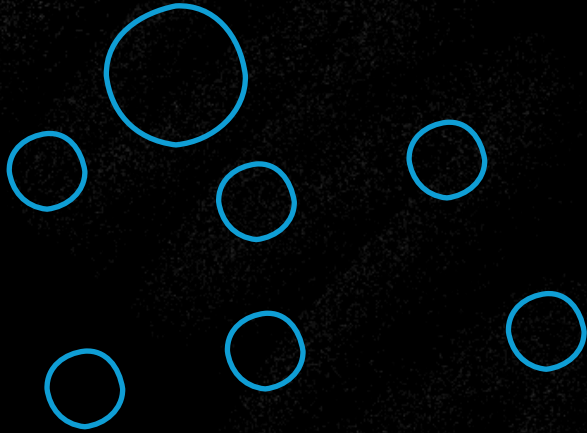


# Attention is all you need

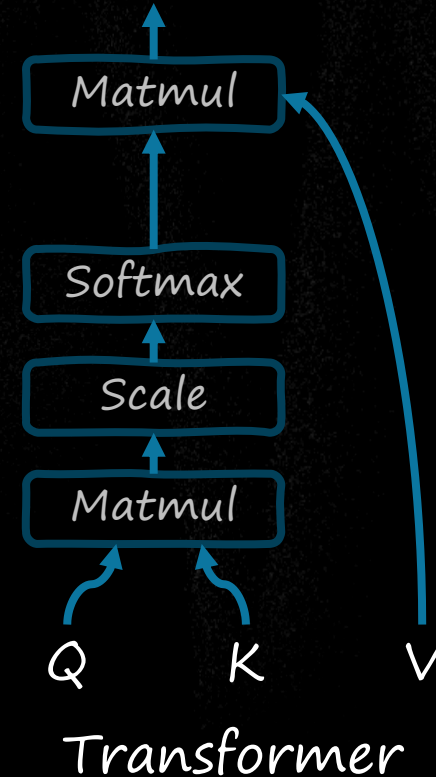
- **ATTENTION IS ALL YOU NEED**

- Certain conditions apply

- Read the fingerprints for more details
    - You also need good *positional and structural encodings*, ideally a *biased attention*, *lots and lots of long-range data*, ...



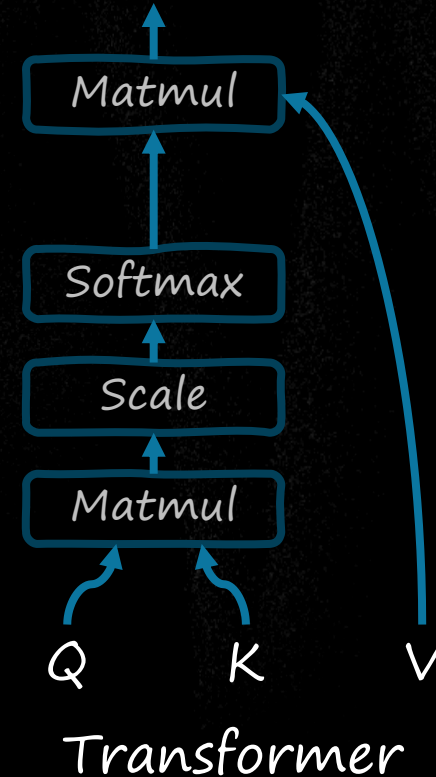
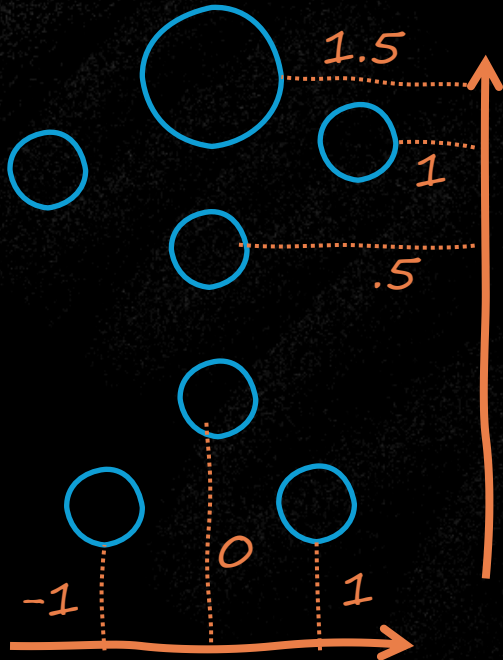
What's happening to me!!!  
I'm being permuted!





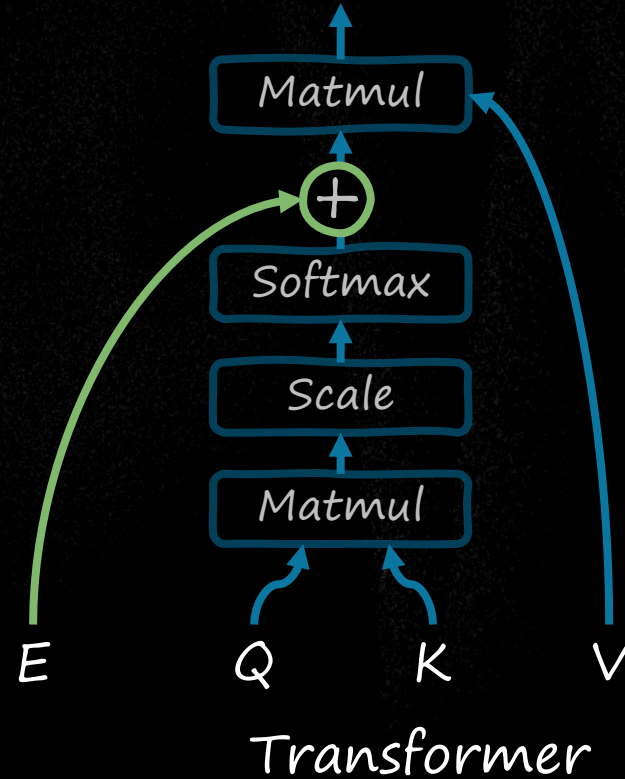
# Fineprints of Attention – Position

- positional and structural encodings
- biased attention
- lots and lots of long-range data



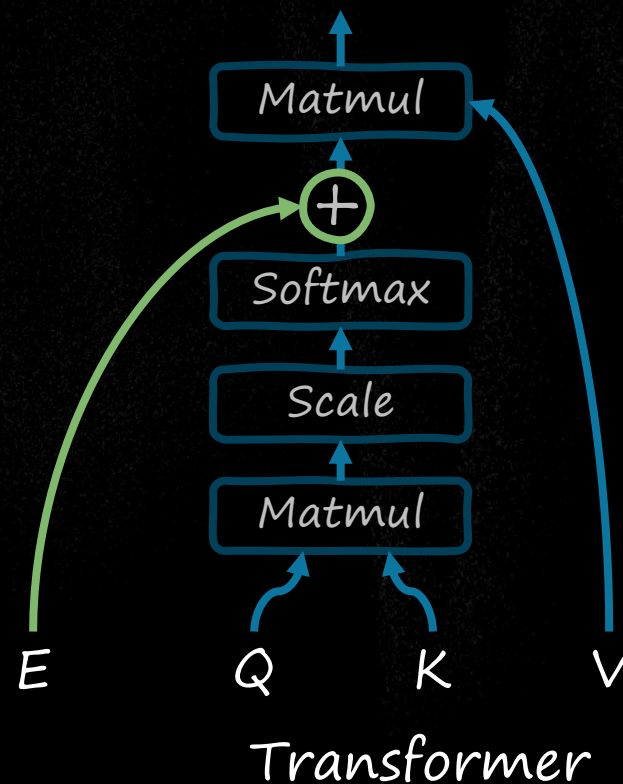
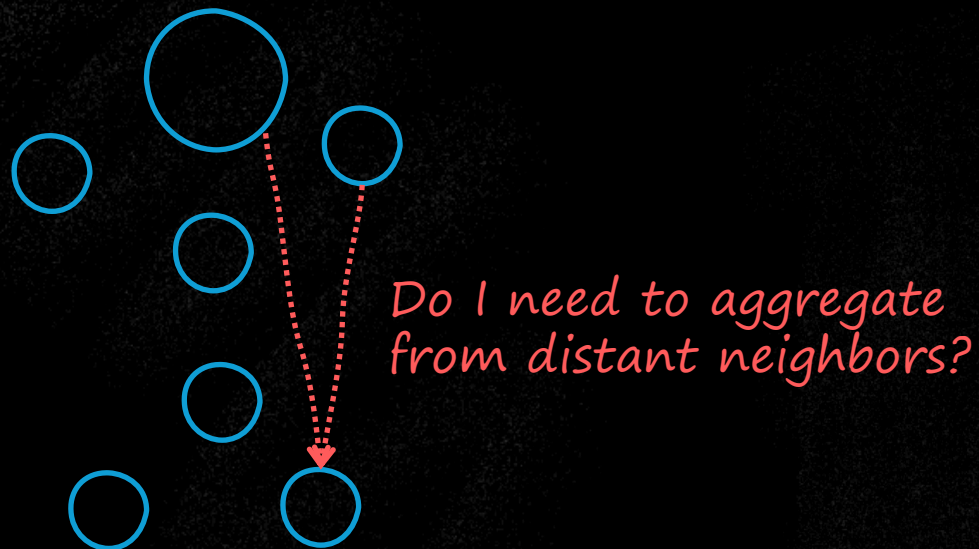
# Fineprints of Attention – Bias

- *positional and structural encodings*
- *biased attention*
- *lots and lots of long-range data*

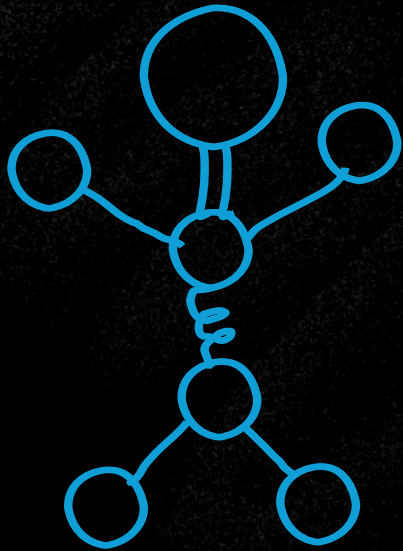


# Fineprints of Attention – Data

- positional and structural encodings
- biased attention
- lots and lots of long-range data



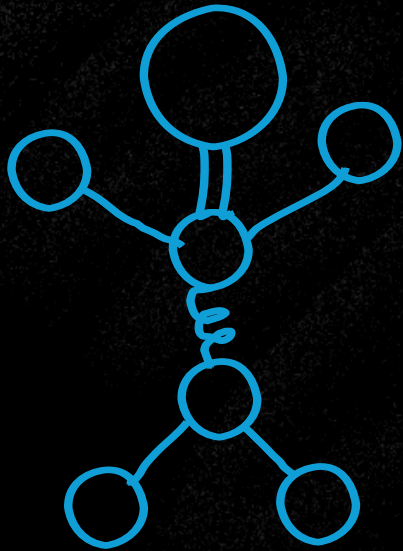
# Attention – Position and Structure



- WL Expressivity – why simple GNNs are not enough
- Positional encodings via eigenvectors
- Structural encodings via random walks
- Relative positions via distances and heat kernels



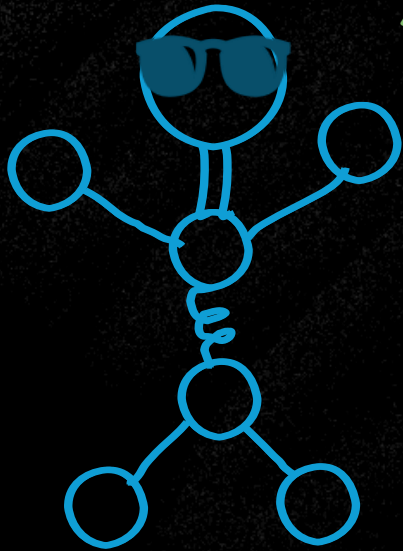
# WL Expressivity 🕶️



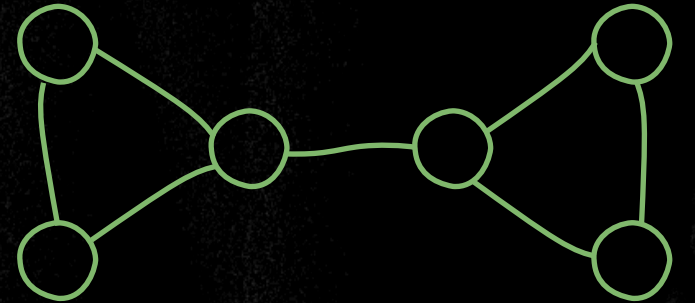
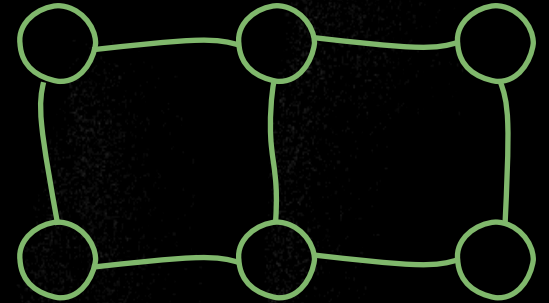
Weisfeiler-Lehman

$$E = MC^2$$

# WL Expressivity 🕶

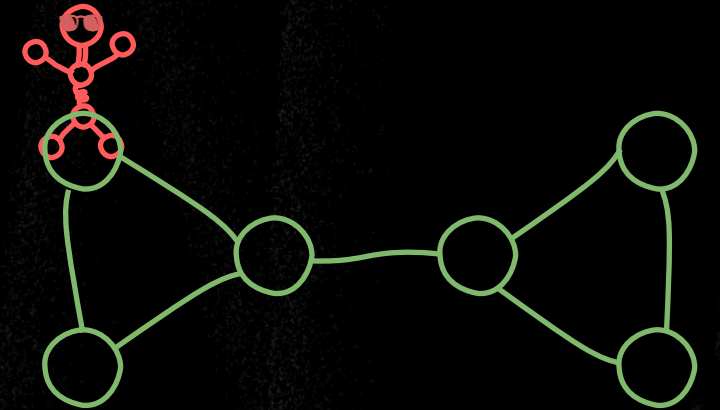
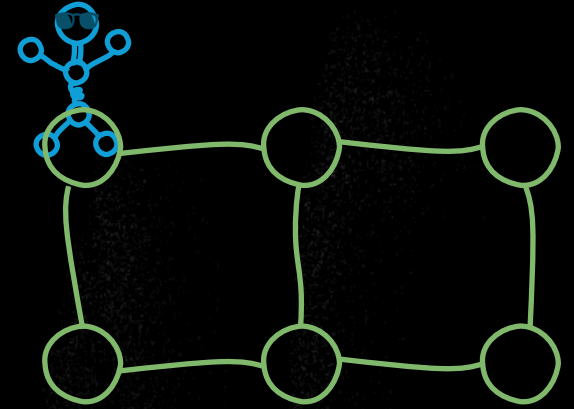


Let's play a game!  
Are these graphs the same?  
Let's shrink again and count the neighbors

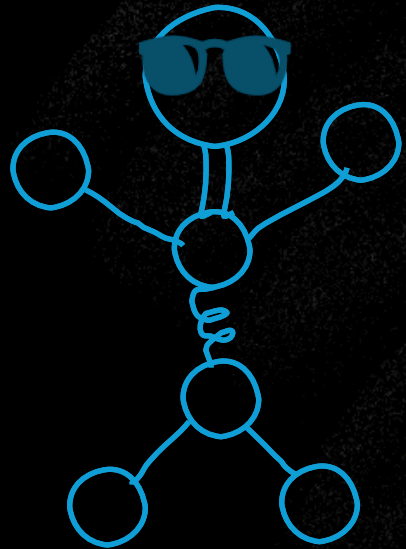


# WL Expressivity 🕶

2	2
3	3
2	2
2	2
3	3
2	2
3	3
3	3
2	2



# WL Expressivity 🕶



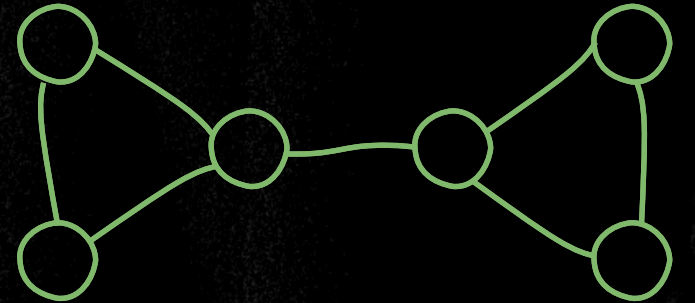
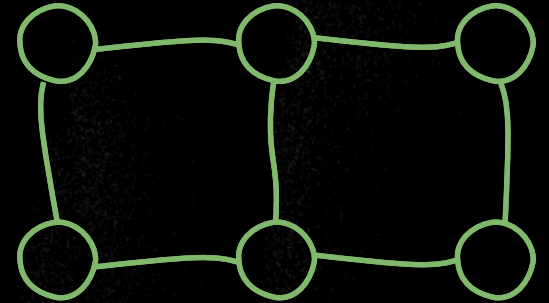
They're the same!  
Wait... *That's not right.*

There are things we cannot see  
from inside because we do not  
have *position or direction!*

I know what you're thinking.  
*Graphs have no direction*

We'll circle back on that...

2	2
3	3
2	2
2	2
3	3
2	2
3	3
3	3
2	2





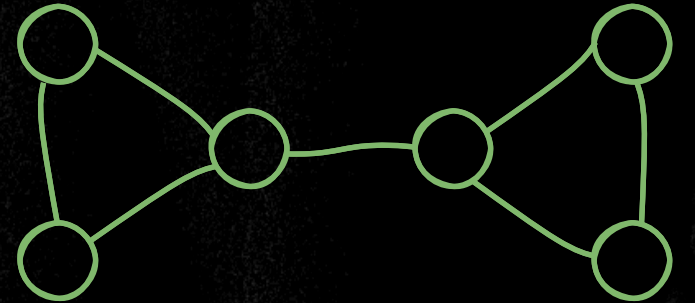
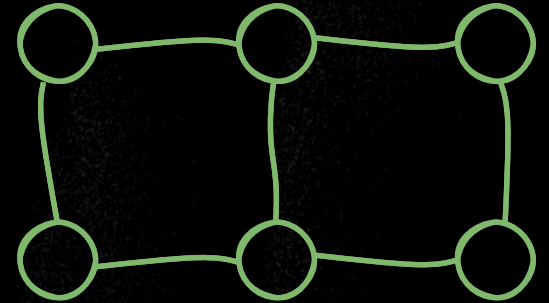
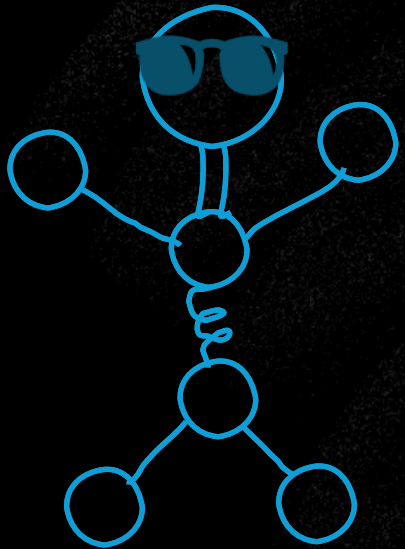
# Higher order features

Can we find some higher-order features?

Features that are permutation invariant but that can be computed?

Perhaps features inspired by higher order WL-tests by walking around the graph?

Let's look at random walks and motif detection

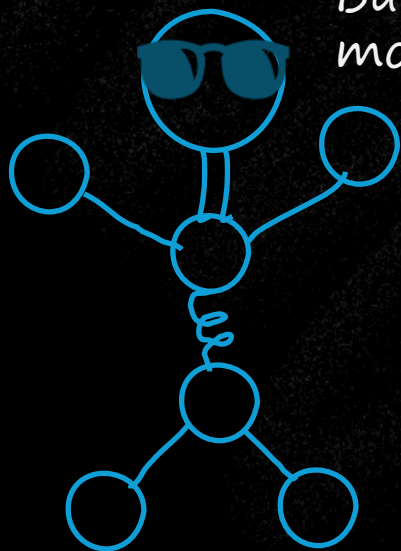


# Structural encodings

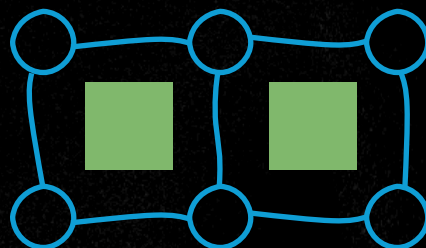
Structure encoding by identifying motifs  
and random walks

These are nice local  
encodings!

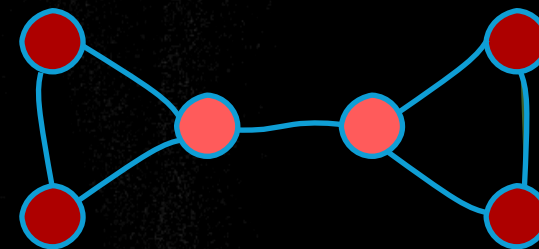
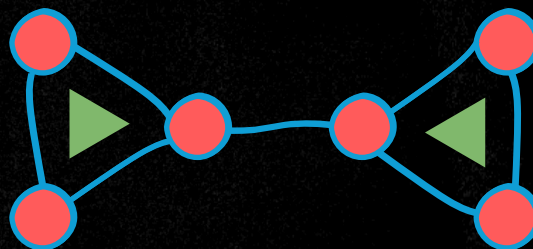
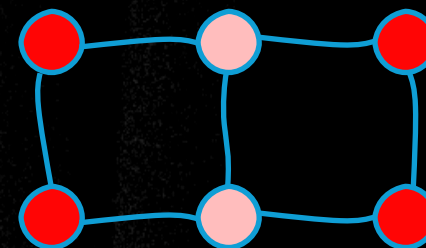
But is there anything  
more global?



Random walk 3-step



Random walk 4-step



Now we can distinguish the graphs and nodes!  
We can concatenate them to node features  
We can bias the connectivity of the message passing  
We are again more expressive

# Positional encodings 🌟

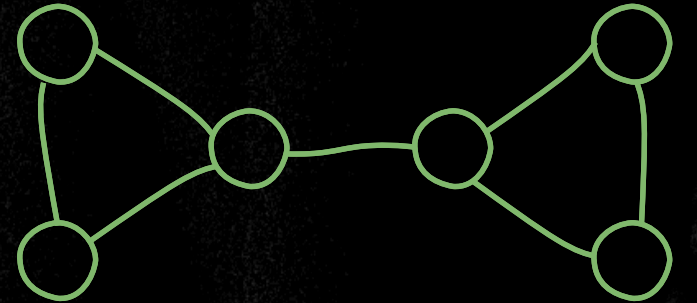
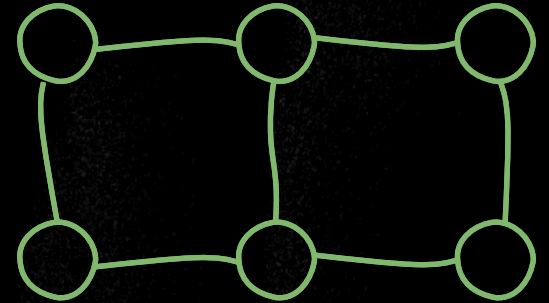
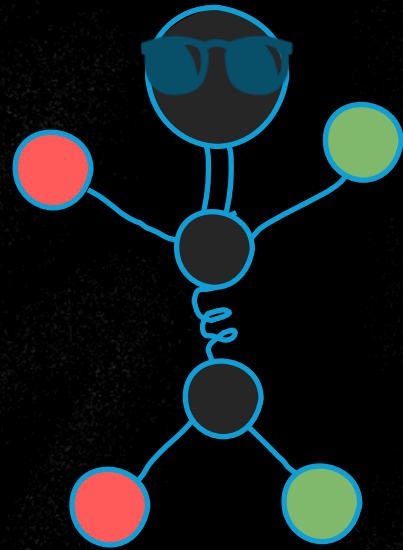
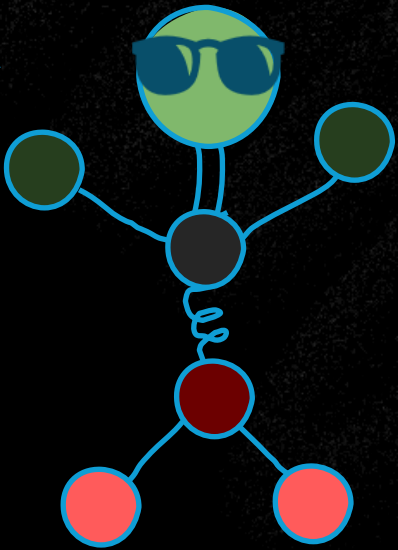
Low-frequency *eigenvectors* of the Laplacian  
(lowest non-0 eigenvalue)

$\phi_1$

$\phi_2$

Width

height



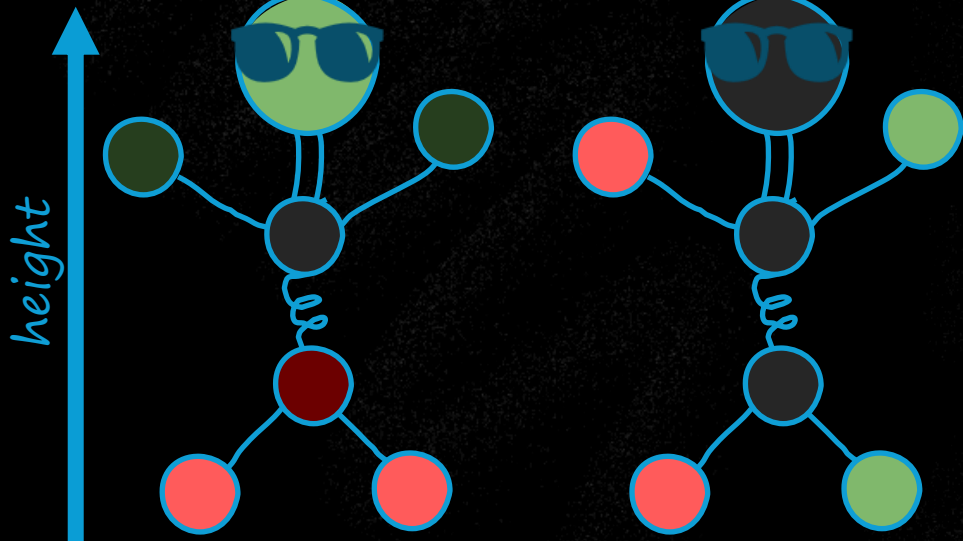
# Positional encodings 🌍

Low-frequency *eigenvectors* of the Laplacian  
(lowest non-0 eigenvalue)

$\phi_1$

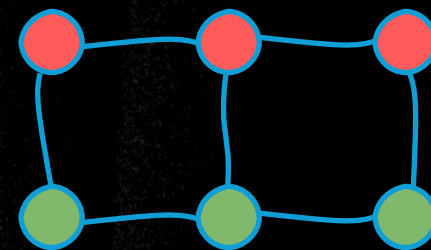
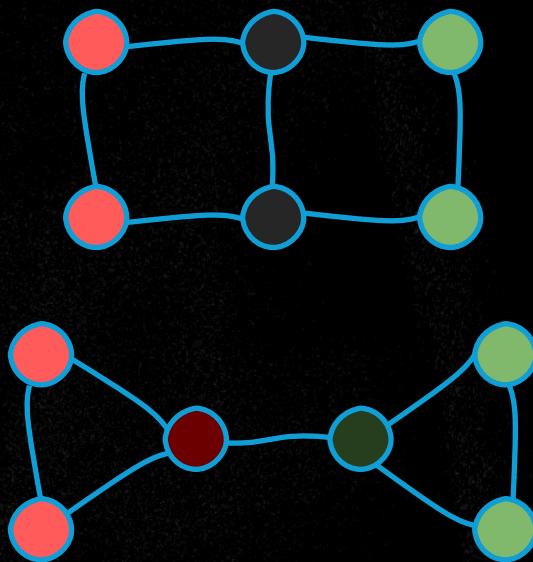
$\phi_2$

Width



$\phi_1$

$\phi_2$



Longest length

Second longest length

Now we can distinguish the graphs and nodes!  
We can concatenate them to node features  
We can bias the direction of the message passing  
*We are more expressive*



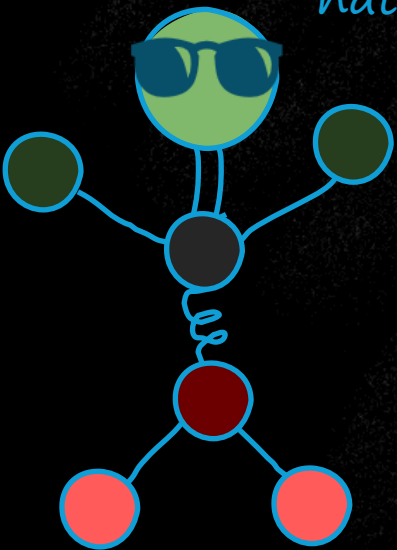
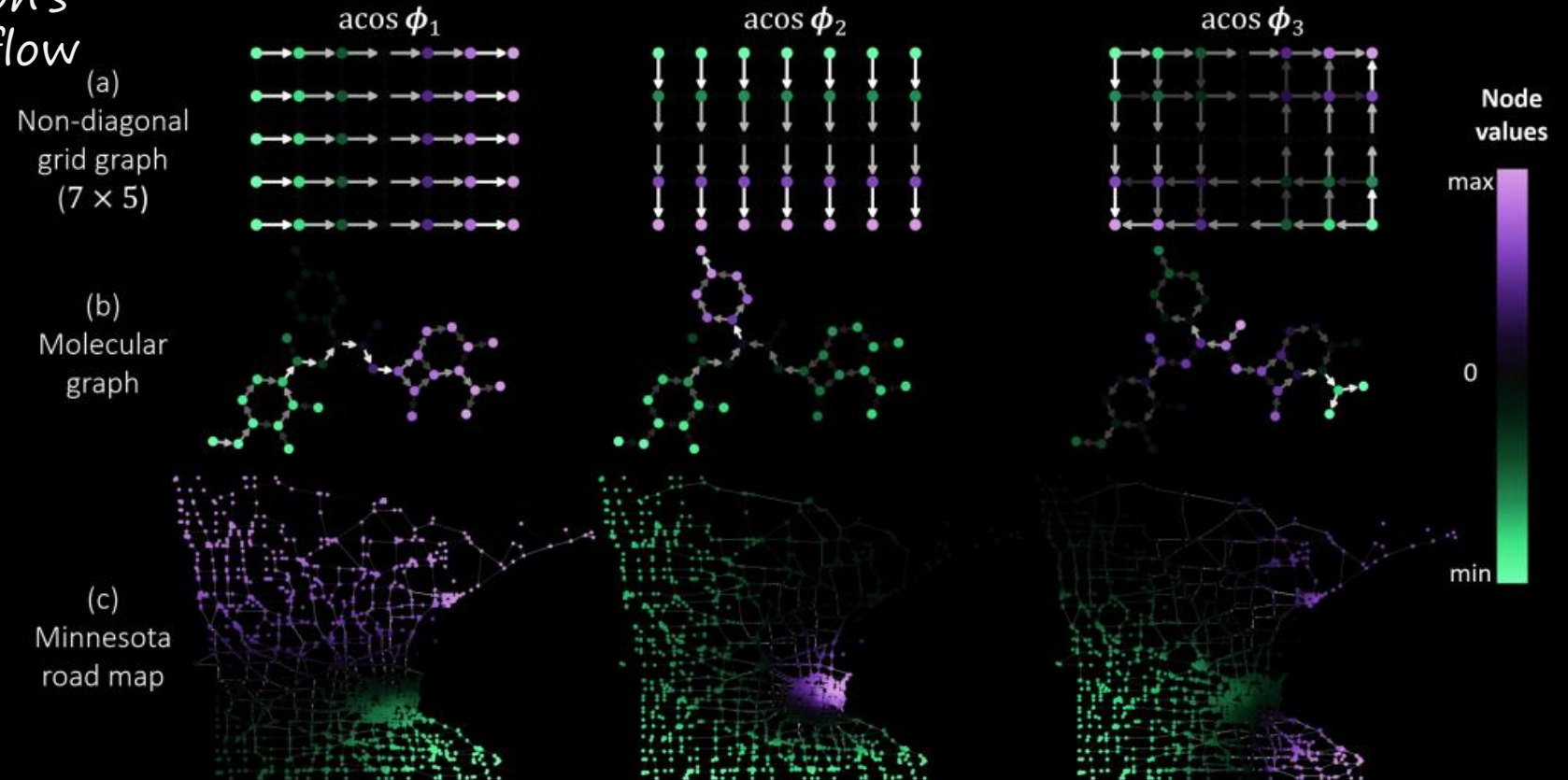
# Low-frequency eigenvectors

The DGN work showed that they *generalize CNNs* when applied to grid graphs

They retrieve a graph's *natural* directional flow

## Directional Graph Networks

Examples of eigenvector-based directions

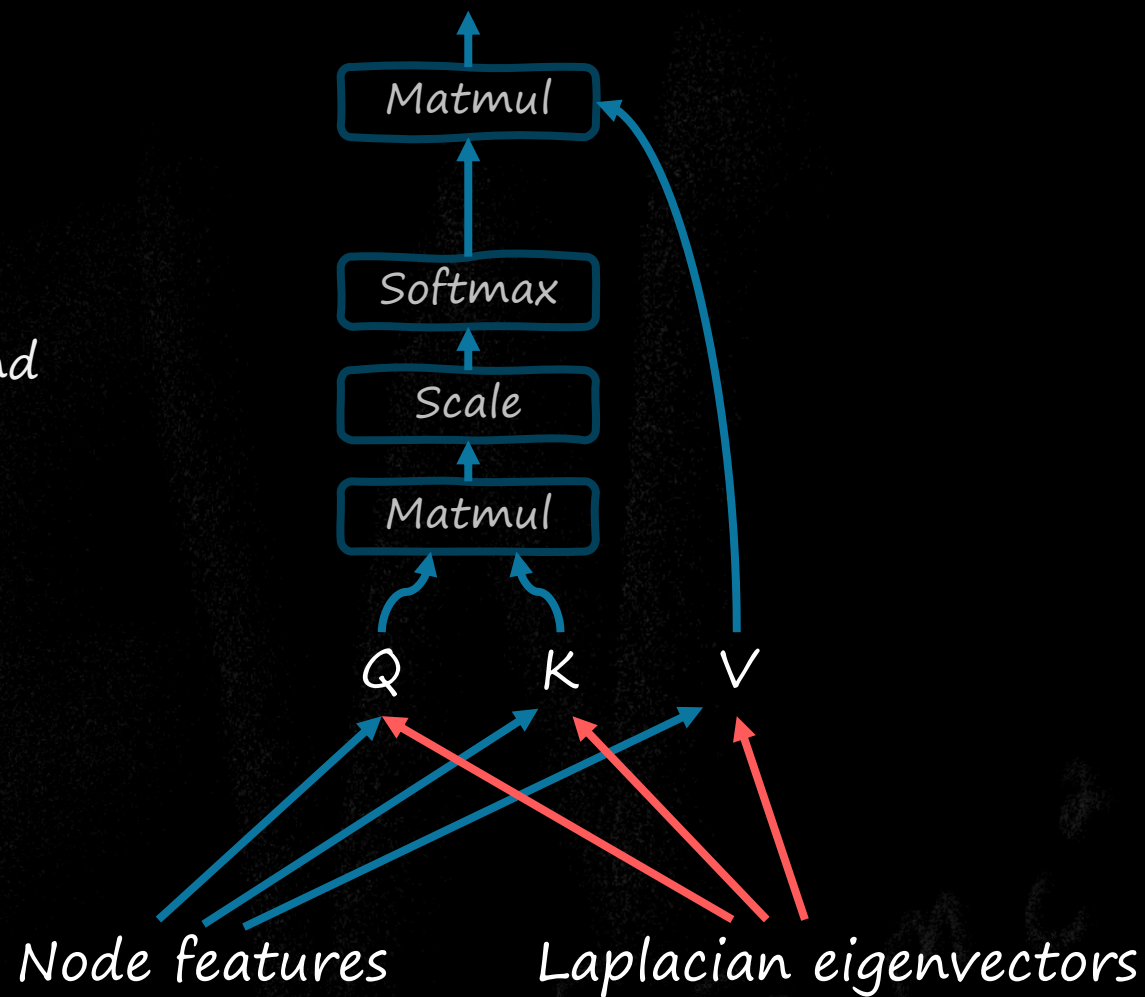


# Basic graph Transformers



Basic graph Transformers have very poor results

- The connectivity is a strong inductive bias
- The eigenvectors are noisy and hard to understand for the network
- Edge features are missing

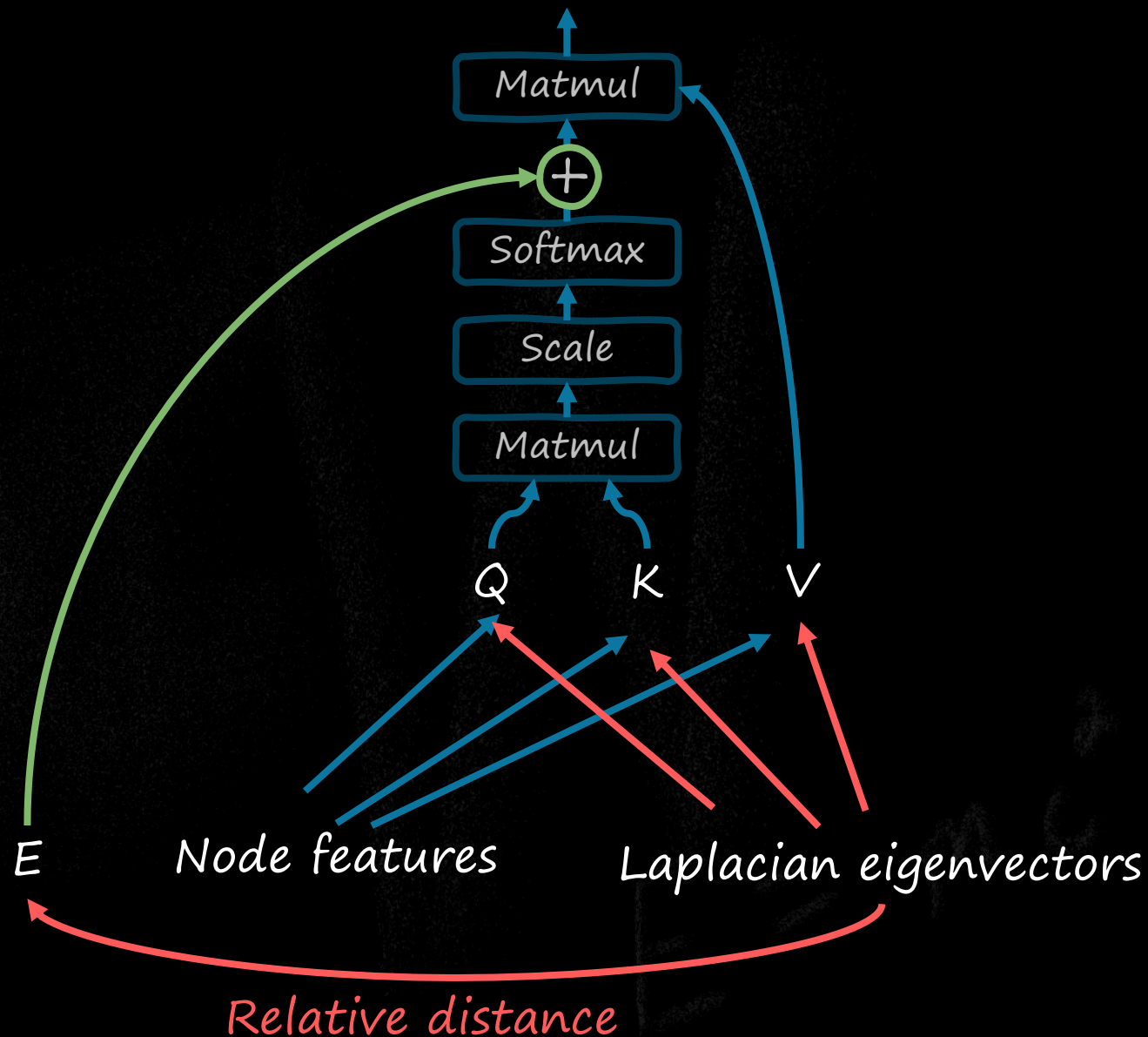


# Biased FULL-Attention



Thank you Bias!

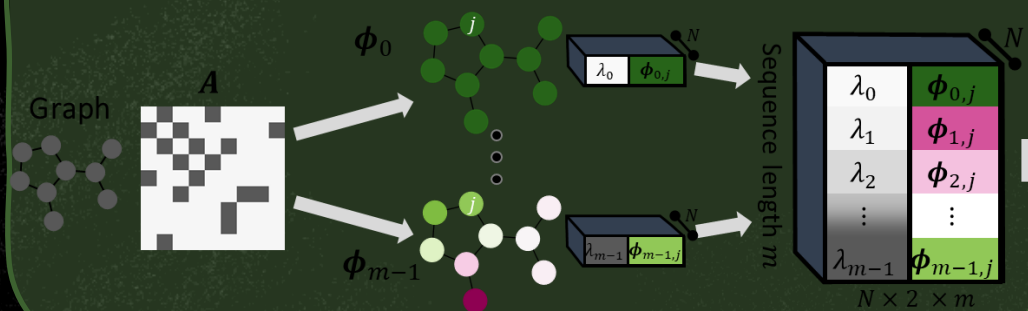
Real edge?



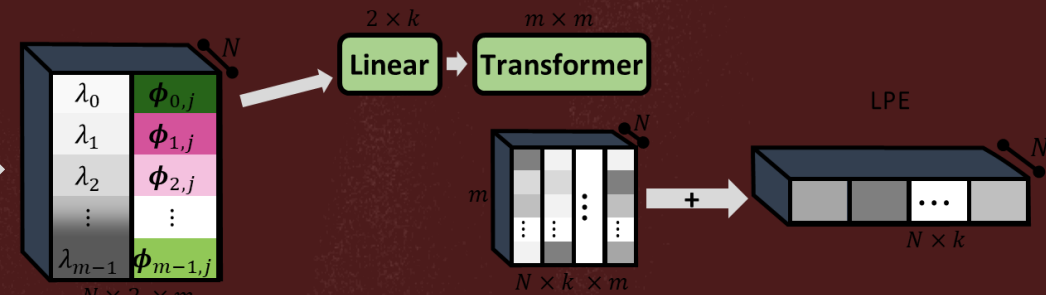


# SAN – Spectral Attention Network

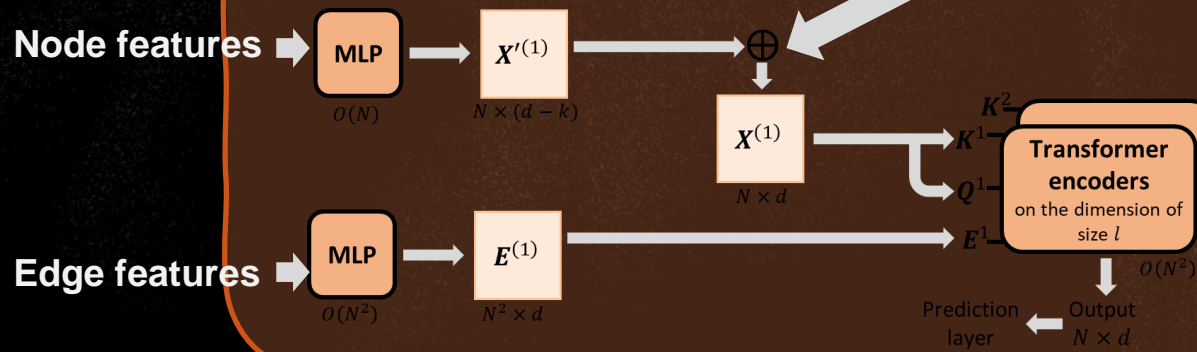
Pre-compute the eigenvectors



Learn to use the positional encodings



Biased Attention



Rethinking Graph Transformers with Spectral Attention

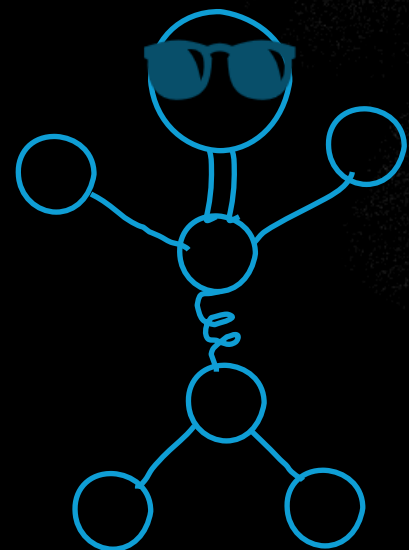
Devin Kreuzer\*  
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devin.kreuzer@mail.mcgill.ca

Dominique Beaini\*  
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prudencio@valencediscovery.com



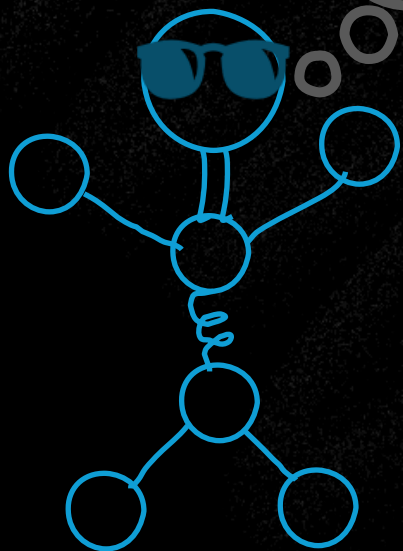


# Pre-training



Since we need  
lots and lots of data,  
Let's do pre-training.

How do we pre-train a  
molecular representation?



## Biology

Cell assays  
Transcriptomics



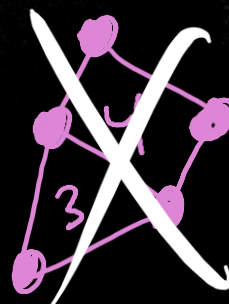
## Chemistry

Protein assays  
Physicochemical (solubility, etc.)



## Quantum mechanics

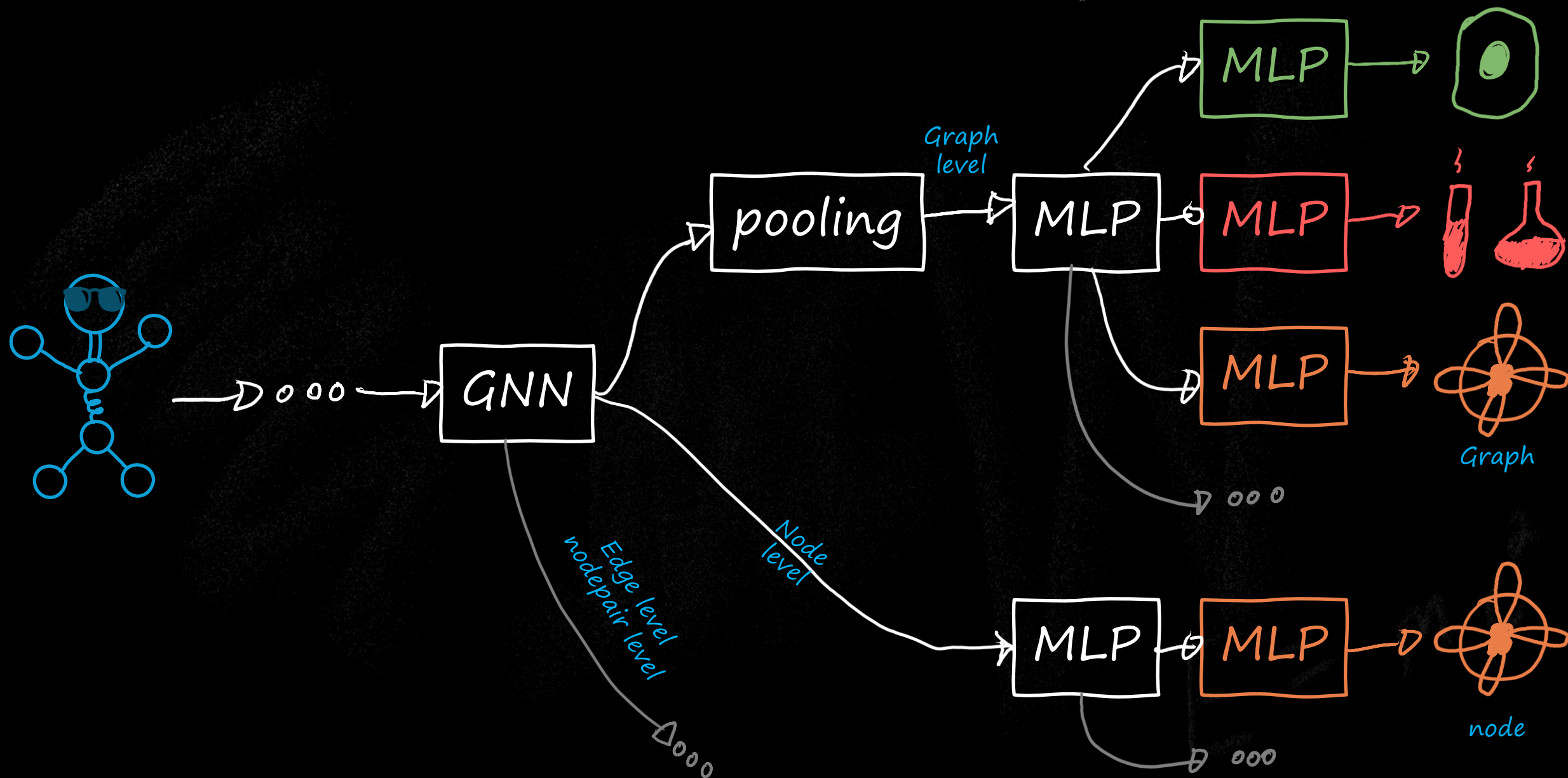
HOMO-LUMO gap  
Partial charges



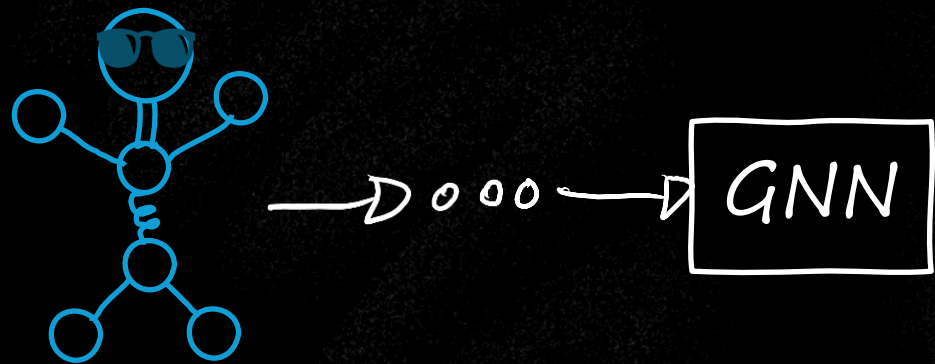
## ~~Self-supervision~~

~~Finding missing atoms  
Enumerating structures  
SMILES reconstruction~~

# Multi-Level multi-tasking

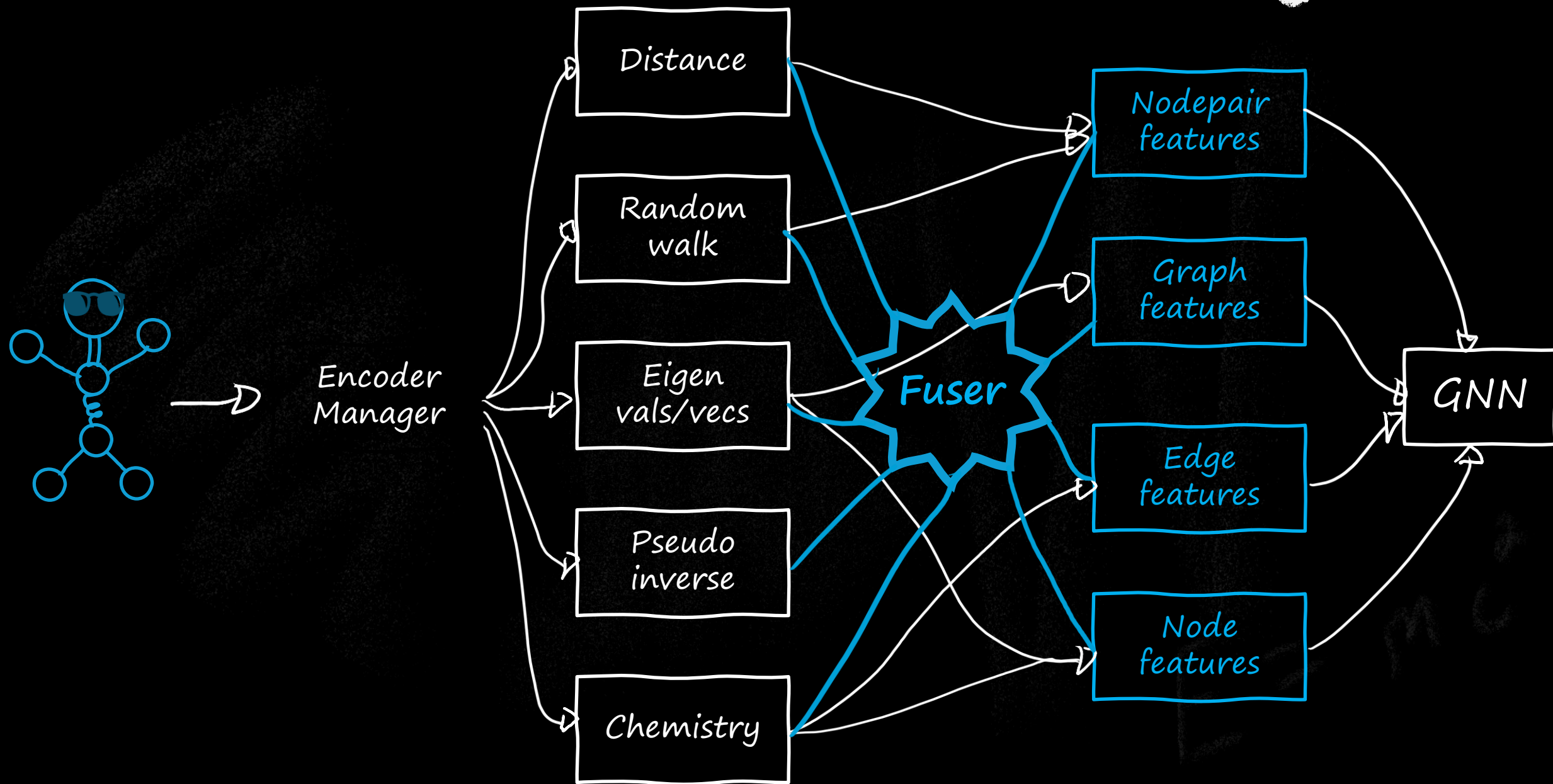


# Multi-Level multi-tasking 🚀



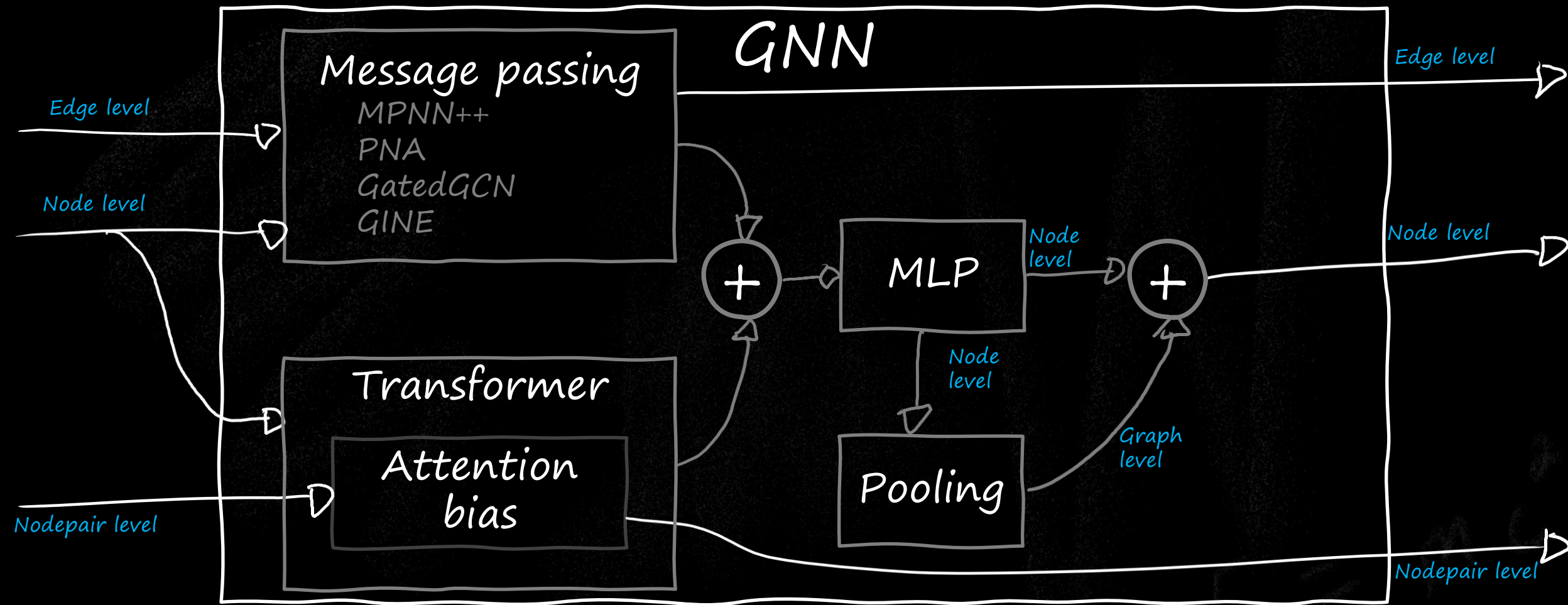
$$E = mc^2$$

# Multi-Level positional encoding

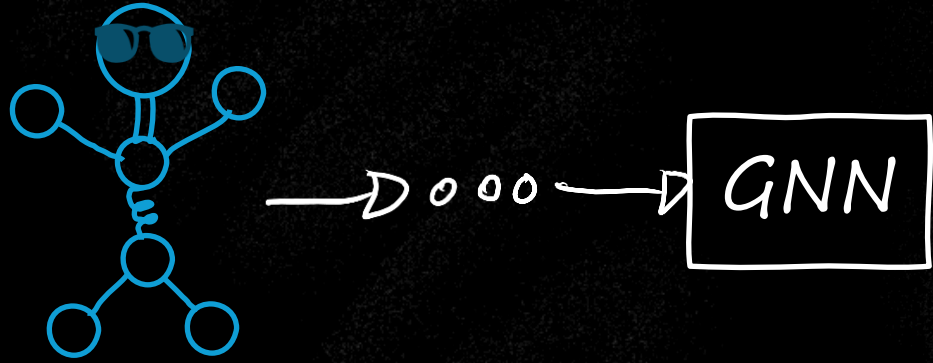




# Multi-Level graph Transformer

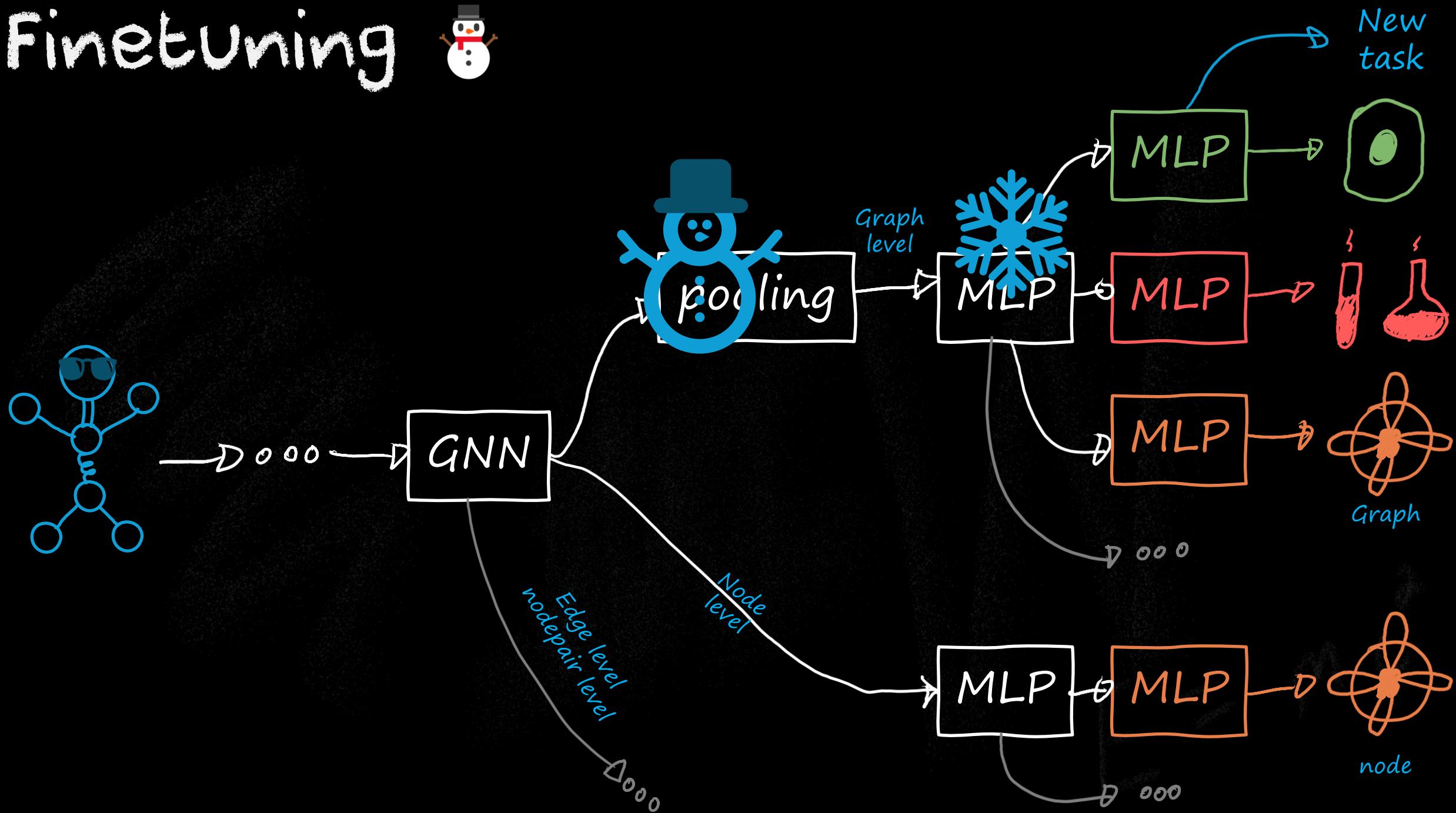


# Finetuning

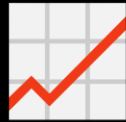


$$E = mc^2$$

# Finetuning

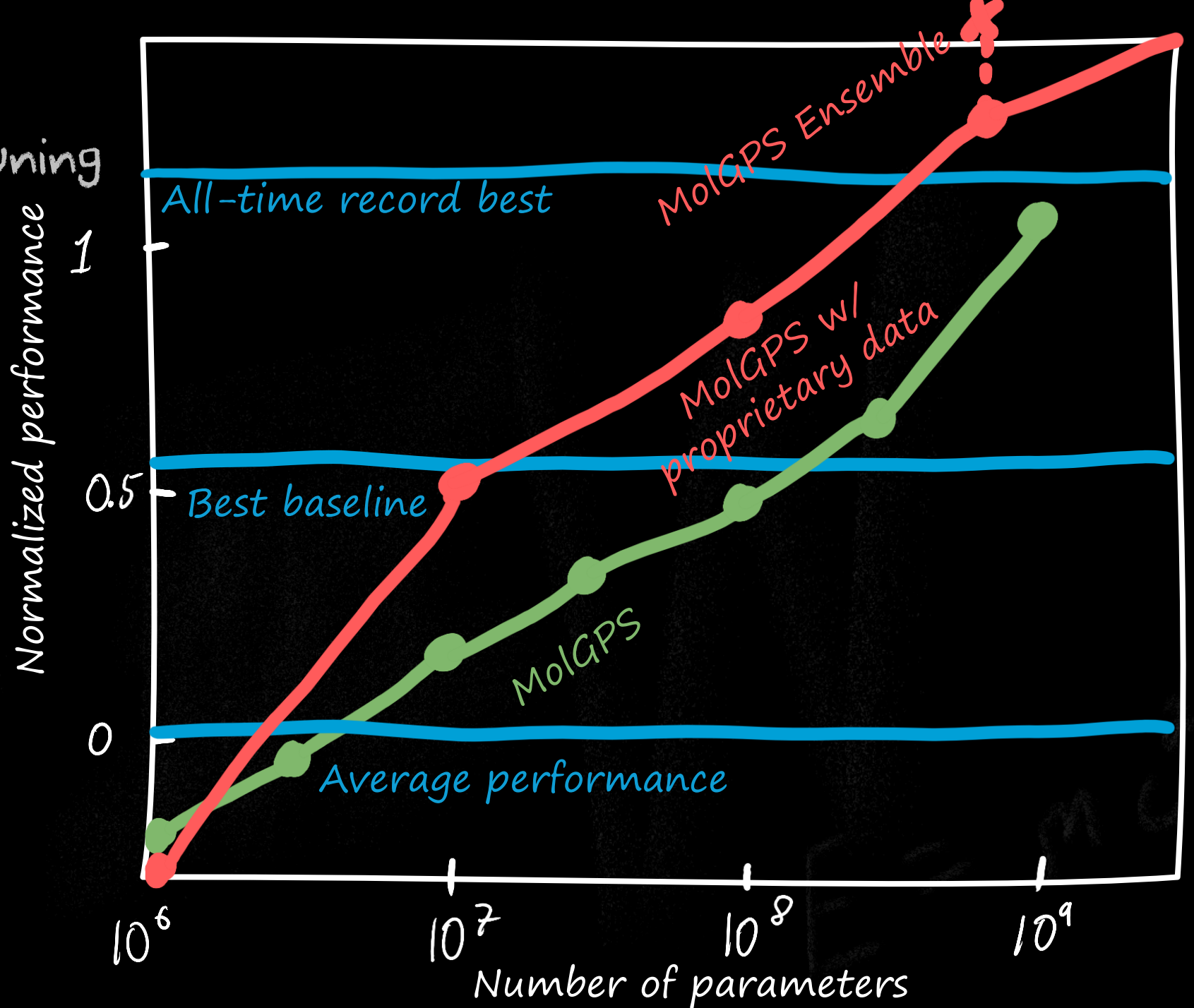
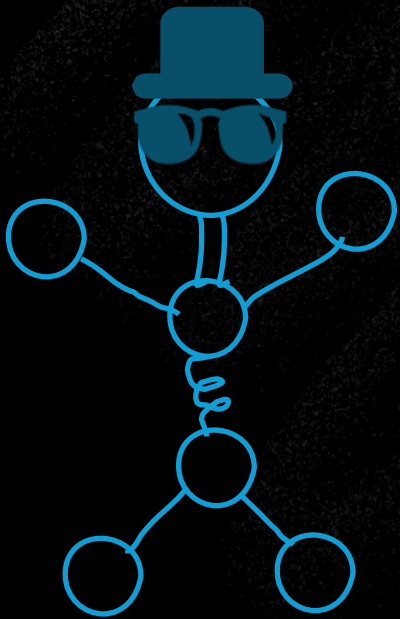


# Scaling



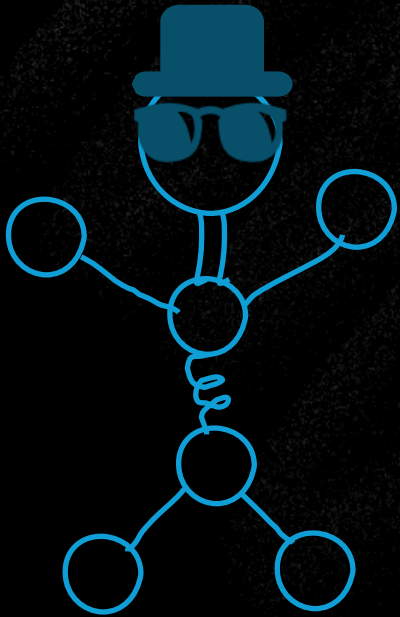
ON downstream finetuning

To infinity, and Beyond!





# Limitation in no-context finetuning



- Even a model that perfectly understand physics and biology will overfit without context of the task
- Tasks can be encoded as
  - natural language
  - protein sequences
  - Cellular context
- Multimodality allows to encode context, and will make the GNNs much much more powerful

# MOLPHENIX

How molecules impact cells



Unlocking phenomolecular retrieval

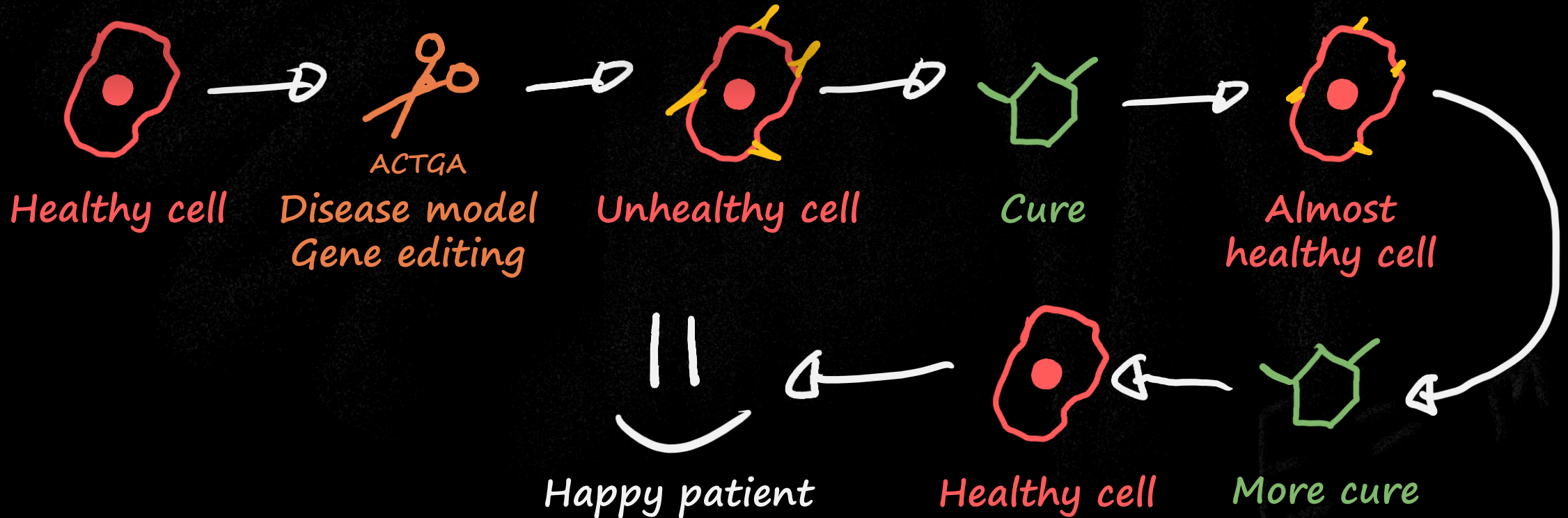
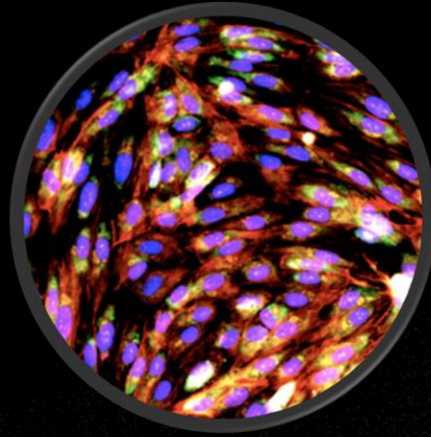
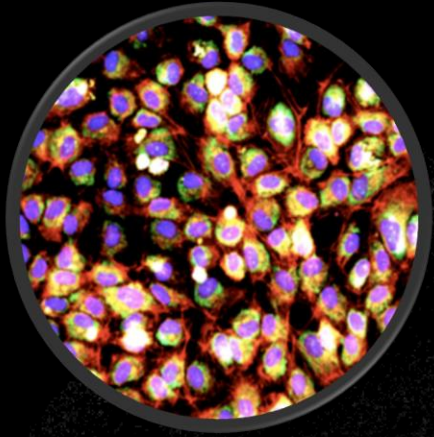


A presentation by Dominique Beaini  
From Valence Labs / Recursion



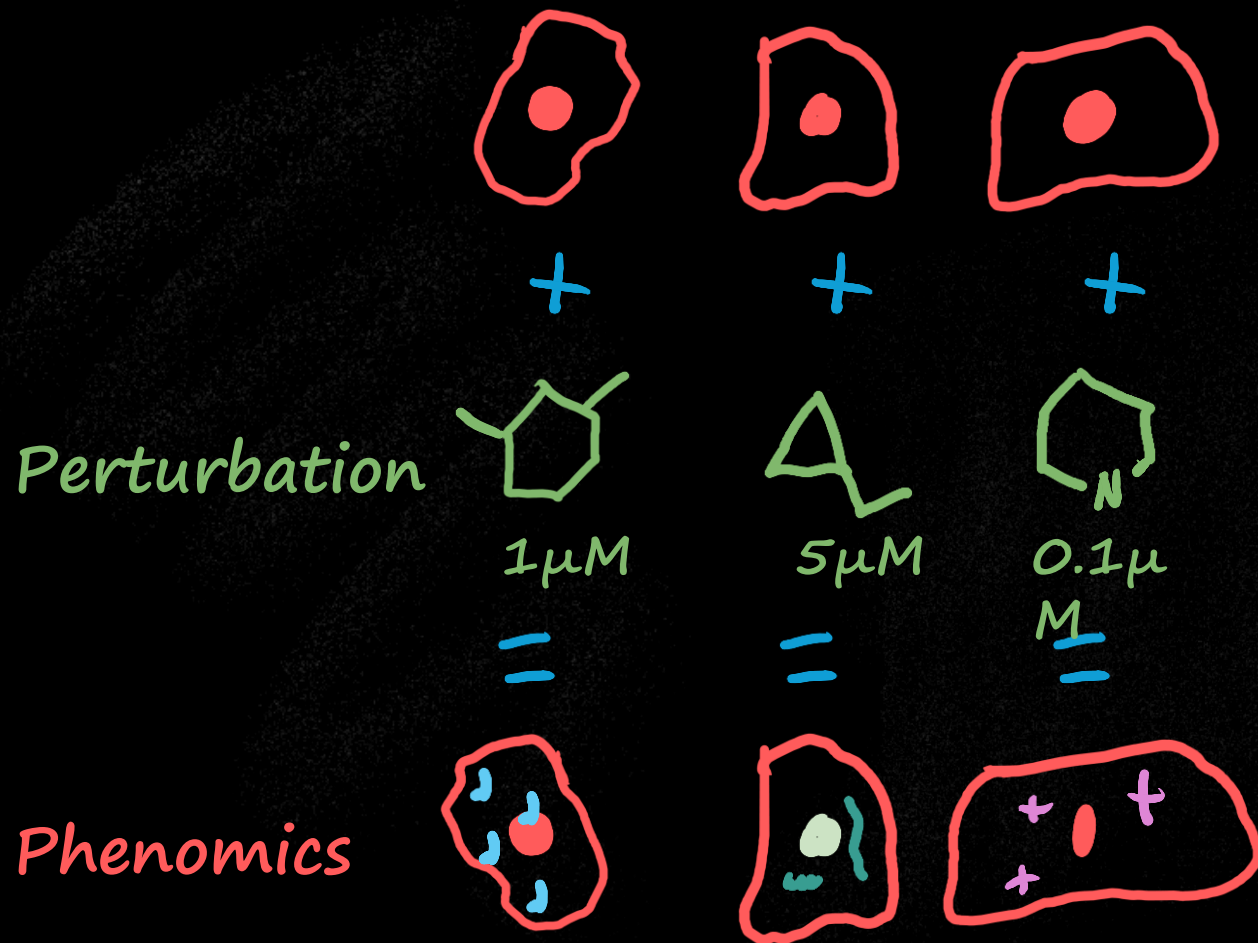
Valence Labs  
Powered by Recursion

# Modeling a disease... And curing it





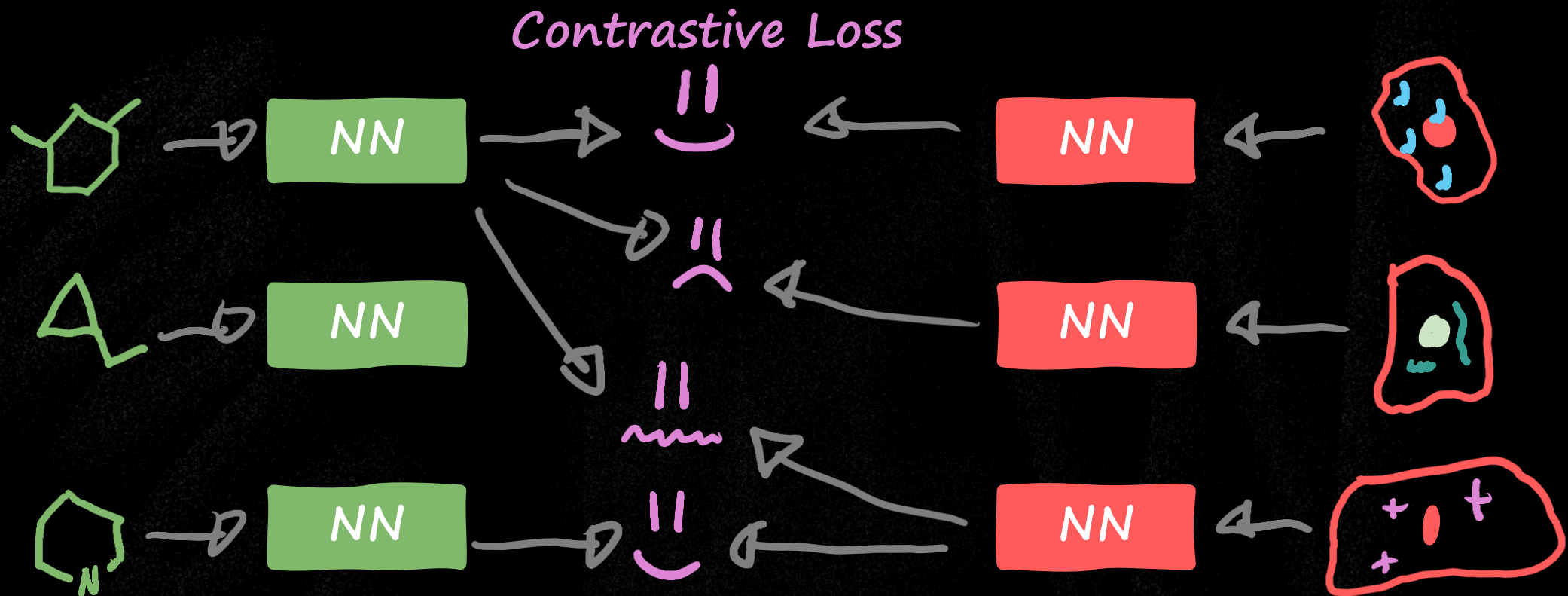
# Phenomics screening of molecules



How to build a model for this equation to understand how molecules impact cells?



# Let's try some contrastive Learning



Prior methods have not succeeded, achieving only 8% recall



# The 3 Challenges and The Piano in New York

Which ~~molecule~~ is playing?  
music





# The 3 Challenges and The Piano in New York

Is it visually ~~inactive?~~  
Which ~~molecule~~ **music** is playing?

Background noise



7pm

Increase the ~~concentration~~  
**volume**



4pm

# The 3 Challenges



**Natural variations:** Batch effects are the largest source of variation in phenomics images.

Can we **ignore** it?



**90% inactives:** Most molecules have no visible effect.

How to handle this source of **random noise**?



**Concentration**

**Too low:** Nothing happens

**Too high:** Everyone dies

How to model this **non-linear** relationship?

$$E=mc^2$$

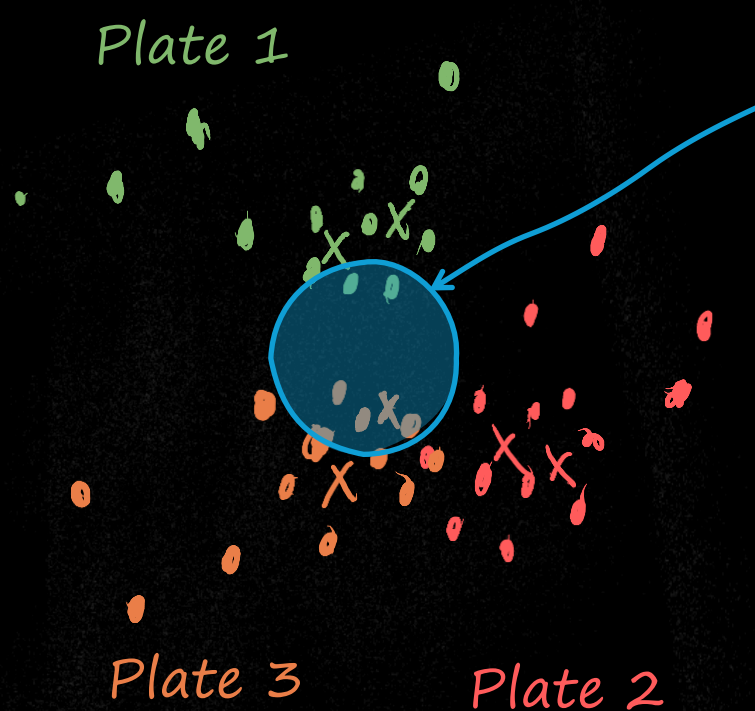
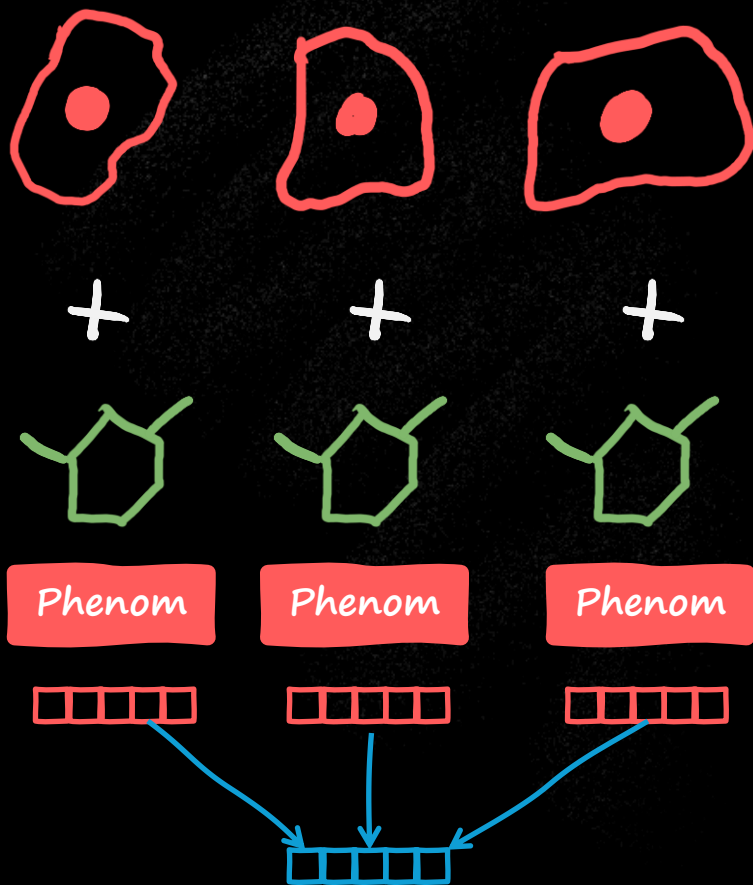


# Pre-train your vision encoder

Average experimental replicates

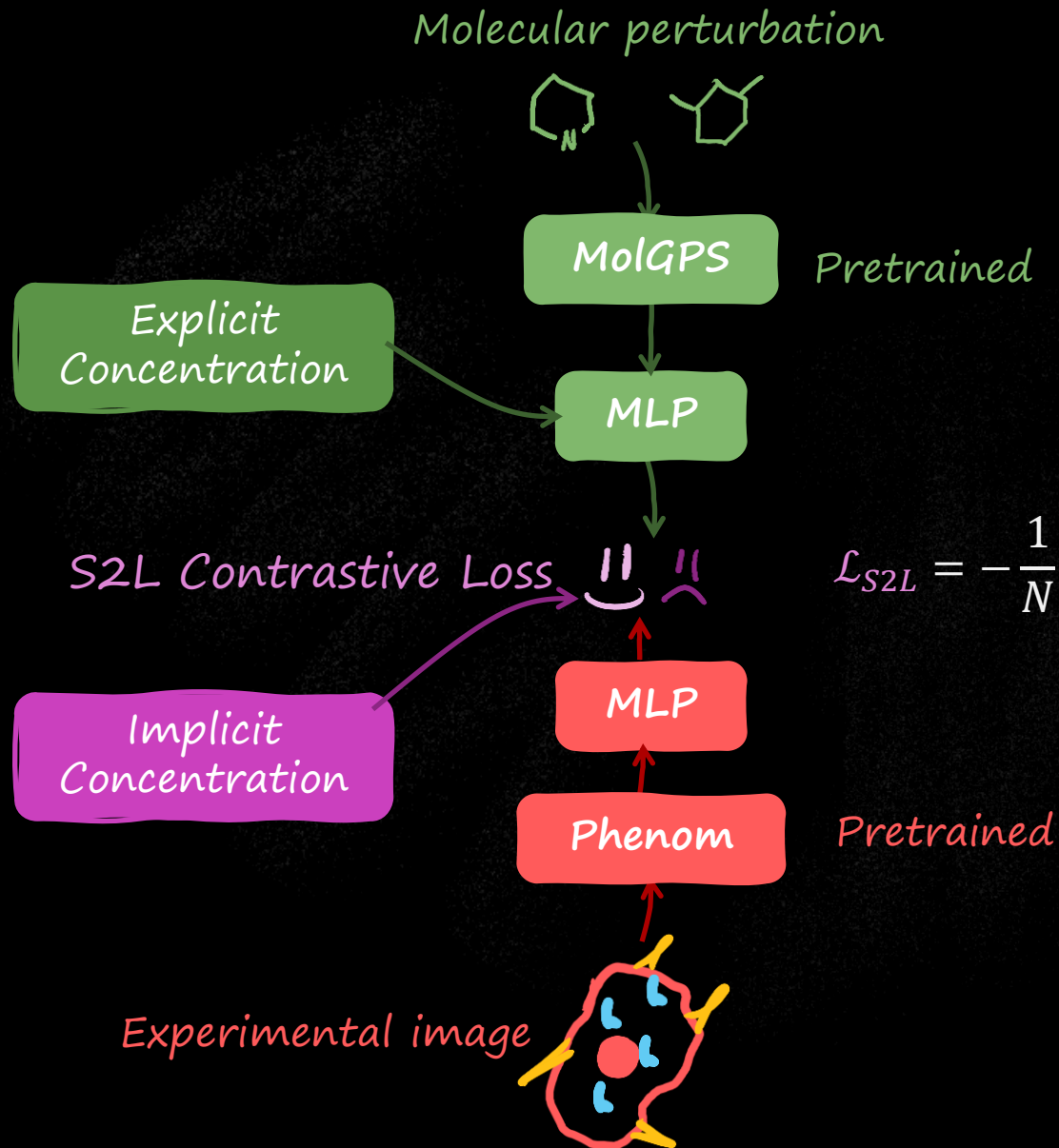
Re-center to the controls  $\times$

Discard/reweight *inactives*



Use statistical analysis to find *inactive* compounds from similarity to the controls

# Better contrastive Learning with S2L Loss

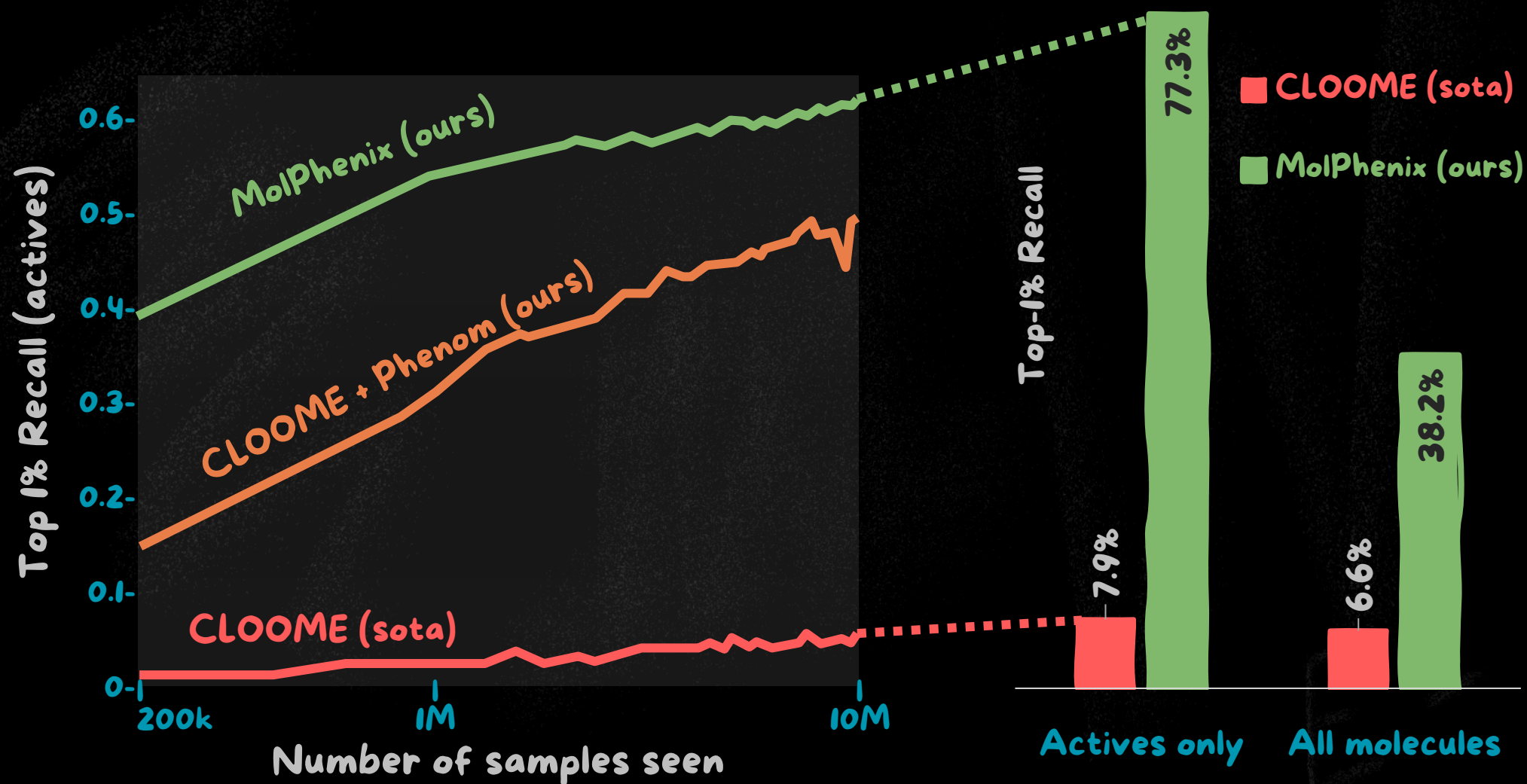


Re-weight samples based on Phenomics embedding

$$\mathcal{L}_{S2L} = -\frac{1}{N} \sum_{i=1}^N \sum_{j=1}^N \log \left[ \frac{w_{i,j}^x}{1 + \exp(-\alpha \langle \mathbf{z}_x, \mathbf{x}_m \rangle + b)} + \frac{1 - w_{i,j}^x}{1 + \exp(\alpha \langle \mathbf{z}_x, \mathbf{x}_m \rangle + b)} \right]$$

Use sigmoid to reduce the effect of false negatives

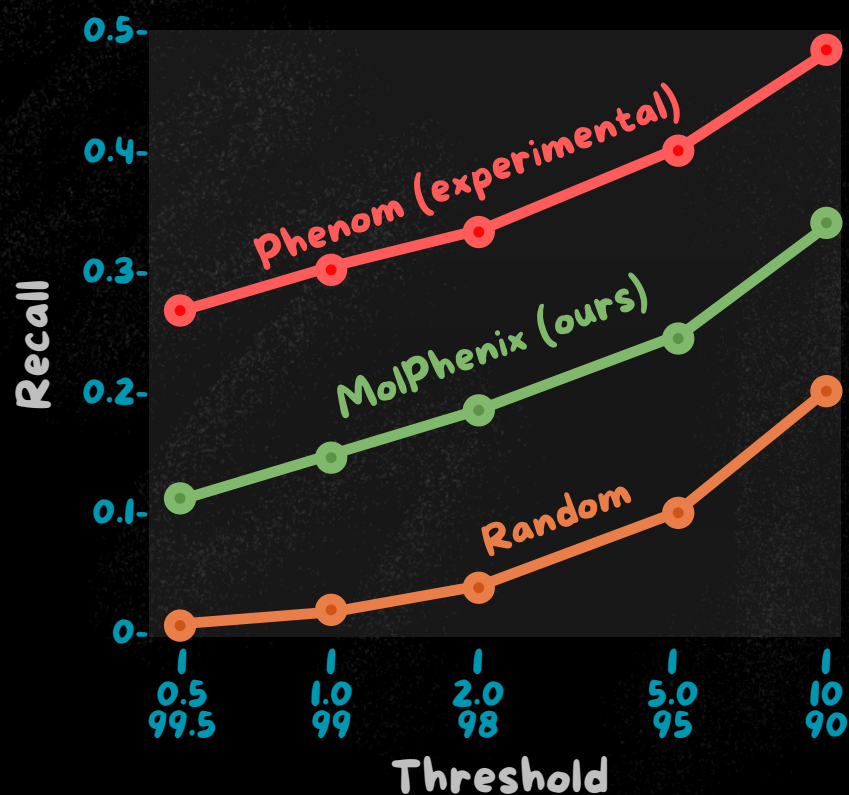
# 10x recall compared to previous SOTA



# Downstream applications

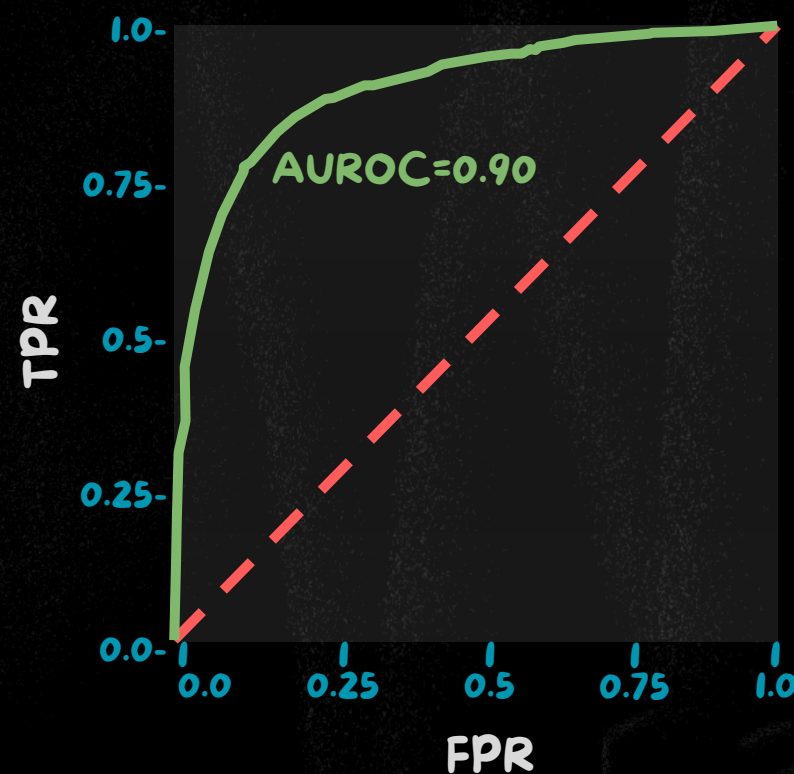
Can we find gene/mol relations?

Half as good as experiments  
without even training on genes



Is a molecule pheno-active?

Single linear layer achieves 90% AUROC

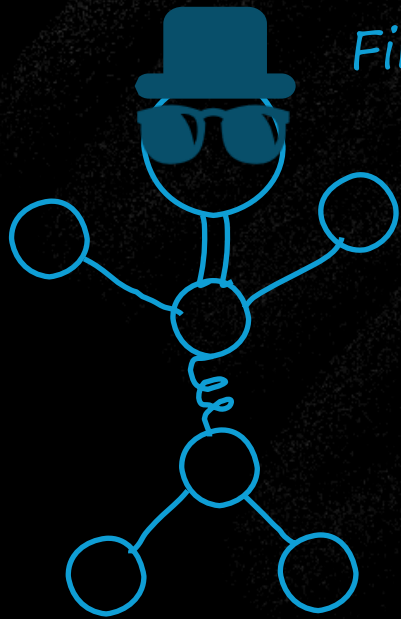




# MolPhenix

- MolPhenix opens a completely new direction for ML in drug discovery with 10x improvement
- We can model how molecules impact cells, not just do some predictive assays
- A first step towards Virtual Cells, to industrialize drug discovery in the age of AI

# Thank you Graphy!! And Dom



Finally, Dom will stop talking!

But if you're not tired of him, you can follow him on Twitter X  
[@Dom\\_Beaini](#)

Thanks to a thousand co-authors!

$E=mc^2$