



# Stealing Links from Graph Neural Networks

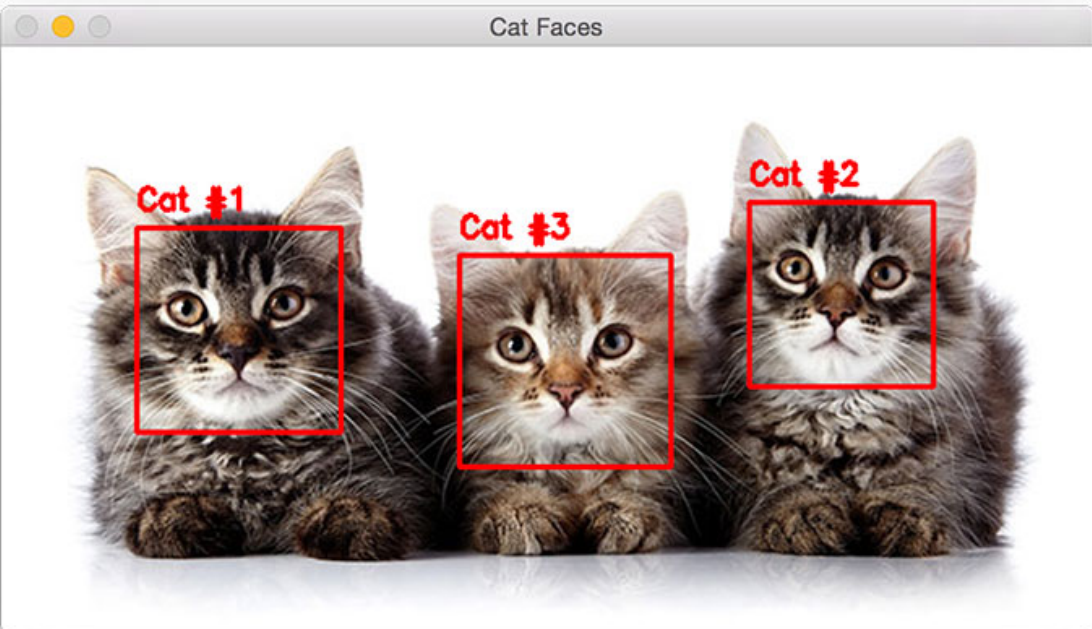
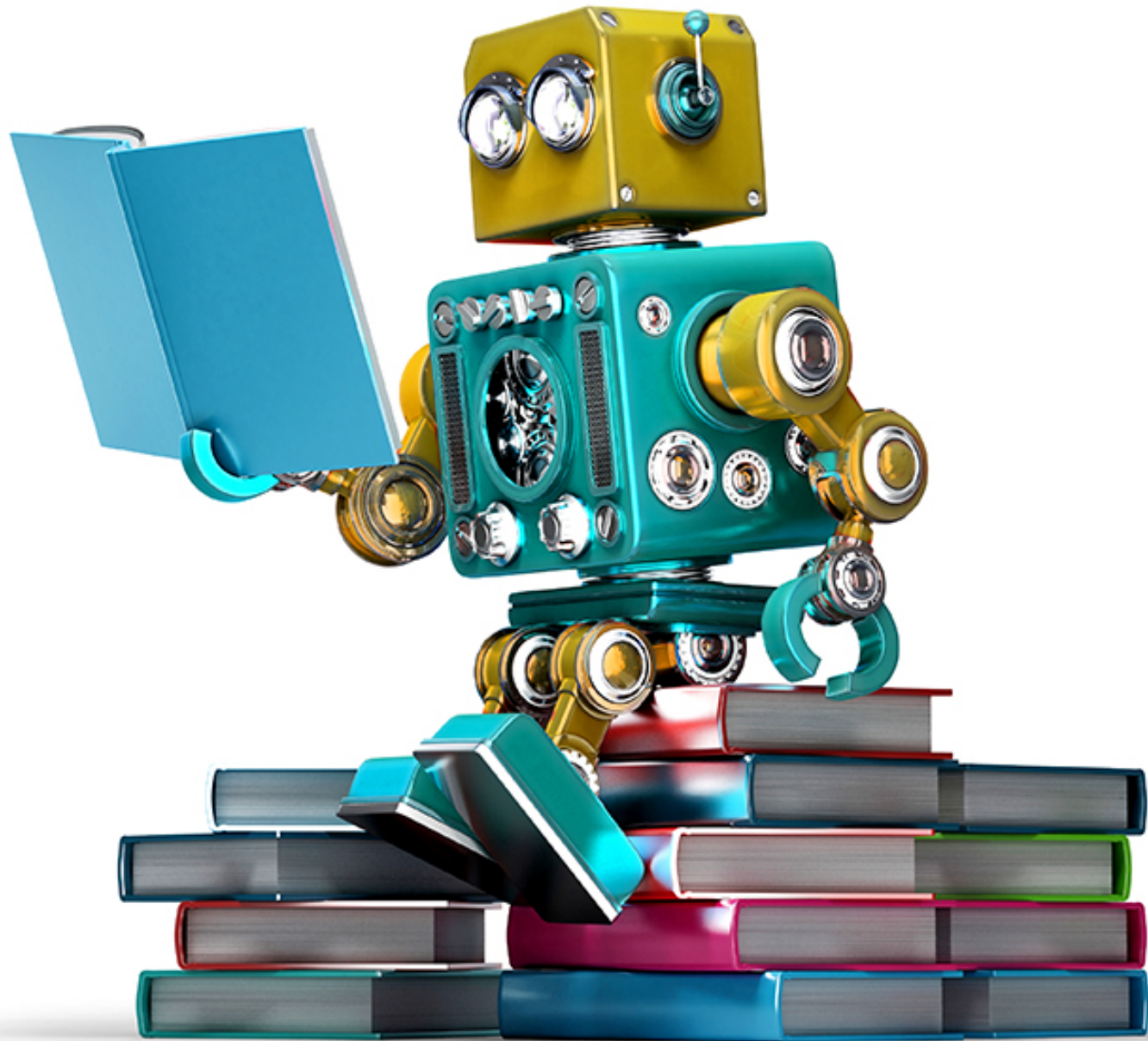
**Xinlei He**<sup>1</sup>, Jinyuan Jia<sup>2</sup>, Michael Backes<sup>1</sup>,  
Neil Zhenqiang Gong<sup>2</sup>, Yang Zhang<sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup>CISPA Helmholtz Center for Information Security

<sup>2</sup>Duke University



# Era of Machine Learning



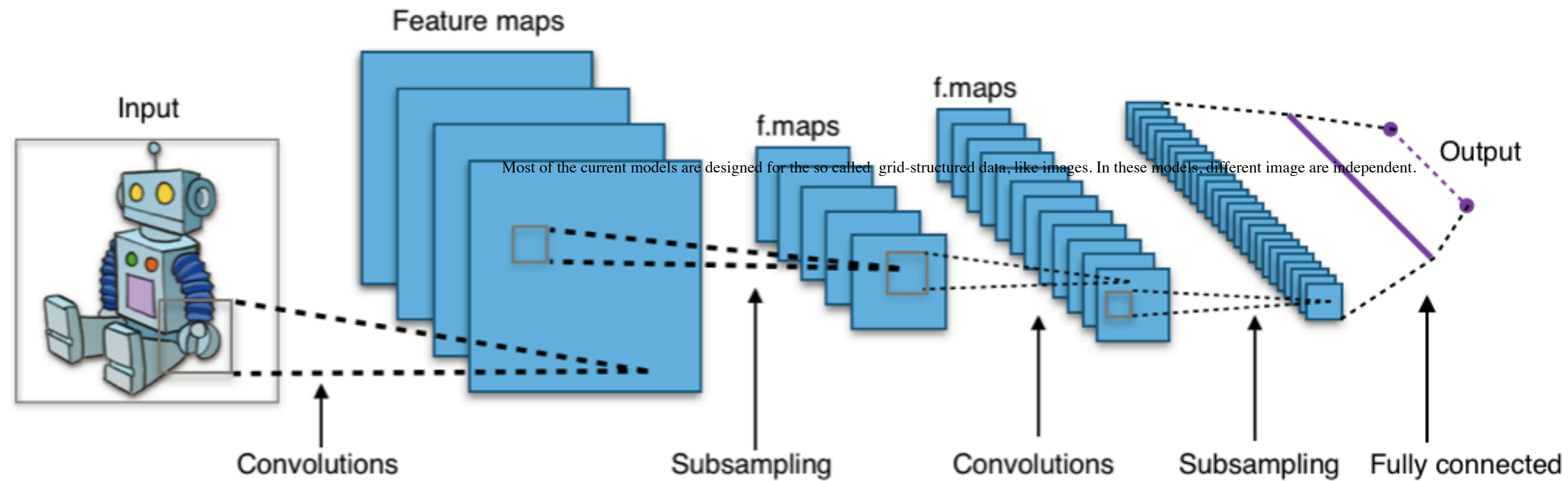
Data





# Machine Learning Pipeline

Modern machine learning excels at exploiting **grid-structured data**



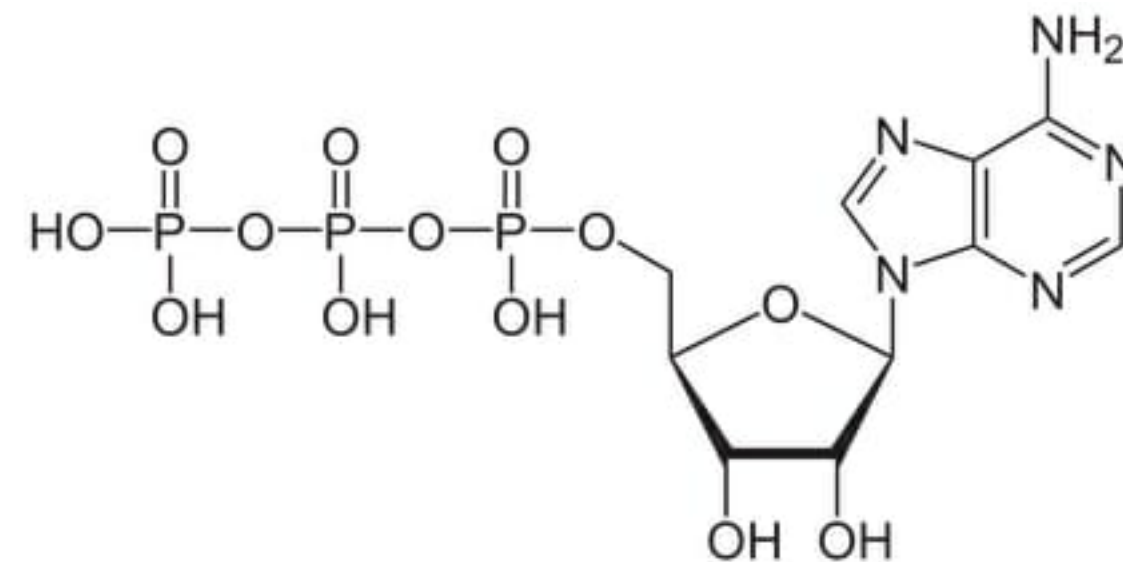
# Many Data are Graphs

Graphs are **combinatorial structures**, have arbitrary sizes, and contain multi-modal information

Social Networks



Molecules



Knowledge Graphs

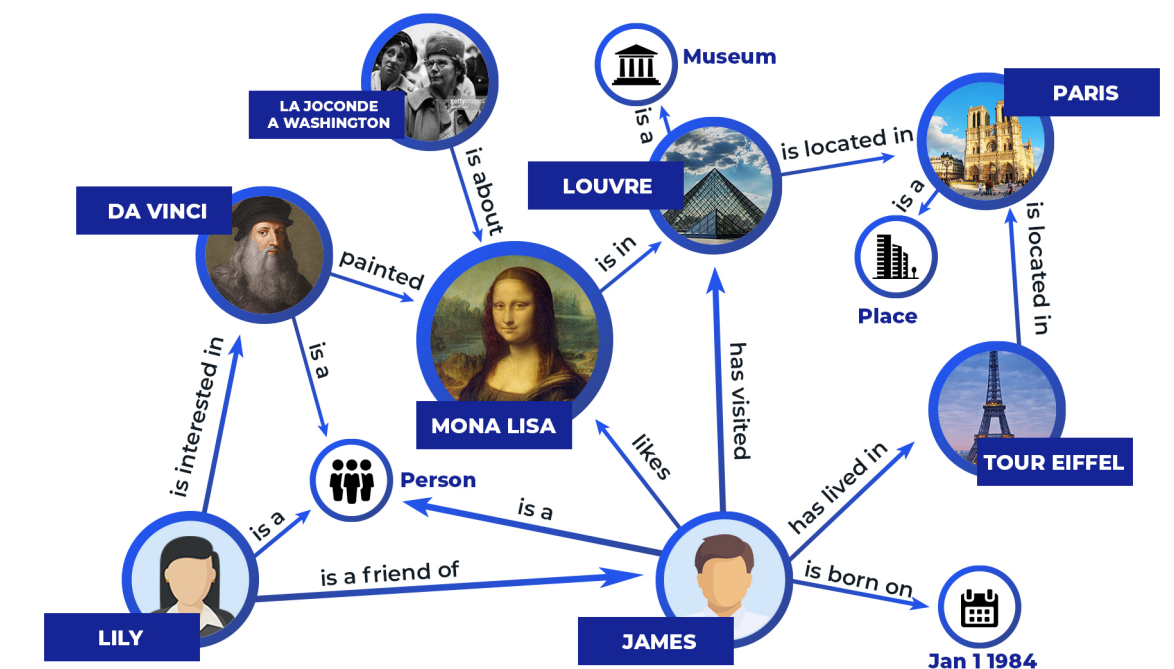
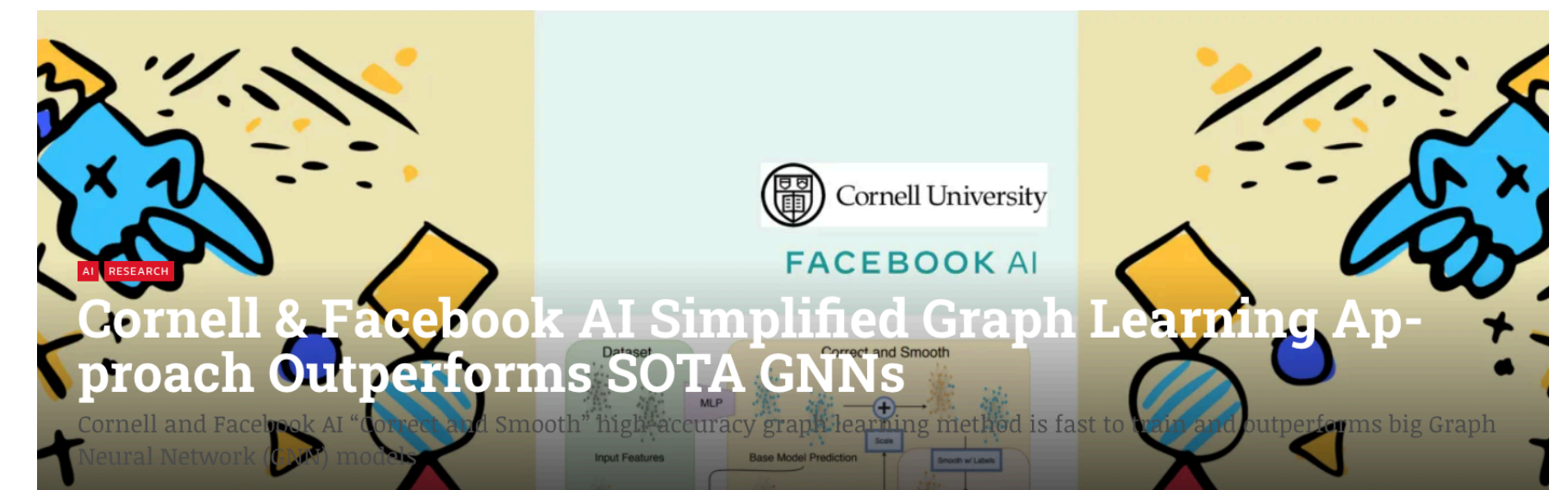
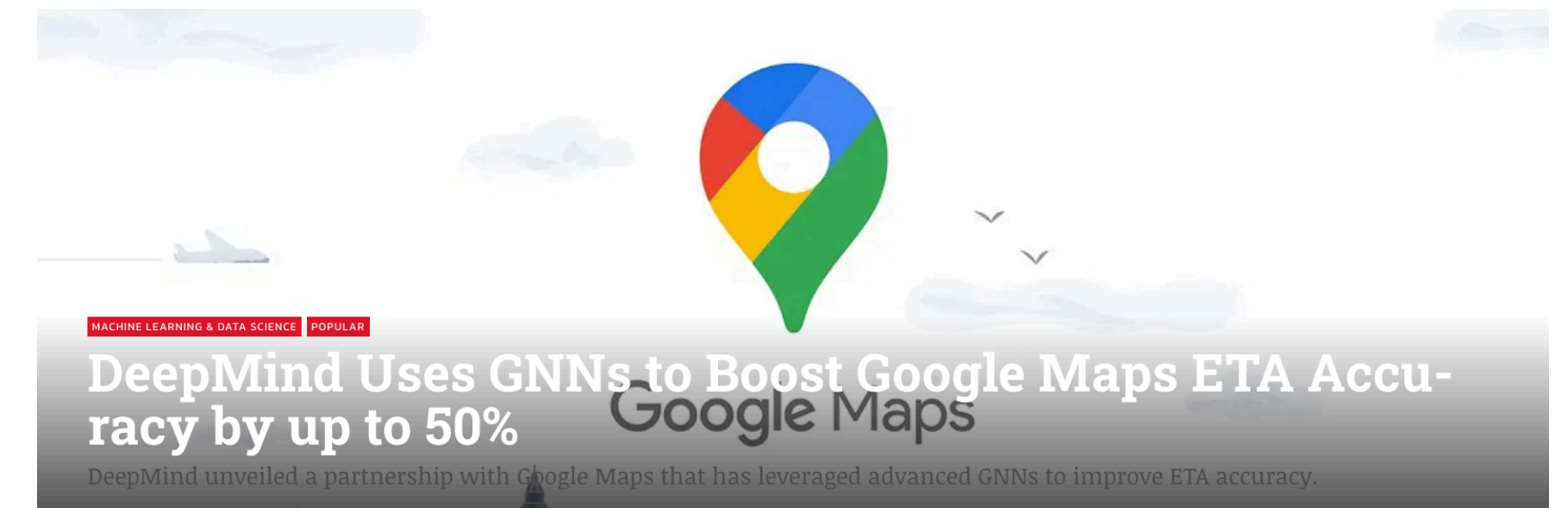
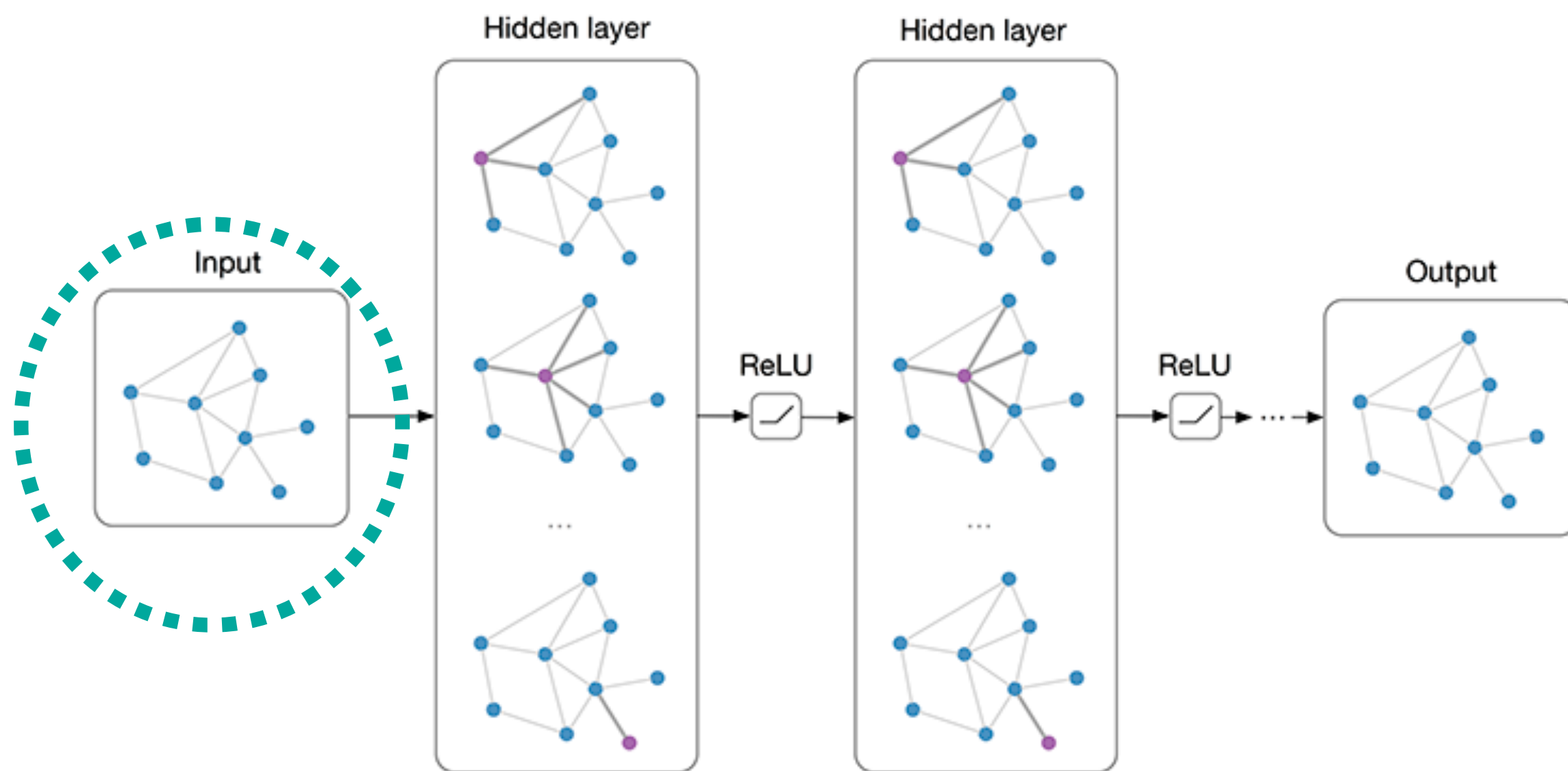


Image source: (from left to right): <https://towardsdatascience.com/ab-testing-challenges-in-social-networks-e67611c92916>, <https://biologydictionary.net/molecule/>, <https://yashuseth.blog/2019/10/08/introduction-question-answering-knowledge-graphs-kgqa/>

# Graph Neural Networks



Insights

## Graph ML at Twitter

By **Michael Bronstein**

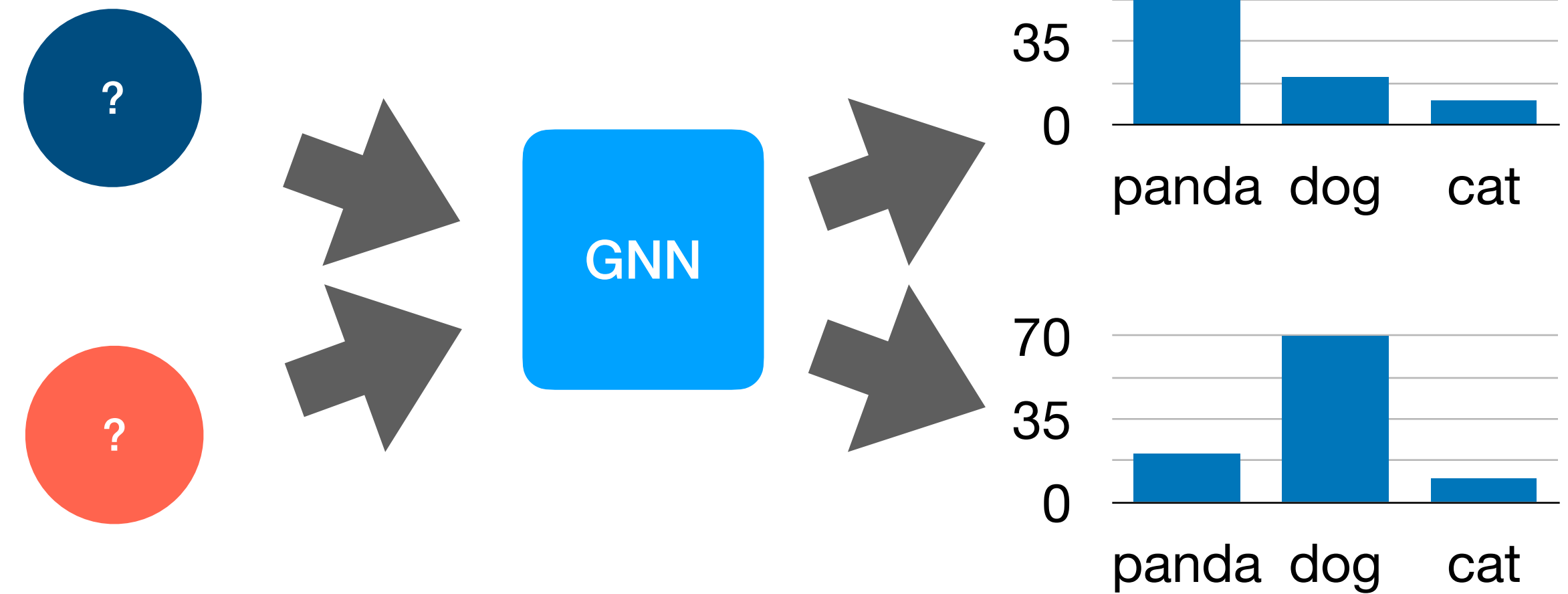
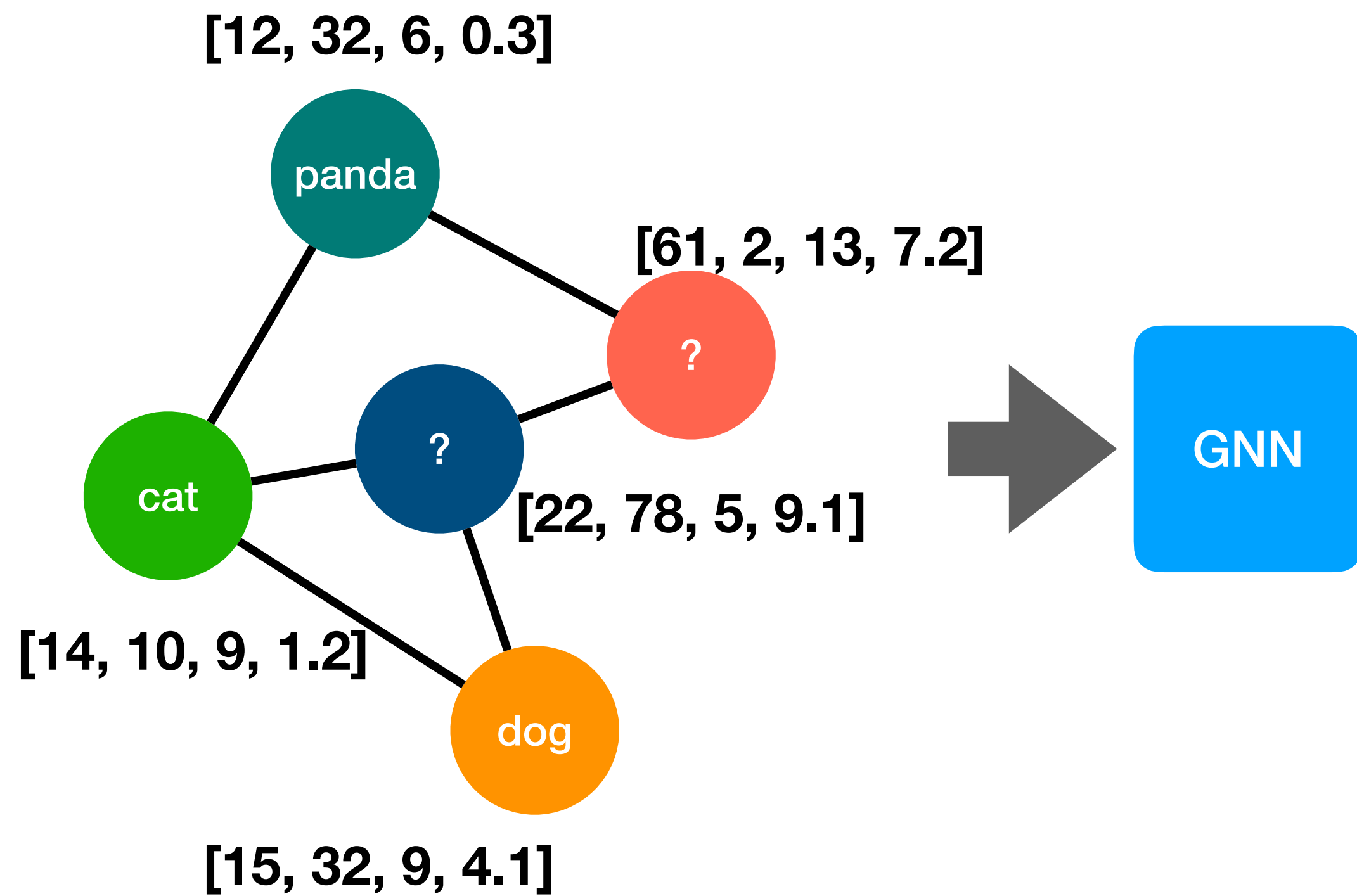
Wednesday, 2 September 2020 [Twitter](#) [Facebook](#) [LinkedIn](#) [Share](#)

Image source: <https://tkipf.github.io/graph-convolutional-networks/>;

News source: <https://syncedreview.com/2020/09/04/deepmind-uses-gnns-to-boost-google-maps-eta-accuracy-by-up-to-50/>, <https://syncedreview.com/2020/11/04/cornell-facebook-ai-simplified-graph-learning-approach-outperforms-sota-gnns/>, [https://blog.twitter.com/engineering/en\\_us/topics/insights/2020/graph-ml-at-twitter.html](https://blog.twitter.com/engineering/en_us/topics/insights/2020/graph-ml-at-twitter.html)

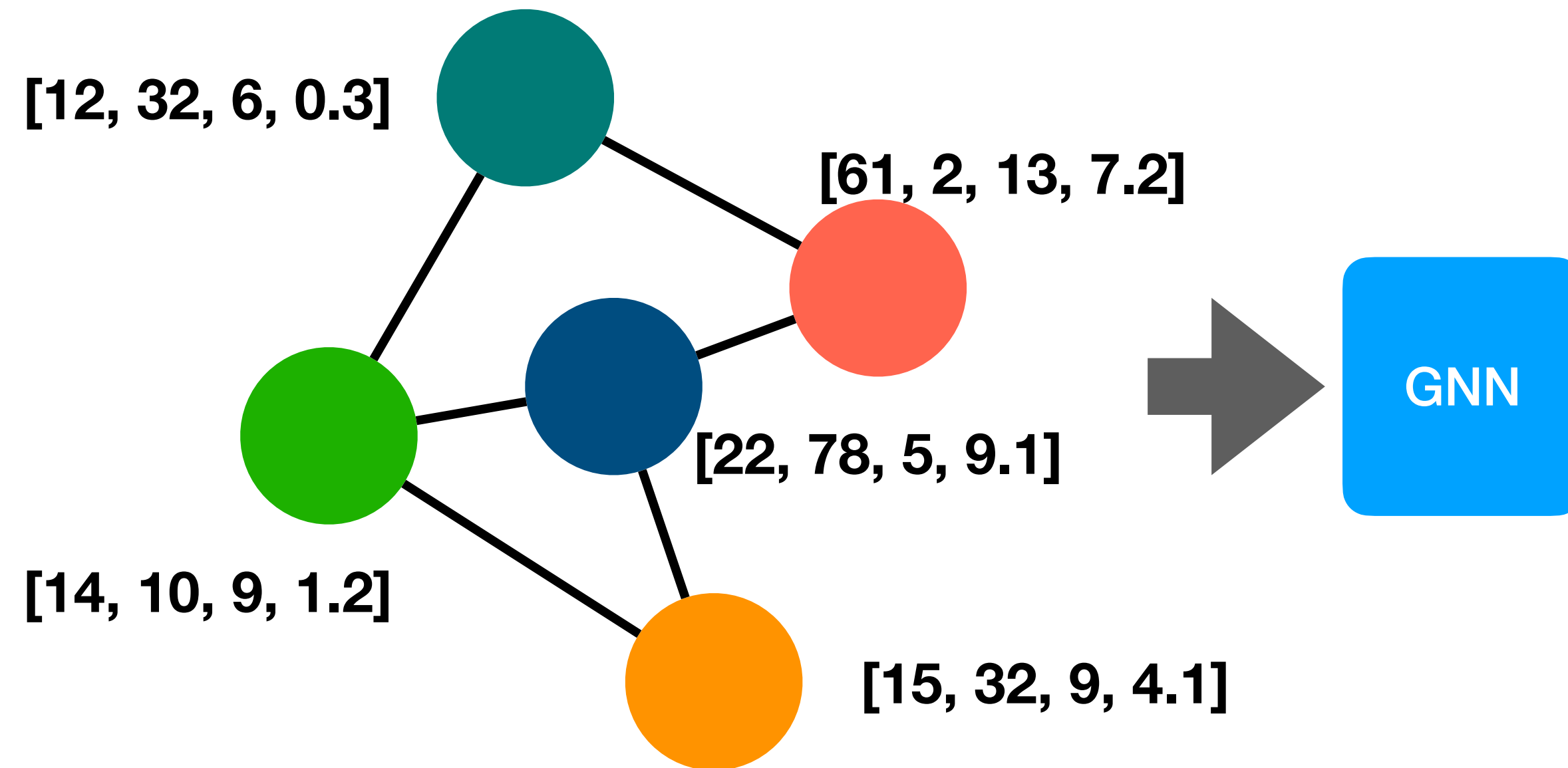


# Graph Neural Networks (Transductive)



**Research question: Given two nodes used to train a black-box GNN, can we predict whether they are linked?**

# Attack Taxonomy

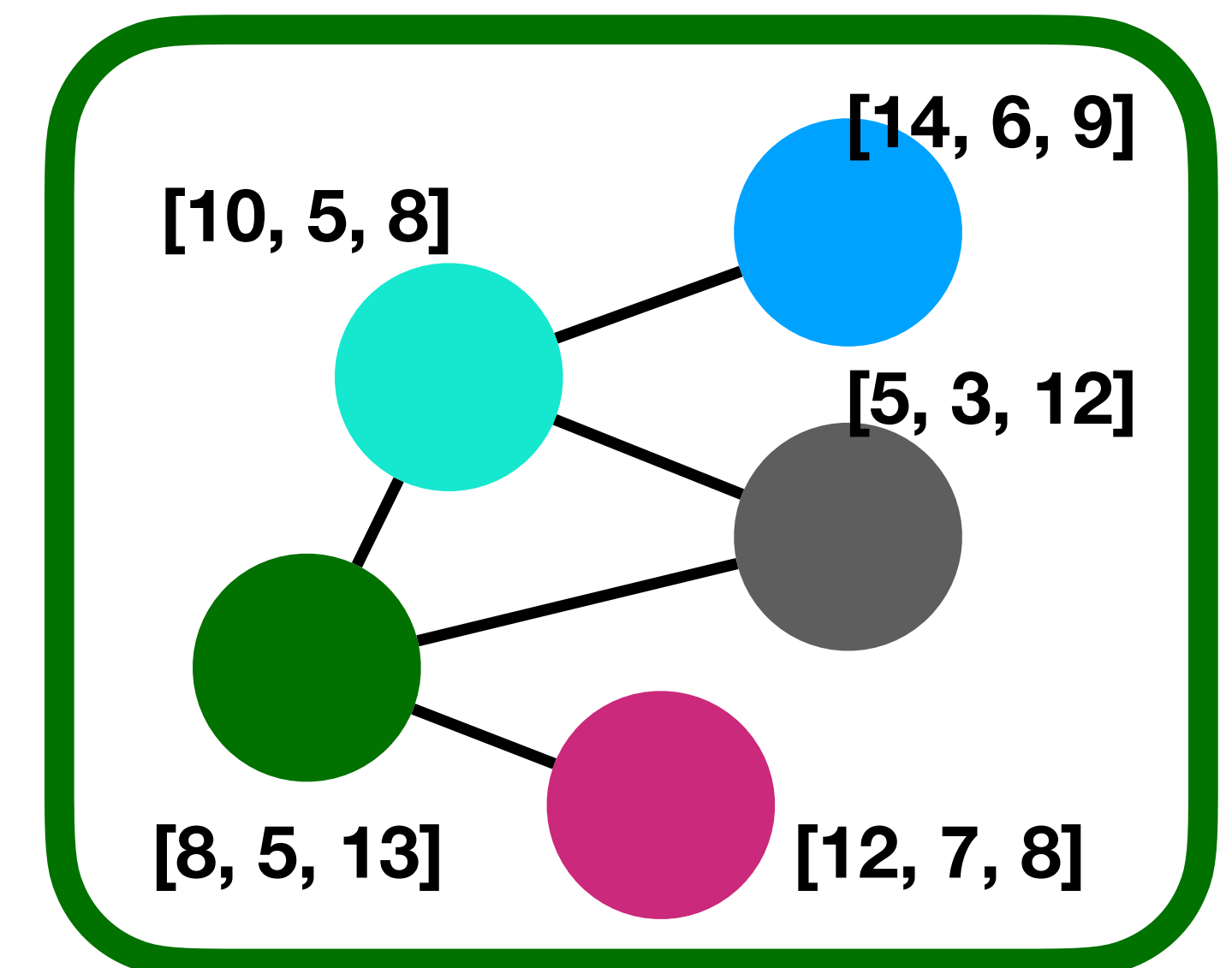
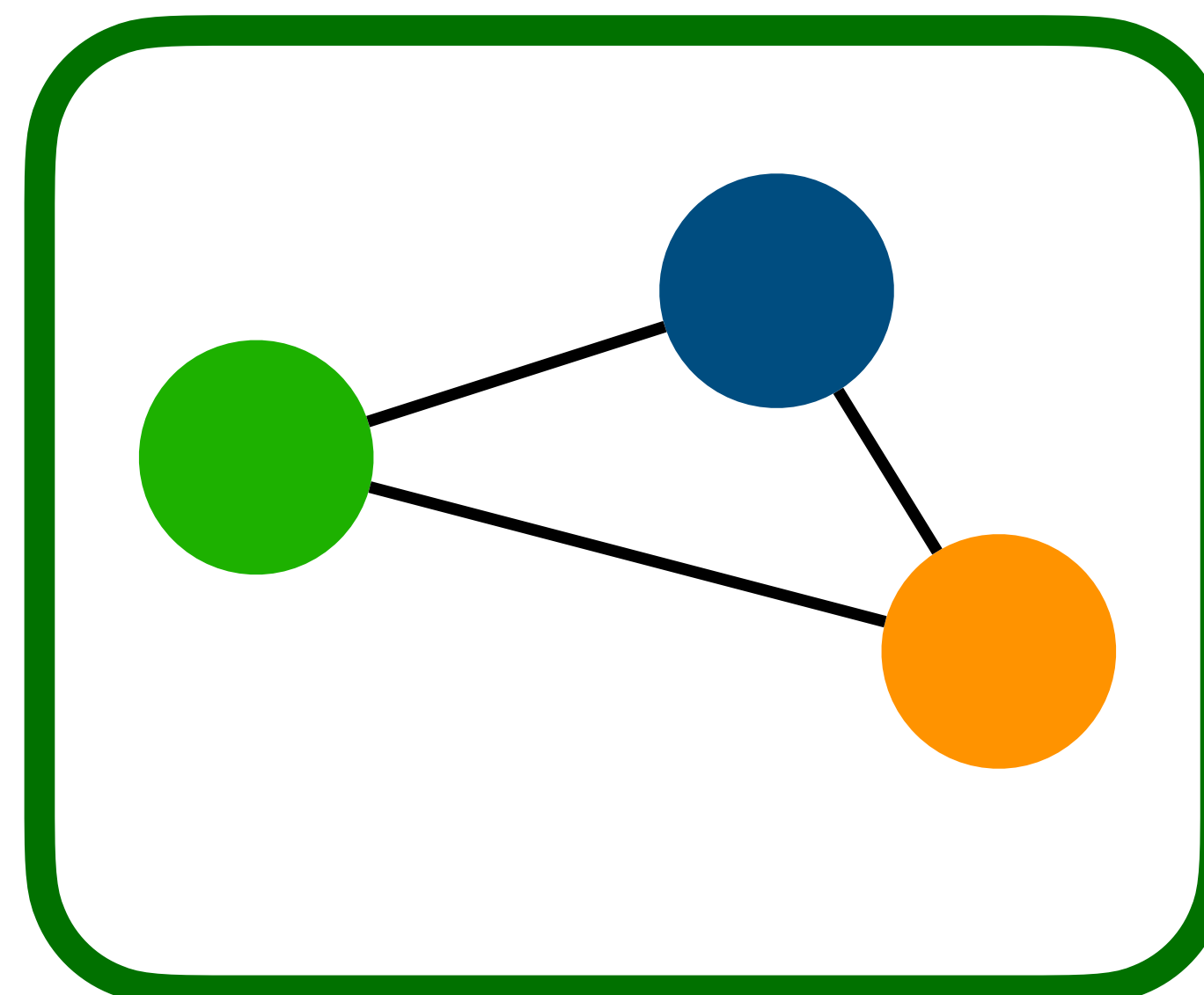
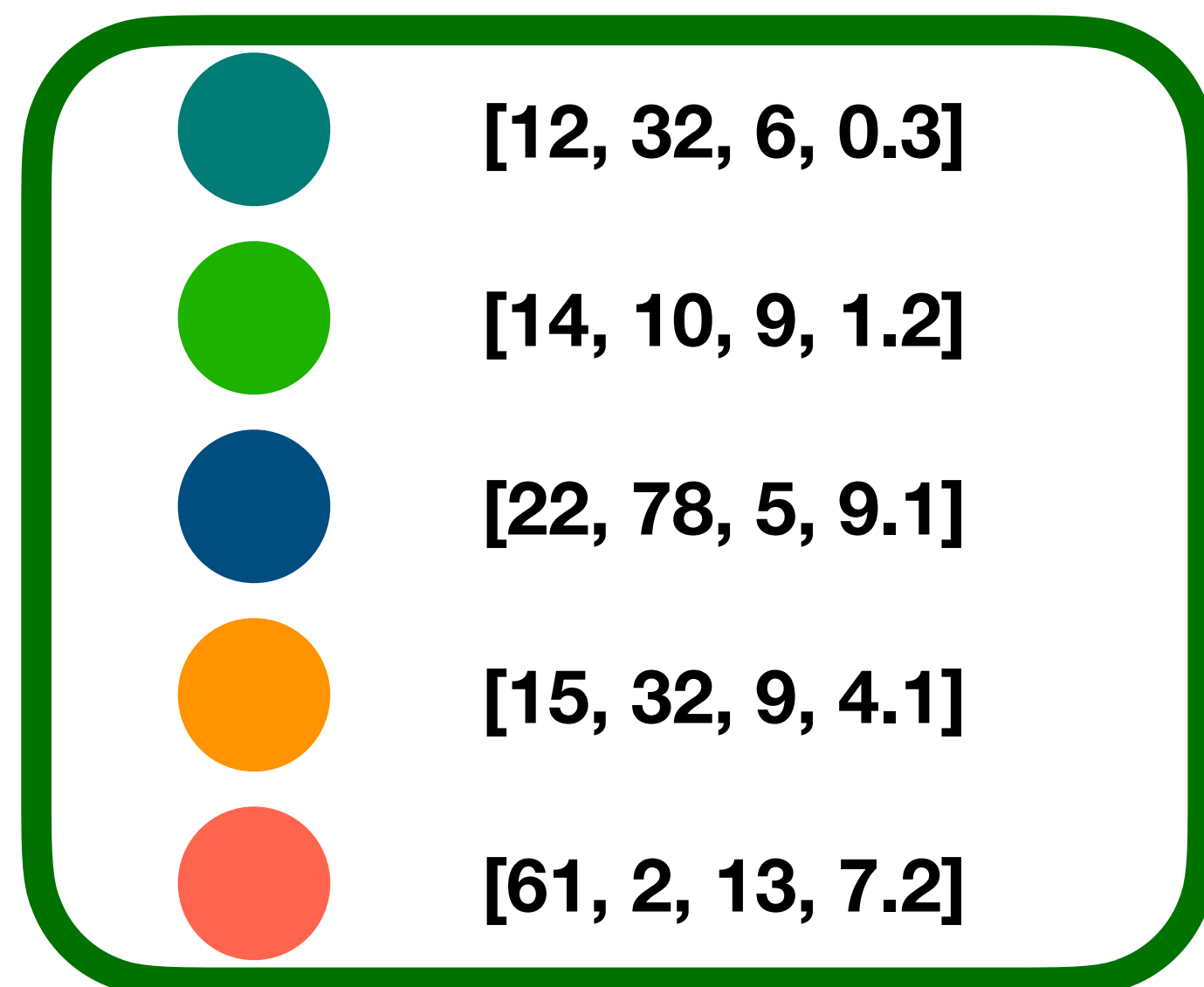


- Attacker can have either of these 3 knowledge
- Totally 8 different attack models

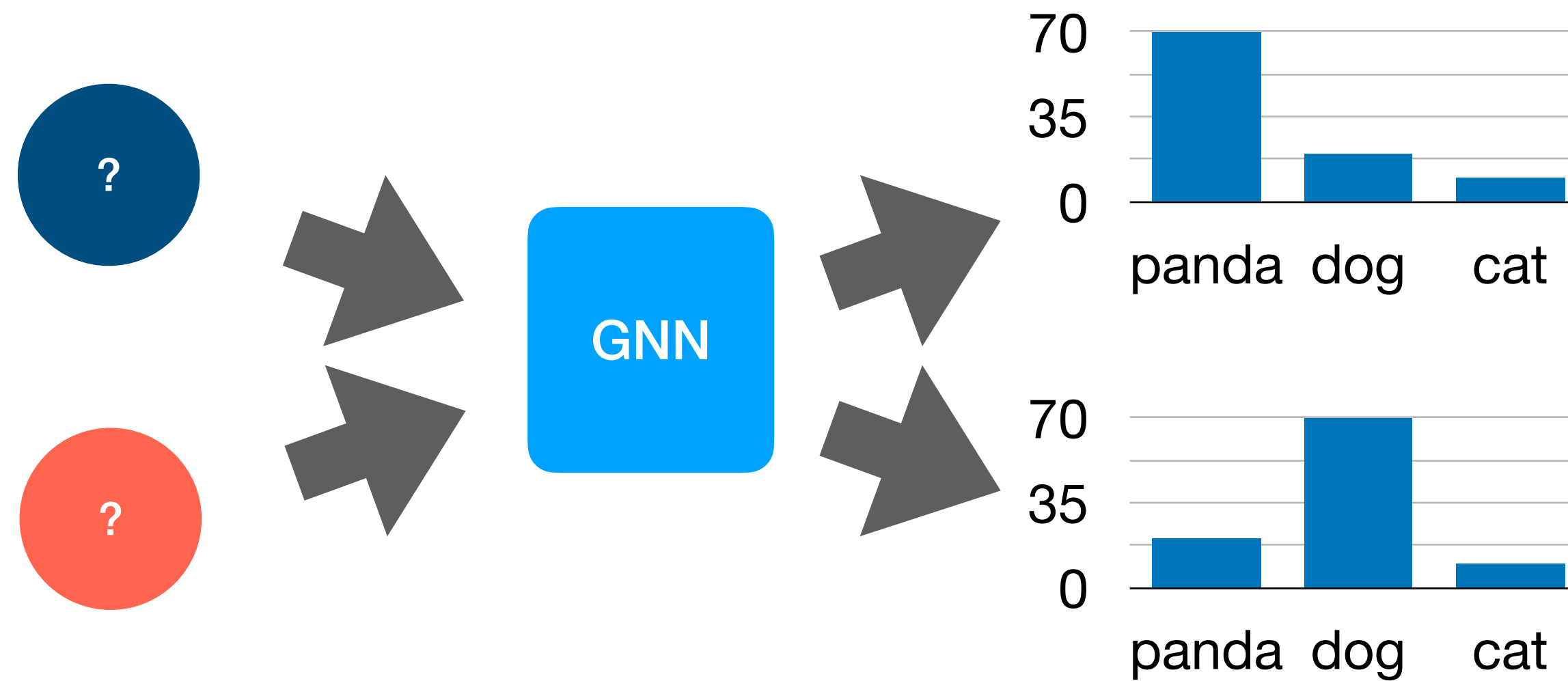
Node Features

Partial Graph

Shadow Dataset



# Attack 0



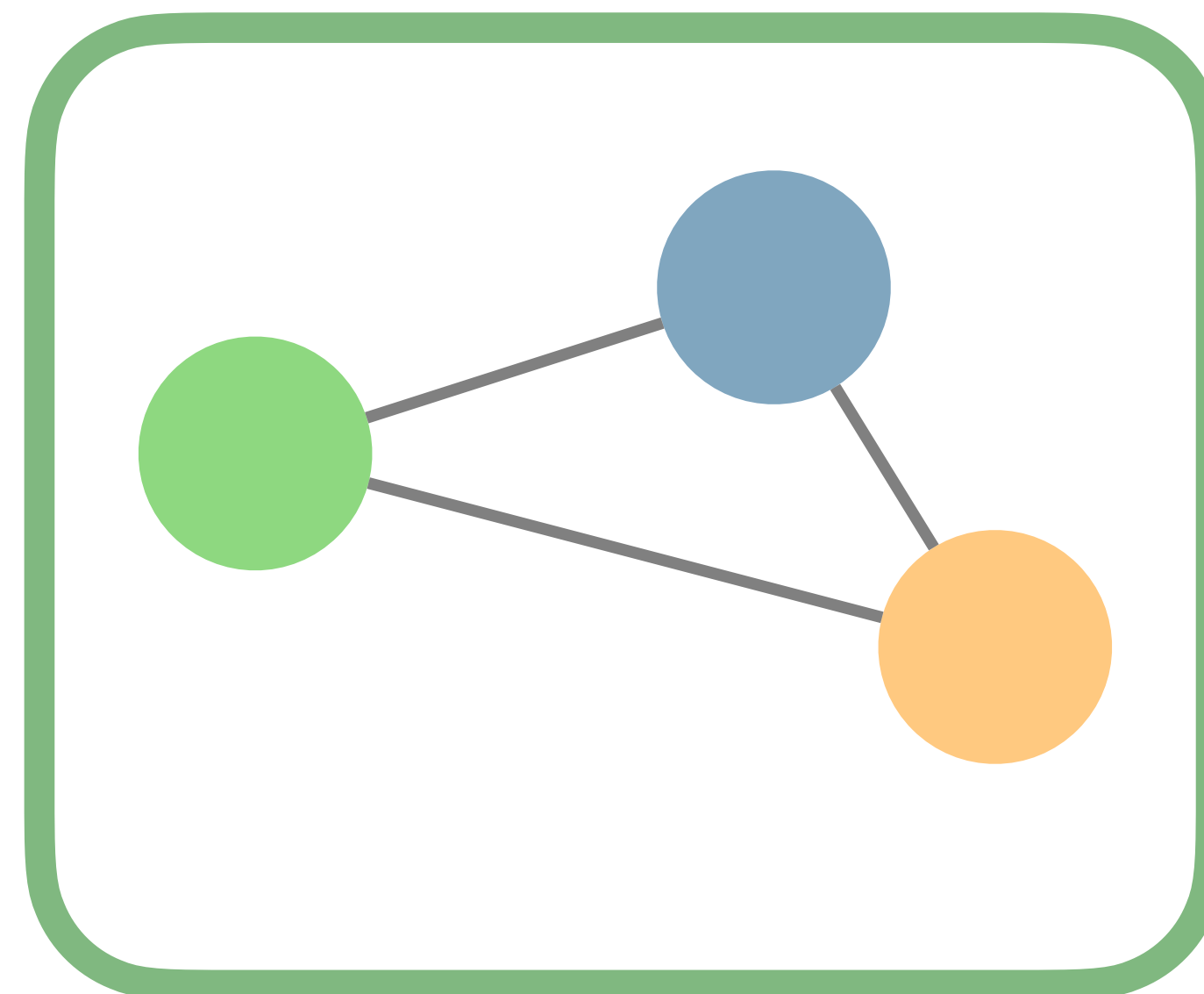
Posterior Difference

Unsupervised Attack

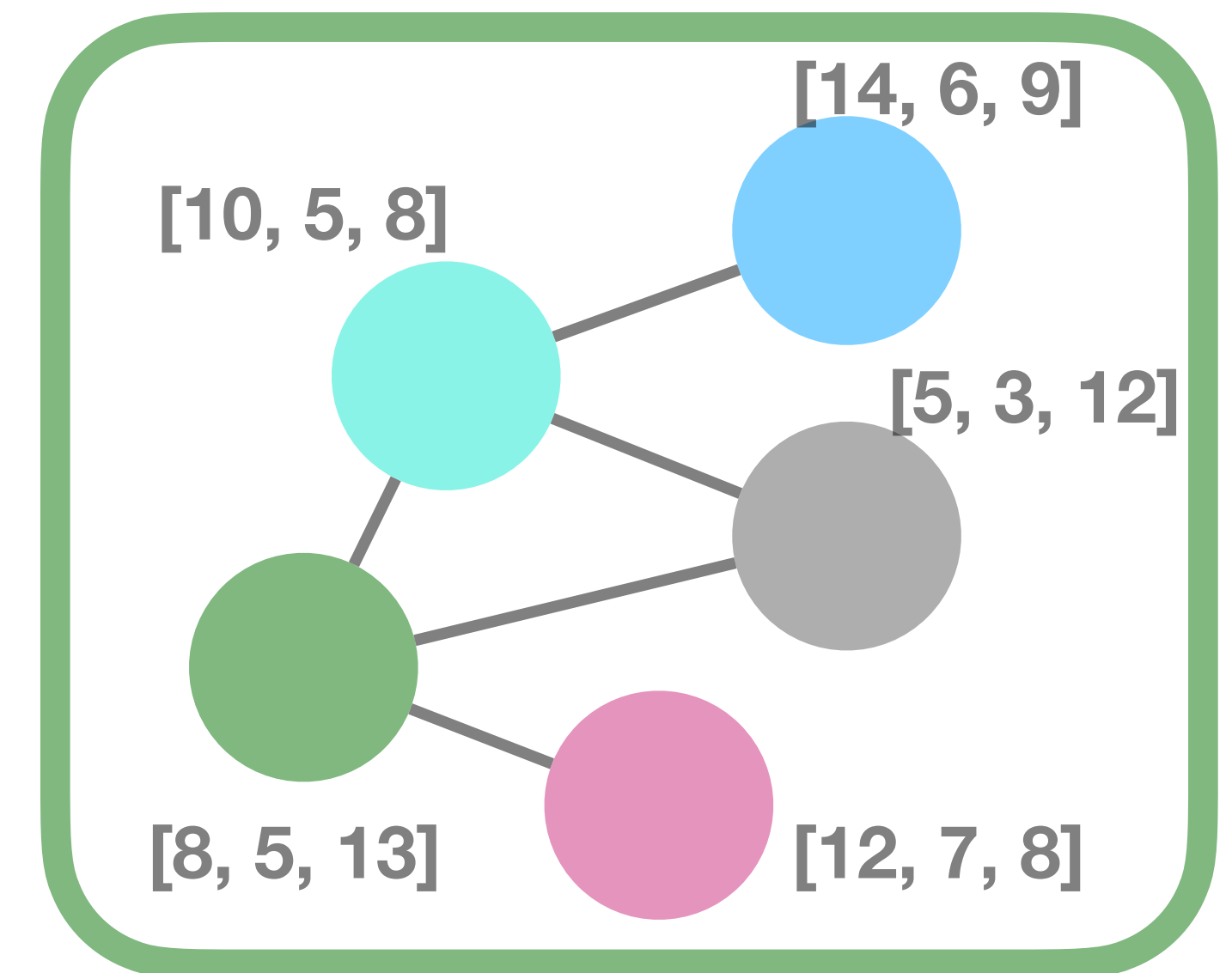
Node Features

	[12, 32, 6, 0.3]
	[14, 10, 9, 1.2]
	[22, 78, 5, 9.1]
	[15, 32, 9, 4.1]
	[61, 2, 13, 7.2]

Partial Graph

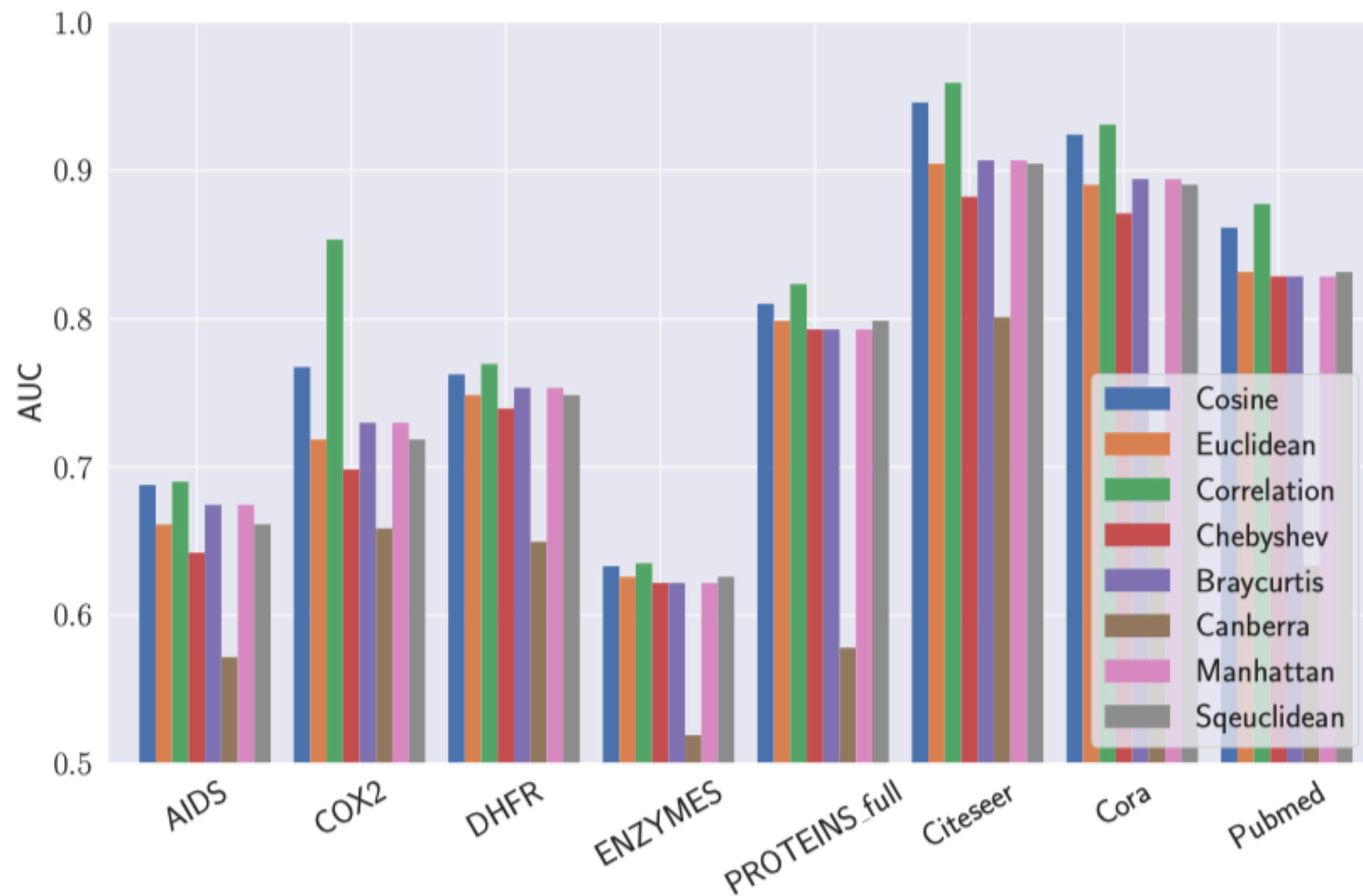


Shadow Dataset





**Correlation performs the best!**



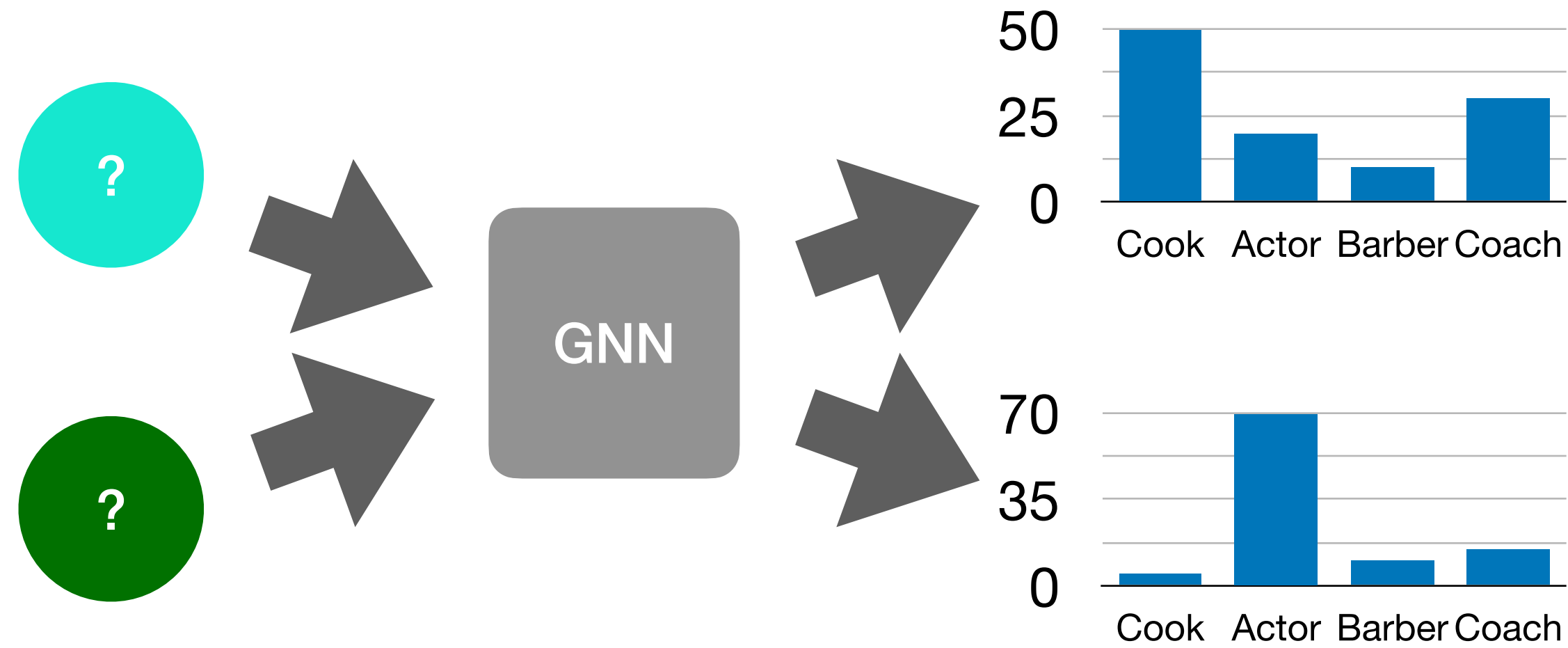
**Figure 1: AUC for Attack-0 on all the 8 datasets with all the 8 distance metrics. The x-axis represents the dataset and the y-axis represents the AUC score.**

**Table 15: Prediction results for Attack-0 on all the 8 datasets with Correlation distance.**

Dataset	Precision	Recall	F1-Score	AUC
AIDS	0.524	0.996	0.687	0.691
COX2	0.523	0.987	0.684	0.867
DHFR	0.555	0.977	0.708	0.765
ENZYMES	0.501	1.000	0.667	0.630
PROTEINS_full	0.540	0.998	0.701	0.815
Citeseer	0.788	0.991	0.878	0.959
Cora	0.777	0.966	0.861	0.929
Pubmed	0.691	0.965	0.806	0.874

**Use KMeans to give a concrete prediction**

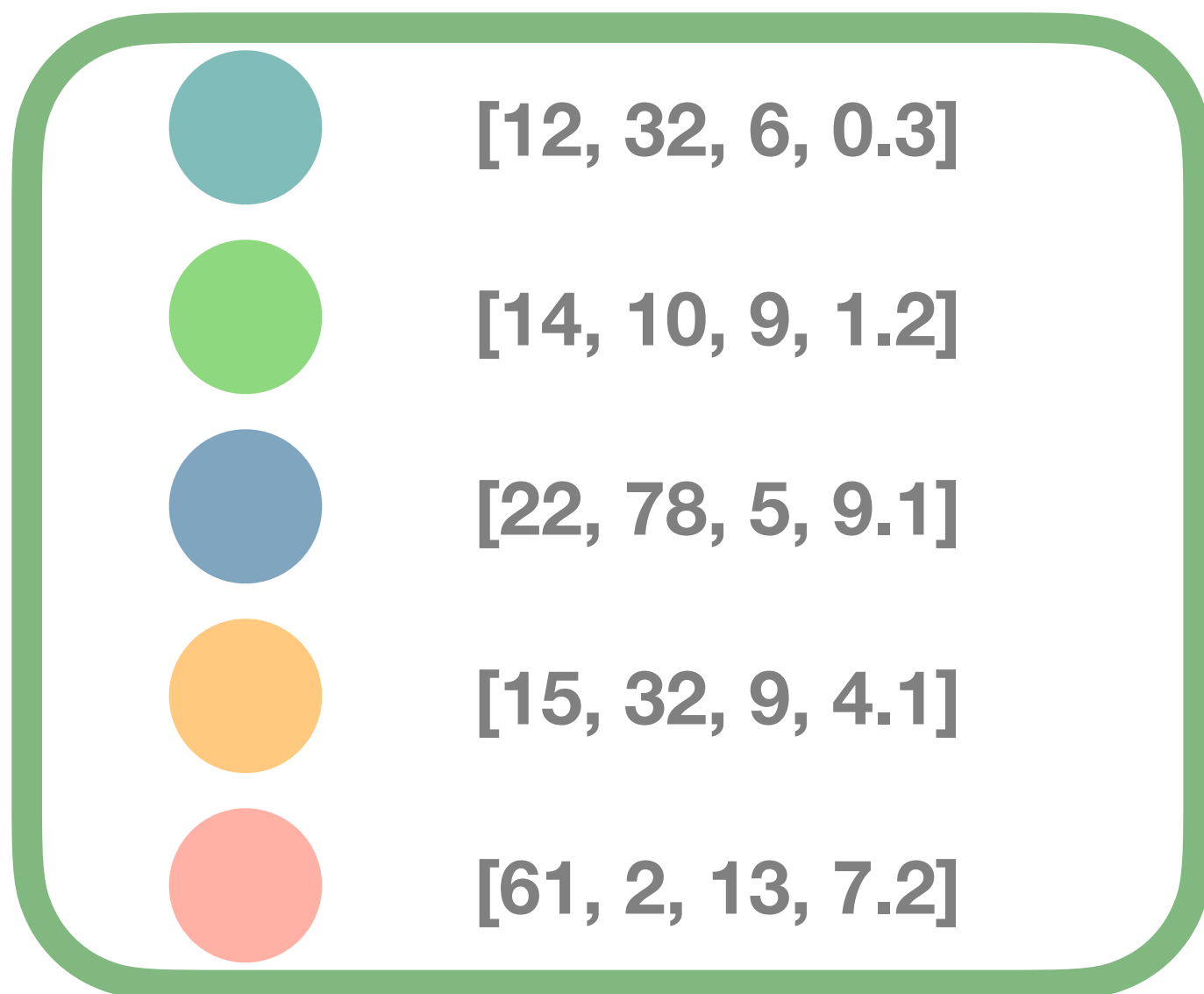
# Attack 1



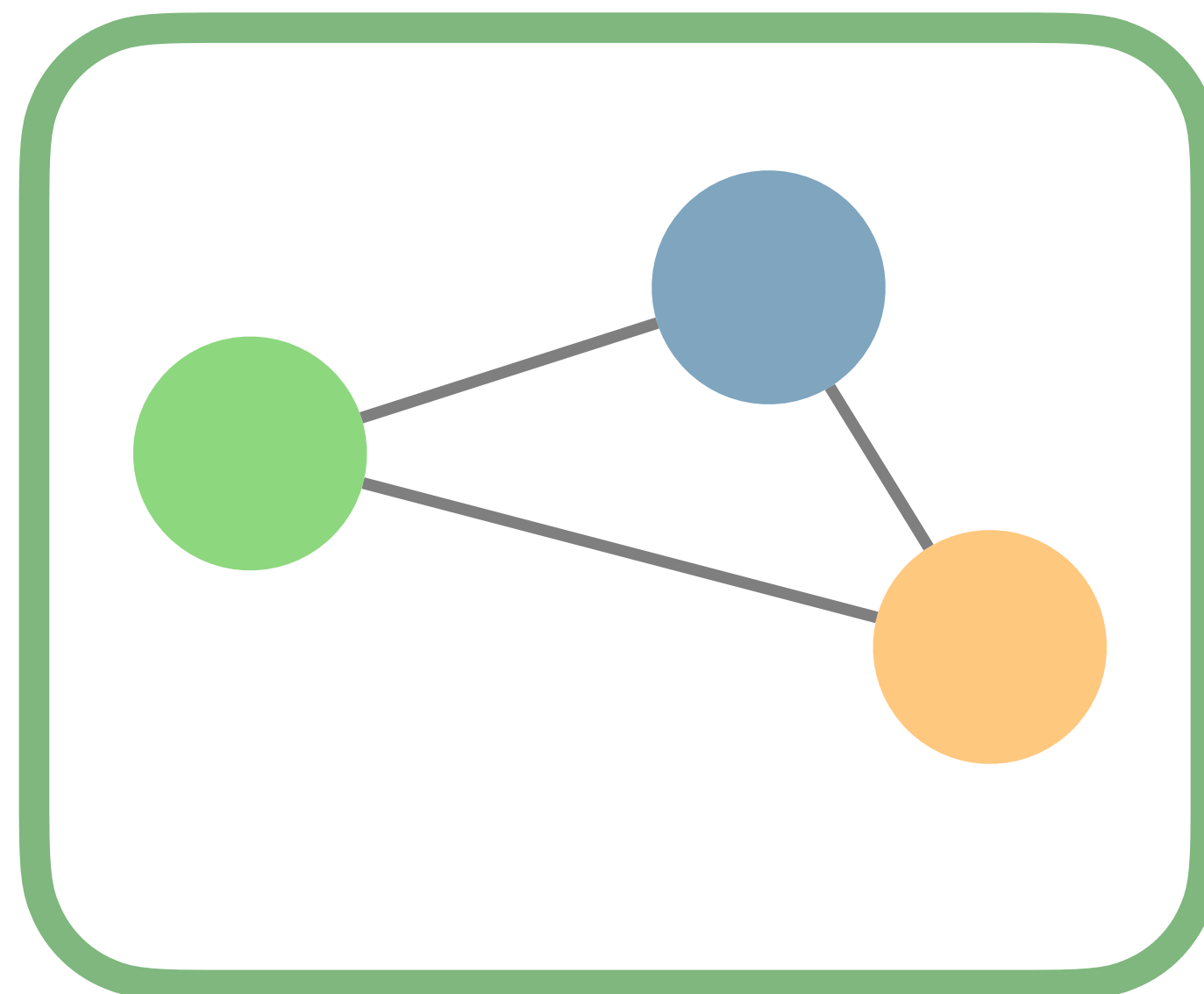
Transfer Knowledge

Supervised Attack

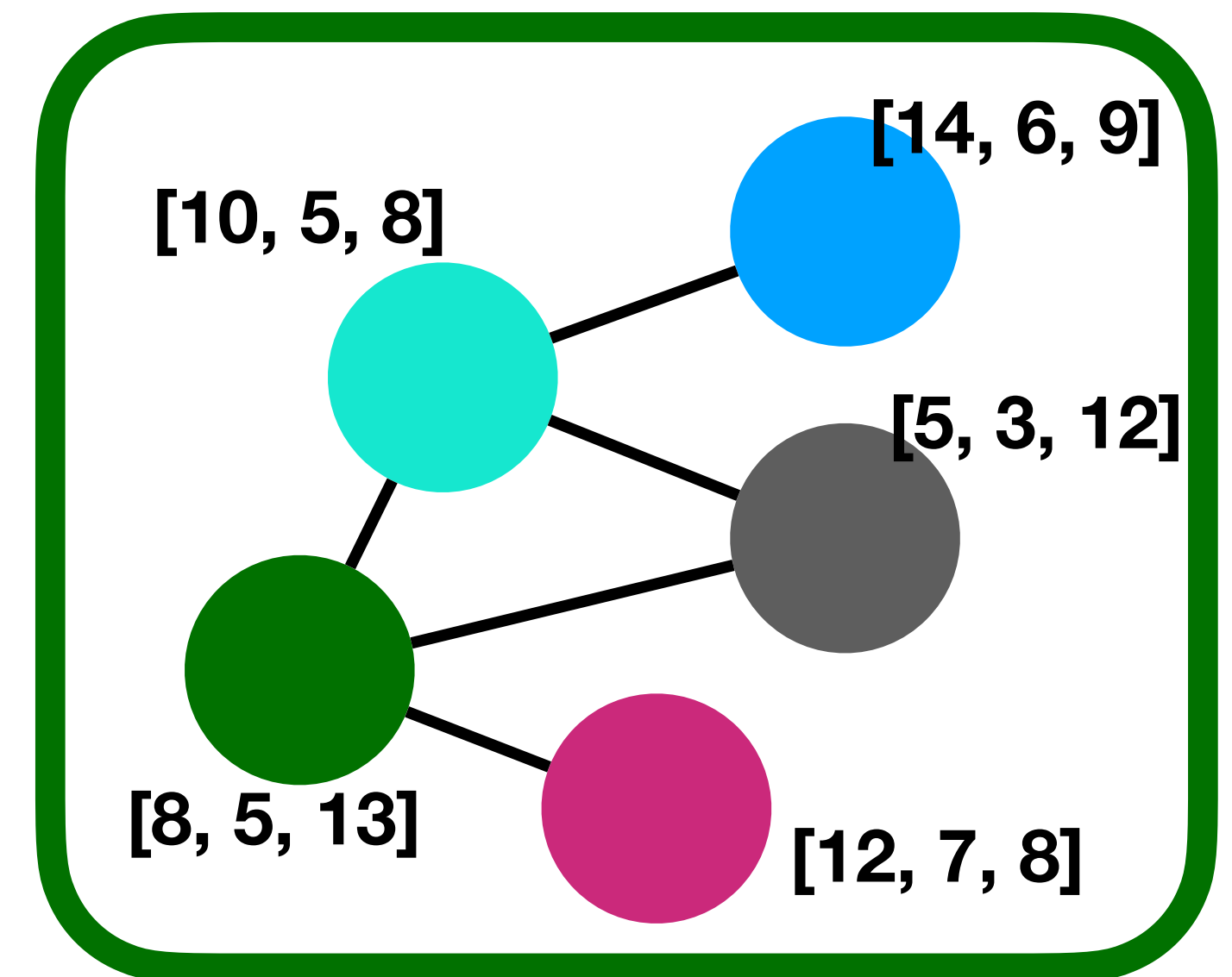
Node Features



Partial Graph



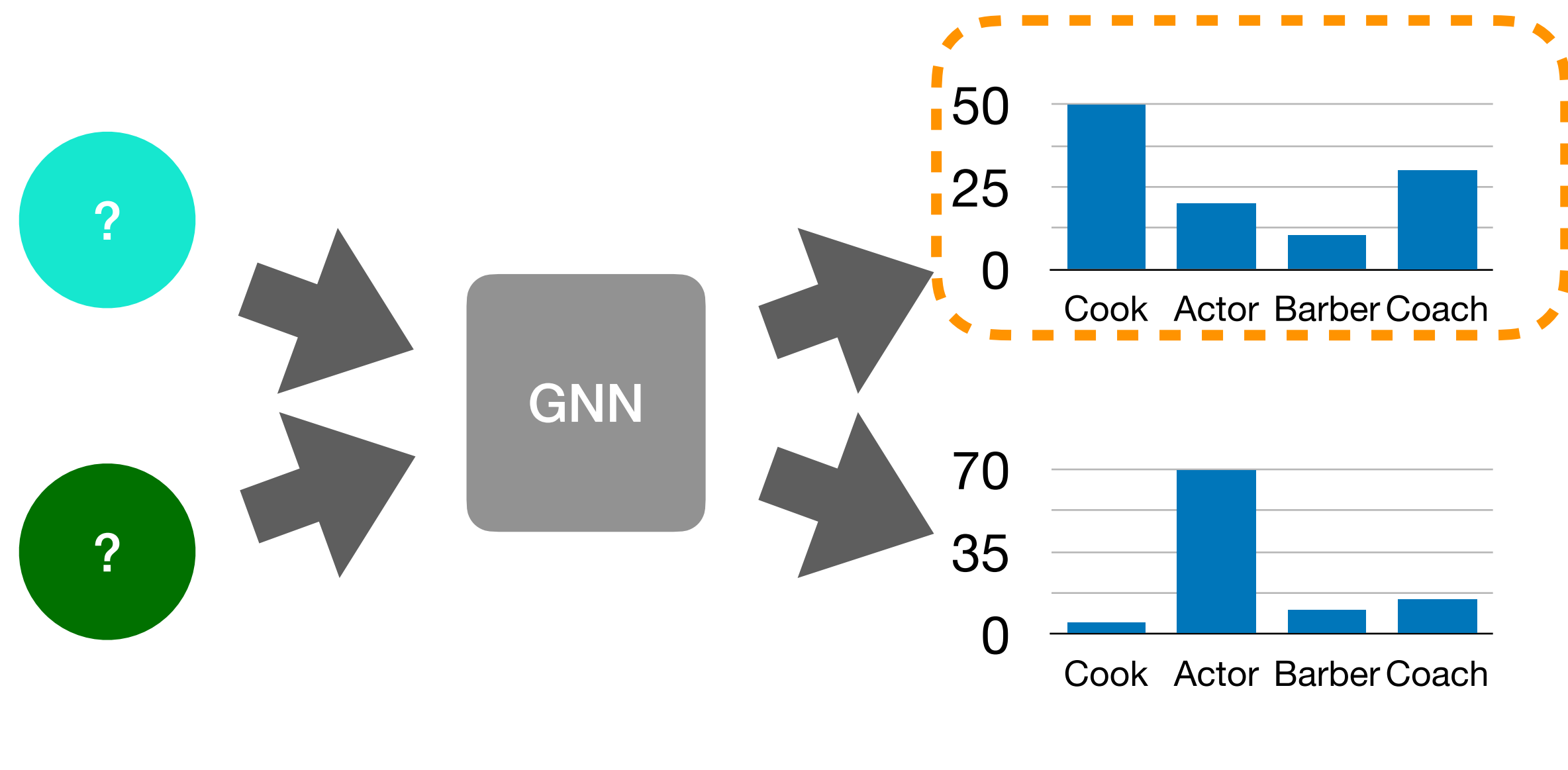
Shadow Dataset



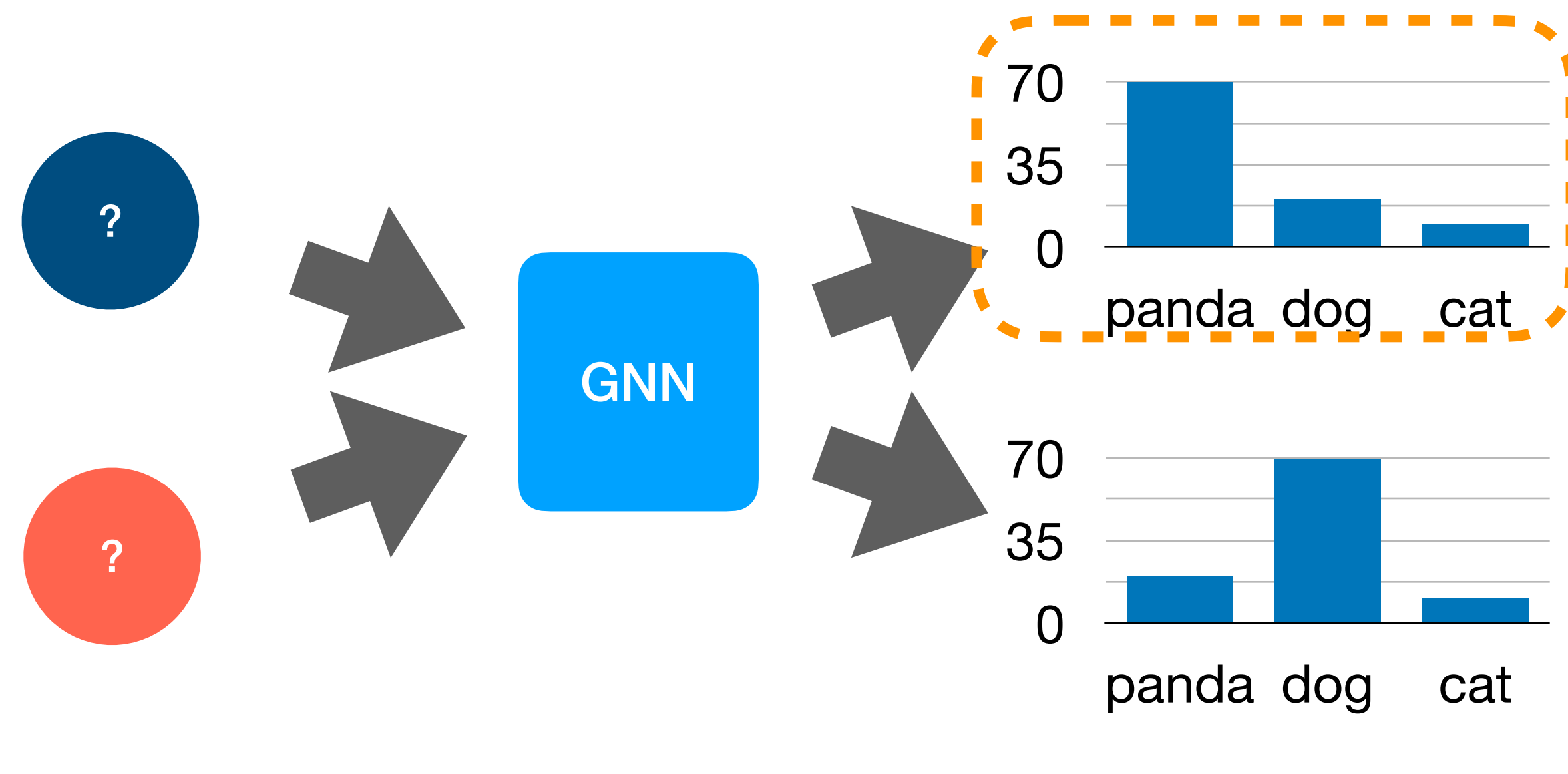


# Attack 1

Shadow



Target



Distance

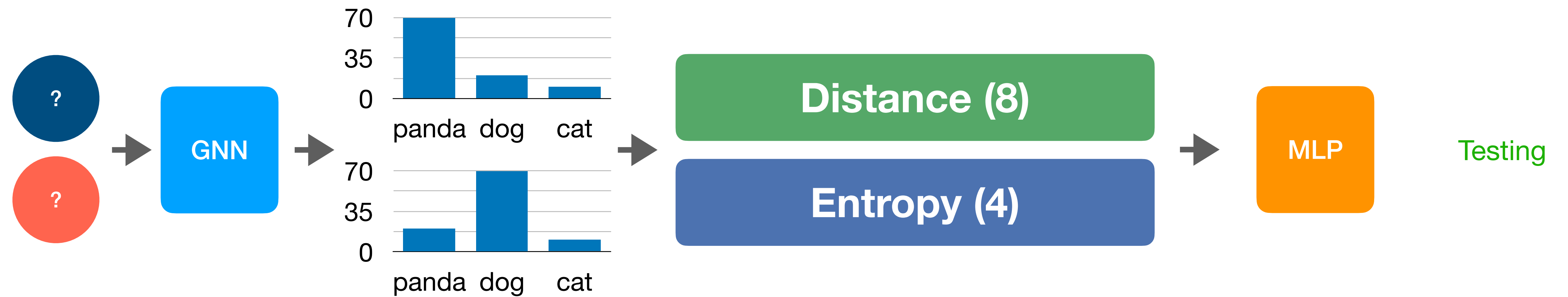
Entropy

Dimension mismatch

Operator	Definition	Operator	Definition
Average	$\frac{f_i(u) + f_i(v)}{2}$	Weighted-L1	$ f_i(u) - f_i(v) $
Hadamard	$f_i(u) \cdot f_i(v)$	Weighted-L2	$ f_i(u) - f_i(v) ^2$

Aditya Grover and Jure Leskovec. node2vec: Scalable Feature Learning for Networks. In KDD 2016.

# Attack 1





# Attack 1

**Table 4: Average AUC with standard deviation for Attack-1 on all the 8 datasets. Best results are highlighted in bold.**

Target Dataset	Shadow Dataset							
	AIDS	COX2	DHFR	ENZYMES	PROTEINS_full	Citeseer	Cora	Pubmed
AIDS	-	0.720 ± 0.009	0.690 ± 0.005	<b>0.730 ± 0.010</b>	0.720 ± 0.005	0.689 ± 0.019	0.650 ± 0.025	0.667 ± 0.014
COX2	0.755 ± 0.032	-	0.831 ± 0.005	0.739 ± 0.116	<b>0.832 ± 0.009</b>	0.762 ± 0.009	0.773 ± 0.008	0.722 ± 0.024
DHFR	0.689 ± 0.004	<b>0.771 ± 0.004</b>	-	0.577 ± 0.044	0.701 ± 0.010	0.736 ± 0.005	0.740 ± 0.003	0.663 ± 0.010
ENZYMES	<b>0.747 ± 0.014</b>	0.695 ± 0.023	0.514 ± 0.041	-	0.691 ± 0.030	0.680 ± 0.012	0.663 ± 0.009	0.637 ± 0.018
PROTEINS_full	0.775 ± 0.020	0.821 ± 0.016	0.528 ± 0.038	0.822 ± 0.020	-	<b>0.823 ± 0.004</b>	0.809 ± 0.015	0.809 ± 0.013
Citeseer	0.801 ± 0.040	0.920 ± 0.006	0.842 ± 0.036	0.846 ± 0.042	0.848 ± 0.015	-	<b>0.965 ± 0.001</b>	0.942 ± 0.003
Cora	0.791 ± 0.019	0.884 ± 0.005	0.811 ± 0.024	0.804 ± 0.048	0.869 ± 0.012	<b>0.942 ± 0.001</b>	-	0.917 ± 0.002
Pubmed	0.705 ± 0.039	0.796 ± 0.007	0.704 ± 0.042	0.708 ± 0.067	0.752 ± 0.014	0.883 ± 0.006	<b>0.885 ± 0.005</b>	-

For all best performing shadow datasets, attack 1 is **better** than attack 0

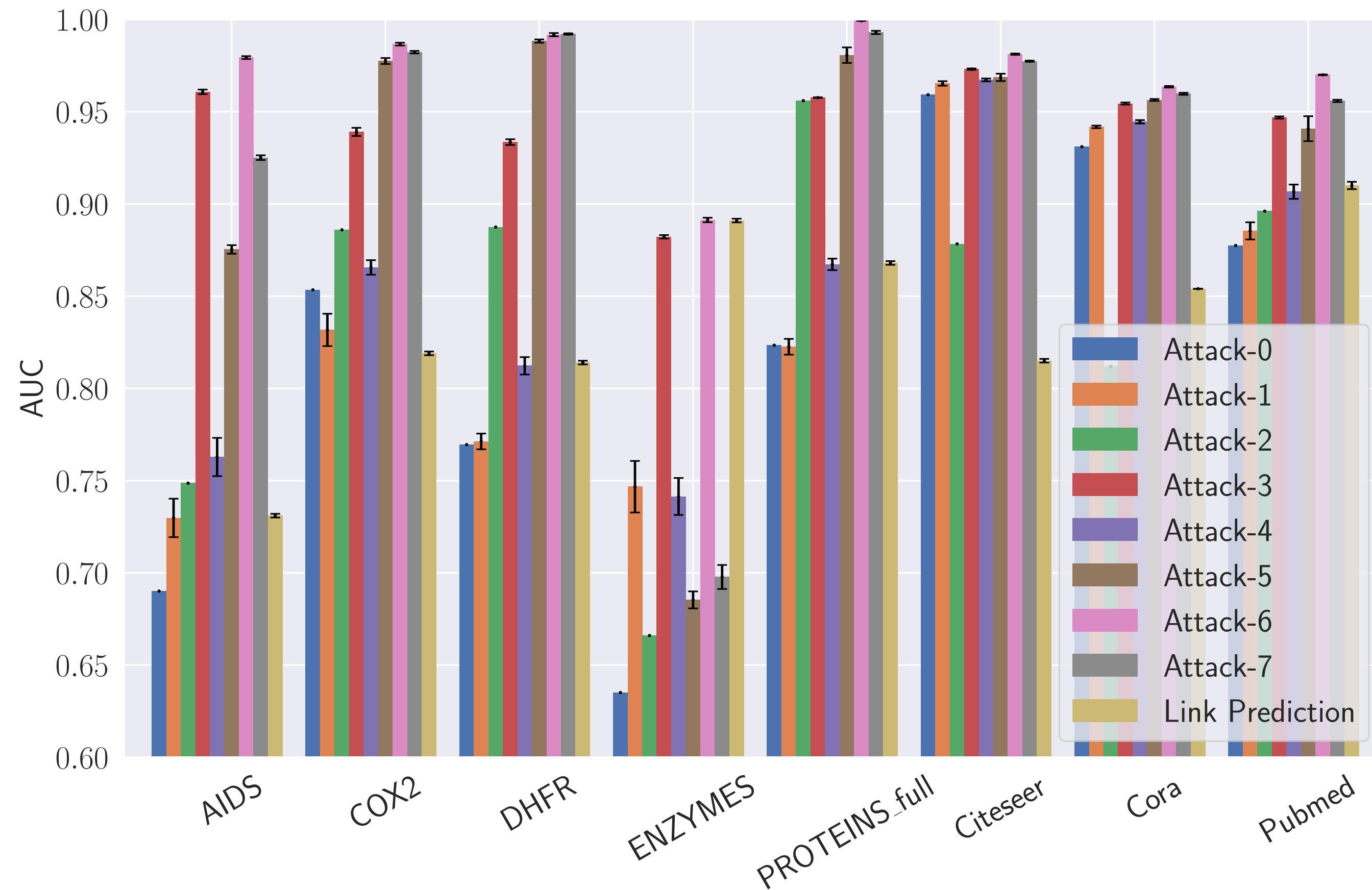
# Attack 1



**Figure 3: The last hidden layer's output from the attack model of Attack-1 for 200 randomly sampled positive node pairs and 200 randomly sampled negative node pairs projected into a 2-dimension space using t-SNE. (a) Cora as the shadow dataset and Citeseer as the target dataset, (b) Cora as the shadow dataset and ENZYMES as the target dataset.**



# Evaluation of All Attacks



- More knowledge leads to better attack performance
- Partial graph contains the strongest signal
- Shadow dataset is the weakest
- Better performance than traditional link prediction, this means GNN indeed leaks graph information

# Conclusion

→ We are the first to propose link stealing attack against GNNs

→ Our attacks can effectively steal

→ More information leads to better

→ Transferring attack can achieve good performance

Questions?

Code is available at [https://github.com/xinleihe/link\\_stealing\\_attack](https://github.com/xinleihe/link_stealing_attack)

Xinlei He

CISPA Helmholtz Center for Information Security

@AllenXinleiHe

<http://www.xinlei.info/>

# Thanks!