

# Unsupervised and self-supervised Learning for Graphs

CPSC483: Deep Learning on Graph-Structured Data

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# Project Proposal

- **No late days** (give yourself a fall break)
- Make sure that you do preliminary analysis on dataset!
  - **Not enough**: Size, number of graphs
  - **Reasonable**: Degree distribution, centrality measures, PageRank ...
  - **Great**: Spectral embeddings, degree of homophily (Homework 2, Qn 2), motifs, clustering ... **Innovative methods** to analyze the dataset from different perspectives
- Graduate and undergrad course versions have different requirements
- **Suggestion**: mention how you plan to split the work among group members
  - This is necessary if the group consists of students taking undergraduate as well as graduate versions of the course

# Comments on Colabs

- **Colab filenames** for submission: colab2\_firstname\_lastname.ipynb
- **Coding convention**
  - `__getitem__`, `__setitem__` (use slicing `[]`)
    - See many different [slicing](#) functionalities
    - We usually inherit `__item__` method to empower these slicing functionalities
  - `__call__` : directly call the class
  - Call forward function of `nn.Module` (use `model()`)
  - Similar functionalities: `__len__()`, `__str__()`, `__contains__()`
- **Try to respect the prompt** (e.g. write within the designated blanks)
  - If possible, don't alter the return values, arguments etc. You could simply name your variables with the specified names of the return values / arguments

# Unsupervised and Self-supervised Learning for Graphs

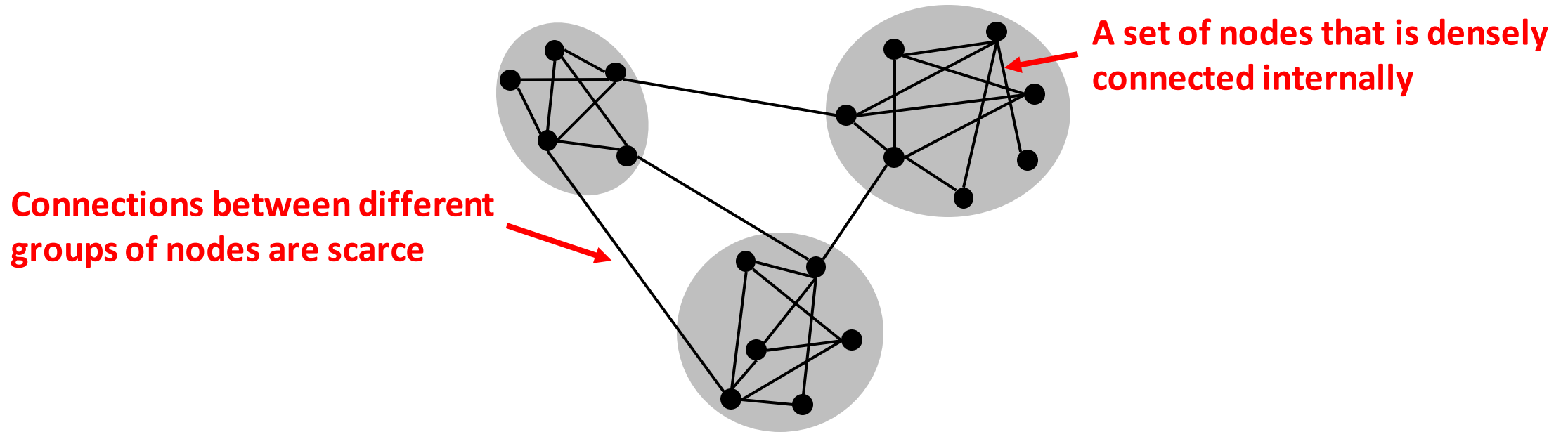
- **Network Community Detection**
  - Network Communities
  - Louvain Algorithm
- **Strategies for Pre-training Graph Neural Networks**

# Unsupervised and Self-supervised Learning for Graphs

- **Network Community Detection**
  - **Network Communities**
  - Louvain Algorithm
- Strategies for Pre-training Graph Neural Networks

# Networks & Communities

- We often think of networks “looking” like this:

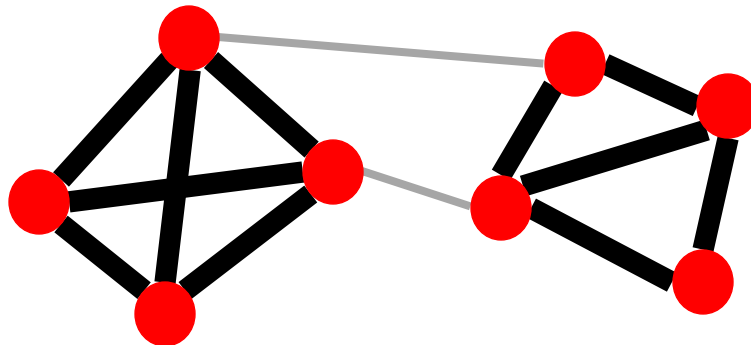


- What led to such a conceptual picture?

# Flow of Job Information

- **How do people find out about new jobs?**
  - This question is studied by Mark Granovetter, part of his PhD in 1960s
  - People find the information **through personal contacts**
- **But:** Contacts are often **acquaintances** rather than close friends
  - **This is surprising:** One would expect your friends to help you out more than casual acquaintances
- **Why is it that acquaintances are most helpful?**

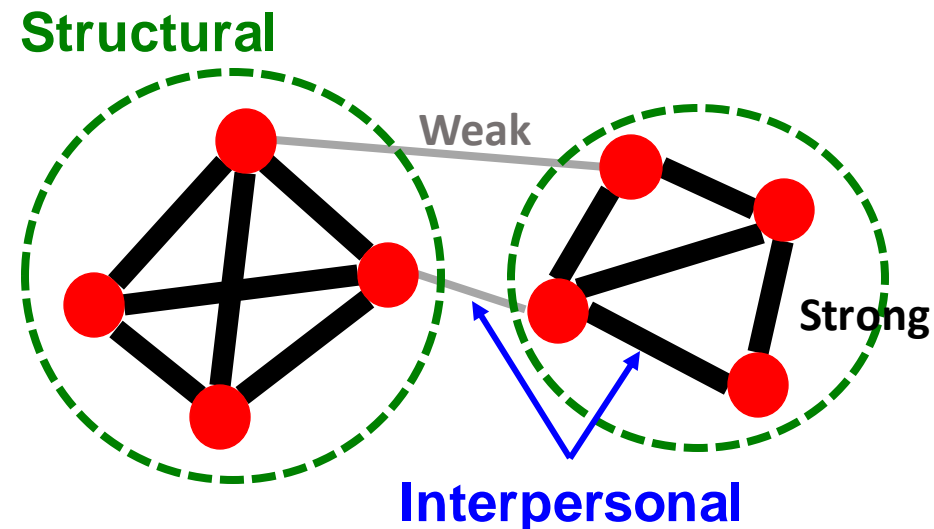
Personal  
contact  
network



— : “close-friend” link  
— : “acquaintance” link

# Granovetter's Answer (1)

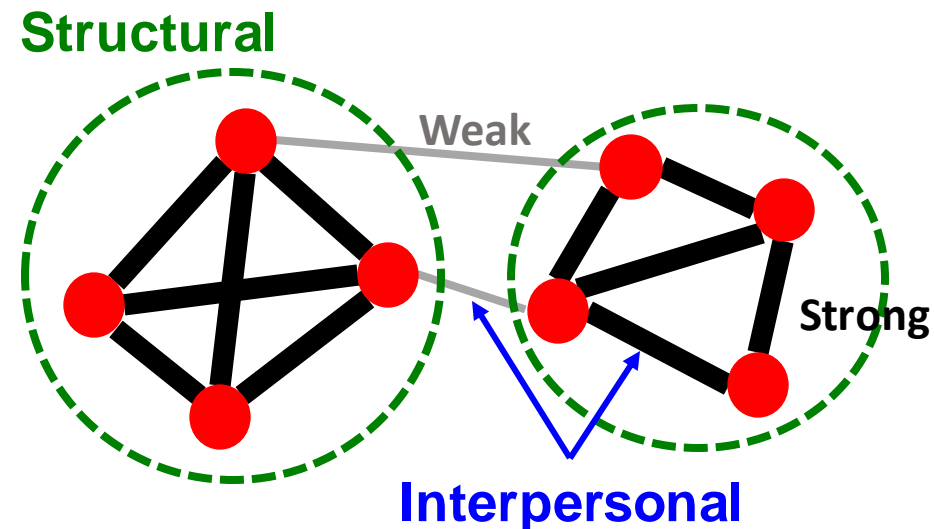
- **Two perspectives on friendships**
  - **Structural:** Friendships span different parts of the network
  - **Interpersonal:** Friendship between two people is either **strong** or **weak**
    - Structurally embedded (tightly-connected) edges are also socially **strong**
    - Long-range edges spanning different parts of the network are socially **weak**



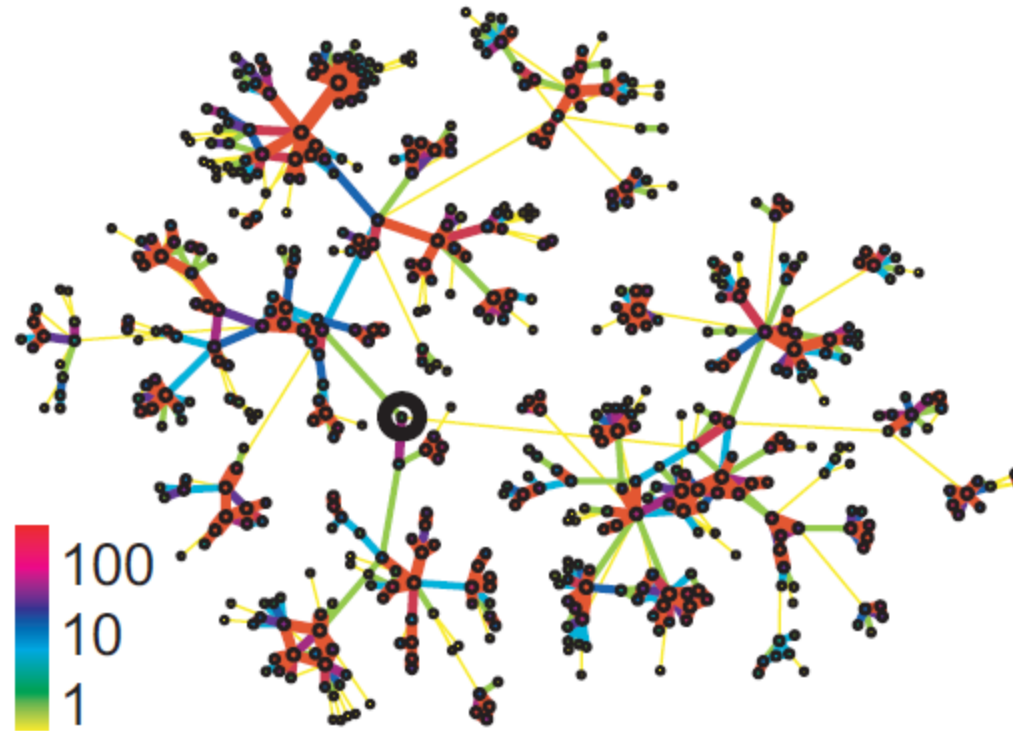


# Granovetter's Answer (2)

- Why is it that acquaintances are most helpful?
  - Long-range edges allow you to gather information from **different parts of the network** and get a job
  - Structurally embedded edges are **heavily redundant** in terms of information access



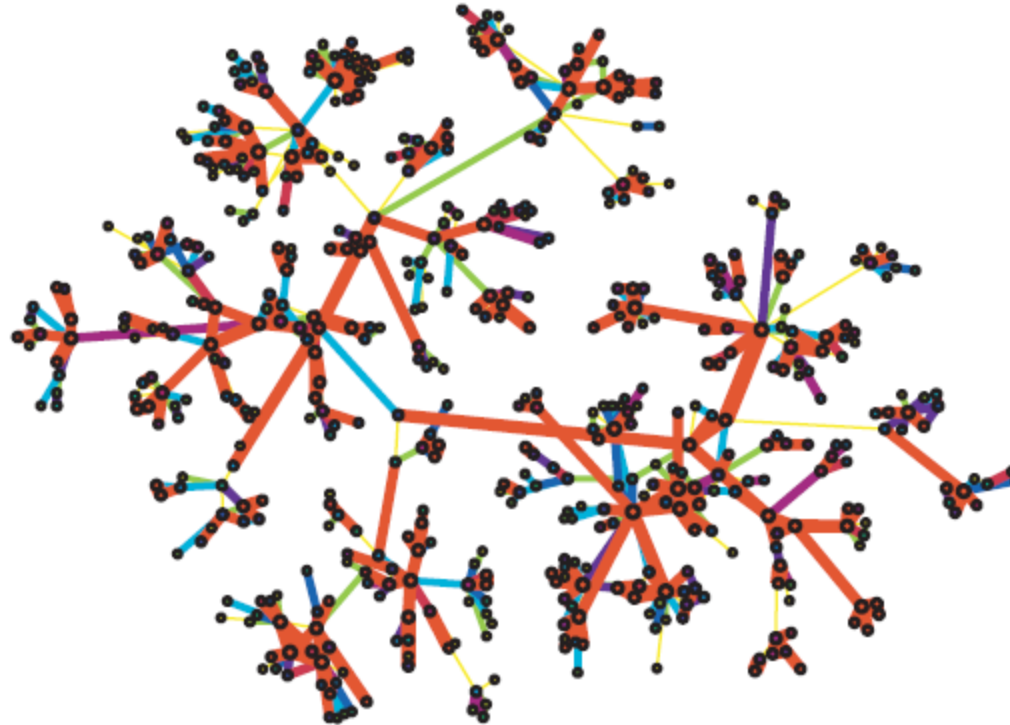
# Real Network, Real Edge Strengths



“Structure and tie strengths in mobile communication networks” Onnela et al. (2007)

- **Real edge strengths in mobile call graph**
  - Strong ties are more embedded (have higher overlap)

# Real Network, Permuted Tie Strengths

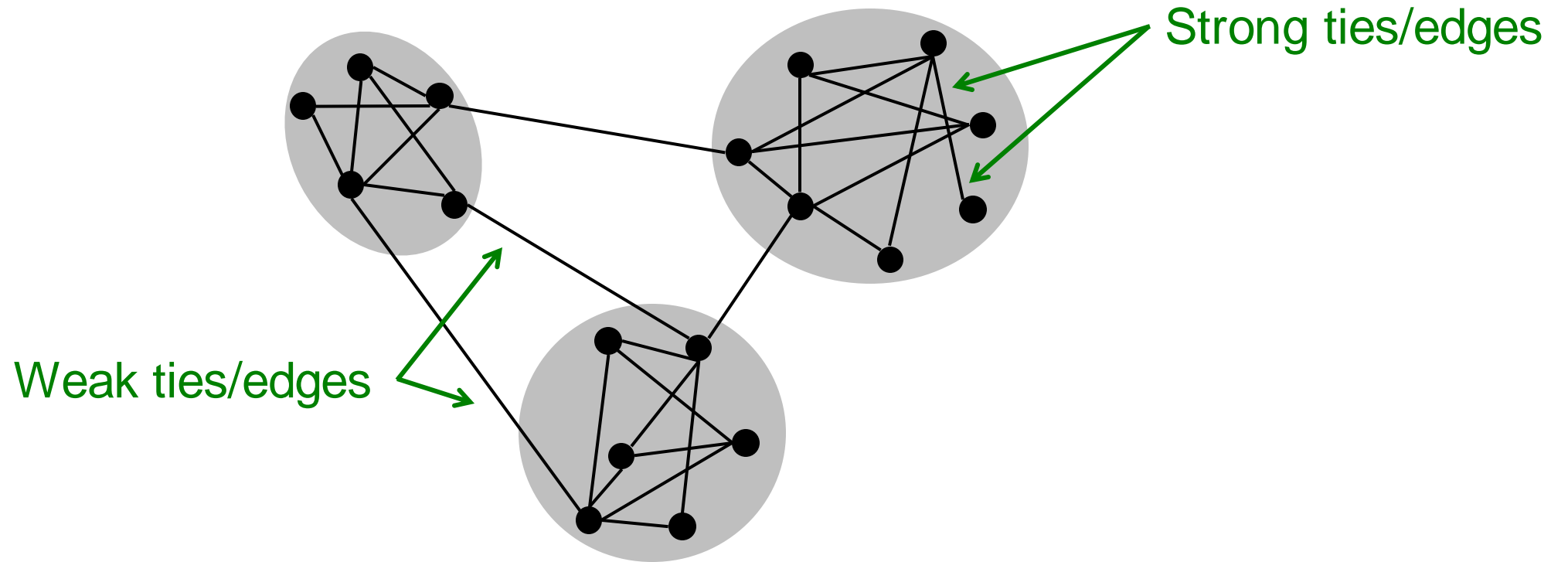


“Structure and tie strengths in mobile communication networks” Onnela et al. (2007)

- Same network, same set of edge strengths but now **strengths are randomly shuffled**

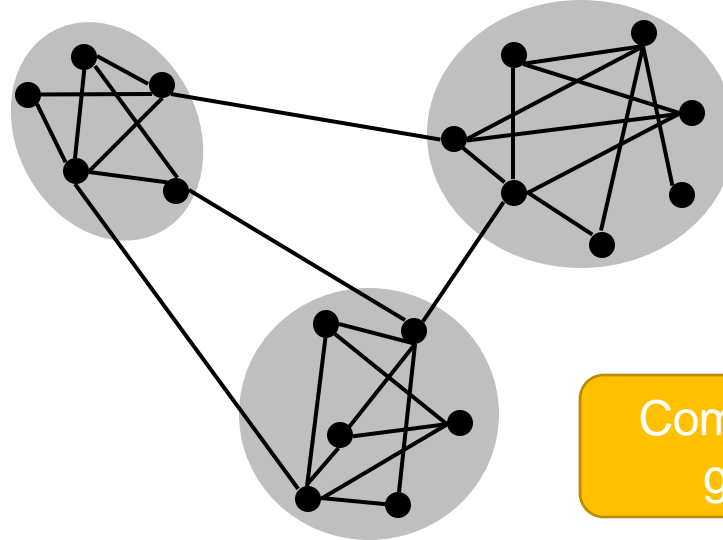
# Conceptual Picture of Networks

- Granovetter's theory leads to the following conceptual picture of networks



# Network Communities

- Granovetter's theory suggests that networks are composed of **tightly connected sets of nodes**
- **Network communities:**
  - Sets of nodes with **lots of internal** connections and **few external** ones (to the rest of the network).

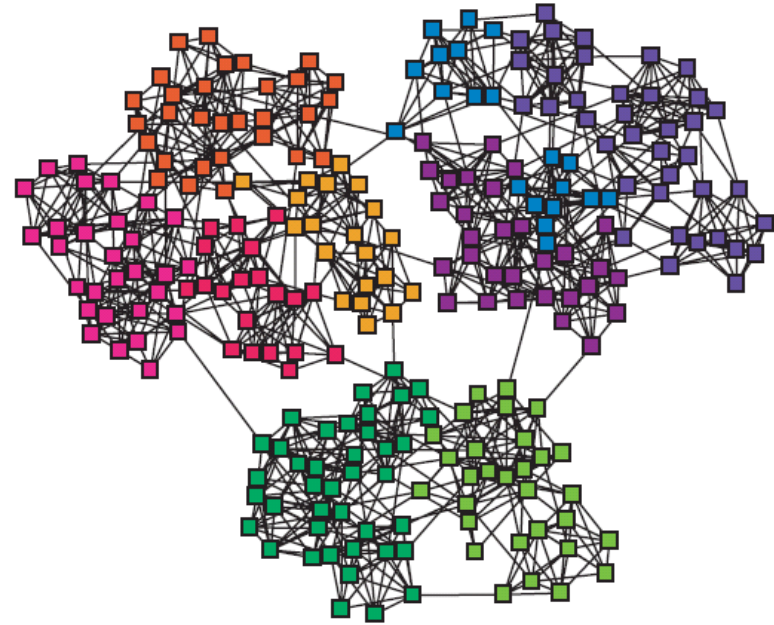


Communities, clusters,  
groups, modules

# How to Find Network Communities

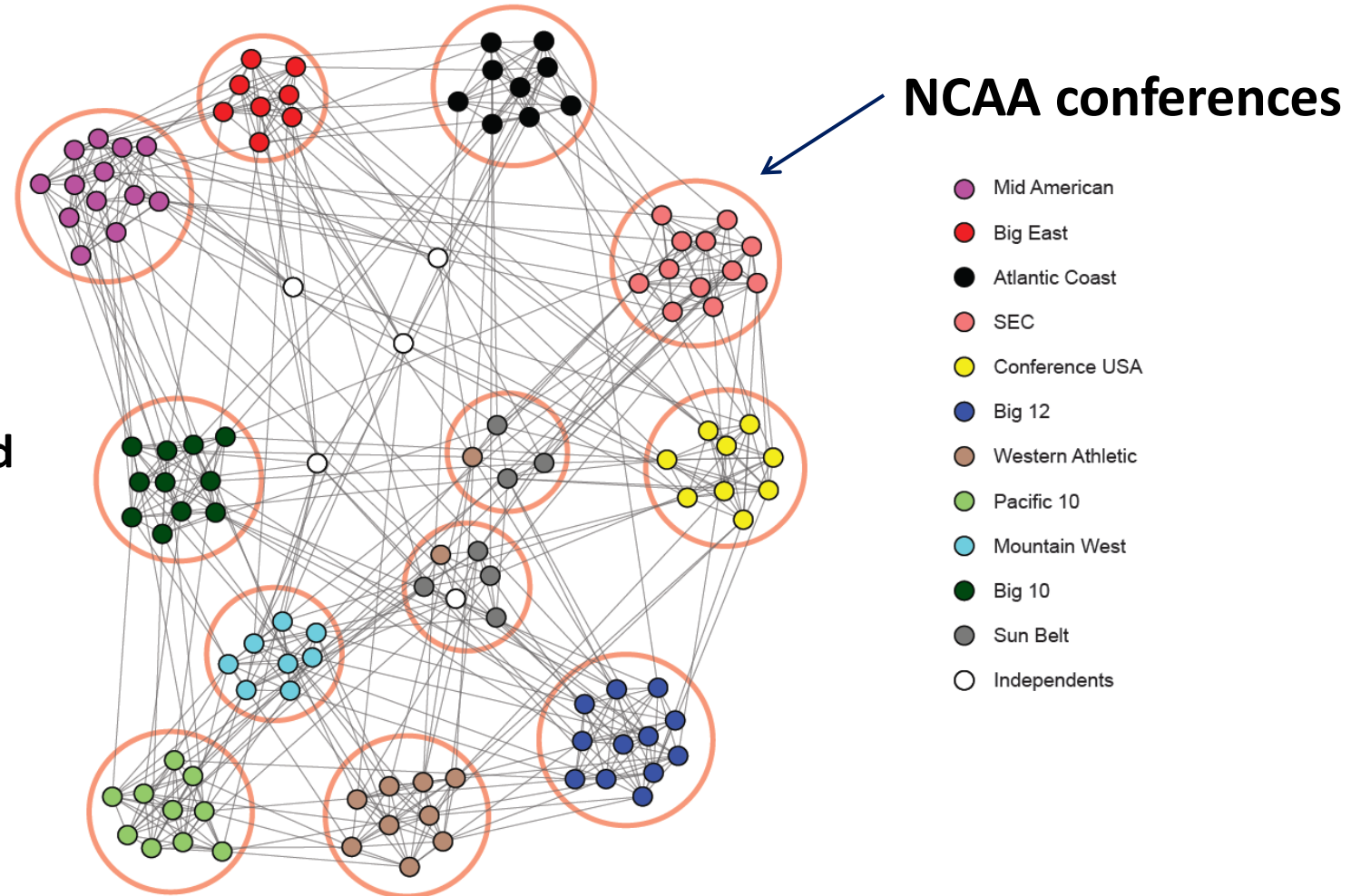
- How do we automatically find such densely connected groups of nodes?
- Ideally such automatically detected clusters would then correspond to real groups
- For example:

Communities, clusters,  
groups, modules



# Example: NCAA Football Network

**Nodes: Teams**  
**Edges: Games played**



# Network Communities Measure

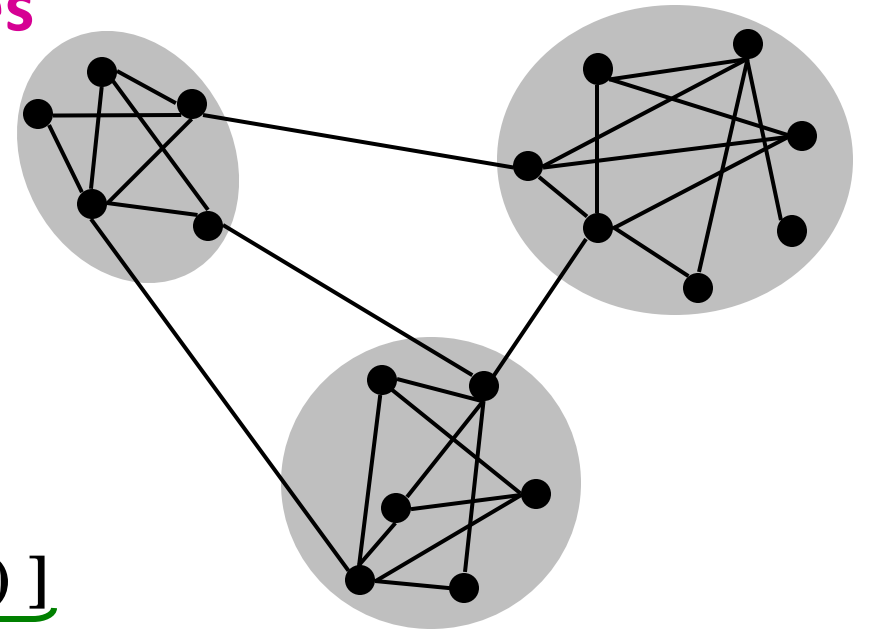
- **Communities:** sets of tightly connected nodes

- Define: **Modularity  $Q$**

- A measure of how well a network is partitioned into communities
- Given a **partitioning** of the network into groups disjoint  $s \in S$ :

$$Q \propto \sum_{s \in S} [ \underbrace{(\# \text{ edges within group } s) - (\text{expected } \# \text{ edges within group } s)}_{\text{Need a null model}} ]$$

Need a null model





# Null Model: Configuration Model (1)

- Given real  $G$  on  $n$  nodes and  $m$  edges, how to know the **expected number of edges** between nodes  $i$  and  $j$ ?
  - We can construct a network  $G'$  with uniformly random connections that has the **same degree distribution** as  $G$ 
    - Consider  $G'$  as a **multigraph** (multiple edges can exist between nodes)
- **The expected number of edges between nodes  $i$  and  $j$  of degrees  $k_i$  and  $k_j$  equals:**  $k_i \cdot \frac{k_j}{2m} = \frac{k_i k_j}{2m}$ 
  - There are  $2m$  **directed** edges (counting  $i \rightarrow j$  and  $j \rightarrow i$ ) in total.
  - For each of  $k_i$  out-going edges from node  $i$ , the chance of it landing to node  $j$  is  $k_j/2m$ , hence  $k_i k_j / 2m$ .

# Null Model: Configuration Model (2)

- The expected number of edges between nodes  $i$  and  $j$  of degrees  $k_i$  and  $k_j$  equals:  $k_i \cdot \frac{k_j}{2m} = \frac{k_i k_j}{2m}$ 
    - The expected number of edges in (multigraph)  $G'$ :
      - $= \frac{1}{2} \sum_{i \in N} \sum_{j \in N} \frac{k_i k_j}{2m} = \frac{1}{2} \cdot \frac{1}{2m} \sum_{i \in N} k_i (\sum_{j \in N} k_j) =$
      - $= \frac{1}{4m} 2m \cdot 2m = m$
- Note:  
 $\sum_{u \in N} k_u = 2m$
- Under null model, both the degree distribution and the total number of edges are preserved.

Notice: This model applies to both weighted and unweighted networks. For weighted networks we use the weighted degree (sum of the edge weights).

# Modularity (1)

- **Modularity of partitioning  $S$  of graph  $G$ :**

$$Q \propto \sum_{s \in S} [ (\# \text{ edges within group } s) - (\text{expected } \# \text{ edges within group } s) ]$$


$$Q(G, S) = \frac{1}{2m} \sum_{s \in S} \sum_{i \in s} \sum_{j \in s} \left( A_{ij} - \frac{k_i k_j}{2m} \right)$$

Normalizing const.:  $-1 \leq Q \leq 1$

$$A_{ij} = \begin{cases} 1, & \text{if } i \rightarrow j \\ 0, & \text{otherwise} \end{cases}$$

(if  $G$  is weighted then  $A_{ij}$  is the edge weight)

- **Modularity values take range  $[-1, 1]$**

- It is positive if the number of edges within groups exceeds the expected number
- $Q$  greater than **0.3-0.7** means **significant community structure**
- **Notice Modularity applies to weighted and unweighted networks.**

# Modularity (2)

$$Q(G, S) = \frac{1}{2m} \sum_{s \in S} \sum_{i \in s} \sum_{j \in s} \left( A_{ij} - \frac{k_i k_j}{2m} \right) \text{ For each group } s$$

Equivalently modularity can be written as:

$$Q = \frac{1}{2m} \sum_{ij} \left[ A_{ij} - \frac{k_i k_j}{2m} \right] \delta(c_i, c_j)$$

- $A_{ij}$  represents the edge weight between nodes  $i$  and  $j$ ;
- $k_i$  and  $k_j$  are the sum of the weights of the edges attached to nodes  $i$  and  $j$ , respectively;
- $2m$  is the sum of all of the edge weights in the graph;
- $c_i$  and  $c_j$  are the communities of the nodes; and
- $\delta$  is a simple **delta function**.  $\delta(c_i, c_j) = 1$  if  $c_i = c_j$  else 0

**Idea: We can identify communities by maximizing modularity**

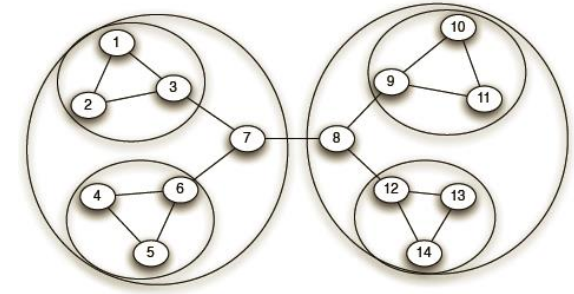
# Unsupervised and Self-supervised Learning for Graphs

- **Network Community Detection**
  - Network Communities
  - **Louvain Algorithm**
- Strategies for Pre-training Graph Neural Networks

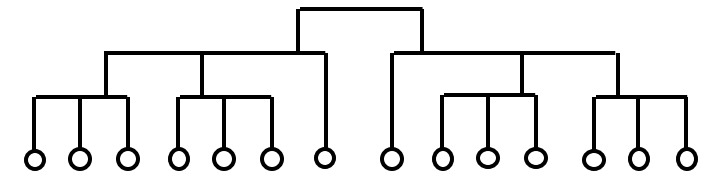
# Louvain Algorithm (1)

- **Greedy algorithm** for community detection
  - $O(n \log n)$  run time
- Supports weighted graphs
- Provides hierarchical communities
- Widely utilized to **study large networks** because:
  - Fast
  - Rapid convergence
  - High modularity output (i.e., “better communities”)

Network and communities:



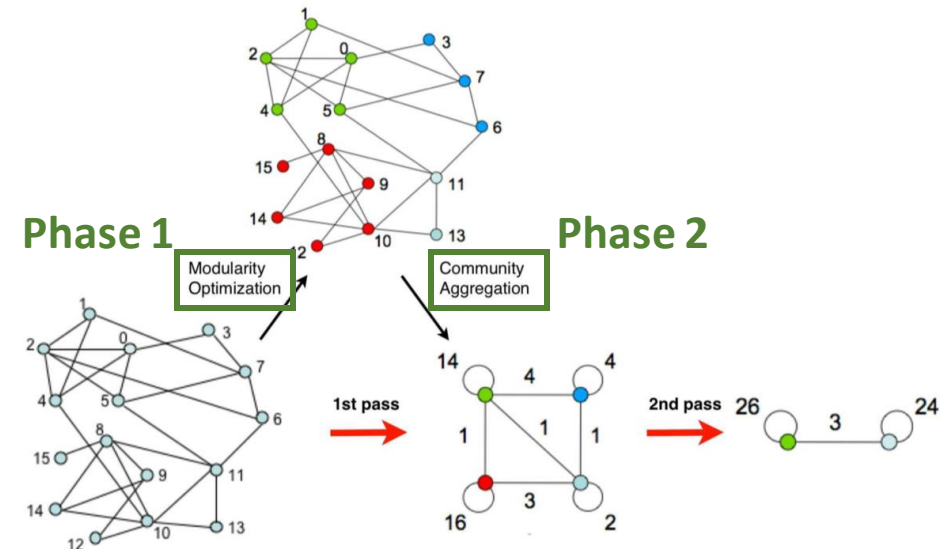
Dendrogram:



“Fast unfolding of communities in large networks” Blondel et al. (2008)

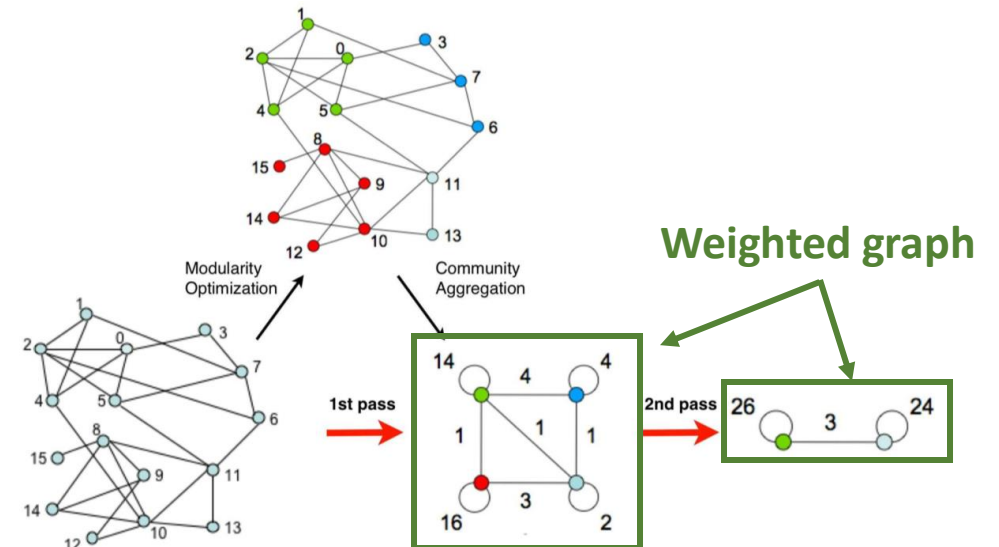
# Louvain Algorithm (2)

- Louvain algorithm **greedily maximizes** modularity
- **Each pass is made of 2 phases:**
  - **Phase 1 (Partitioning):** Modularity is **optimized** by allowing only local changes to node-communities memberships
  - **Phase 2 (Restructuring):** The identified communities are **aggregated** into super-nodes to build a new network
  - **Run Phase 1 on the new network**
- The passes are repeated iteratively until no increase of modularity is possible.



# Louvain Algorithm (3)

- Louvain algorithm considers graphs as **weighted**
  - The original graph can be unweighted (i.e., edge weights are all 1)
  - As the communities get identified and aggregated into super-nodes, weighted graphs are created (weights count the number of edges in the original graph)
  - Weighted version of Modularity is applied





# Louvain: 1<sup>st</sup> phase (Partitioning)

- Put each node in a graph into a **distinct community** (one node per community)
- For each node  $i$ , the algorithm performs two calculations
  - Compute the modularity delta ( $\Delta Q$ ) when putting node  $i$  into the community of some neighbor  $j$
  - Move  $i$  to a community of node  $j$  that yields the largest gain in  $\Delta Q$
- **Phase 1 runs until no movement yields a gain**

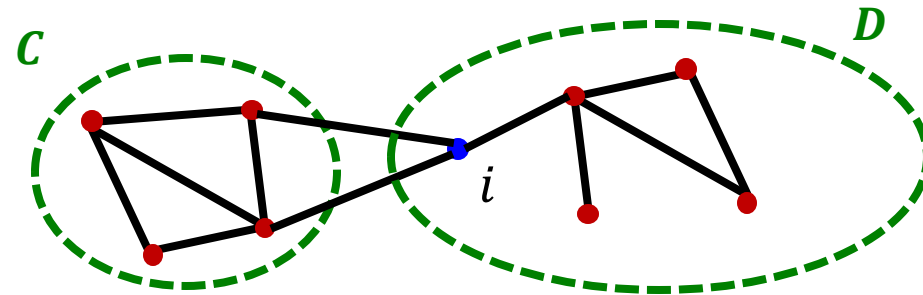
Note that the output of the algorithm depends on the order in which the nodes are considered. Research indicates that the ordering of the nodes does not have a significant influence on the overall modularity that is obtained.

# Louvain 1<sup>st</sup> phase: Modularity Gain

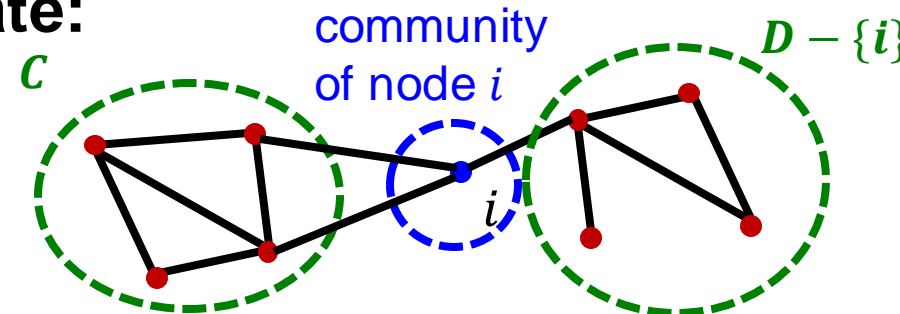
What is  $\Delta Q$  if we move node  $i$  from community  $D$  to  $C$ ?

$$\Delta Q(D \rightarrow i \rightarrow C) = \Delta Q(D \rightarrow i) + \Delta Q(i \rightarrow C)$$

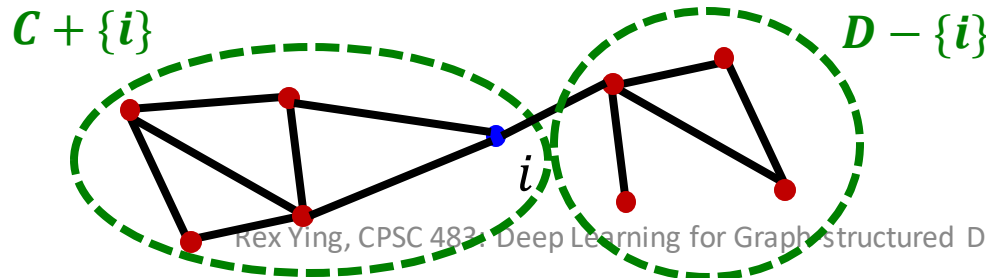
Before:



Intermediate:



After:



Removing  $i$  from  $D$

$$\Delta Q(D \rightarrow i)$$

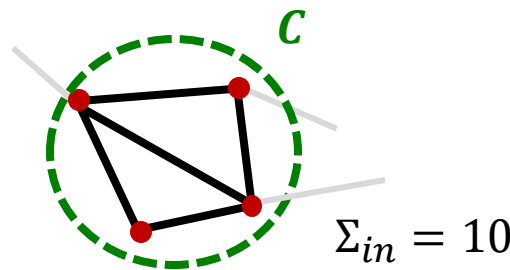
Merging  $i$  into  $C$

$$\Delta Q(i \rightarrow C)$$

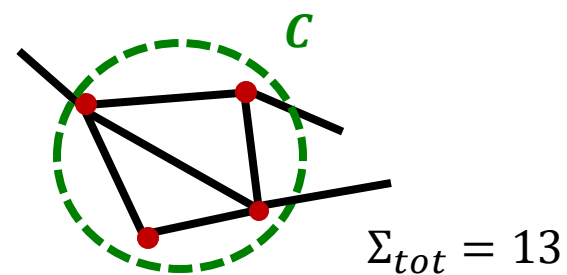
# Louvain 1<sup>st</sup> phase: Deriving $\Delta Q(i \rightarrow C)$ (1)

- Let's derive  $\Delta Q(i \rightarrow C)$
- First, we derive modularity **within**  $C$ , i.e.,  $Q(C)$ .
- **Define:**
  - $\Sigma_{in} \equiv \sum_{i,j \in C} A_{ij}$ 
    - sum of link weights between nodes in  $C$
  - $\Sigma_{tot} \equiv \sum_{i \in C} k_i$ 
    - sum of all link weights of nodes in  $C$

$\Sigma_{in}$ :



$\Sigma_{tot}$ :



# Louvain 1<sup>st</sup> phase: Deriving $\Delta Q(i \rightarrow C)$ (2)

- **Define:**

- $\Sigma_{in} \equiv \sum_{i,j \in C} A_{ij}$ ... sum of link weights between nodes in  $C$
- $\Sigma_{tot} \equiv \sum_{i \in C} k_i$ ... sum of all link weights of nodes in  $C$

- Then, we have

$$Q(C) \equiv \frac{1}{2m} \sum_{i,j \in C} \left[ A_{ij} - \frac{k_i k_j}{2m} \right] = \frac{\sum_{i,j \in C} A_{ij}}{2m} - \frac{(\sum_{i \in C} k_i)(\sum_{j \in C} k_j)}{(2m)^2}$$

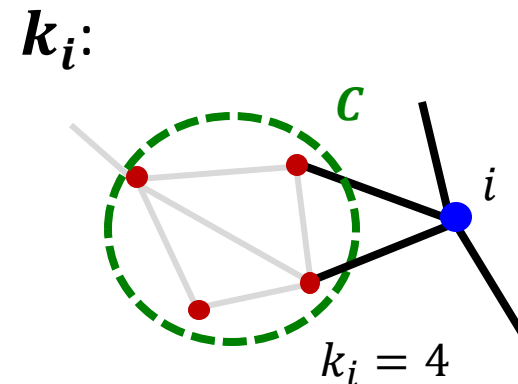
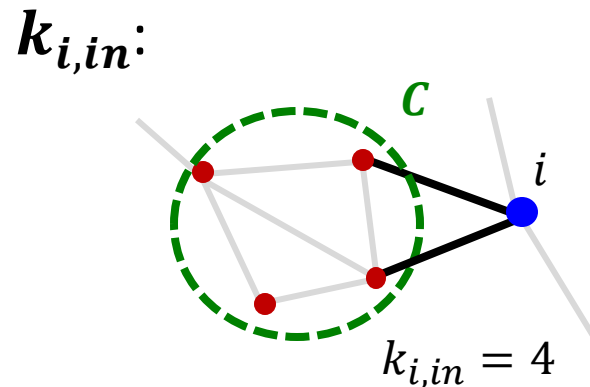
Links within the community  $\frac{\Sigma_{in}}{2m} - \left( \frac{\Sigma_{tot}}{2m} \right)^2$  Total links

$Q(C)$  is large when most of the total links are within-community links

# Louvain 1<sup>st</sup> phase: Deriving $\Delta Q(i \rightarrow C)$ (3)

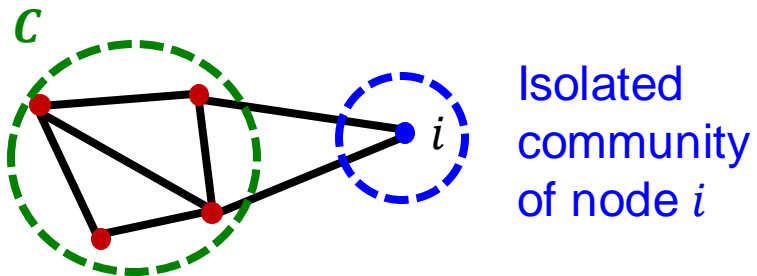
- **Further define:**

- $k_{i,in} \equiv \sum_{j \in C} A_{ij} + \sum_{j \in C} A_{ji}$  ... sum of link weights connecting node  $i$  and  $C$ 
  - Note that each edge gets counted twice, see formula
- $k_i$  ... sum of all link weights (i.e., degree) of node  $i$



# Louvain 1<sup>st</sup> phase: Deriving $\Delta Q(i \rightarrow C)$ (4)

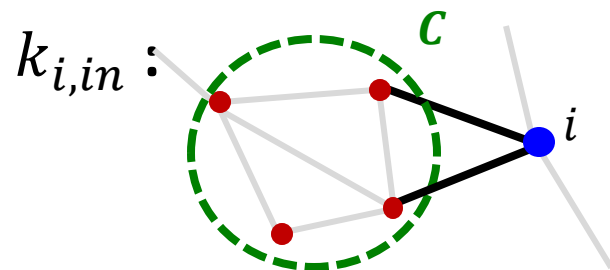
Before merging



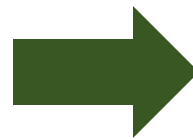
$$Q_{\text{before}} = Q(C) + Q(\{i\})$$

$$= \left[ \frac{\Sigma_{in}}{2m} - \left( \frac{\Sigma_{tot}}{2m} \right)^2 \right] + \left[ 0 - \left( \frac{k_i}{2m} \right)^2 \right]$$

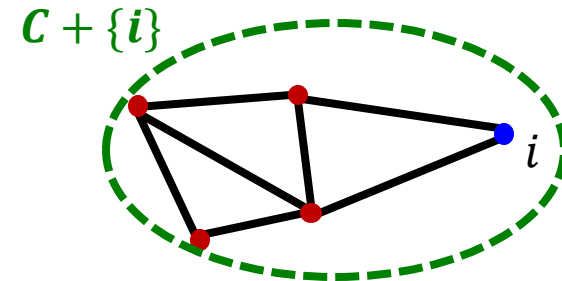
Recall:



$$k_{i,in} = 4$$



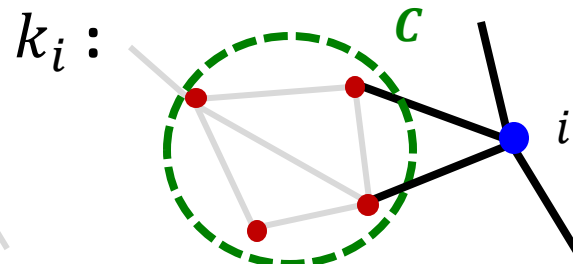
After merging



$$Q_{\text{after}} = Q(C + \{i\})$$

$$= \frac{\Sigma_{in} + k_{i,in}}{2m} - \left( \frac{\Sigma_{tot} + k_i}{2m} \right)^2$$

" $\Sigma_{in}$ " of  $C + \{i\}$       " $\Sigma_{tot}$ " of  $C + \{i\}$



$$k_i = 4$$

# Louvain 1<sup>st</sup> phase: Modularity Gain

- $\Delta Q(i \rightarrow C) = Q_{\text{after}} - Q_{\text{before}}$ 
$$= \left[ \frac{\Sigma_{in} + k_{i,in}}{2m} - \left( \frac{\Sigma_{tot} + k_i}{2m} \right)^2 \right] - \left[ \frac{\Sigma_{in}}{2m} - \left( \frac{\Sigma_{tot}}{2m} \right)^2 - \left( \frac{k_i}{2m} \right)^2 \right]$$
- $\Delta Q(D \rightarrow i)$  can be derived similarly.
- **In summary, we can compute:**

$$\Delta Q(D \rightarrow i \rightarrow C) = \Delta Q(D \rightarrow i) + \Delta Q(i \rightarrow C)$$

# Louvain 1<sup>st</sup> Phase: Summary

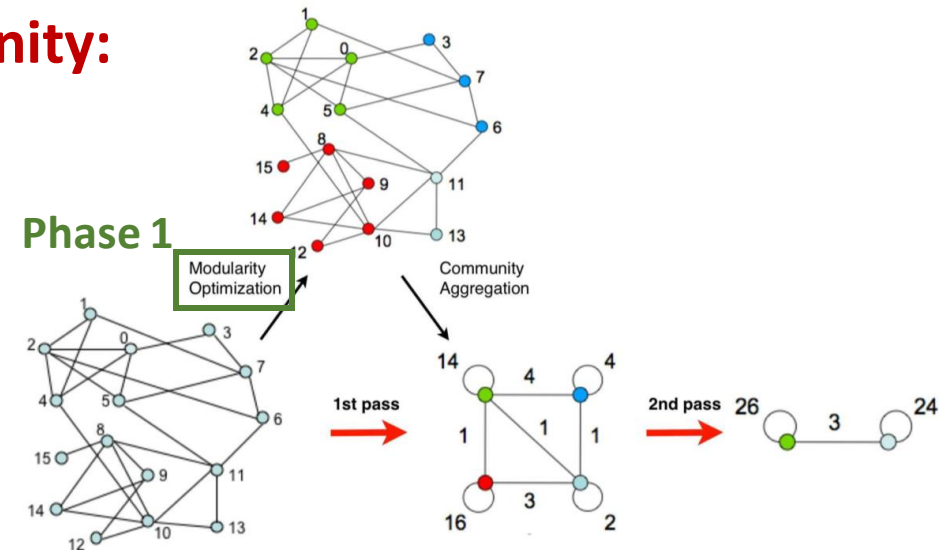
- **Iterate until no node moves to a new community**

- For each node  $i \in V$  currently in community  $C$ , compute the **best community  $C'$** :

$$C' = \operatorname{argmax}_{C'} \Delta Q(C \rightarrow i \rightarrow C')$$

- If  $\Delta Q(C \rightarrow i \rightarrow C') > 0$ , then **update the community**:

- $C \leftarrow C - \{i\}$
- $C' \leftarrow C' + \{i\}$



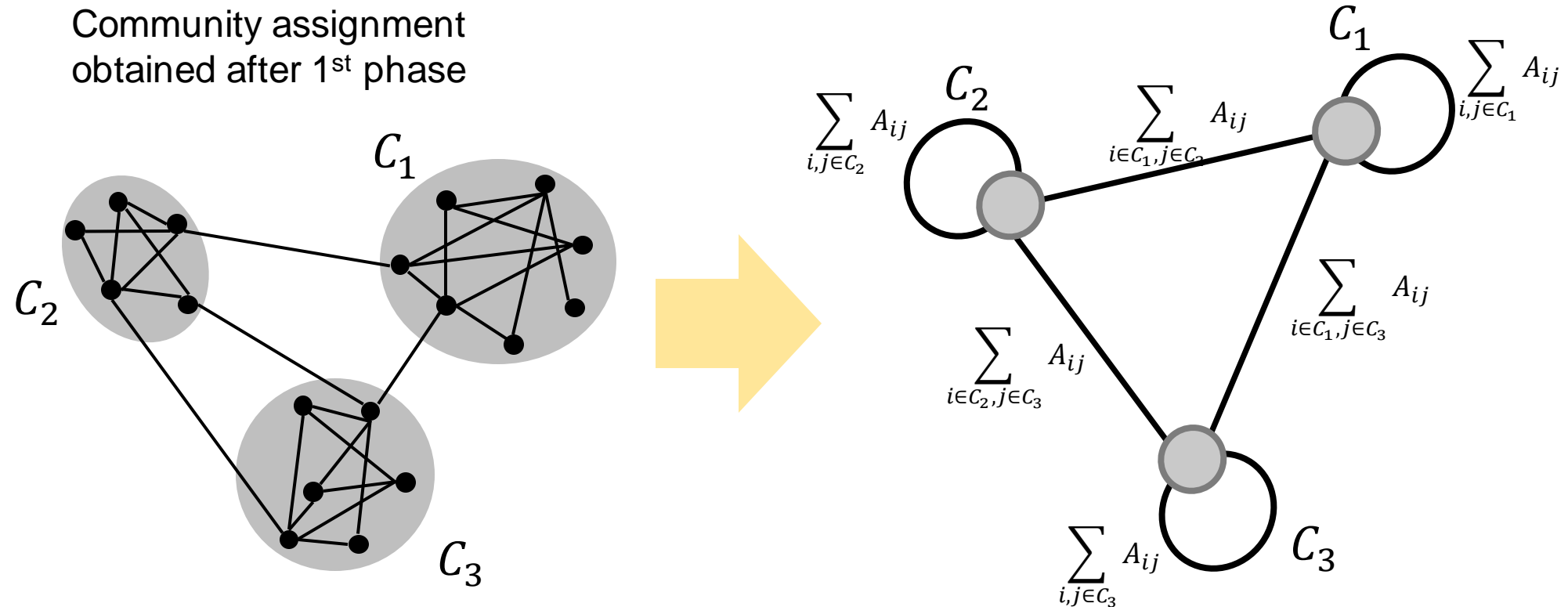


# Louvain: 2<sup>nd</sup> phase (Restructuring)

- The communities obtained in the first phase are contracted into **super-nodes**, and the network is created accordingly:
  - Super-nodes are connected if there is at least one edge between the nodes of the corresponding communities
  - The weight of the edge between the two super-nodes is the sum of the weights from all edges between their corresponding communities
- **Phase 1 is then run on the super-node network**

# Louvain 2<sup>st</sup> Phase: Summary

- Super nodes are constructed by merging nodes in the same community.



# Interesting Questions

- Can we use GNNs to perform clustering / community detection?
  - Direct classification of nodes into clusters
  - Link prediction
- Can we use community information to improve GNN models
  - Additional node features
  - ClusterGCN
  - DiffPool
- Theoretical questions
  - Investigate the relation between clustering and over-smoothing phenomenon

# Unsupervised and Self-supervised Learning for Graphs

- **Network Community Detection**
  - Network Communities
  - Louvain Algorithm
- **Strategies for Pre-training Graph Neural Networks**

# Supervised Learning on Graphs (1)

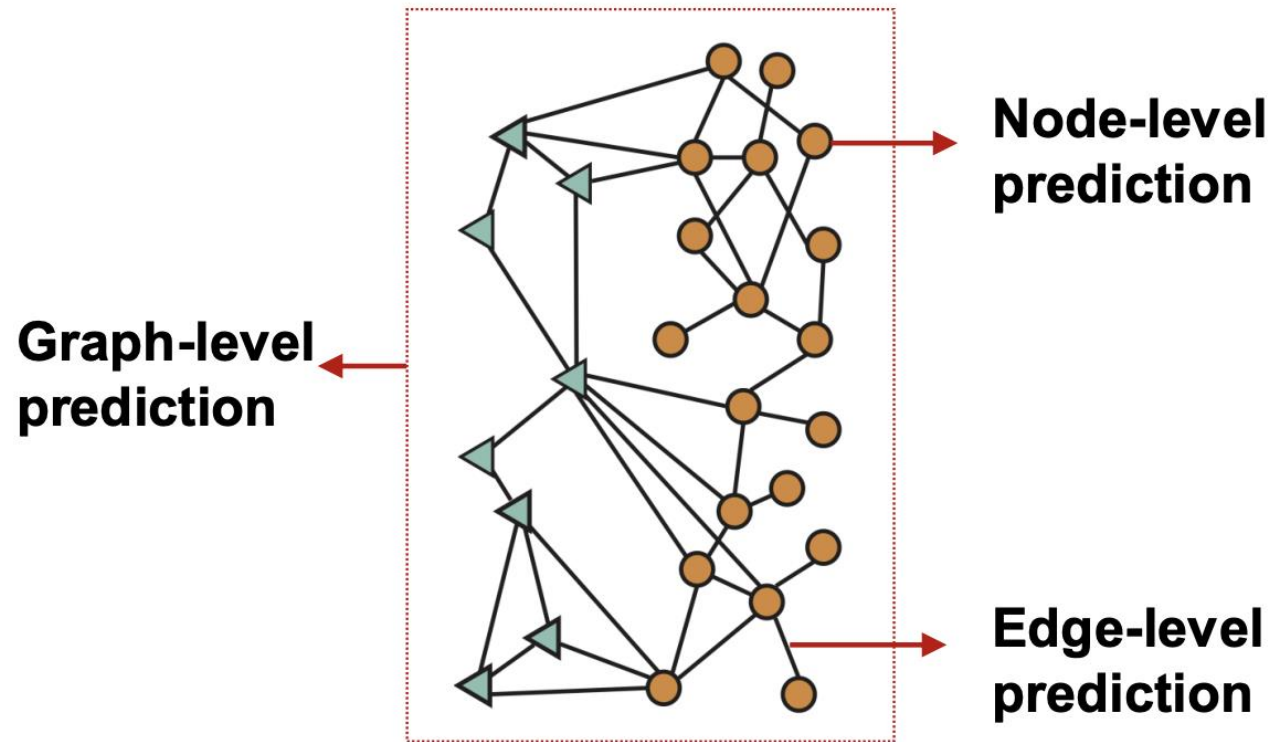
- Usually we train a GNN with some supervised labels:
  - **Node labels**  $y_v$ : in a citation network, which subject area does a node belong to
  - **Edge labels**  $y_{uv}$ : in a transaction network, whether an edge is fraudulent
  - **Graph labels**  $y_G$ : among molecular graphs, the drug likeness of graphs
- And apply a **loss function**  $l(\cdot)$  to optimize the parameters

$$\min l(y, \hat{y})$$

**Predicted labels**

# Supervised Learning on Graphs (2)

- Different supervised labels on graph



# Challenge of Supervised Learning on Graphs

- Task-specific labels can be extremely **scarce**
  - Obtaining labels requires **expensive** lab experiments and human annotation
    - Machine learning models easily overfit to small training data
  - E.g., testing the chemical property of a molecule in a wet laboratory
- Graph data often contains **out-of-distribution samples**
  - Graphs in the training set are structurally very **different** from graphs in the test set
  - E.g., predict chemical properties of a new molecule which is different from all molecules in training set

# Self-supervised Learning on Graphs (1)

- How to improve model's out-of-distribution prediction performance even with limited data?
- The solution: **self-supervised learning**!
  - We can find abundant supervision signals within the graph
    - **Node-level**  $y_v$ . Node statistics: such as clustering coefficient, PageRank
    - **Edge-level**  $y_{uv}$ . Link prediction: hide the edge between two nodes, predict if there should be a link
    - **Graph-level**  $y_G$ . Graph statistics: for example, predict if two graphs are isomorphic
  - Self-supervised learning can inject **domain knowledge** into a model
    - Model can generalize well without many task-specific labeled data



# Self-supervised Learning on Graphs (2)

- Key idea: Use self-supervised signals to **pre-train** a model, then **finetune** the model with (scarce) training data
  - **Pre-train**: train the model on relevant tasks with self-supervised signals
  - **Finetune**: adapt the model to downstream task by using task-specific labels to tune the pretrained model



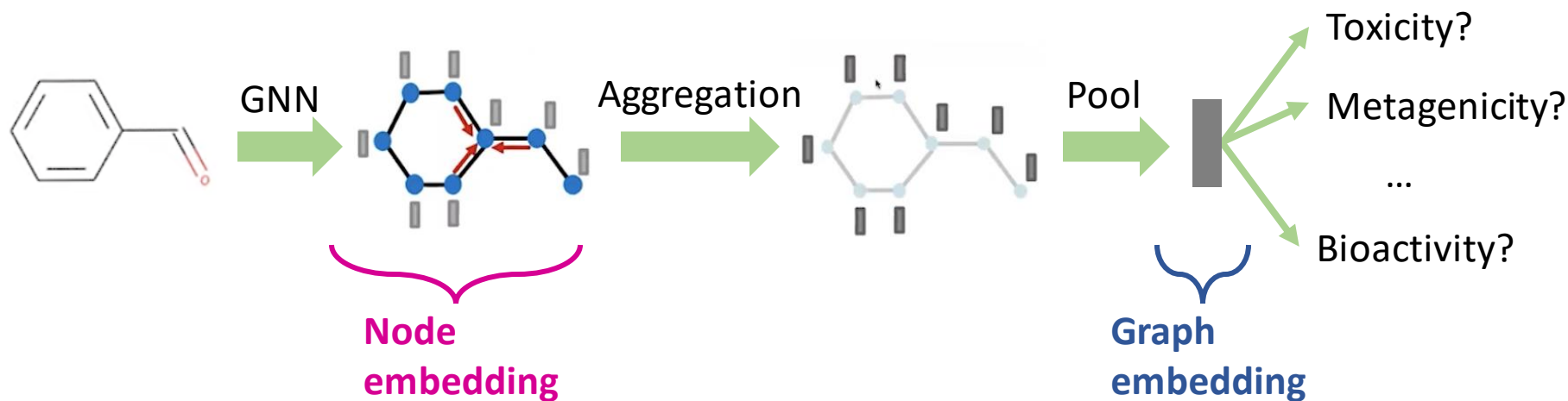
# Pre-training GNNs (1)

- How to design pre-training strategies for GNNs?
- Let's think about **molecular property prediction task**
  - Node: atom
  - Edge: interaction between two atoms (bonds)
  - Task: Given a molecular graph, predict its corresponding chemical property

$$\text{model } f(\text{benzaldehyde}) = \begin{cases} \text{Toxicity?} \\ \text{Metagenicity?} \\ \vdots \\ \text{Bioactivity?} \end{cases}$$

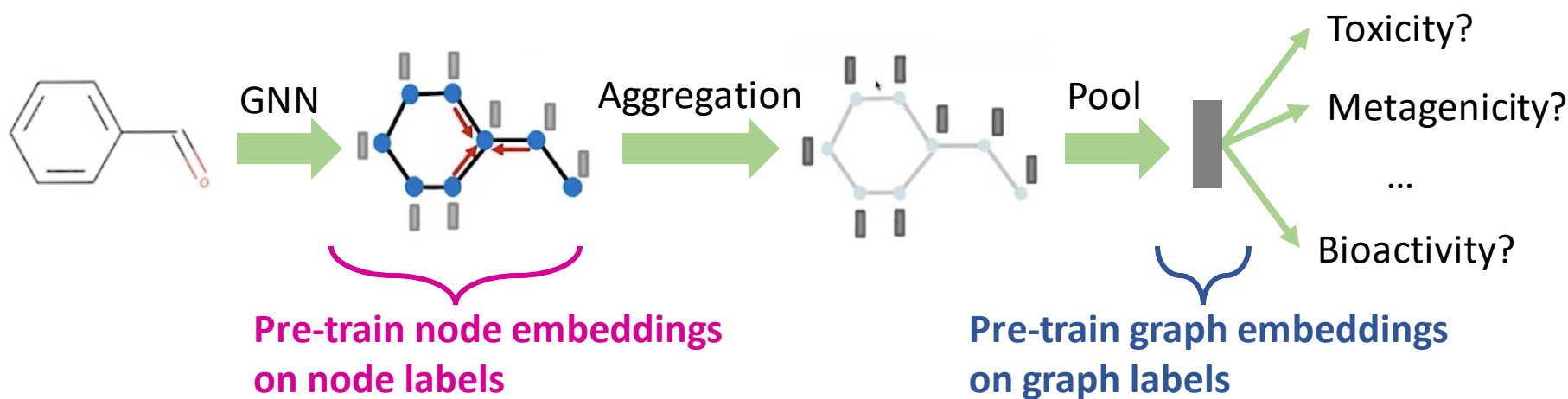
# Pre-training GNNs (2)

- We can apply GNN to learn the molecular graph representation
  - **Node level**: Iteratively perform neighbor aggregation to obtain **node** representation
  - **Graph level**: Use pooling operation to obtain **graph** representation



# Pre-training GNNs (3)

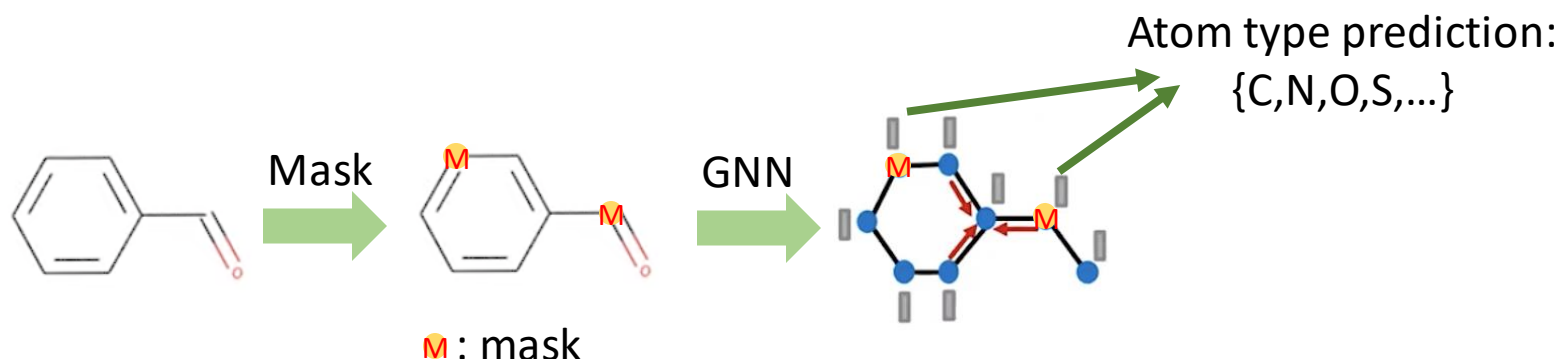
- How to pre-train GNN for molecular graph?
  - We can pre-train both **node** and **graph** embeddings
  - GNN can capture domain-specific knowledge of both **local** and **global** structure



- Some strategies of pre-training GNNs
  - Attribute masking
  - Context pre-training
  - Attribute prediction
  - Contrastive learning

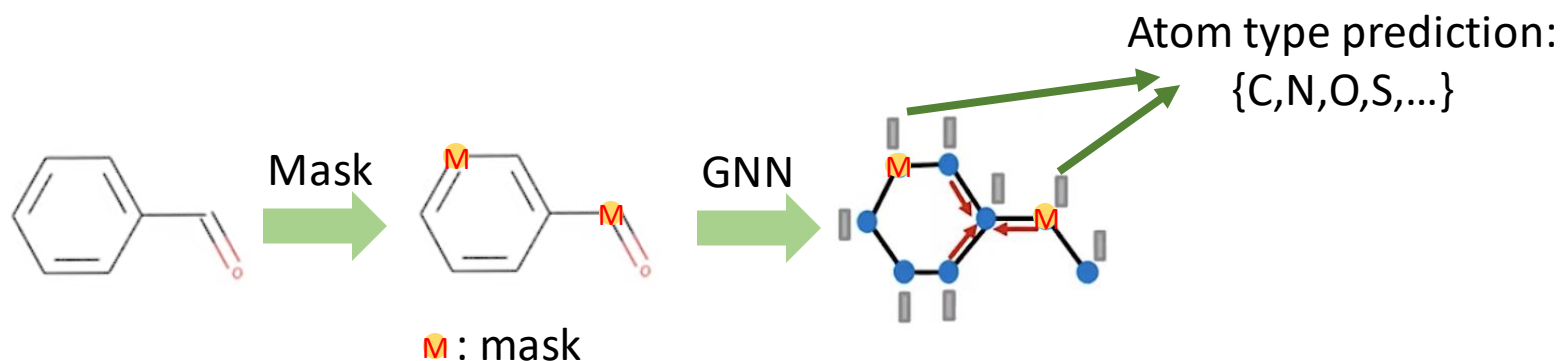
# Node-level Pre-training: Attribute Masking (1)

- Node-level self-supervised task: Attribute Masking
  - **Self-supervised** signal: original node feature (atom type)
  - Mask some node features
  - Use GNN to generate node embeddings
  - Apply a linear model on the embeddings to predict the masked node feature



# Node-level Pre-training: Attribute Masking (2)

- Intuition: atoms on the molecular graph follow **chemistry rules**
- Attribute masking can enforce GNN to learn such **domain knowledge**
  - Valency
  - Electronic or steric properties of functional groups



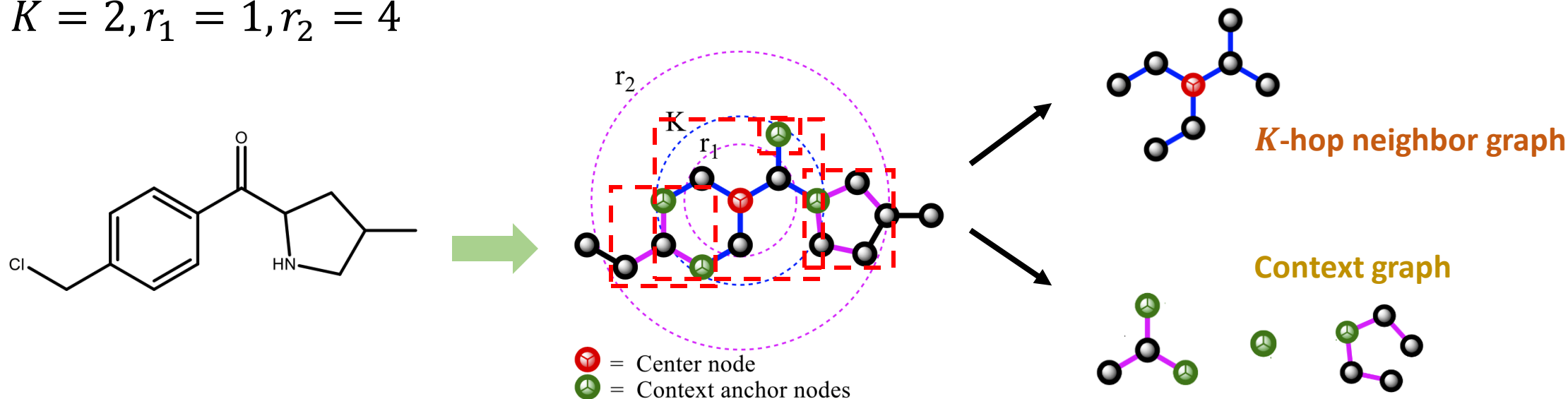
# Node-level Pre-training: Context Prediction (1)

- Node-level self-supervised task: Context prediction
  - **Self-supervised** signal: context graph
- **$K$ -hop neighbor graph**  $G_v^K$ 
  - The subgraph containing all nodes and edges that are at most  $K$ -hop away from  $v$
- **Context graph**  $G_v^c(r_1, r_2)$ 
  - The subgraph containing all nodes and edges that are between  $r_1$ -hop and  $r_2$ -hop away from  $v$
  - It is a ring of width  $r_2 - r_1$
- Given a center node  $v$ , we require  $r_1 < K$  and the nodes which are shared between neighbor and context graph are **context anchor nodes**



# Node-level Pre-training: Context Prediction (2)

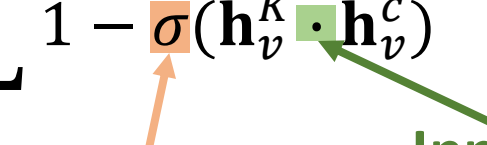
- An example of  **$K$ -hop neighbor graph**  $G_v^K$  and **Context graph**  $G_v^c(r_1, r_2)$ 
  - $K = 2, r_1 = 1, r_2 = 4$



# Node-level Pre-training: Context Prediction (3)

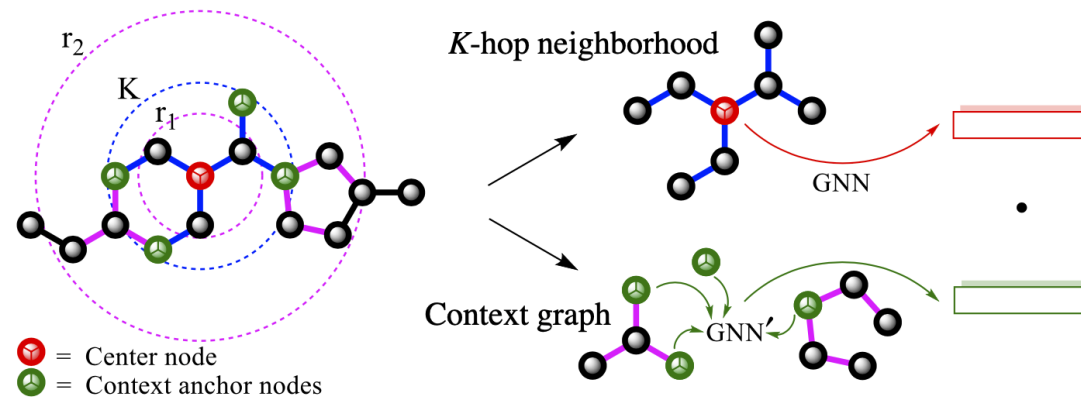
- Node-level self-supervised task: Context prediction
  - **Key idea:** use subgraphs to predict their surrounding graph structures
  - Encode the  $G_v^K$  using the **main GNN** to obtain center node embedding  $\mathbf{h}_v^K$
  - Encode the  $G_v^C(r_1, r_2)$  using **context GNN** to obtain the context anchor node embeddings
    - Context GNN is an auxiliary GNN
  - Simply **average** all the context anchor nodes' embedding to obtain context embedding  $\mathbf{h}_v^C$
  - **Minimize the distance** between  $\mathbf{h}_v^K$  and  $\mathbf{h}_v^C$ :

$$\min \sum_v 1 - \sigma(\mathbf{h}_v^K \cdot \mathbf{h}_v^C)$$

  
**Inner product**      **Inner product**

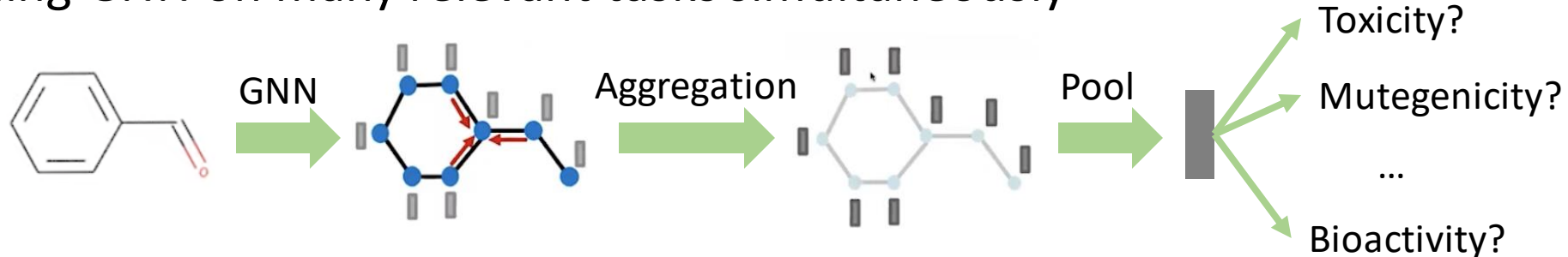
# Node-level Pre-training: Context Prediction (4)

- Intuition: subgraphs that are surrounded by similar contexts are semantically similar
- Pre-trained with context prediction task, GNN can map nodes appearing in similar structural contexts to nearby embeddings



# Graph-level Pre-training: Attribute Prediction

- Graph-level supervised task: Attribute prediction
  - **Multi-task supervised pretraining**: Predict a diverse set of supervised labels
    - Toxicity? Mutagenicity? Bioactivity? Solubility?
    - Each property corresponds to a **binary classification task**
    - **After training, the model can be fine-tuned to perform additional downstream tasks**
  - Training GNN on many relevant tasks simultaneously

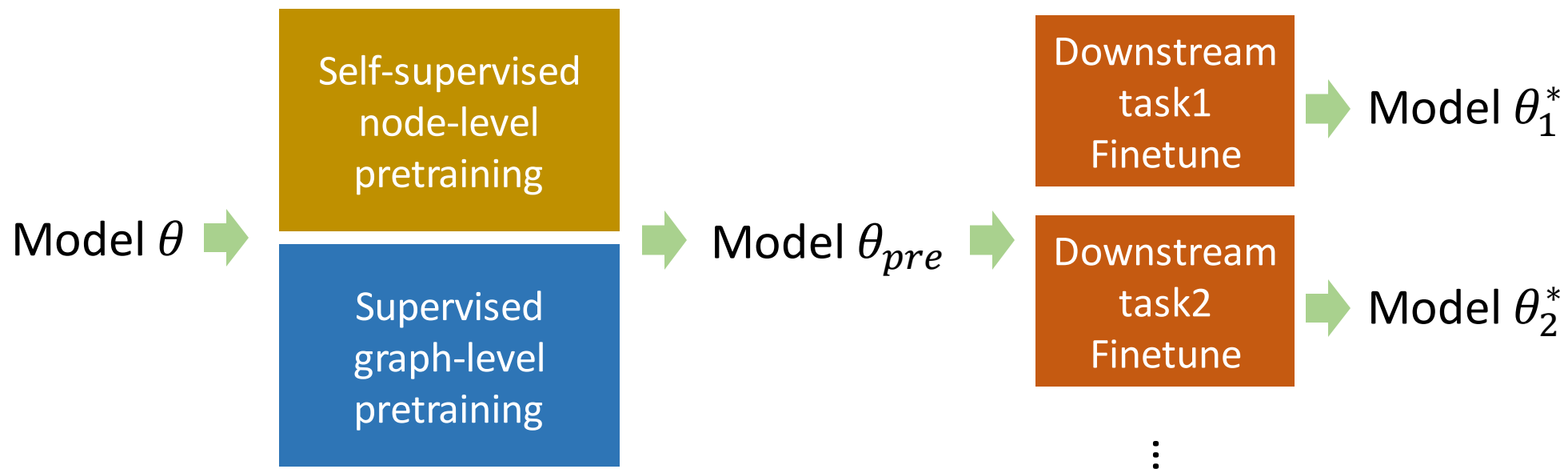


# Graph-level Pre-training: Contrastive Learning

- Contrastive learning is a popular self-supervised learning strategy
  - Train the model to learn to contrast positive and negative examples
- **Positive** example: molecules in the dataset
  - Maximize predicted probability
- **Negative** example: **perturbed** molecules
  - Minimize predicted probability

# Pre-training on Graph: Overview

- Pretraining a GNN on molecular graph
  - Node-level pretraining: attribute masking and context prediction
  - Graph-level pretraining: attribute prediction



# Summary

- Unsupervised learning for graph: community detection
  - What is Network Communities?
    - Network community measure **Modularity**
  - Detection method: Louvain Algorithm
    - Phase 1 (**Partitioning**) and Phase 2 (**Reconstructing**)
- Strategies for pretraining Graph Neural Networks
  - **Node-level** pretraining
  - **Graph-level** pretraining