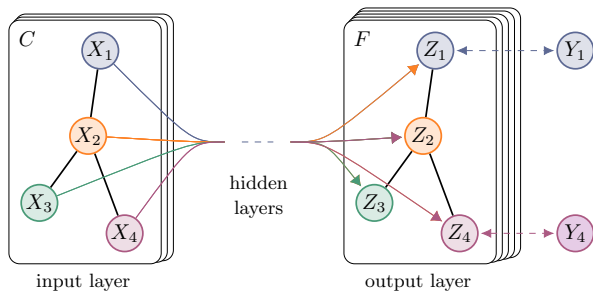


# Graph Neural Networks (GNN)

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Advanced Topics in Machine Learning and Optimization

# Neural Networks on Graph Data

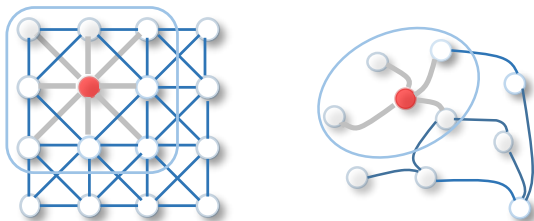


## Features

- Allow to *learn* feature representations for nodes
- Allow to propagate information between neighbouring nodes
- Allow for efficient training (wrt to e.g. graph kernels)

Image from Kipf et al., 2017

# Neural Networks on Graph Data



## Basic step: graph “convolution”

- Aggregates information from neighbours to update information on node
- Inspired by convolution on pixels in CNN
- Differs from CNN convolution as neighbourhood has variable size

Image from Wu et al., 2019

# Graph “convolution” operation

## Generic form

- Aggregate information from neighbouring nodes:

$$h_{\mathcal{N}(v)}^{(k)} = \text{AGGREGATE}^{(k)} \left( \left\{ h_u^{(k-1)} : u \in \mathcal{N}(v) \right\} \right)$$

- Combine node information with aggregated neighbour information:

$$h_v^{(k)} = \text{COMBINE}^{(k)} \left( h_v^{(k-1)}, h_{\mathcal{N}(v)}^{(k)} \right)$$

## where

- $k$  is the index of the layer (operations are layer-dependent)
- $h_v^{(k)}$  is the hidden representation of node  $v$  (initialized to the node features  $h_v^{(0)} = x_v$ )
- $\mathcal{N}(v)$  is the set neighbours of  $v$

# Example: GraphSAGE (Hamilton et al., 2017)

## Graph “convolution” operation

- Mean aggregation

$$h_{\mathcal{N}(v)}^{(k)} = \text{MEAN}^{(k)} \left( \left\{ h_u^{(k-1)} : u \in \mathcal{N}(v) \right\} \right)$$

- Max aggregation (on transformed representation)

$$h_{\mathcal{N}(v)}^{(k)} = \text{MAX}^{(k)} \left( \left\{ \sigma \left( W_{pool}^{(k)} h_u^{(k-1)} + b \right) : u \in \mathcal{N}(v) \right\} \right)$$

- Combine operation as concatenation + linear mapping + non-linearity:

$$h_v^{(k)} = \sigma \left( W^{(k)} \left[ h_v^{(k-1)}; h_{\mathcal{N}(v)}^{(k)} \right] \right)$$

# Node embedding generation

## Algorithm

```
1:  $h_v^{(0)} = x_v \forall v \in \mathcal{V}$ 
2: for  $k \in 1, \dots, K$  do
3:   for  $v \in \mathcal{V}$  do
4:      $h_{\mathcal{N}(v)}^{(k)} \leftarrow \text{AGGREGATE}^{(k)} \left( \left\{ h_u^{(k-1)} : u \in \mathcal{N}(v) \right\} \right)$ 
5:      $h_v^{(k)} \leftarrow \text{COMBINE}^{(k)} \left( h_v^{(k-1)}, h_{\mathcal{N}(v)}^{(k)} \right)$ 
6:      $h_v^{(k)} \leftarrow h_v^{(k)} / \|h_v^{(k)}\|$ 
7:   end for
8: end for
9: return  $h_v^{(K)} \forall v \in \mathcal{V}$ 
```

# Message Passing Neural Networks (MPNN)

## Generic form

- Aggregate messages from neighbouring nodes:

$$m_v^{(k)} = \sum_{u \in \mathcal{N}(v)} M^{(k-1)} \left( h_v^{(k-1)}, h_u^{(k-1)}, e_{vu} \right)$$

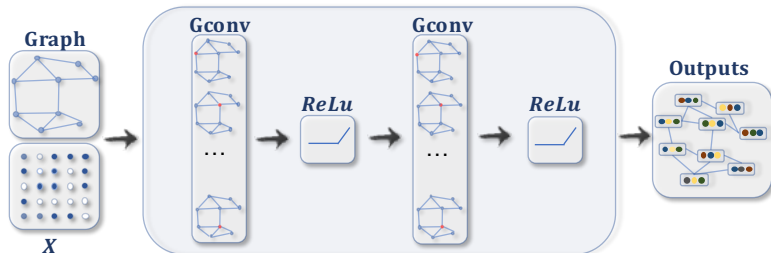
- Update node information:

$$h_v^{(k)} = U^{(k)} \left( h_v^{(k-1)}, m_v^{(k)} \right)$$

## where

- $e_{vu}$  are the features associated to edge  $(v, u)$
- $M^{(k-1)}$  is a **message function** (e.g. an MLP) computing message from neighbour
- $U^{(k)}$  is a node **update function** (e.g. an MLP) combining messages and local information

# Node Classification



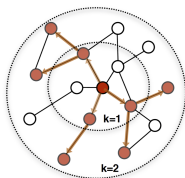
## Procedure

- Compute node embeddings with layerwise architecture
- Add appropriate output layer on top of each node embedding (MLP + softmax, MLP + linear)

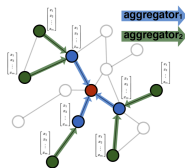
Image from Wu et al., 2019



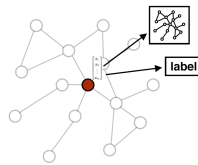
# Node classification: scalability



1. Sample neighborhood



2. Aggregate feature information from neighbors



3. Predict graph context and label using aggregated information

## Sampling node neighbourhood

Replace  $\mathcal{N}(v)$  with a layer-dependent sampling function  $\mathcal{N}_k(v)$  that takes a random sample of a node's neighbourhood.

Image from Hamilton et al., 2017

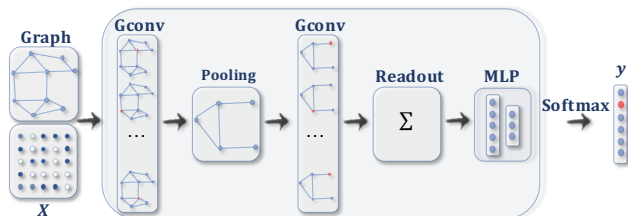
## Basic approaches

- Apply final aggregation (READOUT) to combine all nodes in a single representation (mean, sum).
- Introduce a “virtual node” connected to all nodes in the graph

## Problems

- No hierarchical structure is learned.
- Lack of “pooling” operation which is effective in CNNs to learn complex pattern.

# Graph classification with Hierarchical Pooling



## Features

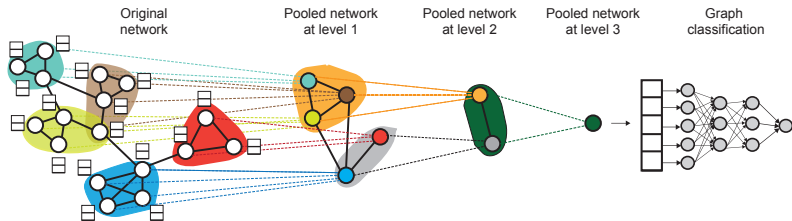
- Alternate convolutional and pooling layers as in CNN.
- Progressively reduce number of nodes.
- Pool all nodes in last layer into a single representation.

## Problem

How to decide which nodes to pool together

Image from Wu et al., 2019

# Graph classification with Differentiable Pooling

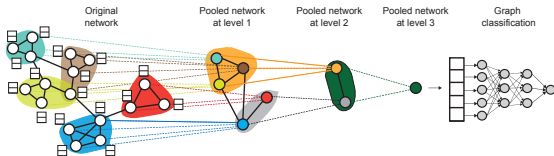


## Idea

- Use standard GNN module to obtain embedding of nodes
- Perform graph pooling using a differentiable soft cluster assignment module
- Repeat the process for  $K$  layers
- Aggregate in single cluster in the last layer
- Use final representation to classify graph

Image from Ying et al., 2018

# Graph classification with Differentiable Pooling



## Components

- Layerwise soft cluster assignment matrix:  $\mathcal{S}^{(k)} \in \mathbb{R}^{n_k \times n_{k+1}}$
- Layerwise input embedding matrix:  $\mathcal{Z}^{(k)} \in \mathbb{R}^{n_k \times d}$
- Layerwise soft adjacency matrix:  $\mathcal{A}^{(k+1)}$
- Layerwise output embedding matrix:  $\mathcal{X}^{(k+1)} \in \mathbb{R}^{n_{k+1} \times d}$

Image from Ying et al., 2018

# Graph classification with Differentiable Pooling

Compute  $A^{(k+1)}, X^{(k+1)}$  given  $S^{(k)}, Z^{(k)}$

- Compute  $A^{(k+1)}$  based on connectivity strength between nodes in cluster

$$A^{(k+1)} = S^{(k)T} A^{(k)} S^{(k)}$$

- Compute  $X^{(k+1)}$  as weighted combination of cluster (soft) members

$$X^{(k+1)} = S^{(k)T} Z^{(k)}$$

# Graph classification with Differentiable Pooling

Compute  $S^{(k)}, Z^{(k)}$  given  $A^{(k)}, X^{(k)}$

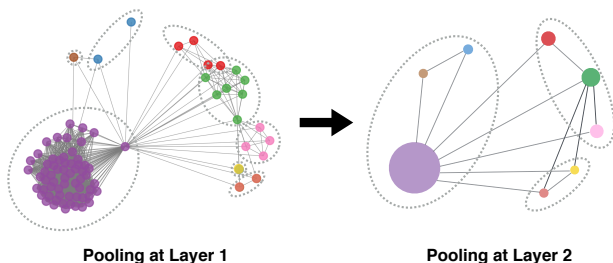
- Compute  $Z^{(k)}$  using a standard GNN module

$$Z^{(k)} = \text{GNN}_k^{\text{embed}}(A^{(k)}, X^{(k)})$$

- Compute  $S^{(k)}$  using a second standard GNN module followed by a per-row softmax

$$S^{(k)} = \text{SOFTMAX} \left( \text{GNN}_k^{\text{pool}}(A^{(k)}, X^{(k)}) \right)$$

# Graph classification with Differentiable Pooling



## Note

The maximal number of clusters in the following layer ( $n_{k+1}$ ) is a hyper-parameter of the model (typically 10-25% of  $n_k$ ).

Image from Ying et al., 2018



# Graph classification with Differentiable Pooling

## Side objectives

Training using only graph classification loss can be difficult (very indirect signal). Two side objectives are introduced at each layer  $k$ :

**link prediction** Encourage nearby nodes to be pooled together:

$$L_{LP} = \|A^{(k)} - S^{(k)} S^{(k)T}\|_F$$

where  $\|M\|_F = \sqrt{\sum_{i=1}^n \sum_{j=1}^m |M_{i,j}|^2}$

**cluster entropy** Encourage hard assignment of nodes to clusters:

$$L_E = \frac{1}{n_k} \sum_{i=1}^{n_k} H(S_i^{(k)})$$

where  $H(S_i^{(k)})$  is the entropy of the  $i^{\text{th}}$  row of  $S^{(k)}$ .

## What is Attention

- Attention is a mechanism that allows a network to focus on certain parts of the input when processing it
- In multi-layered networks attention mechanisms can be applied at all layers
- It is useful to deal with variable-sized inputs (e.g. sequences)

## Why Attention in GNN

- GNN compute node representations from representations of neighbours
- Nodes can have largely different neighbourhood sizes
- Not all neighbours have relevant information for a certain node
- Attention mechanism allow to adaptively *weight* the contribution of each neighbour when updating a node

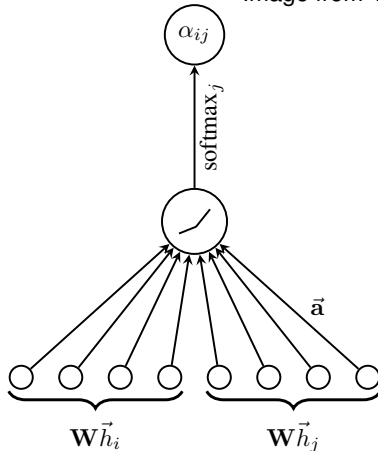
## Attention coefficients

$$\alpha_{ij} = \frac{f(Wh_i, Wh_j)}{\sum_{j' \in \mathcal{N}(i)} f(Wh_i, Wh_{j'})}$$

- Models importance of node  $j$  for  $i$  as a function of their representations
- Node representations are first transformed using  $W$
- An attentional mechanism  $f$ , shared for all nodes computes attention of  $i$  for  $j$
- Attention coefficient is normalized over neighbours of  $i$  (including  $i$  itself)

# Graph Attention Networks (GAT)

Image from Veličković, et al., 2018



Attention mechanism

$$f(Wh_i, Wh_j) = \text{LEAKYRELU} \left( \vec{a}^T [Wh_i; Wh_j] \right)$$

## Node update

$$h_i^{(k)} = \sigma \left( \sum_{j \in \mathcal{N}(i)} \alpha_{ij} W h_j^{(k-1)} \right)$$

- Node is updated as the sum of neighbour (updated) representations, each weighted by its attention coefficient
- A non-linearity  $\sigma$  is (possibly) applied to this updated representation

## Multi-head attention

$$h_i^{(k)} = \text{CONCAT} \left[ \sigma \left( \sum_{j \in \mathcal{N}(i)} \alpha_{ij}^\ell \mathbf{W}^\ell h_j^{(k-1)} \right) \middle| \ell = 1, \dots, L \right]$$

- Multi-head attention works by having multiple ( $L$ ) simultaneous attention mechanisms
- Can be beneficial to stabilize learning (see Transformers)
- Updated node representation is concatenation of representations from different heads.
- CONCAT is replaced by MEAN in output layer

# Representational power of GNN

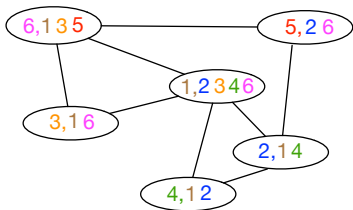
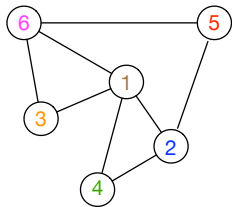
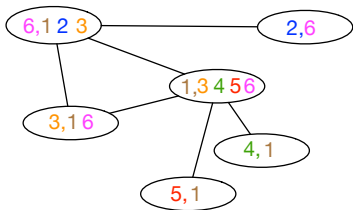
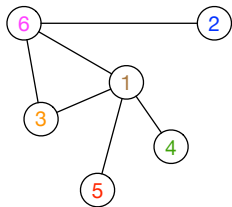
## Weistfeiler-Lehman (WL) isomorphism test

Given  $G = (\mathcal{V}, \mathcal{E})$  and  $G' = (\mathcal{V}', \mathcal{E}')$ , with  $n = |\mathcal{V}| = |\mathcal{V}'|$ . Let  $L(G) = \{l(v) | v \in \mathcal{V}\}$  be the set of labels in  $G$ , and let  $L(G) == L(G')$ . Let  $label(s)$  be a function assigning a unique label to a string.

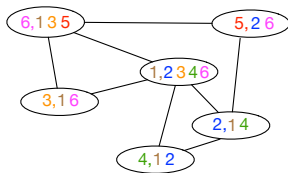
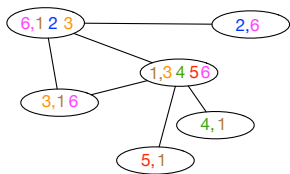
- Set  $l_0(v) = l(v)$  for all  $v$ .
- For  $i \in [1, n - 1]$ 
  - 1 For each node  $v$  in  $G$  and  $G'$
  - 2 Let  $M_i(v) = \{l_{i-1}(u) | u \in \text{neigh}(v)\}$
  - 3 Concatenate the sorted labels of  $M_i(v)$  into  $s_i(v)$
  - 4 Let  $l_i(v) = label(l_{i-1}(v) \circ s_i(v))$  ( $\circ$  is concatenation)
  - 5 If  $L_i(G) \neq L_i(G')$
  - 6 Return **Fail**
- Return **Pass**



# WL isomorphism test: string determination



# WL isomorphism test: relabeling



2,6 → 7

4,1 → 8

5,1 → 9

2,1,4 → 10

4,1,2 → 11

3,1,6 → 12

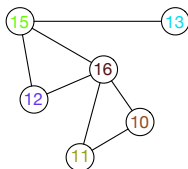
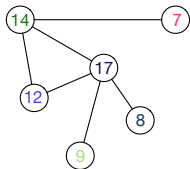
5,2,6 → 13

6,1,2,3 → 14

6,1,3,5 → 15

1,2,3,4,6 → 16

1,3,4,5,6 → 17



# Representational power of GNN

## Theorem (Xu et al., 2019)

Let  $\mathcal{F} : \mathcal{G} \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^d$  be a GNN. With enough GNN layers,  $\mathcal{F}$  maps any graphs  $G_1$  and  $G_2$  judged non-isomorphic by the Weisfeiler-Lehman test to different embeddings if:

- $\mathcal{F}$  aggregates and updates node features iteratively with

$$h_v^{(k)} = \phi \left( h_v^{(k-1)}, f \left( \left\{ h_u^{(k-1)} : u \in \mathcal{N}(v) \right\} \right) \right)$$

where  $f$  and  $\phi$  are injective functions

- $\mathcal{F}$  computes the graph-level readout using an injective function over node features  $\left\{ h_v^{(k)} \right\}$

## Note

No (first-order) GNN can have a higher representational power than the Weisfeiler-Lehman test of isomorphism.

# Representational power of GNN

## Corollary (simplified)

Any function  $g(c, X)$  with  $c \in \mathcal{X}$  and  $X \subset \mathcal{X}$  can be decomposed as:

$$g(c, X) = \phi \left( (1 + \epsilon)f(c) + \sum_{x \in X} f(x) \right)$$

for some functions  $f$  and  $\phi$  and infinitely many choices of  $\epsilon$

## Problem

- Assumes countable  $\mathcal{X}$  (no real values).
- Leverages universal approximation theorem of MLPs, learnability can be hard in practice.

# Graph Isomorphism Networks (GIN)

## Definition

- Update node representation by:

$$h_v^{(k)} = \text{MLP}^{(k)} \left( (1 + \epsilon^{(k)})h_v^{(k-1)} + \sum_{u \in \mathcal{N}(v)} h_u^{(k-1)} \right)$$

- Compute graph readout as:

$$h_G = \text{CONCAT} \left( \sum_{v \in G} h_v^{(k)} \mid k = 0, \dots, K \right)$$

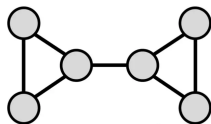
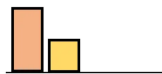
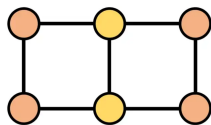
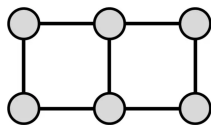
## Note

Definition guarantees maximal representational power achievable for a GNN (other choices are possible)

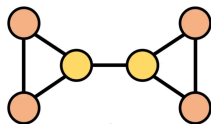
## Notes

- The MLP<sup>(k)</sup> jointly models  $f^{(k+1)} \circ \phi^{(k)}$  (universal approximator)
- $\epsilon^{(k)}$  can be replaced by a fixed scalar
- CONCAT is used to collect all structural information. It could be replaced by the latest representation (layer  $K$ ).

# Representational power of GNN



input graph



WL colouring



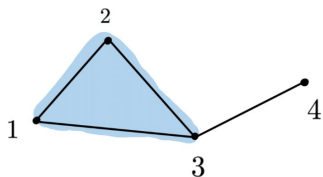
colour histogram

## Limitations of the WL isomorphism test

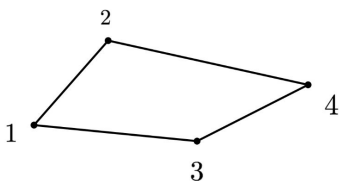
- The WL isomorphism test is limited in the graph substructures it can count
- The WL isomorphism test fails to recognize the two input graphs as non-isomorphic

Image from Bronstein, 2021

# Higher-order GNN



$$K = \{1, 2, 3, 4, 12, 13, 23, 34, 123\}$$



$$K = \{1, 2, 3, 4, 12, 13, 24, 34\}$$

## Simplician complex

- A *simplex* is the generalization of a triangle to arbitrary dimensions (0=point, 1=line, 2=triangle, 3=tetrahedron, ..)
- A *simplicial complex*  $K$  is a set of simplices such that:
  - Every face of a simplex from  $K$  is also in  $K$
  - The non-empty intersection of any two simplices  $\sigma_1, \sigma_2 \in K$  is a face of both  $\sigma_1$  and  $\sigma_2$ .

Images (from here onwards) from Bodnar et al., 2021



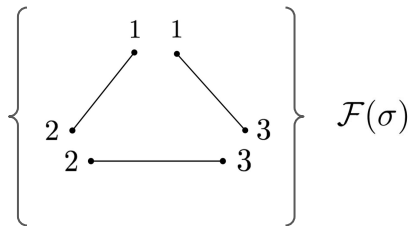
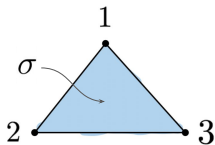
## Simplicial Weisfeiler-Lehman (SWL) Test

Let  $K$  be a simplicial complex. SWL proceeds as follows:

- 1 Assign each simplex  $s \in K$  an initial colour.
- 2 Compute the new colour of each simplex  $s$  by hashing the concatenation of its color and the colours of its neighbouring simplices.
- 3 Repeat until a stable coloring is obtained

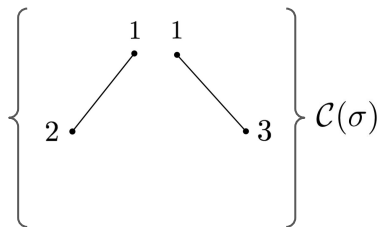
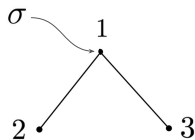
Two simplicial complexes are considered non-isomorphic if the colour histograms at any level of the complex are different.

# Types of adjacencies: face adjacencies



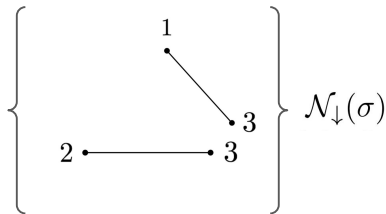
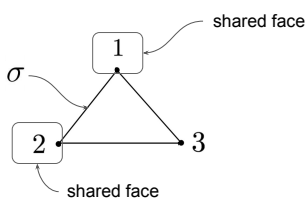
$$c_{\mathcal{F}}^t(\sigma) = \underbrace{\left\{ \overbrace{c_{\omega}^t \mid \omega \in \mathcal{F}(\sigma)}^{\text{set of faces}} \right\}}_{\text{multiset of face colours}}$$

# Types of adjacencies: coface adjacencies



$$c_{\mathcal{C}}^t(\sigma) = \underbrace{\left\{ \overbrace{c_{\omega}^t \mid \omega \in \mathcal{C}(\sigma)}^{\text{set of cofaces}} \right\}}_{\text{multiset of coface colours}}$$

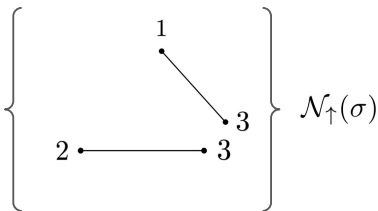
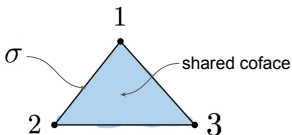
# Types of adjacencies: lower adjacencies



$$c_{\downarrow}^t(\sigma) = \underbrace{\left\{ (c_{\omega}^t, c_{\sigma \cap \omega}^t) \mid \omega \in \overbrace{\mathcal{N}_{\downarrow}(\sigma)}^{\text{set of lower-neighbours}} \right\}}_{\text{multiset of lower-neighbours colour-tuples}}$$

Two  $d$ -simplices are lower adjacent if they share a common face of dimension  $d-1$

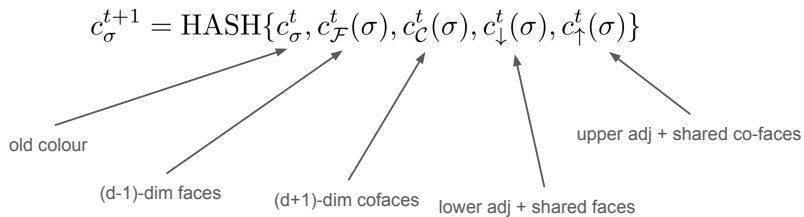
# Types of adjacencies: upper adjacencies



$$c_{\uparrow}^t(\sigma) = \underbrace{\left\{ \left\{ (c_{\omega}^t, c_{\sigma \cup \omega}^t) \mid \omega \in \overbrace{\mathcal{N}_{\uparrow}(\sigma)}^{\text{set of upper-neighbours}} \right\} \right\}}_{\text{multiset of upper-neighbours colour-tuples}}$$

Two  $d$ -simplices are upper adjacent if they share a common coface of dimension  $d+1$

# SWL coloring



# Message Passing Simplician Networks

$$m_{\mathcal{F}}^{t+1}(v) = \text{AGG}_{w \in \mathcal{F}(v)} \left( M_{\mathcal{F}}(h_v^t, h_w^t) \right)$$

$$m_{\mathcal{C}}^{t+1}(v) = \text{AGG}_{w \in \mathcal{C}(v)} \left( M_{\mathcal{C}}(h_v^t, h_w^t) \right)$$

$$m_{\downarrow}^{t+1}(v) = \text{AGG}_{w \in \mathcal{N}_{\downarrow}(v)} \left( M_{\downarrow}(h_v^t, h_w^t, h_{v \cap w}^t) \right)$$

$$m_{\uparrow}^{t+1}(v) = \text{AGG}_{w \in \mathcal{N}_{\uparrow}(v)} \left( M_{\uparrow}(h_v^t, h_w^t, h_{v \cup w}^t) \right)$$

**Message & Aggregate**

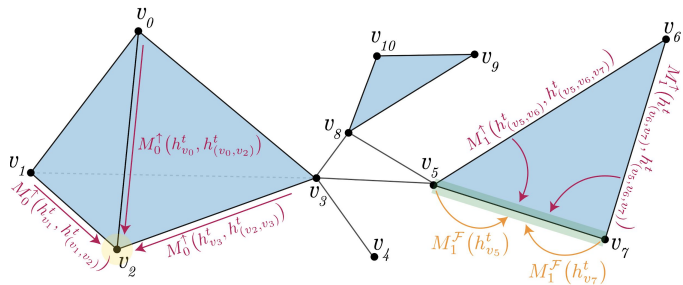
$$h_v^{t+1} = U \left( h_v^t, m_{\mathcal{F}}^t(v), m_{\mathcal{C}}^t(v), m_{\downarrow}^{t+1}(v), m_{\uparrow}^{t+1}(v) \right)$$

**Update**

$$h_G = \text{READOUT}(\{ \{ h_v^L \} \}_{v \in \mathcal{K}_0}, \dots, \{ \{ h_v^L \} \}_{v \in \mathcal{K}_p})$$

**Readout**

# Message Passing Simplicial Networks



## Message passing examples

- Messages from upper adjacencies for vertex  $v_2$
- Messages from upper and face adjacencies for edge  $(v_5, v_7)$



## Bibliography

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## Software Libraries

- PyTorch Geometric (PyG) [[https://github.com/pyg-team/pytorch\\_geometric](https://github.com/pyg-team/pytorch_geometric)]
- Deep Graph Library (dgl) [[www.dgl.ai](http://www.dgl.ai)]