

Graph Neural Networks

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Slides credits: Prof. A. Ribeiro and his group at Penn

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(I) The why \Rightarrow Graphs appear in scores of settings \Rightarrow They are pervasive models of structure

- (II) The how \Rightarrow We should use a neural network \Rightarrow Fully connected neural networks do not scale
 - \Rightarrow Convolutions (in time or graphs) are the key to scalable machine learning

(III) Convolutional filters in Euclidean space and convolutional filters on graphs

(IV) Convolutional neural networks and Graph (convolutional) neural networks



Machine Learning on Graphs: The Why



Authorship Attribution

Identify the author of a text of unknown provenance Segarra et al '16, 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

▶ 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
 - \Rightarrow 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

Segarra-Eisen-Egan-Ribeiro, Attributing the Authorship of the Henry VI Plays by Word Adjacency, Shakespeare Quarterly 2016, doi.org/10.1353/shq.2016.0024



- Nodes represent different customers and edges their average similarity in product ratings
 - \Rightarrow 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

Ruiz-Gama-Marques-Ribeiro, Invariance-Preserving Localized Activation Functions for Graph Neural Networks, arxiv.org/abs/1903.12575

Graph Neural Networks



• Graphs are more than data structures \Rightarrow They are models of physical systems with multiple agents

Decentralized Control of Autonomous Systems

Wireless Communications Networks

Coordinate a team of agents without central coordination

Tolstaya et al '19, arxiv.org/abs/1903.10527

Manage interference when allocating bandwidth and power

Eisen-Ribeiro '19, arxiv.org/abs/1909.01865

 \blacktriangleright The graph is the source of the problem \Rightarrow Challenge is that goals are global but information is local

Network Science Analytics



Machine Learning on Graphs: The How



There is overwhelming empirical and theoretical justification to choose a neural network (NN)

Challenge is we want to run a NN over this



But we are good at running NNs over this



► Generic NNs do not scale to large dimensions ⇒ Convolutional Neural Networks (CNNs) do scale



CNNs are made up of layers composing convolutional filter banks with pointwise nonlinearities

Process graphs with graph convolutional NNs



Process images with convolutional NNs



• Generalize convolutions to graphs \Rightarrow Compose graph filter banks with pointwise nonlinearities

Stack in layers to create a graph (convolutional) Neural Network (GNN)





Graph Signals are supported on a graph. They are the objects we process in Graph Signal Processing



- Consider a given graph \mathcal{G} with N_V nodes and shift operator **S** (e.g., adjacency or Laplacian matrices)
- A graph signal is a vector $\mathbf{x} \in \mathbb{R}^{N_v}$ 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 (S,x)



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



- Multiplication by the graph shift operator implements diffusion of the signal over the graph
- Define diffused signal $\mathbf{y} = \mathbf{S}\mathbf{x} \Rightarrow$ Components are $\mathbf{y}_i = \sum_{i \in \mathcal{N}_i} \mathbf{w}_{ij} \mathbf{x}_j = \sum_i \mathbf{w}_{ij} \mathbf{x}_j$
 - \Rightarrow Stronger weights contribute more to the diffusion output
 - \Rightarrow Codifies a local operation where components are mixed with components of neighboring nodes.





Compose the diffusion operator to produce diffusion sequence \Rightarrow defined recursively as

$$\mathbf{x}^{(k+1)} = \mathbf{S}\mathbf{x}^{(k)}, \quad \text{with} \quad \mathbf{x}^{(0)} = \mathbf{x}^{(k)}$$

► Can unroll the recursion and write the diffusion sequence as the power sequence $\Rightarrow \mathbf{x}^{(k)} = \mathbf{S}^k \mathbf{x}$



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- The kth element of the diffusion sequence $x^{(k)}$ diffuses information to k-hop neighborhoods
 - \Rightarrow One reason why we use the diffusion sequence to define graph convolutions
- ► We have two definitions. One recursive. The other one using powers of S
 - \Rightarrow Always implement the recursive version. The power version is good for analysis





Graph Convolutional Filters

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



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

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

• The result of applying the filter H(S) to the signal x is the signal

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

• We say that $\mathbf{y} = \mathbf{h} \star \mathbf{s} \mathbf{x}$ is the graph convolution of the filter $\mathbf{h} = \{h_k\}_{k=0}^{\infty}$ with the signal \mathbf{x}



Consider a signal x supported on a graph with shift operator S. Along with filter $\mathbf{h} = \{h_k\}_{k=0}^{K-1}$



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

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



• Graph convolution output $\Rightarrow \mathbf{y} = \mathbf{h} \star_{\mathbf{S}} \mathbf{x} = h_0 \mathbf{S}^0 \mathbf{x} + h_1 \mathbf{S}^1 \mathbf{x} + h_2 \mathbf{S}^2 \mathbf{x} + h_3 \mathbf{S}^3 \mathbf{x} + \ldots = \sum_{k=1}^{\infty} h_k \mathbf{S}^k \mathbf{x}$

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





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Time Convolutions as a Particular Case of Graph Convolutions



Convolutional filters process signals in time by leveraging the time shift operator



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





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

$$\mathbf{S}^{3} \mathbf{x} = \mathbf{S} \begin{bmatrix} \mathbf{S}^{2} \mathbf{x} \end{bmatrix} = \mathbf{S} \begin{bmatrix} \mathbf{S} \begin{pmatrix} \mathbf{S} \mathbf{x} \end{pmatrix} \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} \vdots & \vdots & \vdots & \vdots \\ \cdots & 0 & 0 & 0 & \cdots \\ \cdots & 0 & 1 & 0 & \cdots \\ \cdots & 0 & 1 & 0 & \cdots \\ \vdots & \vdots & \vdots & \vdots & \vdots \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} \vdots \\ \mathbf{x}_{1} \\ \mathbf{x}_{2} \\ \mathbf{x}_{3} \\ \vdots \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} \vdots \\ \mathbf{x}_{-3} \\ \mathbf{x}_{-1} \\ \mathbf{x}_{0} \\ \vdots \end{bmatrix}$$

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 as a Polynomial on the Line Adjacency



- ▶ 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 $\Rightarrow \mathbf{y} = \mathbf{h} \star \mathbf{x} = \sum_{k=0}^{K-1} h_k \mathbf{S}^k \mathbf{x}$

The Convolution as a Polynomial on the Line Adjacency



- ▶ 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** = $\sum_{k=0}^{K-1} h_k \mathbf{S}^k \mathbf{x}$

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



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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 $\mathbf{y} = \sum_{k=0}^{\infty} h_k \mathbf{S}^k \mathbf{x}$. The GFTs $\tilde{\mathbf{x}} = \mathbf{V}^H \mathbf{x}$ and $\tilde{\mathbf{y}} = \mathbf{V}^H \mathbf{y}$ are related by $\tilde{\mathbf{y}} = \sum_{k=0}^{\infty} h_k \mathbf{\Lambda}^k \tilde{\mathbf{x}}$

▶ The same polynomial but on different variables. One on **S**. The other on eigenvalue matrix **A**



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

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

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

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

$$\mathbf{V}^{H}\mathbf{y} = \mathbf{V}^{H}\sum_{k=0}^{\infty} h_{k}\mathbf{V}\mathbf{\Lambda}^{k}\mathbf{V}^{H}\mathbf{x} \qquad \Rightarrow \qquad \tilde{\mathbf{y}} = \sum_{k=0}^{\infty} h_{k}\mathbf{\Lambda}^{k}\tilde{\mathbf{x}} \qquad \blacksquare$$



► In the graph frequency domain graph filters are diagonal matrices $\Rightarrow \tilde{y} = \sum_{k=0}^{\infty} h_k \Lambda^k \tilde{x}$

• 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 $\mathbf{h} = \{h_k\}_{k=1}^{\infty}$, the graph frequency response is the polynomial

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



Definition (Frequency Response of a Graph Filter)

Given a graph filter with coefficients $\mathbf{h} = \{h_k\}_{k=1}^{\infty}$, the graph frequency response is the polynomial

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

Frequency response is the same polynomial that defines the graph filter \Rightarrow but on scalar variable λ

- ► Frequency response is independent of the graph ⇒ 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 $\mathbf{h} = \{h_k\}_{k=1}^{\infty}$. The Graph has nothing to do with it





- A given (another) graph instantiates the response on its given (different) specific eigenvalues λ_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



- ▶ In this course, machine learning (ML) on graphs \equiv empirical risk minimization (ERM) on graphs
- ► In ERM we are given:
 - \Rightarrow A training set \mathcal{T} containing observation pairs $(\mathbf{x}, \mathbf{y}) \in \mathcal{T}$. Assume equal length $\mathbf{x}, \mathbf{y} \in \mathbb{R}^{N_{v}}$
 - \Rightarrow A loss function $\ell(y,\hat{y})$ to evaluate the similarity between y and an estimate \hat{y}
 - \Rightarrow A function class C
- ► Learning means finding function $\Phi^* \in C$ that minimizes loss $\ell(\mathbf{y}, \Phi(\mathbf{x}))$ averaged over training set

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

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



 \blacktriangleright In ERM, the function class ${\cal C}$ is the degree of freedom available to the system's designer

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

- ▶ Designing an ML model \equiv finding the right function class 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 graph filters of order K supported on $\mathbf{S} \Rightarrow \Phi(\mathbf{x}) = \sum_{k=0}^{K-1} h_k \mathbf{S}^k \mathbf{x} = \Phi(\mathbf{x};\mathbf{S},\mathbf{h})$

$$\xrightarrow{\mathbf{x}} \qquad z = \sum_{k=0}^{K-1} h_k \mathbf{S}^k \mathbf{x} \qquad \xrightarrow{\mathbf{z}} \mathbf{\Phi}(\mathbf{x}; \mathbf{S}, \mathbf{h})$$

► 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 ${\bf S}$ given



Graph Neural Networks (GNNs)



A pointwise nonlinearity is a nonlinear function applied componentwise. Without mixing entries

The result of applying pointwise
$$\sigma$$
 to a vector \mathbf{x} is $\Rightarrow \sigma \begin{bmatrix} \mathbf{x} \\ \mathbf{x} \\ \vdots \\ \mathbf{x}_n \end{bmatrix} = \sigma \begin{bmatrix} \sigma(\mathbf{x}_1) \\ \sigma(\mathbf{x}_2) \\ \vdots \\ \sigma(\mathbf{x}_n) \end{bmatrix}$

- A pointwise nonlinearity is the simplest nonlinear function we can apply to a vector
- ► ReLU: $\sigma(x) = \max(0, x)$. Hyperbolic tangent: $\sigma(x) = (e^{2x} 1)/(e^{2x} + 1)$. Absolute value: $\sigma(x) = |x|$.
- ▶ Pointwise nonlinearities decrease variability. ⇒ They function as demodulators

- ► Graph filters have limited expressive power because they can only learn linear maps
- A first approach to nonlinear maps is the graph perceptron $\Rightarrow \Phi(\mathbf{x}) = \sigma \left[\sum_{k=0}^{K-1} h_k \mathbf{S}^k \mathbf{x} \right] = \Phi(\mathbf{x}; \mathbf{S}, \mathbf{h})$



- Optimal regressor restricted to perceptron class $\Rightarrow h^* = \underset{h}{\operatorname{argmin}} \sum_{(x,y)\in\mathcal{T}} \ell(y, \Phi(x; S, h))$
 - \Rightarrow Perceptron allows learning of nonlinear maps \Rightarrow More expressive. Larger Representable Class





\blacktriangleright To define a GNN we compose several graph perceptrons \Rightarrow We layer graph perceptrons

▶ Layer 1 processes input signal x with the perceptron $\mathbf{h}_1 = [h_{10}, \ldots, h_{1,K-1}]$ to produce output \mathbf{x}_1

$$\mathbf{x}_1 = \sigma \Big[\mathbf{z}_1 \Big] = \sigma \Bigg[\sum_{k=0}^{K-1} \, h_{1k} \, \mathbf{S}^k \, \mathbf{x} \Bigg]$$

▶ The Output of Layer 1 x₁ becomes an input to Layer 2. Still x₁ but with different interpretation

• Repeat analogous operations for L times (the GNNs depth) \Rightarrow Yields the GNN predicted output x_L



\blacktriangleright To define a GNN we compose several graph perceptrons \Rightarrow We layer graph perceptrons

Layer 2 processes its input signal x_1 with the perceptron $h_2 = [h_{20}, \ldots, h_{2,K-1}]$ to produce output x_2

$$\mathbf{x}_{2} = \sigma \Big[\mathbf{z}_{2} \Big] = \sigma \Bigg[\sum_{k=0}^{K-1} \, \frac{h_{2k}}{k} \mathbf{S}^{k} \, \mathbf{x}_{1} \Bigg]$$

b The Output of Layer 2 x_2 becomes an input to Layer 3. Still x_2 but with different interpretation

• Repeat analogous operations for L times (the GNNs depth) \Rightarrow Yields the GNN predicted output x_L



- A generic layer of the GNN, Layer ℓ , takes as input the output $x_{\ell-1}$ of the previous layer $(\ell-1)$
- ► Layer ℓ processes its input signal $x_{\ell-1}$ with perceptron $\mathbf{h}_{\ell} = [h_{\ell 0}, \ldots, h_{\ell, K-1}]$ to produce output x_{ℓ}

$$\mathbf{x}_{\boldsymbol{\ell}} = \sigma \Big[\mathbf{z}_{\boldsymbol{\ell}} \Big] = \sigma \Bigg[\sum_{k=0}^{K-1} \, \frac{\mathbf{h}_{\boldsymbol{\ell} k} \, \mathbf{S}^k \, \mathbf{x}_{\boldsymbol{\ell} - 1} }{\mathbf{h}_{\boldsymbol{\ell} k} \, \mathbf{S}^k \, \mathbf{x}_{\boldsymbol{\ell} - 1} } \Bigg]$$

• With the convention that the Layer 1 input is $x_0 = x$, this provides a recursive definition of a GNN

► If it has *L* layers, the GNN output
$$\Rightarrow x_L = \Phi(x; S, h_1, ..., h_L) = \Phi(x; S, H)$$

• The filter tensor $\mathcal{H} = [\mathbf{h}_1, \dots, \mathbf{h}_l]$ is the trainable parameter. The graph shift is prior information



Illustrate definition with a GNN with 3 layers

Feed input signal x = x₀ into Layer 1

$$\mathbf{x}_{1} = \sigma \Big[\mathbf{z}_{1} \Big] = \sigma \Bigg[\sum_{k=0}^{K-1} \mathbf{h}_{1k} \, \mathbf{S}^{k} \, \mathbf{x}_{0} \Bigg]$$

Last layer output is the GNN output $\Rightarrow \Phi(\mathbf{x}; \mathbf{S}, \mathcal{H})$

 \Rightarrow Parametrized by filter tensor $\mathcal{H} = [\mathbf{h}_1, \mathbf{h}_2, \mathbf{h}_3]$





Illustrate definition with a GNN with 3 layers

Feed Layer 1 output as an input to Layer 2

$$\mathbf{x}_{2} = \sigma \Big[\mathbf{z}_{2} \Big] = \sigma \Bigg[\sum_{k=0}^{K-1} \frac{h_{2k}}{k} \mathbf{S}^{k} \mathbf{x}_{1} \Bigg]$$

Last layer output is the GNN output $\Rightarrow \Phi(\mathbf{x}; \mathbf{S}, \mathcal{H})$

 \Rightarrow Parametrized by filter tensor $\mathcal{H} = [\mathbf{h}_1, \mathbf{h}_2, \mathbf{h}_3]$





Illustrate definition with a GNN with 3 layers

Feed Layer 2 output as an input to Layer 3

$$\mathbf{x}_{3} = \sigma \Big[\mathbf{z}_{3} \Big] = \sigma \Bigg[\sum_{k=0}^{K-1} \, \mathbf{h}_{3k} \, \mathbf{S}^{k} \, \mathbf{x}_{2} \Bigg]$$

Last layer output is the GNN output $\Rightarrow \Phi(\mathbf{x}; \mathbf{S}, \mathcal{H})$

 \Rightarrow Parametrized by filter tensor $\mathcal{H} = [\mathbf{h}_1, \mathbf{h}_2, \mathbf{h}_3]$





Some Observations about Graph Neural Networks

The Components of a Graph Neural Network



► A GNN with *L* layers follows *L* recursions of the form

$$\mathbf{x}_{\ell} = \sigma \Big[\mathbf{z}_{\ell} \Big] = \sigma \Bigg[\sum_{k=0}^{K-1} h_{\ell k} \, \mathbf{S}^{k} \, \mathbf{x}_{\ell-1} \Bigg]$$

- ▶ A composition of *L* layers. Each of which itself a...
 - ⇒ Compositions of Filters & Pointwise nonlinearities



The Components of a Graph Neural Network



► A GNN with *L* layers follows *L* recursions of the form

$$\mathbf{x}_{\ell} = \sigma \Big[\mathbf{z}_{\ell} \Big] = \sigma \Bigg[\sum_{k=0}^{K-1} h_{\ell k} \, \mathbf{S}^{k} \, \mathbf{x}_{\ell-1} \Bigg]$$

Filters are parametrized by...

 \Rightarrow Coefficients $h_{\ell k}$ and graph shift operators **S**



The Components of a Graph Neural Network



► A GNN with *L* layers follows *L* recursions of the form

$$\mathbf{x}_{\ell} = \sigma \Big[\mathbf{z}_{\ell} \Big] = \sigma \Bigg[\sum_{k=0}^{K-1} h_{\ell k} \, \mathbf{S}^{k} \, \mathbf{x}_{\ell-1} \Bigg]$$

- Output $\mathbf{x}_L = \Phi(\mathbf{x}; \mathbf{S}, \mathcal{H})$ parametrized by...
 - \Rightarrow Learnable Filter tensor $\mathcal{H} = [\mathbf{h}_1, \dots, \mathbf{h}_L]$



Learning with a Graph Neural Network



• Learn Optimal GNN tensor $\mathcal{H}^* = (\mathbf{h}_1^*, \mathbf{h}_2^*, \mathbf{h}_3^*)$ as

$$\mathcal{H}^{*} = \underset{\mathcal{H}}{\operatorname{argmin}} \sum_{(\textbf{x},\textbf{y}) \in \mathcal{T}} \ell \Big(\Phi(\textbf{x};\textbf{S},\mathcal{H}),\textbf{y} \Big)$$

- Optimization is over tensor only. Graph S is given
 - \Rightarrow Prior information given to the GNN



Graph Neural Networks and Graph Filters



- GNNs are minor variations of graph filters
- Add pointwise nonlinearities and layer compositions
 - \Rightarrow Nonlinearities process individual entries
 - \Rightarrow Component mixing is done by graph filters only
- GNNs do work (much) better than graph filters
 - \Rightarrow Which is unexpected and deserves explanation
 - \Rightarrow Which we will attempt with stability analyses







- ► GNN Output depends on the graph S
- ► Interpret S as a parameter
 - \Rightarrow Encodes prior information. As we have done so far





- ⇒ Enabling transference across graphs
 - $\Phi(\mathsf{x};\mathsf{S},\mathcal{H}) \Rightarrow \Phi(\mathsf{x};\tilde{\mathsf{S}},\mathcal{H})$
- \Rightarrow Same as we enable transference across signals

 $\Phi(\mathbf{x}; \mathbf{S}, \mathcal{H}) \Rightarrow \Phi(\mathbf{\tilde{x}}; \mathbf{S}, \mathcal{H})$

▶ A trained GNN is just a filter tensor \mathcal{H}^*



CNNs and GNNs



There is no difference between CNNs and GNNs

To recover a CNN just particularize the shift operator the adjacency matrix of the directed line graph



GNNs are proper generalizations of CNNs





Fully Connected Neural Networks

- ▶ We chose graph filters and graph neural networks (GNNs) because of our interest in graph signals
- We argued this is a good idea because they are generalizations of convolutional filters and CNNs
- \blacktriangleright We can explore this better if we go back to the road not taken \Rightarrow Fully connected neural networks





► Instead of graph filters, we choose arbitrary linear functions $\Rightarrow \Phi(x) = \Phi(x; H) = H x$

$$x \longrightarrow z = H x \longrightarrow z = \Phi(x; H)$$

• Optimal regressor is ERM solution restricted to linear class $\Rightarrow \mathbf{H}^* = \underset{\mathbf{H}}{\operatorname{argmin}} \sum_{(\mathbf{x}, \mathbf{y}) \in \mathcal{T}} \ell \Big(\Phi(\mathbf{x}; \mathbf{H}), \mathbf{y} \Big)$



• We increase expressive power with the introduction of a perceptron $\Rightarrow \Phi(x) = \Phi(x; H) = \sigma [Hx]$



► Optimal regressor restricted to perceptron class \Rightarrow $\mathbf{H}^* = \underset{\mathbf{H}}{\operatorname{argmin}} \sum_{(\mathbf{x}, \mathbf{y}) \in \mathcal{T}} \ell \Big(\mathbf{\Phi}(\mathbf{x}; \mathbf{H}), \mathbf{y} \Big)$



A generic layer, Layer ℓ of a FCNN, takes as input the output $x_{\ell-1}$ of the previous layer $(\ell-1)$

Layer ℓ processes its input signal $x_{\ell-1}$ with a linear perceptron H_{ℓ} to produce output x_{ℓ}

$$\mathbf{x}_{\boldsymbol{\ell}} = \sigma \Big[\, \mathbf{z}_{\boldsymbol{\ell}} \, \Big] = \sigma \Big[\, \mathbf{H}_{\boldsymbol{\ell}} \, \mathbf{x}_{\boldsymbol{\ell}-1} \Big]$$

• With the convention that the Layer 1 input is $x_0 = x$, this provides a recursive definition of a FCNN

► If it has *L* layers, the FCNN output
$$\Rightarrow x_L = \Phi(x; H_1, ..., H_L) = \Phi(x; \mathcal{H})$$

• The filter tensor $\mathcal{H} = [\mathbf{H}_1, \dots, \mathbf{H}_L]$ is the trainable parameter.





Illustrate definition with an FCNN with 3 layers

Feed input signal x = x₀ into Layer 1

 $\mathbf{x}_1 = \sigma \Big[\mathbf{z}_1 \Big] = \sigma \Big[\mathbf{H}_{1k} \mathbf{x}_0 \Big]$

• Output $\Phi(\mathbf{x}; \mathcal{H})$ Parametrized by $\mathcal{H} = [\mathbf{H}_1, \mathbf{H}_2, \mathbf{H}_3]$

Fully Connected Neural Network Block Diagram





Illustrate definition with an FCNN with 3 layers

Feed Layer 1 output as an input to Layer 2

 $\mathbf{x}_2 = \sigma \Big[\, \mathbf{z}_2 \, \Big] = \sigma \Big[\, \mathbf{H}_2 \, \mathbf{x}_1 \Big]$

• Output $\Phi(\mathbf{x}; \mathcal{H})$ Parametrized by $\mathcal{H} = [\mathbf{H}_1, \mathbf{H}_2, \mathbf{H}_3]$

Fully Connected Neural Network Block Diagram





Illustrate definition with an FCNN with 3 layers

Feed Layer 2 output as an input to Layer 3

 $\mathbf{x}_3 = \sigma \Big[\, \mathbf{z}_3 \, \Big] = \sigma \Big[\, \mathbf{H}_3 \, \mathbf{x}_2 \Big]$

• Output $\Phi(\mathbf{x}; \mathcal{H})$ Parametrized by $\mathcal{H} = [\mathbf{H}_1, \mathbf{H}_2, \mathbf{H}_3]$



Neural Networks vs Graph Neural Networks



▶ Since the GNN is a particular case of a fully connected NN, the latter attains a smaller cost

$$\min_{\mathcal{H}} \sum_{(\mathbf{x}, \mathbf{y}) \in \mathcal{T}} \ell \Big(\Phi(\mathbf{x}; \mathcal{H}), \mathbf{y} \Big) \leq \min_{\mathcal{H}} \sum_{(\mathbf{x}, \mathbf{y}) \in \mathcal{T}} \ell \Big(\Phi(\mathbf{x}; \mathbf{S}, \mathcal{H}), \mathbf{y} \Big)$$

▶ The fully connected NN does better. But this holds for the training set

▶ In practice, the GNN does better because it generalizes better to unseen signals

 \Rightarrow Because it exploits internal symmetries of graph signals codified in the graph shift operator

- Suppose the graph represents a recommendation system where we want to fill empty ratings
- ▶ We observe ratings with the structure in the left. But we do not observe examples like the other two
- From examples like the one in the left, the NN learns how to fill the middle signal but not the right





- ▶ The GNN will succeed at predicting ratings for the signal on the right because it knows the graph
- > The GNN still learns how to fill the middle signal. But it also learns how to fill the right signal



- ► The GNN exploits symmetries of the signal to effectively multiply available data
- > This will be formalized later as the permutation equivariance of graph neural networks



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Graph Filter Banks

▶ Filters isolate features. When we are interested in multiple features, we use banks of filters



- A graph filter bank is a collection of filters. Use F to denote total number of filters in the bank
- Filter f in the bank uses coefficients $\mathbf{h}^f = [h_1^f; \ldots; h_{K-1}^f] \Rightarrow \text{Output } \mathbf{z}^f$ is a graph signal



Filter bank output is a collection of F graph signals \Rightarrow Matrix graph signal $Z = [z^1, \dots, z^F]$

- The input of a filter bank is a single graph signal x. Rows of x are signals components x_i
- Output matrix **Z** is a collection of signals z^{f} . Rows of which are components z_{i}^{f}
- ▶ Vector z_i supported at each node. Columns of Z are graph signals z^i . Rows of Z are node features z_i



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Proof: The GFT is a unitary transform that preserves energy. Indeed, with $\tilde{z} = V^{H}z$ we have

$$\|\tilde{\mathbf{z}}\|^{2} = \tilde{\mathbf{z}}^{H}\tilde{\mathbf{z}} = \left(\mathbf{V}^{H}\mathbf{z}\right)^{H}\left(\mathbf{V}^{H}\mathbf{z}\right) = \mathbf{z}^{H}\mathbf{V}\mathbf{V}^{H}\mathbf{z} = \mathbf{z}^{H}\|\mathbf{z}\|^{2}$$

• We know that graph filters are pointwise in the frequency domain $\Rightarrow \tilde{z}_i = \tilde{h}(\lambda_i)\tilde{x}_i$

$$\|\tilde{\mathbf{z}}\|^2 = \tilde{\mathbf{z}}^H \tilde{\mathbf{z}} = \sum_{i=1}^{N_v} \tilde{z}_i^2 = \sum_{i=1}^{N_v} \left(\tilde{h}^f(\lambda_i) \tilde{x}_i \right)^2$$

▶ We have the energy expressed in the form we want. Except that it is in the frequency domain

• But we have just seen the GFT preserves energy
$$\Rightarrow \|\mathbf{z}\|^2 = \|\mathbf{\tilde{z}}\|^2 = \sum_{i=1}^{N_v} (\tilde{h}(\lambda_i) \, \tilde{x}_i)^2$$

- ▶ The energy that graph filters let pass is a sort of "area under the frequency response curve"
- Graph Filter banks are helpful in identifying frequency signatures of different signals



 \Rightarrow Different signals concentrate energy on different outputs \mathbf{z}^{f}

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 \Rightarrow Different signals concentrate energy on different outputs \mathbf{z}^{f}



► The filter bank isolates groups of frequency components

$$\Rightarrow \text{ Energy of bank output } \mathbf{z}^{f} = \sum_{k=0}^{\infty} h_{k}^{f} \mathbf{S}^{k} \mathbf{x} \text{ is area under the curve } \Rightarrow \left\| \mathbf{z}^{f} \right\|^{2} = \sum_{i=1}^{N_{v}} \left(\tilde{h}^{f}(\lambda_{i}) \tilde{x}_{i} \right)^{2}$$



▶ We use the filter bank to identify signals with different spectral signatures



▶ The GFT preserves energy \Rightarrow It scatters information. But it doesn't loose information

• A filter bank is a frame if there exist constants $0 < m \le M \Rightarrow m \|\mathbf{x}\|^2 \le \sum_{f=1}^F \|\mathbf{z}^f\|^2 \le M \|\mathbf{x}\|^2$

• A filter bank is a tight frame if
$$m = M = 1 \implies ||\mathbf{x}||^2 = \sum_{f=1}^{F} ||\mathbf{z}^f||^2$$

▶ No signal is vanquished by a frame. Energy is preserved by a tight frame



• Because filters are pointwise in the GFT domain, a frame must satisfy $\Rightarrow m \leq \sum_{k=1}^{F} \left[\tilde{h}^{f}(\lambda) \right]^{2} \leq M$

► All frequencies λ must have at least one filter \mathbf{h}^{f} with response $m \leq \left\lceil \tilde{h}^{f}(\lambda) \right\rceil^{2}$





• Likewise, a tight frame must be such that for all
$$\lambda \Rightarrow \sum_{f=1}^{F} \left[\tilde{h}^{f}(\lambda) \right]^{2} = 1$$

► A sufficient condition is that all frequencies accumulate unit energy when summing across all filters



▶ We will not design filter banks. We will learn them. But keeping them close to frames is good



Multiple Feature GNNs

▶ We leverage filter banks to create GNNs that process multiple features per layer



▶ The *F* graph signals z^{f} represent *F* features per node. A vector z_{i} supported at each node



We would now like to process multiple feature graph signals. Process each feature with a filterbank



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• Each of the *F* features \mathbf{x}^{f} is processed with *G* filters with coefficients $h_{k}^{\text{fg}} \Rightarrow \mathbf{u}^{\text{fg}} = \sum_{k=0}^{K-1} h_{k}^{\text{fg}} \mathbf{S}^{k} \mathbf{x}^{f}$



This Multiple-Input-Multiple-Output Graph Filter generates an output with F × G features





• Reduce to *G* outputs with sum over input features for given $g \Rightarrow z^g = \sum_{f=1}^F u^{fg} = \sum_{k=0}^F \sum_{k=0}^{K-1} h_k^{fg} S^k x^f$



- MIMO graph filters are cumbersome, not difficult. Just $F \times G$ filters. Or F filter banks
- ► Easier with matrices \Rightarrow $F \times G$ coefficient matrix \mathbf{H}_k with entries $\left(\mathbf{H}_k\right)_{f\sigma} = h_k^{fg}$

$$\mathsf{Z} = \sum_{k=0}^{K-1} \mathsf{S}^k imes \mathsf{X} imes \mathsf{H}_k$$

This is a more compact format of the MIMO filter. It is equivalent

$$\begin{bmatrix} \mathbf{z}^1 & \cdots & \mathbf{z}^g & \cdots & \mathbf{z}^G \end{bmatrix} = \sum_{k=0}^{K-1} \mathbf{S}^k \times \begin{bmatrix} \mathbf{x}^1 & \cdots & \mathbf{x}^f & \cdots & \mathbf{x}^F \end{bmatrix} \times \begin{bmatrix} h_k^{11} & \cdots & h_k^{1g} & \cdots & h_k^{1G} \\ \vdots & \vdots & \vdots & \vdots \\ h_k^{f1} & \cdots & h_k^{fg} & \cdots & h_k^{fG} \\ \vdots & \vdots & \vdots & \vdots \\ h_k^{F1} & \cdots & h_k^{Fg} & \cdots & h_k^{FG} \end{bmatrix}$$





- ► MIMO GNN stacks MIMO perceptrons ⇒ Compose of MIMO filters with pointwise nonlinearities
- ► Layer ℓ processes input signal $X_{\ell-1}$ with perceptron $H_{\ell} = [H_{\ell 0}, \dots, H_{\ell, K-1}]$ to produce output X_{ℓ}

$$\mathbf{X}_{\boldsymbol{\ell}} = \sigma \Big[\, \mathbf{Z}_{\boldsymbol{\ell}} \, \Big] = \sigma \Bigg[\sum_{k=0}^{K-1} \, \mathbf{S}^k \, \mathbf{X}_{\ell-1} \, \mathbf{H}_{\boldsymbol{\ell} \boldsymbol{k}} \, \Bigg]$$

• Denoting the Layer 1 input as $X_0 = X$, this provides a recursive definition of a MIMO GNN

► If it has *L* layers, the GNN output
$$\Rightarrow X_L = \Phi(x; S, H_1, ..., H_L) = \Phi(x; S, H)$$

The filter tensor $\mathcal{H} = [\mathbf{H}_1, \dots, \mathbf{H}_L]$ is the trainable parameter. The graph shift is prior information



We illustrate with a MIMO GNN with 3 layers

Feed input signal X = X₀ into Layer 1 (F₀ features)

$$\mathbf{X}_{1} = \sigma \Big[\mathbf{Z}_{1} \Big] = \sigma \Bigg[\sum_{k=0}^{K-1} \mathbf{S}^{k} \mathbf{X}_{0} \mathbf{H}_{1k} \Bigg]$$

► Last layer output is the GNN output $\Rightarrow \Phi(X; S, \mathcal{H})$

 \Rightarrow Parametrized by trainable tensor $\mathcal{H} = [\mathbf{H}_1, \mathbf{H}_2, \mathbf{H}_3]$





We illustrate with a MIMO GNN with 3 layers

▶ Feed Layer 1 output as an input to Layer 2 (*F*₁ features)

$$\mathbf{X}_{2} = \sigma \Big[\mathbf{Z}_{2} \Big] = \sigma \Bigg[\sum_{k=0}^{K-1} \mathbf{S}^{k} \mathbf{X}_{1} \mathbf{H}_{2k} \Bigg]$$

► Last layer output is the GNN output $\Rightarrow \Phi(X; S, \mathcal{H})$

 \Rightarrow Parametrized by trainable tensor $\mathcal{H} = [\mathbf{H}_1, \mathbf{H}_2, \mathbf{H}_3]$





We illustrate with a MIMO GNN with 3 layers

Feed Layer 2 output (F₂ features) as an input to Layer 3

$$\mathbf{X}_{3} = \sigma \Big[\mathbf{Z}_{3} \Big] = \sigma \Bigg[\sum_{k=0}^{K-1} \mathbf{S}^{k} \mathbf{X}_{2} \mathbf{H}_{3k} \Bigg]$$

• Last layer output is the GNN output $\Rightarrow \Phi(X; S, \mathcal{H})$

 \Rightarrow Parametrized by trainable tensor $\mathcal{H} = [\mathbf{H}_1, \mathbf{H}_2, \mathbf{H}_3]$

