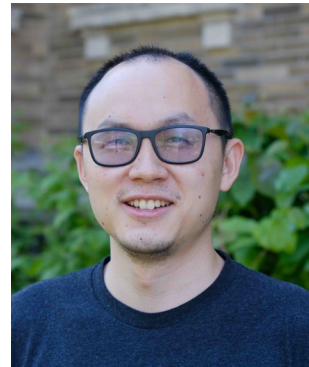
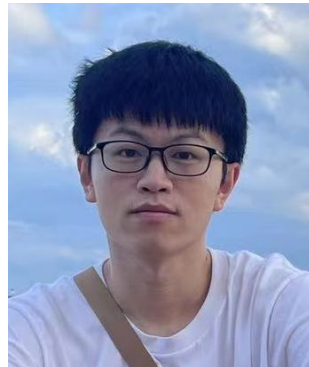


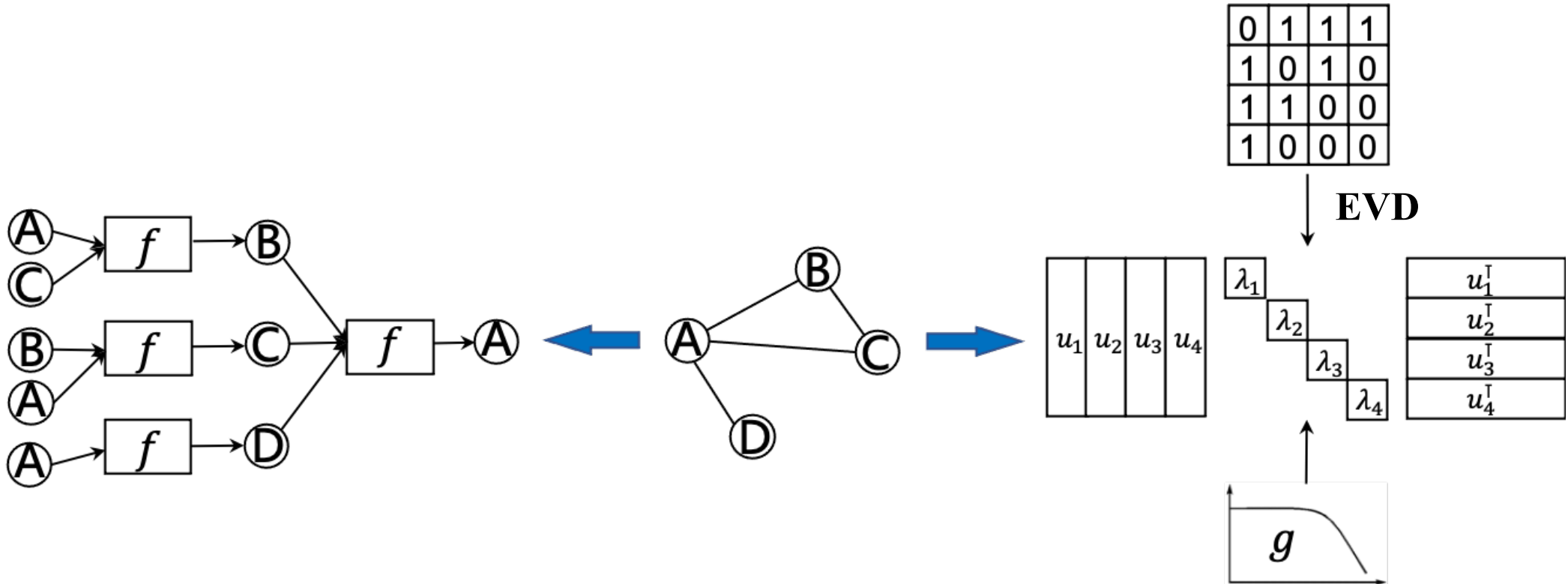
Specformer: Spectral Graph Neural Networks Meet Transformers

Deyu Bo¹, Chuan Shi¹, Lele Wang², Renjie Liao²

Beijing University of Posts and Telecommunications¹
University of British Columbia²



Spatial & Spectral GNNs



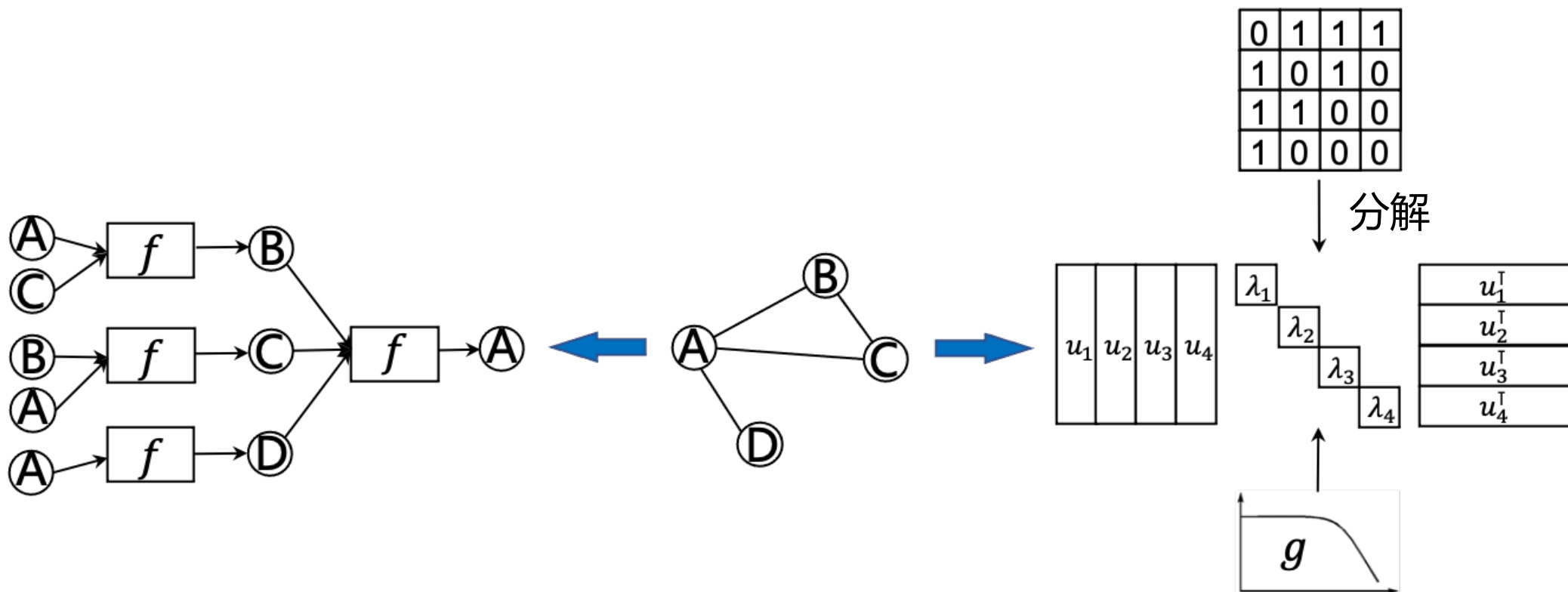
f : Aggregation

Spatial GNNs

g : Filtering

Spectral GNNs

Spatial & Spectral GNNs



空域图神经网络

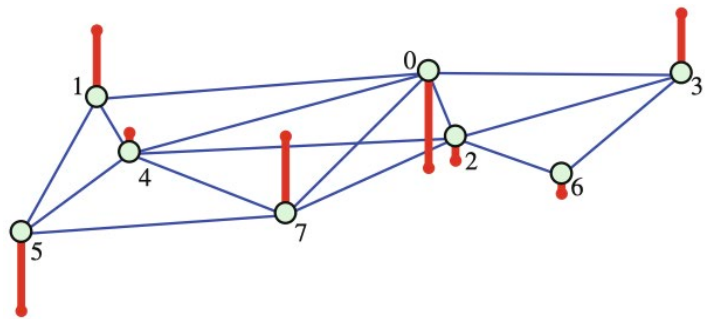
f : 聚合函数

图数据

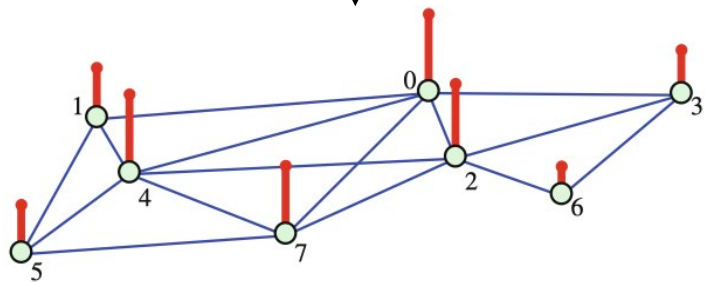
谱域图神经网络

g : 滤波函数

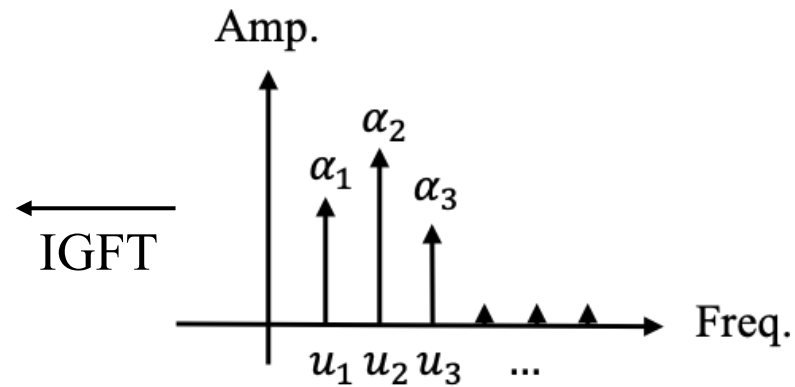
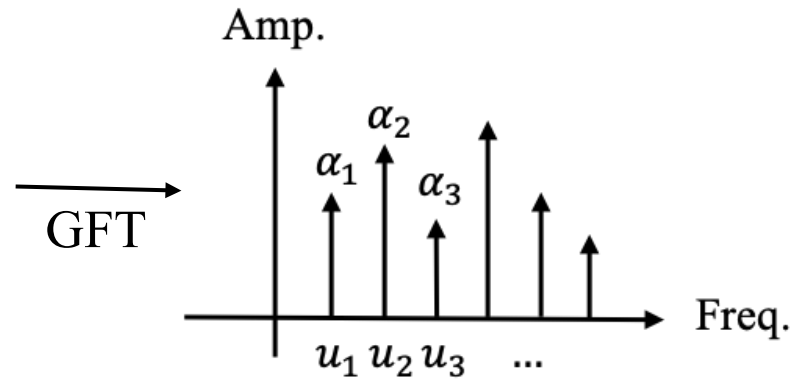
Graph Signal Processing



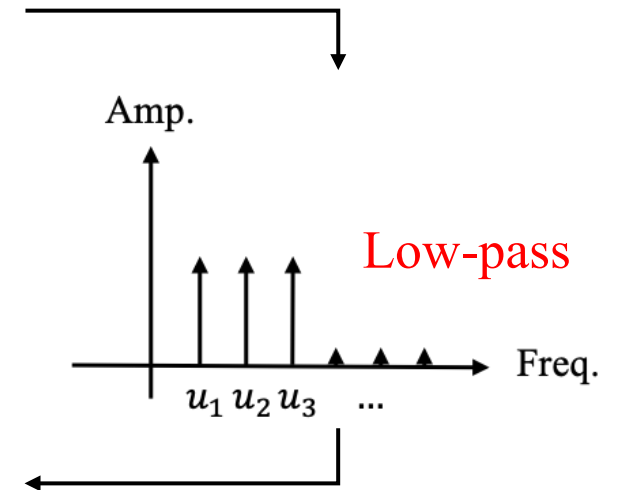
Smooth



Spatial Domain



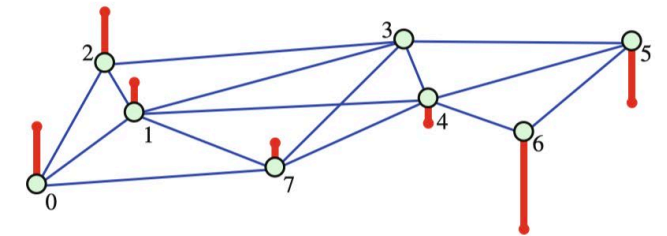
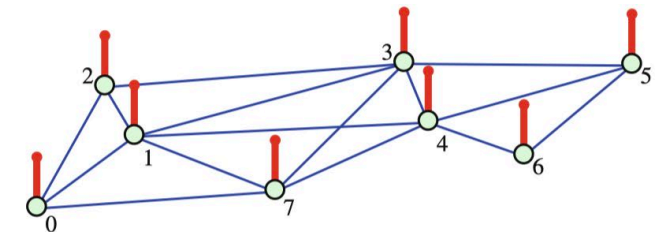
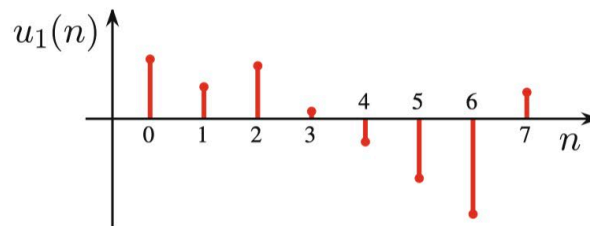
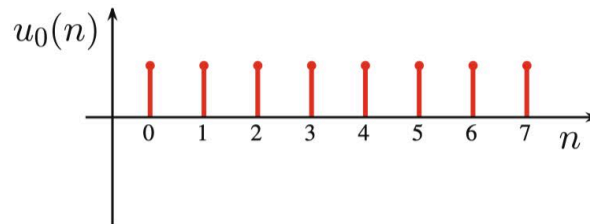
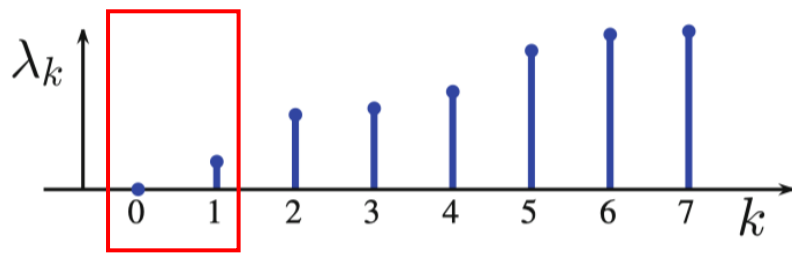
Spectral Domain



Filtering

Eigenvalue Decomposition (EVD)

- $L = I - D^{-\frac{1}{2}}AD^{-\frac{1}{2}}$ is the normalized graph Laplacian matrix
- $L = U\Lambda U^\top$, $\lambda_i \in [0, 2]$, $\lambda_1 \leq \lambda_2 \leq \dots \leq \lambda_n$
- $u_i \in \mathbb{R}^{n \times 1}$, $u_i^\top u_j = \begin{cases} 0, & i \neq j \\ 1, & i = j \end{cases}$ **Orthogonal & normalized**
- $\lambda_i = u_i^\top L u_i = \sum_{(p,q) \in E} (u_i(p) - u_i(q))^2$ **Total variation (Frequency)**

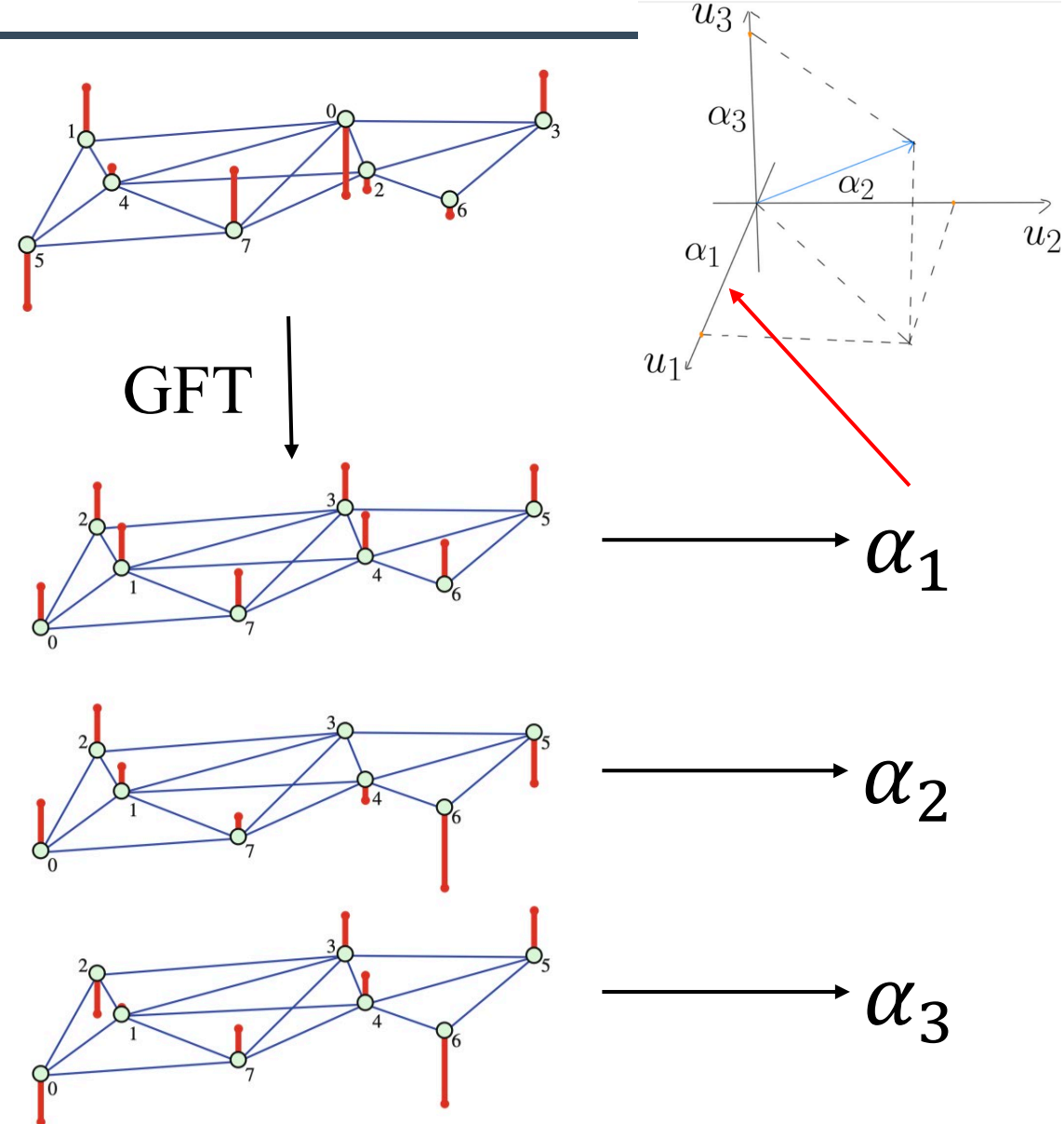


Graph Signal

- Given a graph $G = (V, E, X)$
 - $|V| = n$ nodes
 - Each node i has a scalar signal $x(i)$
 - Graph signal $x = [x(1), \dots, x(n)]^\top$

- Eigenvectors are special graph signals
 - $u_i \in \mathbb{R}^{n \times 1}$
 - u_i is orthogonal and normalized
 - u_i has different frequencies (TV)

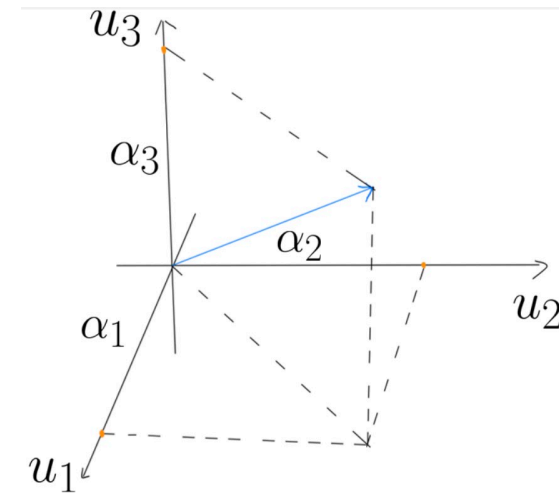
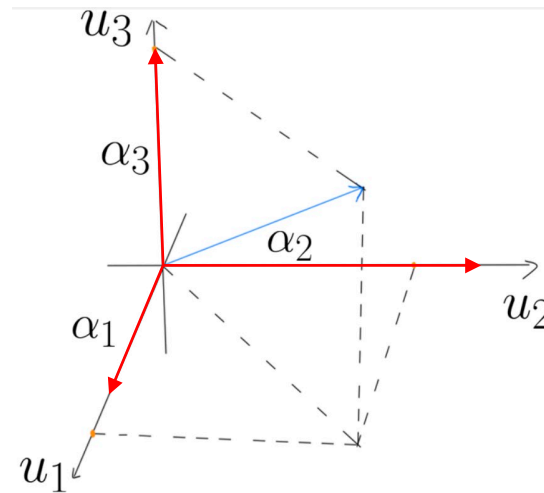
- Graph signal can be represented by U
 - $x = \sum_{i=1}^n \alpha_i * u_i$
 - $\alpha_i = \langle x, u_i \rangle$
 - Graph Fourier Transform (GFT)



Graph Signal Processing

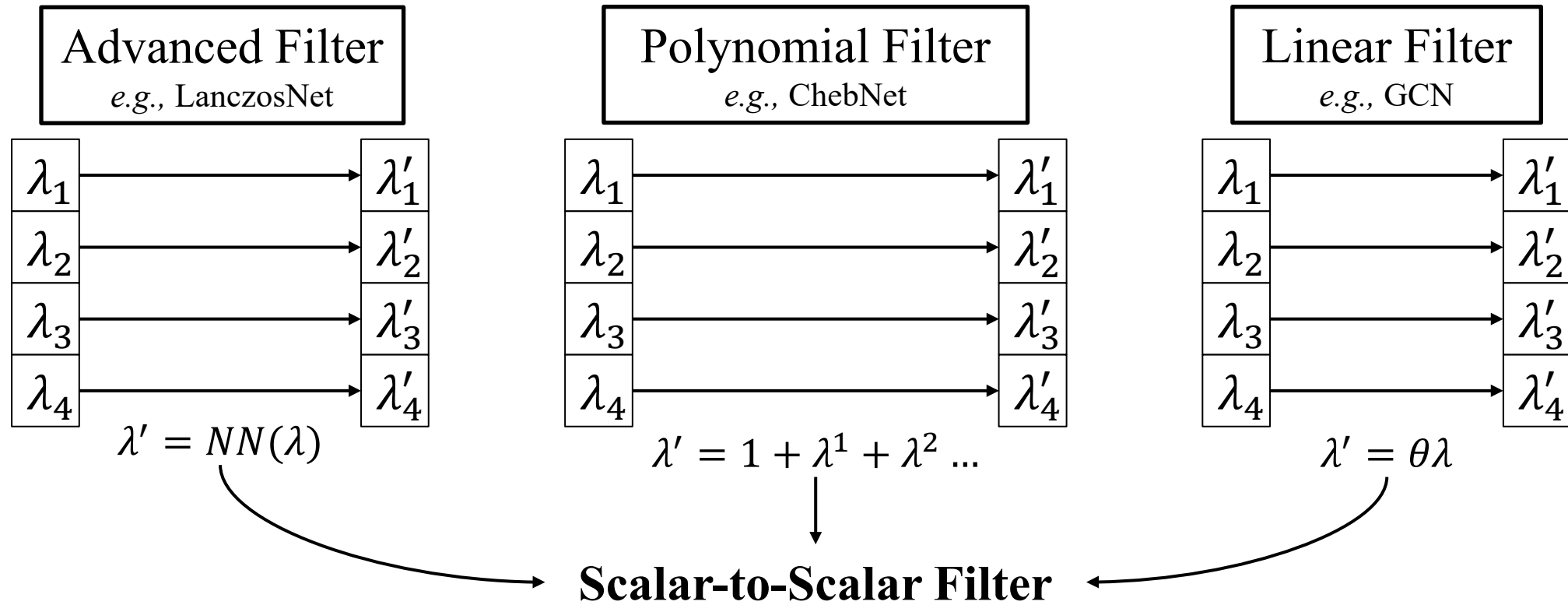
$$\begin{array}{|c|c|c|c|} \hline u_1 & u_2 & u_3 & u_4 \\ \hline \end{array} * \begin{array}{|c|} \hline \alpha'_1 \\ \hline \alpha'_2 \\ \hline \alpha'_3 \\ \hline \alpha'_4 \\ \hline \end{array} = \begin{array}{|c|} \hline g_1 \\ \hline g_2 \\ \hline g_3 \\ \hline g_4 \\ \hline \end{array} \odot \begin{array}{|c|} \hline \alpha_1 \\ \hline \alpha_2 \\ \hline \alpha_3 \\ \hline \alpha_4 \\ \hline \end{array} = \begin{array}{|c|} \hline u_1^\top \\ \hline u_2^\top \\ \hline u_3^\top \\ \hline u_4^\top \\ \hline \end{array} * \begin{array}{|c|} \hline x \\ \hline \end{array}$$

IGFT
Filtering: $g(\lambda)$
Graph Fourier Transform

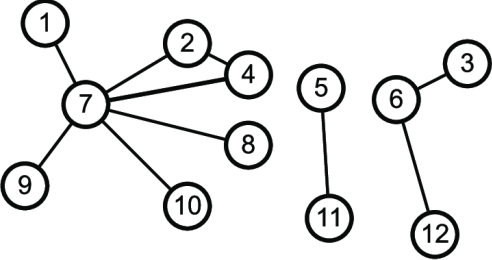

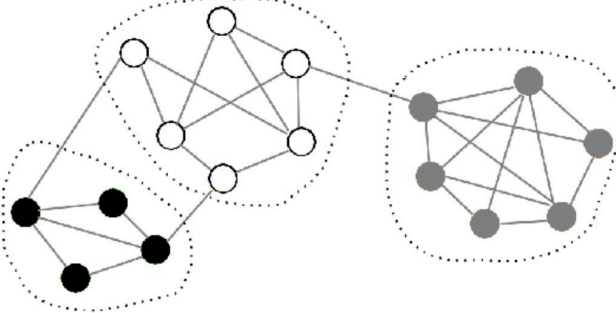


Motivation

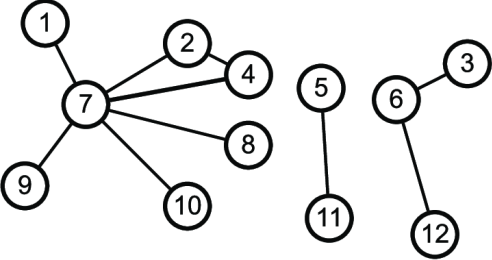
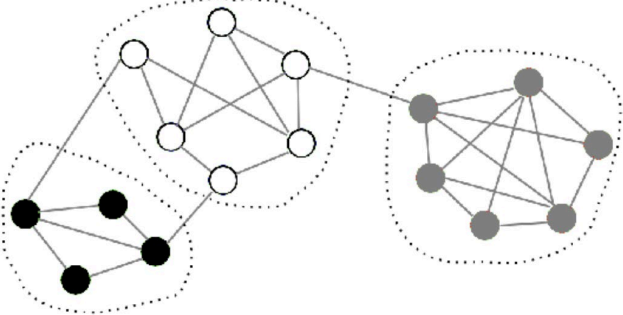
□ Taxonomy of Spectral GNNs



Motivation

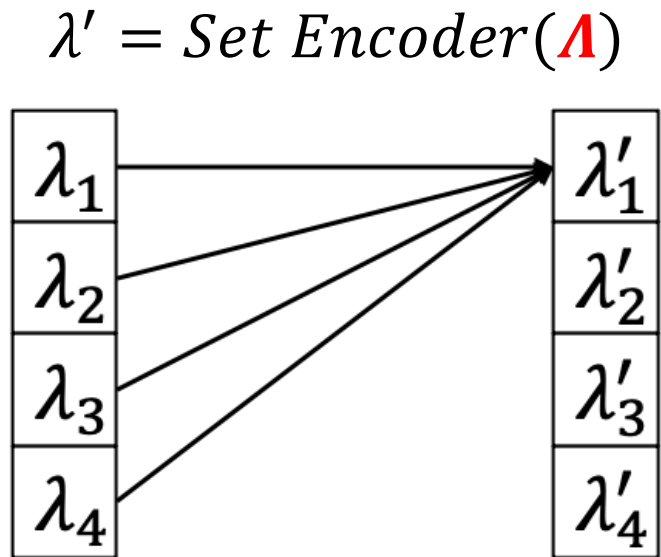
Spectrum Information	Example	Definition	Scalar Input	Set Input
Algebraic Connectivity		$\text{Count}(\lambda = 0)$	✗	✓
Diameter		$\left[\frac{4}{n\lambda_2}, \frac{1}{2m\lambda_1} \right]$	✗	✓
Clusterability		$\lambda_2 - \lambda_1$ ($\lambda_1 \neq \lambda_2 \neq 0$)	✗	✓

Motivation

Spectrum Information	Example	Definition	Scalar Input	Set Input
Algebraic Connectivity		Count($\lambda = 0$)	✗	✓
Clusterability		$\lambda_2 - \lambda_1$ $(\lambda_1 \neq \lambda_2 \neq 0)$	✗	✓

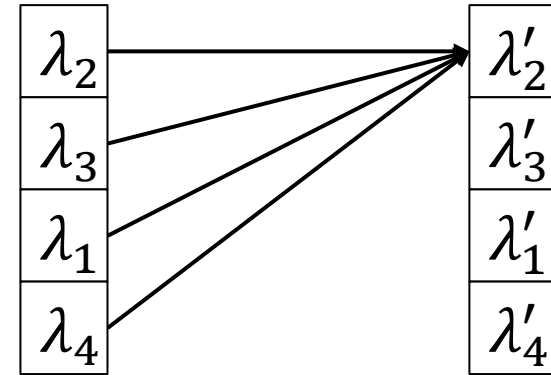
Motivation

□ Set-to-Set Graph Filter



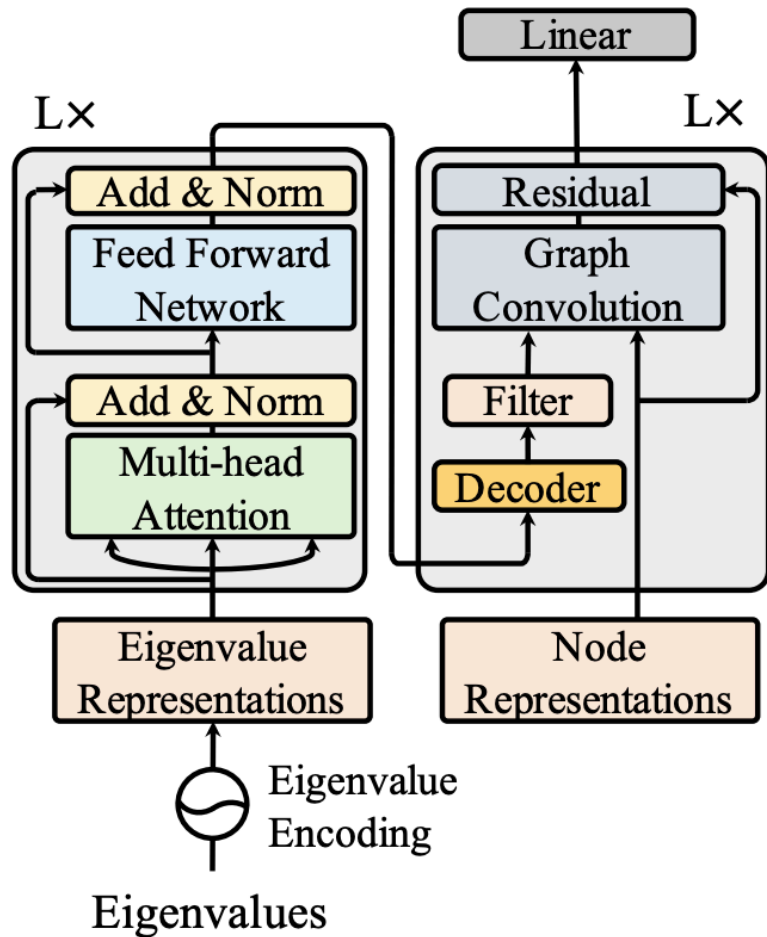
Permutation-invariant

Relative Information

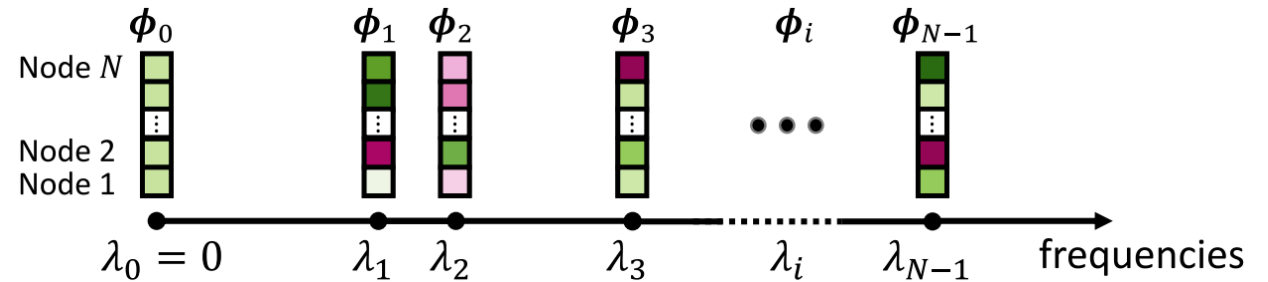


$$f(\lambda_2) - f(\lambda_1) = f(\lambda_2 - \lambda_1)$$

Specformer



□ Eigenvalues are the coordinates on the frequency axis

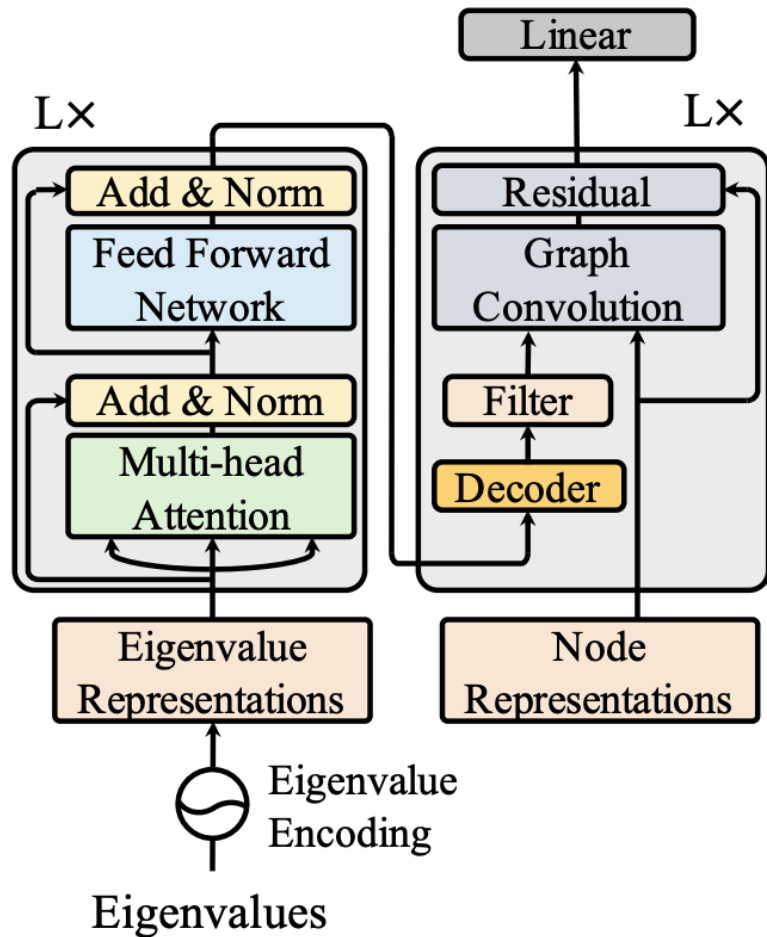


□ Eigenvalue Encoding (Relative Information)

$$\rho(\lambda, 2i) = \sin\left(\epsilon\lambda/10000^{2i/d}\right)$$

$$\rho(\lambda, 2i + 1) = \cos\left(\epsilon\lambda/10000^{2i/d}\right)$$

Specformer



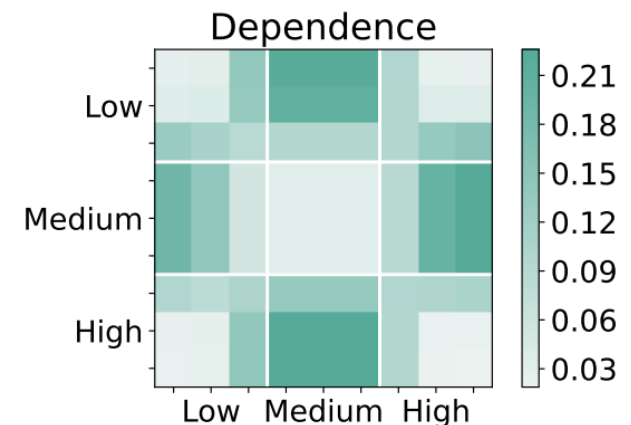
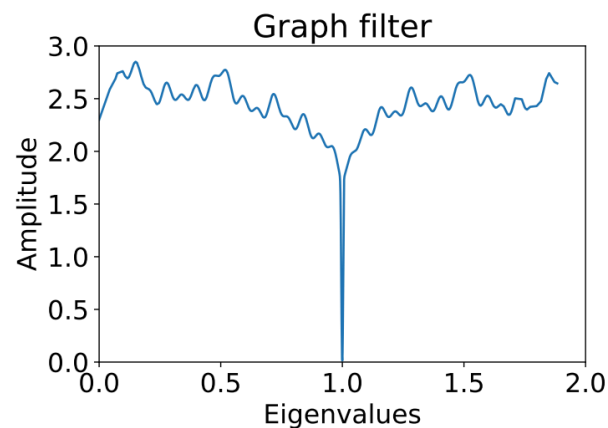
□ Transformer Encoder (Permutation-invariant)

$$\tilde{\mathbf{Z}} = \text{MHA}(\text{LN}(\mathbf{Z})) + \mathbf{Z},$$

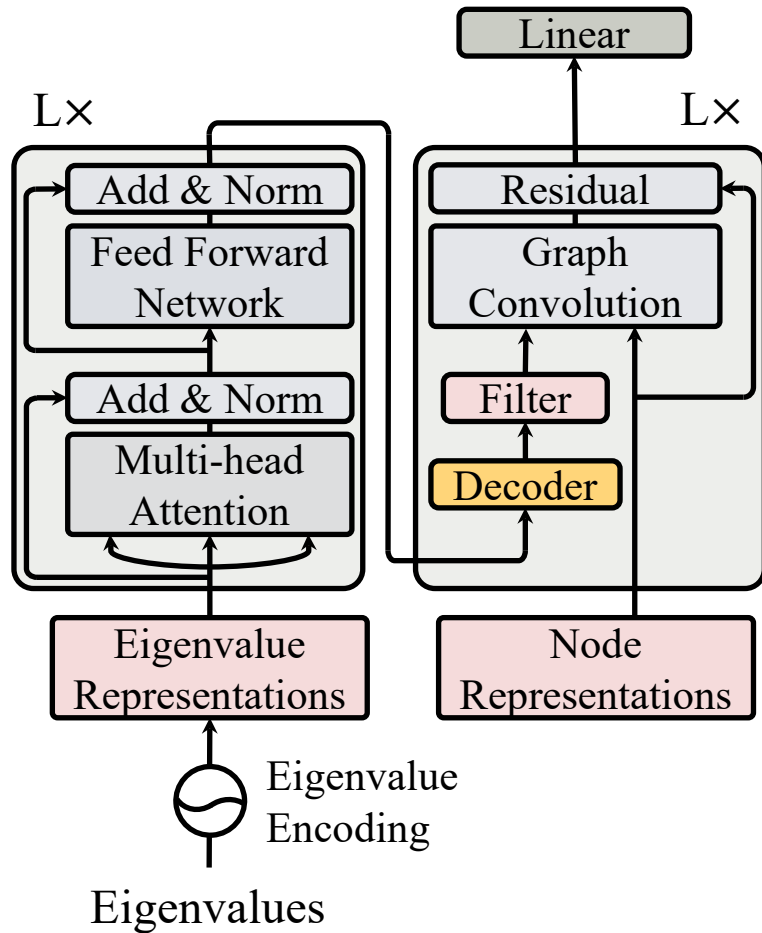
$$\hat{\mathbf{Z}} = \text{FFN}(\text{LN}(\tilde{\mathbf{Z}})) + \tilde{\mathbf{Z}}$$

□ Decoder (Non-local)

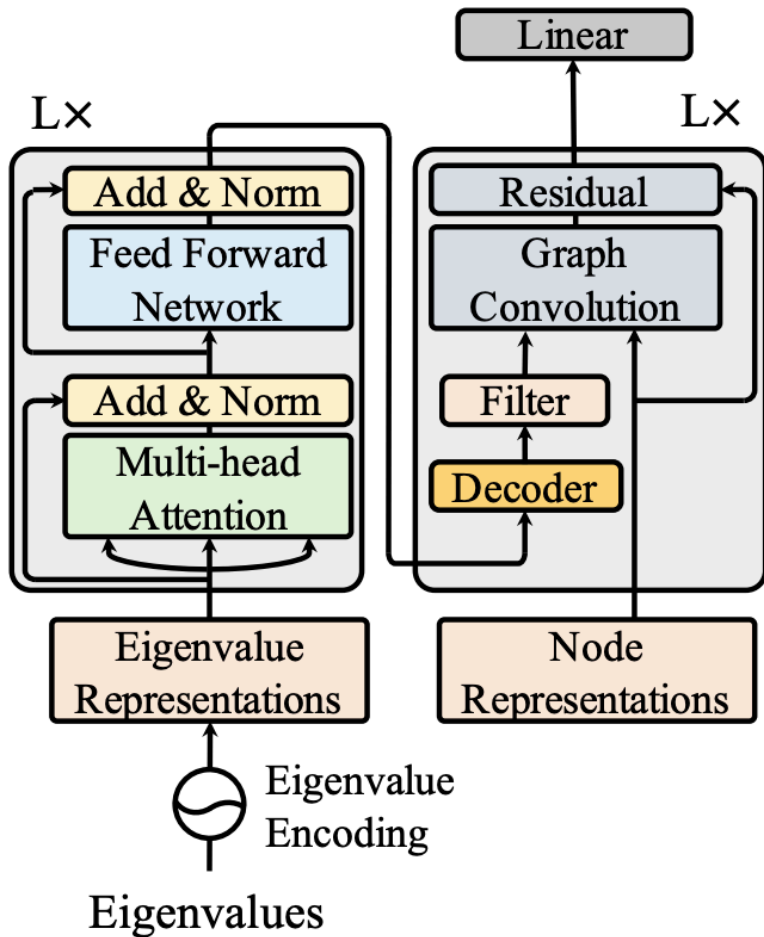
$$\mathbf{Z}_m = \text{Attn}(\mathbf{Q}_m, \mathbf{K}_m, \mathbf{V}_m), \lambda_m = \phi(\mathbf{Z}_m \mathbf{W}_\lambda)$$



Specformer



Specformer



□ Generalizing univariate functions

$$\rho(\lambda)\mathbf{w} = w_0\lambda + \underbrace{\sum_{i=1}^{d/2} w_{2i} \sin\left(\frac{\epsilon\lambda}{10000^{2i/d}}\right) + \sum_{i=1}^{d/2} w_{2i-1} \cos\left(\frac{\epsilon\lambda}{10000^{2i/d}}\right)}_{\text{Fourier Series}}$$

Fourier Series

□ Approximating multivariate functions

$$f(x_1, \dots, x_M) = \rho\left(\sum_{m=1}^M \lambda_m \phi(x_m)\right)$$

Kolmogorov–Arnold Theorem

Experiment

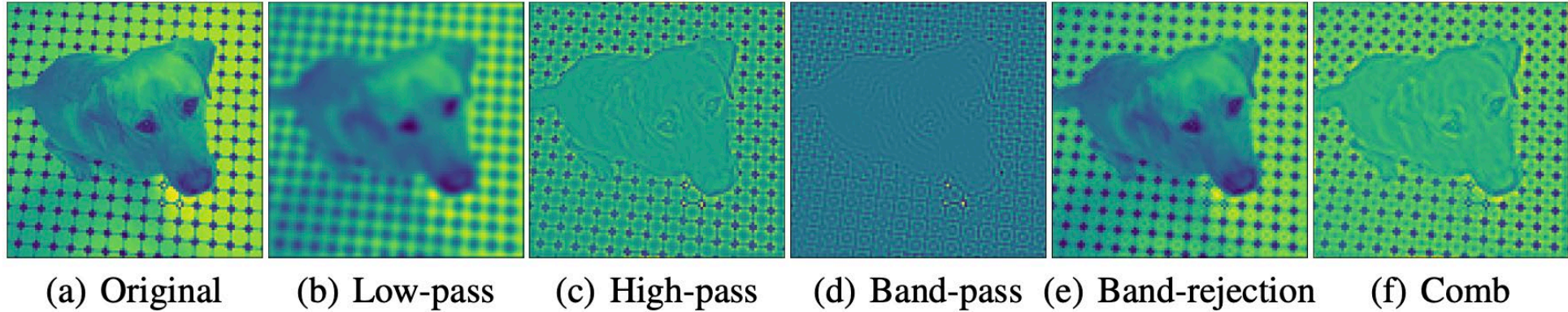
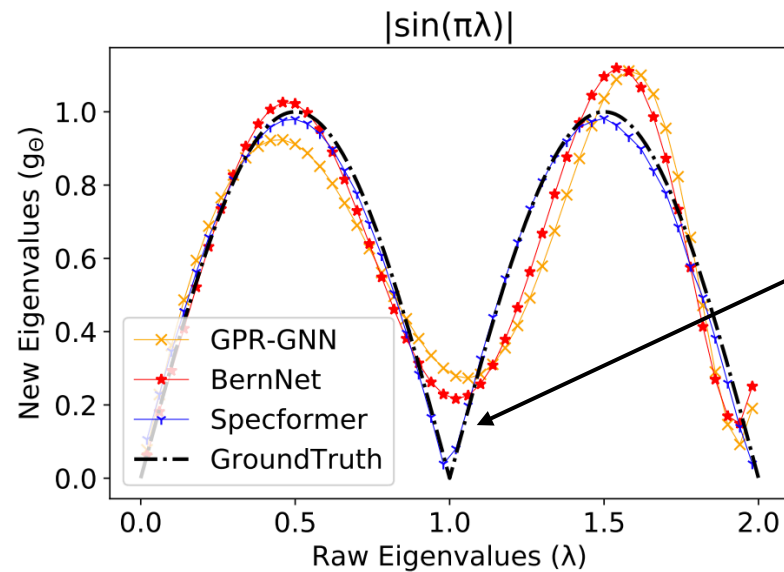
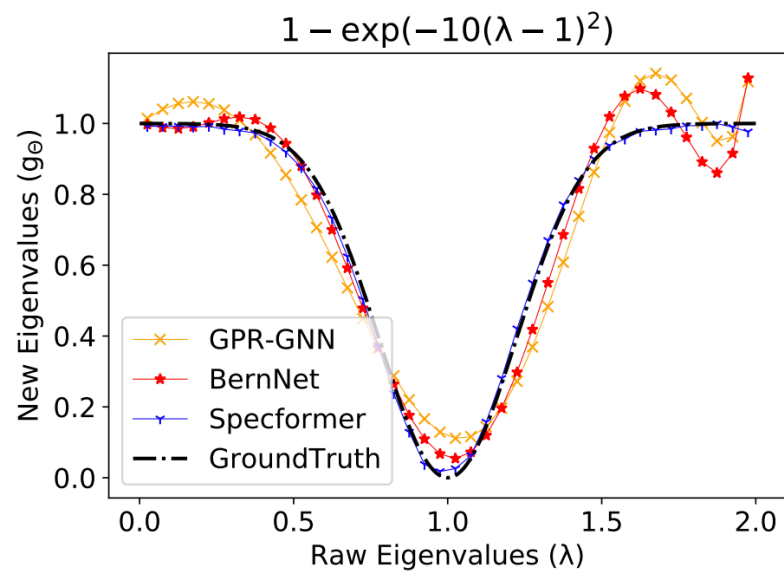


Table 1: Node regression results, mean of the sum of squared error & R^2 score, on synthetic data.

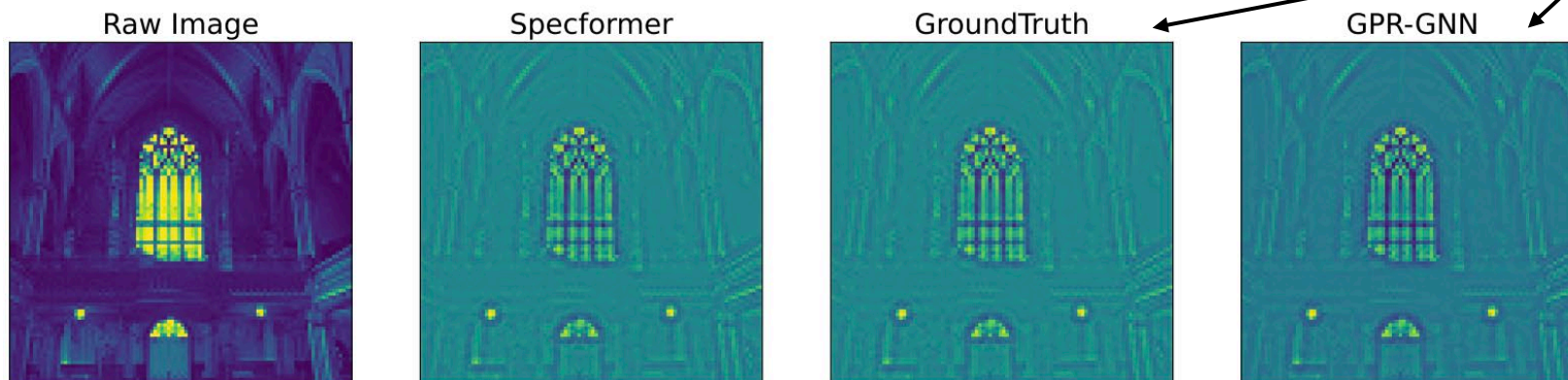
Model	Low-pass	High-pass	Band-pass	Band-rejection	Comb
(~2k param.)	$\exp(-10\lambda^2)$	$1 - \exp(-10\lambda^2)$	$\exp(-10(\lambda - 1)^2)$	$1 - \exp(-10(\lambda - 1)^2)$	$ \sin(\pi\lambda) $
GCN	3.4799(.9872)	67.6635(.2364)	25.8755(.1148)	21.0747(.9438)	50.5120(.2977)
GAT	2.3574(.9905)	21.9618(.7529)	14.4326(.4823)	12.6384(.9652)	23.1813(.6957)
ChebyNet	0.8220(.9973)	0.7867(.9903)	2.2722(.9104)	2.5296(.9934)	4.0735(.9447)
GPR-GNN	0.4169(.9984)	0.0943(.9986)	3.5121(.8551)	3.7917(.9905)	4.6549(.9311)
BernNet	0.0314(.9999)	0.0113(.9999)	0.0411(.9984)	0.9313(.9973)	0.9982(.9868)
JacobiConv	0.0003(.9999)	0.0064(.9999)	0.0213(.9999)	0.0156(.9999)	0.2933(.9995)
Specformer	0.0002(.9999)	0.0026(.9999)	0.0017(.9999)	0.0014(.9999)	0.0057(.9999)

Experiment



Narrow Band

Darker Contrast



(a) Image #19

Experiment

Table 2: Results on real-world node classification tasks. Mean accuracy (%) \pm 95% confidence interval. * means re-implemented baselines. “OOM” means out of GPU memory.

	Param. on Photo	Heterophilic				Homophilic			
		Chameleon	Squirrel	Actor	Penn94	Cora	Citeseer	Photo	arXiv
Spatial-based GNNs									
GCN	48K	59.61 \pm 2.21	46.78 \pm 0.87	33.23 \pm 1.16	82.47 \pm 0.27	87.14 \pm 1.01	79.86 \pm 0.67	88.26 \pm 0.73	71.74 \pm 0.29
GAT	49K	63.13 \pm 1.93	44.49 \pm 0.88	33.93 \pm 2.47	81.53 \pm 0.55	88.03 \pm 0.79	80.52 \pm 0.71	90.94 \pm 0.68	71.82 \pm 0.23
H ₂ GCN	60K	57.11 \pm 1.58	36.42 \pm 1.89	35.86 \pm 1.03	OOM	86.92 \pm 1.37	77.07 \pm 1.64	93.02 \pm 0.91	OOM
GCNII	49K	63.44 \pm 0.85	41.96 \pm 1.02	36.89 \pm 0.95	82.92 \pm 0.59	88.46 \pm 0.82	79.97 \pm 0.65	89.94 \pm 0.31	72.04 \pm 0.19
Spectral-based GNNs									
LanczosNet*	50K	64.81 \pm 1.56	48.64 \pm 1.77	38.16 \pm 0.91	81.55 \pm 0.26	87.77 \pm 1.45	80.05 \pm 1.65	93.21 \pm 0.85	71.46 \pm 0.39
ChebyNet	48K	59.28 \pm 1.25	40.55 \pm 0.42	37.61 \pm 0.89	81.09 \pm 0.33	86.67 \pm 0.82	79.11 \pm 0.75	93.77 \pm 0.32	71.12 \pm 0.22
GPR-GNN	48K	67.28 \pm 1.09	50.15 \pm 1.92	39.92 \pm 0.67	81.38 \pm 0.16	88.57 \pm 0.69	80.12 \pm 0.83	93.85 \pm 0.28	71.78 \pm 0.18
BernNet	48K	68.29 \pm 1.58	51.35 \pm 0.73	41.79 \pm 1.01	82.47 \pm 0.21	88.52 \pm 0.95	80.09 \pm 0.79	93.63 \pm 0.35	71.96 \pm 0.27
ChebNetII	48K	71.37 \pm 1.01	57.72 \pm 0.59	41.75 \pm 1.07	83.12 \pm 0.22	88.71 \pm 0.93	80.53 \pm 0.79	94.92 \pm 0.33	72.32 \pm 0.23
JacobiConv	48K	74.20 \pm 1.03	57.38 \pm 1.25	41.17 \pm 0.64	83.35 \pm 0.11	88.98\pm0.46	80.78 \pm 0.79	95.43 \pm 0.23	72.14 \pm 0.17
Graph Transformers									
Transformer*	37K	46.39 \pm 1.97	31.90 \pm 3.16	39.95 \pm 1.64	OOM	71.83 \pm 1.68	70.55 \pm 1.20	90.05 \pm 1.50	OOM
Graphormer*	139K	54.49 \pm 3.11	36.96 \pm 1.75	38.45 \pm 1.38	OOM	67.71 \pm 0.78	73.30 \pm 1.21	85.20 \pm 4.12	OOM
Specformer	32K	74.72\pm1.29	64.64\pm0.81	41.93\pm1.04	84.32\pm0.32	88.57 \pm 1.01	81.49\pm0.94	95.48\pm0.32	72.37\pm0.18

Experiment

Table 3: Results on graph-level datasets. \downarrow means lower the better, and \uparrow means higher the better.

Model	ZINC(\downarrow)	MolHIV(\uparrow)	MolPCBA(\uparrow)
GCN	0.367 ± 0.011	0.7599 ± 0.0119	0.2424 ± 0.0034
GIN	0.526 ± 0.051	0.7707 ± 0.0149	0.2703 ± 0.0023
GatedGCN	0.090 ± 0.001	-	0.267 ± 0.002
CIN	0.079 ± 0.006	0.8094 ± 0.0057	-
GIN-AK+	0.080 ± 0.001	0.7961 ± 0.0119	0.2930 ± 0.0044
GSN	0.101 ± 0.010	0.7799 ± 0.0100	-
DGN	0.168 ± 0.003	0.7970 ± 0.0097	0.2885 ± 0.0030
PNA	0.188 ± 0.004	0.7905 ± 0.0132	0.2838 ± 0.0035
Spec-GN	0.070 ± 0.002	-	0.2965 ± 0.0028
SAN	0.139 ± 0.006	0.7785 ± 0.0025	0.2765 ± 0.0042
Graphormer ²	0.122 ± 0.006	0.7640 ± 0.0022	0.2643 ± 0.0017
GPS	0.070 ± 0.004	0.7880 ± 0.0101	0.2907 ± 0.0028
Specformer	0.066 ± 0.003	0.7889 ± 0.0124	0.2972 ± 0.0023

Experiment

