



# Literature review - Diffusion Convolutional Recurrent Neural Network: Data-Driven Traffic Forecasting

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# Outline

- ① Motivation
- ② Overall idea & Methodology
- ③ Empirical study review

# Motivation

## Problem

$$[X_0, X_2, \dots X_t; \mathcal{G}] \rightarrow [X_{t+1}, \dots X_{t+T}]$$

## Challenges

- 1 Complex spatial dependency
- 2 Non-linear temporal dynamics
- 3 Difficult long-term forecasting



Figure: Spatial dependency

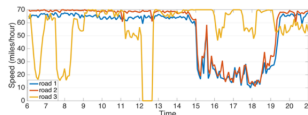


Figure: Long-term temporal variation

# Highlights & Methodology

- ① Complex spatial dependency **Diffusion convolution**
- ② Non-linear temporal dynamics **Recurrent neural network**
- ③ Difficult long-term forecasting **Encoder-decoder architecture**

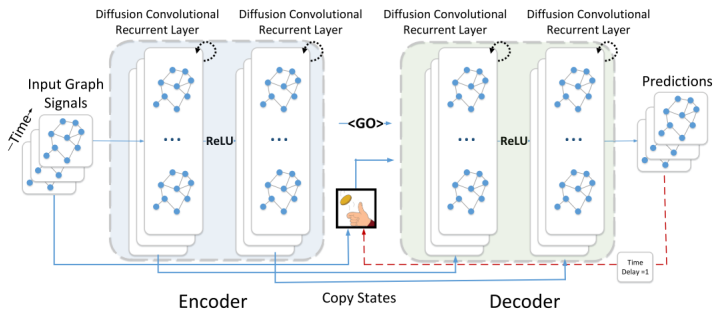


Figure: Overall structure

**How to model spatial dependency through diffusion convolution?**

# Highlights & Methodology

- Diffusion process can be regarded as a **Markov process** considering **continuous time and state**.
  - Traffic flow in road network is continuous and will have dynamic impact downstream or upstream.
- Diffusion convolution

$$\mathbf{X}_{:,p \star \mathcal{G}} f_{\theta} = \sum_{k=0}^{K-1} \left( \theta_{k,1} (D_O^{-1} W)^k + \theta_{k,1} (D_I^{-1} W)^k \right) \mathbf{X}_{:,p}$$

where adjacency matrix  $W$  using threshold gaussian kernel:

$$W_{i,j} = \exp\left(-\frac{\text{dist}(v_i, v_j)}{\sigma^2}\right)$$

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- $D_O^{-1} W$ : (Out-degree) normalized state transition matrix
- $D_I^{-1} W$ : (In-degree) normalized state transition matrix
- $\theta$ : Filter parameters to train
- The power  $k$  indicates  $k$ -neighbor nodes are considered for each node in the graph (road network)

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## What is the relation between diffusion convolution and spectral graph convolution?

- Bruna, et al(2013). Spectral Networks and Locally Connected Networks on Graphs.
- Michał Defferrard, et al(2016). Convolutional Neural Networks on Graphs with Fast Localized Spectral Filtering.
- Cui, Z., et al(2018). High-Order Graph Convolutional Recurrent Neural Network: A Deep Learning Framework for Network-Scale Traffic Learning and Forecasting.

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Diffusion convolution takes into account both two directions respectively among a graph, while spectral graph convolution focus on undirected graph.

# Empirical study review

- Comprehensive model validation:
  - ① Three evaluation metrics: MAE, MAPE, RMSE
  - ② Two real-world datasets
  - ③ Six baselines: HA, ARIMA, FNN, SVR, RNN-based
  - ④ Two specific validation: model without diffusion convolution component or RNN structure.
- Interesting interpretation:



Figure: Visualization of  $\theta_{k,1}(D_O^{-1}W)^k + \theta_{k,1}(D_I^{-1}W)^k$

Thank you for attention !



Bruna, J., Zaremba, W., Szlam, A., & LeCun, Y. (2013). **Spectral Networks and Locally Connected Networks on Graphs**, 1–14. Retrieved from <http://arxiv.org/abs/1312.6203>

两信号的图卷积

$$(f * h)_G = U(U^T h \odot U^T f)$$

卷积核的推导

$$U^T h = [\hat{h}(\lambda_1), \hat{h}(\lambda_2) \cdots \hat{h}(\lambda_n)]$$

$$U^T h \odot U^T f = \text{diag}(\hat{h}(\lambda)) U^T f$$

应用

$$\mathbf{y} = U \mathbf{G}_\theta(\Lambda) U^T \mathbf{x}$$

$$\mathbf{G}_\theta(\Lambda) = \text{diag}(\theta), \theta \in \mathbb{R}^n$$

$p$  个输入channel,  $q$  个输出channel

$$\mathbf{y}_j = U \sum_{i=0}^p \mathbf{G}_\theta(\Lambda)_j U^T \mathbf{x}_i, j = 1, 2, \dots, q$$

Michaël Defferrard Xavier Bresson Pierre Vandergheynst. (2016). **Convolutional Neural Networks on Graphs with Fast Localized Spectral Filtering**. *Nips*, (59), 395–398. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.commat.2018.05.018>

$$\text{令 } \mathbf{G}_\theta(\Lambda) = \sum_{k=0}^{K-1} \theta_k \Lambda^k \quad \text{得 } U \mathbf{G}_\theta(\Lambda) U^T = \sum_{k=0}^{K-1} \theta_k U \Lambda^k U^T = \sum_{k=0}^{K-1} \theta_k \prod_{i=1}^k U \Lambda U^T = \sum_{k=0}^{K-1} \theta_k L^k = \mathbf{G}_\theta(L)$$

$$\mathbf{y} = \mathbf{G}_\theta(L) \mathbf{x}$$

巧妙之处: 1. 避免了Graph Laplacian的特征分解  
2.  $L^k$  可以进行  $k$ -localized 的筛选  
3. 压缩参数量  $n \rightarrow K$

Chebyshev polynomial function approximation:

$$f(x) \approx \sum_{k=0}^K c_k T_k(x), x \in [-1, 1]$$

$$T_0(x) = 1, T_1(x) = x, T_k(x) = 2xT_{k-1}(x) - T_{k-2}(x)$$

$$\mathbf{G}_\theta(L) \approx \sum_{k=0}^K \theta_k T_k(\tilde{L}), \text{ 放缩 } \tilde{L} = \frac{2L}{\lambda_{\max}} - I$$

$$\mathbf{y} \approx \sum_{k=0}^K \theta_k T_k(\tilde{L}) \mathbf{x}$$

巧妙之处: 1. Chebyshev approximation 的系数直接通过神经网络训练计算  
2. 避免乘运算