

# Graph Symmetry and Graph Spectra

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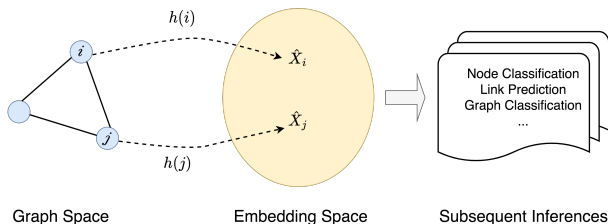
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# Outline

- 1 Graph representation learning: spectral vs spatial methods
- 2 Efficiency: spectral-inspired message-passing networks
- 3 Expressivity: graph spectra and graph symmetry



# Graph Representation Learning



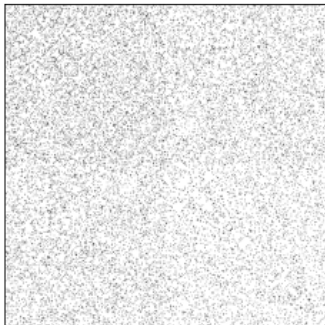
- Learn a finite-dimensional Euclidean embedding of the graph while preserving structural information
- Perform subsequent inferences directly on graph embedding

# Testbed: Node Classification/Community Detection

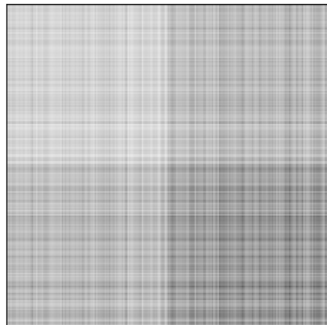
Problem Setup: predict node labels of  $Y_{m+1}, \dots, Y_n$ , using

- adjacency matrix  $A \in \mathbb{R}^{n \times n}$ , node features  $X \in \mathbb{R}^{n \times d}$ ,
- $m$  out of  $n$  labels:  $Y_1, \dots, Y_m$

$A$



$XX^T$



# Graph Representation Learning: Methods

Given a graph  $G(V, E)$  with a graph operator  $S$

Spectral methods:  $S = U\Lambda U^T$

- Spectral graph embedding

$$h^{\text{ASE}} = U_{[:k]} \sqrt{\Lambda}_{[:k]}$$

- Spectral graph neural networks

$$h^{(l+1)} = \sigma(p(S) h^{(l)} W^{(l)} + b^{(l)})$$

$$\xrightarrow{\text{GFT}} \hat{h}^{(l+1)} = \sigma(p(\Lambda) \hat{h}^{(l)} W^{(l)} + \hat{b}^{(l)})$$



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Message-passing algorithms

- Belief propagation

- Message-passing neural networks (MPNNs)

$$\begin{aligned} h^{(l+1)} &= \sigma(S h^{(l)} W^{(l)} + b^{(l)}) \\ &= \sigma\left(\sum_{j \in \mathcal{N}(i)} h_j^{(l)} W^{(l)} + b^{(l)}\right). \end{aligned}$$



# Injecting Global Information to Local MPNN

Can we compute global information from local MPNNs?

- Functional-calculus spectral filters (Levie et al. 2020; Perlmutter et al. 2019)
- Transformer-based GNNs (Kreuzer et al. 2021; Ying et al. 2021).



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Can we compute global **spectra** information from local MPNNs?

- **PowerEmbed** (Huang et al. 2022)





# PowerEmbed

- 1 A simple normalization step to express top- $k$  eigenvectors
- 2 Intermediate embeddings span from local spatial signals to global spectral information

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**Algorithm 1** PowerEmbed

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**Require:** a graph operator  $S \in \mathbb{R}^{n \times n}$ , node features  $X \in \mathbb{R}^{n \times k}$ , a list  $P = [X]$ .

**Initialize:**

$$U(t) = X$$

**for**  $t = 0$  to  $L-1$  **do**

$$\tilde{U}(t+1) = S U(t) \text{ [Message Passing]}$$

$$U(t+1) = \tilde{U}(t+1) [\tilde{U}(t+1)^\top \tilde{U}(t+1)]^{-1} \text{ [Normalization]}$$

Append  $\frac{U(t+1)}{\|U(t+1)[:,k]\|}$  to  $P$

**end for**

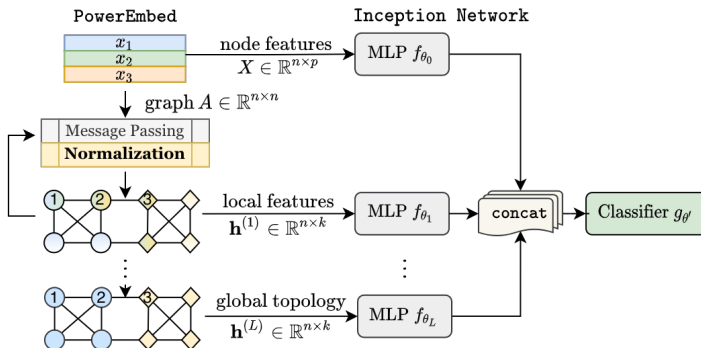
**return**  $P$

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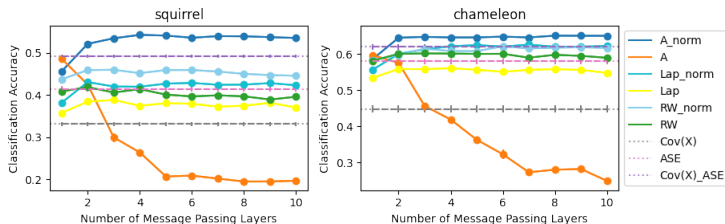
# PowerEmbed

- 1 A simple normalization step to express top- $k$  eigenvectors
- 2 Representation: intermediate embeddings span from local spatial signals to global spectral information
- 3 Classification: an inception network



# PowerEmbed

- ✓ Provably avoid over-smoothing (Li et al. 2018) and over-squashing (Topping et al. 2021) in *un-normalized* MPNNs
- ✓ Computationally efficient to capture both global spectral information and local spatial signals



# Expressivity

How powerful are spectral methods compared to spatial methods?



# Expressivity: Signal Processing Viewpoint

Spectral GNN:  $S = U \Lambda U^T$

Spatial MPNN:

$$h^{(l+1)} = \sigma(p(S) h^{(l)} W^{(l)} + b^{(l)})$$

$$h^{(l+1)} = \sigma(S h^{(l)} W^{(l)} + b^{(l)})$$

If we choose  $p(\cdot)$  as a degree- $k$  polynomial, then one layer of spectral GNN can be expressed by a  $k$ -layer MPNN.

- $p(\cdot)$  can be generalized to rational function (Levie et al. 2021)



# Expressivity: Graph Isomorphism Viewpoint

What functions on graphs can be expressed?  
Connection to graph isomorphism test.



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Connection to graph isomorphism test.

## Definition (Graph Isomorphism)

$G = (V, E, X_V)$  and  $G' = (V', E', X'_{V'})$  are isomorphic if there exists a relabeling of the nodes of  $G$  that produce the graph  $G'$ .

## Definition (Graph Invariant)

A graph invariant  $i$  is a function from the set of graphs to some fixed target domain such that this function is invariant under graph isomorphisms, i.e.  $i(G) = i(G')$  when  $G$  is isomorphic to  $G'$ .



# Graph Isomorphism and Graph Invariant

## Spectral invariants:

- Eigenvalues, graph angles  
(Cvetković et al. 2010;  
Van Dam et al. 2003)
- Multiset of the eigen-projectors  
(Fürer 2010; Rattan et al.  
2021)





# Graph Isomorphism and Graph Invariant

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## Spatial invariants:

- Weisfeiler-Lehman (WL) hierarchy



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Which invariants are stronger?

Abovementioned Spectral invariants are less powerful than 2-WL (Rattan et al. 2021).



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## Spatial invariants:

- Weisfeiler-Lehman (WL) hierarchy
  - 1-WL: MPNN (Morris et al. 2019; Xu et al. 2018)
  - $k$ -WL:  $k$ -th order MPNN (Maron et al. 2019)

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Can we design stronger spectral invariants?



# Towards Stronger Spectral Invariant: Graph Spectra and Graph Symmetry

Ingredients:

- Spectral-decomposition:  $A = \sum_{i=1}^n \lambda_i u_i u_i^\top$
- Automorphism:  $\Pi A = A \Pi$  for some permutation  $\Pi$ .
- stabilizer( $u_i$ ) :=  $\{\Pi : \Pi u_i = \pm u_j, u_j \in \mathcal{E}(\lambda_i)\}$ .

$$\text{aut}(G) = \bigcap_{i=1}^n \text{stabilizer}(u_i).$$





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