# Foundations of Graph Neural Networks PhD Open, 21-23 May 2025 Problem Sheet 2

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## Question 1

Translate the following GML formula (in FOL syntax) to an AC-GNN:

$$A(x) \wedge \exists^3 y E(x, y).$$

(as usual,  $\exists^3 y \phi$  quantifier means 'there exists exactly 3 y's such that  $\phi$ ').

# Question 2

Translate the following unary FOL formula to an AC-GNN:

 $A(x) \wedge \exists^3 y B(y).$ 

If you think it is not possible, translate it to a more general class of GNNs.

#### Question 3

We defined bisimulation for undirected graphs, but the definition can be adapted to directed graphs in a direct way: we just consider successors instead of neighbours. Does the following graphs have a bisimulation? If no, explain why, if yes, give an example. Are the two top nodes bisimilar? If yes, demonstrate this, if no, give a Graded Modal Logic formula (in FOL syntax) that separates these nodes.



#### Question 4

Suggest a generalisation of the WL stable colouring algorithm (i.e., the nodelevel WL) so that it can distinguish nodes on a triangle from nodes not on a triangle (i.e., for every two nodes in every two graphs such that one is on a triangle and another is not the stable colouring is different).

## Question 5

Let uniform approximation power be defined as expected: a class  $C_2$  of node embeddings has as strong uniform approximation power as a class  $C_1$  if for every  $\epsilon > 0$  and every  $\xi_1 \in C_1$  there is  $\xi_2^{\epsilon} \in C_2$  such that the (absolute value of the) difference between  $\xi_1$  and  $\xi_2^{\epsilon}$  is less that  $\epsilon$  for every node in every graph (of any size).

Demonstrate that AC-GNNs with update

$$\mathbf{x}_{v}^{(\ell)} ::= ReLU\left(\mathbf{A}^{(\ell)}\mathbf{x}_{v}^{(\ell-1)} + \mathbf{C}^{(\ell)}(\operatorname{avg}_{u \in \mathcal{N}_{G}(v)}\mathbf{x}_{u}^{(\ell-1)}) + \mathbf{b}^{(\ell)}\right)$$

do not have stronger approximation power than

$$\mathbf{x}_{v}^{(\ell)} ::= ReLU\left(\mathbf{A}^{(\ell)}\mathbf{x}_{v}^{(\ell-1)} + \mathbf{C}^{(\ell)}(\Sigma_{u \in \mathcal{N}_{G}(v)}\mathbf{x}_{u}^{(\ell-1)}) + \mathbf{b}^{(\ell)}\right)$$

# Question 6

Consider the GNN with the update function

$$\mathbf{x}_{v}^{(1)} ::= ReLU\left(\mathbf{A}^{(1)}\mathbf{x}_{v}^{(0)} + \mathbf{C}^{(1)}(\max_{u \in \mathcal{N}_{G}(v)} \mathbf{x}_{u}^{(0)}) + \mathbf{b}^{(1)}\right)$$

where

$$\mathbf{A}^{(1)} = \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 2 \\ 3 & 4 \end{pmatrix} \qquad \mathbf{C}^{(1)} = \begin{pmatrix} 4 & 3 \\ 2 & 1 \end{pmatrix} \qquad \mathbf{b}^{(1)} = \begin{pmatrix} -5 \\ 1 \end{pmatrix},$$

and with the output function being the 0.5-threshold function of the first element. Write a tree-UCQ that is equivalent to this GNN or explain why it does not exist.