

DEEP LEARNING AND GRAPH NEURAL NETWORKS FOR AUTONOMY

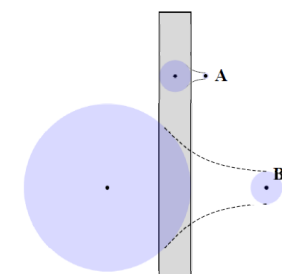
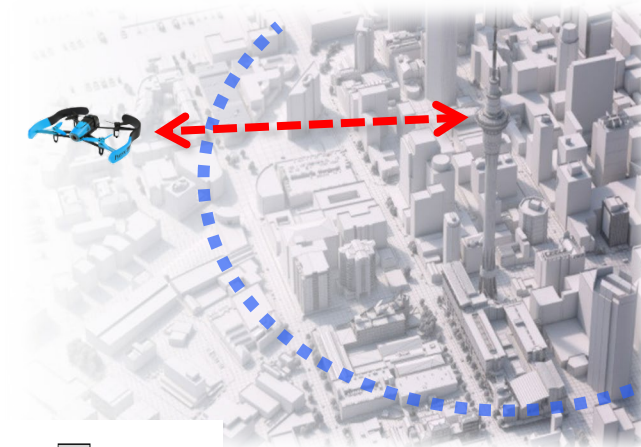
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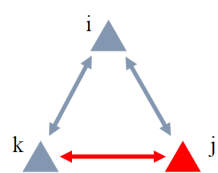
April 7th, 2025

THE INTERMITTENT JOY OF INTERMITTENT FEEDBACK

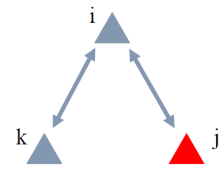
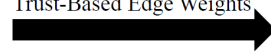
- Causes of temporary feedback loss
 - Task definition
 - Communication restricted operations
 - Operating environment
 - Intermittent occlusions of sensor signals
 - GPS denied regions
 - Sensor modality
 - Limited camera field-of-view
 - Cyber Effects



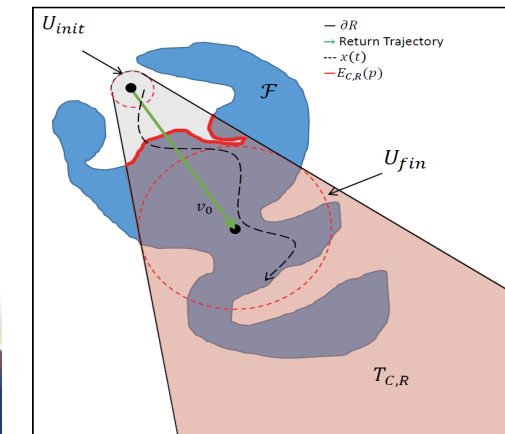
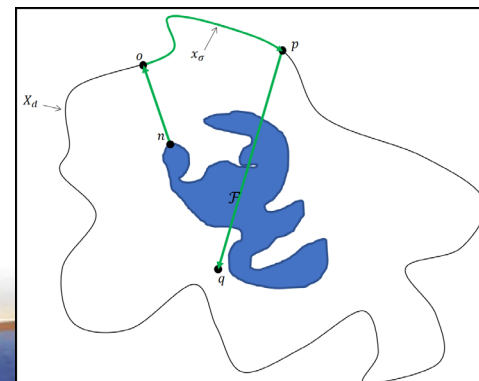
Topological Transition Guarantee

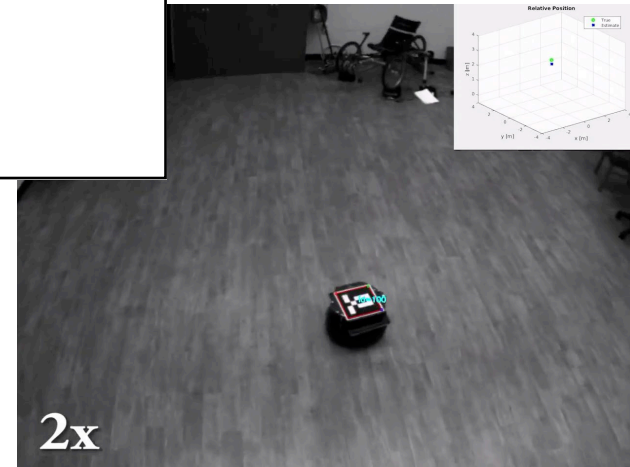
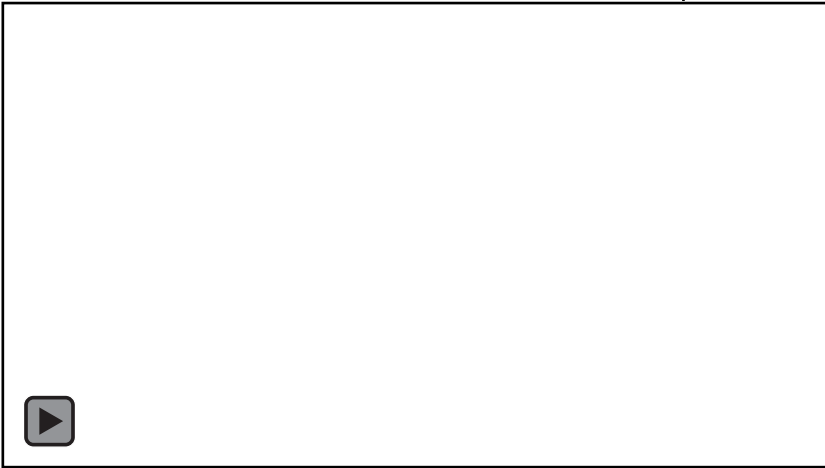
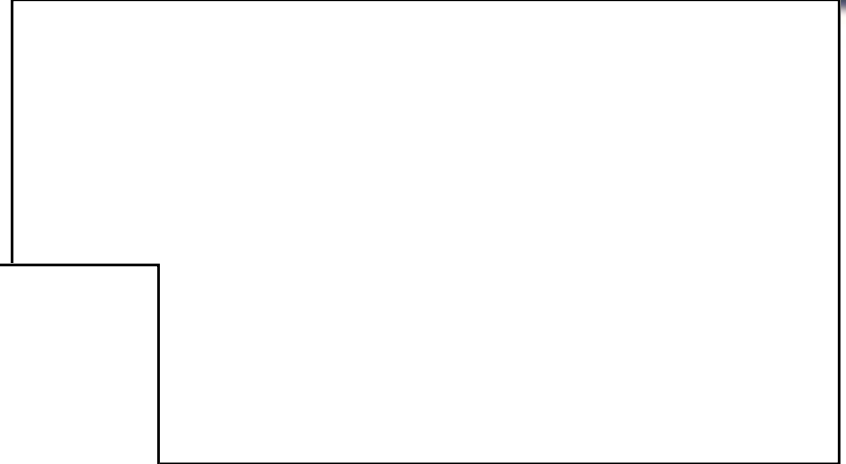
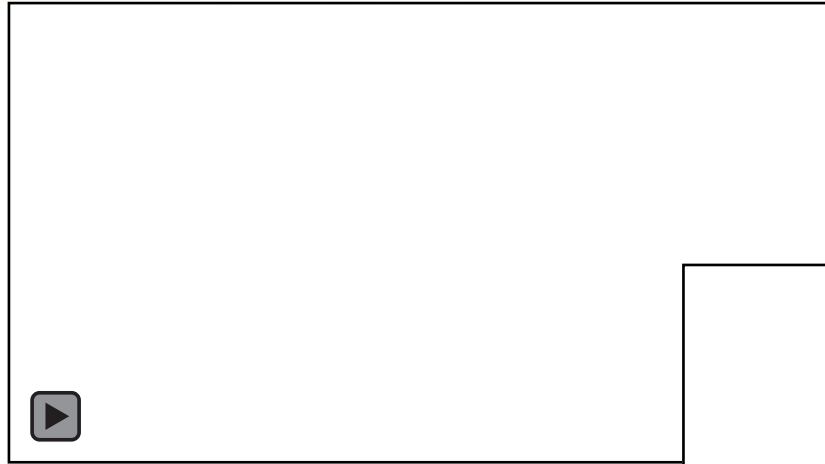


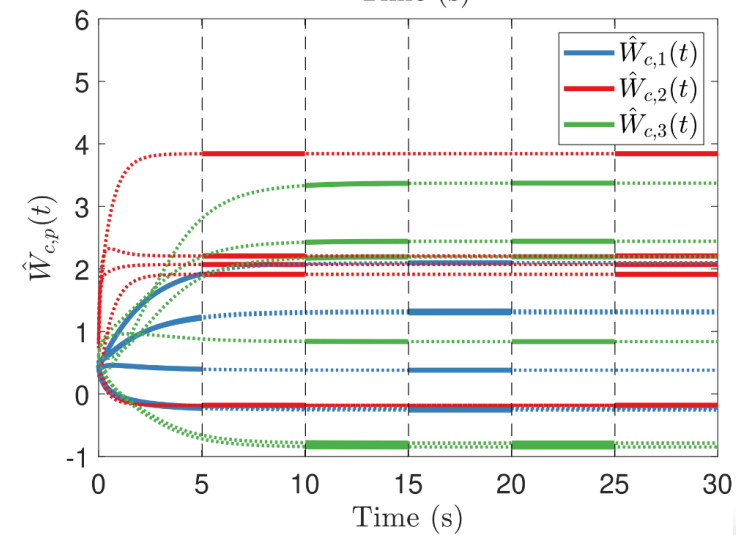
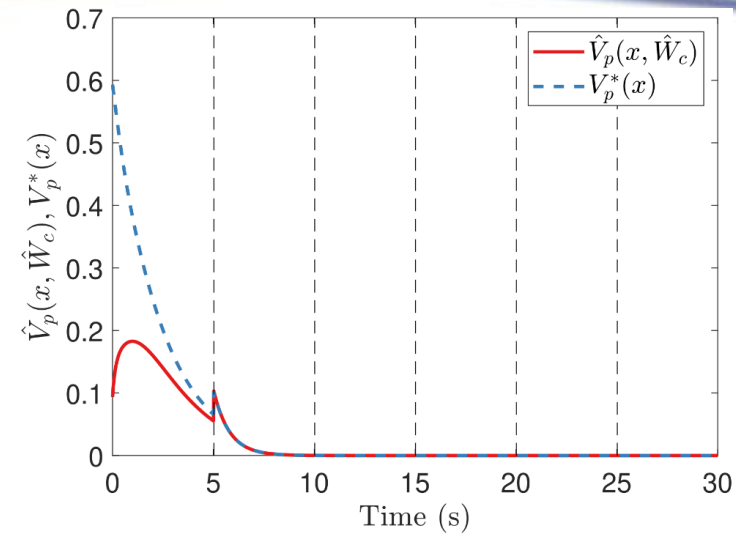
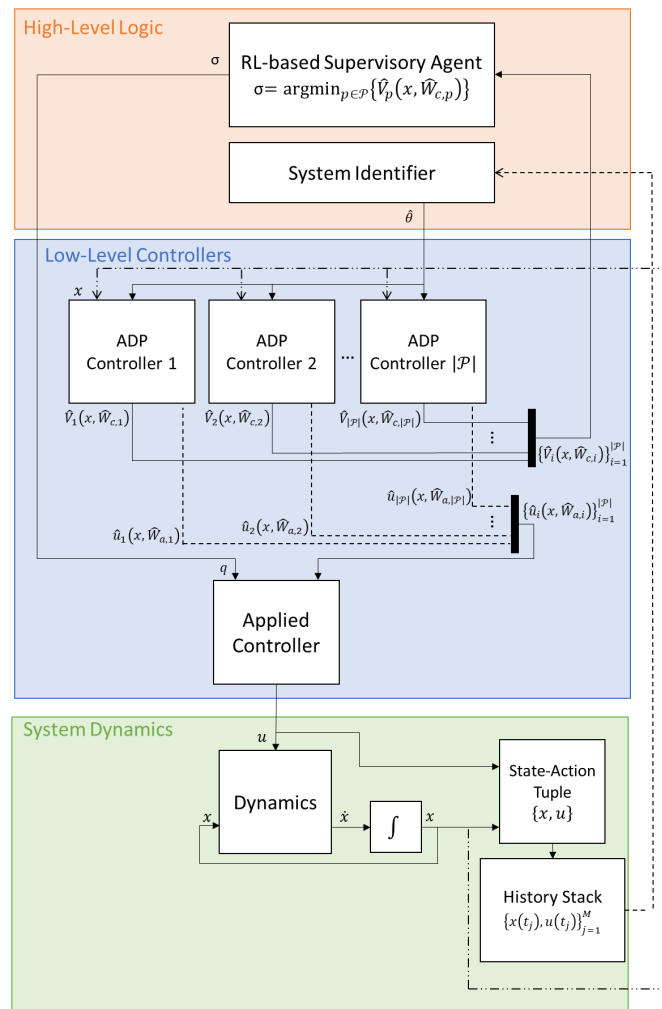
Trust-Based Edge Weights

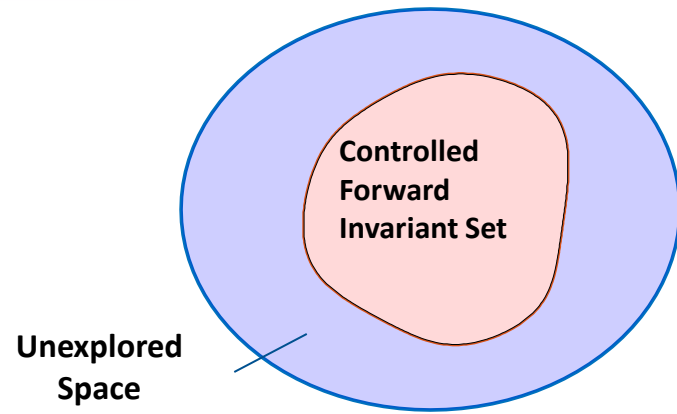


Cannot isolate Byzantine agent from MAS

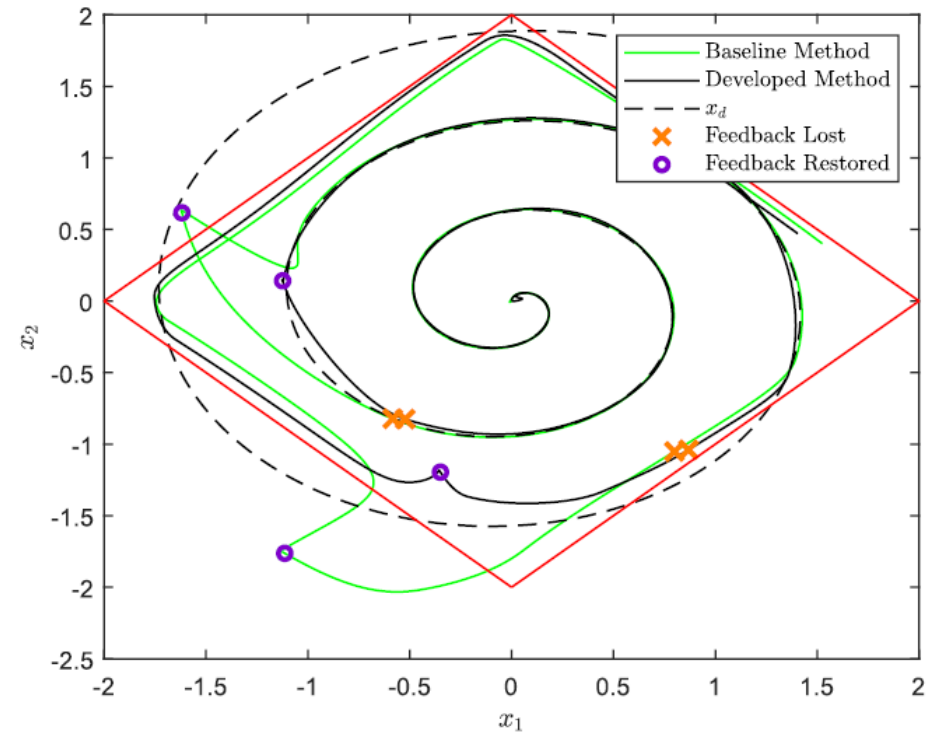
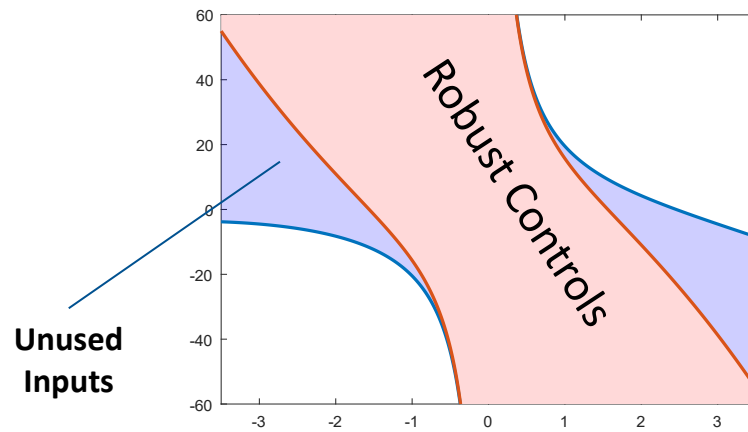




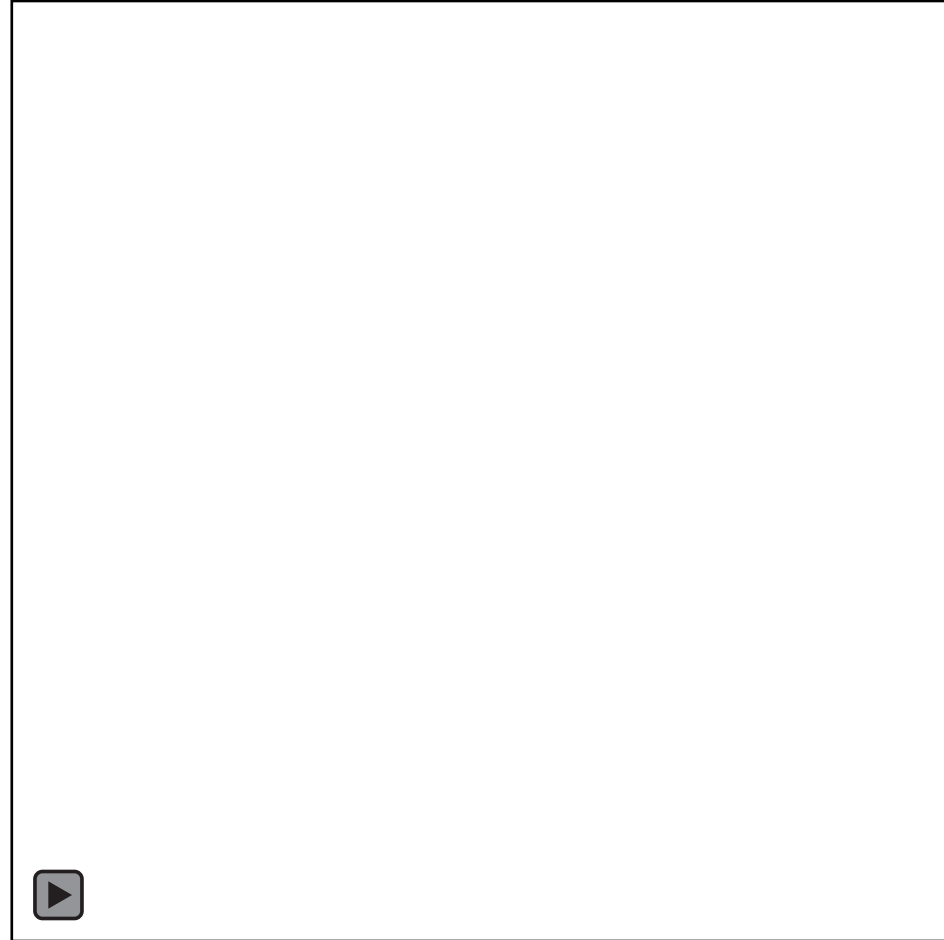




Admissible Control Inputs







- Deep Learning is a machine learning method that has shown significant advances in pattern matching tasks – but not well suited for feedback control
 - Requires massive amounts of training data
 - Significant training time
 - Closed training sets, with no guarantees of convergence or stability
 - Implemented in open-loop – no online adaptation
- We recently developed a series of Deep Learning methods that can be applied in real-time, with no prior data, no training phase, with feedback-based (continuous) learning
 - ...but more data and training is better
 - Stability analysis derived adaptation laws (with proof of convergence)
 - Assured Learning

- Fully-Connected DNN with some input η

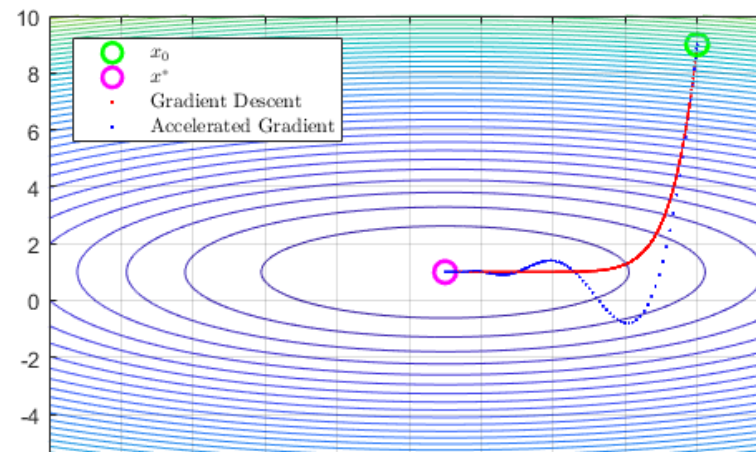
$$\Phi(\eta, V_0, V_1, \dots, V_k) \triangleq (V_k^T \phi_k \circ \dots \circ V_1^T \phi_1) (V_0^T \eta)$$

- Recursive Representation

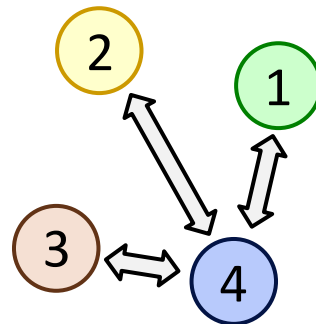
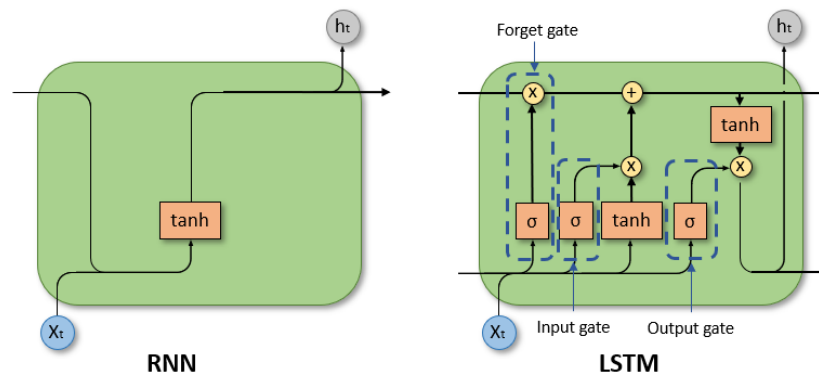
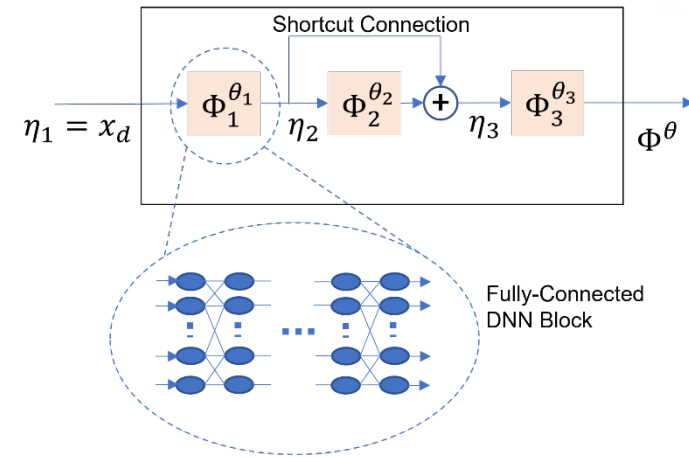
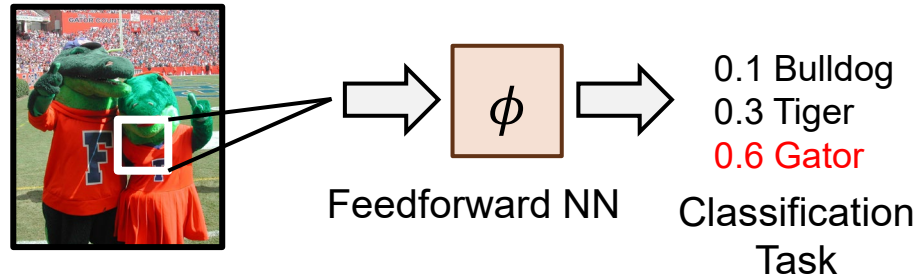
$$\Phi = V_k^T \varphi_k \quad \varphi_j \triangleq \begin{cases} \phi_j (V_{j-1}^T \varphi_{j-1}), & j \in \{1, \dots, k\}, \\ \eta, & j = 0. \end{cases}$$



Accelerated Gradient



Convolutional neural network (CNN)



Graph neural network (GNN)

Model	Multi-Layer Perceptron (MLP)	Kolmogorov-Arnold Network (KAN)
Theorem	Universal Approximation Theorem	Kolmogorov-Arnold Representation Theorem
Formula (Shallow)	$f(\mathbf{x}) \approx \sum_{i=1}^{N(\epsilon)} a_i \sigma(\mathbf{w}_i \cdot \mathbf{x} + b_i)$	$f(\mathbf{x}) = \sum_{q=1}^{2n+1} \Phi_q \left(\sum_{p=1}^n \phi_{q,p}(x_p) \right)$
Model (Shallow)	(a)	(b)
Formula (Deep)	$\text{MLP}(\mathbf{x}) = (\mathbf{W}_3 \circ \sigma_2 \circ \mathbf{W}_2 \circ \sigma_1 \circ \mathbf{W}_1)(\mathbf{x})$	$\text{KAN}(\mathbf{x}) = (\Phi_3 \circ \Phi_2 \circ \Phi_1)(\mathbf{x})$
Model (Deep)	(c)	(d)

LYAPUNOV-BASED GRAPH NEURAL NETWORKS FOR MULTI-AGENT ADAPTIVE CONTROL

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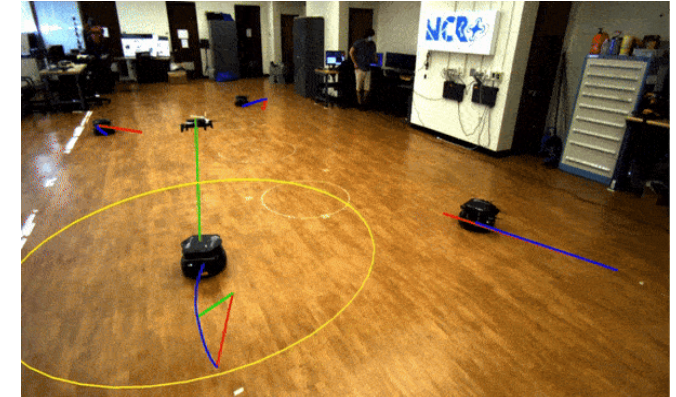
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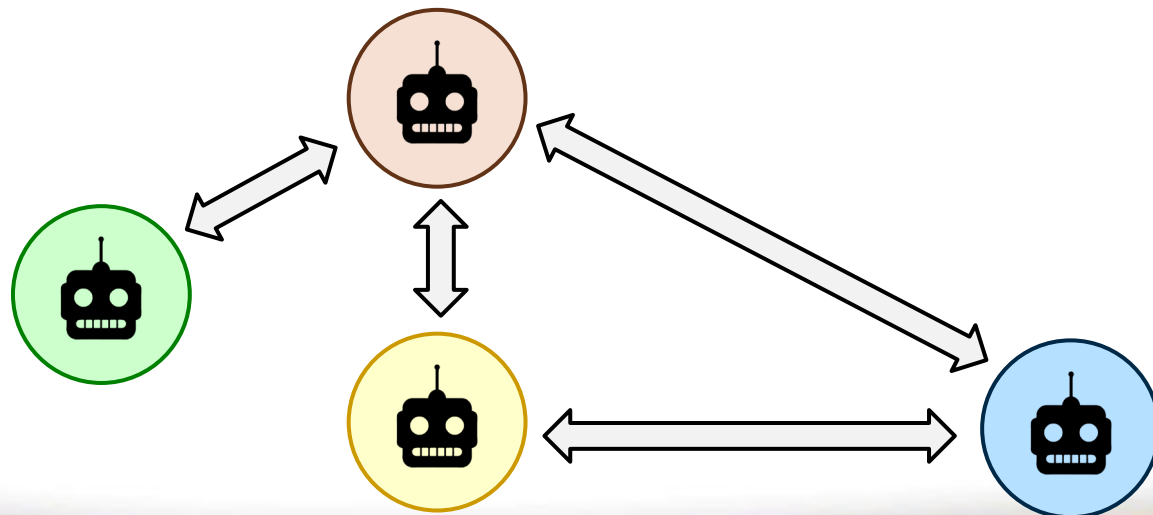
Credit: [FAST Lab](#)



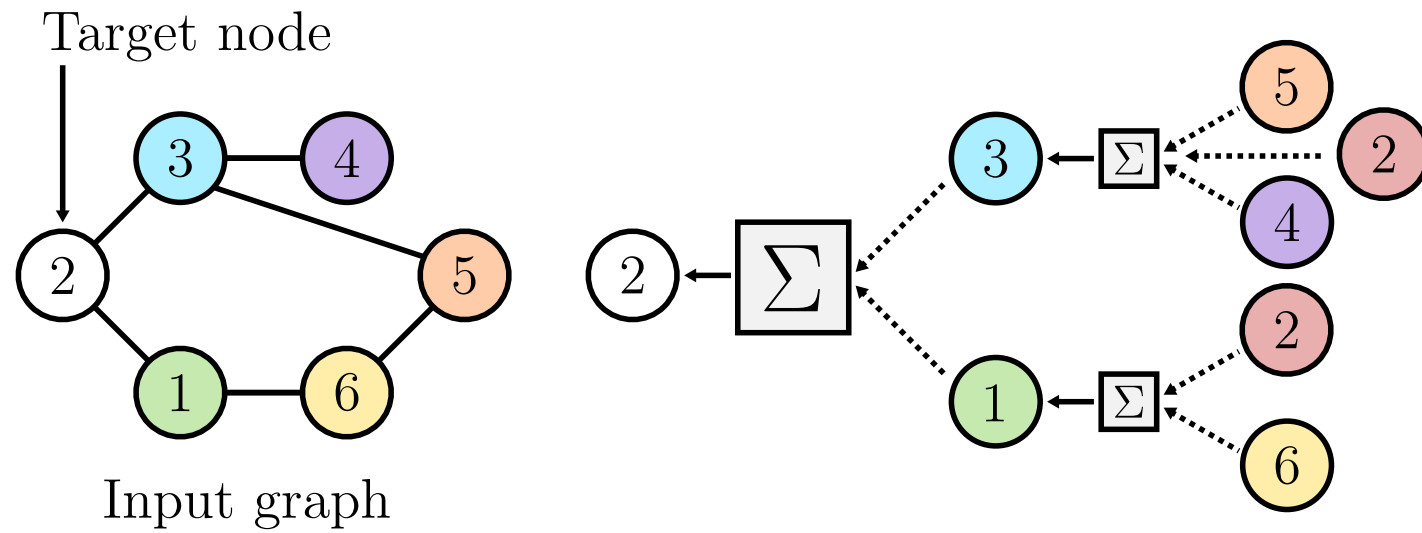
Credit: [Boston Dynamics](#)

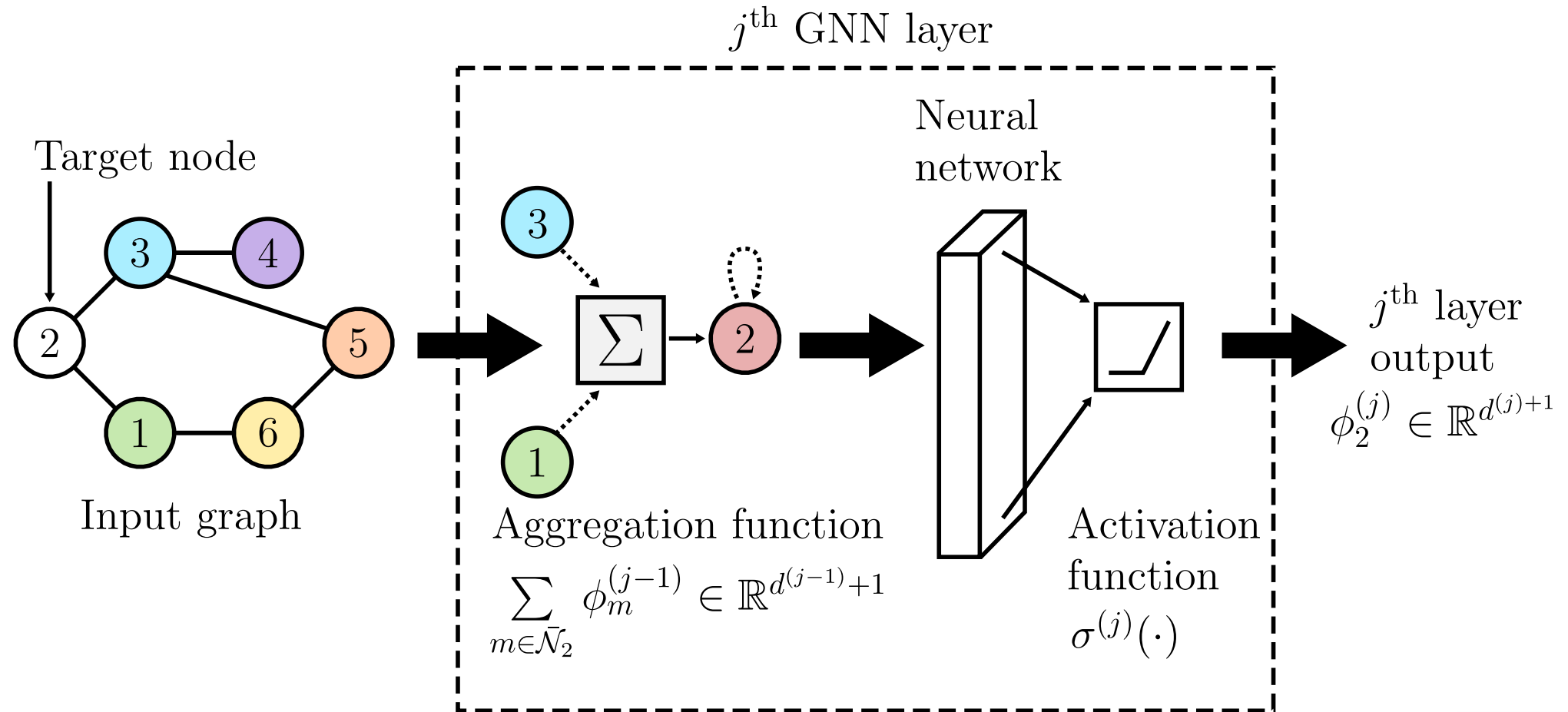


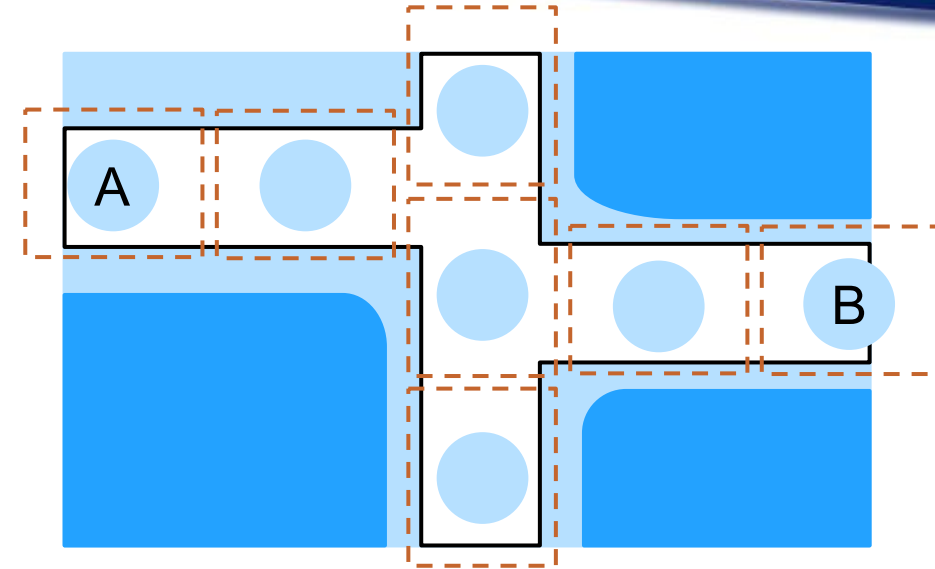
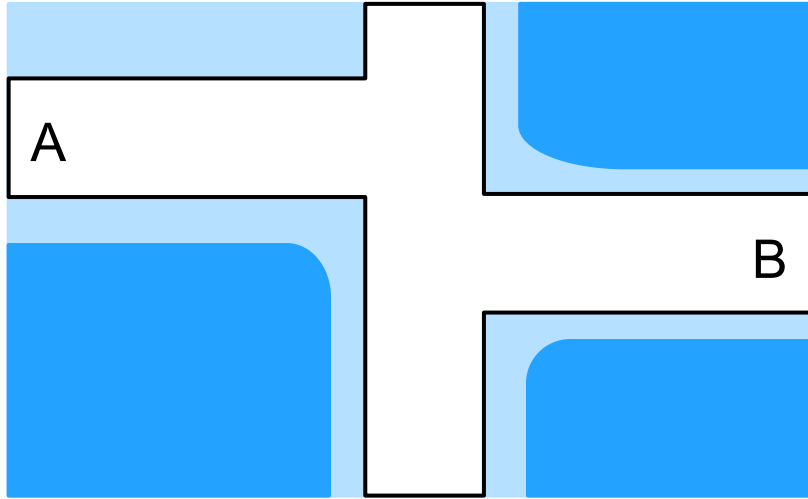
Credit: [NCR Lab](#)



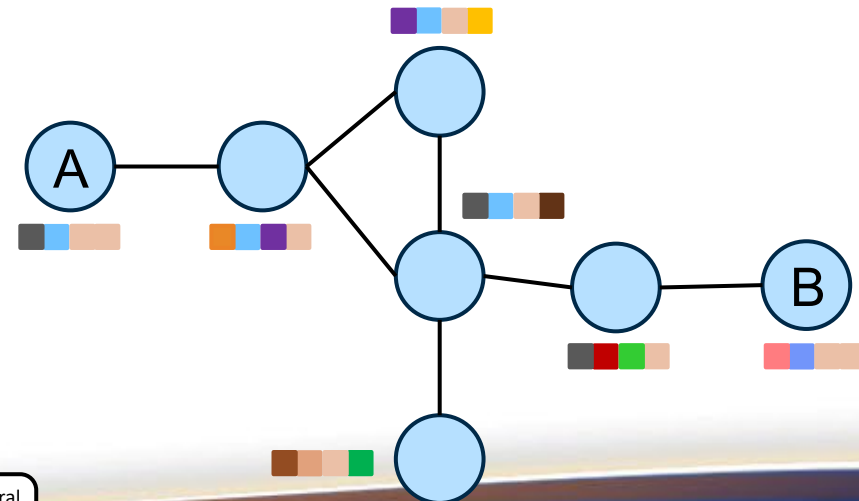
- MASs must communicate to accomplish cooperative goals
- Use estimates from neighboring agents to reach goal effectively



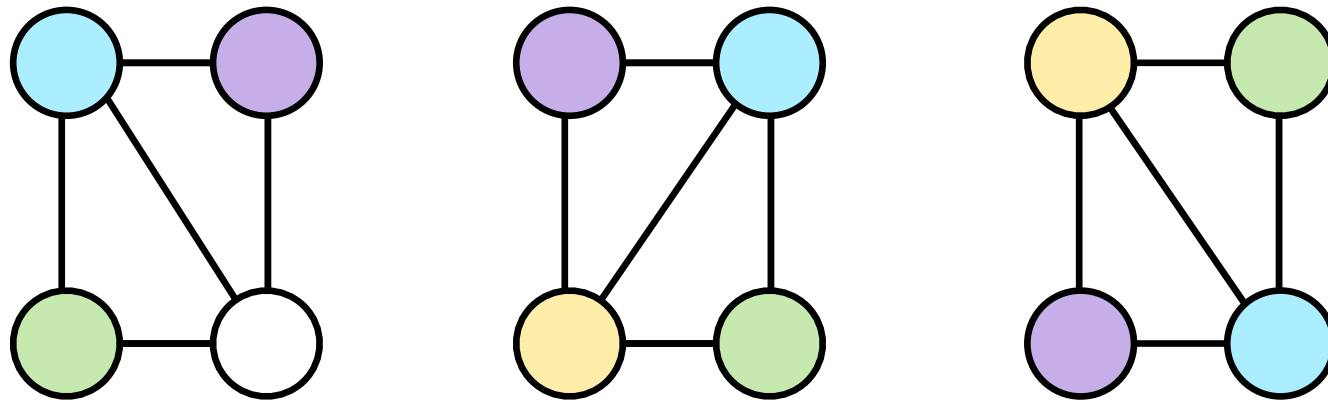




- Node-level info: anonymized historical segment travel speeds, segment length, and segment type (highway, state road, etc.)
- Train GNN to predict traversal time from A to B given the time of day [1]
- Global traversal time loss function



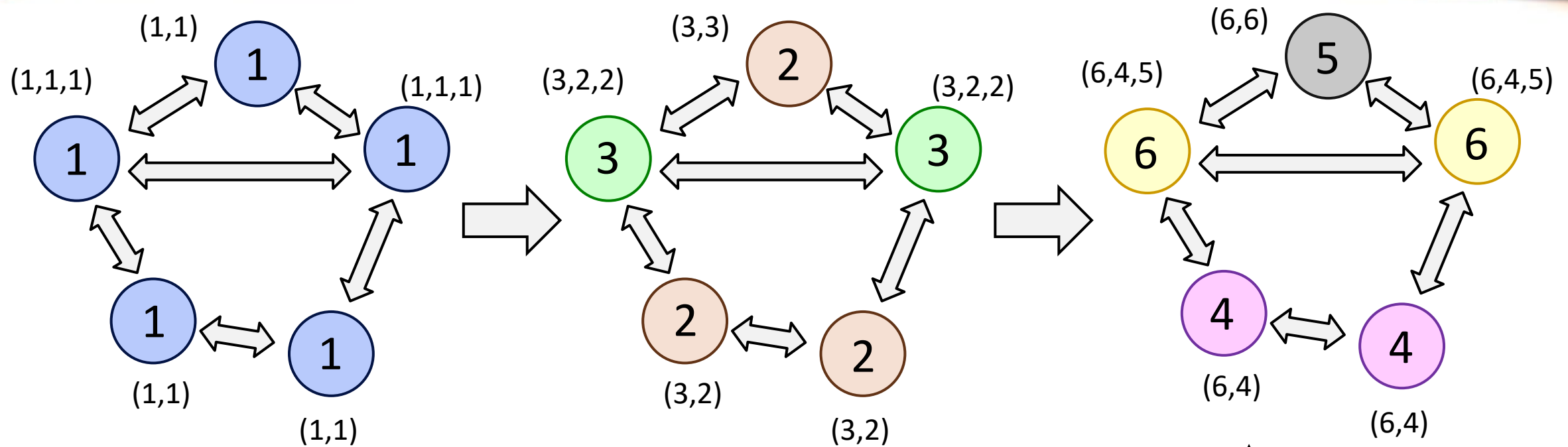
[1] Derrow-Pinion, A., et al, "Eta prediction with graph neural networks in google maps," in *Proc. 30th ACM Int. Conf. Inf. Knowl. Manag.*, 2021, pp. 3767–3776.



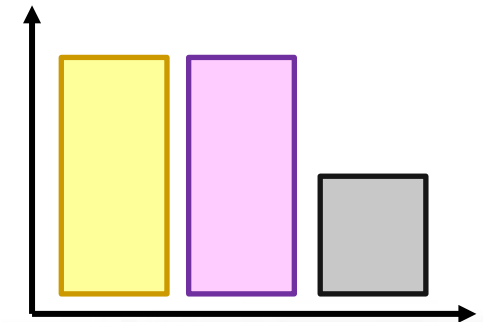
- There exists a permutation that relates the nodes of graphs 1,2, and 3
- How can we test for this?

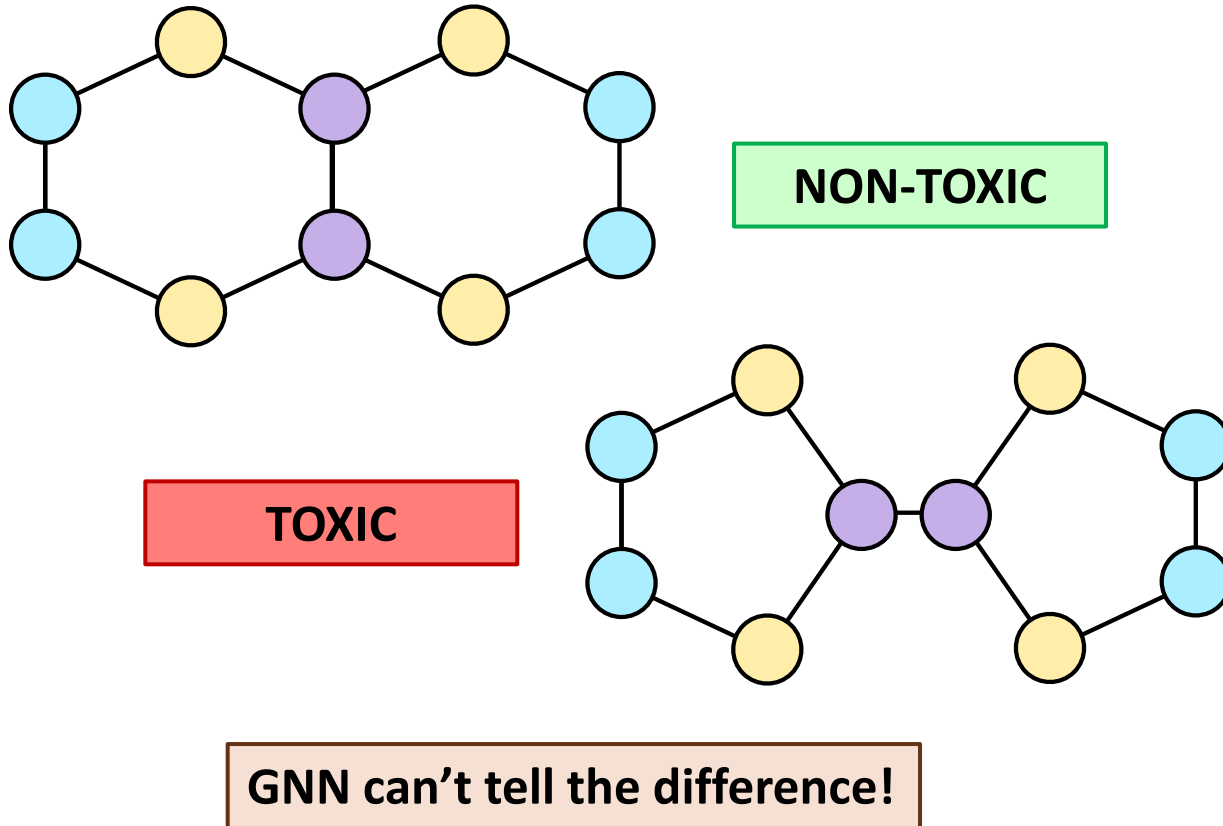
These graphs are
isomorphic!

Open problem:
Development of
polynomial time
algorithm to
determine whether
two graphs are
isomorphic



- 1-WL (Weisfeiler-Lehman) test
- Any two graphs that are isomorphic will have the same color distribution after 1-WL are isomorphic (**but not the other way around!**)
- Generalize to higher dimensions with k-WL (uses pairs, triples, ...)

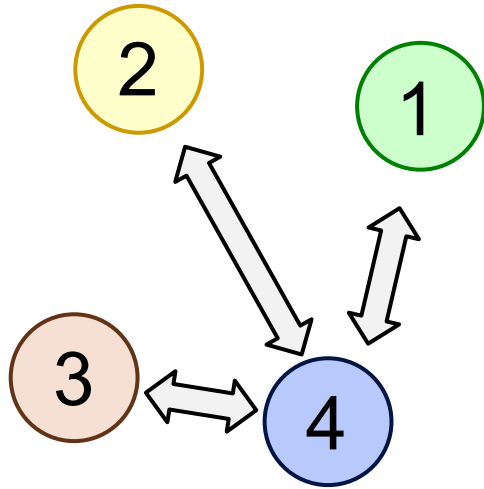




- Invariant function = function output the same, **regardless** of node order
- Equivariant function = function output **respects** node order
- Message-passing GNNs can distinguish up to 2-WL equivalence [2]

Continuous functions of each node's features on a graph are **equivariant**.

[2] W. Azizian and M. Lelarge, "Expressive power of invariant and equivariant graph neural networks," *Proc. Int. Conf. Learn. Represent.*, 2020.



- Graph attention network (GAT) architecture [3]
- Rank importance of messages

[3] P. Velickovic, G. Cucurull, A. Casanova, A. Romero, P. Lio, and Y. Bengio, "Graph attention networks," *Int. Conf. Learn. Represent.*, 2018.

Typically normalized using softmax

$$c_{i,\ell} = a_i^{(j)\top} \left(\left(W_i^{(j)\top} \phi_i^{(j-1)} \right) \oplus \left(W_i^{(j)\top} \phi_\ell^{(j-1)} \right) \right)$$

- Message passing structure introduced challenges in GNN derivative w.r.t. weights calculation
- Need to "chase down" your own weights in update law

$$\frac{\partial \phi_i}{\partial \text{vec} \left(W_i^{(j)} \right)} = W_i^{(k)\top} \phi_i^{(k-1)}$$

Recursively defined term in partial derivative w.r.t. weights

$$\phi_{m^{(\ell+1)}}^{(\ell)} \triangleq \begin{cases} \Delta_{m^{(\ell+1)}}^{(\ell)} \left[\left(\phi_{m^{(\ell)}}^{(\ell-1)} \right)^\top \right]_{m^{(\ell)}}^\top, & \ell = k-1, \dots, j+1, \\ \delta_{i,m^{(\ell+1)}} \pi_{m^{(\ell+1)}}^{(\ell)} l_{m^{(\ell+1)}}^{(\ell)}, & \ell = j. \end{cases}$$

- Want network of agents to track target with unknown, unstructured dynamics

$$\ddot{q}_0 = f(Q_0), Q_0 = [q_0^T, \dot{q}_0^T]^T \in \mathbb{R}^{2n}$$

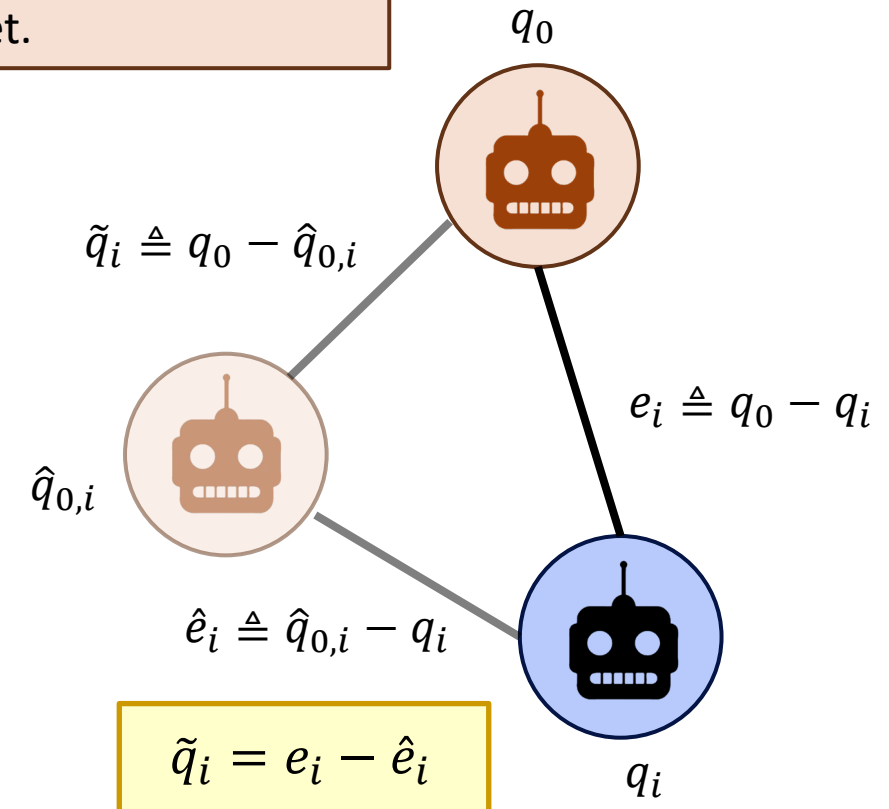
$$\ddot{q}_i = g(R_i) + u_i$$

Approximate together using GNNs

$$r_{1,i} = \dot{\tilde{q}}_i + \alpha_1 \tilde{q}_i \quad r_{2,i} = \dot{\hat{e}}_i + \alpha_2 \hat{e}_i$$

- Position tracking error (e_i) **“How far am I from the target?”**
- State estimation error (\hat{e}_i) **“How far am I from my estimate?”**
- State estimation regulation error (\tilde{q}_i) **“How far is my estimate from the target?”**

Signals e_i, \tilde{q}_i are measurable iff $b_i = 1$. That is, if agent i is connected to the target.



Projection Operator:

Ensures that updated NN weights are bounded wrt $\bar{\theta}$.

$$\dot{\hat{\theta}}_{1,i} \triangleq \text{proj} \left(\Gamma_i \left(-k_3 \left(\sum_{j \in \mathcal{N}_i} (\hat{\theta}_{1,i} - \hat{\theta}_{1,j}) + \hat{\theta}_i \right) + \sum_{j \in \bar{\mathcal{N}}_i^{k-1}} \frac{\partial \phi_{1,i}}{\partial \hat{\theta}_{1,j}} \left(\sum_{j \in \mathcal{N}_i} (\hat{q}_{0,j} - \hat{q}_{0,i}) + b_i \tilde{q}_i + \alpha_1 \sum_{j \in \mathcal{N}_i} (\hat{q}_{0,j} - \hat{q}_{0,i}) + \alpha_1 b_i \tilde{q}_i \right) \right) \right)$$

Distributed Adaptation:

Performs “consensus in the weights” between nodes of the GNN.

NN Derivative w.r.t. Weights:

Closed-form derivative of GNN or GAT architecture w.r.t. weights.

Loss function:

Multiplies NN partial derivative by an implementable form of the auxiliary state estimation regulation error (“How far is my estimate from the target?”). This is a term we wish to minimize.

 σ -Modification Term:

Grants parameter convergence to within a neighborhood of ideal values.

“Distributed Adaptation Law”

- Nodes cannot perform backpropagation at the same time with the same set of info
- Every node has its own unique set of weights
- We want them to converge to the same values (we are all approximating the same unknown function!)

$$\hat{Q}_{0,i} \triangleq [\hat{q}_{0,i}^\top, \dot{\hat{q}}_{0,i}^\top]^\top \in \mathbb{R}^{2n}$$

$$\ddot{\hat{q}}_{0,i} \triangleq \phi_{1,i}(\hat{Q}_{0,i}) + \sum_{j \in \bar{\mathcal{N}}_i^k} \frac{\partial \phi_{1,i}}{\partial \hat{\theta}_{1,j}} + k_1 \left(\sum_{j \in \mathcal{N}_i} (\dot{\hat{q}}_{0,j} - \dot{\hat{q}}_{0,i}) + b_i \dot{\hat{q}}_i + \alpha_1 \sum_{j \in \mathcal{N}_i} (\hat{q}_{0,j} - \hat{q}_{0,i}) + \alpha_1 b_i \tilde{q}_i \right)$$

GNN Output:

Used to approximate unknown target dynamics at each node.

Distributed Adaptation:

Cancel Taylor expansion terms due to influence of neighboring weights.

Observer Update Law

Error signal:

Implementable form of the auxiliary state estimation regulation error. ("How far is my estimate from the target?")

$$u_i \triangleq \ddot{\hat{q}}_{0,i} - \phi_{2,i}(R_i) - \sum_{j \in \bar{\mathcal{N}}_i^k} \frac{\partial \phi_{2,i}}{\partial \hat{\theta}_{2,j}} + k_2 \left(\sum_{j \in \mathcal{N}_i} (\dot{\hat{e}}_i - \dot{\hat{e}}_j) + b_i \dot{\hat{e}}_i + \alpha_1 \sum_{j \in \mathcal{N}_i} (\hat{e}_i - \hat{e}_j) + \alpha_1 b_i \hat{e}_i \right)$$

Observer:

Accounts for GNN estimate of target motion to inform control update.

Error signal:

Implementable form of the auxiliary state estimation error. ("How far am I from my estimate?")

Control Law

- Observer = drive estimate to the target
- Controller = drive agent to estimate

$$R_i \triangleq [\mathbf{1}_{\bar{\mathcal{N}}_i}(m) Q_m^\top]_{m \in V}^\top \in \mathbb{R}^{2nN}$$

- Consider a candidate Lyapunov function

$$V = \frac{1}{2} \tilde{q}^\top \tilde{q} + \frac{1}{2} \hat{e}^\top \hat{e} + \frac{1}{2} r_1^\top \mathcal{H} r_1 + \frac{1}{2} r_2^\top r_2 + \frac{1}{2} \tilde{\theta}_1^\top \Gamma_1^{-1} \tilde{\theta}_1 + \frac{1}{2} \tilde{\theta}_2^\top \Gamma_2^{-1} \tilde{\theta}_2$$

Theorem 1 (Stability Result)

For agent and target dynamics described on Slide 18 and initial conditions of the states $\zeta(t_0) \in \mathcal{S}$, the observer, controller, and adaptive update law guarantee that ζ exponentially converges to \mathcal{U} where

$$\|\zeta(t)\| \leq \left(\frac{\lambda_2}{\lambda_1} \left(\frac{v}{\lambda_4} + e^{-\frac{\lambda_4}{\lambda_2}(t-t_0)} \left(\|\zeta(t_0)\|^2 - \frac{v}{\lambda_4} \right) \right) \right)^{\frac{1}{2}},$$

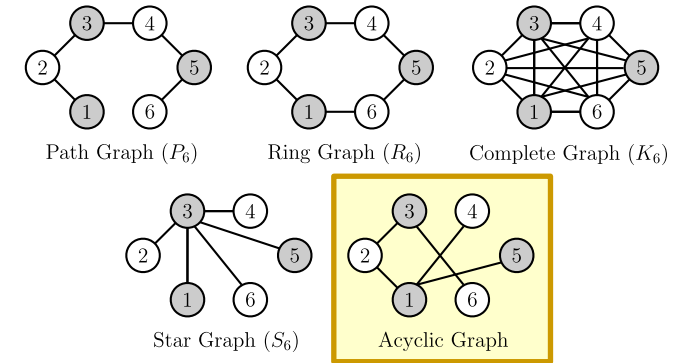
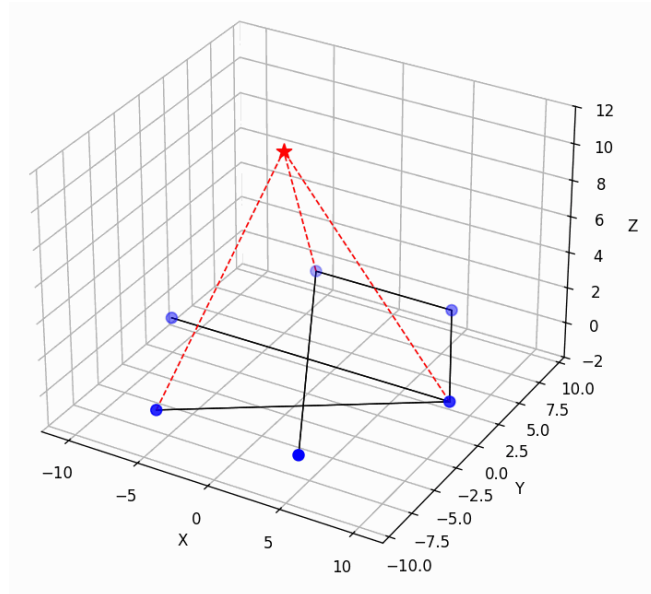
for all $t \in \mathbb{R}_{\geq 0}$ given that the constants and control gains $\alpha_1, \alpha_2, \epsilon_1, \epsilon_2, k_1, k_2, k_3$, and λ_3 are chosen according to their respective sufficient conditions.

- $N = 6$ agents, 3 agents connected to target agent
- Unknown target dynamics of the form

$$\begin{bmatrix} \ddot{x}_0 \\ \ddot{y}_0 \\ \ddot{z}_0 \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} \cos(\dot{x}_0) - \sin(\dot{y}_0) + \cos(2\dot{z}_0) \\ \dot{x}_0 - \dot{y}_0 + \dot{z}_0 + \frac{y_0}{\sqrt{1 + |y_0|}} \\ \sin(\dot{y}_0) - \dot{x}_0\dot{z}_0 \end{bmatrix}$$

- Unknown inter-agent dynamics of the form

$$\begin{bmatrix} \ddot{x}_i \\ \ddot{y}_i \\ \ddot{z}_i \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} \sum_{j \in \mathcal{N}_i} \frac{1}{20,000(y_i - y_j)^2} \\ \sum_{j \in \mathcal{N}_i} (\dot{z}_i - \dot{z}_j) \cos(\dot{x}_i) \\ \sum_{j \in \mathcal{N}_i} \frac{\cos(\dot{z}_i\dot{z}_j)(\dot{x}_i - \dot{x}_j)}{\sqrt{1 + |\dot{x}_i - \dot{x}_j|}} \end{bmatrix} + u_i$$



Architecture	e_{RMS}	\dot{e}_{RMS}	$\tilde{\Phi}_{1,RMS}[0:10]$	$\tilde{\Phi}_{1,RMS}[10:60]$	$\tilde{\Phi}_{2,RMS}[0:10]$	$\tilde{\Phi}_{2,RMS}[10:60]$	u_{RMS}
DNN+DNN	0.4844	0.4355	1.049	0.7635	2.430	0.1296	1.305
GNN+GNN	0.3952	0.4250	1.138	0.7580	2.169	0.0805	1.405
GAT+GNN	0.2912	0.3899	2.676	0.5684	2.246	0.0649	1.570

49% improvement in tracking error performance over DNN baseline!



Thank you! Any questions?