

# Order Matters: Probabilistic Modeling of Node Sequence for Graph Generation

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Francisco J. R. Ruiz <sup>2</sup>   Liping Liu <sup>1</sup>

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<sup>\*</sup>Equal Contribution



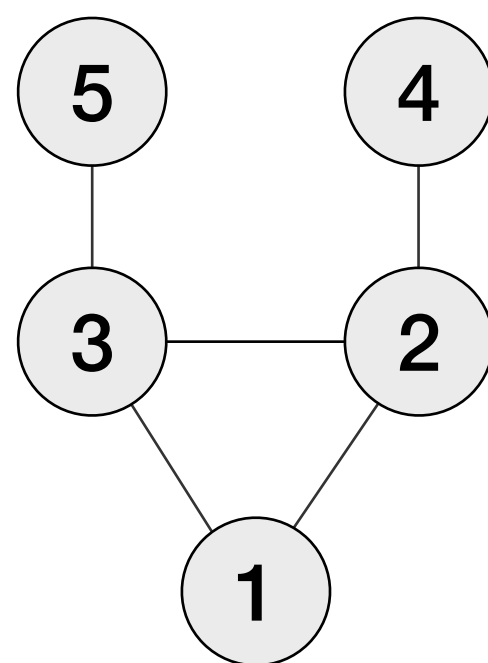
# Problem of Autoregressive Graph Generation

Two types of autoregressive models:

1. Based on adjacency matrix [You et al., 2018; Liao et al., 2019; Shi et al., 2020; Goyal et al., 2020]

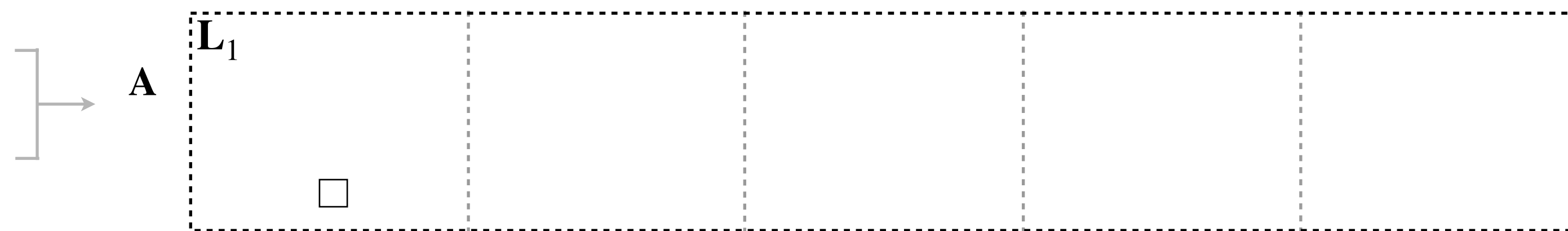
Consider **node orderings**  $(1,3,5,2,4)$  and  $(1,2,4,3,5)$  and adjacency matrix  $A = L + L^T$

$$P(A) = P(\otimes | L) \prod_{t=2}^n P(L_{t,:} | L_{1:(t-1)})$$



$\pi = (1,3,5,2,4)$

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Graph  $G$

Node ordering  $\pi$

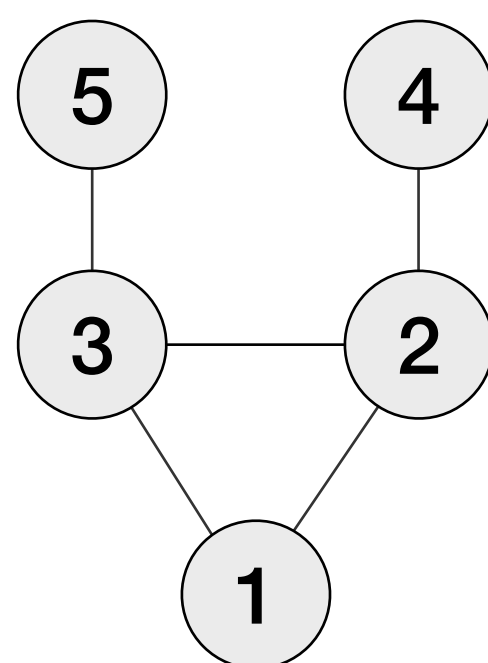
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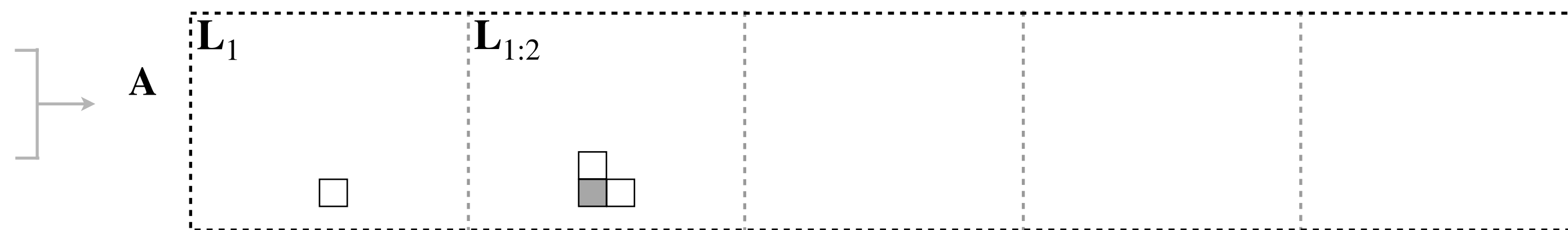
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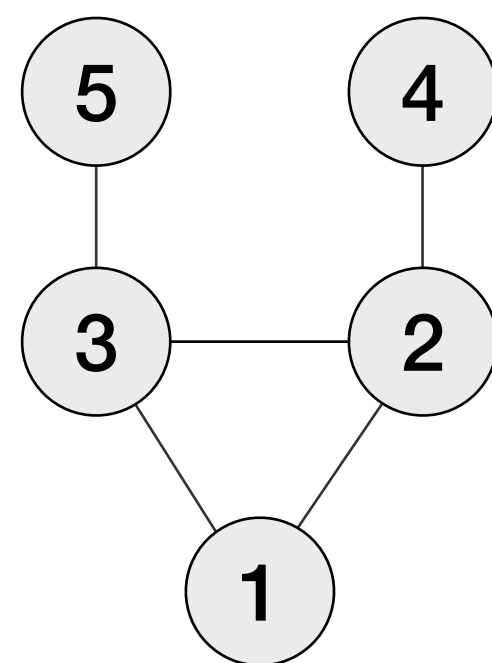
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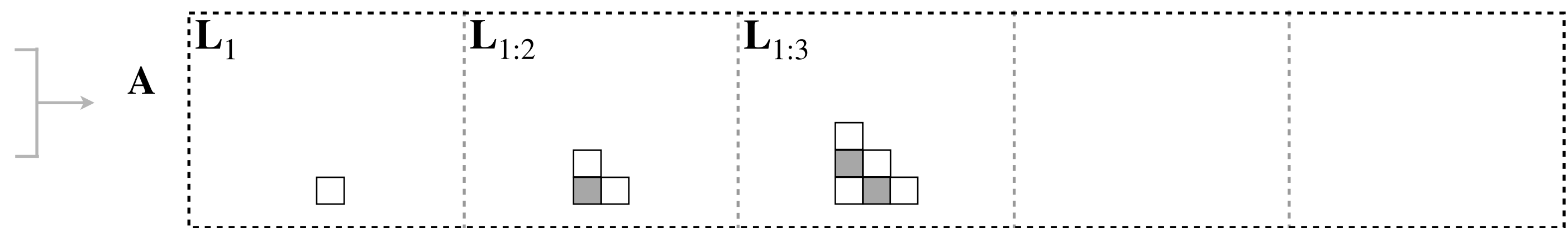


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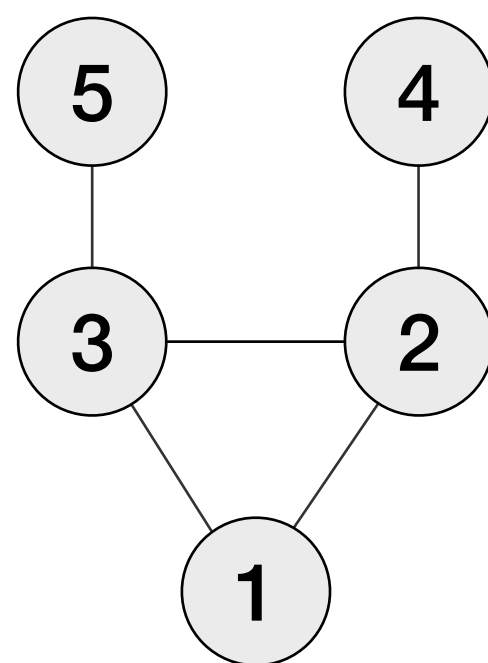
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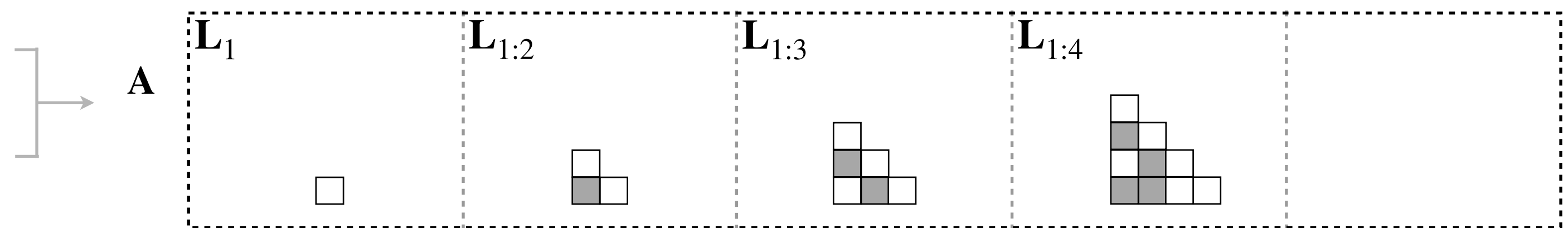
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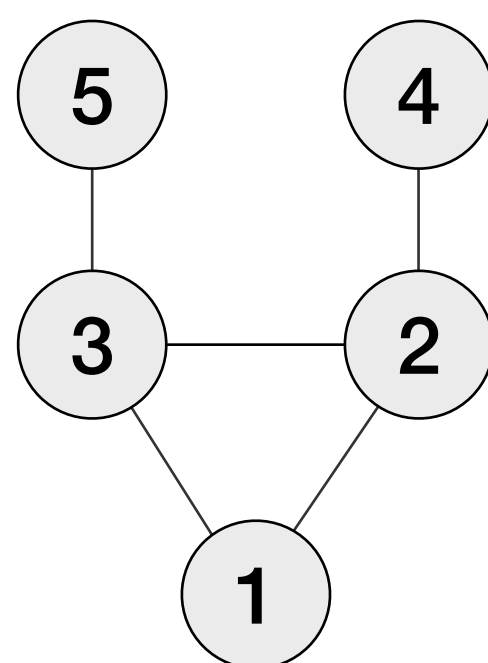
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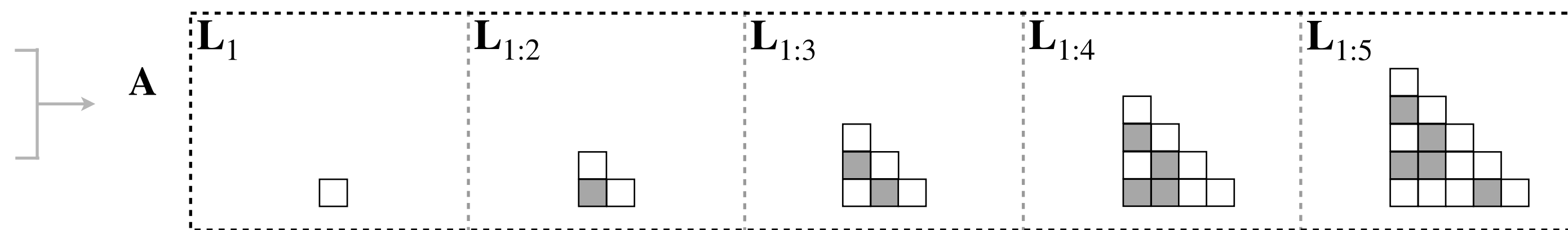
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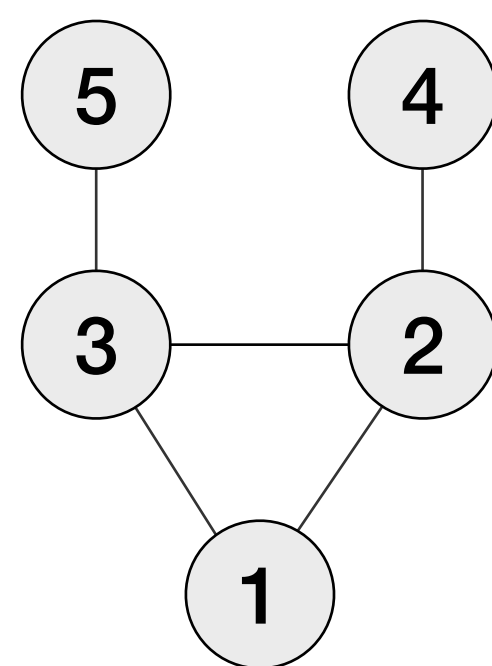
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$$P(G_{1:n}) = P(\otimes | G_n) \prod_{t=2}^n P(G_t | G_{t-1})$$



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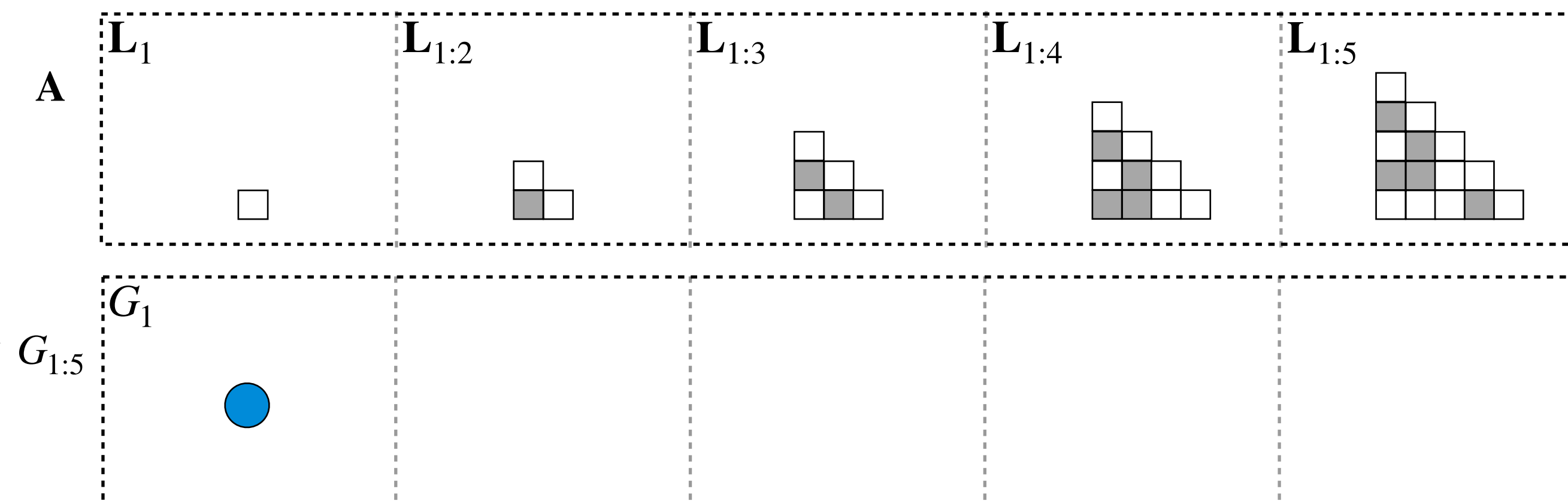
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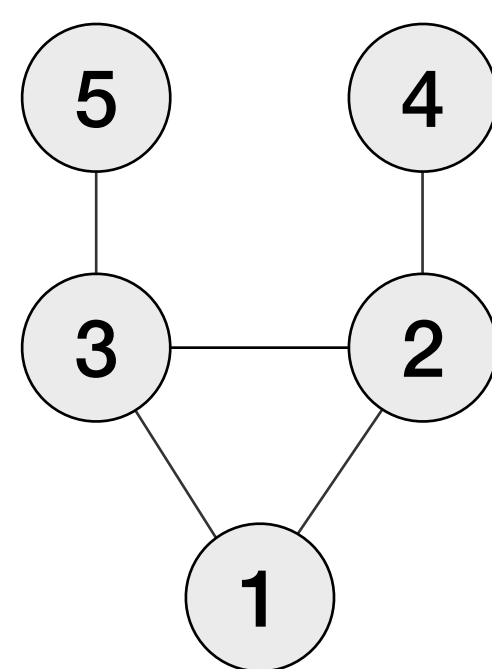
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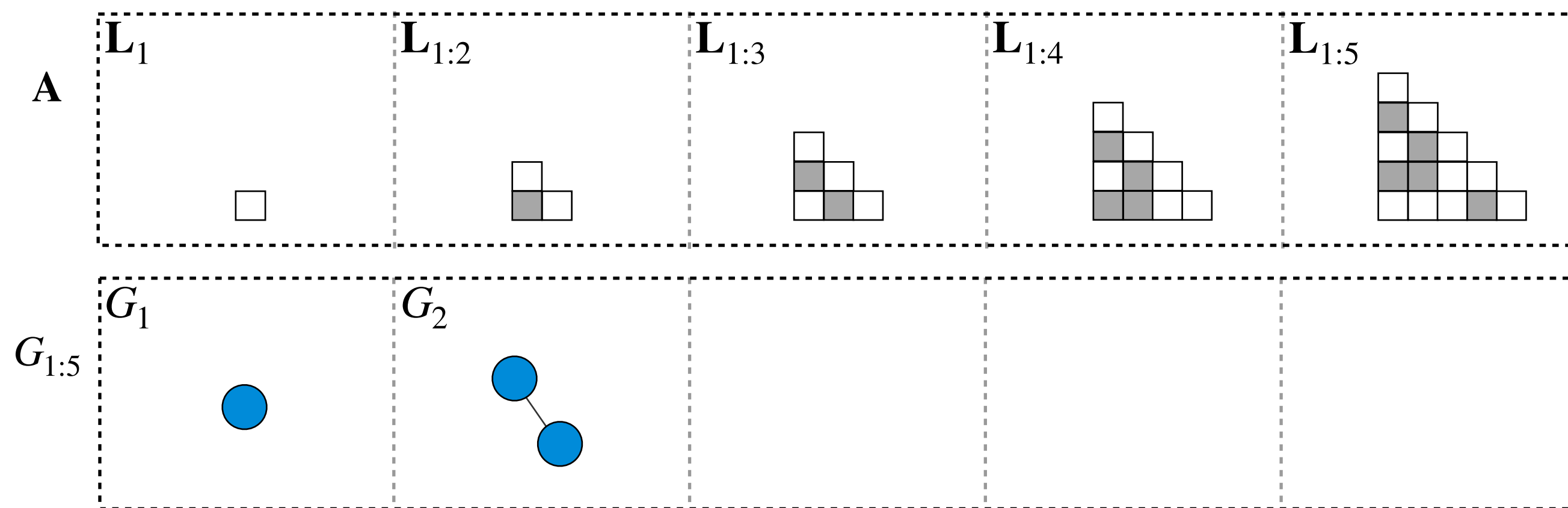
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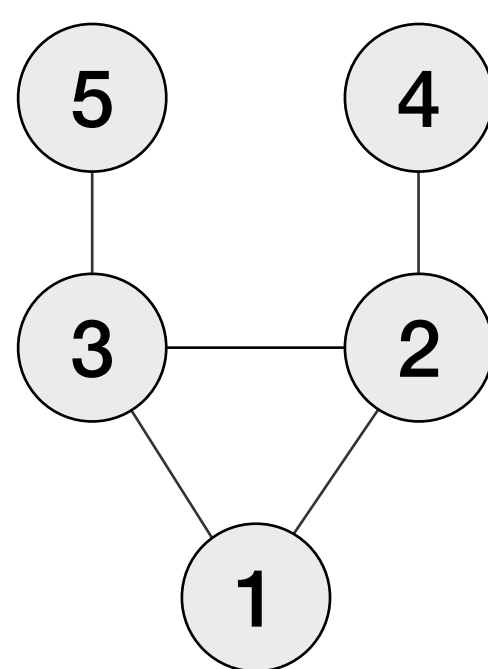
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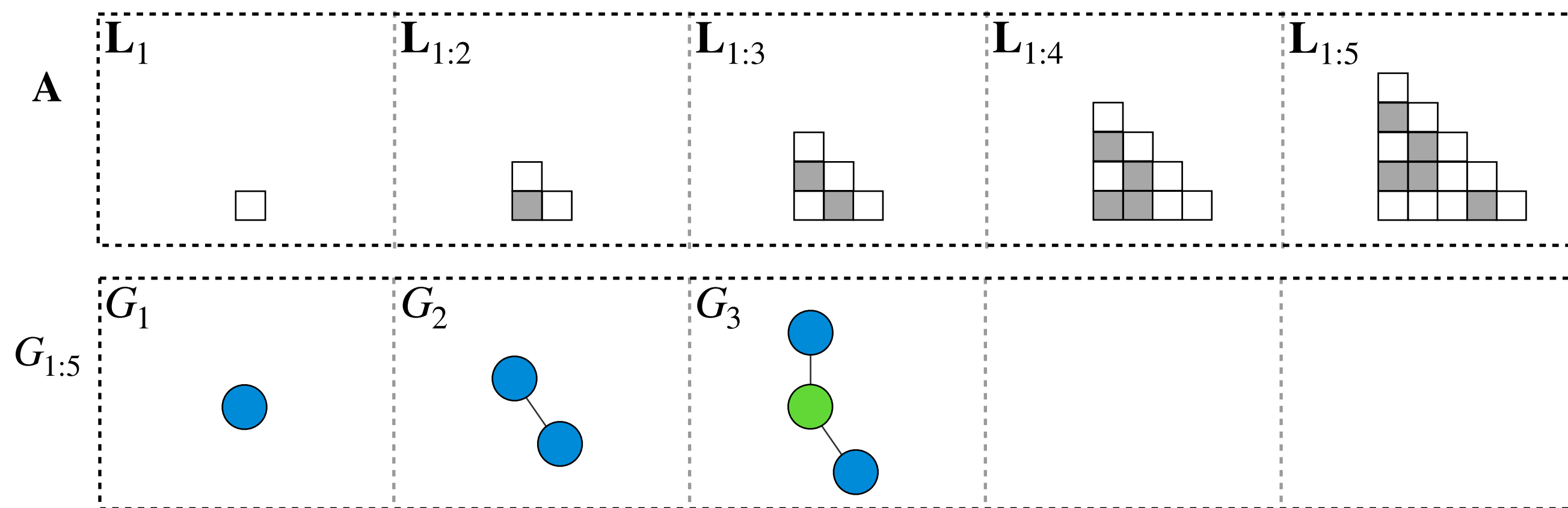
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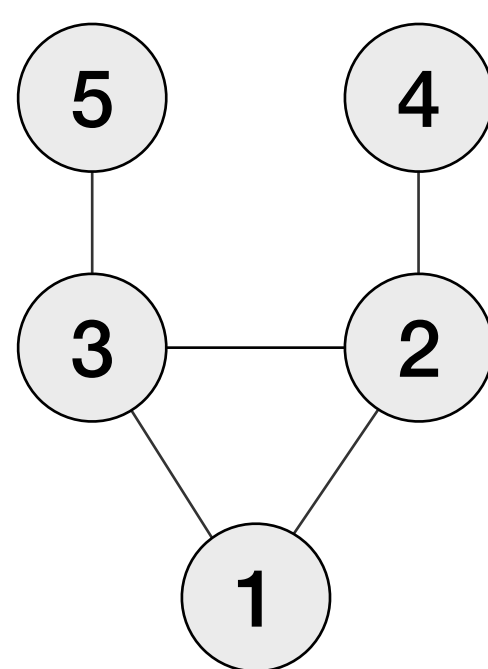
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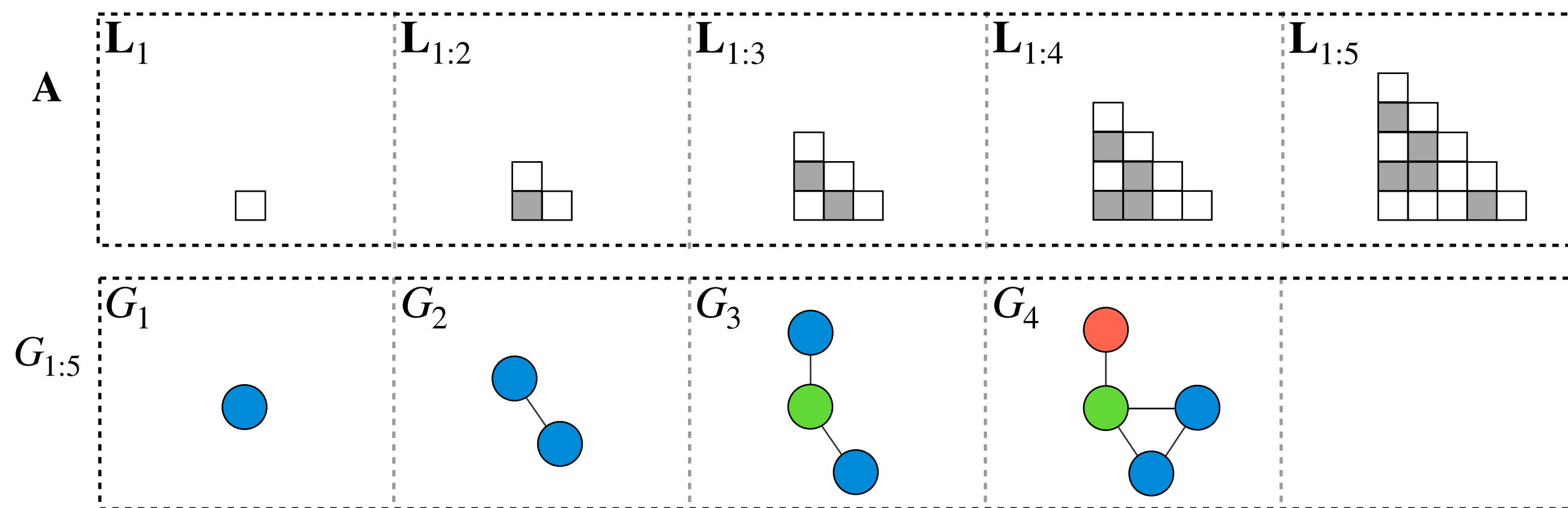
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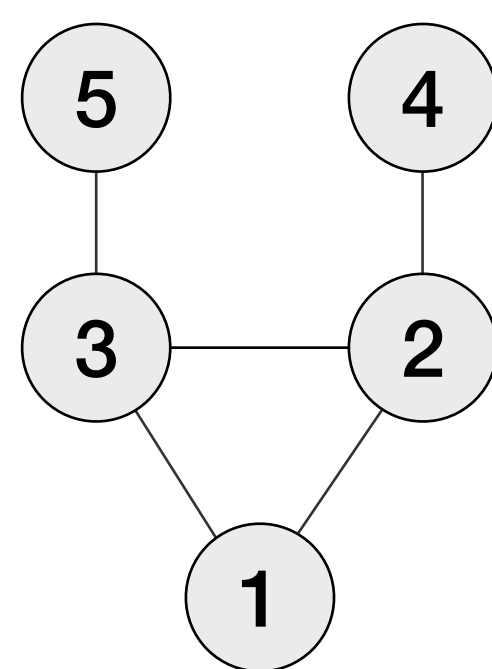
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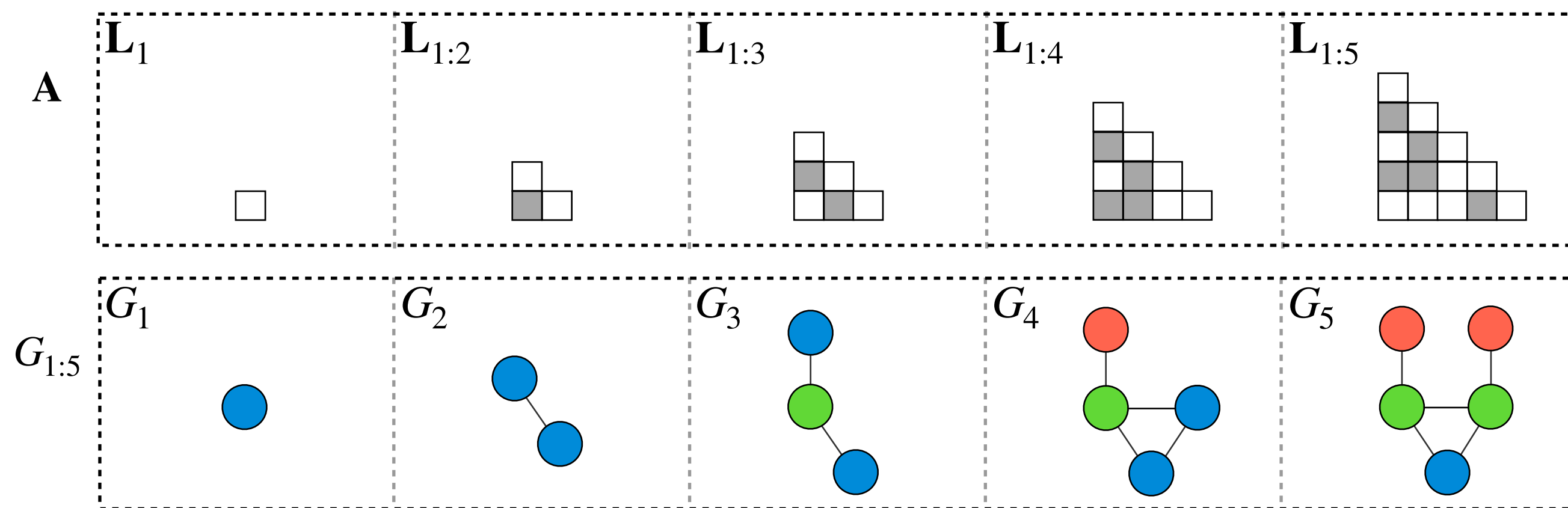
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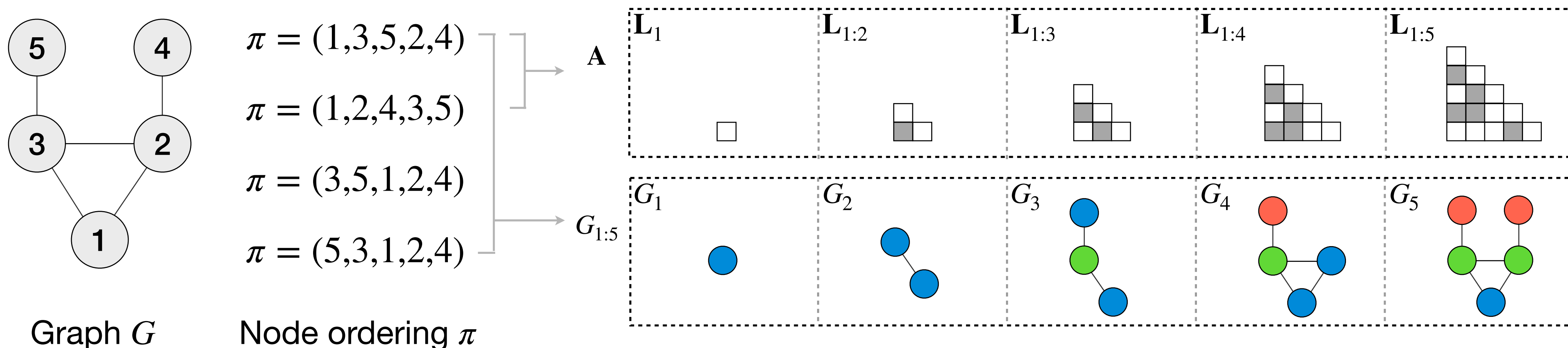
Node ordering  $\pi$



# Problem of Autoregressive Graph Generation

Observations:

1. A graph  $G$  does not naturally have a unique adjacency matrix  $A$  or sequence  $G$ 
  - For that, we need to choose a node ordering  $\pi$
  - A tuple  $(G, \pi)$  uniquely determines  $A/G_{1:n}$ , then we can fit the likelihood  $p(A)/p(G_{1:n})$
2. There are multiple  $(G, \pi)$ -s leading to the same  $A/G_{1:n}$  due to the **graph automorphism**
3. An autoregressive generative model (which generates  $A/G_{1:n}$ ) does not specify a distribution over  $\pi$



# Bridging Node Ordering $\pi$ and $A/G_{1:n}$

- To fit a graph model via MLE, we need the marginal likelihood

$$P(G) = \sum_{\mathbf{A} \in \mathcal{A}(G)} P(\mathbf{A}) \qquad p(G) = \sum_{G_{1:n}: G_n=G} p(G_{1:n})$$

- The marginalization space of  $A/G_{1:n}$  is very hard to characterize, while the space of  $\pi$  is very easy

$$P(G) = \sum_{(G,\pi)} P(G, \pi)$$

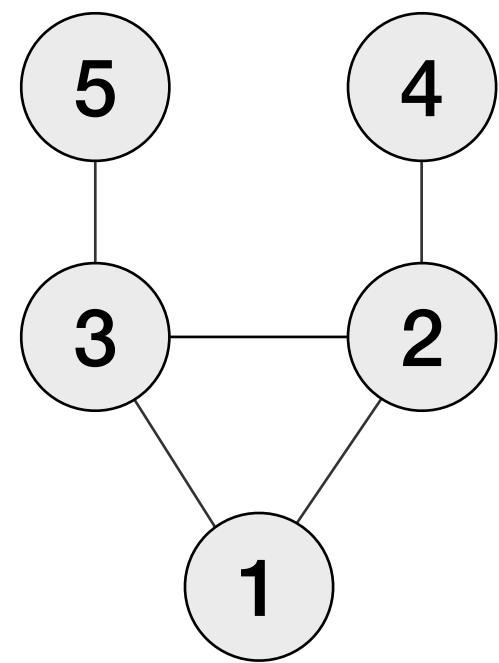
- Relation between  $P(A)/P(G_{1:n})$  and  $P(G, \pi)$

$$\begin{aligned} P(G, \pi) &= \frac{1}{|\Pi[A]|} P(A); \quad |\Pi[A]| = \text{number of graph automorphism} \\ &= \frac{1}{|\Pi[G_{1:n}]|} P(G_{1:n}); \quad |\Pi[G_{1:n}]| = \sum_{i=1}^n \text{orbit count of target node } i \text{ at } G_i \end{aligned}$$

# Bridging Node Ordering $\pi$ and $A/G_{1:n}$ : Example

$$P(G, \pi) = \frac{1}{|\Pi[A]|} P(A) = \frac{1}{2} P(A)$$

$$|\Pi[A]| = |\text{Aut}(G)| = 2$$



Graph  $G$

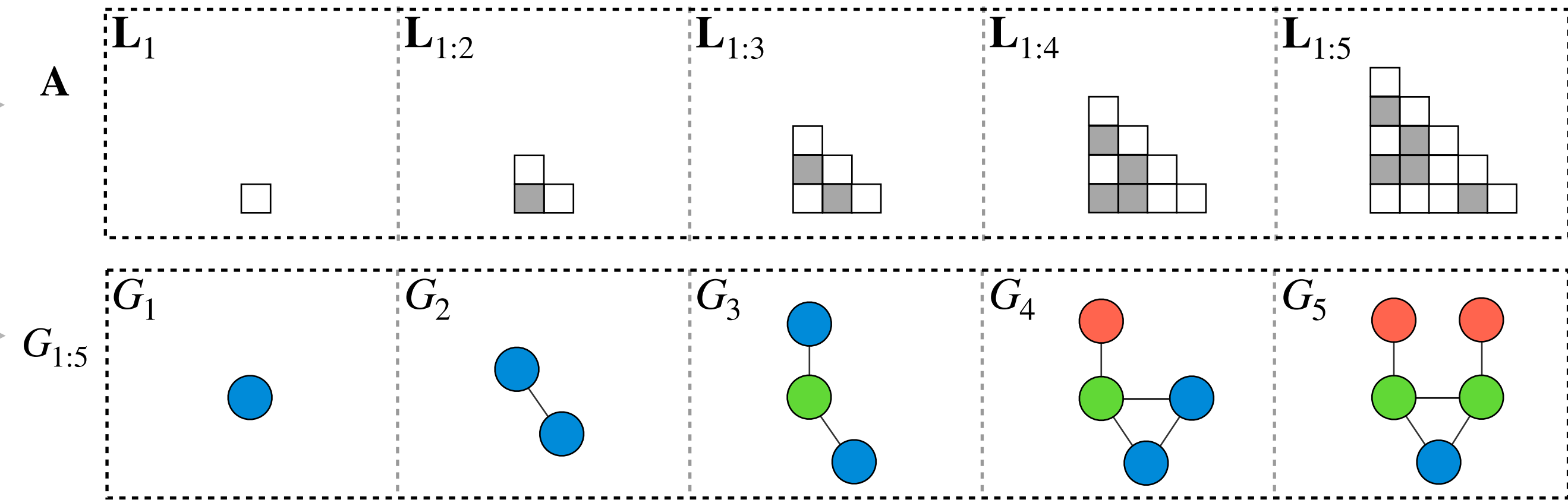
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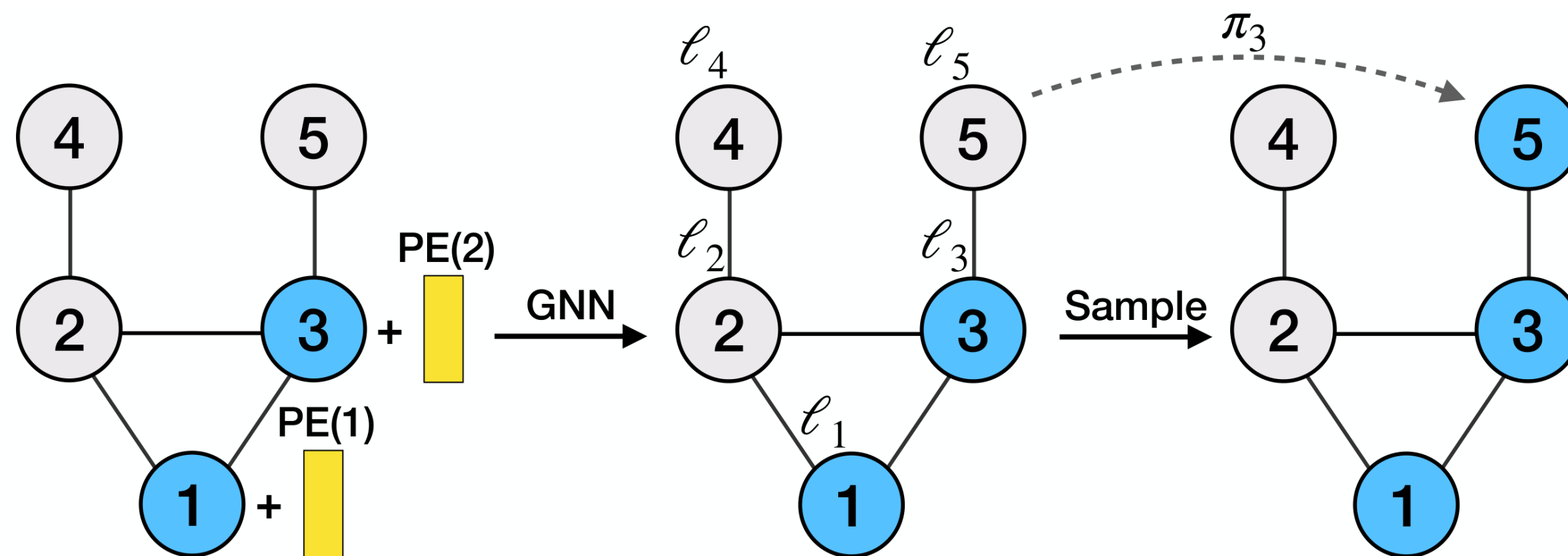


$$|\Pi[G_{1:n}]| = 1 \times 2 \times 2 \times 1 \times 2 = 8$$

$$P(G, \pi) = \frac{1}{|\Pi[G_{1:n}]|} P(G_{1:n}) = \frac{1}{8} P(G_{1:n})$$

# Optimizing the Node ordering

- Introduce a variational distribution  $q(\pi | G)$  to approximate  $p(\pi | G)$ 
  - Parameterizing  $q_\phi(\pi | G)$  using GNN
  - sample node recurrently to generate node ordering  $\pi$



- Maximize ELBO w.r.t generative model  $\theta$  and variational parameters  $\phi$

$$L(\theta, \phi, G) = \mathbb{E}_{q_\phi(\pi|G)} [\log p_\theta(G, \pi) - \log q_\phi(\pi | G)]$$

# Optimizing the Node ordering

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**Algorithm 1** VI algorithm for training a graph model based on the adjacency matrix  $\mathbf{A}$

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**Input:** Dataset of graphs  $\mathcal{G} = \{G_1, \dots, G_n\}$ , model  $p_\theta$ , variational distribution  $q_\phi$ , sample size  $S$

**Output:** Learned parameters  $\theta$  and  $\phi$

**repeat**

**for**  $G \in \mathcal{G}$  **do**

    Sample  $\pi^{(1)}, \dots, \pi^{(S)} \stackrel{\text{iid}}{\sim} q_\phi(\pi|G)$

    Obtain  $\mathbf{A}^{(s)}$  from  $(G, \pi^{(s)})$

    Set  $p_\theta(G, \pi^{(s)}) = \frac{1}{|\Pi[\mathbf{A}^{(s)}]|} p_\theta(\mathbf{A}^{(s)})$

    Compute  $\nabla_\phi \leftarrow \nabla_\phi L(\theta, \phi, G)$

    Compute  $\nabla_\theta \leftarrow \nabla_\theta L(\theta, \phi, G)$

    Update  $\phi, \theta$  using the gradients  $\nabla_\phi, \nabla_\theta$

**end for**

**until** convergence of the parameters  $(\theta, \phi)$

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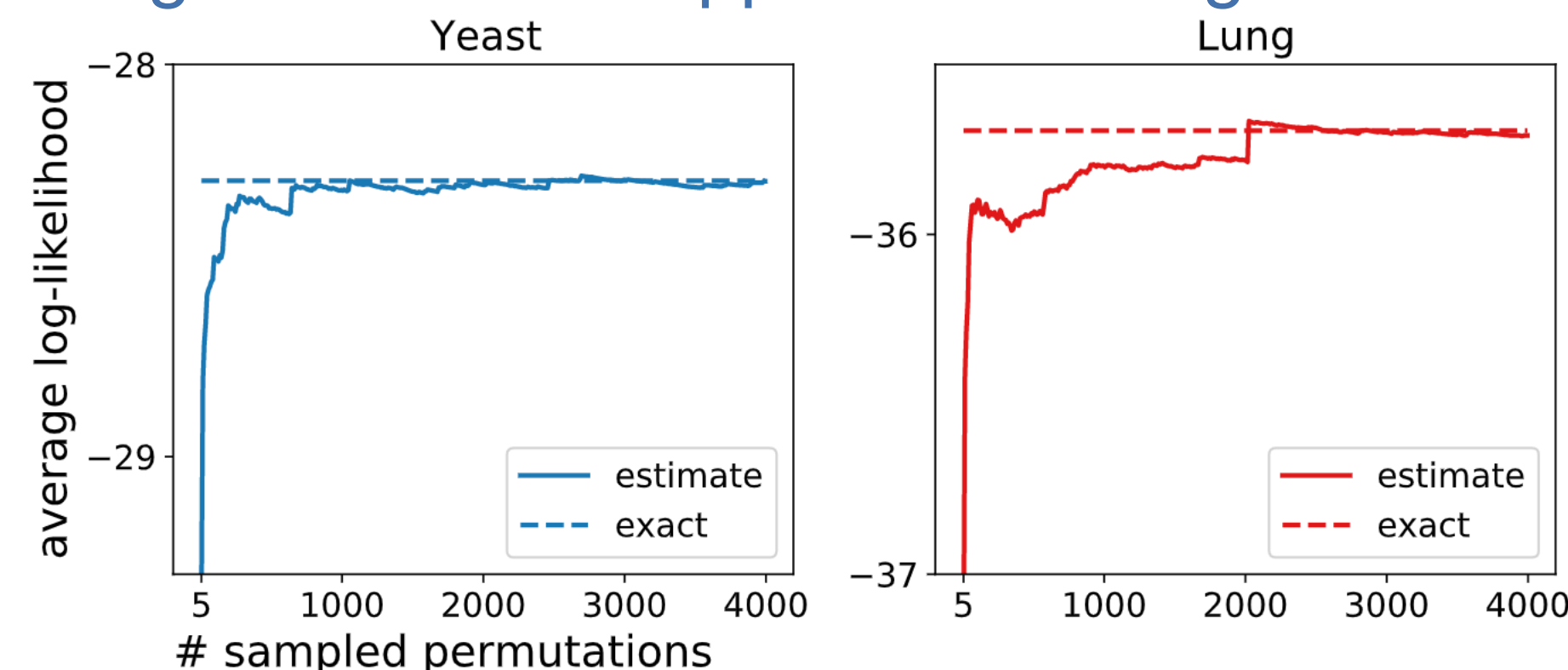
# Experiment: Predictive Log-Likelihood

		Community-small log-like/ELBO	Citeseer-small log-like/ELBO	Enzymes log-like/ELBO	Lung log-like/ELBO	Yeast log-like/ELBO	Cora log-like/ELBO
DeepGMG	uniform	-206.2/-303.9	<b>-60.9/-67</b>	-281.9/-290.8	<b>-146.7/-225.7</b>	-115.1/128.9	-283.7/-295.2
	VI [ours]	<b>-124.8/-131.8</b>	<b>-59.6/-65.6</b>	<b>-145.8/-156.2</b>	<b>-146.1/-224.6</b>	<b>-105.4/-115.7</b>	<b>-227/-247.2</b>
GraphRNN	uniform	-154.6/-157.6	-101.9/-105.7	-340.3/-349.1	-232.4/ -242.2	-189.3/-200.1	-380.6/-401.8
	VI [ours]	<b>-53.7/-59.9</b>	<b>-89.6/-93.2</b>	<b>-274.9/-282.8</b>	<b>-155.9/-175.8</b>	<b>-109.1/-133.7</b>	<b>-345.3/-358.3</b>
GraphGEN	DFS	-263.74/NA	-73.0/NA	-574.2/NA	-140.1/NA	<b>-66.46/NA</b>	-199.5/NA
	VI [ours]	<b>-26.6/-35.0</b>	<b>-64.3/-71.1</b>	<b>-189.7/-213.8</b>	<b>-117.3/-125.5</b>	<b>-64.98/-72.39</b>	<b>-143.6/-152.3</b>

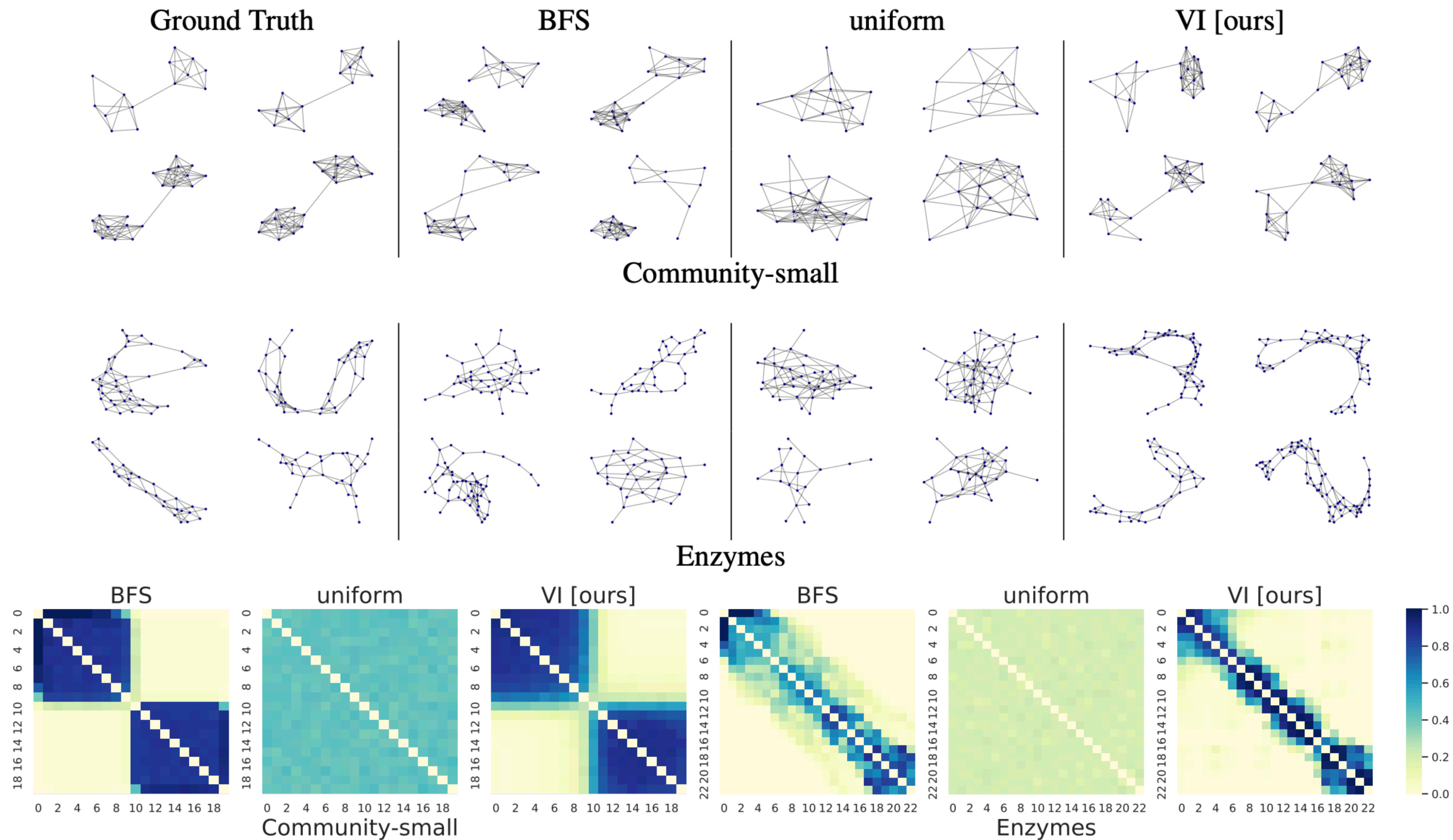
Approximate log-likelihood and ELBO of different generative models. For each model, we compare the default training algorithm with our method based on VI. The table shows

- 1) VI improves the model's predictive performance.
- 2) The variational bound is relatively tight.

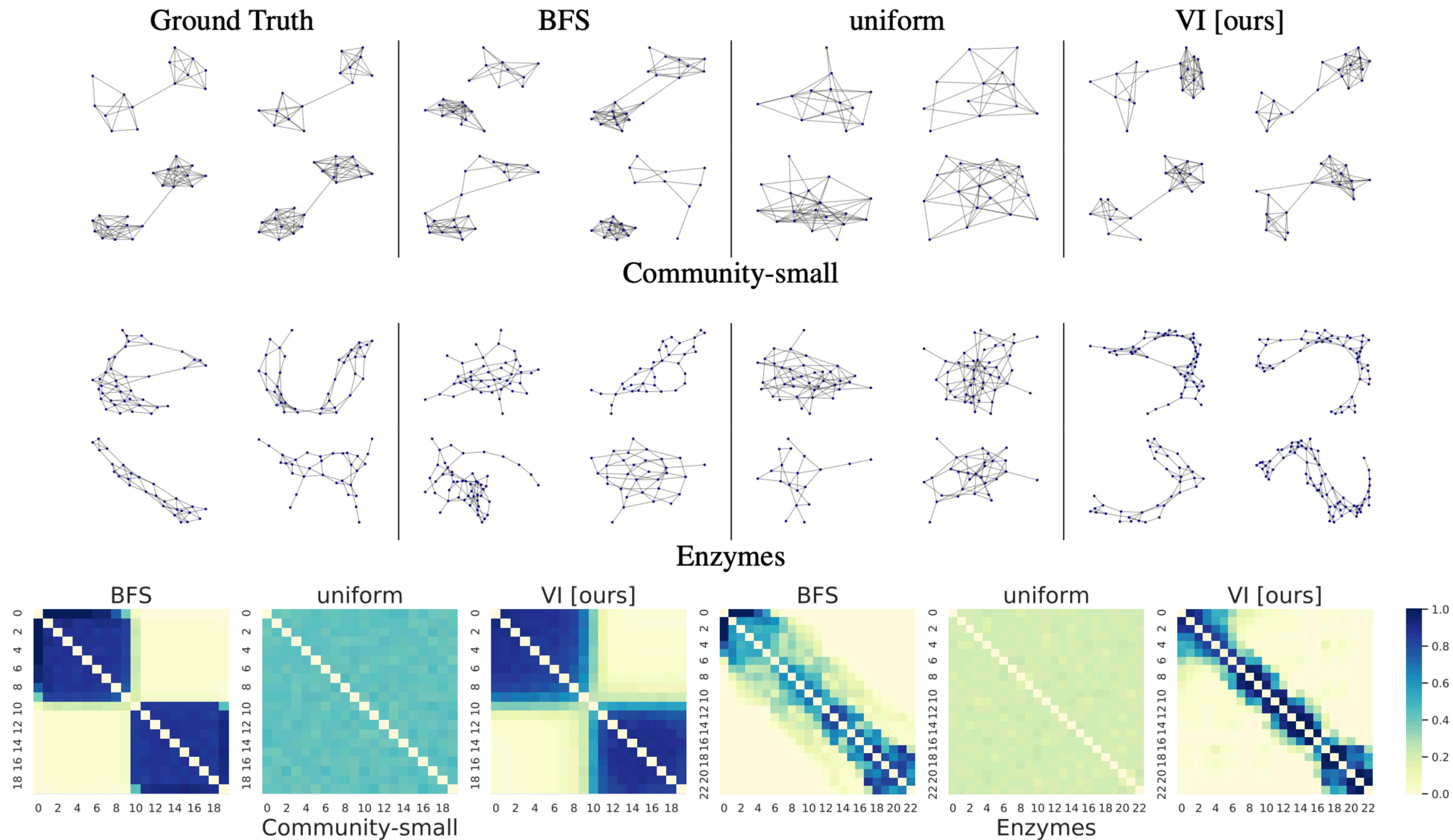
Tightness of the approximated log-likelihood



# Experiment: Qualitative Analysis



# Experiment: Qualitative Analysis



# Experiment: Quality of Generated Graphs

		Community-small			Citeseer-small			Enzymes		
		Deg.	Clus.	Orbit	Deg.	Clus.	Orbit	Deg.	Clus.	Orbit
DeepGMG	uniform	0.2	0.978	0.40	0.052	0.06	<b>0.005</b>	1.51	0.95	0.29
	VI [ours]	<b>0.178</b>	<b>0.921</b>	<b>0.338</b>	<b>0.028</b>	<b>0.014</b>	<b>0.005</b>	<b>1.01</b>	<b>0.48</b>	<b>0.27</b>
GraphRNN	BFS	0.034	0.11	0.009	0.016	<b>0.05</b>	0.004	0.03	0.085	0.043
	uniform	0.096	0.091	0.021	<b>0.009</b>	0.09	0.003	0.042	0.104	0.074
	VI [ours]	<b>0.018</b>	<b>0.01</b>	<b>0.008</b>	0.08	<b>0.05</b>	<b>0.002</b>	<b>0.015</b>	<b>0.067</b>	<b>0.02</b>
GraphGEN	DFS	0.695	0.931	0.178	0.047	<b>0.032</b>	0.017	0.716	0.456	0.078
	VI [ours]	<b>0.143</b>	<b>0.248</b>	<b>0.068</b>	<b>0.032</b>	0.078	<b>0.008</b>	<b>0.346</b>	<b>0.440</b>	<b>0.020</b>
		Lung			Yeast			Cora		
		Deg.	Clus.	Orbit	Deg.	Clus.	Orbit	Deg.	Clus.	Orbit
DeepGMG	uniform	0.206	<b>0.023</b>	0.224	0.547	0.242	0.470	<b>0.35</b>	0.27	0.11
	VI [ours]	<b>0.189</b>	<b>0.023</b>	<b>0.2</b>	<b>0.324</b>	<b>0.118</b>	<b>0.258</b>	0.36	<b>0.22</b>	<b>0.04</b>
GraphRNN	BFS	0.103	0.301	0.043	0.512	0.153	0.026	1.125	1.002	0.427
	uniform	1.213	<b>0.002</b>	0.081	0.746	0.351	0.070	0.188	0.206	0.200
	VI [ours]	<b>0.074</b>	0.060	<b>0.004</b>	<b>0.097</b>	<b>0.092</b>	<b>0.005</b>	<b>0.066</b>	<b>0.171</b>	<b>0.052</b>
GraphGEN	DFS	0.049	0.017	<b>0.000</b>	0.014	<b>0.003</b>	<b>0.000</b>	0.099	0.167	0.122
	VI [ours]	<b>0.022</b>	<b>0.008</b>	<b>0.000</b>	<b>0.012</b>	<b>0.003</b>	<b>0.000</b>	<b>0.056</b>	<b>0.103</b>	<b>0.069</b>

# Summaries

## Contributions

1. Analyzed autoregressive graph generative models
2. Provide an in-depth discussion of the automorphism issue that raises when calculating the marginal likelihood
3. Address the intractable marginalization over node orderings for fitting a graph generative model

## Limitation

4. Computational speed

Thank You