



# Distribution Shift Problems in Scientific Domains

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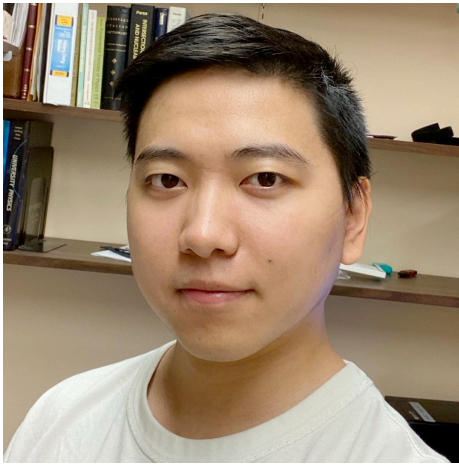


# Introduction

- **PI:** Pan Li



- **A3D3 Trainees:**



Siqi Miao



Shikun Liu



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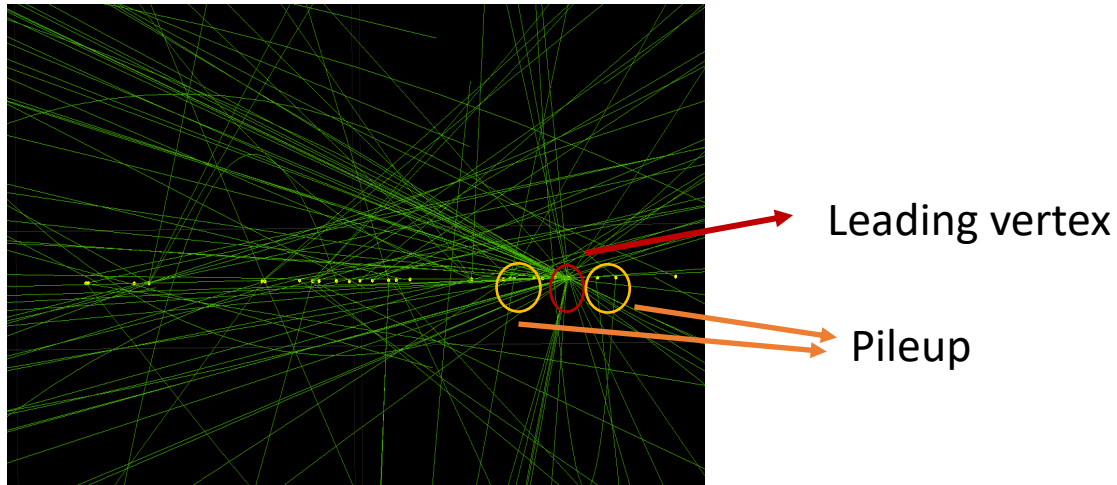
**Focus:** **Interpretable** and  
**generalizable** graph machine  
learning for scientific applications

# Content

- Problems: Various distribution shifts in scientific applications
- A detailed example: Pileup Mitigation
- A principled solution: StruRW algorithm
- Future Works

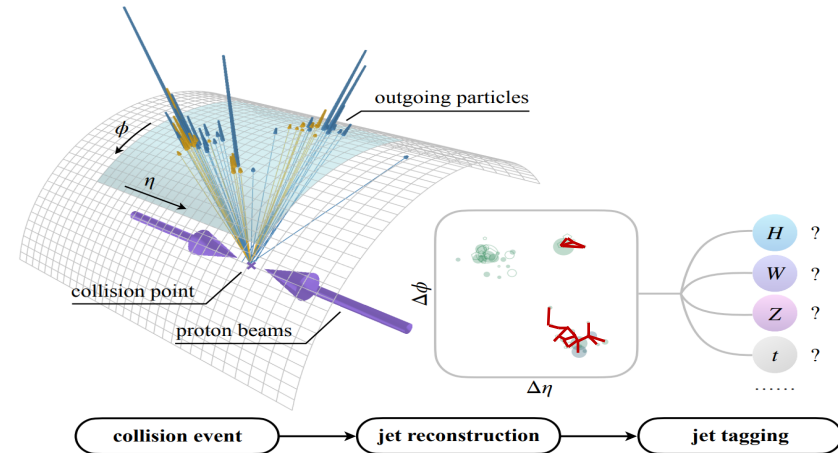
# GNN for Science Applications

- Pileup Mitigation in HEP



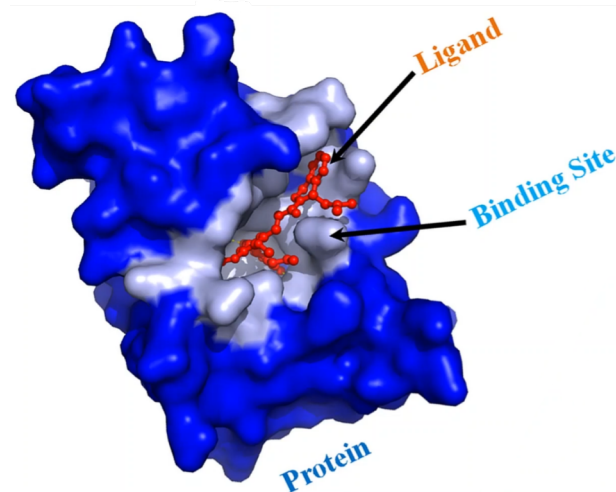
[Li et al., EPJC, 2023]

- Jet Tagging in HEP



[Duvenaud et al., NeurIPS 2015]

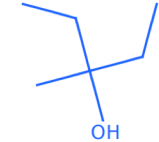
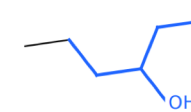
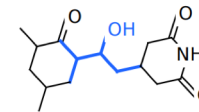
- Protein binding affinity prediction



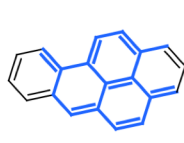
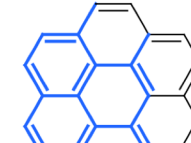
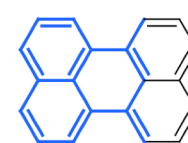
[Karimi et al., 2019]

- Molecular Property Prediction

Fragments most activated by pro-solubility feature



Fragments most activated by anti-solubility feature



Refined based on [Qu, Li, Qian, 2022]



# Distribution Shift Problems

- **What is distribution shift ?**

- Training data and testing data distribution are different

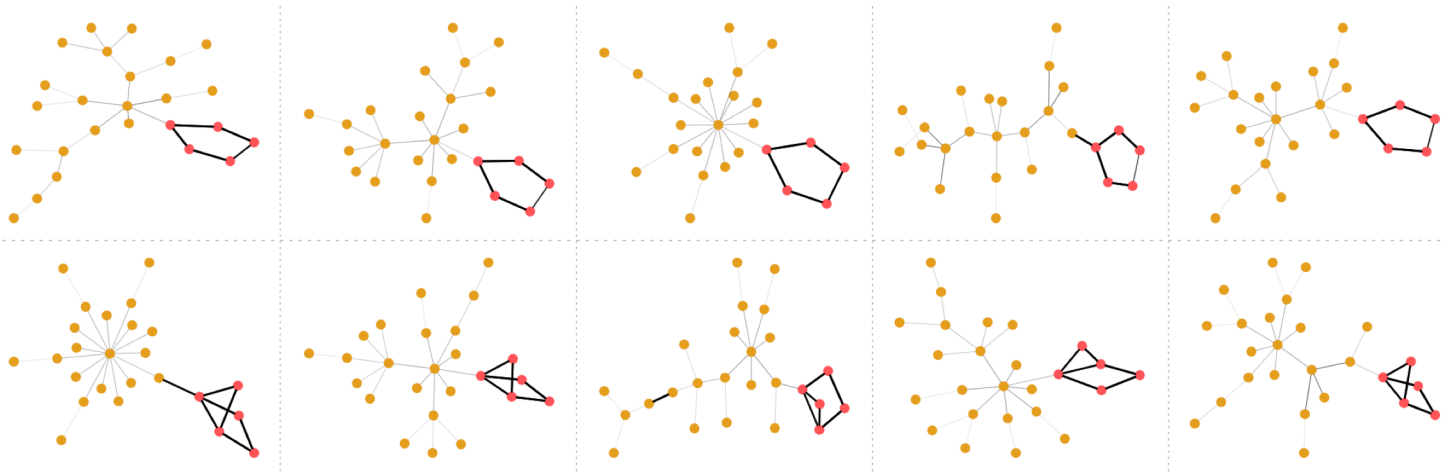
**Trained model can not generalize to the testing phase**

- **Exist widely in many scientific applications**

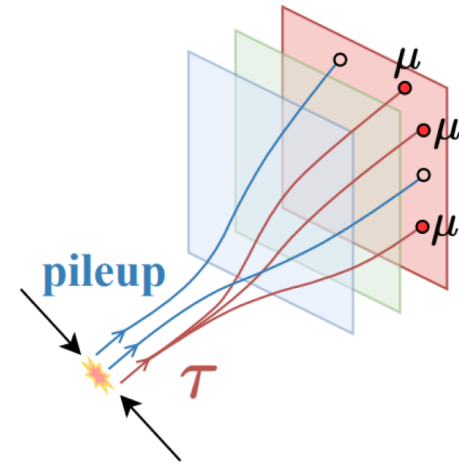
- **Synthetic** data training vs. **real** data testing
- Data obtained varies in **different conditions**
  - Time period
  - Experimental settings (location, environment, noise, ...)
  - Measurement standards
- Require **task-specific generalization**
- .....

# Distribution Shift Problems

- Exist widely in many scientific applications
  - Synthetic data training vs. real data testing
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Molecular property prediction



Detecting signal in HEP

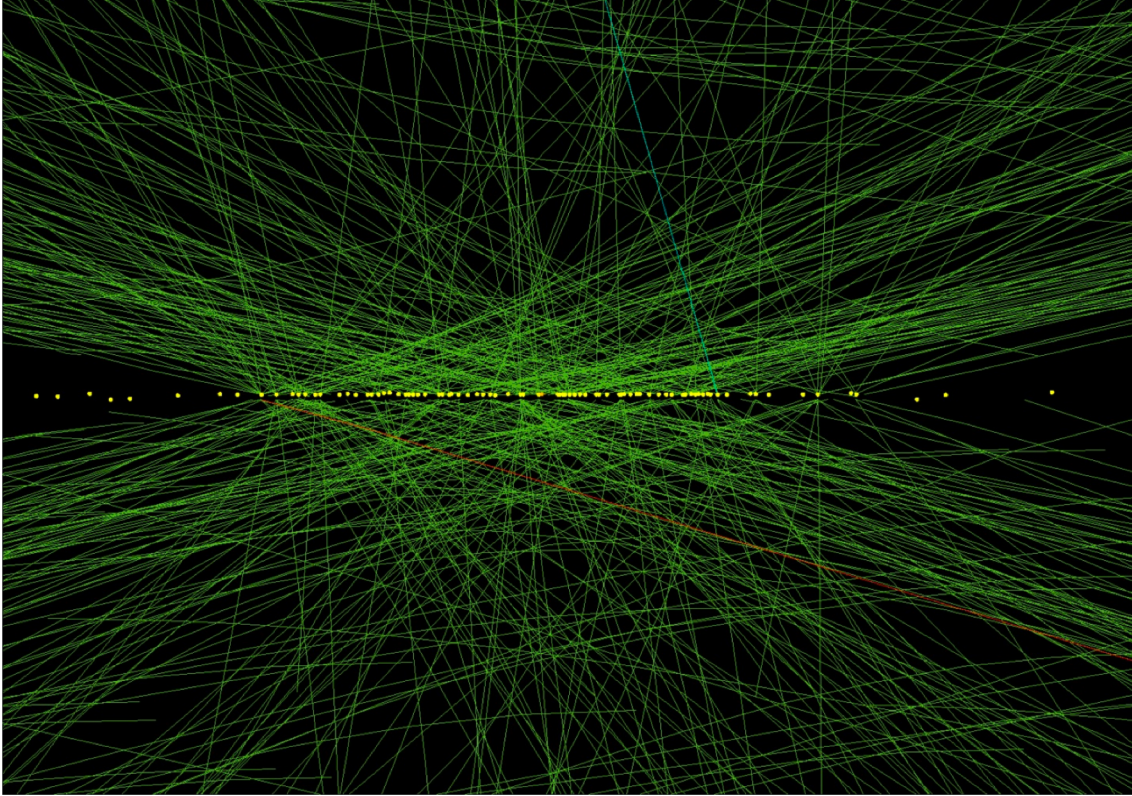
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- Problems: Various distribution shifts in scientific applications
- **A detailed example: Pileup Mitigation**
- A principled solution: StruRW algorithm
- Future Works

# Semi-supervised graph neural networks for pileup noise removal

Tianchun Li\*, Shikun Liu\*, Yongbin Feng\*, Garyfallia Paspalaki, Nhan V. Tran,  
Miaoyuan Liu, Pan Li

# Example: Pileup Mitigation



- **Leading Vertex (LV):** Signal of interest from primary interactions
- **Pileup (PU):** Additional proton-proton interactions in the same or nearby bunch crossings
- **Task:** Identify whether a particle is from the LV or PU
- **Challenge:** Easy to retrieve labels for Charged particles; No truth information for Neutral particles

# Example: Pileup Mitigation

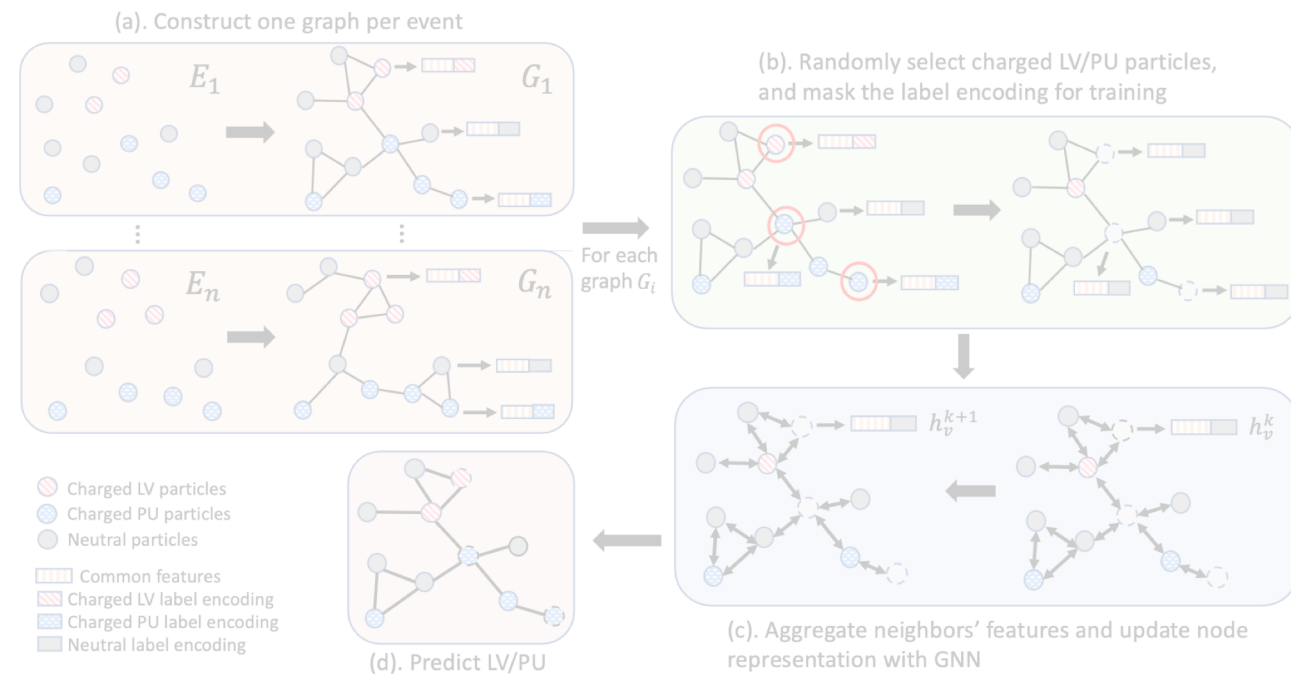
## How we handle this challenge?

A: Let the model train on Charged particles with given labels, then infer on Neutral particles

## Distribution Shift Occurs

- **Intuition:** Make training charged particles look like testing neutral particles

- **Approach:** Masking strategy
- ✓ Assume the shared features have similar distribution
- ✓ Mask the unshared features



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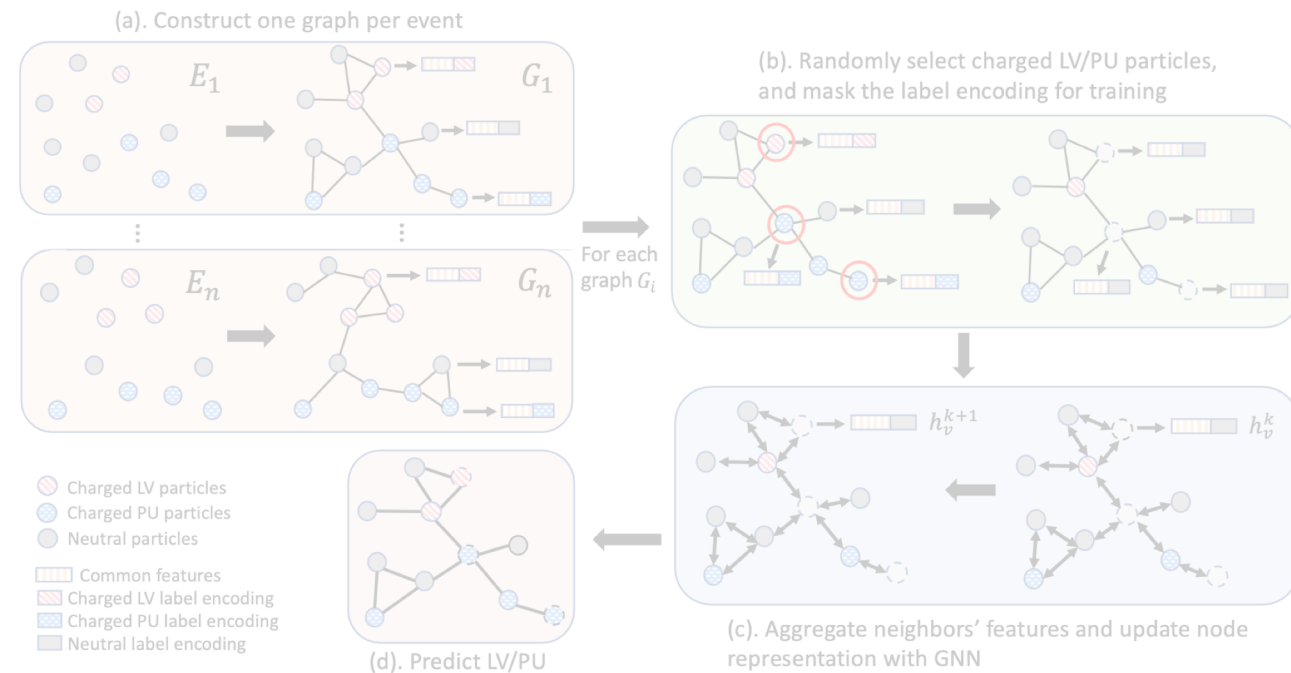
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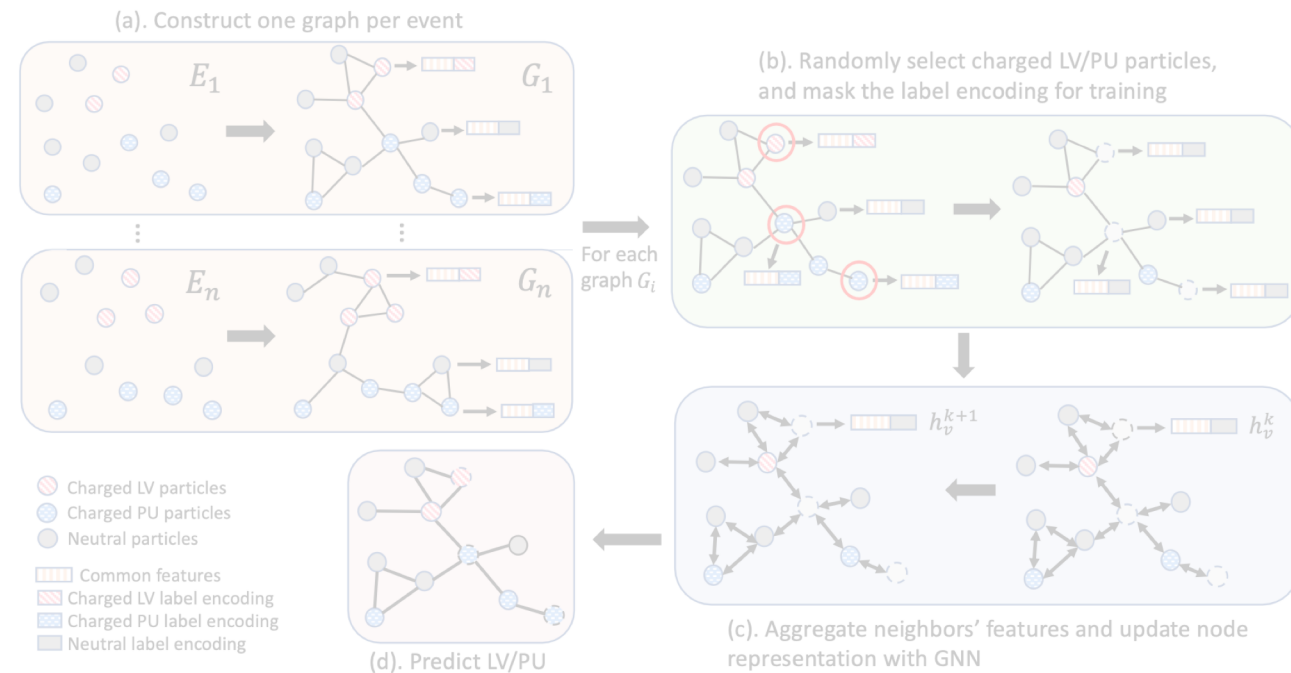
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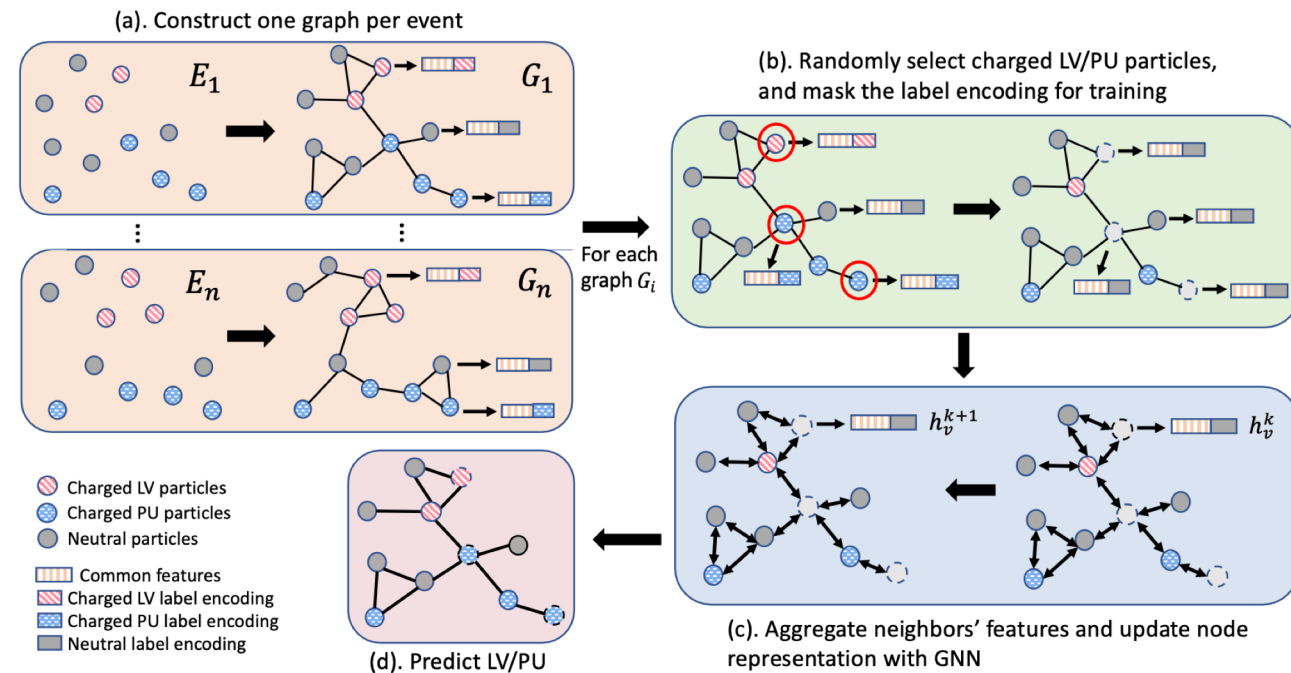
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# However...

- The shared features may exhibit different distributions
- There could be additional graph structure shift
- Additional generalization cases are needed
  - Shift across synthetic and real datasets
  - Shift across different pileup level
  - Shift over particles within different locations of detector

More principled and general methodology is needed

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- A detailed example: Pileup Mitigation
- A principled solution: StruRW algorithm
- Future Works



# Structural Re-weighting Improves Graph Domain Adaptation

Shikun Liu, Tianchun Li, Yongbin Feng, Nhan Tran, Han Zhao, Qiu Qiang, Pan Li



# Problem Formulation

- **Categories:** Out of distribution generalization (OOD) and domain adaptation (DA)
- **Difference:**
  - OOD: no access to target / testing data
  - DA: have access to target / testing data
- **Similar goal:** Want the model to generalize well on target data
- **Focus on:** Unsupervised domain adaptation (have access to target feature but no label information)

$$P_S(X, Y) \neq P_T(X, Y)$$



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- **Assumption:**

- Covariate Shift:  $P_S(X) \neq P_T(X)$  and  $P_S(Y|X) = P_T(Y|X)$
- Label Shift:  $P_S(Y) \neq P_T(Y)$  and  $P_S(X|Y) = P_T(X|Y)$
- Conditional Shift:  $P_S(X|Y) \neq P_T(X|Y)$

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# Principled solution: StruRW – Problem

$$\mathbf{Z} = \phi(\mathbf{X}); P_S(\mathbf{Z}) = P_T(\mathbf{Z})$$

- When extending this idea to graph structured data (GDA) ...
- **Assumption:**  $P_S(Y) = P_T(Y)$

$$\mathbf{Z} = \phi(\mathbf{A}, \mathbf{X}); P_S(\mathbf{Z}) = P_T(\mathbf{Z})$$

A: Adjacency matrix; X: Node features

Suboptimality of invariant representation learning in GDA

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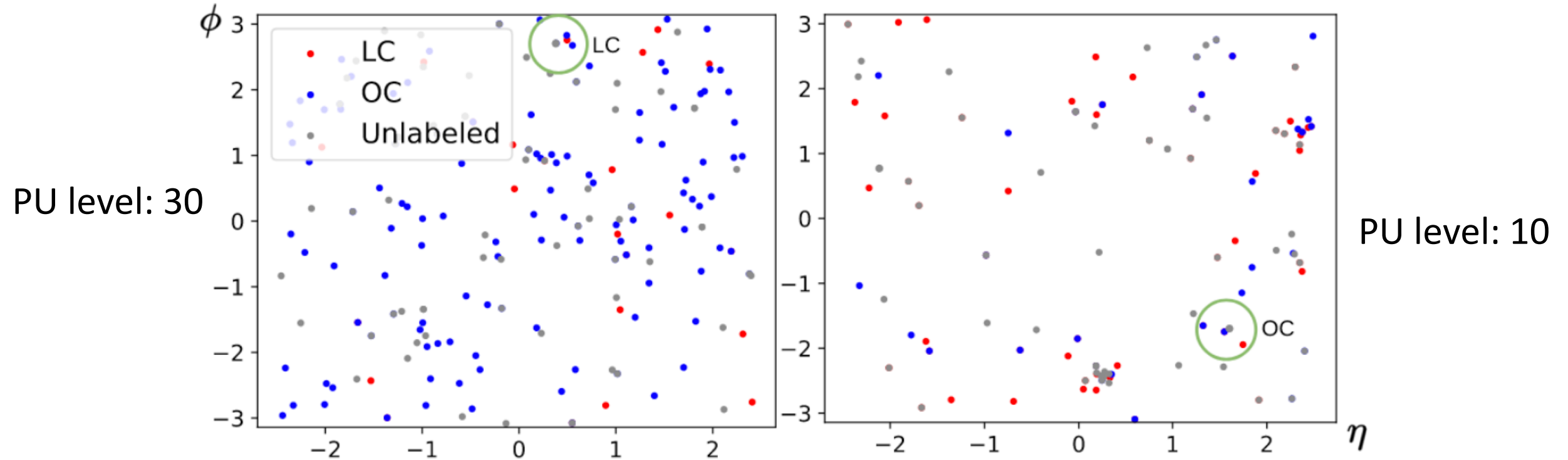
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# Principled solution: StruRW – Problem

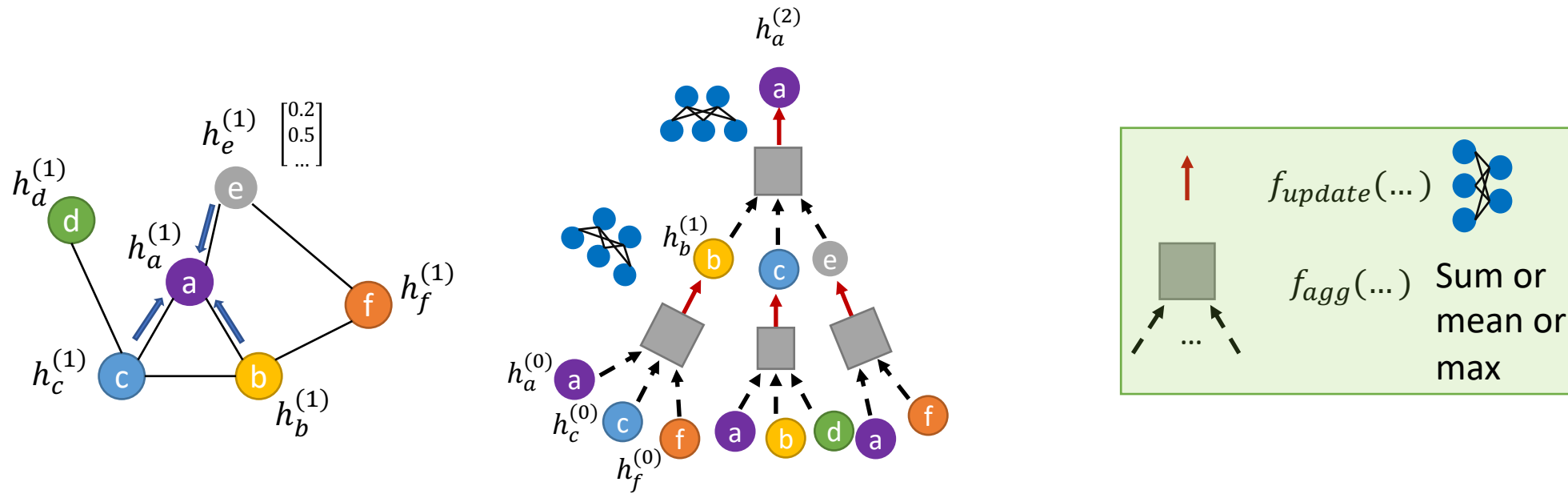
## Conditional Structure Shift (CSS)



$$P_S(A|Y) \neq P_T(A|Y)$$

# Principled solution: StruRW – Methodology

## Graph Neural Network (GNN)



$$h_v^{(t+1)} = f_{update} \left( h_v^{(t)}, f_{agg} \left( \{h_u^{(t)} \mid u \in N_v\} \right) \right)$$

$$h_G = \text{POOL} \left( \{h_v^{(L)} \mid v \in V\} \right)$$



# Principled solution: StruRW – Methodology

Consider the **one layer Message Passing** as aggregating **neighborhood representations** to form a multiset

Source	Different cardinality and distribution of elements in multisets	Target
$\{h_0, h_1, h_0, h_1, h_1, \dots\}$		$\{h_0, h_0, h_0, h_0, h_1, \dots\}$
$\{h_0, h_1, h_1, h_1, h_1, \dots\}$		$\{h_1, h_1, h_0, h_0, h_0, \dots\}$
$\vdots$		$\vdots$

**Goal:** Downsample / resample the elements in multiset to let the source multiset distribution approximate target multiset distribution

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⋮

Different **cardinality**  
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# Methodology: StruRW

**Goal:** Downsample / resample the elements in multiset to let the source multiset distribution approximate target multiset distribution

## In Practice ...

- Graph structure describes as the edge connection probability
  - a  $k \times k$  edge connection probability matrix  $\mathbf{B}$  with  $k$  classes
  - For a class- $i$  node,  $nB_{ij}$  many class- $j$  attributes for  $j \in [k]$  in the multiset
- GNN pooling layer in aggregating information in multisets

Transforms as edge weights from class- $j$  nodes to class- $i$  nodes with  $B_{ij}^T/B_{ij}^S$  on source graph

$$B_{ij} = \frac{|\{e_{uv} \in \mathcal{E} | y_u = i, y_v = j\}|}{|\{v \in \mathcal{V} | y_v = i\}| \times |\{v \in \mathcal{V} | y_v = j\}|}$$

# Principled solution: StruRW – Methodology

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## In Practice ...

- Estimate the edge connection probability
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$B_{ij}^T$  can be approximated with pseudo-labels

Hyperparameter:  $\lambda + (1 - \lambda)B_{ij}^T / B_{ij}^S$

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## In Practice ...

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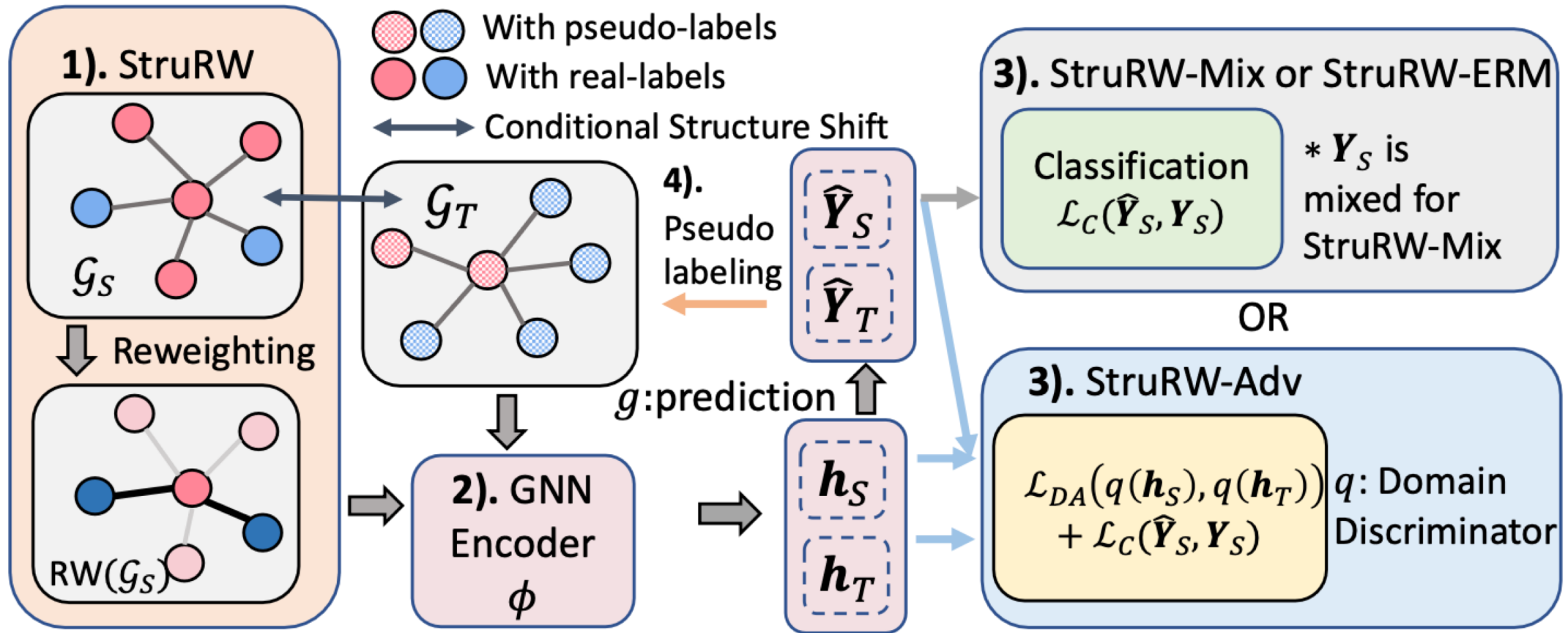
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# Principled solution: StruRW – Methodology





# Principled solution: StruRW – Experiments

Table 2: Synthetic CSBM results. The **bold** font and the underline indicate the first and second best model respectively, † indicates the significant improvement, where the mean-1\*std of a method > the mean of its corresponding backbone model.

	$q = 0.016$	$q = 0.014$	$q = 0.012$	$q = 0.01$	$q = 0.006$	$q = 0.001$
ERM	$36.52 \pm 3.76$	$41.62 \pm 5.92$	$48.66 \pm 6.31$	$57.29 \pm 5.28$	$89.72 \pm 2.62$	$100 \pm 0$
DANN	$64.25 \pm 5.69$	$72.56 \pm 8.54$	$79.63 \pm 6.84$	$86.29 \pm 8.14$	$96.88 \pm 1.35$	$100 \pm 0$
CDAN	$67.53 \pm 4.98$	$75.38 \pm 7.46$	$82.51 \pm 6.95$	$89.73 \pm 7.44$	$97.03 \pm 1.09$	$100 \pm 0$
UDAGCN	$51.98 \pm 1.31$	$57.83 \pm 3.05$	$59.74 \pm 1.52$	$65.97 \pm 1.66$	$98.25 \pm 0.52$	$100 \pm 0$
EERM	$57.36 \pm 4.52$	$65.88 \pm 3.09$	$70.12 \pm 10.26$	$72.87 \pm 13.70$	$95.01 \pm 3.88$	$100 \pm 0$
MIXUP	$62.54 \pm 2.77$	$69.21 \pm 2.03$	$74.92 \pm 1.56$	$82.87 \pm 3.45$	$96.89 \pm 0.38$	$100 \pm 0$
STRURW-ERM	$85.24^\dagger \pm 1.63$	$87.92^\dagger \pm 1.77$	$90.26^\dagger \pm 1.05$	$93.84^\dagger \pm 0.98$	$98.28^\dagger \pm 0.14$	<b><math>100 \pm 0</math></b>
STRURW-ADV	<u><math>86.37^\dagger \pm 3.92</math></u>	<u><math>89.22^\dagger \pm 1.83</math></u>	<u><math>91.53^\dagger \pm 2.41</math></u>	<u><math>94.08^\dagger \pm 0.98</math></u>	<b><u><math>98.40^\dagger \pm 0.34</math></u></b>	<b><math>100 \pm 0</math></b>
STRURW-MIX	<b><u><math>88.48^\dagger \pm 1.93</math></u></b>	<b><u><math>89.76^\dagger \pm 1.15</math></u></b>	<b><u><math>92.08^\dagger \pm 1.13</math></u></b>	<b><u><math>94.26^\dagger \pm 0.99</math></u></b>	<u><math>98.35^\dagger \pm 0.23</math></u>	<b><math>100 \pm 0</math></b>

- Performance decreases with increase in CSS (from smaller  $q$  to larger  $q$ )
- StruRW-based methods significantly outperform other baselines especially under large CSS

# Principled solution: StruRW – Experiments

Table 4: HEP dataset with different PU conditions and Physical process. The **bold** font indicate the best model, † indicates the significant improvement, where the mean-1\*std of a method > the mean of its corresponding backbone model.

DOMAINS	PU CONDITIONS				PHYSICAL PROCESSES	
	PU30 → 10	PU10 → 30	PU140 → 50	PU50 → 140	$gg \rightarrow Z(\nu\nu)$	$Z(\nu\nu) \rightarrow gg$
ERM	69.83 ± 0.43	70.73 ± 0.46	68.70 ± 0.56	68.28 ± 0.65	63.09 ± 0.48	66.53 ± 1.04
DANN	70.14 ± 0.52	71.29 ± 0.58	69.01 ± 0.42	68.98 ± 0.63	63.15 ± 0.66	66.24 ± 0.97
STRURW-ERM	71.35 <sup>†</sup> ± 0.76	71.95 <sup>†</sup> ± 0.24	69.43 <sup>†</sup> ± 0.65	69.05 ± 0.36	63.55 ± 0.40	<b>67.73</b> ± 0.93
STRURW-ADV	<b>70.77<sup>†</sup></b> ± 0.52	<b>71.96</b> ± 0.73	<b>69.88<sup>†</sup></b> ± 0.71	<b>70.54</b> ± 0.84	<b>64.36<sup>†</sup></b> ± 0.58	66.91 ± 0.67

- StruRW-based methods perform better than baselines
- The smaller gap may be due to the physics task itself being:
  - Binary classification
  - Multigraph training and testing process

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# Principled solution: Future Works

- **Scientific Application:**

- Extend the Pileup Mitigation project to real data setting
- Currently try with some DA techniques to boost pileup mitigation performance
- Seek for more applications that exist distribution shifts

- **ML on distribution shift**

- Elaborate on the StruRW project with more general assumptions
- An OOD benchmark project on various scientific applications (HEP, biology, material science)

# Conclusion

- Distribution shifts are critical problems in scientific domain
- We have proposed series of work to handle distribution shifts
  - Masking in Pileup Mitigation project
  - More principled StruRW algorithm
- If are interested in our work



Pileup Mitigation Paper



StruRW Paper



StruRW Code



# Thank you Q & A

Thanks to NSF and A3D3 (OAC-2117997) for funding our research



Pileup Mitigation Paper



StruRW Paper



StruRW Code

