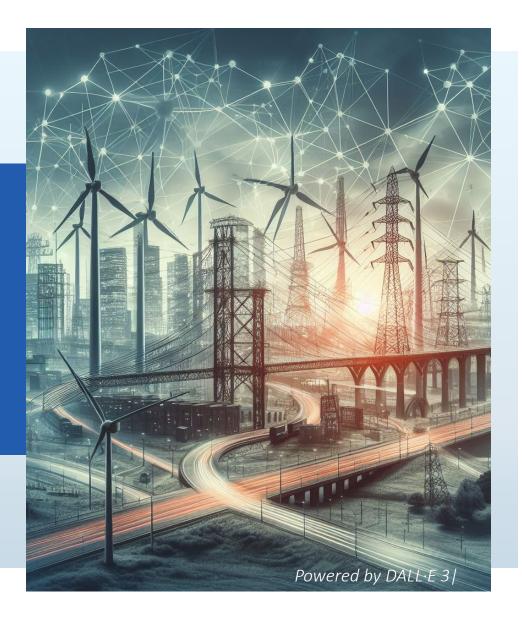
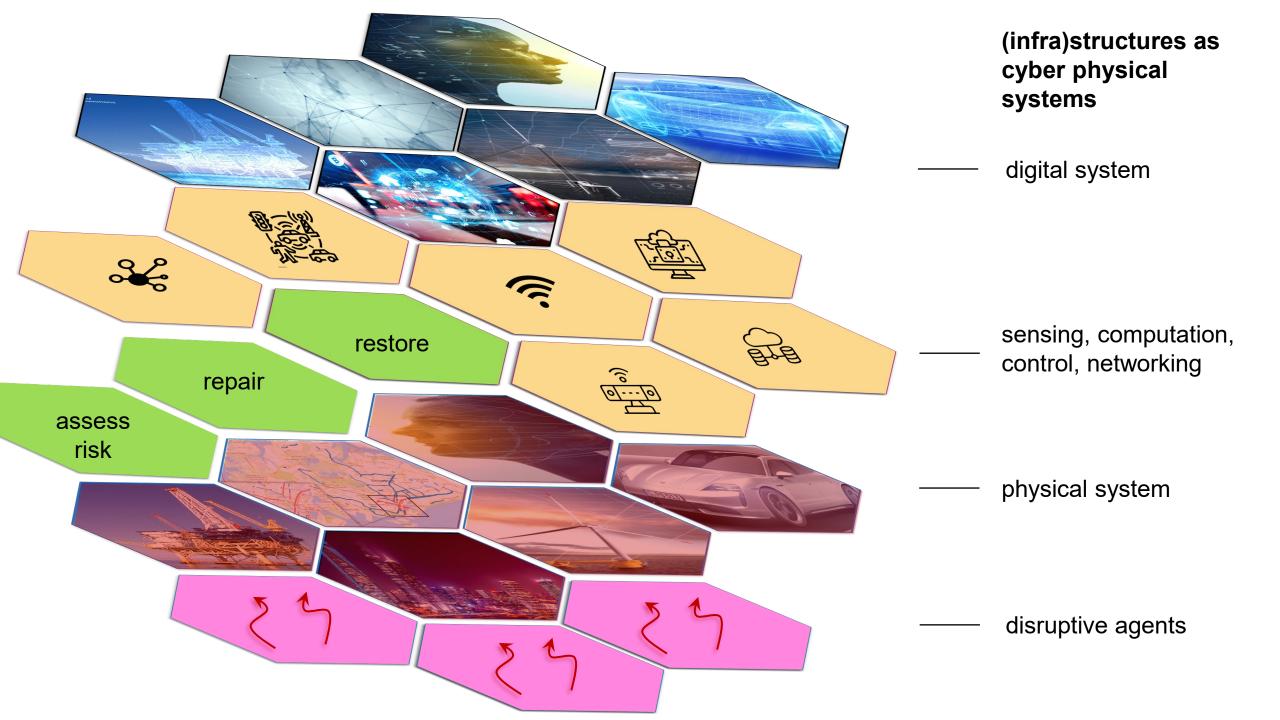


Graph representations as a natural learner for monitoring and twinning, with applications to railway, wind energy, and bridge assets

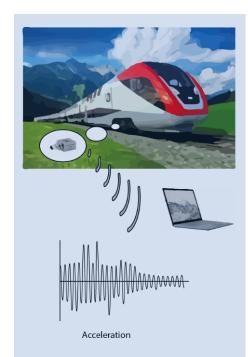
Eleni Chatzi ETH Zürich







## Data Sources at the SMM Group

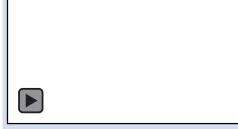


on board monitoring for roadway/railway

Transport infrastructure



PTOON, Wind Farm Greece Monitoring under Demolition





Haus Du Pont, Zürich



SBB Bridge, Sempach



PRONOSTIA ball bearings



Steinavötn Bridge, Iceland



train seats

Wind Energy Infrast.

SMM owned Aventa Turbine

**Built Environment** 

Industrial Assets

# Data is not enough | Hybrid Modelling

"as-designed"

Physics-based representations

#### **Hybrid Models**

- Advanced SHM/twinning tasks Detection, localization, quantification, prognosis
- Used on the fly for diagnostics
   & control
- Are eXplainable/Interpreatable

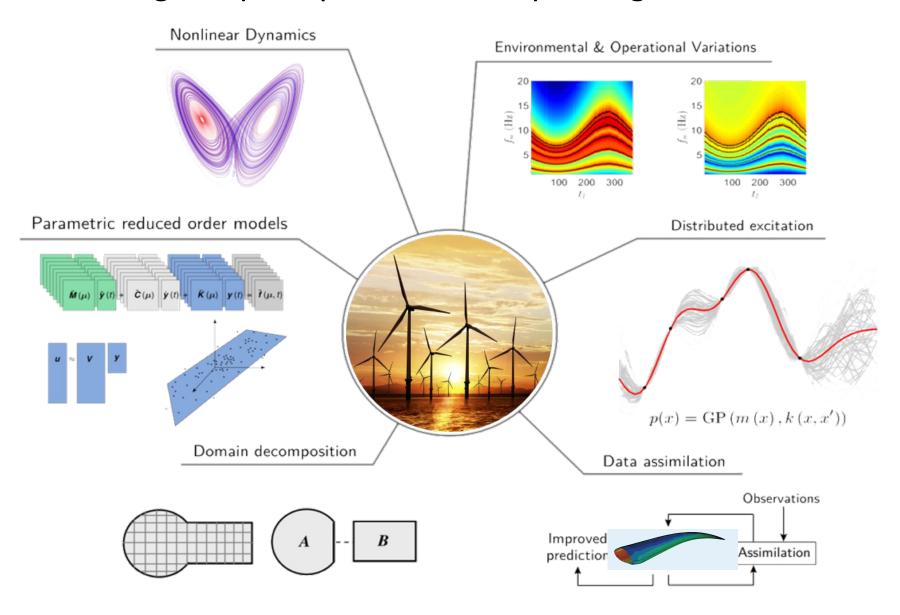
Interactive, closed loop DTs

Purely datadriven representations

"as-is", diagnosis

# **Simulation Paths** © dnv.com © dnv.com

## Modelling Complex Systems under Operating Environments



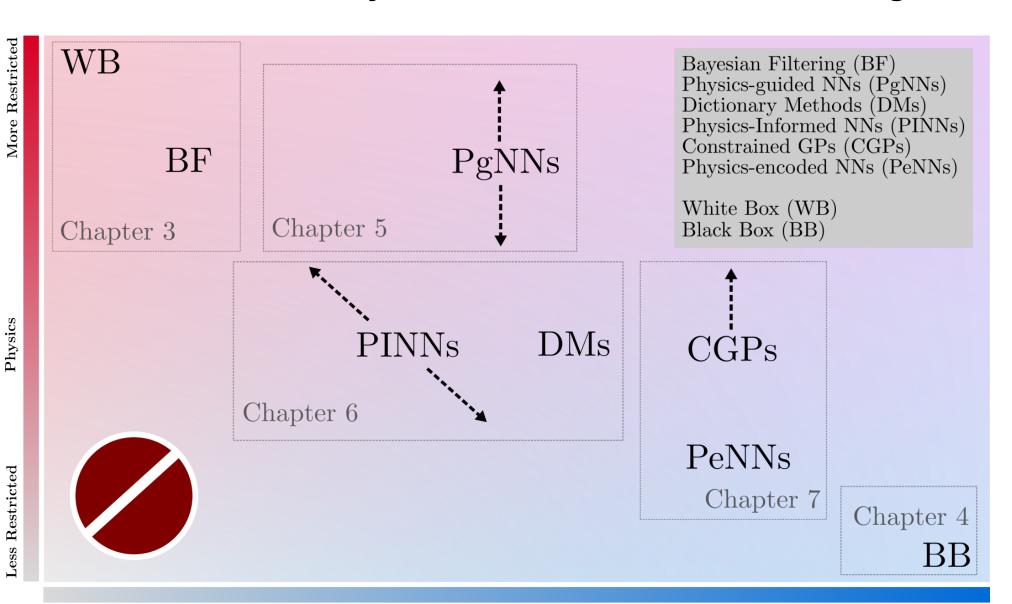
#### **Use Cases**

- Reduced Order Modeling for Virtualization &Twinning
- Virtual sensing for realtime estimation & condition assessment
- Data driven Diagnosis & Prognosis
- Applications in HybridSimulation & Control

#### At the Nexus of Models & Data → Physics - enhanced Machine Learning

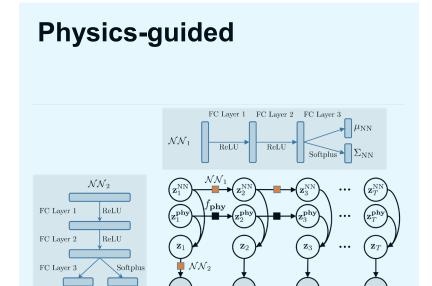




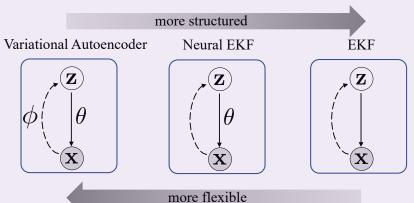




## **Physics-enhanced Machine Learning**



Physics-encoded

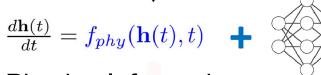


**Neural Extended KFs** 

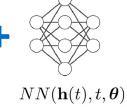
Physics-guided Deep Markov Models



 $\frac{d\mathbf{h}(t)}{dt} = f(\mathbf{h}(t), t, \boldsymbol{\theta})$ 

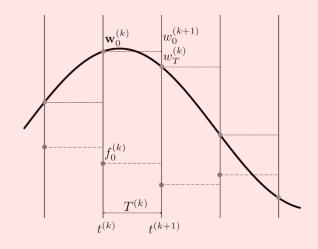


Physics-Informed Neural ODEs



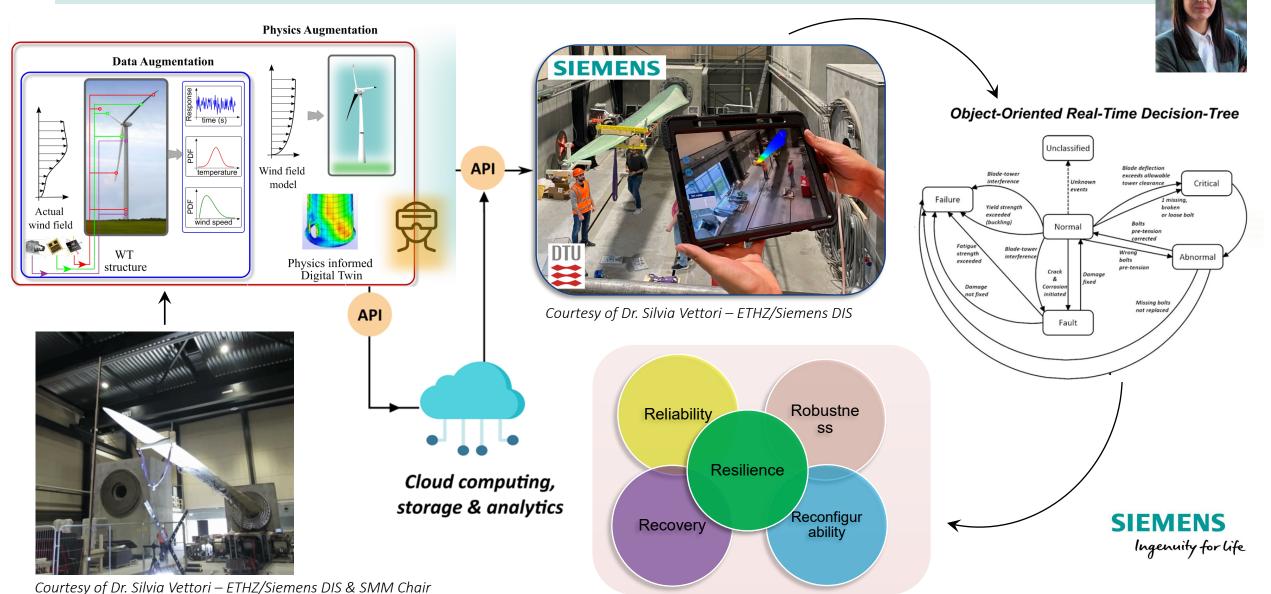
#### **Physics-Informed**





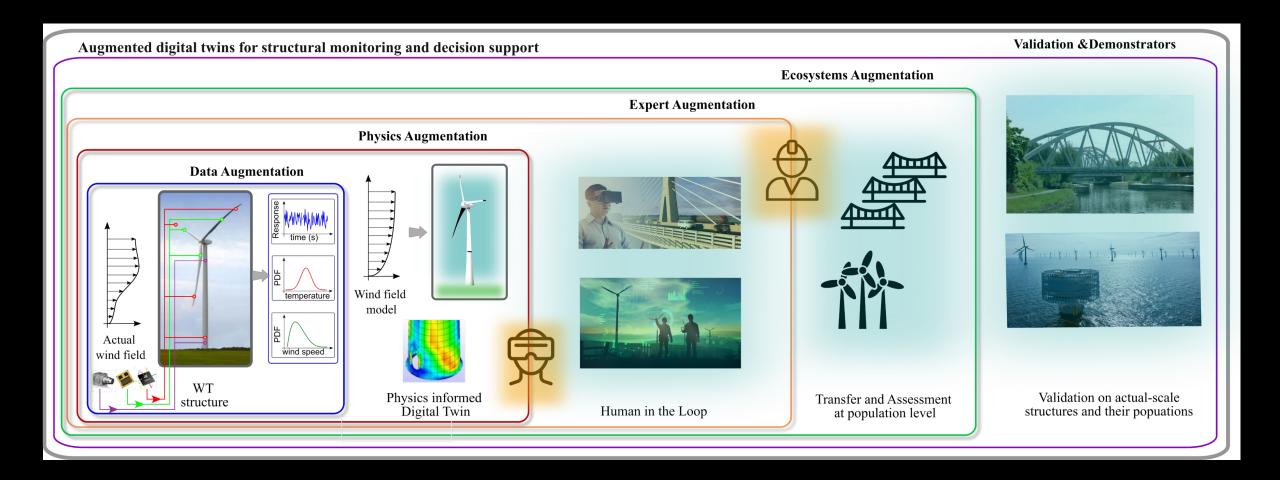
1-step ahead PINN predictors

# Application: Interactive Digital Twins - Closing the loop





## Augmented digital twins for structural monitoring & decision support





# Graphs for Learning at the Ecosystem Level

Natural fit as representation of interconnected systems

## Scalable from local to global

From individual assets to entire networks, graphs adapt seamlessly.

#### Support dynamic data integration

Capture evolving relationships, data flows, and temporal dynamics across systems.

#### **Enable transfer learning across assets**

Shared topological and behavioral patterns allow knowledge to transfer between similar subsystems (e.g., across bridges, or wind turbines).

#### Foundation for digital twins

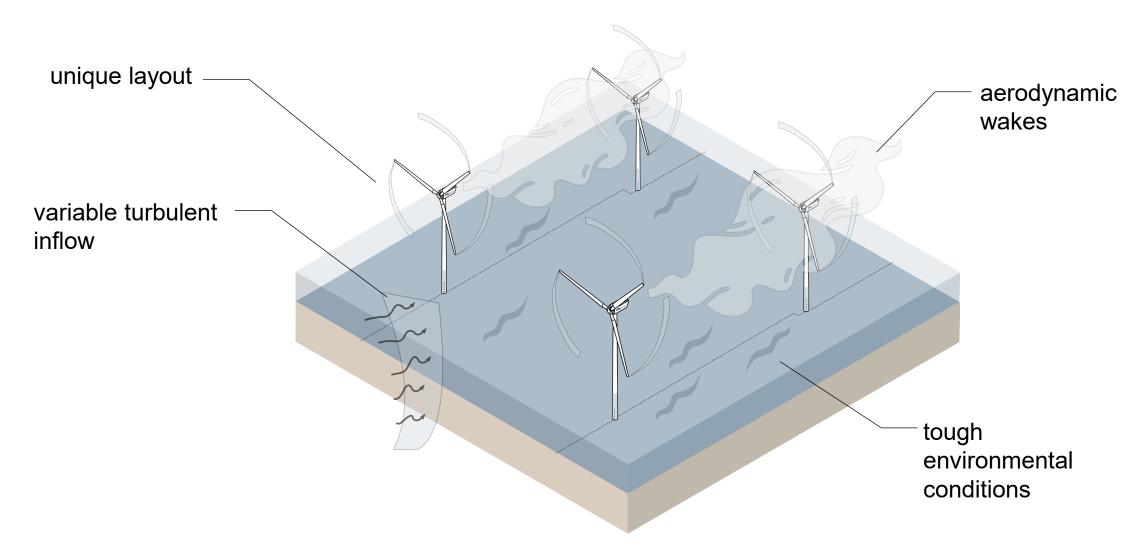
Serve as the structural layer of digital twins, supporting hybrid modeling & interpretability.

## Fleet-level diagnostics & decision support

Enable population-level insights via network-based learning.

#### At the Fleet Level

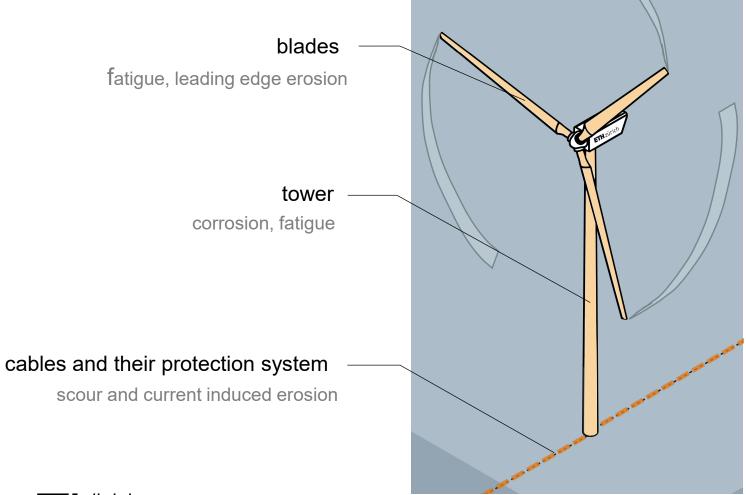
Wind farms are complex systems involving physical processes at multiple scales.





#### At he individual asset level

Turbines themselves are systems of individual components, each with its own unique behavior. Some critical components are difficult to monitor and degrade over extended periods of time.



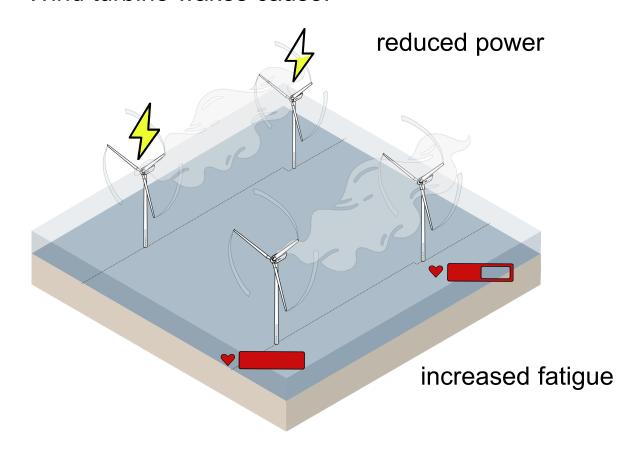
How can we design neural architectures that can deal with all of these challenges, leading to better generalization?

#### At the Farm Level: Wind turbine wake effects



Source: Vattenfall. Photographer: Christian Steiness.

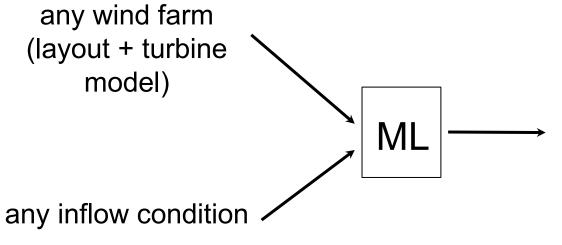
#### Wind turbine wakes cause:





## ML for wind farms





power, local flow, fatigue loads for each turbine



#### ML for wind farms

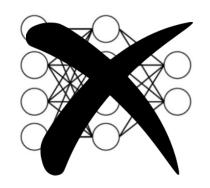


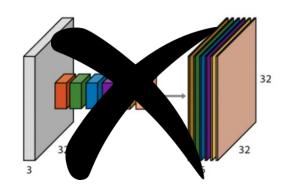




Traditional ML methods can't deal with unordered sets of variable size

Graph neural networks are perfectly suited for this!







## **SMM Entry point:**

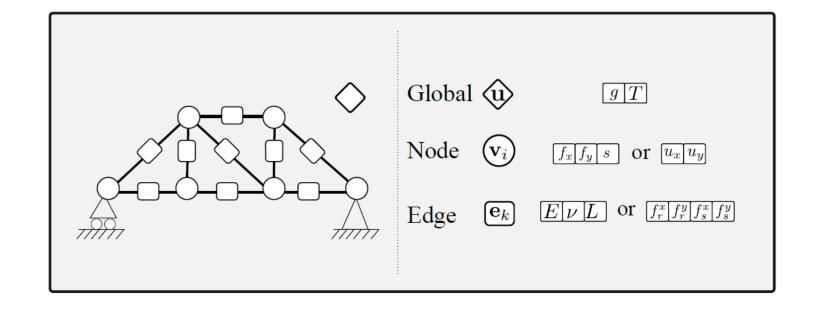
## Deep Learning Algorithms for attributed graph data

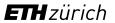
Doctoral Thesis of Charilaos Mylonas (2021)



"...we reject the false choice between "hand-engineering" and "end-to-end" learning, and instead advocate for an approach which benefits from their complementary
strengths."

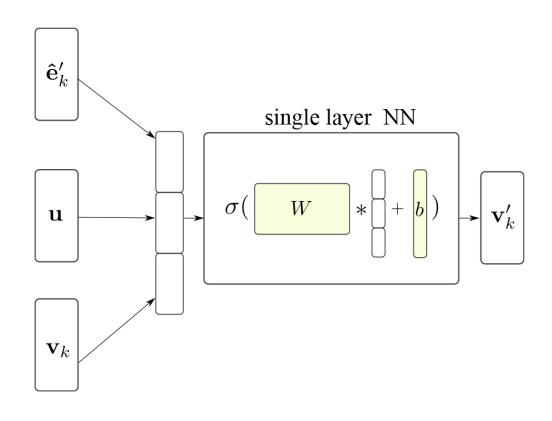
(Battaglia et al, 2018)

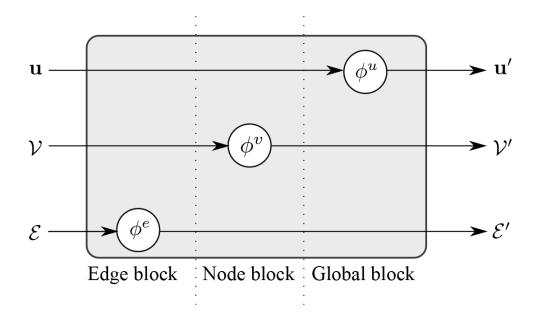


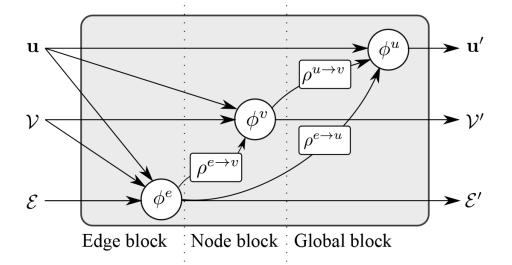


# Deep Learning Algorithms for attributed graph data

Encode-process-decode architecture

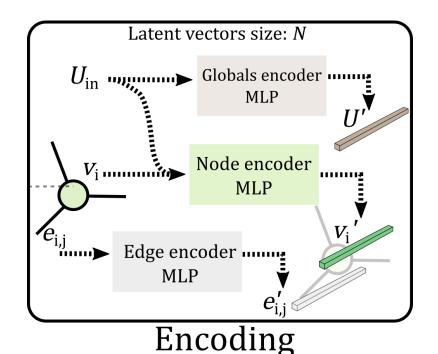


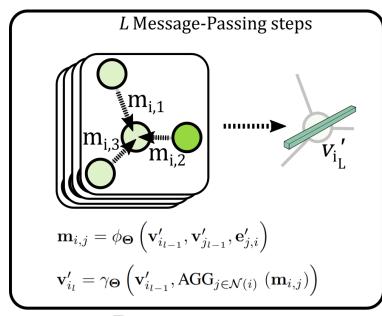




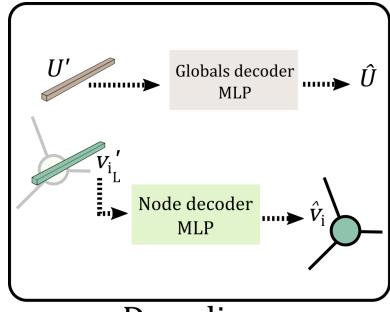
# Deep Learning Algorithms for attributed graph data

#### Encode-process-decode architecture





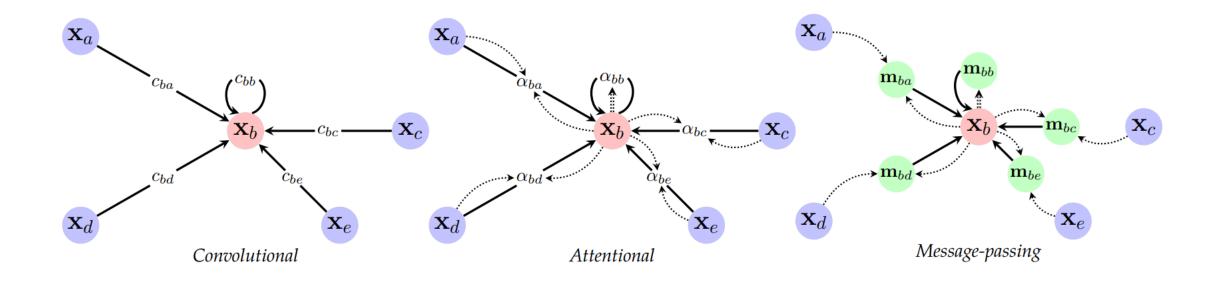
Processing



Decoding

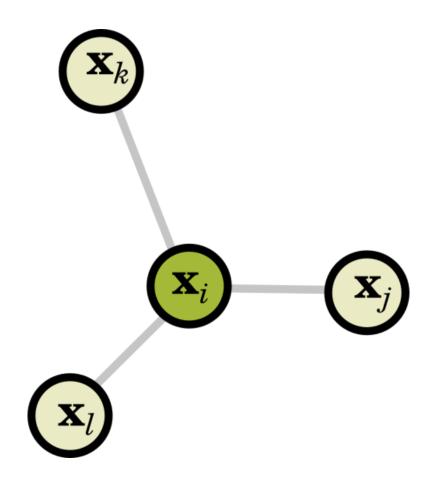


## Different kinds of message-passing



Source: Bronstein, Bruna, Cohen, Veličković (2021)

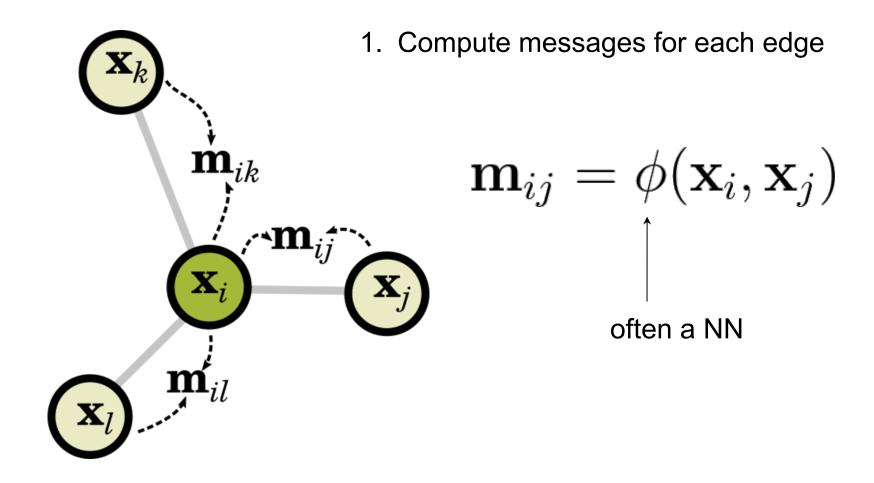
## GNNs: propagation of information through message-passing





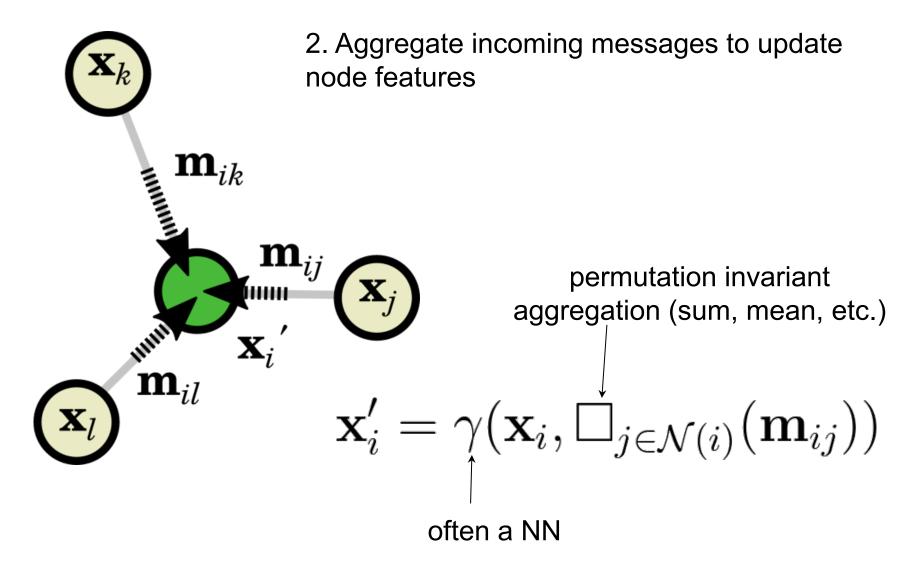
20

## GNNs: propagation of information through message-passing

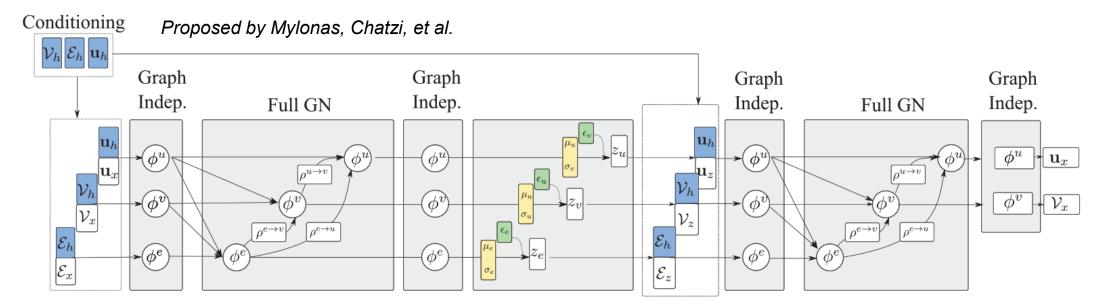




## GNNs: propagation of information through message-passing



# Variational Bayesian GNNs



#### **Conditional Relational VAE**

$$\mathcal{V}_{z} \sim q_{\phi}^{(\mathcal{V})}(G_{z}|G_{x};G_{h}) = \mathcal{N}(f_{q\phi}^{\mu(\mathcal{V})}(G_{x};G_{h}), f_{q\phi}^{\sigma_{(\mathcal{V})}^{2}}(G_{x};G_{h}))$$

$$\mathcal{E}_{z} \sim q_{\phi}^{(\mathcal{E})}(G_{z}|G_{x};G_{h}) = \mathcal{N}(f_{q\phi}^{\mu(\mathcal{E})}(G_{x};G_{h}), f_{q\phi}^{\sigma_{(\mathcal{E})}^{2}}(G_{x};G_{h}))$$

$$\mathbf{u}_{z} \sim q_{\phi}^{(\mathbf{u})}(G_{z}|G_{x};G_{h}) = \mathcal{N}(f_{q\phi}^{\mu(\mathbf{u})}(G_{x};G_{h}), f_{q\phi}^{\sigma_{(\mathbf{u})}^{2}}(G_{x};G_{h})).$$

$$\hat{\mathcal{V}}_{x} \sim p_{\theta}^{(\mathcal{V})}(G_{x}|G_{z};G_{h}) = \mathcal{N}(g_{p\theta}^{\mu(\mathcal{V})}(G_{z};G_{h}), g_{p\theta}^{\sigma_{(\mathcal{V})}^{2}}(G_{z};G_{h}))$$

$$\hat{\mathbf{u}}_{x} \sim p_{\theta}^{(\mathbf{u})}(G_{x}|G_{z};G_{h}) = \mathcal{N}(g_{p\theta}^{\mu(\mathbf{u})}(G_{z};G_{h}), g_{p\theta}^{\sigma_{(\mathbf{u})}^{2}}(G_{z};G_{h}))$$

$$\mathcal{L}(\boldsymbol{\theta}, \boldsymbol{\phi}; G_x^{(i)}, G_h^{(i)}) = \mathbb{E}_{q_{\boldsymbol{\theta}}(G_z | G_x^{(i)}; G_h^{(i)})} \Big[ \log p_{\boldsymbol{\theta}}(G_x^{(i)} | G_z; G_h^{(i)}) \Big]$$

$$- \beta_{\mathcal{V}} D_{KL}(q_{\boldsymbol{\phi}}^{(\mathcal{V})}(G_z | G_x^{(i)}; G_h^{(i)}) | |p_{\boldsymbol{\theta}}^{(\mathcal{V})}(G_z; G_h^{(i)}))$$

$$- \beta_{\mathcal{E}} D_{KL}(q_{\boldsymbol{\phi}}^{(\mathcal{E})}(G_z | G_x^{(i)}; G_h^{(i)}) | |p_{\boldsymbol{\theta}}^{(\mathcal{E})}(G_z; G_h^{(i)}))$$

$$- \beta_{\mathbf{u}} D_{KL}(q_{\boldsymbol{\phi}}^{(\mathbf{u})}(G_z | G_x^{(i)}; G_h^{(i)}) | |p_{\boldsymbol{\theta}}^{(\mathbf{u})}(G_z; G_h^{(i)}))$$

## Prediction on the Anholt Wind Farm Data

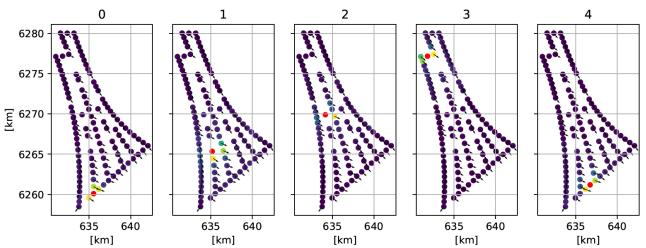
## Imputation of wind speeds given neighboring Turbine Data

Quantity	Variable se	Actual data	RVAE data (10 % missing) MAPE: 8.54 %
Turbine rotor size	$\mathcal{V}_h$		
Turbine distance Turbine rel. orientation Farm mean wind orientation Farm mean wind speed Time of day	$egin{array}{c} \mathcal{E}_h \ \mathcal{E}_h \ \mathbf{u}_h \ \mathbf{u}_h \end{array}$		
Power (turbine) Wind mean (turbine) Wind std (turbine) Turb. Nacelle orientation Nacelle temperature	$egin{array}{c} \mathcal{V}_x \ \mathcal{V}_x \ \mathcal{V}_x \ \mathcal{V}_x \ \mathcal{V}_x \end{array}$	RVAE data (20 % missing) MAPE : 11.60 %	RVAE data (50 % missing) MAPE : 13.26 %
Farm mean wind orientation Farm mean wind speed	$egin{array}{c} \mathbf{u}_x \\ \mathbf{u}_x \end{array}$		
Node latent Edge latent Global latent	$egin{array}{c} \mathcal{V}_z \ \mathcal{E}_z \ \mathbf{u}_z \end{array}$		



## Prediction on the Anholt Wind Farm

## Imputation given neighboring Turbine Data

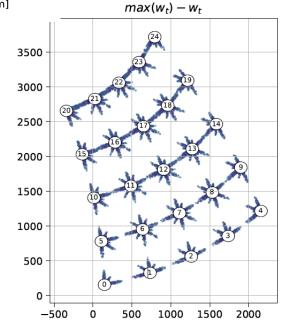


#### Interpretable diagnostics

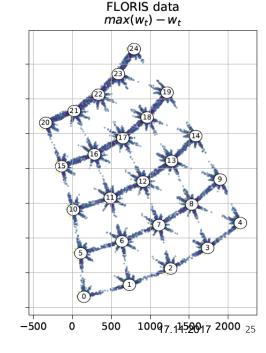
The model is end-to-end differentiable → compute an absolute gradient sensitivity

#### Inferring Engineering relevant Quantities & Transfer

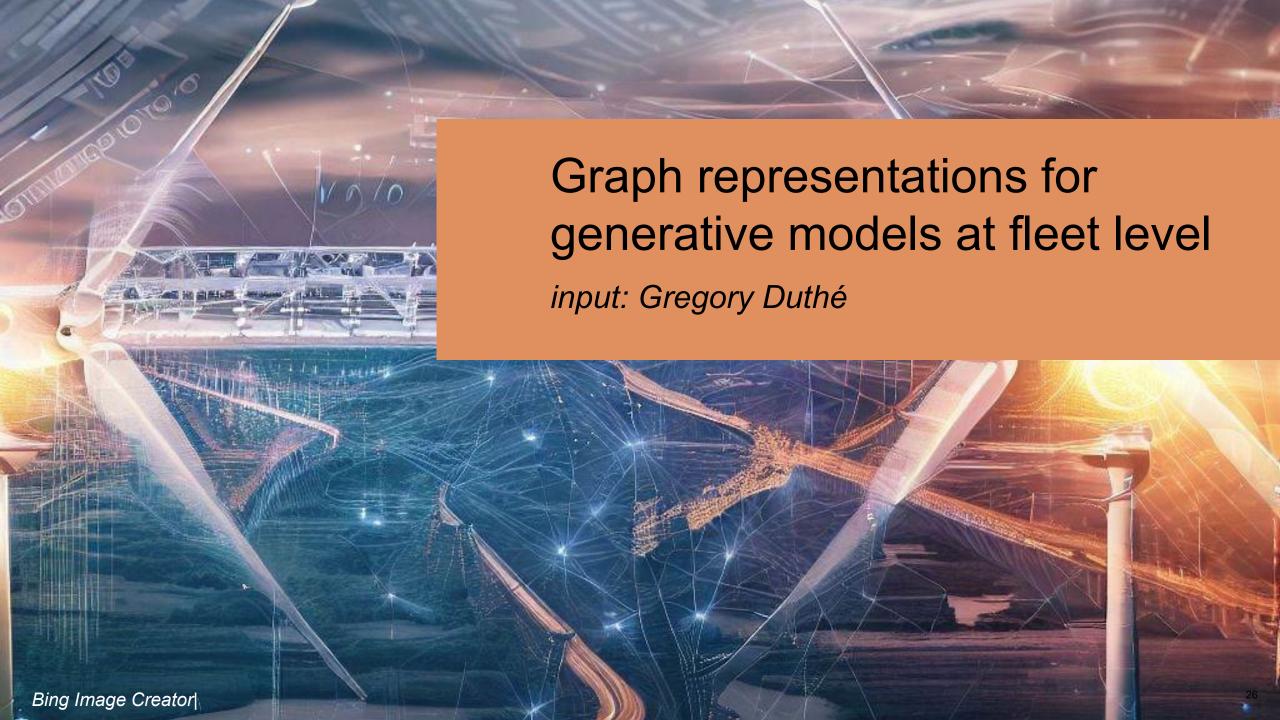
- Generalization to an unseen simulated farm (FLORIS)
- Learnt spatial distribution of wake related wind speed deficit



Relational VAE





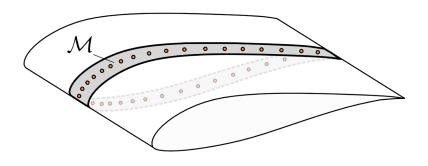


## Capitalizing on relational inductive biases for Transfer

To build ML models that have more potential to generalize, we need to leverage **inductive biases**.

→ built in assumptions that guide the learning process.

In particular, **geometric and relational inductive biases** can be used to build neural architectures that are flexible and can operate on irregular, non-Euclidean structures.

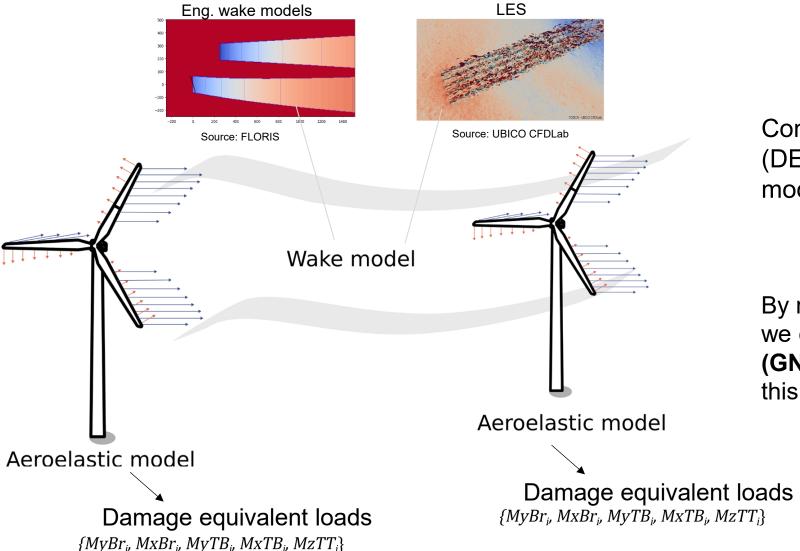


This forms the basis of **Geometric Deep Learning (GDL)** (Duthé, Doctoral Thesis, 2025)





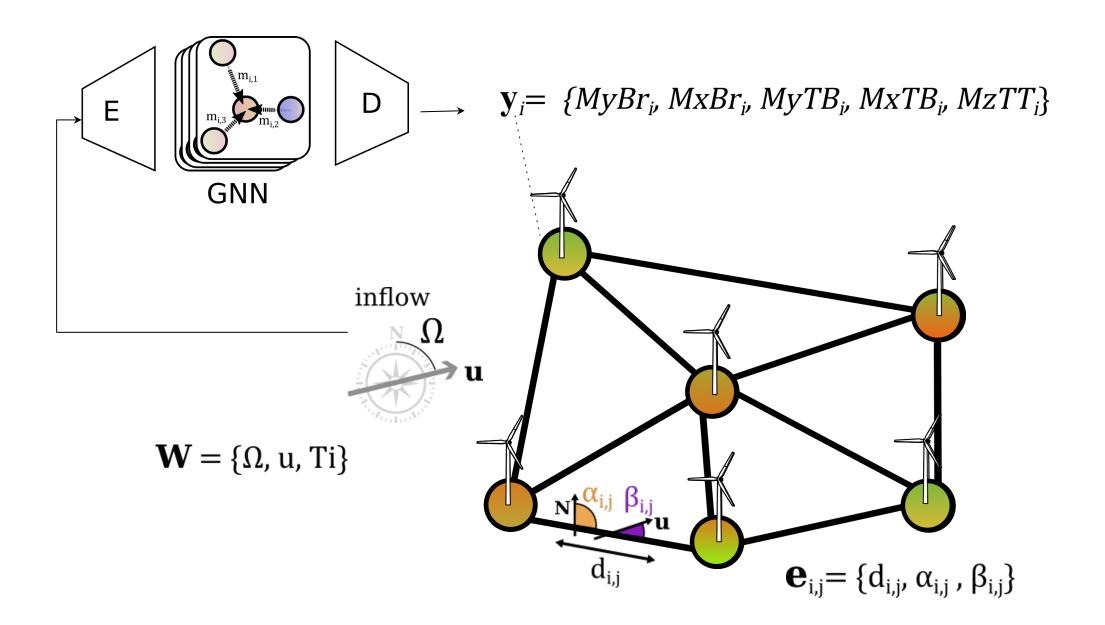
## Challenges in wind turbine fatigue modelling



Computing damage equivalent loads (DELs) using coupled aeroelastic models is computationally costly.

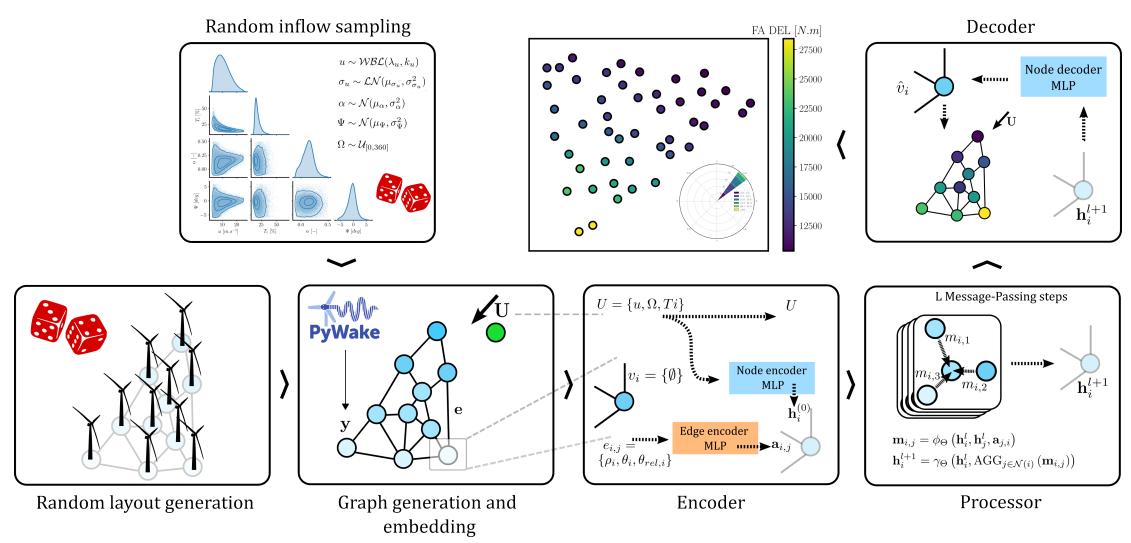
By representing wind farms as graphs, we can use **Graph Neural Networks** (**GNNs**) as efficient surrogate models of this process.

#### GNNs for fast wind farm simulations

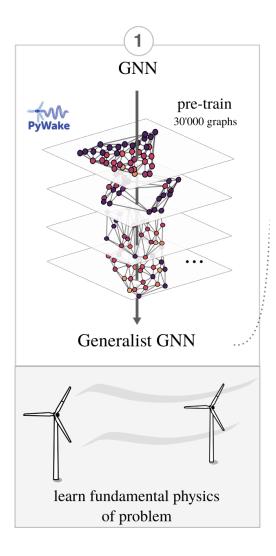


#### **GNN Architecture**

Harnessing the power of graph representations for learning across populations/fleets



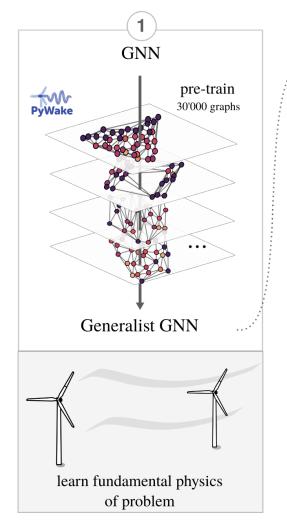
## Training strategy

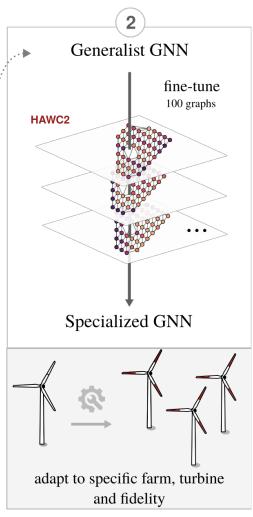


We can obtain a generalist GNN by training on thousands of random layouts simulated with PyWake, a low fidelity simulator.

Parameter	Value	Description	
$\overline{\mathbb{E}(u)}$	10	Mean wind speed $[m.s^{-1}]$	
$k_u$	2.0	Shape factor of the Weibull distribution for wind speed	
$I_{ref}$	0.16	Iref parameter	
$u_{min}$	3	Minimum simulated wind speed $[m.s^{-1}]$	
$u_{max}$	25	Maximum simulated wind speed $[m.s^{-1}]$	
$lpha_{min}$	-0.099707	Minimum shear exponent (from PyWake)	
$lpha_{max}$	0.499414	Maximum shear exponent (from PyWake)	
$\Psi_{min}$	-6	lower limit of skewness distribution $[deg]$	
$\Psi_{max}$	6	upper limit of skewness distribution $[deg]$	
$\Omega_{min}$	0	lower limit of wind direction distribution $[deg]$	
$\Omega_{max}$	360	upper limit of wind direction distribution $[deg]$	

## Training strategy





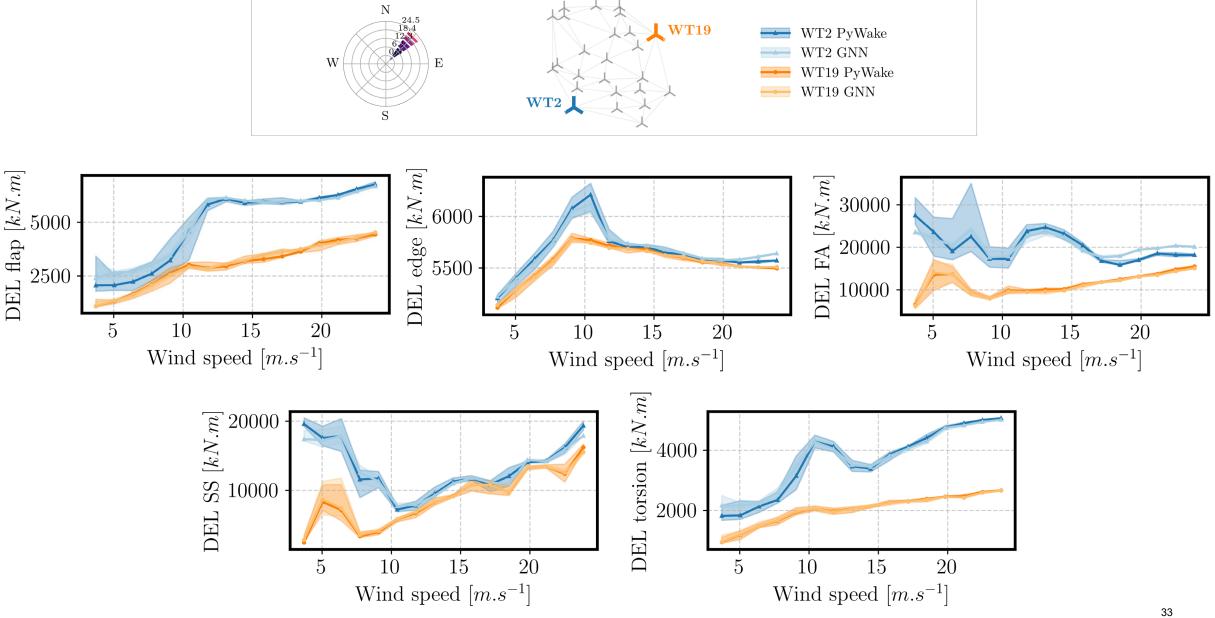
We can obtain a generalist GNN by training on thousands of random layouts simulated with PyWake, a low fidelity simulator.

We can then finetune this generalist model to higher fidelities, different turbines, etc. with small amounts of new data, using Low Rank Adaptation<sup>1</sup> (LoRA).

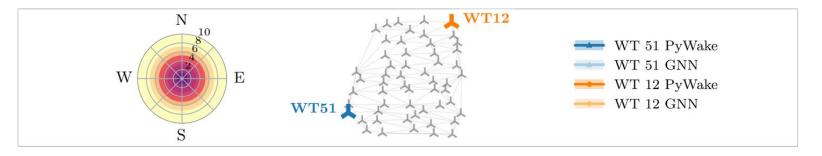
Here we use HAWC2Farm as the higher fidelity model using 1000 1 hr long simulation of the Lillgrund farm, by Liew, Riva & Göcmen.

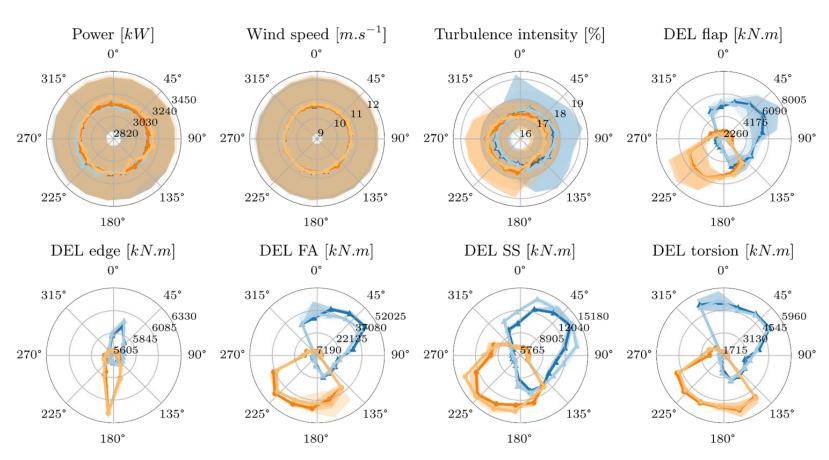
→ Specialized model, where training is 'bootstrapped'

#### Generalist model results

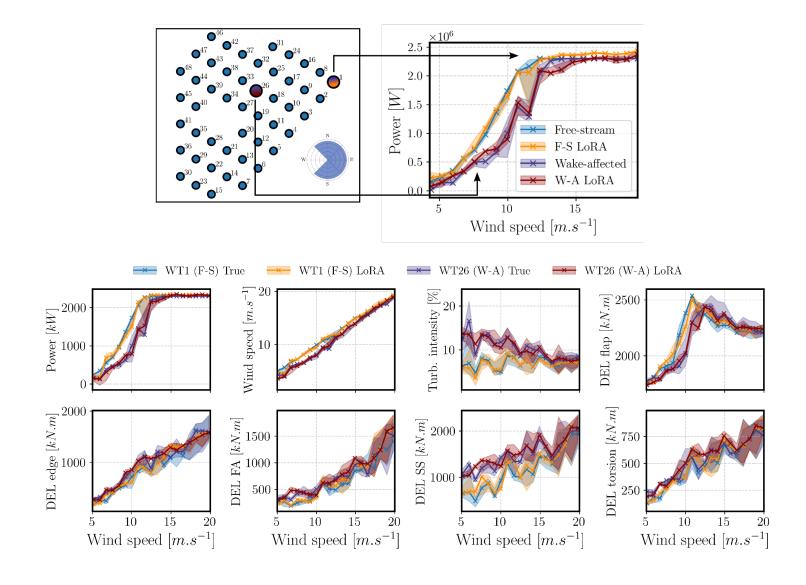


#### Generalist model results





## Fine-tuned model performance

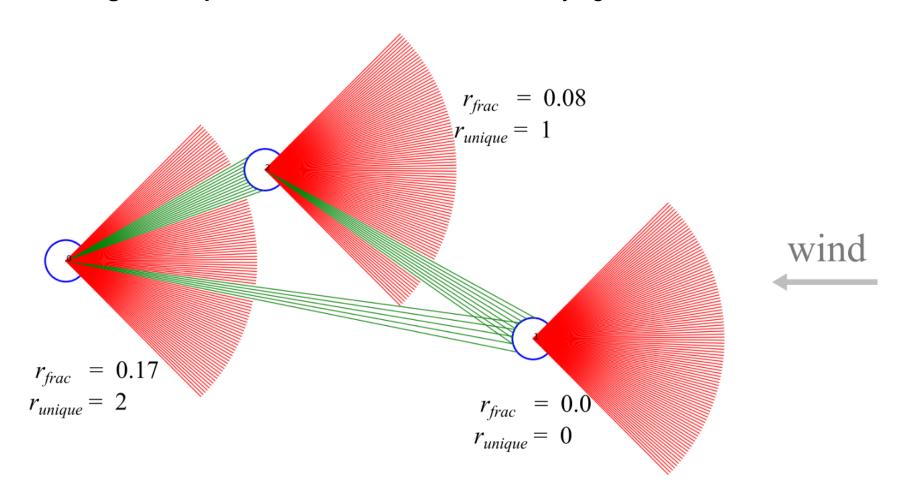


Fine-tuned on only ~100 samples of HAWC2Farm data

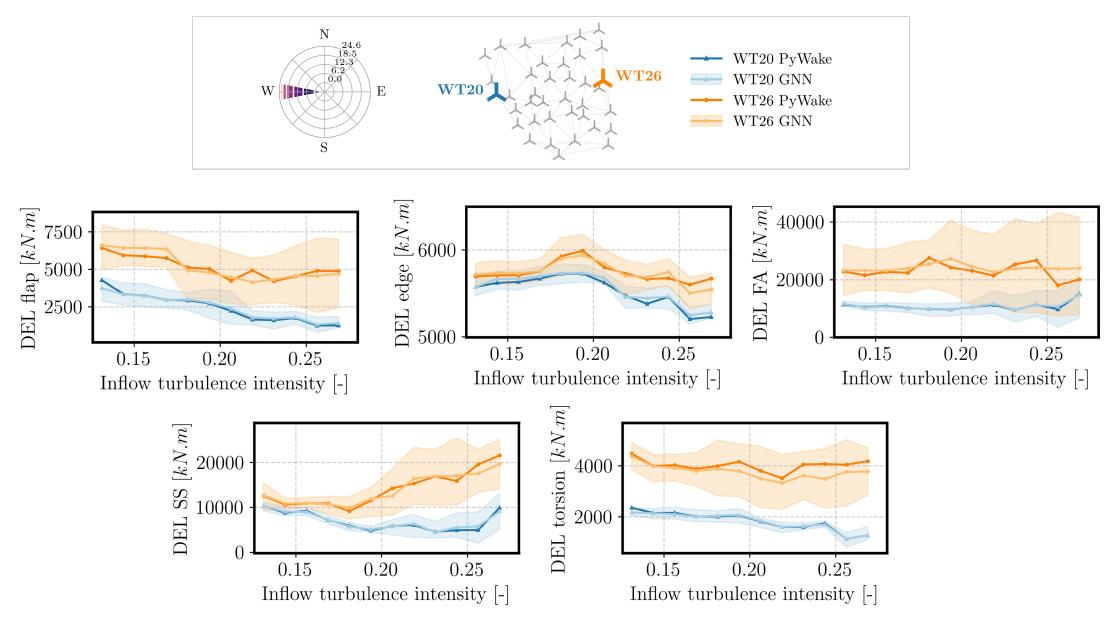
## Uncertainty estimation extension

How to estimate uncertainty without completely changing the model?

→ Conformal predictors: use **calibration data** to determine guaranteed prediction intervals, **without strong assumptions** on the model or the underlying data distribution.



#### Influence of inflow turbulence on uncertainty



### Summary

**Graph Neural Networks**, can serve as **efficient surrogate** models for predicting wake-induced fatigue.

The proposed models are:

- Fast: 10<sup>5</sup> speedup over coupled aeroelastic models
- Flexible: any layout, any inflow
- Transferrable: can be fine-tuned for higher fidelity, different turbines
- Conformalized: per turbine & per variable model uncertainty quantification

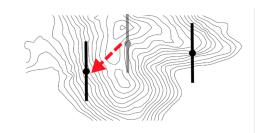
They could be used for difficult optimization scenarios:



Load-aware wake steering and/or curtailment

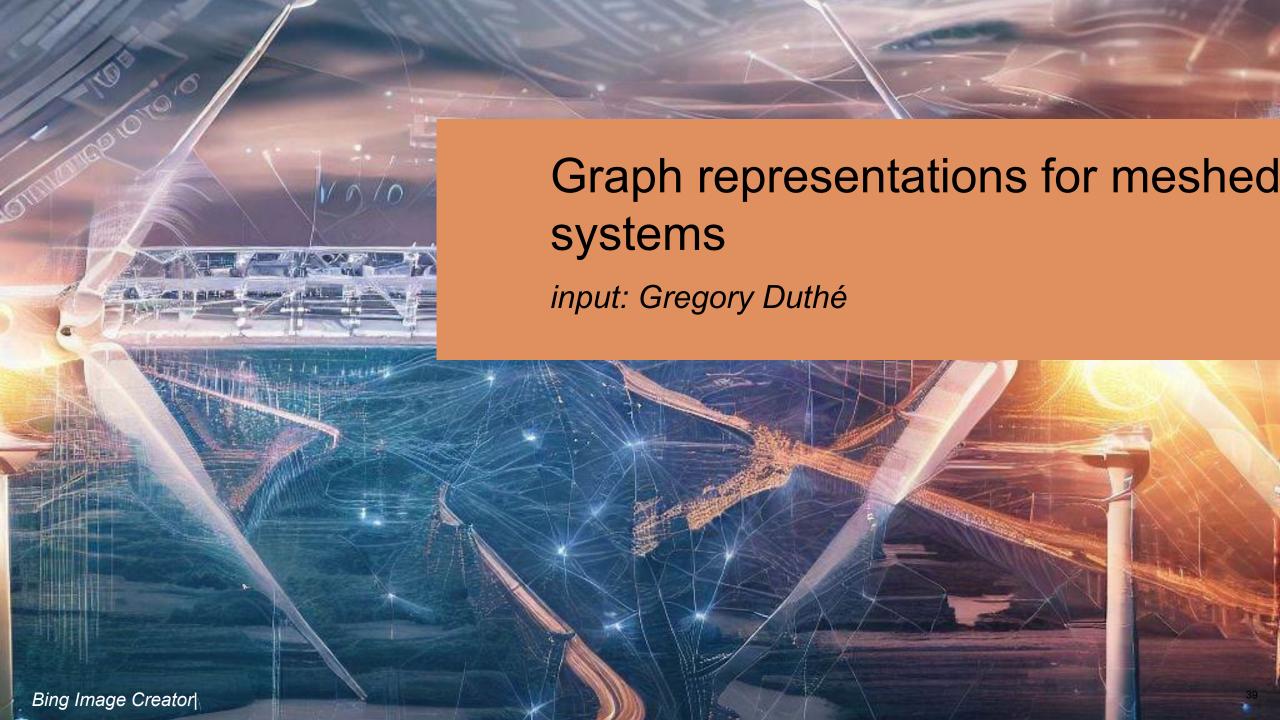


Dynamic repositioning of floating offshore turbines

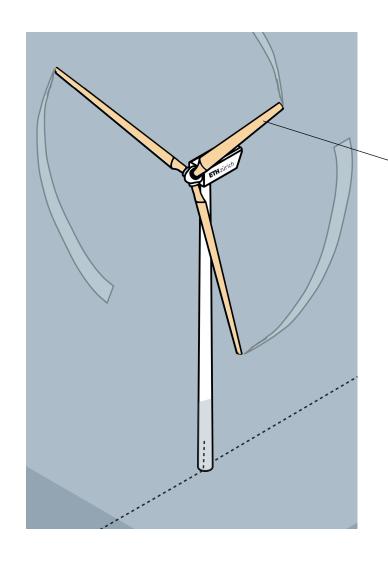


Fatigue-considerate layout optimization for complex terrain





## Blade monitoring



Difficult to monitor the rotating blades of an operating turbine.





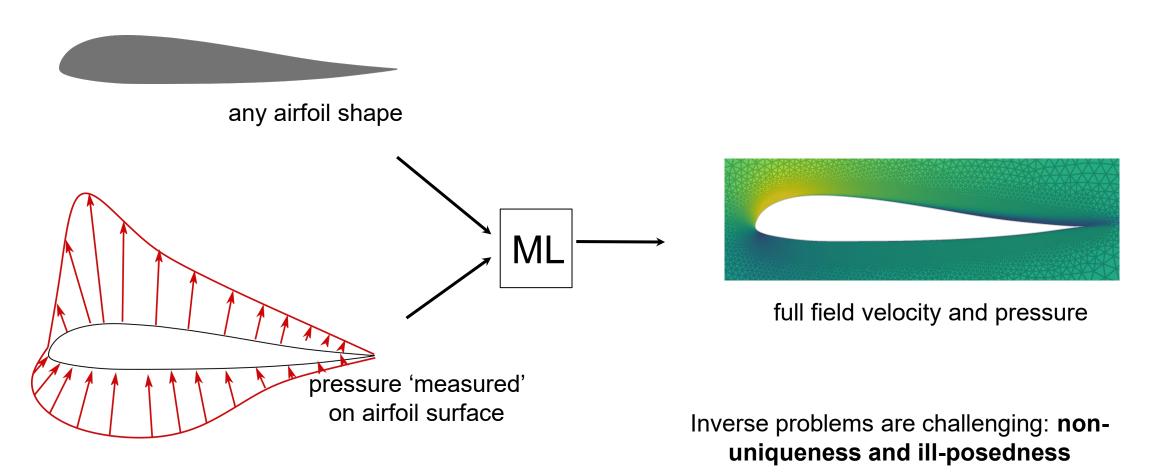
AeroSense system



Given such a system, which can conform to any blade geometry, can we **reconstruct the aerodynamics** from its pressure measurements?

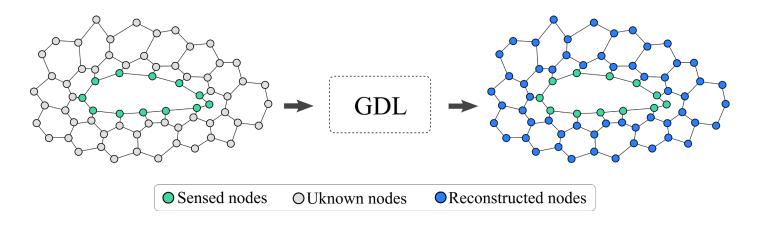
## An inverse physics problem

Can we build a ML model to reconstruct the aerodynamics from the surface pressure measurements?

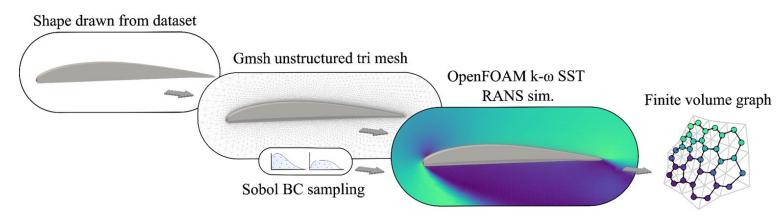


#### Flow reconstruction

We cast the problem as a node reconstruction problem on a graph.



Computational Fluid Dynamics (CFD) simulations are used to build a dataset of mesh-derived graphs for training.



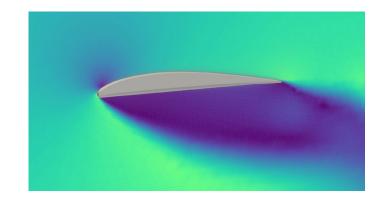


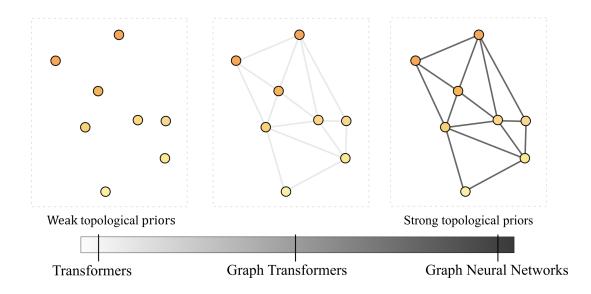
## **Graph Transformers**

Challenge: dense mesh graphs with on average 50'000 nodes.

Long range information transfer is critical to reconstruct flow everywhere, especially for detached flows.

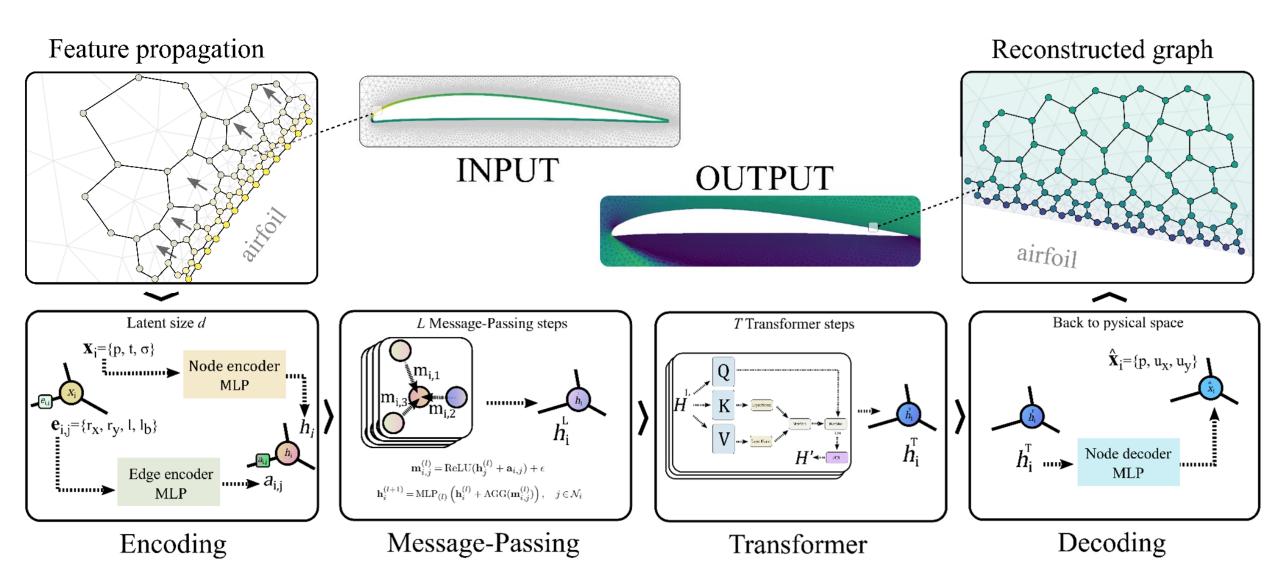
→ message-passing alone is not enough



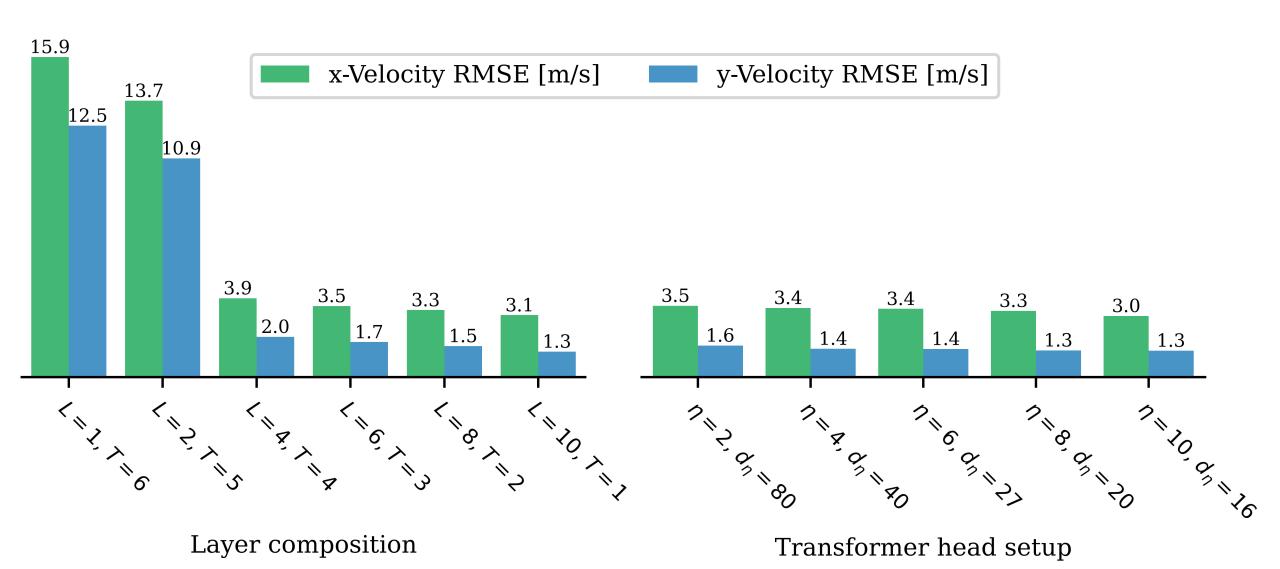


**Graph Transformers,** offer all-to-all information transfer while still accounting for graph topology.



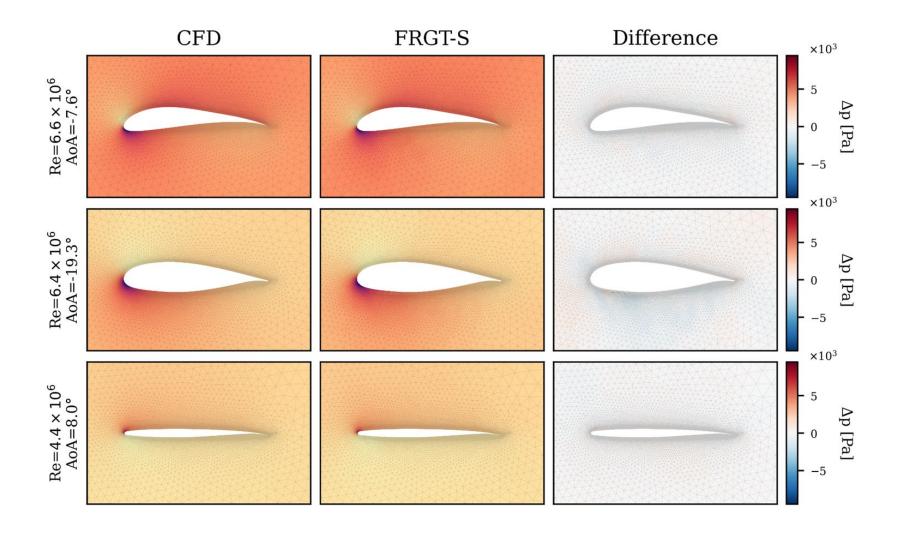


### Architecture design trade-offs for the FRGT-S model



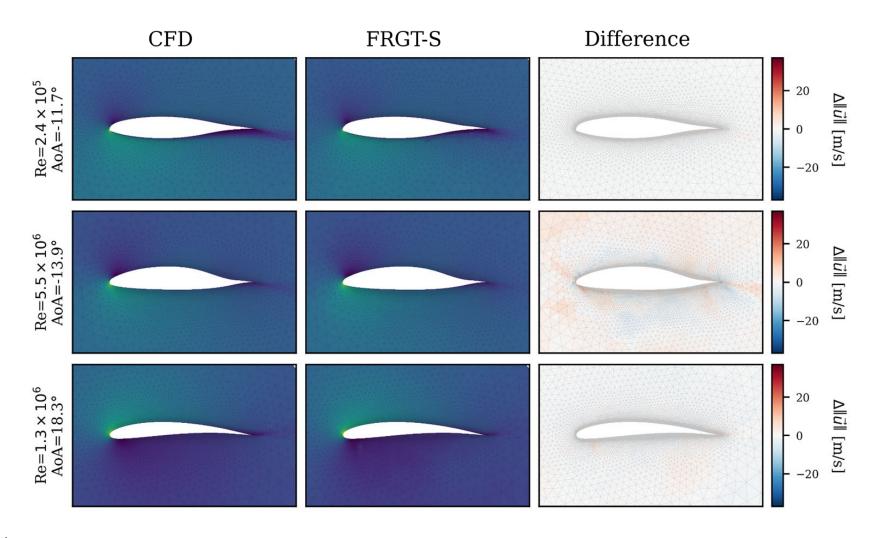


Unseen airfoil shapes, pressure



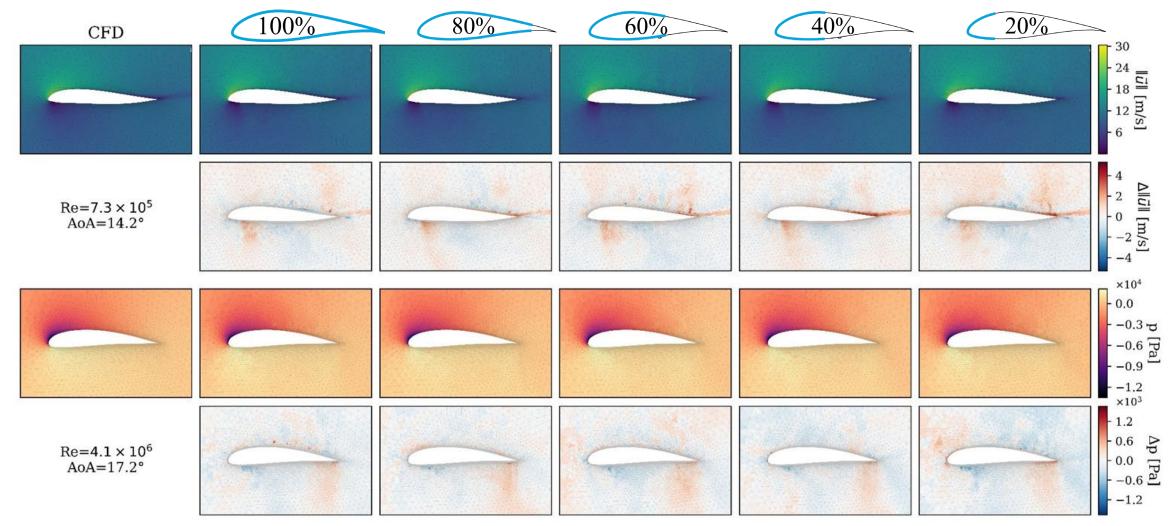


Unseen airfoil shapes, velocity

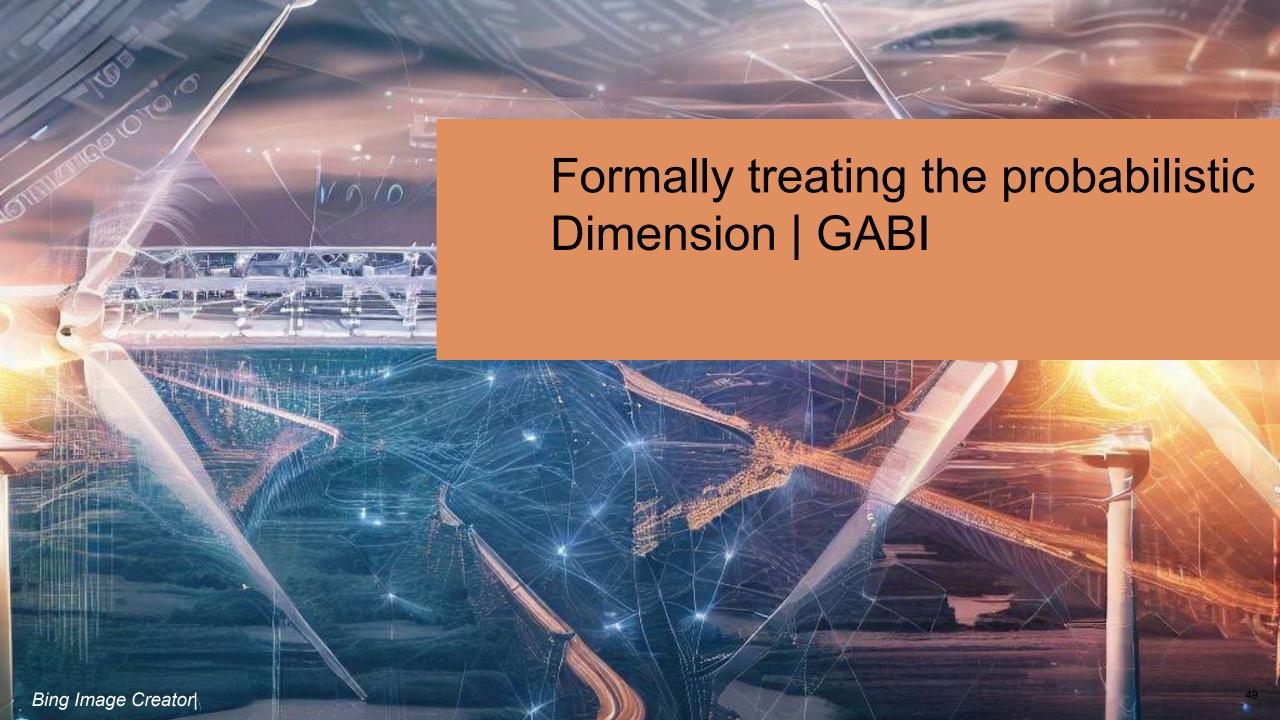




Training with partial coverage

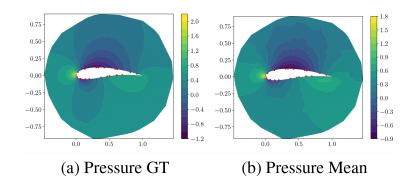


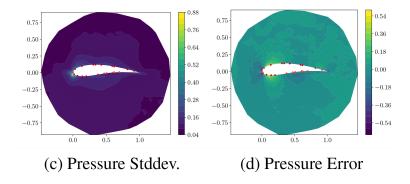




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#### **Training Phase**

 GABI uses graph-based autoencoders to learn a latent representation of physical responses conditioned on geometry, without needing governing equations or boundary conditions.

#### Inference phase

 Given a new geometry and sparse noisy measurements, GABI uses the trained decoder and approximate Bayesian inference to reconstruct the full-field solution.

#### **Benefits**

- Learn geometry-aware priors using autoencoders
- Train once, infer on any compatible geometry (inference decoupled from training)
- Ill-posed inverse problems in variable geometries



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#### **Procedure**

**Train a geometric autoencoder** (can use GNN) on many full-field solutions  $\rightarrow$  learn a latent prior

$$z \sim N(0, I), u = D_{\psi}(z; M)$$

At inference, with new geometry  $M_0$  and observations  $y_0$ 

define likelihood via the decoder and observation model  $p(y_0|z)$ 

compute the posterior in latent space  $p(z|y_0)$  via Bayes' rule

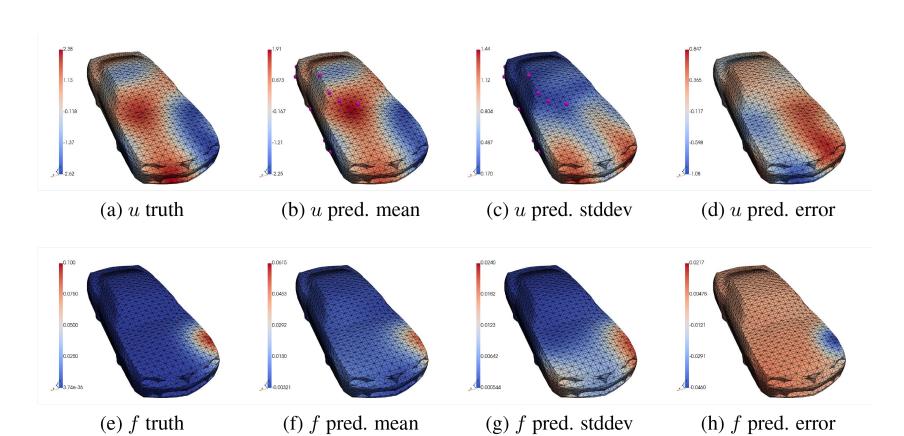
**Sample** from the latent posterior (ABC or MCMC).

**Decode** posterior latent samples → posterior full-field solutions

$$u^{(k)} = D_{\psi}\big(z^{(k)}; M_0\big)$$

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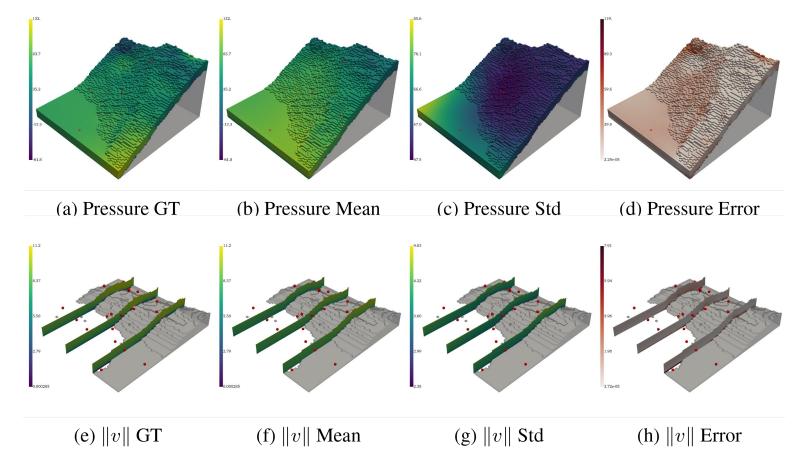




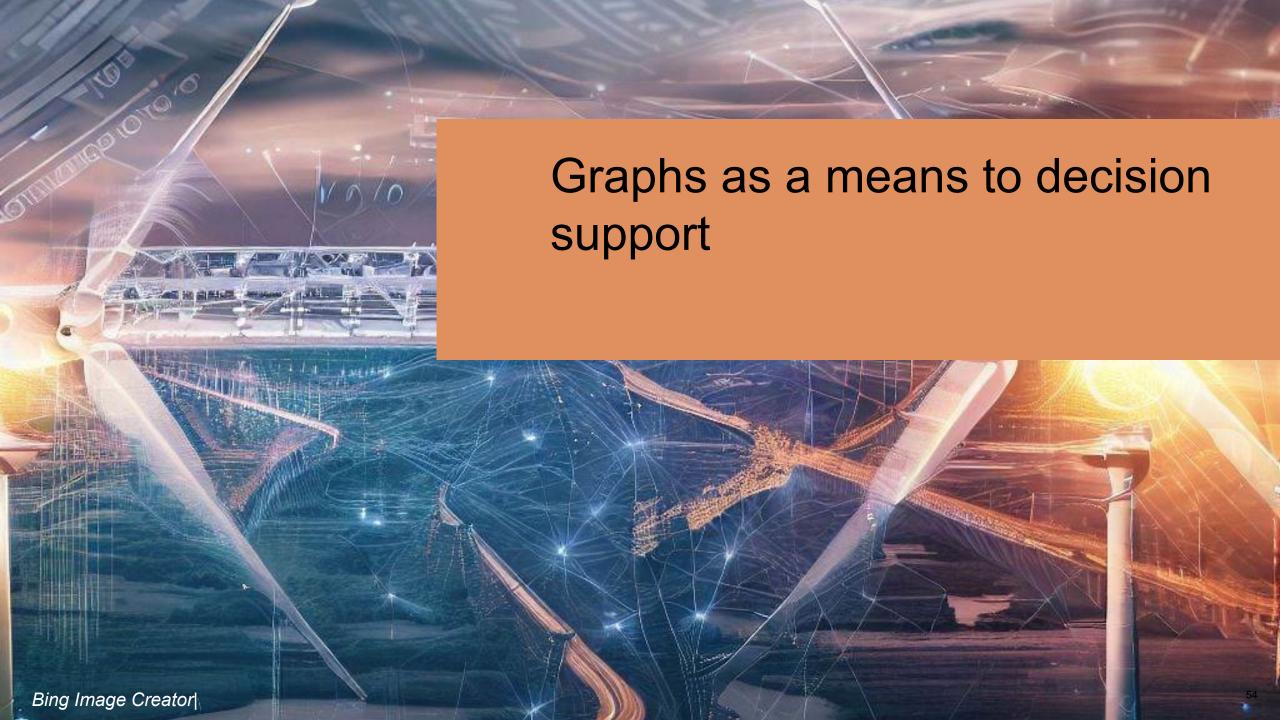
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#### TERRAIN — FLOW FIELD







#### **Deciding for systems of systems**

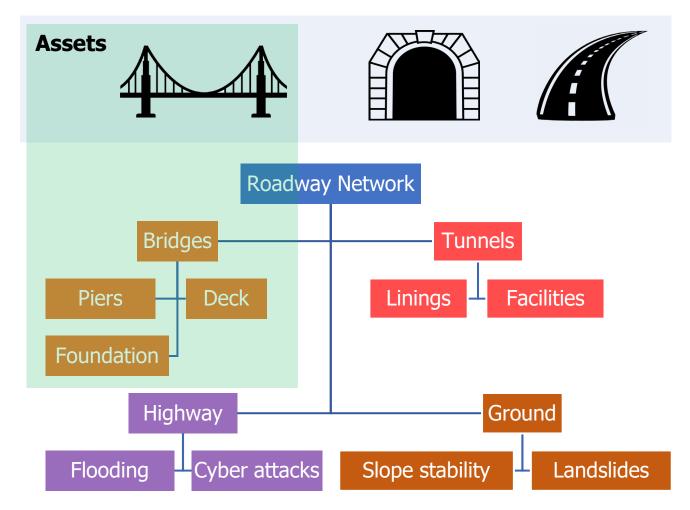


To understand a complex hierarchy, it is necessary to break this down in

individual components.

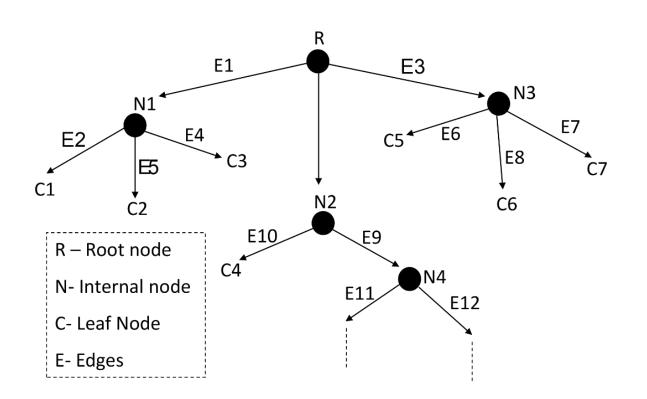
Let us zoom into the level of an object, e.g. bridge:





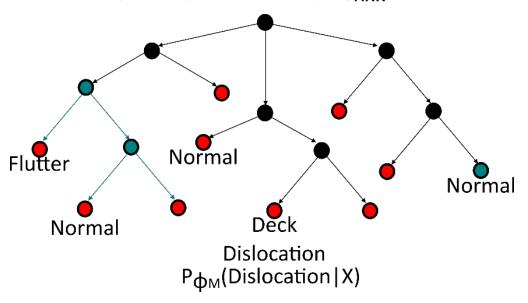


## graphical models for visualization



#### **BRIDGE**

**XBrg**={Flooding, Acc, Humidity, Temp, Wind speed, Condition, Traffic, Seismic zone, ...}<sub>nxk</sub>

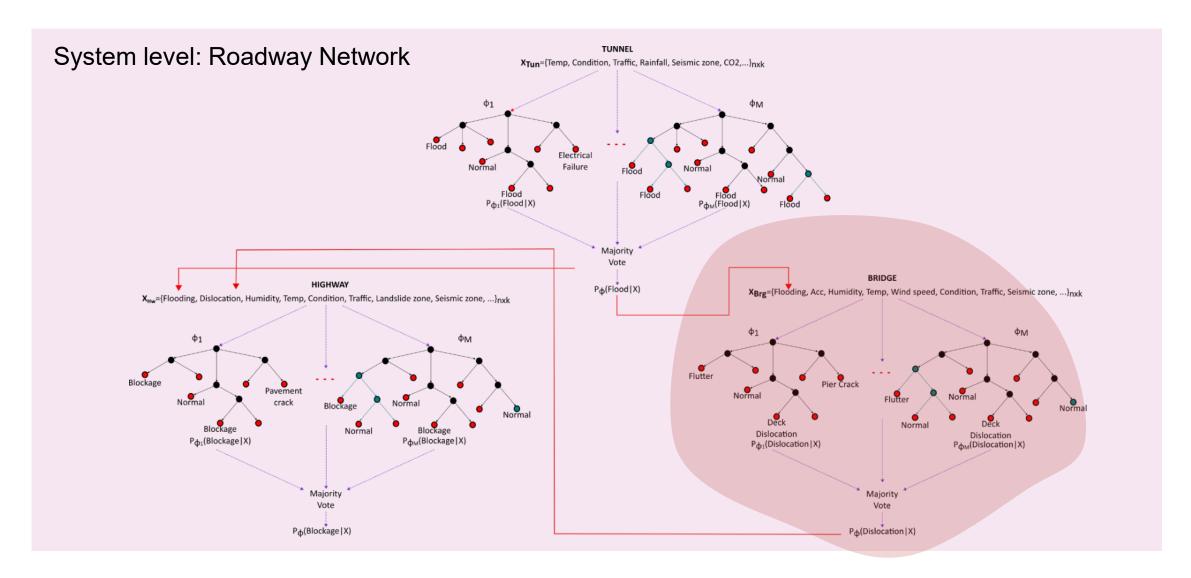


Graphical representation of a decision tree (DT) classifier. DT terminologies are also shown.

Random Forests: an ensemble of decision tree learners for a single system in a system of systems (e.g. bridge)



### **Random Forests & Decision Trees**





# case study: M-30 Madrid Ring Road



Data-driven Diagnosis & Prognosis for Decision Support

Goal: detection of hot-spots under flood events and cyber attacks



#### **Target Predicted Output from the RF:**

K-hours ahead traffic prediction

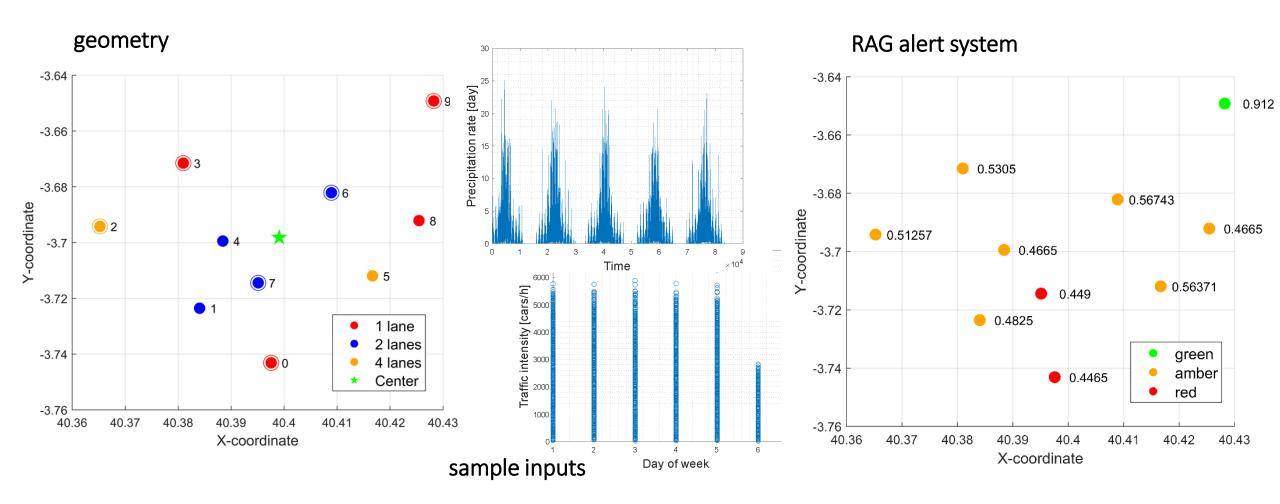
#### **Available Information**

- Hazard Information: weather and environmental data, information on cyber attacks
- 2. Model-based traffic simulations (wsp)
- 3. Traffic Monitoring information (hourly averages)
- 4. Road Information (lanes, direction, coordinates)
- Context (holidays, sporting events, accidents, construction)



## case study: M-30 Madrid Ring Road

Initiating example: a simplified road network / 1hr-ahead traffic intensity prediction

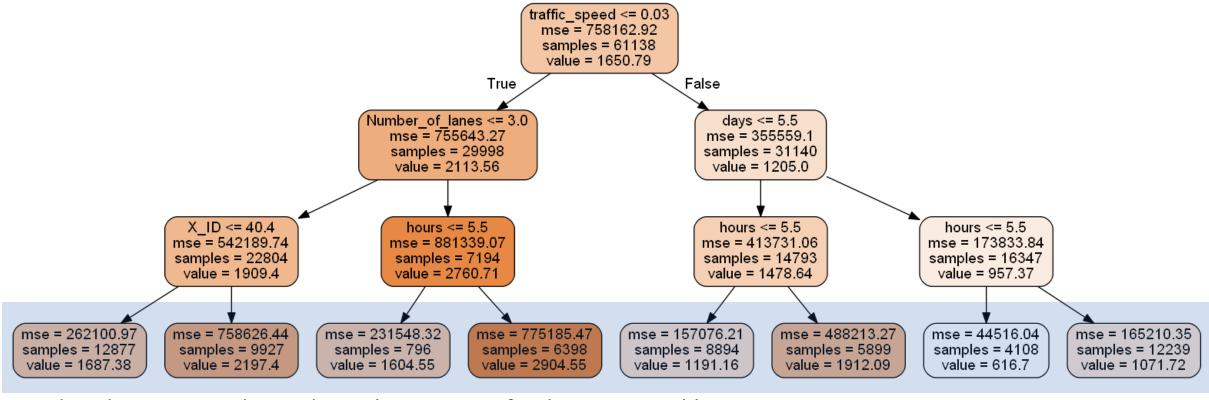




## case study: M-30 Madrid Ring Road



Visualizing a tree within the forest (kept shallow for illustration)



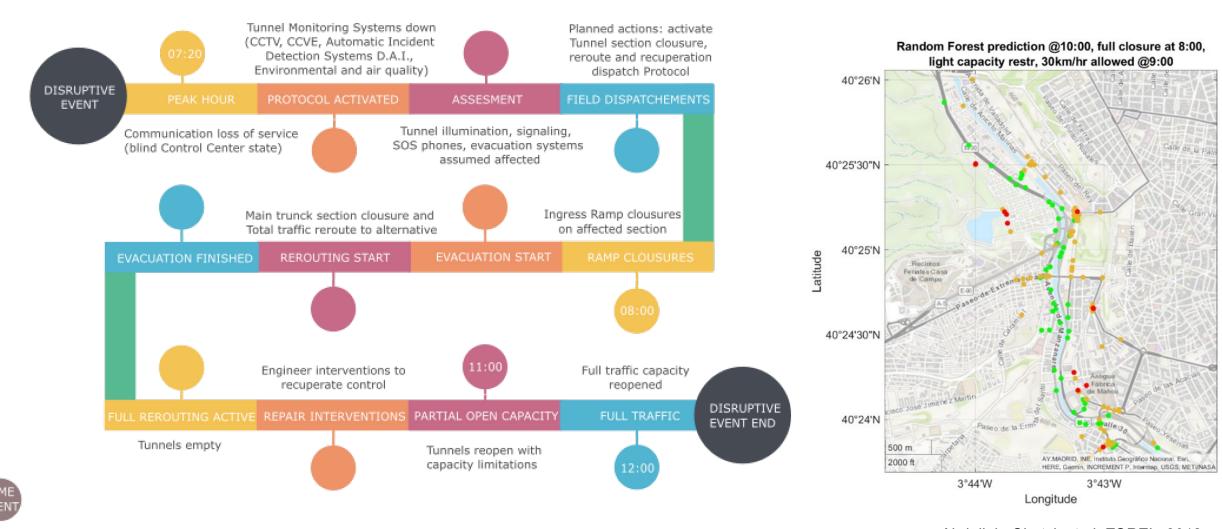
Predicted outputs conditioned on splitting events for the input variables



## **Cyber Attack scenario**

#### Harnessing the power of graph representations for supporting reactive measures





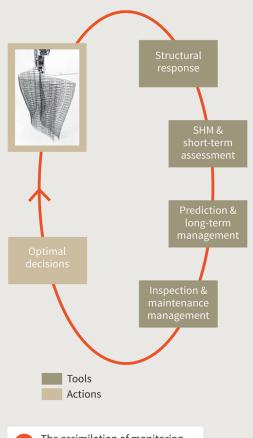


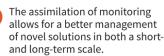
Abdallah, Chatzi, et al. ESREL, 2018 Abdallah, Chatzi, et al. FORESEE, 2020

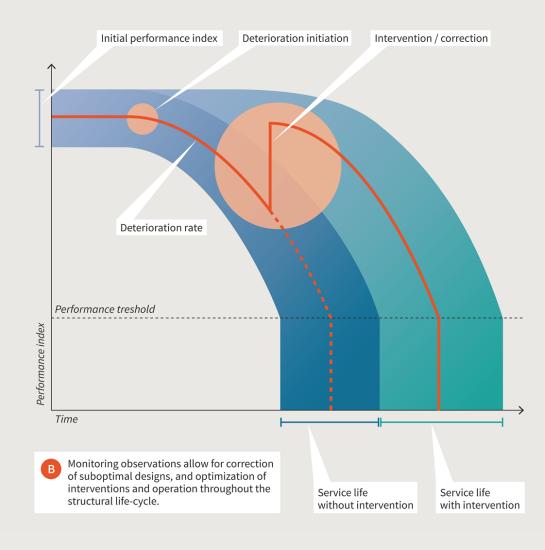


### Fostering Impact for Cyber-Physical Infrastructure Systems

#### Monitoring-driven Assessment & Decision-Support





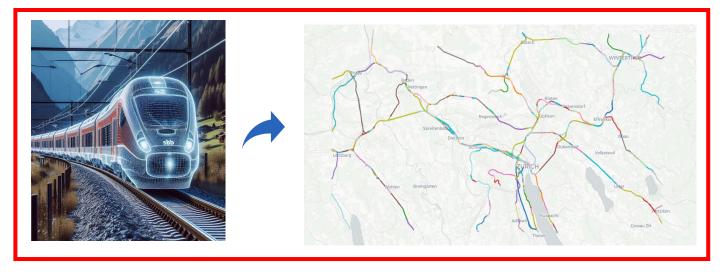


# Benefits of Monitoring-Informed Assessment of CPS

- optimising design and fabrication,
- Lowering costs for operation and maintenance,
- reducing risks, enabling resilience
- facilitating early adoption of new technologies in building practice.

# Data-Driven Digital Twinning for Railway Network Optimal Maintenance Planning with Multi-Agent Reinforcement Learning Solutions





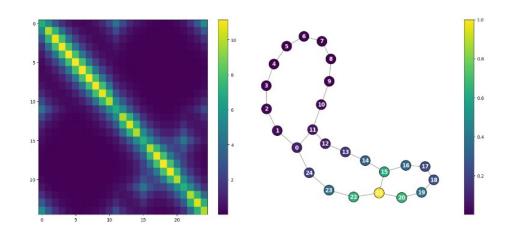
#### Solution:

- Cooperation in maintenance/renewal policies of all tracks
- $\rightarrow$  Multi-agent RL
- Inform the (RL) agents about the network topology/graph
- → **Graph**-based deep learning

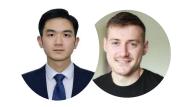


#### Inference:

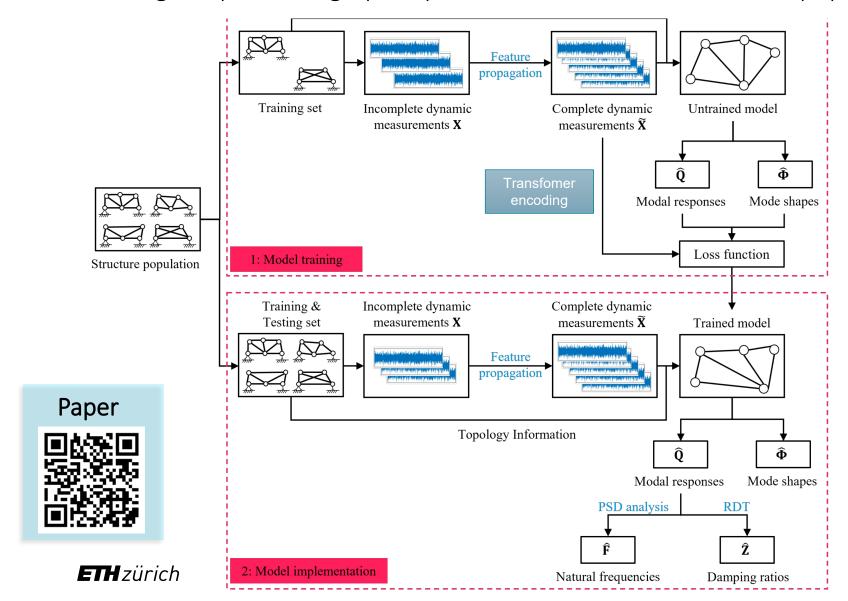
- Capture correlation of interlinked sections in:
  - Deterioration
  - Repairing effects
- Model economies of scale
- → Hierarchical Bayesian inference based on GPon-graph technique

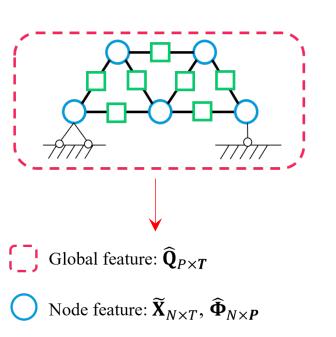


## **GNNs/Transformers for Population-based SHM**



Harnessing the power of graph representations for transfer across populations/fleets





Edge feature: not adopted in this study

#### **Next Step**

Genetic

Programming

(e.g. Eureqa,

PySR)

# ETH AI CENTER

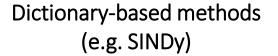
#### Differential Equations Discovery

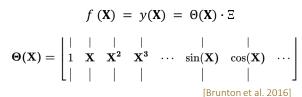
1.15y + 0.86

x + 0.86

[Cranmer 2023]

 $(1.15y)^x$ 

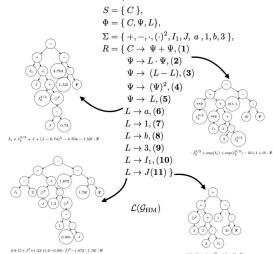




Symbolic Regression

Methods

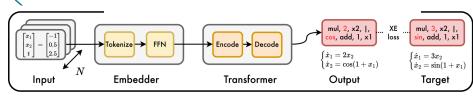
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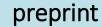
Grammarbased methods (e.g. ProGED)

[Kissas et al. 2024

Sequence-based methods (e.g. ODEFormer)



[Ascoli et al. 2022]





66

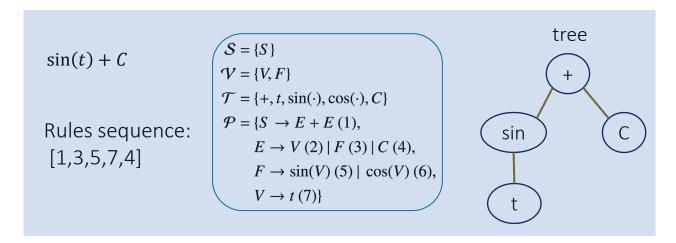


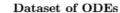
Karin Yu | SIAM CSE Conference 2025

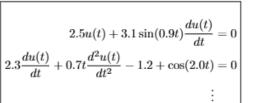
#### **Next Step**

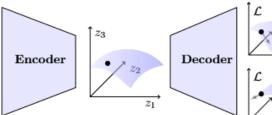
## Differential Equations Discovery



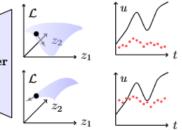








Manifold in Latent Space

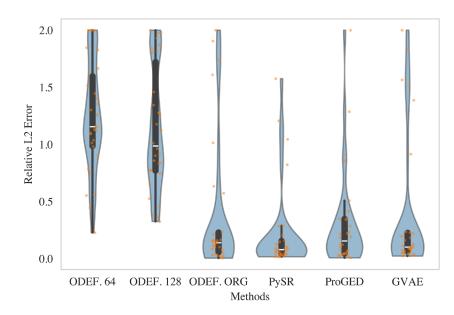


Search Problem



- Richness of excitation
- Balancing complexity (parsimony) and accuracy





Model	ODE
Pendulum	
True	$2\frac{d^2}{dt^2}u(t) + \frac{d}{dt}u(t) + 5u(t) - 2\sin(0.5t) = 0$
ProGED	$\frac{d^2}{dt^2}u(t) + 0.00848\frac{d}{dt}u(t) - 0.000306 = 0$
PySR best	$\frac{d^2}{dt^2}u(t) - \sin(0.500t) + \frac{u(t)}{0.402} + \sin(\sin(\sin(0.624))))\frac{d}{dt}u(t) = 0$
GVAE	$2.11\frac{d^2}{dt^2}u(t) + 1.06\frac{d}{dt}u(t) + 5.29u(t) - 2\sin(0.5t) = 0$
Duffing oscillator	
True	$5\frac{d^2}{dt^2}u(t) + \frac{d}{dt}u(t) + 7u(t) + 25u^3(t) - \cos(2t) = 0$
ProGED	$\frac{d^2}{dt^2}u(t) - 0.000521t + 0.00382 = 0$
PySR best	$\frac{d^2}{dt^2}u(t) + 30.25u(t) - 28.59\sin(u(t)) = 0$
GVAE	$4.81\frac{d^2}{dt^2}u(t) + 0.958\frac{d}{dt}u(t) + 8.23u(t) + 20.35u^3(t) \cdot \cos(0.0057t^2) - \cos(2t) = 0$

# Acknowledgments

- The European Research Council via the ERC Starting Grant WINDMIL (ERC-2015-StG #679843) on the topic of Smart Monitoring, Inspection and Life-Cycle Assessment of Wind Turbines.
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- SNSF Bridge Discovery project AeroSense: a novel MEMS-based surface pressure and acoustic IoT measurement system for wind turbines
- TUM-IAS Hans Fischer Fellowship by TÜV SÜD













Vadeboncoeur



Dr. Georgios Kissas



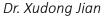
Dr. Ch. Mylonas



Gregory Duthé



Karin Yu





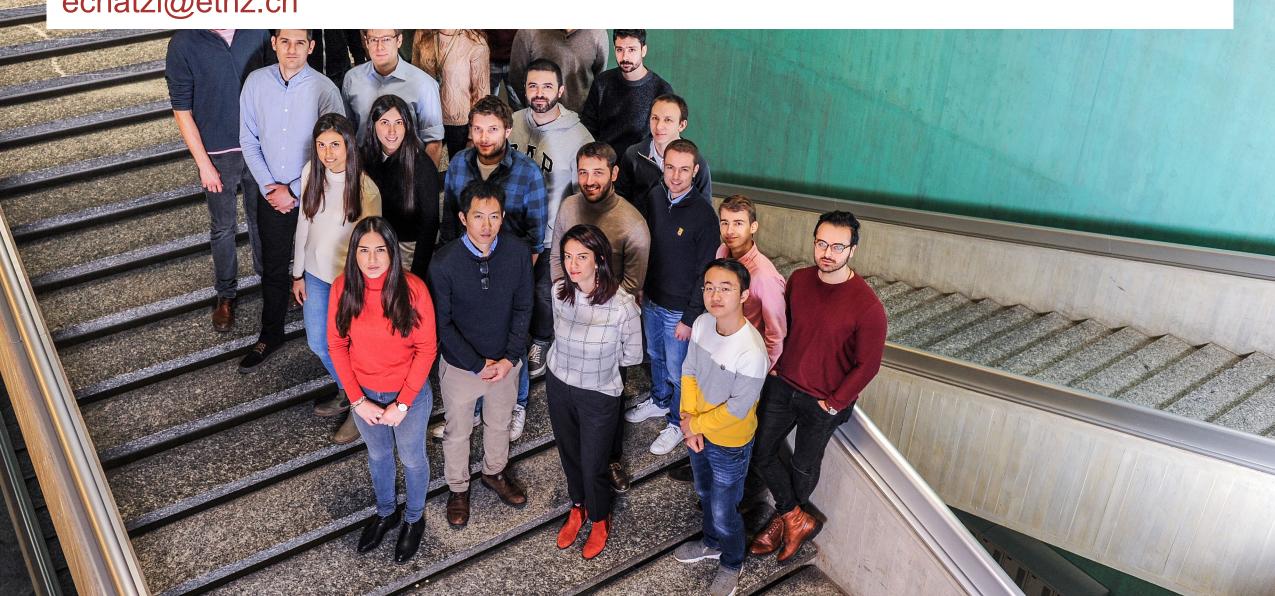
Giacomo Arcieri



# **ETH** zürich

We welcome questions/comments/collaboration:

echatzi@ethz.ch



#### **GNN** architecture

We use an **Encode-Process-Decode** structure to allow for more expressivity.

