



**CISPA**

HELMHOLTZ CENTER FOR  
INFORMATION SECURITY

# Link Stealing Attacks on Inductive Trained Graph Neural Networks

Bachelor Thesis Introduction - Philipp Zimmermann

- Graphs
- Graph Neural Networks
- Our Approach: Link Stealing Attacks on Inductive Trained Graph Neural Networks
- Experimental Setup
- Goal



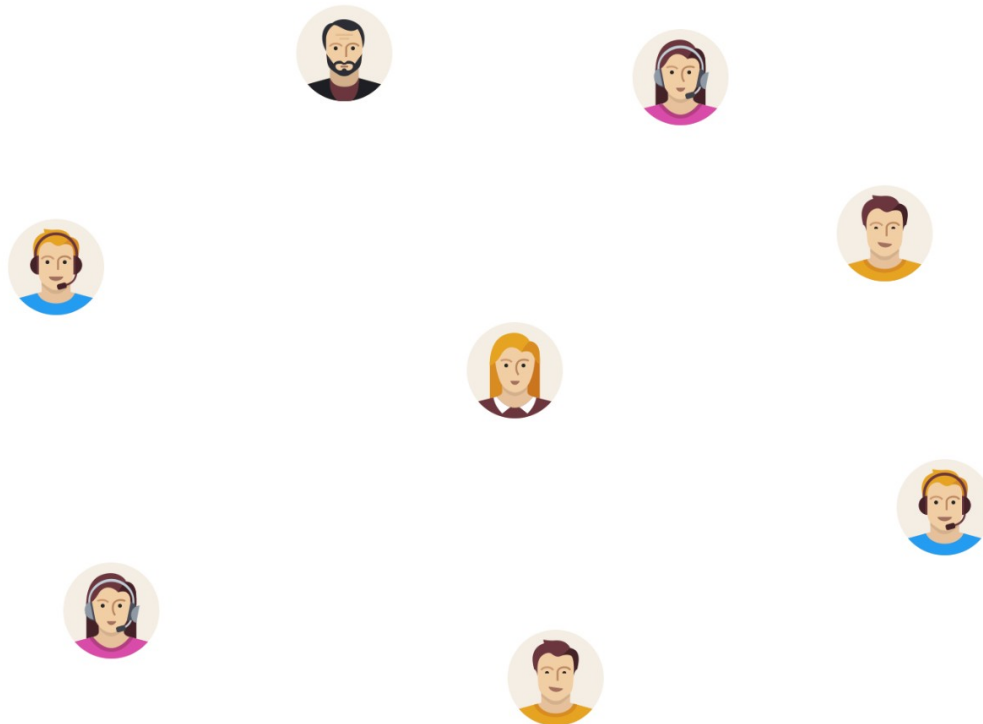
# Graphs

- Data Structure
  - Model large data and relationships between entities
  - Nodes with features
  - Edges

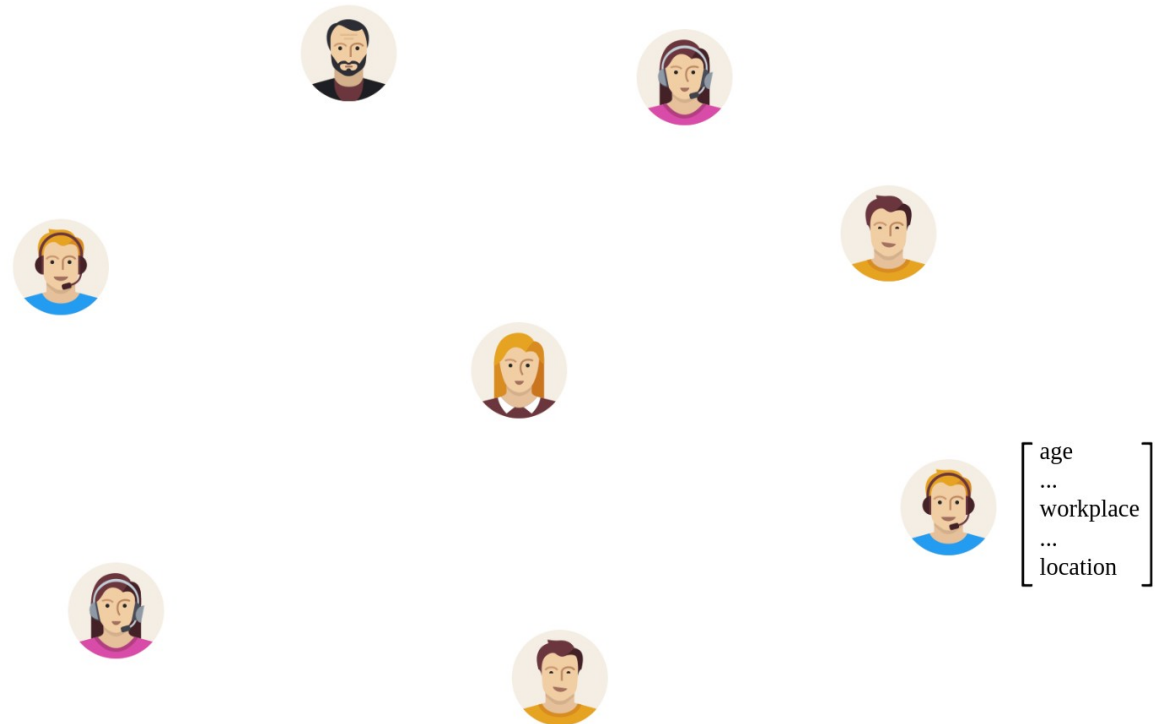
- Data Structure
  - Model large data and relationships between entities
  - Nodes with features
  - Edges
- Chemical Networks
  - Protein-protein interactions

- Data Structure
  - Model large data and relationships between entities
  - Nodes with features
  - Edges
- Chemical Networks
  - Protein-protein interactions
- Social Networks
  - Instagram
  - Facebook
  - Twitter

- Data Structure
  - Model large data and relationships between entities
  - Nodes with features
  - Edges
- Chemical Networks
  - Protein-protein interactions
- Social Networks
  - Instagram
  - Facebook
  - Twitter



- Data Structure
  - Model large data and relationships between entities
  - Nodes with features
  - Edges
- Chemical Networks
  - Protein-protein interactions
- Social Networks
  - Instagram
  - Facebook
  - Twitter





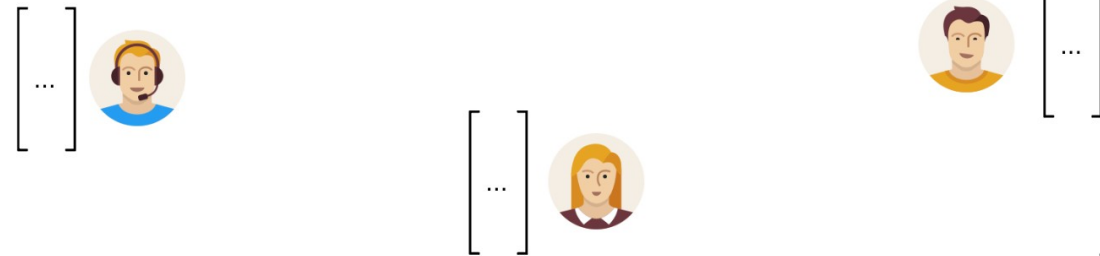
- Data Structure

- Model large data and relationships between entities
- Nodes with features
- Edges



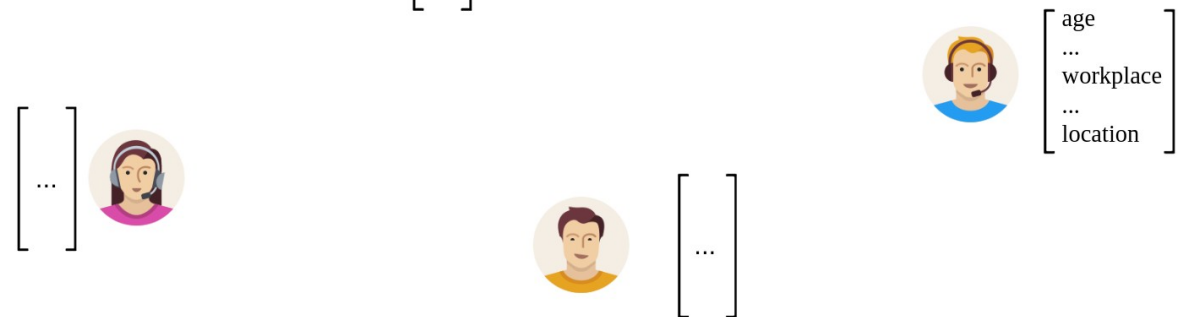
- Chemical Networks

- Protein-protein interactions

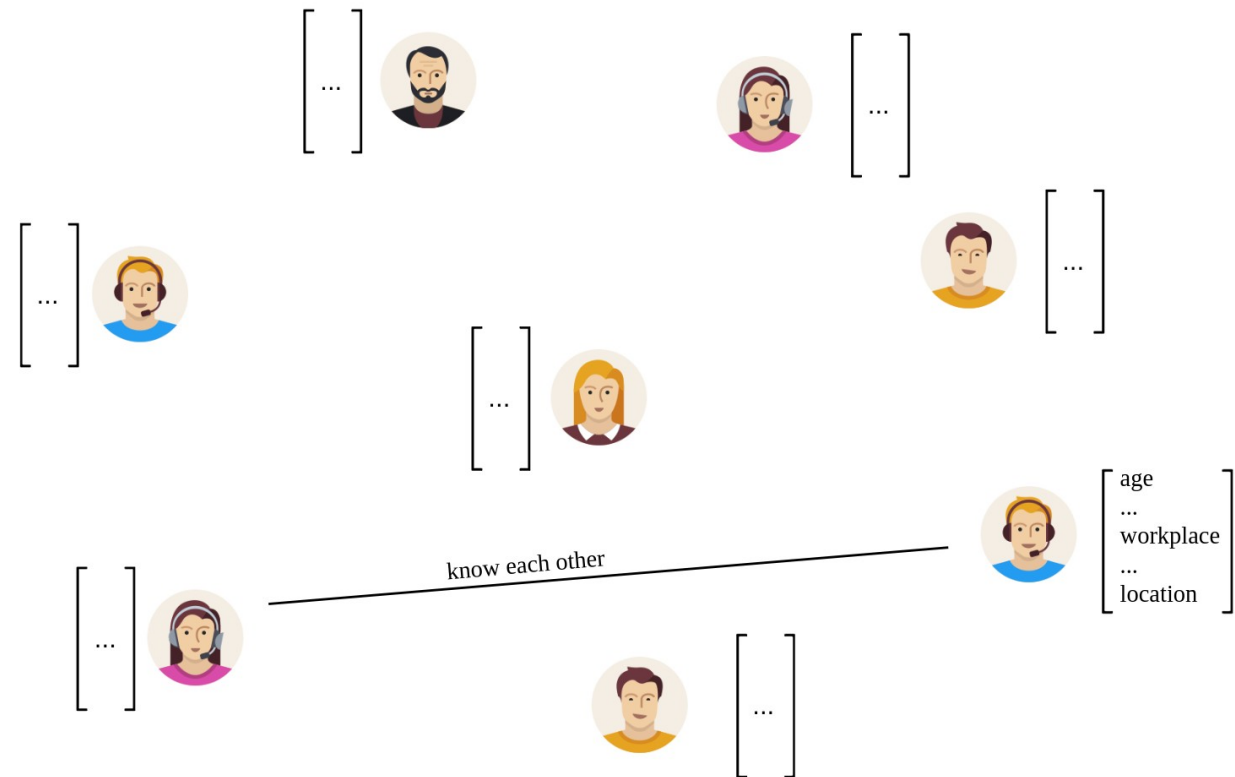


- Social Networks

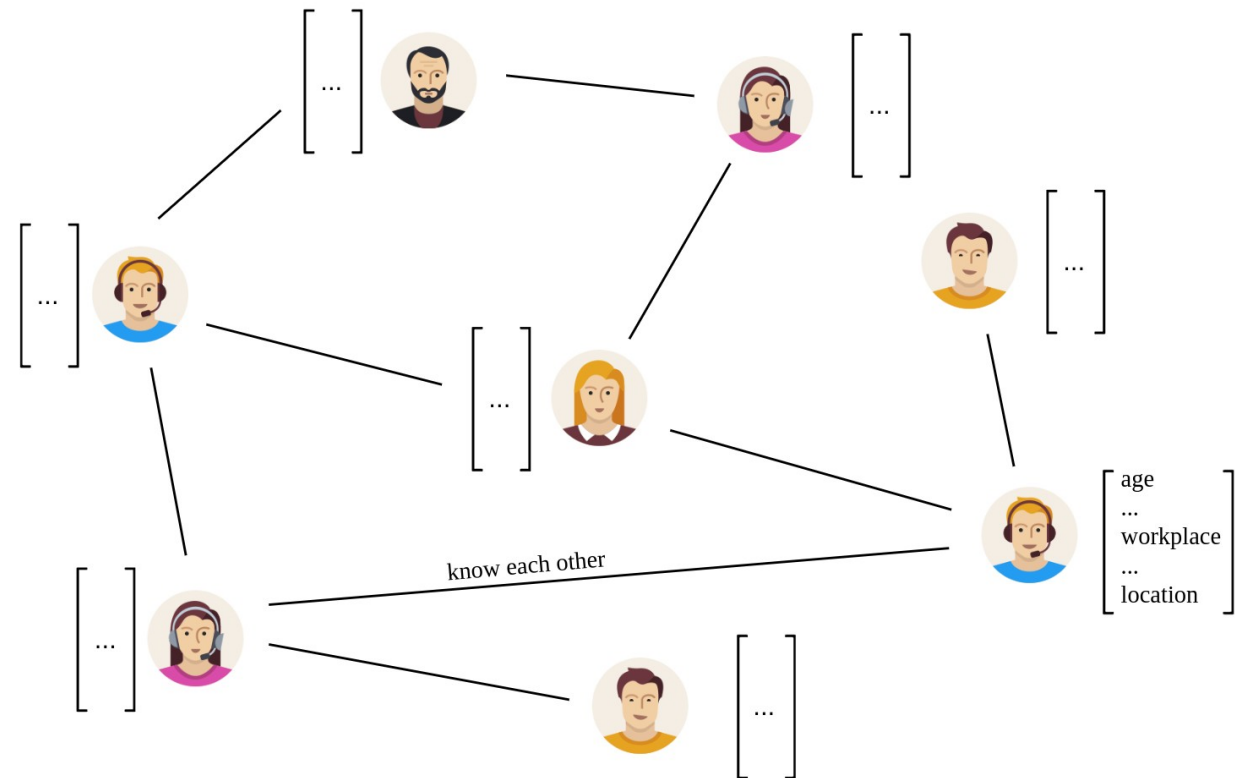
- Instagram
- Facebook
- Twitter



- Data Structure
  - Model large data and relationships between entities
  - Nodes with features
  - Edges
- Chemical Networks
  - Protein-protein interactions
- Social Networks
  - Instagram
  - Facebook
  - Twitter



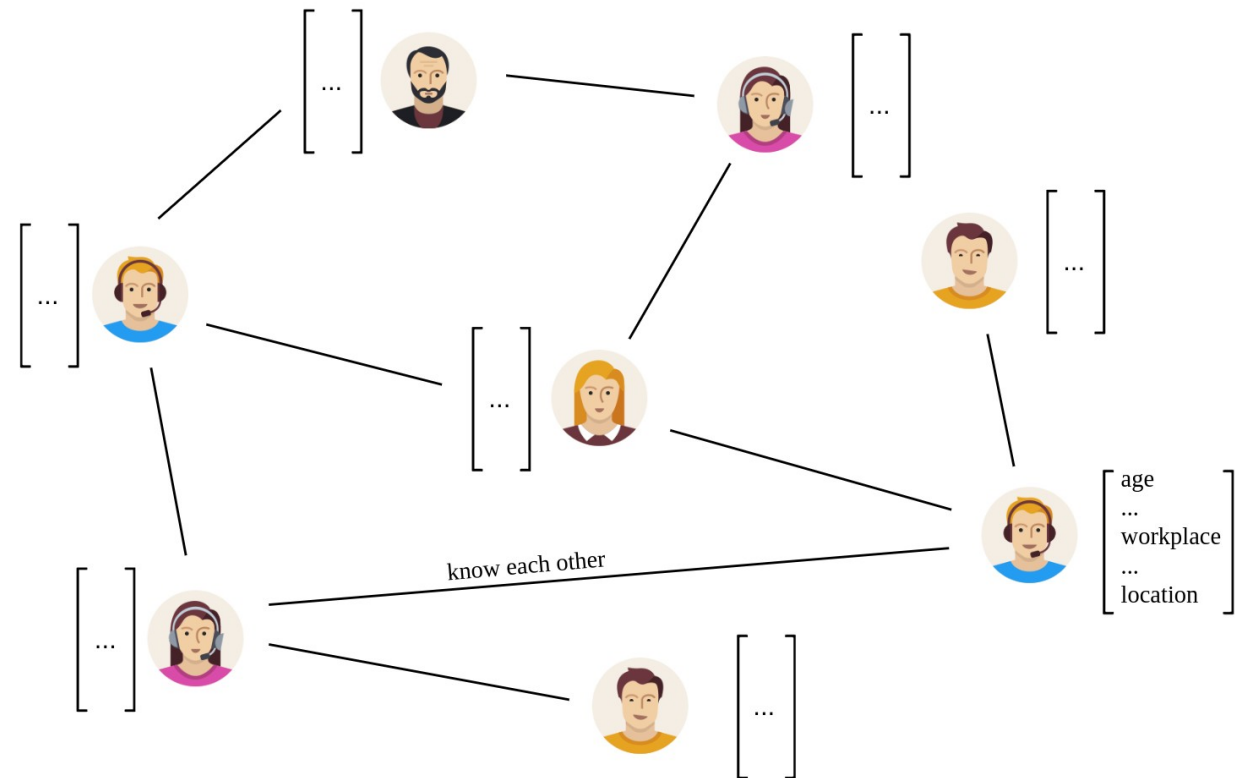
- Data Structure
  - Model large data and relationships between entities
  - Nodes with features
  - Edges
- Chemical Networks
  - Protein-protein interactions
- Social Networks
  - Instagram
  - Facebook
  - Twitter



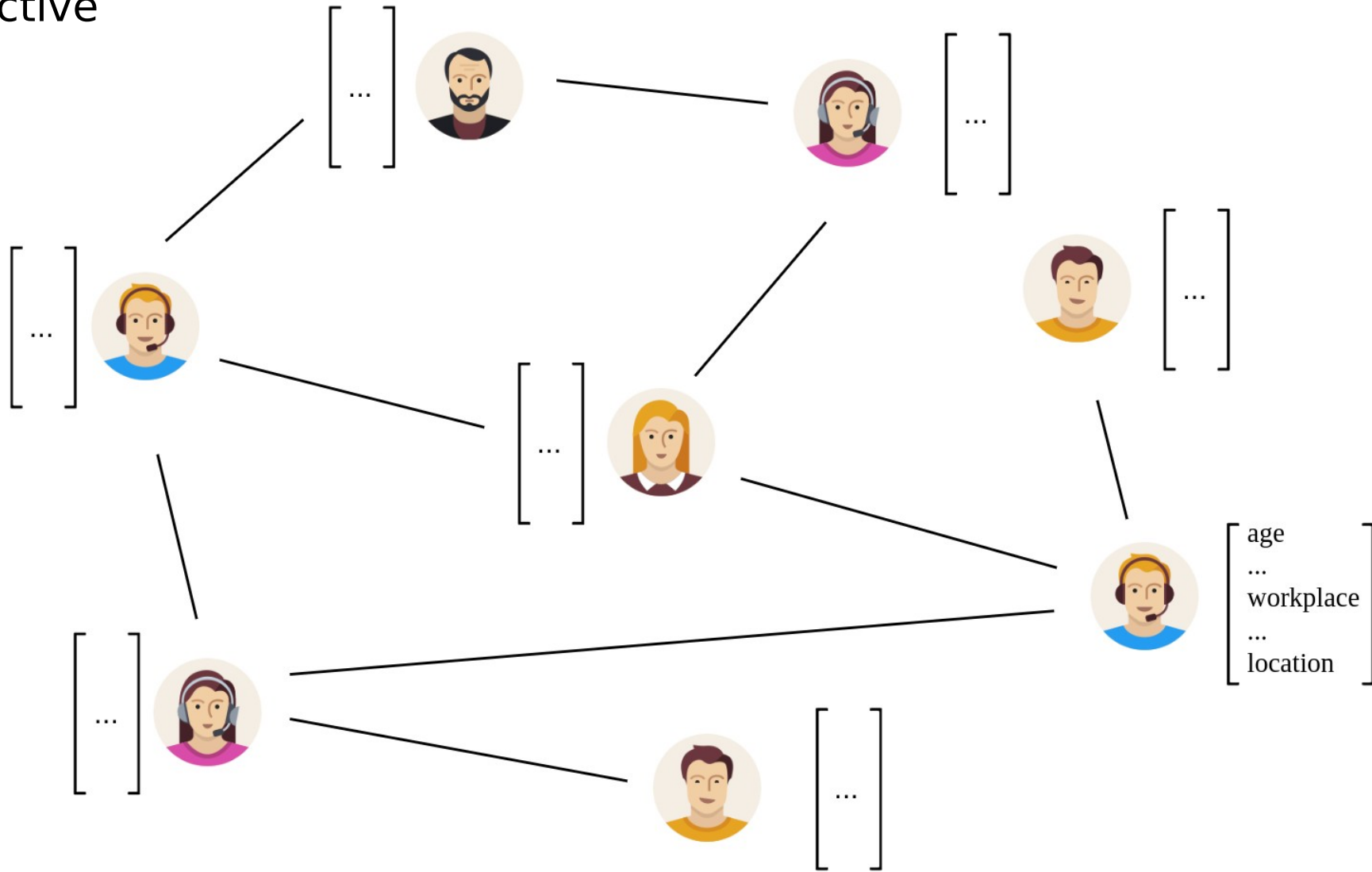


# Graph Neural Networks (GNNs)

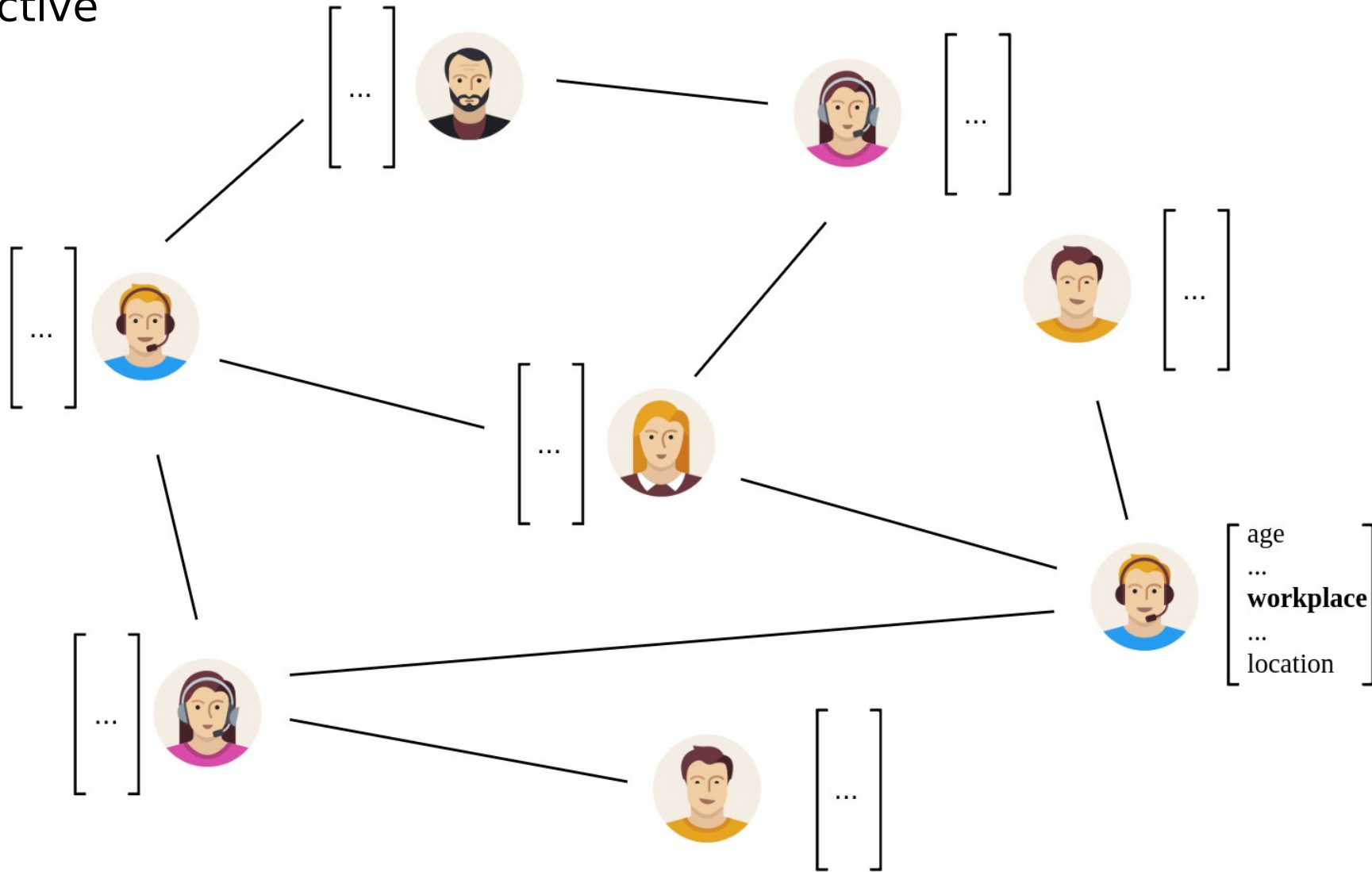
- Machine Learning Model over Graphs
- Different Tasks
  - Node classification
  - Graph classification
  - Link prediction
- Different Learning Methods
  - Transductive
  - Inductive



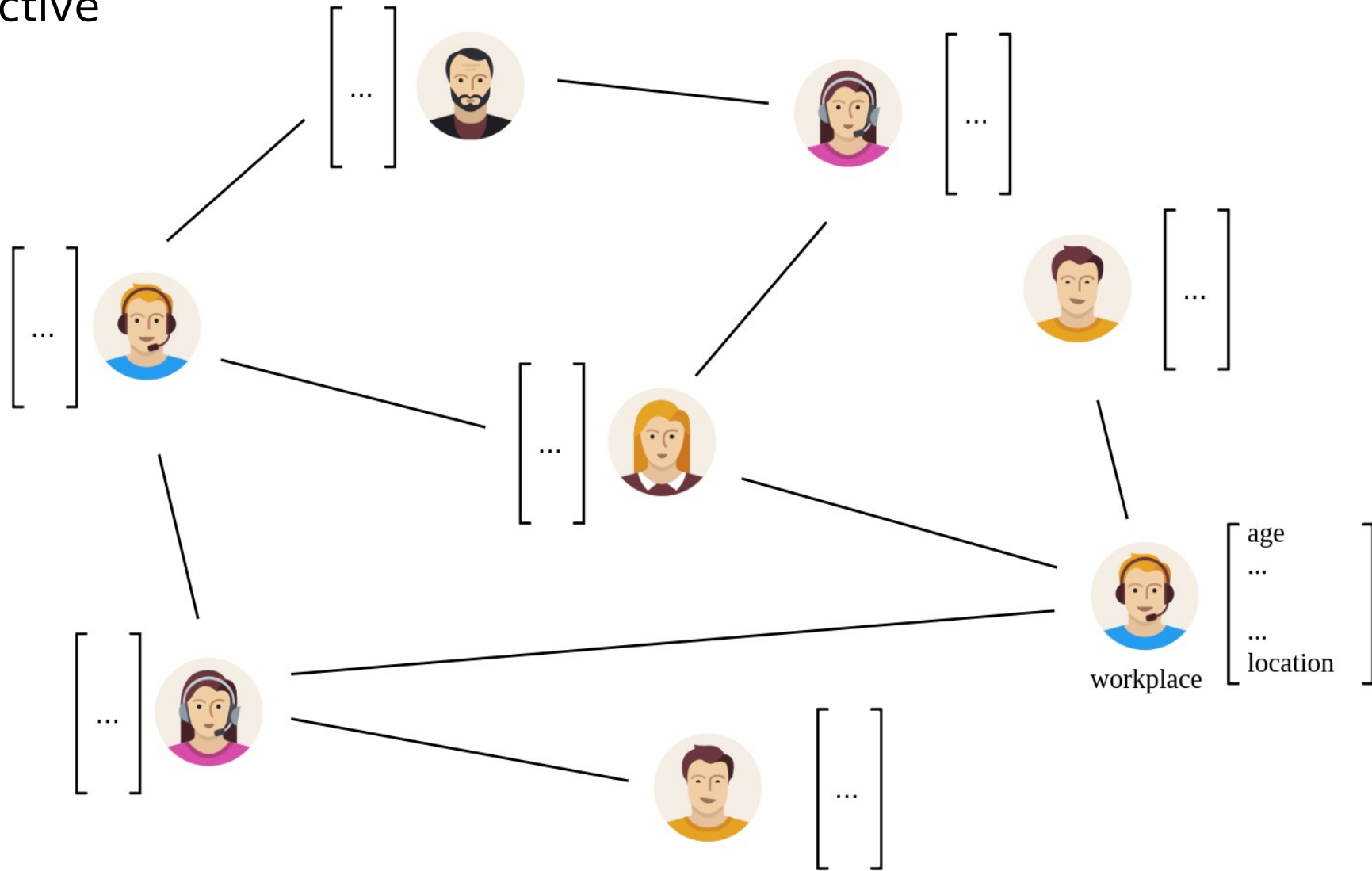
- Transductive



- Transductive

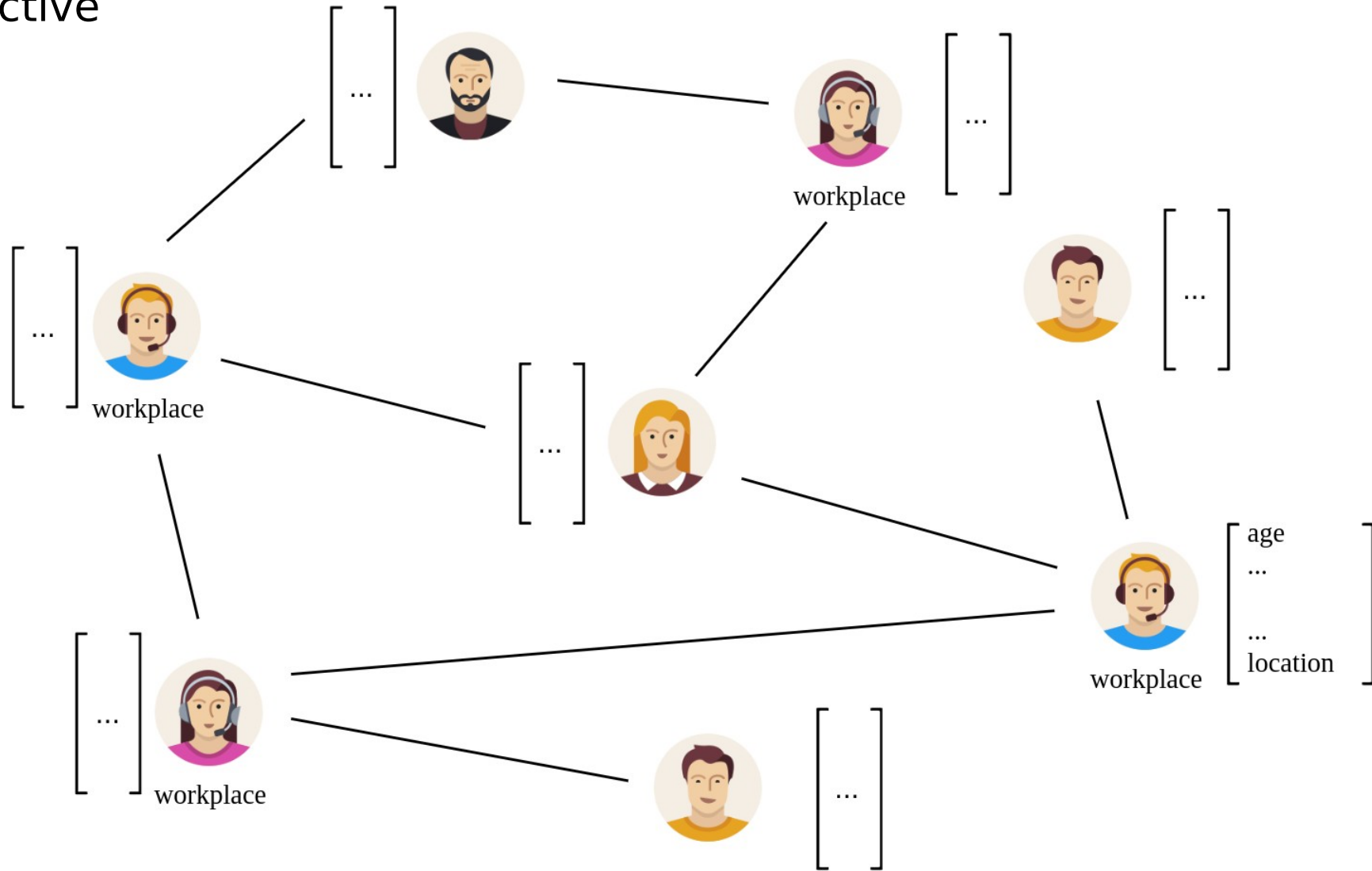


- Transductive

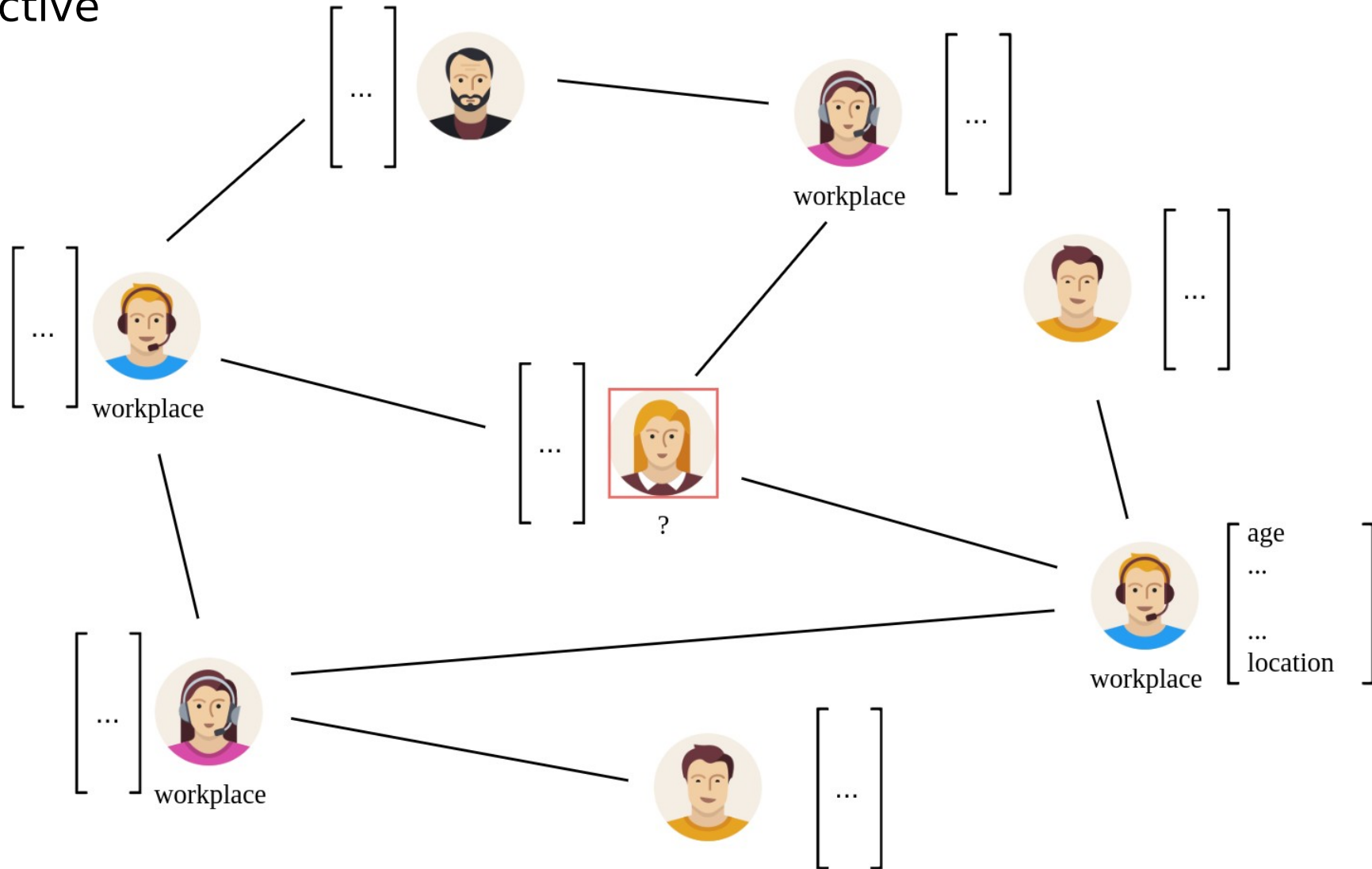




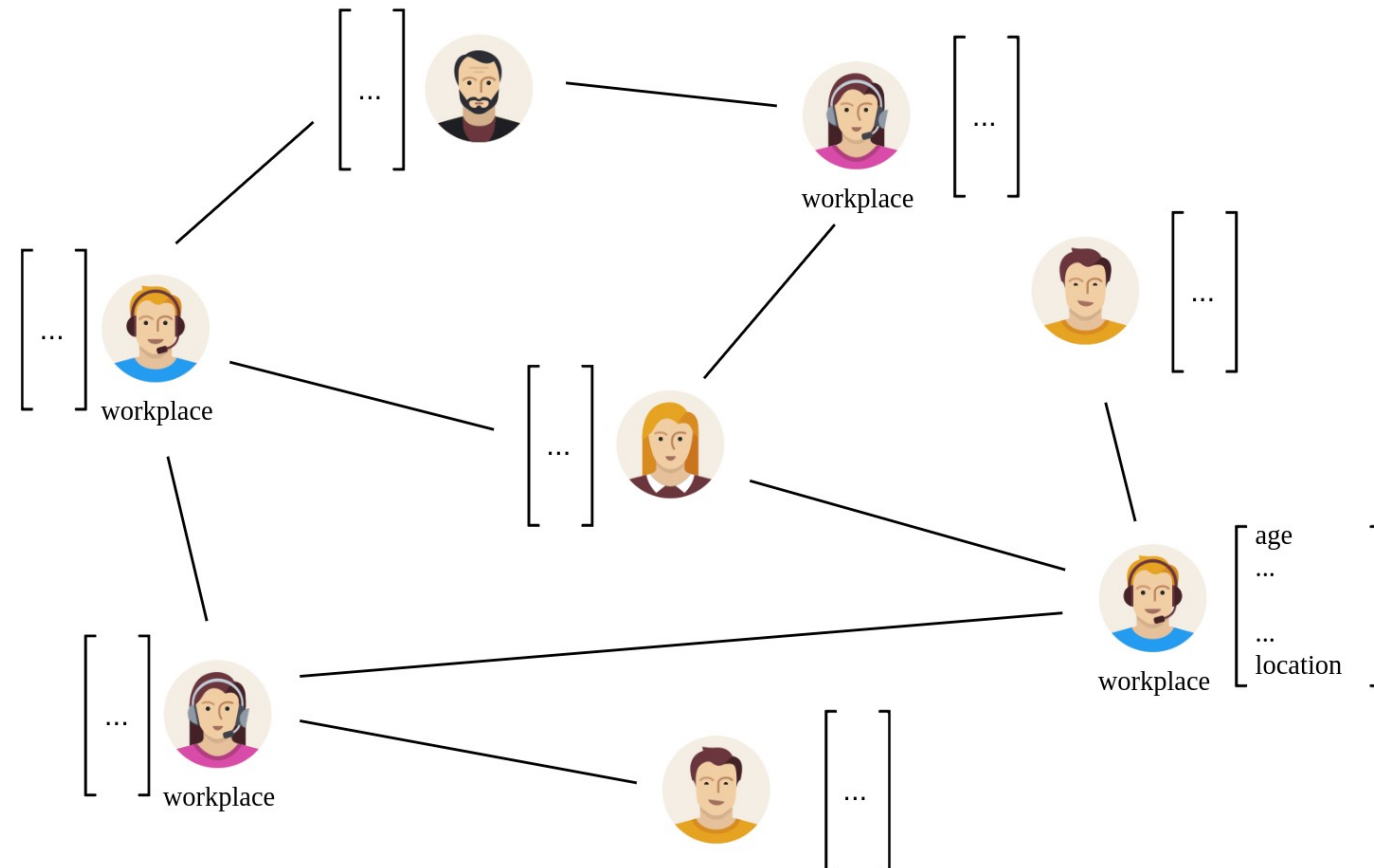
- Transductive



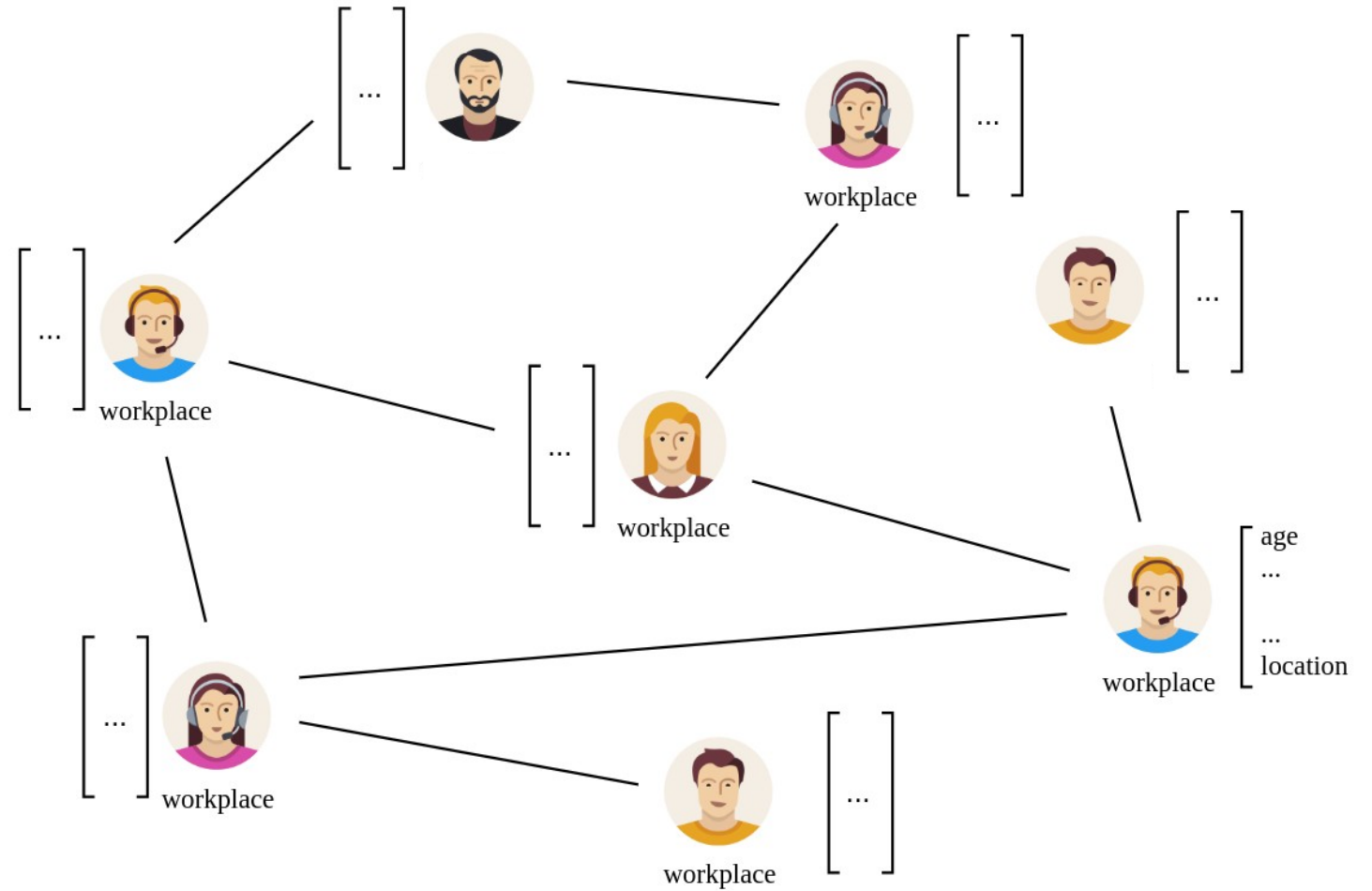
- Transductive



- Transductive
  - Fix graph (features and link)
  - Some nodes' labels are missing
  - Limited scenario

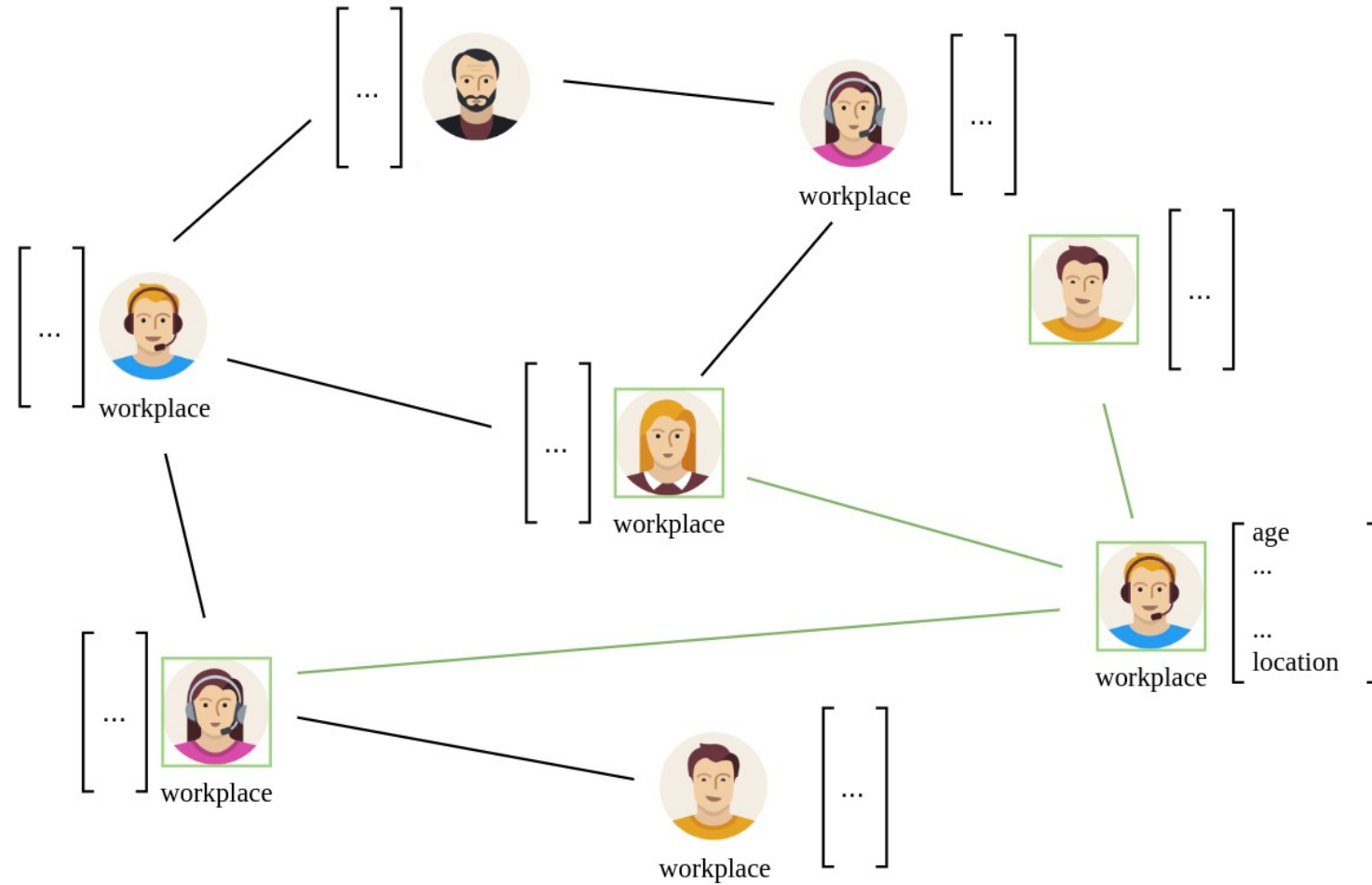


- Inductive

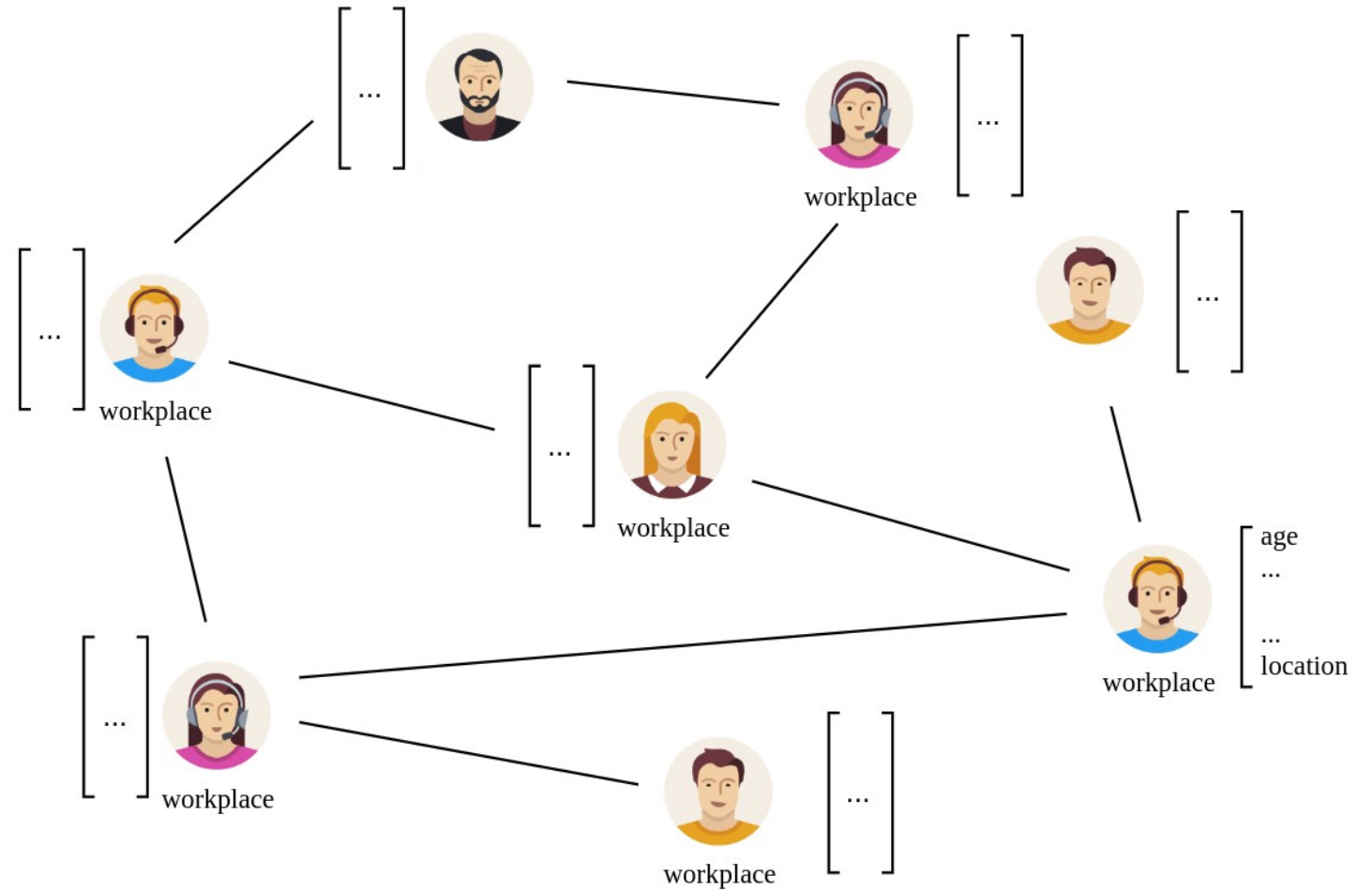


# Graph Neural Networks

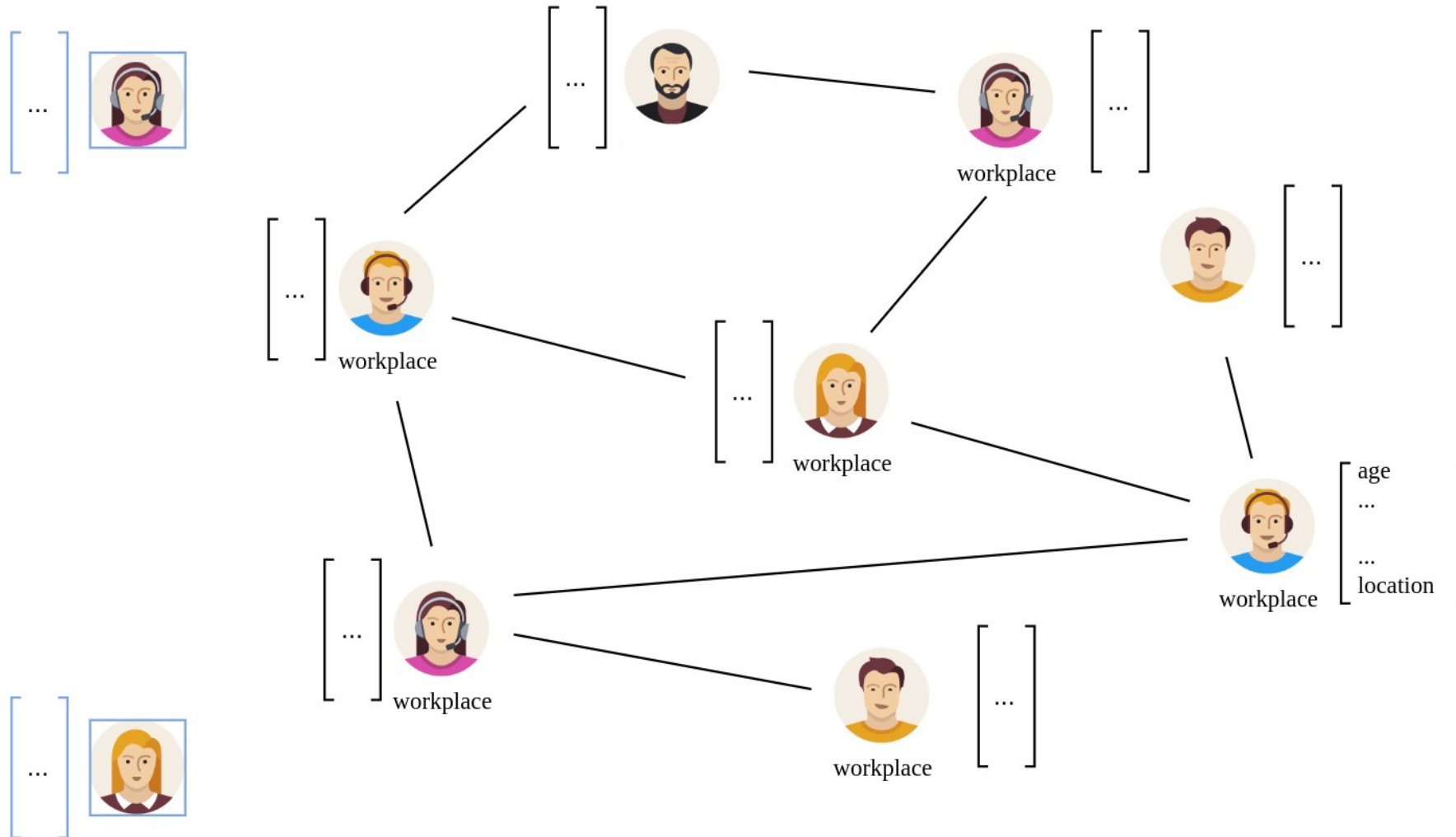
- Inductive



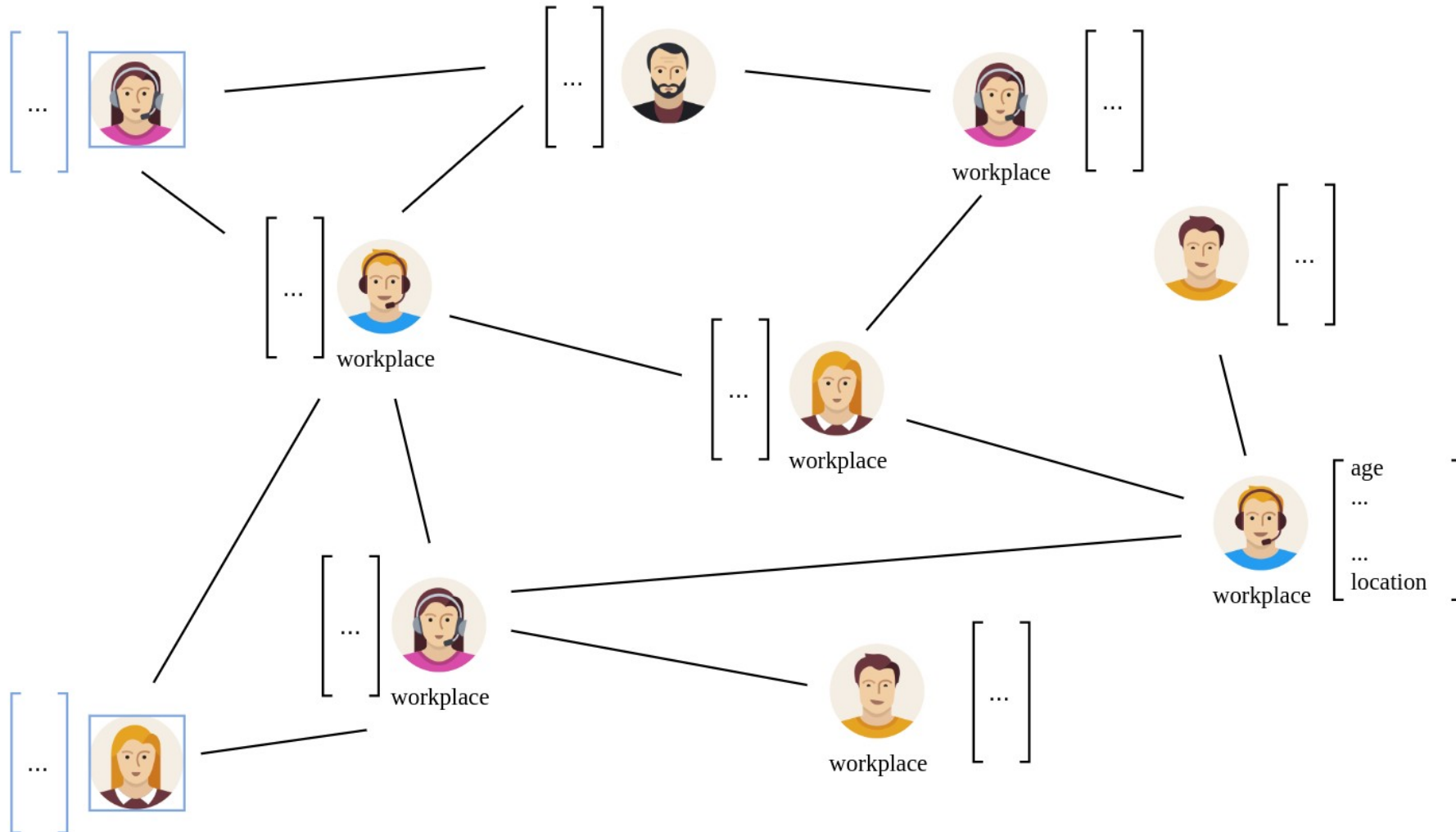
- Inductive



- Inductive

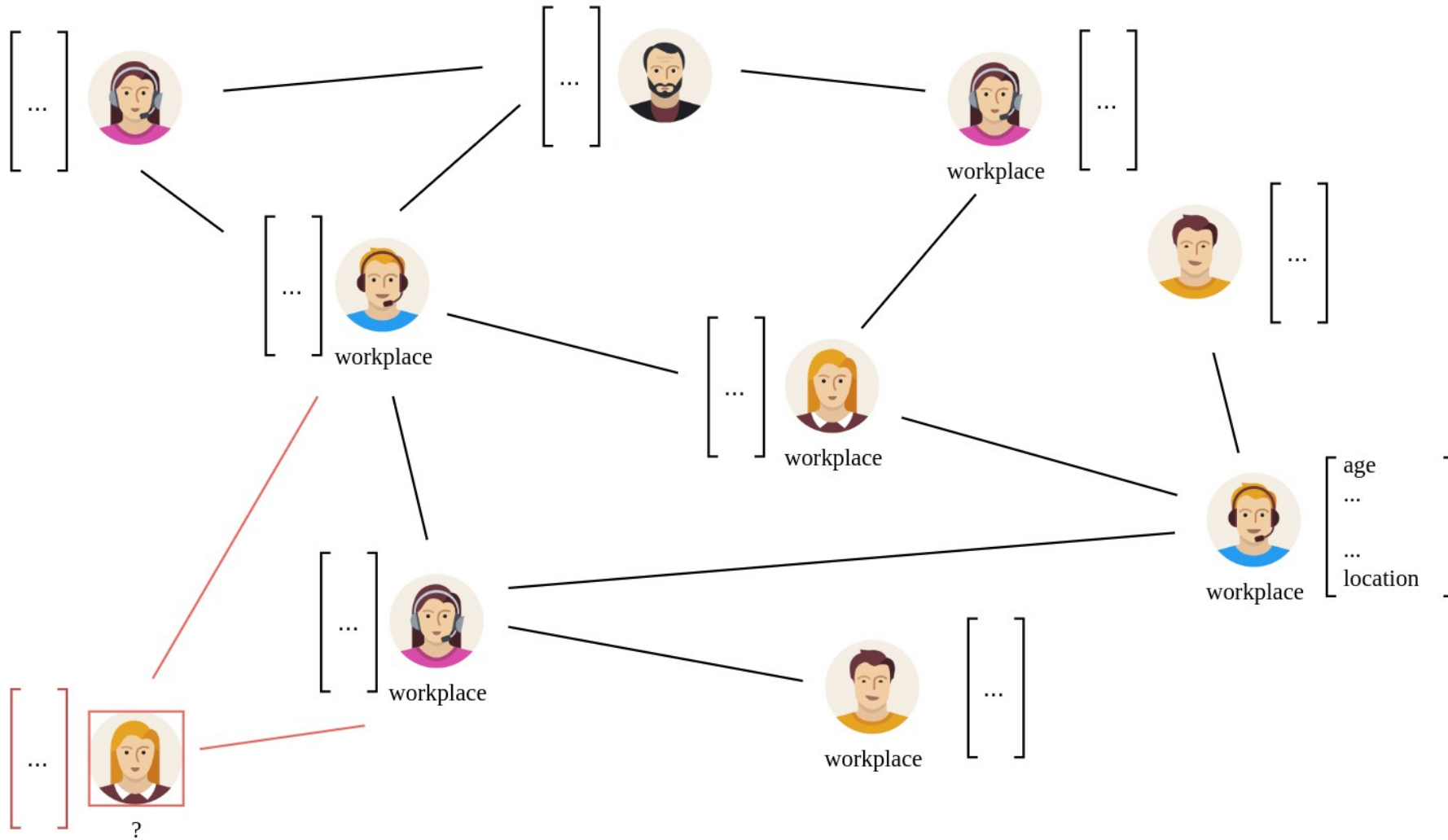


- Inductive

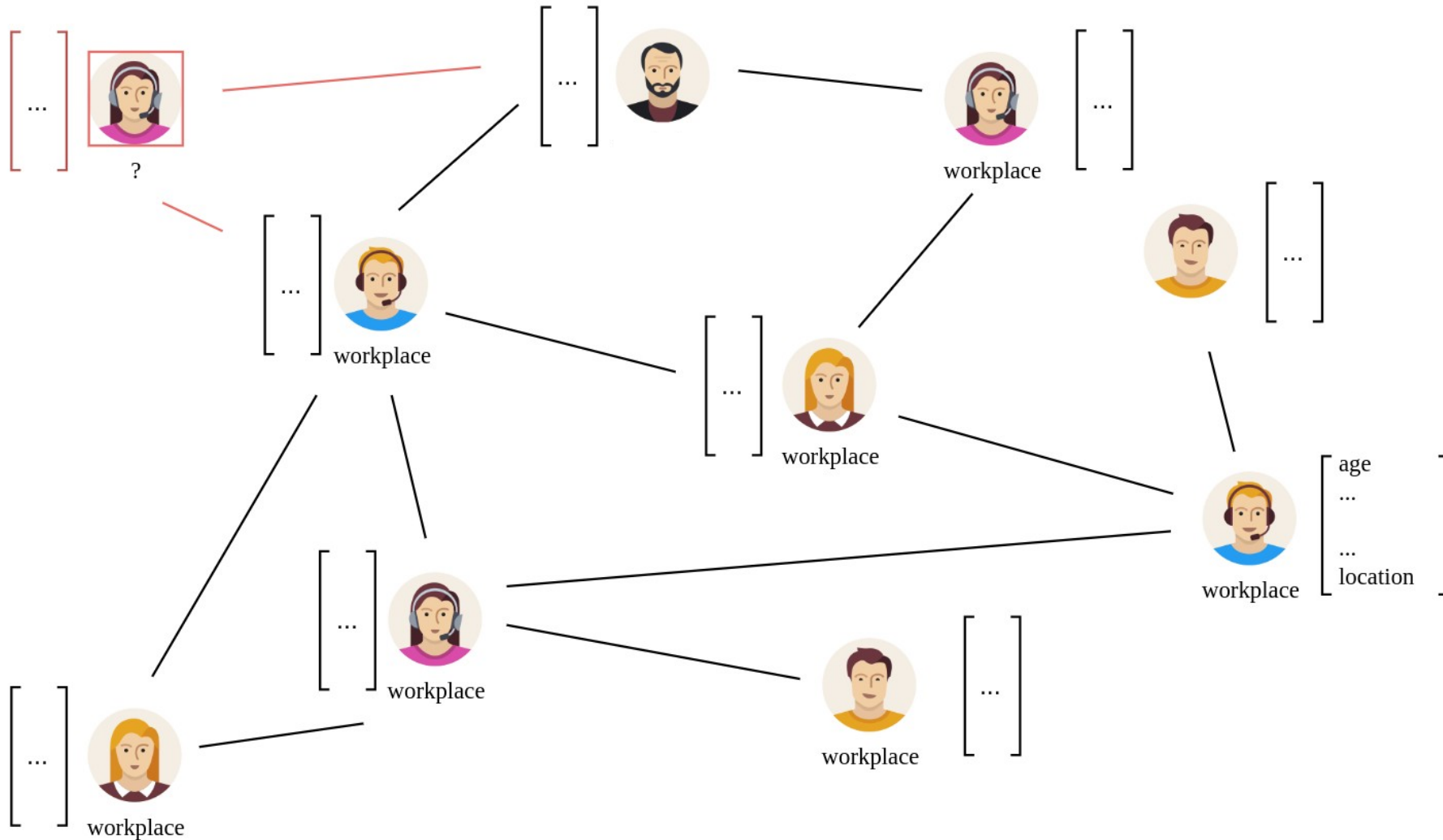




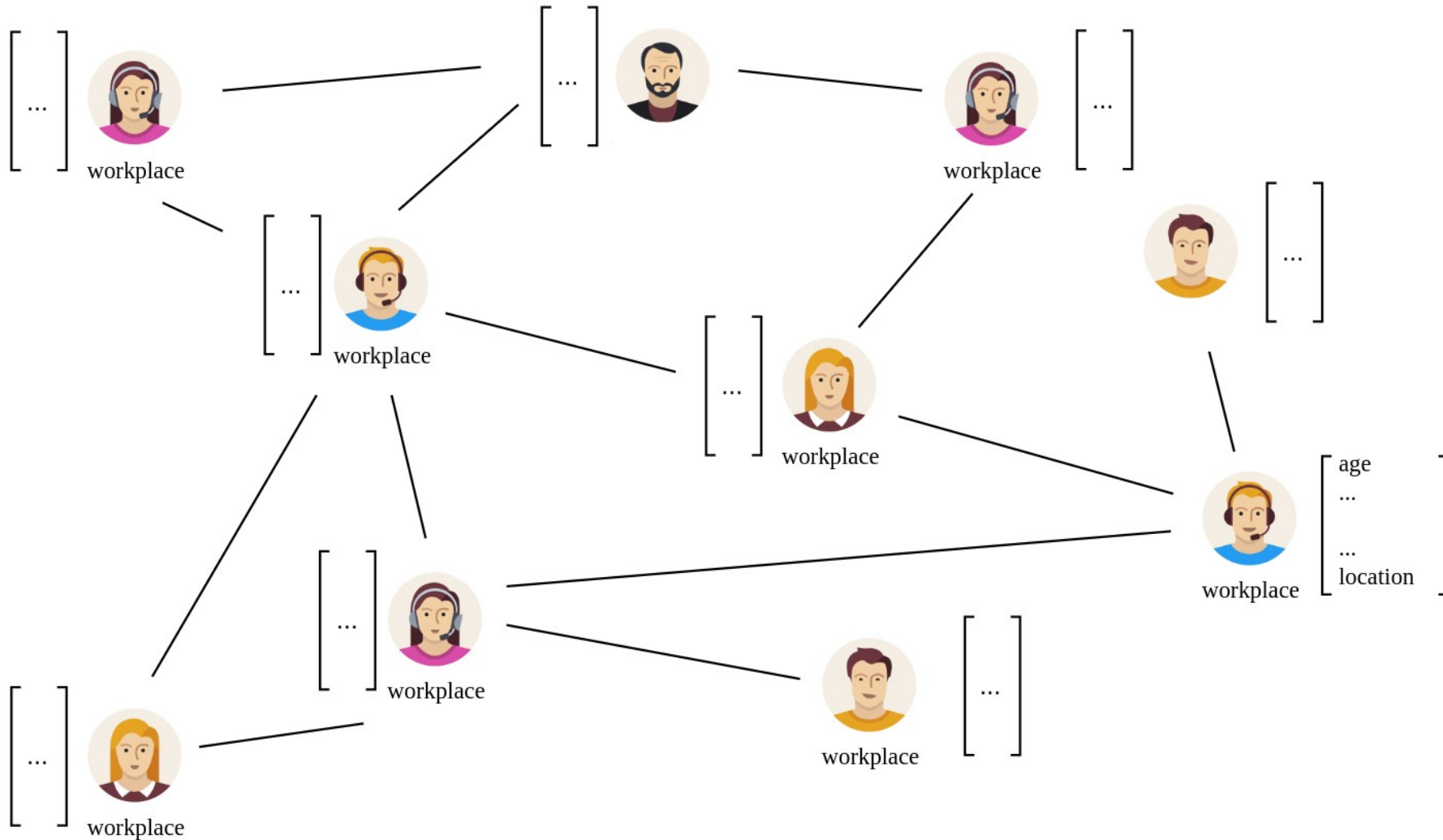
- Inductive



- Inductive



- Inductive



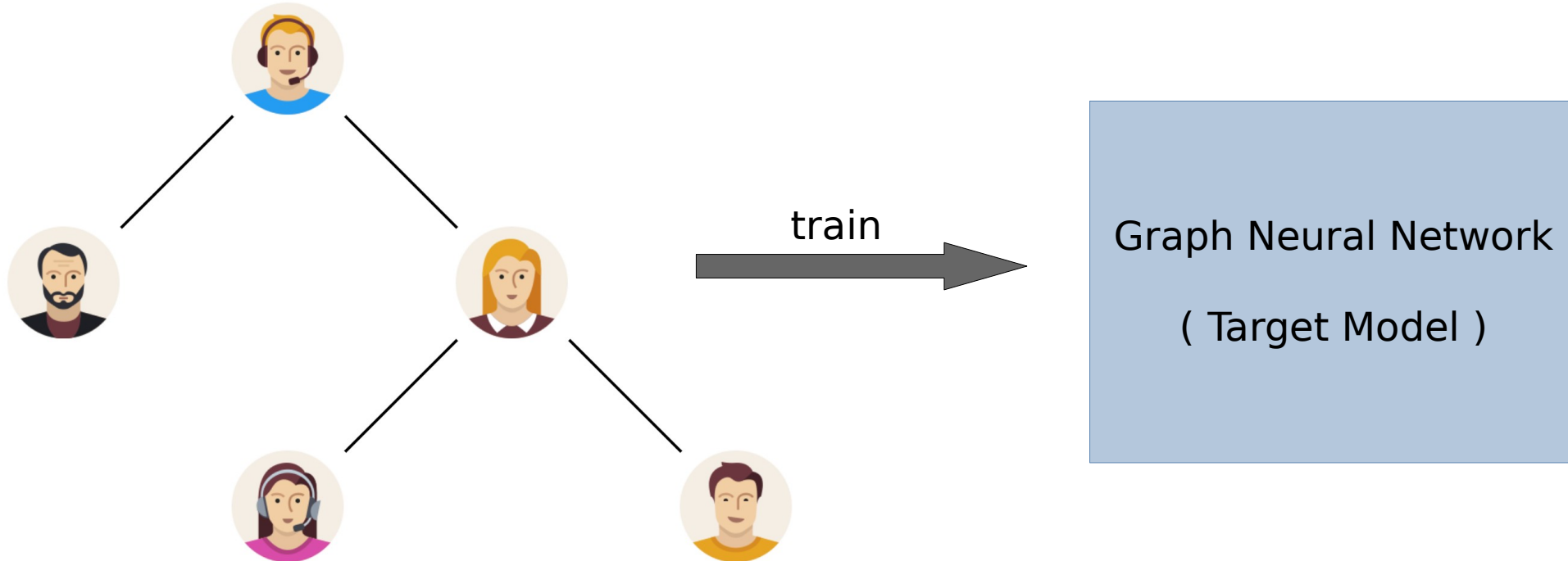
- Inductive
  - Extends transductive setting
  - Able to generalize to unseen nodes
  - Unnecessary to retrain the model
  - Broader scenario

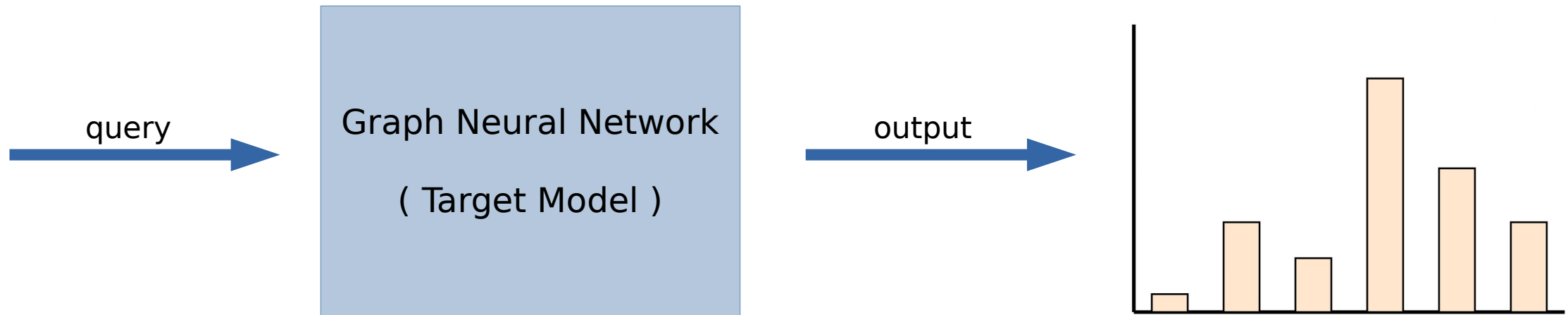


# Our Approach: Link Stealing Attacks

- First Introduced by Dr. Yang Zhang and Xinlei He in 2020
  - Attacks on transductive trained GNNs
- Scenario:
  - GNN trained on graph  $G$  to perform downstream task
  - Attacker
    - Black box access to target model
    - Partial graph with incomplete set of edges
- Goal:
  - Recover missing links from partial graph

# Link Stealing Attacks

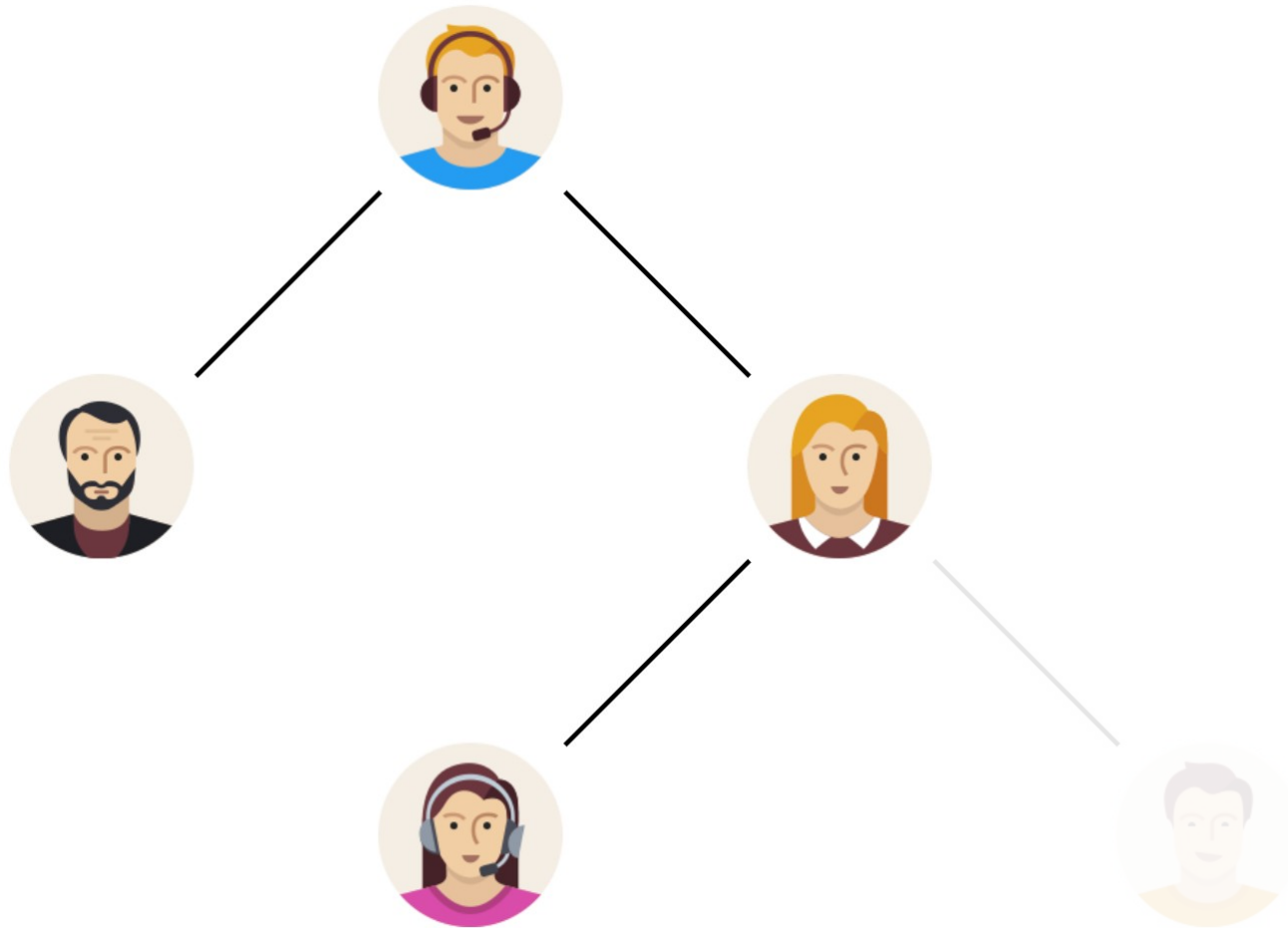






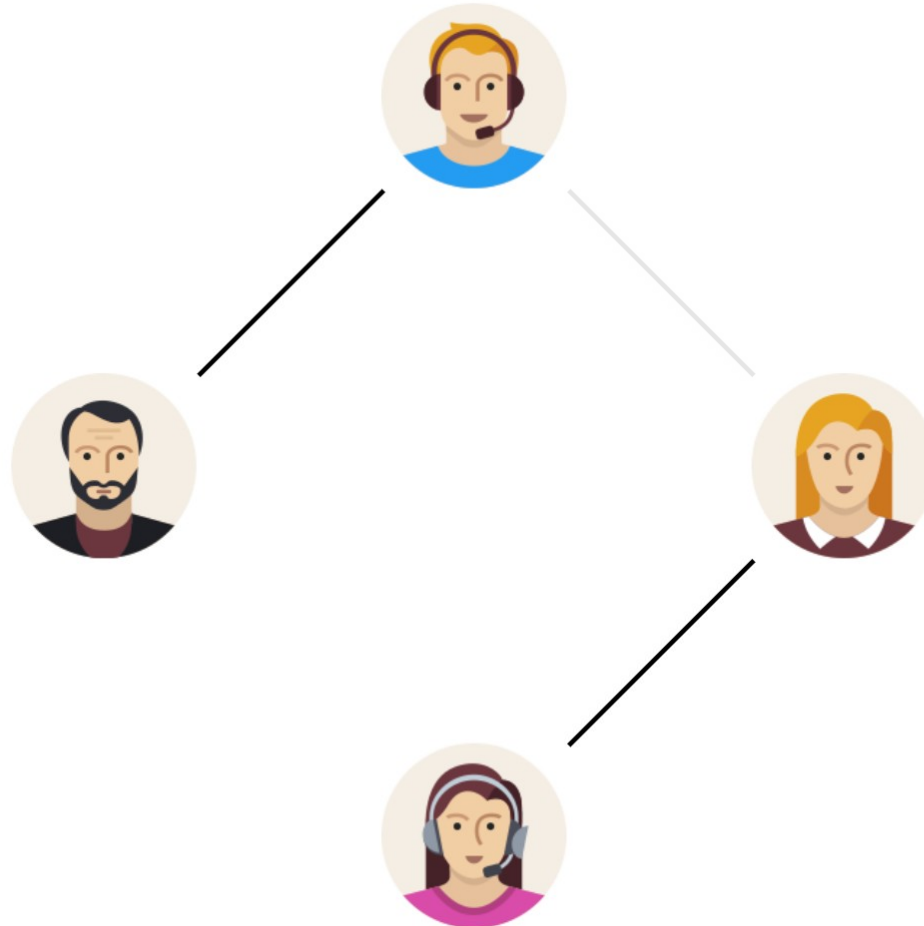
# Link Stealing Attacks

- Attacker Graph



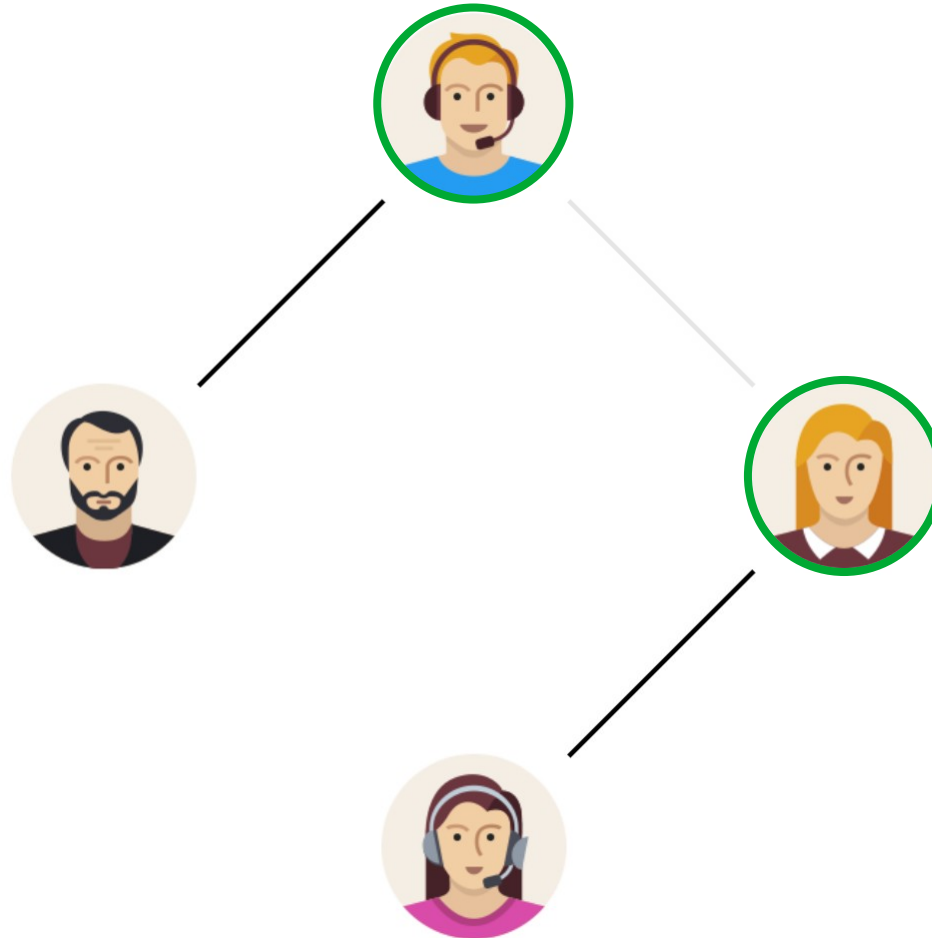
# Link Stealing Attacks

- Attacker Graph with One Missing Link

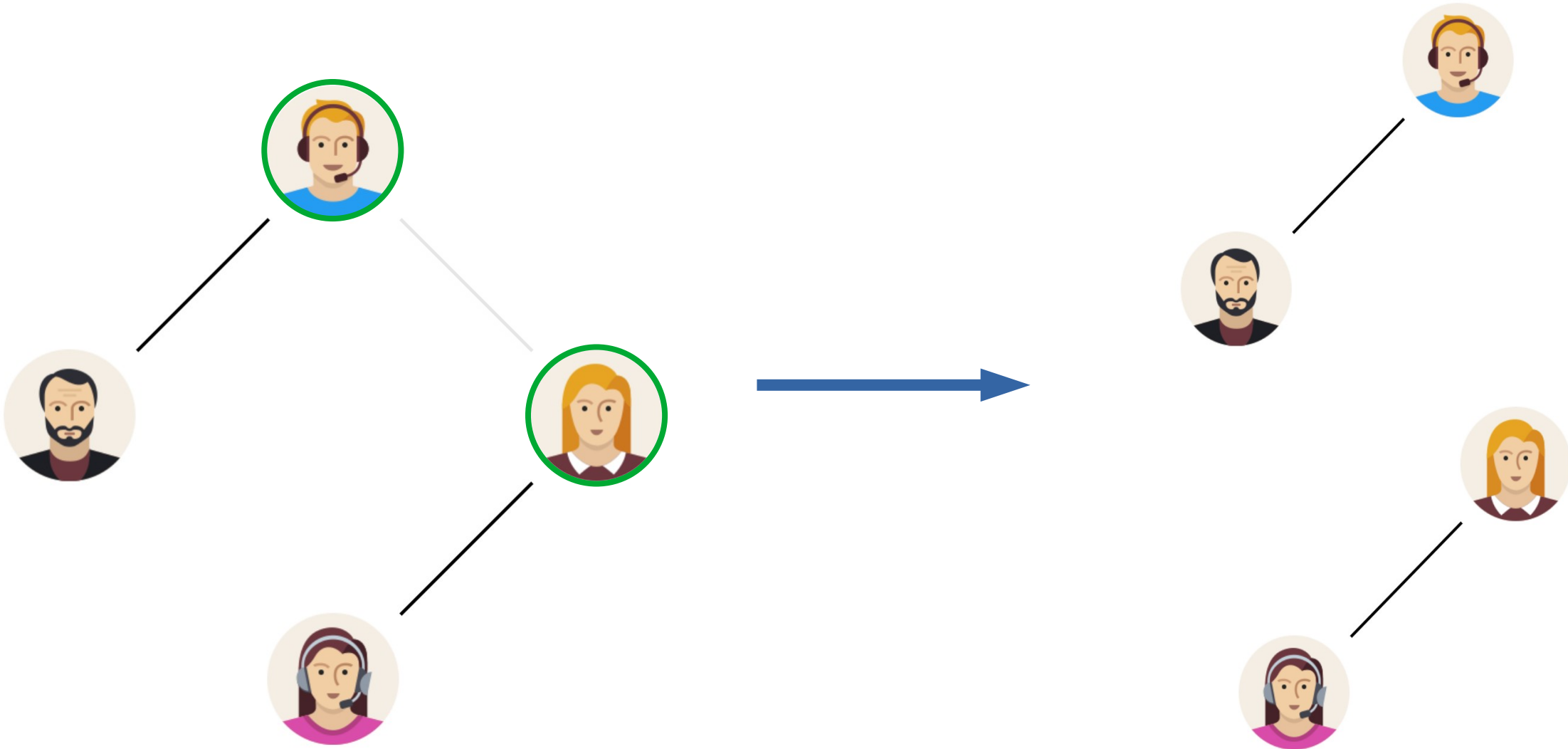


# Link Stealing Attacks

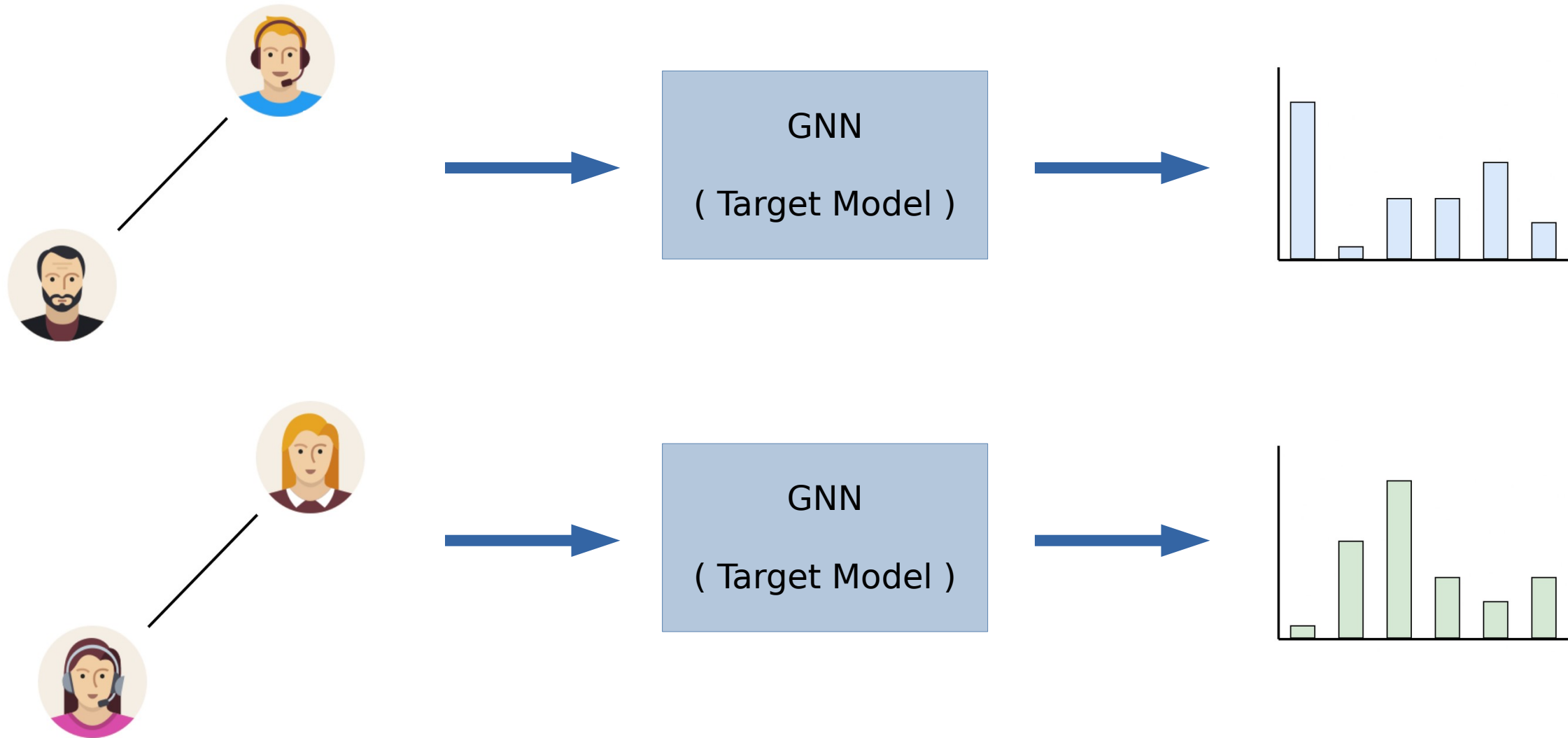
- Attacker Graph



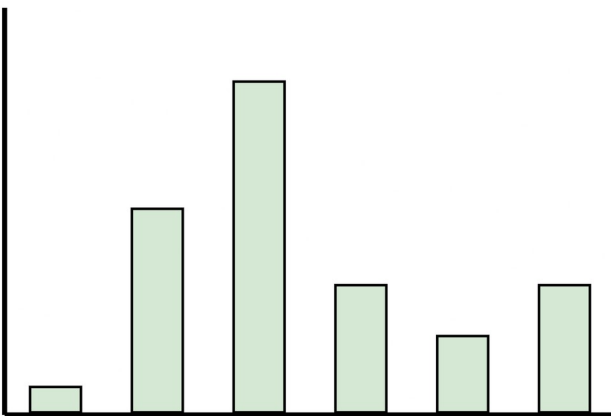
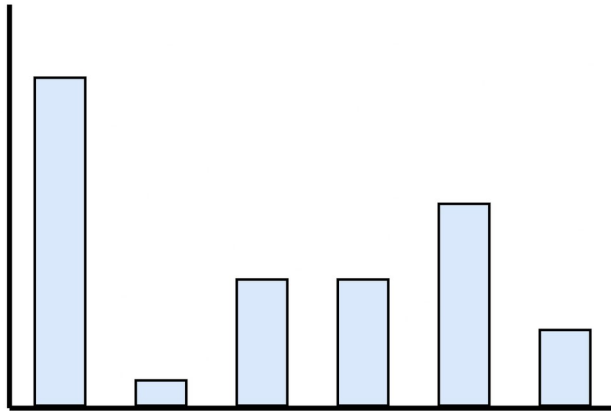
# Link Stealing Attacks



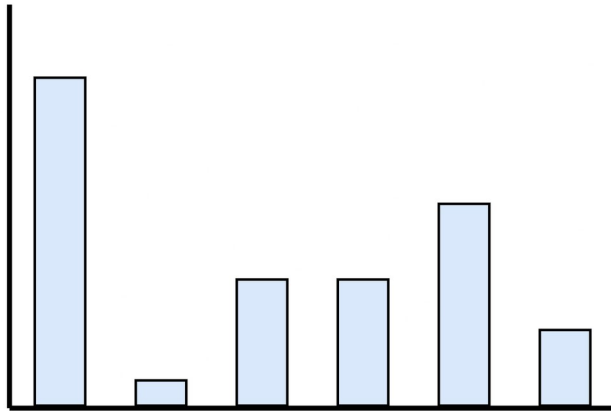
# Link Stealing Attacks



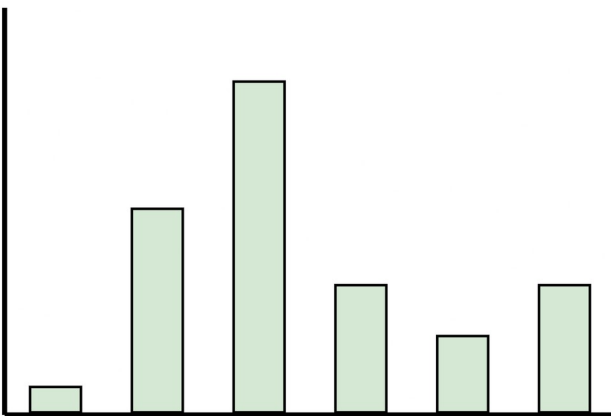
# Link Stealing Attacks



# Link Stealing Attacks

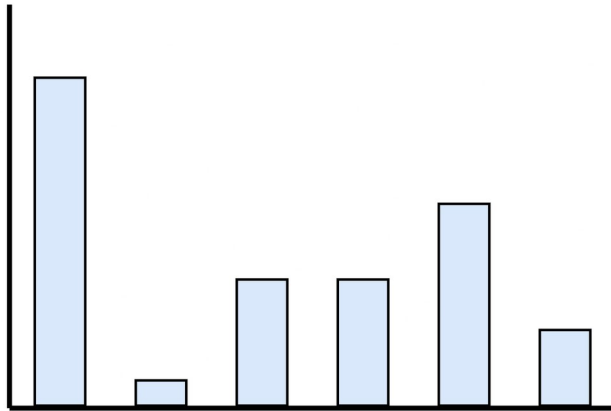


[ 0.3, 0.2, 0.3, ..., 0.1 ]

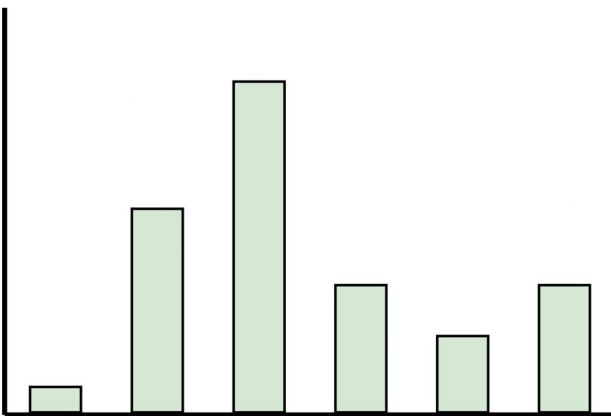
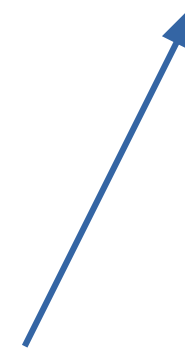


[ 0.2, 0.1, 0.4, ..., 0.1 ]

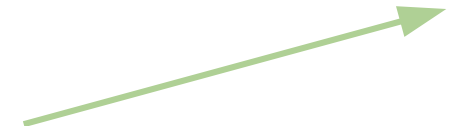
# Link Stealing Attacks



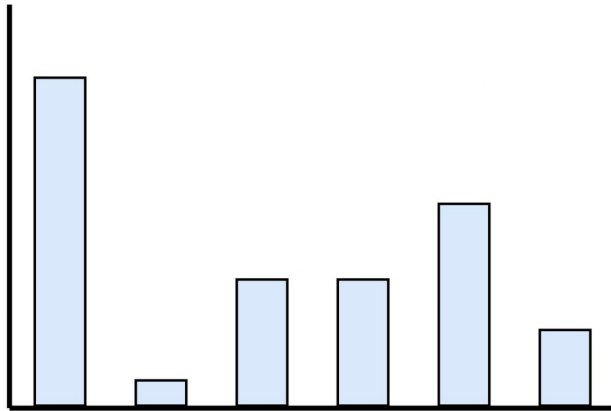
[ 0.3, 0.2, 0.3, ..., 0.1 ]



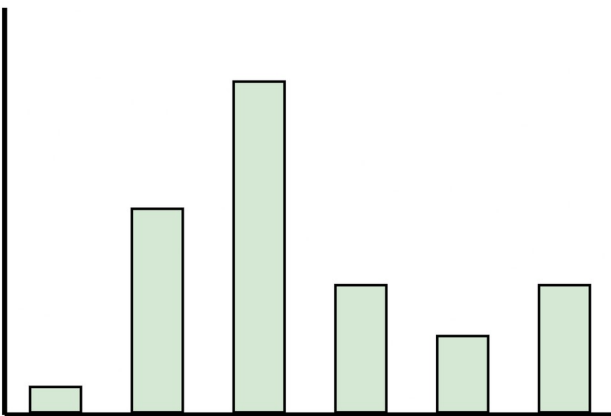
[ 0.2, 0.1, 0.4, ..., 0.1 ]



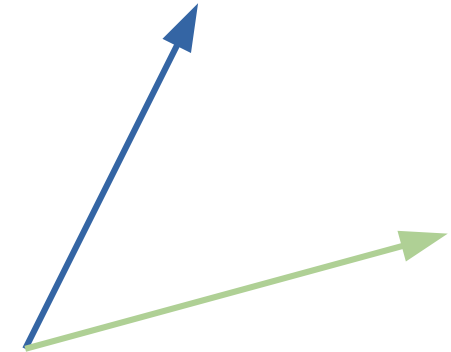




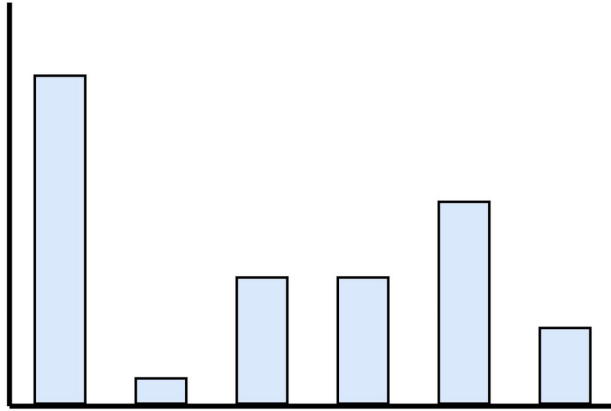
[ 0.3, 0.2, 0.3, ..., 0.1 ]



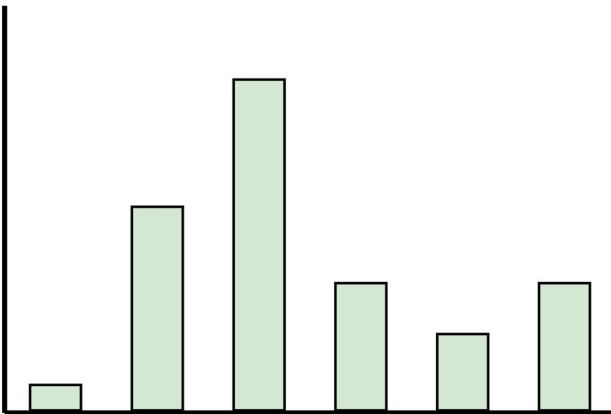
[ 0.2, 0.1, 0.4, ..., 0.1 ]



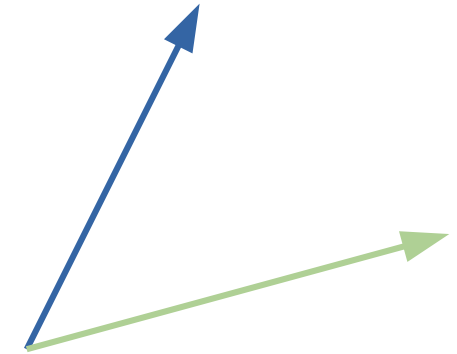
# Link Stealing Attacks



[ 0.3, 0.2, 0.3, ..., 0.1 ]



[ 0.2, 0.1, 0.4, ..., 0.1 ]



[ Cosine, Manhattan, ..., Euclidean ]

[ Cosine, Manhattan, ..., Euclidean ]

[ Cosine, Manhattan, ..., Euclidean ]



MLP  
( Attack Model )

[ Cosine, Manhattan, ..., Euclidean ]



MLP  
( Attack Model )



Prediction whether two nodes are connected or not



# Experimental Setup

- Three Datasets
  - Cora
  - CiteSeer
  - Pubmed
- Three Graph Neural Network Types
  - GraphSAGE
  - GAT
  - GCN (inductive)

- Attack 1

- Same distribution

[ 0.3, 0.2, 0.3, ..., 0.1 ]  
[ 0.2, 0.1, 0.4, ..., 0.1 ]



[ 0.3, 0.2, 0.3, ..., 0.1, 0.2, 0.1, 0.4, ..., 0.1 ]



MLP  
( Attack Model )



- Attack 2
  - Same Distribution

[ Cosine, Manhattan, ..., Euclidean ]



MLP  
( Attack Model )

- Attack 3
  - Different Distribution

[ Cosine, Manhattan, ..., Euclidean ]



MLP  
( Attack Model )



Goal

- Observation
  - Inductive trained GNNs are likely to reveal sensitive information about their training graph
- Serious Concerns
  - Intellectual property
  - Confidentiality
  - Privacy



Questions?