



NYU COURANT INSTITUTE OF MATHEMATICAL SCIENCES

Math and Data

ON COMPUTATIONAL HARDNESS AND GRAPH NEURAL NETWORKS JOAN BRUNA, CIMS + CDS, NYU

in collaboration with L.Li (UC Berkeley), Soledad Villar, Afonso Bandeira (NYU), Alex Nowak (INRIA-Paris), D.Folque (NYU).

THE "DEEP LEARNING SLIDE"



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- Despite mathematical mysteries, proven ability to extract robust information out of high-dimensional data, across different domains and tasks.
- Most domains have regular spatial, temporal or sequential structure.

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- Despite mathematical mysteries, proven ability to extract robust information out of high-dimensional data, across different domains and tasks.
- Most domains have regular spatial, temporal or sequential structure.
- At the core of this success, there is an inductive bias captured in particular by *convolutional* (or auto-regressive) models.
- How to formalize this inductive bias?
- ► and extend it to more general domains and tasks?

OUTLINE

► Geometric Stability

- ► In Euclidean Domains: Convolutional Neural Networks.
- ► In Non-Euclidean Domains: Graph Neural Networks.

- Applications to Inverse Problems on Graphs
 - ► Community Detection and statistical-to-computational gaps.
 - Quadratic Assignment Problem
 - ► Givens Factorization of Unitary Operators.

Consider data defined as functions over an Euclidean domain:

$$x = x(u) , \ u \in \Omega \subset \mathbb{R}^d$$





d = 1: time series





► Computer Vision Task: y = f(x) $f : L^2(\Omega) \to \mathcal{Y}$ $\mathcal{Y} = \begin{cases} \{c_1, \dots, c_K\} & \text{Classification} \\ \Omega & \text{Localization} \end{cases}$

► **Goal**: estimate f from samples $\{(x_l, y_l = f(x_l)\}_{l \le L}$



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d = 1: time series d = 2: images ...





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► Q: What assumptions on f ?

x(u), u: pixels, time samples, etc. $\tau(u)$, : deformation field $x_{\tau}(u) := x(u - \tau(u))$: warping



Video of Philipp Scott Johnson

► Deformation cost:

$$\|\nabla \tau\| = \sup_{u} |\nabla \tau(u)|$$

- ► Models change in point of view in images
- Models frequency transpositions in sounds
- ► Consistent with local translation invariance

- ► Most Computer vision and speech tasks f also satisfy: $|f(x) - f(x_{\tau})| \sim ||\nabla \tau||$, (Geometric Invariance) *e.g. image classification* $|[f(x)]_{\tau} - f(x_{\tau})| \sim ||\nabla \tau||$, (Geometric Equivariance) *e.g. image localization*
- ► In particular, these tasks are translation invariant/equivariant: Translation operator: $x_v(u) = x(u - v), v \in \Omega$. $f(x) = f(x_v)$ for all x. (Translation Invariance) $[f(x)]_v = f(x_v)$ for all x. (Translation Equivariance)

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- Whereas translation and other symmetry groups are lowdimensional, deformation stability is a *high-dimensional* prior.
- ► Q: How to leverage this stability prior?

[LeCun, 80s,90s]

Stack multiple layers of localized convolutional operators and point-wise contractive non-linearities:



Down-sampling via *pooling* (can be either linear with average, or nonlinear with max) in invariant tasks:

 $\bar{x}_{\tilde{j}}(\bar{u}) = \|\tilde{x}_{\tilde{j}}(\mathcal{N}(u))\|$ $\mathcal{N}(u)$: Neighborhood of u.

► Why are CNNs geometrically stable?







x(u)

 $x_{\tau}(u)$

 $x_{\tau'}(u)$

➤ Why are CNNs geometrically stable?



> A non-rigid deformation locally looks like a translation if $\|\nabla \tau\|$ small:

$$\Rightarrow x_{\tau} \star \theta(u) \approx [x \star \theta]_{\tau}(u)$$

► A point-wise nonlinearity commutes with deformations:

$$\Rightarrow \rho \left(x_{\tau} \star \theta(u) \right) \approx \rho \left(\left[x \star \theta \right]_{\tau} (u) \right) = \left[\rho \left(x \star \theta \right) \right]_{\tau} (u)$$

► Pooling progressively creates invariance to geometric deformations: $\|x_{\tau}(\mathcal{N}(u))\| \approx \|x(\mathcal{N}(u))\|$ if $|\tau|$ small



- ► Convolutions to exploit translation invariance/equivariance.
- ► Localized to exploit geometric stability: leads to multi scale architecture.
- > These two properties lead to models with $O(\log N)$ trainable parameters.
- Provable stability guarantees by fixing filters to be complex wavelets in Scattering Networks [Mallat'12] and generalizations [Boelcksei et al'16].
- Stability is only part of the story. Discriminability via learning/optimization is another major component for success.

TOWARDS NON-EUCLIDEAN GEOMETRIES

- How about problems/tasks defined over more general
 - domains?



Community Detection





Correspondence



Similarity

Graphics

Citation Networks



NON-EUCLIDEAN GEOMETRIC STABILITY

- ► We replace the Euclidean domain Ω by a general graph G = (V, E). $x(u) \in L^2(\Omega) \rightarrow x(u) \in L^2(G)$, G = (V, E).
 - \blacktriangleright In some applications, the input is the graph itself: $x\leftrightarrow G$
- ► We focus on undirected, possibly weighted graphs: $W \in \mathbb{R}^{|V| \times |V|}$: similarity matrix

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- ► We focus on undirected, possibly weighted graphs: $W \in \mathbb{R}^{|V| \times |V|}$: similarity matrix
- Suppose first that G admits a low-dimensional embedding, ie, $w_{i,j} = \varphi(x_i, x_j) , \ x_i \in \Omega \subset \mathbb{R}^d \ , i, j \leq |V|.$ $\varphi(\cdot, \cdot)$: psd kernel (e.g. RBF, dot-product).

particle collisions measured in LHC calorimeter

NON-EUCLIDEAN EXTRINSIC GEOMETRIC STABILITY

► A deformation field τ in Ω induces a deformation on G: $W_{\tau} = (w_{\tau})_{i,j}, (w_{\tau})_{i,j} = \varphi(\tau(x_i), \tau(x_j)).$



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Similarly as before, many tasks satisfy geometric stability:

- ► particle physics / chemistry. $f(G) \approx f(G_{\tau})$ if $\|\nabla \tau\|$ small.
- ► 3D surfaces.

Can we define geometric deformation/stability intrinsically?

DEFORMATIONS AND METRICS

[with F. Gama and A. Ribeiro (U Penn)]

 A deformation in an Euclidean domain Ω induces a change of metric in Ω:

$$\langle x_{\tau}, x_{\tau}' \rangle_{L^{2}} = \int x(u - \tau(u)) x'(u - \tau(u)) du = \int x(v) x'(v) |\mathbf{1} - \nabla \tau(v)^{-1}| dv$$
$$= \int x(v) x'(v) dg(v) = \langle x, x' \rangle_{\tau}$$

A small deformation cost corresponds to a small change of the metric.

$$(1 - o(\|\tau\|))dv \le dg(v) \le (1 + o(\|\tau\|))dv$$

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Can we generalize this notion of distance between metric spaces? ie on metrics associated with an arbitrary graph?

GROMOV-HAUSDORFF DISTANCE

[with F. Gama and A. Ribeiro (U Penn)]

An undirected graph G = (V, E; W) generates a metric given by *shortest-paths*:

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One can measure similarity between metric spaces using e.g. Gromov-Hausdorff distance:

$$d_{\rm GH}(\mathcal{M},\mathcal{Q}) = \frac{1}{2} \inf_{\varphi : \mathcal{M} \mapsto \mathcal{Q}} \max\{\|\varphi\|, \|\psi\|, \|(\varphi,\psi)\|\} .$$
$$\psi : \mathcal{Q} \mapsto \mathcal{M}$$

 $\|(\varphi,\psi)\| = \sup_{\substack{m \in \mathcal{M}, q \in \mathcal{Q} \\ \text{Introduced on surfaces/point-clouds in [Memoli & Sapiro'05], \\ [Bronstein et al'06].}} \sup_{\substack{m,m' \in \mathcal{M} \\ \text{Introduced on surfaces/point-clouds in [Memoli & Sapiro'05], \\ \text{Introduced on surfaces/point-clouds in [Memoli & Sapiro'05], } }$

► Corresponds to a permutation distance when |V| = |V'|: $d_{\mathrm{P}}(G, G') = \frac{1}{2} \min_{\pi \in \Pi_n} \max_{i,j} |d_G(i,j) - d_{G'}(\pi(i), \pi(j))|$.

INTRINSIC GEOMETRIC STABILITY PRIORS

[with F. Gama and A. Ribeiro (U Penn)]

Many inference problems on graphs are stable to intrinsic geometric deformations, in the sense that

$$|f(G) - f(G')| \leq d(G, G')$$

- ► Community Detection.
- Planning, Routing.

How to leverage geometric stability on graphs?

- [with F. Gama and A. Ribeiro (U Penn)]
 ➤ In Euclidean domains Ω, we have seen that *localized*, multiscale filters provide the key to geometric stability.
 - These can be expressed as linear operators A of $L^2(\Omega)$ that nearly commute with deformations T_{τ} :



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 - These can be expressed as linear operators A of $L^2(\Omega)$ that nearly commute with deformations T_{τ} :



$$\tilde{x} = \rho\left(\sum_{k} (A_k x)\theta_k\right) \quad \theta_1, \dots, \theta_k, \in \mathbb{R}^{p \times \tilde{p}}$$

What about general graphs?

[with F. Gama and A. Ribeiro (U Penn)]

> Linear diffusion on graphs is given by its adjacency matrix A(G)

 $A(G)_{i,j} = 1$ iff $(i,j) \in E$. $W_{i,j}$ in weighted graphs.

➤ By definition, this is a localized operator. Local smoothing.

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► Q: Stable to deformations? By definition, $\inf_{P \in \Pi_n} \|W - PW'P^{\top}\| = d_P(G, G') \lesssim d_{GH}(G, G')$

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- ► Together with the degree matrix D = diag(W1), it defines a high-pass filter, the Graph Laplacian: $\Delta = D W$.
 - ► It is also localized and stable to deformations in the sense of GH.

GRAPH NEURAL NETWORKS

► Given a signal $x \in \mathbb{R}^{V \times p}$, a Graph Neural Network (GNN) layer considers generators [D, W] and trainable coefficients $\Theta = (\theta_1, \theta_2)$:

 $\tilde{x} = \rho \left(D x \theta_1 + W x \theta_2 \right) \quad \theta_1, \theta_2 \in \mathbb{R}^{p \times \tilde{p}}$

- ► Flexible model: does not require fixed input graphs.
- Initial version was inspired from the Message-Passing algorithm.
 Fixed point of a trainable, non-linear diffusion.
- Modernized in [Li et al.'15], [Duvenaud et al.'15], [Subkhaatar et al.'16],
- > Authors also explored other forms of nonlinearity, e.g. *gating*.
- Similarly as in CNNs, we can also consider pooling layers, (provided we have a graph coarsening scheme).

LAPLACIAN INTERPRETATION

Since we are learning a linear combination of A(G) and D(G), we can reparametrize the generator in terms of the *Graph Laplacian*:

$$\Delta(G) = D(G) - A(G)$$

► If we consider generators of the form $[1, \Delta, \Delta^2, ...]$, the resulting GNN layer is expressed as a polynomial in Δ :

$$\tilde{x} = \rho \left(\theta(\Delta) x \right) , \ \theta(\Delta) = \sum_{s=0}^{S} \theta_s \Delta^s .$$

In Spectral Networks [B. et al'14], we train directly on the spectrum of the Laplacian:

 $\tilde{x} = \rho \left(V^T \operatorname{diag}(\alpha) V x \right) , \ \alpha = \mathcal{K}(\theta) , \quad \mathcal{K} : \text{spline kernel}$

- Computationally expensive and unstable to deformations for varying graph.
- Issues addressed in subsequent Chebyshev model [Defferrard et al'16], and GCN [Kipf & Welling'16].

EXTENSIONS/LIMITATIONS

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EXTENSIONS/LIMITATIONS

- ➤ As opposed to Euclidean domains, in general graphs we only have an isotropic high-pass filter (∆), but no oriented filters.
- Inspired by Message-Passing algorithms, we can generalize GNNs to alternate between vertex and edge representations:

$$x^{1} \in \mathbb{R}^{V \times p_{1}} \xrightarrow{x^{2} \in \mathbb{R}^{V \times p_{2}}} y^{1} \in \mathbb{R}^{E \times q_{1}} \xrightarrow{y^{2} \in \mathbb{R}^{E \times q_{2}}} y^{2} \in \mathbb{R}^{E \times q_{2}}$$

$$y^{1}(e) = \psi_{\theta}(x^{1}(i), x^{1}(j)), \ e = (i, j) \in E \ .$$

$$x^{2}(i) = \phi_{\theta}(\{y^{1}(e)\}_{i \in e}), i \in V \ .$$

Used for example in [Battaglia et al.'16] for N-body prediction dynamics and [Gilmer et al.'17] for quantum chemistry.

SURFACE REPRESENTATIONS

[joint work with I. Kostrikov, D.Panozzo, D.Zorin (NYU)]
 ➤ In the particular case where *G* represents a 3D surface, we have a *mesh* representation:

M = (V, E, F), $F = \{(i, j, k)\}$ triangulation



SURFACE REPRESENTATIONS

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In that case, we can compute a "proper" square root Laplacian, the *Dirac* operator:

 $\Delta = D^*D \ , \ D \in \mathbb{H}^{V \times F}$

credit: jonathanpuckey

- ► Defined over quaternion space.
- ► Captures principal curvature directions (ie orientation).

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- ➤ In that case, we can compute a "proper" square root of the Laplacian, the Dirac operator: $\Delta = D^*D , D \in \mathbb{H}^{V \times F}$
 - Defined over quaternion space.

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LAPLACE NETWORK STABILITY

Stable graph generators result in stable GNN representations:

Theorem: [B, K, P, Z'17] Let G = (V, E) and suppose $V \subset \Omega \in \mathbb{R}^d$. Let $\Phi(x; \Delta)$ be a *R*-layer Laplace GNN with generators $\{I, \Delta\}$, and τ a deformation field on Ω . Then

1.
$$\|\Phi(x;\Delta) - \Phi(x';\Delta)\| \le C(\Theta) \|x - x'\|^{h(\beta)}$$
,
2. $\|\Phi(x;\Delta) - \Phi(x;\tau(\Delta))\| \le C'(\Theta) \|\nabla\tau\|^{h(\beta)}$,
where $h(\beta) = \prod_{r \le R} \frac{\beta_r - 1}{\beta_r - 1/2}$ measures smoothness (Sobolev)
of feature maps.

- ► In Euclidean graphs, the Laplacian is geometrically stable.
- Caveat: We currently require explicit smoothness decay of feature maps.
- ► *Future work:* Extension to intrinsic deformations.

Consider the problem of inferring communities within a network:



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Adjacency matrix associative 2 communities



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Community Detection in graphs.

► Studied in the Stochastic Block Model.



► Hardness of estimation is controlled by a Signal-to-Noise Ratio:

$$SNR = \frac{(a-b)^2}{k(a+(k-1)b)}$$

a: inner connection probability.

b: outer connection probability.

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a: inner connection probability.

- b: outer connection probability.
- ► Two major algorithmic frameworks:
 - Subscription Graph conductance/min-cut approach, leading to spectral clustering algorithms.

$$\min_{y_i=\pm 1; \bar{y}=0} y^{I} \mathcal{A}(G) y .$$

Probabilistic Graphical Models, leading to Belief Propagation.

$$p(y|G) \propto \prod_{(i,j)\in E} \varphi_{(i,j)}(y_i, y_j) \prod_{v\in V} \psi_i(y_i)$$

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- ► Hardness of estimation is controlled by a Signal-to-Noise Ratio.
- Recent research program has unified both approaches using tools from statistical physics, and identified computational and information theoretic thresholds:
 - ► When is the detection statistically possible?
 - ➤ When is the detection feasible with polynomial-time algorithms?

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Q: Can we *learn* those algorithms from the data using graph neural networks? reaching detection thresholds?

DATA-DRIVEN COMMUNITY DETECTION

[joint work with Lisha Li (UC Berkeley)] $\rightarrow \mathcal{A}(G)$: linear operator defined on G, eg Laplacian $\Delta = D - A$.

Spectral Clustering estimators (2-community case):

 $\hat{y} = \operatorname{sign}\left(\operatorname{Fiedler}(\mathcal{A}(G))\right)$,

Fiedler(M): eigenvector corresponding to 2nd smallest eigenvalue



► Iterative algorithm: projected power iterations on shifted $\mathcal{A}(G)$:

 $M = \|\mathcal{A}(G)\|\mathbf{1} - \mathcal{A}(G)$

DATA-DRIVEN COMMUNITY DETECTION

[joint work with Lisha Li (UC Berkeley)] We consider a GNN generated by operators $\{1, A, D\}$:

$$\tilde{x} = \rho \left(\theta_1 x + \theta_2 D x + \theta_3 A x \right) \; .$$

► They generate the so-called *Bethe Hessian*:

$$BH(r) = (r^2 - 1)\mathbf{1} - rA + D$$

- Second-order approximation of Bethe Free energy at critical points of BP.
- In that case, Laplacian generator does not work: its spectrum is dominated by few nodes with dominant degree.
- We train it by back propagation using a loss that is globally invariant to label permutations.

REACHING DETECTION THRESHOLD ON SBM







- we reach the detection threshold, matching the specifically designed spectral method.
- Real-world community detection results on SNAP data

[Leskovec et al]

 Table 1: Snap Dataset Performance Comparison between GNN and AGM

Subgraph Instances			Overlap Comparison		
Dataset	(train/test)	Avg Vertices	Avg Edges	GNN	AGMFit
Amazon	$315 \ / \ 35$	60	346	$\boldsymbol{0.74\pm0.13}$	0.76 ± 0.08
DBLP	$2831 \ / \ 510$	26	164	0.78 ± 0.03	0.64 ± 0.01
Youtube	$48402 \ / \ 7794$	61	274	0.9 ± 0.02	0.57 ± 0.01

BELIEF PROPAGATION

- For small number of communities, the IT detection threshold is provably matched by (loopy) BP.
- ► BP performs message-passing updates of the form $m_{ij}(x_j) \leftarrow \sum_{x_i} \left(\tilde{\phi}_i(x_i; y) \psi_{ij}(x_i, x_j) \prod_{k \in N(i) \setminus j} m_{ki}(x_i) \right) .$ $b_j(x_j) = \frac{1}{Z_j} \tilde{\phi}_j(x_j; y) \prod_{i \in N(j)} m_{ij}(x_j) .$ $\bigcap_{1 \longrightarrow m_{21}(x_1)} \underbrace{\phi}_{2 \longrightarrow m_{32}(x_2)} \underbrace{\phi}_{3 \longrightarrow m_{33}(x_3)} \underbrace{\phi}_{3 \longrightarrow m_{33}(x_3$
 - exact inference on simply connected graphs.
 - on general graphs, fixed points of BP correspond to critical points of the Bethe Free Energy.
- \blacktriangleright Messages are defined and propagated over edges of G , and account for non-backtracking paths.

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 - on general graphs, fixed points of BP correspond to critical points of the Bethe Free Energy.
- \blacktriangleright Messages are defined and propagated over edges of G , and account for non-backtracking paths. GNN version?

GRAPH NEURAL NETWORKS ON GRAPH HIERARCHIES

➤ The *line* graph of G = (V, E) is a new graph L(G) = (V', E') that models the adjacency of the edges: $V' \cong E$



▶ We *augment* the GNN with analogous operations on L(G).

Related to Covariant Compositional Networks [Kondor et al'18], and neural message-passing [Gilmer et al.'17].

COMPUTATIONAL-TO-STATISTICAL GAPS

When # of communities > 4, there is a gap between the information theoretical threshold and current known polynomial-time algorithms:



▶ Preliminary results for 5 communities, $\overline{\text{deg}} = 14.5$:

$N = 10^3$	G	$\{G, L(G)\}$	BP
Overlap	29.5 ± 0.5	30.1 ± 0.5	30.4 ± 3

[with S. Villar (NYU), A. Nowak (NYU) and A. Bandeira (NYU)] **QUADRATIC ASSIGNMENT PROBLEM**

► Find an assignment that optimizes the transportation cost

between two graphs:



 $\min_{X \in \Pi_n} \operatorname{Tr} \begin{pmatrix} A_1 X A_2 X^T \\ \Pi_n \end{cases} \text{ space of } n \times n \text{ permutation matrices.}$

► NP-hard

- ► Contains the TSP as a particular instance.
- ► Relaxations using SDP and Spectral Approaches.

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QUADRATIC ASSIGNMENT PROBLEM

We learn approximate solutions using siamese graph neural networks:



We train the model to predict the correct permutation matrix on a dataset of *planted* solutions:

$$G_1 = PG_2 + N$$
 $N \sim \text{Erdos-Renyi}$

 $G_2 \sim \text{Erdos-Renyi}$ $G_2 \sim \text{Random Regular}$ [with S. Villar (NYU), A. Nowak (NYU) and A. Bandeira (NYU)]

QUADRATIC ASSIGNMENT PROBLEM



► Our model runs in $o(n^2)$, LowRankAlign is $o(n^3)$ SDP in $o(n^4)$

- Current: What is the model learning? Link to friendly Graphs.
- *Current*: Applications to Shape Correspondence, Unaligned language translation

GIVENS FACTORIZATION OF UNITARY MATRICES

- Suppose we have a unitary matrix U(e.g. an eigenbasis) that we want to use extensively.
- ► Complexity of Matrix-vector multiplication: $\Theta(n^2)$ [Winograd]
- ► But structure on U can yield massive gains: FFT $\Theta(n \log n)$ [Tukey]

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- ► But structure on U can yield massive gains: FFT $\Theta(n \log n)$ [Tukey]
- ► General case?

GIVENS FACTORIZATION OF UNITARY MATRICES [with D. Folque (NYU)]

We consider Sparse Matrix Transforms given by Givens plane rotations:

$$U = \prod_{k=1}^{n} \mathcal{O}(i_k, j_k, \alpha_k)$$

► $K = \frac{n(n-1)}{2} \stackrel{\mathcal{O}(i_k, j_k, \alpha_k):}{\text{sufficient for any}}$ Rotation of α_k in the plane $\{i_k, j_k\}.$ U FFT : $K = n \log n$

► NP-complete, non-commutative manifold-optimization problem.



► Use GNN model to *learn* such factors.

GIVENS FACTORIZATION OF UNITARY MATRICES

- ► We consider a simple inverse-problem setup with D. Folque (NYU)] solution: $\left\{ U^{(l)} := \prod_{k=1}^{K} \mathcal{O}(i_k^{(l)}, j_k^{(l)}, \alpha_k^{(l)}) \right\}_{l \le L}$ input labels
- Model: a GNN on the fully-connected graph, where we learn both edge and node features.
 - ► Uses multiset loss to account for partial permutation invariance.
- Preliminary results: matching greedy algorithm.

OPEN PROBLEMS

► Theory

- ➤ Quantify how smoothness is created in GNN layers.
- Intrinsic geometric stability. Alternatives to Gromov-Hausorff?
- Learnability thresholds in statistical inference.
 - Useful to study computational-to-statistical gaps?
- ► Vast areas of application
 - ► Algorithms: Learning approximations to combinatorial optimization.
 - ► Biostatistics
 - ► Social Networks: ranking, large-scale community detection.
 - Physics: Numerical Methods for more complex PDEs?

