



# Uncertainty Aware Semi-Supervised Learning on Graph Data

Xujiang Zhao<sup>1</sup>, Feng Chen<sup>1</sup>, Shu Hu<sup>2</sup>, Jin-Hee Cho<sup>3</sup>

<sup>1</sup>The University of Texas at Dallas, <sup>2</sup>University at Buffalo, SUNY, <sup>3</sup>Virginia Tech

Why is predicting uncertainty important?



# Uncertainty vs. Misclassification

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When our model only knows `car` and `road`,

1 *Incorrect prediction*

➔ High Uncertainty



Misclassify "car" as "road"

2 *Out-of-distribution*

➔ High Uncertainty



Misclassify "deer" (OOD object) as "car"

**Is it important to know:**

- ✓ **why we don't know?**
- ✓ **how much we don't know?**

**So how can we predict the uncertainty based on its root cause?**

**Would it really help for our decision making?**

# Types of uncertainty

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## 1 **Epistemic uncertainty (a.k.a. model/parameter uncertainty)**

- Measures what model doesn't know
- Due to limited data and knowledge

### **Aleatoric uncertainty (a.k.a. data uncertainty)**

- Measures what you can't understand from the data
- Due to randomness



Probabilistic  
Uncertainty

## 2 **Vacuity uncertainty (a.k.a. ignorance)**

- Measures uncertainty due to a lack of evidence

### **Dissonance uncertainty**

- Measures uncertainty due to conflicting evidence



Evidential  
Uncertainty

# Evidential Uncertainty

Task: 3 class image classification



Training Data:

Dog ( $e_1 = 10$  images)

Cat ( $e_2 = 10$  images)

Pig ( $e_3 = 10$  images)

$$e = [e_1, \dots, e_K]$$

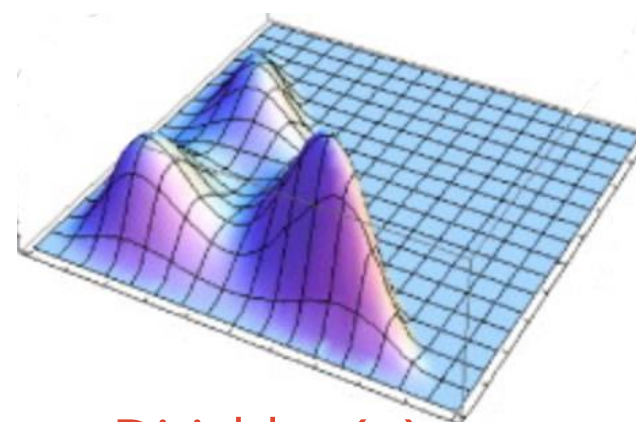
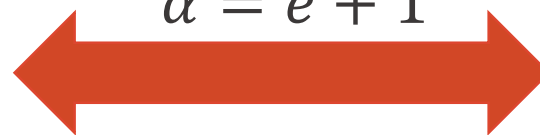
Evidence (Historical observations)



Subjective Opinion

$$\omega = (\mathbf{b}, u, \mathbf{a})$$

$$\alpha = e + 1$$

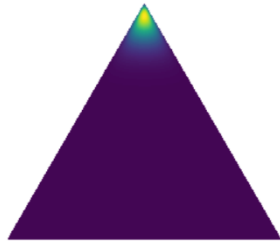


Dirichlet ( $\alpha$ )

A subjective opinion modeled based on 'Subjective Logic' which uses Dirichlet distribution to measure multiple dimensions of uncertainty in classification tasks

# Why Evidential Uncertainty?

Confidence Prediction



Dirichlet Distribution  $\alpha = [11, 1, 1]$

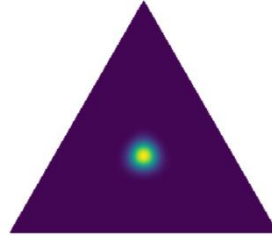
Expected Probability  $p = [0.83, 0.083, 0.083]$

Low Uncertainty



Test image

Conflict Prediction



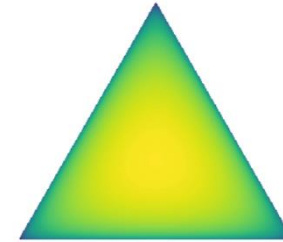
$\alpha = [11, 11, 11]$

$p = [1/3, 1/3, 1/3]$

High Dissonance  
(conflicting evidence)



Out-of-Distribution



$\alpha = [1, 1, 1]$

$p = [1/3, 1/3, 1/3]$

High Vacuity  
(lack of evidence)

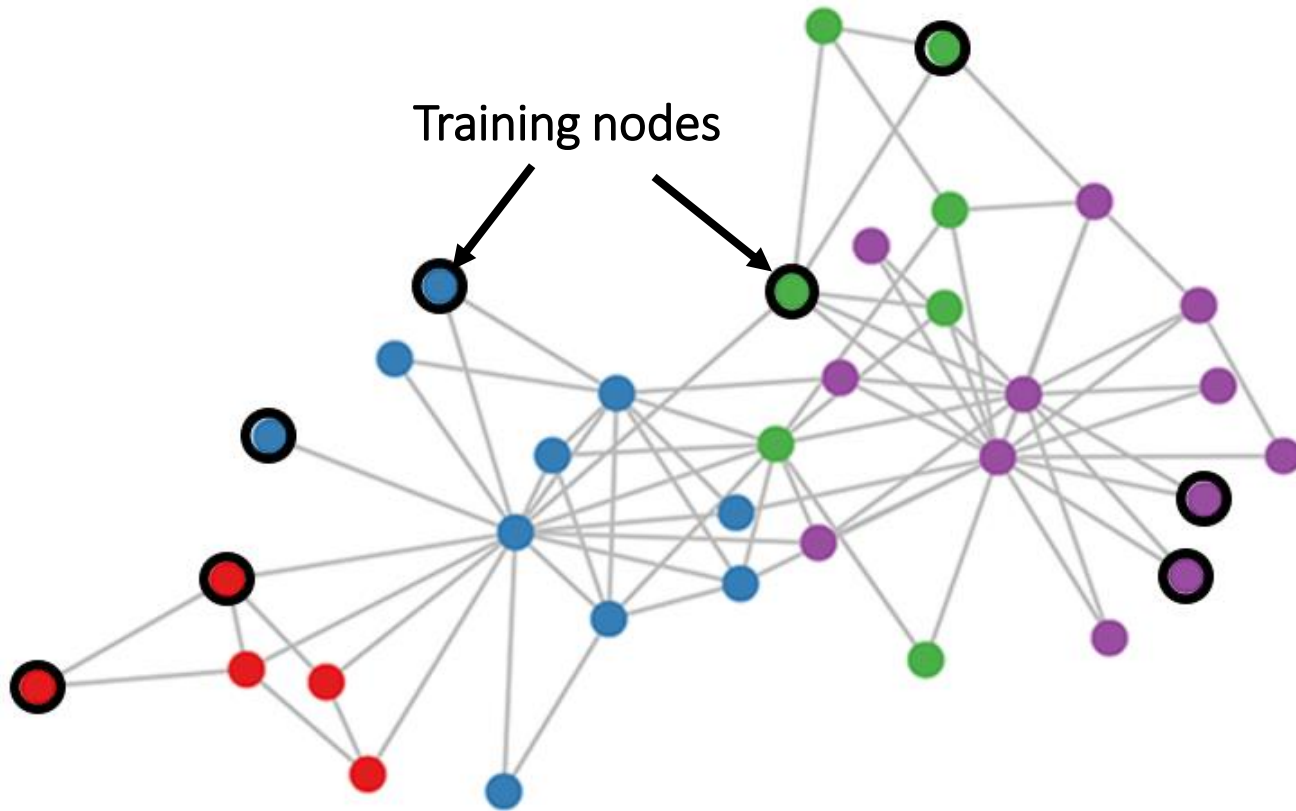


Different  
Evidential Uncertainty

Same  
probability

# Problem Formulation

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Given: graph  $\mathcal{G} = (\mathbb{V}, \mathbb{E}, \mathbf{r}, \mathbf{y}_{\mathbb{L}})$

$\mathbb{V}$  : Node

$\mathbb{E}$  : Edge

$\mathbf{r}$  : node-level feature

$\mathbf{y}_{\mathbb{L}}$  : training labels ( $K$  classes)

a small set of training node (black circle)

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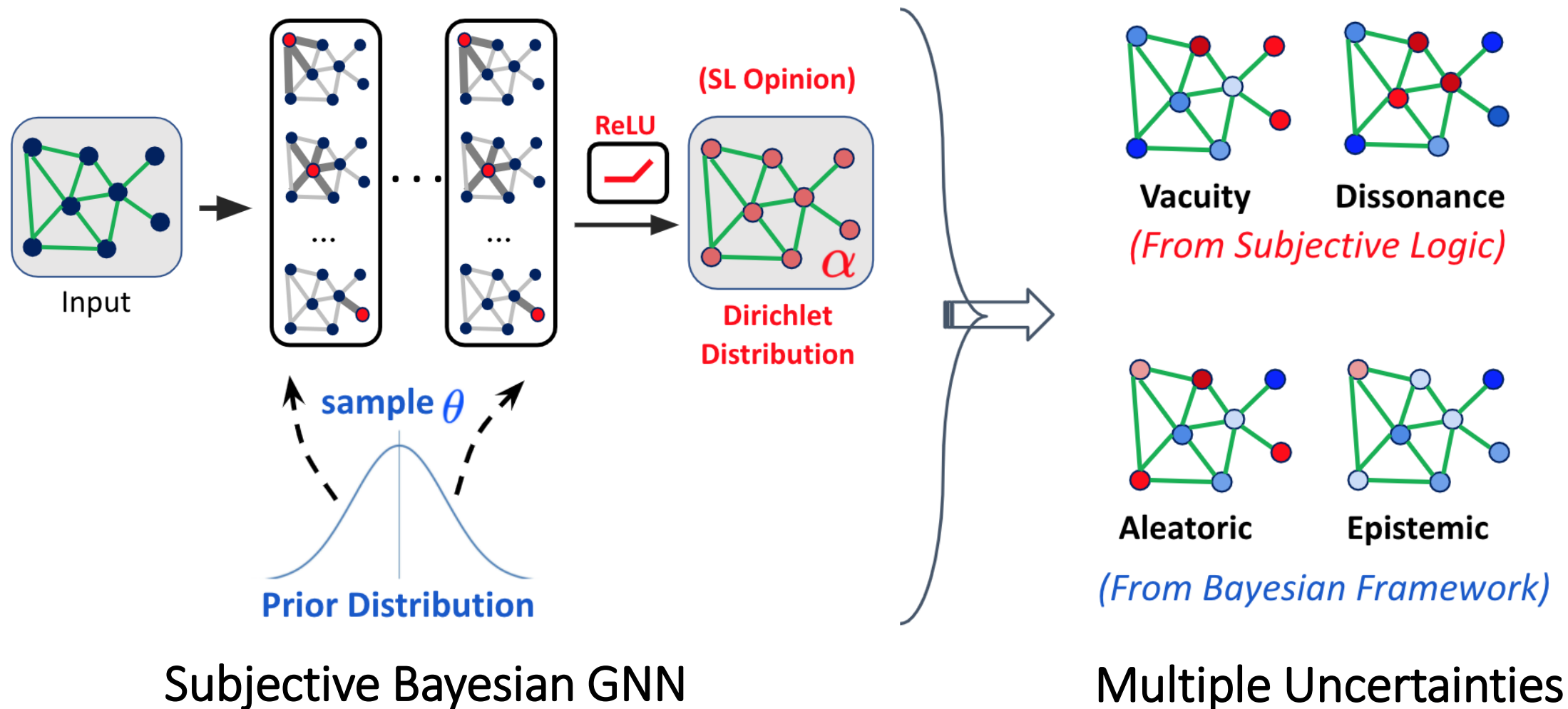
Goal:

- class probabilities  $p$
- **multidimensional uncertainty**  $u$

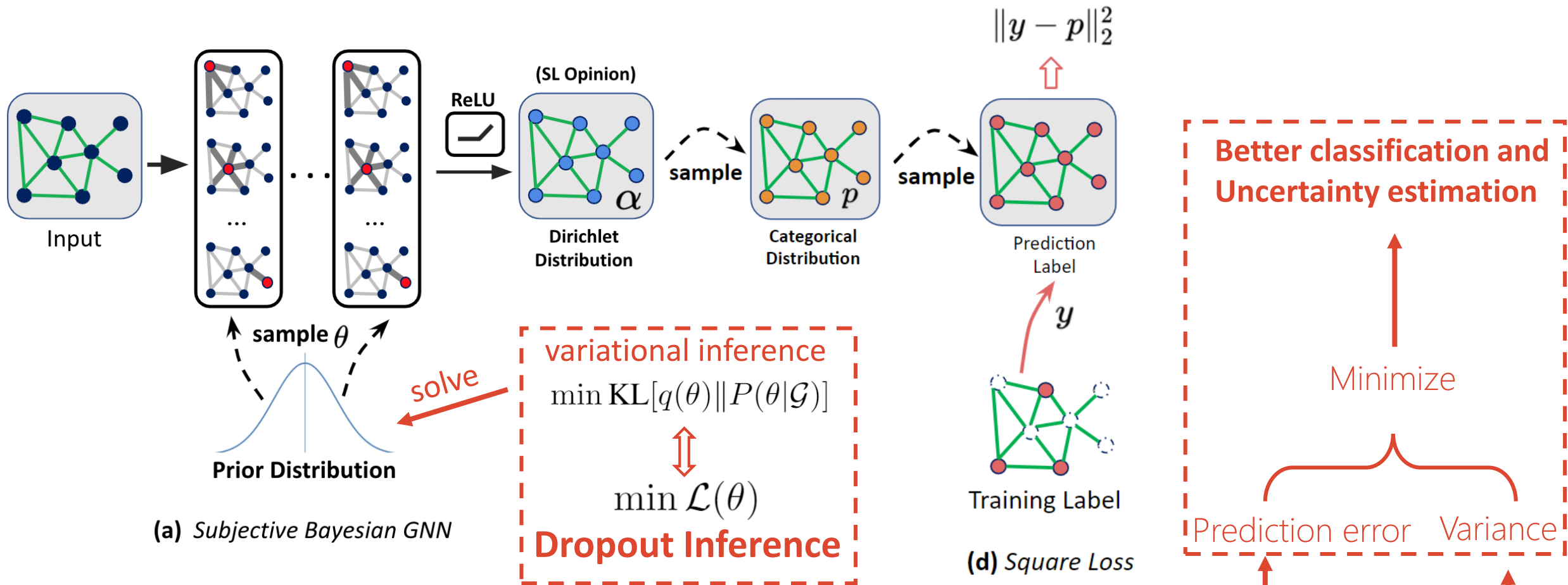
Vacuity, dissonance,  
epistemic, aleatoric



# Uncertainty Aware Framework

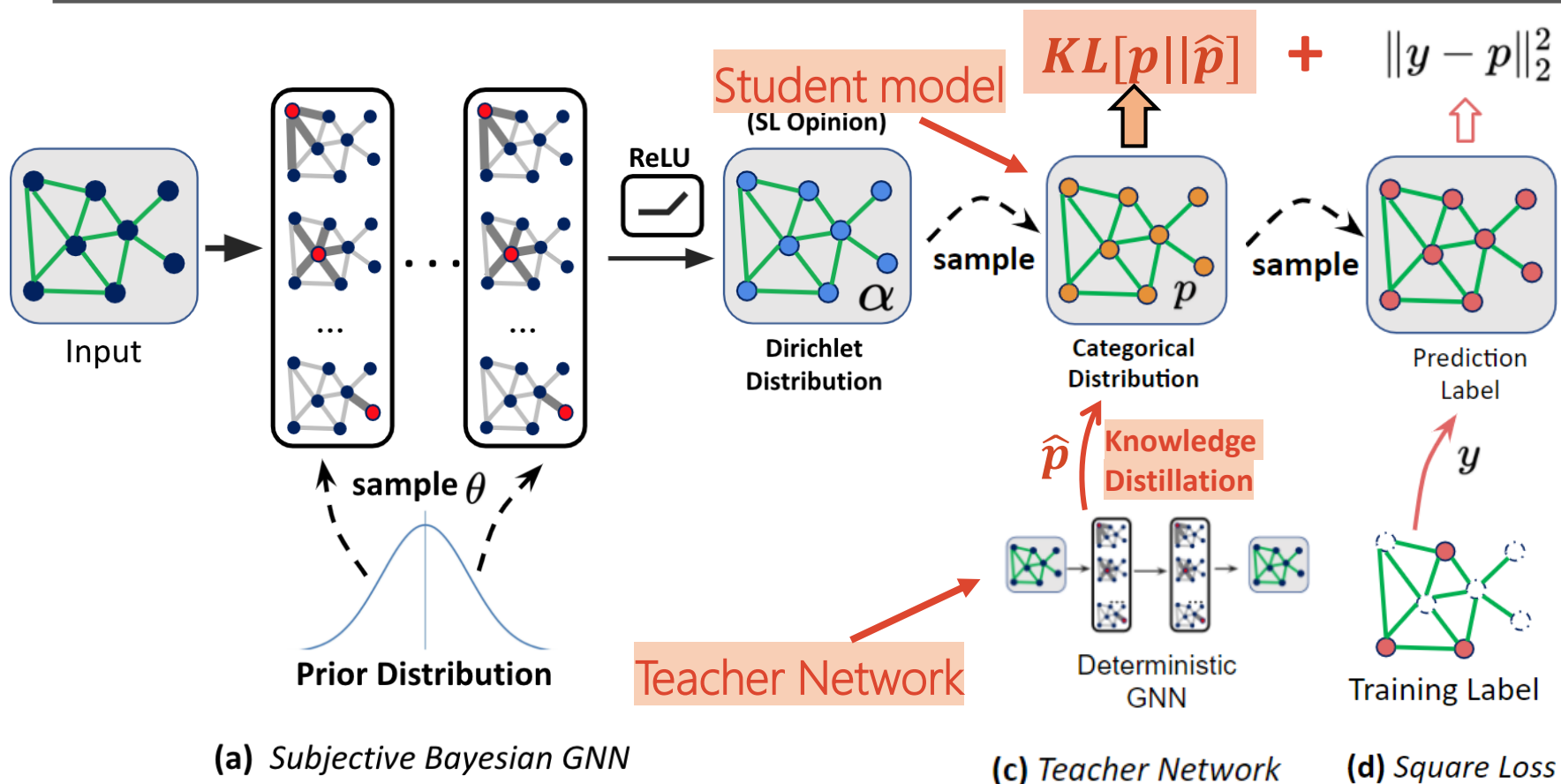


# Training Uncertainty Framework

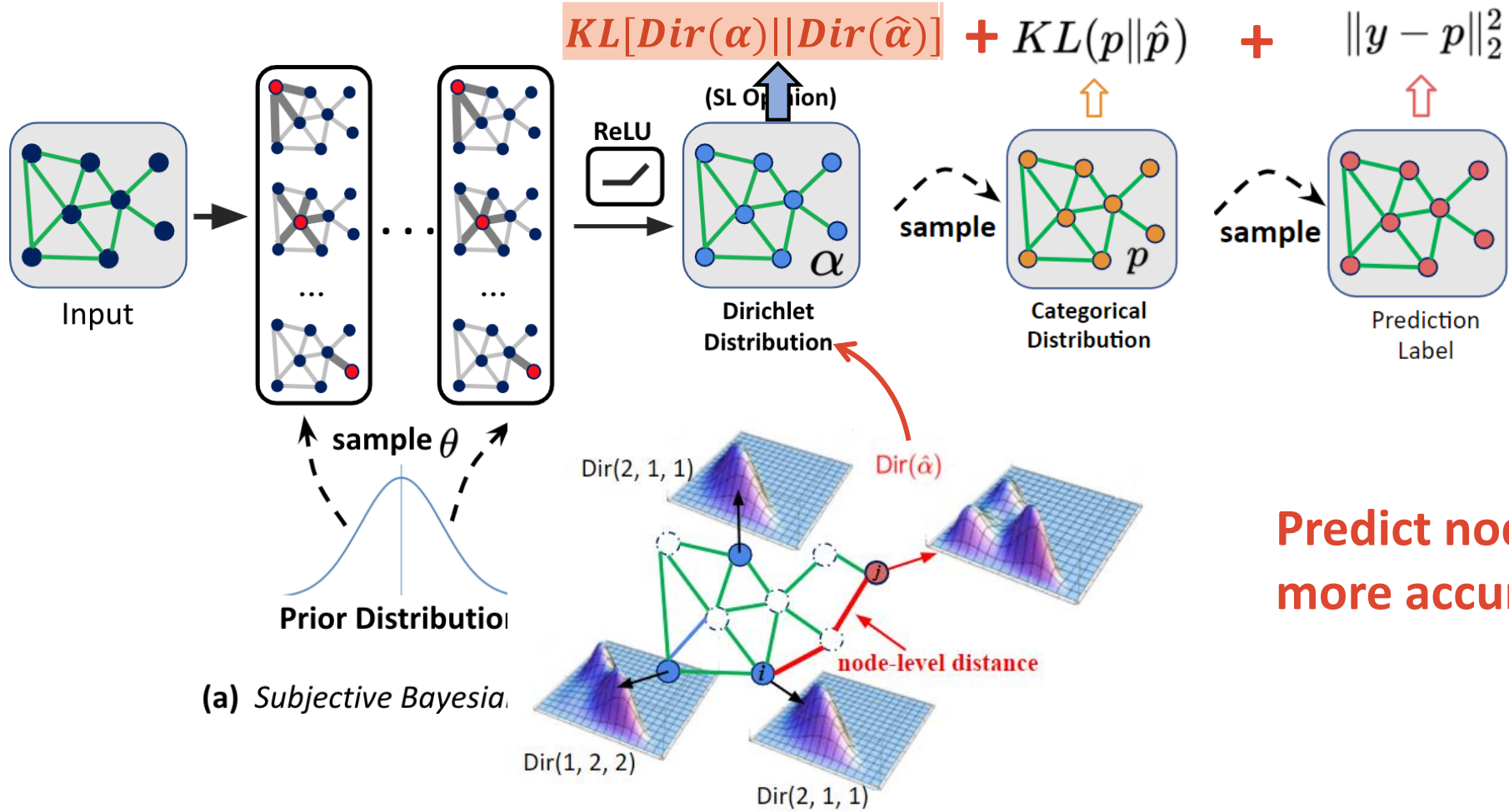


$$\mathcal{L}(\theta) = \sum_{i \in \mathcal{L}} \int \|y_i - \mathbf{p}_i\|_2^2 \cdot P(\mathbf{p}_i | A, \mathbf{r}; \theta) d\mathbf{p}_i = \sum_{i \in \mathcal{L}} \sum_{k=1}^K (y_{ik} - \mathbb{E}[p_{ik}])^2 + \text{Var}(p_{ik}),$$

# Training Uncertainty Framework

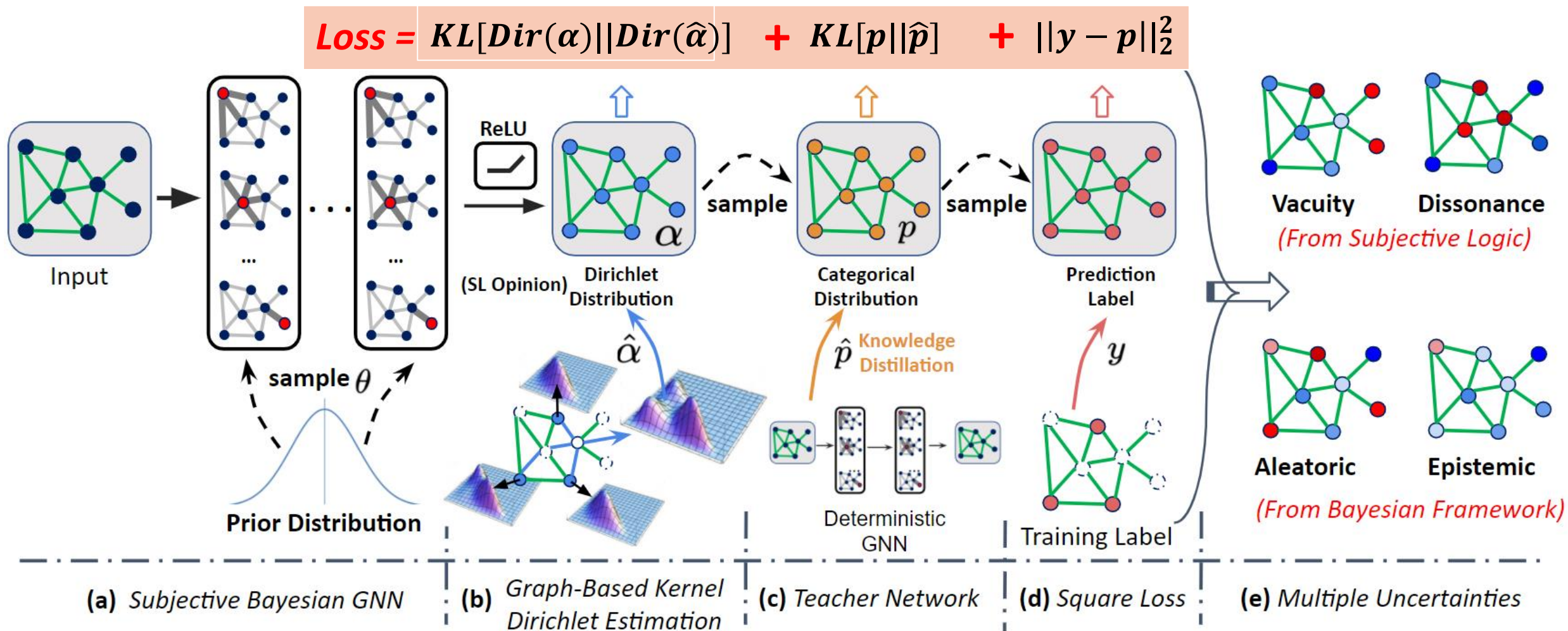


# Training Uncertainty Framework



**Predict node-level Dirichlet more accurately**

# Training Uncertainty Framework



# Key Theoretical Results

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- Relations between multiple uncertainties
- Impact of Graph-based Kernel Dirichlet distribution Estimation

# Relationships Between Multiple Uncertainties

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**Consider a simplified scenario:**

$\mathbf{y}$ : a multinomial random variable

$\mathbf{y} \sim \mathbf{Cal}(\mathbf{p})$ : follows a  $K$ -class categorical distribution

$\mathbf{p} \sim \mathbf{Dir}(\boldsymbol{\alpha})$ : the class probabilities  $\mathbf{p}$  follow a Dirichlet distribution

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## Probabilistic Uncertainty

$$\mathcal{I}[y, \mathbf{p} | \boldsymbol{\alpha}] = \mathcal{H} \left[ \mathbb{E}_{\text{Prob}(\mathbf{p} | \boldsymbol{\alpha})} [P(y | \mathbf{p})] \right] - \mathbb{E}_{\text{Prob}(\mathbf{p} | \boldsymbol{\alpha})} \left[ \mathcal{H} [P(y | \mathbf{p})] \right].$$

Epistemic

Entropy

Aleatoric

# Relationships Between Multiple Uncertainties

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**Evidential Uncertainty**

$$vac(\omega) = K / \sum_{k=1}^K \alpha_k$$

Vacuity (lack of evidence)

$$\mathbf{Dir}(\boldsymbol{\alpha}) \longleftrightarrow \omega = (\mathbf{b}, u, \mathbf{a})$$

$$diss(\omega) = \sum_{k=1}^K \left( \frac{b_k \sum_{j \neq k} b_j \mathbf{Bal}(b_j, b_k)}{\sum_{j \neq k} b_j} \right)$$

Dissonance (conflict evidence)



# Relationships Between Multiple Uncertainties

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General relations on all prediction scenarios.

$$\text{vacuity} + \text{dissonance} \leq 1$$

- High vacuity  $\longrightarrow$  Low dissonance
  - High dissonance  $\longrightarrow$  Low vacuity
- } Would not increase at same time!

Evidence	$e = [1, 2]$	$e = [2, 2]$	$e = [2, 200]$	$e = [200, 200]$
	lack of evidence	lack of evidence	confidence	conflicting evidence
Vacuity	High	High	Low	Low
dissonance	Low	Low	Low	High

# Relationships Between Multiple Uncertainties

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General relations on all prediction scenarios.

**vacuity > epistemic**

- vacuity is an upper bound of epistemic uncertainty
- On a sufficiently large amount of evidence available, **vacuity and epistemic would close to zero.**

# Relationships Between Multiple Uncertainties

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Special relations on the OOD

$1 = \text{vacuity} = \text{entropy} > \text{aleatoric} > \text{epistemic} > \text{dissonance} = 0$

Special relations on the Conflicting Prediction

$\text{entropy} = 1, \text{dissonance} \rightarrow 1, \text{aleatoric} \rightarrow 1, \text{vacuity} \rightarrow 0, \text{epistemic} \rightarrow 0$

$\text{entropy} > \text{aleatoric} > \text{dissonance} > \text{vacuity} > \text{epistemic}$

- 
- entropy **cannot distinguish** different types of uncertainty due to different root causes.

# Relationships Between Multiple Uncertainties

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$\text{entropy} > \text{aleatoric} > \text{dissonance} > \text{vacuity} > \text{epistemic}$

- 
- a **high aleatoric** uncertainty value and a **low epistemic** uncertainty value are observed under both cases.

# Relationships Between Multiple Uncertainties

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$\text{entropy} > \text{aleatoric} > \text{dissonance} > \text{vacuity} > \text{epistemic}$

- 
- **vacuity and dissonance can clearly distinguish OOD from a conflicting prediction.**

# Impact of Graph-based Kernel Dirichlet distribution Estimation

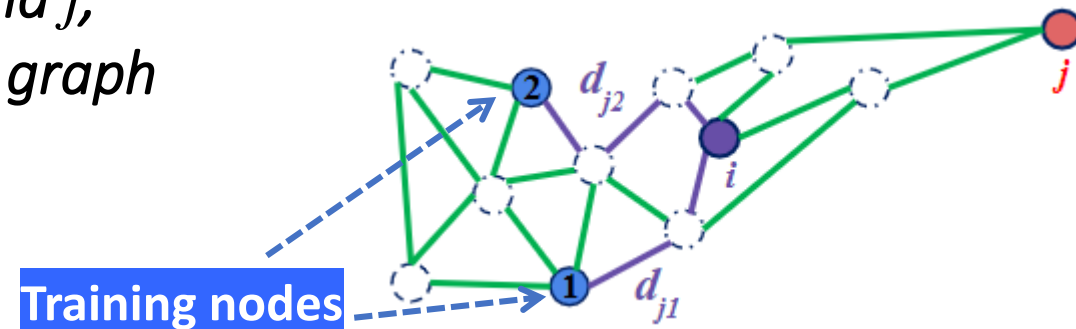
Given  $L$  training nodes and two testing nodes  $i$  and  $j$ ,  
Let  $\mathbf{d}_i = [d_{i1}, \dots, d_{iL}]$ ,  $\mathbf{d}_j = [d_{j1}, \dots, d_{jL}]$  be the graph  
distance from training nodes.

If for all  $l \in \{1, \dots, L\}$ ,  $d_{il} \leq d_{jl}$ , we have

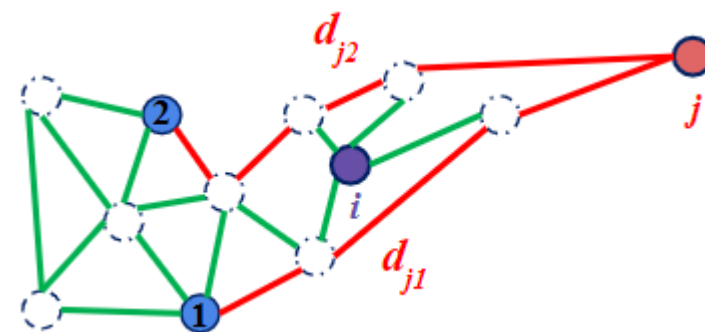
$$\widehat{vacuity}_i \leq \widehat{vacuity}_j$$

estimated based on GKDE.

High vacuity occurs when testing node is far away  
from training nodes.

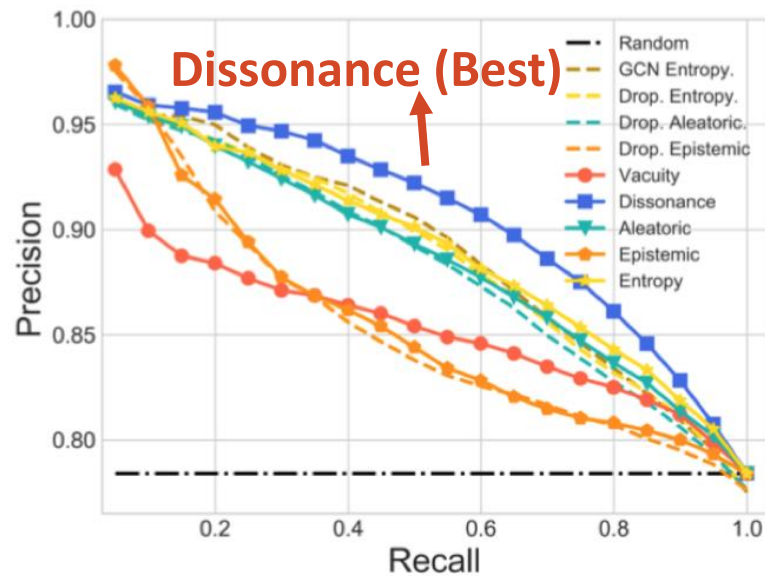


$$\begin{aligned} d_{i1} &< d_{j1} \\ d_{i2} &< d_{j2} \end{aligned}$$



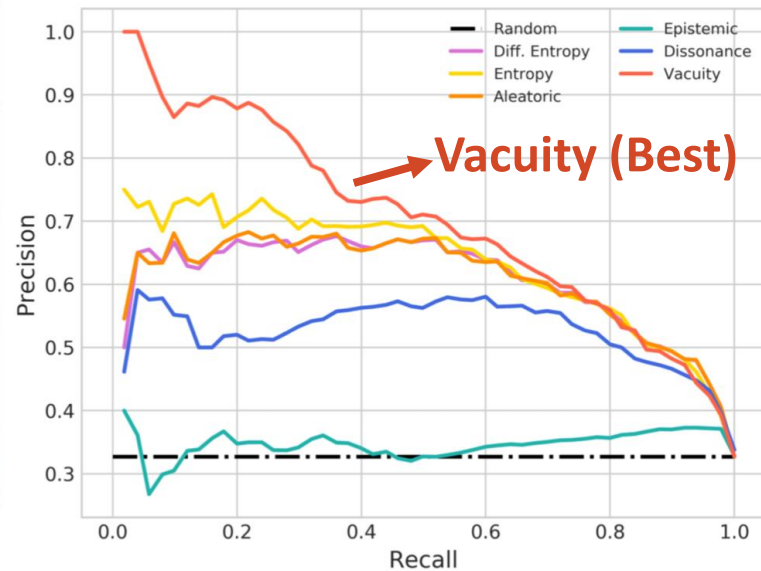
# Key Experiment Result

## Misclassification Detection



(c) PR curves on Pubmed

## OOD Detection



(b) PR curves on Amazon Computers

Misclassification ← High Uncertainty → Out-of-distribution

Correct Prediction ← Low Uncertainty → In distribution

# Why is Epistemic Uncertainty Less Effective than Vacuity?

Epistemic uncertainty works well in CV applications (supervised learning for OOD detection).

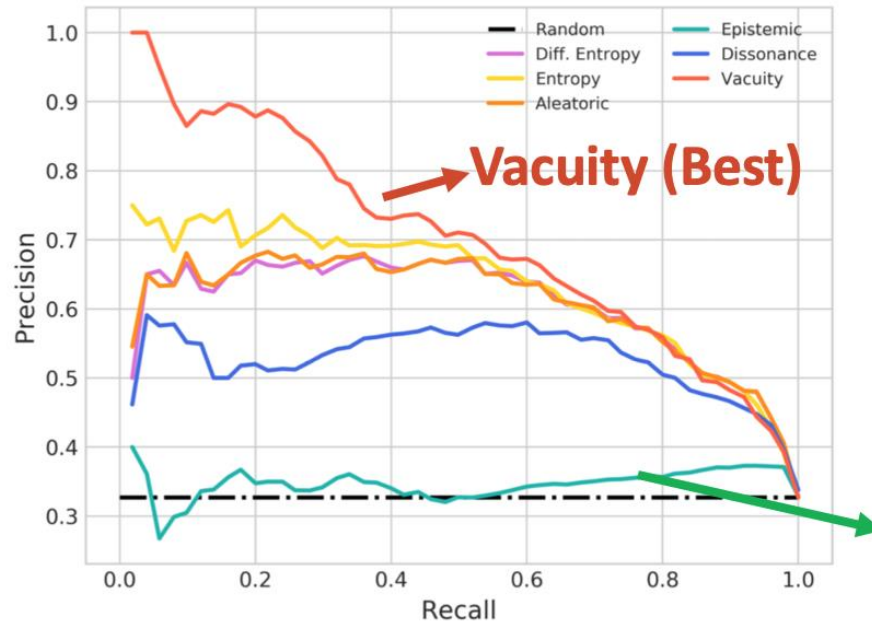
How epistemic uncertainty performances in SSL? **Not good.**

## Semi-supervised

Epistemic  
 (MNIST) **In-Distribut**  
 (FashionMNIST) **Out-of-Disti**

In semi-supervised le  
 model for training pr

## OOD Detection



(b) PR curves on Amazon Computers

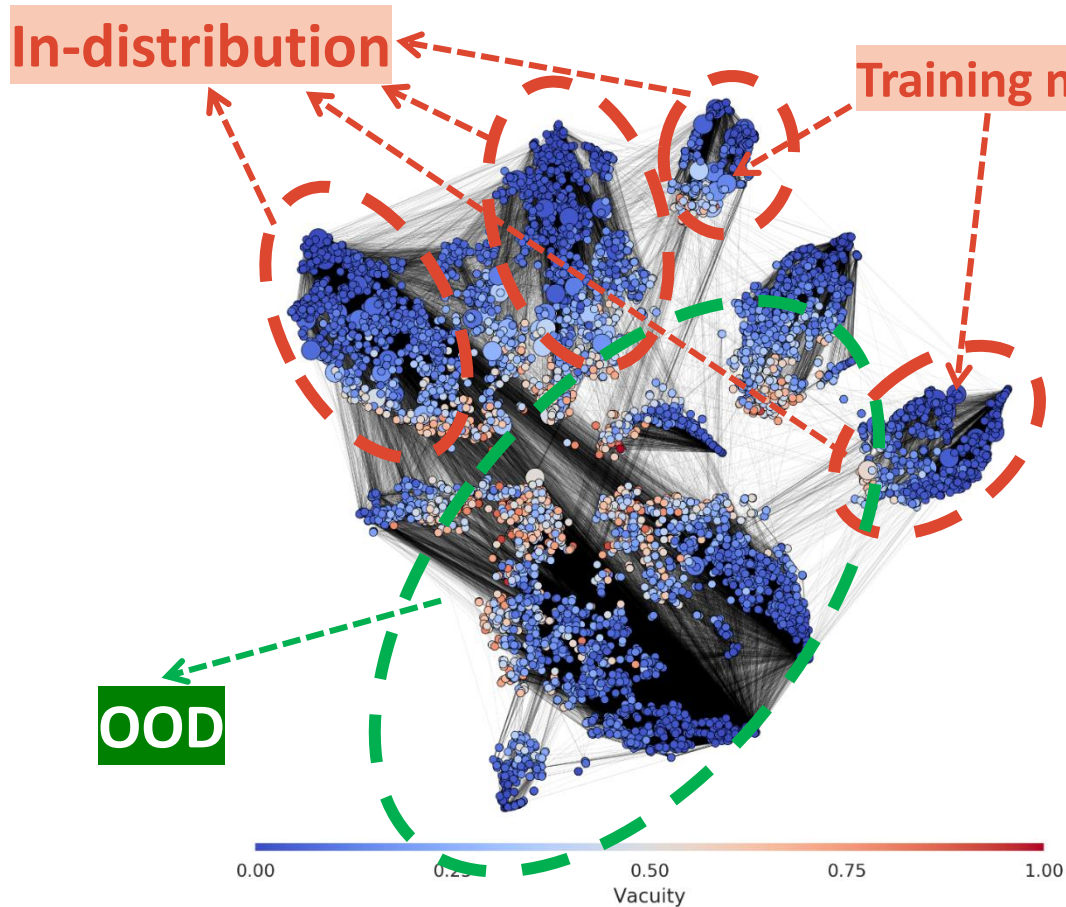
## Retains OOD)

Pseudo Label  
 0.041  
 0.020

Epistemic es are also fed to a  
 ence on its output.

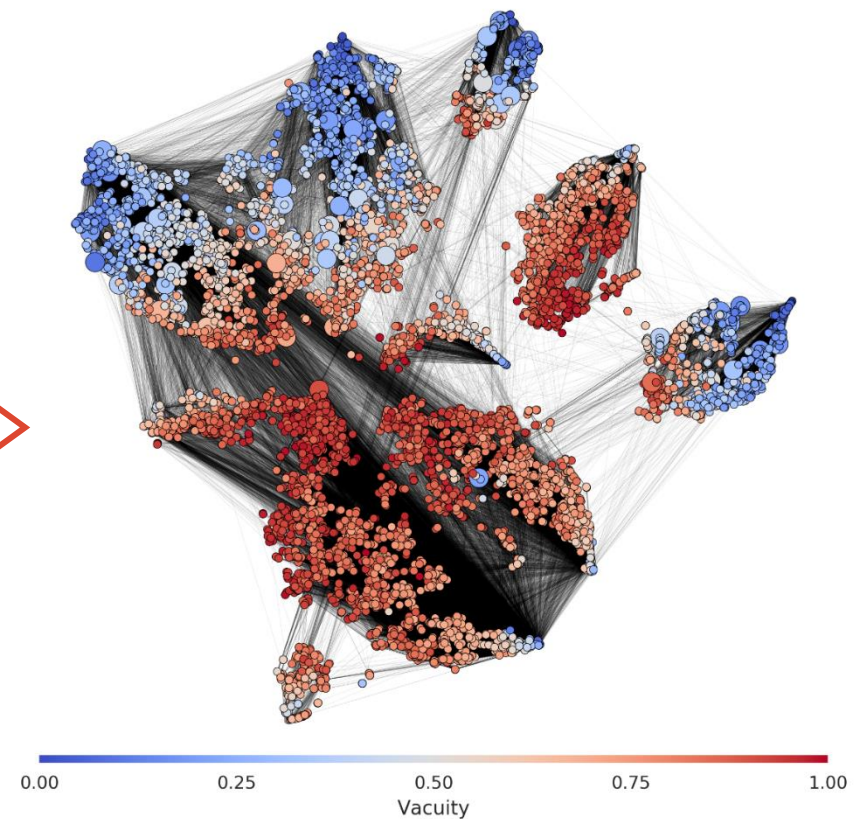


# Key Merits of GKDE



OOD Detection  
AUROC: 64%

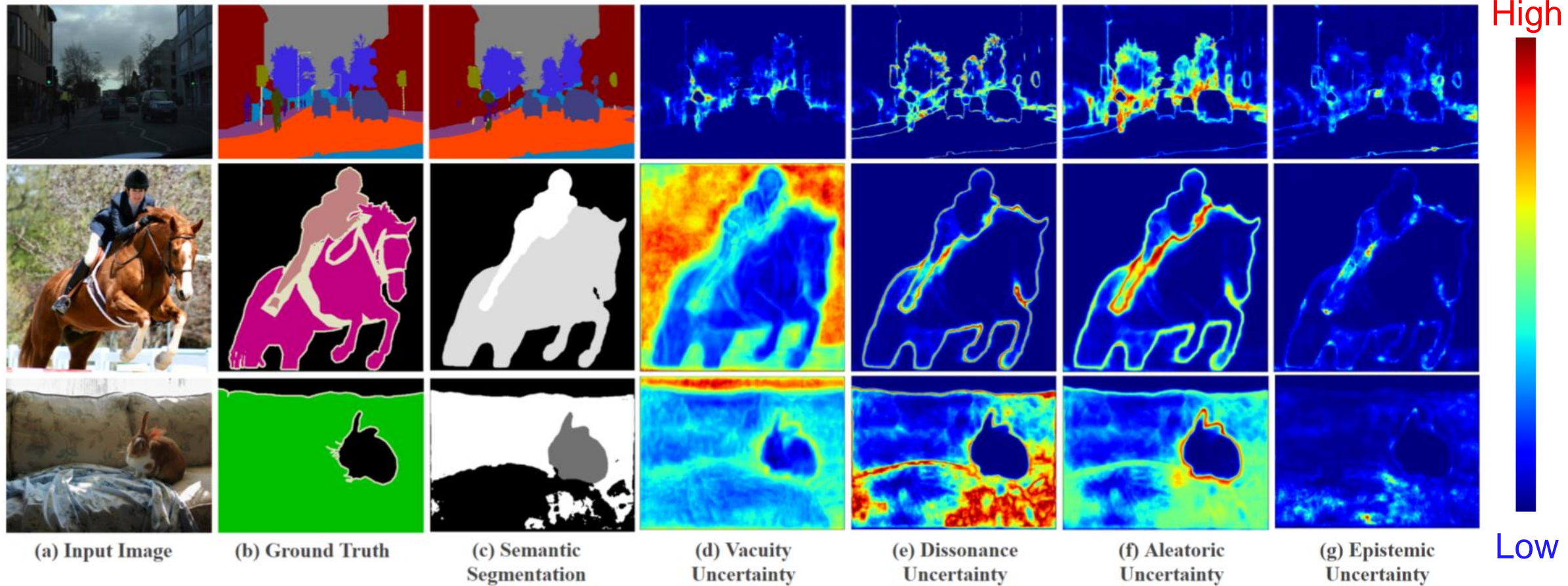
add GKDE



OOD Detection  
**AUROC: 93%**

# Extension to other Deep Learning Model (CNN)

Provide pixel-level predictive uncertainties by replacing GNN with CNN



# Summary

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- Proposed a multi-source uncertainty framework of GNNs.
- Provided a theoretical analysis about the relationships between different types of uncertainties.
- Demonstrate the use of vacuity for OOD detection and dissonance for misclassification detection.

Thank you!

*Any Question & Comments?*



Xujiang Zhao, CS@UT-Dallas  
Xujiang.zhao@utdallas.edu