

# The Use of EO Data for Integrated Monitoring of Agricultural Resources and Disaster Impacts

Title: An GNN-based earth's surface anomalies detection framework

**Prof. Zhi GAO**



武漢大學  
WUHAN UNIVERSITY



**NUS**  
National University  
of Singapore

December 18, 2023

# Outline

- **About me**
- Background and Motivation
- Method
- Experiments
- Conclusion and Future Work

# The School of Remote Sensing and Information Engineering at Wuhan University

## Wuhan University:

- **Location:** Situated in Wuhan, Hubei Province, Central China
- **Reputation:** Among the top-ranked universities in China, with a strong emphasis on research and innovation
- **Campus:** Famous for its scenic campus, especially the iconic cherry blossoms and historic buildings



## The School of Remote Sensing and Information Engineering:

- **Leadership:** The discipline of remote sensing at Wuhan University ranks first in various international rankings, significantly influencing global remote sensing development.
- **Prestige:** Recognized as a top institution in China and globally, known as the cradle of talent in surveying and remote sensing



# Personal Profile

## Position:

- Full Professor
- Deputy Dean of School of Remote Sensing and Information Engineering, Wuhan University

## Academic Contributions:

- Leading National Natural Science Foundation Major Program: Remote Sensing on-orbit Real-time Diagnosis for the Earth's Surface Anomalies
- Multiple leading research achievements in the field of “Perception, Localization, and Cooperative Control of Intelligent Unmanned Systems”





# Outline

- About me
- **Background and Motivation**
- Method
- Experiments
- Conclusion and Future Work

# Background

- Various earth's surface anomalies caused by natural or human factors (natural disasters, ecological damage, etc.) occur on a global scale and are characterized by **high frequency**, **high impact** and **heavy losses**.
- **Timely monitoring and early warning** of earth surface anomalies has become a major need to ensure healthy and stable social and economic development.



# Background

- Remote Sensing Detection and Segmentation
- **Large-scale, Non-contact, Dynamic**, etc.

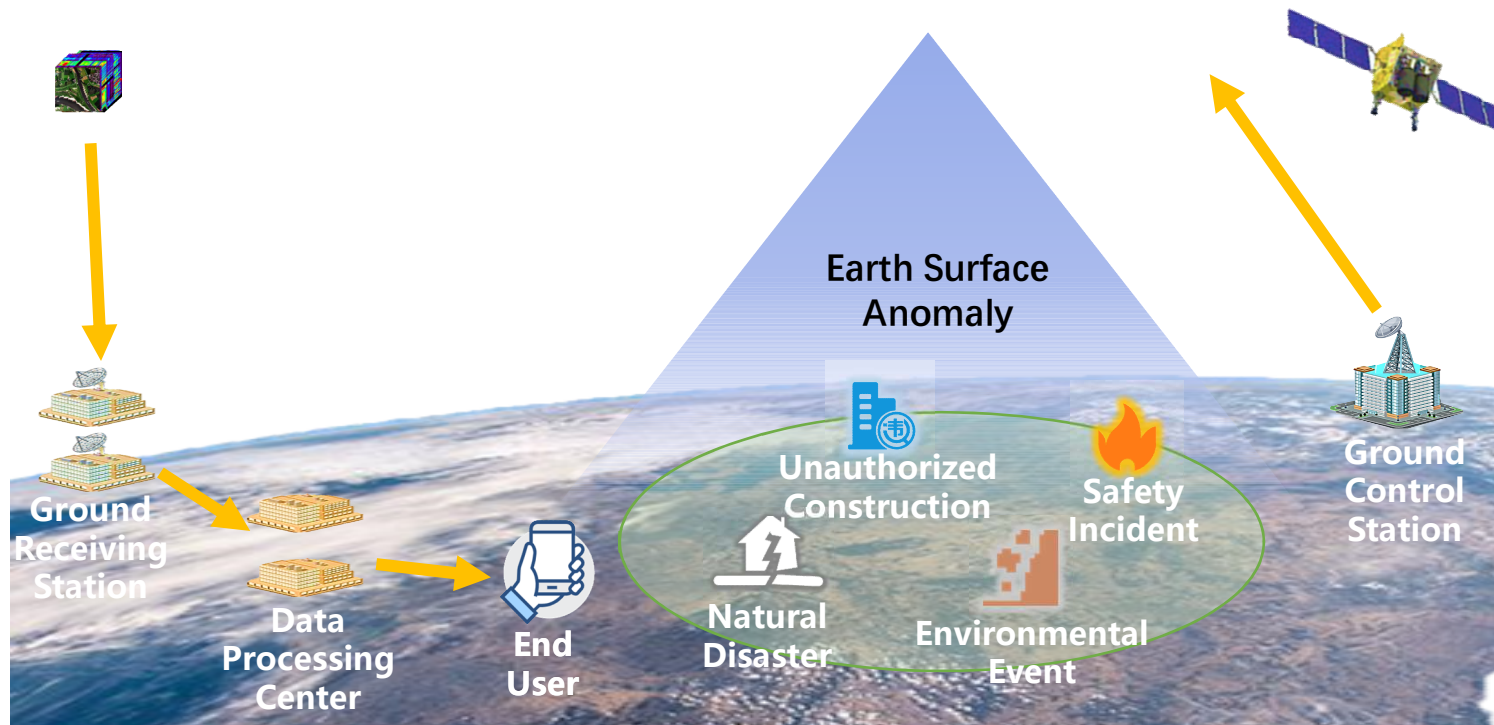


Before and After Satellite Images of the Earthquake-Affected Areas in Turkey



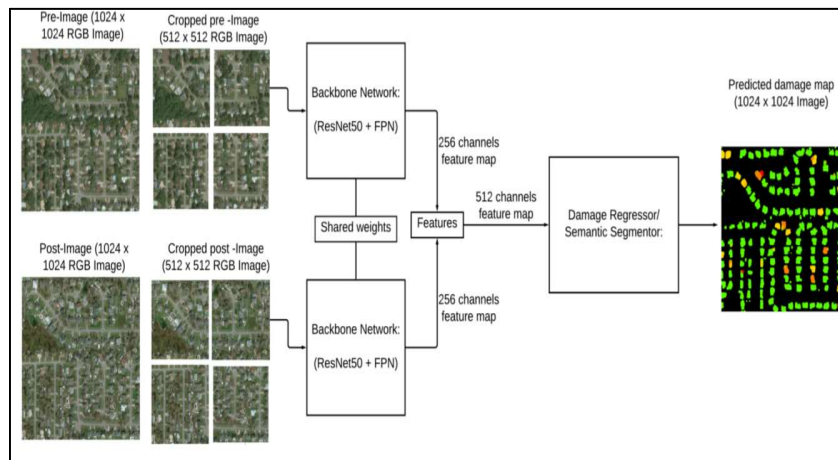
# Background

Intelligent Real-time Extraction of Earth Surface Anomaly Information Based on Massive Remote Sensing Data: A large amount of data is transmitted to the ground for processing within a **limited time window**, leading to **long response time**.

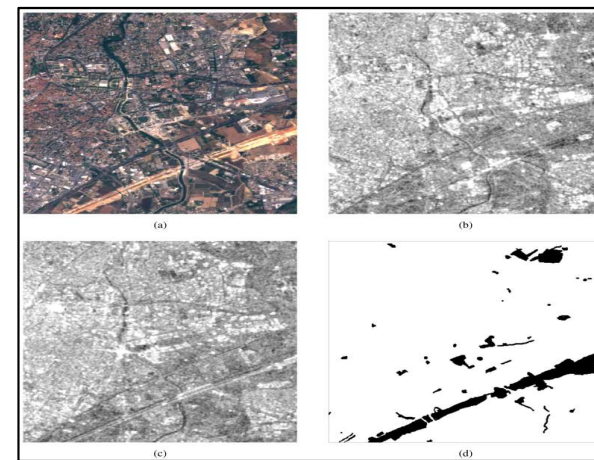


# Background

- The current research mainly focus on **post-doc analysis** by incorporating additional temporal and modal data.
- Data availability, data preprocessing, and data labeling pose challenges for rapid response to earth's surface anomalies.



**Assessment of Building Damage Using Multi-Temporal Method**



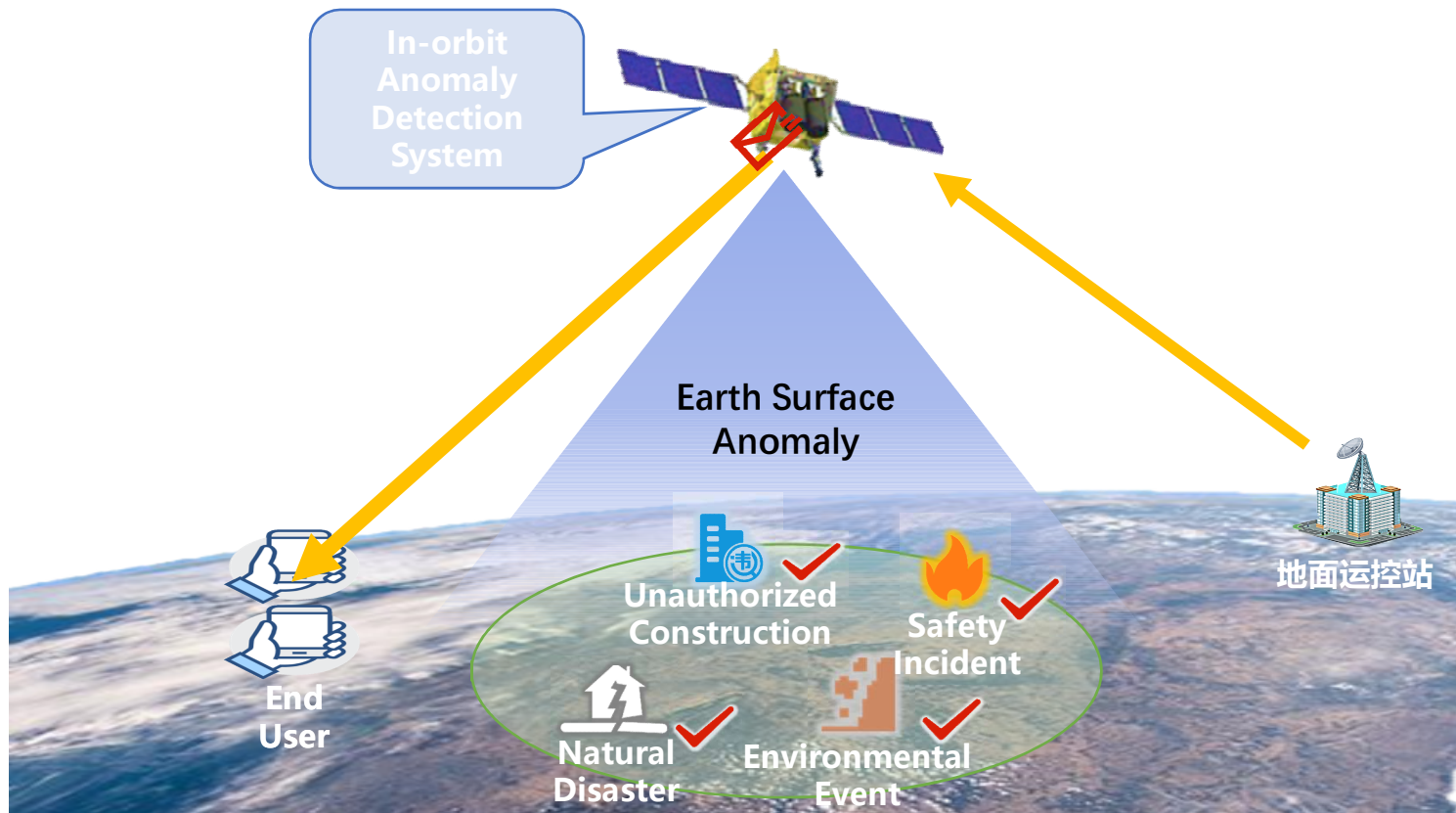
**Extracting Disaster-Affected Areas Using Multi-Modal Method**

Weber, E., Kané, H. Building disaster damage assessment in satellite imagery with multi-temporal fusion. 2020.

Saha, S., Shahzad, M., Ebel, P., Zhu, X.X.: Supervised change detection using prechange optical-sar and postchange sar data. 2022

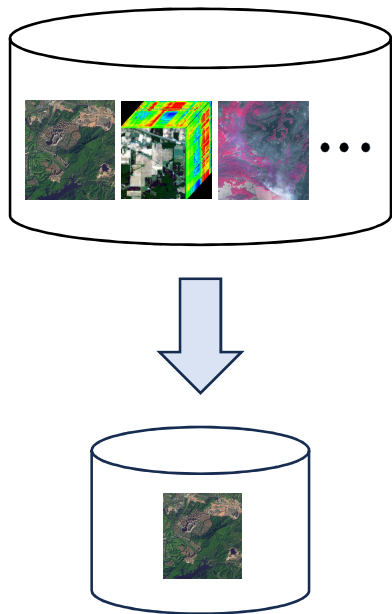
# Motivation

Our solution is building a highly intelligent model capable of addressing multi-tasks under **constraint resource**. Efficiently integrating and intelligently interpreting multi-source remote sensing data under limited conditions in space.

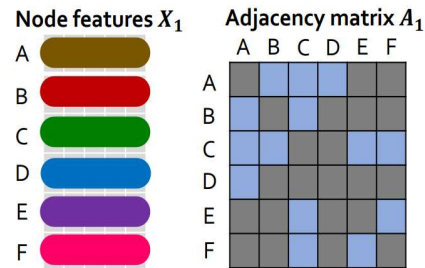
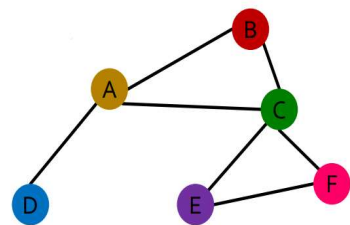


# Motivation

- Reduce **detection time** and **save valuable time** for response.



Simpler Data



Lightweight and tailored model

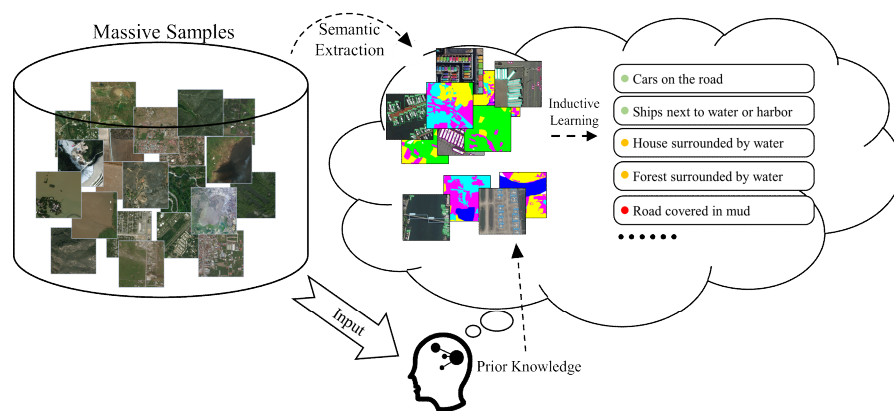
	Flood
	Landslide
	Debrisflow
	Hurricane
	Wildfire
Anomaly	Earthquake
	Volcano
	Tornado
	Tsunami
	Fire
	Bushfire
	Normal

1 vs all

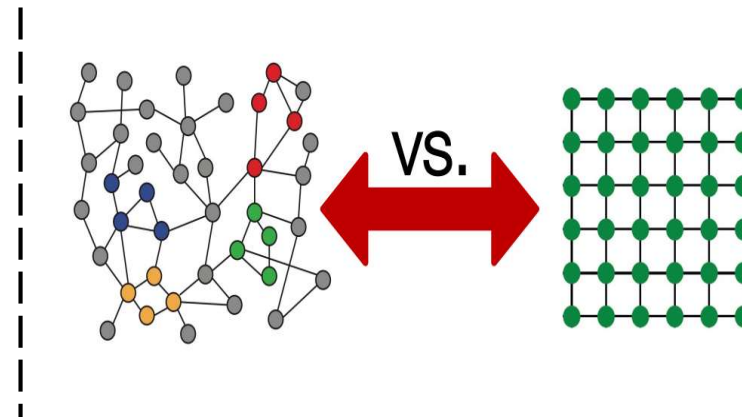


# Motivation

- We use **graph neural networks** as the core model, aiming to enable the model to explicitly capture semantic relationships between different geentities and use them for inference.
- Irregular structure, Explicitly modeling relationships, Flexibility, etc.



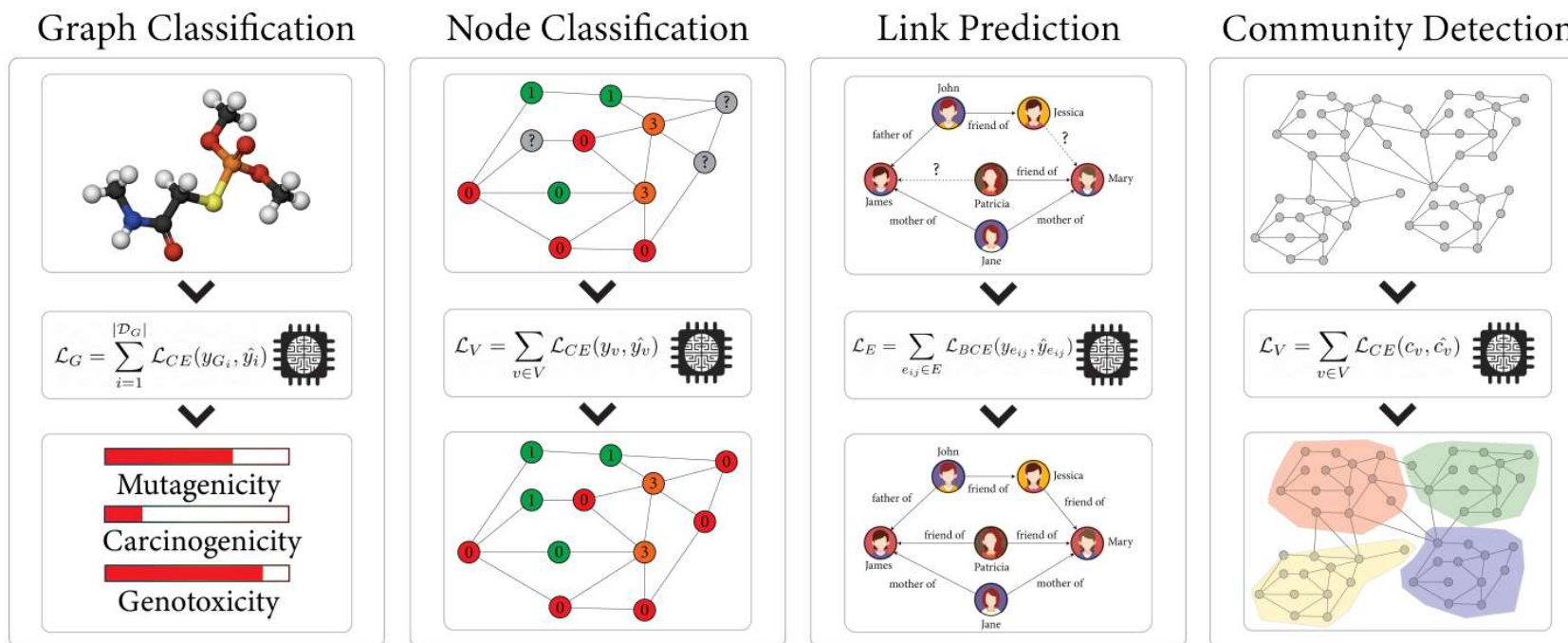
Simulated Process of Human Brain Interpret Satellite Images



Comparison of Graph and Regular Grid Image

# Motivation

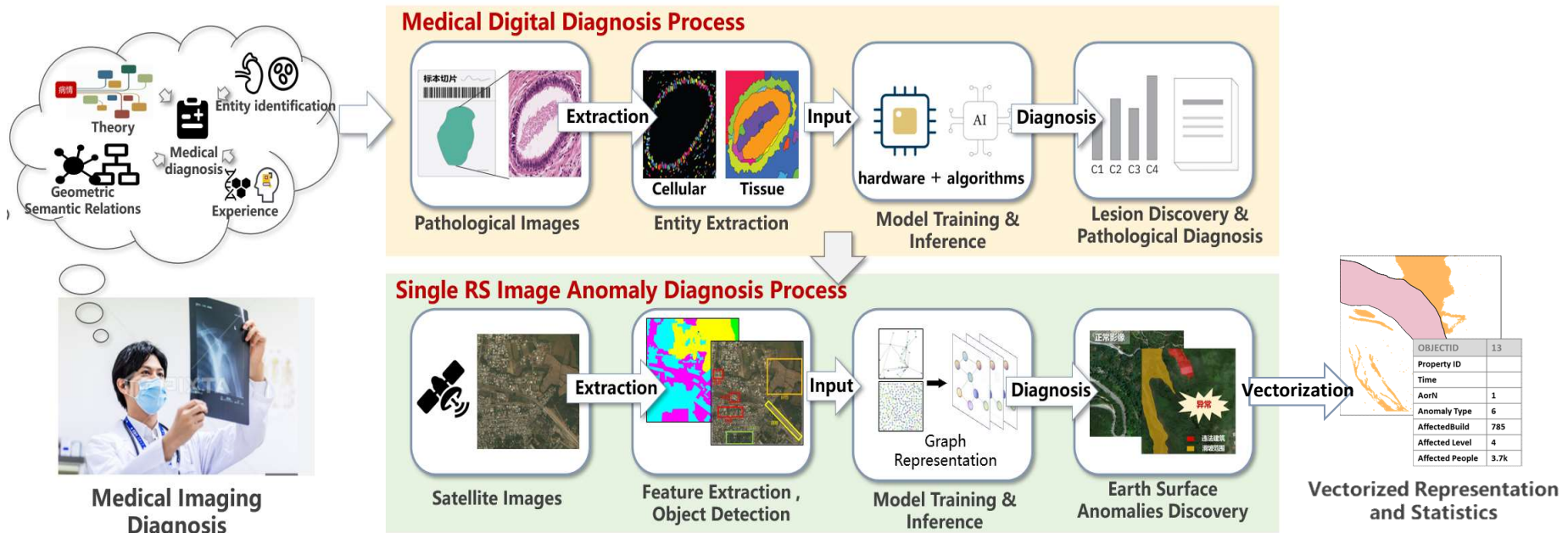
- After graph generation through **node representation** and **topological construction**, various tasks can be carried out based on GNNs' flexibility, and it is widely applied in fields such as medicine and social networks.



An overview of major deep graph learning tasks

# Motivation

Inspired by the **AI-based synergistic** approach of doctors in diagnosing diseases at the cellular and tissue levels. We process satellite remote sensing images into graph structures at different levels, including geometric and semantic, facilitating earth surface anomaly detection.



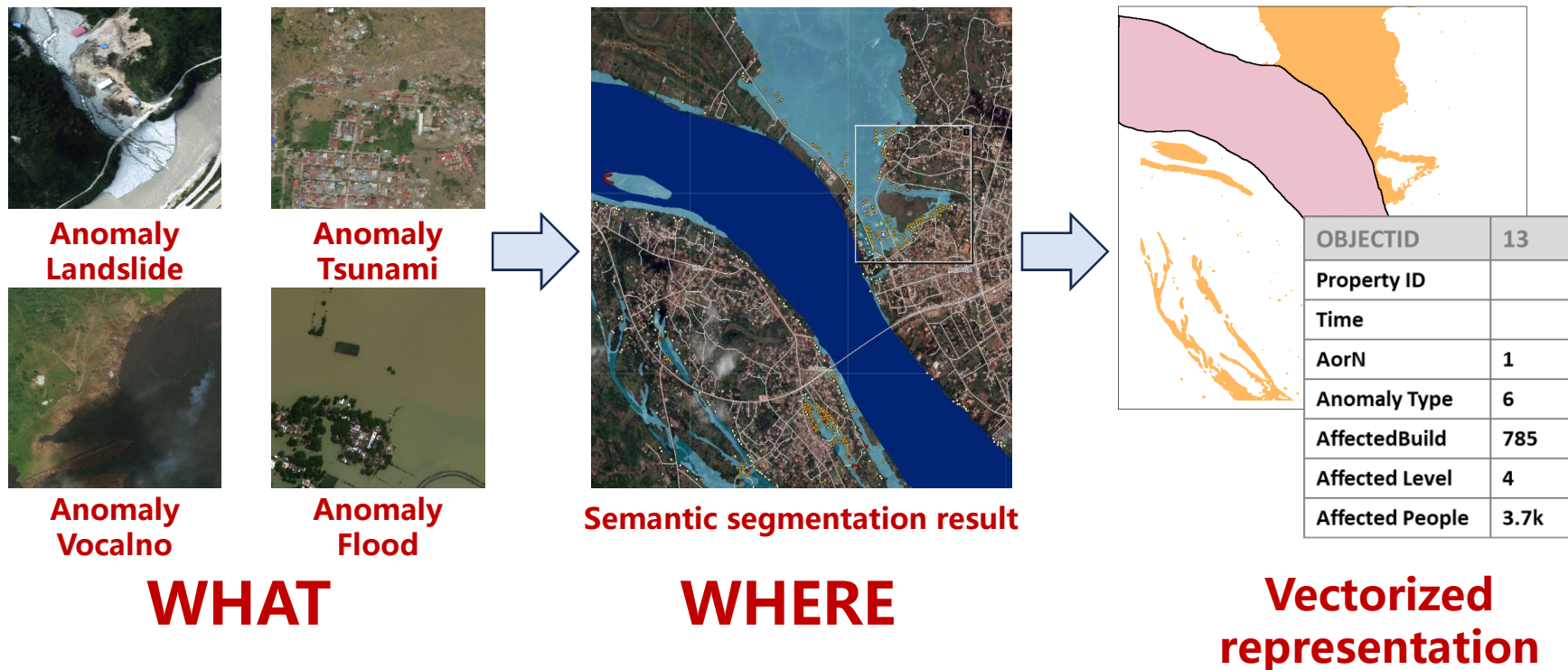
Simulating Doctor's Diagnostic Process for Earth's Surface Anomaly Detection

# Motivation

Image-level detection: Simple, Fast, Robust, Low Granularity, Suitable for Large-scale Applications

Pixel-level segmentation: High Accuracy, Fine Granularity, Detailed Information

Vector Data: Interpretability, Integration with other geospatial layers, Data Interoperability:

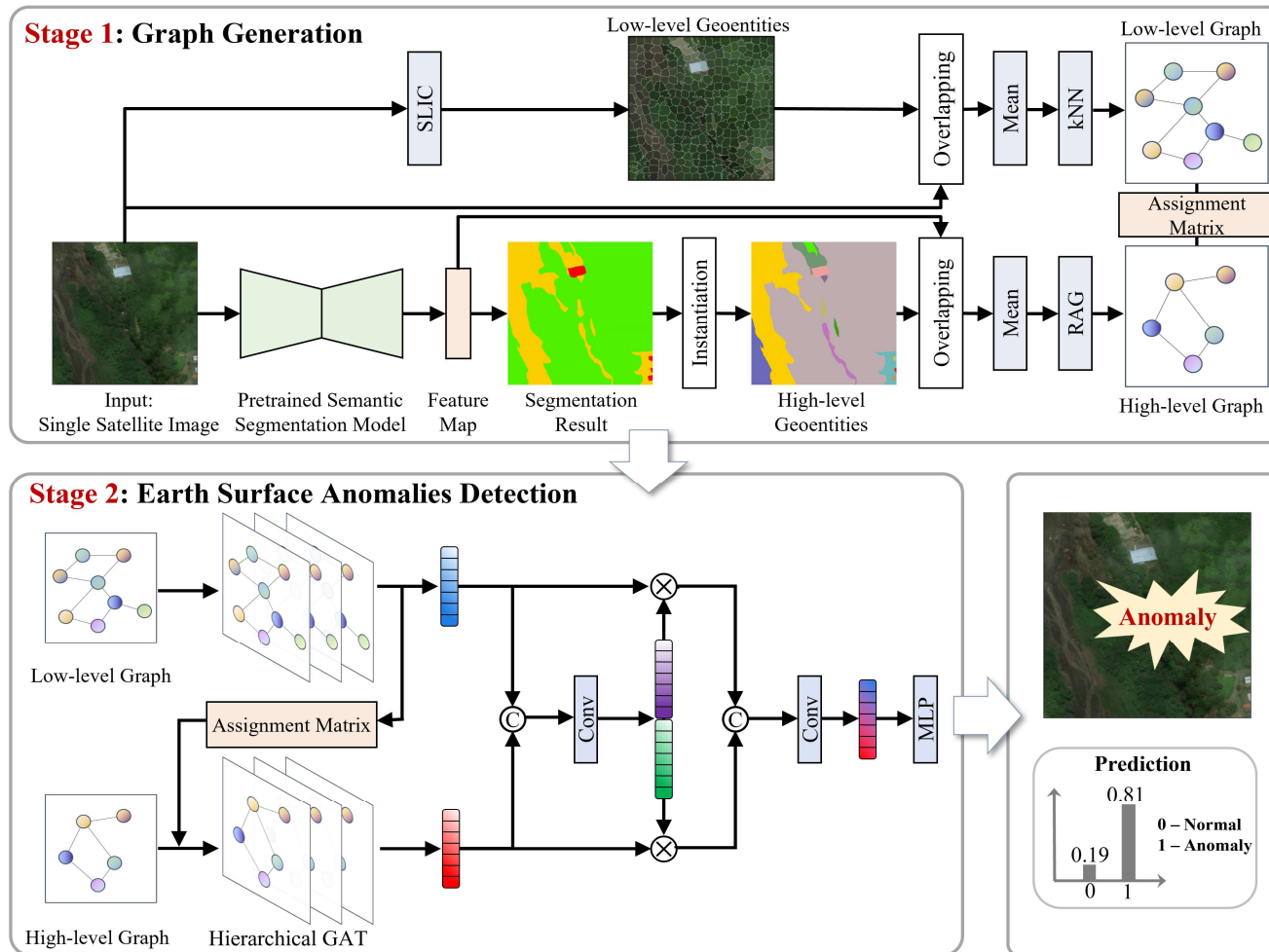


# Outline

- About me
- Background and Motivation
- **Method**
  - **Graph Generation and Anomaly Detection**
  - **Anomaly Segmentation and Representation**
- Experiments
- Conclusion and Future Work

# Method: Graph Generation and Anomaly Detection

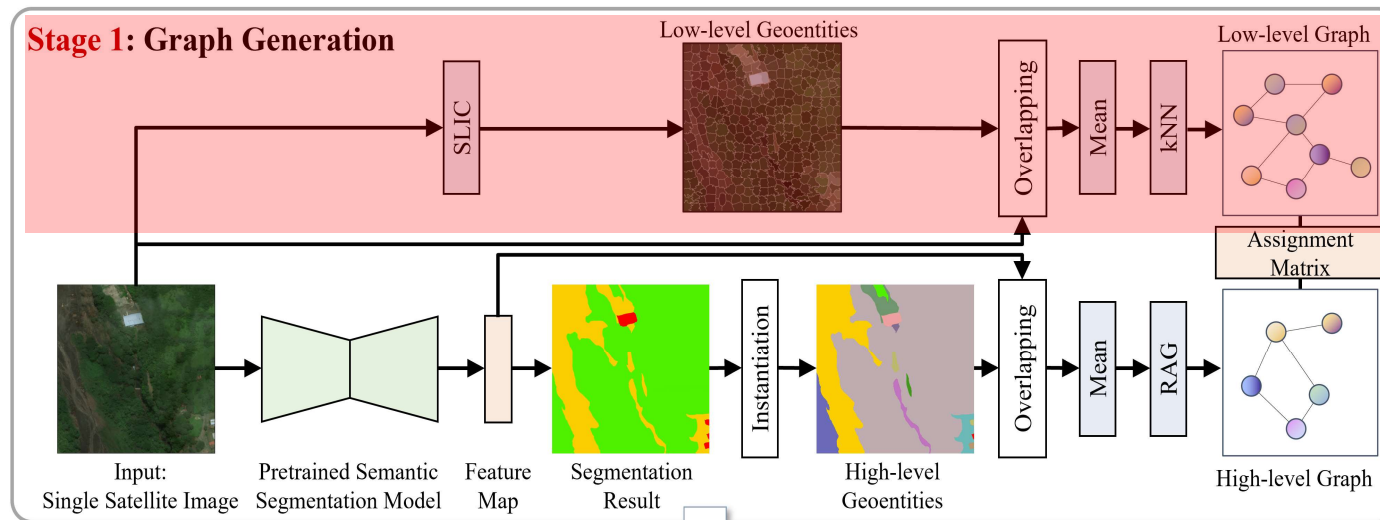
- A hierarchical geometry-to-semantic fusion GNN framework





# Method: Graph Generation and Anomaly Detection

- Graph Building—How to generate **hierarchical graph**?



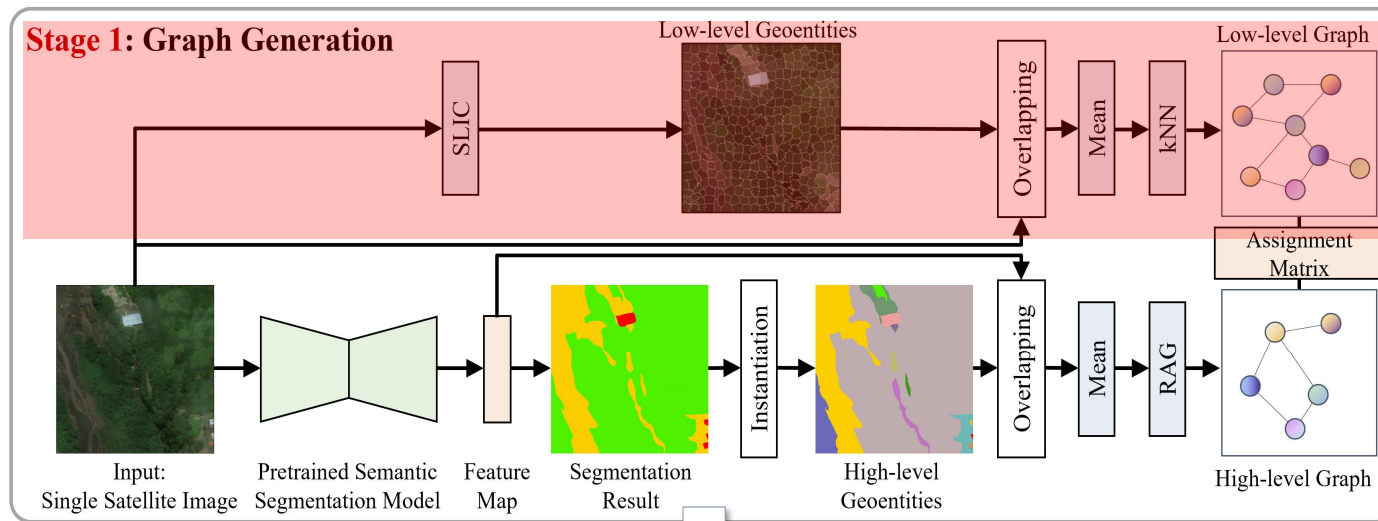
$$f_{SLIC}(X) = S_1 \Rightarrow N(v_i) = \frac{1}{m} \sum_{j=1}^m \begin{bmatrix} R_j \\ G_j \\ B_j \end{bmatrix}, v_i \in V_{low}$$

Achanta, R., Shaji, A., Smith, K., Lucchi, A., Fua, P., Süsstrunk, S.: Slic superpixels compared to state-of-the-art superpixel methods. IEEE TPAMI. 2012.



# Method: Graph Generation and Anomaly Detection

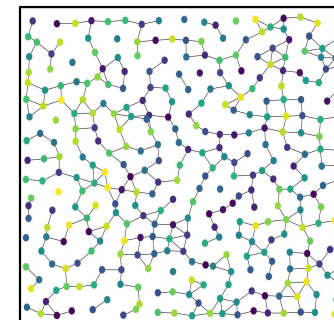
- Graph Building—How to generate **hierarchical graph**?



Constructing low-order graph topologies

k-Nearest Neighbors Algorithm:

$$u \in \{w | D(v, w) \leq d_k \wedge D(v, w) < \tau_{dist}, \forall w, v \in V_{low}\}$$

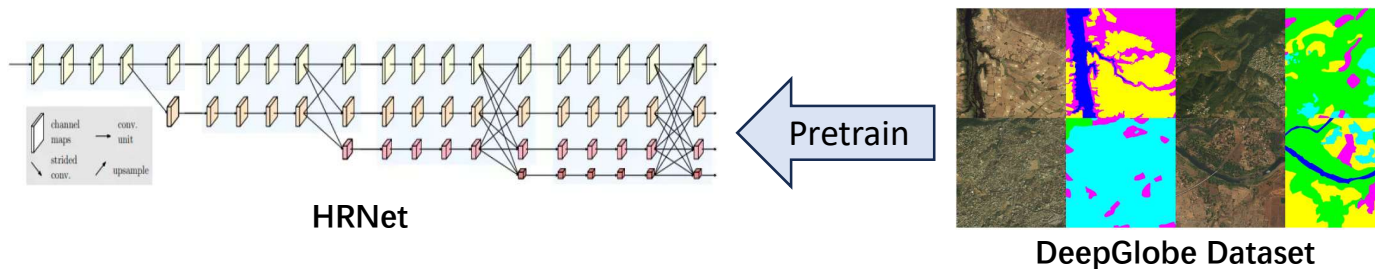
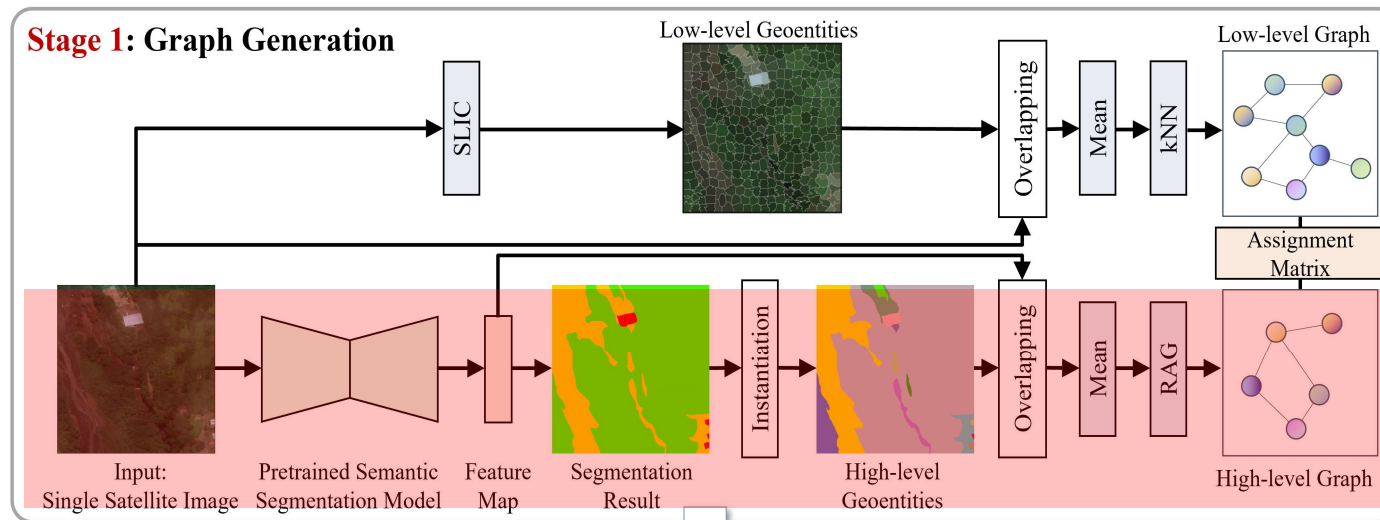


$G_{low}$

Fix, Evelyn, and Joseph Lawson Hodges. Discriminatory analysis. Nonparametric discrimination: Consistency properties. 1989.

# Method: Graph Generation and Anomaly Detection

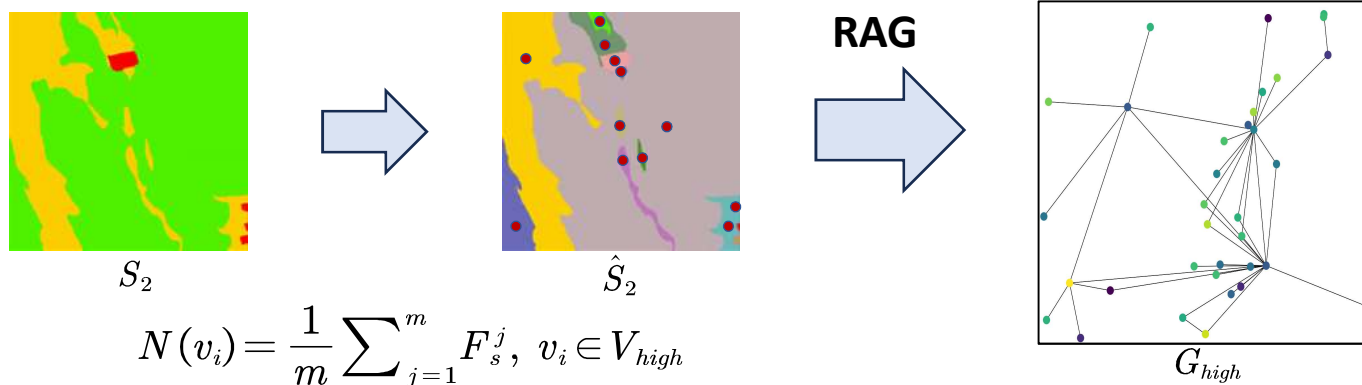
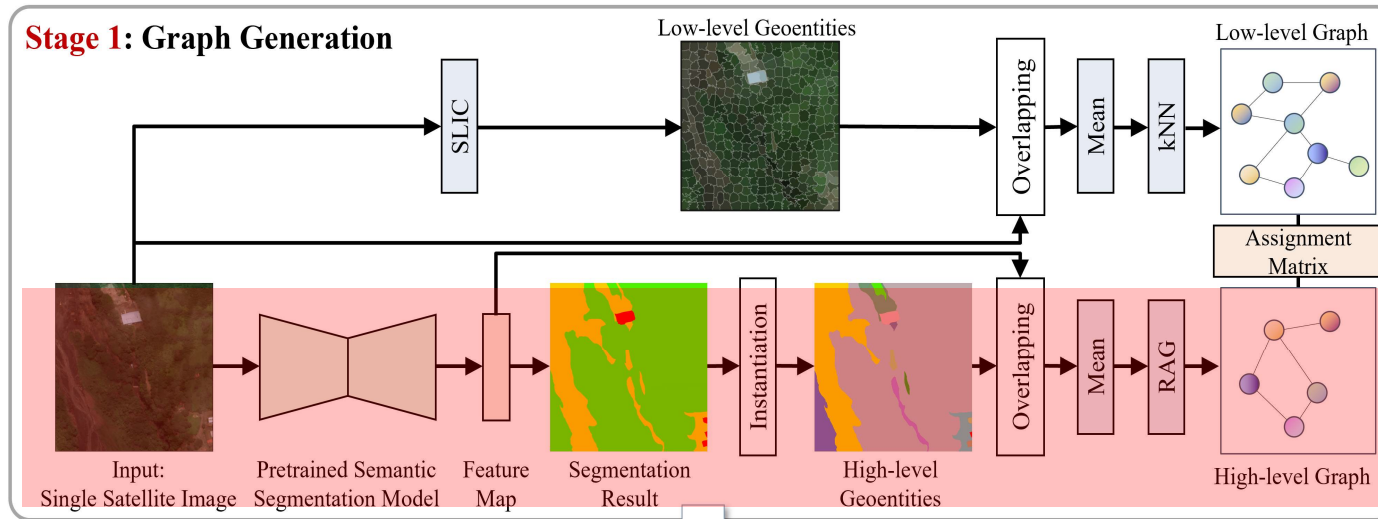
- Graph Building—How to generate **hierarchical graph**?



Wang, Jingdong, et al. Deep high-resolution representation learning for visual recognition. IEEE TPAMI. 2020.  
 Demir, Ilke, et al. Deepglobe 2018: A challenge to parse the earth through satellite images. CVPR Workshop. 2018.

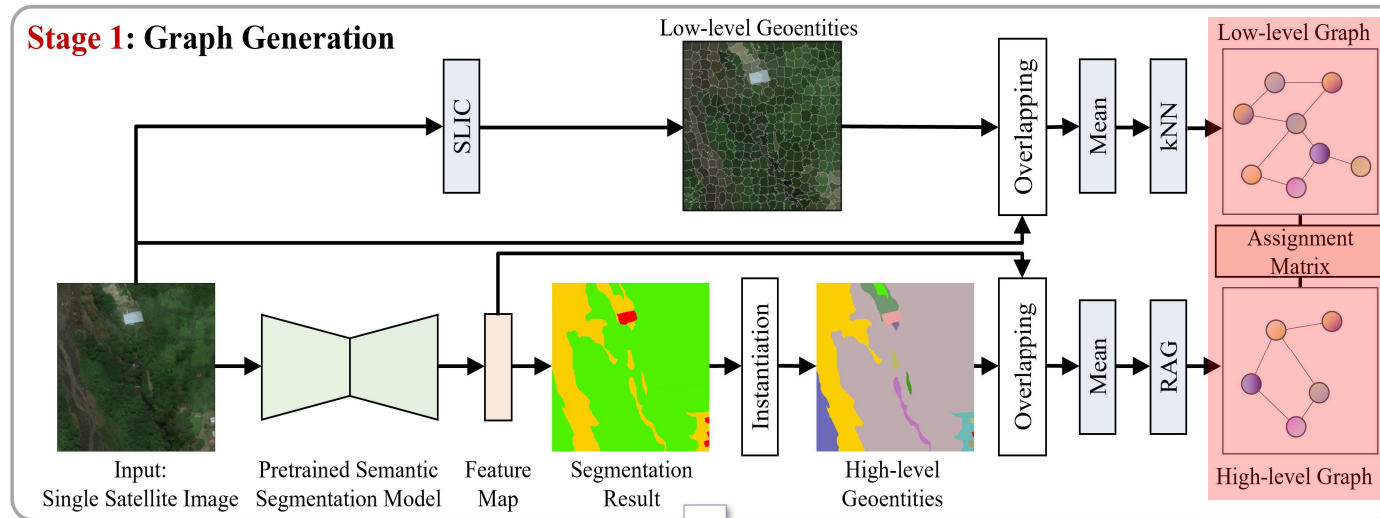
# Method: Graph Generation and Anomaly Detection

- Graph Building—How to generate **hierarchical graph**?



# Method: Graph Generation and Anomaly Detection

- Graph Building—How to generate **hierarchical graph**?

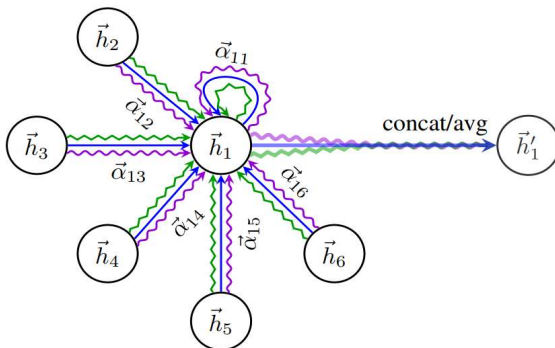
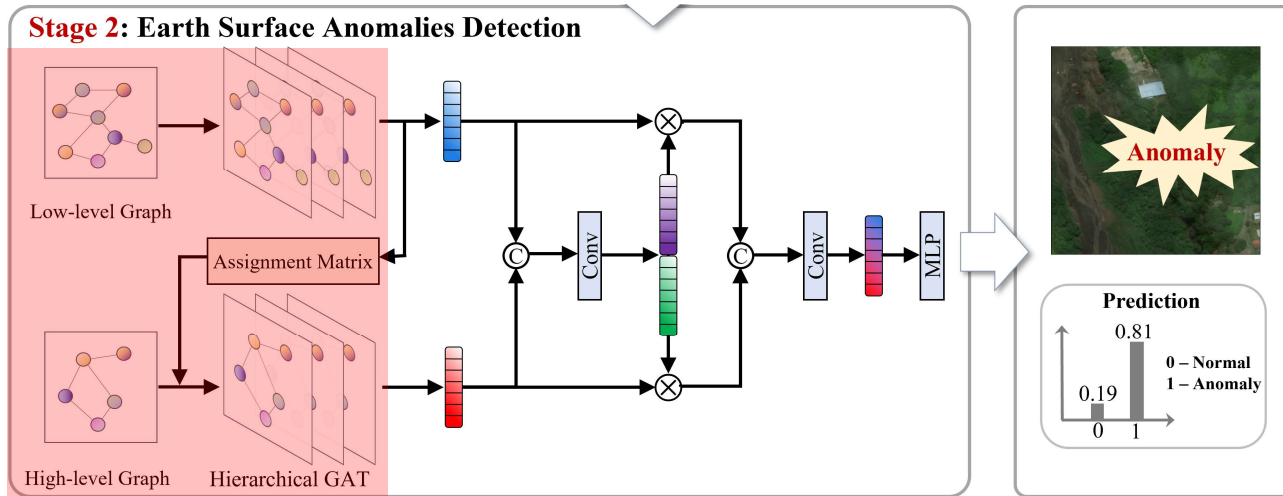


$$A_{low \rightarrow high}[i, j] = \begin{cases} 1 & \text{if } i^{\text{th}} \text{ low-level geontology} \in j^{\text{th}} \text{ high-level geontology} \\ 0 & \text{otherwise} \end{cases}$$

$$G_{joint} := \{G_{low}, G_{high}, A_{low \rightarrow high}\}$$

# Method: Graph Generation and Anomaly Detection

- Anomaly Detection: How to learn from graph?



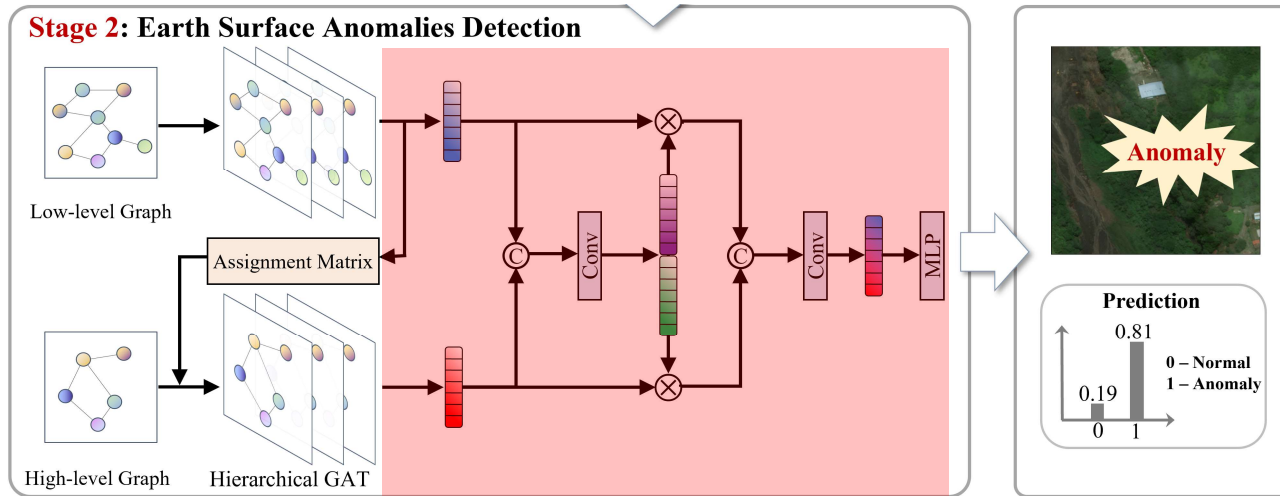
$$h_i^{(l)} = \sigma \left( \sum_{j \in N_i} \alpha_{ij}^{(l)} W^{(l)} h_j^{(l-1)} + b^{(l)} \right),$$

$$\alpha_{ij}^{(l)} = \frac{\exp \left( \text{LeakyReLU} \left( \mathbf{a}^{(l)T} \left[ W^{(l)} h_i^{(l-1)} \parallel W^{(l)} h_j^{(l-1)} \right] \right) \right)}{\sum_{k \in N_i} \exp \left( \text{LeakyReLU} \left( \mathbf{a}^{(l)T} \left[ W^{(l)} h_i^{(l-1)} \parallel W^{(l)} h_k^{(l-1)} \right] \right) \right)}$$

## Graph Attention Networks (GAT)

# Method: Graph Generation and Anomaly Detection

- Anomaly Detection: How to learn from graph?



$$h_{\text{high}}(w) = \left[ H_{\text{high}}(w) \parallel \sum_{v \in M(w)} \hat{h}_{\text{low}}(v) \right]$$

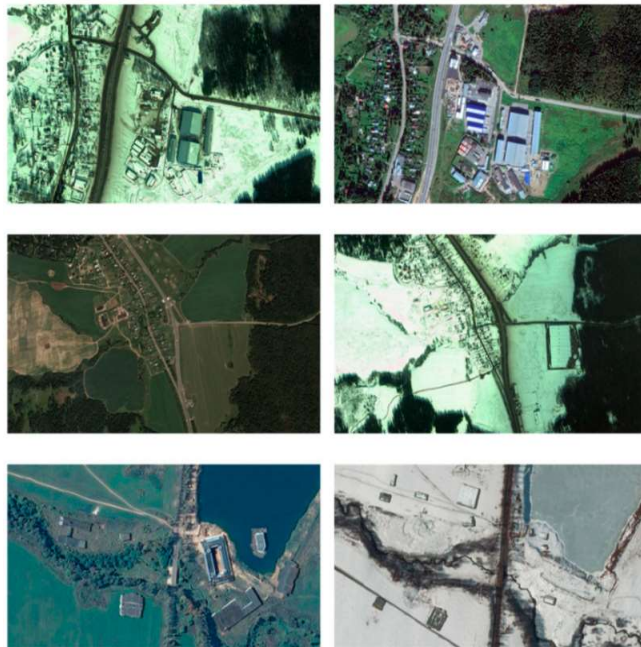
$$\mathbf{z} = f \left( \left[ x_{\text{low}} \odot a_{\text{low}} \parallel a_{\text{high}} \odot a_{\text{high}} \right] \right)$$

$$[a_{\text{low}}, a_{\text{high}}] = [\sigma(f([x_{\text{low}}, x_{\text{high}}])), 1 - \sigma(f([x_{\text{low}}, x_{\text{high}}]))]$$



# Method: Anomaly Segmentation and Representation

- Anomaly Segmentation: Main problem
- Limited Annotation: Pixel-level labeling is **time-consuming** and **non-trivial**
- Semantic Complexity: **Intra-class diversity**, **inter-class similarity**, **scales**, etc.
- Domain Gap: Heterogeneity across **spatial** and **temporal** domain



Domain gap in remote sensing imagery

Intra-class diversity  
(church)



Inter-class similarity  
(basketball court  
vs  
tennis court)



Multiple ground  
objects  
(commercial area)



Multiple scales  
(airplane)



Semantic complexity in remote sensing imagery



# Method: Anomaly Segmentation and Representation

- Anomaly Segmentation: Weakly Supervised labels

**Inexact label:**

where the training data are given with only **coarse-grained** labels

**Incomplete label:**

where only a **subset** of training data is given with labels

**Noisy label:**

where the given labels are **not always ground-truth**



(a) image-level labels



(b) box-level labels



(a) cat



(b) bus



(c) point labels



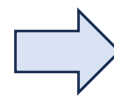
(d) doodle labels



(c) car



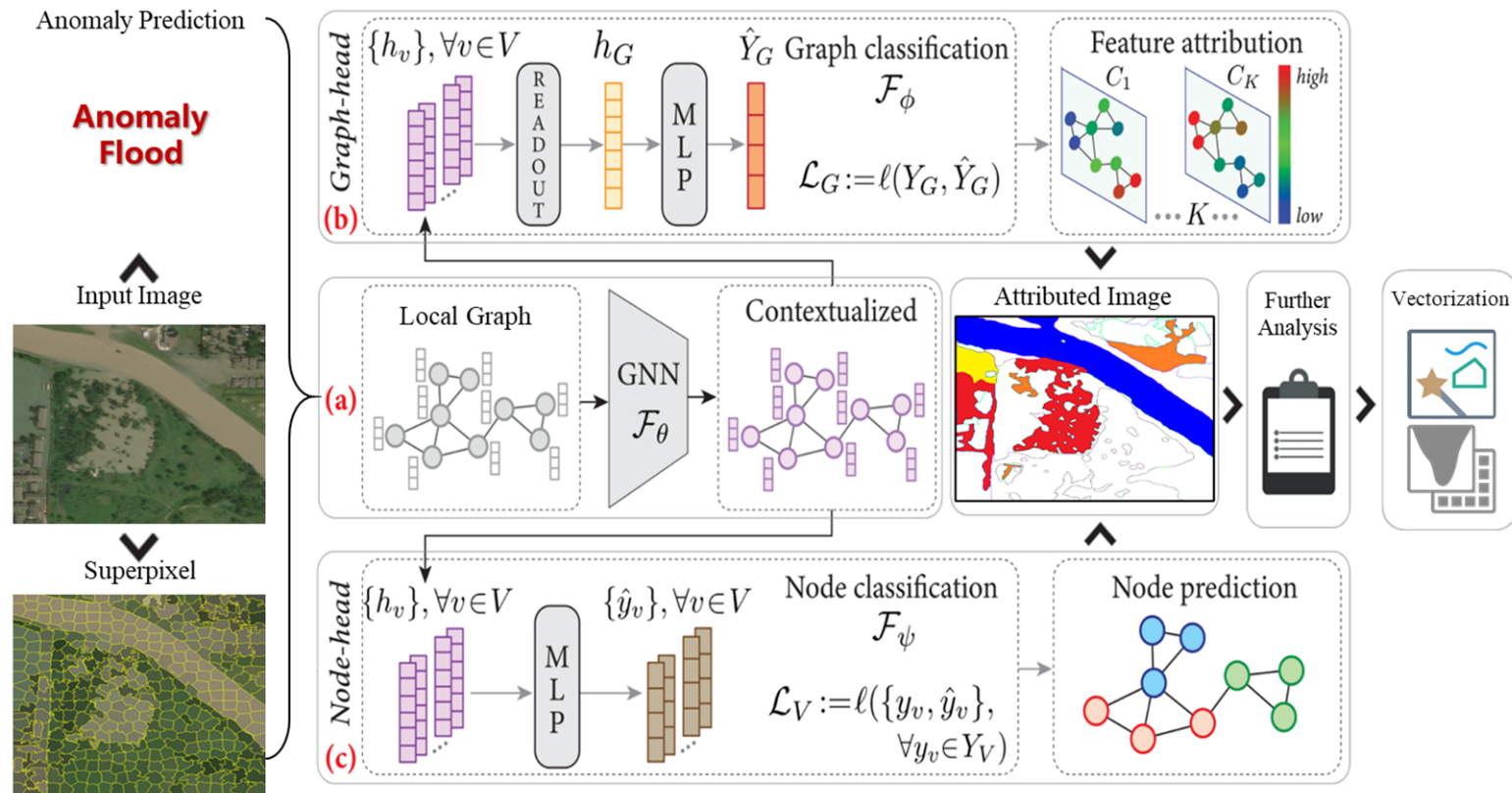
(d) chair



Different labels in weakly supervised learnings

# Method: Anomaly Segmentation and Representation

- Anomaly Segmentation and Representation:  
Based on image-level anomaly prediction results, attributions are performed on **each superpixel node**, assessing **impact levels** and generating a pixel-level **attributed image** for further analysis.



# Outline

- About me
- Background and Motivation
- Method
- **Experiments**
- Conclusion and Future Work

# Experiments

- ESAD (Earth Surface Anomaly Detection) Dataset
- 13058 samples, 11 classes, high spatial resolution

The first **large-scale** benchmark dataset for surface anomaly detection **in single images**

Class		Num
Anomaly	Flood	647
	Landslide	59
	Debrisflow	48
	Hurricane	1296
	Wildfire	1201
	Earthquake	14
	Volcano	217
	Tornado	254
	Tsunami	107
	Fire	1548
	Bushfire	996
Normal	6671	

Statistics of ESAD Dataset



Examples of ESAD Dataset

# Experiments

- Comparison with baselines

Quantitative result of comparison methods

Method	OA	Recall	AIT	Params
ResNet-50	91.05	90.42	16.63ms	25.61M
MobileNetV3	88.40	88.08	14.98ms	3.8M
ViT-B/32	93.71	93.40	16.67ms	88.21M
HGP-SL-Low	66.85	66.87	2.04ms	0.07M
HGP-SL-High	61.64	61.58	0.28ms	0.14M
HACT-Net	74.53	75.42	2.47ms	0.79M
Our method	83.89	83.86	6.04ms	1.01M



# Experiments

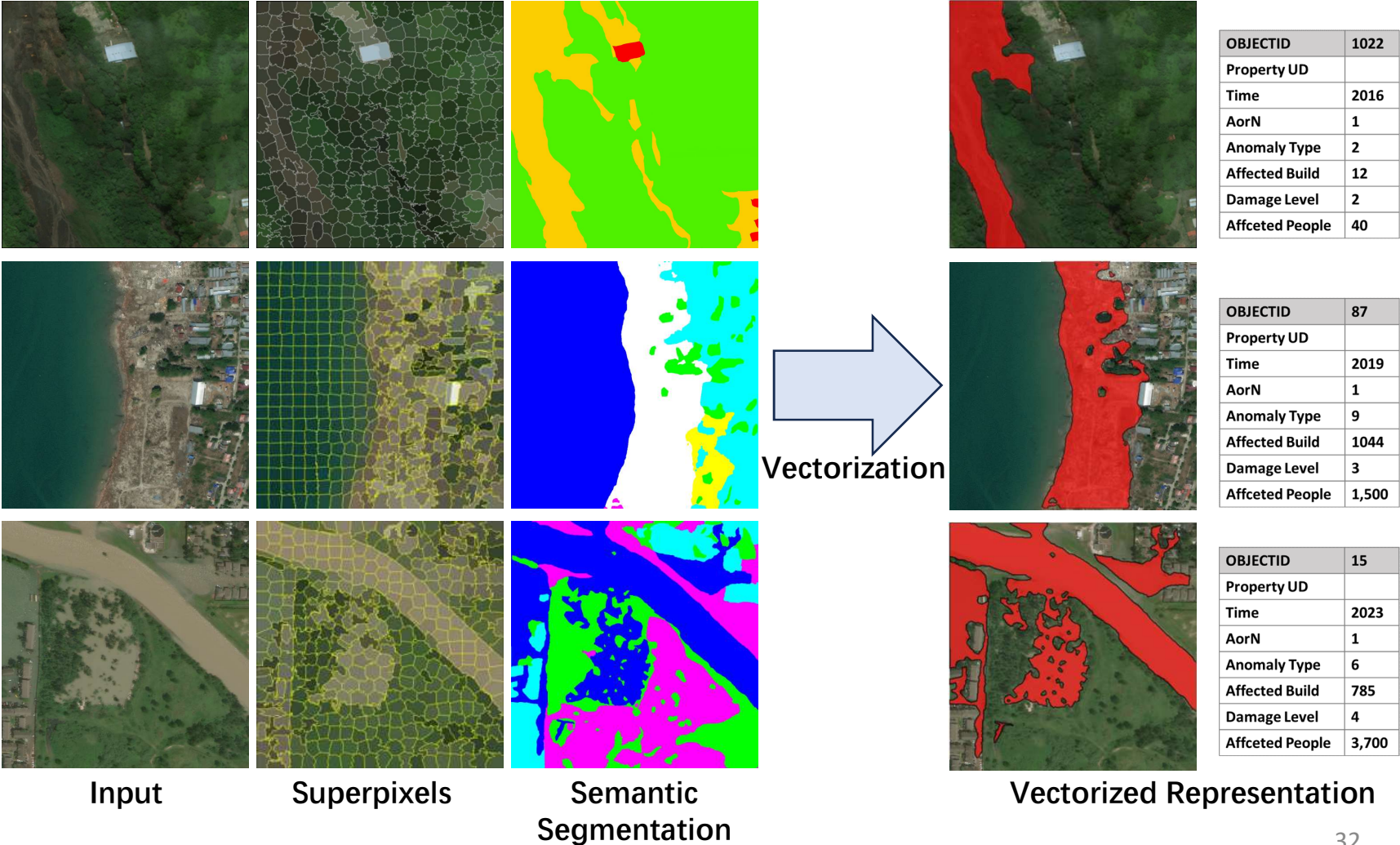
- Ablation Study

Ablation Study of Proposed Method

<b>Method</b>	<b>OA</b>	<b>Recall</b>	<b>AIT</b>	<b>Params</b>
GAT-Low	65.15	66.80	2.88ms	0.09M
GAT-High	62.32	68.06	3.42ms	0.21M
Concat-GAT	78.41	77.25	6.92ms	1.02M
Our method	83.89	83.86	6.04ms	1.01M

# Experiments

- Vectorized representation





# Outline

- About me
- Background and Motivation
- Method
- Experiments
- **Conclusion and Future Work**

# Conclusion and Future Work

- **Better model performance**

Improve **overall model precision, recall**, reduce the number of **model parameters**, and improve **inference efficiency**

- **Larger dataset**

Construct a dataset with a **larger sample size** and **more comprehensive types** of surface anomalies

- **Satellite on-orbit experiment**

Realize the framework for the **deployment and operation of satellites in orbit** for the **immediate detection and diagnosis** of surface anomalies and the downlinking of results

# Thanks!

Wechat:



[gaozhinus@gmail.com](mailto:gaozhinus@gmail.com)

[gaozhinus@whu.edu.cn](mailto:gaozhinus@whu.edu.cn)