



# Roles Analytics in Networks

## Foundations, Methods and Applications

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# Outline

- What is and Why Role Analytics?
- Equivalence Relations
- Taxonomy of Role Analytics Methods
- Role-oriented Network Embedding
- Challenges and Outlook

# Outline

- **What is and Why Role Analytics?**
- Equivalence Relations
- Taxonomy of Role Analytics Methods
- Role-oriented Network Embedding
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# What Roles Are

Role [Cambridge Dictionary]

- 1) the position or purpose that someone or something has a situation, organization, society, or relationship
- 2) the duty or use that someone or something usually has or is expected to have
- 3) an actor's part in a film or play

Different notions of roles in computer science:  
semantic roles, social roles, structural roles, etc.





# Semantic Roles (linguistics perspective)

also known as thematic relations, are the various roles that a noun phrase may play with respect to **the action** or **state** described by a governing verb, i.e the sentence's main verb.

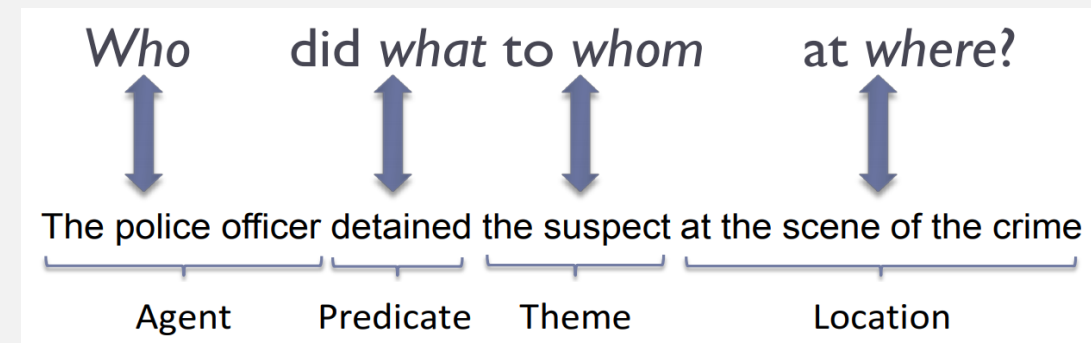
For example,

“The police officer detained the suspect  
at the scene of the crime”,

- *The police officer* is the doer of detaining – an agent;
- *the suspect* is the people that is detained – a theme.

Common roles include

- Agent, Experiencer, Stimulus, Theme, Patient, Location, Time, Beneficiary, etc.

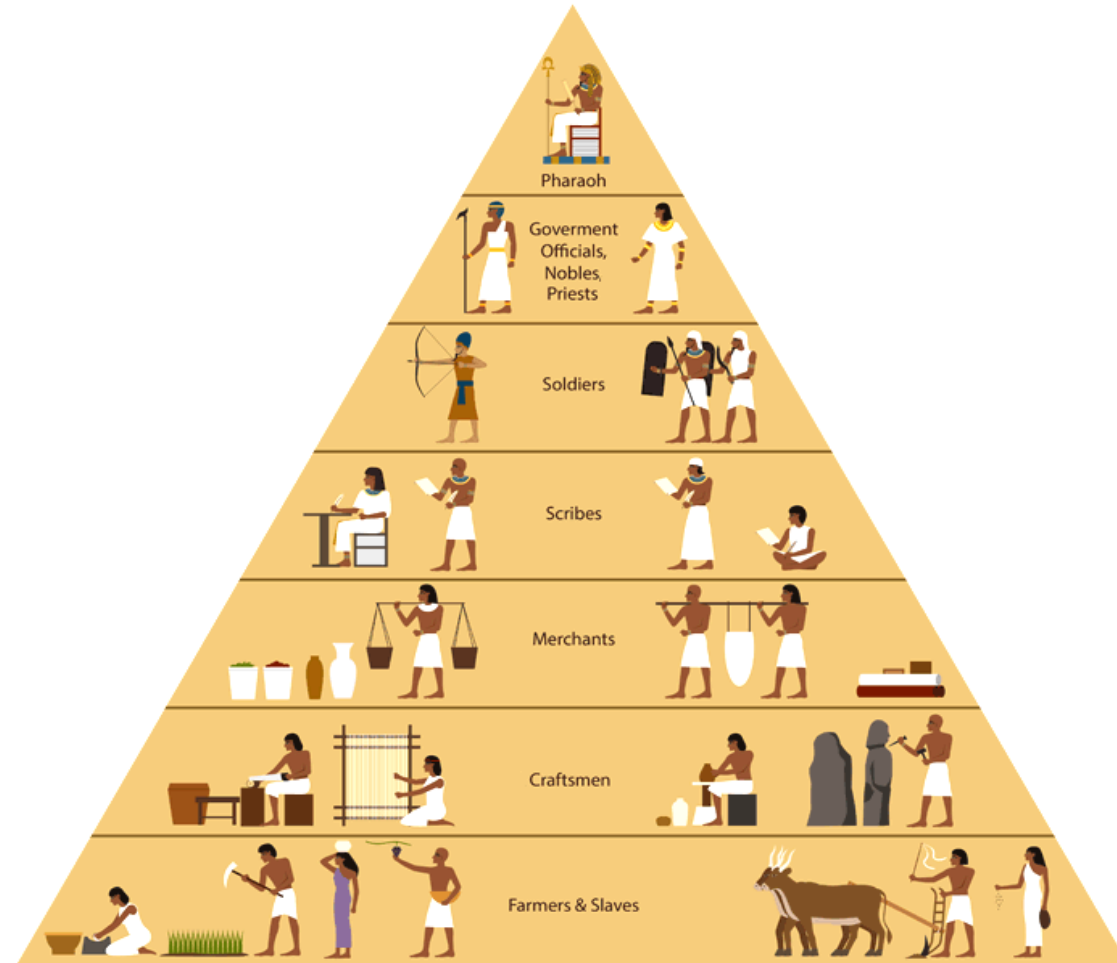


# Social Roles (sociology perspective)

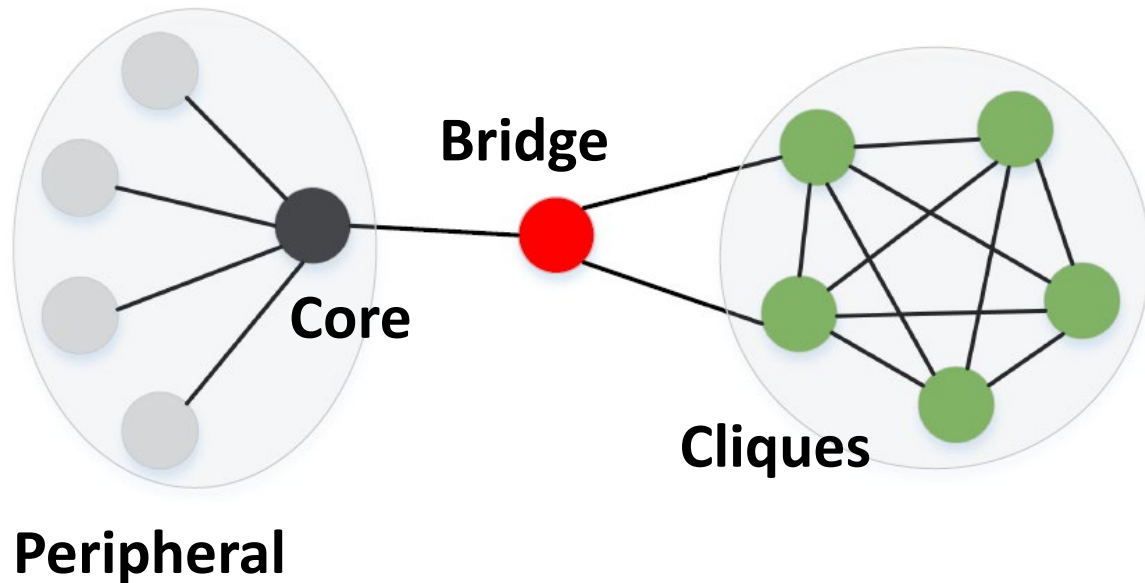
connected behaviors, rights, obligations, beliefs, and norms as conceptualized by people in a social situation

Role development can be influenced by different factors:

- Societal influence
- Genetic predisposition
- Cultural influence
- Situational influence



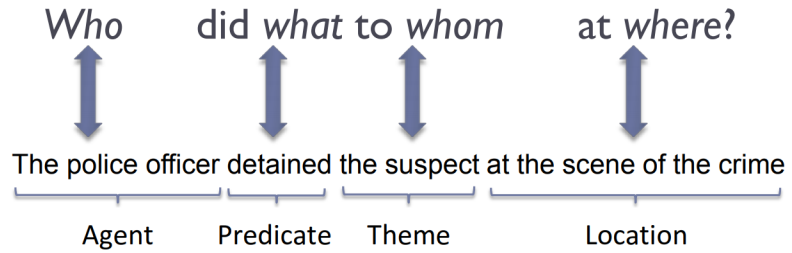
# Structural Roles (network perspective)



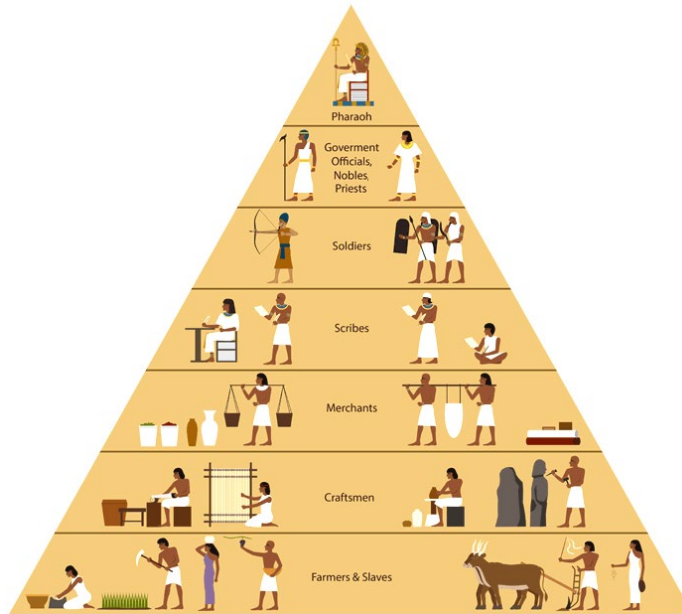
- capture functions that nodes play in a network through node-level connectivity patterns such as core, peripheral, cliques and bridges, e.g.
- **Bridges** connect multiple communities and could be useful on maximizing the spread of influence over communities
- **Cliques** are the nodes who connect to each other inside a community

# Target in This Tutorial

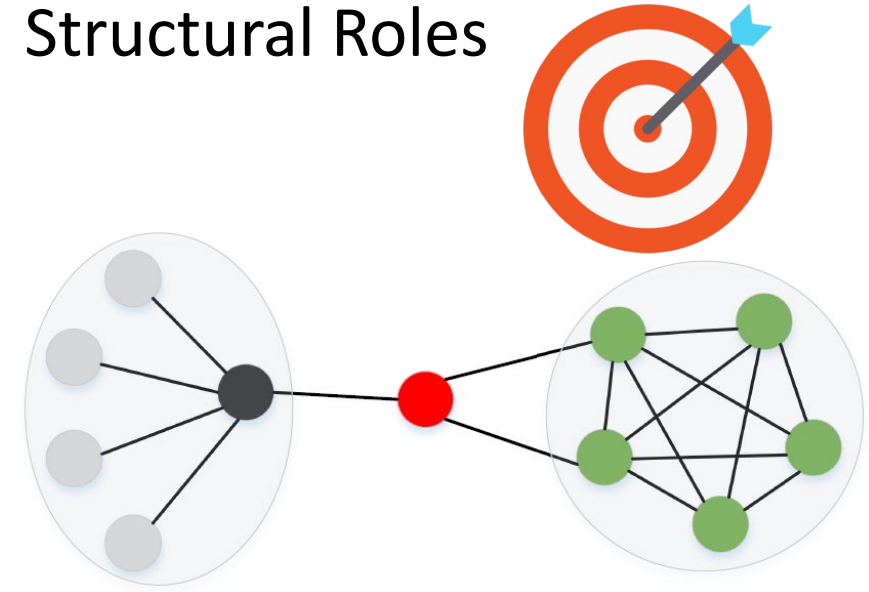
## Semantic Roles



## Social Roles



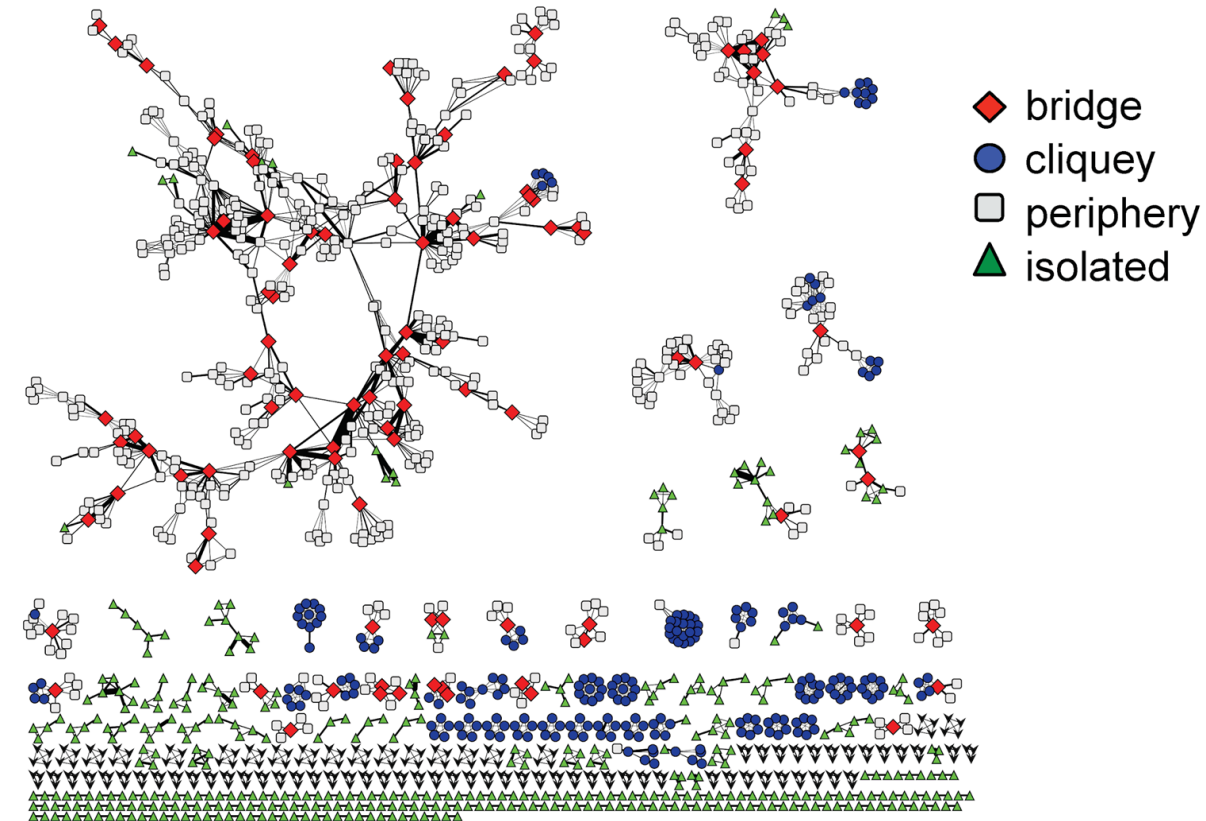
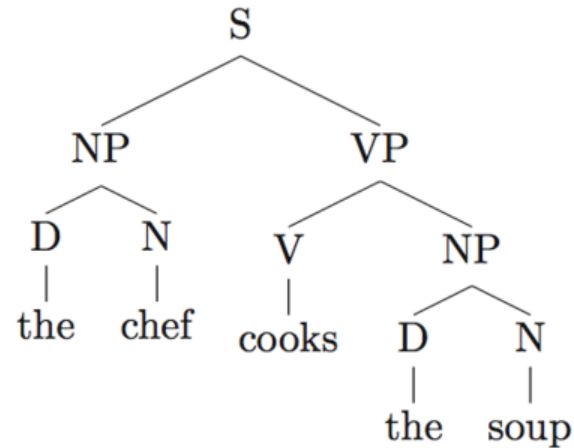
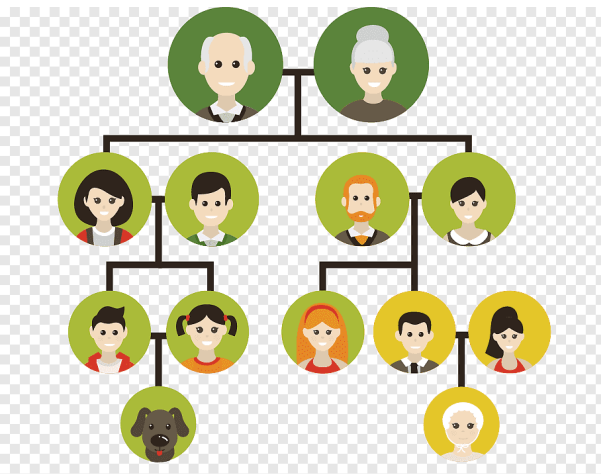
## Structural Roles



# Roles in Networks

Roles represent node-level connectivity patterns, e.g., bridge, cliquey, isolated.

Structural roles can also reflect other types of roles

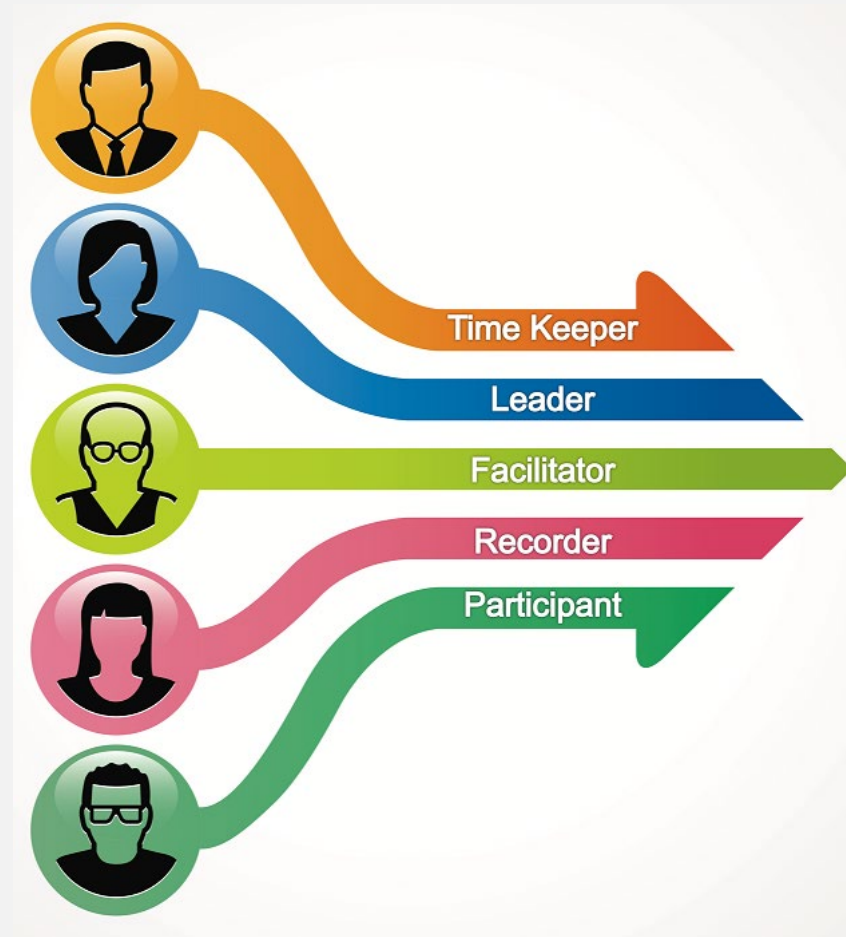


# What is Role Analytics in Networks?

Role analytics is about identifying the roles that different nodes play in the network of interest.

We need to define what roles are

- similar in structural features
- equivalent in some relation
- labeled data
- prior knowledge



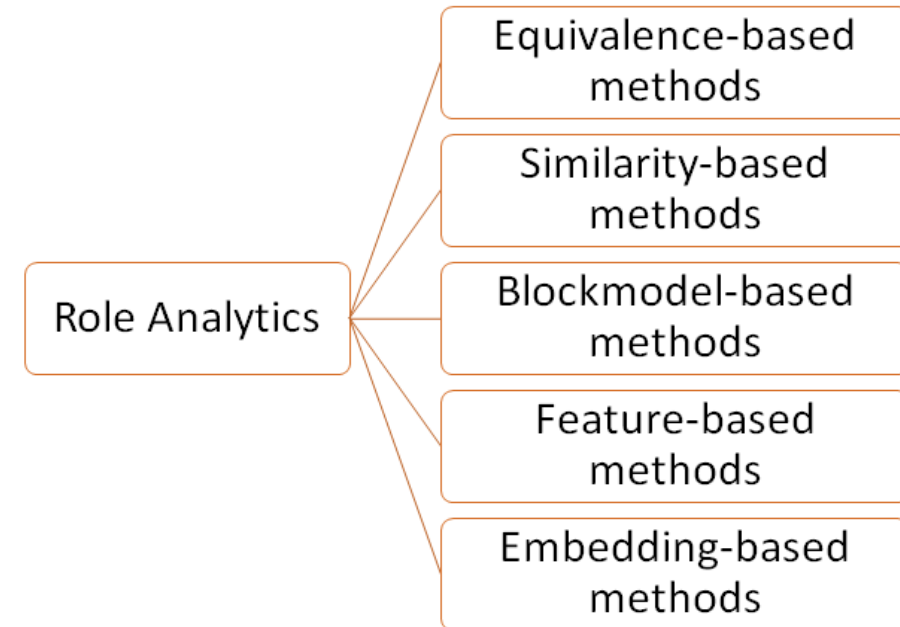
# Role Analytics Methods

Role analytics can be solved using:

- Node classification (if labeled data is available)
- Node clustering (with role theories and/or representative features)

Classification and clustering techniques can be applied in role analytics if they

- follow certain role theories, e.g., equivalence relations; or
- capture features which are representative in distinguishing different roles.



# Problem Formulation

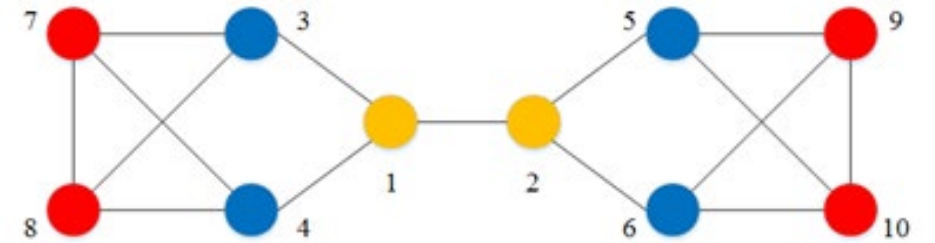
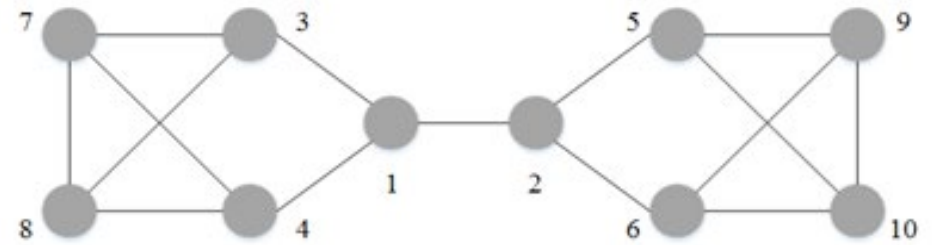
## Input

A graph  $G=\{V, E\}$  where  $V$  is the set of nodes and  $E$  is the set of edges.

Other types of graphs, e.g., temporal, attributed Signed, heterogeneous networks.

## Output

- Discovery: 1) assignment of role of each node in  $G$  and 2) groups of nodes where each group contains nodes belonging to the same role.
- Analysis: 1) interpretation of each role and/or 2) transition of roles in temporal/dynamic networks





# Why Role Analytics in Networks?

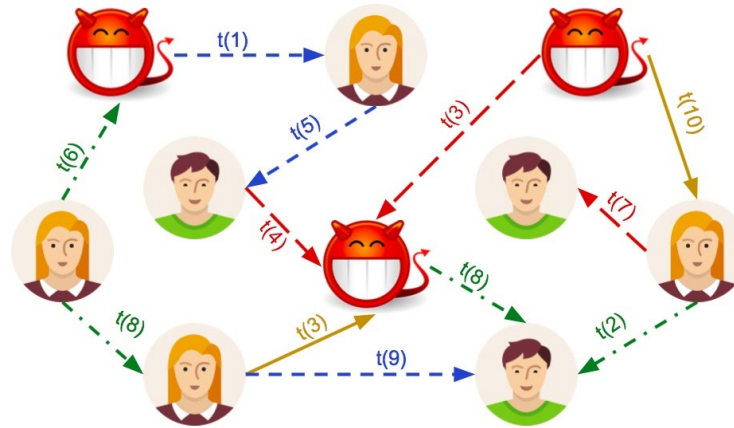
- Social science: how to identify and understand the **social positions** of individuals from social networks which consist of cyber or physical social interactions
- Network science: how to study the **structural representations** of complex networks, e.g. social or biological networks
- Graph mining in computer science: how to **group nodes into clusters** where nodes inside a cluster share similar structural information



# Applications of Role Analytics



Hub in  
transportation networks

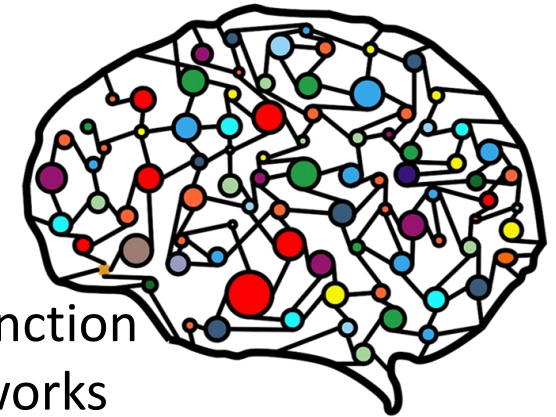


Spammer in social networks  
[Fakhraei et al., KDD 2015]



Opinion leader and  
information spread in  
social networks

[https://all-free-download.com/free-vector/download/social-network-concept-human-icons-connected-in-circle\\_6826089.html](https://all-free-download.com/free-vector/download/social-network-concept-human-icons-connected-in-circle_6826089.html)



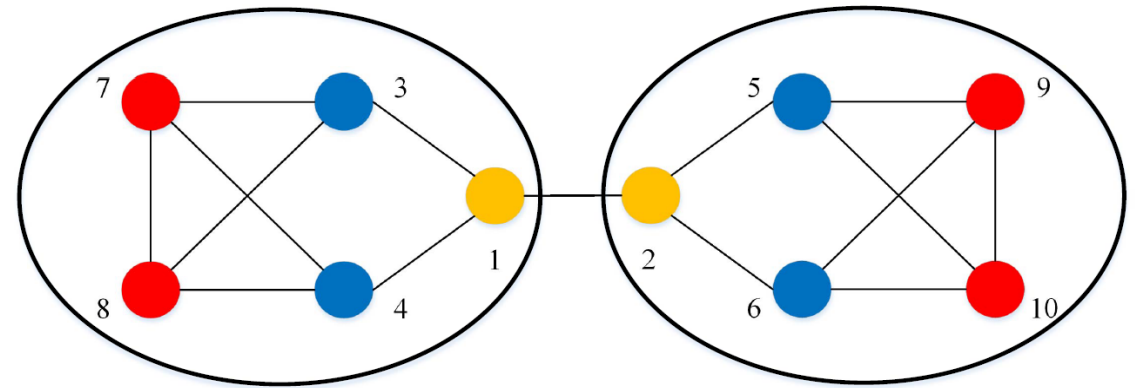
Structural function  
in brain networks

<https://neurosciencenews.com/brain-network-structure-14435/>

# Roles VS Communities

## Roles VS Communities:

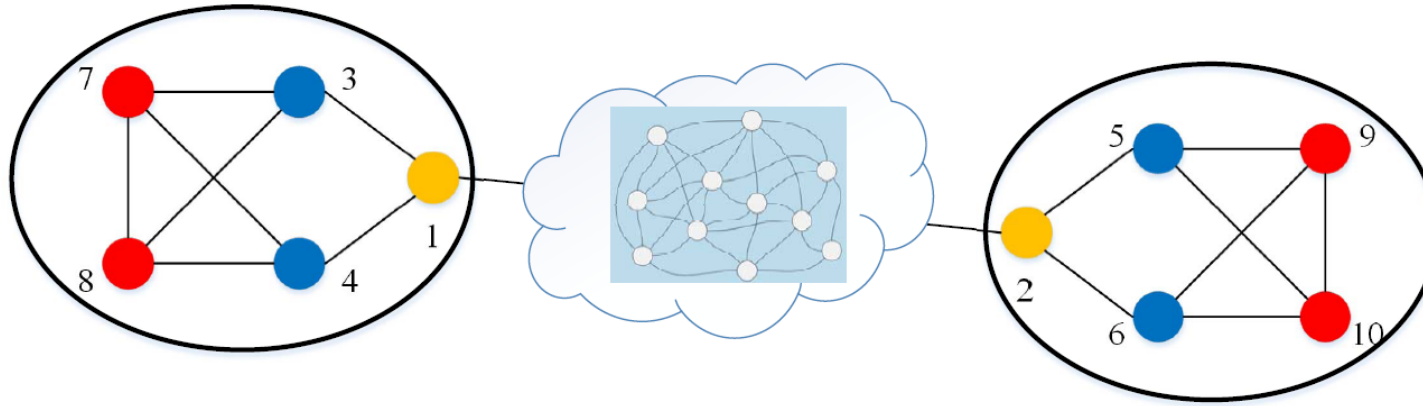
- Roles shown in different colors
  - E.g., yellow nodes are bridges
- Communities shown inside the ellipses
  - Denser internal connections inside each community



**Global structure.** It reflects the topological properties of graphs through the *unbounded* observation of the input graph as an entirety

**Local structure.** It captures the topological properties of graphs by observing a *bounded* part of the input graph

# Roles VS Communities: Spatial Perspective



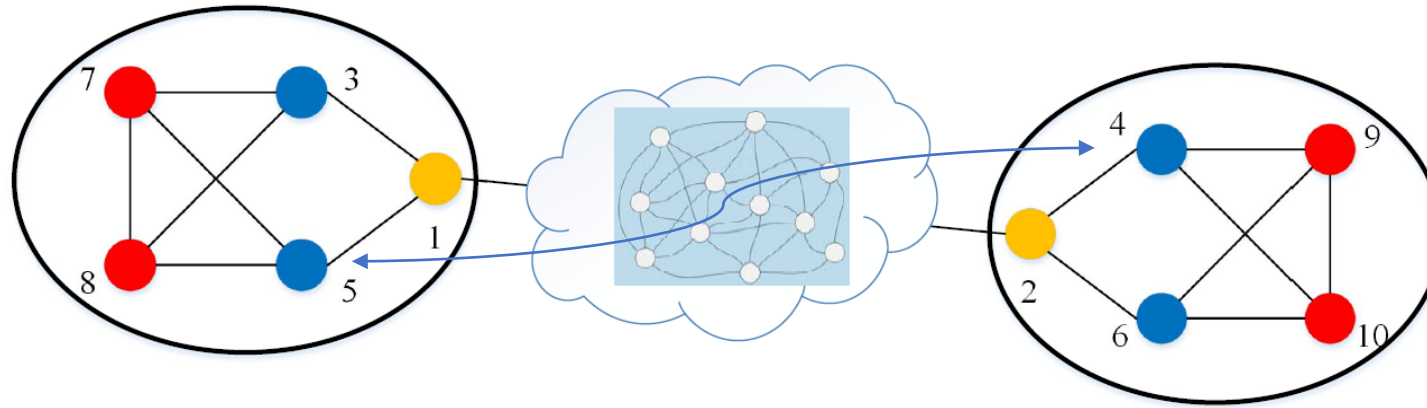
## Roles

- For role discovery, we need to have a *global view* of this graph.
- Node 1 and 2 may not be bridges after adding these nodes and edges between them

## Communities

- To detect each community, what we need to know is the *local structural information*.
- Detecting the left community does not require the information of the right community

# Roles VS Communities: Perturbation Perspective



## Roles

- Role of node 4 and 5 does not change because their global structural information stays the same.

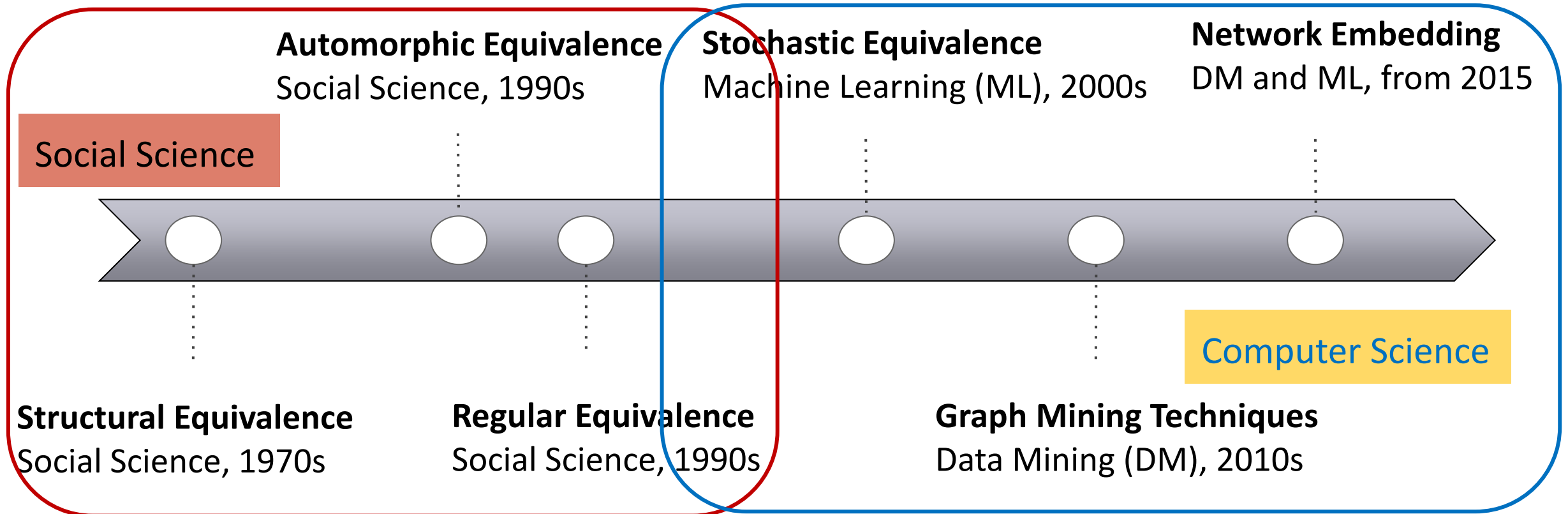
## Communities

- The communities of node 4 and 5 are changed, because their local structures are different. E.g., the neighbors of node 4 are different.

# Outline

- What is and Why Role Analytics?
- **Equivalence Relations**
- Taxonomy of Role Analytics Methods
- Role-oriented Network Embedding
- Challenges and Outlook

# Role Analytics Research Timeline

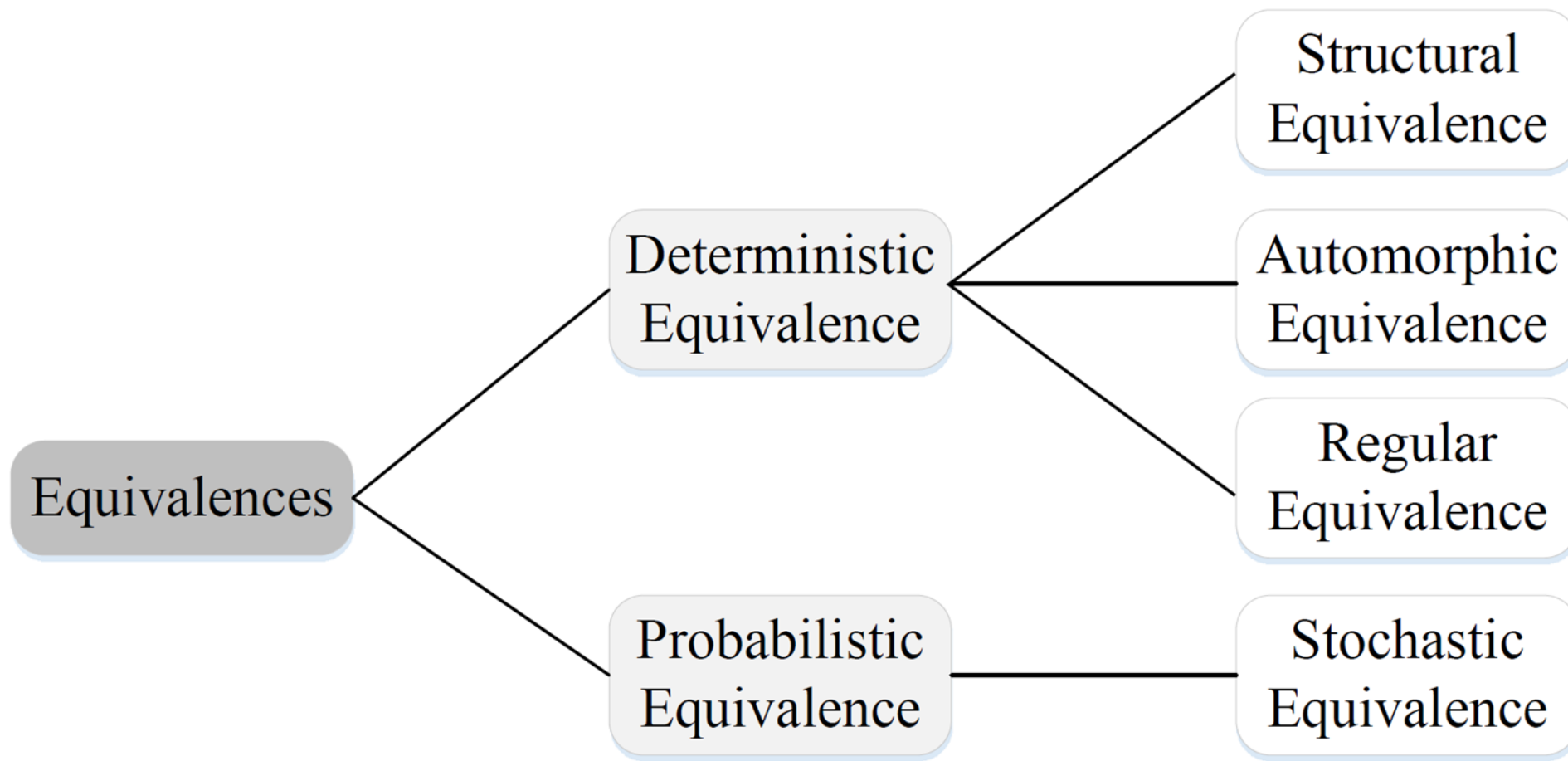


# Equivalence Relation

- Formally, an equivalence relation  $E$  is any relation that satisfies these three conditions:
  - *Transitivity*:  $(a,b), (b,c) \in E \Rightarrow (a,c) \in E$
  - *Symmetry*:  $(a,b) \in E \Leftrightarrow (b,a) \in E$
  - *Reflexivity*:  $(a,a) \in E$
- Two nodes that have the same role are in an *equivalence relation*.
- Structural, automorphic, regular and stochastic equivalence



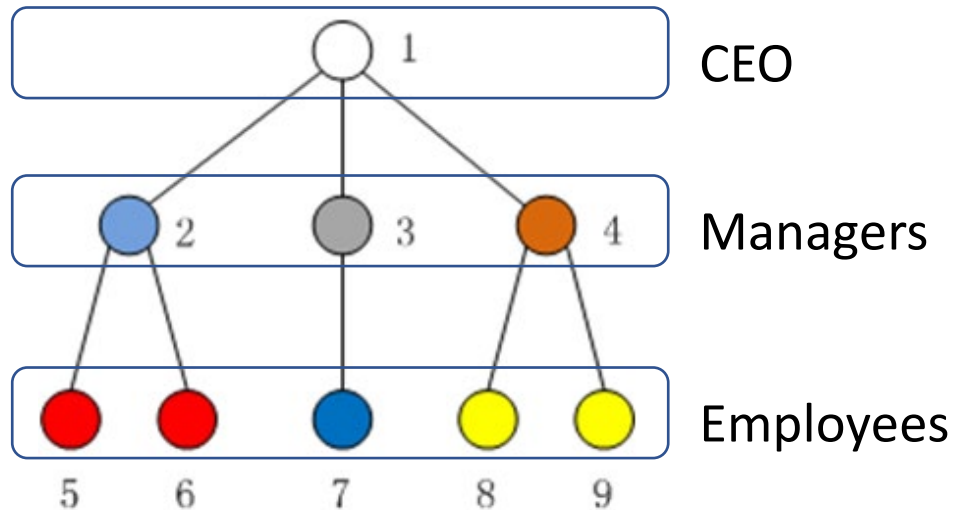
# Taxonomy of Equivalence Relations



# Structural Equivalence

- Two nodes  $u$  and  $v$  are structurally equivalent
  - if, for all nodes,  $k=1,2,\dots,n$  ( $k \neq u, v$ ), node  $u$  has an edge to  $k$ , if and only if  $v$  also has an edge to  $k$ , and
  - $u$  has an edge from  $k$  if and only if  $v$  also has an edge from  $k$ .
- Two nodes  $u$  and  $v$  are structurally equivalent if they have the **same relationships** to **all other nodes**
- Rarely appears in real-world networks

# Structural Equivalence



Seven structurally equivalent groups:

$\{5, 6\}$ ,  $\{8, 9\}$

$\{1\}$ ,  $\{2\}$ ,  $\{3\}$ ,  $\{4\}$ ,  $\{7\}$

Two structurally equivalent nodes should have exactly the same relationships, e.g., node 5 and 6

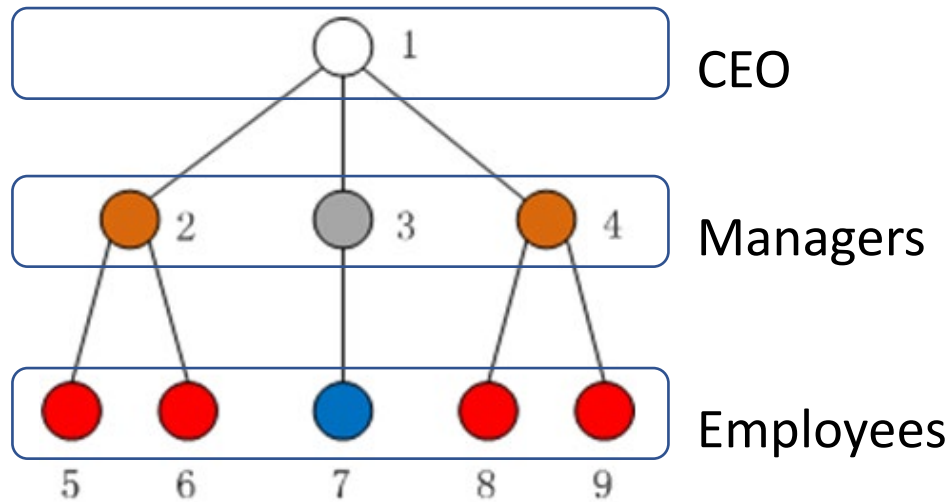
# Automorphic Equivalence

- Two nodes are automorphically equivalent if all the nodes can be re-labeled to form **an isomorphic graph** with the labels of  $u$  and  $v$  interchanged.
- An **isomorphism** of graphs  $G$  and  $H$  is a **bijection** between the node sets of  $G$  and  $H$ :  $f: V(G) \rightarrow V(H)$ 
  - such that any two nodes  $u$  and  $v$  of  $G$  are adjacent in  $G$  if and only if  $f(u)$  and  $f(v)$  are adjacent in  $H$ .

# Automorphic Equivalence

- Two automorphically equivalent nodes share exactly the same label-independent properties.
- Nodes are automorphically equivalent if we can **permute** the graph in such a way that **exchanging the two nodes** has no effect on the distances among all nodes in the graph.

# Automorphic Equivalence



Five automorphically equivalent groups:

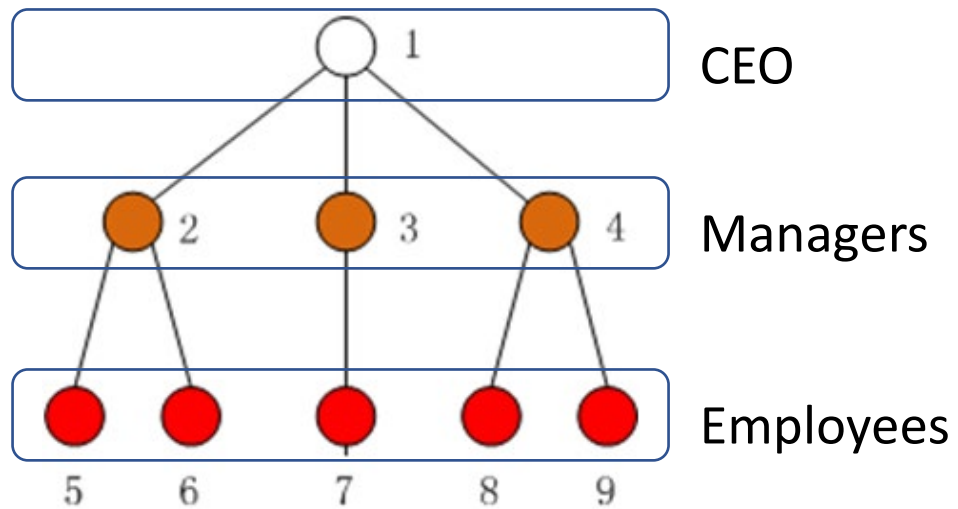
$\{5, 6, 8, 9\}$ ,  $\{2, 4\}$ ,  $\{1\}$ ,  $\{3\}$ ,  $\{7\}$

- Two nodes  $u$  and  $v$  are automorphically equivalent if they **are exchangeable**
- If we change node 2 and 4, the network structure will **not** be changed

# Regular Equivalence

- Two nodes  $u$  and  $v$  are regularly equivalent if they are equally related to equivalent others
- Regular equivalence is defined in a **recursive** way that two regularly equivalent nodes have network neighbors which are also regularly equivalent.

# Regular Equivalence



Three regularly equivalent groups:

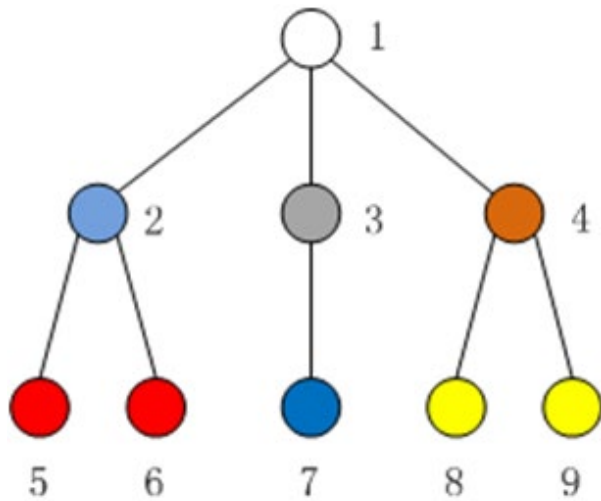
$\{1\}$ ,  $\{2, 3, 4\}$

$\{5, 6, 7, 8, 9\}$

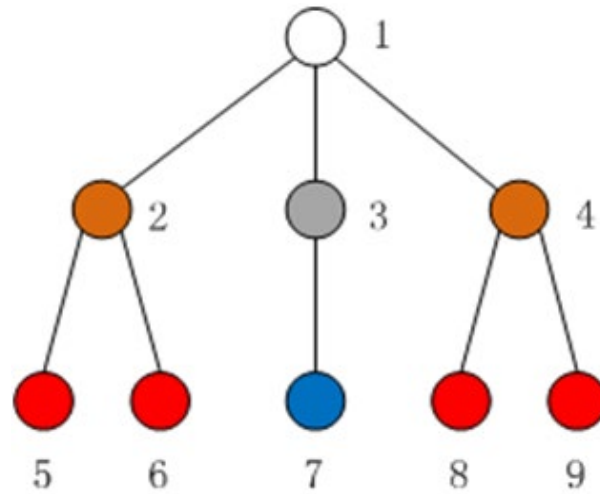
Two nodes  $u$  and  $v$   
are regularly equivalent if they  
are **equally related to equivalent others**



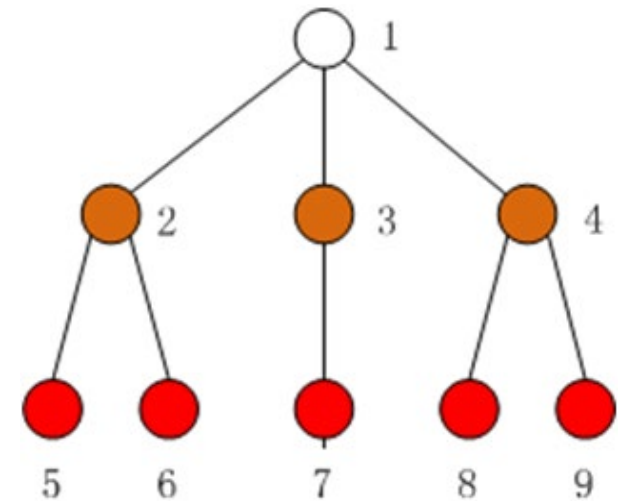
# Summary of Deterministic Equivalence Relations



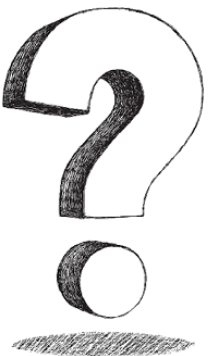
Structural equivalence



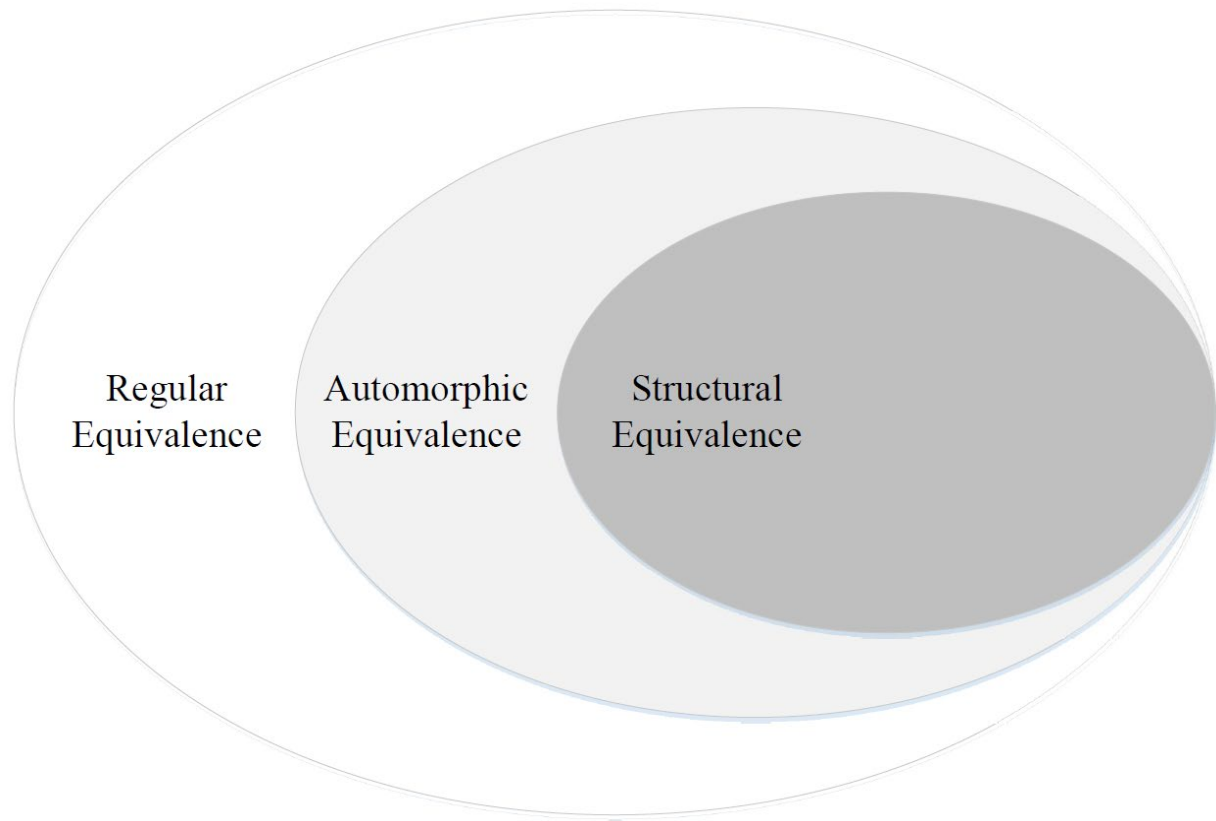
Automorphic equivalence



Regular equivalence



# Summary of Deterministic Equivalence Relations



- Strictness of conditions:
- structural eq > automorphic eq > regular eq
- Practical values:
- regular eq > automorphic eq > structural eq

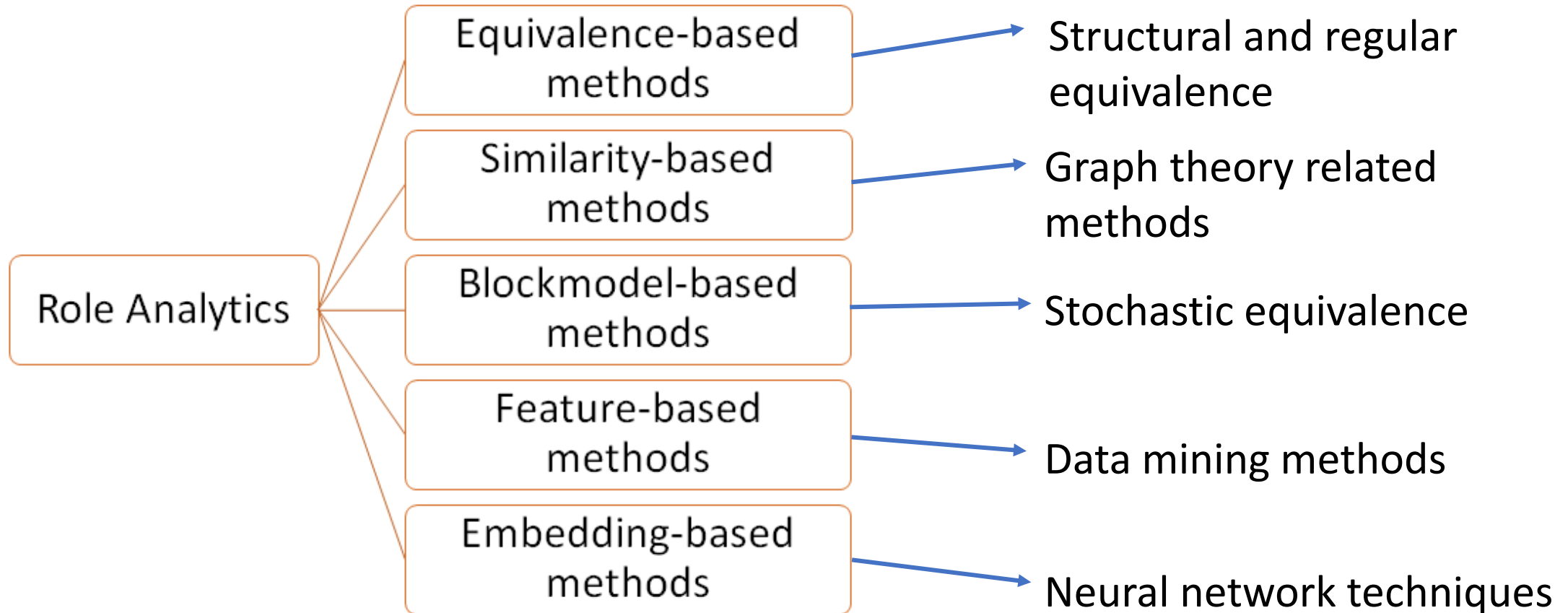
# Stochastic Equivalence

- Probabilistic version of structural equivalence
- Two nodes  $i$  and  $j$  are stochastically equivalent if they are “exchangeable” w.r.t. a probability distribution
- The probability distribution of the graph must *remain the same* when equivalent nodes are exchanged.
- **Stochastic blockmodel** (and its variants) to discover roles based on stochastic equivalence

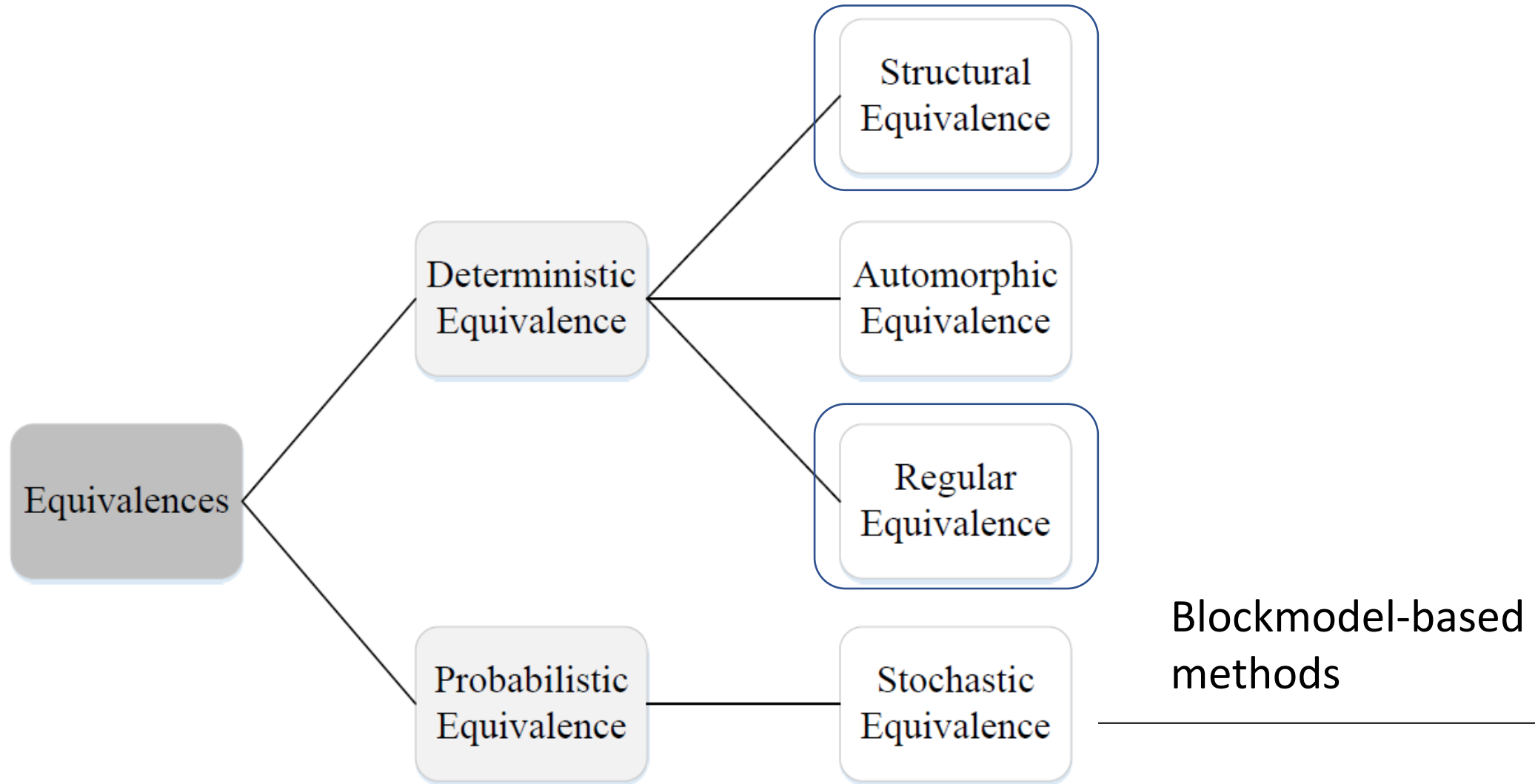
# Outline

- What is and Why Role Analytics?
- Equivalence Relations
- **Taxonomy of Role Analytics Methods**
- Role-oriented Network Embedding
- Challenges and Outlook

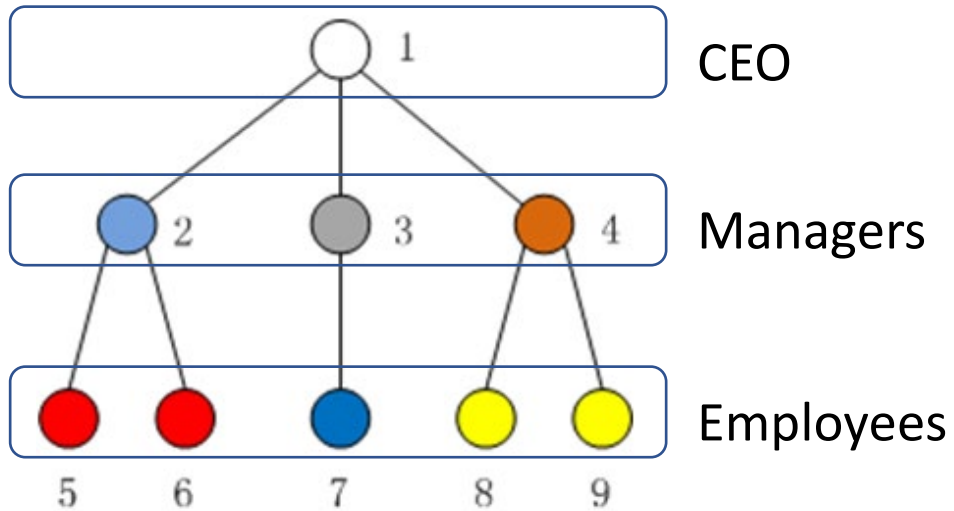
# Taxonomy of Role Analytics Methods



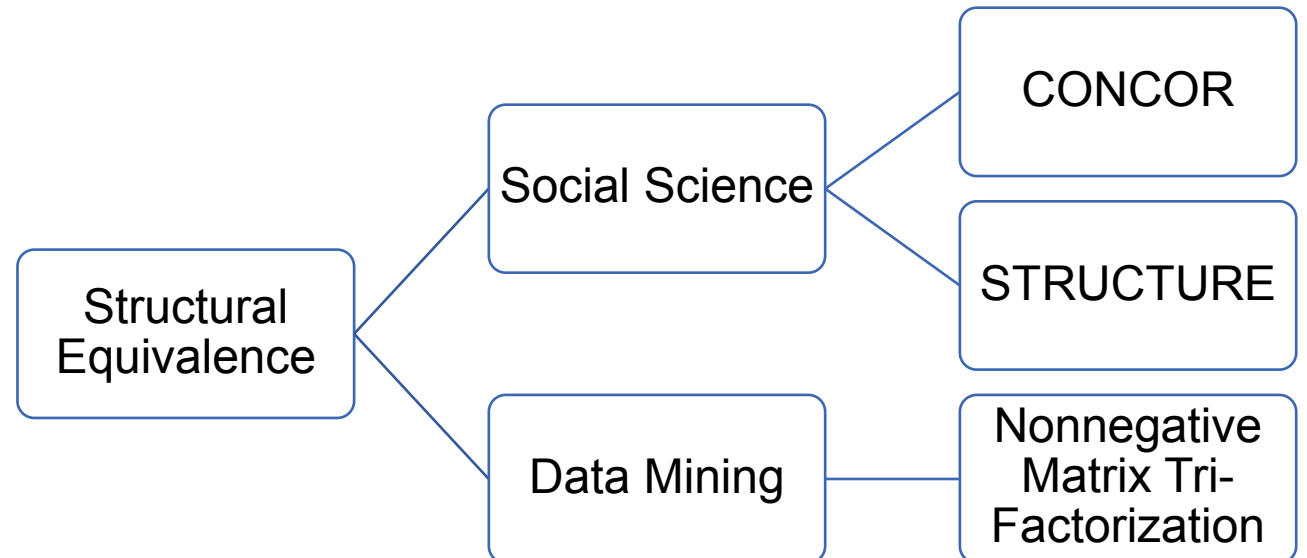
# Equivalence-based Methods



# Structural Equivalence



Two nodes are structurally equivalent if they have the **same relationships** to **all other nodes**



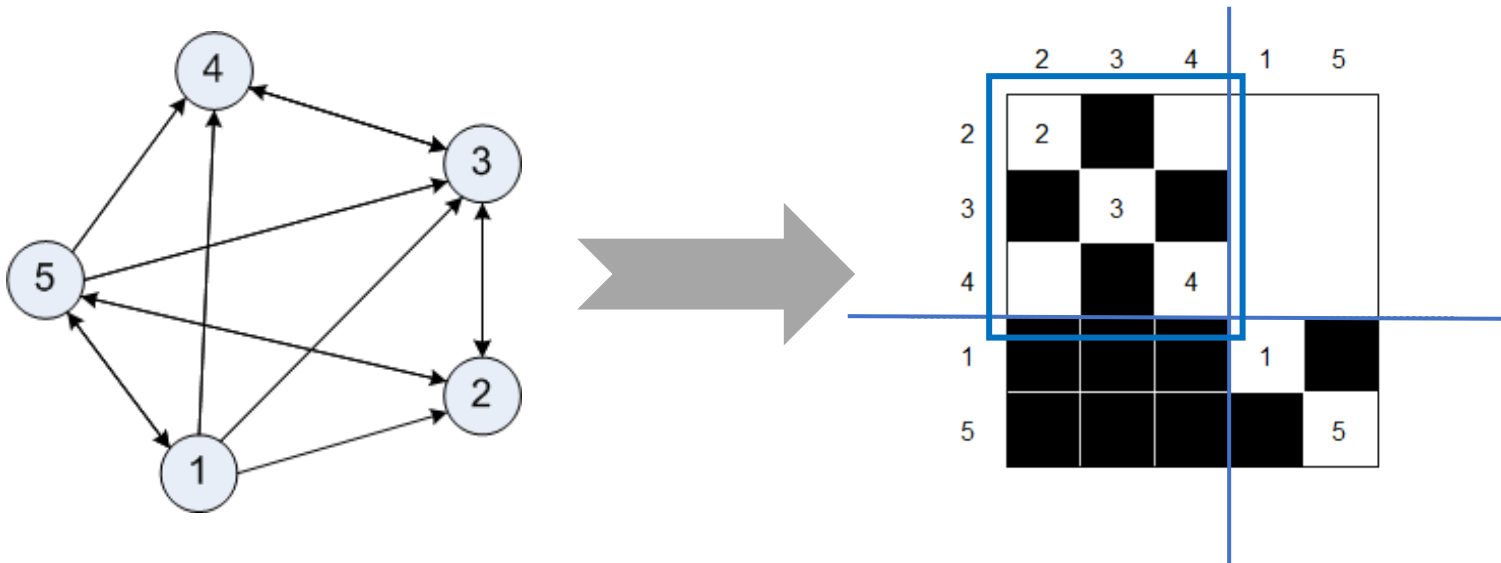
# CONCOR

- CONvergence of iterated CORrelations (CONCOR) is a *hierarchical divisive* method to discover roles according to the definition of structural equivalence.
- Procedure:
  1. Calculate correlations, e.g., Pearson correlation, between rows (or columns) repeatedly on the adjacency matrix until the resultant correlation matrix consists of +1 and -1 entries;
  2. Split the last correlation matrix into two structurally equivalent submatrices (a.k.a. blocks): one with +1 entries, another with -1 entries.



# CONCOR

- The split in the 2<sup>nd</sup> step can be further applied to submatrices in order to produce a hierarchy
- Nodes in the same submatrix belong to the same role



## Procedure:

1. Compute correlations
2. Split the correlation matrix into blocks

# STRUCTURE

STRUCTURE is a hierarchical agglomerative approach. It consists of three steps:

1. For each node  $u$ , create its feature vector by **concatenating its row and column vectors** from the adjacency matrix;
2. For each pair of nodes  $(u, v)$ , measure **the square root of sum of squared differences** between the corresponding entries in their feature vectors;
3. Merge entries in hierarchical fashion until their difference is less than a predefined threshold.

# CONCOR VS STRUCTURE

1. Calculate **correlations between rows (or columns)** repeatedly on the adjacency matrix
2. **Split the last correlation matrix** into two structurally equivalent blocks

**CONCOR**

1. Create its feature vector from the adjacency matrix;
2. Measure **the square root of sum of squared differences** between pairs of nodes;
3. **Merge entries** in hierarchical fashion until their difference is less than a predefined threshold.

**STRUCTURE**

# Nonnegative Matrix Tri-Factorization (NMTF)

The diagram illustrates the Nonnegative Matrix Tri-Factorization (NMTF) model. It shows a large light blue square representing matrix  $A_{n \times m}$  on the left. To its right is an approximation symbol  $\approx$ . Further right is a tall, narrow light blue rectangle representing matrix  $C_{n \times r}$ . To the right of  $C$  is a multiplication symbol  $\times$ , followed by a small light blue square representing matrix  $M_{r \times r}$ . To the right of  $M$  is another multiplication symbol  $\times$ , followed by a wide, short light blue rectangle representing matrix  $P_{r \times n}$ .

$$A_{n \times m} \approx C_{n \times r} \times M_{r \times r} \times P_{r \times n}$$

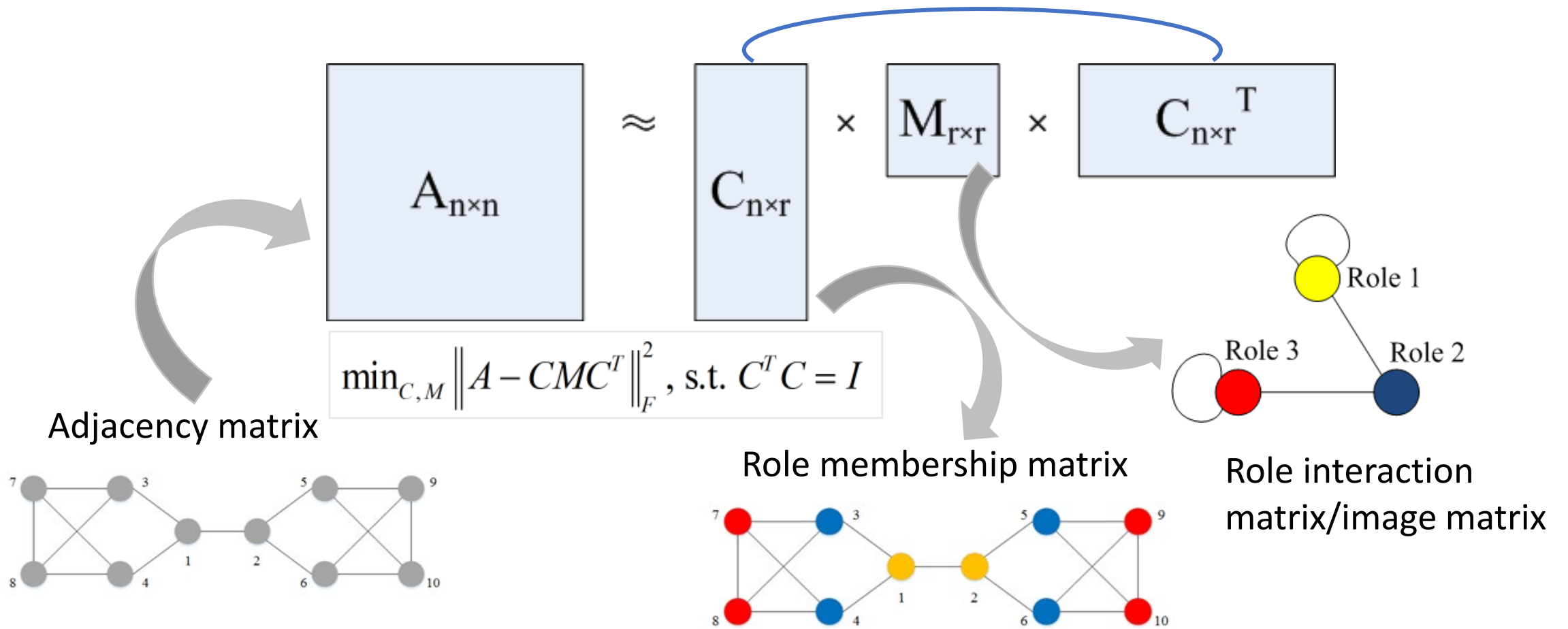
Objective:

$$\min_{C, M, P} \|A - CMP\|_F^2$$

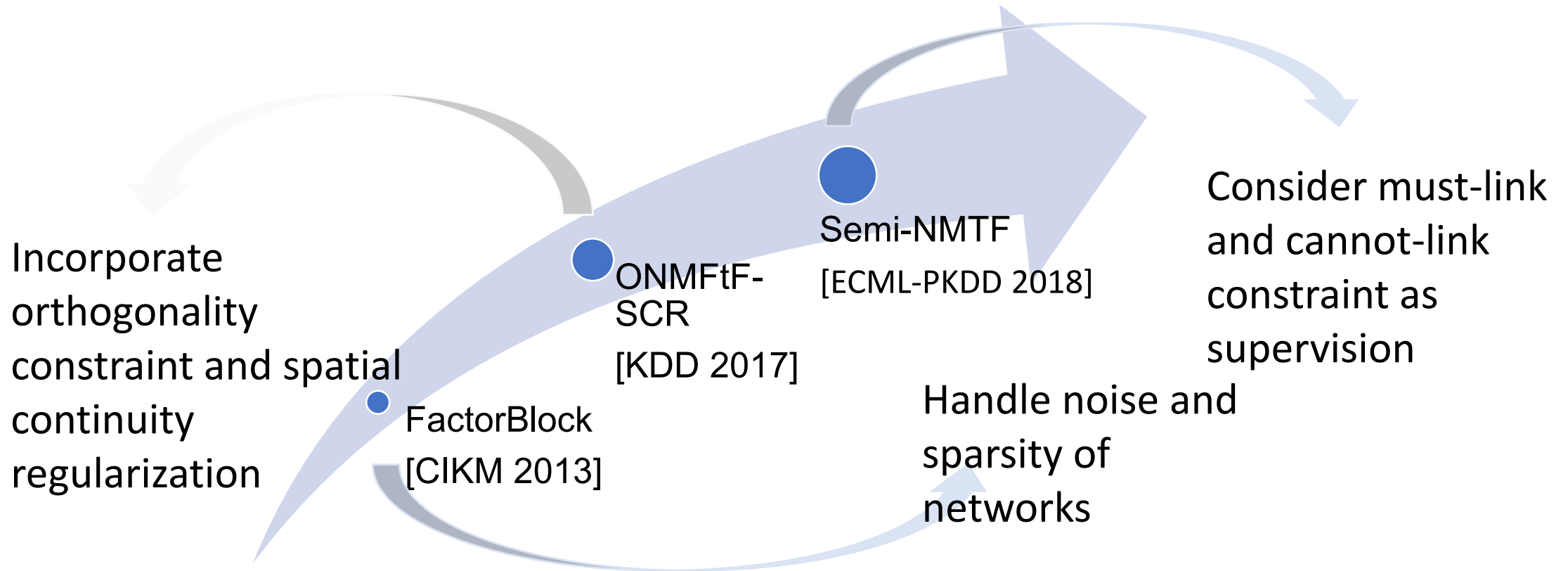
Optimization

- multiplicative update rule
- alternating direction method of multipliers (ADMM)

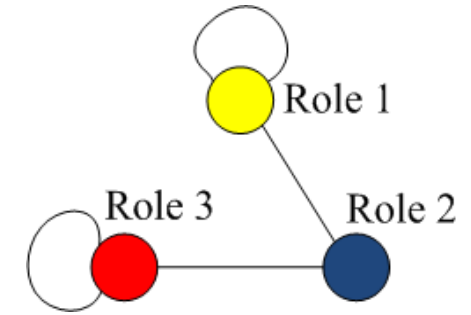
# NMTF-based Role Analytics Method



# NMTF Extensions



# FactorBlock [Chan et al., CIKM 2013]



$$\min_{C, M} \|A - CMC^T\|_F^2,$$

use the density of the graph  
as  
a background model

$U = A - R$ , where  $A$  is the adj  
matrix

And  $R_{ij} = m/n^2$

$$\min_{C, M} \left\| (A - CMC^T) \circ U \right\|_F^2 + \left\| M_{ideal} - M \right\|_F^2,$$

s.t.  $C^T C = I$

Standard NMTF-based Role  
Analytics

in the ideal case, the  
densities of the **image matrix**  
entries should either be 0 or  
1

Ideal image matrix  
 $M_{ideal}$  is approximately  
defined as

$$M_{ideal} = \frac{1}{1 + \gamma e^{-v(M - \tau)}}$$

# ONMFtF-SCR [Bai et al., KDD 2017]

- Model structural equivalence relation
- Incorporate orthogonality constraint and spatial continuity regularization
- $\Theta$  is a reciprocal Gaussian Kernel matrix for each pair of nodes, which is defined as

$$(\Theta)_{ij} = e^{-\frac{\|v_i - v_j\|_2^2}{2\sigma^2}}$$

$v_i$  indicates the spatial location of node  $i$

$$\min_{C, M} \|A - CMC^T\|_F^2$$

 **spatial continuity regularization**

$$\min_{C, M} \|A - CMC^T\|_F^2 + \beta \cdot \text{Tr}(C^T \Theta C),$$

$$\text{s.t. } C^T C = I$$

**orthogonality constraint**



# Semi-NMTF [Ganji et al., ECML-PKDD 2018]

- take advantage of the existing information that might be available about objects that are known to be similar

$$\min_{C, M} \|A - CMC^T\|_F^2$$

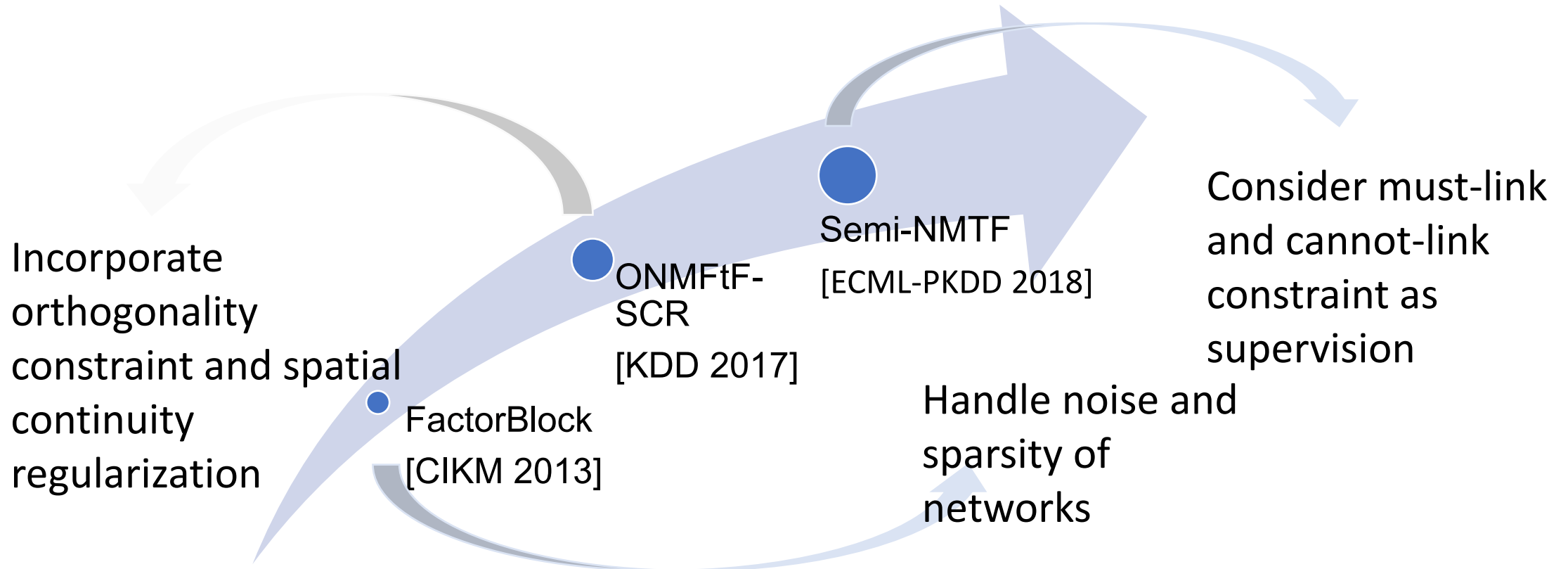


$$\min_{C, M} \|A - CMC^T\|_F^2 + \frac{1}{2}(1 - C) \circ (Q_{ML} \bullet C) + \frac{1}{2}C \circ (Q_{CL} \bullet C)$$

- can help finding complex patterns, such as hierarchical or ring blockmodel structures

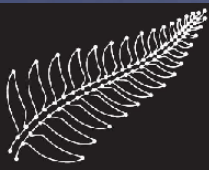
$Q_{ML}$  and  $Q_{CL}$  are non-negative real valued matrices quantifying the cost of violating each of the **must-link** and **cannot-link** constraints respectively

# NMTF Extensions



# Roles in Networks - Foundations, Methods and Applications

## Coffee/Tea Break



**ICDM 2021**

IEEE International Conference on Data Mining

7 – 10 DECEMBER 2021

AUCKLAND NEW ZEALAND



**EINDHOVEN  
UNIVERSITY OF  
TECHNOLOGY**



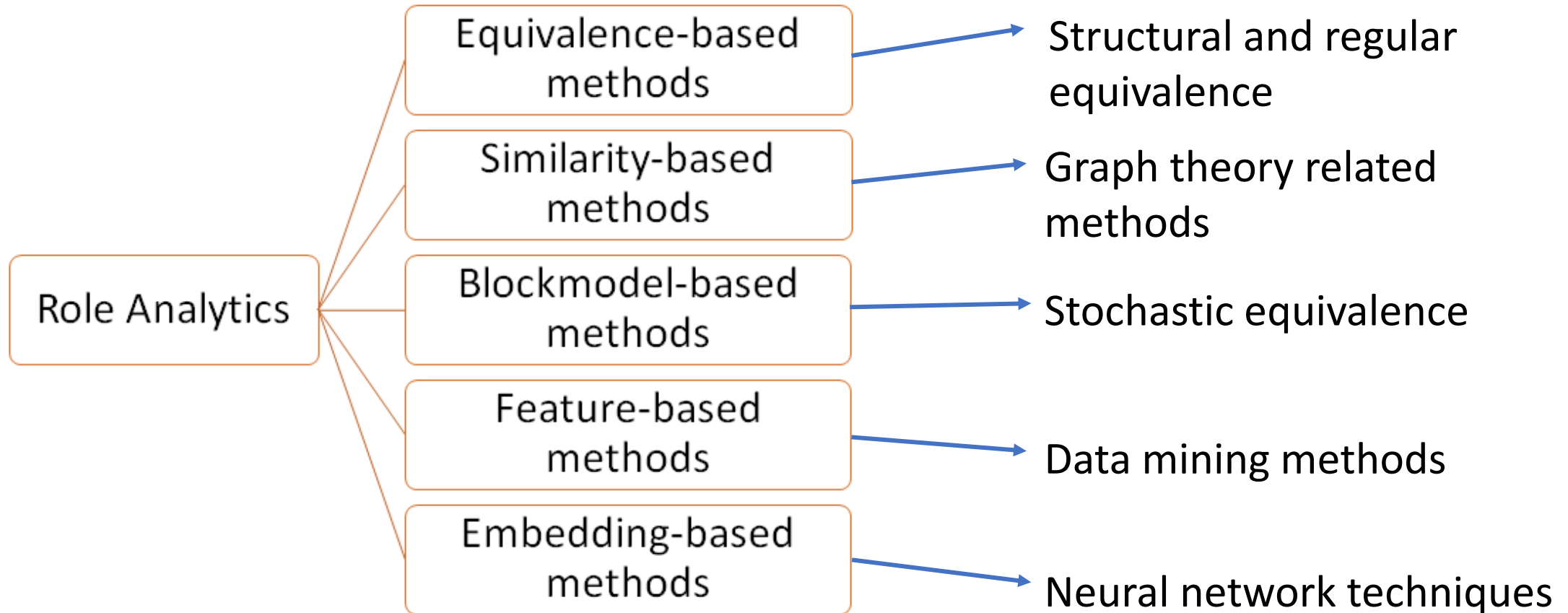
**天津大学**  
Tianjin University



# Outline

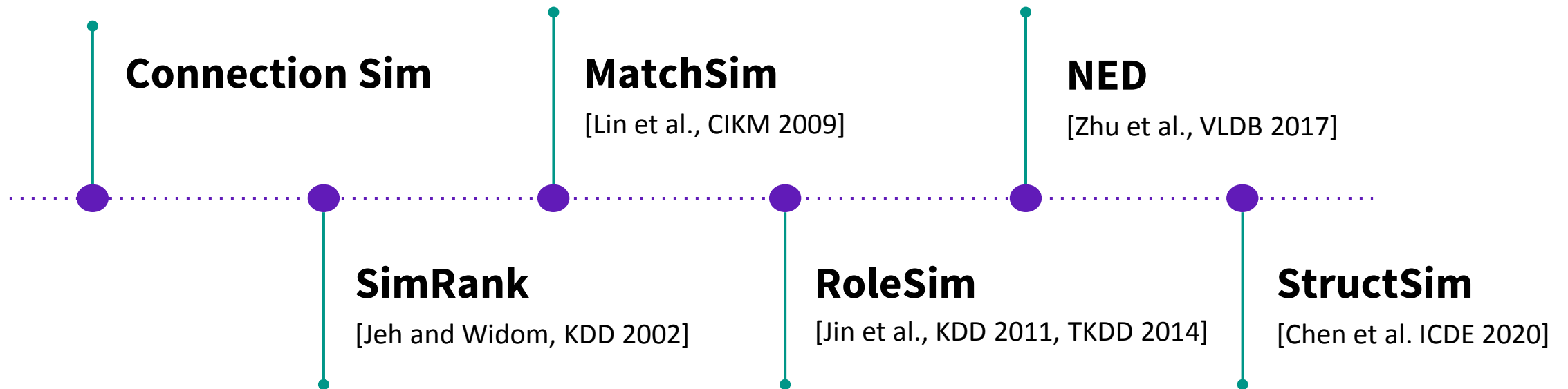
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# Taxonomy of Role Analytics Methods



# Similarity-based Methods

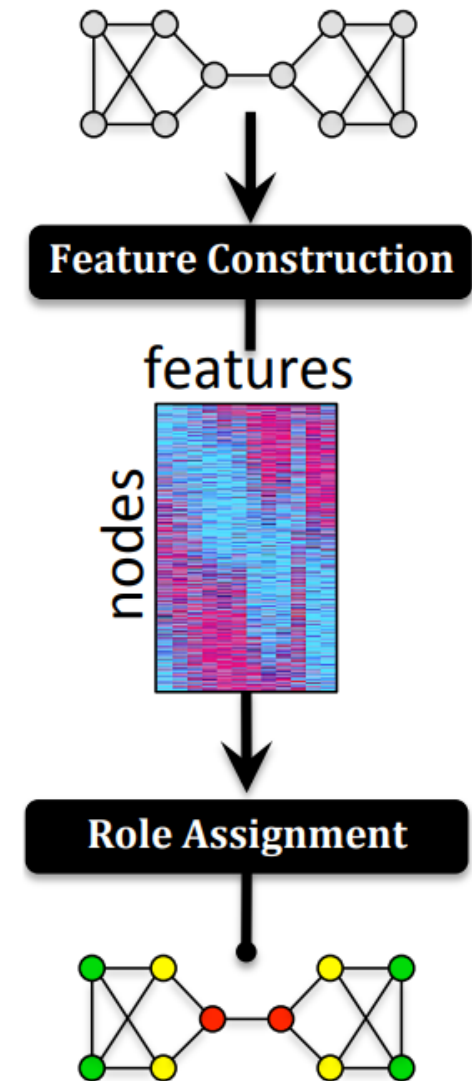
Partition/Clustering → Similarity



# Feature-based Methods

General framework of feature-based methods consists of two steps:

- feature extraction
- role assignment



# Feature-based Methods: Feature Extraction

## Features

### Graph Theories

1st order:  
e.g.,  
degrees

2nd order:  
e.g.,  
common  
neighbors

Higher  
order: e.g.,  
centrality

### Social Theories

Homophily

Triadic  
closure

Structural  
holes

### Calculated Features

product,  
sum, min,  
max,  
average

Network  
embedding

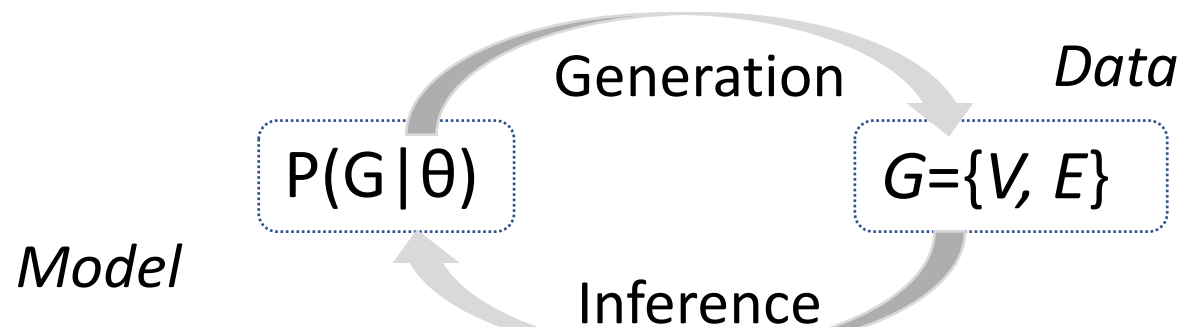


# Blockmodel-based Methods

- Aim to solve the role analytics problem based on **stochastic equivalence**
  - Two nodes  $i$  and  $j$  are stochastically equivalent if they are “exchangeable” w.r.t. a probability distribution.
  - The probability distribution of the graph must remain the same when equivalent nodes are exchanged.
- Generative models based on Bayesian statistics

# Stochastic Blockmodel (SBM) [Holland et al., Social Networks, 1983]

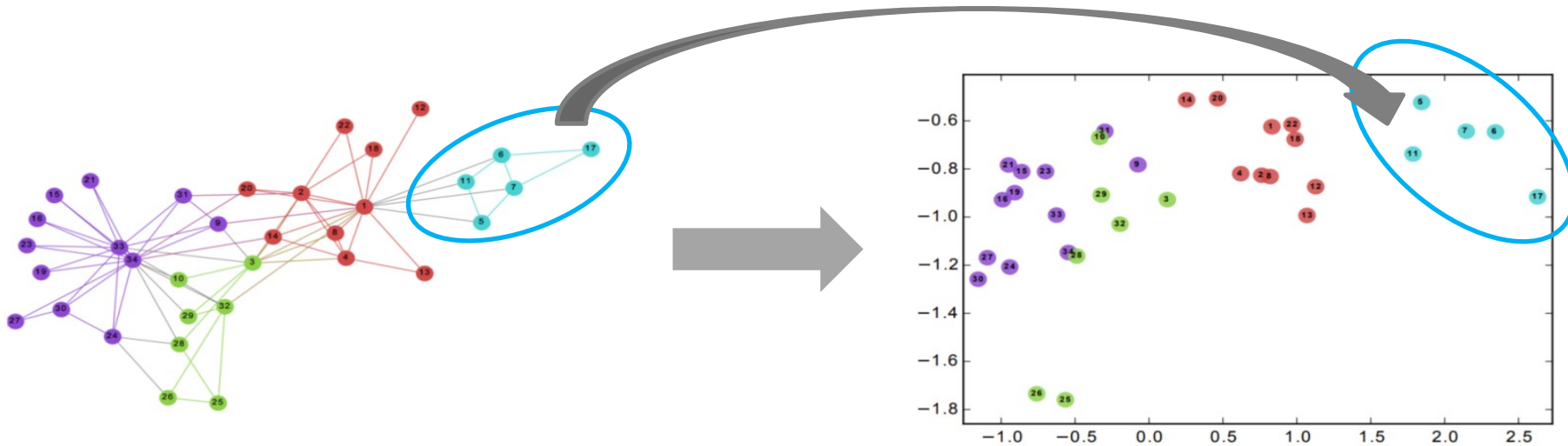
- A stochastic blockmodel (SBM) is a generative model that yields a **probability distribution** over the set of possible role assignments to nodes given the observed structure of a network.
- a partition of the node set into disjoint subsets  $C_1, C_2, \dots, C_r$
- a symmetric matrix  $P_{r \times r}$  of role interaction probabilities.



# Embedding-based Methods

Network embedding methods aim at learning **low-dimensional latent representations** of nodes in a graph.

- preserve the graph structures
- can be used as features for downstream tasks

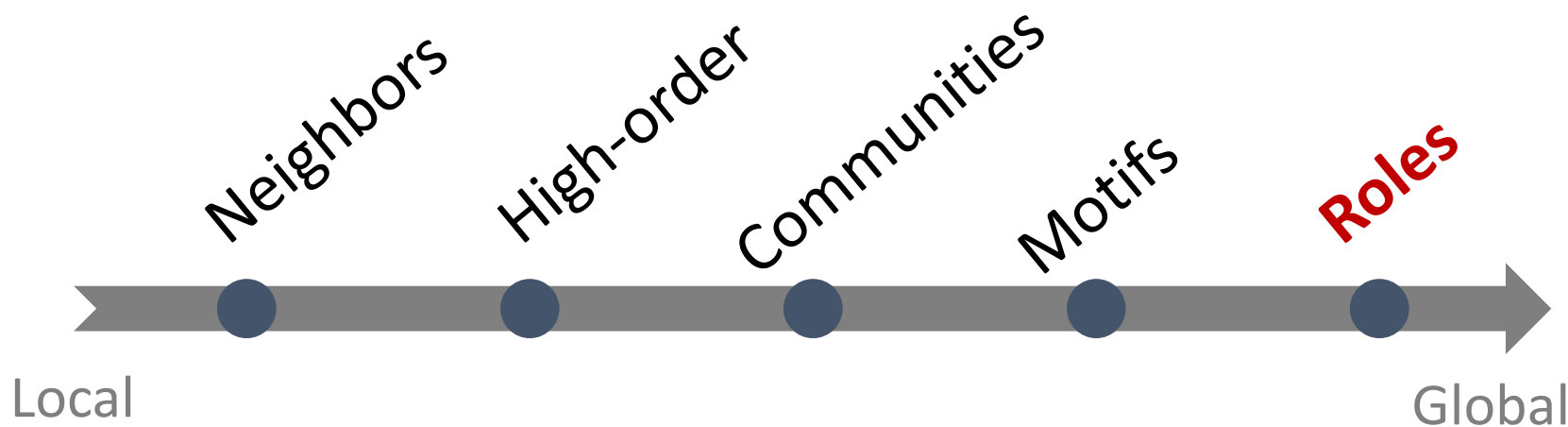


# NRL: Preserving Structures

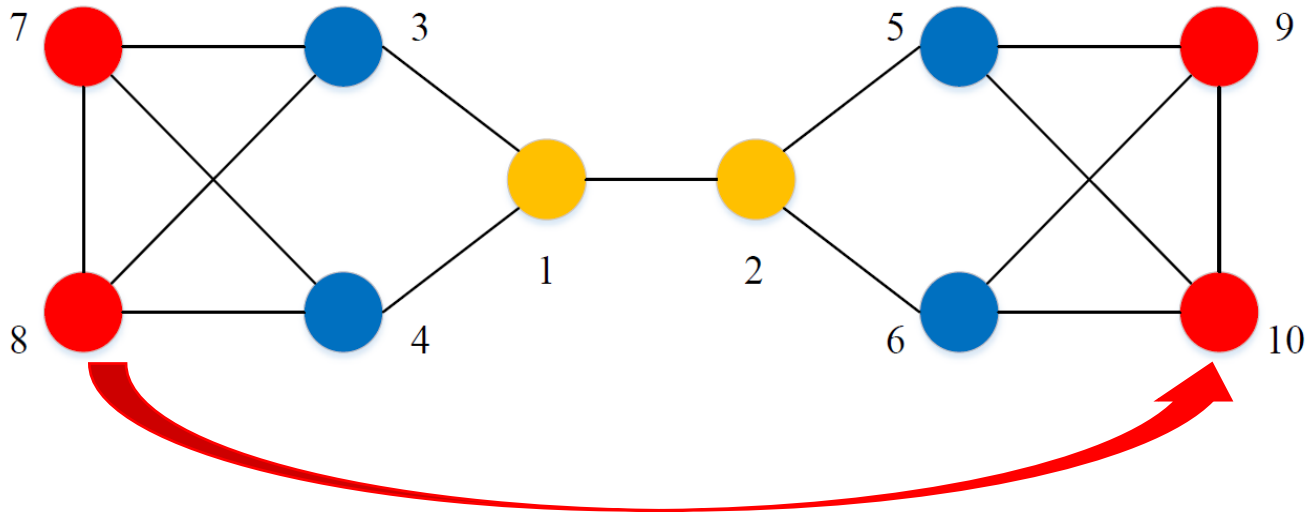
Network representation learning (NRL) aims at learning low-dimensional latent representations of nodes in a graph which can **preserve the graph structures**



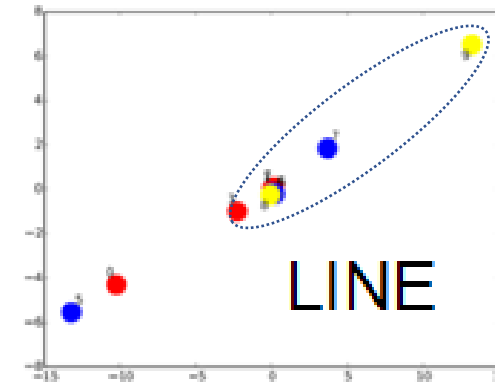
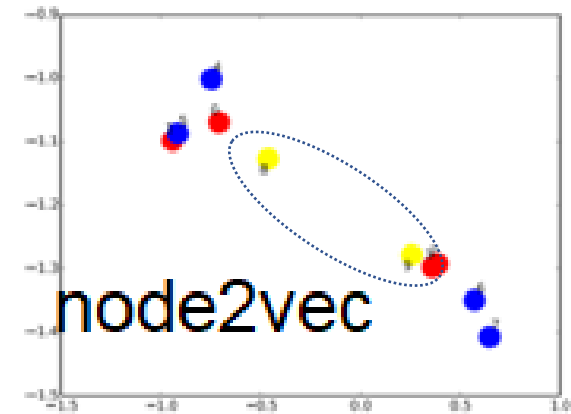
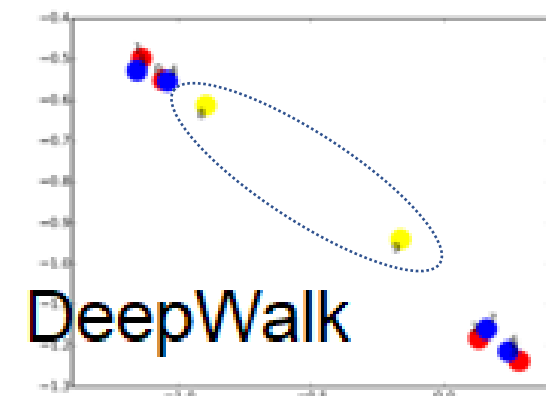
What graph structures to preserve?



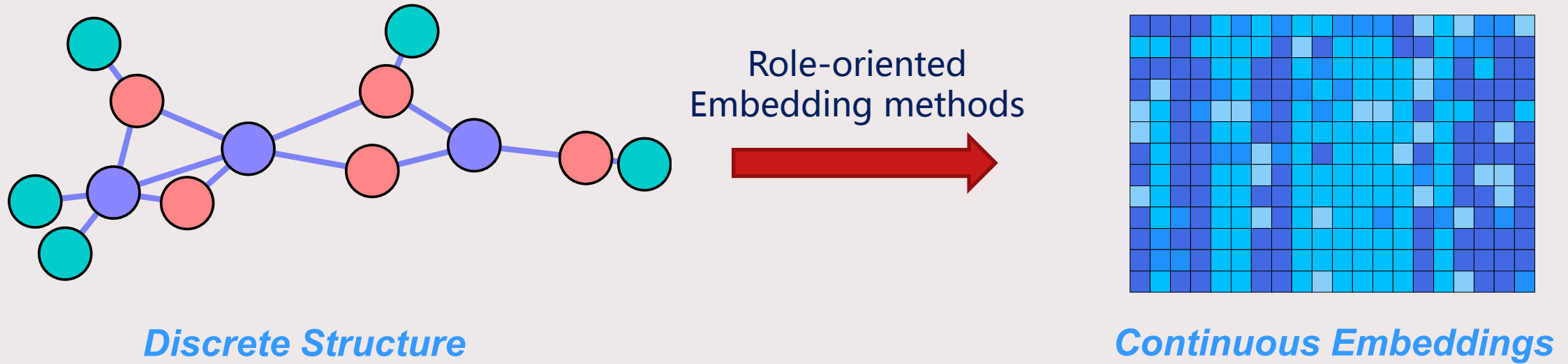
# Network Embedding: Issues



- Role: Global Structures
- Random Walk ?



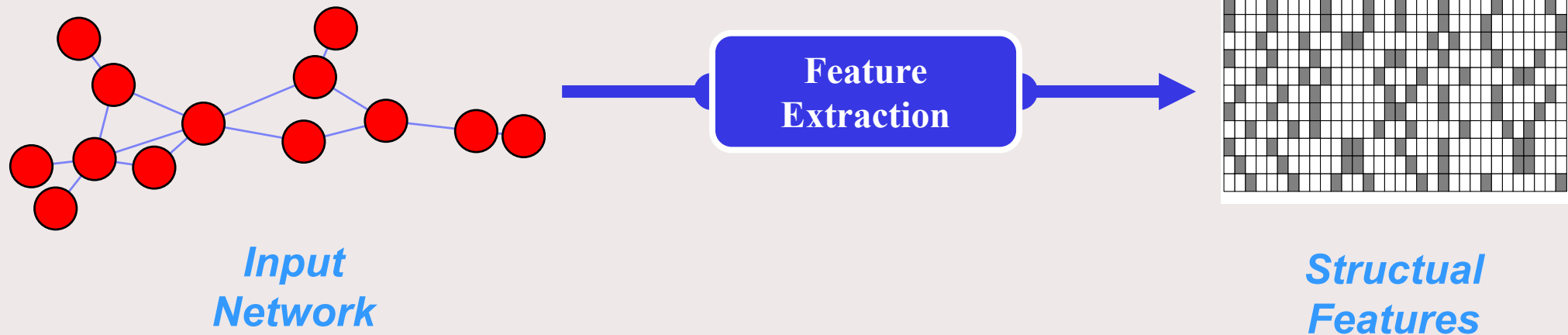
The Aim of Role-oriented Network Embedding (RONE) methods :



- The two-step process of RONE methods to bridge the gulf between two spaces :
  - Structure Property Extraction
  - Embeddings

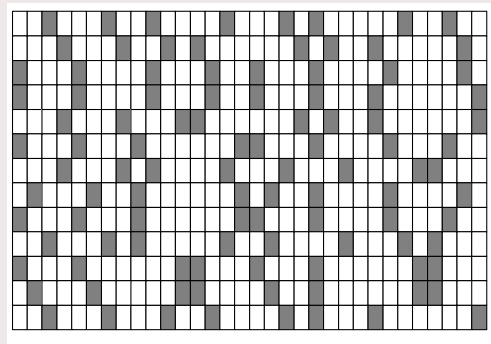
a. Structure Property Extraction:

1. Some methods leverage structural features such as node degrees and triangle numbers. (RoIX [1]; DRNE [2])

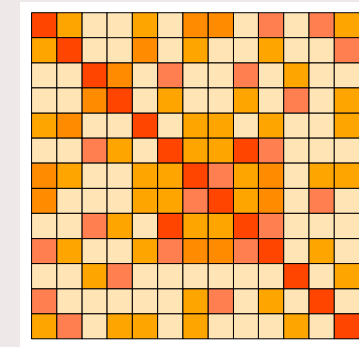


a. Structure Property Extraction:

2. Some methods continue to transform the features into continuous distances or similarities. (SPINE [3])



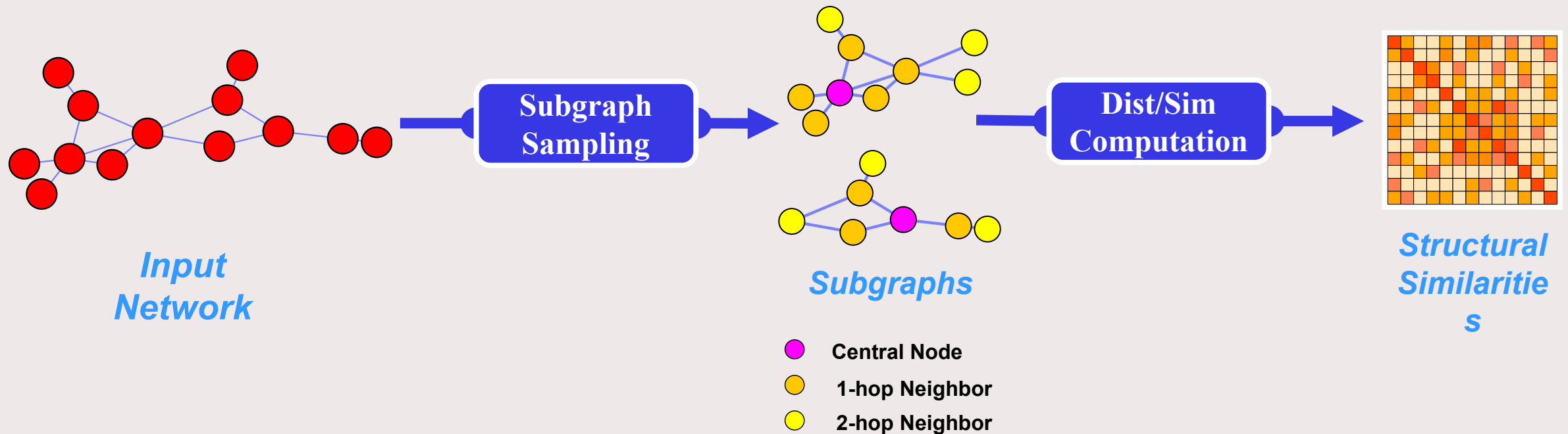
*Structural  
Features*



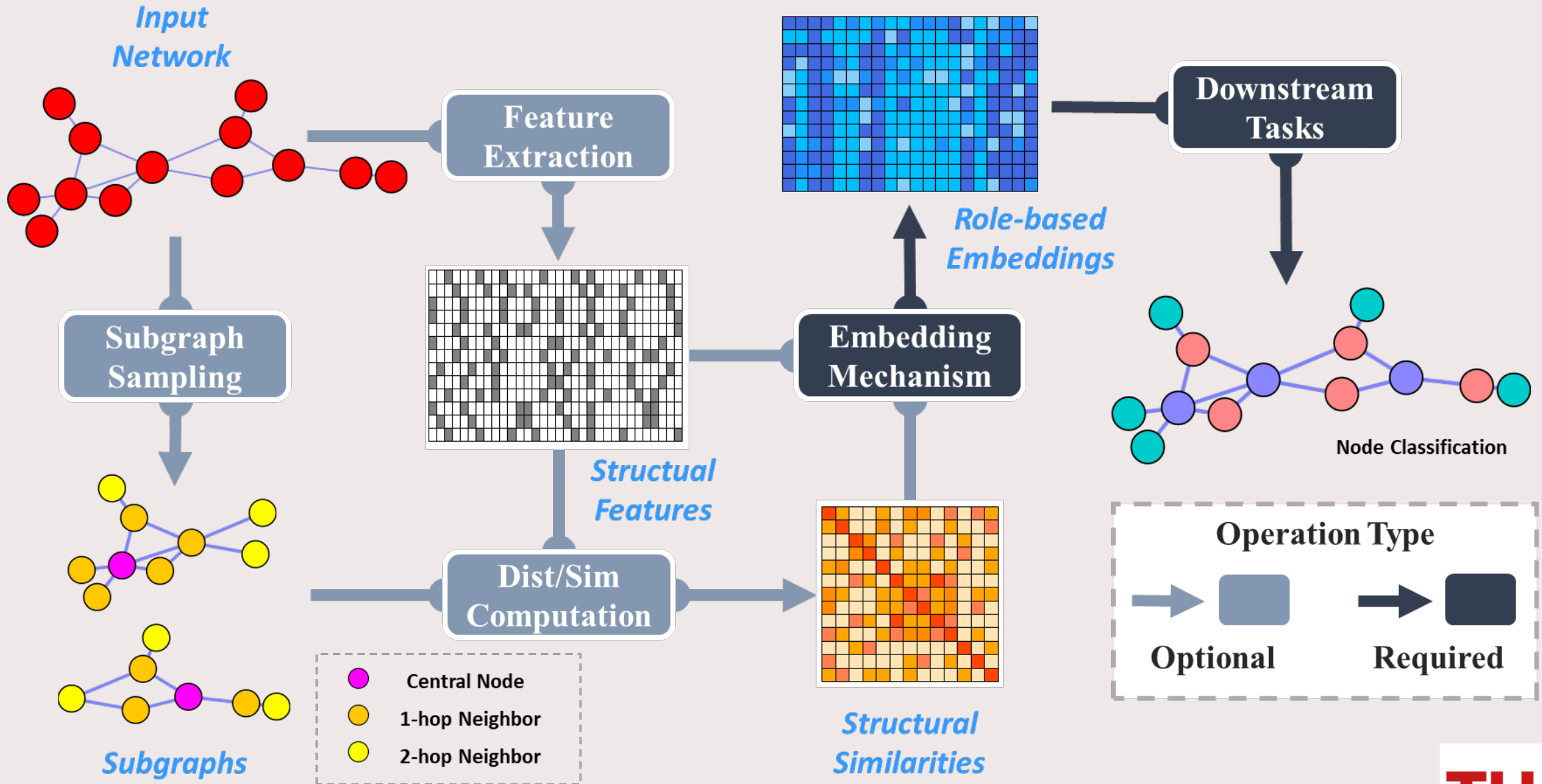
*Structural  
Similarities*



- a. Structure Property Extraction:  
3. Some methods capturing similarity between node-centric subgraphs. (struc2vec [4]; SEGK [5])



# The Taxonomy of RONE methods :



# The new two-level categorization :

Method	Embedding Mechanism		Conducted Tasks				Year
			Vis	CLF/CLT	ER/NA/SS	LP	
RoIX	low-rank matrix factorization	on structural feature matrix	✓	✓	✗	✗	2012
GLRD			✗	✗	✓	✗	2013
RIDERS			✓	✓	✓	✗	2017
GraphWave			✓	✓	✗	✗	2018
HONE			✓	✗	✓	✓	2020
xNetMF		on structural similarity matrix	✗	✗	✓	✗	2018
EMBER			✗	✓	✓	✗	2019
SEGK			✓	✓	✓	✗	2019
REACT			✗	✓	✗	✗	2019
SPaE			✓	✓	✗	✗	2019
struc2vec	random walk-based methods	on similarity-biased random walks	✓	✓	✗	✗	2017
SPINE			✗	✓	✗	✗	2019
struc2gauss			✓	✓	✗	✗	2020
Role2Vec		on feature-based random walks	✗	✗	✗	✓	2019
RiWalk			✗	✓	✗	✗	2019
NODE2BITS			✗	✗	✓	✗	2019
DRNE	deep learning	via structural information reconstruction/guidance	✓	✓	✗	✗	2018
GAS			✓	✓	✗	✗	2020
RESN			✓	✓	✓	✗	2021
GraLSP			✓	✓	✗	✓	2020
GCC			✗	✓	✓	✗	2020
RDAA			✓	✓	✗	✗	2021
CNESE			✓	✓	✓	✗	2021

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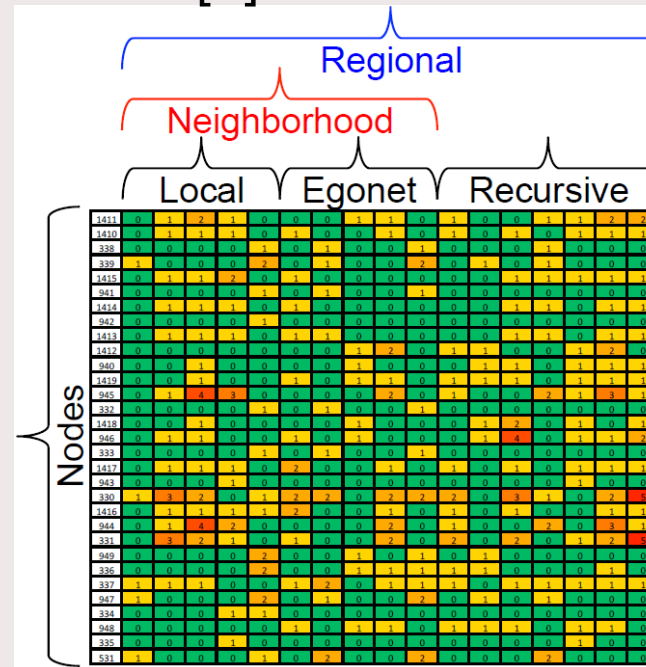
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Role2Vec		on feature-based random walks	✗	✗	✗	✓	2019
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NODE2BITS			✗	✗	✓	✗	2019
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GCC			✗	✓	✓	✗	2020
RDAA			✓	✓	✗	✗	2021
CNESE			✓	✓	✓	✗	2021

## RoIX (Role eXtraction) [1]:

Structural Feature  
Matrix Factorization

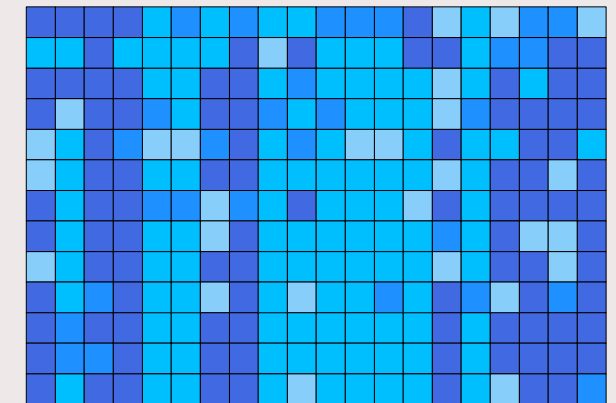
Feature matrix generated by ReFeX [6]:

- Neighborhood features
  - Local and egonet features, e.g., degrees
  - Representations of connectivity patterns
- Recursive Features
  - Calculated features
  - Generated using means, sums and pruning



*Structural Features*

NMF  
→

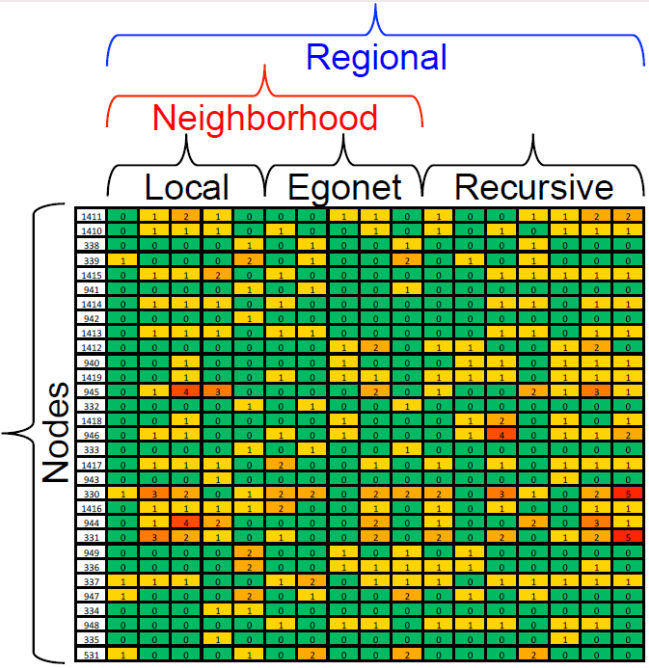


*Role-oriented Embeddings*

$$\min_{\mathbf{H}, \mathbf{M}} \left\| \mathbf{F}_{ReFeX} - \mathbf{H}\mathbf{M} \right\|_F^2, \text{ s.t. } \mathbf{H}, \mathbf{M} \geq 0$$

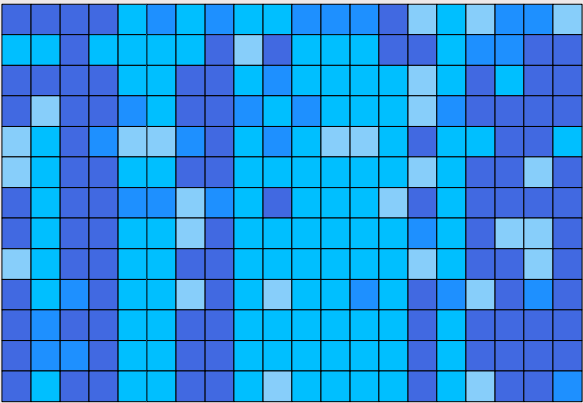
GLRD: (Guided Learning for Role Discovery) [7]:

Structural Feature  
Matrix Factorization



Structural Features

NMF  
→



Role-oriented Embeddings

$$\min_{\mathbf{H}, \mathbf{M}} \left\| \mathbf{F}_{ReFeX} - \mathbf{H}\mathbf{M} \right\|_F^2, \text{ s.t. } \mathbf{H}, \mathbf{M} \geq 0$$

+

Optional Constraints in GLRD.

Constraint	Formula
Sparsity	$\forall i \quad \ \mathbf{H}_{\cdot i}\ _1 \leq \epsilon_{\mathbf{H}}$
	$\forall i \quad \ \mathbf{M}_{i \cdot}\ _1 \leq \epsilon_{\mathbf{M}}$
Diversity	$\forall i, j \quad \mathbf{H}_{\cdot i}^{\top} \mathbf{H}_{\cdot j} \leq \epsilon_{\mathbf{H}} \quad i \neq j$ $\forall i, j \quad \mathbf{M}_{i \cdot}^{\top} \mathbf{M}_{j \cdot} \leq \epsilon_{\mathbf{M}} \quad i \neq j$
Alternativeness	$\forall i, j \quad \mathbf{H}_{\cdot i}^{* \top} \mathbf{H}_{\cdot j} \leq \epsilon_{\mathbf{H}} \quad i \neq j$ $\forall i, j \quad \mathbf{M}_{i \cdot}^{* \top} \mathbf{M}_{j \cdot} \leq \epsilon_{\mathbf{M}} \quad i \neq j$

## GLRD: (Guided Learning for Role Discovery) [7]:

## Structural Feature Matrix Factorization

$$\min_{\mathbf{H}, \mathbf{M}} \left\| \mathbf{F}_{ReFeX} - \mathbf{H}\mathbf{M} \right\|_F^2, \text{ s.t. } \mathbf{H}, \mathbf{M} \geq 0$$

+

Optional Constraints in GLRD.

Constraint	Formula
Sparsity	$\forall i \quad \ \mathbf{H}_{\cdot i}\ _1 \leq \epsilon_{\mathbf{H}}$ $\forall i \quad \ \mathbf{M}_{i \cdot}\ _1 \leq \epsilon_{\mathbf{M}}$
Diversity	$\forall i, j \quad \mathbf{H}_{\cdot i}^T \mathbf{H}_{\cdot j} \leq \epsilon_{\mathbf{H}} \quad i \neq j$ $\forall i, j \quad \mathbf{M}_{i \cdot}^T \mathbf{M}_{j \cdot} \leq \epsilon_{\mathbf{M}} \quad i \neq j$
Alternativeness	$\forall i, j \quad \mathbf{H}_{\cdot i}^{*T} \mathbf{H}_{\cdot j} \leq \epsilon_{\mathbf{H}} \quad i \neq j$ $\forall i, j \quad \mathbf{M}_{i \cdot}^* \mathbf{M}_{j \cdot}^T \leq \epsilon_{\mathbf{M}} \quad i \neq j$

Types	On Role Membership Matrix (G)	On Role-Feature Association Matrix (F)
Sparsity	Encourages role assignments to be more definitive; Reduces number of nodes that have minority membership in role.	Increases ability to interpret role by using feature most strongly correlated with role; Decreases likelihood that features with small explanatory benefit be included.
Diversity	Roles cannot have memberships that are too similar; Limits amount of allowable overlap in assignments.	Roles cannot have definitions that are too similar; Roles must be explained with completely different sets of features.
Alternative	Find a role that lends itself to a different role assignment than a provided one; Decreases the allowable similarity between two sets of role assignments	Learn a role definition matrix that is significantly different than a provided role definition; Ensures that the definitions must be very dissimilar.

## RID&Rs: ((Role Identification and Discovery using $\varepsilon$ -equitable Refinement) [8]:

- Partition nodes into different cells based on  $\varepsilon$ -equitable refinement:

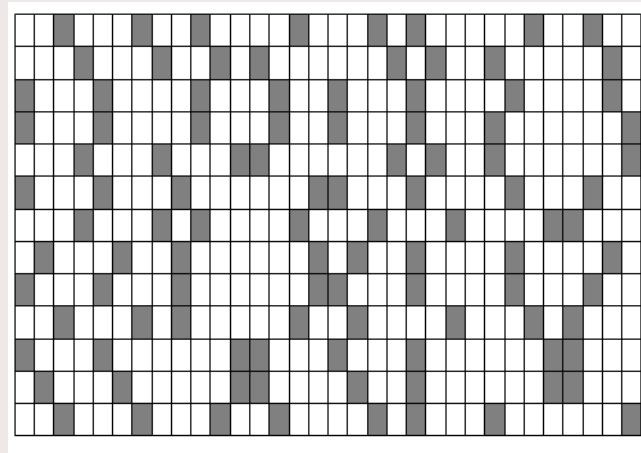
$$\deg(u, \mathcal{C}_j) = |\{u | (u, v) \in E \wedge v \in \mathcal{C}_j\}|$$

$$|\deg(u, \mathcal{C}_j) - \deg(v, \mathcal{C}_j)| \leq \varepsilon, \forall u, v \in \mathcal{C}_j, \forall 1 \leq i, j \leq K$$

- Compute global features :

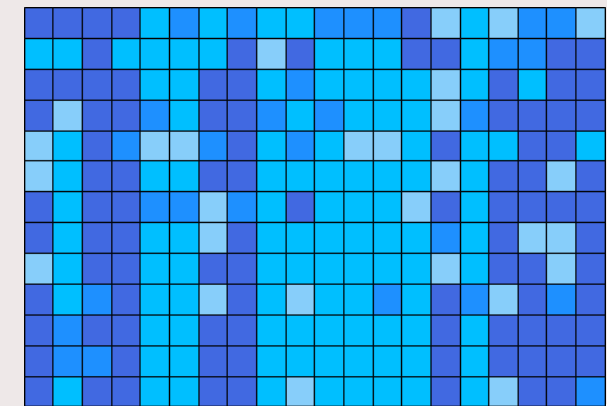
$$(\mathbf{F}_{\varepsilon ER}^\varepsilon)_{ij} = |\mathcal{N}_i \cap \mathcal{C}_j|$$

- Prune and Bin.



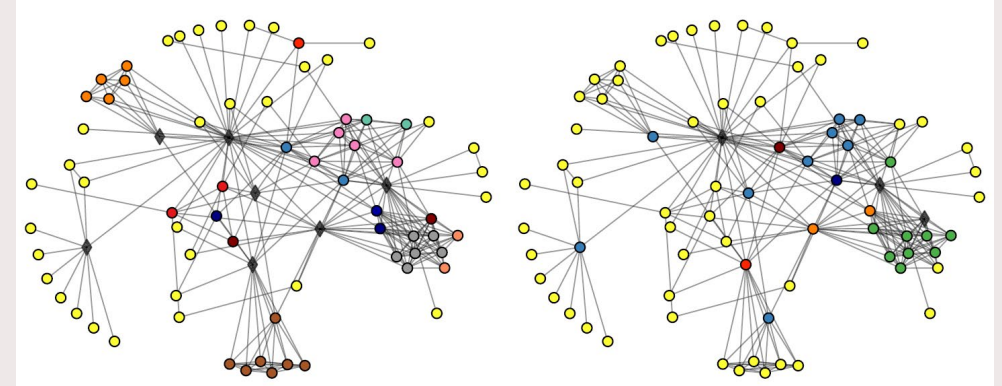
Structural Features

NMF  
→



Role-oriented Embeddings

## Structural Feature Matrix Factorization



Les Misérables Network: Roles discovered by  $\varepsilon$ ER for  $\varepsilon = 2$  and  $\varepsilon = 6$  respectively.



## GraphWave [9]:

- Spectral graph wavelets:

$$\mathbf{L} = \mathbf{D} - \mathbf{A}$$

$$\mathbf{L} = \mathbf{U}\mathbf{\Lambda}\mathbf{U}^\top \quad \mathbf{\Lambda} = \text{Diag}(\lambda_1, \dots, \lambda_n)$$

$$\Psi = \mathcal{I}\mathbf{U}\text{Diag}(g_\varsigma(\lambda_1), \dots, g_\varsigma(\lambda_n))\mathbf{U}^\top$$

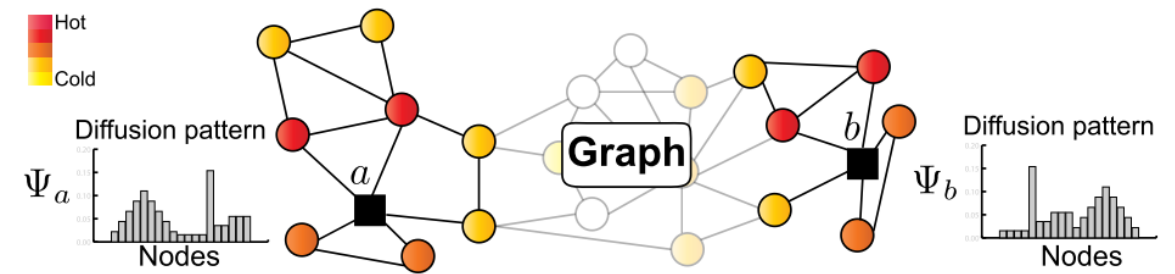
- Empirical characteristic function:

$$\varphi_i(t) = \frac{1}{n} \sum_{j=1}^n e^{it\Psi_{ij}}$$

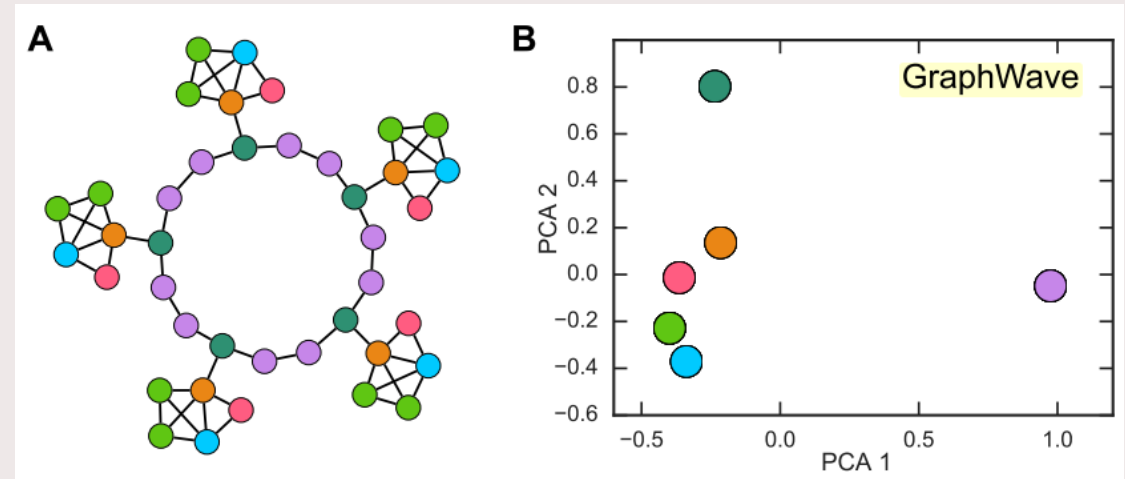
- Embedding:

$$\mathbf{H}_i = [\text{Re}(\varphi_i(t)), \text{Im}(\varphi_i(t))]$$

## Structural Feature Matrix Factorization



Treat spectral graph wavelets as probability distributions.



2D PCA projection of GraphWave' s embeddings

## HONE (Higher-Order Network Embeddings) [10]:

- For each motif, generate k-step embeddings:

$$\arg \min_{\mathbf{H}_{\mathcal{M}_m}^{(k)}, \mathbf{M}_{\mathcal{M}_m}^{(k)}} \mathbb{D}_{Breg}(\mathbf{F}_m^{(k)} | \Psi(\mathbf{H}_{\mathcal{M}_m}^{(k)} \mathbf{M}_{\mathcal{M}_m}^{(k)}))$$

$$\mathbf{P} = \mathbf{D}^{-1} \mathbf{A} \quad \dots \quad \mathbf{L} = \mathbf{D} - \mathbf{A}$$

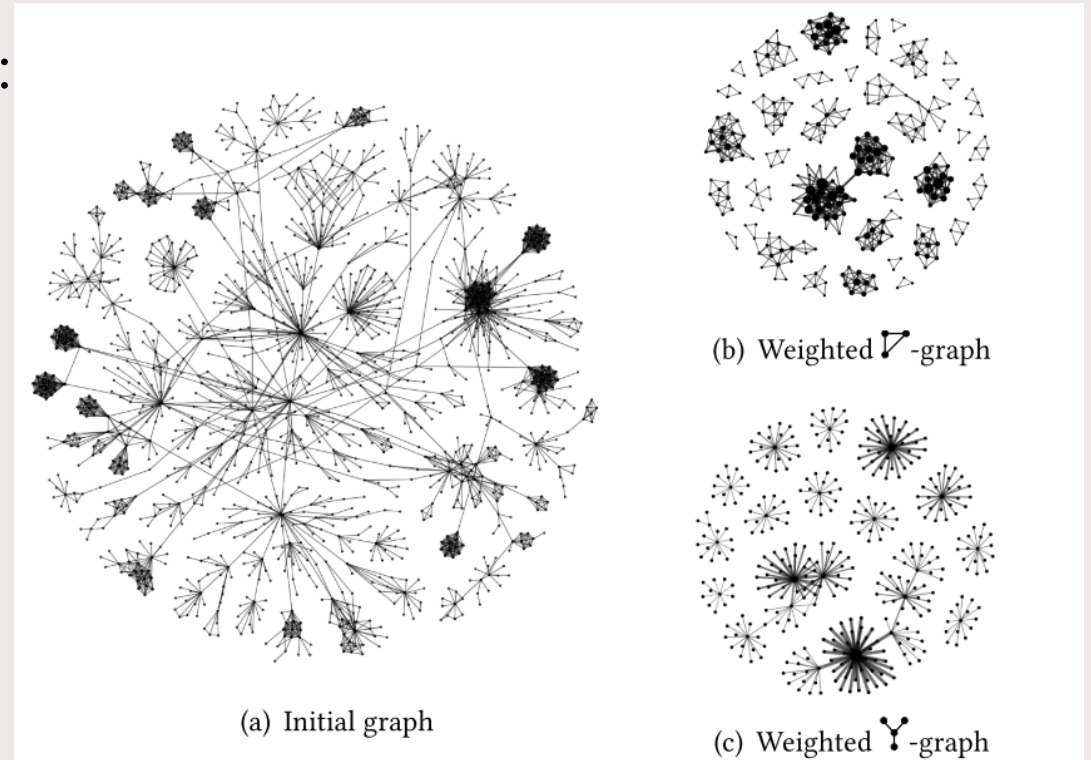
Feature matrix transformed from the k-step weighted motif adjacency matrix.

- Global embeddings:

$$\min_{\mathbf{H}, \mathbf{M}} \left\| \mathbf{F}_{HONE} - \mathbf{H} \mathbf{M} \right\|_F^2$$

Concatenated  $\mathbf{H}_{\mathcal{M}_m}^{(k)}$  with all  $k$  and  $m$ .

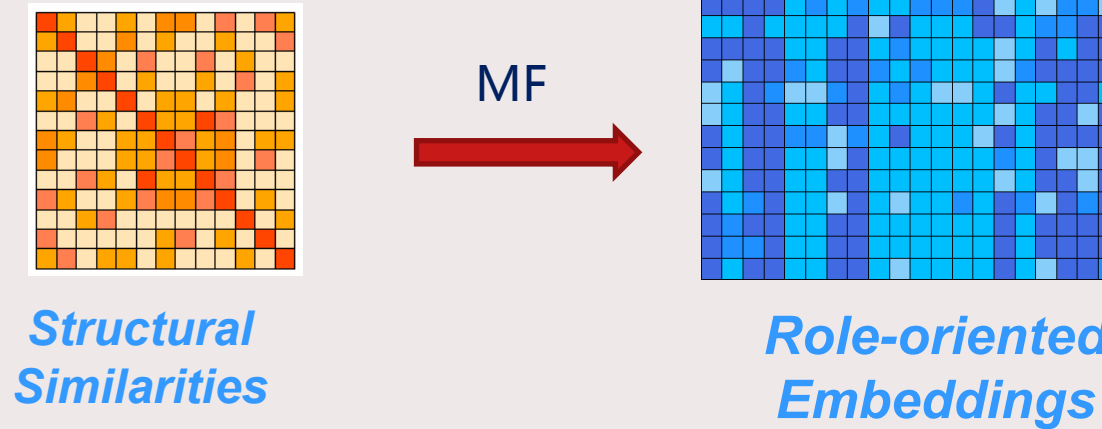
## Structural Feature Matrix Factorization



Weighted Motif Graphs

## xNetMF (Cross-Network Matrix Factorization) [11]:

Structural Similarity  
Matrix Factorization



Nystrom method

$$\mathbf{S}_{ij} = \exp(-\gamma_s \text{dist}_s(v_i, v_j) - \gamma_a \text{dist}_a(v_i, v_j))$$

On features

On attributes

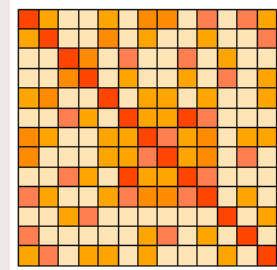
$$\mathbf{F}_{ic}^k = |\mathcal{D}_{i,c}^k| = |\{v_j \in \mathcal{N}_i^k \mid \lfloor \log_2 d_j \rfloor = c\}|$$

$$\mathbf{F}_i = \sum_{k=1}^K \delta^k \mathbf{F}_i^k$$

- 1) Select  $r \ll n$  nodes as landmarks randomly or based on node centralities.
- 2) Compute a node-to-landmark similarity matrix  $\mathbf{C} \in \mathbb{R}^{n \times r}$  and extract a landmark-to-landmark similarity matrix  $\mathbf{B} \in \mathbb{R}^{r \times r}$  from  $\mathbf{C}$ .
- 3) Apply Singular Value Decomposition on the pseudoinverse of  $\mathbf{B}$  so that  $\mathbf{B}^\dagger = \mathbf{V}\Sigma\mathbf{Y}^\top$ .
- 4) Obtain embedding matrix  $\mathbf{H}$  by computing and normalize  $\mathbf{C}\mathbf{V}\Sigma^{-\frac{1}{2}}$ .

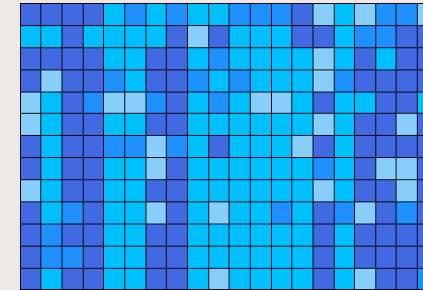
## EMBER (EMBedding Email-based Roles) [13]:

Structural Similarity  
Matrix Factorization



*Structural  
Similarity*  
 $\mathbf{S}$

MF



*Role-oriented  
Embeddings*

Nystrom method is used.

$$S_{ij} = \exp(-\|\mathbf{F}_i - \mathbf{F}_j\|^2)$$

$$\mathbf{F}_{EMBER} = [\mathbf{F}^+, \mathbf{F}^-]$$

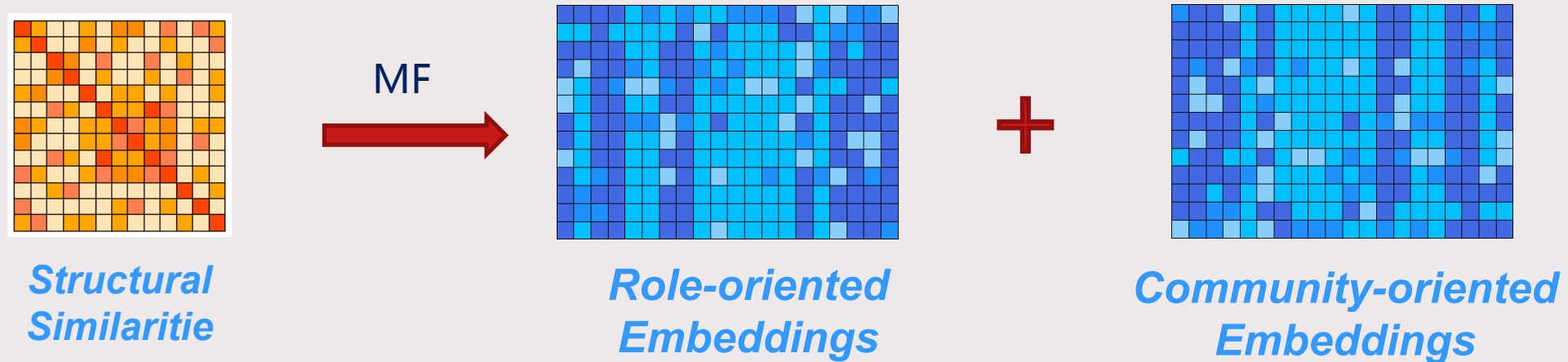
$$\mathbf{F}_{ic}^{k+} = \sum_{v_j \in \mathcal{D}_{i,c}^{k+}} \text{pw}(\mathcal{P}_{v_i \rightarrow v_j}^{k+})$$

$$\mathbf{F}_i^+ = \sum_{k=1}^K \delta^k \mathbf{F}_i^{k+}$$

The product of all edge weights in a k-step shortest outgoing path

SPaE (hybrid network embedding method that unifies both structural proximity and equivalence (SPaE)) [14]:

Structural Similarity  
Matrix Factorization



$$\max_{\mathbf{H}_R} \mathcal{J}_R = \text{Tr}(\mathbf{H}_R^\top \mathbf{L}_S \mathbf{H}_R), \text{ s.t. } \mathbf{H}_R^\top \mathbf{H}_R = \mathbf{I}.$$

$$\max_{\mathbf{H}_C} \mathcal{J}_C = \text{Tr}(\mathbf{H}_C^\top \mathbf{L}_A \mathbf{H}_C), \text{ s.t. } \mathbf{H}_C^\top \mathbf{H}_C = \mathbf{I}.$$

Computed based on  
Graphlet Degree Vectors

$$\begin{aligned} \max_{\mathbf{H}_R, \mathbf{H}_C, \mathbf{H}_H} \quad & \mathcal{J}_R + p_R + \gamma(\mathcal{J}_C + p_C), \\ \text{s.t.} \quad & \mathbf{H}_R^\top \mathbf{H}_R = \mathbf{I}, \mathbf{H}_C^\top \mathbf{H}_C = \mathbf{I}, \mathbf{H}_H^\top \mathbf{H}_H = \mathbf{I}. \end{aligned}$$

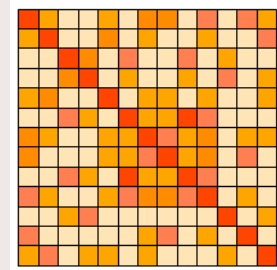
Computed based on  
adjacency matrix

$$p_R = \text{Tr}(\mathbf{H}_R^\top \mathbf{H}_H \mathbf{H}_H^\top \mathbf{H}_R)$$

$$p_C = \text{Tr}(\mathbf{H}_C^\top \mathbf{H}_H \mathbf{H}_H^\top \mathbf{H}_C)$$

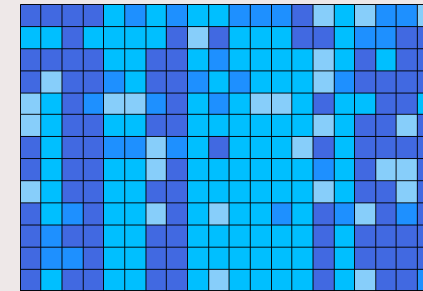
## SEGK (Structural Embeddings using Graph Kernels) [5]:

Structural Similarity  
Matrix Factorization



*Structural  
Similaritie*

MF



*Role-oriented  
Embeddings*

$$S_{ij} = \sum_{k=1}^K \hat{\mathcal{K}}(\mathcal{G}_i^k, \mathcal{G}_j^k) \hat{\mathcal{K}}(\mathcal{G}_i^{k-1}, \mathcal{G}_j^{k-1})$$

*S*

Initialization:  $\hat{\mathcal{K}}(\mathcal{G}_i^0, \mathcal{G}_j^0) = 1$

Normalization:  $\hat{\mathcal{K}}(\mathcal{G}, \mathcal{G}') = \frac{\mathcal{K}(\mathcal{G}, \mathcal{G}')}{\sqrt{\mathcal{K}(\mathcal{G}, \mathcal{G})\mathcal{K}(\mathcal{G}', \mathcal{G}')}}}$

Nystrom method is used:

$$H = S U_{[r]} \Lambda_{[r]}^{-\frac{1}{2}}$$

First  $r$  eigenvalues and eigenvectors.

## Structural Feature Matrix

- Matrix Factorization (MF)
  - RoIX, GLRD, RIDERs
  - Direct embeddings from MF
- Eigen-decomposition
  - GraphWave
- Motif factorization
  - HONE

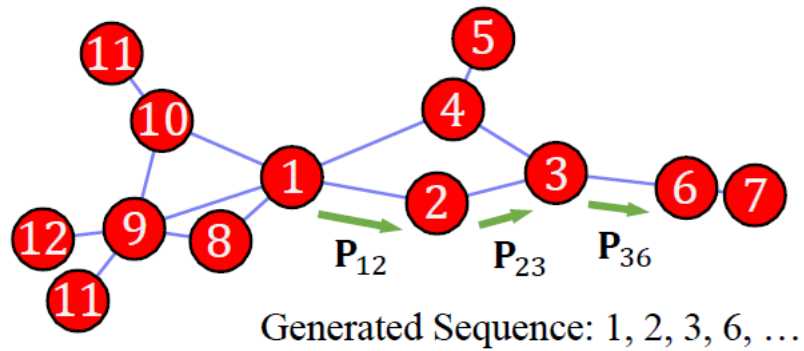
## Structural Similarity Matrix

- Similarity matrix calculation
  - Pair-wise calculation is time-consuming
- Nystrom method to improve the matrix factorization efficiency
  - xNetMF, EMBER, SEGK

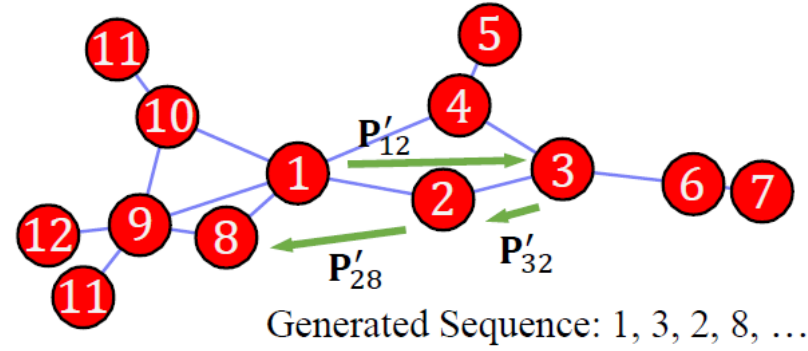
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EMBER			✗	✓	✓	✗	2019
SEGK			✓	✓	✓	✗	2019
REACT			✗	✓	✗	✗	2019
SPaF			✓	✓	✗	✗	2019
struc2vec	random walk-based methods	on similarity-biased random walks	✓	✓	✗	✗	2017
SPINE			✗	✓	✗	✗	2019
struc2gauss			✓	✓	✗	✗	2020
Role2Vec		on feature-based random walks	✗	✗	✗	✓	2019
RiWalk			✗	✓	✗	✗	2019
NODE2BITS			✗	✗	✓	✗	2019
DRNE	deep learning	via structural information reconstruction/guidance	✓	✓	✗	✗	2018
GAS			✓	✓	✗	✗	2020
RESO			✓	✓	✓	✗	2021
GraLSP			✓	✓	✗	✓	2020
GCC			✗	✓	✓	✗	2020
RDAA			✓	✓	✗	✗	2021
CNESE			✓	✓	✓	✗	2021

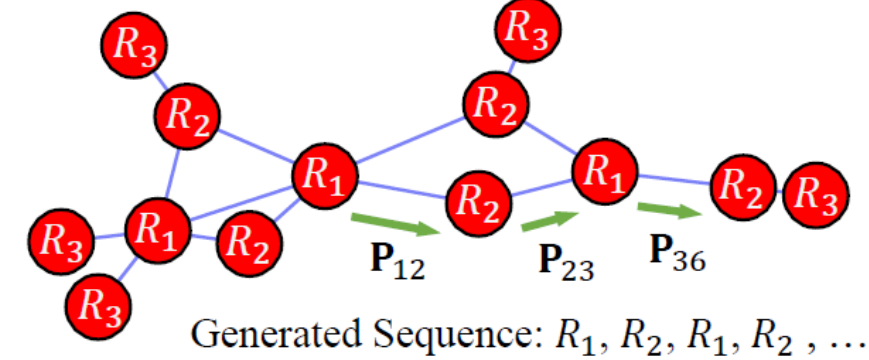




(a) Normal Random Walks



(b) Structural Similarity-biased Random Walks



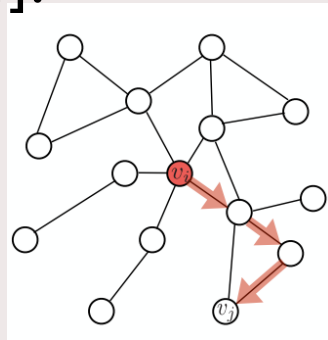
(c) Structural Feature-based Random Walks

➤ Nodes in the same context have high proximity.

➤ Nodes in the same context have high structural similarity.

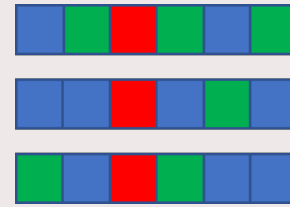
➤ Nodes have the similar labels have high structural similarity.

struc2vec [4]:



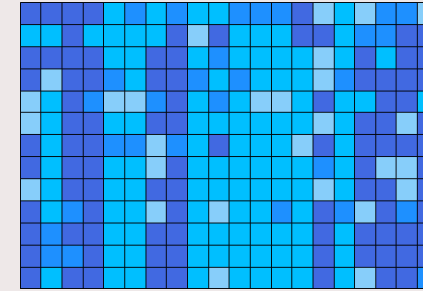
*Input Network*

Biased  
Random  
Walks



*Sequences*

Skip-  
Gram[15]



*Role-oriented  
Embeddings*

Structural Similarity-  
biased Random Walks

Compute structural distances:

$$\text{dist}_d^k(v_i, v_j) = \text{dist}_d^{k-1}(v_i, v_j) + \text{DTW}(\mathcal{H}_i^k, \mathcal{H}_j^k),$$

$$0 \leq k \leq k^*$$

Build a multi-layer graph:

In each layer:

$$w_C^k(v_i^k, v_j^k) = \exp(-\text{dist}_d^k(v_i^k, v_j^k)), k = 0, \dots, k^*$$

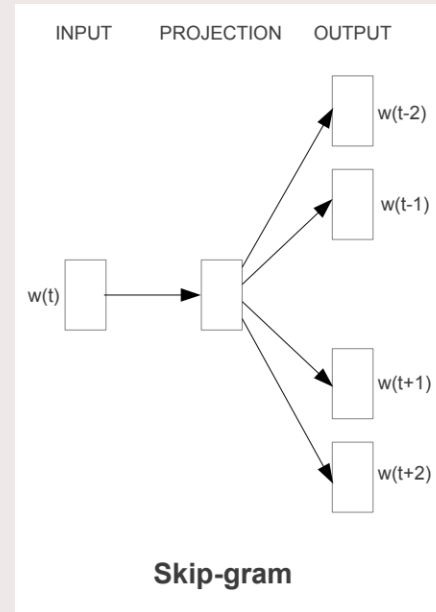
Between layers:

$$w_C(v_i^k, v_i^{k+1}) = \log(\Gamma(v_i^k) + e), k = 0, \dots, k^* - 1$$

$$w_C(v_i^k, v_i^{k-1}) = 1, k = 1, \dots, k^*$$

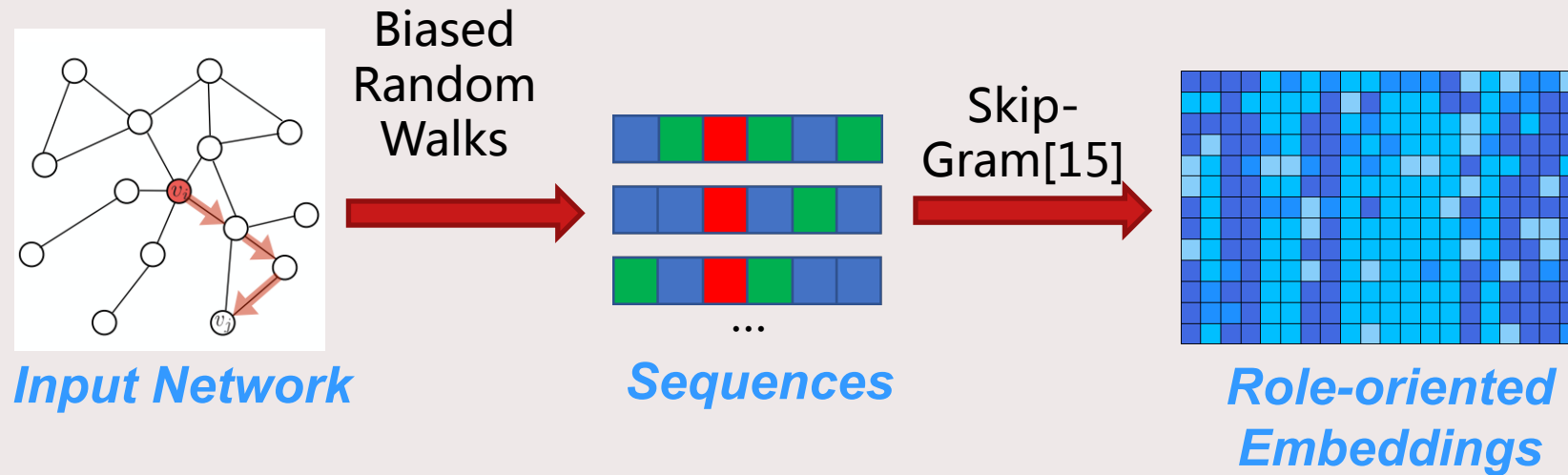
Walk probability:

$$(\mathbf{P}_{S2V}^k)_{ij} = \frac{w_C^k(v_i^k, v_j^k)}{\sum_{(v_i^k, v_{j'}^k) \in \mathcal{E}_C^k} w_C^k(v_i^k, v_{j'}^k)}$$



## SPINE (Structural Identity Preserved Inductive Network Embedding) [3]:

Structural Similarity-  
biased Random Walks



Structural features: largest values of Rooted PageRank Matrix  $\Omega = (1 - \beta_{RPR})(\mathbf{I} - \beta_{RPR}\mathbf{P})^{-1}$

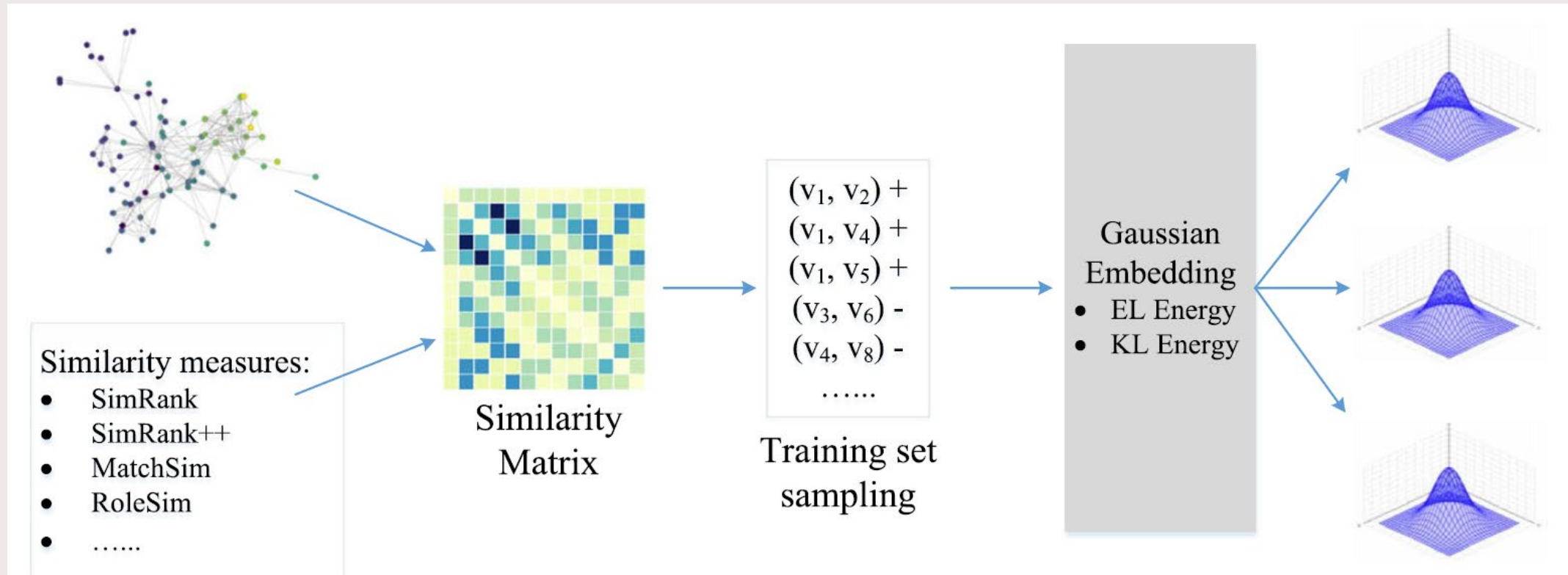
Structural similarities: DTW or other methods based on node features.

Walk probability:

$$(\mathbf{P}_{S2V}^k)_{ij} = \frac{w_C^k(v_i^k, v_j^k)}{\sum_{(v_i^k, v_{j'}) \in \mathcal{E}_C^k} w_C^k(v_i^k, v_{j'})}$$

## struc2gauss [16]:

Structural Similarity-  
biased Random Walks



## RoleSim:

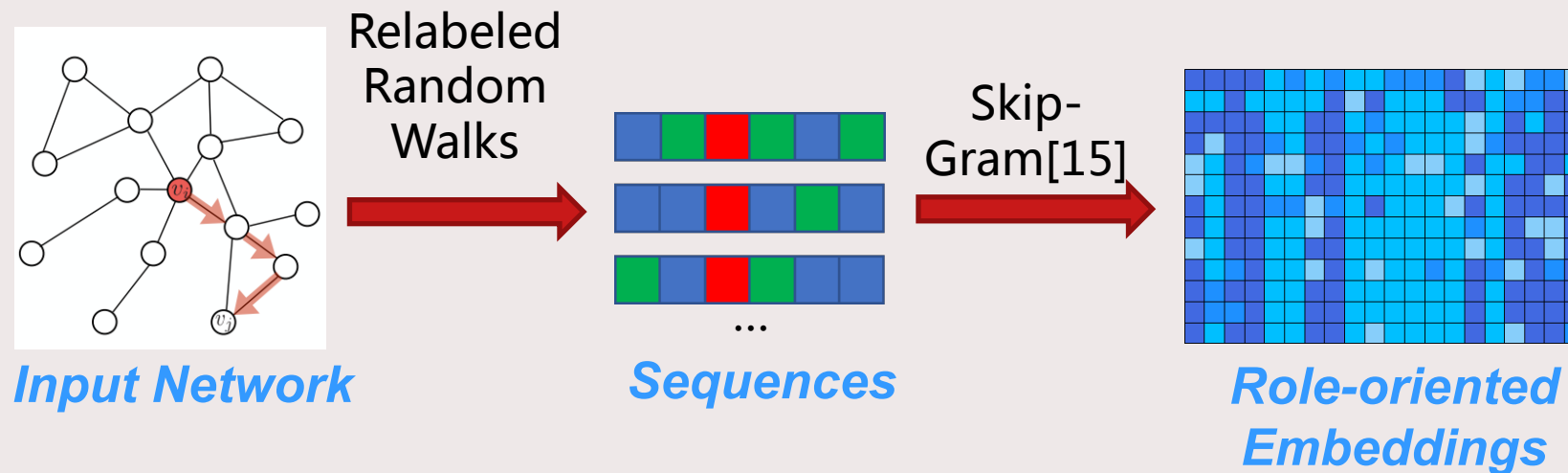
$$RoleSim(u, v) = (1 - \beta) \max_{M(u, v)} \frac{\sum_{(x, y) \in M(u, v)} RoleSim(x, y)}{|N(u)| + |N(v)| - |M(u, v)|} + \beta$$

## Energy function:

$$\mathcal{L} = \sum_{(v, u) \in \Gamma_+} \sum_{(v', u') \in \Gamma_-} \max(0, m - \mathcal{E}(z_v, z_u) + \mathcal{E}(z_{v'}, z_{u'}))$$

## RiWalk (Role identification walk) [18]:

Structural Feature-  
based Random Walks



Indicator approximating shortest path kernel:

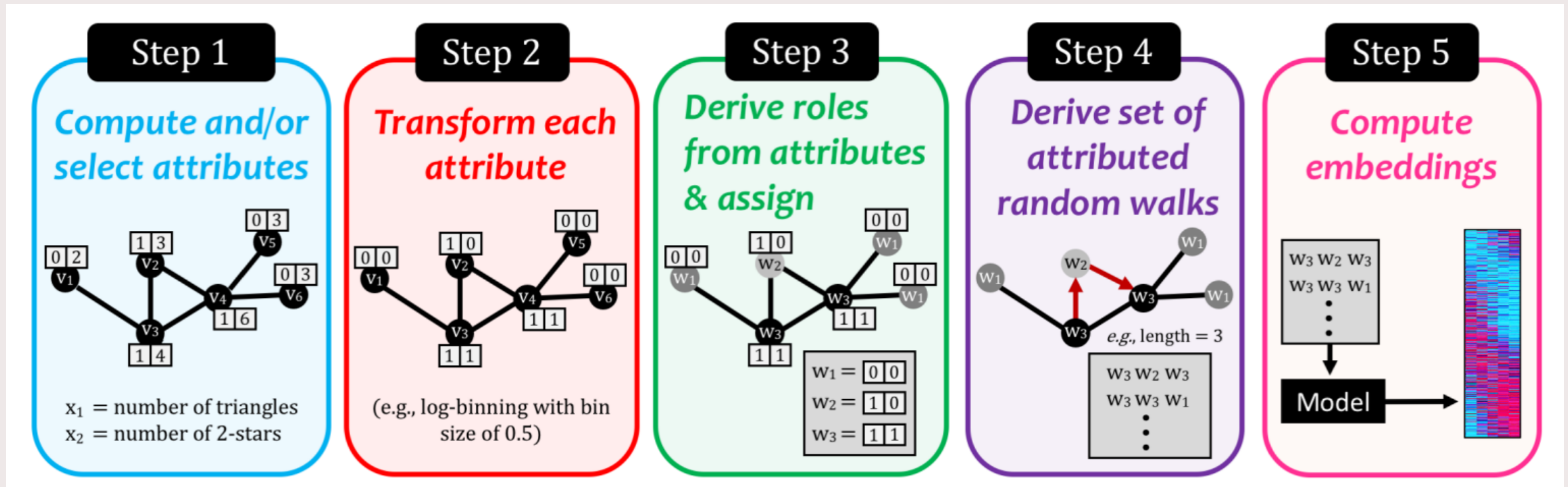
$$\phi_{SP}^i(v_j) = b(d_i) \circ b(d_j) \circ s_{ij}, v_j \in \mathcal{N}_i^k$$

Indicator approximating Weisfeiler-Lehman sub-tree kernel:

$$\phi_{WL}^i(v_j) = b(\mathbf{l}^{<i,i>}) \circ b(\mathbf{l}^{<i,j>}) \circ s_{ij}, v_j \in \mathcal{N}_i^k$$

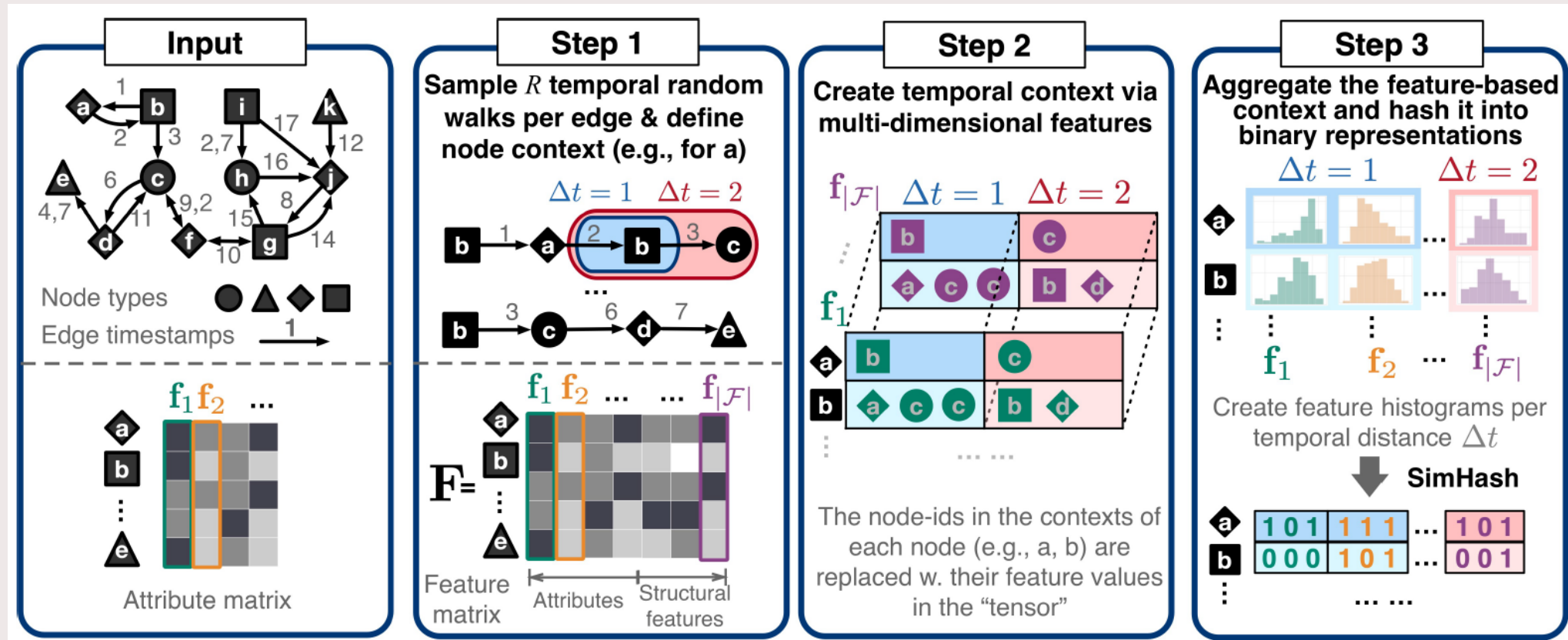
role2vec [17]:

Structural Feature-  
based Random Walks



## NODE2BITS [19]:

Structural Feature-based Random Walks



## Structural Similarity-based RW

### Calculating similarity

- Strength: Random walk on constructed graph that can better capture role information
- Weakness: time-consuming for similarity calculation and graph construction

## Structural Feature based RW

- No consistent frameworks
  - Graph kernels: RiWalk
  - Simhash: NODE2BITS
  - Graphlets: Role2Vec

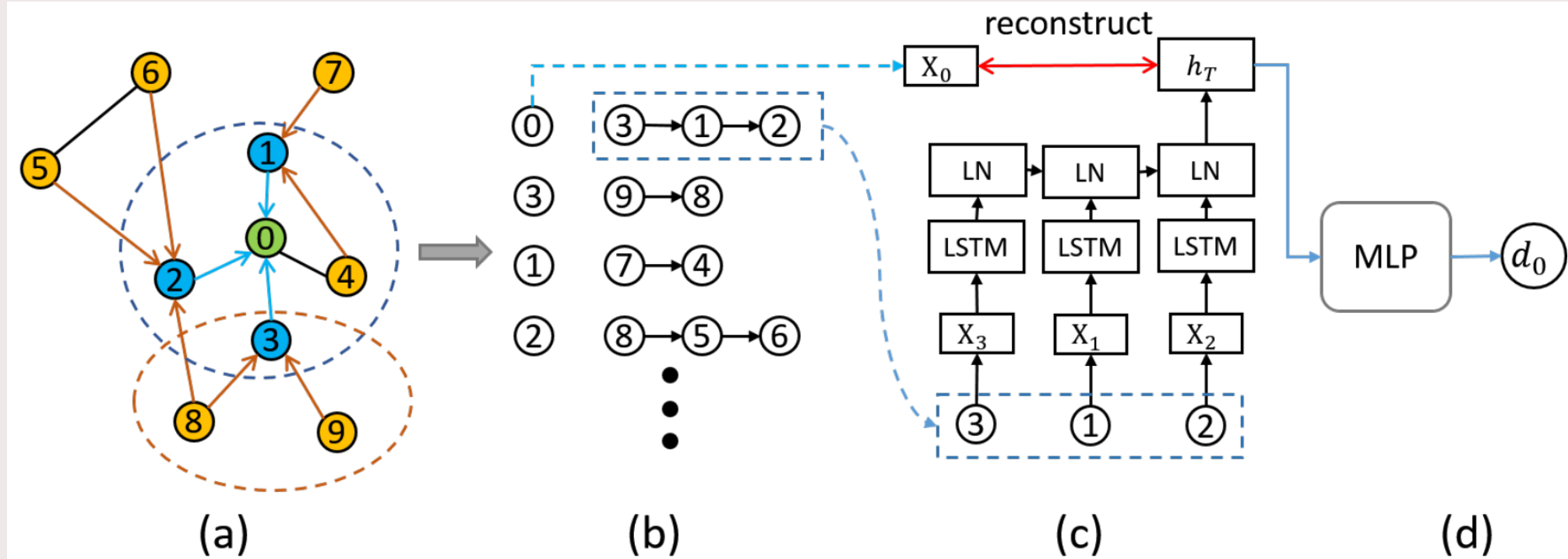


# The new two-level categorization :

Method	Embedding Mechanism		Conducted Tasks				Year
			Vis	CLF/CLT	ER/NA/SS	LP	
RoIX	low-rank matrix factorization	on structural feature matrix	✓	✓	✗	✗	2012
GLRD			✗	✗	✓	✗	2013
RIDERS			✓	✓	✓	✗	2017
GraphWave			✓	✓	✗	✗	2018
HONE			✓	✗	✓	✓	2020
xNetMF		on structural similarity matrix	✗	✗	✓	✗	2018
EMBER			✗	✓	✓	✗	2019
SEGK			✓	✓	✓	✗	2019
REACT			✗	✓	✗	✗	2019
SPaE			✓	✓	✗	✗	2019
struc2vec	random walk-based methods	on similarity-biased random walks	✓	✓	✗	✗	2017
SPINE			✗	✓	✗	✗	2019
struc2gauss			✓	✓	✗	✗	2020
Role2Vec		on feature-based random walks	✗	✗	✗	✓	2019
RiWalk			✗	✓	✗	✗	2019
NODE2BITS			✗	✗	✓	✗	2019
DRNE			✓	✓	✗	✗	2018
GAS	deep learning	via structural information reconstruction/guidance	✓	✓	✗	✗	2020
RESN			✓	✓	✓	✗	2021
GraLSP			✓	✓	✗	✓	2020
GCC			✗	✓	✓	✗	2020
RDAA			✓	✓	✗	✗	2021
CNESE			✓	✓	✓	✗	2021

## DRNE (Deep recursive network embedding ) [2]:

Structural Information  
Reconstruction/Guidance



Loss for capturing regular equivalence:

$$\mathcal{L}_{equiv} = \sum_{v_i \in \mathcal{V}} \left\| \mathbf{H}_i - \check{\mathbf{H}}_i \right\|_2^2$$

Embedding of node  
 $v_i'$ 's neighbor

$$\check{\mathbf{H}}_{(t)} = \text{LNLSTM}(\mathbf{H}_{(t)}, \check{\mathbf{H}}_{(t-1)})$$

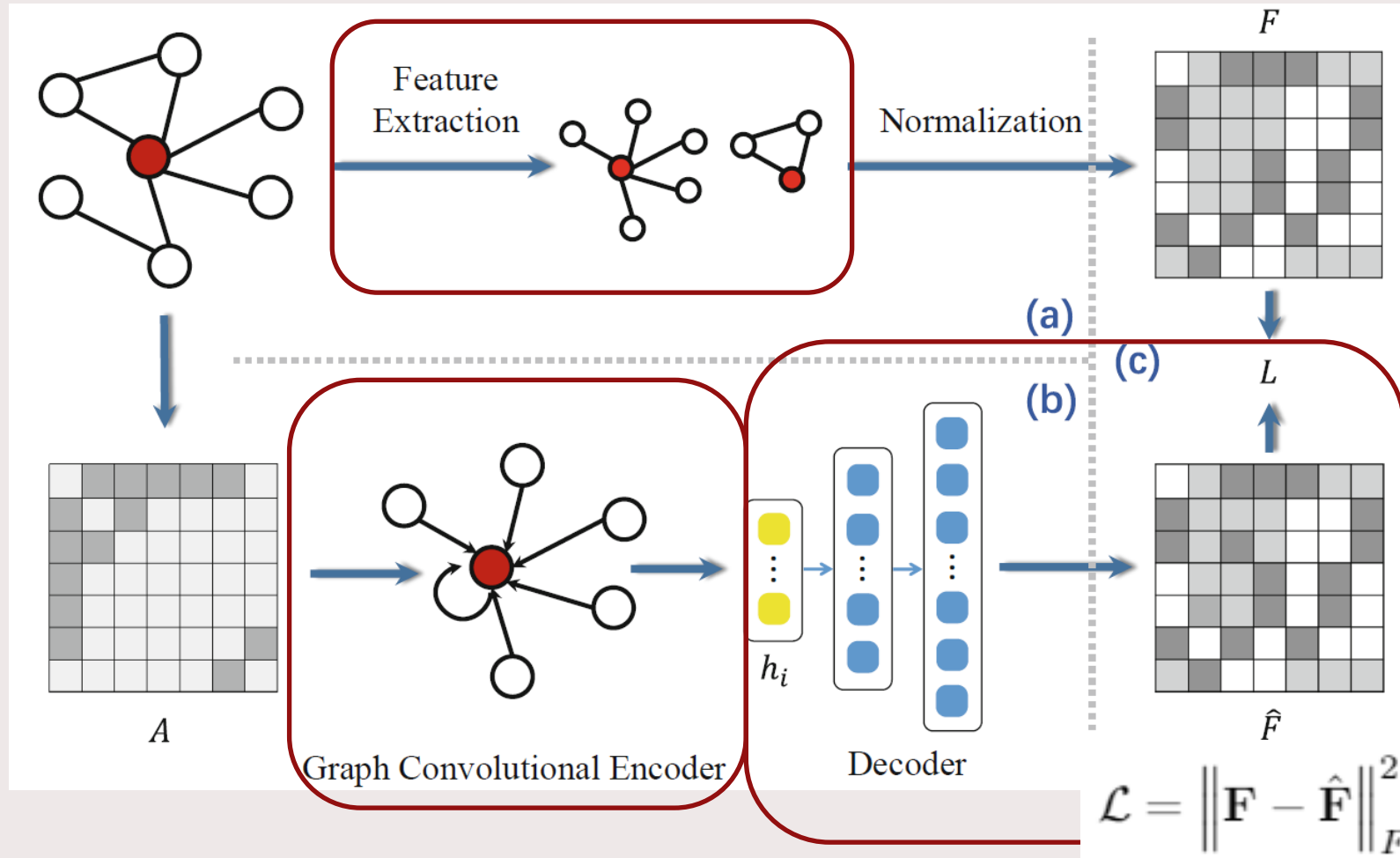
$$\check{\mathbf{H}}_i = \check{\mathbf{H}}_{(T)}$$

Loss for degree-guided  
regularizer:

$$\mathcal{L}_{deg} = \sum_{v_i \in \mathcal{V}} (\log(d_i + 1) - \text{MLP}_{deg}(\check{\mathbf{H}}_i))^2$$

## GAS (Graph Auto-encoder Guided by Structural Information) [20]:

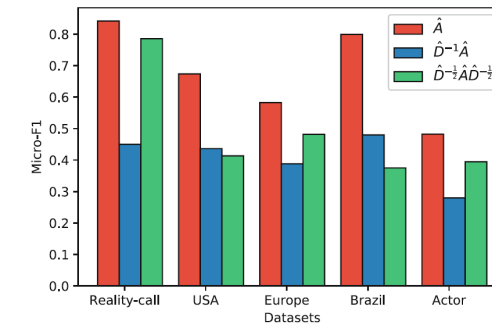
Structural Information  
Reconstruction/Guidance



Graph convolutional layer:

$$\mathbf{H}^{(l)} = \sigma(\tilde{\mathbf{A}}\mathbf{H}^{(l-1)}\Theta^{(l-1)})$$

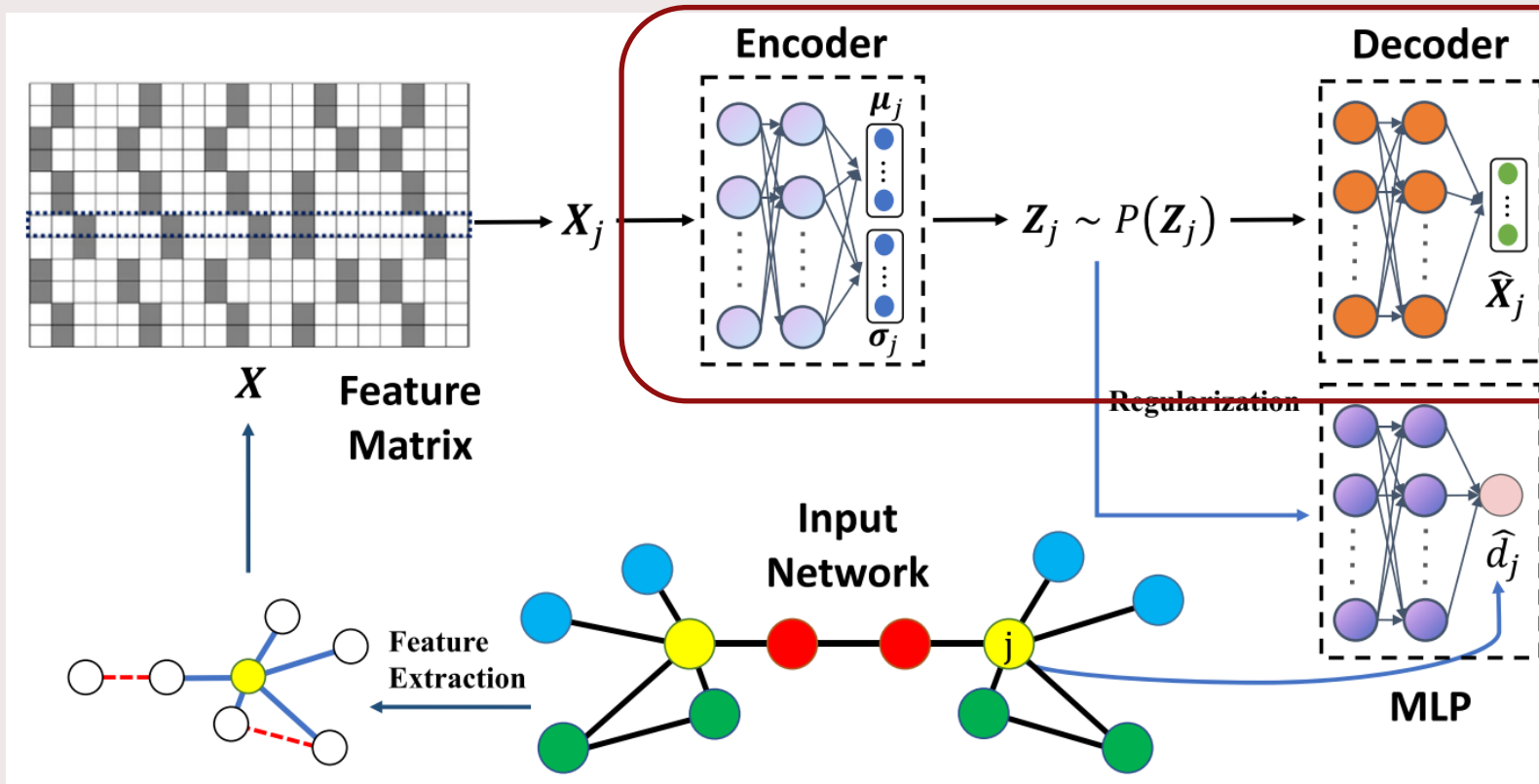
$$\tilde{\mathbf{A}} = \mathbf{A} + \mathbf{I}$$



Effectiveness w.r.t the propagation rules of graph convolutional encoder.

## RESN (Role-based network Embedding via Structural features reconstruction with Degree-regularized constraint) [21]:

Structural Information  
Reconstruction/Guidance



Variational encoder:

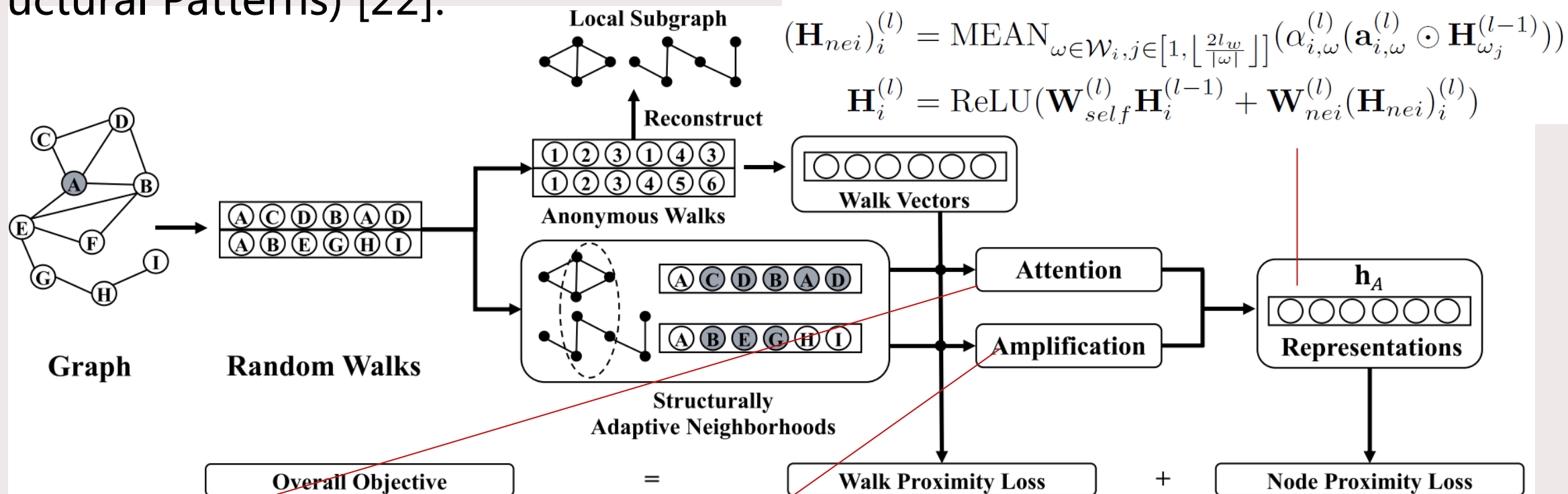
$$\begin{aligned}
 Z_i &= \text{MLP}_{enc}(\mathbf{F}_i) \\
 \mu_i &= \mathbf{W}_\mu Z_i + \mathbf{b}_\mu \\
 \log(\sigma_i) &= \mathbf{W}_\sigma Z_i + \mathbf{b}_\sigma \\
 \mathbf{H}_i &= \mu_i + \sigma_i \odot \epsilon, \epsilon \sim \text{Gaussian}(\mathbf{0}, \mathbf{I}) \\
 \hat{\mathbf{F}}_i &= \text{MLP}_{dec}(\mathbf{H}_i)
 \end{aligned}$$

Loss for degree-guided regularizer:

$$\mathcal{L}_{deg} = \sum_{v_i \in \mathcal{V}} (\log(d_i + 1) - \text{MLP}_{deg}(\check{\mathbf{H}}_i))^2$$

## GraLSP (Graph Neural Networks with Local Structural Patterns) [22]:

Structural Information  
Reconstruction/Guidance



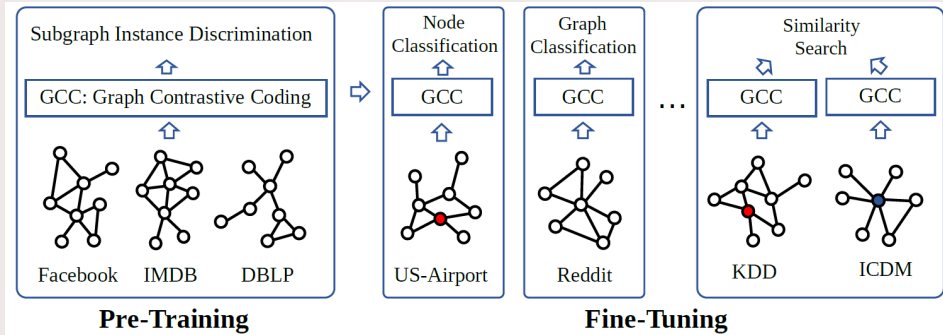
$$\alpha_{i,\omega}^{(l)} = \frac{\exp(\text{SLP}_{att}(\mathbf{u}_{aw(\omega)}))}{\sum_{\omega' \in \mathcal{W}_i} \exp(\text{SLP}_{att}(\mathbf{u}_{aw(\omega')}))}$$

$$\mathbf{a}_{i,\omega}^{(l)} = \text{SLP}_{amp}(\mathbf{u}_{aw(\omega)})$$

$$\mathcal{L}_{prox} = - \sum_{v_i \in \mathcal{V}} \sum_{v_j \in \mathcal{N}_i} (\log \sigma(\mathbf{H}_i \mathbf{H}_i^\top) - \gamma_{neg} \mathbb{E}_{v_k \sim P_n(v)} [\log \sigma(\mathbf{H}_i \mathbf{H}_k^\top)])$$

## GCC (Graph Contrastive Coding) [23]:

Structural Information  
Reconstruction/Guidance

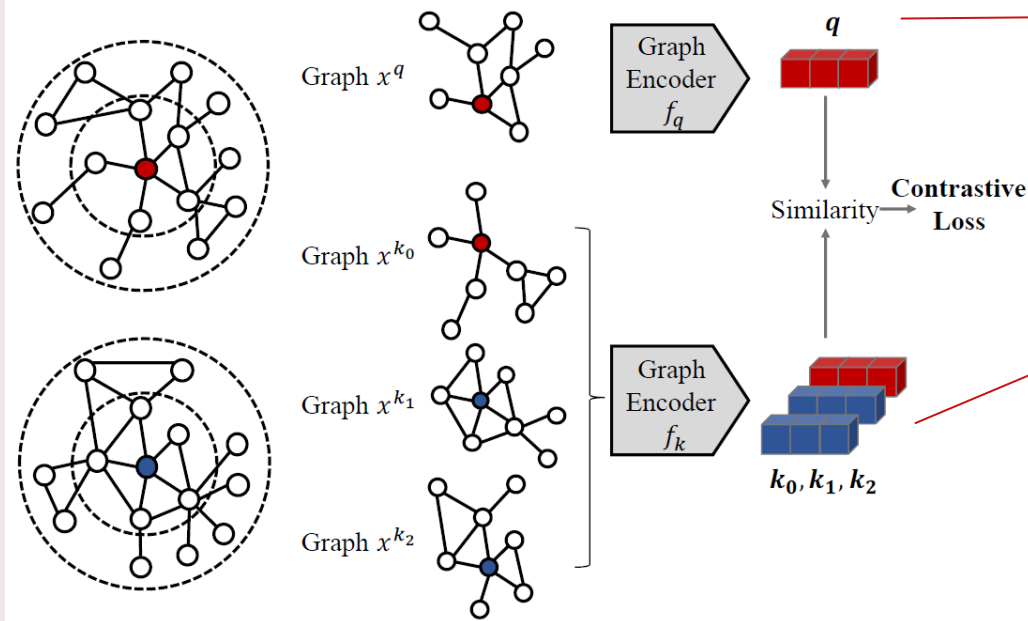


Graph Isomorphic Network [24] encoder:

$$\mathbf{H}^{(l)} = \text{MLP}_{GIN}((\mathbf{A} + (1 + \epsilon) \cdot \mathbf{I})\mathbf{H}^{(l-1)})$$

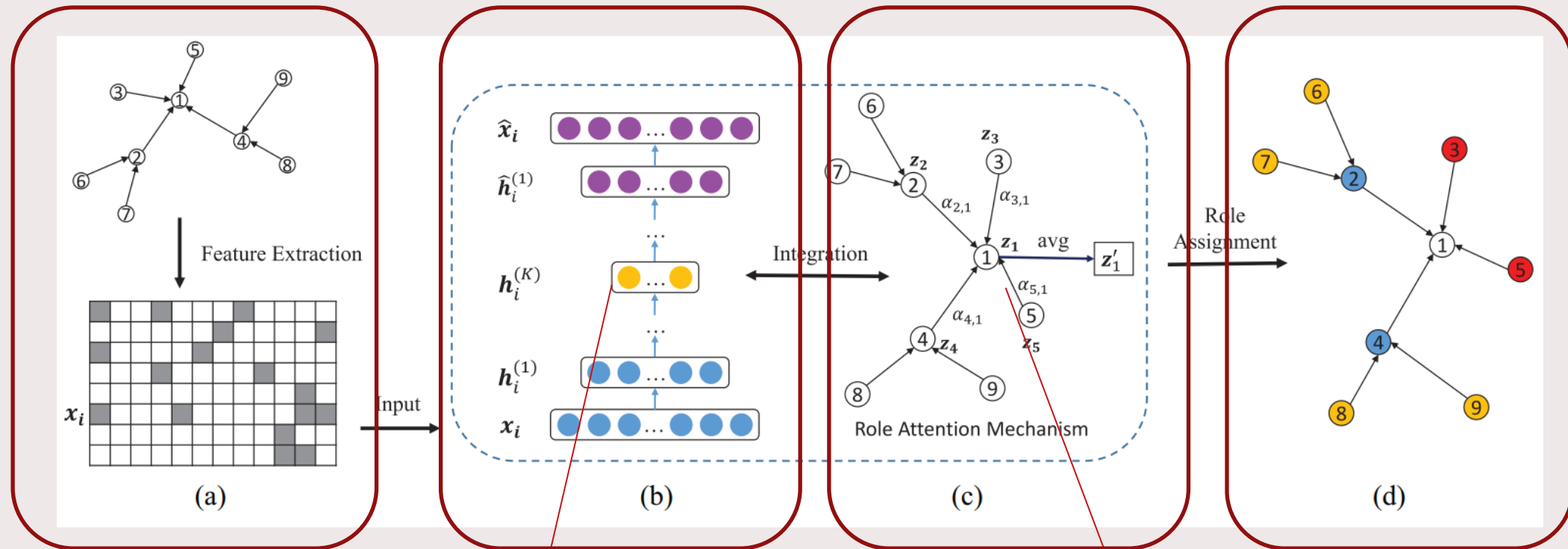
Contrastive learning loss (InfoNCE[25]):

$$\mathcal{L} = \sum_{v_i \in \mathcal{V}} -\log \frac{\exp(\mathbf{H}_i \mathbf{x}^+ / \iota)}{\sum_{j=0}^K \exp(\mathbf{H}_i \mathbf{x}_j / \iota)}$$



## RDAA (Role Discovery-Guided Network Embedding Based on Autoencoder and Attention Mechanism) [26]:

Structural Information  
Reconstruction/Guidance



$$\mathcal{L}_{AE} = \sum_{i=1}^n \|(\mathbf{x}_i - \hat{\mathbf{x}}_i) \odot \boldsymbol{\beta}_i\|_2^2$$

$$\mathcal{L}_{\text{role}} = \sum_{i=1}^n \left( \|\mathbf{z}_i - \mathcal{G}(\{\mathbf{z}_j | j \in \mathcal{N}(i)\})\|_2^2 \right)$$



## CNESE (Learning Stochastic Equivalence based on Discrete Ricci Curvature) [27]:

Structural Information  
Reconstruction/Guidance

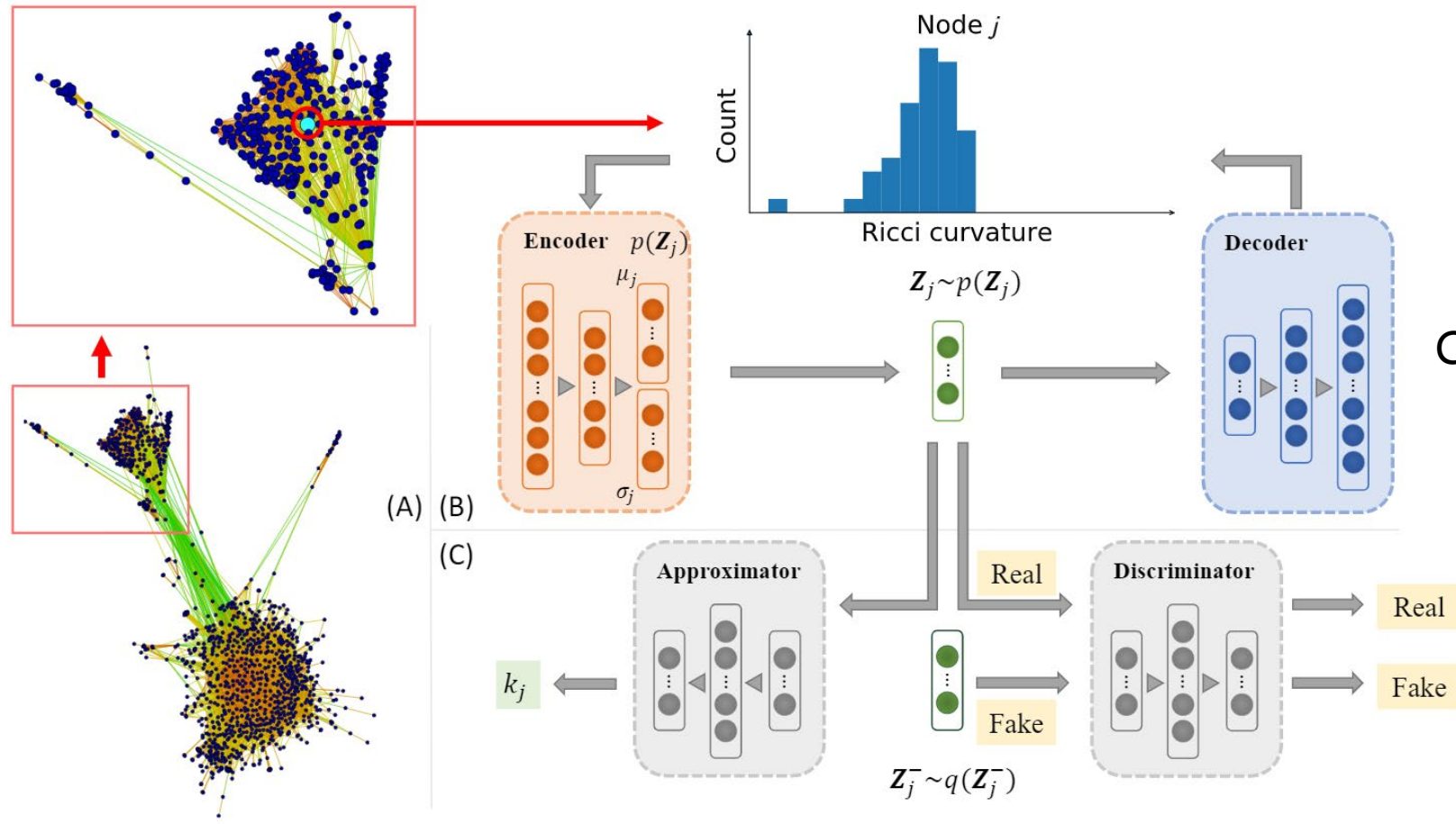
Olivier's Ricci Curvature:

$$\kappa(u, v) = 1 - \frac{W(m_u, m_v)}{d(u, v)}$$

$$W(m_u, m_v) = \inf_A \sum_{x, y \in V} A(x, y) d(x, y)$$

Contrastive Learning Regularizer:

$$\mathcal{L}_{con} = \frac{1}{2n} \left( \sum_{i=1}^n \mathbb{E}_{\mathbf{Z}} - \log(\mathcal{D}(\mathbf{Z}_i^-)) \right) + \sum_{j=1}^n \mathbb{E}_{\mathbf{H}} \log(1 - \mathcal{D}(\mathcal{G}(\mathbf{H}_j)))$$





## Deep learning architecture + X

- LSTM + regular equivalence = DRNE
- GNN + ReFeX features = GAS / RESD
- GIN + contrastive learning + subgraph patterns = GCC
- Autoencoder + Attention + regular equivalence = RDAA
- Ricci Curvature + contrastive learning = CNESE

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# A Survey on Role-Oriented Network Embedding

P Jiao, X Guo, T Pan, W Zhang, Y Pei



# Roles in Networks - Foundations, Methods and Applications

## Coffee/Tea Break



**ICDM 2021**

IEEE International Conference on Data Mining

7 – 10 DECEMBER 2021

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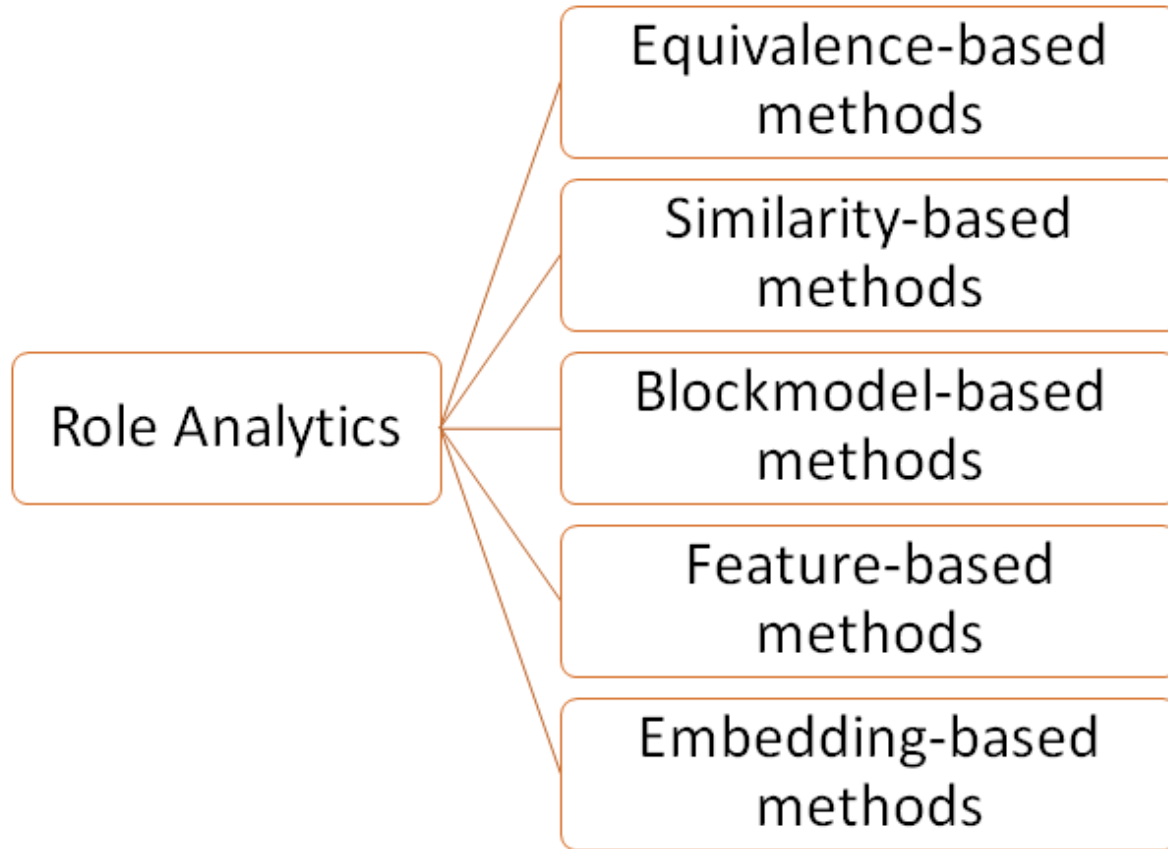


**EINDHOVEN  
UNIVERSITY OF  
TECHNOLOGY**



**天津大学**  
Tianjin University

# Role Analytics Methods: Summary



- Relations
- Combinations

# Challenges in Role Analytics

- Interpretable Role Analytics
- Role Analytics in Dynamic Networks
- Role Analytics Evaluation Framework
- Joint Role and Community Detection
- Other types of Embedding Spaces

# Interpretable Role Analytics

- Roles often correspond to social identifications in social science
- Real-world networks:
  - the network data is often of a massive scale
  - human labeling is very costly and time-consuming

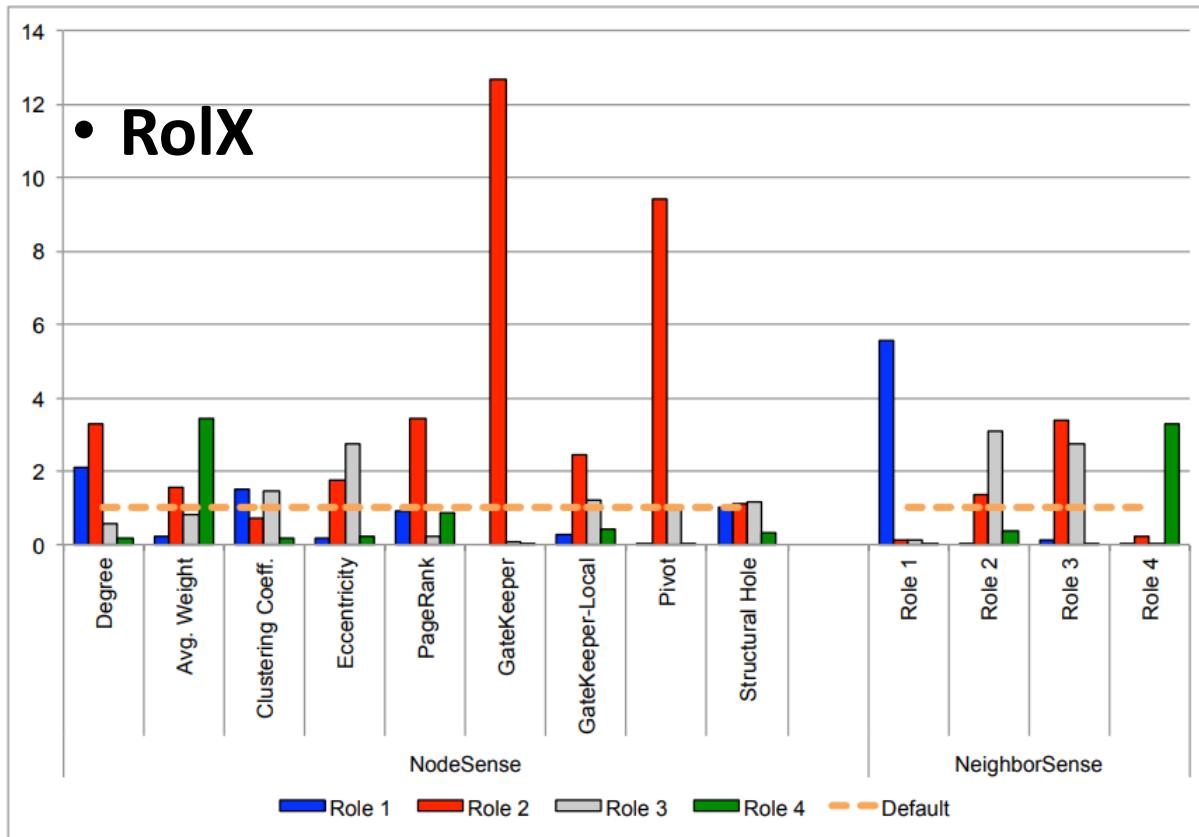
**What are the meaning of roles?**





# Interpretable Role Analytics

- **RolX**



- Using graph measures to interpret roles
- Using neighbor information to interpret roles
- Using nodes' attributes to interpret roles

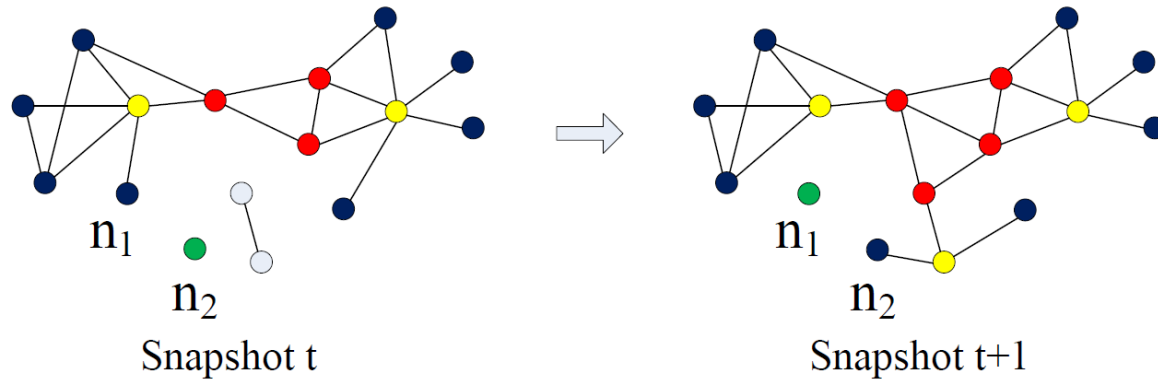


# Interpretable Role Analytics: Challenges

- How to interpret roles using graph measures to interpret roles? If the measures cannot distinguish different roles?
- How to make use of other sources of data to help interpret roles, e.g., meta data of nodes in networks.
- It is possible to interpret structural roles by
- Incorporating other roles, e.g., social roles?



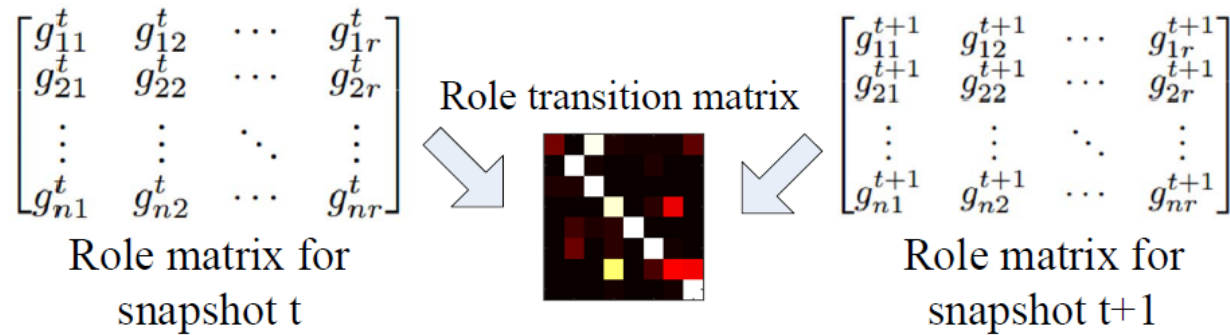
# Role Analytics in Dynamic Networks



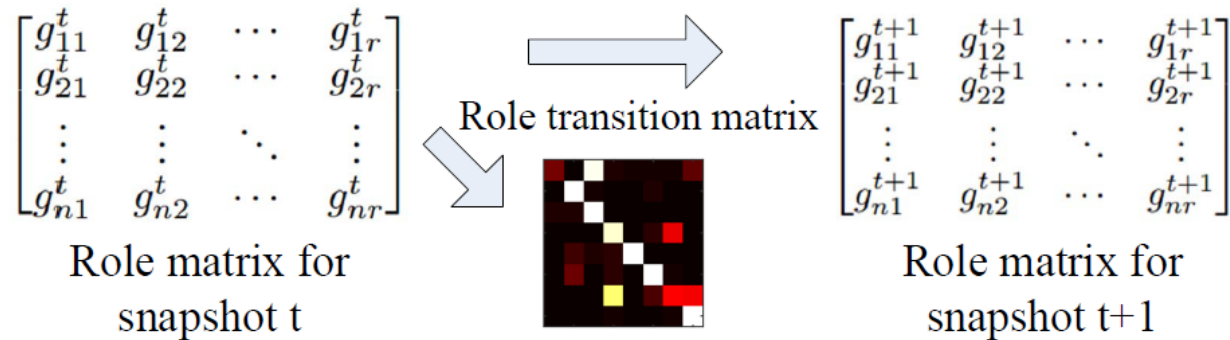
Real-world networks evolve with nodes/edges changed/added/deleted

- Different methods to analyze roles in dynamic networks
- Analyze roles in each graph snapshot and then analyze the role transition, e.g., DBMM
- Analyze roles and role transition simultaneously using a unified model, e.g., DyNMF and dynamic blockmodels

# Role Analytics in Dynamic Networks

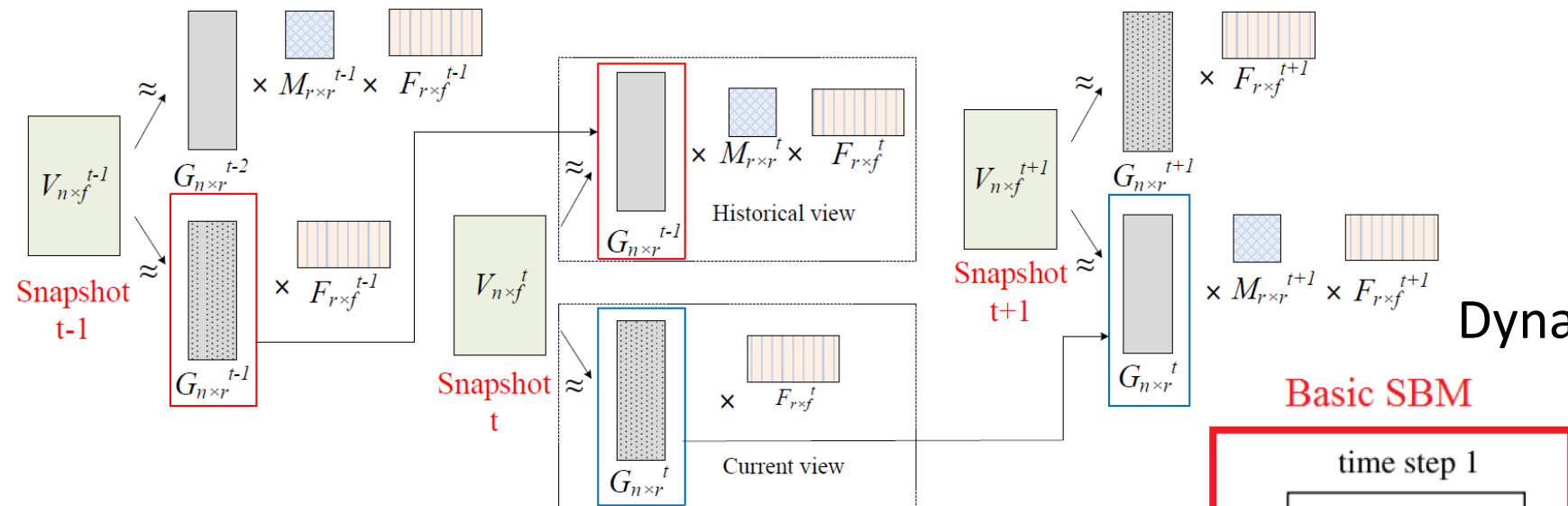


First analyze roles in each graph snapshot and then analyze the role transition



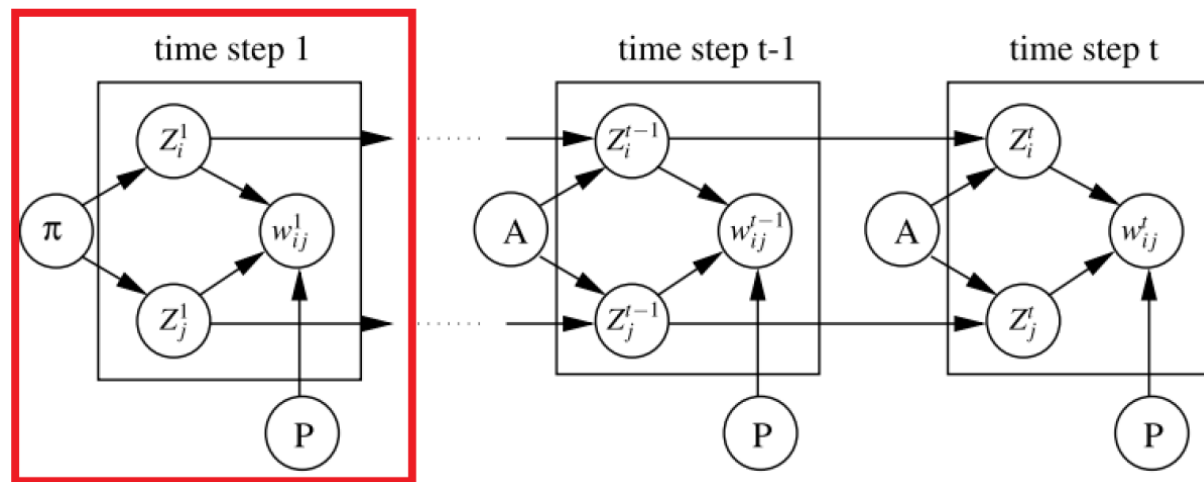
Analyze roles and role transition simultaneously using a unified model

# Role Analytics in Dynamic Networks



Dynamic SBM for Role Analytics

Dynamic NMF for Role Analytics

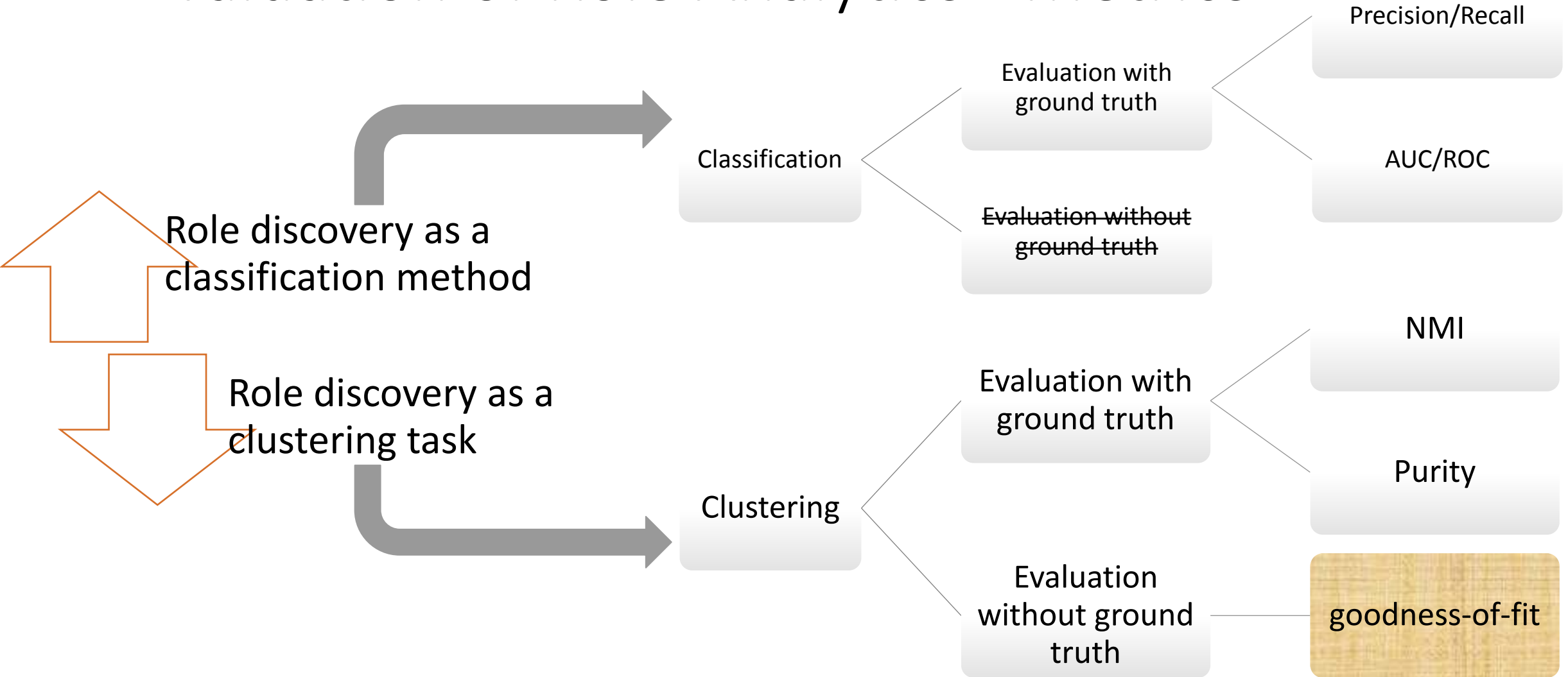


# Role Analytics in Dynamic Networks: Challenges

- Streaming networks
  - Nodes/edges can be added/deleted
- Efficiency
  - Role discovery for evolving nodes
- New patterns
  - Nodes with new patterns which reflect new roles



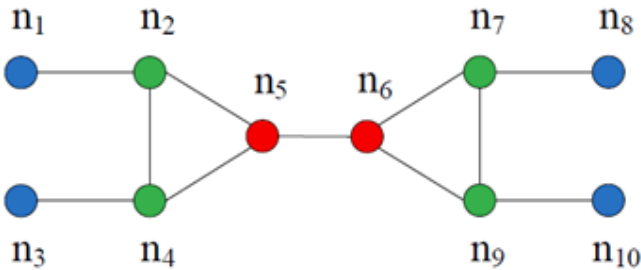
# Evaluation of Role Analytics - Metrics



# *Goodness-of-fit*

- In *goodness-of-fit* index, it is assumed that the output of a role discovery method is an optimal model, and nodes belonging to the same role are predicted to be perfectly **structurally equivalent**
- goodness-of-fit index can measure how well the representation of roles and the relations among these roles fit a given network
- Components
  - density matrix
  - criteria for constructing block matrix
    - Zeroblock
    - Oneblock
    - $\alpha$ -criteria
  - block matrix

# Goodness-of-fit



n5	0	1	0	1	0	1	0	0	0	0
n6	0	0	0	0	1	0	1	0	1	0
n2	1	0	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	0
n4	0	1	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	0
n7	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	1	1	0
n9	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	0	0	1
n1	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
n3	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0
n8	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0
n10	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0

Role 1

Role 2

Role 3

- Role 1 = {n5, n6}
- Role 2 = {n2, n4, n7, n9}
- Role 3 = {n1, n3, n8, n10}

$$\alpha = \frac{1}{n \cdot (n-1)} \sum_{1 \leq i, j \leq n} A_{ij}$$

$$\Delta_{ij} = \begin{cases} \sum_{v_m \in R_i, v_n \in R_j} A_{mn} / (|R_i| \cdot |R_j|), & \text{if } i \neq j \\ \sum_{v_m \in R_i, v_n \in R_j} A_{mn} / (|R_i| \cdot (|R_j| - 1)), & \text{if } i = j \end{cases}$$

$$B_{ij} = \begin{cases} 1, & \text{if } \Delta_{ij} \geq \alpha \\ 0, & \text{if } \Delta_{ij} < \alpha \end{cases}$$

Structural  
equivalenc

n1	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
n2	1	0	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	0
n3	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0
n4	0	1	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	0
n5	0	1	0	1	0	1	0	0	0	0
n6	0	0	0	0	1	0	1	0	1	0
n7	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	1	1	0
n8	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0
n9	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	0	0	1
n10	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0

Density matrix  $\Delta = \begin{bmatrix} 1/2 & 1/2 & 0 \\ 1/2 & 1/6 & 1/4 \\ 0 & 1/4 & 0 \end{bmatrix}$

Block matrix  $B = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 1 & 0 \\ 1 & \mathbf{e} & 1 \\ 0 & 1 & 0 \end{bmatrix}$

Goodness-of-fit index

$$e = \sum_{1 \leq i, j \leq 3} |B_{ij} - \Delta_{ij}|$$



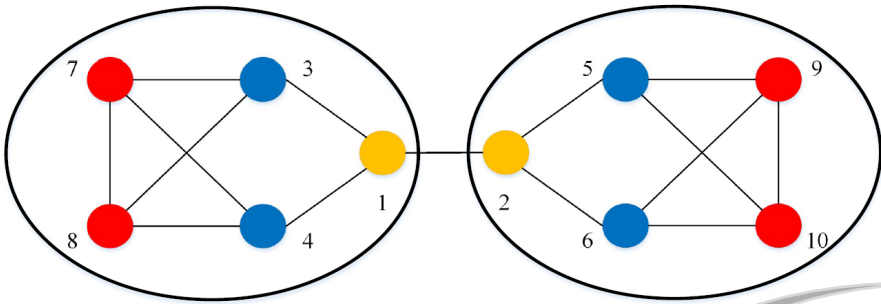
# Evaluation of Role Analytics - Benchmark

- All the methods for role oriented network embedding are evaluated on relatively small-scale networks data with thousands of
- Real-world networks are often of a massive scale, e.g., there are billions of users in social networks.
- Constructing larger-scale benchmark datasets is very important to evaluate existing approaches in effectiveness, efficiency and robustness, and also beneficial for researchers to develop new models.

# Evaluation: Challenges

- Evaluation with ground-truth labels
  - Benchmark datasets
- Evaluation without ground-truth labels
  - How to capture other equivalence relations, e.g. regular equivalence
  - Generalized modularity
- Evaluation with large-scale benchmarks
  - Constructing benchmarks

# Joint Role and Community Detection



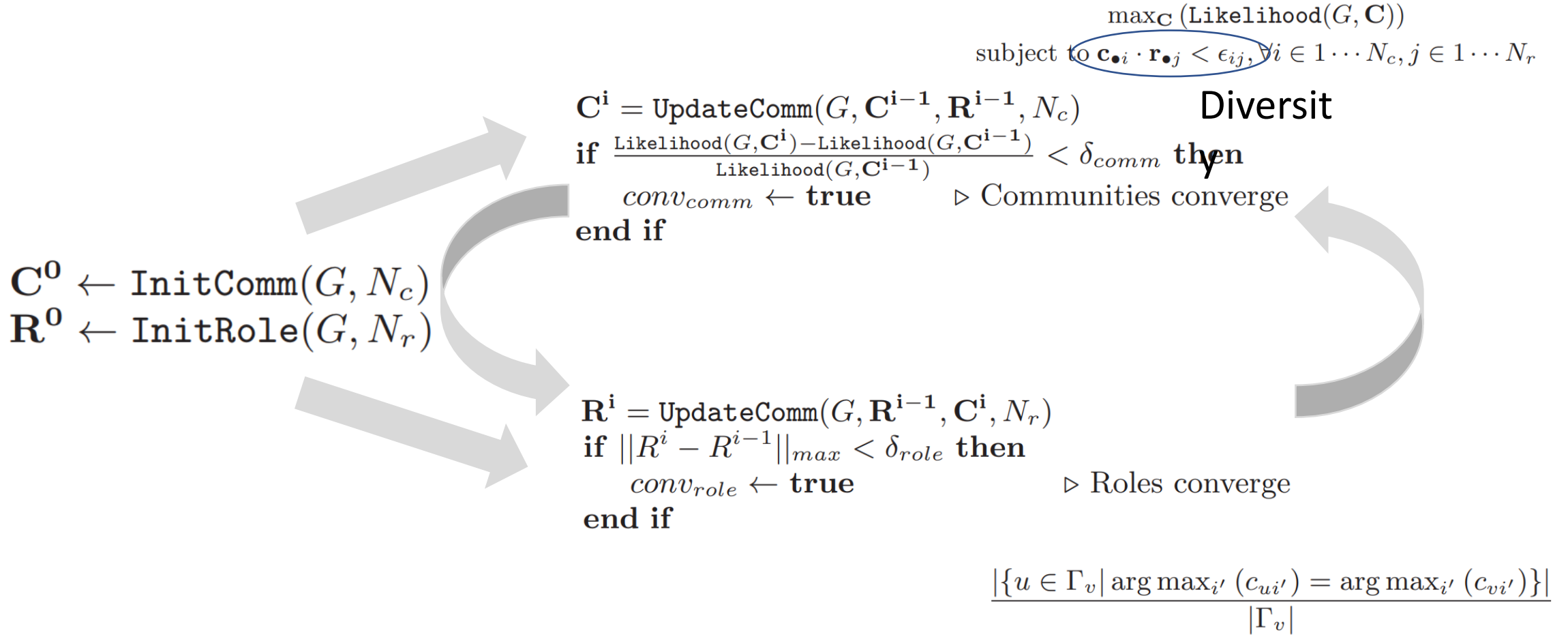
## Roles VS Communities:

- Roles shown in different colors
  - E.g., yellow nodes are bridges
- Communities shown inside the ellipses
  - Denser internal connections inside each community

**Global structure.** It reflects the topological properties of graphs through the *unbounded* observation of the input graph as an entirety

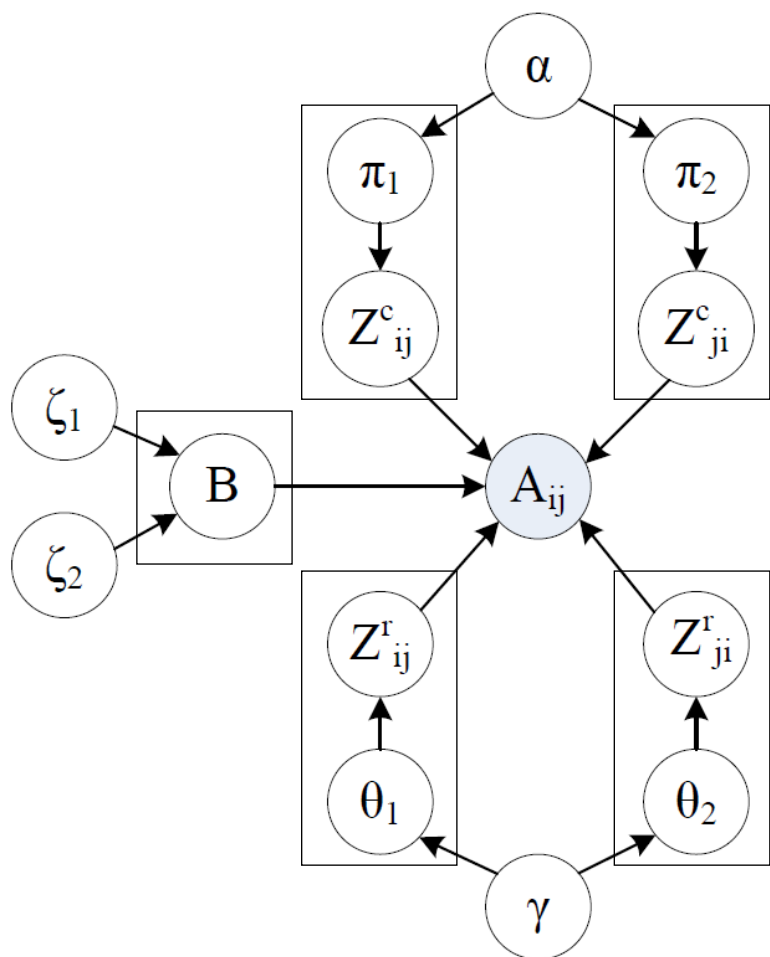
**Local structure.** It captures the topological properties of graphs by observing a *bounded* part of the input graph

# RC-Joint [Ruan and Parthasarathy, COSN 2014]



# Mixed Membership Community and Role [Chen et

al., SDM 2016]



Community  
Modeling

For each entry  $(k, p, q)$  in  $B$  ( $k$  can take 0 here):

- Draw  $B_{k,p,q} \sim \text{Beta}(\xi_{k,p,q}^1, \xi_{k,p,q}^2)$

For each node  $i$ :

- Draw a community membership distribution vector  $\pi_i \sim \text{Dirichlet}(\alpha^c)$
- Draw a role membership distribution vector  $\theta_i \sim \text{Dirichlet}(\alpha^r)$

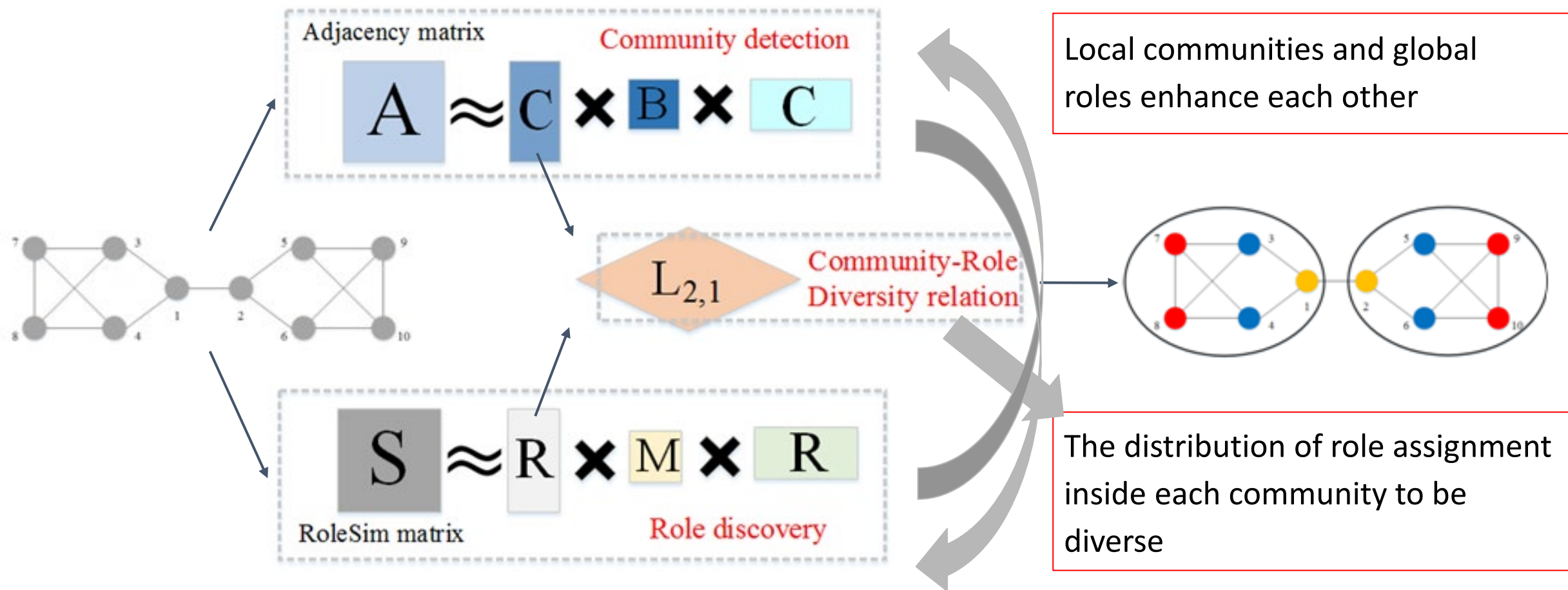
For each node pair  $(i, j)$ :

- Draw node  $i$ 's community  $Z_{ij}^c \sim \text{Multinomial}(\pi_i)$
- Draw node  $j$ 's community  $Z_{ji}^c \sim \text{Multinomial}(\pi_j)$
- Draw node  $i$ 's role  $Z_{ij}^r \sim \text{Multinomial}(\theta_i)$
- Draw node  $j$ 's role  $Z_{ji}^r \sim \text{Multinomial}(\theta_j)$
- Draw link  $E_{ij} \sim \text{Bernoulli}(B_{\delta(Z_{ij}^c, Z_{ji}^c), Z_{ij}^r, Z_{ji}^r})$

Role  
Modeling

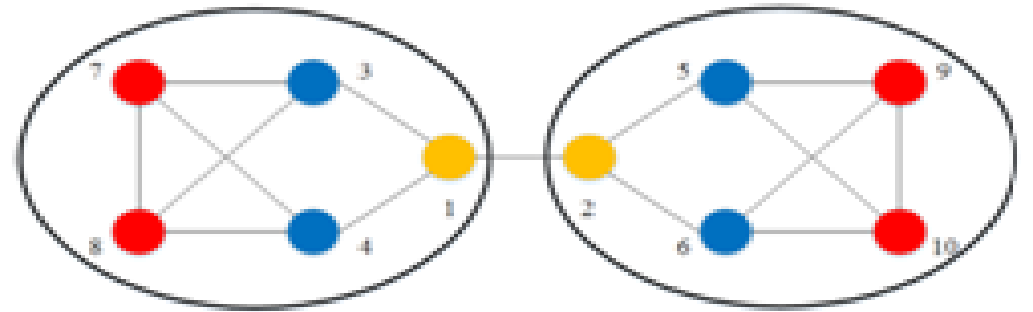
# REACT (RoLE And Community deTection)

[Pei et al., ASONAM 2019]

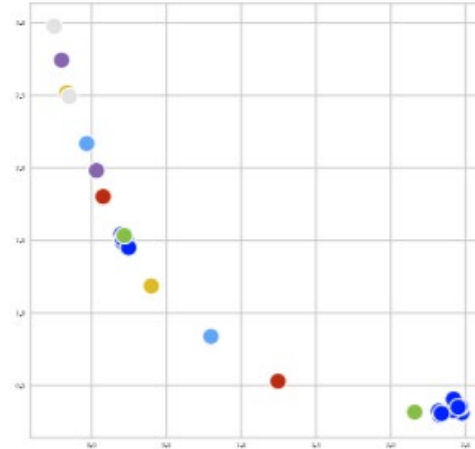
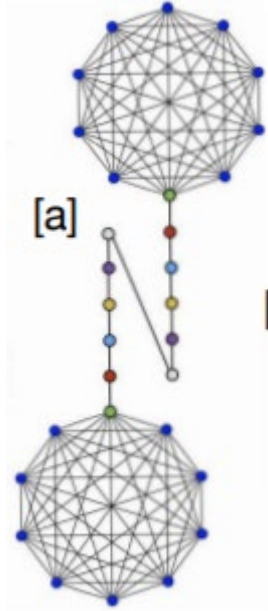


# Joint Role and Community Detection: Challenges

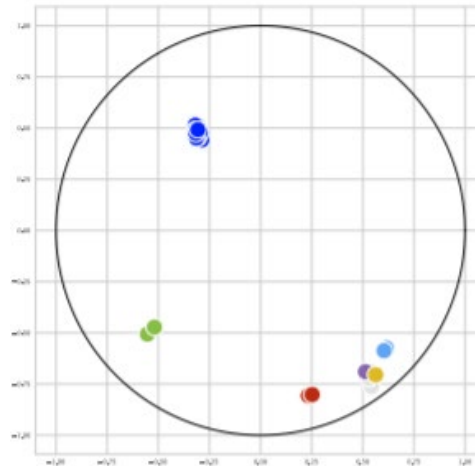
- How to formally define and model the relations between roles and communities?
  - Other relations except diversity?
  - Unified model (MMCR, REACT) or iterative model (RC-Joint)?



# Other Types of Embedding Spaces



Euclidean space



Hyperbolic space



# Challenges in Role Analytics

- Interpretable Role Analytics
- Role Analytics in Dynamic Networks
- Role Analytics Evaluation Framework
- Joint Role and Community Detection
- Other types of Embedding Spaces

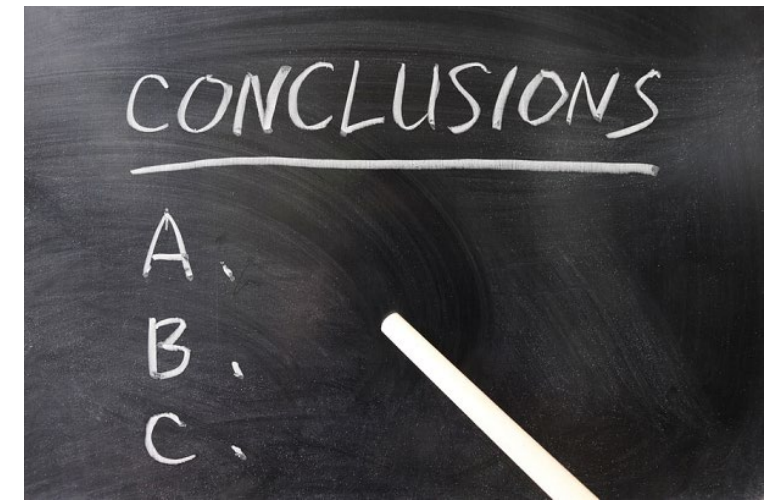
# Conclusions and Future Directions

## Conclusions

- Equivalence Relations
- Taxonomy of Role Analytics Methods
- Role-oriented network embedding
- Challenges in Role Analytics

## Future Directions

- Solutions to These Challenges
- Bridging Roles with GNN
- Applying Roles in Practical Problems





# Roles in Networks - Foundations, Methods and Applications

## Thank you Q & A



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