



# A Hands-on Introduction to Graph Deep Learning, with Examples in PyTorch Geometric - III

Machine Learning and Dynamical Systems Seminar

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# Introduction

## About us



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# Introduction

## Organization and material

Tutorial in four parts (slides + Jupyter notebooks available at [github.com/steveazzolin/gdl\\_tutorial\\_turinginst](https://github.com/steveazzolin/gdl_tutorial_turinginst)):

- **Part I:** November 2, Presenter: **GS**  
Goals: Motivations, Intro of basic concepts, definition of GNNs
- **Part II:** November 9, Presenter: **AL**  
Goals: Implementation of GNNs: How to implement a full GNN pipeline in PyTorch Geometric.
- **Part III:** November 16, Presenter: **SA**  
Goals: Explainability of GNNs: How to shed (a bit of) light into the black box
- **Part IV:** November 23, Presenter: **FF**  
Goals: Heterogeneity in GNNs: How can GNNs effectively model and incorporate a diversity of nodes and edges with different types.

# Introduction

## Agenda

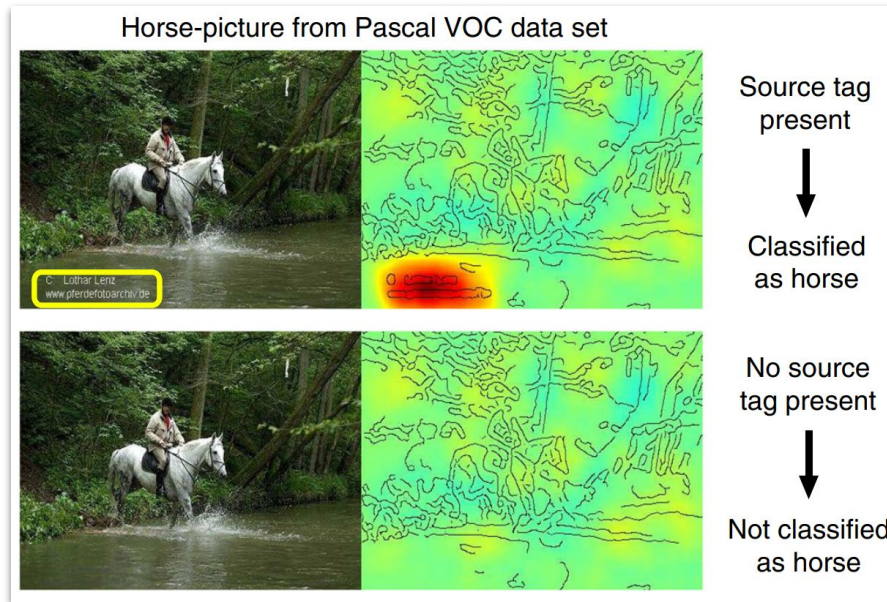
1. Why **XAI** for deep learning models?
2. What can **XAI** do?
3. **XAI4GNNs**

# Why XAI for deep learning models?

Deep learning models achieve great performances in many tasks and they are more and more adopted also in

**high-stakes** applications

- Surveillance
- Crime rate predictions
- Medical Diagnosis
- Autonomous Driving
- ...

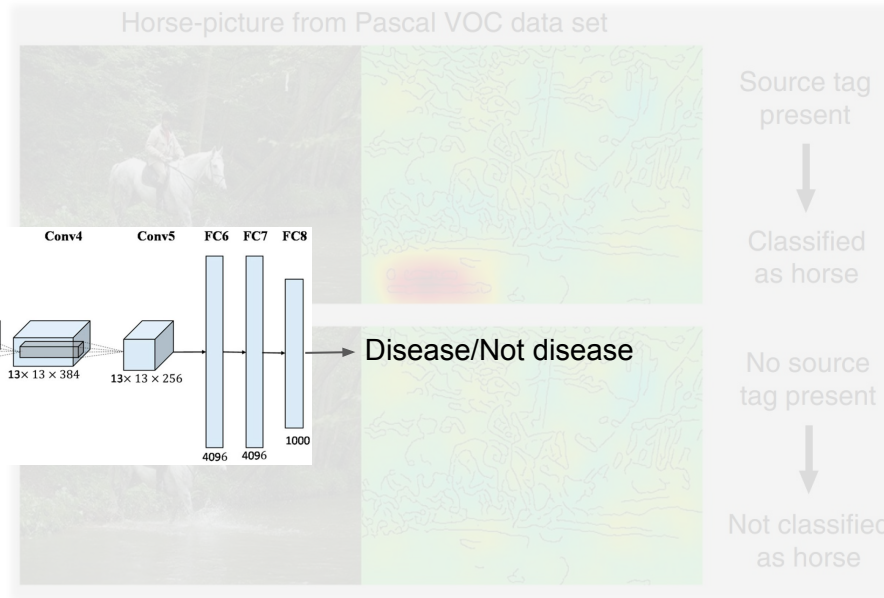
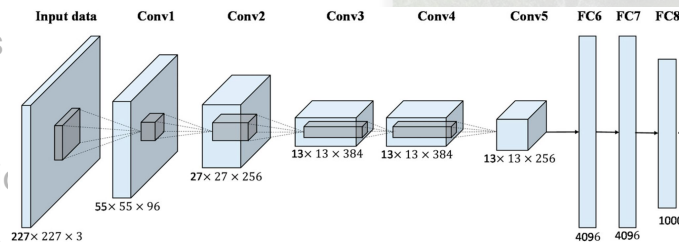


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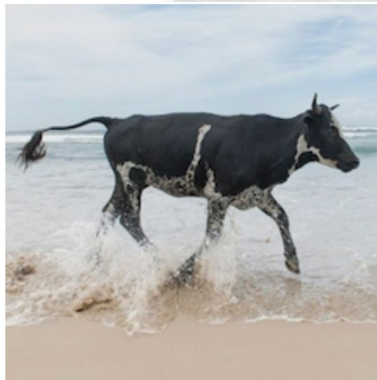
Deep learning  
performances  
more and more

high-stakes ap

- Surveillance
- Crime ra
- Medical
- ...



(A) **Cow: 0.99**, Pasture: 0.99, Grass: 0.99, No Person: 0.98, Mammal: 0.98



(B) No Person: 0.99, Water: 0.98, Beach: 0.97, Outdoors: 0.97, Seashore: 0.97



(C) No Person: 0.97, **Mammal: 0.96**, Water: 0.94, Beach: 0.94, Two: 0.94

Horse-picture from Pascal VOC data set

Source tag present



Classified as horse

No source tag present

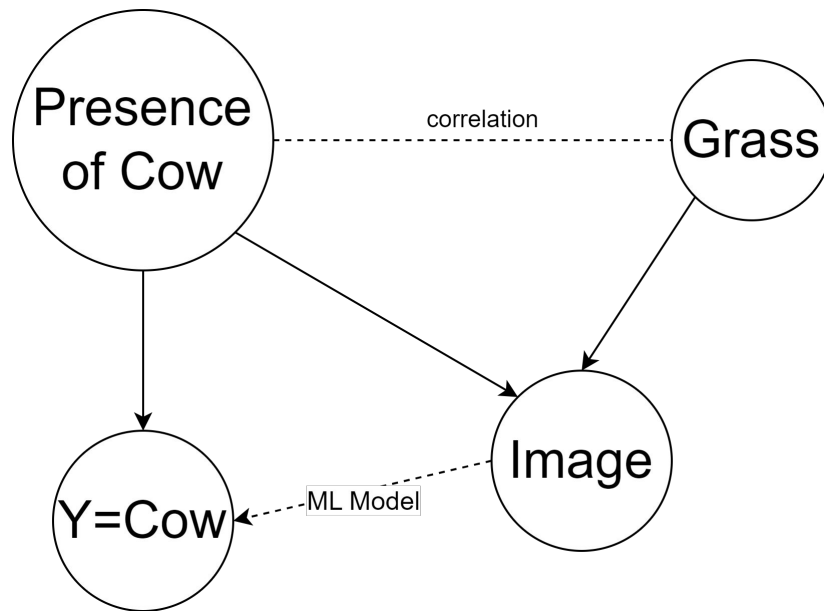


Not classified as horse

# Why XAI for deep learning models?

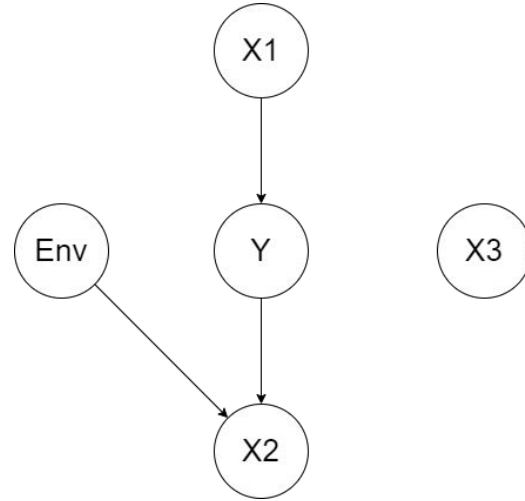
Deep learning models struggle to capture true **causal** relationships.

They instead pick up subtle/shortcut features **correlated** to the target label, but not causally associated to it





# Code Session I



# Why XAI for deep learning models?

## Not all ML models are created equal

### White box\*

- Linear Models
- Decision Trees

Shallow models, good for tabular data,  
good with few data

### Black box

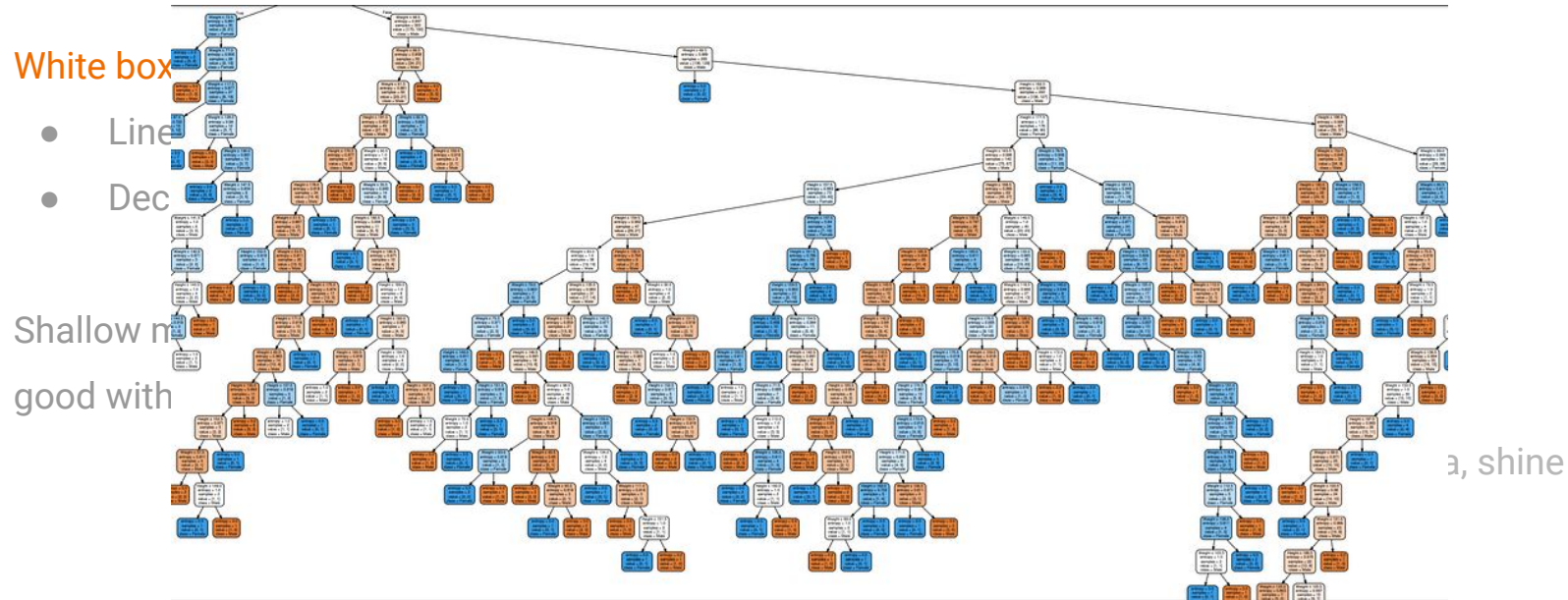
- CNNs
- Transformers
- GNNs

(Very) Deep models, good for  
unstructured/high-dimensional data, shine  
with big data

**\*caveat:** Being simple does not imply being understandable by humans (think of a Decision Tree with thousands of leafs...) (Rudin, C. (2019))

# Why XAI for deep learning models?

## Not all ML models are created equal



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# Why XAI for deep learning models?

## Not all ML models are created equal

- We need external tools to shed light on the **rationales** behind deep models' predictions
- We need to design new deep models equipped with better interpretability
  - Concept Bottleneck Models (**grey box models**) ("Concept Bottleneck Models", Pang Wei Koh, 2020)

# What can XAI do?

## Use cases

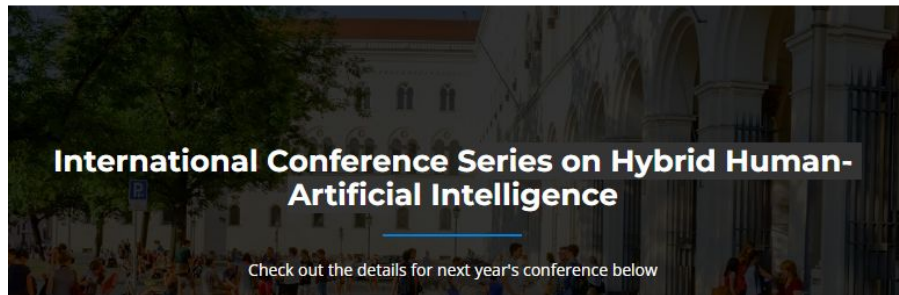
- Hybrid Decision Making
- Algorithmic Recourse
- Inspect and debug models (*our focus*)

# What can XAI do?

## Hybrid Decision Making

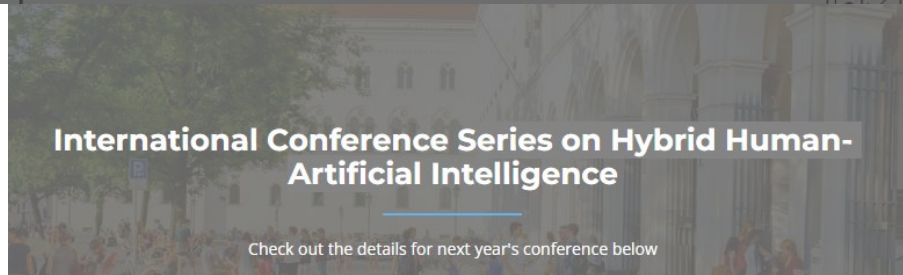
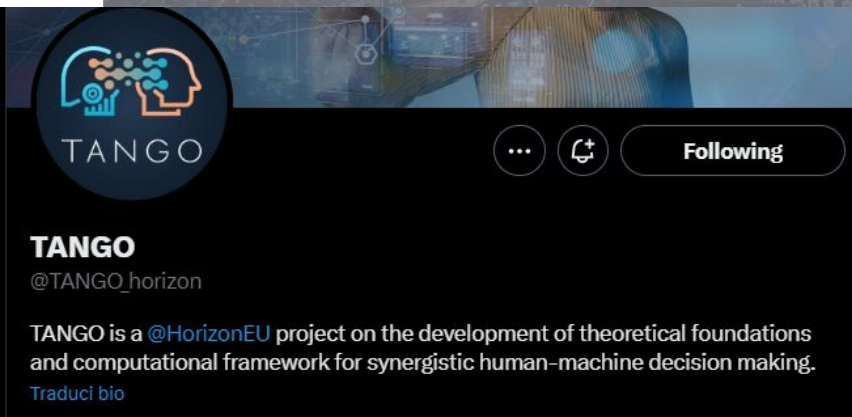
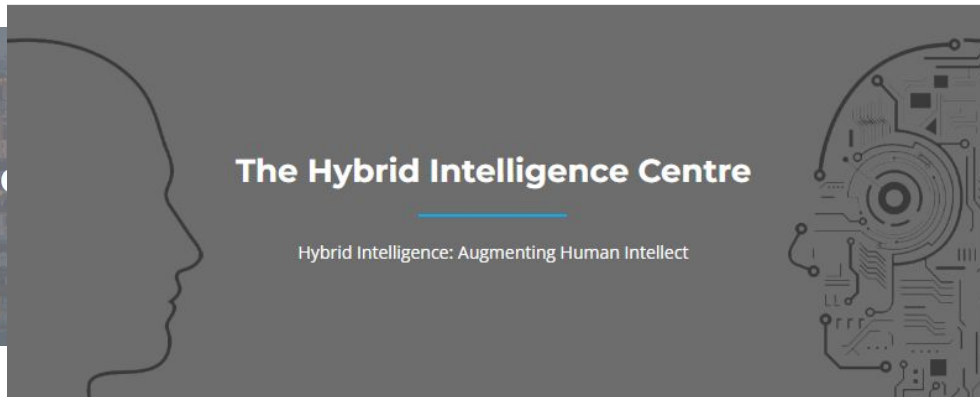


HHAI



# What can XAI do?

## Hybrid Decision Making



# What can XAI do?

## Algorithmic Recourse

- “the systematic process of reversing unfavourable decisions by algorithms and bureaucracies across a range of counterfactual scenarios”

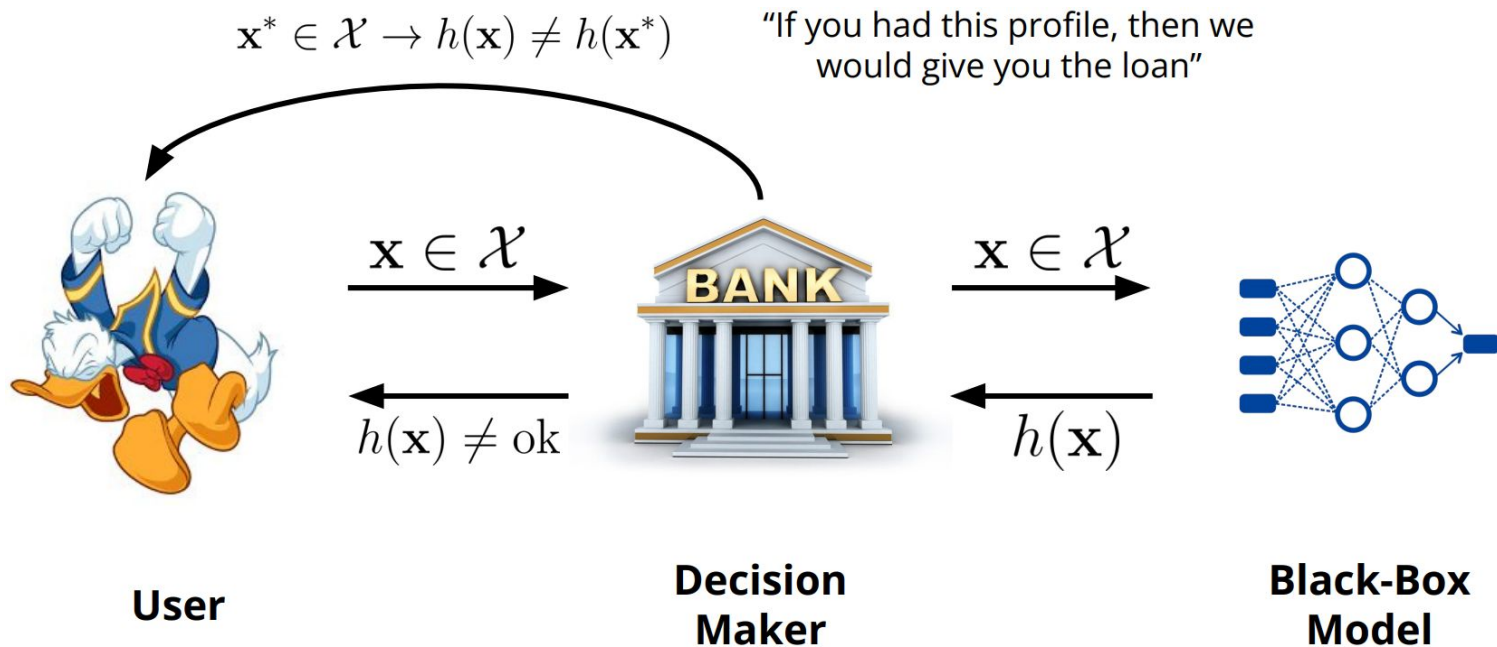
[Venkatasubramanian & Alfano, 2020; Karimi et al., 2021]





# What can XAI do?

## Algorithmic Recourse



# What can XAI do?

## Model Debugging

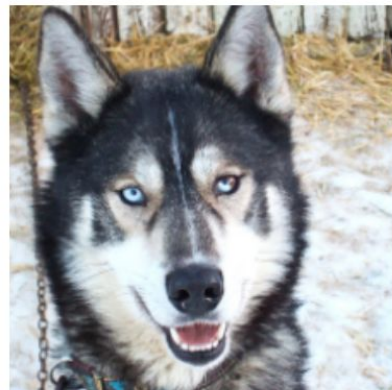
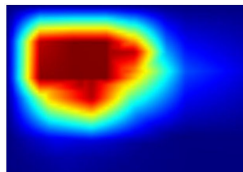
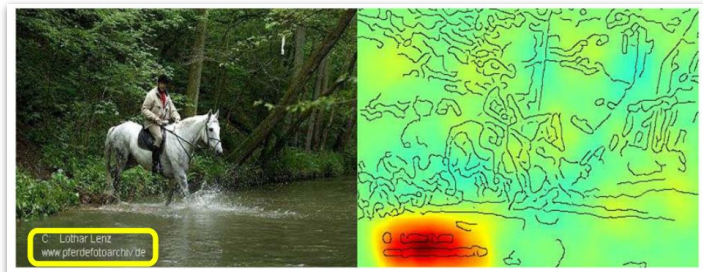
A bunch of methods have been proposed over time:

- **Shapley values**: Explaining prediction models and individual predictions with feature contributions. E. Štrumbelj et al., Knowledge and information systems, 2013
- **CAM**: Is Object Localization for Free? - Weakly-Supervised Learning With Convolutional Neural Networks. M. Oquab et al., CVPR, 2015
- **LIME**: “Why Should I Trust You?” Explaining the Predictions of Any Classifier . M. T. Ribeiro et al., ACM SIGKDD, 2016
- **Integrated Gradients**: Axiomatic Attribution for Deep Networks. M. Sundararajan, ICML, 2017
- ...

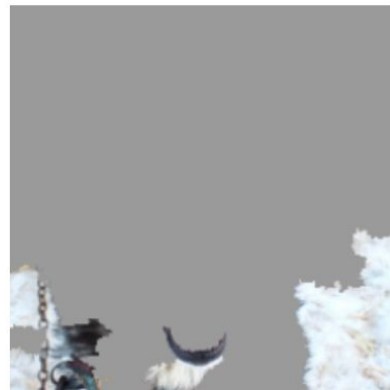
# What can XAI do?

## Model Debugging

For image-like data the explanation is an **heatmap** or as **relevance regions**



(a) Husky classified as wolf



(b) Explanation

**Figure 11: Raw data and explanation of a bad model's prediction in the "Husky vs Wolf" task.**

# XAI4GNNs

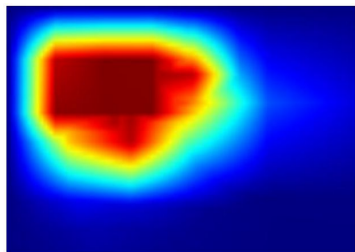
The **graph domain** poses unique challenges

- Unstructured data type
- Discrete objects
- Node/Edge/Graph attributes
- Different type of explanation

Develop **novel techniques** for GNNs

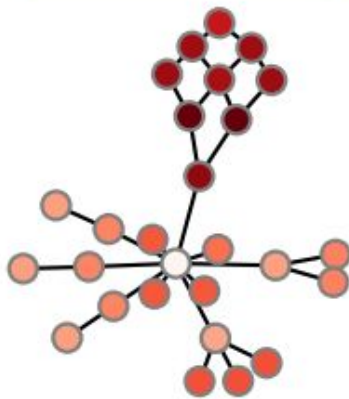
# XAI4GNNs

## Images

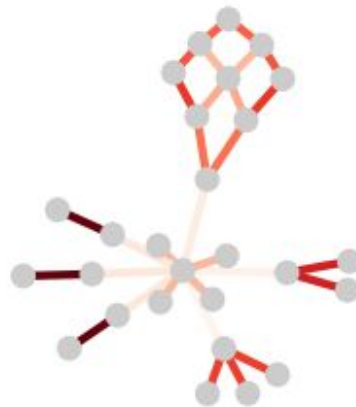


## Graph

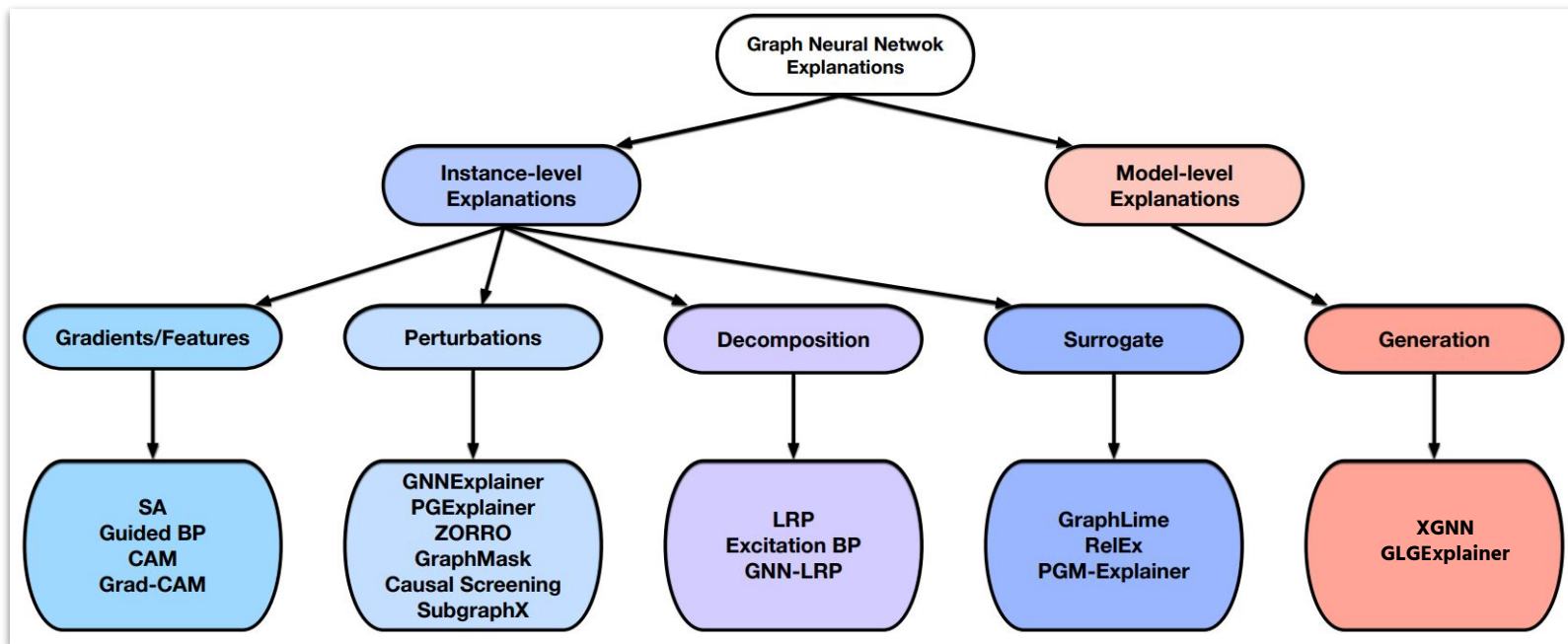
### Node attribution



### Edge attribution



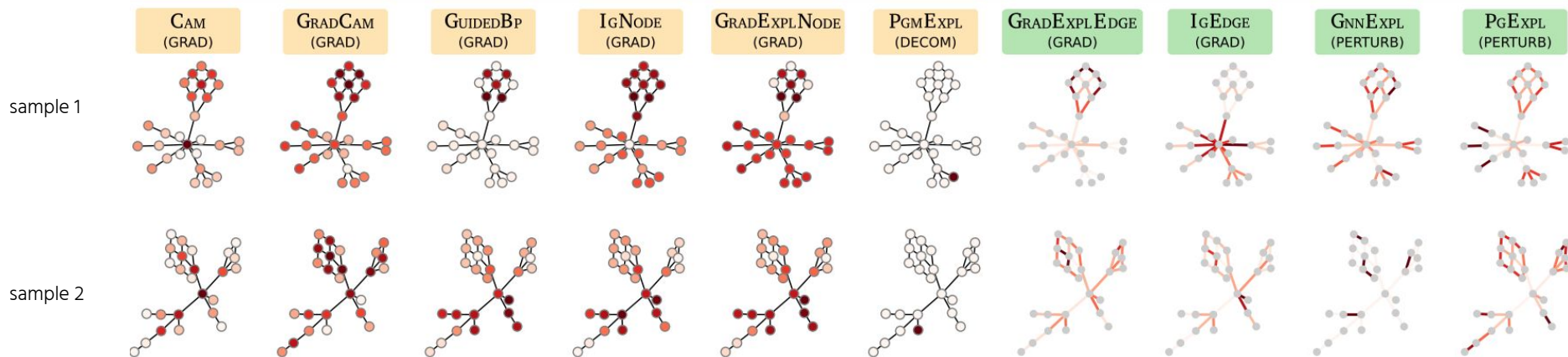
# XAI4GNNs Taxonomy



# XAI4GNNs

## Local Explanations

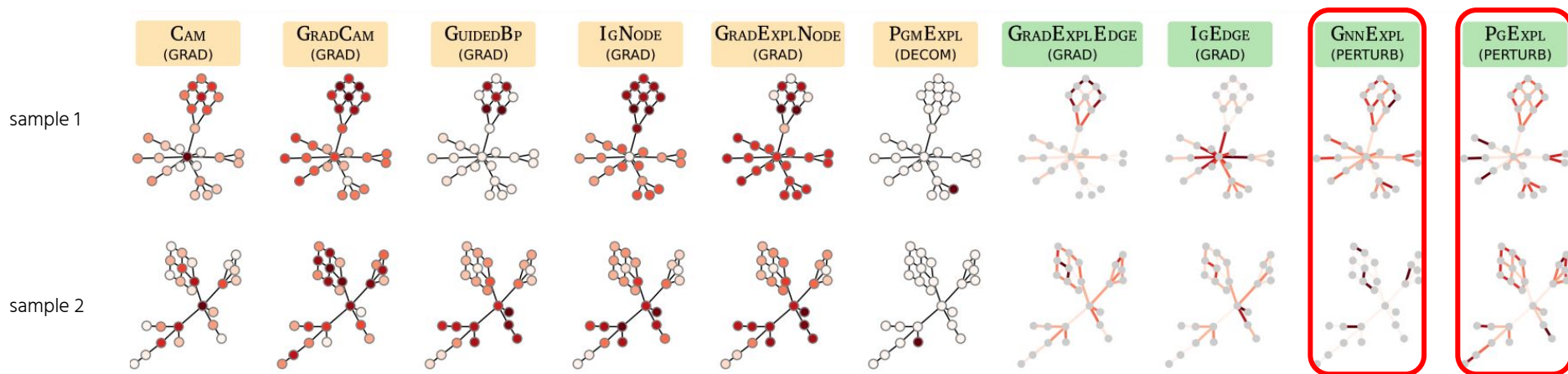
**Local** (or Instance-level) **Explainers** highlight the input features most relevant for the prediction of the model to explain



# XAI4GNNs

## Local Explanations

**Local** (or Instance-level) **Explainers** highlight the input features most relevant for the prediction of the model to explain





# XAI4GNNs

## GNNExplainer

Edge attribution

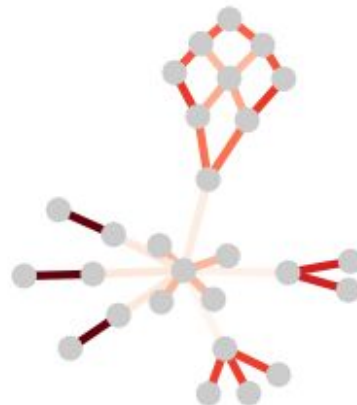
### Intuitively

1. If an edge is relevant, then removing it will decrease the confidence of the prediction
2. So, to find  $G_S$  seek for edges whose removal do not impact the prediction of the model, and remove them

### Mathematically

$$\max_{G_S} MI(Y, G_S) = \max_{G_S} H(Y) - H(Y|G_S) = \min_{G_S} H(Y|G_S)$$

Operationally,  $G_S$  is found by optimizing a mask over the graph



# XAI4GNNs

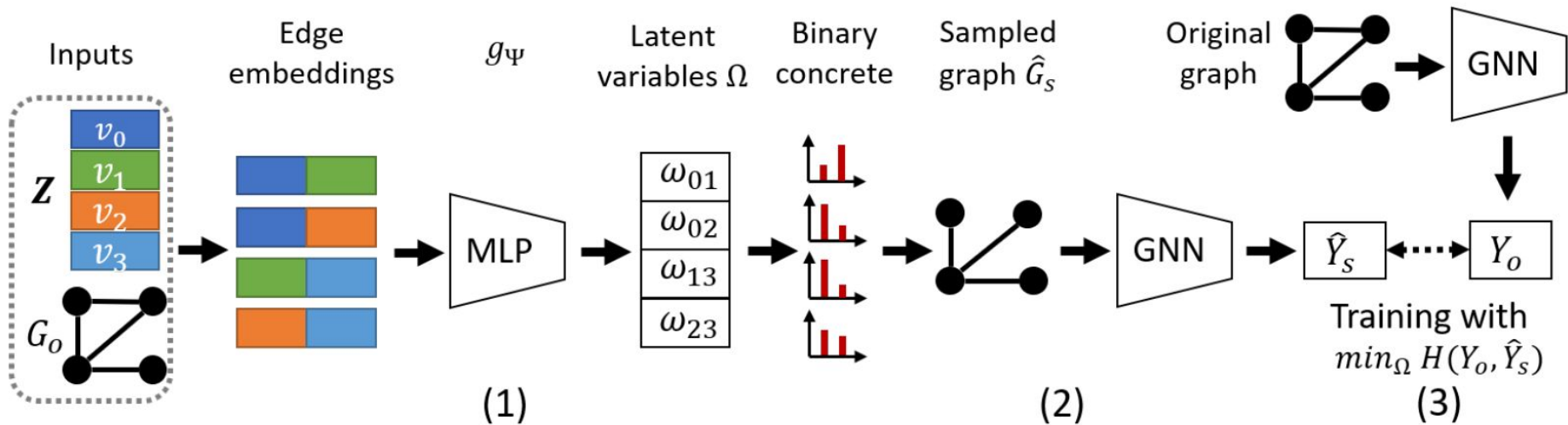
## PGExplainer

### Intuitively

1. Based on the same principles as **GNNExplainer**
2. Instead of optimizing a mask for each input graph, train a Neural Network that given the features of an edge predicts its importance

# XAI4GNNs

## PGExplainer



# XAI4GNNs

## GNNExplainer vs PGExplainer

### GNNExplainer

- Train a mask for each graph

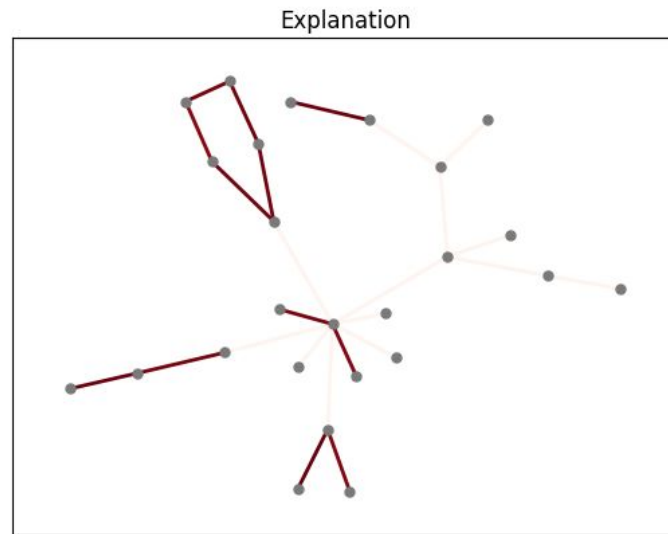
### PGExplainer

- Train a MLP once for all graphs
- Do inference with the MLP for each explanation

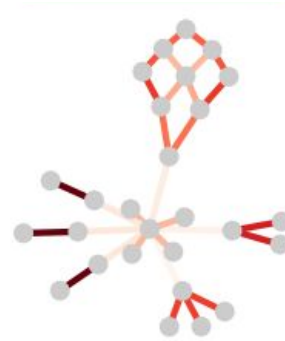
# XAI4GNNs

## Evaluation Metrics

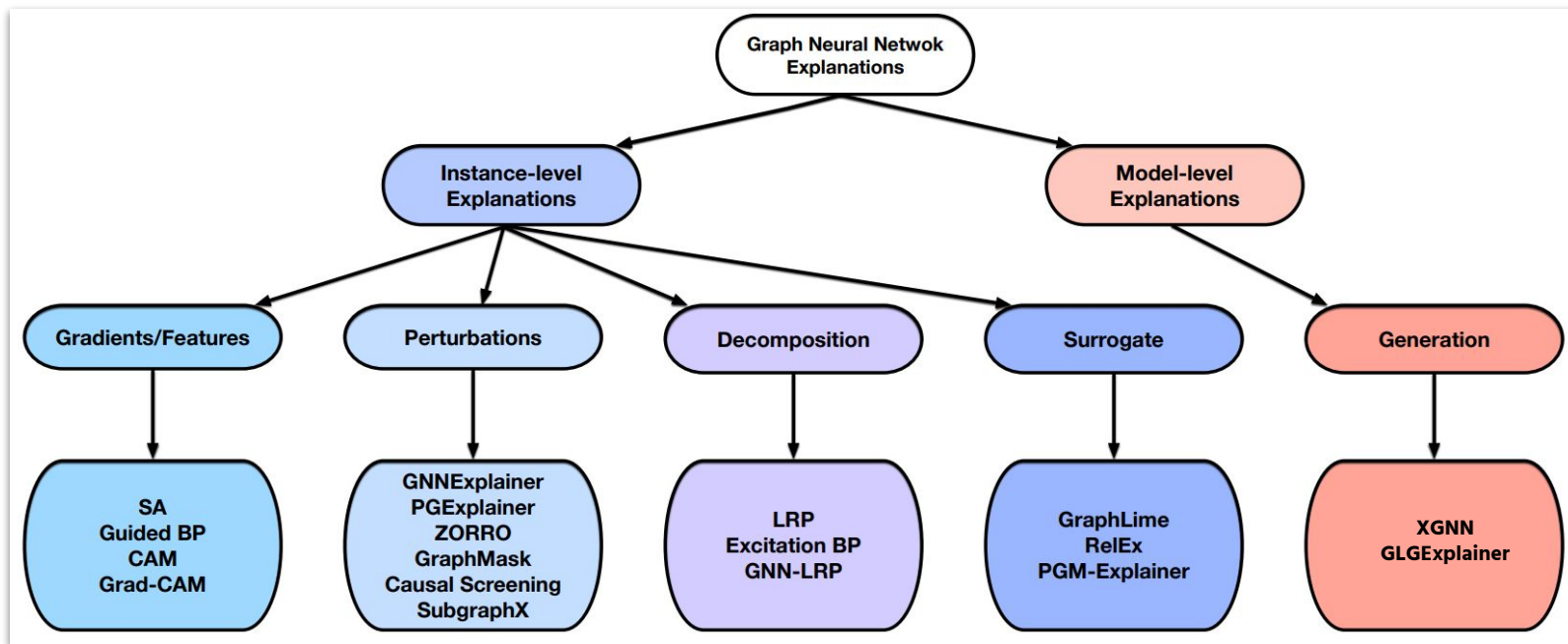
- If ground truth available
  - accuracy/F1 of the explainer
- If not, unsupervised metrics
  - $Sparsity = \frac{1}{N} \sum_{i=1}^N (1 - \frac{|E_i|}{|G_i|})$  ↗
  - $Fidelity_+ = \frac{1}{N} \sum_{i=1}^N (f(G_i)_{\hat{y}} - f(G_i \setminus E_i)_{\hat{y}})$  ↗
  - $Fidelity_- = \frac{1}{N} \sum_{i=1}^N (f(G_i)_{\hat{y}} - f(E_i)_{\hat{y}})$  ↘



# Code Session II



# XAI4GNNs Taxonomy



# XAI4GNNs

## Taxonomy

Surveys on XAI4GNNs (not complete):

- Evaluating Explainability for Graph Neural Networks. C. Agarwal et al. 2022
- Probing GNN Explainers: A rigorous Theoretical and Empirical Analysis of GNN Explanation Methods. C. Agarwal et al., 2022
- Explainability in Graph Neural Networks: A Taxonomic Survey, H. Yuan et al., 2022
- Explaining the Explainers in Graph Neural Networks: a Comparative Study, A. Longa, S. Azzolin et al., 2022
- Towards Robust Fidelity for Evaluating Explainability of Graph Neural Networks, Zheng et al., 2023



# XAI4GNNs

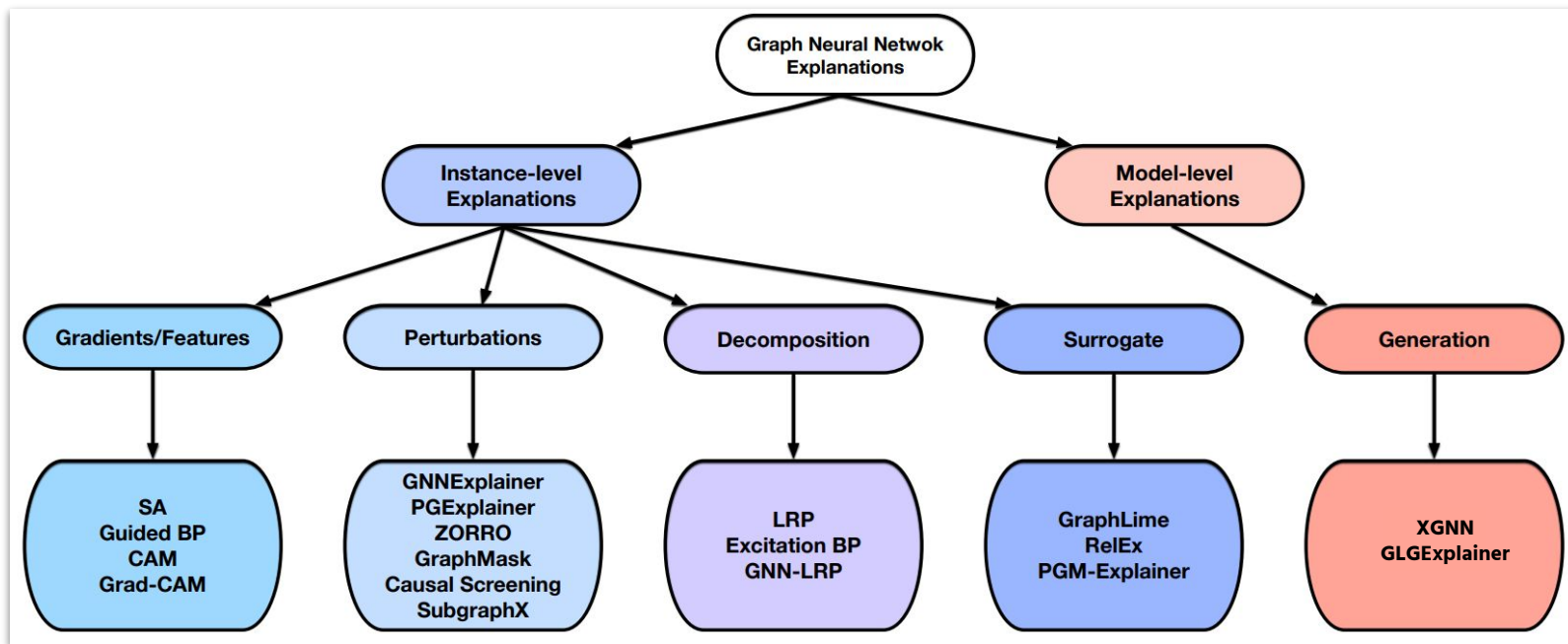
## Limitations

### Current limitations:

- Too often random baselines surpass XAI tools
- Non-robustness of XAI tools
- OOD issue during perturbations
- Maybe excessive focus on final metrics, with little attention to whether the explanations actually help the human/the debugging (*personal take*)

# XAI4GNNs

## Global Explanations



# XAI4GNNs

## Global Explanations

**Global** (or Model-level) **Explainers** capture the behaviour of the model as a whole, abstracting individual noisy local explanations

### Why global explanations?

Global Explainers are seldom studied + mining local explanations is hard:

1. 1+ for every input sample
2. Often noisy
3. Difficult quality evaluation [1,2]

# XAI4GNNs

## GLGExplainer

The **Global Logic-based GNN Explainer** (GLGExplainer) extracts **logic formulas** expressed in terms of learned human-understandable concepts.

**Logic formulas** with size constraints can be easily understood by human experts.

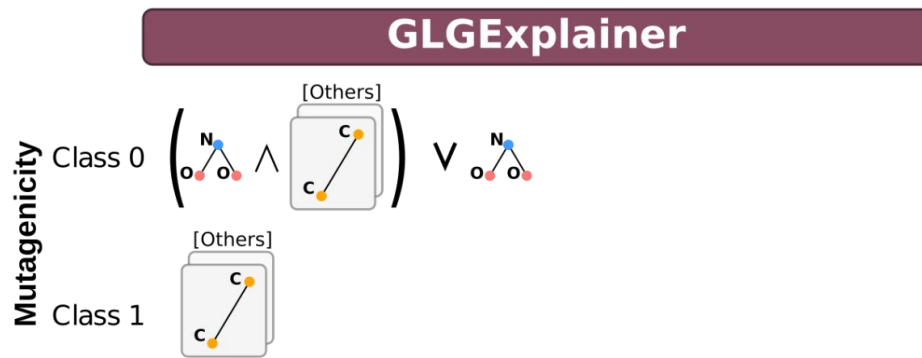
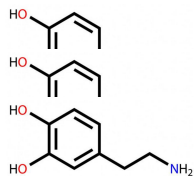
# XAI4GNNs

## GLGExplainer

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Dataset with Mutag/Non Mutag compounds

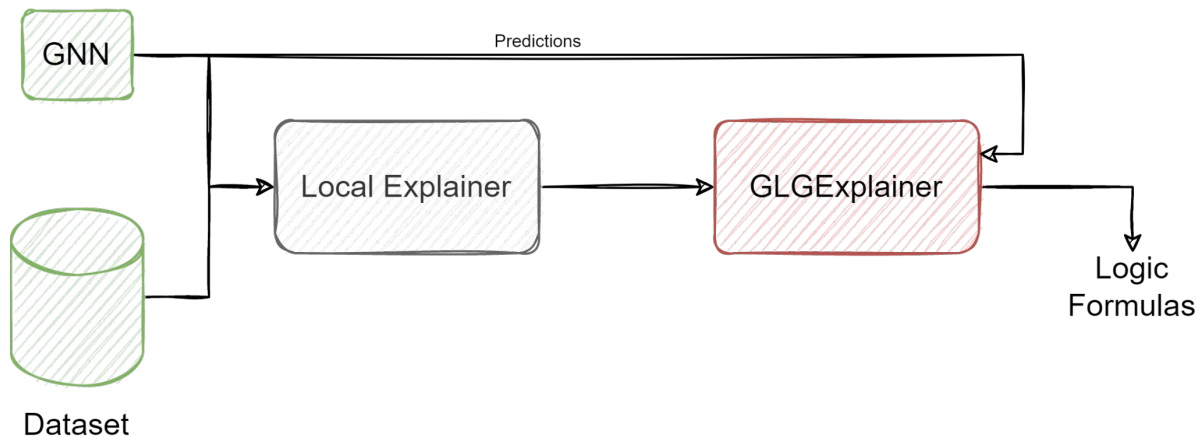


# XAI4GNNs

## GLGExplainer

**GLGExplainer** in short:

1. Extract **local explanations** with a local explainer
2. Run GLGExplainer over those local explanations
3. Inspect the generated **logic formulas**

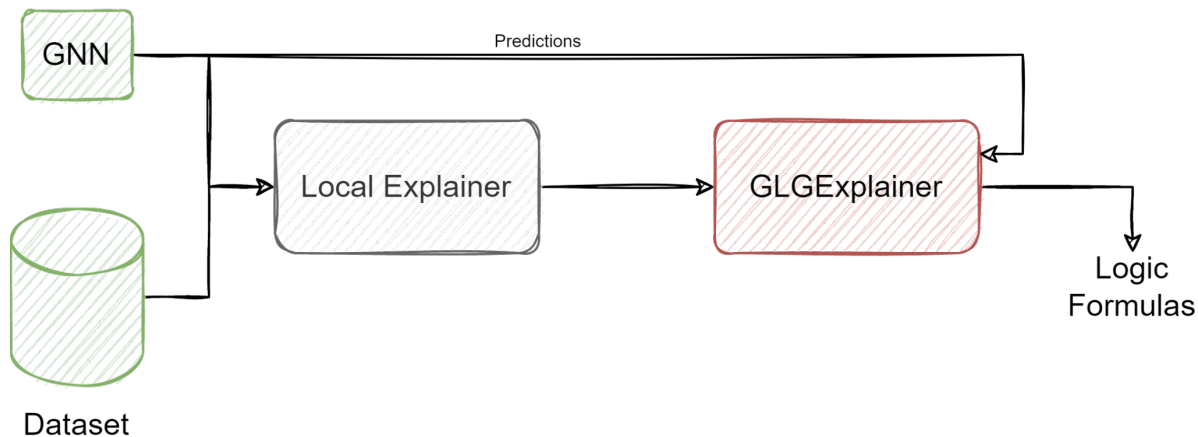


# XAI4GNNs

## GLGExplainer

**GLGExplainer** in short:

So, GLGExplainer is learning how to combine individual **local explanations** into a single logic-based formula

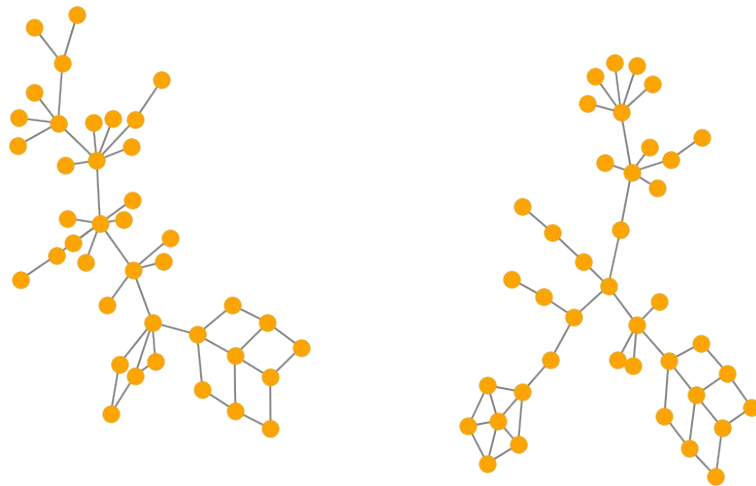
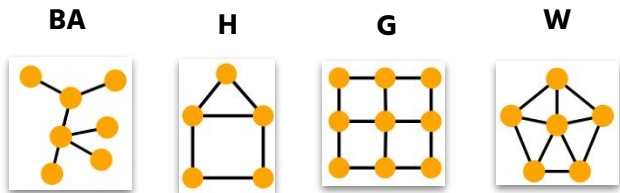


# XAI4GNNs

## GLGExplainer

**BAMultiShapes** dataset:

- Class0:  $\emptyset \vee H \vee G \vee W \vee (H \wedge G \wedge W)$
- Class1:  $(H \wedge G) \vee (W \wedge H) \vee (W \wedge G)$





# XAI4GNNs

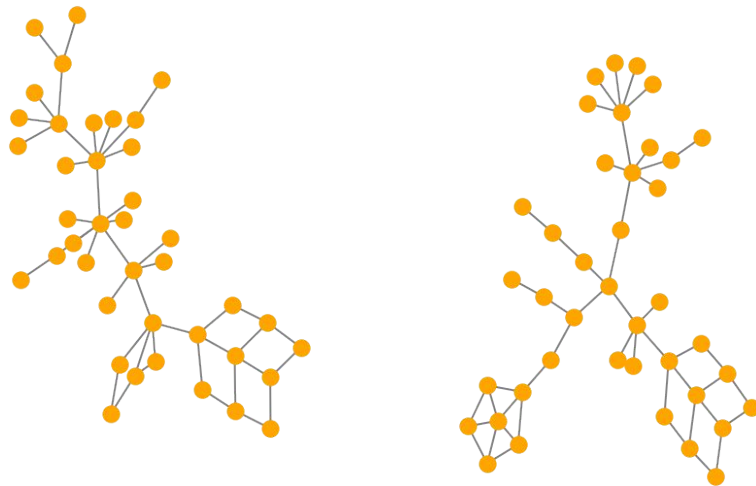
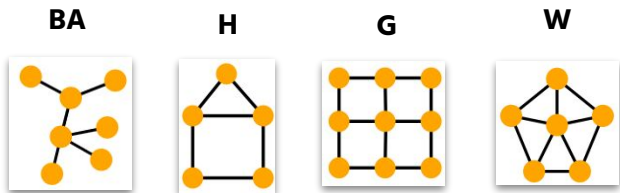
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Very few instances and  
only in train/val data

Split	BAMultiShapes
Train	0.94
Val	0.94
Test	0.99



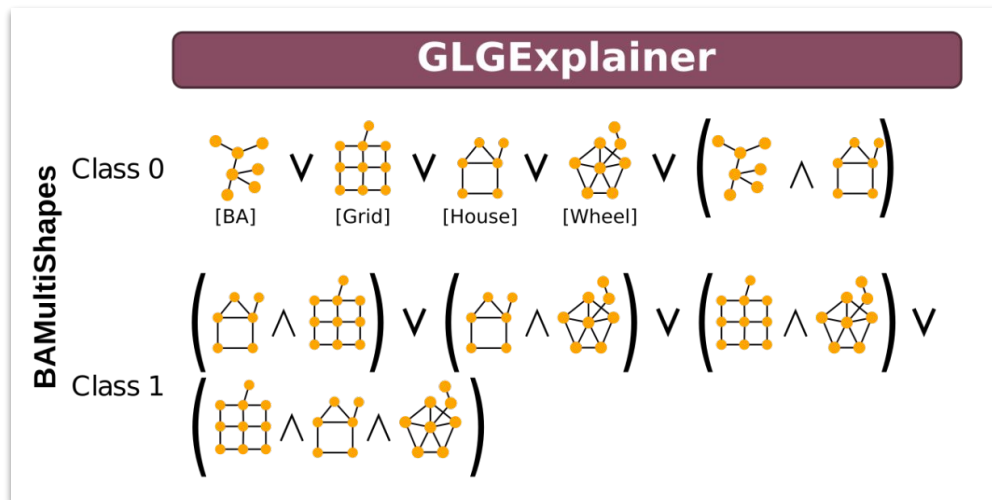
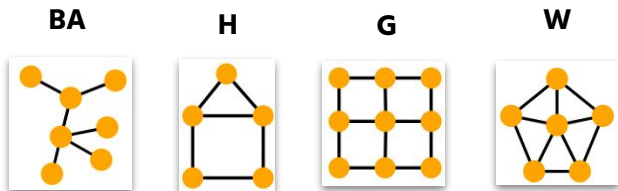
# XAI4GNNs

## GLGExplainer

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# XAI4GNNs

## GLGExplainer

### Current limitations:

- Number of concepts must be defined apriori
- Assumes a nicely working local explainer

# Conclusions

- Common shortcomings of standard deep learning models
- Premises and potentials of XAI
- Examples (with some code) of XAI tools for the graph domain
- Limitations of current XAI tools

# Conclusions

## What's Next

Tutorial in four parts (slides + Jupyter notebooks available):

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E.O.F.