

# Node Embeddings

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# Outline for Today

## 1st slot (45 min):

1. Goals
2. Feature Engineering: Brief Recap
3. Node Embeddings
  - a. Deep Walk
  - b. Node2Vec
  - c. Limitations
  - d. Examples
4. Summary & Take-Home Messages

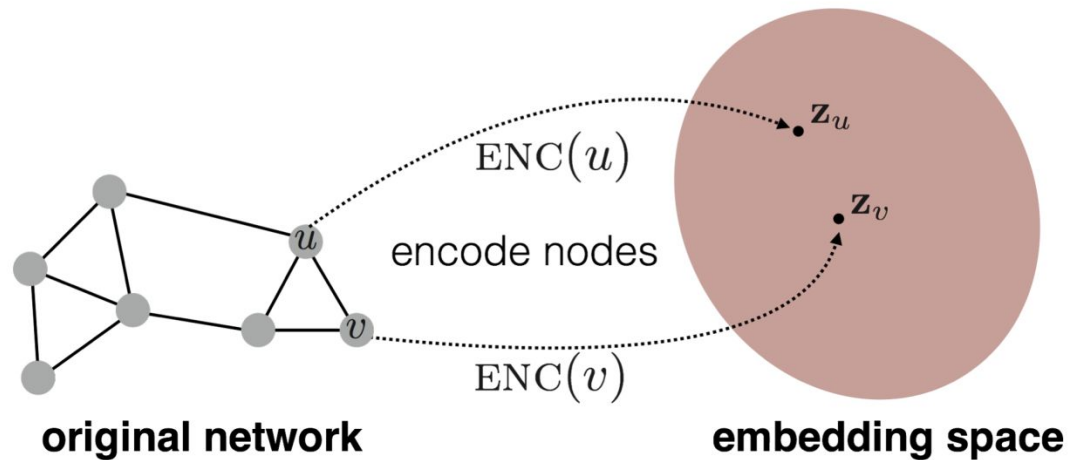
## 2nd slot (45 min):

Coding Tutorial: PyTorch Geometric

# Goals for Today's Lecture

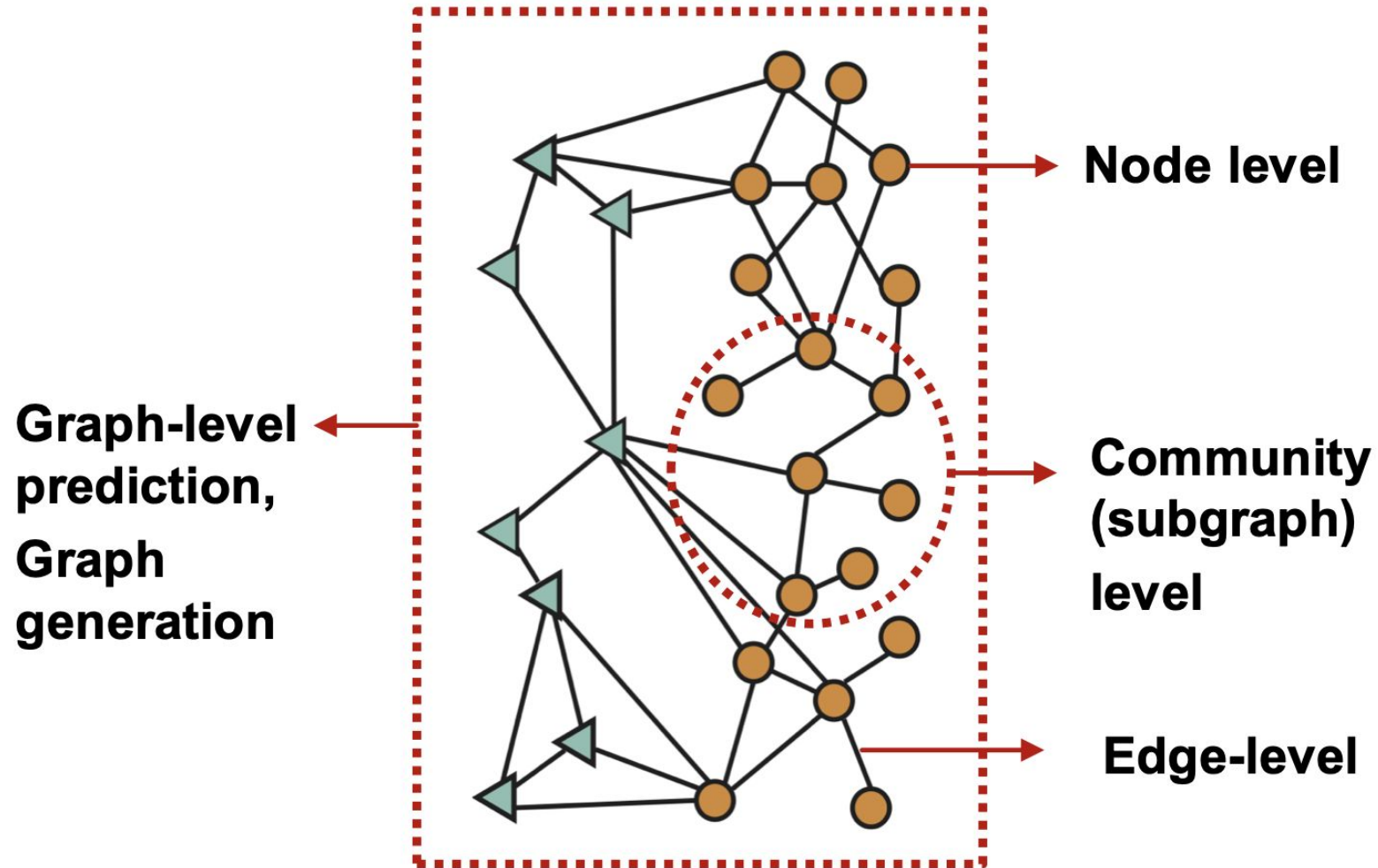
## Objective for Today's Lecture:

1. Gain an understanding with various methods for encoding nodes as **low-dimensional vectors** that effectively summarizing their positions within the graph and the structure of their local graph neighborhood.
2. Delve into learning node embeddings through **unsupervised** approaches.

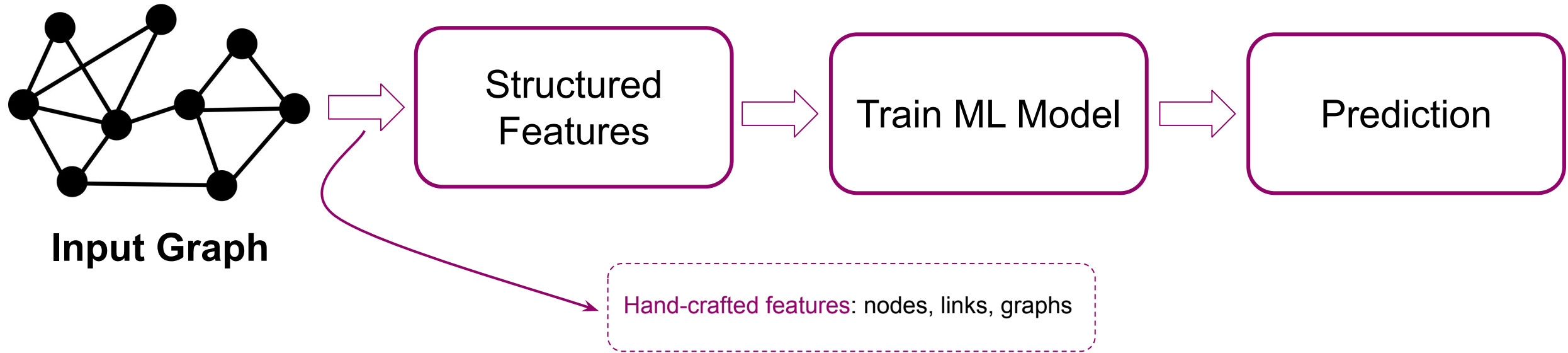




# Different Types of Tasks



# Traditional ML Pipeline

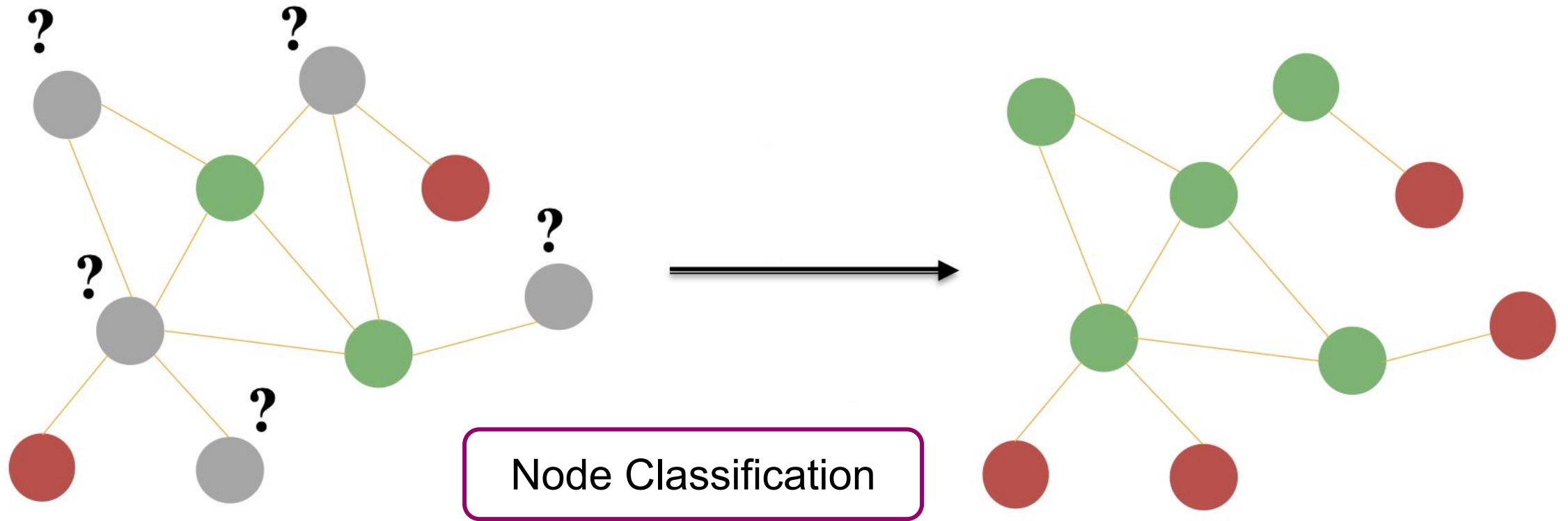


Traditional ML pipeline uses **feature engineering** and node attributes.

We give a brief overview of the **hand-crafted features** for:

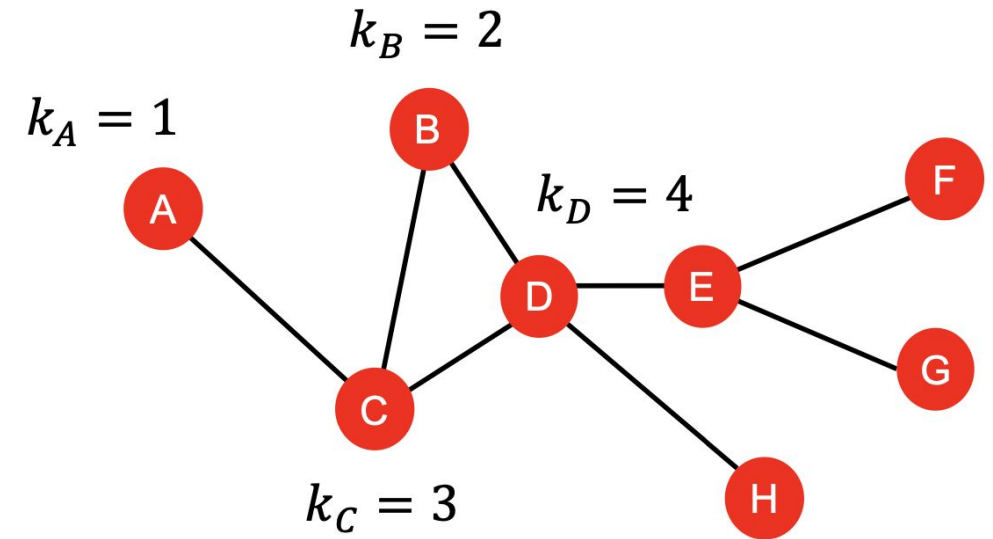
- Nodes,
- Links.

# Node-level Tasks



# Traditional Features: Node Level Features

**Node Degree:** the degree  $k_v$  of node  $v$  is the number of edges (neighboring nodes) the node has.

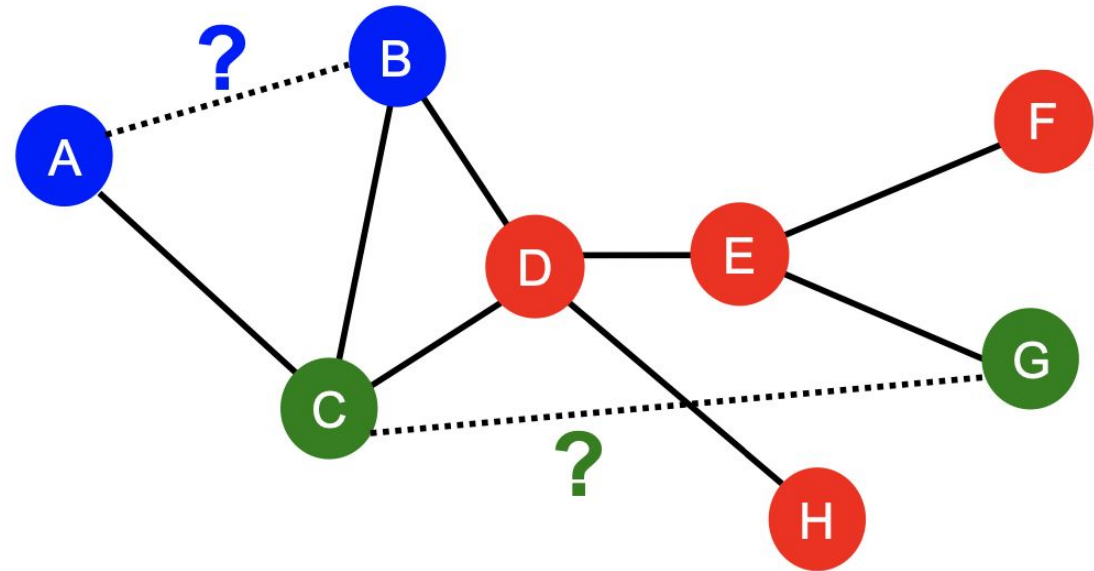


Also:

- Node centrality – takes the node importance in a graph into account,
- Clustering coefficient – how connected  $v$ 's neighbouring nodes,
- Graphlets – how many pre-defined subgraphs are in the graph.

# Edge-Level Tasks

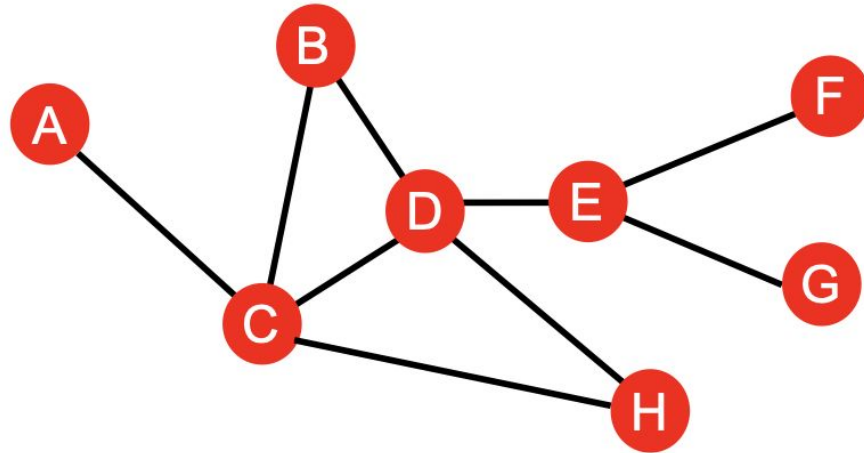
- Predict **new links** based on the existing links.
- The key is to design features for **pairs of nodes**.





# Traditional Features: Edge Level Features

- Distance-based feature: shortest-path distance between two nodes



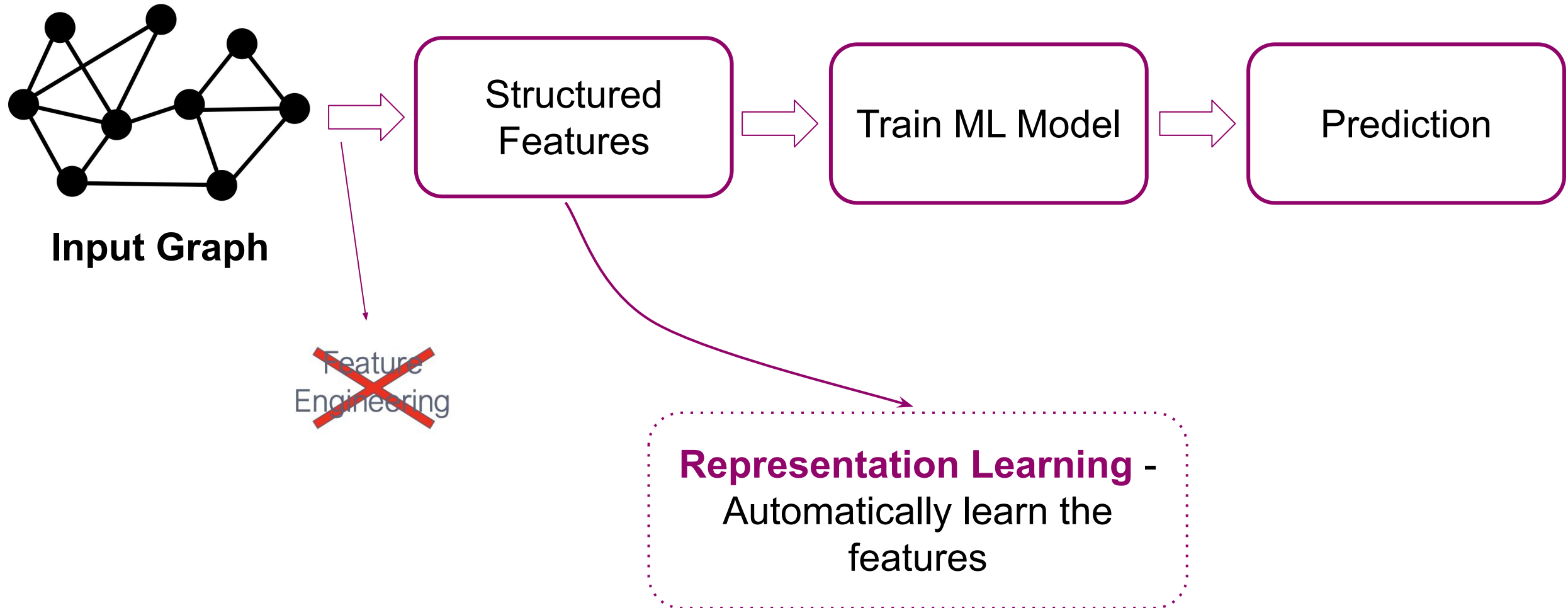
$$S_{BH} = S_{BE} = S_{AB} = 2$$

$$S_{BG} = S_{BF} = 3$$

Also:

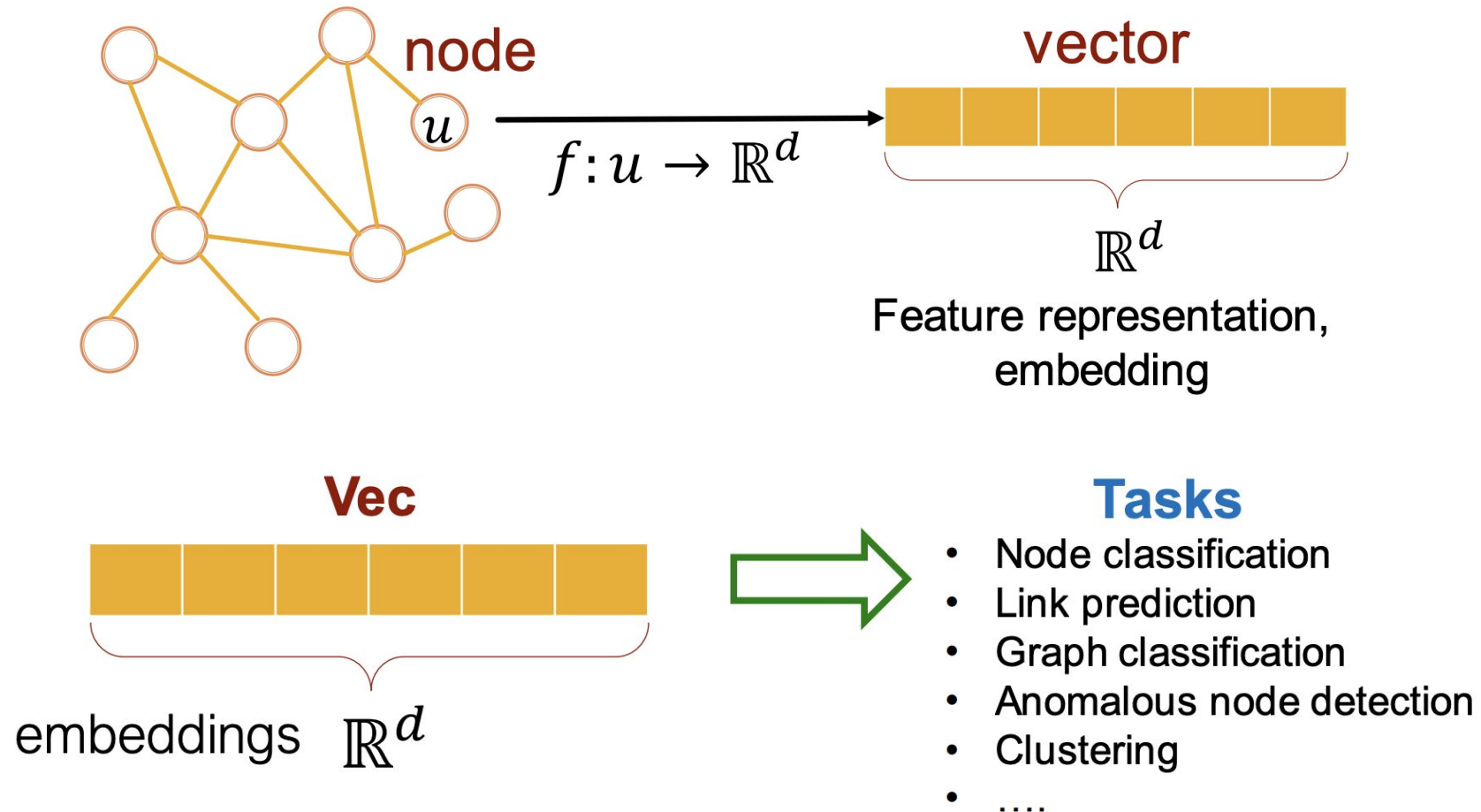
- Local neighborhood overlap - # of neighbouring nodes,
- Global neighborhood overlap.

# Graph Representation Learning



# Graph Representation Learning

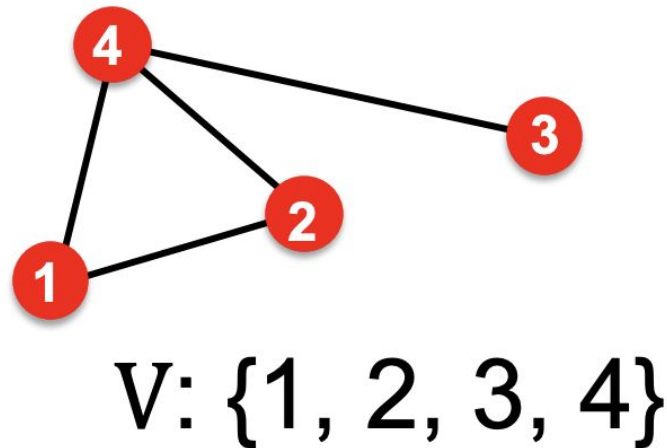
**Goal:** Efficient task-independent feature learning for machine learning with graphs!



# Node Embeddings

Given graph  $G = (V, E)$ :

- $V$  - nodes,
- $A$  - the adjacency matrix (assume binary),
- $E$  - edges.



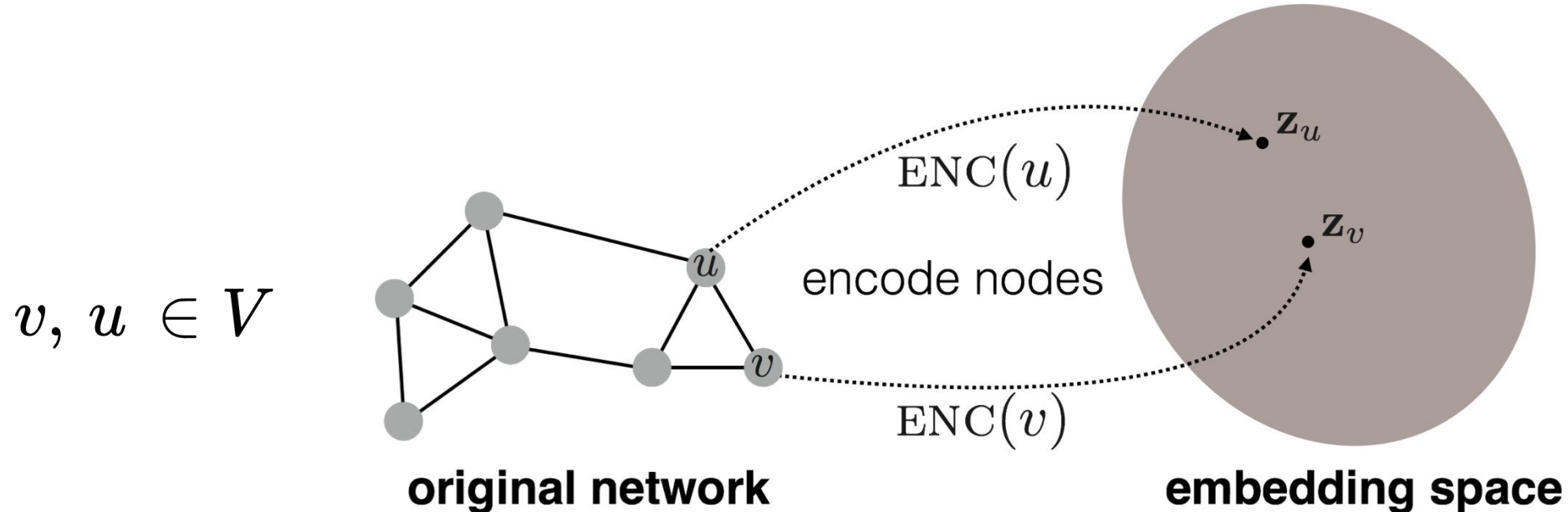
$$A = \begin{pmatrix} 0 & 1 & 0 & 1 \\ 1 & 0 & 0 & 1 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 1 \\ 1 & 1 & 1 & 0 \end{pmatrix}$$

# Node Embeddings

Given graph  $G = (V, E)$ :

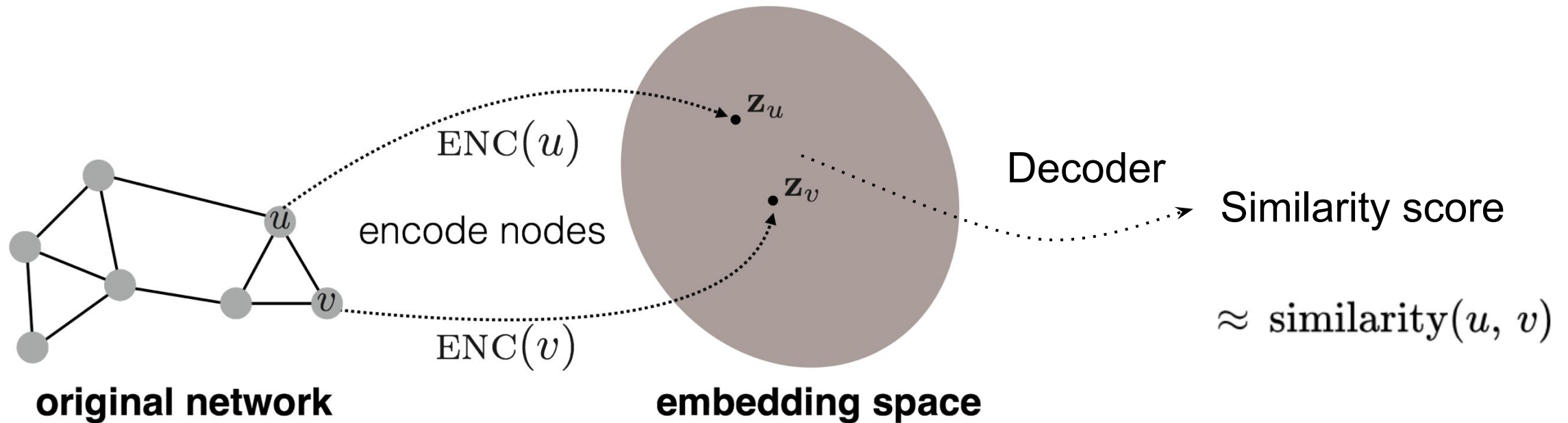
- $V$  - nodes,
- $E$  - edges.

Goal is to encode nodes as low-dimensional vectors that **similarity in the latent space** correspond to **relationships in the graph**.





# Node Embeddings

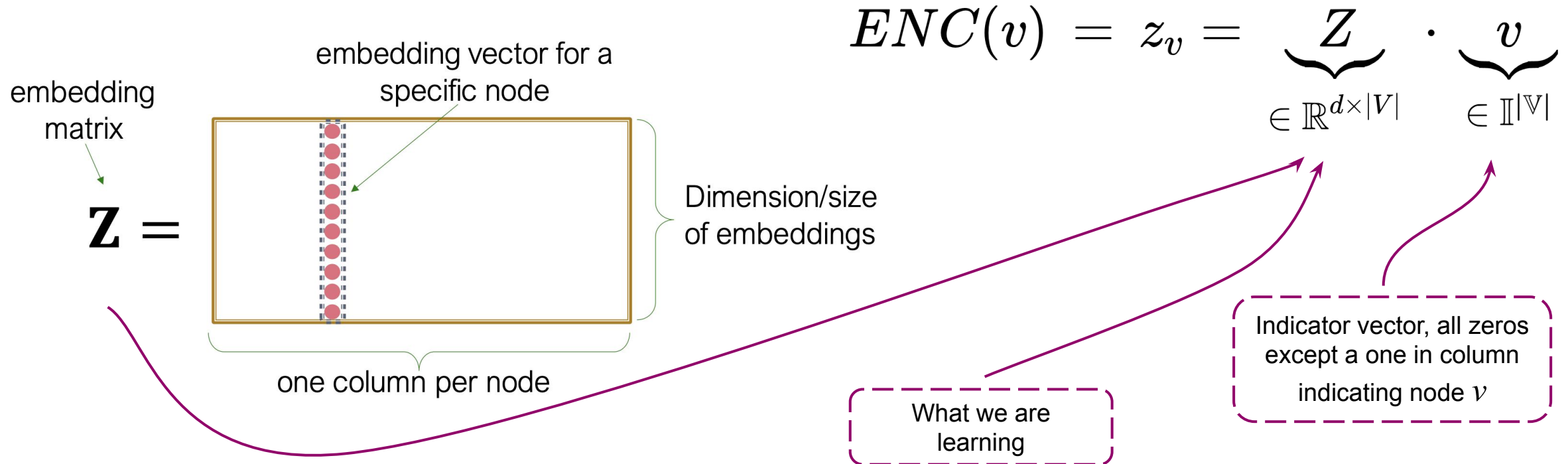


# An Encoder-Decoder Perspective

**Encoder** maps nodes  $v \in V$  to vector embeddings:

$$ENC(v) = z_v \in \mathbb{R}^d$$

**Simplest encoding approach:** Shallow Encoding



# An Encoder-Decoder Perspective

**Decoder** (or pairwise decoder) maps from embeddings to the similarity score:

$$\text{DEC} : \mathbb{R}^d \times \mathbb{R}^d \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^+$$

Applying the **decoder** to a pair of embeddings:

$$DEC(ENC(u), ENC(v)) = DEC(z_u, z_v) \approx \text{similarity}(u, v)$$

**Similarity function**: is a graph-based similarity measure between nodes.

**Loss function**: to be defined.

# An Encoder-Decoder Perspective

Method	Decoder	Similarity measure	Loss function
Lap. Eigenmaps	$\ \mathbf{z}_u - \mathbf{z}_v\ _2^2$	general	$\text{DEC}(\mathbf{z}_u, \mathbf{z}_v) \cdot \mathbf{S}[u, v]$
Graph Fact.	$\mathbf{z}_u^\top \mathbf{z}_v$	$\mathbf{A}[u, v]$	$\ \text{DEC}(\mathbf{z}_u, \mathbf{z}_v) - \mathbf{S}[u, v]\ _2^2$
GraRep	$\mathbf{z}_u^\top \mathbf{z}_v$	$\mathbf{A}[u, v], \dots, \mathbf{A}^k[u, v]$	$\ \text{DEC}(\mathbf{z}_u, \mathbf{z}_v) - \mathbf{S}[u, v]\ _2^2$
HOPE	$\mathbf{z}_u^\top \mathbf{z}_v$	general	$\ \text{DEC}(\mathbf{z}_u, \mathbf{z}_v) - \mathbf{S}[u, v]\ _2^2$
DeepWalk			
node2vec			

**In today's lecture**

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

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

# What is “Similar Nodes”?

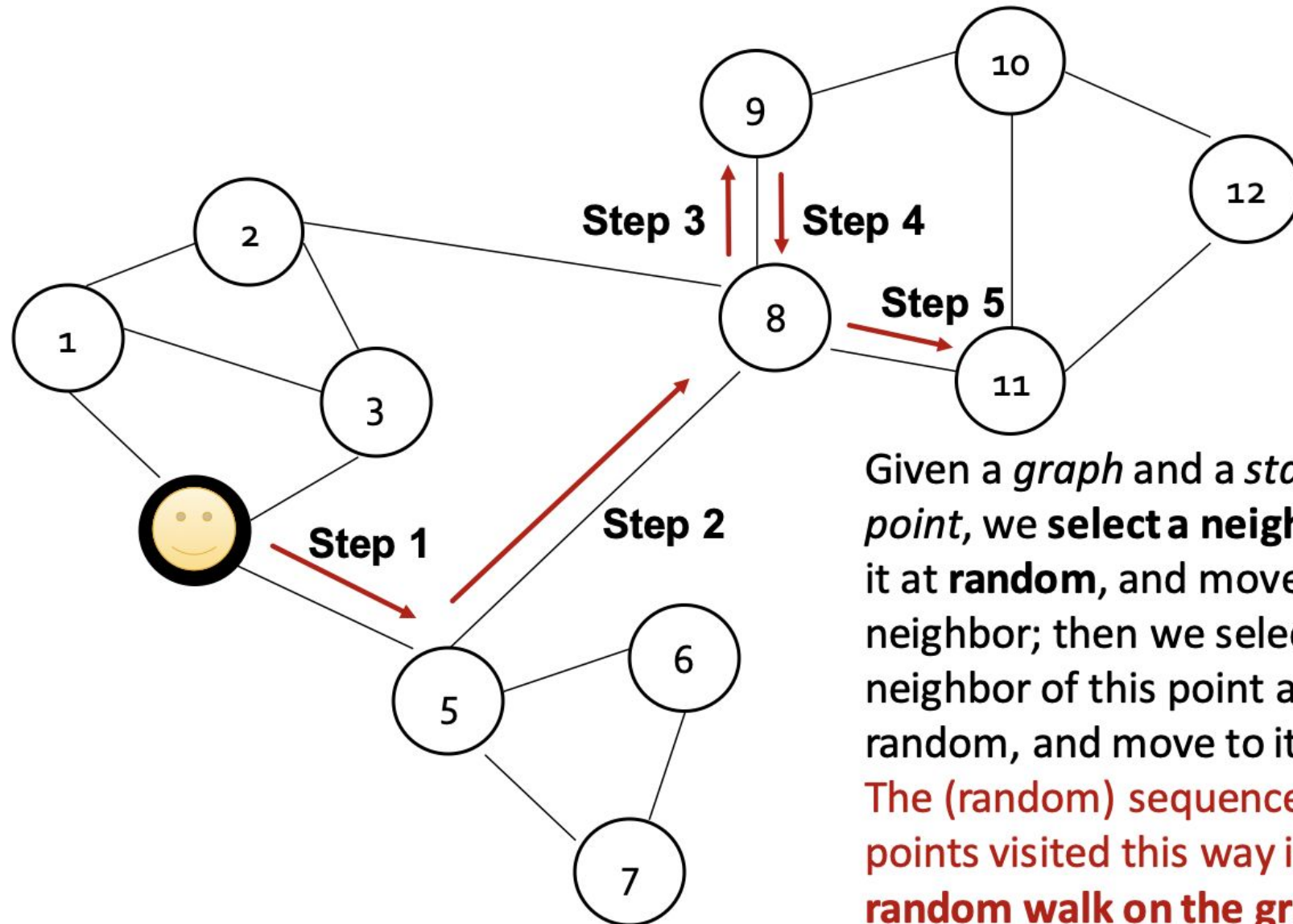
Should two nodes have a similar embedding if they...

- are linked?
- share neighbors?
- have similar “structural roles”?

**In today’s lecture:** we learn node similarity definition that uses **random walks**, and how to optimize embeddings for such a similarity measure.



# Random Walk Approaches



Given a *graph* and a *starting point*, we **select a neighbor** of it at **random**, and move to this neighbor; then we select a neighbor of this point at random, and move to it, etc. The (random) sequence of points visited this way is a **random walk on the graph**.

# Framework Summary

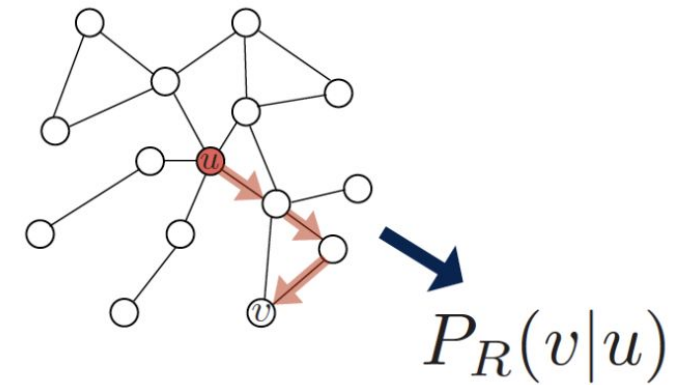
This is **unsupervised/self-supervised** way of learning node embeddings:

- We are not utilizing node labels,
- We are not utilizing node features,
- The goal is to directly estimate a set of coordinates (the embedding) of a node so that some aspect of the network structure is preserved.

# Random Walk Embeddings

Two nodes have **similar** embeddings if they tend to co-occur on **random walks** over the graph.

We need to estimate probability of visiting node  $v$  on a random walk starting from node  $u$  using some random walk strategy  $R$ .



# Why Random Walk?

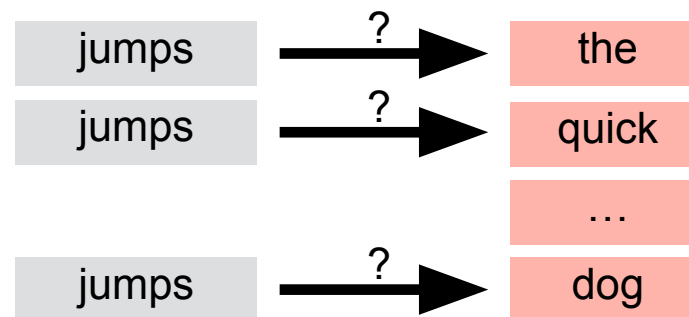
1. **Expressivity**: Flexible stochastic definition of node similarity that incorporates both **local** and **higher-order** neighborhood information.  
**Idea**: if random walk starting from node  $u$  visits  $v$ ,  $u$  and  $v$  are similar (high-order multi-hop information).
2. **Efficiency**: Do not need to consider all node pairs when training; only need to consider pairs that **co-occur on random walks**.

# Connection with word2vec

The basic idea is to **predict** a missing word from a context. What is **context**?

**Example:** “the quick red fox jumps over the lazy brown dog”

**Skip-gram** - the ‘context’ is *each* word from the surrounding *central* word. Based on the *central* word we predict each word from this surrounding.



**Positive pairs:** (context word, central word).



# Random Walk Embeddings

Our goal is to learn a mapping  $f(u) = z_u \in \mathbb{R}^d$  that preserves similarity, i.e. embeddings of the nodes which are nearby in the network are close.

**Nearby nodes:**  $N_R(u)$  neighbourhood of  $u$  obtained by some random walk strategy  $R$ .

**Log-likelihood objective:**

$$\max_f \sum_{u \in V} \log P(N_R(u) | \mathbf{z}_u)$$

Given node  $u$ , we want to learn feature representations that are predictive of the nodes in its random walk neighborhood.

# Random Walk Optimization

Run short fixed-length random walks starting from each node  $u \in V$  using strategy  $R$ .

For each node  $u$  collect  $N_R(u)$ .

Optimize:  
Given node  $u$ , predict its neighbors.

$$\max_f \sum_{u \in V} \log P(N_R(u) | \mathbf{z}_u)$$

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

Optimize embeddings to maximize the likelihood of random walk co-occurrences.

# Random Walk Optimization

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Optimize embeddings to maximize the likelihood of random walk co-occurrences.

Parameterize using softmax: 
$$P(v | \mathbf{z}_u) = \frac{\exp(\mathbf{z}_u^T \mathbf{z}_v)}{\sum_{n \in V} \exp(\mathbf{z}_u^T \mathbf{z}_n)}$$

# Random Walk Optimization

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

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.

# Random Walk Optimization

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

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 that minimize  $\mathcal{L}$ .



# Negative Sampling

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

Very expensive!

**Solution:** Negative sampling

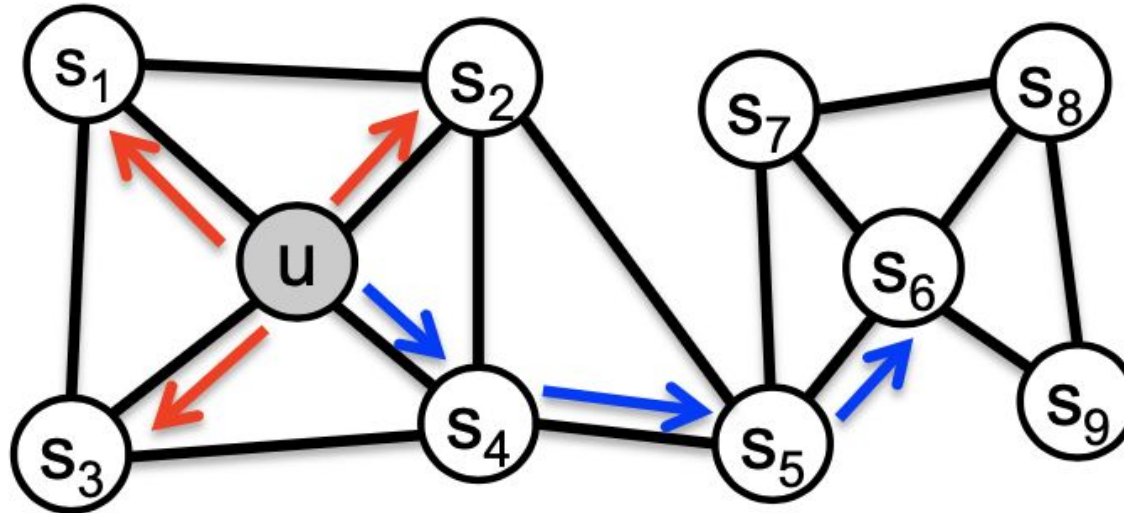
$$-\log \frac{\exp(\mathbf{z}_u^\top \mathbf{z}_v)}{\sum_{n \in V} \exp(\mathbf{z}_u^\top \mathbf{z}_n)} \approx \log \left( \sigma(\mathbf{z}_u^\top \mathbf{z}_v) \right) - \sum_{i=1}^k \log \left( \sigma(\mathbf{z}_u^\top \mathbf{z}_{n_i}) \right)$$

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

In practice  $k = 5 - 20$ .

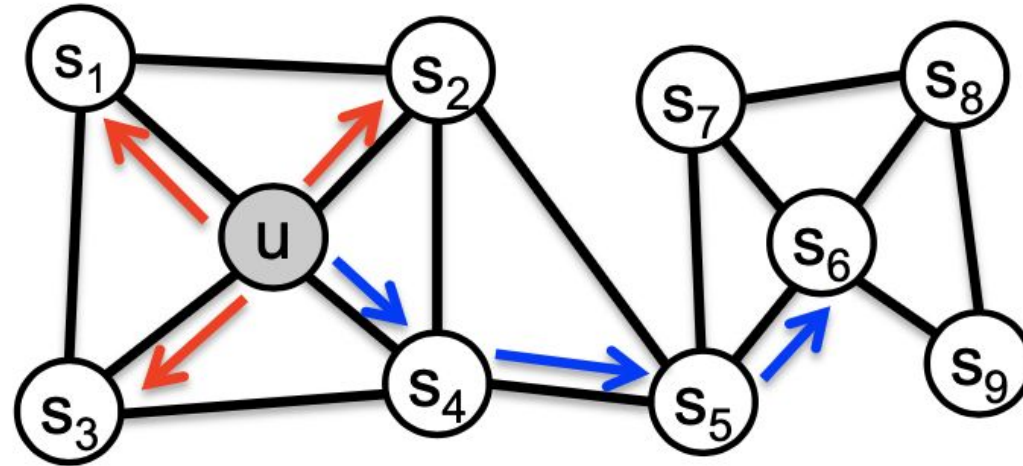
# How to Define the Random Walk Strategy $R$ ?

**DeepWalk approach:** run fixed-length, unbiased random walks starting from each node.



# Biased Walks: node2vec

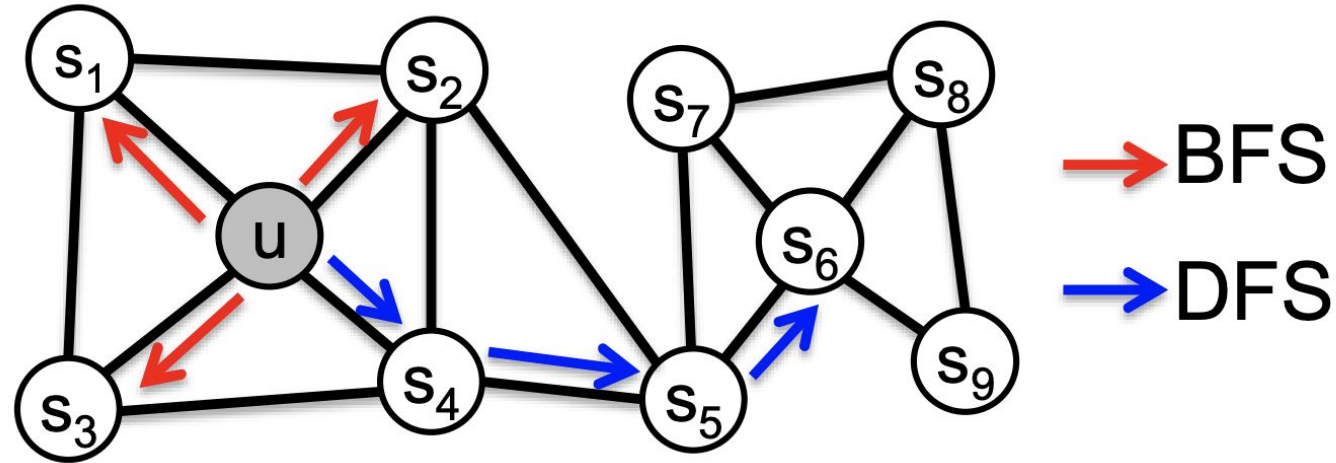
**Goal:** Develop biased 2nd order random walk  $R$  to generate network neighborhood  $N_R(u)$  of node  $u$ .



**Idea:** use flexible, biased random walks that can trade off between **local** and **global** views of network.

# Biased Walks: node2vec

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):

$$N_{BFS}(u) = \{s_1, s_2, s_3\} \text{ Local microscopic view.}$$

$$N_{DFS}(u) = \{s_4, s_5, s_6\} \text{ Global macroscopic view.}$$

# Interpolating BFS & DFS

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

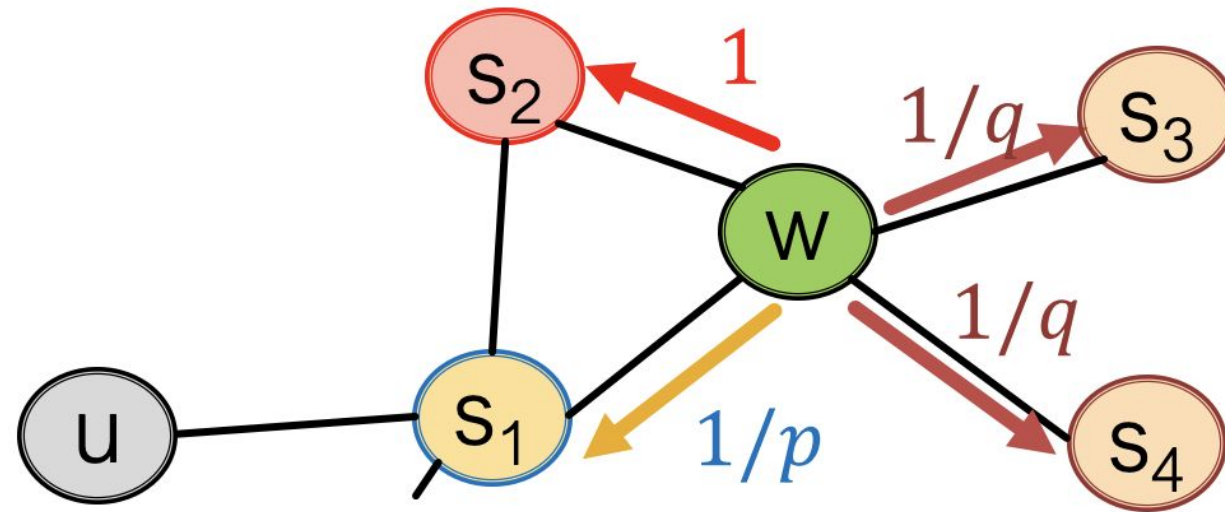
## Two hyperparameters:

1. Return parameter  $p$ :
  - a. return **back** to the previous node
2. In-out parameter  $q$ :
  - a. Moving **outwards** (DFS) vs. **inwards** (BFS),
  - b. Intuitively,  $q$  is the “ratio” of BFS vs. DFS.

$p$  and  $q$  ranges: positive real numbers

# Biased Walks: node2vec

Walker came over edge (s1, w) and is at w. Where to go next?

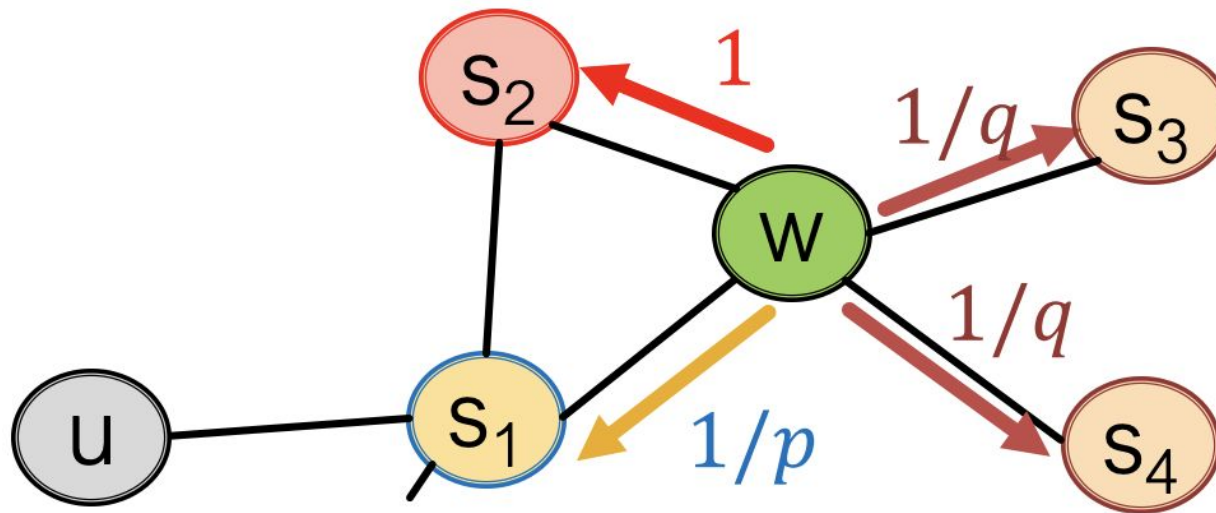


$1/p$ ,  $1/q$ , 1 are unnormalized probabilities

- $p$  – return parameter
- $q$  – “walk away” parameter

# Biased Walks: node2vec

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



$W \rightarrow$

Target $t$	Prob.	Dist. $(s_1, t)$
$s_1$	$1/p$	0
$s_2$	1	1
$s_3$	$1/q$	2
$s_4$	$1/q$	2

- **BFS-like walk:**
  - Low value of  $p$  (keep the walk “local” close to the starting point);
  - High value of  $q$
- **DFS-like walk:**
  - Low value of  $q$
  - High value of  $p$

# Training: node2vec & Deep Walk

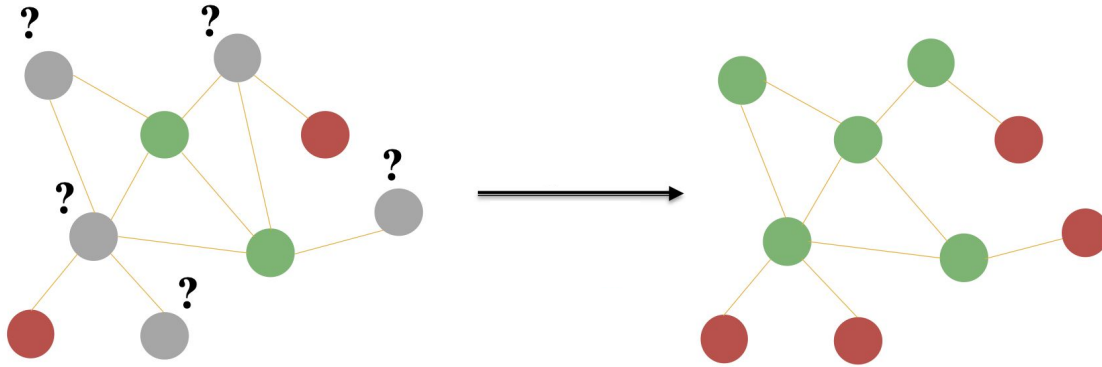
1. Compute random walk probabilities (node2vec)
2. Simulate  $r$  random walks of length  $l$  starting from each node  $u$  (node2vec/Deep Walk)
3. Optimize the node2vec objective using SGD (node2vec/Deep Walk)



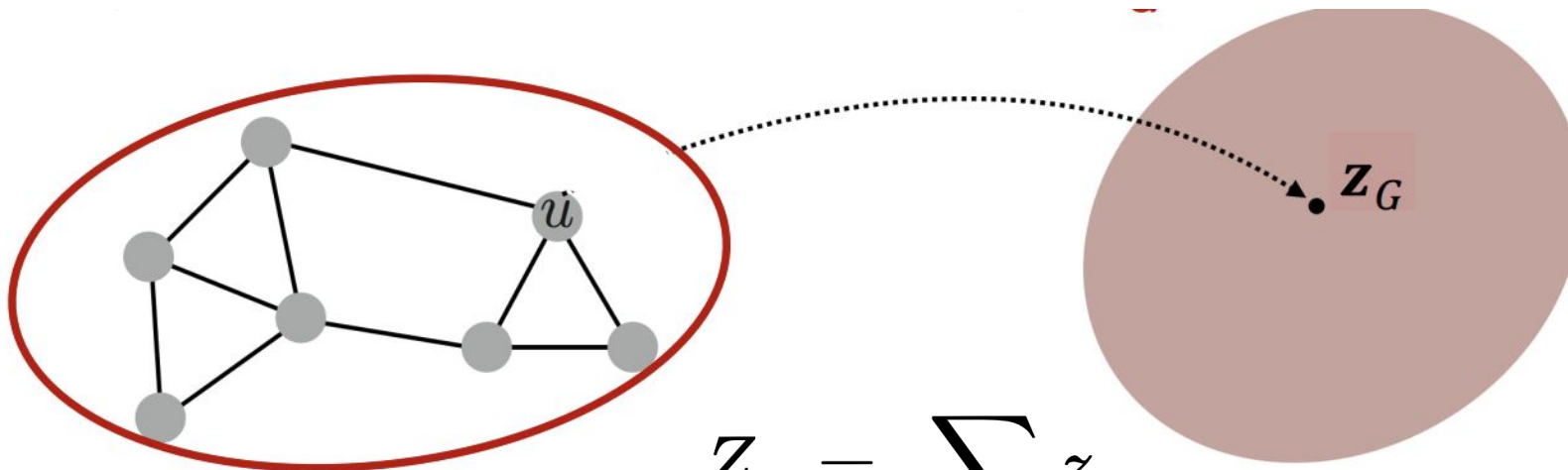
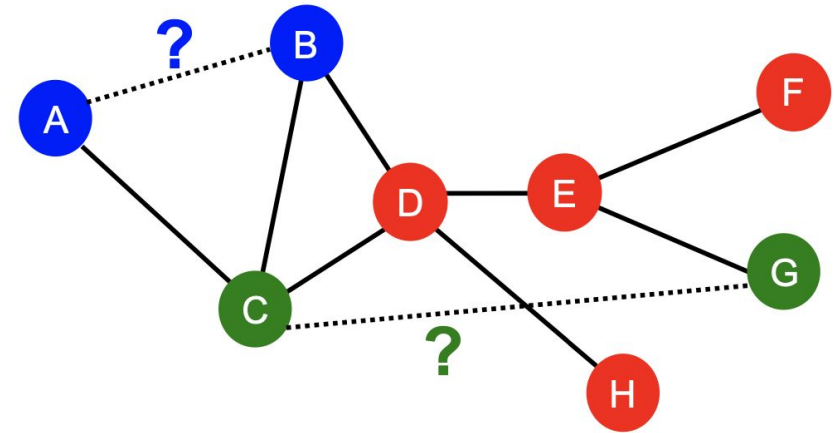
# Summary

1. **Node2vec / Deep Walk methods**: embed nodes so that distances in embedding space reflect node similarities in the original network.
2. Notion of **node similarity**: Random walk methods.
3. **Random walk methods** serve a solid baseline for node classification / link prediction.
4. **No one** method wins in all cases.

# How we use node embeddings



For each pair  $(u, v)$ :  $z_u \odot z_v$

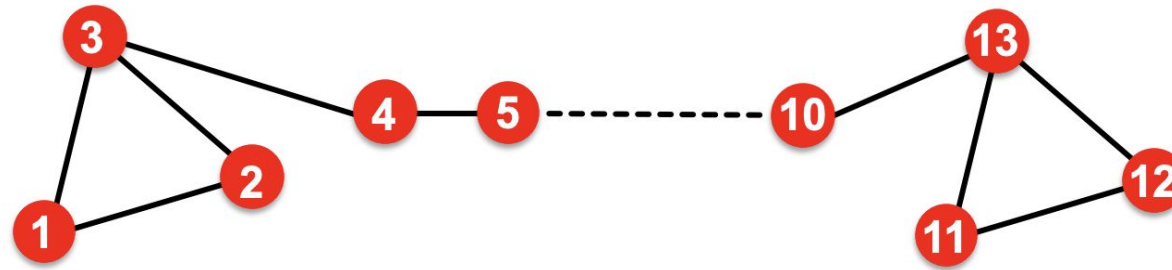


$$z_g = \sum_{v \in V} z_v$$

(or average)

# Limitations of node2vec / Deep Walk

1. Can not obtain embeddings for unseen nodes;
2. Can not capture well the structural similarity;



3. Can not utilize directly node, edge and graph features;
4. Sensitive to the walk length, p/q choice.

# Other Random Walk Ideas

1. [metapath2vec](#)
2. [Watch Your Step: Learning Node Embeddings via Graph Attention](#)
3. [LINE](#)
4. [struc2vec](#)
5. [HARP](#)

# Take-Home Messages

1. We discussed **graph representation learning** - how to learn node embeddings for downstream tasks, without feature engineering.
2. We can use these embeddings for **all level tasks**: node/link/graph
3. **Encoder-decoder** framework - powerful setup:
  - a. **Encoder**: embedding lookup
  - b. **Decoder**: predict score based on embedding to match node similarity
4. **Node similarity measure**: (biased) random walk (node2vec/Deep Walk)



**BIOMEDICAL  
INFORMATICS**

# Slides & Image Credits

1. CS224W: Machine Learning with Graphs
2. [Graph Representation Learning Book](#)
3. [DeepWalk: Online Learning of Social Representations](#)
4. [node2vec: Scalable Feature Learning for Networks](#)
5. [Efficient Estimation of Word Representations in Vector Space](#)
6. [Distributed Representations of Words and Phrases and their Compositionality](#)
7. [word2vec Explained: Deriving Mikolov et al.'s Negative-Sampling Word-Embedding Method](#)