

# Graph Neural Networks

**COMP9312\_23T2**

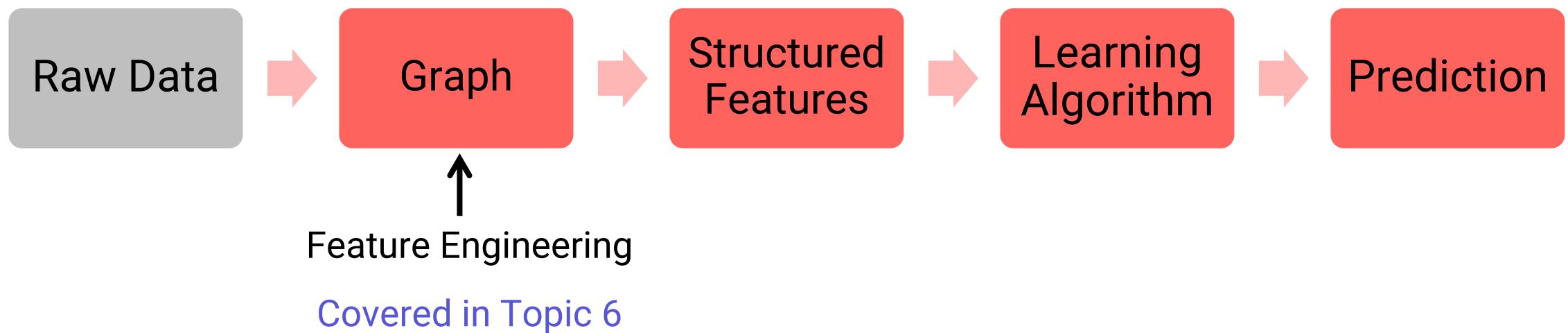


**UNSW**  
SYDNEY

Several slides are from Stanford CS224W: Machine Learning with Graphs

# Recap: Feature Engineering

Given an input graph, extract node, link and graph-level features, learn a model (SVM, neural network, etc.) that maps features to labels.

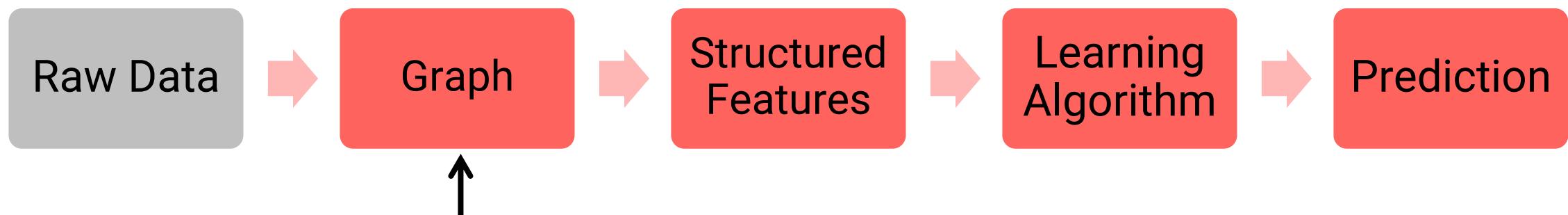


# Recap: Feature Engineering

Node / Edge / Graph

Various metric/methods to design features to represent graph.

Which metric is the best? **Ask machine!**



Representation Learning to **Learn the features**

Graph Representation Learning alleviates the need to do feature engineering **every single time.**

# Node Embedding

# Graph Representation Learning

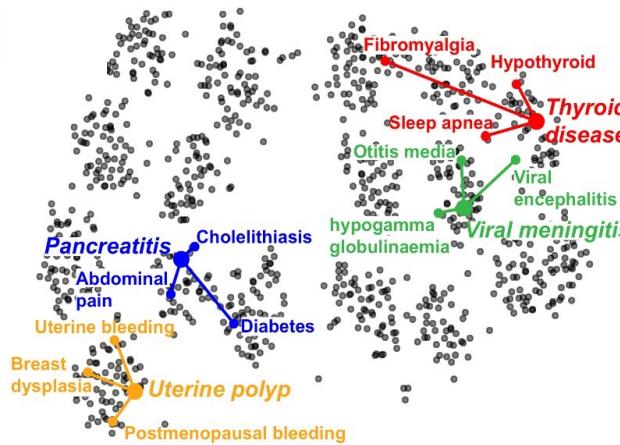
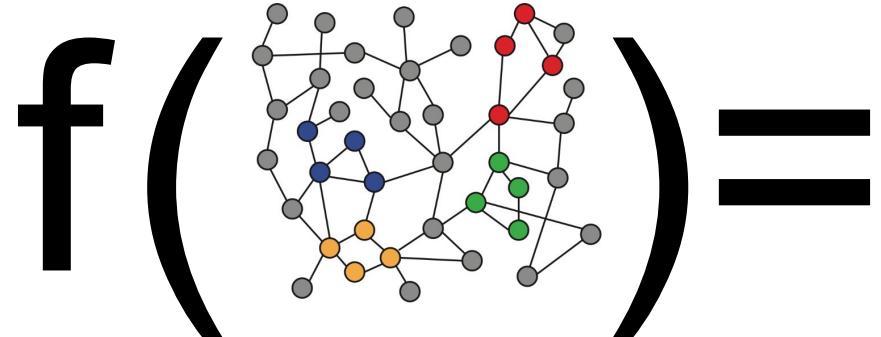
Representation **node**/edge/graph by features (i.e., vectors)

Represent a graph structure using features is also called

**Graph Embedding.**

# Node Embeddings

**Intuition:** Map nodes to  $d$ -dimensional embeddings such that similar nodes in the graph are embedded close together



2D node embeddings

# Why Node Embedding

## Map nodes into an embedding space

- Similarity of embeddings between nodes indicates their similarity in the network. For example:
  - Both nodes are close to each other (connected by an edge)
- Encode network information
- Potentially used for many downstream predictions

With embeddings (features), we can use ML/DL techniques to solve many real problems.

# Node Embedding: A Case Study

2D embedding of nodes of the Zachary's Karate Club network:

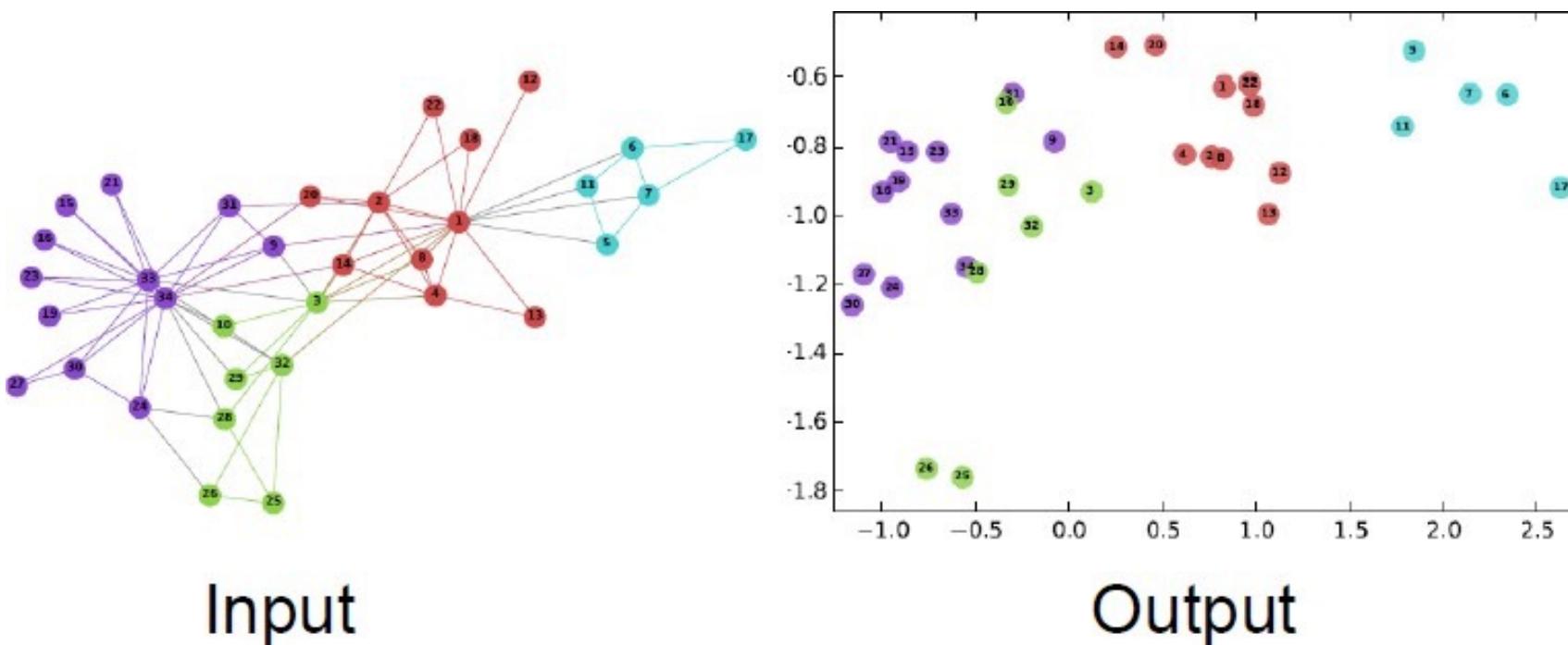
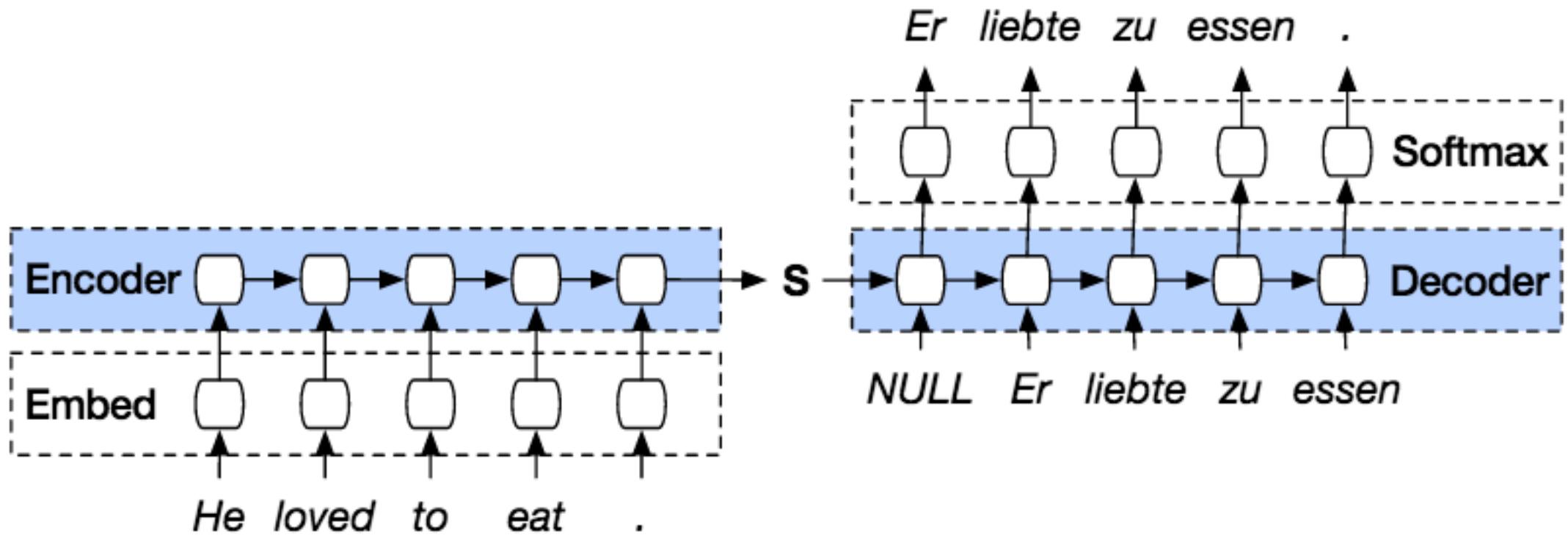


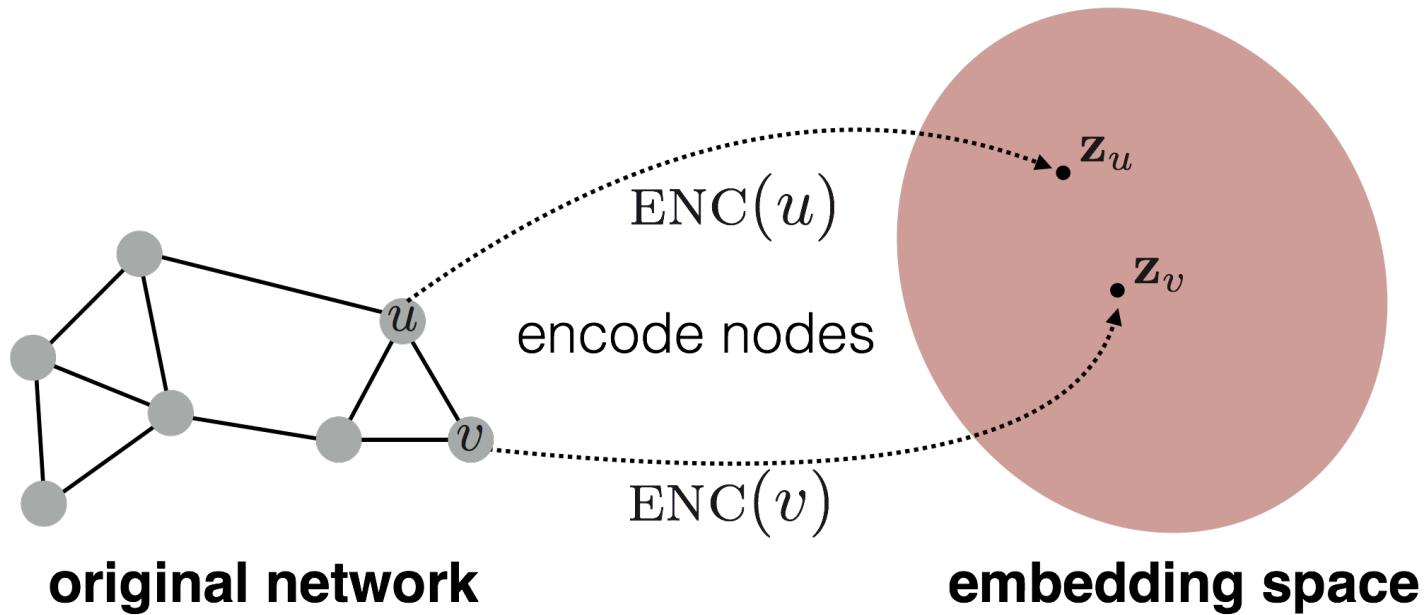
Image from: [Perozzi et al.](#). DeepWalk: Online Learning of Social Representations. *KDD 2014*.

# Encoder & Decoder in NLP



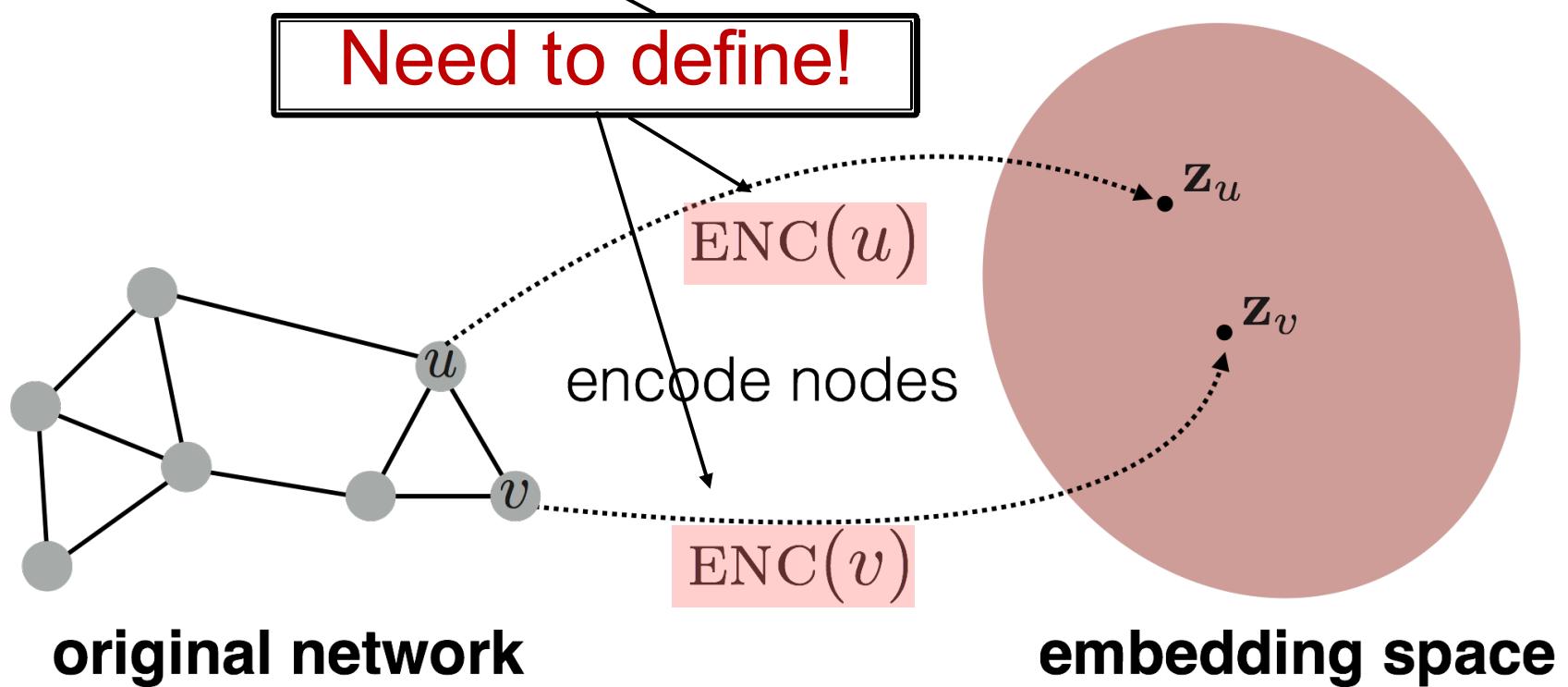
# Embedding Nodes

Encode nodes so that **similarity in the embedding space** (e.g., dot product) approximates **similarity in the graph**.



# Embedding Nodes

Goal:  $\text{similarity}(u, v)$  in the original network  $\approx \mathbf{z}_v^T \mathbf{z}_u$  Similarity of the embedding



# Embedding Nodes

1. Encoder maps from nodes to embeddings
2. Define a node similarity function (i.e., a measure of similarity in the original network)
3. Decoder **DEC** maps from embeddings to the similarity score
4. Optimize the parameters of the encoder so that

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

in the original network                      Similarity of the embedding

$$\text{DEC}(\mathbf{z}_v, \mathbf{z}_u) = \mathbf{z}_v^T \mathbf{z}_u$$

# Two Key Components

- **Encoder:** maps each node to a low-dimensional vector

$\text{ENC}(v) = \boxed{z_v}$   $d$ -dimensional embedding  
node in the input graph

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

$\text{similarity}(u, v) \approx z_v^T z_u$  **Decoder**  
Similarity of  $u$  and  $v$  in the original network dot product between node embeddings

# “Shallow” Encoding

Simplest encoding approach: encoder is just an embedding-lookup.

$$\text{ENC}(\nu) = \mathbf{z}_\nu = \mathbf{Z} \cdot \nu$$

$\mathbf{Z} \in \mathbb{R}^{d \times |\mathcal{V}|}$  matrix, each column is a node embedding [what we learn /optimize]

$\nu \in \mathbb{I}^{|\mathcal{V}|}$  indicator vector, all zeroes except a one in column indicating node  $\nu$

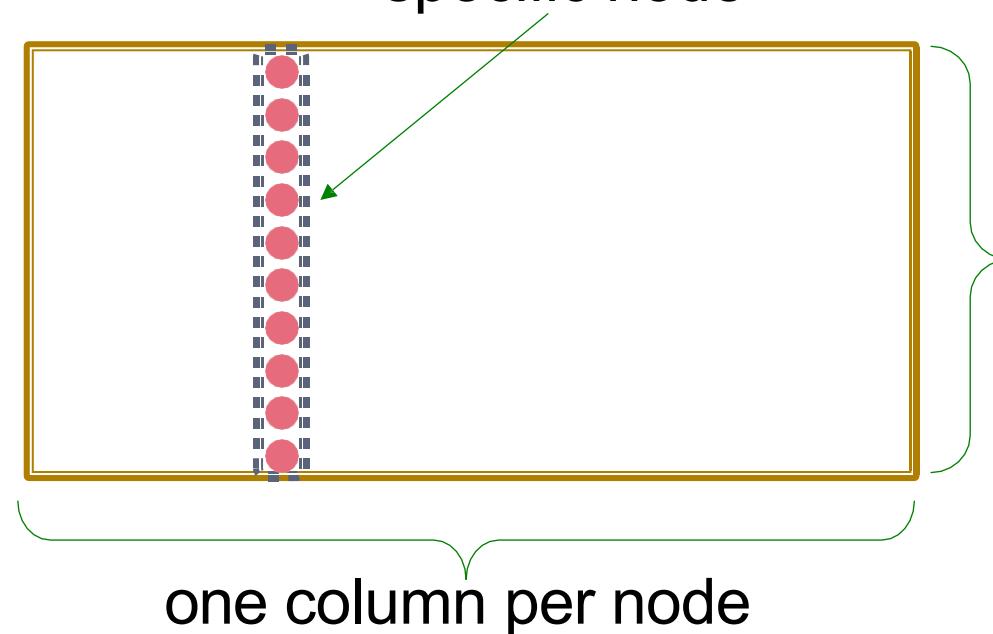
# "Shallow" Encoding

Simplest encoding approach: encoder is just an embedding-lookup

embedding vector for a  
specific node

embedding  
matrix

$Z =$



# Framework Summary

- **Encoder + Decoder Framework**
  - Shallow encoder: embedding lookup
  - Parameters to optimize:  $\mathbf{Z}$  which contains node embeddings  $\mathbf{z}_u$  for all nodes  $u \in V$
  - We will cover deep encoders (GNNs) in the future
  - **Decoder:** based on node similarity.
  - **Objective:** maximize  $\mathbf{z}_v^T \mathbf{z}_u$  for node pairs  $(u, v)$  that are **similar**

# Decoder: Node Similarity

- Key choice of methods is **how they define node similarity**.
- Should two nodes have a similar embedding if they...
  - are linked?
  - share neighbors?
  - have similar “structural roles”?
- We will now learn node similarity definition that uses **random walks**, and how to optimize embeddings for such a similarity measure.

Representative methods: DeepWalk, node2vec

# Other important things

- This is **unsupervised/self-supervised** way of learning node embeddings
  - We are **not** utilizing node labels
  - We are **not** utilizing node features
  - The goal is to directly estimate a set of coordinates (i.e., the embedding) of a node so that some aspect of the network structure (captured by DEC) is preserved
- These embeddings are **task independent**
  - They are not trained for a specific task but can be used for any task.

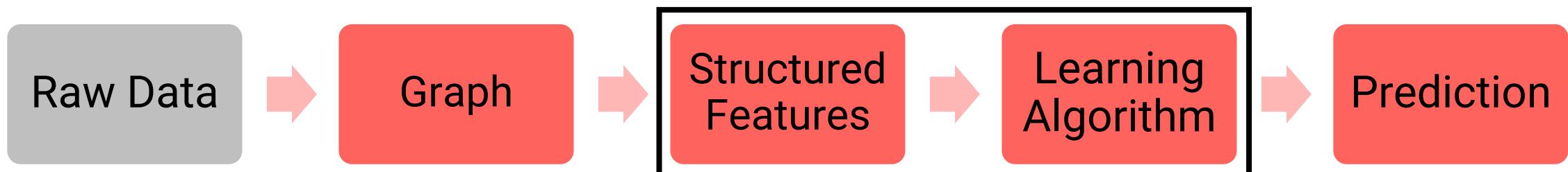
# Limitations of shallow embedding

- **$O(|V|)$  parameters are needed:**
  - No sharing of parameters between nodes
  - Every node has its own unique embedding
- **Inherently “transductive”:**
  - Cannot generate embeddings for nodes that are not seen during training
- **Do not incorporate node features:**
  - Many graphs have features that we can and should leverage

# Deep Encoding

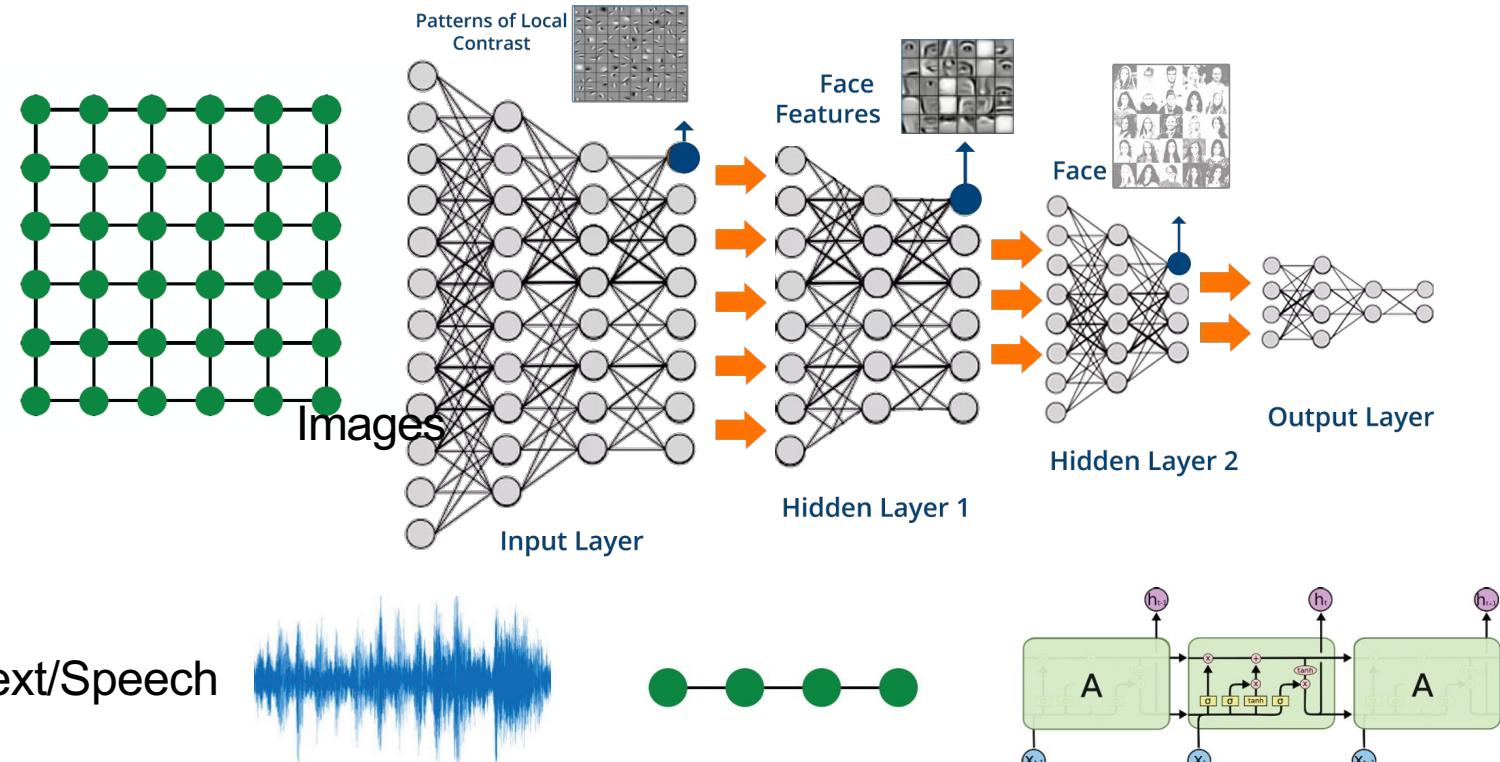
# Deep Encoding

We will now discuss deep methods based on **graph neural networks (GNNs)**:



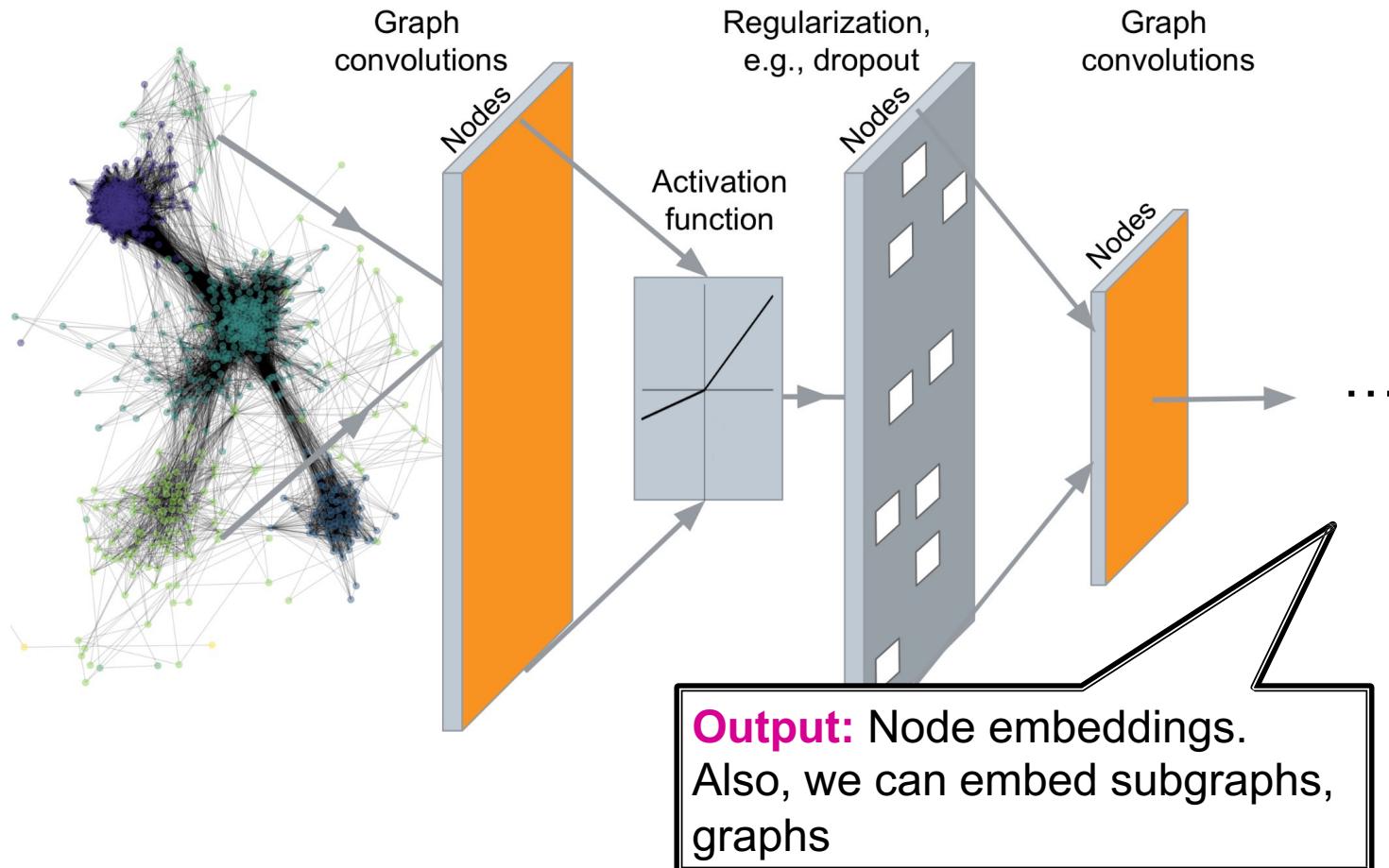
$\text{ENC}(v) =$   
**multiple layers of  
non-linear transformations  
based on graph structure**

# Modern ML Toolbox



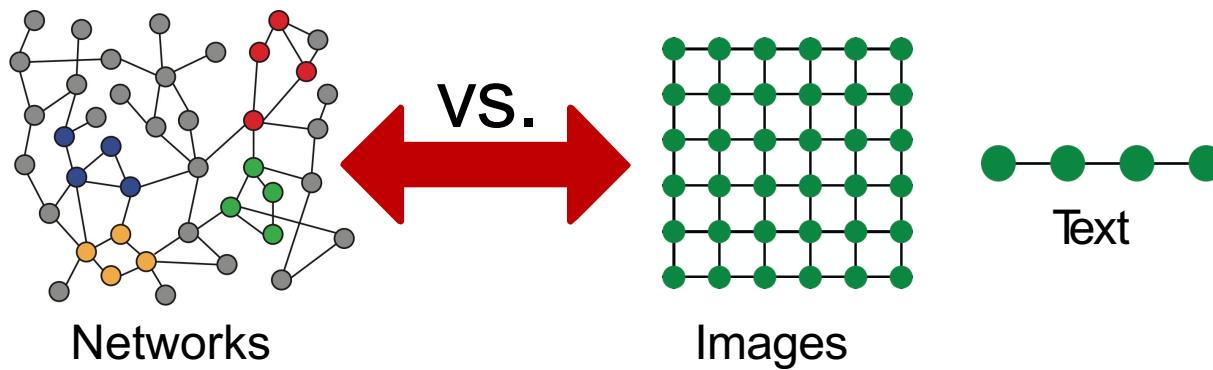
Modern deep learning toolbox is designed  
for simple sequences & grids

# Deep Graph Encoders



# But networks are far more complex!

- Arbitrary size and complex topological structure (i.e., no spatial locality like grids)



- No fixed node ordering or reference point
- Often dynamic and have multimodal features

# Tasks on Networks

Tasks we will be able to solve:

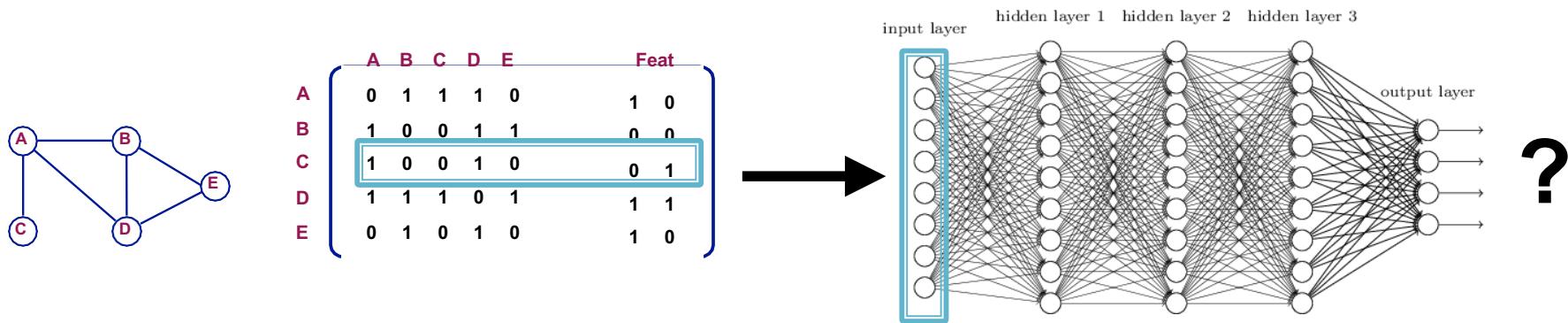
- **Node classification**
  - Predict a type of a given node
- **Link prediction**
  - Predict whether two nodes are linked
- **Community detection**
  - Identify densely linked clusters of nodes
- **Network similarity**
  - How similar are two (sub)networks

# Setup

- Assume we have a graph  $G$ :
  - $V$  is the **vertex set**
  - $A$  is the **adjacency matrix** (assume binary)
  - $X \in \mathbb{R}^{m \times |V|}$  is a matrix of **node features**
  - $v$ : a node in  $V$ ;  $N(v)$ : the set of neighbors of  $v$ .
  - **Node features:**
    - Social networks: User profile, User image
    - When there is no node feature in the graph dataset:
      - Indicator vectors (one-hot encoding of a node)
      - Vector of constant 1:  $[1, 1, \dots, 1]$

# A Naïve Approach

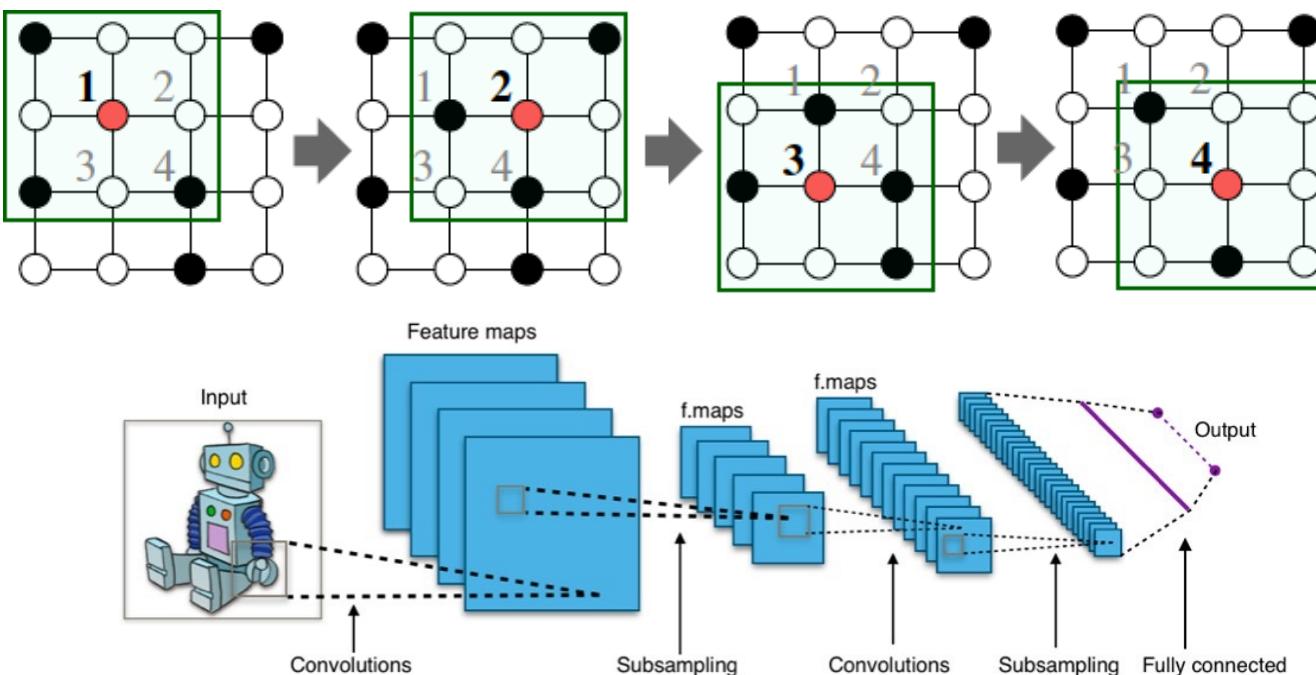
- Join adjacency matrix and features
- Feed them into a deep neural net:



- Issues with this idea:
  - $O(|V|)$  parameters
  - Not applicable to graphs of different sizes
  - Sensitive to node ordering

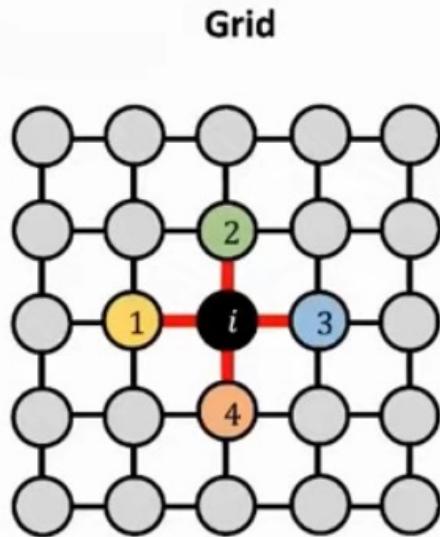
# Graph Convolutional Networks

# CNN on an image:



Goal is to generalize convolutions beyond simple lattices  
Leverage node features/attributes (e.g., text, images)

# What about Graphs?

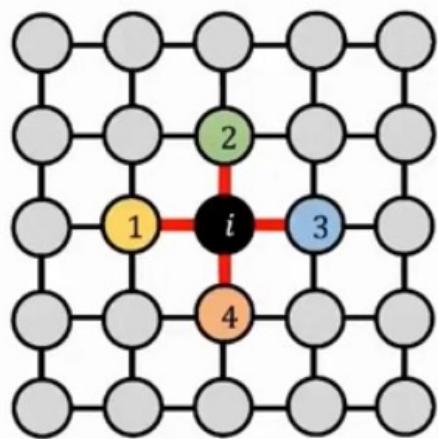


$$\mathbf{y}_i = w_1 \mathbf{x}_{i,1} + \cdots + w_4 \mathbf{x}_{i,4}$$

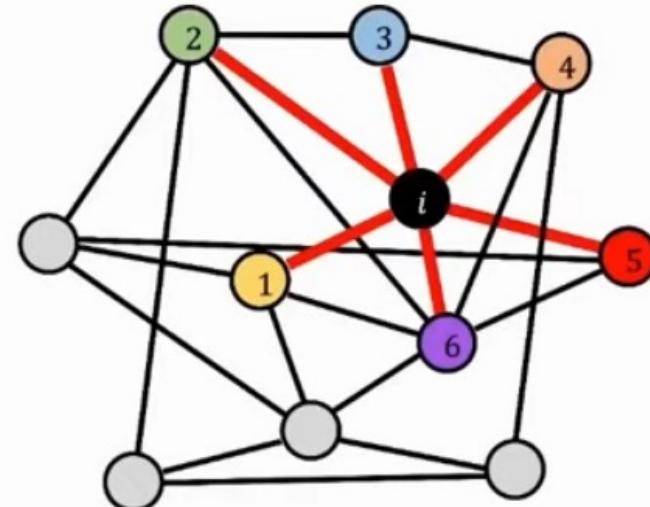
Talk on Deep learning on graphs: successes, challenges by Michael Bronstein

# What about Graphs?

Grid



Graph



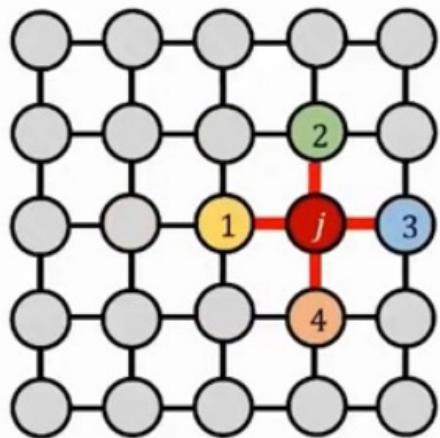
$$\mathbf{y}_i = w_1 \mathbf{x}_{i,1} + \cdots + w_4 \mathbf{x}_{i,4}$$

$$\mathbf{y}_i = w_1 \mathbf{x}_{i,1} + \cdots + w_6 \mathbf{x}_{i,6}$$

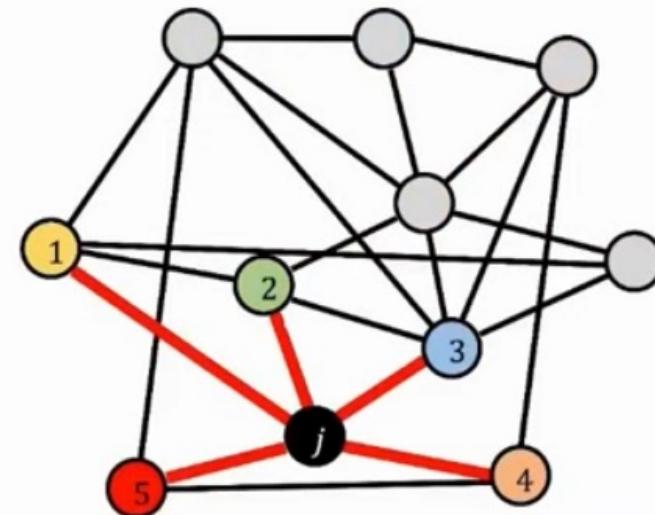
Talk on Deep learning on graphs: successes, challenges by Michael Bronstein

# What about Graphs?

Grid



Graph



$$\mathbf{y}_j = w_1 \mathbf{x}_{j,1} + \cdots + w_4 \mathbf{x}_{j,4}$$

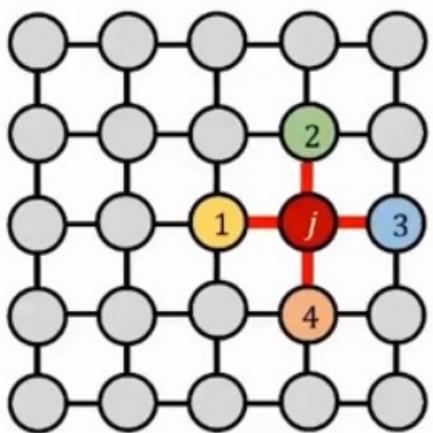
- Constant number of neighbors

$$\mathbf{y}_j = w_1 \mathbf{x}_{j,1} + \cdots + w_5 \mathbf{x}_{j,5}$$

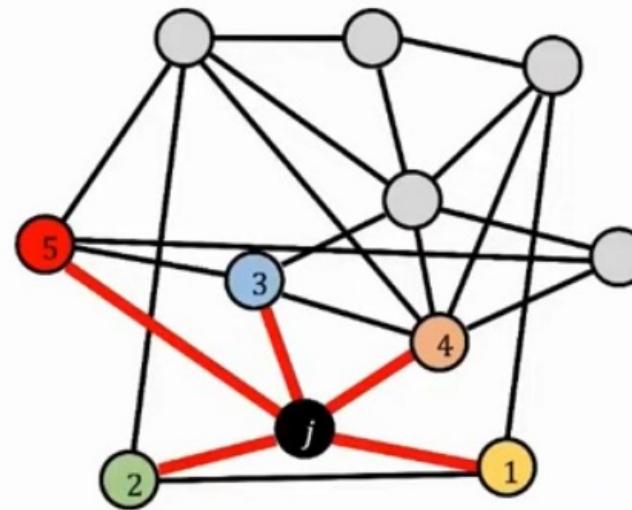
- Different number of neighbors

# What about Graphs?

Grid



Graph



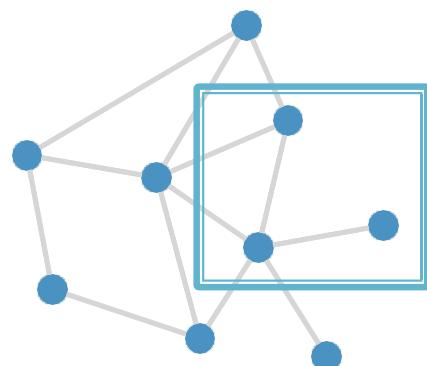
$$\mathbf{y}_j = w_1 \mathbf{x}_{j,1} + \cdots + w_4 \mathbf{x}_{j,4}$$

- Constant number of neighbors
- Fixed ordering of neighbors

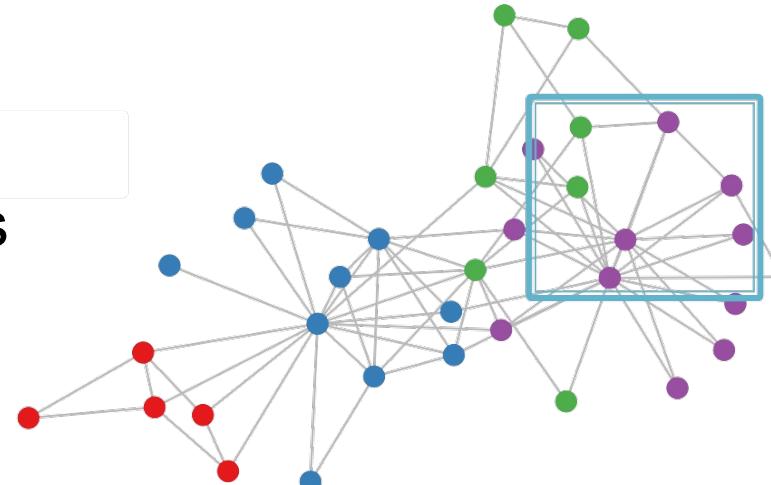
$$\mathbf{y}_j = w_1 \mathbf{x}_{j,5} + \cdots + w_5 \mathbf{x}_{j,2}$$

- Different number of neighbors
- No ordering of neighbors

# Graphs look like this

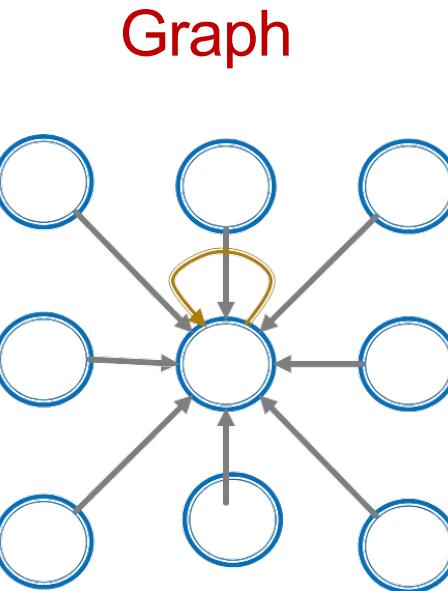
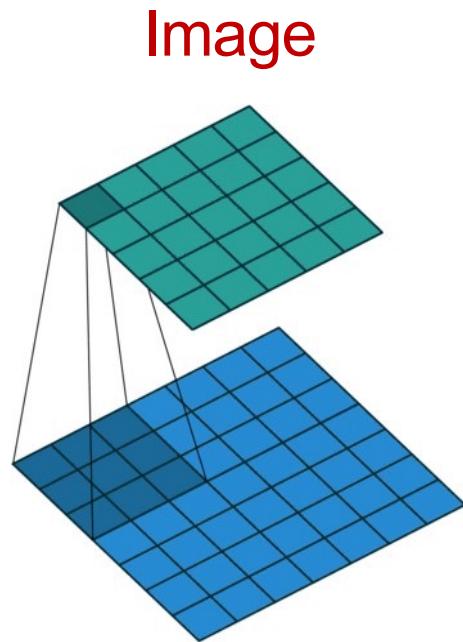


or this



1. No fixed notion of locality or sliding window on the graph
2. Graph is permutation invariant

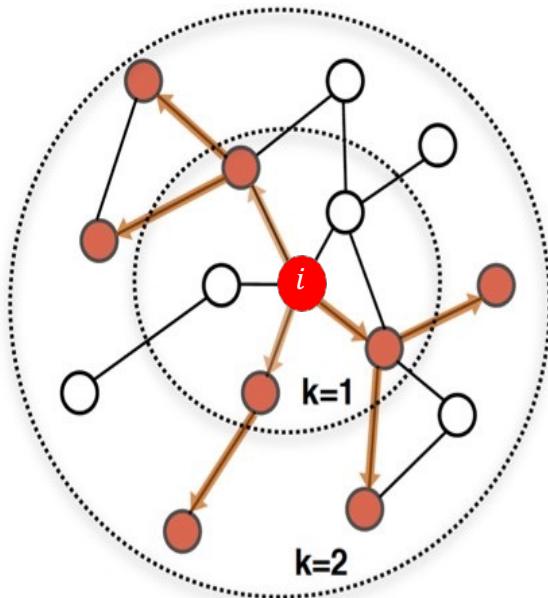
# Convolutional layer with 3x3 filter



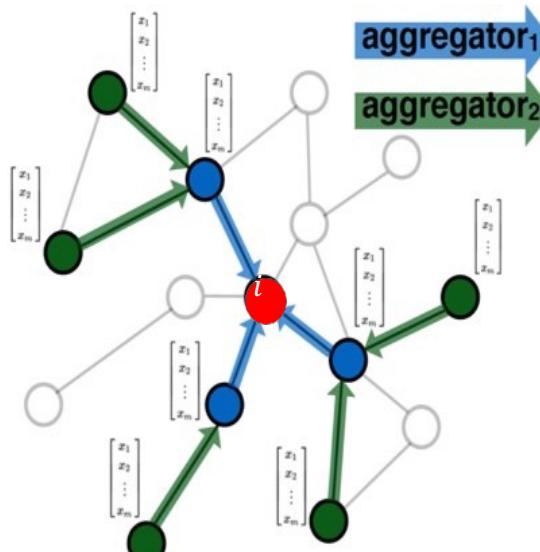
**Idea:** transform information at the neighbors and combine it:

- Transform “messages”  $h_i$  from neighbors:  $W_i h_i$
- Add them up:  $\sum_i W_i h_i$

# A Computation Graph



Determine node  
computation graph

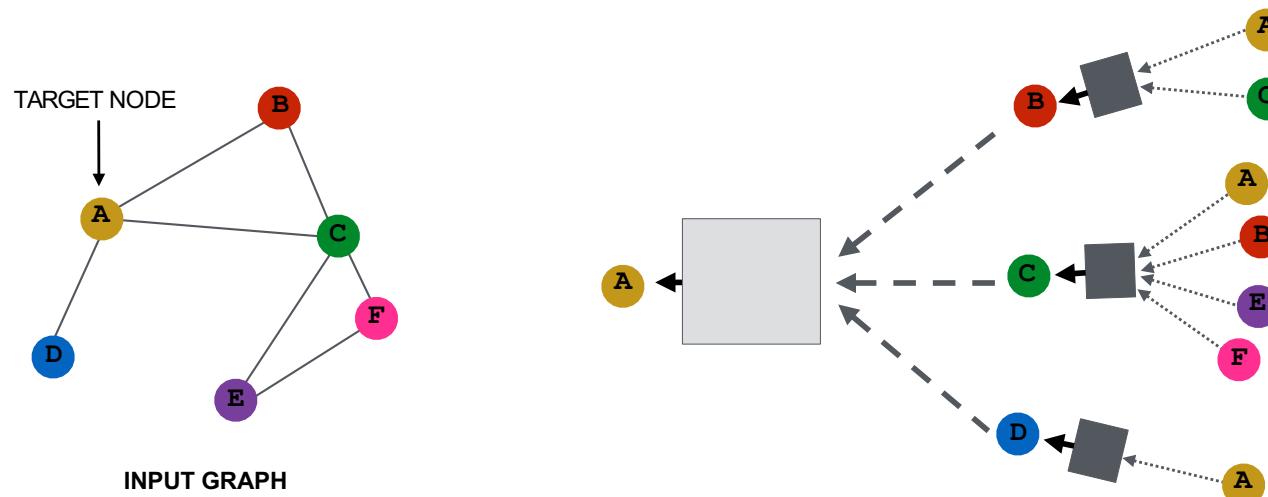


Propagate and  
transform information

Learn how to propagate information across the  
graph to compute node features

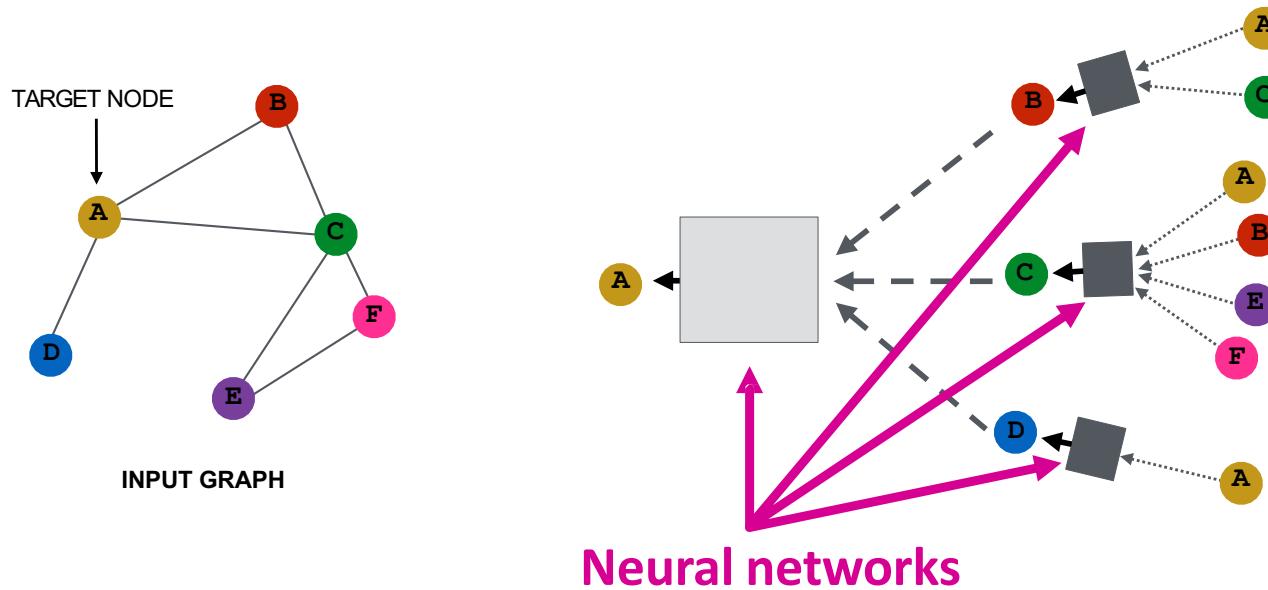
# Aggregate Neighbors

**Key idea:** Generate node embeddings  
based on **local network neighborhoods**



# Aggregate Neighbors

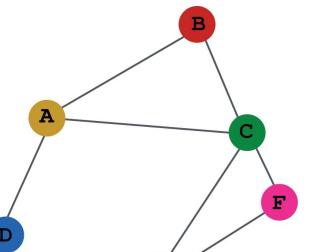
**Intuition:** Nodes aggregate information from their neighbors **using neural networks**



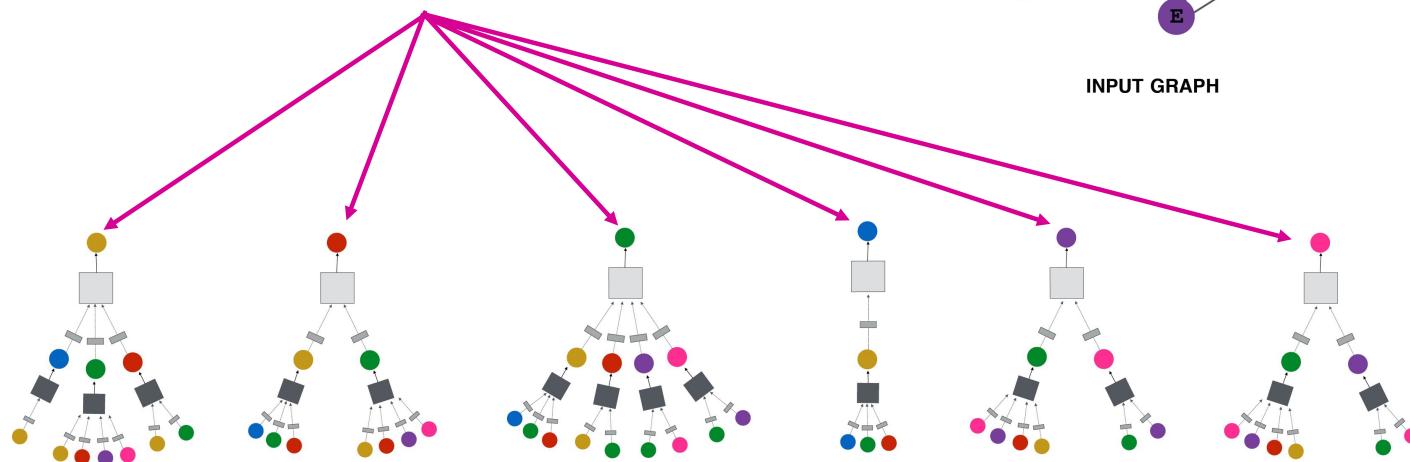
# Aggregate Neighbors

**Intuition:** Network neighborhood defines a computation graph

Every node defines a computation graph based on its neighborhood!



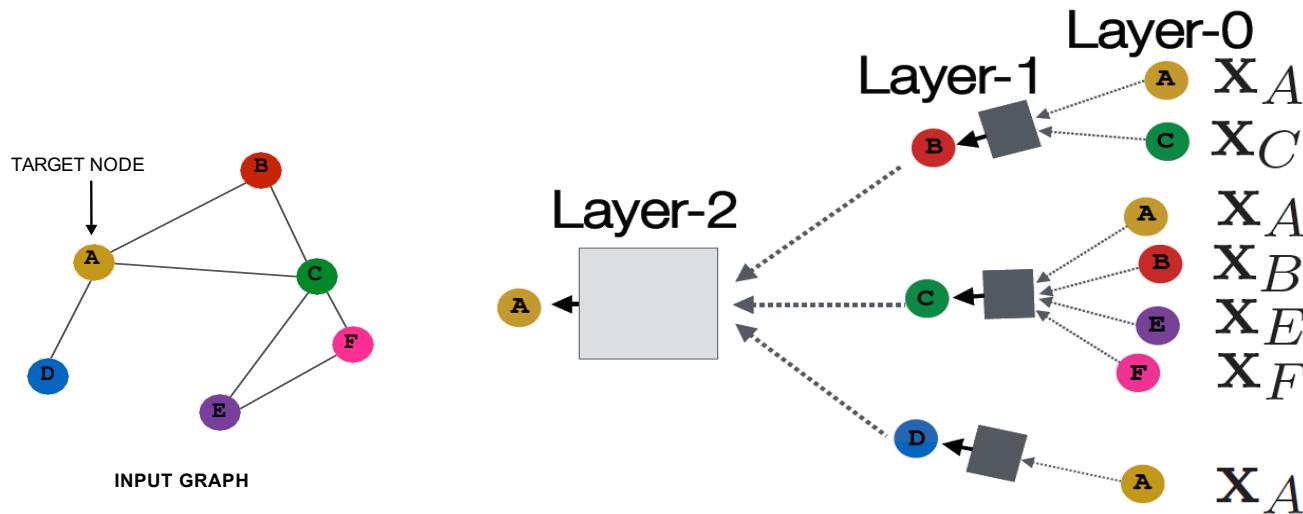
INPUT GRAPH



# Deep: Many Layers

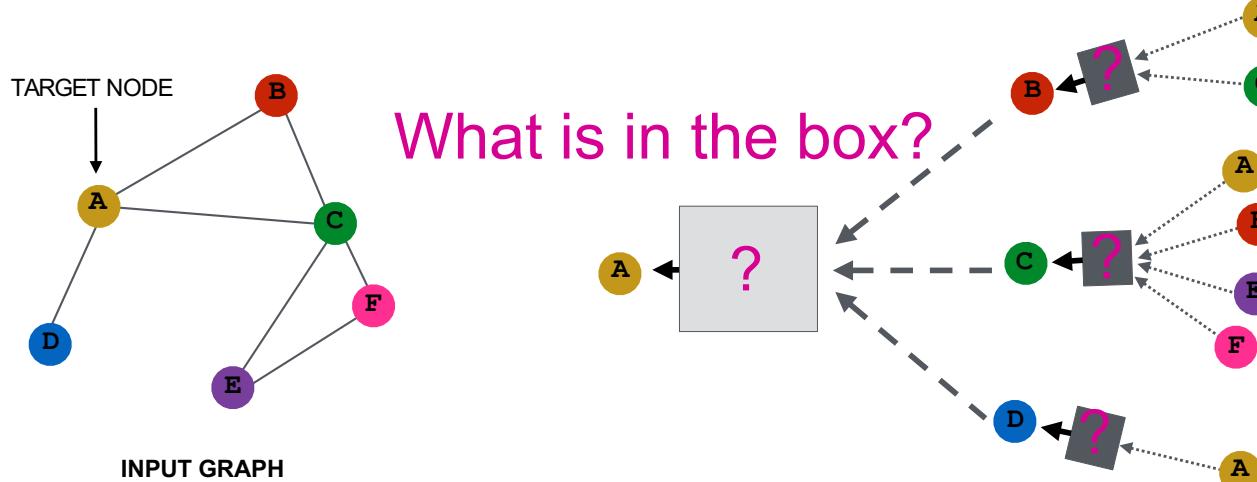
- Model can be **of arbitrary depth**:

- Nodes have embeddings at each layer
- Layer-0 embedding of node  $u$  is its input feature,  $x_u$
- Layer- $k$  embedding gets information from nodes that are  $K$  hops away



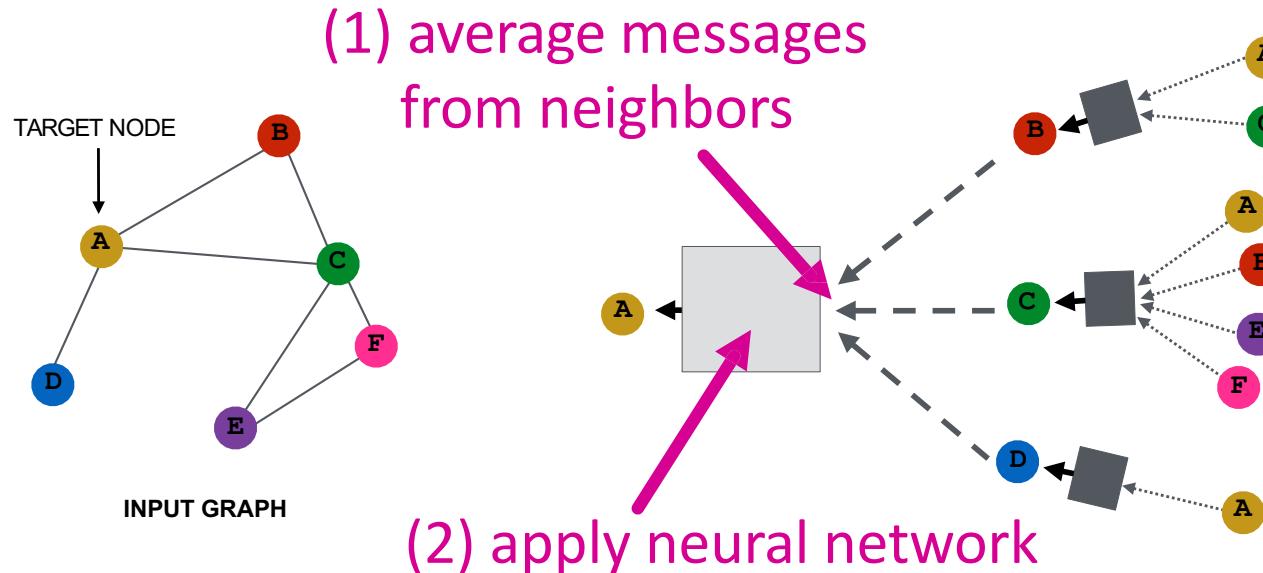
# Neighborhood Aggregation

**Neighborhood aggregation:** Key distinctions are in how different approaches aggregate information across the layers



# Neighborhood Aggregation

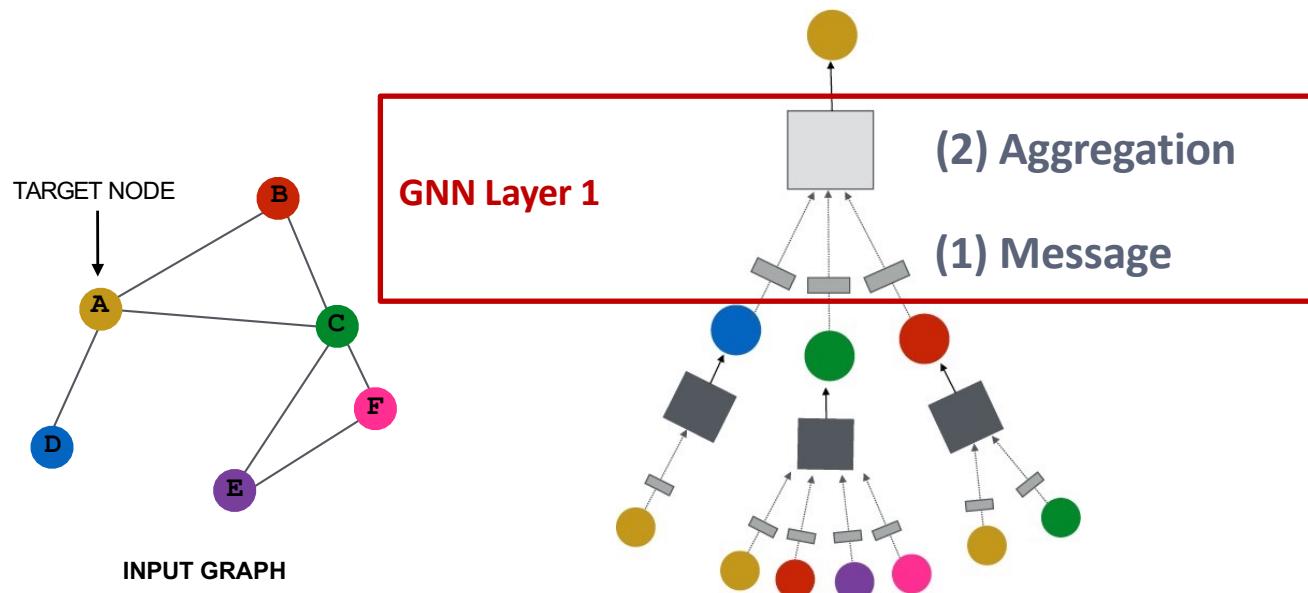
**Basic approach:** Average information from neighbors and apply a neural network



# A GNN Layer

GNN Layer = Message + Aggregation

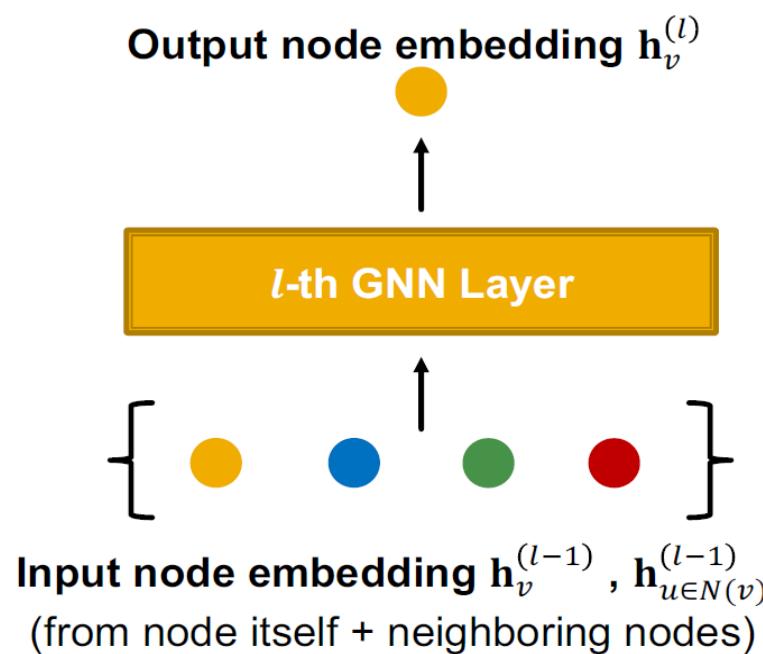
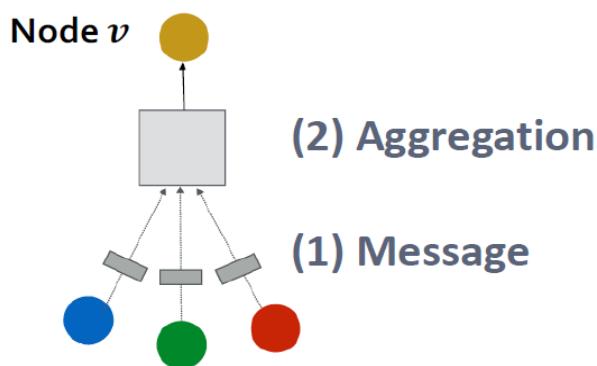
- Different instantiations under this perspective
- GCN, GraphSAGE, GAT, ...



# A Single GNN Layer

- **Idea of a GNN Layer:**

- Compress a set of vectors into a single vector
- **Two step process:**
  - (1) Message
  - (2) Aggregation



# Message Computation

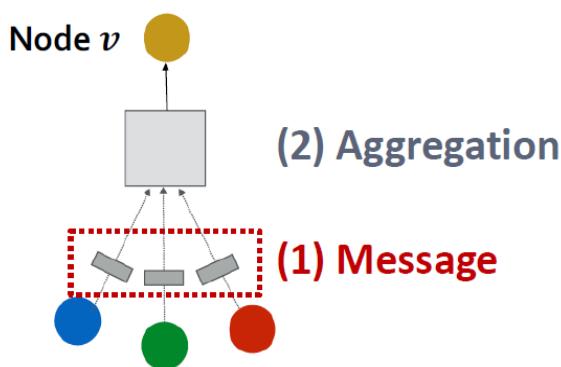
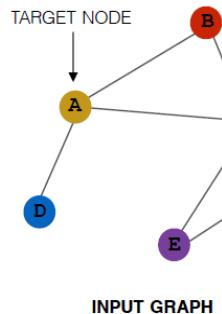
## ■ (1) Message computation

- **Message function:**  $\mathbf{m}_u^{(l)} = \text{MSG}^{(l)}(\mathbf{h}_u^{(l-1)})$

- **Intuition:** Each node will create a message, which will be sent to other nodes later

- **Example:** A Linear layer  $\mathbf{m}_u^{(l)} = \mathbf{W}^{(l)}\mathbf{h}_u^{(l-1)}$

- Multiply node features with weight matrix  $\mathbf{W}^{(l)}$



# Message Aggregation

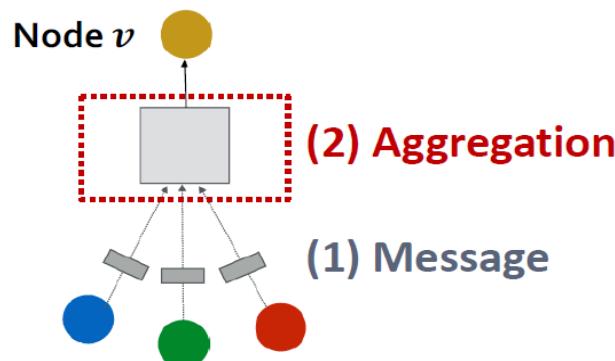
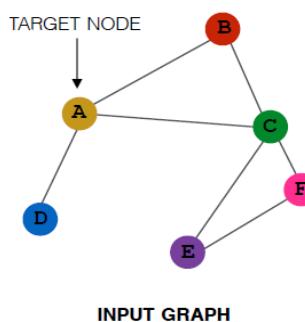
## ■ (2) Aggregation

- **Intuition:** Each node will aggregate the messages from node  $v$ 's neighbors

$$\mathbf{h}_v^{(l)} = \text{AGG}^{(l)} \left( \left\{ \mathbf{m}_u^{(l)}, u \in N(v) \right\} \right)$$

- **Example:** Sum( $\cdot$ ), Mean( $\cdot$ ) or Max( $\cdot$ ) aggregator

- $\mathbf{h}_v^{(l)} = \text{Sum}(\{\mathbf{m}_u^{(l)}, u \in N(v)\})$



# Message Aggregation Issue

- **Issue:** Information from node  $v$  itself **could get lost**

- Computation of  $\mathbf{h}_v^{(l)}$  does not directly depend on  $\mathbf{h}_v^{(l-1)}$

- **Solution:** Include  $\mathbf{h}_v^{(l-1)}$  when computing  $\mathbf{h}_v^{(l)}$

- **(1) Message:** compute message from node  $v$  itself

- Usually, a different message computation will be performed



$$\mathbf{m}_u^{(l)} = \mathbf{W}^{(l)} \mathbf{h}_u^{(l-1)}$$



$$\mathbf{m}_v^{(l)} = \mathbf{B}^{(l)} \mathbf{h}_v^{(l-1)}$$

- **(2) Aggregation:** After aggregating from neighbors, we can aggregate the message from node  $v$  itself

- Via **concatenation or summation**

$$\mathbf{h}_v^{(l)} = \text{CONCAT} \left( \text{AGG} \left( \left\{ \mathbf{m}_u^{(l)}, u \in N(v) \right\} \right), \mathbf{m}_v^{(l)} \right)$$

Then aggregate from node itself  
First aggregate from neighbors

# A Single GNN Layer

## ■ Putting things together:

- **(1) Message**: each node computes a message

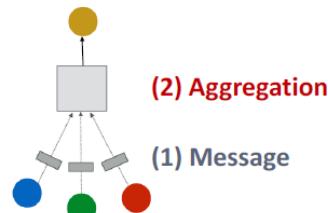
$$\mathbf{m}_u^{(l)} = \text{MSG}^{(l)}\left(\mathbf{h}_u^{(l-1)}\right), u \in N(v) \cup v$$

- **(2) Aggregation**: aggregate messages from neighbors

$$\mathbf{h}_v^{(l)} = \text{AGG}^{(l)}\left(\left\{\mathbf{m}_u^{(l)}, u \in N(v)\right\}, \mathbf{m}_v^{(l)}\right)$$

- **Nonlinearity (activation)**: Adds expressiveness

- Often written as  $\sigma(\cdot)$ : ReLU( $\cdot$ ), Sigmoid( $\cdot$ ) , ...
- Can be added to **message or aggregation**



# Activation (Non-linearity)

Apply activation to  $i$ -th dimension of embedding  $\mathbf{x}$

- Rectified linear unit (ReLU)

$$\text{ReLU}(\mathbf{x}_i) = \max(\mathbf{x}_i, 0)$$

- Most commonly used

- Sigmoid

$$\sigma(\mathbf{x}_i) = \frac{1}{1 + e^{-\mathbf{x}_i}}$$

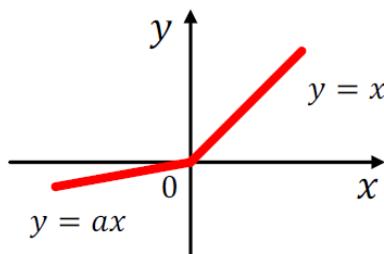
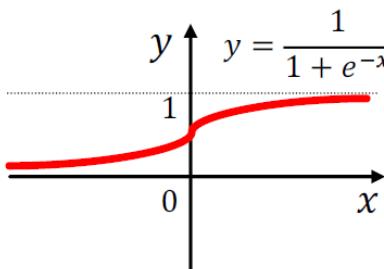
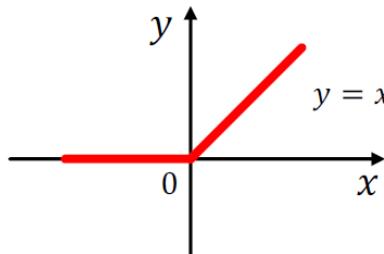
- Used only when you want to restrict the range of your embeddings

- Parametric ReLU

$$\text{PReLU}(\mathbf{x}_i) = \max(\mathbf{x}_i, 0) + a_i \min(\mathbf{x}_i, 0)$$

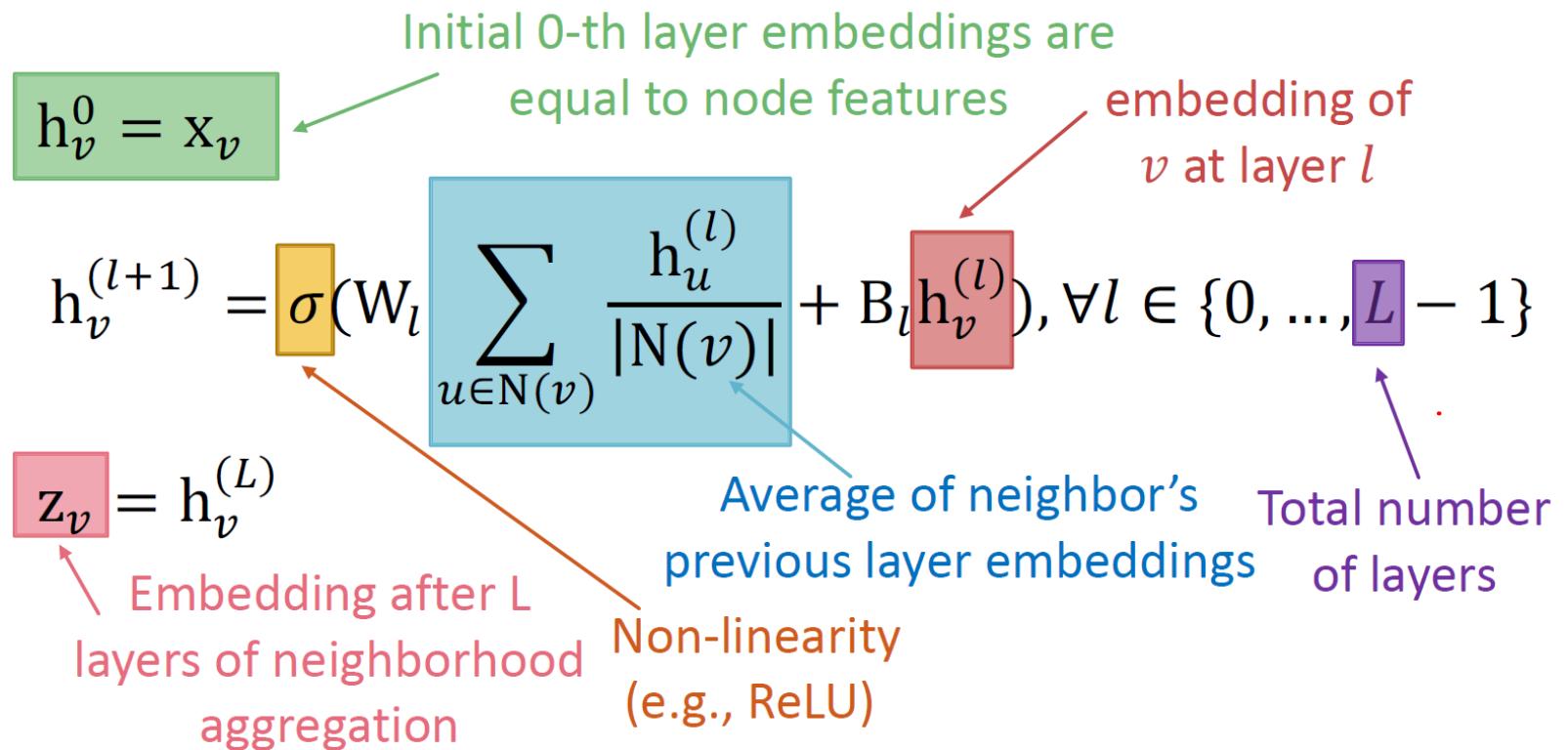
$a_i$  is a trainable parameter

- Empirically performs better than ReLU



# The Maths: Deep Encoder

**Basic approach:** Average neighbor messages and apply a neural network



# Model Parameters

$$\begin{aligned} h_v^{(0)} &= x_v && \text{Trainable weight matrices} \\ &&& \text{(i.e., what we learn)} \\ h_v^{(l+1)} &= \sigma(W_l \sum_{u \in N(v)} \frac{h_u^{(l)}}{|N(v)|} + B_l h_v^{(l)}), \forall l \in \{0, \dots, L-1\} \\ z_v &= h_v^{(L)} && \text{Final node embedding} \end{aligned}$$

We can feed these **embeddings into any loss function** and run SGD to **train the weight parameters**

- $h_v^l$ : the hidden representation of node  $v$  at layer  $l$
- $W_k$ : weight matrix for neighborhood aggregation
- $B_k$ : weight matrix for transforming hidden vector of self

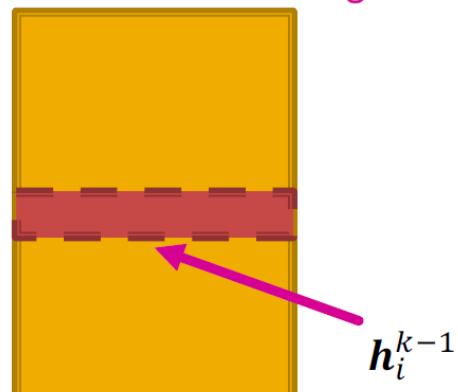
# Matrix Formulation

- Many aggregations can be performed efficiently by (sparse) matrix operations

- Let  $H^{(l)} = [h_1^{(l)} \dots h_{|V|}^{(l)}]^T$
- Then:  $\sum_{u \in N_v} h_u^{(l)} = A_{v,:} H^{(l)}$
- Let  $D$  be diagonal matrix where  $D_{v,v} = \text{Deg}(v) = |N(v)|$ 
  - The inverse of  $D$ :  $D^{-1}$  is also diagonal:  
$$D_{v,v}^{-1} = 1/|N(v)|$$
- Therefore,

$$\sum_{u \in N(v)} \frac{h_u^{(l-1)}}{|N(v)|} \longrightarrow H^{(l+1)} = D^{-1} A H^{(l)}$$

Matrix of hidden embeddings  $H^{k-1}$

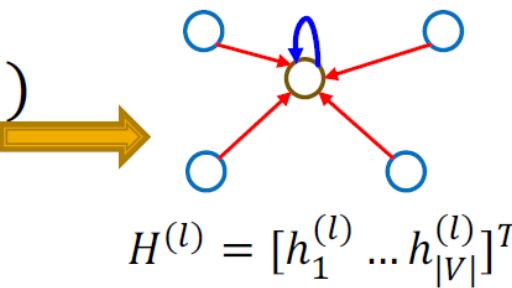


# Matrix Formulation

- Re-writing update function in matrix form:

$$H^{(l+1)} = \sigma(\tilde{A}H^{(l)}W_l^T + H^{(l)}B_l^T)$$

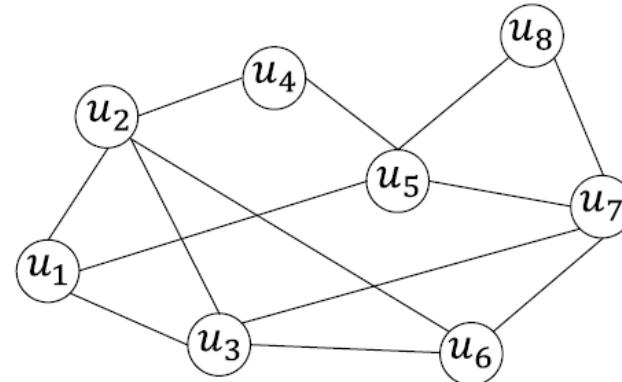
where  $\tilde{A} = D^{-1}A$



- Red: neighborhood aggregation
- Blue: self transformation
- In practice, this implies that efficient sparse matrix multiplication can be used ( $\tilde{A}$  is sparse)
- Note: not all GNNs can be expressed in matrix form, when aggregation function is complex

# Example

$$H^{(l+1)} = \sigma(\tilde{A}H^{(l)}W_l^T + H^{(l)}B_l^T)$$

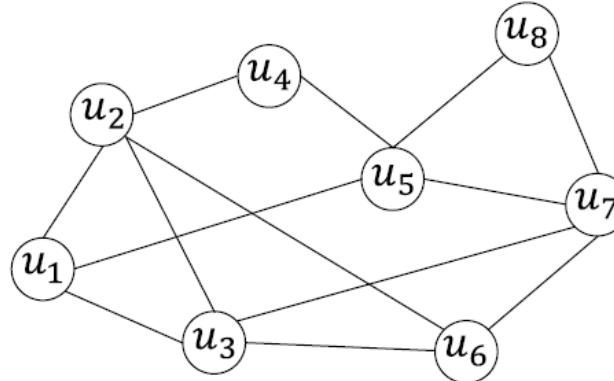


Compute the output of the first graph convolutional layer based on the above formula

$$H_0 = \begin{bmatrix} 0.20 & 0.60 & 0.30 & -0.40 \\ 0.40 & 0.30 & -0.20 & -0.60 \\ 0.20 & -0.60 & 0.50 & -0.30 \\ -0.40 & 0.20 & 0.20 & -0.40 \\ 0.70 & -0.90 & 0.10 & -0.50 \\ 0.30 & 0.50 & -0.30 & -0.70 \\ 0.90 & -0.60 & 0.20 & -0.80 \\ -0.10 & 0.70 & 0.10 & -0.90 \end{bmatrix} \quad W^0 = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 1 & 1 & 0 & 0 \\ 1 & 1 & 1 & 0 \\ 1 & 1 & 1 & 1 \end{bmatrix} \quad B^0 = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 & 0 & 1 \\ 1 & 0 & 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 & 1 \\ 1 & 0 & 1 & 0 \end{bmatrix}$$

# Example

$$H^{(l+1)} = \sigma(\tilde{A}H^{(l)}W_l^T + H^{(l)}B_l^T)$$



The matrix  $D^{-1}$ :

Adjacent matrix A:

```
[[0 1 1 0 1 0 0 0]
 [1 0 1 1 0 1 0 0]
 [1 1 0 0 0 1 1 0]
 [0 1 0 0 1 0 0 0]
 [1 0 0 1 0 0 1 1]
 [0 1 1 0 0 0 1 0]
 [0 0 1 0 1 1 0 1]
 [0 0 0 0 1 0 1 0]]
```

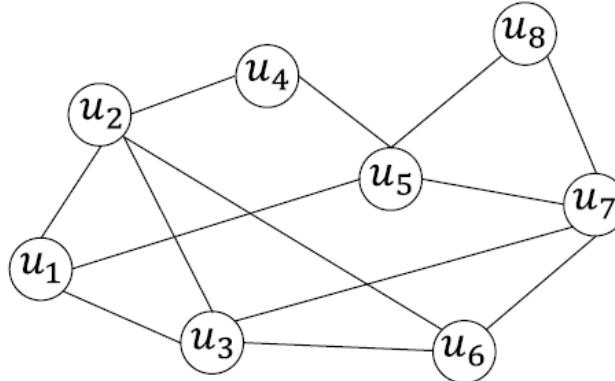
```
[[0.33333334 0.          0.          0.          0.          0.          0.          0.          ]
 [0.          0.25        0.          0.          0.          0.          0.          0.          ]
 [0.          0.          0.25        0.          0.          0.          0.          0.          ]
 [0.          0.          0.          0.5         0.          0.          0.          0.          ]
 [0.          0.          0.          0.          0.25        0.          0.          0.          ]
 [0.          0.          0.          0.          0.          0.33333334 0.          0.          ]
 [0.          0.          0.          0.          0.          0.          0.25        0.          ]
 [0.          0.          0.          0.          0.          0.          0.          0.5         ]]
```

The matrix  $D^{-1}A$ :

```
[[0.          0.33333334 0.33333334 0.          0.33333334 0.          0.          0.          ]
 [0.25        0.          0.25        0.25        0.          0.25        0.          0.          ]
 [0.25        0.25        0.          0.          0.          0.25        0.25        0.          ]
 [0.          0.5         0.          0.          0.5         0.          0.          0.          ]
 [0.25        0.          0.          0.25        0.          0.          0.25        0.25        ]
 [0.          0.33333334 0.33333334 0.          0.          0.          0.33333334 0.          ]
 [0.          0.          0.25        0.          0.25        0.25        0.          0.25        ]
 [0.          0.          0.          0.5         0.          0.5         0.5         0.          ]]
```

# Example

$$H^{(l+1)} = \sigma(\tilde{A}H^{(l)}W_l^T + H^{(l)}B_l^T)$$



Matrix  $H^0$ :

$$H_0 = \begin{bmatrix} 0.20 & 0.60 & 0.30 & -0.40 \\ 0.40 & 0.30 & -0.20 & -0.60 \\ 0.20 & -0.60 & 0.50 & -0.30 \\ -0.40 & 0.20 & 0.20 & -0.40 \\ 0.70 & -0.90 & 0.10 & -0.50 \\ 0.30 & 0.50 & -0.30 & -0.70 \\ 0.90 & -0.60 & 0.20 & -0.80 \\ -0.10 & 0.70 & 0.10 & -0.90 \end{bmatrix}$$

Matrix  $D^{-1}A$ :

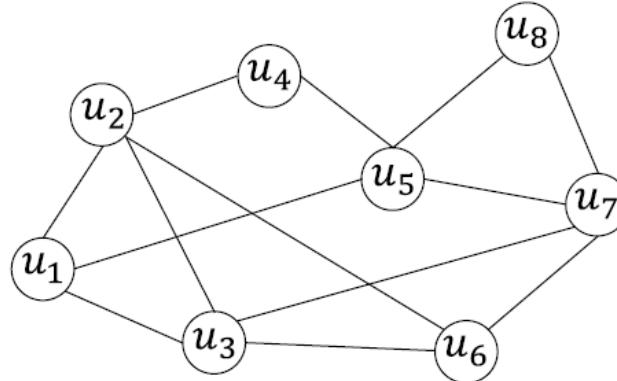
$$\begin{bmatrix} [0. & 0.33333334 & 0.33333334 & 0. & 0.33333334 & 0. & 0. & 0.] \\ [0.25 & 0. & 0.25 & 0.25 & 0. & 0.25 & 0. & 0.] \\ [0.25 & 0.25 & 0. & 0. & 0. & 0.25 & 0.25 & 0.] \\ [0. & 0.5 & 0. & 0. & 0.5 & 0. & 0. & 0.] \\ [0.25 & 0. & 0. & 0.25 & 0. & 0. & 0.25 & 0.25] \\ [0. & 0.33333334 & 0.33333334 & 0. & 0. & 0. & 0.33333334 & 0.] \\ [0. & 0. & 0.25 & 0. & 0.25 & 0.25 & 0. & 0.25] \\ [0. & 0. & 0. & 0. & 0.5 & 0. & 0.5 & 0.] \end{bmatrix}]$$

Matrix  $D^{-1}AH$ :

$$\begin{bmatrix} [0.43333335 & -0.40000001 & 0.13333334 & -0.46666668] \\ [0.075 & 0.175 & 0.175 & -0.1] \\ [0.45 & 0.2 & 0. & -0.275] \\ [0.55 & -0.3 & -0.05 & -0.55] \\ [0.15 & 0.225 & 0.2 & -0.625] \\ [0.50000001 & -0.30000001 & 0.16666667 & -0.56666668] \\ [0.275 & -0.075 & 0.1 & -0.25] \\ [0.8 & -0.75 & 0.15 & -0.65] \end{bmatrix}]$$

# Example

$$H^{(l+1)} = \sigma(\tilde{A}H^{(l)}W_l^T + H^{(l)}B_l^T)$$



Matrix  $D^{-1}AH$  :

```
[[ 0.43333335 -0.40000001  0.13333334 -0.46666668]
 [ 0.075      0.175      0.175      -0.1      ]
 [ 0.45       0.2       0.        -0.275     ]
 [ 0.55      -0.3      -0.05     -0.55      ]
 [ 0.15       0.225     0.2      -0.625     ]
 [ 0.50000001 -0.30000001  0.16666667 -0.56666668]
 [ 0.275      -0.075     0.1      -0.25      ]
 [ 0.8       -0.75      0.15     -0.65      ]]
```

Matrix  $W^0$  :

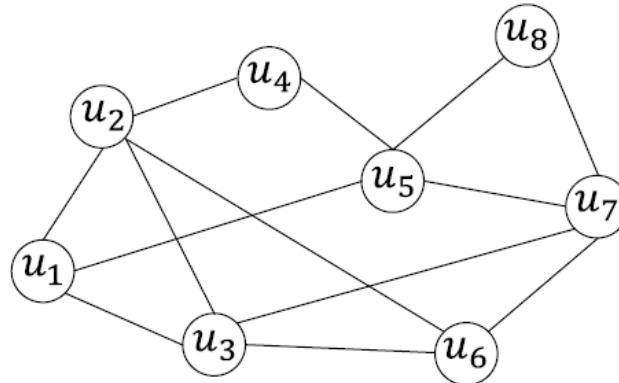
$$\begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 1 & 1 & 0 & 0 \\ 1 & 1 & 1 & 0 \\ 1 & 1 & 1 & 1 \end{bmatrix}$$

Matrix  $D^{-1}AHW^T$  :

```
[[ 0.43333335  0.03333333  0.16666667 -0.30000001]
 [ 0.075       0.25       0.425       0.325      ]
 [ 0.45       0.65       0.65       0.375      ]
 [ 0.55       0.25       0.2       -0.35      ]
 [ 0.15       0.375      0.575      -0.05      ]
 [ 0.50000001  0.20000001  0.36666668 -0.20000001]
 [ 0.275       0.2       0.3       0.05      ]
 [ 0.8        0.05       0.2       -0.45      ]]
```

# Example

$$H^{(l+1)} = \sigma(\tilde{A}H^{(l)}W_l^T + H^{(l)}B_l^T)$$



Matrix  $B^0$ :

$$\begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 & 0 & 1 \\ 1 & 0 & 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 & 1 \\ 1 & 0 & 1 & 0 \end{bmatrix}$$

Matrix  $H^0$ :

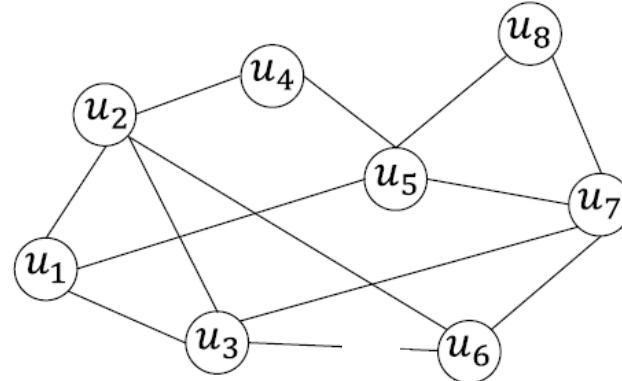
$$\begin{bmatrix} 0.20 & 0.60 & 0.30 & -0.40 \\ 0.40 & 0.30 & -0.20 & -0.60 \\ 0.20 & -0.60 & 0.50 & -0.30 \\ -0.40 & 0.20 & 0.20 & -0.40 \\ 0.70 & -0.90 & 0.10 & -0.50 \\ 0.30 & 0.50 & -0.30 & -0.70 \\ 0.90 & -0.60 & 0.20 & -0.80 \\ -0.10 & 0.70 & 0.10 & -0.90 \end{bmatrix}$$

Matrix  $HB^T$ :

$$\begin{bmatrix} [-0.2 & 0.5 & -0.1 & 0.5] \\ [-0.2 & 0.2 & -0.8 & 0.2] \\ [-0.1 & 0.7 & 0.2 & 0.7] \\ [-0.8 & -0.2 & -0.2 & -0.2] \\ [0.2 & 0.8 & -0.4 & 0.8] \\ [1. & 0. & 0.4 & 0. ] \\ [0.1 & 1.1 & -0.6 & 1.1] \\ [-1. & 0. & -0.8 & 0. ] \end{bmatrix}$$

# Example

$$H^{(l+1)} = \sigma(\tilde{A}H^{(l)}W_l^T + H^{(l)}B_l^T)$$



Matrix  $D^{-1}AHW^T$  :

```
[[ 0.43333335  0.03333333  0.16666667 -0.30000001]
 [ 0.075        0.25       0.425      0.325      ]
 [ 0.45         0.65       0.65       0.375      ]
 [ 0.55         0.25       0.2        -0.35      ]
 [ 0.15         0.375     0.575     -0.05      ]
 [ 0.50000001  0.20000001  0.36666668 -0.20000001]
 [ 0.275        0.2        0.3        0.05      ]
 [ 0.8          0.05       0.2        -0.45     ]]
```

Matrix  $HB^T$  :

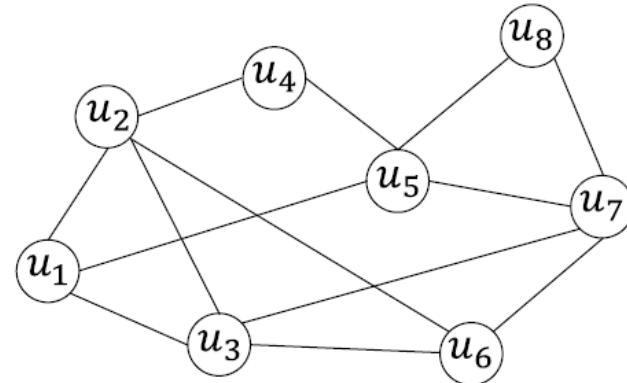
```
[[ -0.2      0.5      -0.1      0.5]
 [ -0.2      0.2      -0.8      0.2]
 [ -0.1      0.7      0.2       0.7]
 [ -0.8      -0.2     -0.2      -0.2]
 [  0.2      0.8      -0.4      0.8]
 [  1.        0.        0.4      0. ]
 [  0.1      1.1      -0.6      1.1]
 [ -1.        0.        -0.8     0. ]]
```

Matrix  $D^{-1}AHW^T + HB^T$  :

```
[[ 0.23333335  0.53333333  0.06666667  0.19999999]
 [-0.125        0.45       -0.375      0.525      ]
 [ 0.35         1.35       0.85       1.075      ]
 [-0.25        0.05       0.          -0.55      ]
 [ 0.35         1.175     0.175      0.75       ]
 [ 1.50000001  0.20000001  0.76666668 -0.20000001]
 [ 0.375        1.3        -0.3        1.15      ]
 [-0.2          0.05       -0.6       -0.45     ]]
```

# Example

$$H^{(l+1)} = \sigma(\tilde{A}H^{(l)}W_l^T + H^{(l)}B_l^T)$$



Matrix  $D^{-1}AHW^T + HB^T$  :

```
[[ 0.23333335  0.53333333  0.06666667  0.19999999]
 [-0.125       0.45        -0.375      0.525      ]
 [ 0.35        1.35        0.85        1.075      ]
 [-0.25        0.05        0.          -0.55      ]
 [ 0.35        1.175       0.175       0.75       ]
 [ 1.50000001  0.20000001  0.76666668 -0.20000001]
 [ 0.375       1.3          -0.3         1.15      ]
 [-0.2          0.05        -0.6        -0.45      ]]
```

Matrix  $\sigma(D^{-1}AHW^T + HB^T)$  :

```
[[0.23333335 0.53333333 0.06666667 0.19999999]
 [0.          0.45        0.          0.525      ]
 [0.35        1.35        0.85        1.075      ]
 [0.          0.05        0.          0.          ]
 [0.35        1.175       0.175       0.75       ]
 [1.50000001  0.20000001  0.76666668 0.          ]
 [0.375       1.3          0.          1.15      ]
 [0.          0.05        0.          0.          ]]
```

# Train a GNN

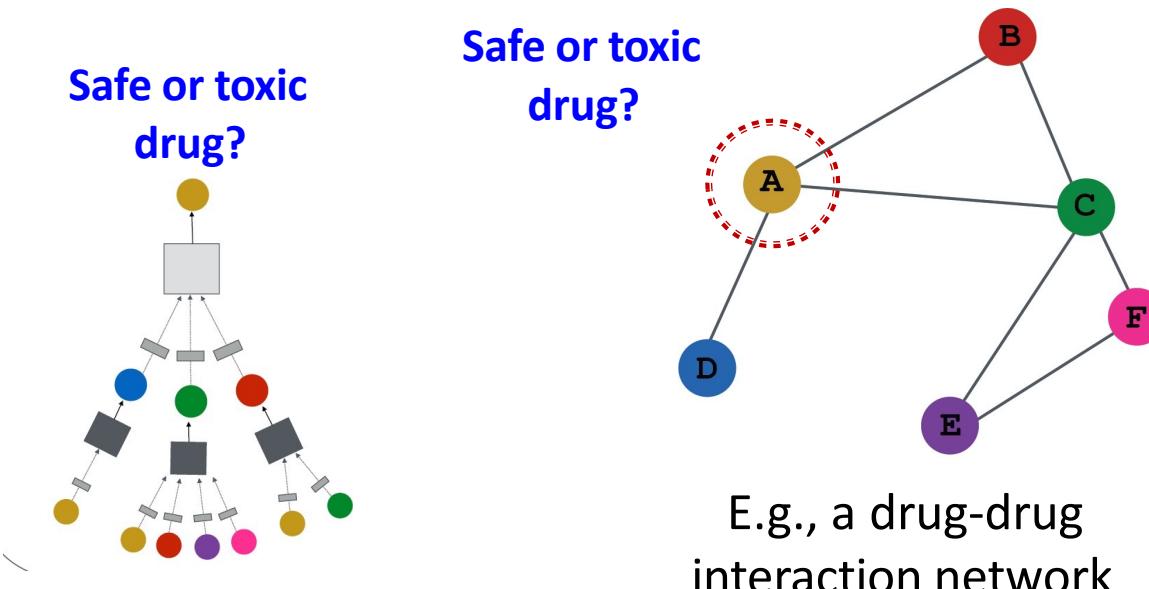
- Node embedding  $\mathbf{z}_v$  is a function of input graph
- **Supervised setting:** we want to minimize the loss  $\mathcal{L}$ :

$$\min_{\Theta} \mathcal{L}(\mathbf{y}, f(\mathbf{z}_v))$$

- $\mathbf{y}$ : node label
  - $\mathcal{L}$  could be L2 if  $\mathbf{y}$  is real number, or cross entropy if  $\mathbf{y}$  is categorical
- **Unsupervised setting:**
  - No node label available
  - **Use the graph structure as the supervision!**

# Supervised Training

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



# Supervised Training

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

- Use cross entropy loss

$\mathcal{L} = -\sum_{v \in V} [y_v \log(\sigma(z_v^T \theta)) + (1 - y_v) \log(1 - \sigma(z_v^T \theta))]$

Encoder output: node embedding

Classification weights

Node class label

Safe or toxic drug?

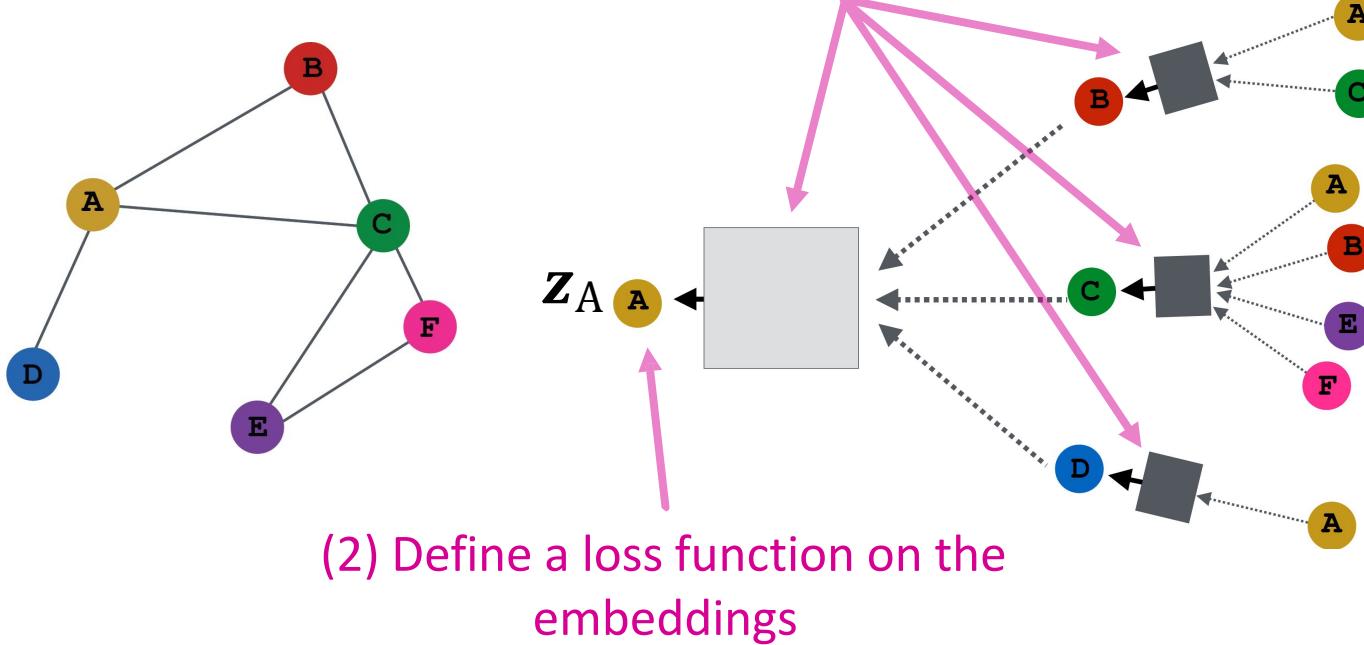
# Unsupervised Training

- “Similar” nodes have similar embeddings

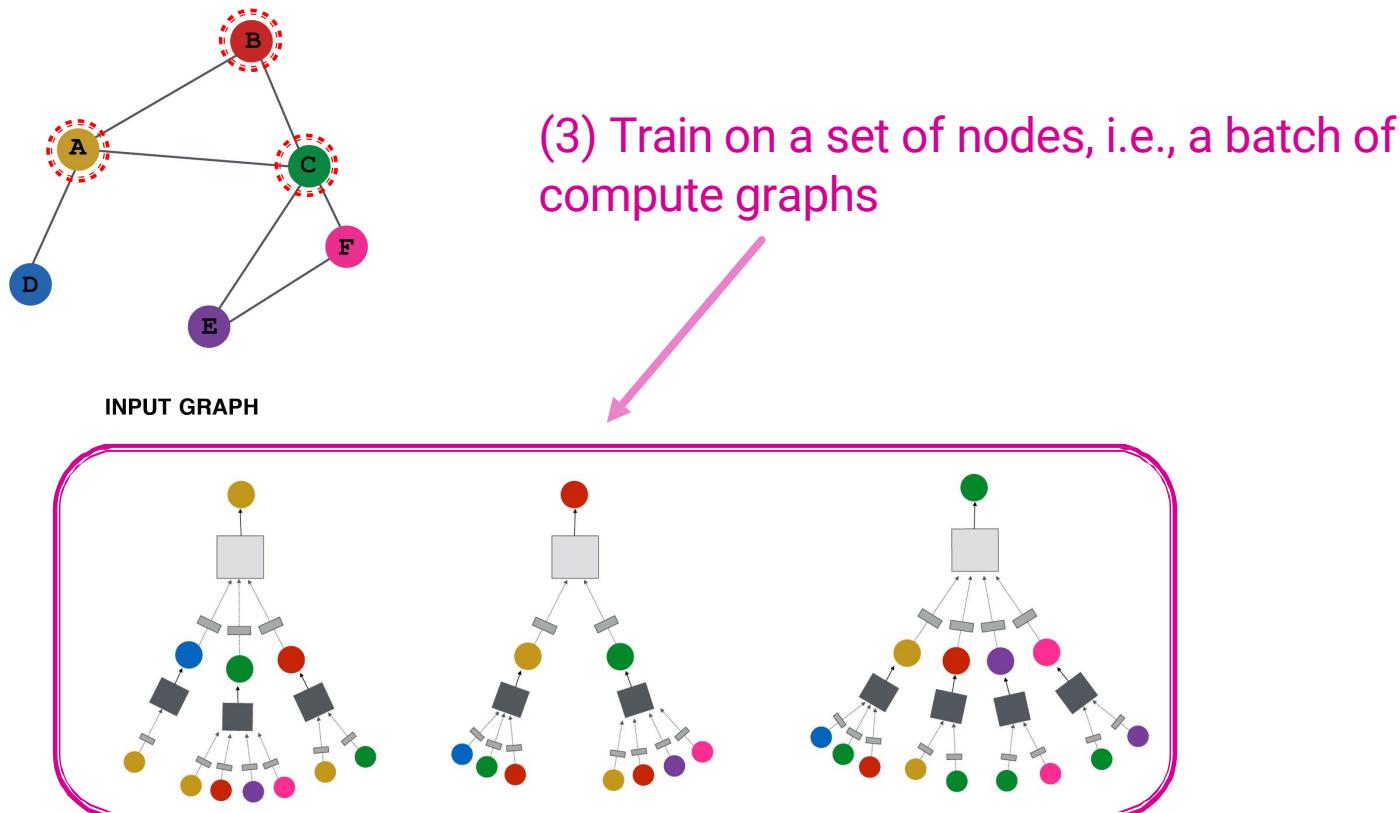
$$\mathcal{L} = \sum_{z_u, z_v} \text{CE}(y_{u,v}, \text{DEC}(z_u, z_v))$$

- Where  $y_{u,v}$  = 1 when node  $u$  and  $v$  are **similar**
- **CE** is the cross entropy
- **DEC** is the decoder such as inner product
- **Node similarity** can be anything from previous lectures, e.g., a loss based on:
  - **Random walks** (node2vec, DeepWalk, struc2vec)
  - **Node proximity in the graph**

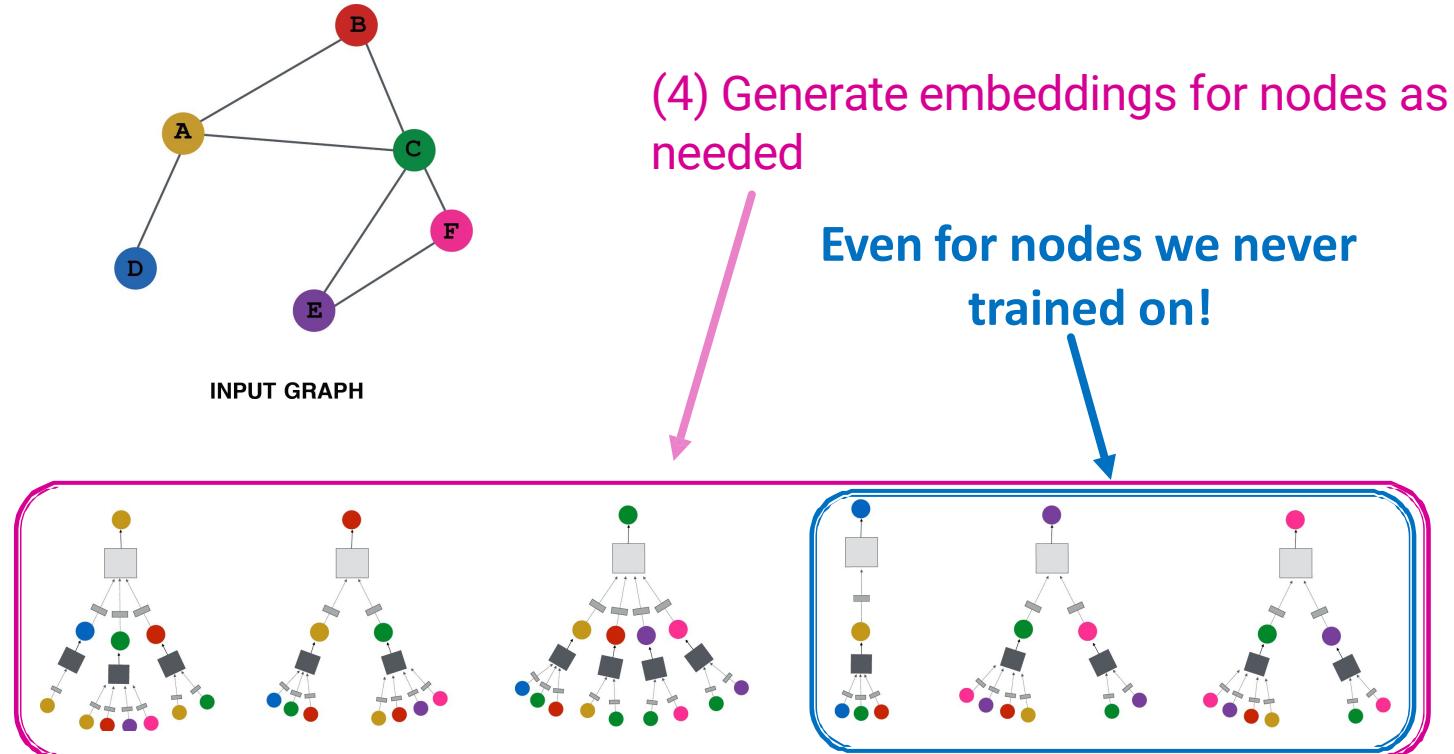
# Model Design: Overview



# Model Design: Overview

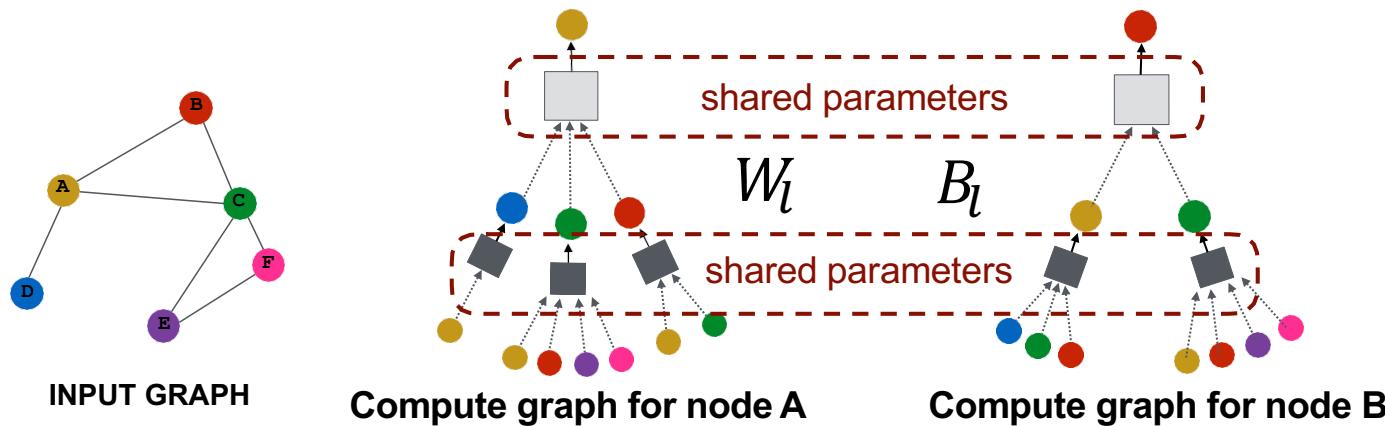


# Model Design: Overview

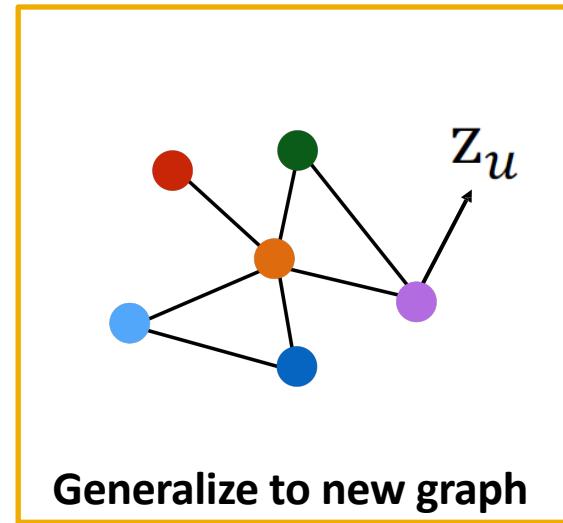
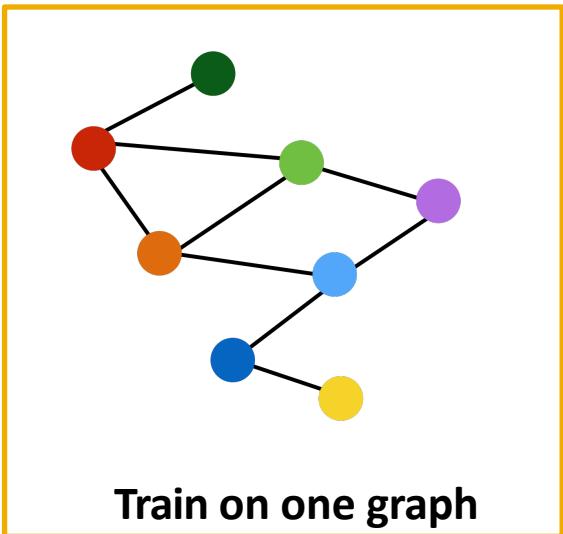


# Inductive Capability

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



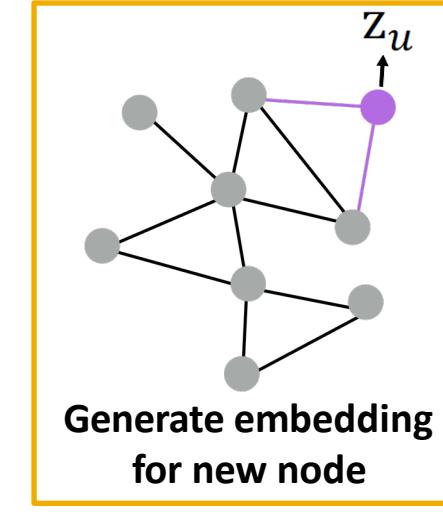
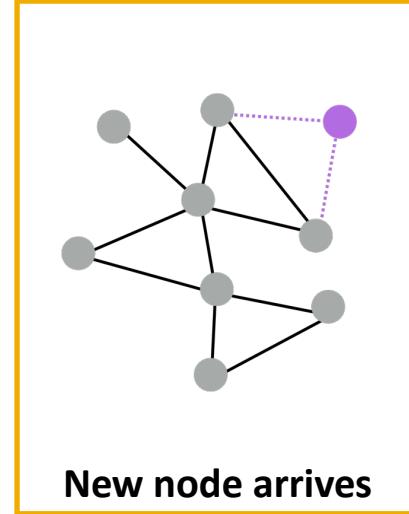
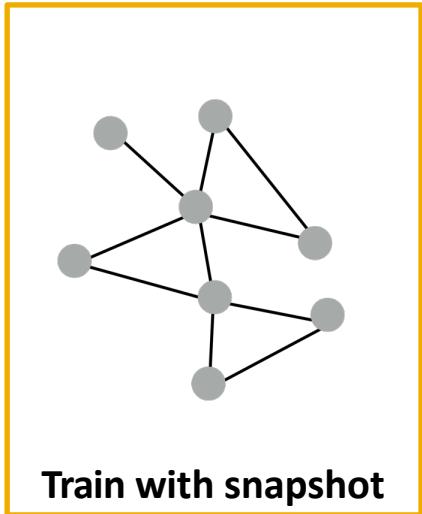
# Inductive Capability: New Graphs



Inductive node embedding → Generalize to entirely unseen graphs

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

# Inductive Capability: New Nodes

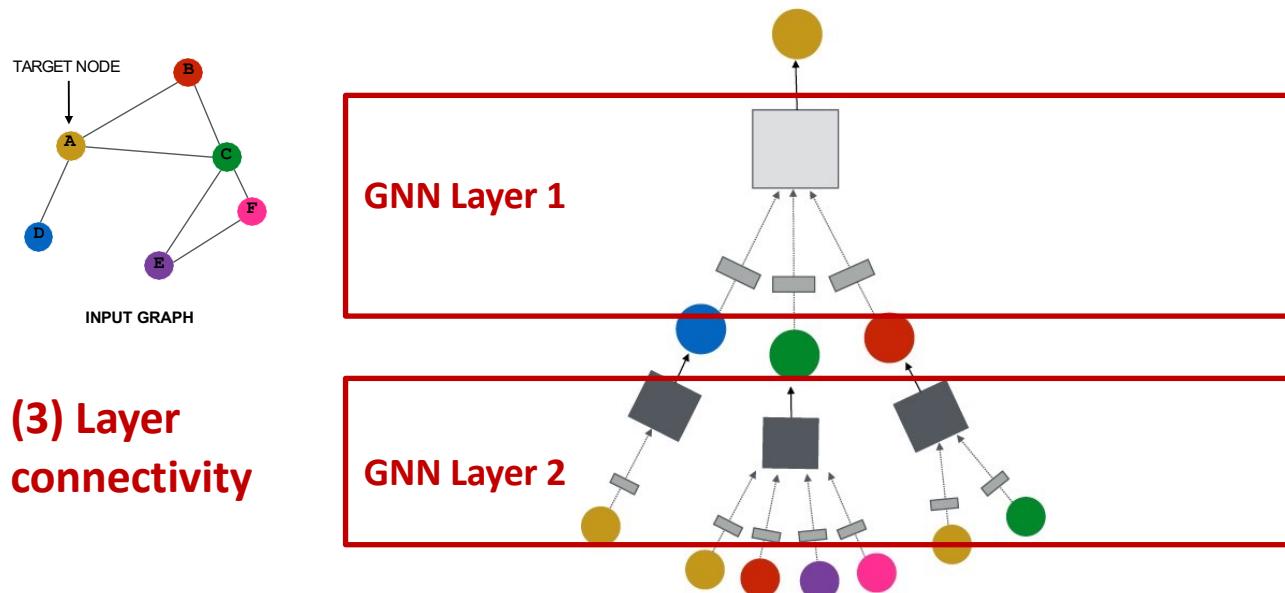


- Many application settings constantly encounter previously unseen nodes:
  - E.g., Reddit, YouTube, Google Scholar
- Need to generate new embeddings “on the fly”

# Stacking GNN Layers

**How to connect GNN layers into a GNN?**

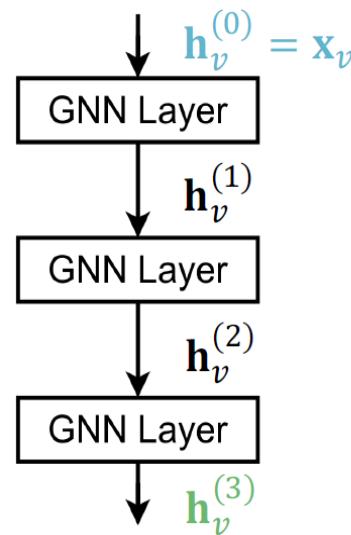
1. Stack layers sequentially



# Stacking GNN Layers

## ■ How to construct a Graph Neural Network?

- The standard way: Stack GNN layers sequentially
- Input: Initial raw node feature  $\mathbf{x}_v$
- Output: Node embeddings  $\mathbf{h}_v^{(L)}$  after  $L$  GNN layers

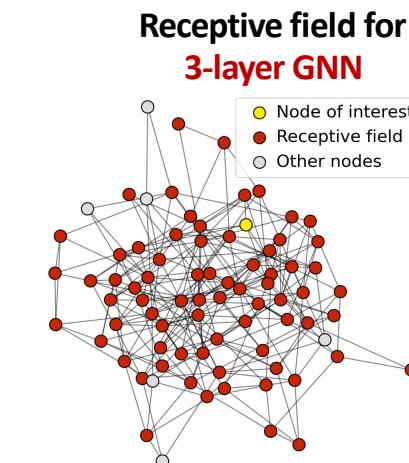
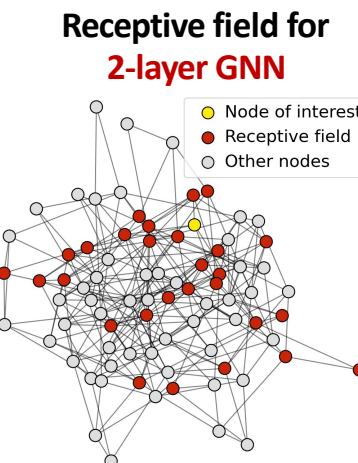
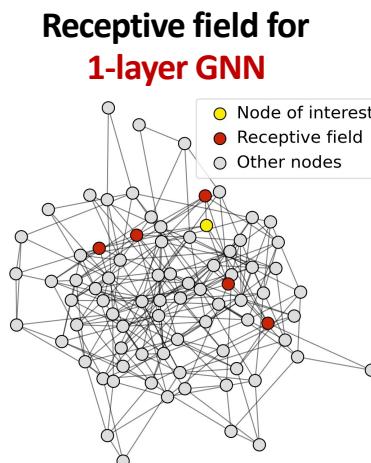


# An Over-smoothing Problem

- **The Issue of stacking many GNN layers**
  - GNN suffers from **the over-smoothing problem**
- **The over-smoothing problem: all the node embeddings converge to the same value**
  - This is bad because we **want to use node embeddings to differentiate nodes**
- **Why does the over-smoothing problem happen?**

# Receptive Field of a GNN

- **Receptive field:** the set of nodes that determine the embedding of a node of interest
- In a  $K$ -layer GNN, each node has a receptive field of  $K$ -hop neighborhood

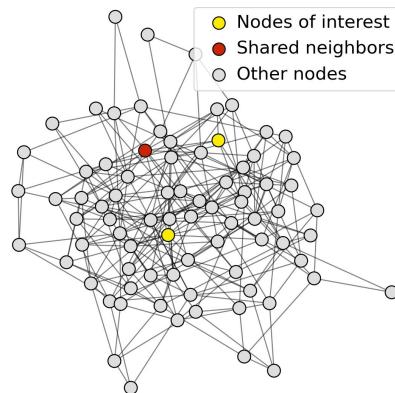


# Receptive Field of a GNN

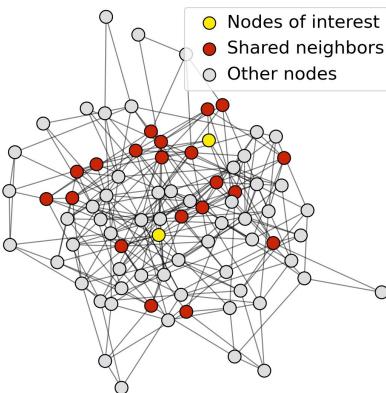
## ■ Receptive field overlap for two nodes

- **The shared neighbors quickly grows** when we increase the number of hops (num of GNN layers)

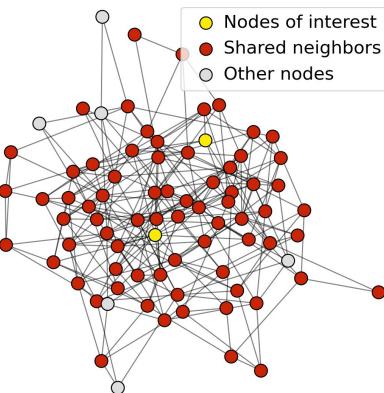
**1-hop neighbor overlap** Only 1 node



**2-hop neighbor overlap** About 20 nodes



**3-hop neighbor overlap** Almost all the nodes!



# Receptive Field & Over-smoothing

- We can explain over-smoothing via the notion of receptive field
  - The embedding of a node is determined by its receptive field
    - If two nodes have highly-overlapped receptive fields, then their embeddings are highly similar
  - Stack many GNN layers → nodes will have highly- overlapped receptive fields → node embeddings will be highly similar → suffer from the over- smoothing problem
- Next: how do we overcome over-smoothing problem?

# Over-smoothing

Model	2-Layer	4-Layer	8-Layer	16-Layer	32-Layer	64-Layer
GCN-res	$88.18 \pm 1.59$	$86.50 \pm 1.87$	$84.83 \pm 1.93$	$78.60 \pm 4.28$	$59.82 \pm 7.74$	$39.71 \pm 5.15$
PairNorm	$79.98 \pm 3.80$	$82.32 \pm 2.79$	$81.52 \pm 3.66$	$82.29 \pm 2.62$	$81.91 \pm 2.45$	$81.72 \pm 2.82$
NodeNorm	$89.53 \pm 1.29$	$88.60 \pm 1.36$	$88.02 \pm 1.67$	$88.41 \pm 1.25$	$88.30 \pm 1.30$	$87.40 \pm 2.06$

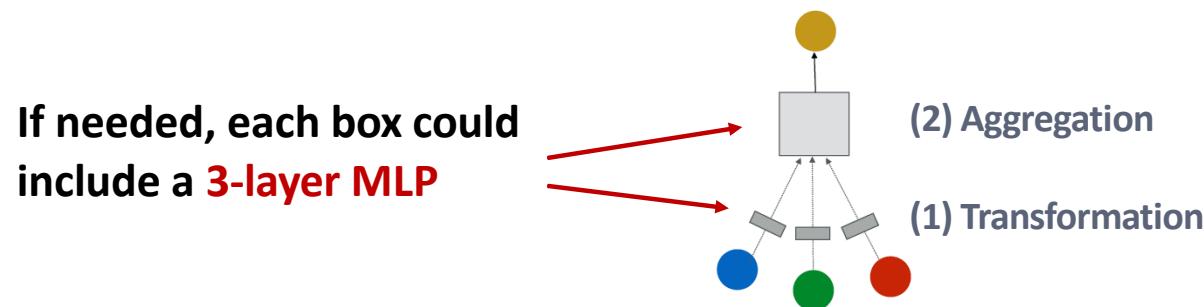
Typical results of node classification accuracy on CoauthorCS dataset

# Design GNN Layer Connectivity

- What do we learn from the over-smoothing problem?
- **Lesson: Be cautious when adding GNN layers**
  - Unlike neural networks in other domains (CNN for image classification), **adding more GNN layers do not always help**
  - **Step 1:** Analyze the necessary receptive field to solve your problem. E.g., by computing the diameter of the graph
  - **Step 2:** Set number of GNN layers  $L$  to be a bit more than the receptive field we like. **Do not set  $L$  to be unnecessarily large!**

# Expressive Power for Shallow GNNs

- **Question:** How to enhance the expressive power of a GNN, if the number of GNN layers is small?
- **Solution:** Increase the expressive power **within each GNN layer**
  - In our previous examples, each transformation or aggregation function **only include one linear layer**
  - We can **make aggregation / transformation become a deep neural network!**



# Learning Outcome

- Generate node embeddings by aggregating neighborhood information
- Key distinctions are in how different approaches aggregate information across the layers