



# Unlearning Mechanisms in Graph Models and Document Classification

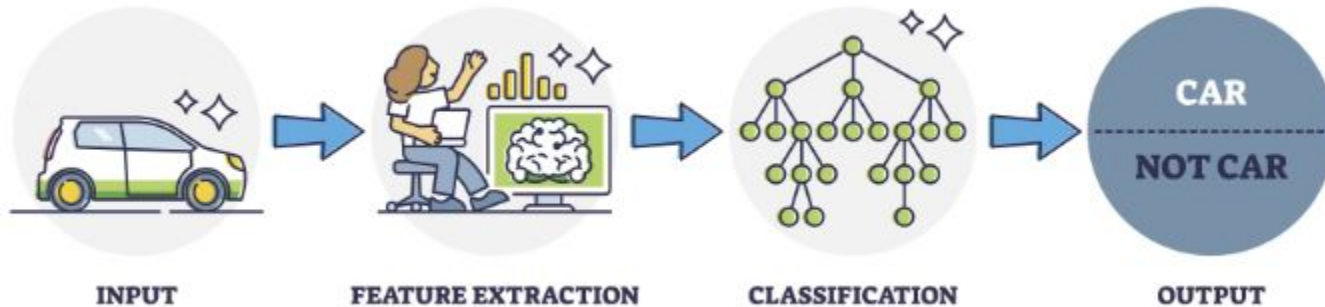
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# Introduction

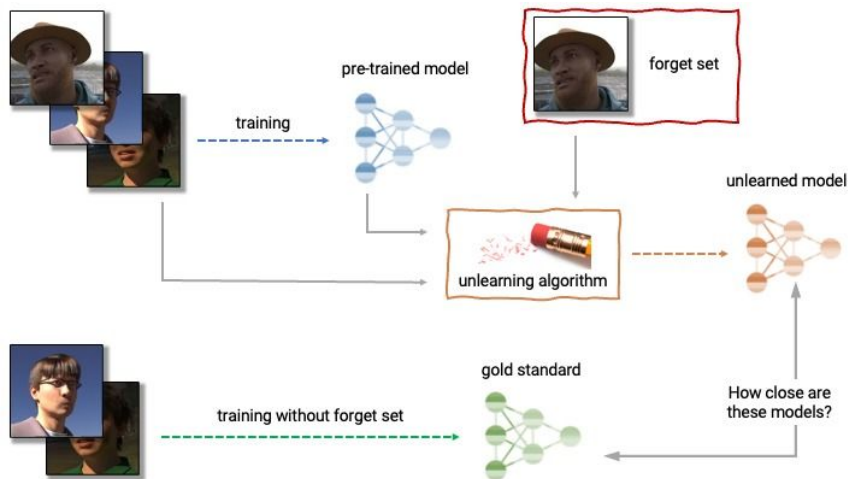
# What is Machine Learning

- *Machine Learning* is the process of training a model, typically by tuning parameters, to make predictions



# What is Machine Unlearning

- *Gold Standard*: Remove data to be unlearned and retrain the model
  - Can be too costly
- *Machine Unlearning* is the process of removing training data without retraining the entire model



# Why Machine Unlearning



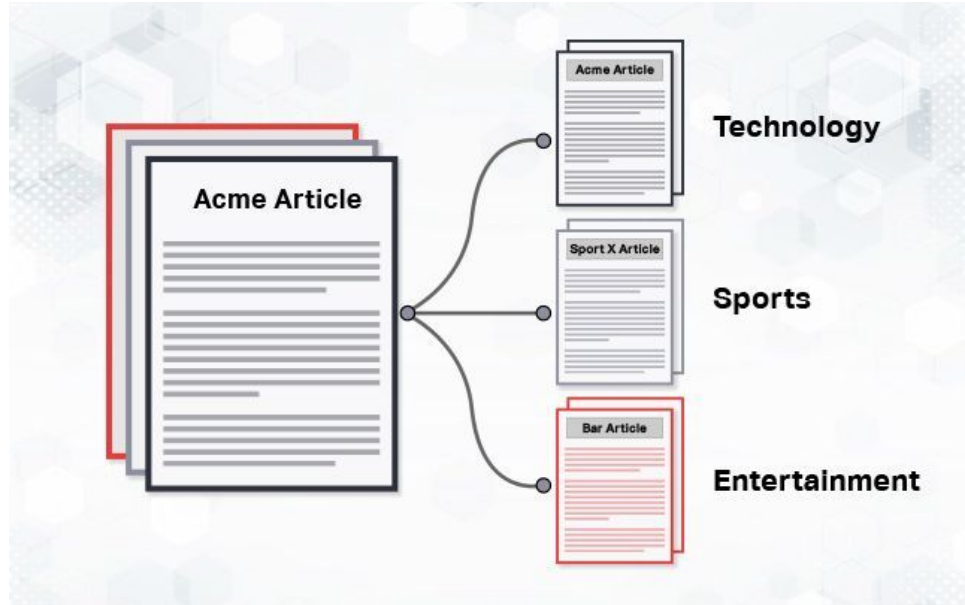
- Training may use data collected from individuals, could be private/sensitive
  - Recent legislation mandated the erasure of personal data when requested
- Model maintenance may be necessary to remove false data



# Document Classification

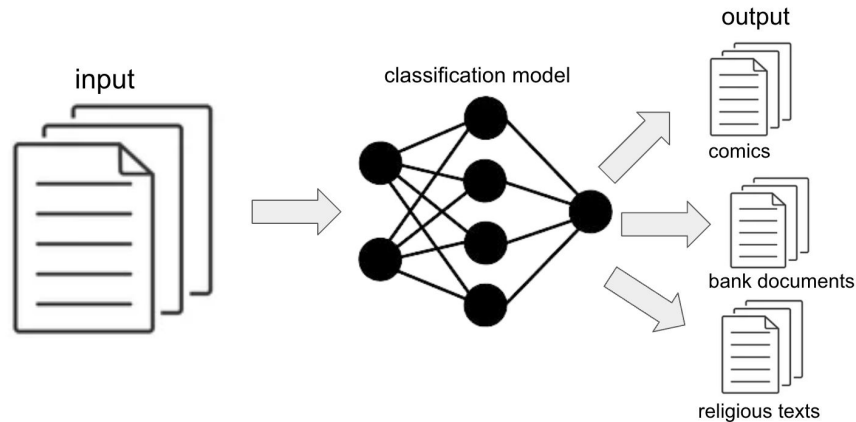
# What is Document Classification

- Document classification is the process of assigning documents to different categories or classes



# Document Classification Models

- Done through image classification or **text classification**
- Large task of NLP (Natural Language Processing), commonly done with *word embedding*
  - Process of representing words as a vector of real numbers
  - Vectors capture information about the words so those with similar meanings are near each other in the vector space





# Unlearning Documents



- Removing an entire category/document label
- Current work randomly distributes documents within the remaining classes
- Sort the documents into the next top class possible
- Graph Models

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# Graph Models and Unlearning

# Graph Theory

- Graphs are data structures where nodes/vertices represent entities and edges represent relationships between vertices
- Two nodes are *neighboring* if they are connected with an edge
  - The *neighborhood* of a node is the set of all its neighbors
- Machine unlearning of graphs is called *graph unlearning*
  - Includes *edge unlearning* and *node unlearning*

Types of graphs

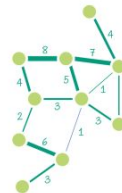
undirected



directed



weighted



# Why Graphs for Document Unlearning?



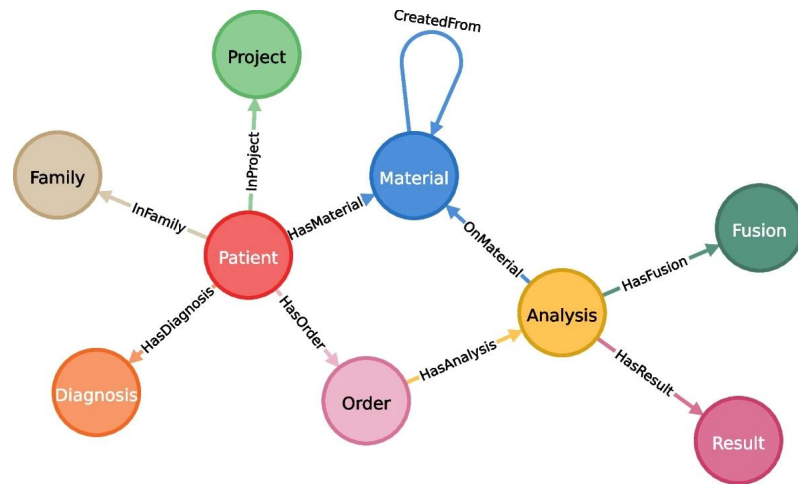
- Capture the structural information of a text
- Mitigate the effects of “curse-of-dimensionality”
- Helps represent the similarities between documents
  - Assess the importance of a word for a whole set of documents
- GNNs: Help capture complex patterns, improving classification
  - Finds the connection in content of the documents

# Unlearning Mechanisms in Graph Models

Social Network Graph

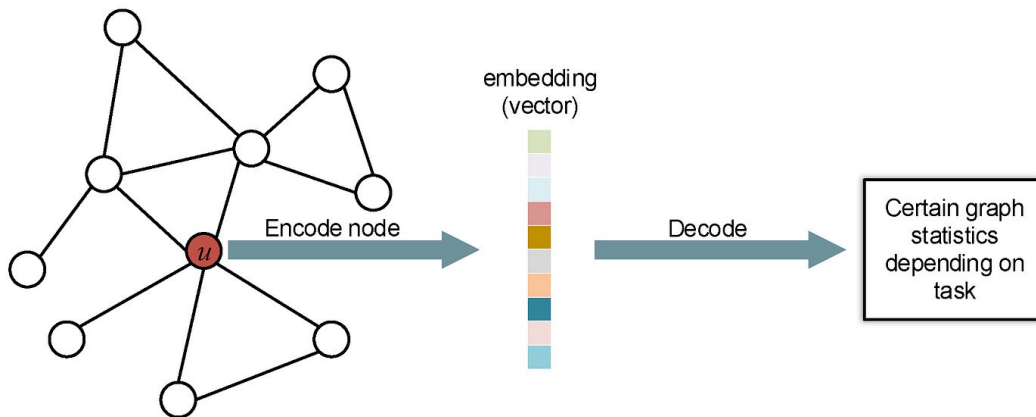


Heterogeneous Healthcare Graph



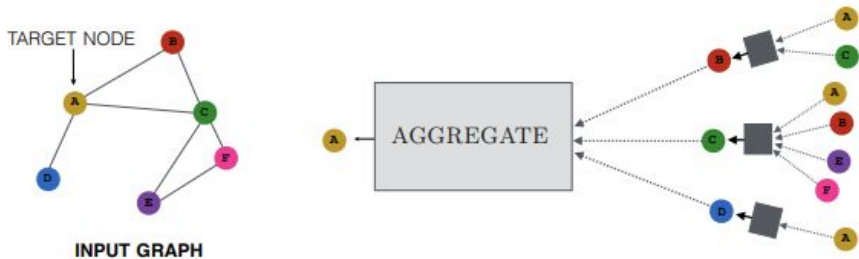
# Graph Neural Networks

- *Graph Neural Networks (GNNs)* are neural networks that operate on graph-structured data
- Composed of multiple layers
- Each node has a *feature vector*, which represents its attributes



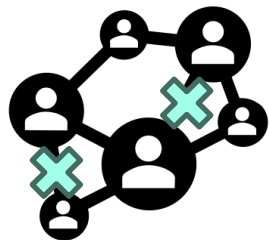
# Graph Convolutional Networks

- Each node in a GCN sends its current feature information to its neighbors
- Aggregates them (e.g. by averaging) and applies a non-linear transformation to update the node's feature vector
- Done recursively for several layers

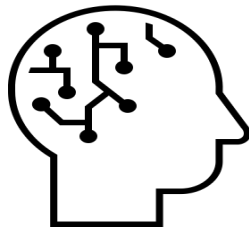


# Graph Unlearning

- Sensitive data stored in graphs (attributes of nodes or edges)
- We focus on edge unlearning
  - e.g. friendships in social networks



Training data



Model



Downstream Task





# The Problem

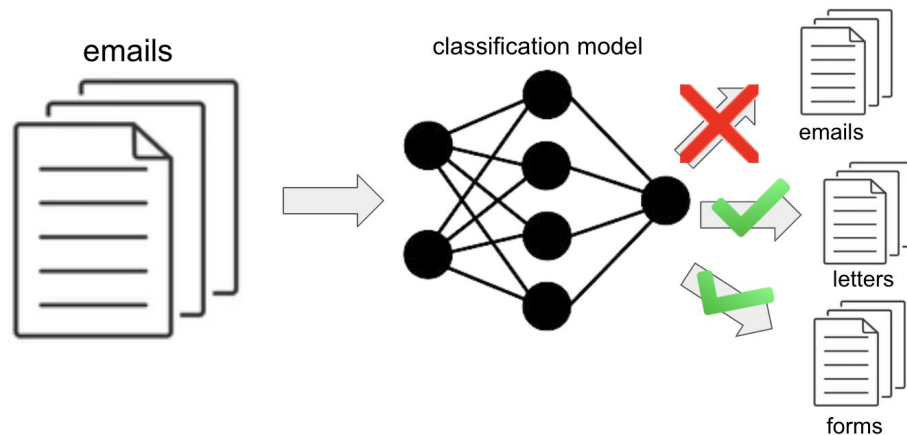
# The Adversary in Document Classification



- Gains access to document content but not the classification label
  - Finding the label can exploit potential vulnerabilities
- Cannot figure out the label for multiple reasons:
  - Redacted Information: sensitive sections are obscured, making interpretation hard without a machine
  - Technical Jargon: language is complex, making it hard for the adversary to understand
  - Volume of Data: large number of documents make manual reading impractical

# Unlearning Classification Label Problem

- Consider a group of documents with sensitive data (e.g. bank documents)
- Resort this documents into other labels
  - Sensitivity is within the label (contents are unknown)
- Current methods randomly distribute
  - Can lead to decreased model utility
  - Falsely sort other documents as well



# Problem with GNNDelete



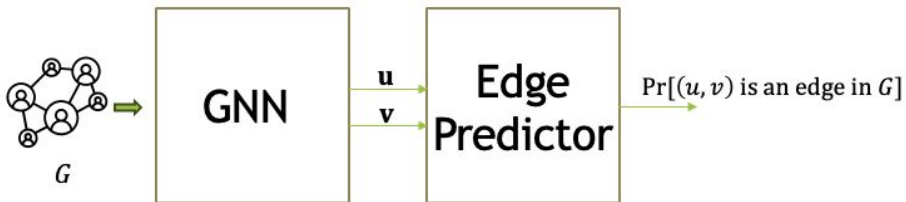
- The paper *GNN Delete: A General Strategy for Unlearning in Graph Neural Networks* presents a method for graph unlearning from a trained GNN Model
  - Deleted Edge Consistency (DEC) loss:  $\min[\mathbb{P}(e(u, v)) - \mathbb{P}(e(\text{nonexistent edge}))]$
- Changes the predicted probability of an edge being between  $u$  and  $v$  (endpoints of unlearned edge) to be about the same as between a random pair of nodes
  - Erases too much information, thus affecting model utility
  - In graphs with many communities,  $u$  and  $v$  may have many common neighbors, should have a higher predicted probability of an edge

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# Implementation and Solutions

# Verifying Problem with GNNDelete

- Trained GCN Model with Cora Dataset but with 3 edges deleted, outputs node embeddings
- Embeddings are fed into an Edge Predictor model (multi-layer perceptron model) which trains the model
- Predicted probability of the deleted edges was much higher than that of a nonexistent edge.



# New Edge-Unlearning Model



- Train the GCN model and Edge Predictor model with entire Cora Dataset
- $(u, v)$  is an edge to be unlearned, let the predicted probability be  $p$
- We set the new value of  $p$  as  $c \cdot p$  for some constant  $c < 1$ , and do back propagation to modify the parameters of the GCN (while freezing the parameters of the Edge Predictor)

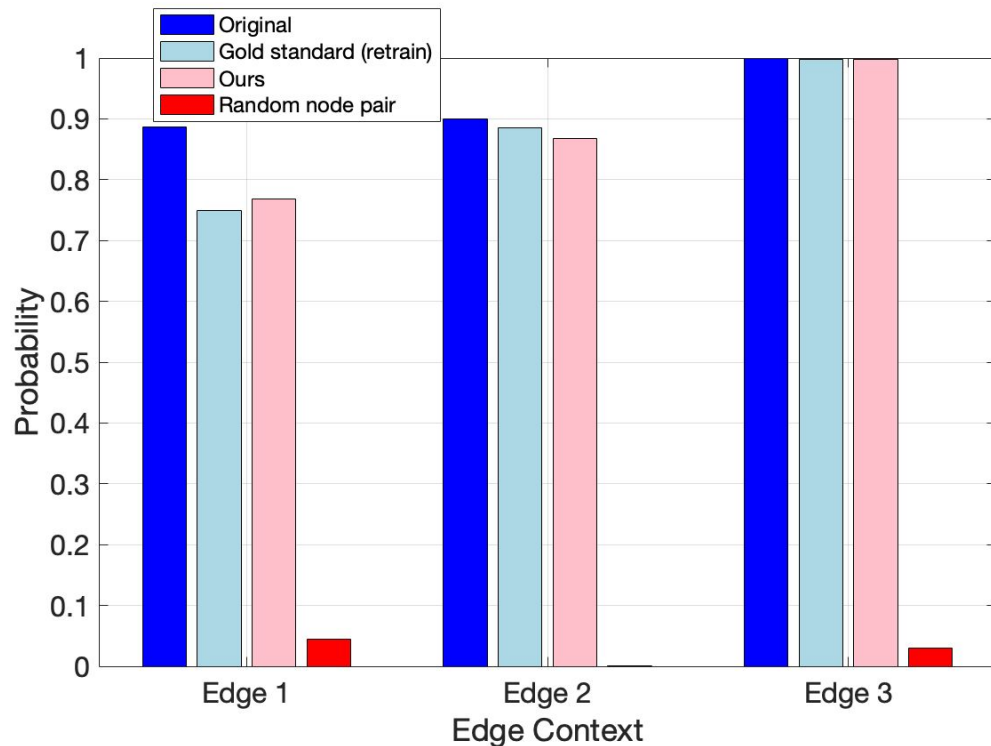
# Resulting Probabilities



3 edges before unlearning	Gold standard probability of the 3 edges after unlearning	3 random non-existent edge probabilities
0.9387, 0.9096, 0.9993	0.8777, 0.6747, 0.9974	0.0006, 0.0010, 0.0158



# Main Results On Edge Unlearning

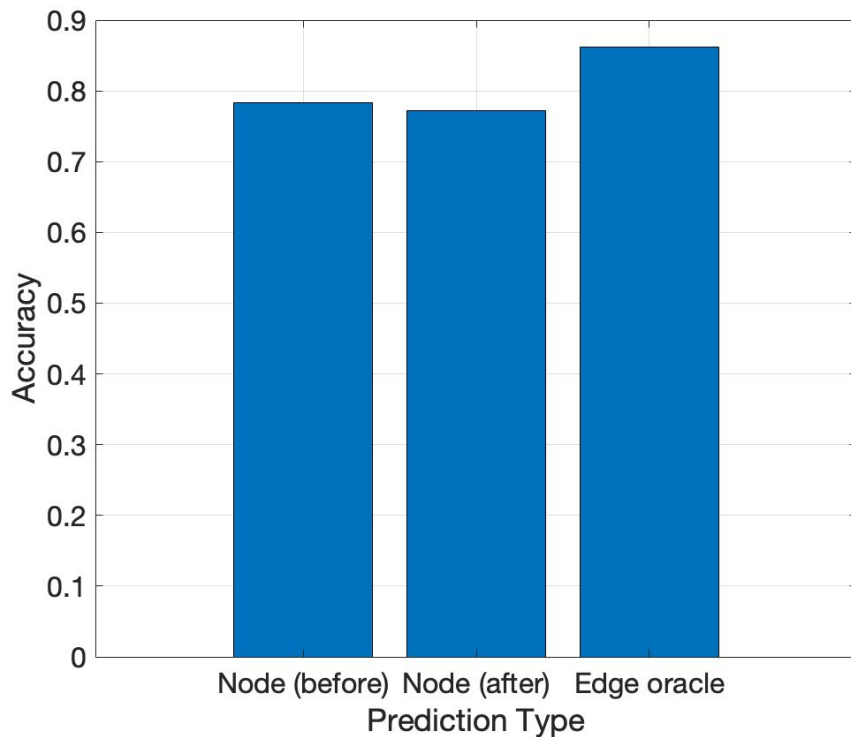


Predicting edge probability between the vertices of 3 unlearned edges

Edge probabilities in original model are close to 1, our methods get similar probabilities to gold standard

Edge probabilities of nonexistent edges are close to 0

# Accuracy before and after edge unlearning



Node label predictions before and after edge unlearning

Accuracy of trained edge oracle predicting edge probabilities

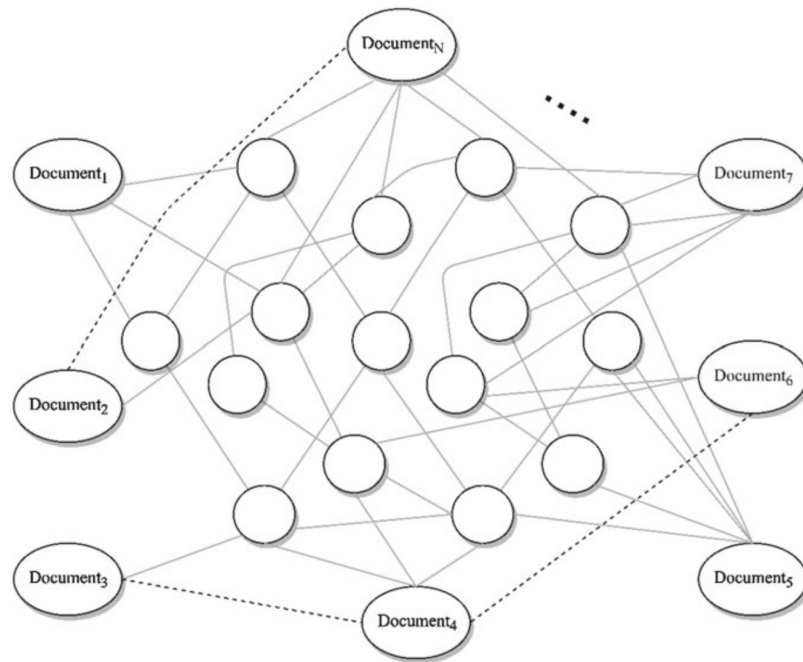
# Graph Unlearning Mechanisms



- Edge unlearning makes sense for social network graphs
- In contrast, we can consider heterogeneous graphs for document classification

# The Model

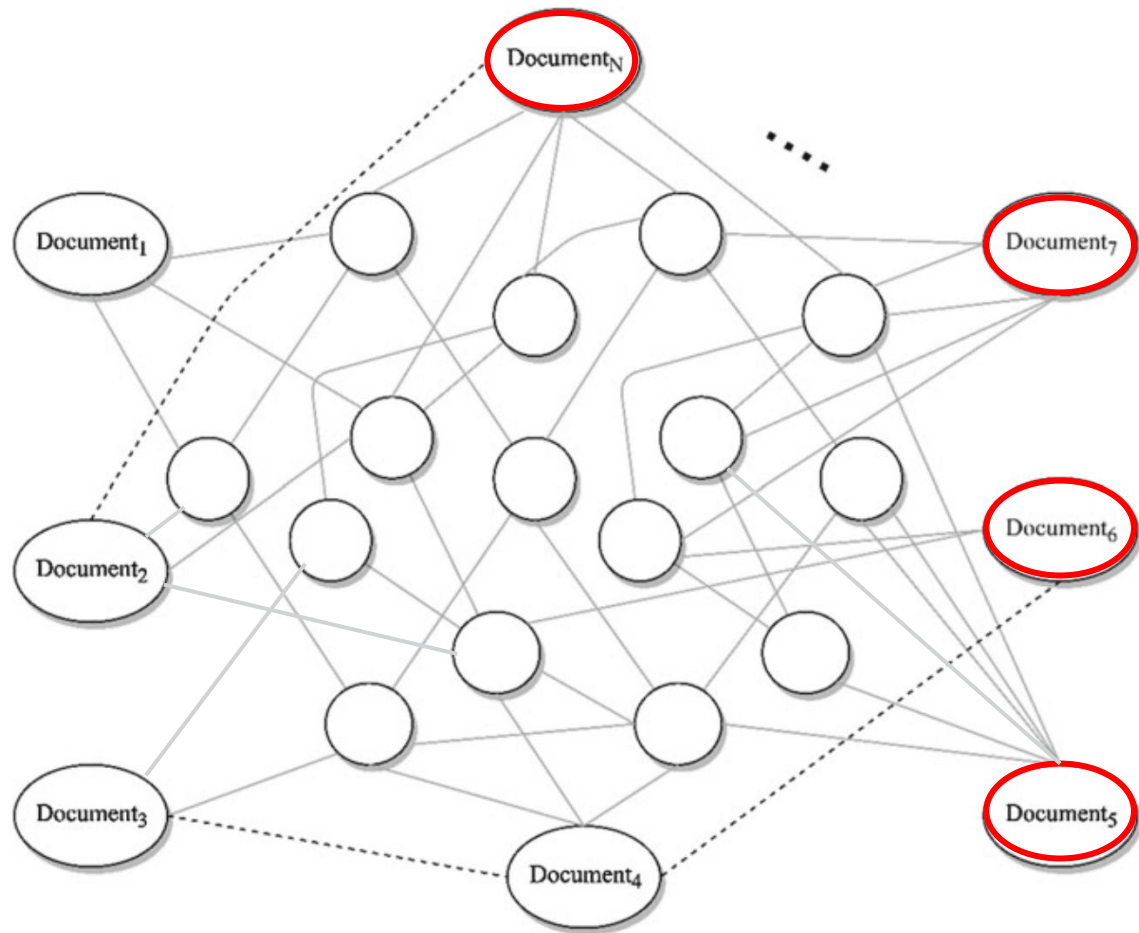
- “Graph of Docs” Model
  - Nodes: Documents and key words
  - Edges: “CONNECTS” “INCLUDES” “SIMILAR”
- Documents are split into “similarity subgraphs”  
→ determines labels

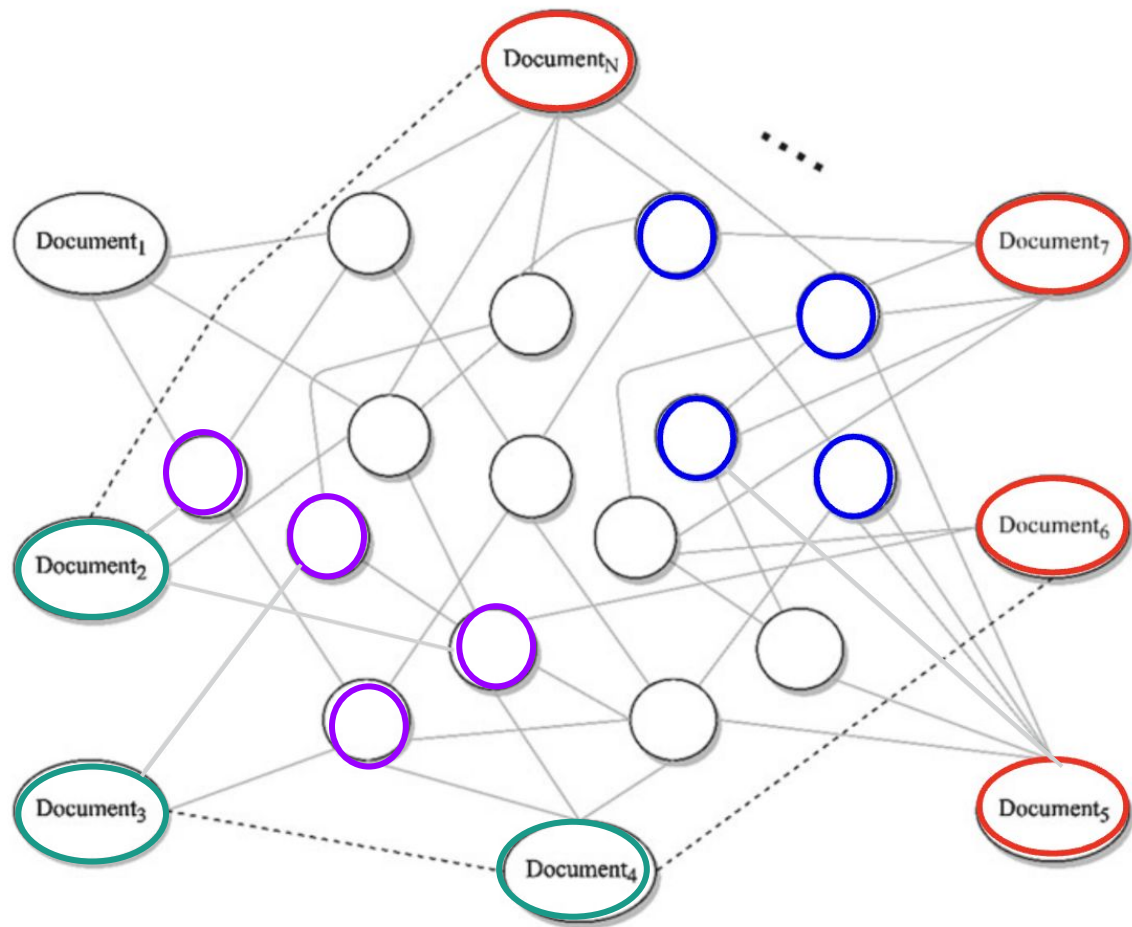


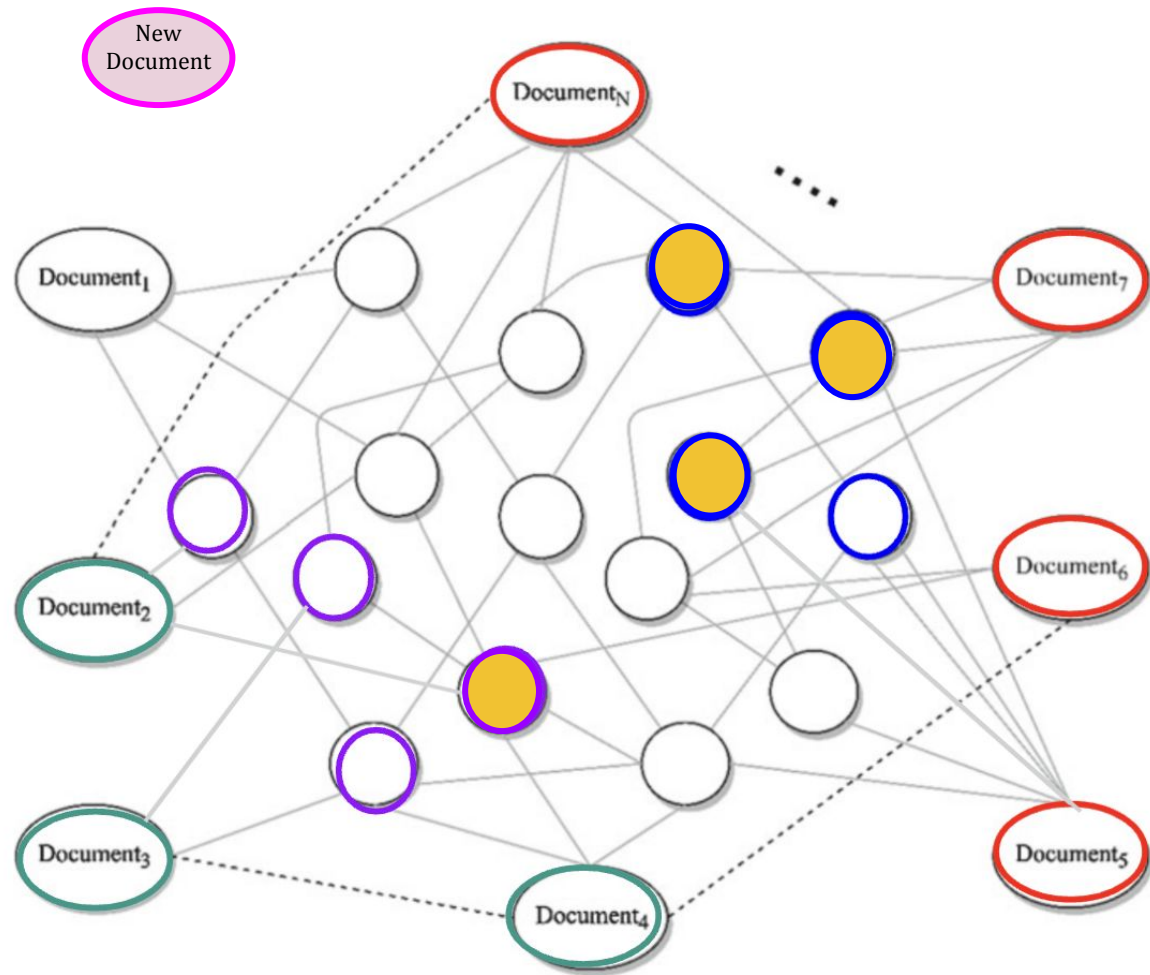
# The Model



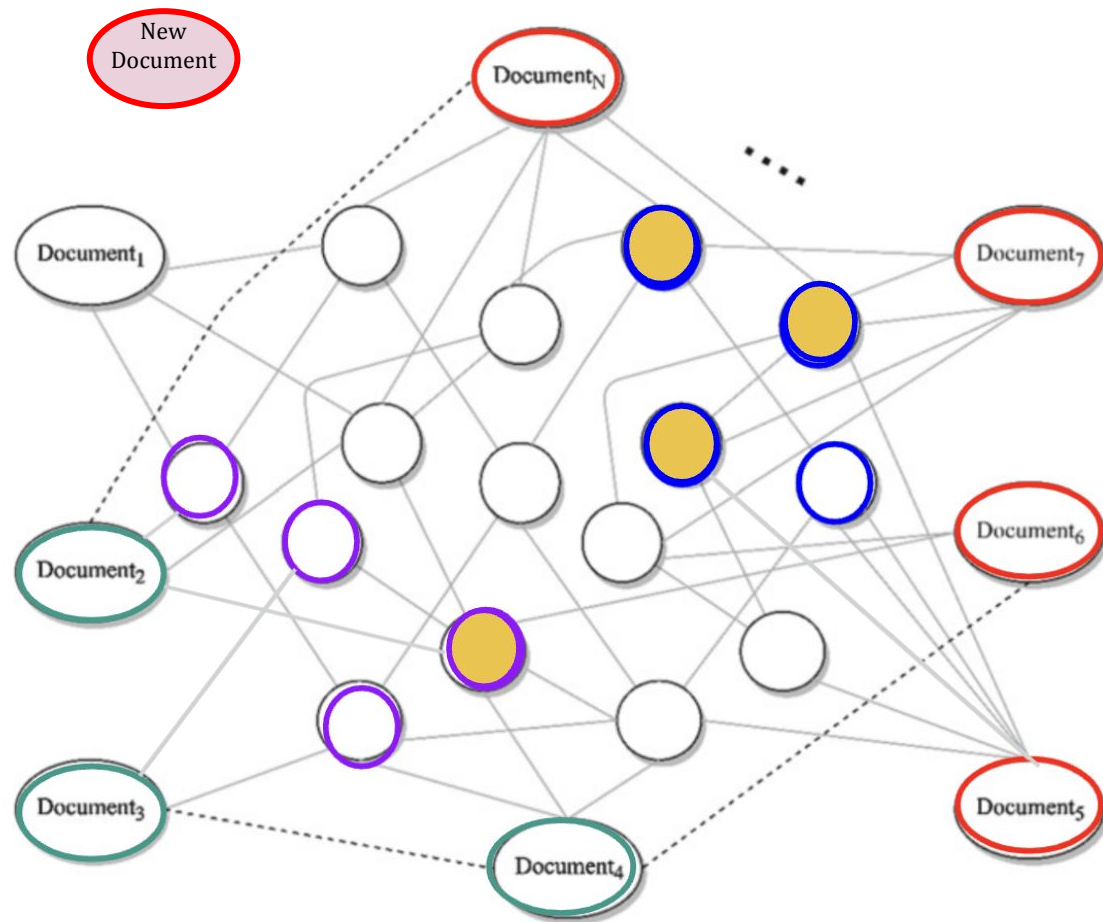
- 20 newsgroup dataset
- Word Importance and Document Connections
- Document Similarity Subgraph:
  - Uses similarity scores to create a subgraph where documents are connected via similarity relationships
- Communities of Similar Documents:
  - Creates categories of documents via Louvain algorithm
- Rank the importance of each class for each word node





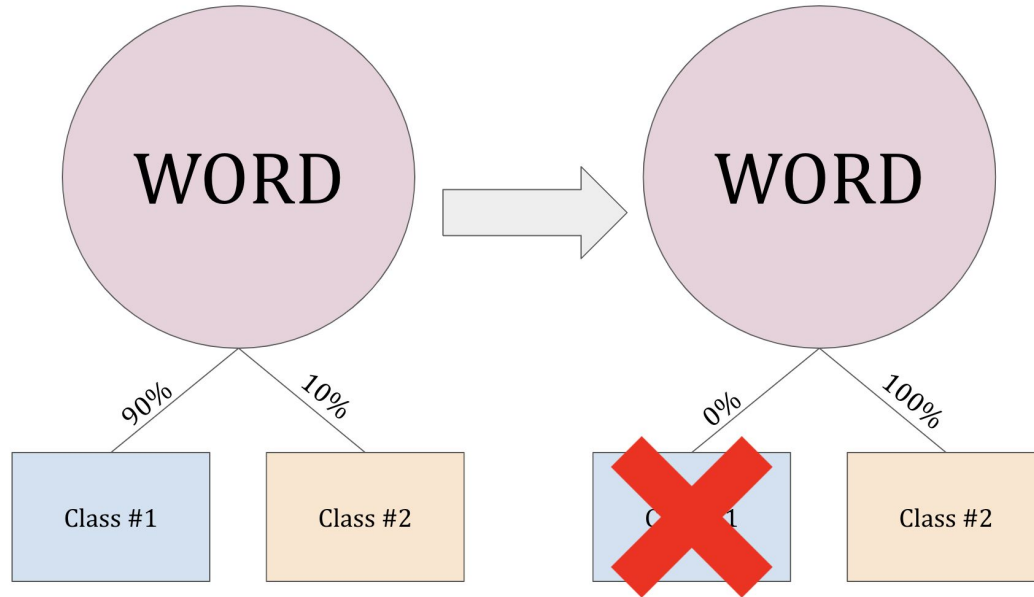


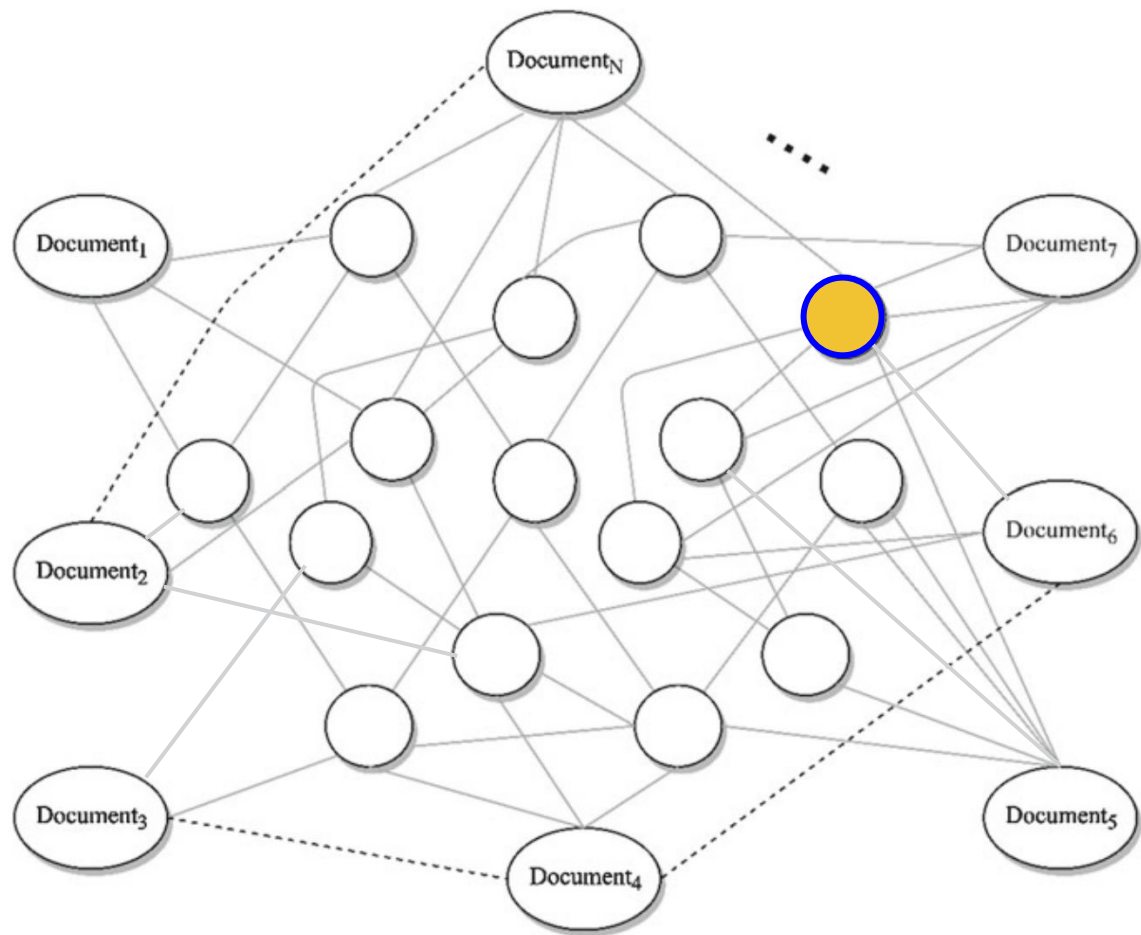


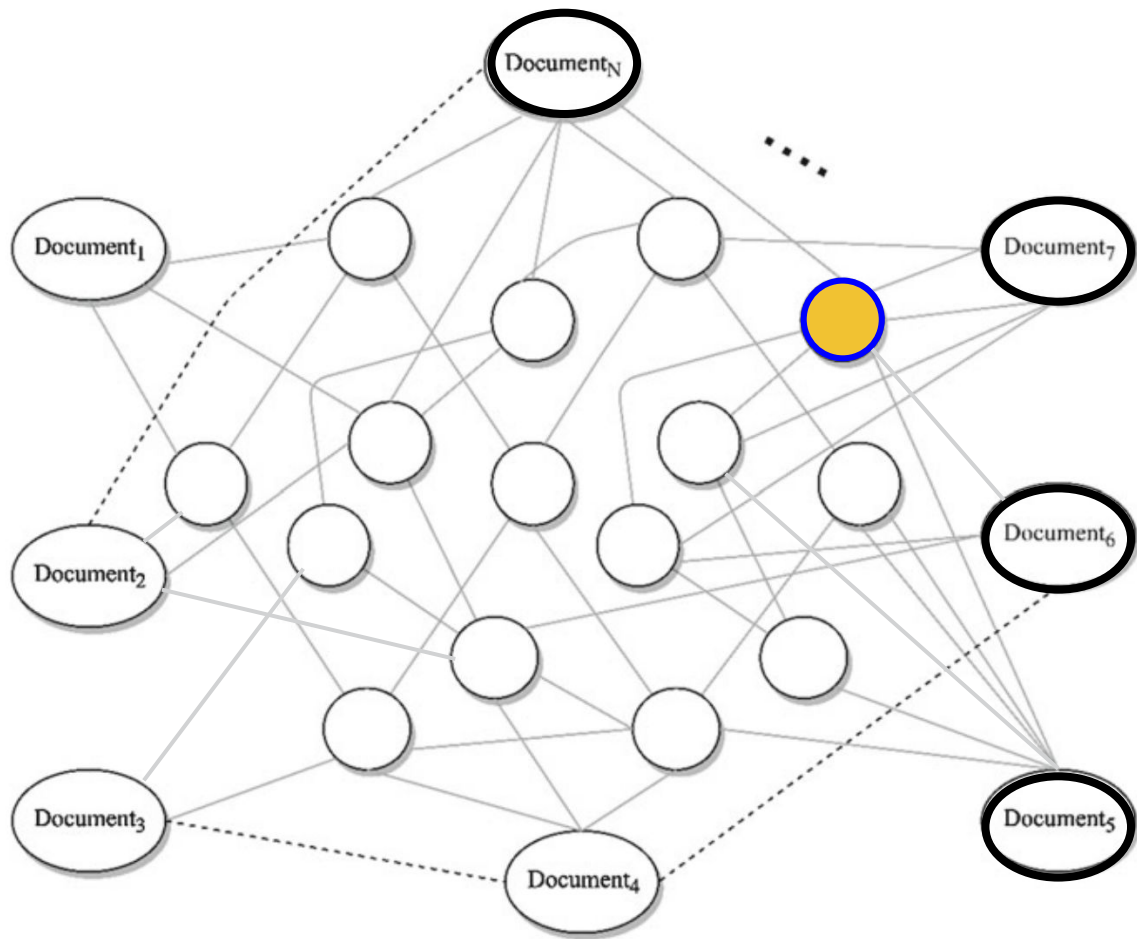


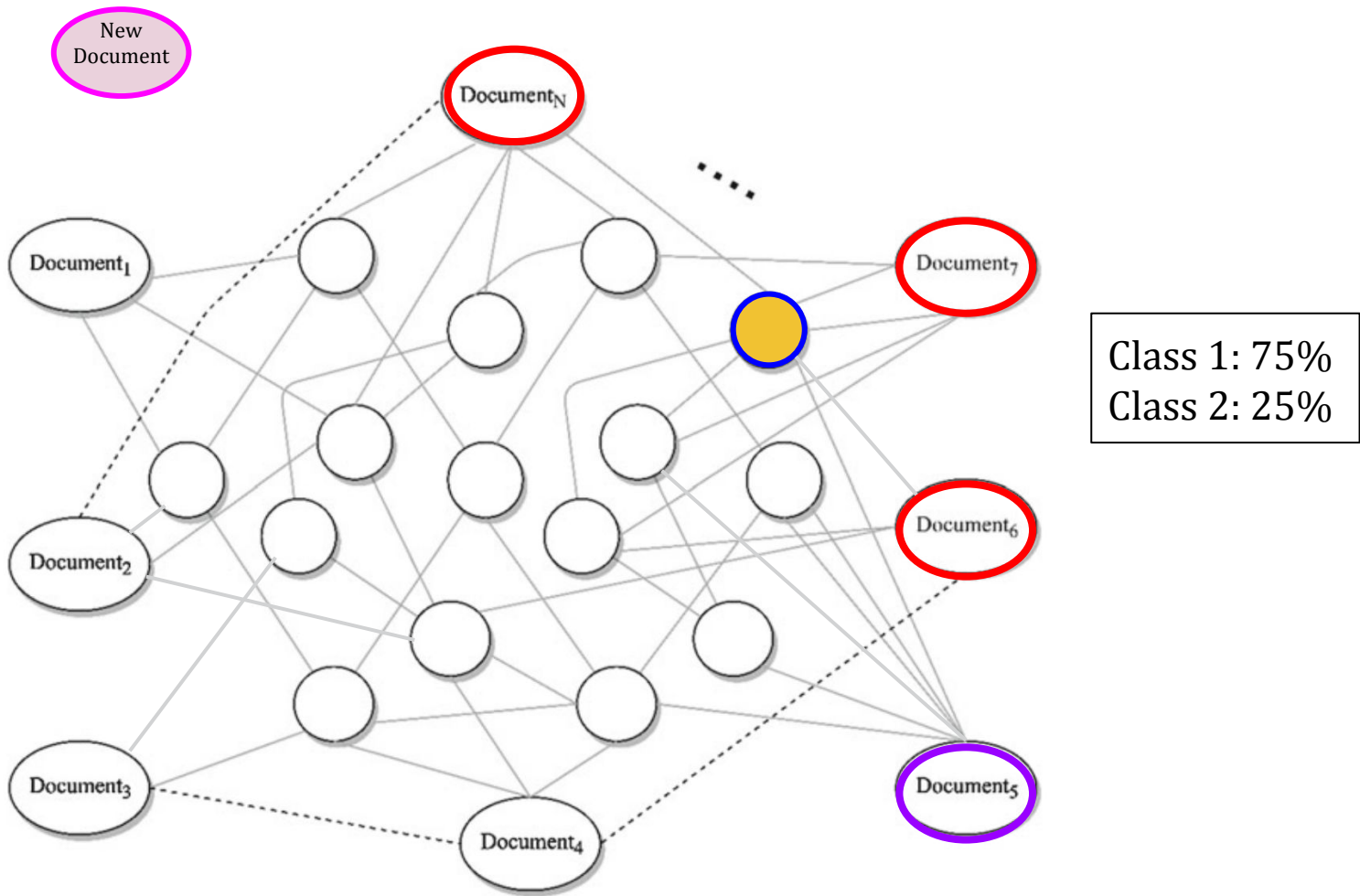
# Model Modifications

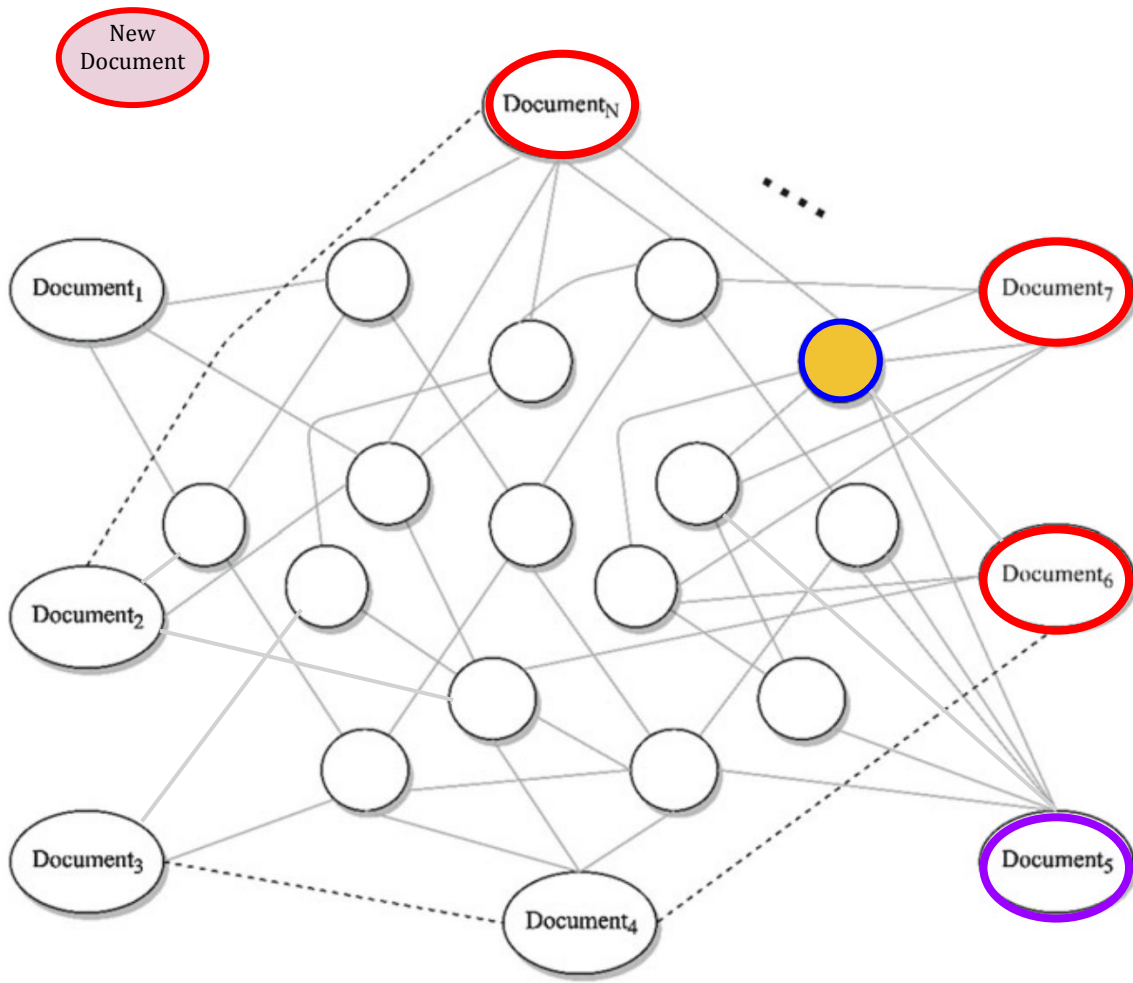
- For the class being removed, remove that importance from each all of the words



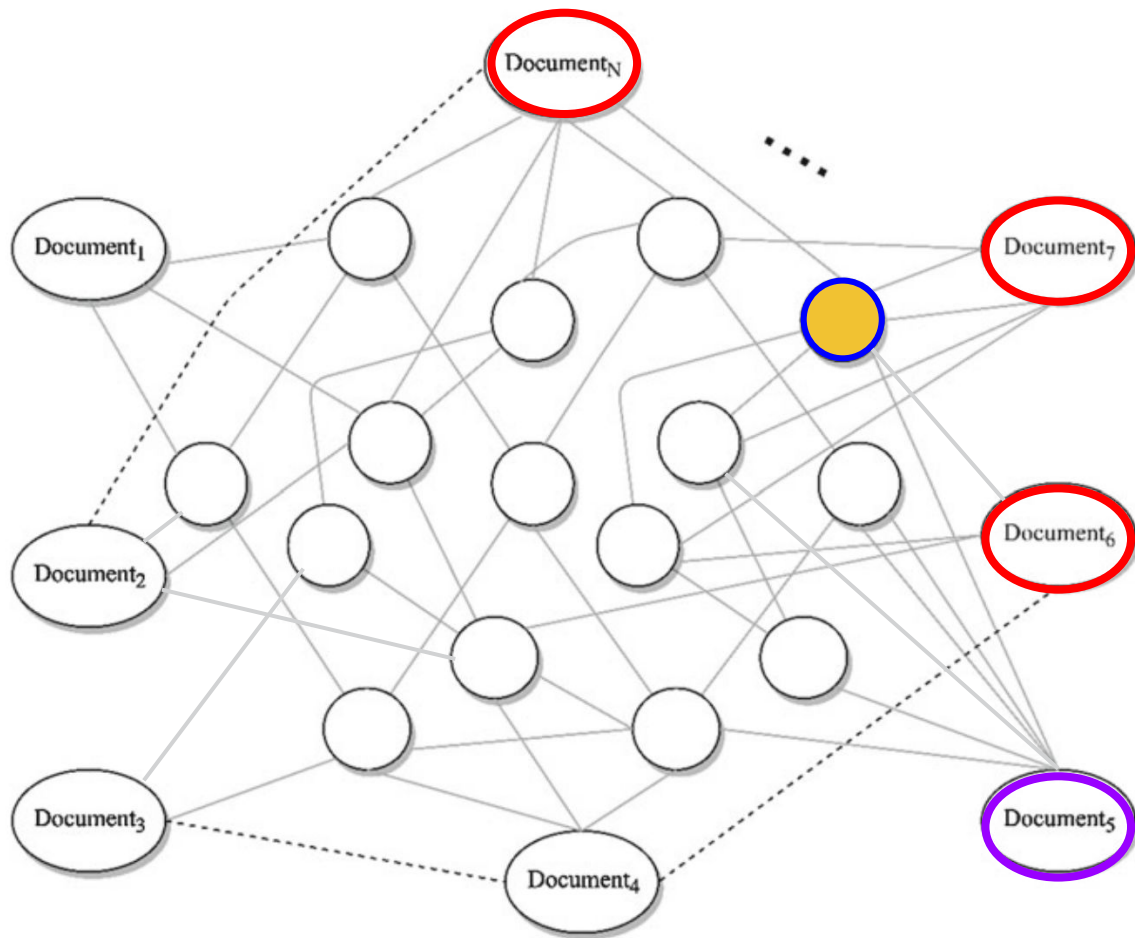


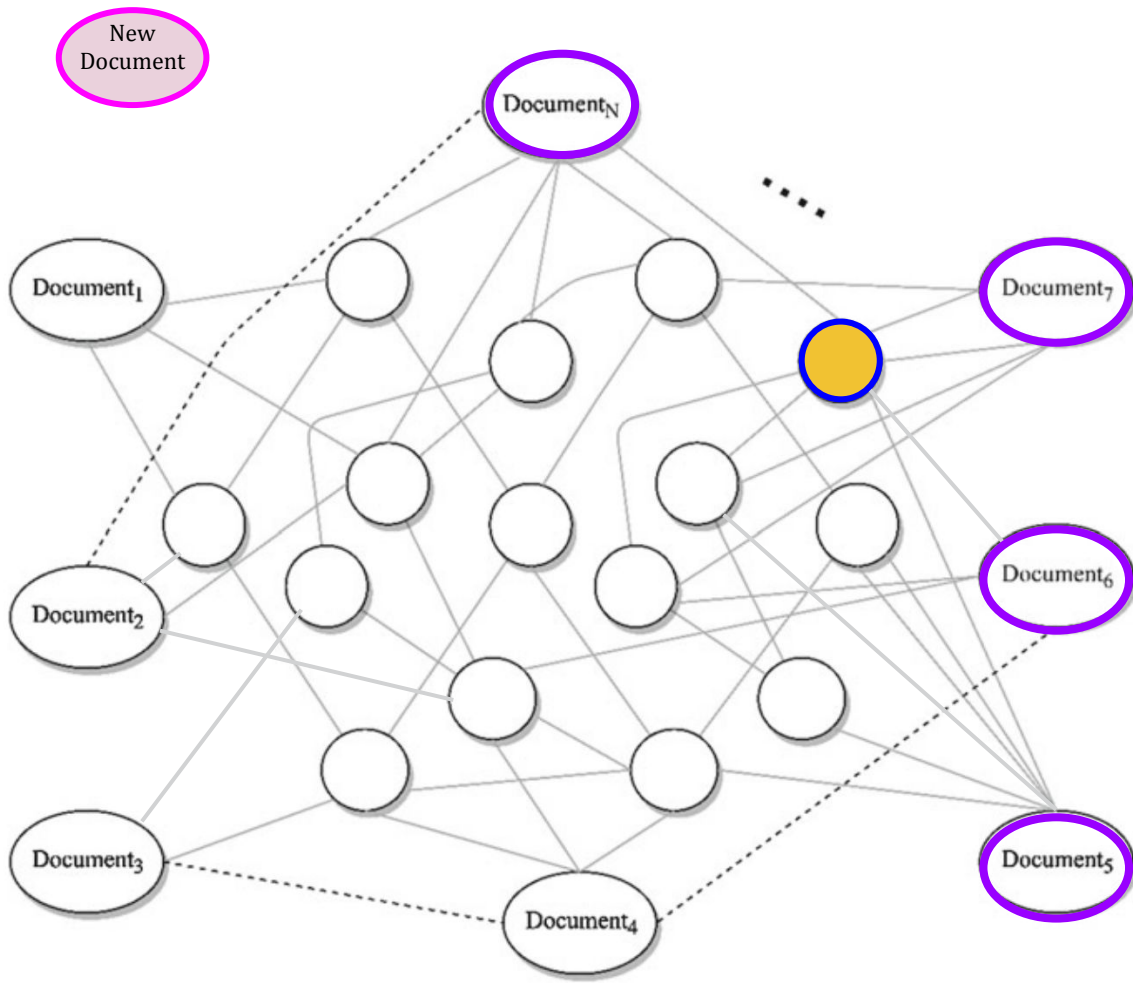






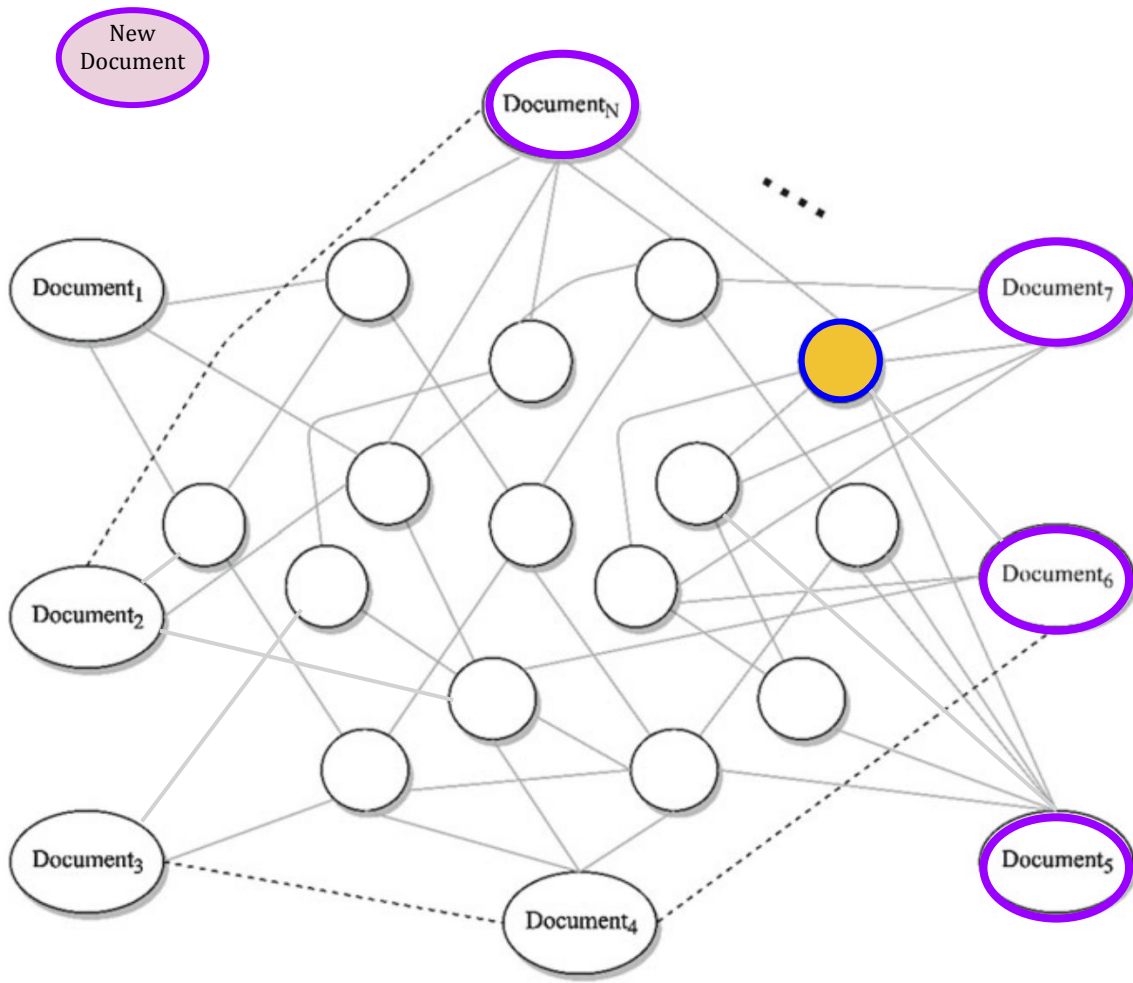
Class 1: 75%  
Class 2: 25%





Class 1: 0%  
Class 2: 100%





Class 1: 0%  
Class 2: 100%

# Measuring the Accuracy

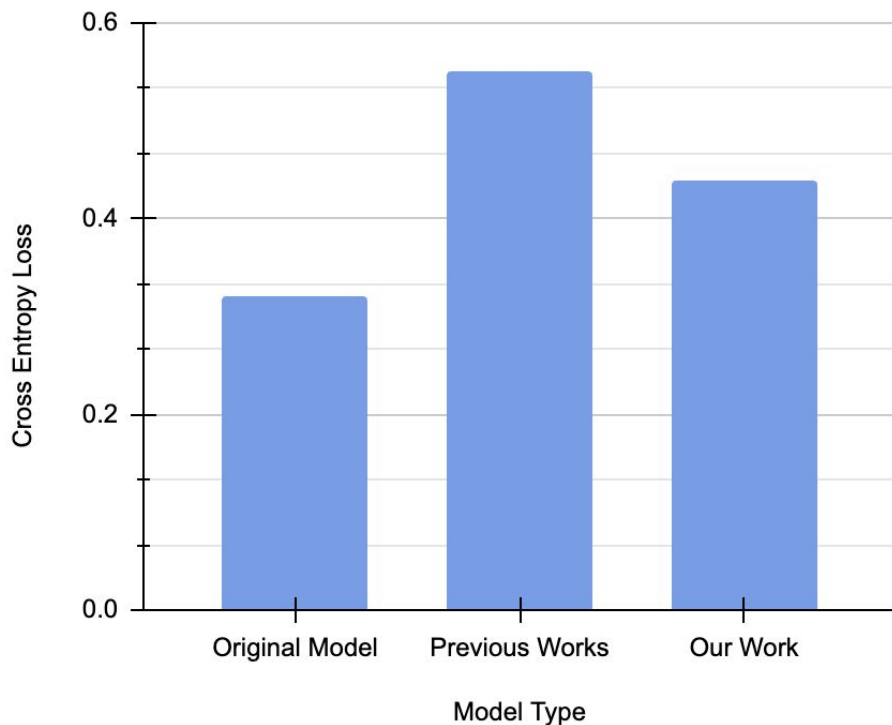
- **Cross Entropy:** Measures the difference between two probability distributions
  - Minimize the amount of entropy in the decisions for document classification for top K
  - Means documents are being classified more accurately
- We use *negative log likelihood loss* on the node label predictions for the GCN Model and binary cross entropy loss on the Edge Predictor model

$$H(p, q) = - \sum_{x \in \text{classes}} p(x) \log q(x)$$

True probability distribution (one-shot)

Your model's predicted probability distribution

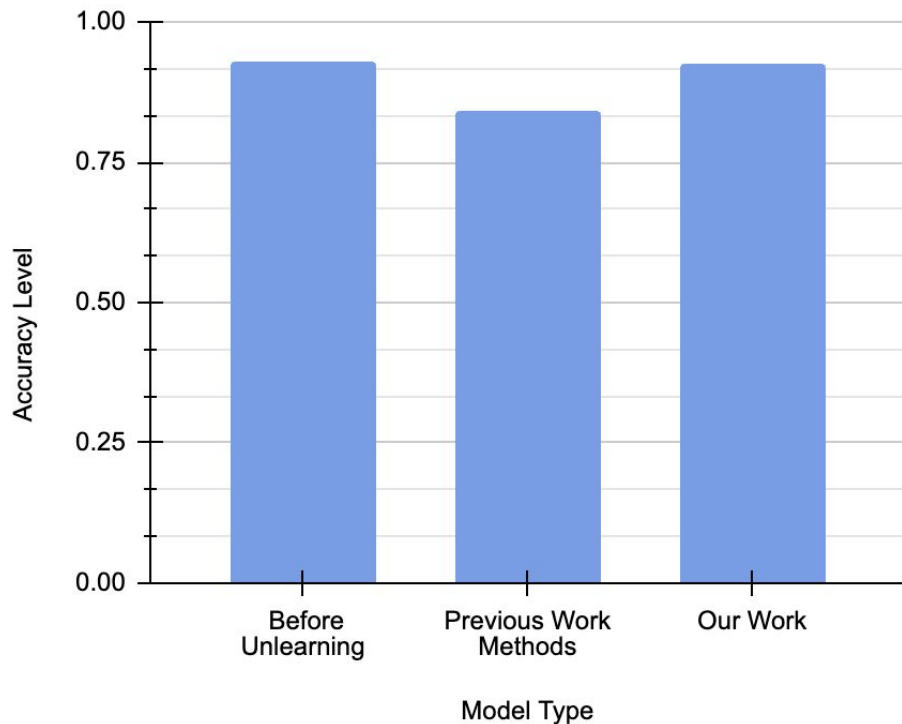
# Loss Function Results On Classification Labels



We measure the cross entropy loss of the function

- Original cross entropy loss of 0.32
- Increase to 0.55 using previous methods
- Our works give 0.44

# Accuracy Results On Classification Labels



We look to the accuracy of how well the model is able to predict the classes

- Original accuracy of 92.8%
- Decreases to 84.3% using current state of the art algorithms
- Our works give an accuracy of 92.55%

# Future Work



- Using bigger datasets
  - Neo4j
- Unlearning edges and the classification together
  - Edges can be used to help reclassify the documents after removing a class
- Comparing the utility of unlearning the entire label with unlearning all the documents within
- Consider how unlearning an edge (say  $(u, v)$ ) may affect the predicted probability of  $(u, w)$  for some other vertex  $w$
- Consider the optimality of reorganizing word importance for classification unlearning
- Compare against previous work
- Theoretical analysis, connection with information theory and differential privacy

# Acknowledgements



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- Thank you to our mentor, Mayuri Sridhar, for guiding our research, and supporting us in every way
- Thank you to our parents for supporting us through the program

# Bibliography



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