

# Graph Signal Processing for Machine Learning

## A Review and New Perspectives

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Michael Bronstein, Pascal Frossard

ICASSP Tutorial, June 2021



## Part III

# Applications, Open Challenges and New Perspectives



# Outline

- Brief introduction to graph signal processing (GSP)
- Challenge I: GSP for exploiting data structure
- Challenge II: GSP for improving efficiency and robustness
- Challenge III: GSP for enhancing model interpretability
- Applications
- Summary, open challenges, and new perspectives

# Networks are pervasive

Network Science

Healthcare

Computer Vision



Grid Network/  
Smart Cities

A circular icon with a light green background showing a city grid with various buildings, a road, and a power line tower, representing a smart city or grid network.



Communication  
Network

A circular icon with a light blue background showing three stylized human figures (green, blue, red) with signal waves emanating from their heads, representing a communication network.



Social  
Network

A circular icon with a light blue background showing a dense network of small human figures connected by lines, representing a social network.



Mobility  
Network

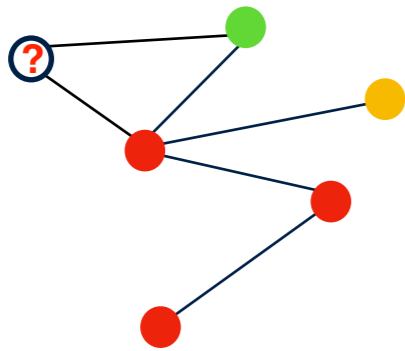
A circular icon with a light gray background showing a complex, overlapping network of white lines representing roads or transportation routes, representing a mobility network.



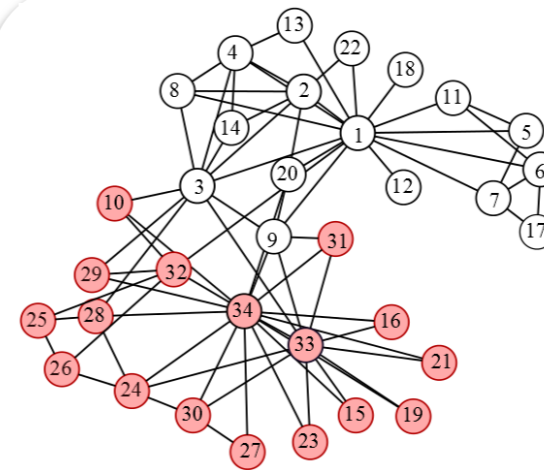
Proteins  
Networks

A circular icon with a light gray background showing a complex network of interconnected nodes and lines representing protein structures, representing protein networks.

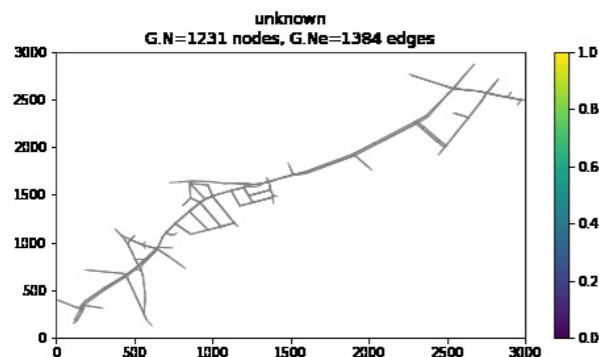
# Main Problems for GSP-Based ML



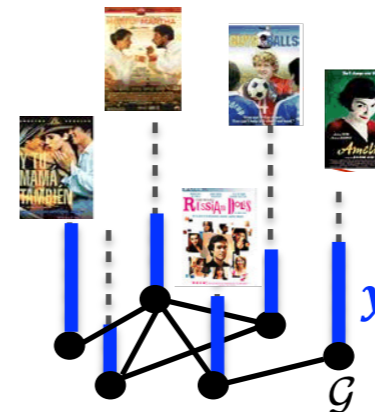
**Node-  
Graph-  
Classification**



**Community  
detection  
  
(multi scale  
analysis)**



**Time series  
prediction -  
Network control  
  
(dynamics of  
graphs)**

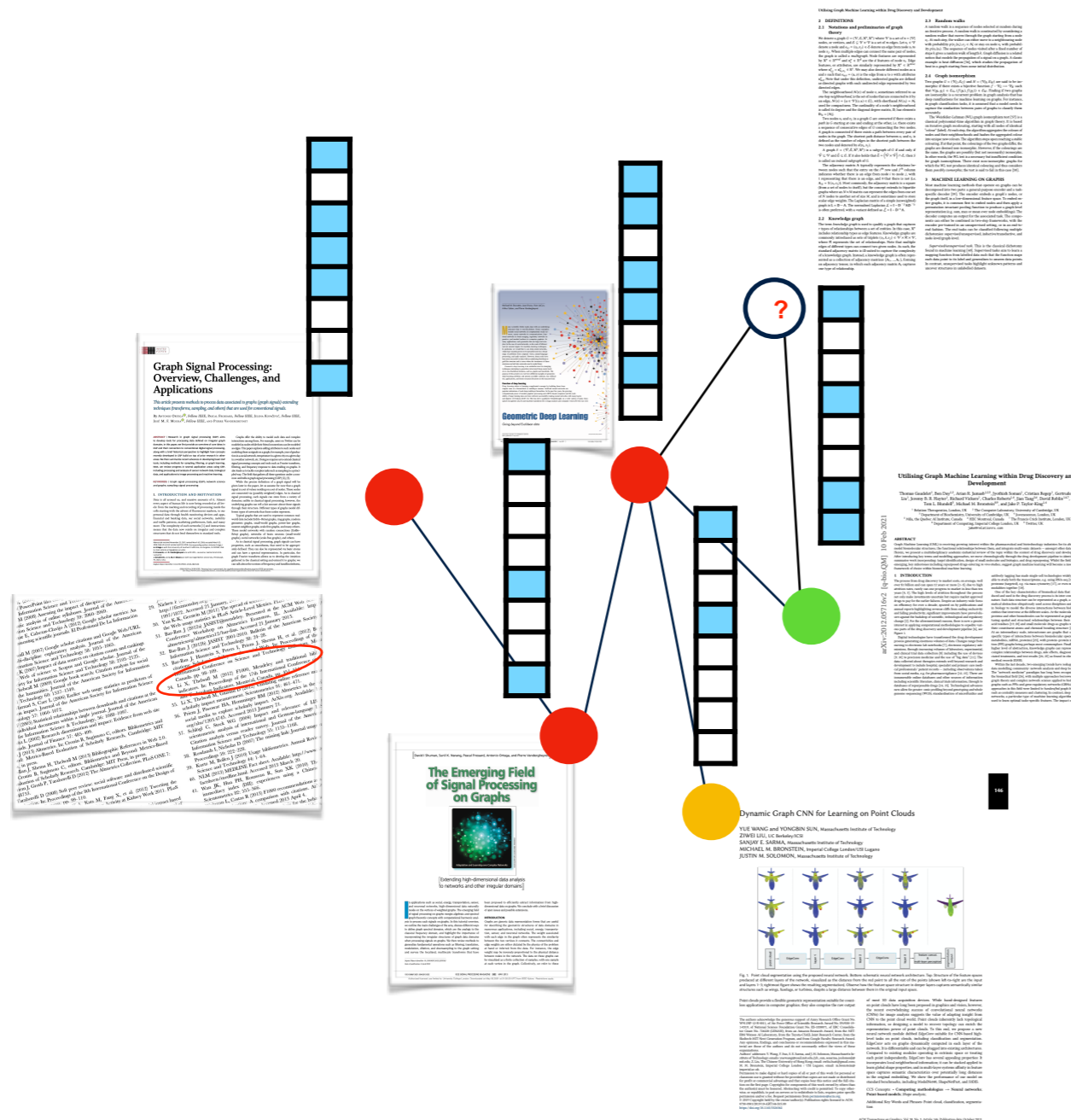


**Online Learning  
  
(problem structure  
inference)**

## Graph

- Implicit / Explicit
- Given / Constructed
- Inferred

# Document Analysis: Node Classification



## Graph

Nodes → papers

Edge → paper citation

## Nodes Label

● Signal Processing

● Drug Discovery

● Computer Vision

## Node Signal



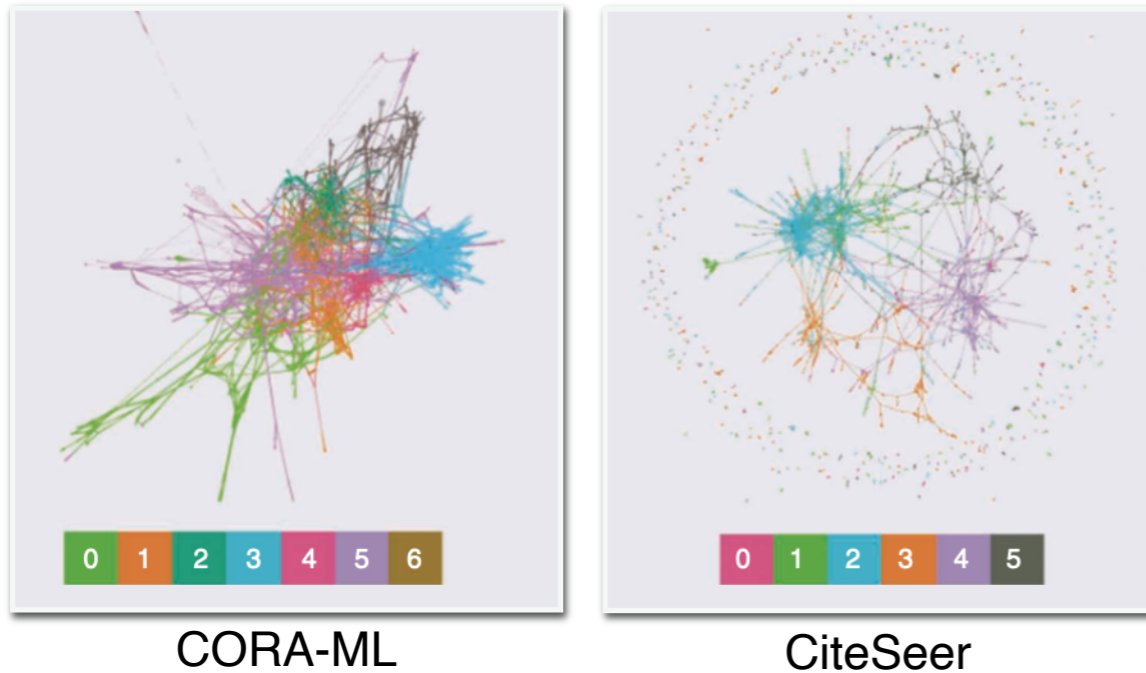
content-based features

0: word not present in the paper

1: word present in the paper

Dataset	#Nodes	#Edges	Train/Dev/Test
Cora	2,708	5,429	140/500/1,000
CiteSeer	3,327	4,723	120/500/1,000
Pubmed	19,717	44,338	60/500/1,000

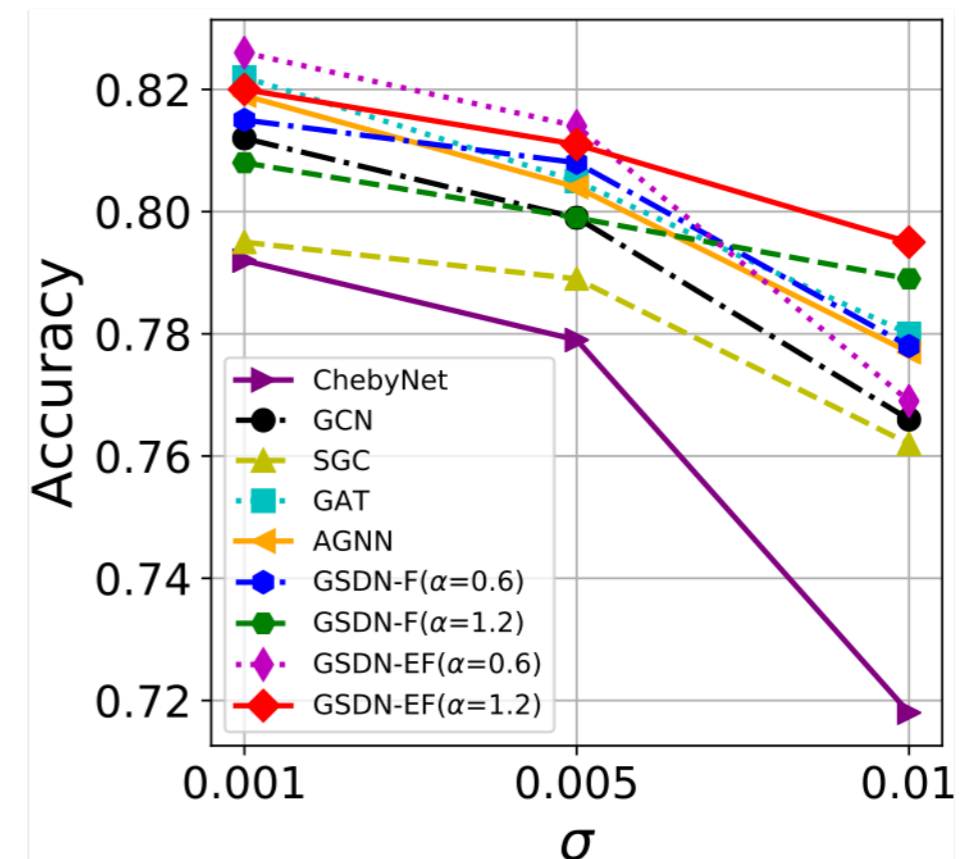
# Document Analysis: Node Classification



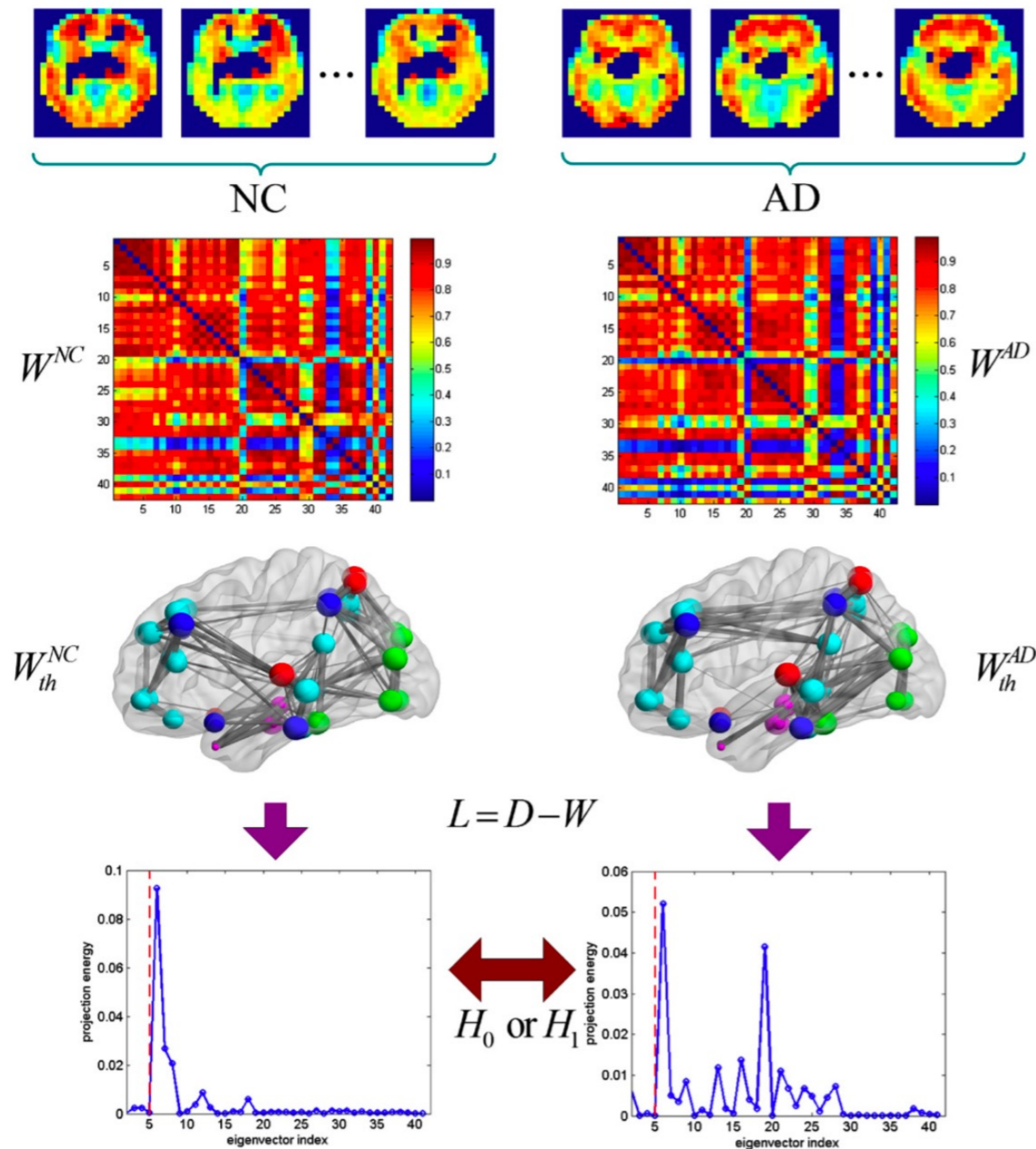
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GNNs interpreted as implementing denoising and/or smoothing of graph signals.

Validation with semi-supervised node classification on noisy citation networks



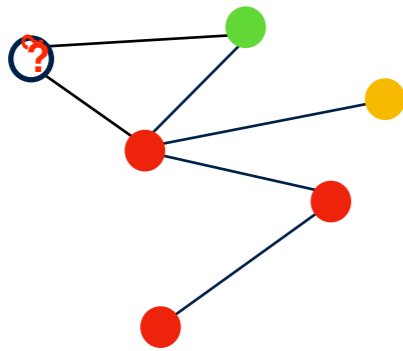
# Neuroscience: Graph Classification



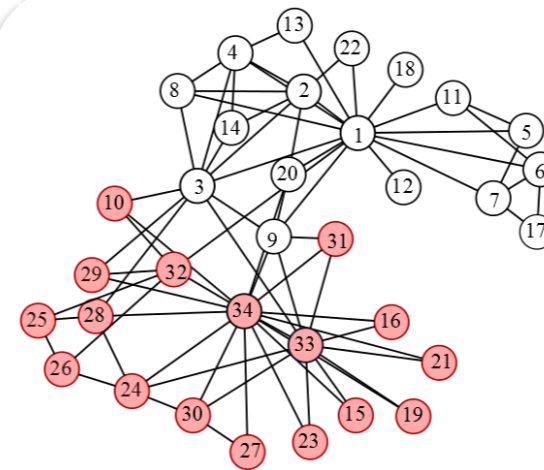
- Two graphs are build based on AD (Alzheimer's disease) and NC (normal control)
- PET/fMRI data as graph-signals
- Edge weights describing the affinity between each pair of brain regions
- Graph classification as hypothesis testing  
 $H_0$ : signal smooth on graph  $G_0$   
 $H_1$ : signal smooth on graph  $G_1$



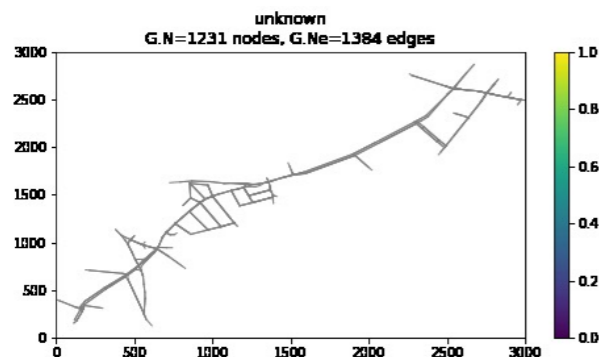
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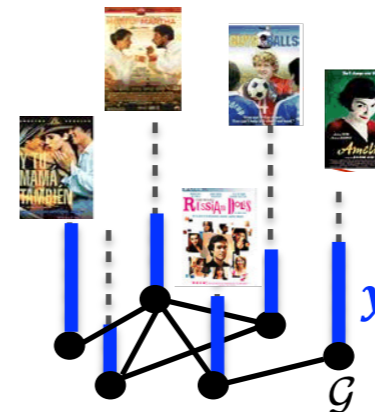
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(multi scale  
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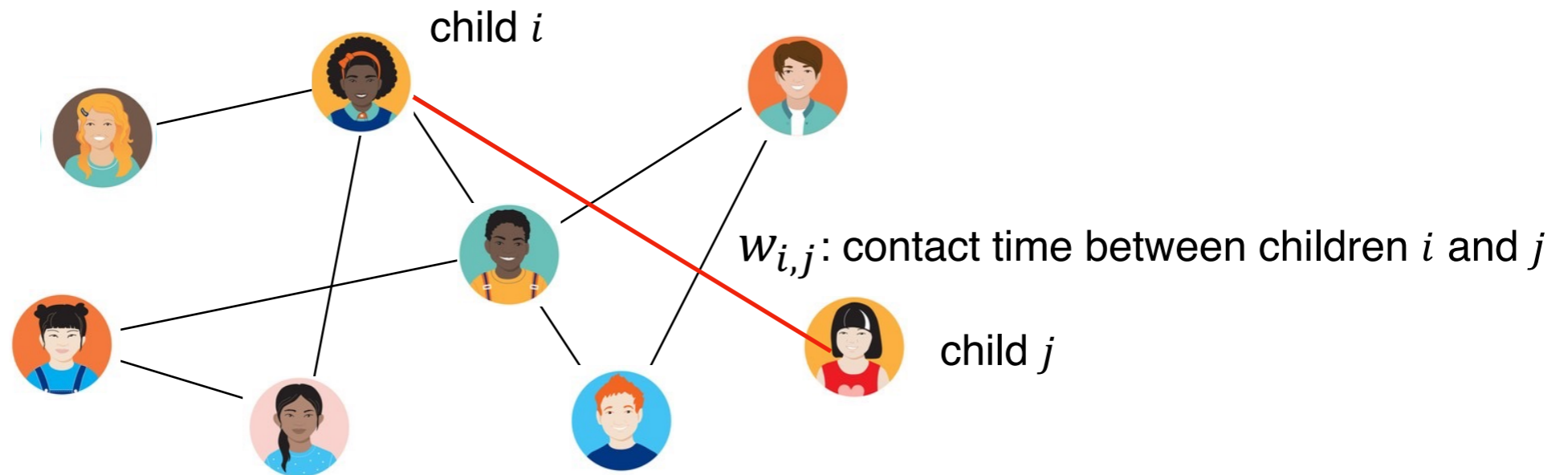


**Online Learning  
  
(problem structure  
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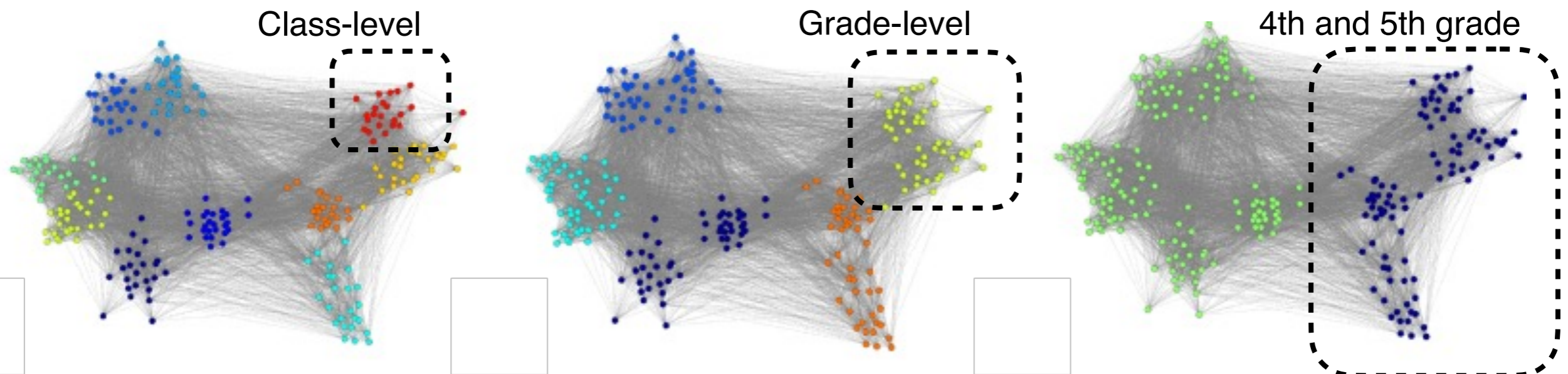
## Graph

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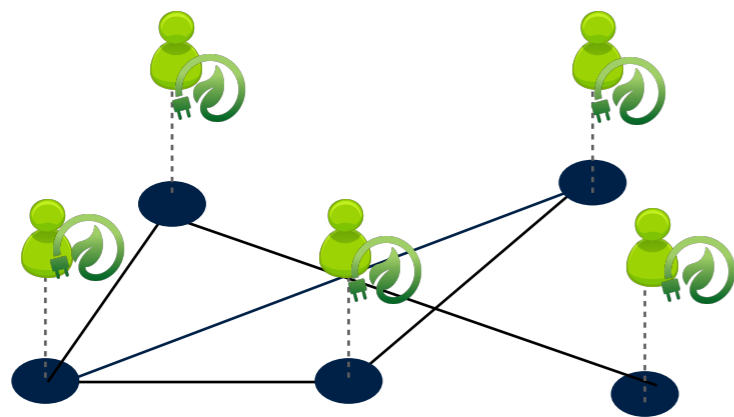
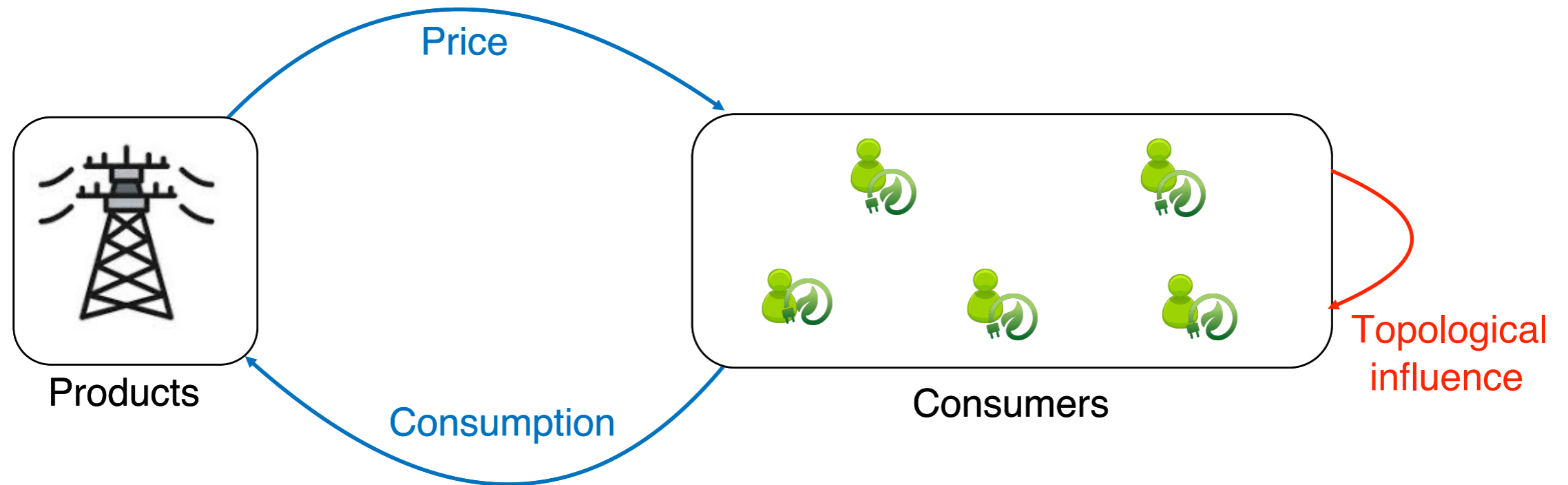
# Community detection



**Stratification** based on social interactions:  
multi-scale community detection based on spectral graph wavelets at different scales

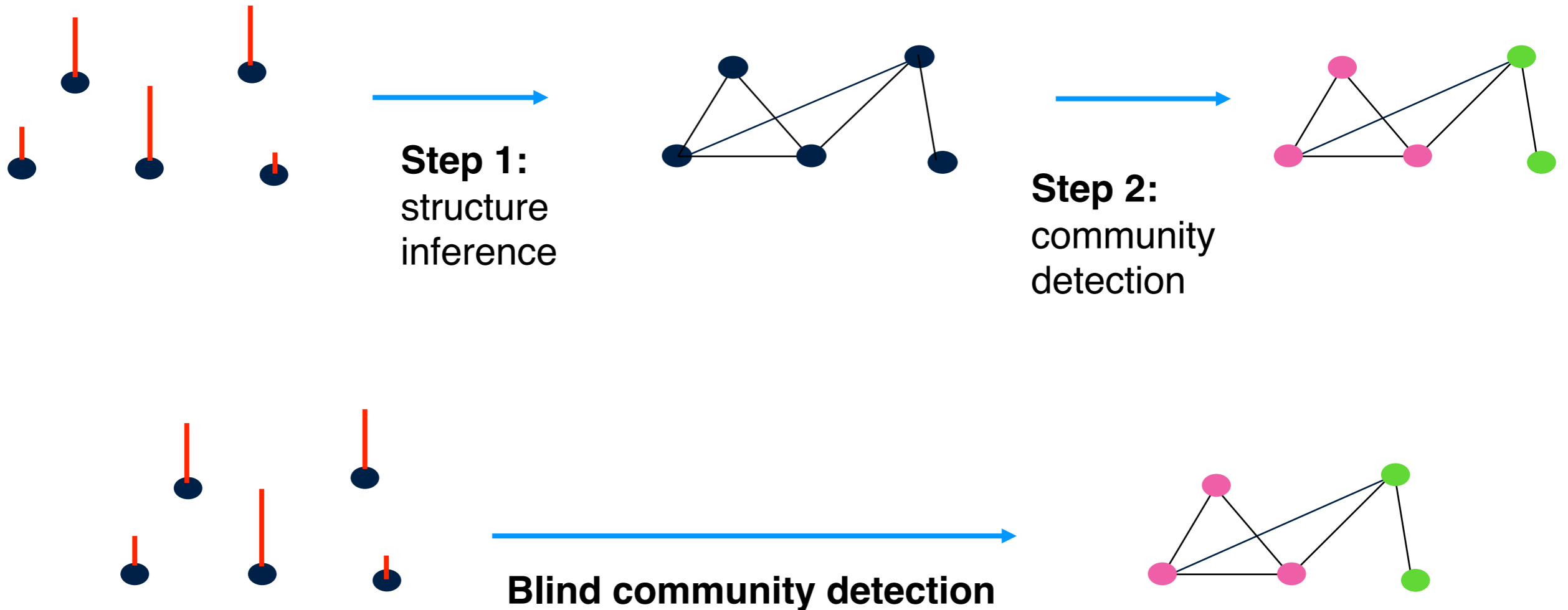


# Price Experiments in Consumers' Game



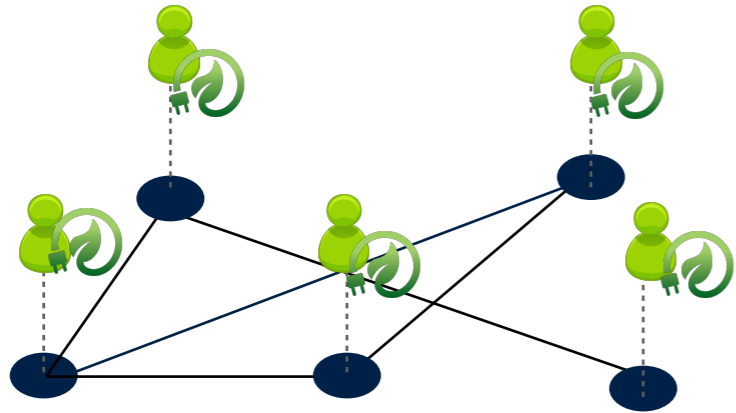
- Consumers as vertices on graph
- **(Unknown)** topological influence as graph weight
- Topology inference / users consumption prediction / community detection ...

# Blind Community Detection

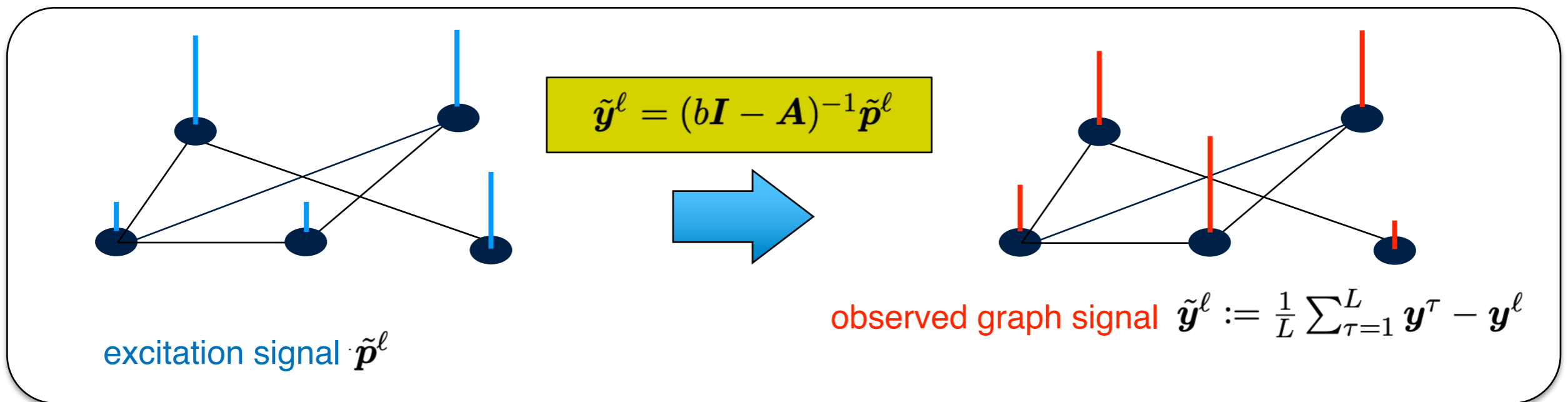


Observations are graph signals modeled as the outputs of an unknown network process represented by a low-rank graph filter

# Blind Community Detection: low-rank filtering



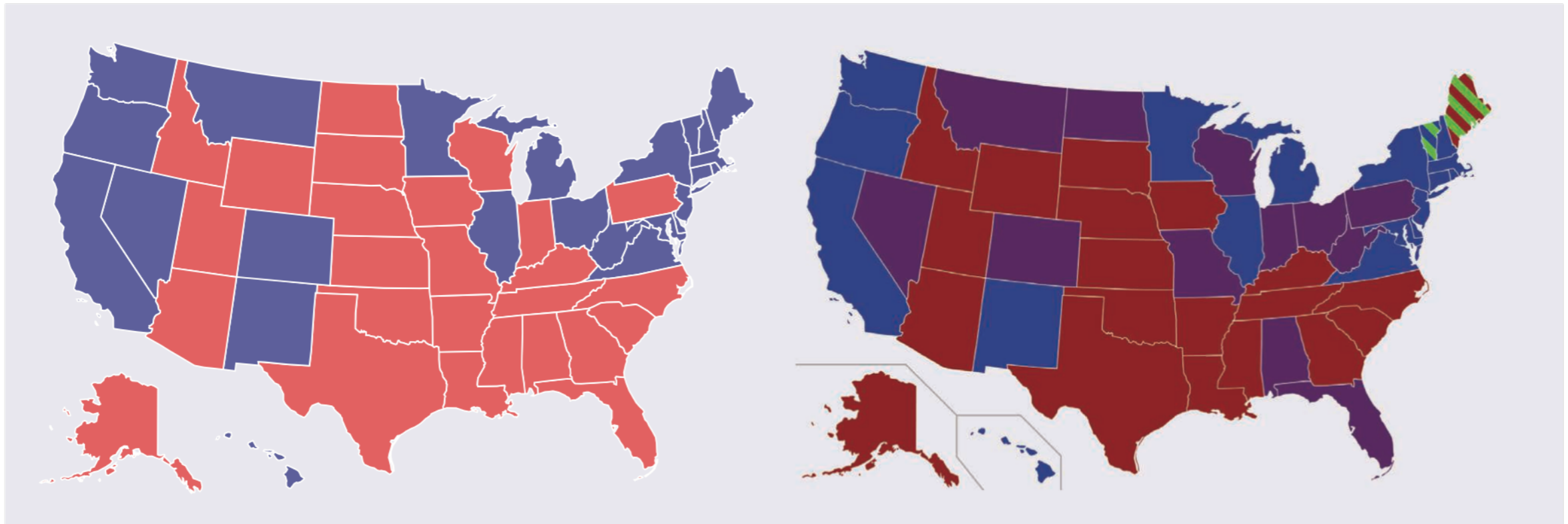
- Consumers as vertices on graph
- **(Unknown)** topological influence as graph weight  $\mathbf{A}$
- Topology inference / users consumption prediction / community detection



Observations are graph signals modeled as the outputs of an unknown network process represented by a graph filter

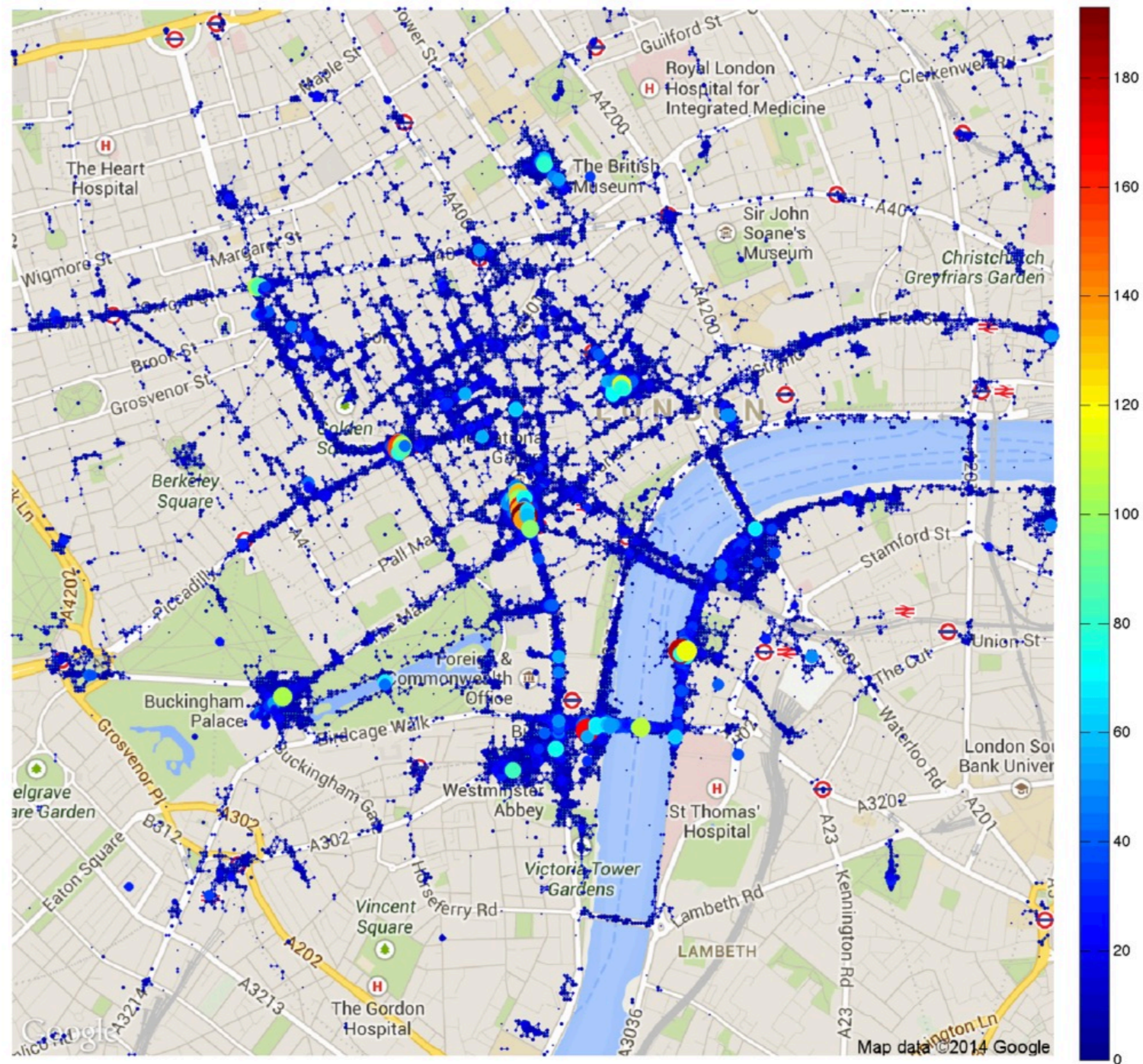
# Blind Community Detection

- The covariance matrix of **observed graph signals** is a **sketch of the Laplacian matrix** that retains coarse topological features of the graph, like communities
- Blind CD **approaches the performance of spectral clustering** (under given conditions and assuming graph filter being low-pass)

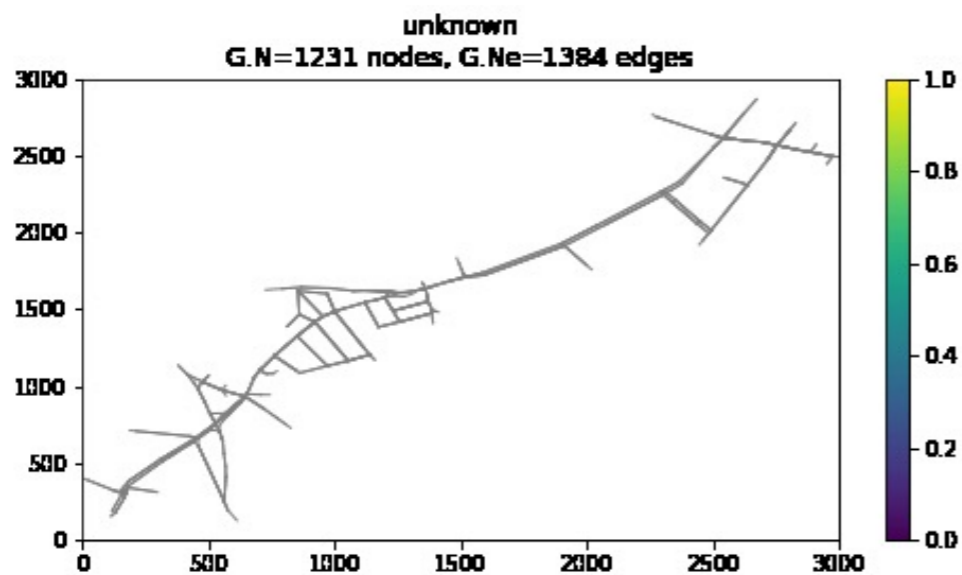
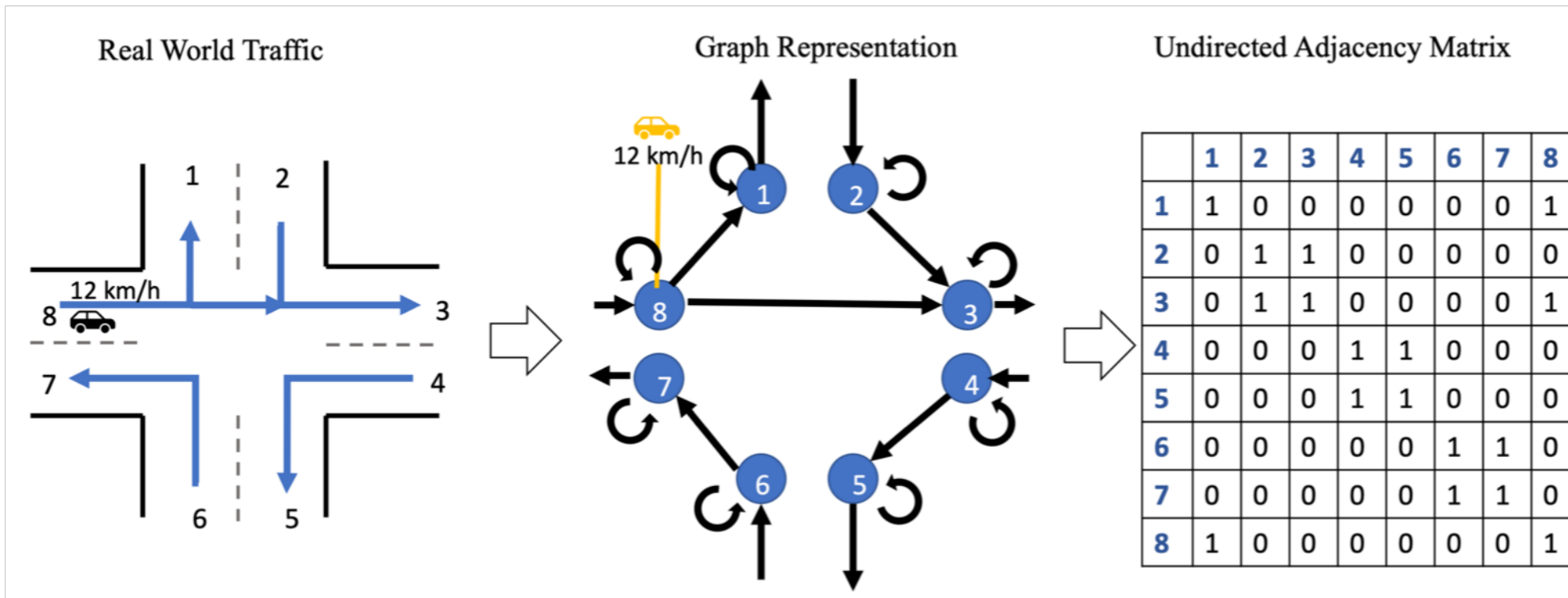


Rollcall data may be modeled as the equilibrium of an opinion dynamics process with stubborn agents

# Mobility inference



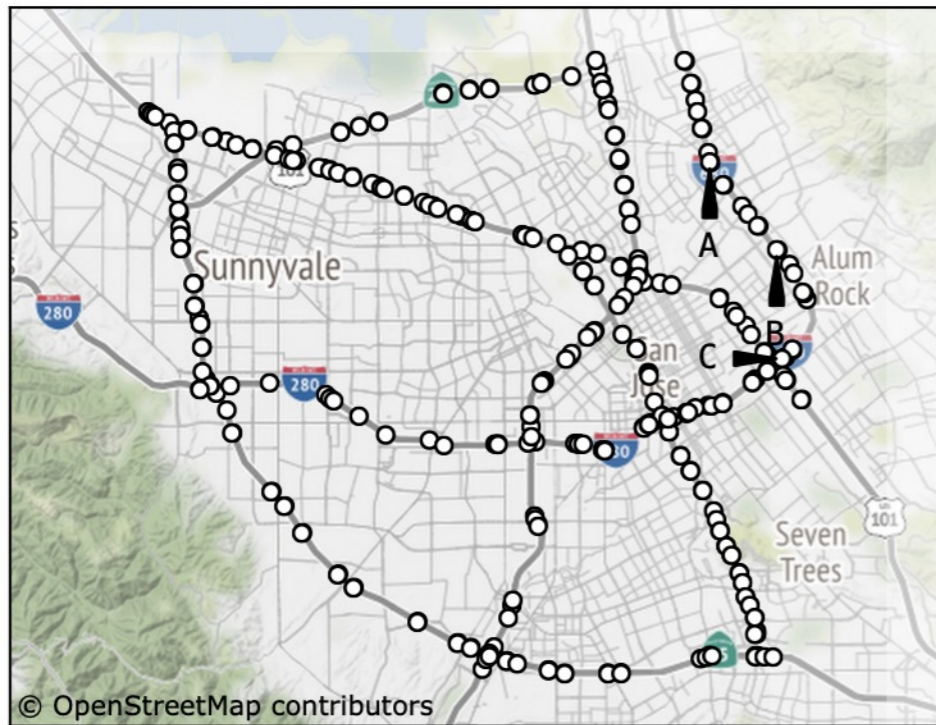
# Transportation Network: mobility inference



Traffic propagation modelled as heat diffusion on graph signal



# Transportation Network: mobility inference




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**Algorithm 2** Prediction of traffic features ( $h$ -steps ahead)

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```

function PREDICTION( $\mathbf{x}_t^d, h, \hat{\mathbf{H}}_t, \dots, \hat{\mathbf{H}}_{t+h-1}$ )
  Set  $\mathbf{p} = \mathbf{x}_t^d$ 
  for  $i \in [0, h - 1]$  do
    Set  $\mathbf{p} = \hat{\mathbf{H}}_{t+i}\mathbf{p}$ 
  end for
   $\mathbf{x}_{t+h|t} = \mathbf{p}$ 
return  $\mathbf{x}_{t+h|t}$ 
end function

```

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Heat diffusion kernels embedded into dynamic linear model to exploit topological information of the transportation network

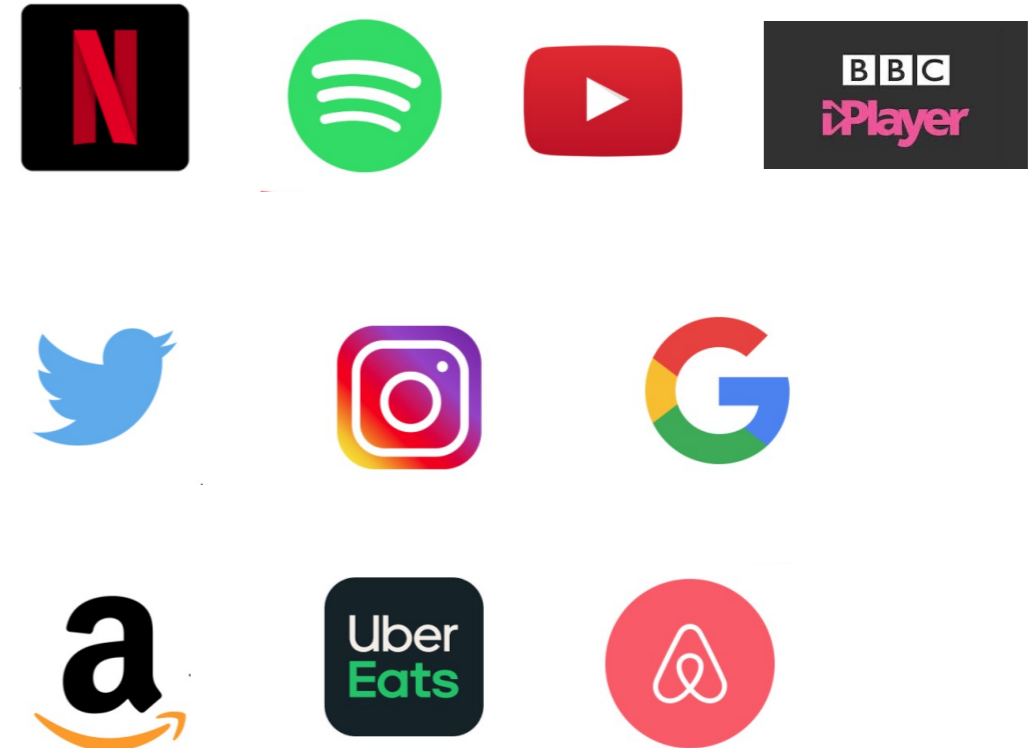
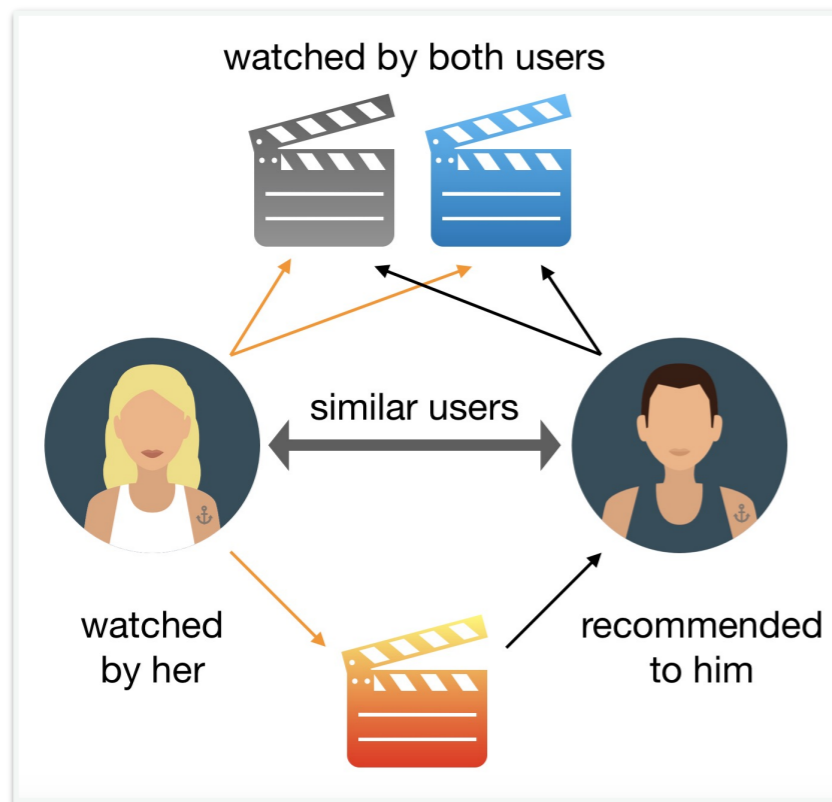
Dynamic linear model

$$\mathbf{x}_{t+1}^d = \mathbf{H}_t \mathbf{x}_t^d + \mathbf{n}_t^d, \forall t \in [0, T - 1]$$

$$\mathbf{H}_t = \mathbf{H}_t^{\mathcal{G}}(\mathcal{T}) + \check{\mathbf{H}}_t \quad \text{Demand matrix (exogenous)}$$

Internal diffusion matrix (endogenous)  $\mathbf{H}^{\mathcal{G}}(\tau) = e^{-\tau \mathbf{L}(\mathcal{G})}$

# Recommender systems: Online Learning



Graphs model items and users similarities

# Recommender systems: User graph

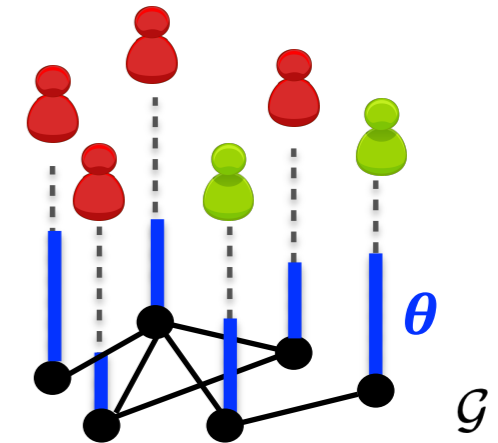
- User preferences mapped into a graph of similarities

$$\Theta = [\theta_1, \theta_2, \dots, \theta_N]^T \in \mathbb{R}^{N \times d}: \text{signal on graph}$$

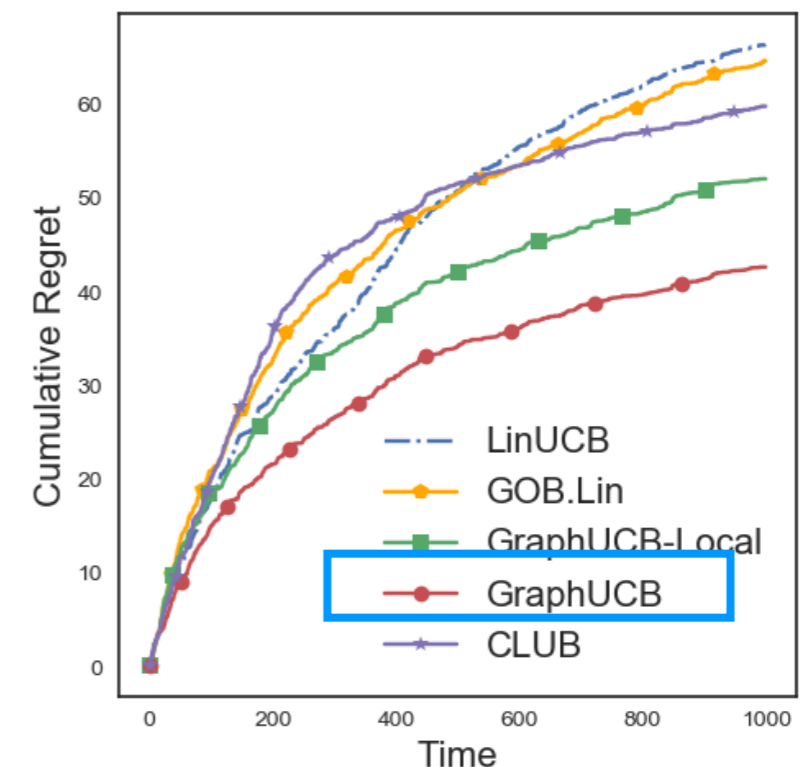
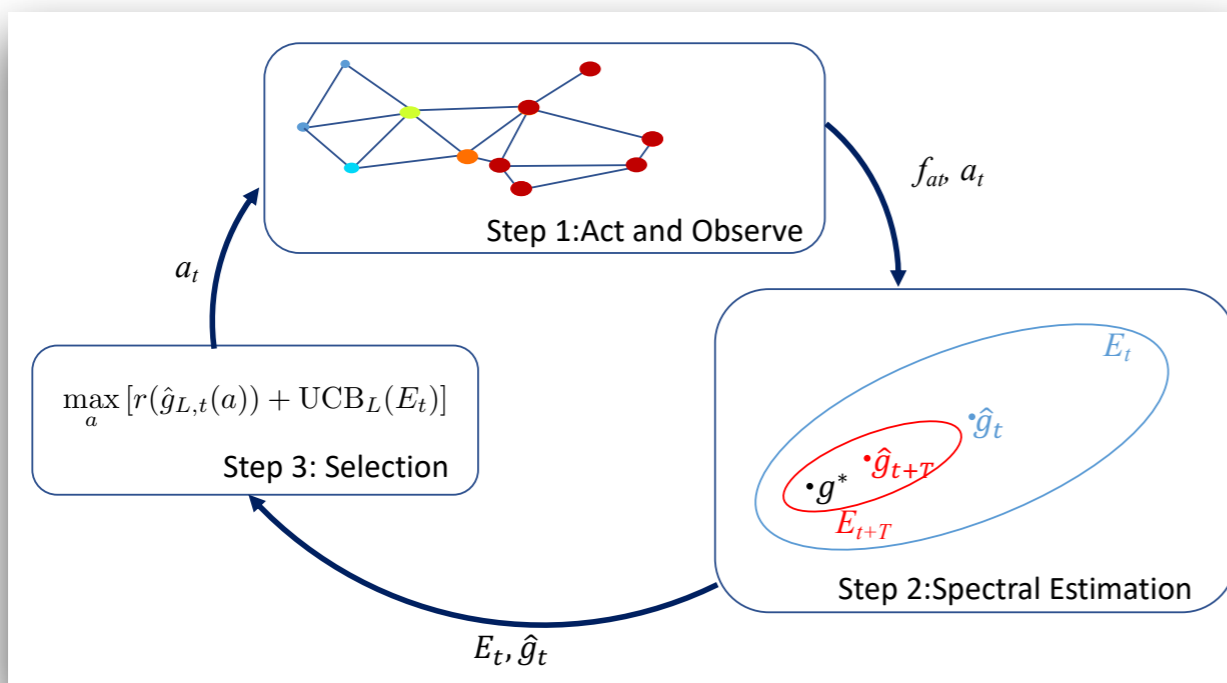
- Exploitation of smoothness prior

$$\hat{\Theta}_t = \arg \min_{\Theta \in \mathbb{R}^{n \times d}} \sum_{i=1}^n \sum_{\tau \in t_i} (\mathbf{x}_\tau^T \theta_i - y_{i,\tau})^2 + \alpha \text{tr}(\Theta^T \mathcal{L} \Theta)$$

fidelity term
smoothness regularizer



↓ Laplacian-regularised estimator within online learning framework

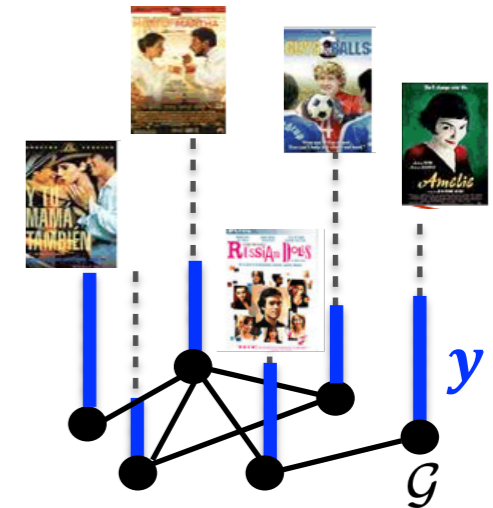


# Recommender systems: Item graph

- Items as nodes on graph

$$\mathbf{y} = [\mathbf{y}_1, \mathbf{y}_2, \dots, \mathbf{y}_N]^T \in \mathbb{R}^{N \times d} : \text{reward (unknown)}$$

- Signal (reward) is unknown and needs to be inferred



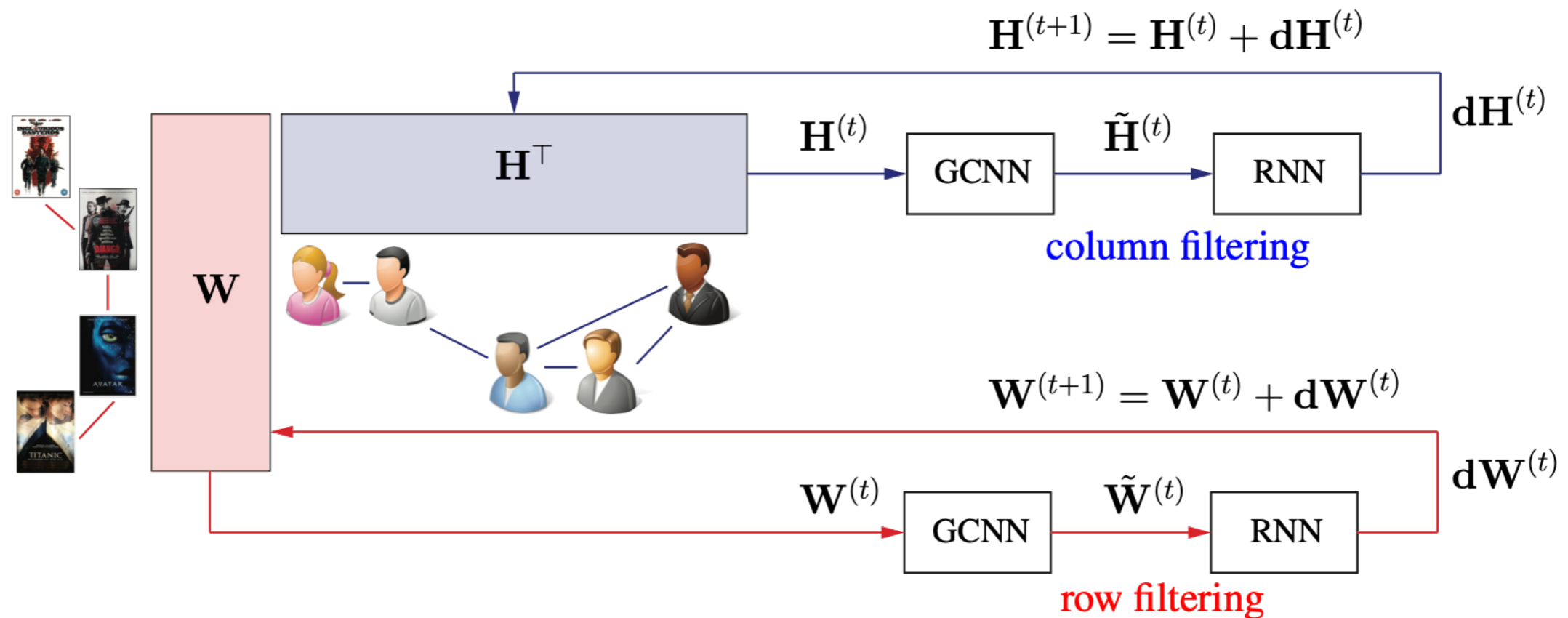
- Mean reward as smooth signal on graph  $\mathbb{E}\{y_n\} = \langle \chi_n, \alpha \rangle$
- Recommendation problem as selection of best (with largest reward) graph node

$$n_t = \arg \max_n [\langle \mathbf{q}_n, \hat{\alpha} \rangle] + c_t || \mathbf{q}_n ||_{V_t^{-1}} \quad \text{with} \quad V_t^{-1} = Q_t Q_t^T + (\Lambda + \gamma I)$$

$$L = \begin{bmatrix} | & & | \\ \hline & \mathbf{q}_n & \\ \hline \chi_0 & \cdots & \chi_{N-1} \\ | & & | \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} \lambda_0 & & 0 \\ & \ddots & \\ 0 & & \lambda_{N-1} \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} \chi_0 \\ \cdots \\ \chi_{N-1} \end{bmatrix}$$

$\chi \quad \Lambda \quad \chi^T$

# Recommender systems: Matrix Completion



- Matrix completion: diffusion process as RNN casted on top of multi-graph convolutional layers
- Multi-graph convolution (spatial features), followed by LSTM (diffusion process)

# Take Home Message

## GSP Tools ...

### Graph Knowledge exploitation

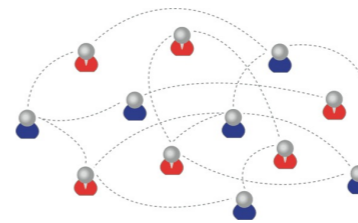
Implicit / Explicit

Given / Constructed

- smooth- multi-resolution graph signal representation
- graph denoising
- graph sampling
- graph filter and kernel

## ... for ML

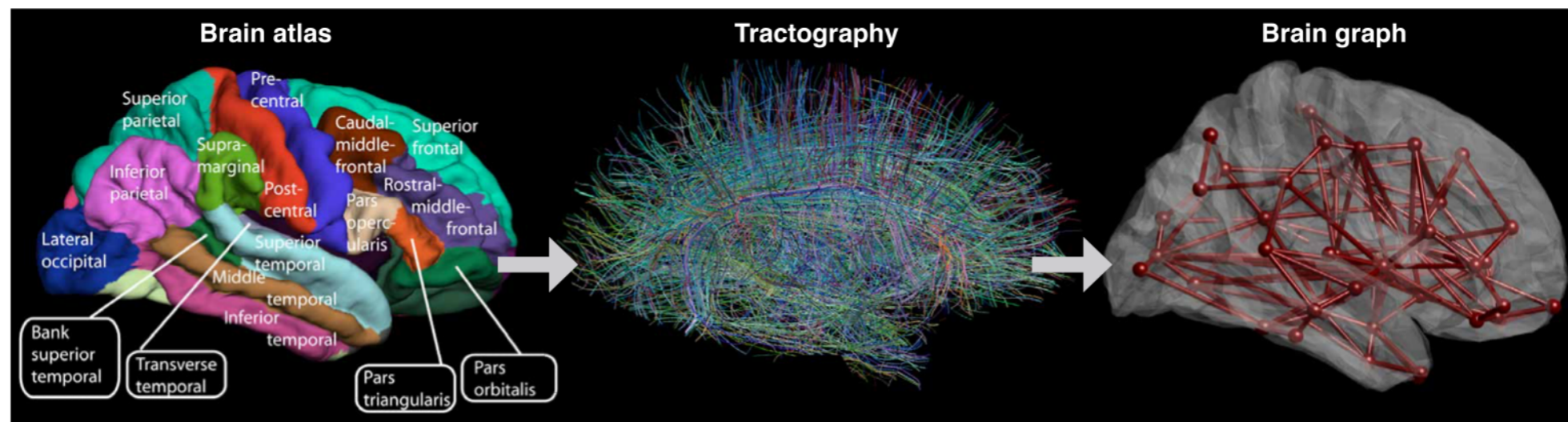
- Node/graph classification
- Community detection
- Time series (system dynamics) inference
- Online learning



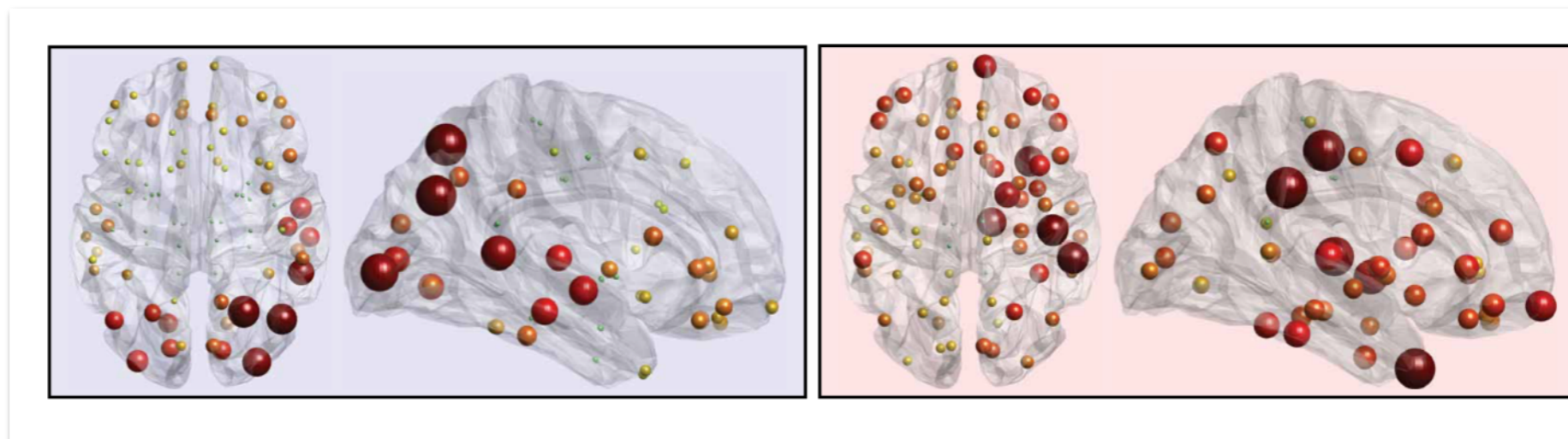
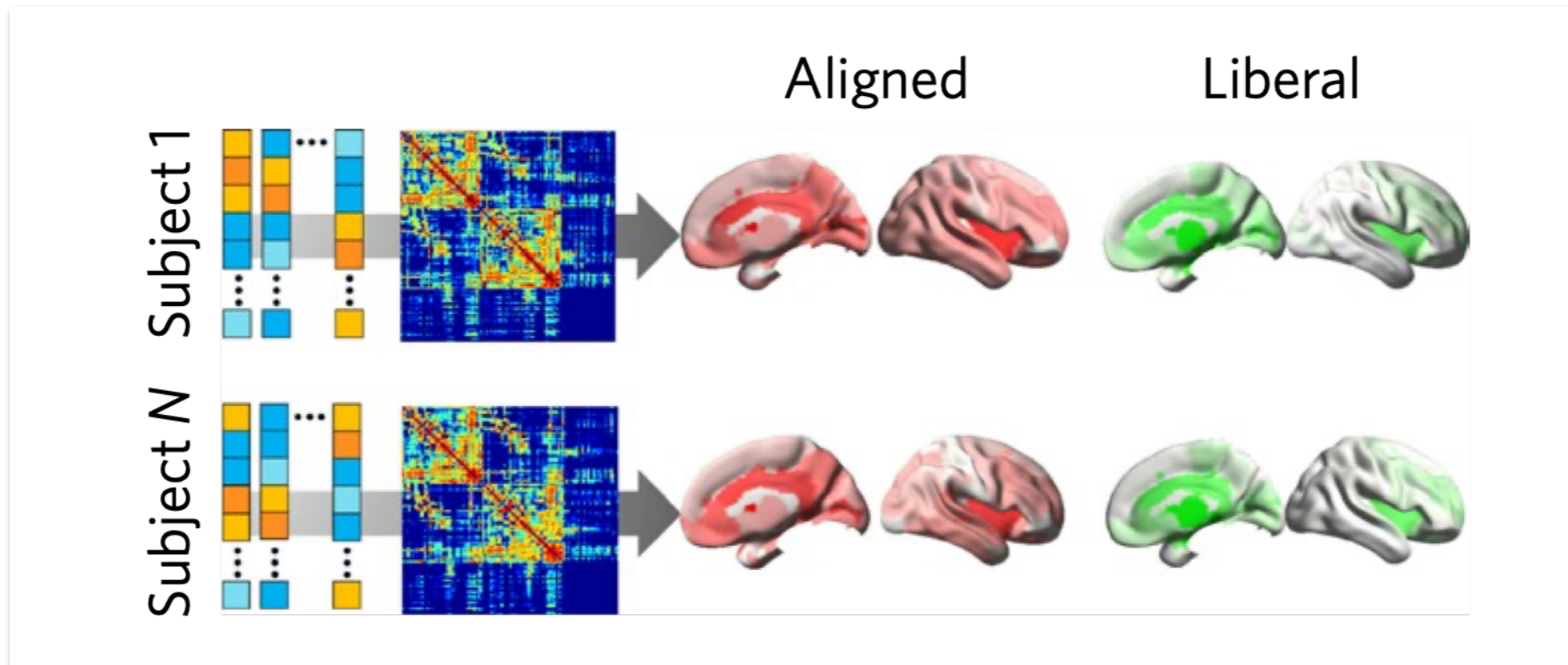
# GSP/ GNN

## In

# Healthcare and Neuroscience



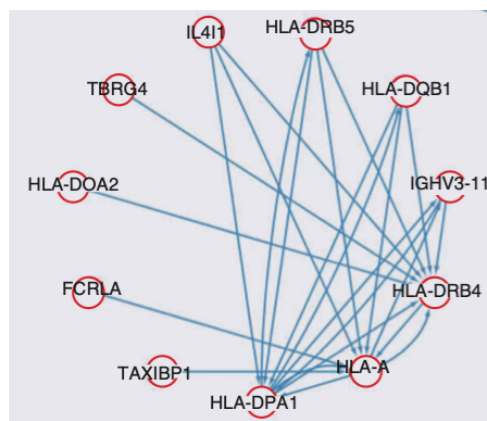
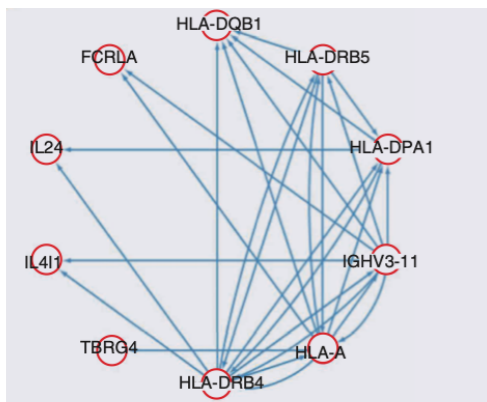
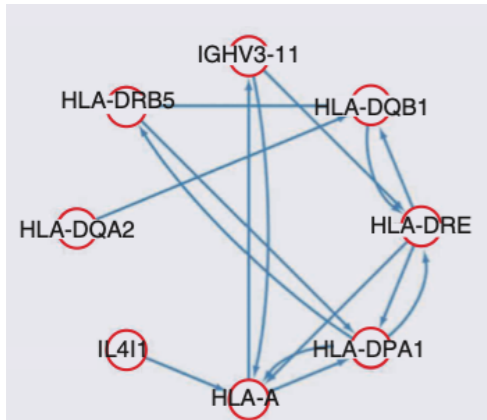
# Brain Analysis: GSP for Interpretability





# Gene Expression: Topology inference

To identifying gene-regulatory topologies, where nodes represent individual genes and directed edges encode causal regulatory relationships between gene pairs



Structural equation models (SEMs)

$$\mathbf{x}_t = \mathbf{A}\mathbf{x}_t + \mathbf{\Omega}\mathbf{u}_t + \epsilon_t$$

$$\mathbf{H} = (\mathbf{I} - \mathbf{A})^{-1}$$

$$\mathbf{\Omega} = \mathbf{I}$$

exogenous inputs: genotypes of the expression quantitative trait loci (eQTLs)

endogenous variables: gene-expression levels

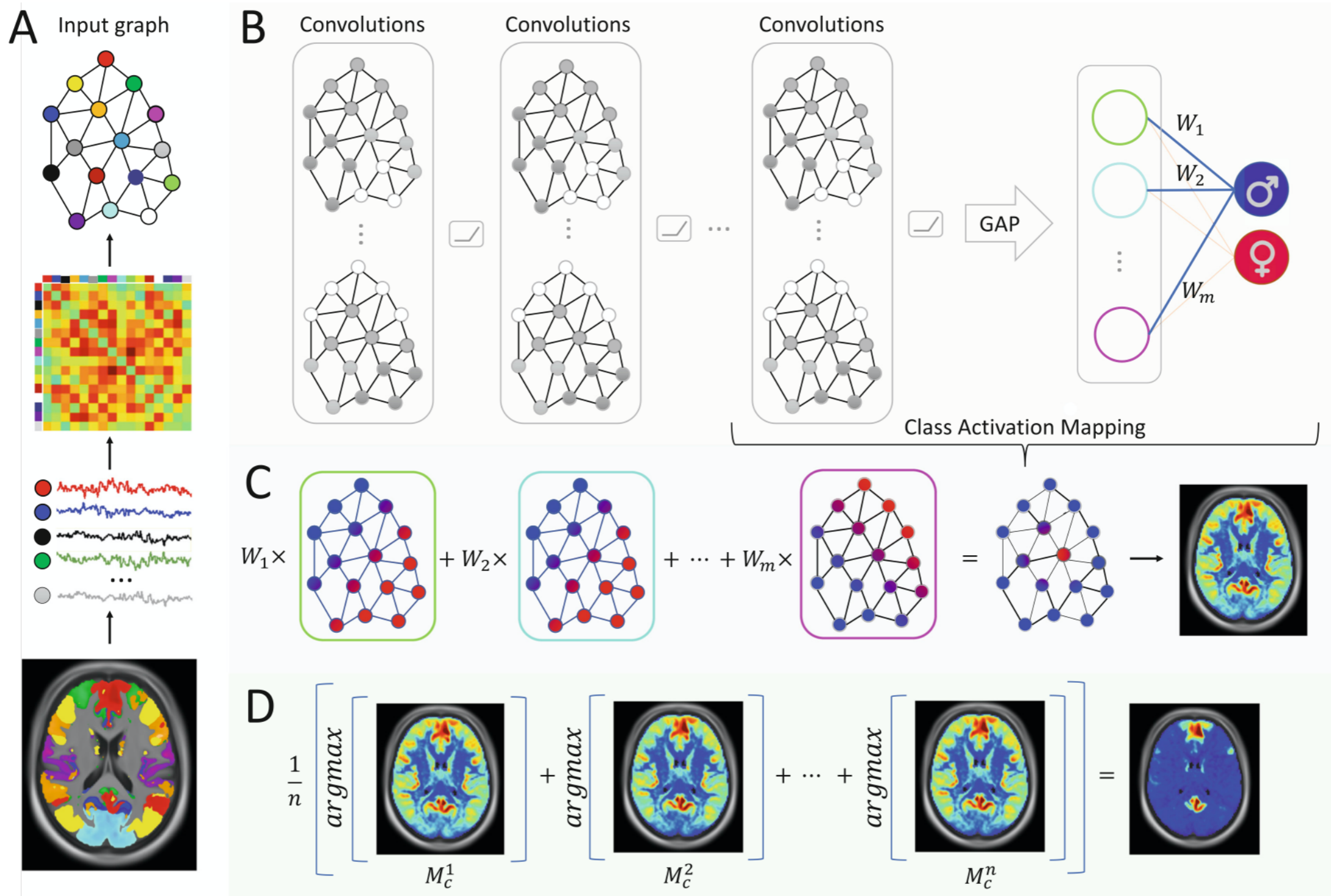
$$\mathbf{x}_t = \mathbf{H}\mathbf{u}_t \text{ Graph filtering modelling for auto-regressing SEM}$$

Kernel-based topology inference

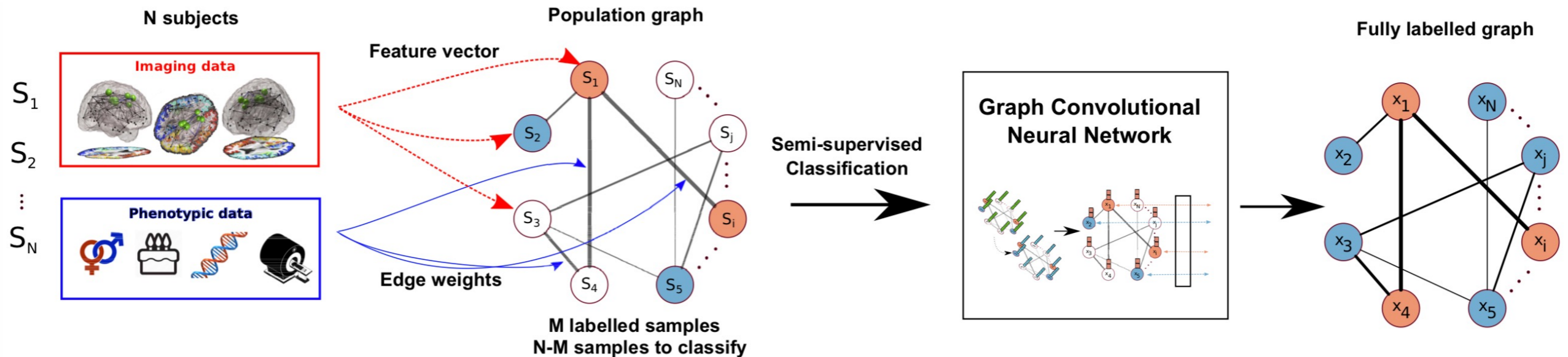
$$\hat{\mathbf{A}} = \underset{\mathbf{S}, \boldsymbol{\omega}}{\operatorname{argmin}} \sum_{t=1}^T \left\| \mathbf{x}_t - \mathbf{A}\mathbf{x}_t + \mathbf{\Omega}\mathbf{u}_t \right\|_2^2 + \alpha \|\mathbf{A}\|_1,$$

$$\text{s.t. } \mathbf{\Omega} = \operatorname{diag}(\boldsymbol{\omega}), \quad S_{ii} = 0, i = 1, \dots, N,$$

# Brain imaging: Class activation mapping



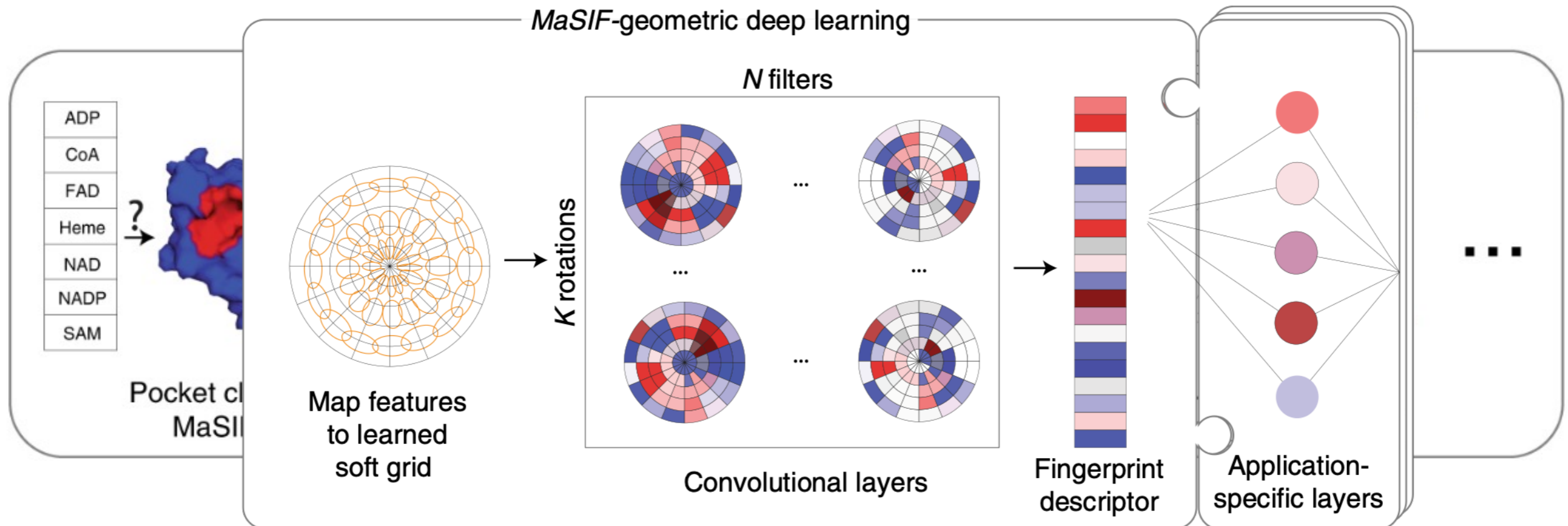
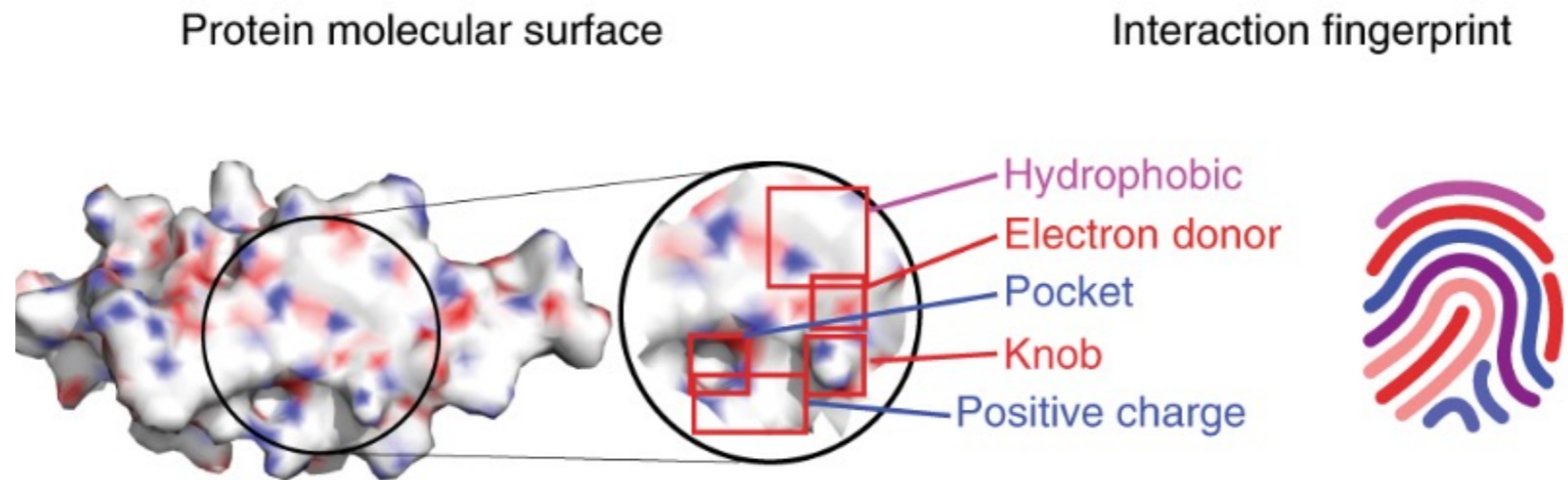
# Disease prediction



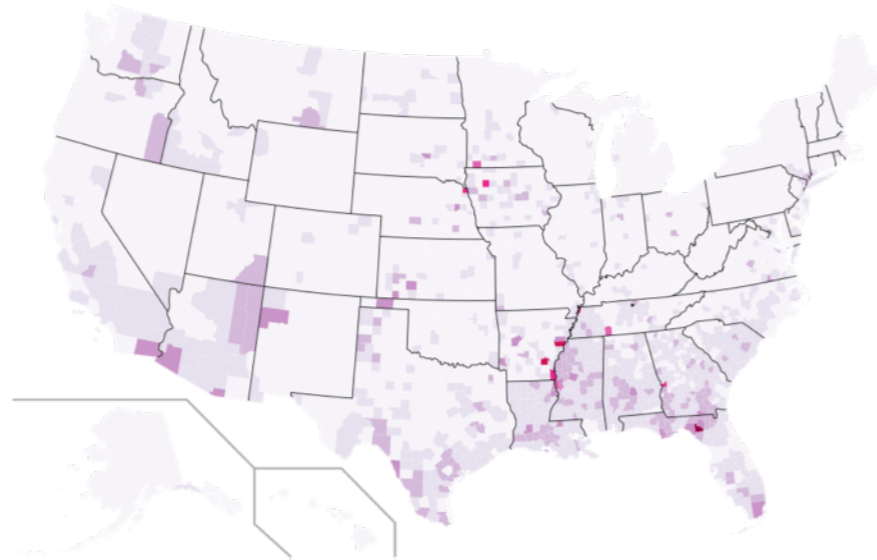
- populations modelled as a sparse graph
- phenotypic information integrated as edge weights
- imaging-based feature vectors as node signal

Subject classification as a graph labelling problem, integrating imaging and non imaging data.

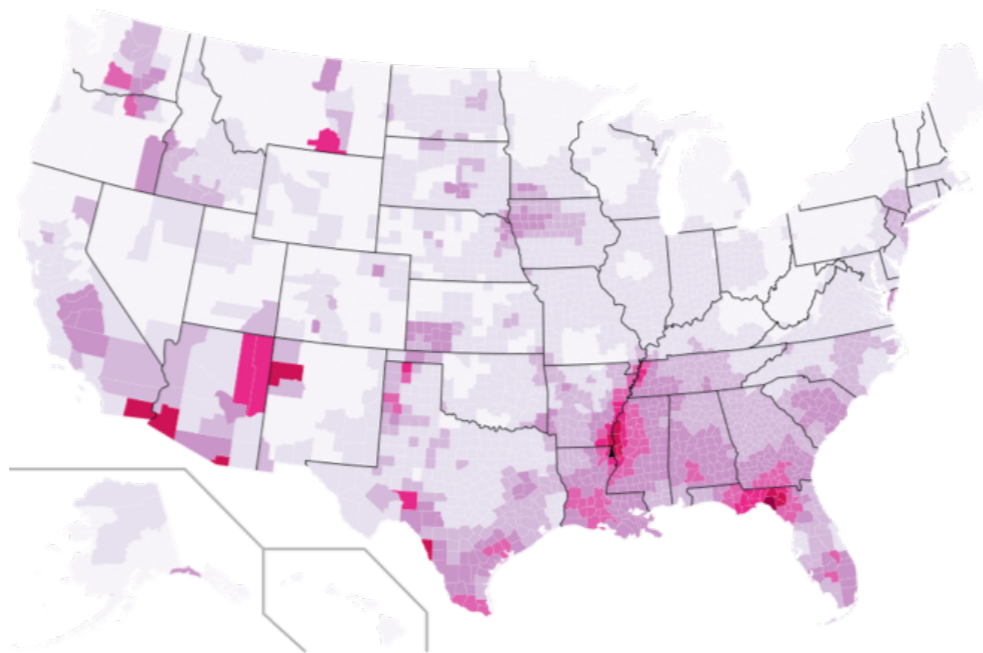
# Protein-protein interactions



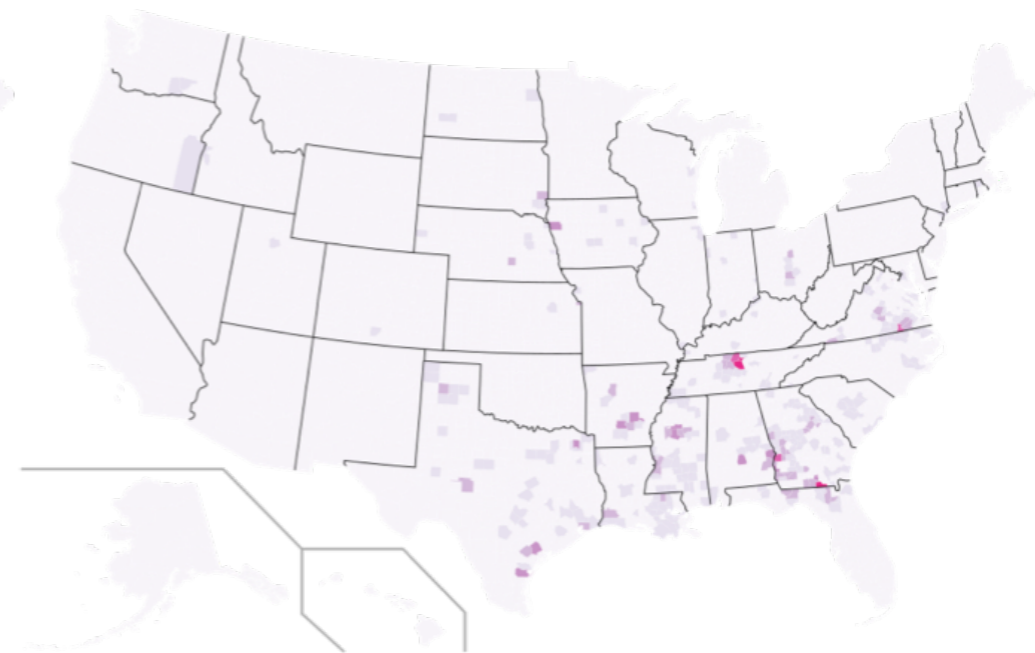
# GSP for COVID-19



Cumulative number of confirmed COVID-19 cases per 100k residents for each county by Aug 31

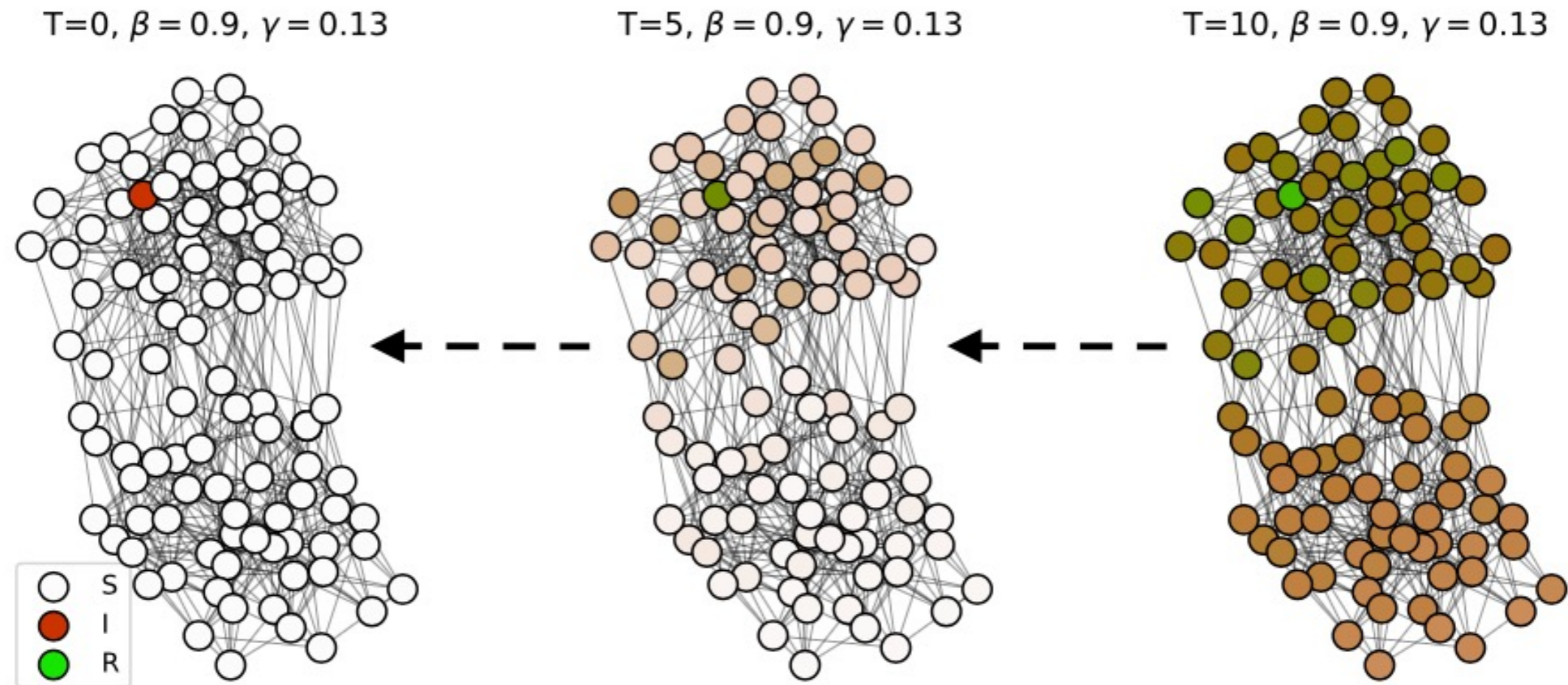


Low-pass signals of each county



High-pass signals of each county

# GNN for COVID-19



Exploit GNNs to locate the source of the epidemics.

- GNNs are model-agnostic
- GNNs identify P0 close to theoretical bounds accuracy

# Take Home Message

## GSP Tools ...

### Graph Knowledge exploitation

Implicit / Explicit

Given / Constructed

- smooth- multi-resolution graph signal representation
- graph denoising
- graph sampling
- graph filter and kernel
- graph convolution / graph clustering

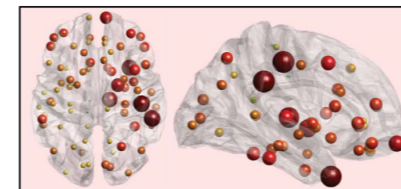
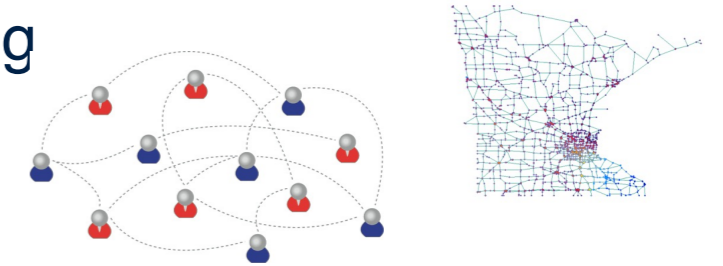
### Unknown graph knowledge

Implicit

- topological inference

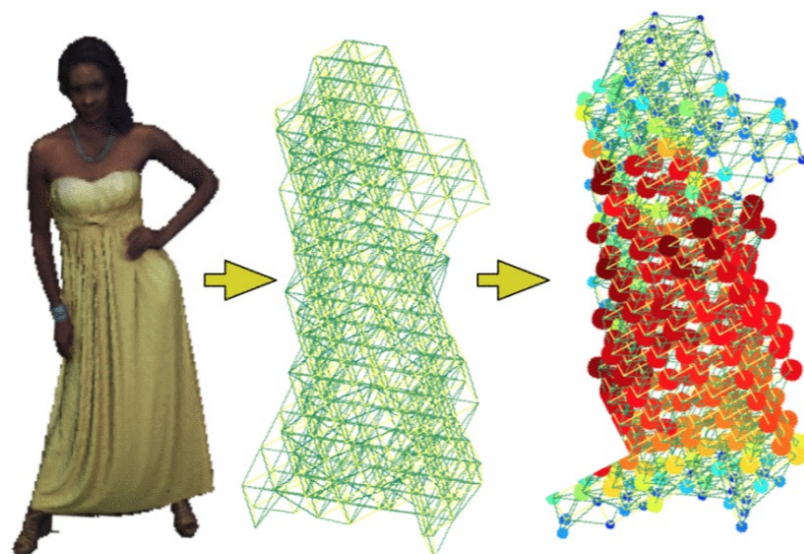
## ... for ML

- Node/graph classification
- Community detection
- Time series (system dynamics) inference
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- Interpretability
- Complex dependencies
- Local (high-frequency) activation mapping
- Model-agnostic

# GSP-based ML in Computer Vision

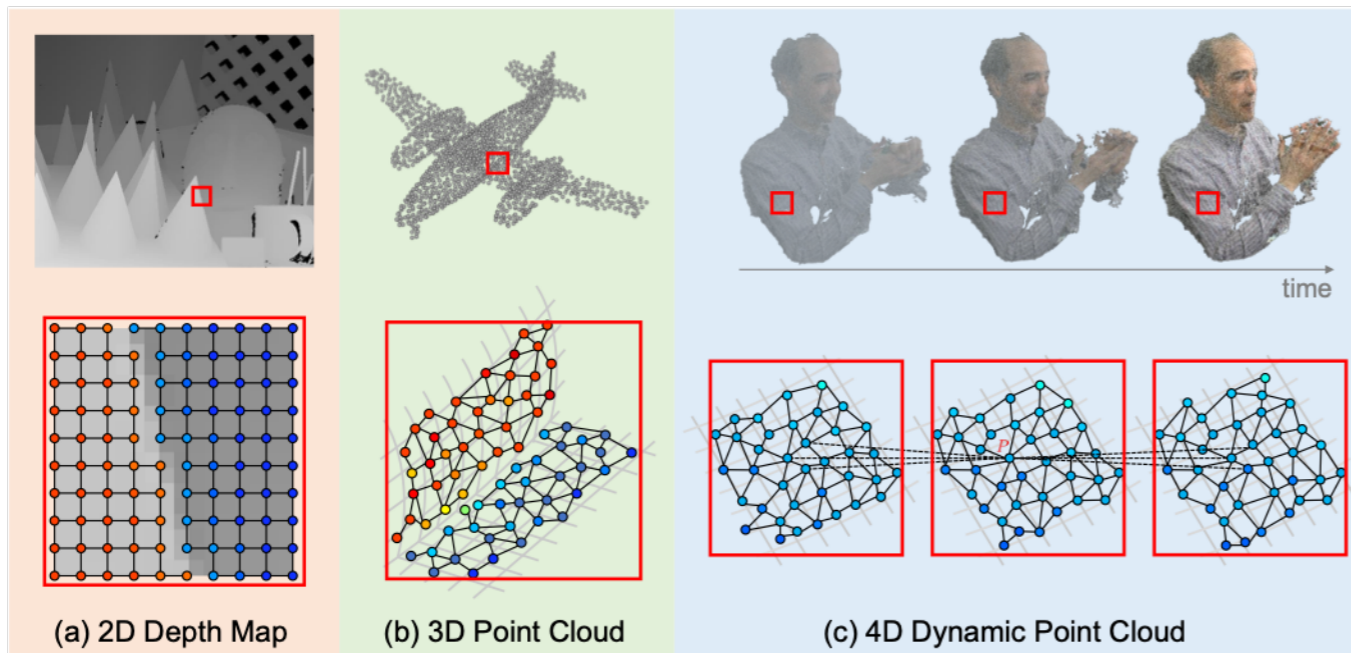
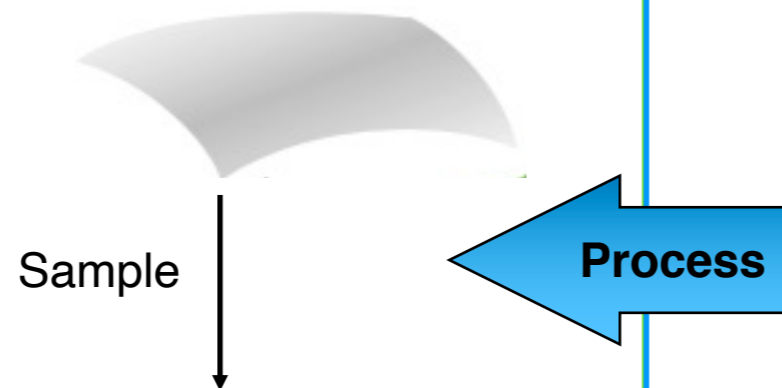




# GSP for Geometric Data

**Continuous Functions  
on Riemannian Manifolds**

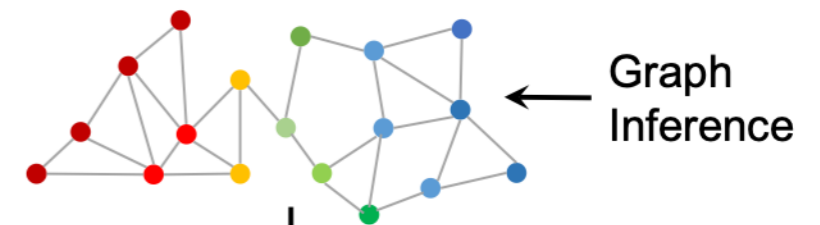
**Discrete  
Geometric Data**



**Continuous Functional on  
Riemannian Manifolds**

Discrete Counterpart

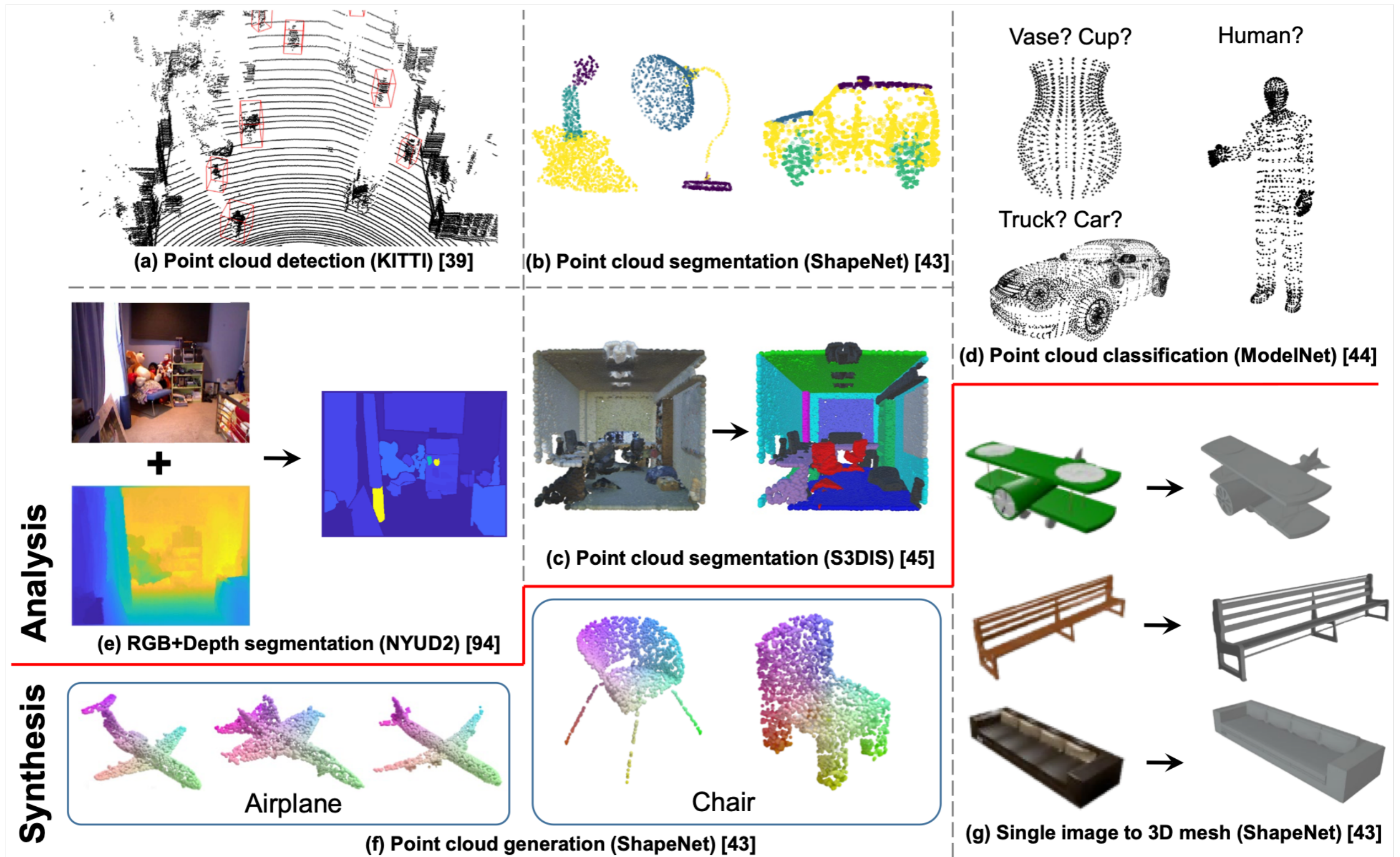
**Graph Operator**



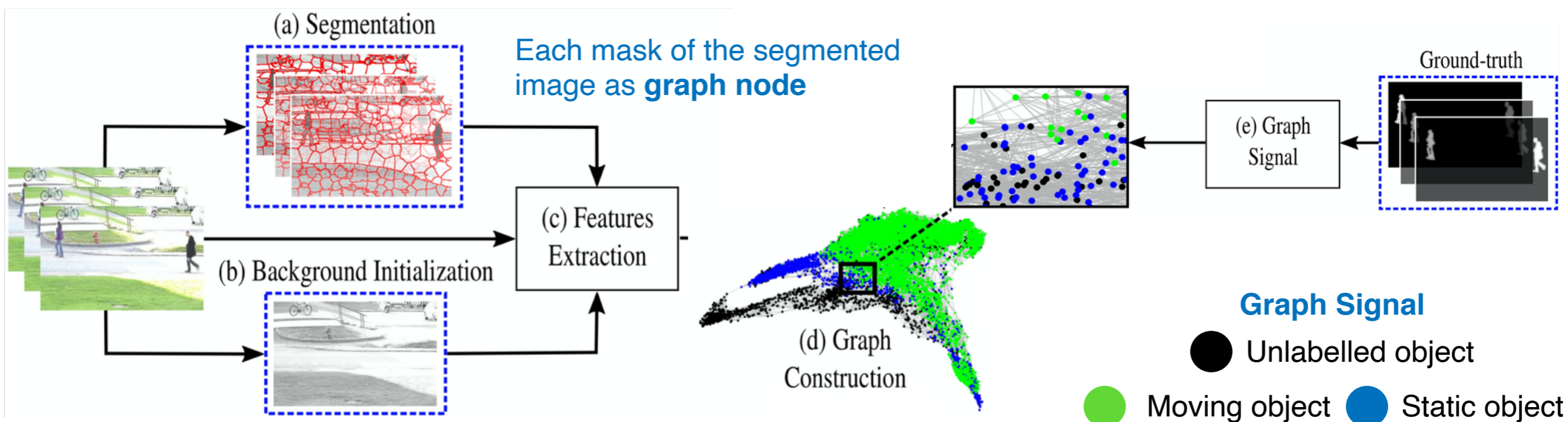
**Graph Signal Processing**

Spectral-domain Methods | Nodal-domain Methods

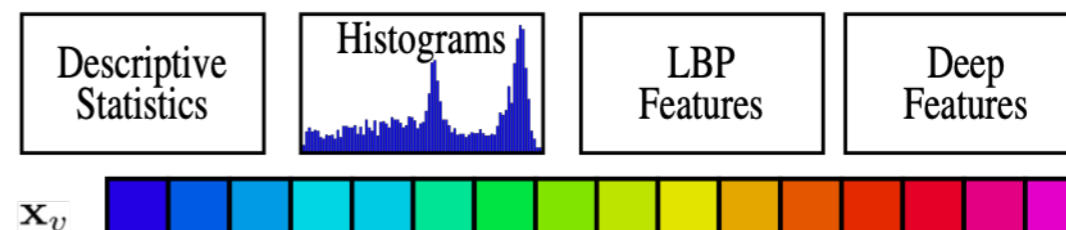
# Analysis and Synthesis Tasks via GNNs



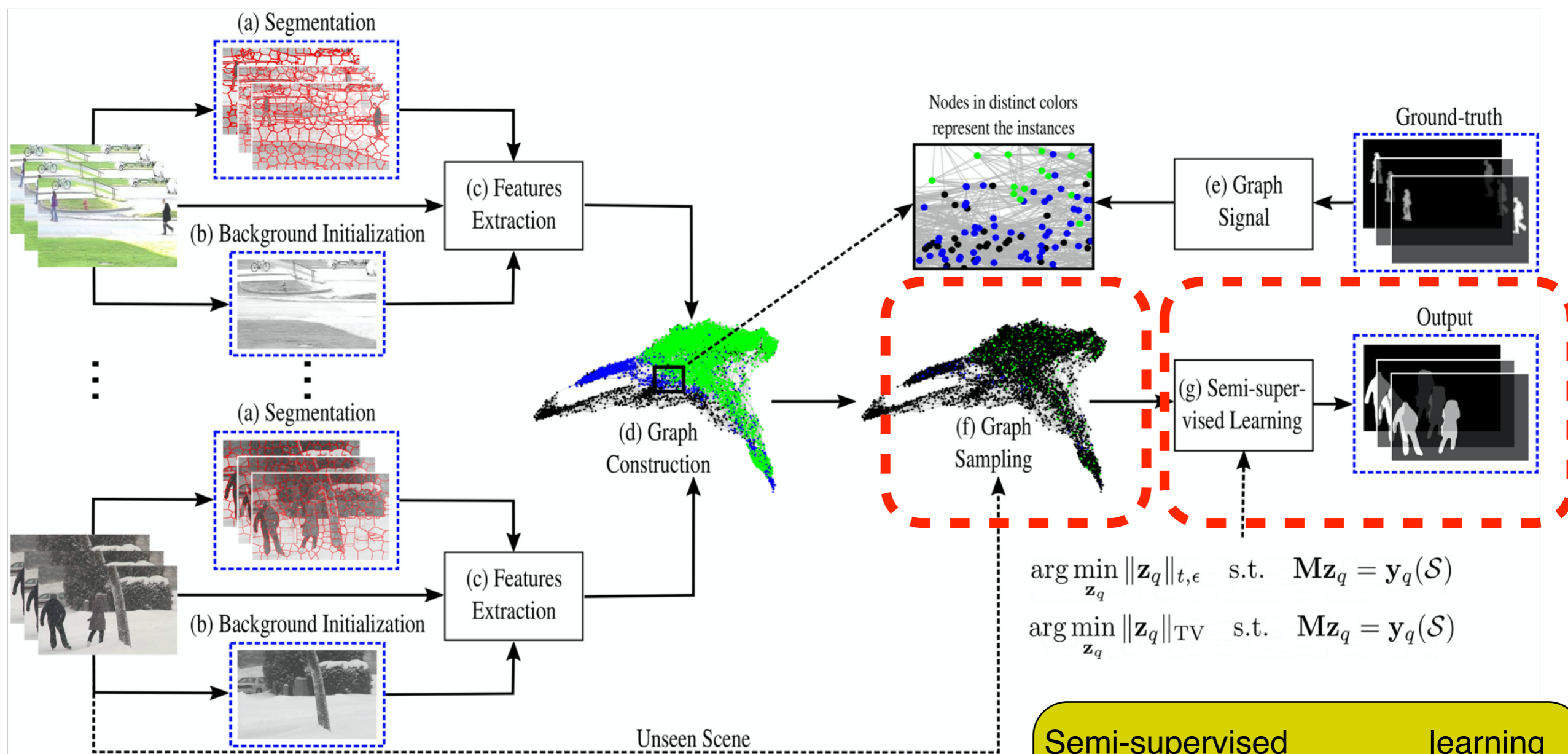
# Moving Object Segmentation



**Graph weights**  $w_{i,j} = \exp\left(-\frac{\|x_i - x_j\|_2^2}{\sigma}\right)$   
*Mask feature*  $x_i$ : concatenation of optical, flow, intensity, texture, and deep features



# Moving Object Segmentation



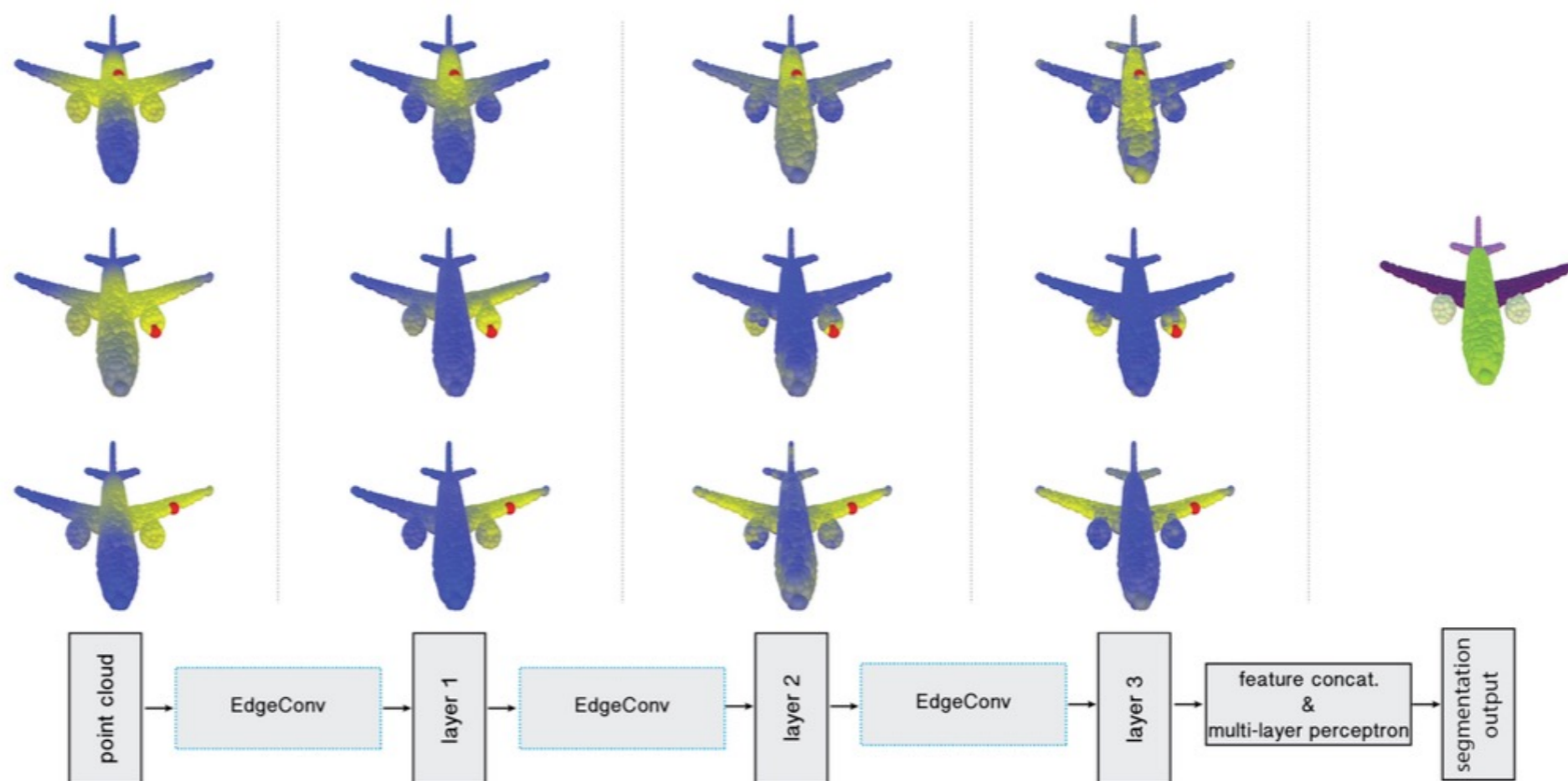
$$\arg \min_{\mathbf{z}_q} \|\mathbf{z}_q\|_{t,\epsilon} \quad \text{s.t.} \quad \mathbf{M}\mathbf{z}_q = \mathbf{y}_q(\mathcal{S})$$

$$\arg \min_{\mathbf{z}_q} \|\mathbf{z}_q\|_{\text{TV}} \quad \text{s.t.} \quad \mathbf{M}\mathbf{z}_q = \mathbf{y}_q(\mathcal{S})$$

Semi-supervised learning (classification) as graph signal learning with smooth regularizer

Graph sampling: for band limited signals, at least  $\rho$  (bandwidth) labeled nodes are needed to achieve perfect classification

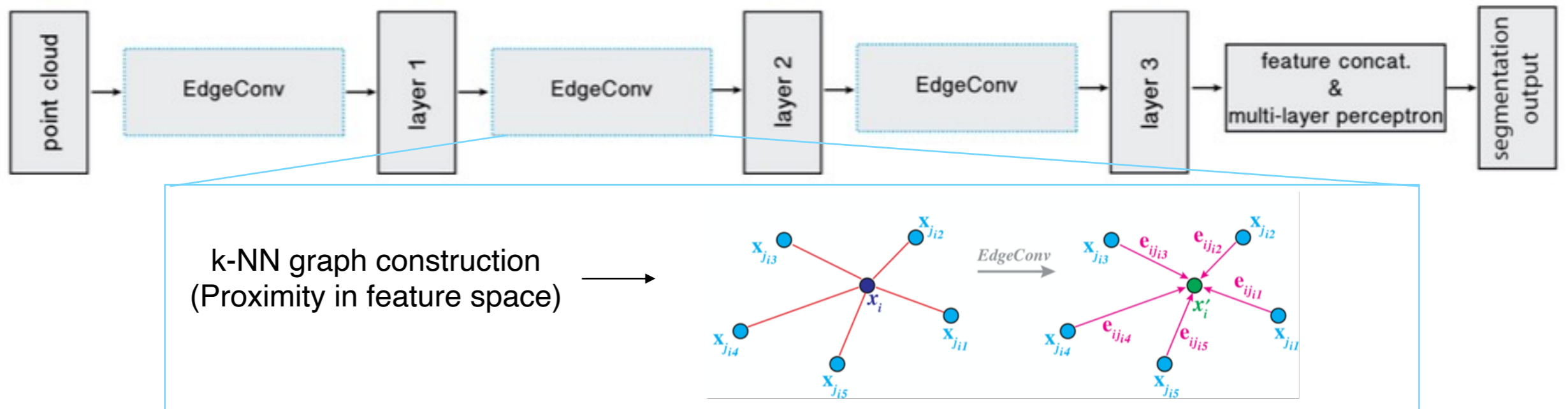
# 3D Point Cloud Segmentation



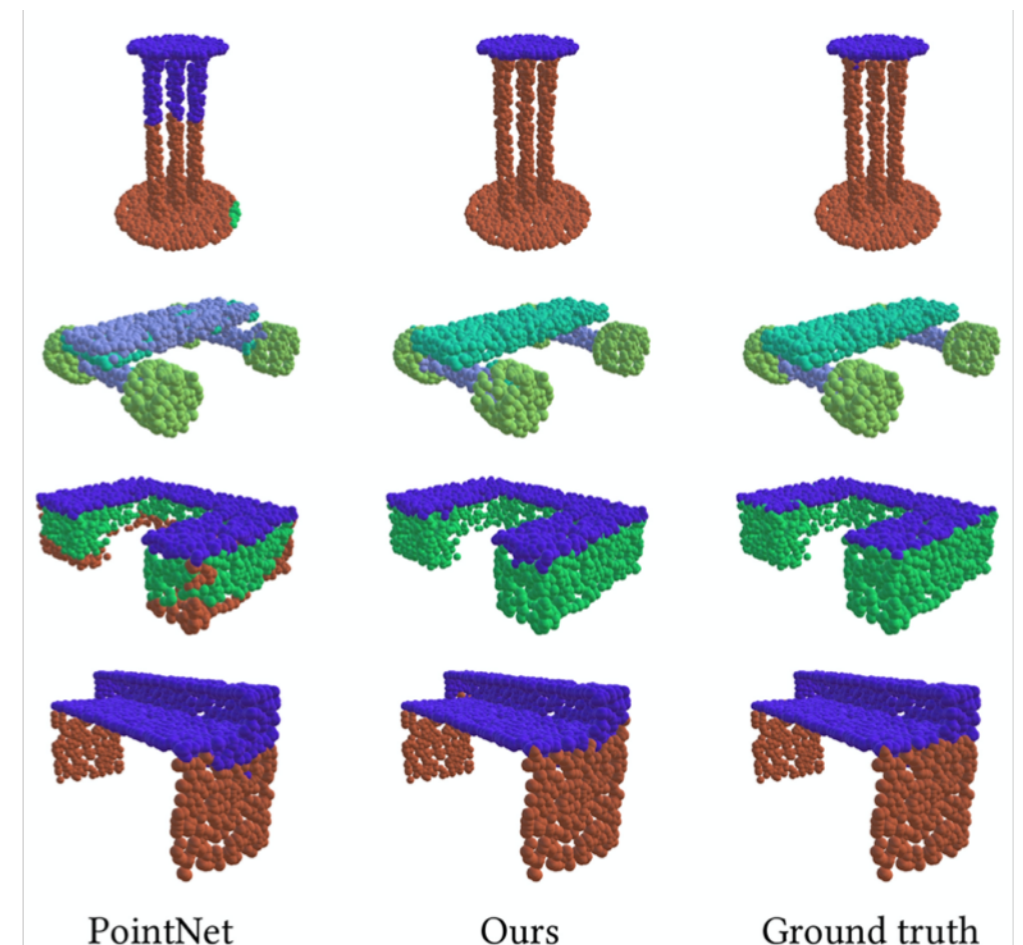
Graph convolution-like operators on the edges connecting neighboring pairs of points, in the spirit of graph neural networks

Feature space structure in deeper layers captures semantically similar structures

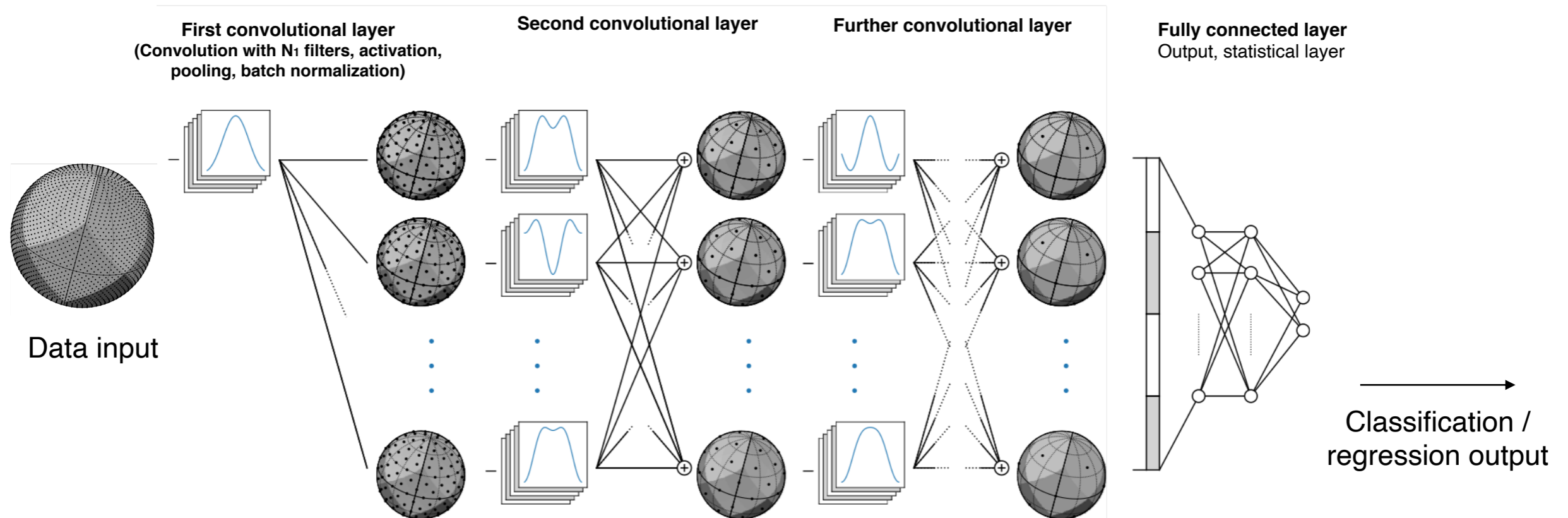
# 3D Point Cloud Segmentation



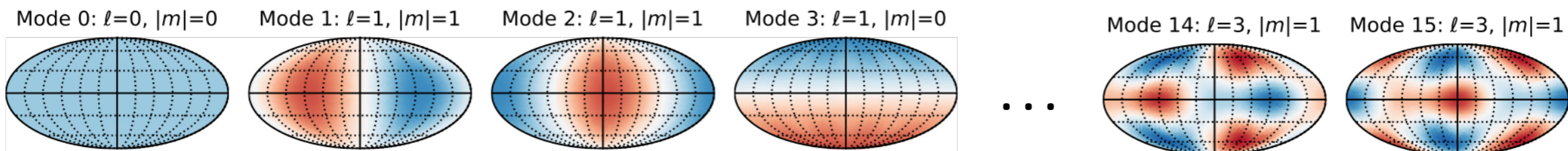
- Dynamic graph constructed at each layer based on features similarity
- Aggregation of edge features
- Translation-invariance and non-locality properties



# Cosmology: DeepSphere



- Sphere modelled with a graph and convolutions are performed on the graph
- Down-sampling operation (based on hierarchical pixelization of the sphere) to achieve multiple scales data analysis while preserving the spatial localization of features



# Take Home Message

## GSP Tools ...

### Graph Knowledge exploitation

Implicit / Explicit  
Given / Constructed

- smooth- multi-resolution graph signal representation
- graph denoising
- graph sampling
- graph filter and kernel
- graph convolution / graph clustering

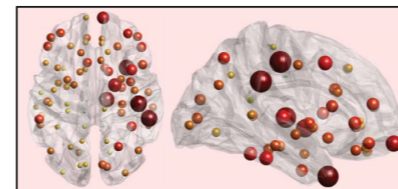
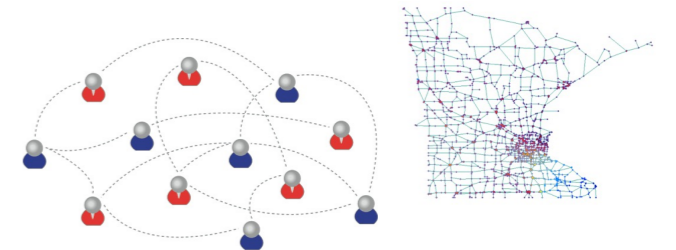
### Unknown graph knowledge

Implicit

- topological inference

## ... for ML

- Node/graph classification
- Community detection
- Time series (system dynamics) inference
- Online learning



- Interpretability
- Complex dependencies
- Local (high-frequency) activation mapping
- Model-agnostic



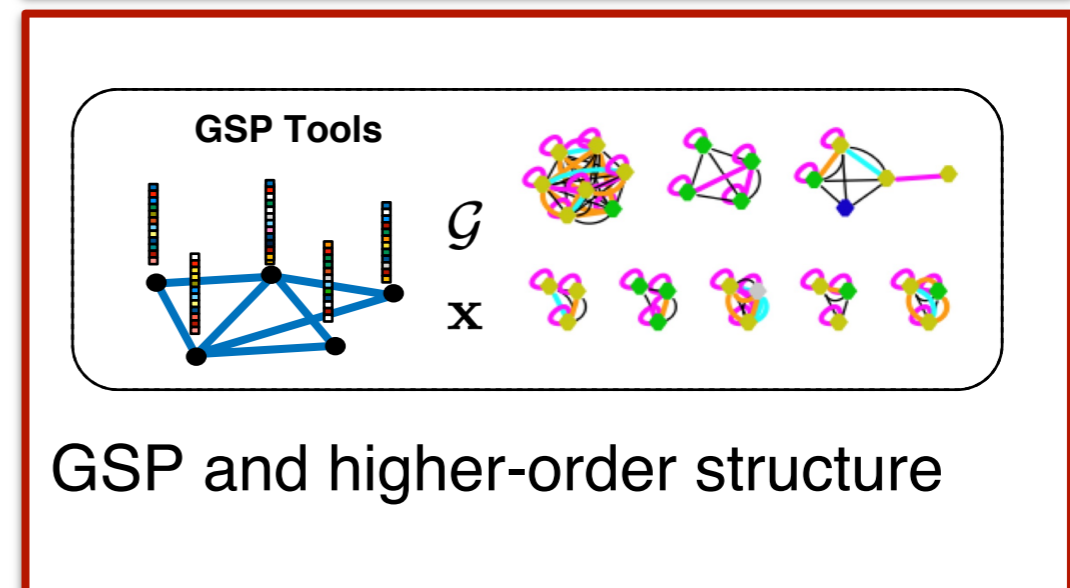
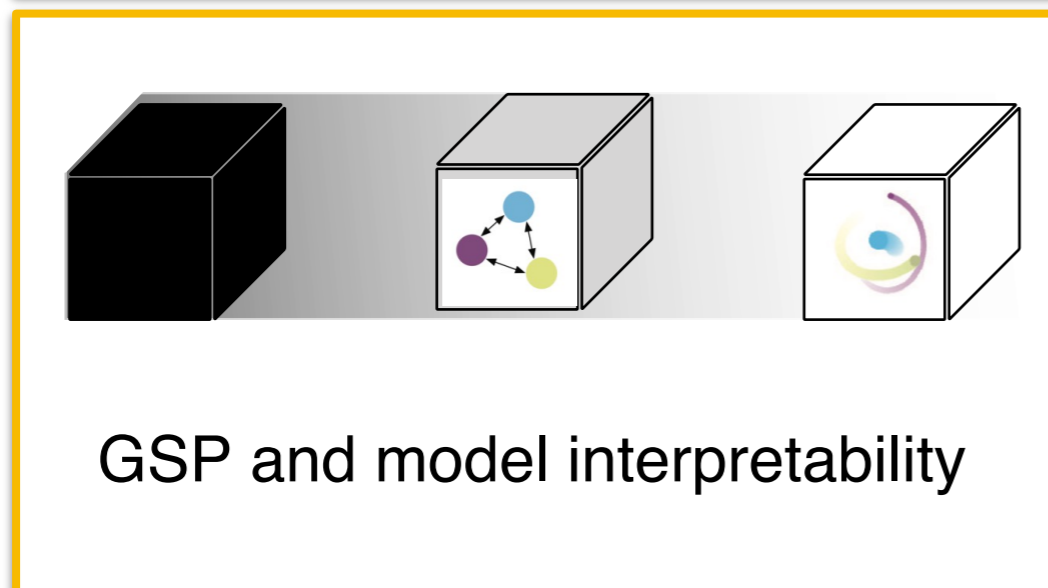
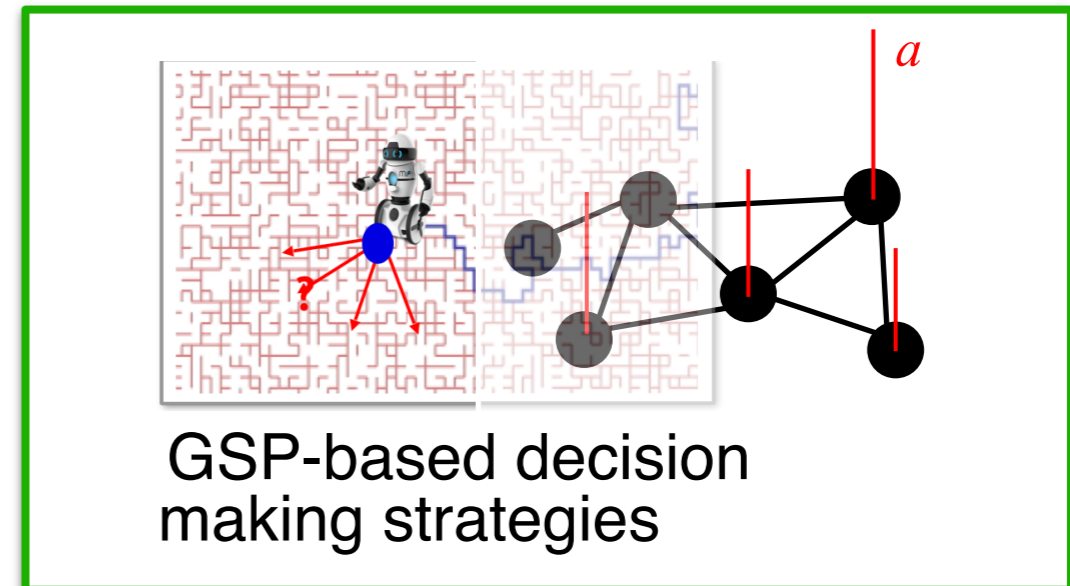
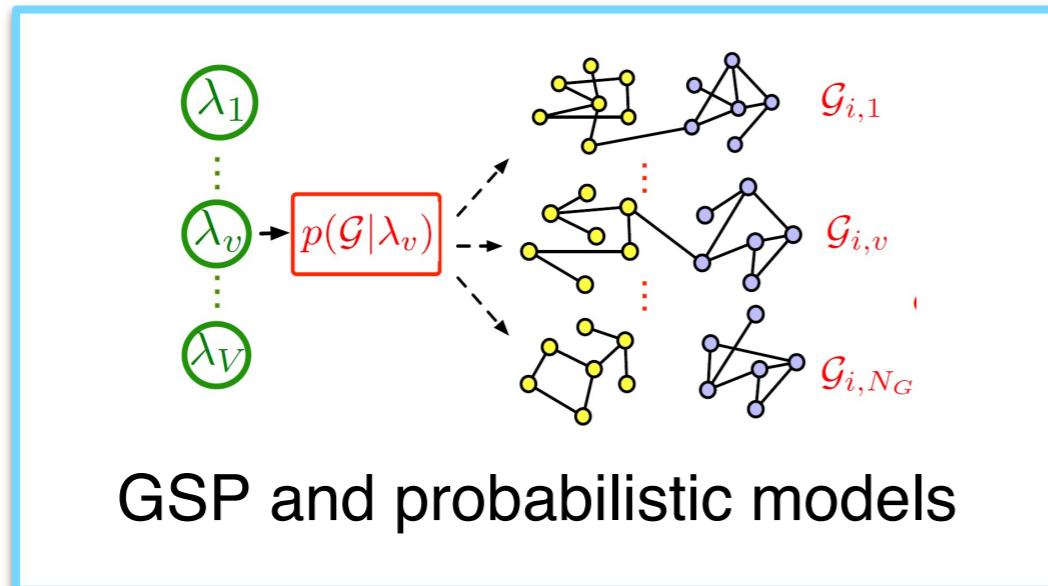
- Translation invariance
- Non-locality properties
- Robustness to noise
- Sampling for computation efficiency



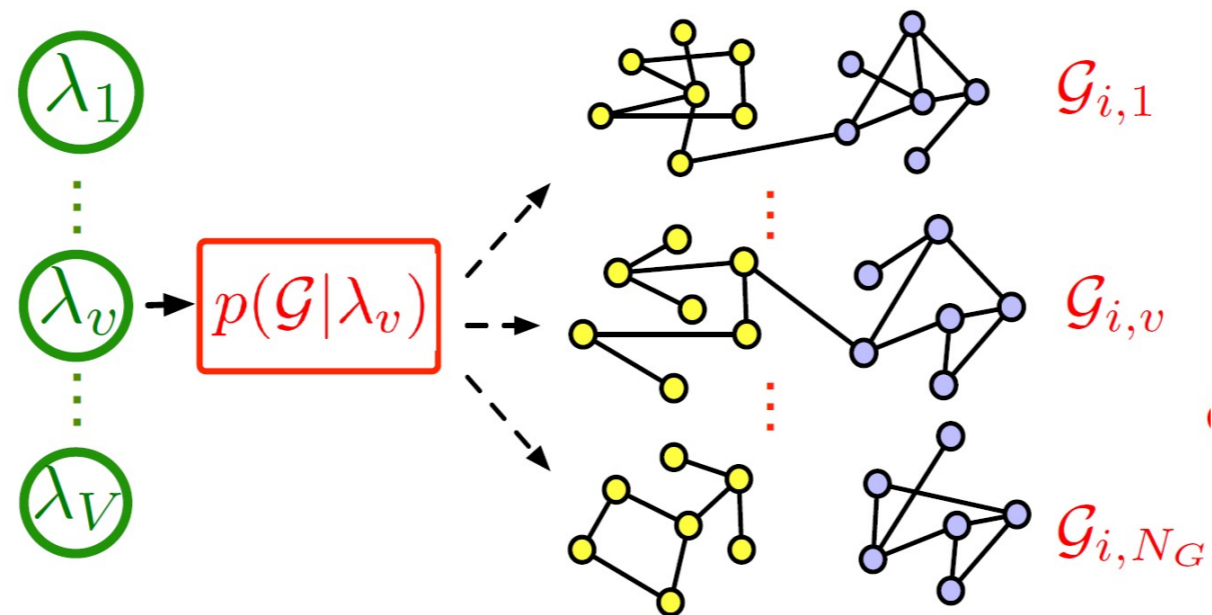
# Outline

- Brief introduction to graph signal processing (GSP)
- Challenge I: GSP for exploiting data structure
- Challenge II: GSP for improving efficiency and robustness
- Challenge III: GSP for enhancing model interpretability
- Applications
- Summary, open challenges, and new perspectives

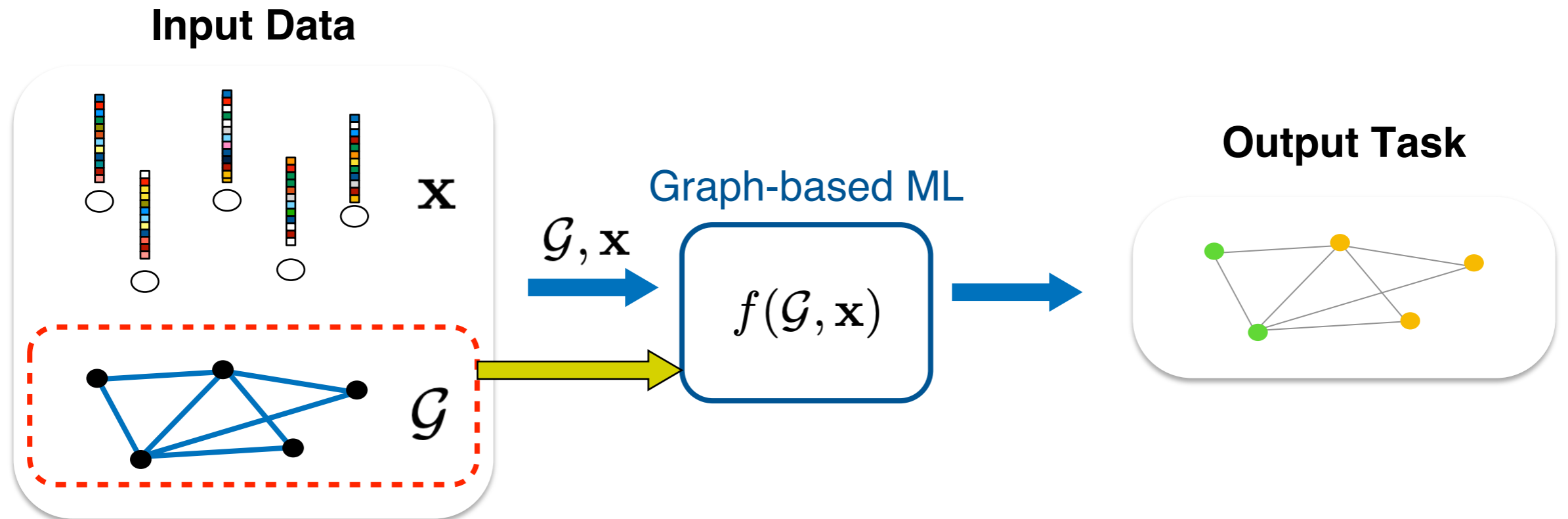
# Open Challenges



# GSP and Probabilistic Models



# GSP and Probabilistic Models



- Most works assume graph is known a priori or fixed (deterministic setting)
- Real world networks are noisy and/or evolving over time

**Challenge I:** To take into account the topology uncertainty in graph-based machine learning tasks

# Topological uncertainty in GSP: Modelling

**Challenge I:** To take into account topological uncertainty in graph-based SP and ML tasks

- How do we model topological noise?
  - Random graph model for topological noise [1]

$$y = x + n, n \sim \mathcal{N}(\mu, \sigma^2) \xrightarrow{?} W = \boxed{A} + \boxed{E} \text{error matrix}$$

**ground truth adjacency matrix**

- What is the impact of the topological noise on filtering [1,2,3]?

[1] J. Miettinen, "Modelling Graph Errors: Towards Robust Graph Signal Processing", arXiv, 2020.

[2] E. Isufi, et al., "Filtering random graph processes over random time-varying graphs", IEEE TSP, 2017.

[3] E. Ceci, S. Barbarossa, "Graph Signal Processing in the Presence of Topology Uncertainties", IEEE TSP, 2020.

# Topological uncertainty in GSP: Robustness

**Challenge I:** To take into account topological uncertainty in graph-based SP and ML tasks

- How do we build algorithms resilient to noisy topologies?
  - [3] proposes a robust signal recovery algorithm, under assumption of small perturbation, that incorporates statistical knowledge about topology uncertainty
  - [4] robustifies LMS with respect to mismatches in the presumed graph topology
  - [5] presents a robust formulation for graph-filter identification from input-output observations

[3] E. Ceci, S. Barbarossa, "Graph Signal Processing in the Presence of Topology Uncertainties", IEEE TSP, 2020.

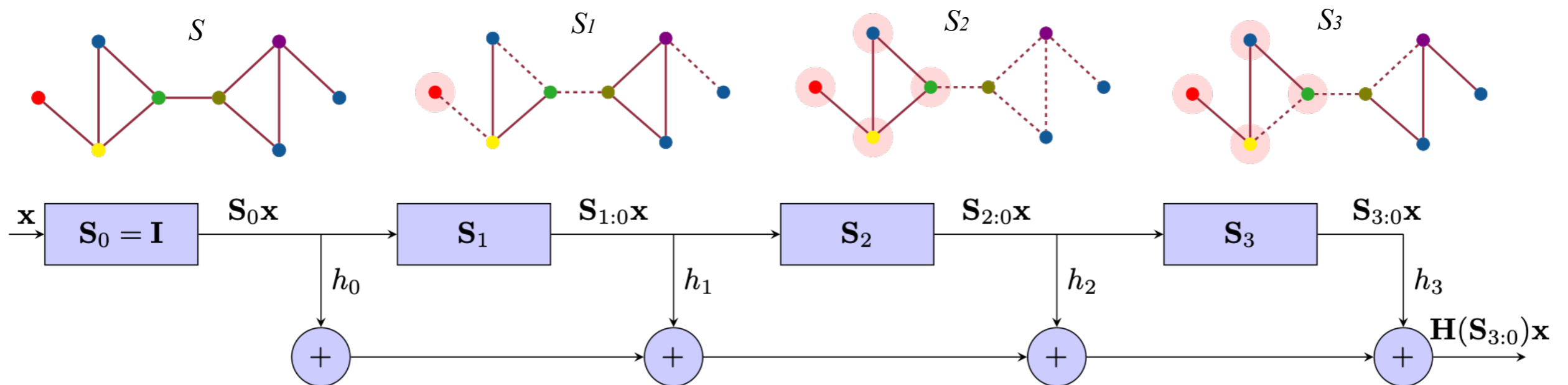
[4] J. Miettinen et al. "Robust Least Mean Squares Estimation of Graph Signals" ICASSP, 2019.

[5] S. Rey and A. G. Marques, "Robust graph-filter identification with graph denoising regularization," ICASSP, 2021.

# Topological uncertainty in graph ML

**Challenge I:** To take into account topological uncertainty in graph-based SP and ML tasks

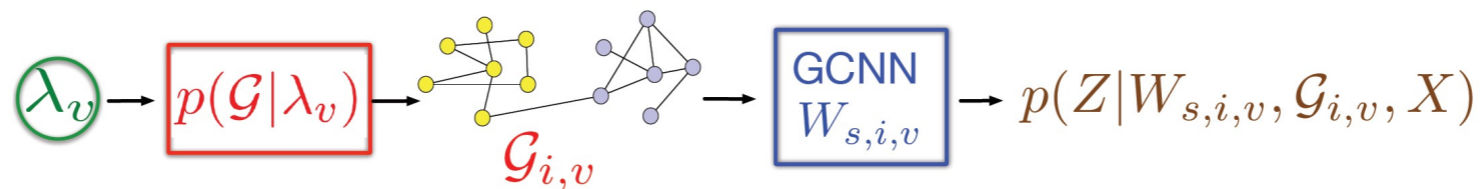
- How do we incorporating uncertainty into learning algorithms?
  - [6] proposes a GNN architecture where the distributed graph convolution module accounts for the random network changes



# Topological uncertainty in graph ML

**Challenge I:** To take into account topological uncertainty in graph-based SP and ML tasks

- How do we incorporating uncertainty into learning algorithms?
  - Bayesian approach: compute posterior associated with graph generative model so that new graph instances can be resampled [7,8]



$$p(\mathbf{Z}|\mathbf{Y}_{\mathcal{L}}, \mathbf{X}, \mathcal{G}_{obs}) = \int p(\mathbf{Z}|W, \mathcal{G}, \mathbf{X})p(W|\mathbf{Y}_{\mathcal{L}}, \mathbf{X}, \mathcal{G})p(\mathcal{G}|\lambda)p(\lambda|\mathcal{G}_{obs}) dW d\mathcal{G} d\lambda,$$
$$\approx \frac{1}{V} \sum_{v=1}^V \frac{1}{N_G S} \sum_{i=1}^{N_G} \sum_{s=1}^S p(\mathbf{Z}|W_{s,i,v}, \mathcal{G}_{i,v}, \mathbf{X}).$$

figure from <https://github.com/huawei-noah/BGCN>

[7] Y. Zhang, et al. "Bayesian graph convolutional neural networks for semi-supervised classification", AACL, 2019.

[8] Elinas et al. "Variational Inference for Graph Convolutional Networks in the Absence of Graph Data and Adversarial Settings", NeurIPS 2020.

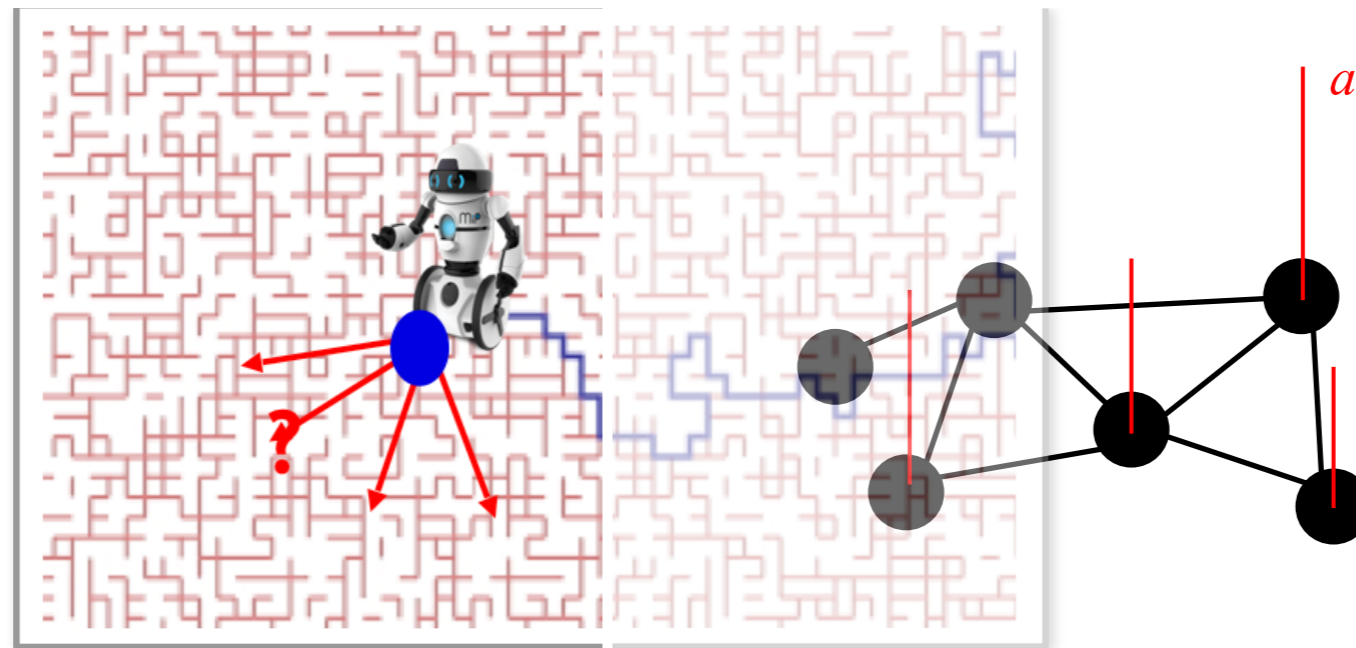


# Topological uncertainty in graph ML

**Challenge I:** To take into account topological uncertainty in graph-based SP and ML tasks

- How do we understand topological noise and its impact?
- How do we build algorithms resilient to noisy topologies?
- How do we incorporating uncertainty into learning algorithms?

# GSP-Based Decision Making Strategies



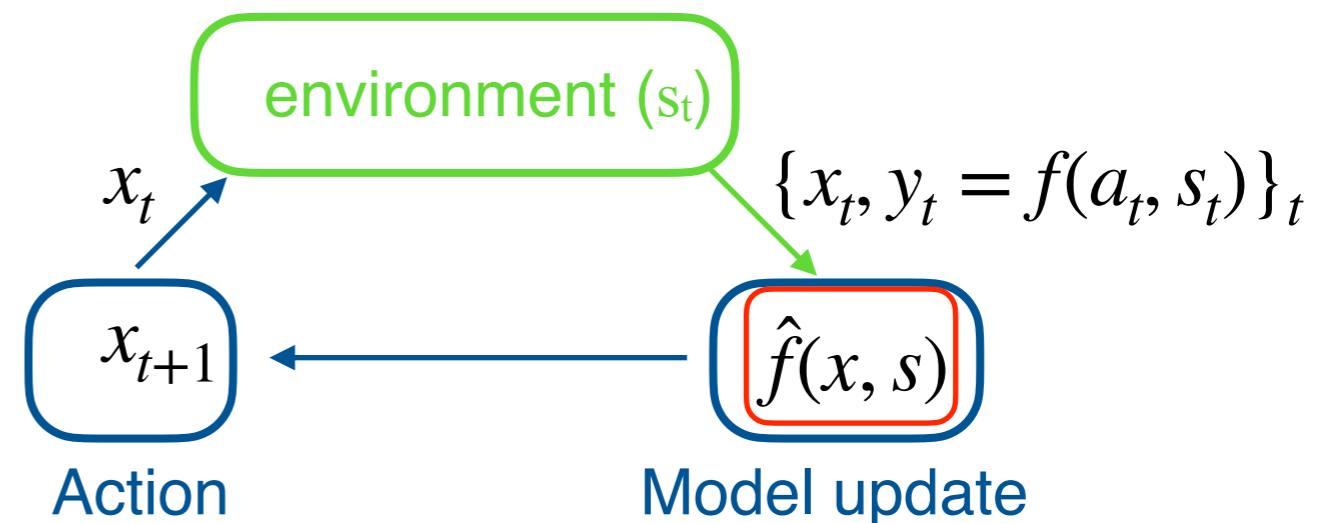
# GSP-Based Decision Making Strategies

## Supervised learning



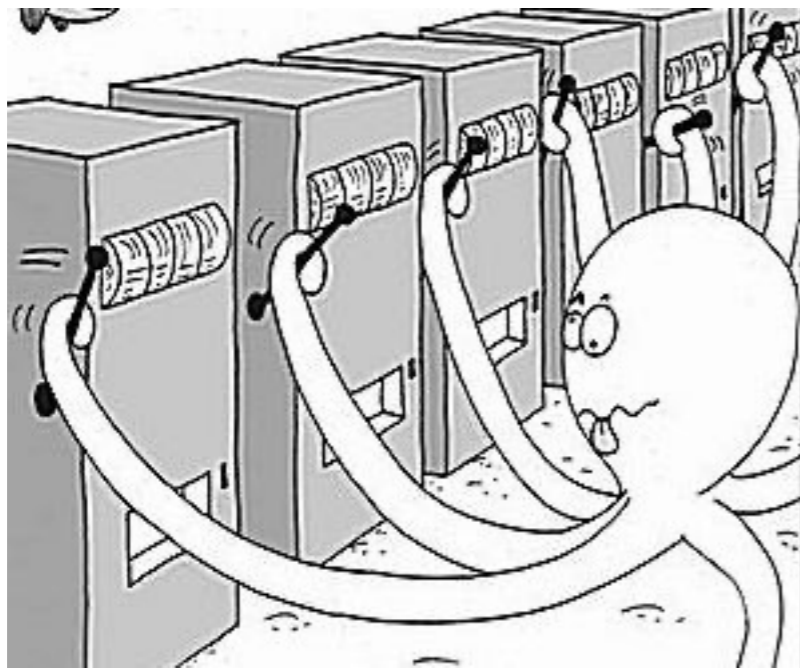
## Decision Making Strategies (DMSs)

- Reinforcement learning
- Multi-arm bandit problems

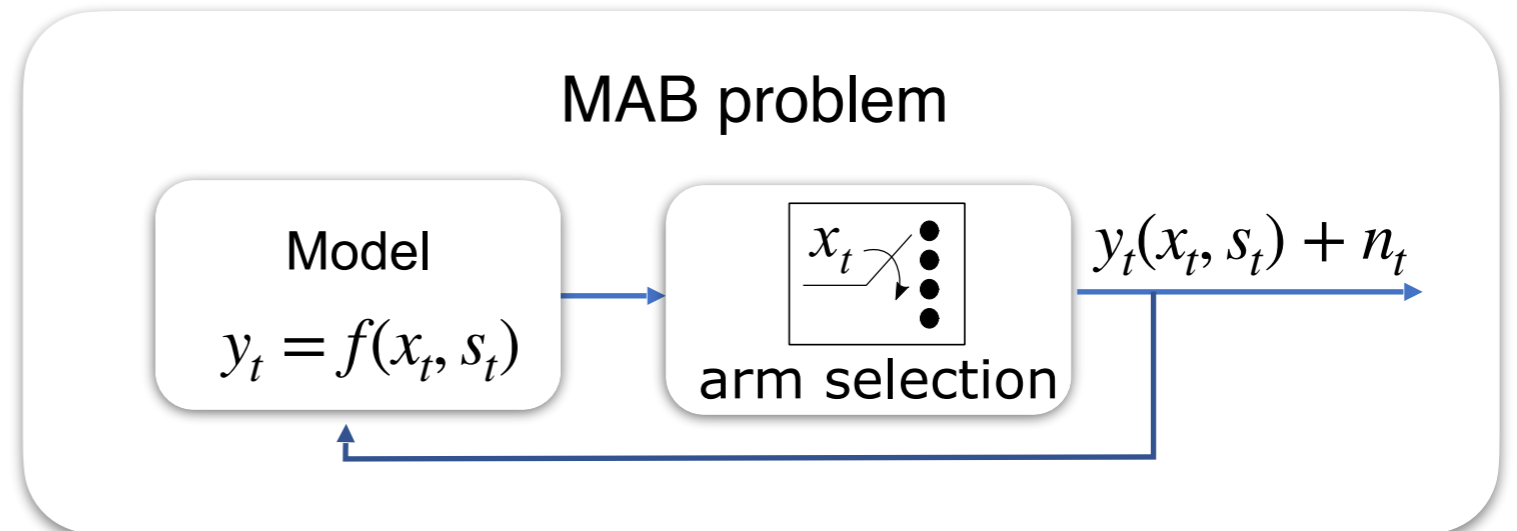


Optimize sequential actions in a way that maximizes the expected reward, when the environment's model is **uncertain a priori**

# GSP for Multi-Arm Bandit



<https://blogs.mathworks.com/images/loren/2016/multiarmedbandit.jpg>

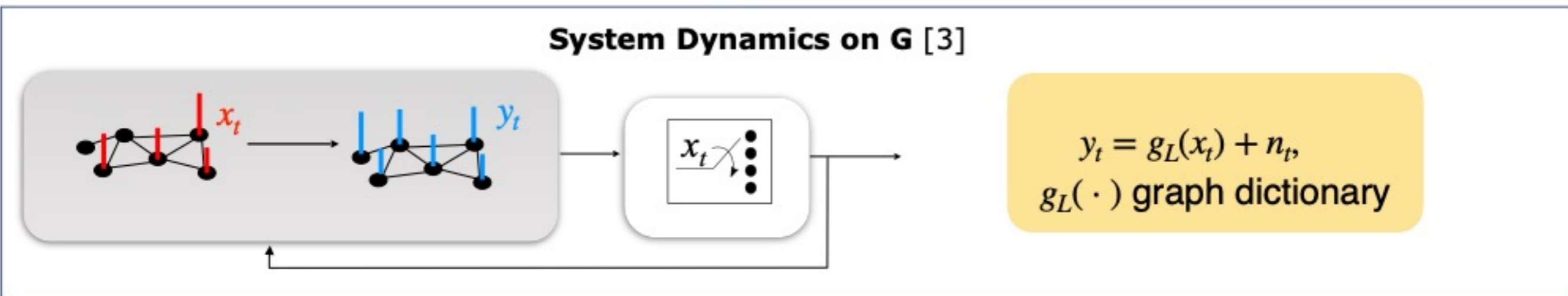
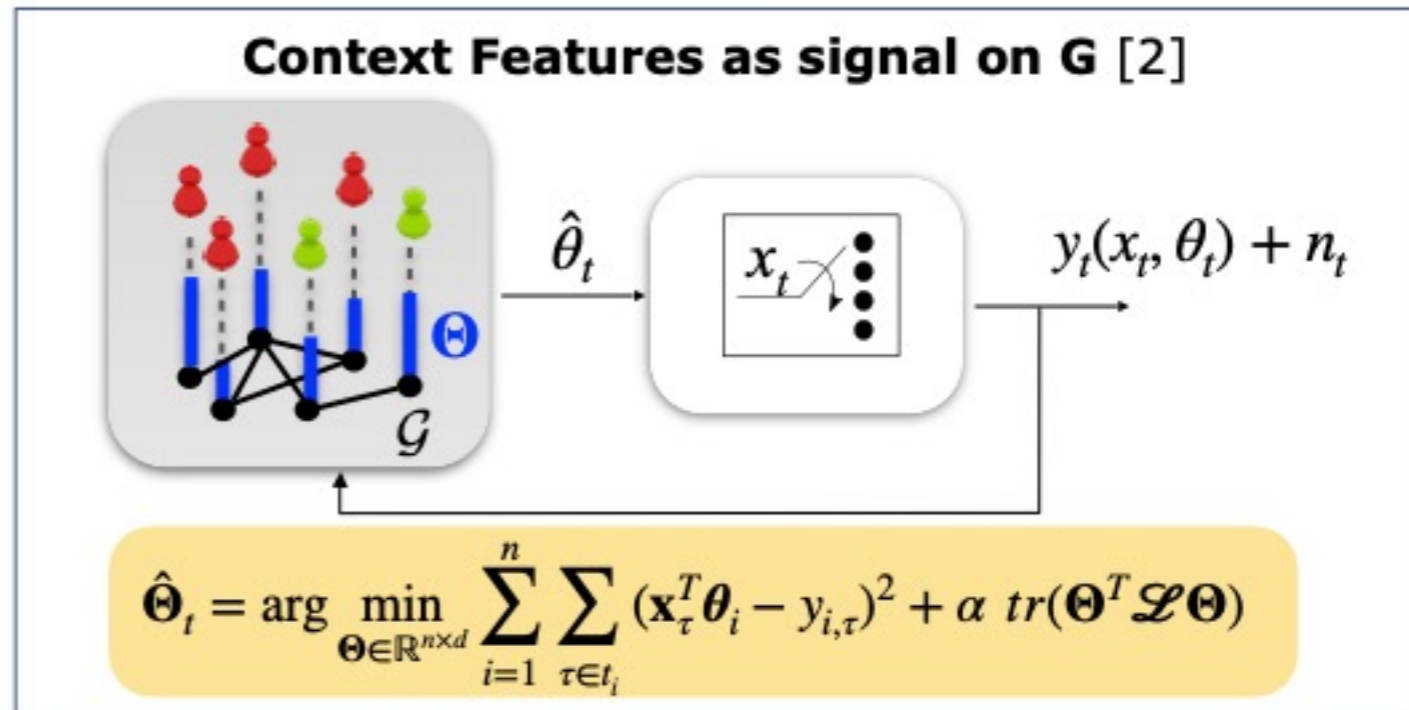
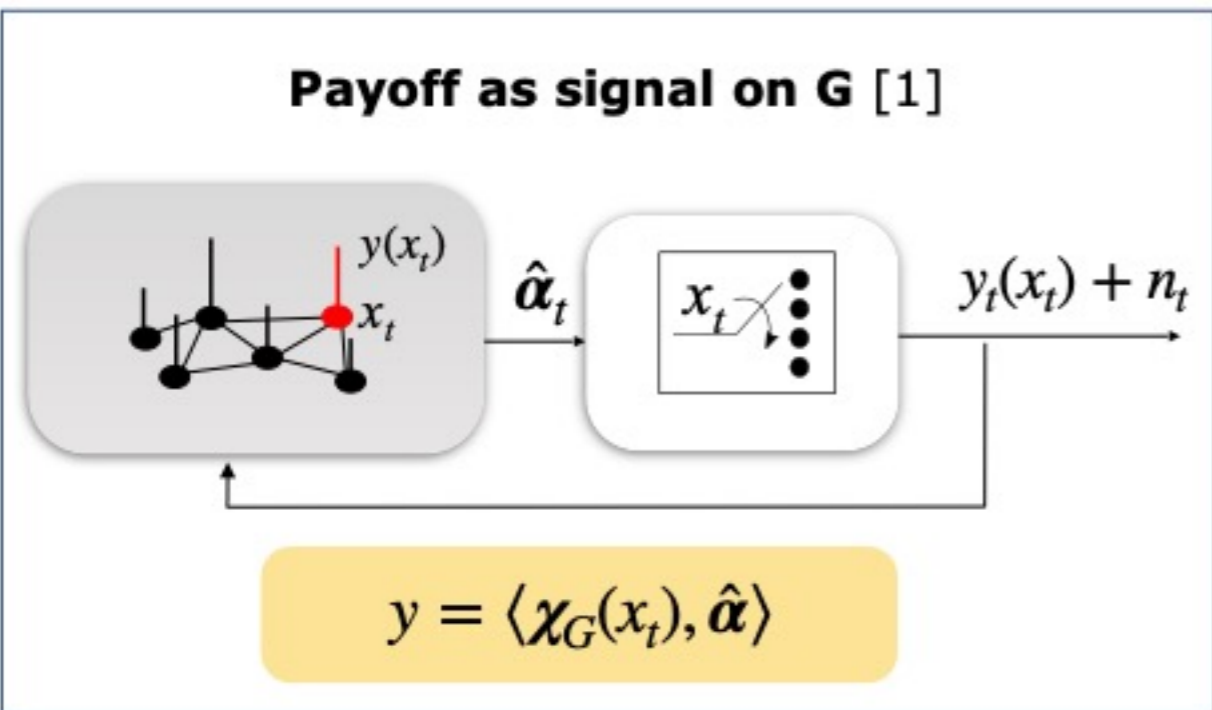
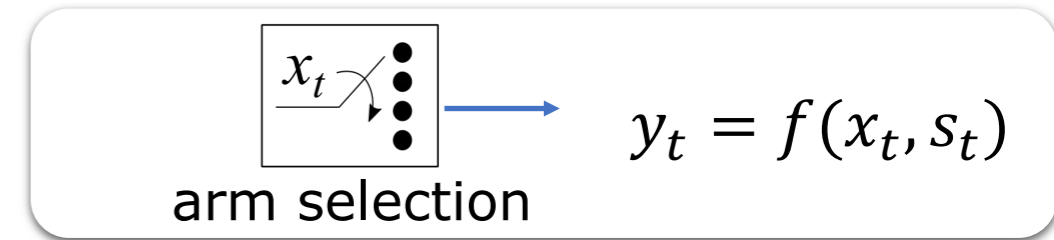


- $x_t$ : selected action
- $n_t$ : additive noise
- $y_t$ : mean payoff
- $s_t$ : context / user
- $f$ : **unknown** model

**High-dimensional search space ?**

Optimize sequential actions in a way that maximizes the expected reward, when the environment's model is **uncertain a priori**

# GSP for Multi-Arm Bandit

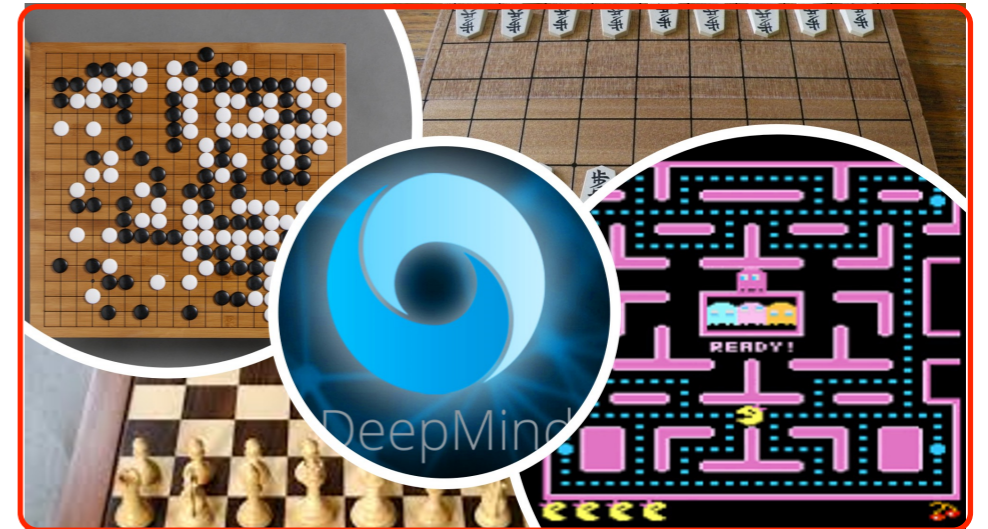
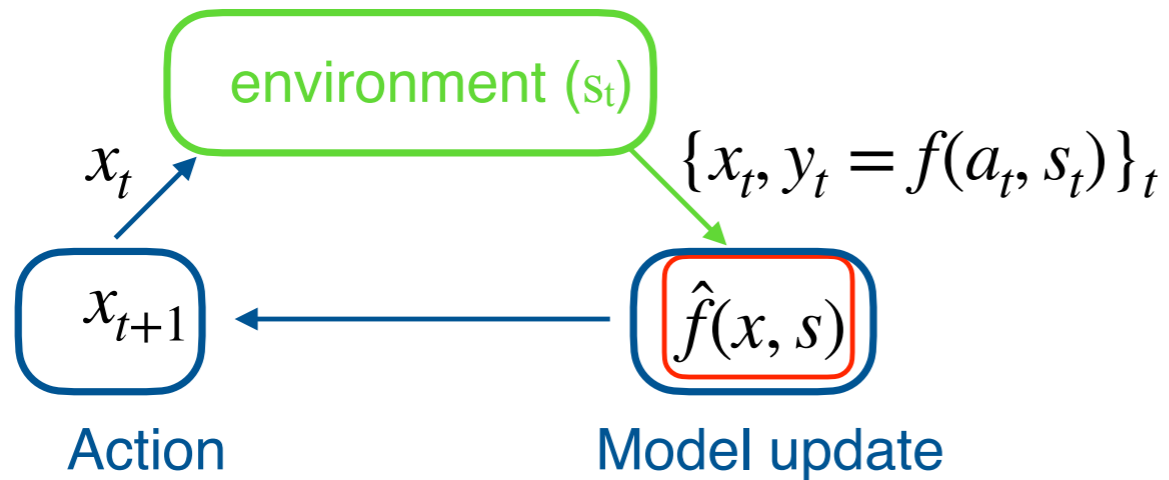


[1] M Valko et al. "Spectral bandits for smooth graph functions", ICML 2014.

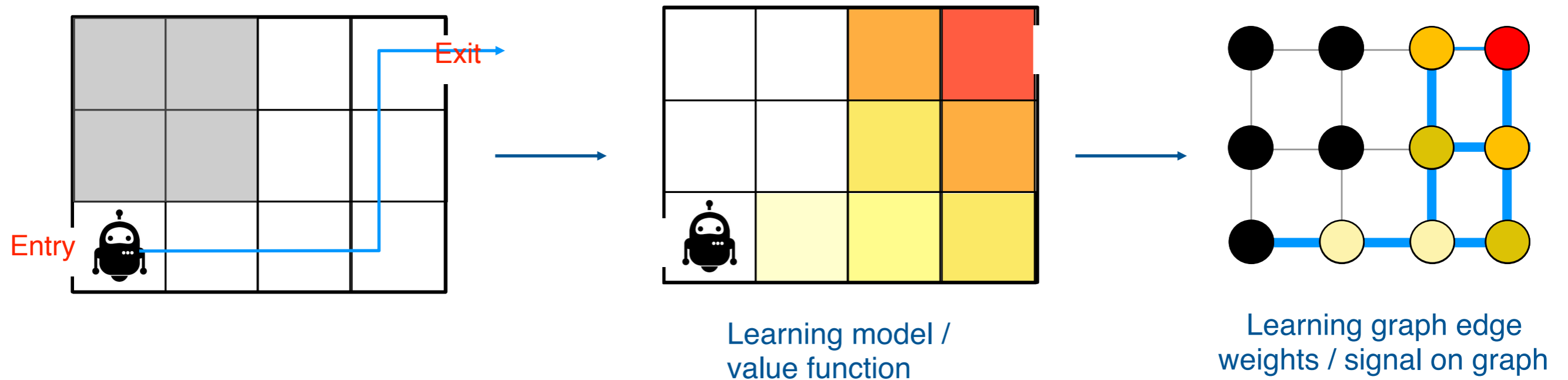
[2] K. Yang, "Laplacian-regularized graph bandits: Algorithms and theoretical analysis", AISTATS 2020

[3] L. Toni, "Spectral MAB for unknown graph processes", EUSIPCO, 2018

# GSP for RL



High-dimensional state-action space



# GSP-Based Decision Making Strategies

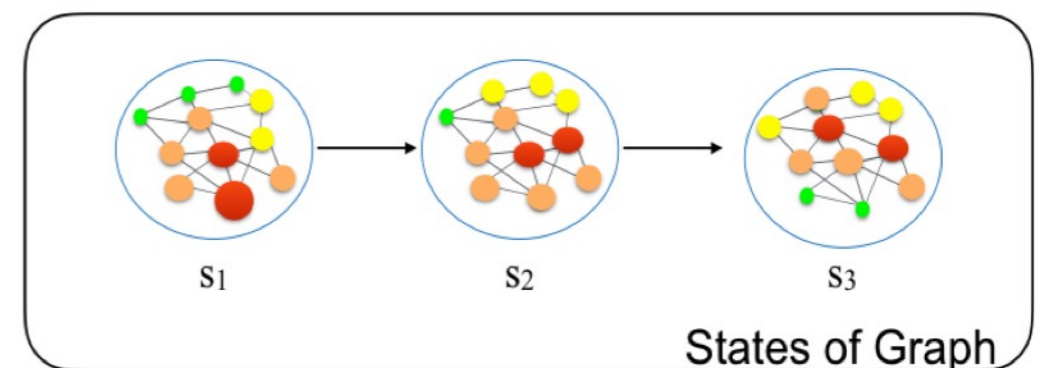
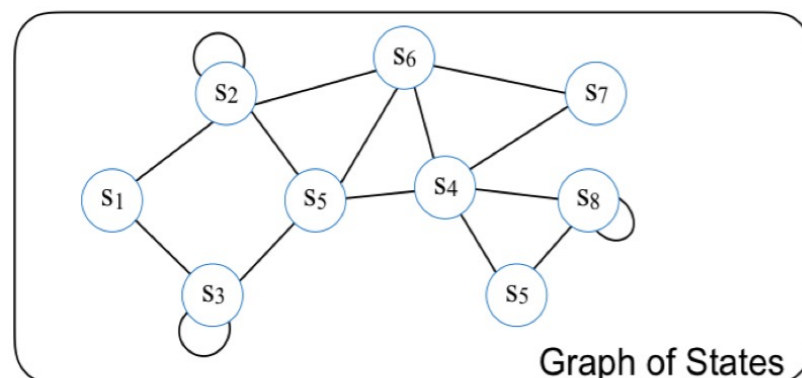
**Challenge II:** how can GSP tools be applied to DMSs to improve efficiency, complexity, and robustness?

- GSP to improve data efficiency by learning in the spectral domain or by regularising on  $G$  — bandit and RL
  - Graph is not usually inferred (Topological inference)
  - Graph uncertainty is not considered (Topological uncertainty)
  - GSP-based analysis for further guarantees (Graph-based Regret bounds)

# GSP-Based Decision Making Strategies

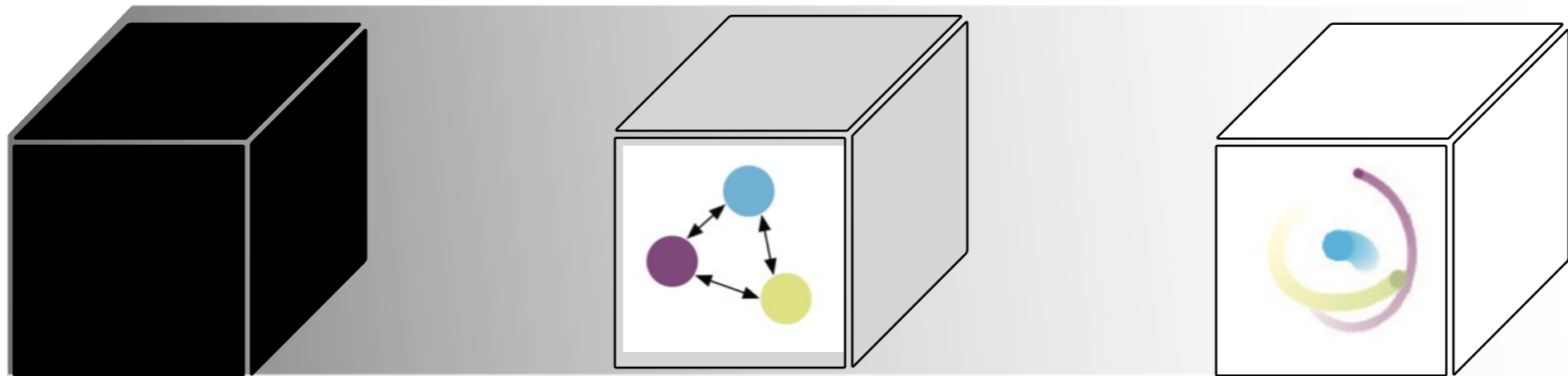
**Challenge II:** how can GSP tools be applied to DMSs to improve efficiency, complexity, and robustness?

- GSP to improve data efficiency by learning in the spectral domain or by regularising on  $G$  — bandit and RL
- GSP to improve accuracy/robustness
- GSP to improve computational efficiency
- GSP to model system dynamics





# GSP and Model Interpretability



# GSP and Model Interpretability

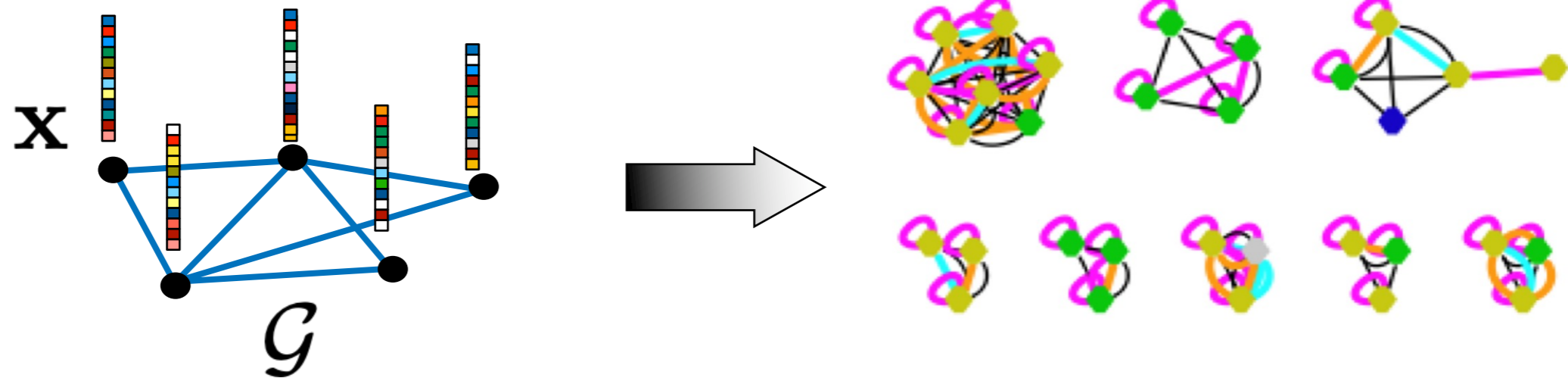
**Challenge III:** how can GSP tools help enhance interpretability of machine learning models?

- Modelling the structure of the data with a graph could be a way of introducing domain knowledge (e.g., physical interactions)



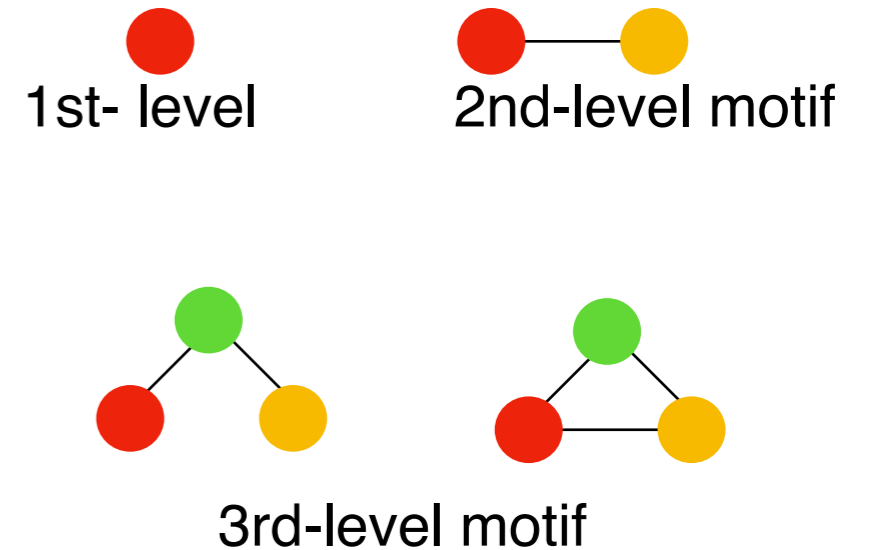
- Graph filters may be designed (via e.g., anisotropic filters or adapting attention mechanisms) to enhance model interpretability

# GSP and Higher-Order Structure

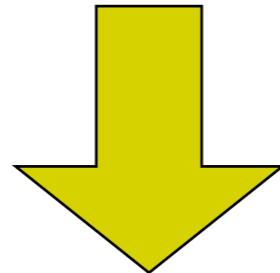


# GSP and High-order Structure

- Graphs capture pairwise (lower-order) relationship between nodes
- Higher-order structures play a key role in understanding the fundamental structures that control the behaviour of many complex systems



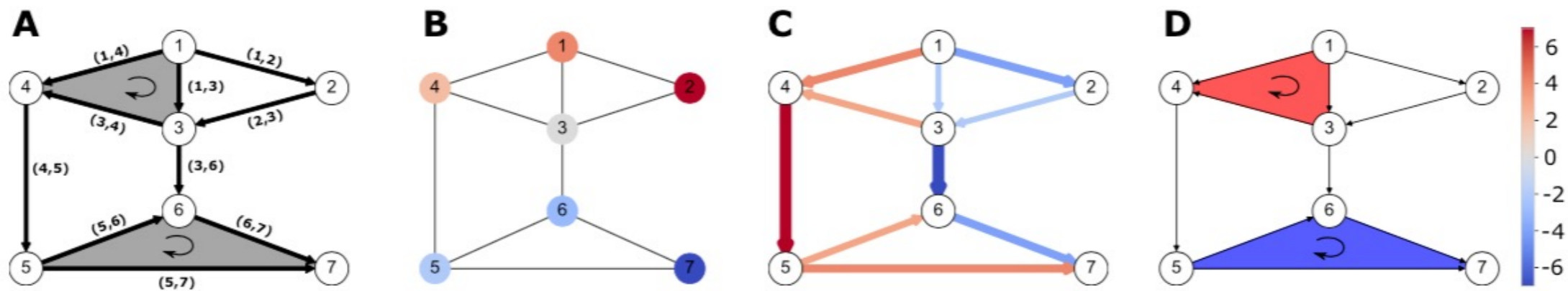
- Motifs have been used to design GNN models that are capable of handling directed graphs



**Challenge IV:** to extend GSP tools to higher-order structures, such as motifs, simplicial complexes, and hypergraphs

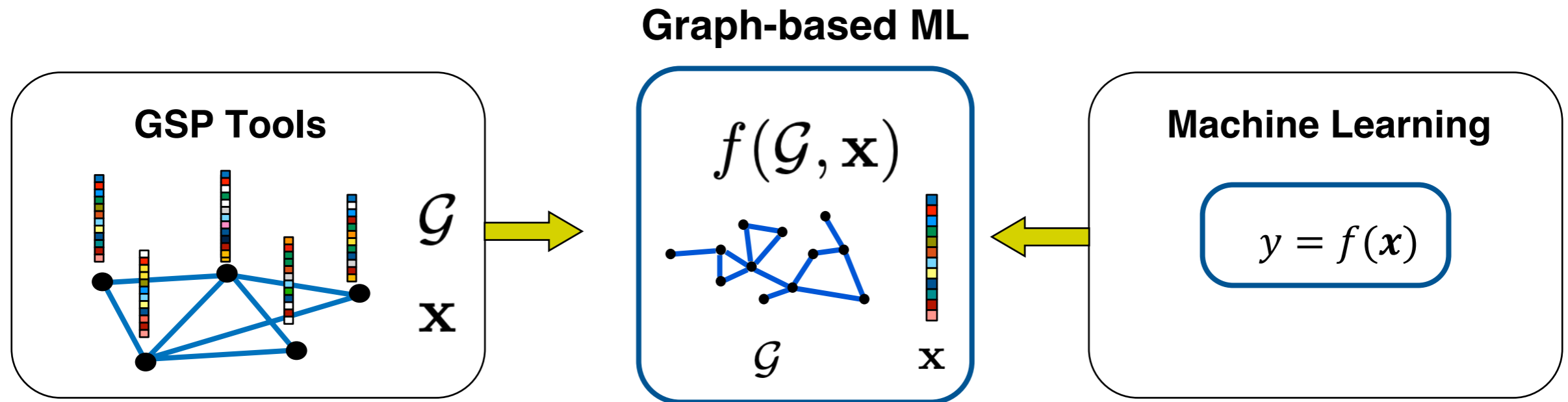
# GSP and Higher-order Structure

**Challenge IV:** to extend GSP tools to higher-order structures, such as motifs, simplicial complexes, and hypergraphs



Signals on simplicial complexes of different order

# Conclusions



- enable convolution & hierarchical modelling on graphs
- improve efficiency & robustness of (graph-based) ML models
- interpret data structure & learning models on graphs

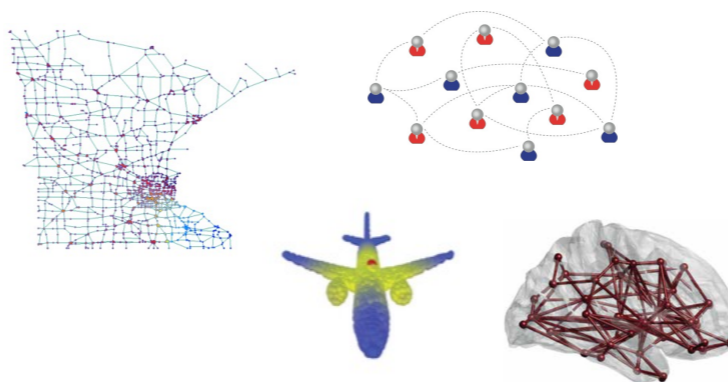
# Conclusions

GSP Tools Benefits	Graph-based regularisation	Graph filters & transforms	GSP-related learning models
<b>Exploiting Data Structure</b>	GP & kernels on graphs	multiscale clustering	CNNs on graphs
<b>Improve efficiency &amp; robustness on graphs</b>	multi-task learning	spectral clustering	few-shot learning
<b>Interpret data structure &amp; learning models on graphs</b>	interpreting DNNs	topology inference	attention models

## Tasks

- Node / graph classification
- Community Detection
- Topology inference
- Dynamic Inference
- Online learning

## Applications



## Open Challenges and Perspectives

- Probabilistic models
- Decision Making Strategies
- Model interpretability
- Higher-order structures

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Thank you!

