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# Stanford CS224W: Machine Learning with Graphs Fall 2024/25

CS224W: Machine Learning with Graphs  
Jure Leskovec, Stanford University  
<http://cs224w.stanford.edu>



# Stanford CS224W: Course Logistics

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# CS224W Course Outline

We are going to explore Machine Learning and Representation Learning for graph data:

- Methods for node embeddings: DeepWalk, Node2Vec
- Graph Neural Networks: GCN, GraphSAGE, GAT...
- Graph Transformers
- Knowledge graphs and reasoning: TransE, BetaE
- Generative models for graphs: GraphRNN
- Graphs in 3D: Molecules
- Scaling up to large graphs
- Applications to Biomedicine, Science, Technology

# CS224W Course Outline

Date	Topic	Date	Topic
Tue, 9/24	1. Introduction to Machine Learning for Graphs	Tue, 10/29	11. Reasoning over knowledge graphs
Thu, 9/26	2. Node Embeddings	Thu, 10/31	12. GNNs for recommender systems
Tue, 10/1	3. Graph Neural Networks	Tue, 11/5	ELECTION DAY – NO CLASS
Thu, 10/3	4. A general perspective on GNNs	Thu, 11/7	13. Relational Deep Learning
Tue, 10/8	5. GNN augmentation and training	Tue, 11/12	14. Advanced topics in GNNs
Thu, 10/10	6. Theory of GNNs	Thu, 11/14	15. Towards Foundation Models for Knowledge Graphs
Tue, 10/15	7. Designing Powerful GNNs	Tue, 11/19	16. Geometric Deep Learning
Thu, 10/17	8. Graph Transformers	Thu, 11/21	17. Deep Generative Models for Graphs
Tue, 10/22	9. Heterogenous graphs	Tue, 12/3	18. LLM+GNN
Thu, 10/24	10. Knowledge graphs	Thu, 12/5	19. Conclusion

# Prerequisites

- **The course is self-contained.**
- **No single topic is too hard by itself.**
- **But we will cover and touch upon many topics and this is what makes the course hard.**
  - **Some background in:**
    - Machine Learning
    - Algorithms and graph theory
    - Probability and statistics
  - **Programming:**
    - You should be able to write non-trivial programs (in Python)
    - Familiarity with PyTorch is a plus

# Graph Machine Learning Tools

- We use PyG (PyTorch Geometric):  PyG
  - The ultimate library for Graph Neural Networks
- We further recommend:
  - GraphGym: Platform for designing Graph Neural Networks.
    - Modularized GNN implementation, simple hyperparameter tuning, flexible user customization
  - Both platforms are very helpful for the course project (save your time & provide advanced GNN functionalities)
- Other network analytics tools: SNAP.PY, NetworkX

# CS224W Course Logistics

- The class meets Tue and Thu 3:00-4:20pm  
**Pacific Time *in person***
  - Videos of the lectures will be recorded and posted on Canvas
- **Structure of lectures:**
  - ~80 minutes of a lecture
    - During this time you can ask questions
  - ~10 minutes of a live Q&A/discussion session

# Logistics: Teaching Staff

**Instructor**



Jure Leskovec

**Course Assistants**



Kexin Huang (Head CA)



Aman Patel



Harper Hua

**Guest Instructor**



Charilaos Kanatsoulis



Josh Singh



Kanu Grover



Leni Aniva

**Course Coordinator**



John Cho



Matthew Jin



Minkai Xu



Priya Khandelwal



Xikun Zhang

# Logistics: Website

- <http://cs224w.stanford.edu>
  - Slides posted before the class
- **Readings:**
  - [Graph Representation Learning Book](#) by Will Hamilton
  - Research papers
- **Optional readings:**
  - Papers and pointers to additional literature
  - **This will be very useful for course projects**

# Logistics: Communication

- **Ed Discussion:**
  - Access via link on Canvas
  - **Please participate and help each other!**
    - Don't post code, annotate your questions, search for answers before you ask
  - We will post course announcements to Ed (make sure you check it regularly)
- **Please don't communicate with prof/TAs via personal emails, but always use:**
  - [cs224w-aut2425-staff@lists.stanford.edu](mailto:cs224w-aut2425-staff@lists.stanford.edu)

# Logistics: Office Hours

- **OHs will be both in person and virtual**
  - We will have OHs every day, starting from 2<sup>nd</sup> week of the course
  - See <http://web.stanford.edu/class/cs224w/oh.html> for Zoom links and link to QueueStatus
  - Schedule to be announced by end of week

# Work for Course: Grading

- **Final grade will be composed of:**
  - **Homework: 20%**
    - 3 written homeworks, each worth 6.67%
  - **Coding assignments: 15%**
    - 5 coding assignments using Google Colab, each worth 3%
  - **Exam: 35%**
  - **Course project: 30%**
    - Proposal, Milestone, and Final report
  - **Extra credit: Ed participation, PyG/GraphGym code contribution**
    - Used if you are on the boundary between grades

# Work for Course: Submitting

- **How to submit?**
  - **Upload via Gradescope**
    - You will be automatically registered to Gradescope once you officially enroll in CS224W
    - Homeworks, Colabs (numerical answers), and project deliverables are submitted on Gradescope
- **Total of 2 Late Periods (LP) per student**
  - Max 1 LP per assignment (no LP for the final report)
    - LP gives **4 extra days**: assignments usually due on Thursday (11:59pm) → with LP, it is due the following Monday (11:59pm)

# Work for Course: HWs, Colabs

- **Homeworks (20%, n=3)**
  - **Written assignments take longer and take time (~10-20h) – start early!**
    - A combination of theory, algorithm design, and math
- **Colabs (15%, n=5)**
  - **We have more Colabs but they are shorter (~3-5h); Colab 0 is not graded.**
    - Get hands-on experience coding and training GNNs; good preparation for final projects and industry

# Work for Course: Exam

- **Single exam: Thursday, Nov 21 (35%)**
  - Take-home, open-book, timed
    - Administered via Gradescope
    - Released at 5 PM PT on Thursday, Nov 21, available until 5 AM PT on Saturday, Nov 23.
    - Once you open it, you will have 120 minutes to complete the exam.
  - Content
    - Will have written questions (similar to Homeworks), Will possibly have a coding section (similar to Colabs)
    - More details to come!

# Work for Course: Project (30%)

- **Details will be posted soon:**
  - Focus is on real-world applications of GNNs
- **Logistics**
  - **Groups of up to 3 students**
    - Groups of 1 or 2 are allowed (but discouraged); the team size will be taken under consideration when evaluating the scope of the project. But 3 person teams can be more efficient.
  - **Google Cloud credits**
    - We will provide \$50 in Google Cloud credits to each student
    - You can also get \$300 with Google Free Trial  
(<https://cloud.google.com/free/docs/gcp-free-tier>)
- **Read:** <http://cs224w.stanford.edu/info.html>

# Course Schedule

Assignment	Due on (11:59pm PT)
Colab 0	Not graded
Colab 1	Thu, 10/10 (week 3)
Homework 1	Thu, 10/17 (week 4)
Project Proposal	Tue, 10/22 (week 5)
Colab 2	Thu, 10/24 (week 5)
Homework 2	Thu, 10/31 (week 6)
Colab 3	Thu, 11/7 (week 7)
Project Milestone	Thu, 11/7 (week 7)
Homework 3	Thu, 11/14 (week 8)
EXAM	Thu, 11/21 5pm – Sat, 11/23 5am (week 9)
Colab 4	Tues, 12/3 (week 10)
Colab 5	Thu, 12/5 (week 10)
Project Report	Thu, 12/12 (No Late Periods!)

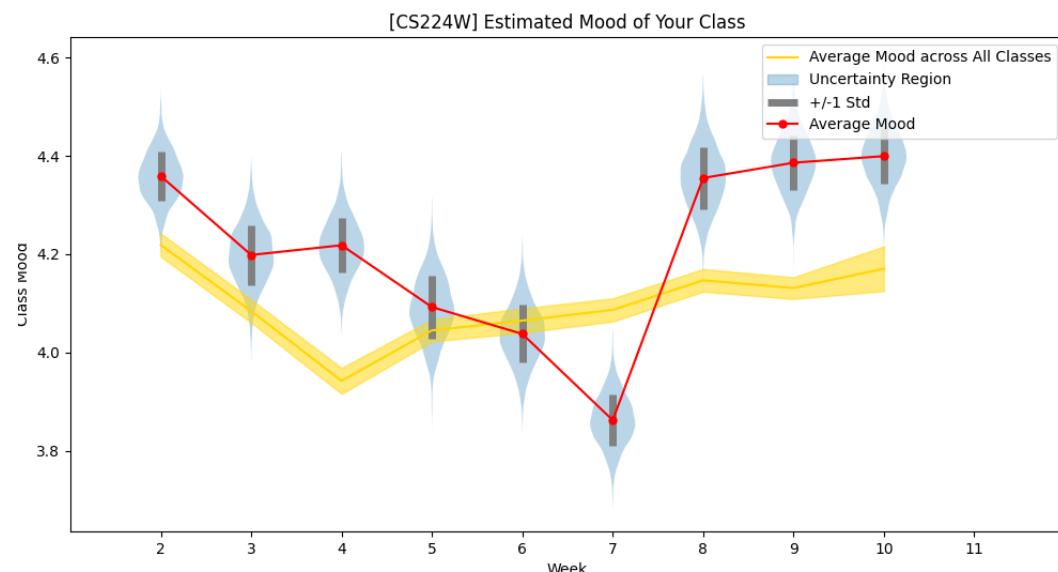
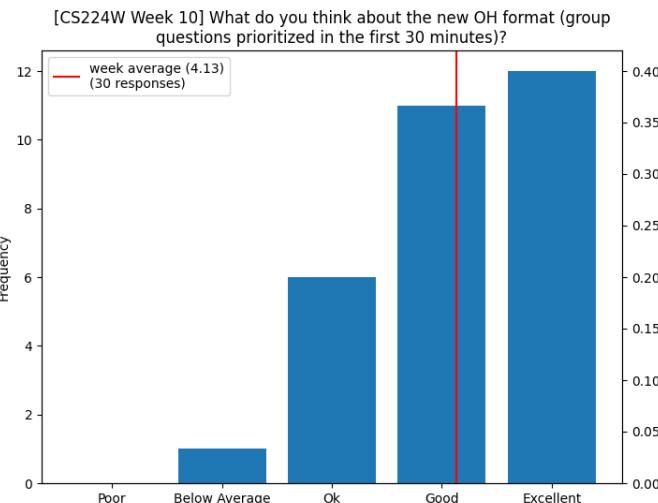
# Honor Code

Make sure you read  
and understand it!

- **We strictly enforce the Stanford Honor Code**
  - Violations of the Honor Code include:
    - Copying or allowing another to copy from one's own paper
    - Unpermitted collaboration
    - Plagiarism
    - Giving or receiving unpermitted aid on a take-home examination
    - Representing as one's own work the work of another
    - Giving or receiving aid on an assignment under circumstances in which a reasonable person should have known that such aid was not permitted
  - Standard sanction for a first-time offense includes a one-quarter suspension & 40 hours of community service.

# High Resolution Course Feedback

- Every week a few students will get a short survey
  - Just 3 questions!
- **Super important that you respond!**
- **Your feedback really helps us improve your class experience**



# Course Logistics: Colab 0

- **Colabs 0 and 1 will be released on our course website at 3pm Thursday (9/26)**
- **Colab 0:**
  - Does not need to be handed-in
- **Colab 1:**
  - Due on Thursday 10/10 (2.5 weeks from today)
  - Submit written answers and code on Gradescope
  - Will cover material from Lectures 1-4, but you can get started right away!

# Stanford CS224W: Machine Learning with Graphs

CS224W: Machine Learning with Graphs

Jure Leskovec, Stanford University

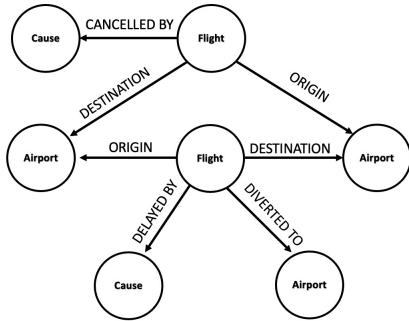
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# Why Graphs?

Graphs are a general language for describing and analyzing entities with relations/interactions

# Many Types of Data are Graphs (1)

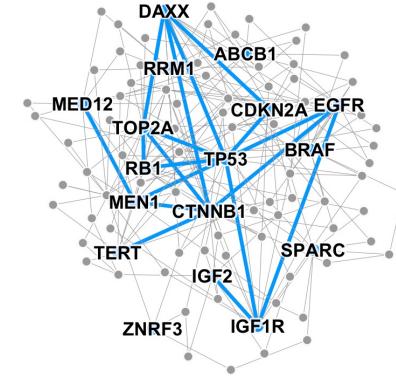


## Event Graphs



Image credit: [SalientNetworks](#)

## Computer Networks



## Disease Pathways

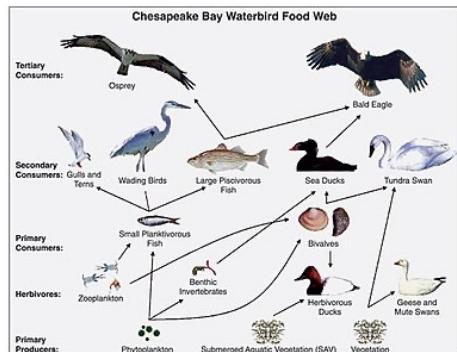


Image credit: [Wikipedia](#)

## Food Webs

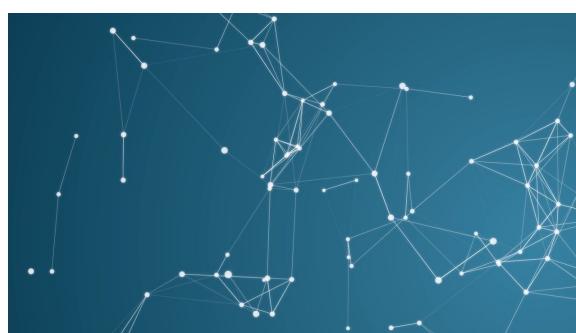


Image credit: [Pinterest](#)

## Particle Networks



Image credit: [visitlondon.com](#)

## Underground Networks

# Many Types of Data are Graphs (2)



Image credit: [Medium](#)

## Social Networks

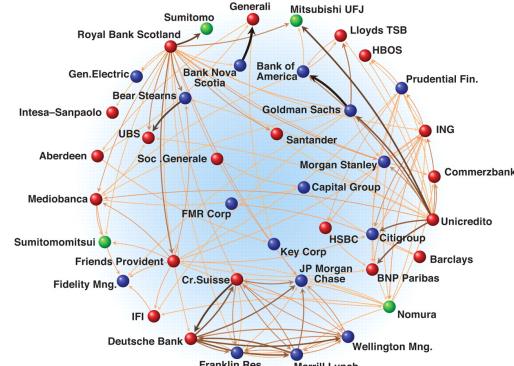


Image credit: [Science](#)

## Economic Networks

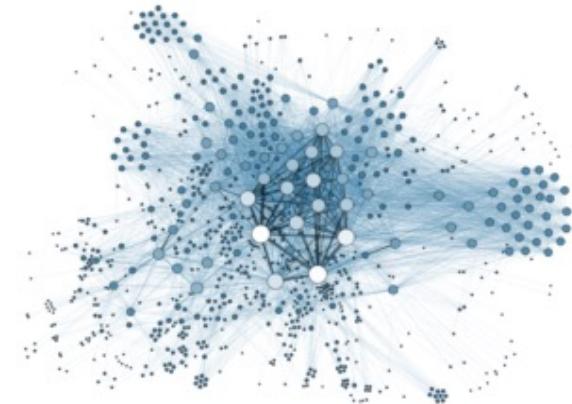


Image credit: [Lumen Learning](#)

## Communication Networks

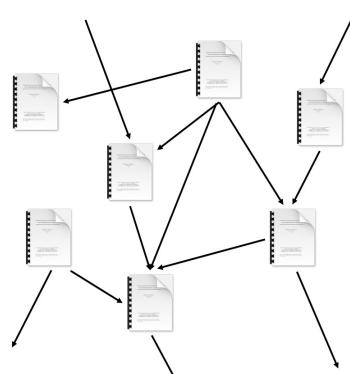


Image credit: [Missoula Current News](#)

## Citation Networks

## Internet

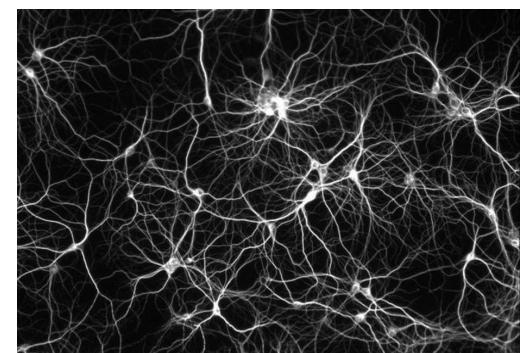


Image credit: [The Conversation](#)

## Networks of Neurons

# Many Types of Data are Graphs (3)

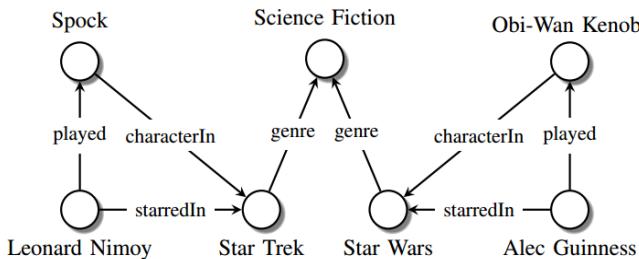


Image credit: [Maximilian Nickel et al](#)

## Knowledge Graphs

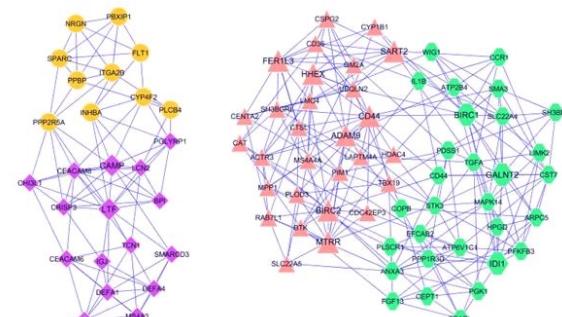


Image credit: [ese.wustl.edu](#)

## Regulatory Networks

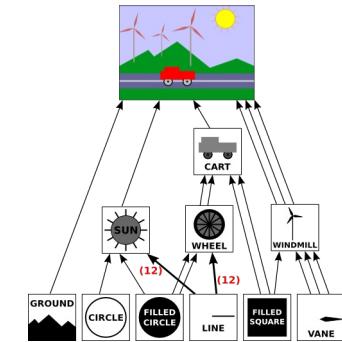


Image credit: [math.hws.edu](#)

## Scene Graphs

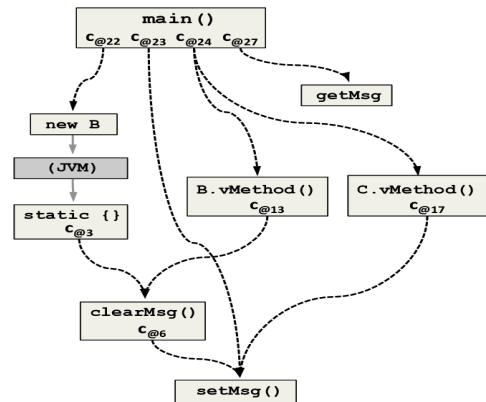


Image credit: [ResearchGate](#)

## Code Graphs

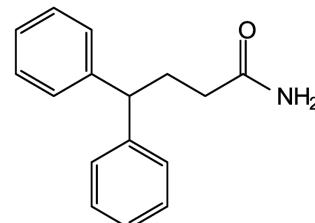


Image credit: [MDPI](#)

## Molecules

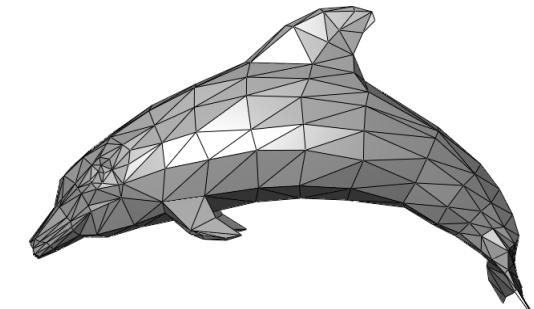
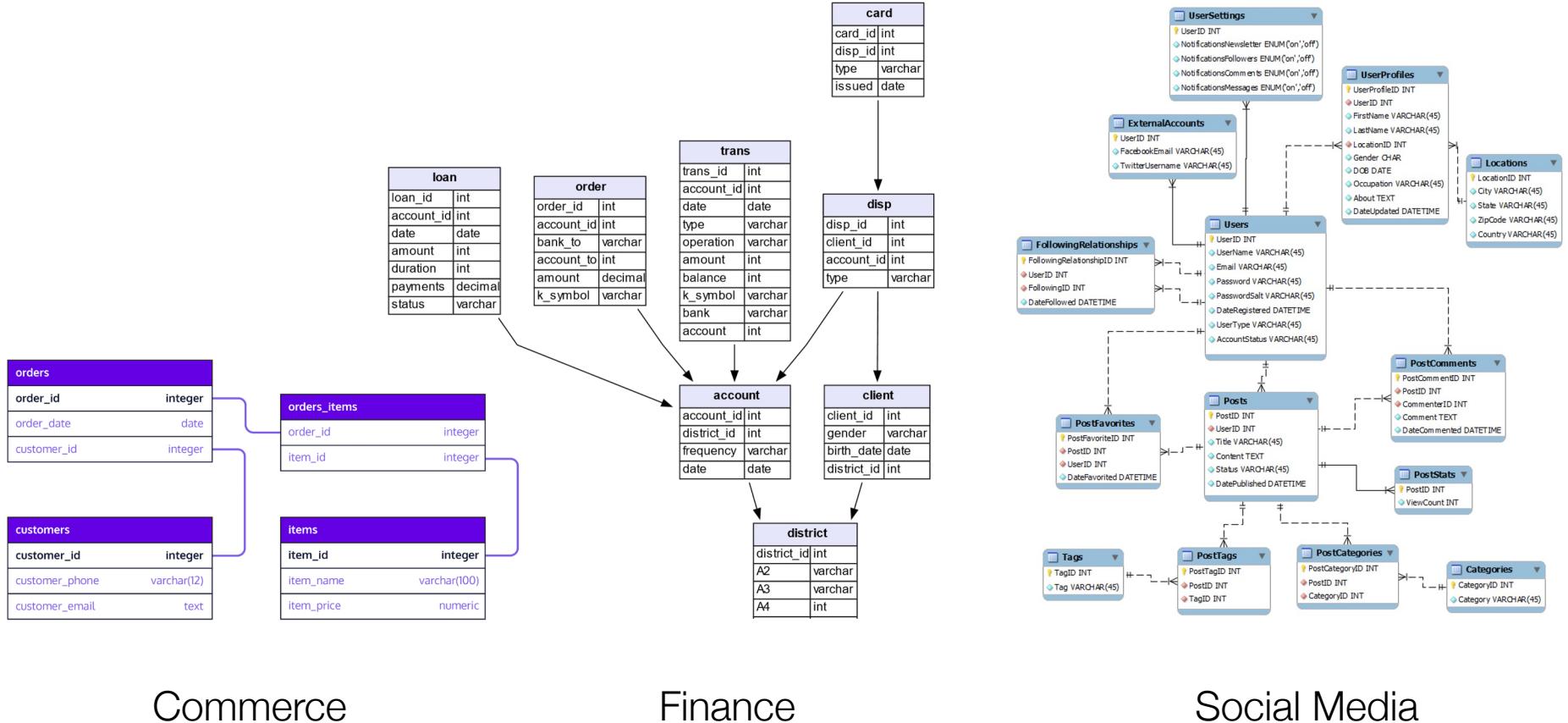


Image credit: [Wikipedia](#)

## 3D Shapes

# Databases are Graphs!

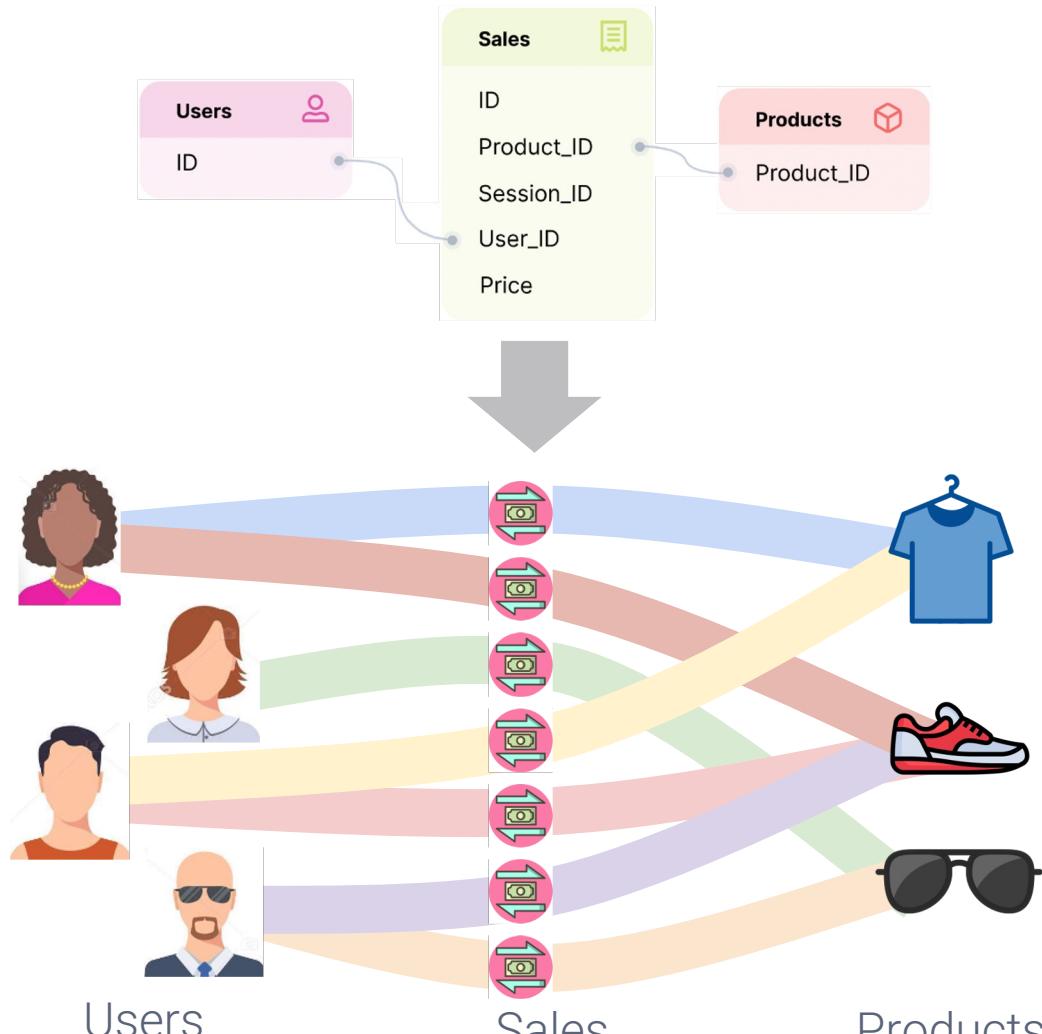


Commerce

Finance

Social Media

# Relational Deep Learning



<http://relbench.stanford.edu>

# Graphs: Machine Learning

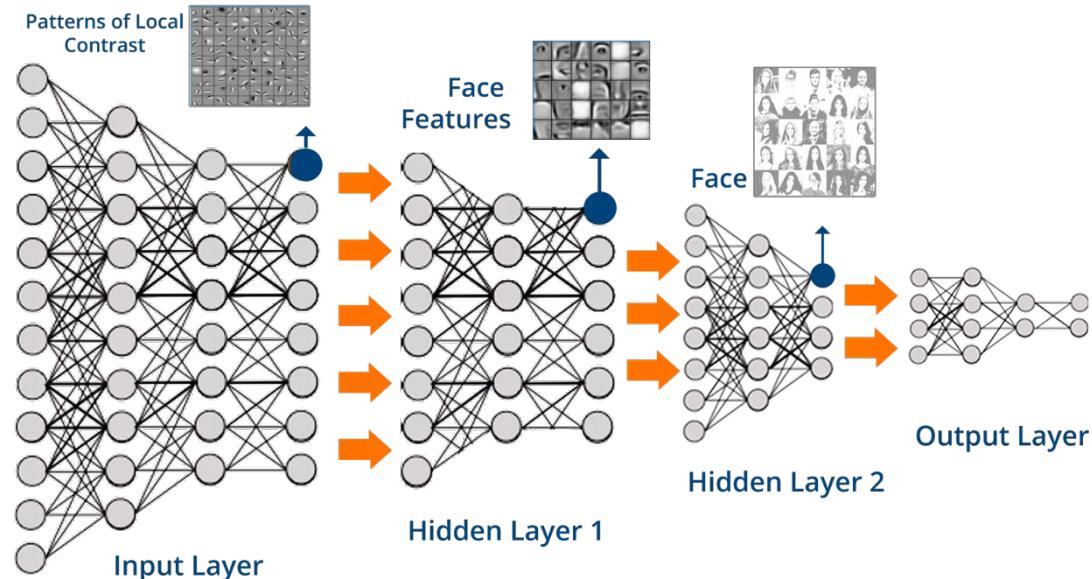
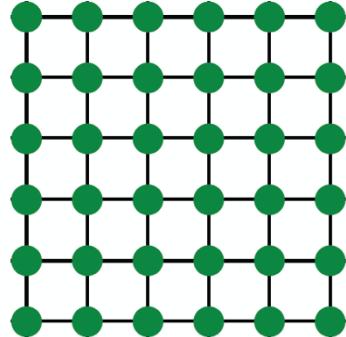
Complex domains have a rich relational structure, which can be represented as a **relational graph**

**By explicitly modeling relationships we achieve better performance!**

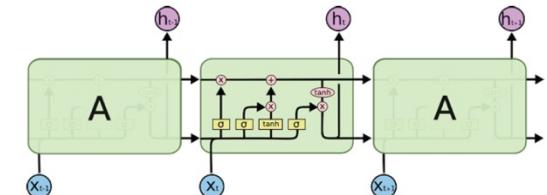
Main question:

How do we take advantage of relational structure for better prediction?

# Today: Modern ML Toolbox



**Text/Speech**



Modern deep learning toolbox is designed  
for simple sequences & grids

Doubt thou the stars are fire,  
Doubt that the sun doth move;  
Doubt truth to be a liar;  
But never doubt I love...

Text



Audio signals



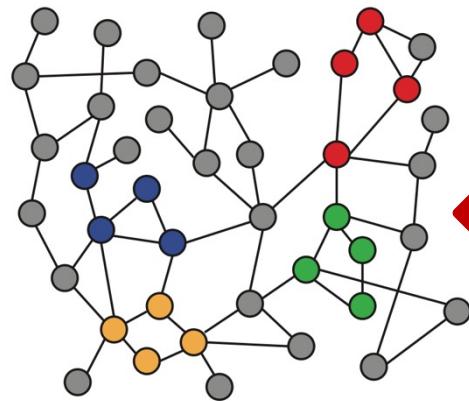
Images

Modern  
deep learning toolbox  
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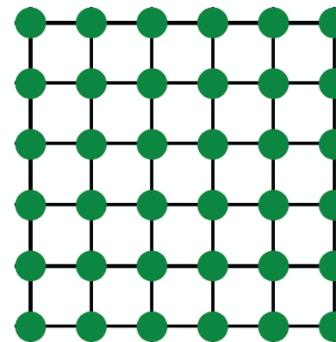
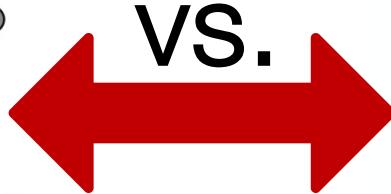
# Why is Graph Deep Learning Hard?

## Networks are complex.

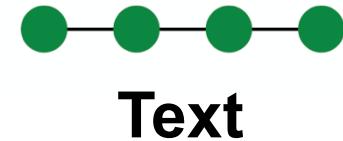
- Arbitrary size and complex topological structure (*i.e.*, no spatial locality like grids)



Networks



Images



Text

- No fixed node ordering or reference point
- Often dynamic and have multimodal features

# This Course: CS224W

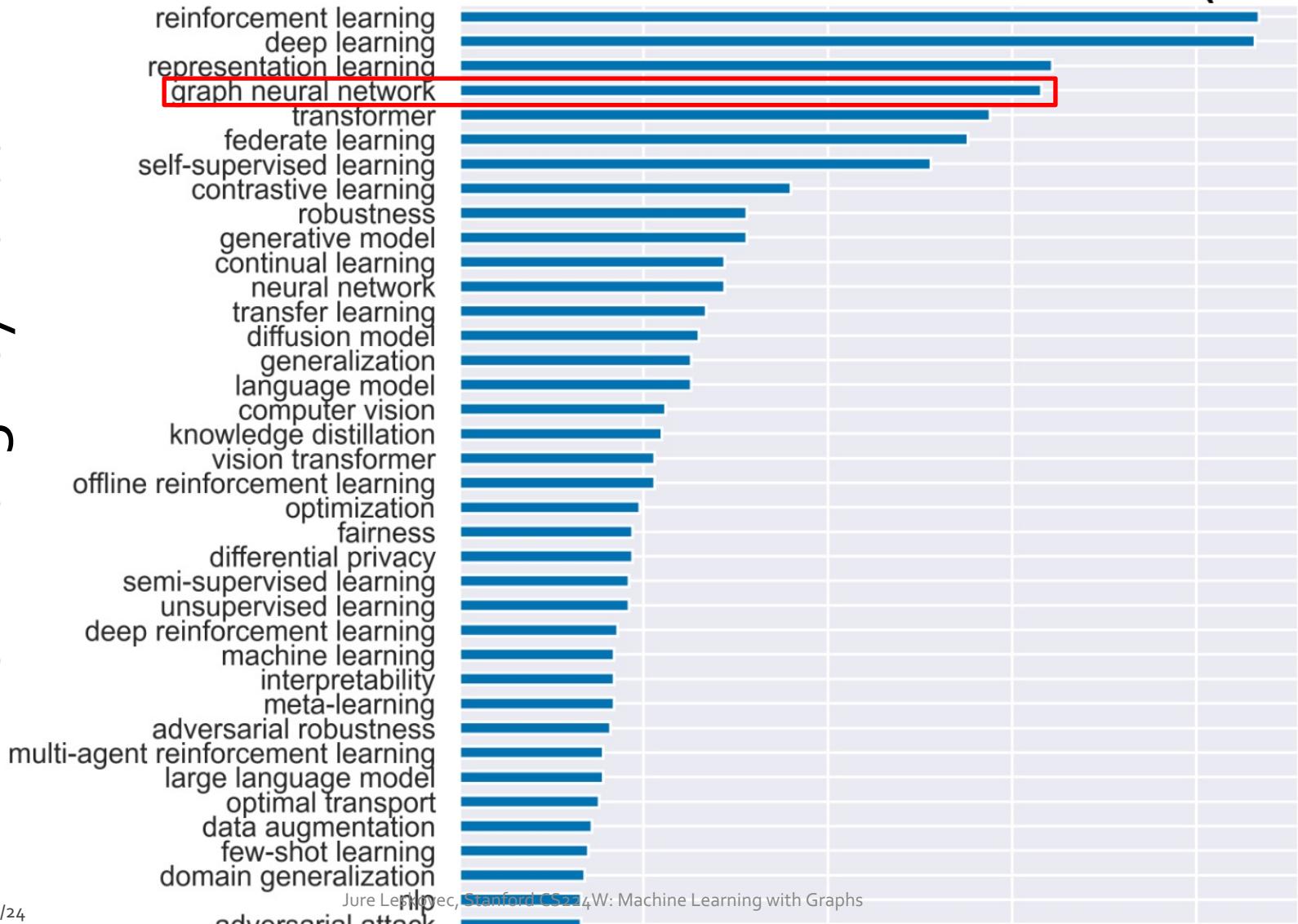
How can we develop neural networks  
that are much more broadly  
applicable?

Graphs are the new frontier  
of deep learning

# Hot subfield in ML

ICLR 2023 keywords

50 MOST APPEARED KEYWORDS (2023)



# Stanford CS224W: Choice of Graph Representation

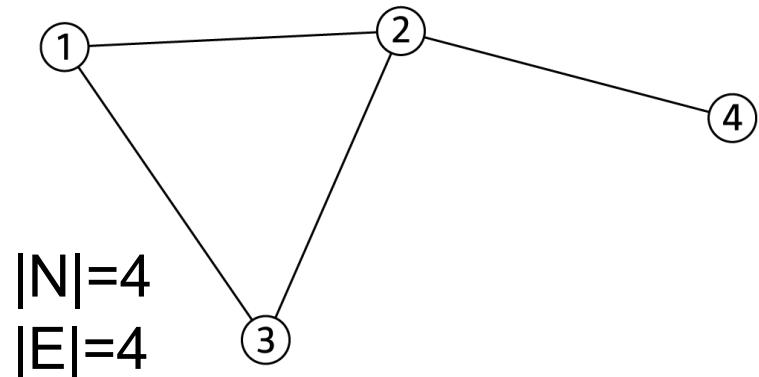
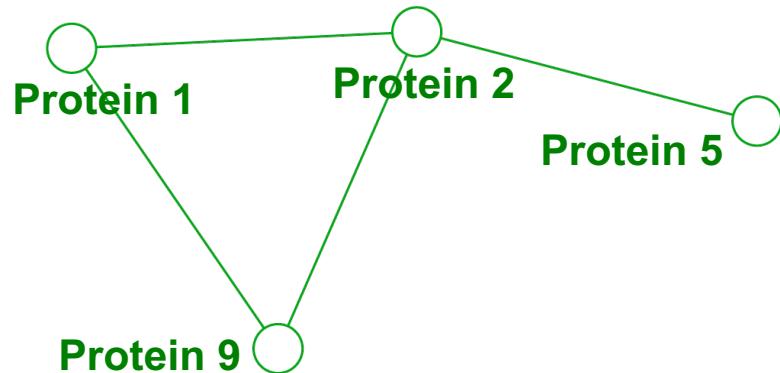
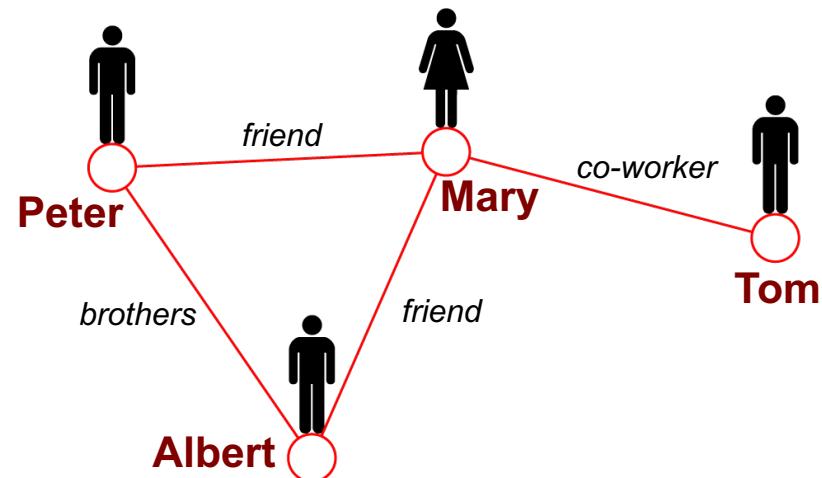
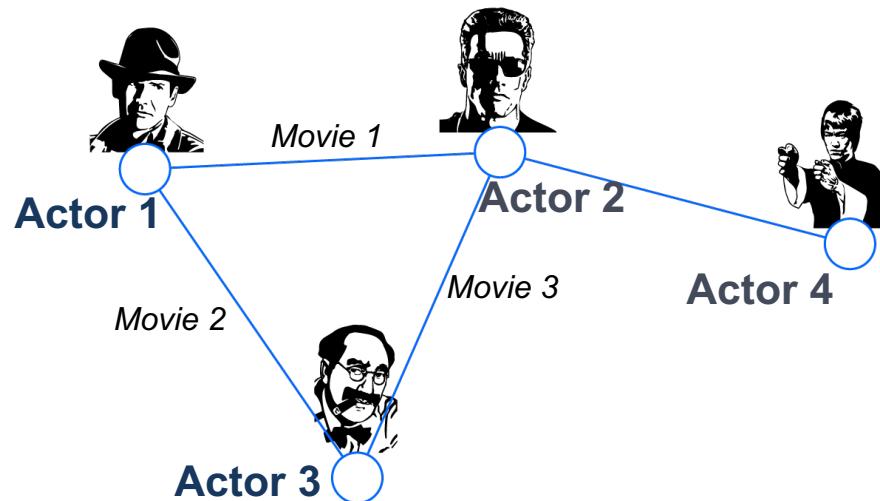
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# Graphs: A Common Language



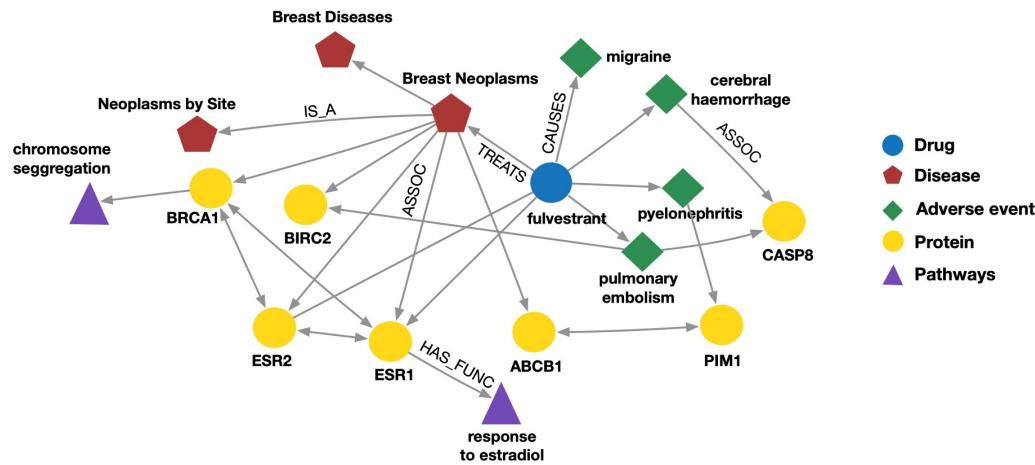
# Heterogeneous Graphs

- A heterogeneous graph is defined as

$$G = (V, E, R, T)$$

- Nodes with node types  $v_i \in V$
- Edges with relation types  $(v_i, r, v_j) \in E$
- Node type  $T(v_i)$
- Relation type  $r \in R$
- Nodes and edges have **attributes/features**

# Many Graphs are Heterogeneous



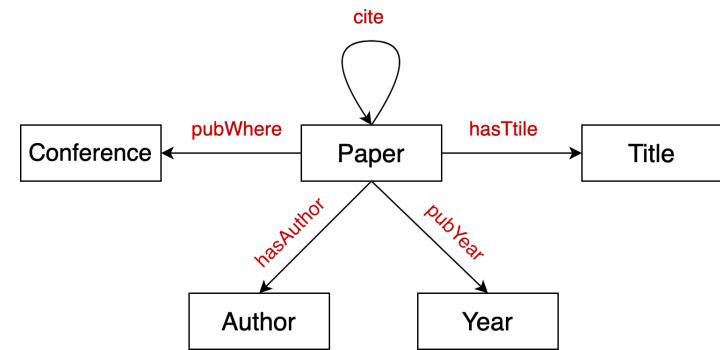
## Biomedical Knowledge Graphs

Example node: Migraine

Example edge: (fulvestrant, Treats, Breast Neoplasms)

Example node type: Protein

Example edge type (relation): Causes



## Academic Graphs

Example node: ICML

Example edge: (GraphSAGE, NeurIPS)

Example node type: Author

Example edge type (relation): pubYear

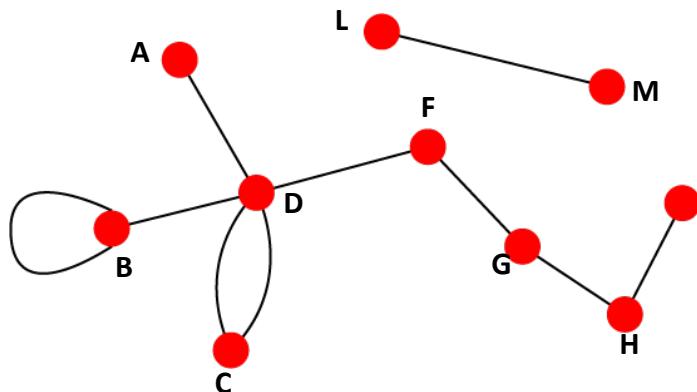
# Choosing a Proper Representation

- **How to build a graph:**
  - What are nodes?
  - What are edges?
- **Choice of the proper network representation of a given domain/problem determines our ability to use networks successfully:**
  - In some cases, there is a unique, unambiguous representation
  - In other cases, the representation is by no means unique
  - The way you assign links will determine the nature of the question you can study

# Directed vs. Undirected Graphs

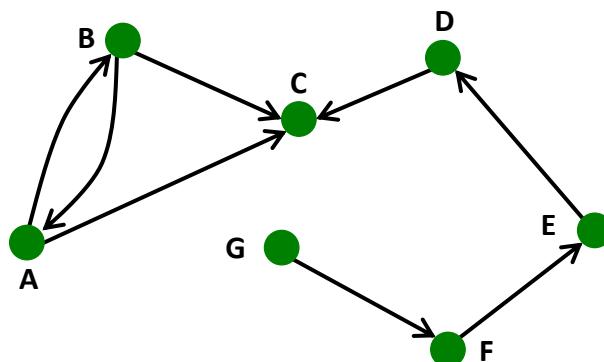
## Undirected

- Links: undirected  
(symmetrical, reciprocal)



## Directed

- Links: directed

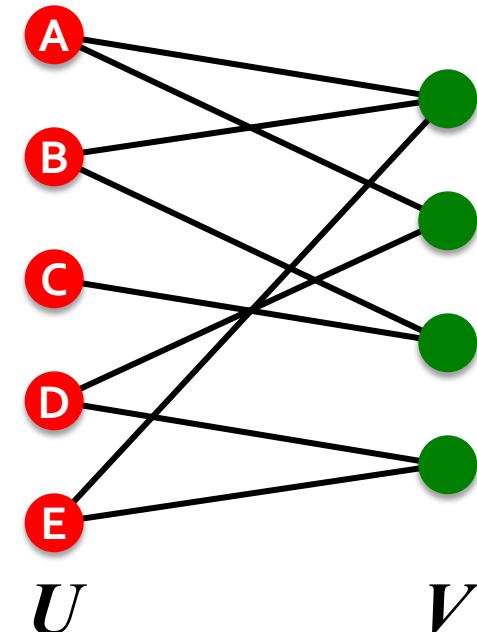


## ■ Other considerations:

- Weights
- Properties
- Types
- Attributes

# Bipartite Graph

- **Bipartite graph** is a graph whose nodes can be divided into two disjoint sets  $U$  and  $V$  such that every link connects a node in  $U$  to one in  $V$ ; that is,  $U$  and  $V$  are **independent sets**
- **Examples:**
  - Authors-to-Papers (they authored)
  - Actors-to-Movies (they appeared in)
  - Users-to-Movies (they rated)
  - Recipes-to-Ingredients (they contain)
- **“Folded” networks:**
  - Author collaboration networks
  - Movie co-rating networks



# Stanford CS224W: Applications of Graph ML

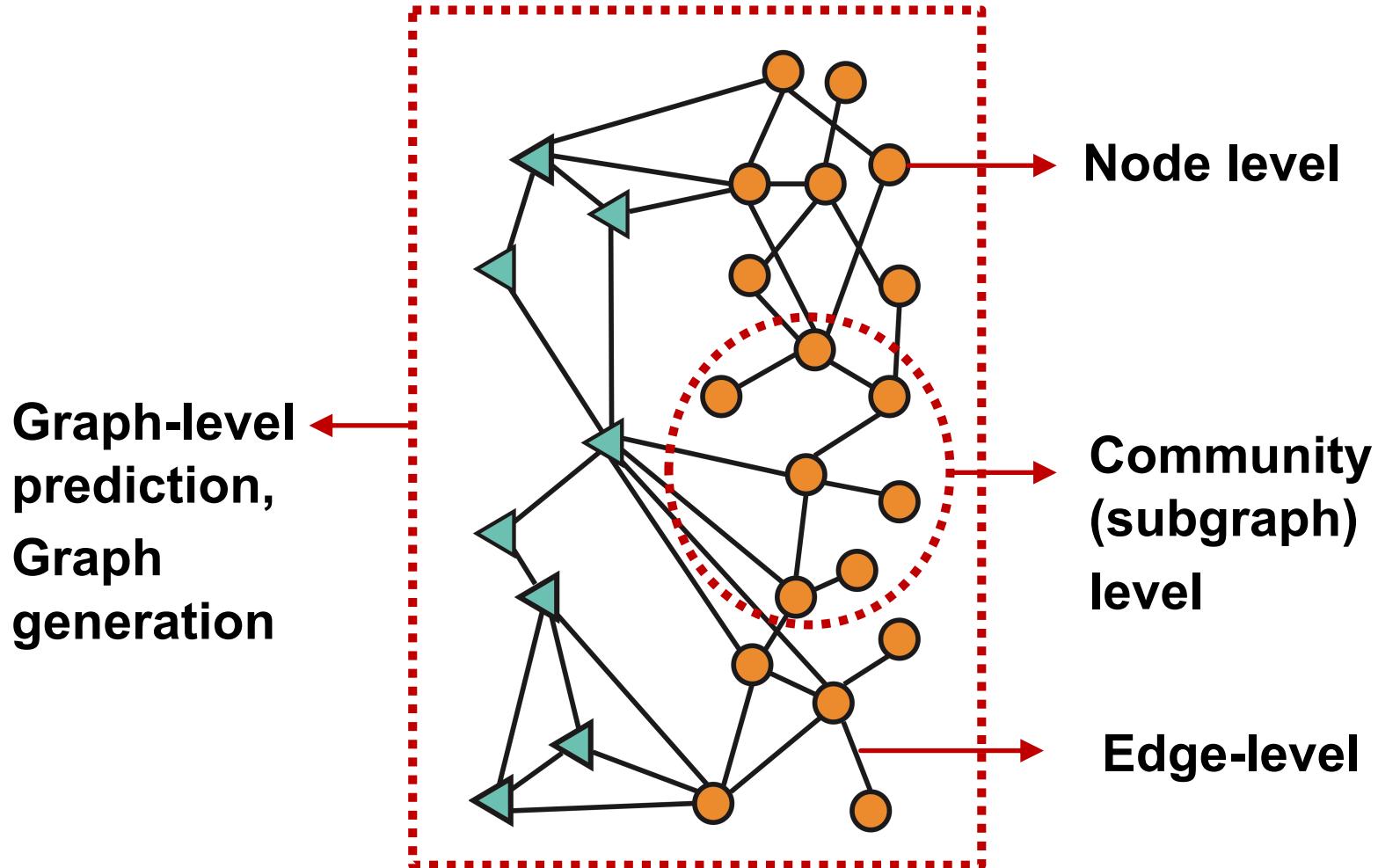
CS224W: Machine Learning with Graphs

Jure Leskovec, Stanford University

<http://cs224w.stanford.edu>



# Different Types of Tasks

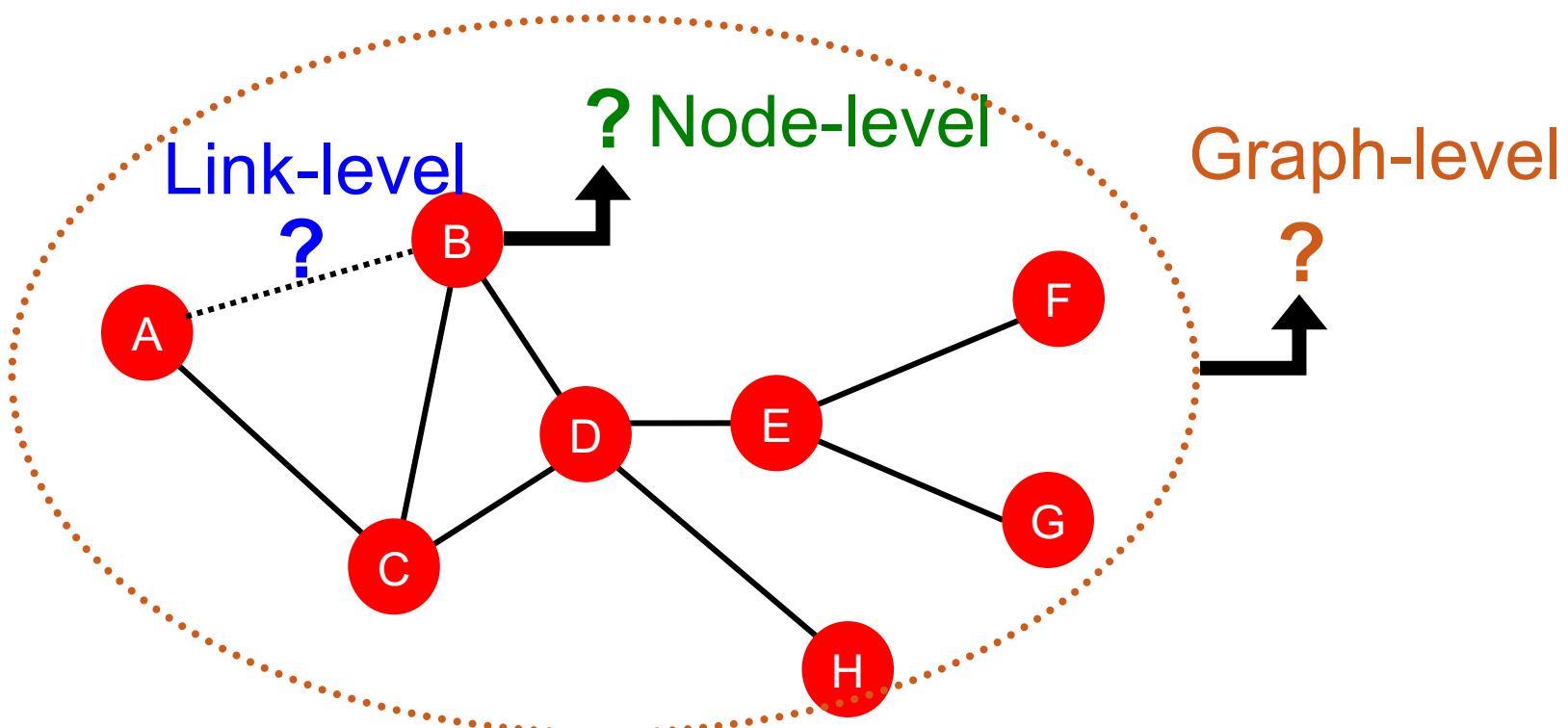


# Stanford CS224W: Node-Level Tasks

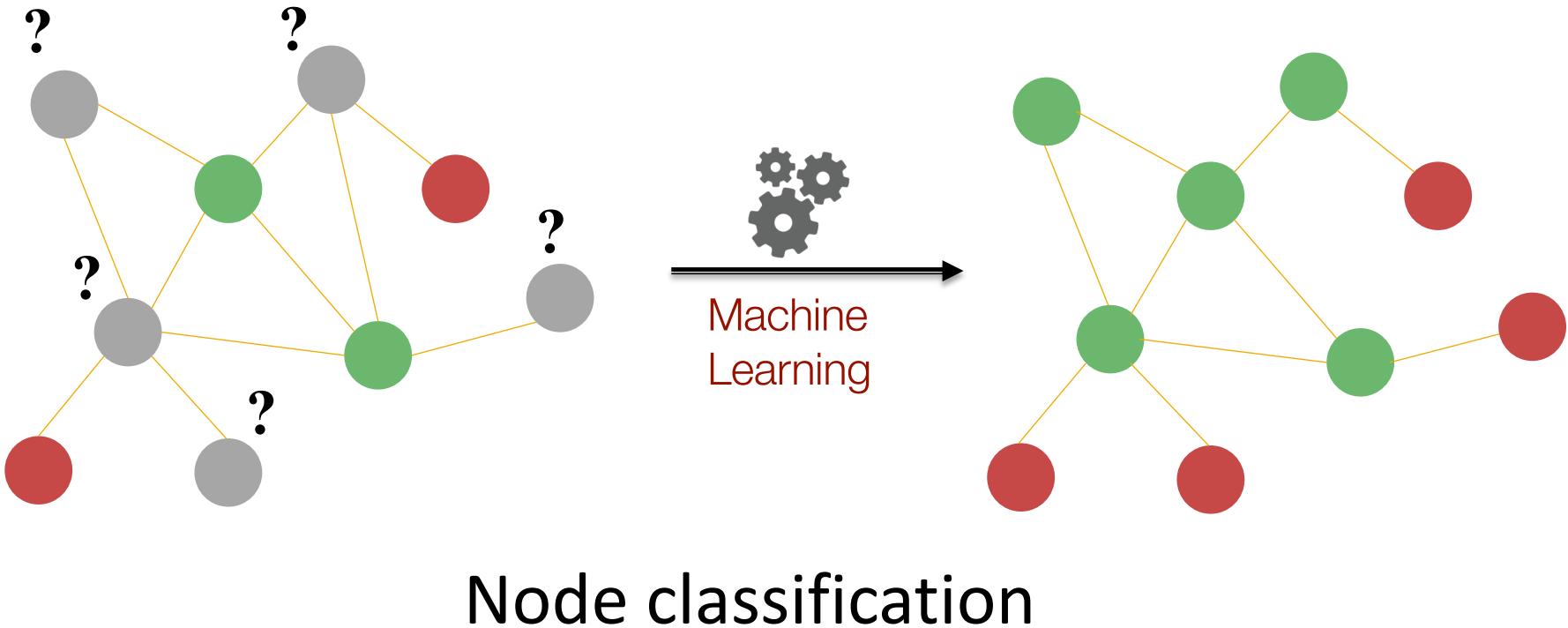


# Machine Learning Tasks: Review

- Node-level prediction
- Link-level prediction
- Graph-level prediction



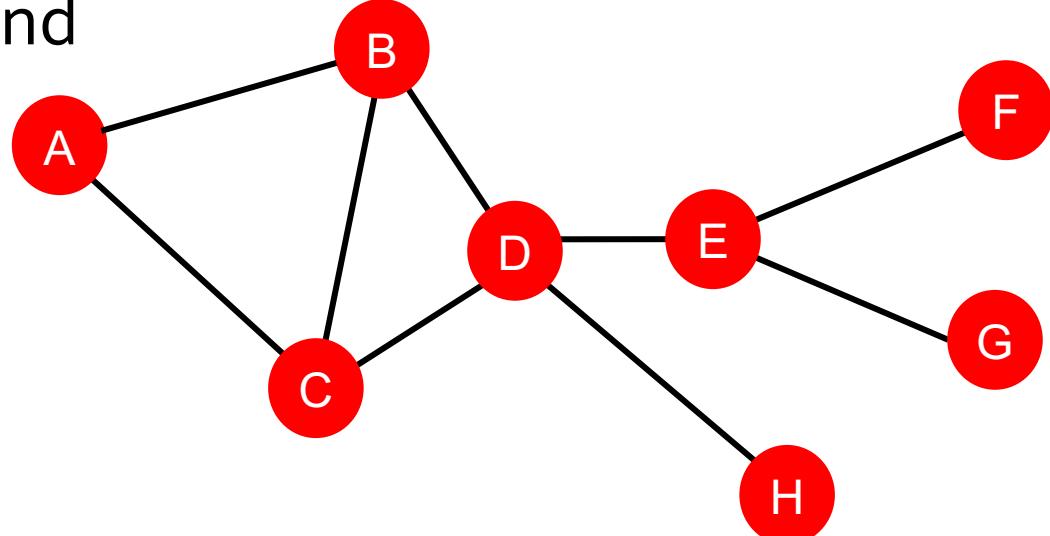
# Node-Level Tasks



# Node-Level Network Structure

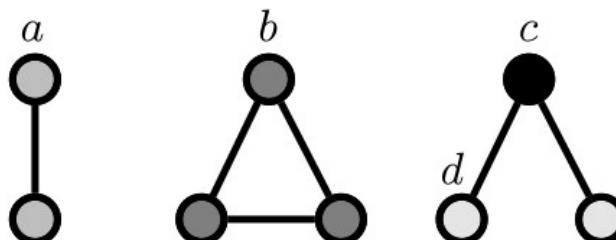
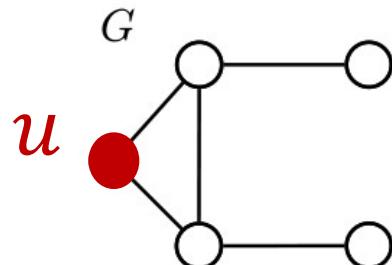
**Goal:** Characterize the structure and position of a node in the network:

- Node degree
- Node importance & position
  - E.g., Number of shortest paths passing through a node
  - E.g., Avg. shortest path length to other nodes
- Substructures around the node

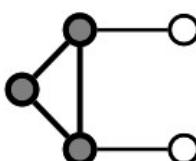
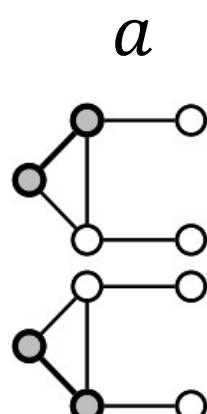


# Node's Subgraphs: Graphlets

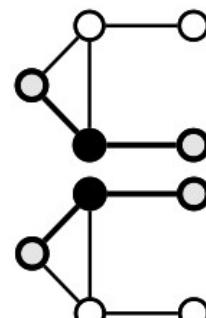
- **Graphlets:** A count vector of rooted subgraphs at a given node.
- **Example:** All possible graphlets on up to 3 nodes



Graphlet instances of node  $u$ :



$c$

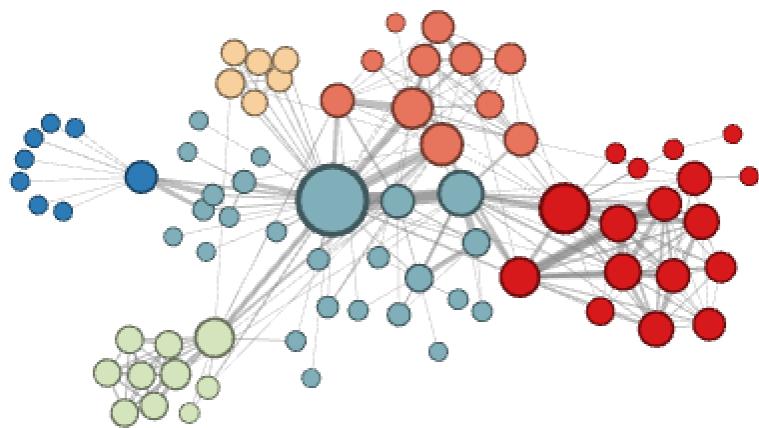
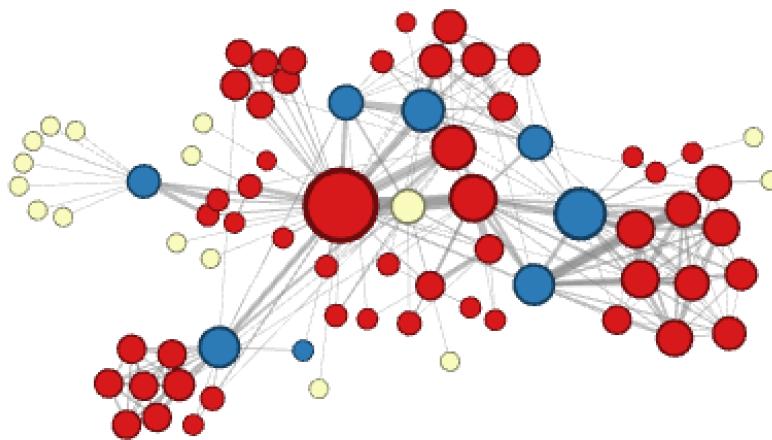


$d$

Graphlets of node  $u$ :  
 $a, b, c, d$   
[2,1,0,2]

# Discussion

**Different ways to label nodes of the network:**

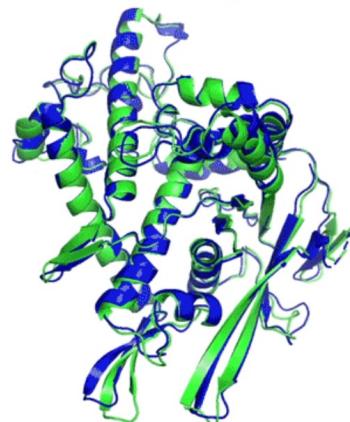


Node features defined so far would allow to distinguish nodes in the above example

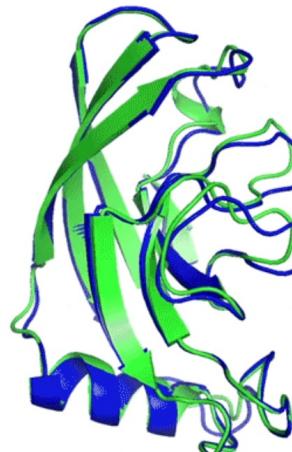
However, the features defines so far would not allow for distinguishing the above node labelling

# Example (1): Protein Folding

Computationally predict a protein's 3D structure based solely on its amino acid sequence:  
For each node predict its 3D coordinates



T1037 / 6vr4  
90.7 GDT  
(RNA polymerase domain)

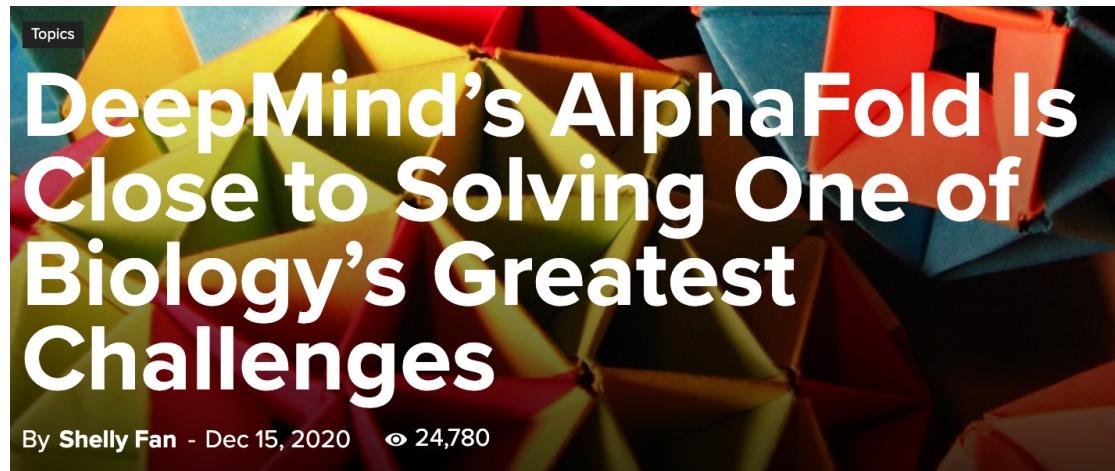
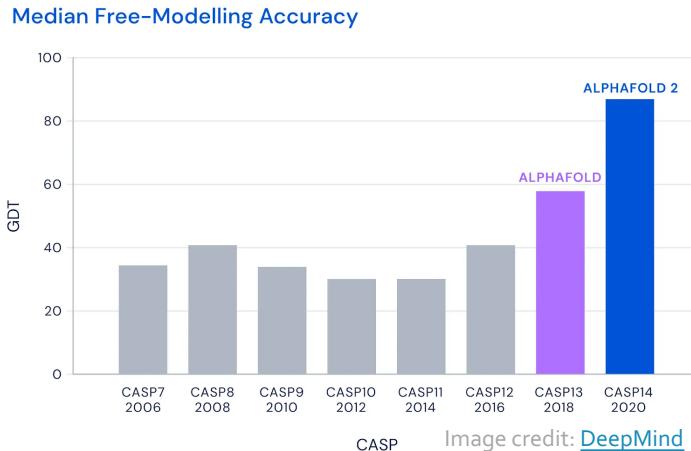


T1049 / 6y4f  
93.3 GDT  
(adhesin tip)

- Experimental result
- Computational prediction

Image credit: [DeepMind](#)

# AlphaFold: Impact



**AlphaFold's AI could change the world of biological science as we know it**

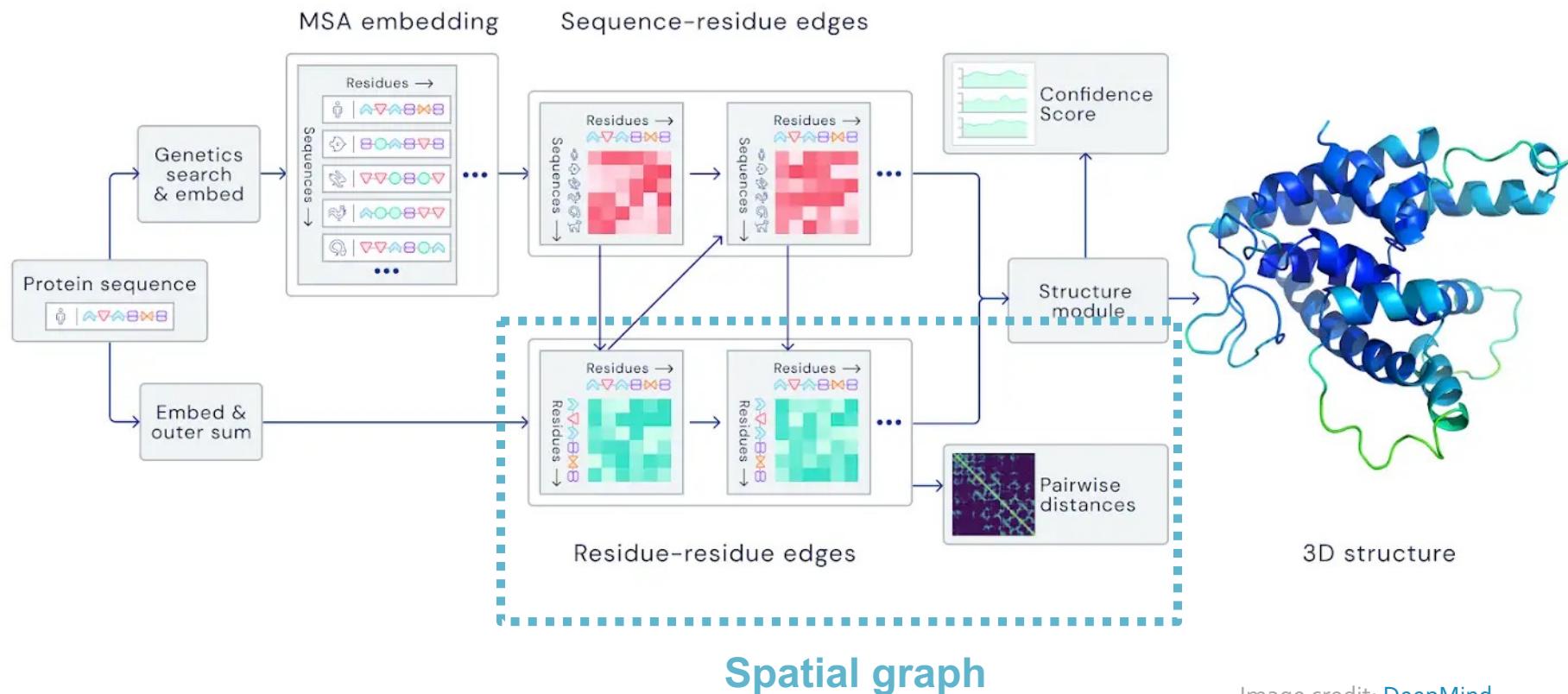
**DeepMind's latest AI breakthrough can accurately predict the way proteins fold**

**Has Artificial Intelligence 'Solved' Biology's Protein-Folding Problem?**

12-14-20  
**DeepMind's latest AI breakthrough could turbocharge drug discovery**

# AlphaFold: Solving Protein Folding

- **Key idea:** “Spatial graph”
    - **Nodes:** Amino acids in a protein sequence
    - **Edges:** Proximity between amino acids (residues)



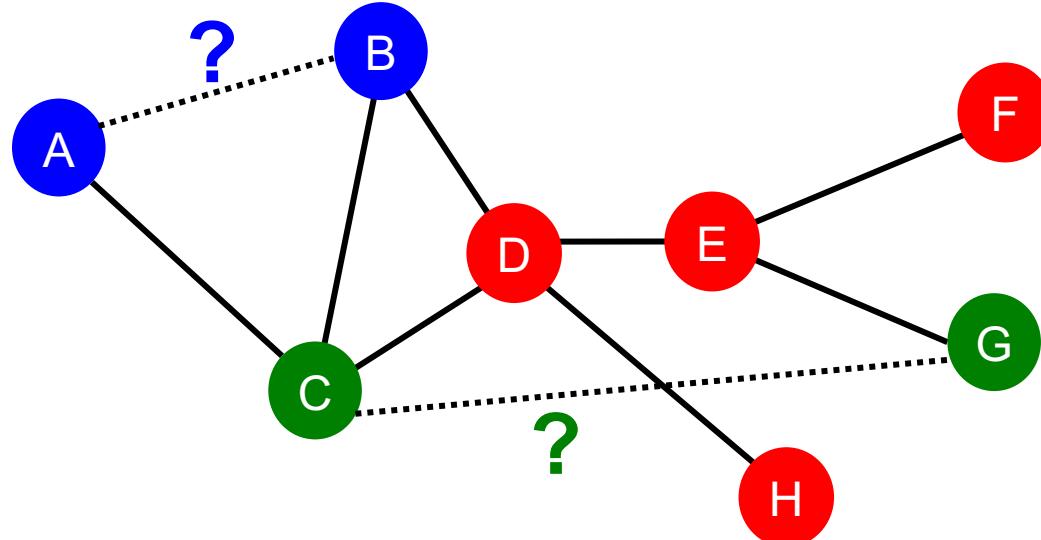
# Stanford CS224W: Link Prediction

CS224W: Machine Learning with Graphs  
Jure Leskovec, Stanford University  
<http://cs224w.stanford.edu>



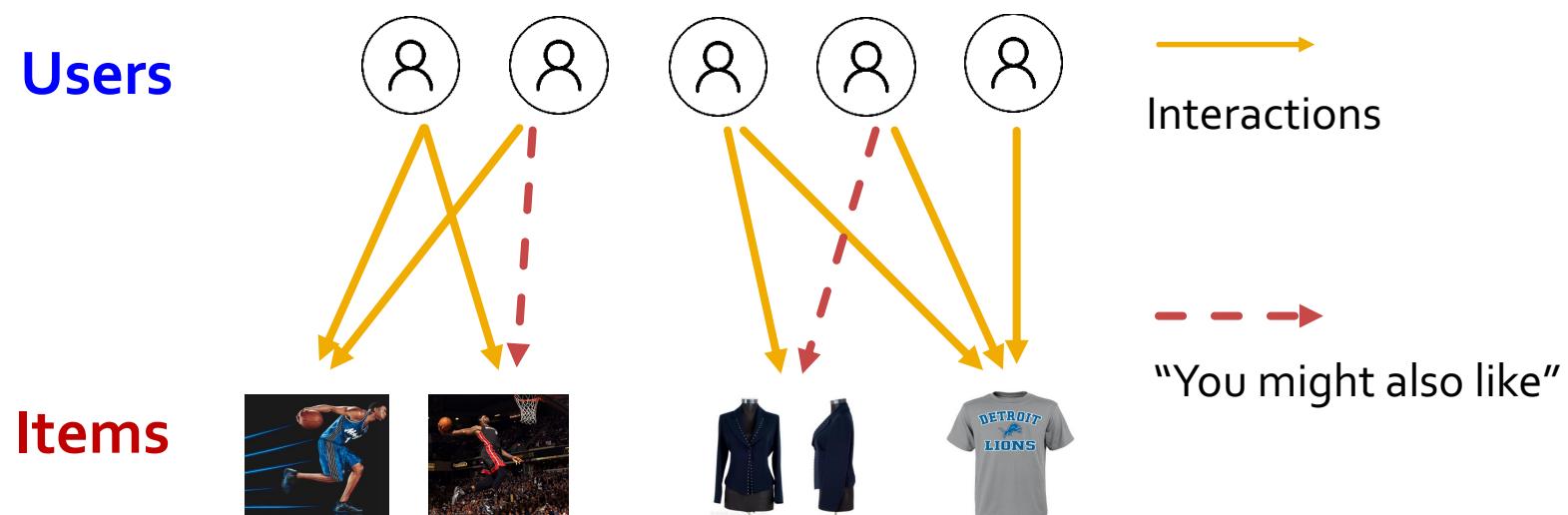
# Link-Level Prediction Task

- The task is to predict **new/missing/unknown links** based on the existing links.
- At test time, node pairs (with no existing links) are ranked, and top  $K$  node pairs are predicted.
- Task: Make a prediction for a pair of nodes.



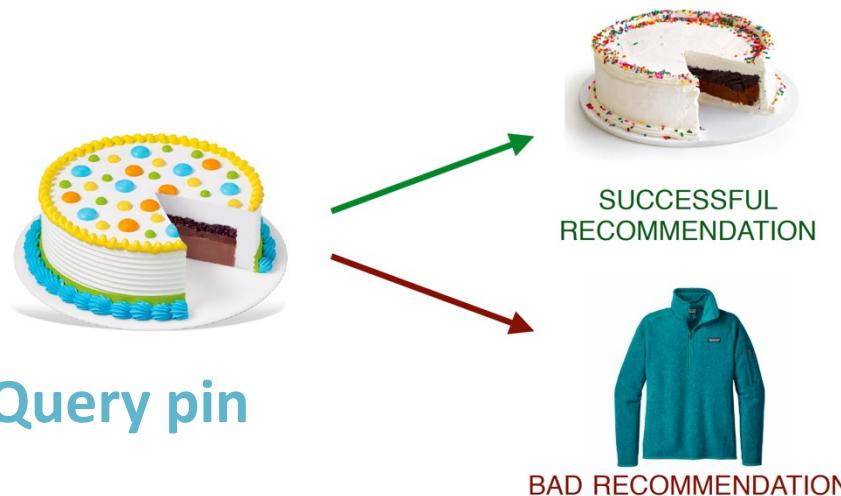
# Example (1): Recommender Systems

- **Users interacts with items**
  - Watch movies, buy merchandise, listen to music
  - **Nodes:** Users and items
  - **Edges:** User-item interactions
- **Goal: Recommend items users might like**



# PinSage: Graph-based Recommender

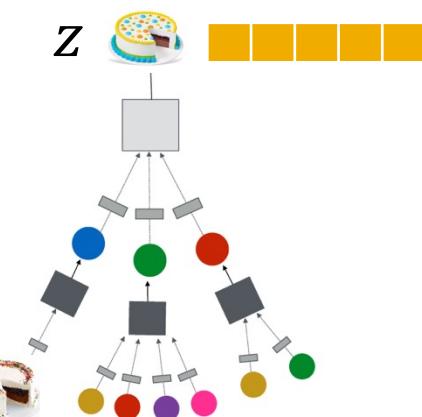
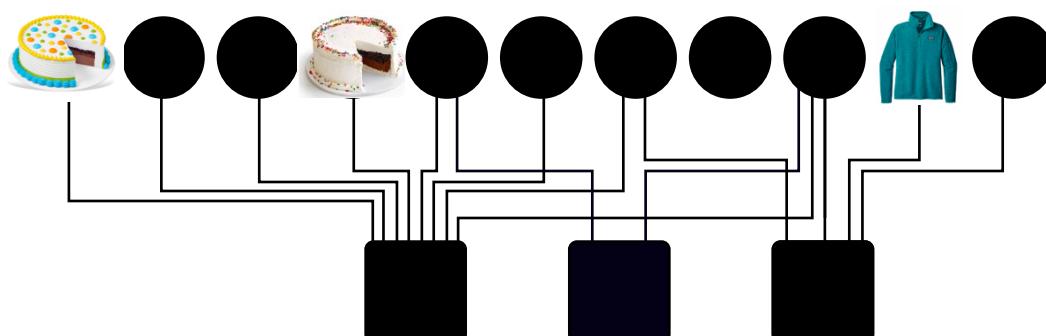
**Task: Recommend related pins to users**



**Task:** Learn node embeddings  $z_i$  such that

$$d(z_{cake1}, z_{cake2}) < d(z_{cake1}, z_{sweater})$$

**Predict whether two nodes in a graph are related**

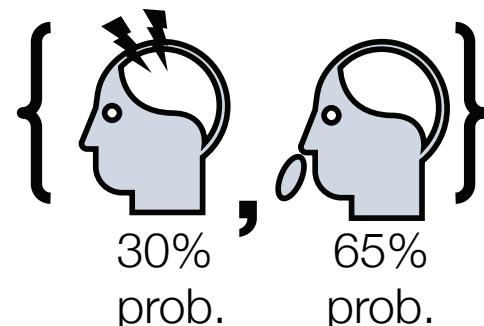


# Example (2): Drug Side Effects

Many patients **take multiple drugs** to treat  
**complex or co-existing diseases:**

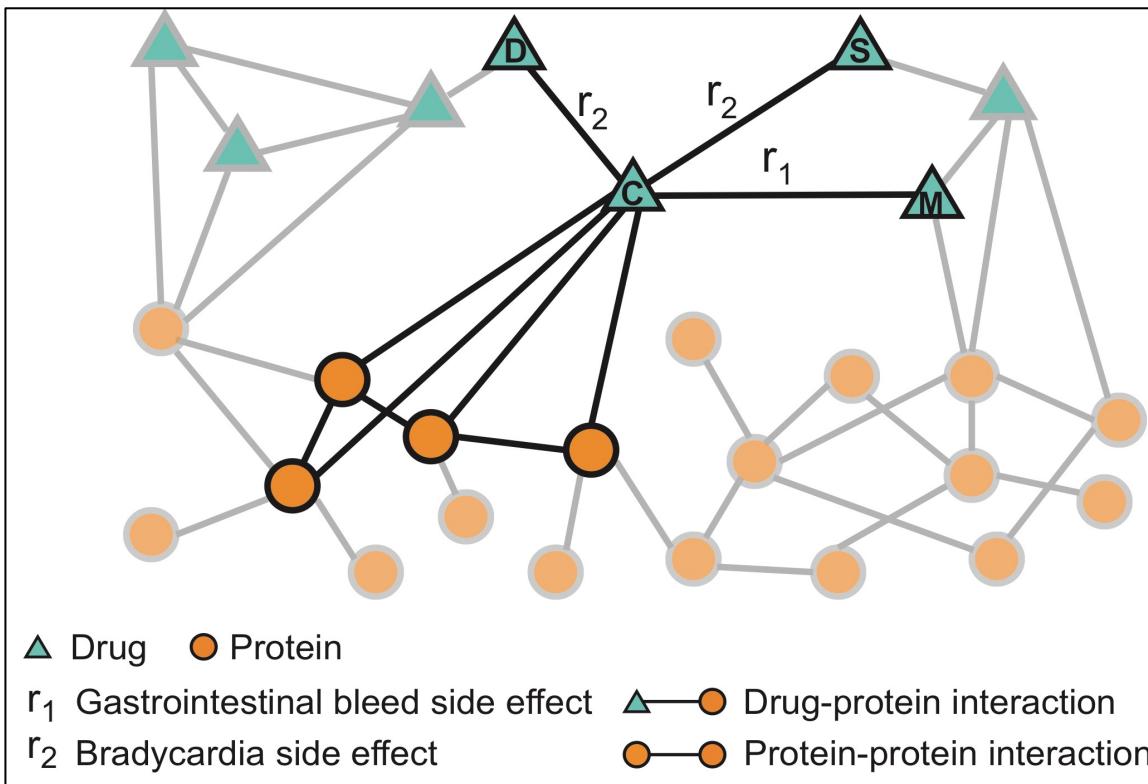
- 46% of people ages 70-79 take more than 5 drugs
- Many patients take more than 20 drugs to treat heart disease, depression, insomnia, etc.

**Task: Given a pair of drugs predict  
adverse side effects**

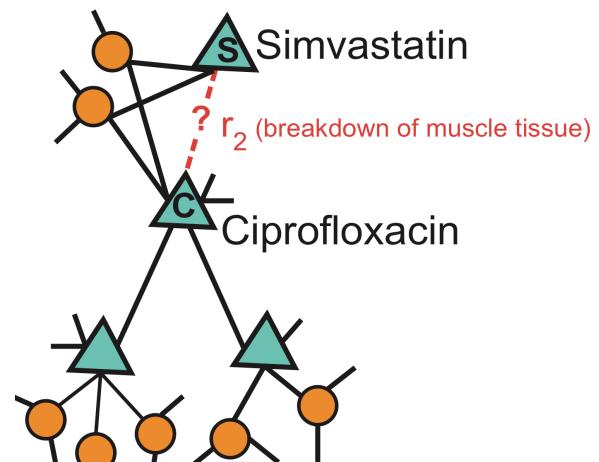


# Biomedical Graph Link Prediction

- **Nodes:** Drugs & Proteins
- **Edges:** Interactions



**Query:** How likely will Simvastatin and Ciprofloxacin, when taken together, break down muscle tissue?



# Results: *De novo* Predictions

Rank	Drug $c$	Drug $d$	Side effect $r$	Evidence found
1	Pyrimethamine	Aliskiren	Sarcoma	<a href="#">Stage et al. 2015</a>
2	Tigecycline	Bimatoprost	Autonomic neuropathy	
3	Omeprazole	Dacarbazine	Telangiectases	
4	Tolcapone	Pyrimethamine	Breast disorder	<a href="#">Bicker et al. 2017</a>
5	Minoxidil	Paricalcitol	Cluster headache	
6	Omeprazole	Amoxicillin	Renal tubular acidosis	<a href="#">Russo et al. 2016</a>
7	Anagrelide	Azelaic acid	Cerebral thrombosis	
8	Atorvastatin	Amlodipine	Muscle inflammation	<a href="#">Banakh et al. 2017</a>
9	Aliskiren	Tioconazole	Breast inflammation	<a href="#">Parving et al. 2012</a>
10	Estradiol	Nadolol	Endometriosis	

*Case Report*

**Severe Rhabdomyolysis due to Presumed Drug Interactions  
between Atorvastatin with Amlodipine and Ticagrelor**

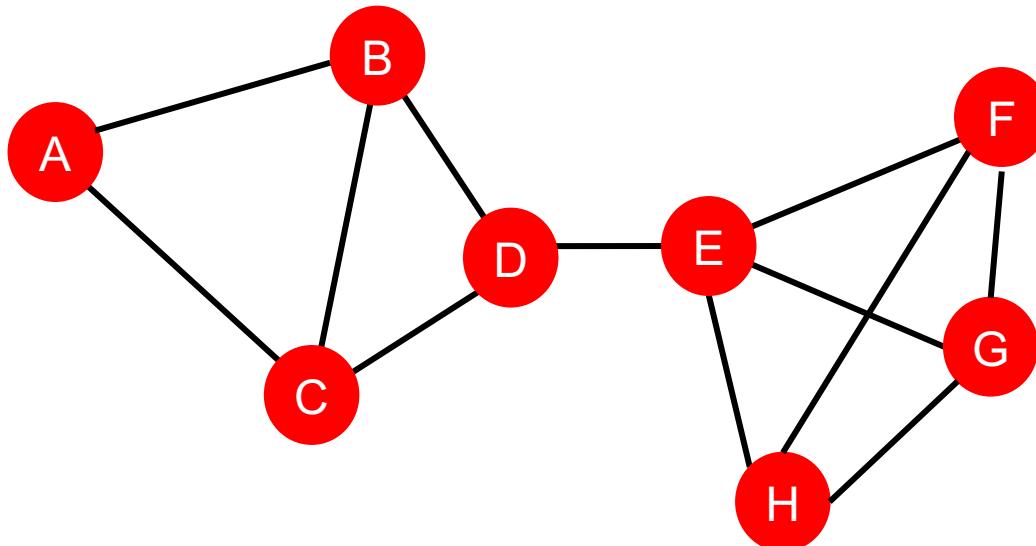
# Stanford CS224W: Graph-Level Tasks

CS224W: Machine Learning with Graphs  
Jure Leskovec, Stanford University  
<http://cs224w.stanford.edu>

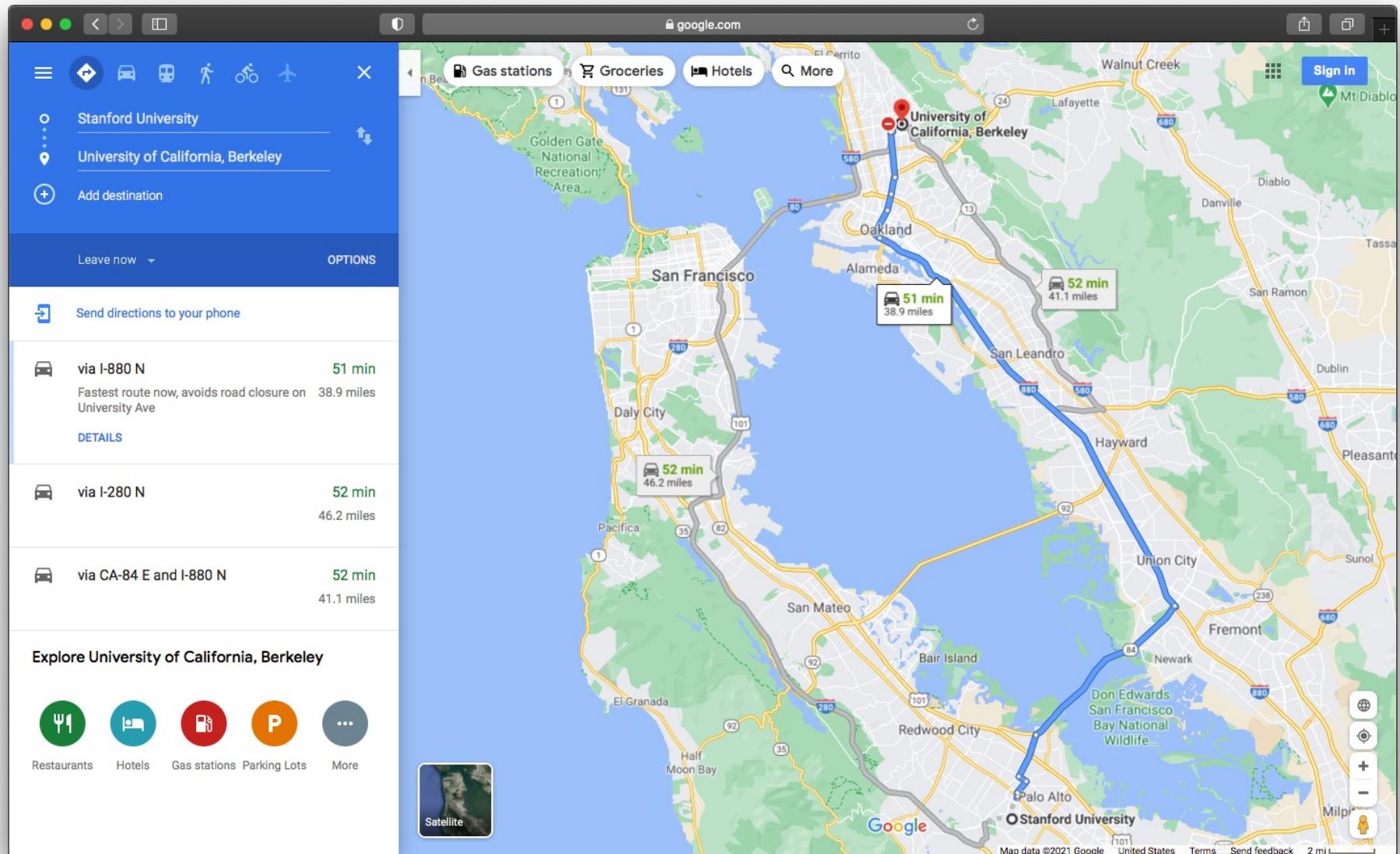


# Graph-Level Prediction

- **Goal:** We want make a prediction for an entire graph or a subgraph of the graph.
- **For example:**



# Example (1): Traffic Prediction



# Road Network as a Graph

- **Nodes:** Road segments
- **Edges:** Connectivity between road segments
- **Prediction:** Time of Arrival (ETA)

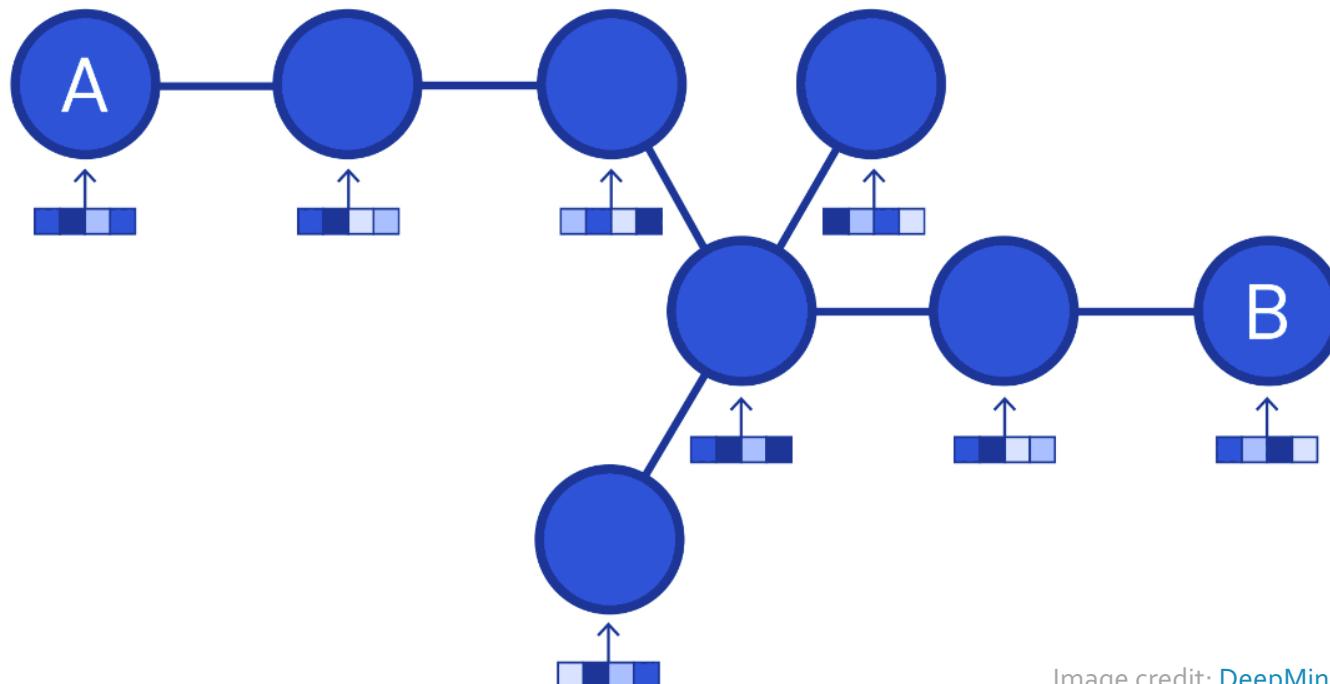
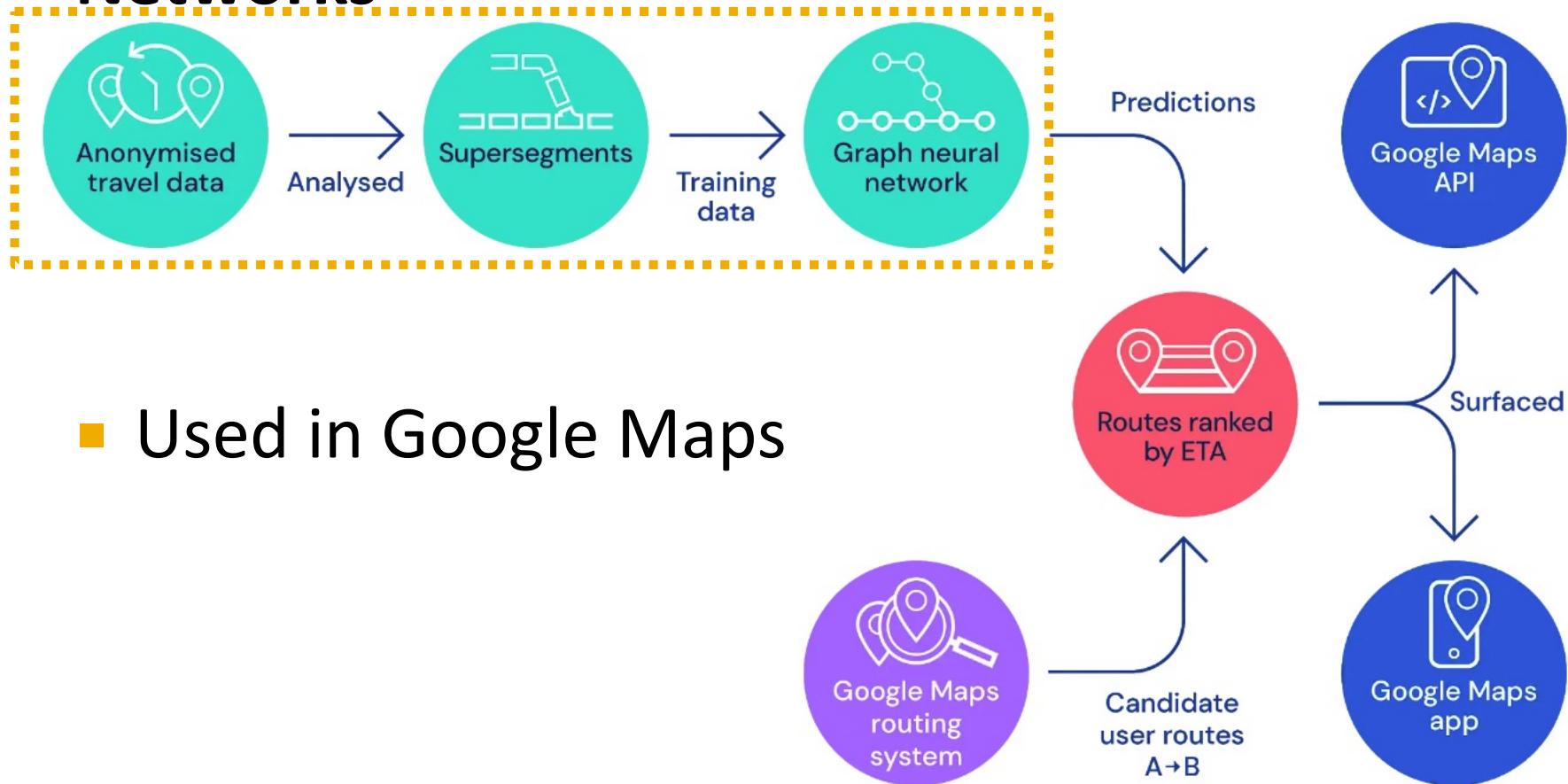


Image credit: [DeepMind](#)

# Traffic Prediction via GNN

## Predicting Time of Arrival with Graph Neural Networks

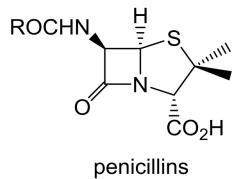


- Used in Google Maps

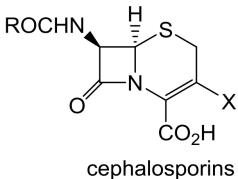
# Example (2): Drug Discovery

## ■ Antibiotics are small molecular graphs

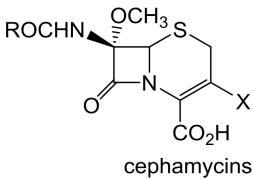
- **Nodes:** Atoms
- **Edges:** Chemical bonds



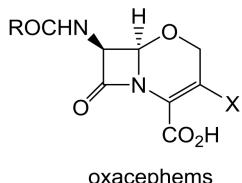
penicillins



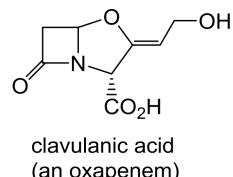
cephalosporins



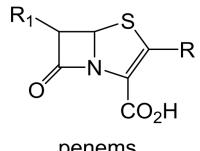
cephamycins



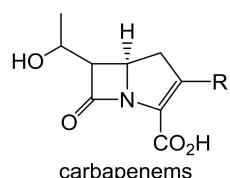
oxacephems



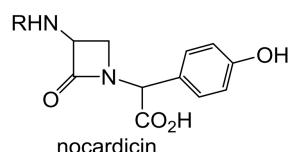
clavulanic acid  
(an oxapenem)



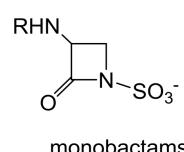
penems



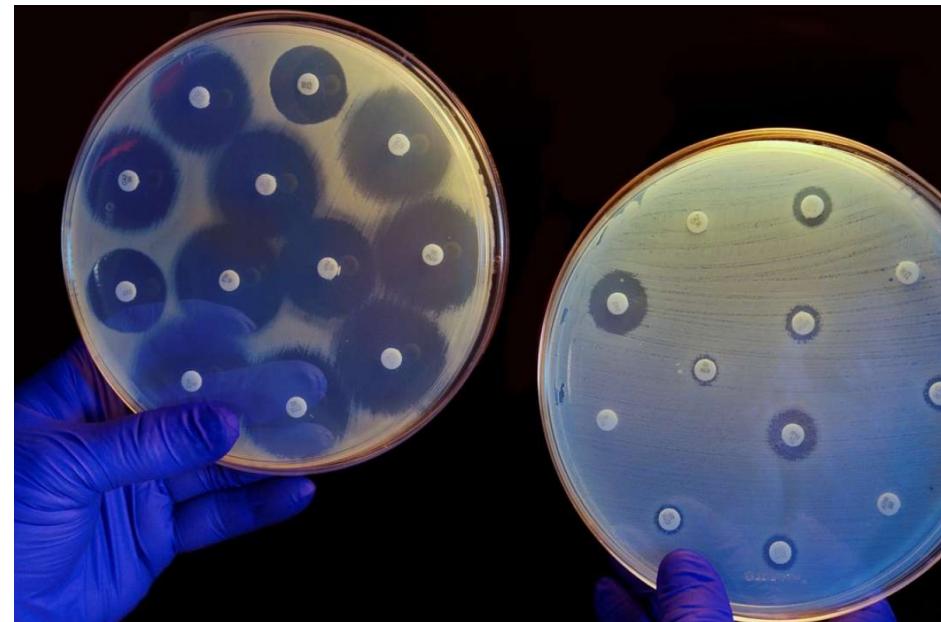
carbapenems



nocardicin



monobactams

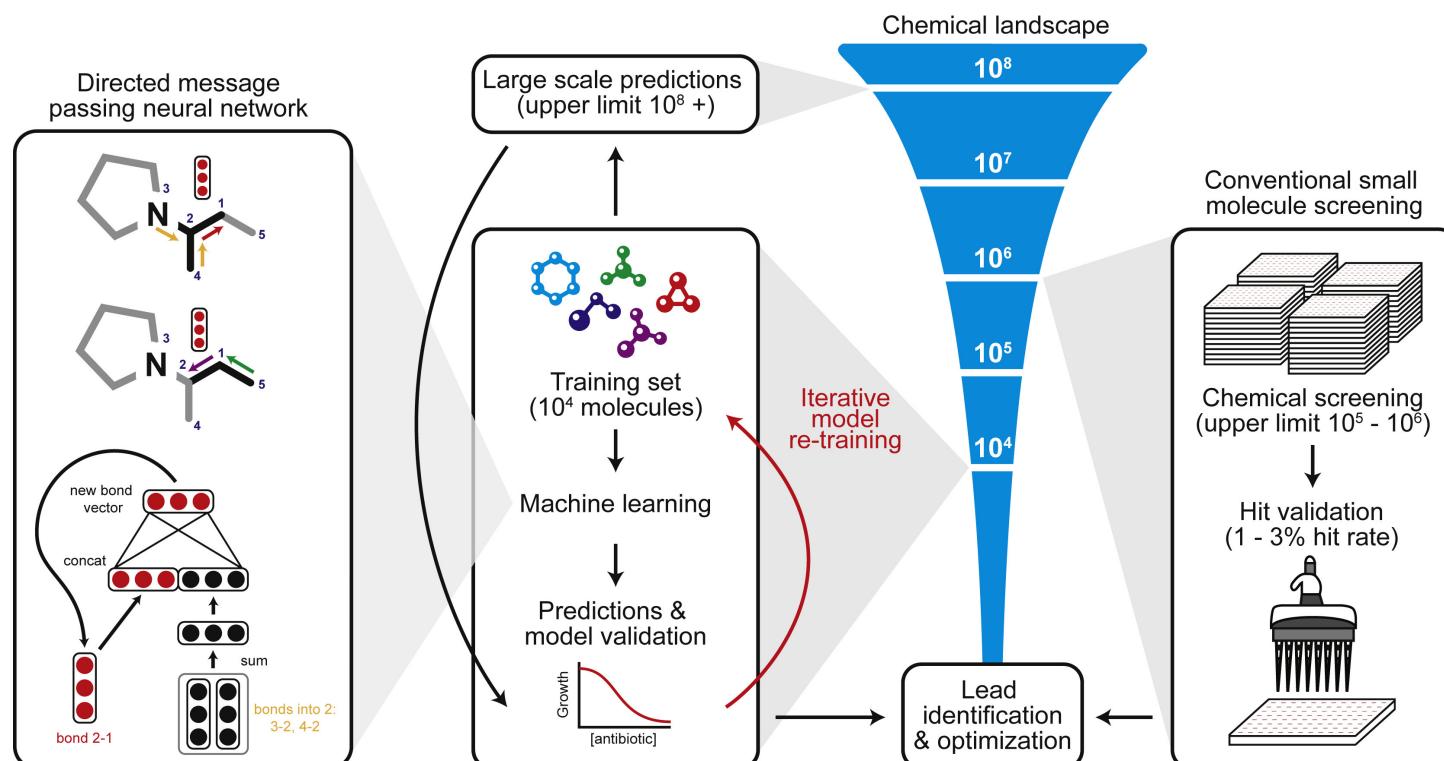


Konaklieva, Monika I. "Molecular targets of β-lactam-based antimicrobials: beyond the usual suspects." *Antibiotics* 3.2 (2014): 128-142.

Image credit: [CNN](#)

# Deep Learning for Antibiotic Discovery

- A Graph Neural Network **graph classification model**
- Predict promising molecules from a pool of candidates

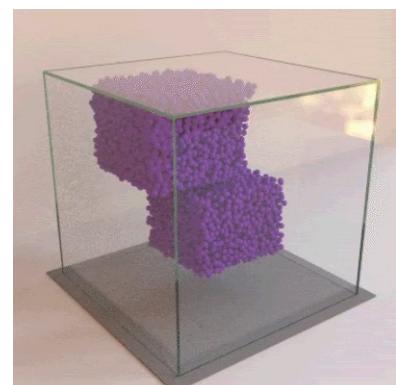
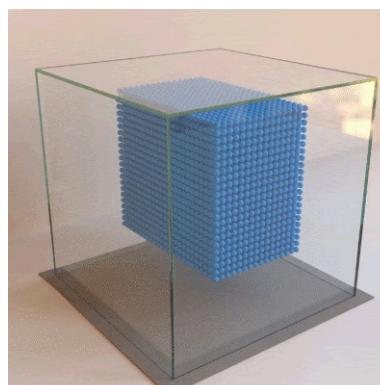


Stokes, Jonathan M., et al. "A deep learning approach to antibiotic discovery." Cell 180.4 (2020): 688-702.

# Example (3): Physics Simulation

Physical simulation as a graph:

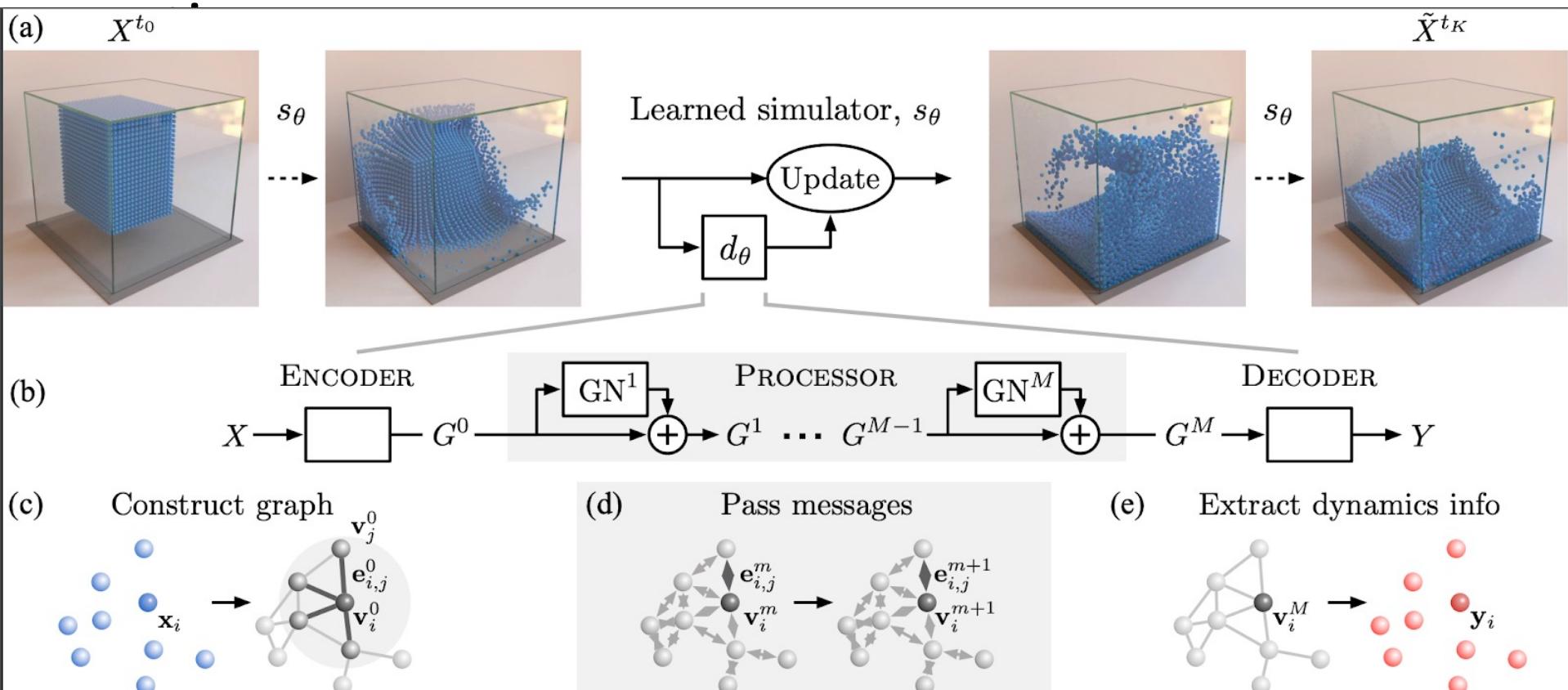
- **Nodes:** Particles
- **Edges:** Interaction between particles



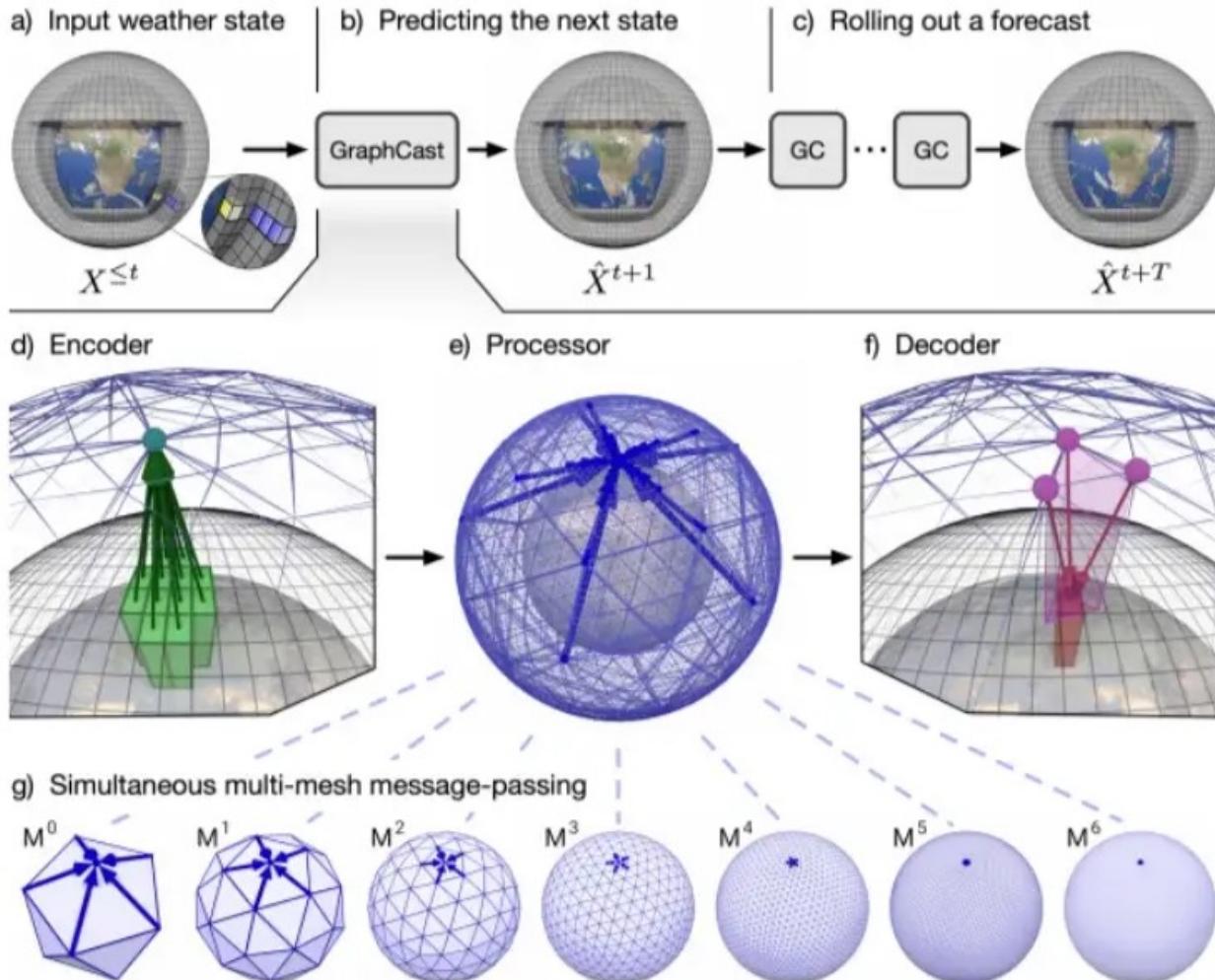
# Simulation Learning Framework

## A graph evolution task:

- **Goal:** Predict how a graph will evolve over time



# Application: Weather forecasting



<https://medium.com/syncedreview/deepmind-googles-ml-based-graphcast-outperforms-the-world-s-best-medium-range-weather-9d114460aa0c>

# Summary

## ML in the language of graphs:

- Node-level:
  - Churn
  - Life-time value
  - Next best action
- Link-level:
  - Product affinity
  - Recommendations
- Graph-level:
  - Fraud, money laundering

