

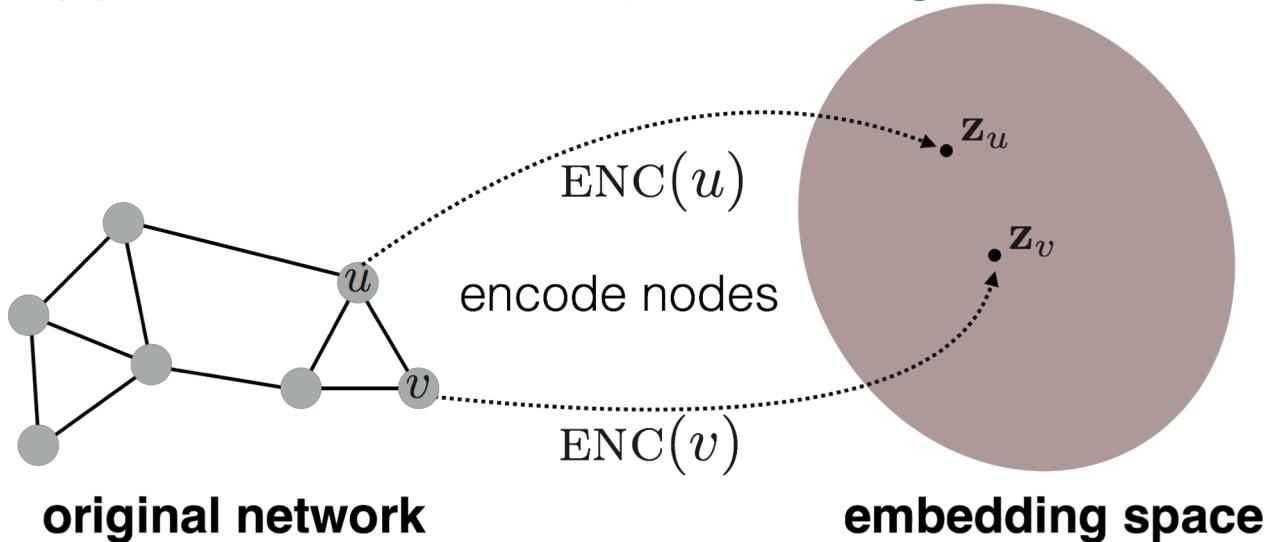
# This Talk

- 1) Node embeddings 
- Map nodes to low-dimensional embeddings.
- 2) Graph neural networks 
- Deep learning architectures for graph-structured data
- 3) Generative graph models
- Learning to generate realistic graph data.

# Part 2: Graph Neural Networks

# Embedding Nodes

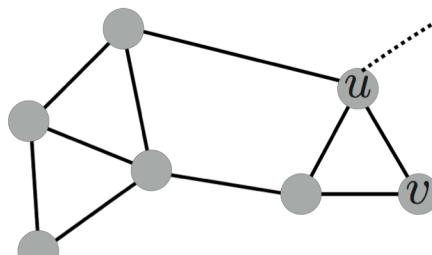
- Goal is to encode nodes so that **similarity in the embedding space** (e.g., dot product) approximates **similarity in the original network**.



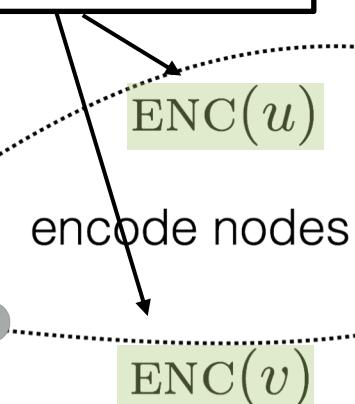
# Embedding Nodes

Goal:  $\text{similarity}(u, v) \approx \mathbf{z}_v^\top \mathbf{z}_u$

Need to define!



original network



# Two Key Components

- Encoder maps each node to a low-dimensional vector.

$$\text{ENC}(v) = \mathbf{z}_v^{\leftarrow}$$

d-dimensional  
embedding  
node in the input graph

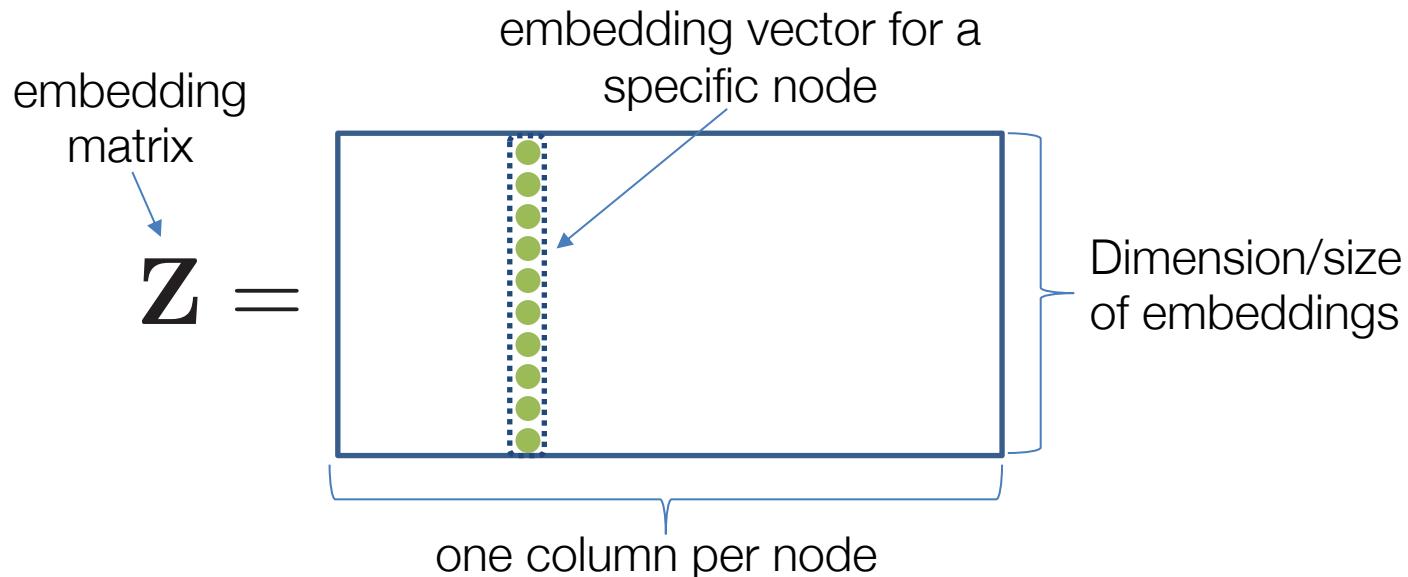
- Similarity function specifies how relationships in vector space map to relationships in the original network.

$$\text{similarity}(u, v) \approx \mathbf{z}_v^T \mathbf{z}_u$$

Similarity of  $u$  and  $v$  in  
the original network  
dot product between node  
embeddings

# From “Shallow” to “Deep”

- So far we have focused on “shallow” encoders, i.e. embedding lookups:



# From “Shallow” to “Deep”

- Limitations of shallow encoding:
  - **O(|V|) parameters are needed:** there no parameter sharing and every node has its own unique embedding vector.
  - **Inherently “transductive”:** It is impossible to generate embeddings for nodes that were not seen during training.
  - **Do not incorporate node features:** Many graphs have features that we can and should leverage.

# From “Shallow” to “Deep”

- We will now discuss “deeper” methods based on **graph neural networks**.

$\text{ENC}(v) =$  complex function that depends on graph structure.

- In general, all of these more complex encoders can be combined with the similarity functions from the previous section.

# Outline for this Section

- We will now discuss “deeper” methods based on **graph neural networks**.
  1. The Basics
  2. Graph Convolutional Networks
  3. GraphSAGE
  4. Gated Graph Neural Networks
  5. Graph Attention Networks
  6. Subgraph embeddings

# The Basics: Graph Neural Networks

Based on material from:

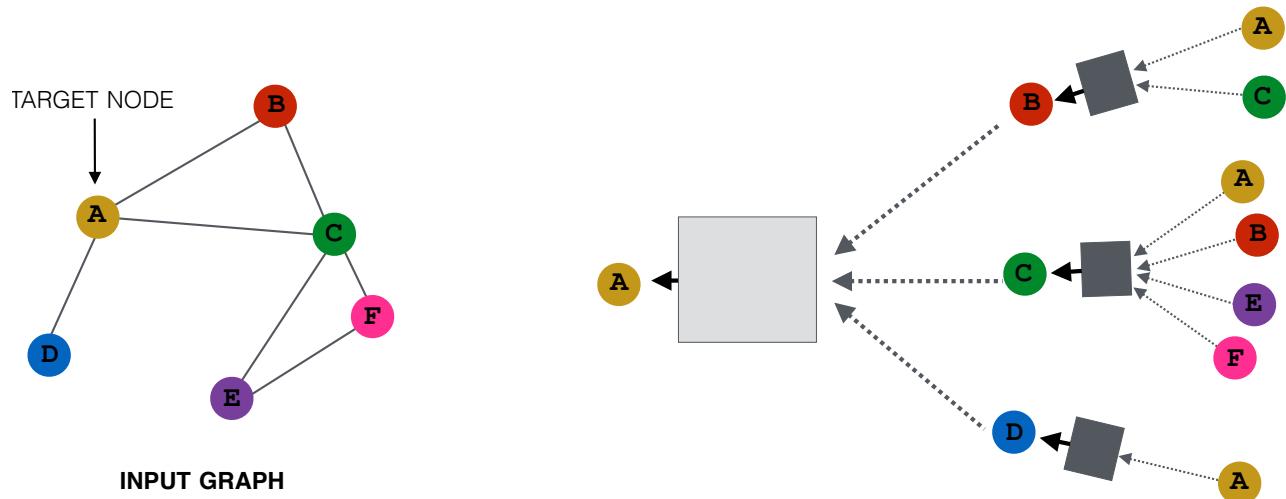
- Hamilton et al. 2017. [Representation Learning on Graphs: Methods and Applications](#). *IEEE Data Engineering Bulletin on Graph Systems*.
- Scarselli et al. 2005. [The Graph Neural Network Model](#). *IEEE Transactions on Neural Networks*.

# Setup

- Assume we have a graph  $G$ :
  - $V$  is the vertex set.
  - $A$  is the adjacency matrix (assume binary).
  - $X \in \mathbb{R}^{m \times |V|}$  is a matrix of node features.
    - Categorical attributes, text, image data
      - E.g., profile information in a social network.
    - Node degrees, clustering coefficients, etc.
    - Indicator vectors (i.e., one-hot encoding of each node)

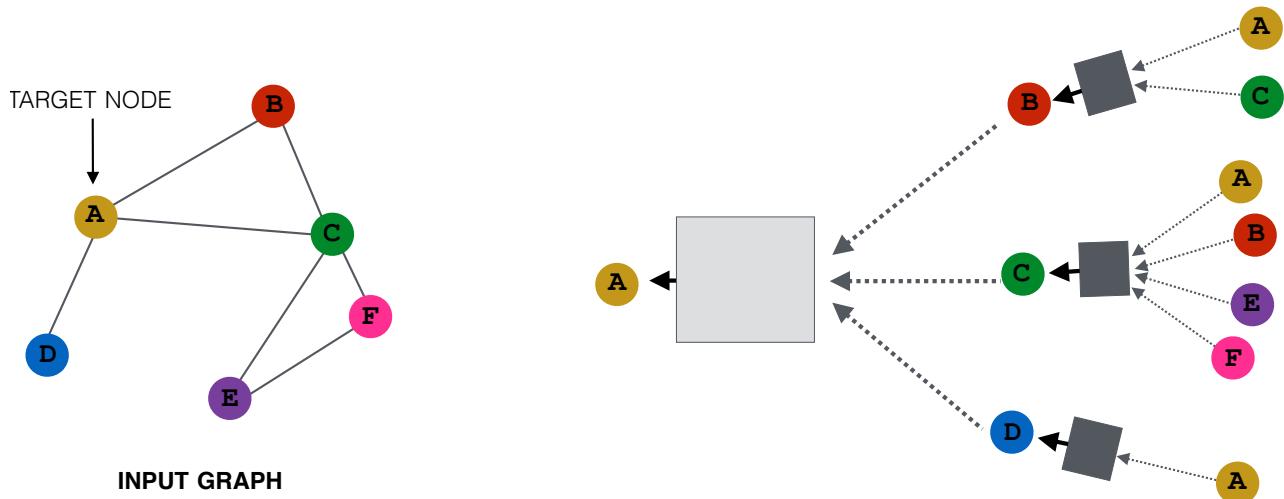
# Neighborhood Aggregation

- **Key idea:** Generate node embeddings based on local neighborhoods.



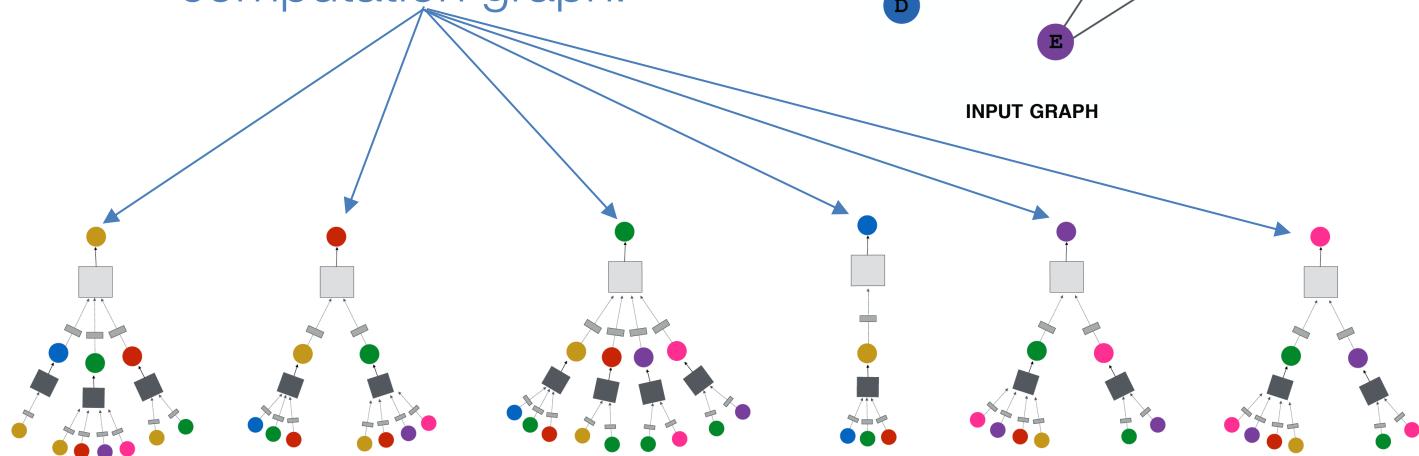
# Neighborhood Aggregation

- **Intuition:** Nodes aggregate information from their neighbors using neural networks



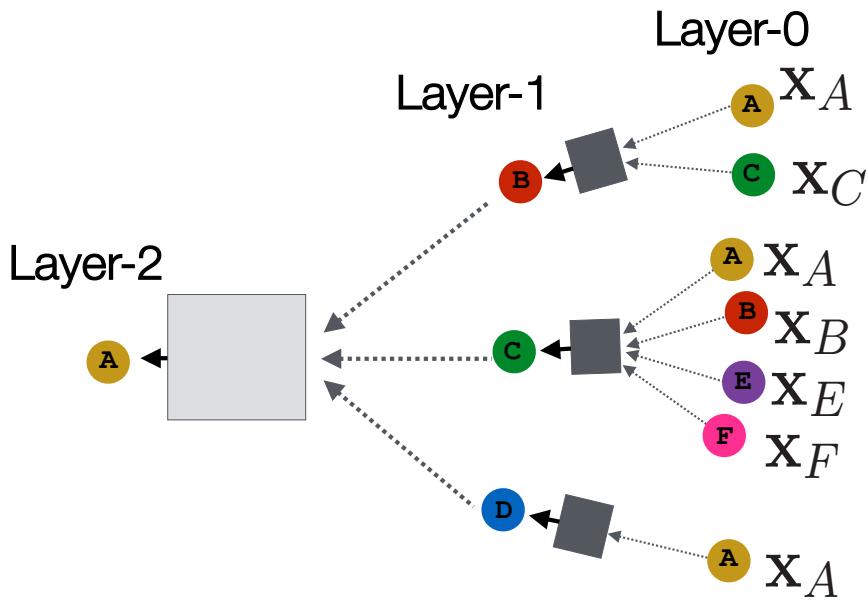
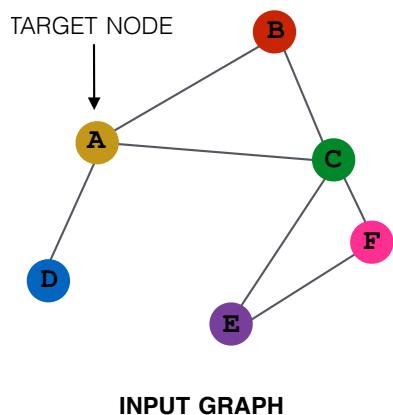
# Neighborhood Aggregation

- Intuition: Network neighborhood defines a computation graph  
Every node defines a unique computation graph!



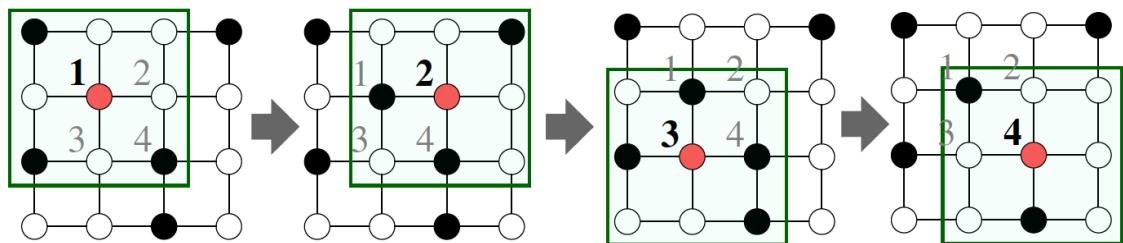
# Neighborhood Aggregation

- Nodes have embeddings at each layer.
- Model can be arbitrary depth.
- “layer-0” embedding of node  $u$  is its input feature, i.e.  $x_u$ .



# Neighborhood “Convolutions”

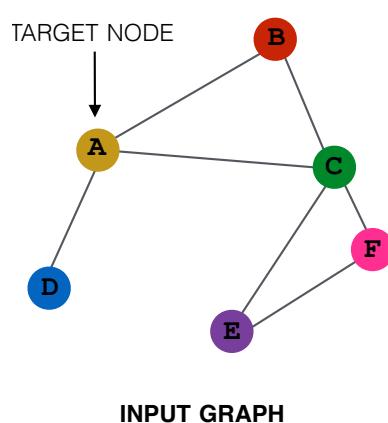
- Neighborhood aggregation can be viewed as a center-surround filter.



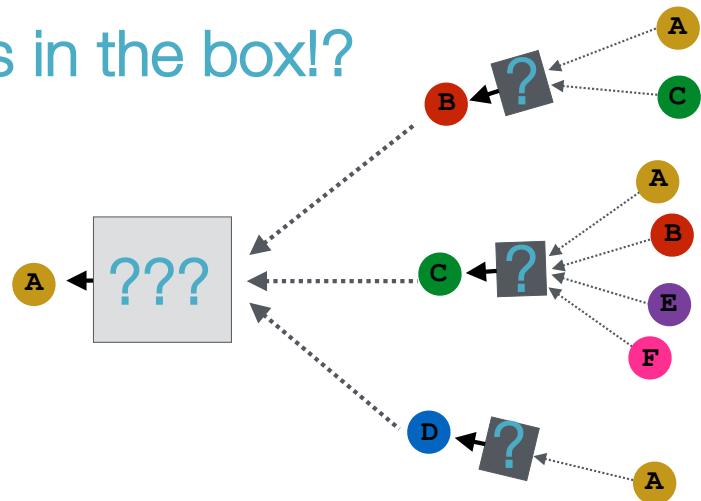
- Mathematically related to spectral graph convolutions (see [Bronstein et al., 2017](#))

# Neighborhood Aggregation

- Key distinctions are in how different approaches aggregate information across the layers.

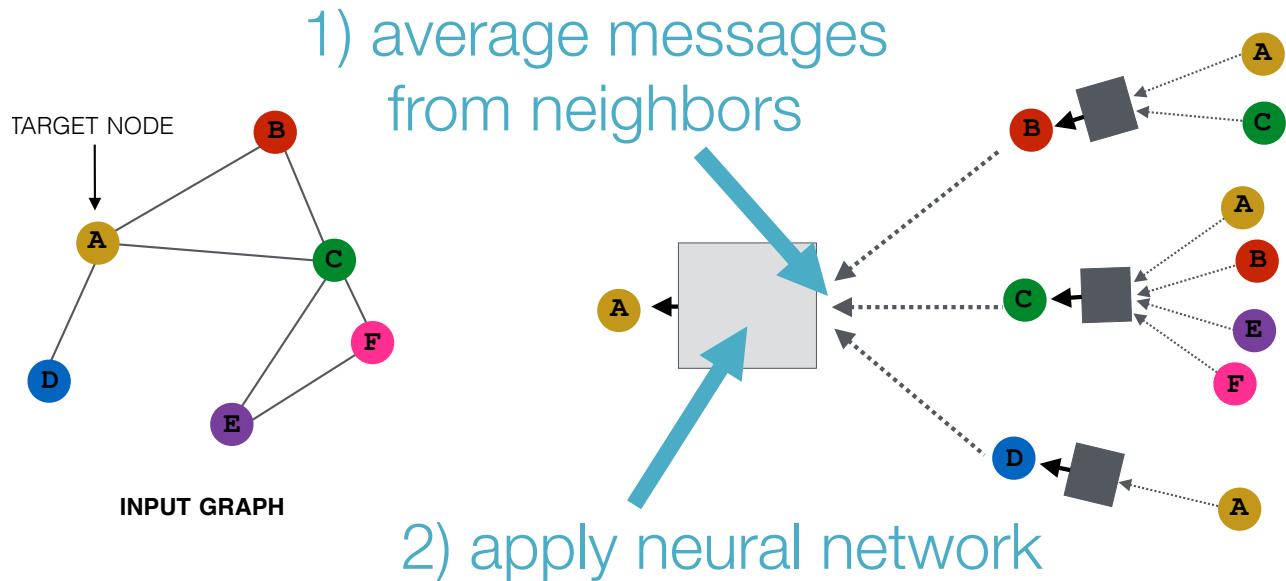


what's in the box!?



# Neighborhood Aggregation

- Basic approach: Average neighbor information and apply a neural network.



# The Math

- Basic approach: Average neighbor messages and apply a neural network.

$$h_v^k = \sigma \left( \mathbf{W}_k \left( \sum_{u \in N(v)} \frac{h_u^{k-1}}{|N(v)|} + \mathbf{B}_k h_v^{k-1} \right) \right), \quad \forall k > 0$$

Initial “layer 0” embeddings are equal to node features

previous layer embedding of  $v$

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

kth layer embedding of  $v$

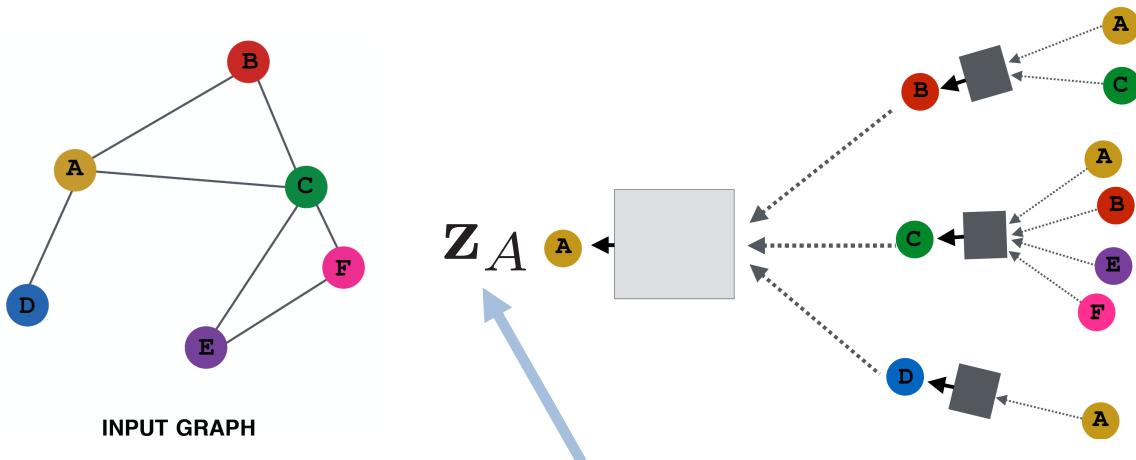
non-linearity (e.g., ReLU or tanh)

average of neighbor's previous layer embeddings

A diagram illustrating the computation of node embeddings. It starts with the initial "layer 0" embeddings, which are node features ( $\mathbf{x}_v$ ). These are highlighted in a purple box. An arrow points from this box to the equation for  $h_v^0$ . The equation shows  $h_v^0 = \mathbf{x}_v$ . Below this, the equation for the  $k$ th layer embedding is shown:  $h_v^k = \sigma \left( \mathbf{W}_k \left( \sum_{u \in N(v)} \frac{h_u^{k-1}}{|N(v)|} + \mathbf{B}_k h_v^{k-1} \right) \right)$ . This equation is enclosed in a large red box. Several annotations explain the components: "kth layer embedding of  $v$ " points to  $h_v^k$ ; "non-linearity (e.g., ReLU or tanh)" points to the  $\sigma$  symbol; "average of neighbor's previous layer embeddings" points to the summation term; and "previous layer embedding of  $v$ " points to  $h_v^{k-1}$ .

# Training the Model

- How do we train the model to generate “high-quality” embeddings?



Need to define a loss function on  
the embeddings,  $\mathcal{L}(z_w)$ !

# Training the Model

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

$$\mathbf{h}_v^0 = \mathbf{x}_v$$
$$\mathbf{h}_v^k = \sigma \left( \mathbf{W}_k \sum_{u \in N(v)} \frac{\mathbf{h}_u^{k-1}}{|N(v)|} + \mathbf{B}_k \mathbf{h}_v^{k-1} \right), \quad \forall k \in \{1, \dots, K\}$$
$$\mathbf{z}_v = \mathbf{h}_v^K$$

The diagram illustrates the training process of a graph neural network. It shows the initial state  $\mathbf{h}_v^0 = \mathbf{x}_v$ , followed by the iterative update rule for each layer  $k$ . The update rule involves summing weighted neighborhood embeddings ( $\mathbf{h}_u^{k-1}$ ) and applying a linear transformation ( $\mathbf{B}_k$ ) to the previous layer's embedding ( $\mathbf{h}_v^{k-1}$ ). The final output is  $\mathbf{z}_v = \mathbf{h}_v^K$ . The text "trainable matrices (i.e., what we learn)" is positioned above the update rule, with blue arrows pointing to the weight matrices  $\mathbf{W}_k$  and  $\mathbf{B}_k$ .

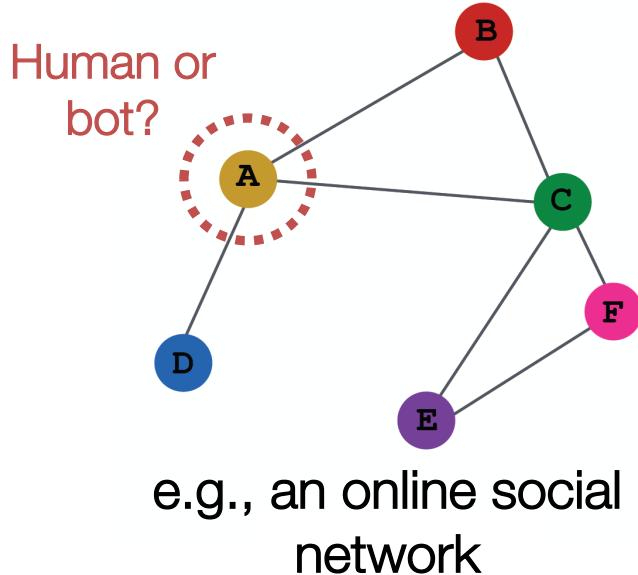
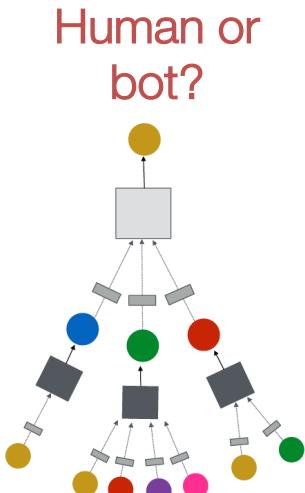
- After K-layers of neighborhood aggregation, we get output embeddings for each node.
- We can feed these embeddings into any loss function and run stochastic gradient descent to train the aggregation parameters.

# Training the Model

- Train in an **unsupervised manner** using only the graph structure.
- Unsupervised loss function can be anything from the last section, e.g., based on
  - Random walks (node2vec, DeepWalk)
  - Graph factorization
  - i.e., train the model so that “similar” nodes have similar embeddings.

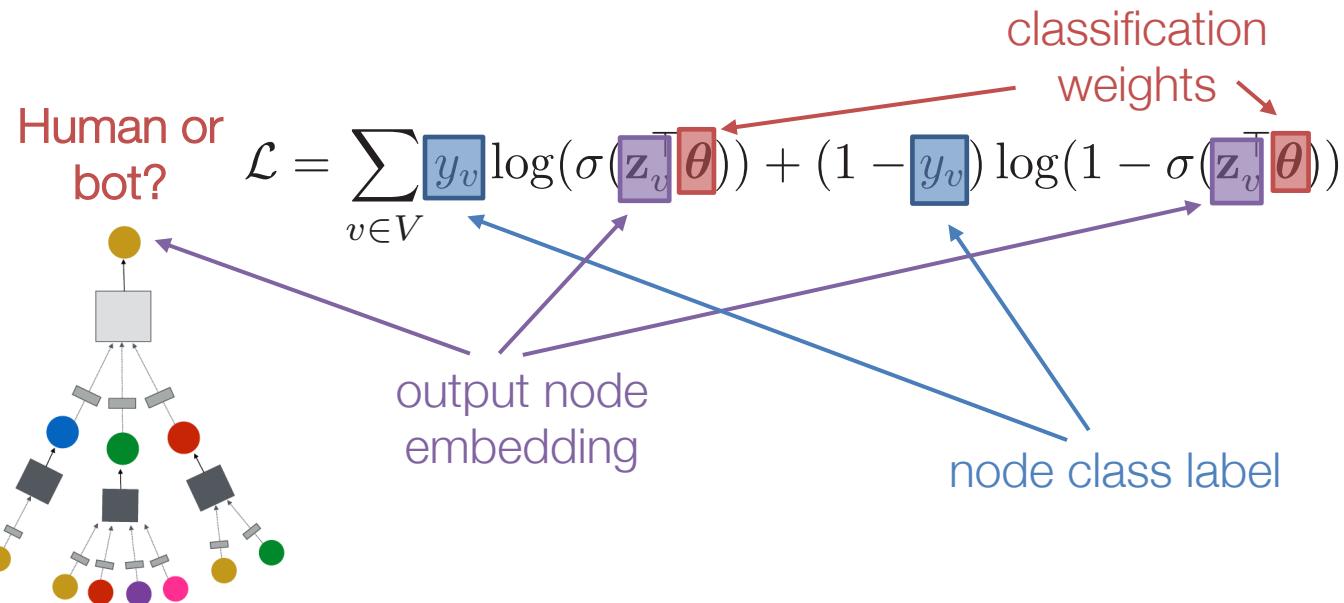
# Training the Model

- Alternative: Directly train the model for a supervised task (e.g., node classification):



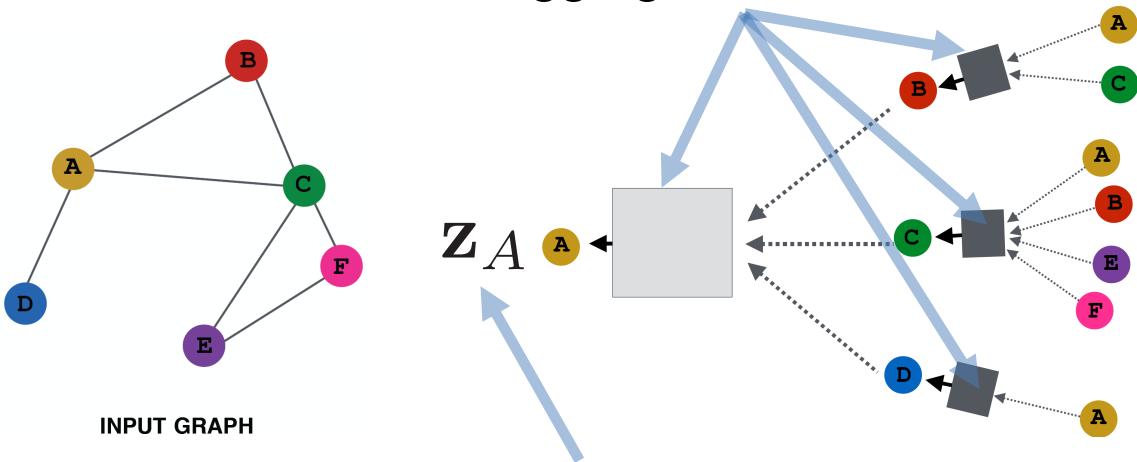
# Training the Model

- Alternative: Directly train the model for a supervised task (e.g., node classification):



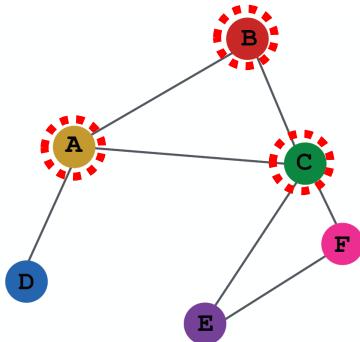
# Overview of Model

1) Define a neighborhood aggregation function.



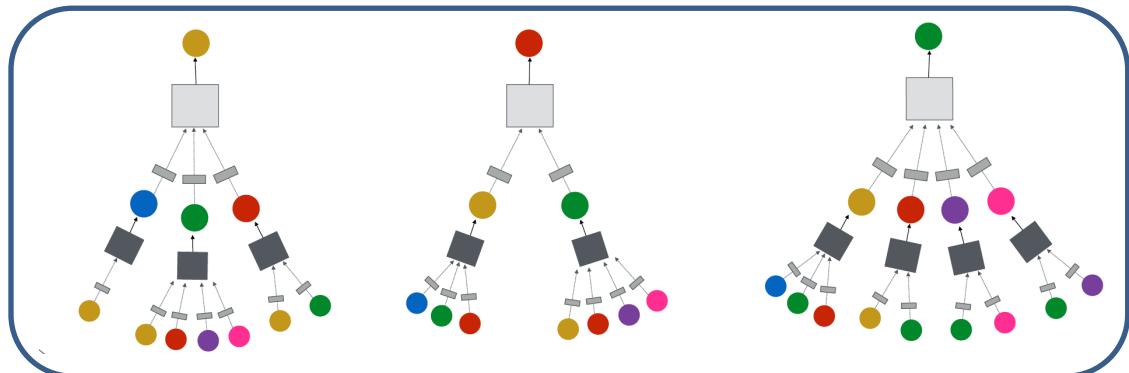
2) Define a loss function on the embeddings,  $\mathcal{L}(z_u)$

# Overview of Model

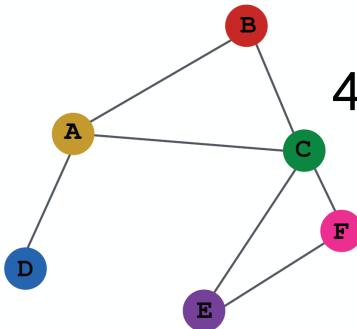


INPUT GRAPH

3) Train on a set of nodes, i.e., a batch of compute graphs



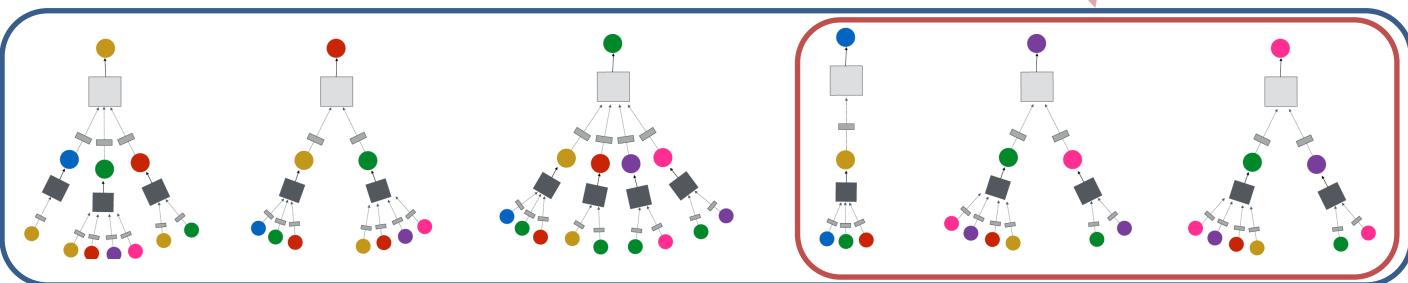
# Overview of Model



INPUT GRAPH

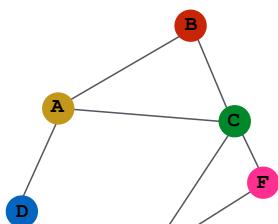
4) Generate embeddings for nodes  
as needed

Even for nodes we never  
trained on!!!!

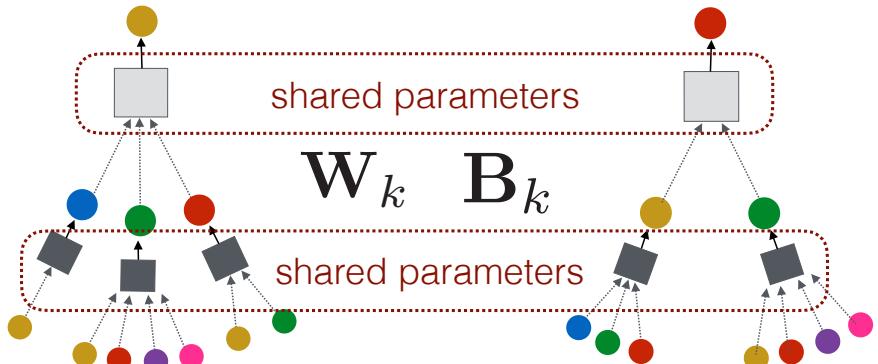


# Inductive Capability

- The same aggregation parameters are shared for all nodes.
- The number of model parameters is sublinear in  $|V|$  and we can generalize to unseen nodes!



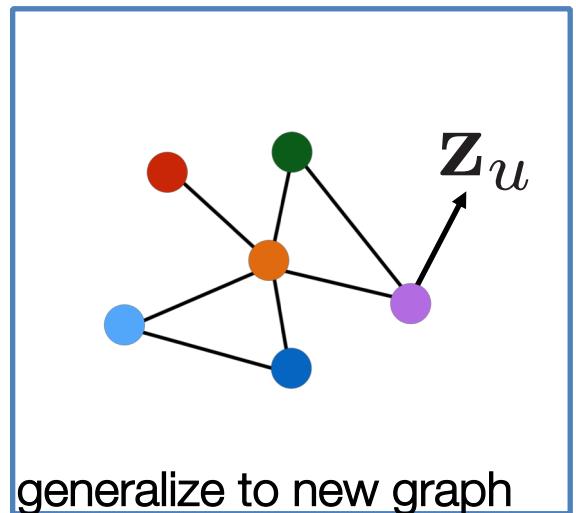
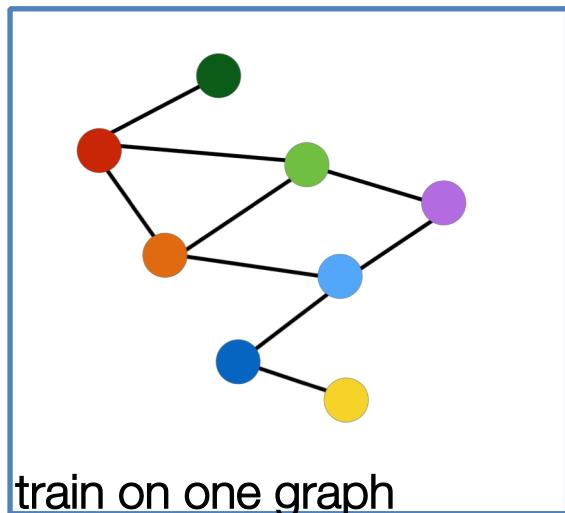
INPUT GRAPH



Compute graph for node A

Compute graph for node B

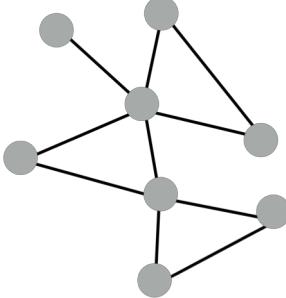
# Inductive Capability



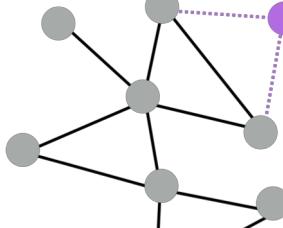
Inductive node embedding → generalize to entirely unseen graphs

e.g., train on protein interaction graph from model organism A and generate embeddings on newly collected data about organism B

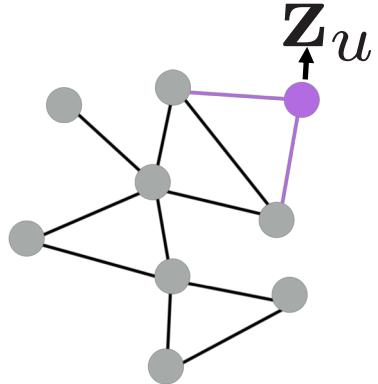
# Inductive Capability



**train with snapshot**



**new node arrives**



**generate embedding  
for new node**

Many application settings constantly encounter previously unseen nodes.  
e.g., Reddit, YouTube, GoogleScholar, ....

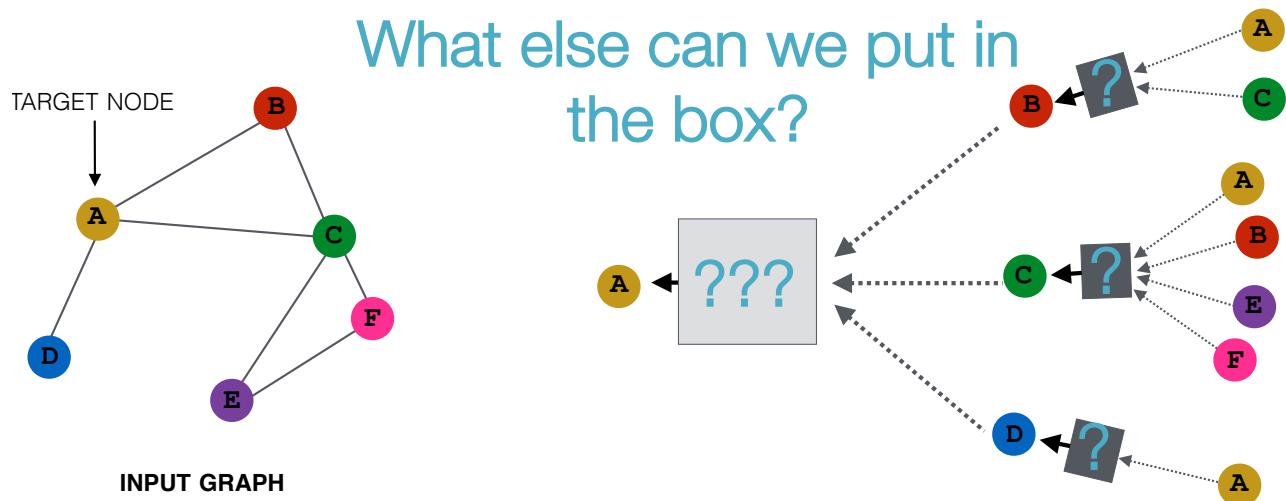
Need to generate new embeddings “on the fly”

# Quick Recap

- **Recap:** Generate node embeddings by aggregating neighborhood information.
  - Allows for parameter sharing in the encoder.
  - Allows for inductive learning.
- We saw a **basic variant of this idea...**  
now we will cover some state of the art variants from the literature.

# Neighborhood Aggregation

- Key distinctions are in how different approaches aggregate messages



# Graph Convolutional Networks

Based on material from:

- Kipf et al., 2017. [Semisupervised Classification with Graph Convolutional Networks](#). *ICLR*.

# Graph Convolutional Networks

- Kipf et al.'s Graph Convolutional Networks (GCNs) are a slight variation on the neighborhood aggregation idea:

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

# Graph Convolutional Networks

## Basic Neighborhood Aggregation

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

VS.

## GCN Neighborhood Aggregation

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

same matrix for self and  
neighbor embeddings

per-neighbor normalization

# Graph Convolutional Networks

- Empirically, they found this configuration to give the best results.
  - More parameter sharing.
  - Down-weights high degree neighbors.

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

use the same transformation matrix for self and neighbor embeddings

instead of simple average, normalization varies across neighbors

# Outline for this Section

1. The Basics 
2. Graph Convolutional Networks 
3. GraphSAGE 
4. Gated Graph Neural Networks
5. Graph Attention Networks
6. Subgraph Embeddings

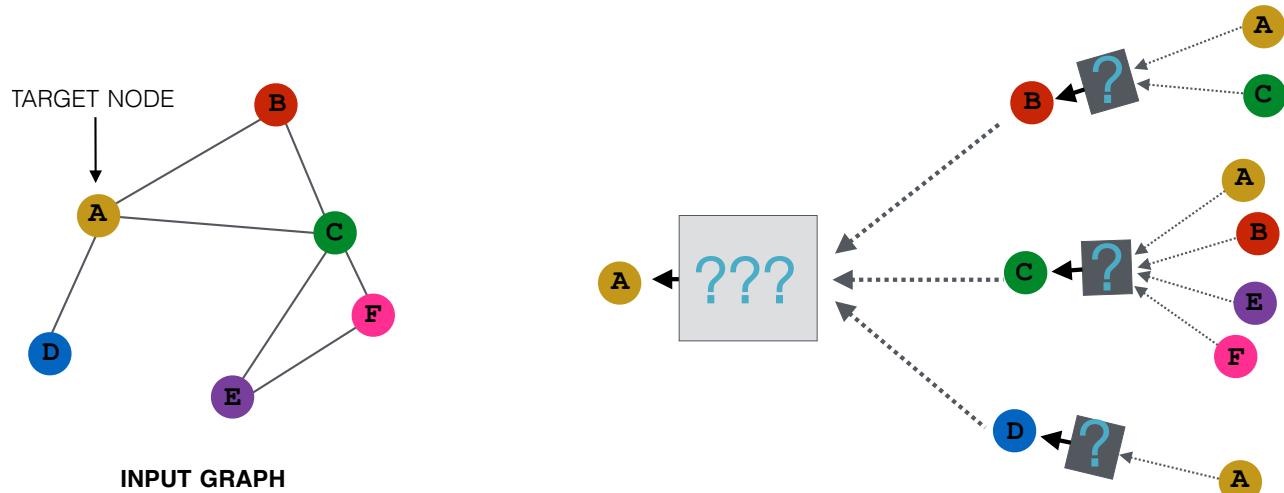
# GraphSAGE

Based on material from:

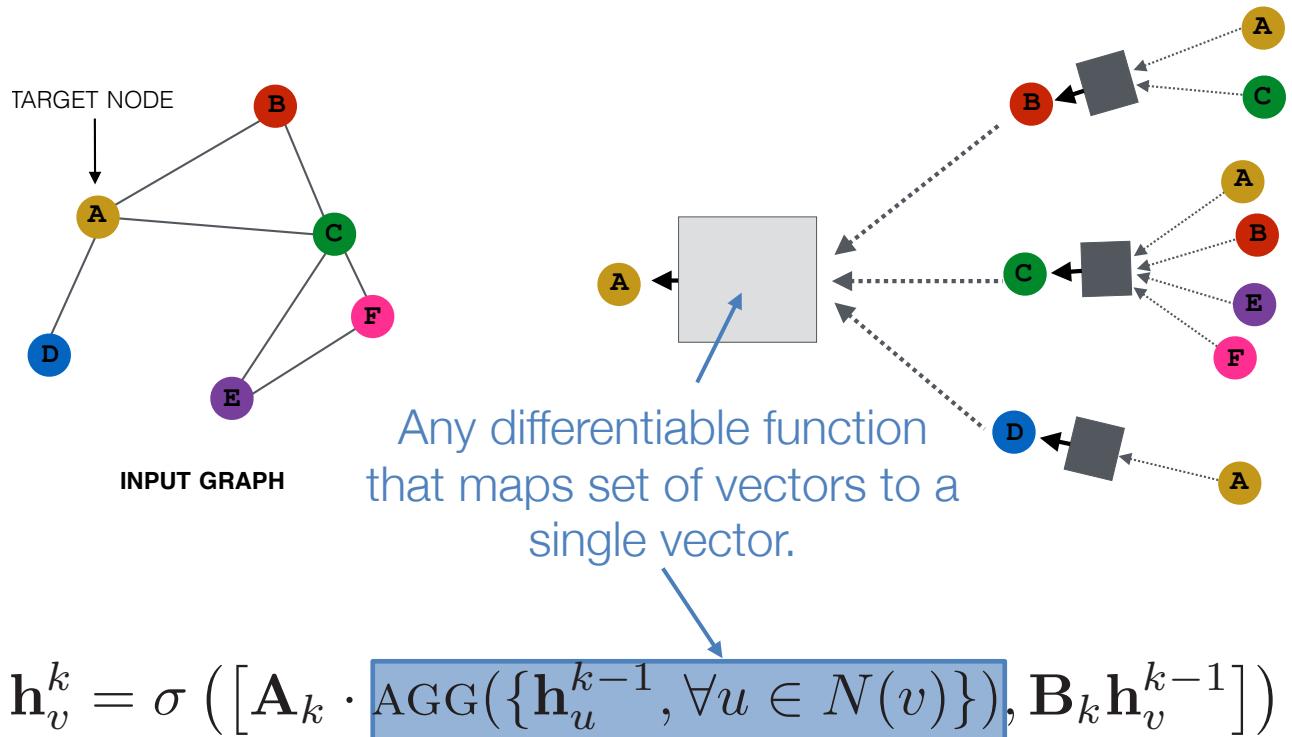
- Hamilton et al., 2017. [Inductive Representation Learning on Large Graphs.](#) *NIPS*.

# GraphSAGE Idea

- So far we have aggregated the neighbor messages by taking their (weighted) average, can we do better?



# GraphSAGE Idea



# GraphSAGE Differences

- Simple neighborhood aggregation:

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

- GraphSAGE:

concatenate self embedding and  
neighbor embedding

$$\mathbf{h}_v^k = \sigma \left( [\mathbf{W}_k \cdot \text{AGG} (\{\mathbf{h}_u^{k-1}, \forall u \in N(v)\}), \mathbf{B}_k \mathbf{h}_v^{k-1}] \right)$$

generalized aggregation

# GraphSAGE Variants

- Mean:

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

- Pool

- Transform neighbor vectors and apply symmetric vector function.

$$\text{AGG} = \gamma \left( \{ \mathbf{Q} \mathbf{h}_u^{k-1}, \forall u \in N(v) \} \right)$$

element-wise mean/max

- LSTM:

- Apply LSTM to random permutation of neighbors.

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

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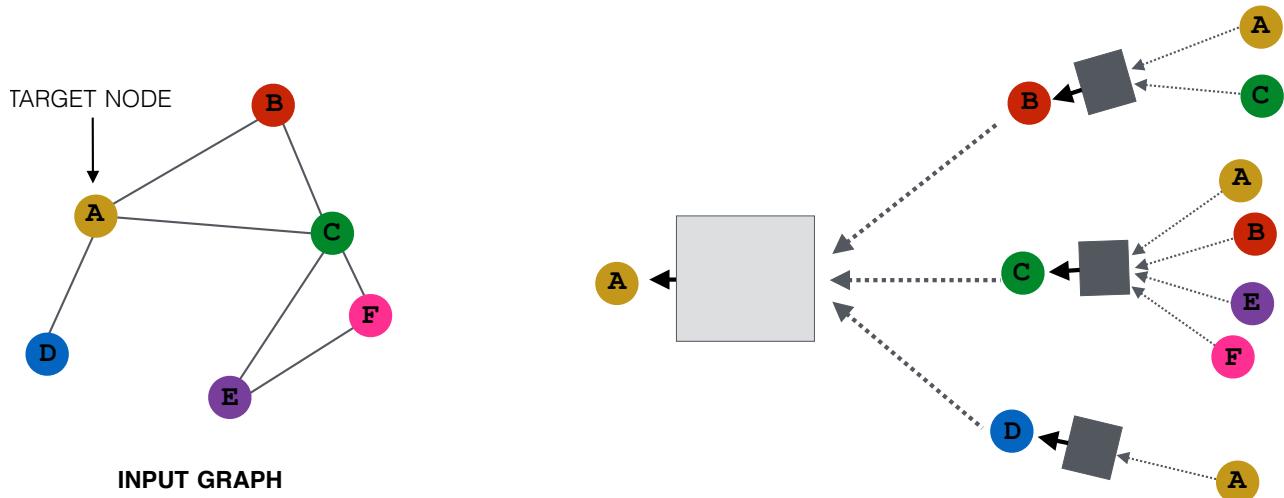
# Gated Graph Neural Networks

Based on material from:

- Li et al., 2016. [Gated Graph Sequence Neural Networks](#). *ICLR*.
- Gilmer et al., 2017. [Neural Message Passing for Quantum Chemistry](#). *ICML*.

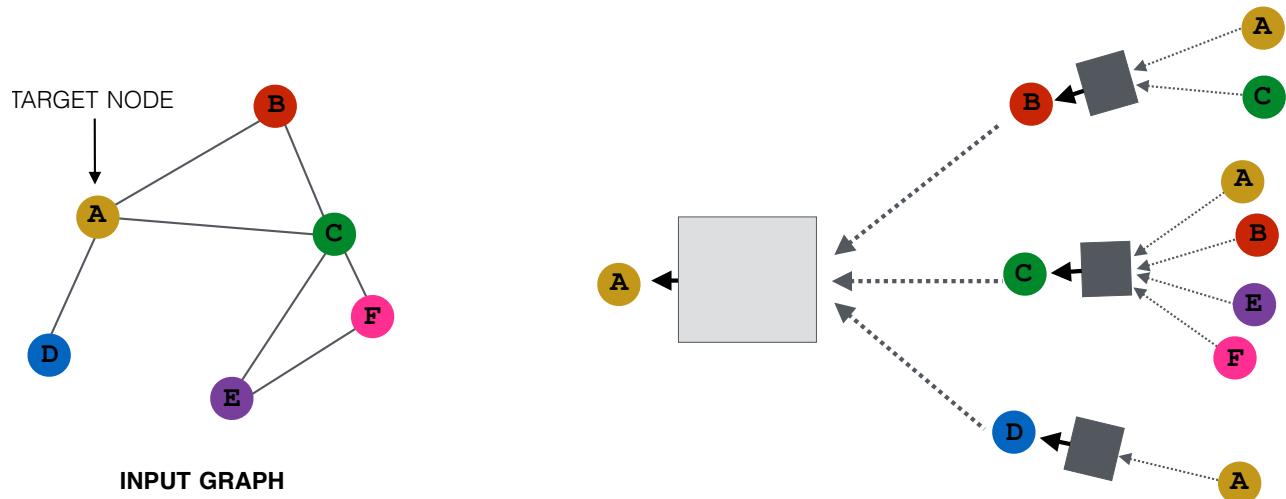
# Neighborhood Aggregation

- **Basic idea:** Nodes aggregate “messages” from their neighbors using neural networks



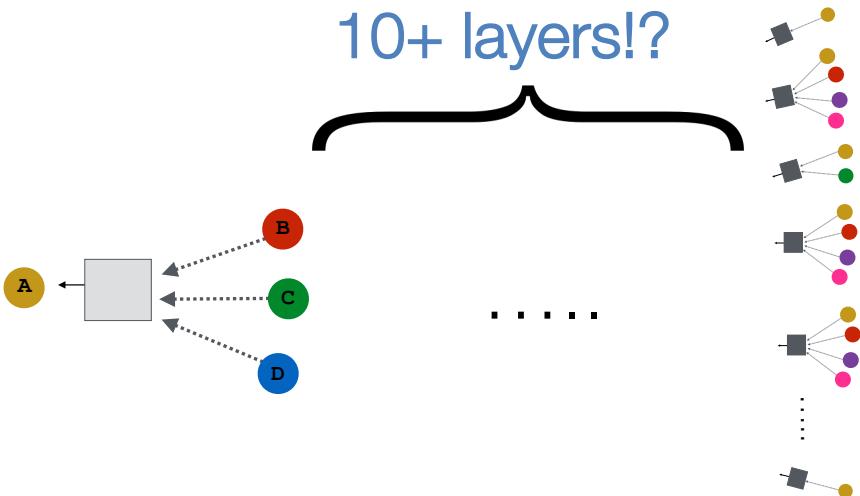
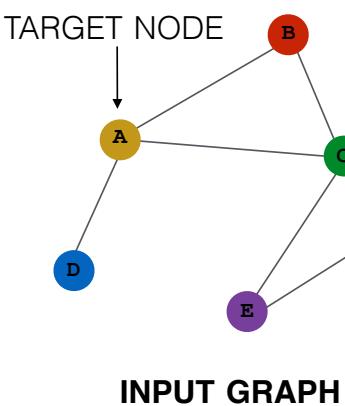
# Neighborhood Aggregation

- GCNs and GraphSAGE generally only 2-3 layers deep.



# Neighborhood Aggregation

- But what if we want to go deeper?



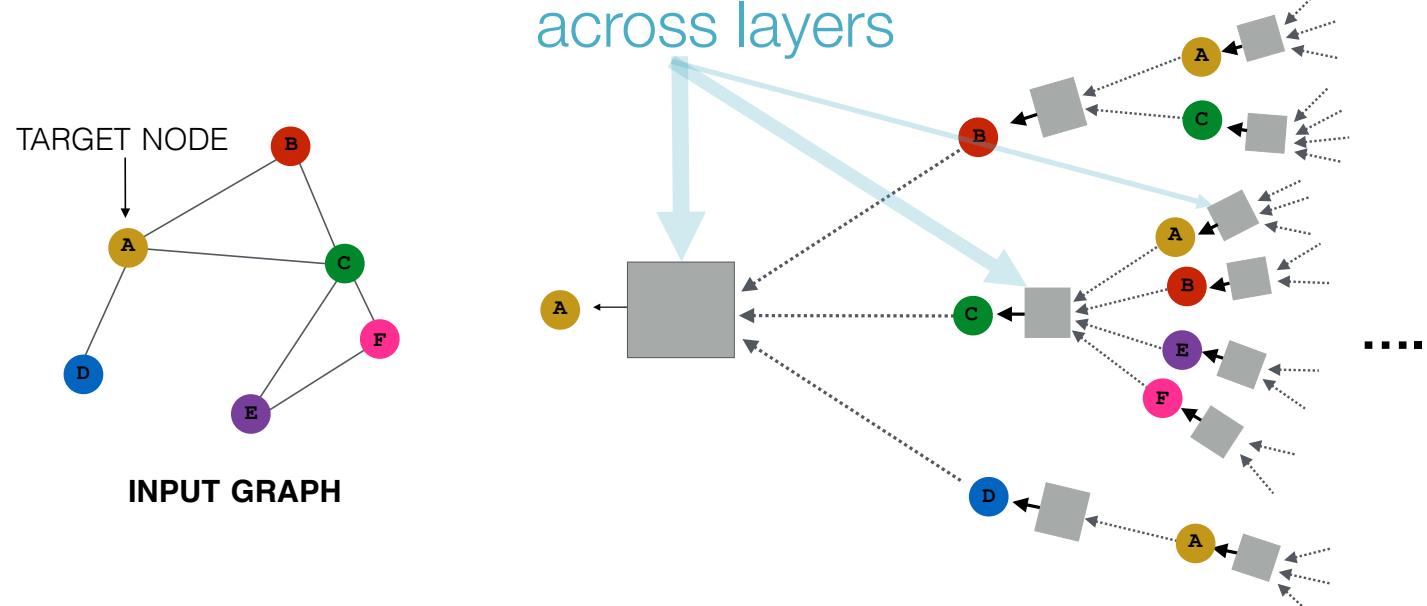
# Gated Graph Neural Networks

- How can we build models with many layers of neighborhood aggregation?
- Challenges:
  - Overfitting from too many parameters.
  - Vanishing/exploding gradients during backpropagation.
- Idea: Use techniques from modern recurrent neural networks!

# Gated Graph Neural Networks

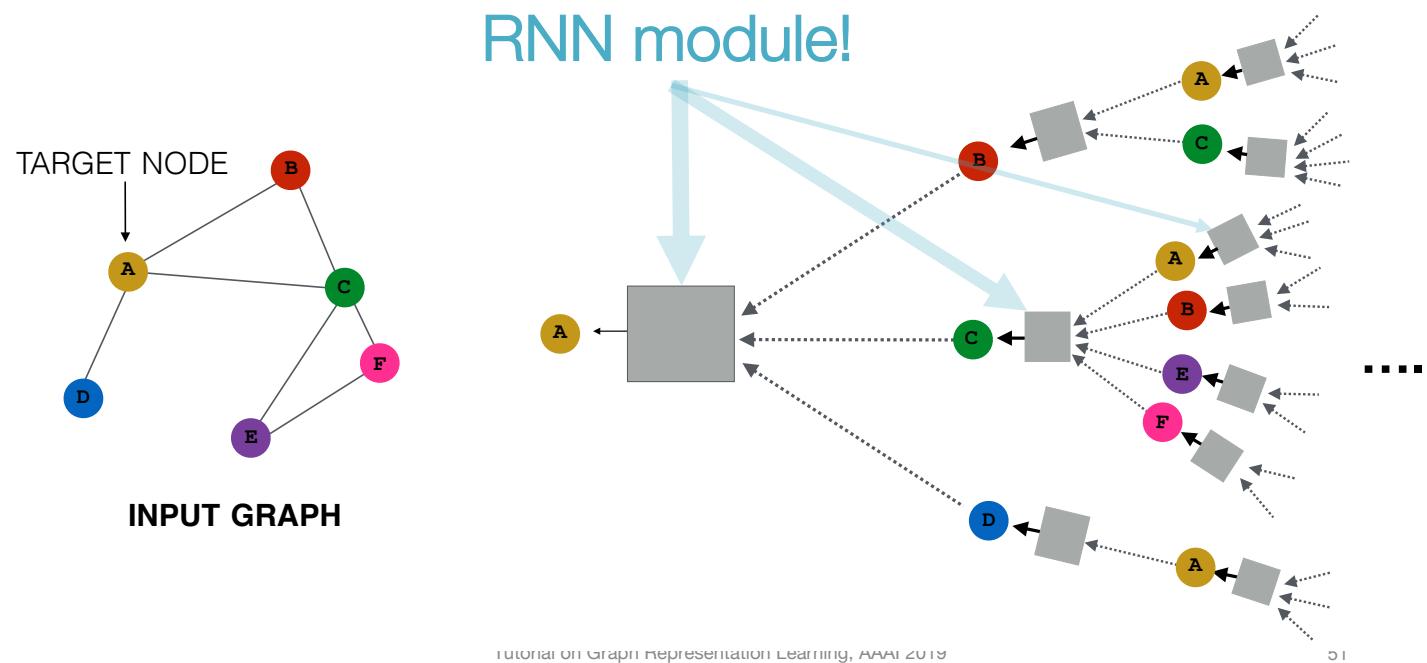
- Idea 1: Parameter sharing across layers.

same neural network  
across layers



# Gated Graph Neural Networks

- Idea 2: Recurrent state update.



# The Math

- Intuition: Neighborhood aggregation with RNN state update.

1. Get “message” from neighbors at step k:

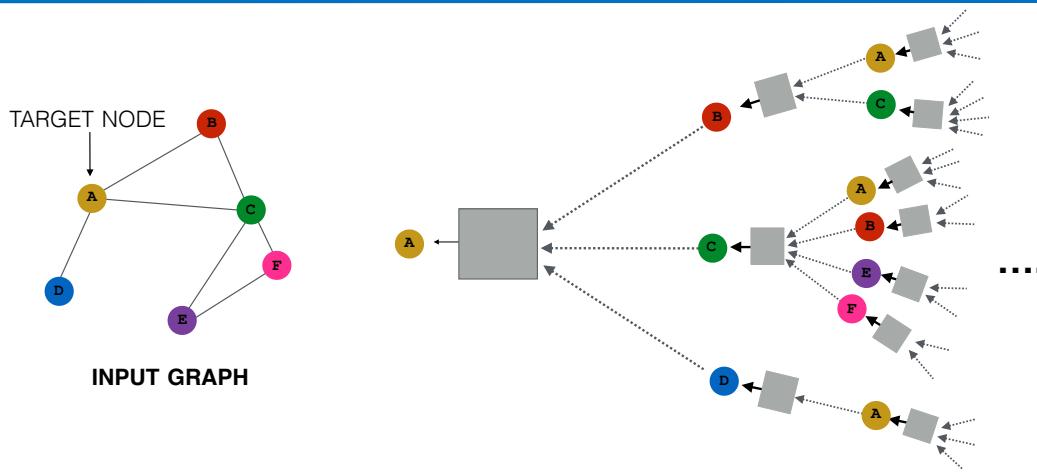
$$\mathbf{m}_v^k = \mathbf{W} \sum_{u \in N(v)} \mathbf{h}_u^{k-1}$$

aggregation function  
does not depend on k

2. Update node “state” using Gated Recurrent Unit (GRU). New node state depends on the old state and the message from neighbors:

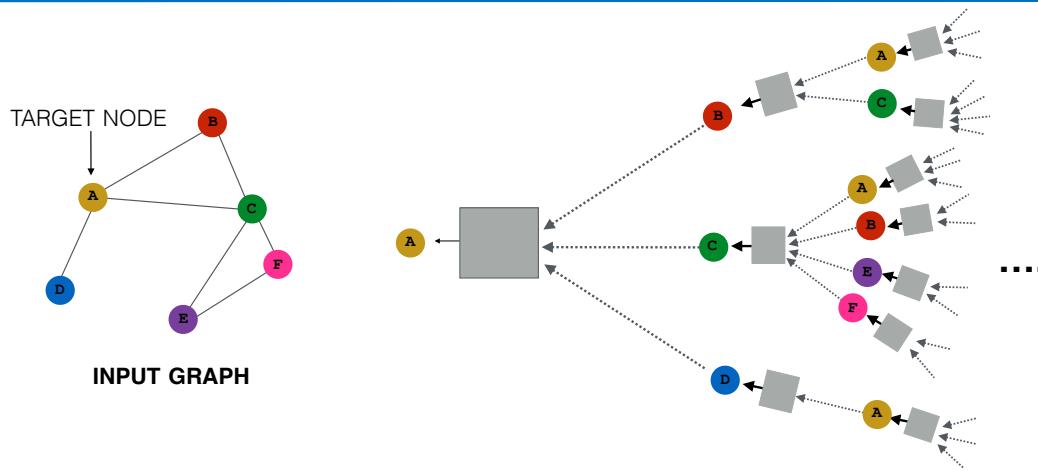
$$\mathbf{h}_v^k = \text{GRU}(\mathbf{h}_v^{k-1}, \mathbf{m}_v^k)$$

# Gated Graph Neural Networks



- Can handle models with >20 layers.
- Most real-world networks have small diameters (e.g., less than 7).
- Allows for complex information about global graph structure to be propagated to all nodes.

# Gated Graph Neural Networks



- Useful for complex networks representing:
  - Logical formulas.
  - Programs.

# Message-Passing Neural Networks

- **Idea:** We can generalize the gated graph neural network idea:

1. Get “message” from neighbors at step k:

$$\mathbf{m}_v^k = \sum_{u \in N(v)} M(\mathbf{h}_u^{k-1}, \mathbf{h}_v^{k-1}, \mathbf{e}_{u,v})$$

Can incorporate edge features.

Generic “message” function (e.g., sum or MLP).

2. Update node “state”:

$$\mathbf{h}_v^k = U(\mathbf{h}_v^{k-1}, \mathbf{m}_v^k)$$

Generic update function (e.g., LSTM or GRU)

# Message-Passing Neural Networks

- This is a general conceptual framework that subsumes most GNNs.

1. Get “message” from neighbors at step k:

$$\mathbf{m}_v^k = \sum_{u \in N(v)} M(\mathbf{h}_u^{k-1}, \mathbf{h}_v^{k-1}, \mathbf{e}_{u,v})$$

2. Update node “state”:

$$\mathbf{h}_v^k = U(\mathbf{h}_v^{k-1}, \mathbf{m}_v^k)$$

- Gilmer et al., 2017. [Neural Message Passing for Quantum Chemistry. ICML.](#)

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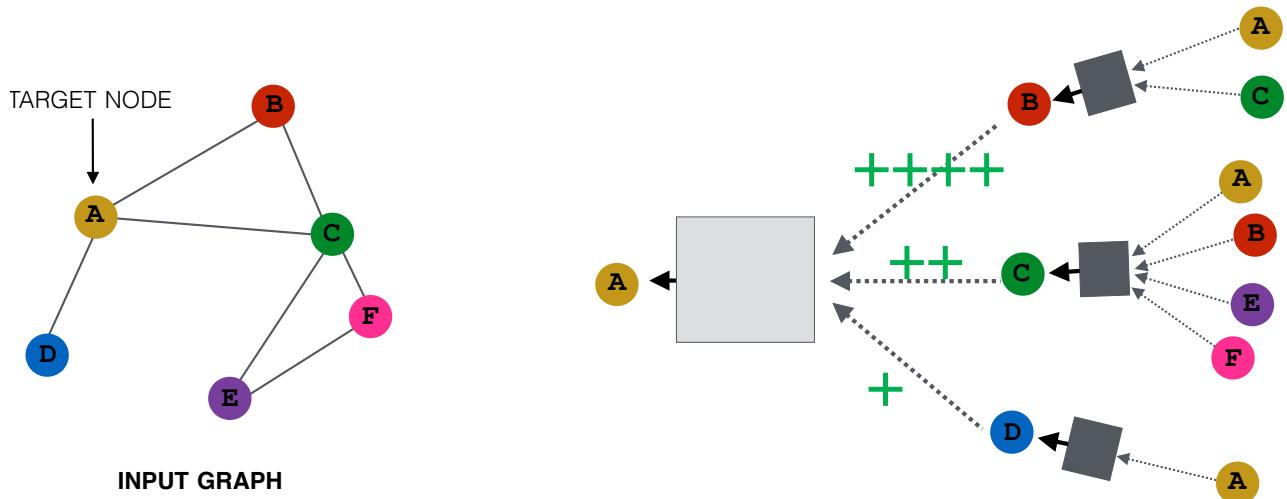
# Graph Attention Networks

Based on material from:

- Velickovic et al., 2018. [Graph Attention Networks](#). *ICLR*.

# Neighborhood Attention

- What if some neighbors are more important than others?



# Graph Attention Networks

- Augment basic graph neural network model with attention.

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

Non-linearity

Sum over all neighbors (and the node itself)

Learned attention weights!

The diagram illustrates the update rule for a node's hidden state  $\mathbf{h}_v^k$ . It shows a red box labeled 'Non-linearity' pointing to a green box containing a summation symbol. Inside the summation box, there is a purple box labeled 'Learned attention weights!' with an arrow pointing to it. Below the summation box is a green arrow pointing upwards, labeled 'Sum over all neighbors (and the node itself)'.

# Attention weights

- Various attention models are possible.
- The original GAT paper uses:

$$\alpha_{v,u} = \frac{\exp(\text{LeakyReLU}(\mathbf{a}^\top [\mathbf{Q}\mathbf{h}_v, \mathbf{Q}\mathbf{h}_u]))}{\sum_{u' \in N(v) \cup \{v\}} \exp(\text{LeakyReLU}(\mathbf{a}^\top [\mathbf{Q}\mathbf{h}_v, \mathbf{Q}\mathbf{h}_{u'}]))}$$

- Achieved SOTA in 2018 on a number of standard benchmarks.

# Attention in general

- Various attention mechanisms can be incorporated into the “message” step:
  1. Get “message” from neighbors at step k:

$$\mathbf{m}_v^k = \sum_{u \in N(v)} M(\mathbf{h}_u^{k-1}, \mathbf{h}_v^{k-1}, \mathbf{e}_{u,v})$$

2. Update node “state”:

$$\mathbf{h}_v^k = U(\mathbf{h}_v^{k-1}, \mathbf{m}_v^k)$$



Incorporate  
attention here.

# Recent advances in graph neural nets (not covered in detail here)

- Generalizations based on spectral convolutions:
  - Geometric Deep Learning ([Bronstein et al., 2017](#))
  - Mixture Model CNNs ([Monti et al., 2017](#))
- Speed improvements via subsampling:
  - FastGCNs ([Chen et al., 2018](#))
  - Stochastic GCNs ([Chen et al., 2017](#))
- And much more!!!

# So what is SOTA?

- No consensus...
- Standard benchmarks ~2017-2018
  - Cora, CiteSeer, PubMed
  - Semi-supervised node classification.
  - **Extremely noisy evaluation and basic GNN/GCNs are very strong...**
- Attention, gating, and other modifications have shown improvements in specific settings (e.g., molecule classification, recommender systems).

# Outline for this Section

1. The Basics ✓
2. Graph Convolutional Networks ✓
3. GraphSAGE ✓
4. Gated Graph Neural Networks ✓
5. Graph Attention Networks ✓
6. Subgraph Embeddings →

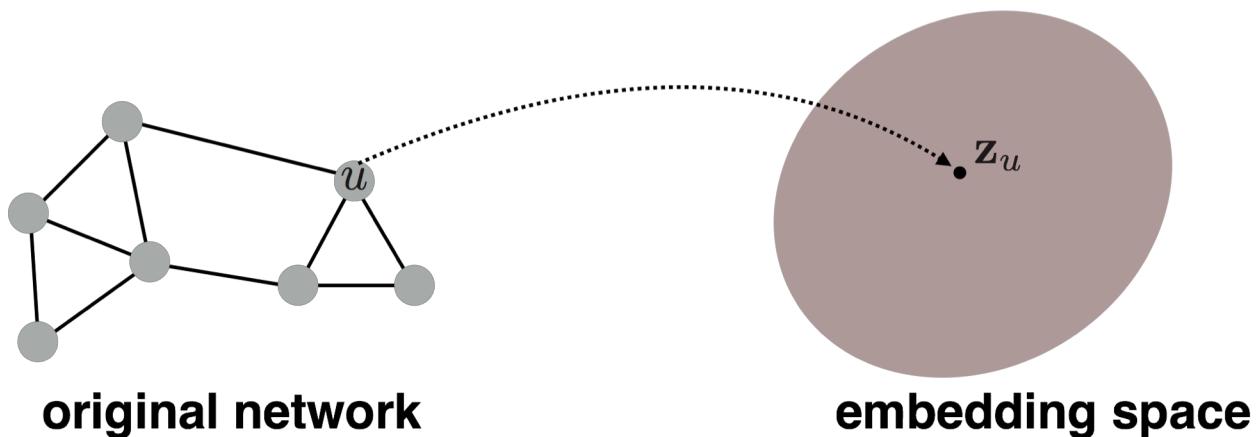
# (Sub)graph Embeddings

Based on material from:

- Duvenaud et al. 2016. [Convolutional Networks on Graphs for Learning Molecular Fingerprints](#). *ICML*.
- Li et al. 2016. [Gated Graph Sequence Neural Networks](#). *ICLR*.
- Ying et al, 2018. [Hierarchical Graph Representation Learning with Differentiable Pooling](#). *NeurIPS*.

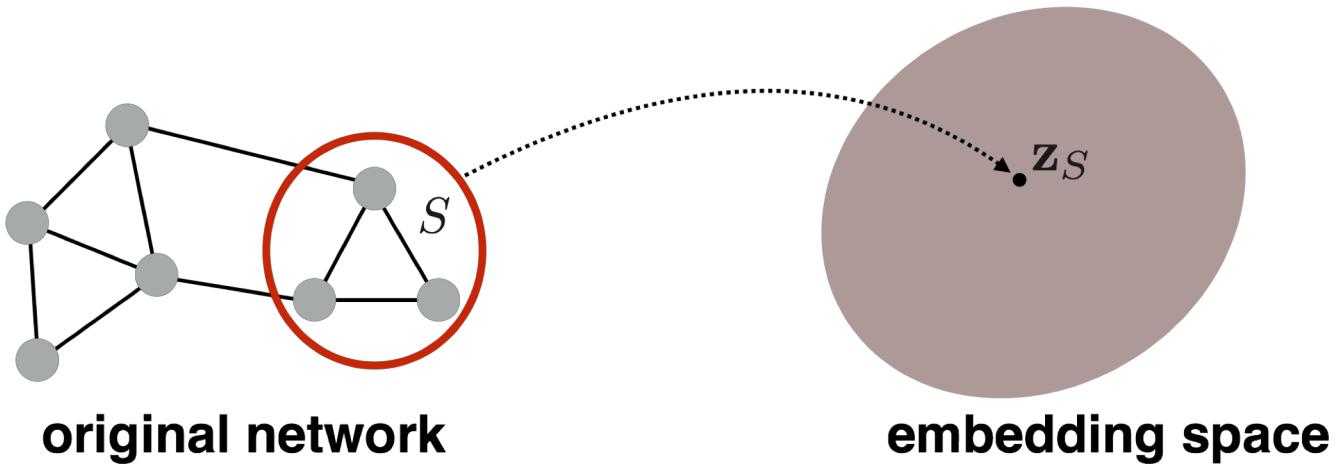
# (Sub)graph Embeddings

- So far we have focused on node-level embeddings...



# (Sub)graph Embeddings

- But what about subgraph embeddings?



# Approach 1

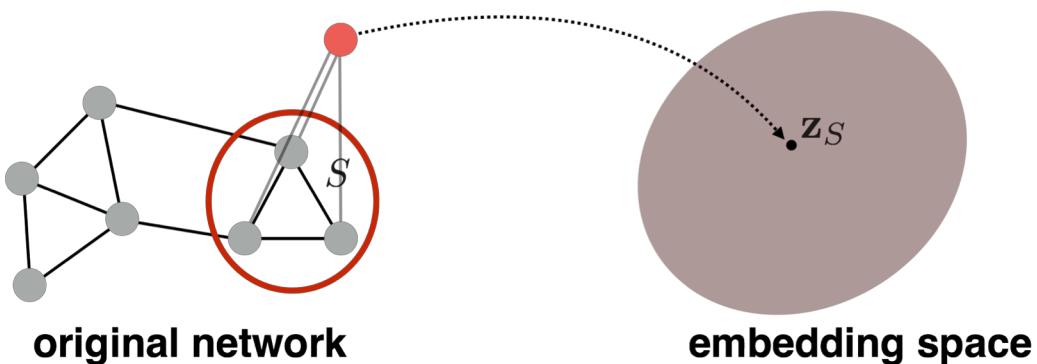
- Simple idea: Just sum (or average) the node embeddings in the (sub)graph

$$\mathbf{z}_S = \sum_{v \in S} \mathbf{z}_v$$

- Used by Duvenaud et al., 2016 to classify molecules based on their graph structure.

# Approach 2

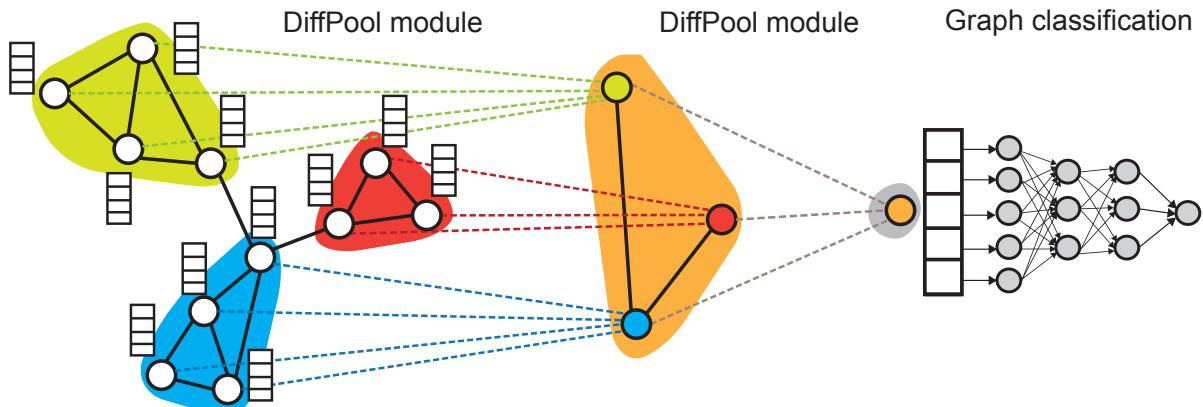
- Idea: Introduce a “virtual node” to represent the subgraph and run a standard graph neural network.



- Proposed by Li et al., 2016 as a general technique for subgraph embedding.

# Approach 3

- Idea: Learn how to hierarchically cluster the nodes.



- First proposed by Ying et al., 2018 and currently SOTA(?).

# Approach 3

- Idea: Learn to hierarchically cluster the nodes.
- Basic overview:
  1. Run GNN on graph and get node embeddings.
  2. **Cluster** the node embeddings together to make a “coarsened” graph.
  3. Run GNN on “coarsened” graph.
  4. Repeat.
- Different approaches to clustering:
  - Soft clustering via learned softmax weights ([Ying et al., 2018](#))
  - Hard clustering ([Cangea et al., 2018](#) and [Gao et al., 2018](#))