

# Graph Neural Networks on Large Random Graphs: Convergence, Stability, Universality

Nicolas Keriven

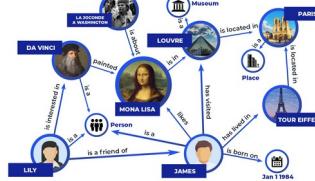
CNRS, GIPSA-lab

Joint work with Alberto Bietti (NYU) and Samuel Vaiter (CNRS, LJAD)



# Graph Machine Learning

(Relatively) recent popularity  
of ML on graphs...

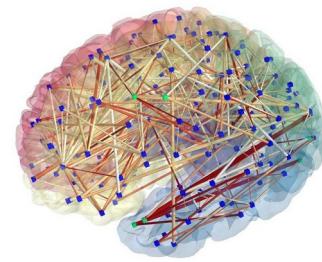
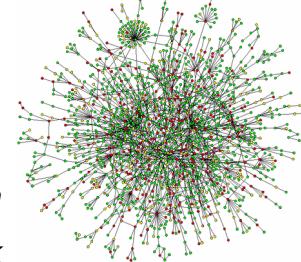


Knowledge graph

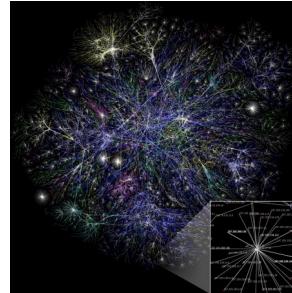


Computer network

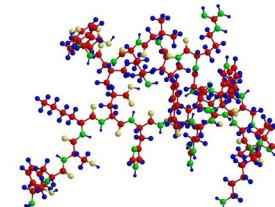
Protein interaction  
network



Brain connectivity network



Internet



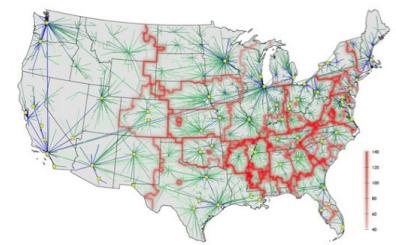
Molecule



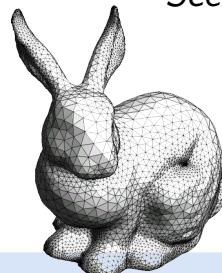
Social network



Scene understanding network



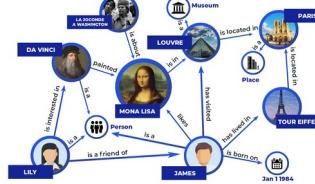
Transportation network



3D mesh

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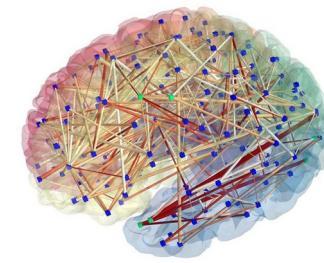
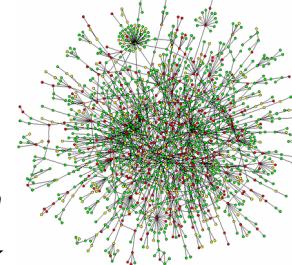


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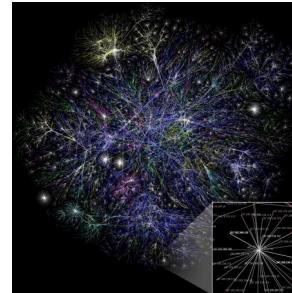


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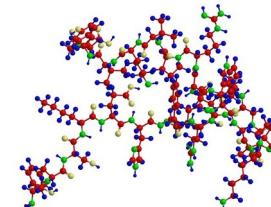
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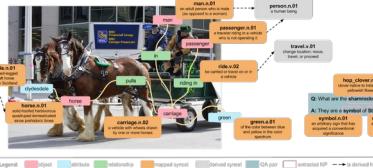
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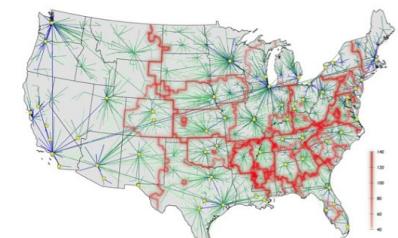
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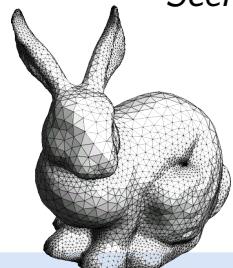
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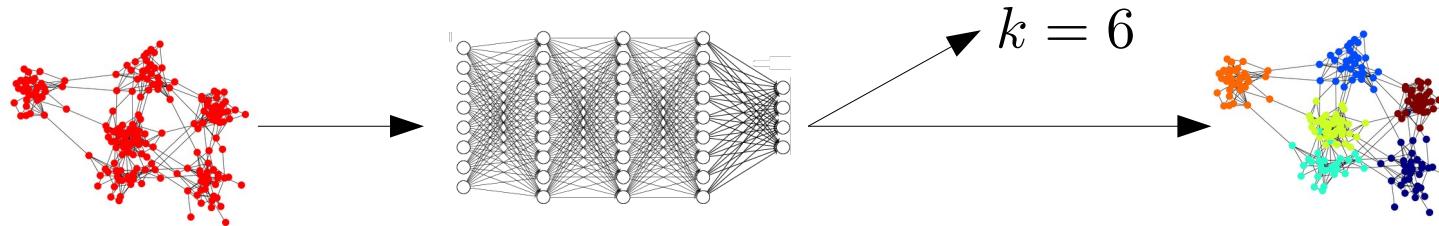
*"if all you have is a hammer,  
everything looks like a nail"*

# ML on graphs: Graph Neural Networks

This talk: some **theoretical** properties of Graph Neural Networks on **large graphs**.

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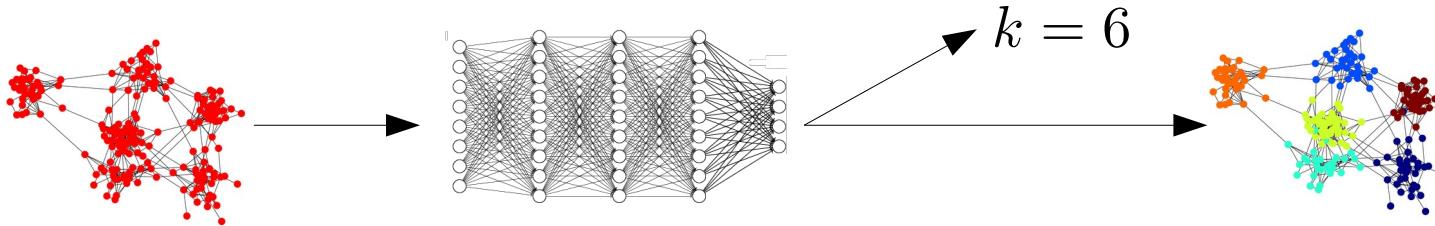
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Graph Neural Networks (GNN) are “deep architectures” to do ML on graphs.

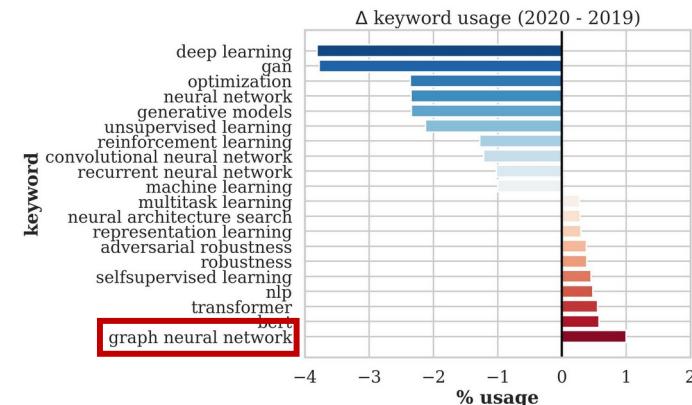
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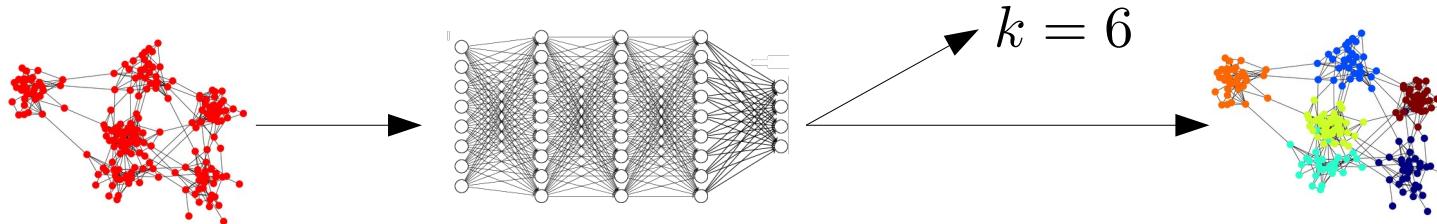
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- Very (very) **trendy** right now!



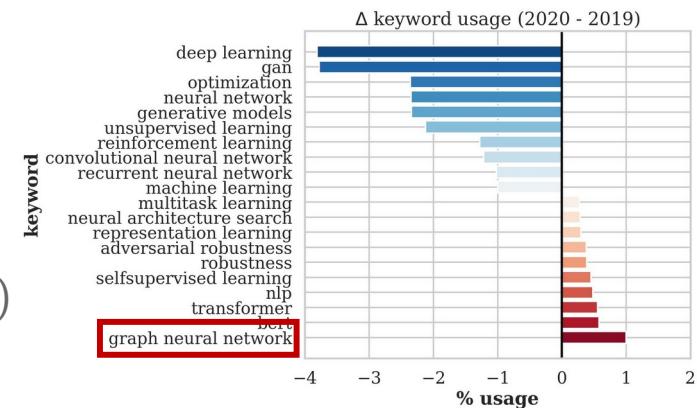
# ML on graphs: Graph Neural Networks

This talk: some **theoretical** properties of **Graph Neural Networks** on **large graphs**.



**Graph Neural Networks (GNN)** are “deep architectures” to do ML on graphs.

- Very (very) **trendy** right now!
- Work quite well, but...
  - Room for improvement! (compared to other “deep learning”)
  - No “[ImageNet moment](#)” yet for GNNs (see *Open Graph Benchmark*)
  - The theory might be **actually useful** to design new architectures

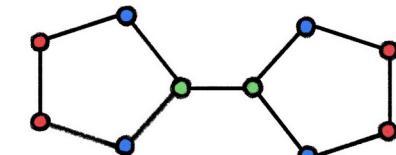
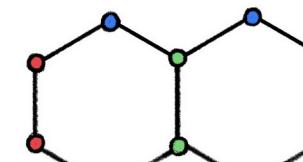


# Large graphs?

- (Even) compared to regular NNs, many properties of GNNs are **still quite mysterious**.
  - Eg: **universality** of NNs is known since the 90s, for GNNs it is still a very active field.

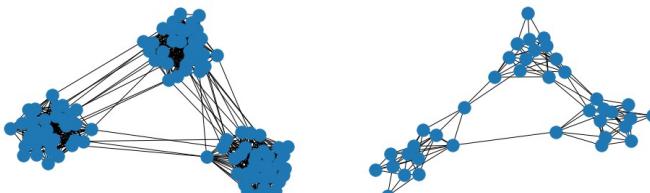
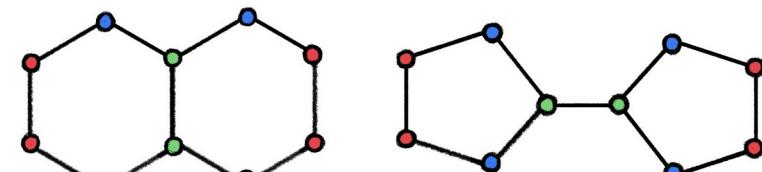
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- Most analyses of GNNs are **discrete** in nature.
  - *Can a GNN distinguish two **non-isomorphic** graphs?*
  - *Can a GNN count triangles? compute the diameter of a graph? etc.*



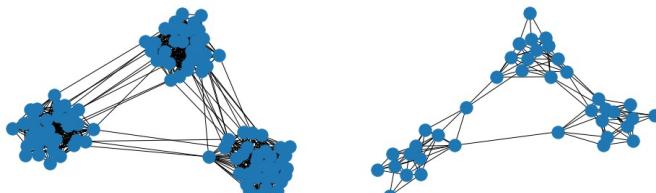
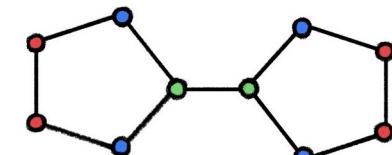
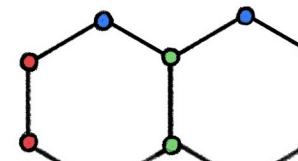
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This talk: use **random graph models** to analyze GNN properties on **large graphs**

# Outline

① Convergence of GNNs

② Stability of c-GNNs

③ Universality of c-GNNs

# Random graphs models

Long history of modelling large graphs with  
**random generative models**

Chung and Lu. *Complex Graphs and Networks* (2004)

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**Latent position models** ( $W$ -random graphs, kernel random graphs...)

$$x_i \stackrel{iid}{\sim} P \in \mathbb{R}^d \quad a_{ij} \sim \text{Ber}(\alpha_n W(x_i, x_j))$$

*Unknown latent variables*

*Connectivity kernel*

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*Relatively sparse*  $\alpha_n \sim (\log n)/n$

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*Unknown latent variables*      *Connectivity kernel*      *Node features (opt.)*

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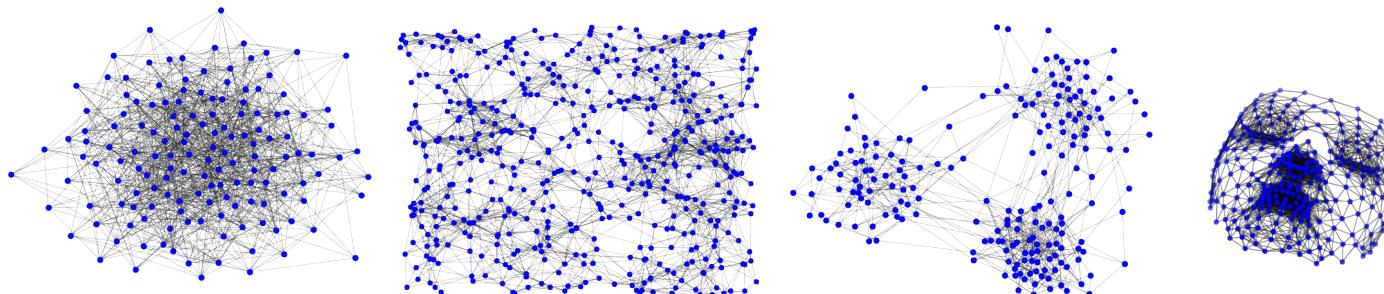
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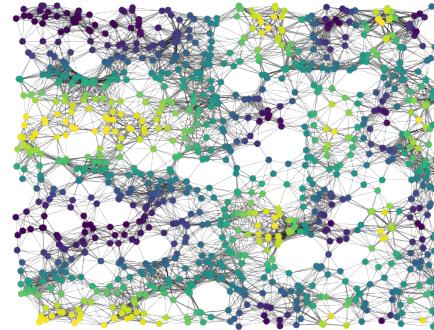
*Includes Erdős-Rényi,  
Stochastic Block Models,  
Gaussian kernel, epsilon-  
graphs...*

# Filtering on graphs

(Early-days) GNNs are based on  
**graph-convolutions** (filtering)

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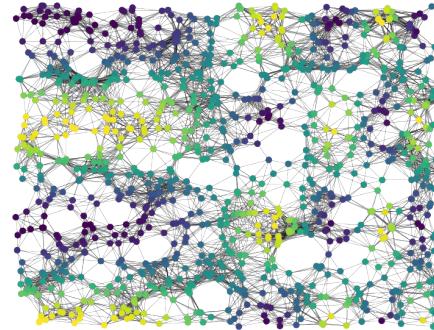
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- Based on graph Fourier transform



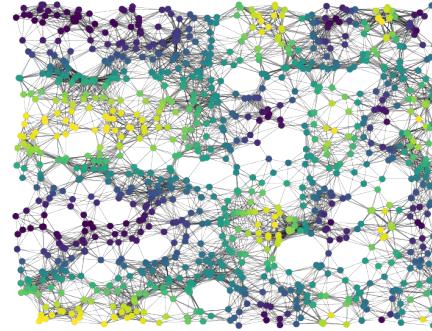
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- Based on **graph Fourier transform**
- Defined by diagonalizing the **graph Laplacian**  $L = Id - D^{-\frac{1}{2}}AD^{-\frac{1}{2}} = U^\top \Lambda U$



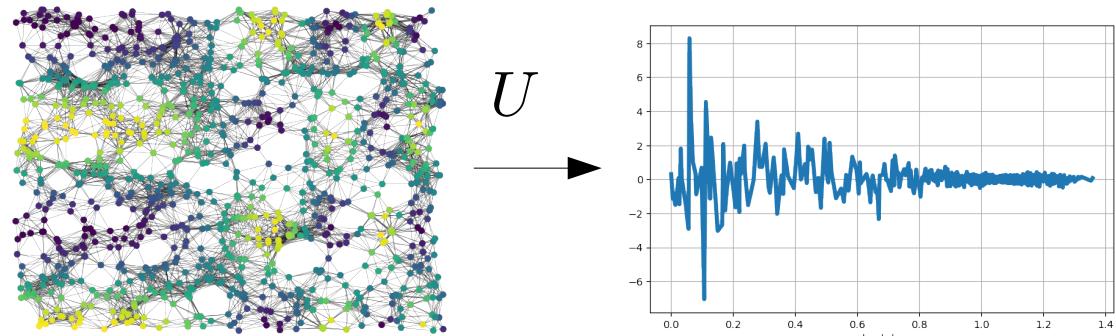
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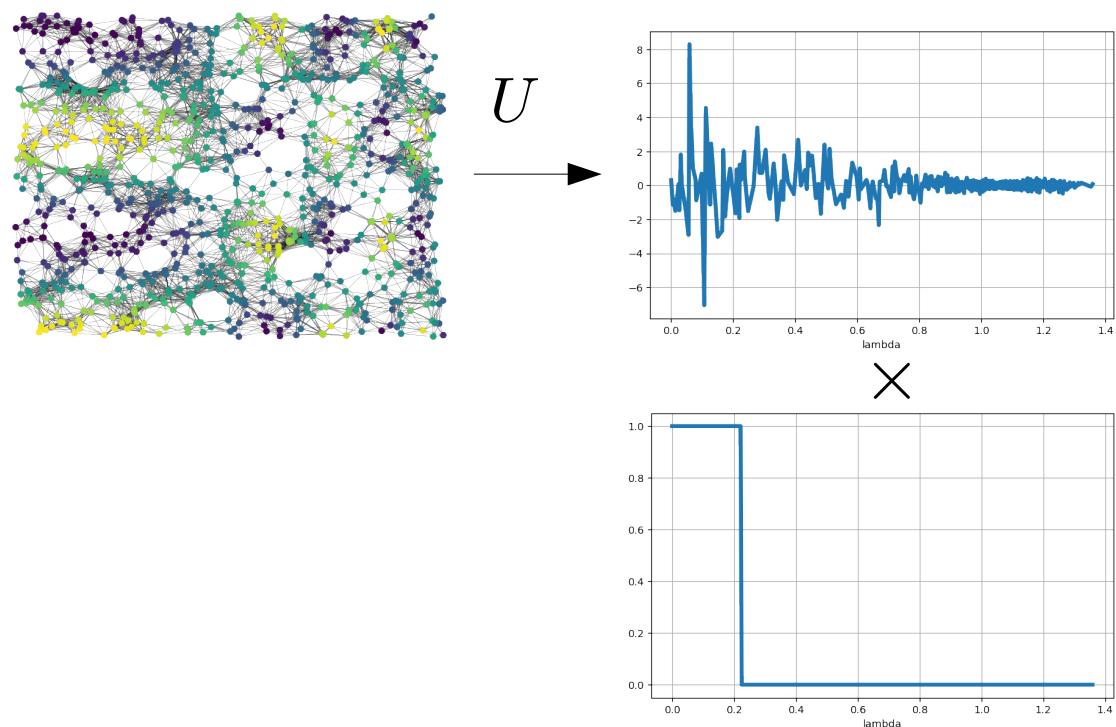
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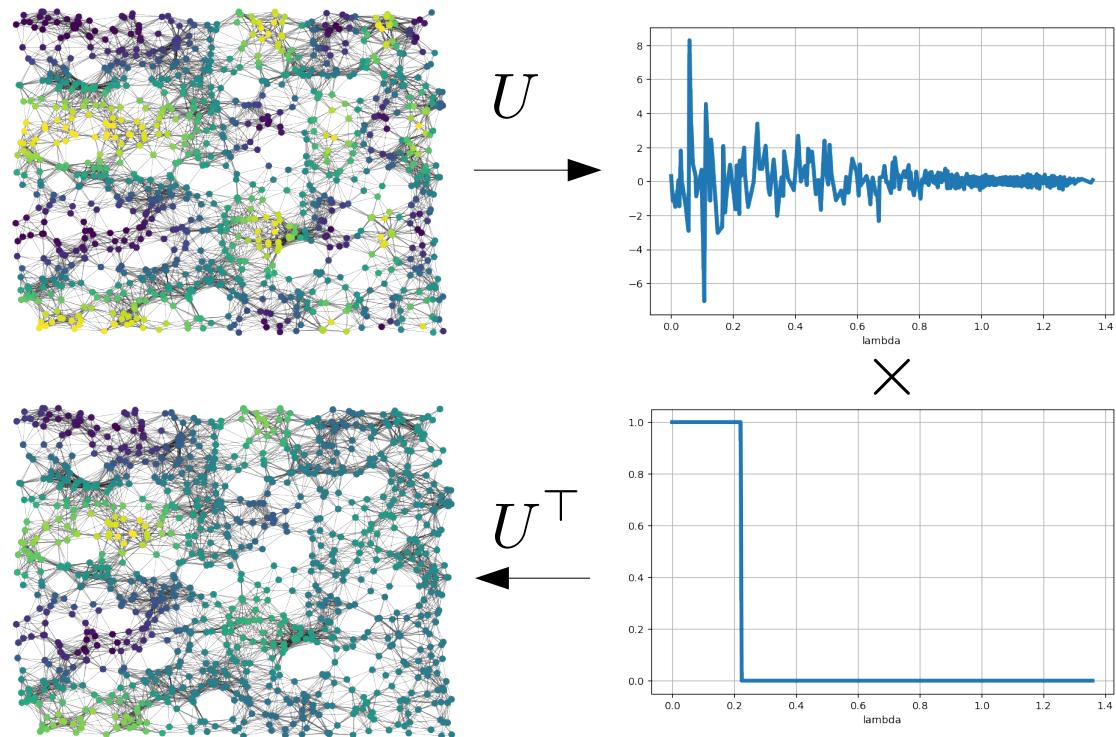
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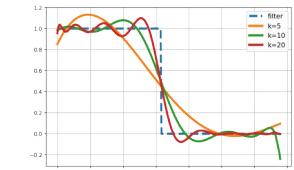
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- Based on **graph Fourier transform**
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- Popular filters are **polynomial filters**

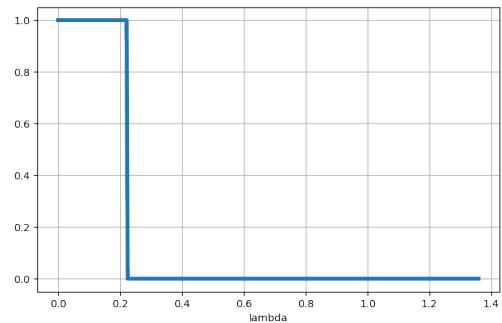
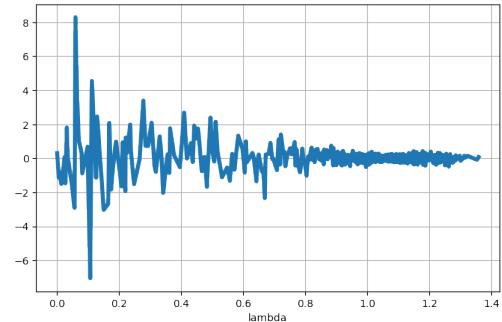
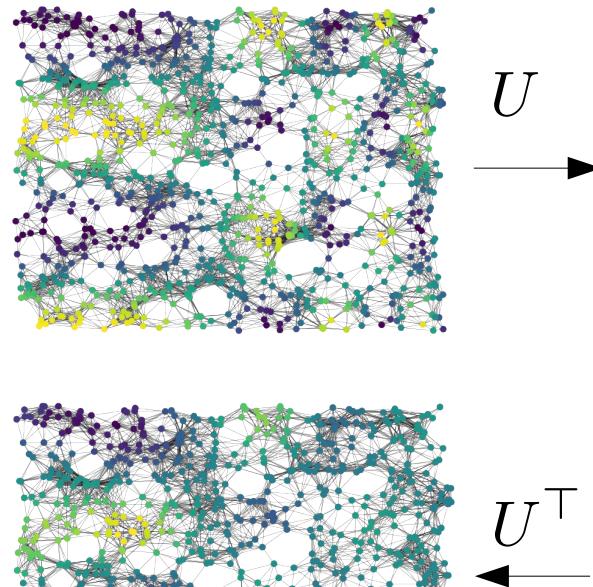
$$h \star z = (\sum_k \beta_k L^k)z$$



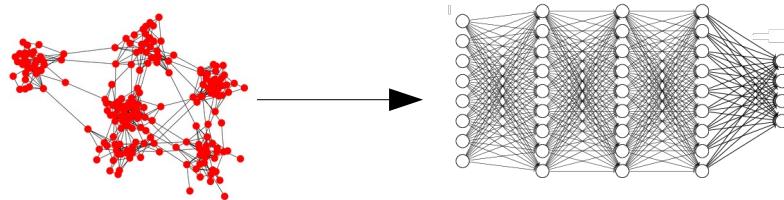
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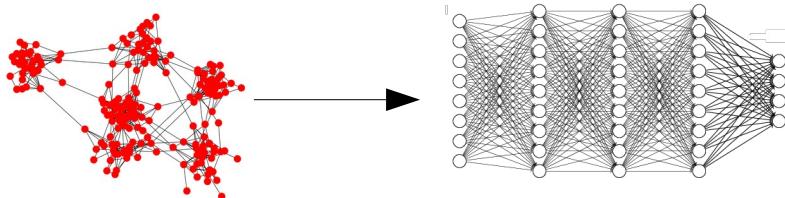


# Discrete vs. continuous



(Spectral) Graph Neural Networks

# Discrete vs. continuous

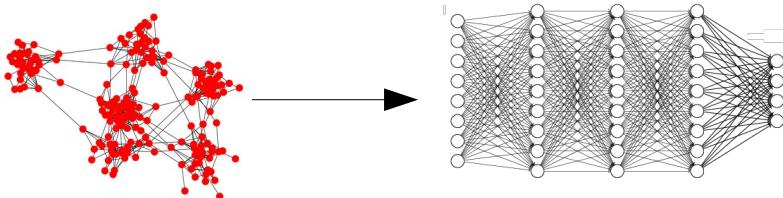


## (Spectral) Graph Neural Networks

- Propagate **signal** over nodes

$$z_j^{(\ell+1)} = \rho \left( \sum_i h_{ij}^{(\ell)}(L) z_i^{(\ell)} + b_j^{(\ell)} \mathbf{1}_n \right)$$

# Discrete vs. continuous



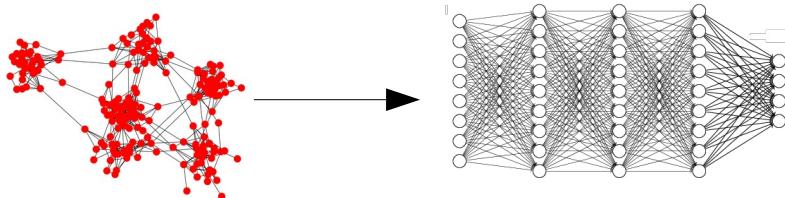
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Trainable polynomial graph  $h(L) = \sum_k \beta_k L^k$   
filters with normalized Laplacian  $L = D^{-\frac{1}{2}} A D^{-\frac{1}{2}}$

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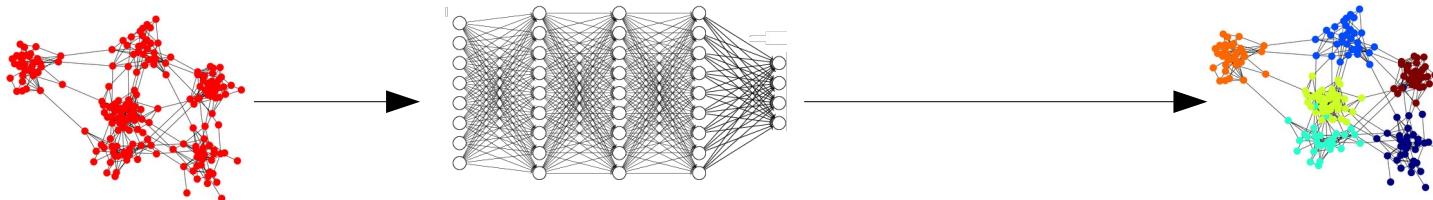
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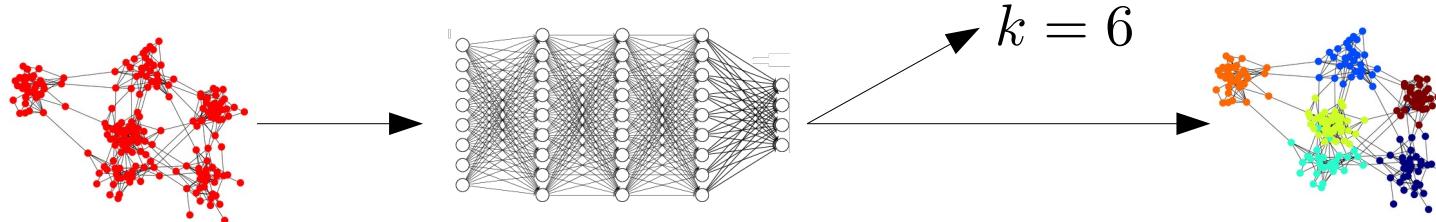
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## Output

- **Signal over nodes** (permutation-equivariant)

# Discrete vs. continuous



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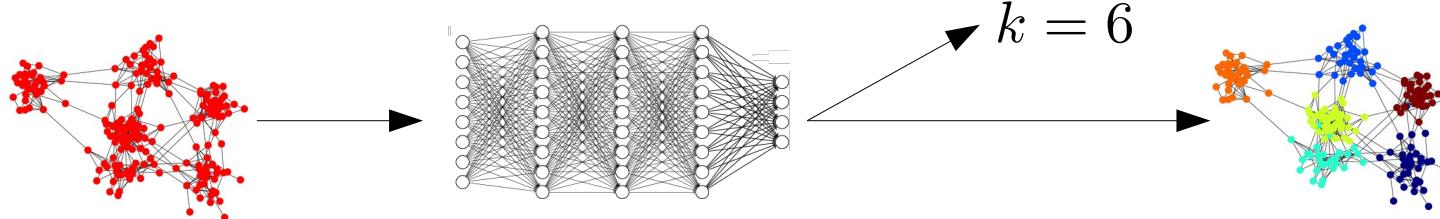
$\xrightarrow{\text{ReLU}}$

**Trainable** polynomial graph       $h(L) = \sum_k \beta_k L^k$   
filters with normalized Laplacian     $L = D^{-\frac{1}{2}} A D^{-\frac{1}{2}}$

## Output

- **Signal over nodes** (permutation-equivariant)
- Single vector with pooling (permutation-invariant)

# Discrete vs. continuous



## (Spectral) Graph Neural Networks

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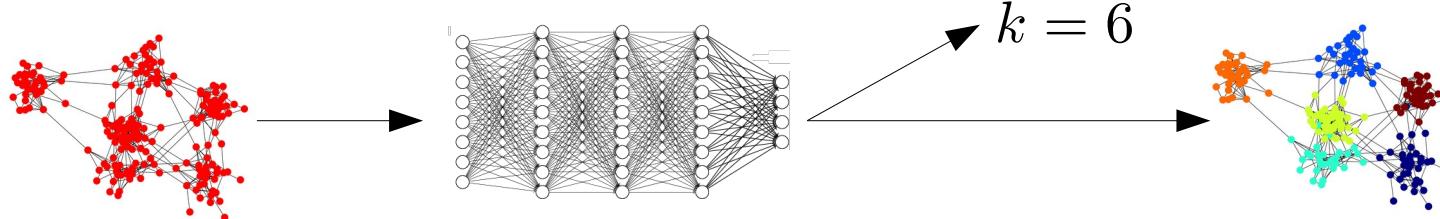
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## Continuous Graph Neural Networks

- Propagate **function over latent space**

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# Discrete vs. continuous



## (Spectral) Graph Neural Networks

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$$z_j^{(\ell+1)} = \rho \left( \sum_i h_{ij}^{(\ell)}(L) z_i^{(\ell)} + b_j^{(\ell)} \mathbf{1}_n \right)$$

$\uparrow$   
*ReLU*

**Trainable** polynomial graph filters with normalized Laplacian

$$h(L) = \sum_k \beta_k L^k$$
$$L = D^{-\frac{1}{2}} A D^{-\frac{1}{2}}$$

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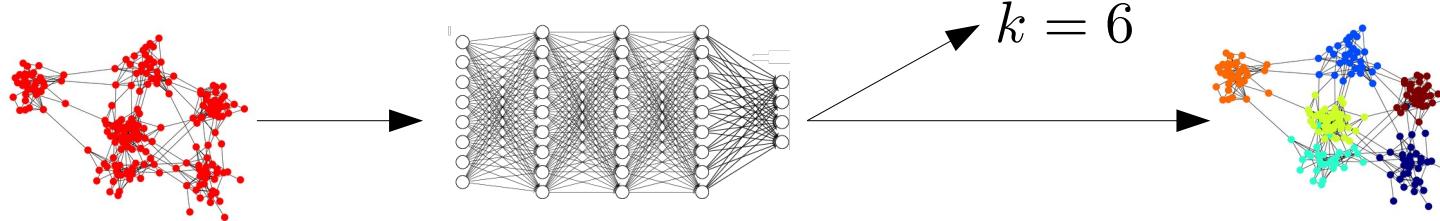
Filters with normalized Laplacian **operator**

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# Discrete vs. continuous



## (Spectral) Graph Neural Networks

- Propagate **signal** over nodes

$$z_j^{(\ell+1)} = \rho \left( \sum_i h_{ij}^{(\ell)}(L) z_i^{(\ell)} + b_j^{(\ell)} \mathbf{1}_n \right)$$

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*ReLU*

**Trainable** polynomial graph filters with normalized Laplacian

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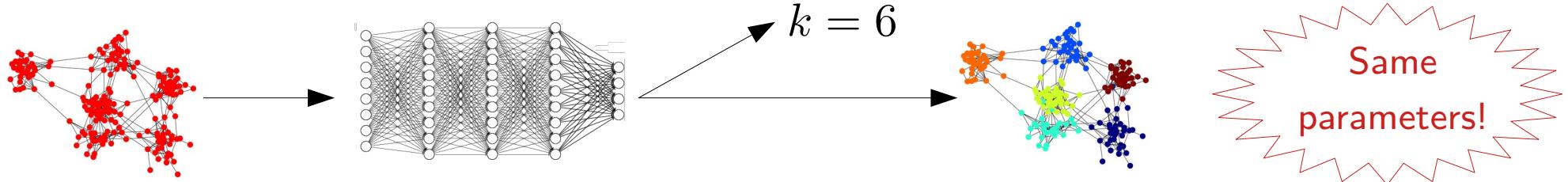
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Thm (Non-asymptotic convergence)

If  $\alpha_n \gtrsim (\log n)/n$ , with probability  $1 - n^{-r}$ , the deviation between the outputs of the discrete GNN and the continuous GNN is

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$$\|\Phi_G(Z) - \Phi_{W,P}(f)\|$$

$$\lesssim \frac{d}{\sqrt{n}} + \frac{1}{\sqrt{\alpha_n n}}$$

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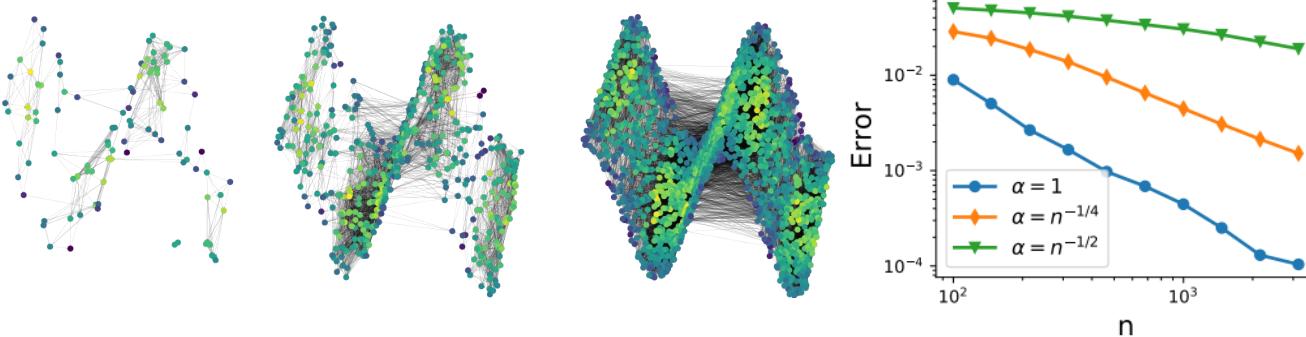
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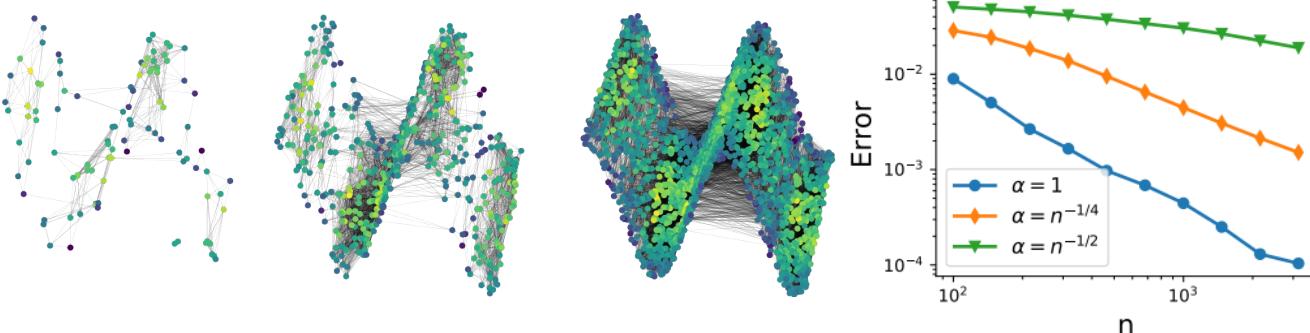
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- Thanks to **normalized** Laplacian, the limit does **not** depend on  $\alpha_n$  but the rate of convergence does...
- Could have used normalized adjacency  $A/(n\alpha_n)$  with operator  $\int W(x,y)f(y)dP(y)$

# Outline

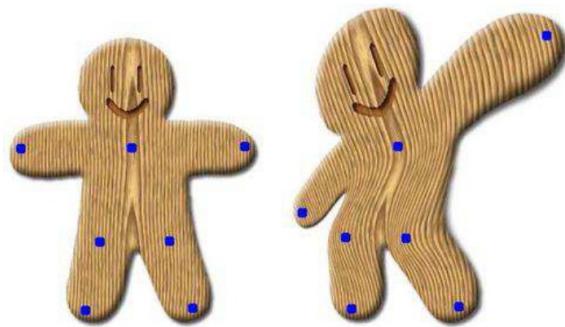
① Convergence of GNNs

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# Large graphs?

- CNN (translation-invariant) are robust to spatial deformations



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5 5 5 5 5 5 5 5 5  
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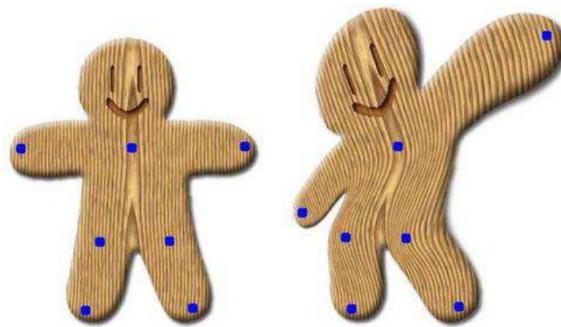
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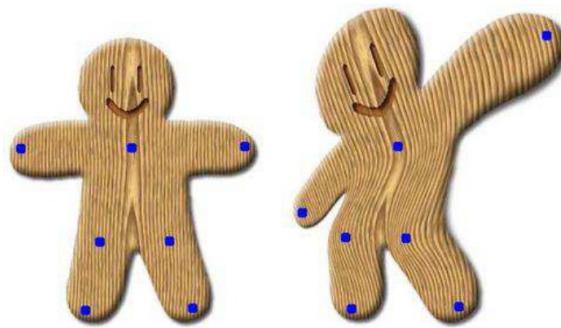
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- *Difficult to interpret, difficult to define for different-sized graphs*
- *What's a meaningful notion of deformation for a graph?*

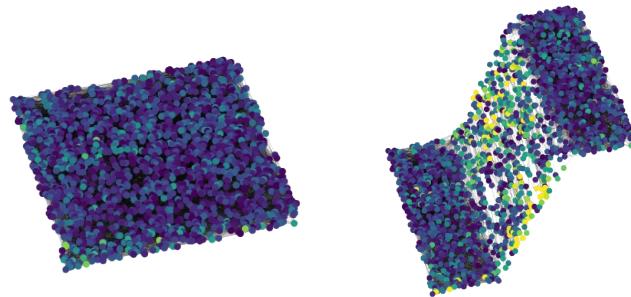
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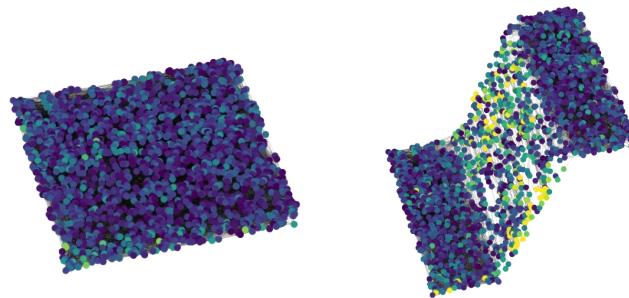
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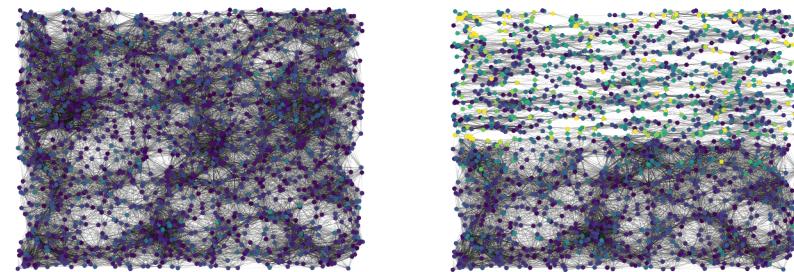
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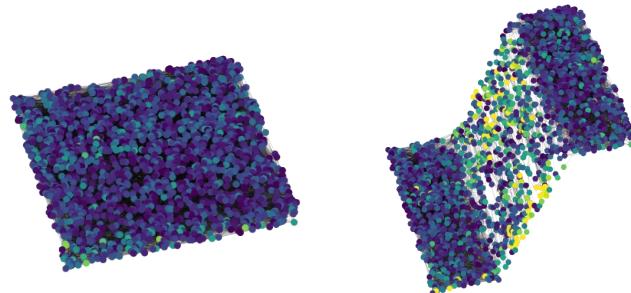
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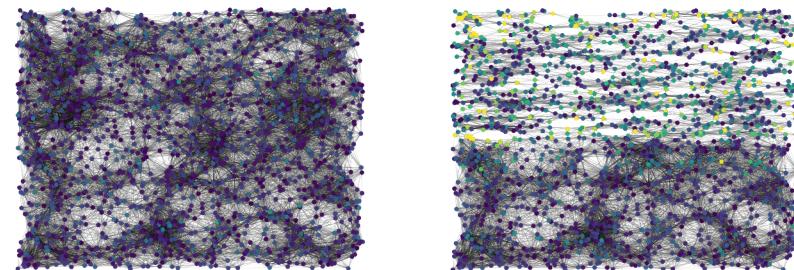
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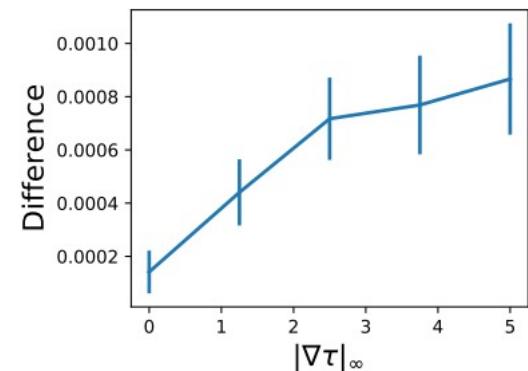
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## Thm (Stability, simplified)

For *translation-invariant* kernels, if:

- $W$  is replaced by  $W(x - \tau(x), x' - \tau(x'))$
- $P$  is replaced by  $(Id - \tau)^\sharp P$  (and  $f$  is translated)
- $f$  is replaced by  $f \circ (Id - \tau)$

Then, the deviation of c-GNN is bounded by  $\|\nabla\tau\|_\infty$



# Outline

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③ Universality of c-GNNs

# GNN vs. WL

- Assume **no node feature**. Basic strategy: input **constant**  $\Phi_G(1)$

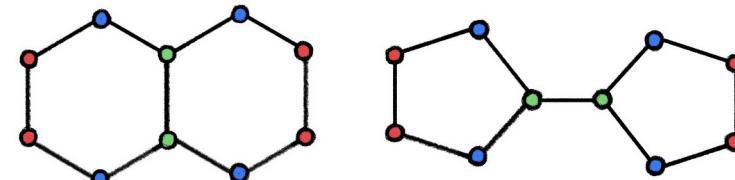
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WL fails here...



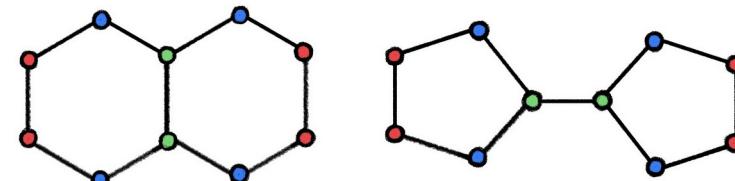
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By construction, message-passing GNNs are **not more powerful** than WL test, and can be **as powerful** if the message-passing function is injective (sufficient number of neurons).

Xu et al. *How Powerful are Graph Neural Networks?* (2019)

# Beyond WL

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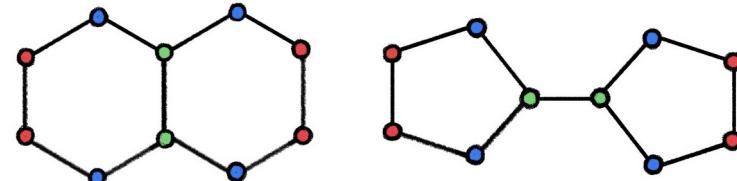
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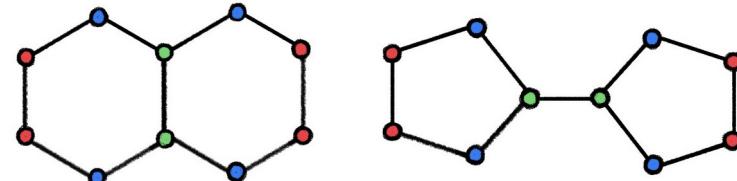
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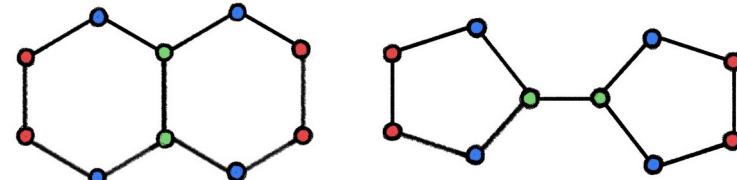
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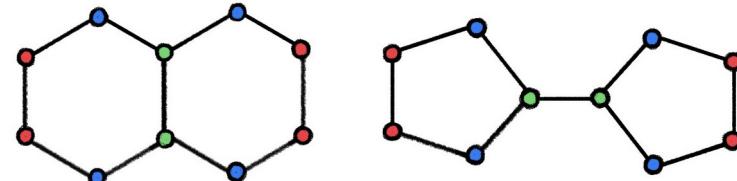
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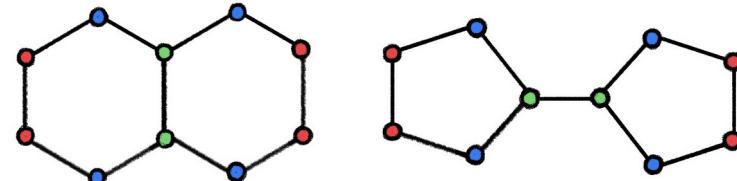
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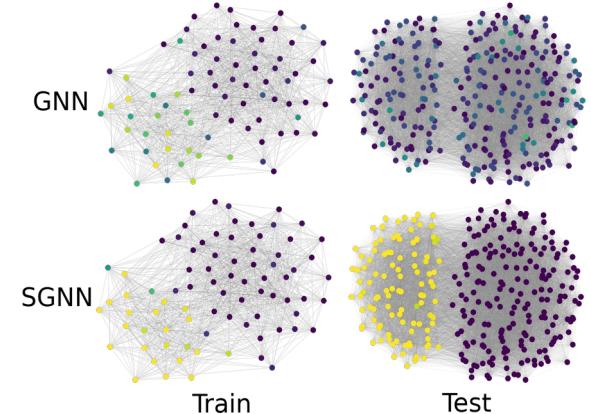
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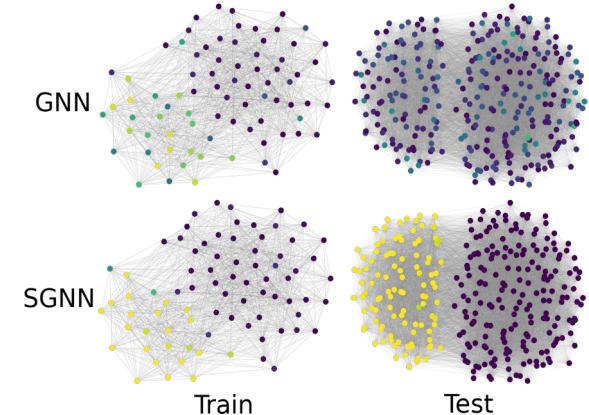
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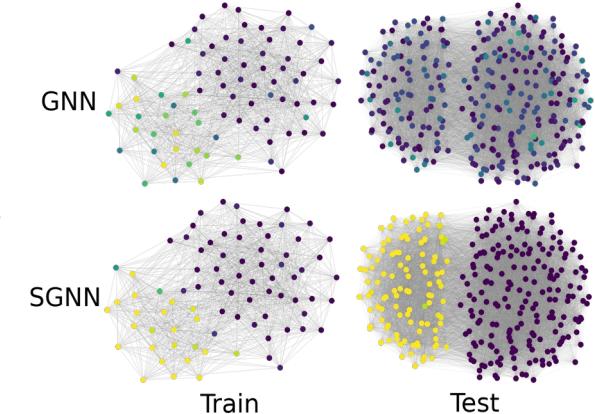
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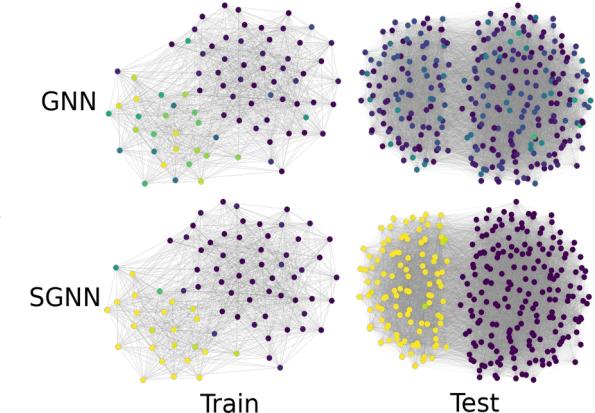
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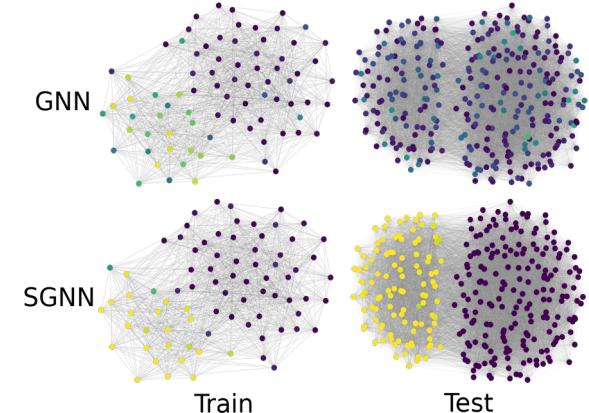
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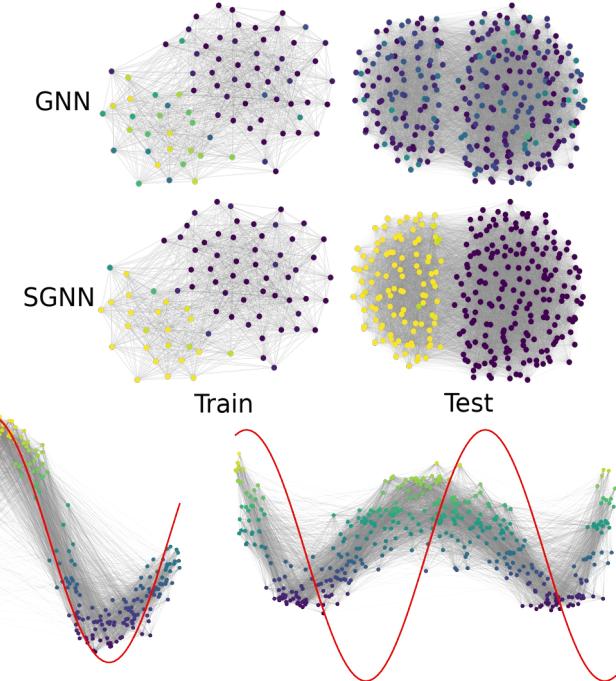
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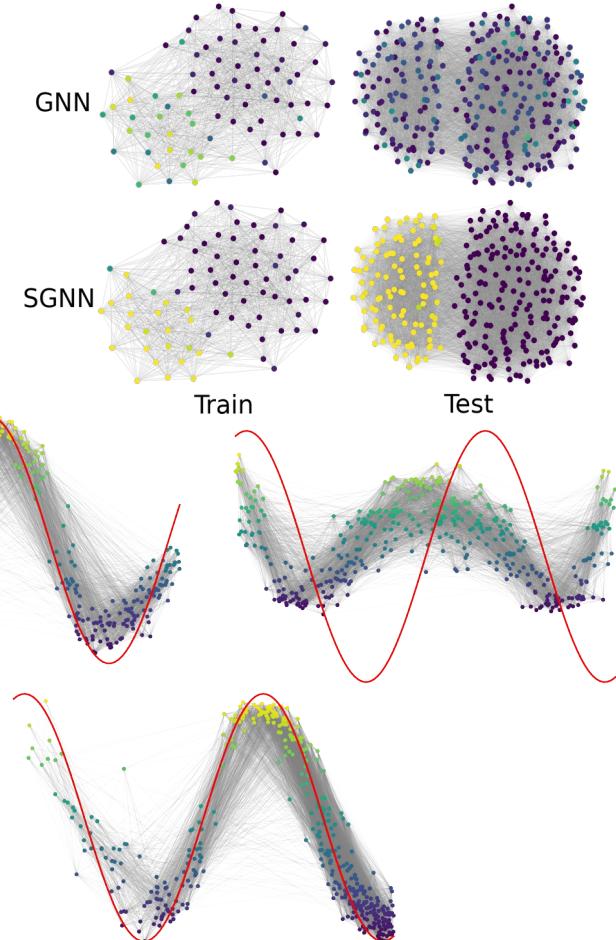
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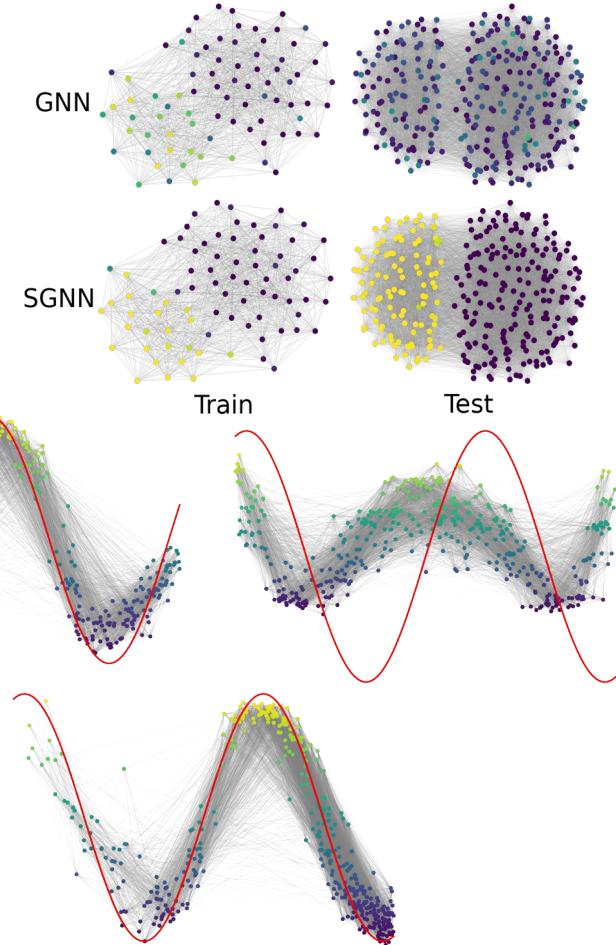
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NeurIPS (Spotlight) (2020)

Keriven, Bietti, Vaiter. *On the Universality of Graph Neural Networks on Large Random Graphs.* Submitted. (2021)

[nkeriven.github.io](https://nkeriven.github.io)