

# Sign and Basis Invariant Networks

For Spectral Graph Representation Learning



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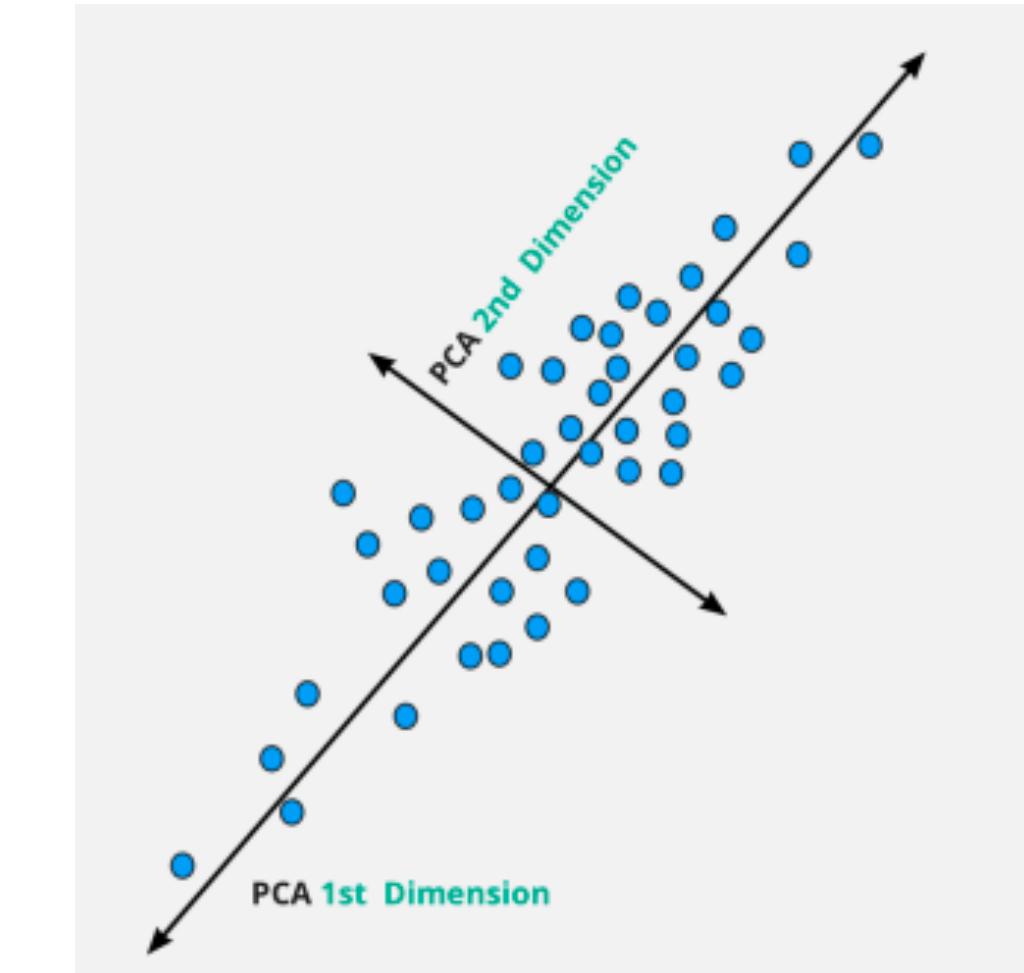
NVIDIA Research

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# Motivation: Learning with Eigenvectors

# Learning with Eigenvectors is Common

- Singular vectors from SVD, PCA
- Matrix factorization (e.g., Node2Vec, DeepWalk)  
*(Grover & Leskovec 2016, Perozzi et al 2014, Qiu et al 2018)*
- Eigenvectors of graph adjacency/Laplacian matrix  
**(more next)**



	10	-1	8	10	9	4
	8	9	10	-1	-1	8
	10	5	4	9	-1	-1
	9	10	-1	-1	-1	3
	6	-1	-1	-1	8	10

User-item Interaction Matrix  
(R)

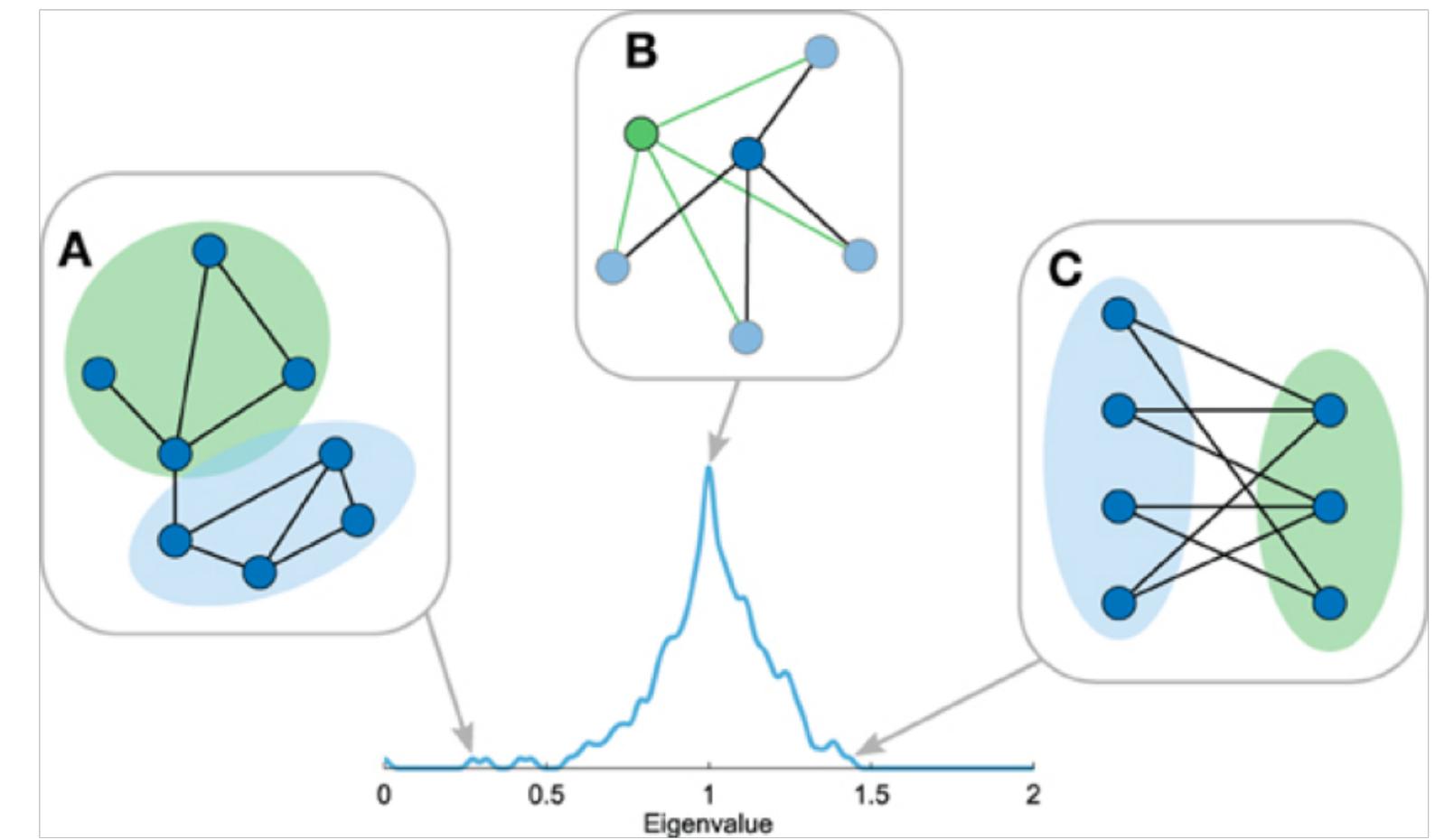
$$\approx \begin{array}{c} \text{User Matrix} \\ (\mathbf{Q}) \end{array} \times \begin{array}{c} \text{Item Matrix} \\ (\mathbf{P}) \end{array}$$

User Matrix  
(Q)

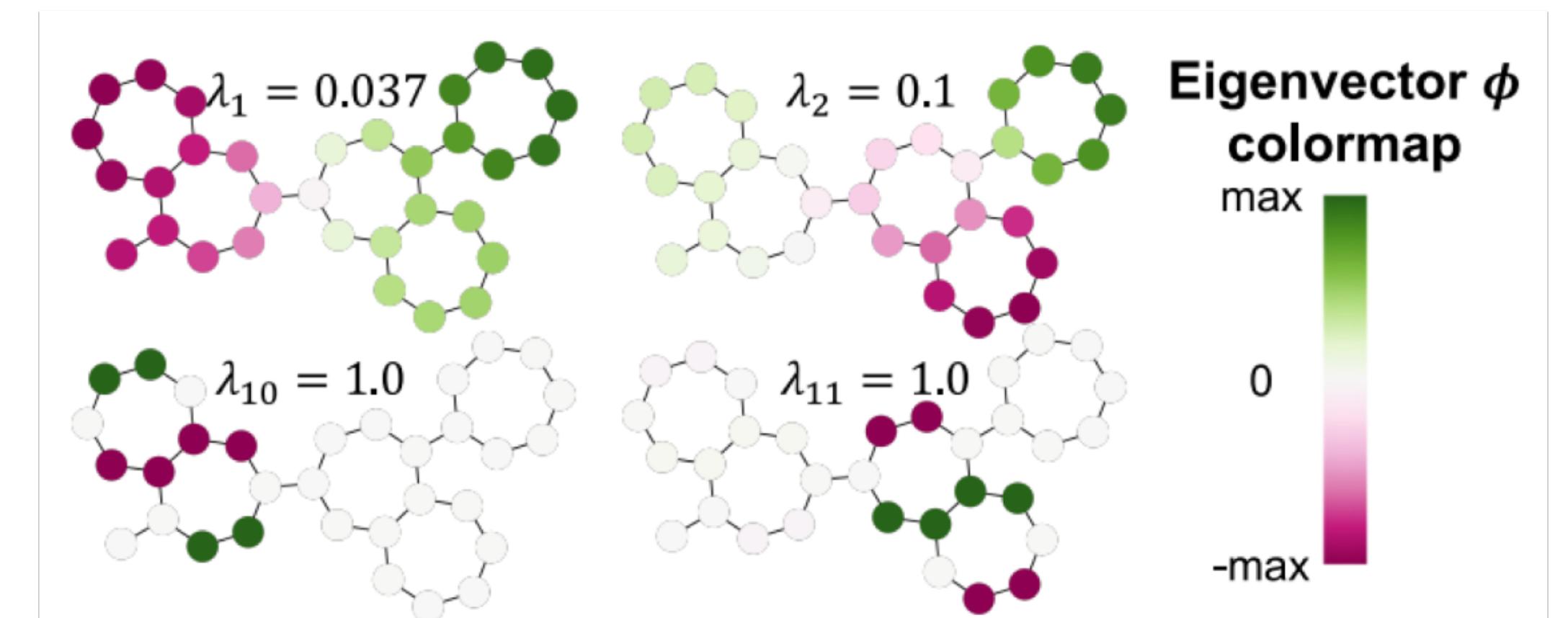
Item Matrix  
(P)

# Laplacian Eigenvectors

- Graph Laplacian  $L = I - D^{-1/2}AD^{-1/2}$
- Eigenvalues  $\lambda_1 \leq \dots \leq \lambda_n$ , eigenvectors  $v_1, \dots, v_n$
- Captures distances, subgraphs, local structures, etc.



(de Lange, de Reus, van den Heuvel 2014)



(Kreuzer\*, Beaini\*, Hamilton, Létourneau, Tossou 2021)

# Laplacian Eigenvectors in graph ML

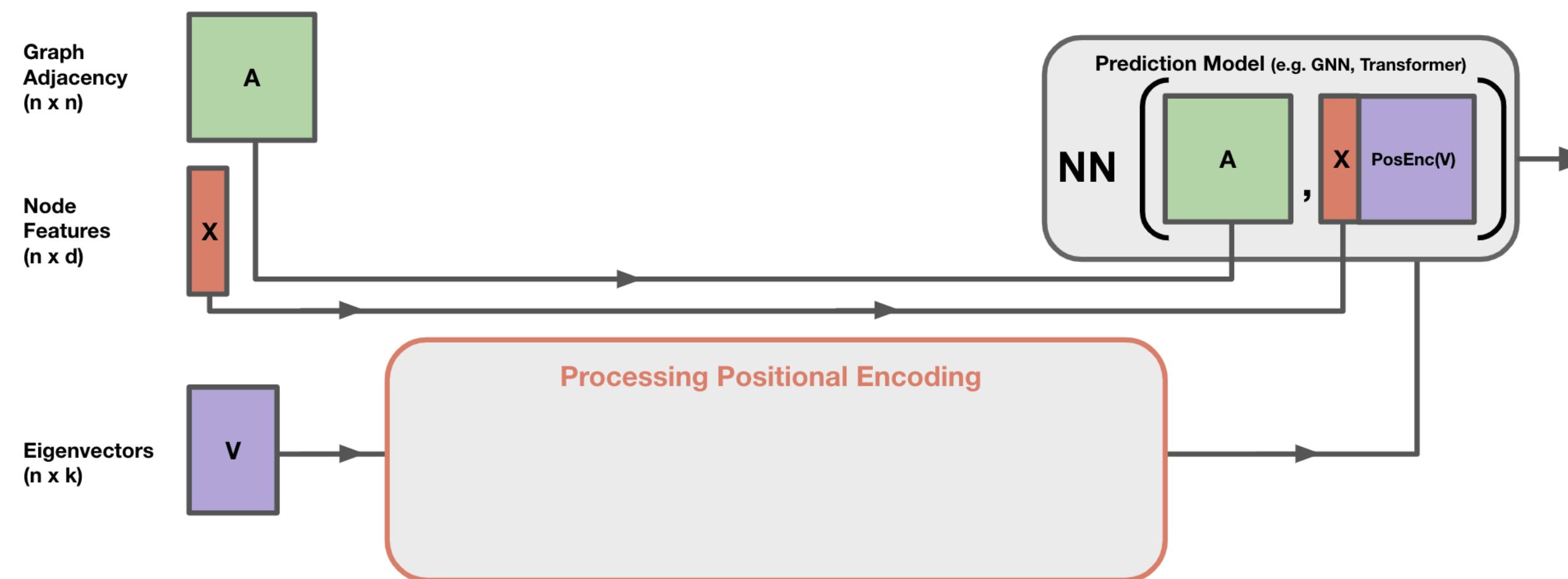
- **Spectral convolution:** (*Bruna et al 2014, Defferrard et al 2016*): replace DFT with learned functions

$$p(L)X = Vp(\Lambda)V^\top X$$

$$= \sum_{i=1}^n p(\lambda_i)v_i v_i^\top X$$

- **Graph positional encoding:** replace sin and cos positional encodings in sequences with eigenvectors in graphs

(*Feldman et al 2022, Dwivedi et al 2022, Kreuzer & Beaini et al 2021, Dwivedi & Bresson 2021, Mialon et al 2021*)



# Problem: Handling Invariances in Eigenvectors

# Functions on Eigenvectors

$$f(v_1, \dots, v_n) ?$$

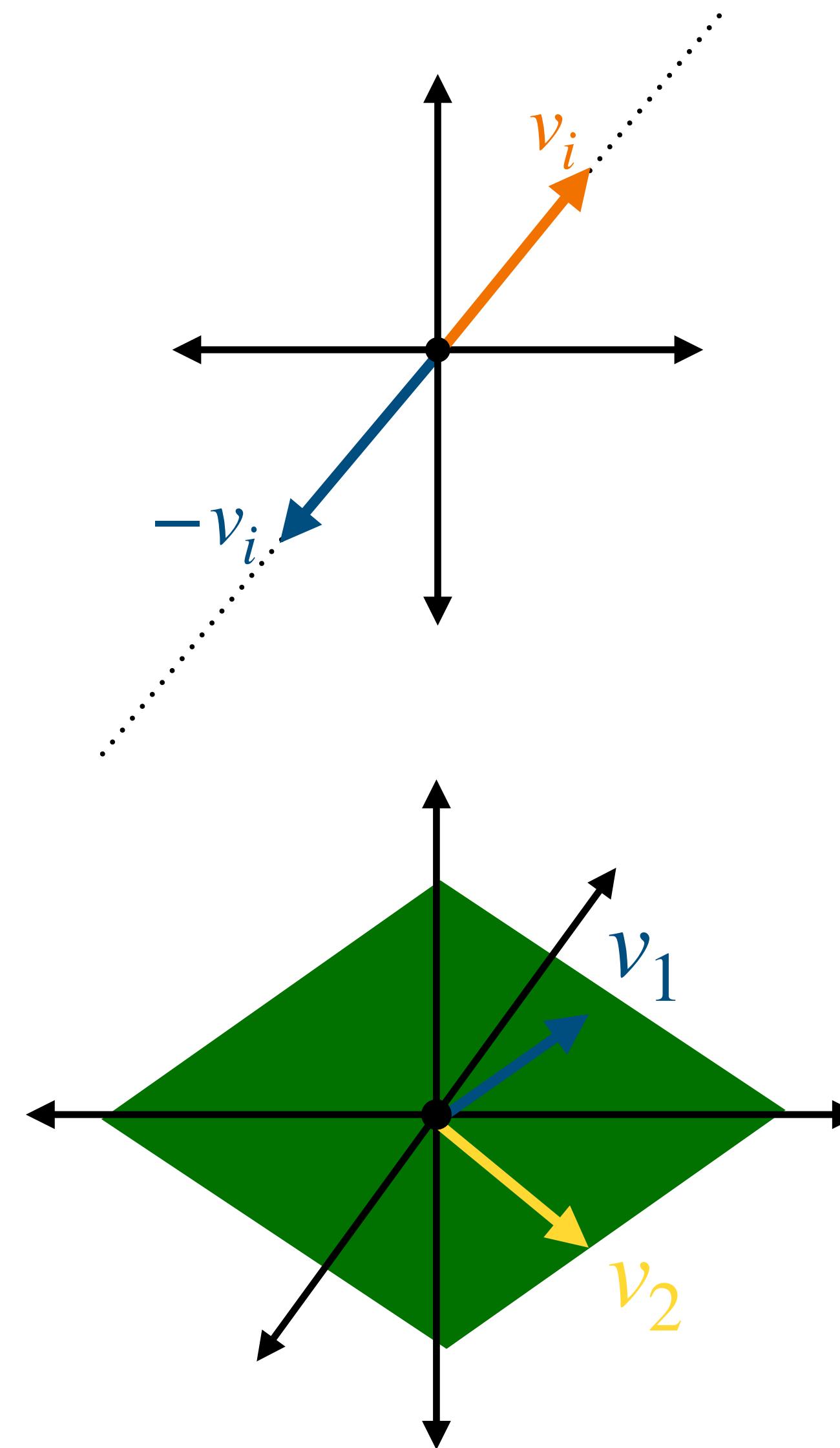
- Can we learn an **arbitrary function** on a set of eigenvectors (and eigenvalues)?
- What invariances must  $f$  have?
- How to parameterize an architecture with the required invariances that can approximate **any**  $f$ ?

# Eigenvector Invariances

- **Sign invariance:** If  $v_i$  an eigenvector, then so is  $-v_i$ . An eigensolver may return either
- **Basis invariance:** when there are multiplicities  $\lambda_{i_1} = \dots = \lambda_{i_d}$

**Many bases** describe the same  $d$ -dim eigenspace

*Multiplicities are frequent in real data!*



Capturing invariances is critical for generalization

# Eigenvector Invariances

- **Sign invariance:** If  $v_i$  an eigenvector, then so is  $-v_i$ . An eigensolver may return either

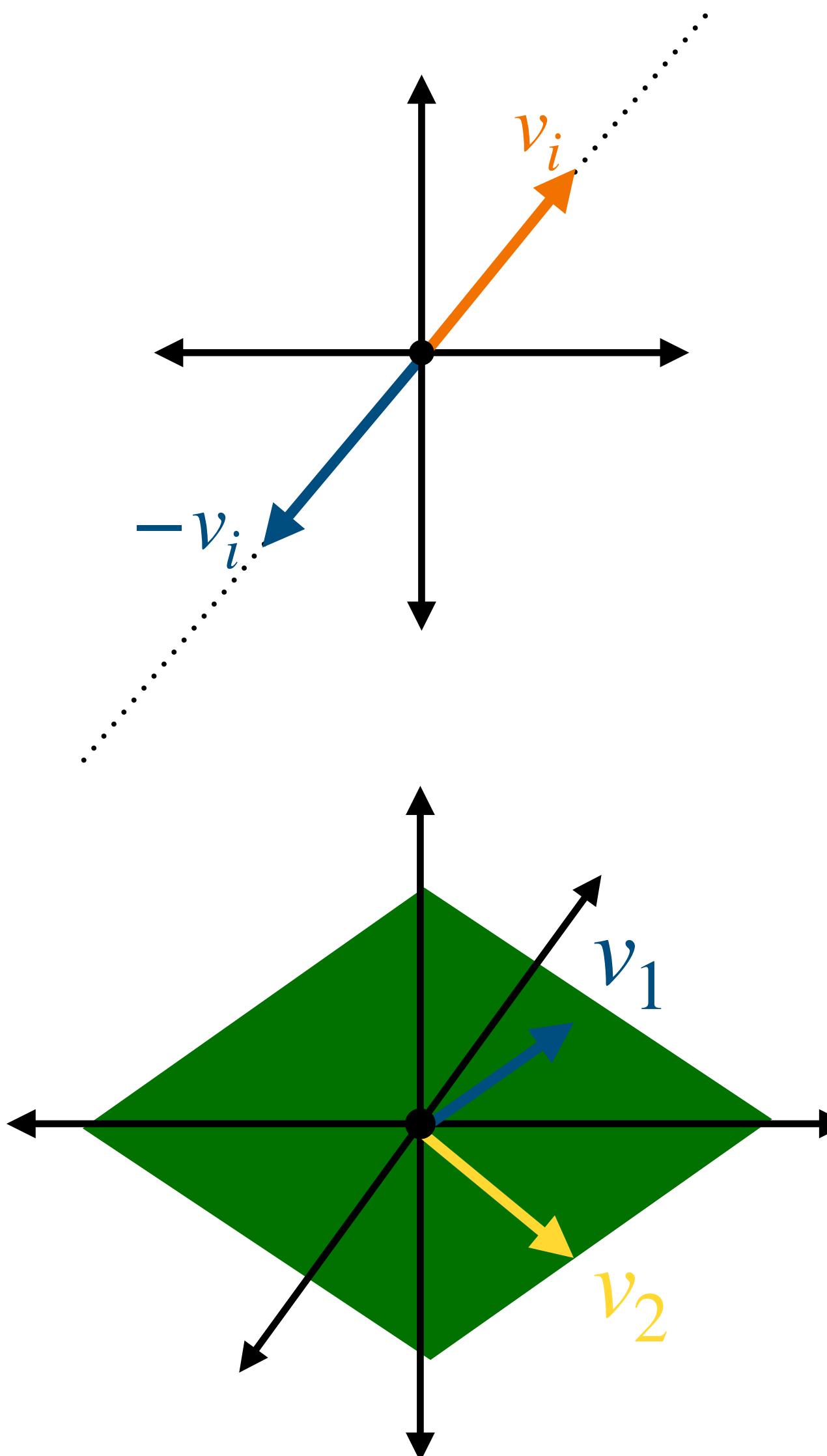
$$f(v_i) = f(-v_i)$$

- **Basis invariance:** when there are multiplicities  $\lambda_{i_1} = \dots = \lambda_{i_d}$

**Many bases** describe the same  $d$ -dim eigenspace

$$f(V) = f(VQ) \text{ for all } Q \text{ in orthogonal group } O(d)$$

$$V = [v_{i_1}, \dots, v_{i_d}]$$



# Eigenvector Invariances

- **Sign invariance:** If  $v_i$  an eigenvector, then so is  $-v_i$ . An eigensolver may return either

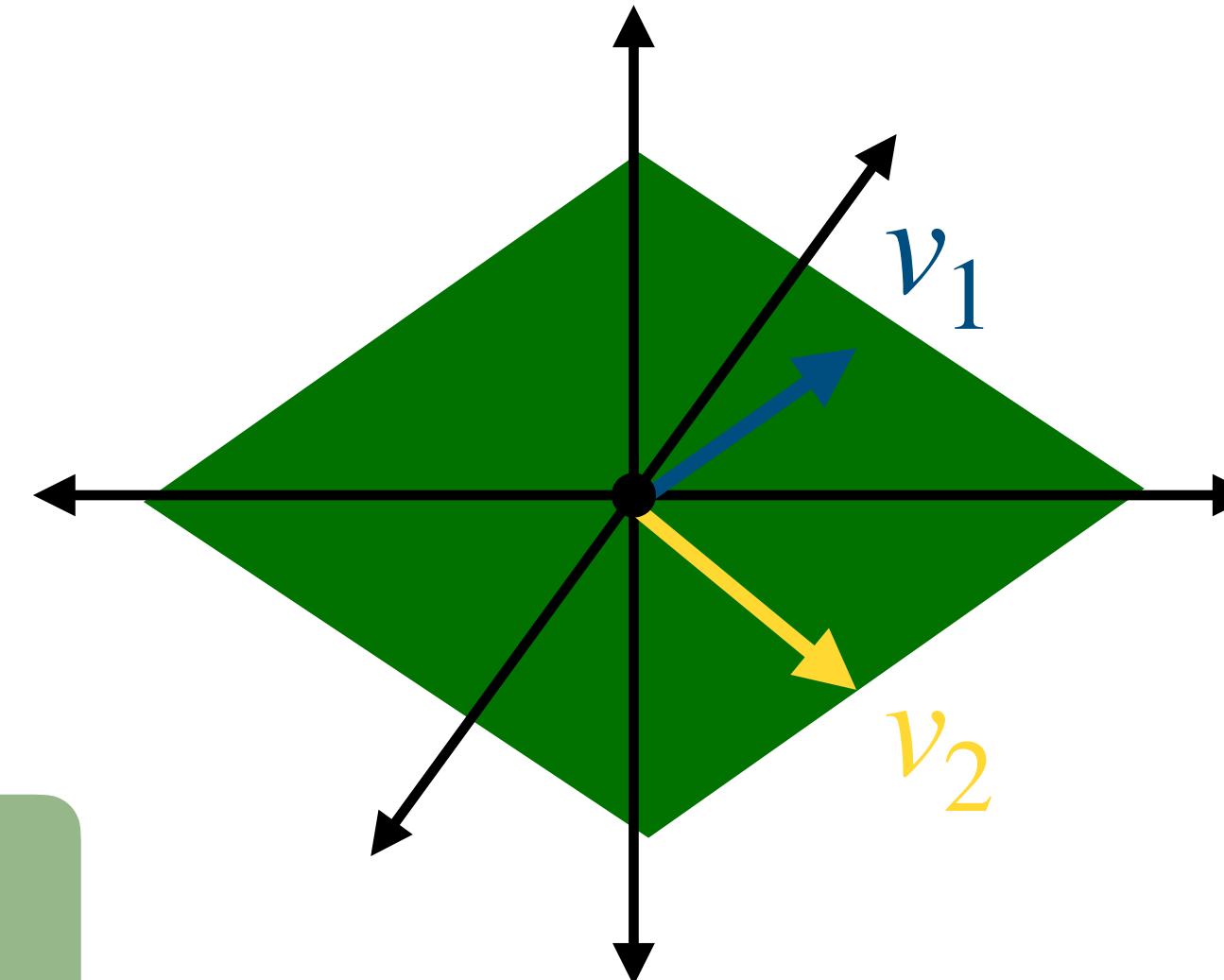
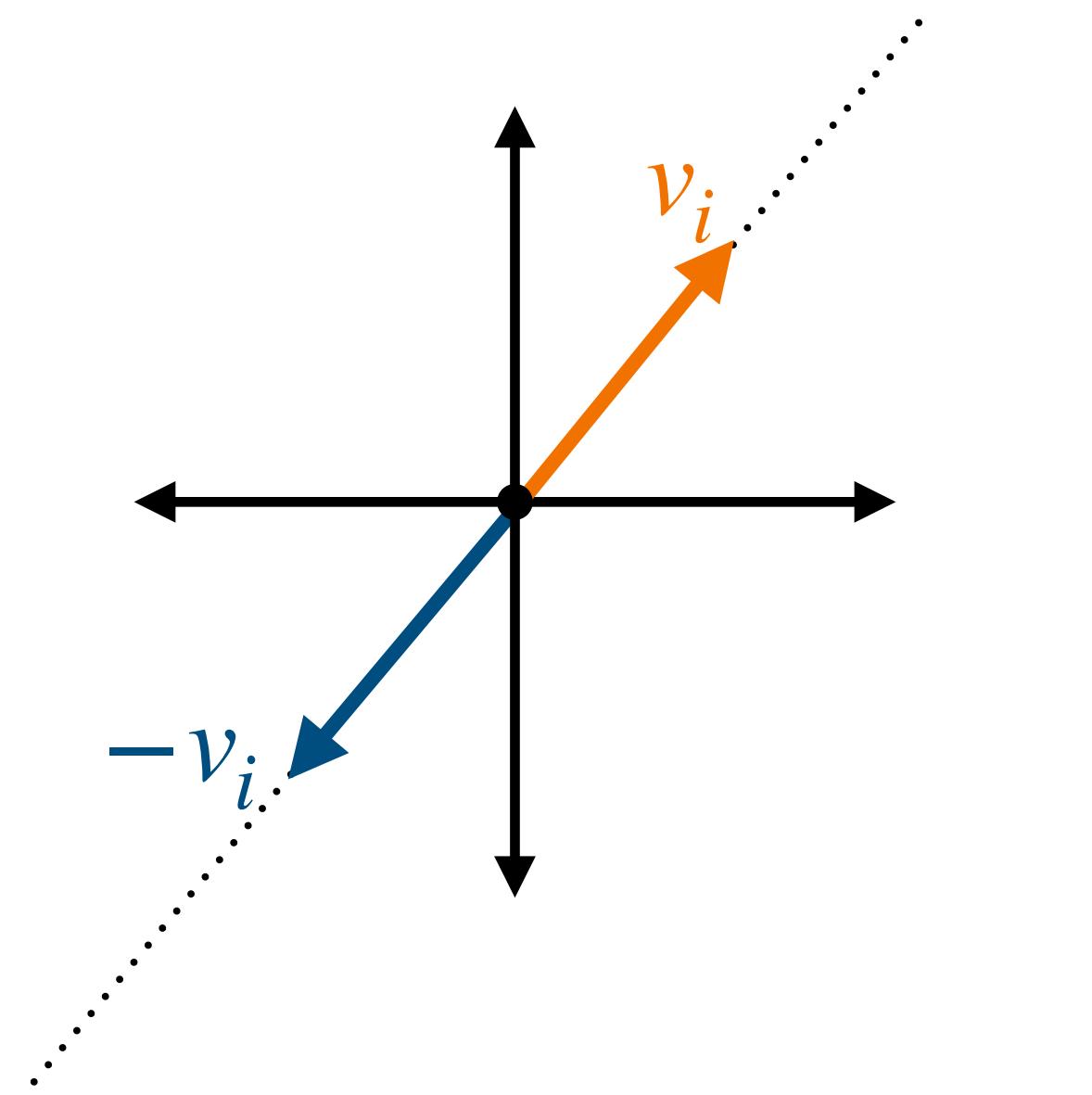
$$f(v_1, \dots, v_n) = f(\pm v_1, \dots, \pm v_n)$$

- **Basis invariance:** when there are multiplicities  $\lambda_{i_1} = \dots = \lambda_{i_d}$

**Many bases** describe the same  $d$ -dim eigenspace

$$f(V_1, \dots, V_l) = f(V_1 Q_1, \dots, V_l Q_l) \text{ for all } Q_j \text{ orthogonal}$$

$V_j$  eigenbasis for  $j$ th **distinct** eigenvalue



+ multiple subspaces

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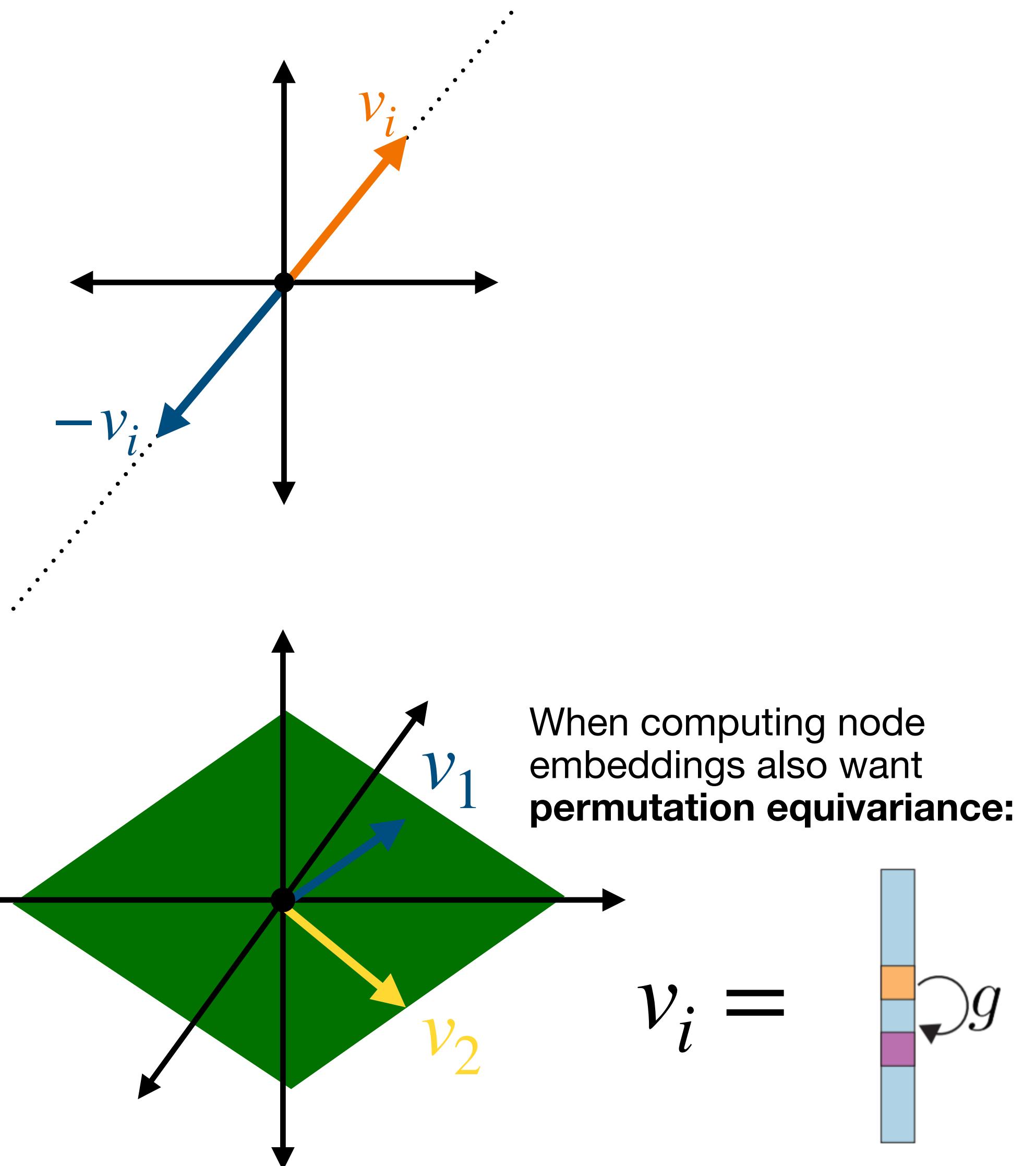
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+ multiple subspaces  
+ permutation equivariance

# Parameterizing Invariant Functions on One Eigenspace

# Sign invariance on one subspace

**Proposition:** (*characterizing sign invariance*)

- $f: \mathbb{R}^n \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^n$  is continuous and sign invariant if and only if

$$f(v) = \phi(v) + \phi(-v) \text{ for some continuous } \phi.$$

- If  $f$  is also permutation equivariant, then  $\phi$  is as well.

**Universal Architecture:**  $f(v) = \phi(v) + \phi(-v)$

General  $f$ :  $\phi = \text{MLP}$

Permutation equivariant  $f$ :  $\phi$  is DeepSet or Set Transformer

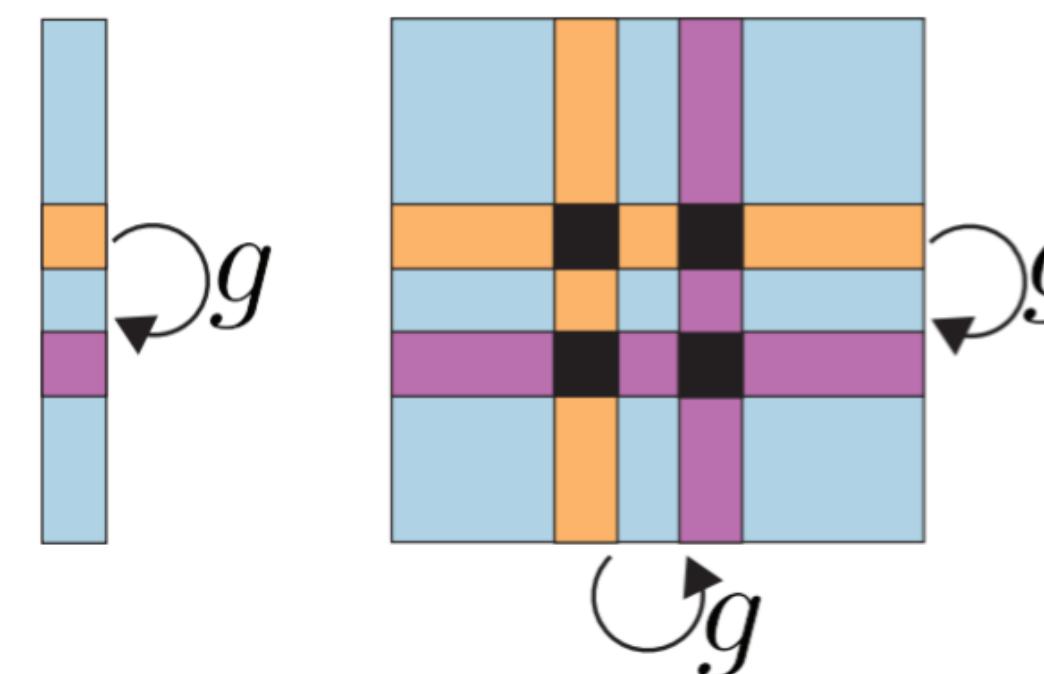
(Zaheer et al 2017, Lee et al 2019)

# Basis invariance on one subspace

**Proposition:** (*characterizing basis invariance*)

- $f : \mathbb{R}^{n \times d} \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^n$  is continuous and  $f(VQ) = f(V)$  for all orthogonal  $Q$  if and only if
  - $f(V) = \phi(VV^\top)$  for some continuous  $\phi$
- If  $f$  is also permutation equivariant, then  $\phi : \mathbb{R}^{n \times n} \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^n$  permutation equivariant from matrices to vectors

$$(VQ)(VQ)^\top = V(QQ^\top)V^\top = VV^\top$$



# Basis invariance on one subspace

**Universal representation of basis invariant functions:**

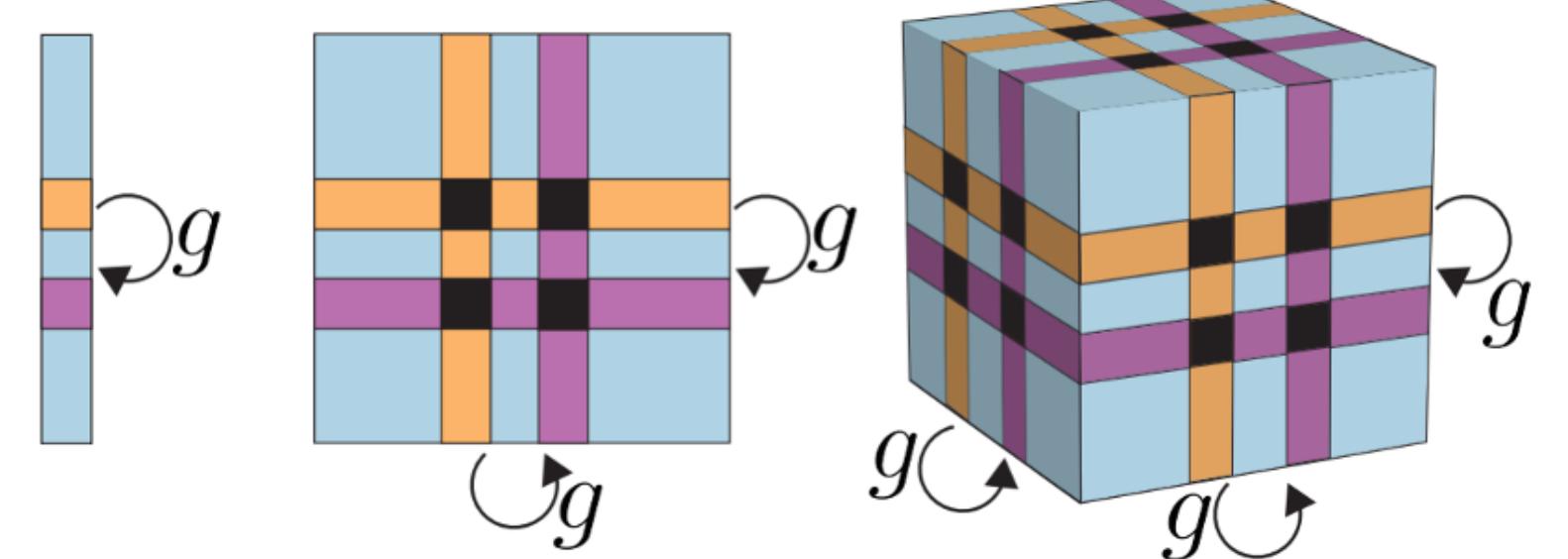
$$f(V) = \phi(VV^\top)$$

General  $f$ :

$\phi = \text{MLP}$

Permutation equivariant  $f$ :  $\phi = \text{IGN}$  *Invariant graph network* ([Maron et al 2018](#))

- IGN: permutation equivariant (tensor) layers
- Universality needs large (order  $n$ ) tensors, complexity  $\Omega(n^n)$ , in practice restrict to order 2 tensors



# Parameterizing Invariant Functions on Multiple Eigenspaces

# Decomposing Into Single Subspaces

Goal:  $f(V_1 Q_1, \dots, V_l Q_l) = f(V_1, \dots, V_l), \quad (Q_1, \dots, Q_l) \in O(d_1) \times \dots \times O(d_l)$

## Our Decomposition Theorem

Under mild topological conditions, every continuous  $f$  invariant to  $G = G_1 \times \dots \times G_l$  can be represented

$$f(x_1, \dots, x_l) = \rho(\phi_1(x_1), \dots, \phi_l(x_l)), \text{ and}$$

1.  $\phi_i$  is  $G_i$  invariant
2. If  $G_i = G_j$ , can take  $\phi_i = \phi_j$

- Takeaway: only need to do  $G_i$  invariance for  $G_1 \times \dots \times G_l$  invariance!!
- For sign group,  $|G_1 \times \dots \times G_l| = 2^l$ , but  $|G_i| = 2$

# SignNet: Sign Invariant Neural Net

## Our Decomposition Theorem

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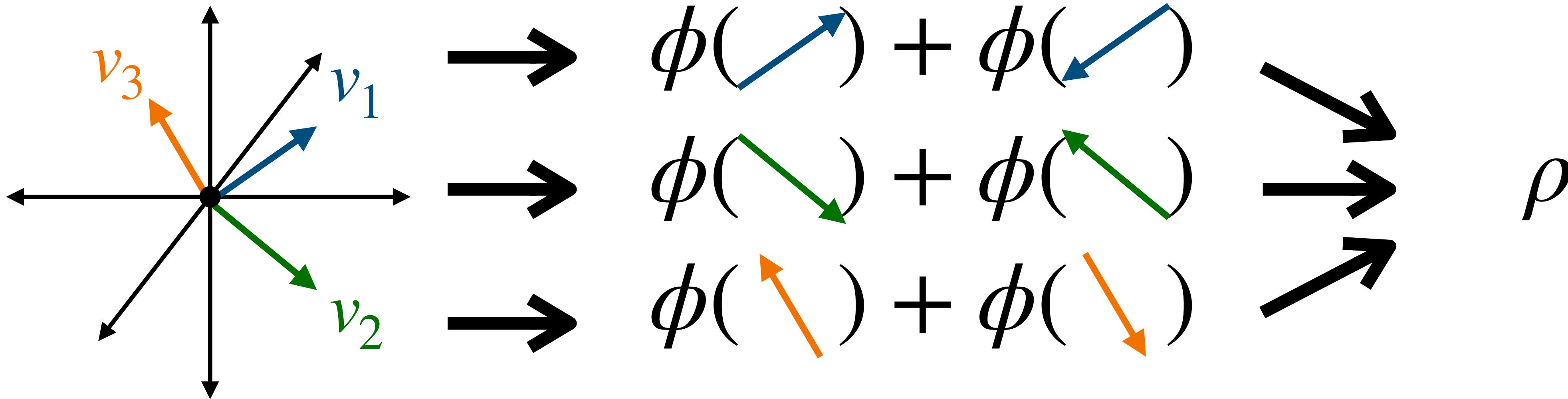
- **SignNet:**  $f(v_1, \dots, v_l) = \rho(\phi(v_1) + \phi(-v_1), \dots, \phi(v_l) + \phi(-v_l))$

- $\rho, \phi$ : MLP, DeepSets, Transformer, or GNN
- Can add eigenvalues as arguments

# SignNet: Sign Invariant Neural Net

- **SignNet:**  $f(v_1, \dots, v_l) = \rho (\phi(v_1) + \phi(-v_1), \dots, \phi(v_l) + \phi(-v_l))$

$\phi$  processes each eigenspace  
 $\rho$  aggregates all eigenspaces



# BasisNet: Basis Invariant Neural Net

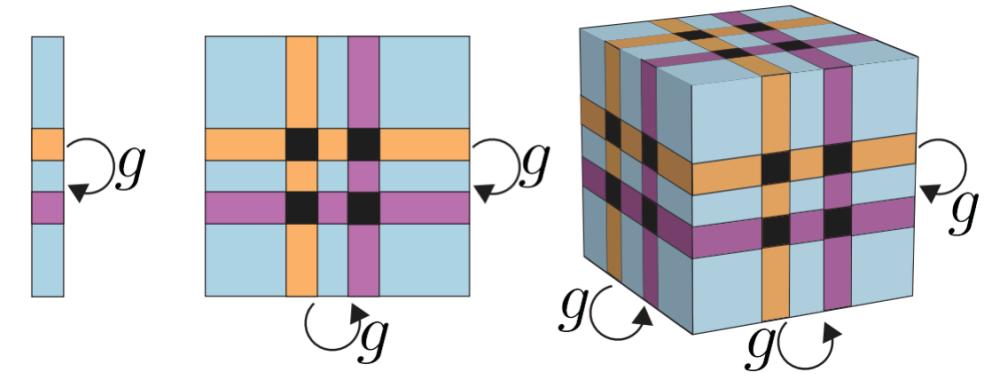
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$$f(x_1, \dots, x_l) = \rho(\phi_1(x_1), \dots, \phi_l(x_l)), \text{ and}$$

1.  $\phi_i$  is  $G_i$  invariant
2. If  $G_i = G_j$ , can take  $\phi_i = \phi_j$

- **BasisNet:**  $f(V_1, \dots, V_l) = \rho\left(\left[\phi_{d_i}(V_i V_i^\top)\right]_{i=1, \dots, l}\right)$

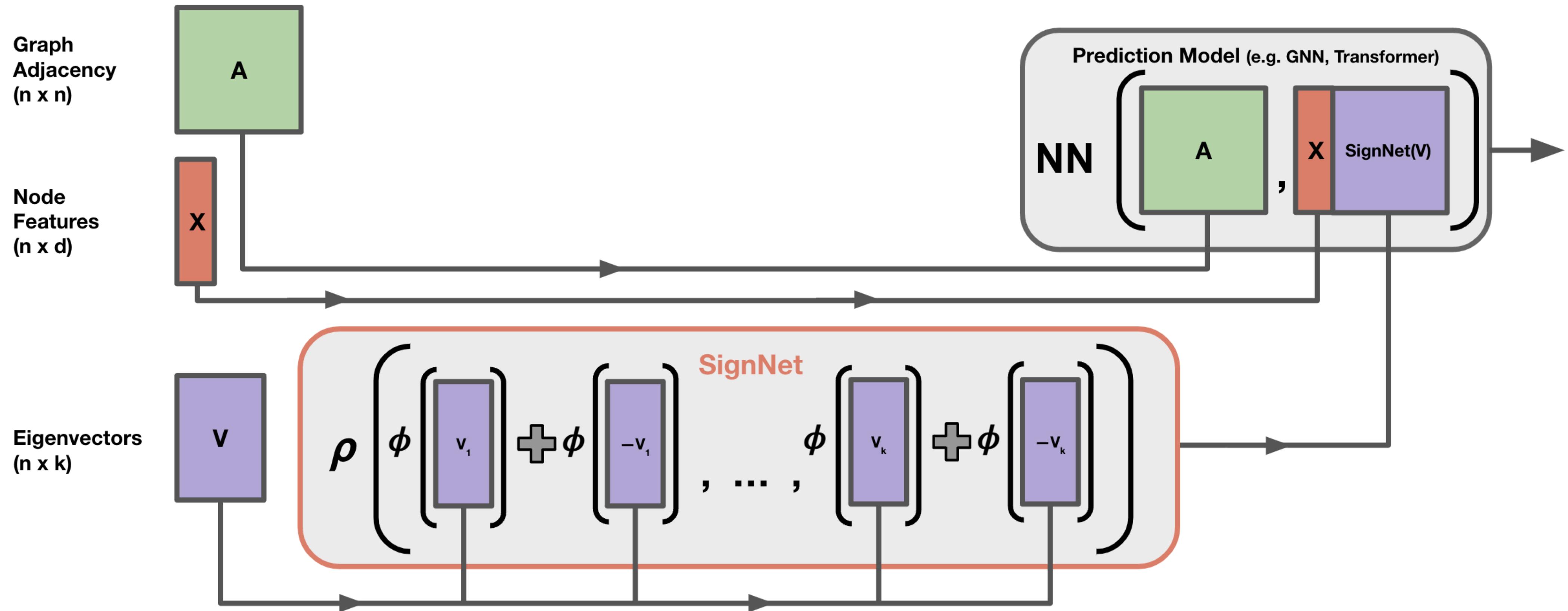


$\phi_d = \text{IGN}_d$  order 2 (efficiency) or higher-order (universality, theoretical construct)

$\rho = \text{MLP}, \text{DeepSets}, \text{Transformer}$

# Theoretical and Empirical Strength for Graph Learning

# SignNet for Node Positional Encodings



# Experiments: ZINC dataset

- Beat all eigenvector baselines
- Best positional encoding
- PNA + SignNet SOTA on ZINC 500k param
  - CIN gets .079 (*Bodnar et al. 2022*)

Table 1: Results on the ZINC dataset with 500k parameter budget. All models use edge features. Numbers are the mean and standard deviation over 4 runs, each with different seeds.

Base model	Positional encoding	$k$	#param	Test MAE ( $\downarrow$ )
GatedGCN	No PE	N/A	492k	$0.252 \pm 0.007$
	LapPE (flip)	8	492k	$0.198 \pm 0.011$
	LapPE (abs.)	8	492k	$0.204 \pm 0.009$
	LapPE (can.)	8	505k	$0.298 \pm 0.019$
	SignNet ( $\phi(v)$ only)	8	495k	$0.148 \pm 0.007$
	SignNet	8	495k	$0.121 \pm 0.005$
	SignNet	All	505k	<b><math>0.102 \pm 0.001</math></b>
Sparse Transformer	No PE	N/A	473k	$0.283 \pm 0.030$
	LapPE (flip)	16	487k	$0.223 \pm 0.007$
	SignNet	16	479k	$0.115 \pm 0.008$
	SignNet	All	486k	<b><math>0.102 \pm 0.005</math></b>
GINE	No PE	N/A	470k	$0.170 \pm 0.002$
	LapPE (flip)	16	470k	$0.178 \pm 0.004$
	SignNet	16	470k	$0.147 \pm 0.005$
	SignNet	All	417k	<b><math>0.102 \pm 0.002</math></b>
PNA	No PE	N/A	474k	$0.133 \pm 0.011$
	LapPE (flip)	8	474k	$0.132 \pm 0.010$
	SignNet	8	476k	$0.105 \pm 0.007$
	SignNet	All	487k	<b><math>0.084 \pm 0.006</math></b>

- **SignNet:**

$$f(v_1, \dots, v_l) = \rho \left( \phi(v_1) + \phi(-v_1), \dots, \phi(v_l) + \phi(-v_l) \right)$$

$\rho$ =MLP,  $\phi$ =GIN

# Expressive power: existing positional encodings

Can universally approximate **graph positional encodings** like:

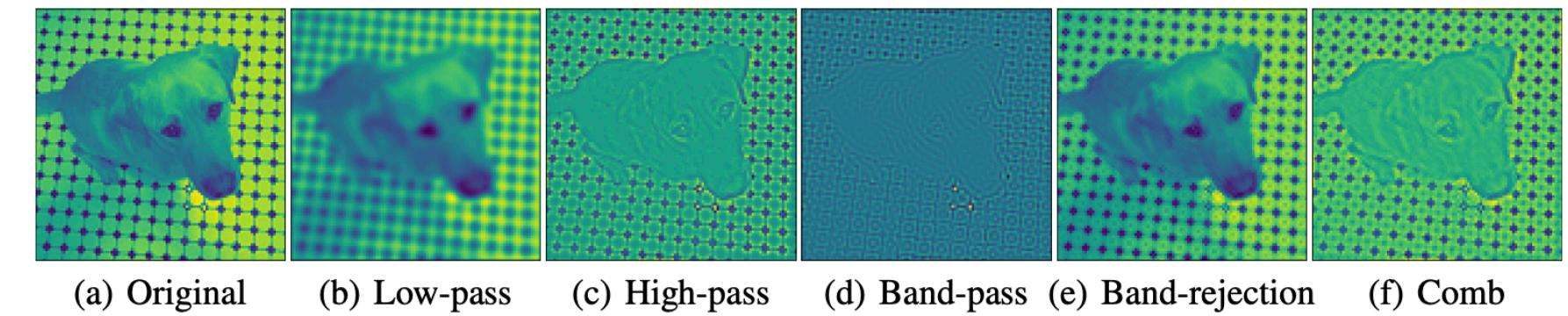
- Heat kernel PE (*Feldman et al. 2022*) *SignNet, BasisNet*
- Random walk PE (*Dwivedi et al. 2022*) *SignNet, BasisNet*
- Diffusion, p-step random walk relative PE (*Mialon et al. 2021*) *BasisNet*
- Generalized PageRank, landing probability distance encodings (*Li et al. 2019*) *BasisNet*

# Expressive power: spectral graph convolutions

SignNet and BasisNet universally approximate **spectral graph convolutions**

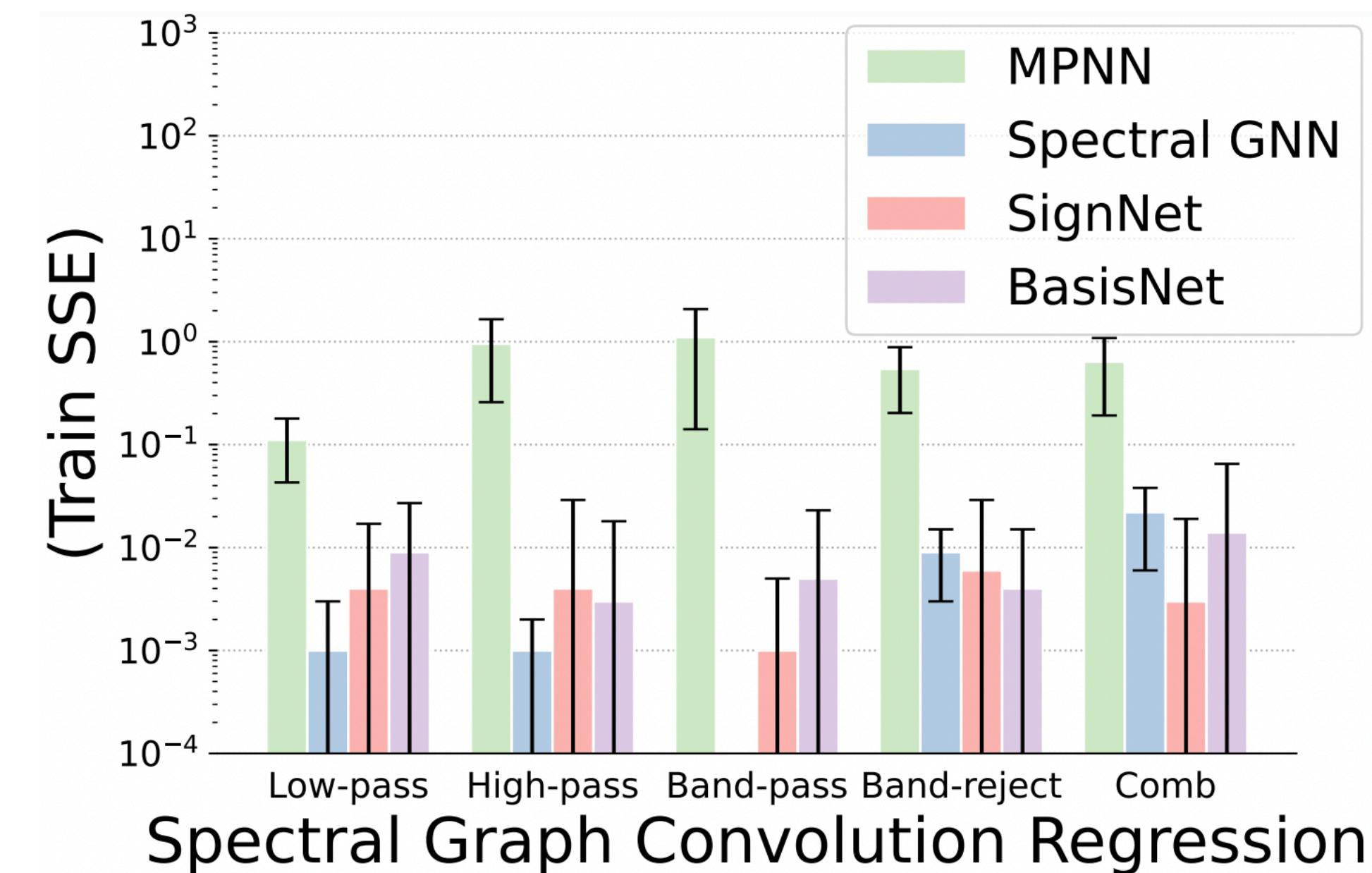
SignNet with:  $\phi(v, \lambda, X) = \frac{1}{2}p(\lambda)vv^\top X, \quad \rho = \sum_{i=1}^n p(\lambda_i)v_i v_i^\top X$

$$h(V, \Lambda, X) = Vp(\Lambda)V^\top X = \sum_{i=1}^n p(\lambda_i)v_i v_i^\top X$$



## Experiments: Spectral Graph Conv Regression

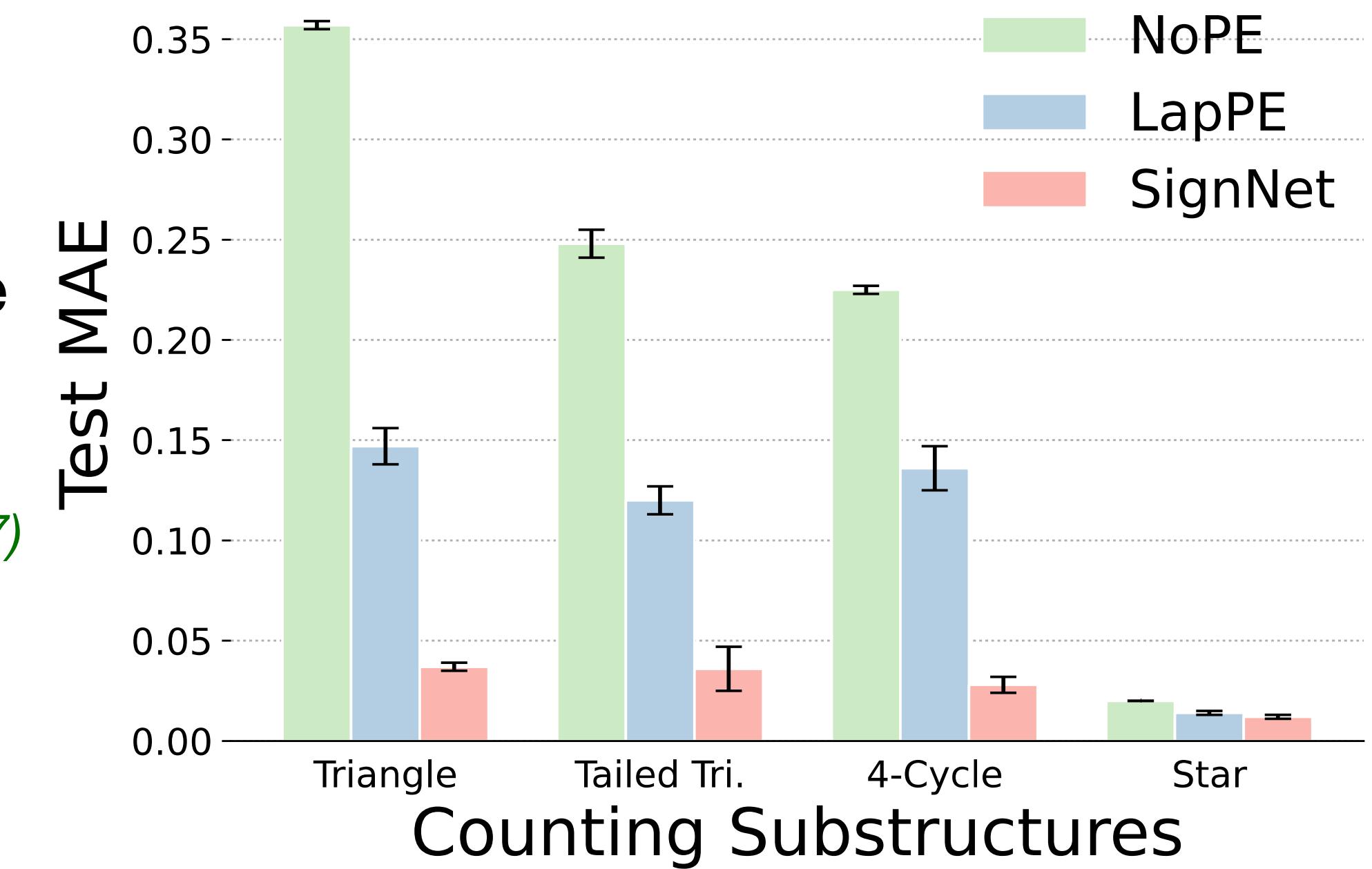
- $\rho, \phi \in \{\text{DeepSets}, \text{Transformer}, \text{IGN}\}$  (no GNN!!)  
*(Zaheer 2017, Vaswani et al 2017, Maron 2018)*
- Beat sign flip, absolute value eigvec baselines
- Beat message passing, often beat spectral GNNs



# Expressive power: spectral graph invariants

- BasisNet can approximate **spectral graph invariants** (*Cvetković 1991*)
  - e.g. graph angles  $\|V_i V_i^\top e_j\|$ .
- Thus, can learn **number of 3-, 4-, 5-cycles, connectivity, length-k closed walks**, message passing GNNs cannot!!

- **Experiments:** SignNet boosts performance of message passing for counting substructures
- $\phi = \text{GIN}$  (*Xu et al 2019*)  $\rho = \text{Transformer}$  (*Vaswani et al 2017*)



# Visualization and Additional Results

# Visualization of SignNet on Molecules

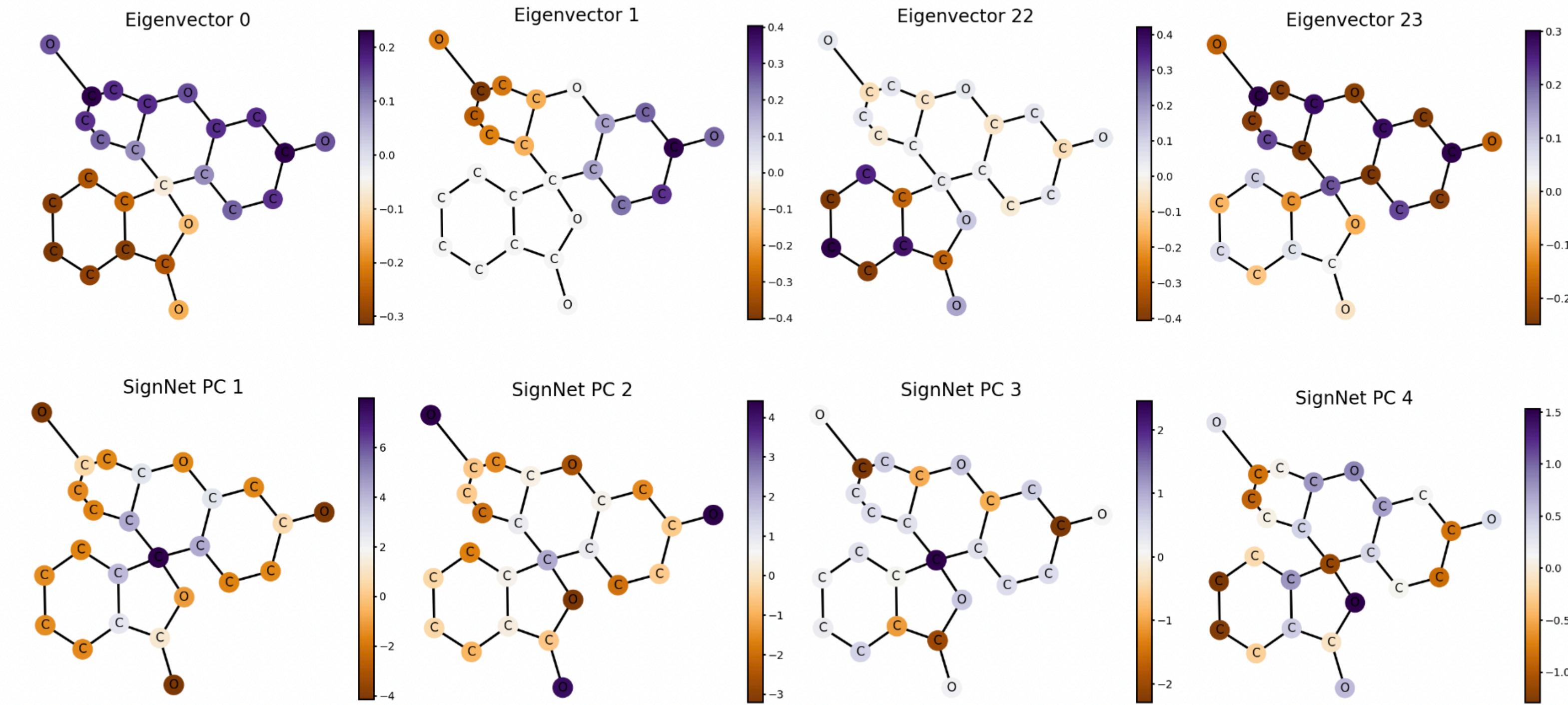
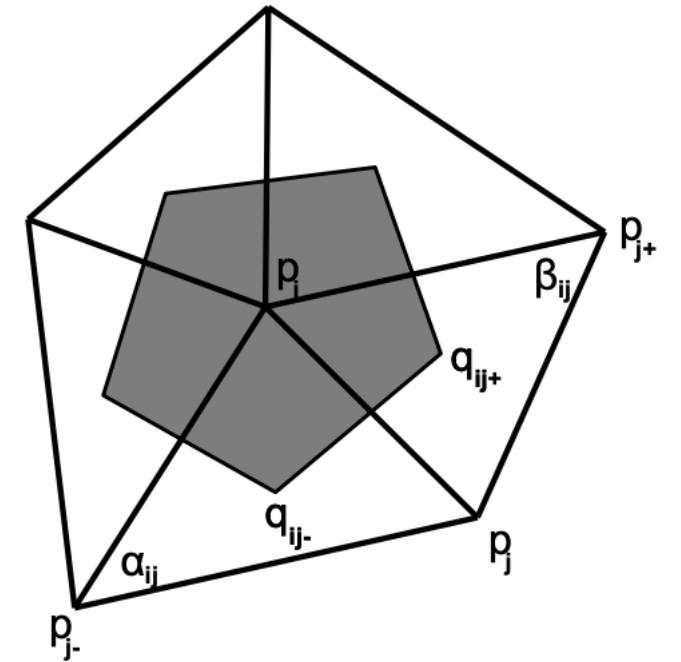
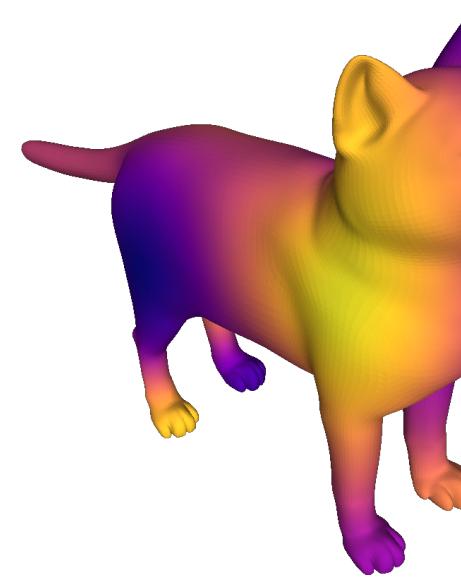


Figure 4: Normalized Laplacian eigenvectors and learned positional encodings for the graph of Fluorescein. (Top row) From left to right: smallest and second smallest nontrivial eigenvectors, then second largest and largest eigenvectors. (Bottom row) From left to right: first four principal components of the output  $\rho([\phi(v_i) + \phi(-v_i)])_{i=1,\dots,n}$  of SignNet.

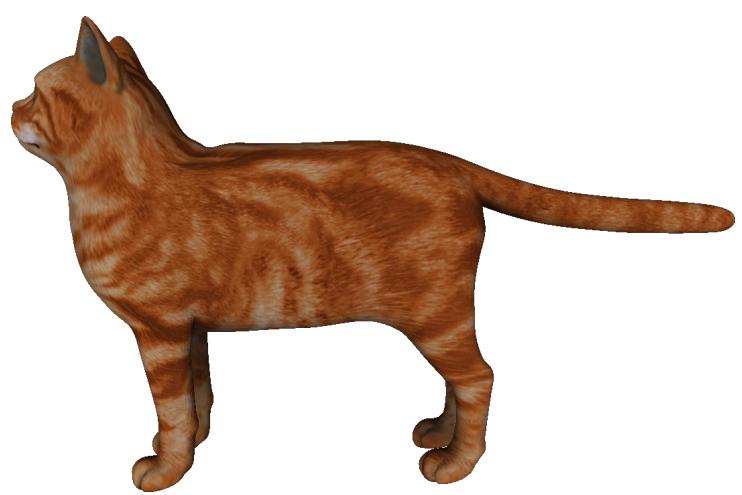
SignNet (trained on ZINC) learns structural information not found in original Laplacian eigenvectors!

# Laplacians on Surfaces: Texture Reconstruction

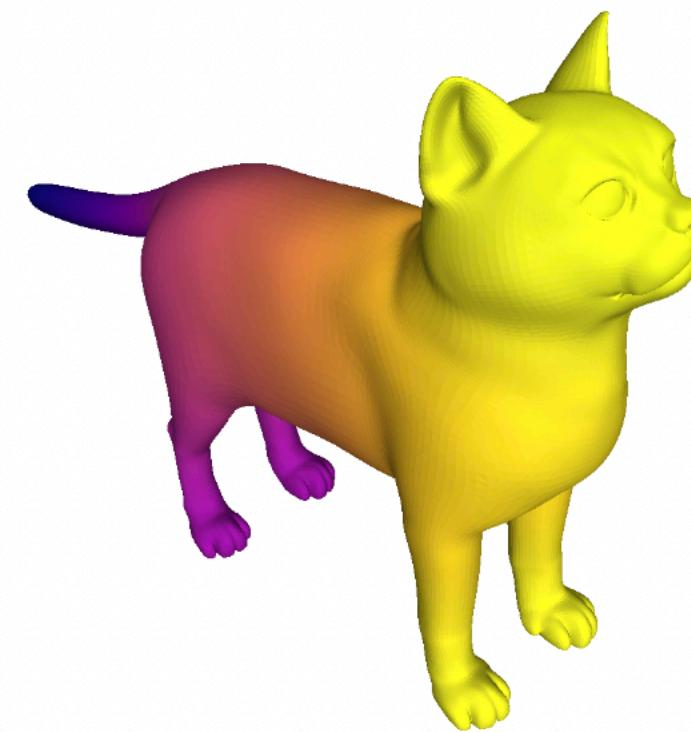
- Cotangent Laplacian eigenvectors of triangle mesh
- Texture reconstruction:



- Input: Cotan Laplacian eigvecs at point  $p$  on surface
- Output: RGB value of surface at  $p$
- Intrinsic Neural Field (*Koestler et al. 2022*):  $f(v_1, \dots, v_l) = \text{MLP}(v_1, \dots, v_l)$
- With SignNet:  $f(v_1, \dots, v_l) = \text{MLP}(\text{SignNet}(v_1, \dots, v_l))$



# Cat Visualization



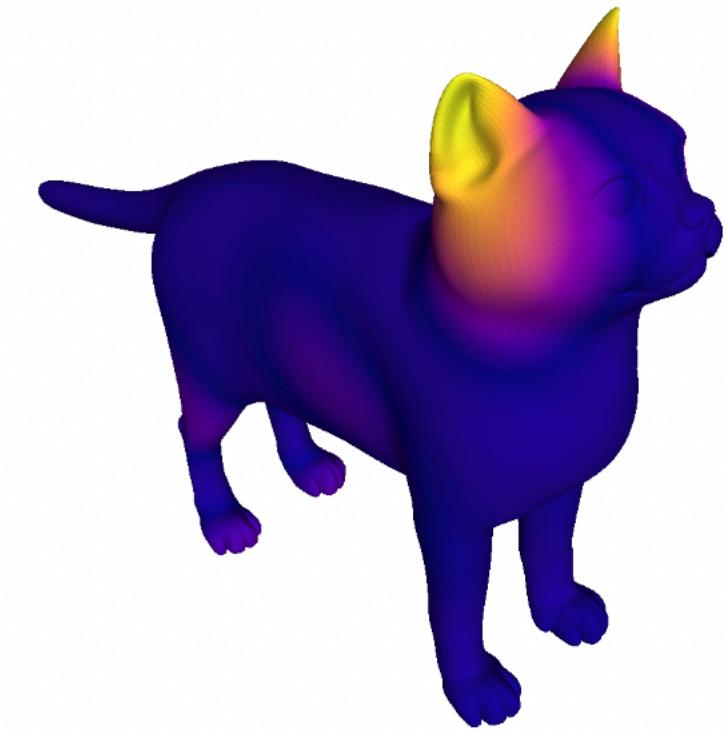
Eigenvector 1



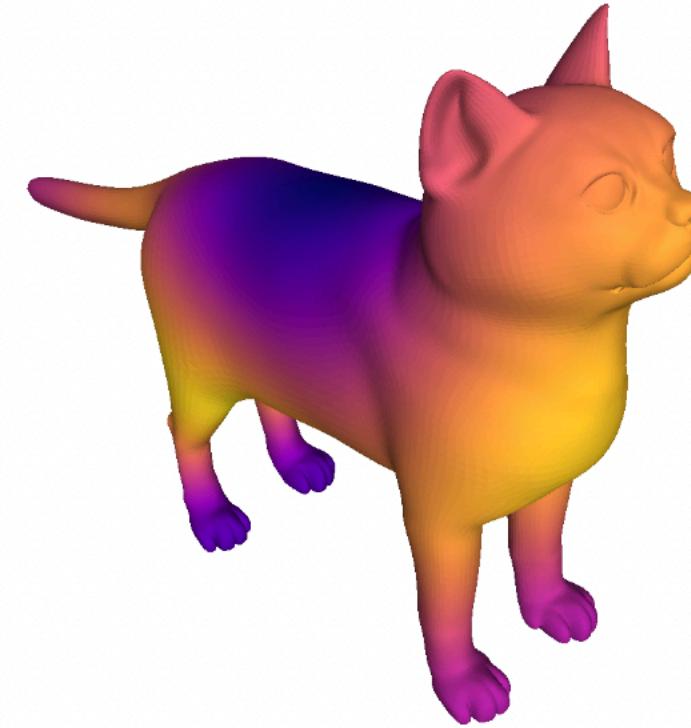
$\phi(v_1) + \phi(-v_1)$



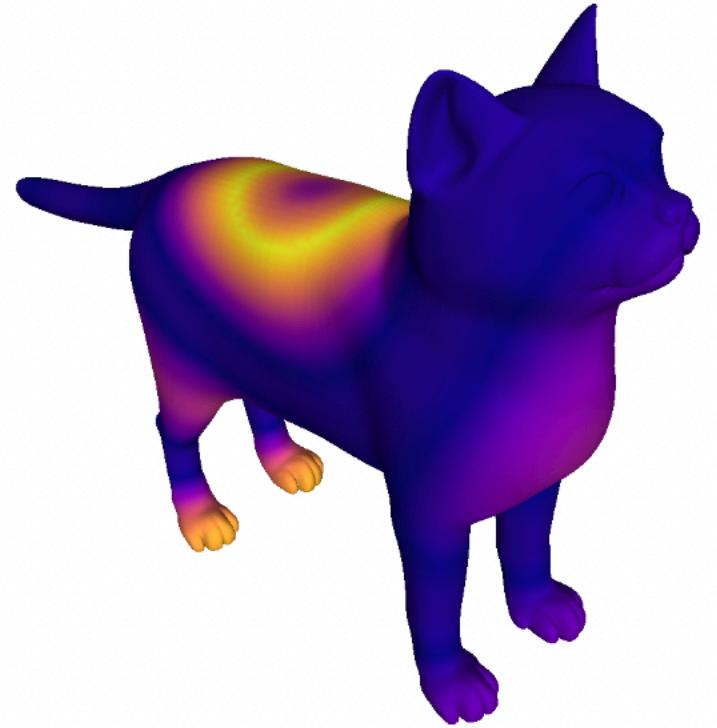
Eigenvector 14



$\phi(v_{14}) + \phi(-v_{14})$



Eigenvector 9



$\phi(v_9) + \phi(-v_9)$



Eigenvector 1023



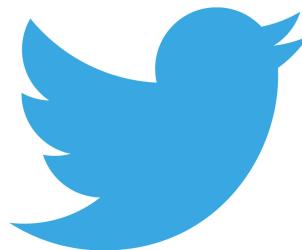
$\phi(v_{1023}) + \phi(-v_{1023})$

SignNet  $\phi$  learns bilateral symmetry (texture has bilateral symmetry)

# Conclusion

# Summary: SignNet and BasisNet

- **SignNet and BasisNet:** Invariant neural nets for eigenvector data
- **Universal approximation:** Decomposition Theorem into single subspaces
- **Expressive power:** Spectral graph convolutions, spectral invariants
- **Experiments:** Powerful positional encoding, SOTA on ZINC 500k param

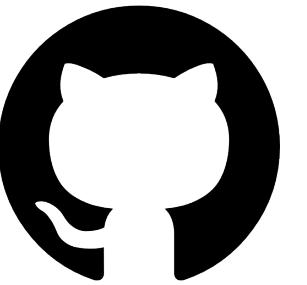


@dereklim\_lzh

@Josh\_d\_robinson

[github.com/cptq/SignNet-BasisNet](https://github.com/cptq/SignNet-BasisNet)

[arxiv.org/abs/2202.13013](https://arxiv.org/abs/2202.13013)



# Appendix

# Complexity

- **SignNet:**  $f(v_1, \dots, v_l) = \rho(\phi(v_1) + \phi(-v_1), \dots, \phi(v_l) + \phi(-v_l))$ 
  - Memory:  $\mathcal{O}(nlh)$
- **BasisNet:**  $f(V_1, \dots, V_l) = \rho(\text{IGN}_{d_1}(V_1 V_1^\top), \dots, \text{IGN}_{d_l}(V_l V_l^\top))$ 
  - Memory:  $\mathcal{O}(n^2lh)$

# Real world multiplicities

Table 4: Eigenspace statistics for datasets of multiple graphs. From left to right, the columns are: dataset name, number of graphs, range of number of nodes per graph, largest multiplicity, and percent of graphs with an eigenspace of dimension  $> 1$ .

Dataset	Graphs	# Nodes	Max. Mult	% Graphs mult. $> 1$
ZINC	12,000	9-37	9	64.1
ogbg-molhiv	41,127	2 - 222	42	68.0
IMDB-M	1,500	7 - 89	37	99.9
COLLAB	5,000	32 - 492	238	99.1
PROTEINS	1,113	4 - 620	20	77.3
COIL-DEL	3,900	3 - 77	4	4.00

Table 5: Eigenspace statistics for single graphs. From left to right, the columns are: dataset name, number of nodes, distinct eigenvalues (i.e. distinct eigenspaces), number of unique multiplicities, largest multiplicity, and percent of eigenvectors belonging to an eigenspace of dimension  $> 1$ .

Dataset	Nodes	Distinct $\lambda$	# Mult.	Max Mult.	% Vecs mult. $> 1$
32 × 32 image	1,024	513	3	32	96.9
Cora	2,708	2,187	11	300	19.7
Citeseer	3,327	1,861	12	491	44.8
Amazon Photo	7,650	7,416	8	136	3.71

Real-world graphs: many multiplicities, high dimensional eigenspaces.