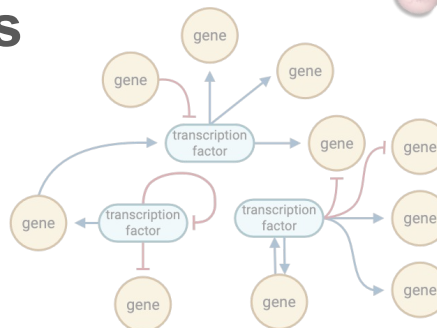


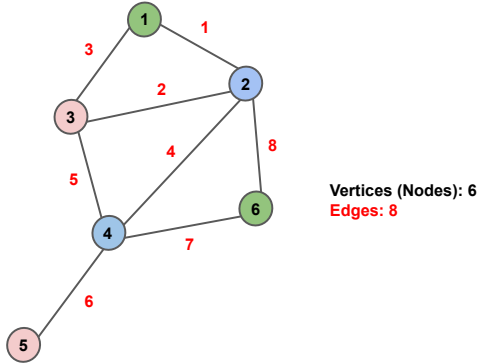
Introduction to Graph Neural Networks

Applications in Bioinformatics



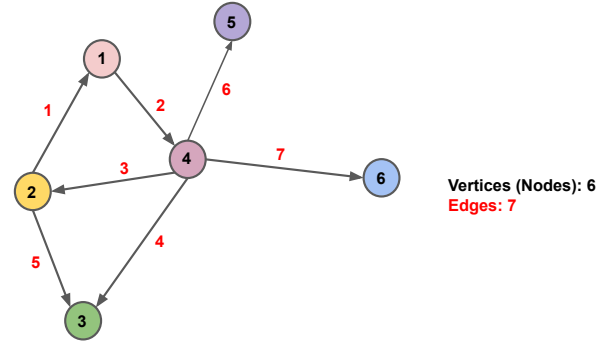
What are Graphs?

Undirected Graph

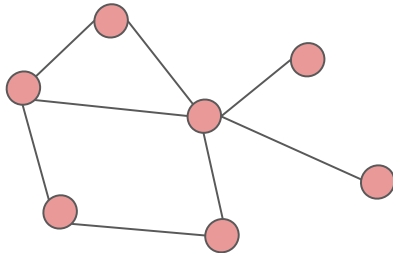


$$G = (V, E)$$

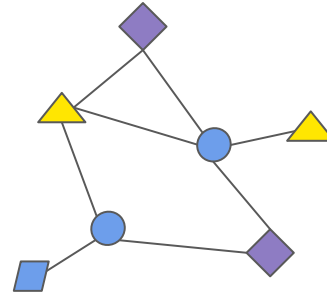
Directed Graph



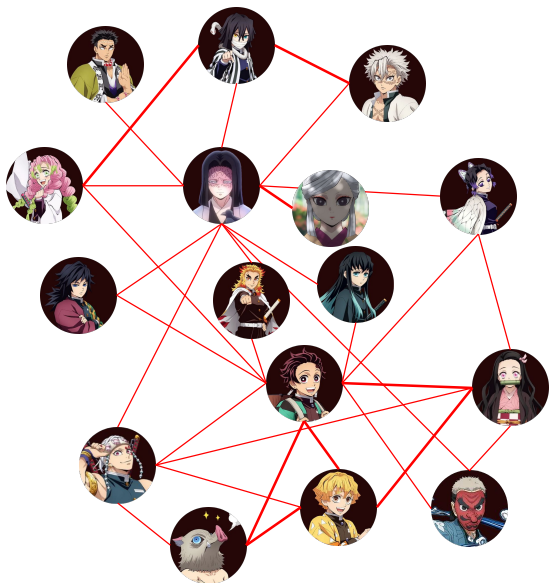
Homogenous Graph



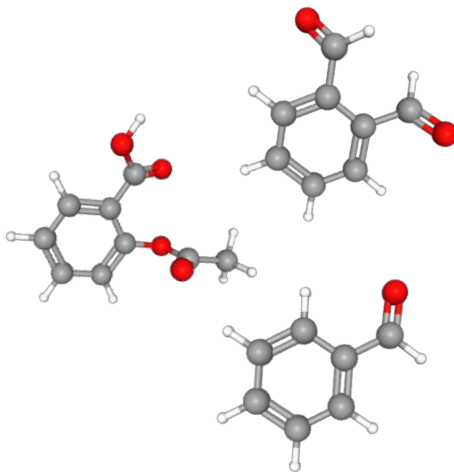
Heterogenous Graph



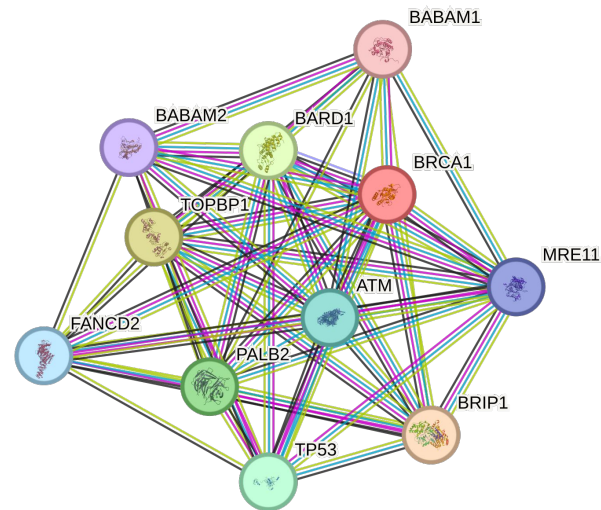
Graphs are all around us



SOCIAL NETWORKS



MOLECULES



**PROTEIN-PROTEIN
INTERACTION**

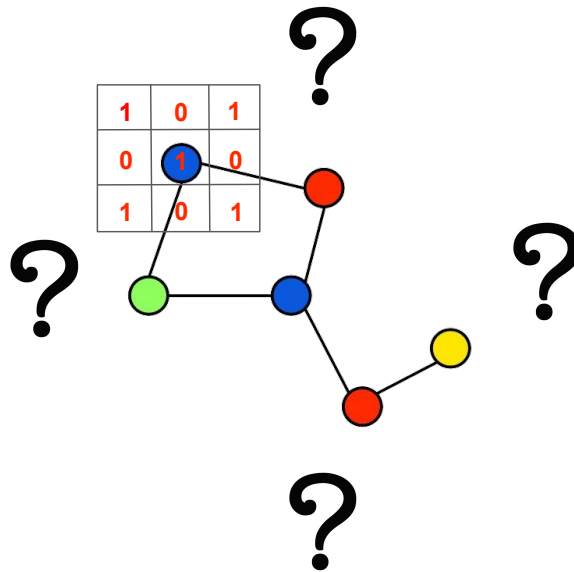
Motivation behind Graph Neural Networks

1 _{x1}	1 _{x0}	1 _{x1}	0	0
0 _{x0}	1 _{x1}	1 _{x0}	1	0
0 _{x1}	0 _{x0}	1 _{x1}	1	1
0	0	1	1	0
0	1	1	0	0

Image

4		

Convolved
Feature

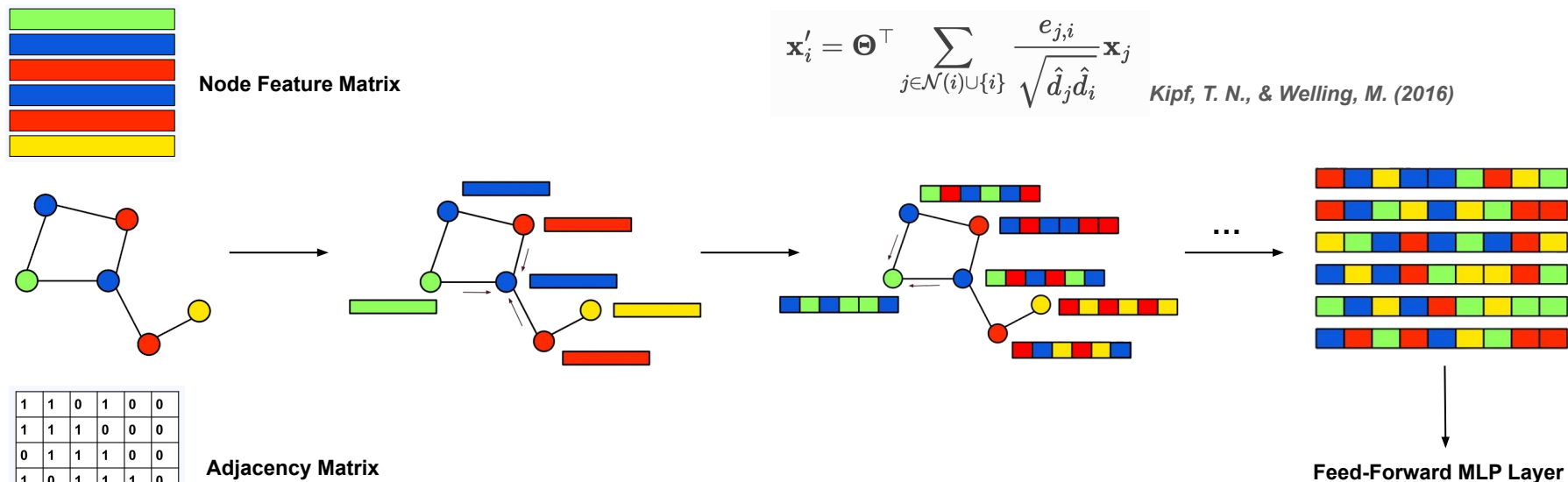


Images are euclidean as 2D/3D pixel grid

Graphs are non-euclidean (now
how to operate convolutions?)

Message Passing (The Core Concept)

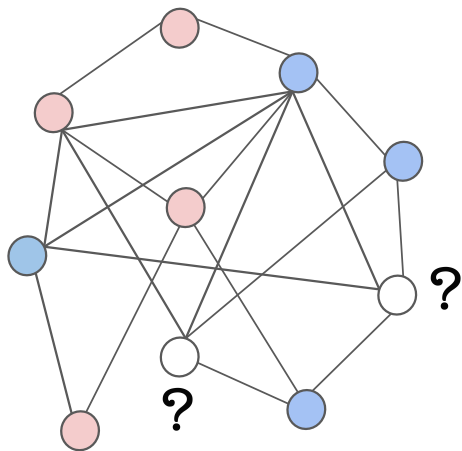
Updated Node A = Update(Node A, Aggregate(Neighbors of Node A))



Source: Kumar et al. graphB3 - An Interpretable Graph Learning Approach for Predicting Blood-Brain Barrier Permeability (Under Revision in BIB)

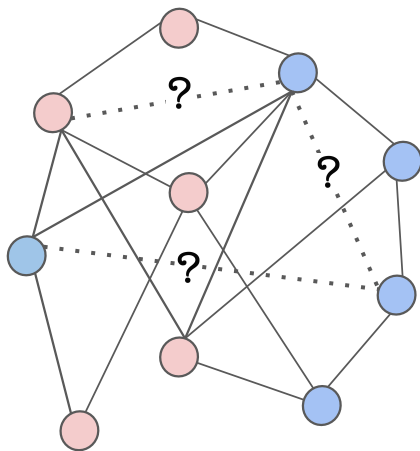
Types of prediction tasks with GNNs

Node-Level



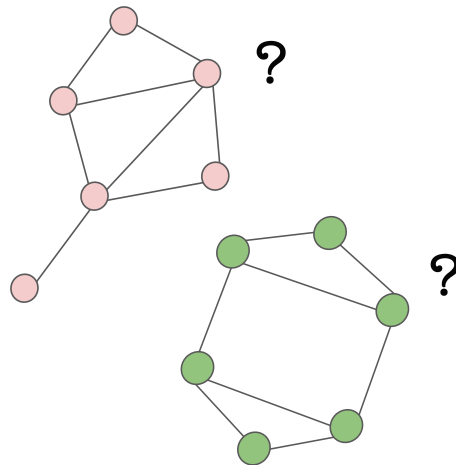
- Protein function in a PPI Network
- Gene expression state in a GRN
- Cell-cell interaction in multi omics data

Edge-Level



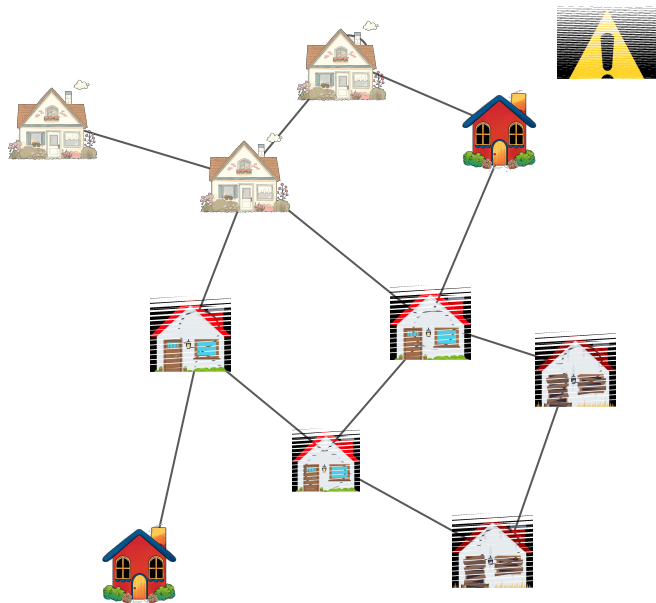
- Relation between a gene and a disease in a gene-disease network
- Whether two proteins are interacting in a PPI network
- Predict if two drugs work synergistically

Graph-Level



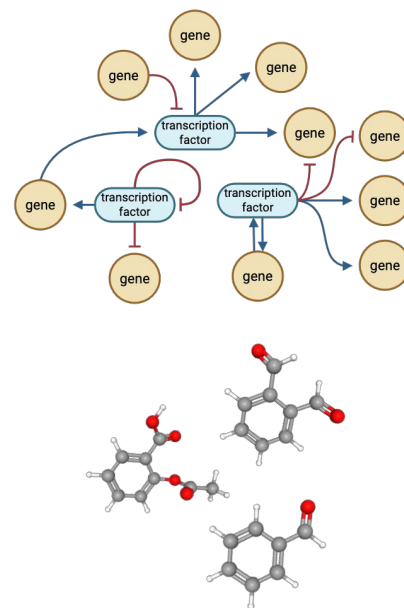
- Drug Discovery
- Protein function prediction

When to use Graph Neural Networks?



Predicting housing prices using GNNs?

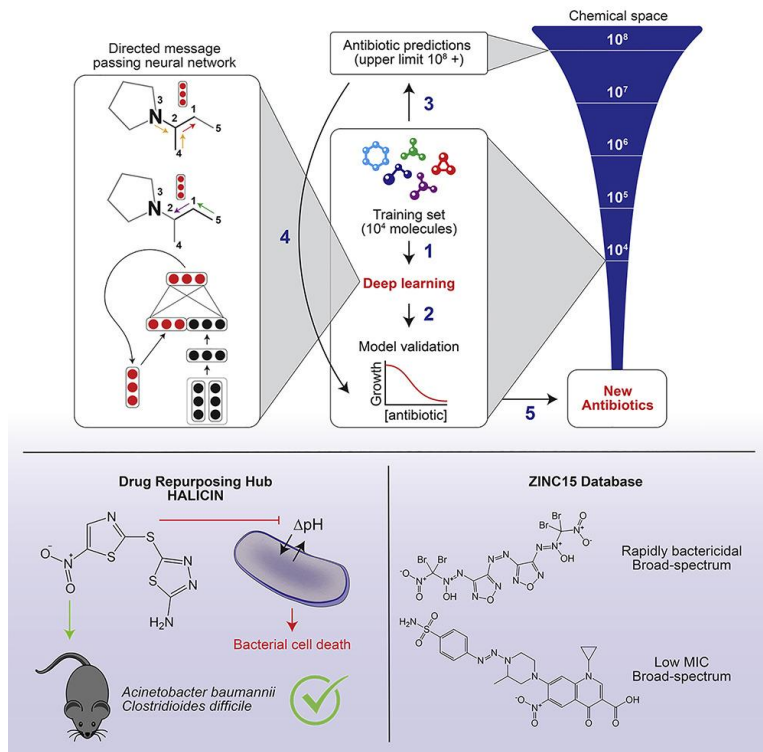
KEYWORDS: Dependency, diversity, size, etc.



Predicting a gene activity in a Gene Regulatory Network or Predicting a molecules activity?

Examples

Stokes et al.



Cell



Volume 180, Issue 4, 20 February 2020, Pages 688-702.e13

Article

A Deep Learning Approach to Antibiotic Discovery

Jonathan M. Stokes^{1,2,3}, Kevin Yang^{3,4,10}, Kyle Swanson^{3,4,10}, Wengong Jin^{3,4}, Andres Cubillos-Ruiz^{1,2,5}, Nina M. Donghia^{1,5}, Craig R. MacNair⁶, Shawn French⁶, Lindsey A. Carfrae⁶, Zohar Bloom-Ackermann^{2,7}, Victoria M. Tran², Anush Chiappino-Pepe^{5,7}, Ahmed H. Badran², Ian W. Andrews^{1,2,5}, Emma J. Chory^{1,2}, George M. Church^{5,7,8}, Eric D. Brown⁶, Tommi S. Jaakkola^{3,4}, Regina Barzilay^{3,4,9}, James J. Collins^{1,2,5,8,9,11}

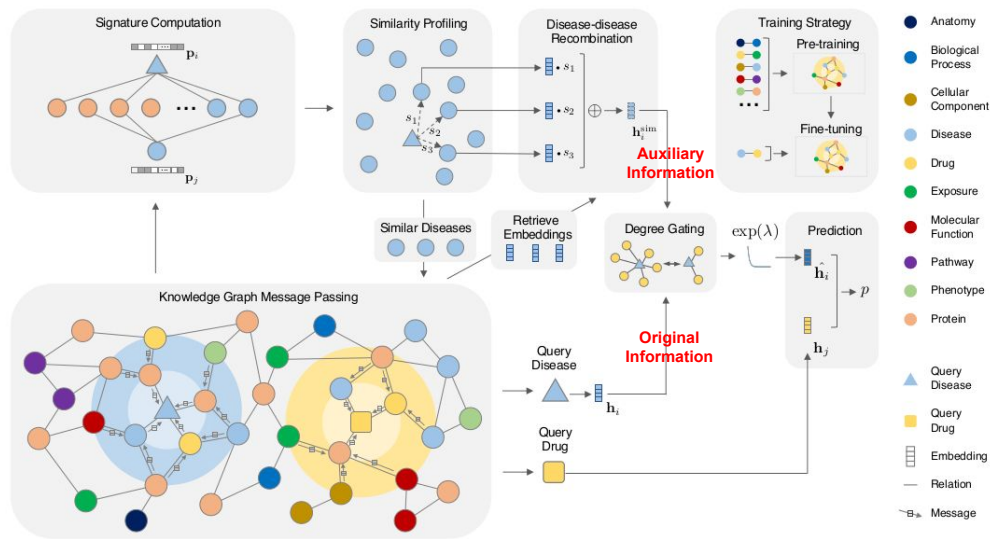
Model	Feature	Rank of Halicin
Graph neural network	Learned	61
Feed-forward neural network	RDKit features (fixed)	273
Feed-forward neural network	Morgan fingerprint (fixed)	1217
Random forest	Morgan fingerprint (fixed)	2640
Support vector machine	Morgan fingerprint (fixed)	771

Top 99 compounds were experimentally validated out of which 51 were indeed antibiotics

Source: Wengong Jin, CSAIL, MIT

Examples

Huang et al.



TxGNN predicted 478 diseases and 1290 drugs found in electronic medical records.

nature medicine

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Article | [Open access](#) | Published: 25 September 2024

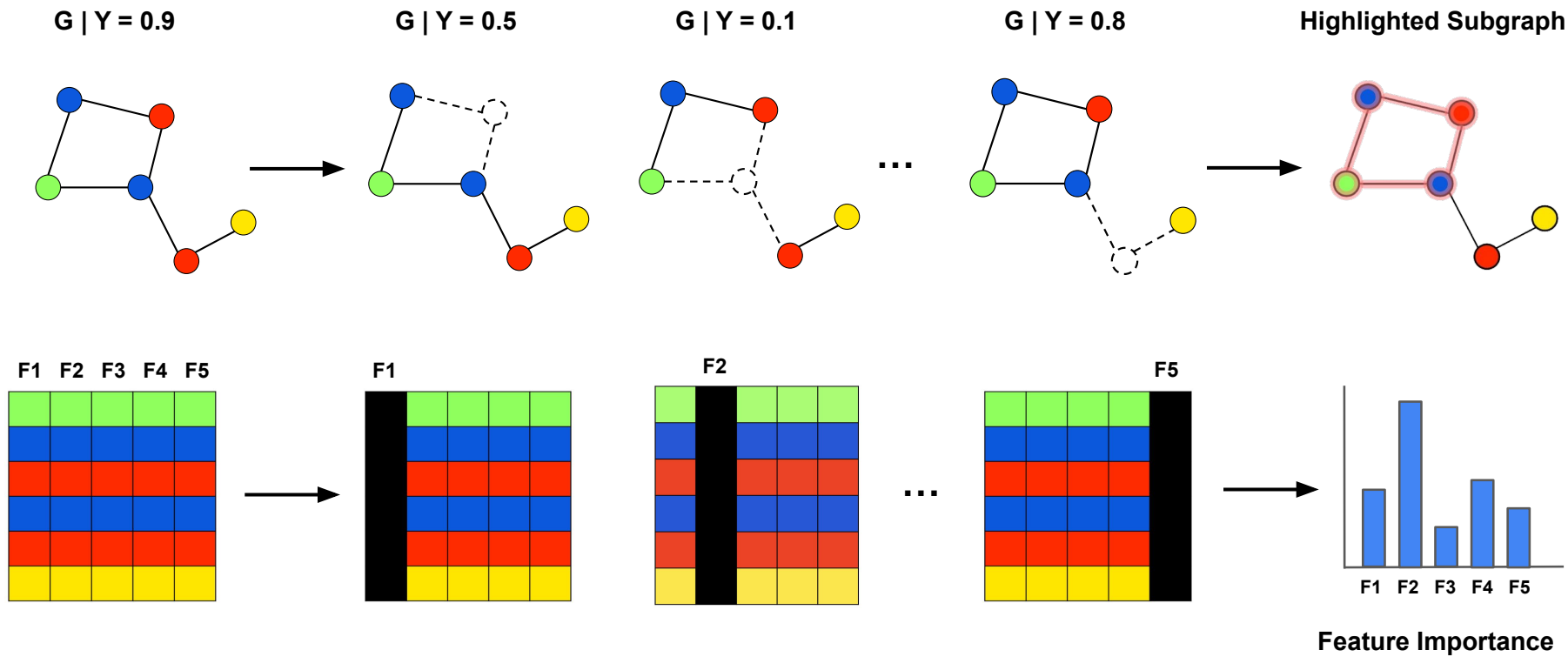
A foundation model for clinician-centered drug repurposing

[Kexin Huang](#), [Payal Chandak](#), [Qianwen Wang](#), [Shreyas Havaladar](#), [Akhil Vaid](#), [Jure Leskovec](#), [Girish N. Nadkarni](#), [Benjamin S. Glicksberg](#), [Nils Gehlenborg](#) & [Marinka Zitnik](#)

[Nature Medicine](#) **30**, 3601–3613 (2024) | [Cite this article](#)

60k Accesses | 16 Citations | 223 Altmetric | [Metrics](#)

Graph-Based Explainable AI (graphXAI)



Example: Perturbation-Based Method (GNExplainer, PGExplainer, SubgraphX, etc.)

Source: Kumar et al. graphB3

Limitations & Future Directions

- **Over-Smoothing**: Repeated aggregation can make node embeddings too similar.
- **Scalability**: GNNs struggle with large graphs, long-range connections are challenging to handle.
- **Computation-Cost**: Message passing can be memory-intensive and slow for deep architectures.
- Lack of standardized frameworks to build your own graphs.
- **Graph Transformers** is an active area of research that deals with a problem of over-smoothing and scalability; however it increases computational cost further.
- **Graph coarsening** or **hierarchical pooling** can alleviate scalability issues by reducing graph size while preserving key structural information.

Resources

References:

- Kipf, T. N., & Welling, M. (2016). Semi-supervised classification with graph convolutional networks. In arXiv [cs.LG]. <http://arxiv.org/abs/1609.02907>, ICLR 2017
- Morris, C., Ritzert, M., Fey, M., Hamilton, W. L., Lenssen, J. E., Rattan, G., & Grohe, M. (2019). Weisfeiler and Leman go neural: Higher-order graph neural networks. Proceedings of the ... AAAI Conference on Artificial Intelligence. AAAI Conference on Artificial Intelligence, 33(01), 4602–4609. <https://doi.org/10.1609/aaai.v33i01.33014602>
- Ying, R., Bourgeois, D., You, J., Zitnik, M., & Leskovec, J. (2019). GNNExplainer: Generating explanations for graph Neural Networks. Neural Information Processing Systems, 32, 9240–9251.

Get started with Pytorch basics: <https://docs.pytorch.org/tutorials/index.html>

Get started with Pytorch-Geometric: https://pytorch-geometric.readthedocs.io/en/2.6.1/get_started/colabs.html

Helpful video-series:

- https://youtube.com/playlist?list=PLV8yxwGOxvvoNkzPfCx2i8an--Tkt7O8Z&si=VTnpJtlq_r4B3Gkj
- <https://youtube.com/playlist?list=PLoROMvodv4rPLKxlpqhjhPgDQy7imNkDn&si=NYW9fLugoMyndkm1>

GNN for Drug Discovery:

- https://deepchem.readthedocs.io/en/latest/api_reference/featurizers.html#graph-convolution-featurizers
- <https://deepchem.io/tutorials/introduction-to-graph-convolutions/>



Thank You



Thank you!