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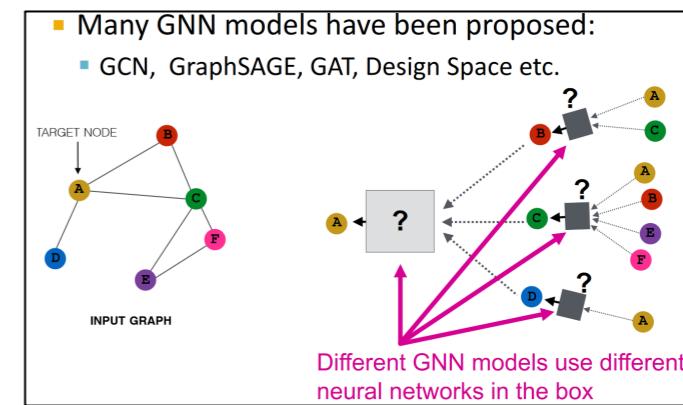
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## Expressive of GNN

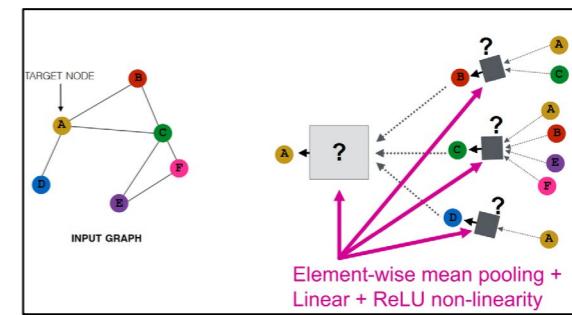
- Generate node embeddings based on **local network neighborhoods**
- Expressive power
  - ability to distinguish different graph structures of GNN

## many GNN models

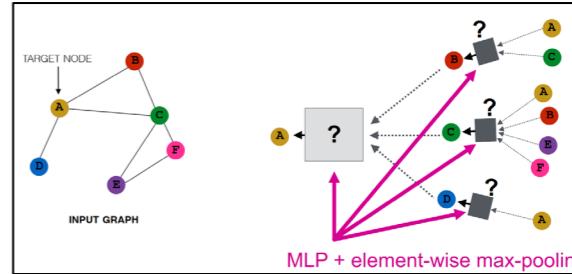


## Example

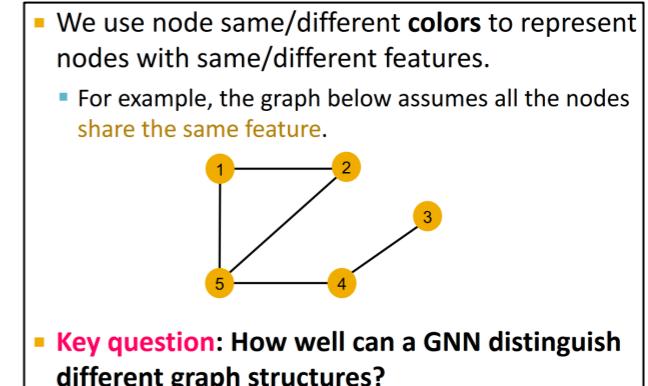
### GCN (mean-pool)



### GraphSAGE (max-pool)



## Node colors – assume same node features

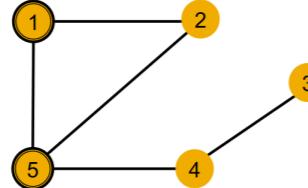


# Local neighbourhood structures

## Node degree

- We specifically consider **local neighborhood structures** around each node in a graph.

**Example:** Nodes 1 and 5 have different neighborhood structures because they have different node degrees.



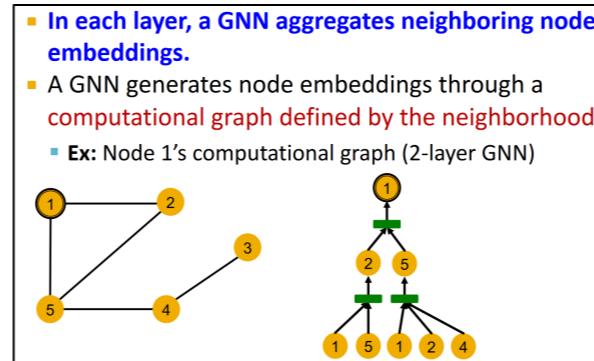
## Same node degree, different neighbour node degree

- Example:** Nodes 1 and 4 both have the same node degree of 2. However, they still have different neighborhood structures because their neighbors have different node degrees.

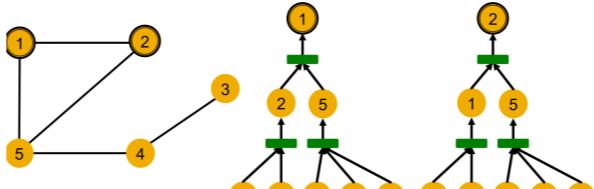
Node 1 has neighbors of degrees 2 and 3.  
Node 4 has neighbors of degrees 1 and 3.

## Computation graph

Ex - Node 1's computational graph (2-layer GNN)



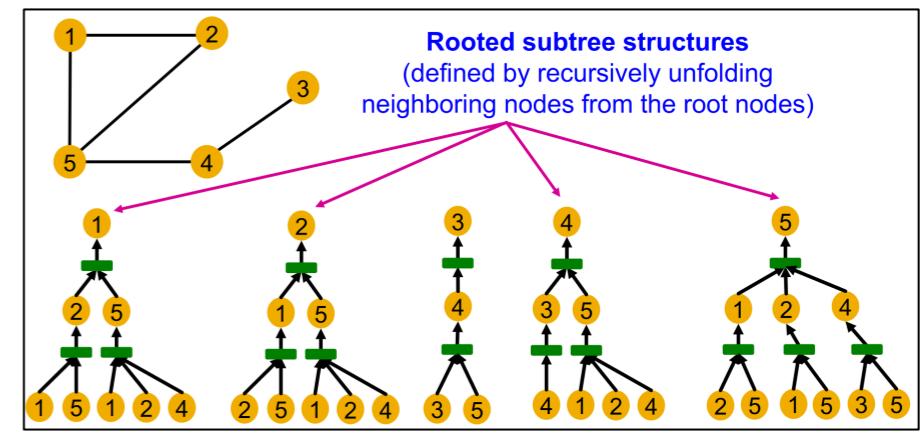
## Node 1 & 2



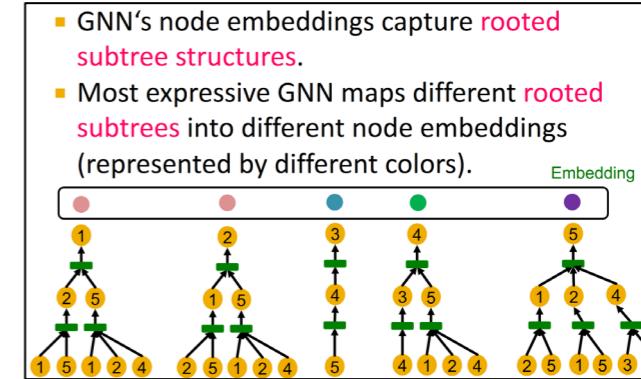
Same structure if ignore node features

- GNN won't be able to distinguish nodes 1 and 2
- Assumption
  - Node features are the same (same color)
- If without node ID, then the computation graphs for node 1 & 2 are the same (same color means same node features here)
- Meaning node 1 & 2 will always be assigned to the same class or label

## Computational graphs & rooted subtree structures

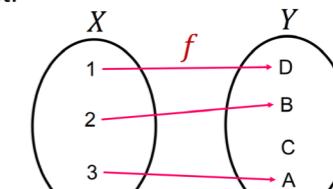


## Expressiveness & rooted subtree structures



## Injective function – each map to unique output

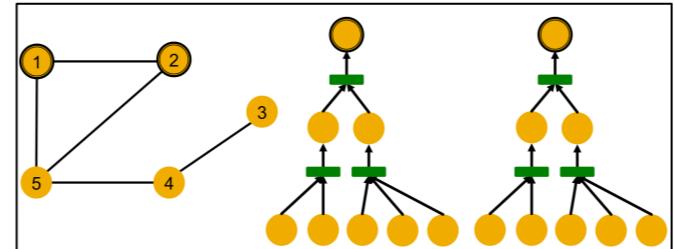
- Function  $f: X \rightarrow Y$  is **injective** if it maps different elements into different outputs.
- Intuition:**  $f$  retains all the information about input.



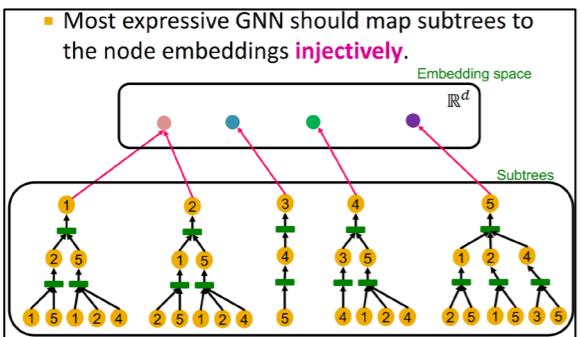
**A GNN will generate the same embedding for nodes 1 and 2 because:**

- Computational graphs are the same.
- Node features (colors) are identical.

Note: GNN does not care about node ids, it just aggregates feature vectors of different nodes.

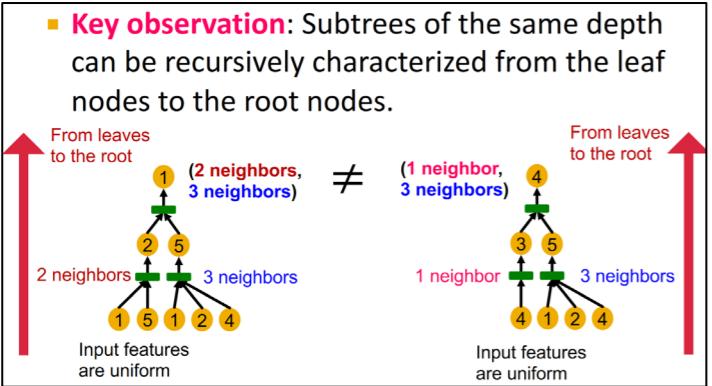


illustration



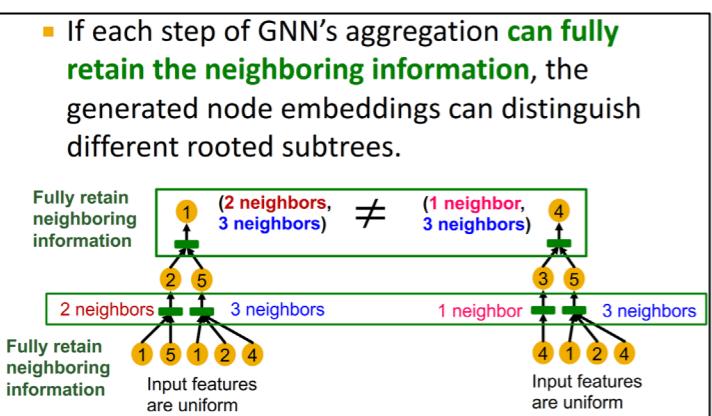
## Observation

### Message passing from leaf to root node

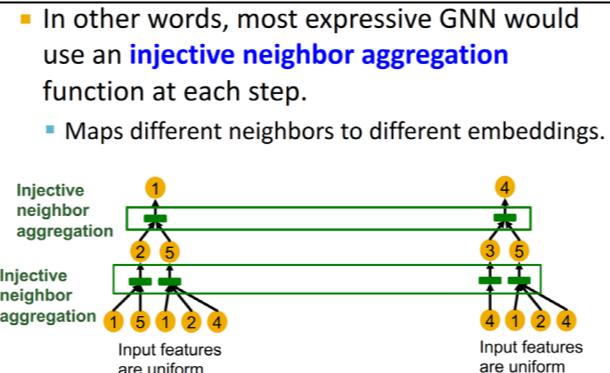


### Retrain info from recursive different rooted subtrees

- Can differentiate subtree structure if different node has different number of neighbours
- Can we Aggregate info from the children and store it to pass it on to the parent so that the info is retrained
  - E.g. info about 2 & 3 #neighbours are passed to the root node 1
  - This helps store the structural info



### injective neighbor aggregation – if every steps

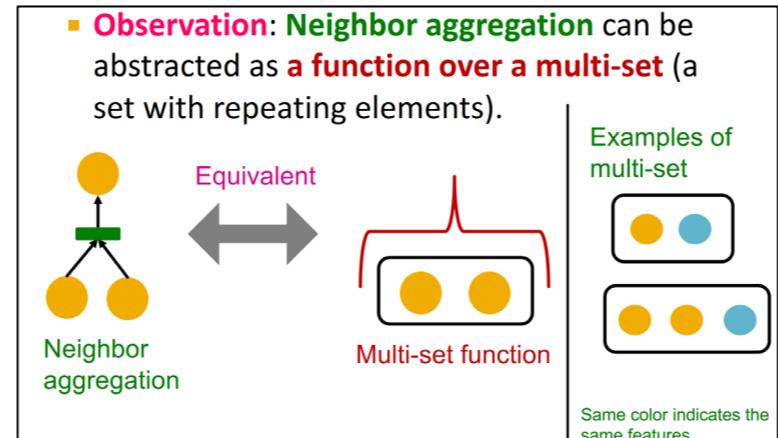


## Lec 9.2

### Expressiveness - neighbor aggregation functions

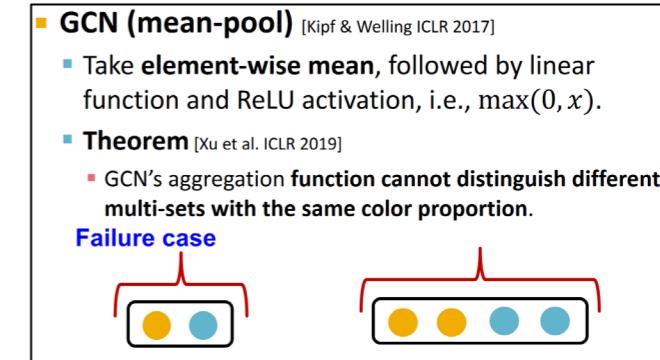
- Key observation:** Expressive power of GNNs can be characterized by that of neighbor aggregation functions they use.
- A more expressive aggregation function leads to a more expressive a GNN.
  - Injective aggregation function** leads to the most expressive GNN.
- Next:**
- Theoretically analyze expressive power of aggregation functions.

### Neighbor aggregation - a function over a multi-set



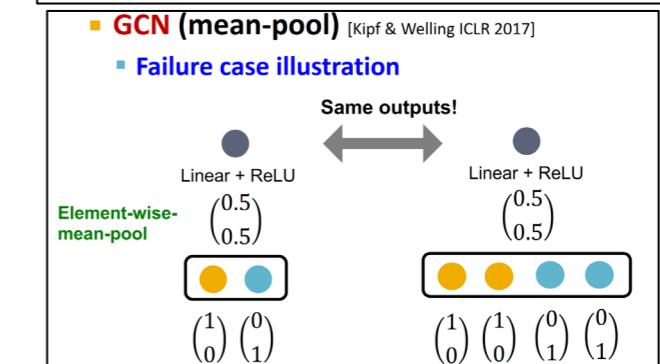
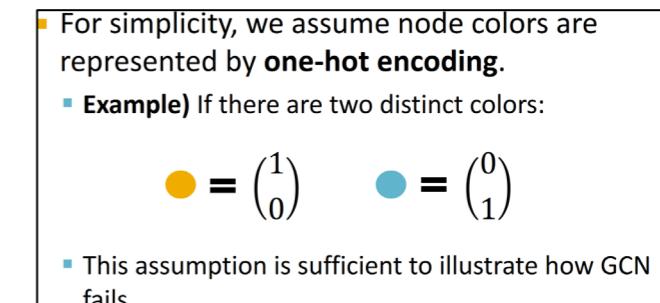
## Case study – GCN & GraphSAGE

### GCN

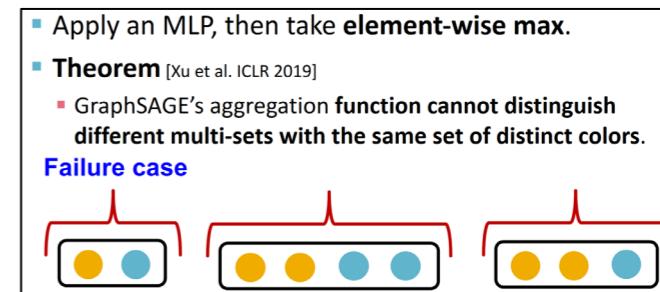


Failed case – multi-set with same color proportion

- Because the ratios are the same

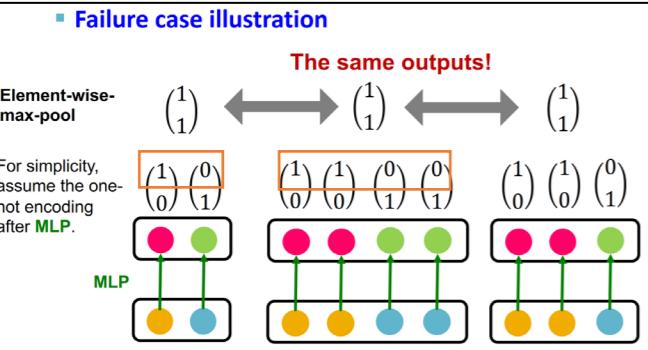


### GraphSAGE (max-pool)



## Failed illustration

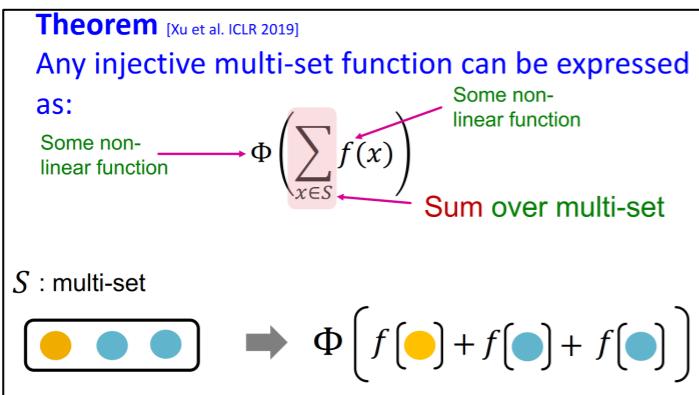
- Different input map to same representation i.e. message loss



## Designing most expressive GNNs – injective multiset function

- Our goal: Design maximally powerful GNNs in the class of message-passing GNNs.
- This can be achieved by designing **injective neighbor aggregation function over multisets**.
- Here, we design a **neural network** that can model **injective multiset function**.

## Injective multi-set function – non-linear + sum over multi-set

Proof Intuition –  $f$  produces one hot, sum capture the global, non-linearity add expressive

$f$  produces one-hot encodings of colors. Summation of the one-hot encodings retains all the information about the input multi-set.

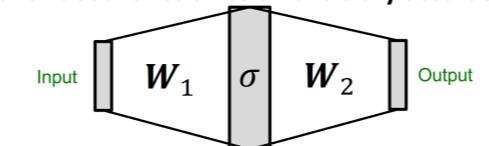
$$\Phi \left( \sum_{x \in S} f(x) \right)$$

Example:  $\Phi \left[ f[\text{yellow}] + f[\text{blue}] + f[\text{blue}] \right]$

One-hot  $\begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ 0 \end{pmatrix} + \begin{pmatrix} 0 \\ 1 \end{pmatrix} + \begin{pmatrix} 0 \\ 1 \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ 2 \end{pmatrix}$

## Universal approximation theorem – MLP w/ high dim &amp; non-linearity

- How to model  $\Phi$  and  $f$  in  $\Phi(\sum_{x \in S} f(x))$ ?
- We use a **Multi-Layer Perceptron (MLP)**.
- **Theorem: Universal Approximation Theorem** [Hornik et al., 1989]
  - 1-hidden-layer MLP with sufficiently-large hidden dimensionality and appropriate non-linearity  $\sigma(\cdot)$  (including ReLU and sigmoid) can **approximate any continuous function to an arbitrary accuracy**.



## Injective multi-set function – dim = 100~500

- Linear transformation (weight matrix) + non-linearity (ReLU)
- Both learnt with MLP since universal approximation i.e. can approximate any function
- Thus injective since can map different input to different output

- We have arrived at a **neural network** that can model any injective multiset function.

$$\text{MLP}_\Phi \left( \sum_{x \in S} \text{MLP}_f(x) \right)$$

- In practice, MLP hidden dimensionality of 100 to 500 is sufficient.

## Most expressive GNN – no fail case

**Graph Isomorphism Network (GIN)** [Xu et al. ICLR 2019]

- Apply an MLP, element-wise sum, followed by another MLP.

$$\text{MLP}_\Phi \left( \sum_{x \in S} \text{MLP}_f(x) \right)$$

**Theorem** [Xu et al. ICLR 2019]

- GIN's neighbor aggregation function is injective.
- **No failure cases!**
- **GIN is THE most expressive GNN in the class of message-passing GNNs!**

## GIN

- GIN by relating it to WL graph kernel (traditional way of obtaining graph-level features).

## Relation to WL kernel

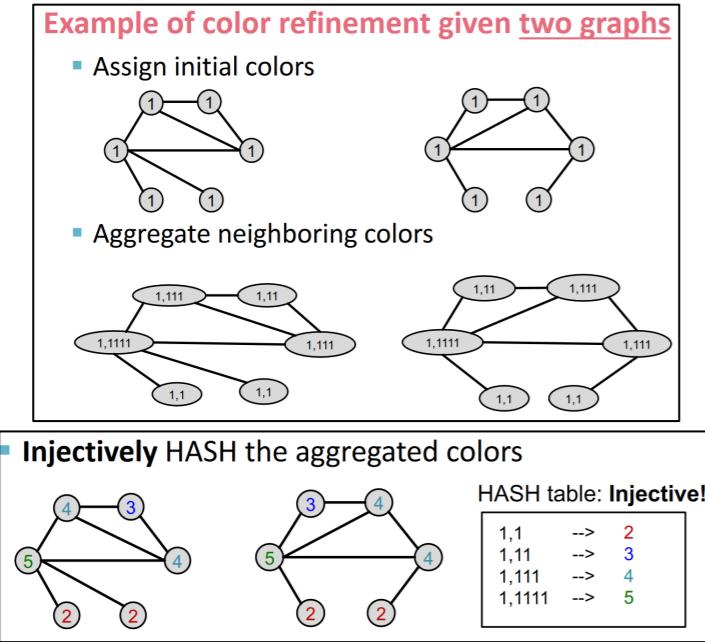
- Essentially – a hardcored GNN
  - Use hash function over MLP to map input to different output
  - Aggregate the aggregation between neighbour and itself

## Recall: Color refinement algorithm in WL kernel.

- Given: A graph  $G$  with a set of nodes  $V$ .
  - Assign an initial color  $c^{(0)}(v)$  to each node  $v$ .
  - Iteratively refine node colors by
 
$$c^{(k+1)}(v) = \text{HASH} \left( c^{(k)}(v), \{c^{(k)}(u)\}_{u \in N(v)} \right),$$
 where HASH maps different inputs to different colors.
  - After  $K$  steps of color refinement,  $c^{(K)}(v)$  summarizes the structure of  $K$ -hop neighborhood

## WL: color refinement

- Assume hash function is injective
- Process continues until a **stable coloring** is reached
- Two graphs are considered **isomorphic** if they have the **same set of colors**
- # of 1 is # neighbours

**GIN model**

- GIN uses a neural network to model the injective HASH function.**
$$c^{(k+1)}(v) = \text{HASH}\left(c^{(k)}(v), \{c^{(k)}(u)\}_{u \in N(v)}\right)$$
- Specifically, we will model the injective function over the tuple:

$c^{(k)}(v)$	$\{c^{(k)}(u)\}_{u \in N(v)}$
Root node features	Neighboring node colors

MLP aggregation, itself &amp; neighbour

**Theorem** (Xu et al. ICLR 2019)

Any injective function over the tuple

Root node feature	$c^{(k)}(v)$	$\{c^{(k)}(u)\}_{u \in N(v)}$	Neighboring node features
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can be modeled as

$$\text{MLP}_\Phi\left((1 + \epsilon) \cdot \text{MLP}_f(c^{(k)}(v)) + \sum_{u \in N(v)} \text{MLP}_f(c^{(k)}(u))\right)$$

where  $\epsilon$  is a learnable scalar.

Injective – one hot like, direct summation, MLP as one hot

- Direct summation with one hot vectors tells how many neighbours each node has with no info loss
- MLP serves like aggregate to a one hot so no info loss

**If input feature  $c^{(0)}(v)$  is represented as one-hot, direct summation is injective.**

Example:  $\Phi \left[ \begin{array}{c} \text{Yellow circle} \\ \text{1} \\ \text{0} \end{array} + \begin{array}{c} \text{Blue circle} \\ \text{0} \\ \text{1} \end{array} + \begin{array}{c} \text{Blue circle} \\ \text{0} \\ \text{1} \end{array} \right] = \begin{array}{c} \text{Yellow circle} \\ \text{1} \\ \text{2} \end{array}$

We only need  $\Phi$  to ensure the injectivity.

$\text{GINConv}(c^{(k)}(v), \{c^{(k)}(u)\}_{u \in N(v)}) = \text{MLP}_\Phi \left( (1 + \epsilon) \cdot c^{(k)}(v) + \sum_{u \in N(v)} c^{(k)}(u) \right)$

Root node features      Neighboring node features

This MLP can provide “one-hot” input feature for the next layer.

**Complete GIN model – GINConv over WL kernel**

- GIN’s node embedding updates**
- Given:** A graph  $G$  with a set of nodes  $V$ .
  - Assign an **initial vector**  $c^{(0)}(v)$  to each node  $v$ .
  - Iteratively update node vectors by
$$c^{(k+1)}(v) = \text{GINConv}\left(\{c^{(k)}(v), \{c^{(k)}(u)\}_{u \in N(v)}\}\right)$$

Differentiable color HASH function

where **GINConv** maps different inputs to different embeddings.

- After  $K$  steps of GIN iterations,  $c^{(K)}(v)$  summarizes the structure of  $K$ -hop neighborhood.

**GIN as differentiable graph kernel**

**GIN can be understood as differentiable neural version of the WL graph Kernel:**

	Update target	Update function
WL Graph Kernel	Node colors (one-hot)	HASH
GIN	Node embeddings (low-dim vectors)	GINConv

**Advantages of GIN over the WL graph kernel are:**

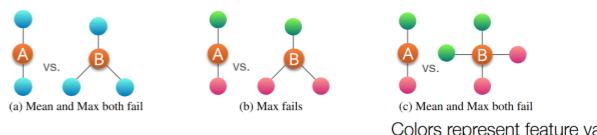
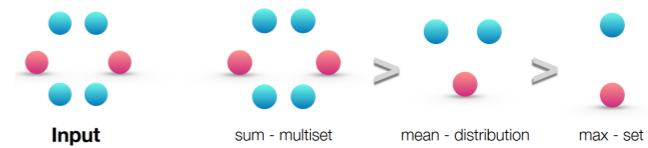
- Node embeddings are **low-dimensional**; hence, they can capture the fine-grained similarity of different nodes.
- Parameters of the update function can be **learned for the downstream tasks**.

**Lec summary****injective multi-set function, sum pooling, WL kernel**

- We design a neural network that can model **injective multi-set function**.
- We use the neural network for neighbor aggregation function and arrive at **GIN**—the **most expressive GNN model**.
- The key is to use **element-wise sum pooling**, instead of mean-/max-pooling.
- GIN is closely related to the WL graph kernel.
- Both GIN and WL graph kernel can distinguish most of the real graphs!

**Power of pooling**

- Same neighbour features
- Distinct colors are the same so whether the max is the same both cases
- Same proportion

**Failure cases for mean and max pooling:****Ranking by discriminative power:****Expressive of GIN – similar to WL kernel**

**Because of the relation between GIN and the WL graph kernel, their expressive is exactly the same.**

- If two graphs can be distinguished by GIN, they can be also distinguished by the WL kernel, and vice versa.
- How powerful is this?**
  - WL kernel has been both theoretically and empirically shown to distinguish most of the real-world graphs [Cai et al. 1992].
  - Hence, GIN is also powerful enough to distinguish most of the real graphs!

## Summary 2

- GNNs and connection to bijective functions on sets.
- Most powerful GNN is equivalent to WL graph isomorphism test.
- GIN is the most powerful GNN.
- Sum aggregator is more powerful than mean is more powerful than max.

## My Summary

GNN capture **the local neighbour structure** through the **computation graph**, if the graphs are the same, then no differentiation from the embedding space

### Why injective?

- Different embedding map to different output
- No info loss / collusions

Expressive power of GNNs. ↴

Main takeaways:

- Expressive power of GNNs can be characterized by that of the **neighbor aggregation function**.
- Neighbor aggregation is a **function over multi-sets** (sets with repeating elements)
- **GCN** and **GraphSAGE**'s aggregation functions **fail to distinguish** some basic **multi-sets**; hence **not injective**.
- Therefore, GCN and GraphSAGE are **not maximally powerful GNNs**.

### Why use MLP for injective

- MLP can learn any function with approximate accuracy – universal approximation theorem

$f$  &  $\phi$  are some kinds of transformation convert to one hot so that can be better aggregated with sum with no info loss

## Side

**Element-wise** – coordinate wise