

# Graph Networks

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University of Oxford

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# Disclaimer

I am not a Graph Neural Networks expert. I want to share my excitement and make more people aware of this amazing research direction.

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► physics

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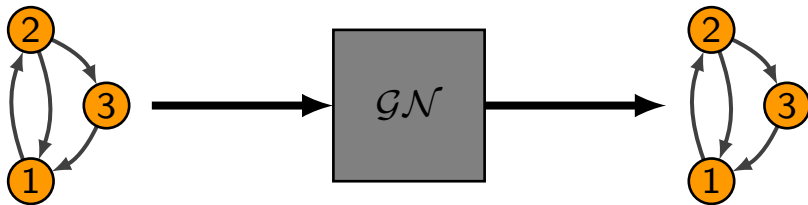


# Graph Neural Networks (GNN)

- ▶ GNN originated in [GMS05] and [SGT<sup>+</sup>08];
- ▶ [BHB<sup>+</sup>18] unifies a lot of types into Graph Networks (GN);

This talk focuses on GN only!

# What is a Graph Network?



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- ▶  $e = (s, r) \forall e \in \mathcal{E}$ ;
- ▶  $\mathcal{E}_{v_i}^{in}$  is the set of all incoming edges to  $v_i$ ;

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- ▶ updaters  $\phi^e, \phi^v, \phi^u$
- ▶ aggregators  $\rho^{e \rightarrow v}, \rho^{v \rightarrow u}, \rho^{e \rightarrow u}$

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- ▶ global updater:  $u' = \phi^u(\rho^{e \rightarrow u}(\mathcal{E}), \rho^{v \rightarrow u}(\mathcal{V}), u)$

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- ▶ the main trick of a GN;



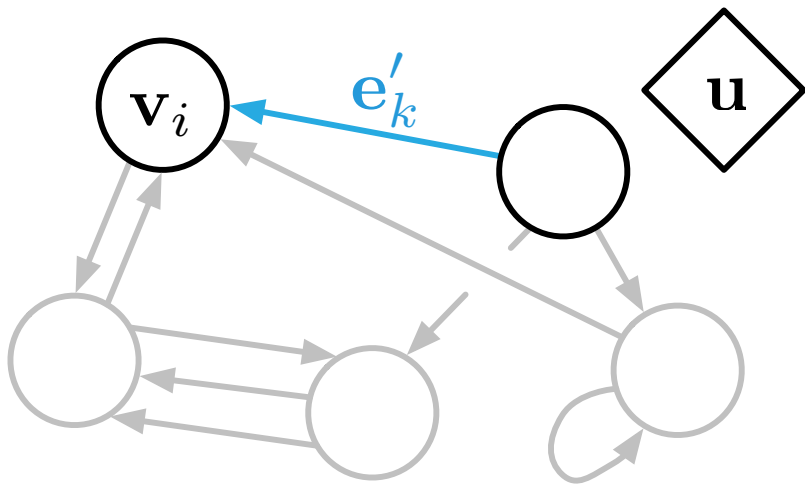
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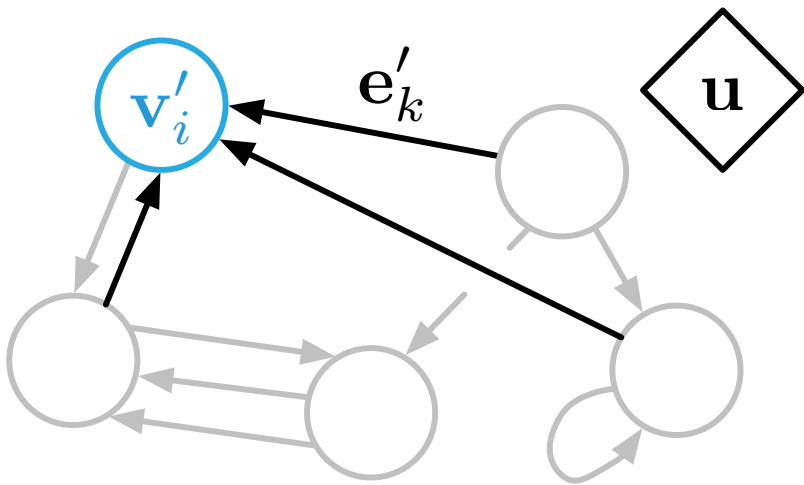
# What is an aggregator?

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- ▶ the main trick of a GN;
- ▶ enables GN to work on different graph topologies;
- ▶ examples?

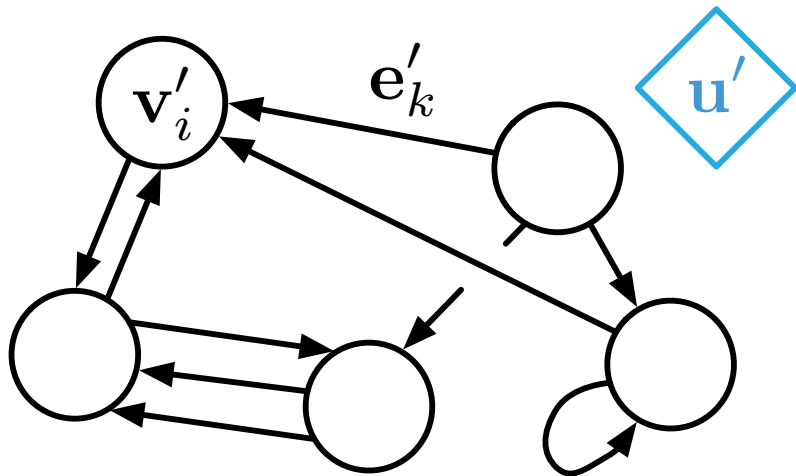
Edge forward step, [BHB<sup>+</sup>18]



## Vertex forward step, [BHB<sup>+</sup>18]



Global forward step, [BHB<sup>+</sup>18]



# GN forward step

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**Algorithm 1** Steps of computation in a full GN block. [BHB<sup>+</sup>18]

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**function** GRAPHNETWORK( $\mathcal{E}, \mathcal{V}, \mathbf{u}$ )

**for**  $k \in \{1 \dots N^e\}$  **do**

$\mathbf{e}'_k \leftarrow \phi^e(\mathbf{e}_k, \mathbf{v}_{r_k}, \mathbf{v}_{s_k}, \mathbf{u},)$

▷ 1. Compute updated edge attributes

**end for**

**for**  $i \in \{1 \dots N^n\}$  **do**

**let**  $\mathcal{E}'_i = \{(\mathbf{e}'_k, r_k, s_k)\}_{r_k=i, k=1:N^e}$

$\bar{\mathbf{e}}'_i \leftarrow \rho^{e \rightarrow v}(\mathcal{E}'_i)$

▷ 2. Aggregate edge attributes per node

$\mathbf{v}'_i \leftarrow \phi^v(\bar{\mathbf{e}}'_i, \mathbf{v}_i, \mathbf{u})$

▷ 3. Compute updated node attributes

**end for**

**let**  $V' = \{\mathbf{v}'_i\}_{i=1:N^n}$

**let**  $E' = \{(\mathbf{e}'_k, r_k, s_k)\}_{k=1:N^e}$

$\bar{\mathbf{e}}' \leftarrow \rho^{e \rightarrow u}(\mathcal{E}')$

▷ 4. Aggregate edge attributes globally

$\bar{\mathbf{v}}' \leftarrow \rho^{v \rightarrow u}(\mathcal{V}')$

▷ 5. Aggregate node attributes globally

$\mathbf{u}' \leftarrow \phi^u(\bar{\mathbf{e}}', \bar{\mathbf{v}}', \mathbf{u})$

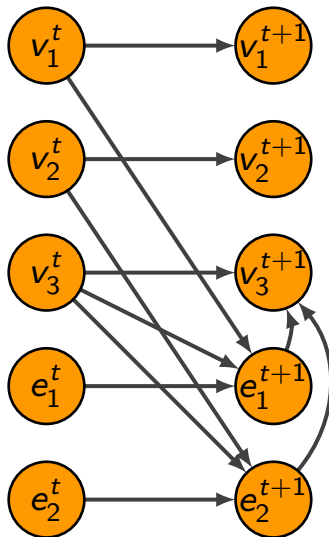
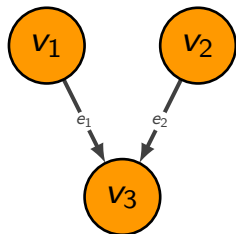
▷ 6. Compute updated global attribute

**return**  $(\mathcal{E}', \mathcal{V}', \mathbf{u}')$

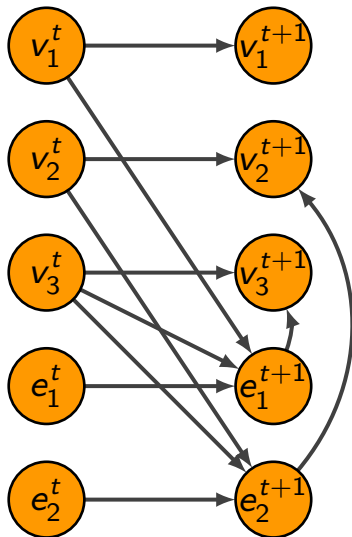
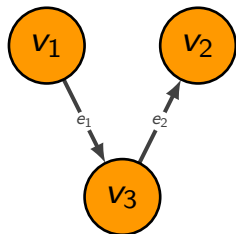
**end function**

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# GN computation graph



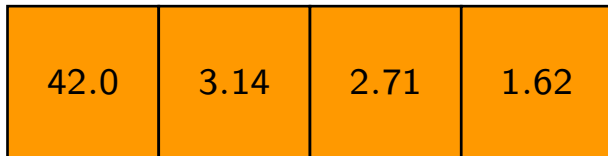
# Input graph defines the computation graph!



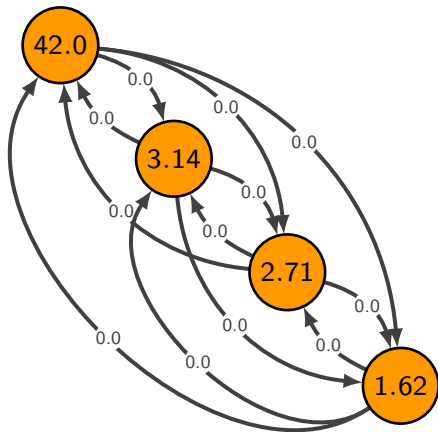


Let's see Graph Networks in action!

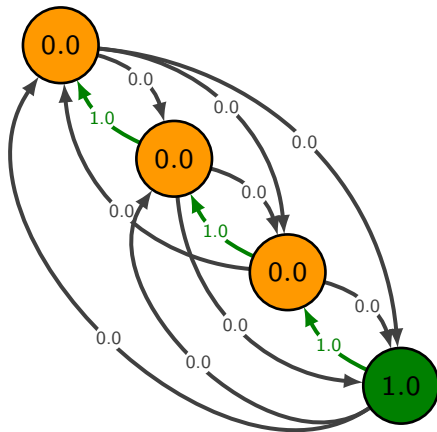
## Sort an array of real numbers



# Graph Encoding

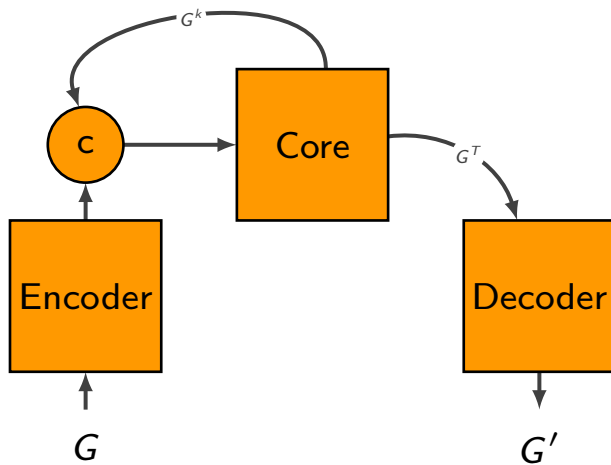


(a) Input Graph

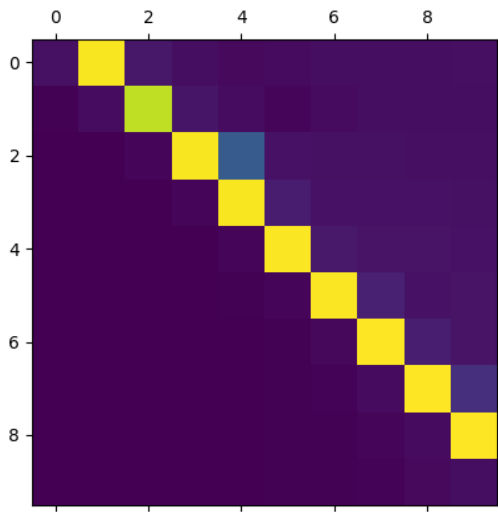


(b) Target Graph

# Model Architecture



# Sorting task results



# Graph Networks as a tool

# Graph Networks for Supervised Learning

# Neural Message Passing for Quantum Chemistry

## Neural Message Passing for Quantum Chemistry

Justin Gilmer<sup>1</sup> Samuel S. Schoenholz<sup>1</sup> Patrick F. Riley<sup>2</sup> Oriol Vinyals<sup>3</sup> George E. Dahl<sup>1</sup>

### Abstract

Supervised learning on molecules has incredible potential to be useful in chemistry, drug discovery, and materials science. Luckily, several promising and closely related neural network models invariant to molecular symmetries have already been described in the literature. These models learn a message passing algorithm and aggregation procedure to compute a function of their entire input graph. At this point, the next step is to find a particularly effective variant of this general approach and apply it to chemical prediction benchmarks until we either solve them or reach the limits of the approach. In this paper, we reformulate existing models into a single

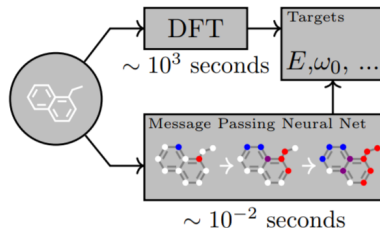
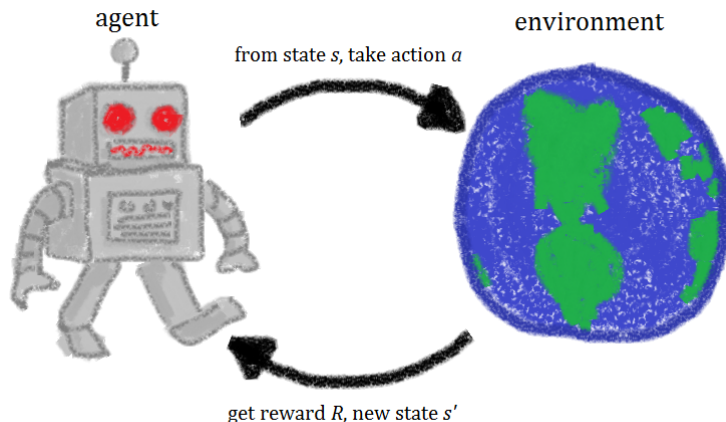


Figure 1. A Message Passing Neural Network predicts quantum properties of an organic molecule by modeling a computationally



# Graph Networks for RL

# Reinforcement Learning in a nutshell



source: [https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Rl\\_agent.png](https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Rl_agent.png)

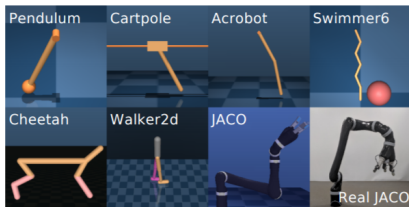
# Graph networks as learnable physics engines for inference and control

## Graph Networks as Learnable Physics Engines for Inference and Control

Alvaro Sanchez-Gonzalez<sup>1</sup> Nicolas Heess<sup>1</sup> Jost Tobias Springenberg<sup>1</sup> Josh Merel<sup>1</sup> Martin Riedmiller<sup>1</sup>  
Raia Hadsell<sup>1</sup> Peter Battaglia<sup>1</sup>

### Abstract

Understanding and interacting with everyday physical scenes requires rich knowledge about the structure of the world, represented either implicitly in a value or policy function, or explicitly in a transition model. Here we introduce a new class of learnable models—based on *graph networks*—which implement an inductive bias for object- and relation-centric representations of complex, dynamical systems. Our results show that as a forward model, our approach supports accurate predictions from real and simulated data, and surprisingly strong and efficient generaliza-



# NerveNet: Learning Structured Policy with Graph Neural Networks

Published as a conference paper at ICLR 2018

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## NERVENET: LEARNING STRUCTURED POLICY WITH GRAPH NEURAL NETWORKS

**Tingwu Wang\*, Renjie Liao\*, Jimmy Ba & Sanja Fidler**

Department of Computer Science

University of Toronto

Vector Institute

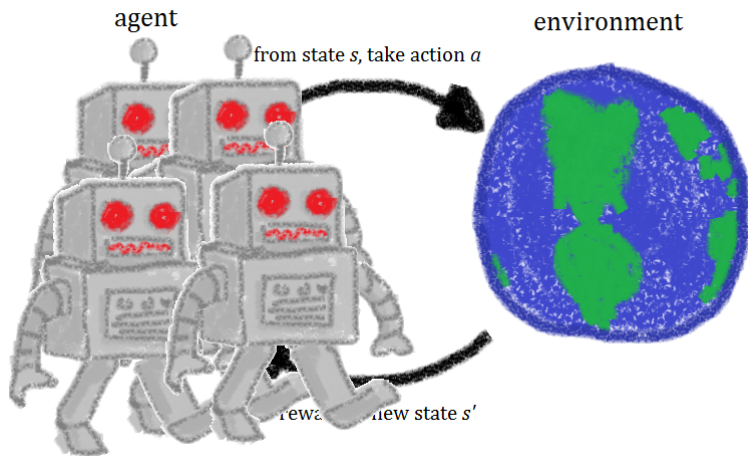
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jimmy@psi.toronto.edu, fidler@cs.toronto.edu

### ABSTRACT

We address the problem of learning structured policies for continuous control. In traditional reinforcement learning, policies of agents are learned by multi-layer perceptrons (MLPs) which take the concatenation of all observations from the environment as input for predicting actions. In this work, we propose NerveNet to explicitly model the structure of an agent, which naturally takes the form of a graph. Specifically, serving as the agent's policy network, NerveNet first propagates information over the structure of the agent and then predict actions for different parts of the agent. In the experiments, we first show that our NerveNet is comparable to state-of-the-art methods on standard Graph Networks environments. We further

# Multi-Agent Reinforcement Learning



source: [https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Rl\\_agent.png](https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Rl_agent.png)

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## RELATIONAL FORWARD MODELS FOR MULTI-AGENT LEARNING

Andrea Tacchetti<sup>\*1</sup>, H. Francis Song<sup>\*1</sup>, Pedro A. M. Mediano<sup>\*1,2</sup>, Vinicius Zambaldi<sup>1</sup>,  
Neil C. Rabinowitz<sup>1</sup>, Thore Graepel<sup>1</sup>, Matthew Botvinick<sup>1</sup> & Peter W. Battaglia<sup>1</sup>

<sup>\*</sup> denotes equal contribution

<sup>1</sup> DeepMind

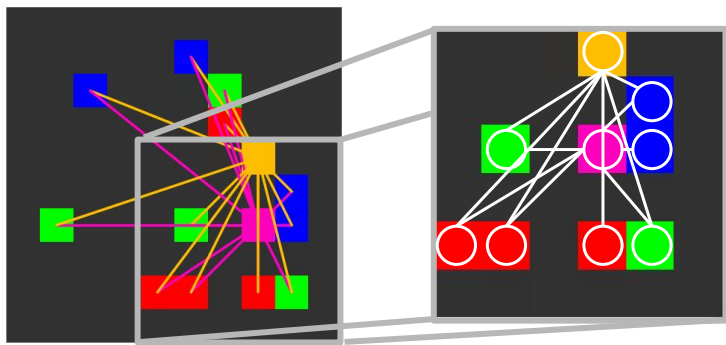
<sup>2</sup> Imperial College London

{atacchet, songf, pmediano, vzambaldi,  
ncr, thore, botvinick, peterbattaglia}@google.com

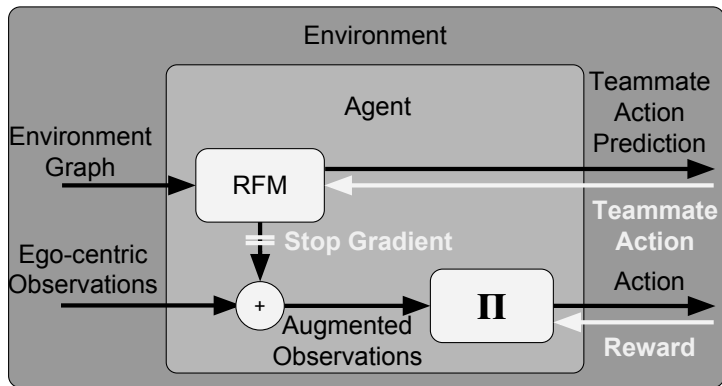
### ABSTRACT

The behavioral dynamics of multi-agent systems have a rich and orderly structure, which can be leveraged to understand these systems, and to improve how artificial agents learn to operate in them. Here we introduce Relational Forward Models (RFM) for multi-agent learning, networks that can learn to make accurate predictions of agents' future behavior in multi-agent environments. Because these models operate on the discrete entities and relations present in the environment, they produce interpretable intermediate representations which offer insights into what drives agents' behavior, and what events mediate the intensity and valence of social interactions. Furthermore, we show that embedding RFM modules inside agents results in faster learning systems compared to non-augmented baselines. As more and more of the autonomous systems we develop and interact with become multi-agent in nature, developing richer analysis tools for characterizing how and why agents make decisions is increasingly necessary. Moreover, developing artificial agents that quickly and safely learn to coordinate with one another, and with humans in shared environments, is crucial.

Each state of a MARL problem can be represented as a graph



## Policies conditioned on graphs





Not all data is ready available in the form of a graph



# Computational efficiency?

- ▶ Hard to batch with dynamic graphs;

# Theoretical limitations?

- ▶ Some of the phenomena are not well suited for graph representation
- ▶ Graph Networks are unable to solve some classes of problems, i.e. discriminating between some non-isomorphic graphs.

# Practical considerations

- ▶ Think of graphs as of data with some feeding mechanism
- ▶ Batch
- ▶ Padding becomes expensive;
- ▶ `torch.split` hurts the backward pass A LOT;
- ▶ Have to be integrated with traditional pipelines;
- ▶ Visualisation is a Thing!




# To sum up

- ▶ There's Plenty of Room at the Bottom
- ▶ GN is a flexible instrument for injection of inductive biases
- ▶ Graph Networks are turning into a tool for supervised learning, unsupervised learning and RL
- ▶ Jump on the bandwagon!




# Thanks!

- ▶ `https://twitter.com/y0b1byte`
- ▶ `https://yobibyte.github.io/pages/paper-notes.html`
- ▶ `vitaly.kurin@magd.ox.ac.uk`

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Nervenet: Learning structured policy with graph neural networks.  
2018.