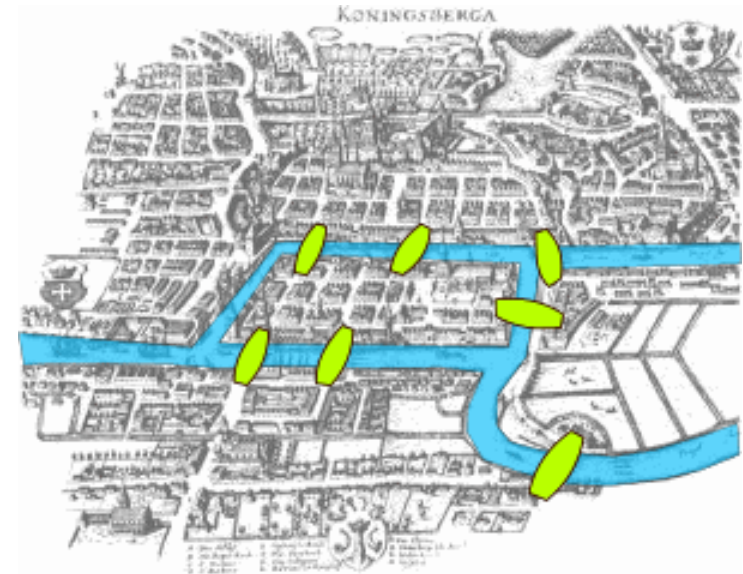


# Graph Curvature

# Topology vs Geometry

- What is the difference?
- Topology
  - studies properties of spaces that are invariant under any continuous deformation.
  - rubber-sheet geometry

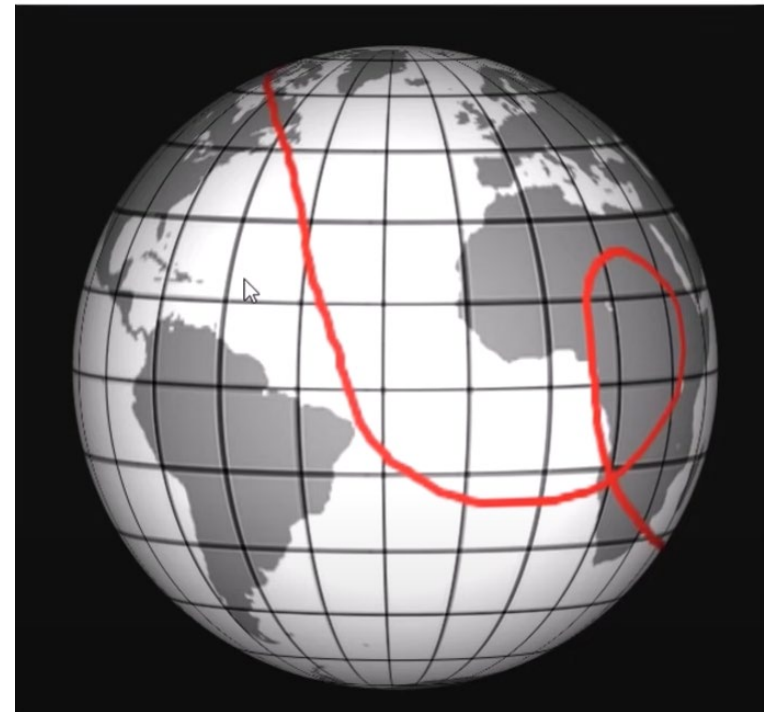
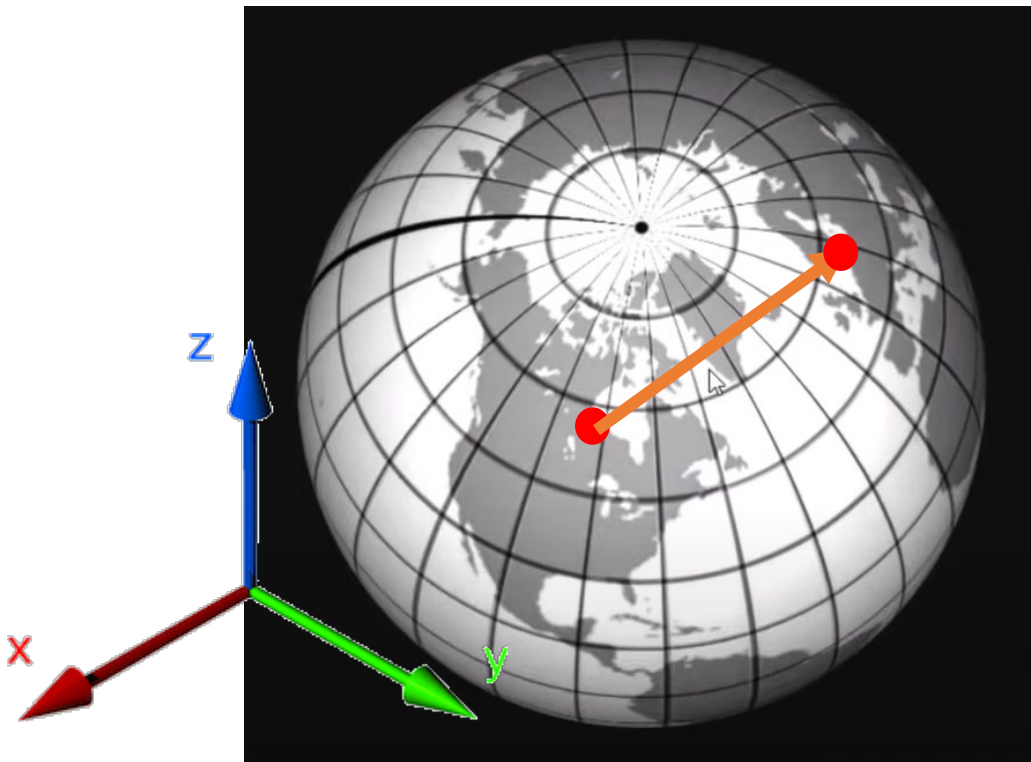


# Graphs as Geometric Objects

- Geometric view: **Extrinsic vs Intrinsic**

Extrinsic: coordinates

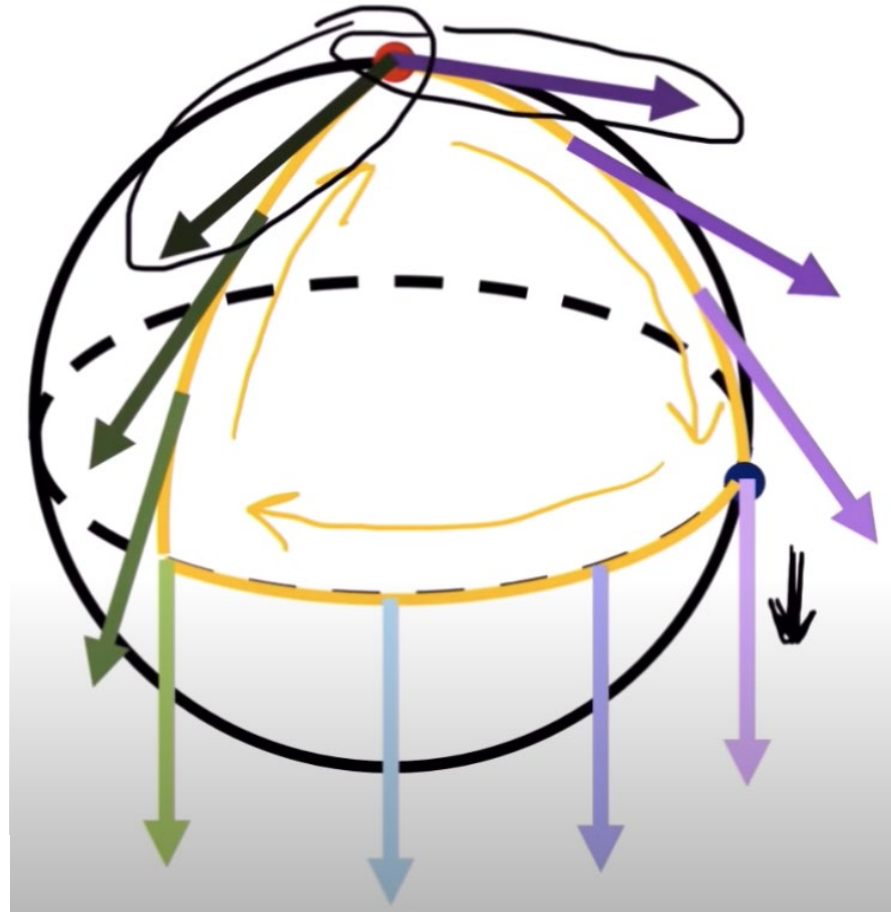
Intrinsic: length and curvature



**What is  
curvature?**

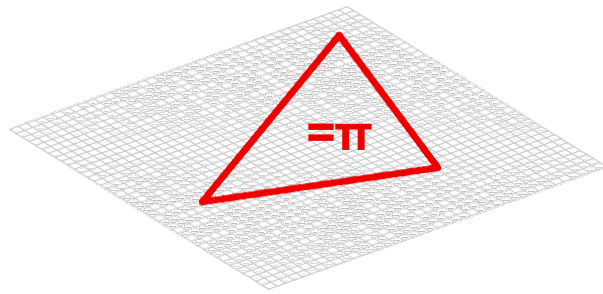
# Curvature in Geometry

- How do we know that the earth is round?

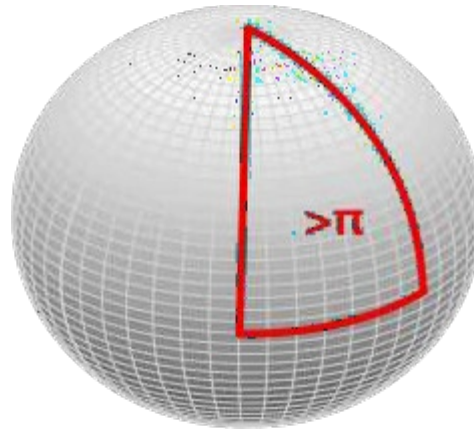


# Curvature in Geometry

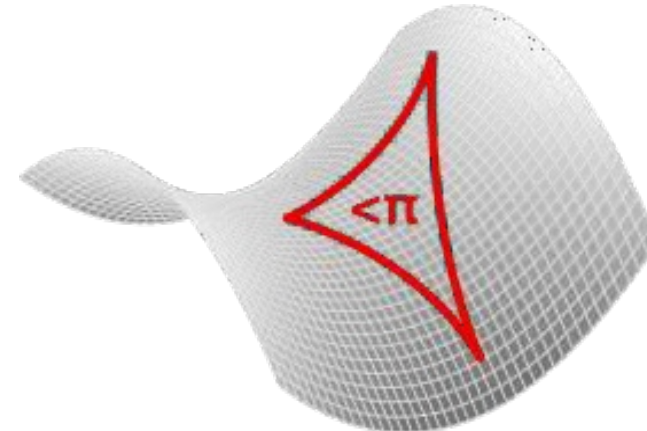
- A geometric property: Flatness of an object



2D Plane  
Zero Curvature



3D Sphere  
Positive Curvature



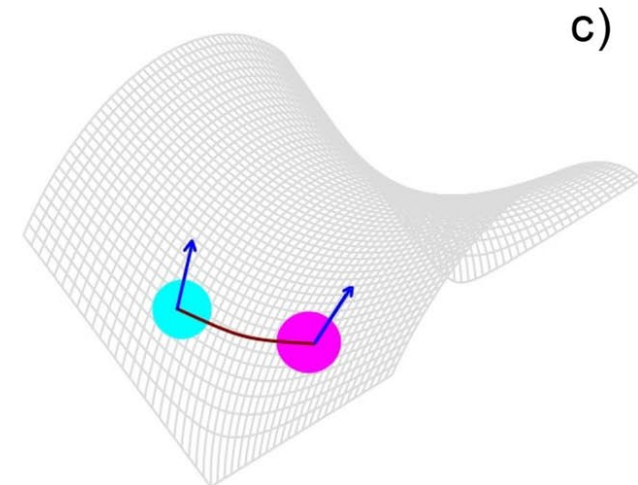
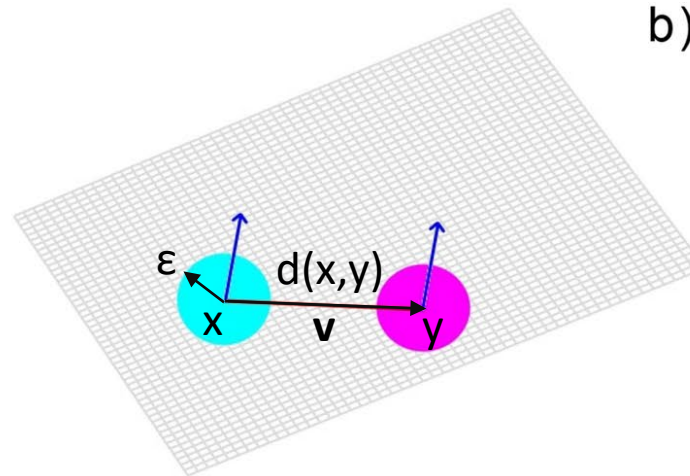
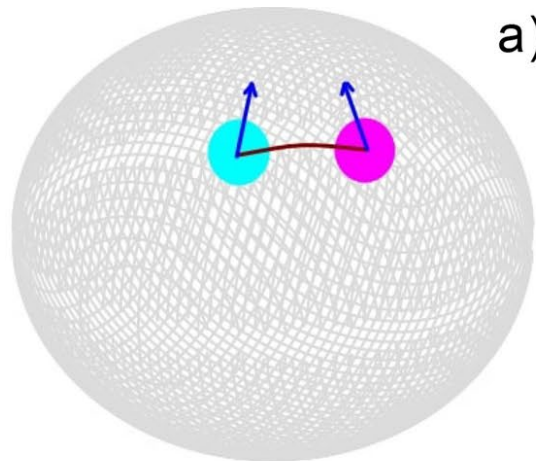
3D Saddle  
Negative Curvature



# Ricci Curvature

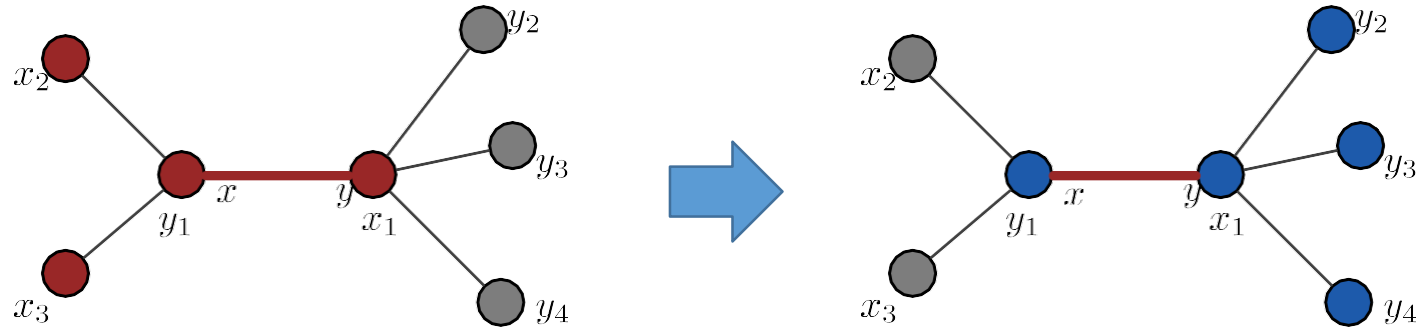
Consider  $\varepsilon > 0$  and let  $x$  be an arbitrary point in a  $n$  dimensional manifold,  $y$  be the endpoint of  $\delta v$  where  $v$  is a tangent vector at  $x$  with  $\delta = d(x, y)$  and  $S_x$  and  $S_y$  be the geodesic (blue and red) balls with radius  $\varepsilon$ . As  $(\varepsilon, \delta) \rightarrow 0$  :

$$\text{Ric} (x, v) \simeq \frac{2(n+2)}{\varepsilon^2} \left( 1 - \frac{d(S_x, S_y)}{d(x, y)} \right)$$



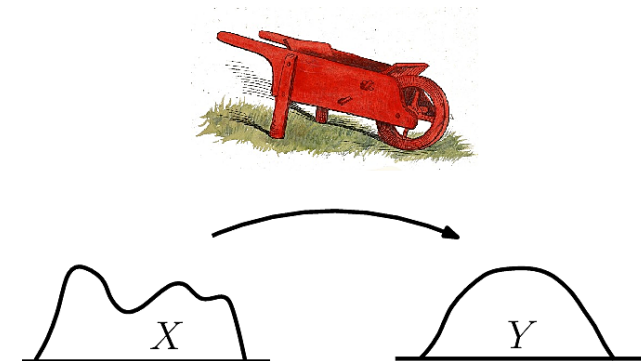
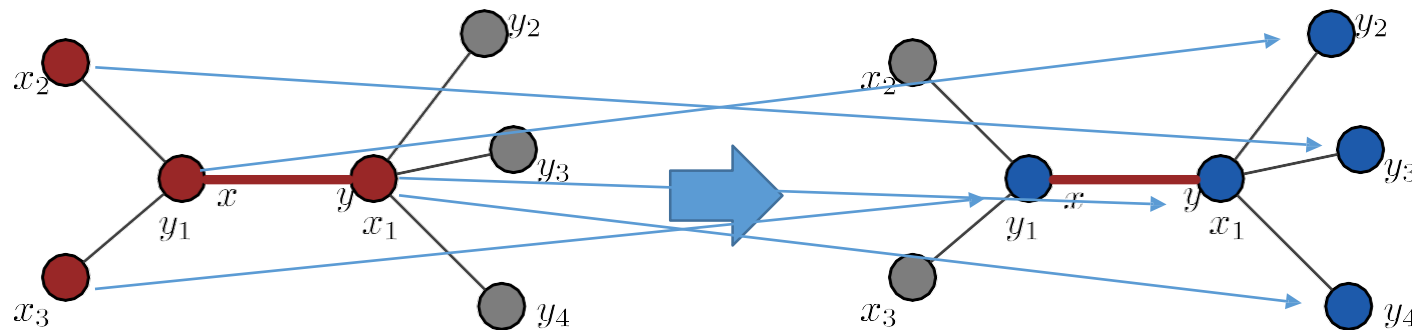
# Graph Ricci Curvature

Analog: For an edge  $xy$ , consider the distances from  $x$ 's neighbors to  $y$ 's neighbors and compare it with the length of  $xy$



# Graph Ricci Curvature

- Issue: how to match  $x$ 's neighbors to  $y$ 's neighbors?
  - Assign uniform distribution  $\mu_1, \mu_2$  on  $x$ ' and  $y$ 's neighbors.
  - Use **optimal transportation distance** (earth-mover distance) from  $\mu_1$  to  $\mu_2$ : the matching that minimize the total transport distance.





# Ollivier Ricci Curvature

## Definition (Ollivier)

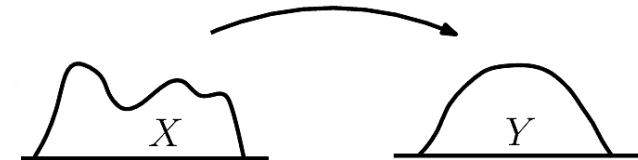
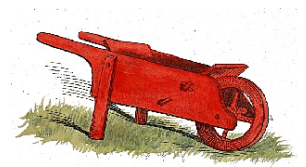
Let  $(X, d)$  be a metric space and let  $m_1, m_2$  be two probability measures on  $X$ . For any two distinct points  $x, y \in X$ , the (Ollivier-) Ricci curvature along  $xy$  is defined as

$$\kappa(x, y) := 1 - \frac{W_1(m_x, m_y)}{d(x, y)},$$

$$\text{Ric}(x, y) \simeq \frac{2(n+2)}{\varepsilon^2} \left(1 - \frac{d(S_x, S_y)}{d(x, y)}\right)$$

where  $m_x$  ( $m_y$ ) is a probability distribution defined on  $x$  ( $y$ ) and its neighbors,  $W_1(\mu_1, \mu_2)$  is the  $L_1$  **optimal transportation distance** between two probability measure  $\mu_1$  and  $\mu_2$  on  $X$ :

$$W_1(\mu_1, \mu_2) := \inf_{\psi \in \Pi(\mu_1, \mu_2)} \int_{(u, v)} d(u, v) d\psi(u, v)$$

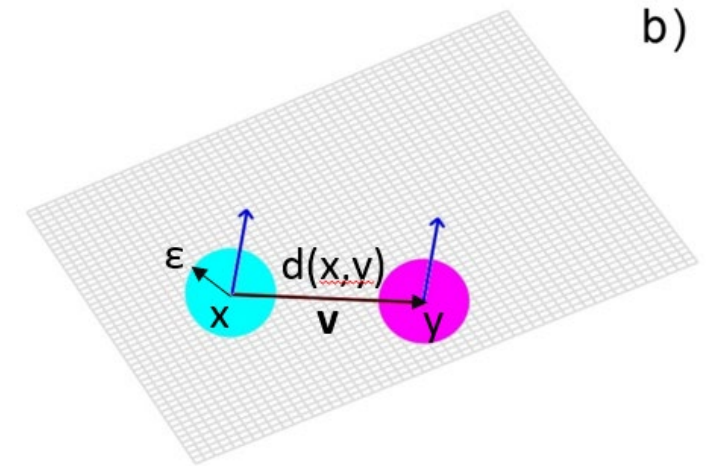
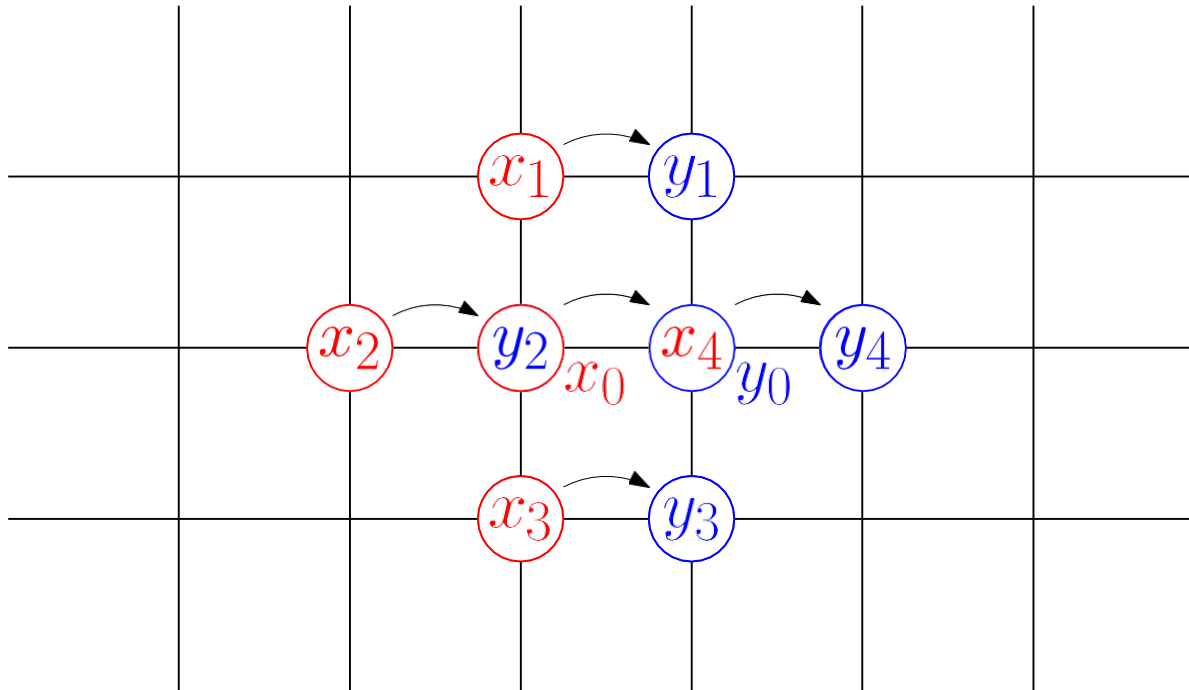


[1] Ollivier, Y. (2007, January 31). Ricci curvature of Markov chains on metric spaces. *arXiv.org*.

[2] Lin, Y., Lu, L., & Yau, S.-T. (2011). Ricci curvature of graphs. *Tohoku Mathematical Journal*, 63(4), 605–627.

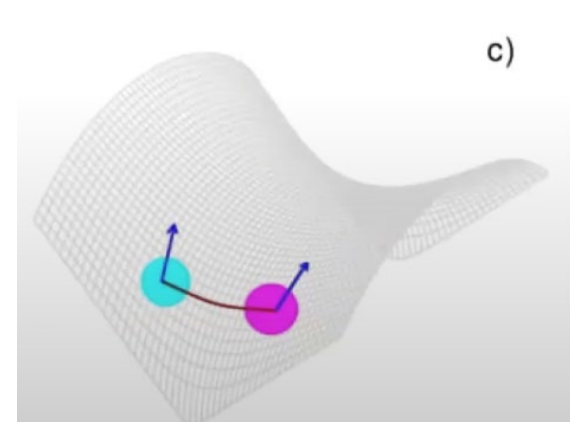
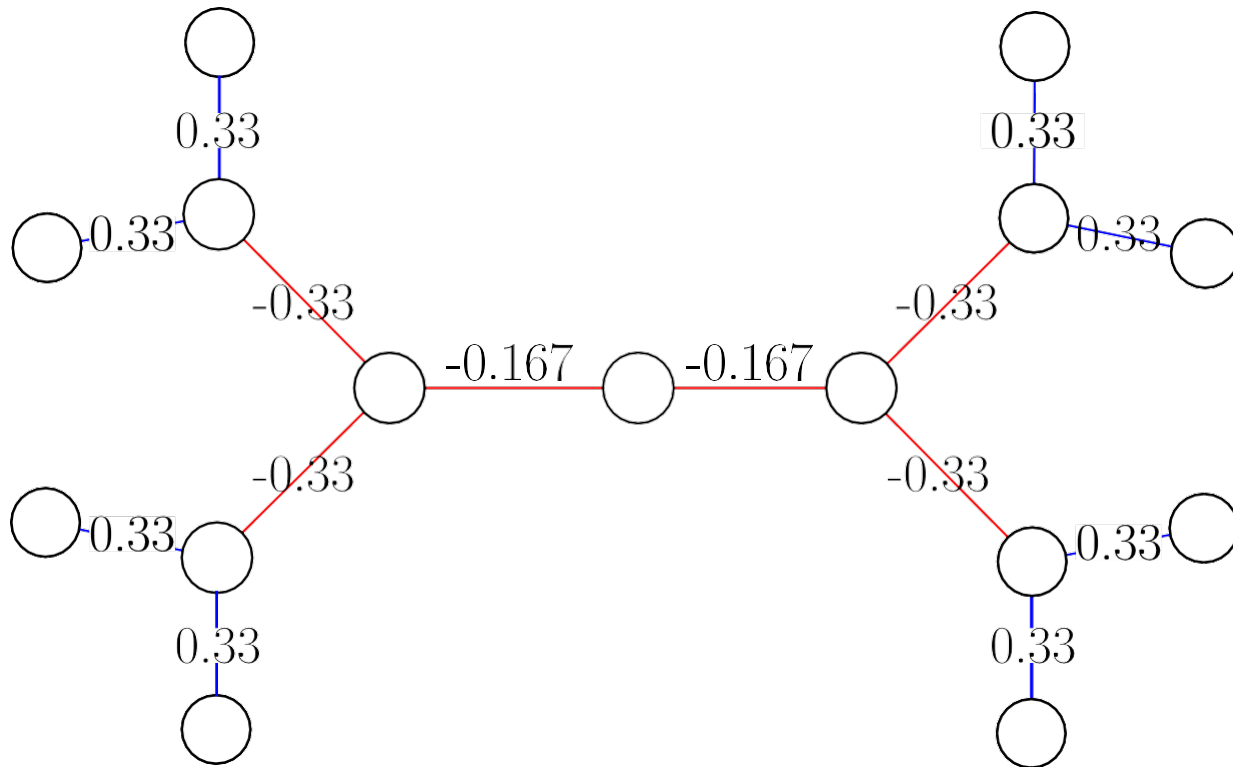
# Example: Zero Curvature

- 2D grid



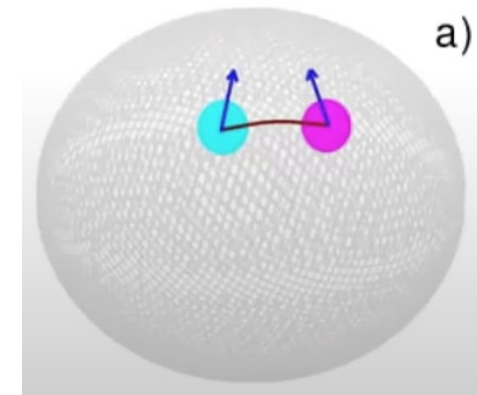
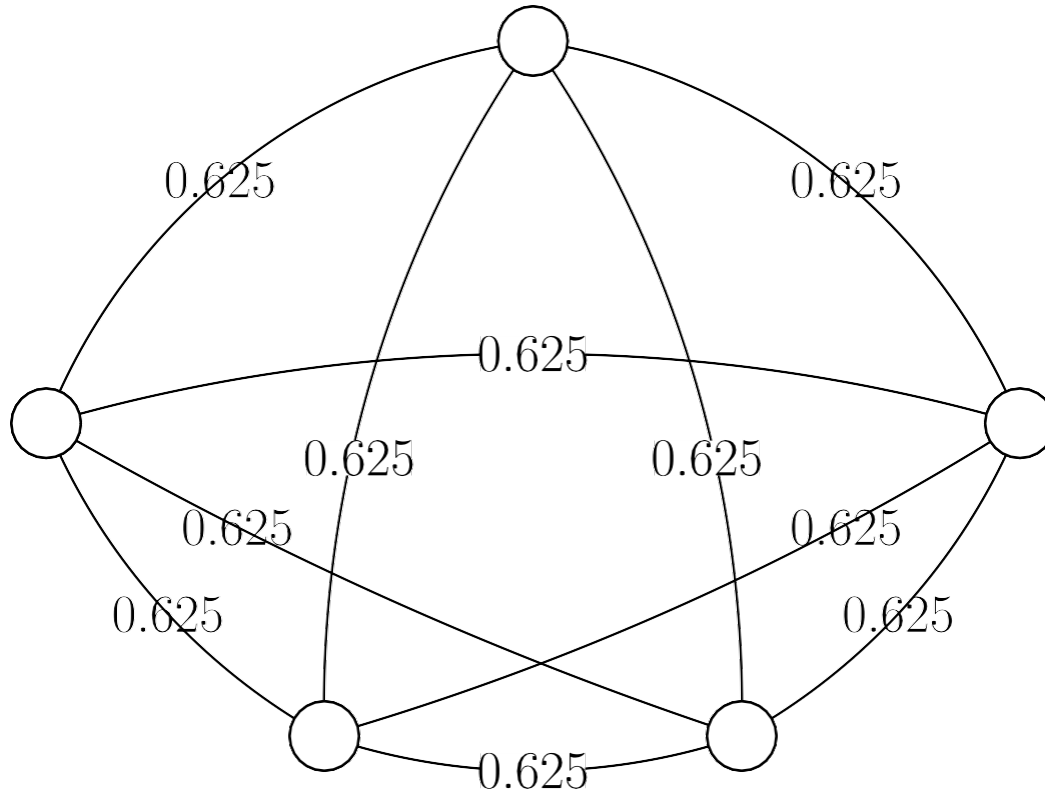
# Example: Negative Curvature

- Tree:  $\kappa(x, y) = 1/d_x + 1/d_y - 1$ ,  $d_x$  is degree of  $x$ .



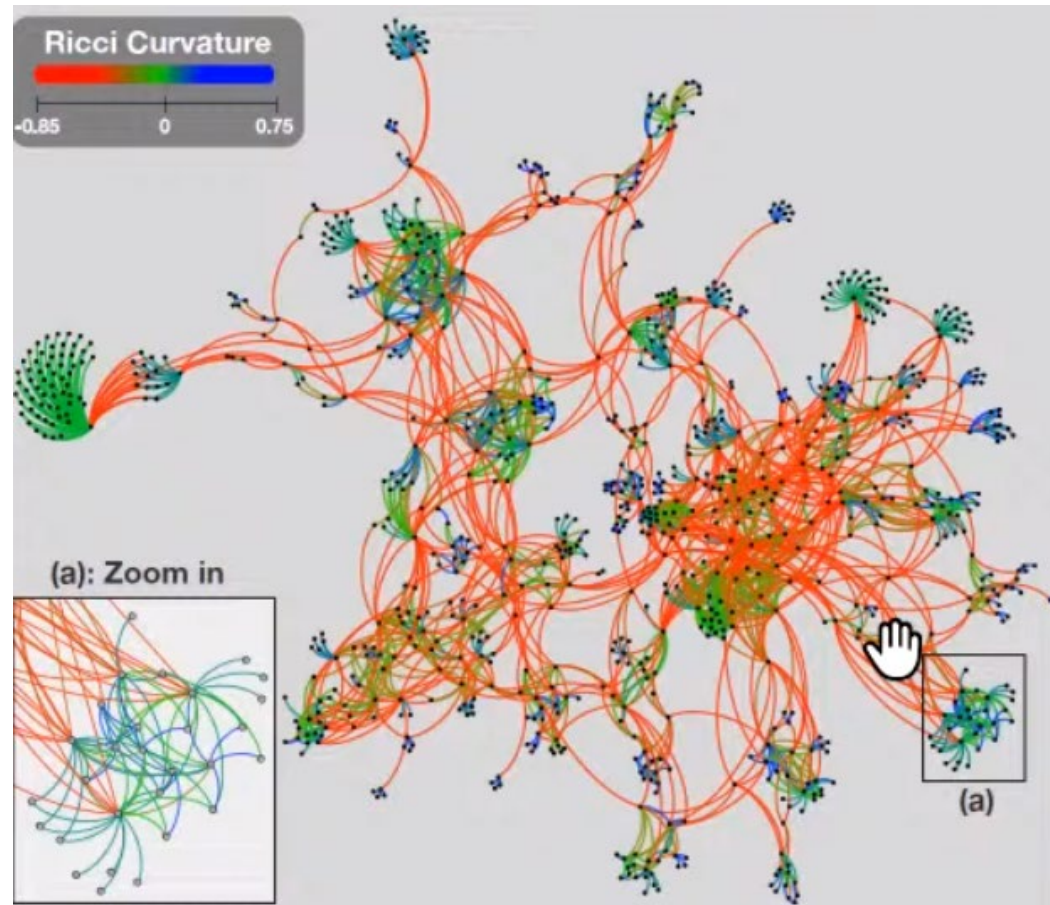
# Example: Positive Curvature

- Complete graph



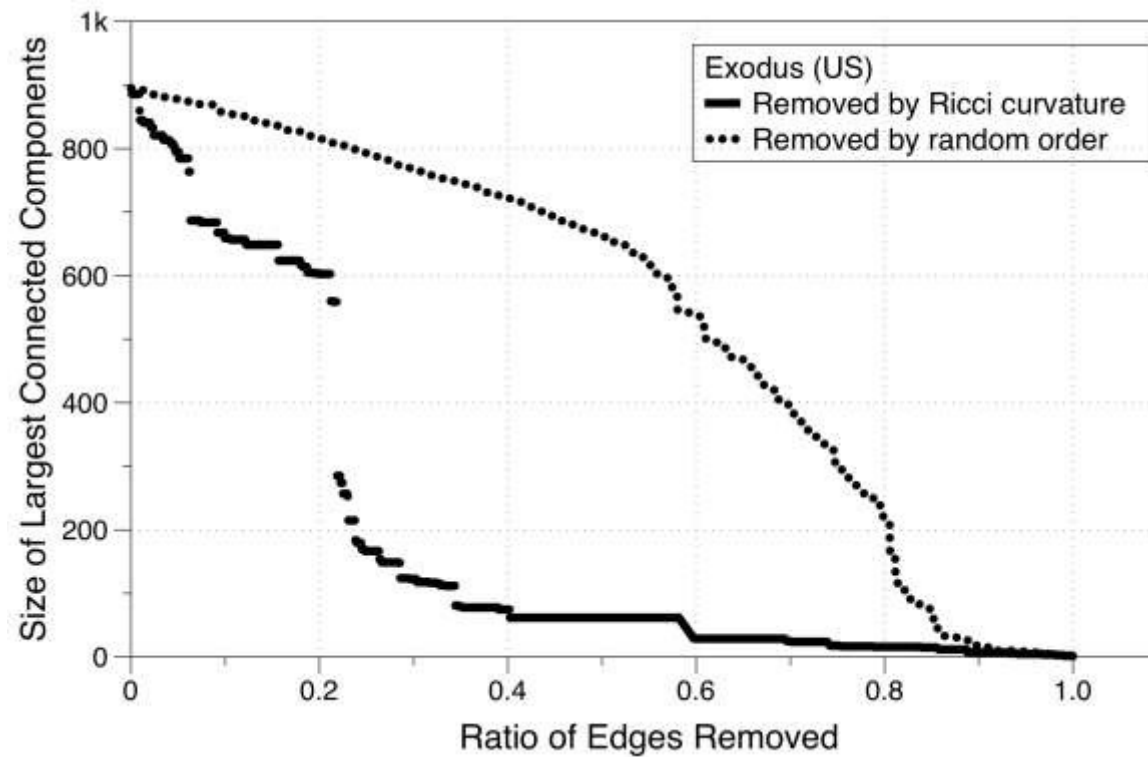
# Curvature Distribution

- Negatively curved edges  $\rightarrow$  “backbones”



# Robustness vs. Vulnerability

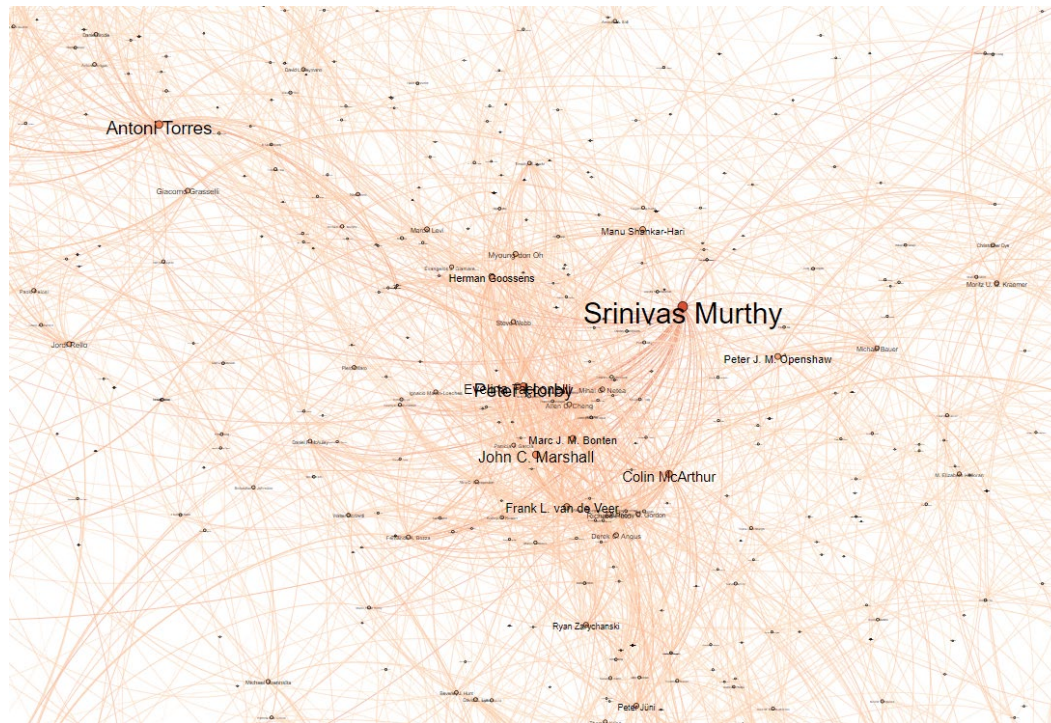
- Removing edges with increasing curvature





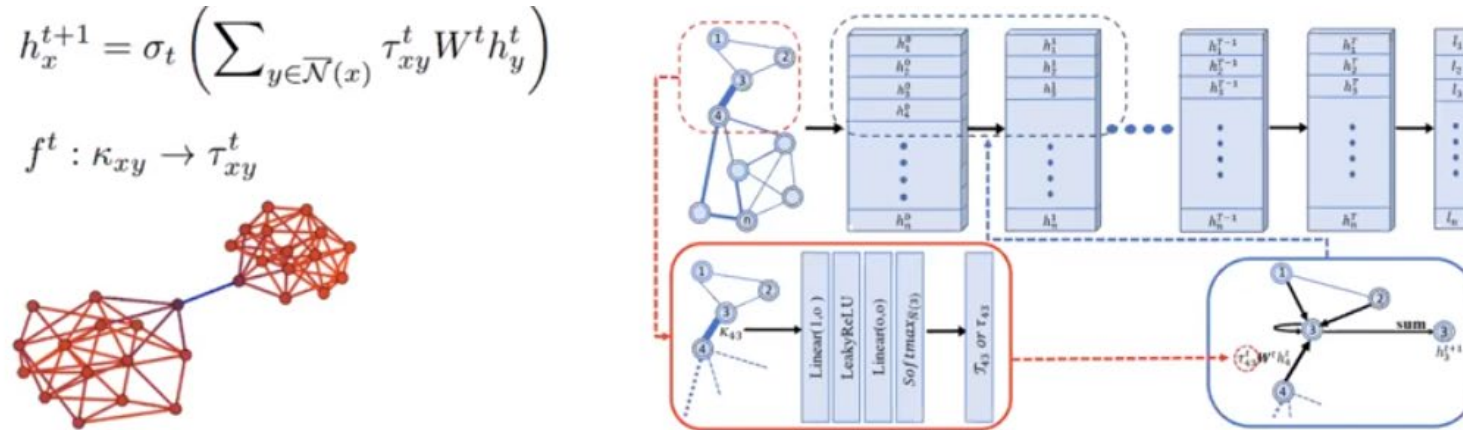
# Ricci Curvature in Academic Graphs

- Finding scholars that bridge different communities



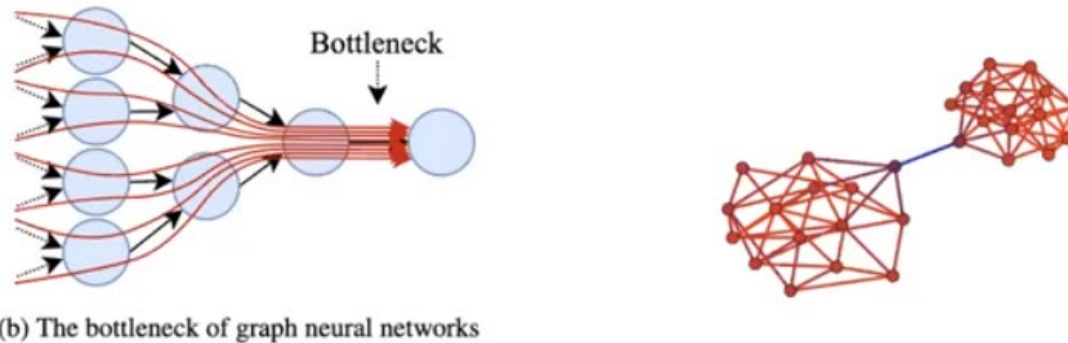
# Graph Learning with Ricci Curvature

- Ricci curvature improves message passing in graph learning
  - Negative curved edges pass important messages



# Graph Learning with Ricci Curvature

- Ricci curvature explains **oversquashing** in graph representation learning
  - negatively curved edges act as graph bottlenecks and lead to oversquashing



**Theorem 4.** Consider a MPNN as in equation [1](#) Let  $i \sim j$  with  $d_i \leq d_j$  and assume that:

- (i)  $|\nabla \phi_\ell| \leq \alpha$  and  $|\nabla \psi_\ell| \leq \beta$  for each  $0 \leq \ell \leq L - 1$ , with  $L \geq 2$  the depth of the MPNN.
- (ii) There exists  $\delta$  s.t.  $0 < \delta < (\max\{d_i, d_j\})^{-\frac{1}{2}}$ ,  $\delta < \gamma_{\max}^{-1}$ , and  $\text{Ric}(i, j) \leq -2 + \delta$ .

Then there exists  $Q_j \subset S_2(i)$  satisfying  $|Q_j| > \delta^{-1}$  and for  $0 \leq \ell_0 \leq L - 2$  we have

$$\frac{1}{|Q_j|} \sum_{k \in Q_j} \left| \frac{\partial h_k^{(\ell_0+2)}}{\partial h_i^{(\ell_0)}} \right| < (\alpha\beta)^2 \delta^{\frac{1}{4}}. \quad (4)$$

$$h_i^{(\ell+1)} = \phi_\ell \left( h_i^{(\ell)}, \sum_{j=1}^n \hat{A}_{ij} \psi_\ell(h_i^{(\ell)}, h_j^{(\ell)}) \right)$$

MPNN

# Graph Learning with Ricci Curvature

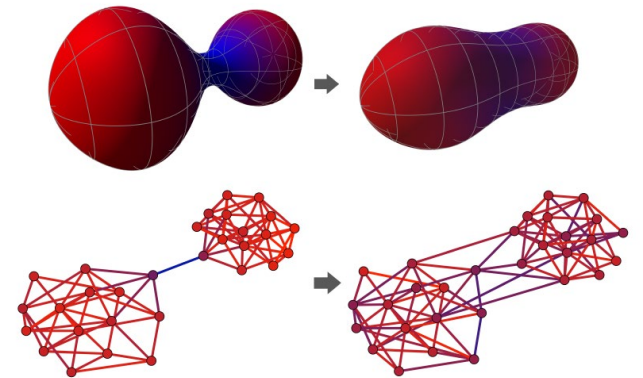
- Ricci curvature explains **oversquashing** in graph representation learning
  - Curvature gives a control of cheeger constant (spectral gap)

**Cheeger constant** 
$$h_G := \min_{S \subset V} h_S, \quad h_S := \frac{|\partial S|}{\min\{\text{vol}(S), \text{vol}(V \setminus S)\}}$$
where  $\partial S = \{(i, j) : i \in S, j \in V \setminus S\}$  and  $\text{vol}(S) = \sum_{i \in S} d_i$ .

**Cheeger inequality** 
$$2h_G \geq \lambda_1 \geq \frac{h_G^2}{2}$$

**Curvature and Cheeger constant**

*If  $\text{Ric}(i, j) \geq k > 0$  for all  $i \sim j$ , then  $\lambda_1/2 \geq h_G \geq \frac{k}{2}$ .*

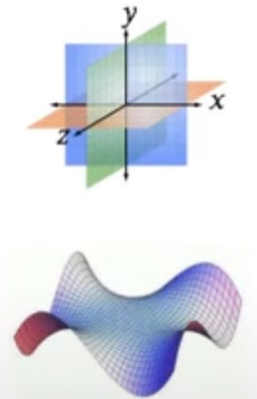
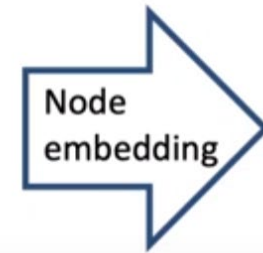
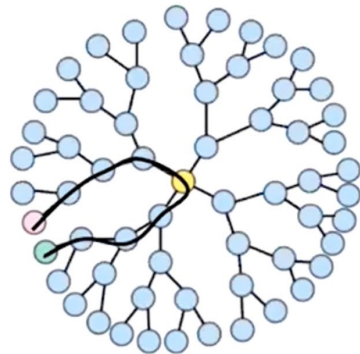
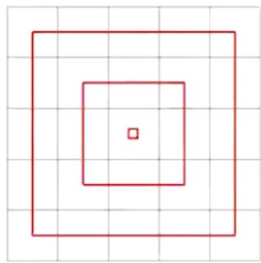


# Graph Embedding in Curved Space

# Graph Geometric Representation Learning

- Learn representations that reflect the intrinsic geometry of graphs
  - Preserve graph similarity relations
  - Low dimension

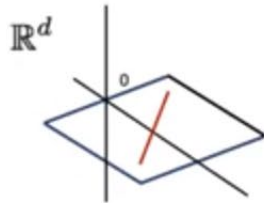
**Geometry of space aligns with geometry of data**





# Geometric Model Spaces

## Euclidean



**Curvature**

$$\kappa = 0$$

**Inner product**

$$\langle x, y \rangle = \sum_{i=1}^n x_i y_i$$

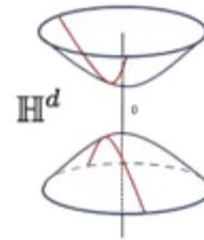
**Distance**

$$d(x, y) = \sqrt{\langle x - y, x - y \rangle}$$

**Canonical Graph**



## Hyperbolic



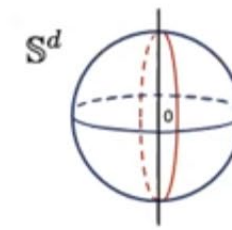
$$\kappa < 0$$

$$\langle x, y \rangle_H = -x_0 y_0 + \sum_{i=1}^n x_i y_i$$

$$d(x, y) = \operatorname{acosh}(-\langle x, y \rangle_H)$$



## Spherical



$$\kappa > 0$$

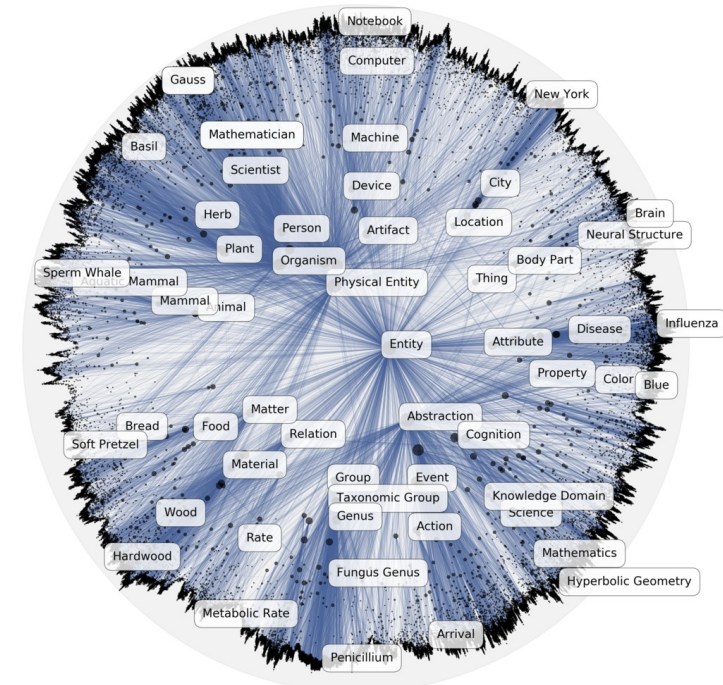
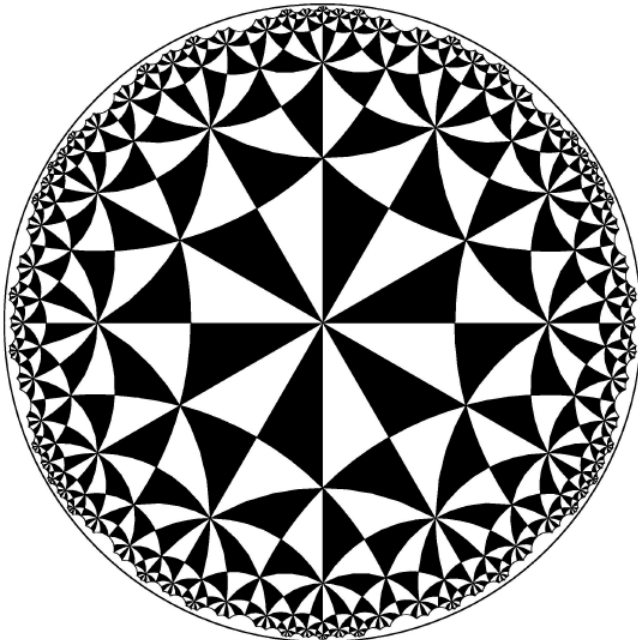
$$\langle x, y \rangle = \sum_{i=1}^n x_i y_i$$

$$d(x, y) = \arccos(\langle x, y \rangle)$$



# Hyperbolic Model

- Exponential neighborhood growth rate
  - Continuous space:  $\delta$ -neighborhood  $B_\delta(x) = \{y \in \mathcal{X} : d_{\mathcal{X}}(x, y) \leq \delta\}$ 
    - $\mathcal{X} = \mathbb{R}^d$ : polynomial growth ( $\rightarrow$  lattice)
    - $\mathcal{X} = \mathbb{H}^d$ : exponential growth ( $\rightarrow$  tree)



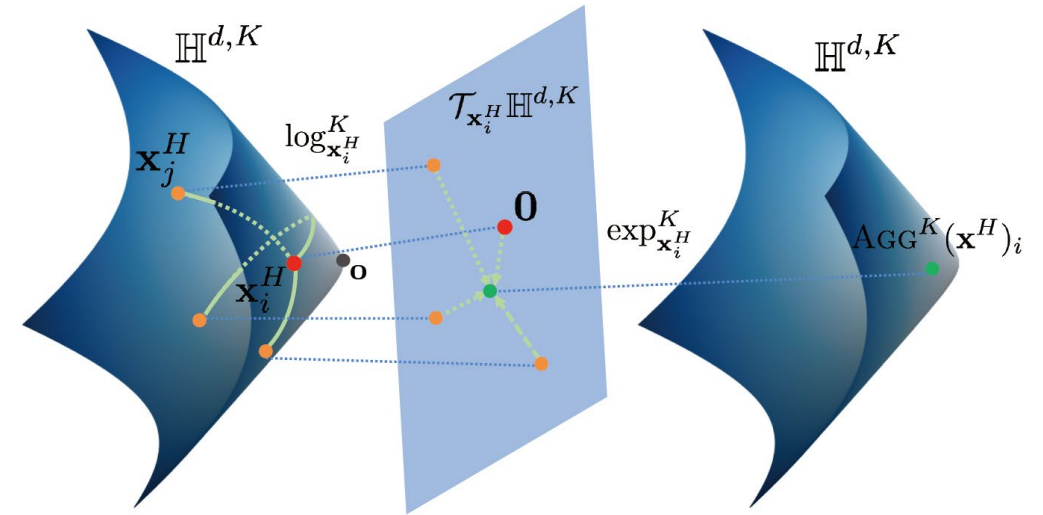
# Hyperbolic Graph Learning

- Embed graph on the hyperbolic space
  - Adapt graph learning operations in Euclidean space to hyperbolic space

$$\begin{aligned}
 \mathbf{h}_i^{\ell,E} &= W^\ell \mathbf{x}_i^{\ell-1,E} + \mathbf{b}^\ell \\
 \mathbf{x}_i^{\ell,E} &= \sigma(\mathbf{h}_i^{\ell,E} + \sum_{j \in \mathcal{N}(i)} w_{ij} \mathbf{h}_j^{\ell,E}) \quad \text{Euclidean space}
 \end{aligned}$$

↓

$$\begin{aligned}
 \mathbf{h}_i^{\ell,H} &= (W^\ell \otimes^{K_{\ell-1}} \mathbf{x}_i^{\ell-1,H}) \oplus^{K_{\ell-1}} \mathbf{b}^\ell \\
 \mathbf{y}_i^{\ell,H} &= \text{AGG}^{K_{\ell-1}}(\mathbf{h}^{\ell,H})_i \\
 \mathbf{x}_i^{\ell,H} &= \sigma^{\otimes^{K_{\ell-1}, K_\ell}}(\mathbf{y}_i^{\ell,H}) \quad \text{hyperbolic space}
 \end{aligned}$$



# Summary

- From an intrinsic view, graph is curved
  - Negative curved edges are key structures
  - Curvature can help to improve graph representation learning
- From an extrinsic view, graph should be embedded into best-fit space
  - Negative curved spaces can embed more
  - Non-Euclidean geometry can be further exploited

# Summary of social networks

- Social networks
  - Small world
  - Scale free
  - Community
    - Girvan-Newman
    - Louvain
    - Spectral clustering
  - Curvature learning