

# Intro to Learning in SD -1

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1- Introduction to RecNN

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*DRAFT, please do not circulate!*

[www.di.unipi.it/groups/ciml](http://www.di.unipi.it/groups/ciml)



Dipartimento di Informatica  
Università di Pisa - Italy



**Computational Intelligence &  
Machine Learning Group**

# Learning in Structured Domain

## Plan in 2 lectures

### 1. Recurrent and Recursive Neural Networks

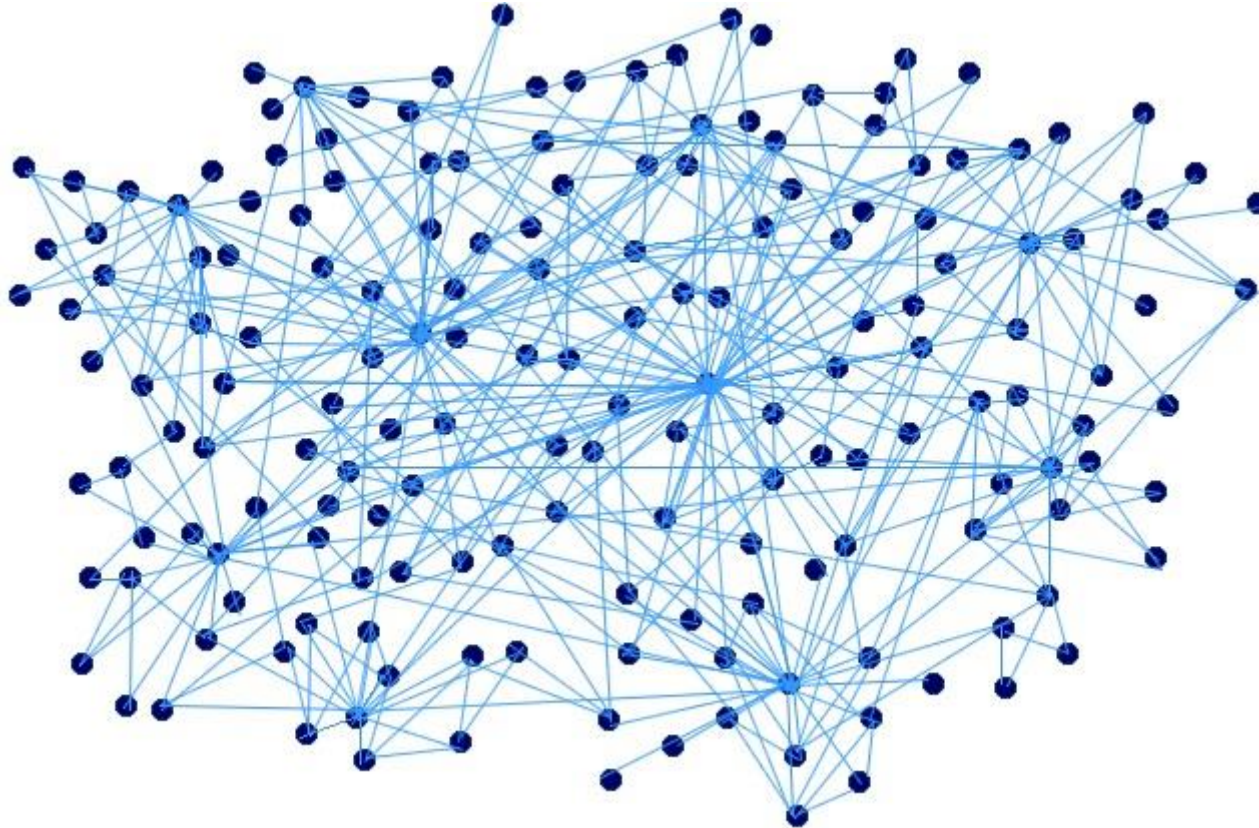
Extensions of models for learning in structured domains

- Motivation and examples (structured data)
- The structured data (recursive)
- Recursive models: RNN and RecNN
- Recursive Cascade Correlation & other recursive approaches

### 2. Moving to DPAG and Graphs: the role of causality [Next Lecture (SD-2)]

*An introductive aim for a research field in ML*

# Why structured data?



Because data have relationships

# Introduction:

## Motivation of ML for SD

- Most of known ML methods are limited to the use of flat and fixed form of the data (vectors or sequences)  
*fixed-length attribute-value vectors*
- Central: *data representation*
- **Graph**: very useful abstraction for real data
- **Labeled graphs** = vector patterns + relationships
  - **natural**: for structured domain
  - **richness**
  - **efficiency**: repetitive nature inherent in the data
- **SD + ML** = adaptive processing of structured information

# Introduction: Research Area

- **SD + ML** = adaptive processing of structured information
- **General Aim:** investigation of ML models for the adaptive processing of structured information: **sequences, trees, graphs/networks**
- Terminologies:
  - Structured domain learning/ Learning in Structured Domains
  - Graph Representation Learning, Learning with/for/on graphs
  - Relational Learning
  - Structures/Graphs Mining
    - Also sub-areas, e.g. Molecule Mining
  - Deep learning for graphs: (deep) NN for Graphs (NN4G/DNNG), NN on Graphs, Graph NN (GNN), Graph Convolutional Networks (GCN), RecGNN\*, ConvGNN\*, Graph Nets, Deep Graph Networks (DGN)\*\*, ...

\* A Comprehensive Survey on Graph Neural Networks – TNNLS Jan. 2021

\*\* A gentle introduction to deep learning for graphs – Neural Networks Sep. 2020

# Increasing Attention in ML

- Dozens of new research papers in all the top-tier ML venues (literature is rapidly growing)
- And concrete real-world applications



# Advancements from ML to SDL

Learning in Structured Domains (SD) in Pisa/CIML: Pioneering since the 90's the development of

- Theoretical analysis
- New approaches
- Applications

Especially on the basis of Recursive approaches.



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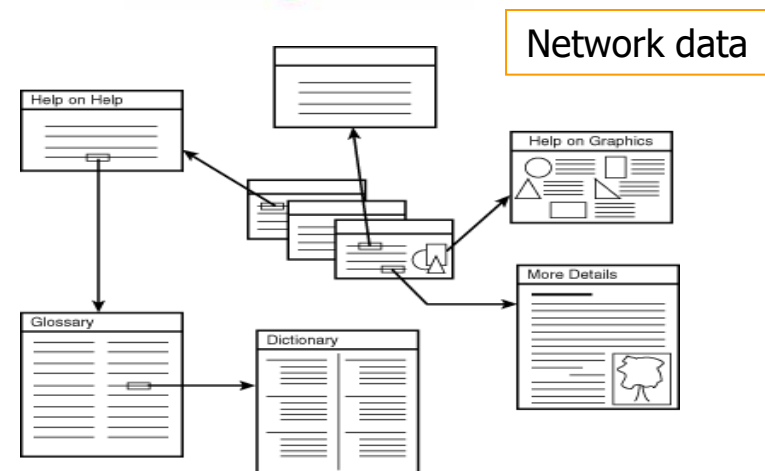
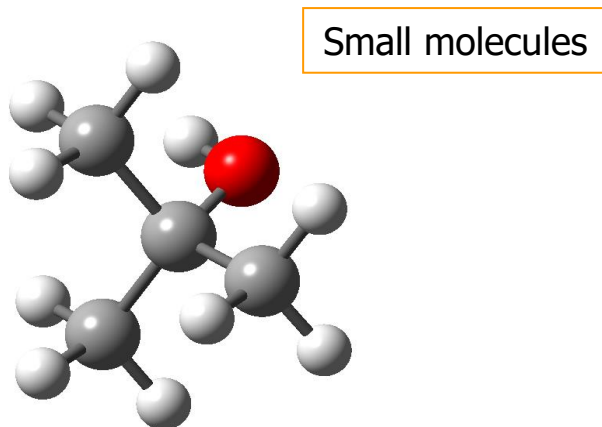
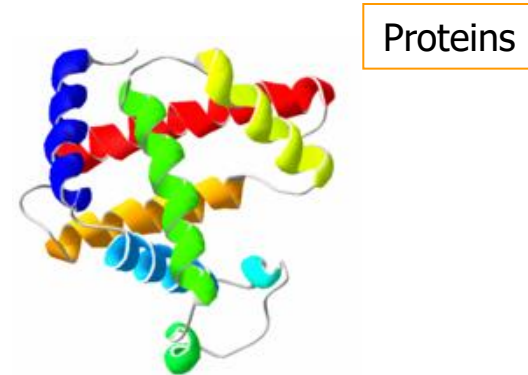
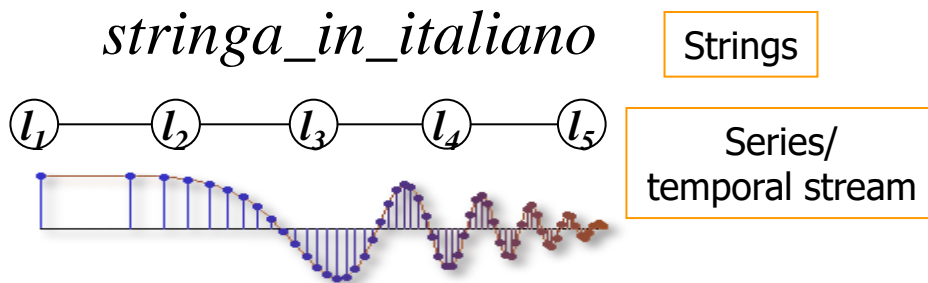
## And for you?

- To build and advanced background for
  - Analysis/development of innovative models
  - Applications in the are of interdisciplinary projects (@ ciml)
- Practical: **thesis are possible for the design of new models/applications for the extension of the input domains toward:**
  - Extension of the applicative domain
  - Adaptivity and accuracy
  - Efficiency



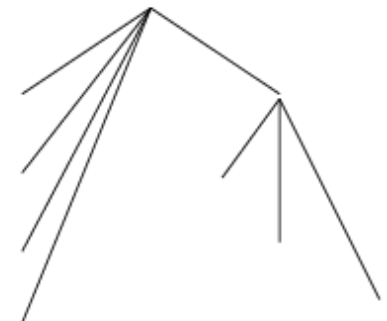
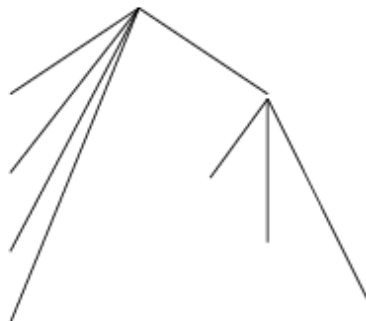
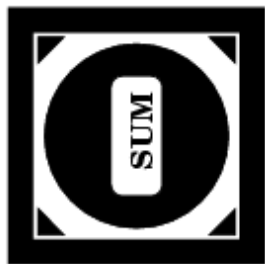
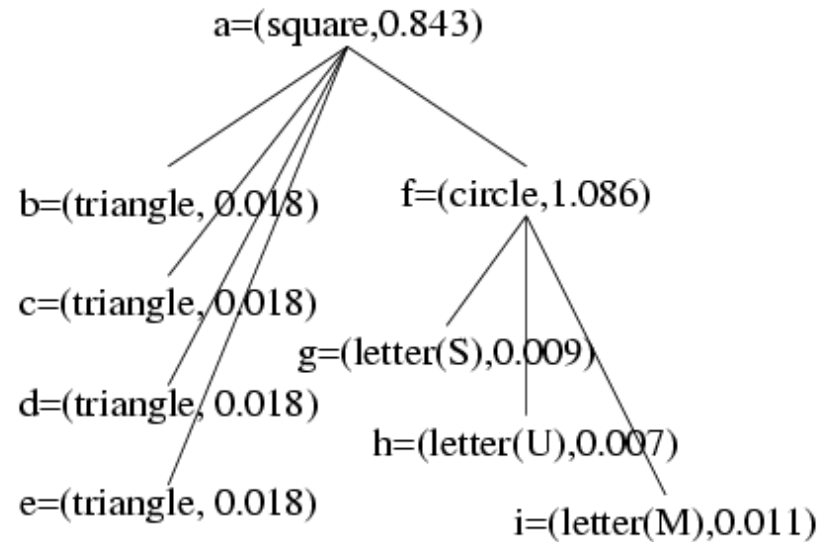
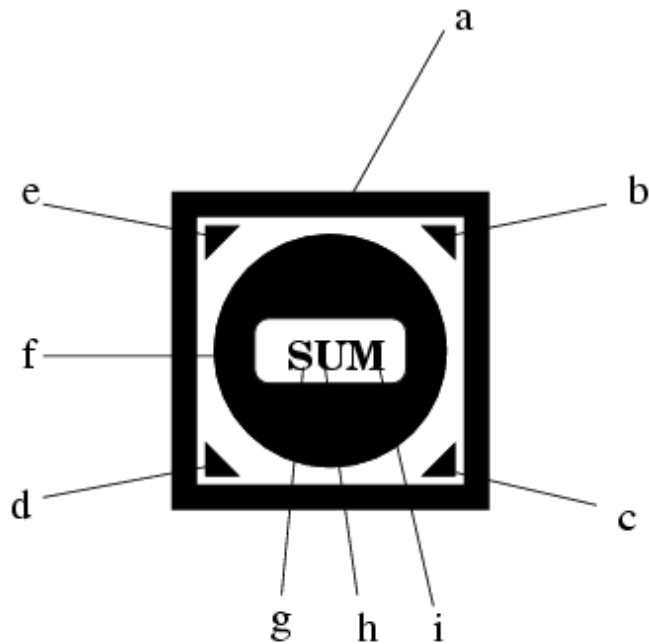
# From flat to structured data

- **Flat: vectors** (as in most of the ML course)
- **Structured:** Sequences, trees, graphs, multi-relational data

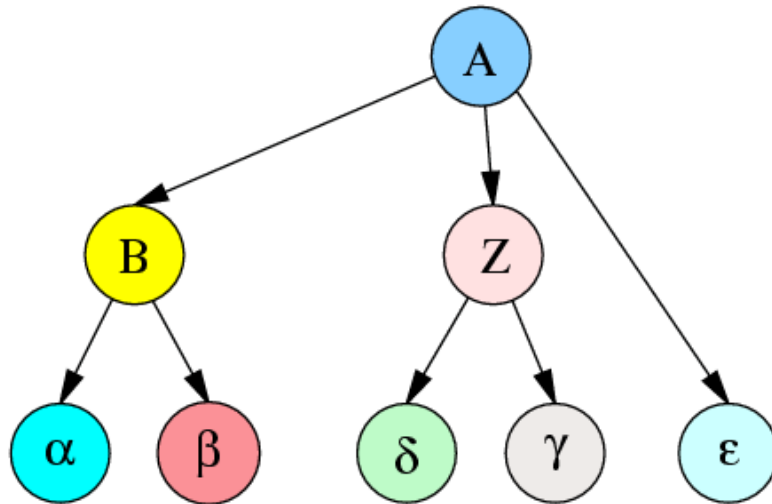


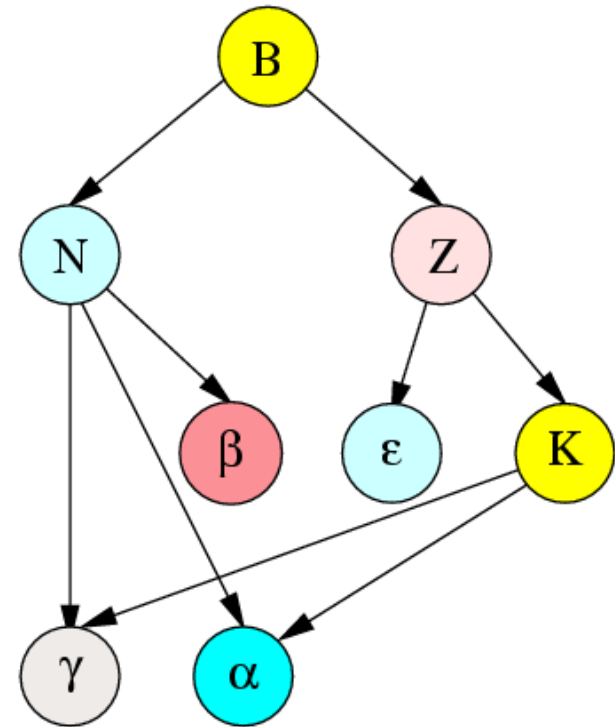


# Example: logo recognition



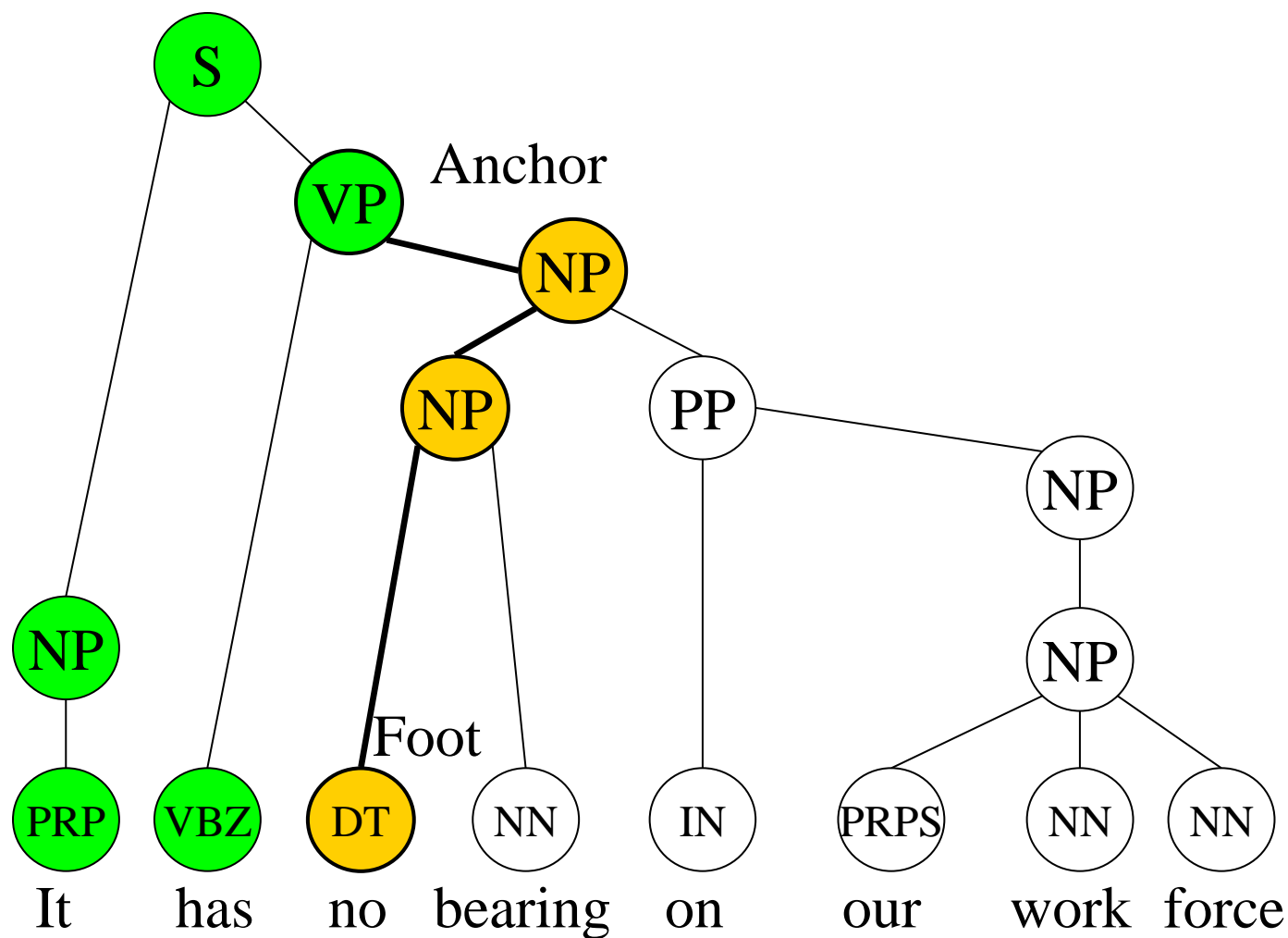
## Example: Terms in 1<sup>st</sup> order logic



$$A(B(\alpha, \beta), Z(\gamma, \delta), \epsilon)$$


$$B(N(\gamma, \alpha, \beta), Z(\epsilon, K(\gamma, \alpha)))$$

## Example (trees): language parsing



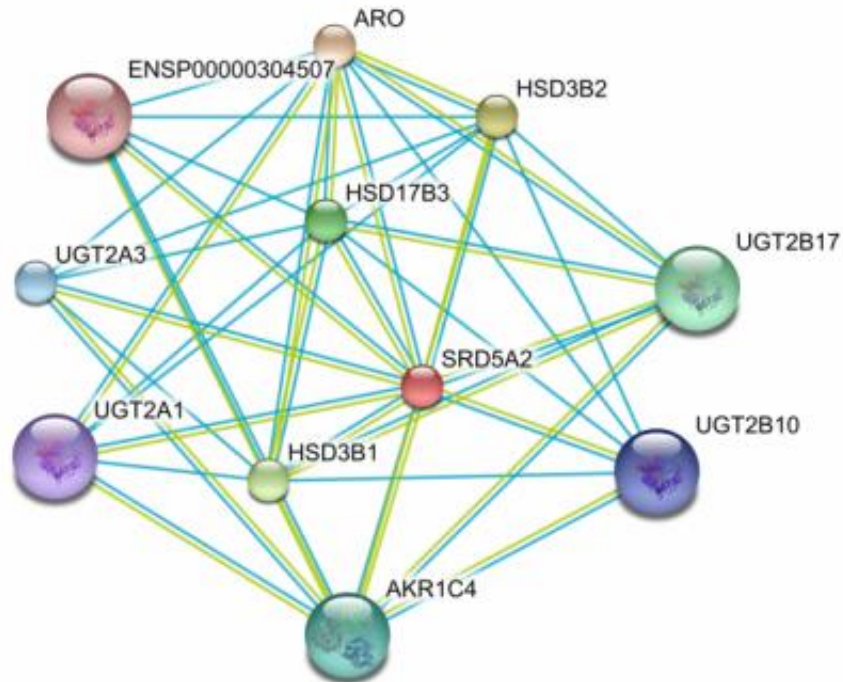
## Example: Social networks



## Example: Biological Networks

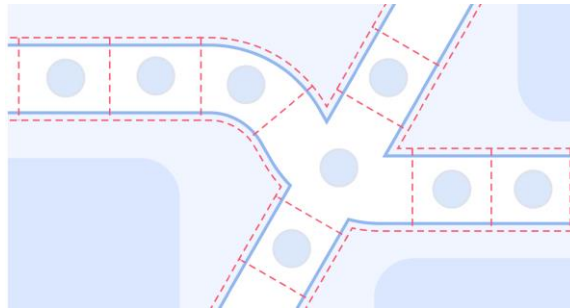
- Node for protein
- Link for **interaction** or similarity

Protein



# Example: Google maps – traffic estimates

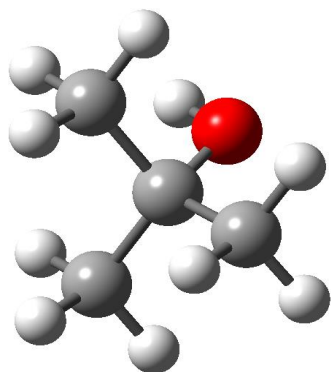
- DeepMind – Google Maps. Sept. 2020
- **Aim:** accurate traffic predictions and estimated times of arrival (ETAs)
- **Graphs:** networks of roads
  - Node: each route segment
  - Edges: between segments that are consecutive on the same road or connected through an intersection
- **Task:** predicts the travel time for each supersegment (multiple adjacent segments of road that share significant traffic volume - subgraphs)



- **Results:** improve the accuracy of real time ETAs by up to 50% in places like Berlin, Jakarta, São Paulo, Sydney, Tokyo, and Washington D.C. by using Graph Neural Networks (indeed we will see *Convolutional NN for graphs*)

## Example (graphs): Molecules

- A fundamental problem in Chemistry: correlate chemical structure of molecules with their properties (e.g. physico-chemical properties, or biological activity of molecules) in order to be able to predict these properties for new molecules
  - Quantitative Structure-Property Relationship (QSPR)
  - Quantitative Structure-Activity Relationship (QSAR)



$$\text{Property/Activity} = \underset{\textcolor{blue}{T}}{\textcolor{blue}{T}}(\text{Structure})$$



**Property Value** (regression)  
**Toxic (yes/no)** (classification)

QSPR: Correlate chemical structure of molecules with their properties

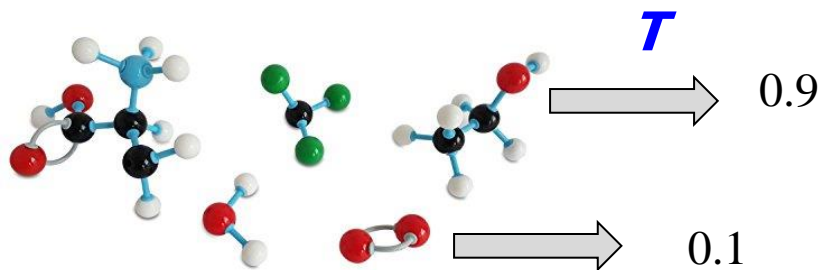
Molecules are not vectors !

***Molecules*** can be more naturally represented  
 by varying size ***structures***

**Can we predict directly from structures ?**

# Learn a transduction

- **Goal:** to learn a mapping between a structured information domain (SD) and a discrete or continuous space (*transduction*  $T$ ).
- Start with this problem: classify variable size graphs
  - For instance, classify different graphs starting from a training set of known couples as in the molecules example
- Given a set of examples  $(graph_i, target_i)$  (in the training set)
- Learn a hypothesis mapping  $T(graph)$





# Introduction: Learning Model for SD



- **The problem**: there has been no systematic way to extract features or metrics relations between examples for SD
  - We are looking to the automatic extraction of the salient topological information directly from data
  - A representation learning instances (extended to SD)!

Our “mantra”

Instead of moving *data to models*  
(e.g. Graphs into vectors or trees into  
sequences, with alignment problems,  
loss of information, etc.)  
we move *models to data*

# Learning in Structured Domain

## Plan in 2 lectures

### 1. Recurrent and Recursive Neural Networks

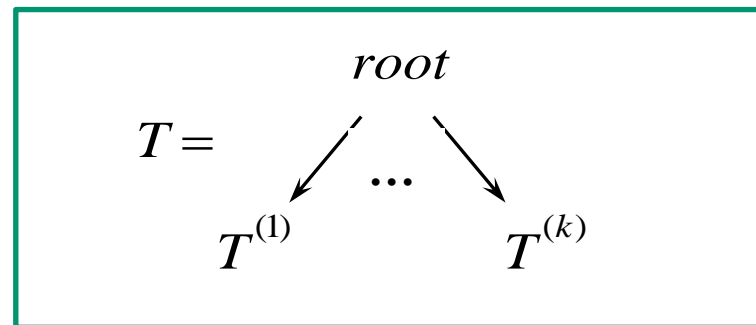
Extensions of models for learning in structured domains

- Motivation and examples (structured data)
- **The structured data (recursive)**
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### 2. Moving to DPAG and Graphs: the role of causality [Next Lecture (SD-2)]

# K-ary Trees

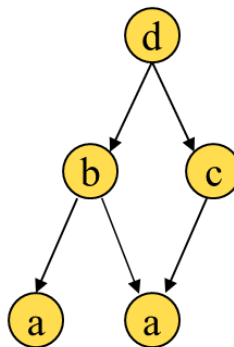
- *k*-ary trees (trees in the following) are rooted positional trees with finite out-degree  $k$ .
- Given a node  $v$  in the tree  $T \in \mathcal{G}$ :
  - The children of  $v$  are the node successors of  $v$ , each with a position  $j=1, \dots, k$ ;
  - $k$  is the maximum out-degree over  $\mathcal{G}$ , i.e. the maximum number of children for each node;
  - $l(v)$  in  $\mathcal{I}$  is the input label associated with  $v$ , and  $l_i(v)$  is the  $i$ -th element of the label;
  - The subtree  $T^{(j)}$  is a tree rooted at the  $j$ -th children of  $v$ .





# Structured Domains

- $\mathbf{L}$ : set of attribute vectors  $l(v)$
- *Structure G*: vertexes labels  $\mathbf{L}$  + topology (*skeleton* of  $G$ )
- Sequences, Trees, DOAGs- DPAGs, graphs.
- We start considering sets of **DPAGs** (recursive structures), i.e.
- $\mathbf{G}$  as *labeled direct positional acyclic graphs* with:
  - *Super-source*: a vertex  $s$  such that every vertex can be reached by a direct path starting from  $s$ .
  - A total order (or the *position*) on the edges leaving from each vertex
  - *Bounded out-degree and in-degree* (the number of edges leaving and entering from a vertex  $v$ )



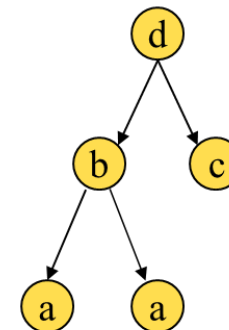
# Data Domains **G**

- Include sub-classes:  
DPAGs  $\supset$  DOAGs  $\supset$  k-ary trees  $\supset$  sequences  $\supset$  vectors.
- **DPAG**: superclass of the **DOAGs**: besides ordering, a distinctive positive integer can be associated to each edge, allowing some position to be absent.

- **Trees**: labeled rooted order trees, or positional (*K-ary* trees).
  - Super-source: the root of the tree.
  - **Binary tree (K=2)**

Mostly used in this lecture

- Notations:
  - $\text{ch}[v]$  set of successors of  $v$
  - $\text{ch}_j[v]$  is the  $j$ -th child of the node  $v$

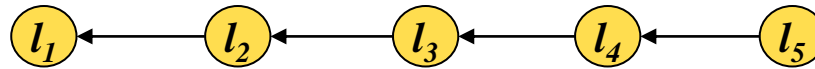


# Structured Data: Examples

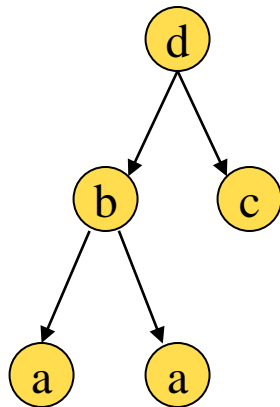
- Labeled Sequences, Trees, DOAGs- DPAGs, graphs



Single labeled vertex

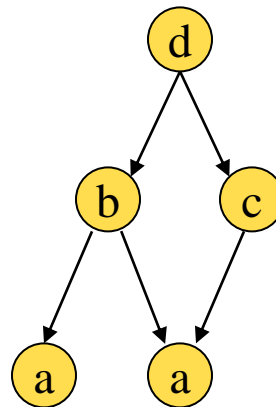


Sequence

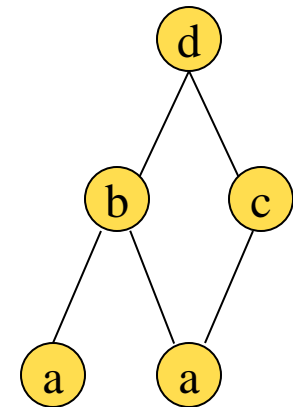


Rooted Tree

Supersource



DPAG

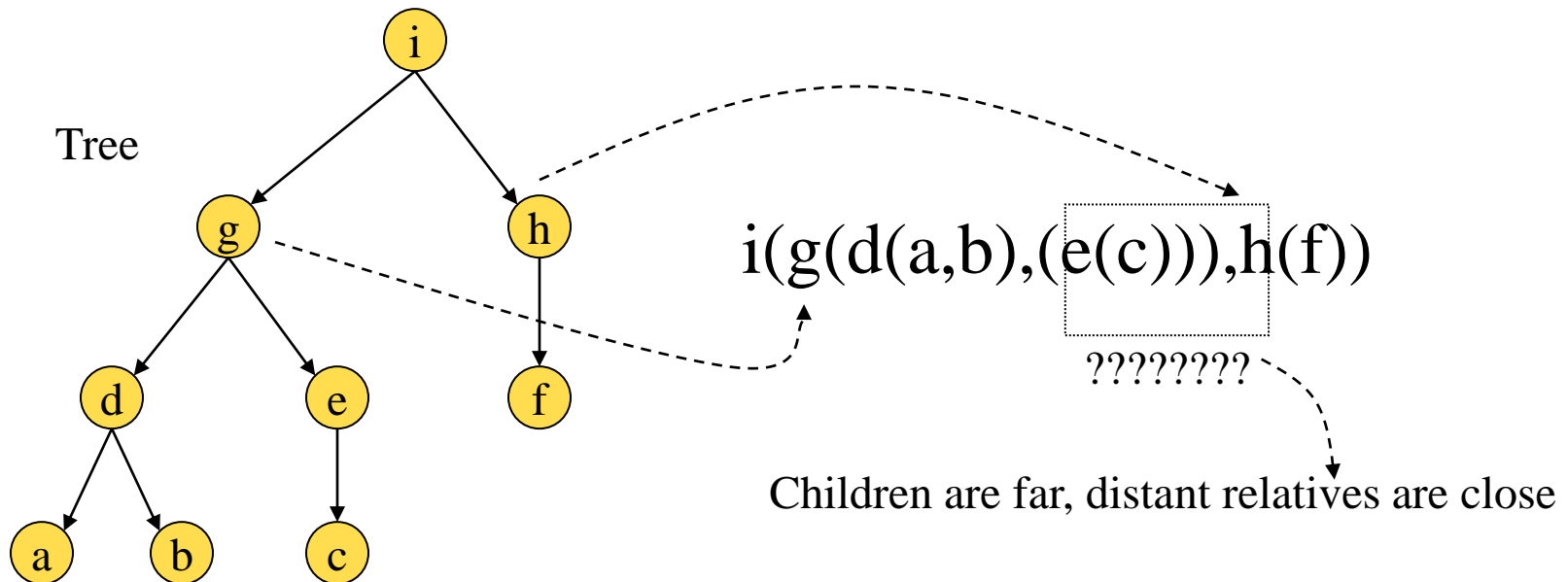


Graph (undirected)

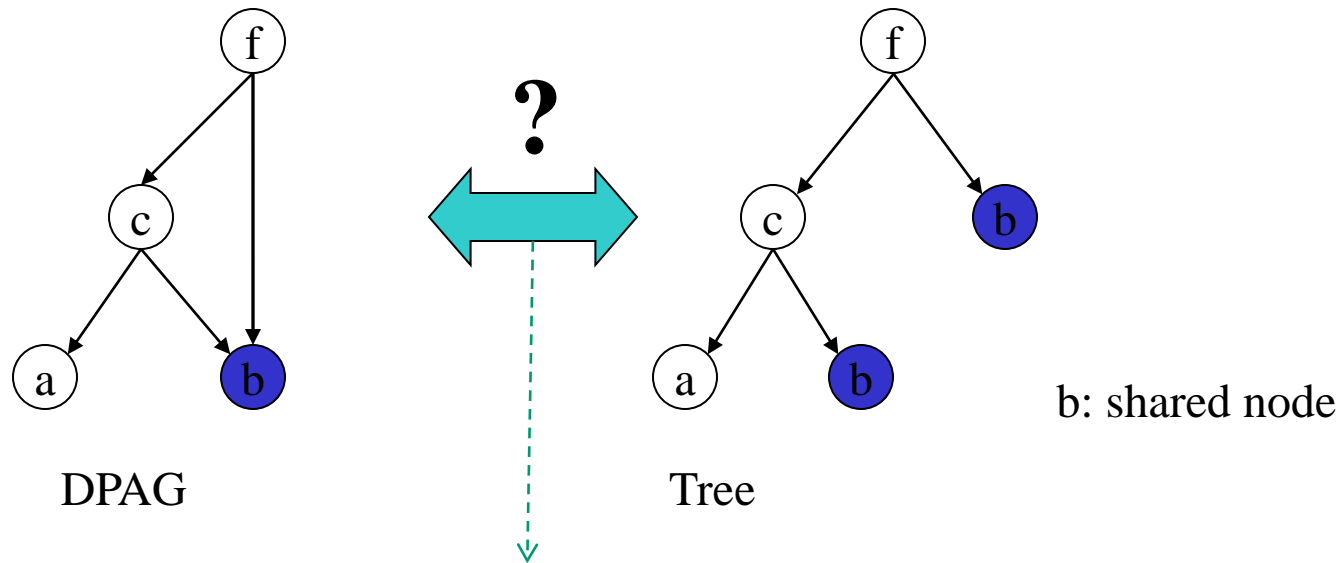
DPAG: labeled direct positional acyclic graphs with *super-source*, bounded *in-degree* and *out-degree* ( $k$ ).

# Structures: just use sequence ?

- Can we process structures like they are sequences?
- E.g. any tree can be converted into a sequence (no information loss) but:
  - Sequences may be long: number of vertices exponential w.r.t. height of tree
    - (aka the paths are  $\log$  of #nodes for the tree, so the dependencies are much shorter)
  - Dependencies are blurred out (arbitrary depending on the visit)



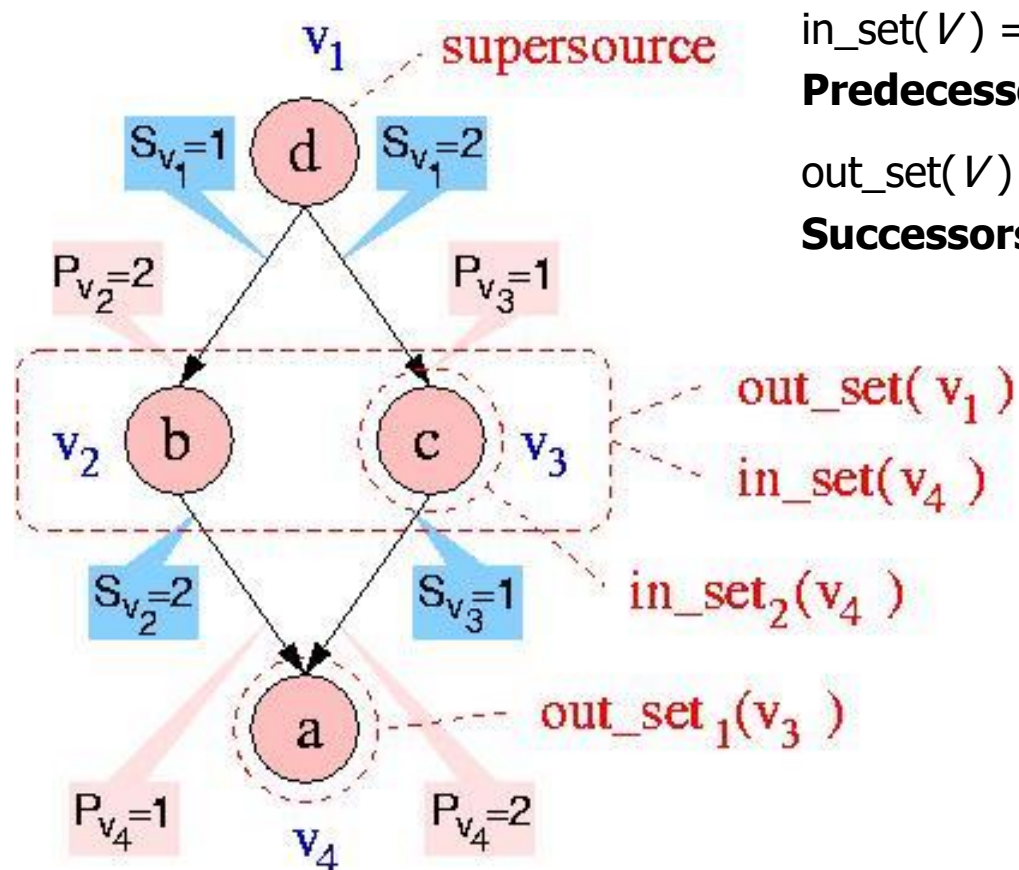
# Trees and DPAGs





# Positional versus Ordered (details)

- DPAG: for each vertex  $v$  in  $vert(G)$ , an injective function  $S_v: edg(v) \rightarrow [1, 2, \dots, K]$  is defined on the edges leaving from  $v$



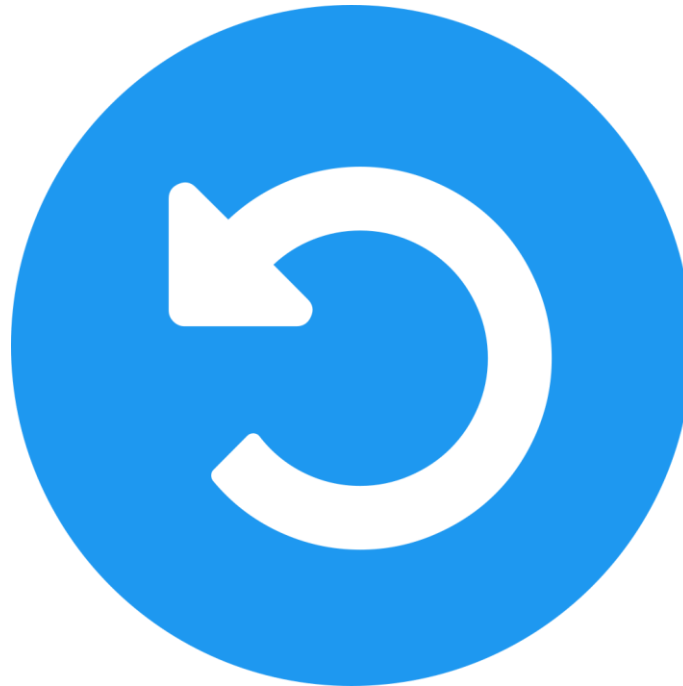
$in\_set(V) = \{u \mid v \in V \text{ and } u \rightarrow v\}$

**Predecessors**

$out\_set(V) = \{u \mid v \in V \text{ and } v \rightarrow u\}$

**Successors**

**Models:**  
**Restarting from the beginning:**  
**Recurrent and Recursive models**



# Learning in Structured Domain

## Plan in 2 lectures

### 1. Recurrent and Recursive Neural Networks

Extensions of models for learning in structured domains

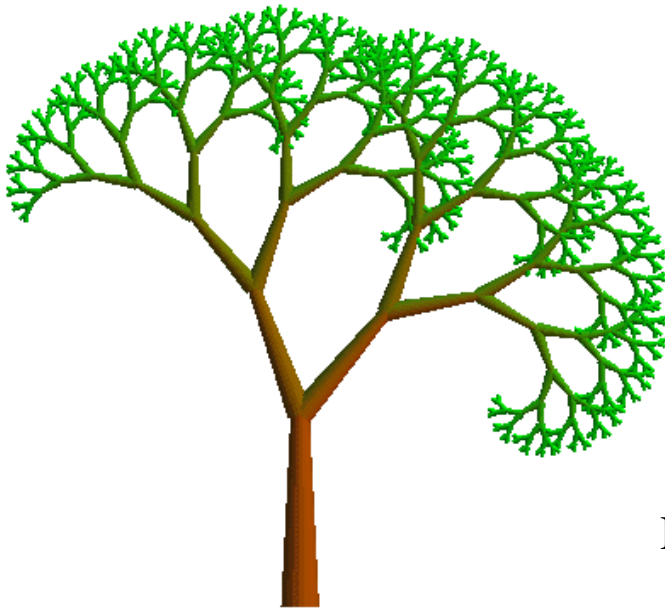
- Motivation and examples (structured data)
- The structured data (recursive)
- **Recursive models: RNN and RecNN**
- Recursive Cascade Correlation & other recursive approaches

### 2. Moving to DPAG and Graphs: the role of causality [Next Lecture (SD-2)]

# Preview: The RecNN idea

Recursive NN:

- **Recursive** and parametric realization of the transduction function
  - In other words: Node embedding by a neural state machine
- *Adaptive* by Neural Networks



We will see how RecNNs extend RNNs *matching* the *recursive* nature of trees (moving the model to the nature of the data)

Fractal tree: a recursive structure



# Summary of the Neural Computing Approach

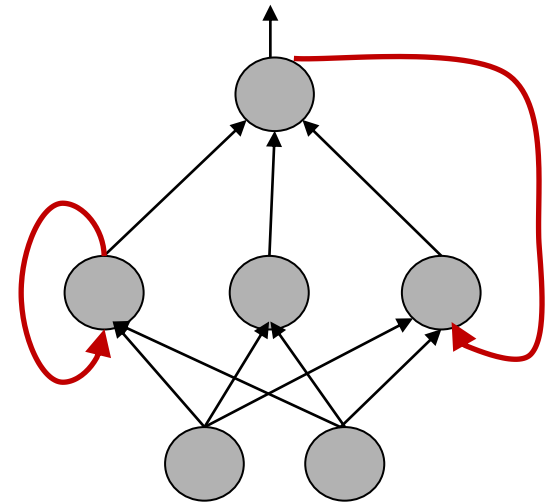
Domain	Neural Network
Static fixed-dim patterns (vectors, records, ...)	Feedforward
Dynamical patterns (temporal sequences, sequences ...)	<b>Recurrent</b>
Structured patterns (trees, DPAGs, ...)	<b>Recursive</b>

# Feedforward versus Recurrent (*memento*)

- **Feedforward:** direction: input  $\rightarrow$  output
- **Recurrent** neural networks: A different category of architecture, based on the addition of *feedback loops* connections in the network topology,
  - The presence of **self-loop** connections provides the network with dynamical properties, letting a memory of the past computations in the model.
  - This allows us to extend the representation capability of the model to the processing of sequences (and structured data).

## Recurrent neural networks:

- Introduced in the ML course
- They will be the subject (further developed) ISPR/CNS courses (see later).



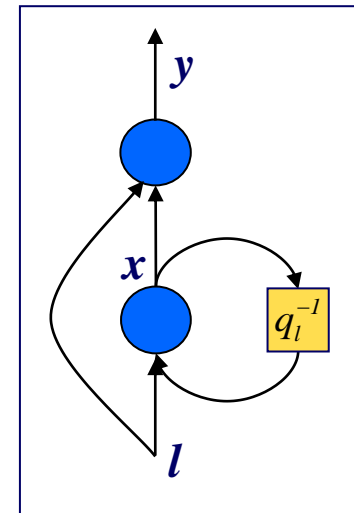
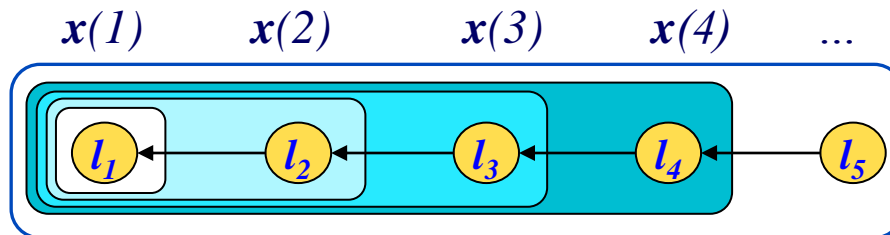
# Recurrent Neural Networks (resume)

- Up to now:

Given  $\mathbf{x}(0) = \mathbf{0}$

internal state

$$\begin{cases} \mathbf{x}(t) = \tau(\mathbf{x}(t-1), \mathbf{l}(t)) \\ \mathbf{y}(t) = g(\mathbf{x}(t), \mathbf{l}(t)) \end{cases}$$



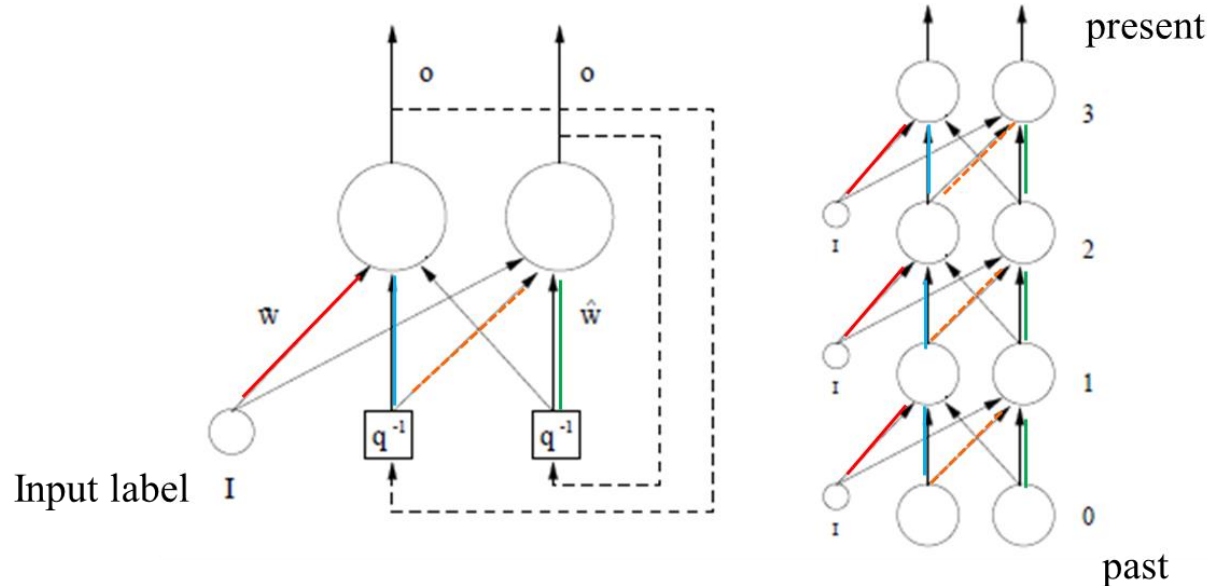
Graphical  
model

E.g.  
also **HMM**

- Tau is the *state transition (next-state)* function realized by a NN (say  $\tau_{NN}$ )

# RNN training and properties ([resume](#))

- BPTT/RTRL [see CNS course]
- Unfolding [see ML lecture RNN]:



Back-Prop Through Time:  
Backprop on this enrolled  
version

- Causality: A system is causal if the output at time  $t_0$  (or vertex  $v$ ) only depends on inputs at time  $t < t_0$  (depends only on  $v$  and its descendants)
  - necessary and sufficient for *internal state*
- Stationarity: time invariance, state transition function  $\tau$  is independent on node  $v$  (the same in any time)



# Recursive Neural Networks (overview)

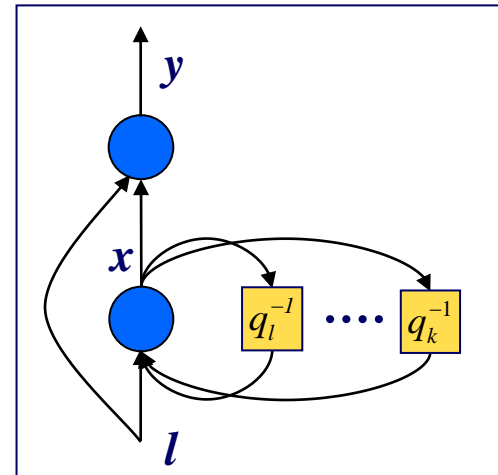
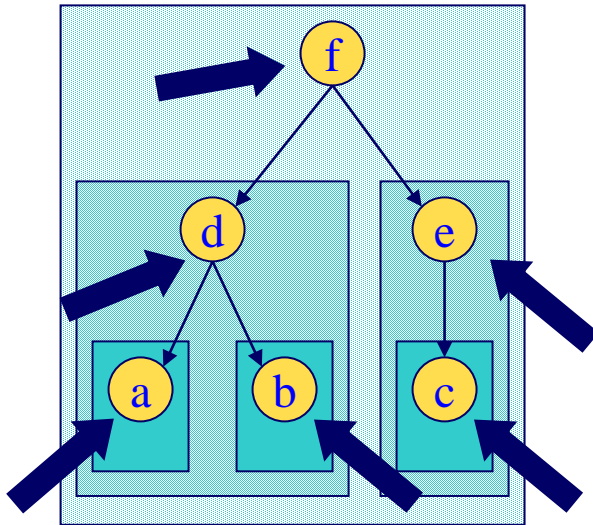


- Now:

$$\begin{cases} \mathbf{x}(v) = \tau(\mathbf{x}(\text{ch}[v]), \mathbf{l}(v)) \\ \mathbf{y}(v) = g(\mathbf{x}(v), \mathbf{l}(v)) \end{cases}$$

$$\mathbf{x}(\text{ch}[v]) = \mathbf{x}(\text{ch}_1[v]), \dots, \mathbf{x}(\text{ch}_k[v])$$

State transition system (for trees)



# feedbacks = # children

# Recursive Neural Networks (overview)

## More precisely (with initial conditions)

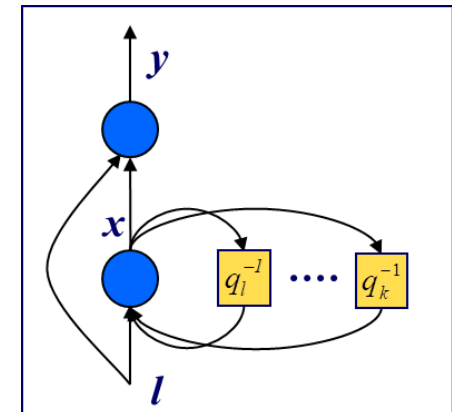
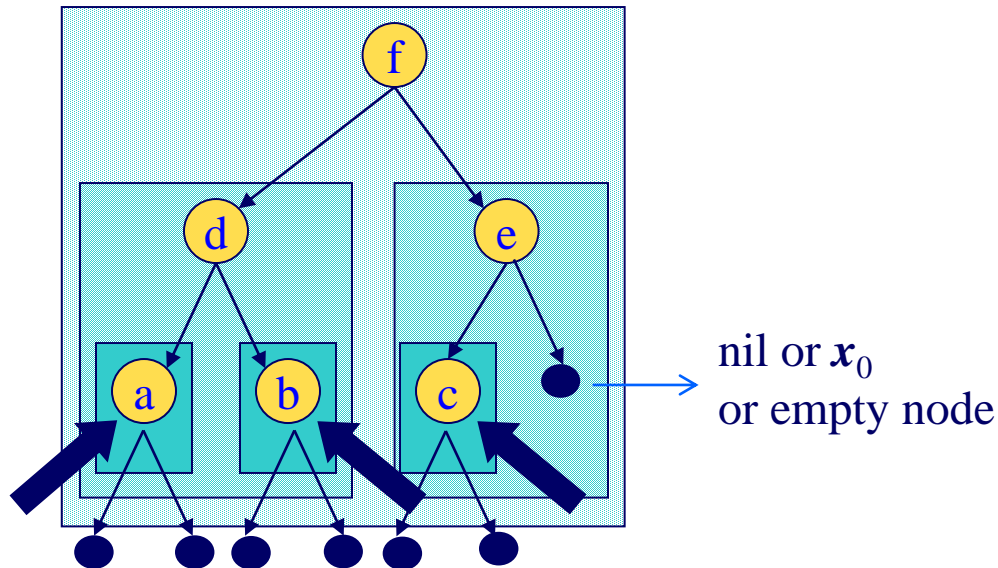
- Now:

Given  $x(\text{nil}) = 0$

$$\begin{cases} \mathbf{x}(v) = \tau(\mathbf{x}(\text{ch}[v]), \mathbf{l}(v)) \\ \mathbf{y}(v) = g(\mathbf{x}(v), \mathbf{l}(v)) \end{cases}$$

$$\mathbf{x}(\text{ch}[v]) = \mathbf{x}(\text{ch}_1[v]), \dots, \mathbf{x}(\text{ch}_k[v])$$

State transition system



# feedbacks = # children

# Generalized Shift Operators



- Standard shift operator (time):

$$q^{-1} S_t = S_{t-1}$$

- Generalized shift operators (structure):

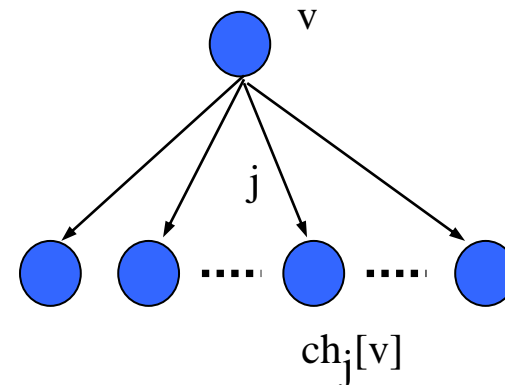
$$q_j^{-1} G_v = G_{\text{ch}_j[v]}$$

where  $\text{ch}_j[v]$  is the  $j$ -th child of  $v$

RecNN with  $q$ :

$$\begin{cases} \mathbf{x}(v) = \tau(\mathbf{l}(v), q^{-1} \mathbf{x}(v)) \\ \mathbf{y}(v) = g(\mathbf{x}(v)) \end{cases}$$

$$\begin{cases} q_j^{-1} x_i(v) = x_0 & \text{if } \text{ch}_j[v] = \text{nil} \\ q_j^{-1} x_i(v) = x_i(\text{ch}_j[v]) & \text{otherwise} \end{cases}$$



Used to extend the states for children of vertexes of the tree

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Extensions of models for learning in structured domains

- Motivation and examples (structured data)
- The structured data (recursive)
- **Recursive models: RNN and RecNN**
  - **Properties of the recursive transduction**
  - Unfolding
  - Domain details and implementation by NN
  - Applications
  - Learning algorithms
- Recursive Cascade Correlation & other recursive approaches

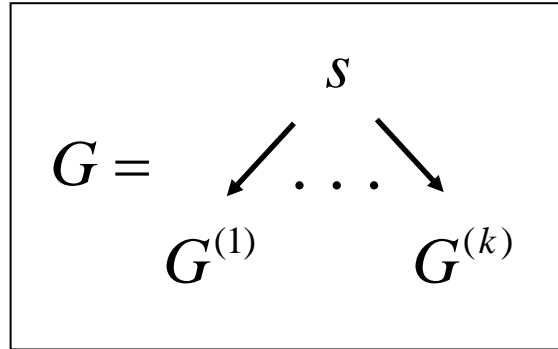
### 2. Moving to DPAG and Graphs: the role of causality [Next Lecture (SD-2)]

# Recursive Processing (*a different point of view*)

## Recursive definition of $\tau_E$ (*encoding function*)

**Node/Graph embedding**

$$\mathbf{x}(\text{root}) = \tau_E(G)$$



$s$  can be either a *root* for a tree or a super-source for a DPAG

$G^{(j)}$  is a subgraph rooted in the children  $j$  of  $s$ .  
 $s$  has a label  $l(s) = L_{\text{root}}$

$$\tau_E(G) = \begin{cases} \mathbf{0} & \text{if } G \text{ is empty} \\ \tau_{NN}(L_{\text{root}}, \tau_E(G^{(1)}), \dots, \tau_E(G^{(k)})) & \end{cases}$$

$\tau_E$  : *systematic visit* of  $G \rightarrow$  it guides the application of  $\tau$  (in the form of a NN  $\tau_{NN}$ ) to each node of tree (bottom-up).

*Causality* and *stationary* assumption.

# Properties of RecNN (I)

Extension of *causality* and *stationarity* defined for RNN:

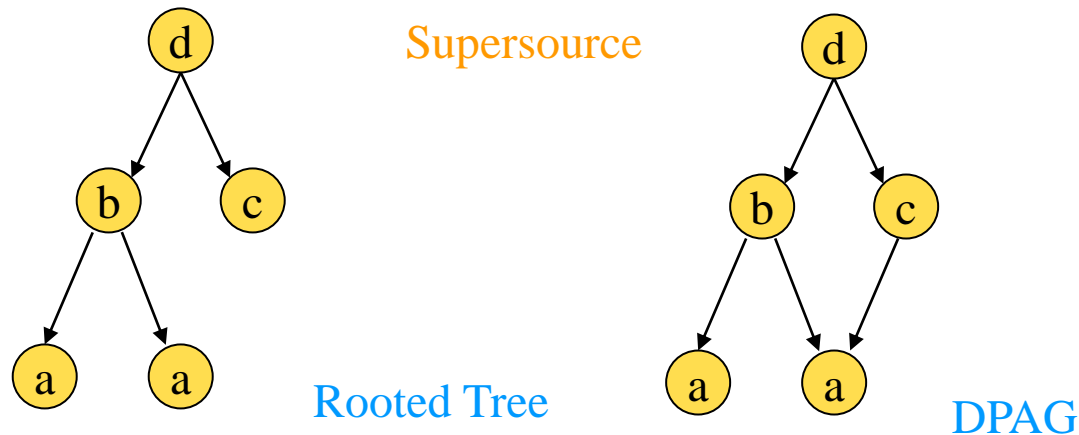
- **Causality**: the output for a vertex  $v$  only depends on  $v$  and its descendants (induced subgraphs)
  - Compositionality over the input structure!
- **Stationarity**: state transition function  $\tau_{NN}$  is independent on vertex  $v$ 
  - Parsimony: we use the same NN for each vertex, regardless of the dimension of sequences (useful to process structures of variable size with a fixed size of the model)

Recurrent/recursive NN transductions admit a recursive state representation with such properties

- **Adaptivity** (NN. learn. Alg.) **+ Universal approximation** over the tree domain [Hammer 2005-2007]

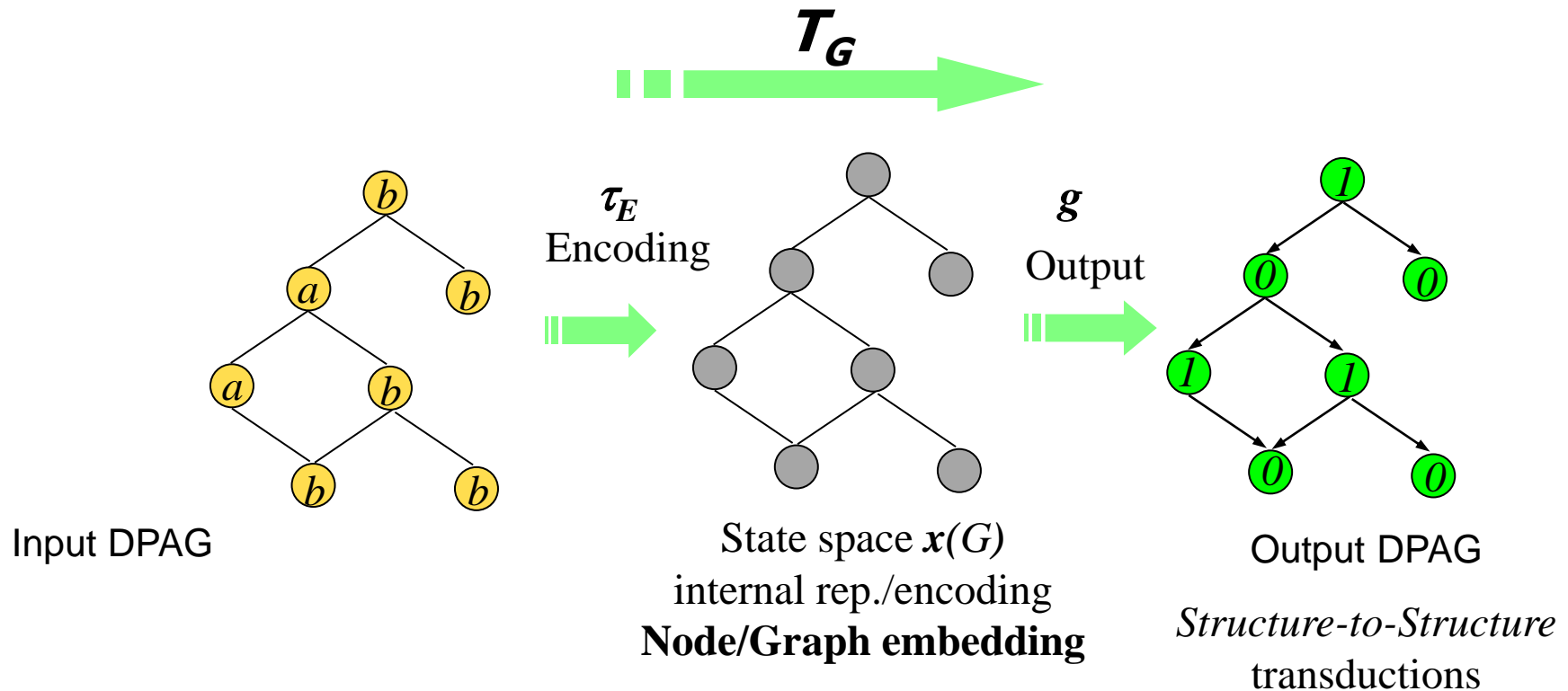
## Property (II): Kind of graphs for RecNN

- RecNN can in principle treat both Trees and DOAGs/DPAGs
  - Whether it can discriminate completely also the DOAG/DPAGs will be discussed later
  - But if there are no cycles the *recursive* model can visit the input DOAG/DPAG without special care



# Properties (III): Transduction: graphical view

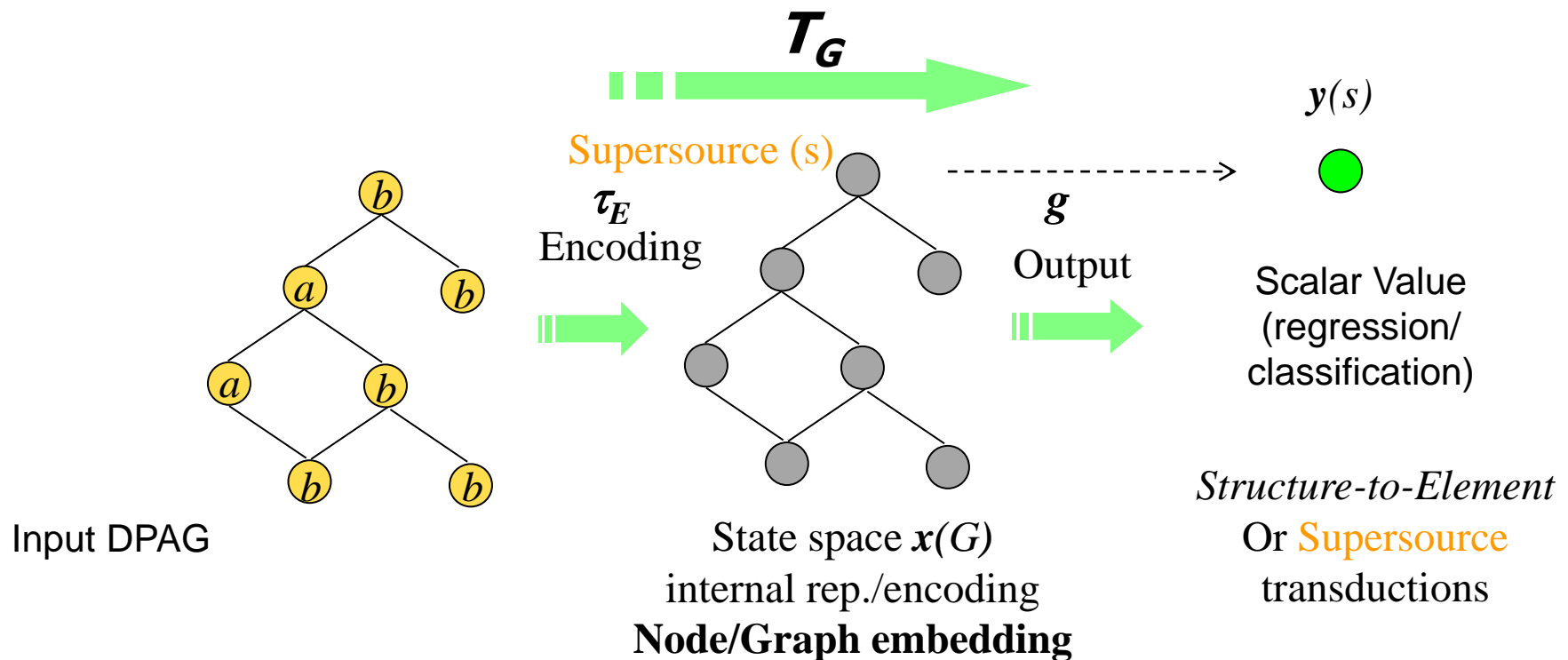
- $T_G$  is *IO-isomorph* if  $G$  and  $T_G(G)$  have the same skeleton (graph after removing labels)





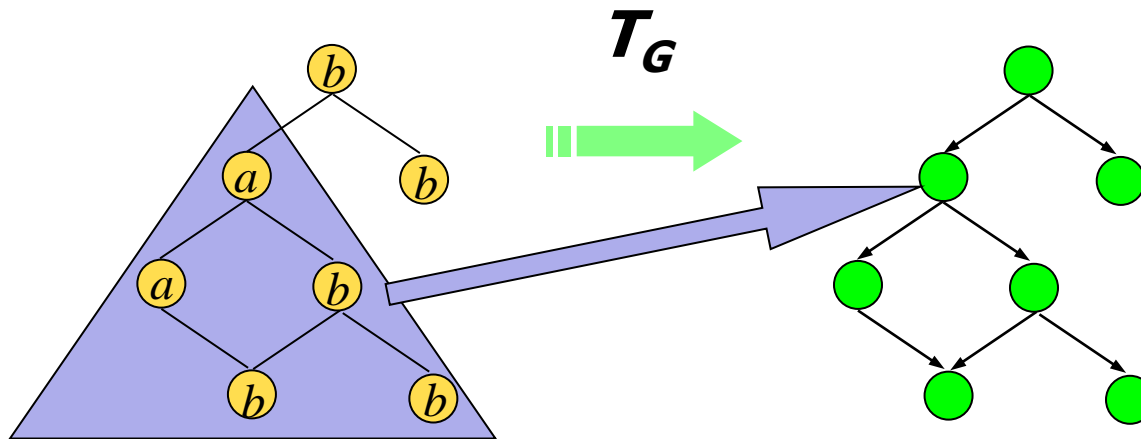
# Properties (IV): Transduction: graphical view

- $T_G$  Supersource transductions



# Properties (IV)

- IO-isomorph **causal** transduction
- **Causality**: the output for a vertex  $v$  only depends on  $v$  and its descendants (induced subgraphs)
  - Compositionality over the input structure!



Only the sub-structure is considered

# Learning in Structured Domain

## Plan in 2 lectures

### 1. Recurrent and Recursive Neural Networks

Extensions of models for learning in structured domains

- Motivation and examples (structured data)
- The structured data (recursive)
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  - Properties of the recursive transduction
  - **Unfolding**
  - Domain details and implementation by NN
  - Applications
  - Learning algorithms
- Recursive Cascade Correlation & other recursive approaches

### 2. Moving to DPAG and Graphs: the role of causality [Next Lecture (SD-2)]

# Unfolding and Enc. Network

- We will see (again) the RecNN data flow process with two points of view:
  1. **Unfolding** by “Walking on structures” model (*stationarity*), according to *causal* assumption (inverse topological order\*).
    - The model visits the structures
  2. Building an **Encoding network** isomorph to the input structure (same skeleton, inverse arrows, again with *stationarity*) and *causal* assumption):
    - We build a different encoding network for each input structure

\* see next slide

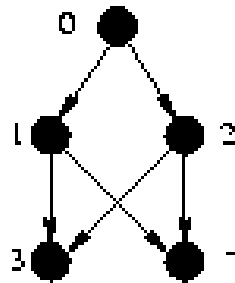
# Topological Order

- A linear ordering of its nodes s.t. each node comes before all nodes to which it has edges. Every DAG has at least one topological sort, and may have many.
- A numbering of the *vertices* of a *directed acyclic graph* such that every *edge* from a vertex numbered  $i$  to a vertex numbered  $j$  satisfies  $i < j$ .

According to a Partial order

For RNN:

**Inverse topological order**

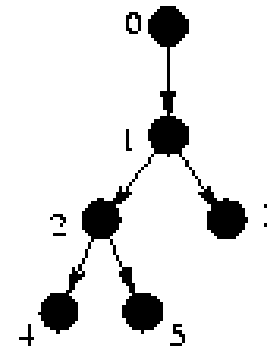


0,1,2,3,4

0,1,2,4,3

0,2,1,3,4

0,2,1,4,3



0,1,3,2,4,5

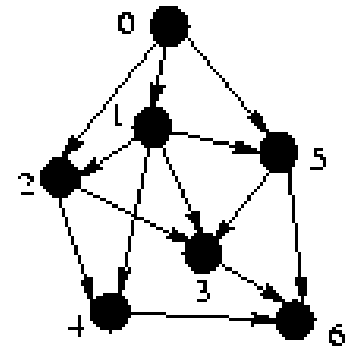
0,1,3,2,5,4

0,1,2,3,4,5

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0,1,2,5,4,3



0,1,2,4,5,3,6

0,1,2,5,3,4,6

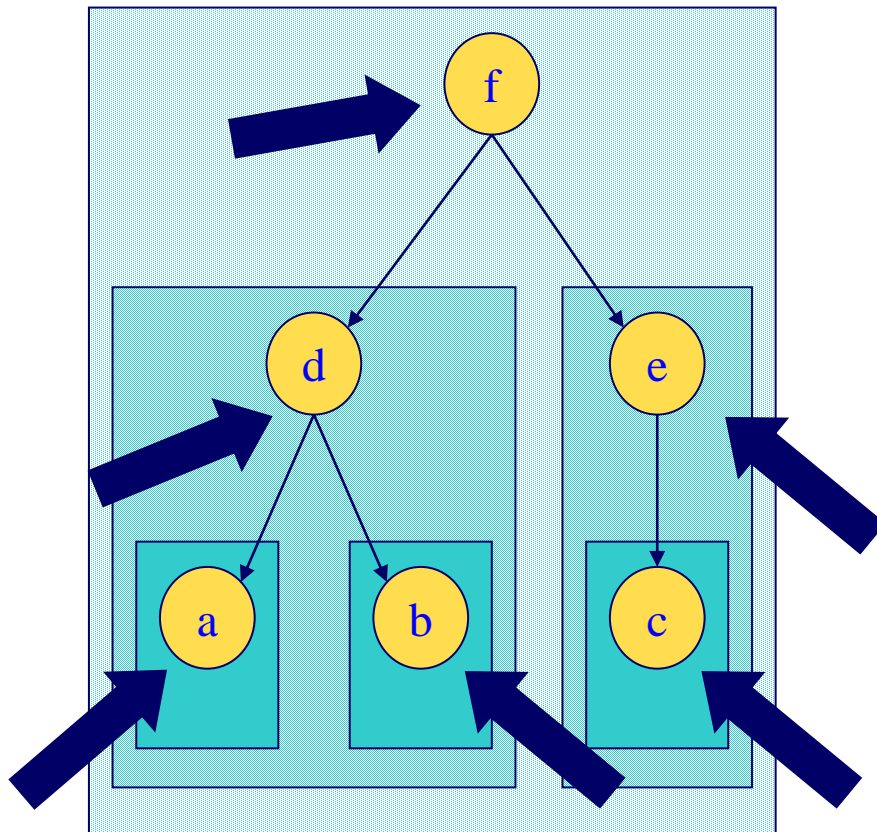
0,1,2,5,4,3,6

0,1,5,2,3,4,6

0,1,5,2,4,3,6

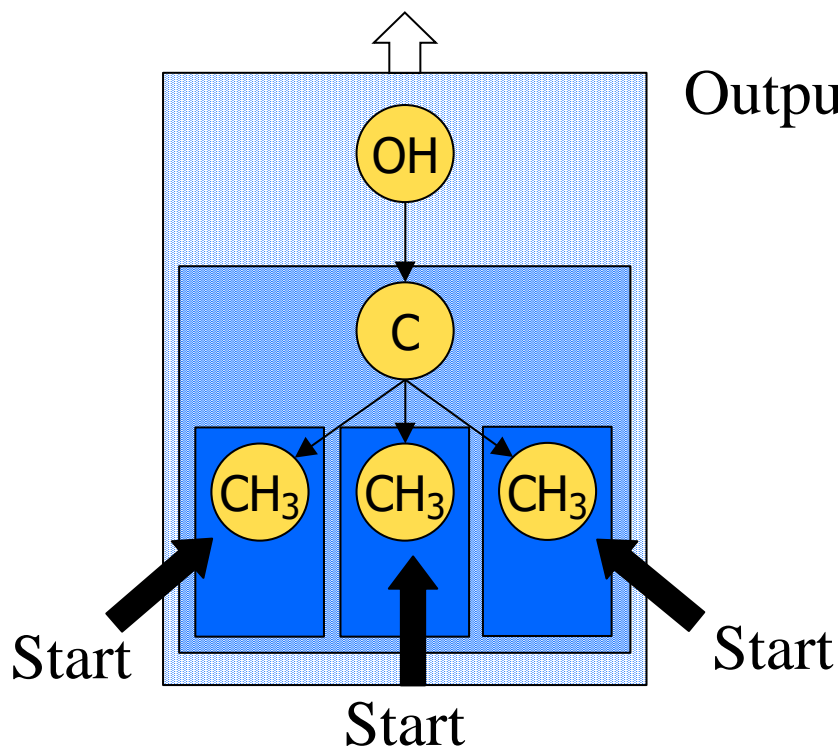
# Unfolding & Encoding Process:

## Unfolding view (1)

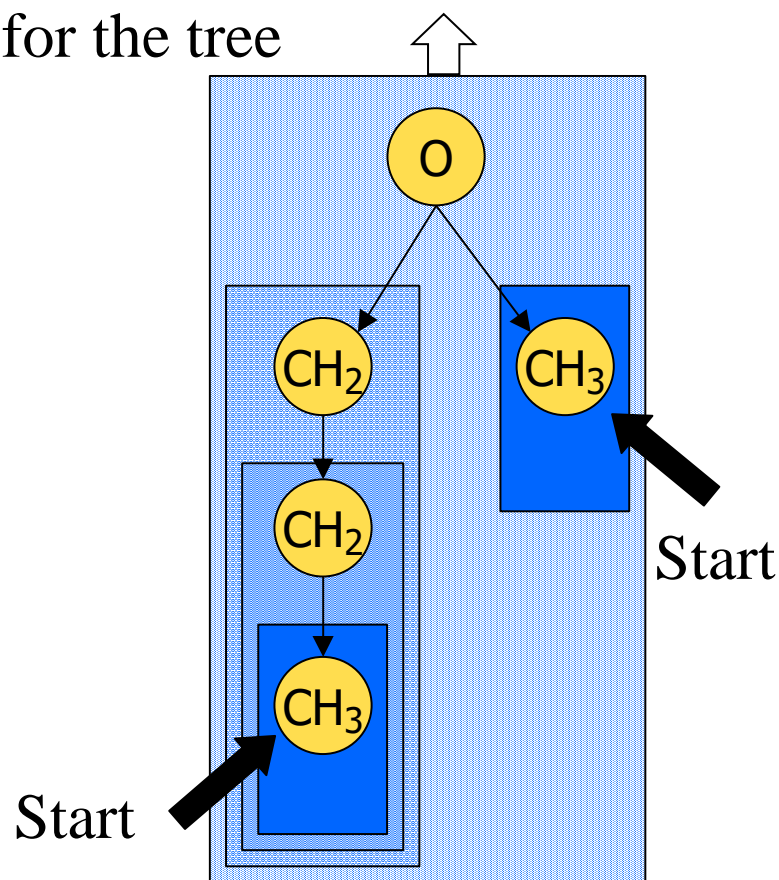


- Unfolding the encoding process through structures
- Bottom-up process for visiting
- We will see later how to make it with  $\tau_{NN}$  (and hence by NN) for each step: to build an *encoding network*

# RecNN over different structures: unfolding 2



Output for the tree

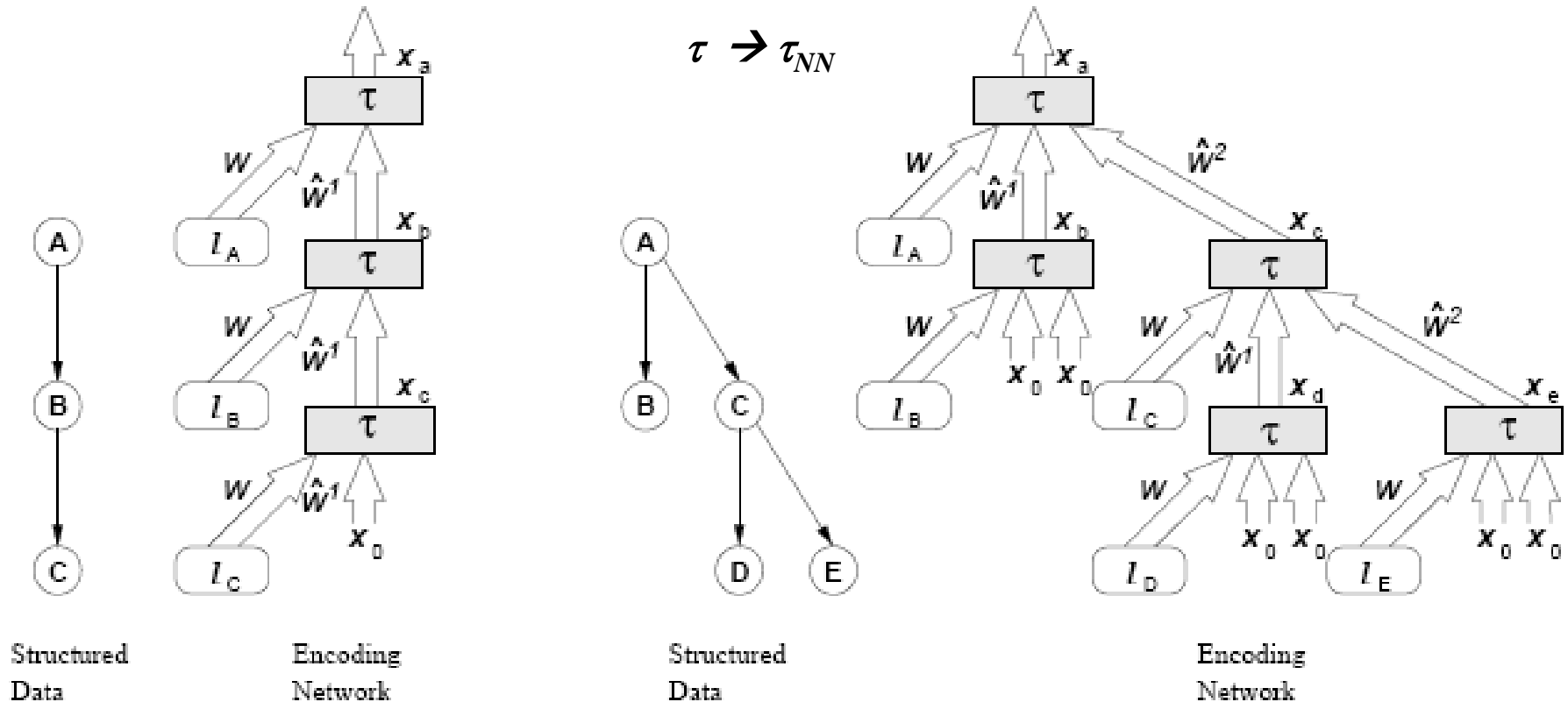


Examples on different trees for chemical compounds:

Unfolding through structures:

**The same process applies to all the vertices of a tree and for all the trees in the data set**

# Unfolding (3) & Enc. Net. For Recurrent and Recursive NN (or Recursive unfold. for two different structures)



- $\tau$  ( $\tau_{NN}$ ) for each step (with weight sharing):  
*encoding network*
- Adaptive encoding via the free parameters of  $\tau_{NN}$

$\tau_{NN}$  (and **weight**) **sharing** : units are the same for the all the vertices of a tree and for all the trees in the data set!!!



# Learning in Structured Domain

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### 2. Moving to DPAG and Graphs: the role of causality [Next Lecture (SD-2)]

# RecNN: going to details for the domains

- $\mathbf{X} = \mathbb{R}^m$  continuous (real values) state (code) space (encoded subgraph space)
- $\mathbf{L} = \mathbb{R}^n$  vertex label space
- $\mathbf{O} = \mathbb{R}^z$  or  $\{0,1\}^z$
- $\tau = \tau_{NN} : \underbrace{\mathbb{R}^n \times \mathbb{R}^m \times \dots \times \mathbb{R}^m}_{k \text{ times}} \rightarrow \boxed{\mathbb{R}^m}$  Subgraph code
- $g$  output function
- $x_0 = \mathbf{0}$

$$T_G: G \rightarrow O$$

$$G \xrightarrow{\tau_E} \boxed{\mathbb{R}^m} \xrightarrow{g} \mathbb{R}^z$$

$\underbrace{\hspace{10em}}_{T_G}$

- $\tau$  and  $g$  realized by NN with free parameters  $\mathbf{W}$

$$\text{RNN realize } g \circ \tau_E$$

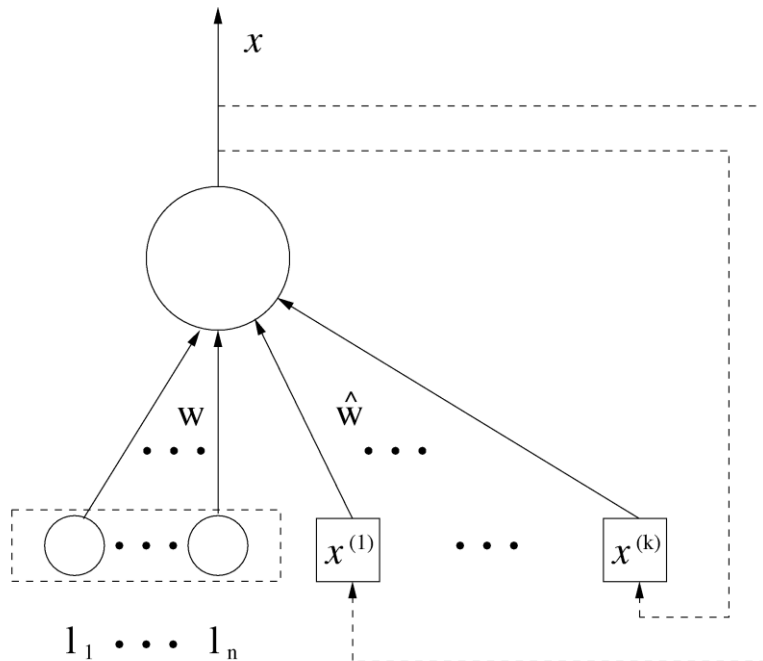
# Realization of $\tau_{NN}$ (RecNN) unit

$$\tau_{NN} : \underbrace{IR^n \times IR^m \times \dots \times IR^m}_{k \text{ times}} \rightarrow \boxed{IR^m}$$

*Dim m* *Subgraph code* *m x m*

$$\mathbf{x}(v) = \tau_{NN}(\mathbf{l}, \mathbf{x}^{(1)}, \dots, \mathbf{x}^{(k)}) = \sigma(\mathbf{W}\mathbf{l} + \sum_{j=1}^k \hat{\mathbf{W}}_j \mathbf{x}^{(j)} + \theta)$$

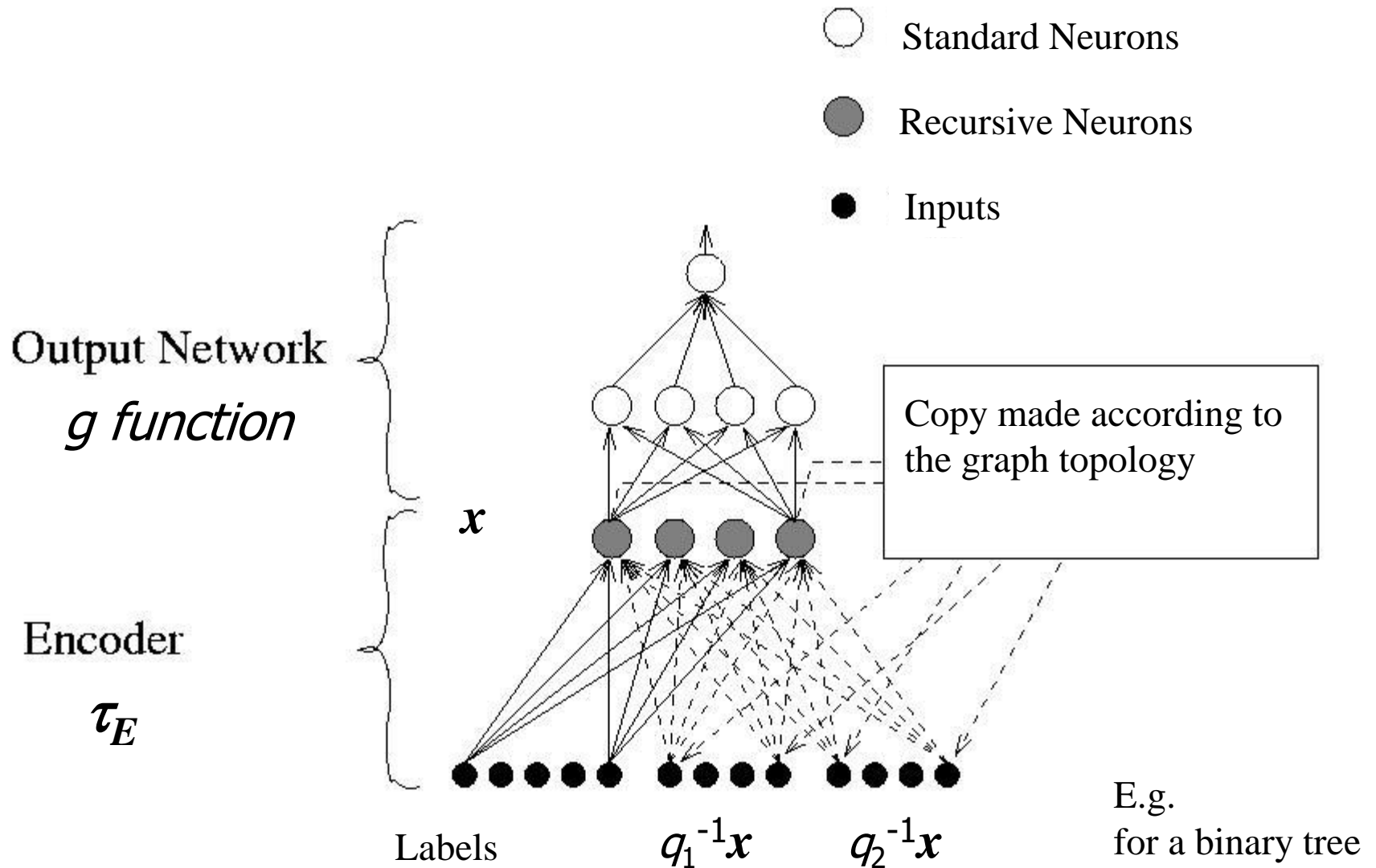
where  $\mathbf{x}^{(j)} = \mathbf{x}(\text{ch}_j[v])$  *# of children* *Free parameters*



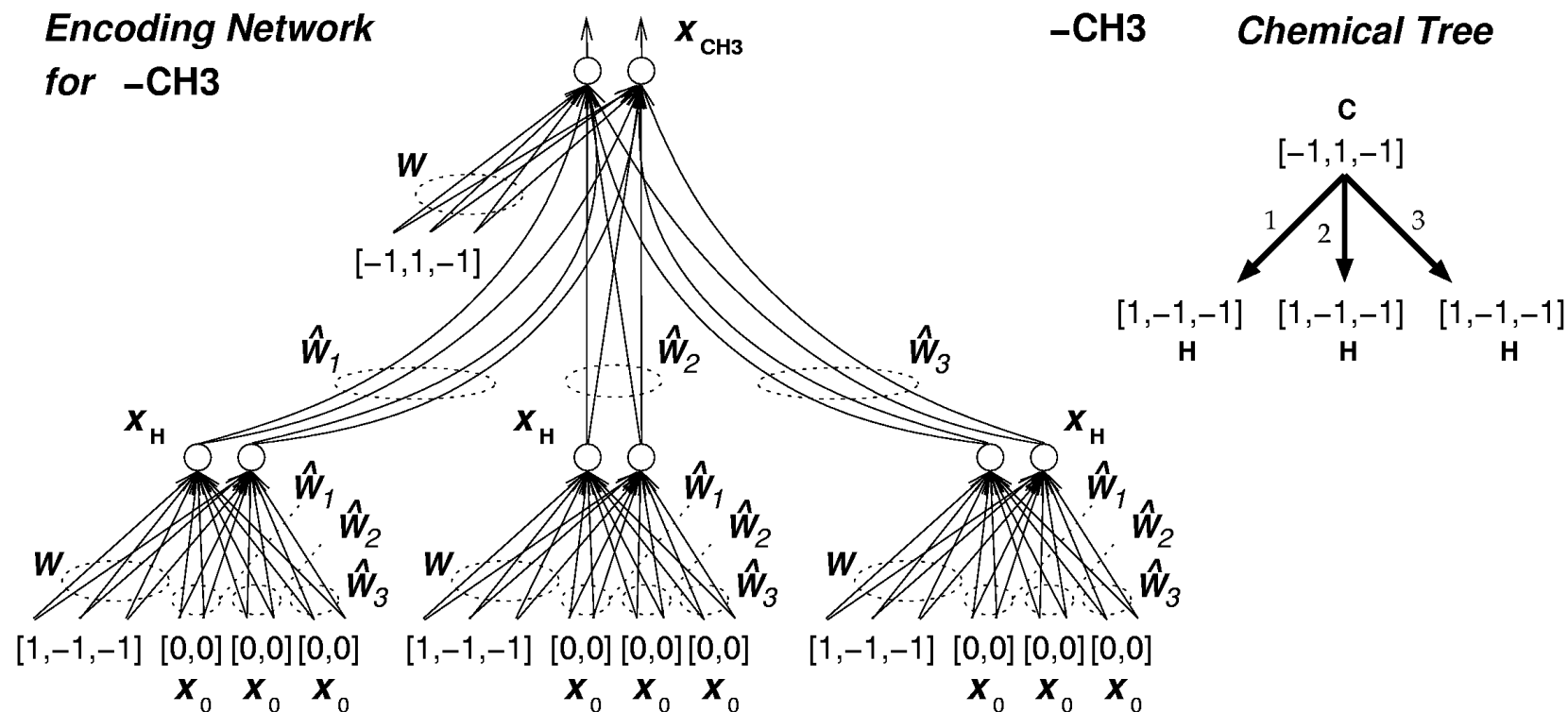
1 recursive neuron  
( $\tau_{NN}$  with  $m=1$ )

Process a vertex  
# feedbacks = # children  
(max  $k$ )

# Fully-connected RecNN



# In details: Encoding Network with NN (I)

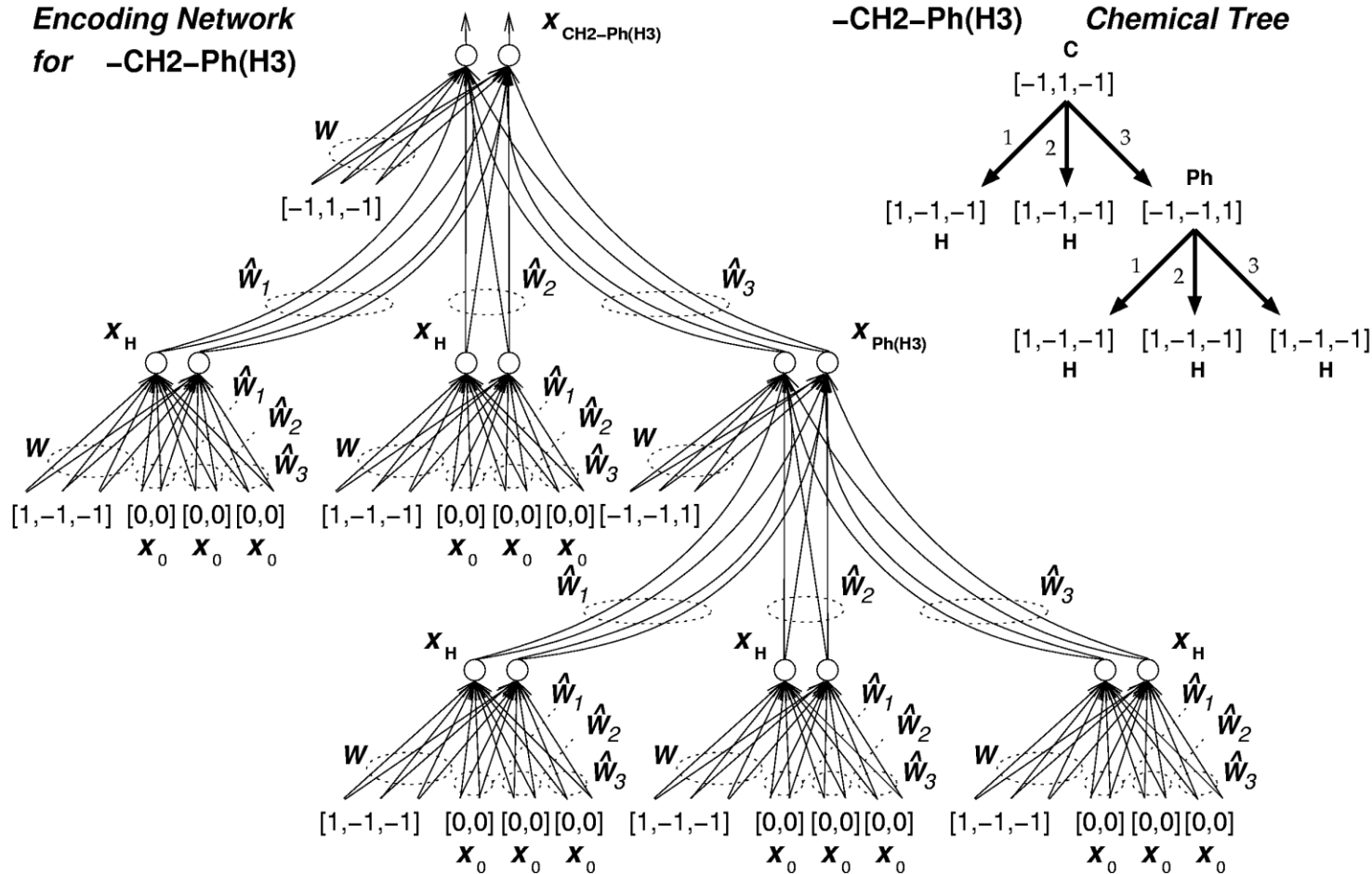


**Start here !**

Tau (and **weight**) **sharing** : units are the same for the all the vertices of a tree and for all the trees in the data set!!!

# In details: Encoding Network with NN (II)

**Encoding Network  
for -CH<sub>2</sub>-Ph(H<sub>3</sub>)**



# Learning in Structured Domain

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### 2. Moving to DPAG and Graphs: the role of causality [Next Lecture (SD-2)]

# RecNN applications

- Representing **hierarchical** information in many real-world domains
- Many examples:
  - Molecular Biology
  - Document (**XML**) Processing
  - **Natural Language Processing**
    - E.g. Stanford NLP group shown the effectiveness of RecNN applied to tree representation of language (and images) data and tasks.
    - Sentiment Tree Bank
    - Next slides



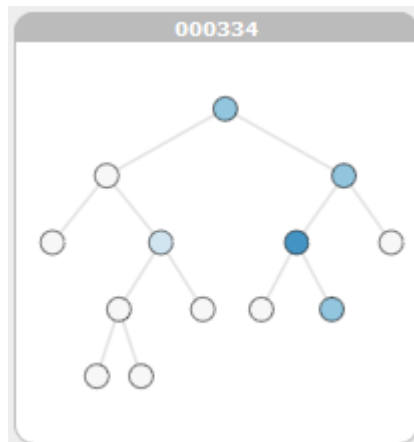
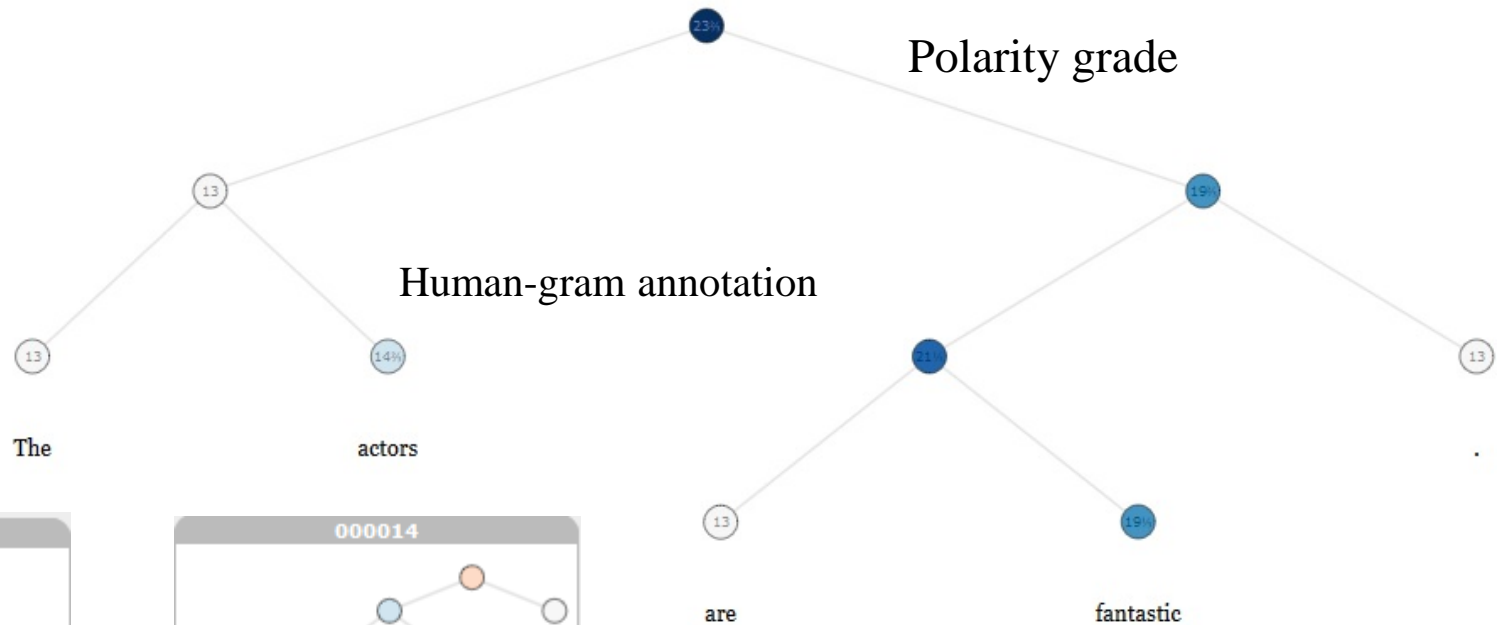
## Recent Applications:

### Repetita (da ML): RecNN for NLP recent exploitment

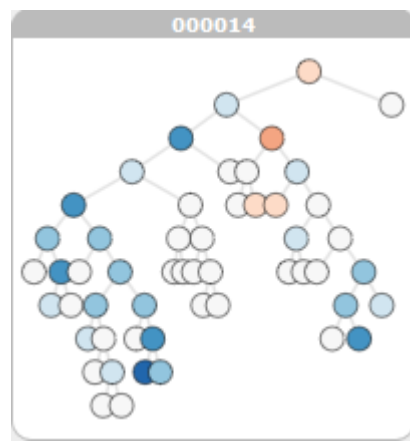
- Currently wide successful application in **NLP** (e.g. by the Stanford NLP group)
- Shown the effectiveness of RecursiveNN applied to tree representation of language (and images) data and tasks. Started in 2011-13
- E.g. Sentiment Treebank (about movies)
  - Sentiment labels (movies reviews) for 215,154 phrases in the **parse trees** of **11,855** sentences
  - Recursive NN pushes the state of the art in single sentence positive/negative classification from 80% up to 85.4%.

# Repetita (da ML): Examples

000027



...



Other instances in the dataset

# Learning in Structured Domain

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### 2. Moving to DPAG and Graphs: the role of causality [Next Lecture (SD-2)]

# RNN Learning Algorithms

- Backpropagation through structure: Extension of BPTT  
Goller & Küchler (1996)
  - Simple to understand using graphical formalism (backprop+weight sharing on the unfolded net) :
  - *The notation is adapted to the case of delta from the fathers*
- RTRL Sperduti & Starita (1997),
- ✓ Equations: See Cap 19 in  
Kolen, Kremer , *A Field Guide to **Dynamical Recurrent Networks***.  
IEEE press 2001
- RCC family based: next slides

# Learning in Structured Domain

## Plan in 2 lectures

### 1. Recurrent and Recursive Neural Networks

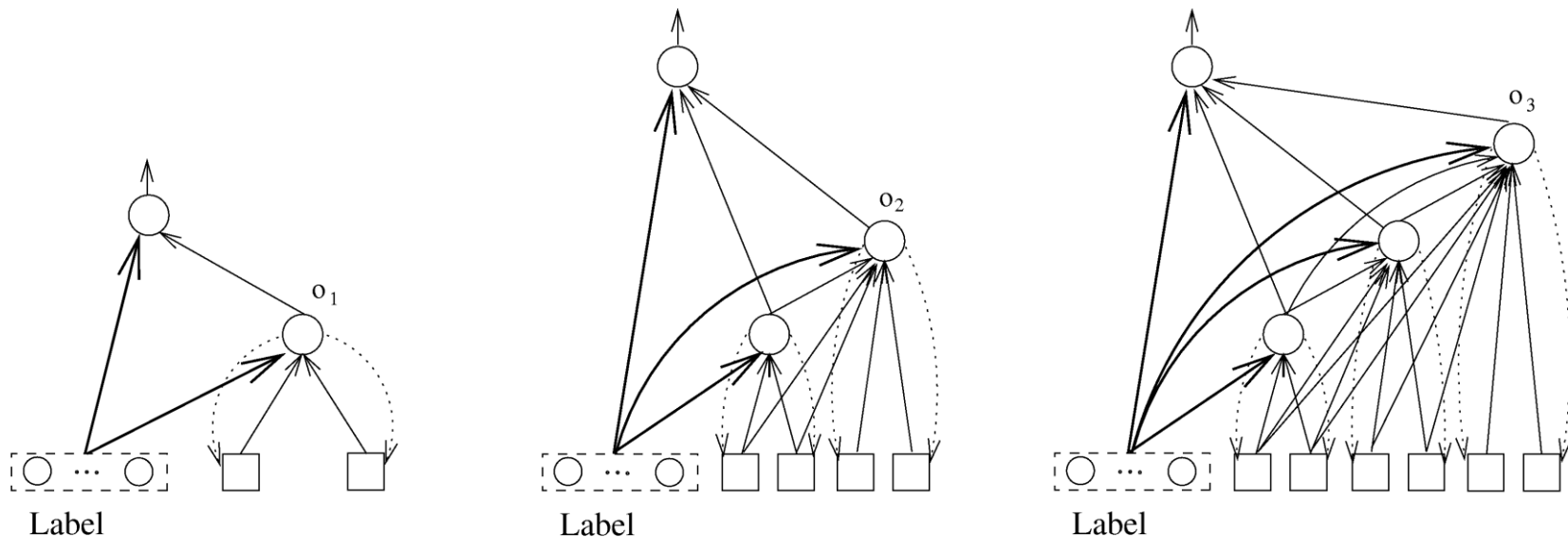
Extensions of models for learning in structured domains

- Motivation and examples (structured data)
- The structured data (recursive)
- Recursive models: RNN and RecNN
- **Recursive Cascade Correlation & other recursive approaches**
  - **RecCC**
  - **Panorama**

### 2. Moving to DPAG and Graphs: the role of causality [Next Lecture (SD-2)]

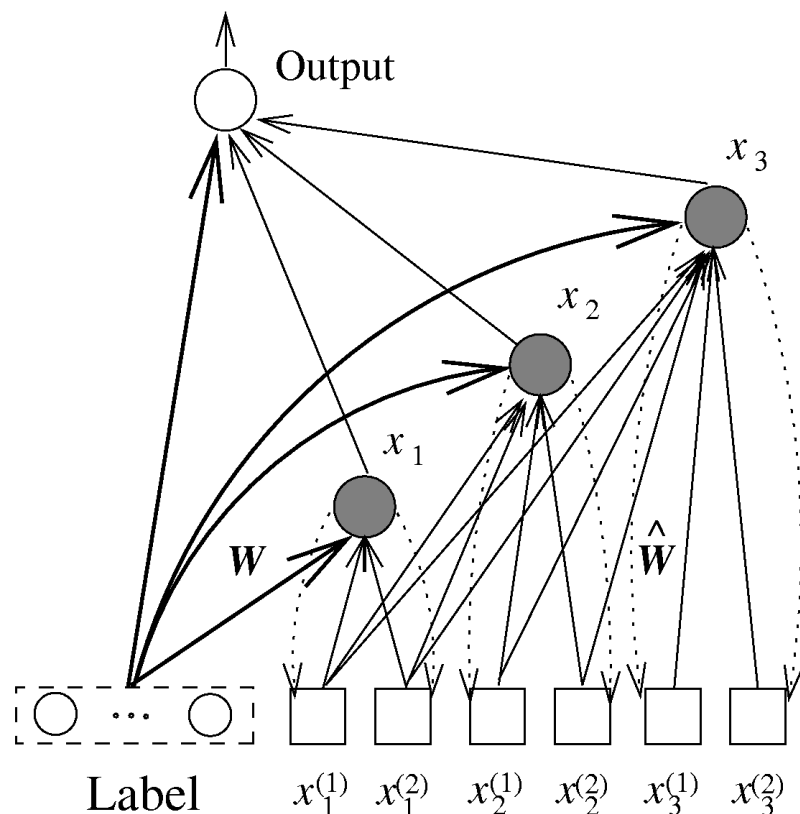
# RCC (I)

- Architecture of Cascade Correlation for Structure (Recursive Cascade Correlation - RCC)
- RecNN with recursive units within a **constructive approach**  $\Rightarrow$   $m$  is automatically computed by the training algorithm.
- *A deep neural network!*





## RCC (II)



Architecture of a RCC with 3 hidden units ( $\mathbf{m=3}$ ) and  $\mathbf{k=2}$ .

Recursive hidden units (shadowed) generate the code of the input graph (function  $\tau_E$ ). The hidden units are added to the network during the training. The box elements are used to store the output of the hidden units, i.e. the code  $x_i^{(j)}$  that represent the context according to the graph topology.

The output unit realize the function  $\mathbf{g}$  and produce the final prediction value.

E.g. A.M. Bianucci, A. Micheli, A. Sperduti, A. Starita.  
*Application of Cascade Correlation Networks for Structures to Chemistry*,  
 Applied Intelligence Journal. 12 (1/2): 117-146, 2000

# RCC (III) Learning



Gradient descent: interleaving LMS (output) and maximization of correlation between new hidden units and residual error. Main difference with CC: calculation of the following derivatives by recurrent equations:

$$\frac{\partial x_h(v)}{\partial w_{hi}^j} = \frac{\partial \tau_h(\mathbf{l}, \mathbf{x}^{(1)}, \dots, \mathbf{x}^{(k)})}{\partial w_{hi}^j} = f' \left( l_i + \sum_{t=1}^k \hat{w}_{hh}^t \frac{\partial \mathbf{x}_h^{(t)}}{\partial w_{hi}^j} \right)$$

$$\frac{\partial x_h(v)}{\partial \hat{w}_{hi}^j} = \frac{\partial \tau_h(\mathbf{l}, \mathbf{x}^{(1)}, \dots, \mathbf{x}^{(k)})}{\partial \hat{w}_{hi}^j} = f' \left( \mathbf{x}_i^{(j)} + \sum_{t=1}^k \hat{w}_{hh}^t \frac{\partial \mathbf{x}_h^{(t)}}{\partial \hat{w}_{hi}^j} \right)$$

where  $\mathbf{x}^{(j)} = \mathbf{x}(\text{ch}_j[v])$

**Note:** simplification (of the sum on other units) due to the architecture difference with the RTRL for a fully connected RNN!

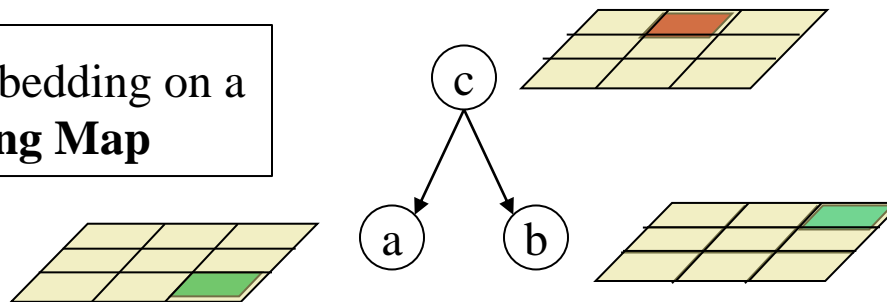
But compared to the recurrent case it *appears the summation on children!*



# Unsupervised recursive models (2003-2005)

- Transfer *recursive* idea to unsupervised learning
- No prior metric/pre-processing (but still bias!)
- Evolution of the similarity measure through *recursive comparison* of sub-structures
- Iteratively compared via bottom-up *encoding* process

Recursive nodes embedding on a  
**Self-Organizing Map**



It uses e.g. the SOM  
coordinates for  
node embedding

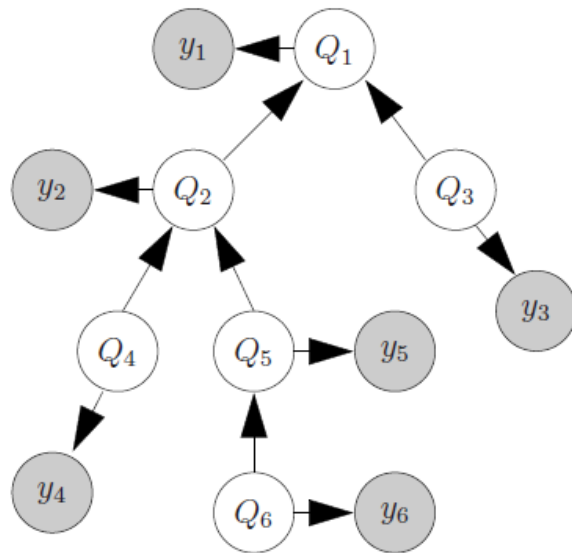
Node embedding

$l$	$C_1$	$C_2$
-----	-------	-------

M. Hagenbuchner et al. IEEE TNN, 2003  
B. Hammer et al. Neural Networks, 2005

# Generative: HTMM (2012-2018)

- E.g **Bottom-up Hidden Tree Markov Models** extend HMM to trees exploiting the recursive approach

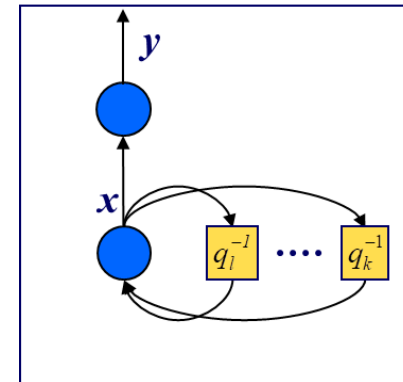


- Generative process from the leaves to the root
- Markov assumption (conditional dependence)  
 $Q_{ch1}(u), \dots, Q_{ch_K}(u) \rightarrow Q_u$

**Children to parent hidden state transition**  
 $P(Q_u \mid Q_{ch1}(u), \dots, Q_{ch_K}(u))$

Where (from a different paper)  
 $Q_v \leftrightarrow x(v)$

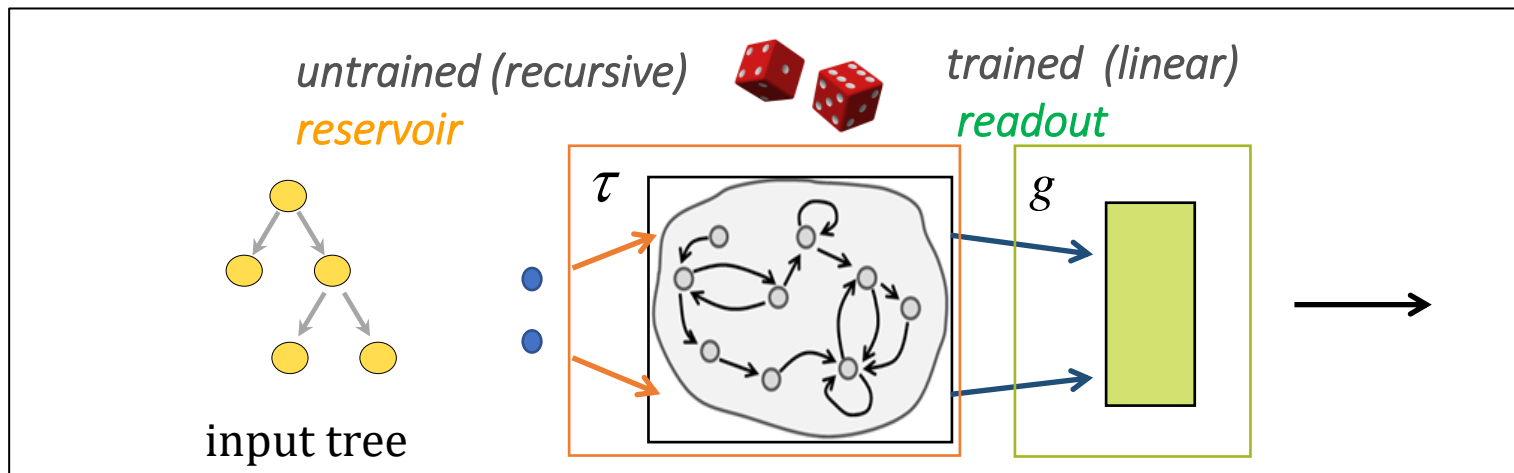
Bayesian network unfolding graphical model over the input trees;  $y$ : observed elements  
 $Q$ : hidden states variables with discrete values



**Issue:** how decompose this joint state transition? (see ref.).

# Efficient: TreeESN (2010-13)

- Combine **Reservoir Computing** (un-trained layer of recurrent units with linear readout) and **recursive modeling**
  - Extend the **applicability** of the **RC/ESN approach** to tree structured data
  - Extremely efficient** way of modeling RecNNs (randomized approaches)
  - Architectural and experimental performance **baseline** for trained RecNN models with often competitive results.



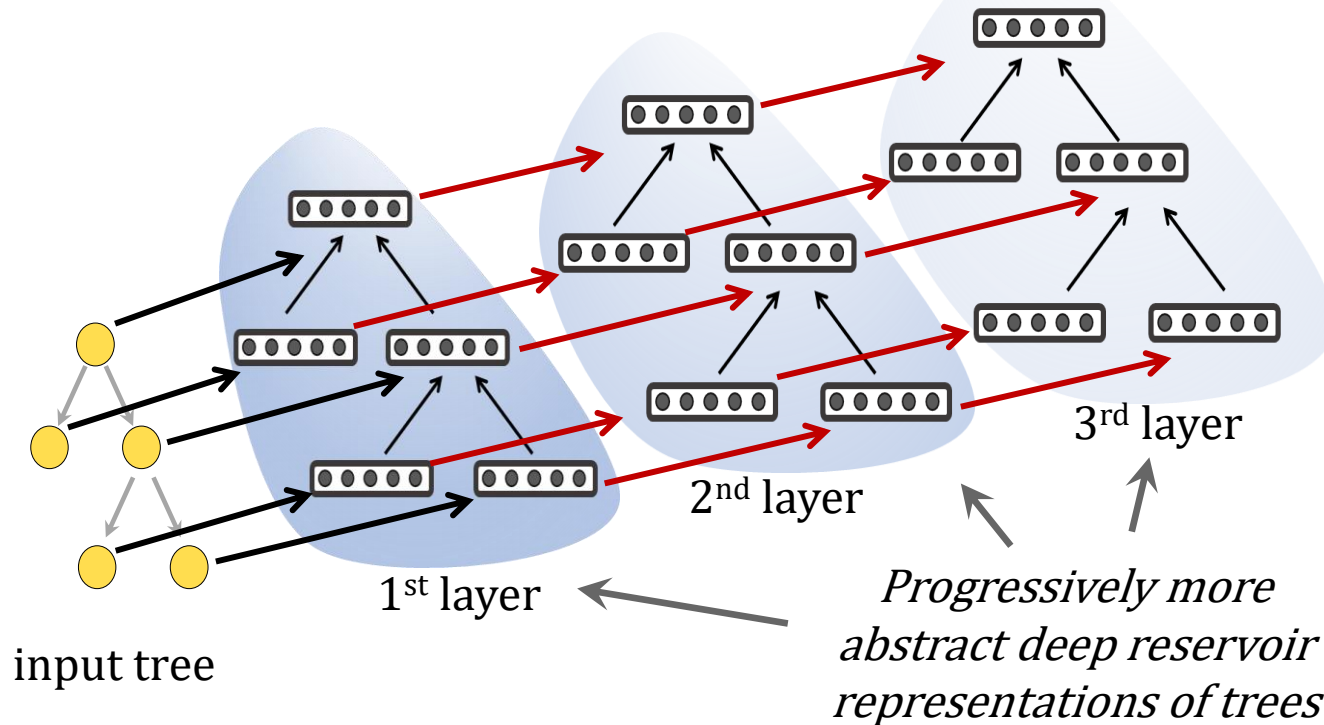
***The recursive process of RecNN made by efficient RC approaches***

C. Gallicchio, A. Micheli. Neurocomputing, 2013.

**More in a NEXT LECTURE**

# Deep: Deep Tree ESN (2018)

Hierarchical abstraction **both** through the input structure and architectural layers



Pro:

1. Rec NN adv.s
2. Deep learning abstraction (even before training: arch. bias)
3. Extremely efficient

- Improve efficiency (giving same #units) by a factor = num. of layers
- Improve results

C.Gallicchio, A.Micheli IEEE IJCNN 2018

C.Gallicchio, A.Micheli Information Sciences 2019

# Learning in Structured Domain

## Plan in 2 lectures

### 1. Recurrent and Recursive Neural Networks

Extensions of models for learning in structured domains

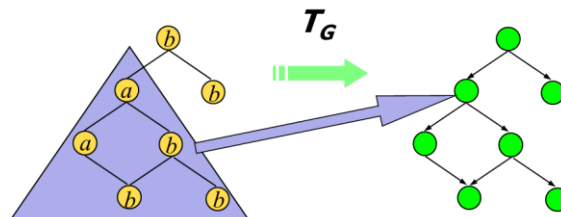
- Motivation and examples (structured data)
- The structured data (recursive)
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### 2. Moving to DPAG and Graphs: the role of causality [Next Lecture (SD-2)]

**Toward next lecture**

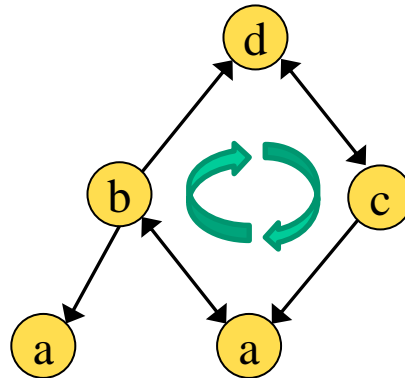
# RecNN Analysis

- RecNNs allow adaptive representation of SD
  - Handling of variability by causality and stationarity
  - **Adaptive** transduction: BPTS, RTRL, ....
- **Stationarity:**
  - efficacy solution to parsimony (reducing the number of parameters) without reducing expressive power (universal approximation theorem)
- **Causality:** affects the computational power !
  - RNN are only able to memorize past information (sub-sequences)
  - RecNN outputs depend only on sub-structures
  - The domain is restricted to sequences and trees due to causality
  - Toward partial relaxation (or **extension**) of the causality assumption



# Graphs by NN?

- For Graphs by NN: see next lecture!
- Following a journey through the *causality* assumption!



How to deal with cycles  
and causality?

We will see:

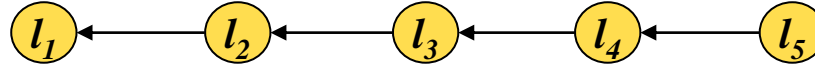
Or by relaxing the causality assumption

Or by imposing constraints on the recursive processing

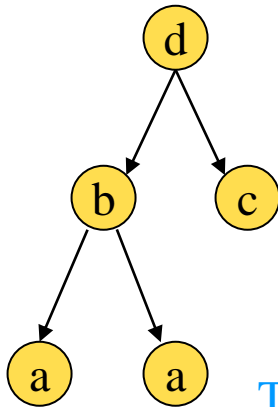
# Summary of MODELS for SD (examples)



Standard ML models for  
flat data

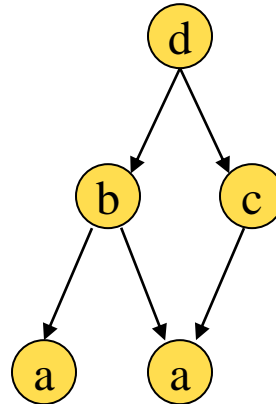


- Recurrent NN/ESN
- HMM
- Kernel for strings ...



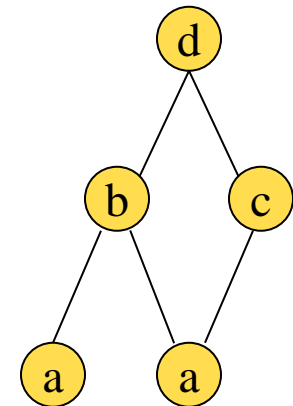
Tree:

- Recursive NN
- Tree ESN
- HTMM
- Tree Kernels
- ...



DPAG:

- CRCC



- GNN/GraphESN
- NN4G, DGN, ..
- Graph Kernels
- SRL
- ...

*See references for models in the bibliography slides (later)*



# Bibliography: aims

Different parts in the following:

- Basic/Fundamentals
  - To go ahead
- 
- Many topics can be subject of study and development
  - Many many works in literature (they arrive continuously)!
  - Many possible topics for demand and possible thesis
  - **More bibliography on demand:** [micheli@di.unipi.it](mailto:micheli@di.unipi.it)

# Bibliografia (Basic, origins of RecNN)

## RecNN

- A. Sperduti, A. Starita. *Supervised Neural Networks for the Classification of Structures*, IEEE Transactions on Neural Networks. Vol. 8, n. 3, pp. 714-735, 1997.
- P. Frasconi, M. Gori, and A. Sperduti, *A General Framework for Adaptive Processing of Data Structures*, IEEE Transactions on Neural Networks. Vol. 9, No. 5, pp. 768-786, 1998.
- A.M. Bianucci, A. Micheli, A. Sperduti, A. Starita. *Application of Cascade Correlation Networks for Structures to Chemistry*, Applied Intelligence Journal (Kluwer Academic Publishers), Special Issue on "Neural Networks and Structured Knowledge" Vol. 12 (1/2): 117-146, 2000.
- A. Micheli, A. Sperduti, A. Starita, A.M. Bianucci. *A Novel Approach to QSPR/QSAR Based on Neural Networks for Structures*, Chapter in Book : "Soft Computing Approaches in Chemistry", pp. 265-296, H. Cartwright, L. M. Sztandera, Eds., Springer-Verlag, Heidelberg, March 2003.

# Bibliography: NN approaches-2

## \* UNSUPERVISED RecursiveNN

- B. Hammer, A. Micheli, M. Strickert, A. Sperduti.  
*A General Framework for Unsupervised Processing of Structured Data*, Neurocomputing (Elsevier Science) Volume 57, Pages 3-35, March 2004.
- B. Hammer, A. Micheli, A. Sperduti, M. Strickert.  
Recursive Self-organizing Network Models. Neural Networks, Elsevier Science. Volume 17, Issues 8-9, Pages 1061-1085, October-November 2004.

## \* TreeESN: efficient RecNN

- C. Gallicchio, A. Micheli.  
*Tree Echo State Networks*, Neurocomputing, volume 101, pag. 319-337, 2013.
- C. Gallicchio, A. Micheli.  
*Deep Reservoir Neural Networks for Trees*. Information Sciences 480, 174-193, 2019.

## \* HTMM: further developments (generative)

- D. Bacciu, A. Micheli and A. Sperduti.  
*Compositional Generative Mapping for Tree-Structured Data - Part I: Bottom-Up Probabilistic Modeling of Trees*, IEEE Transactions on Neural Networks and Learning Systems, vol. 23, no. 12, pp. 1987-2002, 2012

# Bibliography: RecNN applications (example)

\* NLP applications (that you can extend with recent instances, and relate them to the general RecNN framework present in this lecture and the basic RecNN bibliography references )

- R. Socher, C.C. Lin, C. Manning, A.Y. Ng,  
*Parsing natural scenes and natural language with recursive neural networks*,  
Proceedings of the 28th international conference on machine learning (ICML-11)
- R. Socher, A. Perelygin, J.Y. Wu, J. Chuang, C.D. Manning, A.Y. Ng, C.P. Potts,  
*Recursive Deep Models for Semantic Compositionality Over a Sentiment Treebank*  
Proceedings of the 2013 Conference on Empirical Methods in Natural Language Processing, pages 1631–1642, Seattle, Washington, USA, 18-21 October 2013

# Bibliography: basic items for the next lecture

## \* RecNN for DPAGs : how to extend the domain (I)

- A. Micheli, D. Sona, A. Sperduti.  
*Contextual Processing of Structured Data by Recursive Cascade Correlation*. IEEE Transactions on Neural Networks. Vol. 15, n. 6, Pages 1396- 1410, November 2004.
- Hammer, A. Micheli, and A. Sperduti.  
*Universal Approximation Capability of Cascade Correlation for Structures*. Neural Computation. Vol. 17, No. 5, Pages 1109-1159, (C) 2005 MIT press.

## \* NN for GRAPH DATA: how to extend the domain (II)

- \* A. Micheli. *Neural network for graphs: a contextual constructive approach*, IEEE Transactions on Neural Networks, volume 20 (3), pag. 498-511, doi: 10.1109/TNN.2008.2010350, 2009.
- F. Scarselli, M. Gori, A.C.Tsoi, M. Hagenbuchner, G. Monfardini. *The graph neural network model*, IEEE Transactions on Neural Networks, 20(1), pag. 61–80, 2009.
- C. Gallicchio, A. Micheli. *Graph Echo State Networks*, Proceedings of the International Joint Conference on Neural Networks (IJCNN), pages 1–8, 2010.

***DRAFT, please do not circulate!***

## **For information**

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Dipartimento di Informatica  
Università di Pisa - Italy



**Computational Intelligence &  
Machine Learning Group**