



# Motif, Isomorphism, Graphlets

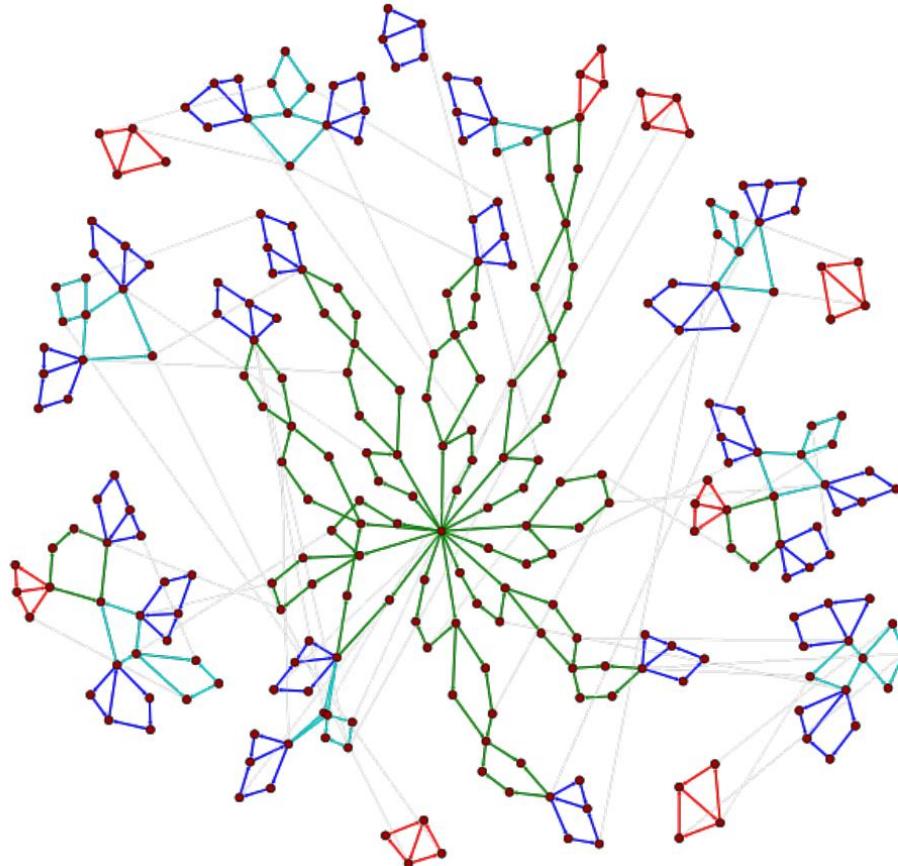
CE642: Social and Economic Networks  
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01

# Motif

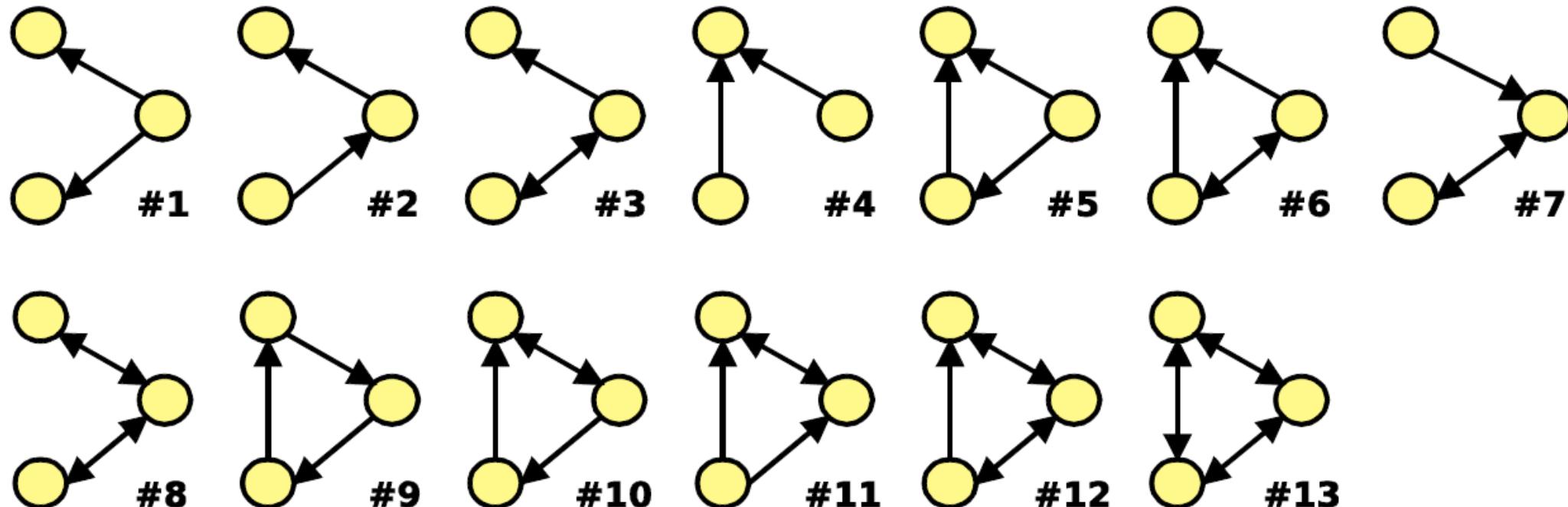
# Building Blocks of Networks



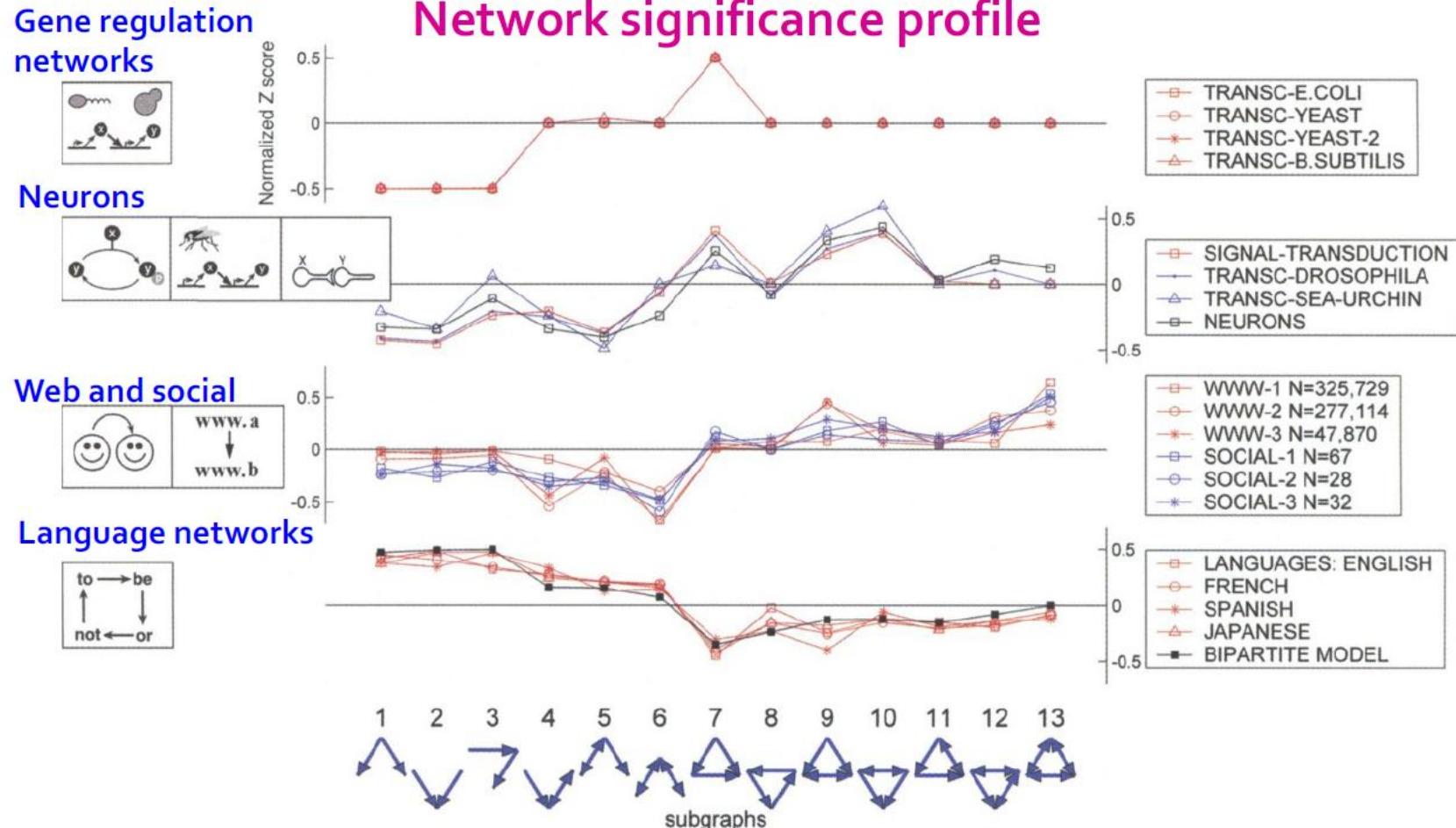
Subgraph decomposition of an electronic circuit

# Case Example of Subgraphs

Let's consider all possible (non-isomorphic) directed subgraphs of size 3



# Case Example of Subgraphs



Networks from the same domain have similar significance profiles

# Network Motifs

- **Network motifs:** “recurring, significant patterns of interconnections”
- **How to define a network motif:**
  - **Pattern:** Small induced subgraph
  - **Recurring:** Found many times, i.e., with high frequency
  - **Significant:** More frequent than expected, i.e., in randomly generated networks
    - Erdos-Renyi random graphs, scale-free networks

# Why Do We Need Motifs?

## Motifs:

- Help us understand how networks work
- Help us predict operation and reaction of the network in a given situation



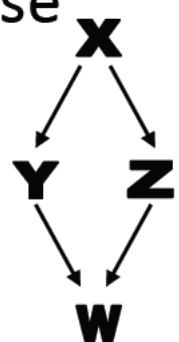
Feed-forward loop

## Examples:

- Feed-forward loops:** found in networks of neurons, where they neutralize “biological noise”
- Parallel loops:** found in food webs
- Single-input modules:** found in gene control networks



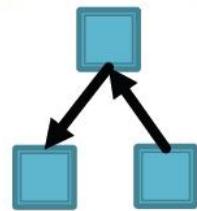
Single-input module



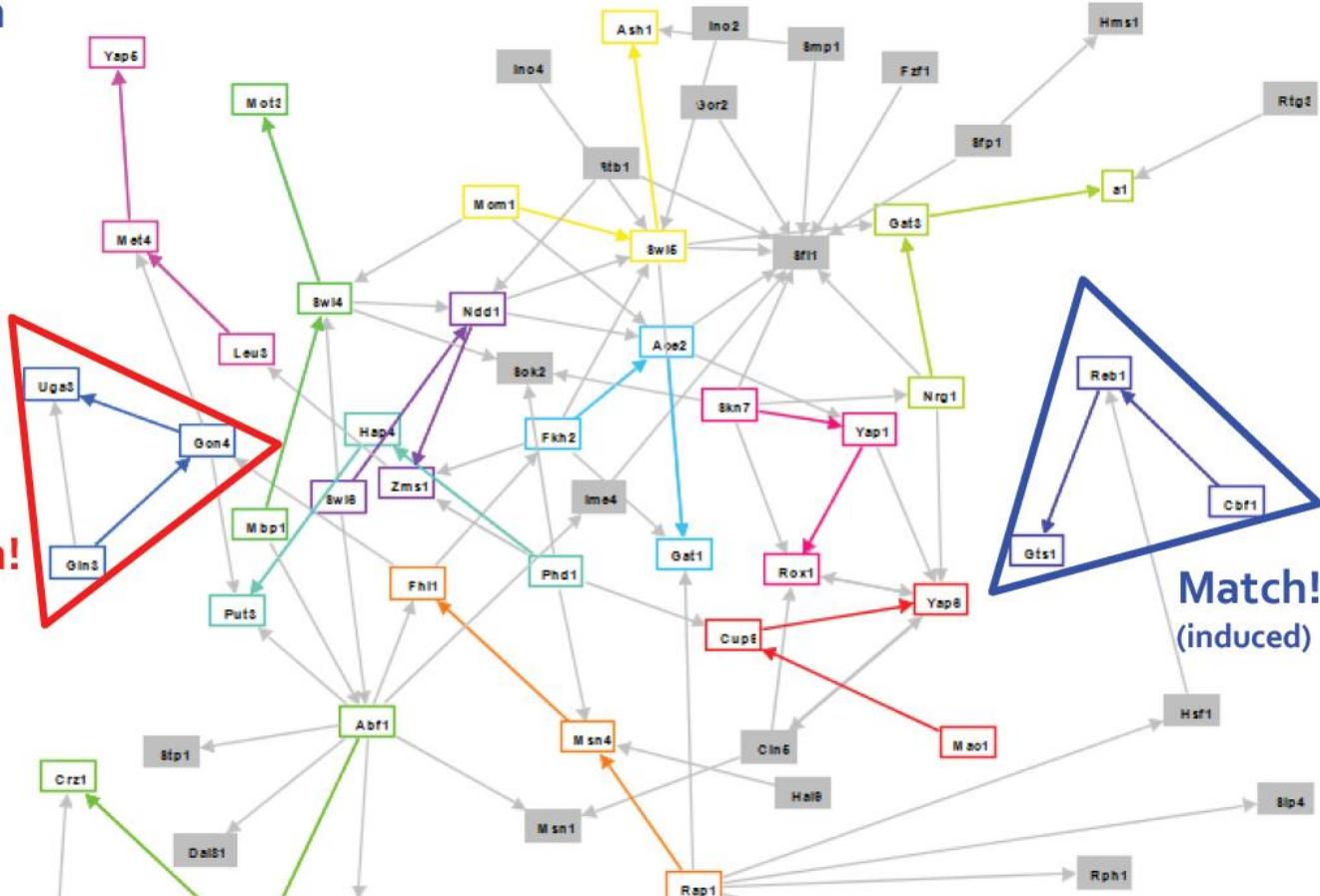
Parallel loop

# Motifs: Induced Subgraphs

Induced subgraph  
of interest  
(aka Motif):



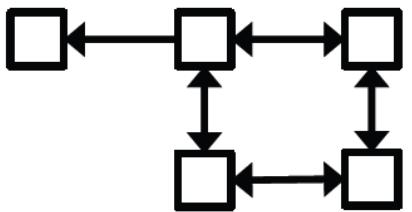
No match!  
(not induced)



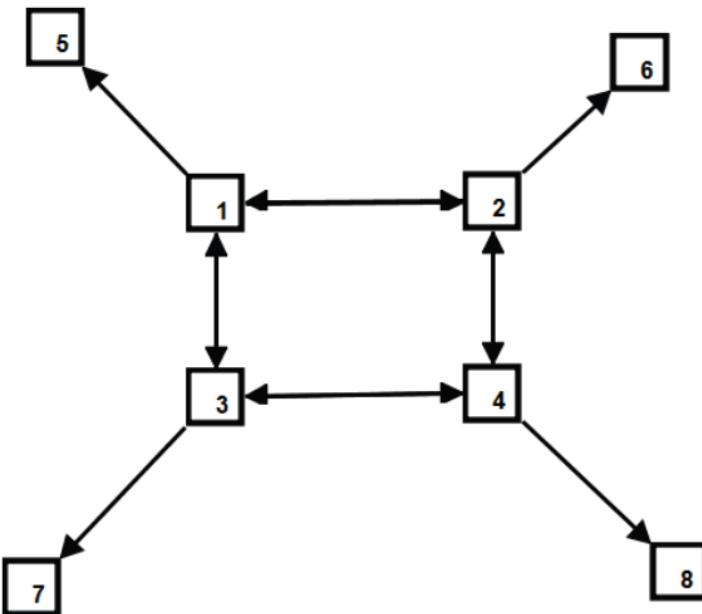
**Induced subgraph** of graph  $G$  is a graph, formed from a subset  $X$  of the vertices of graph  $G$  and all of the edges connecting pairs of vertices in subset  $X$ .

# Motifs: Recurrence

Motif of interest:



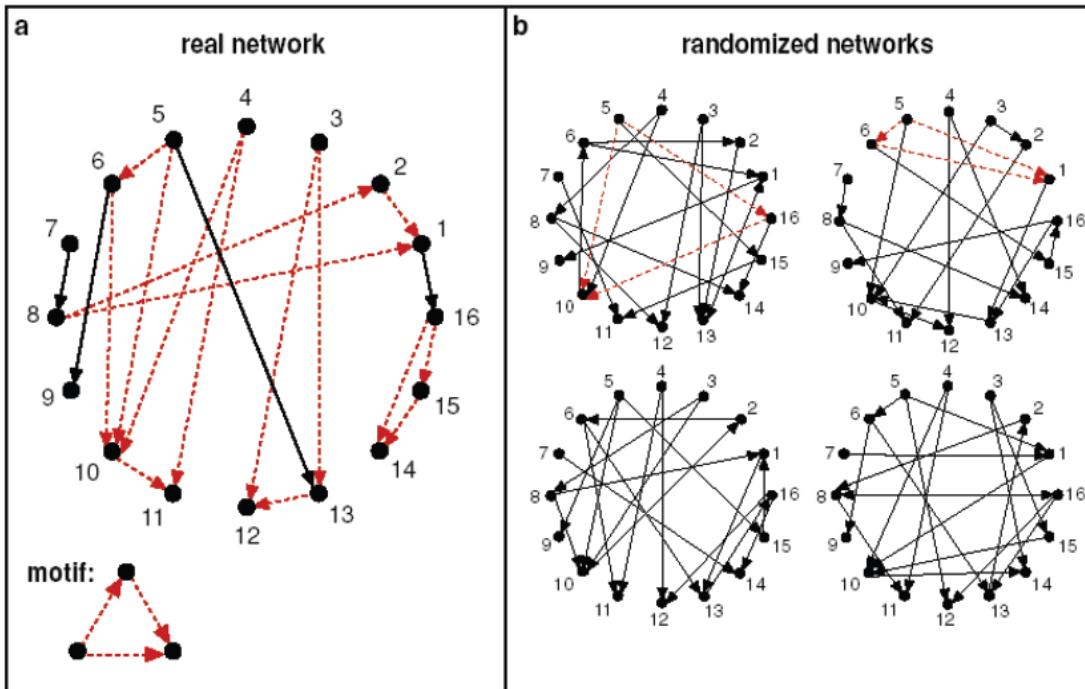
- Allow **overlapping of motifs**
- Network on the right has 4 occurrences of the motif:
  - {1,2,3,4,5}
  - {1,2,3,4,6}
  - {1,2,3,4,7}
  - {1,2,3,4,8}



Example borrowed from Pedro Ribeiro

# Significance of a Motif

- **Key idea:** Subgraphs that occur in a real network much more often than in a random network have functional significance



# Significance of a Motif

- Motifs are **overrepresented** in a network when compared to **randomized networks**:

- $Z_i$  captures **statistical significance of motif  $i$** :

$$Z_i = (N_i^{\text{real}} - \bar{N}_i^{\text{rand}}) / \text{std}(N_i^{\text{rand}})$$

- $N_i^{\text{real}}$  is #(subgraphs of type  $i$ ) in network  $G^{\text{real}}$
  - $N_i^{\text{rand}}$  is #(subgraphs of type  $i$ ) in randomized network  $G^{\text{rand}}$

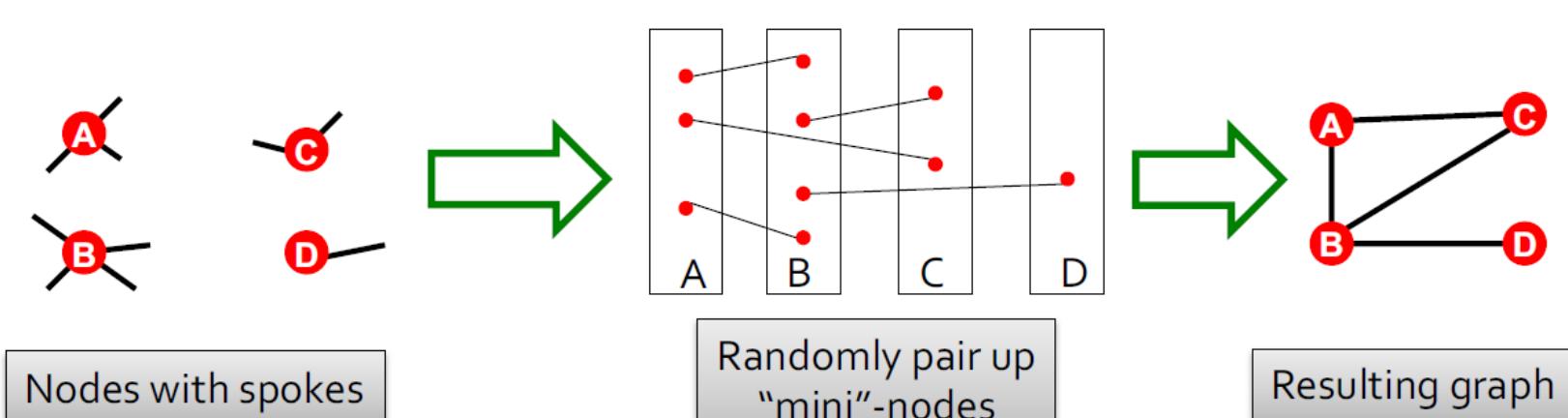
- Network significance profile (SP):**

$$SP_i = Z_i / \sqrt{\sum_j Z_j^2}$$

- $SP$  is a vector of **normalized Z-scores**
  - $SP$  emphasizes relative significance of subgraphs:
    - Important for comparison of networks of different sizes
    - Generally, larger networks display higher Z-scores

# Configuration Model

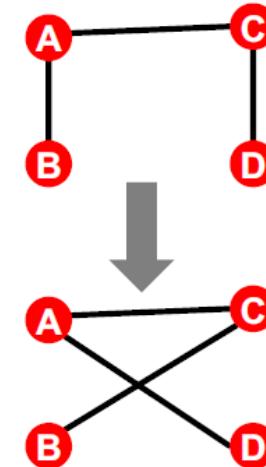
- **Goal:** Generate a random graph with a given degree sequence  $k_1, k_2, \dots k_N$
- **Useful as a “null” model of networks:**
  - We can compare the real network  $G^{\text{real}}$  and a “random”  $G^{\text{rand}}$  which has the same degree sequence as  $G^{\text{real}}$
- **Configuration model:**



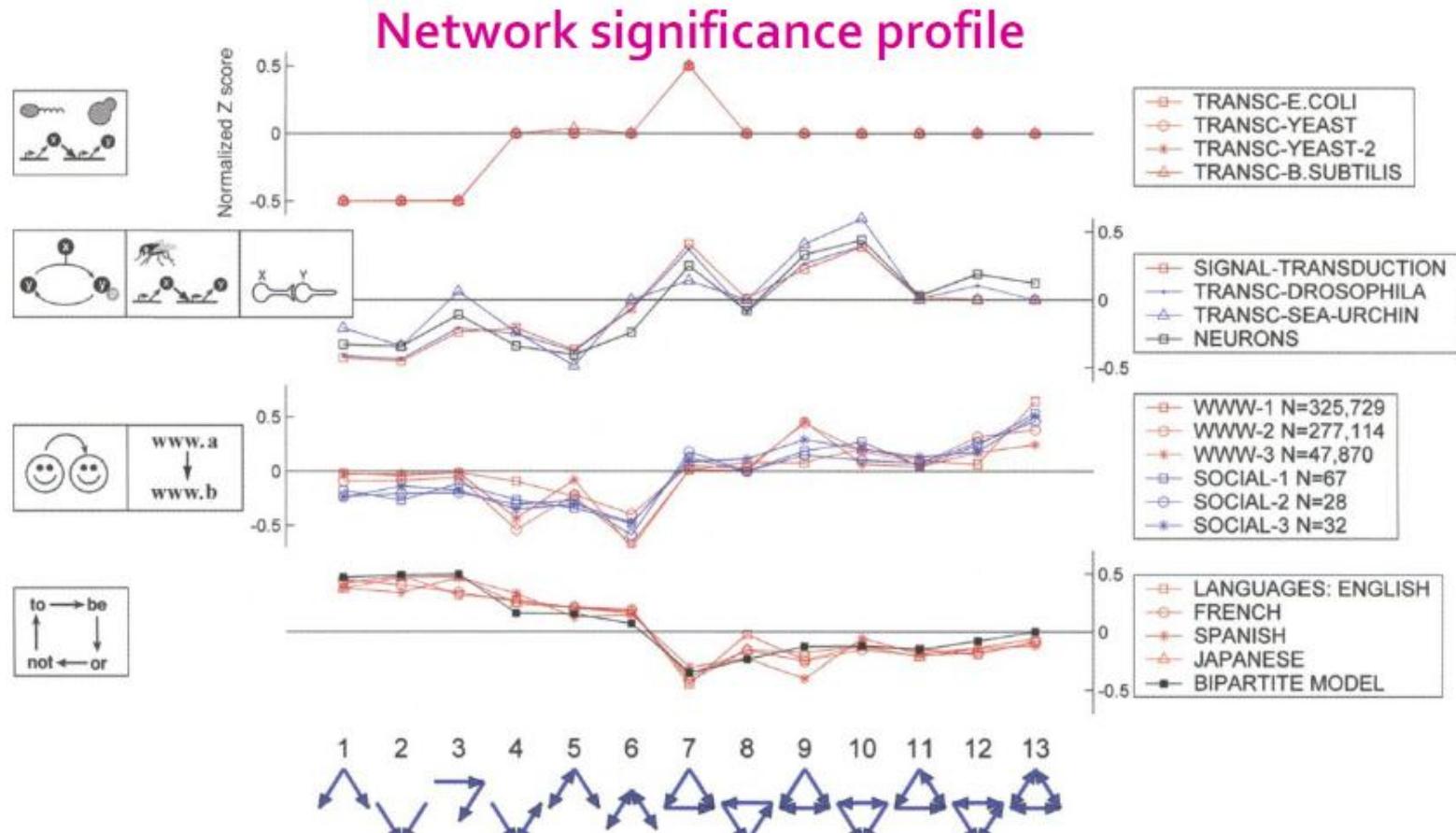
We ignore double edges and self-loops when creating the final graph

# Construct Random Graph

- Start from a **given graph  $G$**
- Repeat **the switching step**  $Q \cdot |E|$  times:
  - Select a pair of edges  $A \rightarrow B, C \rightarrow D$  at random
  - **Exchange** the endpoints to give  $A \rightarrow D, C \rightarrow B$ 
    - Exchange edges only if no multiple edges or self-edges are generated
- **Result:** A randomly rewired graph:
  - Same node degrees, randomly rewired edges
- $Q$  is chosen large enough (e.g.,  $Q = 100$ ) for the process to converge



# Motifs: Significance Example



# Detecting Motifs

- Count subgraphs  $i$  in  $G^{\text{real}}$
- Count subgraphs  $i$  in random networks  $G^{\text{rand}}$ :
  - **Configuration model:** Each  $G^{\text{rand}}$  has the same #(nodes), #(edges) and #(degree distribution) as  $G^{\text{real}}$
- Assign **Z-score** to  $i$ :
  - $Z_i = (N_i^{\text{real}} - \bar{N}_i^{\text{rand}}) / \text{std}(N_i^{\text{rand}})$
  - **High Z-score:** Subgraph  $i$  is a **network motif of  $G$**

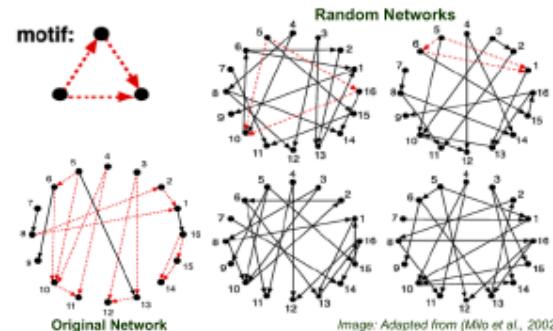


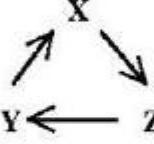
Image: Adapted from Millo et al., 2002

# Motif Examples

Network	Nodes	Edges	$N_{\text{real}}$	$N_{\text{rand}} \pm \text{SD}$	Z score	$N_{\text{real}}$	$N_{\text{rand}} \pm \text{SD}$	Z score	$N_{\text{real}}$	$N_{\text{rand}} \pm \text{SD}$	Z score
<b>Gene regulation (transcription)</b>											
			X ↓ Y ↓ → Z	Feed-forward loop		X ↓ Y ↓ Z    W	Bi-fan				
<i>E. coli</i>	424	519	40	7 ± 3	10	203	47 ± 12	13			
<i>S. cerevisiae</i> *	685	1,052	70	11 ± 4	14	1812	300 ± 40	41			
<b>Neurons</b>											
			X ↓ Y ↓ → Z	Feed-forward loop		X ↓ Y ↓ Z    W	Bi-fan		X ↓ Y ↓ W    Z	Bi-parallel	
<i>C. elegans</i> †	252	509	125	90 ± 10	3.7	127	55 ± 13	5.3	227	35 ± 10	20
<b>Food webs</b>											
			X ↓ Y ↓ Z	Three chain		X ↓ Y ↓ Z ↓ W	Bi-parallel				
Little Rock	92	984	3219	3120 ± 50	2.1	7295	2220 ± 210	25			
Ythan	83	391	1182	1020 ± 20	7.2	1357	230 ± 50	23			
St. Martin	42	205	469	450 ± 10	NS	382	130 ± 20	12			
Chesapeake	31	67	80	82 ± 4	NS	26	5 ± 2	8			
Coachella	29	243	279	235 ± 12	3.6	181	80 ± 20	5			
Skipwith	25	189	184	150 ± 7	5.5	397	80 ± 25	13			
B. Brook	25	104	181	130 ± 7	7.4	267	30 ± 7	32			

**Z-scores of individual motifs for different networks**

# Motif Examples

Network	Nodes	Edges	$N_{\text{real}}$	$N_{\text{rand}} \pm \text{SD}$	Z score	$N_{\text{real}}$	$N_{\text{rand}} \pm \text{SD}$	Z score	$N_{\text{real}}$	$N_{\text{rand}} \pm \text{SD}$	Z score
Electronic circuits (forward logic chips)				Feed-forward loop		Bi-fan		Bi-parallel			
s15850	10,383	14,240	424	$2 \pm 2$	285	1040	$1 \pm 1$	1200	480	$2 \pm 1$	335
s38584	20,717	34,204	413	$10 \pm 3$	120	1739	$6 \pm 2$	800	711	$9 \pm 2$	320
s38417	23,843	33,661	612	$3 \pm 2$	400	2404	$1 \pm 1$	2550	531	$2 \pm 2$	340
s9234	5,844	8,197	211	$2 \pm 1$	140	754	$1 \pm 1$	1050	209	$1 \pm 1$	200
s13207	8,651	11,831	403	$2 \pm 1$	225	4445	$1 \pm 1$	4950	264	$2 \pm 1$	200
Electronic circuits (digital fractional multipliers)				Three-node feedback loop		Bi-fan		Four-node feedback loop			
s208	122	189	10	$1 \pm 1$	9	4	$1 \pm 1$	3.8	5	$1 \pm 1$	5
s420	252	399	20	$1 \pm 1$	18	10	$1 \pm 1$	10	11	$1 \pm 1$	11
s838‡	512	819	40	$1 \pm 1$	38	22	$1 \pm 1$	20	23	$1 \pm 1$	25
World Wide Web				Feedback with two mutual dyads		Fully connected triad		Uplinked mutual dyad			
nd.edu§	325,729	1.46e6	1.1e5	$2e3 \pm 1e2$	800	6.8e6	$5e4 \pm 4e2$	15,000	1.2e6	$1e4 \pm 2e2$	5000

Z-scores of individual motifs for different networks

# Motif Examples

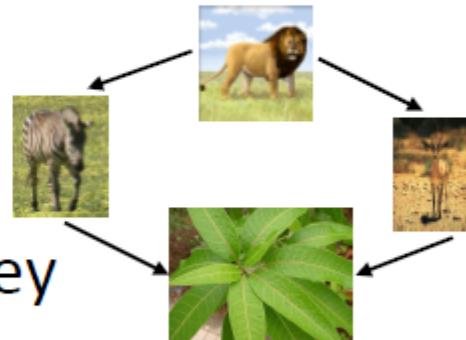
- **Network of neurons and a gene network**

contain similar motifs:

- Feed-forward loops and bi-fan structures
- Both are information processing networks with sensory and acting components

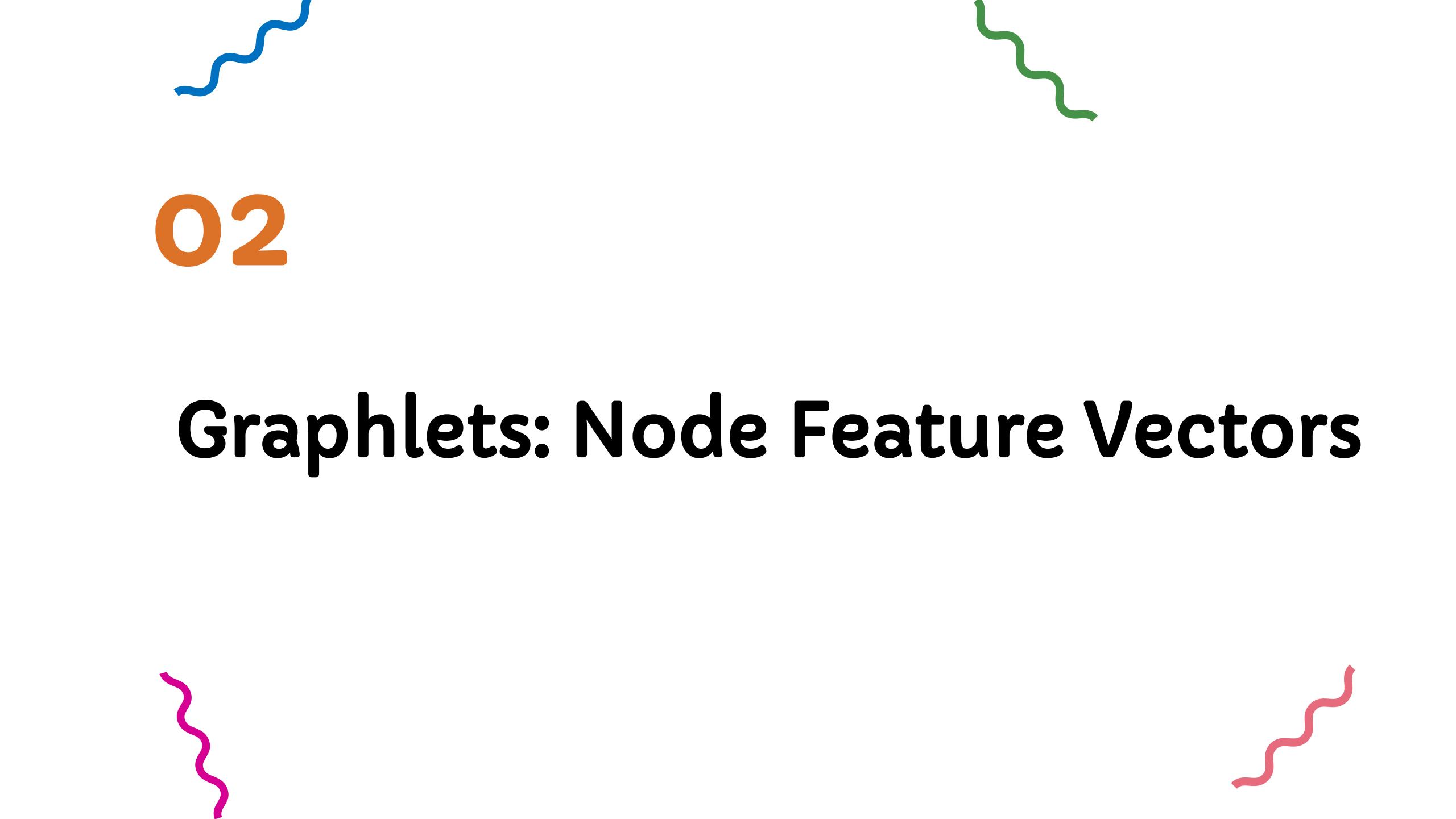
- **Food webs** have parallel loops:

- Prey of a particular predator share prey



- **WWW network** has bidirectional links

- Design that allows the shortest path between sets of related pages

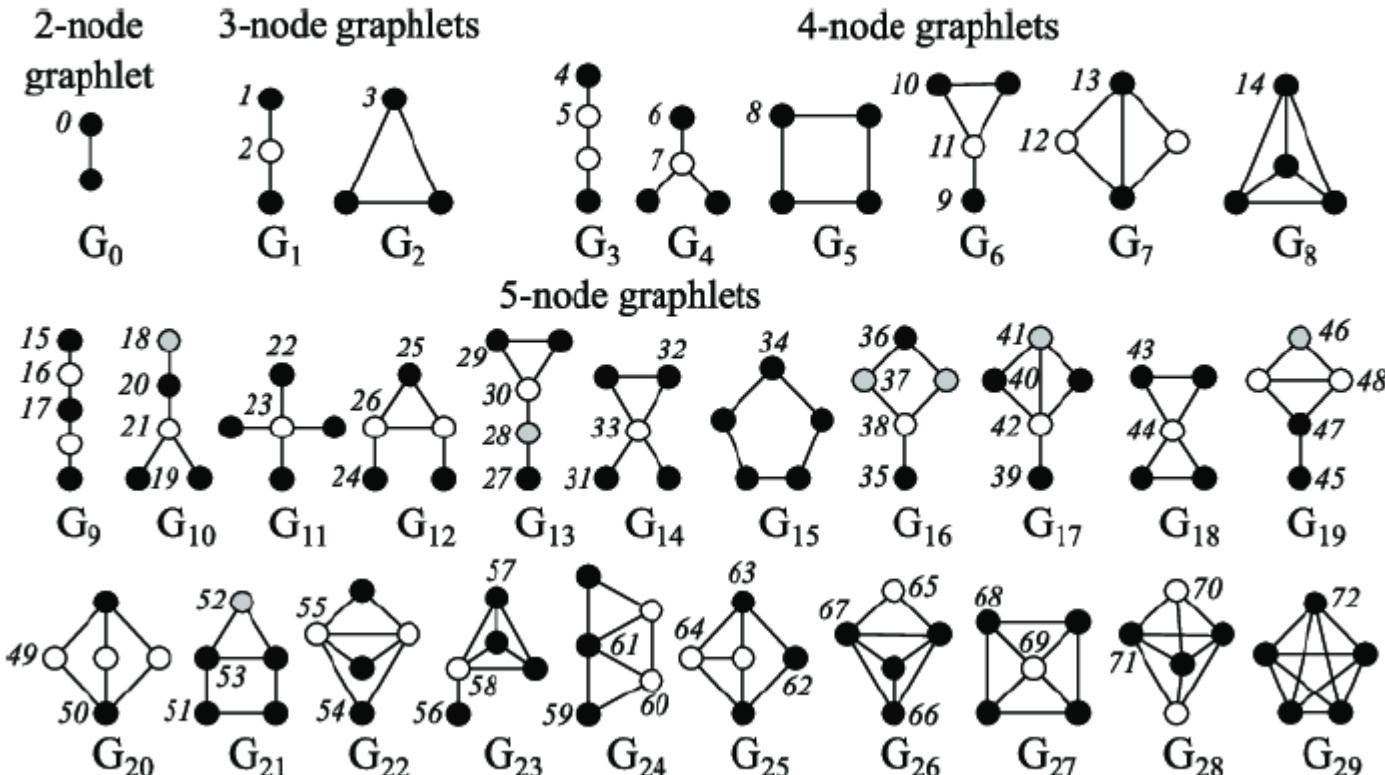


02

# Graphlets: Node Feature Vectors

# Graphlets

- **Graphlets:** connected non-isomorphic subgraphs
- **Induced subgraphs of any frequency**



For  $n = 3, 4, 5, \dots, 10$  there are 2, 6, 21, ... 11716571 graphlets!

# Motif vs Graphlet

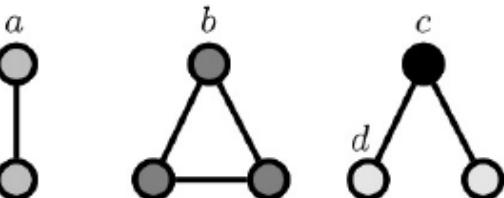
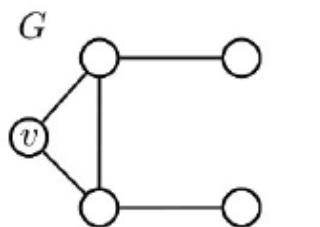
# Graphlet Degree Vector

- **Next:** Use graphlets to obtain a **node-level** subgraph metric
- **Degree** counts **#(edges)** that a node touches:
  - Can we generalize this notion for graphlets? – Yes!
- **Graphlet degree vector** counts **#(graphlets)** that a node touches

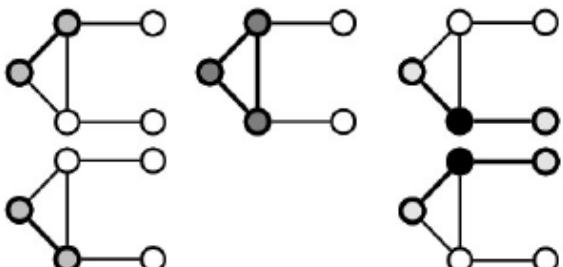


# Automorphism Orbits

- An **automorphism orbit** takes into account the symmetries of a subgraph
- **Graphlet Degree Vector (GDV):** a vector with the frequency of the node in each **orbit position**
- **Example: Graphlet degree vector of node  $v$**



orbit	$a$	$b$	$c$	$d$
$GDV(v)$	2	1	0	2



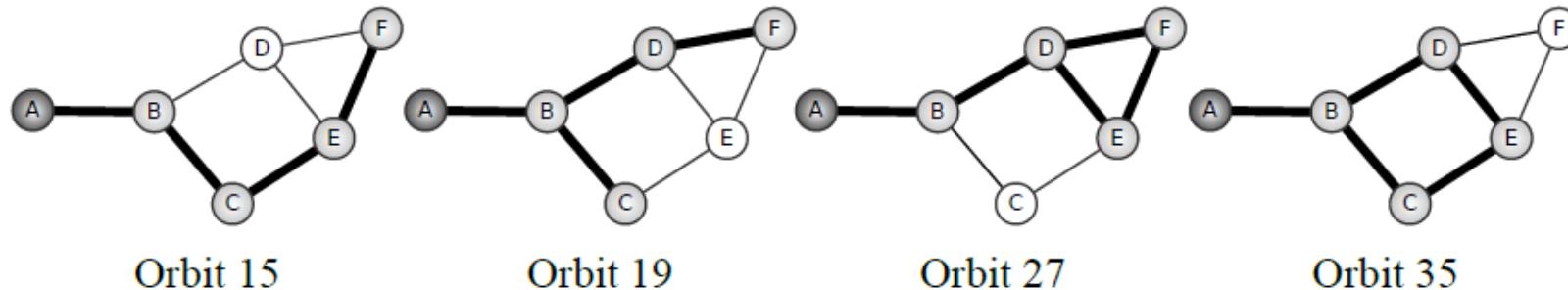
For a node  $u$  of graph  $G$ , the automorphism orbit of  $u$  is  $Orb(u) = \{v \in V(G); v = f(u) \text{ for some } f = Aut(G)\}$ .

The  $Aut$  denotes an automorphism group of  $G$ , i.e., an isomorphism from  $G$  to itself.

# Graphlet Degree Vector (GDV)

- Graphlet degree vector **counts #(graphlets)** that a node touches **at a particular orbit**
- **Considering** graphlets on 2 to 5 nodes we get:
  - **Vector of 73 coordinates** is a signature of a node that describes the topology of node's neighborhood
  - Captures its interconnectivities out to a **distance of 4** hops
- Graphlet degree vector provides a measure of a **node's local network topology**:
  - Comparing vectors of two nodes provides a highly constraining measure of local topological similarity between them

# Graphlet Degree Vector (GDV)



Orbit	0	1	2...3	4	5	6	7...14	15	16...18	19	20...26	27	28...34	35	36...72
GDV(A)	1	2	0...0	3	0	1	0...0	1	0...0	1	0...0	1	0...0	1	0...0

## Graphlet Degree Vector (GDV) of node A:

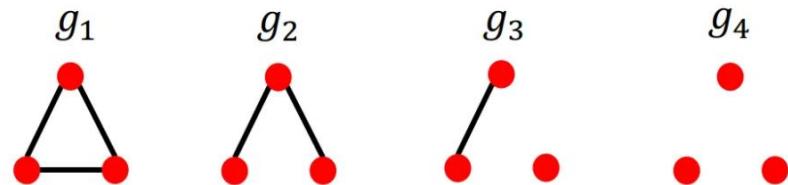
- $i$ -th element of  $\text{GDV}(A)$ : #(graphlets) that touch A at orbit  $i$
- Highlighted are graphlets that touch node A at orbits 15, 19, 27, and 35 from left to right

# Graphlet Kernels

- The idea of graphlet kernel is to count the number of graphlets in a graph like we did in Graphlet Degree Vector. Although the idea of graphlet here is slightly different. Here, graphlets need not to be disconnected and not rooted as well.

# Graphlet Kernels

- Below example shows how to count graphlet for 3 node subgraph: For  $k = 3$ , there are 4 graphlets.

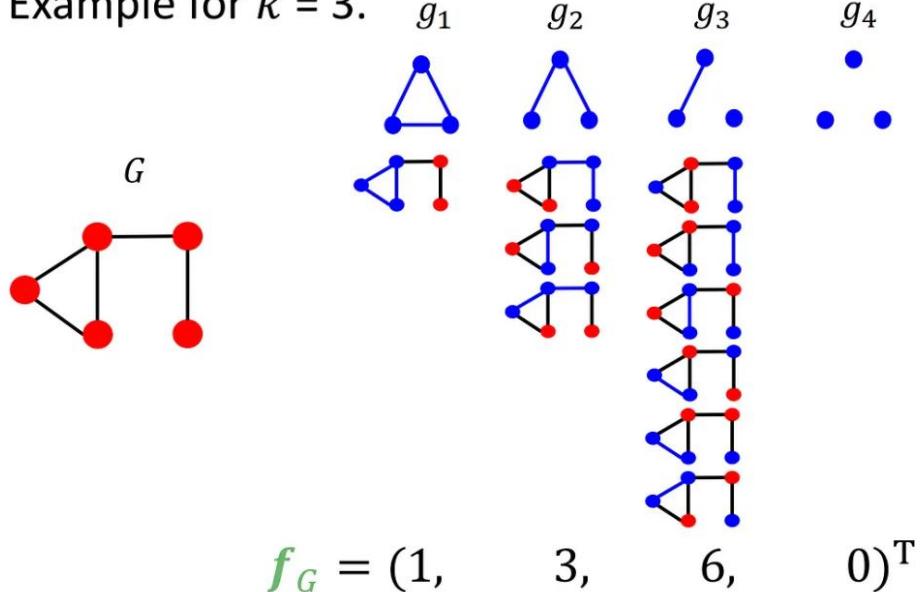


So, how to create graphlet kernel with this approach. Assume you have a graph  $G$ , then the graphlet vector  $G_j$  can be defined as graphlet count vector:

$$(fg)_i = \#(g_i \subseteq G) \text{ for } i = 1, 2, \dots, n_j$$

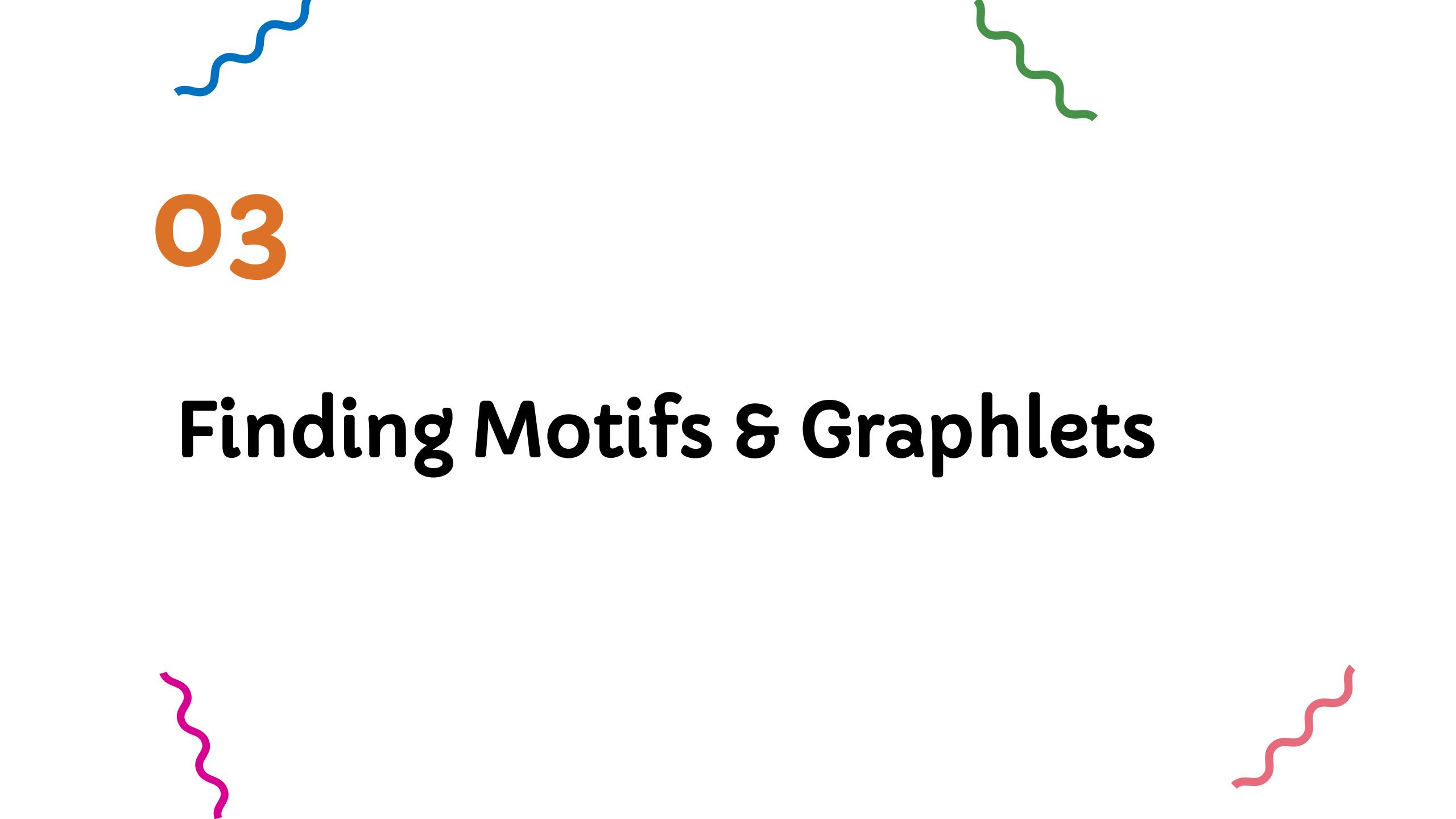
# Example

- Example for  $k = 3$ .



Then, if you have two graphs  $G$  and  $G'$ , you can calculate graphlet kernel with the below formula:

$$K(G, G') = \mathbf{f}_G^T \mathbf{f}_{G'}$$



03

# Finding Motifs & Graphlets

# Algorithms

- Finding size- $k$  motifs/graphlets requires solving two challenges:
  - 1) **Enumerating** all size- $k$  connected subgraphs
  - 2) **Counting** #(occurrences of each subgraph type)
- Just knowing if a certain subgraph exists in a graph is a **hard computational problem!**
  - Subgraph isomorphism is NP-complete
- Computation time grows exponentially as the size of the motif/graphlet increases
  - Feasible motif size is usually small (3 to 8)

# Courting Subgraphs

- Network-centric approaches:
  - 1) **Enumerating** all size- $k$  connected subgraphs
  - 2) **Counting** #(occurrences of each subgraph type)  
via graph **isomorphisms test**

# Exact Subgraph Enumeration (ESU)

- **Two sets:**
  - $V_{\text{subgraph}}$  : currently constructed subgraph (motif)
  - $V_{\text{extension}}$ : set of candidate nodes to extend the motif
- **Idea:** Starting with a node  $v$ , add those nodes  $u$  to  $V_{\text{extension}}$  set that have two properties:
  - $u$ 's node\_id must be larger than that of  $v$
  - $u$  may only be neighbored to some newly added node  $w$  but not of any node already in  $V_{\text{subgraph}}$
- ESU is implemented as a **recursive function**:
  - The running of this function can be displayed as a **tree-like structure of depth  $k$** , called the **ESU-Tree**

# Exact Subgraph Enumeration (ESU)

**Algorithm:** ENUMERATESUBGRAPHS( $G, k$ ) (ESU)

**Input:** A graph  $G = (V, E)$  and an integer  $1 \leq k \leq |V|$ .

**Output:** All size- $k$  subgraphs in  $G$ .

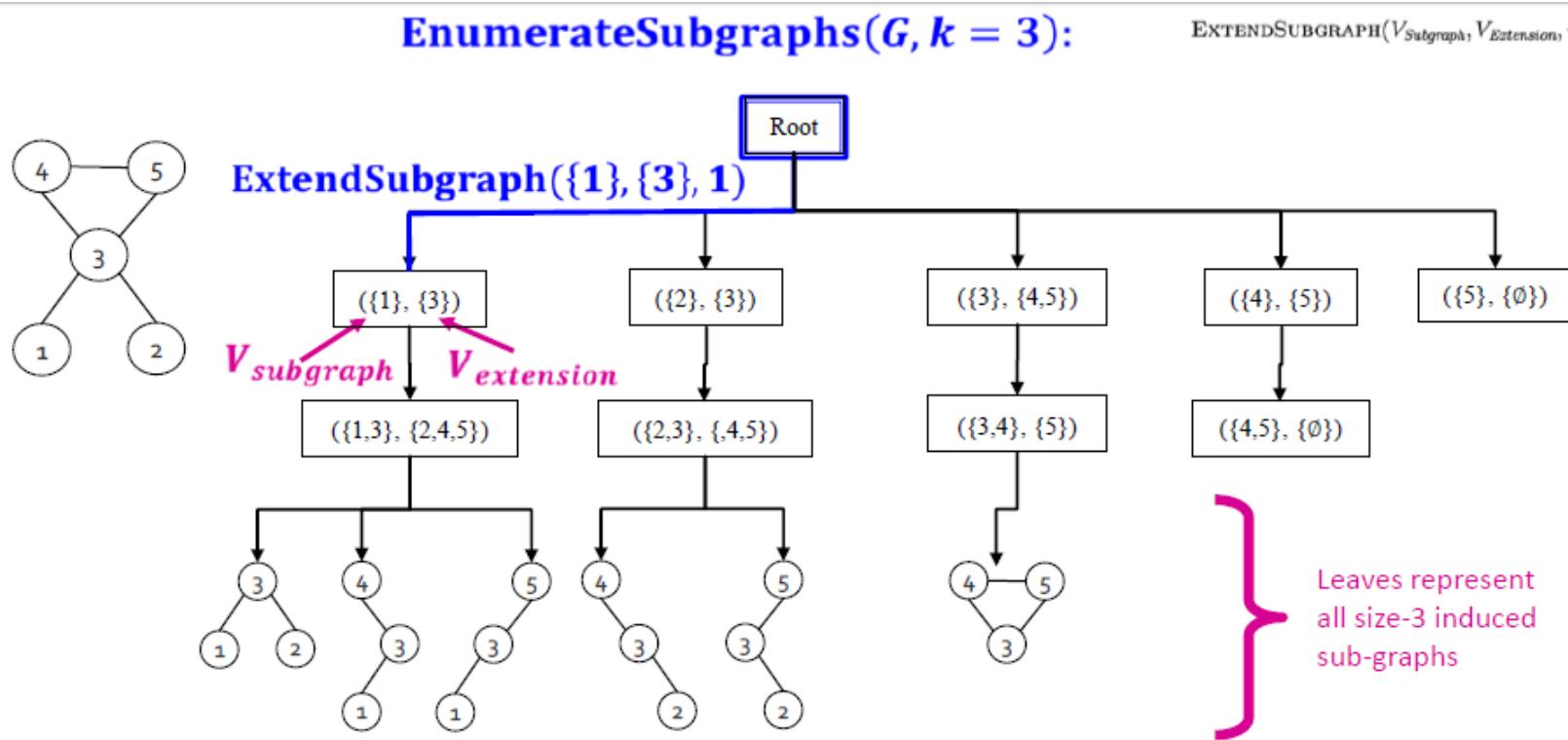
```
01 for each vertex  $v \in V$  do
02    $V_{Extension} \leftarrow \{u \in N(\{v\}) : u > v\}$ 
03   call EXTENDSUBGRAPH( $\{v\}, V_{Extension}, v$ )
04 return
```

EXTENDSUBGRAPH( $V_{Subgraph}, V_{Extension}, v$ )

```
E1 if  $|V_{Subgraph}| = k$  then output  $G[V_{Subgraph}]$  and return
E2 while  $V_{Extension} \neq \emptyset$  do
E3   Remove an arbitrarily chosen vertex  $w$  from  $V_{Extension}$ 
E4    $V'_{Extension} \leftarrow V_{Extension} \cup \{u \in N_{excl}(w, V_{Subgraph}) : u > v\}$ 
E5   call EXTENDSUBGRAPH( $V_{Subgraph} \cup \{w\}, V'_{Extension}, v$ )
E6 return
```

$N_{excl}(w, V_{Subgraph}) = N(w) \setminus (V_{Subgraph} \cup N(V_{Subgraph}))$  is exclusive  
neighborhood: All nodes neighboring  $w$  but not of  $V_{Subgraph}$  or  $N(V_{Subgraph})$

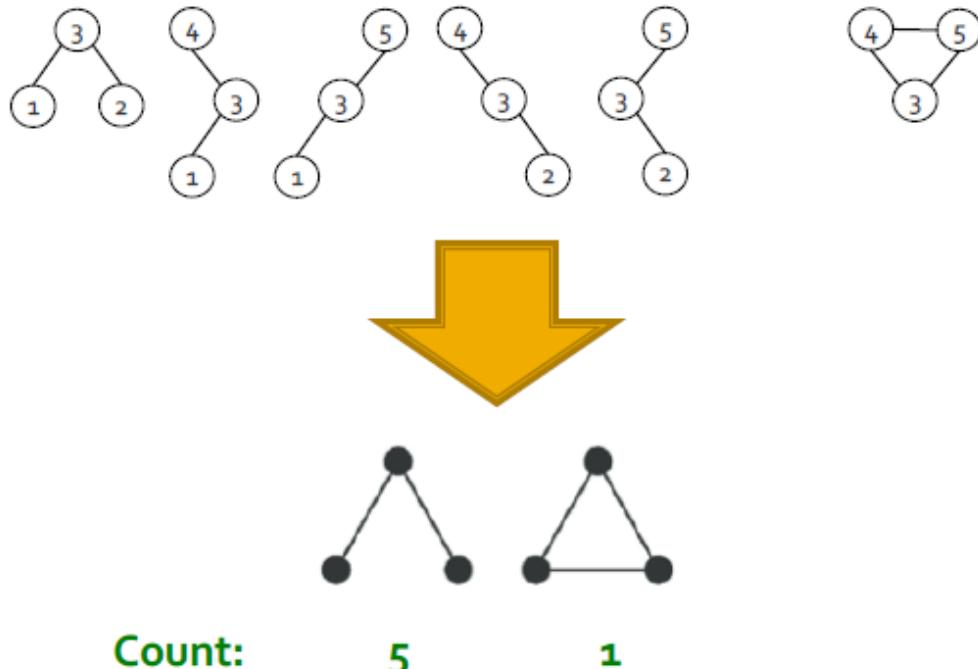
# ESU-Tree Example



- Nodes in the ESU-tree include two adjoining sets:
  - $V_{subgraph}$ : Current subgraph (a set of adjacent nodes)
  - $V_{extension}$  : Nodes adjacent to  $V_{subgraph}$  whose node\_ids are larger than starting node  $v$

# Use ESU-Tree to Count Subgraphs

- So far, we enumerated all size-k subgraphs in the input graph
- Next step: Count the graphs



# Use ESU-Tree to Count Subgraphs

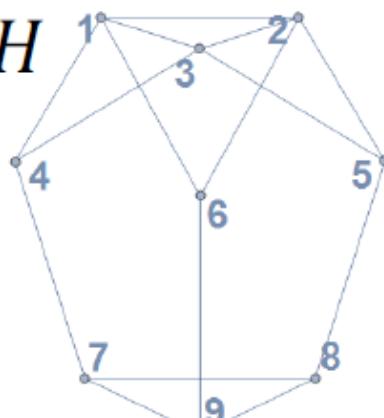
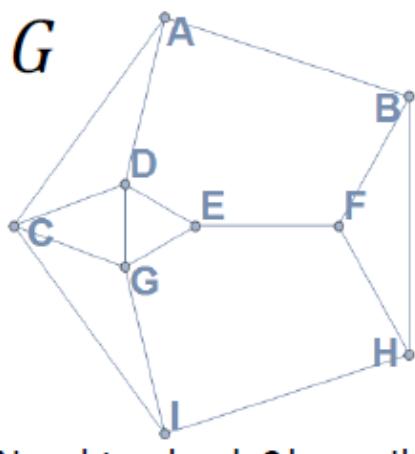
- So far, we enumerated all size-k subgraphs in the input graph
- Next step: Count the graphs

Classify subgraphs placed in the ESU-Tree leaves into non-isomorphic size-k classes:

- Determine which subgraphs in ESU-Tree leaves are topologically equivalent (isomorphic) and group them into subgraph classes accordingly
- Use McKay's nauty algorithm [McKay 1981]

# Graph Isomorphism

- Graphs  $G$  and  $H$  are **isomorphic** if there exists a bijection  $f: V(G) \rightarrow V(H)$  such that:
  - Any two nodes  $u$  and  $v$  of  $G$  are adjacent in  $G$  iff  $f(u)$  and  $f(v)$  are adjacent in  $H$
- Example: Are  $G$  and  $H$  **topologically equivalent**?

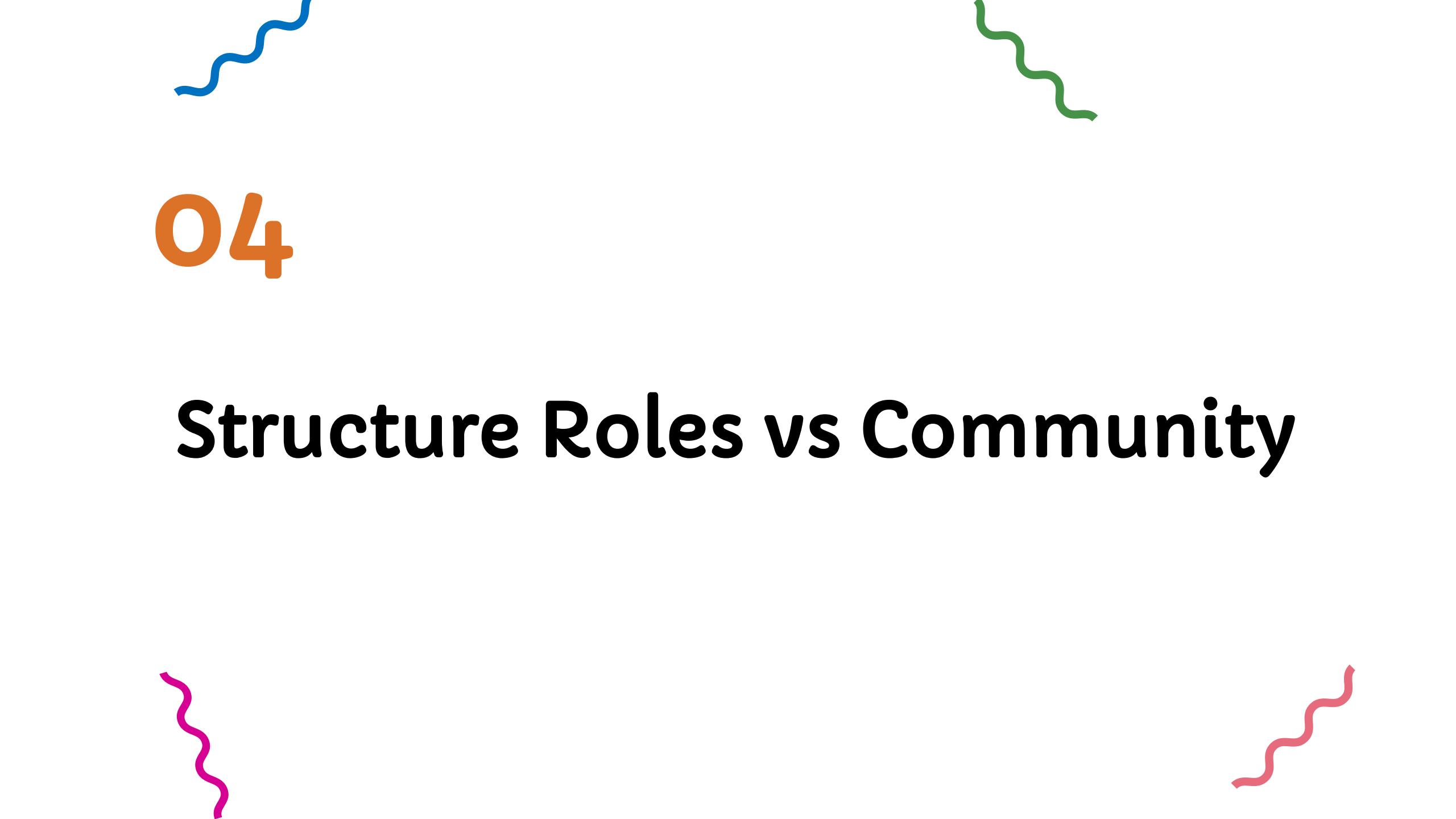


Need to check  $9!$  possible bijections between node sets  
**Hard computational problem!**

A	4
B	7
C	1
D	3
E	5
F	8
G	2
H	9
I	6

$f:$

**$G$  and  $H$  are isomorphic!**

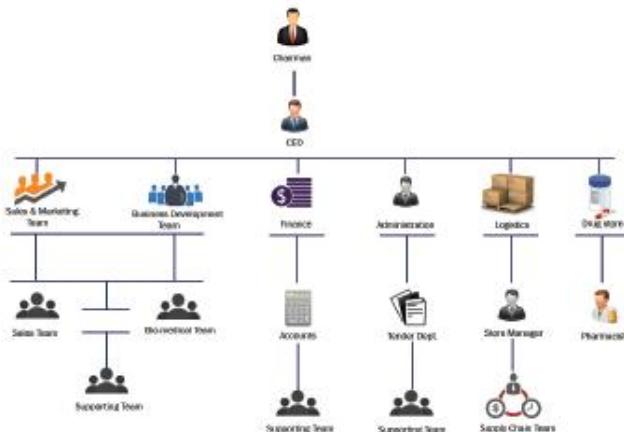
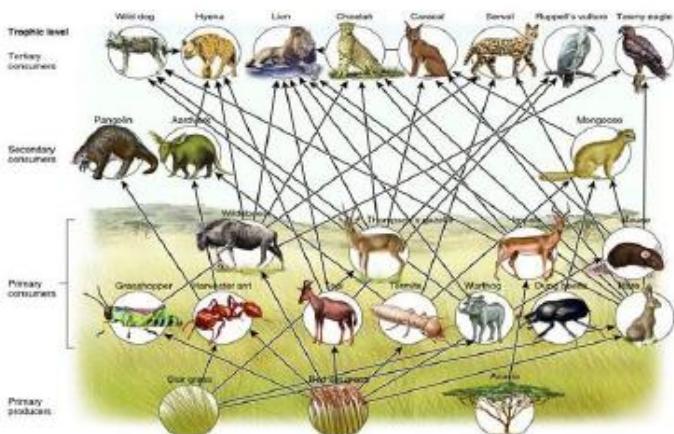


04

# Structure Roles vs Community

# What are Roles?

- Roles are “functions” of nodes in a network:
    - Roles of species in ecosystems
    - Roles of individuals in companies



- Roles are measured by structural behaviors:
    - centers of stars
    - members of cliques
    - peripheral nodes, etc.

# Roles vs Groups

- **Role:** A collection of nodes which have similar positions in a network:
  - Roles are based on the similarity of ties between subsets of nodes
  - Different from **groups/communities**
    - Group is formed based on adjacency, proximity or reachability
    - This is typically adopted in current data mining

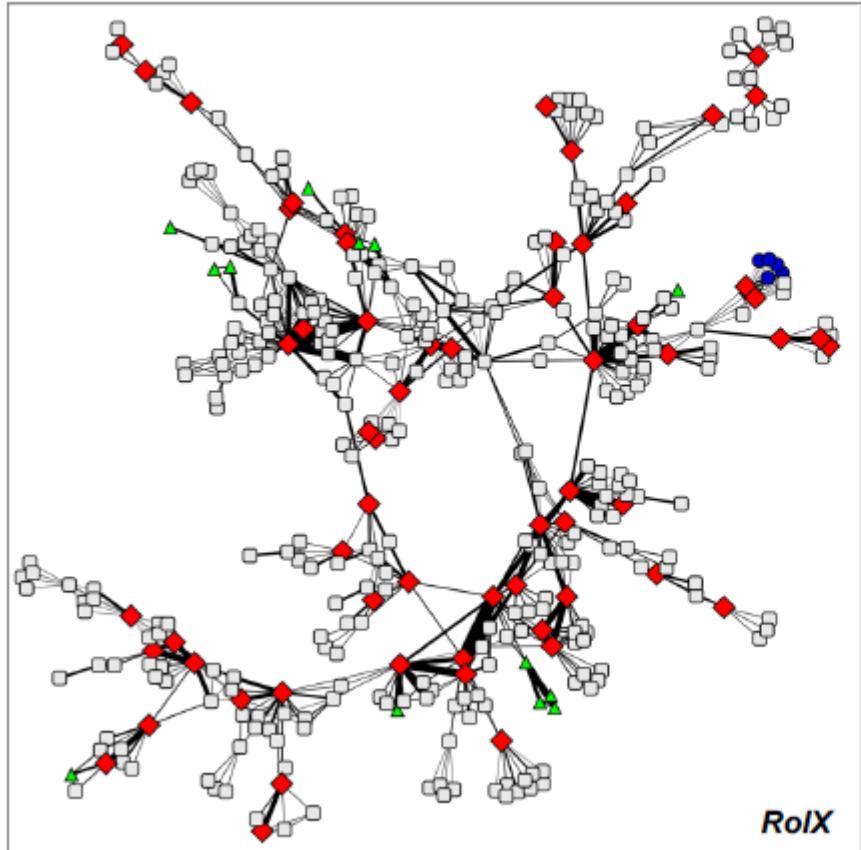
**Nodes with the same role need not be in direct, or even indirect interaction with each other**

# Roles vs Groups

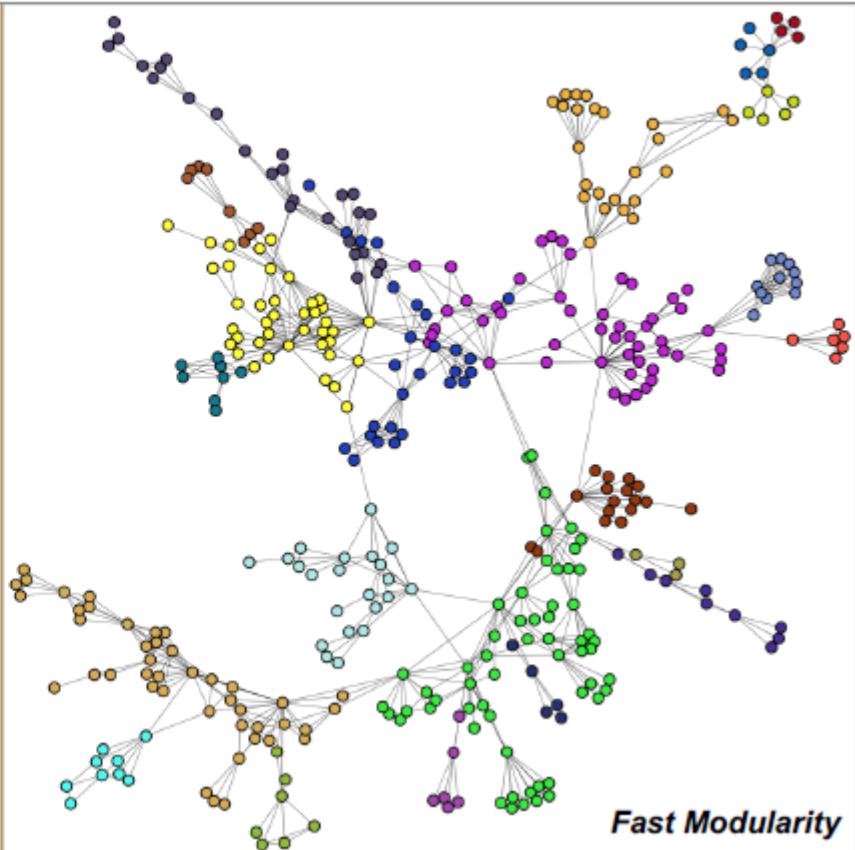
- **Roles:**
  - A group of nodes with similar structural properties
- **Communities/Groups:**
  - A group of nodes that are well-connected to each other
- Roles and communities **are complementary**
- Consider the social network of a CS Dept:
  - **Roles:** Faculty, Staff, Students
  - **Communities:** AI Lab, Info Lab, Theory Lab

# Roles vs Groups

Roles

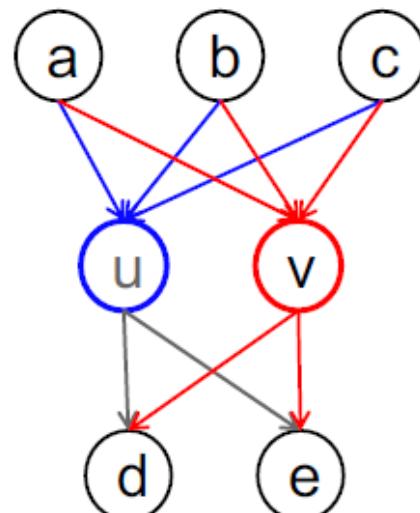


Communities



# Roles: More Formally

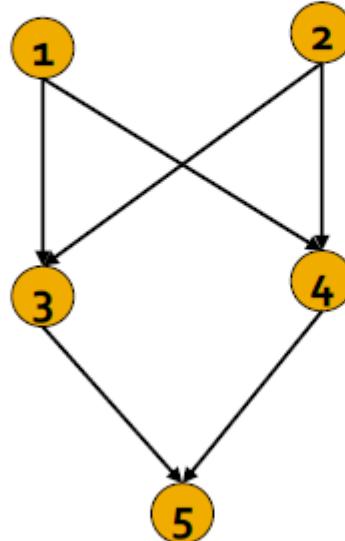
- **Structural equivalence:** Nodes  $u$  and  $v$  are structurally equivalent if they have the same relationships **to all other nodes** [Lorrain & White 1971]
  - Structurally equivalent nodes are likely to be similar in other ways – *i.e.*, friendships in social networks



# Structural Equivalence Example

- Nodes  $u$  and  $v$  are **structurally equivalent**:
  - For all the other nodes  $k$ , node  $u$  has tie to  $k$  iff node  $v$  has tie to  $k$

- Example:

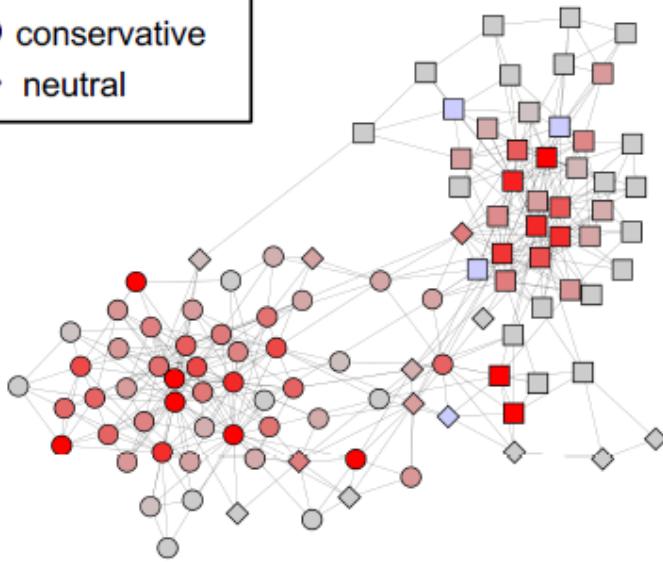
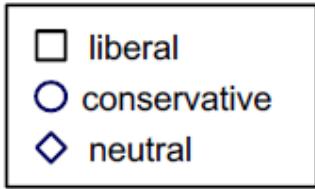


Adjacency matrix

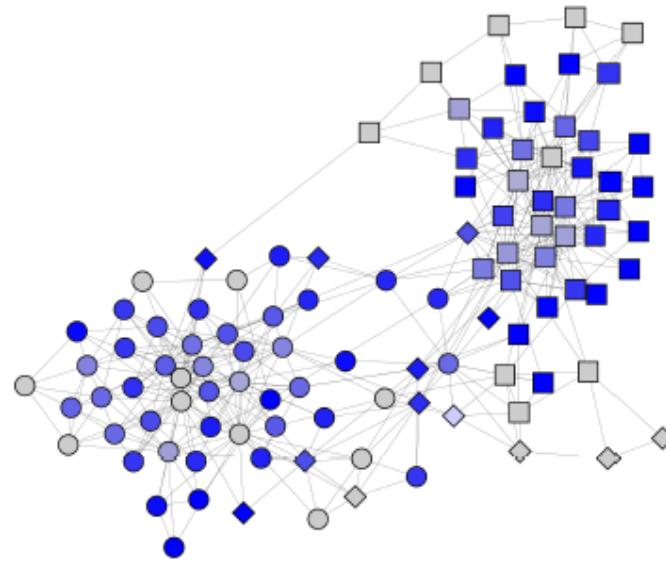
	1	2	3	4	5
1	-	0	1	1	0
2	0	-	1	1	0
3	0	0	-	0	1
4	0	0	0	-	1
5	0	0	0	0	-

- E.g., nodes 3 and 4 are structurally equivalent

# Example



Bright **red** nodes are  
locally **central** nodes



Bright **blue** nodes are  
**peripheral** nodes

Book labels (i.e., liberal, conservative, neutral) were not  
given to role discovery algorithm

# Why Are Roles Importantn?

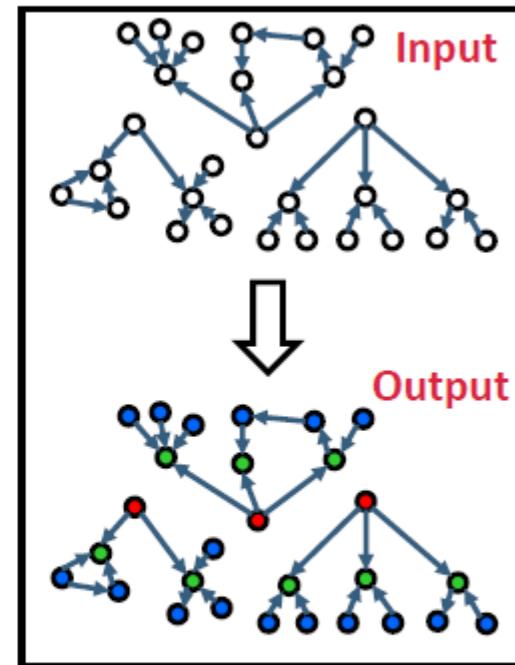
Task	Example Application
<b>Role query</b>	Identify individuals with similar behavior to a known target
<b>Role outliers</b>	Identify individuals with unusual behavior
<b>Role dynamics</b>	Identify unusual changes in behavior
<b>Identity resolution</b>	Identify, de-anonymize, individuals in a new network
<b>Role transfer</b>	Use knowledge of one network to make predictions in another another
<b>Network comparison</b>	Compute similarity of networks, determine compatibility for knowledge transfer

# Structural Role Discovery Method

- **RoIX:** Automatic discovery of nodes' structural roles in networks [Henderson, et al. 2011b]

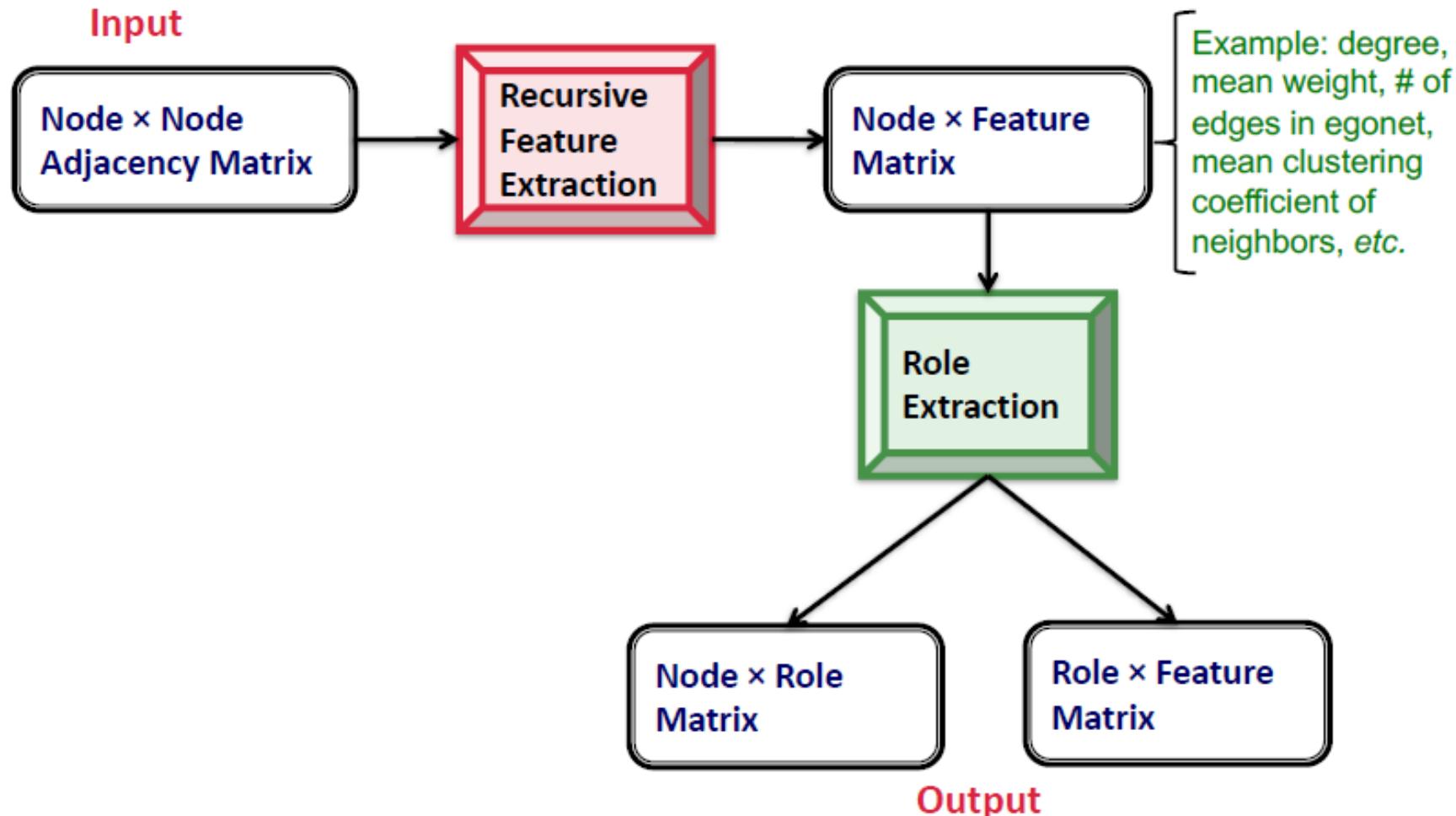
- Unsupervised learning approach
- No prior knowledge required
- Assigns a mixed-membership of roles to each node
- Scales linearly in #(edges)

Role Discovery



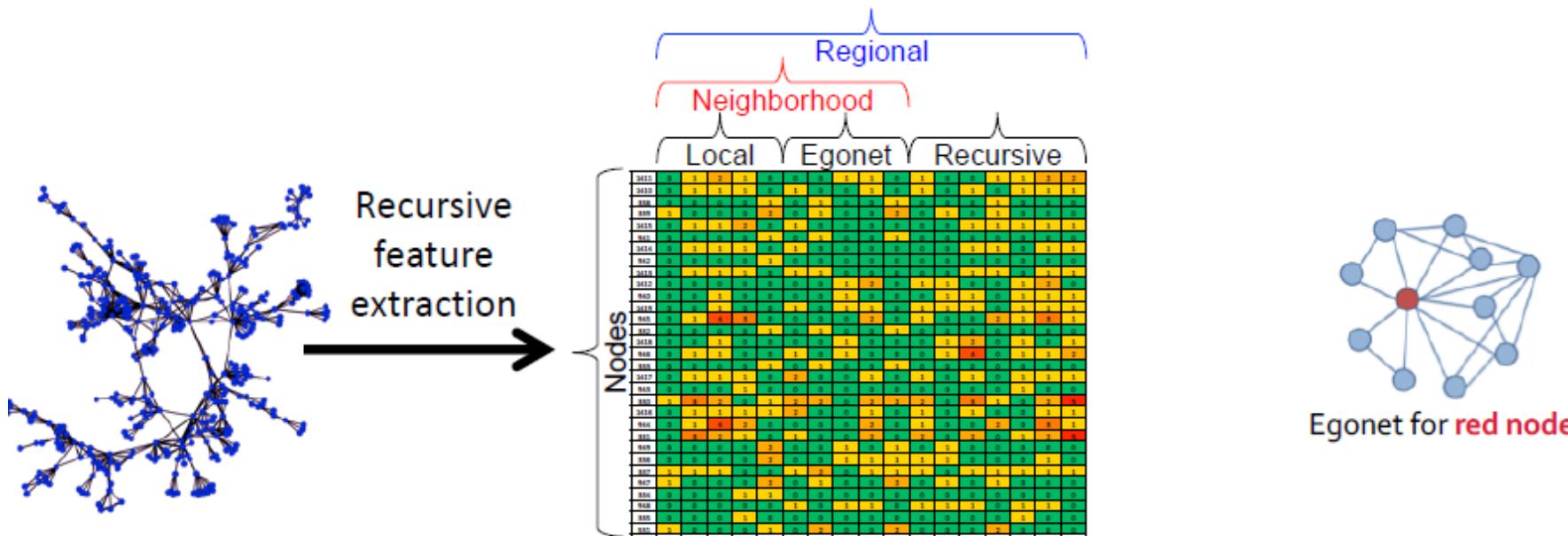
- ✓ Automated discovery
- ✓ Behavioral roles
- ✓ Roles generalize

# RoLX: Approach Overview



# Recursive Feature Extraction

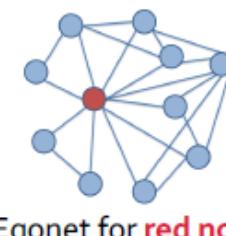
- **Recursive feature extraction** [Henderson, et al. 2011a] turns network connectivity into structural features



- **Neighborhood features:** What is a node's connectivity pattern?
- **Recursive features:** To what **kinds** of nodes is a node connected?

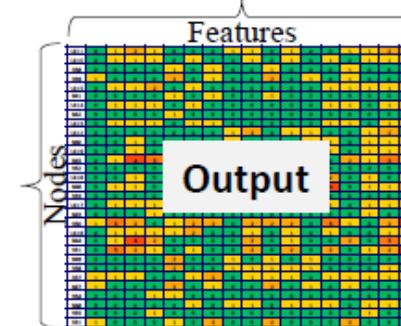
# Recursive Feature Extraction

- **Idea:** Aggregate features of a node and use them to **generate new recursive features**
- **Base set of a node's neighborhood features:**
  - **Local features:** All measures of the node degree:
    - If network is directed, include in- and out-degree, total degree
    - If network is weighted, include weighted feature versions
  - **Egonet features:** Computed on the node's egonet:
    - **Egonet** includes the node, its neighbors, and any edges in the induced subgraph on these nodes
    - #(within-egonet edges),  
#(edges entering/leaving egonet)

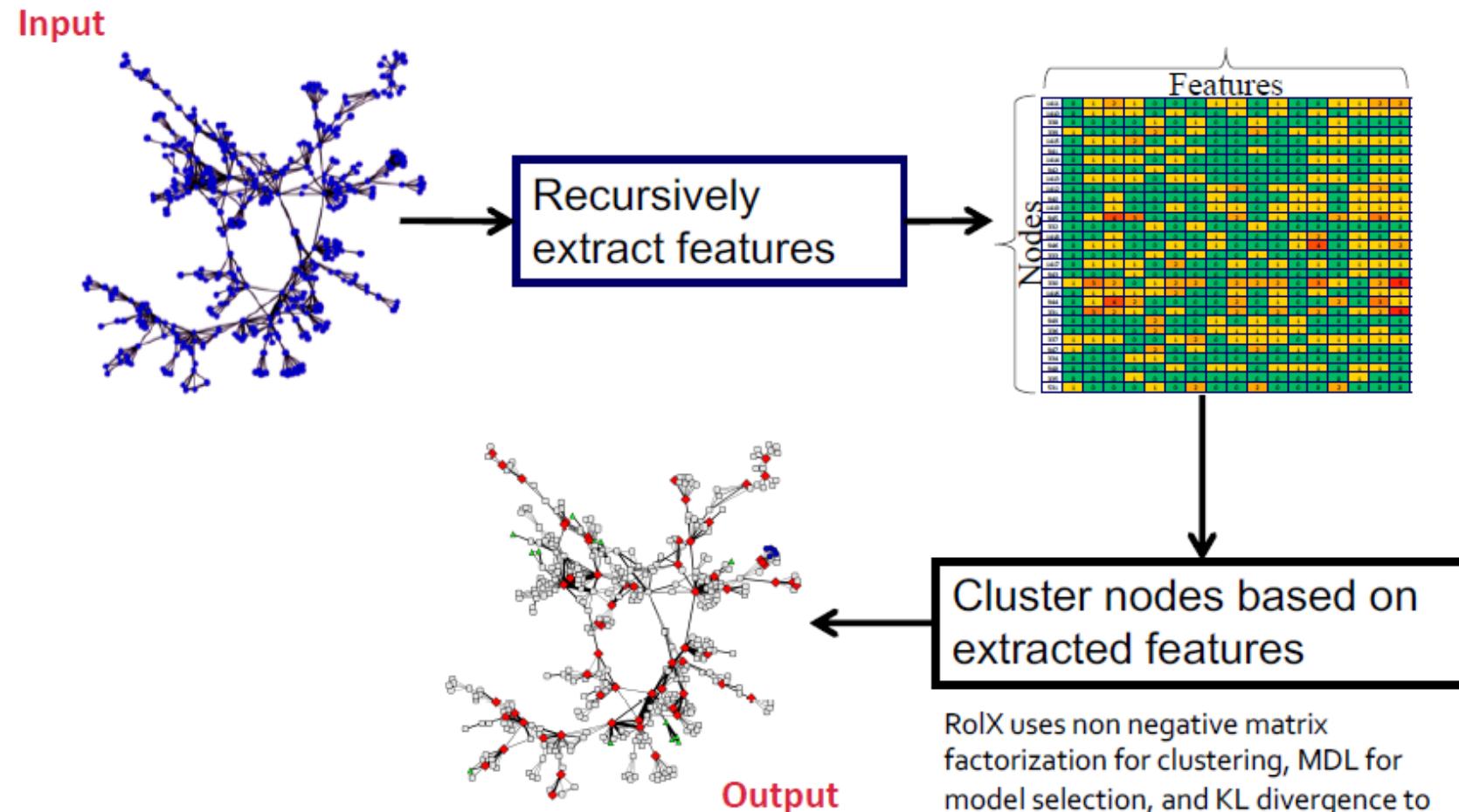


# Recursive Feature Extraction

- Start with the base set of node features
- Use the **set of current node features** to generate **additional features**:
  - Two types of **aggregate functions**: mean and sum
    - E.g., mean value of “unweighted degree” feature between all neighbors of a node
    - Compute means and sums over all current features, including other recursive features
  - Repeat
- The number of possible recursive features **grows exponentially** with each recursive iteration:
  - Reduce the number of features using a **pruning technique**:
    - Look for pairs of features that are highly correlated
    - Eliminate one of the features whenever two features are correlated above a user-defined threshold



# Role Extraction





# Any Question?