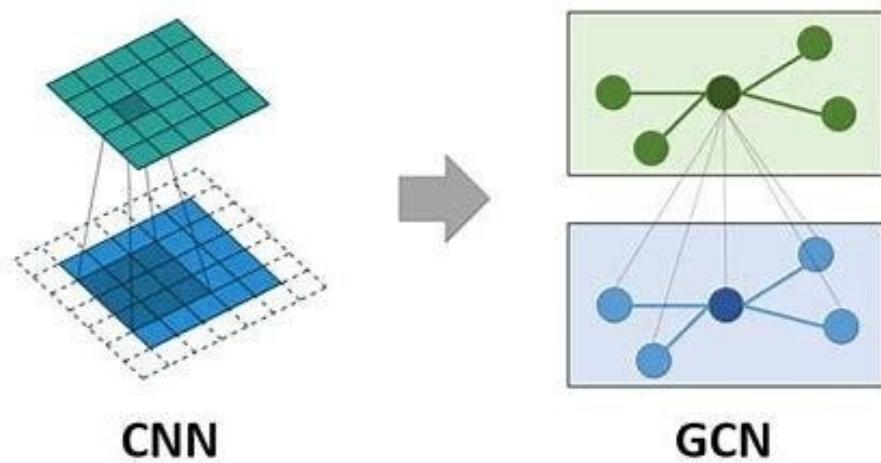


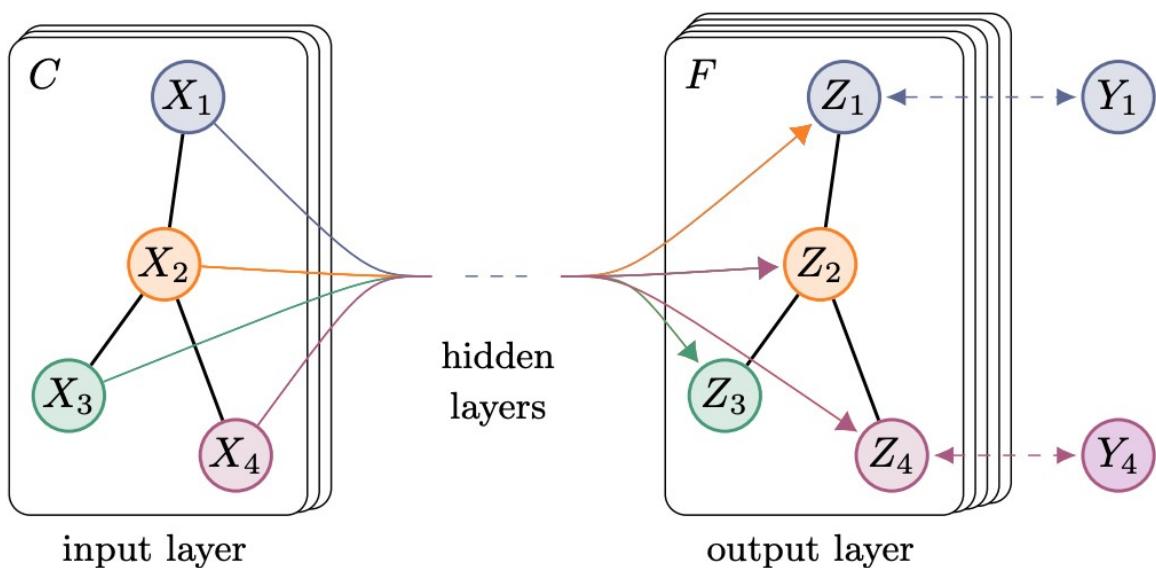
# Graph Convolutional Networks

Graph convolution, primarily implemented through Graph Convolutional Networks (GCNs), is a powerful deep learning technique designed to process data structured as graphs. Unlike traditional convolutional neural networks (CNNs) that operate on grid-like data (like images), GCNs are specifically tailored for non-Euclidean data where relationships between entities are represented as nodes and edges.



The core idea behind a GCN is to learn node embeddings (vector representations of nodes) that capture both the node's features and the graph's structural information. This is achieved by iteratively aggregating information from a node's neighbors.

A GCN typically consists of multiple graph convolutional layers stacked together. Each layer updates the feature representation of a node by performing an aggregation and transformation operation:



## Difference between GNN and GCN :

Think of base GNNs as a framework that:

- Compute messages
- Aggregate them
- Update node features

A GCN is one instantiation of that framework where you:

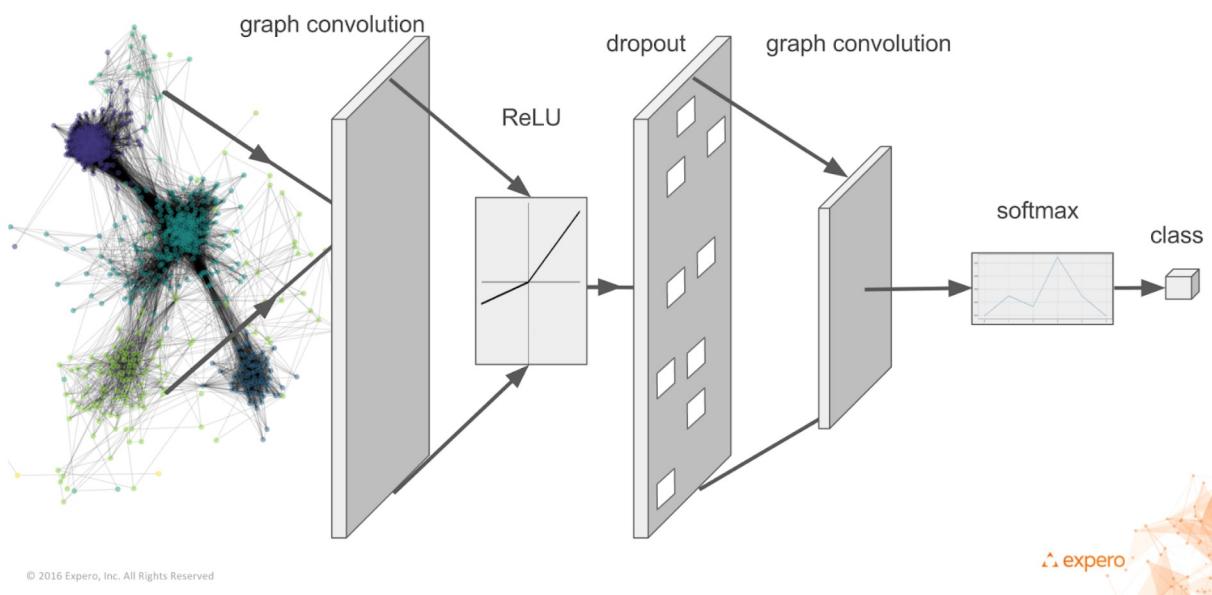
- Combine steps 1+2 via a normalized adjacency matrix (averaging neighbor features)
- Use a single linear transform + activation for updating

```
In [3]: def load_dataset():
    print('..Loading Dataset../n')
    dataset = Planetoid(root = 'data/Cora', name='Cora');
    data = dataset[0];
    print(f'Dataset           : {dataset}')
    print(f'Number of graphs   : {len(dataset)}')
    print(f'Number of nodes     : {data.x.shape[0]}')
    print(f'Number of edges      : {data.edge_index.shape[1]}')
    print(f'Number of node features : {data.x.shape[1]}')
    print(f'Number of classes    : {dataset.num_classes}')
    print(f'Number of training nodes : {data.train_mask.sum()}')
    print(f'Number of validation nodes: {data.val_mask.sum()}')
    print(f'Number of test nodes   : {data.test_mask.sum()}')
    print()
    return data, dataset.num_classes
```

## Model Architecture Breakdown

- A GCN applies repeated rounds of “neighborhood averaging + linear transformation + nonlinearity”, implemented efficiently via normalized adjacency matrix multiplication.
- You stack a few such layers, and finally decode the resulting node embeddings with a softmax (for nodes) or a global readout + MLP (for graphs).
- The core abstraction is that each layer smooths features across the graph structure and then mixes them through learnable weights.

for more details : <https://arxiv.org/abs/1609.02907v4>



## Dataset: Cora

- A citation network of scientific papers
- Nodes: 2,708 research papers
- Edges: Citation relationships (5,429 edges)
- Features: 1,433-dimensional bag-of-words vectors
- Task: Classify papers into 7 research areas

```
In [8]: data, num_classes = load_dataset()
device = torch.device('cuda' if torch.cuda.is_available() else 'cpu')

..Loading Dataset../n
Downloading https://github.com/kimiyoung/planetoid/raw/master/data/ind.cora.x
Downloading https://github.com/kimiyoung/planetoid/raw/master/data/ind.cora.tx
Downloading https://github.com/kimiyoung/planetoid/raw/master/data/ind.cora.allx
Downloading https://github.com/kimiyoung/planetoid/raw/master/data/ind.cora.y
Downloading https://github.com/kimiyoung/planetoid/raw/master/data/ind.cora.ty
Downloading https://github.com/kimiyoung/planetoid/raw/master/data/ind.cora.ally
Downloading https://github.com/kimiyoung/planetoid/raw/master/data/ind.cora.graph
Dataset : Cora()
Number of graphs : 1
Number of nodes : 2708
Number of edges : 10556
Number of node features : 1433
Number of classes : 7
Number of training nodes : 140
Number of validation nodes: 500
Number of test nodes : 1000

Downloading https://github.com/kimiyoung/planetoid/raw/master/data/ind.cora.test.i
ndex
Processing...
Done!
```

## Simple GNN with average aggregator

```
In [10]: Graph_nn = GNN(
```

```

    inp_dim = data.x.shape[1], # 1433 features for CORA
    hidden_dim = 128,
    out_dim = num_classes,
    num_layers = 2
)
print(f"Number of parameter : {sum(p.numel() for p in Graph_nn.parameters())}\n")
print('Model Architecture:')
print(Graph_nn)
print()

Graph_nn, data = Graph_nn.to(device), data.to(device)

Graph_nn, train_loss, val_accuracy = train(Graph_nn, data, epochs = 100)

visualize_results(train_loss, val_accuracy)
visualize_embed(Graph_nn, data, num_classes)

```

Number of parameter : 184455

Model Architecture:

```

GNN(
  (layers): ModuleList(
    (0): Linear(in_features=1433, out_features=128, bias=True)
    (1): Linear(in_features=128, out_features=7, bias=True)
  )
  (dropout): Dropout(p=0.5, inplace=False)
)

```

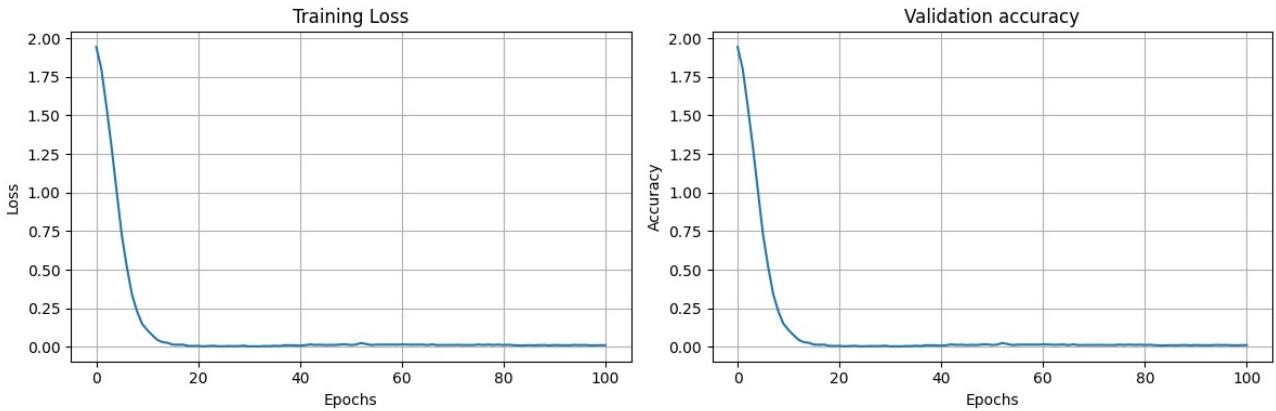
..Training Model..

```

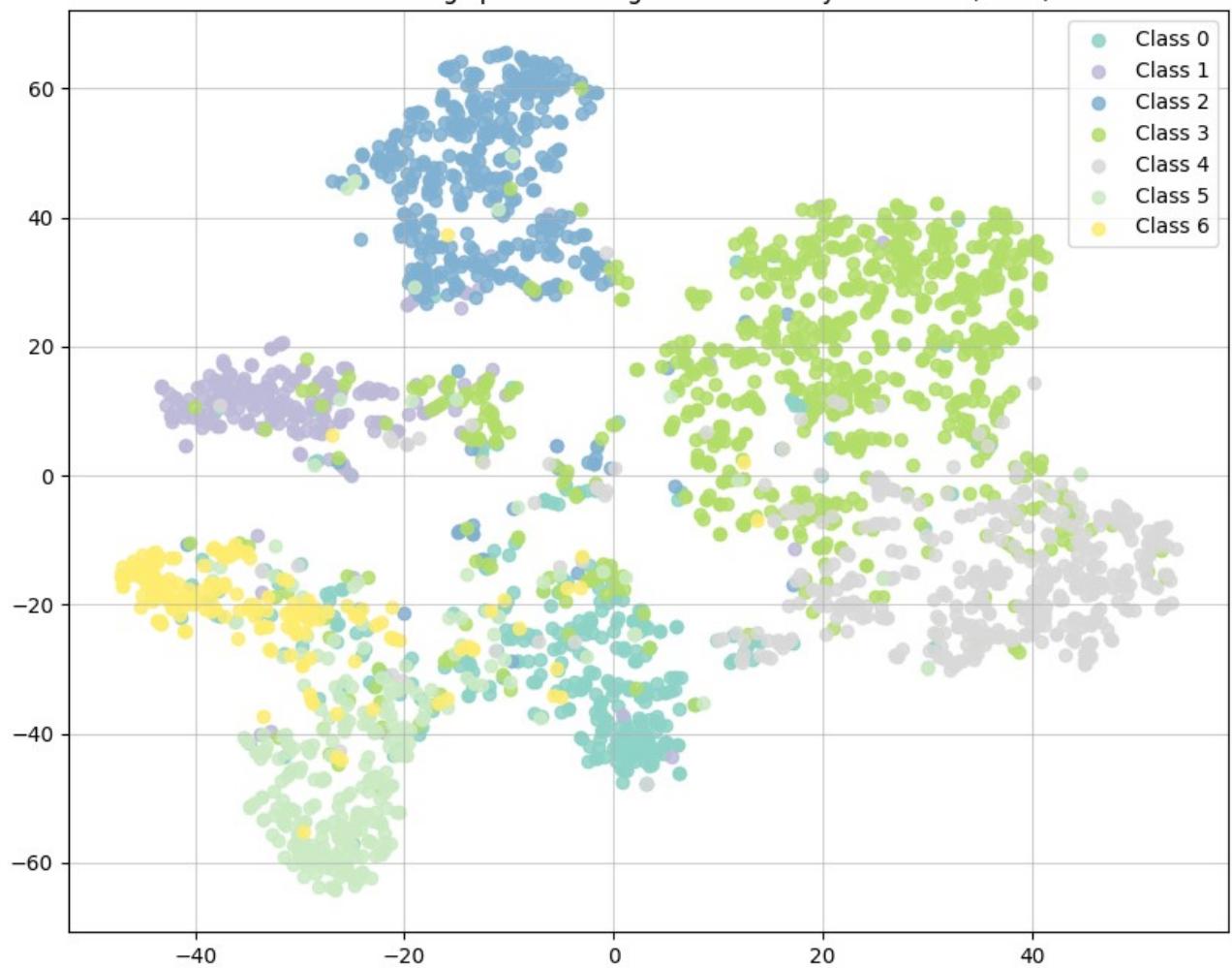
Epoch 0/100, Loss : 1.9442, Val acc : 0.0580
Epoch 20/100, Loss : 0.0063, Val acc : 0.7640
Epoch 40/100, Loss : 0.0077, Val acc : 0.7640
Epoch 60/100, Loss : 0.0158, Val acc : 0.7700
Epoch 80/100, Loss : 0.0117, Val acc : 0.7680
Epoch 100/100, Loss : 0.0109, Val acc : 0.7800

```

..Training Complete..



Node Embeddings plotted using Dimensionality reduction (t-sne)



## Custom Graph Convolution network

The equation to calculate the hidden output from the previous can be generalized as:

$$H^{(l+1)} = f(H^{(l)}, A)$$

Different choices of  $f$  result in different variants of the models. As a preview, the GCN paper applies the propagation rule below

$$\mathbf{h}_v^0 = \mathbf{x}_v$$

trainable matrices  
(i.e., what we learn)

$$\mathbf{h}_v^k = \sigma \left( \mathbf{W}_k \sum_{u \in N(v)} \frac{\mathbf{h}_u^{k-1}}{|N(v)|} + \mathbf{B}_k \mathbf{h}_v^{k-1} \right), \quad \forall k \in \{1, \dots, K\}$$

previous layer  
embedding of  $v$

average of neighbor's  
previous layer

$$\mathbf{z}_v = \mathbf{h}_v^K$$

or in closed form

$$H^{(l+1)} = \sigma \left( \tilde{D}^{-\frac{1}{2}} \tilde{A} \tilde{D}^{-\frac{1}{2}} H^{(l)} W^{(l)} \right)$$

where

$$\tilde{A} = A + I_N$$

$$\tilde{D}_{ii} = \sum_j \tilde{A}_{ij}$$

source : <https://jonathan-hui.medium.com/graph-convolutional-networks-gcn-pooling-839184205692>

```
In [11]: class GCNlayer(nn.Module):
    def __init__(self, in_feat, out_feat):
        super(GCNlayer, self).__init__()
        self.in_feat = in_feat
        self.out_feat = out_feat

        self.W = nn.Parameter(torch.FloatTensor(in_feat, out_feat))
        self.B = nn.Parameter(torch.FloatTensor(out_feat))

        self.reset_param()

    def reset_param(self):
        nn.init.xavier_uniform_(self.W)
        nn.init.zeros_(self.B)

    def forward(self, x, edges):
        # x : (N, D)   edges: (2, E) as [[src], [tgt]]
        N = x.size(0)

        edge_w_loops, _ = add_self_loops(edges, num_nodes = N)

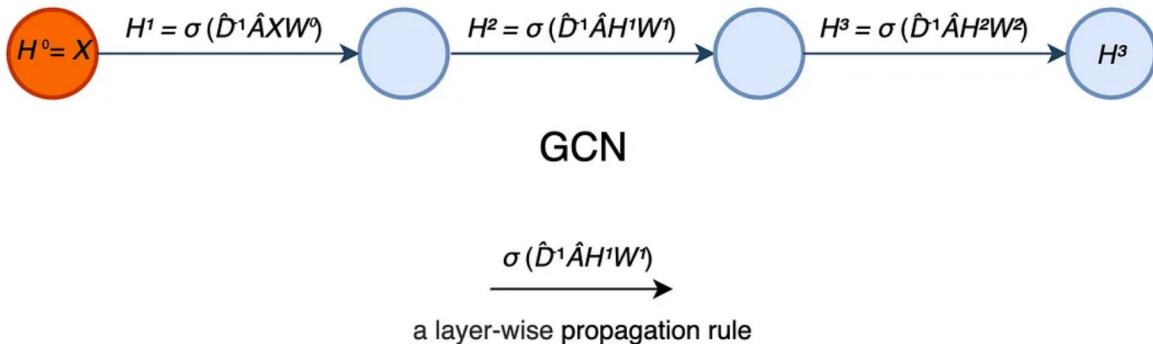
        # Calculating node degrees for normalization
        row, col = edge_w_loops
        deg = torch.zeros(N, device = x.device)
        deg.scatter_add_(0, row, torch.ones(row.size(0), device=x.device))

        # compute normalization coefficients given by 1/(sqrt(deg(i) * deg(j)))
        deg_inv_sqrt = deg.pow(-0.5)
        deg_inv_sqrt[deg_inv_sqrt == float('inf')] = 0
        norm = deg_inv_sqrt[row] * deg_inv_sqrt[col]

        x_trans = torch.mm(x, self.W)
        out = torch.zeros_like(x_trans)

        messages = x_trans[row] * norm.view(-1, 1)
        out.scatter_add_(0, col.view(-1,1).expand(-1, x_trans.size(1)), messages)

    return out + self.B
```



```
In [13]: Graph_nn = GCN(
    inp_dim = data.x.shape[1], # 1433 features for CORA
    hidden_dim = 128,
    out_dim = num_classes,
    num_layers = 2
)
print(f"Number of parameter : {sum(p.numel() for p in Graph_nn.parameters())}\n")
print('Model Architecture:')
print(Graph_nn)
print()

Graph_nn, data = Graph_nn.to(device), data.to(device)

Graph_nn, train_loss, val_accuracy = train(Graph_nn, data, epochs = 100)

visualize_results(train_loss, val_accuracy)
visualize_embed(Graph_nn, data, num_classes)
```

Number of parameter : 184711

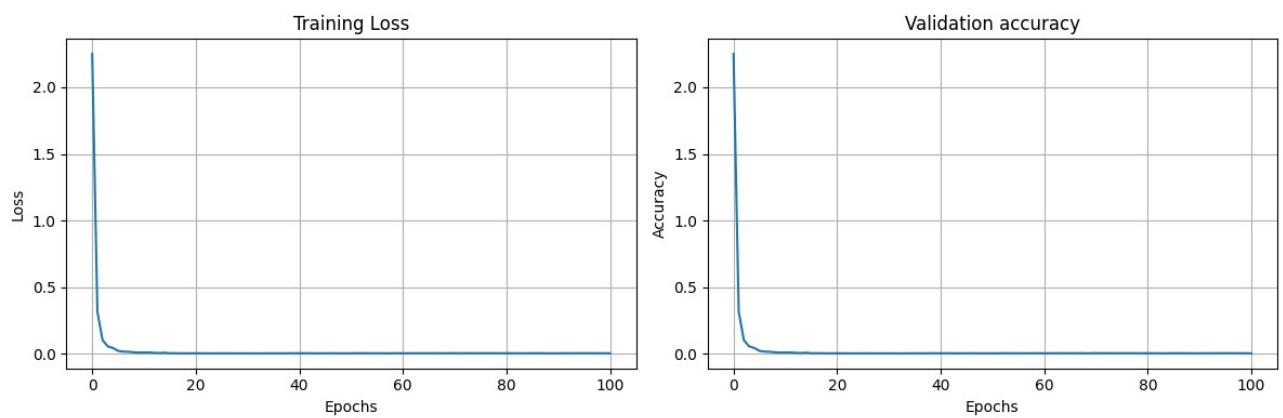
Model Architecture:

```
GCN(
(layers): ModuleList(
(0-1): 2 x GCNlayer()
)
(b_norms): ModuleList(
(0): BatchNorm1d(128, eps=1e-05, momentum=0.1, affine=True, track_running_stat
s=True)
)
)
```

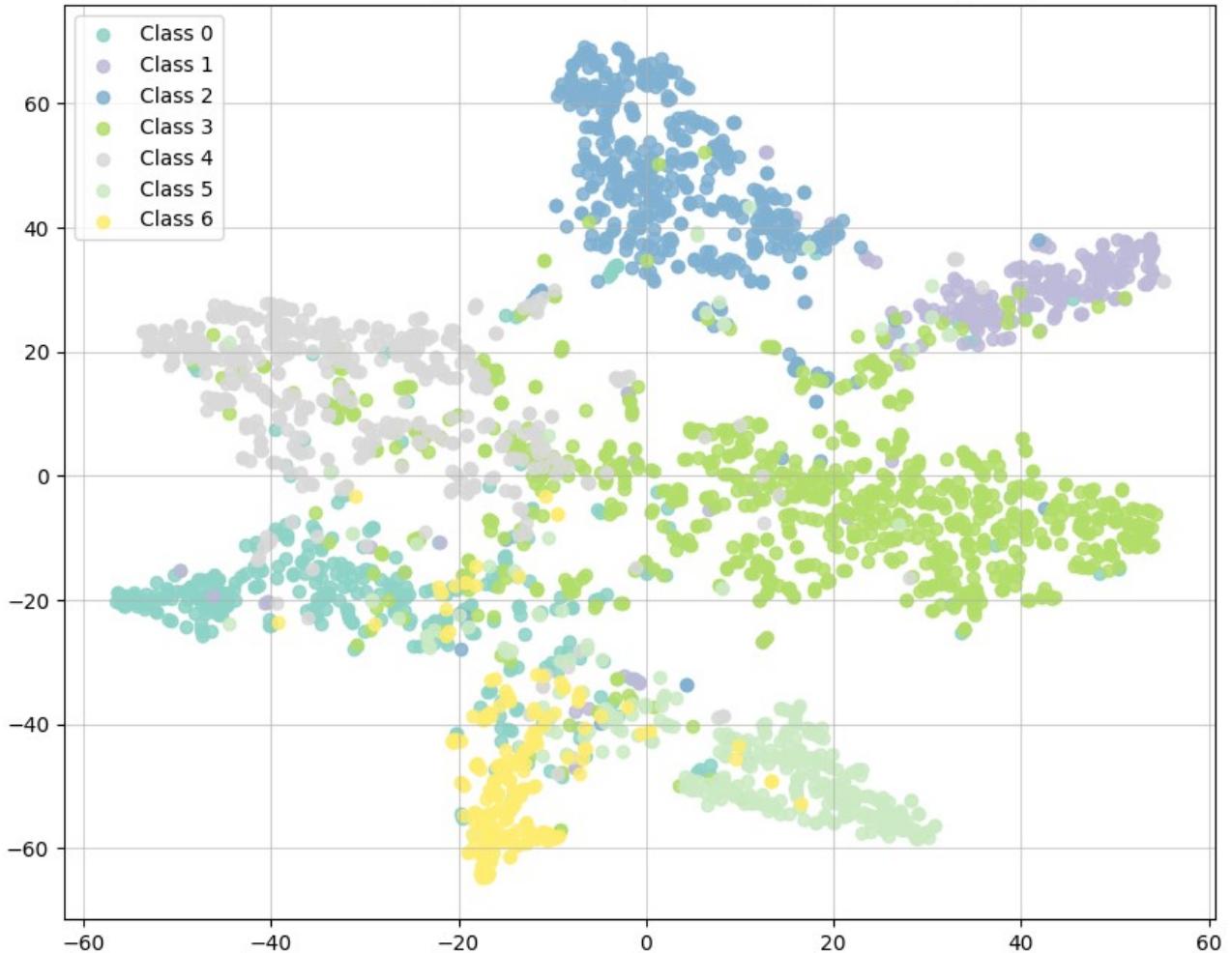
..Training Model..

```
Epoch 0/100, Loss : 2.2506, Val acc : 0.0740
Epoch 20/100, Loss : 0.0022, Val acc : 0.7640
Epoch 40/100, Loss : 0.0022, Val acc : 0.7620
Epoch 60/100, Loss : 0.0019, Val acc : 0.7640
Epoch 80/100, Loss : 0.0026, Val acc : 0.7620
Epoch 100/100, Loss : 0.0017, Val acc : 0.7560
```

..Training Complete..

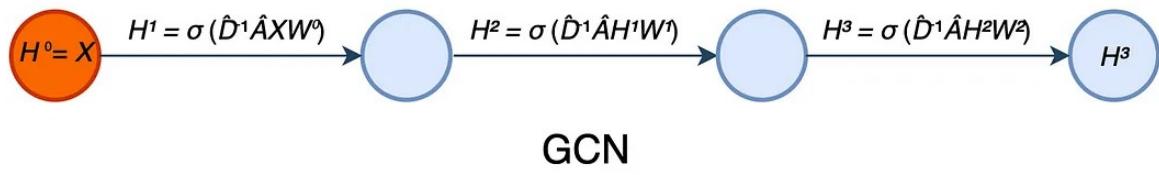


Node Embeddings plotted using Dimensionality reduction (t-sne)



## GCN using PyTorch's GCNConv layer

**DCNConv** : The graph convolutional operator from the "Semi-supervised Classification with Graph Convolutional Networks" paper.



$\sigma(\hat{D}^{-1}\hat{A}H^1W^1)$   
a layer-wise propagation rule

```
In [14]: class GCN_torch(nn.Module):
    def __init__(self, inp_dim, hidden_dim, out_dim, num_layers=2, dropout=0.5):
        super(GCN_torch, self).__init__()
        self.num_layers = num_layers
        self.layers = nn.ModuleList()
        self.BN = nn.ModuleList()

        self.layers.append(GCNConv(inp_dim, hidden_dim))
        self.BN.append(nn.BatchNorm1d(hidden_dim))

        for _ in range(num_layers-2):
            self.layers.append(GCNConv(hidden_dim, hidden_dim))
            self.BN.append(nn.BatchNorm1d(hidden_dim))

        self.layers.append(GCNConv(hidden_dim, out_dim))
        self.dropout = dropout

    def forward(self, x, edge_index):

        for i in range(len(self.layers)-1):
            x = self.layers[i](x, edge_index)
            x = self.BN[i](x)
            if i == 0:
                res = torch.zeros_like(x, device=x.device)
            x = x+res
            res = torch.zeros_like(x, device=x.device)
            x = F.dropout(x, self.dropout, training = self.training)
            res = x

        out = self.layers[-1](x, edge_index)
        return out
```

```
In [15]: Graph_nn = GCN_torch(
    inp_dim = data.x.shape[1], # 1433 features for CORA
    hidden_dim = 128,
    out_dim = num_classes,
    num_layers = 2
)
print(f"Number of parameter : {sum(p.numel() for p in Graph_nn.parameters())}\n")
print('Model Architecture:')
print(Graph_nn)
print()

Graph_nn, data = Graph_nn.to(device), data.to(device)

Graph_nn, train_loss, val_accuracy = train(Graph_nn, data, epochs = 100)

visualize_results(train_loss, val_accuracy)
visualize_embed(Graph_nn, data, num_classes)
```

Number of parameter : 184711

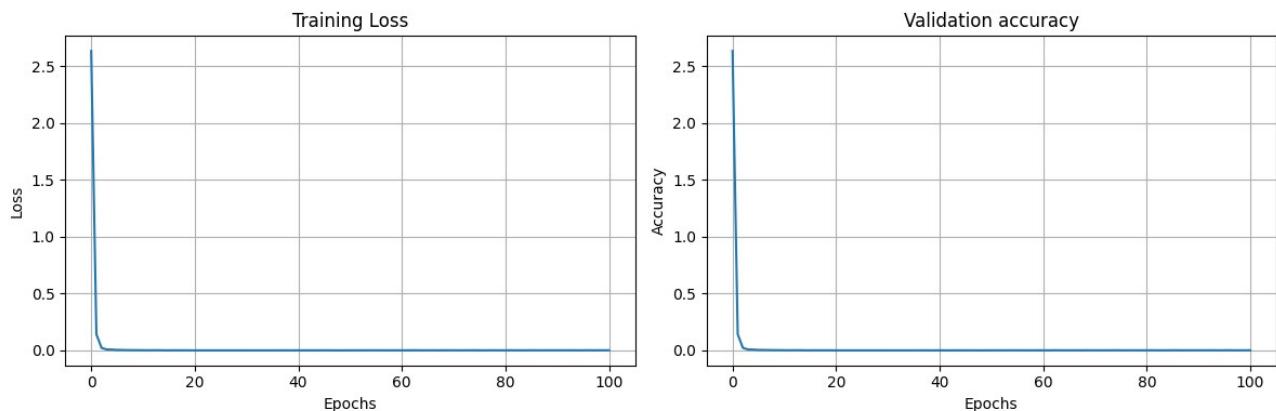
Model Architecture:

```
GCN_torch(  
    (layers): ModuleList(  
        (0): GCNConv(1433, 128)  
        (1): GCNConv(128, 7)  
    )  
    (BN): ModuleList(  
        (0): BatchNorm1d(128, eps=1e-05, momentum=0.1, affine=True, track_running_stat  
s=True)  
    )  
)
```

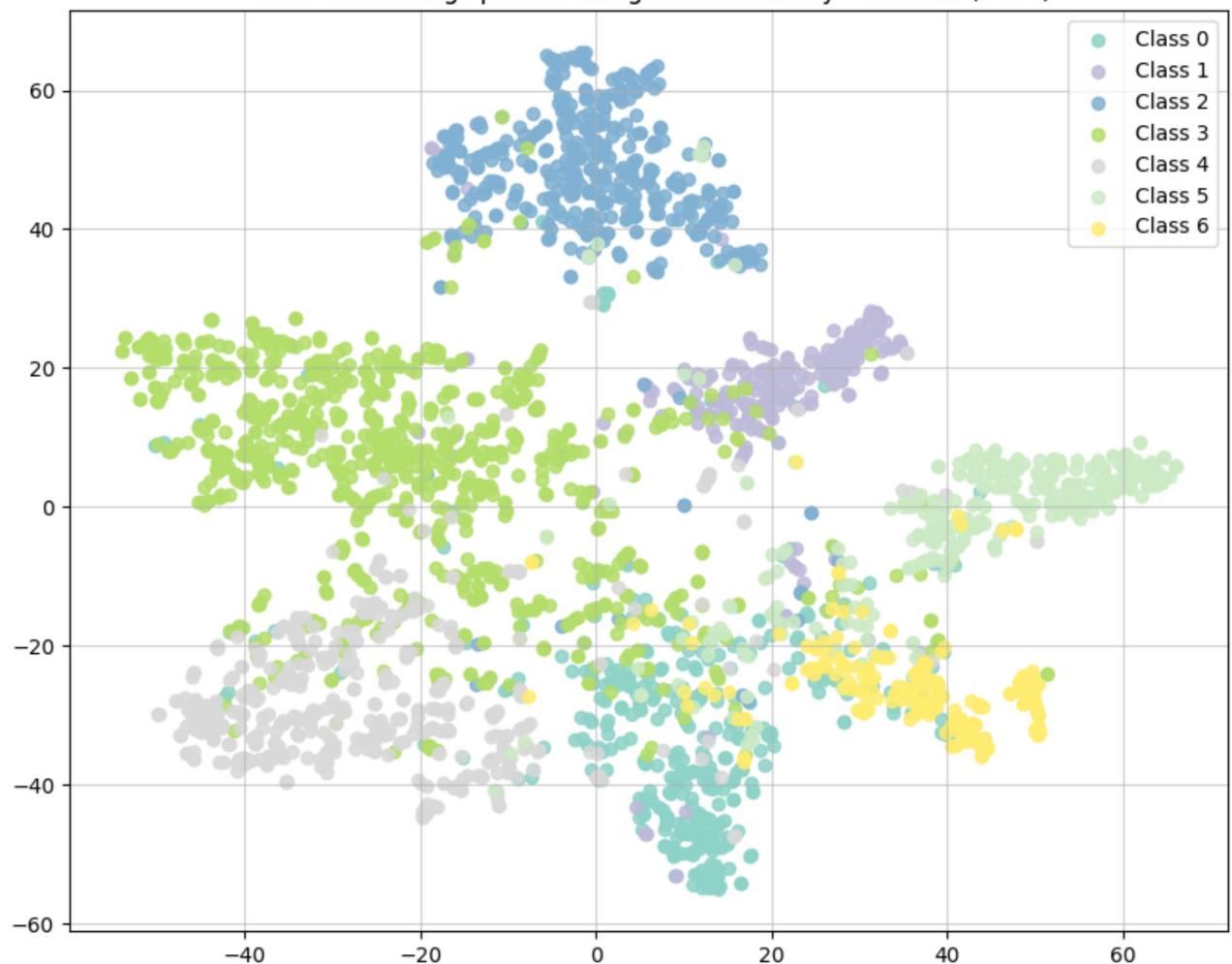
..Training Model..

```
Epoch 0/100, Loss : 2.6344, Val acc : 0.1580  
Epoch 20/100, Loss : 0.0008, Val acc : 0.7300  
Epoch 40/100, Loss : 0.0012, Val acc : 0.7500  
Epoch 60/100, Loss : 0.0013, Val acc : 0.7500  
Epoch 80/100, Loss : 0.0014, Val acc : 0.7360  
Epoch 100/100, Loss : 0.0016, Val acc : 0.7440
```

..Training Complete..



Node Embeddings plotted using Dimensionality reduction (t-sne)



In [ ]: