

# Sheaf Neural Networks

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NeurIPS 2020 Topological Data Analysis and Beyond Workshop

# Overview

Graph convolutional networks (GCN) are characterized by (spatial/spectral) graph diffusion operations [1,2].

Cellular sheaves generalize graph diffusion and **characterize** relationships.

Sheaf Neural Networks generalize GCNs via sheaf diffusion.

Sheaf Neural Networks allow for GCN-like computations over graphs with asymmetric/non-constant relations or varying node features.

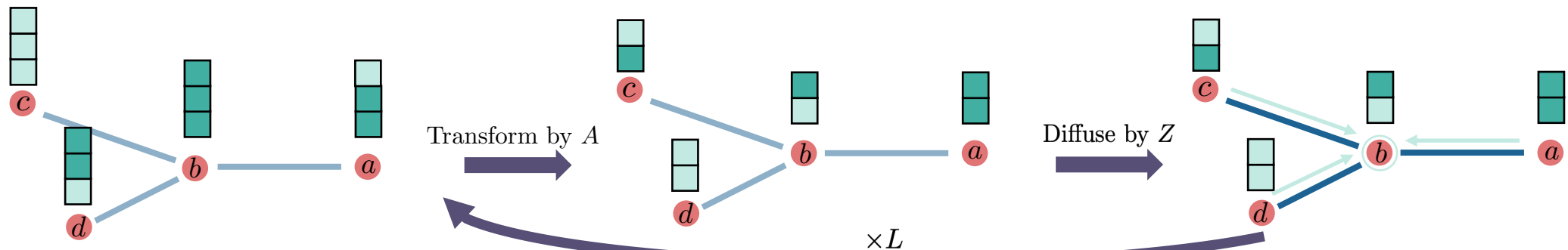
# Graph Convolutional Networks

Given input feature matrix  $X$  of size  $N_v \times N_{\text{feat}}^{\text{in}}$  and adjacency matrix  $Z$

$$\text{GraphConv}(A)(X) = \rho(ZXA)$$

where  $A$  of size  $N_{\text{feat}}^{\text{in}} \times N_{\text{feat}}^{\text{out}}$  is a parameter matrix.

Each layer is a one-hop diffusion step according to local connectivity.

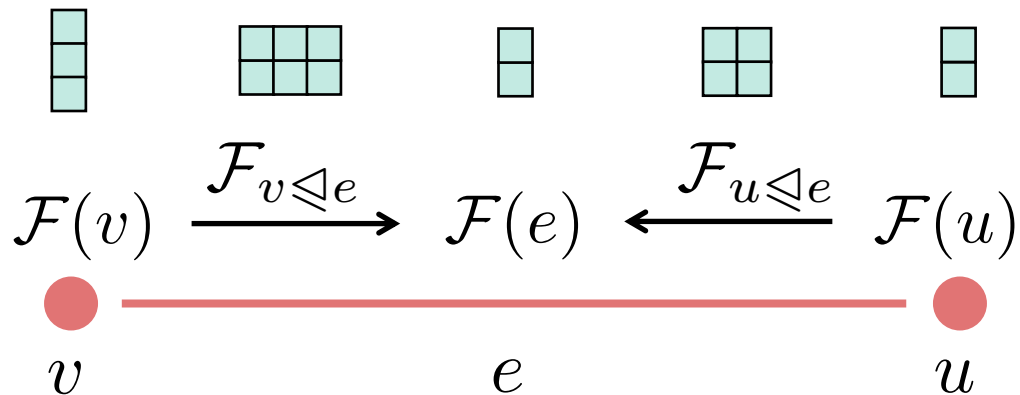


# Cellular Sheaves Characterize Relations

Cellular sheaves describe relationships, not just connections.

Given undirected graph  $G$ , a cellular sheaf  $\mathcal{F}$  is defined by:

- a vector space  $\mathcal{F}(v)$  for each vertex  $v$  of  $G$ ,
- a vector space  $\mathcal{F}(e)$  for each edge  $e$  of  $G$ , and
- a linear map  $\mathcal{F}_{v \triangleleft e} : \mathcal{F}(v) \rightarrow \mathcal{F}(e)$  for each incident vertex-edge pair  $v \triangleleft e$



$$\delta : C^0(G; \mathcal{F}) \rightarrow C^1(G; \mathcal{F})$$

$$L_{\mathcal{F}} = \delta^T \delta = \begin{pmatrix} \mathcal{F}_{v \triangleleft e}^T \mathcal{F}_{v \triangleleft e} & -\mathcal{F}_{v \triangleleft e}^T \mathcal{F}_{u \triangleleft e} \\ -\mathcal{F}_{u \triangleleft e}^T \mathcal{F}_{v \triangleleft e} & \mathcal{F}_{u \triangleleft e}^T \mathcal{F}_{u \triangleleft e} \end{pmatrix}$$

# Sheaf Neural Networks

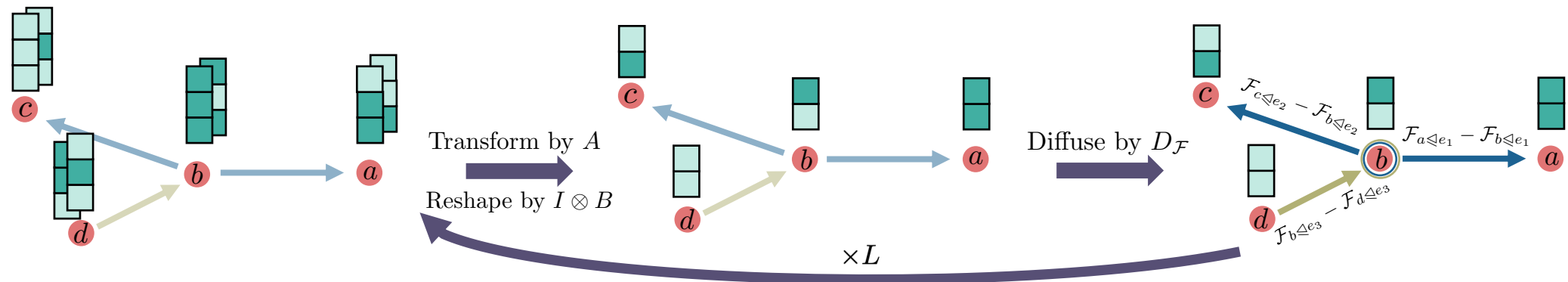
Assume  $N_v$  nodes in the graph each with  $N_{\text{feat}}$   $k$ -dimensional features.

Concatenate node features into input matrix  $X$  of size  $N_v k \times N_{\text{feat}}$ .

$$\text{SheafConv}(A, B)(X) = \rho(D_{\mathcal{F}}(I \otimes B)XA)$$

$A$  ( $N_{\text{feat}}^{\text{in}} \times N_{\text{feat}}^{\text{out}}$ ) and  $B$  ( $k \times k$ ) are learnable parameters.

$$D_{\mathcal{F}} = I - \frac{1}{d_{\text{max}}} L_{\mathcal{F}}.$$



# Increased Expressivity

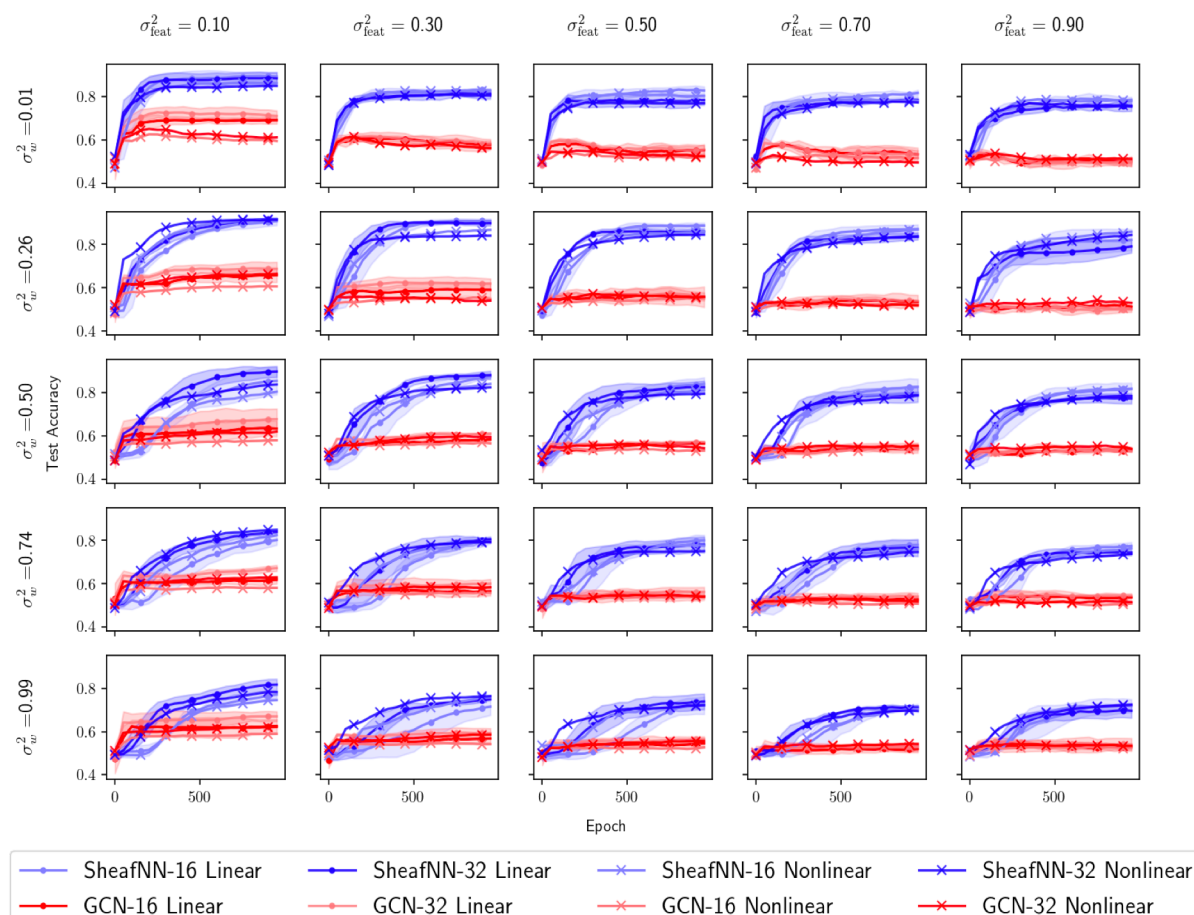
Sheaf convolution respects non-constant and asymmetric relational data.

Unfortunately, few semi-supervised graph datasets admit non-trivial sheaf structure.

Can also learn the sheaf structure during training—an exciting direction for future work.

More ideas from cellular sheaf theory may be exploited for relational learning.

**Sheaf neural networks outperform GCNs on signed graphs (see paper for details).**



# Thank You!

Special thanks to the Topological Data Analysis and Beyond organizers: <https://tda-in-ml.github.io/organisers>

The Sheaf Neural Networks paper can be found at: <https://openreview.net/forum?id=GgcgIJsT8HD>

Jakob Hansen: <https://www.math.upenn.edu/~jhansen>

Thomas Gebhart: <https://www.gebhartom.com>