



FACULDADE DE  
CIÊNCIAS E TECNOLOGIA  
UNIVERSIDADE NOVA DE LISBOA

# Graph Neural Networks

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FCT NOVA

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## Graph Neural Networks

This presentation was done as one of the assignments for the ISM PhD course. It is focused around Graph Neural Networks, on the theoretical and practical side.

Most of the presentation was built using two articles:

- Zonham et al.: *A comprehensive survey on Graph Neural Networks*;
- Zhou et al.: *Graph Neural Networks: a review of methods and applications*

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## Graph Neural Networks

### └ Structure

### Test 2

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The presentation is structured as follows:

- Theoretical background: graphs, Artificial Neural Networks and Graph Neural Networks;
- GNN applications;
- Conclusions.

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### └ Graphs

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### └ Graphs

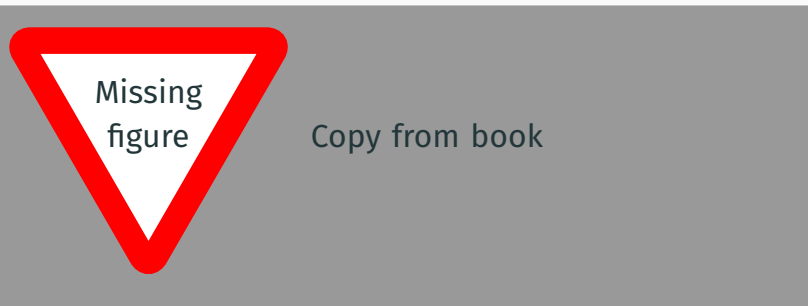
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- $V(G)$  is the set of vertices (or nodes);
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The incidence functions creates relations between  $V$  and  $E$ . Let  $e \in E$  and  $u, v \in V$ . Then if  $\psi_G(e) = uv$ ,  $e$  is said to join  $u$  and  $v$ .

# Defining a Graph

We can use a purely mathematical (analytical) form to write a graph:



# Defining a Graph

Sure it is rigorous, but also cumbersome!



Copy from book





# Defining a Graph



Copy graph nottaion

- Nodes are represented by a dot (may or not be filled);
- Edges are represented by lines.
- Vertices positions and line curve are usually non-significant.

### └ Defining a Graph



Copy graph nottaion

- Nodes are represented by a dot (may or not be filled);
- Edges are represented by lines.
- Vertices positions and line curve are usually non-significant.

- Nodes can also be represented by vectors of features;
- When this representation is chosen, we can then write all the nodes as a matrix of features

# Defining a Graph

Most definitions in graph theory are built according to these notation rules. For instance:

- The ends of an edge are said to be incident with the edge;

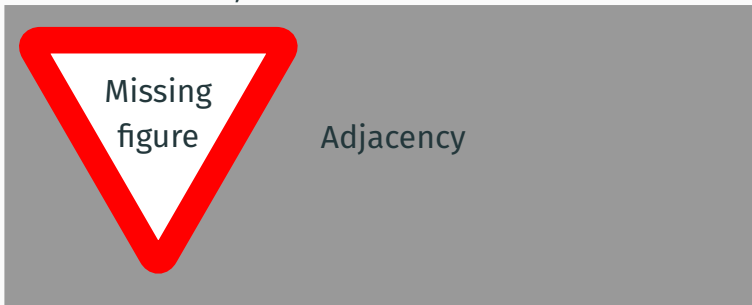


- The ends of an edge are said to be incident with the edge;



# Defining a Graph

- Two vertices that are incident with the same edge are adjacent, as are two edges that are incident with the same vertex;



# Defining a Graph

- Two distinct adjacent vertices are called neighbours. The set of neighbours of vertex  $v$  in graph  $G$  is denoted  $N_G(v)$ .



Neighbours

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## Graph Neural Networks

### └ Defining a Graph

#### Defining a Graph

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Neighbours

As humans, we prefer graphical representations (an image is worth a thousand words). This is useless for a computer!

### └ Graph digital representation

# Graph digital representation

As humans, we prefer graphical representations (an image is worth a thousand words). This is useless for a computer!

But we can also represent a graph in matricial form:



Let  $\mathbf{M}_G \in \mathbb{R}^{m \times n}$  be the incidence matrix of  $G$ . Then  $\mathbf{M}_G := (m_{ve})$ , where  $m_{ve}$  is the number of times (0, 1 or 2) that vertex  $v$  and edge  $e$  are incident.

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## Graph Neural Networks

### └ Graph digital representation

There are other, more compact, versions of digital representation of graphs. This falls out of the scope of this presentation.

Graph digital representation

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As long as it's undirected, a graph can be represented by its normalised Laplacian matrix:

$$\mathbf{L}^{sym} = \mathbf{I}_n - \mathbf{D}^{-\frac{1}{2}} \mathbf{A} \mathbf{D}^{-\frac{1}{2}}$$

In this equation,  $\mathbf{A}$  is the adjacency matrix and  $\mathbf{D}$  is a diagonal matrix of node degrees,  $\mathbf{D}_{ii} = \sum_j (A_{ij})$ .

### └ Graph Signal Processing

- An undirected graph is one for which the edges have no particular direction.

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This matrix is real symmetric positive semidefinite, so it can be factorised as:

$$\mathbf{L}^{sym} = \mathbf{U}\mathbf{\Lambda}\mathbf{U}^T$$

Where  $\mathbf{U} = [\mathbf{u}_0, \mathbf{u}_1, \dots, \mathbf{u}_{n-1}] \in \mathbb{R}^N$  is the matrix of eigenvectors and  $\mathbf{\Lambda}$  is the diagonal matrix of eigenvalues,  $\Lambda_{ii} = \lambda_i$

### └ Graph Signal Processing

- To this we call the eigendecomposition
- $\mathbf{U}^T\mathbf{U} = \mathbf{I}$

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### └ Graph Signal Processing

A graph signal is denoted  $\mathbf{x} \in \mathbb{R}^N$ , with  $x_i$  being the value of the  $i^{\text{th}}$  node.

- It's like if a node is in fact a vector.

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The graph's signal Fourier transform is written  $\mathcal{F}(\mathbf{x}) = \mathbf{U}^T \mathbf{x}$ , with the inverse being  $\mathcal{F}^{-1}(\hat{\mathbf{x}}) = \mathbf{U} \hat{\mathbf{x}}$ , with  $\hat{\mathbf{x}}$  being the transformed signal.

### └ Graph Signal Processing

- It's like if a node is in fact a vector.

# Graph Convolution

It is usually easier to perform a convolution in the Fourier space. In it, the convolution operation maps to a multiplication. We can thus write of the convolution of a graph with a filter  $\mathbf{g}$ :

$$\mathbf{x} \star \mathbf{g} = \mathcal{F}^{-1} (\mathcal{F}(\mathbf{x}) \odot \mathcal{F}(\mathbf{g}))$$

Where  $\odot$  denotes element-wise product (instead of matrix product).

$$\mathbf{x} \star \mathbf{g} = \mathcal{F}^{-1} (\mathcal{F}(\mathbf{x}) \odot \mathcal{F}(\mathbf{g}))$$

Now, the previous equation can be decomposed with the Fourier transform definition for graph signals:

$$\mathbf{x} \star \mathbf{g} = \mathbf{U} (\mathbf{U}^T \mathbf{x} \odot \mathbf{U}^T \mathbf{g})$$

This considering  $\mathbf{g} \in \mathbb{R}^N$  as a signal itself, which it is.

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This is the definition of convolution that is used in both papers and in the GNN community at large, as far as I had the opportunity to see.

This definition of convolution has a problem: it is computationally very heavy and many times prohibitively so. To circumvent this problem, some authors have suggested using polynomial expansions, such as Chebyshev's, to represent the matrices

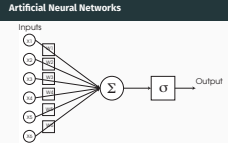
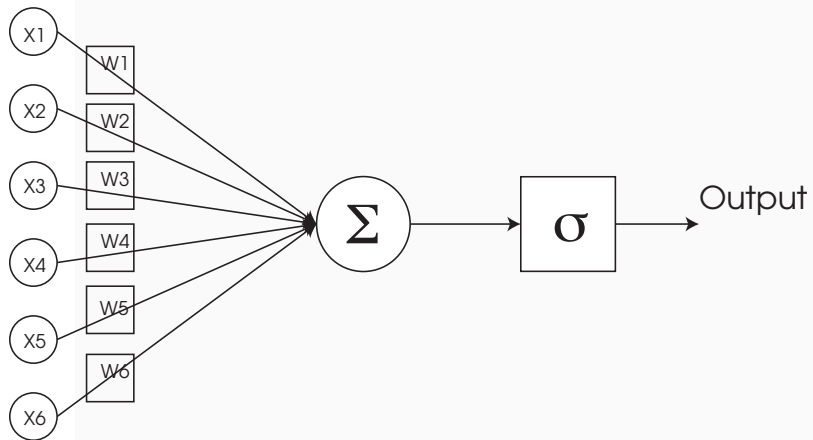
Artificial Neural Networks are today's most popular artificial intelligence tools.

### └ Artificial Neural Networks

For all the mysticism around them, ANNs are remarkably simple mathematical entities, especially given the fact that they are (really) capable of solving any problem that can be expressed as a function.

# Artificial Neural Networks

Inputs



- ANNs stem from mathematical theories developed in the 1940s;
- The most basic form of modern ANN, the perceptron, was created in the 1950s;
- Back then, the structure had some problems, namely the fact that it could not compute the exclusive-or operation.
- Everything changed in the 1980s, when the backpropagation algorithm was invented.



The backpropagation algorithm appeared in the 1980's:

$$W^{t+1} = W^t - \eta \nabla_E^t$$

In which  $t$  is the iteration,  $W$  represents the weights,  $\eta$  the learning rate and  $\nabla_E$  the gradient of the loss function (which normally is MSE).

### └ Artificial Neural Networks

- First models of neural network could not implement the exclusive-or;
- For that, and for the computational cost, they were less used than they promised;

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### └ Artificial Neural Networks

- gradient descent is used to minimize the loss function;
- the learning rate parameterises GD so that we can escape or avoid local minima;
- with this algorithm, and the introduction of non-linearities like the sigmoid or the ReLU functions in the network, ANNs can literally approximate any function.

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Michael Nielse has a very good interactive explanation for the Universal Approximation Theorem.



Michael Nielsen's Universal Approximation Theorem graphical demonstration

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└ Artificial Neural Networks

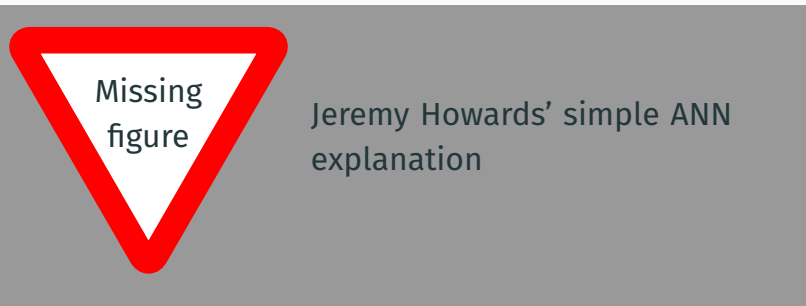
Artificial Neural Networks

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An example of a modern network could be drawn as follows:



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## Graph Neural Networks

### └ Artificial Neural Networks

- ANNS are just a stack of linear and non linear operations that can approximate any problem in function form to any precision;
- They rely on simple matrix operations, like multiplication and convolution

An example of a modern network could be drawn as follows:



Graphs are data just like any other...but they are non Euclidean!

### └ Graph Neural Networks

Graphs are data just like any other...but they are non Euclidean!

- In Euclidean data, spatial structure is well and hard defined;
- We always know the distance between one "node" and the next;
- in graphs and non-euclidean data, this is not true –it is highly irregular
- So if we want to classify graphs..how do we do it?

The first attempts were based on the RNN approach



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## Graph Neural Networks

### └ Graph Neural Networks

- Consider a feature vector for each node;
- Consider each feature as a message (remember envelope);
- Each "message" is passed to the next iteration order neighbour of every node;
- In the end, messages are summed and classified;

The first attempts were based on the RNN approach



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The first attempts were based on the RNN approach



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### └ Graph Neural Networks

The first attempts were based on the RNN approach



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- In this model, information decays too rapidly with node distance (exponential decay)
- Next models were Gated Recurrent Units, which addressed this decaying problem
- In the mean time, some models appeared which instead of RNNs, were based in convolution and CNN approach.
- In fact, Gilmer et al claim that GCNs and GRNN are the same thing, and generalise it using two operating moments;

Besides RNN methods, the community has also worked on generalising CNN methods to work with graphs. The results are Graph Convolutional Networks.

### └ Graph Convolutional Networks



There are two main families of GCN:

- Spectral based;
- Spatial based;

### └ Graph Convolutional Networks

There are two main families of GCN:

- Spectral based;
- Spatial based;

- Spectral based systems introduce filters as in graph signal Processing
- Spatial based systems see convolutions as aggregating feature information from neighbours.
- The first types of GNN were spatial based GCN
- In 2016, a paper appeared which generalises both types of GNN, with a method called Message passing graph neural networks;

# Applications of GNNS

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There are already many applications of this recent field of study.



Social Network relationship analysis

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Graph Neural Networks

└ Applications of GNNS

└ Applications

- text;
- image classification;
- Social relationship analysis;
- Semantic segmentation;
- We present some of the main applications of AI in graphs;

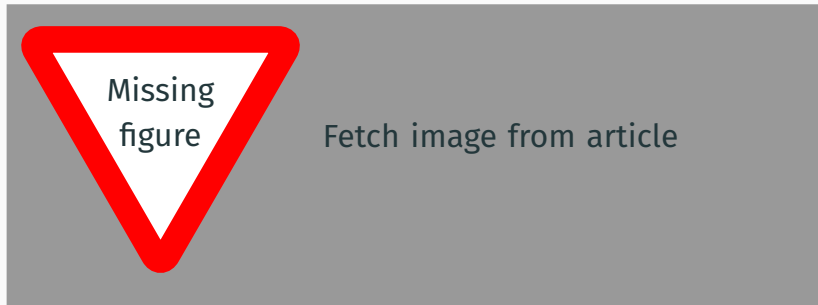
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Social Network relationship analysis

Physical Systems simulation;



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Graph Neural Networks

└ Applications of GNNS

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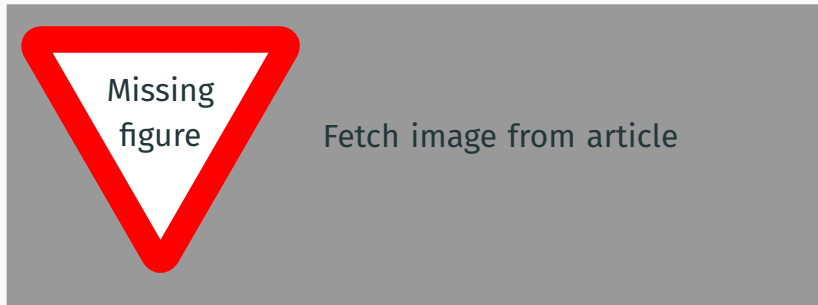
Applications

Physical Systems simulation;



- This system was developed in x and Y;
- It tries to simulate and predict interactions between physical bodies;
-

## Molecular fingerprinting



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Graph Neural Networks

└ Applications of GNNS

└ Applications

Applications

Molecular fingerprinting



## Group behaviour analysis



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Graph Neural Networks

└ Applications of GNNS

└ Applications

Applications

Group behaviour analysis



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Graph Neural Networks

└ GNNs in action

GNNs in action

# GNNs in action

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**Thank you**  
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**Graph Neural Networks**

└ **GNNs in action**

Thank you  
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