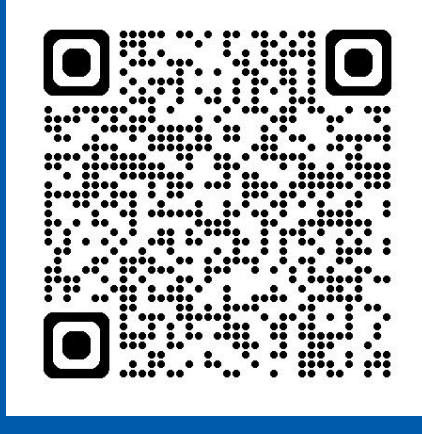


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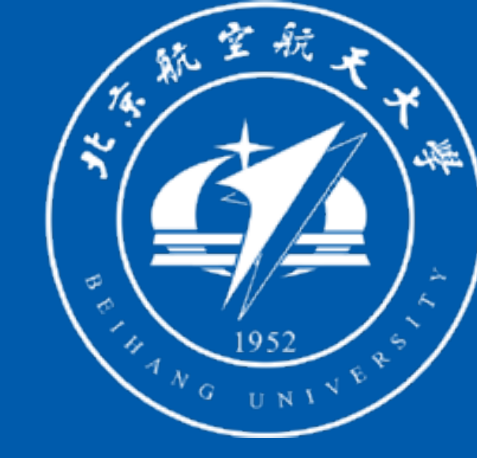
Code

# Structural Entropy Guided Unsupervised Graph Out-Of-Distribution Detection

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## Introduction

With the emerging of huge amount of unlabeled data, unsupervised out-of-distribution (OOD) detection is vital for ensuring reliability of GNNs by identifying OOD samples from in-distribution ones during testing, where encountering novel or unknown data is inevitable.

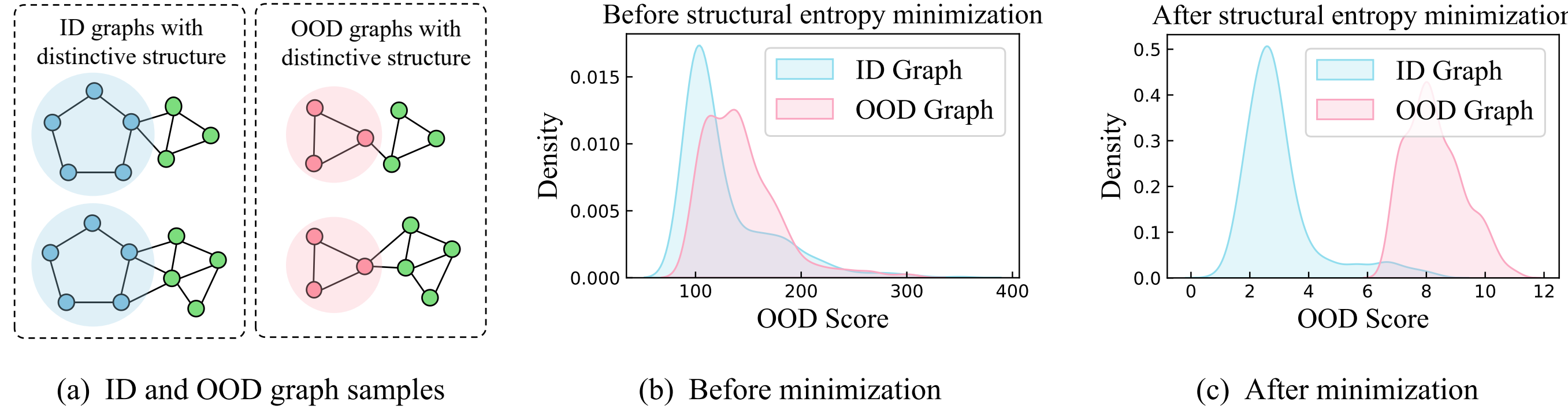


Figure 1. A toy example of ID and OOD graphs and scoring distributions before/after SE minimization.

A challenge still remains less explored: due to the prevalent presence of redundant information in graph structures, current methods struggle to **effectively capture and distinguish the essential structure** between ID and OOD data.

## Preliminaries

**Structural Entropy.** Structural entropy of graph  $G$  on its coding tree  $T$  provides a hierarchical abstraction to measure the complexity of its structure:

$$\mathcal{H}^T(G) = - \sum_{v_\tau \in T} \frac{g_{v_\tau}}{\text{vol}(\mathcal{V})} \log \frac{\text{vol}(v_\tau)}{\text{vol}(v_\tau^+)}, \quad \mathcal{H}^{(k)}(G) = \min_{\forall T: \text{Height}(T)=k} \{\mathcal{H}^T(G)\}, \quad (1)$$

**Graph Contrastive Learning.** Typical contrastive loss InfoNCE treats the same graph  $G_i$  in different views  $G_i^\alpha$  and  $G_i^\beta$  as positive pairs and other nodes as negative pairs.

$$\ell(\mathbf{z}_i^\alpha, \mathbf{z}_i^\beta) = - \log \frac{e^{\text{sim}(\mathbf{z}_i^\alpha, \mathbf{z}_i^\beta)/\tau}}{\sum_{j=1, j \neq i}^N e^{\text{sim}(\mathbf{z}_i^\alpha, \mathbf{z}_j^\alpha)/\tau} + e^{\text{sim}(\mathbf{z}_i^\alpha, \mathbf{z}_j^\beta)/\tau}}, \quad \mathcal{L} = \frac{1}{2N} \sum_{i=1}^N [\ell(\mathbf{z}_i^\alpha, \mathbf{z}_i^\beta) + \ell(\mathbf{z}_i^\beta, \mathbf{z}_i^\alpha)]. \quad (2)$$

## Our Proposed Framework: SEGO

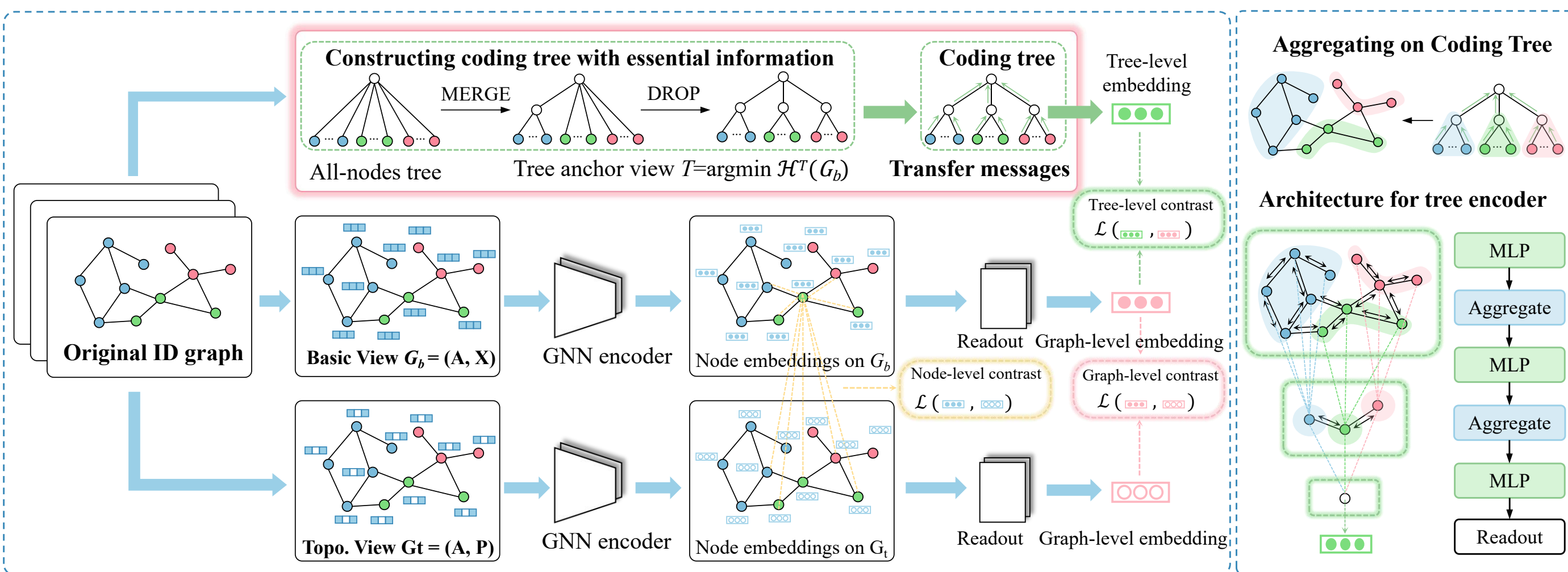


Figure 2. Overview of our proposed SEGO, which employs multi-grained contrast using triplet views.

- Guided by structural entropy theory, we propose a novel framework for unsupervised graph OOD detection, termed **SEGO**, which can remove redundant information and capture the essential structure of graphs, significantly improving model performance.
- To mitigate the information gap between node and graph embeddings, we employ a multi-grained contrastive learning scheme using triplet views, which includes coding tree as an anchor view and operates at local, global, and tree levels.
- Extensive experiments validate the effectiveness of SEGO, demonstrating superior performance over SOTA baselines in OOD detection.

## Essential View with Redundancy-eliminated Information

**Redundancy-eliminated Essential Information.** According to graph information bottleneck theory (GIB), the objective is to generate an essential view that retains sufficient information while reducing uncertainty (i.e., redundant information) as much as possible.

$$\text{GIB: } \max I(f(G); y) - \beta I(G; f(G)) \Rightarrow \min I(G; f(G)), \quad (3)$$

**Definition 1.** The anchor view with redundancy-eliminated essential information is supposed to be a distinctive substructure of the given graph. Let  $G^*$  be target anchor view of graph  $G$ :

$$I(G^*; G) = \mathcal{H}(G^*) - \mathcal{H}(G^*|G). \quad (4)$$

**Theorem 1.** The information in  $G^*$  is a subset of information in  $G$  (i.e.,  $\mathcal{H}(G^*) \subseteq \mathcal{H}(G)$ ); thus, we have  $\mathcal{H}(G^*|G) = 0$ , where  $\mathcal{H}(G^*)$  is the structural entropy of  $G^*$ .

Here, the mutual information between  $G$  and  $G^*$  can be rewritten as  $I(G^*; G) = \mathcal{H}(G^*)$ . Accordingly, to acquire the anchor view with essential information, we need to optimize:

$$\min I(G; f(G)) \Rightarrow \min \mathcal{H}(G^*). \quad (5)$$

Thus, we argue that the view obtained by minimizing structural entropy of a given graph represents the redundancy-eliminated information that retains distinctive substructure.

**Maximum Effective Mutual Information.** With the essential view eliminating redundant information, we also theoretically prove that our SEGO effectively captures the maximum mutual information between the representations obtained from the anchor view and labels.

**Theorem 2.** Optimizing the contrastive loss is equivalent to maximizing  $I(f(G^*); f(G))$ , leading to the maximization of  $I(f(G^*); y)$ .

## Redundancy-aware Multi-grained Triplet Contrastive Learning (1)

**Instantiation of Triplet Views.** We first treat a given graph  $G_b = (A, X)$  as a basic view to directly learn from the original input of the ID data. From this basic view, we construct an anchor view of the graph ( $\triangleright$ Eq. (5)). The total process can be divided into two steps: 1) construction of the full-height binary coding tree and 2) compression of the binary coding tree to height  $k$ . We design two efficient operators, **MERGE** and **DROP**, to construct minimal structural entropy coding tree  $T$  with fixed height  $k$ .

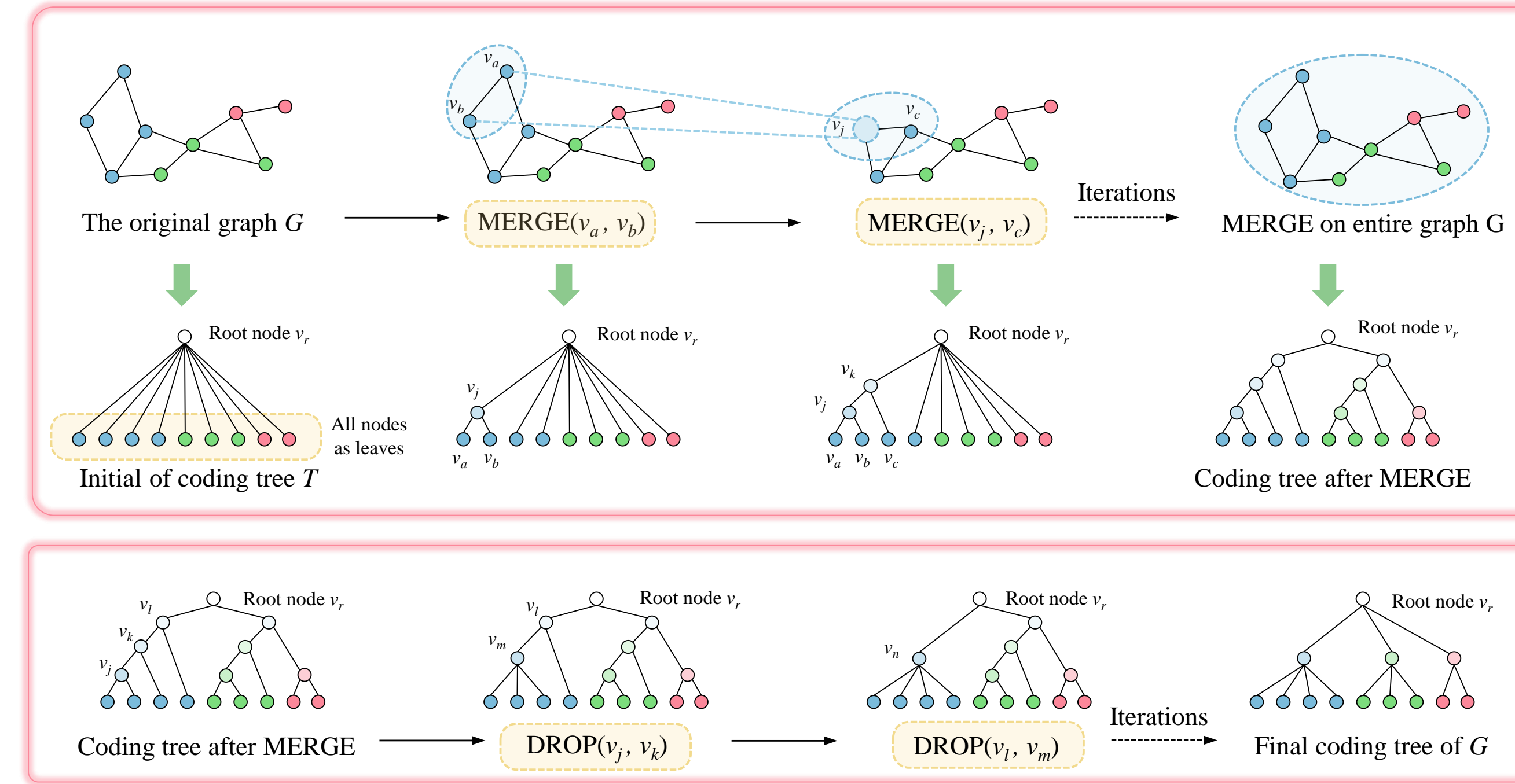


Figure 3. Overview of operators MERGE and DROP.

**Definition 2.** Assuming  $v_a$  and  $v_b$  as two child nodes of root node  $v_r$ , **MERGE**( $v_a, v_b$ ) is defined as adding a new node  $v_j$  as the child of  $v_r$  and the parent of  $v_a$  and  $v_b$ :

$$v_j.children = \{v_a, v_b\}, \quad v_r.children = \{v_j\} \cup v_r.children, \quad (6)$$

$$(v_a, v_b) = \text{argmax} \{ \mathcal{H}^T(G) - \mathcal{H}^{T_{ab}}(G) | v_a, v_b \in v_r.children \}. \quad (7)$$

## Redundancy-aware Multi-grained Triplet Contrastive Learning (2)

**Definition 3.** Given node  $v_m$  and its parent node  $v_m^+$  in  $T$ , the operator **DROP**( $v_m$ ) is defined as adding the children of  $v_m$  and itself to the child set of  $v_m^+$ :

$$v_m^+.children = v_m^+.children \cup v_m.children, \quad (8)$$

$$v_m = \text{argmin} \{ \mathcal{H}^{T_m}(G) - \mathcal{H}^T(G) | v_m \in T, v_m \neq v_r, v_m \notin \mathcal{V} \}. \quad (9)$$

This tree anchor view  $T = \arg \min \mathcal{H}^T(G_b)$  effectively removes redundant information from graphs while preserving distinctive essential structural information.

**Multi-grained Contrastive Learning Objectives.** We employ a multi-grained contrastive learning scheme that extracts features at three distinct levels: the **local-level** for fine-grained feature extraction, the **global-level** for coarse-grained feature extraction, and the **tree-level** for capturing essential information of the entire graph ( $\triangleright$ Figure 2).

During the training phase, we introduce the standard deviation of prediction errors to adaptively adjust the balance of local and global information. The overall loss is calculated by:

$$\mathcal{L} = \mathcal{L}_{tree} + \sigma_l^2 \mathcal{L}_{local} + \sigma_g^2 \mathcal{L}_{global}, \quad (10)$$

where  $\sigma_l$  and  $\sigma_g$  are the standard deviations of predicted errors of the node and graph levels, respectively. During the inference phase, we employ z-score normalization based on the mean values and standard deviations of the predicted errors of training samples:  $s_{G_i} = \frac{s_i - \mu_l}{\sigma_l} + \frac{s_g - \mu_g}{\sigma_g}$ , where  $\mu_l$  and  $\mu_g$  represent the mean values of predicted errors for training samples.

## Experiments (Partial)

ID dataset	BZR	PTC-MR	AIDS	ENZYMES	IMDB-M	Tox21	FreeSolv	BBBP	ClinTox	Esol	A.A.	A.R.
OOD dataset	COX2	MUTAG	DHFR	PROTEIN	IMDB-B	SIDER	ToxCast	BACE	LIPO	MUV		
PK-LOF	42.22±8.39	51.04±6.04	50.15±3.29	50.47±2.87	48.03±2.53	51.33±1.81	49.16±3.70	53.10±2.07	50.00±2.17	50.82±1.48	49.63	12.9
PK-OCSVM	42.55±8.26	49.71±6.58	50.17±3.30	50.46±2.78	48.07±2.41	51.33±1.81	48.82±3.29	53.05±2.10	50.06±2.19	51.00±1.33	49.52	12.8
PK-iF	51.46±1.62	54.29±4.33	51.10±1.43	51.67±2.69	50.67±2.47	49.87±0.82	52.28±1.87	51.47±1.33	50.81±1.10	50.85±3.51	51.45	11.1
WL-LOF	48.99±6.20	53.31±8.98	50.77±2.87	52.66±2.47	52.28±4.50	51.92±1.58	51.47±4.23	52.80±1.91	51.29±3.40	51.26±1.31	51.68	10.4
WL-OCSVM	49.16±4.51	53.31±7.57	50.98±2.71	51.77±2.21	51.38±2.39	51.08±1.46	50.38±3.81	52.85±2.00	50.77±3.69	50.97±1.65	51.27	11.1
WL-iF	50.24±2.49	51.43±2.02	50.10±0.44	51.17±2.01	51.07±2.25	50.25±0.96	52.60±2.38	50.78±0.75	50.41±2.17	50.61±1.96	50.87	12.4
OCGIN	76.66±4.17	80.38±6.84	86.01±6.59	57.65±2.96	67.93±3.86	46.09±1.66	59.60±4.78	61.21±8.12	49.13±4.13	54.04±5.50	63.87	7.9
GLocalKD	75.75±5.99	70.63±3.54	93.67±1.24	57.18±2.03	78.25±4.35	66.28±0.98	64.82±3.31	73.15±1.26	55.71±3.81	86.83±2.35	72.23	5.1
InfoGraph-iF	63.17±9.74	51.43±5.19	93.10±1.35	60.00±1.83	58.73±1.96	56.28±0.81	56.92±1.69	53.68±2.90	48.51±1.87	54.16±5.14	59.60	8.5
InfoGraph-MD	86.14±6.77	50.79±8.49	69.02±11.67	55.25±3.51	<b>81.38±1.14</b>	59.97±2.06	58.05±5.46	70.49±4.63	48.12±5.72	77.57±1.69	65.68	7.4
GraphCL-iF	60.00±3.81	50.86±4.30	92.90±1.21	61.33±2.27	59.67±1.65	56.81±0.97	55.55±2.71	59.41±3.58	47.84±0.92	62.12±4.01	60.65	8.7
GraphCL-MD	83.64±6.00	73.03±2.38	93.75±2.13	52.87±6.11	79.09±2.73	58.30±1.52	60.31±5.24	75.72±1.54	51.58±3.64	78.73±1.40	70.70	5.3
GOOD-D <sub>simp</sub>	93.00±3.20	78.43±2.67	98.91±0.41	61.89±2.51	79.71±1.19	65.30±1.27	70.48±2.75	81.56±1.97	66.13±2.98	91.39±0.46	78.68	3.2
GOOD-D	<b>94.99±2.25</b>	<b>81.21±2.65</b>	<b>99.07±0.40</b>	<b>61.84±1.94</b>	79.94±1.09	<b>66.50±1.35</b>	<b>80.13±3.43</b>	<b>82.91±2.58</b>	<b>69.18±3.61</b>	<b>91.52±0.70</b>	<b>80.73</b>	<b>2.2</b>
SEGO	<b>96.66±0.91</b>	<b>85.02±0.94</b>	<b>99.48±0.11</b>	<b>64.42±4.95</b>	<b>80.27±0.92</b>	<b>66.67±0.82</b>	<b>90.95±1.93</b>	<b>87.55±0.13</b>	<b>78.99±2.81</b>	<b>94.59±0.94</b>	<b>84.46</b>	<b>1.1</b>

Table 1. OOD detection results in terms of AUC (%), mean  $\pm$  std).

$\mathcal{L}_{tree}$	$\mathcal{L}_{global}$	$\mathcal{L}_{local}$	BZR	PTC-MR	AIDS	ENZYMES	IMDB-M	Tox21	FreeSolv	BBBP	ClinTox	Esol
			COX2	MUTAG	DHFR	PROTEIN	IMDB-B	SIDER	ToxCast	BACE	LIPO	MUV
✓	-	-	54.79±4.08	58.20±3.87	43.68±7.36	49.26±1.11	49.56±5.76	49.26±5.10	49.89±2.95	50.53±0.63	51.97±4.58	54.49±3.57
-	✓	-	87.44±4.66	77.84±3.71	97.60±1.05	56.74±1.96	75.22±1.91	65.07±1.32	78.40±6.44	77.66±2.29	70.11±2.44	89.57±2.80
-	-	✓	83.51±4.14	72.48±3.77	96.84±0.58	60.85±2.95	<b>79.34±1.81</b>	62.58±0.67	59.48±2.20	69.53±2.29	53.29±4.32	86.49±1.20
✓	-	✓	87.27±8.21	<b>87.71±1.35</b>	97.97±0.04	54.82±2.74	74.51±1.52	64.84±0.29	89.34±0.06	<b>88.34±1.64</b>	<b>79.21±4.55</b>	<b>94.13±1.32</b>
✓	-	✓	79.36±8.69	55.08±1.29	90.66±3.40	<b>63.38±4.18</b>	72.96±3.73	55.68±2.67	61.01±5.29	70.13±0.26	52.14±2.58	77.78±1.01
-	-	✓	86.29±1.09	77.53±4.03	<b>98.23±0.19</b>	61.55±1.47	75.27±0.54	<b>65.44±1.14</b>	88.04±1.15	80.43±2.58	65.89±4.58	90.94±1.17
✓	✓	✓	<b>96.66±0.91</b>	<b>85.02±0.94</b>	<b>99.48±0.11</b>	<b>64.42±4.95</b>	<b>80.27±0.92</b>	<b>66.67±0.82</b>	<b>90.95±1.93</b>	<b>87.55±0.13</b>	<b>78.99±2.81</b>	<b>94.59±0.94</b>

Table 2. Ablation study results of SEGO and its variants in terms of AUC (%), mean  $\pm$  std).

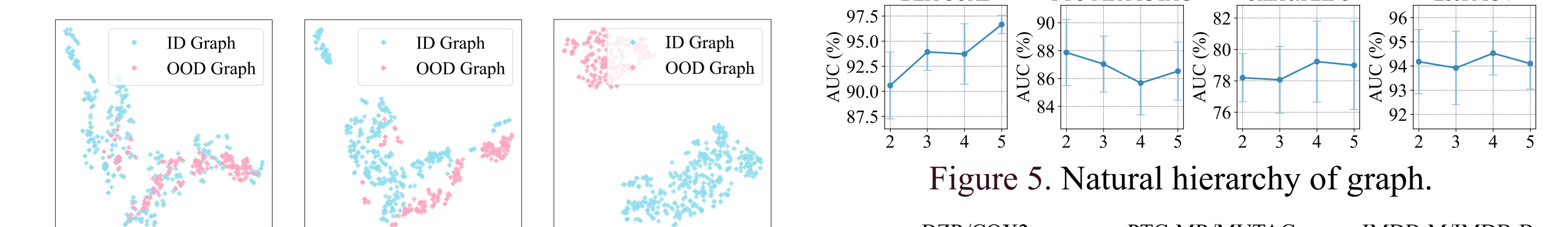


Figure 4. T-SNE visualization of embeddings.

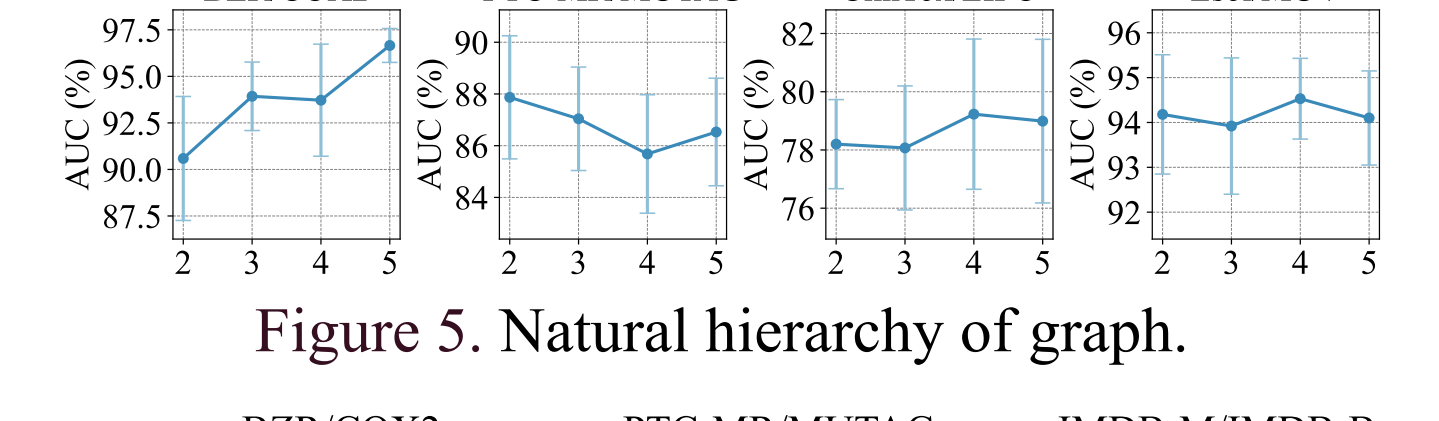


Figure 5. Natural hierarchy of graph.

Figure 6. Sensitivity of self-adaptiveness strength  $\theta$ .