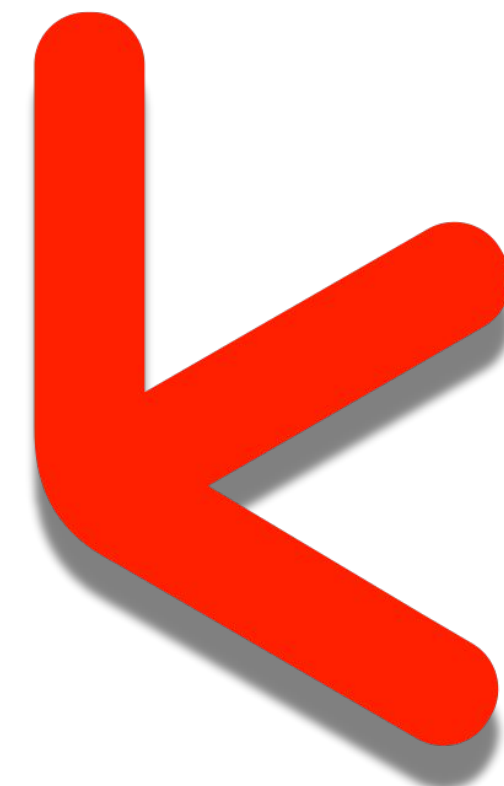
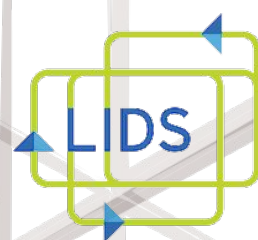


# Neural Trees for Learning on Graphs

**Rajat Talak**, Siyi Hu, Lisa Peng, and Luca Carlone

Massachusetts Institute of  
Technology

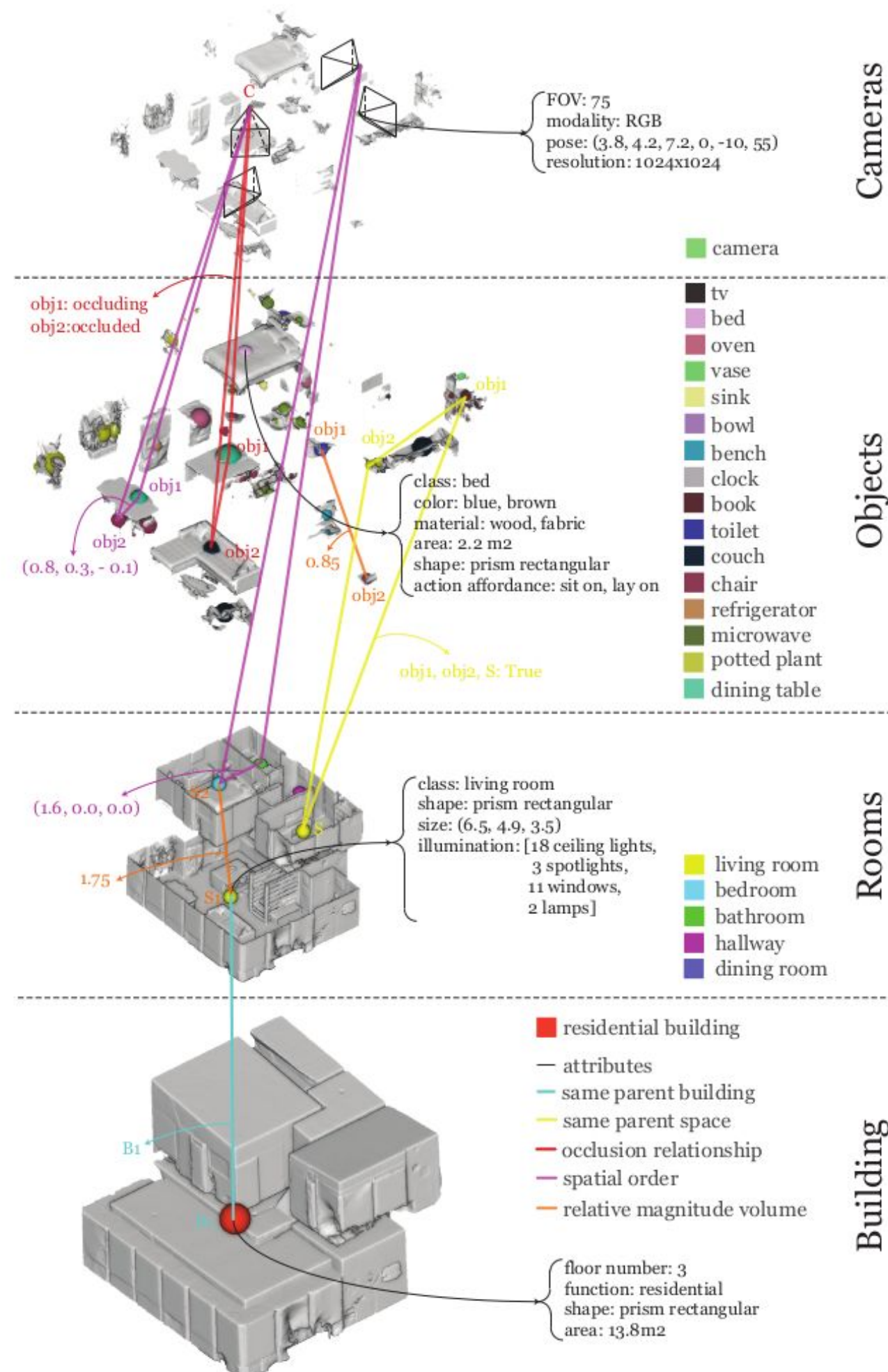
**NeurIPS 2021**





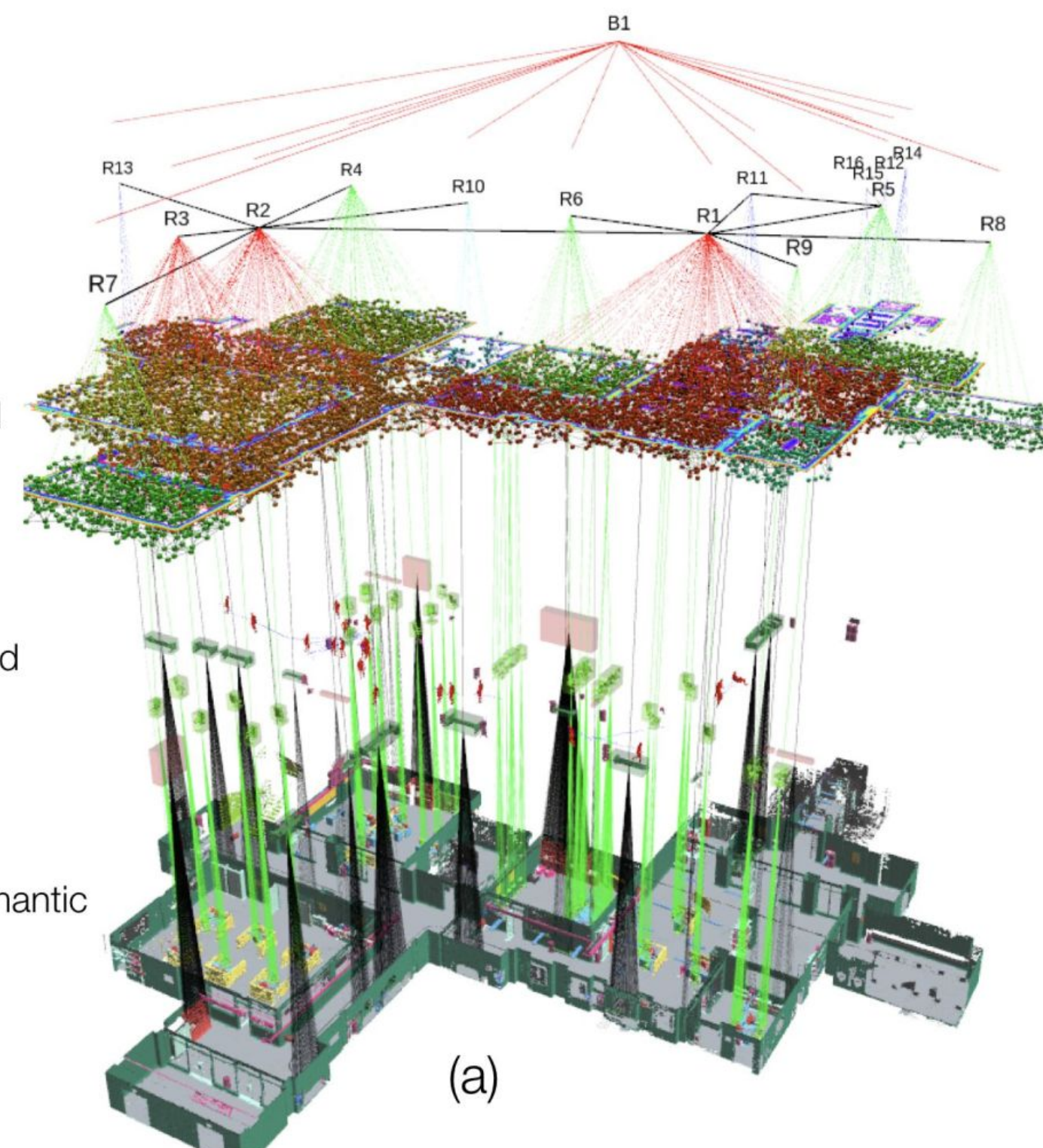
# Motivation

Automated generation of 3D scene graphs is an important problem

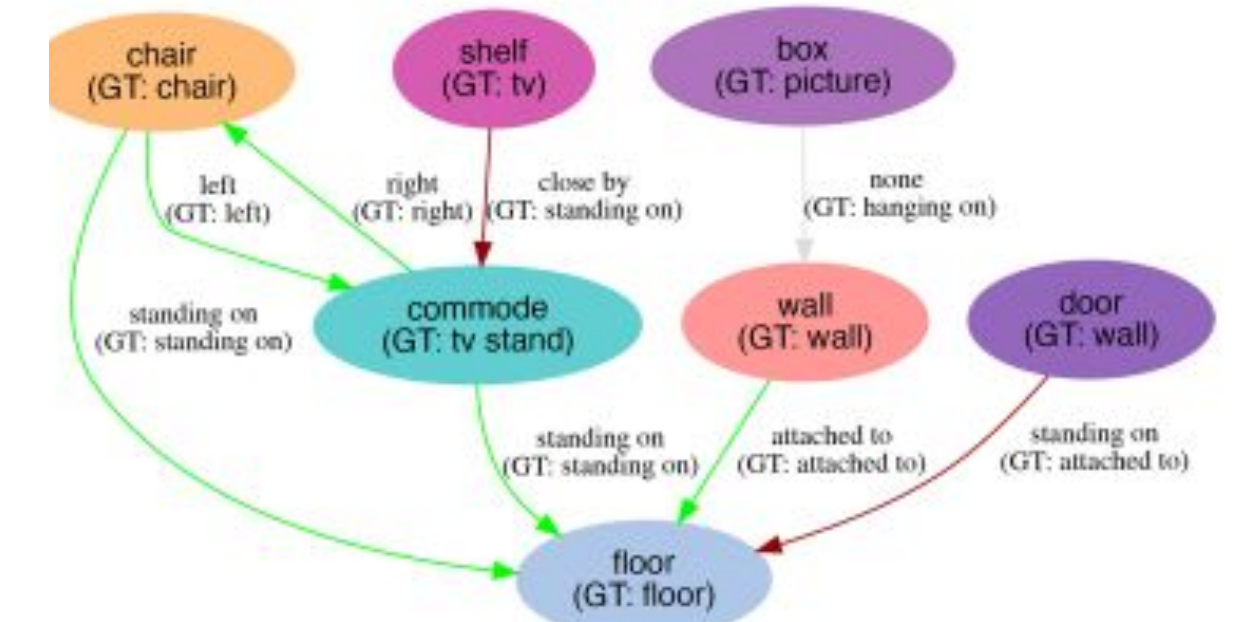
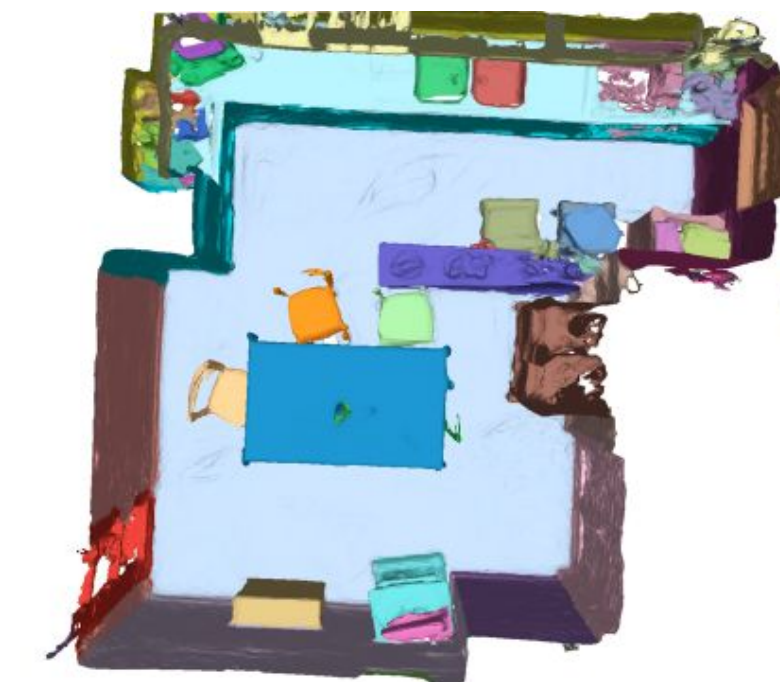


[Armeni et al 2019]

- Layer 5:** Buildings
- Layer 4:** Rooms
- Layer 3:** Places and Structures
- Layer 2:** Objects and Agents
- Layer 1:** Metric-Semantic Mesh



[Rosinol et al 2020]

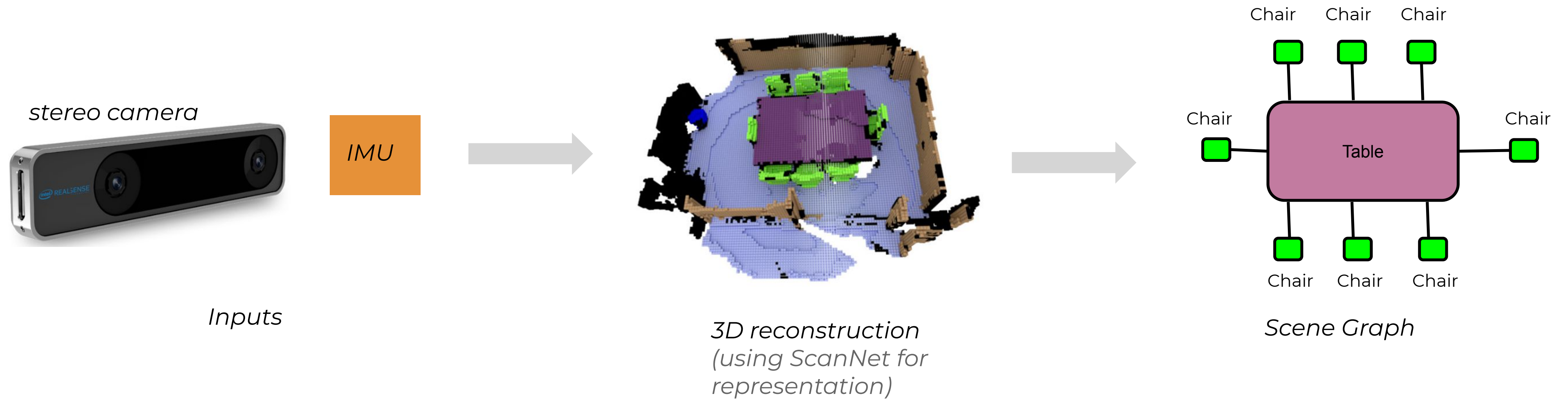


[Wald et al 2020]

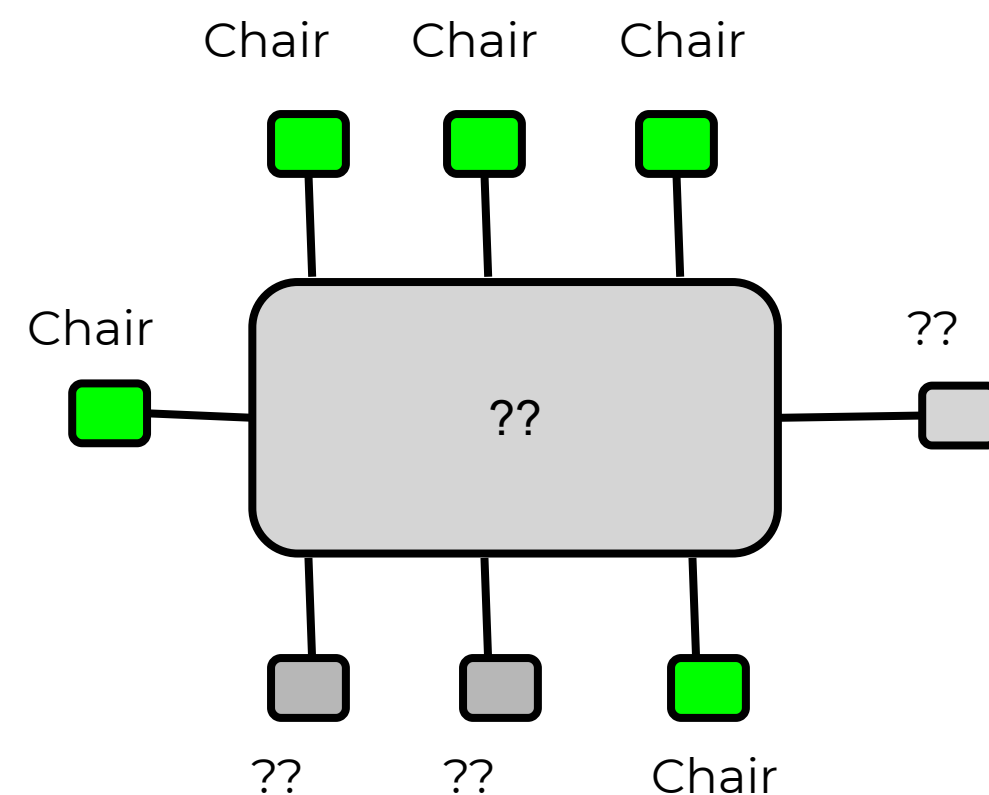


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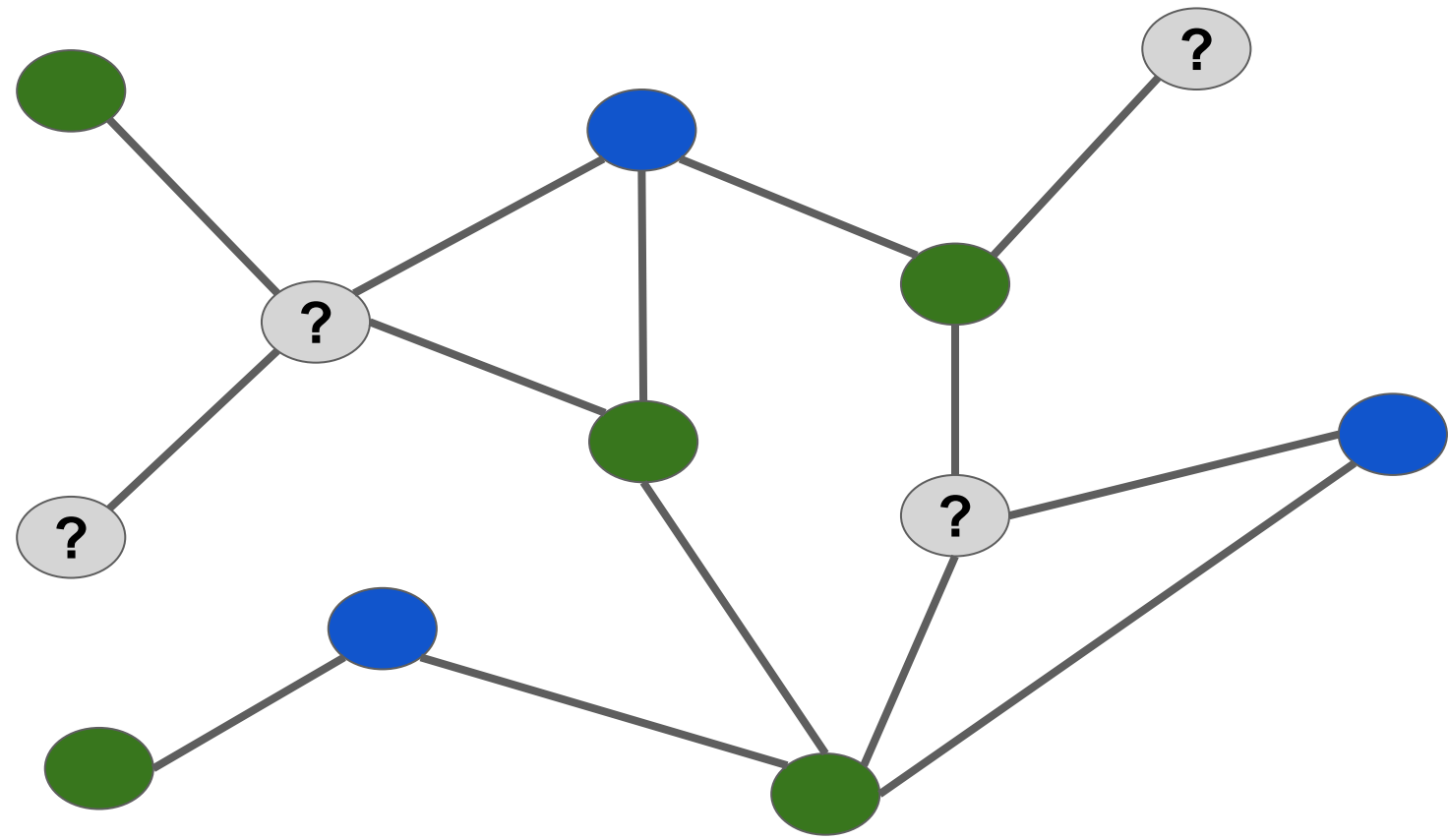


A problem encountered in *automatic* 3D scene graph generation



Given a scene graph with some node labels, how to predict the missing?

# Semi-supervised Node Classification



Given a graph with some nodes labeled, how do we assign labels to other nodes?

# Semi-supervised Node Classification

## Plantoid

**Revisiting Semi-Supervised Learning with Graph Embeddings**

Zhilin Yang  
William W. Cohen  
Ruslan Salakhutdinov  
School of Computer Science, Carnegie Mellon University

ZHILINY@CS.CMU.EDU  
WCOHEN@CS.CMU.EDU

**Abstract**  
We present a semi-supervised work based on graph embedding between instances, we train an each instance to jointly predict the neighborhood context in the

DATASET	#CLASSES	#NODES	#EDGES
CITSEER	6	3,327	4,732
CORA	7	2,708	5,429
PUBMED	3	19,717	44,338
DIEL	4	4,373,008	4,464,261
NELL	210	65,755	266,144

Given a graph with some nodes labeled, how do we assign labels to other nodes?

Well studied problem in social networks.

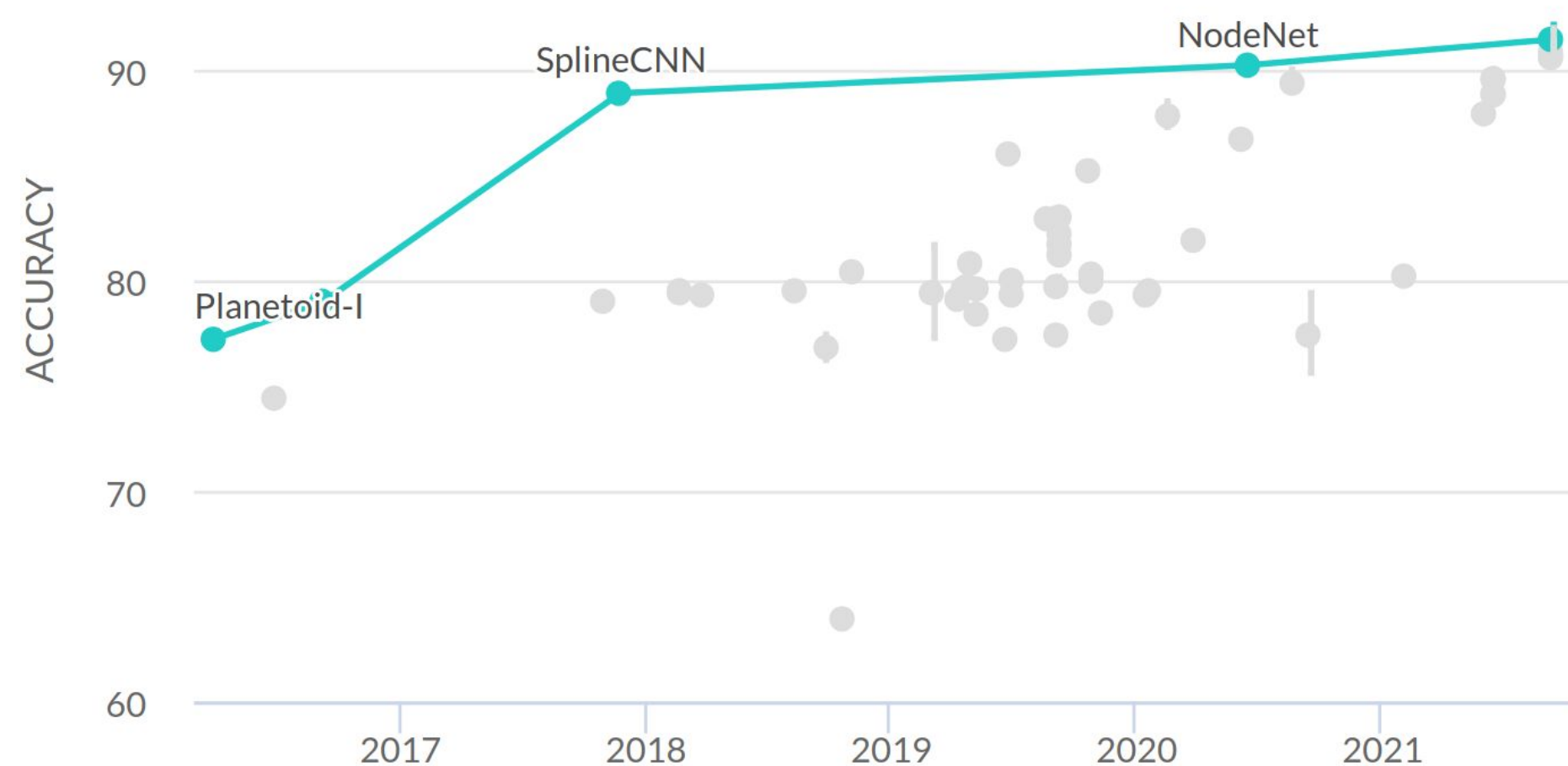
- *Examples:* document classification, webpage classification, user behavior on social networks ...
- Datasets: Plantoid, OGB, ...





# Semi-supervised Node Classification

Node classification on Pubmed (Plantoid)



Given a graph with some nodes labeled, how do we assign labels to other nodes?

Well studied problem in social networks.

- *Examples:* document classification, webpage classification, user behavior on social networks ...
- *Datasets:* Plantoid, OGB, ...

## Leaderboard for [ogbn-papers100M](#)

The classification accuracy on the test and validation sets. The higher, the better.

Package:  $\geq 1.2.0$



Rank	Method	Test Accuracy	Validation Accuracy	Contact	References	#Params	Hardware	Date
1	<b>SAGN+SLE (4 stages)</b>	0.6830 $\pm$ 0.0008	0.7163 $\pm$ 0.0007	<a href="#">Chuxiong Sun (CTR)</a>	<a href="#">Paper</a> , <a href="#">Code</a>	8,556,888	Tesla V100 (16GB GPU)	Sep 21, 2021
2	<b>GAMLP+RLU</b>	0.6825 $\pm$ 0.0011	0.7159 $\pm$ 0.0005	<a href="#">Wentao Zhang (PKU Tencent Joint Lab)</a>	<a href="#">Paper</a> , <a href="#">Code</a>	16,308,751	Tesla V100 (32GB)	Aug 19, 2021
3	<b>FSGNN</b>	0.6807 $\pm$ 0.0006	0.7175 $\pm$ 0.0007	<a href="#">Sunil Kumar Maurya (TokyoTech, AIST)</a>	<a href="#">Paper</a> , <a href="#">Code</a>	16,453,301	NVIDIA V100 (16GB)	Sep 16, 2021
4	<b>SAGN+SLE</b>	0.6800 $\pm$ 0.0015	0.7131 $\pm$ 0.0010	<a href="#">Chuxiong Sun</a>	<a href="#">Paper</a> , <a href="#">Code</a>	8,556,888	Tesla V100 (16GB GPU)	Apr 19, 2021
5	<b>GAMLP</b>	0.6771 $\pm$ 0.0020	0.7117 $\pm$ 0.0014	<a href="#">Wentao Zhang (PKU Tencent Joint Lab)</a>	<a href="#">Paper</a> , <a href="#">Code</a>	16,308,751	Tesla V100 (32GB)	Aug 22, 2021
6	TransformerConv	0.6736 $\pm$	0.7172 $\pm$ 0.0005	<a href="#">Xiaonan Song (NVIDIA SAE)</a>	<a href="#">Paper</a>	883,378	NVIDIA DGX-2	Mar 4,

State-of-the-art approaches

- **Graph Neural Networks**

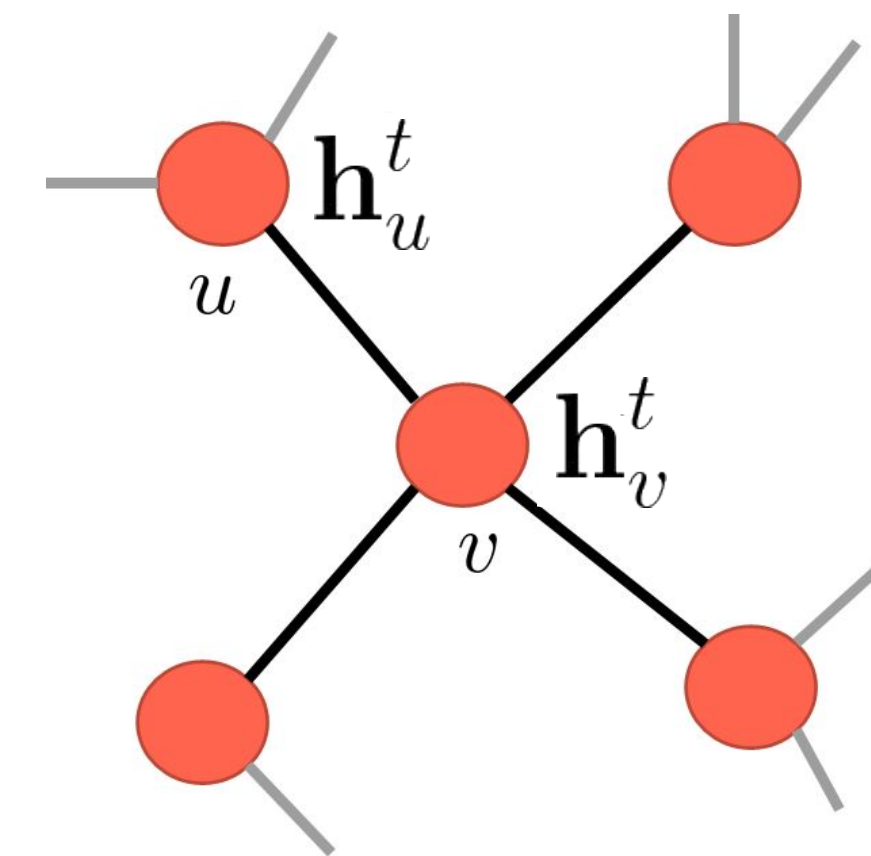
# Graph Neural Networks

**Basic idea:** Iteratively aggregate representation and feature vectors of neighbors

$$\mathbf{h}_v^t = \text{AGG}_t \left( \mathbf{h}_v^{t-1}, \{ (\mathbf{h}_u^{t-1}, \kappa_{u,v}, \mathbf{h}_v^{t-1}) \mid u \in \mathcal{N}_G(v) \} \right)$$

Read label after T iterations:

$$y_v = \text{READ}(\mathbf{h}_v^T)$$



*illustration*

$$\mathbf{h}_v^0 = \mathbf{x}_v$$

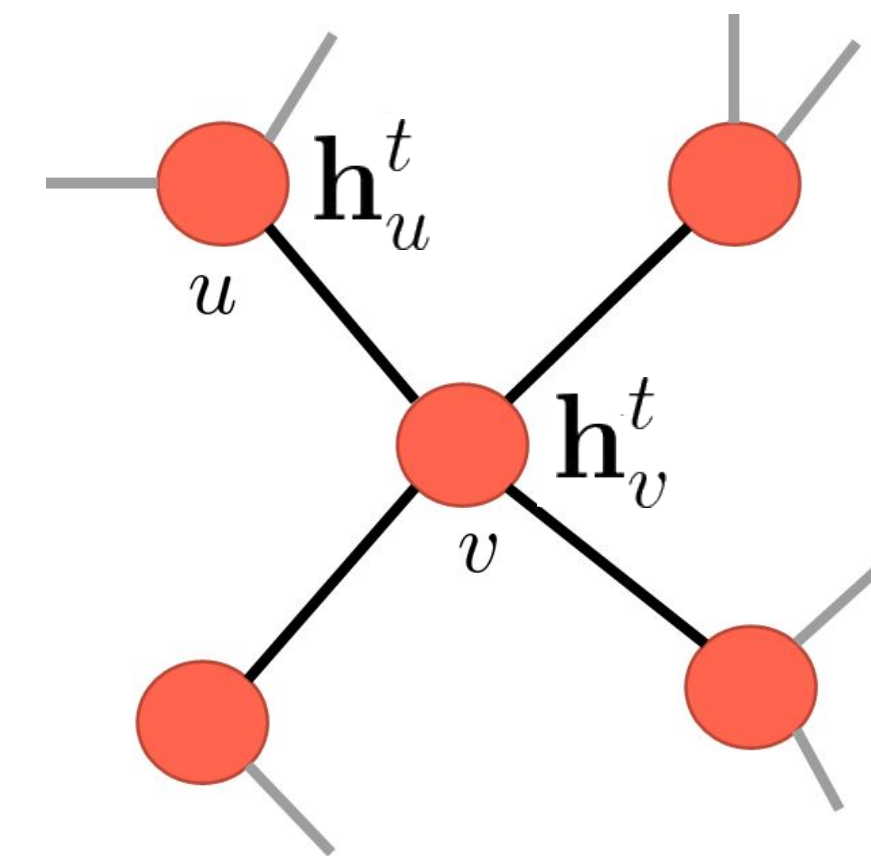
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*illustration*

$$\mathbf{h}_v^0 = \mathbf{x}_v$$

Simple idea, but increasing concerns about limited expressive power



# Expressivity Bottlenecks of GNNs

Approximate any graph invariant/equivariant function is an open challenge

**Invariance:** output invariant to node permutation. *eg. graph classification*

**Equivariance:** output commutes with node permutation. *eg. node classification*

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**Provably Powerful Graph Networks**  
Haggai Maron\*, Heli Ben-Hamu\*, Hadar Serviansky\*, Yaron Lipman  
Weizmann Institute of Science  
Rehovot, Israel

**On the equivalence between graph isomorphism testing and function approximation with GNNs**  
Zhengdao Chen  
Courant Institute of Mathematical Sciences  
New York University  
zc1216@nyu.edu  
Soledad Villar  
Courant Institute of Mathematical Sciences  
Center for Data Science  
New York University  
soledad.villar@nyu.edu  
Lei Chen  
Courant Institute of Mathematical Sciences  
New York University  
lc3909@nyu.edu  
Joan Bruna  
Courant Institute of Mathematical Sciences  
Center for Data Science  
New York University  
bruna@cims.nyu.edu

**BREAKING THE EXPRESSIVE BOTTLENECKS OF GRAPH NEURAL NETWORKS**  
Mingqi Yang, Yanming Shen, Heng Qi, Baocai Yin  
Dalian University of Technology  
yangmq@mail.dlut.edu.cn, {shen, hengqi, ybc}@dlut.edu.cn

**Characterizing the Expressive Power of Invariant and Equivariant Graph Neural Networks**  
Waiss Azizian  
ENS, PSL University, Paris, France  
waiss.azizian@ens.fr  
Marc Lelarge  
INRIA & ENS, PSL University, Paris, France  
marc.lelarge@ens.fr

**Improving Graph Neural Network Expressivity via Subgraph Isomorphism Counting**  
Giorgos Bouritsas  
Imperial College London  
United Kingdom  
g.bouritsas@imperial.ac.uk  
Fabrizio Frasca  
Twitter  
United Kingdom  
ffrasca@twitter.com  
Stefanos Zafeiriou  
Imperial College London  
United Kingdom  
s.zafeiriou@imperial.ac.uk  
Michael M. Bronstein  
Imperial College London / Twitter  
United Kingdom  
m.bronstein@imperial.ac.uk

**Building powerful and equivariant graph neural networks with structural message-passing**  
Clément Vignac, Andreas Loukas, and Pascal Frossard  
EPFL  
Lausanne, Switzerland  
{clement.vignac, andreas.loukas, pascal.frossard}@epfl.ch

**Abstract**  
Message-passing has proved to be an effective way to design graph neural networks, as it is able to leverage both permutation equivariance and an inductive bias towards learning local structures in order to achieve good generalization. However, current message-passing architectures have a limited congruence power and fail to learn

**Abstract**  
In recent years, graph neural networks (GNNs) have emerged as a powerful neural architecture to learn vector representations

**Abstract**  
in its neighborhood, and the final feature representation of a graph is the histogram of the resulting node colors. By iteratively aggregating over local node neighborhoods in this way, the WL-subgraph kernel is able to effectively summarize the

**Weisfeiler and Leman Go Neural: Higher-order Graph Neural Networks**  
Christopher Morris<sup>1</sup>, Martin Ritzert<sup>2</sup>, Matthias Fey<sup>1</sup>, William L. Hamilton<sup>3</sup>, Jan Eric Lenssen<sup>1</sup>, Gaurav Rattan<sup>2</sup>, Martin Grohe<sup>2</sup>  
<sup>1</sup>TU Dortmund University  
<sup>2</sup>RWTH Aachen University  
<sup>3</sup>McGill University and MILA  
{christopher.morris, matthias.fey, janeric.lenssen}@tu-dortmund.de, {ritzert, rattan, grohe}@informatik.rwth-aachen.de, wlh@cs.mcgill.ca

**Abstract**  
While message passing based Graph Neural Networks (GNNs) have become increasingly popular architectures for learning with graphs, recent works have revealed important shortcomings in their expressive power. In response, several higher-order GNNs have been proposed, which substantially increase the expressive power, but at a large computational cost. Motivated by this gap, we introduce and analyze a new recursive pooling technique of local neighborhoods that allows different tradeoffs of computational cost and expressive power. First, we show that this model can count subgraphs of size

**Counting Substructures with Higher-Order Graph Neural Networks: Possibility and Impossibility Results**  
Behrooz Tahmasebi  
MIT  
bzt@mit.edu  
Stefanie Jegelka  
MIT  
stefje@mit.edu

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# Models for Scene Graphs

Probabilistic graphical models have been used to describe scene graphs

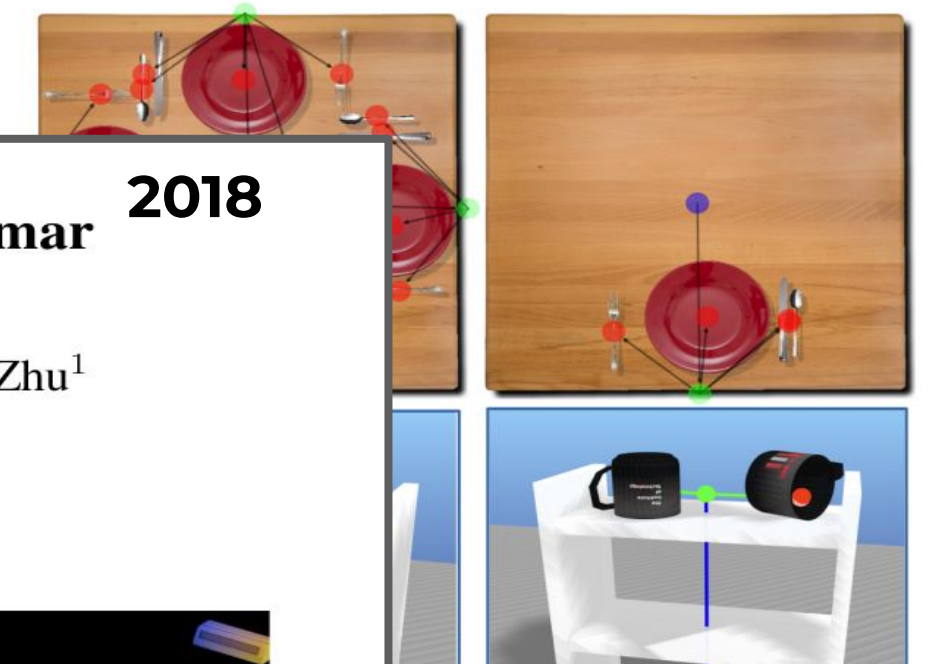
$$p(\mathbf{X}|\mathcal{G}) = \frac{1}{Z} \prod_C \psi_C(\mathbf{x}_C)$$

2020

## Generative Modeling of Environments with Scene Grammars and Variational Inference

Gregory Izatt and Russ Tedrake  
 {gizatt, russt}@csail.mit.edu

*Abstract*—How do we verify that a cleaning robot that we have tested only in a simulator and in case studies in the lab, will work in every house in the world? A critical step in answering that question is to establish a quantitative understanding of



## Human-centric Indoor Scene Synthesis Using Stochastic Grammar 2018

Siyuan Qi<sup>1</sup> Yixin Zhu<sup>1</sup> Siyuan Huang<sup>1</sup> Chenfanfu Jiang<sup>2</sup> Song-Chun Zhu<sup>1</sup>

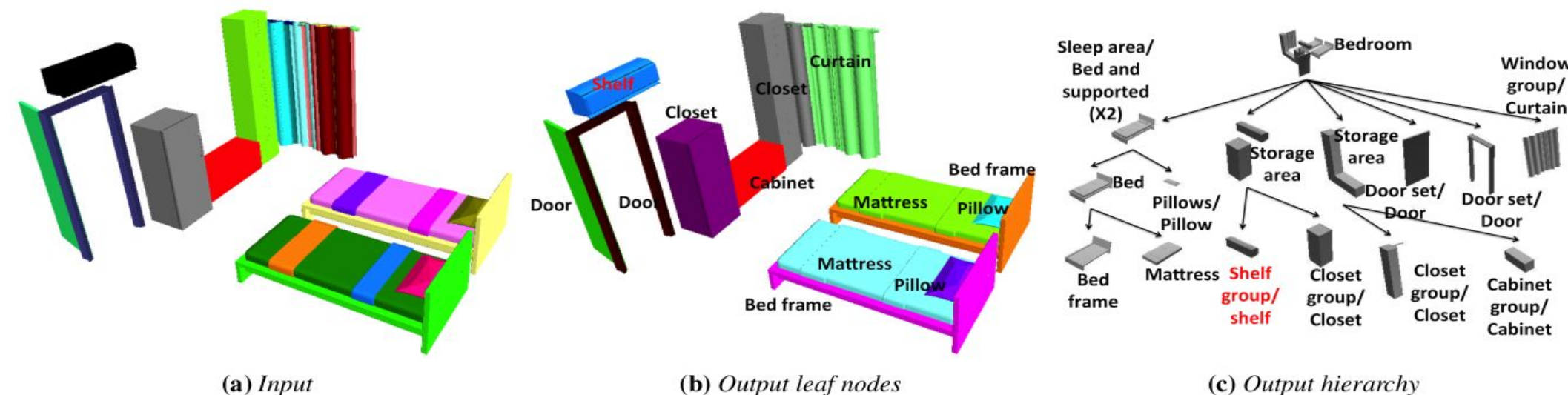
<sup>1</sup> UCLA Center for Vision, Cognition, Learning and Autonomy  
<sup>2</sup> UPenn Computer Graphics Group

Abstract

## Creating Consistent Scene Graphs Using a Probabilistic Grammar 2014

Tianqiang Liu<sup>1</sup> Siddhartha Chaudhuri<sup>1,2</sup> Vladimir G. Kim<sup>3</sup> Qixing Huang<sup>3,4</sup> Niloy J. Mitra<sup>5</sup> Thomas Funkhouser<sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup>Princeton University <sup>2</sup>Cornell University <sup>3</sup>Stanford University <sup>4</sup>Toyota Technological Institute at Chicago <sup>5</sup>University College London



**Figure 1:** Our algorithm processes raw scene graphs with possible over-segmentation (a), obtained from repositories such as the Trimble Warehouse, into consistent hierarchies capturing semantic and functional groups (b,c). The hierarchies are inferred by parsing the scene

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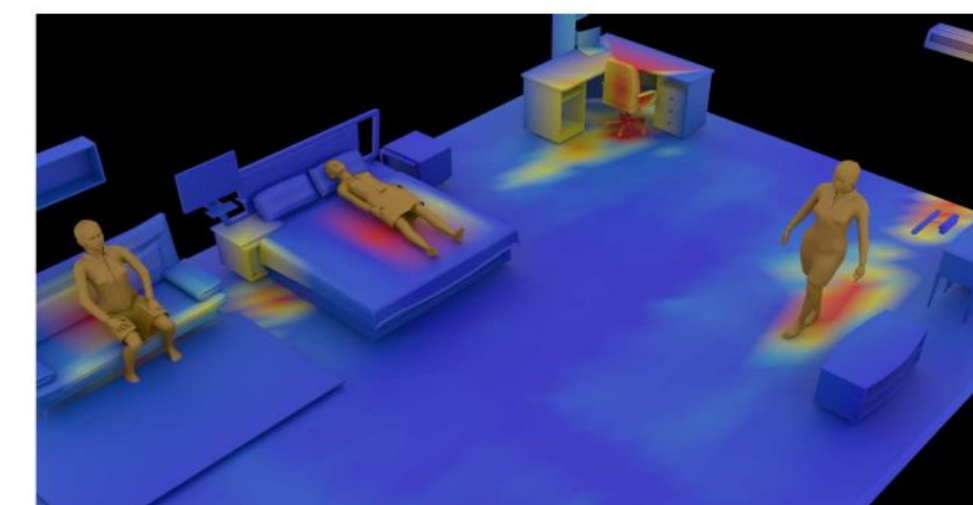


Figure 1: An example of synthesized indoor scene (bedroom) with affordance heatmap. The joint sampling of a



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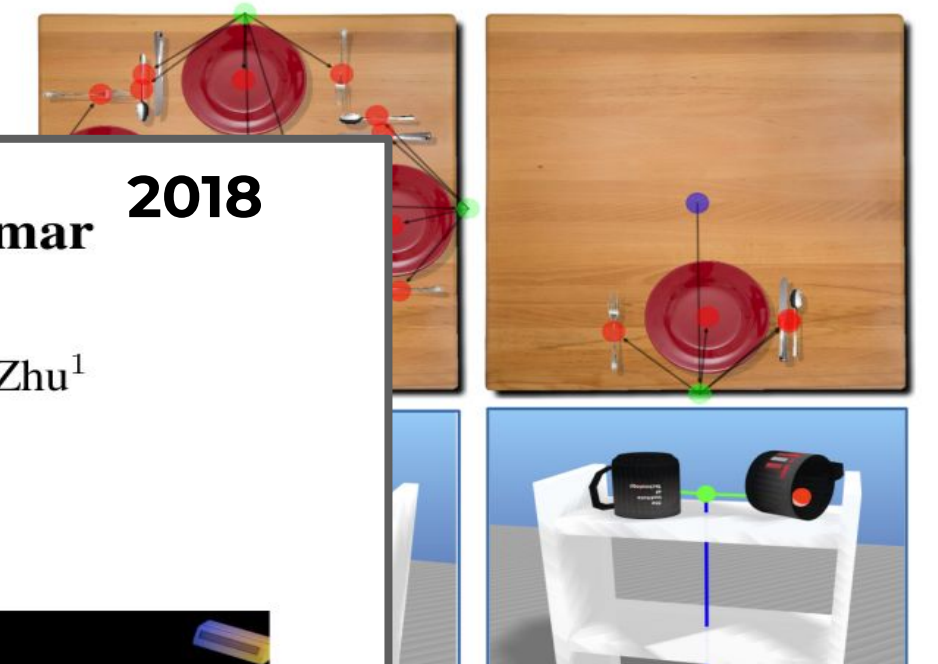
product of  
clique potentials

2020

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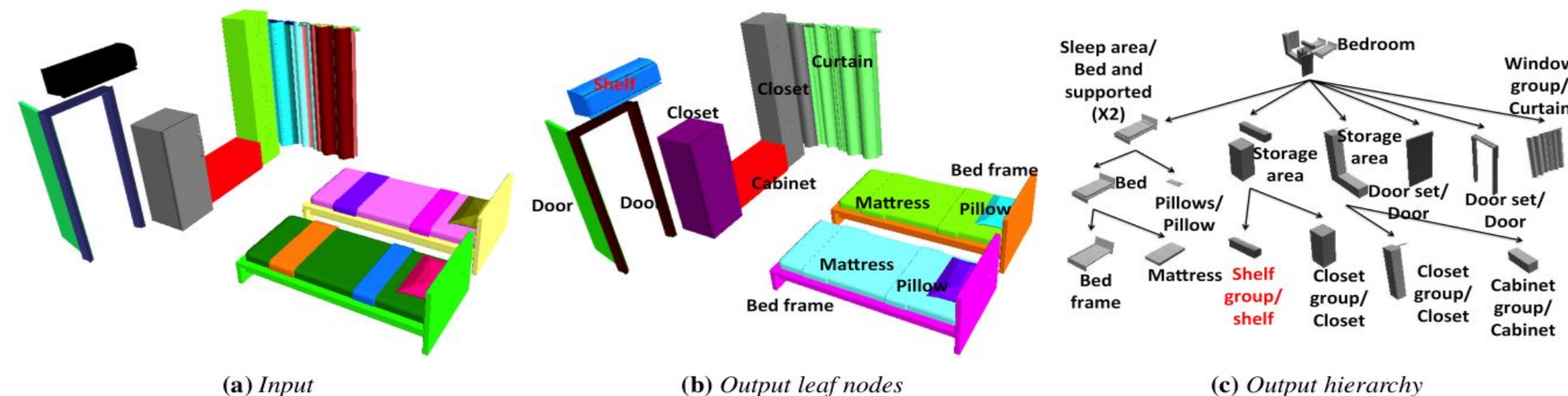
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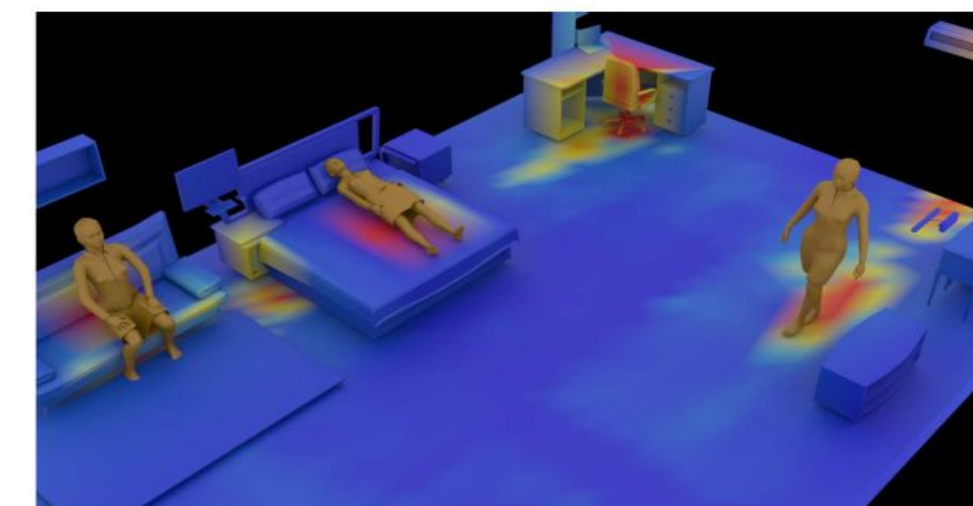


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# Models for Scene Graphs

Probabilistic graphical models have been used to describe scene graphs

$$p(\mathbf{X}|\mathcal{G}) = \frac{1}{Z} \prod_C \psi_C(\mathbf{x}_C)$$

product of  
clique potentials



Example: Markov Random Field



$$p(\mathbf{x}_1, \dots, \mathbf{x}_4|\mathcal{G}) = \frac{1}{Z} e^{-\|\mathbf{x}_1 - \mathbf{x}_2\|^2} \times e^{-\|\mathbf{x}_2 - \mathbf{x}_3\|^2} \times e^{-\|\mathbf{x}_3 - \mathbf{x}_4\|^2}$$

# Models for Scene Graphs

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*Example:* Markov Random Field



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Exact inference is NP-hard and exponential in graph treewidth

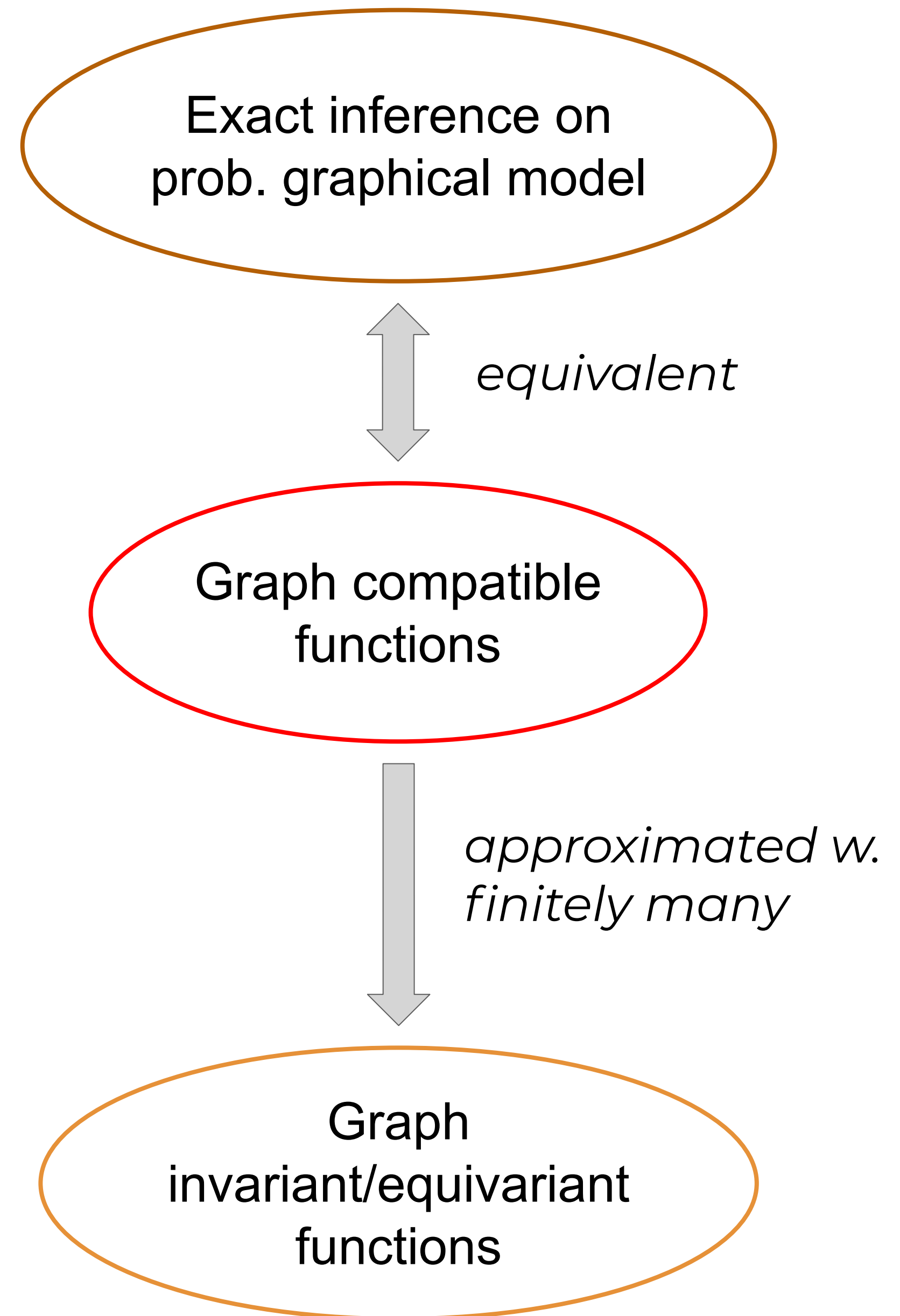


# Contributions

- Graph compatible functions
- Neural Tree architecture
- Approximation Results
- Experiments

# Contributions

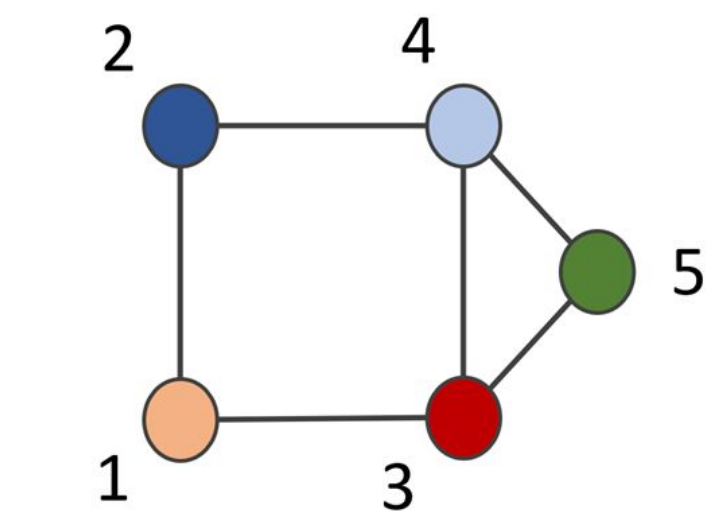
- Graph compatible functions
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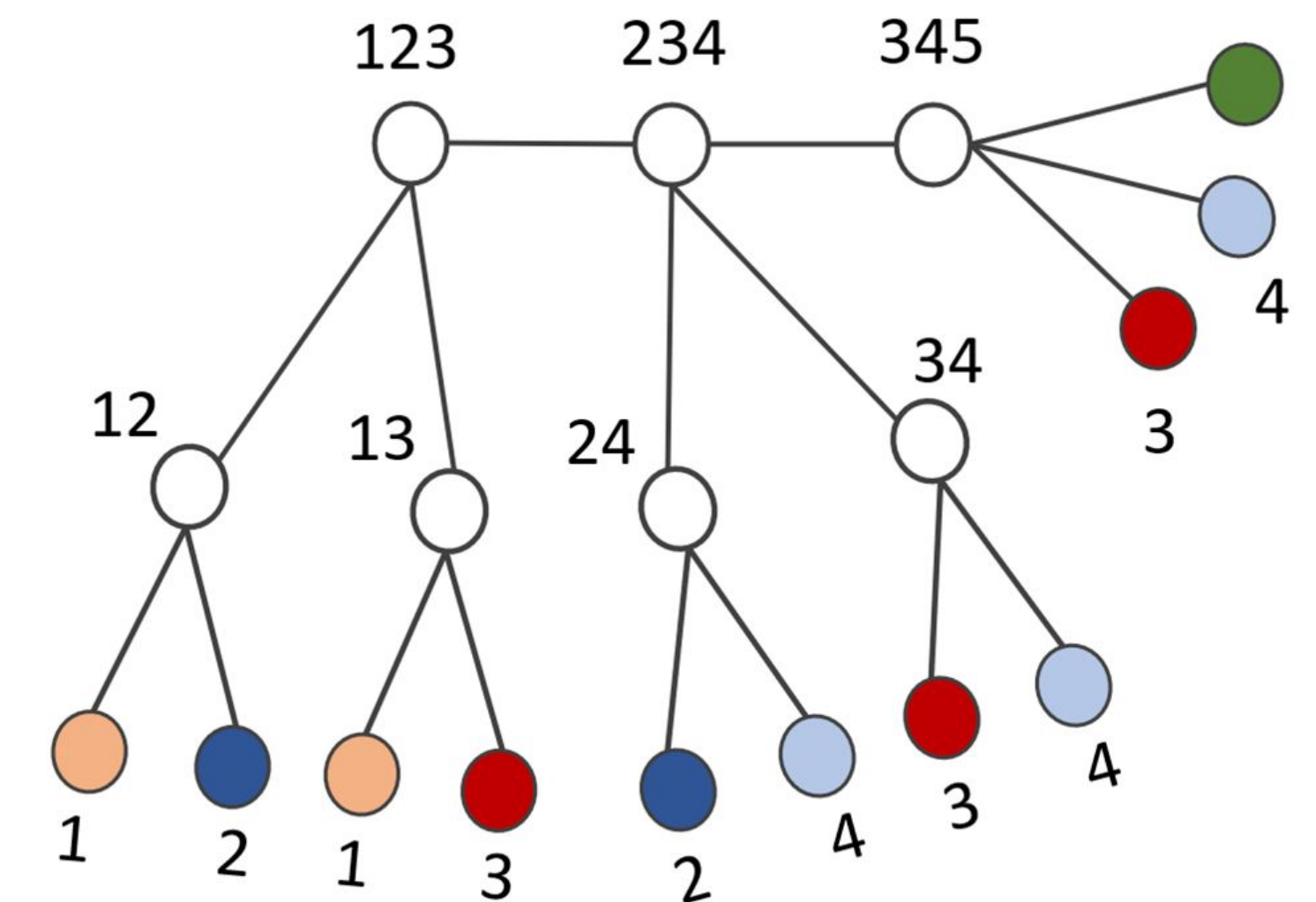
# Contributions

- Graph compatible functions
- **Neural Tree architecture**
- Approximation Results
- Experiments



Input graph with node attributes (colors)

Generate a tree structured graph called *H-tree*



Generated tree structured graph

Neural Tree is *message passing on H-tree*

# Contributions

- Graph compatible functions
- Neural Tree architecture
- Approximation Results
- Experiments

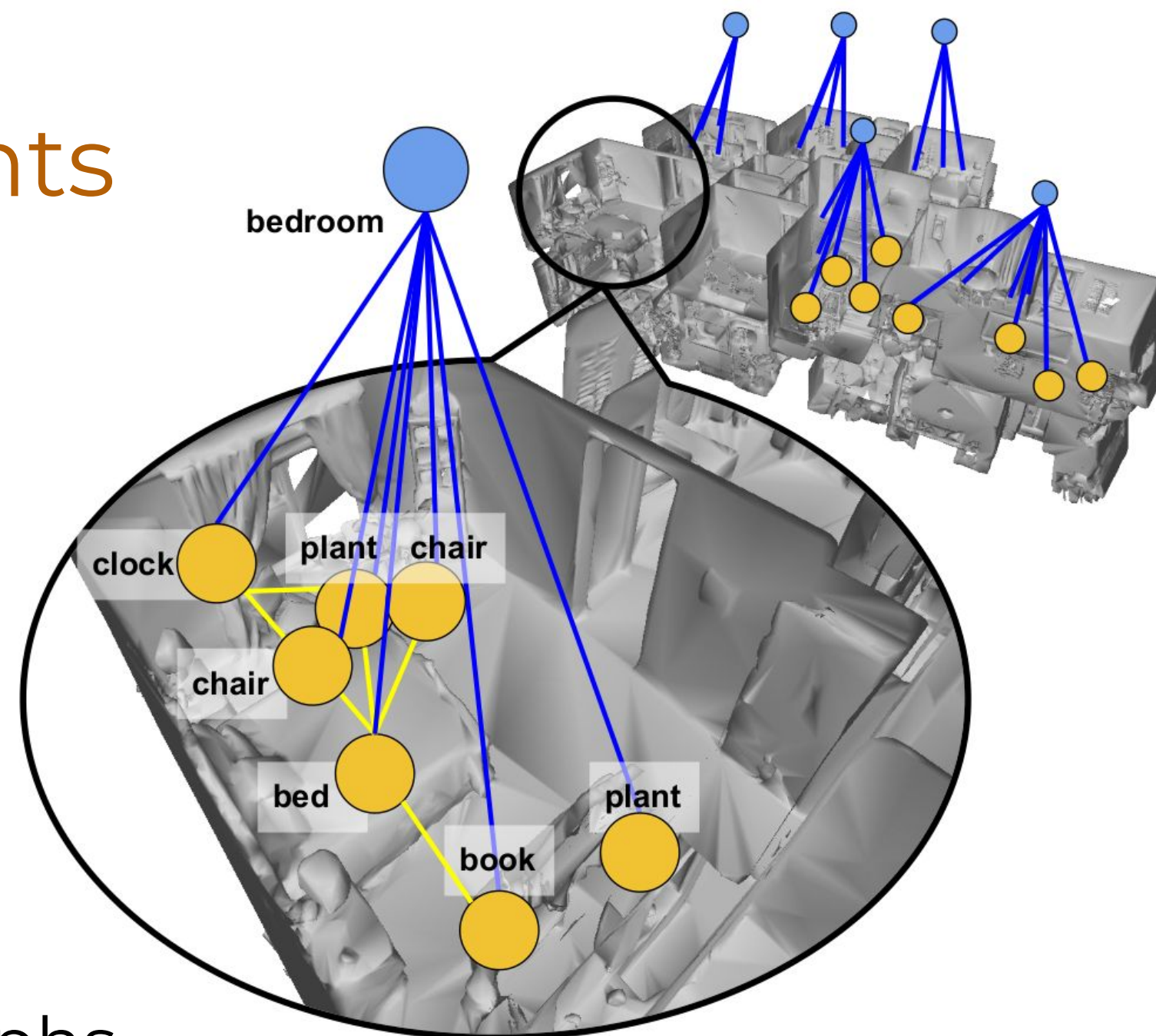
Any (smooth) graph compatible function can be approximated by a Neural Tree with number of weights/parameters

$$N = \mathcal{O} \left( \underbrace{n}_{\text{num. nodes}} \cdot \underbrace{(\text{tw}(G)/\epsilon)^{c \cdot \text{tw}(G)}}_{\text{treewidth} \quad \text{approx. distance}} \right)$$



# Contributions

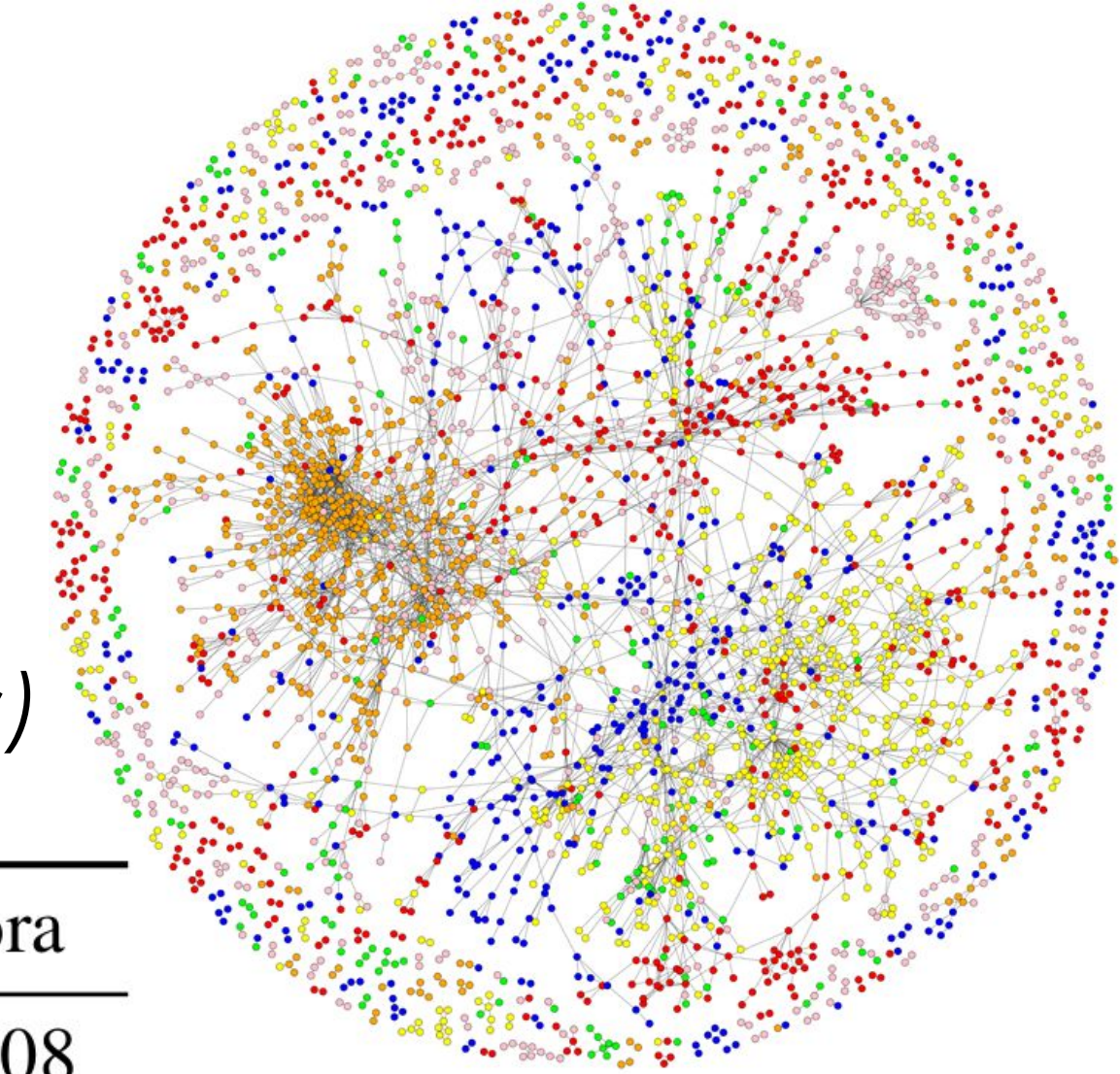
- Graph compatible functions
- Neural Tree architecture
- Approximation Results
- **Experiments**



3D Scene Graphs  
(smaller graphs with low treewidth)

Citation Networks  
(large treewidth graphs)

	PubMed	CiteSeer	Cora
Nodes	19,717	3,327	2,708
Edges	44,338	4,732	5,429
Classes	3	6	7



CiteSeer graph

## Scalable Neural Tree

bounded treewidth subgraph sampling + Neural Tree

Technical Presentation WSDM '20, February 3-7, 2020, Houston, TX, USA

### Sampling Subgraphs with Guaranteed Treewidth for Accurate and Efficient Graphical Inference

Jaemin Yoo  
Seoul National University  
Seoul, Republic of Korea  
jaeminyoo@snu.ac.kr

U Kang\*  
Seoul National University  
Seoul, Republic of Korea  
ukang@snu.ac.kr

Mauro Scanagatta  
Fondazione Bruno Kessler  
Trento, Italy  
mscanagatta@fbk.eu

Giorgio Corani  
IDSIA  
Lugano, Switzerland  
giorgio@idsia.ch

Marco Zaffalon  
IDSIA  
Lugano, Switzerland  
zaffalon@idsia.ch

**ABSTRACT**  
How can we run graphical inference on large graphs efficiently and



# In the remaining time ...

- Graph compatible functions
- Neural Tree architecture
- Approximation Results
- Experiments

# Graph Compatible Function

A function on input node features

$$\mathbf{X} = (\mathbf{x}_1, \mathbf{x}_2, \dots, \mathbf{x}_n)$$

is said to be graph compatible w.r.t. graph  $\mathcal{G}$  if it can be written as

$$f(\mathbf{X}) = \sum_C \theta_C(\mathbf{x}_C)$$

*sum over all cliques  
in the graph*

*function over node  
features in the clique*



# Graph Compatible Function

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$$\mathbf{X} = (\mathbf{x}_1, \mathbf{x}_2, \dots, \mathbf{x}_n)$$

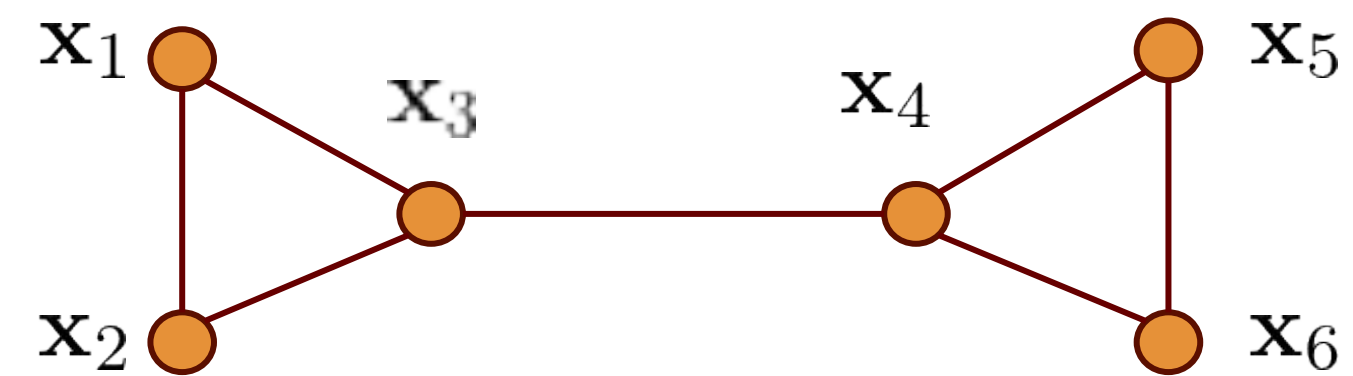
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features in the clique

Examples



$$f(\mathbf{x}_1, \dots, \mathbf{x}_6) = \mathbf{x}_1\mathbf{x}_2\mathbf{x}_3 + \mathbf{x}_3\mathbf{x}_4 + \mathbf{x}_4\mathbf{x}_5\mathbf{x}_6$$

# Graph Compatible Function

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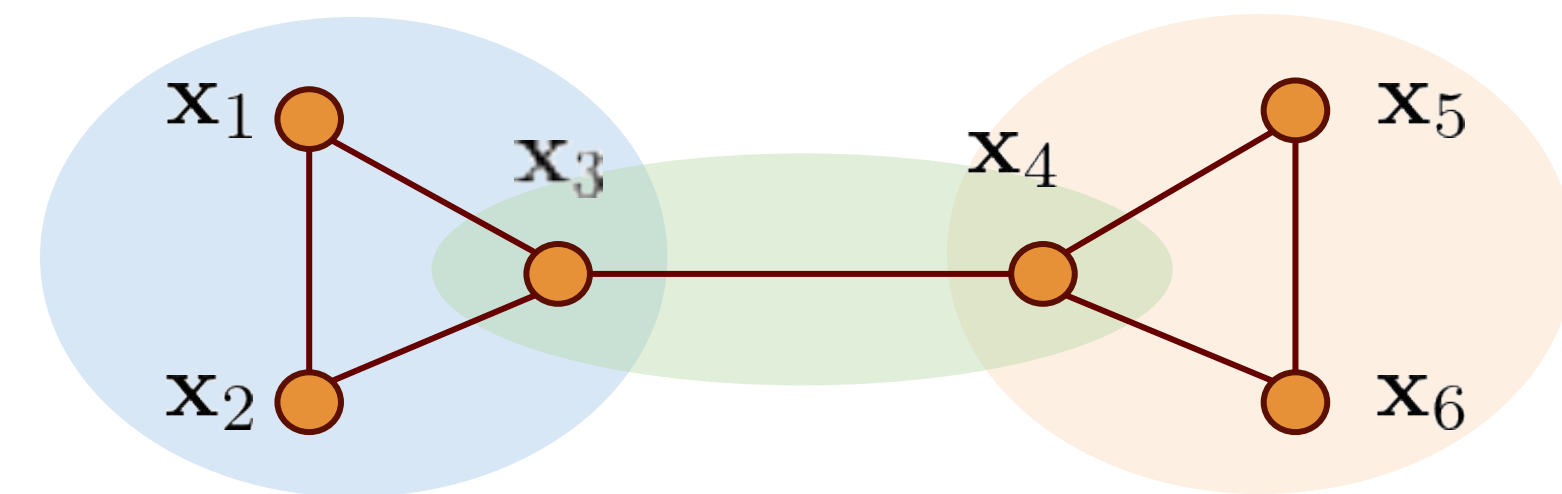
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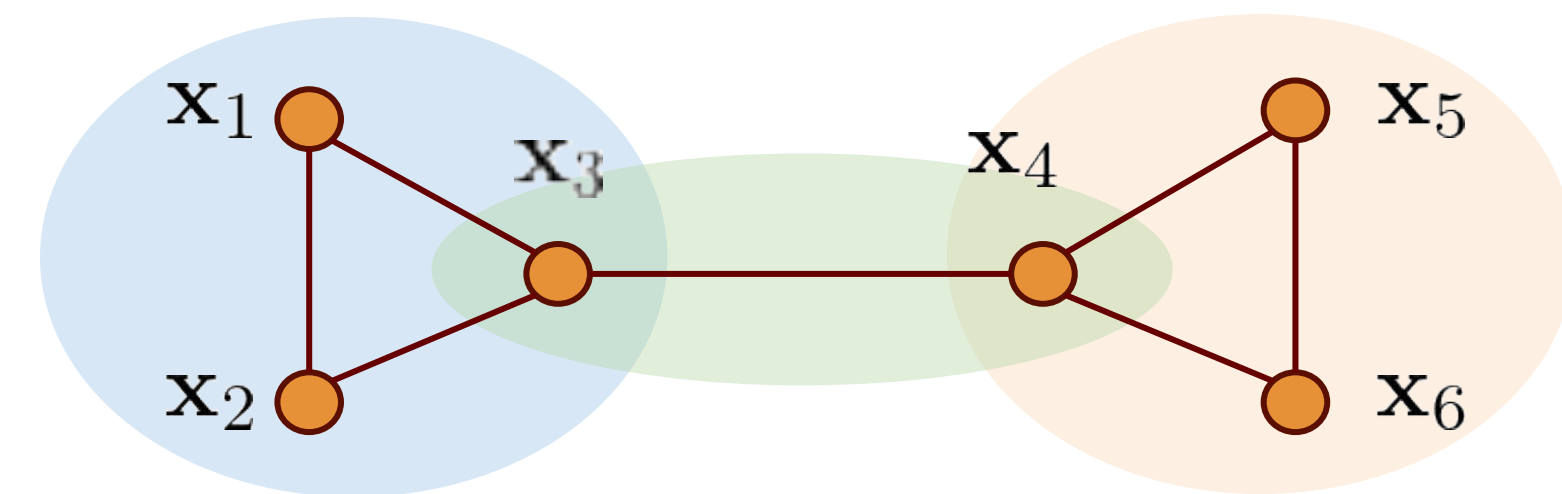
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sum over all cliques  
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Examples



$$f(\mathbf{x}_1, \dots, \mathbf{x}_6) = \mathbf{x}_1\mathbf{x}_2\mathbf{x}_3 + \mathbf{x}_3\mathbf{x}_4 + \mathbf{x}_4\mathbf{x}_5\mathbf{x}_6$$



$$f(\mathbf{x}_1, \dots, \mathbf{x}_4) = \|\mathbf{x}_1 - \mathbf{x}_2\| + \|\mathbf{x}_2 - \mathbf{x}_3\| + \|\mathbf{x}_3 - \mathbf{x}_4\|$$



# Graph Compatible Function

A function on input node features

$$\mathbf{X} = (\mathbf{x}_1, \mathbf{x}_2, \dots, \mathbf{x}_n)$$

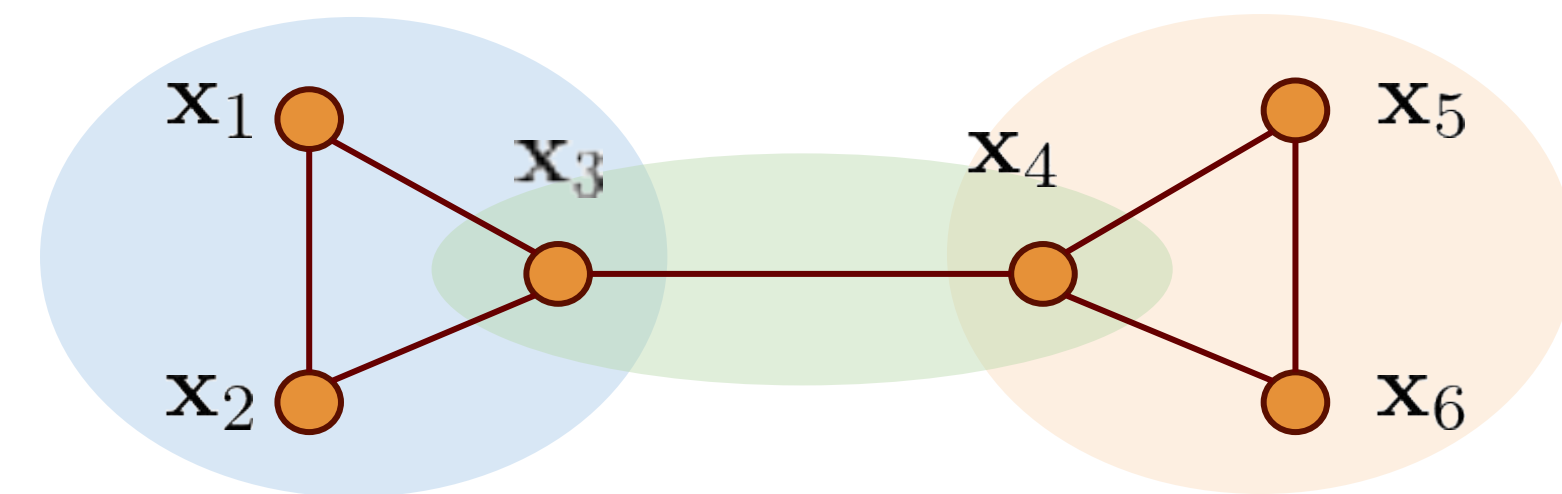
is said to be graph compatible w.r.t. graph  $\mathcal{G}$  if it can be written as

$$f(\mathbf{X}) = \sum_C \theta_C(\mathbf{x}_C)$$

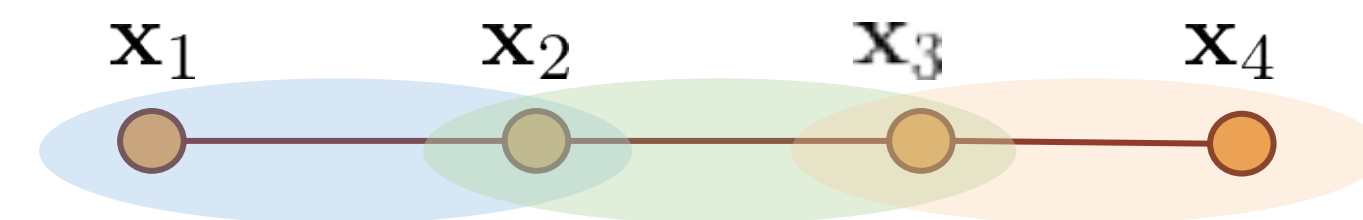
sum over all cliques  
in the graph

function over node  
features in the clique

Examples



$$f(\mathbf{x}_1, \dots, \mathbf{x}_6) = \mathbf{x}_1\mathbf{x}_2\mathbf{x}_3 + \mathbf{x}_3\mathbf{x}_4 + \mathbf{x}_4\mathbf{x}_5\mathbf{x}_6$$



$$f(\mathbf{x}_1, \dots, \mathbf{x}_4) = \|\mathbf{x}_1 - \mathbf{x}_2\| + \|\mathbf{x}_2 - \mathbf{x}_3\| + \|\mathbf{x}_3 - \mathbf{x}_4\|$$

# Relevance: Graphical Models

Graph compatible functions arise naturally in probabilistic graphical models

$$p(\mathbf{X}|\mathcal{G}) = \frac{1}{Z} \prod_C \psi_C(\mathbf{x}_C) = \exp\{-\underbrace{f(\mathbf{X})}_{\text{graph compatible function}} - \log(Z)\}$$

*prob. distribution over graph*      *clique potential*      *graph compatible function*

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↑  
*prob. distribution over graph*

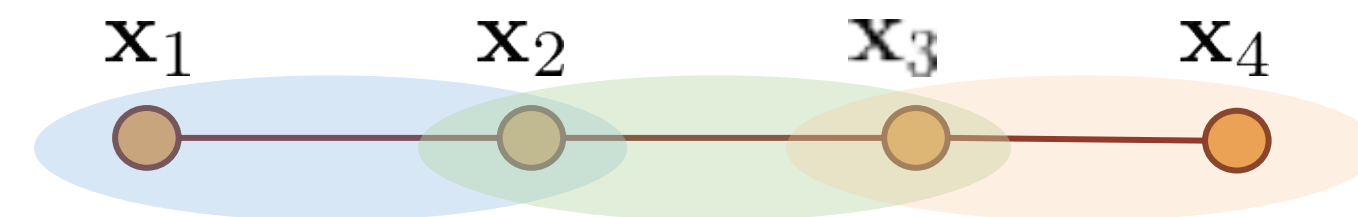
↑  
*clique potential*

↑  
*graph compatible function*

Example: Markov Random Field



$$p(\mathbf{x}_1, \dots, \mathbf{x}_4|\mathcal{G}) = \frac{1}{Z} e^{-\|\mathbf{x}_1 - \mathbf{x}_2\|} \times e^{-\|\mathbf{x}_2 - \mathbf{x}_3\|} \times e^{-\|\mathbf{x}_3 - \mathbf{x}_4\|}$$
$$= \exp\{-f(\mathbf{X}) - \log(Z)\}$$



$$f(\mathbf{x}_1, \dots, \mathbf{x}_4) = \|\mathbf{x}_1 - \mathbf{x}_2\| + \|\mathbf{x}_2 - \mathbf{x}_3\| + \|\mathbf{x}_3 - \mathbf{x}_4\|$$



# Relevance: Approximating Inference

Graph compatible functions arise naturally in probabilistic graphical models

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*prob. distribution over graph*      *clique potential*      *graph compatible function*

## Implication:

Approximating graph compatible functions



Approximating exact inference on probabilistic graphical models

(see Appendix A in the paper).

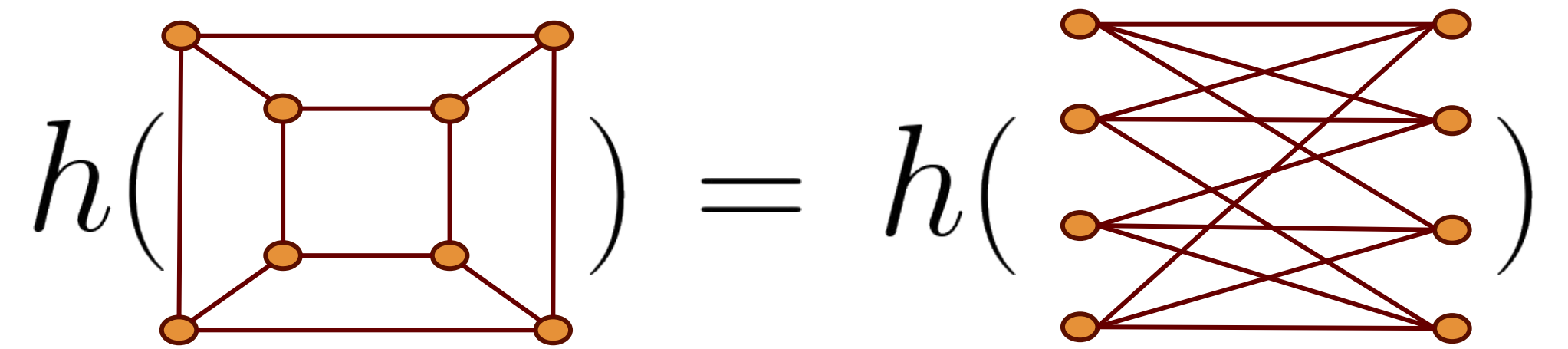
# Relevance: Approx. Invariant/Equivariant Functions

We prove that graph compatible functions can be used to approximate graph invariant/equivariant functions.

## Invariant function

$$h(\mathbf{X}^\sigma, \mathcal{G}^\sigma) = h(\mathbf{X}, \mathcal{G})$$

for all node permutations  $\sigma$



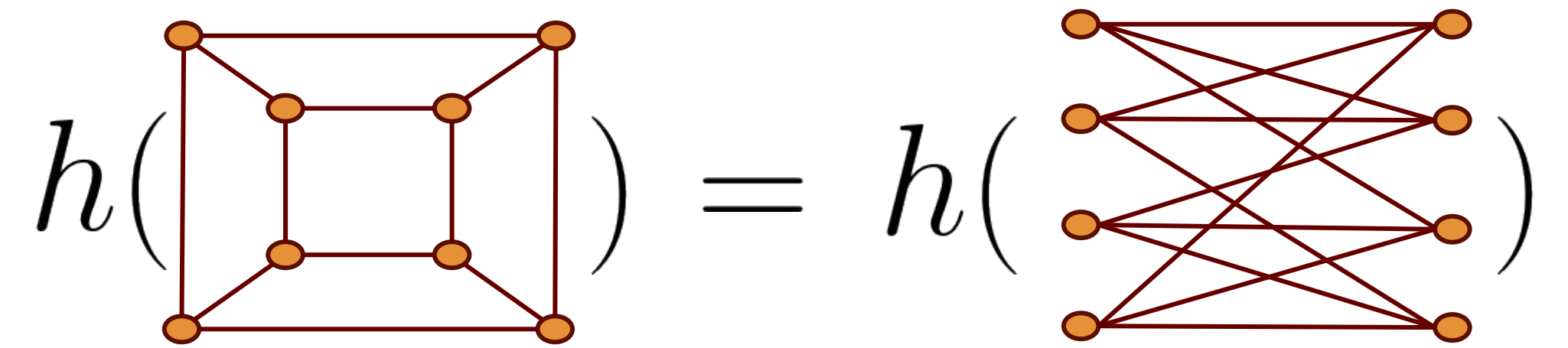
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## Theorem:

For every invariant function  $h$  and an  $\epsilon > 0$  there exists  $M$  graph compatible functions  $f^i$  such that

$$\sup_{\mathbf{X} \in \mathbb{X}} \left| h(\mathbf{X}) - \sum_{i=1}^M \phi(f^i(\mathbf{X})) \right| < \epsilon$$

some non-linear function  $\phi : \mathbb{R} \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$



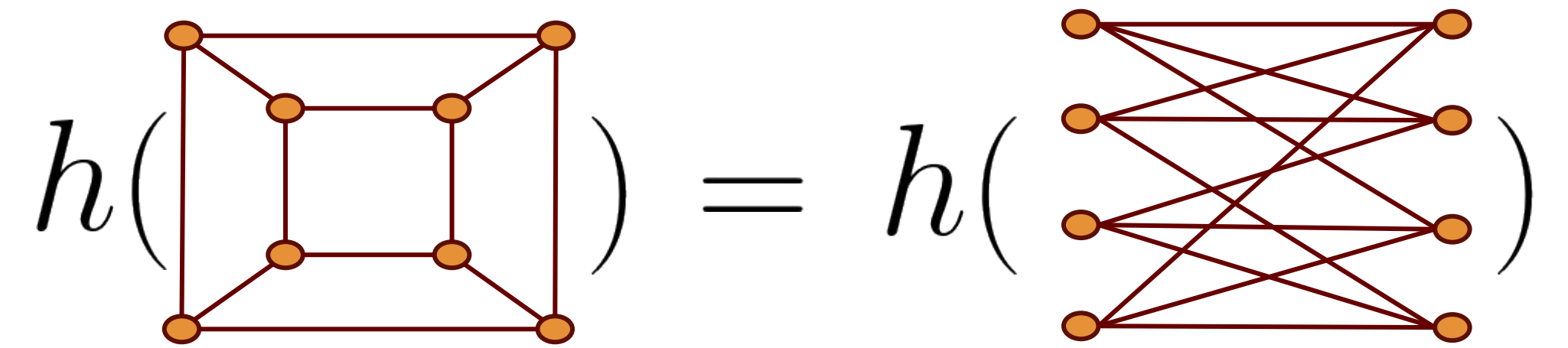
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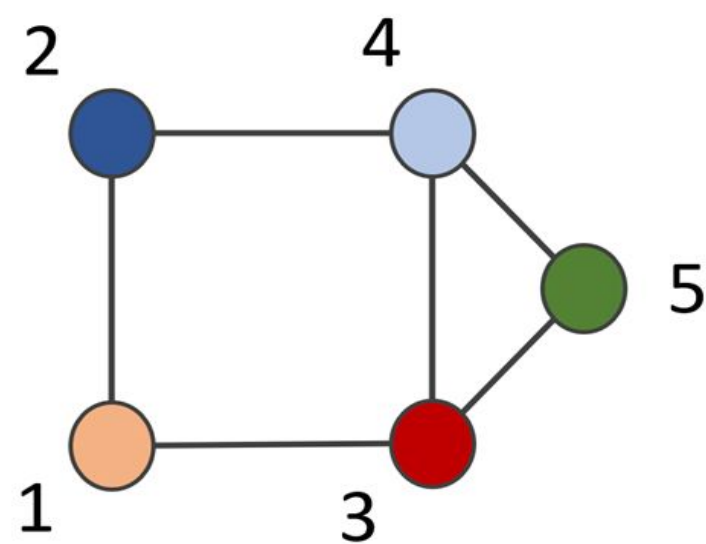
*Similar result holds for equivariant functions*

# Neural Tree Architecture

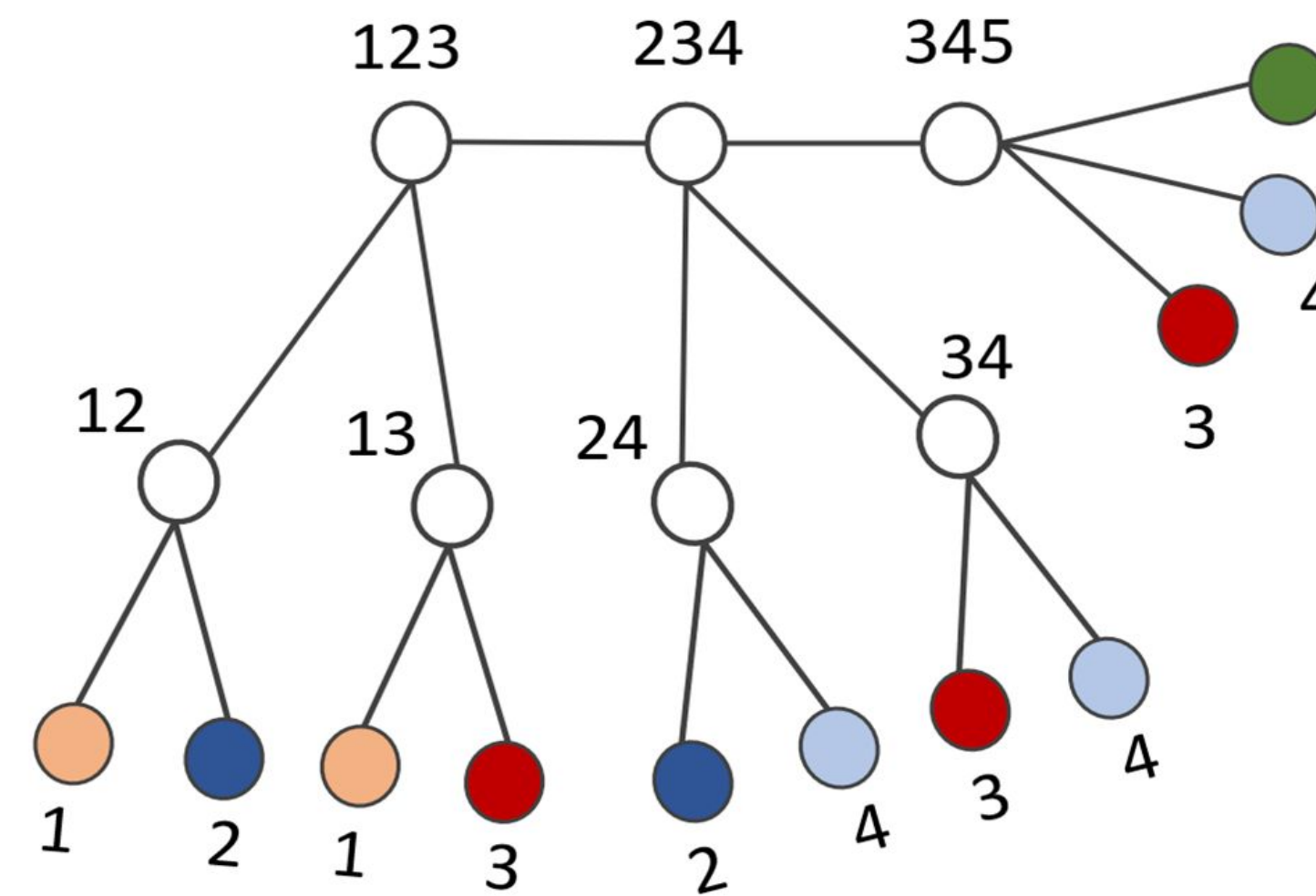
An architecture to approximate any (smooth) graph compatible function

## Basic Idea

1. Convert graph to a tree, called H-tree
2. Neural Tree arch. = Message passing on the H-tree



*Input graph with node attributes (colors)*



*H-tree*

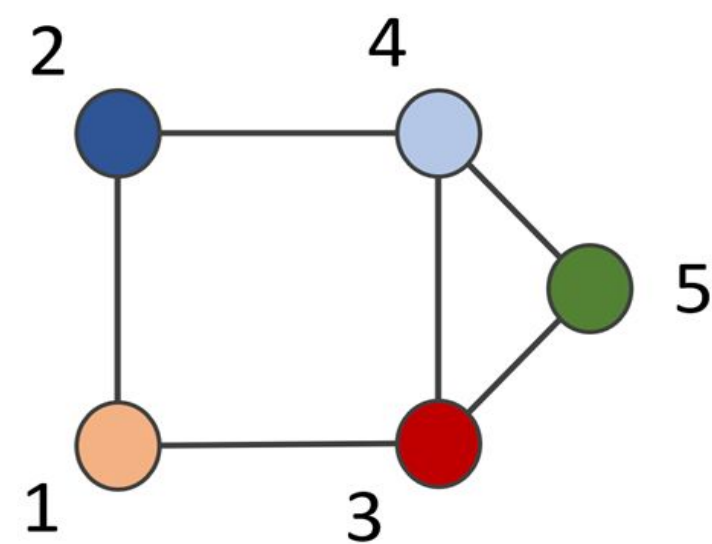
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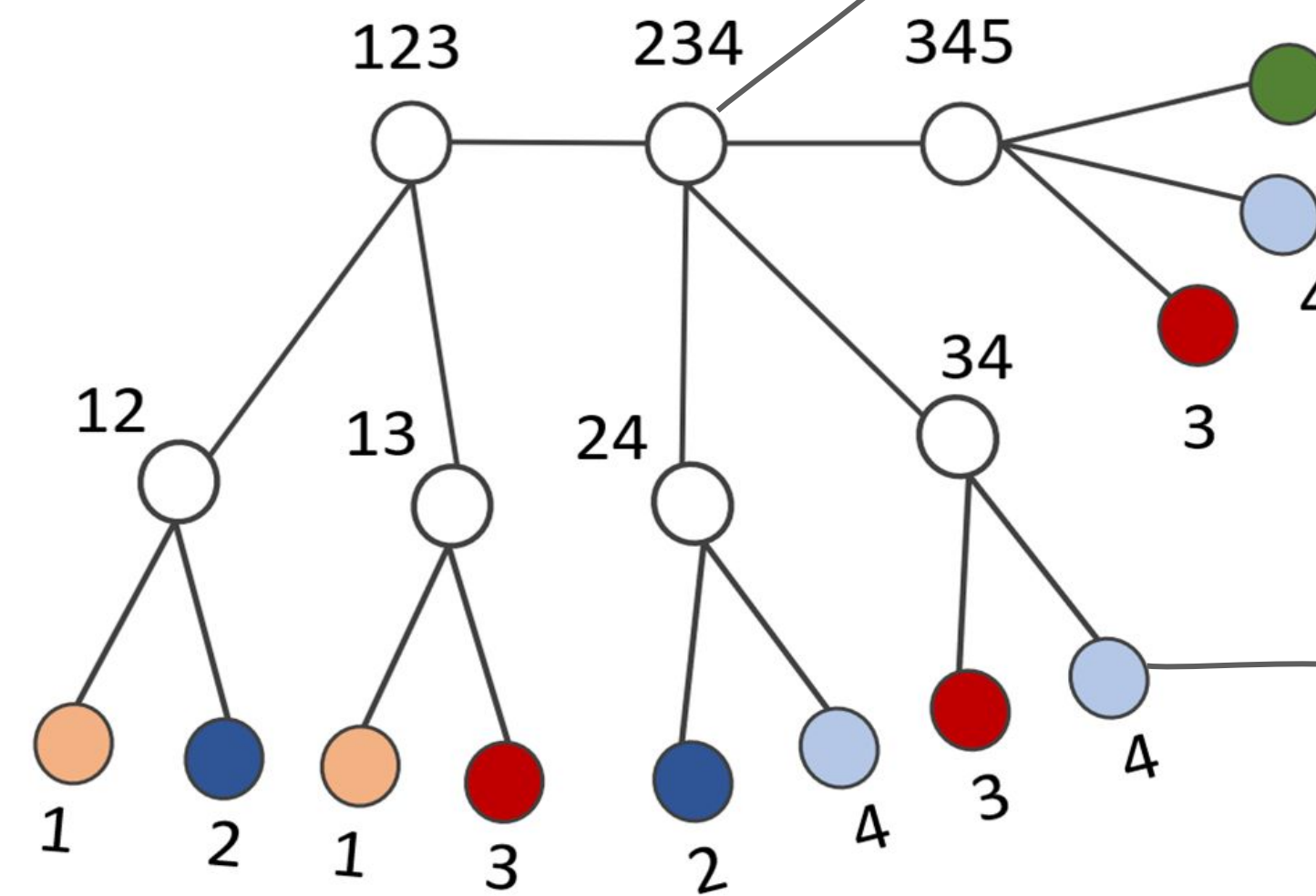
non-leaf nodes = group of nodes (input graph)

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H-tree

leaf node = node (input graph)



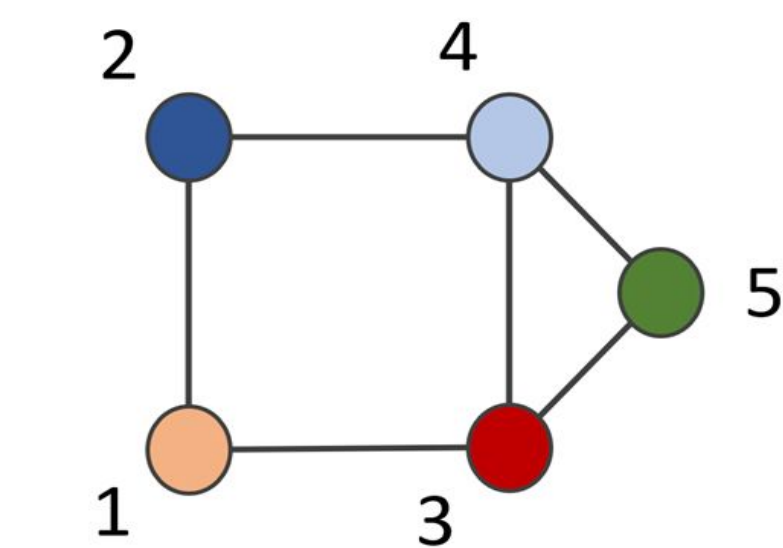
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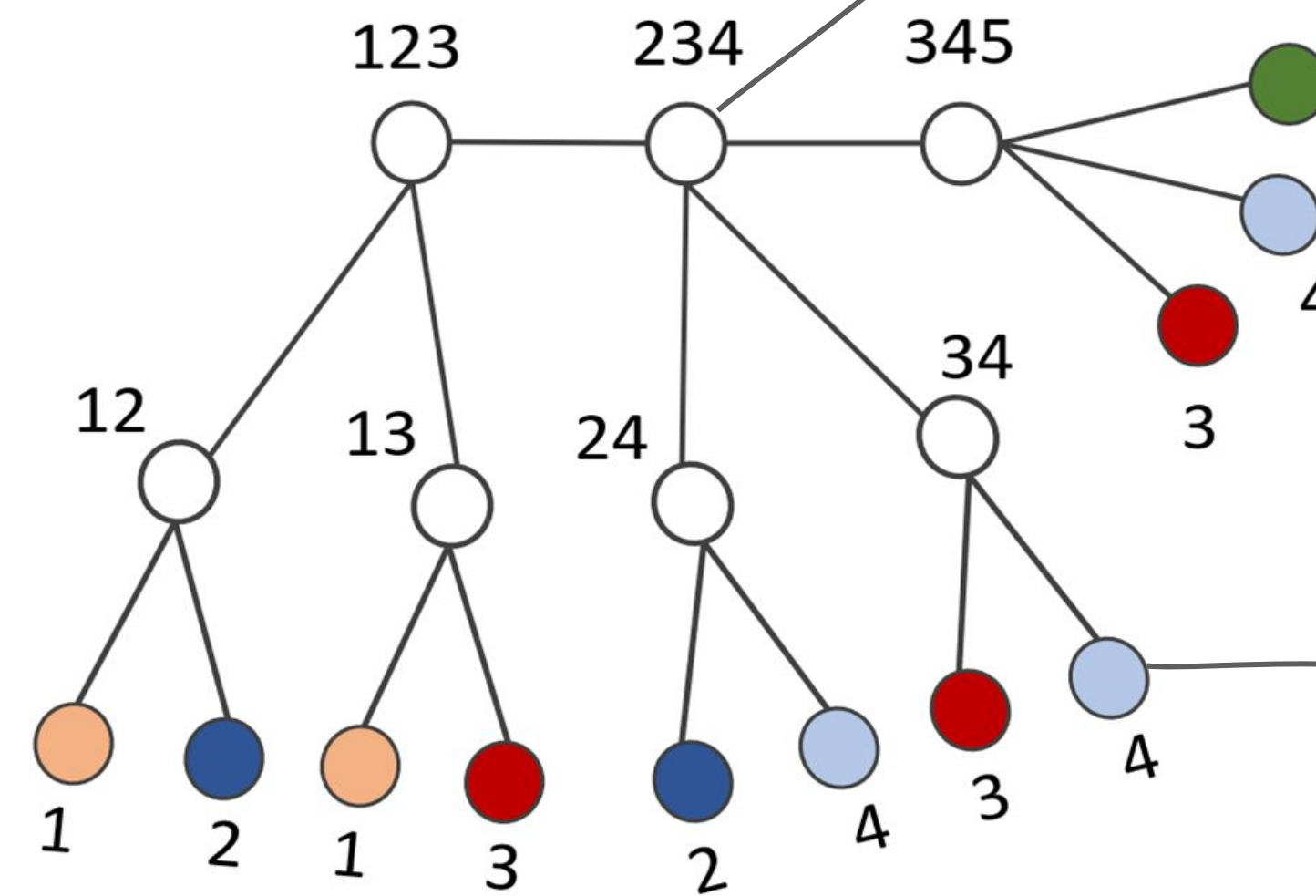
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Input graph with node attributes (colors)



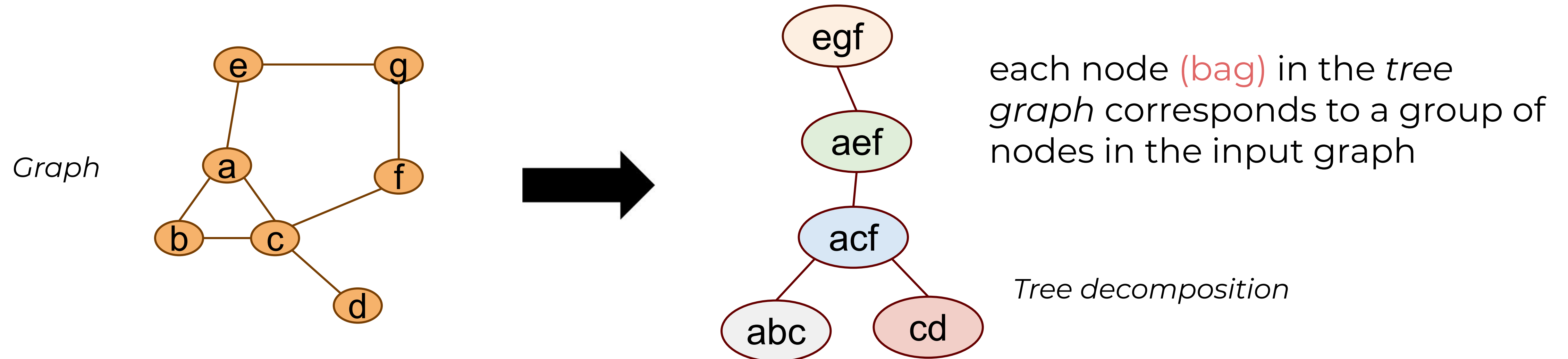
H-tree

leaf node = node (input graph)

The H-tree is constructed by successive **tree decomposition**

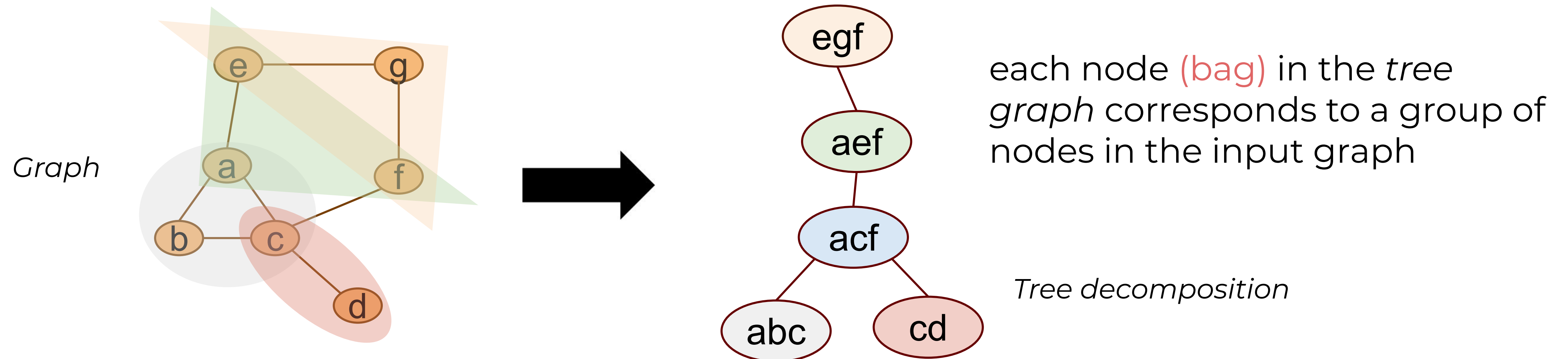
# Recall: Tree Decomposition

**Tree decomposition** is a *tree structured graph* such that



# Recall: Tree Decomposition

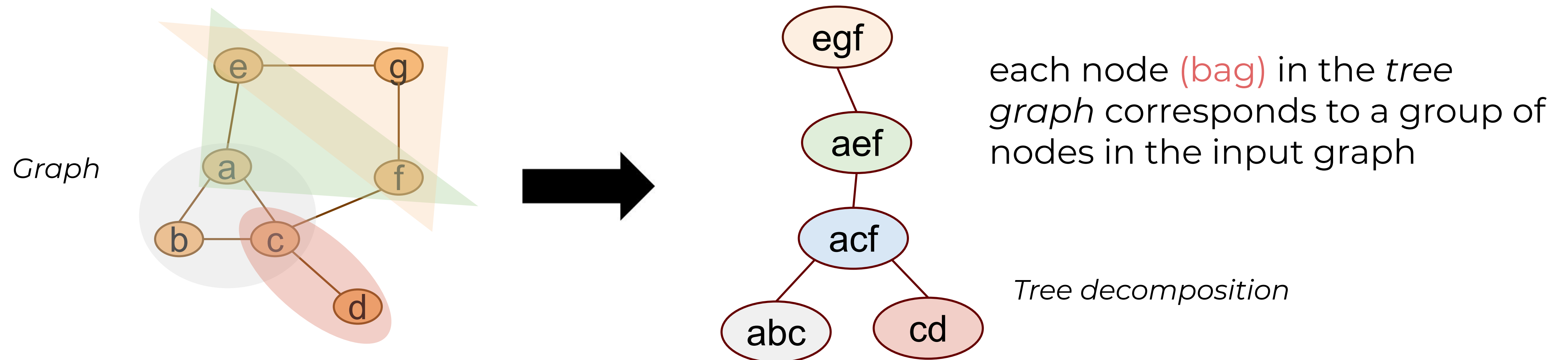
**Tree decomposition** is a *tree structured graph* such that





# Recall: Tree Decomposition

**Tree decomposition** is a *tree structured graph* such that



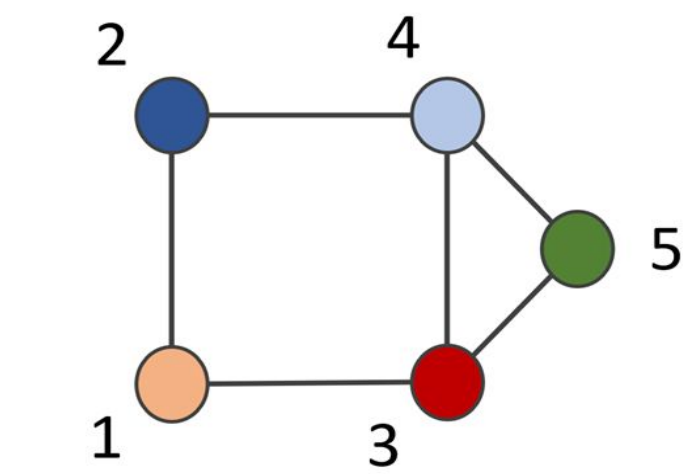
A well studied structure in graph optimization, combinatorial optimization, and probabilistic graphical models.

## **Junction Tree Algorithm:**

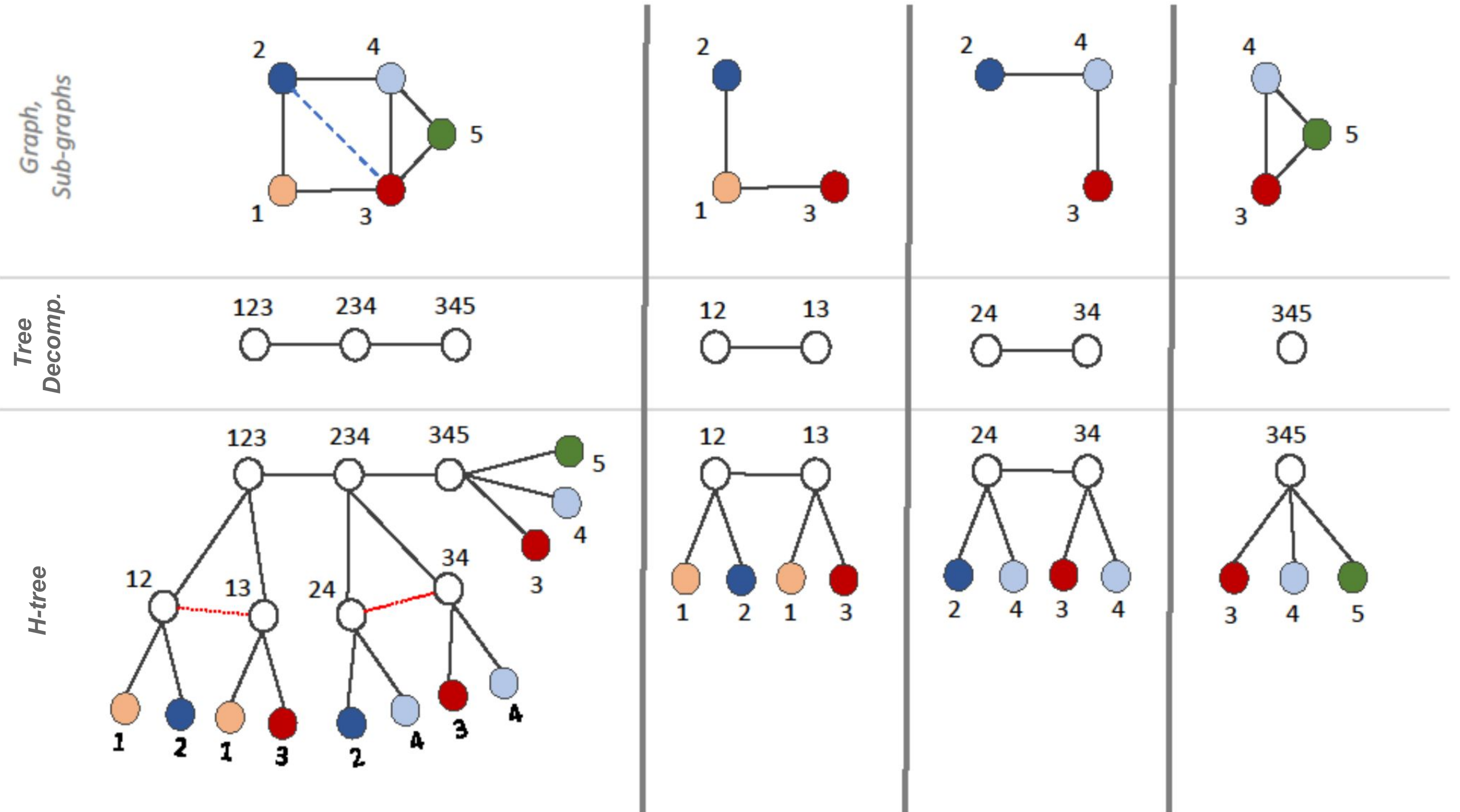
- Message passing on tree decomposition of input graph
- Algorithm for exact inference

# H-tree Construction

Successive tree decomposition



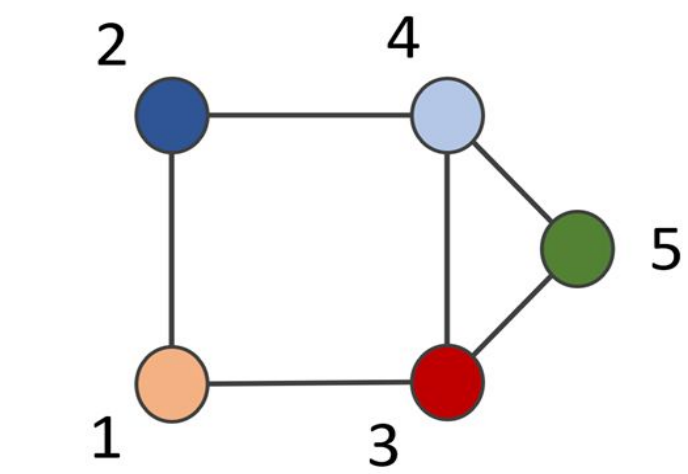
Input graph with node attributes (colors)



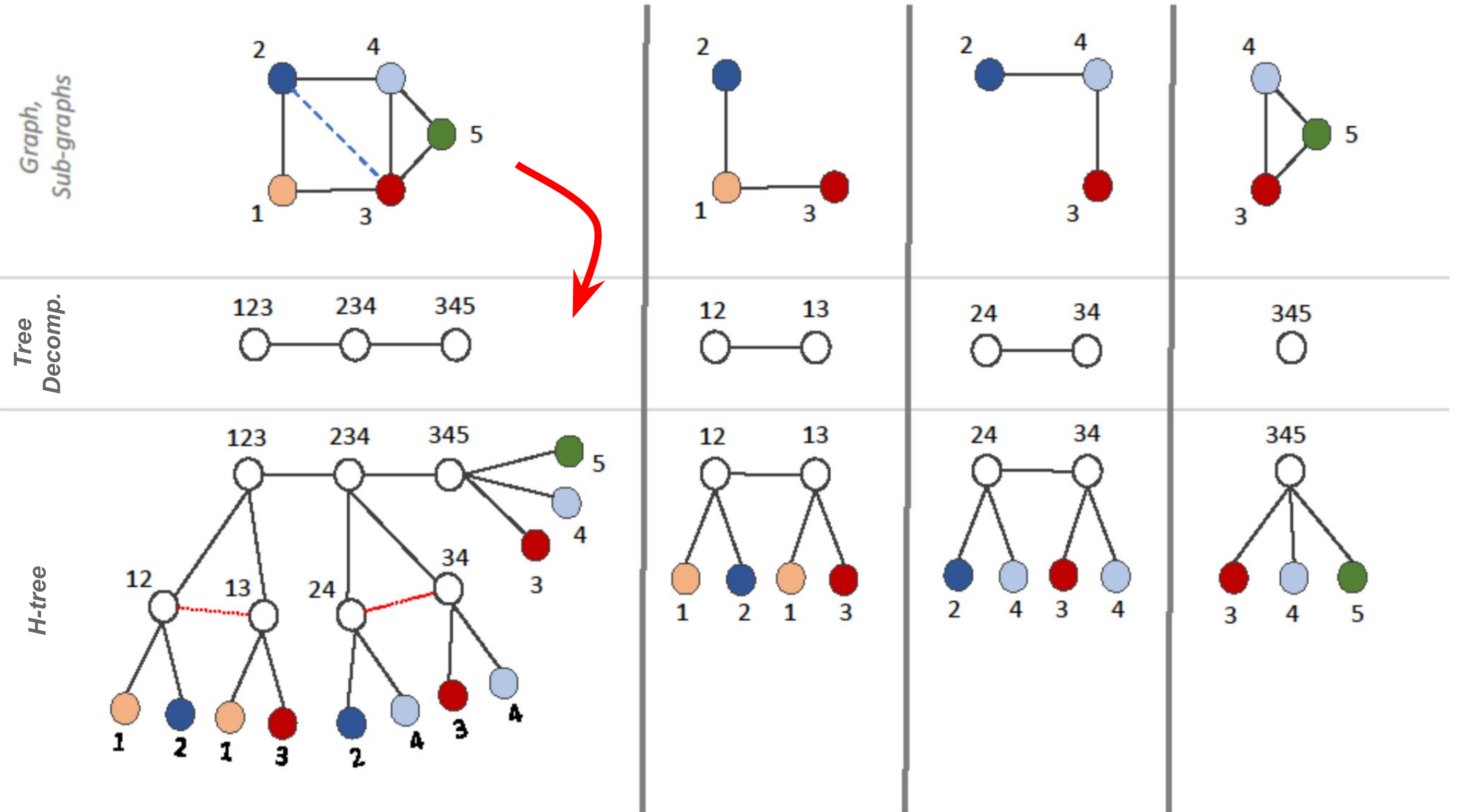
# H-tree Construction

Successive tree decomposition

**Step 1: Tree decomposition of the input graph**



Input graph with node attributes (colors)

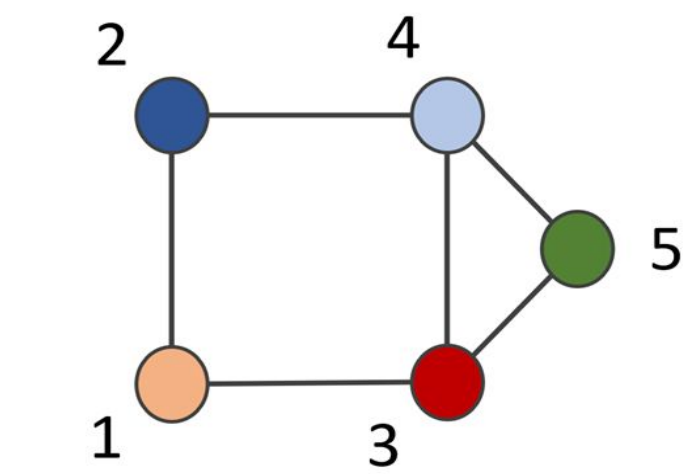




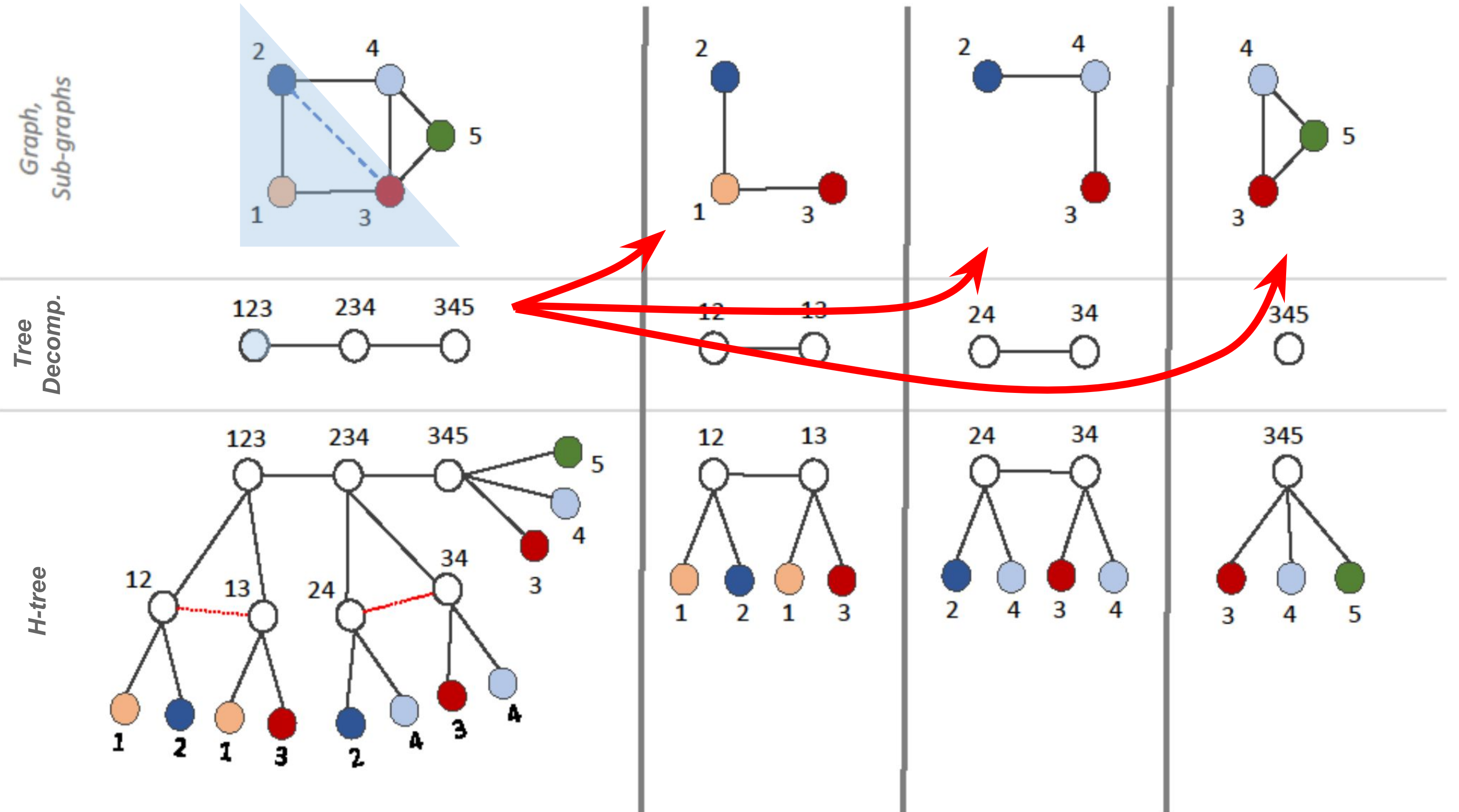
# H-tree Construction

Successive tree decomposition

**Step 2: Get subgraph corresponding to each bag**



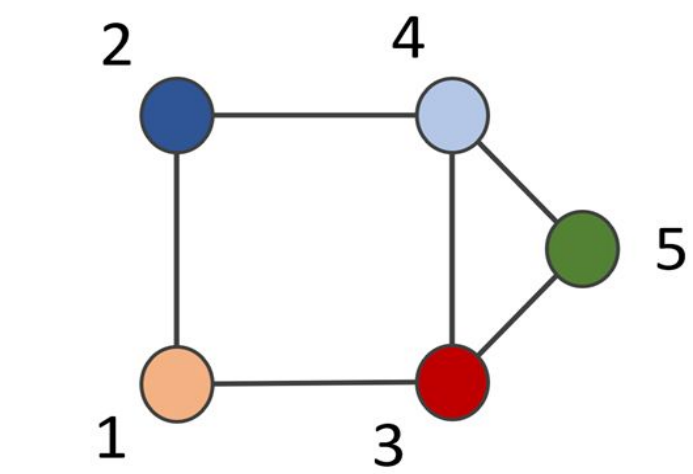
Input graph with node attributes (colors)



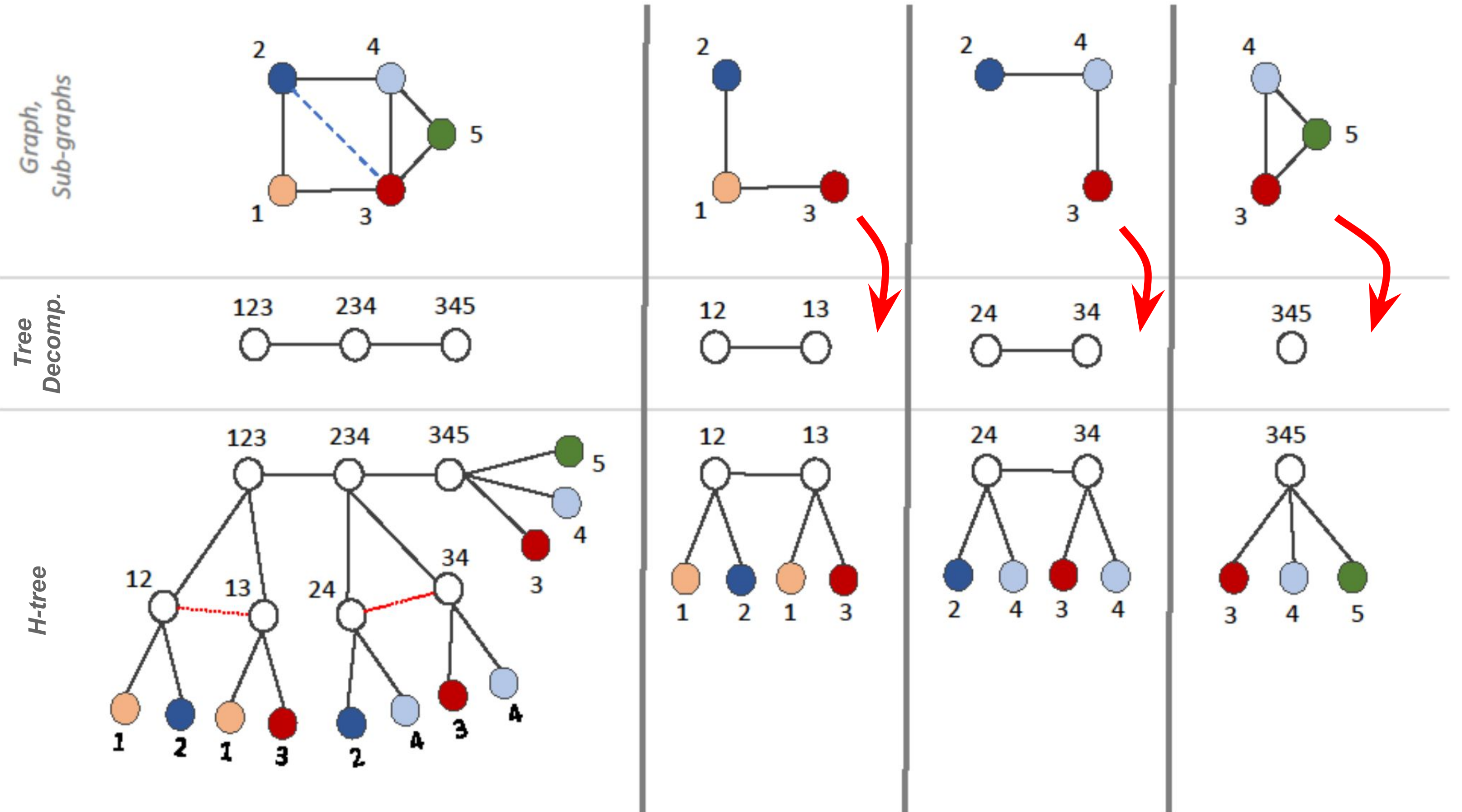
# H-tree Construction

Successive tree decomposition

## Step 3: Tree decomposition of sub-graphs



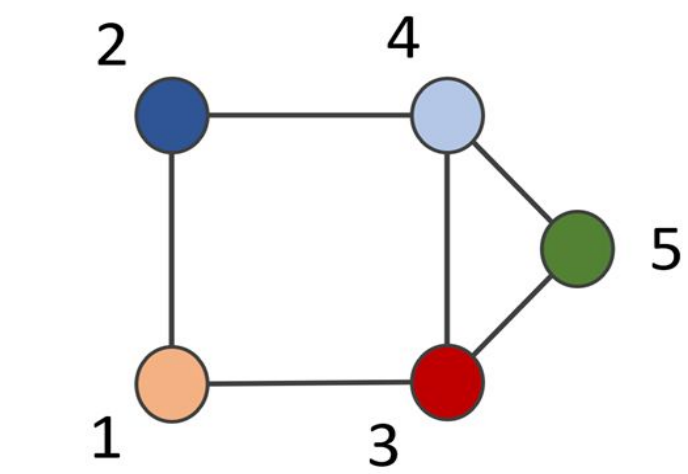
Input graph with node attributes (colors)



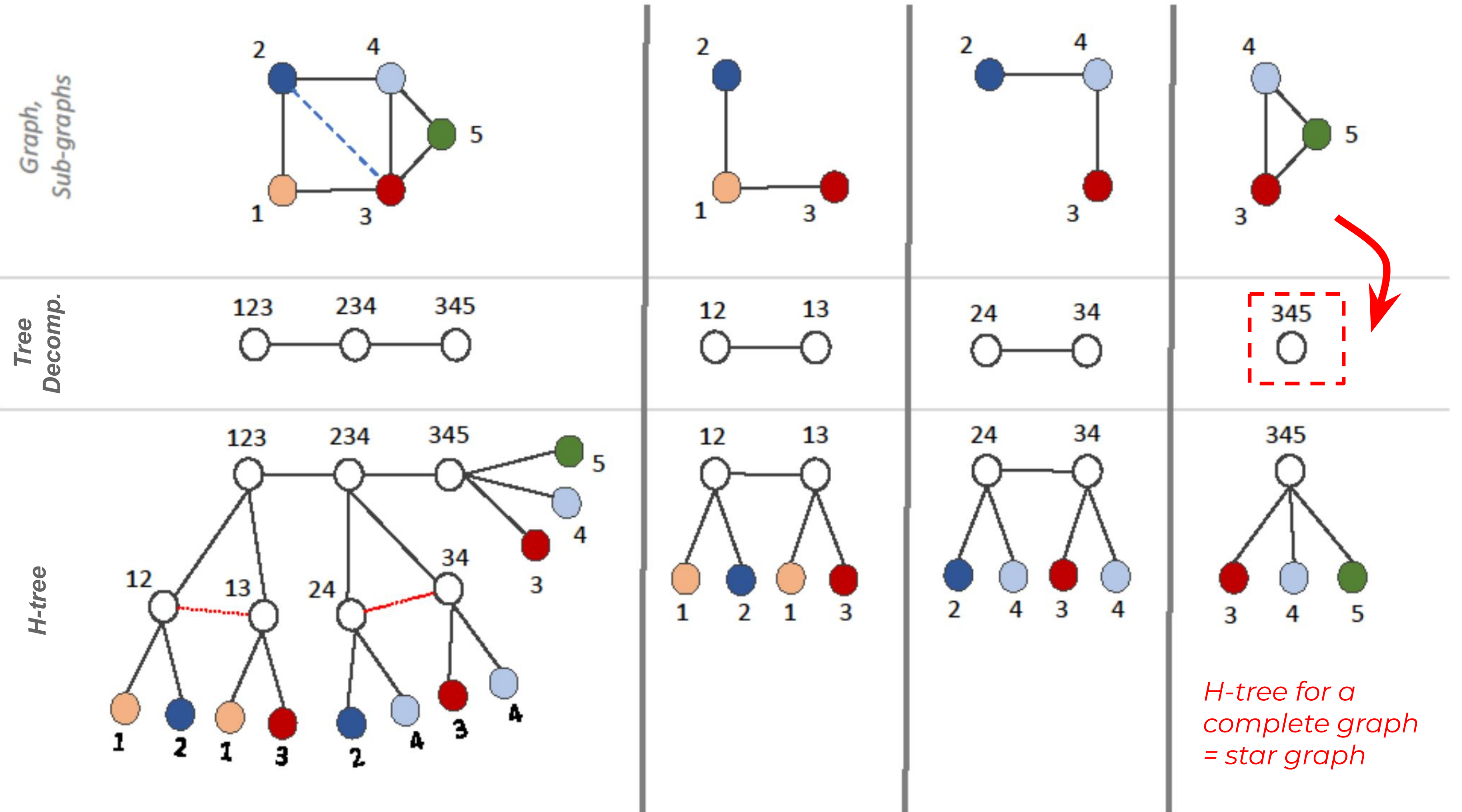
# H-tree Construction

Successive tree decomposition

Iterate till all the sub-graphs are complete graphs



Input graph with node attributes (colors)

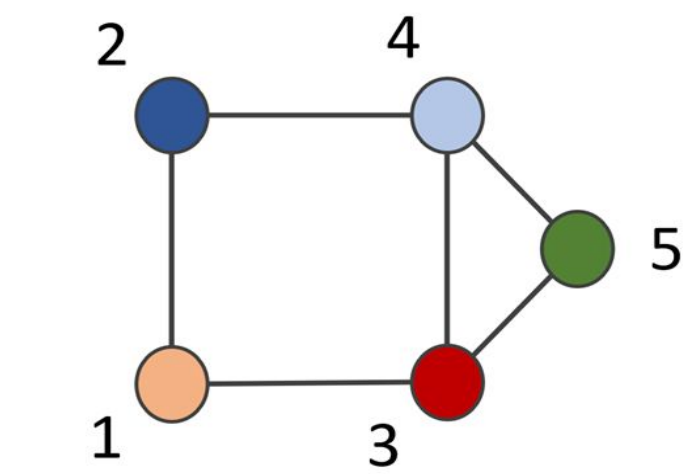




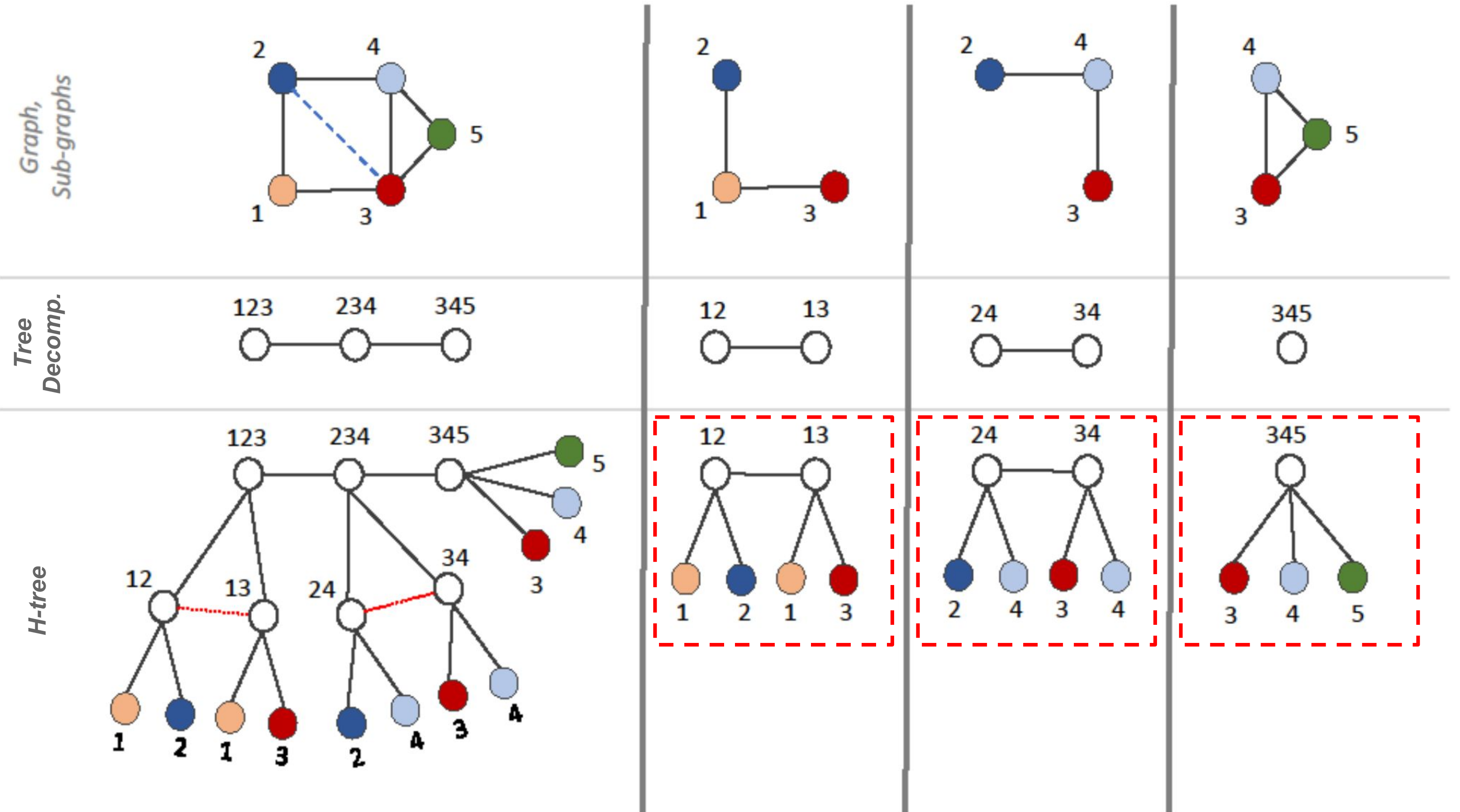
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Iterate till all the sub-graphs are complete graphs



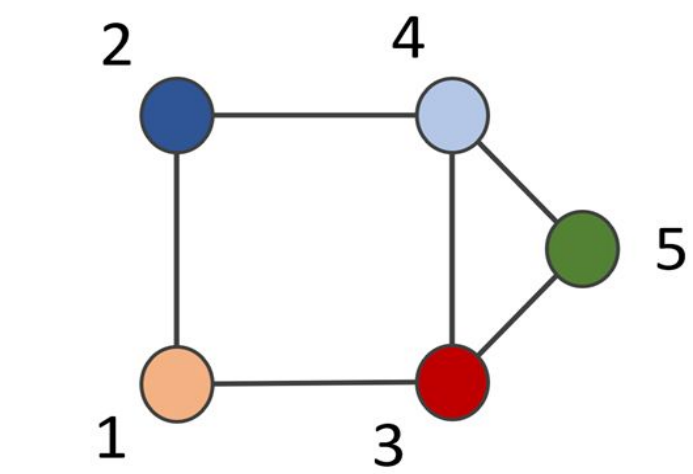
Input graph with node attributes (colors)



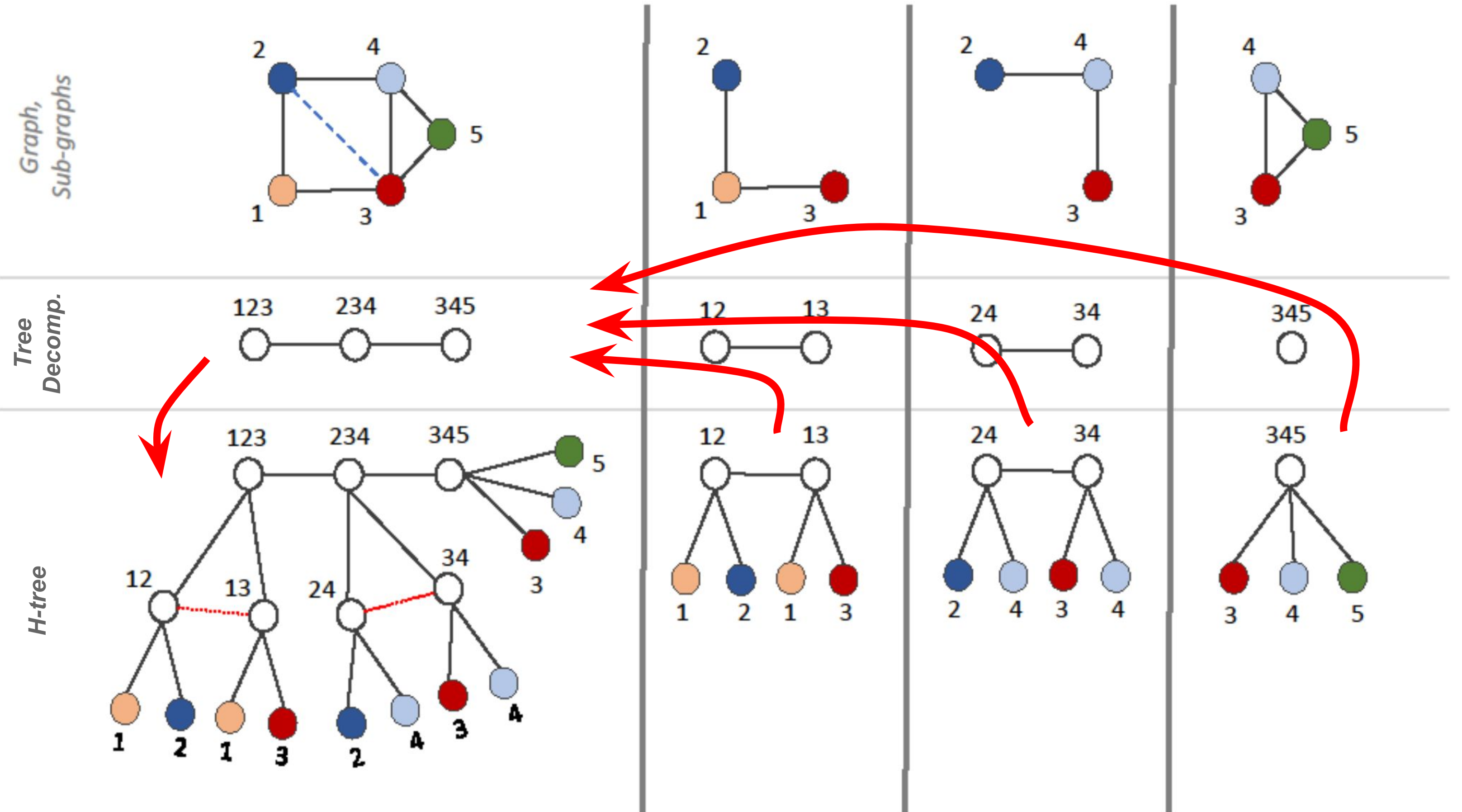
# H-tree Construction

Successive tree decomposition

**Finally, Connect all H-trees of sub-graphs to the tree-decomposition of the input graph**

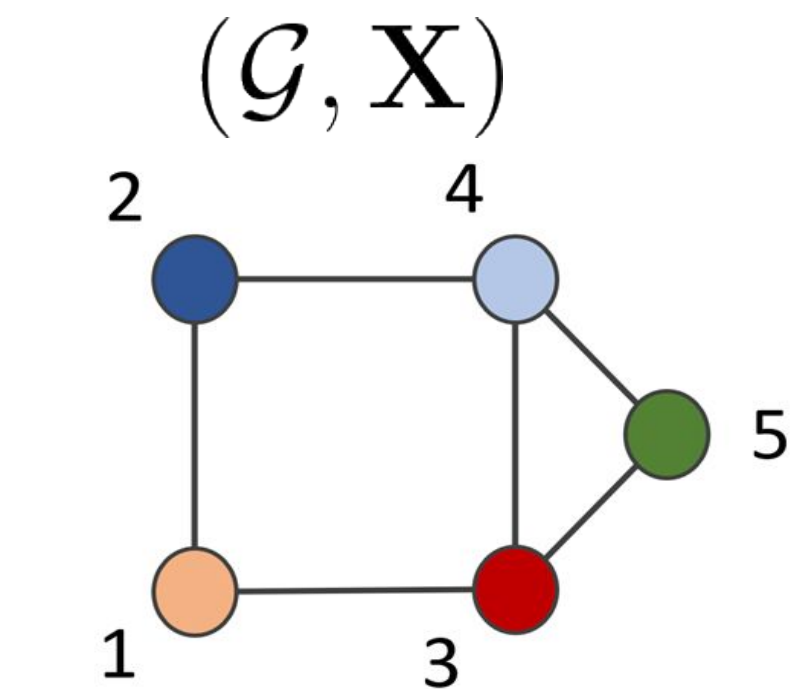


Input graph with node attributes (colors)



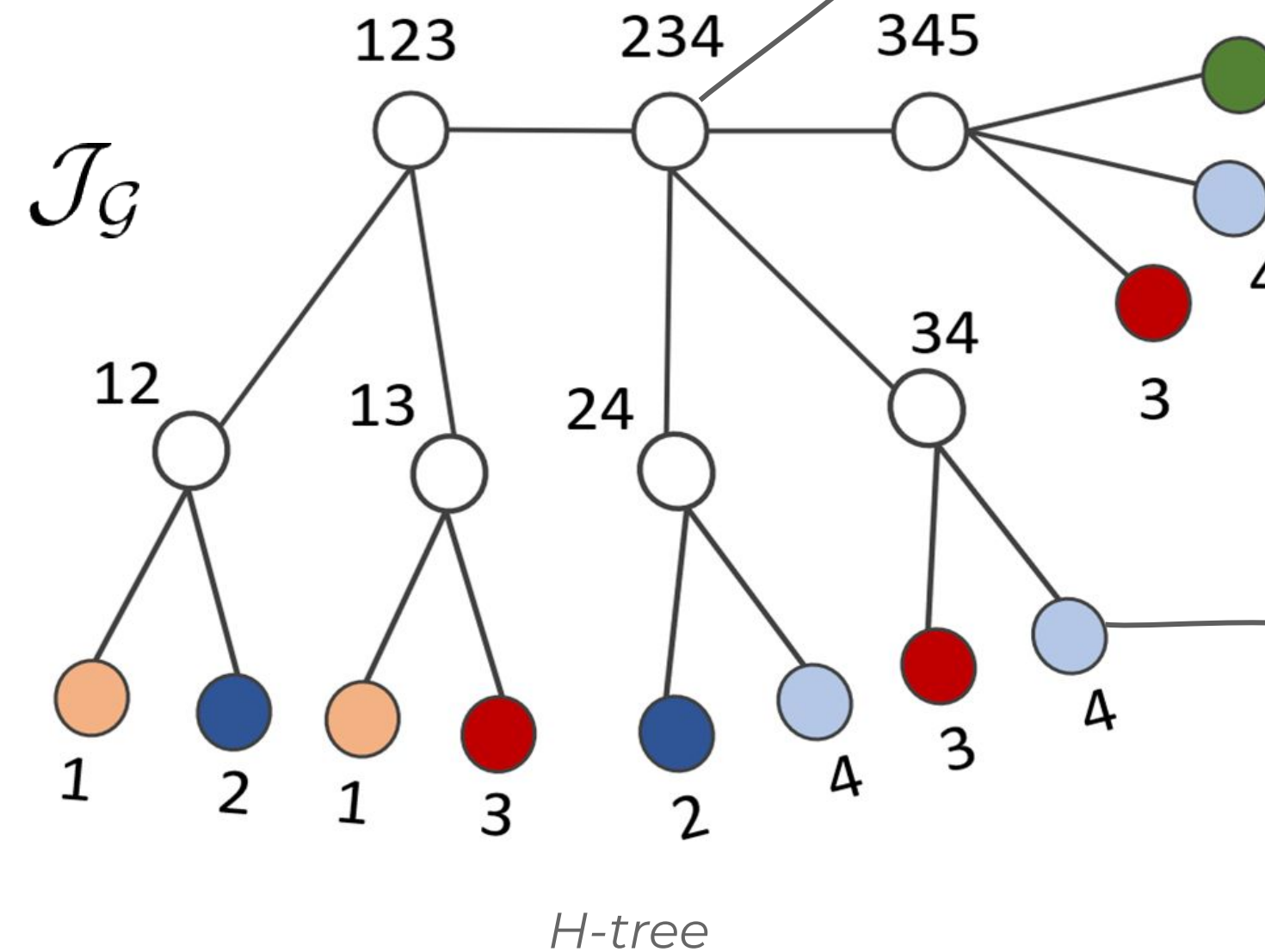
# Neural Tree Architecture

1. Convert graph to a tree, called H-tree



Input graph with node attributes (colors)

successive Tree Decomposition



H-tree

non-leaf nodes = set of nodes (input graph)

leaf node = node (input graph)

2. Neural Tree arch. = Message passing on the H-tree

$$\mathbf{h}_u^t = \underset{\substack{\downarrow \\ \text{Aggregation function}}}{\text{AGG}_t} \left( \mathbf{h}_u^{t-1}, \left\{ \left( \mathbf{h}_w^{t-1}, \kappa_{w,u}, \mathbf{h}_u^{t-1} \right) \mid w \in \underset{\substack{\downarrow \\ \text{Neighbors of } u \text{ in H-tree}}}{\mathcal{N}_{\mathcal{J}_G}(u)} \right\} \right) \quad \text{with} \quad \mathbf{h}_u^0 = \begin{cases} \mathbf{x}_{k(u)} & \text{if } u \text{ is a leaf node} \\ \mathbf{0} & \text{otherwise} \end{cases}$$



# Approximation Results

**Theorem:** For any (smooth) graph compatible function

$$f(\mathbf{X}) = \sum_C \theta_C(\mathbf{x}_C)$$

and an  $\epsilon > 0$ , there exists a Neural Tree model  $g(\mathbf{X})$  with  $N$  weights/parameters such that

a.  $\|f - g\|_\infty < \epsilon$

b.  $N = \mathcal{O}\left(n \cdot (\text{tw}(G)/\epsilon)^{c \cdot \text{tw}(G)}\right)$

↑  
num. nodes in  
the graph

↑  
treewidth of the  
tree-decomposition used

# Approximation Results

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1-Lipschitz  
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# Remarks

- **Parameter complexity of Neural Tree**
  - Linearly in graph size
  - Exponentially in graph treewidth
- **Complexity of exact inference on graphical models**
  - NP-hard
  - Exponential in graph treewidth

## The Computational Complexity of Probabilistic Inference Using Bayesian Belief Networks

Gregory F. Cooper

Medical Computer Science Group,  
Knowledge Systems Laboratory, Stanford University,  
Stanford, CA 94305-5479, USA

### ABSTRACT

Bayesian belief networks provide a compact representation of a set of variables. For many networks, a knowledge representation previously for efficient probabilistic inference. However, we show that probabilistic inference is NP-hard and that an exact algorithm can be developed for belief networks. This result suggests that, in general, efficient probabilistic inference is NP-hard, and approximation algorithms are needed.

### 1. Introduction

The graphical representation of belief networks has been the subject of considerable research.

## Complexity of Inference in Graphical Models

Venkat Chandrasekaran

Laboratory for Information and Decision Systems  
Massachusetts Institute of Technology  
Cambridge, MA 02139

Nathan Srebro, Prahladh Harsha

Toyota Technological Institute – Chicago  
Chicago, IL 60637

### Abstract

It is well-known that inference in graphical models is hard in the worst case, but tractable for models with bounded treewidth. We ask whether treewidth is the only structural criterion of the underlying graph that enables tractable inference. In other words, is there some class of structures with unbounded treewidth in which inference is tractable? Subject to a combinatorial hypothesis due to Robertson et al. (1994), we show that low treewidth is indeed the only structural restriction that can ensure tractability. Thus, even for the “best case” graph structure, there is no inference algorithm with complexity polynomial in the

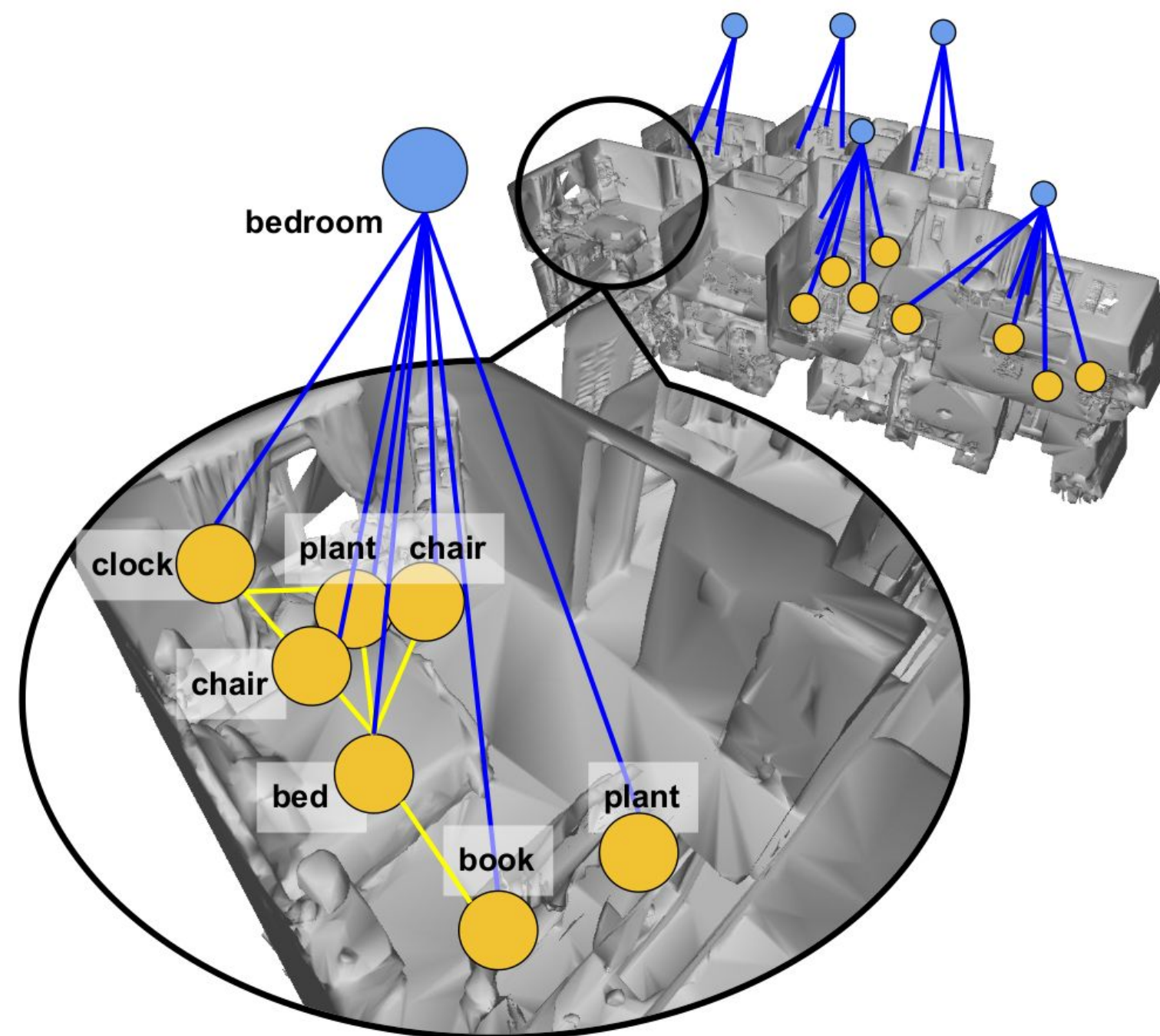
It is well-known that inference is NP-hard if no assumptions are made about the structure of the underlying graphical model (Cooper, 1990), and remains NP-hard even to approximate (Roth, 1996) — assuming  $P \neq NP$ , for any algorithm there are some structures in which (approximate) inference takes time super-polynomial in the size of the structure. However, inference in specific structures can still be tractable. For models in which the underlying graph has low treewidth, the junction-tree method provides an effective inference procedure that has complexity polynomial in the size of the graph, though exponential in the treewidth.

The notion of treewidth (Robertson and Seymour 1983; 1986) has led to several results in graph theory (Robertson et al., 1994) and to practical algorithms for a large class of NP-hard problems (Freuder,



# Experiments

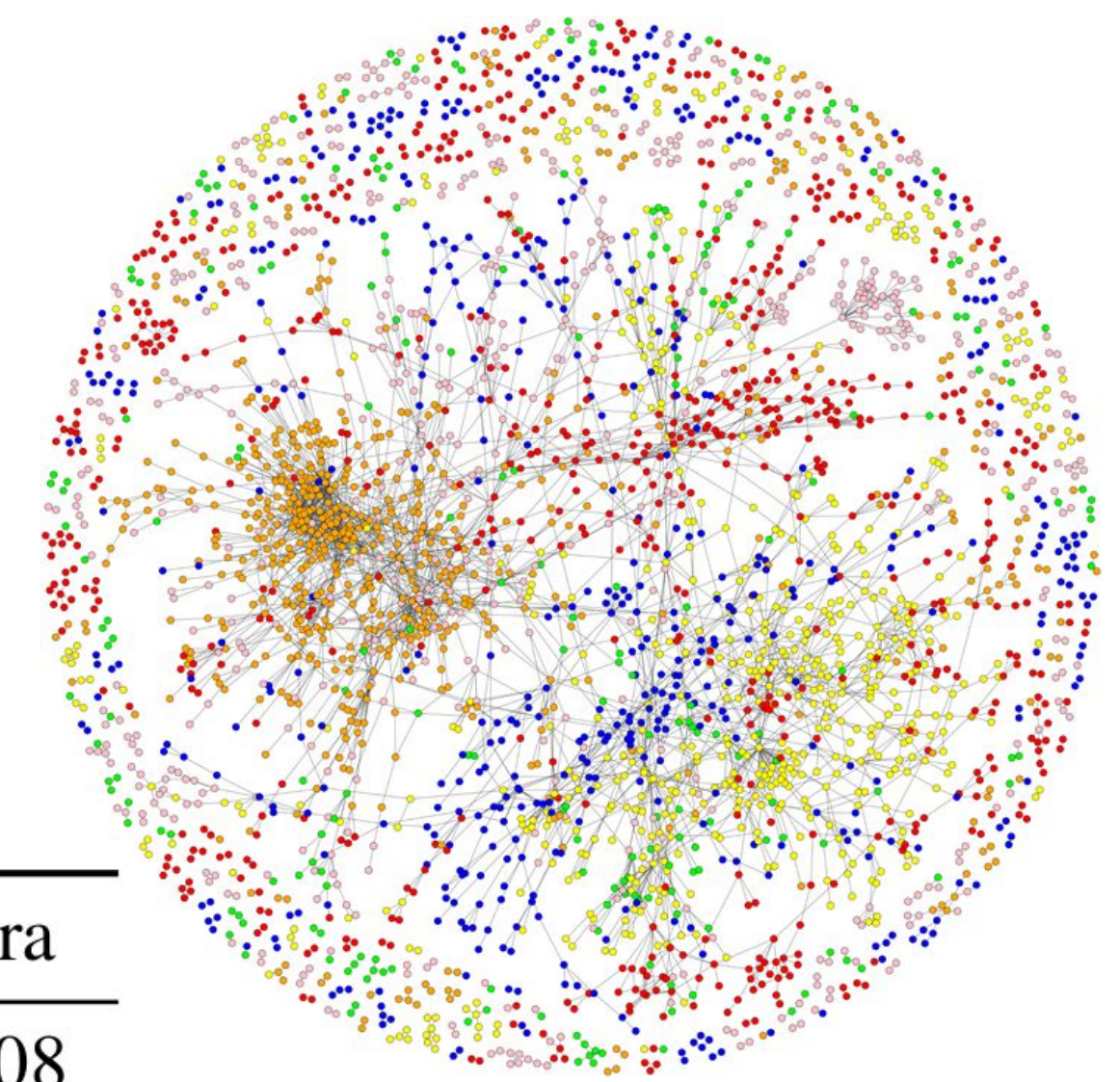
- 3D Scene Graphs
- Citation Networks



3D Scene Graphs  
(smaller graphs with low treewidth)

Citation Networks  
(large treewidth graphs)

	PubMed	CiteSeer	Cora
Nodes	19,717	3,327	2,708
Edges	44,338	4,732	5,429
Classes	3	6	7



CiteSeer graph



# 3D Scene Graphs

Stanford 3D Scene Graph dataset

- 482 rooms with 15 categories
- 2338 objects with 35 categories

## 3D Scene Graph: A Structure for Unified Semantics, 3D Space, and Camera

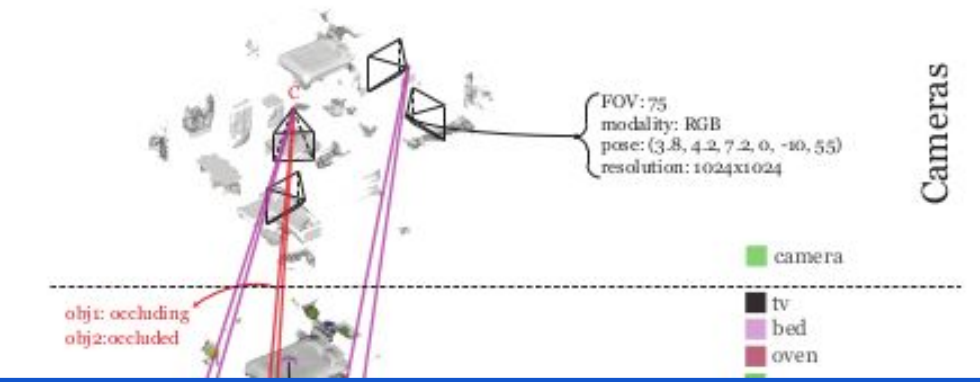
Iro Armeni<sup>1</sup> Zhi-Yang He<sup>1</sup> JunYoung Gwak<sup>1</sup> Amir R. Zamir<sup>1,2</sup>  
Martin Fischer<sup>1</sup> Jitendra Malik<sup>2</sup> Silvio Savarese<sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup> Stanford University <sup>2</sup> University of California, Berkeley

<http://3dscenegraph.stanford.edu>

### Abstract

*A comprehensive semantic understanding of a scene is important for many applications - but in what space should diverse semantic information (e.g., objects, scene categories, material types, texture, etc.) be grounded and what should be its structure? Aspiring to have one unified structure that hosts diverse types of semantics, we follow*



[W] 6 Oct 2019

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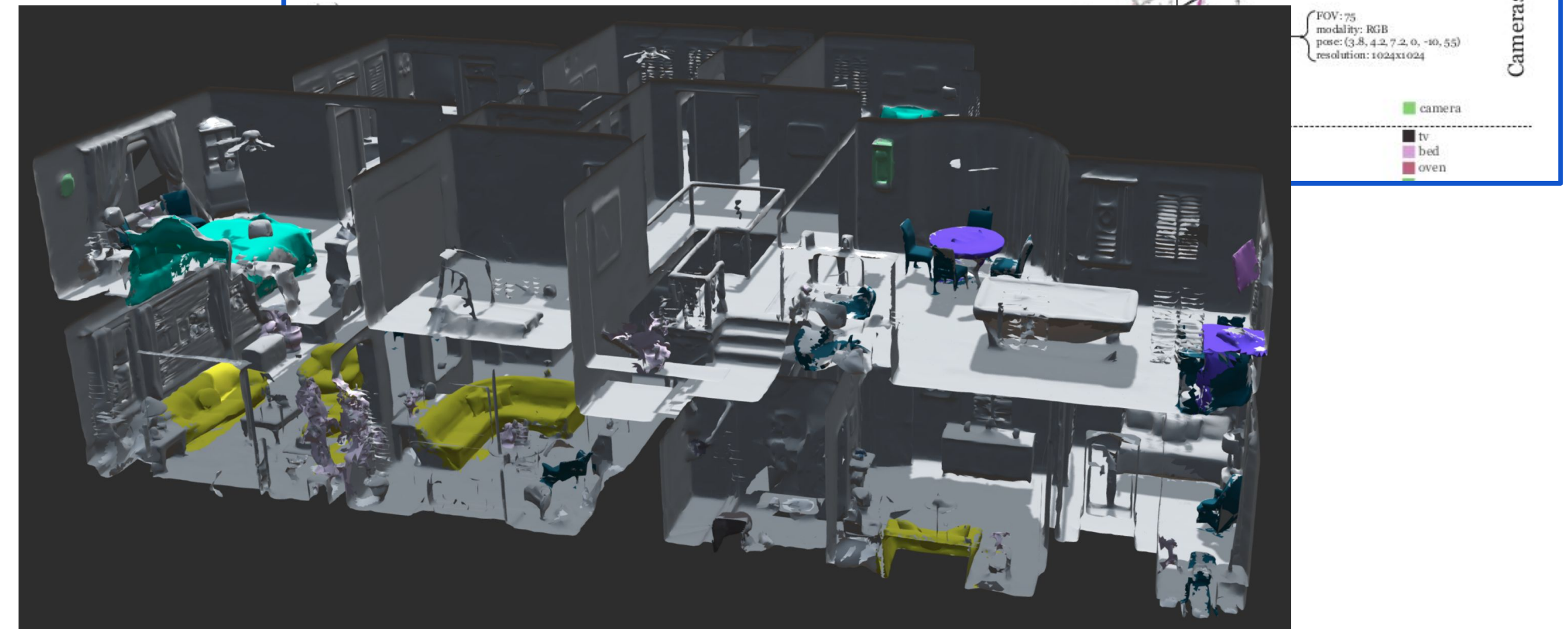
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2019

Abstract





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Stanford 3D Scene Graph dataset

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We construct 3D Scene Graph by

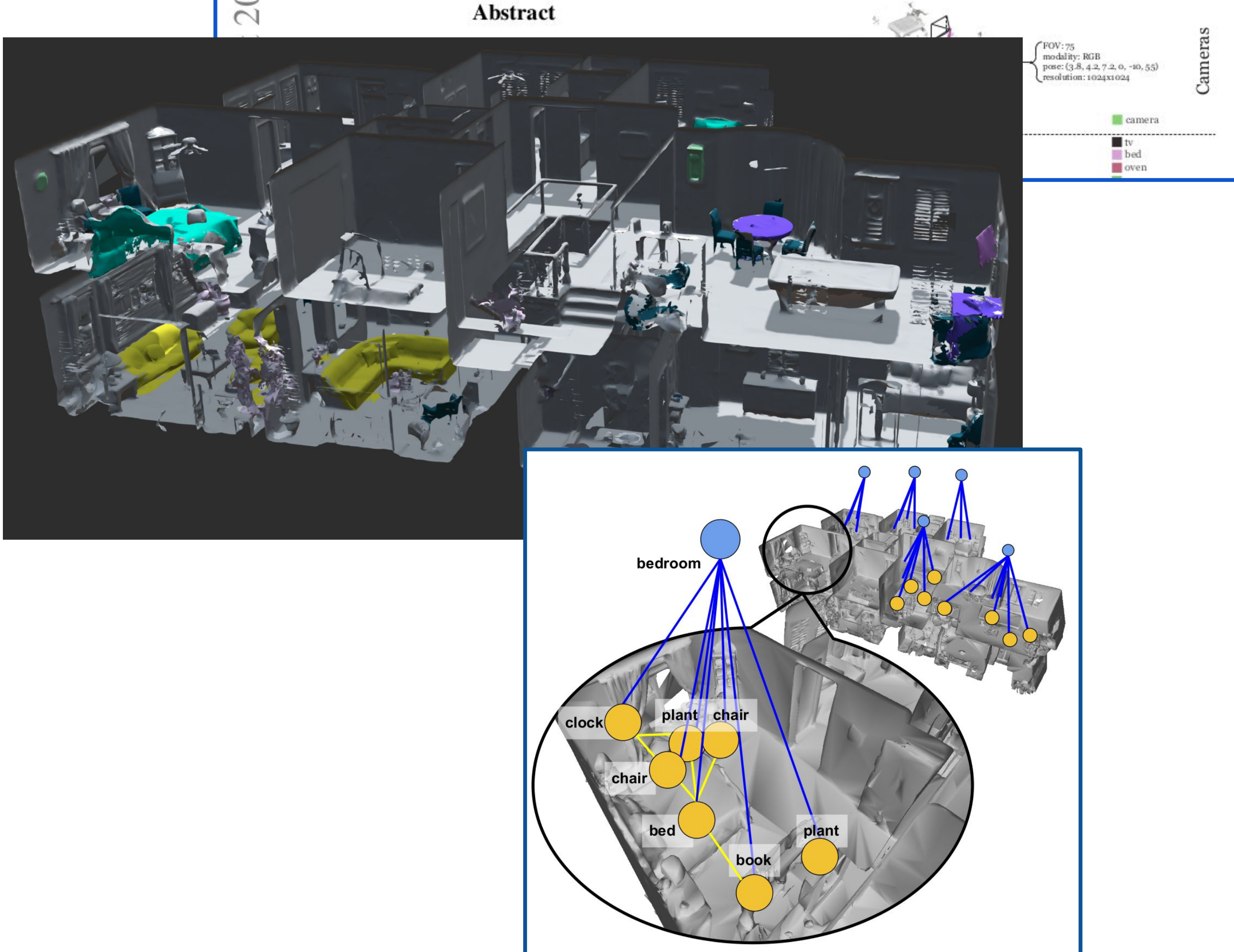
- Connecting nearby objects

2019

### 3D Scene Graph: A Structure for Unified Semantics, 3D Space, and Camera

Iro Armeni<sup>1</sup> Zhi-Yang He<sup>1</sup> JunYoung Gwak<sup>1</sup> Amir R. Zamir<sup>1,2</sup>  
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# 3D Scene Graphs

Stanford 3D Scene Graph dataset

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- 2338 objects with 35 categories

We construct 3D Scene Graph by

- Connecting nearby objects

Input feature for each node

- centroid and bounding box dimension

## 3D Scene Graph: A Structure for Unified Semantics, 3D Space, and Camera

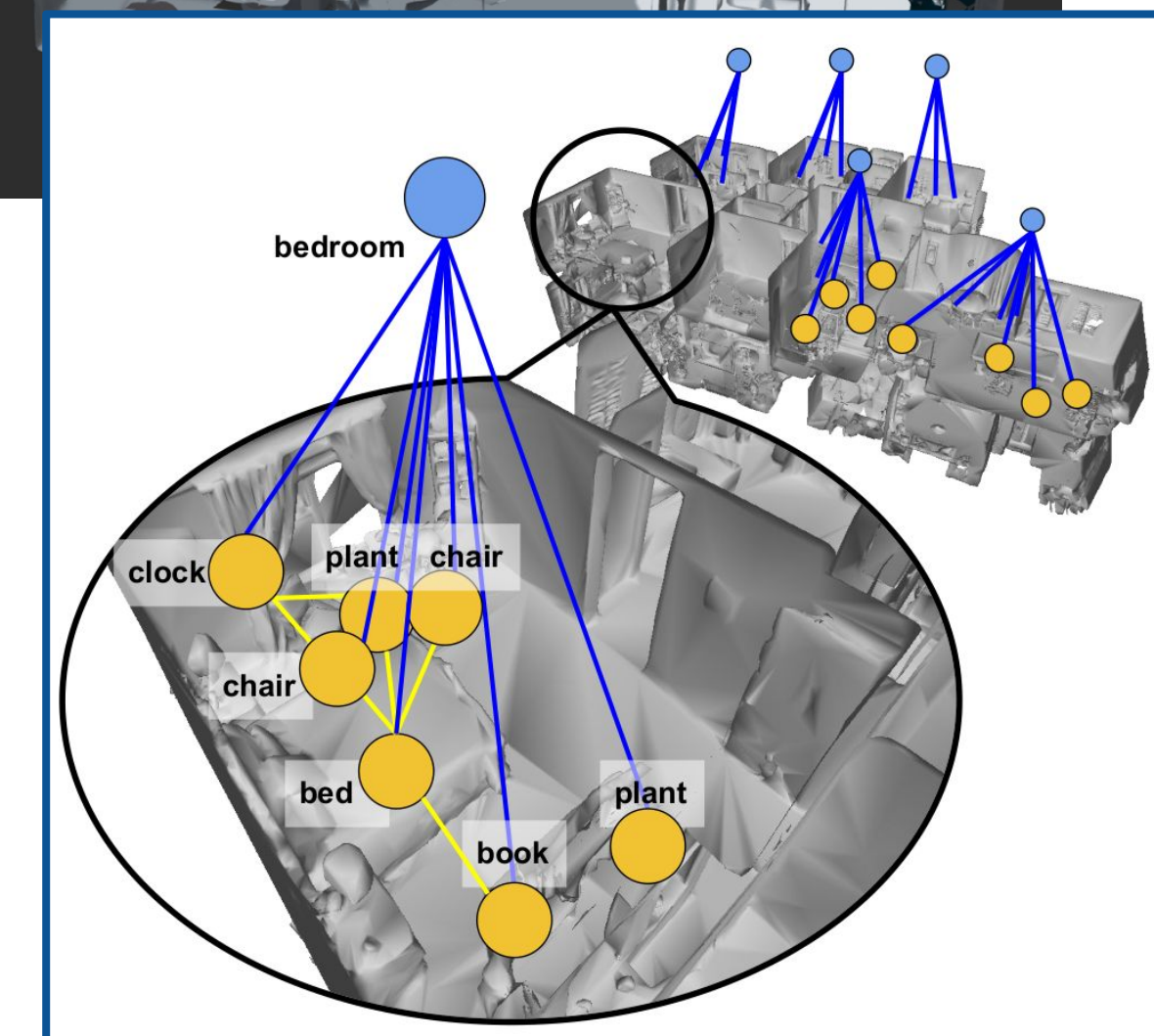
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<http://3dscenegraph.stanford.edu>

2019

Abstract



# Experiments and Results

## Neural Tree vs traditional GNN

Compare Neural Tree message passing with GNN message passing, with same aggregation function

### Test Accuracy\*

$AGG_t$	Input graph	Neural Tree
GCN	40.88 $\pm$ 2.28 %	<b>50.63</b> $\pm$ 2.25 %
GraphSAGE	59.54 $\pm$ 1.35 %	<b>63.57</b> $\pm$ 1.54 %
GAT	46.56 $\pm$ 2.21 %	<b>62.16</b> $\pm$ 2.03 %
GIN	49.25 $\pm$ 1.15 %	<b>63.53</b> $\pm$ 1.38 %

- Neural Tree always performs better than traditional GNN
- Always better to do message passing on H-tree

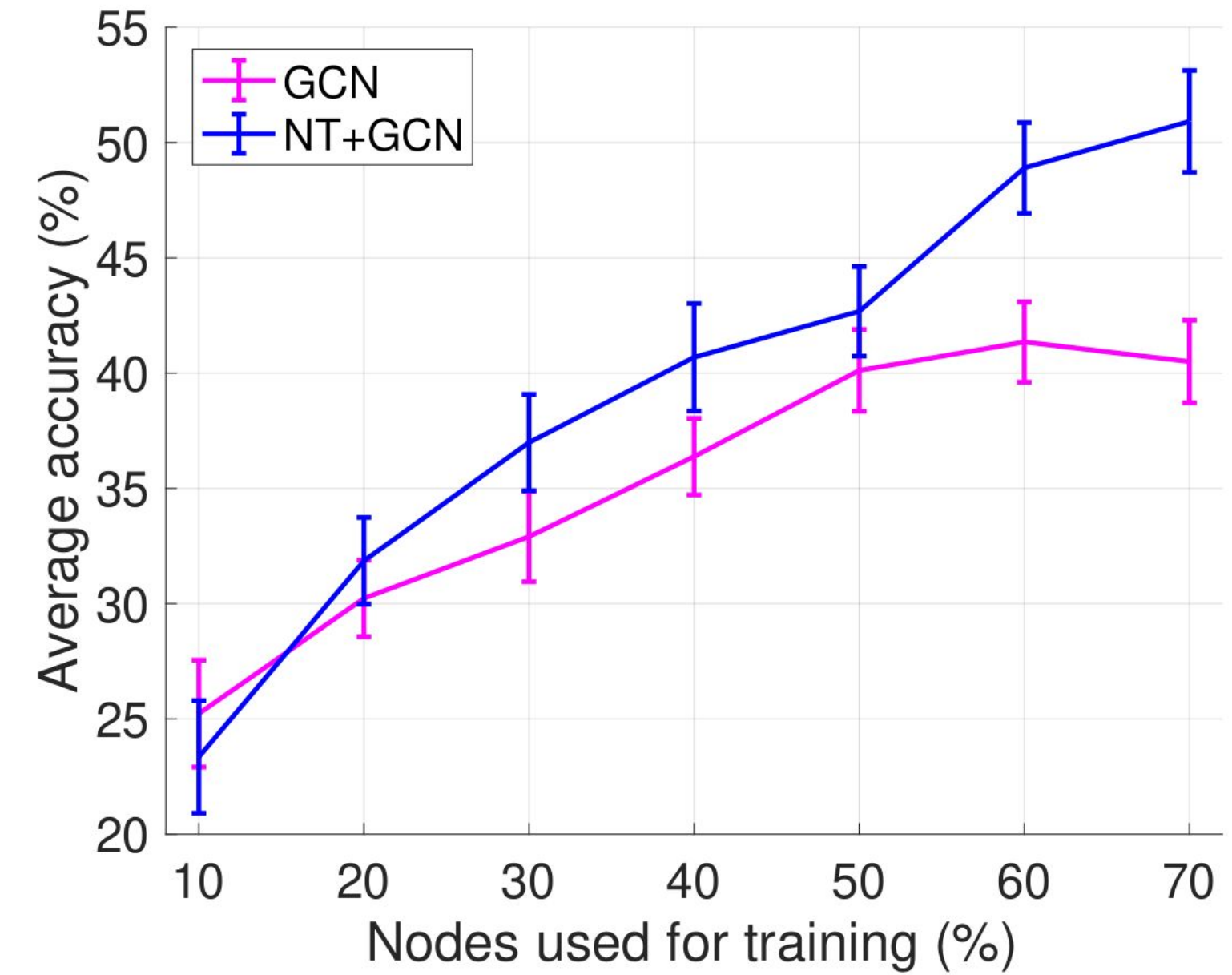
\*Random train/val/test (70/10/20) split



# Experiments and Results

## Increased training data

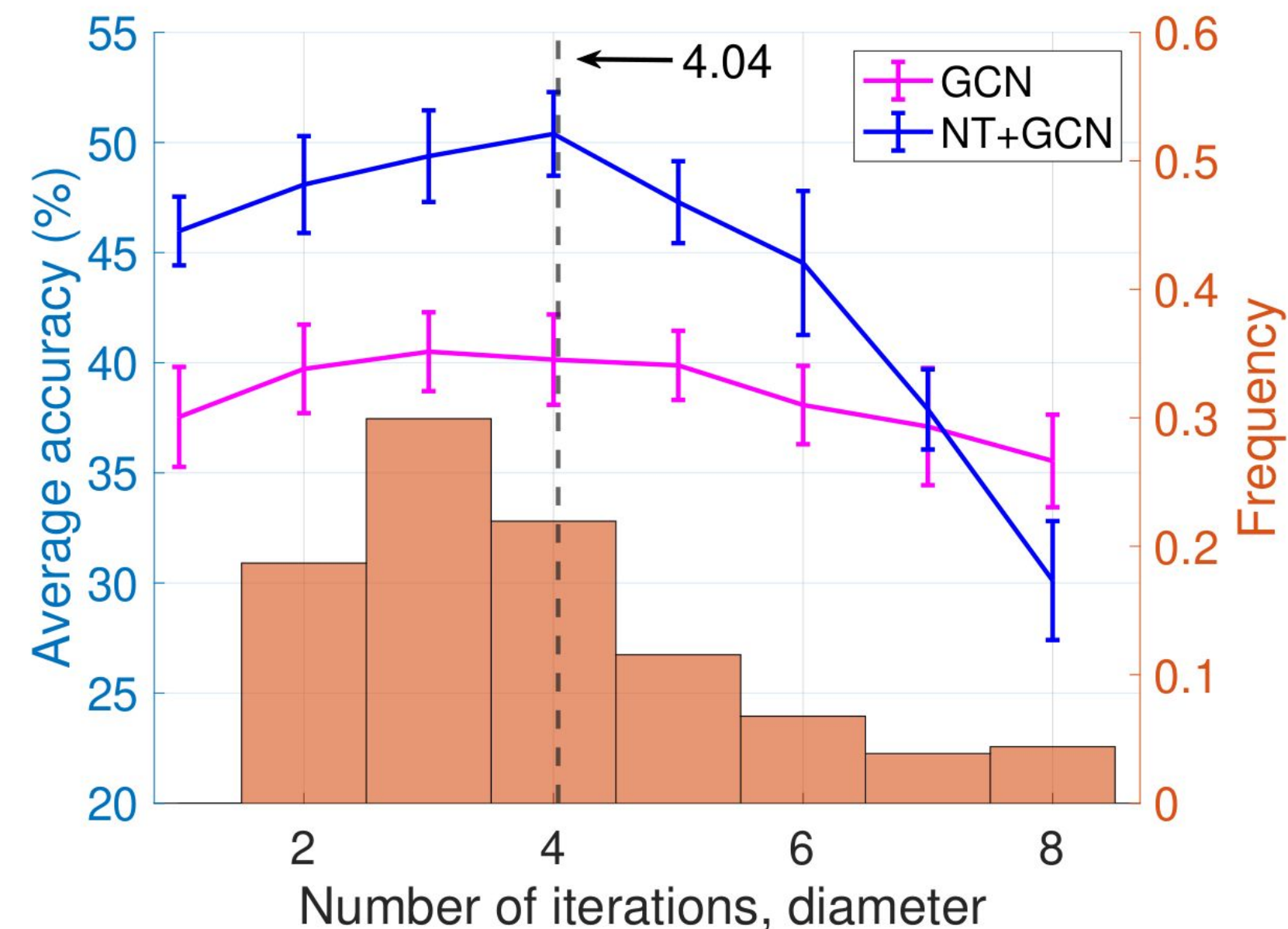
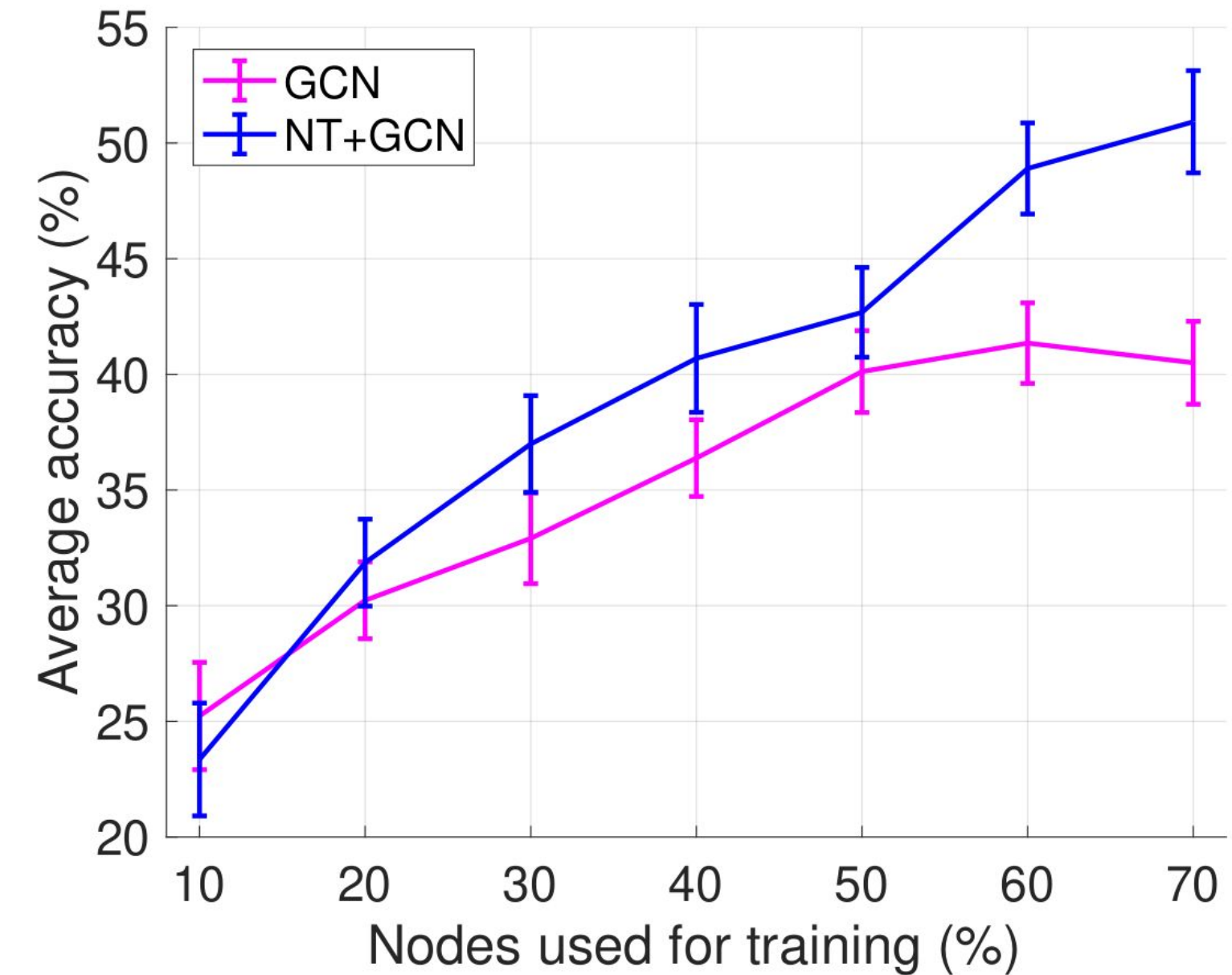
- Sharper increase with increasing training data for Neural Trees
- Performance of traditional GNN caps out



# Experiments and Results

## Increased training data

- Sharper increase with increasing training data for Neural Trees
- Performance of traditional GNN caps out



## Number of message passing iterations

- Max attained at roughly the ave. diameter of the H-tree

# Citation Networks

## Does Neural Tree scale?

Bounded treewidth subgraph sampling + Neural Tree

Technical Presentation

WSDM '20, February 3–7, 2020, Houston, TX, USA

### Sampling Subgraphs with Guaranteed Treewidth for Accurate and Efficient Graphical Inference

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Seoul National University  
Seoul, Republic of Korea  
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U Kang\*  
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Lugano, Switzerland  
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#### ABSTRACT

How can we run graphical inference on large graphs efficiently and accurately? Many real-world networks are modeled as graphical models, and graphical inference is fundamental to understand the properties of those networks. In this work, we propose a novel approach for fast and accurate inference, which first samples a small subgraph and then runs inference over the subgraph instead of the given graph. This is done by the bounded treewidth (BTW) sampling, our novel algorithm that generates a subgraph with guaranteed bounded treewidth while retaining as many edges as possible. We first analyze the properties of BTW theoretically. Then, we evaluate our approach on node classification and compare it with the baseline which is to run loopy belief propagation (LBP) on the original graph. Our approach can be coupled with various inference algorithms: it shows higher accuracy up to 13.7% with the junction tree algorithm, and allows faster inference up to 23.8 times with LBP. We further compare BTW with previous graph sampling algorithms and show that it gives the best accuracy.

#### CCS CONCEPTS

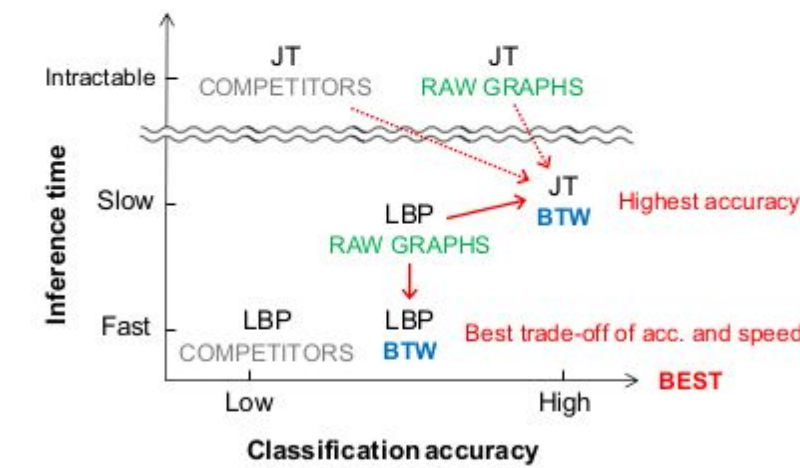


Figure 1: Advantages of BTW with two kinds of inference algorithms. BTW a) gives the best accuracy when the junction tree (JT) algorithm is used and b) speeds up the inference without hurting accuracy when LBP is used.

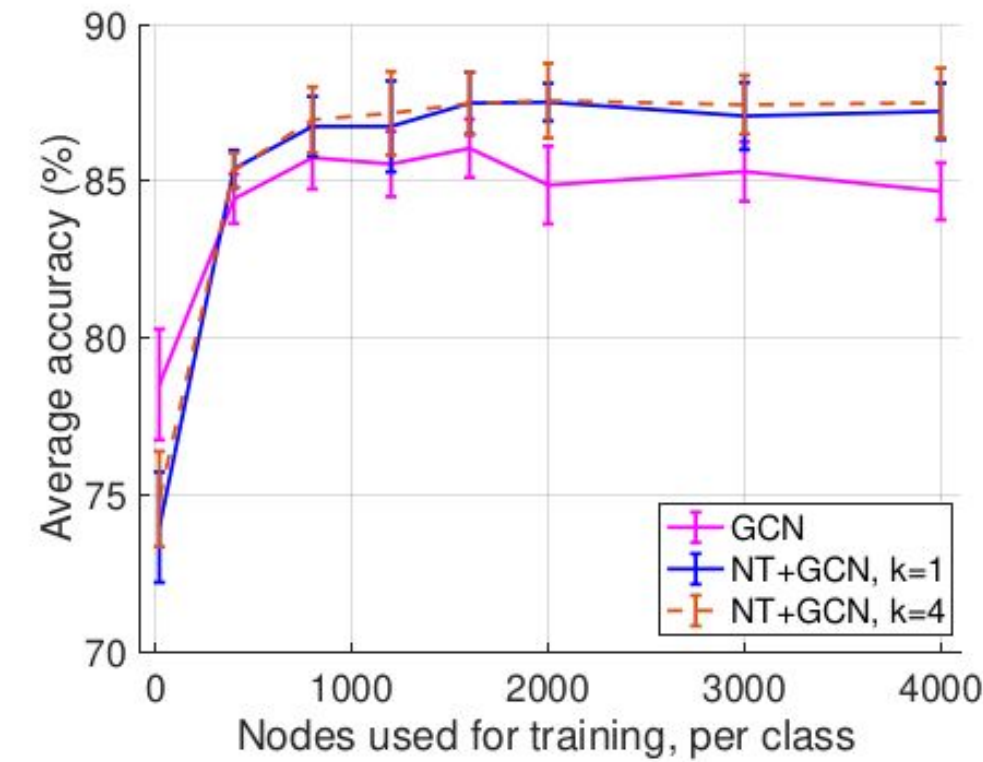


# Citation Networks

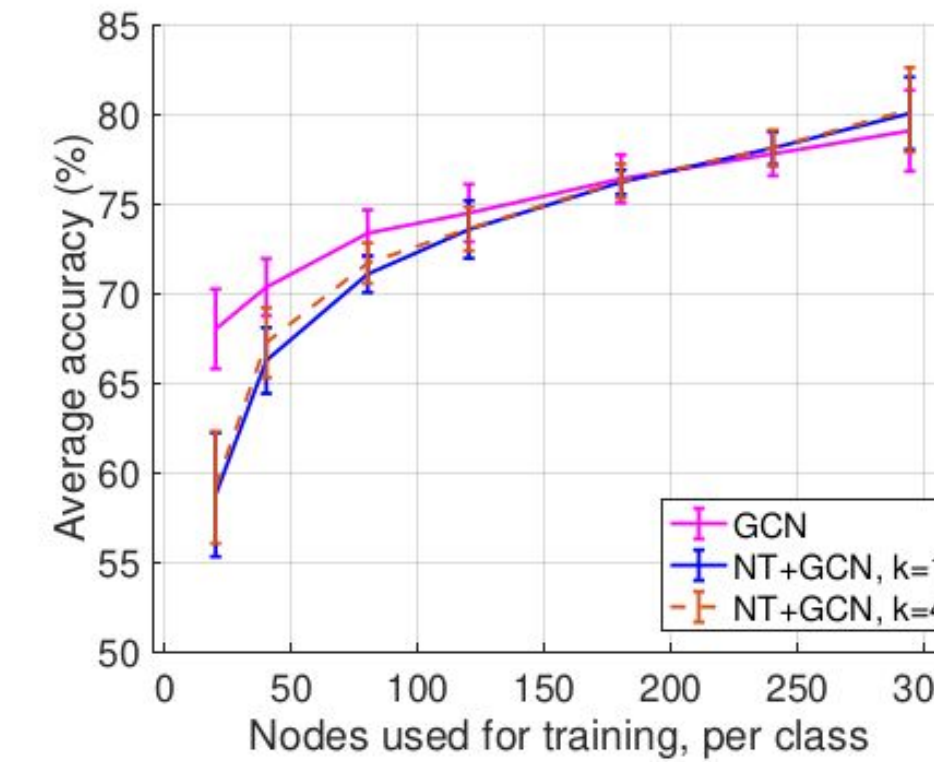
Tree width bounds  $k = 1$  and  $4$

## Does Neural Tree scale?

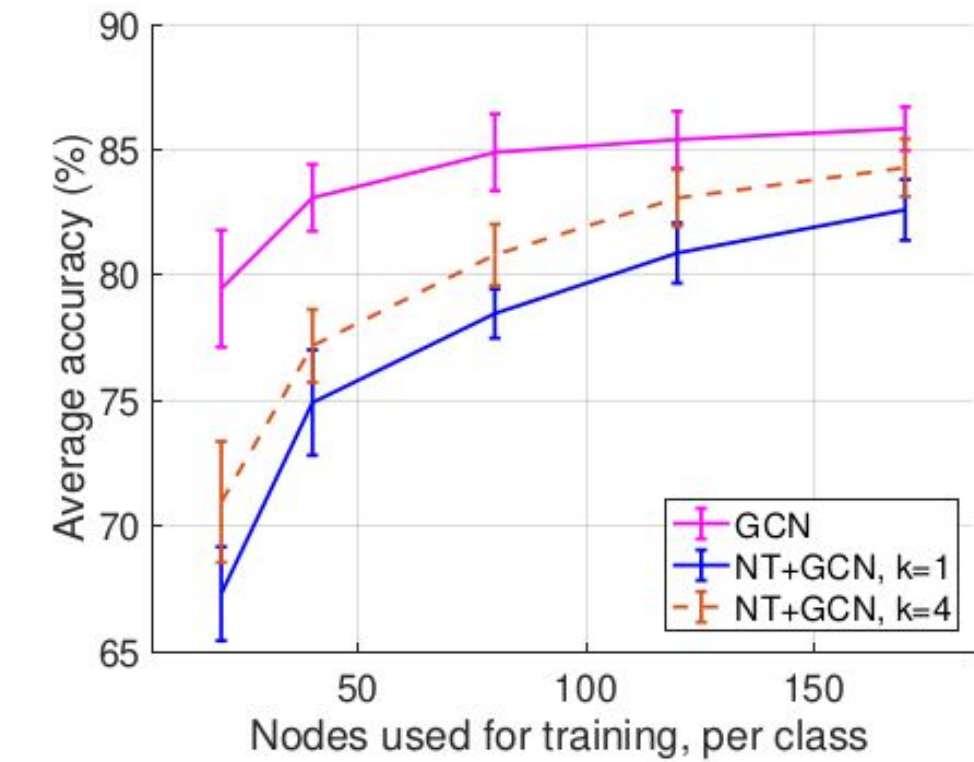
Bounded treewidth subgraph sampling + Neural Tree



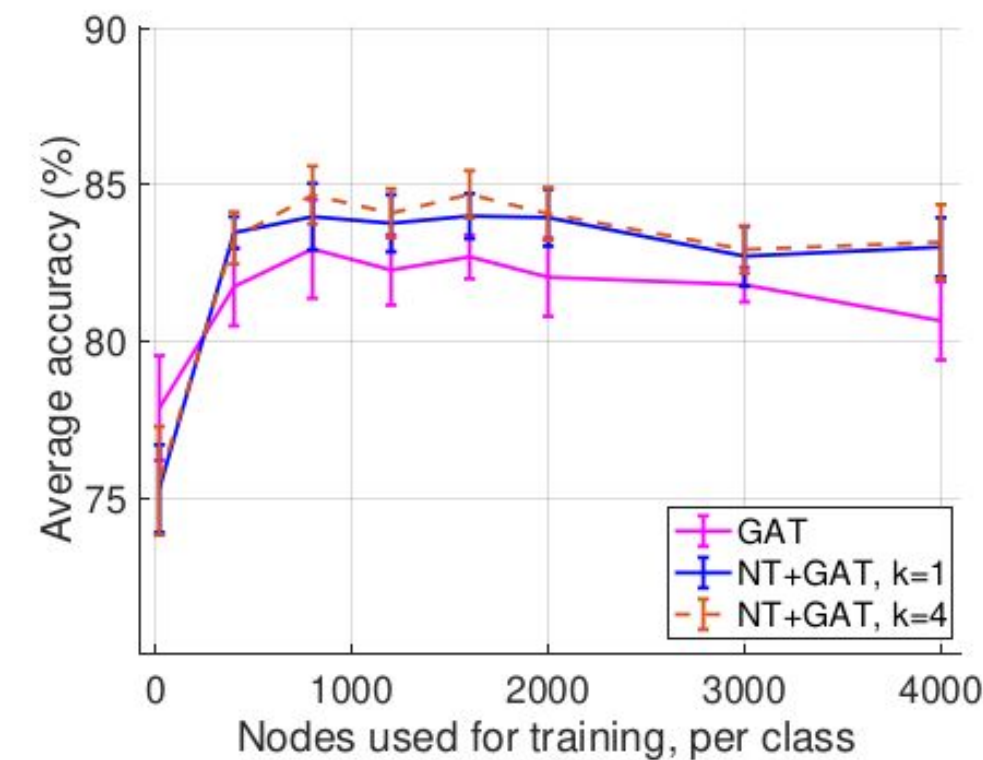
(a) NT+GCN on PubMed



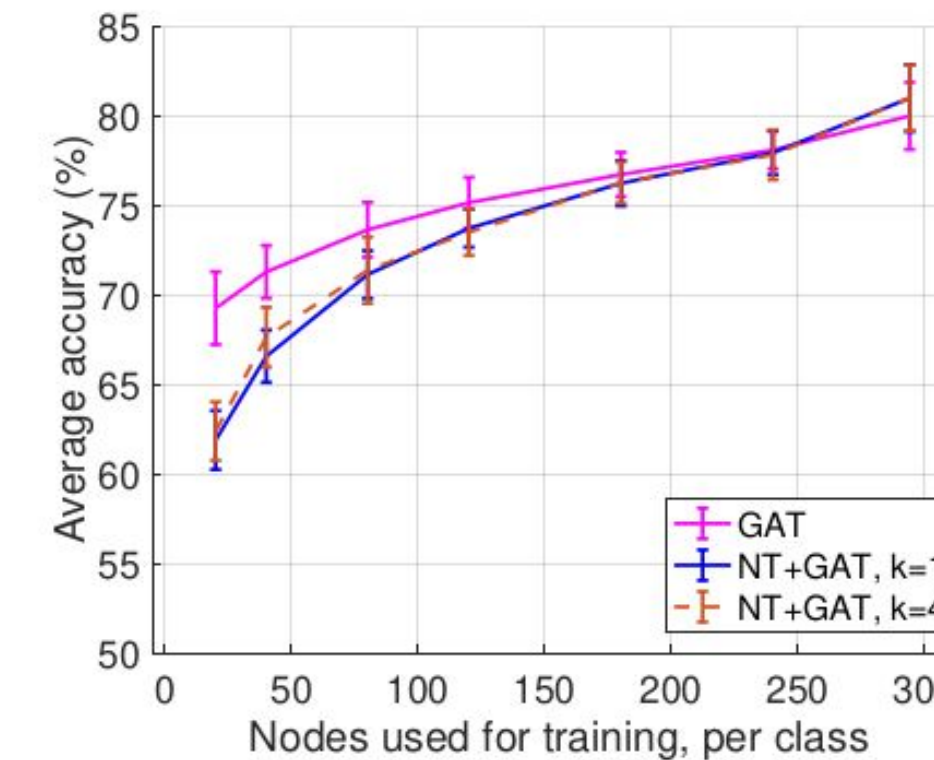
(b) NT+GCN on CiteSeer



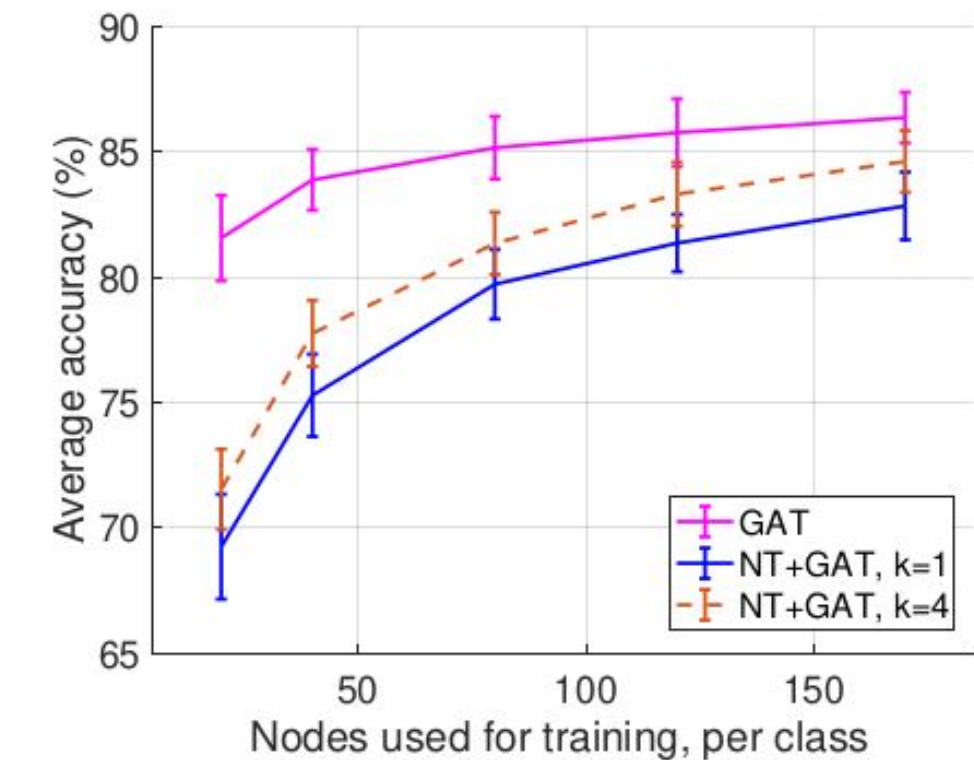
(c) NT+GCN on Cora



(d) NT+GAT on PubMed



(e) NT+GAT on CiteSeer

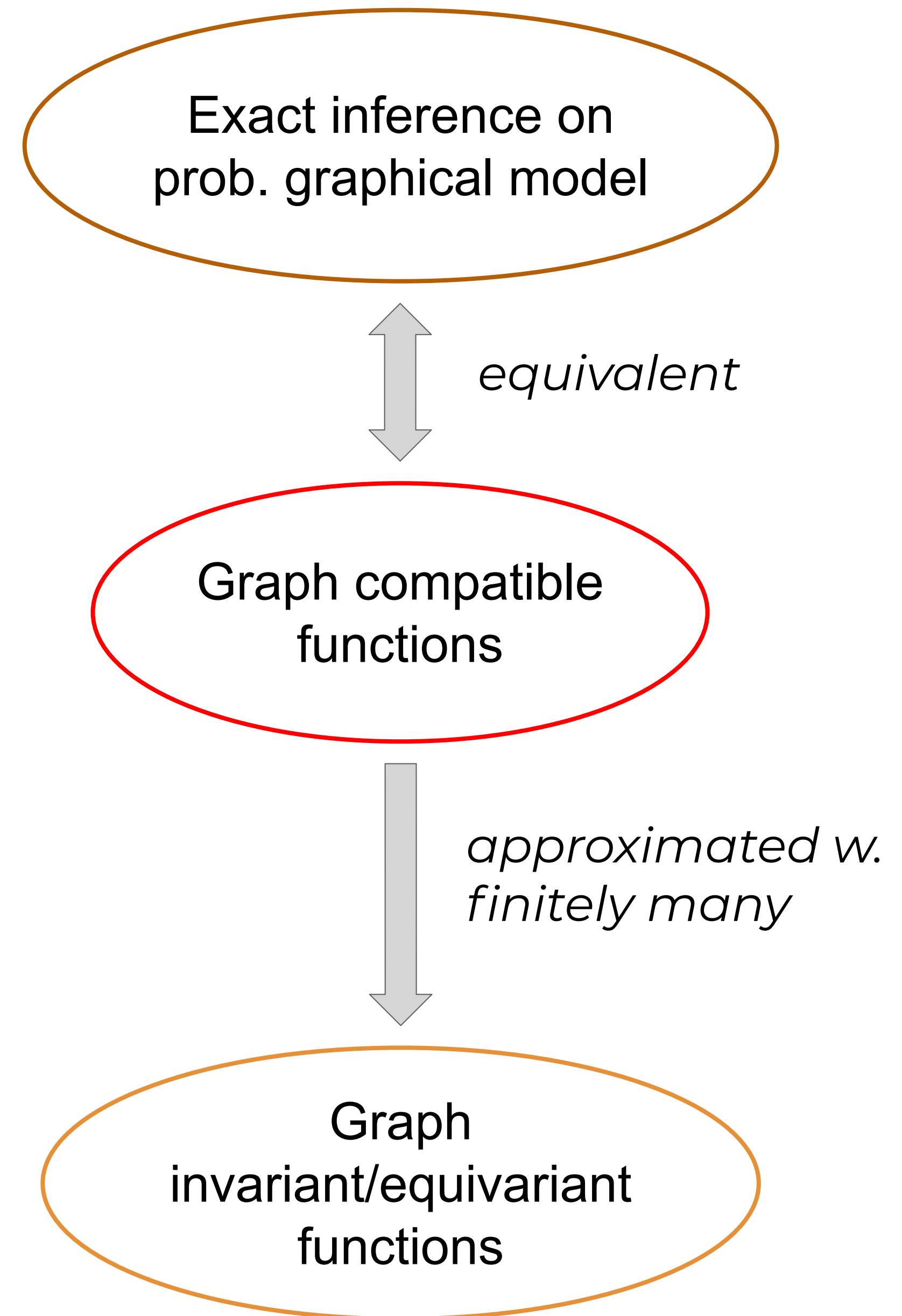


(f) NT+GAT on Cora

- Neural Tree attains the same performance as GNN, even for small treewidth bound
- Neural Tree is data hungry. Does not perform well with less training data.

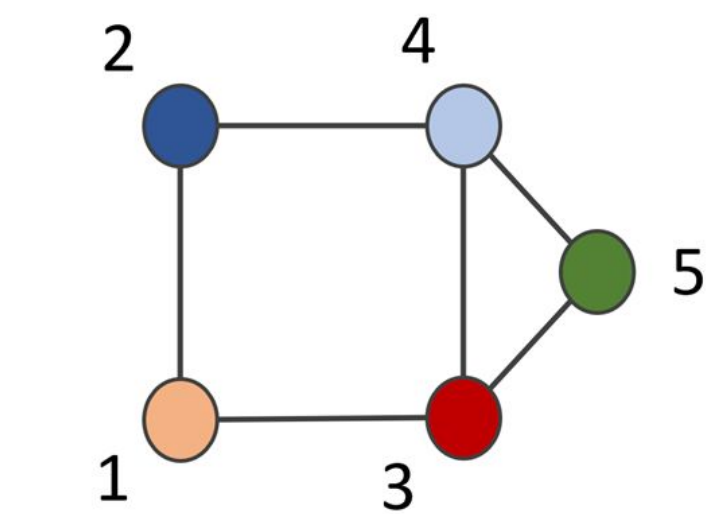
# Conclusion

- Graph compatible functions
- Neural Tree architecture
- Approximation Results
- Scalable Neural Tree



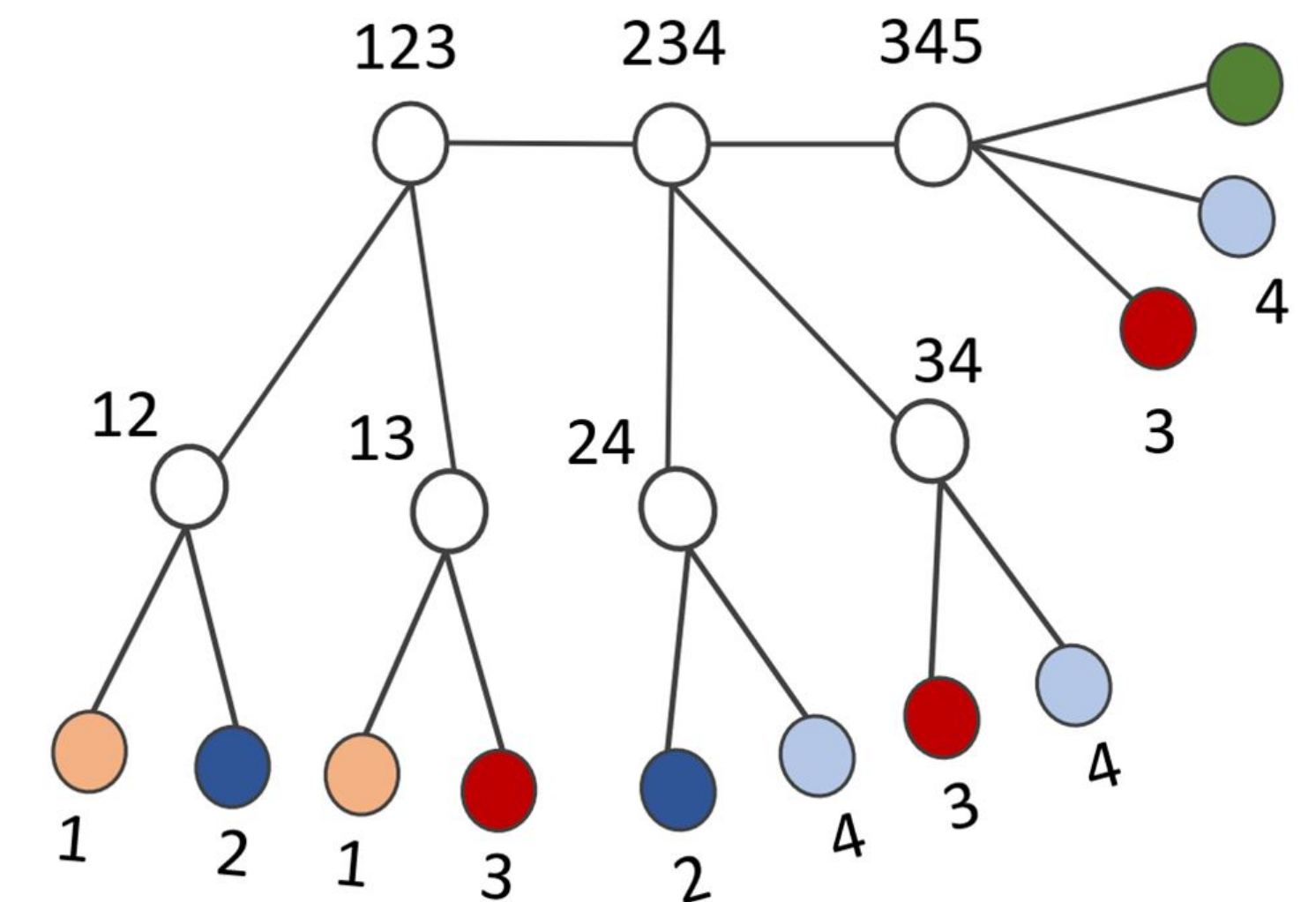
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Input graph with node attributes (colors)

Generate a tree structured graph called *H-tree*



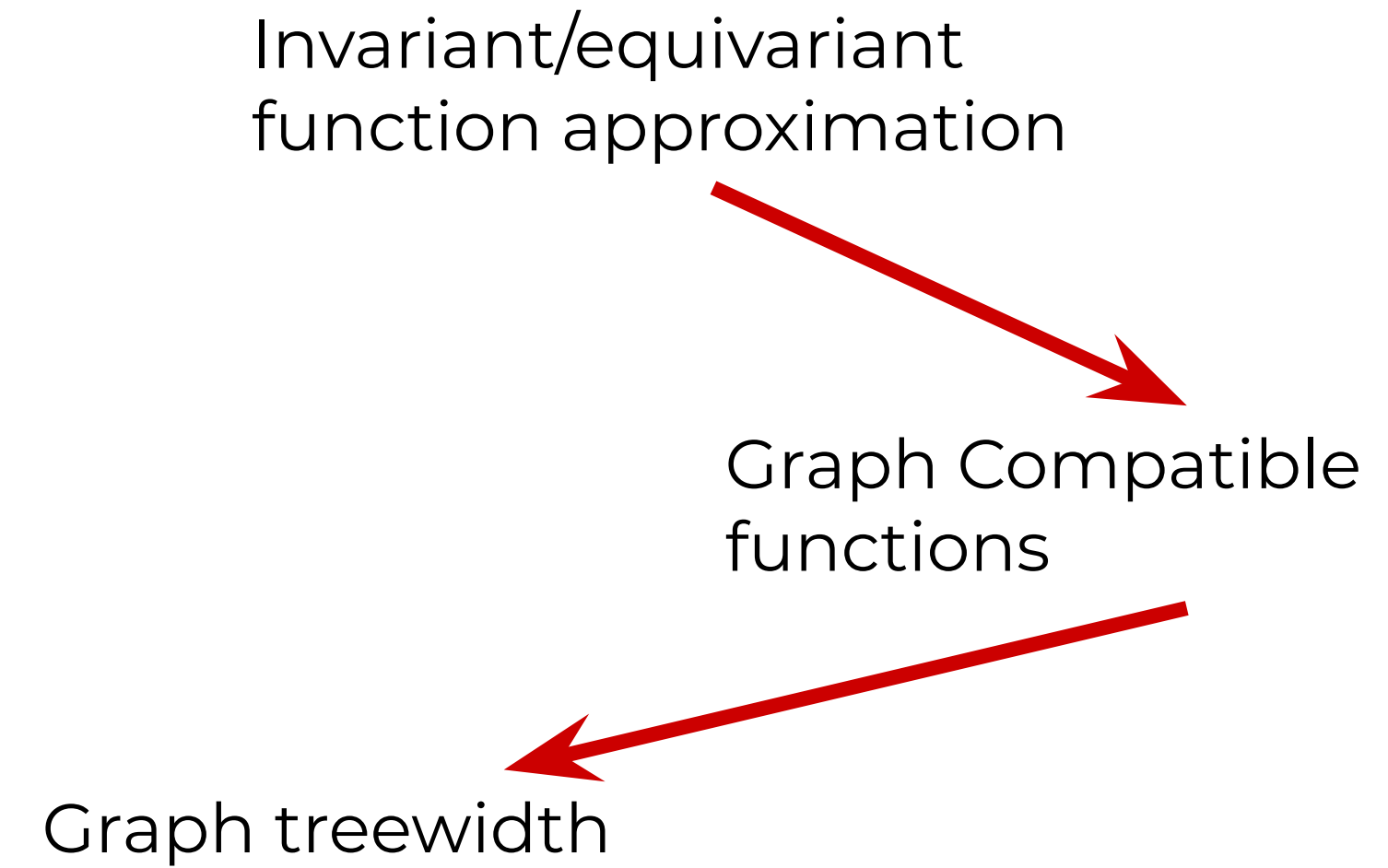
Generated tree structured graph

Neural Tree is *message passing on H-tree*



# Conclusion

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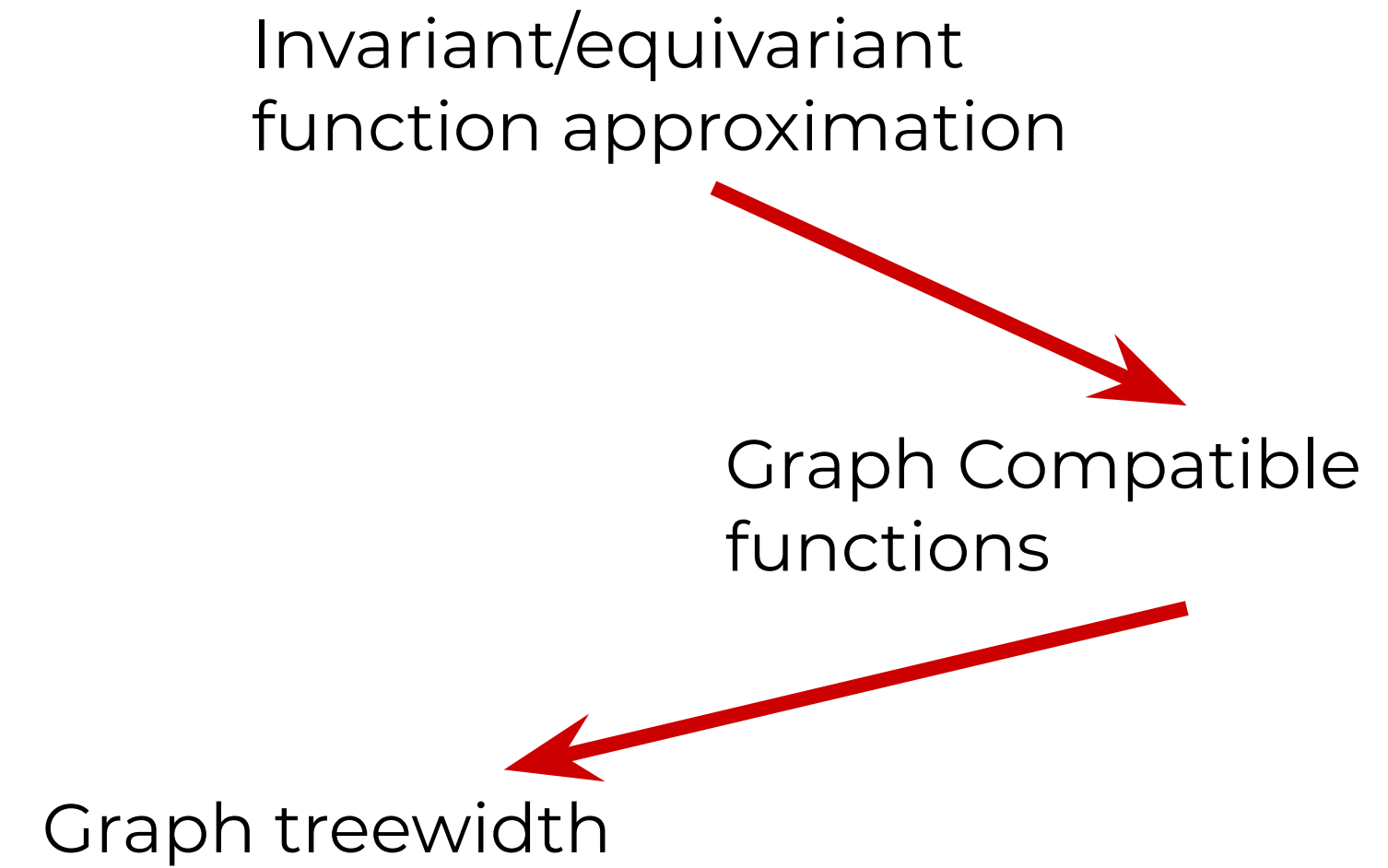
Parameter complexity

$$N = \mathcal{O} \left( \underbrace{n}_{\text{num. nodes}} \cdot \underbrace{(\text{tw}(G) / \epsilon)}_{\text{treewidth}}^{c \cdot \text{tw}(G)} \right)$$

num. nodes    treewidth    approx. distance

# Conclusion

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Result may be repurposed to other GNNs that extract hierarchical features

# Conclusion

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Bounded treewidth subgraph sampling + Neural Tree



# Conclusion

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*Neural Tree is a general architecture*

*Remains to be applied to graph  
classification, link prediction, etc.*

# Questions, Comments, Related Work

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