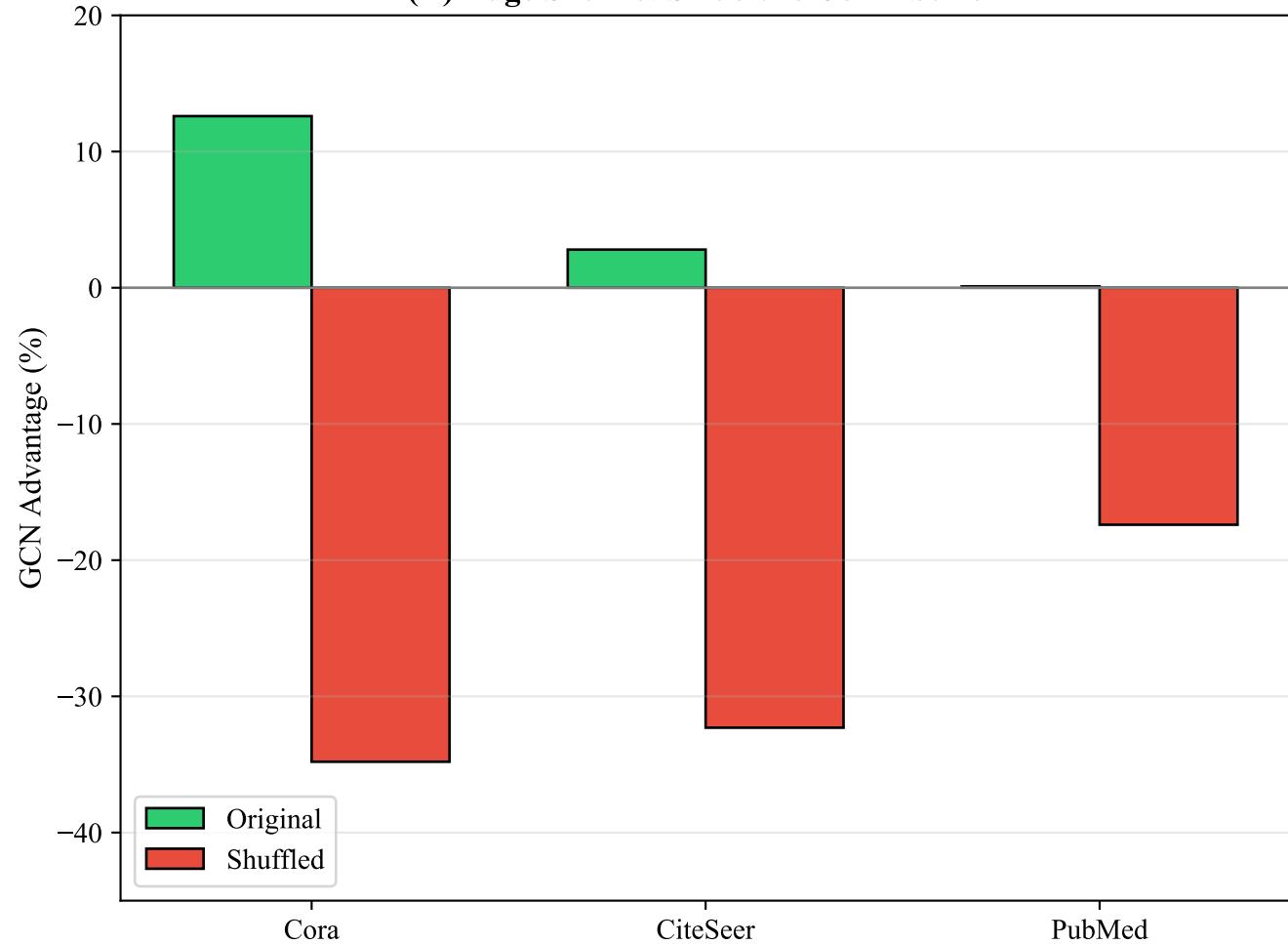
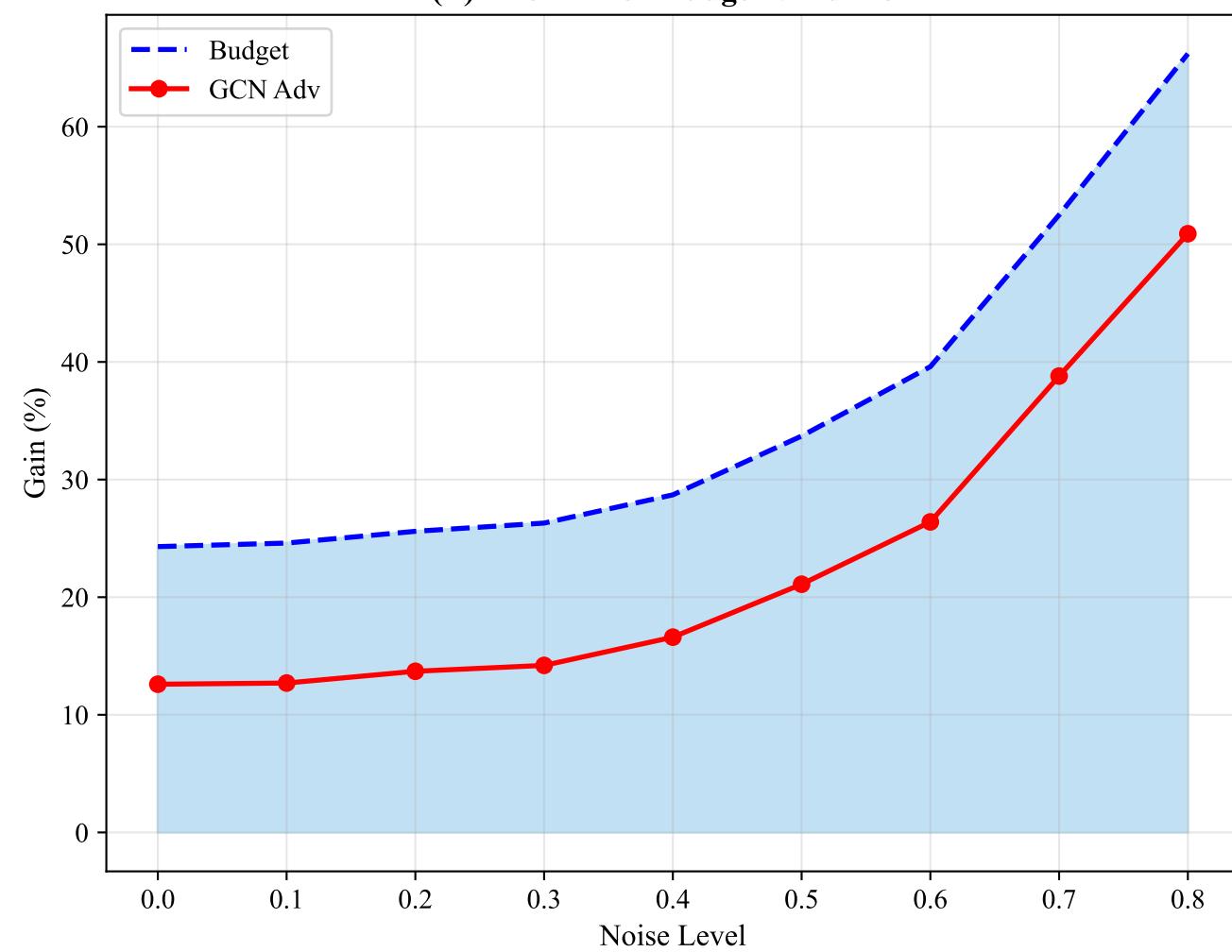
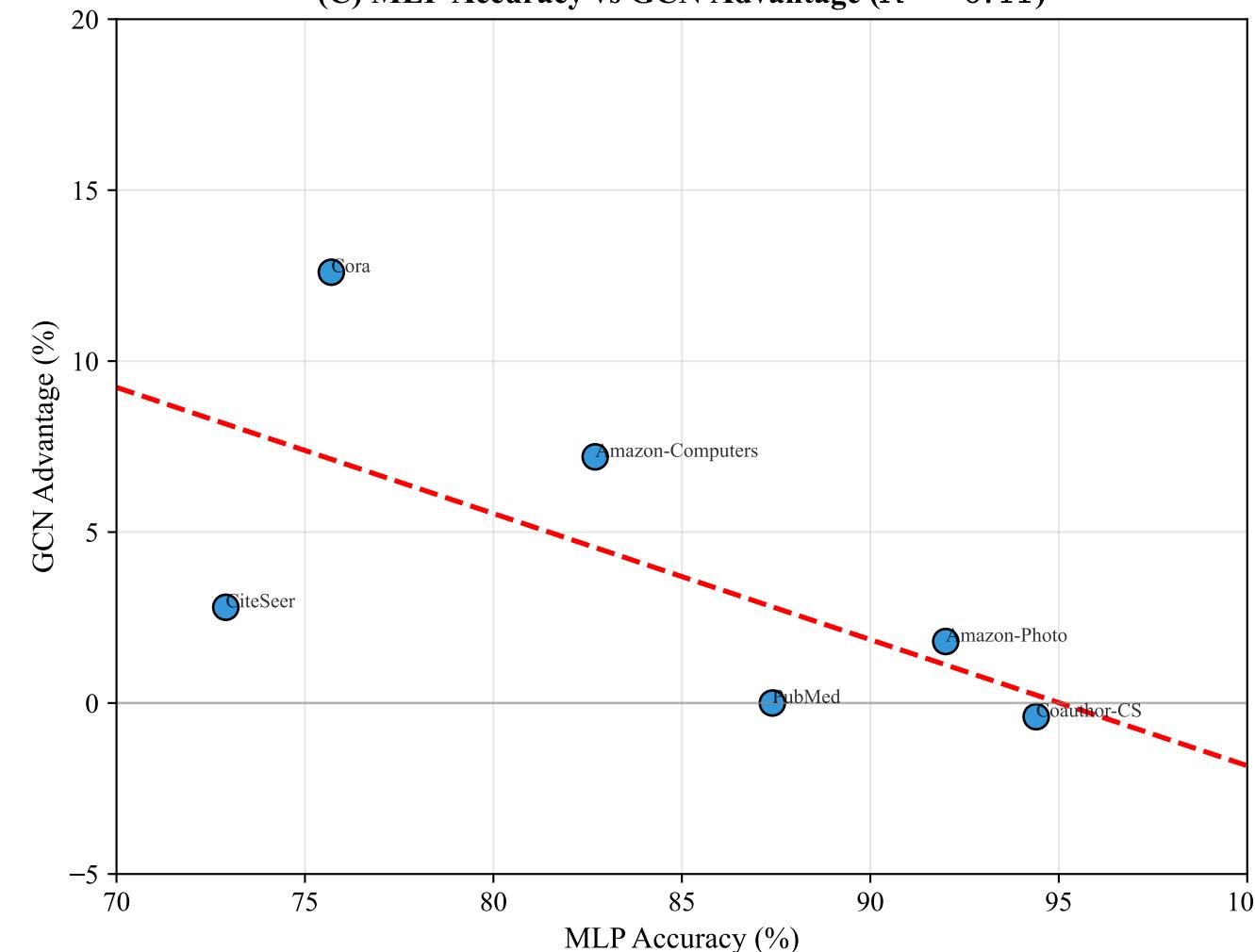


(A) Edge Shuffle: Structure Contribution**(B) Information Budget Validation****(C) MLP Accuracy vs GCN Advantage ($R^2 = 0.41$)****INFORMATION BUDGET THEORY**

Core Principle:
 $\text{GNN}_{\text{max}}\text{gain} \leq (1 - \text{MLP}_{\text{accuracy}})$

Key Evidence:

- EDGE SHUFFLE (Panel A)**
 - Shuffling edges destroys GNN advantage
 - Cora: +12.6% → -34.8%
 - Proves: Structure is essential
- BUDGET VALIDATION (Panel B)**
 - All 9 noise levels within budget
 - Violations: 0/9 (100% compliance)
 - Proves: GNN gain is bounded
- SAME-h DIFFERENT-MLP (Panel C)**
 - Cora vs Coauthor-CS: $h \approx 0.81$
 - MLP: 75.7% vs 94.4%
 - GCN_adv: +12.6% vs -0.4%
 - Proves: MLP (not h) determines utility

Conclusion:
 GNN can only improve upon what MLP cannot explain. High feature quality leaves little room for structural gain.