



# PlanE: Representation Learning over Planar Graphs

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DEPARTMENT OF  
**COMPUTER  
SCIENCE**

# Expressiveness of GNNs

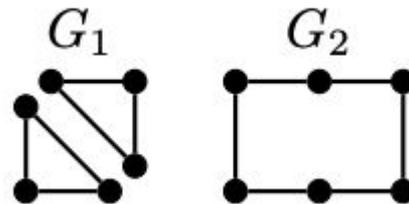
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- MPNNs are bounded by 1-WL



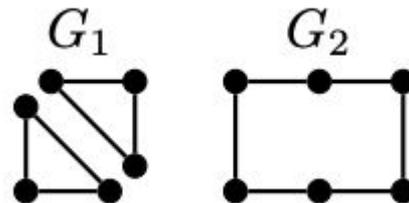
Indistinguishable by **1-WL**

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- MPNNs are bounded by 1-WL

Expressiveness comes at a **computational cost**



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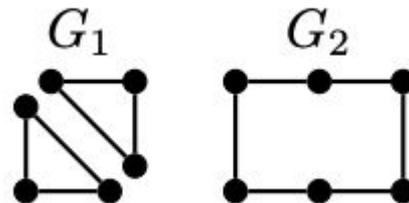
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- Higher order GNNs



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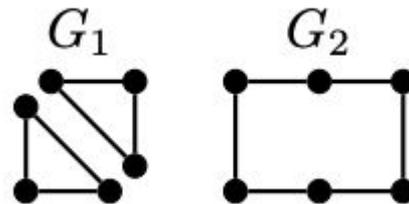
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Efficient algorithms for **planar** graph isomorphism exist



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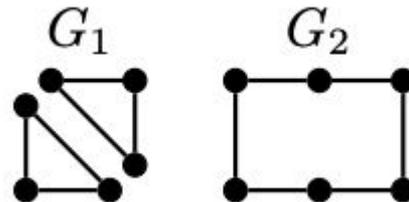
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Efficient algorithms for **planar** graph isomorphism exist

- **Weinberg, 1968**: Triconnected planar graphs in  $O(|V|^2)$
- **Tarjan & Hopcroft, 1971**: Extend to all planar graphs

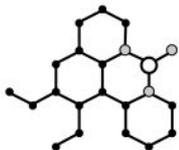


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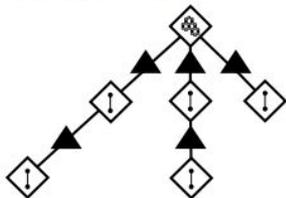
Can we efficiently learn **complete** planar graph invariants?

# The PlanE framework

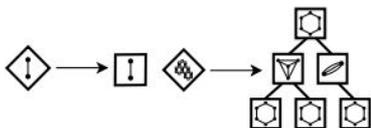
**A. Input Graph**



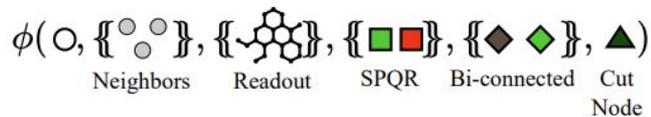
**B. Block-Cut Tree**



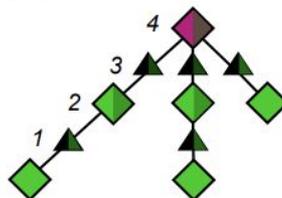
**C. SPQR Trees**



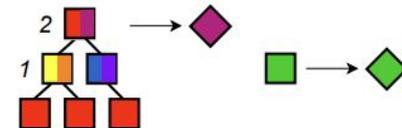
**G. Update**



**F. CutEnc**



**E. BiEnc**



**D. TriEnc**



$\circ$  Target Node     $\circ$  Neighbor Node     $\blacktriangle$  Cut Node     $\diamond$  Biconnected Component     $\square$  SPQR Component

# BasePlanE: a simple instance of PlanE

$$\text{TriEnc: } \hat{\mathbf{h}}_C^{(\ell)} = \text{MLP} \left( \sum_{i=1}^{|\omega|} \text{MLP} \left( \mathbf{h}_{\omega[i]}^{(\ell-1)} \parallel \mathbf{p}_{\kappa[i]} \parallel \mathbf{p}_i \right) \right)$$

Encoder based on  
Weinberg's Algorithm

$$\text{BiEnc: } \tilde{\mathbf{h}}_{\gamma_C}^{(\ell)} = \text{MLP} \left( \hat{\mathbf{h}}_C^{(\ell)} + \sum_{C' \in \chi(C)} \text{MLP} \left( \tilde{\mathbf{h}}_{\gamma_{C'}}^{(\ell)} \parallel \mathbf{p}_{\theta(C, C')} \right) \right)$$

Hierarchical Encoder over  
SPQR tree

$$\text{CutEnc: } \bar{\mathbf{h}}_{\delta_u}^{(\ell)} = \text{MLP} \left( \mathbf{h}_u^{(\ell-1)} + \sum_{B \in \chi(u)} \text{MLP} \left( \tilde{\mathbf{h}}_B^{(\ell)} + \sum_{v \in \chi(B)} \bar{\mathbf{h}}_{\delta_v}^{(\ell)} \right) \right)$$

Hierarchical Encoder over  
Block-Cut tree

Update: Node-level by readout from each of these encoders.

# BasePlanE: a simple Instance of PlanE

The runtime of one BasePlanE layer is  $O(|V|d^2)$ , with a **one-off** pre-processing of  $O(|V|^2)$ .

BasePlane requires a **logarithmic** number of layers:

**Theorem 6.1.** *For any planar graphs  $G_1 = (V_1, E_1, \zeta_1)$  and  $G_2 = (V_2, E_2, \zeta_2)$ , there exists a parametrization of BASEPLANE with at most  $L = \lceil \log_2(\max\{|V_1|, |V_2|\}) \rceil + 1$  layers, which computes a complete graph invariant, that is, the final graph-level embeddings satisfy  $\mathbf{z}_{G_1}^{(L)} \neq \mathbf{z}_{G_2}^{(L)}$  if and only if  $G_1$  and  $G_2$  are not isomorphic.*

# Empirical Evaluation

# Expressiveness experiments: EXP & P3R

We evaluate on EXP consisting of planar graphs representing SAT instances.

We propose a new synthetic dataset P3R:

Learning the equivalence classes of 3-regular planar graphs with 10 nodes.

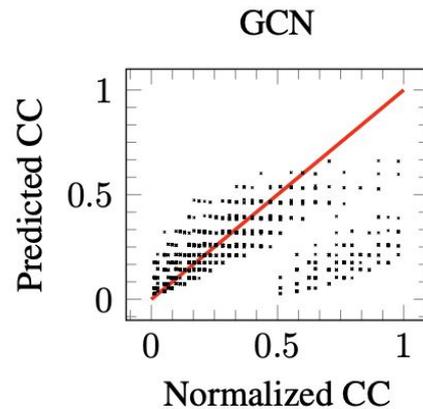
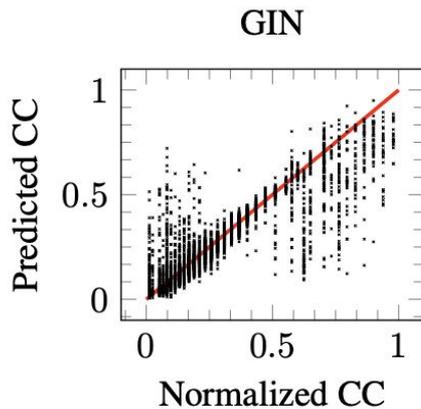
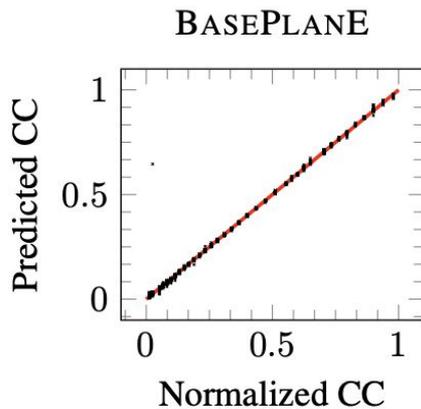
EXP	
Model	Accuracy (%)
GCN	50.0 $\pm$ 0.00
GCN-RNI(N)	98.0 $\pm$ 1.85
3-GCN	<b>99.7</b> $\pm$ 0.004
BASEPLANE	<b>100</b> $\pm$ 0.00

P3R	
Model	Accuracy (%)
GIN	11.1 $\pm$ 0.00
PPGN	<b>100</b> $\pm$ 0.00
BASEPLANE	<b>100</b> $\pm$ 0.00

# Structure detection experiment: QM9<sub>CC</sub>

We evaluate the ability of detecting structural graph information without explicit access to the target structure. The task we propose is:

Given a subset of graphs from QM9, predict the graph-level **clustering coefficient** (CC).



# Scalability experiment: TIGER

BasePlanE manages to scale to large planar graphs, while competitive models suffer from memory constraints.

Dataset	#Nodes	BASEPLANE		PPGN		ESAN	
		Pre.	Train	Pre.	Train	Pre.	Train
TIGER-Alaska-2K	2000	9.8 sec	0.1 sec	3.4 sec	5.9 sec	4.6 sec	87.73 sec
TIGER-Alaska-10K	10000	50 sec	0.33 sec	OOM	OOM	OOM	OOM
TIGER-Alaska-93K	93366	3.7 h's	2.2 sec	OOM	OOM	OOM	OOM

# Real-world dataset: QM9

Property	R-GIN		R-GAT		R-SPN		BASEPLANE
	base	+FA	base	+FA	$k = 5$	$k = 10$	
mu	2.64 $\pm$ 0.11	2.54 $\pm$ 0.09	2.68 $\pm$ 0.11	2.73 $\pm$ 0.07	<b>2.16</b> $\pm$ 0.08	2.21 $\pm$ 0.21	<b>1.97</b> $\pm$ 0.03
alpha	4.67 $\pm$ 0.52	2.28 $\pm$ 0.04	4.65 $\pm$ 0.44	2.32 $\pm$ 0.16	1.74 $\pm$ 0.05	<b>1.66</b> $\pm$ 0.06	<b>1.63</b> $\pm$ 0.01
HOMO	1.42 $\pm$ 0.01	1.26 $\pm$ 0.02	1.48 $\pm$ 0.03	1.43 $\pm$ 0.02	<b>1.19</b> $\pm$ 0.04	1.20 $\pm$ 0.08	<b>1.15</b> $\pm$ 0.01
LUMO	1.50 $\pm$ 0.09	1.34 $\pm$ 0.04	1.53 $\pm$ 0.07	1.41 $\pm$ 0.03	<b>1.13</b> $\pm$ 0.01	1.20 $\pm$ 0.06	<b>1.06</b> $\pm$ 0.02
gap	2.27 $\pm$ 0.09	1.96 $\pm$ 0.04	2.31 $\pm$ 0.06	2.08 $\pm$ 0.05	<b>1.76</b> $\pm$ 0.03	1.77 $\pm$ 0.06	<b>1.73</b> $\pm$ 0.02
R2	15.63 $\pm$ 1.40	12.61 $\pm$ 0.37	52.39 $\pm$ 42.5	15.76 $\pm$ 1.17	<b>10.59</b> $\pm$ 0.35	10.63 $\pm$ 1.01	<b>10.53</b> $\pm$ 0.55
ZPVE	12.93 $\pm$ 1.81	5.03 $\pm$ 0.36	14.87 $\pm$ 2.88	5.98 $\pm$ 0.43	3.16 $\pm$ 0.06	<b>2.58</b> $\pm$ 0.13	<b>2.81</b> $\pm$ 0.16
U0	5.88 $\pm$ 1.01	2.21 $\pm$ 0.12	7.61 $\pm$ 0.46	2.19 $\pm$ 0.25	1.10 $\pm$ 0.03	<b>0.89</b> $\pm$ 0.05	<b>0.95</b> $\pm$ 0.04
U	18.71 $\pm$ 23.36	2.32 $\pm$ 0.18	6.86 $\pm$ 0.53	2.11 $\pm$ 0.10	1.09 $\pm$ 0.05	<b>0.93</b> $\pm$ 0.03	<b>0.94</b> $\pm$ 0.04
H	5.62 $\pm$ 0.81	2.26 $\pm$ 0.19	7.64 $\pm$ 0.92	2.27 $\pm$ 0.29	1.10 $\pm$ 0.03	<b>0.92</b> $\pm$ 0.03	<b>0.92</b> $\pm$ 0.04
G	5.38 $\pm$ 0.75	2.04 $\pm$ 0.24	6.54 $\pm$ 0.36	2.07 $\pm$ 0.07	1.04 $\pm$ 0.04	<b>0.83</b> $\pm$ 0.05	<b>0.88</b> $\pm$ 0.04
Cv	3.53 $\pm$ 0.37	1.86 $\pm$ 0.03	4.11 $\pm$ 0.27	2.03 $\pm$ 0.14	1.34 $\pm$ 0.03	<b>1.23</b> $\pm$ 0.06	<b>1.20</b> $\pm$ 0.06
Omega	1.05 $\pm$ 0.11	0.80 $\pm$ 0.04	1.48 $\pm$ 0.87	0.73 $\pm$ 0.04	0.53 $\pm$ 0.02	<b>0.52</b> $\pm$ 0.02	<b>0.45</b> $\pm$ 0.01

# Real-world datasets: ZINC & MolHIV

Edge Features	ZINC(12k)	ZINC(12k)	ZINC(Full)
	No	Yes	Yes
GCN	0.278 $\pm$ 0.003	-	-
GIN(-E)	0.387 $\pm$ 0.015	0.252 $\pm$ 0.014	0.088 $\pm$ 0.002
PNA	0.320 $\pm$ 0.032	0.188 $\pm$ 0.004	0.320 $\pm$ 0.032
ESAN	-	0.102 $\pm$ 0.003	-
GSN	0.140 $\pm$ 0.006	0.101 $\pm$ 0.010	-
CIN	<b>0.115</b> $\pm$ 0.003	<b>0.079</b> $\pm$ 0.006	<b>0.022</b> $\pm$ 0.002
HIMP	-	0.151 $\pm$ 0.006	0.036 $\pm$ 0.002
(E-)BASEPLANE	<b>0.124</b> $\pm$ 0.004	<b>0.076</b> $\pm$ 0.003	<b>0.028</b> $\pm$ 0.002

MolHIV (OGB)	
GCN	75.58 $\pm$ 0.97
GIN	77.07 $\pm$ 1.40
PNA	79.05 $\pm$ 1.32
ESAN	78.00 $\pm$ 1.42
GSN	<b>80.39</b> $\pm$ 0.90
CIN	<b>80.94</b> $\pm$ 0.57
HIMP	78.80 $\pm$ 0.82
E-BASEPLANE	80.04 $\pm$ 0.50

# Summary and outlook

We propose PlanE as a framework for planar representation learning, and we show that the BasePlanE instance can learn **complete** graph invariants over planar graphs.

We evaluate BasePlanE on synthetic datasets for **expressiveness** (EXP & P3R), **scalability** (TIGER-Alaska), and detecting **structural information** (QM9<sub>CC</sub>).

We show that BasePlanE is competitive on **molecular** real-world datasets (QM9, Zinc, MolHIV).

**Implementation:** <https://github.com/ZZYSonny/PlanE>

**Paper:** <https://arxiv.org/abs/2307.01180>