



# Block Modeling-Guided Graph Convolutional Neural Networks

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# Outline

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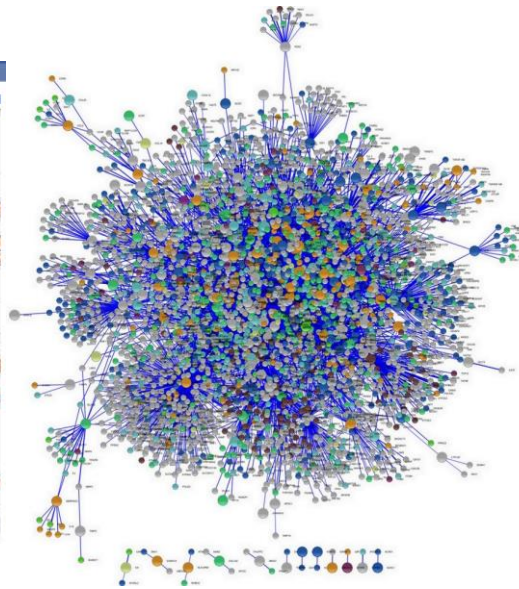
- **Motivation**
- **Method**
- **Experiments**
- **Conclusion**

# Network Representation Learning

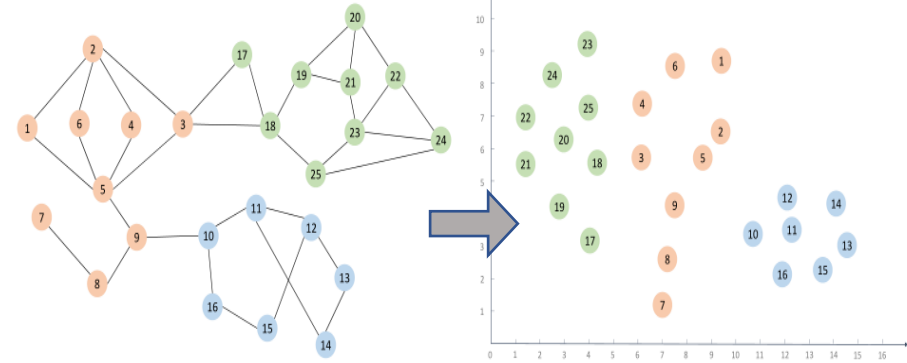
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**social network**



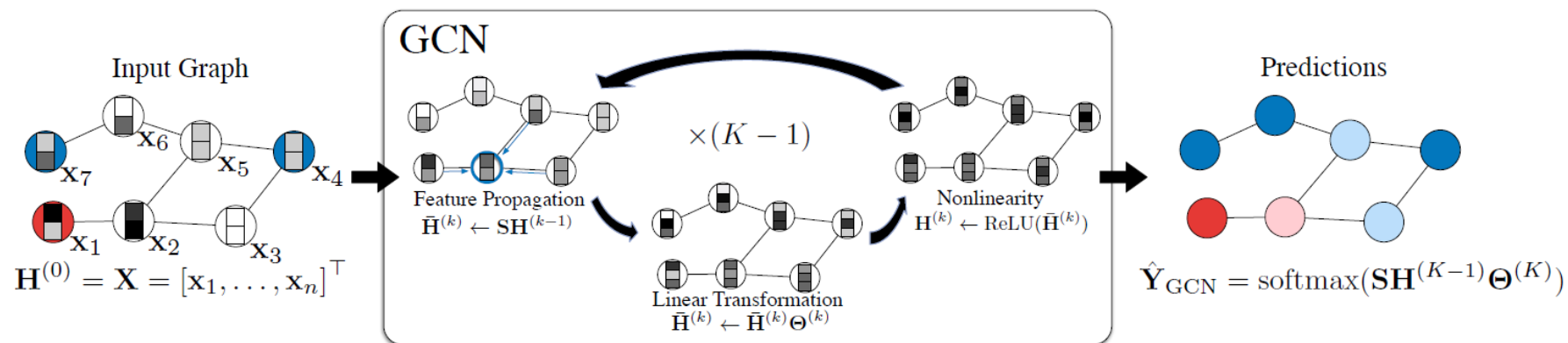
**biology network**



**network representation learning**

# Graph Convolutional Networks

- ◆ **Essence:** propagate node attributes **in neighbors** guided by graph structure.
- ◆ **Goal:** encode nodes to embedding space by preserving network structure and properties.

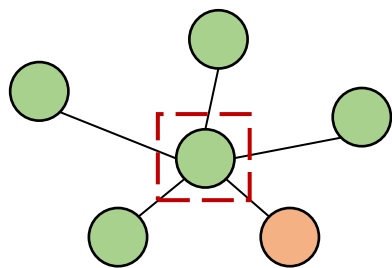


[1] T. N. Kipf and M. Welling. Semi-supervised classification with graph convolutional networks. ICLR, 2017.

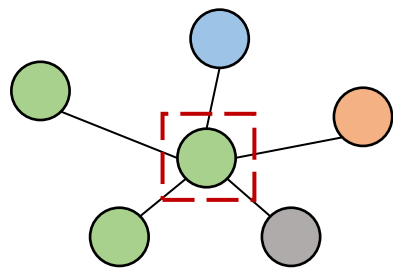
[2] Wu F, Souza A, Zhang T, et al. Simplifying graph convolutional networks. PMLR, 2019.

# Is GCN Universal?

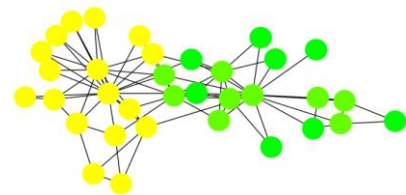
- ◆ **Question:** Can neighbor information represent a node?



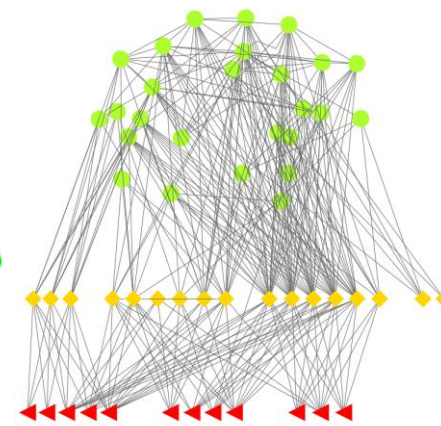
✓ GCN work



✗ GCN **NOT** work



homophily network



heterophily network

- ◆ **Homophily Assumption:** GCN only works on homophily networks.



most connections happen among  
nodes in the same or similar classes

# Existing Related Work

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## ◆ Aggregating higher-order neighbors:

- ◆ H<sub>2</sub>GCN [Zhu *et al.*, 2020]
- ◆ MixHop [Abu-El-Haija *et al.*, 2019]
- ◆ ...



damage network topology



fail to define  
optimal aggregating mechanism

## ◆ Passing signed messages:

- ◆ GGCN [Yan *et al.*, 2021]
- ◆ GPR-GNN [Chien *et al.*, 2019]
- ◆ ...



### A BETTER WAY

automatically learn  
corresponding aggregation rules  
for neighbors of different classes

# Homophily Ratio & Block Matrix

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- ◆ **Homophily Ratio:** measure the overall homophily level in a network.

$$h = \frac{1}{|\mathcal{V}|} \sum_{v_i \in \mathcal{V}} \frac{|\{v_j | v_j \in \mathcal{N}_i, Y_j = Y_i\}|}{|\mathcal{N}_i|}$$

- ◆ **Block Matrix:** measure the connected possibility of nodes in any two classes.

$$H = (Y^T \overset{\boxed{A}}{AY}) \oslash (Y^T AE)$$



Challenge 1: how to derive the block matrix in GCN without all known labels.

Challenge 2: how to design aggregation mechanism based on block matrix.



block matrix depicts the heterophilic property of the network in heterophilic situations.

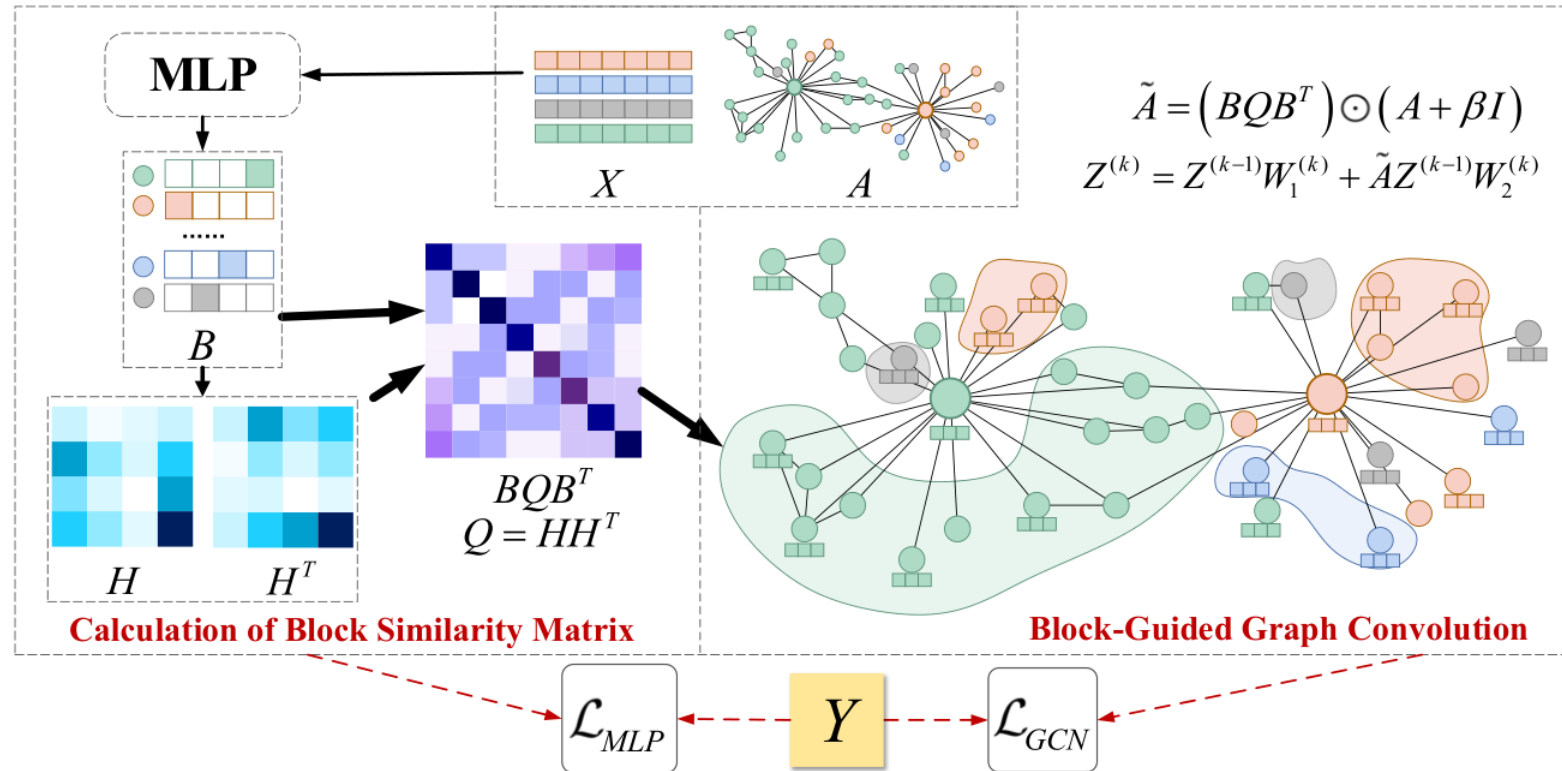
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# Overview – BM-GCN



# Block Similarity Matrix

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1) Pre-train MLP for soft labels

$$\bar{B} = \sigma(\text{MLP}(X))$$

$$B = \text{softmax}(\bar{B})$$

$$\mathcal{L}_{MLP} = \sum_{v_i \in \mathcal{T}_V} f(B_i, Y_i)$$



- obtain predicted soft labels via node attributes
- train MLP in a semi-supervised way

2) Calculate block matrix  $H$

$$Y_s = \{Y_i, B_j | \forall v_i \in \mathcal{T}_V, \forall v_j \notin \mathcal{T}_V\}$$

$$H = (Y_s^T A Y_s) \oslash (Y_s^T A E)$$



- make full use of existing known labels
- $H$  depicts the connecting pattern between classes

3) Calculate block similarity matrix  $Q$

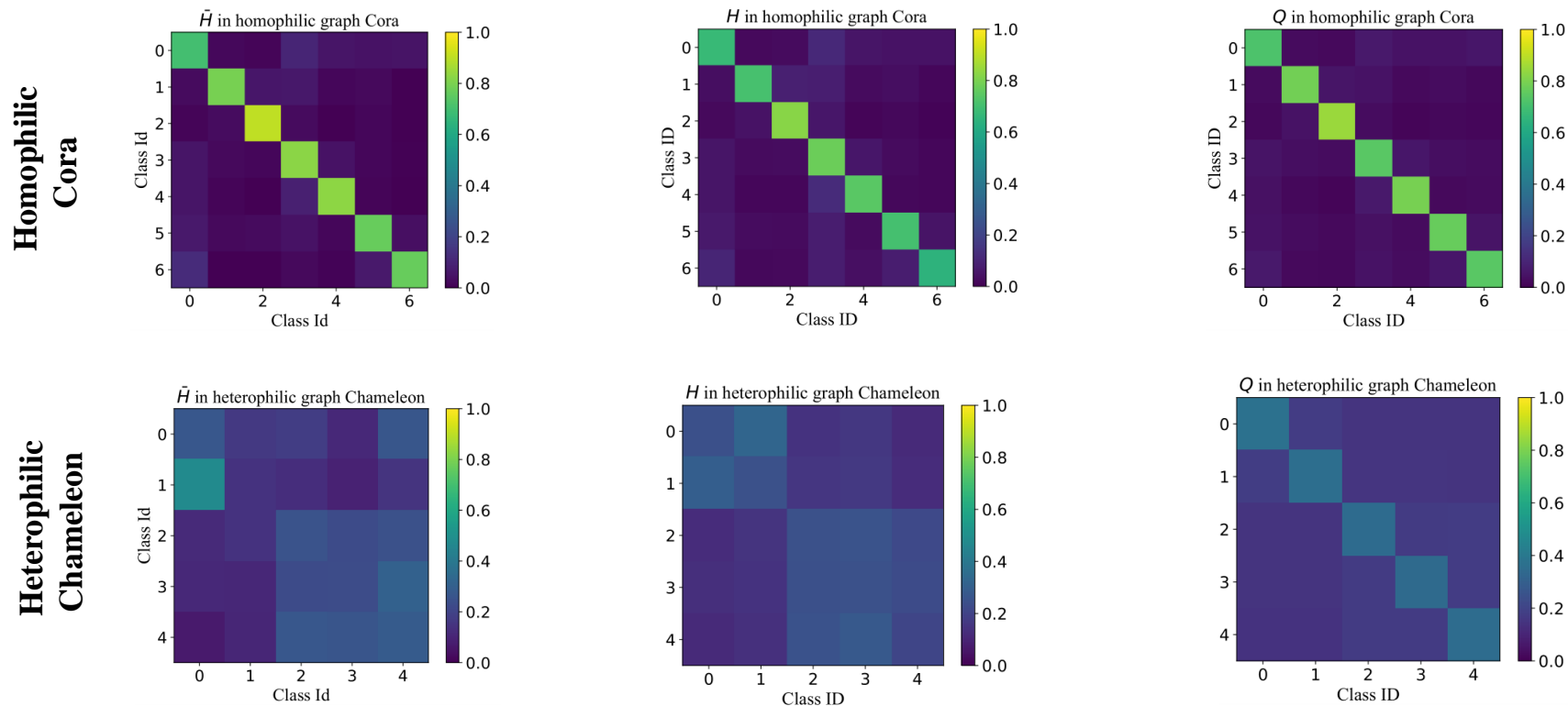
$$Q = H H^T$$

$$\text{Diag}(Q) \leftarrow \alpha \cdot \text{Diag}(Q)$$



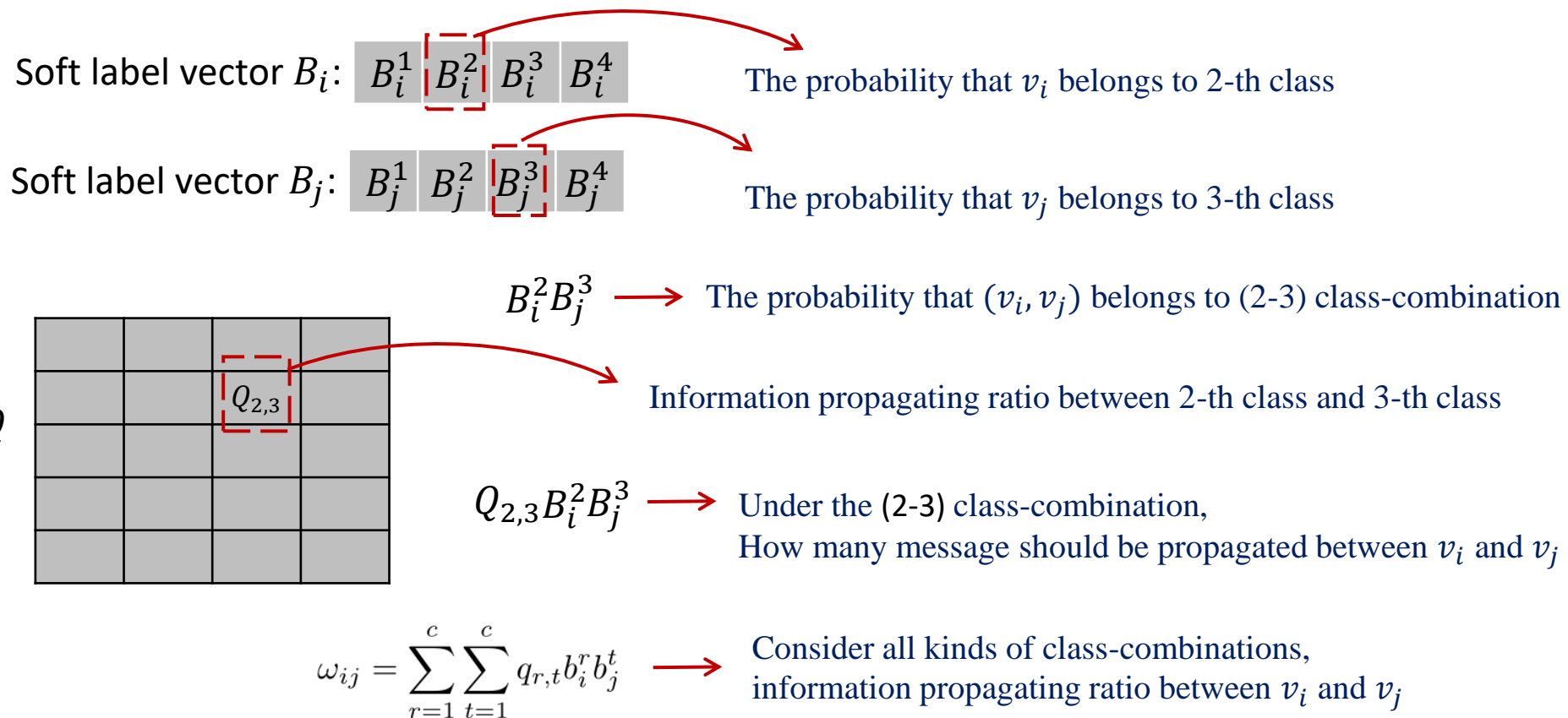
- $Q$  depicts the similarity of connecting patterns between classes
- The more similar the two classes, the greater the value of the corresponding element in  $Q$

# Illustration on Why Block Modeling Effective



# Block-Guided Graph Convolution Process

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# Block-Guided Graph Convolution Process

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Information propagating ratio for two nodes

$$\omega_{ij} = \sum_{r=1}^c \sum_{t=1}^c q_{r,t} b_i^r b_j^t$$

Information propagating ratio for all node pairs (in the form of matrix)

$$\Omega = BQB^T$$

A refined topology matrix based on  $\Omega$

$$A' = \Omega \odot (A + \beta I)$$

New graph convolutional layer

$$Z^{(k)} = Z^{(k-1)}W_1^{(k)} + \tilde{A}Z^{(k-1)}W_2^{(k)}$$

Semi-supervised Model Optimization (with fine-tuning MLP)

$$\mathcal{L}_{final} = \lambda \mathcal{L}_{GCN} + (1 - \lambda) \mathcal{L}_{MLP} \quad , \quad \mathcal{L}_{GCN} = \sum_{v_i \in \mathcal{T}_V} f(Z_i, Y_i)$$

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# Experiments

## ◆ Datasets

Heterophilic Networks ←

Homophilic Networks ←

Datasets	$ \mathcal{V} $	$ \mathcal{E} $	$c$	$d$	$h$
texas	183	295	5	1703	0.11
squirrel	5,201	198,493	5	2,089	0.22
chameleon	2,277	31,421	5	2,325	0.23
cora	3,327	4,676	7	3,703	0.74
pubmed	19,717	44,327	6	500	0.80
citeseer	2,708	5,278	3	1,433	0.81

## ◆ Node Classification

Method/ Accuracy (%)	heterophilic graphs			homophilic graphs		
	Texas $h = 0.09$	Squirrel $h = 0.23$	Chameleon $h = 0.22$	Cora $h = 0.81$	Citeseer $h = 0.74$	Pubmed $h = 0.8$
MLP	82.70±6.19	33.35±1.24	48.20±2.63	74.14±1.40	69.58±2.31	86.38±0.61
GCN	55.41±3.47	44.07±1.95	67.04±2.23	86.48±1.12	72.67±1.99	87.39±0.68
H2GCN	82.16±8.21	28.91±1.78	51.58±1.51	87.69±1.37	75.95±2.18	88.78±0.53
GPR-GNN	84.59±4.37	29.45±1.27	<b>69.78±1.97</b>	86.70±1.03	75.12±1.98	87.38±0.63
CPGNN-MLP	77.09±4.22	28.65±1.50	52.63±1.79	85.23±1.71	74.29±2.41	86.83±0.78
CPGNN-Cheby	77.03±5.83	30.95±1.24	54.05±4.67	86.82±1.11	75.42±1.85	89.08±0.67
<b>BM-GCN(Ours)</b>	<b>85.13±4.64</b>	<b>51.41±1.10</b>	69.58±2.90	<b>87.99±1.29</b>	<b>76.13±1.92</b>	<b>90.25±0.75</b>

# Experiments

## ◆ Visualization

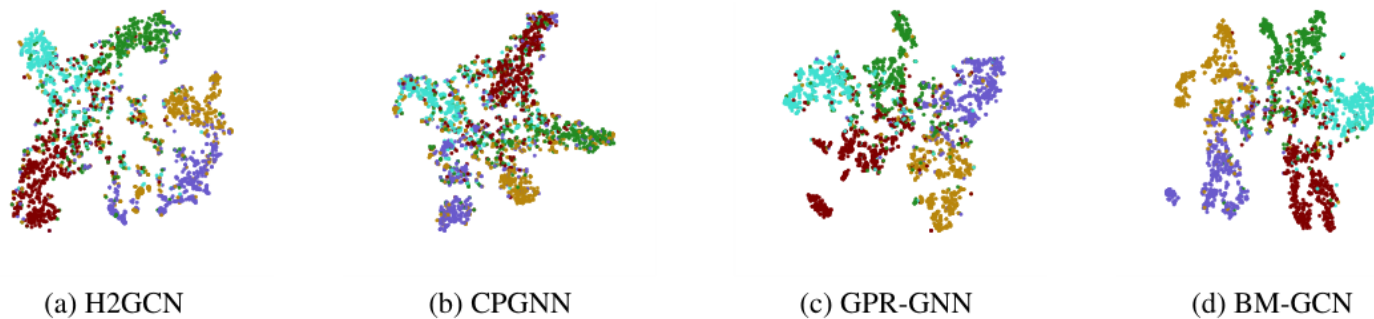


Figure 3: Visualization results on Chameleon dataset. Different colors correspond to different ground truth classes.

## ◆ Parameter Analysis

Datasets/ Accuracy (%)	The number of graph convolutional layers $k$					
	1	2	3	4	5	6
Cora	81.27	86.92	87.99	87.30	60.10	40.16
Chameleon	58.71	67.74	69.58	65.00	49.28	34.69

Table 4: Node classification accuracy of BM-GCN with graph convolutional layers  $k$  varying from 1 to 6.



# Experiments

## ◆ Parameter Analysis

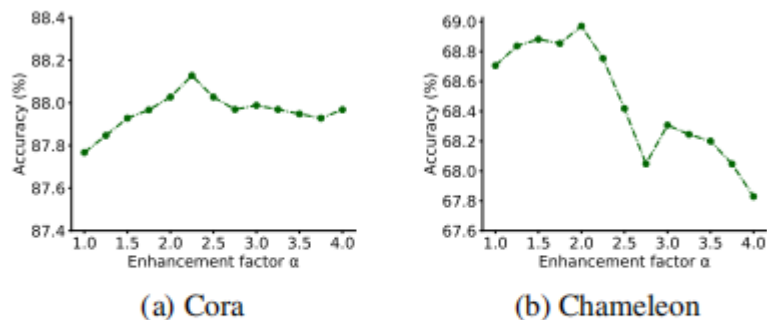


Figure 4: Parameter analysis of enhancement factor  $\alpha$  in  $Q$  on Cora and Chameleon datasets. We report the average node classification accuracy over 10 random splits.

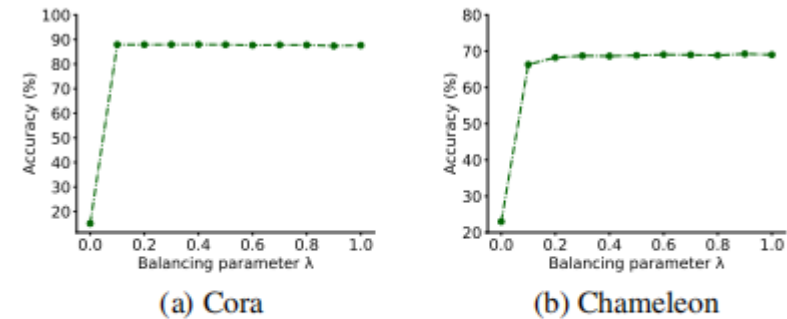


Figure 5: Parameter analysis of loss balancing parameter  $\lambda$  on Cora and Chameleon datasets. We report the average node classification accuracy over 10 random splits.

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# Conclusion

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- ◆ Propose a new framework to make GCN applicable to both homophilic and heterophilic networks.
- ◆ Introduce block modeling technology to solve the problem of Homophily Assumption.
- ◆ Propose a novel design of block similarity matrix to enable block modeling technology to guide GCN to achieve classified aggregation.



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# *Thanks*

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**Data & Code: <https://github.com/hedongxiao-tju/BM-GCN>**