

# From Latent Graph to Latent Topology Inference: Differentiable Cell Complex Module

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# Contribution



We introduce the concept of **Latent Topology Inference (LTI)**, whose goal is not (only) learning a graph but rather learning a higher-order combinatorial topological space describing multi-way interactions among data points

As a first instance of LTI, we introduce the **Differentiable Cell Complex Module (DCM)**, a novel architecture that dynamically learns a **latent regular cell complex** to improve the downstream task

The DCM is tested on several homophilic and heterophilic datasets

Significant accuracy gains on heterophilic benchmarks with provided input graphs show that the DCM leads to robust performance even when the input graph does not fit the data well



# Topological Deep Learning

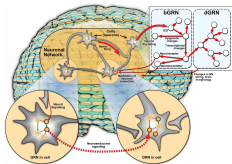
## Goals and Motivation



**Graph-based representation:** data are associated with the vertices of a graph to capture **pairwise** relations encoded by the presence of links



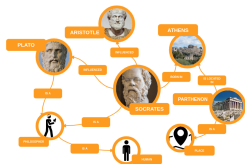
In many systems (biological, brain, social networks,...) the **complex** interactions among data cannot be reduced to dyadic relationships



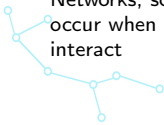
(a) In Gene Regulatory Networks, some reactions occur when a set of genes interact



(b) In Social Networks, agents can interact in a group without having pairwise connections



(c) In Knowledge Graphs, higher-order relationships could provide further insight and analysis



# Topological Deep Learning

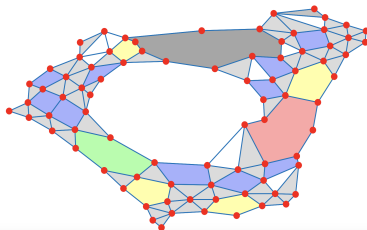
## Regular Cell Complexes



What **topological** descriptors  
do we need to incorporate **higher-order relationships**?

Go **beyond** graphs: **Simplicial Complexes**, **Cell Complexes**, **Cellular Sheaves**, ...

A graph is a cell complex of order 1, containing only cells of order 0 (nodes, in **red**) and 1 (edges, in **blue**). Here we consider a cell complex  $\mathcal{C}_G$  of order 2 as a graph augmented with order 2 cells (**polygons**, in various colors) being some of its induced cycles.



# From Latent Graph To Latent Topology Inference

## Differentiable Cell Complex Module 1

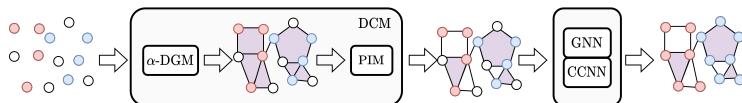


The Differentiable Cell Complex Module (DCM) is a function that first learns a graph describing the pairwise interactions among data points

Then, it leverages the graph as the skeleton of a regular cell complex describing multi-way interactions among data points

The inferred topology, i.e. the inferred **edges** and **polygons**, is then used in two message-passing networks at node and edge levels to solve the downstream task

The whole architecture is trained in an end-to-end fashion



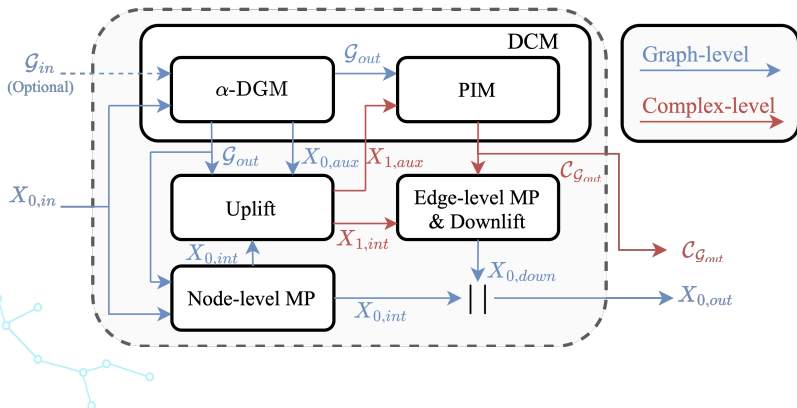
# From Latent Graph To Latent Topology Inference

## Differentiable Cell Complex Module 2



Both edge and polygon sampling is realized through the  $\alpha$ -entmax class of functions

In this way, we obtain flexible, non-regular, and sparse topologies

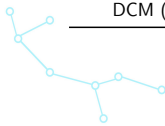


# Homophilic Numerical Results



Table: Homophilic-graph node classification (Test acc. in % avg.ed over 10 splits).

|                  | Cora                 | CiteSeer            | PubMed              | Physics             | CS                  |                     |
|------------------|----------------------|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------|
| Model/Hom. level | 0.81                 | 0.74                | 0.80                | 0.93                | 0.80                |                     |
| w/o graph        | MLP                  | 58.92 ± 3.28        | 59.48 ± 2.14        | 85.75 ± 1.02        | 94.91 ± 0.28        | 87.80 ± 1.54        |
|                  | KCM                  | 78.47 ± 2.09        | 75.20 ± 2.41        | 86.66 ± 0.91        | 95.61 ± 0.18        | 95.14 ± 0.32        |
|                  | DGM-E                | 62.48 ± 3.24        | 62.47 ± 3.20        | 83.89 ± 0.70        | 94.03 ± 0.45        | 76.05 ± 6.89        |
|                  | DGM-M                | 70.85 ± 4.30        | 68.86 ± 2.97        | <b>87.43</b> ± 0.40 | 95.25 ± 0.36        | 92.22 ± 1.09        |
|                  | DCM                  | <b>78.80</b> ± 1.84 | <b>76.47</b> ± 2.45 | 87.38 ± 0.91        | <b>96.45</b> ± 0.12 | <b>95.40</b> ± 0.40 |
|                  | DCM ( $\alpha = 1$ ) | <b>78.73</b> ± 1.99 | <b>76.32</b> ± 2.75 | <b>87.47</b> ± 0.77 | <b>96.22</b> ± 0.27 | <b>95.35</b> ± 0.37 |
| w graph          | GCN                  | 83.11 ± 2.29        | 69.97 ± 2.00        | 85.75 ± 1.01        | 95.51 ± 0.34        | 87.28 ± 1.54        |
|                  | GCN2                 | <b>87.85</b> ± 1.41 | 78.53 ± 2.66        | <b>89.60</b> ± 0.70 | <b>97.41</b> ± 0.34 | 95.05 ± 0.38        |
|                  | GAT                  | <b>89.81</b> ± 1.77 | 78.18 ± 2.31        | 88.53 ± 0.61        | <b>98.87</b> ± 0.30 | 94.42 ± 0.70        |
|                  | KCM                  | 78.43 ± 2.11        | 75.23 ± 2.45        | 86.61 ± 0.95        | 96.16 ± 0.17        | 95.46 ± 0.36        |
|                  | CWN                  | 88.63 ± 1.91        | 75.53 ± 2.13        | 87.97 ± 0.77        | 96.23 ± 0.24        | 93.52 ± 0.59        |
|                  | GCN+CCCN             | 86.09 ± 1.82        | 78.36 ± 3.33        | 88.59 ± 0.67        | 96.90 ± 0.30        | 95.31 ± 0.49        |
|                  | DGM-E                | 82.11 ± 4.24        | 72.35 ± 1.92        | 87.69 ± 0.67        | 95.96 ± 0.40        | 87.17 ± 3.82        |
|                  | DGM-M                | 86.63 ± 3.25        | 75.42 ± 2.39        | 87.82 ± 0.59        | 96.21 ± 0.44        | 92.86 ± 0.96        |
|                  | DCM                  | 85.78 ± 1.71        | <b>78.72</b> ± 2.84 | 88.49 ± 0.62        | 96.99 ± 0.44        | <b>95.79</b> ± 0.48 |
|                  | DCM ( $\alpha = 1$ ) | 85.97 ± 1.86        | <b>78.60</b> ± 3.16 | <b>88.61</b> ± 0.69 | 96.69 ± 0.46        | <b>95.78</b> ± 0.49 |

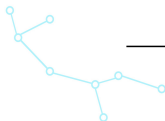


# Heterophilic Numerical Results



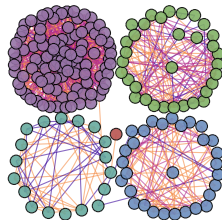
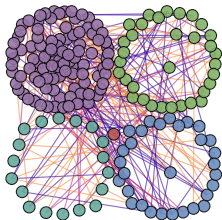
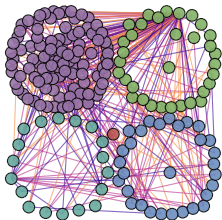
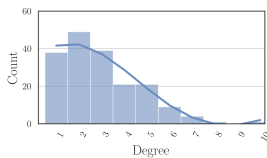
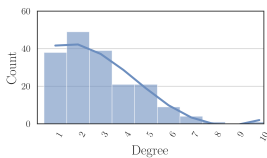
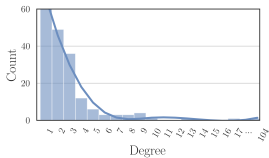
Table: Heterophilic-graph node classification (Test acc. in % avg.ed over 10 splits).

|                  | Texas                | Wisconsin                | Squirrel                | Chameleon               |                         |
|------------------|----------------------|--------------------------|-------------------------|-------------------------|-------------------------|
| Model/Hom. level | 0.11                 | 0.21                     | 0.22                    | 0.23                    |                         |
| w/o graph        | MLP                  | 77.78 $\pm$ 10.24        | 85.33 $\pm$ 4.99        | 30.44 $\pm$ 2.55        | 40.35 $\pm$ 3.37        |
|                  | KCM                  | 84.12 $\pm$ 11.37        | 87.10 $\pm$ 5.15        | 35.15 $\pm$ 1.38        | 52.12 $\pm$ 2.02        |
|                  | DGM-E                | 80.00 $\pm$ 8.31         | <b>88.00</b> $\pm$ 5.65 | 34.35 $\pm$ 2.34        | 48.90 $\pm$ 3.61        |
|                  | DGM-M                | 81.67 $\pm$ 7.05         | <b>89.33</b> $\pm$ 1.89 | 35.00 $\pm$ 2.35        | 48.90 $\pm$ 3.61        |
|                  | DCM                  | <b>85.71</b> $\pm$ 7.87  | 87.49 $\pm$ 5.94        | <b>35.55</b> $\pm$ 2.24 | <b>53.63</b> $\pm$ 3.07 |
|                  | DCM ( $\alpha = 1$ ) | <b>84.96</b> $\pm$ 10.24 | 86.72 $\pm$ 6.02        | <b>35.25</b> $\pm$ 2.22 | <b>53.67</b> $\pm$ 3.19 |
| w graph          | GCN                  | 41.66 $\pm$ 11.72        | 47.20 $\pm$ 9.76        | 24.19 $\pm$ 2.56        | 32.56 $\pm$ 3.53        |
|                  | GCN2                 | 75.50 $\pm$ 7.81         | 74.57 $\pm$ 5.38        | 33.09 $\pm$ 1.76        | 49.50 $\pm$ 3.02        |
|                  | GAT                  | 66.72 $\pm$ 11.22        | 60.52 $\pm$ 9.23        | <b>35.07</b> $\pm$ 2.13 | 50.73 $\pm$ 3.12        |
|                  | KCM                  | 83.92 $\pm$ 11.15        | 84.92 $\pm$ 5.21        | 34.47 $\pm$ 1.49        | <b>53.12</b> $\pm$ 2.02 |
|                  | CWN                  | 65.87 $\pm$ 6.33         | 64.57 $\pm$ 7.12        | 32.44 $\pm$ 2.75        | 43.86 $\pm$ 2.51        |
|                  | GCN+CCCN             | 84.43 $\pm$ 9.11         | 84.03 $\pm$ 5.42        | OOM                     | OOM                     |
|                  | DGM-E                | 60.56 $\pm$ 8.03         | 70.67 $\pm$ 10.49       | 29.87 $\pm$ 2.46        | 44.19 $\pm$ 3.85        |
|                  | DGM-M                | 62.78 $\pm$ 9.31         | 76.00 $\pm$ 3.26        | 30.44 $\pm$ 2.38        | 45.68 $\pm$ 2.66        |
|                  | DCM                  | <b>84.87</b> $\pm$ 10.04 | <b>86.33</b> $\pm$ 5.14 | 34.95 $\pm$ 2.59        | 53.05 $\pm$ 3.00        |
|                  | DCM ( $\alpha = 1$ ) | <b>84.96</b> $\pm$ 5.60  | <b>85.36</b> $\pm$ 5.05 | <b>35.13</b> $\pm$ 2.27 | <b>53.76</b> $\pm$ 3.72 |

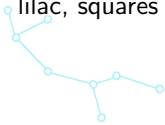




# LTI's Visualization



Evolution of the latent complex for the Texas dataset. Edges in orange, triangles in lilac, squares in purple ( $K_{max} = 4$ ). Homophily levels  $h = [0.11, 0.44, 0.99]$ .



# Contacts



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