

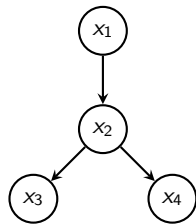
# CS-E4890: Deep Learning

## Graph neural networks

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Alexander Ilin

- Previously we processed the following types of inputs:
  - vectors whose elements do not have special order: multi-layer perceptron
  - inputs with 1d or 2d spatial structure: convolutional networks
  - sequences with varying lengths: recurrent neural networks, transformers
- In some applications, the input can be represented as a graph.
- A graph is defined as a 3-tuple  $G = (u; V; E)$ :
  - $u$  is a global attribute
  - $V$  is a set of nodes with attributes  $x_i$
  - $E$  is a set of edges with attributes  $e_{kj}$



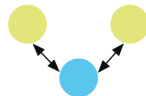
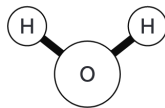
$$V = \{x_1, x_2, x_3, x_4\}$$

$$E = \{e_{12}, e_{23}, e_{24}\}$$

## Example of data that can be represented as graphs: Molecules

- The task is to predict chemical properties of molecules (Duvenaud et al., 2015; Gilmer et al., 2017):

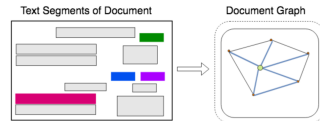
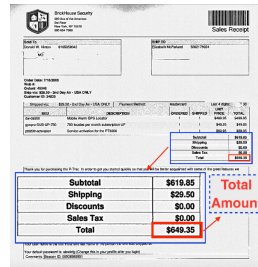
- toxicity
- excitation spectra
- the level of activity of a chemical compound against cancer cells



- A graph representation of a molecule:
  - global attribute  $u$ : some known property of a molecule (e.g., number of atoms)
  - nodes  $V$ : each node corresponds to an atom, a node's attribute  $x_i$  is the atom's identity
  - edges  $E$  correspond to bond (e.g., edges do not have properties)
- The task is similar to regression but the inputs are graphs:  $\mathcal{G} \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^n$ .

## Example of data that can be represented as graphs: Documents

- The task is to extract information from documents, for example, extract line items from scanned receipts.
- OCR software can extract text segments from scanned documents. Then, we can build a graph representation of a scanned document:
  - nodes: each node corresponds to a text segment;
  - edges can have properties such as the distance between the segments, whether the segments are in the same row/column.
- The task: node classification (two classes: text segment represents a line item or not).



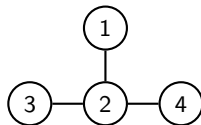
images from (Liu et al., 2019)

- We can represent the attributes of the nodes using matrix

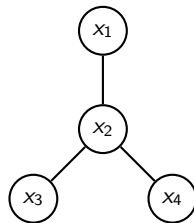
$$\mathbf{X}_{4 \times F} = \begin{bmatrix} \mathbf{x}_1^\top \\ \mathbf{x}_2^\top \\ \mathbf{x}_3^\top \\ \mathbf{x}_4^\top \end{bmatrix}$$

- We can represent the graph topology using an *adjacency matrix*:

$$\mathbf{A} = \begin{bmatrix} 0 & 1 & 0 & 0 \\ 1 & 0 & 1 & 1 \\ 0 & 1 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 & 0 & 0 \end{bmatrix}$$



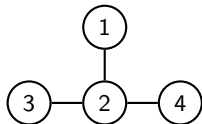
- Graph is an explicit representation of a set of entities (objects) and their relations.
- We need a learning algorithm which models objects and their interactions and grounds modeling in data.
- There is no “default” deep learning component which operates on an arbitrary relational structure. We will review several neural architectures proposed for this task. We will call all such architectures *graph neural networks*.



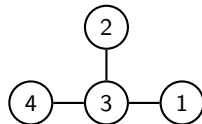
An example of an undirected graph

## Requirement of permutation invariance or equivariance

- Since nodes in a graph do not have a specific order (typically), we can get different representations of the same graph by re-labeling the nodes:



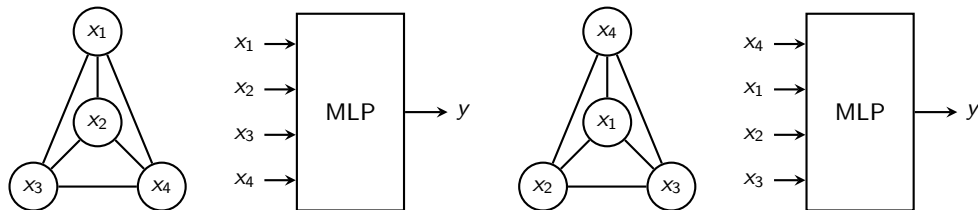
$$\mathbf{X}_{4 \times F} = \begin{bmatrix} \mathbf{x}_1^\top \\ \mathbf{x}_2^\top \\ \mathbf{x}_3^\top \\ \mathbf{x}_4^\top \end{bmatrix} \quad \mathbf{A} = \begin{bmatrix} 0 & 1 & 0 & 0 \\ 1 & 0 & 1 & 1 \\ 0 & 1 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 & 0 & 0 \end{bmatrix}$$



$$\mathbf{X}_{4 \times F} = \begin{bmatrix} \mathbf{x}_4^\top \\ \mathbf{x}_1^\top \\ \mathbf{x}_2^\top \\ \mathbf{x}_3^\top \end{bmatrix} \quad \mathbf{A} = \begin{bmatrix} 0 & 0 & 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 & 0 \\ 1 & 1 & 0 & 1 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 & 0 \end{bmatrix}$$

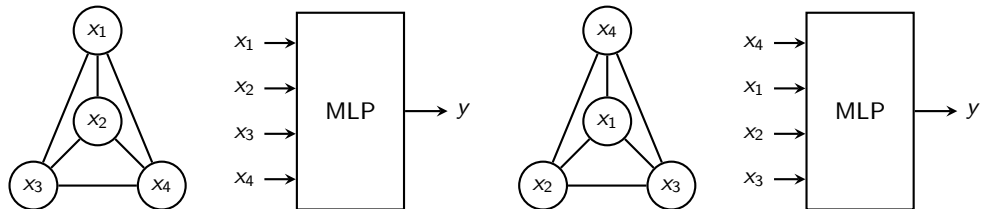
- The output of a graph neural network should be invariant (or equivariant) to node permutations.

- Suppose we use an MLP to process fully-connected graphs. Is the output of an MLP invariant to input (node) permutations?





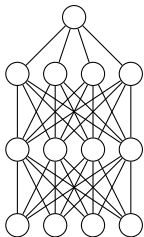
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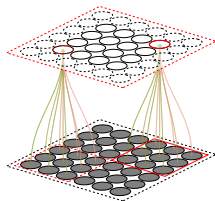
- No. Therefore, an MLP trained on a particular input  $(x_1, x_2, x_3, x_4)$  would not transfer to making a prediction for the same inputs under a different ordering, e.g.,  $(x_4, x_1, x_2, x_3)$ .
- Since there are  $n!$  such possible permutations, an MLP would require a large number of input/output training examples.

## Permutation invariance in previously considered models

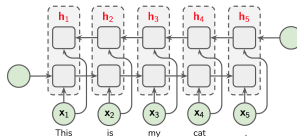
- Are some of the previously considered models invariant or equivariant to input permutations?



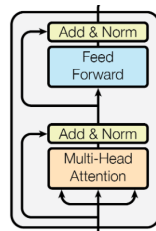
multi-layer  
perceptron



convolutional  
network



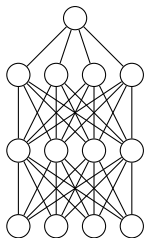
recurrent neural  
network



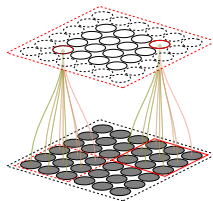
transformer encoder

## Permutation invariance in previously considered models

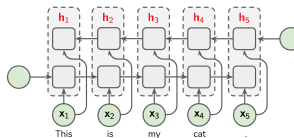
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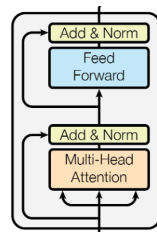
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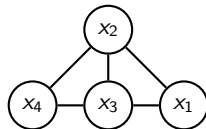
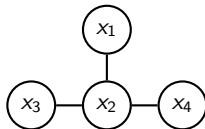
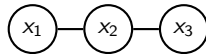
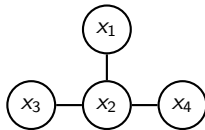
recurrent neural  
network



transformer encoder

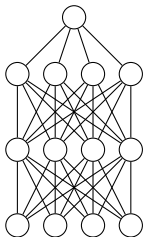
- Transformer encoder: Without positional encoding, the output is equivariant to input permutations.

- The network should be able to process graphs with a varying number of nodes.
- The network should take into account the topology of the graph.

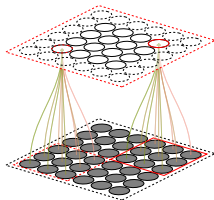


## Ability to process inputs with a varying number of elements

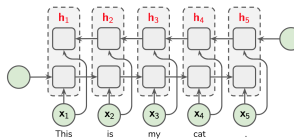
- Which of the previously considered neural networks can process inputs with a varying number of elements?



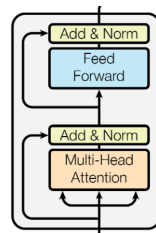
multi-layer  
perceptron



convolutional  
network



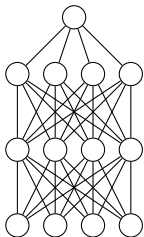
recurrent neural  
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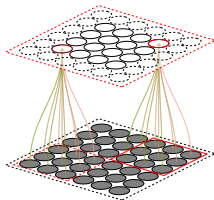
transformer encoder

## Ability to process inputs with a varying number of elements

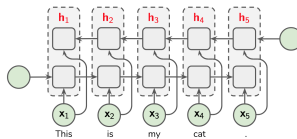
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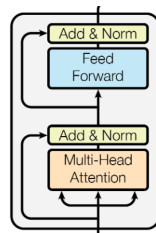
multi-layer  
perceptron



convolutional  
network



recurrent neural  
network

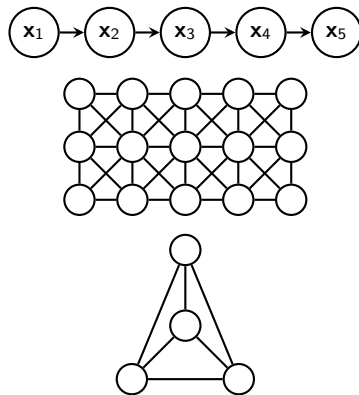


transformer encoder

- CNN, RNN and transformer encoder can process sequences of varying lengths.

## Previous models as “graph neural networks”

- RNN can be viewed as a neural network which can process graphs with the chain topology.
- CNN can be viewed as a network that can process graphs with the grid topology.
- Transformer encoder can be viewed as a neural network that processes fully connected graphs.
- We want to create a neural network that can process graphs with different topologies.

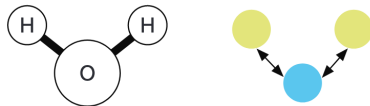


# Neural fingerprint networks

(Duvenaud et al., 2015)



- The task is to predict chemical properties of molecules, e.g.:
  - toxicity
  - excitation spectra
  - the level of activity of a chemical compound against cancer cells
- Neural fingerprint network: Convert a graph that represents a molecule into a real-valued vector  $\mathbf{f}$  (fingerprint) which can be further processed to predict some property.



A molecule, in which each atom is represented as a node and edges correspond to bond.

- *Circular fingerprints* is an algorithm designed to encode which substructures are present in a molecule in a way that is invariant to atom-relabeling (permutation invariance).
- The algorithm starts by assigning an initial integer identifier  $\mathbf{r}_a$  to each atom.
  - We encode various atom properties (e.g., atomic number, connection count, etc.) into a single integer value using a pre-defined hash function. The identifier captures local information about the corresponding atom.
- Then, the following procedure is repeated  $R$  times:
  - Combine the identifiers of all the neighbors and apply a fixed pre-defined hashing function  $\text{hash}()$ .
  - Convert the new identifier  $\mathbf{r}_a$  into index  $i$  and write the value of 1 to the corresponding location  $i$  of the fingerprint vector  $\mathbf{f}$ .

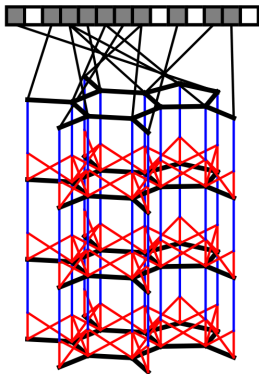
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**Algorithm 1** Circular fingerprints

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```
1: Input: molecule, radius  $R$ , fingerprint length  $S$ 
2: Initialize: fingerprint vector  $\mathbf{f} \leftarrow \mathbf{0}_S$ 
3: for each atom  $a$  in molecule
4:    $\mathbf{r}_a \leftarrow g(a)$   $\triangleright$  lookup atom features
5: for  $L = 1$  to  $R$   $\triangleright$  for each layer
6:   for each atom  $a$  in molecule
7:      $\mathbf{r}_1 \dots \mathbf{r}_N = \text{neighbors}(a)$ 
8:      $\mathbf{v} \leftarrow [\mathbf{r}_a, \mathbf{r}_1, \dots, \mathbf{r}_N]$   $\triangleright$  concatenate
9:      $\mathbf{r}_a \leftarrow \text{hash}(\mathbf{v})$   $\triangleright$  hash function
10:     $i \leftarrow \text{mod}(r_a, S)$   $\triangleright$  convert to index
11:     $\mathbf{f}_i \leftarrow 1$   $\triangleright$  Write 1 at index
12: Return: binary vector  $\mathbf{f}$ 
```

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The structure of the computational graph  
(assuming writing to  $\mathbf{f}$  outside the loop).

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**Algorithm 1** Circular fingerprints

---

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  - 2: **Initialize:** fingerprint vector  $\mathbf{f} \leftarrow \mathbf{0}_S$
  - 3: **for** each atom  $a$  in molecule
  - 4:    $\mathbf{r}_a \leftarrow g(a)$             $\triangleright$  lookup atom features
  - 5: **for**  $L = 1$  to  $R$             $\triangleright$  for each layer
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-

- Duvenaud et al. (2015) “neuralized” the circular fingerprint algorithm:

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```

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**Algorithm 2** Neural graph fingerprints

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```
1: Input: molecule, radius  $R$ , hidden weights  $H_1^1 \dots H_R^5$ , output weights  $W_1 \dots W_R$ 
2: Initialize: fingerprint vector  $\mathbf{f} \leftarrow \mathbf{0}_S$ 
3: for each atom  $a$  in molecule
4:    $\mathbf{r}_a \leftarrow g(a)$   $\triangleright$  lookup atom features
5: for  $L = 1$  to  $R$   $\triangleright$  for each layer
6:   for each atom  $a$  in molecule
7:      $\mathbf{r}_1 \dots \mathbf{r}_N = \text{neighbors}(a)$ 
8:      $\mathbf{v} \leftarrow \mathbf{r}_a + \sum_{i=1}^N \mathbf{r}_i$   $\triangleright$  sum
9:      $\mathbf{r}_a \leftarrow \sigma(\mathbf{v} H_L^N)$   $\triangleright$  smooth function
10:     $\mathbf{i} \leftarrow \text{softmax}(\mathbf{r}_a W_L)$   $\triangleright$  sparsify
11:     $\mathbf{f} \leftarrow \mathbf{f} + \mathbf{i}$   $\triangleright$  add to fingerprint
12: Return: real-valued vector  $\mathbf{f}$ 
```

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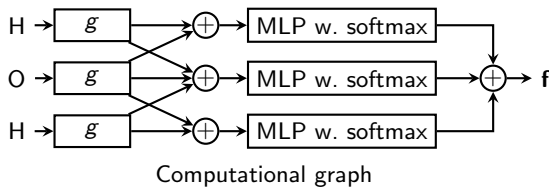
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```

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Note:  $\mathbf{H}_L^N$  is selected based on the number  $N$  of bonds of atom  $a$  (up to 5 in organic molecules).

- Mean predictive accuracy (I guess errors) of neural fingerprints compared to standard circular fingerprints:

Dataset Units	Solubility [4] log Mol/L	Drug efficacy [5] EC <sub>50</sub> in nM	Photovoltaic efficiency [8] percent
Predict mean	4.29 ± 0.40	1.47 ± 0.07	6.40 ± 0.09
Circular FPs + linear layer	1.71 ± 0.13	<b>1.13 ± 0.03</b>	2.63 ± 0.09
Circular FPs + neural net	1.40 ± 0.13	1.36 ± 0.10	2.00 ± 0.09
Neural FPs + linear layer	0.77 ± 0.11	<b>1.15 ± 0.02</b>	2.58 ± 0.18
Neural FPs + neural net	<b>0.52 ± 0.07</b>	<b>1.16 ± 0.03</b>	<b>1.43 ± 0.09</b>

# Interaction networks

(Battaglia et al., 2016)

# Learning dynamics of physical systems

- The task is to predict the next state of a physical system. Examples:



A  $n$ -body system with gravitation.



A rigid body system:  
Balls moving inside a room.



A mass-spring system:  
A rope and a fixed object.

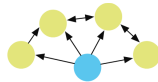
- Modeling assumption: Each pair of objects are in a directed relationship (objects interact with one another). We can represent such physical systems using graphs:



The bodies are nodes and the underlying graph is fully connected.



The balls and walls are nodes, and the underlying graph defines interactions between the balls and between the balls and the walls.



The rope is defined by a sequence of masses which are represented as nodes in the graph.



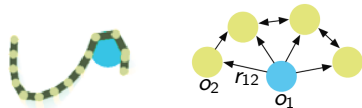
- The first object (the sender  $o_1$ ) influences the second (the receiver  $o_2$ ) via their interaction. The effect of this interaction is predicted by function  $f_R$  which takes as input  $o_1$ ,  $o_2$ , as well as attributes of their relationship  $r$ :

$$e_{1 \rightarrow 2, t+1} = f_R(o_{1, t}, o_{2, t}, r_{12})$$

$r_{12}$  can be for example, the spring constant if objects are attached by a spring.

- The future state  $o_{2, t+1}$  of the receiver is predicted by an object-centric function  $f_O$  which takes as input both  $e_{1 \rightarrow 2, t+1}$  and the receiver's current state  $o_{2, t}$ :

$$o_{2, t+1} = f_O(o_{2, t}, e_{1 \rightarrow 2, t+1})$$



- If there are multiple objects interacting with a given object (e.g.  $o_3$ ), their effects are aggregated:

$$e_{1 \rightarrow 3, t+1} = f_R(o_{1,t}, o_{3,t}, r_{13})$$

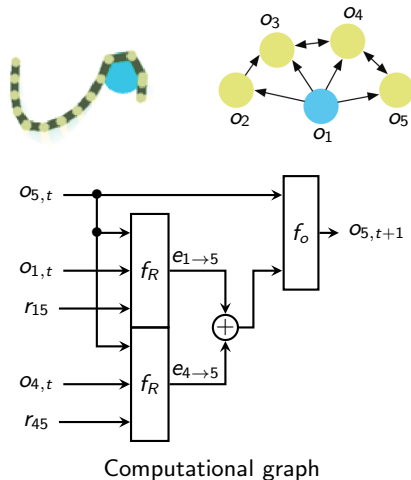
$$e_{2 \rightarrow 3, t+1} = f_R(o_{2,t}, o_{3,t}, r_{23})$$

$$e_{4 \rightarrow 3, t+1} = f_R(o_{4,t}, o_{3,t}, r_{43})$$

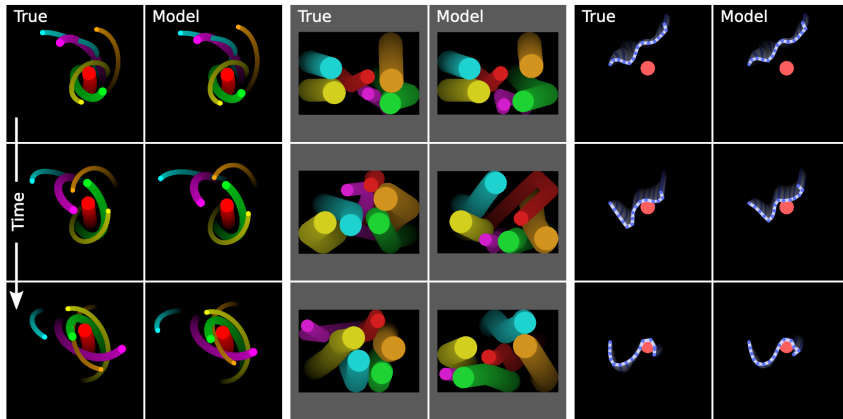
$$o_{3, t+1} = f_O \left( o_{3,t}, \sum_{i=1,2,4} e_{i \rightarrow 3, t+1} \right)$$

where summation is done over all objects interacting with  $o_3$ .

- The future states of all objects are computed in a similar way.

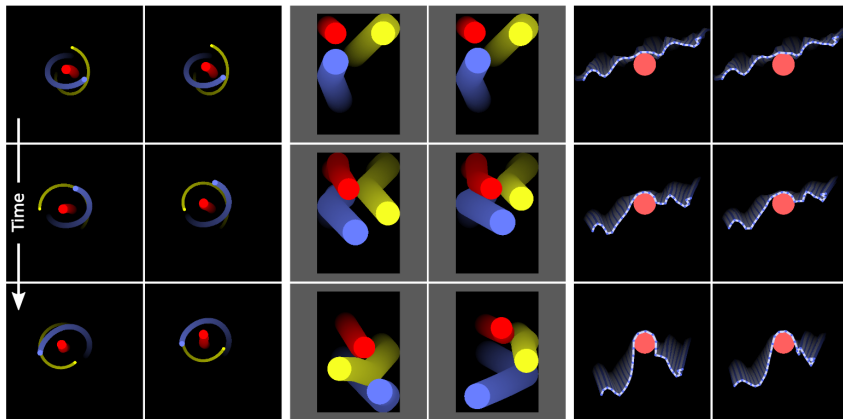


## Interaction networks: Results



Prediction rollouts. Each column contains three panels of three video frames (with motion blur), each spanning 1000 rollout steps. Columns 1-2 are ground truth and model predictions for n-body systems, 3-4 are bouncing balls, and 5-6 are strings.

## Interaction networks: Results



The model was able to generalize to systems of different sizes and structure. For n-body, the training was on 6 bodies, and generalization was to 3 bodies. For balls, the training was on 6 balls, and generalization was to 3 balls. For strings, the training was on 15 masses with 1 end pinned, and generalization was to 30 masses with 0 end pinned.

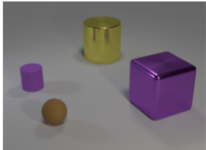
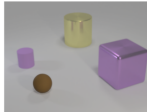
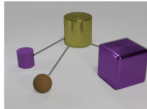
- Mean-squared prediction errors:

Domain	Constant velocity	Baseline	Dynamics-only IN	IN
n-body	82	79	76	<b>0.25</b>
Balls	0.074	0.072	0.074	<b>0.0020</b>
String	0.018	0.016	0.017	<b>0.0011</b>

- Baseline: MLP with two 300-length hidden layers, which took as input a flattened vector of all of the input data
- Dynamics-only IN: a variant of the IN with the interaction effects removed.

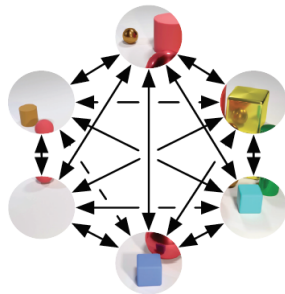
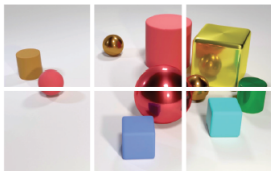
Relational network for  
visual scene understanding  
(Santoro et al., 2017)

- An example from CLEVR dataset of relational reasoning: An image containing four objects is shown alongside non-relational and relational questions. The relational question requires explicit reasoning about the relations between the four objects in the image, whereas the non-relational question requires reasoning about the attributes of a particular object.

<p><b>Original Image:</b></p> 	<p><b>Non-relational question:</b></p> <p>What is the size of the brown sphere?</p>	
	<hr/> <p><b>Relational question:</b></p> <p>Are there any rubber things that have the same size as the yellow metallic cylinder?</p>	

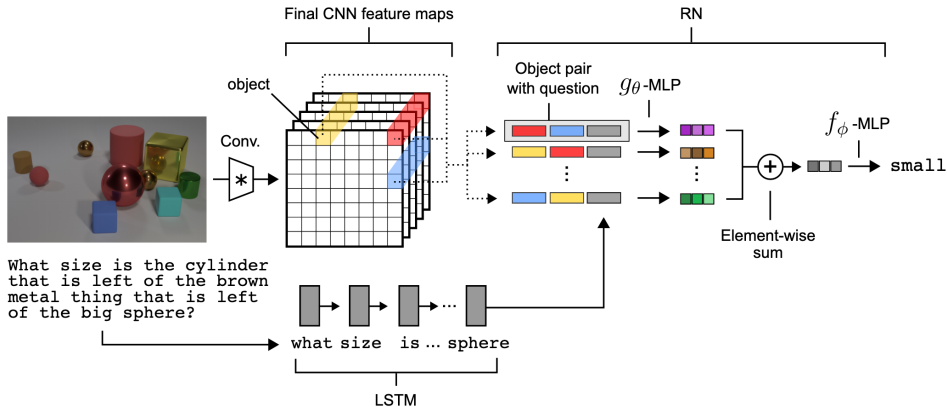
## Visual scene understanding with a relational network (Santoro et al., 2017)

- An image is decomposed into patches. Each patch is treated as an object (a node in a fully connected graph).
- A graph is processed with a relational network (RN) which models relations between each pair of objects to produce the correct answer to a given question.
- The question (its embedding) is used as a global context for modeling relations.





# Visual scene understanding with a relational network (Santoro et al., 2017)



Questions are processed with an LSTM to produce a question embedding. Images are processed with a CNN to produce a set of objects for the RN. Objects (three examples illustrated here in yellow, red, and blue) are constructed using feature-map vectors from the convolved image. The RN considers relations across all pairs of objects, conditioned on the question embedding, and integrates all these relations to answer the question.

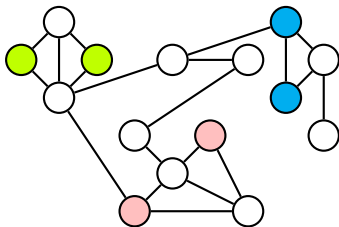
- Results on CLEVR from pixels. Accuracy on the test set broken down by question category:

Model	Overall	Count	Exist	Compare Numbers	Query Attribute	Compare Attribute
Human	92.6	86.7	96.6	86.5	95.0	96.0
Q-type baseline	41.8	34.6	50.2	51.0	36.0	51.3
LSTM	46.8	41.7	61.1	69.8	36.8	51.8
CNN+LSTM	52.3	43.7	65.2	67.1	49.3	53.0
CNN+LSTM+SA	68.5	52.2	71.1	73.5	85.3	52.3
CNN+LSTM+SA*	76.6	64.4	82.7	77.4	82.6	75.4
CNN+LSTM+RN	<b>95.5</b>	<b>90.1</b>	<b>97.8</b>	<b>93.6</b>	<b>97.9</b>	<b>97.1</b>

# Graph Convolutional Networks

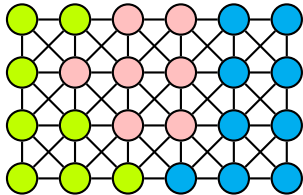
(Kipf and Welling, 2017)

- Graph convolutional networks (GCNs) is a popular type of graph neural networks.
- Motivation of GCNs: semi-supervised classification of nodes in a graph.

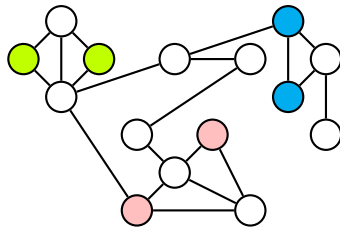


Example:

- nodes are documents
  - edges are citation links
  - node attributes  $x_i$  are bag-of-words features of documents
  - some documents have class labels
- Assumption: when predicting the class of a node, the attributes and connectivity of nearby nodes provide useful side information or additional context.



- Consider an image segmentation problem: classify each pixel of an image.
- Image segmentation is usually done with convolutional neural networks (U-net).
- We can view an image as a graph where each pixel is connected to all its neighbors.

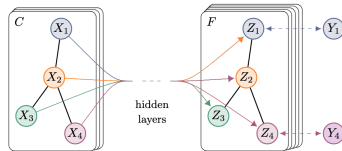


- [Kipf and Welling \(2017\)](#) generalize the concept of convolution to graphs with arbitrary structure.
- They adopt a spectral view on convolutions: convolutions in Fourier-domain are simple pointwise multiplication of the Fourier-transform of a signal.

- The input of a layer is a graph with  $N$  nodes with  $C$ -dimensional attributes  $\mathbf{X} \in \mathbb{R}^{N \times C}$ .
- The output is a graph with the same structure and a new set of features  $\mathbf{Z} \in \mathbb{R}^{N \times F}$ .
- The output is computed (in authors' notation) as:

$$\mathbf{Z} = \hat{\mathbf{A}}\mathbf{X}\mathbf{W}$$

where  $\mathbf{W} \in \mathbb{R}^{C \times F}$  is a matrix of filter parameters and  $\hat{\mathbf{A}} = \tilde{\mathbf{D}}^{-\frac{1}{2}} \tilde{\mathbf{A}} \tilde{\mathbf{D}}^{-\frac{1}{2}}$  with  $\tilde{\mathbf{A}} = \mathbf{A} + \mathbf{I}$  and  $\tilde{D}_{ii} = \sum_j \tilde{A}_{ij}$ .



- $\hat{\mathbf{A}}$  describes the structure of the graph:  $\hat{a}_{ii} \neq 0$  and  $\hat{a}_{ij} \neq 0$  if node  $i$  is connected to node  $j$ .
- For each node  $i$ , we combine signals  $\hat{a}_{ij} \mathbf{W}^\top \mathbf{x}_j$  coming from all its neighbors  $j \in \mathcal{N}(i)$ :

$$\mathbf{z}_i = (\hat{\mathbf{A}}_i \mathbf{X} \mathbf{W})^\top = \sum_{j \in \mathcal{N}(i)} \hat{a}_{ij} \mathbf{W}^\top \mathbf{x}_j$$

- Nodes are documents and edges are citation links.
- Node attributes  $x_i$  are bag-of-words features of documents.
- Some documents have class labels (the label rate is 0.036 for Citeseer, 0.052 for Cora, 0.003 for Pubmed and 0.001 for NELL).
- The task is to classify all the documents.

Method	Citeseer	Cora	Pubmed	NELL
ManiReg [3]	60.1	59.5	70.7	21.8
SemiEmb [28]	59.6	59.0	71.1	26.7
LP [32]	45.3	68.0	63.0	26.5
DeepWalk [22]	43.2	67.2	65.3	58.1
ICA [18]	69.1	75.1	73.9	23.1
Planetoid* [29]	64.7 (26s)	75.7 (13s)	77.2 (25s)	61.9 (185s)
<b>GCN (this paper)</b>	<b>70.3 (7s)</b>	<b>81.5 (4s)</b>	<b>79.0 (38s)</b>	<b>66.0 (48s)</b>
GCN (rand. splits)	67.9 $\pm$ 0.5	80.1 $\pm$ 0.5	78.9 $\pm$ 0.7	58.4 $\pm$ 1.7

Classification accuracy (in percent)

# Recurrent Relational Networks

(Palm et al., 2018)



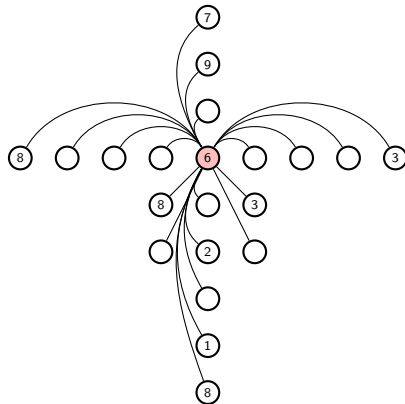
- We want to solve tasks that require a chain of interdependent steps of relational inference, like, for example, solving Sudoku.

5	3			7				
6			1	9	5			
	9	8					6	
8				6				3
4			8		3			1
7				2				6
	6					2	8	
			4	1	9			5
				8			7	9

## A graph describing the Sudoku puzzle

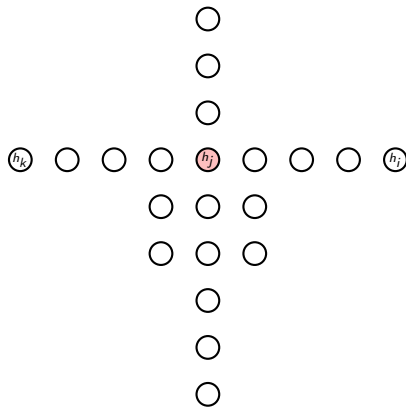
- The puzzle is represented as a graph in which a cell is represented by a node. The nodes are connected to all nodes in the same row, in the same column and in the same  $3 \times 3$  block.

5	3			7				
6			1	9	5			
	9	8					6	
8				6				3
4			8		3			1
7				2				6
	6					2	8	
			4	1	9			5
				8			7	9



The subgraph that contains only the nodes connected to the pink node and the corresponding links.

- Initialize the states of the nodes to  $h_j^0$ .



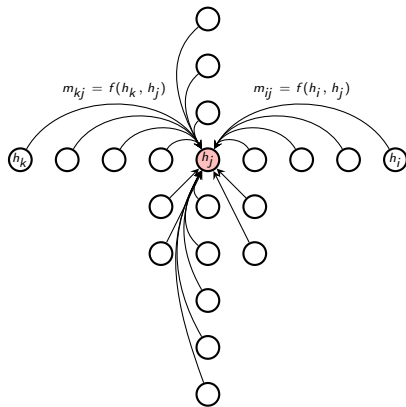
## Recurrent Relational Networks: The algorithm

- Initialize the states of the nodes to  $h_j^0$ .
- Build a computational graph with  $T$  iterations. Each iteration consists of the following four steps.
  1. Compute messages for all edges connecting a pair of nodes  $i$  and  $j$ :

$$m_{ij}^t = f(h_i^{t-1}, h_j^{t-1})$$

$$m_{ji}^t = f(h_j^{t-1}, h_i^{t-1})$$

$f$  can be modeled with an MLP. Note that for each edge we need to compute two messages.



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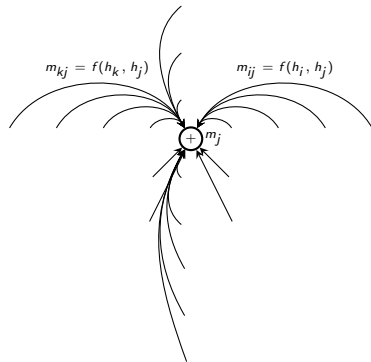
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$f$  can be modeled with an MLP. Note that for each edge we need to compute two messages.

2. In every node, aggregate all incoming messages by summation:

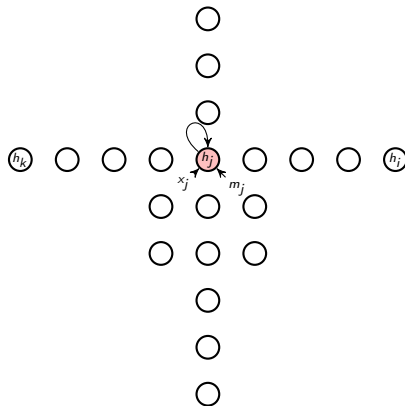
$$m_j^t = \sum_{i \in \mathcal{N}(j)} m_{ij}^t$$



3. Update the states of the nodes:

$$h_j^t = g(h_j^{t-1}, x_j, m_j^t)$$

Input  $x_j$  is either the given digit for cell  $j$  or a special token indicating a missing digit.  $g$  can be modeled by a recurrent unit, for example, GRU.



3. Update the states of the nodes:

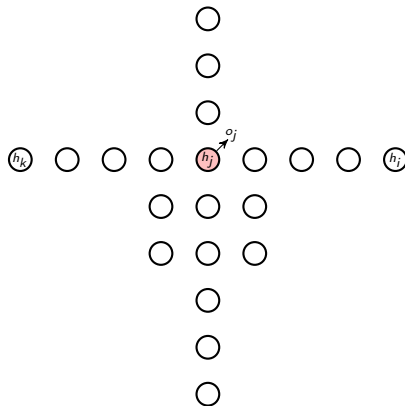
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Input  $x_j$  is either the given digit for cell  $j$  or a special token indicating a missing digit.  $g$  can be modeled by a recurrent unit, for example, GRU.

4. For each node, compute outputs  $o_j^t$ :

$$o_j^t = f_o(h_j^t)$$

and compute the loss. The loss function relates the outputs with the correct digits in the solved Sudoku puzzle (we use CrossEntropyLoss).  $f_o$  can be modeled with a linear layer.



- Comparison of methods for solving Sudoku puzzles (only differentiable methods):

Method	Givens	Accuracy
<i>Recurrent Relational Network*</i> (this work)	17	<b>96.6%</b>
Loopy BP, modified [Khan et al., 2014]	17	92.5%
Loopy BP, random [Bauke, 2008]	17	61.7%
Loopy BP, parallel [Bauke, 2008]	17	53.2%
Deeply Learned Messages* [Lin et al., 2015]	17	0%
Relational Network, node* [Santoro et al., 2017]	17	0%
Relational Network, graph* [Santoro et al., 2017]	17	0%
Deep Convolutional Network [Park, 2016]	24-36	70%



# Recurrent Relational Networks: Solving Sudoku

1 2 3	1 2 3	1 2 3	1 2 3	1 2 3	1 2 3	6	4	1 2 3
4 5 6	4 5 6	4 5 6	4 5 6	4 5 6	4 5 6			4 5 6
7 8 9	7 8 9	7 8 9	7 8 9	7 8 9	7 8 9			7 8 9
1 2	2	1 2	1 3	3	1 3	6	4	1 2
			5	5				5
7 9	9	7 9	7 8	7 8 9	7 8 9			7 8 9
1 2	2	1 2	5	3	1 3	6	4	1 2
7	9	7			9			8
1	2		5	3		6	4	
		7			9			8

Example of how the trained network solves part of a Sudoku. Only the top row of a full 9x9 Sudoku is shown for clarity. From top to bottom steps 0, 1, 8 and 24 are shown. Each cell displays the digits 1-9 with the font size scaled (non-linearly for legibility) to the probability the network assigns to each digit. Notice how the network eliminates the given digits 6 and 4 from the other cells in the first step.

General algorithms for  
graph neural networks (GNNs)

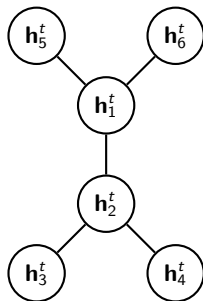
- We have considered several algorithms for graph neural networks:
  - neural networks for learning molecular fingerprints ([Duvenaud et al., 2015](#))
  - interaction networks ([Battaglia et al., 2016](#))
  - simple relational network for visual scene understanding ([Santoro et al., 2017](#))
  - graph convolutional networks ([Kipf and Welling, 2017](#))
  - recurrent relational networks ([Palm et al., 2018](#))
- They all have very similar structure: In every iteration, nodes send messages to their neighbors and node attributes are updated using the received messages. The differences are mainly in the parametric form of the messages and the way the messages are aggregated.
- Let us review the computational steps in such graph neural networks (GNNs).

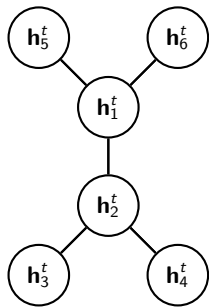
- The input of a GNN is an undirected graph  $G$  with node features  $\mathbf{x}_i$  and edge features  $\mathbf{e}_{ij}$ .
- Each node has state  $\mathbf{h}_i$  which is initialized to  $\mathbf{h}_i^{t=0}$ .
- There are  $T$  iterations which consist of several steps (see next slide) that update the states of the nodes:

$$\mathbf{h}_i^0 \rightarrow \mathbf{h}_i^1 \rightarrow \dots \rightarrow \mathbf{h}_i^T$$

- Finally, a readout function combines all node states to compute a single output:

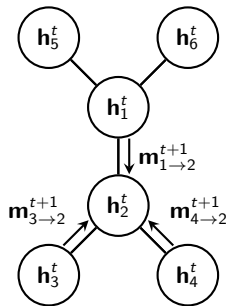
$$\mathbf{y} = o(\{\mathbf{h}_i^T \mid i \in G\})$$





1. Each node receives messages from all its neighbors

$$\mathbf{m}_{j \rightarrow i}^{t+1} = g_t(\mathbf{h}_j^t, \mathbf{h}_i^t, \mathbf{e}_{ji})$$

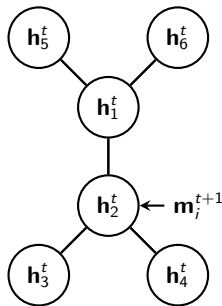


1. Each node receives messages from all its neighbors

$$\mathbf{m}_{j \rightarrow i}^{t+1} = g_t(\mathbf{h}_j^t, \mathbf{h}_i^t, \mathbf{e}_{ji})$$

2. Each node aggregates messages (for example, by summation):

$$\mathbf{m}_i^{t+1} = \sum_{j \in \mathcal{N}(i)} \mathbf{m}_{j \rightarrow i}^{t+1}$$



1. Each node receives messages from all its neighbors

$$\mathbf{m}_{j \rightarrow i}^{t+1} = g_t(\mathbf{h}_j^t, \mathbf{h}_i^t, \mathbf{e}_{ji})$$

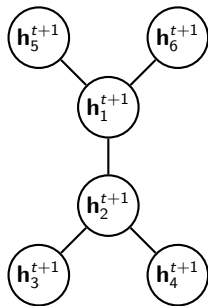
2. Each node aggregates messages (for example, by summation):

$$\mathbf{m}_i^{t+1} = \sum_{j \in \mathcal{N}(i)} \mathbf{m}_{j \rightarrow i}^{t+1}$$

3. The state of each node is updated using the aggregate message:

$$\mathbf{h}_i^{t+1} = f(\mathbf{h}_i^t, \mathbf{m}_i^{t+1}, \mathbf{x}_i)$$

We can use node attributes  $\mathbf{x}_i$  as extra inputs.





## Example: Message passing in graph convolutional networks (GCNs)

1. Each node receives messages from all its neighbors

$$\mathbf{m}_{j \rightarrow i}^{t+1} = g(\mathbf{h}_j) = \hat{a}_{ij} \mathbf{W}^\top \mathbf{h}_j$$

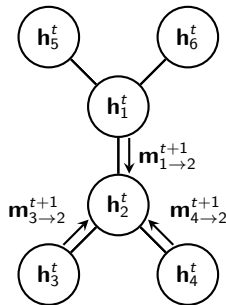
2. Each node aggregates messages (including a message from itself):

$$\mathbf{m}_i^{t+1} = \sum_{j \in \mathcal{N}(i)} \mathbf{m}_{j \rightarrow i}^{t+1}$$

3. The state of each node is updated using aggregate messages:

$$\mathbf{h}_i^{t+1} = f(\mathbf{m}_i^{t+1}) = \text{relu}(\mathbf{m}_i^{t+1})$$

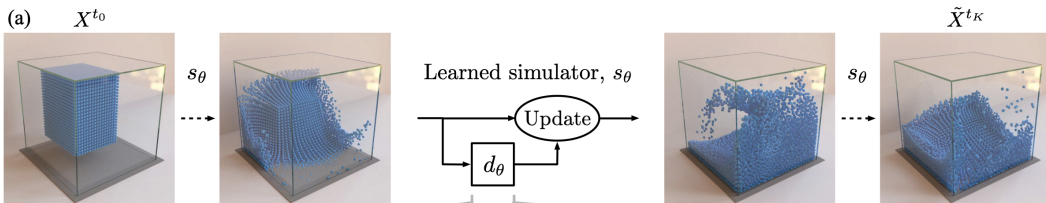
- GCNs use very simple  $g$  and  $f$ , which limits their representation power.

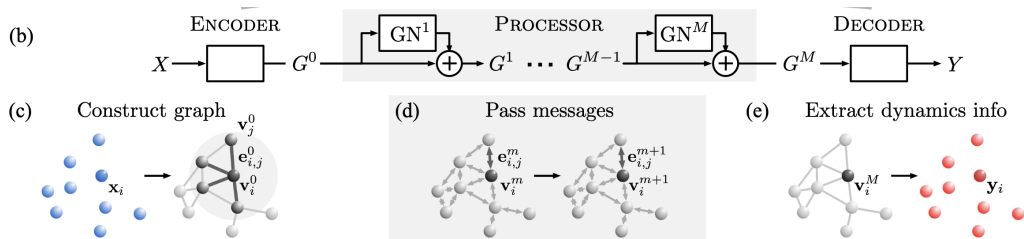


- Gilmer et al. (2017) proposed to unify several graph neural network algorithms in more general *message passing neural networks* (MPNN).
- Many previously considered graph neural networks can be viewed as an instance of MPNN.
- Later, Battaglia et al. (2018) defined a more general framework that also includes the update of the edge attributes in the first phase of the forward pass.
- Note: A message-passing algorithm is used for performing inference on probabilistic graphical models, such as Bayesian networks and Markov random fields (known as *belief propagation*).

Learning to simulate complex physics  
with graph networks

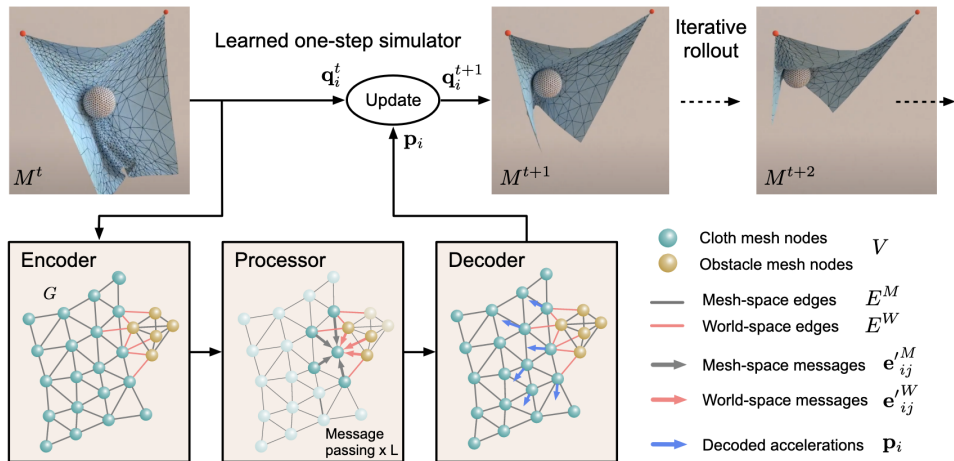
- GNNs can learn to simulate a wide variety of challenging physical domains: fluids, rigid solids, deformable materials interacting with one another.
- [Sanchez-Gonzalez et al., \(2020\)](#) focus on particle-based simulation:
  - States are represented as a set of particles, which encode mass, material, movement, etc. within local regions of space.
  - Dynamics are computed on the basis of particles' interactions within their local neighborhoods.





- The *encoder* constructs the graph structure by assigning a node to each particle and adding edges between particles within a “connectivity radius”  $R$ .
- The *processor* performs  $M$  steps of learned message-passing.
- The *decoder* extracts dynamics information from the nodes’ features.
- Videos of learned simulations can be found [here](#).

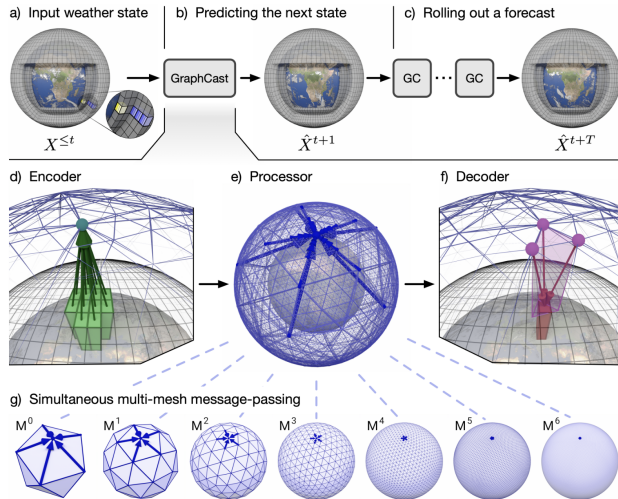
# MeshGraphNets: Learning mesh-based simulation (Pfaff et al., 2020)



Videos

# GraphCast: A medium-range global weather forecasting model (Lam et al., 2022)

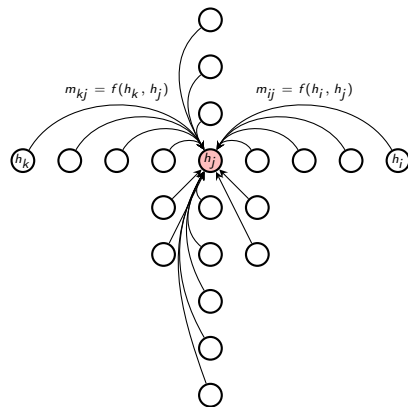
- GraphCast is an autoregressive model, based on GNNs and a high-resolution multi-scale mesh representation, which is trained on historical weather data.
- GraphCast outperforms the most accurate deterministic operational medium-range weather forecasting system in the world.



Home assignment



- You need to implement a graph neural network which solves Sudoku puzzles, which is inspired by (Palm et al., 2018).



- Battaglia et al., 2018. Relational inductive biases, deep learning, and graph networks.
- Other papers cited in the lecture slides.