

# Graph Signal Processing

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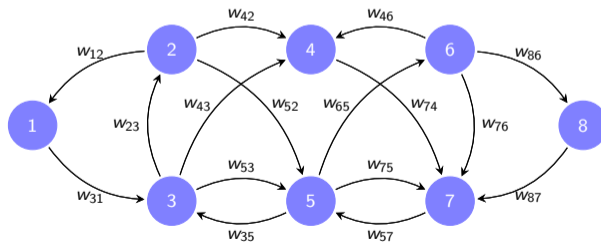
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May 17, 2021

# Graphs and Graph Signals

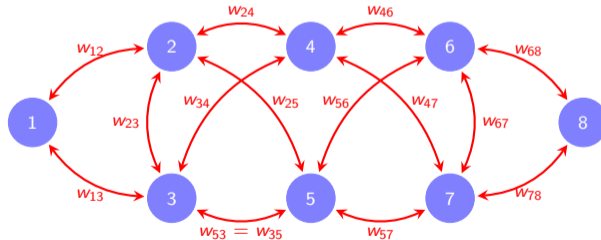
- ▶ A graph is a **triplet**  $\mathcal{G} = (\mathcal{V}, \mathcal{E}, \mathcal{W})$ , which includes vertices  $\mathcal{V}$ , edges  $\mathcal{E}$ , and weights  $\mathcal{W}$ 
  - ⇒ **Vertices** or nodes are a set of **n labels**. Typical labels are  $\mathcal{V} = \{1, \dots, n\}$
  - ⇒ **Edges** are **ordered pairs** of labels  $(i, j)$ . We interpret  $(i, j) \in \mathcal{E}$  as “*i* can be influenced by *j*.”
  - ⇒ **Weights**  $w_{ij} \in \mathbb{R}$  are numbers associated to edges  $(i, j)$ . “**Strength of the influence of *j* on *i*.**”



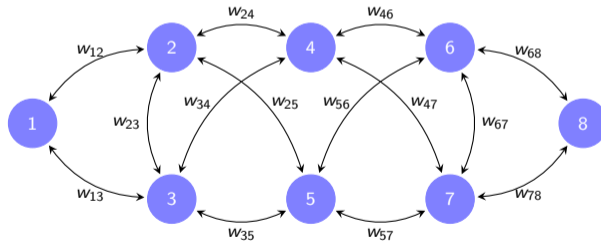
- ▶ A graph is symmetric or undirected if both, the edge set and the weight are symmetric

⇒ Edges come in pairs ⇒ We have  $(i, j) \in \mathcal{E}$  if and only if  $(j, i) \in \mathcal{E}$

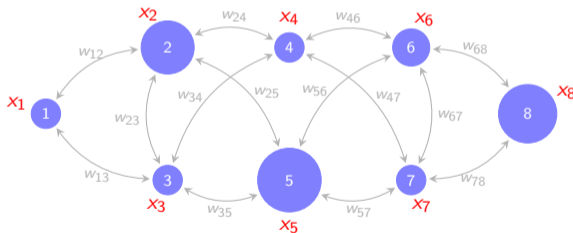
⇒ Weights are symmetric ⇒ We must have  $w_{ij} = w_{ji}$  for all  $(i, j) \in \mathcal{E}$



- ▶ Graphs can be directed or symmetric. Separately, they can be weighted or unweighted.
- ▶ Most of the graphs **we encounter** in practical situations are **symmetric and weighted**



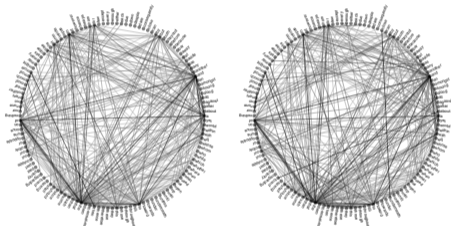
- ▶ Consider a given graph  $\mathcal{G}$  with  $n$  nodes, edge set  $\mathcal{E}$  and weights  $\mathcal{W}$
- ▶ A graph signal is a vector  $x \in \mathbb{R}^n$  in which **component  $x_i$  is associated with node  $i$**
- ▶ To emphasize that the graph is intrinsic to the signal we may write the **signal as a pair**  $\Rightarrow (\mathcal{G}, x)$



- ▶ The graph is an **expectation of proximity or similarity** between components of the signal  $x$

- ▶ **Graphs are generic models of signal structure** that can help to learn in several practical problems

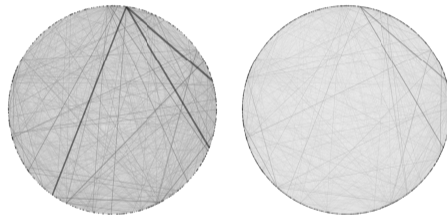
Authorship Attribution



Identify the author of a text of unknown provenance

Segarra et al '16, [arxiv.org/abs/1805.00165](https://arxiv.org/abs/1805.00165)

Recommendation Systems

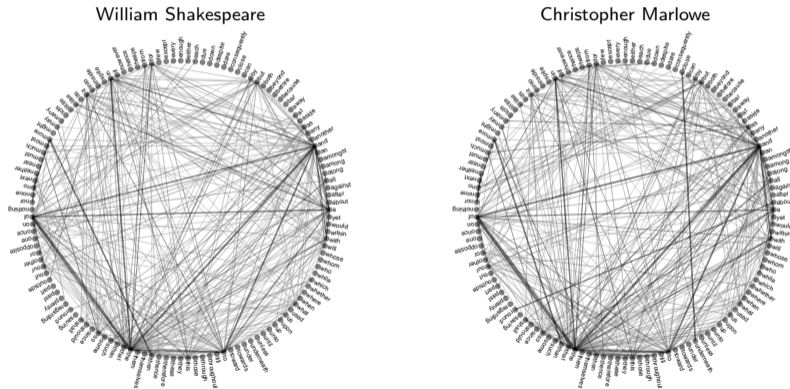


Predict the rating a customer would give to a product

Ruiz et al '18, [arxiv.org/abs/1903.12575](https://arxiv.org/abs/1903.12575)

- ▶ In both cases there exists a graph that contains meaningful information about the problem to solve

- ▶ **Nodes** represent different **function words** and **edges** how often words appear close to each other  
⇒ A proxy for the different ways in which different authors use the English language grammar

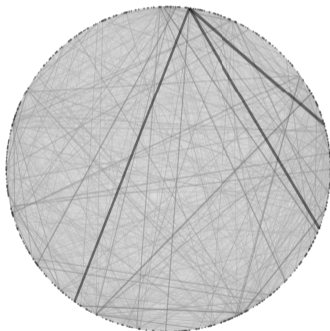


- ▶ WAN differences **differentiate the writing styles of Marlowe and Shakespeare** in, e.g., Henry VI

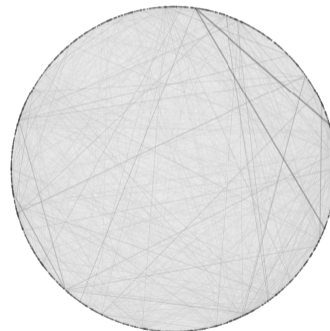


- ▶ **Nodes** represent different **customers** and **edges** their average **similarity in product ratings**
  - ⇒ The graph informs the completion of ratings when some are unknown and are to be predicted

Variation Diagram for Original (sampled) ratings



Variation Diagram for Reconstructed (predicted) ratings



- ▶ Variation energy of reconstructed signal is (much) smaller than variation energy of sampled signal

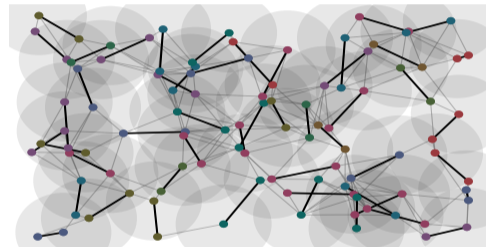
- ▶ Graphs are **more than data structures**  $\Rightarrow$  They are models of **physical systems with multiple agents**

Decentralized Control of Autonomous Systems

Coordinate a team of agents without central coordination

Tolstaya et al '19, [arxiv.org/abs/1903.10527](https://arxiv.org/abs/1903.10527)

Wireless Communications Networks



Manage interference when allocating bandwidth and power

Eisen-Ribeiro '19, [arxiv.org/abs/1909.01865](https://arxiv.org/abs/1909.01865)

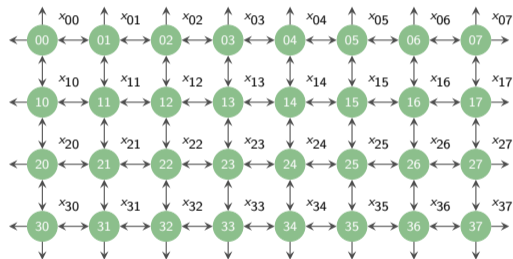
- ▶ The **graph is the source of the problem**  $\Rightarrow$  Challenge is that **goals are global** but **information is local**

- ▶ We can describe discrete **time** and **space** using **graphs that support time** or **space signals**

Description of **time** with a **directed line graph**

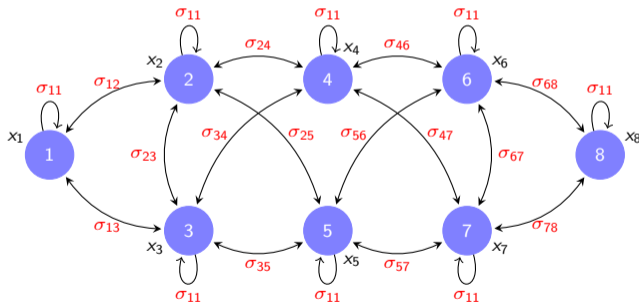


Description of **images (space)** with a **grid graph**



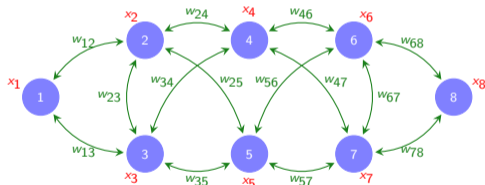
- ▶ **Line graph** represents adjacency of points in **time**. **Grid graph** represents adjacency of points in **space**

- ▶ A covariance matrix  $\Sigma$  with entries  $((\Sigma))_{ij} = \sigma_{ij}$  is also representable with a graph
  - ⇒ One that has **self loops** to represent the **variances**  $\sigma_{ii}$
- ▶ A realization  $x$  of a random signal  $X$  is a signal supported on the **covariance matrix graph**

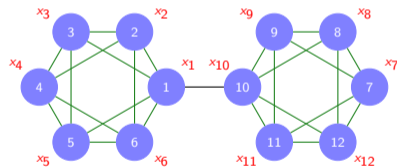


- ▶ Time and Space are pervasive and important, but still a (very) limited class of signals
- ▶ Use graphs as generic descriptors of signal structure with **signal values** associated to **nodes** and **edges** expressing **expected similarity** between signal components

A signal supported on a graph



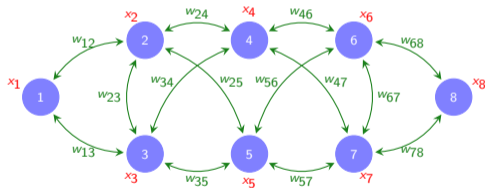
Another signal supported on another graph



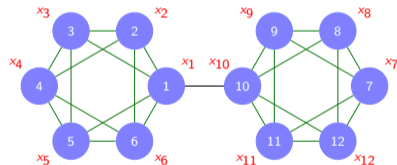
- ▶ **Nodes are customers.** **Signal values are product ratings.** **Edges are cosine similarities of past scores**

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A signal supported on a graph



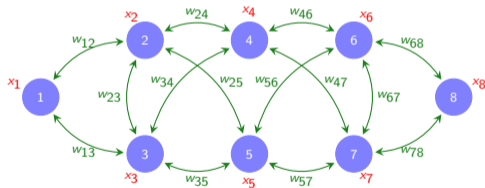
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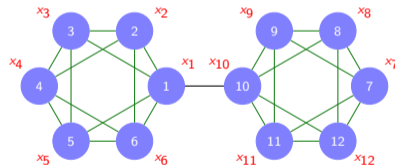
- ▶ **Nodes are drones.** **Signal values are velocities.** **Edges are sensing and communication ranges**

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A signal supported on a graph



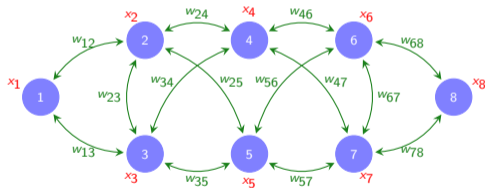
Another signal supported on another graph



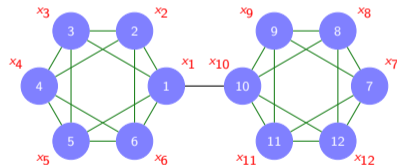
- ▶ **Nodes are transceivers.** **Signal values are QoS requirements.** **Edges are wireless channels strength**

- ▶ Time and Space are pervasive and important, but still a (very) limited class of signals
- ▶ Use graphs as generic descriptors of signal structure with **signal values** associated to **nodes** and **edges expressing expected similarity** between signal components

A signal supported on a graph



Another signal supported on another graph

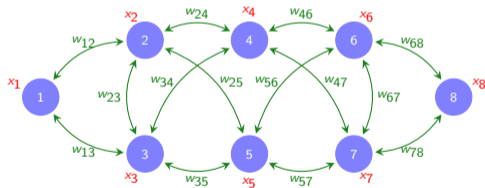


- ▶ Nodes are points in time. **Signal values**. Edges denote time causality

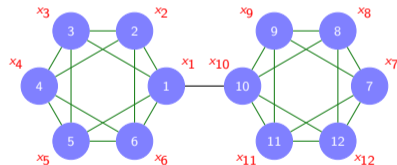


- ▶ Time and Space are pervasive and important, but still a (very) limited class of signals
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A signal supported on a graph



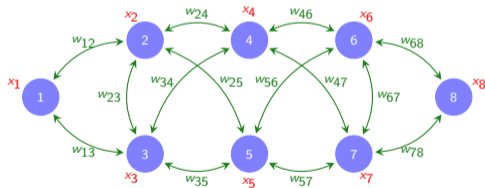
Another signal supported on another graph



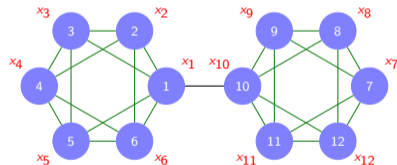
- ▶ **Nodes are pixels.** **Signal values are luminances.** **Edges denote spatial proximities**

- ▶ Time and Space are pervasive and important, but still a (very) limited class of signals
- ▶ Use graphs as generic descriptors of signal structure with **signal values** associated to **nodes** and **edges expressing expected similarity** between signal components

A signal supported on a graph



Another signal supported on another graph



- ▶ **Nodes are entries.** **Signal values.** **Edges denote crosscovariances**

- ▶ Techniques to process signals on graphs that...
  - ⇒ Generalize techniques developed for time, space, and random signals
  - ⇒ Recover techniques developed for time, space, and random signals as **particular cases**
- ▶ **Graph Fourier transform** ⇒ Recovers DFT, 2D-DFT and PCA as particular cases
- ▶ **Graph Convolutional Filters** ⇒ Recovers time and spatial convolutions as particular cases

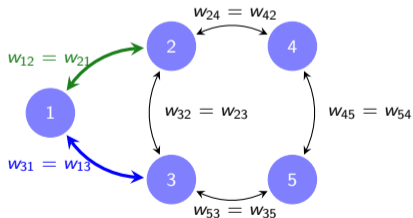
## Graph Shift Operators

- ▶ Graphs have **matrix representations**. Which in this course, we call **graph shift operators (GSOs)**

- ▶ The **adjacency matrix** of graph  $\mathcal{G} = (\mathcal{V}, \mathcal{E}, \mathcal{W})$  is the **sparse matrix**  $A$  with nonzero entries

$$A_{ij} = w_{ij}, \text{ for all } (i, j) \in \mathcal{E}$$

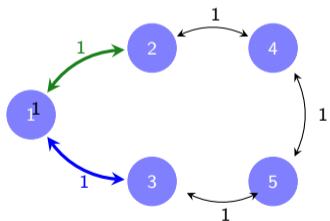
- ▶ If the **graph is symmetric**, the adjacency matrix is symmetric  $\Rightarrow A = A^T$ . As in the example



$$A = \begin{bmatrix} 0 & w_{12} & w_{13} & 0 & 0 \\ w_{21} & 0 & w_{23} & w_{24} & 0 \\ w_{31} & w_{32} & 0 & 0 & w_{35} \\ 0 & w_{42} & 0 & 0 & w_{45} \\ 0 & 0 & w_{53} & w_{54} & 0 \end{bmatrix}.$$

- For the particular case in which the graph is **unweighted**. Weights interpreted as units

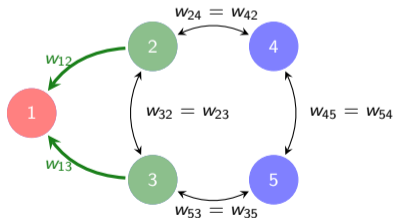
$$A_{ij} = 1, \quad \text{for all } (i, j) \in \mathcal{E}$$



$$A = \begin{bmatrix} 0 & 1 & 1 & 0 & 0 \\ 1 & 0 & 1 & 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 & 0 & 0 & 1 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 & 1 & 0 \end{bmatrix}.$$

▶ The **neighborhood** of node  $i$  is the set of nodes that **influence**  $i \Rightarrow n(i) := \{j : (i, j) \in \mathcal{E}\}$

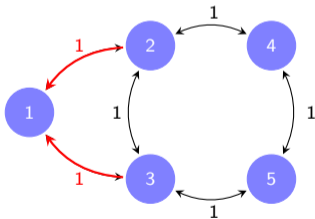
▶ **Degree**  $d_i$  of node  $i$  is the **sum of the weights** of its **incident edges**  $\Rightarrow d_i = \sum_{j \in n(i)} w_{ij} = \sum_{j: (i,j) \in \mathcal{E}} w_{ij}$



▶ Node 1 neighborhood  $\Rightarrow n(1) = \{2, 3\}$

▶ Node 1 degree  $\Rightarrow d(1) = w_{12} + w_{13}$

- ▶ The degree matrix is a diagonal matrix  $D$  with degrees as diagonal entries  $\Rightarrow D_{ii} = d_i$
- ▶ Write in terms of adjacency matrix as  $D = \text{diag}(A\mathbf{1})$ . Because  $(A\mathbf{1})_i = \sum_j w_{ij} = d_i$



$$D = \begin{bmatrix} 2 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 3 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 3 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 2 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 2 \end{bmatrix}$$



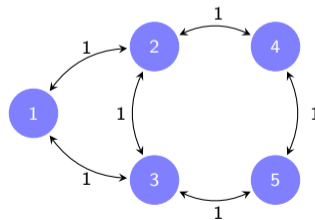
► The **Laplacian** matrix of a graph with adjacency matrix  $A$  is  $\Rightarrow L = D - A = \text{diag}(A1) - A$

► Can also be written explicitly in terms of graph weights  $A_{ij} = w_{ij}$

$\Rightarrow$  Off diagonal entries  $\Rightarrow L_{ij} = -A_{ij} = -w_{ij}$

$\Rightarrow$  Diagonal entries  $\Rightarrow L_{ii} = d_i = \sum_{j \in n(i)} w_{ij}$

$$L = \begin{bmatrix} 2 & -1 & -1 & 0 & 0 \\ -1 & 3 & -1 & -1 & 0 \\ -1 & -1 & 3 & 0 & -1 \\ 0 & -1 & 0 & 2 & -1 \\ 0 & 0 & -1 & -1 & 2 \end{bmatrix}$$



- ▶ **Normalized** adjacency and Laplacian matrices express **weights relative to the nodes' degrees**
- ▶ **Normalized adjacency** matrix  $\Rightarrow \bar{A} := D^{-1/2}AD^{-1/2} \Rightarrow$  Results in entries  $(\bar{A})_{ij} = \frac{w_{ij}}{\sqrt{d_i d_j}}$
- ▶ The normalized adjacency is symmetric if the graph is symmetric  $\Rightarrow \bar{A}^T = \bar{A}$ .

- ▶ **Normalized Laplacian matrix**  $\Rightarrow \bar{L} := D^{-1/2}LD^{-1/2}$ . Same normalization of adjacency matrix
- ▶ Given definitions normalized representations  $\Rightarrow \bar{L} = D^{-1/2}(D - A)D^{-1/2} = I - \bar{A}$ 
  - $\Rightarrow$  The normalized Laplacian and adjacency are **essentially the same linear transformation**.
- ▶ Normalized operators are more homogeneous. The entries in the vector  $A1$  tend to be similar.

- ▶ The **Graph Shift Operator  $S$**  is a **stand in** for any of the **matrix representations of the graph**

Adjacency Matrix

$$S = A$$

Laplacian Matrix

$$S = L$$

Normalized Adjacency

$$S = \bar{A}$$

Normalized Laplacian

$$S = \bar{L}$$

- ▶ If the **graph is symmetric**, the shift operator  $S$  is symmetric  $\Rightarrow S = S^T$
- ▶ The specific choice matters in practice but **most of results** and analysis **hold for any choice of  $S$**

## Laplacians and Graph Signal Variability

- ▶ The variability of a graph signal has to be measured with respect to the structure of the graph
- ▶ The quadratic form of the graph's Laplacian provides this measure

- ▶ We are given a graph signal  $x$  and a **symmetric** graph with edge set  $\mathcal{E}$  and edge weights  $w_{ij}$

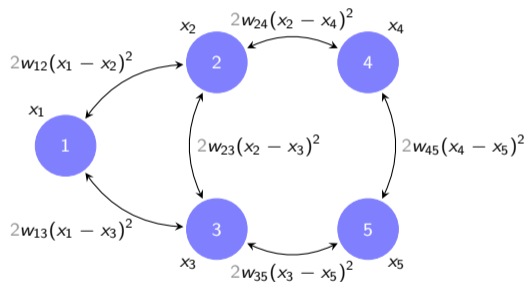
## Definition (Total Variation Energy)

The total variation energy of the signal  $x$  with respect to the graph  $\mathcal{G}$  is defined as

$$\text{TV}(x) := \frac{1}{2} \sum_{(i,j) \in \mathcal{E}} w_{ij} (x_i - x_j)^2$$

- ▶  $(x_i - x_j)^2 \Rightarrow$  Energy of difference between the signal values  $x_i$  and  $x_j$  observed at **node  $i$**  and **node  $j$**
- ▶ Weighted by the edge weight  $w_{ij}$  and summed across all edges

- ▶ In the total variation energy  $TV(x) := \frac{1}{2} \sum_{(i,j) \in \mathcal{E}} w_{ij}(x_i - x_j)^2$  there is a term associated to each edge



- ▶ The factor 2 appear because the graph is symmetric. Each arrow counts for two edges

- ▶ We are given a graph signal  $x$  and a **symmetric** graph with **Laplacian  $L$**
- ▶ The **Laplacian quadratic form** is the function  $\Rightarrow x^T L x$  (row  $\times$  matrix  $\times$  column = scalar)

### Theorem (Laplacian Quadratic Form)

The **Laplacian quadratic form** of graph signal  $x$  is equal to its **total variation energy**

$$x^T L x = \text{TV}(x) = \frac{1}{2} \sum_{(i,j) \in \mathcal{E}} w_{ij} (x_i - x_j)^2$$

- ▶ The Laplacian quadratic form measures the **variability** of different graph signals



**Proof:**

- ▶ This is an annoying algebraic calculation
- ▶ Isolate an edge  $e = (ij) \in \mathcal{E}$  and define a symmetric graph with edge  $e$ . It's Laplacian satisfies

$$((L_e))_{ij} = ((L_e))_{ji} = -w_{ij} \quad ((L_e))_{ii} = ((L_e))_{jj} = w_{ij}$$

- ▶ Since the matrix  $L_e$  has only four nonzero entries, the quadratic form  $x^T L_e x$  satisfies

$$x^T L_e x = x_i w_{ij} x_i + x_j w_{ij} x_j - x_i w_{ij} x_j - x_j w_{ij} x_i = w_{ij} (x_i - x_j)^2$$

- ▶ To conclude notice that we have  $L = \frac{1}{2} \sum_{(i,j) \in \mathcal{E}} L_e$  and therefore  $\Rightarrow x^T L x = \frac{1}{2} \sum_{(i,j) \in \mathcal{E}} x^T L_e x$  ■

- ▶ We say  $\mathbf{v}_k$  is an eigenvector of  $L$  with associated eigenvalue  $\lambda_k$  if we have  $L\mathbf{v}_k = \lambda_k\mathbf{v}_k$

## Corollary (Variability of Laplacian Eigenvectors)

The total variation energy of eigenvector  $\mathbf{v}_k$  is its associated eigenvalue  $\Rightarrow TV(\mathbf{v}_k) = \lambda_k$

**Proof:** As per the Laplacian quadratic form theorem  $\Rightarrow TV(\mathbf{v}_k) = \mathbf{v}_k^T L \mathbf{v}_k = \mathbf{v}_k^T \lambda_k \mathbf{v}_k = \lambda_k$  ■

- ▶ Eigenvectors of the Laplacian represent different rates of variability  $\Rightarrow$  A (graph) Fourier transform

# Graph Fourier Transform

- ▶ The Graph Fourier Transform (GFT) is a tool for analyzing graph information processing systems

- ▶ We work with **symmetric** graph shift operators  $\Rightarrow S = S^H$
- ▶ Introduce **eigenvectors**  $v_i$  and **eigenvalues**  $\lambda_i$  of graph shift operator  $S \Rightarrow Sv_i = \lambda_i v_i$ 
  - $\Rightarrow$  For symmetric  $S$  eigenvalues are real. We have ordered them  $\Rightarrow \lambda_0 \leq \lambda_1 \leq \dots \leq \lambda_n$
- ▶ Define eigenvector matrix  $V = [v_1, \dots, v_n]$  and eigenvalue matrix  $\Lambda = \text{diag}([\lambda_1; \dots; \lambda_n])$

## Theorem (Eigenvectors Orthogonality of Symmetric Matrices)

Consider a **symmetric shift operator** (matrix)  $S$ , with eigenvalues  $\nu$  and  $u$  associated with different eigenvalues  $\lambda$  and  $\mu$ . The **eigenvectors are orthogonal**

$$\nu^H u = 0.$$

- ▶ The eigenvectors of a symmetric shift operator can be used to define a **unitary transform**

**Proof:**

- ▶ Since eigenvectors  $v$  and  $u$  are respectively associated with eigenvalues  $\lambda$  and  $\mu$ , we have that

$$Sv = \lambda v, \quad Su = \mu u$$

- ▶ Since the matrix  $S$  is symmetric and real we have that  $S^H = S$ . For here, it follows that

$$\left(u^H Sv\right)^H = v^H S^H u = v^H Su$$

- ▶ Substitute  $Sv = \lambda v$  on the leftmost side. Substitute  $Su = \mu u$  on the rightmost side.

$$\left(\lambda u^H v\right)^H = \left(u^H Sv\right)^H = v^H S^H u = v^H Su = \mu v^H u$$

- ▶ For this to be true with  $\lambda \neq \mu$  we must have that  $v^H u = 0$



- ▶ The  $k$ th column of the **eigenvector matrix**  $V = [v_1, \dots, v_n]$  is the  $k$ th eigenvector  $v_k$  of the shift  $S$
- ▶ Since the eigenvectors  $v_k$  are orthonormal, the eigenvector matrix  **$V$  is unitary**  $\Rightarrow V^H V = I$

$$V^H V = \begin{bmatrix} v_1^H \\ \vdots \\ v_k^H \\ \vdots \\ v_n^H \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} v_1 & \cdots & v_k & \cdots & v_n \\ v_1^H v_1 & \cdots & v_1^H v_k & \cdots & v_1^H v_n \\ \vdots & \ddots & \vdots & \ddots & \vdots \\ v_k^H v_1 & \cdots & v_k^H v_k & \cdots & v_k^H v_n \\ \vdots & \ddots & \vdots & \ddots & \vdots \\ v_n^H v_1 & \cdots & v_n^H v_k & \cdots & v_n^H v_n \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & \cdots & 0 & \cdots & 0 \\ \vdots & \ddots & \vdots & \ddots & \vdots \\ 0 & \cdots & 1 & \cdots & 0 \\ \vdots & \ddots & \vdots & \ddots & \vdots \\ 0 & \cdots & 0 & \cdots & 1 \end{bmatrix}$$

- ▶ The **eigenvalue matrix**  $\Lambda$  is a diagonal matrix with diagonal entries equal to eigenvalues of  $S$

$$\Lambda = \begin{bmatrix} \lambda_1 & \cdots & 0 & \cdots & 0 \\ \vdots & \ddots & \vdots & \ddots & \vdots \\ 0 & \cdots & \lambda_k & \cdots & 0 \\ \vdots & \ddots & \vdots & \ddots & \vdots \\ 0 & \cdots & 0 & \cdots & \lambda_n \end{bmatrix} = \text{diag}(\lambda_1, \dots, \lambda_n)$$

- ▶ **Eigenvalue decomposition**  $\Rightarrow$  We can write the shift operator as  $S = V\Lambda V^H$ . Indeed,

$$SV = S[v_1, \dots, v_n] = [Sv_1, \dots, Sv_n] = [\lambda_1 v_1, \dots, \lambda_n v_n] = V\Lambda$$

- ▶ Multiply from the right by  $V^H$  and use the fact that  $V$  is unitary to eliminate  $VV^H = I$



## Graph Fourier Transform

Given a graph shift operator  $S = V\Lambda V^H$ , the **graph Fourier transform (GFT)** of graph signal  $x$  is

$$\tilde{x} = V^H x$$

- ▶ GFT  $\equiv$  **projection on the eigenspace** of the graph shift operator  $\Rightarrow \tilde{x}_k = v_k^H x = \langle x, v_k \rangle$
- ▶ We say  $\tilde{x}$  is a **graph frequency** representation of  $x$ . A representation in the **graph frequency** domain

## Inverse Graph Fourier Transform

Given a graph shift operator  $S = \mathbf{V}\Lambda\mathbf{V}^H$ , the inverse graph Fourier transform (iGFT) of GFT  $\tilde{\mathbf{x}}$  is

$$\tilde{\tilde{\mathbf{x}}} = \mathbf{V}\tilde{\mathbf{x}}$$

- ▶ Given that  $\mathbf{V}^H\mathbf{V} = \mathbf{I}$ , the iGFT of the GFT of signal  $\mathbf{x}$  recovers the signal  $\mathbf{x}$

$$\tilde{\tilde{\mathbf{x}}} = \mathbf{V}\tilde{\mathbf{x}} = \mathbf{V}\left(\mathbf{V}^H\mathbf{x}\right) = \mathbf{I}\mathbf{x} = \mathbf{x}$$

**Theorem (The GFT Preserves Energy)**

The energy  $\|x\|^2$  of a signal and the energy of its GFT  $\|\tilde{x}\|^2$  are the same  $\Rightarrow \|x\|^2 = \|\tilde{x}\|^2$

- ▶ Given that  $V^H V = I$ , we have the chain of equalities

$$\|\tilde{x}\|^2 = \tilde{x}^H \tilde{x} = x^H V V^H x = x^H I x = x^H x = \|x\|^2$$

- ▶ Because of inverse theorem, we can write graph signals as  $\Rightarrow \mathbf{x} = \mathbf{V}\tilde{\mathbf{x}} = \sum_{k=1}^n \tilde{x}_k \mathbf{v}_k$
- ▶ Because of Parseval, the energy  $|\tilde{x}_k|^2$  of the  $k$ th coefficient is the energy  $\mathbf{v}_k$  contributes to  $\mathbf{x}$
- ▶ Use the Laplacian as shift operator  $\Rightarrow \mathbf{S} = \mathbf{L}$ 
  - $\Rightarrow$  Total variation energy of Laplacian eigenvectors  $\Rightarrow \text{TV}(\mathbf{v}_k) = \lambda_k = \frac{1}{2} \sum_{(i,j) \in \mathcal{E}} w_{ij} (x_i - x_j)^2$
  - $\Rightarrow$  Eigenvectors are sorted according to their variability  $\Rightarrow \text{TV}(\mathbf{v}_1) \leq \text{TV}(\mathbf{v}_2) \leq \dots \leq \text{TV}(\mathbf{v}_n)$
- ▶ The Laplacian GFT decomposes signals  $\mathbf{x}$  into components of progressively higher variability

- ▶ This variability interpretation is **true for Laplacian shift operators only**
- ▶ Adjacency matrix  $\Rightarrow$  If  $S = A$  this is sort of true if the node degrees are similar
- ▶ **Normalized Laplacian**  $\Rightarrow$  If  $S = \bar{L}$ , analogous interpretation holds for **normalized variation energy**

$$\bar{T}V(v_k) = \frac{1}{2} \sum_{(i,j) \in \mathcal{E}} w_{ij} \left( \frac{x_i}{\sqrt{d_i}} - \frac{x_j}{\sqrt{d_j}} \right)^2$$

- ▶ Normalized Adjacency  $\Rightarrow$  If  $S = \bar{A}$  the same holds because eigenvectors coincide  $\Rightarrow \bar{L} = I - \bar{L}$

# The GFT of Discrete Time Signals

- ▶ We can describe discrete time signals as signals supported on a **directed line graph**

Description of time with a directed line graph



The **adjacency “matrix”** of a directed line graph

$$S = A = \begin{bmatrix} \cdot & \cdot & \cdot & & \\ \cdot & 0 & 0 & 0 & \cdot \\ \cdot & \mathbf{1} & 0 & 0 & \cdot \\ \cdot & 0 & \mathbf{1} & 0 & \cdot \\ \cdot & 0 & 0 & \mathbf{1} & \cdot \\ \cdot & \cdot & \cdot & \cdot & \cdot \end{bmatrix}$$

- ▶ This **adjacency “matrix”** has a **GFT** associated with it. Is it **related to the DTFT**?

- ▶ A time shifting of a time signal means moving the signal up on the time line  $\Rightarrow$  Follow the arrows



- ▶ Time shift is reinterpreted as multiplication by the adjacency matrix  $S$  of the line graph

$$Sx = \begin{bmatrix} \cdot & \cdot & \cdot & \cdot & \cdot \\ \cdot & 0 & 0 & 0 & \cdot \\ \cdot & \mathbf{1} & 0 & 0 & \cdot \\ \cdot & 0 & \mathbf{1} & 0 & \cdot \\ \cdot & 0 & 0 & \mathbf{1} & \cdot \\ \cdot & \cdot & \cdot & \cdot & \cdot \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} \cdot \\ x_0 \\ x_1 \\ x_2 \\ x_3 \\ \cdot \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} \cdot \\ x_{-1} \\ x_0 \\ x_1 \\ x_2 \\ \cdot \end{bmatrix}$$

- ▶ Product  $Sx$  is such that  $(Sx)_n = x_{n-1} \Rightarrow$  Signal components move up on the time line



- ▶ Particularize to the case in which the graph signal  $\mathbf{x}$  is a complex exponential  $\Rightarrow x_n = e^{j2\pi fnTs}$
- ▶ Moving components up in the time line for this particular signal yields

$$(\mathbf{S}\mathbf{x})_n = e^{j2\pi f(n-1)Ts} = e^{j2\pi f(-1)Ts} e^{j2\pi fnTs} = e^{-j2\pi fTs} x_n$$

- ▶ Complex exponential  $\mathbf{x}$  is an eigenvector of the shift “matrix”  $\mathbf{S}$  with associated eigenvalue  $e^{-j2\pi fTs}$

- ▶ Let  $e_{fT_s}$  be a discrete time complex exponential with components  $x_n = e^{j2\pi fnT_s}$

## Theorem (GFT of a Directed Line Graph)

The components of the GFT of a discrete time signal  $x$  are  $\Rightarrow \check{x}_k = \langle x, e_{fT_s} \rangle = \sum_{-\infty}^{+\infty} x_n e^{-j2\pi fnT_s}$

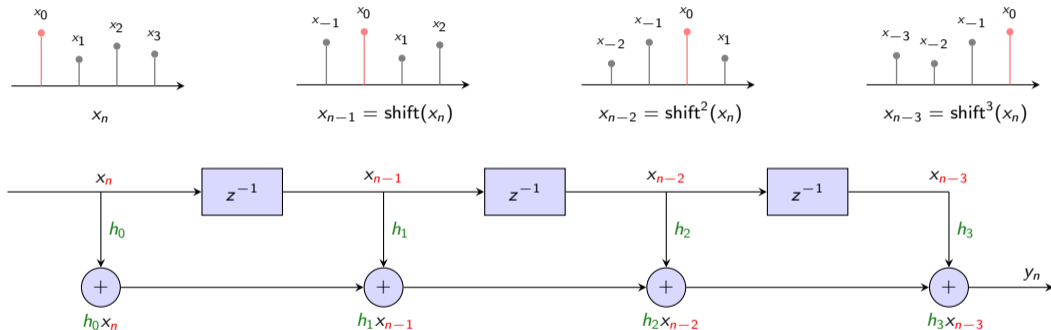
- ▶ Which is the **exact same definition of the DTFT of the signal  $x$**

- ▶ **DFT**  $\equiv$  GFT of **directed cycle** graph (connect node  $n - 1$  to node 1)
- ▶ **2D-DFT**  $\sim$  GFT of **grid** graph  $\Rightarrow$  In fact, it's complicated. But true enough
- ▶ **PCA equiv** GFT of **covariance matrix** graph  $\Rightarrow$  Self evident. Same definition

## Graph Convolutional Filters

- ▶ Graph convolutional filters are the **tool of choice** for the **linear processing** of graph signals

- ▶ **Convolutional filters** process signals **in time** by leveraging the **time shift** operator



- ▶ The **time** convolution is a linear combination of **time shifted** inputs  $\Rightarrow y_n = \sum_{k=0}^{K-1} h_k x_{n-k}$

- Time signals are representable as **graph signals** supported on a **line graph  $S$**   $\Rightarrow$  The pair  $(S, x)$

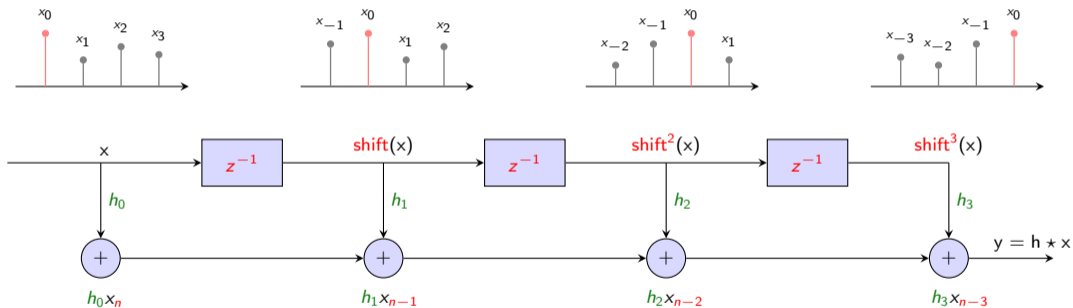


- Time shift is reinterpreted as **multiplication by the adjacency matrix  $S$**  of the line graph

$$S^3x = S[S^2x] = S[S(Sx)] = \begin{bmatrix} \vdots & \vdots & \vdots & \vdots \\ \dots & 0 & 0 & 0 & \dots \\ \dots & \mathbf{1} & 0 & 0 & \dots \\ \dots & 0 & \mathbf{1} & 0 & \dots \\ \dots & 0 & 0 & \mathbf{1} & \dots \\ \vdots & \vdots & \vdots & \vdots & \vdots \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} \vdots \\ x_0 \\ x_1 \\ x_2 \\ x_3 \\ \vdots \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} \vdots \\ x_{-3} \\ x_{-2} \\ x_{-1} \\ x_0 \\ \vdots \end{bmatrix}$$

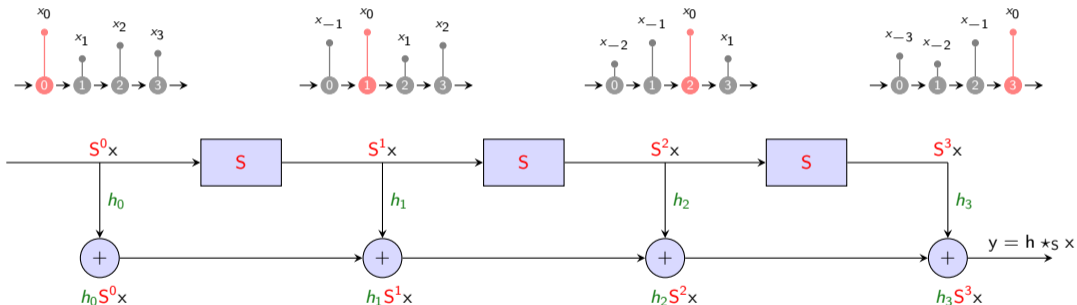
- Components of the shift sequence are **powers of the adjacency matrix** applied to the original signal  
 $\Rightarrow$  We can rewrite **convolutional filters** as **polynomials on  $S$** , the adjacency of the line graph

- ▶ The convolution operation is a linear combination of **shifted** versions of the input signal
- ▶ But we now know that time shifts are **multiplications with the adjacency matrix  $S$  of line graph**



- ▶ **Time** convolution is a polynomial on adjacency matrix of line graph  $\Rightarrow y = h \star x = \sum_{k=0}^{K-1} h_k S^k x$

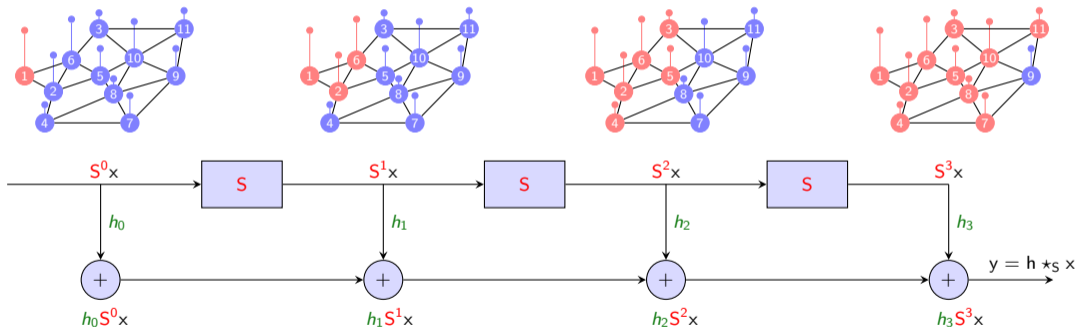
- ▶ The convolution operation is a linear combination of **shifted** versions of the input signal
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- ▶ **Time** convolution is a polynomial on adjacency matrix of line graph  $\Rightarrow y = h * x = \sum_{k=0}^{K-1} h_k S^k x$



- If we let  $S$  be the shift operator of an arbitrary graph we recover the graph convolution



- ▶ Given graph shift operator  $S$  and coefficients  $h_k$ , a graph filter is a **polynomial (series)** on  $S$

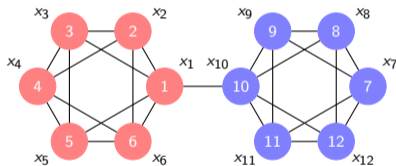
$$H(S) = \sum_{k=0}^{\infty} h_k S^k$$

- ▶ The result of applying the filter  $H(S)$  to the signal  $x$  is the signal

$$y = H(S)x = \sum_{k=0}^{\infty} h_k S^k x$$

- ▶ We say that  $y = h \star_S x$  is the **graph convolution** of the filter  $h = \{h_k\}_{k=0}^{\infty}$  with the signal  $x$

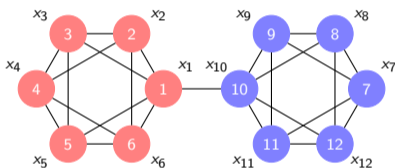
- ▶ Graph convolutions aggregate information growing from local to global neighborhoods
- ▶ Consider a signal  $x$  supported on a graph with **shift operator**  $S$ . Along with **filter**  $h = \{h_k\}_{k=0}^{K-1}$



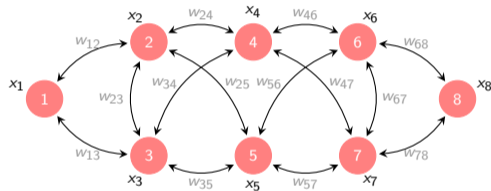
- ▶ Graph convolution output  $\Rightarrow y = h \star_S x = h_0 S^0 x + h_1 S^1 x + h_2 S^2 x + h_3 S^3 x + \dots = \sum_{k=0}^{K-1} h_k S^k x$

- ▶ The same filter  $h = \{h_k\}_{k=0}^{\infty}$  can be executed in multiple graphs  $\Rightarrow$  We can transfer the filter

Graph Filter on a Graph

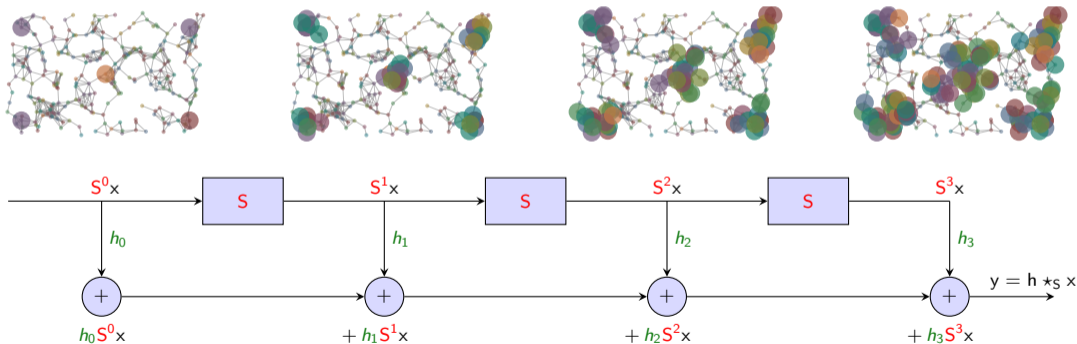


Same Graph Filter on Another Graph



- ▶ Graph convolution output  $\Rightarrow y = h \star_S x = h_0 S^0 x + h_1 S^1 x + h_2 S^2 x + h_3 S^3 x + \dots = \sum_{k=0}^{\infty} h_k S^k x$
- ▶ Output depends on the filter coefficients  $h$ , the graph shift operator  $S$  and the signal  $x$

- ▶ A graph convolution is a **weighted linear combination** of the elements of the **diffusion sequence**
- ▶ Can represent graph convolutions with a **shift register**  $\Rightarrow$  Convolution  $\equiv$  **Shift. Scale. Sum**



## Graph Frequency Response of Graph Filters

- ▶ Graph filters admit a **pointwise** representation when projected into the shift operator's eigenspace

**Theorem (Graph frequency representation of graph filters)**

Consider **graph filter**  $h$  with coefficients  $h_k$ , **graph signal**  $x$  and the **filtered signal**  $y = \sum_{k=0}^{\infty} h_k S^k x$ .

The GFTs  $\tilde{x} = V^H x$  and  $\tilde{y} = V^H y$  are related by

$$\tilde{y} = \sum_{k=0}^{\infty} h_k \Lambda^k \tilde{x}$$

- ▶ The **same polynomial** but on different variables. One on  $S$ . The other on **eigenvalue matrix**  $\Lambda$

**Proof:** Since  $S = V\Lambda V^H$ , can write shift operator powers as  $S^k = V\Lambda^k V^H$ . Therefore filter output is

$$y = \sum_{k=0}^{\infty} h_k S^k x = \sum_{k=0}^{\infty} h_k V \Lambda^k V^H x$$

▶ Multiply both sides by  $V^H$  on the left  $\Rightarrow V^H y = V^H \sum_{k=0}^{\infty} h_k V \Lambda^k V^H x$

▶ Copy and identify terms. Output GFT  $V^H y = \tilde{y}$ . Input GFT  $V^H x = \tilde{x}$ . Cancel out  $V^H V$

$$V^H y = V^H \sum_{k=0}^{\infty} h_k V \Lambda^k V^H x \quad \Rightarrow \quad \tilde{y} = \sum_{k=0}^{\infty} h_k \Lambda^k \tilde{x}$$





- ▶ In the graph frequency domain graph filters are a **diagonal** matrices  $\Rightarrow \tilde{\mathbf{y}} = \sum_{k=0}^{\infty} h_k \Lambda^k \tilde{\mathbf{x}}$
- ▶ Thus, graph convolutions are **pointwise in the GFT domain**  $\Rightarrow \tilde{y}_i = \sum_{k=0}^{\infty} h_k \lambda_i^k \tilde{x}_i = \tilde{h}(\lambda_i) \tilde{x}_i$

### Definition (Frequency Response of a Graph Filter)

Given a graph filter with **coefficients**  $\mathbf{h} = \{h_k\}_{k=0}^{\infty}$ , the graph frequency response is the polynomial

$$\tilde{h}(\lambda) = \sum_{k=0}^{\infty} h_k \lambda^k$$

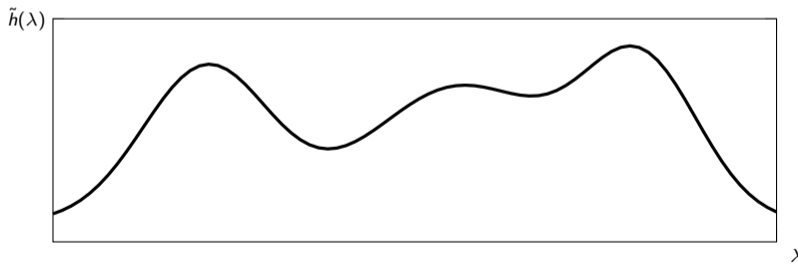
## Definition (Frequency Response of a Graph Filter)

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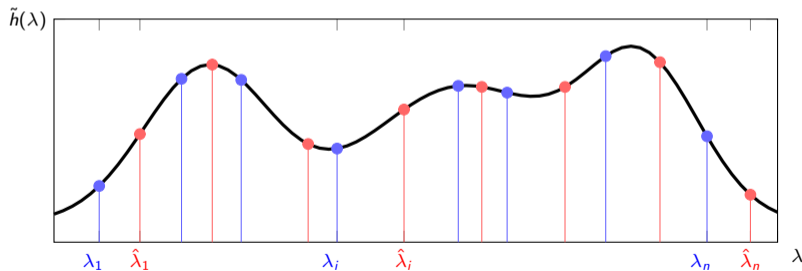
$$\tilde{h}(\lambda) = \sum_{k=0}^{\infty} h_k \lambda^k$$

- ▶ Frequency response is the **same polynomial** that defines the graph filter  $\Rightarrow$  but on **scalar variable**  $\lambda$
- ▶ Frequency response is **independent of the graph**  $\Rightarrow$  Depends only on **filter coefficients**
- ▶ The **role of the graph** is to determine the **eigenvalues on which the response is instantiated**

- ▶ Graph filter frequency response is a **polynomial on a scalar variable  $\lambda$**   $\Rightarrow \tilde{h}(\lambda) = \sum_{k=0}^{\infty} h_k \lambda^k$
- ▶ Completely **determined by the filter coefficients  $h = \{h_k\}_{k=1}^{\infty}$**  . The Graph has nothing to do with it



- ▶ A **given (another)** graph instantiates the response on its **given (different)** specific eigenvalues  $\lambda_i$
- ▶ **Eigenvectors** do not appear in the frequency response. They determine the **meaning of frequencies**.



## Learning with Graph Signals

- ▶ Almost ready to introduce GNNs. We begin with a short discussion of **learning with graph signals**

▶ Machine learning (ML) on graphs (or not)  $\equiv$  empirical risk minimization (ERM) on graphs (or not)

▶ In ERM we are given:

$\Rightarrow$  A training set  $\mathcal{T}$  containing observation pairs  $(x, y) \in \mathcal{T}$ . Assume equal length  $x, y \in \mathbb{R}^n$ .

$\Rightarrow$  A loss function  $\ell(y, \hat{y})$  to evaluate the similarity between  $y$  and an estimate  $\hat{y}$

$\Rightarrow$  A function class  $\mathcal{C}$

▶ Learning means finding function  $\Phi^* \in \mathcal{C}$  that minimizes loss  $\ell(y, \Phi(x))$  averaged over training set

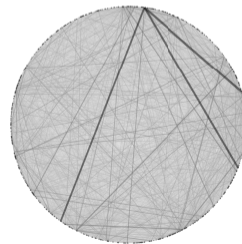
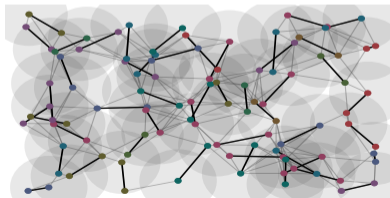
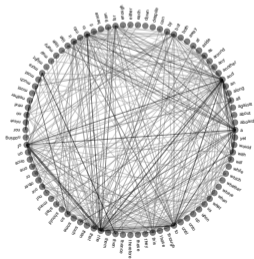
$$\Phi^* = \operatorname{argmin}_{\Phi \in \mathcal{C}} \sum_{(x, y) \in \mathcal{T}} \ell(y, \Phi(x), )$$

▶ We use  $\Phi^*(x)$  to estimate outputs  $\hat{y} = \Phi^*(x)$  when inputs  $x$  are observed but outputs  $y$  are unknown

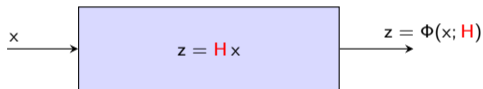
- ▶ In ERM, the **function class  $\mathcal{C}$**  is the degree of freedom available to the system's designer

$$\Phi^* = \underset{\Phi \in \mathcal{C}}{\operatorname{argmin}} \sum_{(x,y) \in \mathcal{T}} \ell(y, \Phi(x))$$

- ▶ Designing a Machine Learning  $\equiv$  **finding the right function class  $\mathcal{C}$**
- ▶ Since we are interested in graph signals, **graph convolutional filters** are a good starting point



- ▶ **Input / output** signals  $x / y$  are **graph signals** supported on a **common** graph with **shift operator  $S$**
- ▶ **Function class**  $\Rightarrow$  **Generic Linear function** mapping inputs to ooutputs  $\Rightarrow \Phi(x) = Hx = \Phi(x;H)$

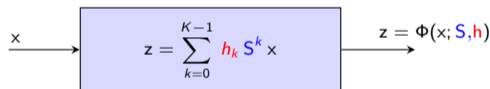


- ▶ **Learn ERM solution restricted to graph filter class**  $\Rightarrow h^* = \underset{h}{\operatorname{argmin}} \sum_{(x,y) \in \mathcal{T}} \ell(y, \Phi(x; H))$
- $\Rightarrow$  **Optimization is over matrices  $H$** . It does not take advantage of the graph



► **Input / output** signals  $x / y$  are **graph signals** supported on a **common** graph with **shift operator**  $S$

► **Function class**  $\Rightarrow$  **graph filters of order**  $K$  supported on  $S \Rightarrow \Phi(x) = \sum_{k=0}^{K-1} h_k S^k x = \Phi(x; S, h)$



► **Learn** ERM solution **restricted to graph filter class**  $\Rightarrow h^* = \underset{h}{\operatorname{argmin}} \sum_{(x,y) \in \mathcal{T}} \ell(y, \Phi(x; S, h))$

$\Rightarrow$  **Optimization is over filter coefficients**  $h$  with the **graph shift operator**  $S$  given

# Learning Ratings in Recommendation Systems

- ▶ Formulate **recommendation systems as ERM** problems that predict ratings that users give to items

- ▶ In a recommendation system, we want to predict the rating a **user** would give to an **item**
- ▶ Collect ratings that some **users** give to some **items**  $\Rightarrow$  These are rating histories
- ▶ Exploit product similarities to predict ratings of unseen **user-item** pairs
- ▶ Example 1  $\Rightarrow$  In an online store **items** are **products** and **users** are **customers**
- ▶ Example 2  $\Rightarrow$  In a movie repository **items** are **movies** and **users** are **watchers**

- ▶ For all **items**  $i$  and **users**  $u$  there exist ratings  $\Rightarrow y_{ui}$ 
  - $\Rightarrow$  **User** rating vector  $y_u$  has entries  $y_{ui}$
- ▶ We only observe a subset of ratings  $\Rightarrow x_{ui}$ 
  - $\Rightarrow$  Observed **user** rating vector  $x_u$  has entries  $x_{ui}$
  - $\Rightarrow$  We assume  $x_{ui} = 0$  if **item**  $i$  is unrated by **user**  $u$



► For all **items**  $i$  and **users**  $u$  there exist ratings  $\Rightarrow y_{ui}$

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- ▶ Construct **product similarity graph** with weights  $w_{ij}$  represent **likelihood of similar scores**
- ▶ Interpret vector of ratings  $y_u$  of **user  $u$**  as a **graph signal** supported on the product similarity graph
- ▶ The observed ratings  $x_u$  of **user  $u$**  are a subsampling of this graph signal.
- ▶ Our goal is to **learn to reconstruct** the rating graph signal  $y_u$  from the observed ratings  $x_u$
- ▶ Build **similarity graph using available ratings**. Use of expert knowledge is common as well

- ▶ Consider **pair of products**  $i$  and  $j$ . Restrict attention to **set of users** that **rated both** products  $\Rightarrow \mathcal{U}_{ij}$

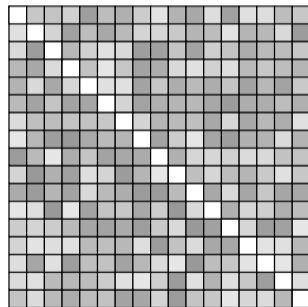
- ▶ Mean ratings **restricted to users** that rated **products**  $i$  and  $j$

$$\mu_{ij} = \frac{1}{\#(\mathcal{U}_{ij})} \sum_{u \in \mathcal{U}_{ij}} x_{ui} \quad \mu_{ji} = \frac{1}{\#(\mathcal{U}_{ij})} \sum_{u \in \mathcal{U}_{ij}} x_{uj}$$

- ▶ **Similarity** score = **correlation** restricted to users in  $\mathcal{U}_{ij}$

$$\sigma_{ij} = \frac{1}{\#(\mathcal{U}_{ij})} \sum_{u \in \mathcal{U}_{ij}} (x_{ui} - \mu_{ij})(x_{uj} - \mu_{ji})$$

- ▶ **Weights** = **normalized** correlations  $\Rightarrow w_{ij} = \sigma_{ij} / \sqrt{\sigma_{ii}\sigma_{jj}}$



- ▶ Given observed ratings  $x_u$  the AI produces estimates  $\Phi(x_u)$ . We want  $\Phi(x_u)$  to approximate  $y_u$

$$\ell(y_u, \Phi(x_u)) = \frac{1}{2} \left\| y_u - \Phi(x_u) \right\|^2$$

- ▶ In reality, we want to predict the rating of **specific item  $i$**

$$\ell(y_u, \Phi(x_u)) = \frac{1}{2} \left( \mathbf{e}_i^T y_u - \mathbf{e}_i^T \Phi(x_u) \right)^2$$

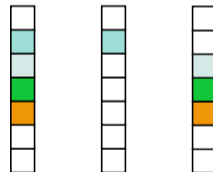
- ▶ Where  $\mathbf{e}_i$  is a vector in the canonical basis  $\Rightarrow (\mathbf{e}_i)_i = 1, (\mathbf{e}_i)_j = 0$  for  $j \neq i$



- ▶ For each item  $i$  let  $\mathcal{U}_i$  be the set of users that have rated  $i$ . Construct training pairs  $(x, y)$  with

$$y = \left( \mathbf{e}_i^T \mathbf{x}_u \right) \mathbf{e}_i \quad \mathbf{x} = \mathbf{x}_u - y \quad \text{for all } u \in \mathcal{U}_i, \text{ for all } i$$

- ▶ Extract the rating  $x_{ui}$  of item  $i$ . Record into graph signal  $y$
- ▶ Remove rating  $x_{ui}$  from  $\mathbf{x}_u$ . Record to graph signal  $\mathbf{x}$
- ▶ Repeat for all users in the set  $\mathcal{U}_i$  of users that rated  $i$
- ▶ Repeat for all items  $\Rightarrow$  Training set  $\mathcal{T}$



- ▶ **Parametrized** AI  $\Phi(x_u) = \Phi(x_u; \mathcal{H})$ . We want to find solution of the ERM problem

$$\mathcal{H}^* = \underset{\mathcal{H}}{\operatorname{argmin}} \sum_{(x,y) \in \mathcal{T}} \left( e_i^T y - e_i^T \Phi(x; \mathcal{H}) \right)^2$$

- ▶ A bad idea  $\Rightarrow$  **Linear** regression with a generic linear function.
  
- ▶ A good idea  $\Rightarrow$  **Graph** filters.

## Learning Ratings with Graph Filters

- ▶ We use **graph filters** to learn ratings in recommendation systems
- ▶ We contrast with the use of **linear regression** with a generic linear function

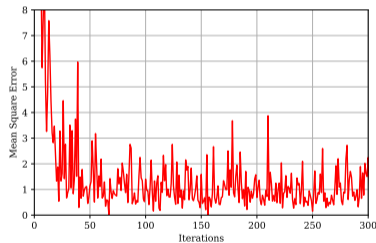
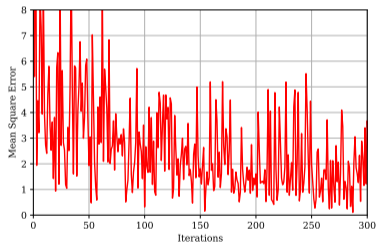
- ▶ Use MovieLens-100k as benchmark  $\Rightarrow 10^6$  ratings given by  $U = 943$  users to  $M = 1,682$  movies
- ▶ The ratings for each movie are between 1 and 5. From one star to five stars
- ▶ Train and test several machine learning parametrizations.

- ▶ We predict ratings using AI that results from solving the ERM problem

$$\mathcal{H}^* = \operatorname{argmin}_{\mathcal{H}} \sum_{(x,y) \in \mathcal{T}} \left( e_i^T y - e_i^T \Phi(x; \mathcal{H}) \right)^2$$

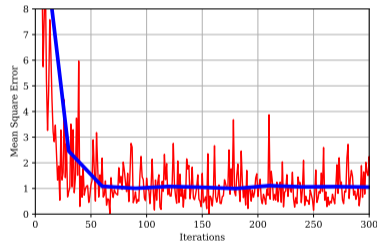
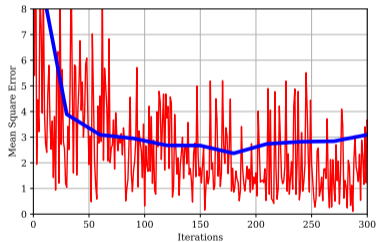
- ▶ Parameterizations that **ignore data structure**  $\Rightarrow$  **Linear** regression. **Fully connected** NNs
- ▶ Parameterizations that **leverage data structure**  $\Rightarrow$  **Graph** filters. **Graph** NNs

- ▶ Linear regression reduces **training MSE to about 2**. Quite bad for ratings that vary from 0 to 5
- ▶ Graph filter reduces **training MSE to about 1**. Not too good. Humans are not that predictable



- ▶ **Graph filter outperforms** linear regression  $\Rightarrow$  Leverages underlying **permutation symmetries**

- ▶ Linear regression works **even worse** in the **test set**
- ▶ The **test MSE** of the graph filter is **about the same** as the training MSE. It generalizes



- ▶ **Graph filter outperforms** linear regression  $\Rightarrow$  Leverages underlying **permutation symmetries**

## Permutation Equivariance of Graph Filters

- ▶ We will show that **graph convolutional filters** are **equivariant to permutations**



**Definition (Permutation matrix)**

A square matrix  $P$  is a **permutation matrix** if it has **binary entries** so that  $P \in \{0, 1\}^{n \times n}$  and it further satisfies  $P\mathbf{1} = \mathbf{1}$  and  $P^T\mathbf{1} = \mathbf{1}$ .

- ▶ The product  $P^T x$  **reorders** the entries of the vector  $x$ .
- ▶ The product  $P^T S P$  is a **consistent reordering** of the rows and columns of  $S$

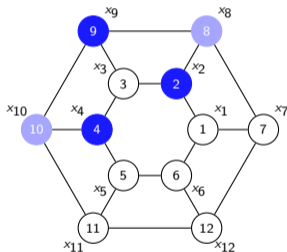
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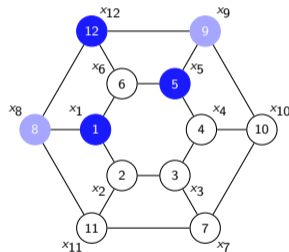
- ▶ Since  $P\mathbf{1} = P^T\mathbf{1} = \mathbf{1}$  with binary entries  $\Rightarrow$  **Exactly one nonzero entry** per row and column of  $P$
- ▶ Permutation matrices are unitary  $\Rightarrow P^T P = I$ . Matrix  $P^T$  undoes the reordering of matrix  $P$

- ▶ If  $(S, x)$  is a graph signal,  $(P^T S P, P^T x)$  is a **relabeling** of  $(S, x)$ . **Same signal. Different names**

Graph signal  $x$  Supported on  $S$



Graph signal  $\hat{x} = P^T x$  supported on  $\hat{S} = P^T S P$



- ▶ Processing should be **label-independent**  $\Rightarrow$  Permutation equivariance of **graph filters** and **GNNs**

- ▶ Graph filter  $H(S)$  is a **polynomial** on shift operator  $S$  with **coefficients**  $h_k$ . Outputs given by

$$H(S)x = \sum_{k=0}^{K-1} h_k S^k x$$

- ▶ We consider running the **same filter** on  $(S, x)$  and permuted (relabelled)  $(\hat{S}, \hat{x}) = (P^T S P, P^T x)$

$$H(S)x = \sum_{k=0}^{K-1} h_k S^k x \qquad H(\hat{S})\hat{x} = \sum_{k=0}^{K-1} h_k \hat{S}^k \hat{x}$$

- ▶ Filter  $H(S)x \Rightarrow$  Coefficients  $h_k$ . Input signal  $x$ . Instantiated on shift  $S$
- ▶ Filter  $H(\hat{S})\hat{x} \Rightarrow$  **Same** Coefficients  $h_k$ . **Permuted** Input signal  $\hat{x}$ . Instantiated on **permuted** shift  $\hat{S}$

**Theorem (Permutation equivariance of graph filters)**

Consider **consistent** permutations of the shift operator  $\hat{S} = P^T S P$  and input signal  $\hat{x} = P^T x$ . Then

$$H(\hat{S})\hat{x} = H(P^T S P)(P^T x) = P^T H(S)x$$

- ▶ Graph filters are **equivariant** to permutations  $\Rightarrow$  **Permute input and shift**  $\equiv$  **Permute output**

**Proof:** Write filter output in polynomial form. Use permutation definitions  $\hat{S} = P^T S P$  and  $\hat{x} = P^T x$

$$H(\hat{S})\hat{x} = \sum_{k=0}^{K-1} h_k \hat{S}^k \hat{x} = \sum_{k=0}^{K-1} h_k (P^T S P)^k P^T x$$

► In the powers  $(P^T S P)^k$ ,  $P$  and  $P^T$  undo each other ( $P^T P = I$ )  $\Rightarrow (P^T S P)^k = P^T (S)^k P$

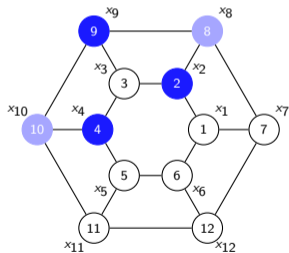
► Substitute this into filter's output expression. Cancel remaining  $PP^T = I$  product. Factor  $P^T$

$$H(\hat{S})\hat{x} = \sum_{k=0}^{K-1} h_k P^T S^k P P^T x = \sum_{k=0}^{K-1} h_k P^T S^k I x = P^T \sum_{k=0}^{K-1} h_k S^k x = P^T H(S)x \quad \blacksquare$$

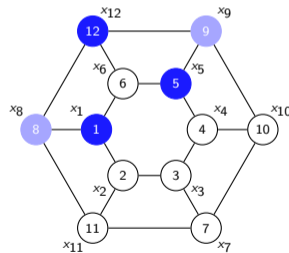
► We request signal processing independent of labeling  $\Rightarrow$  Graph filters fulfill this request

$\Rightarrow$  Permute input and shift  $\equiv$  Relabel input  $\Rightarrow$  Permute output  $\equiv$  Relabel output

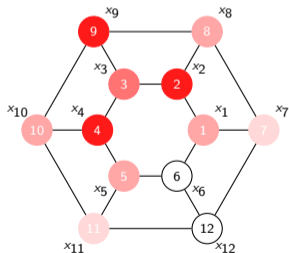
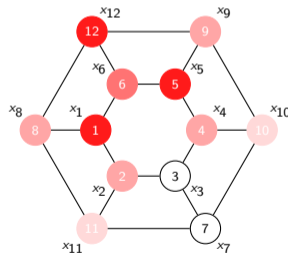
Graph signal  $x$  Supported on  $S$



Graph signal  $\hat{x} = P^T x$  supported on  $\hat{S} = P^T S$



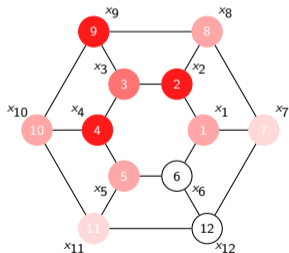
- ▶ We request signal processing independent of labeling  $\Rightarrow$  Graph filters fulfill this request
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Filter's output  $H(S)\hat{x}$  Supported on  $S$ Filter's Output  $H(\hat{S})\hat{x}$  supported on  $\hat{S}$ 

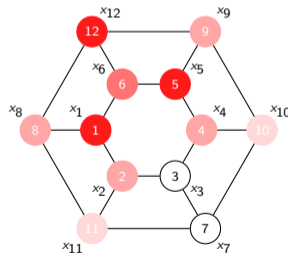


- ▶ We request signal processing independent of labeling  $\Rightarrow$  Graph filters fulfill this request
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Filter's output  $H(S)x$  Supported on  $S$

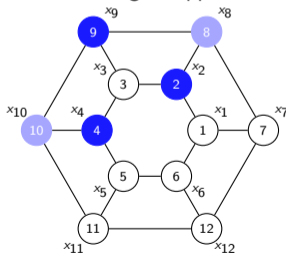


Equivariance theorem  $\Rightarrow H(\hat{S})\hat{x} = P^T H(S)x$

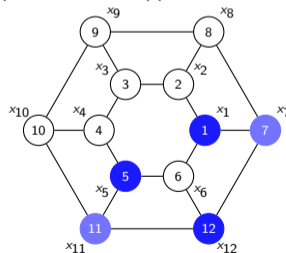


- ▶ Equivariance to permutations allows GNNs to exploit **symmetries of graphs and graph signals**
- ▶ By **symmetry** we mean that the graph can be **permuted onto itself**  $\Rightarrow S = P^T S P$
- ▶ Equivariance theorem implies  $\Rightarrow H(S)(P^T x) = H(P^T S P)(P^T x) = P^T H(S)(x)$

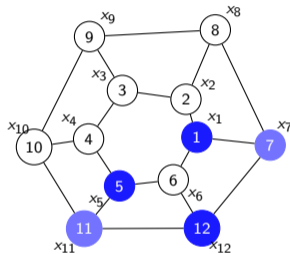
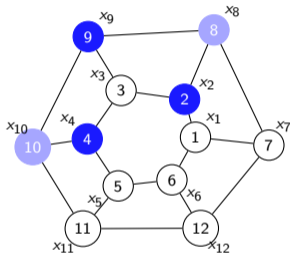
From observing  $x$  supported on  $S$



Learn to process  $P^T x$  supported on  $S = P^T S P$



- ▶ Graph **not** symmetric but **close to** symmetric  $\Rightarrow$  **perturbed** version of a permutation of itself



- ▶ It can be shown that graph filters can **lack stability to deformations**  $\Rightarrow$  **Graph Neural Networks**

$\Rightarrow$  But this is a story for another day  $\Rightarrow$  Register for **ESE 514**. Or visit [gnn.seas.upenn.edu](http://gnn.seas.upenn.edu)