

# Permutation Invariant Representations and Graph Deep Learning

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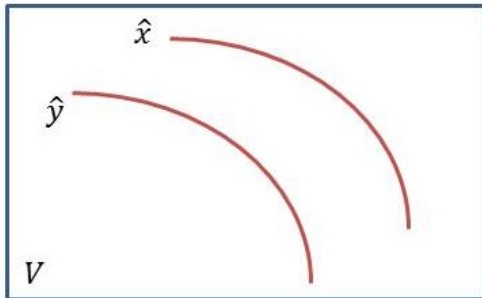
Debdeep Bhattacharya (GWU)

# Overview

In this talk, we discuss two related problems:

Given a discrete group  $G$  acting on a normed space  $V$ :

- 1 Construct a (bi)Lipschitz Euclidean embedding of the quotient space  $V/G$ ,  $\alpha : \hat{V} \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^m$ .
- 2 Construct projections onto cosets,  $\pi : V \rightarrow \hat{y} = \{g.y, g \in G\}$ .

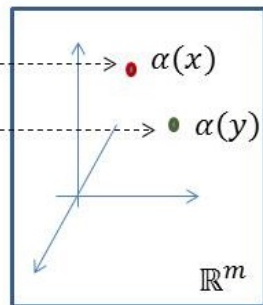
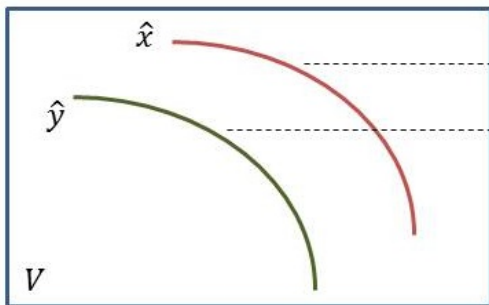


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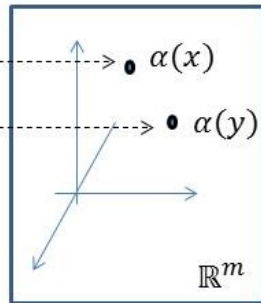
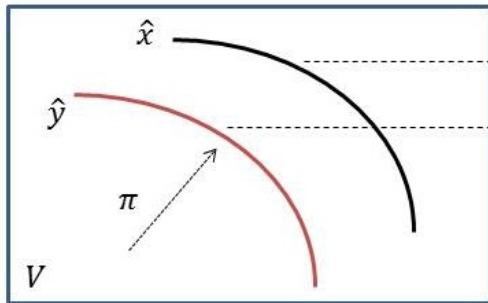
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Optimizations within cosets.



# Table of Contents:

- 1 Permutation Invariant Representations
- 2 Sorting based Representations
- 3 Optimizations using Deep Learning

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# Permutation Invariant Representations

Consider the equivalence relation  $\sim$  on  $V = \mathbb{R}^{n \times d}$  induced by the group of permutation matrices  $S_n$  acting on  $V$  by left multiplication: for any  $X, X' \in \mathbb{R}^{n \times d}$ ,

$$X \sim X' \Leftrightarrow X' = PX, \text{ for some } P \in S_n$$

Let  $\widehat{\mathbb{R}^{n \times d}} = \mathbb{R}^{n \times d} / \sim$  be the quotient space endowed with the natural distance induced by Frobenius norm  $\|\cdot\|_F$

$$d(\hat{X}_1, \hat{X}_2) = \min_{P \in S_n} \|X_1 - PX_2\|_F, \quad \hat{X}_1, \hat{X}_2 \in \widehat{\mathbb{R}^{n \times d}}.$$



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**The Problem:** Construct a Lipschitz embedding  $\hat{\alpha} : \widehat{\mathbb{R}^{n \times d}} \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^m$ , i.e., an integer  $m = m(n, d)$ , a map  $\alpha : \mathbb{R}^{n \times d} \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^m$  and a constant  $L = L(\alpha) > 0$  so that for any  $X, X' \in \mathbb{R}^{n \times d}$ ,

- 1 If  $X \sim X'$  then  $\alpha(X) = \alpha(X')$
- 2 If  $\alpha(X) = \alpha(X')$  then  $X \sim X'$
- 3  $\|\alpha(X) - \alpha(X')\|_2 \leq L \cdot d(\hat{X}, \hat{X}') = L \min_{P \in S_n} \|X - PX'\|_F$

# Motivation (1)

## Graph Learning Problems

**Given** a data graph (e.g., social network, transportation network, citation network, chemical network, protein network, biological networks):

- Graph adjacency or weight matrix,  $A \in \mathbb{R}^{n \times n}$ ;
- Data matrix,  $X \in \mathbb{R}^{n \times d}$ , where each row corresponds to a feature vector per node.

**Construct** a map  $f : (A, X) \rightarrow f(A, X)$  that performs:

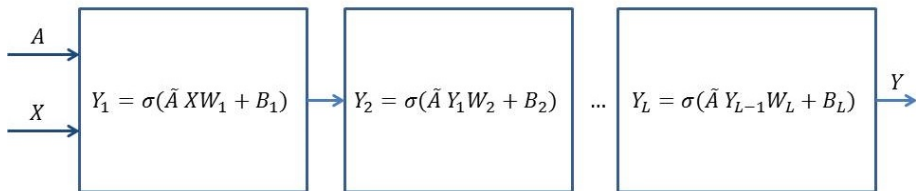
- 1 classification:  $f(A, X) \in \{1, 2, \dots, c\}$
- 2 regression/prediction:  $f(A, X) \in \mathbb{R}$ .

**Key observation:** The outcome should be invariant to vertex permutation:  
 $f(PAP^T, PX) = f(A, X)$ , for every  $P \in S_n$ .

# Motivation (2)

Graph Convolutional Networks (GCN), Graph Neural Networks (GNN)

General architecture of a GCN/GNN

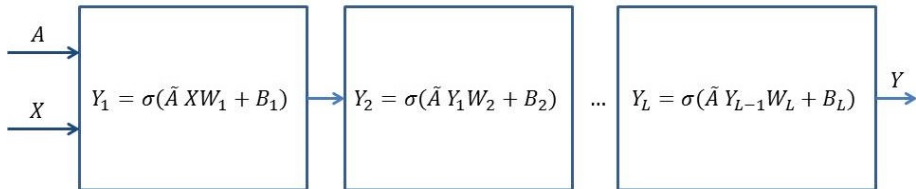


GCN (Kipf and Welling ('16)) choses  $\tilde{A} = I + A$ ; GNN (Scarselli et.al. ('08), Bronstein et.al. ('16)) choses  $\tilde{A} = p_l(A)$ , a polynomial in adjacency matrix.  $L$ -layer GNN has parameters  $(p_1, W_1, B_1, \dots, p_L, W_L, B_L)$ .

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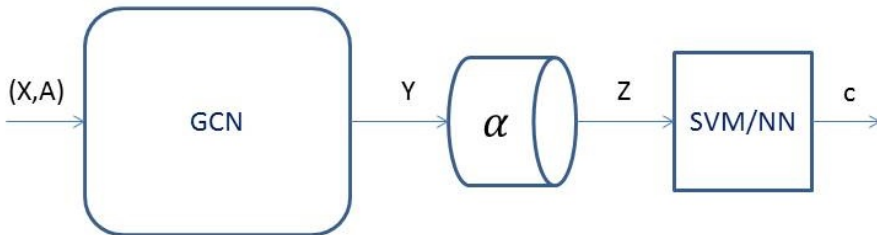
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Note the *covariance (or, equivariance) property*: for any  $P \in O(n)$  (including  $S_n$ ), if  $(A, X) \mapsto (PAP^T, PX)$  and  $B_i \mapsto PB_i$  then  $Y \mapsto PY$ .

# Motivation (3)

## Deep Learning with GCN

Our solution for the two learning tasks (classification or regression) is to utilize the following scheme:



where  $\alpha$  is a permutation invariant map (extractor), and SVM/NN is a single-layer or a deep neural network (Support Vector Machine or a Fully Connected Neural Network) trained on invariant representations.

The purpose of this (part of the) talk is to analyze the  $\alpha$  component.

# Example on the Protein Dataset

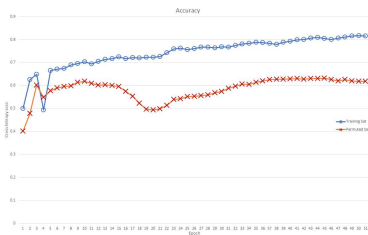
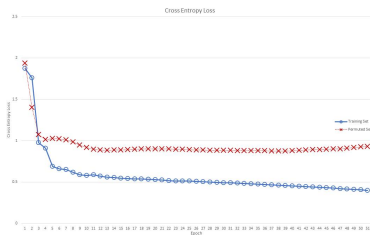
## Enzyme Classification Example

Protein Dataset: the task is classification of each protein into *enzyme* or *non-enzyme*.

Dataset: 450 enzymes and 450 non-enzymes.

Architecture (ReLU activation):

- GCN with  $L = 3$  layers and  $d = 25$  feature vectors in each layer;
- No Permutation Invariant Component:  $\alpha = Identity$
- Fully connected NN with dense 3-layers and 120 internal units.



# The Universal Embedding

Consider the map

$$\mu : \widehat{\mathbb{R}^{n \times d}} \rightarrow \mathcal{P}(\mathbb{R}^d) \quad , \quad \mu(X)(x) = \frac{1}{n} \sum_{k=1}^n \delta(x - x_k)$$

where  $\mathcal{P}(\mathbb{R}^d)$  denotes the convex set of probability measures over  $\mathbb{R}^d$ , and  $\delta$  denotes the Dirac measure.

Clearly  $\mu(X') = \mu(X)$  iff  $X' = PX$  for some  $P \in S_n$ .

Main drawback:  $\mathcal{P}(\mathbb{R}^d)$  is infinite dimensional!

# Finite Dimensional Embeddings

## Architectures

Two classes of extractors [Zaheer et.al.17' -'Deep Sets']:

- 1 Pooling Map – based on Max pooling
- 2 Readout Map – based on Sum pooling



# Finite Dimensional Embeddings

## Architectures

Two classes of extractors [Zaheer et.al.17' -'Deep Sets']:

- ① Pooling Map – based on Max pooling
- ② Readout Map – based on Sum pooling

**Intuition** in the case  $d = 1$ :

**Max pooling:**

$$\downarrow: \mathbb{R}^n \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^n, \quad \downarrow(x) = x^\downarrow := (x_{\pi(k)})_{k=1}^n, \quad x_{\pi(1)} \geq x_{\pi(2)} \geq \dots \geq x_{\pi(n)}$$

# Finite Dimensional Embeddings

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**Sum pooling:**

$$\sigma: \mathbb{R}^n \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^n, \quad \sigma(x) = (y_k)_{k=1}^n, \quad y_k = \sum_{j=1}^n \nu(a_k, x_j)$$

where kernel  $\nu: \mathbb{R} \times \mathbb{R} \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ , e.g.  $\nu(a, t) = e^{-(a-t)^2}$ , or  $\nu(a = k, t) = t^k$ .

# Pooling Mapping Approach

Fix a matrix  $R \in \mathbb{R}^{d \times D}$ . Consider the map:

$$\Lambda : \mathbb{R}^{n \times d} \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^{n \times D} \equiv \mathbb{R}^{nD} \quad , \quad \Lambda(X) = \downarrow (XR)$$

where  $\downarrow$  acts columnwise (reorders monotonically decreasing each column).

Since  $\Lambda(\Pi X) = \Lambda(X)$ , then  $\Lambda : \widehat{\mathbb{R}^{n \times d}} \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^{n \times D}$ . Let  $R = [r_1, \dots, r_D]$ .

## Theorem

The map  $\Lambda$  is Lipschitz with Lipschitz constant  $L = \sum_{k=1}^d \|r_k\|_2$ , i.e.

$$\|\downarrow(XR) - \downarrow(YR)\|_2 \leq L \min_{\Pi \in S_n} \|X - \Pi Y\|_2$$

**Proof** For any  $\Pi \in S_n$ ,

$$\|\downarrow(XR) - \downarrow(YR)\| \leq \sum_{k=1}^d \|\downarrow(Xr_k) - \downarrow(Yr_k)\| \leq \sum_{k=1}^d \|Xr_k - \Pi Yr_k\| \leq \sum_{k=1}^d \|r_k\|_2 \|X - \Pi Y\|$$

Take the minimum over  $\Pi$  and the result follows.

# Enzyme Classification Example

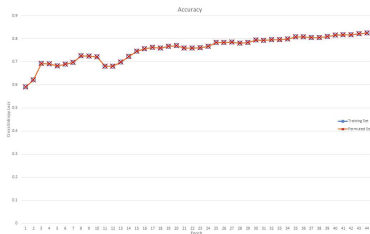
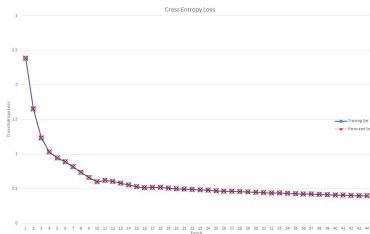
## Extraction with Hadamard Matrix

Protein Dataset where task is classification into *enzyme* vs. *non-enzyme*.

Dataset: 450 enzymes and 450 non-enzymes.

Architecture (ReLU activation):

- GCN with  $L = 3$  layers and  $d = 25$  feature vectors in each layer;
- $\alpha = \Lambda$ ,  $Z = \downarrow (YR)$  with  $R = [I \text{ Hadamard}]$ .  $D = 50$ ,  $m = 50$ .
- Fully connected NN with dense 3-layers and 120 internal units.



# Readout Mapping Approach

## Kernel Sampling

Consider:

$$\Phi : \mathbb{R}^{n \times d} \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^m, \quad (\Phi(X))_j = \sum_{k=1}^n \nu(a_j, x_k) \text{ or } (\Phi(X))_j = \prod_{k=1}^n \nu(a_j, x_k)$$

where  $\nu : \mathbb{R}^d \times \mathbb{R}^d \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$  is a kernel, and  $x_1, \dots, x_n$  denote the rows of matrix  $X$ .

Known solutions: If  $m = \infty$ , then there exists a  $\Phi$  that is globally faithful (injective) and stable on compacts.

Interesting mathematical connexion: On compacts, some kernels  $\nu$  define Reproducing Kernel Hilberts Spaces (RKHSs) and yield a decomposition

$$(\Phi(X))_j = \sum_{p \geq 1} \sigma_p f_p(a_j) g_p(X)$$

# Enzyme Classification Example

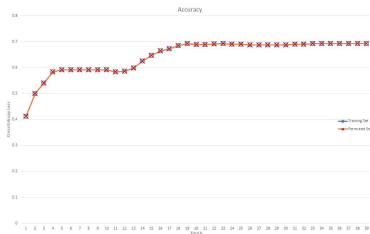
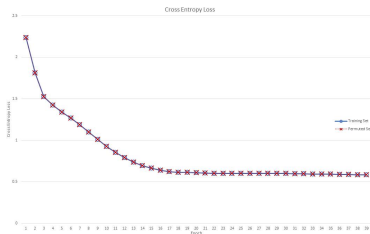
## Feature Extraction with Exponential Kernel Sampling

Protein Dataset where task is classification into *enzyme* vs. *non-enzyme*.

Dataset: 450 enzymes and 450 non-enzymes.

Architecture (ReLU activation):

- GCN with  $L = 3$  layers and  $d = 25$  feature vectors in each layer;
- *Ext* :  $Z_j = \sum_{k=1}^n \exp(-\|y_k - z_j\|^2)$  with  $m = 120$  and  $z_j$  random.
- Fully connected NN with dense 3-layers and 120 internal units.



# Readout Mapping Approach

## Polynomial Expansion - Quadratics

Another interpretation of the moments for  $d = 1$ : using Vieta's formula, Newton-Girard identities

$$P(X) = \prod_{k=1}^N (X - x_k) \leftrightarrow \left( \sum_k x_k, \sum_k x_k^2, \dots, \sum_k x_k^n \right)$$

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For  $d > 1$ , consider the quadratic  $d$ -variate polynomial:

$$\begin{aligned} P(Z_1, \dots, Z_d) &= \prod_{k=1}^n \left( (Z_1 - x_{k,1})^2 + \dots + (Z_d - x_{k,d})^2 \right) \\ &= \sum_{p_1, \dots, p_d=0}^{2n} a_{p_1, \dots, p_d} Z_1^{p_1} \dots Z_d^{p_d} \end{aligned}$$

Encoding complexity:

$$m = \binom{2n + d}{d} \sim (2n)^d.$$



# Readout Mapping Approach

## Polynomial Expansion - Quadratics (2)

A more careful analysis of  $P(Z_1, \dots, Z_d)$  reveals a form:

$$P(Z_1, \dots, Z_d) = t^n + Q_1(Z_1, \dots, Z_d)t^{n-1} + \dots + Q_{n-1}(Z_1, \dots, Z_d)t + Q_n(Z_1, \dots, Z_d)$$

where  $t = Z_1^2 + \dots + Z_d^2$  and each  $Q_k(Z_1, \dots, Z_d) \in \mathbb{R}_k[Z_1, \dots, Z_d]$ . Hence one needs to encode:

$$m = \binom{d+1}{1} + \binom{d+2}{2} + \dots + \binom{d+n}{n} = \binom{d+n+1}{n} - 1$$

number of coefficients.

**A significant drawback:** Inversion is very hard and numerically unstable.

# Readout Mapping Approach

## Polynomial Expansion - Linear Forms

A stable embedding can be constructed as follows (see also Gobels' algorithm (1996) or [Derksen, Kemper '02]).

Consider the  $n$  linear forms  $\lambda_k(Z_1, \dots, Z_d) = x_{k,1}Z_1 + \dots + x_{k,d}Z_d$ . Construct the polynomial in variable  $t$  with coefficients in  $\mathbb{R}[Z_1, \dots, Z_d]$ :

$$P(t) = \prod_{k=1}^n (t - \lambda_k(Z_1, \dots, Z_d)) = t^n - e_1(Z_1, \dots, Z_d)t^{n-1} + \dots + (-1)^n e_n(Z_1, \dots, Z_d)$$

The elementary symmetric polynomials  $(e_1, \dots, e_n)$  are in 1-1 correspondence (Newton-Girard theorem) with the moments:

$$\mu_p = \sum_{k=1}^n \lambda_k^p(Z_1, \dots, Z_d) \quad , \quad 1 \leq p \leq n$$

# Readout Mapping Approach

## Polynomial Expansion - Linear Forms (2)

Each  $\mu_p$  is a homogeneous polynomial of degree  $p$  in  $d$  variables. Hence to encode each of them one needs  $\binom{d+p-1}{p}$  coefficients. Hence the total embedding dimension is

$$m = \binom{d}{1} + \binom{d+1}{2} + \dots + \binom{d+n-1}{n} = \binom{d+n}{n} - 1$$

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For  $d = 1$ ,  $m = n$  which is optimal.

For  $d = 2$ ,  $m = \frac{n^2+3n}{2}$ . Is this optimal?

# Algebraic Embedding

## Encoding using Complex Roots

**Idea:** Consider the case  $d = 2$ . Then each  $x_1, \dots, x_n \in \mathbb{R}^2$  can be replaced by  $n$  complex numbers  $z_1, \dots, z_n \in \mathbb{C}$ ,  $z_k = x_{k,1} + ix_{k,2}$ .

Consider the complex polynomial:

$$Q(z) = \prod_{k=1}^n (z - z_k) = z^n + \sum_{k=1}^n \sigma_k z^{n-k}$$

which requires  $n$  complex numbers, or  $2n$  real numbers.

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**Open problem:** Can this construction be extended to  $d \geq 3$ ?

**Remark:** A drawback of polynomial (algebraic) embeddings: [Cahill'19] showed that polynomial embeddings of translation invariant spaces cannot be bi-Lipschitz.

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# The Embedding Problem

## Notations

Recall the equivalence relation, for  $X, Y \in \mathbb{R}^{n \times d}$ ,

$$X \sim Y \iff \exists \Pi \in S_n, Y = \Pi X$$

that induces a quotient space  $\widehat{\mathbb{R}^{n \times d}} = \mathbb{R}^{n \times d} / \sim$  and the natural distance

$$d : \widehat{\mathbb{R}^{n \times d}} \times \widehat{\mathbb{R}^{n \times d}} \rightarrow \mathbb{R}, \quad d(X, Y) = \min_{\Pi \in S_n} \|X - \Pi Y\|_F$$

In the following we look for an Euclidean embedding of the form

$$\alpha : \widehat{\mathbb{R}^{n \times d}} \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^{n \times D}, \quad \alpha(X) = \left[ \downarrow(X) \quad , \quad \downarrow(XA) \right]$$

where  $\downarrow(\cdot)$  sorts decreasingly each column of  $\cdot$ , independently.

We call the matrix  $A \in \mathbb{R}^{d \times (D-d)}$  the *key* of encoder  $\alpha$ .



# The Embedding Problem

## Notations (2)

### Definition

Fix  $X \in \mathbb{R}^{n \times d}$ . A matrix  $A \in \mathbb{R}^{d \times (D-d)}$  is called **admissible** for  $X$  if  $\alpha^{-1}(\alpha(X)) = \hat{X}$ . In other words, if  $Y \in \mathbb{R}^{n \times d}$  so that  $\downarrow(X) = \downarrow(Y)$  and  $\downarrow(XA) = \downarrow(YA)$  then there is  $\Pi \in S_n$  so that  $Y = \Pi X$ .

We denote by  $\mathcal{A}_{d,D-d}(X)$  (or  $\mathcal{A}(X)$ ) the set of admissible keys for  $X$ .

### Definition

Fix  $A \in \mathbb{R}^{d \times (D-d)}$ . A data matrix  $X \in \mathbb{R}^{n \times d}$  is said **separated by  $A$**  if  $A \in \mathcal{A}(X)$ .

We let  $\mathcal{S}(A)$  denote the set of data matrices separated by  $A$ .

A key  $A$  is said **universal** if  $\mathcal{S}(A) = \mathbb{R}^{n \times d}$ . Our today problem is to design universal keys.

# Max pooling as isometric embedding when $d = 1$

## Proposition

In the case  $d = 1$ ,  $\downarrow: \widehat{\mathbb{R}}^n \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^n$ ,  $\hat{x} \mapsto \downarrow(x)$  is an isometric embedding:

$$\|\downarrow(x) - \downarrow(y)\| = \min_{\Pi \in \mathcal{S}_n} \|x - \Pi y\|, \text{ for all } x, y \in \mathbb{R}^n.$$

## Proof

Claim is equivalent to:  $\min_{\Pi \in \mathcal{S}_n} \|x - \Pi y\| = \|x^\downarrow - y^\downarrow\|$ .

First note:

$$\min_{\Pi \in \mathcal{S}_n} \|x - \Pi y\| = \min_{\Pi \in \mathcal{S}_n} \|x^\downarrow - \Pi y^\downarrow\| \leq \|x^\downarrow - y^\downarrow\|$$

Hence  $\downarrow$  is Lipschitz with constant 1.

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Hence  $\downarrow$  is Lipschitz with constant 1.

WLOG: Assume  $x = x^\downarrow$ ,  $y = y^\downarrow$ . Then

$$\operatorname{argmin}_{\Pi \in \mathcal{S}_n} \|x - \Pi y\| = \operatorname{argmin}_{\Pi \in \mathcal{S}_n} \|x - x_n \cdot 1 - \Pi(y - y_n \cdot 1)\|$$

Therefore assume  $x_n = y_n = 0$  and  $x, y \geq 0$ . The conclusion follows by induction over  $n$ .

# Genericity Results for $d \geq 2$

Admissible keys

## Theorem

Let  $X \in \mathbb{R}^{n \times d}$ . For any  $D \geq d + 1$  the set  $\mathcal{A}_{d,D-d}(X)$  of admissible keys for  $X$  is dense in  $\mathbb{R}^{d \times (D-d)}$  with respect to Euclidean topology, and it is generic with respect to Zariski topology. In particular,  $\mathbb{R}^{d \times (D-d)} \setminus \mathcal{A}_{d,D-d}(X)$  has Lebesgue measure 0, i.e., almost every key is admissible for  $X$ .

## Proof

It is sufficient to consider the case  $D = d + 1$ . A vector  $b \in \mathbb{R}^d \setminus \mathcal{A}_{d,1}(X)$  if there are  $\Xi, \Pi_1, \dots, \Pi_d \in S_n$  so that for  $Y = [\Pi_1 x_1, \dots, \Pi_d x_d]$ ,

$$Yb = \Xi Xb \quad \text{but} \quad Y - \Pi X \neq 0, \quad \forall \Pi \in S_n$$

Define the linear operator

$$B(\Xi; \Pi_1, \dots, \Pi_d) : \mathbb{R}^d \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^n, \quad B(\Xi; \Pi_1, \dots, \Pi_d)b = \Xi Xb - [\Pi_1 x_1, \dots, \Pi_d x_d]b$$

# Genericity Results for $d \geq 2$

Admissible keys

## Proof - cont'd

Let

$$\mathcal{P} = \left\{ (\Pi_1, \dots, \Pi_d) \in (S_n)^d \quad \forall \Pi \in S_n, \exists k \in [d] \text{ s.t. } (\Pi - \Pi_k)x_k \neq 0 \right\}$$

Then

$$\mathbb{R}^d \setminus \mathcal{A}_{d,1}(X) = \bigcup_{(\Xi; \Pi_1, \dots, \Pi_d) \in S_n \times \mathcal{P}} \ker(B(\Xi; \Pi_1, \dots, \Pi_d))$$

It is now sufficient to show that each null space has dimension less than  $d$ . Indeed, the alternative would mean  $B(\Xi; \Pi_1, \dots, \Pi_d) = 0$  but this would imply  $(\Pi_1, \dots, \Pi_d) \notin \mathcal{P}$ .  $\square$

# Non-Universality of vector keys

## Insufficiency of a single vector key

The following is a no-go result, which shows that there is no universal single vector key for data matrices tall enough.

### Proposition

If  $d \geq 2$  and  $n \geq 3$ ,

$$\bigcup_{X \in \mathbb{R}^{n \times d}} (\mathbb{R}^d \setminus \mathcal{A}_{d,1}(X)) = \mathbb{R}^d.$$

Equivalently,

$$\bigcap_{X \in \mathbb{R}^{n \times d}} \mathcal{A}_{d,1}(X) = \emptyset.$$

On the other hand, for  $n = 2$ ,  $d = 2$ , any vector  $a \in \mathbb{R}^2$  with  $a_1 a_2 \neq 0$  is universal.

# Non-Universality of vector keys

Insufficiency of a single vector key - cont'd

## Proof

To show the result, it is sufficient to consider a counterexample for  $n = 3$ ,  $d = 2$ , with key  $b = [1, 1]^T$ .

$$X = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & -1 \\ -1 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 \end{bmatrix}, \quad Y = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 \\ -1 & 1 \\ 0 & -1 \end{bmatrix}$$

Then  $Xb = [0, -1, 1]^T$  and  $Yb = [1, 0, -1]^T$ , yet  $X \not\sim Y$ . Thus  $b \in \mathbb{R}^2 \setminus \mathcal{A}_{2,1}(X)$ .

Then note if  $a \in \mathcal{A}_{d,1}(X)$  then for any  $P \in S_d$  and  $L$  an invertible  $d \times d$  diagonal matrix,  $L^{-1}P^T A \in \mathcal{A}_{d,1}(XPL)$ . This shows how for any  $b \in \mathbb{R}^2$ , one can construct  $X \in \mathbb{R}^{3 \times 2}$  so that  $b \notin \mathcal{A}_{2,1}(X)$ .

For  $n > 3$  or  $d > 2$ , proof follows by embedding this example.

# Genericity Results for $d \geq 2$

## Admissible Data Matrices

### Theorem

*Assume  $a \in \mathbb{R}^d$  is a vector with non-vanishing entries, i.e.,  $a_1 a_2 \cdots a_d \neq 0$ . Then for any  $n \geq 1$ ,  $S(a)$  is dense in  $\mathbb{R}^{n \times d}$  and is generic with respect to Zariski topology. In particular,  $\mathbb{R}^{n \times d} \setminus S(a)$  has Lebesgue measure 0, i.e., almost every data matrix  $X$  is separated by the vector key  $a$ .*



# Genericity Results for $d \geq 2$

## Admissible Data Matrices

### Theorem

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### Corollary

Assume  $A \in \mathbb{R}^{d \times (D-d)}$  is a matrix such that at least one column has non-vanishing entries. Then for any  $n \geq 1$ ,  $S(A)$  is dense in  $\mathbb{R}^{n \times d}$  and is generic with respect to Zariski topology. In particular,  $\mathbb{R}^{n \times d} \setminus S(A)$  has Lebesgue measure 0, i.e., almost every data matrix  $X$  is separated by the matrix key  $A$ .

# Proof that $\mathcal{S}(A)$ is generic

The case  $D > d$

Assume  $A \in \mathbb{R}^{d \times (D-d)}$  satisfies  $A_{1,k} A_{2,k} \cdots A_{d,k} \neq 0$  for some  $k \in [D-d]$ . The set of non-separated data matrices  $X \in \mathbb{R}^{n \times d}$  (i.e., the complement of  $\mathcal{S}(A)$ ) factors as follows:

$$\mathbb{R}^{n \times d} \setminus \mathcal{S}(A) = \bigcup_{(\Xi_1, \dots, \Xi_D; \Pi_1, \dots, \Pi_d) \in (S_n)^{D+d}} \left( \ker L(\Xi_1, \dots, \Xi_D; \Pi_1, \dots, \Pi_d; A) \setminus \bigcup_{\Pi \in S_n} \ker M(\Pi, \Pi_1, \dots, \Pi_d) \right) \quad (*)$$

where, with  $A = [a_1, \dots, a_D]$ ,  $X = [x_1, \dots, x_d]$ :

$$L(\Xi_1, \dots, \Xi_D; \Pi_1, \dots, \Pi_d; A): \mathbb{R}^{n \times d} \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^{n \times D}, \quad (L(\dots)X)_k = [(\Xi_k - \Pi_1)x_1, \dots, (\Xi_k - \Pi_d)x_d] a_k, \quad k \in [D]$$

$$M(\Pi, \Pi_1, \dots, \Pi_d): \mathbb{R}^{n \times d} \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^{n \times d}, \quad M(\Pi, \Pi_1, \dots, \Pi_d)X = [(\Pi - \Pi_1)x_1, \dots, (\Pi - \Pi_d)x_d]$$

# Proof that $\mathcal{S}(A)$ is generic

cont'd

1. The outer union can be reduced by noting that on the "diagonal"  $\Delta$ ,

$$\Delta = \{(\Xi_1, \dots, \Xi_D; \Pi_1, \dots, \Pi_d) \in (S_n)^{D+d} \mid \Pi_1 = \Pi_2 = \dots = \Pi_d\}$$

$$M(\Pi_1, \Pi_1, \dots, \Pi_d) = 0 \rightarrow \bigcup_{\Pi \in S_n} \ker M(\Pi, \Pi_1, \dots, \Pi_d) = \mathbb{R}^{n \times d}$$

2. If  $(\Xi_1, \dots, \Xi_D; \Pi_1, \dots, \Pi_d) \in (S_n)^{D+d} \setminus \Delta$  then for every  $k \in [D]$  there is  $j \in [d]$  such that  $\Xi_k - \Pi_j \neq 0$ . In particular choose the  $k$  column of  $A$  that is non-vanishing. Let  $x_j \in \mathbb{R}^n$  so that  $(\Xi_k - \Pi_j)x_j \neq 0$ . Consider the matrix  $X = [0, \dots, 0, x_j, 0, \dots, 0]$  where  $x_j$  is the only non identically 0 column. Claim:  $X \notin \ker L(\Xi_1, \dots, \Pi_d; A)$ . Indeed, the resulting  $k$  column of  $L()X$  is  $A_{j,k}(\Xi_k - \Pi_j)x_j \neq 0$ . It follows that

$$\dim \ker L(\Xi_1, \dots, \Xi_D; \Pi_1, \dots, \Pi_d; A) < nd$$

Hence  $\mathbb{R}^{n \times d} \setminus \mathcal{S}(A)$  is a finite union of subsets of closed linear spaces properly included in  $\mathbb{R}^{n \times d}$ . This proves the theorem.  $\square$

# Additional Relations

Note the following relationship and matrix representation of  $X$  when matrices are column-stacked:

$$M(\Pi, \Pi_1, \dots, \Pi_d) = L(\Pi, \dots, \Pi; \Pi_1, \dots, \Pi_d; I)$$

$$L \equiv \begin{bmatrix} A_{1,1}(\Xi_1 - \Pi_1) & A_{2,1}(\Xi_1 - \Pi_2) & \cdots & A_{d,1}(\Xi_1 - \Pi_d) \\ A_{1,2}(\Xi_2 - \Pi_1) & A_{2,2}(\Xi_2 - \Pi_2) & \cdots & A_{d,2}(\Xi_2 - \Pi_d) \\ \vdots & \vdots & \ddots & \vdots \\ A_{1,D}(\Xi_D - \Pi_1) & A_{2,D}(\Xi_D - \Pi_2) & \cdots & A_{d,D}(\Xi_D - \Pi_d) \end{bmatrix}$$

a  $nD \times nd$  matrix.

# Towards universal keys

Relation (\*) from the proof of previous theorem provides an algorithm to check if a matrix  $A$  is a universal key. It is likely that if a universal key exists for a triple  $(n, d, D)$  then universal keys are generic in  $\mathbb{R}^{d \times (D-d)}$ .

**Open Problem:** Given  $(n, d)$  find the smallest dimension  $D$  (or  $D - d$ ) so that there exists a universal key  $A \in \mathbb{R}^{d \times (D-d)}$  for  $\mathbb{R}^{n \times d}$ .

So far we obtained:

n	d	D-d
2	2	1
3	2	2
4	2	2
5	2	?

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- 1 Permutation Invariant Representations
- 2 Sorting based Representations
- 3 Optimizations using Deep Learning**

# Quadratic Optimization Problems

## Approach

Consider two symmetric (and positive semidefinite) matrices  $A, B \in \mathbb{R}^{n \times n}$ . The *quadratic assignment problem* asks for the solution of

$$\begin{aligned} & \text{maximize} && \text{trace}(\Pi A \Pi^T B) \\ & \text{subject to:} && \\ & && \Pi \in S_n \end{aligned}$$

where *Input* stands for a given set input data, and  $S_n$  denotes the symmetric group of permutation matrices.

**Idea:** Use a two-step procedure:

- 1 Perform a latent representation of the Input Data using a Graph Convolutional Network (or Graph Neural Network);
- 2 Solve the Linear Assignment Problem for an appropriate cost matrix to obtain an estimate of the optimal  $\Pi$ .

## QAP

## Motivation

Consider two  $n \times n$  symmetric matrices  $A, B$ . In the alignment problem for quadratic forms one seeks an orthogonal matrix  $U \in O(n)$  that minimizes

$$\|UAU^T - B\|_F^2 := \text{trace}((UAU^T - B)^2) = \|A\|_F^2 + \|B\|_F^2 - 2\text{trace}(UAU^T B).$$

The solution is well-known and depends on the eigendecomposition of matrices  $A, B$ : if  $A = U_1 D_1 U_1^T$ ,  $B = U_2 D_2 U_2^T$  then

$$U_{opt} = U_2 U_1^T, \quad \|U_{opt} A U_{opt}^T - B\|_F^2 = \sum_{k=1}^n |\lambda_k - \mu_k|^2,$$

where  $D_1 = \text{diag}(\lambda_k)$  and  $D_2 = \text{diag}(\mu_k)$  are diagonal matrices with eigenvalues ordered monotonically.



## QAP

## Motivation 2

The challenging case is when  $U$  is constrained to belong to the permutation group. In this case, the previous minimization problem

$$\min_{U \in S_n} \|UAU^T - B\|_F$$

turns into the QAP:

$$\max_{U \in S_n} \text{trace}(UAU^T B).$$

In the case  $A, B$  are graph Laplacians (or adjacency matrices), an efficient solution to this optimization problem would solve the graph isomorphism problem, one of the remaining milenium problems: decide if two given graphs are the same modulo vertex labelling.

# Prior work to discrete optimizations using deep learning

- Direct approach to discrete optimization: Pointer Networks (Ptr-Nets) utilize sequence-to-sequence Recurrent Neural Networks [Vinyals'15];
- Reinforcement learning and policy gradients: [Bello'16]
- Graph embedding and deep Q-learning: [Dai'17]
- QAP using graph deep learning: [Nowak et al'17] utilizes siamese graph neural networks that act on  $A$  and  $B$  independently to produce embeddings  $E_1$  and  $E_2$ ; then the product  $E_1 E_2^T$  is transformed into a permutation matrix through soft-max and cross-entropy loss.

Results of this presentation: [R.B.,N.Haghani,M.Singh] SPIE 2019.

# Shift Invariance Properties

Consider  $A = A^T$  and  $B = B^T$  (no positivity assumption).

## Lemma

*The QAP associated to  $(A, B)$  has the same optimizer as the QAP associated to  $(A - \lambda I, B - \mu I)$ , where  $\lambda, \mu \in \mathbb{R}$ .*

Indeed, the proof of this lemma is based on the following direct computation:

$$\text{trace}(\Pi(A - \lambda I)\Pi^T(B - \mu I)) = \text{trace}(\Pi A \Pi^T B) - \mu \text{trace}(A) - \lambda \text{trace}(B) + n\lambda\mu$$

A consequence of this lemma is that, without loss of generality, we can assume  $A, B \geq 0$ . In fact, we can shift the spectrum to vanish the smallest eigenvalues of  $A, B$ .

## The case of Rank One

Assume now  $A = aa^T$  and  $B = bb^T$  are non-negative rank one matrices.

Then:

$$\text{trace}(\Pi A \Pi^T B) = |b^T \Pi a|^2 = (\text{trace}(\Pi a b^T))^2 = \frac{1}{\text{trace}(AB)} (\text{trace}(\Pi AB))^2$$

In this case we obtain the explicit solution to the QAP:

### Lemma

Assume  $A = aa^T$  and  $B = bb^T$  are rank one. Then the QAP optimizer is the optimizer of one of the following two optimization problems:

$$\begin{array}{ll} \text{maximize} & \text{trace}(\Pi C) \\ \text{subject to:} & \\ & \Pi \in S_n \end{array} \quad \text{or} \quad \begin{array}{ll} \text{minimize} & \text{trace}(\Pi C) \\ \text{subject to:} & \\ & \Pi \in S_n \end{array}$$

where  $C = AB$ .

# Linear Assignment Problems

Given a cost matrix  $C \in \mathbb{R}^{n \times n}$ , the *Linear Assignment Problem* (LAP) is defined by:

$$\begin{aligned} & \text{maximize} && \text{trace}(\Pi C) \\ & \text{subject to:} && \\ & && \Pi \in S_n \end{aligned}$$

Without loss of generality, max can be replaced by min, for instance by solving LAP for  $-C$ .

# Linear Assignment Problems

Given a cost matrix  $C \in \mathbb{R}^{n \times n}$ , the *Linear Assignment Problem* (LAP) is defined by:

$$\text{maximize} \quad \text{trace}(\Pi C)$$

subject to:

$$\Pi \in S_n$$

Without loss of generality, max can be replaced by min, for instance by solving LAP for  $-C$ .

The key observation is that LAP can be solved efficiently by a linear program. Specifically, the convexification of LAP produces the same optimizer:

$$\text{maximize} \quad \text{trace}(WC)$$

subject to:

$$W_{i,j} \geq 0, \quad 1 \leq i, j \leq n$$

$$\sum_{i=1}^n W_{i,j} = 1, \quad 1 \leq j \leq n$$

$$\sum_{j=1}^n W_{i,j} = 1, \quad 1 \leq i \leq n$$

# Diagonal Matrices

Another case when we know the exact solution is when  $A$  and  $B$  are diagonal matrices. Say  $A = \text{diag}(a)$  and  $B = \text{diag}(b)$ . Then

$$\text{trace}(\Pi A \Pi^T B) = \text{trace}(\text{diag}(\Pi a) \text{diag}(b)) = \text{trace}(\Pi a b^T) = \text{trace}(\Pi C)$$

where  $C = a b^T$ .

## Lemma

If  $A = \text{diag}(a)$  and  $B = \text{diag}(b)$  then the solution of the QAP is given by the solution of the LAP

$$\text{maximize } \text{trace}(\Pi C)$$

subject to:

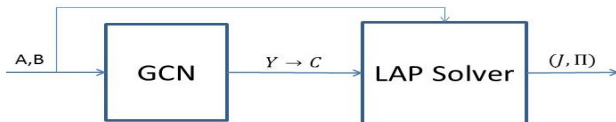
$$\Pi \in S_n$$

where  $C = a b^T$ .

# Approach

Graph Deep-Learning Based Approach: First convert the input data  $(A, B)$  into a cost matrix  $C$ , and then solve two LAPs, one associated to  $C$  the other associated to  $-C$ . Finally choose the permutation that produces the larger objective function.

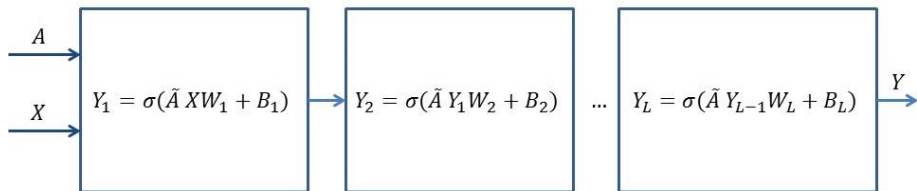
The conversion step  $(A, B) \mapsto C$  is performed by a Graph Convolutional Network (GCN).





# Graph Convolutional Networks (GCN)

Kipf and Welling (2016) introduced a network structure that performs local processing according to a modified adjacency matrix:



Here  $\tilde{T} = I + T$ , where  $T$  is an input adjacency matrix, or graph weight matrix. The  $L$ -layer GCN has parameters  $(W_1, B_1, W_2, B_2, \dots, W_L, B_L)$ . As activation map  $\sigma$  we choose the ReLU (Rectified Linear Unit).

# The Specific GCN Architecture

For the QAP associated to matrices  $(A, B)$  we design a specific GCN architecture:

$$X = \begin{bmatrix} A & 0 \\ B & 0 \end{bmatrix}, \quad \tilde{T} = \begin{bmatrix} I_n & \frac{1}{\|A\|_F \|B\|_F} AB \\ \frac{1}{\|A\|_F \|B\|_F} BA & I_n \end{bmatrix} \quad (3.1)$$

where the 0 matrices in  $X$  are designed to fit the appropriate size of  $W_1$ . For  $\sigma$  we choose the ReLU (Rectified Linear Unit) function in each layer except for the last one; in the last layer we do not use any activation function (i.e.,  $\sigma = Identity$ ). The biases  $B_1, \dots, B_L$  are chosen of the form  $B_k = \mathbf{1} \cdot \beta_k^T$ , i.e., each row  $\beta_k^T$  is repeated.

# GCN Guarantee

The following result applies to this network.

## Theorem

Assume  $A = aa^T$  and  $B = bb^T$  are rank one with  $a, b \geq 0$ , and consider the GCN with  $L$  layers and activation map ReLU as described above. Then for any nontrivial weights  $W_1, \dots, W_L$  and zero biases  $B_1, \dots, B_L = 0$  the network output  $Y$  partitioned  $Y = \begin{bmatrix} Y^1 \\ Y^2 \end{bmatrix}$  into two blocks of  $n$  rows each, satisfies  $Y^1 Y^{2T} = \gamma AB$ , for some constant  $\gamma \in \mathbb{R}$ . In particular, the max-LAP and min-LAP applied to the latent representation matrix  $C = Y^1 Y^{2T}$  are guaranteed to produce the optimal solution of the QAP.

## Reference Algorithms

We compare the GCN based optimizer with two different algorithms.

1. The *AB Method* bypasses the GCN block. Thus  $Y = X$  and the cost matrix inputted into the LAP solver is simply  $C = AB$  (hence the name of the method). Similar to the GCN approach, the AB Method is exact on rank 1 inputs. But there is no adaptation of the cost matrix for other input matrices.
2. The *Iterative* algorithm is based on alternating max-LAP or min-LAP as follows:

$$\Pi_{k+1} \in \left\{ \begin{array}{l} \operatorname{argmax}_{\Pi \in S_n} \operatorname{trace}(\Pi A \Pi_k^T B) \\ \operatorname{argmin}_{\Pi \in S_n} \operatorname{trace}(\Pi A \Pi_k^T B) \end{array} \right\}$$

where  $\Pi_0 = I$  (identity), and the choice of permutation at each  $k$  is based on which permutation produces a larger  $\operatorname{trace}(\Pi A \Pi^T B)$ .

# Comparison with Ground Truth

Results for  $2 \leq n \leq 10$  and raw data normal distributed

Average relative difference w.r.t. maximum objective function:

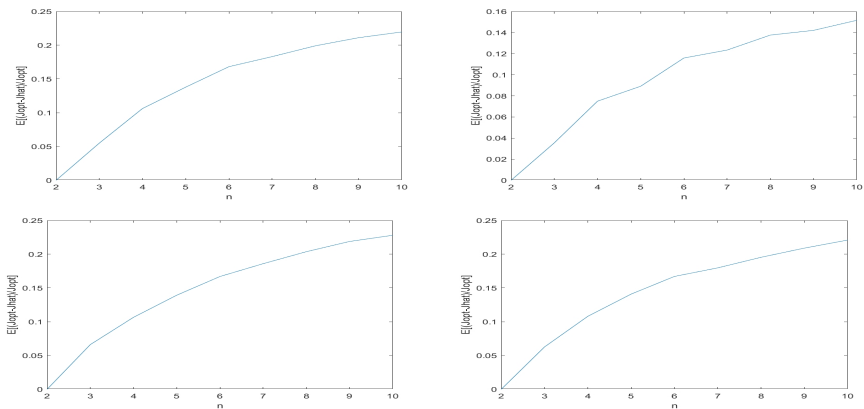


Figure: Top left: ABMethod, Top right: Iterative algorithm, Bottom left: GCN with  $L=2$  layers and bias, Bottom right: GCN with  $L=3$  layers and bias

# Comparison with Ground Truth

Results for  $2 \leq n \leq 10$  and raw data uniform distributed

Average relative difference w.r.t. maximum objective function:

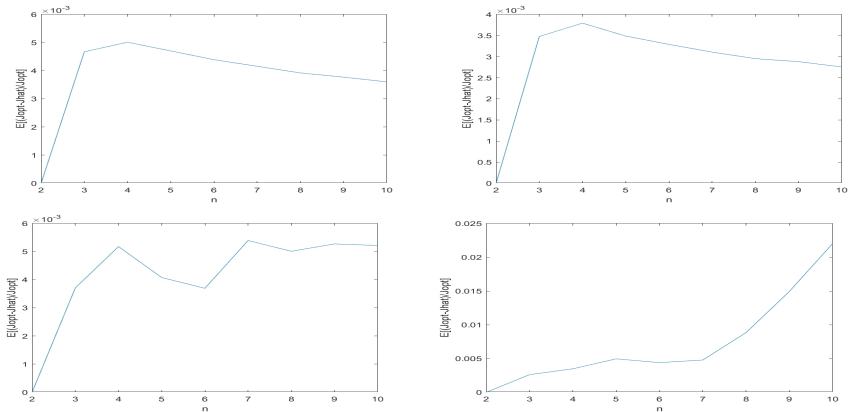
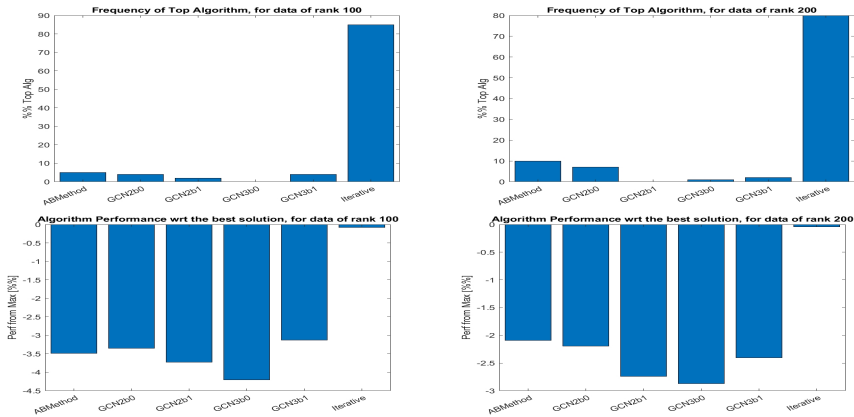


Figure: Top left: ABMethod, Top right: Iterative algorithm, Bottom left: GCN with  $L=2$  layers and bias, Bottom right: GCN with  $L=3$  layers and bias

# Relative Comparison

Results for  $n = 100$  and  $n = 200$  with raw data normal distributed



**Figure:** Top row: Frequency of optimal algorithm for  $n = 100$  (left), and  $n = 200$  (right). Bottom row: Relative performance [%] to the best algorithm for  $n = 100$  (left) and  $n = 200$  (right)

# Relative Comparison

Results for  $n = 100$  and  $n = 200$  with raw data normal distributed

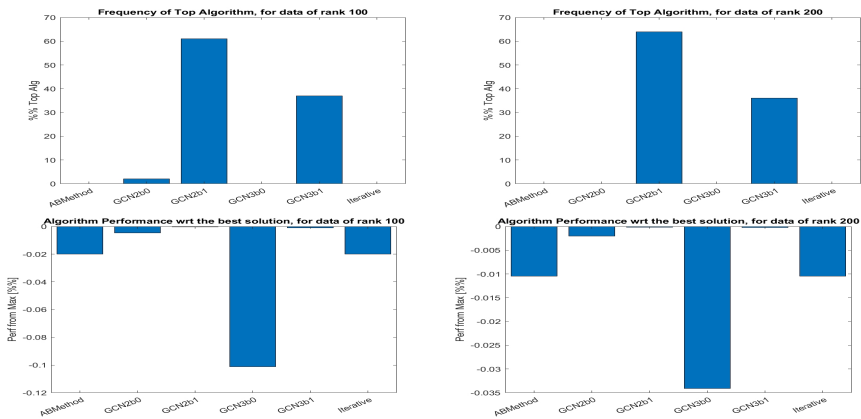


Figure: Top row: Frequency of optimal algorithm for  $n = 100$  (left), and  $n = 200$  (right). Borrom row: Relative performance [%] to the best algorithm for  $n = 100$  (left) and  $n = 200$  (right)



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