

**SIGKDD  
2019**



# **Automating Feature Subspace Exploration via Multi-Agent Reinforcement Learning**



# Contents

1

**Background**

2

**Framework**

3

**Evaluation**

4

**Conclusion**

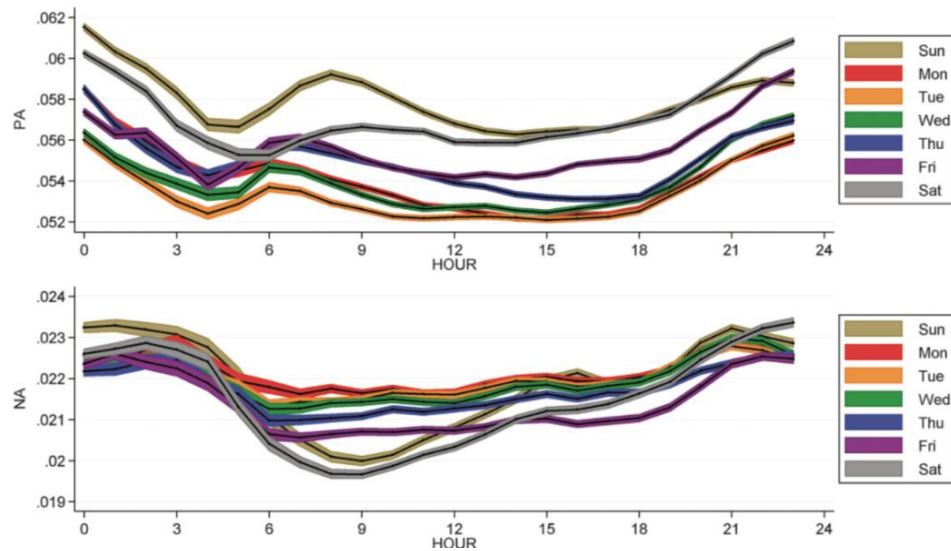
**Background**

**Feature Selection and Reinforcement Learning**

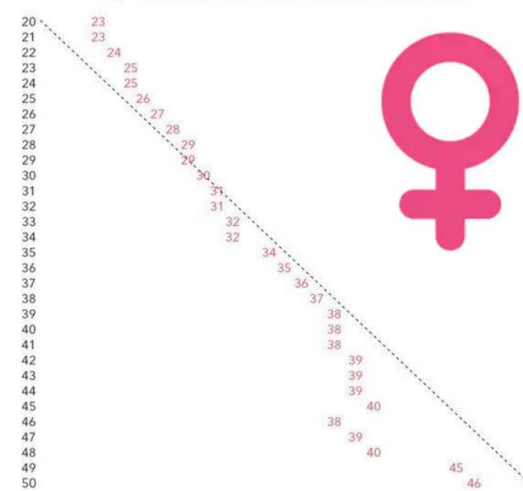


**/01**

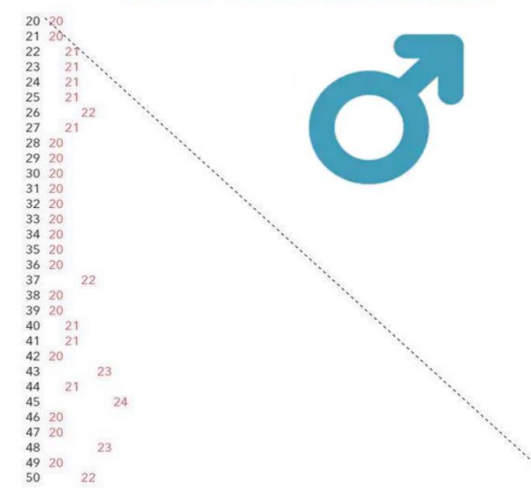
# Background



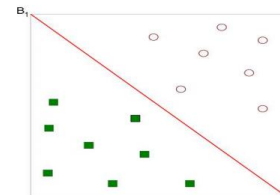
a woman's age vs. the age of the men who look best to her



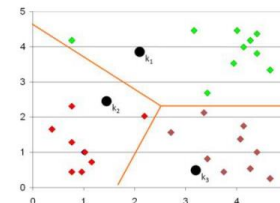
a man's age vs. the age of the women who look best to him



Send message  
Location  
Weather  
Communication friends  
Browsing history  
.....  
Too many features



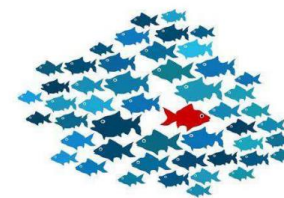
分类



聚类

TID	Items
1	Bread, Milk
2	Bread, Diaper, Beer, Eggs
3	Milk, Diaper, Beer, Coke
4	Bread, Milk, Diaper, Beer
5	Bread, Milk, Diaper, Coke

关联规则



离群检测

# Feature Selection

## What is feature selection?

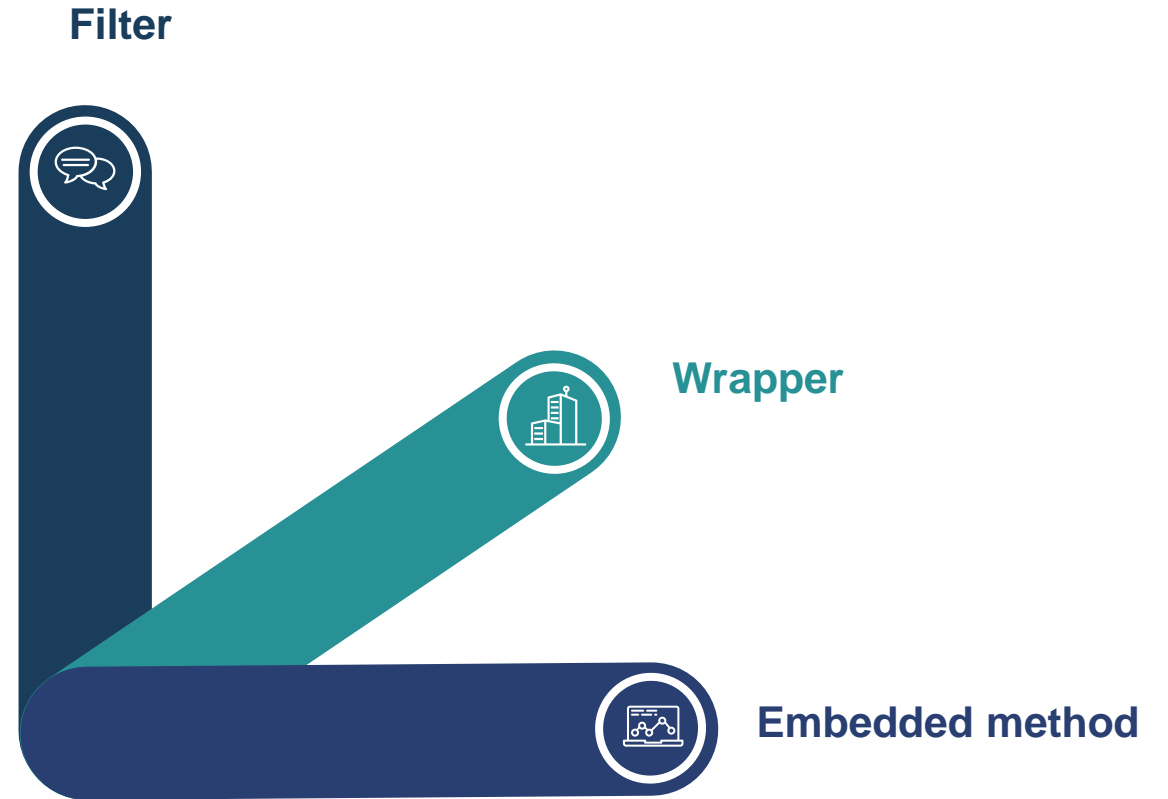
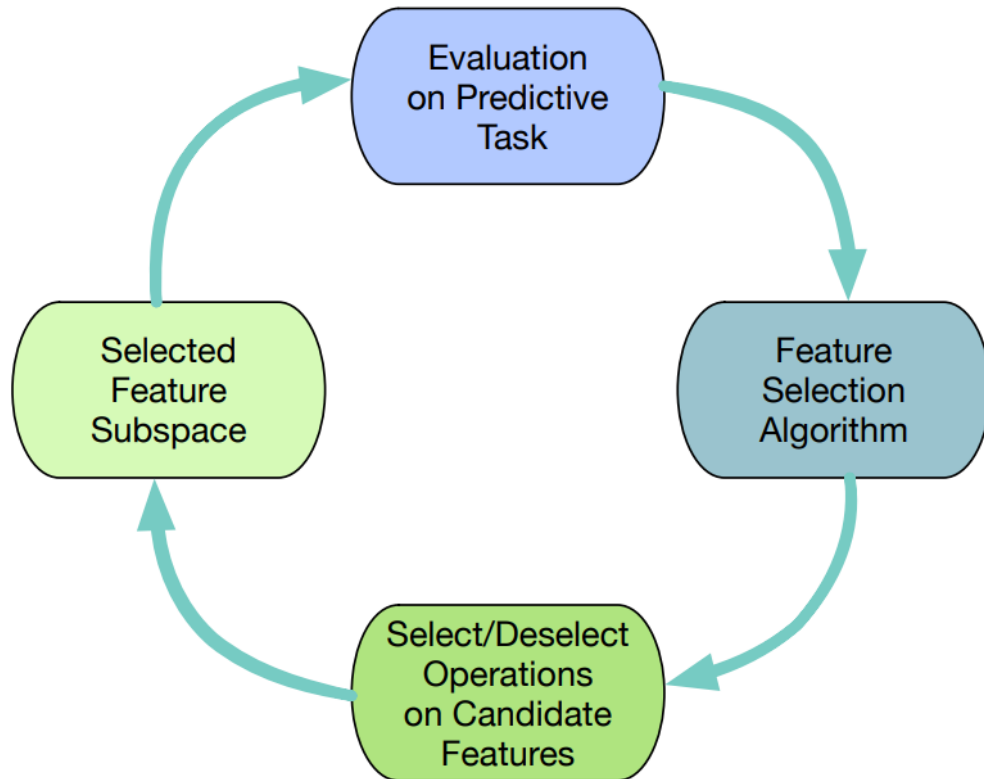
- Reducing the feature space by throwing out some of the features.
- Know which features are relevant, select an optimal subset of relevant features.

## Why select features?

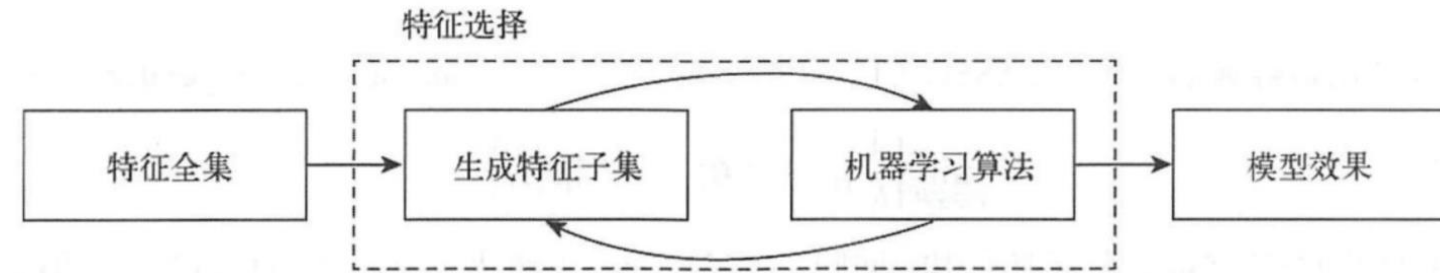
- Reduce dimensionality, improve prediction accuracy, increase comprehensibility, avoid overfitting.

id	oplocdistric	industryphy	industry	dom	opscope	enttype	enttypeiter	opfrom	opto	state	orgid	jobid	adbusign	townsign	regtype	empnum	compform	parnum	exenum
47645761c	340223	M	7513	31487d8f2	馆崇背鑑版	1100	1150	2019/7/11 0:00		6	3.4E+17	3.4E+17	0	0	1	5			
9c7fa5106	340222	O	8090	31487d8f2	鍋日韓鏈整	9600		2017/9/6		6	3.4E+17	3.4E+17	0	1	1	3	1		
59b38c56c	340202	R	9053	31487d8f2	鑑因窠滷变	1150	#####		6	3.40202E+17	4E+17	0	0	1	2		1		
e9f7b28ec	340221	L	7212	746df9aae	钙叠裕便	4500	4540	2015/9/30		6	3.4E+17	4E+17	0	1	1	2			
f00095052	340202	R	8810	31487d8f2	濃富咭鑑匠	1130	2017/12/1	2067/11/30	7	3.402E+17	4E+17	0	0	1					
da8691b21	340207	R	9019	ca213febe	幼孺境滷变	9600		2019/9/29		6	3.4E+17	4E+17	0	0	1	1	1		
9c7fa5106	340222	O	8052	ca213febe	瓊崇耘鏈整	9600		2020/8/3 0:00		6	3.4E+17	3.4E+17	0	1	1	5	1		
9c7fa5106	340222	O	8111	31487d8f2	姪借滅繼翠	9600		2017/7/10		6	3.4E+17	3.4E+17	0	1	1	7	1		
216bd2aaf	340203	M	7519	31487d8f2	鏈虹數聰悞	1190	#####		6	3.40203E+17	4E+17	0	0	1	2				
743e550a6	340208	O	8051	31487d8f2	瓊虫荡鏈整	9600		2016/2/29		6	3.4E+17	3.4E+17	0	1	1	6	1		
47645761c	340223	M	7513	31487d8f2	鑑版漢鑑權	1130	#####		6	3.40223E+17	4E+17	0	0	1	10				
f00095052	340202	P	8394	31487d8f2	鑲樂僑鐳	1100	1130	2019/4/8 0:00	2069/4/7 0:00	6	3.4E+17	4E+17	0	0	1	3			
f00095052	340203	M	7590	31487d8f2	鑲燴纒纒	1100	1130	2016/2/22	2066/2/21	6	3.4E+17	3.4E+17	0	1	1				
f00095052	340202	R	9051	ca213febe	甯虹瓊瓊	1100	1130	2018/5/24	2068/5/23	6	3.4E+17	4E+17	0	1	1				
f1c1045b1	340225	O	8111	31487d8f2	姪借滅淇	9600		2020/5/21 0:00		6	3.4E+17	4E+17	0	0	1	1	1		
755db3b5c	340223	O	8113	ca213febe	鑲璇姪杞一沃鎮 強纒		2018/4/8		6	3.402E+17	3.4E+17	0	1	1	2	1			1
48071~720	340207	O	8200	31487d8f2	鑲油松鑑權	1100	1150	2019/6/10	2069/6/9	6	3.4E+17	3.4E+17	0	0	1	5			

# Feature Selection



# Feature Selection



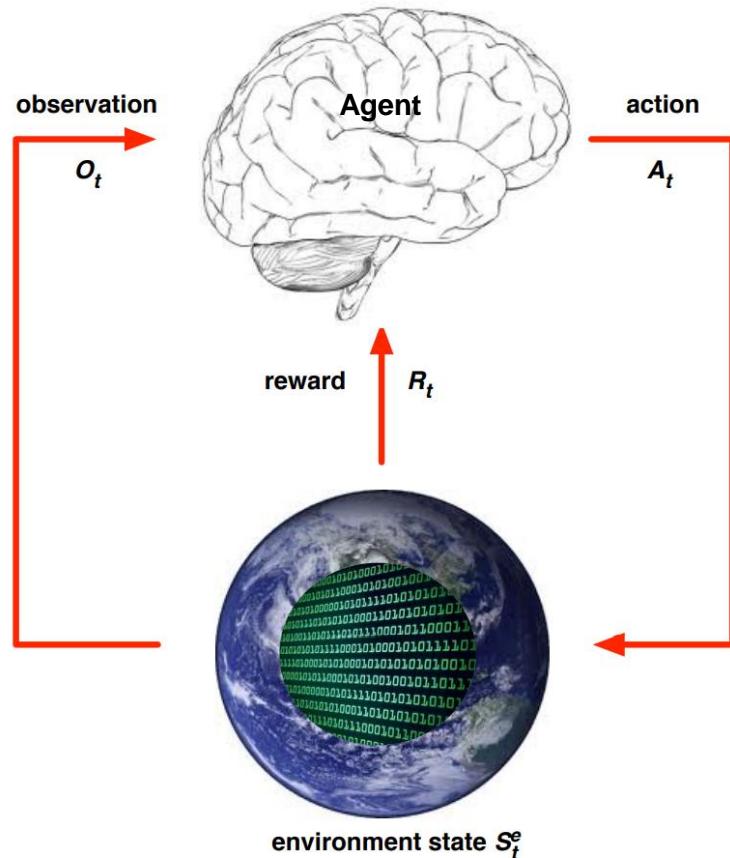
Algorithm name	Definition	Insufficient	Way
Filter method	Score the feature Select top K	Ignore the feature <b>dependencies</b> and interactions between feature selection and predictors	Variance、 Pearson correlation coefficient
Wrapper method	By a search strategy that collaborates with predictive task	High time complexity	LV Random search
Embedded method	Integration of feature selection and learning training	Be subject to the strong structured assumptions of predictive task	Decision tree、 LASSO



# Challenge

As can be seen, feature selection is a complicated process that requires:

- strategic design of feature significance **measurement**
- accelerated search of near-optimized feature subset (**speed**)
- meaningful integration of predictive models.

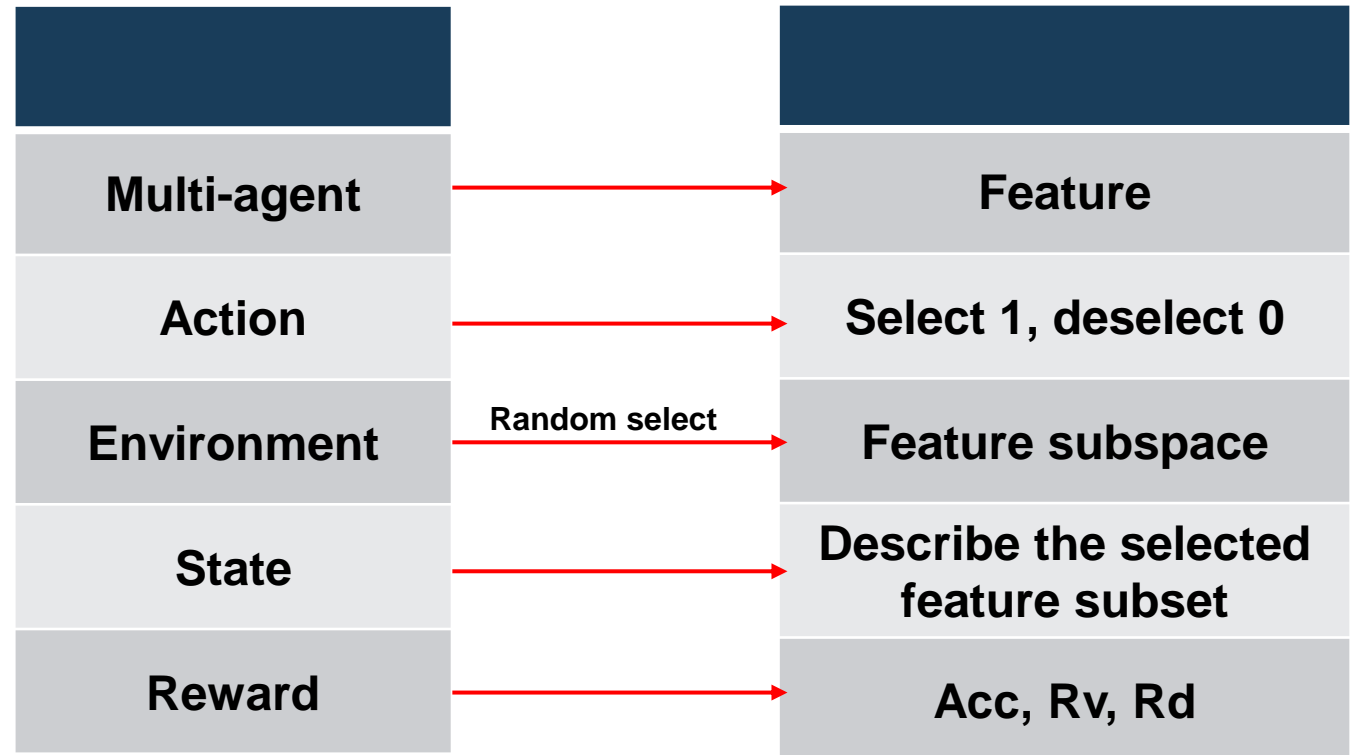
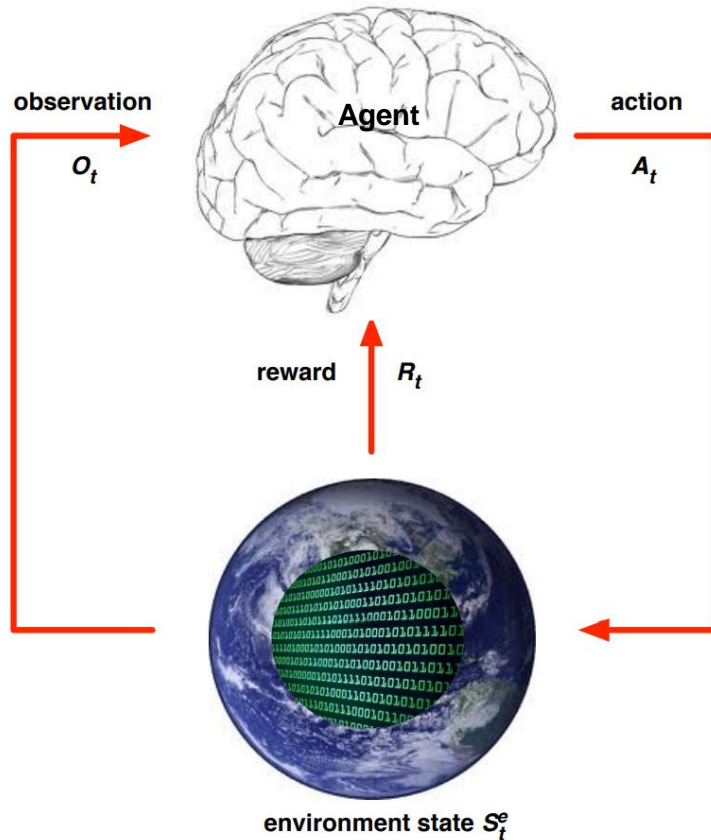


- At each step  $t$  the agent:
  - Executes action  $A_t$
  - Receives observation  $O_t$
  - Receives scalar reward  $R_t$
- The environment:
  - Receives action  $A_t$
  - Emits observation  $O_{t+1}$
  - Emits scalar reward  $R_{t+1}$
- $t$  increments at env. step



# Reinforcement Learning

## Corresponding relationship



# Framework



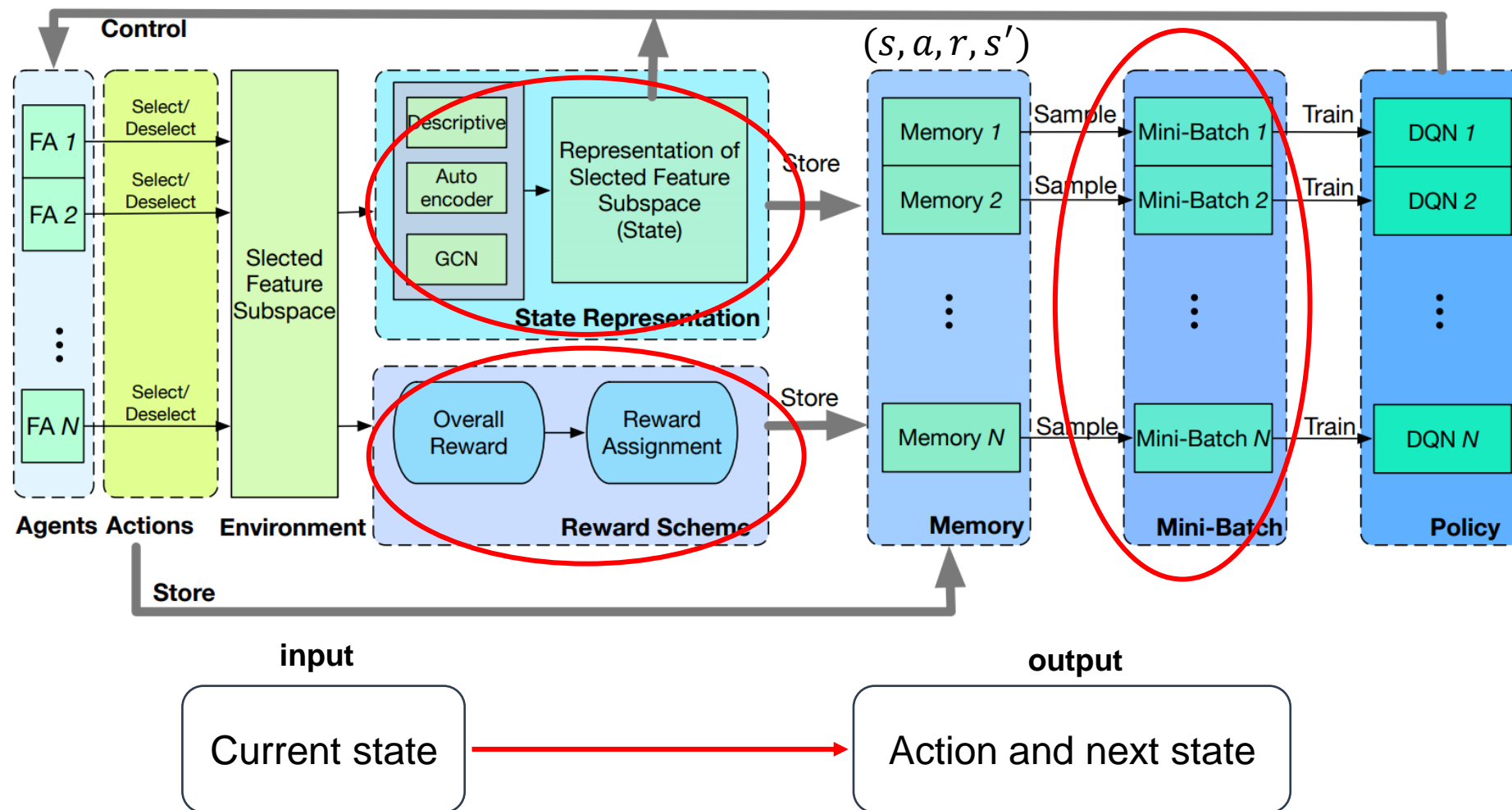
/02

# Framework



Control Stage

Training Stage



# Reward

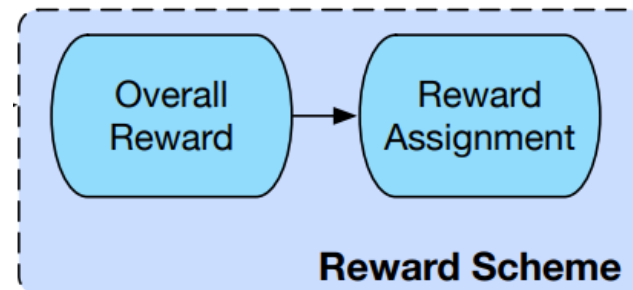
## 01. Predictive Accuracy

$$(TP+TN) / (TP+TN+FP+FN)$$



- TP: True Positive, 样本为正例, 且被判定为正, 即真正
- FN: False Negative, 样本为正例, 但错误地被判定为负, 即假负
- FP: False Positive, 样本为负例, 但错误地被判定为正, 即假正
- TN: True Negative, 样本为负例, 且被判定为负, 即真负

	分类为正例	分类为负例
实际为正例	TP	FN
实际为负例	FP	TN



## 02. Information redundancy

$$Rd = \frac{1}{|S|^2} \sum_{x_i, x_j \in S} I(x_i; x_j)$$



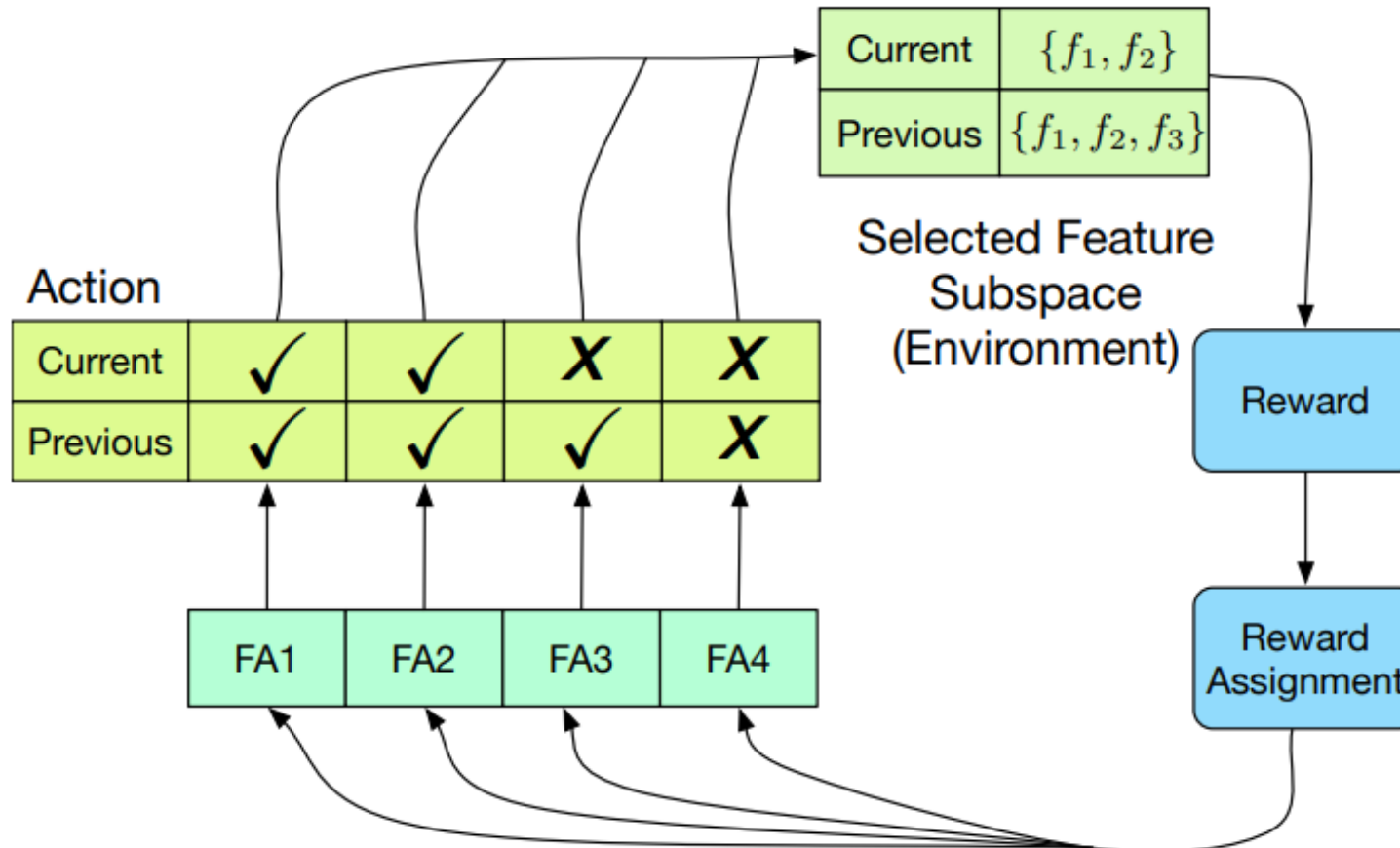
## 03. Information relevance

$$Rv = \frac{1}{|S|} \sum_{x_i \in S} I(x_i; c)$$



# Reward

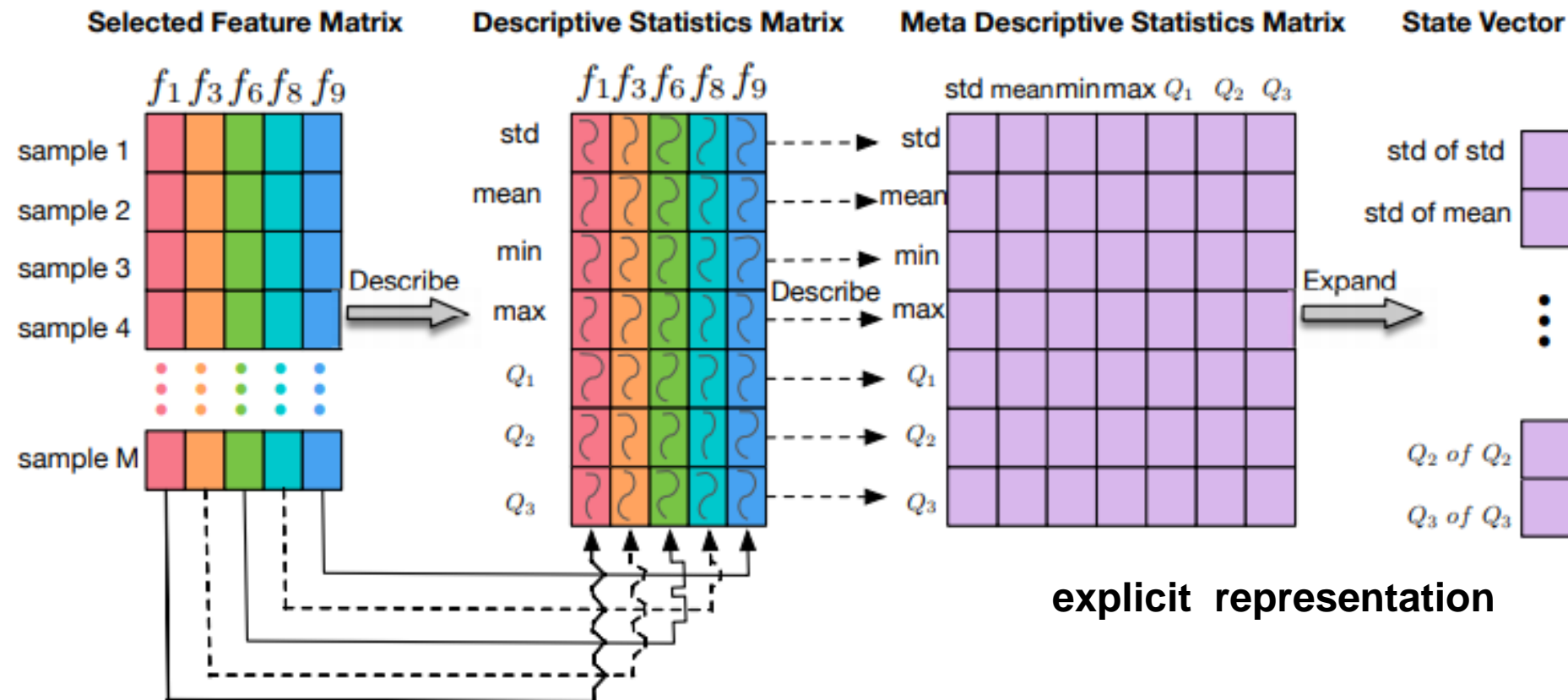
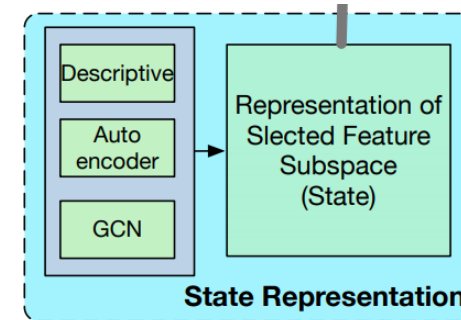
- Statistics of all the features in the last two rounds, without statistical times for average distribution.



# State Representation

## 1. Meta descriptive statistics

- Step1 : from the column, extract seven descriptive statistics.
- Step2 : from the row, extract seven descriptive statistics.

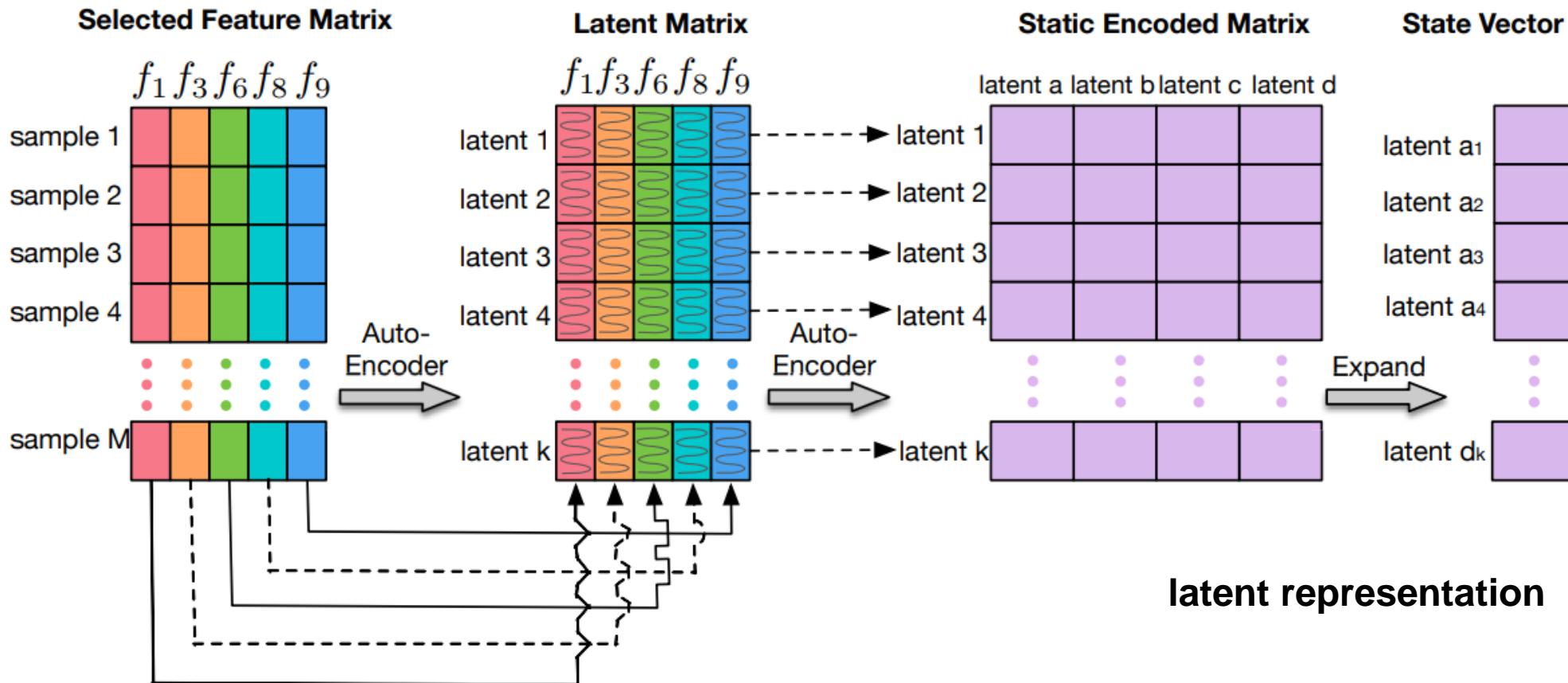
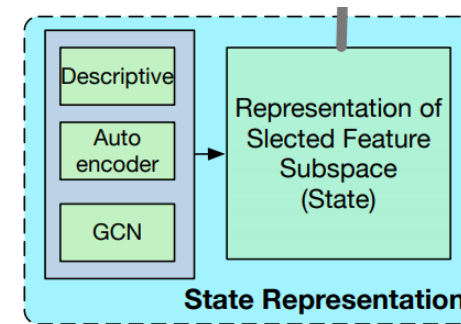


# State Representation



## 2. Autoencoder Based Deep Representation of Feature Subspace

- An autoencoder's encoder that maps the input into a latent representation, it has the fixed length. By encoder represent features.

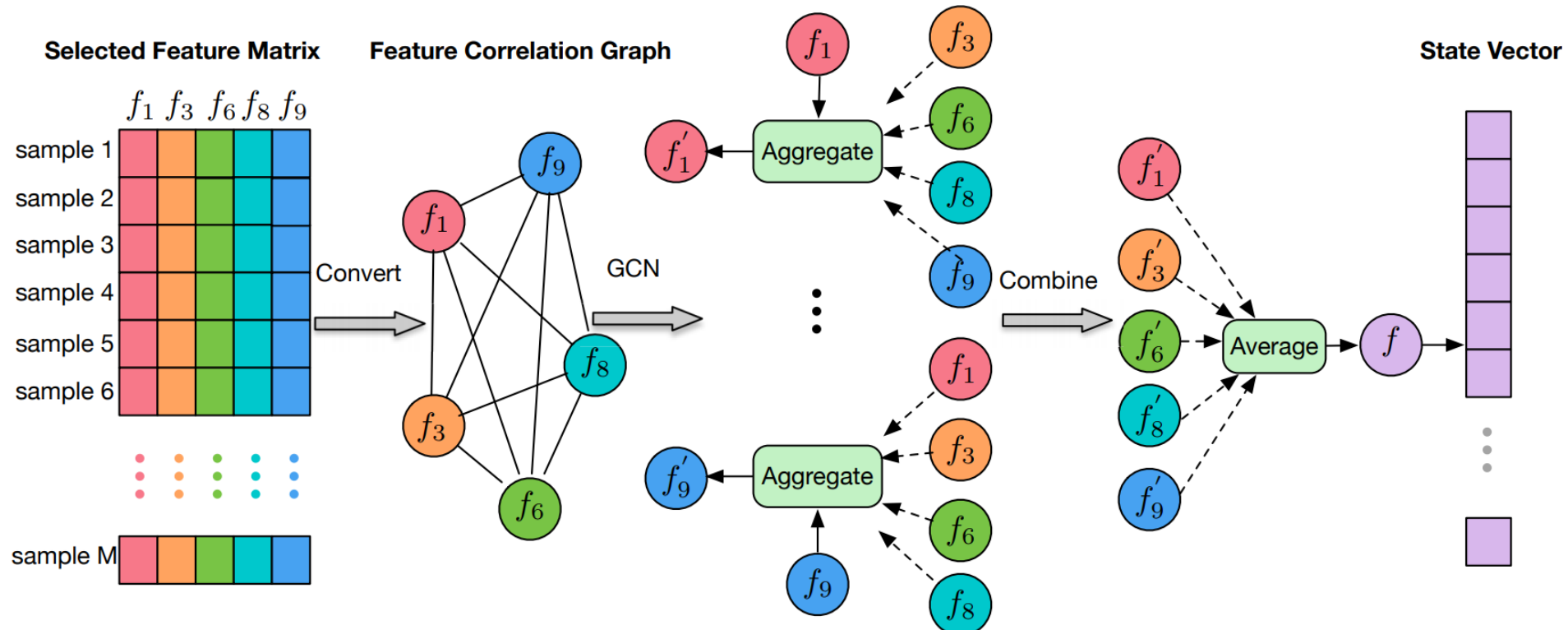
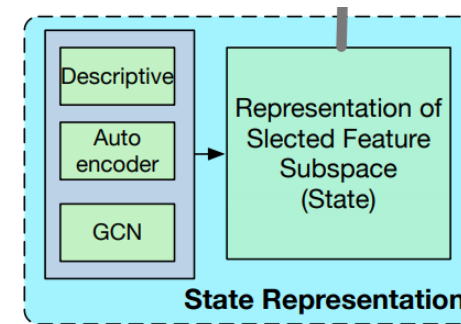




# State Representation

## 3 . Dynamic-Graph Based GCN

- Convert the selected Feature Matrix into a complete graph.
- GCN extracts the structure characteristics of the graph.
- Depend on the weight to Aggregate and average.



Correlations among features

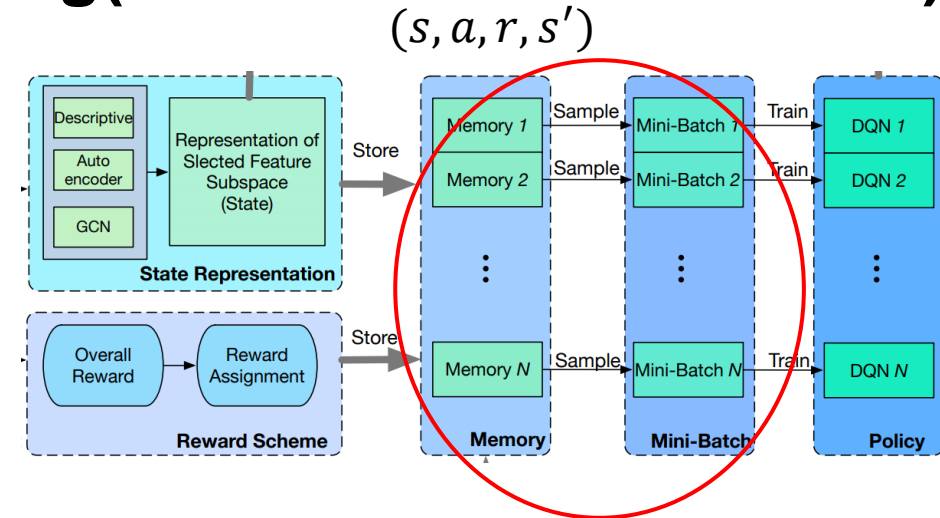
# GMM-Based Generative Rectified Sampling(Gaussian Mixture Model)

## Algorithm 1: The GMM-Based Generative Rectified Sampling Algorithm

**Input** : Memory dataset  $T$ .

**Output**: A mini-batch of samples  $B$ .

- 1  $p \leftarrow$  high-quality sample proportion of  $T$ .
- 2 Stratify  $T$  into two groups. Samples with  $a = 0$  are assigned to group  $T_0$  and samples with  $a = 1$  are assigned to group  $T_1$ .
- 3 **for**  $i = 0$  to 1 **do**
- 4    $N_i \leftarrow$  sample number of  $T_i$ .
- 5    $K_i \leftarrow$  component number of GMM model  $\mathcal{G}^i$ .
- 6   Rank samples in  $T_i$  by their reward  $r$ , then select top  $N_i * p$  samples from  $T_i$  to form the high-quality dataset  $H_i$ .
- 7   Use  $H_i$  to train the GMM  $\mathcal{G}^i = \sum_1^{K_i} \phi_i \mathcal{N}(\mu_i, \Sigma_i)$  via **EM algorithm**.
- 8   Generate  $N_i * (1 - p)$  samples from  $G^i$  to form the generated dataset  $G_i$ .
- 9   Join  $H_i$  and  $G_i$  to create high-quality dataset of action  $i$ ,  $T'_i$ .
- 10 **end**
- 11 Join  $T'_0$  and  $T'_1$  to get high-quality dataset  $T'$ .
- 12 Sample a mini-batch of samples  $B$  from  $T'$ .



- Devide into two groups
- Produce  $H_i$
- Produce  $G_i$  by GMM
- Combine

When the model contains hidden variables, maximum likelihood estimation is used to estimate the model parameters

**Evaluation**



**/03**

# Basic content



**Data :** 15120 samples with 54 features(10 continuous, and 44 are categorical) from Kaggle.



- Performance
- Robustness Check
- Reward Function
- State Representation
- GMM based Generative Rectified Sampling

- 指分类为正例的样本中，标签也为正例的样本比例
- 计算公式为  $TP/(TP+FP)$

- 指标签为正例的样本中，被分类为正例的样本比例
- 计算公式为  $TP/(TP+FN)$

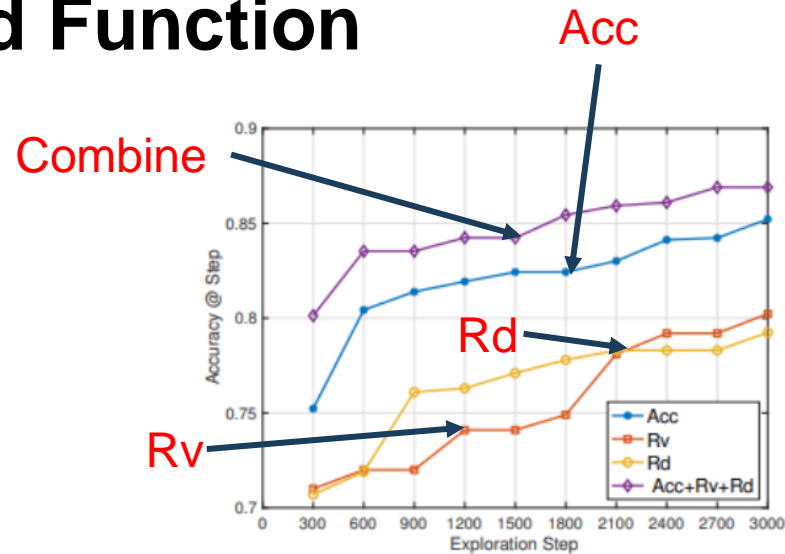
$$F = \frac{1}{\alpha \frac{1}{P} + (1-\alpha) \frac{1}{R}} = \frac{(\beta^2 + 1)PR}{\beta^2 P + R}$$

# Robustness Check

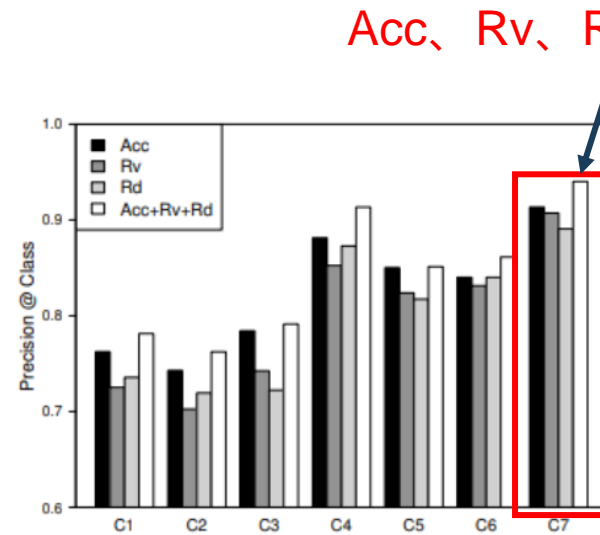
		Predictors				
		RF	LASSO	DT	SVM	XGBoost
Algorithms	K-Best	0.7943	0.8246	0.8125	0.8324	0.8076
	mRMR	0.8042	0.8124	0.8096	0.8175	0.8239
	LASSO	0.8426	<b>0.8513</b>	0.8241	0.8131	0.8434
	RFE	0.8213	0.8236	0.8453	0.8257	0.8348
	GFS	0.8423	0.8318	0.8350	0.8346	0.8302
	SARLFS	0.8321	0.8295	0.8401	0.8427	0.8450
	<b>MARLFS</b>	<b>0.8690</b>	0.8424	<b>0.8583</b>	<b>0.8542</b>	<b>0.8731</b>

Overall accuracy of feature selection algorithms on different predictors

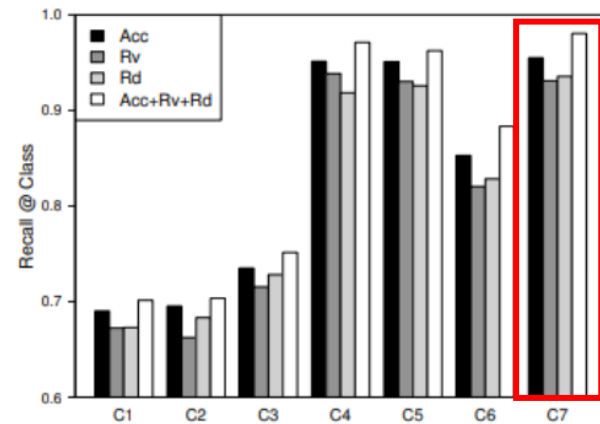
# Reward Function



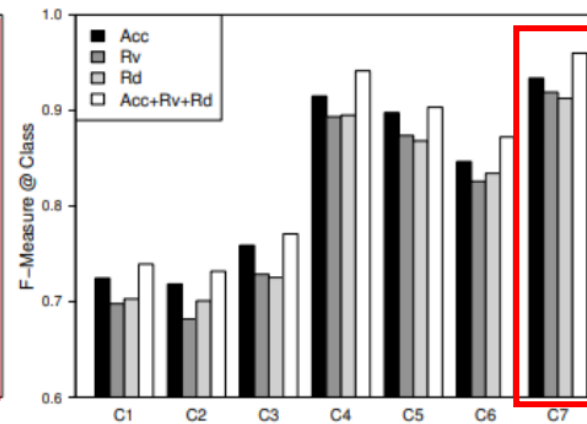
(a) Overall Accuracy



(b) Precision



(c) Recall



(d) F-Measure

The highest performance

Seven Algorithms(C1—C7)  
Four Parameters

Performance comparison of different reward functions

# Representation

Meta descriptive+Autoencoder

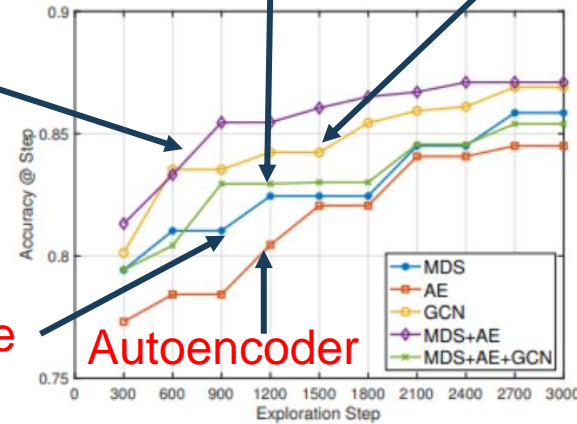
Combine GCN

Meta descriptive

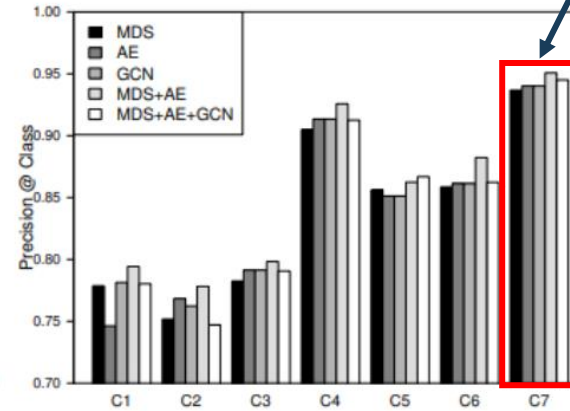
Autoencoder

MDS, AE, GCN, MDS+AS, Combine

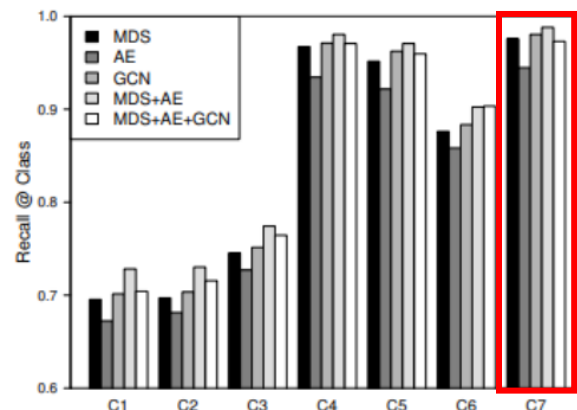
The highest performance



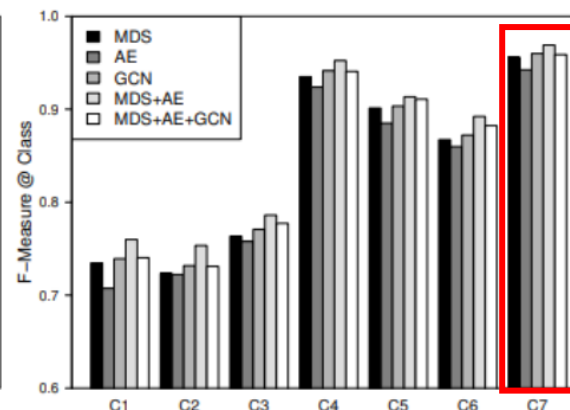
(a) Overall Accuracy



(b) Precision



(c) Recall



(d) F-Measure

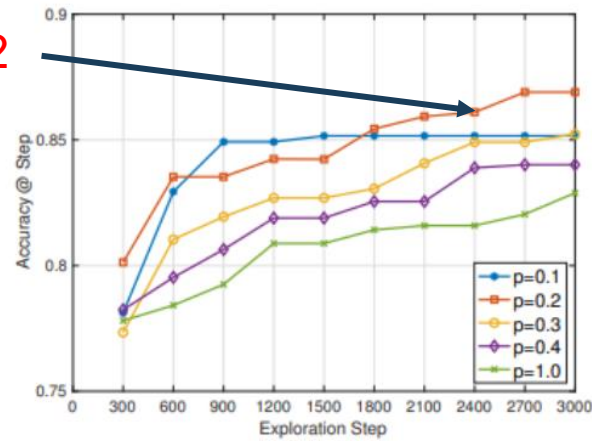
Performance comparison of different representation learning methods



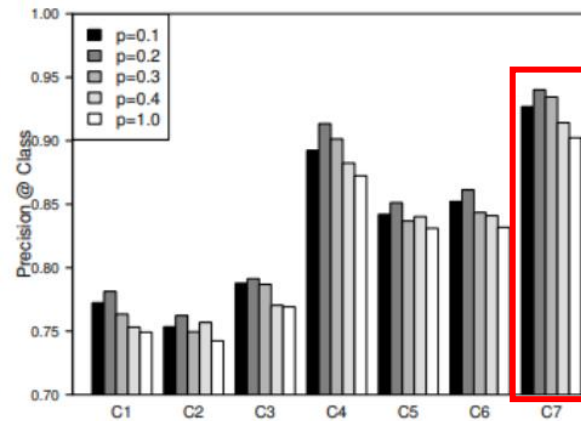
# Sample

Different the value of  $p$

$P = 0.2$

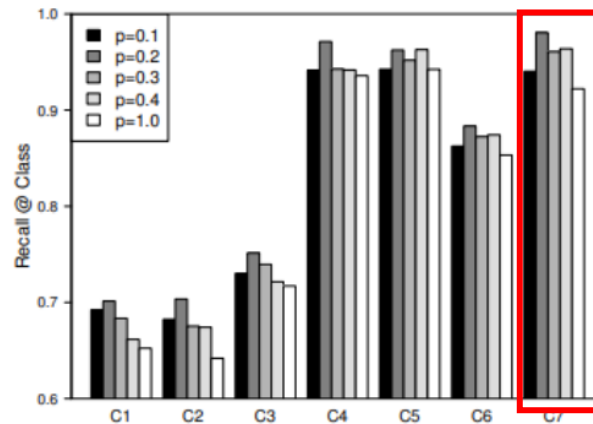


(a) Overall Accuracy

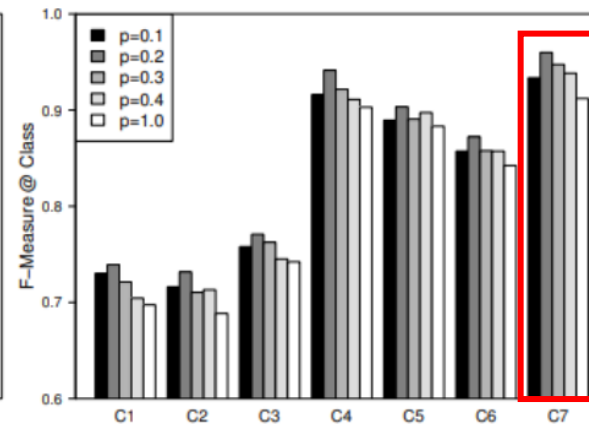


(b) Precision

$P = 0.2$  max



(c) Recall



(d) F-Measure

Performance comparison of different GMM sampling strategies

## Conclusion



/04

# Conclusion

Reformulate feature subspace exploration with a multi-agent RL framework and integrate the interactions between features into a new reward scheme.

We conduct extensive experiments to demonstrate the enhanced performances of our method



We develop three different methods to derive accurate state representation

We develop a GMM-based generative rectified sampling method to improve the training and exploration.

**Thanks for your listening!**

