

p -Laplacian Based Graph Neural Networks

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Tencent AI Lab

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1. Introduction

- Graph Neural Networks
- Motivation

2. Preliminary

3. Methodology

- p-Laplacian Regularization Framework
- p-Laplacian Message Passing & ${}^p\text{GNN}$ Architecture

4. Spectral Analysis

5. Empirical Results

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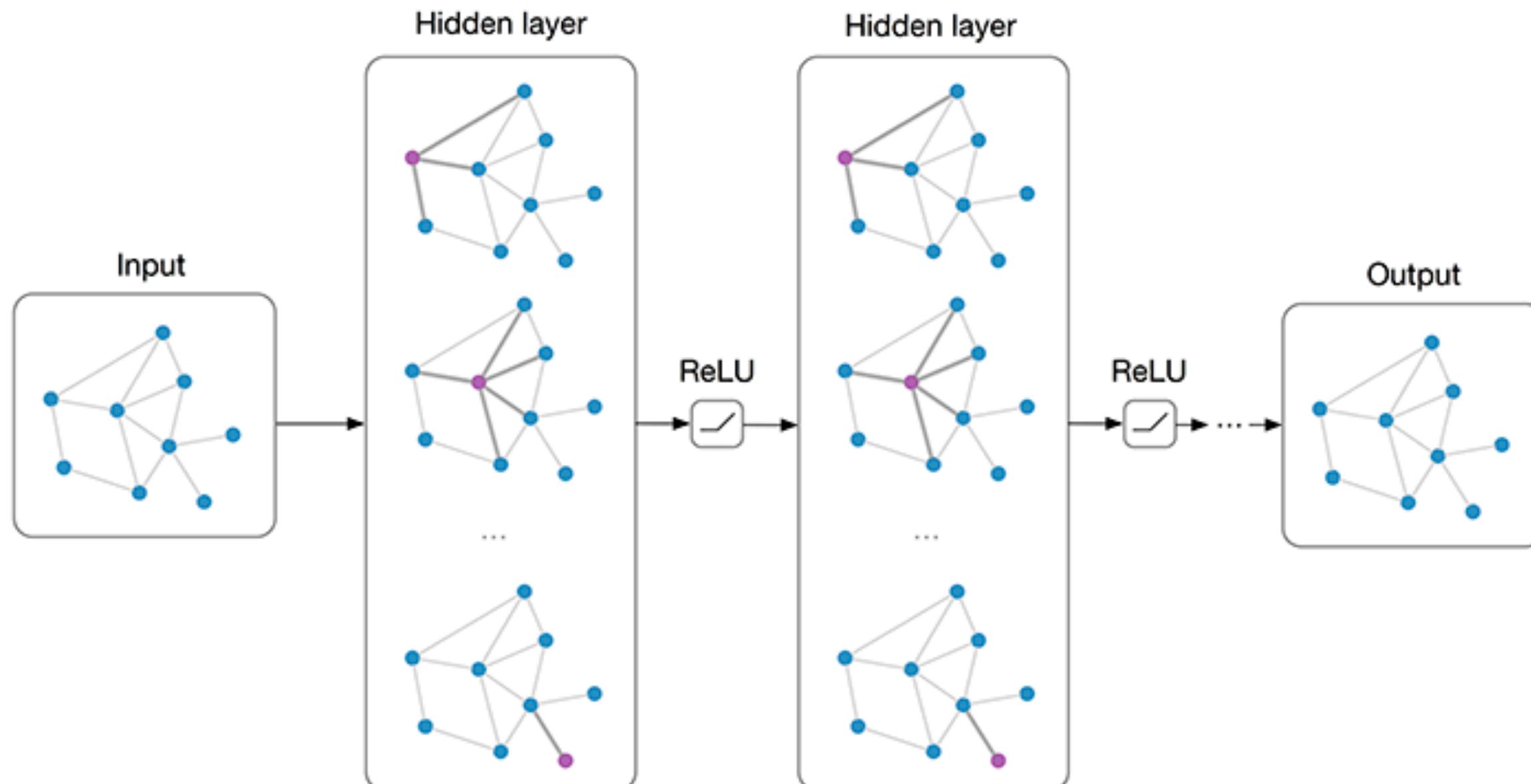
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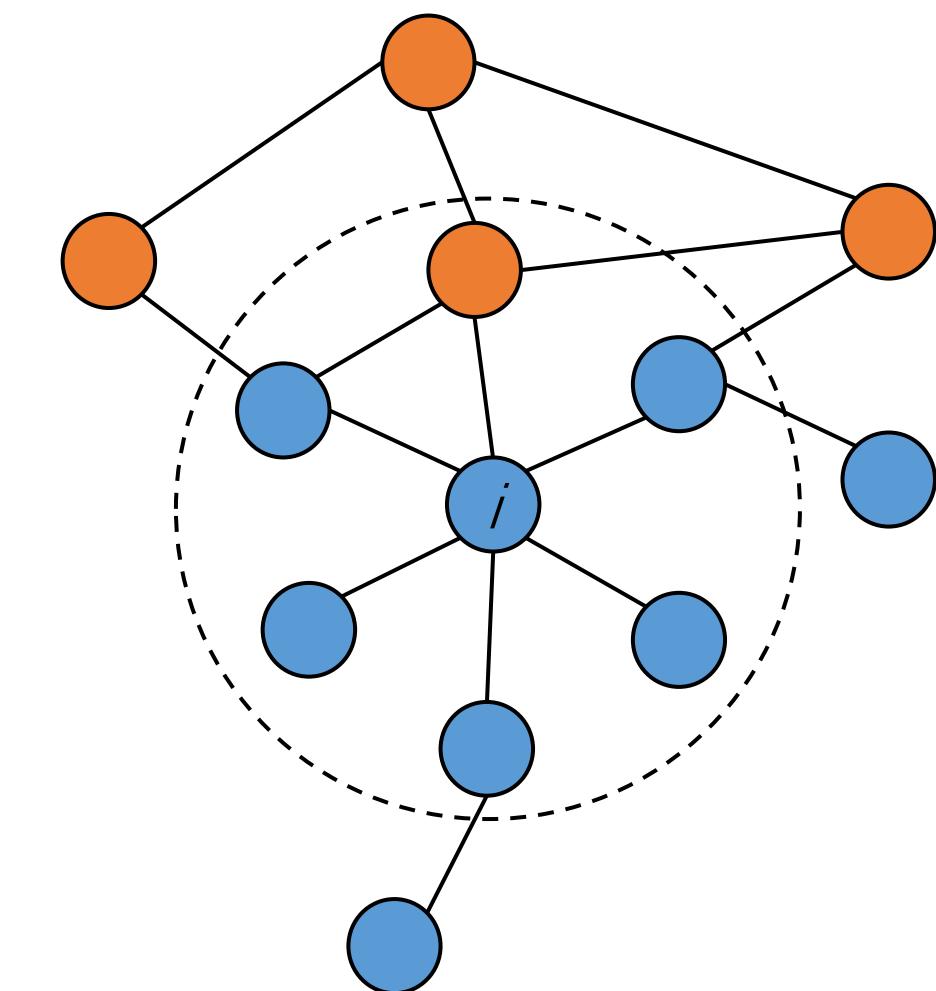
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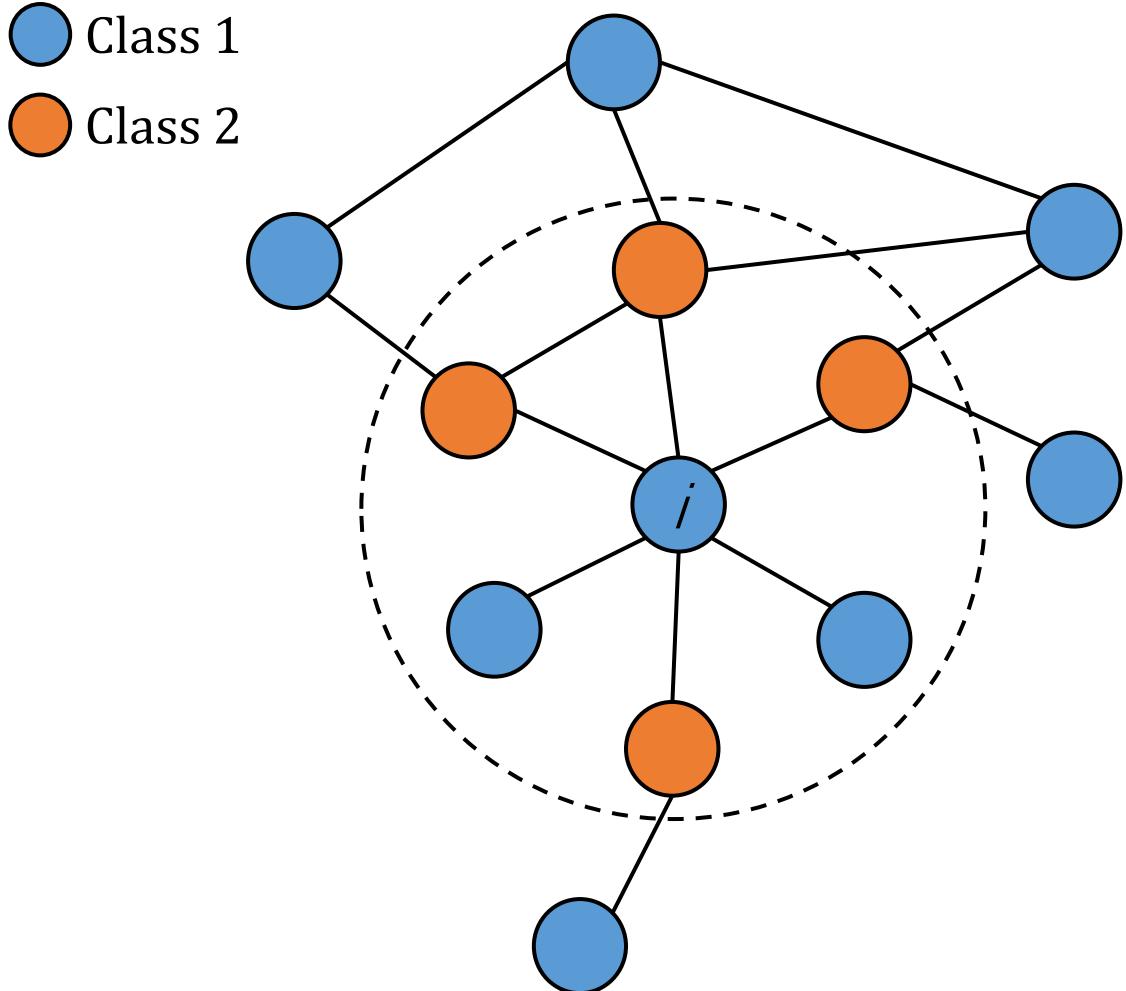
(The figure was collected from <https://tkipf.github.io/graph-convolutional-networks/>)

Homophily Assumption of GNNs:

The labels of linked nodes in a graph are the same or consistent.



Homophilic graph

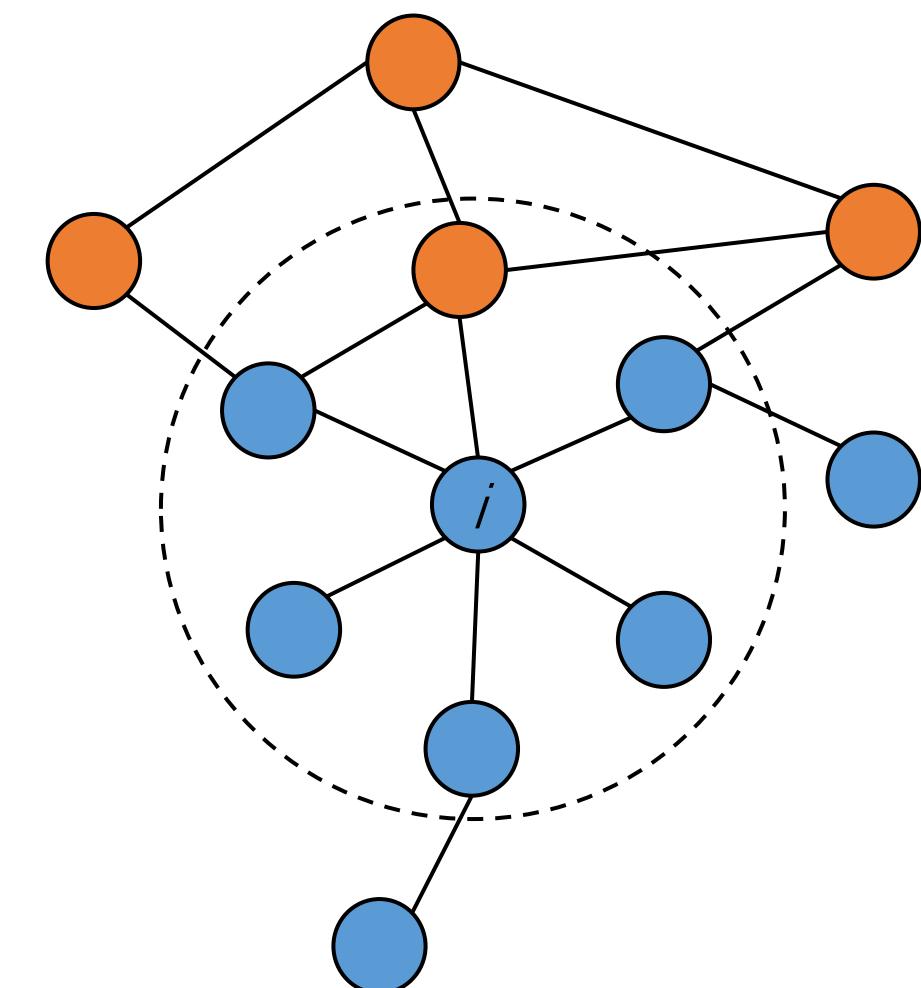


Heterophilic graph

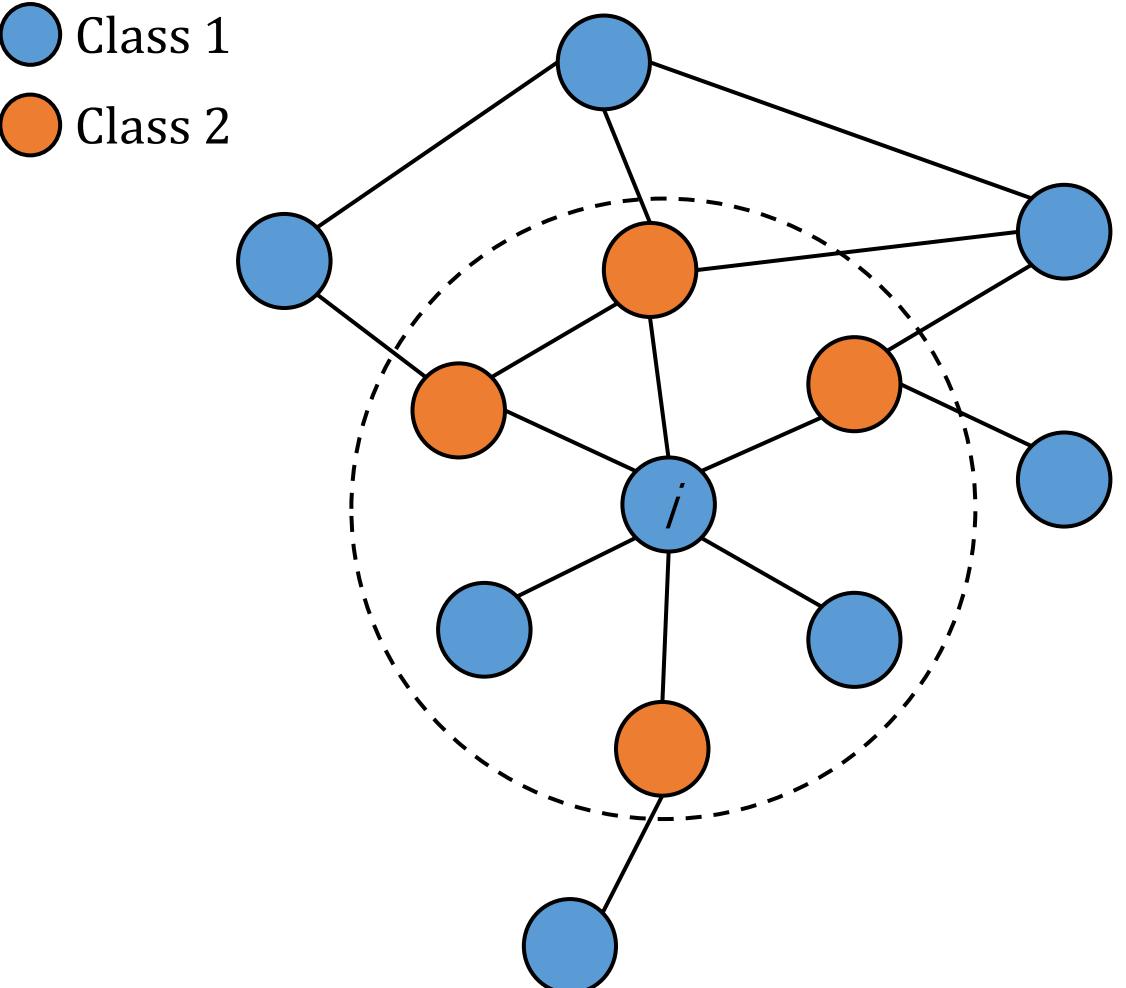
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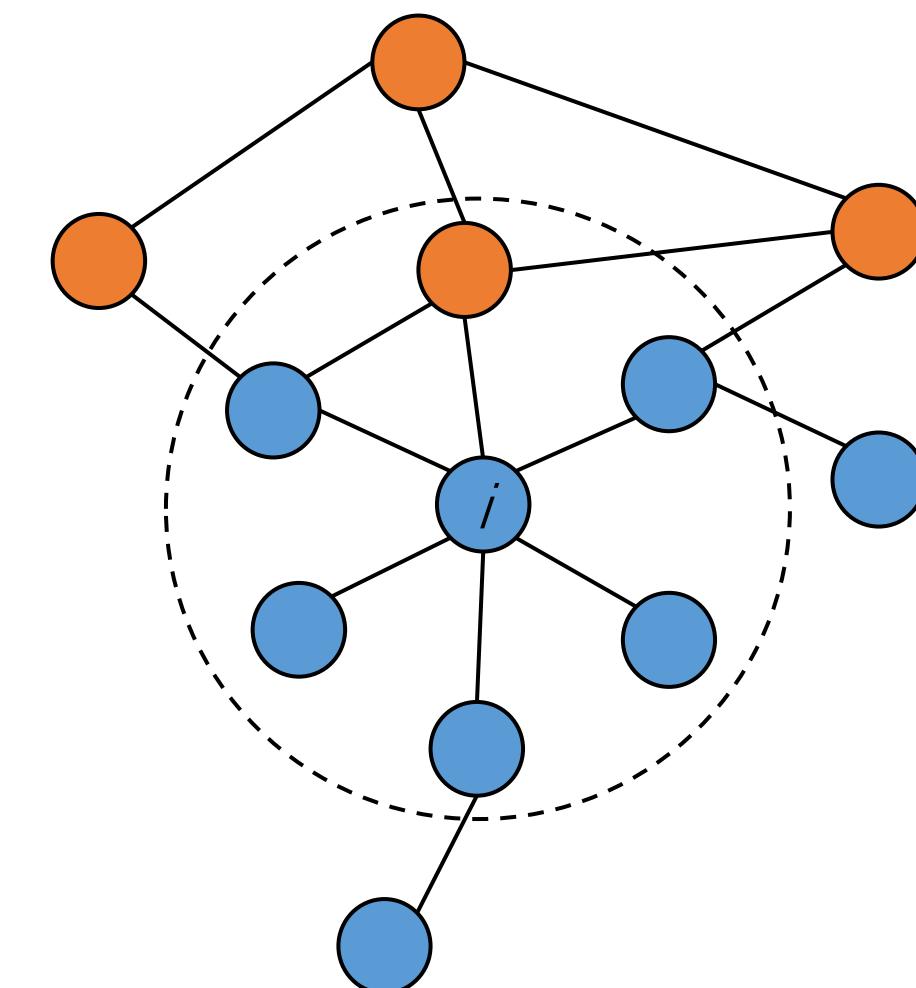
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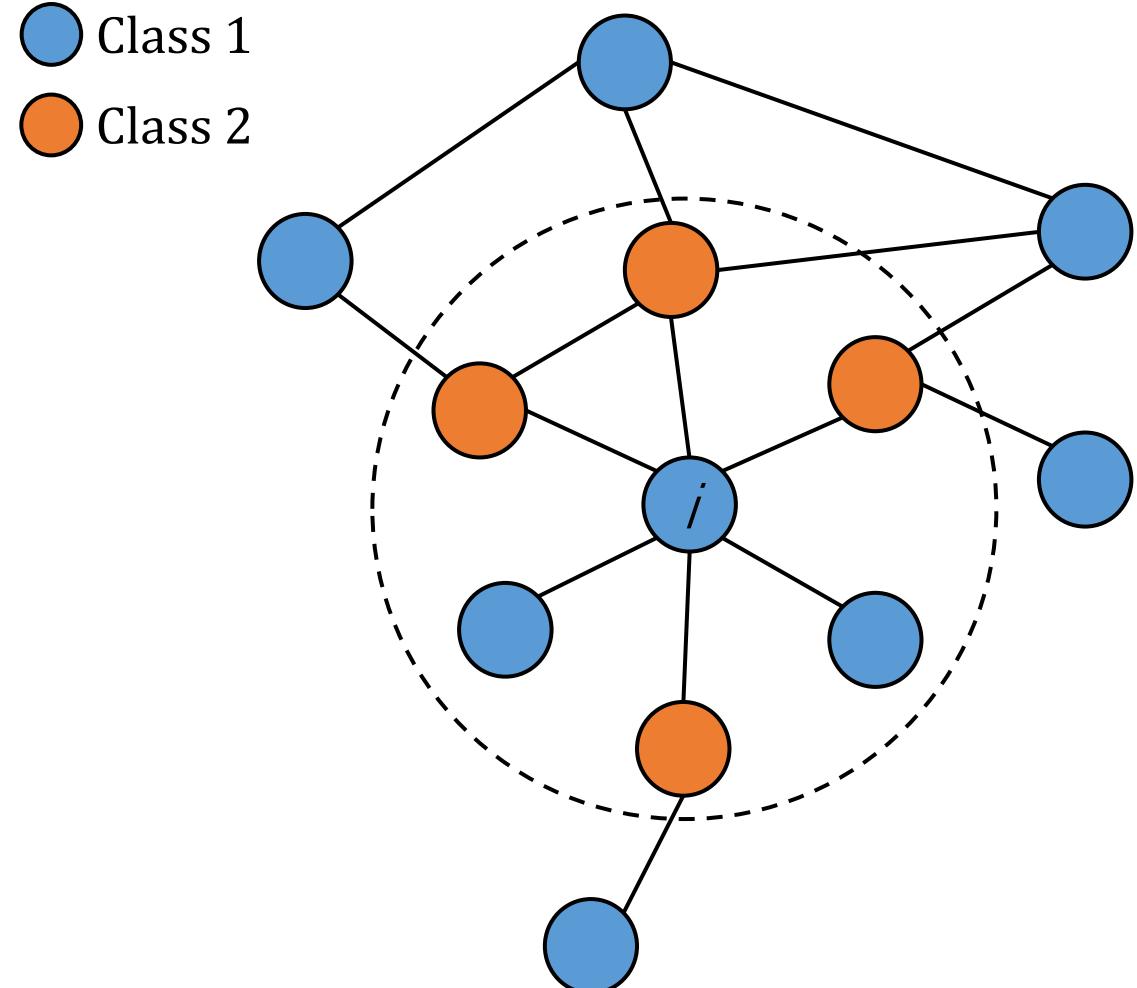
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Low-Pass Filter Type GNNs

Some GNNs (e.g., GCN, SGC, APPNP) work as **low-pass filters** (The spectral range of Laplacian is $[0, 2]$).



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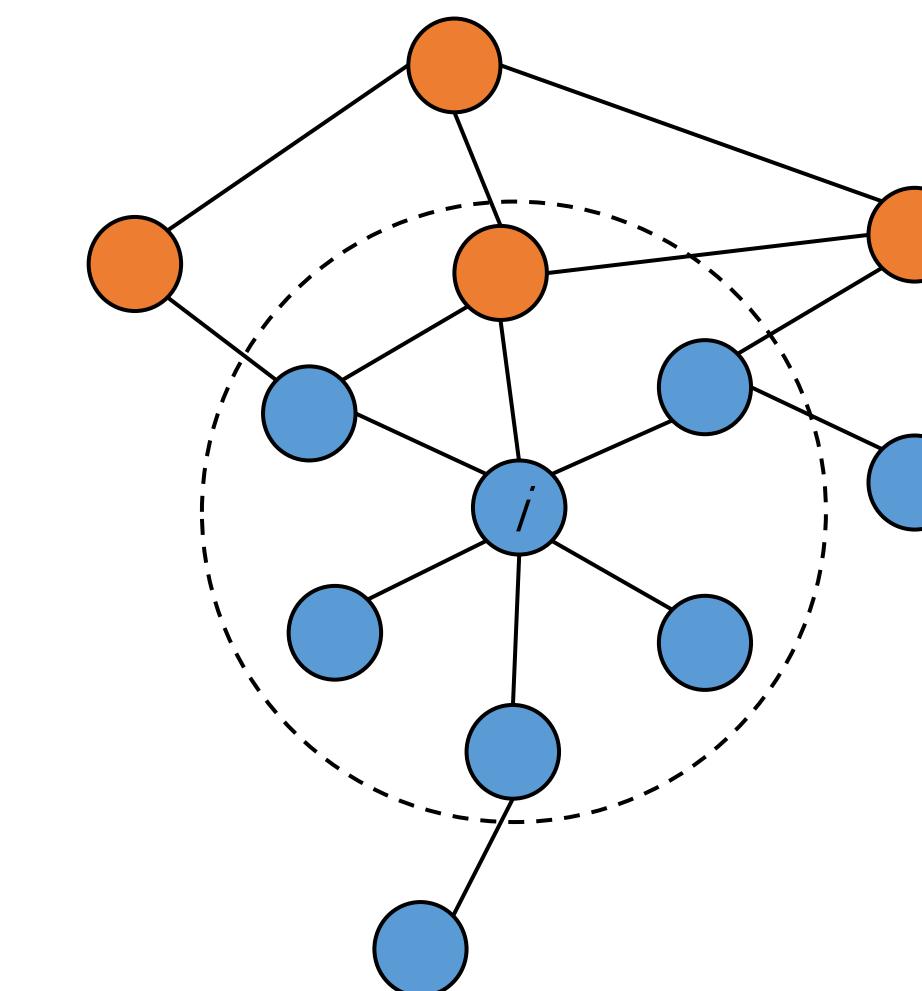
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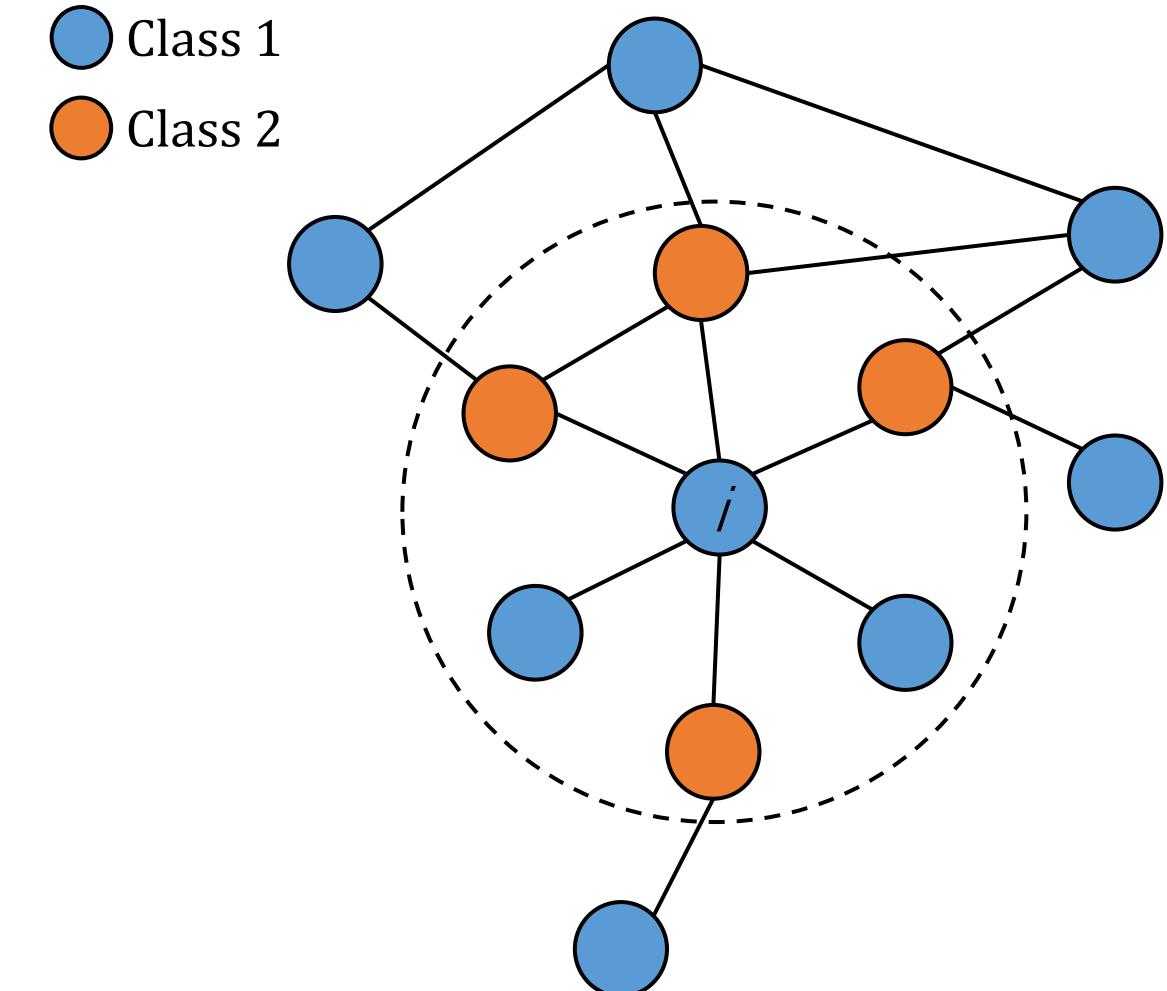
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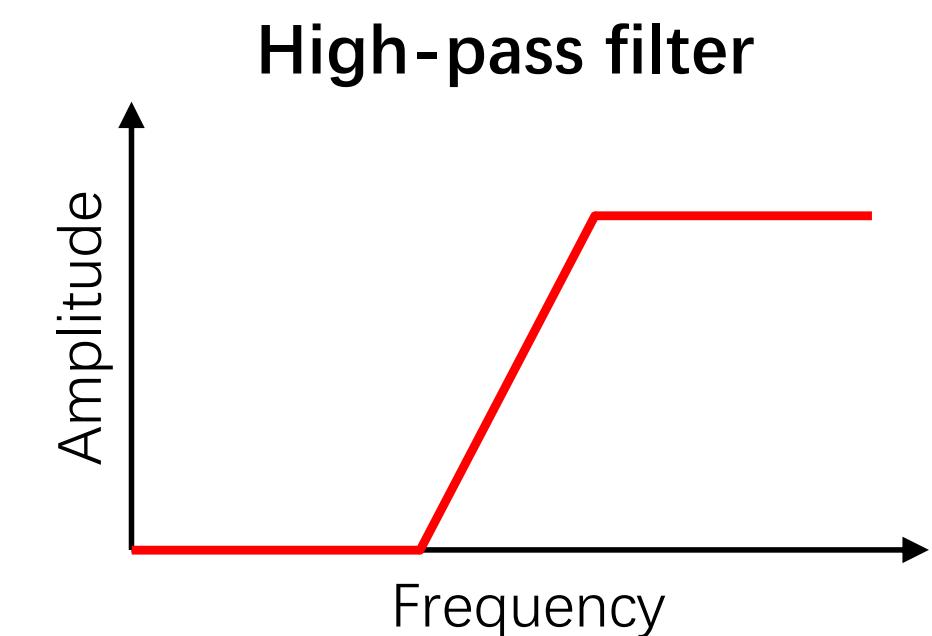
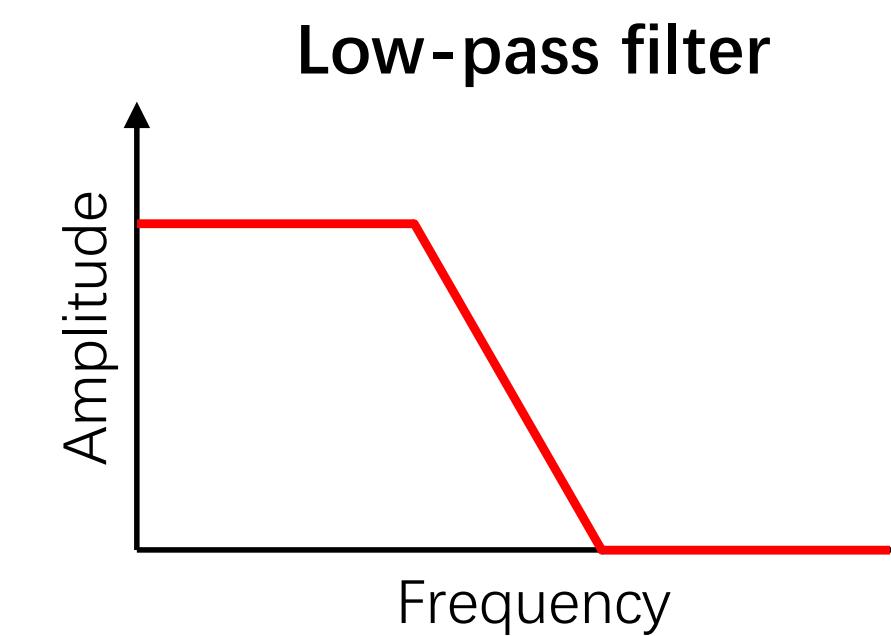
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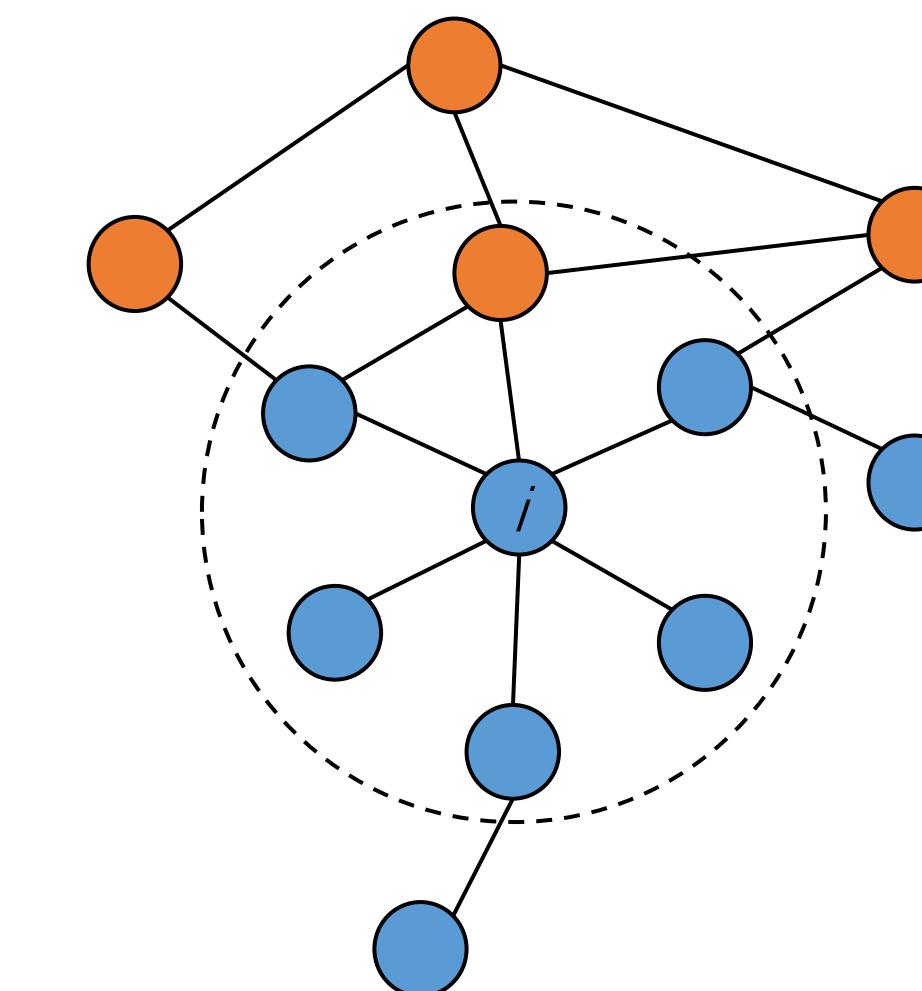
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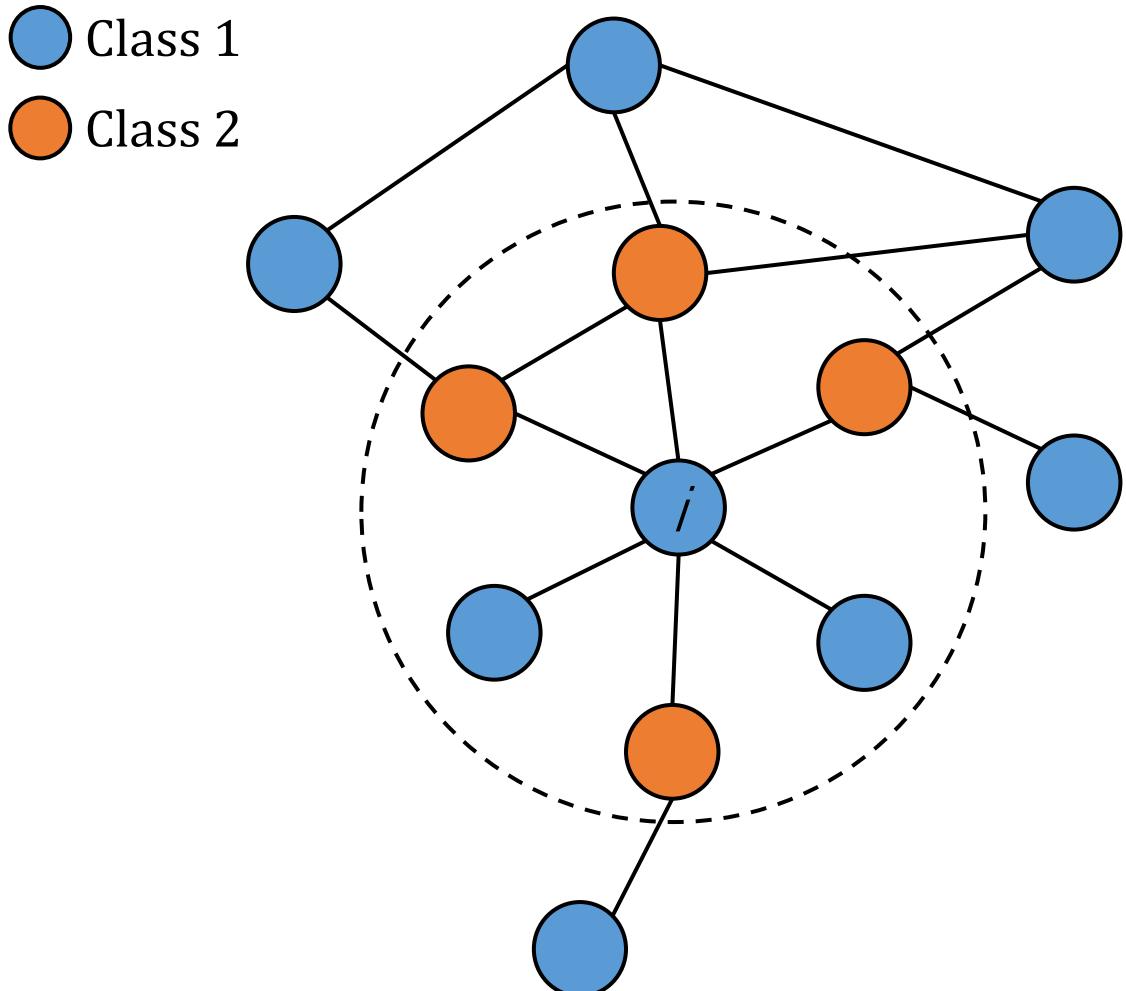
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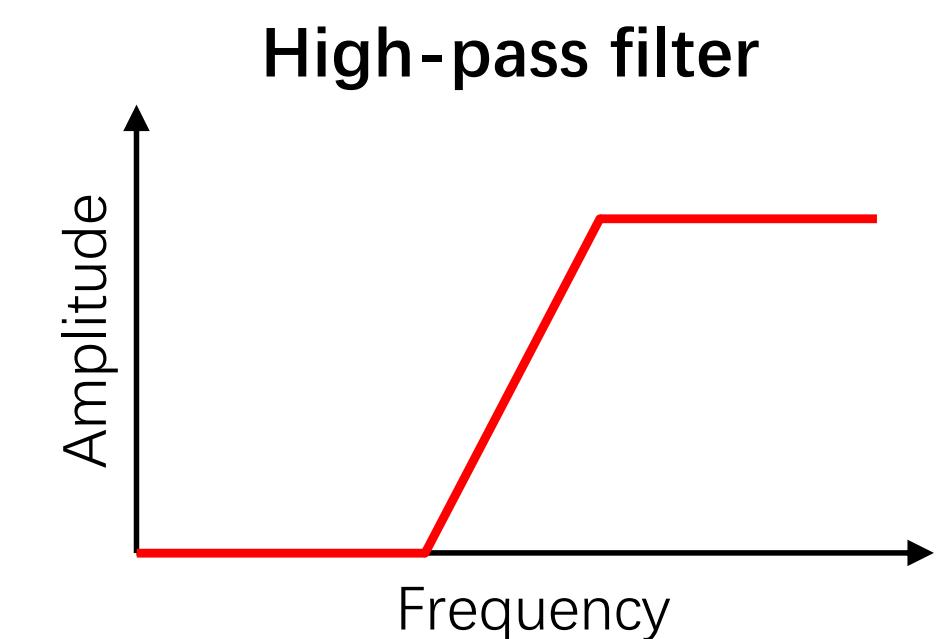
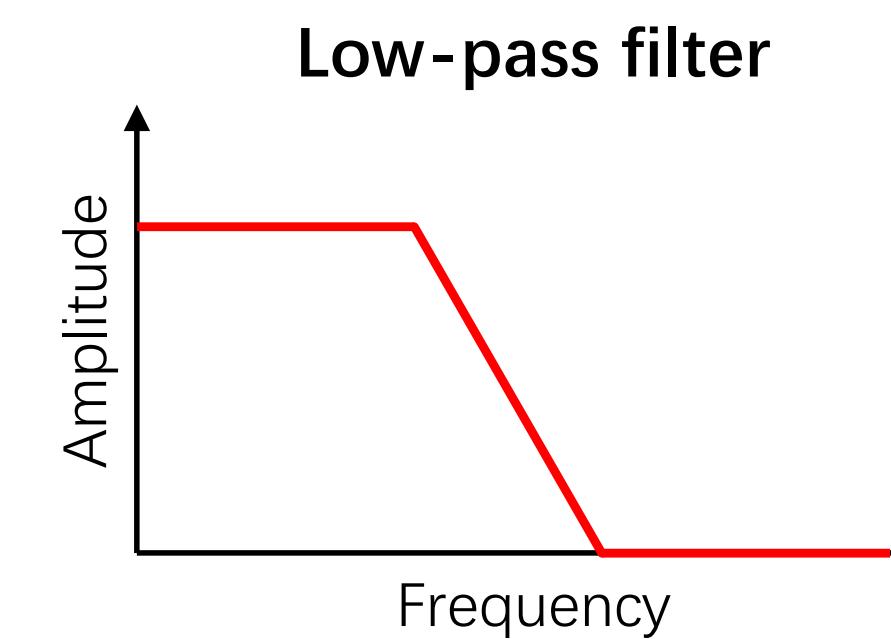


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Most GNNs fail on heterophilic graphs!



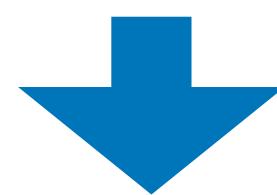
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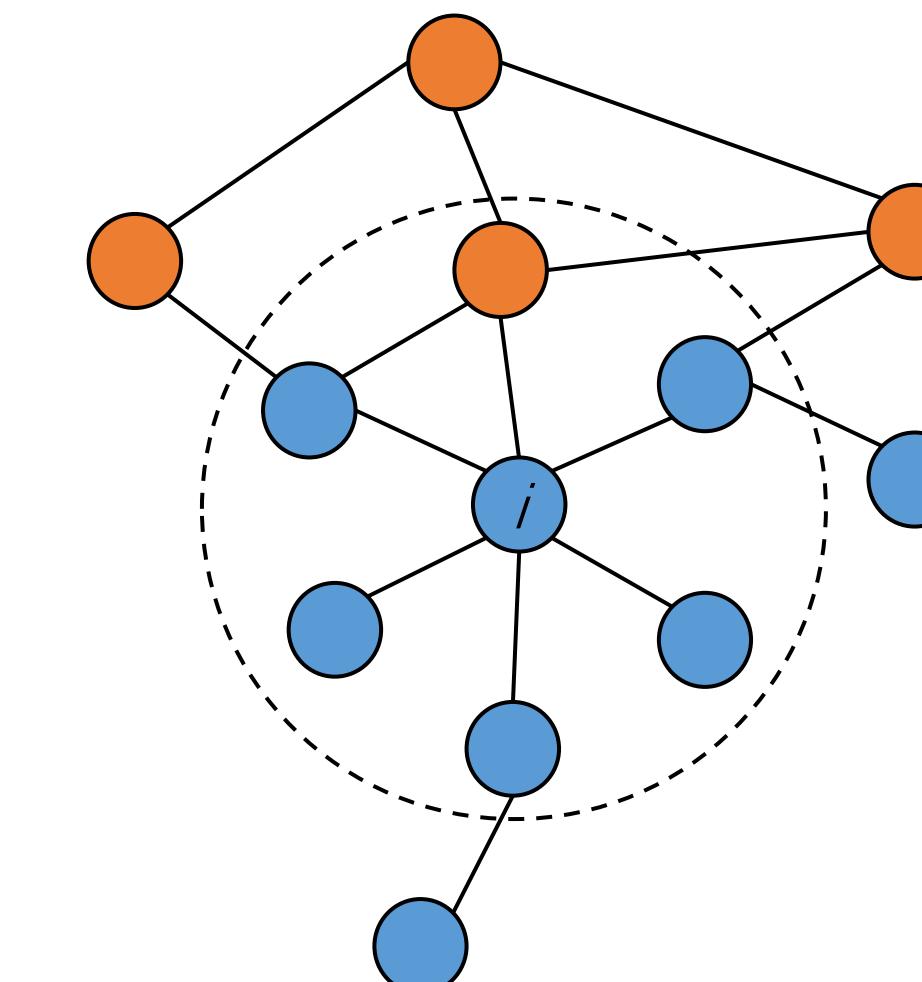
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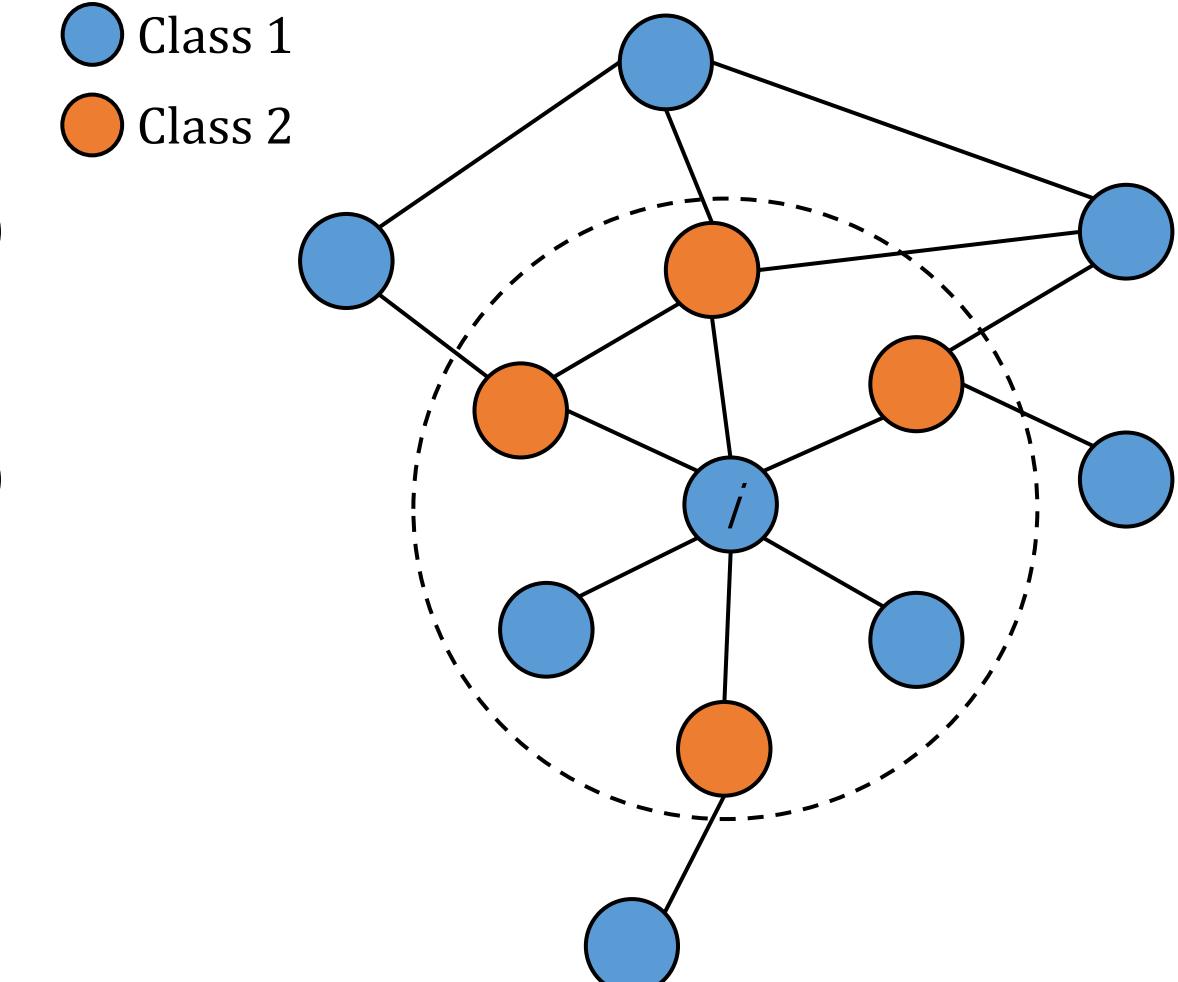
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Idea: We could design new message passing schemes & GNN architectures based on **p-Laplacian**:

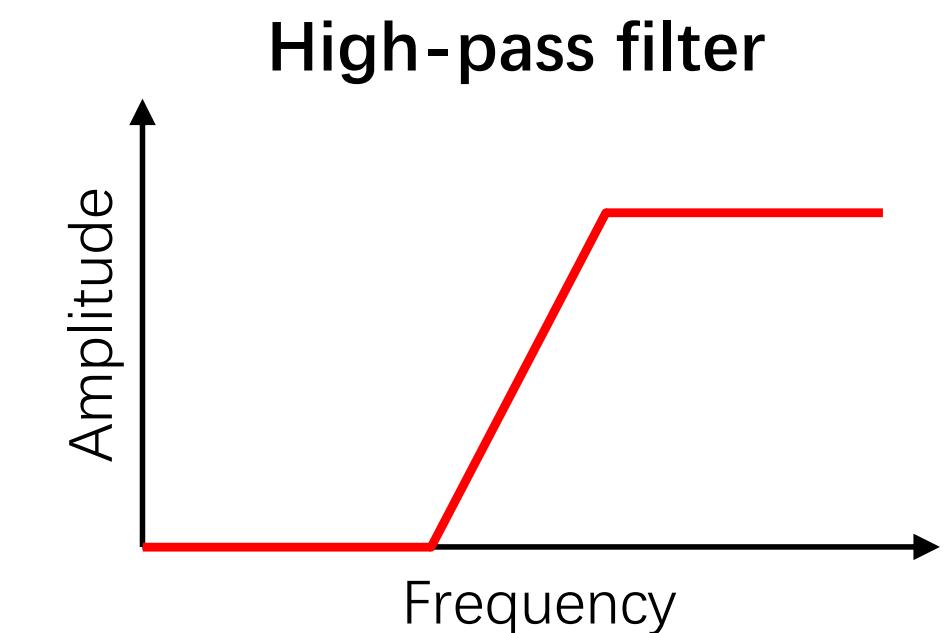
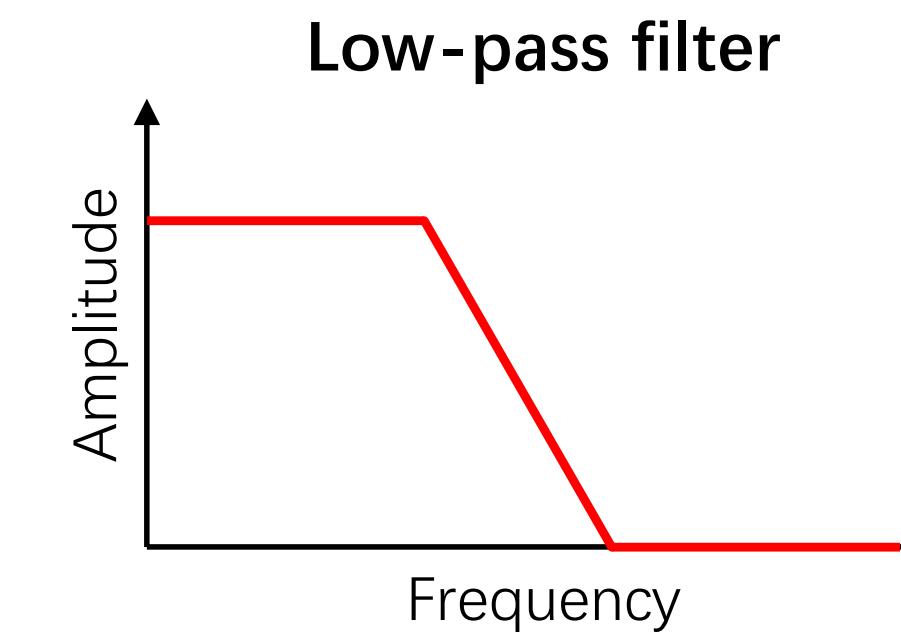
- $p \geq 2, 0 \leq \lambda \leq 2^{p-1};$
- $1 < p < 2, 0 \leq \lambda \leq 2^{p-1} \sqrt{N_k};$
- $p = 1, 0 \leq \lambda \leq \sqrt{N_{\min}}.$



Homophilic graph



Heterophilic graph



Local variation

Graph gradient

$(\nabla f)([i, j])$ measures the variation of f on **edge** $[i, j]$:

$$(\nabla f)([i, j]) := \sqrt{\frac{W_{i,j}}{D_{j,j}}} f(j) - \sqrt{\frac{W_{i,j}}{D_{i,i}}} f(i)$$

Graph divergence

$(\text{div}g)(i)$ measures the net outflow of g on **node** i :

$$(\text{div}g)(i) = \sum_{j=1}^N \sqrt{\frac{W_{i,j}}{D_{i,i}}} (g([i, j]) - g([j, i]))$$

$\mathcal{G} = (\mathcal{V}, \mathcal{E})$: A graph

$f : \mathcal{V} \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$: A function defined on \mathcal{V}

$g : \mathcal{E} \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$: A function defined on \mathcal{E}

\mathbf{W} : The adjacency matrix

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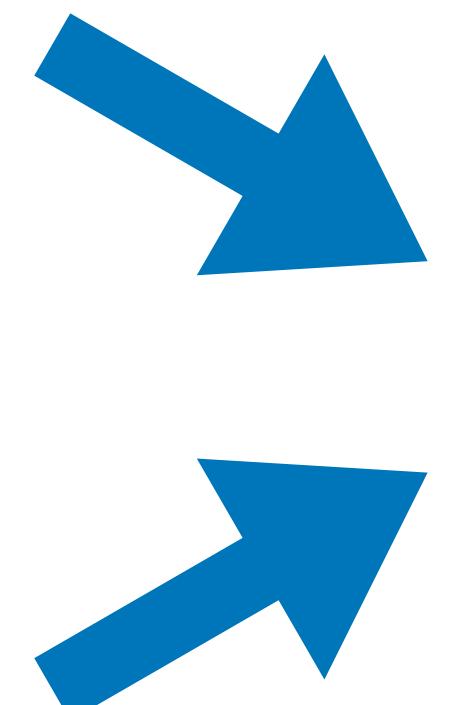
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Graph p-Laplacian

$\Delta_p : \mathcal{F}_{\mathcal{V}} \rightarrow \mathcal{F}_{\mathcal{V}}$ is an operator defined by:

$$\Delta_p f := -\frac{1}{2} \text{div}(\|\nabla f\|^{p-2} \nabla f)$$

When $p = 2$, $\Delta_2 = \mathbf{I} - \mathbf{D}^{-1/2} \mathbf{W} \mathbf{D}^{-1/2}$.

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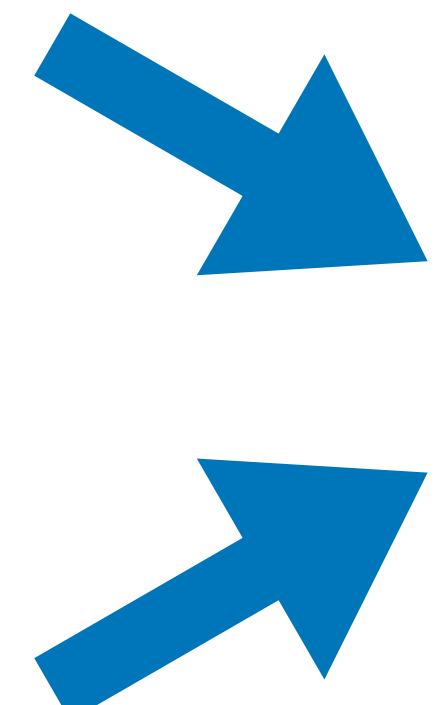
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The connection between $\mathcal{S}_p(f)$ and Δ_p :

$$\left. \frac{\partial \mathcal{S}_p(f)}{\partial f} \right|_i = p \Delta_p f(i)$$

Two assumptions:

1. Low variation of \mathbf{F} over \mathcal{G} w.r.t p ;
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p-Laplacian regularization framework

$$\mathcal{L}_p(\mathbf{F}) := \min_{\mathbf{F}} \mathcal{S}_p(\mathbf{F}) + \mu \sum_{i=1}^N \|\mathbf{F}_{i,:} - \mathbf{X}_{i,:}\|^2$$

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When $p = 2$

- **Closed-form** solution:

$$\mathbf{F}^* = \mu(\Delta_2 + \mu\mathbf{I}_N)^{-1}\mathbf{X}.$$

- Iteration algorithm (is guaranteed to converge):

$$\mathbf{F}^{(k+1)} = \alpha \mathbf{D}^{-1/2} \mathbf{W} \mathbf{D}^{-1/2} \mathbf{F}^{(k)} + \beta \mathbf{X},$$

$$\alpha = \frac{1}{1 + \mu}, \beta = \frac{\mu}{1 + \mu}.$$

- $\mu(\Delta_2 + \mu\mathbf{I}_N)^{-1}$ = personalized PageRank matrix [1].

Methodology – p-Laplacian regularization framework



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When $p \geq 1$

- **Not** aware of any closed-form solution.

- Iteration algorithm:

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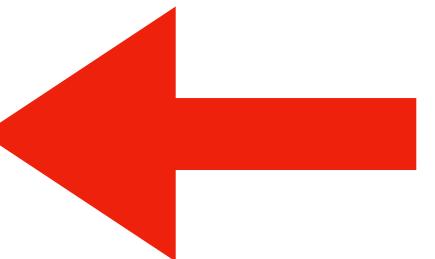
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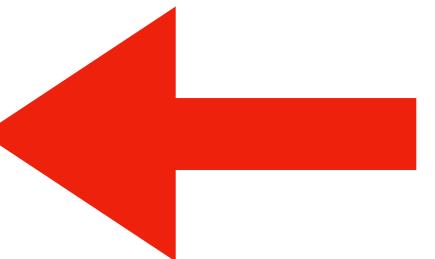
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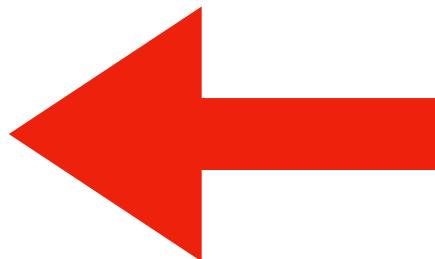
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p-Laplacian message passing is **guaranteed to converge** with proper chosen μ by Theorem 2.

${}^p\text{GNN}$ Architecture

$$\mathbf{F}^{(0)} = \text{ReLU}(\mathbf{X} \Theta^{(1)})$$

$$\mathbf{F}^{(k+1)} = \alpha^{(k)} \mathbf{D}^{-1/2} \mathbf{M}^{(k)} \mathbf{D}^{-1/2} \mathbf{F}^{(k)} + \beta^{(k)} \mathbf{F}^{(0)}, k = 0, 1, \dots, K-1$$

$$\mathbf{Z} = \text{softmax}(\mathbf{F}^{(K)} \Theta^{(2)})$$

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$\mathbf{F} \in \mathbb{R}^{N \times c}$: The node embedding matrix

$\Theta^{(1)}, \Theta^{(2)}$: The 1st, 2nd layer NN parameters

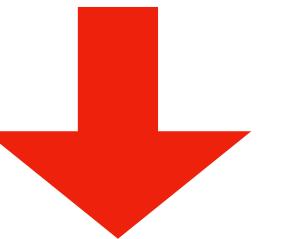
K : The number of iterations

p-Laplacian based graph convolution

$$g_\theta \star \mathbf{X} = \Phi_p(\mathbf{U}) \hat{g}_\theta(\Lambda) \Phi_p(\mathbf{U})^\top \mathbf{X}$$

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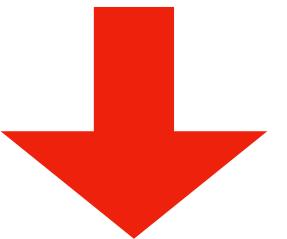


The polynomial approximation

$$g_\theta \star \mathbf{X} \approx \sum_{k=0}^{K-1} \theta_k \Phi_p(\mathbf{U}) \Lambda^k \Phi_p(\mathbf{U})^\top \mathbf{X} = \sum_{k=0}^{K-1} \theta_k \Delta_p^k \mathbf{X}$$

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Theorem 3

p-Laplacian message passing is a polynomial filter defined on the spectral domain of p-Laplacian!

$$g_\theta \star \mathbf{X} \approx \sum_{k=0}^{K-1} \theta_k \Delta_p^k \mathbf{X} \approx p\text{-Laplacian message passing}$$

Spectral analysis of p-Laplacian message passing

It adaptively acts as **low-pass** & **low-high-pass** filters on node i in terms of its graph gradients $\|\nabla f(i)\|$.

Proposition 1. Given a connected graph $\mathcal{G} = (\mathcal{V}, \mathcal{E}, \mathbf{W})$ with node embeddings \mathbf{F} and the p -Laplacian Δ_p with its p -eigenvectors $\{\mathbf{u}^{(l)}\}_{l=0,1,\dots,N-1}$ and the p -eigenvalues $\{\lambda_l\}_{l=0,1,\dots,N-1}$. Let $g_p(\lambda_{i-1}) := \alpha_{i,i} \sum_j D_{i,i}^{-1/2} M_{i,j} D_{j,j}^{-1/2}$ for $i \in [N]$ be the filters defined on the spectral domain of Δ_p , where $M_{i,j} = W_{i,j} \|\nabla f([i,j])\|^{p-2}$, $(\nabla f)([i,j])$ is the graph gradient of the edge between node i and j and $\|\nabla f(i)\|$ is the norm of graph gradient at i . N_i denotes the number of edges connected to i , $N_{\min} = \min\{N_j\}_{j \in [N]}$, and $k = \arg \max_j (|u_j^{(l)}| / \sqrt{D_{l,l}})_{j \in [N]; l=0, \dots, N-1}$, then

1. When $p = 2$, $g_p(\lambda_{i-1})$ works as low-high-pass filters.
2. When $p > 2$, if $\|\nabla f(i)\| \leq 2^{(p-1)/(p-2)}$, $g_p(\lambda_{i-1})$ works as low-high-pass filters on node i and $g_p(\lambda_{i-1})$ works as low-pass filters on i when $\|\nabla f(i)\| \geq 2^{(p-1)/(p-2)}$.
3. When $1 \leq p < 2$, if $0 \leq \|\nabla f(i)\| \leq 2(2\sqrt{N_k})^{1/(p-2)}$, $g_p(\lambda_{i-1})$ works as low-pass filters on node i and $g_p(\lambda_{i-1})$ works as low-high-pass filters on i when $\|\nabla f(i)\| \geq 2(2\sqrt{N_k})^{1/(p-2)}$. Specifically, when $p = 1$, N_k can be replaced by N_{\min} .

		Low-pass filter	Low-high-pass filter
$1 \leq p < 2$	$\ \nabla f(i)\ < 2(2\sqrt{N_k})^{1/(p-2)}$	$\ \nabla f(i)\ < 2(2\sqrt{N_k})^{1/(p-2)}$	$\ \nabla f(i)\ \geq 2(2\sqrt{N_k})^{1/(p-2)}$
$p = 2$	—	—	Always
$p > 2$	$\ \nabla f(i)\ > 2^{(p-1)/(p-2)}$	$\ \nabla f(i)\ \leq 2^{(p-1)/(p-2)}$	$\ \nabla f(i)\ \leq 2^{(p-1)/(p-2)}$

Table 2: Statistics of datasets.

Dataset	#Class	#Feature	#Node	#Edge	Training	Validation	Testing	$\mathcal{H}(\mathcal{G})$
Cora	7	1433	2708	5278	2.5%	2.5%	95%	0.825
CiteSeer	6	3703	3327	4552	2.5%	2.5%	95%	0.717
PubMed	3	500	19717	44324	2.5%	2.5%	95%	0.792
Computers	10	767	13381	245778	2.5%	2.5%	95%	0.802
Photo	8	745	7487	119043	2.5%	2.5%	95%	0.849
CS	15	6805	18333	81894	2.5%	2.5%	95%	0.832
Physics	5	8415	34493	247962	2.5%	2.5%	95%	0.915
Chameleon	5	2325	2277	31371	60%	20%	20%	0.247
Squirrel	5	2089	5201	198353	60%	20%	20%	0.216
Actor	5	932	7600	26659	60%	20%	20%	0.221
Wisconsin	5	251	499	1703	60%	20%	20%	0.150
Texas	5	1703	183	279	60%	20%	20%	0.097
Cornell	5	1703	183	277	60%	20%	20%	0.386

Baselines:

- MLP
- GCN
- SGC
- GAT
- JKNet
- APPNP
- GPRGNN

Empirical Studies – semi-supervised node classification

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Table 1: Heterophilous results. Averaged accuracy (%) for 100 runs. Best results outlined in bold and the results within 95% confidence interval of the best results are outlined in underlined bold.

Method	Chameleon	Squirrel	Actor	Wisconsin	Texas	Cornell
MLP	48.02 ± 1.72	33.80 ± 1.05	39.68 ± 1.43	93.56 ± 3.14	79.50 ± 10.62	80.30 ± 11.38
GCN	34.54 ± 2.78	25.28 ± 1.55	31.28 ± 2.04	61.93 ± 3.00	56.54 ± 17.02	51.36 ± 4.59
SGC	34.76 ± 4.55	25.49 ± 1.63	30.98 ± 3.80	66.94 ± 2.58	59.99 ± 9.95	44.39 ± 5.88
GAT	45.16 ± 2.10	31.41 ± 0.98	34.11 ± 1.28	65.64 ± 6.29	56.41 ± 13.01	43.94 ± 7.33
JKNet	33.28 ± 3.59	25.82 ± 1.58	29.77 ± 2.61	61.08 ± 3.71	59.65 ± 12.62	55.34 ± 4.43
APPNP	36.18 ± 2.81	26.85 ± 1.48	31.26 ± 2.52	64.59 ± 3.49	82.90 ± 5.08	66.47 ± 9.34
GPRGNN	43.67 ± 2.27	31.27 ± 1.76	36.63 ± 1.22	88.54 ± 4.94	80.74 ± 6.76	78.95 ± 8.52
^{1.0} GNN	48.86 ± 1.95	<u>33.75 ± 1.50</u>	40.62 ± 1.25	95.37 ± 2.06	84.06 ± 7.41	82.16 ± 8.62
^{1.5} GNN	<u>48.74 ± 1.62</u>	33.33 ± 1.45	<u>40.35 ± 1.35</u>	<u>95.24 ± 2.01</u>	84.46 ± 7.79	78.47 ± 6.87
^{2.0} GNN	<u>48.77 ± 1.87</u>	33.60 ± 1.47	40.07 ± 1.17	91.15 ± 2.76	87.96 ± 6.27	72.04 ± 8.22
^{2.5} GNN	48.80 ± 1.77	<u>33.79 ± 1.45</u>	39.80 ± 1.31	87.08 ± 2.69	83.01 ± 6.80	70.31 ± 8.84

Baselines:

- MLP
- GCN
- SGC
- GAT
- JKNet
- APPNP
- GPRGNN

Table 3: Results on homophilic benchmark datasets. Averaged accuracy (%) for 100 runs. Best results are outlined in bold and the results within 95% confidence interval of the best results are outlined in underlined bold. OOM denotes out of memory.

Method	Cora	CiteSeer	PubMed	Computers	Photo	CS	Physics
MLP	43.47 ± 3.82	46.95 ± 2.15	78.95 ± 0.49	66.11 ± 2.70	76.44 ± 2.83	86.24 ± 1.43	92.58 ± 0.83
GCN	76.23 ± 0.79	62.43 ± 0.81	83.72 ± 0.27	84.17 ± 0.59	90.46 ± 0.48	90.33 ± 0.36	94.46 ± 0.08
SGC	77.19 ± 1.47	64.10 ± 1.36	79.26 ± 0.69	84.32 ± 0.59	89.81 ± 0.57	91.06 ± 0.05	OOM
GAT	75.62 ± 1.01	61.28 ± 1.09	83.60 ± 0.22	82.72 ± 1.29	90.48 ± 0.57	89.96 ± 0.27	93.96 ± 0.21
JKNet	77.19 ± 0.98	63.32 ± 0.95	82.54 ± 0.43	79.94 ± 2.47	88.29 ± 1.64	89.69 ± 0.66	93.92 ± 0.32
APPNP	79.58 ± 0.59	63.02 ± 1.10	84.80 ± 0.22	83.32 ± 1.11	90.42 ± 0.53	91.54 ± 0.24	94.93 ± 0.06
GPRGNN	76.10 ± 1.30	61.60 ± 1.69	83.16 ± 0.84	82.78 ± 1.87	89.81 ± 0.66	90.59 ± 0.38	94.72 ± 0.16
^{1.0} GNN	77.59 ± 0.69	63.19 ± 0.98	83.21 ± 0.30	84.46 ± 0.89	<u>90.69 ± 0.66</u>	91.46 ± 0.50	94.72 ± 0.37
^{1.5} GNN	78.86 ± 0.75	<u>63.80 ± 0.79</u>	83.65 ± 0.17	85.03 ± 0.90	<u>90.91 ± 0.50</u>	<u>92.12 ± 0.40</u>	94.90 ± 0.16
^{2.0} GNN	78.93 ± 0.60	<u>63.65 ± 1.08</u>	84.19 ± 0.22	84.39 ± 0.85	90.40 ± 0.63	92.28 ± 0.47	94.93 ± 0.14
^{2.5} GNN	78.87 ± 0.57	63.28 ± 0.97	<u>84.45 ± 0.18</u>	83.85 ± 0.87	89.82 ± 0.64	91.94 ± 0.40	94.87 ± 0.11

Emprical Studies – Semi-supervised node classification

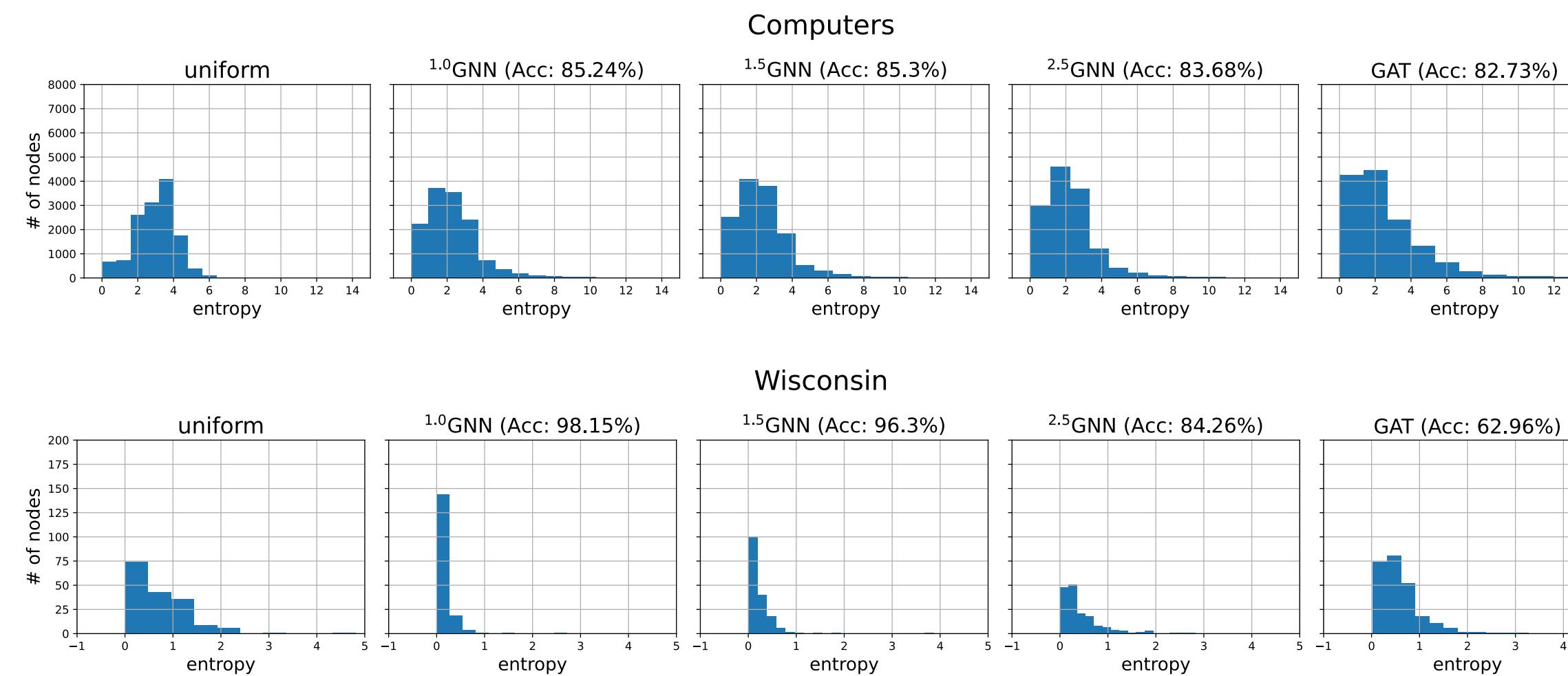


Fig. 1: Aggregation weight entropy distribution of graphs.

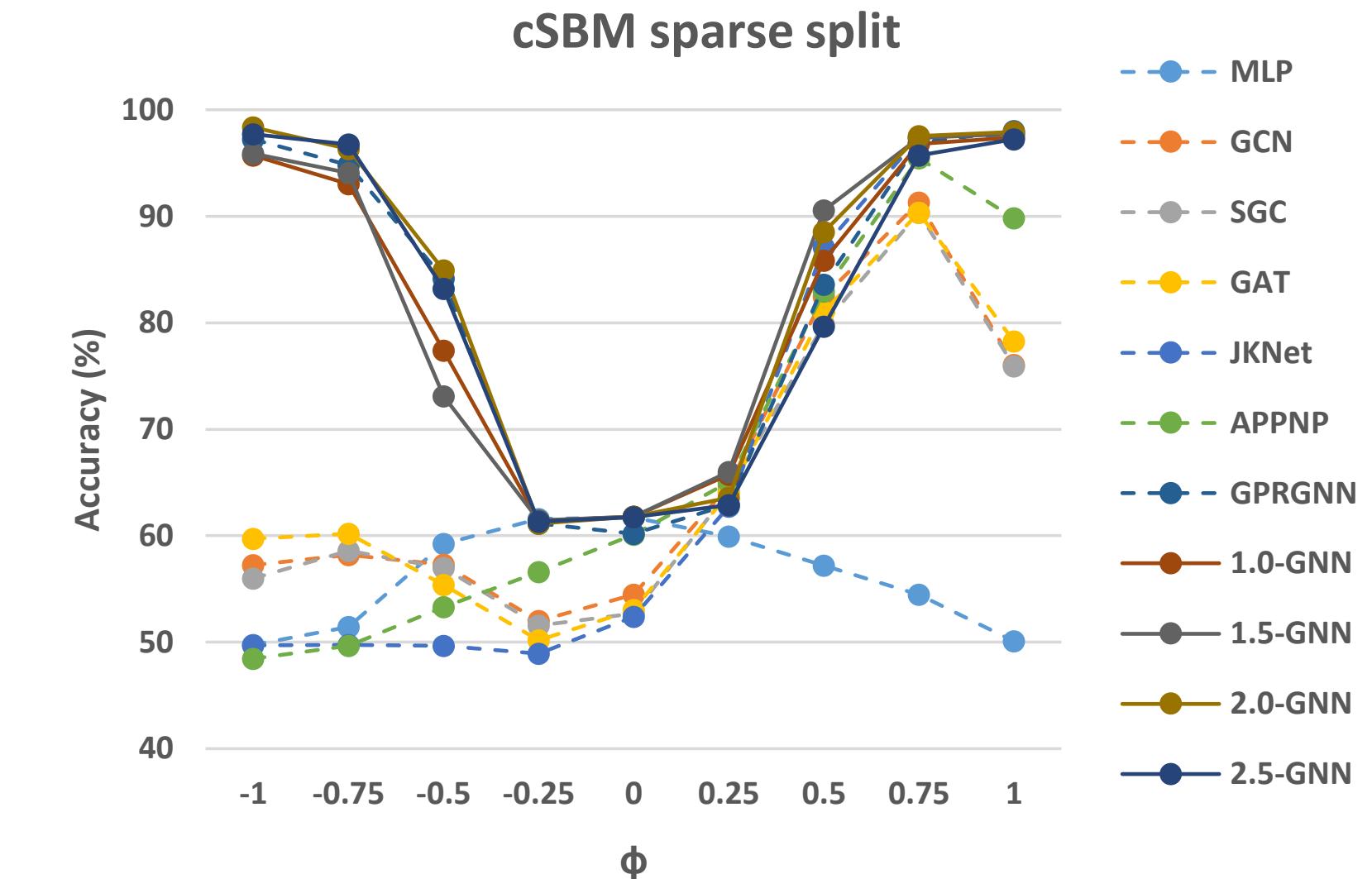


Fig. 2: Averaged accuracy on cSBM datasets.

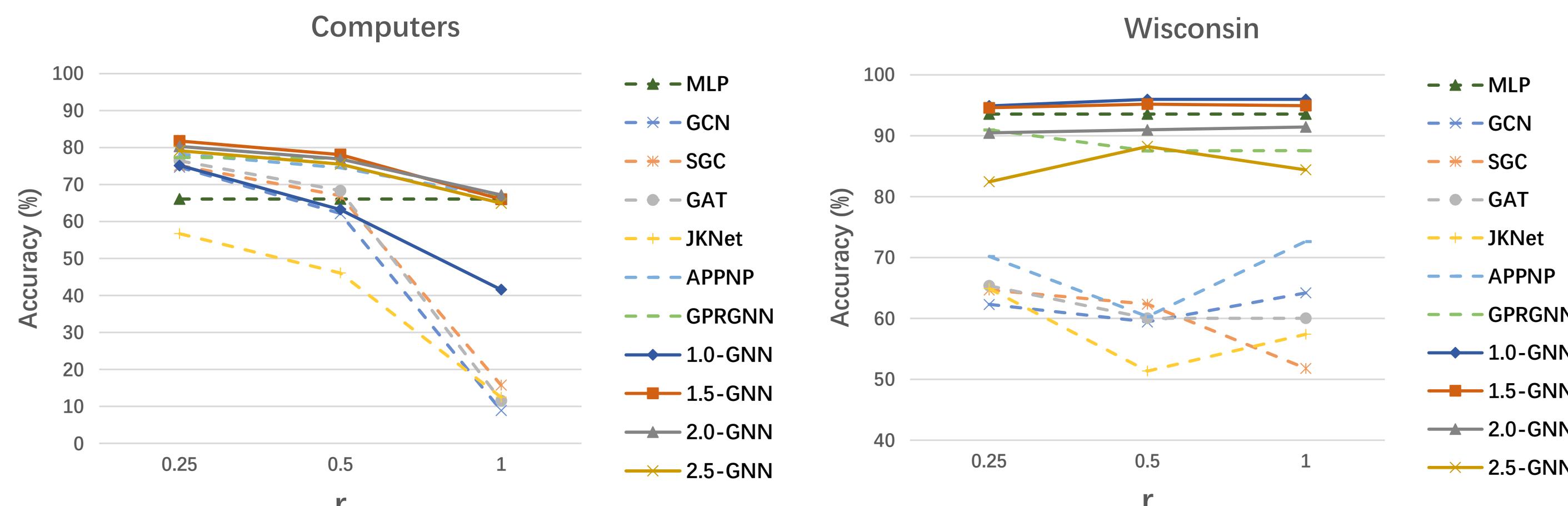


Fig. 1: Averaged accuracy on graphs with noisy edges.

Thank you!



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