

Reliable Learning on Graphs

Sihong Xie, Associate Professor
ExRAIL (Exploratory Reliable AI Lab)

AI Thrust, HKUST(GZ)

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Reliable Learning on Graphs

Reliable machine learning

When applying AI to clinical medicine



Do you trust the AI medical diagnosis?

What makes you feel better

- Explanation
- Stability
- Confidence

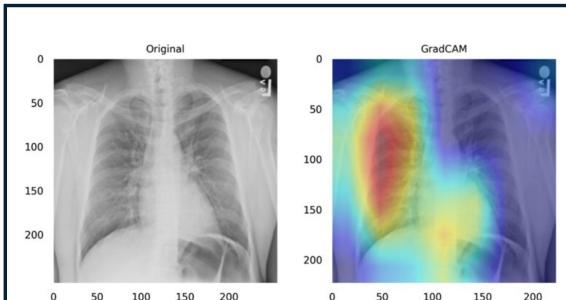
Reliable machine learning

Make ML reliable to humans

-- ExRAIL

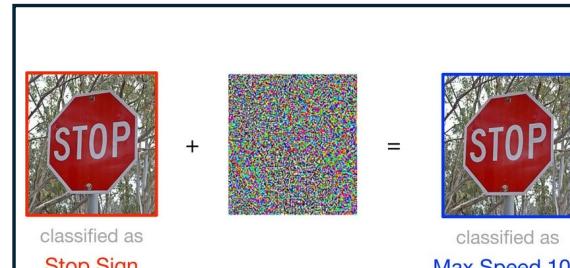
What makes you feel better about AI prediction

Explainability



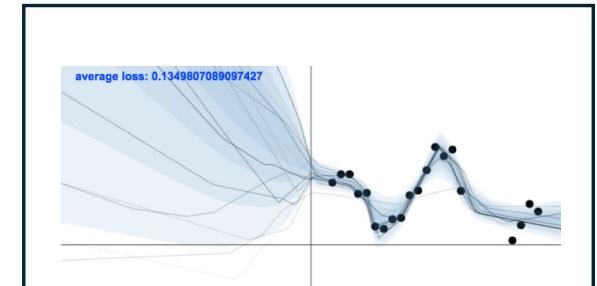
What causes the prediction?

Robustness



Prediction stable to noise?

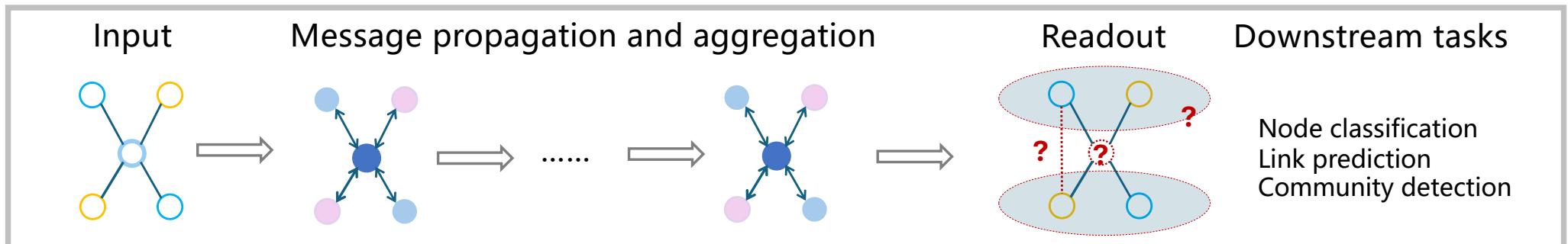
Confidence



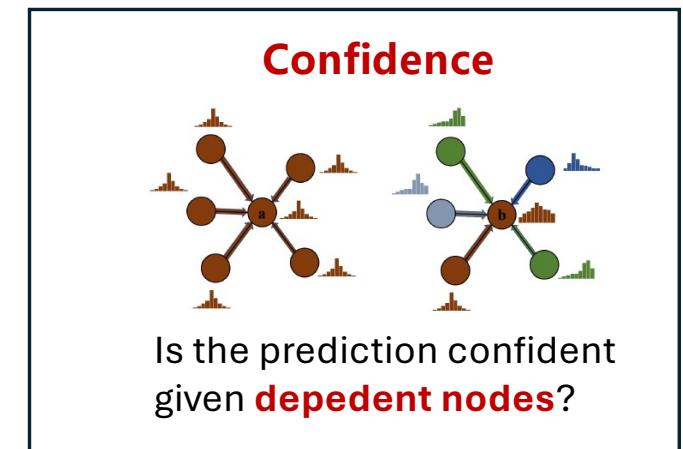
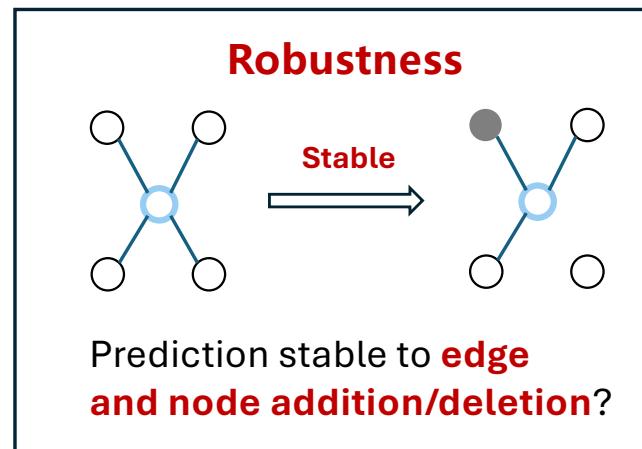
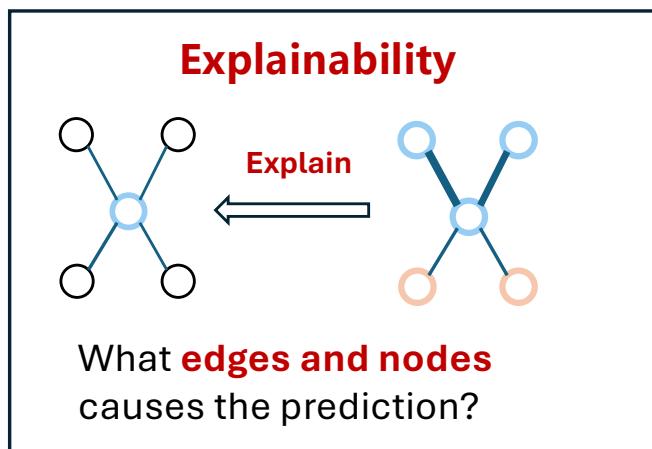
Is the prediction confident?

Reliable learning on graph

Graph learning pipeline



Reliable learning on graph



Framework of reliable graph learning

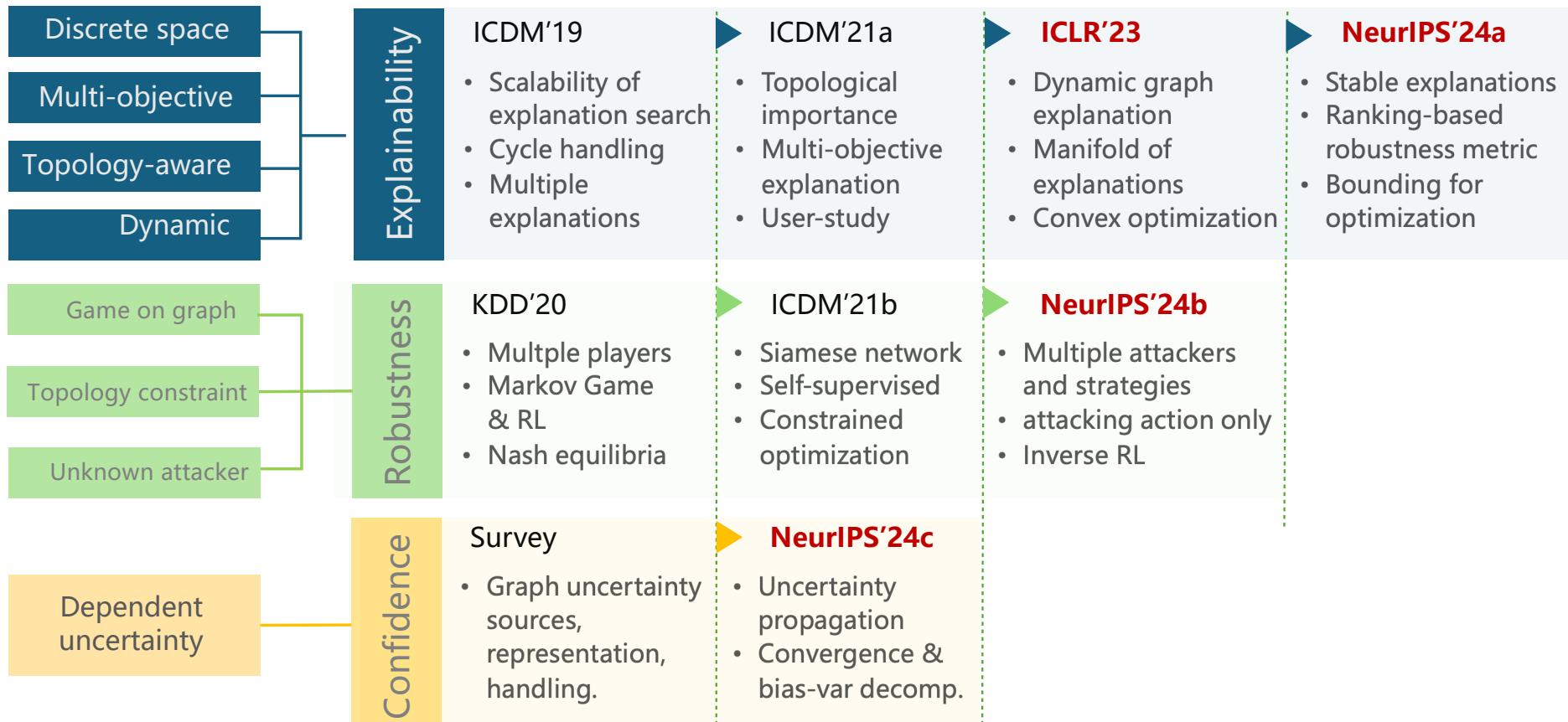
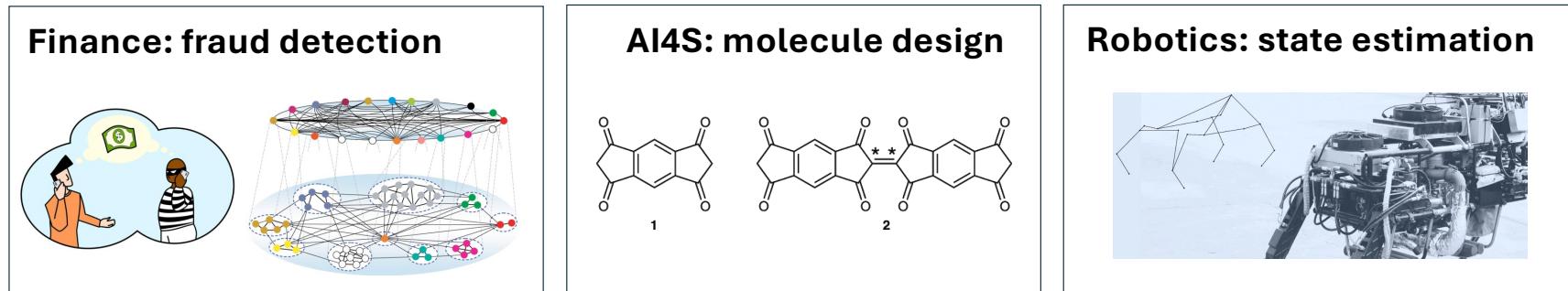


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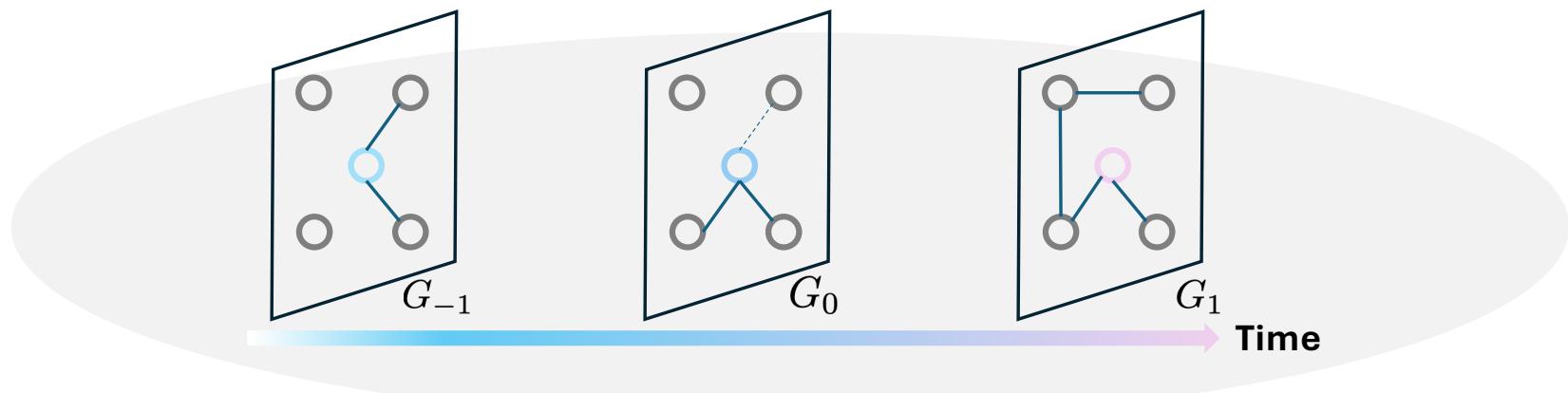
- Dynamic graph explanation (ICLR'23)
- Robust graph explanation (NeurIPS'24a)
- Learn about attacker on graph (NeurIPS'24b)
- Uncertainty quantification on graph (NeurIPS'24c)

Dynamic Graphs: background

- Graph G can be constantly changing on the **node/edge/attribute** levels.

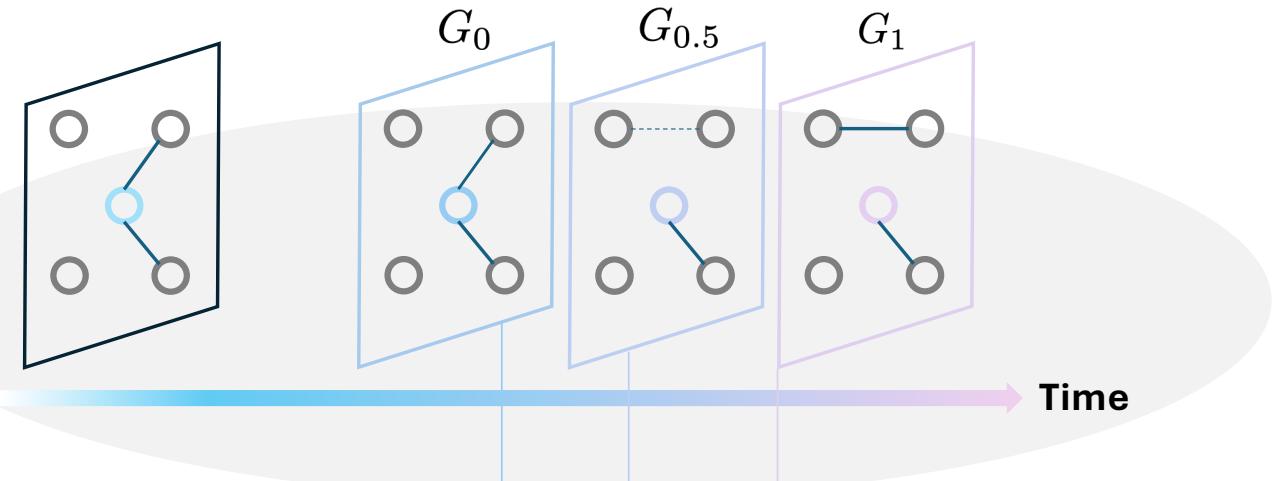


- Predictions $\Pr(Y|G; \theta)$ on G changes too

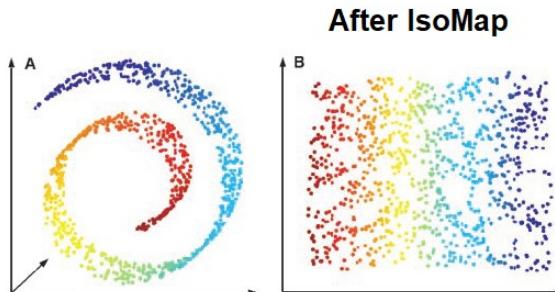


Dynamic Graphs: modeling

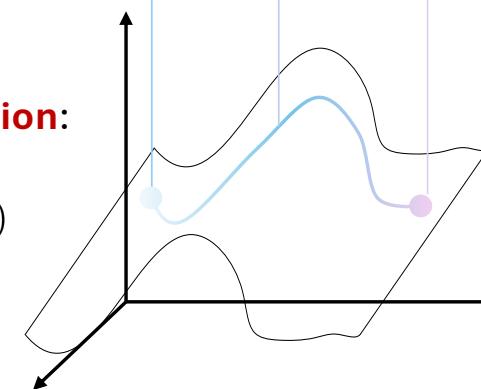
- How a parametric model responses to graph evolution?
 - Node/edge changes are insufficiently accurate.
 - What if changes are infinitesimal small?



Manifold: manifolds are smooth mapping, and can reveal intrinsic properties (e.g., distance) of the data.



Node classification:
with c classes
locally, $\Pr(Y|G; \theta)$
is on a $(c-1)$ -dim manifold



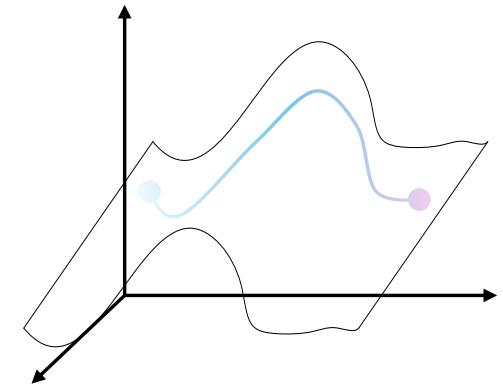
- Advantages:**
- Smooth manifold
 - Fill in the gap
 - Differentiable
 - Nonlinearity (via. Fisher Information)

Dynamic Graphs: modeling

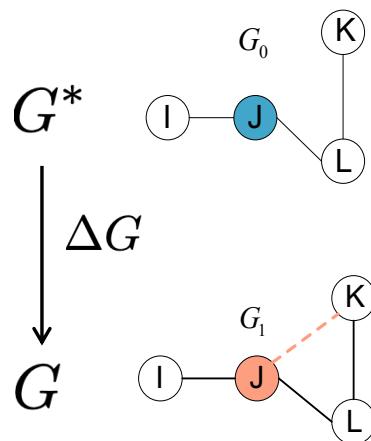
- Information geometry provides a manifold of exponential family.

$$\{\Pr(Y|G) = \text{softmax}(z_1, \dots, z_c) : \mathbf{z} = \text{logit}(G), \forall G\}$$

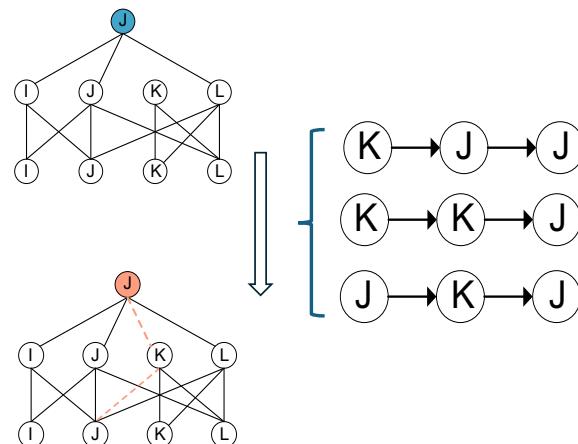
Coordinates	$\mathbf{z} = [z_1, \dots, z_c]$	A	Path contributions
Gen. linear model	$\text{softmax}(z_1, \dots, z_c)$	N/A	$\text{softmax}(\mathbf{z}_J(G^*) + \mathbf{1}^\top C_J(G))$
Extrinsic dim	c	$ V \times V $	$m \times c$



Input Graph View



Computation Graph View



Coordinate View

$$\begin{aligned}
 & [z_1(G^*), \dots, z_c(G^*)] \\
 & + \\
 & \left[\sum_{p=1}^m C_{p,1}(G), \dots, \sum_{p=1}^m C_{p,c}(G) \right] \\
 & \Downarrow \\
 & [z_1(G), \dots, z_c(G)]
 \end{aligned}$$

\mathbf{z}^*

$\Delta \mathbf{z}$

\mathbf{z}

Dynamic Graphs: modeling

Properties

- The logits and therefore the log-probability is differentiable with respect to the coordinate (path contributions). Define the Fisher Information Matrix

$$I(\text{vec}(C_J(G_1))) = (\nabla_{\text{vec}(C_J(G_1))} \mathbf{z}_J(G_1))^T \mathbb{E}_{Y \sim \Pr(Y|G_1)} [s_{\mathbf{z}_J(G_1)} s_{\mathbf{z}_J(G_1)}^T] (\nabla_{\text{vec}(C_J(G_1))} \mathbf{z}_J(G_1))$$

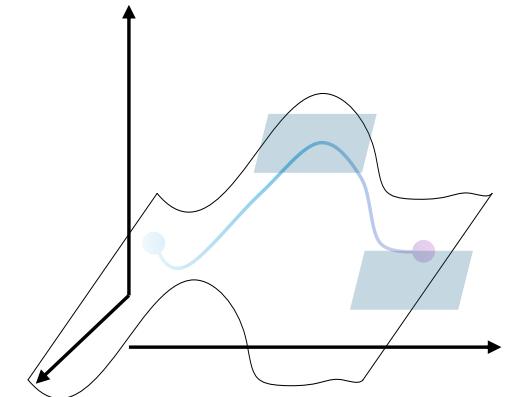
- The distance metric on the manifold is curved (non-Euclidean) and adaptive to the local curvature.

$$\text{vec}(\Delta C_J(G_1, G_0))^T I(\text{vec}(C_J(G_1))) \text{vec}(\Delta C_J(G_1, G_0))$$

- Given $G_0 \rightarrow G_1$, define a curve on the manifold

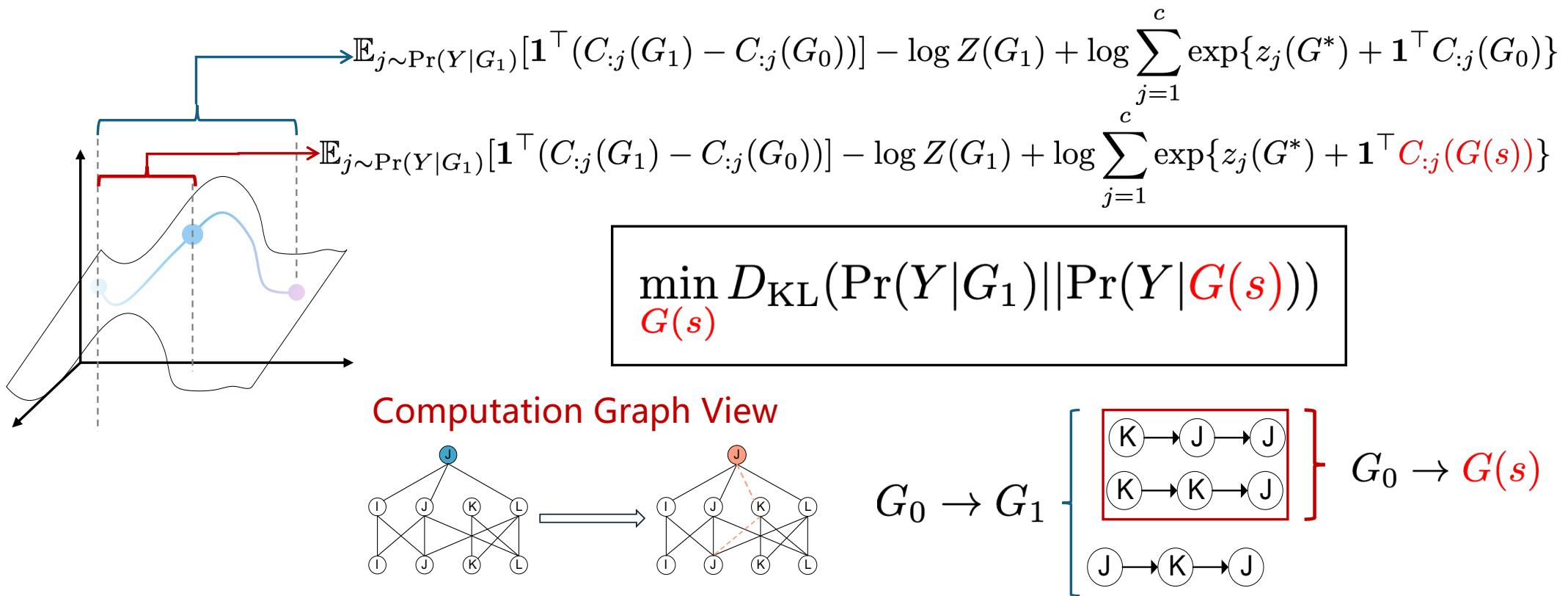
$$\{\Pr(Y|G(s)) : s \in [0, 1], \Pr(Y|G(0)) = \Pr(Y|G_0), \Pr(Y|G(1)) = \Pr(Y|G_1)\}$$

where $\Pr(Y|G(s))$ is differentiable w.r.t. the time variable $s \in [0, 1]$



Explanation evolving graphs

The distance between two distributions is $D_{\text{KL}}(\Pr(Y|G_1) \parallel \Pr(Y|G(s)))$



Explanation evolving graphs

Verified on node classification,
link prediction, and graph
classification tasks.

8 graph datasets.

Metric: explanation
faithfulness (KL^+) ↓

See the paper
*A Differential Geometric View and
Explainability of GNN on Evolving
Graphs* (ICLR 2023)
for more details.

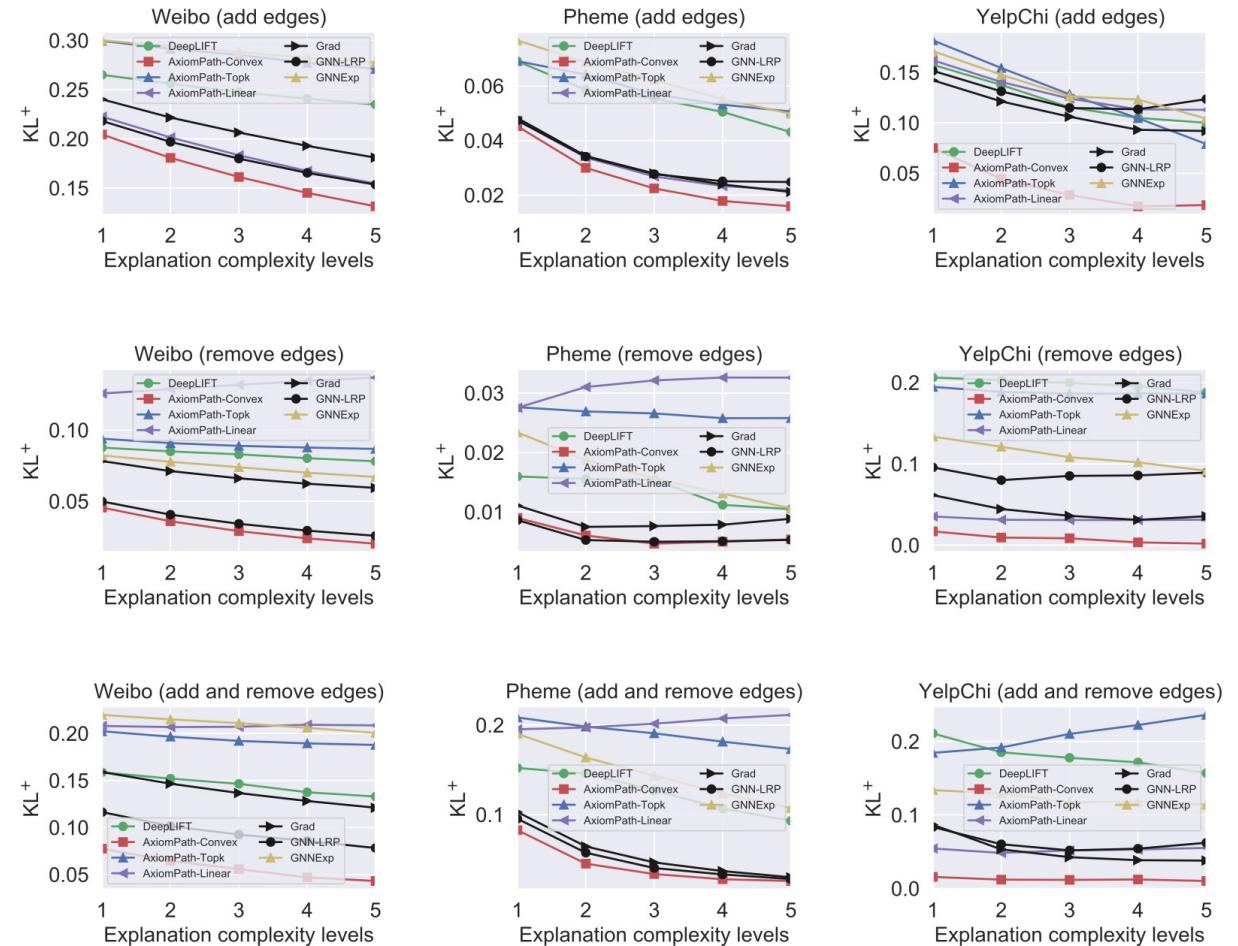


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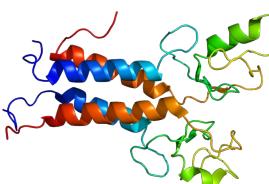
Robust explanation: motivation

- Robustness of explanations: an explanation won't change due to irrelevant perturbations.

Stability has to do with the extent to which a relationship holds across diverse segments of the population (or across various circumstances).

-- Nadya Vasilyeva, Thomas Blanchard, Tania Lombrozo.
“*Stable Causal Relationships Are Better Causal Relationships*”.
Cognitive Science 42 (2018) 1265–1296

- A mental experiment about robustness/stability

		Income and social status		Which causal relationship do you trust?
		High	Low	
Gene BRCA1 Mutation		→ causes cancer	True	True
Gene Gabrb1 Mutation		→ causes alcoholism	False	True

- Many empirical studies: stable relationship under different background is trusted more.

Robust explanation: motivation

- Gradient-based explanation is sensitive to **irrelevant** perturbations?

Credit card approval

Feature	Value
Age	25
Gender	Male
Education	Bachelor
House	Rental
Deposits	Below \$5,000
Active cards	3
...	...

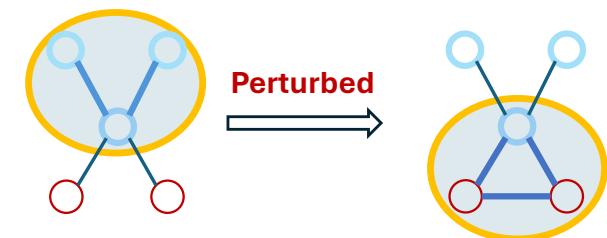
Perturbed

Feature	Value
Age	25
Gender	Female
Education	Master
House	Rental
Deposits	Below \$5,000
Active cards	3
...	...

$f(x)$: Rejected

$f(x')$: Rejected

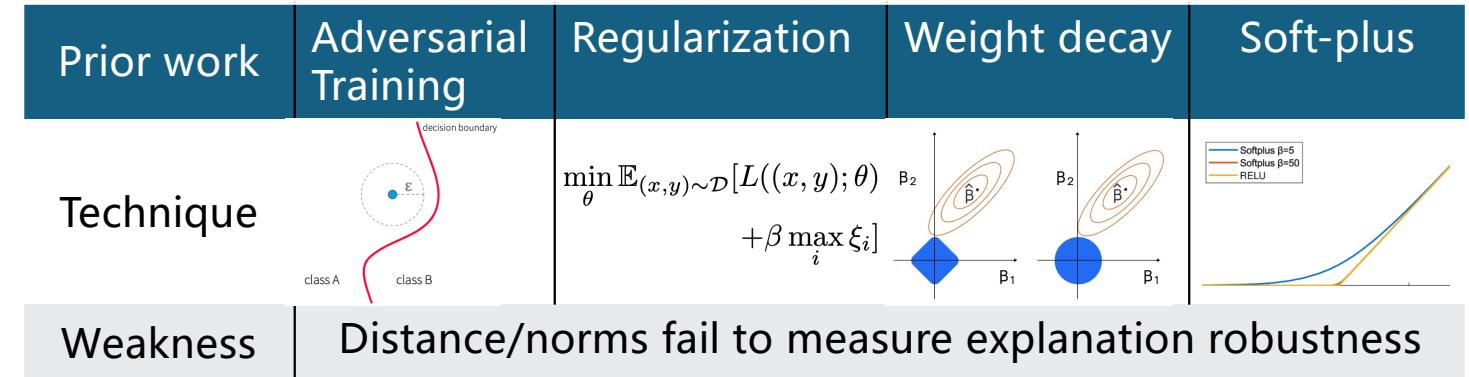
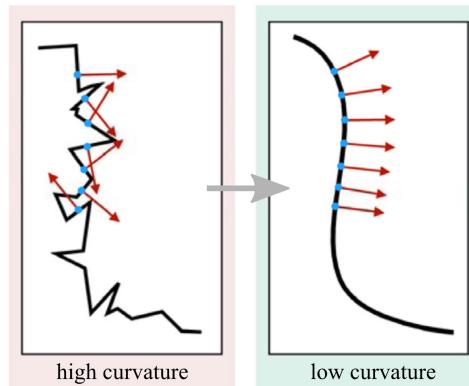
Node classification



Prediction = ○

Robust explanation: existing work

- Gradient-based explanations are vulnerable.



Features	$g(x)$	$g(x')$	$g(x'')$	$g(x''')$
Age	0.10	0.01	0.25	3.3
Gender	0.06	0.02	0.06	2.0
Education	0.05	0.05	0.05	2.8
House	0.30	0.20	0.15	41.5
Deposits	0.33	0.63	0.33	57.7
Active cards	0.16	0.09	0.16	10.3

- Distance/norm do not reflect ranking invariance.

$$|g(x) - g(x')| > |g(x) - g(x'')|$$

- Distance/norm are sensitive to the scale of the gradient.

$$|g(x) - g(x''')| \gg |g(x) - g(x'')|$$

Robust explanation: a novel metric

Features	$g(x)$	$g(x')$
Age	0.10	0.01
Gender	0.06	0.02
Education	0.05	0.05
House	0.30	0.20
Deposits	0.33	0.63
Active cards	0.16	0.09

Definition: the distance between the importance scores of features i and j

$$h(x, i, j) = g_i(x) - g_j(x)$$

Example: deposits (i) is more indicative than Gender (j), then $h(x, i, j) > 0$

Invariant 1) the gap remains positive to perturbations

$$\int_0^1 h(x(t), i, j) dt > 0$$

Invariant 2) and the gap remains positive for all input

$$\Theta(i, j) = \mathbb{E}_{x' \sim D} \left[\int_0^1 h(x(t), i, j) dt \right]$$

Focused on top k important features
Top- k Thickness

$$\Theta(k) = \frac{1}{k(n-k)} \sum_{i=1}^k \sum_{j=k+1}^n \Theta(i, j)$$

Robust explanation: optimization

- Thickness is **bounded** by:

$$h(x, i, j) - \frac{\epsilon}{2} |H_i(x) - H_j(x)|_2 \leq \Theta(i, j)$$

$$\leq h(x, i, j) + \epsilon(L_i + L_j),$$

where $H_i(x)$ is the i -th row of the Hessian matrix,

and $L_i = \max_{x' \in B(x, \epsilon)} |H_i(x')|_2$.

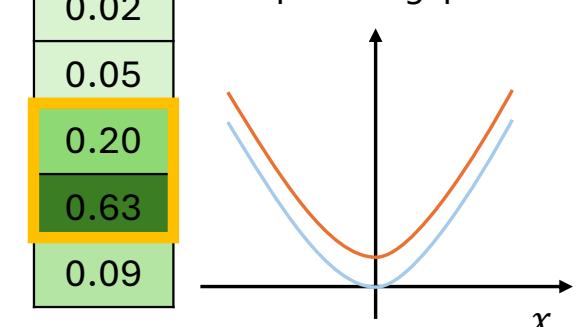
- R2ET**: train a prediction model, while encouraging a **larger gap** and **smaller Hessian norm**.

$$\min_{\theta} \mathcal{L}_{cls} - \lambda_1 \mathbb{E}_x \left[\sum_i^k \sum_j^n h(x, i, j) \right] + \lambda_2 \mathbb{E}_x |H(x)|_2$$

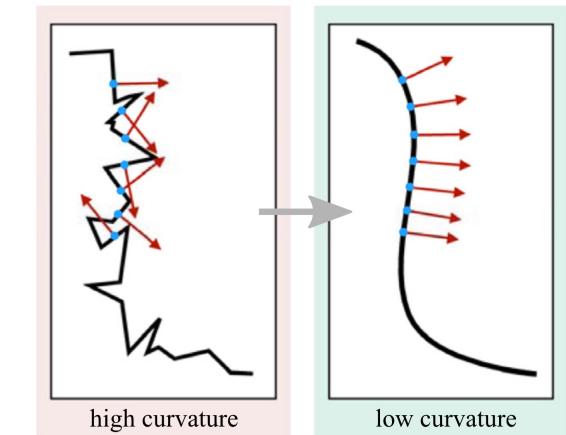
Max the
gap locally

0.01
0.02
0.05
0.20
0.63
0.09

Same speed of gradient
Change to maintain
the positive gap



Smooth
the curve



Experiments

- Experimental results on image and graphs (with **many** features)

Maintaining *all* “important” features on the top is difficult when the explanation functions are not smooth.

Intuition: the ranking changes a lot, leading to many local optima.

Method	MNIST	CIFAR-10	ROCT	ADHD	BP
# of features	28*28	32*32	771*514	6555	3240
Vanilla	59.0 / 64.0	66.5 / 68.3	71.9 / <u>77.7</u>	45.5 / 81.1	69.4 / 88.9
WD	59.1 / 64.8	64.2 / 65.6	77.2 / 68.9	47.6 / 79.4	69.4 / 88.6
SP	62.9 / 66.9	67.2 / 71.9	73.9 / 69.5	42.5 / 81.3	68.7 / 90.1
Est-H	85.2 / 90.2	77.1 / 78.7	78.9 / 78.0 [†]	58.2 / 83.7	(75.0 / 91.4)*
Exact-H	- / -	- / -	- / -	- / -	- / -
SSR	- / -	- / -	- / -	- / -	- / -
AT	56.0 / 63.9	61.6 / 66.8	78.0 / 72.9	59.4 / 81.0	72.0 / 89.0
R2ET _{\setminus H}	82.8 / 89.7	67.3 / 72.2	79.4 / 70.9	60.7 / 86.8	70.9 / 89.5
R2ET-mm _{\setminus H}	81.6 / 89.7	<u>77.7</u> / 79.4 [†]	77.3 / 60.2	<u>64.2</u> / <u>88.8</u>	<u>72.4</u> / <u>91.0</u>
R2ET	85.7 / <u>90.8</u>	75.0 / 77.4	<u>79.3</u> / 70.9	71.6 [†] / 91.3 [†]	71.5 / 89.9
R2ET-mm	<u>85.3</u> / 91.4 [†]	78.0 [†] / <u>79.1</u>	79.1 / 68.3	58.8 / 87.5	73.8 [†] / 91.1 [†]

Optimizing Hessian-related terms make ranking easier (smoother) to find better optima.

Experiments

- Experimental results on tabular data (with **fewer** features)

Minimizing Hessian norm may be harmful.

An experimental observation: smaller Hessian norm more likely to result in smaller gradient magnitude (and gap).

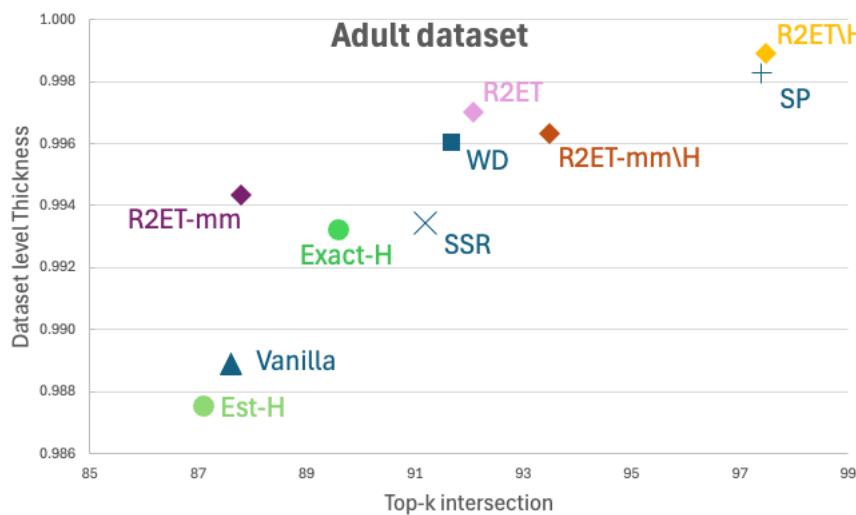
Broadening gaps only is good enough.

Method	Adult	Bank	COMPAS
# of features	28	18	16
Vanilla	87.6 / 87.7	83.0 / 94.0	84.2 / 99.7
WD	91.7 / 91.8	82.4 / 85.9	87.7 / 99.4
SP	97.4 / 97.5	95.4 / 95.5	99.5[†] / 100.0
Est-H	87.1 / 87.2	78.4 / 81.8	82.6 / 97.7
Exact-H	89.6 / 89.7	81.9 / 85.6	77.2 / 96.0
SSR	91.2 / 92.6	76.3 / 84.5	82.1 / 97.2
AT	68.4 / 91.4	80.0 / 88.4	84.2 / 90.5
R2ET _{\setminus H}	97.5 / 97.7	100.0[†] / 100.0[†]	91.0 / 99.2
R2ET-mm _{\setminus H}	93.5 / 93.6	95.8 / 98.2	95.3 / 97.2
R2ET	92.1 / 92.7	80.4 / 90.5	92.0 / 99.9
R2ET-mm	87.8 / 87.9	75.1 / 85.4	82.1 / 98.4

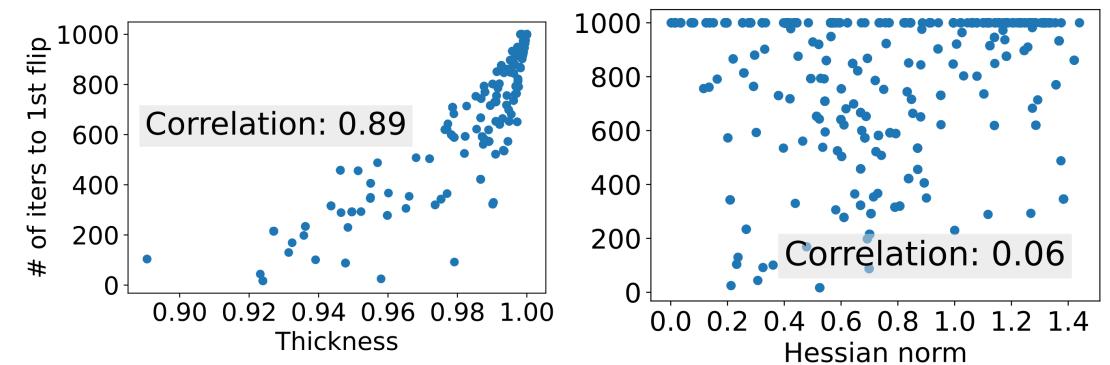
Experiments

- Thickness pinpoints the fundamental metric for explanation robustness.

Why R2ET *may not be the best?*



- Each dot is a sample data
- x-axis: thickness (*left*) or hessian norm (right).
- y-axis: the number of iterations needed to **manipulate** any ranking.



Higher thickness leads to better robustness.

R2ET does not have the highest thickness.

Compared with **Hessian norm**, **thickness** shows significantly closer relationship to explanation robustness.

See *Training for Stable Explanation for Free* (NeurIPS 2024) for more details.

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Secure learning by learning the opponents

「知己知彼，百戰不殆；不知彼而知己，一勝一負；不知彼，不知己，每戰必殆。」

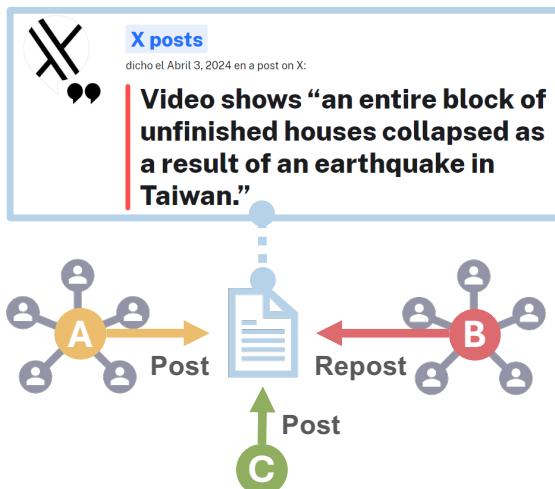
-- 《孫子兵法·謀攻篇》

Know yourself and your enemy, and you will be victorious in every battle.

-- Sun Tzu's Art of War

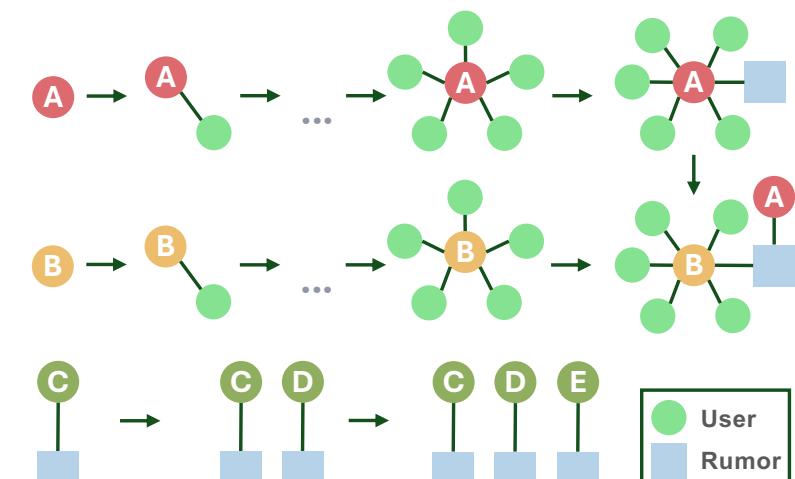
The underlying strategy is a mixture and unknown to us

An X Rumor in the Social Graph



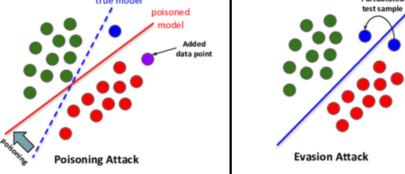
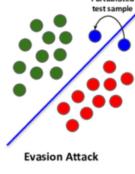
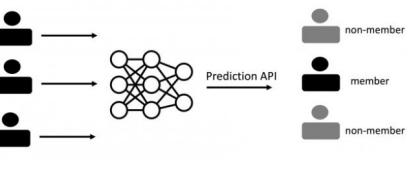
Observable trajectory data

Attack Sequences

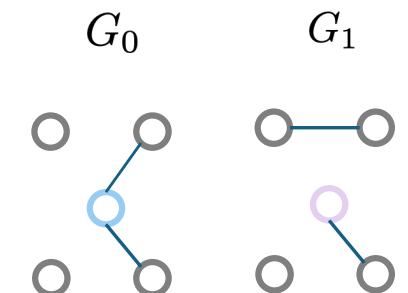


Secure learning on graph

- Attackers know about and can edit the graph
 - ✓ Add reviews to a product;
 - ✓ Friend an account;
 - ✓ Create new accounts;
 - ✓ Modify account profile.
- Attacking a model
- Knowledge about attackers
 - ✓ Generate attacking samples for adversarial training;
 - ✓ Help humans understand weaknesses of the algorithm.

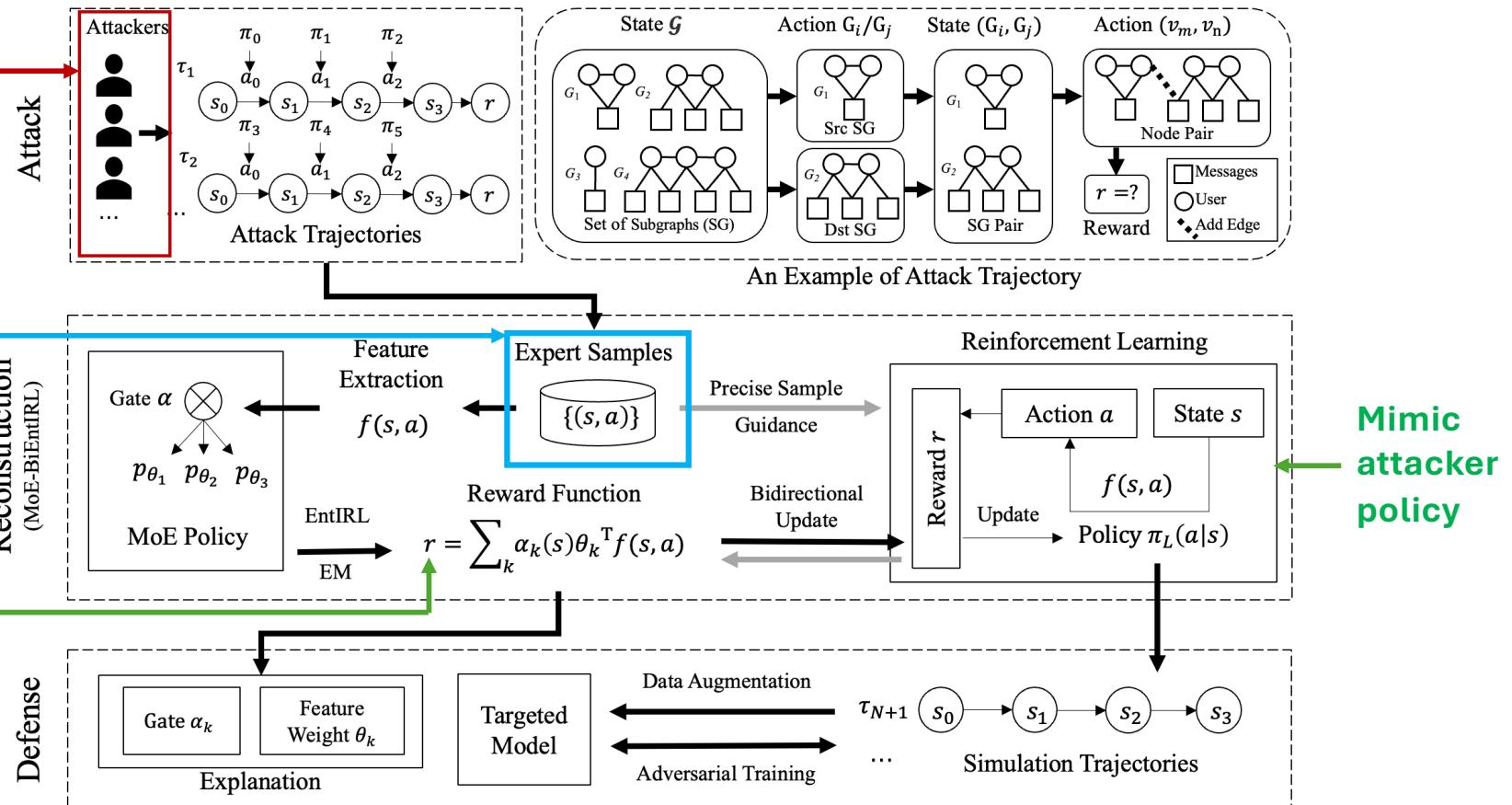
Attack	Poisoning	Evasion	Backdoor	Membership Inference
Technique				
Weakness	Cannot handle discrete attacking on graphs			

RL is useful
for graph security



Framework

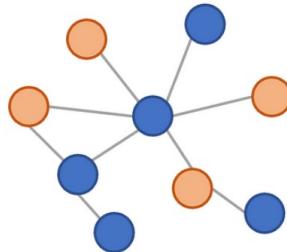
Their underlying strategy is a mixture and unknown to us.



Details

IRL method	MaxEntIRL	MoE
Policy	$p(a s) = \frac{1}{Z} \exp(r_\theta(s, a)),$	$p(a^{(t)} s^{(t)}, \theta) = \sum_{k=1}^K \alpha_k(s^{(t)}, \varphi) p(a^{(t)} s^{(t)}, \theta_k),$ $p(a^{(t)} s^{(t)}, \theta_k) = \frac{\exp(\theta_k^\top f(s^{(t)}, a^{(t)}))}{\sum_{a \in \mathcal{A}_{s,t}} \exp(\theta_k^\top f(s^{(t)}, a))},$
Reward	$r_\theta(s, a) = \theta^\top f(s, a)$	$r_\theta(s, a) = \sum_{k=1}^K \alpha_k(s) \theta_k^\top f(s, a)$
Learning algorithm	$\max_{\theta} \sum_{s,a} \log p(a s, \theta)$	$\hat{\gamma}_{jkt} = P(\gamma_{jkt} = 1 a_j^{(t)}, s_j^{(t)}, \theta^{(i)}) = \frac{\alpha_k(s_j^{(t)}) p(a_j^{(t)} s_j^{(t)}, \theta_k^{(i)})}{\sum_{k=1}^K \alpha_k(s_j^{(t)}) p(a_j^{(t)} s_j^{(t)}, \theta_k^{(i)})}$ $L_{gate}(\varphi) = \sum_{t=0}^{T-1} \sum_{k=1}^K \sum_{j=1}^N \hat{\gamma}_{jkt} \log \alpha_k(s_j^{(t)}),$ $L_{ex}(\theta_k) = \sum_{t=0}^{T-1} \sum_{j=1}^N \hat{\gamma}_{jkt} \log p(a_j^{(t)} s_j^{(t)}, \theta_k).$ <p>EM algorithm: Latent variables indicating which expert generates which action.</p>

Experiment results



● Training IRL
● Testing resulting attacking π

Table 1: Dataset statistics.

	Weibo	Pheme
Nodes	10,280	2,708
Edges	16,412	4,401
Rumors	1,538	284
Non-rumors	1,849	859
Users	2,440	1,008
Comments	4,453	557

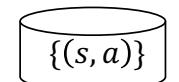
- Evaluation metric
 - increase in rumor detection error



See "Enhancing Robustness of Graph Neural Networks on Social Media with Explainable Inverse Reinforcement Learning", NeurIPS'24 for more details.

- Trajectory generating methods

Expert Samples



	Inverse RL baselines	High-Cost Attack			Low-Cost Attack	
		<i>PRBCD</i>	<i>AdRumor</i>	Mixture	<i>PageRank</i>	<i>GC-RWCS</i>
Weibo T=5	Expert	4.865	4.877	-	3.000	3.000
	<i>Apprenticeship</i>	1.275	0.788	0.704	0.850	0.763
	<i>EntIRL</i>	4.650	4.770	4.550	5.000	4.950
	MoE-BiEntIRL	4.989	4.990	4.929	4.860	4.900
Weibo T=20	Expert	19.521	19.854	-	5.449	5.160
	<i>Apprenticeship</i>	1.142	3.066	3.945	0.030	0.040
	<i>EntIRL</i>	19.030	19.749	19.199	19.830	20.000
	MoE-BiEntIRL	19.876	19.936	19.979	19.970	19.700
Pheme T=5	Expert	4.804	5.947	-	2.991	3.990
	<i>Apprenticeship</i>	1.788	3.387	2.619	0.000	0.000
	<i>EntIRL</i>	0.000	0.018	0.010	0.000	0.062
	MoE-BiEntIRL	2.205	4.965	4.277	1.488	2.105

Table of Content

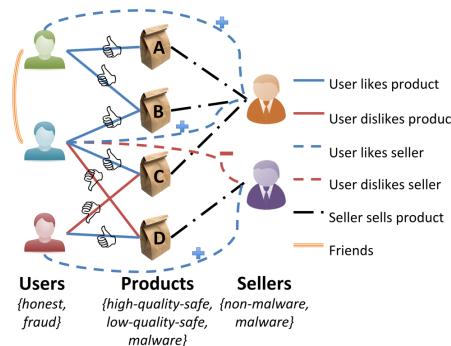
- Dynamic graph explanation (ICLR'23)
- Robust graph explanation (NeurIPS'24a)
- Learn about attacker on graph (NeurIPS'24b)
- Uncertainty quantification on graph (NeurIPS'24c)

Uncertainty quantification on graphs

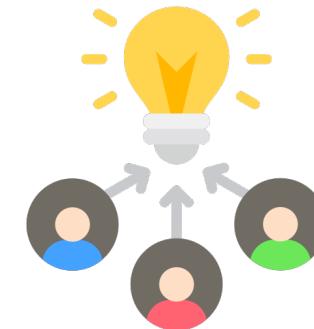
- Quantify the uncertainty of graph inference results can be useful.
 - Graph inference can be applied to link prediction, node classification, label denoising.



Social Network Modeling
don't recommend a friend if
the inferred mutual interest
is not confident.



Fraud Detection^[1]
suspicious users or sellers
with high confidence should
be filtered.

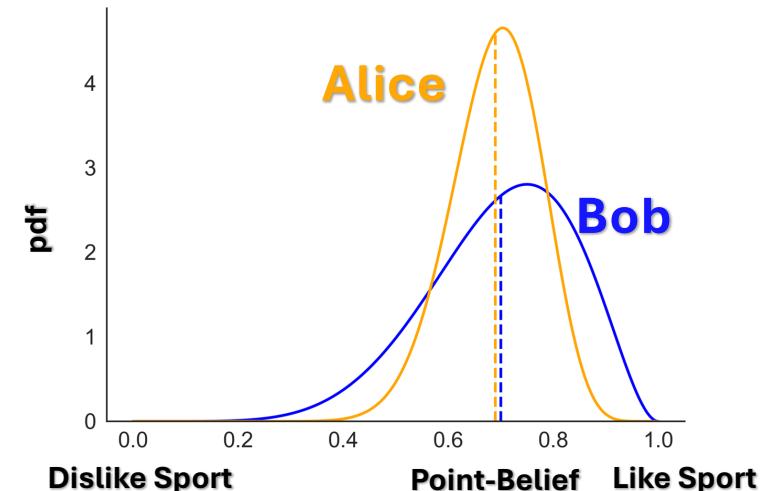
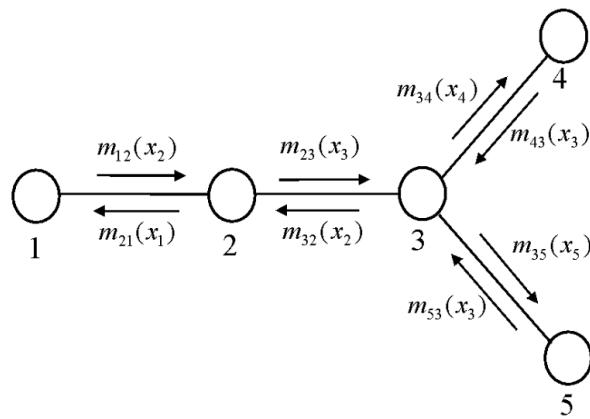


Crowdsourcing
ask for human labeling if the
crowdsourcing workers are not
confident in the annotation.



Uncertainty quantification on graphs

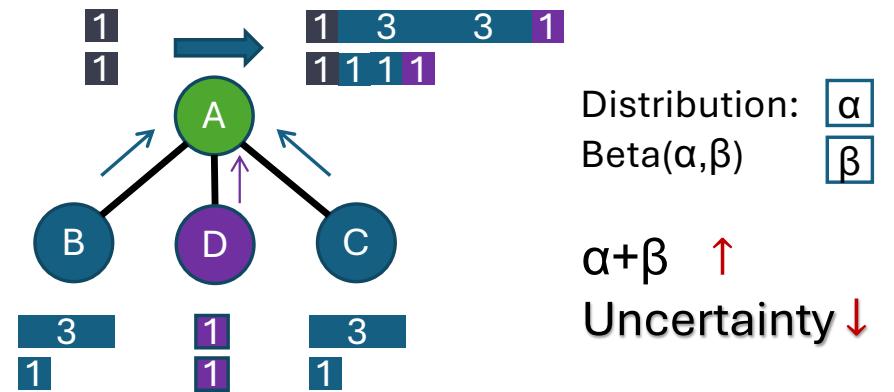
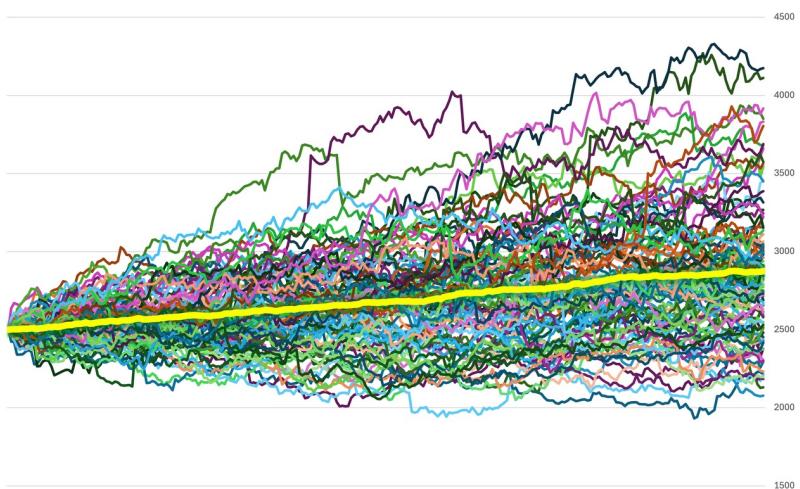
- Graphical model inference
 - Belief Propagation (BP) estimates the posterior probability of a node's classes.
 - BP only provides point estimates, failing to capture uncertainty in predictions.



- Why there is uncertainty
 - Imagine: the nodes prior is only a sample from a distribution.
 - Sampling the priors multiple times can result in different poster distributions.

Existing work

- Monte Carlo sampling
 - Pros: **Unbiased** uncertainty estimates, general, easy to implement
 - Cons: Time-consuming for large-scale graphs, and **no convergence guarantee**.
- Propagation of uncertainty
 - Pros: Bayesian point of view with rigorous proof, likely to **converge**.
 - Cons: make assumption about the dist. form (multi-nomial) and can be **biased**.



Can we have the best of both worlds?

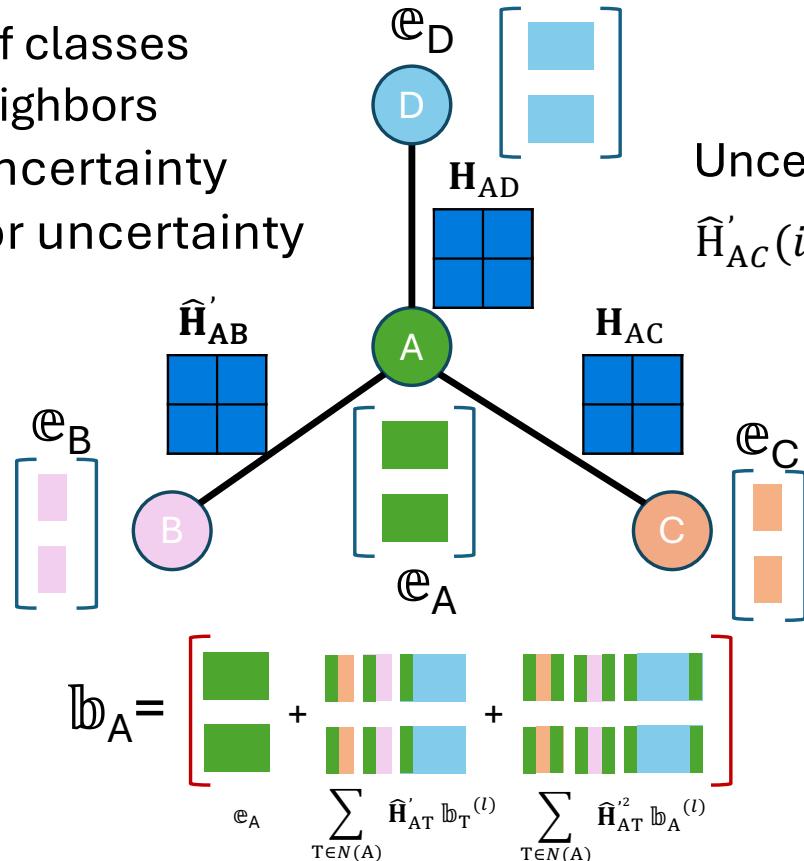
Linear Uncertainty Propagation (LinUProp)

k : number of classes

$N(A)$: A's neighbors

ϵ_A : initial uncertainty

b_A : posterior uncertainty



Uncertainty Dependency Matrices

$$\hat{H}'_{AC}(i,j) = |H_{AC}(i,j) - 1/k|$$

Posterior uncertainty

$$\begin{aligned} b_A^{(l+1)} &= \epsilon_A && \text{(initial uncertainty)} \\ &+ \sum_{T \in N(A)} \hat{H}'_{AT} b_T^{(l)} && \text{(first-order Propagated uncertainty)} \\ &+ \sum_{T \in N(A)} \hat{H}'^2_{AT} b_A^{(l)} && \text{(second-order Propagated uncertainty)} \end{aligned}$$

$b_T^{(0)}$ and $b_A^{(0)}$ can be set to $\epsilon_T^{(0)}$ and $\epsilon_A^{(0)}$, respectively

Linear Uncertainty Propagation (LinUProp)

Theoretical properties

- Matrix form: $\text{vec}(\mathbb{B}) = (\mathbf{I} - (\Psi_1' + \text{Diag}(\Psi_2' \mathbf{Q})))^{-1} \cdot \text{vec}(\mathbb{E})$

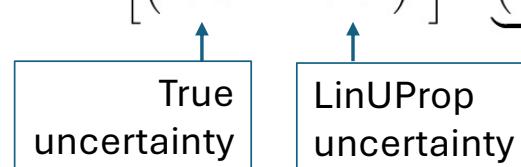
$$\underbrace{\mathbf{T}}_{\mathbf{T}}$$

- Convergence: LinUProp converges $\Leftrightarrow \rho(\mathbf{T}) < 1$

- Interpretability: $\text{vec}(\mathbb{B}) = (\mathbf{I} + \mathbf{T} + \mathbf{T}^2 + \dots) \cdot \text{vec}(\mathbb{E})$

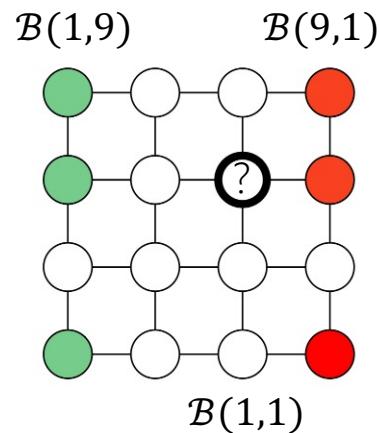
$$c_{w \rightarrow v} = \mathbf{T}_{v,w} \text{vec}(\mathbb{E})_w + (\mathbf{T}^2)_{v,w} \text{vec}(\mathbb{E})_w + (\mathbf{T}^3)_{v,w} \text{vec}(\mathbb{E})_w + \dots$$

- Bias–variance decomposition: $\mathbb{E} \left[(h(\hat{\mathbf{E}}) - \text{vec}(\hat{\mathbf{B}})_v)^2 \right] = \underbrace{\left(h(\hat{\mathbf{E}}) - \mathbb{E} \left[\text{vec}(\hat{\mathbf{B}})_v \right] \right)^2}_{(\text{Bias})^2} + \underbrace{\mathbb{E} \left[\left(\text{vec}(\hat{\mathbf{B}})_v - \mathbb{E} \left[\text{vec}(\hat{\mathbf{B}})_v \right] \right)^2 \right]}_{\text{Variance}}$

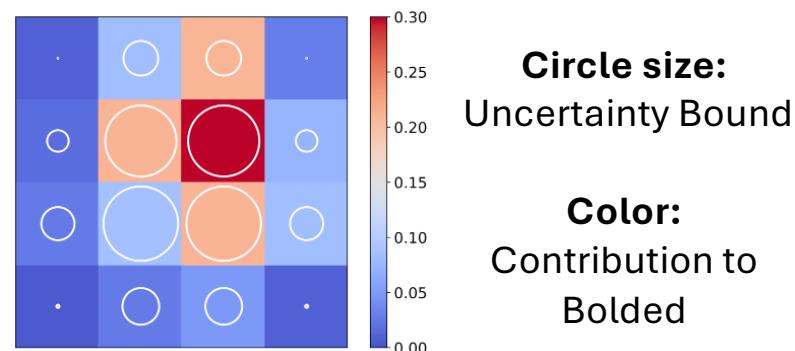


Experiments

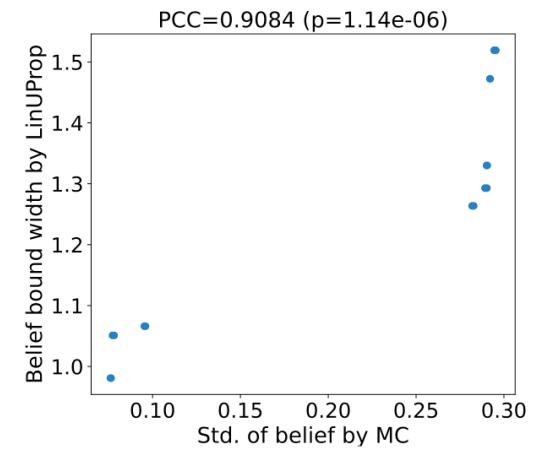
Toy example graph



Inferred uncertainty

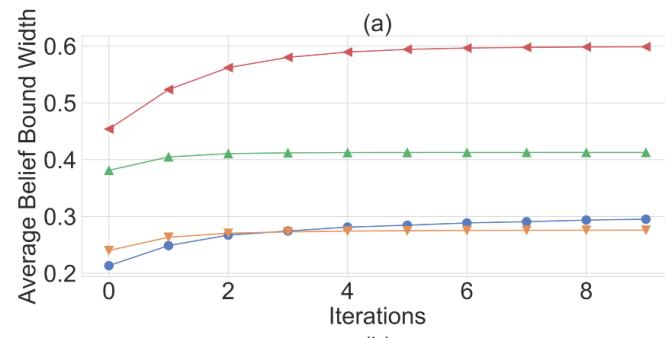


Correlation(LinUProp, MC)

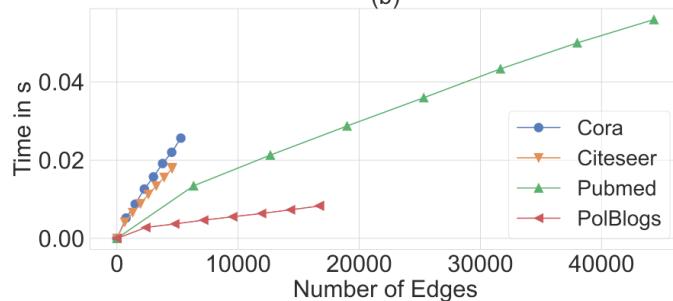


Experiments

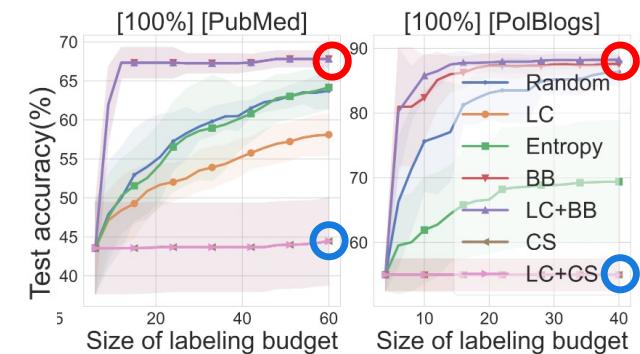
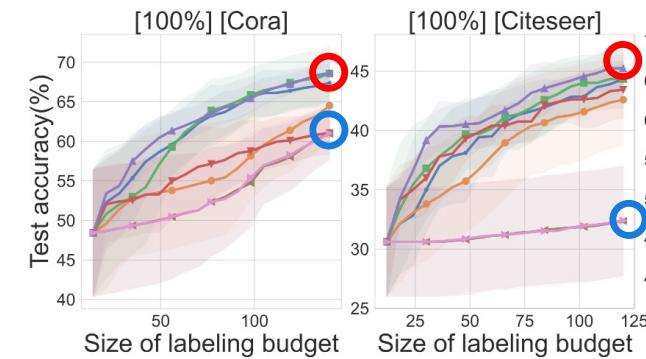
Convergence



Scalability



Active learning



Conclusions and future work

- Conclusions
 - Reliability = {Explainability, Robustness, Confidence, ...}.
 - Graphs provide a research avenue with many problems.
 - Dependencies make reliability harder to achieve.
- Future work
 - LLM and graph foundation model have more obstacles.
 - Embodied AI that uses graph required reliability.
 - Multi-modality: graph+X

Thank you!