



# Explainability and Applicability of Graph Neural Networks

Josephine Thomas, Silvia Beddar-Wiesing, Clara Holzhüter, Alice Moallemy-Oureh

October 23, 2023

# Content

- 1 The GAIN Members
- 2 Workshop Agenda
- 3 GAIN Research Overview
- 4 Explainability in Graph Neural Networks
- 5 Power flow forecasts at transmission grid nodes using GNNs
- 6 FDGNN: Fully Dynamic Graph Neural Network

# The Team



Josephine Thomas



Silvia Beddar-Wiesing



Alice Moallemy-Oureh



Clara Holzhüter



Bernhard Sick



Christoph Scholz

Björn-André Schröder

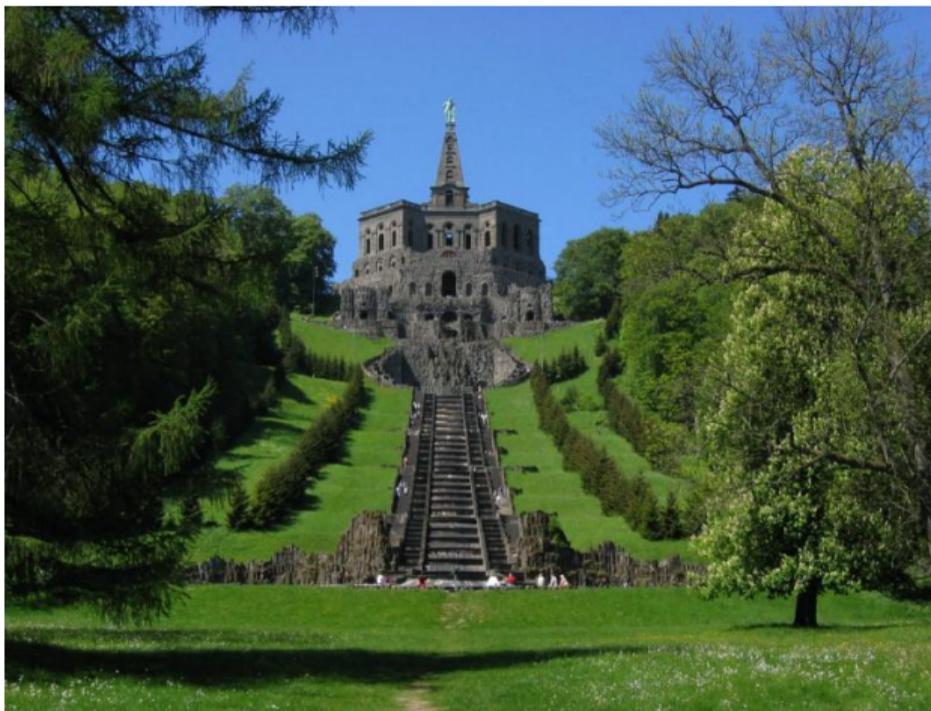
Laura Ritter

We are looking for  
more student  
assistants!

Preliminary Schedule

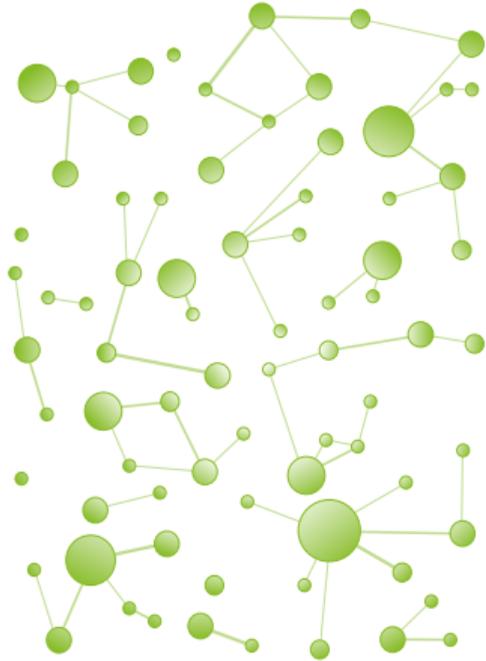
	Wednesday		Thursday		Friday
10:00-11:10	TBD GAIN	10:00-10:45	Explaining Identity-aware Graph Classifiers through the Language of Motifs Alan Perotti	10:00-12:00	Hands-on Tutorial on Explaining GNNs Dominik Kohler
11:15-12:00	How can we use random walks in deep learning on graphs and why do we care? Martin Ritzert	10:50-11:35	The most important unsolved problem in graph representation learning Petar Velickovic*	Afterwards	Lunch
12:00-13:00	Lunch	11:35-11:50	Coffee		
13:00-13:45	Graph Neural Networks for Power Systems Operation Balthazar Dannon	11:50-12:35	Deep Learning on Real-World Graphs Emanuele Rossi		
13:50-14:35	Weisfeiler and Leman go Neural: Expressivity and Generalization Abilities of Graph Neural Networks Christopher Morris	12:35-15:00	Break		
14:35-15:00	Coffee	15:00-Open end	Social Event		
15:00-15:45	Network Optimization with GNNs and Deep Reinforcement Learning Paul Almosan				
15:50-16:35	Approximately equivariant graph networks Soledad Villar*				
17:00-17:45	Reliable Graph Machine Learning Simon Geisler				

\*Talks will be online talks



Source: <https://www.ro80club.org/>

- **Meeting point:** Here or tram stop 'Wilhelmshöhe Park' in front of the information!
- **Time:** 15.00 here or about 15.45 at 'Wilhelmshöhe Park'.
- **Dinner:** 19.00 at restaurant Lichtenhainer (Elfbuchenstraße 4 34119 Kassel)

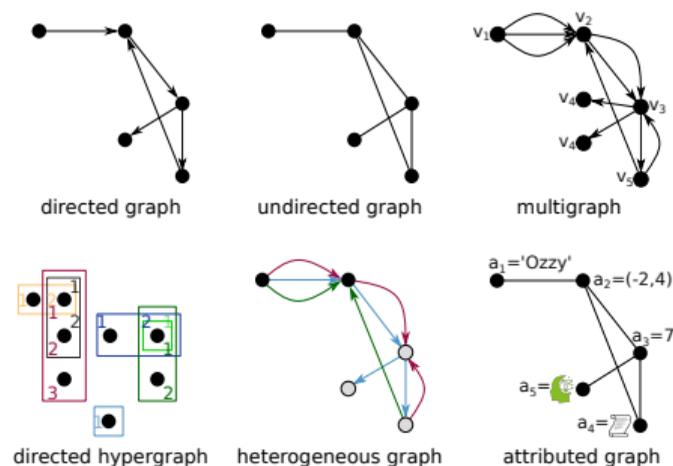


# GAIN Research: Past, current and future work

Josephine Thomas

## Graph Neural Networks Designed for Different Graph Types: A Survey

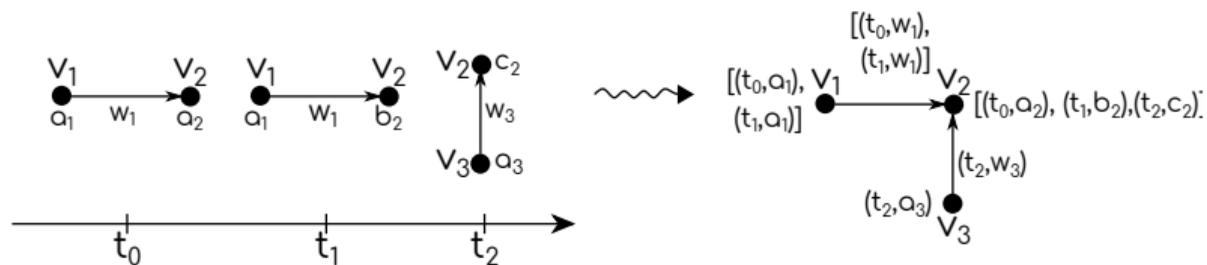
published at TMLR



Josephine Thomas\*, Alice Moallemy-Oureh\*, Silvia Beddar-Wiesing\*, Clara Holzhüter: *Graph Neural Networks Designed for Different Graph Types: A Survey*, Transactions on Machine Learning Research, 2023, <https://openreview.net/forum?id=h4BYtZ79uy>

## A Note on the Modeling Power of Different Graph Types

preprint available



Josephine M. Thomas, Silvia Beddar-Wiesing, Alice Moallem-Oureh, Rüdiger Nather: *A Note on the Modeling Power of Different Graph Types*, <https://arxiv.org/abs/2109.10708>



### Weisfeiler–Lehman goes Dynamic: An Analysis of the Expressive Power of Graph Neural Networks for Attributed and Dynamic Graphs

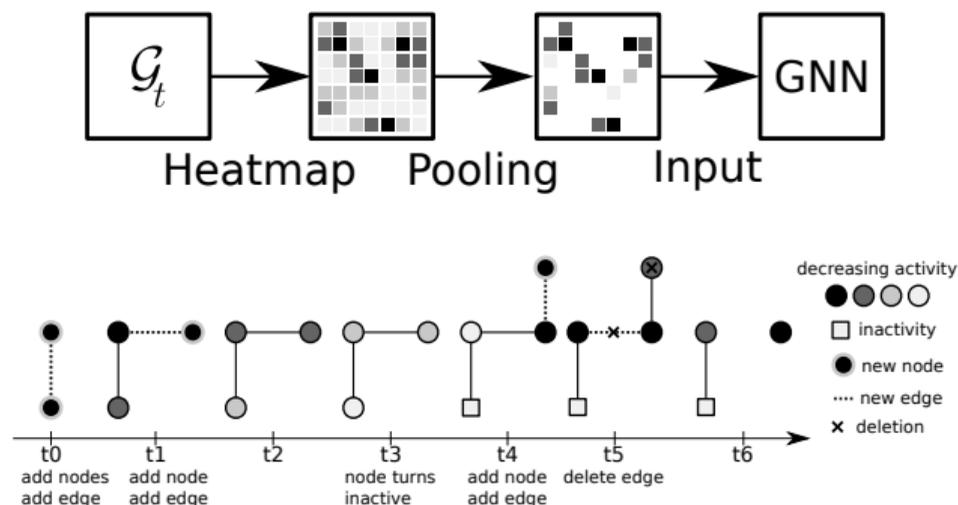
under review at Neural Networks

- Which graphs/nodes can a GNN distinguish?
- Which functions can a GNN approximate?
  - Extension of the work of D’Inverno et. al (2021) and Azizian et. al (2020) from static node-attributed graphs to dynamic and fully attributed graphs

Beddar-Wiesing\*, D’Inverno\*, Graziani\*, Lachi\*, Moallemy-Oureh\*, Scarselli, Thomas: *Weisfeiler–Lehman goes Dynamic: An Analysis of the Expressive Power of Graph Neural Networks for Attributed and Dynamic Graphs*, <https://arxiv.org/abs/2210.03990>

## Using local activity encoding for dynamic graph pooling in structural-dynamic graphs: student research abstract

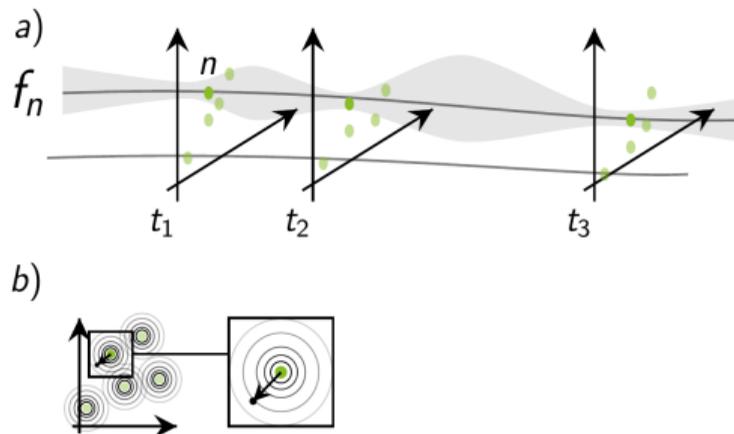
published at ACM



Silvia Beddar-Wiesing: *Using local activity encoding for dynamic graph pooling in structural-dynamic graphs: student research abstract*, SAC '22: Proceedings of the 37th ACM/SIGAPP Symposium on Applied Computing

## Continuous-Time Generative GNN for Attributed Dynamic Graphs: student research abstract

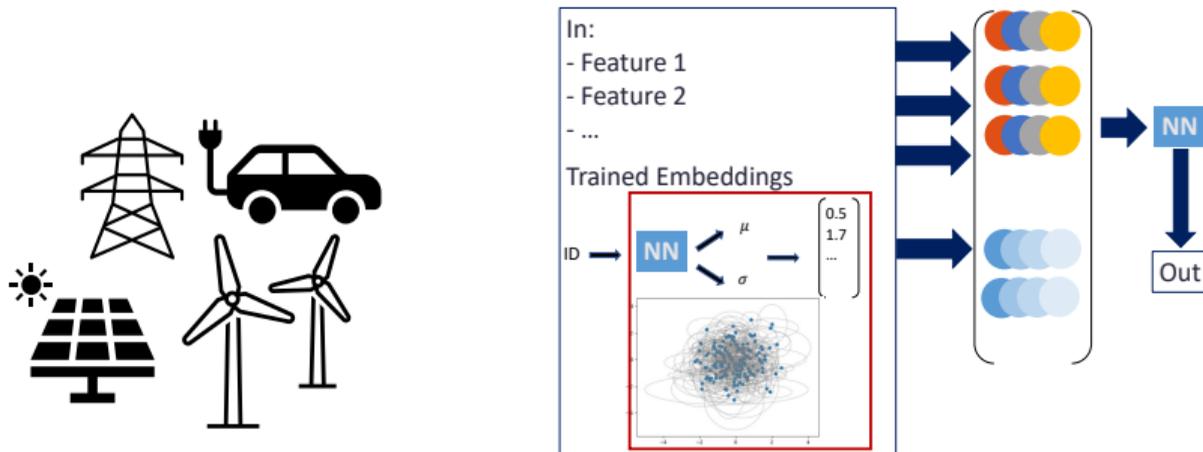
published at ACM



Alice Moallem-Oureh: *Continuous-time generative graph neural network for attributed dynamic graphs: student research abstract*, SAC '22: Proceedings of the 37th ACM/SIGAPP Symposium on Applied Computing, <https://doi.org/10.1145/3477314.3508018>

## Power flow forecasts at transmission grid nodes using Graph Neural Networks

published at Energy and AI





- Explainability of our algorithms
- Implementation of FDGNN
- Implementation of algorithms for structural dynamic and attribute dynamic graphs
- Combining Reinforcement Learning with Graph Learning for use-cases on the power grid



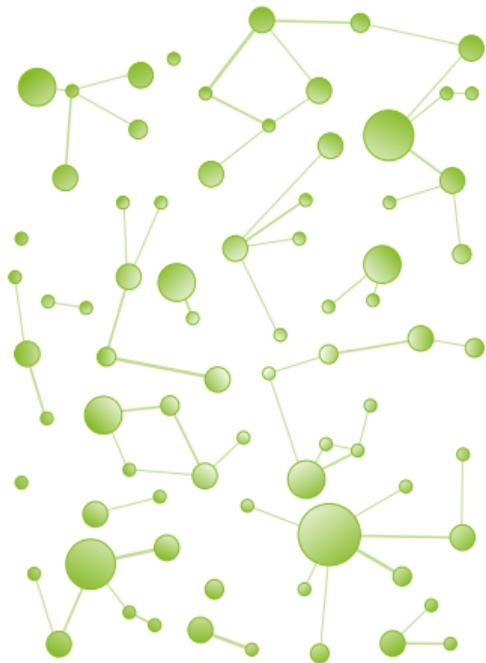
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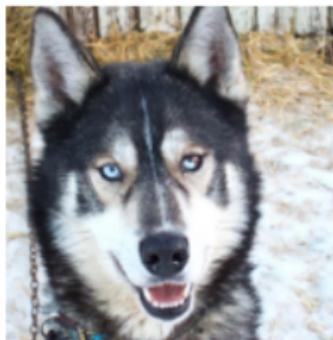
# Explainability in Graph Neural Networks

Josephine Thomas

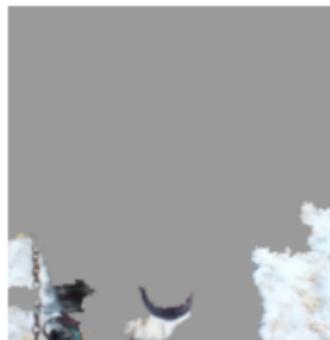


Source: <https://carpentries-incubator.github.io/data-science-ai-senior-researchers/05-Problems-with-AI/index.html>

We believe, the algorithm learned to classify wolves and huskys with 80% accuracy...



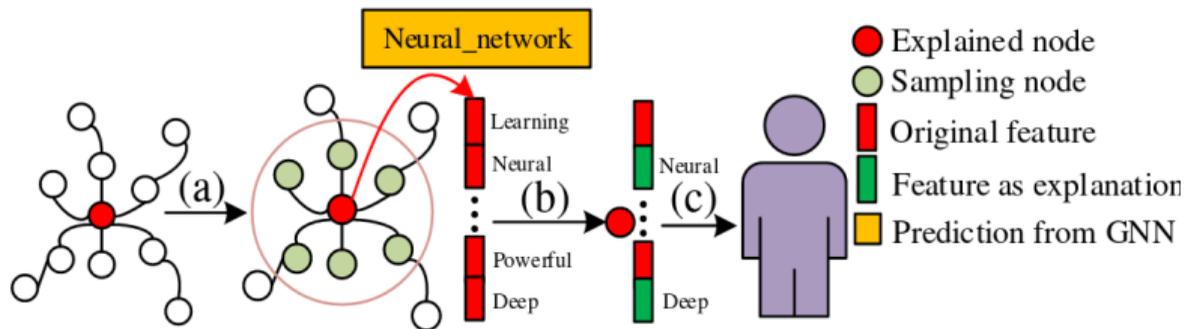
(a) Husky classified as wolf



(b) Explanation

LIME, Ribeiro et al. 2016

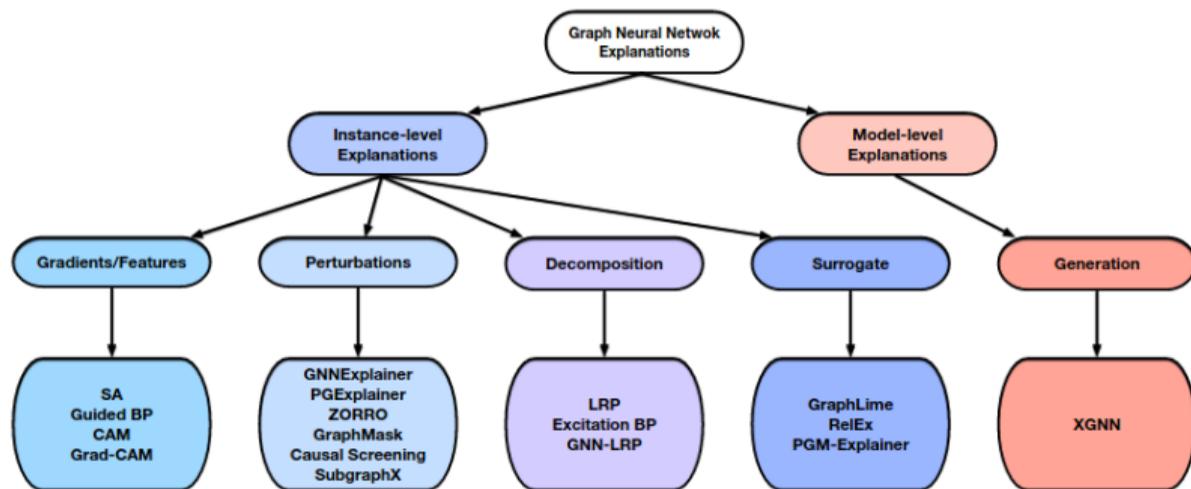
..but it actually learned to recognize snow/bright background.



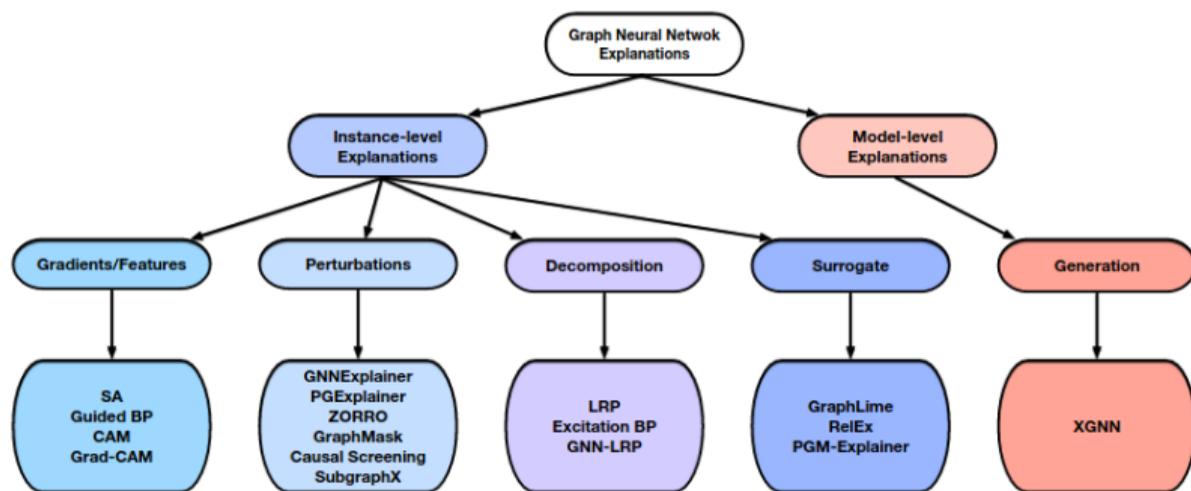
GraphLIME: Local Interpretable Model Explanations for Graph Neural Networks, Huang et al., 2023

For graphs, the most representative features of a nodes neighbors can be selected to serve as an explanation for the classification result of that node.

# Explainability: Types of Explainability for GNNs

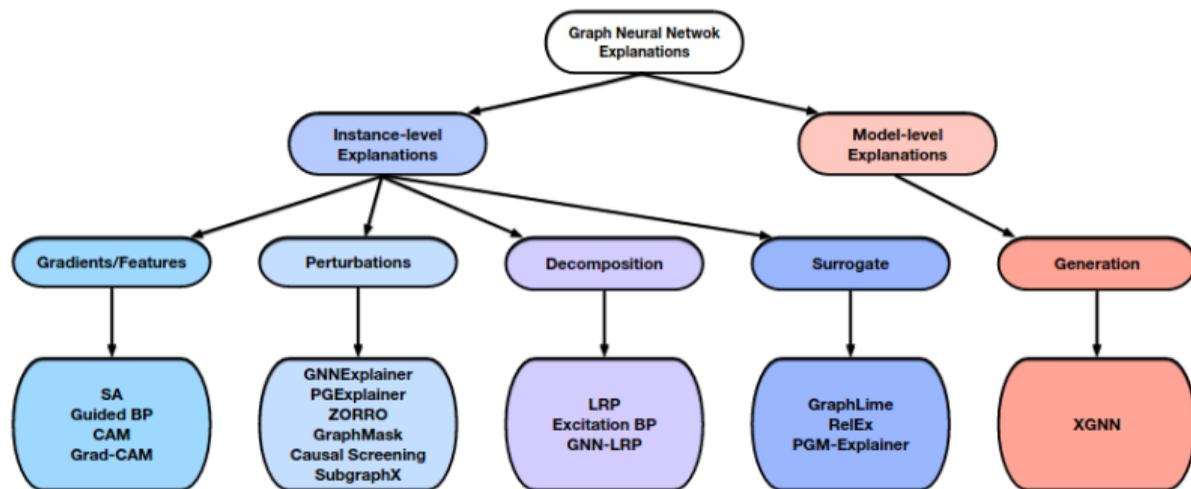


Explainability in Graph Neural Networks: A Taxonomic Survey, Yuan et al. 2022, IEEE Transactions on Pattern Analysis and Machine Intelligence



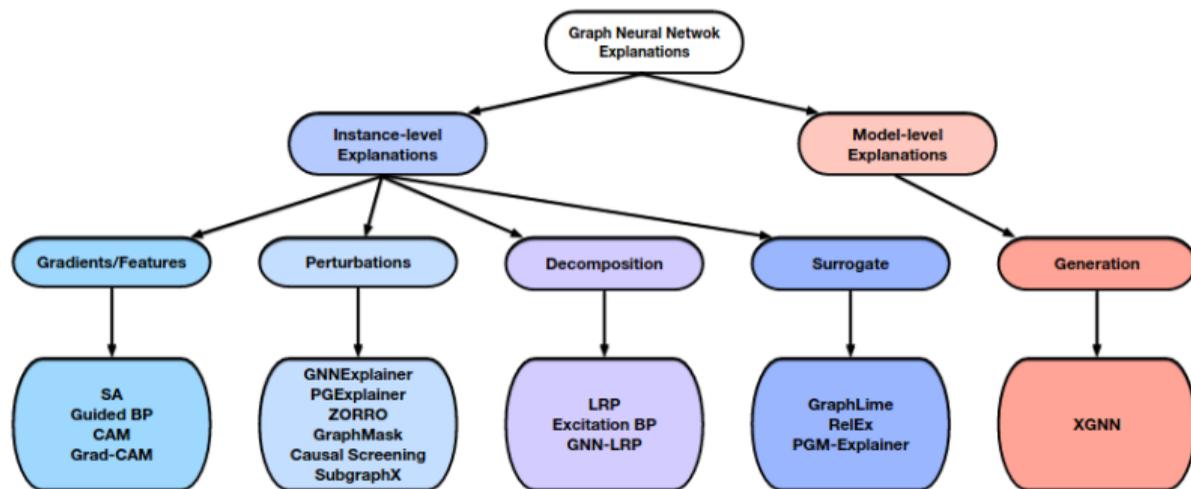
Explainability in Graph Neural Networks: A Taxonomic Survey, Yuan et al. 2022, IEEE Transactions on Pattern Analysis and Machine Intelligence

- Model-specific or model-agnostic?



Explainability in Graph Neural Networks: A Taxonomic Survey, Yuan et al. 2022, IEEE Transactions on Pattern Analysis and Machine Intelligence

- Model-specific or model-agnostic?
- Local or global?



Explainability in Graph Neural Networks: A Taxonomic Survey, Yuan et al. 2022, IEEE Transactions on Pattern Analysis and Machine Intelligence

- Model-specific or model-agnostic?
- Local or global?
- Post-hoc or inherent?

Explainability: What we need to consider to explain our models



Use case power grid:

# Explainability: What we need to consider to explain our models



## Use case power grid:

- Extreme need for safety



## Use case power grid:

- Extreme need for safety
  - Local



## Use case power grid:

- Extreme need for safety
  - Local
  - Inherent (no need to explain the explainers..<sup>1</sup>)

---

<sup>1</sup>Explaining the Explainers in Graph Neural Networks: a Comparative Study A. Longa et al., 2022



## Use case power grid:

- Extreme need for safety
  - Local
  - Inherent (no need to explain the explainers..<sup>1</sup>)
- Need for speed

---

<sup>1</sup>Explaining the Explainers in Graph Neural Networks: a Comparative Study A. Longa et al., 2022



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## Dynamic graphs:

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<sup>1</sup>Explaining the Explainers in Graph Neural Networks: a Comparative Study A. Longa et al., 2022



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## Dynamic graphs:

- A lot of explainability methods for GNNs on static graph so far

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## How good is the answer?

---

<sup>1</sup>Explaining the Explainers in Graph Neural Networks: a Comparative Study A. Longa et al., 2022



## Use case power grid:

- Extreme need for safety
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  - Inherent (no need to explain the explainers..<sup>1</sup>)
- Need for speed

## Dynamic graphs:

- A lot of explainability methods for GNNs on static graph so far

## How good is the answer?

- **faithfulness, sparsity, correctness and plausibility** <sup>23</sup> ...

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<sup>1</sup> Explaining the Explainers in Graph Neural Networks: a Comparative Study A. Longa et al., 2022

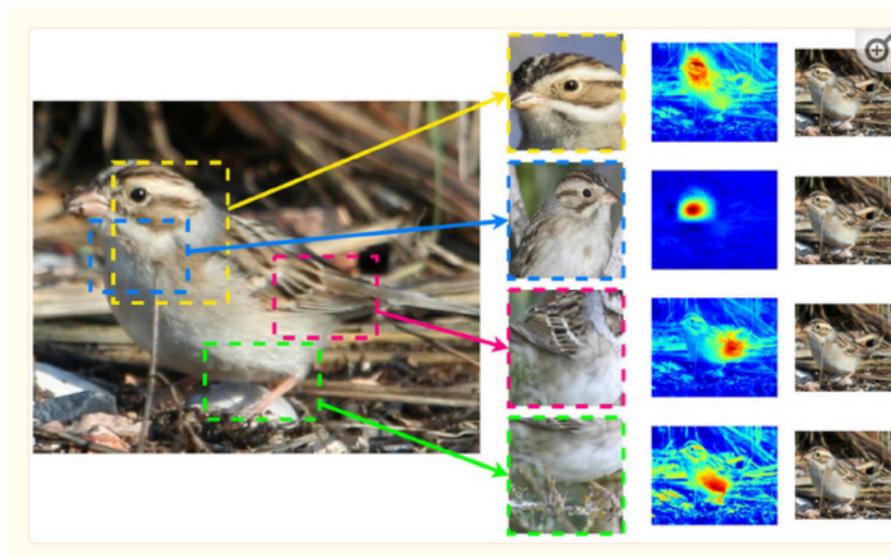
<sup>2</sup> BAGEL, Rathee et al. 2022, <https://arxiv.org/pdf/2206.13983.pdf>

<sup>3</sup> GraphXAI, Agarwal et al. 2023, <https://www.nature.com/articles/s41597-023-01974-x>

## Explainability: Prototype-based explanations

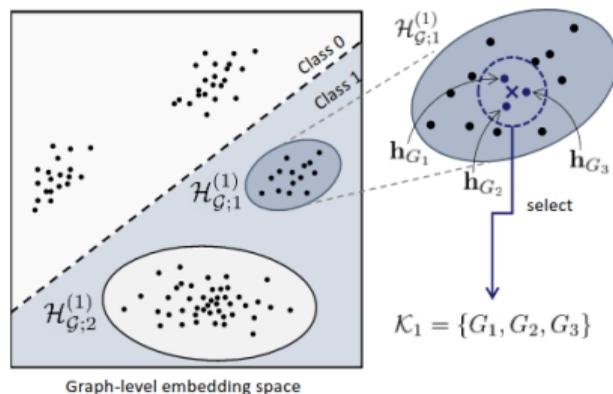


This bird is a clay-colored sparrow, because it has the prototypical wing/eyes...



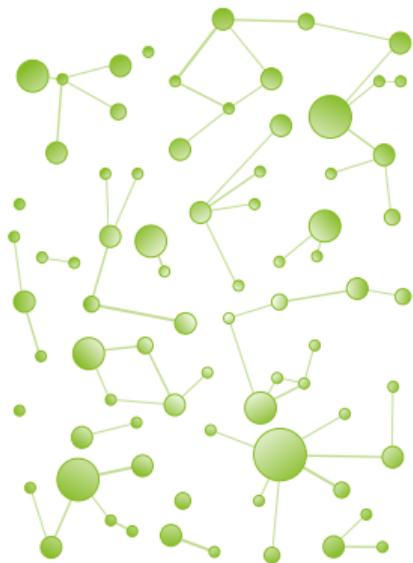
Stop Explaining Black Box Machine Learning Models for High Stakes Decisions and Use Interpretable Models Instead, Cynthia Rudin, 2019, Nat Mach Intell.

Discovering human-interpretable prototype graphs <sup>1</sup> is a similar method for graphs.



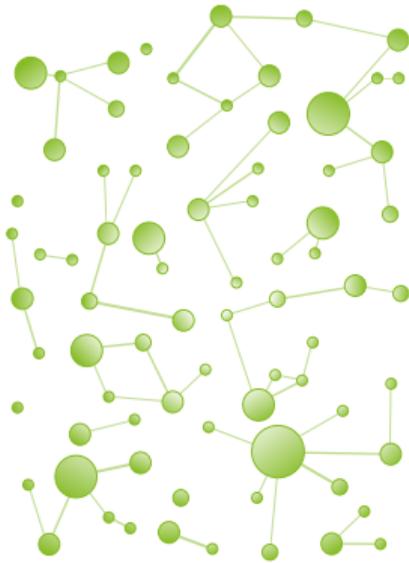
PAGE: Prototype-Based Model-Level, Explanations for Graph Neural Networks, Shin et al., 2022,  
<https://arxiv.org/pdf/2210.17159.pdf>

Do you agree this is a promising method to explain our algorithms?



# Power flow forecasts at transmission grid nodes using Graph Neural Networks

Clara Holzhüter



# Power flow forecasts at transmission grid nodes using Graph Neural Networks

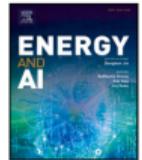
Clara Holzhüter



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Energy and AI

journal homepage: [www.elsevier.com/locate/egyai](https://www.elsevier.com/locate/egyai)



Power flow forecasts at transmission grid nodes using Graph Neural Networks

Dominik Beinert <sup>a,1</sup>, Clara Holzhüter <sup>a,b,\*</sup>, Josephine M. Thomas <sup>b</sup>, Stephan Vogt <sup>b</sup>



# Power flow forecasts at transmission grid nodes using GNNs

## Introduction





- power grids are increasingly complex



- power grids are increasingly complex
- Generation: Renewable energies fluctuate a lot

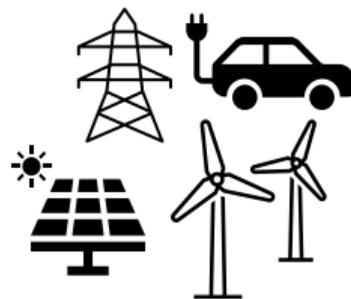


- power grids are increasingly complex
- Generation: Renewable energies fluctuate a lot
- Consumption: more volatile due to electrification



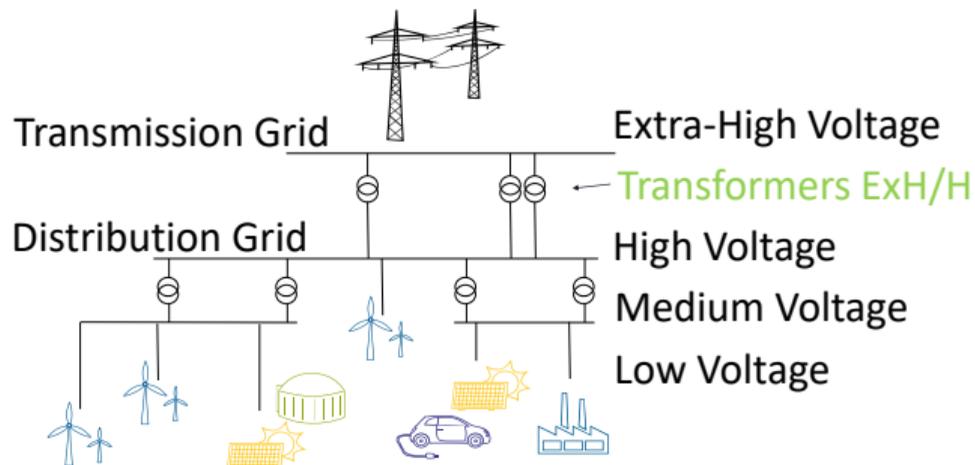
- power grids are increasingly complex
- Generation: Renewable energies fluctuate a lot
- Consumption: more volatile due to electrification

→ Forecasting grid congestion becomes more difficult



# Power flow forecasts at transmission grid nodes using GNNs

## Use Case: Vertical Power Flow

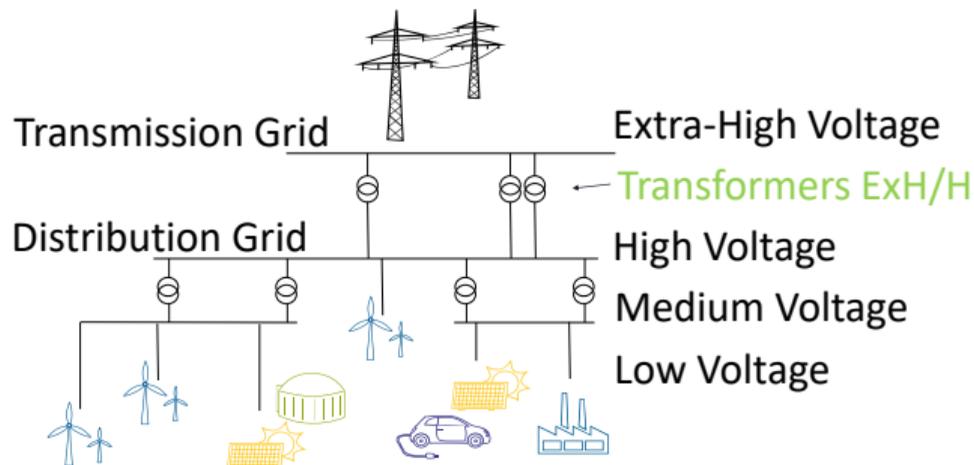


# Power flow forecasts at transmission grid nodes using GNNs

## Use Case: Vertical Power Flow



- Power is generated more decentralized

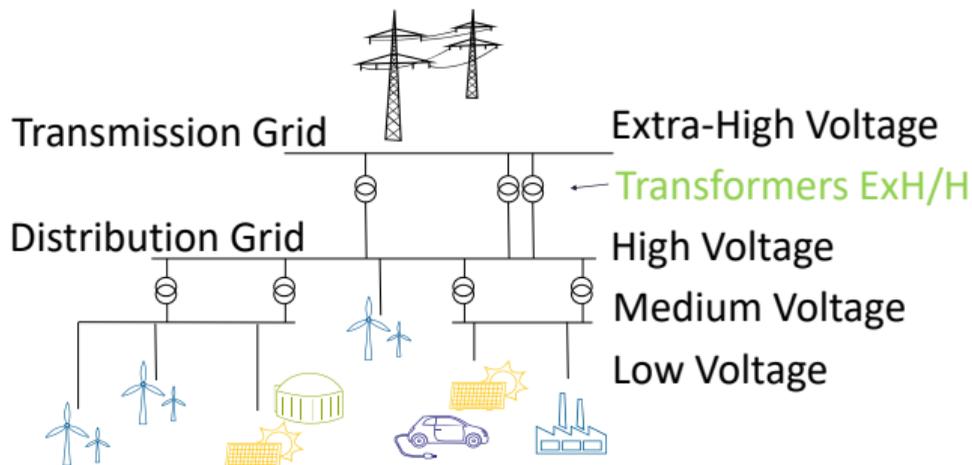


# Power flow forecasts at transmission grid nodes using GNNs

## Use Case: Vertical Power Flow

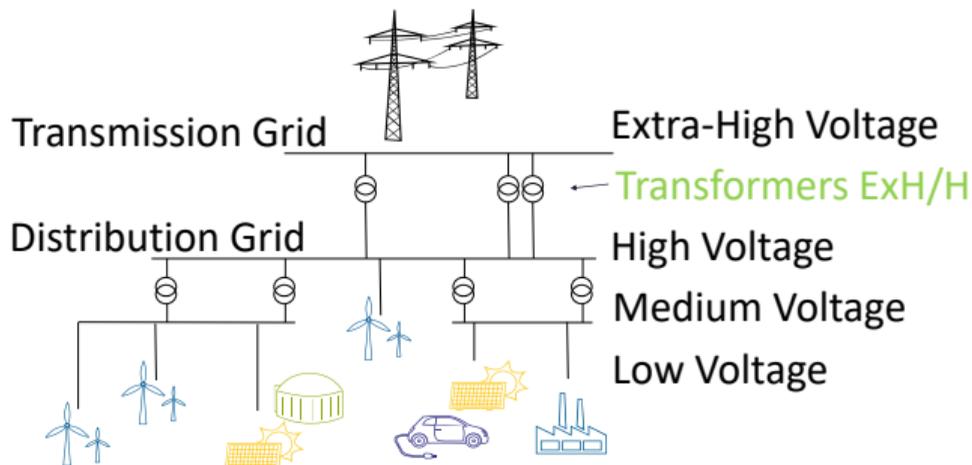


- Power is generated more decentralized
- More power generation in the distribution grid





- Power is generated more decentralized
- More power generation in the distribution grid



→ Altered power flow complicates grid calculations

# Power flow forecasts at transmission grid nodes using GNNs

Use Case: Transformers

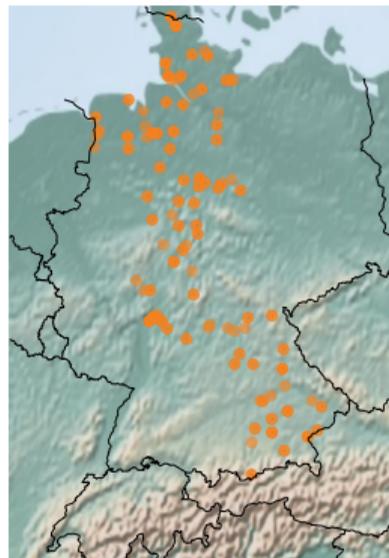


# Power flow forecasts at transmission grid nodes using GNNs

## Use Case: Transformers



- Locations of transformers influence the power flow patterns through
  - weather
  - Mix of generation
  - consumption pattern
  - ...



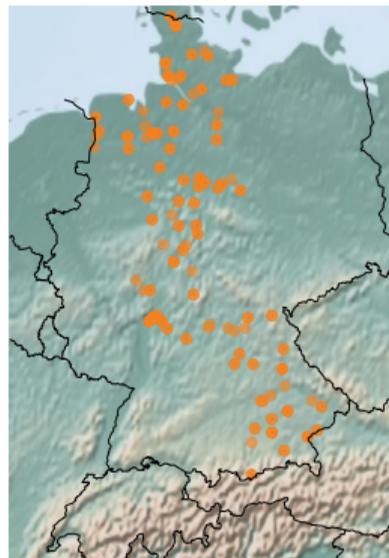
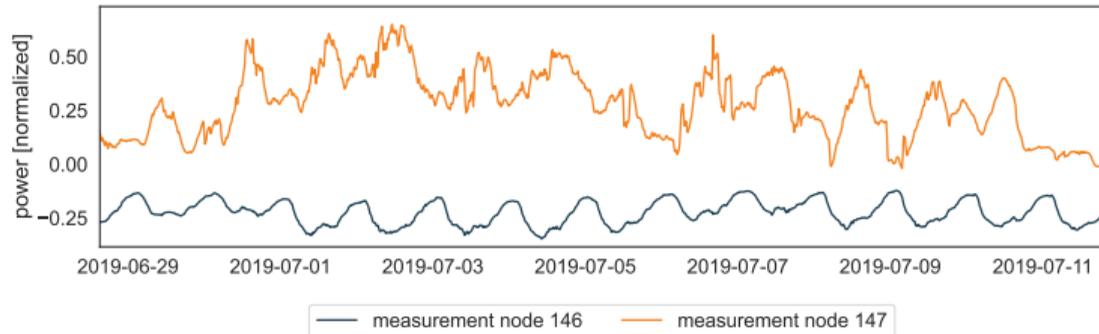
# Power flow forecasts at transmission grid nodes using GNNs

## Use Case: Transformers



- Locations of transformers influence the power flow patterns through

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# Power flow forecasts at transmission grid nodes using GNNs

Use Case: Transformers





- Power Flows at transformers influence each other



- Power Flows at transformers influence each other
  - Congestion



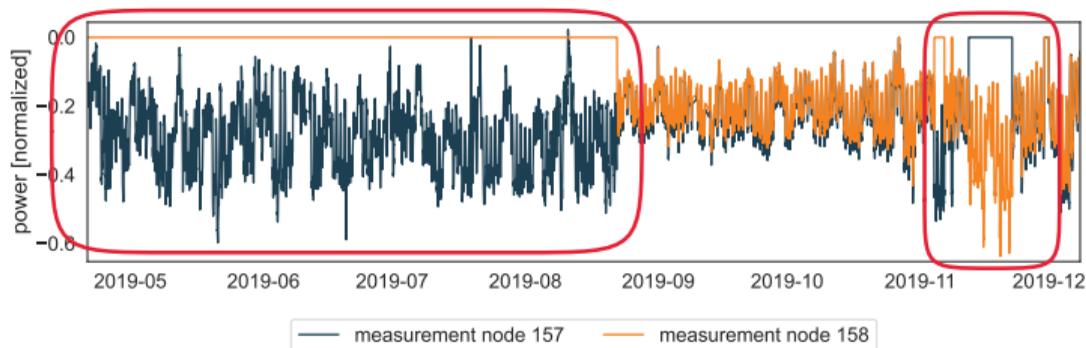
- Power Flows at transformers influence each other
  - Congestion
  - Grid switching actions

# Power flow forecasts at transmission grid nodes using GNNs

## Use Case: Transformers



- Power Flows at transformers influence each other
  - Congestion
  - Grid switching actions
  - Maintenance





An according prediction model should consider:



An according prediction model should consider:

- Individual characteristics of transformers



An according prediction model should consider:

- Individual characteristics of transformers → Multi-Task



An according prediction model should consider:

- Individual characteristics of transformers → Multi-Task
- Interactions between transformers

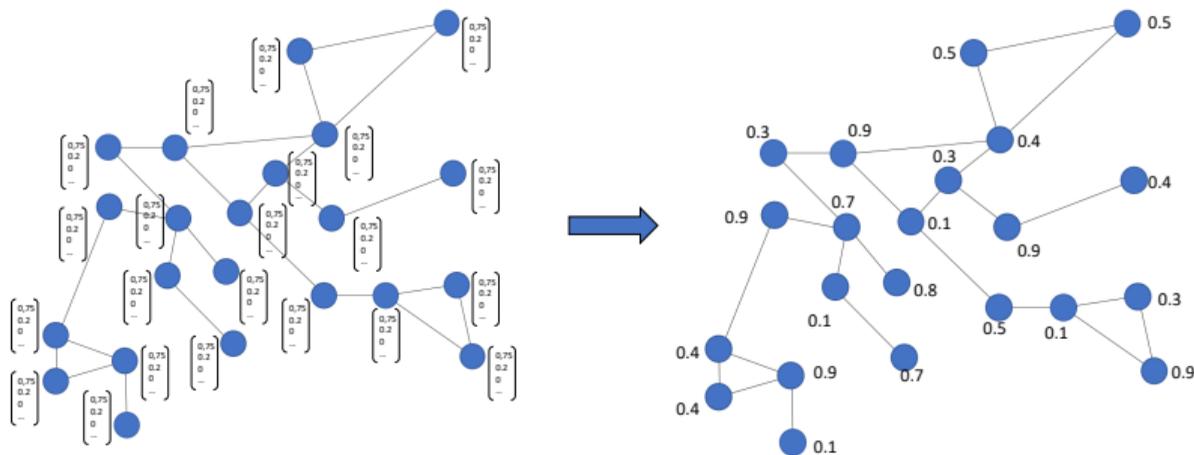


An according prediction model should consider:

- Individual characteristics of transformers → Multi-Task
- Interactions between transformers → GNN model

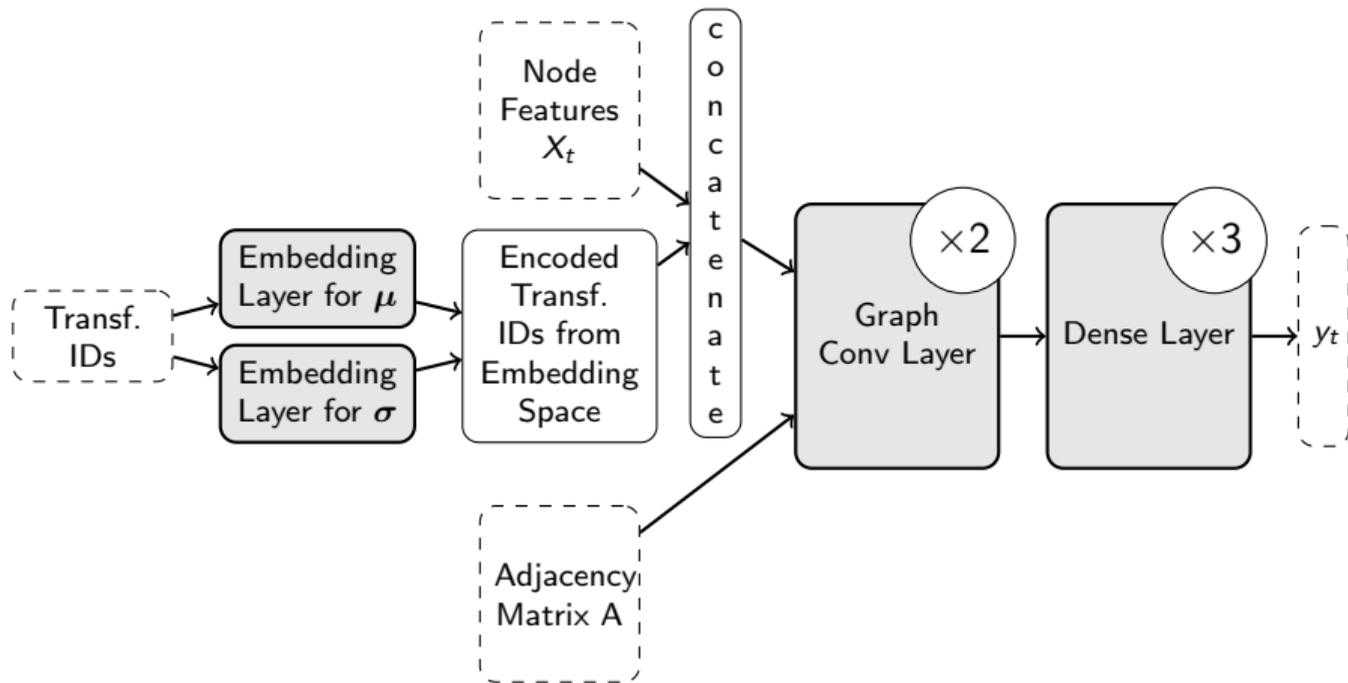


- Input: A Set of transformers and corresponding features
- Output: Power flow at each transformer



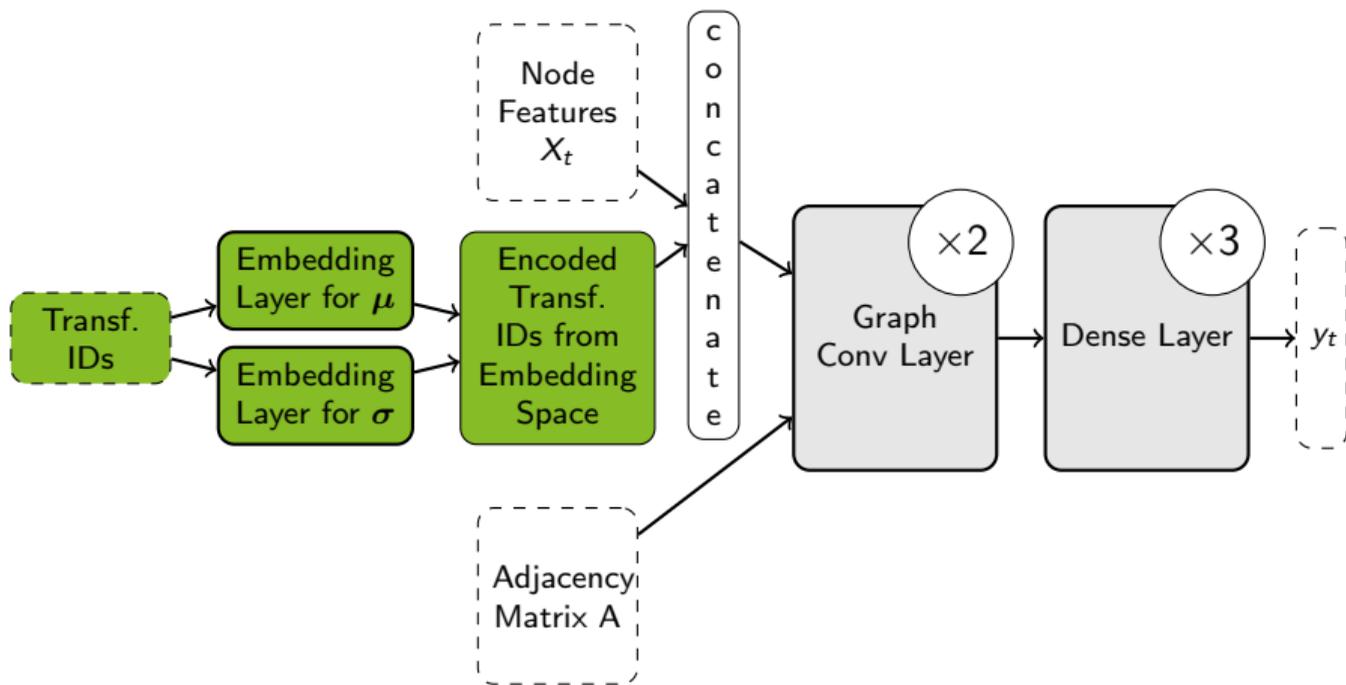
# Power flow forecasts at transmission grid nodes using GNNs

## Our Approach



# Power flow forecasts at transmission grid nodes using GNNs

## Our Approach



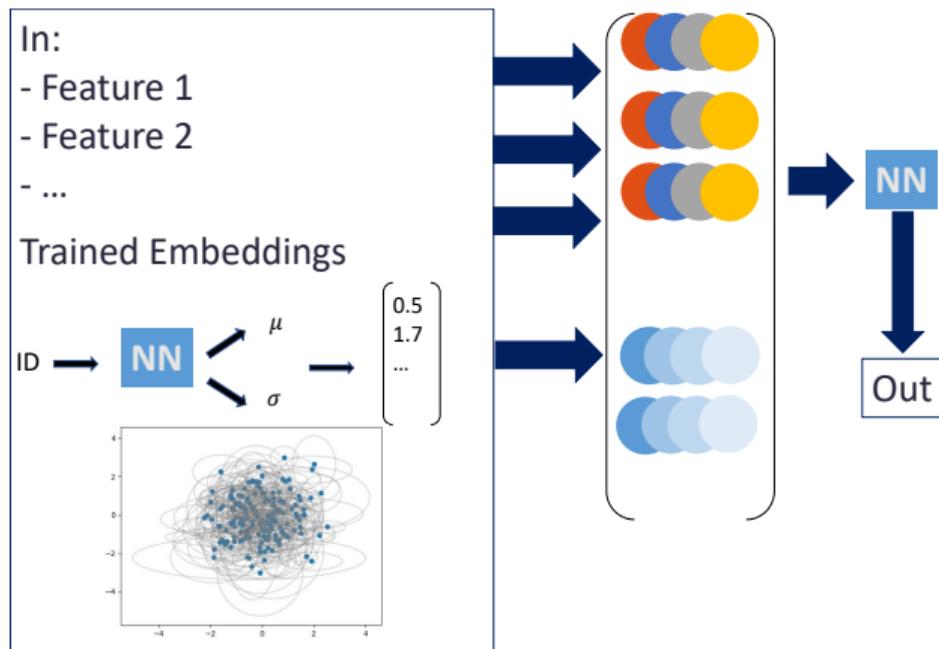
## Our Approach: Bayesian Multi-Task Embedding



Idea: Solve multiple similar tasks  
by combining knowledge of all  
tasks during training while still  
allow for differences



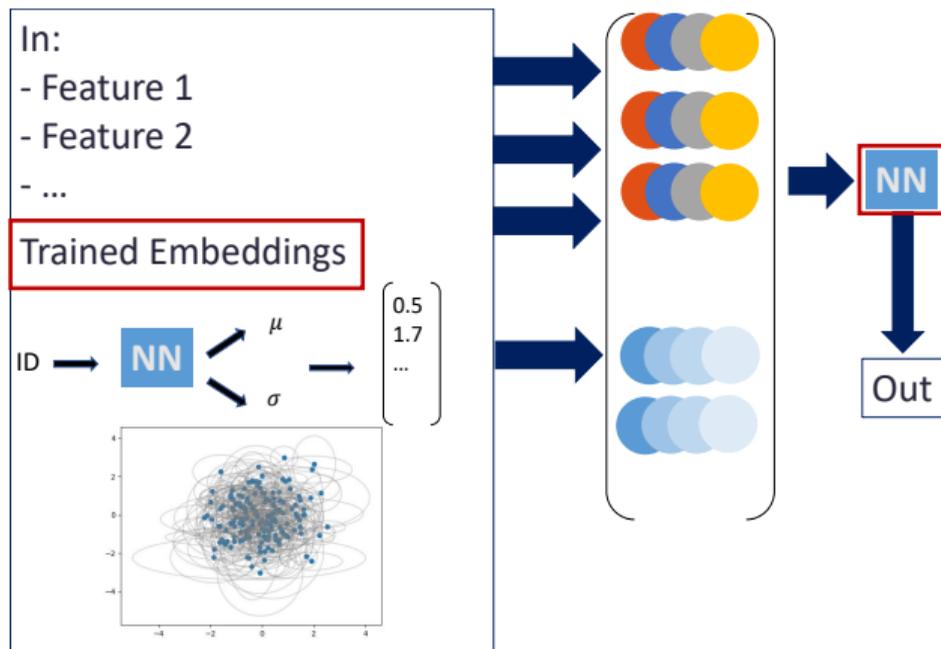
Idea: Solve multiple similar tasks by combining knowledge of all tasks during training while still allow for differences





Idea: Solve multiple similar tasks by combining knowledge of all tasks during training while still allow for differences

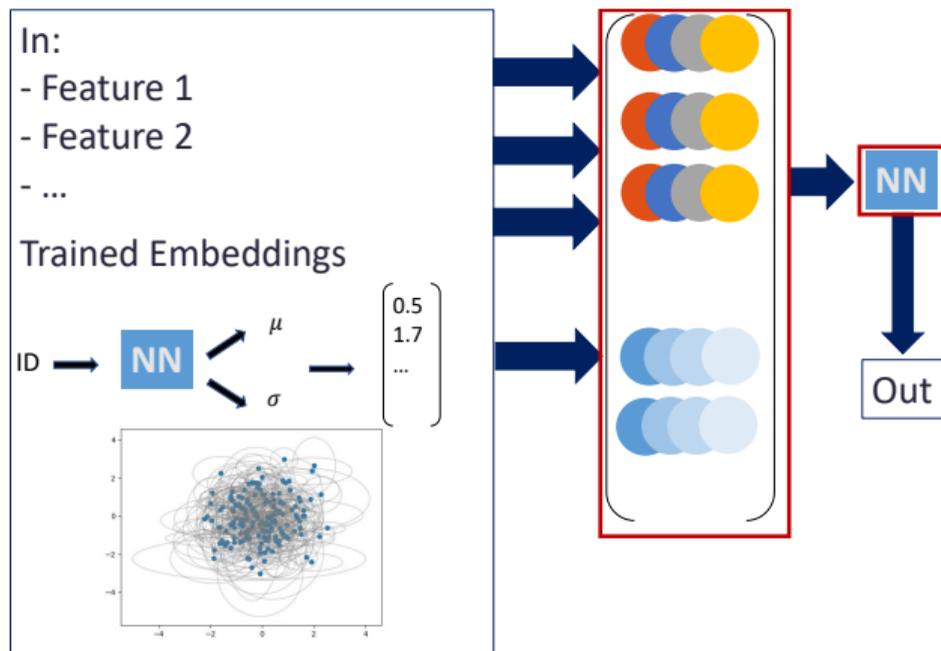
- share weights between all tasks and train individual embedding for each task





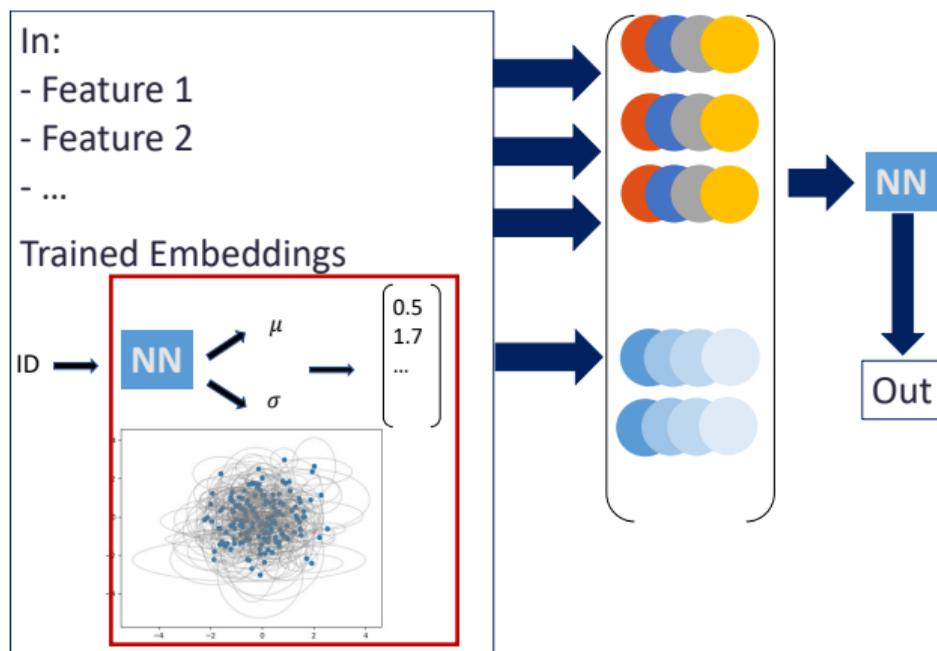
Idea: Solve multiple similar tasks by combining knowledge of all tasks during training while still allow for differences

- share weights between all tasks and train individual embedding for each task
- pass the embedding to the NN in addition to other input variables.





- Embed the transformers into latent space

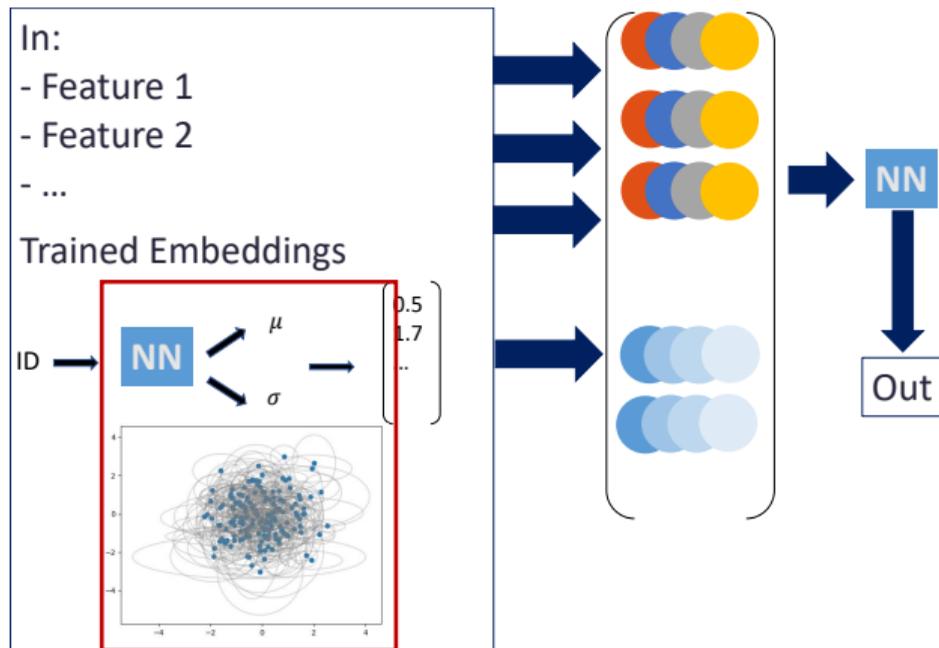


# Power flow forecasts at transmission grid nodes using GNNs

## Our Approach: Bayesian Multi-Task Embedding

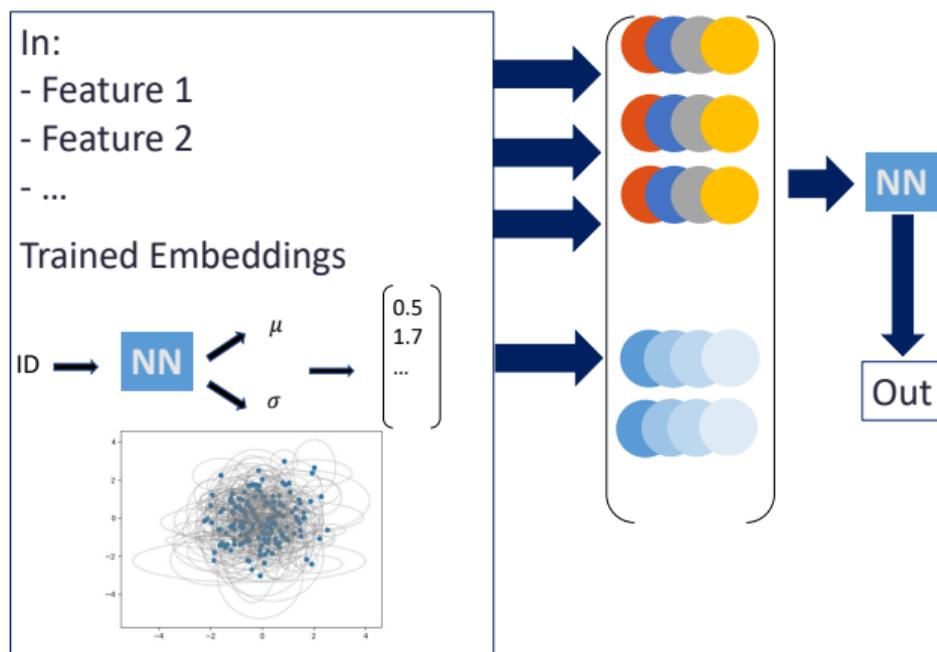


- Embed the transformers into latent space
- latent representation modelled as multivariate normal distribution



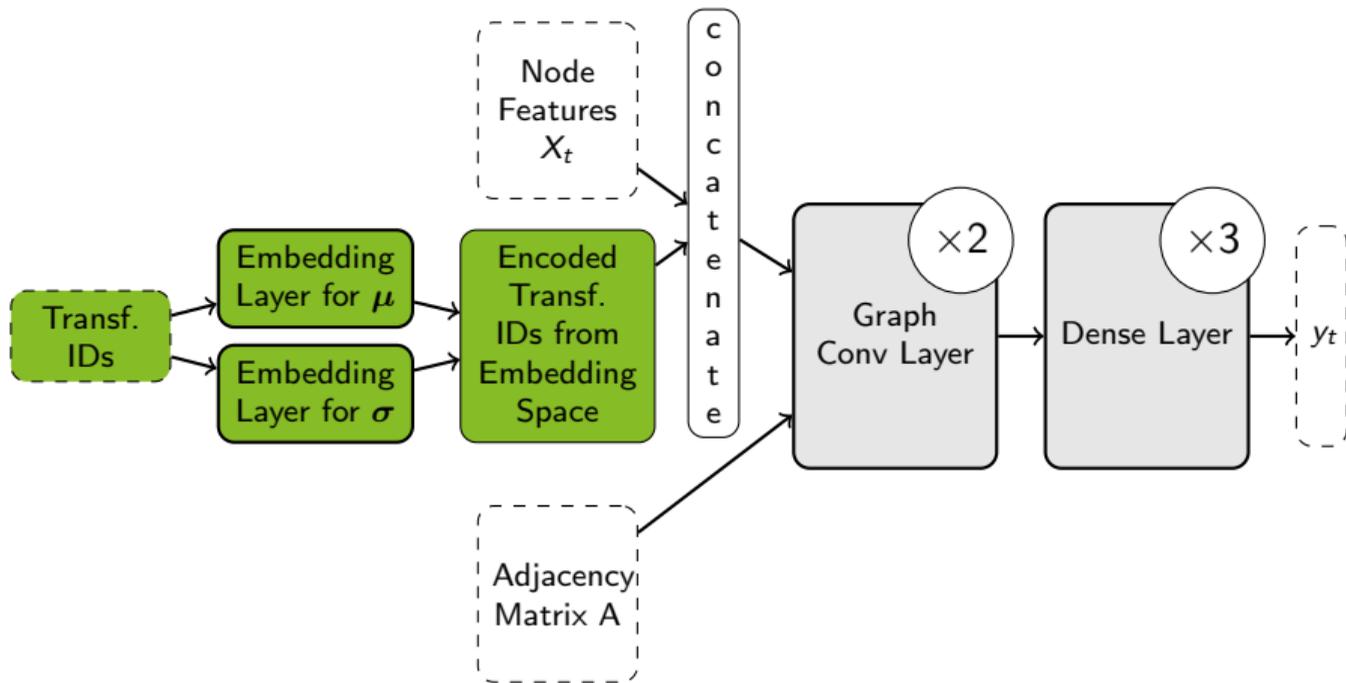


- Embed the transformers into latent space
- latent representation modelled as multivariate normal distribution
- is trained jointly with overall NN by adding KL-divergence to the loss



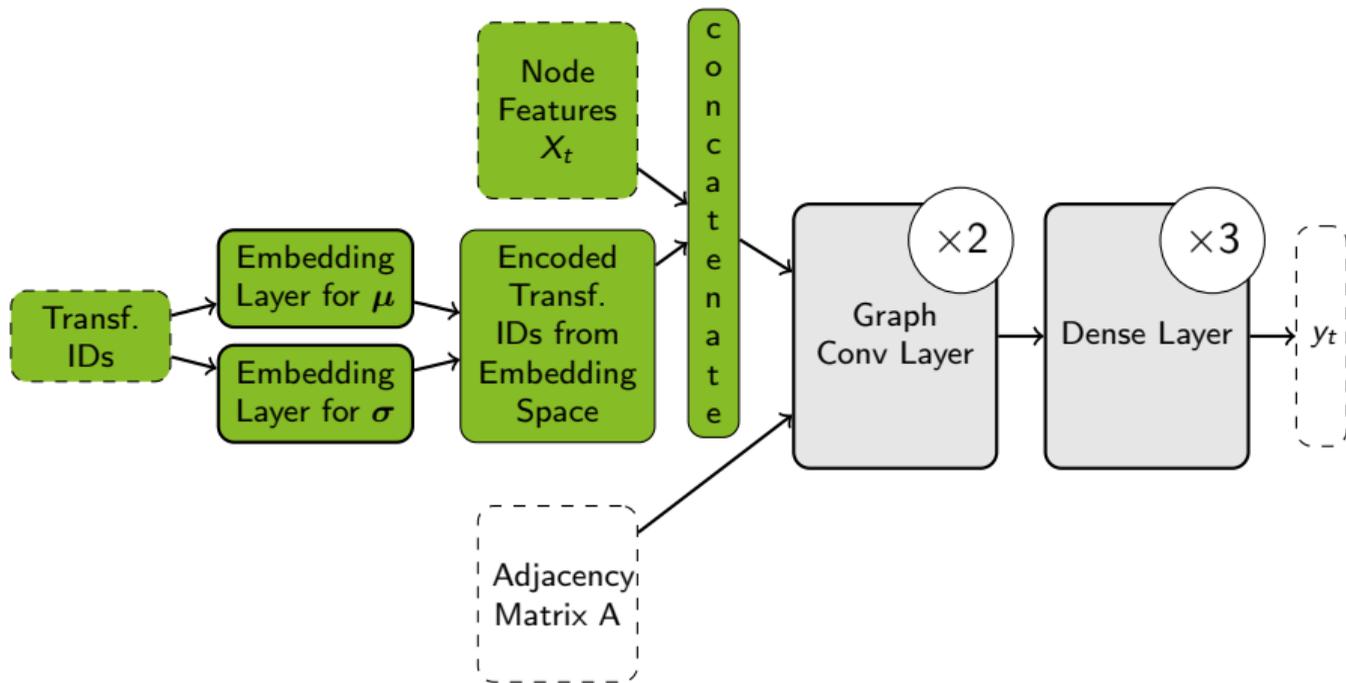
# Power flow forecasts at transmission grid nodes using GNNs

## Our Approach



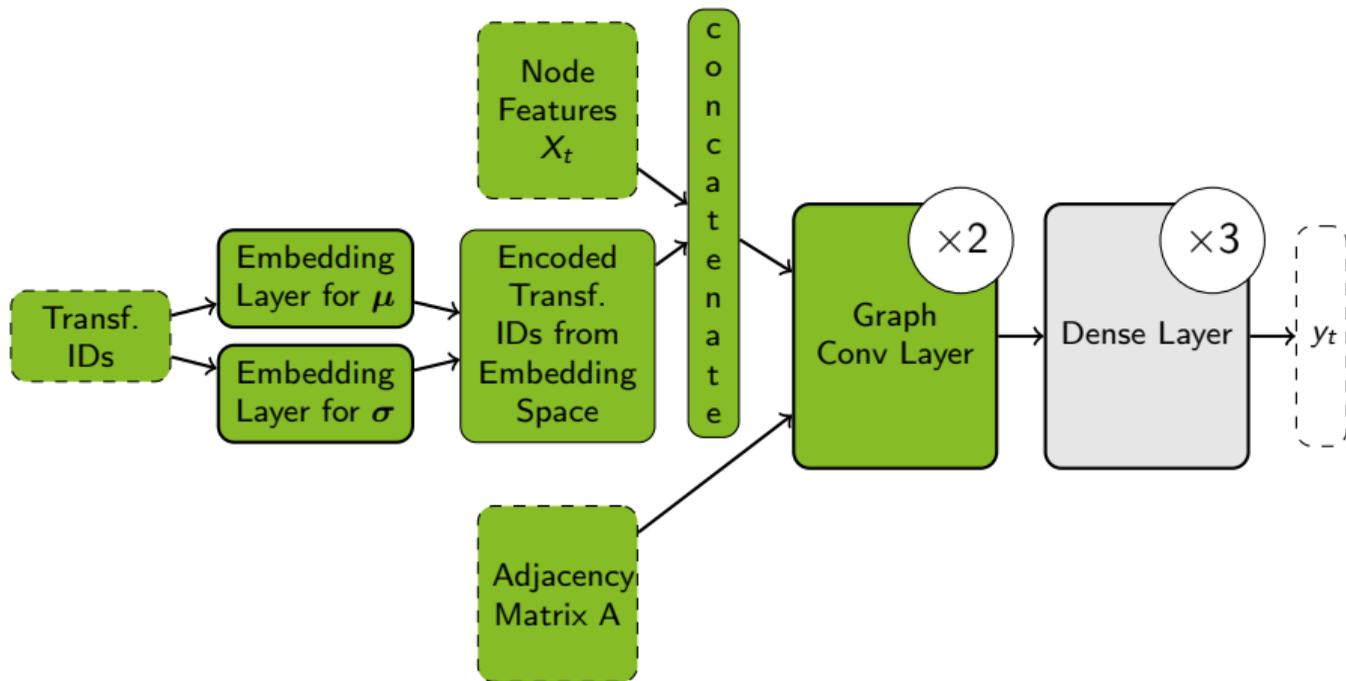
# Power flow forecasts at transmission grid nodes using GNNs

## Our Approach



# Power flow forecasts at transmission grid nodes using GNNs

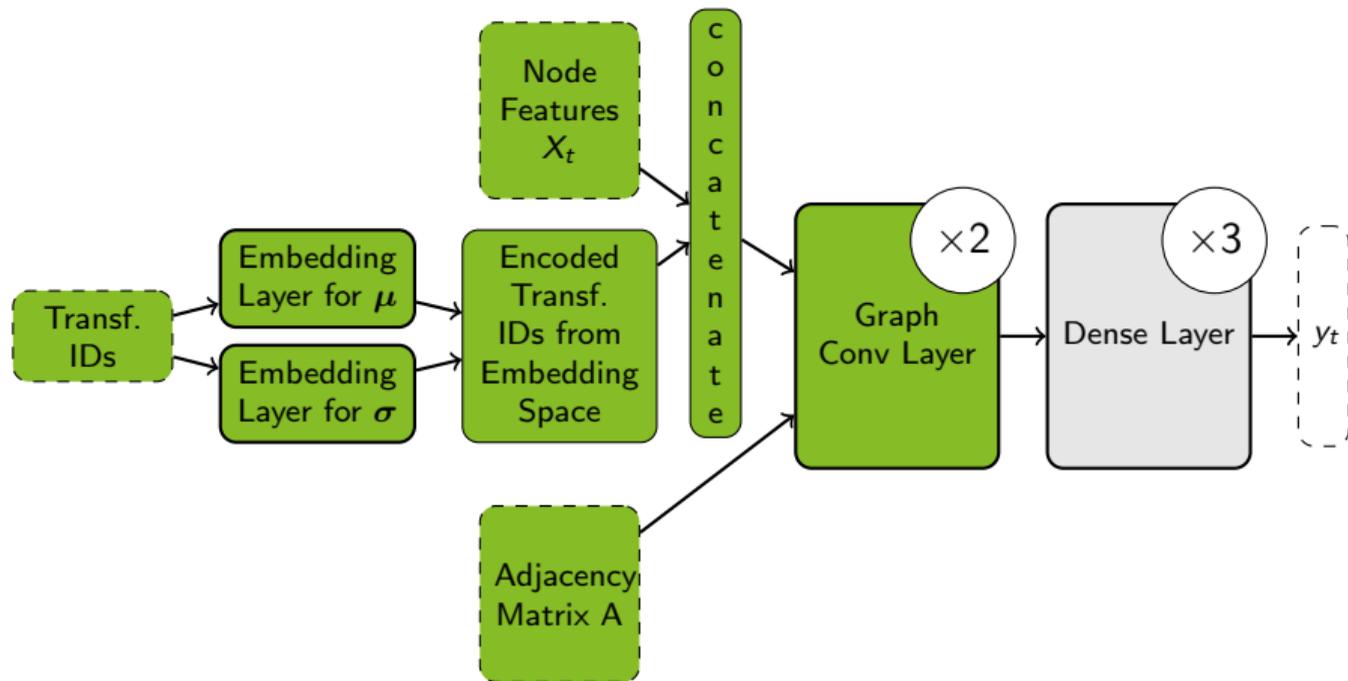
## Our Approach





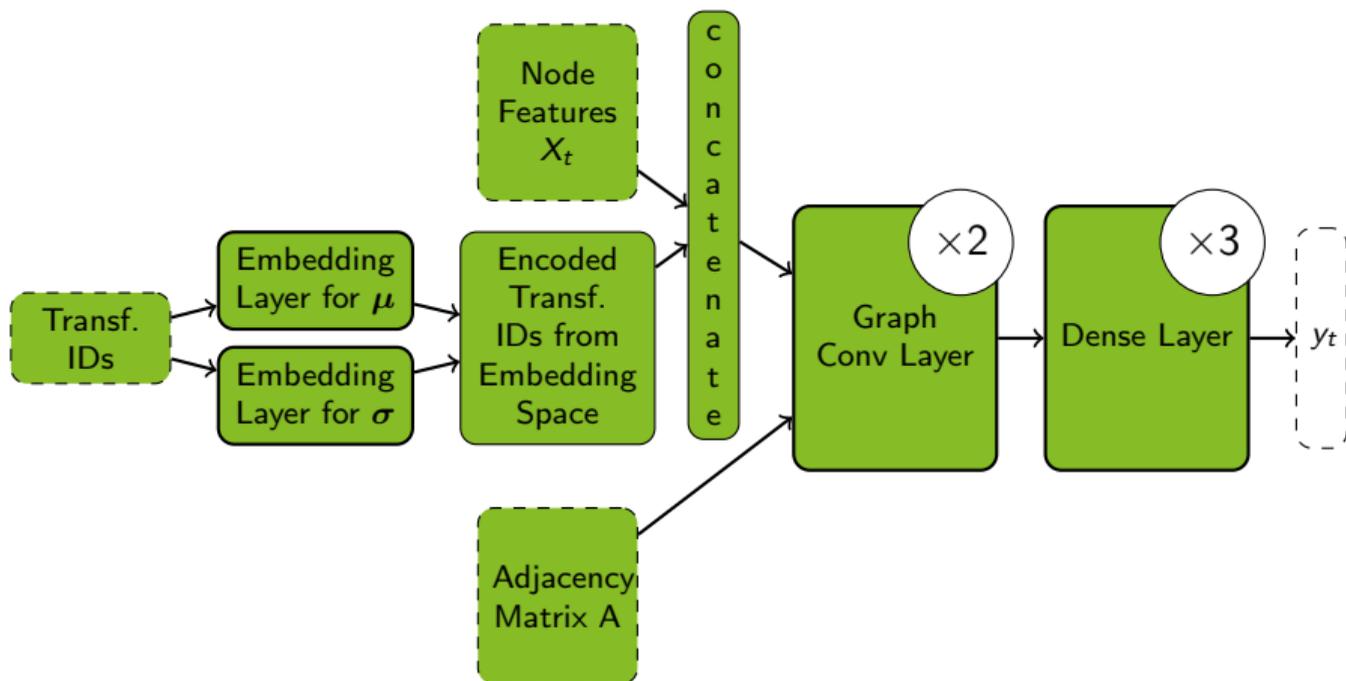
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## Our Approach



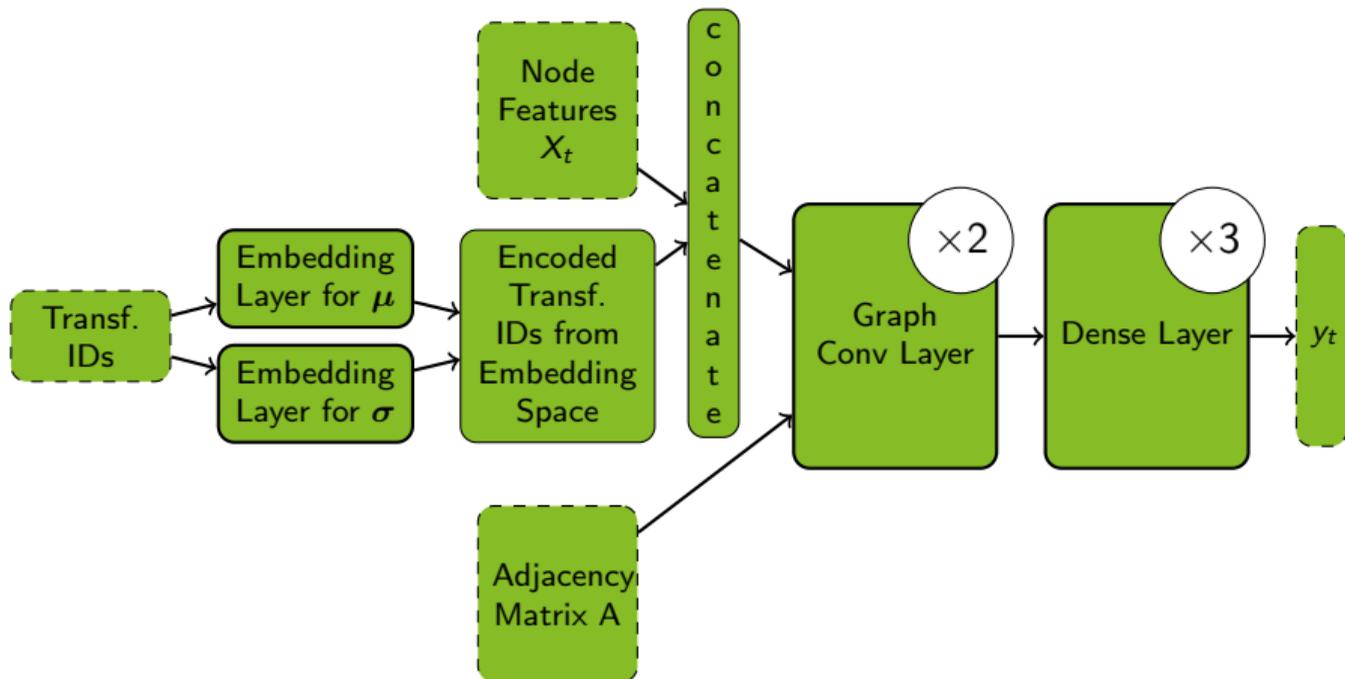
# Power flow forecasts at transmission grid nodes using GNNs

## Our Approach



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## Our Approach



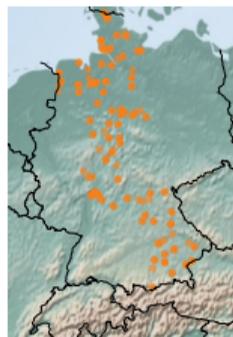
# Power flow forecasts at transmission grid nodes using GNNs

## Experiments: Dataset



Two datasets of German TSO

- approx. 175 transformers



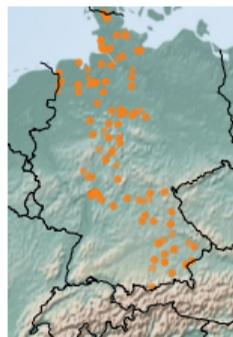
# Power flow forecasts at transmission grid nodes using GNNs

## Experiments: Dataset



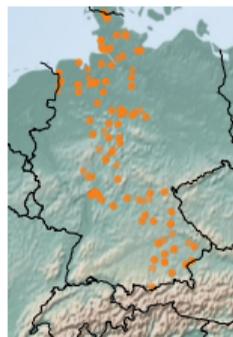
Two datasets of German TSO

- approx. 175 transformers
- **Features:** weather, date/time, load and price forecast



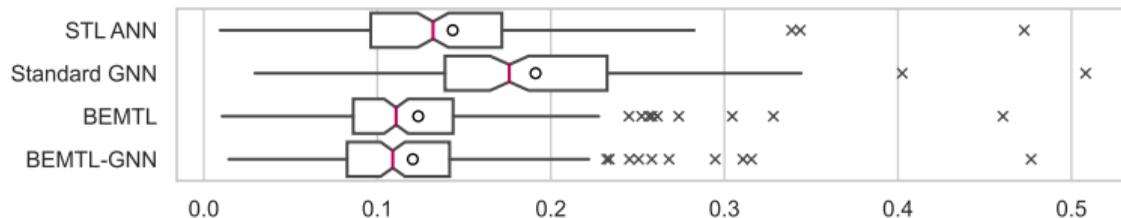
### Two datasets of German TSO

- approx. 175 transformers
- **Features:** weather, date/time, load and price forecast
- edges are defined by distance between transformers (distance 0km, 50km )



# Power flow forecasts at transmission grid nodes using GNNs

## Results Sparse Graph: Test RMSE



### STL

Single Task Learning

### Standard GNN

no MT Embedding

### BEMTL

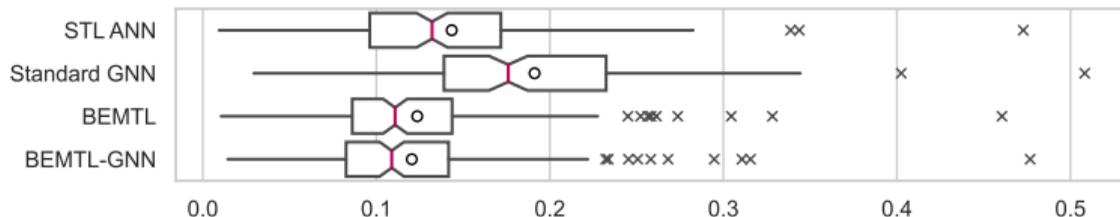
MT Embedding, no GNN

### BEMTL-GNN

GNN + MT Embedding

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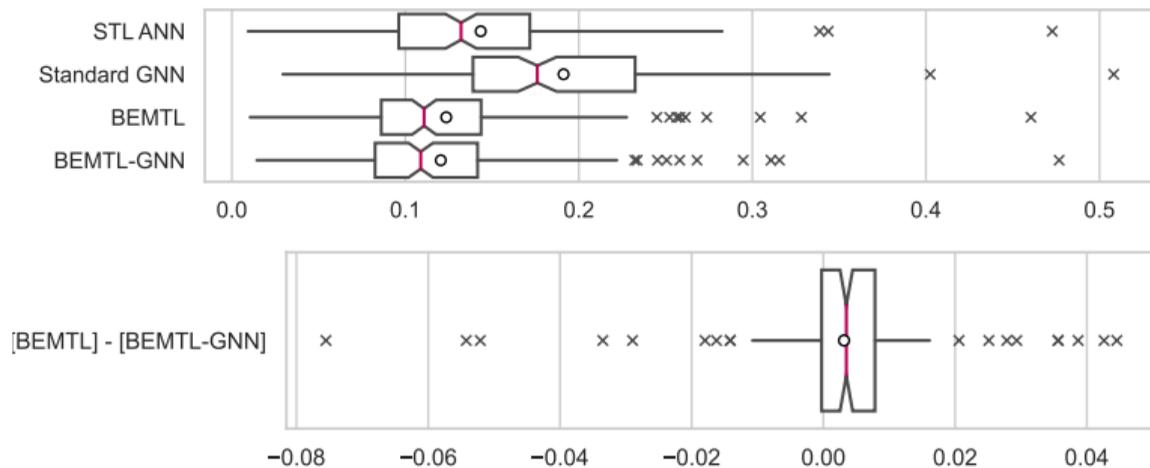
### BEMTL-GNN

GNN + MT Embedding

**BEMTL GNN** achieves lowest average RMSE but only slight advantage over BEMTL

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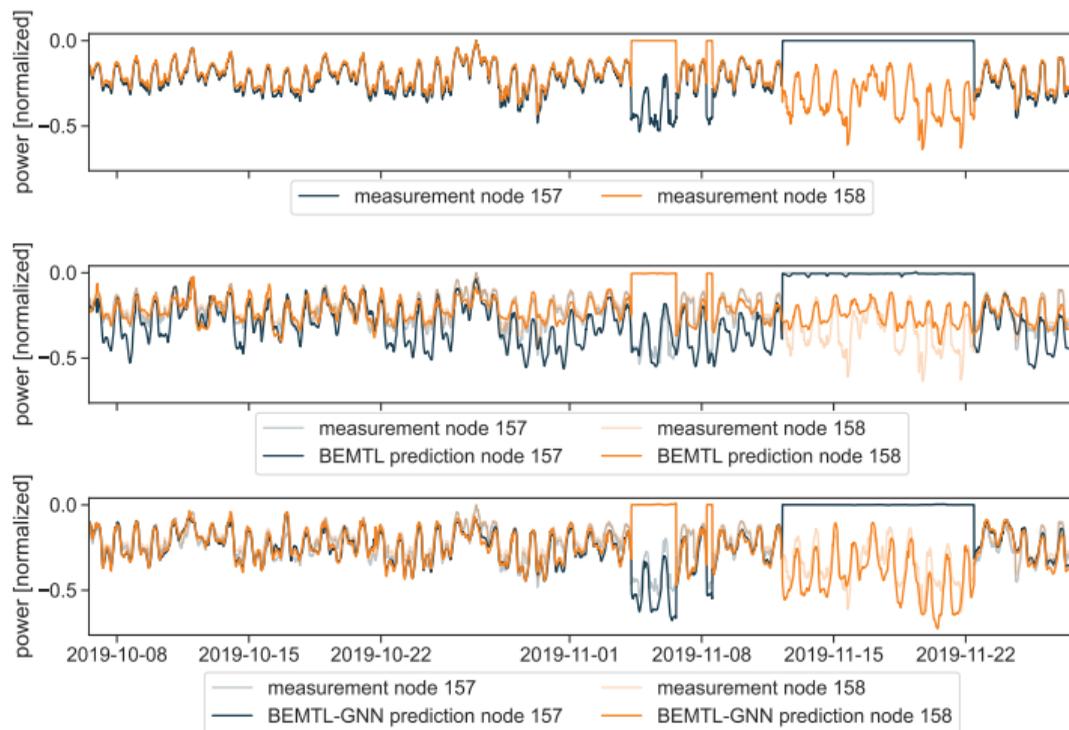
GNN + MT Embedding

**BEMTL GNN** achieves lowest average RMSE but only slight advantage over BEMTL

Comparing differences at each transformer, **BEMTL GNN** outperforms BEMTL on the majority of transformers (74%)

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## Results Sparse Graph: BEMTL-GNN vs BEMTL

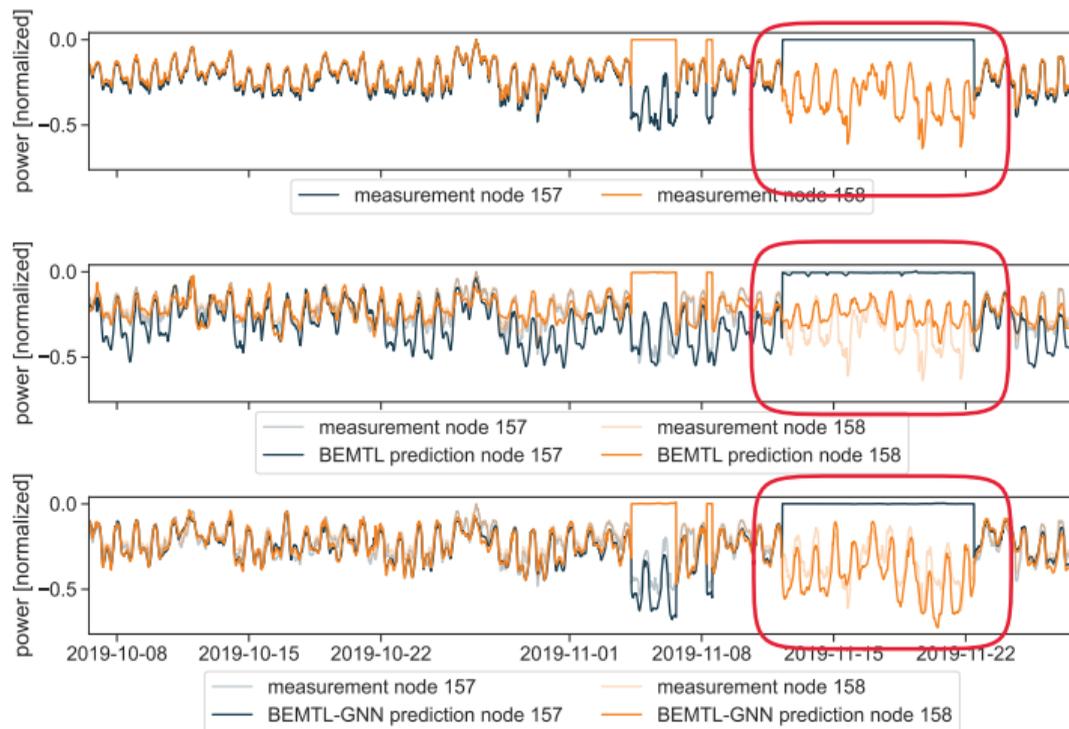


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- Both models correctly predict inactivity

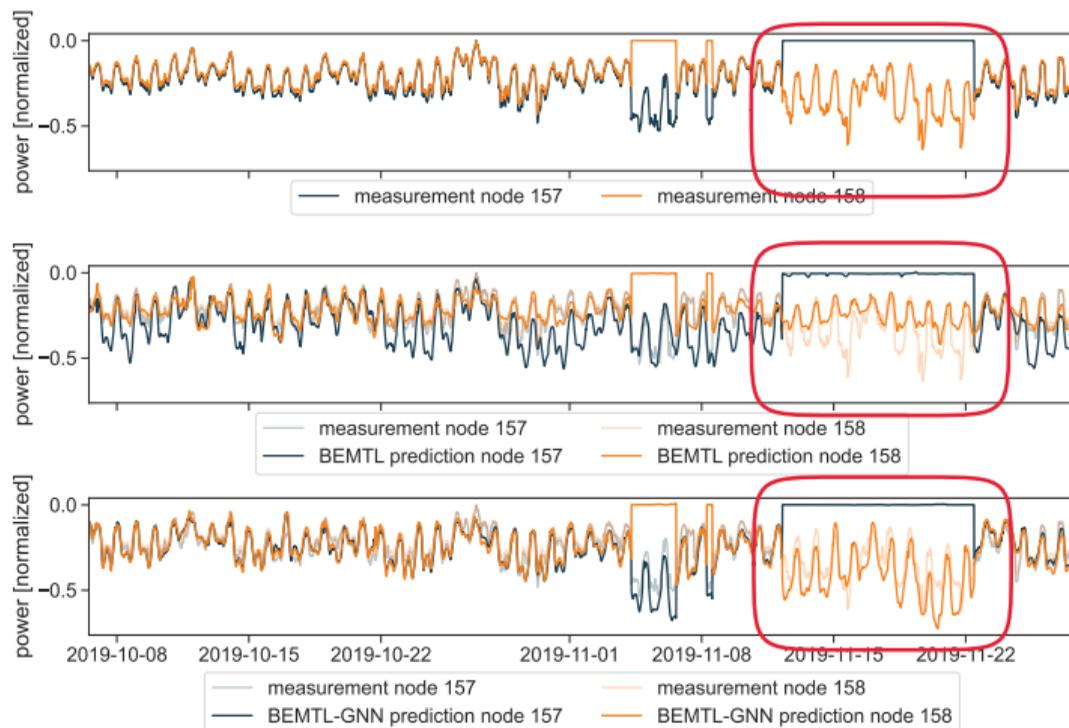


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- Only BEMTL GNN shows impact of the inactive transformer on the other



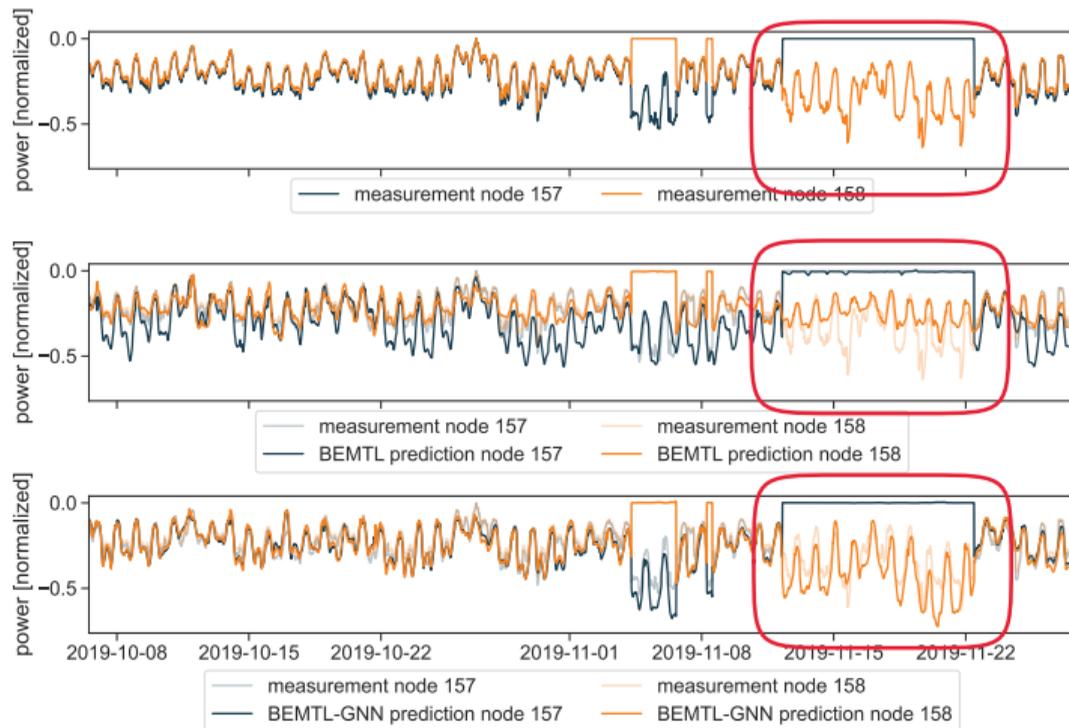
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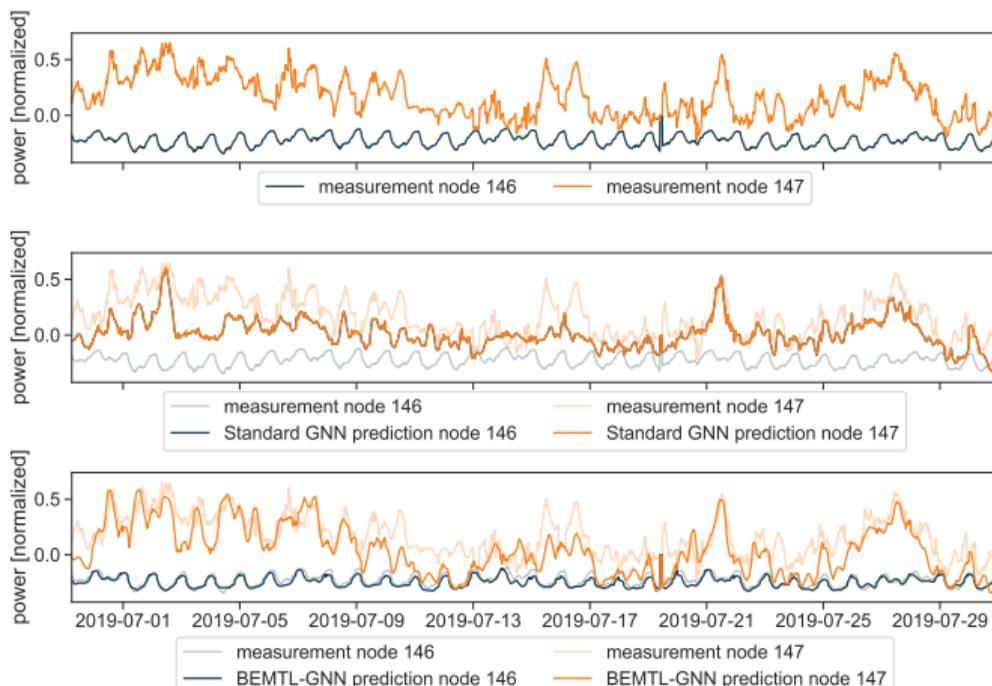
- Both models correctly predict inactivity
- Only BEMTL GNN shows impact of the inactive transformer on the other

→ BEMTL-GNN can indeed model relations between transformers



# Power flow forecasts at transmission grid nodes using GNNs

## Results Sparse Graph: BEMTL-GNN vs. GNN

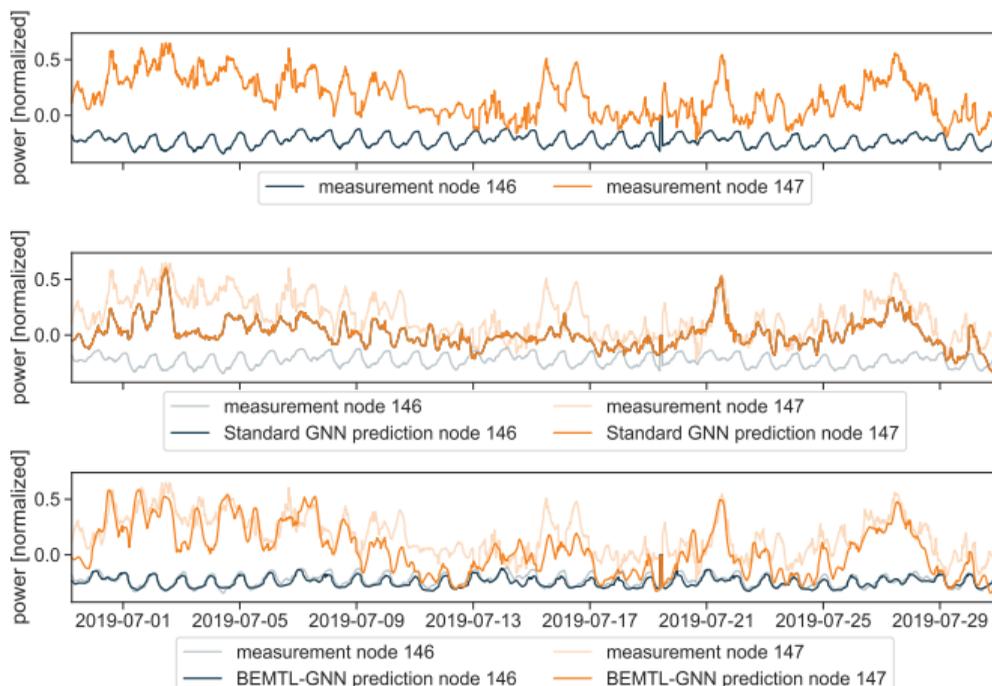


# Power flow forecasts at transmission grid nodes using GNNs

## Results Sparse Graph: BEMTL-GNN vs. GNN



- Transformers share the same location

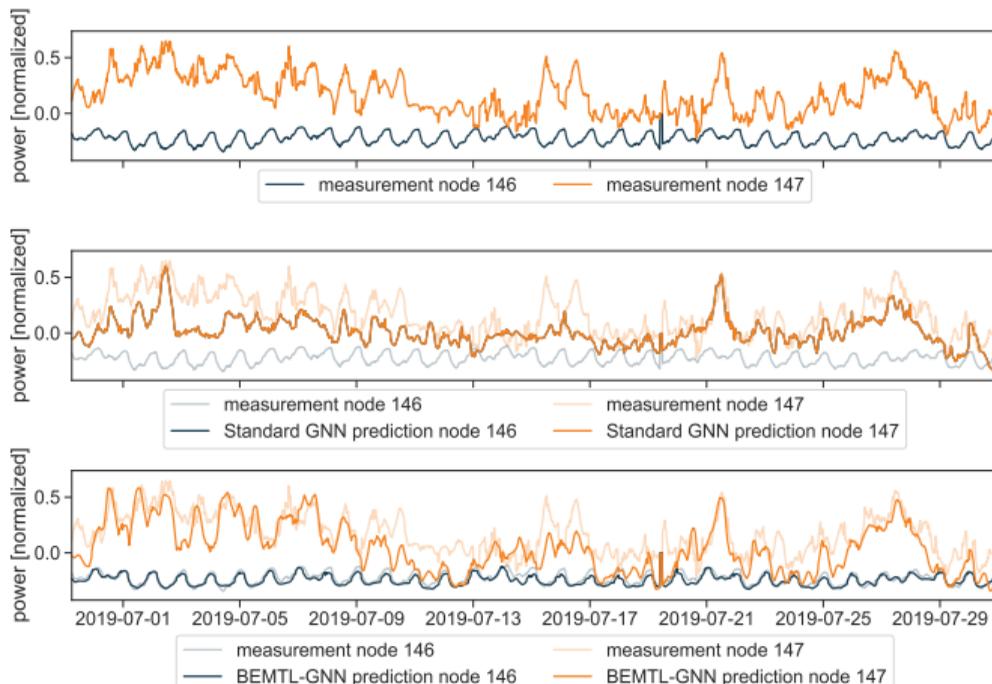


# Power flow forecasts at transmission grid nodes using GNNs

## Results Sparse Graph: BEMTL-GNN vs. GNN



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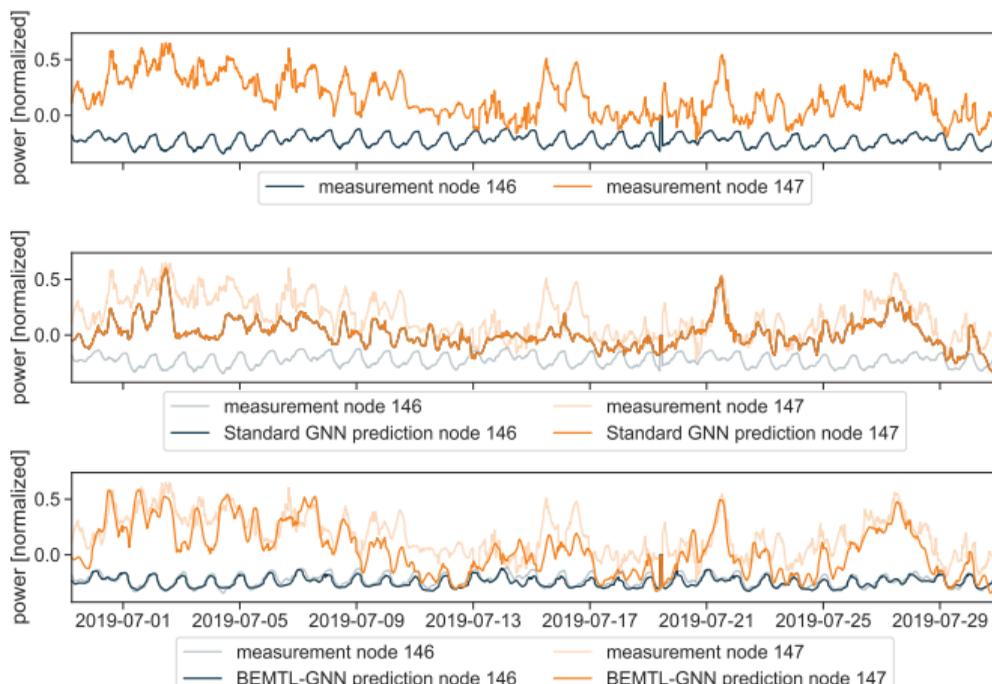


# Power flow forecasts at transmission grid nodes using GNNs

## Results Sparse Graph: BEMTL-GNN vs. GNN



- Transformers share the same location
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- BEMTL-GNN makes different predictions using the same input → much more accurate prediction for both nodes



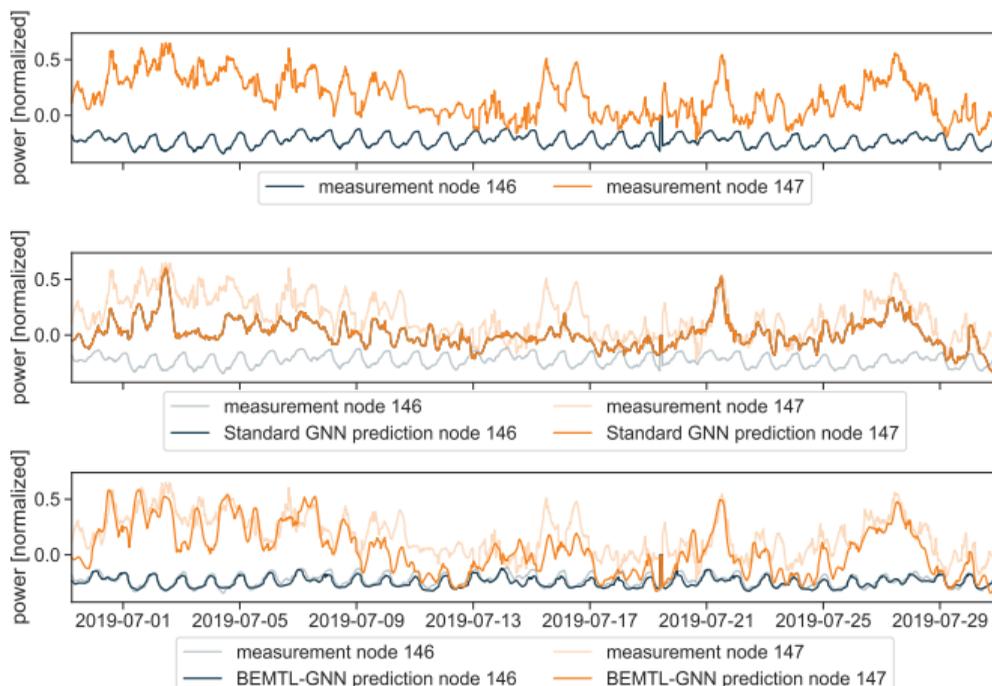
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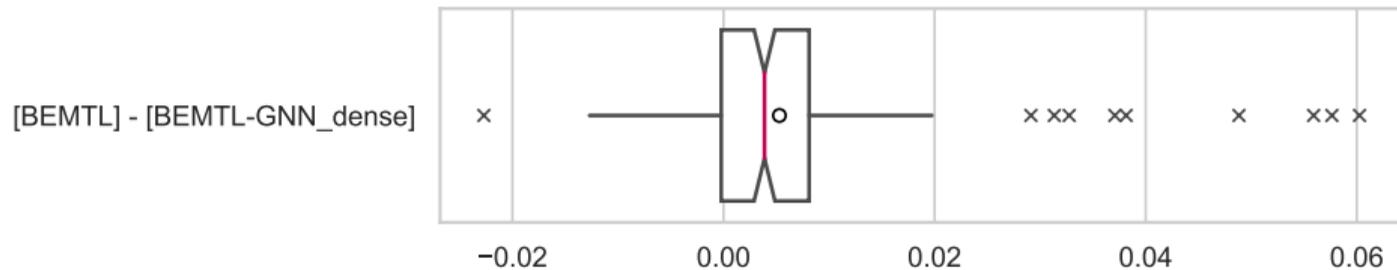
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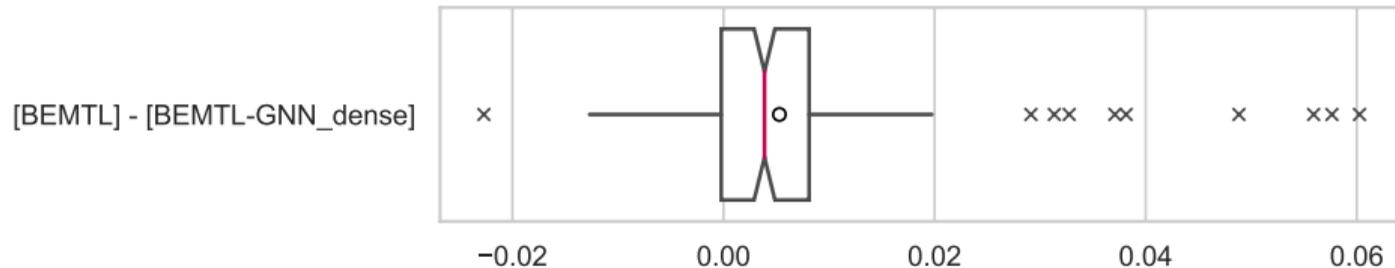
→ The embedding is essential to model individual characteristics





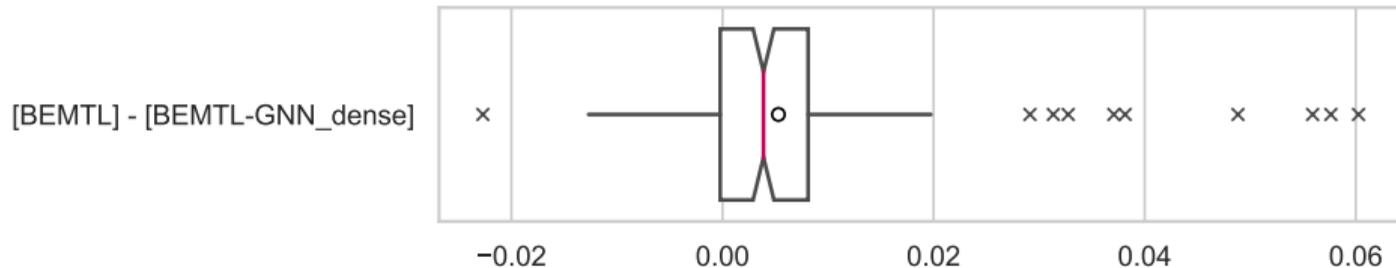


- RMSE is very similar to sparsely connected graph



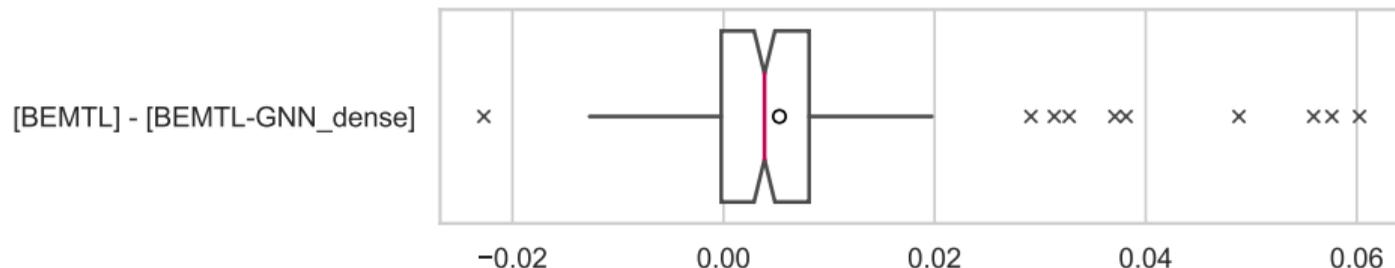


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## Results Dense Graph

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- interactions between transformers could not be observed as strongly?



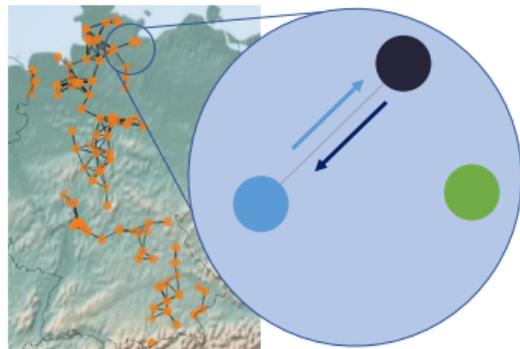


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- interactions between transformers could not be observed as strongly  
→ too many factors in the neighbourhood aggregation?

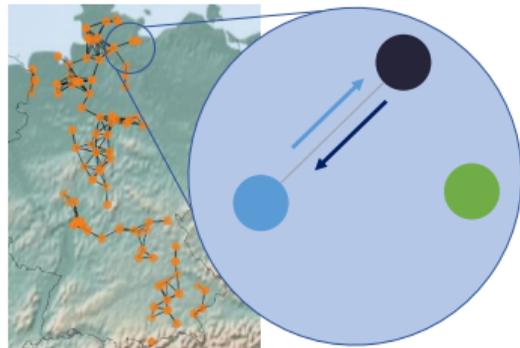


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- Data investigation: particularly interacting transformers



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## Conclusion





- We combined a Multi-Task approach with an attention-based GNN to capture individual latent characteristics of transformers and their interactions



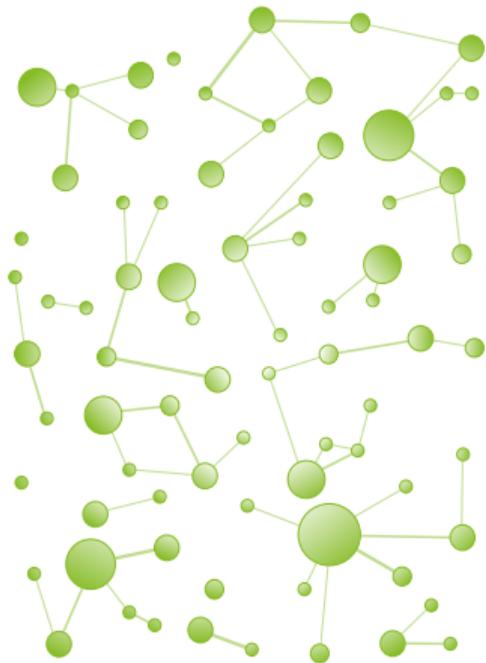
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- Experiments on sparse graph as Proof of concept



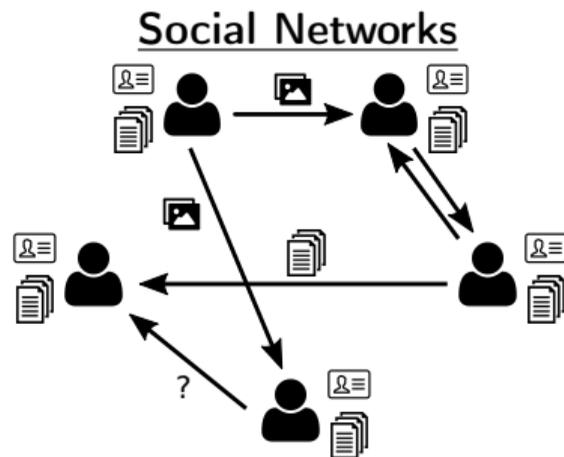
# FDGNN: Fully Dynamic Graph Neural Network

Alice Moallem-Oureh, Silvia Beddar-Wiesing



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<sup>7</sup> Moallem-Oureh, Beddar-Wiesing, Nather, Thomas: *FDGNN: Fully Dynamic Graph Neural Network*, arXiv:2206.03469



- Recommender system (link prediction)
- Fraud detection (node classification)
- ...

Stock Market Prices



- Stock price prediction (attribute prediction)
- ...



## Motivation

- ⇒ Graphs dynamic in **structure** and **attributes**
- ⇒ Tasks: Node classification, link prediction, graph classification, event prediction, ...

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- Most of the GNNs in literature can only handle (unattributed) **growing graphs**.
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- Most of the models address only **Link Prediction** and **Event Time Prediction**
- **Attribute Prediction** mostly of nodes can be just found for GNNs working on discrete-time and without any structural changes of the graph.

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The **FDGNN** is capable of processing

- both **structural** and **attribute dynamics** and
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to address potentially different learning problems, such as

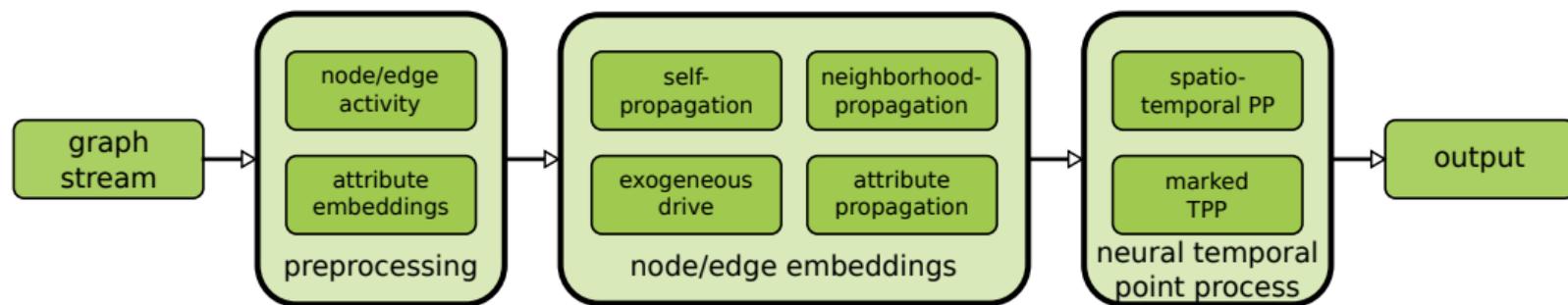
- event and event time prediction or
- node/edge/graph classification/regression.

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# FDGNN: Fully Dynamic Graph Neural Network<sup>7</sup>

## FDGNN Architecture



<sup>7</sup> Moallem-Oureh, Beddar-Wiesing, Nather, Thomas: *FDGNN: Fully Dynamic Graph Neural Network*, arXiv:2206.03469

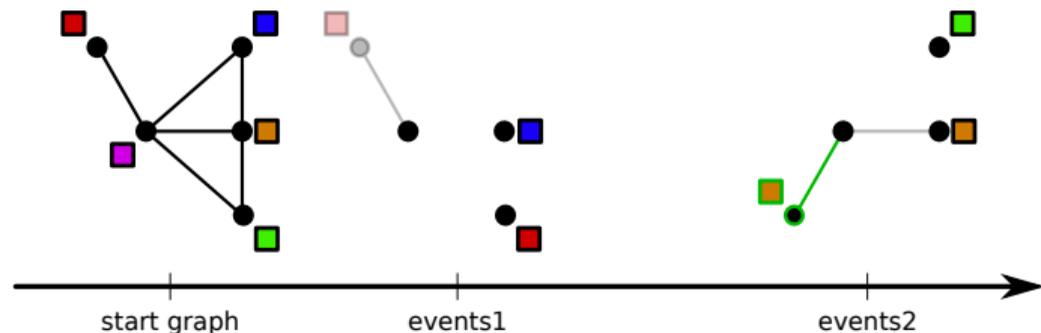
# FDGNN: Fully Dynamic Graph Neural Network<sup>7</sup>

Input: Graph Stream

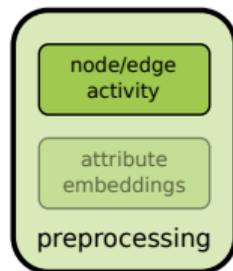


- Start graph and stream of different **events**
- **Structural** changes: addition/deletion of nodes or edges
- **Attribute** changes of nodes or edges
- not necessarily **equidistant** time

graph  
stream



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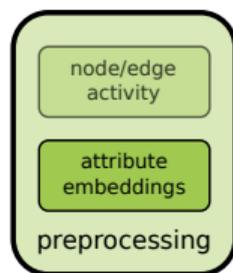


- Activity encodes **existence** of node and edges at a time

active node  $\mapsto 1$

inactive node  $\mapsto 0$

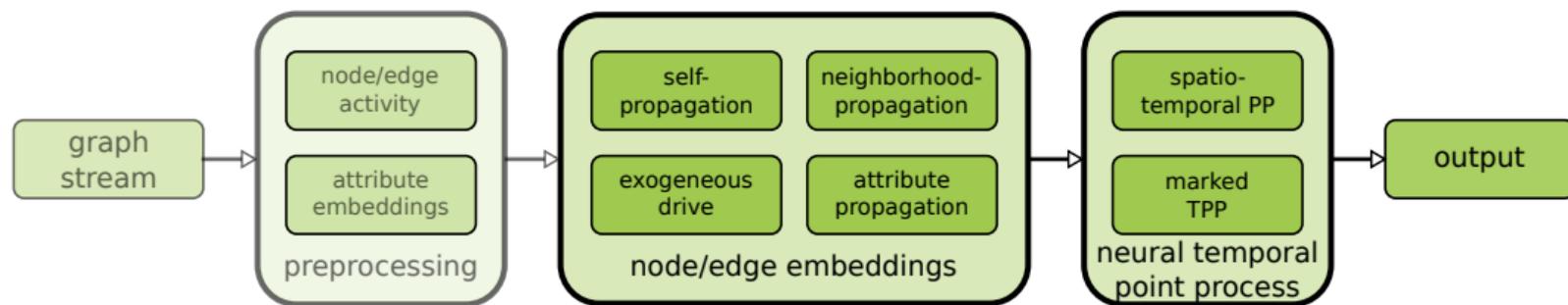
- Thereby, the **deletion behavior** can also be learned afterwards



- Vector representation of the node or edge textbfattributes
- Attribute embedding as **preprocessing**
- **Depending on dataset** considering a suitable attribute embedding into the  $\mathbb{R}^n$  (e.g., word2vec)

# FDGNN: Fully Dynamic Graph Neural Network<sup>7</sup>

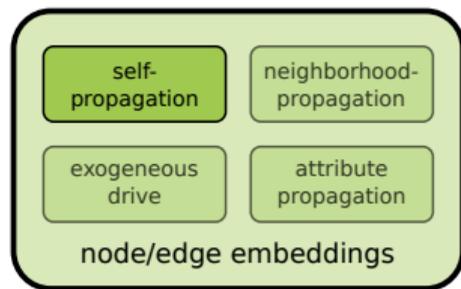
## FDGNN Architecture



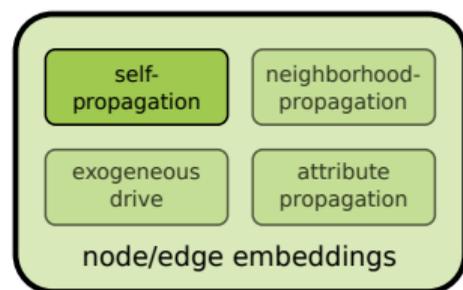
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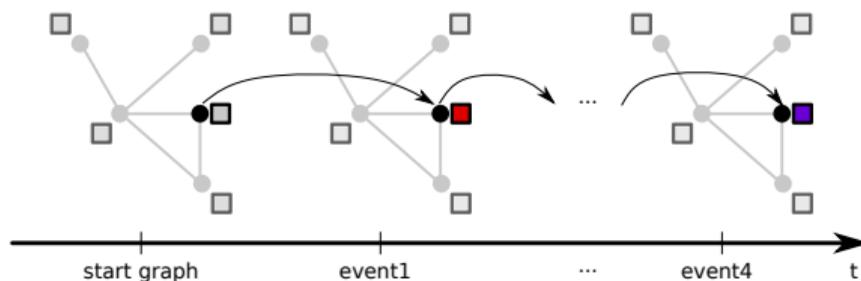
Embedding: Self-Propagation



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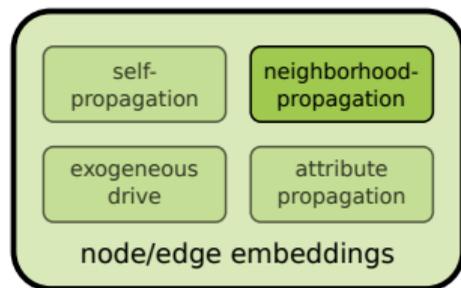


- includes temporal evolution of the current node/edge embedding
- with integrated forgetting via **temporal attention** (GATv2)



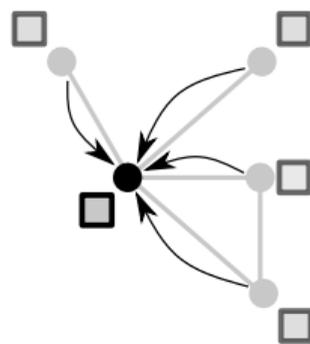
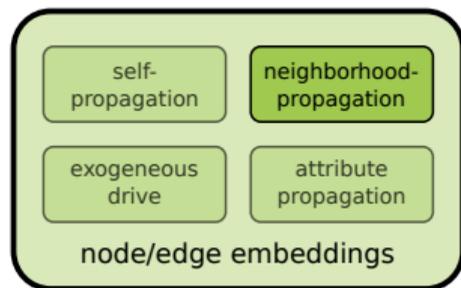
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Embedding: Neighborhood-Propagation

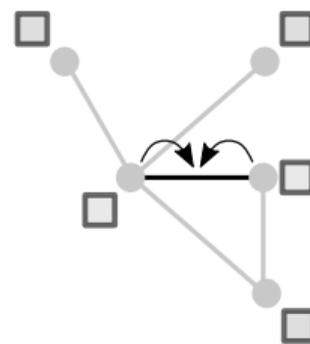


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- Cumulates **local neighborhood information** in the graph (seperately for nodes and edges)
- Classical Graph Attention Neural Network (GATv2, without self-loops)



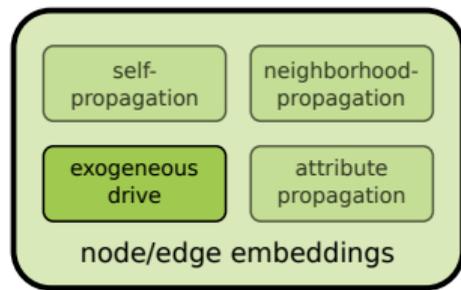
node neighborhood propagation



edge neighborhood propagation

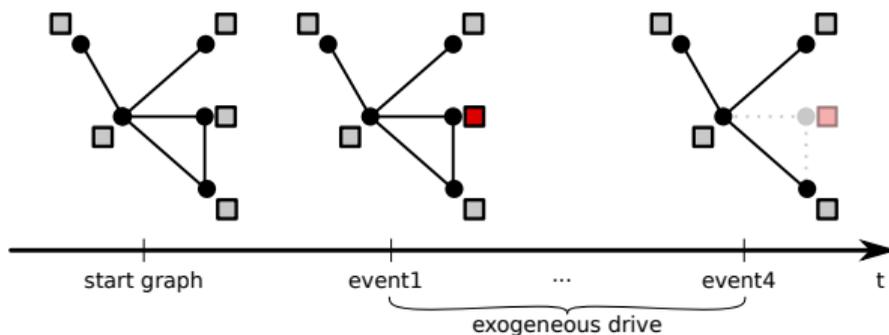
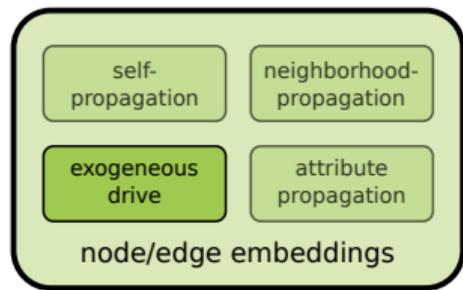
# FDGNN: Fully Dynamic Graph Neural Network<sup>7</sup>

Embedding: Exogeneous Drive



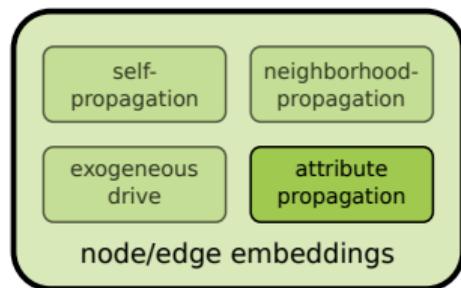
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- **time interval** between current event and the last event on the same node/edge

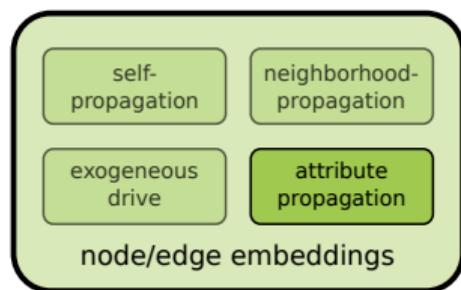


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Embedding: Attribute Propagation

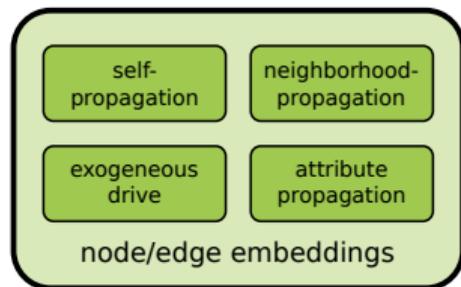


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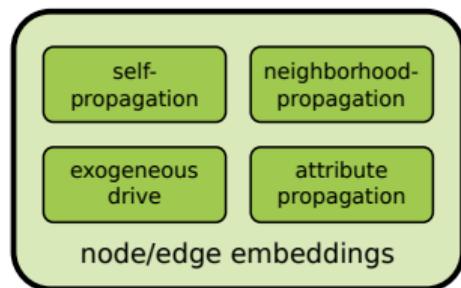


- Encodes temporal evolution of node/edge attributes
- Recurrent Layer

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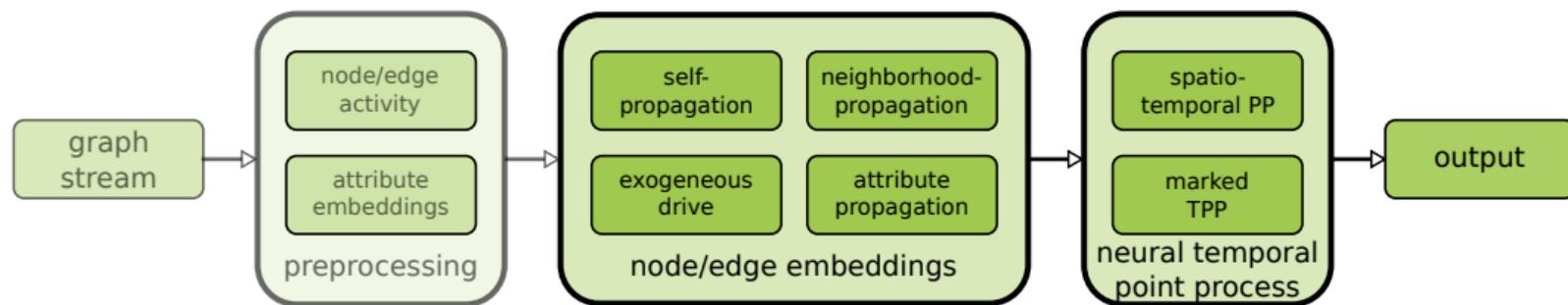


- the event embedding is then determined by the sum of the modules
- passed through an activation function
- one embedding vector for each node and edge separately

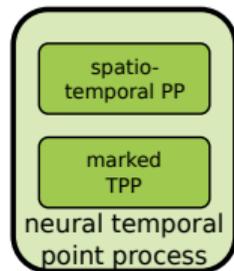
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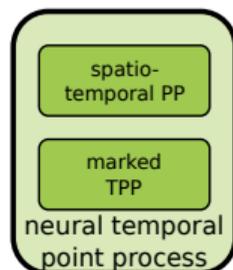


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### Temporal Point Process (TPP):

- **probabilistic generative model** for continuous-time event sequences

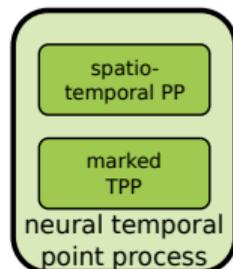


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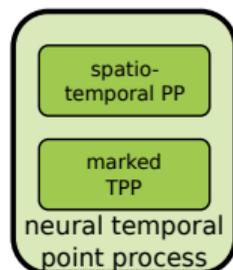
- **probabilistic generative model** for continuous-time event sequences
- can model specific **temporal pattern** in variable-length event sequences



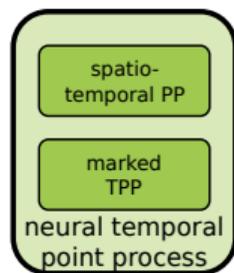
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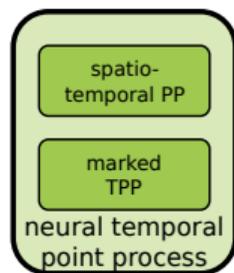


- **probabilistic generative model** for continuous-time event sequences
- can model specific **temporal pattern** in variable-length event sequences
- conditional probability over time is often defined via **conditional intensity functions** considering the history
- intensity functions represent number of events over time



### Neural TPP:

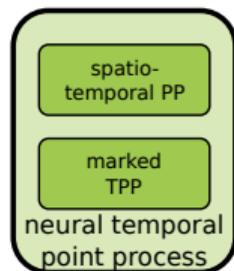
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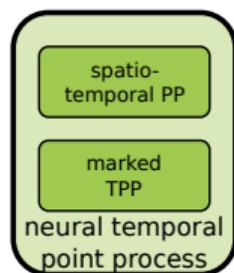
### Neural TPP:

- extends TPPs to the Deep Learning approach
- learns intensity functions with Neural Networks
- allows for **learning more complex temporal pattern**

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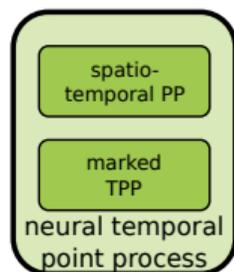
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- **space** is determined by location in graph (node/edge)
- **marks** (additional event information) correspond to node/edge attributes
- intensity function is the product of spatio-temporal and mark intensities

# FDGNN: Fully Dynamic Graph Neural Network<sup>7</sup>

## FDGNN: Marked Neural Spatio-Temporal Point Process



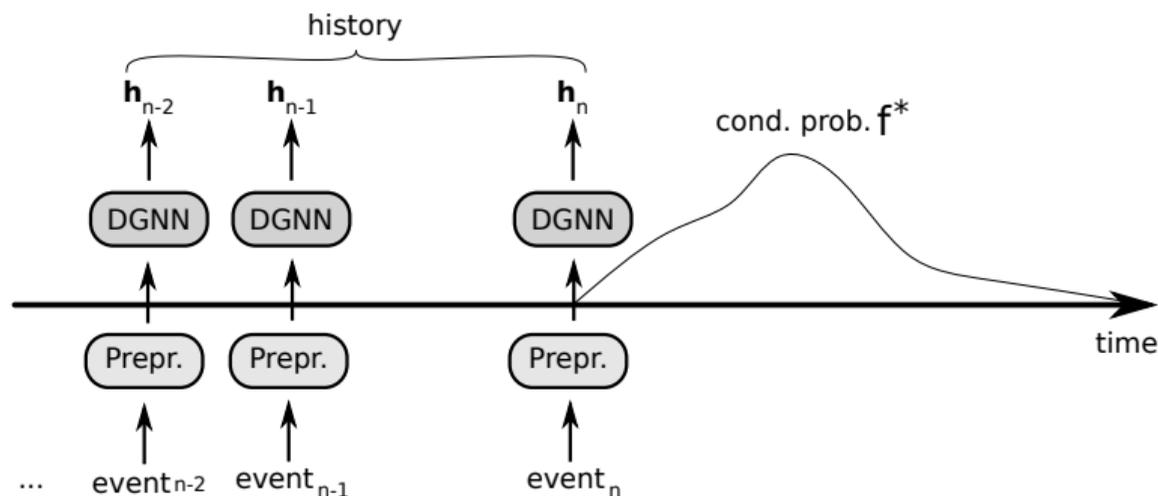
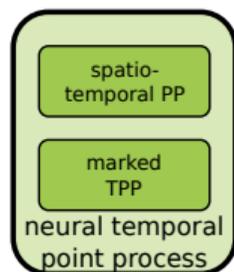
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# FDGNN: Fully Dynamic Graph Neural Network<sup>7</sup>

## FDGNN: Marked Neural Spatio-Temporal Point Process



Marked Neural Spatio-Temporal Point Process models pattern in attributed dynamic graph stream



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- Update the parameter set by, e.g., **maximizing the likelihood** of observed events and
- minimizing the intensity of unobserved events (**survival probability**)
- loss function is approximated by **Monte Carlo Sampling**
- **predictions** can be directly inferred using the probability function

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- FDGNN processes **dynamic graphs** with structural and attribute changes
- preprocessing enables handling of **attributes** of arbitrary type and learning of **deletions**
- the embedding module considers the entire **complex information**
- finally, the history of embeddings in the TPPs is processed to make various **predictions**

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Thank you for your attention!

Questions?

P.S.: We are looking for new colleagues :)