

# Graph Neural Networks: Introduction, some theoretical properties

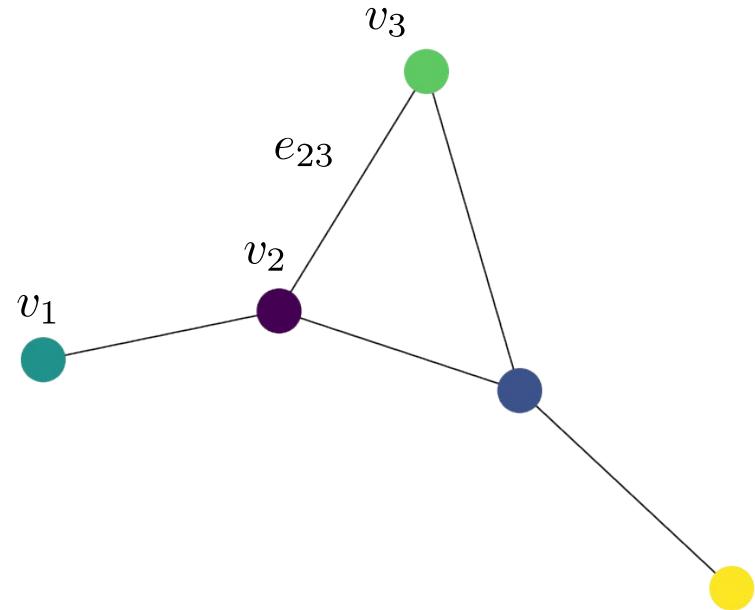
Nicolas Keriven

CNRS, GIPSA-lab

# Graphs ?

A **Graph**  $G = (V, E)$  is formed by:

- Nodes (or vertices)  $V = \{v_1, \dots, v_n\}$
- Edges  $E = \{e_{i_1 j_1}, \dots, e_{i_m j_m}\}$



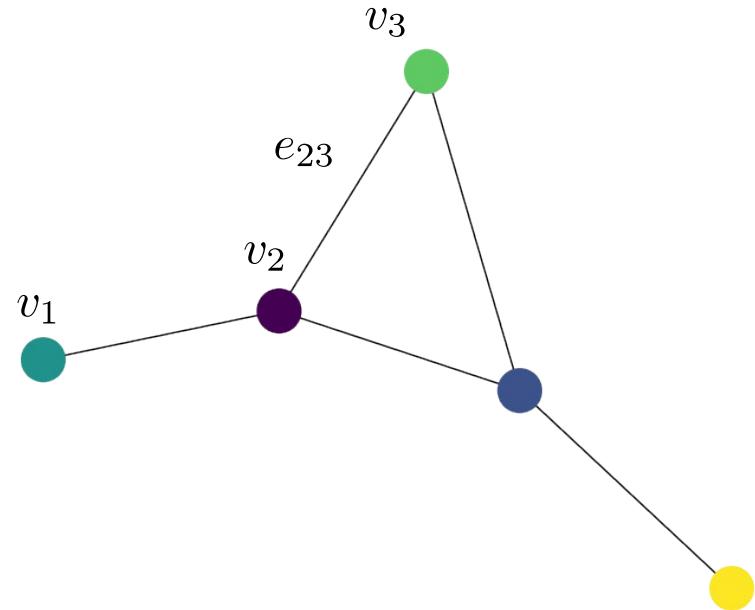
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Can include:

- Node features  $\xi_i \in \mathbb{R}^d$
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- Directed or undirected edges



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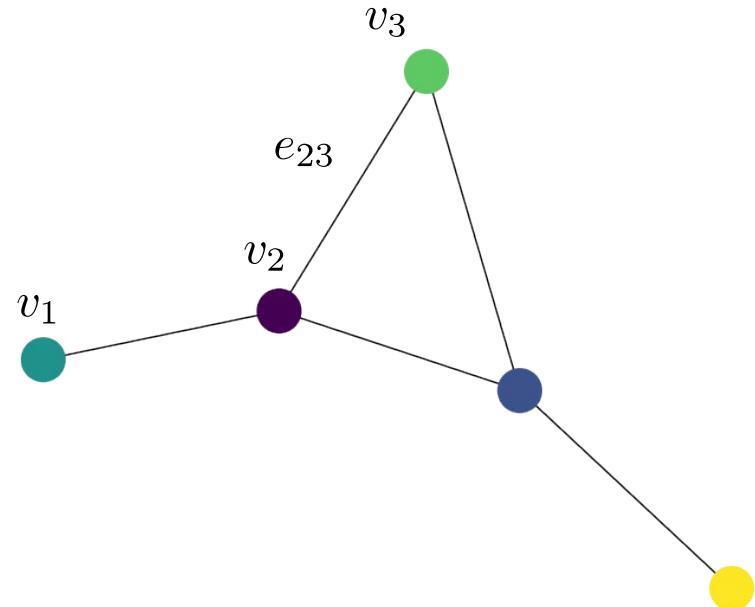
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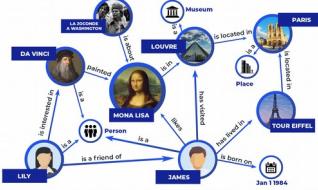
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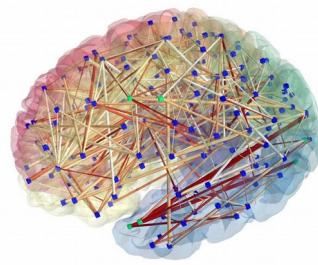
- A purely **mathematical object!**
- A principled way to represent many types of **complex data** (eg. any type of **network**)



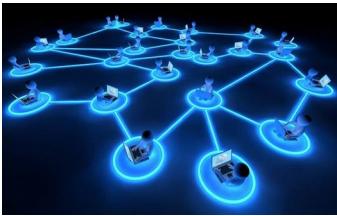
# Graphs: examples



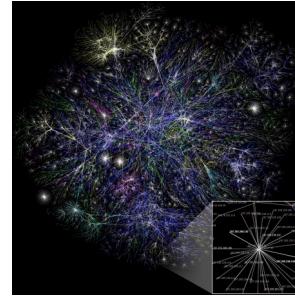
Knowledge graph



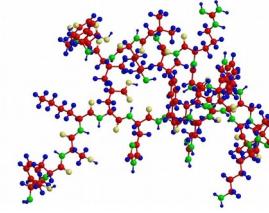
Brain connectivity network



Computer network



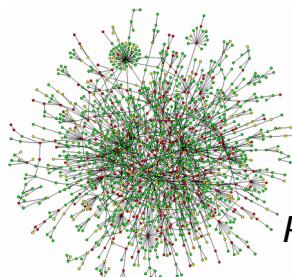
Internet



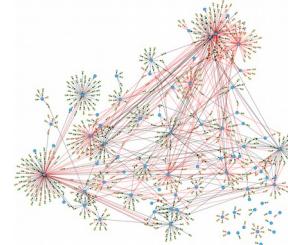
Molecule



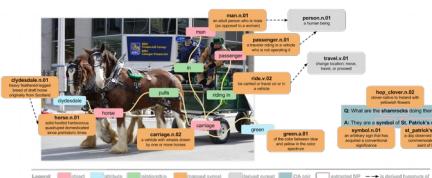
Social network



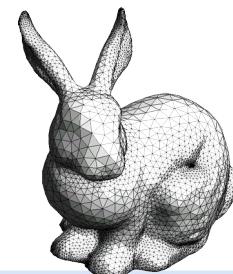
Protein interaction network



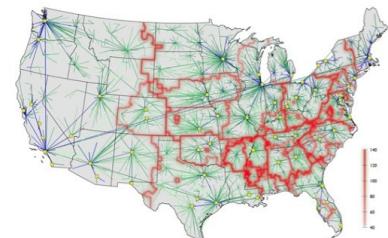
Gene regulatory network



Scene understanding network

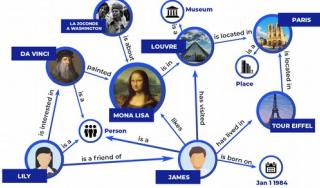


3D mesh

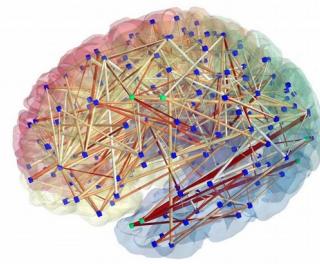


Transportation network

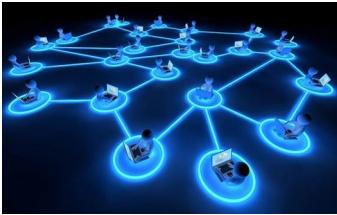
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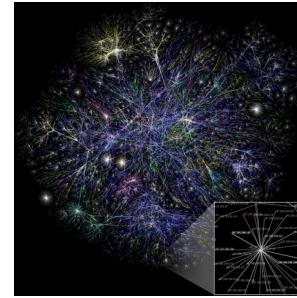
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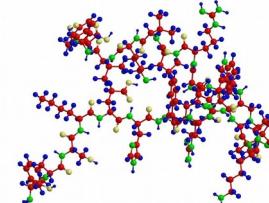
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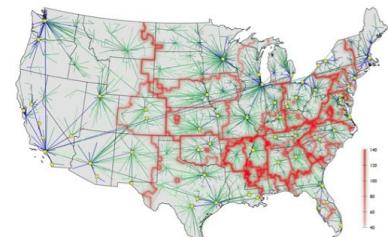
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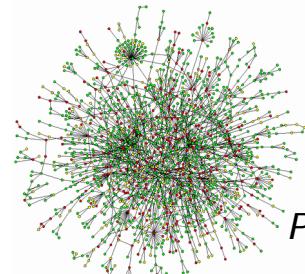
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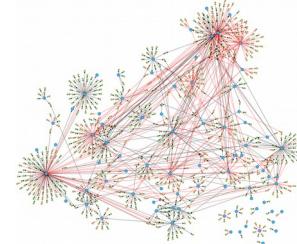
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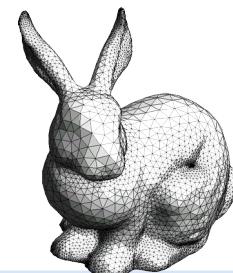
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*"if all you have is a hammer, everything looks like a nail"*

# Graphs: notations

A graph is usually represented by

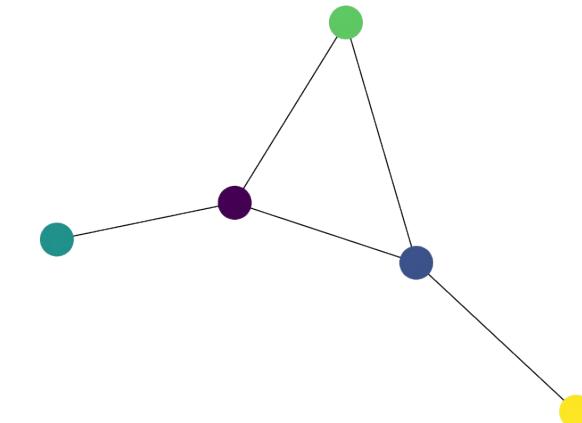
- An adjacency matrix  $A \in \{0, 1\}^{n \times n}$  :  $A_{ij} = \begin{cases} 1 & \text{if } (i, j) \in E \\ 0 & \text{otherwise.} \end{cases}$
- (Optionally) node/edge feature matrices

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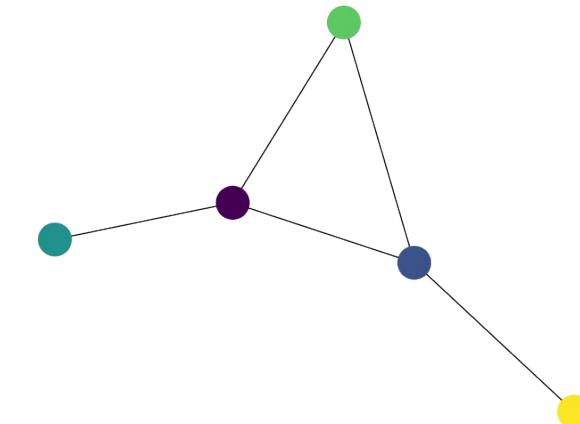
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$A$  is usually *sparse*, (lots of 0s), so fast to handle with dedicated tools

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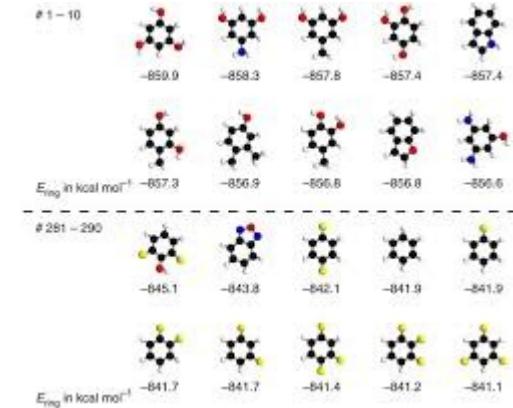
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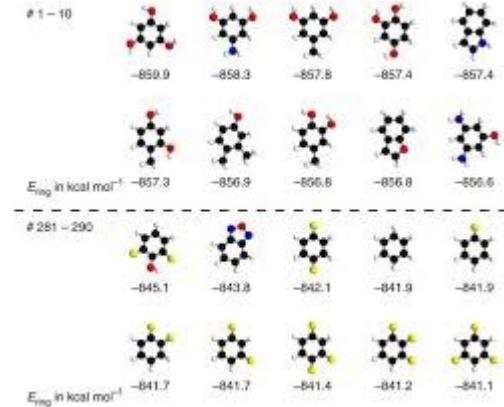
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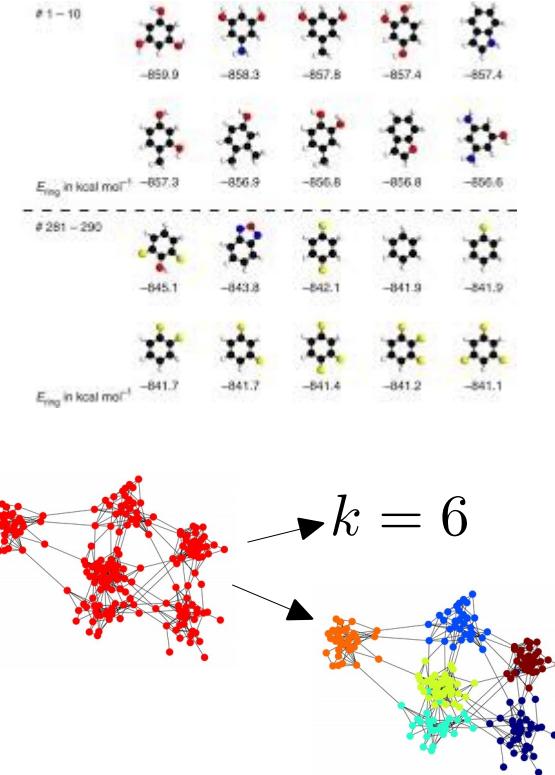
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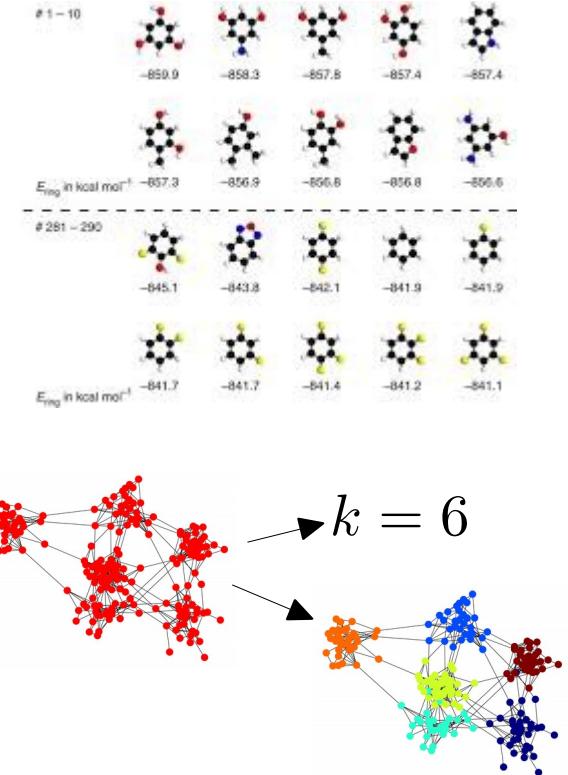
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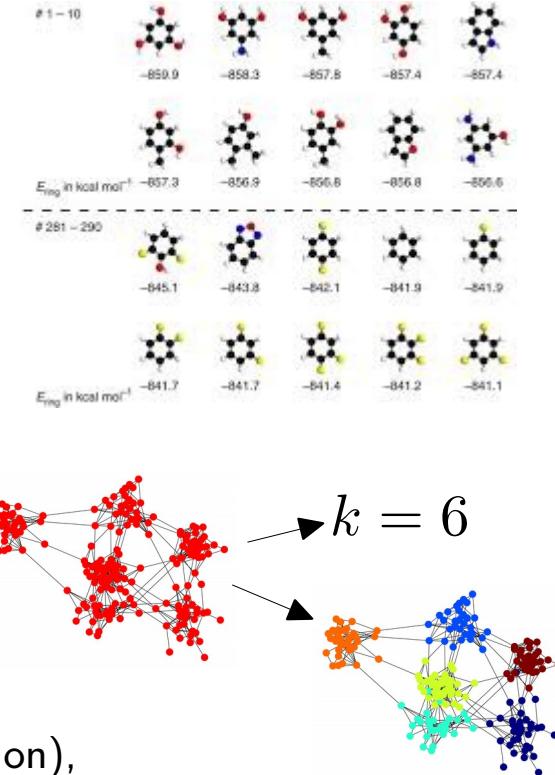
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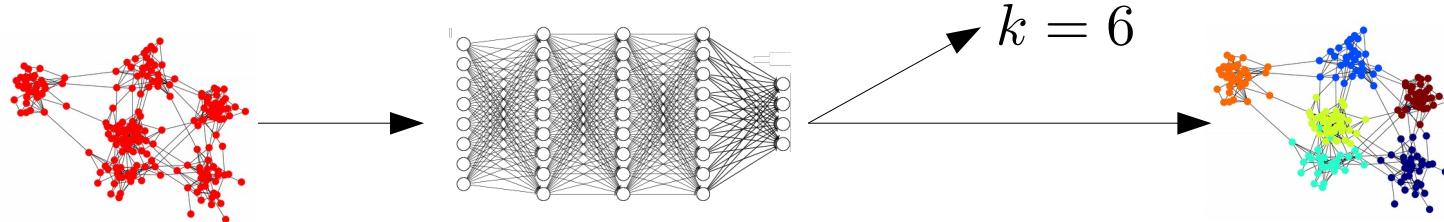
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- But also: **dynamic graph** (node, edge) prediction (physical systems simulation),  
**graph generation** (drug design)...

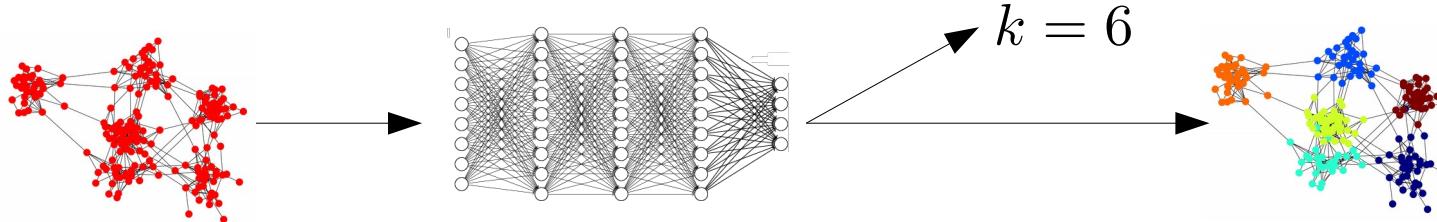


# ML on graphs: Graph Neural Networks



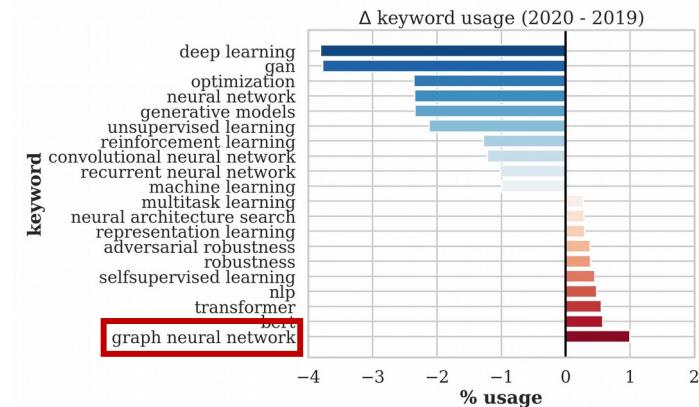
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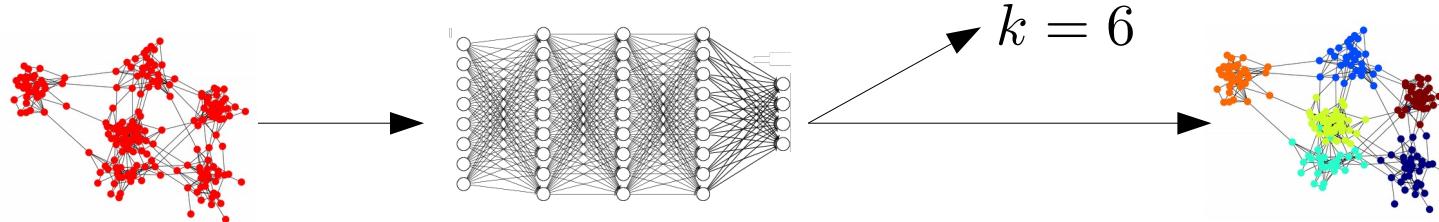


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  - A lot of good papers, a lot of not-so-good papers
  - a lot of “noise”! (review papers coming out regularly)

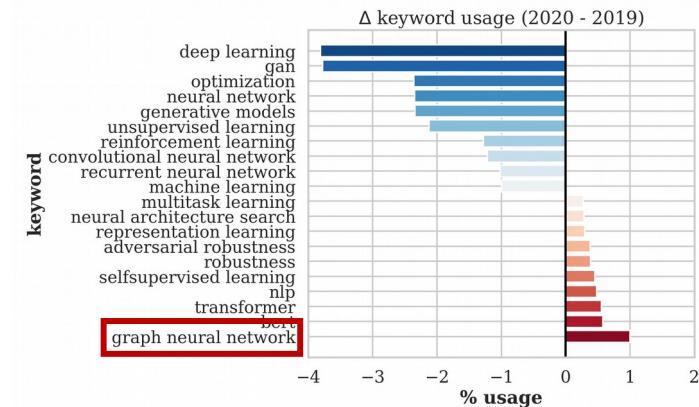


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- Very (very) **trendy** right now!
  - A lot of good papers, a lot of not-so-good papers
  - a lot of “noise”! (review papers coming out regularly)
- Does **NOT** work that well! (compared to other “deep learning”)
  - **Simple methods may perform better**, people might not test them...
  - Room for improvement! (**many interesting challenges**)
  - No “**ImageNet moment**” yet for GNNs



# ML on graphs: some material

- (Some) GNN reviews
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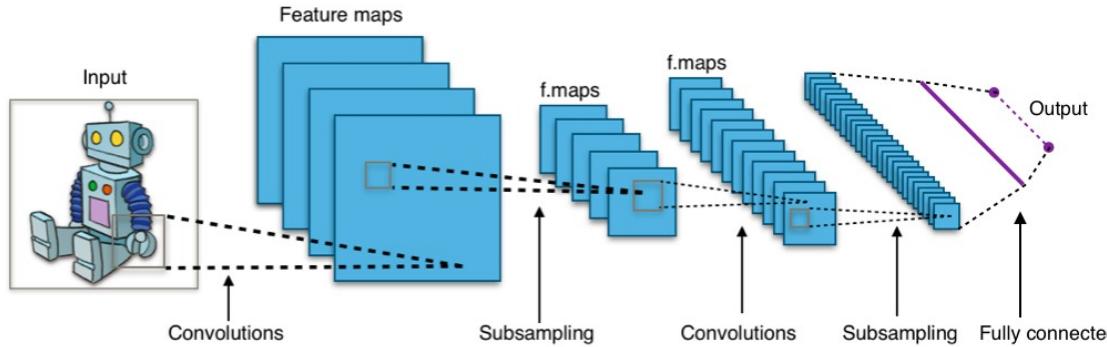
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- Online material, etc.
  - Sergey Ivanov. *GraphML Newsletter.* [graphml.substack.com](https://graphml.substack.com)
  - M. Bronstein's posts on Medium: [medium.com/@michael.bronstein](https://medium.com/@michael.bronstein)
  - Xavier Bresson's talks on Youtube (search his name)

# Outline

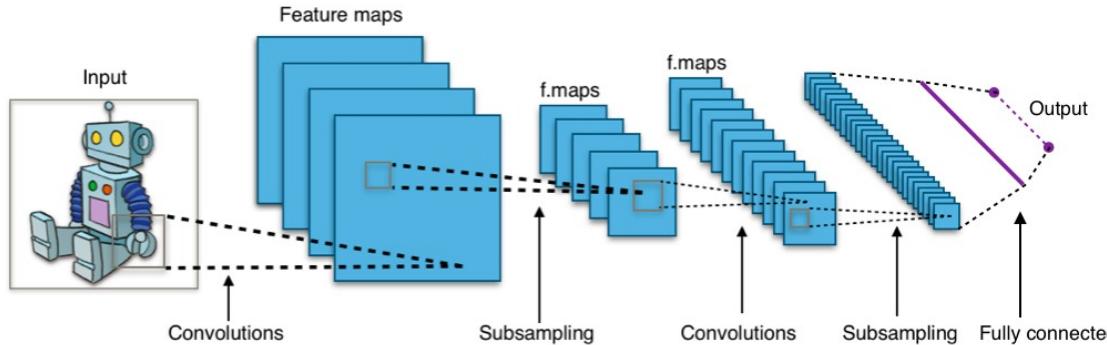
- 1 From Deep Convolutional Networks to GNNs
- 2 Some recent (theoretical) results
  - 2.1 On small graphs
  - 2.2 On large graphs

# Deep Neural Networks



*“Deep” learning: alternates between linearities and (differentiable) non-linearities*

# Deep Neural Networks

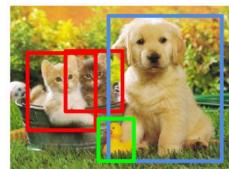


*"Deep" learning: alternates between linearities and (differentiable) non-linearities*



State-of-the-art in: most everything ? (*with sufficient data and domain knowledge...*)

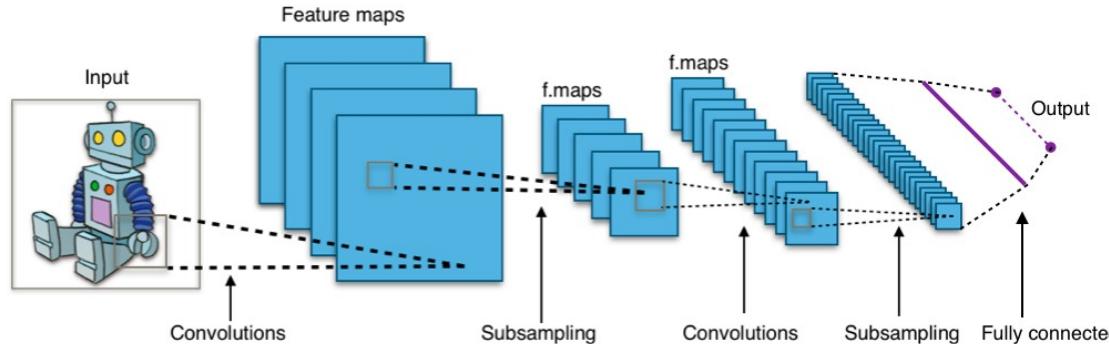
- Computer vision
- Speech recognition
- Natural Language Processing
- Reinforcement learning
- Etc etc etc.



CAT, DOG, DUCK



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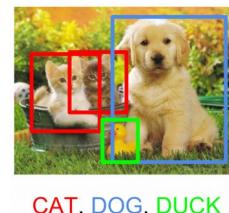


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*How do we extend them to Graphs?*  
No node ordering: must be invariant to relabelling of the nodes (graph isomorphism)



# ConvNets: convolution?

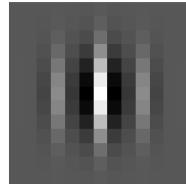
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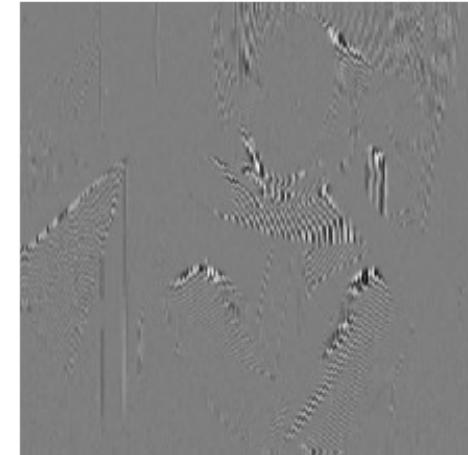
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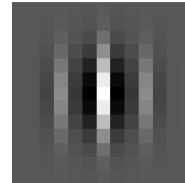
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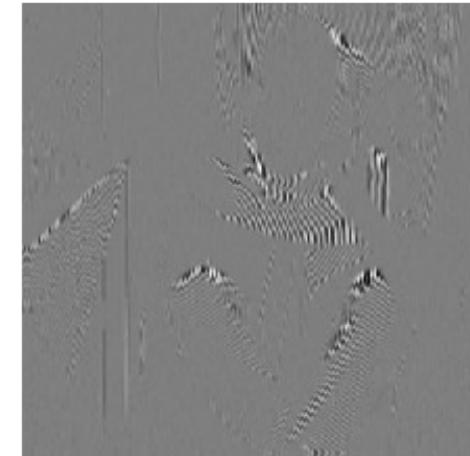
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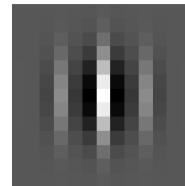
Convolutions are **local pattern-matching** linear operators.

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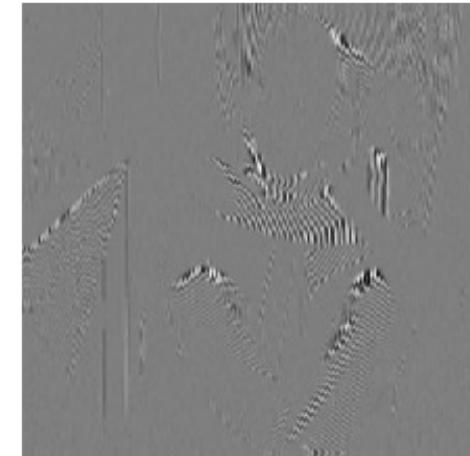
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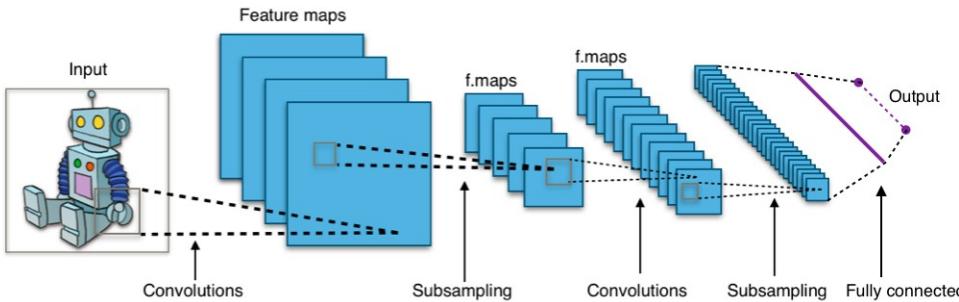
Usual filter banks (wavelets) use **fixed** filters, in ML the filters are (usually) **learned**.

# ConvNets: multiscale

- How to detect complex “high-level” shapes?

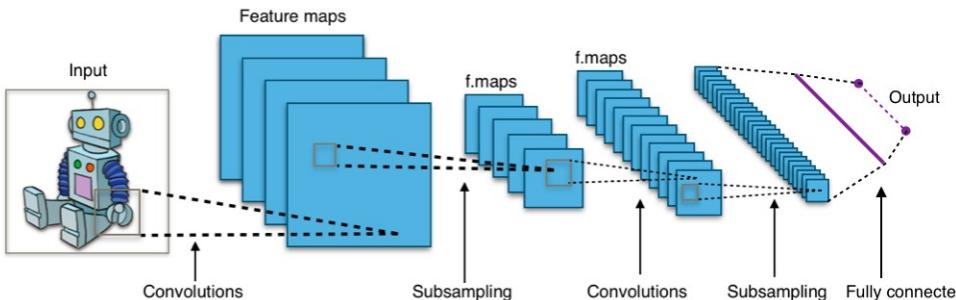
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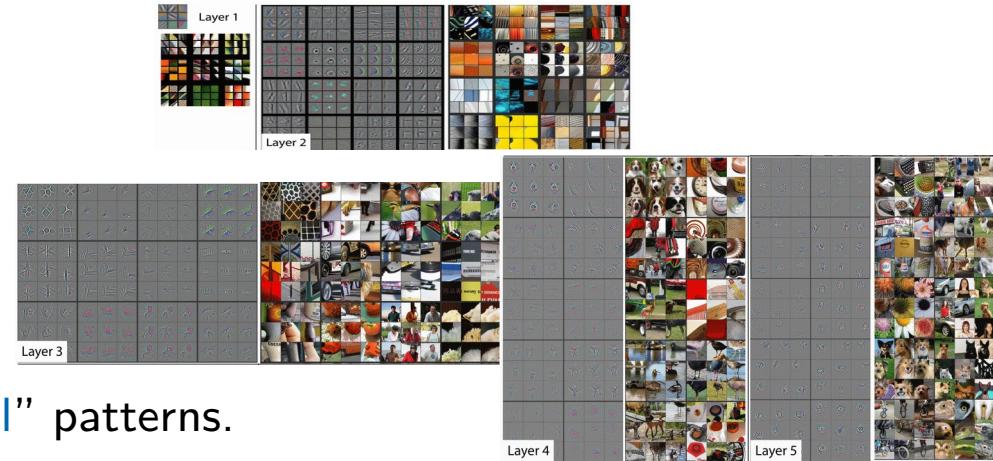
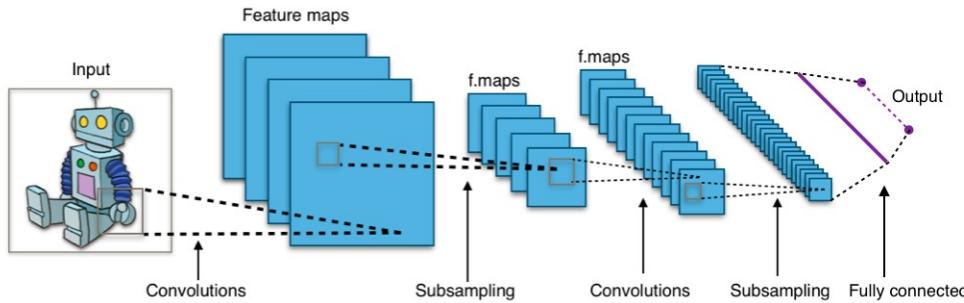
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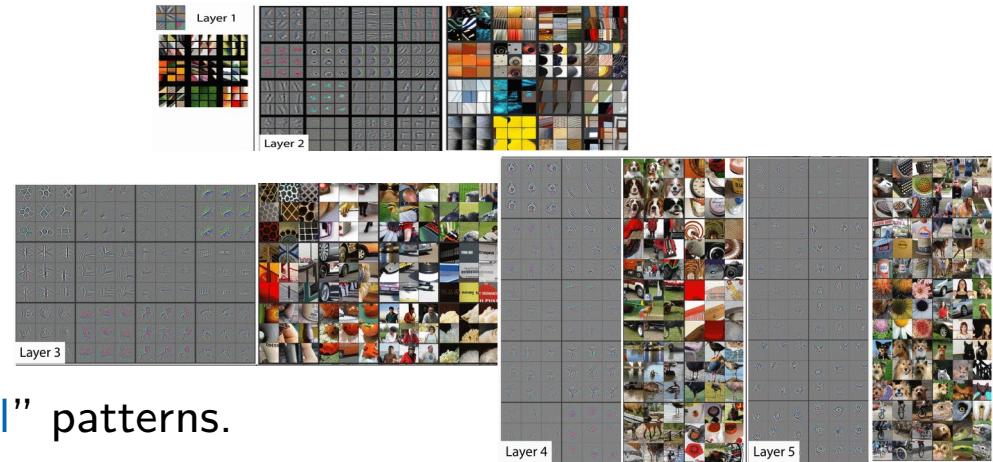
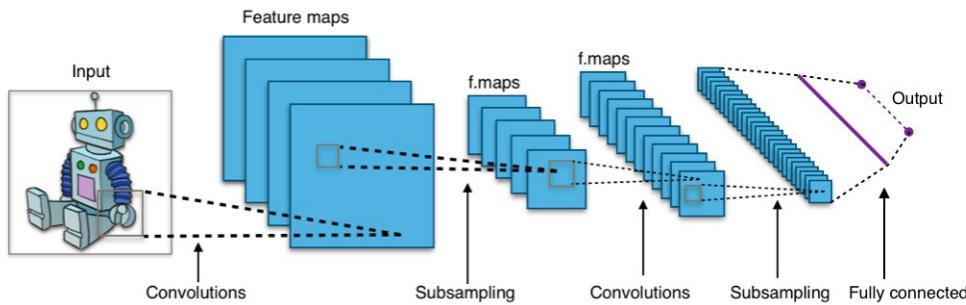


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Zeiler and Fergus. *Visualizing and Understanding Convolutional Networks* (2013)

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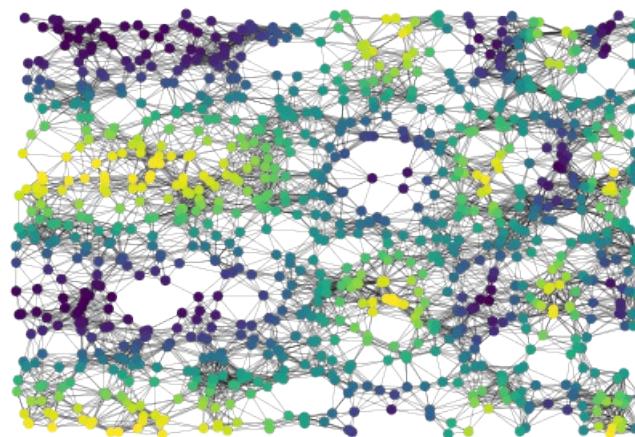
- DNN are **robust to (small) spatial deformation**.

$$\|\Phi(x) - \Phi(x \circ (Id - \tau))\| \leq \|\nabla \tau\|_\infty$$

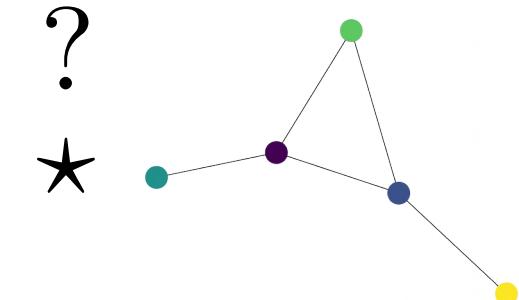
Bietti and Mairal. *Group invariance, stability to deformations, and complexity of deep convolutional representations*. (2019)

# Convolution on graphs?

How to perform convolution of graphs?



$z \in \mathbb{R}^n$  on  $G$



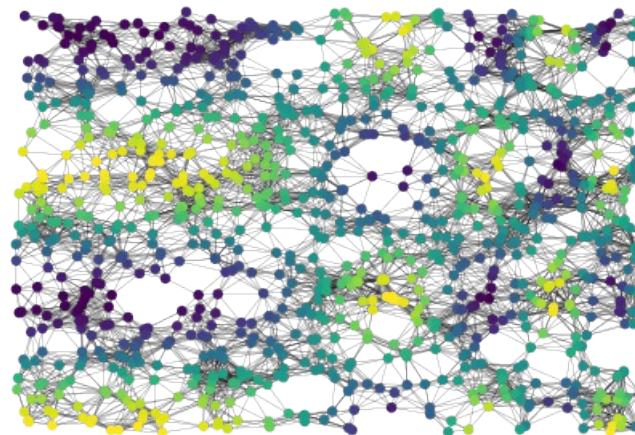
$h \in \mathbb{R}^p$  on  $H$

# Convolution on graphs?

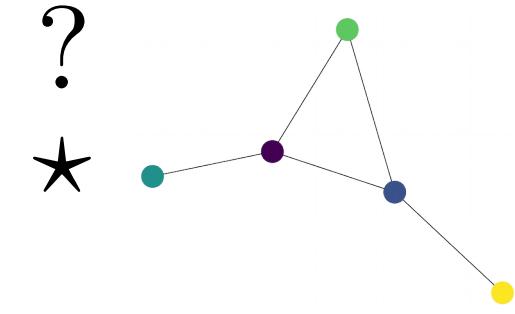
How to perform convolution of graphs?

Two (main) problems to “pattern-matching” on graphs:

- No inherent **node ordering**
- No fixed **neighborhood size**



$z \in \mathbb{R}^n$  on  $G$



$h \in \mathbb{R}^p$  on  $H$

# Convolution and Fourier

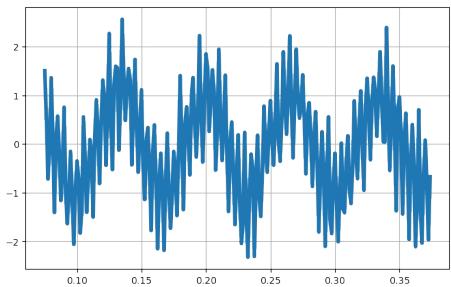
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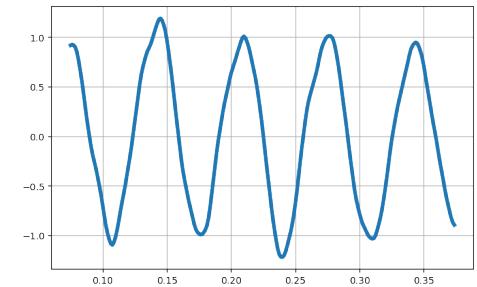
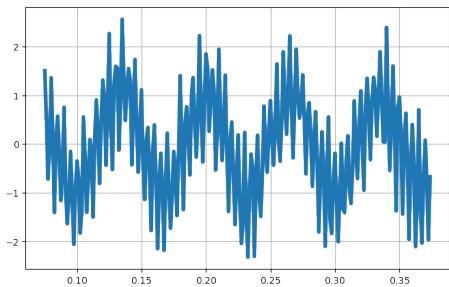
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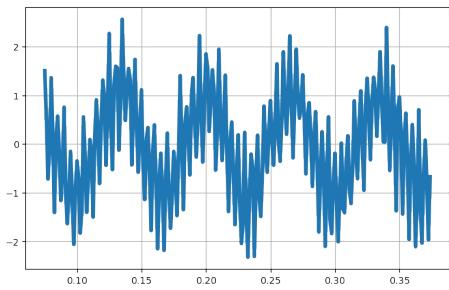
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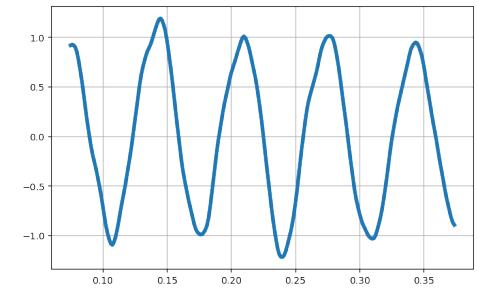
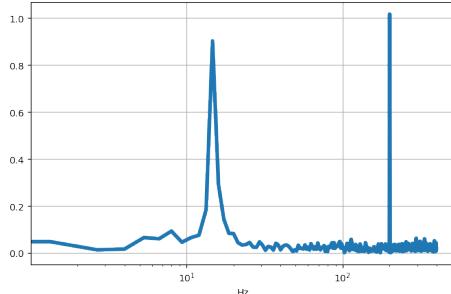
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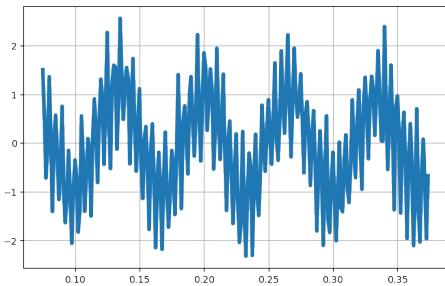
$\mathcal{F}$



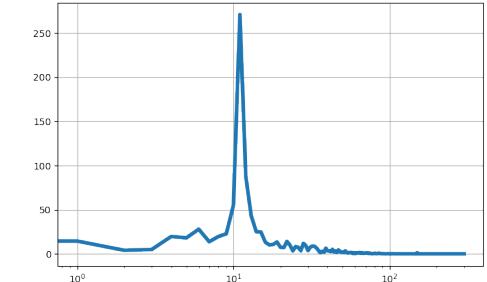
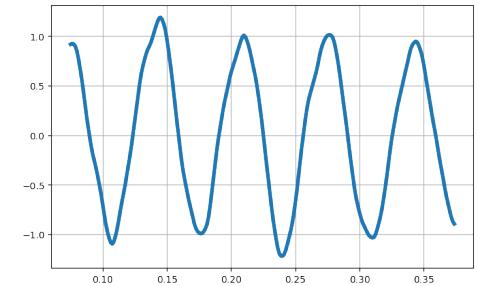
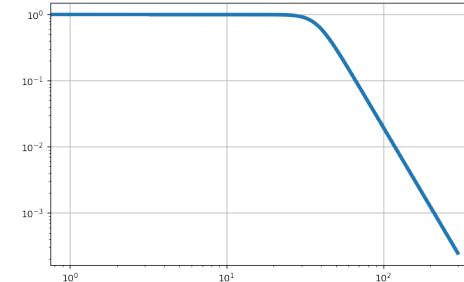
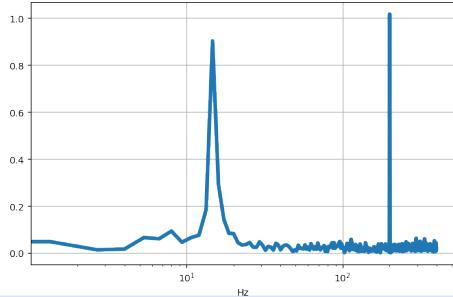
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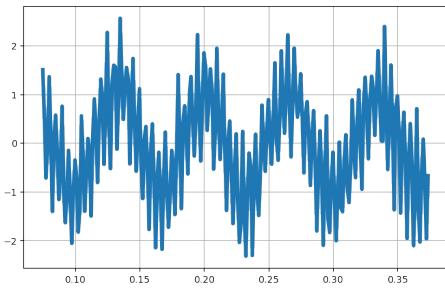
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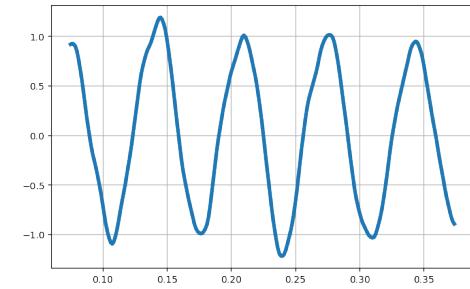
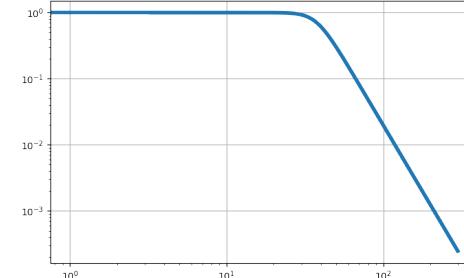
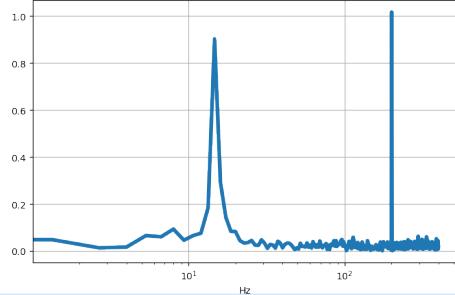
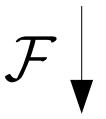
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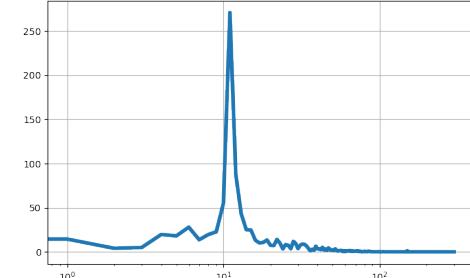
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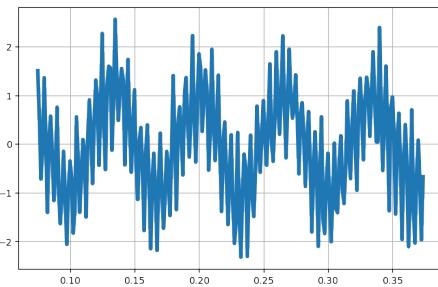
$\mathcal{F}^{-1}$



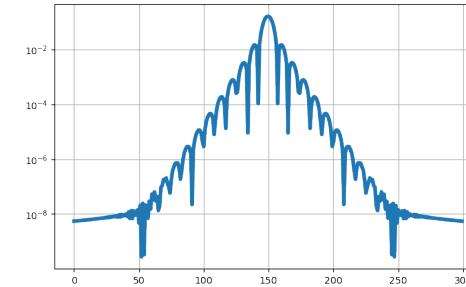
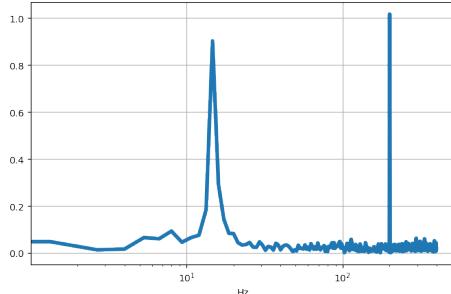
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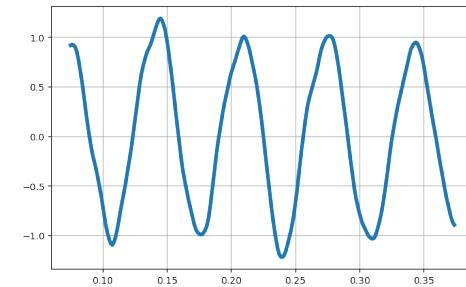
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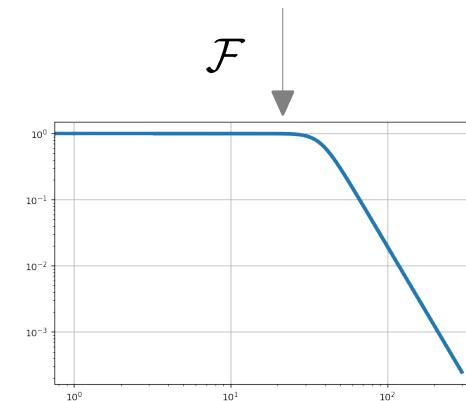
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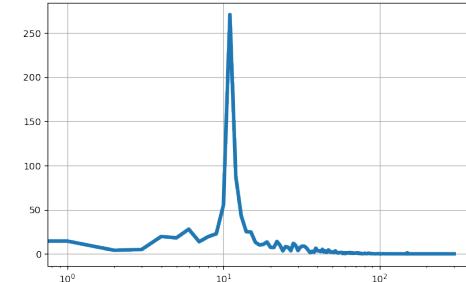
=



$\mathcal{F}^{-1}$



=



# Fourier transform on graphs: Laplacian

How to define the **Fourier transform** on graphs?  $\mathcal{F}f(\omega) = \int f(t)e^{-2i\pi\omega t}dt = \langle f, e^{-2i\pi\omega \cdot} \rangle_{L^2}$

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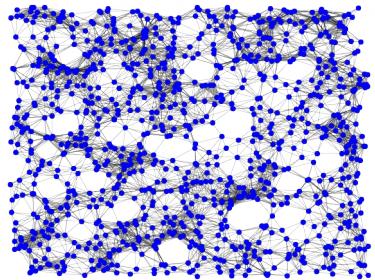
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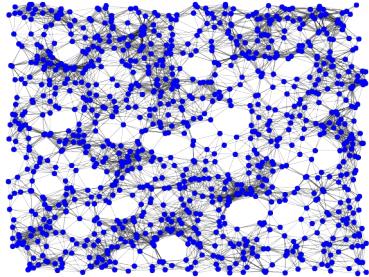
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- **Normalized Laplacian** (eigenvalues between 0 and 2)

$$L = Id - D^{-1/2}AD^{-1/2}$$

# Fourier transform on graphs



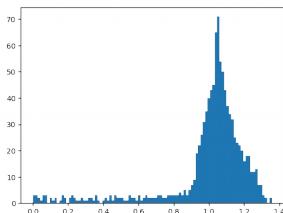
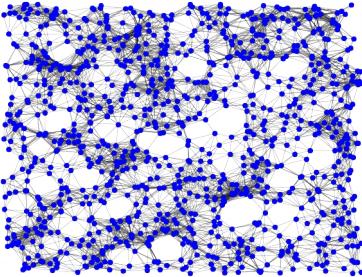
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Diagonalize the Laplacian:

$$L = U \Lambda U^\top$$

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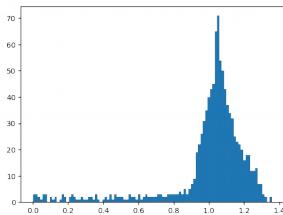
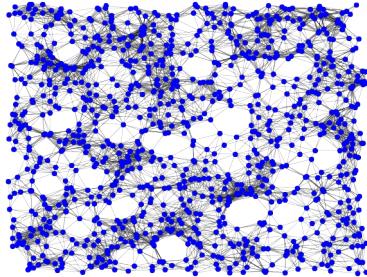
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$$\begin{pmatrix} \lambda_1 & & \\ & \ddots & \\ & & \lambda_n \end{pmatrix}$$

Eigenvalues: “frequencies”       $0 = \lambda_1 \leq \dots \leq \lambda_n \leq 2$

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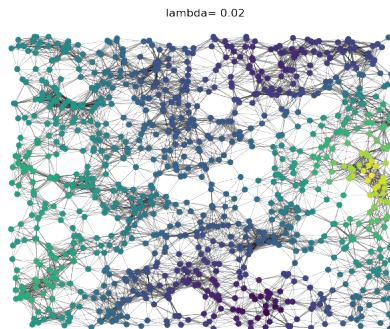
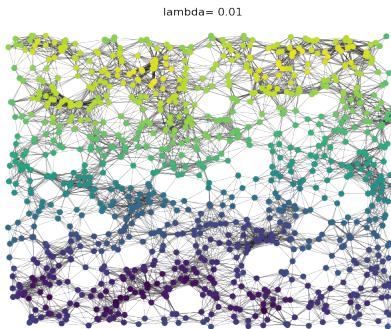
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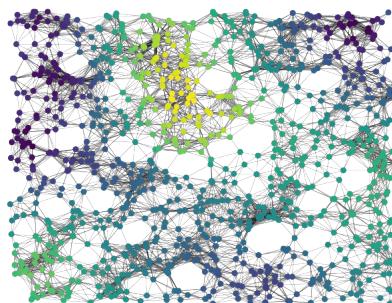
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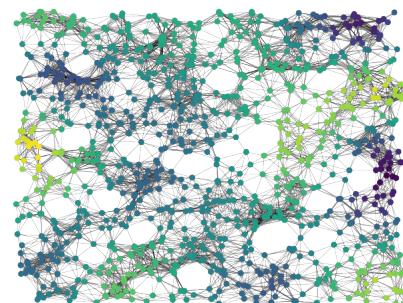
$[u_1, \dots, u_n]$  Eigenvectors: “Fourier modes”



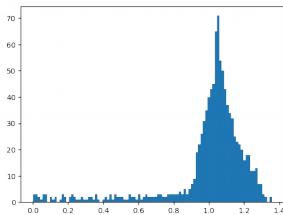
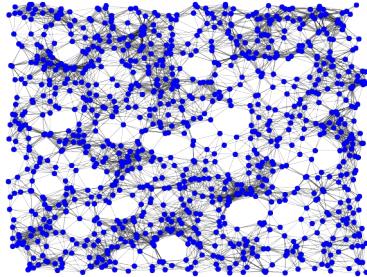
lambda = 0.03



lambda = 0.08



# Fourier transform on graphs

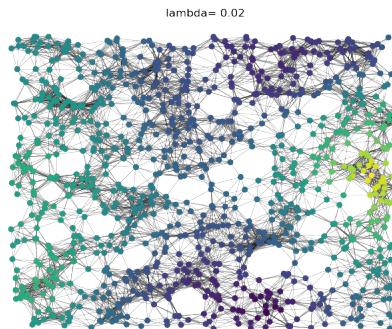
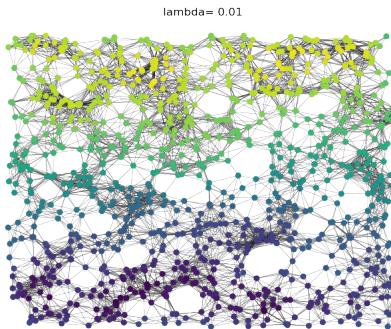


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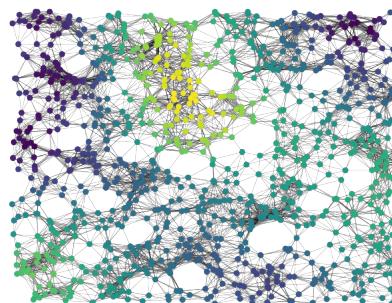
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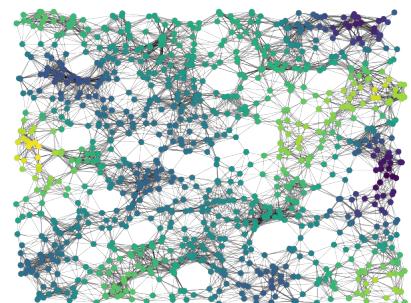
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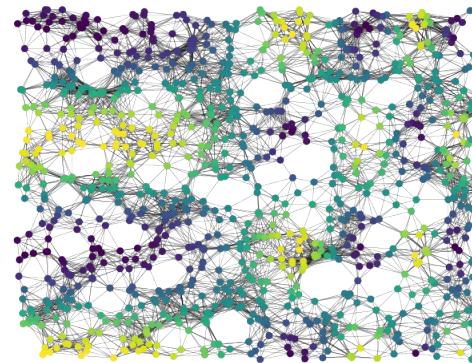
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- Fourier transform  $\mathcal{F}z = U^\top z$
- Inverse Fourier transform  $\mathcal{F}^{-1}\tilde{z} = U\tilde{z}$

# Filtering on graphs

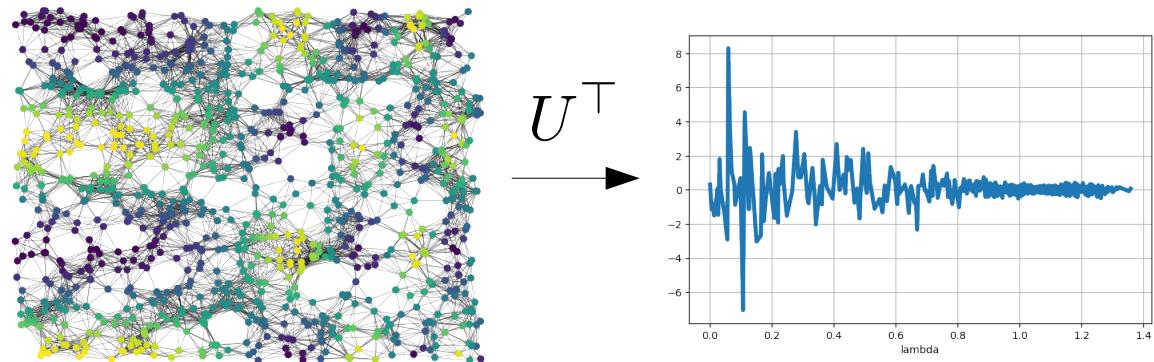
How to filter a signal  $z$  ?



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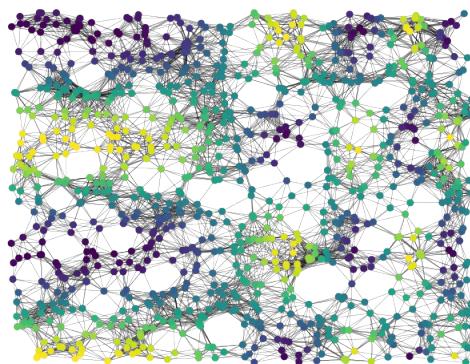
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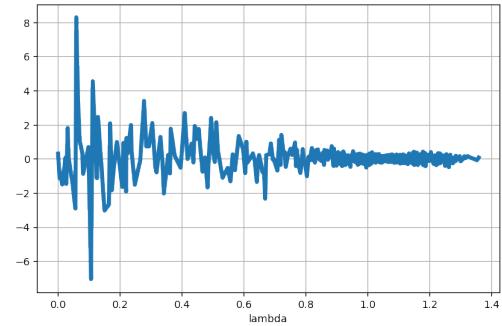
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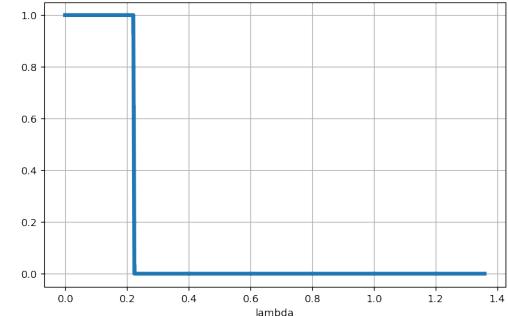
- Compute Fourier transform
- Multiply by filter  $h \in \mathbb{R}^n$



$$U^\top \rightarrow$$



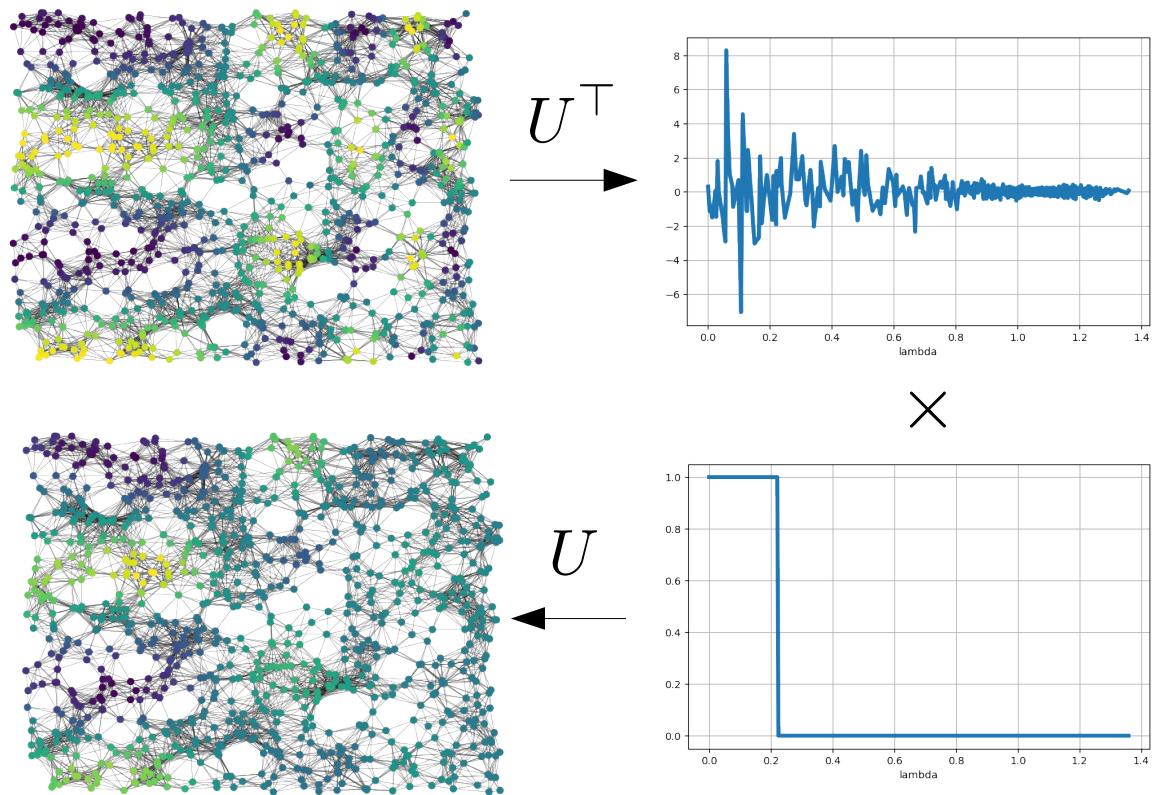
$\times$



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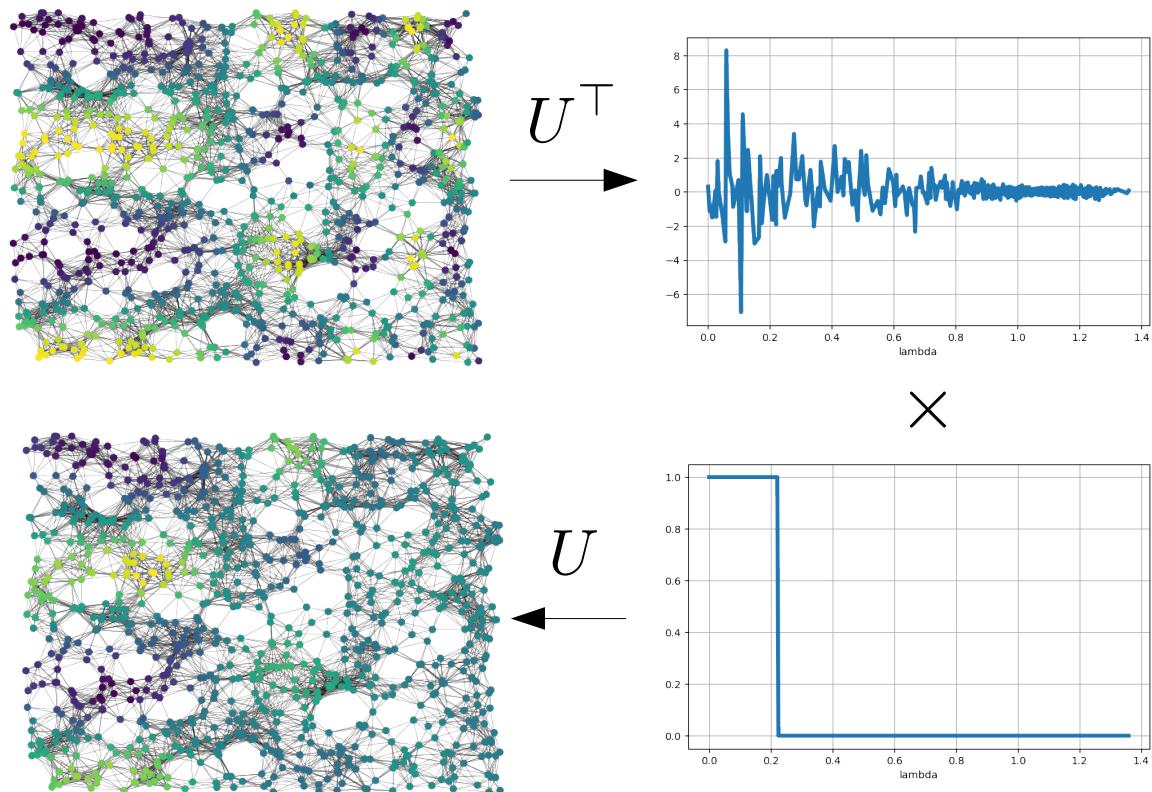


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$$(h \star z) = U \text{diag}(h) U^\top z$$



Chung. *Spectral Graph Theory*. (1999)

Shuman et al. *The Emerging Field of Signal Processing on Graphs*. (2013)

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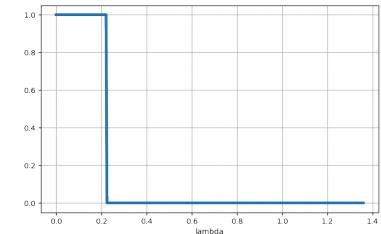
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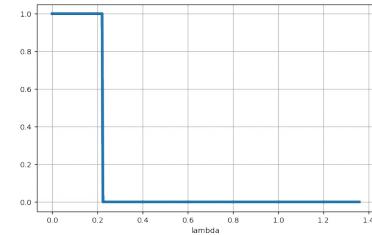
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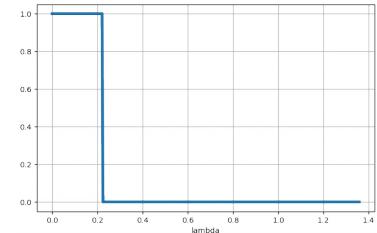
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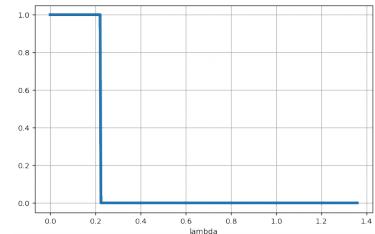
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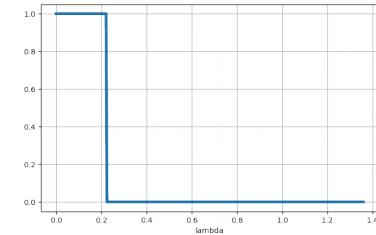
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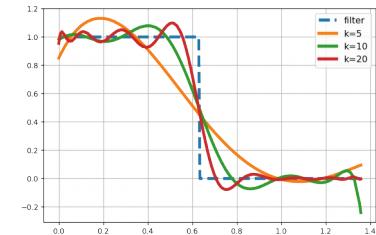


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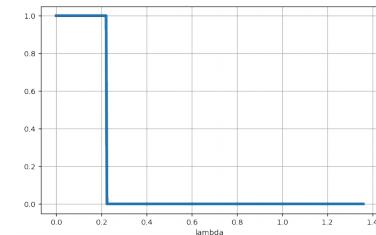
Poly. Approx. of low-pass

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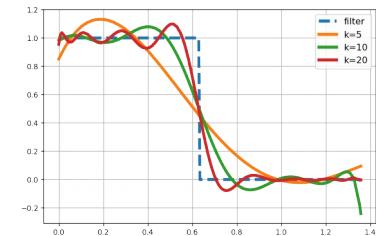
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$$z \star h = h(L)z = \sum_k \beta_k L^k z$$

- Filter are “localized”
- Can make use of efficient **sparse matrix-vector multiplication**



Poly. Approx. of low-pass

Hammond et al. *Wavelets on Graphs via Spectral Graph Theory*. (2011)

# (Spectral) GNNs

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- Early architectures include “graph coarsening” (subsampling) but difficult problem
- Need **input node feature**  $Z^{(0)}$ . No real solution otherwise...

Duong et al. *On Node Features for Graph Neural Networks* (2019)

Vignac et al. *Building powerful and equivariant graph neural networks with structural message-passing* (2020)

# The message-passing paradigm

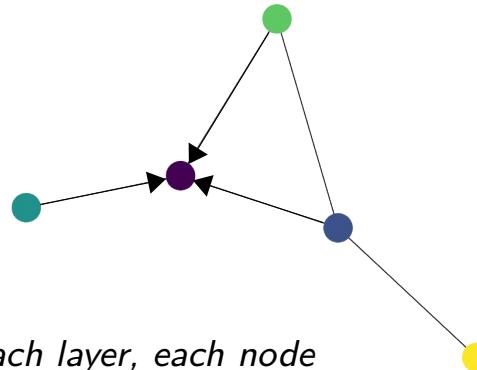
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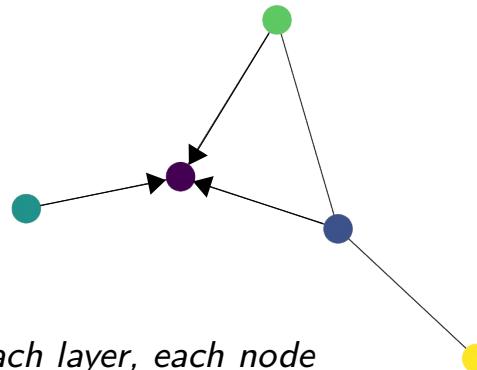
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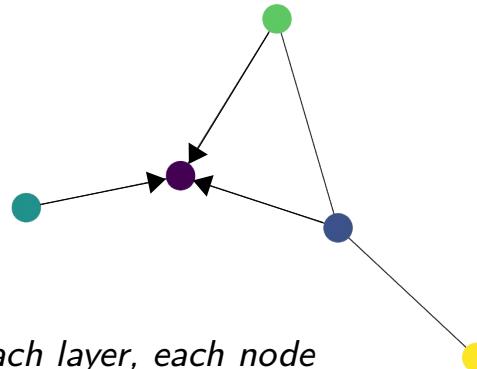
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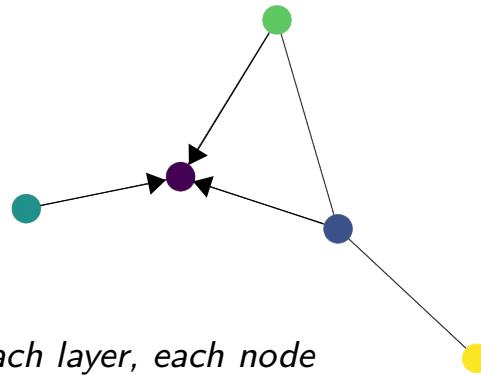
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- Tip of the iceberg: approx. 100 GNN papers a month on arXiv
- Despite 1000s of papers, same ideas coming round: **be critical, learn to spot incremental changes!**

# Outline

## 1 From Deep Convolutional Networks to GNNs

## 2 Some recent (theoretical) results

2.1 On small graphs

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# Expressive power of GNN

- Classical DNN are “universal”: as the number of neurons grow, they can **approximate any continuous function**. What about GNNs?  
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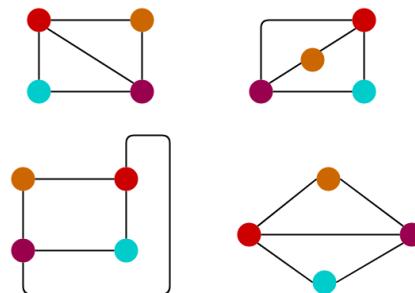
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- “Graph-classif” GNN are insensitive to **relabelling of the nodes**, aka **graph isomorphism**
  - They are **permutation-invariant**. “Node-classif” GNN are **permutation-equivariant**

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Graph Isomorphism Example

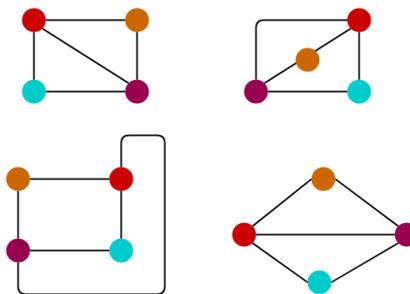
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**Graph isomorphism problem:**

- No known polynomial algorithm. Best:  $O\left(e^{(\log n)^{O(1)}}\right)$
- Not known if NP-complete
- Might be a class of complexity on its own!



Graph Isomorphism Example

Babai. *Graph Isomorphism in Quasipolynomial Time* (2015)

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- A classical algorithm for graph isomorphism is the **Weisfeiler-Lehman test**.

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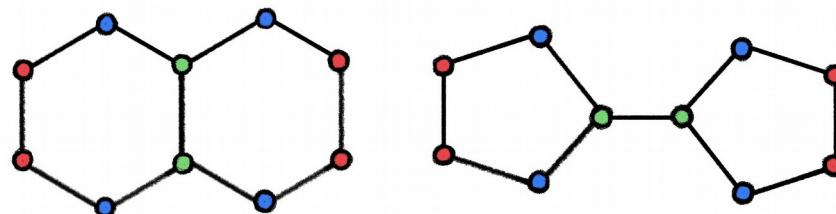
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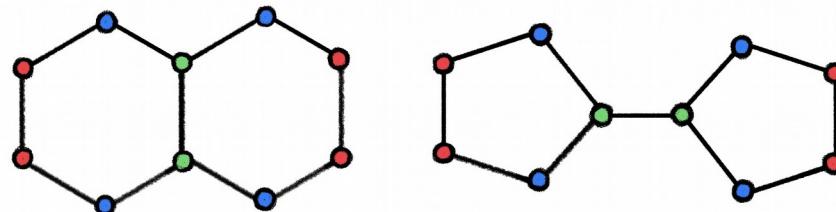
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WL fails here...

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

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

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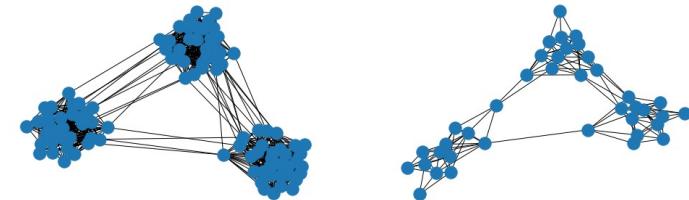
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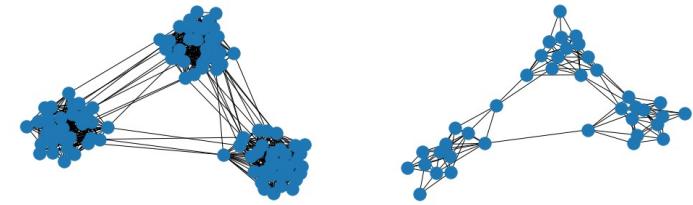
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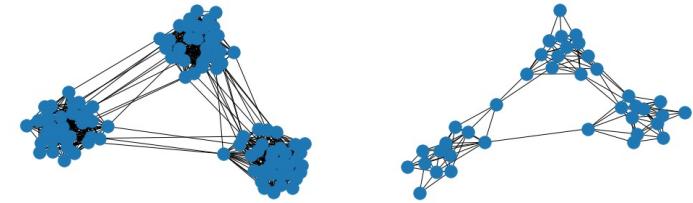
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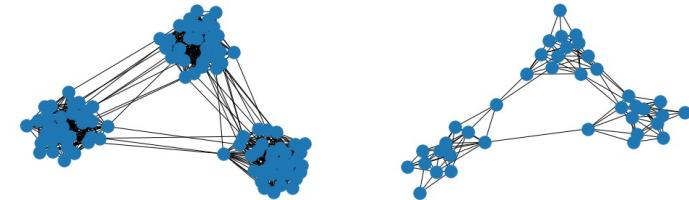
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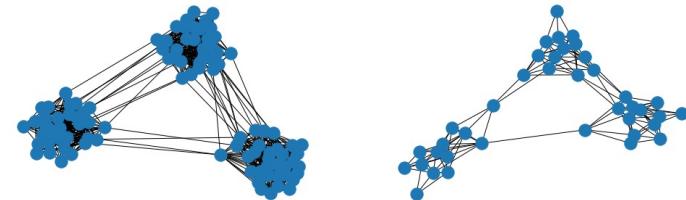
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Keriven, Bietti, Vaiter. *Convergence and Stability of Graph Convolutional Networks on Large Random Graphs*. NeurIPS 2020 (Spotlight)

We use **models of large random graphs** to study GNNs.

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Long history of modelling large graphs with  
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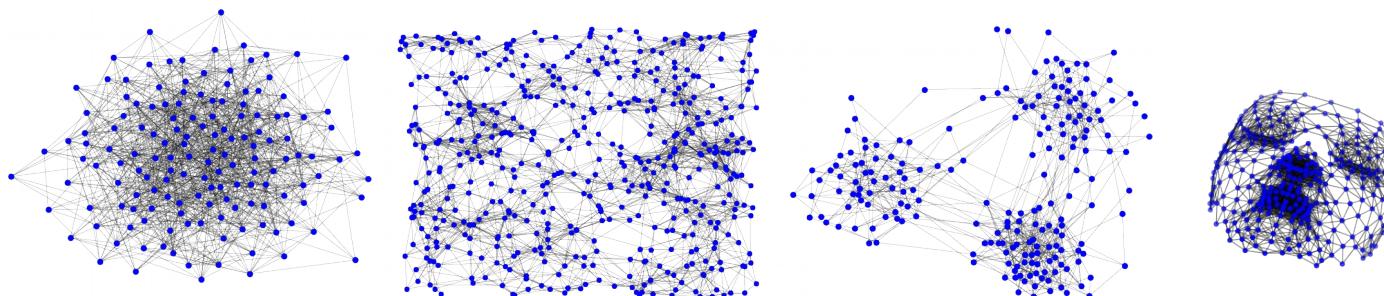
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*Includes Erdős-Rényi,  
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Gaussian kernel, epsilon-  
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## Output

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- Single vector (permutation-invariant)

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- Vector (“continuous” permutation-invariant)

# Continuous limit of GNNs

Thm (Non-asymptotic convergence)

If  $\alpha_n \gtrsim (\log n)/n$ , with probability  $1 - n^{-r}$ , the “**deviation**” between discrete and continuous GNN is at most

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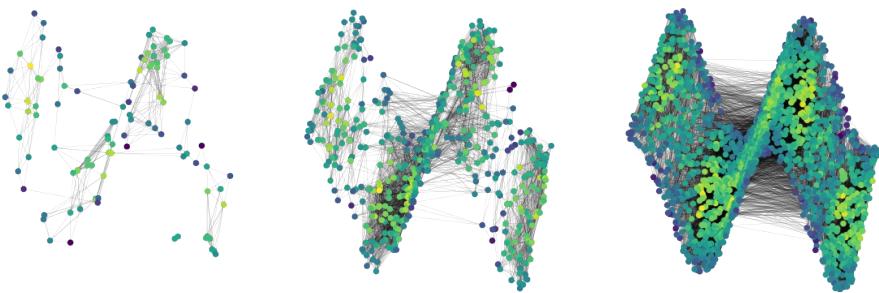
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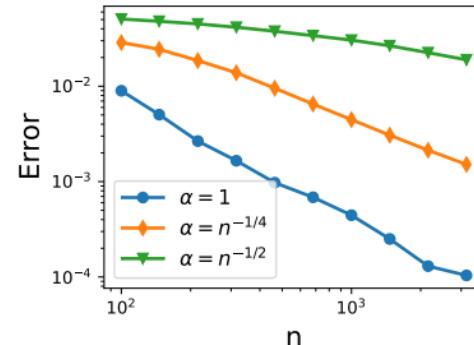
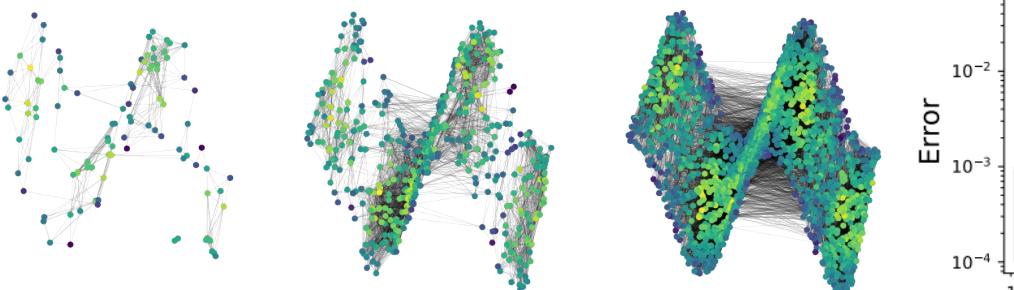
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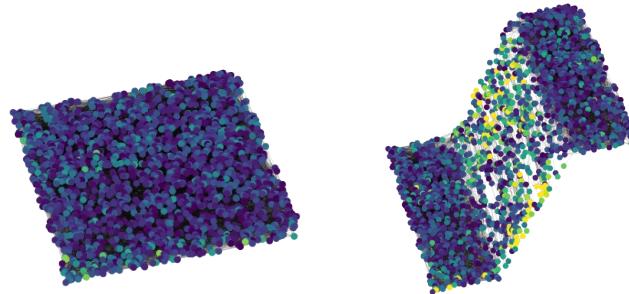
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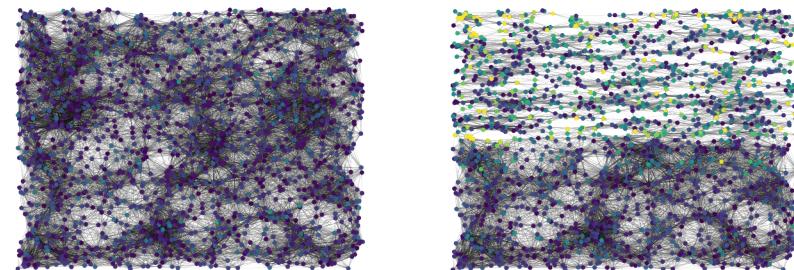
NB: Thanks to **normalized** Laplacian, the limit does ***not*** depend on  $\alpha_n$  but the rate of convergence does...

# Stability of continuous GNNs

Latent position models allow to define **intuitive geometric deformations**



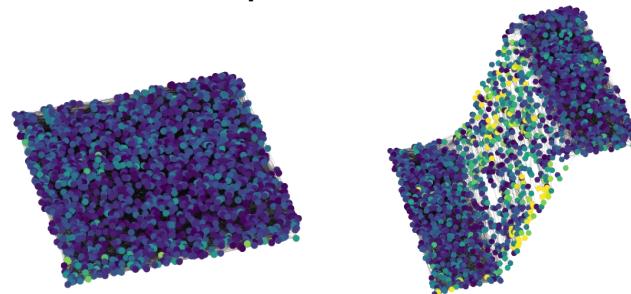
*Deformation of distribution*



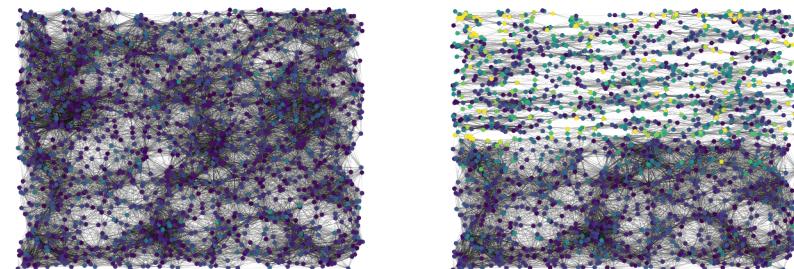
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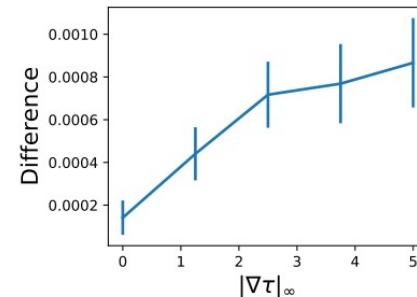
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For *translation-invariant* kernels, if:

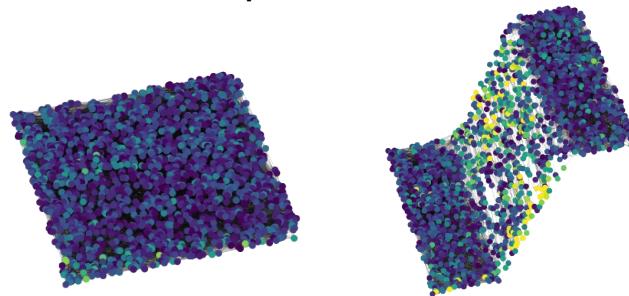
- $W$  is replaced by  $W(x - \tau(x), x' - \tau(x'))$
- $P$  is replaced by  $(Id - \tau)^\sharp P$  (and  $f_0$  is translated)
- $f_0$  is replaced by  $f_0 \circ (Id - \tau)$

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

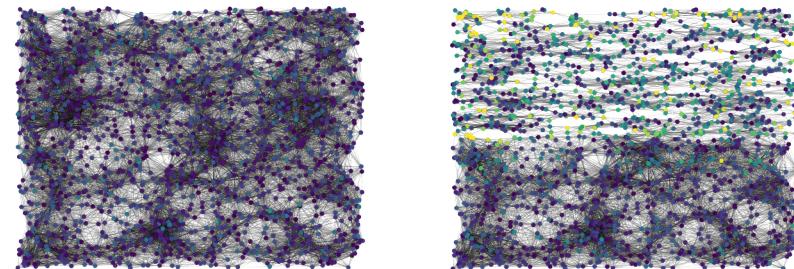


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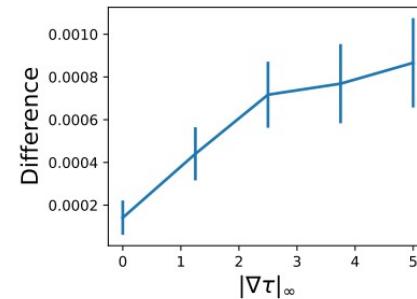
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*Outlooks:* approximation power, generalization, optimization, other RG models...

# Conclusion

- Graph ML and GNN are now “first-class citizen” in ML
- Mostly “engineering/computer-science” driven, some blind spots (statistics, probability...)
- Still a lot to do! (“low-hanging fruits”)
- The community is fast-paced and growing exponentially, important to have a critical eye!

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

*Don't hesitate to contact me if  
you're interested in the topic*

