

# Graph Representation Learning

Ahmet Onur Durahim

# How the Class Fits Together

## Properties

Small diameter,  
Edge clustering

Scale-free

Strength of weak ties,  
Core-periphery

Densification power law,  
Shrinking diameters

Complex Graph Structure

Information virality,  
Memetracking

## Models

Small-world model,  
Erdős-Renyi model

Preferential attachment,  
Copying model

Kronecker Graphs

Microscopic model of  
evolving networks

Graph Neural Networks

Independent cascade model,  
Game theoretic model

## Algorithms

Decentralized search

PageRank, Hubs and  
authorities

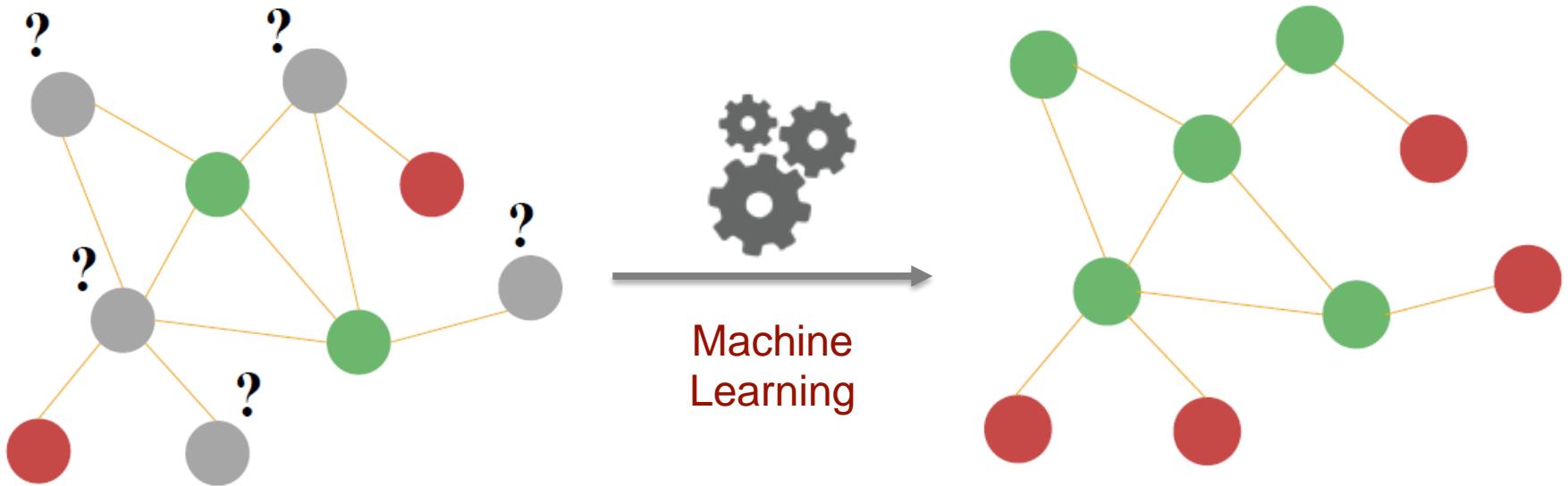
Community detection:  
Girvan-Newman, Modularity

Link prediction,  
Supervised random walks

Node Classification  
Graph Representation Learning

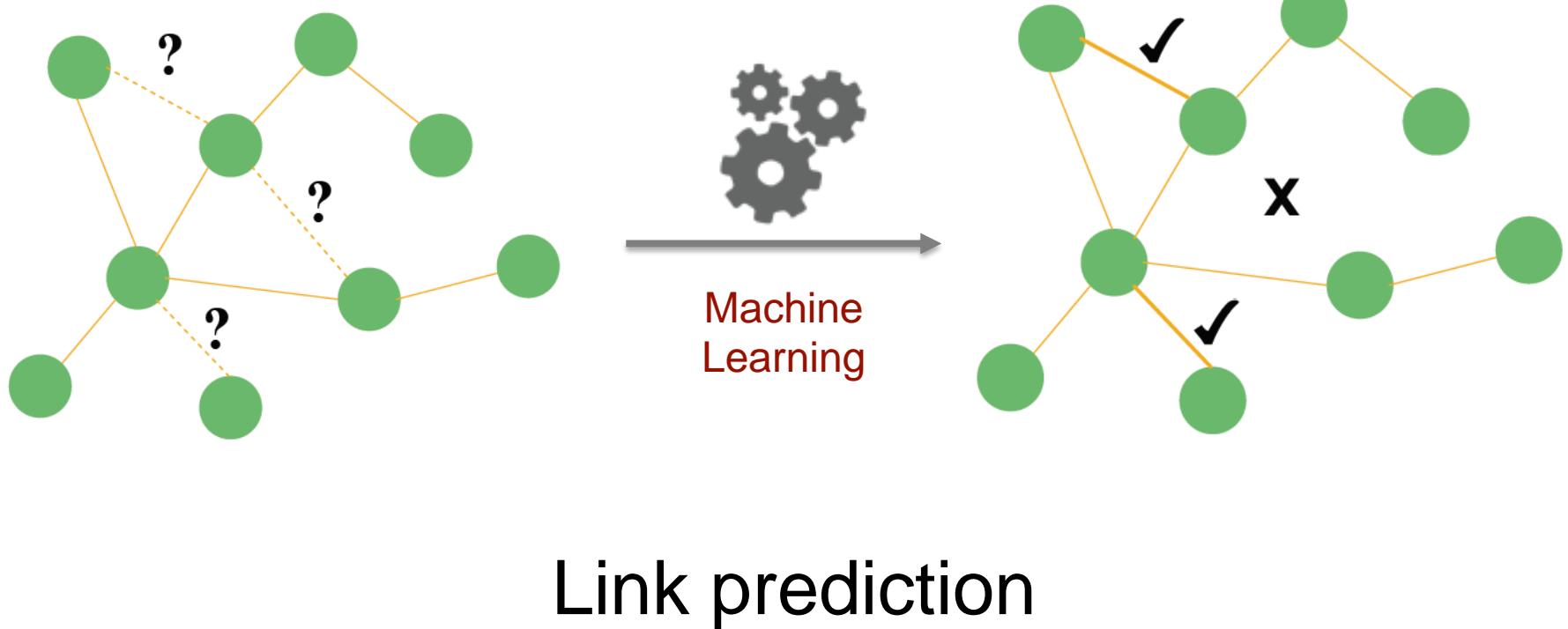
Influence maximization,  
Outbreak detection, LIM

# Machine Learning in Networks



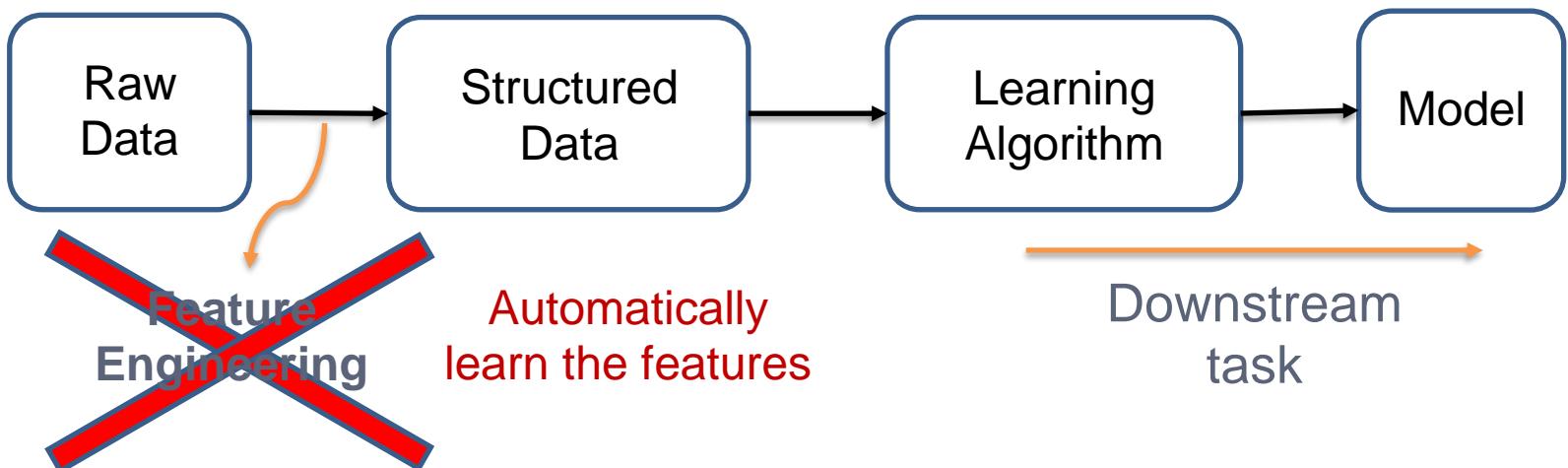
Node classification

# Machine Learning in Networks



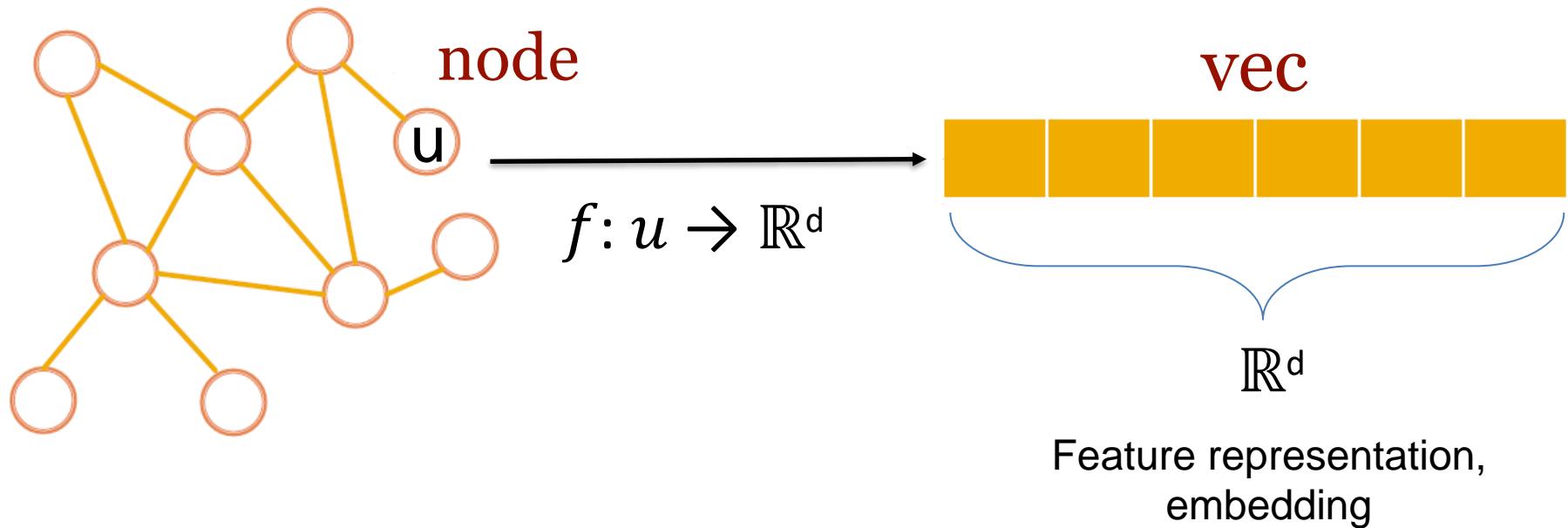
# Machine Learning Lifecycle

- *(Supervised)* Machine Learning Lifecycle requires feature engineering **every single time!**



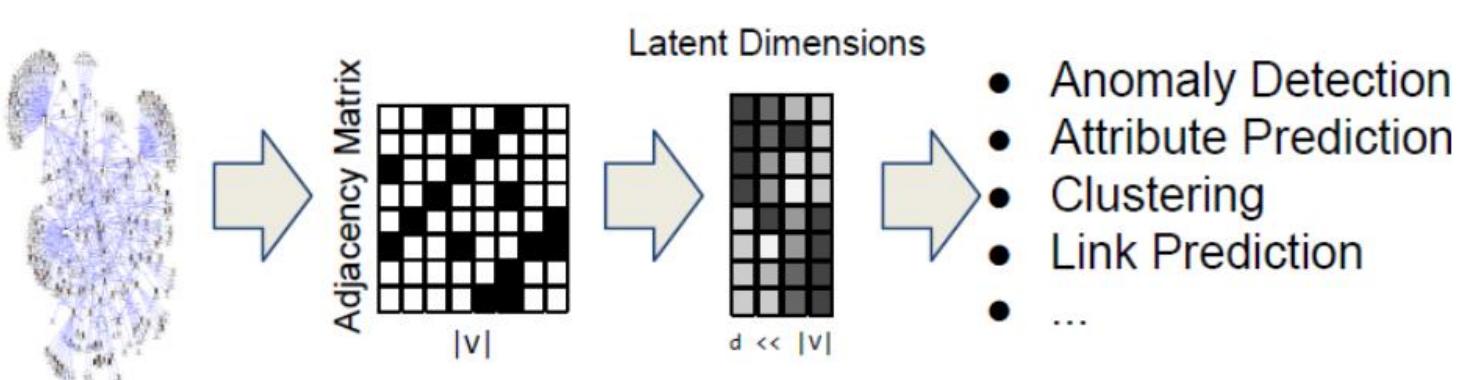
# Feature Learning in Graphs

- **Goal:** Efficient *task-independent feature learning* for machine learning with graphs!



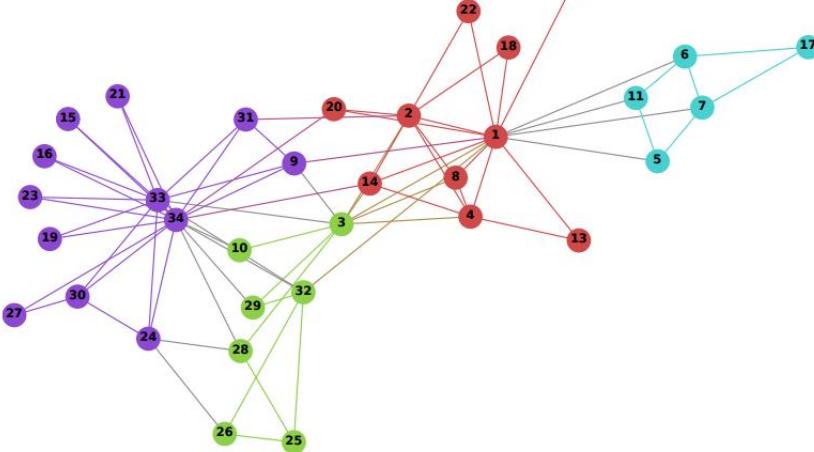
# Why network embedding?

- **Task:** map each node in a network into a low-dimensional space
  - Distributed representations for nodes
  - Similarity of embeddings between nodes indicates their network similarity
  - Encode network information and generate node representation

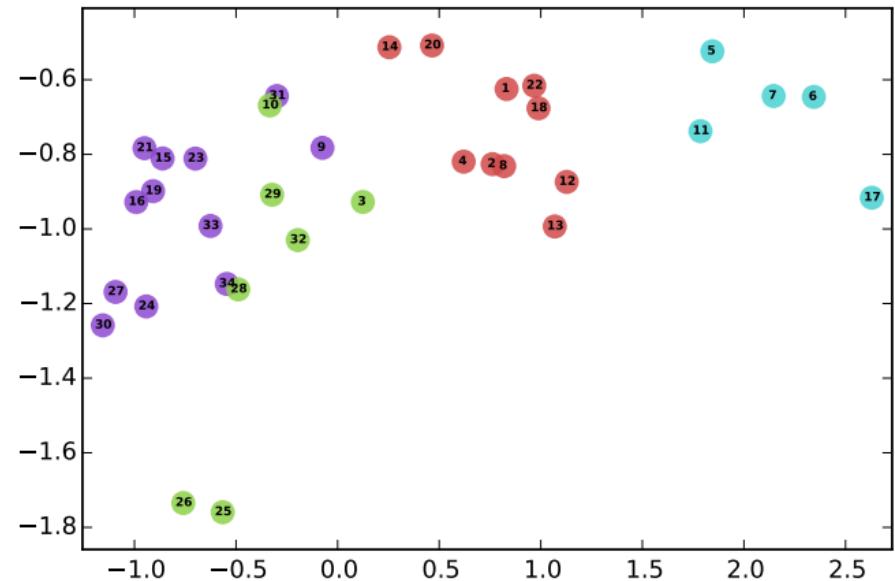


# Node Embeddings

- 2D embeddings of nodes of the Zachary's Karate Club network:



Input: Karate Graph

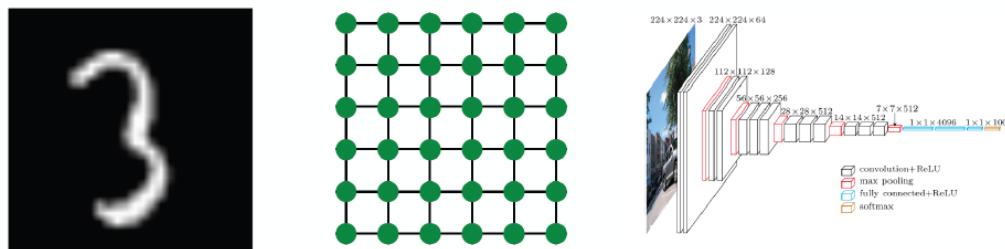


Output: Representation  
**output of DeepWalk method**

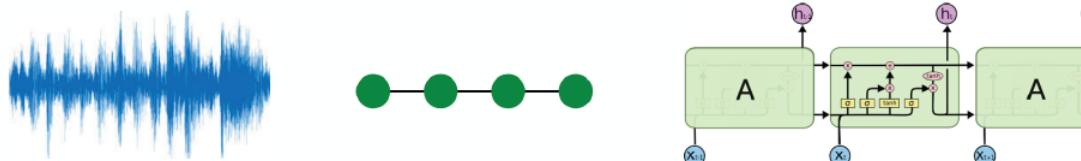
**Vertex colors represent a modularity-based clustering of the input graph.**

# Why Is It Hard?

- Modern deep learning toolbox is designed for simple sequences or grids
  - CNNs for fixed-size images/grids....

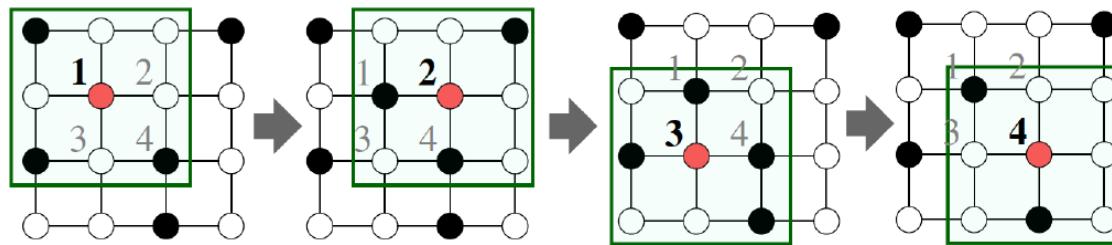


- RNNs (or word2vec) for text/sequences...



# Why Is It Hard?

- But networks are far more complex!
  - Complex topographical structure
    - i.e., no spatial locality like grids



- No fixed node ordering or reference point
  - i.e., the isomorphism problem
- Often dynamic and have multimodal features

# Embedding Network Nodes

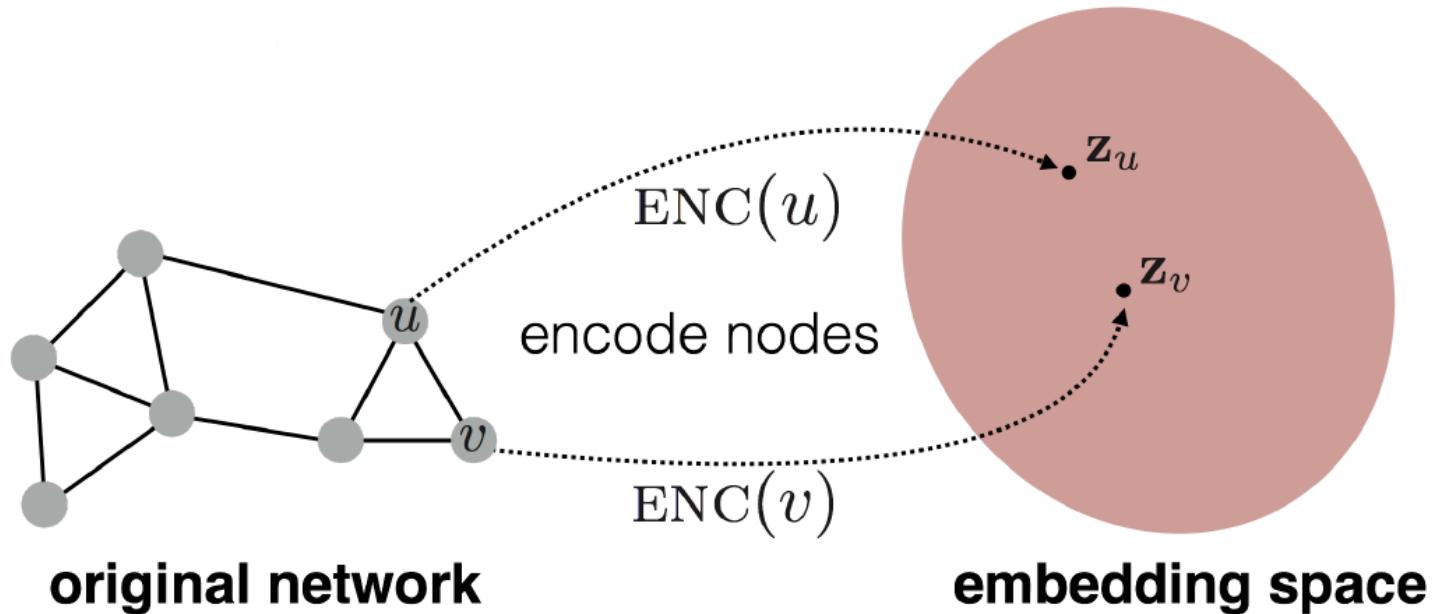
<http://web.stanford.edu/class/cs224w/>

# Setup

- ***Assume we have a graph  $G$ :***
  - $V$  is the vertex set
  - $A$  is the adjacency matrix (assume binary)
  - ***No node features or extra information is used!***

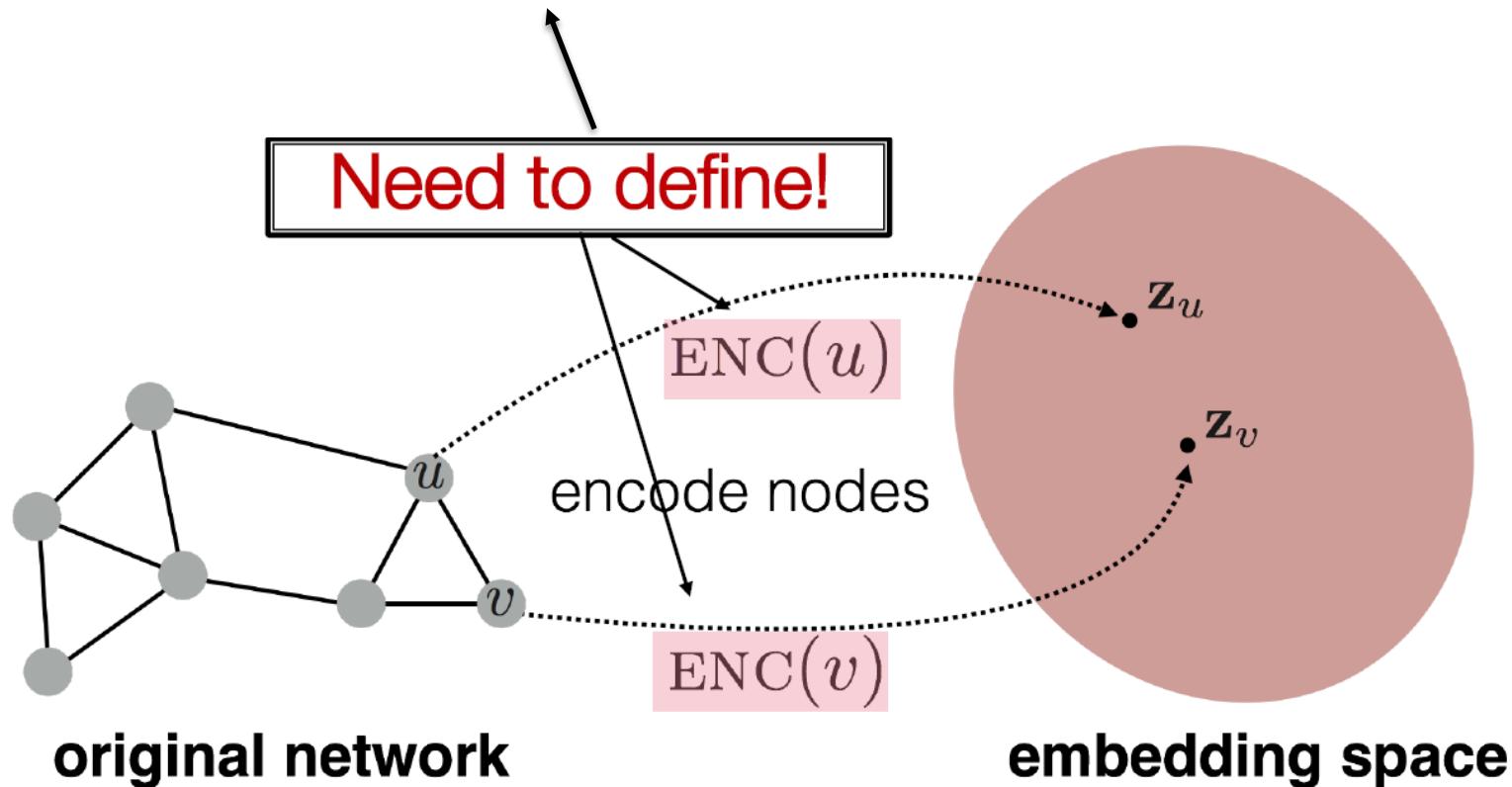
# Embedding Nodes

- Goal is to encode nodes so that similarity in the embedding space (e.g., dot product) approximates similarity in the original network



# Embedding Nodes

- Goal:  $\text{similarity}(u, v)$   
in the original network  $\approx \mathbf{z}_v^\top \mathbf{z}_u$   
Similarity of the embedding



# Learning Node Embeddings

1. **Define an encoder**
    - i.e., a mapping from nodes to embeddings
  2. **Define a node similarity function**
    - i.e., a measure of similarity in the original network
  3. **Decoder**: maps from embeddings to the similarity score
  4. **Optimize the parameters of the encoder so that:**

$$\text{similarity}(u, v) \approx \mathbf{z}_v^\top \mathbf{z}_u$$

in the original network
Similarity of the embedding

# Two Key Components

- **Encoder:** maps each node to a low-dimensional vector

$$\text{ENC}(v) = \mathbf{z}_v$$

node in the input graph

d-dimensional embedding

- **Similarity function:** specifies how the relationships in vector space map to the relationships in the original network

$$\text{similarity}(u, v) \approx \mathbf{z}_v^\top \mathbf{z}_u$$

Similarity of u and v in the original network

dot product between node embeddings

# Shallow Encoding

- *Simplest encoding approach: encoder is just an embedding-lookup*

$$\text{ENC}(v) = \mathbf{Z}\mathbf{v}$$

$$\mathbf{Z} \in \mathbb{R}^{d \times |\mathcal{V}|}$$

**Matrix:**

⇒ each column is a node embedding that is to be learned / optimized

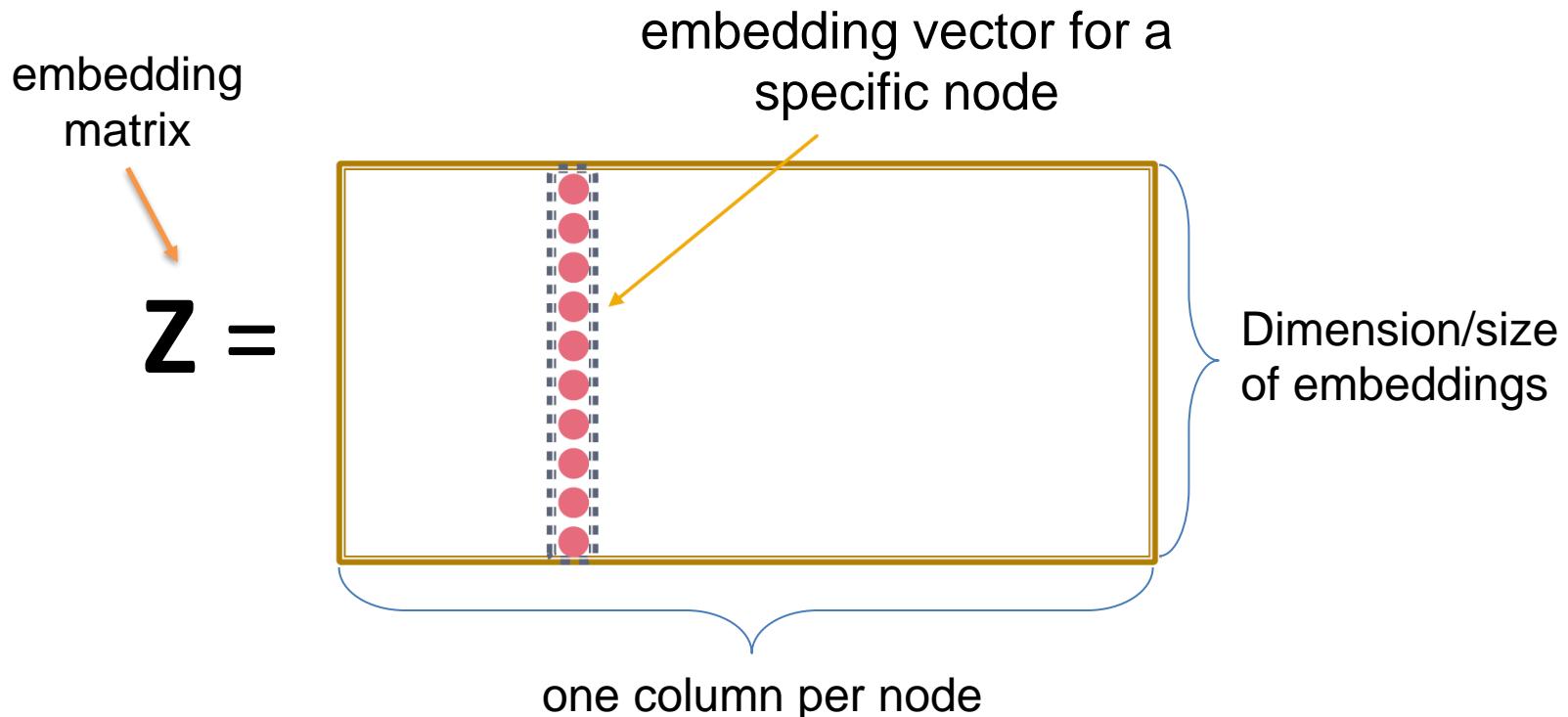
$$\mathbf{v} \in \mathbb{I}^{|\mathcal{V}|}$$

**Indicator vector:**

⇒ all zeroes except a one in column indicating node v

# Shallow Encoding

- *Simplest encoding approach: encoder is just an embedding-lookup*



# Shallow Encoding

- *Simplest encoding approach: encoder is just an embedding-lookup*

*Each node is assigned to a unique embedding vector*

*(i.e., directly optimize the embedding of each node)*

*Many methods: DeepWalk, LINE, node2vec*

- *Decoder: based on node similarity.*
- *Objective: maximize  $\mathbf{z}_v^\top \mathbf{z}_u$  for node pairs  $(u, v)$  that are similar*

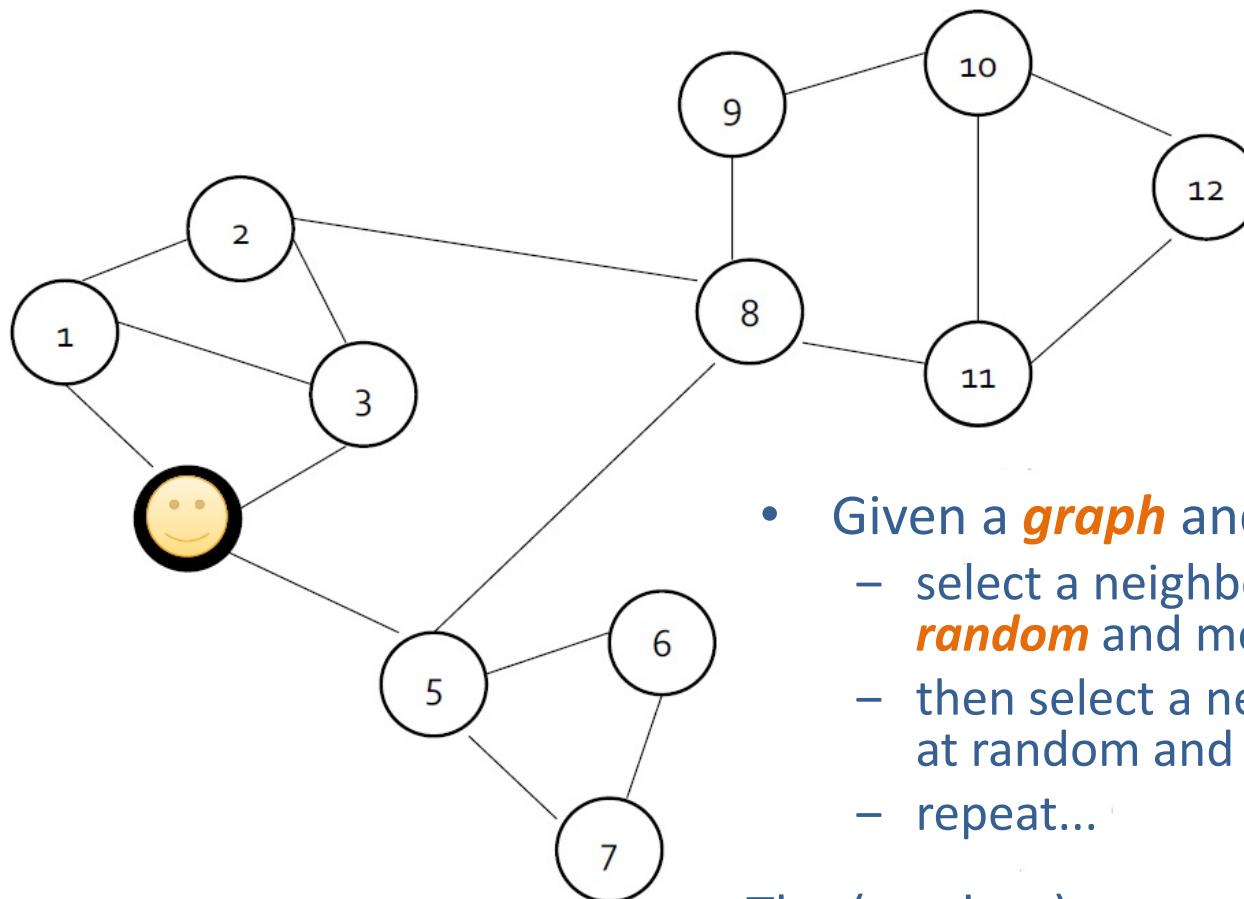
# How to Define Node Similarity?

- Key choice of methods is
  - the way they define ***node similarity***
  - should two nodes have similar embeddings if they
    - are connected?
    - share neighbors?
    - have similar “structural roles”?
    - ...?
- **Now:** discuss how to optimize embeddings for node similarity measure that uses random walks

# Random Walk Approaches to Learning Node Embeddings

Perozzi et al. 2014. [DeepWalk: Online Learning of Social Representations](#)  
Grover et al. 2016. [node2vec: Scalable Feature Learning for Networks](#)

# Random Walk



- Given a **graph** and a **starting point**
  - select a neighbor of starting point at **random** and move to this neighbor
  - then select a neighbor of this point at random and move to it
  - repeat...

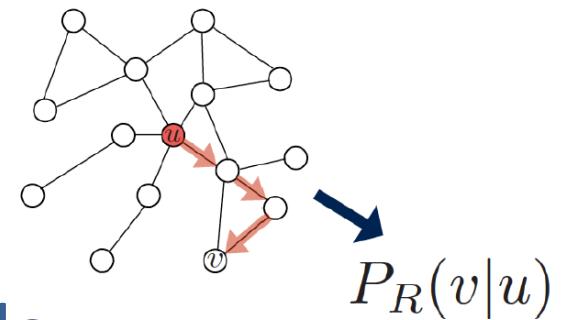
The (random) sequence of points selected this way is a **random walk on the graph**

# Random-Walk Embeddings

$$\mathbf{z}_u^\top \mathbf{z}_v \approx \text{probability that } u \text{ and } v \text{ co-occur on a random walk over the network}$$

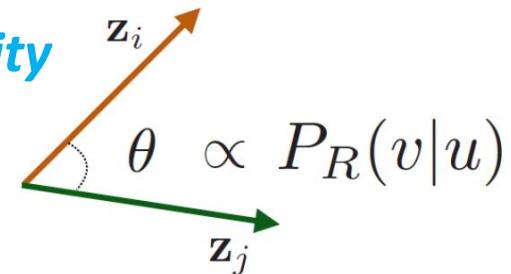
# Random-Walk Embeddings

- Estimate probability of visiting node  $v$  on a random walk starting from node  $u$  using some random walk strategy  $R$



- Optimize embeddings to encode these random walk statistics

- Similarity encodes **random walk similarity**
    - similarity: dot product =  $\cos(\theta)$



# Why Random Walks?

- **Expressivity:** Flexible stochastic definition of node similarity that incorporates both *local* and *higher-order neighborhood information*
- **Efficiency:** do *not need* to consider *all node pairs* when training
  - need to consider pairs that co-occur on random walks

# Unsupervised Feature Learning

- ***Intuition:*** Find embedding of nodes to d-dimensions that preserves similarity
- ***Idea:*** Learn node embedding such that nearby nodes are close together in the network
- Given a node  $u$ , ***how do we define nearby nodes?***
  - $N_R(u)$ : neighbourhood of  $u$  obtained by some strategy  $R$

# Feature Learning as Optimization

- **Goal:** Given  $G = (V, E)$ , learn a mapping  $z: u \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^d$
- Log-likelihood objective:

$$\max_z \sum_{u \in V} \log P(N_R(u) | z_u)$$

- where  $N_R(u)$  is neighborhood of node  $u$  by strategy  $R$
- Given node  $u$ , learn feature representations that are predictive of the nodes in its neighborhood  $N_R(u)$

# Random Walk Optimization

- Run short *fixed-length random walks* starting from each node on the graph using some strategy  $R$
- For each node  $u$  collect  $N_R(u)$ , the multiset\* of nodes visited on random walks starting from  $u$
- Optimize embeddings according to: Given node  $u$ , predict its neighbors  $N_R(u)$

$$\max_z \sum_{u \in V} \log P(N_R(u) | z_u)$$

\* $N_R(u)$  can have repeat elements since nodes can be visited multiple times on random walks

# Random Walk Optimization

$$\mathcal{L} = \sum_{u \in V} \sum_{v \in N_R(u)} -\log(P(v|\mathbf{z}_u))$$

- **Intuition:** Optimize embeddings to maximize likelihood of random walk co-occurrences
- **Parameterize  $P(v|\mathbf{z}_u)$  using softmax**

$$P(v|\mathbf{z}_u) = \frac{\exp(\mathbf{z}_u^\top \mathbf{z}_v)}{\sum_{n \in V} \exp(\mathbf{z}_u^\top \mathbf{z}_n)}$$

**Why softmax?**

We want node  $v$  to be most similar to node  $u$  (out of all nodes  $n$ ).

**Intuition:**  $\sum_i \exp(x_i) \approx \max_i \exp(x_i)$

# Random Walk Optimization

- Putting it all together:

$$\mathcal{L} = \sum_{u \in V} \left( \sum_{v \in N_R(u)} \exp(\mathbf{z}_u^\top \mathbf{z}_v) \right) - \log \left( \frac{\exp(\mathbf{z}_u^\top \mathbf{z}_v)}{\sum_{n \in V} \exp(\mathbf{z}_u^\top \mathbf{z}_n)} \right)$$

sum over all nodes  $u$

sum over nodes  $v$  seen on random walks starting from  $u$

predicted probability of  $u$  and  $v$  co-occurring on random walk

- Optimizing random walk embeddings = Finding embeddings  $\mathbf{z}_u$  that minimize  $L$

# Random Walk Optimization

- **But doing this naively is too expensive!!**

$$\mathcal{L} = \sum_{u \in V} \sum_{v \in N_R(u)} -\log \left( \frac{\exp(\mathbf{z}_u^\top \mathbf{z}_v)}{\sum_{n \in V} \exp(\mathbf{z}_u^\top \mathbf{z}_n)} \right)$$



Nested sum over nodes gives  
 $O(|V|^2)$  complexity!

# Random Walk Optimization

- But doing this naively is too expensive!!

$$\mathcal{L} = \sum_{u \in V} \sum_{v \in N_R(u)} -\log \left( \frac{\exp(\mathbf{z}_u^\top \mathbf{z}_v)}{\sum_{n \in V} \exp(\mathbf{z}_u^\top \mathbf{z}_n)} \right)$$

The normalization term from the softmax is the culprit  
*Can we approximate it?*

# Negative Sampling

- **Solution:** Negative sampling

$$\log \left( \frac{\exp(\mathbf{z}_u^\top \mathbf{z}_v)}{\sum_{n \in V} \exp(\mathbf{z}_u^\top \mathbf{z}_n)} \right)$$

$$\approx \log(\sigma(\mathbf{z}_u^\top \mathbf{z}_v)) - \sum_{i=1}^k \log(\sigma(\mathbf{z}_u^\top \mathbf{z}_{n_i})), n_i \sim P_V$$

sigmoid function  
(makes each term a “probability”  
between 0 and 1)

random distribution over  
all nodes

Instead of normalizing w.r.t. all nodes  
normalize against  $k$  random “negative samples”  $n_i$

## Why is the approximation valid?

Technically, this is a different objective. But Negative Sampling is a form of Noise Contrastive Estimation (NCE) which approx. maximizes the log probability of softmax.

New formulation corresponds to using a logistic regression (sigmoid func.) to distinguish the target node  $v$  from nodes  $n_R$  sampled from background distribution  $P_V$ .

More at <https://arxiv.org/pdf/1402.3722.pdf>

# Negative Sampling

$$\log \left( \frac{\exp(\mathbf{z}_u^\top \mathbf{z}_v)}{\sum_{n \in V} \exp(\mathbf{z}_u^\top \mathbf{z}_n)} \right)$$

random distribution  
over all nodes

$$\approx \log(\sigma(\mathbf{z}_u^\top \mathbf{z}_v)) - \sum_{i=1}^k \log(\sigma(\mathbf{z}_u^\top \mathbf{z}_{n_i})), n_i \sim P_V$$

**Sample  $k$  negative nodes proportional to degree**

Two considerations for  $k$  (# negative samples)

1. Higher  $k$  gives more **robust estimates**
2. Higher  $k$  corresponds to **higher bias on negative events**

In practice  $k = 5-20$

# Random Walk Optimization: Stepping Back

- Run short *fixed-length random walks* starting from each node on the graph using some strategy  $R$
- For each node  $u$  collect  $N_R(u)$ , the multiset of nodes visited on random walks starting from  $u$
- Optimize embeddings using Stochastic Gradient Descent

$$\mathcal{L} = \sum_{u \in V} \sum_{v \in N_R(u)} -\log(P(v|\mathbf{z}_u))$$

We can efficiently approximate this using negative sampling!

# How should we randomly walk?

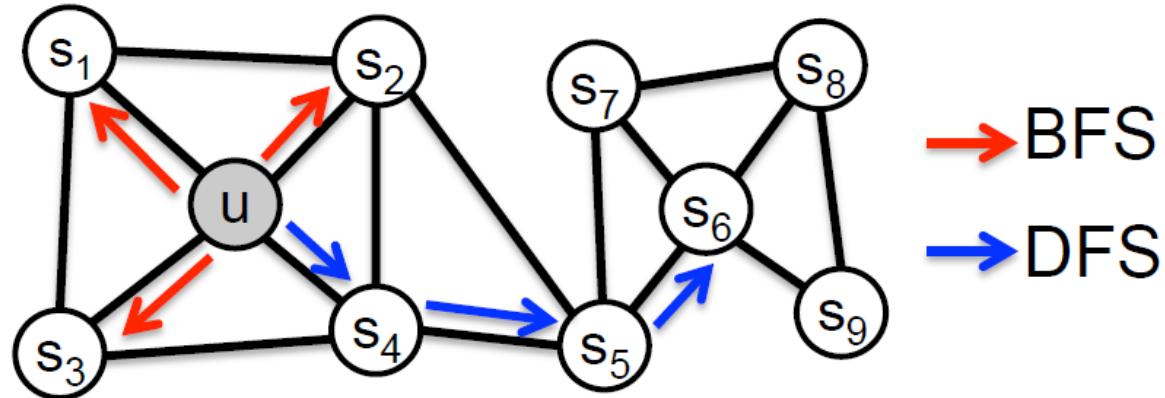
- **Done:** How to optimize embeddings given random walk statistics
- **What strategies should we use to run these random walks?**
  - *Simplest idea:* run fixed-length, unbiased random walks starting from each node
    - DeepWalk from Perozzi et al., 2013
    - Problem: such notion of similarity is *too constrained*
    - *How can we generalize this?*

# Overview of node2vec

- **Goal:** Embed nodes with similar network neighborhoods close in the feature space
  - framed as a maximum likelihood optimization problem
    - independent to the downstream prediction task
- **Key observation:** Flexible notion of network neighborhood  $N_R(u)$  of node  $u$  leads to rich node embeddings
  - Develop biased 2<sup>nd</sup> order random walk  $R$  to generate network neighborhood  $N_R(u)$  of node  $u$

# node2vec: Biased Walks

- **Idea:** use flexible, biased random walks that can trade off between **local** and **global** views of the network
  - [Grover and Leskovec, 2016](#)

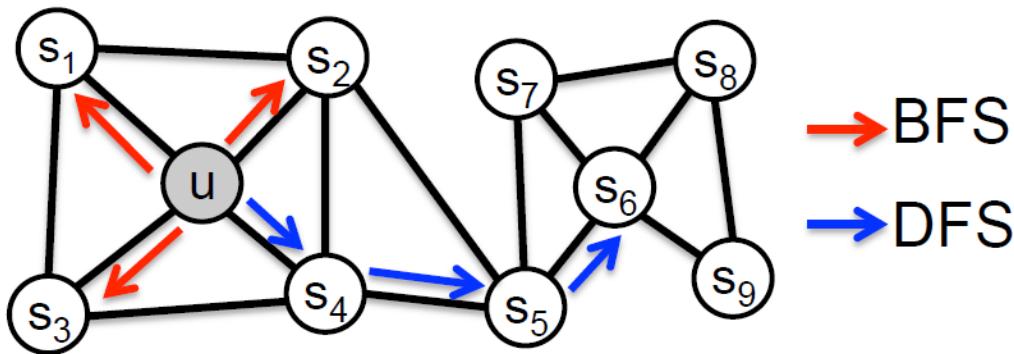


BFS: Breadth First Search

DFS: Depth First Search

# node2vec: Biased Walks

- Two classic strategies to define a neighborhood  $N_R(u)$  of a given node  $u$ :

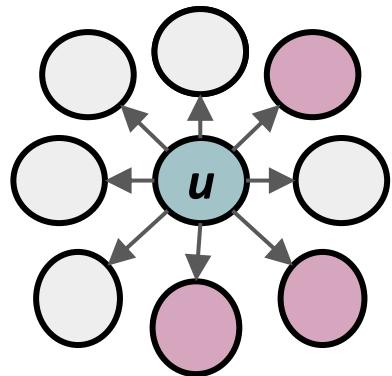


**Walk of length 3 ( $N_R(u)$  of size 3):**

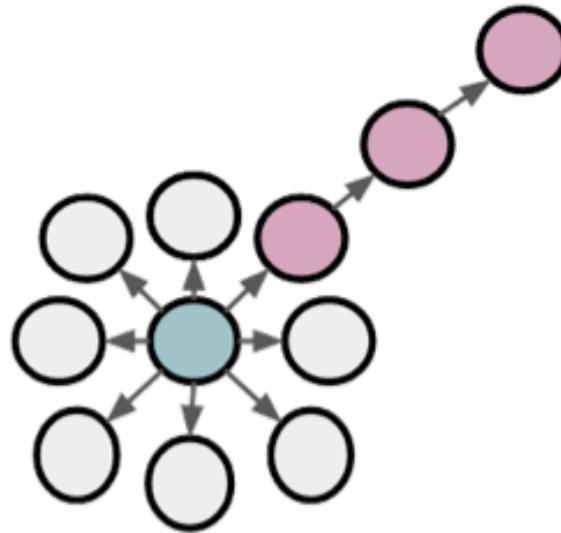
$$N_{\text{BFS}}(u) = \{s_1, s_2, s_4\} \quad \text{Local microscopic view}$$

$$N_{\text{DFS}}(u) = \{s_3, s_5, s_6\} \quad \text{Global macroscopic view}$$

# BFS vs. DFS



**BFS:**  
Micro-view of  
neighbourhood



**DFS:**  
Macro-view of  
neighbourhood

# Interpolating BFS and DFS

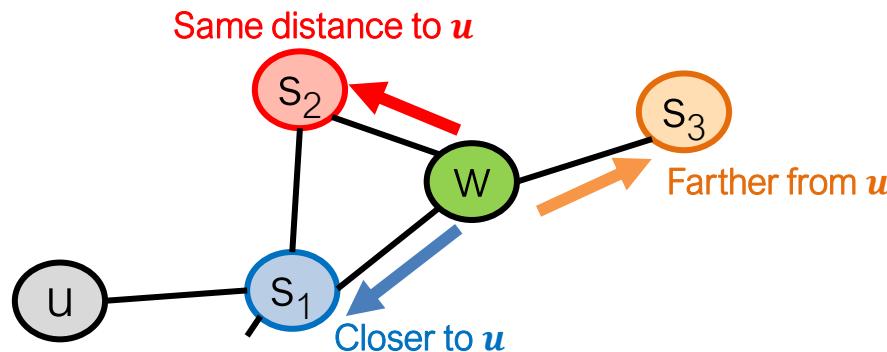
Biased fixed-length random walk  $R$  that, given a node  $u$ , generates neighborhood  $N_R(u)$

- Two parameters:
  - Return parameter  $p$ :
    - Return back to the previous node
  - In-out parameter  $q$ :
    - Moving outwards (DFS) vs. inwards (BFS)
    - Intuitively,  $q$  is the “ratio” of BFS vs. DFS

# Biased Random Walks

Biased 2<sup>nd</sup>-order random walks explore network neighborhoods:

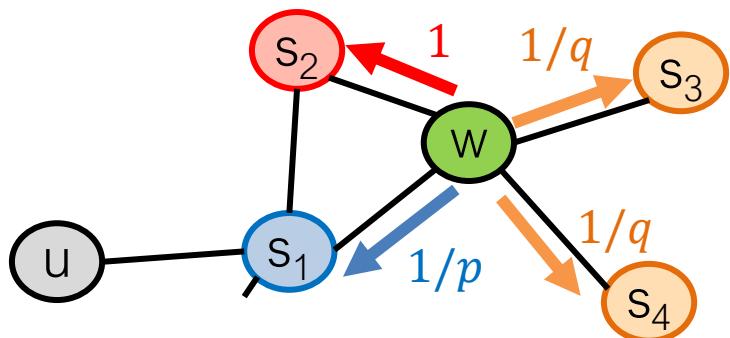
- Random walk just traversed edge  $(s_1, w)$  and is now at  $w$
- **Insight:** Neighbors of  $w$  can only be:



**Idea:** Remember where that walk came from

# Biased Random Walks

- Walker came over edge  $(s_1, w)$  and is at  $w$
- Where to go next?

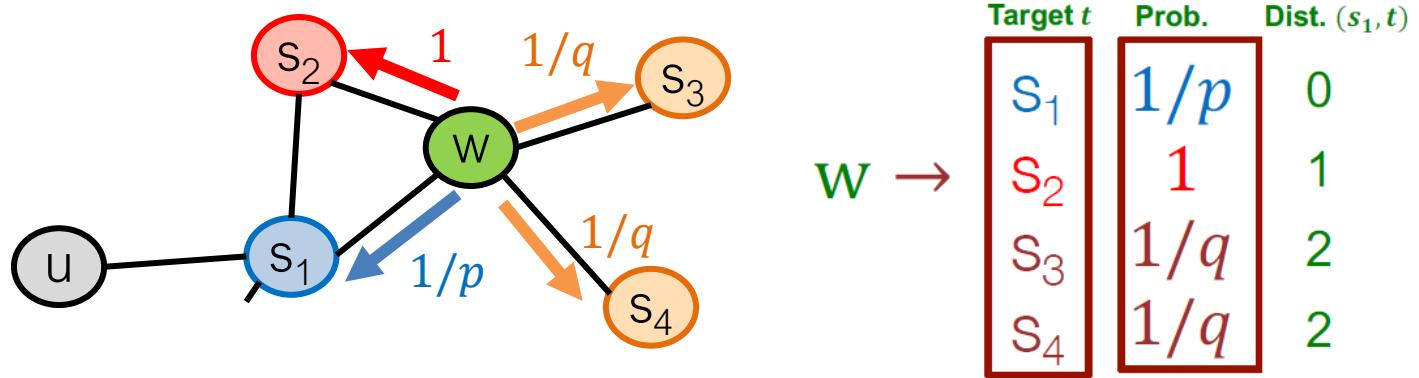


$1/p, 1/q, 1$  are  
unnormalized  
probabilities

- $p, q$  model transition probabilities
  - $p$ : return parameter
  - $q$ : “walk away” parameter

# Biased Random Walks

- Walker came over edge  $(s_1, w)$  and is at  $w$
- Where to go next?



**BFS-like walk:** Low value of  $p$

**DFS-like walk:** Low value of  $q$

Unnormalized  
transition prob.  
segmented based  
on distance from  $s_1$

$N_R(u)$  are the nodes visited by the biased walk

# node2vec Algorithm

1. Compute random walk probabilities
2. Simulate  $r$  random walks of length  $l$  starting from each node  $u$
3. Optimize the node2vec objective using Stochastic Gradient Descent

*Linear-time complexity*

All 3 steps are individually parallelizable

# How to Use Embeddings

- **How to use embeddings  $z_i$  of nodes:**
  - **Clustering/community detection:** Cluster points  $z_i$
  - **Node classification:** Predict label  $f(z_i)$  of node  $i$  based on  $z_i$
  - **Link prediction:** Predict edge  $(i, j)$  based on  $f(z_i, z_j)$ 
    - concatenate, avg, product, or take a difference between the embeddings:
      - Concatenate:  $f(z_i, z_j) = g([z_i, z_j])$
      - Hadamard:  $f(z_i, z_j) = g(z_i * z_j)$  (per coordinate product)
      - Sum/Avg:  $f(z_i, z_j) = g(z_i + z_j)$
      - Distance:  $f(z_i, z_j) = g(||z_i - z_j||_2)$

# Summary: Node Embeddings

- **Basic idea:** Embed nodes so that distances in embedding space reflect node similarities in the original network
- **Different notions of node similarity**
  - Adjacency-based (i.e., similar if connected)
  - Multi-hop similarity definitions
  - Random walk approaches (**covered here**)

# Summary: Node Embeddings

- **So what method should I use..?**
- No one method wins in all cases....
  - e.g., node2vec performs better on node classification while multi-hop methods performs better on link prediction ([Goyal and Ferrara, 2017 survey](#))
- Random walk approaches are generally more efficient
- **In general:** Must choose definition of node similarity that matches your application!

# **SPR2EP: A Semi-Supervised Spam Review Detection Framework**

**An Application of Node Embeddings in Spam Review Detection**  
[SPR2EP, 2018](#)

# Motivation - Online Reviews

- Online reviews have great effect on the purchasing decisions of customers
  - Customers need online reviews to learn about the quality of product
  - ***Reliability/Trustworthiness*** of these reviews is an issue in cyberspace
- ***Yelp***, Tripadvisor, Amazon are some of very popular review sites



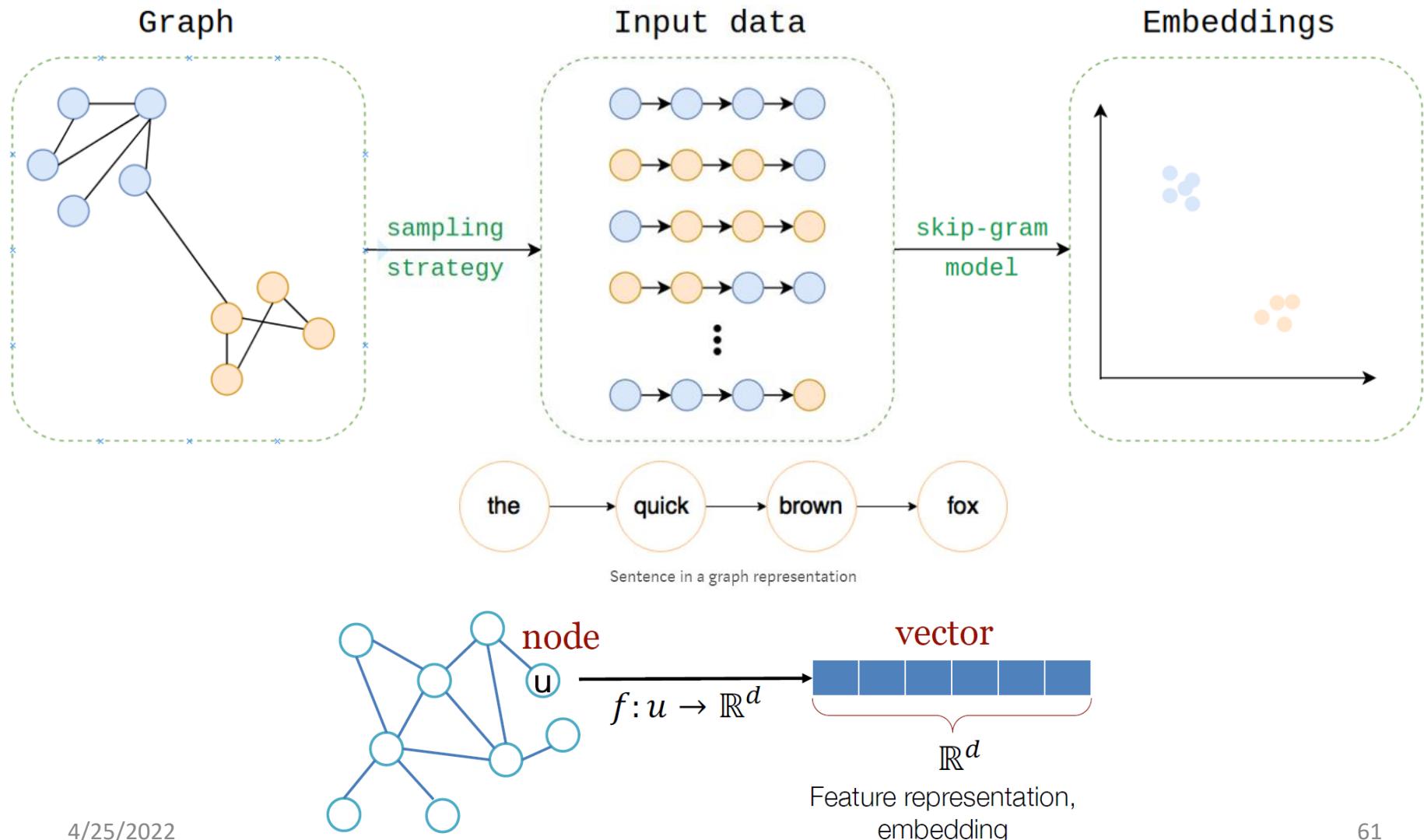
# Automatic Spam Review Detection

- **Review metadata** is a fruitful source of information which can be utilized in spam review detection
  - **Product/service specific features**
    - the price and sales rank of the product
    - average review rating of the product
    - the number of reviews written for the product
  - **Reviewer specific features**
    - the number of reviews written by
    - IP address of the source
    - age of the reviewer accounts
  - **Network related features**
    - created from the reviews (reviewer/product)
    - Session duration, Behavioral features such as Burstiness, etc.
- This study uses both **review text** and **network information** for spam review detection

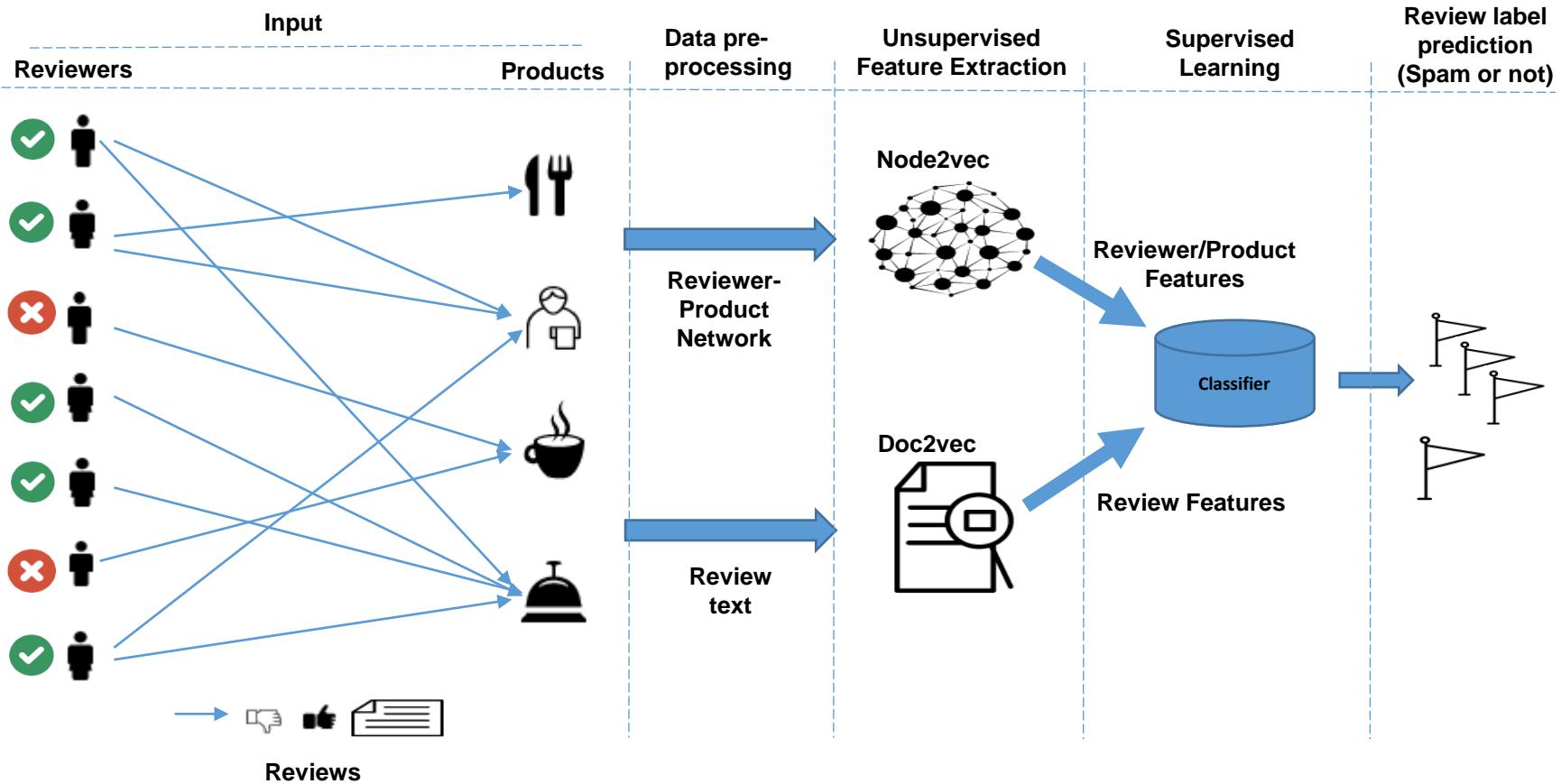
# Methodology

- ***Data Pre-processing***
  - Construct reviewer-product network using review metadata
    - ratings are used to get the weights of the links that connect a review to a product
  - Cleaning of review text
    - removal of the punctuations; making reviews all lowercase; etc.
- ***Feature Generation***
  - Dense low-dimensional vector representations are created
    - *Doc2vec* algorithm for reviews, *Node2vec* algorithm for nodes
- ***Binary Classification***
  - Dense low-dimensional vector representations are used as input to the Logistic Regression Classifier
  - Logistic Regression Classifier predicts whether a given review is spam or not

# Node2vec Embedding Process



# Spam Review Detection Framework



# Review Datasets

- ***Yelp.com reviews*** for hotels & restaurants in Chicago, and restaurants in New York, and states with NJ, VT, CT, and PA ZIP codes

Dataset	# Reviews (filtered %)	# Users (spammer % )	# Products (rest. & hotel)
YelpChi	67,395 (13.23%)	38,063 (20.33%)	201
YelpNYC	359,052 (10.27%)	160,225 (17.79%)	923
YelpZip	608,598 (13.22%)	260,277 (23.91%)	5,044

- Datasets contains for each review
  - reviewer id, product id, review text, product rating
- Reviews are labeled as ***genuine*** or ***fake*** reviews
  - although the filtering algorithm of YELP could not be perfect, the labels included in these datasets are assumed to be providing us the ground-truth labels

# Accuracy Results

	AP			AUC		
	Y'Chi	Y'NYC	Y'Zip	Y'Chi	Y'NYC	Y'Zip
Random	0.1327	0.1028	0.1321	0.5000	0.5000	0.5000
Wang et. al	0.1518	0.1255	0.1803	0.5062	0.5415	0.5982
SpEagle	0.3236	0.246	0.3319	0.7887	0.7695	0.7942
Node2vec	0.3266	0.2518	0.3503	0.7632	0.7648	0.7917
Doc2vec	0.2924	0.2184	0.2838	0.7244	0.7147	0.7213
SPR2EP	<b>0.3351</b>	<b>0.3202</b>	<b>0.4220</b>	<b>0.8071</b>	<b>0.8129</b>	<b>0.8318</b>