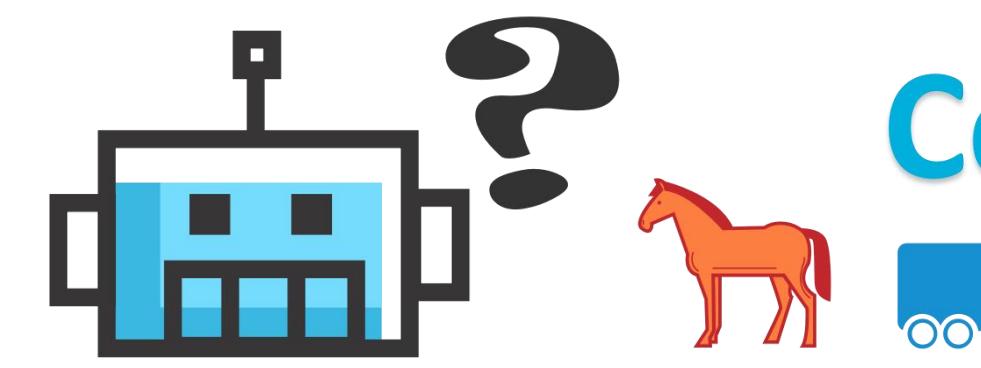




Motivation

- ✓ Deep networks learn rich features, but these features often do not match semantic class structure.
- ✓ Samples predicted as the same class may still appear far apart in feature space, hurting generalization.



Confused in abstract space

Four legs? Hmm... A car? Or a horse?

Why not use your own predictions to refine and clean feature structure?



Method

We use cosine similarity with non-negative values:

$$F_{ij}^{(l)} = \text{ReLU}(\cos(x_i^{(l)}, x_j^{(l)})), \quad i, j = 1, \dots, n. \quad (1)$$

From the prediction logits $Z = [z_1^\top, \dots, z_n^\top]^\top$ of the same batch:

- apply softmax to obtain class probability vectors $p_i = \text{softmax}(z_i)$,
- compute pairwise cosine similarity between prediction vectors:

$$S_{ij} = \text{ReLU}(\cos(p_i, p_j)). \quad (2)$$

To focus on reliable semantic relations, we build a binary mask $M \in \{0, 1\}^{n \times n}$:

$$M_{ij} = \begin{cases} 1, & \text{if } y_i = y_j, \\ 0, & \text{otherwise.} \end{cases}$$

The masked prediction graph $P \in \mathbb{R}^{n \times n}$ is then

$$P_{ij} = M_{ij} \odot S_{ij},$$

where \odot denotes elementwise multiplication.

The layer-wise graph consistency loss is

$$\mathcal{L}_{GCR}^{(l)} = \|\text{triu}(F^{(l)}) - \text{triu}(P)\|_F^2. \quad (5)$$

For a set of layers $\{1, \dots, K\}$, compute a graph consistency loss at each layer and combine them:

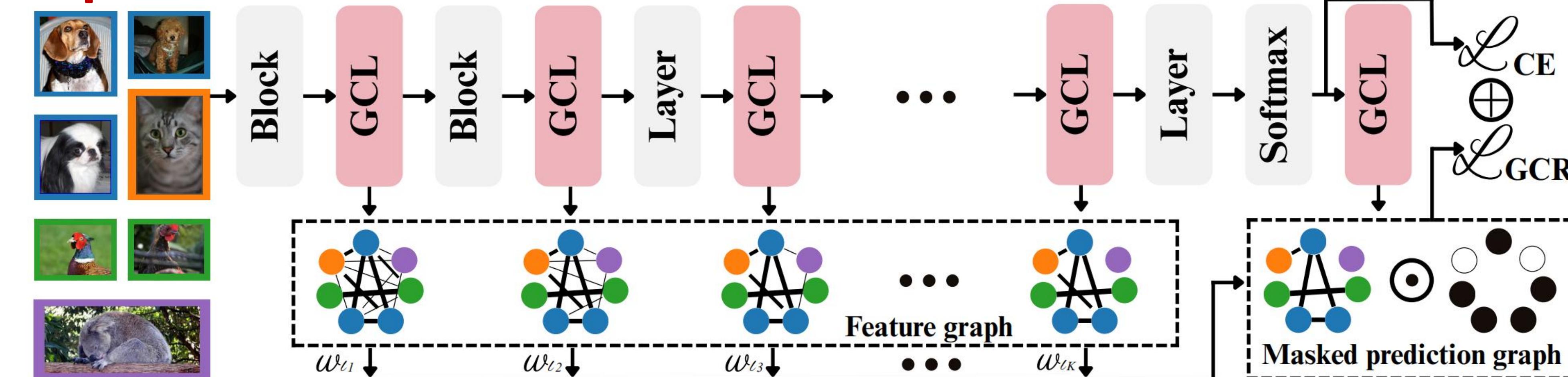
$$\mathcal{L}_{GCR} = \sum_{l=1}^K w_l \|\text{triu}(F^{(l)}) - \text{triu}(P)\|_F^2, \quad (6)$$

$$\mathcal{L}_{\text{total}} = \mathcal{L}_{CE} + \lambda \mathcal{L}_{GCR}$$

Strength

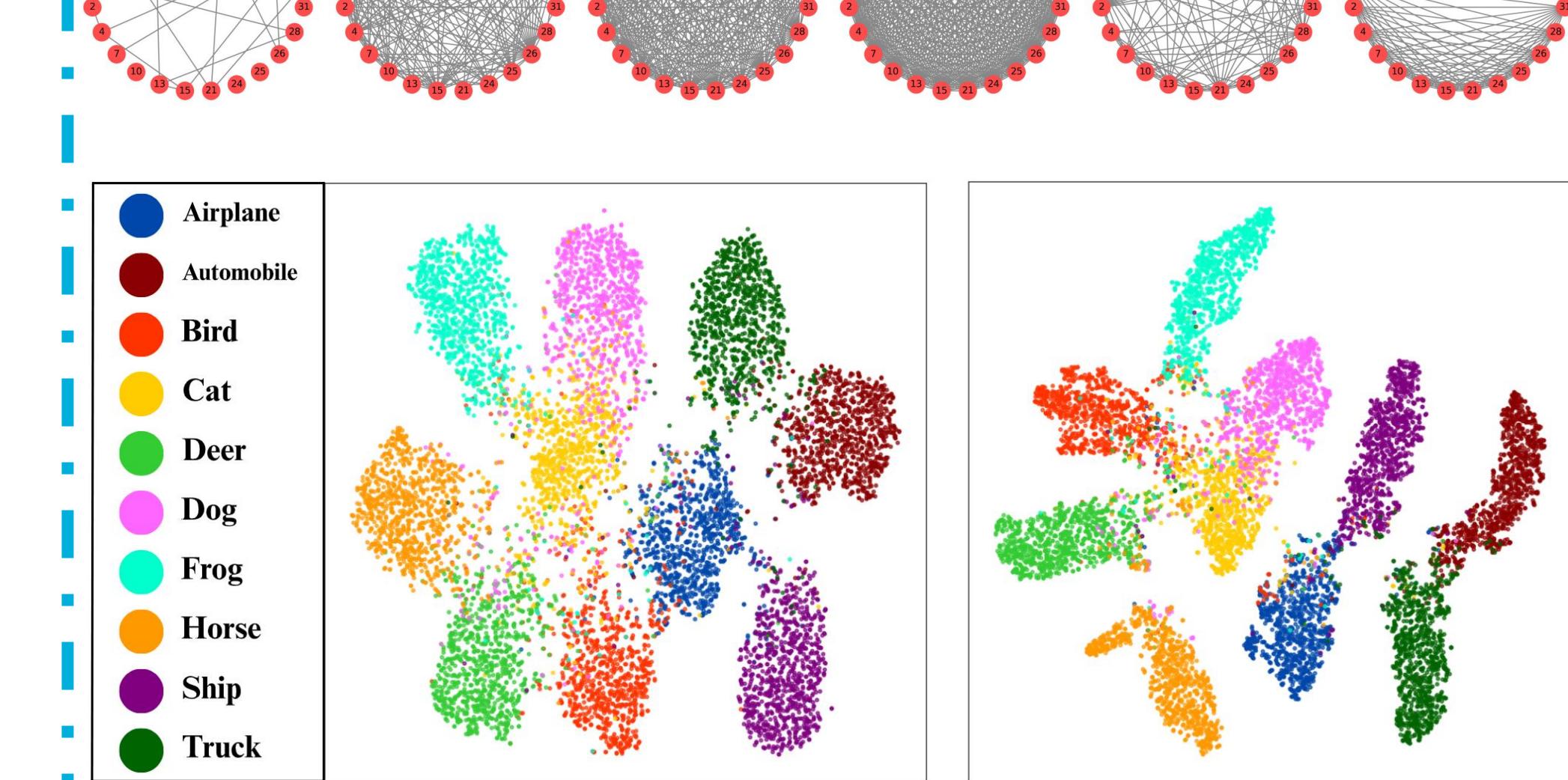
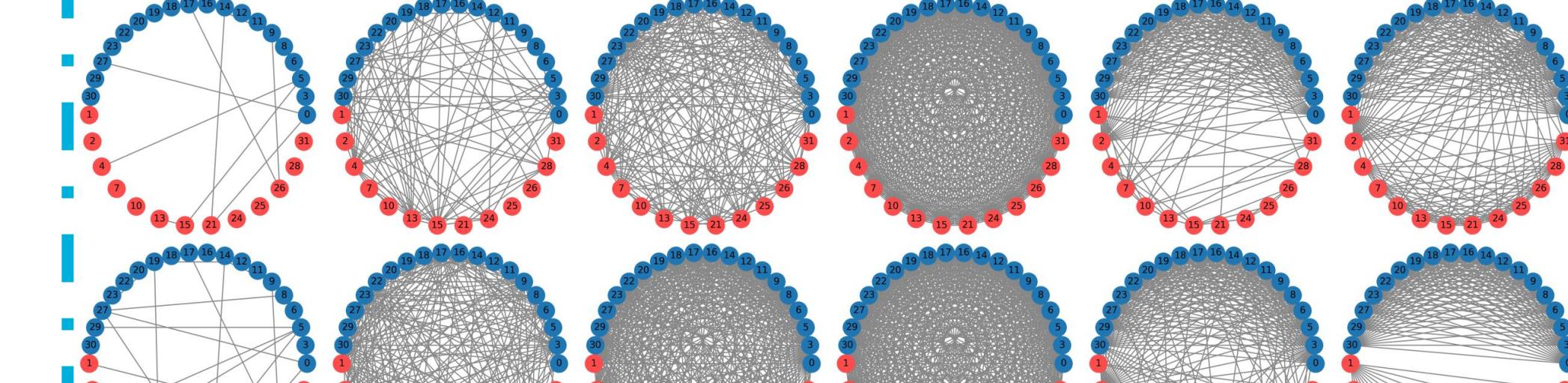
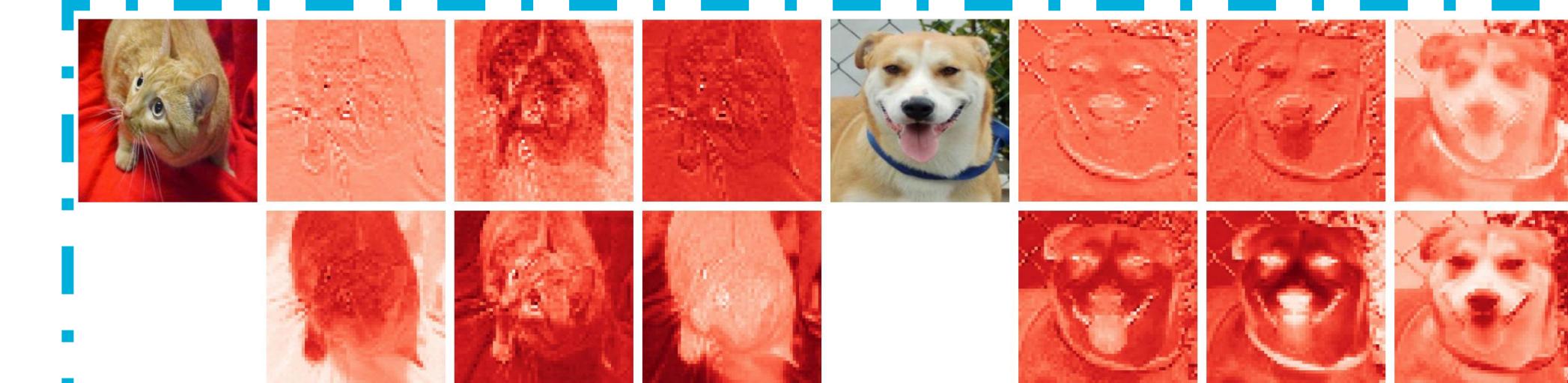
Lightweight **Model-agnostic** **Parameter-free** **Easy to plug in**

Pipeline

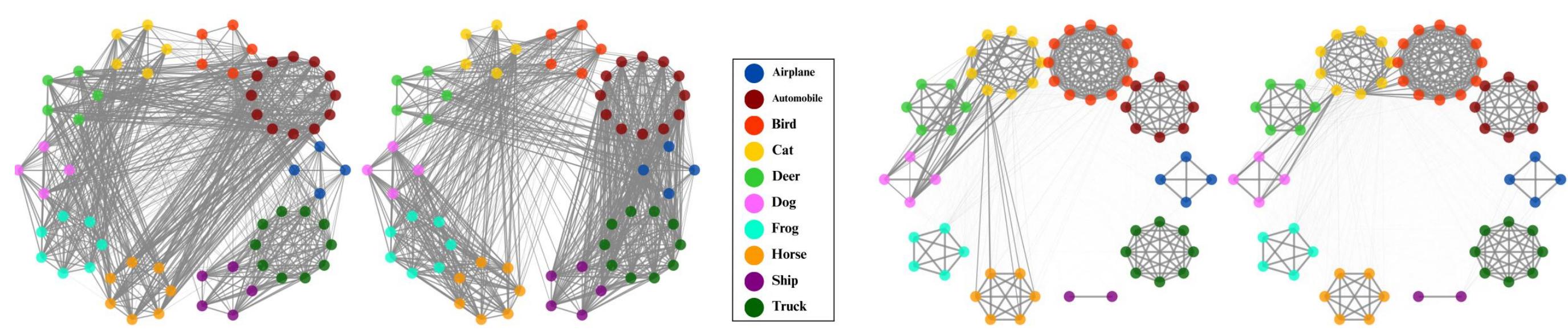


Results

Self-prompting: The model learns from its own outputs, reinforcing semantic structure



	MAE	MNet	SN	SQNet	GLNet	Rx-50	Rx-101	R34	R50	R101	D121	Mean
Baseline	88.95 ± 0.33	90.23 ± 0.25	91.21 ± 0.28	92.30 ± 0.25	94.10 ± 0.26	94.57 ± 0.29	95.12 ± 0.30	94.83 ± 0.25	95.03 ± 0.28	95.22 ± 0.31	95.01 ± 0.27	93.32 ± 2.26
Early GCL	89.42 ± 0.28	91.17 ± 0.22	92.33 ± 0.33	92.59 ± 0.21	94.89 ± 0.23	95.48 ± 0.29	95.63 ± 0.25	95.57 ± 0.18	95.39 ± 0.26	95.81 ± 0.17	93.98 ± 2.22	
Mid GCL	89.77 ± 0.22	91.15 ± 0.18	92.58 ± 0.19	92.40 ± 0.20	94.82 ± 0.21	95.47 ± 0.24	95.69 ± 0.23	95.61 ± 0.20	95.75 ± 0.17	95.51 ± 0.22	94.01 ± 2.15	
Late GCL	89.70 ± 0.29	91.40 ± 0.19	92.36 ± 0.21	92.80 ± 0.19	94.88 ± 0.19	95.35 ± 0.28	95.71 ± 0.26	95.69 ± 0.19	95.66 ± 0.17	95.51 ± 0.24	95.72 ± 0.22	94.07 ± 2.14
Early+Mid	89.52 ± 0.19	90.77 ± 0.26	92.56 ± 0.21	92.27 ± 0.25	94.79 ± 0.18	95.33 ± 0.27	95.55 ± 0.23	95.46 ± 0.20	95.51 ± 0.21	95.37 ± 0.19	95.64 ± 0.20	93.89 ± 2.22
Mid+Late	89.59 ± 0.28	91.23 ± 0.20	92.79 ± 0.23	92.80 ± 0.23	94.61 ± 0.22	95.51 ± 0.19	95.38 ± 0.27	95.45 ± 0.18	95.33 ± 0.26	95.52 ± 0.14	95.70 ± 0.19	94.00 ± 2.09
Early+Late	89.64 ± 0.25	91.03 ± 0.24	92.30 ± 0.28	92.70 ± 0.23	94.69 ± 0.20	95.40 ± 0.20	95.35 ± 0.23	95.66 ± 0.21	95.31 ± 0.25	95.49 ± 0.16	95.53 ± 0.22	93.92 ± 2.14
Full GCL	89.55 ± 0.23	90.99 ± 0.18	92.48 ± 0.19	92.65 ± 0.20	94.57 ± 0.21	95.50 ± 0.19	95.34 ± 0.20	95.48 ± 0.17	95.62 ± 0.18	95.38 ± 0.21	95.51 ± 0.20	93.92 ± 2.15



The relational graphs show that adding GCLs yields cleaner, tighter class clusters with fewer cross-class links, reducing feature noise and aligning features with semantic predictions.