

A Poincaré Inequality and Consistency Results for Signal Sampling on Large Graphs

Thien Le, in joint work with Luana Ruiz and Stefanie Jegelka



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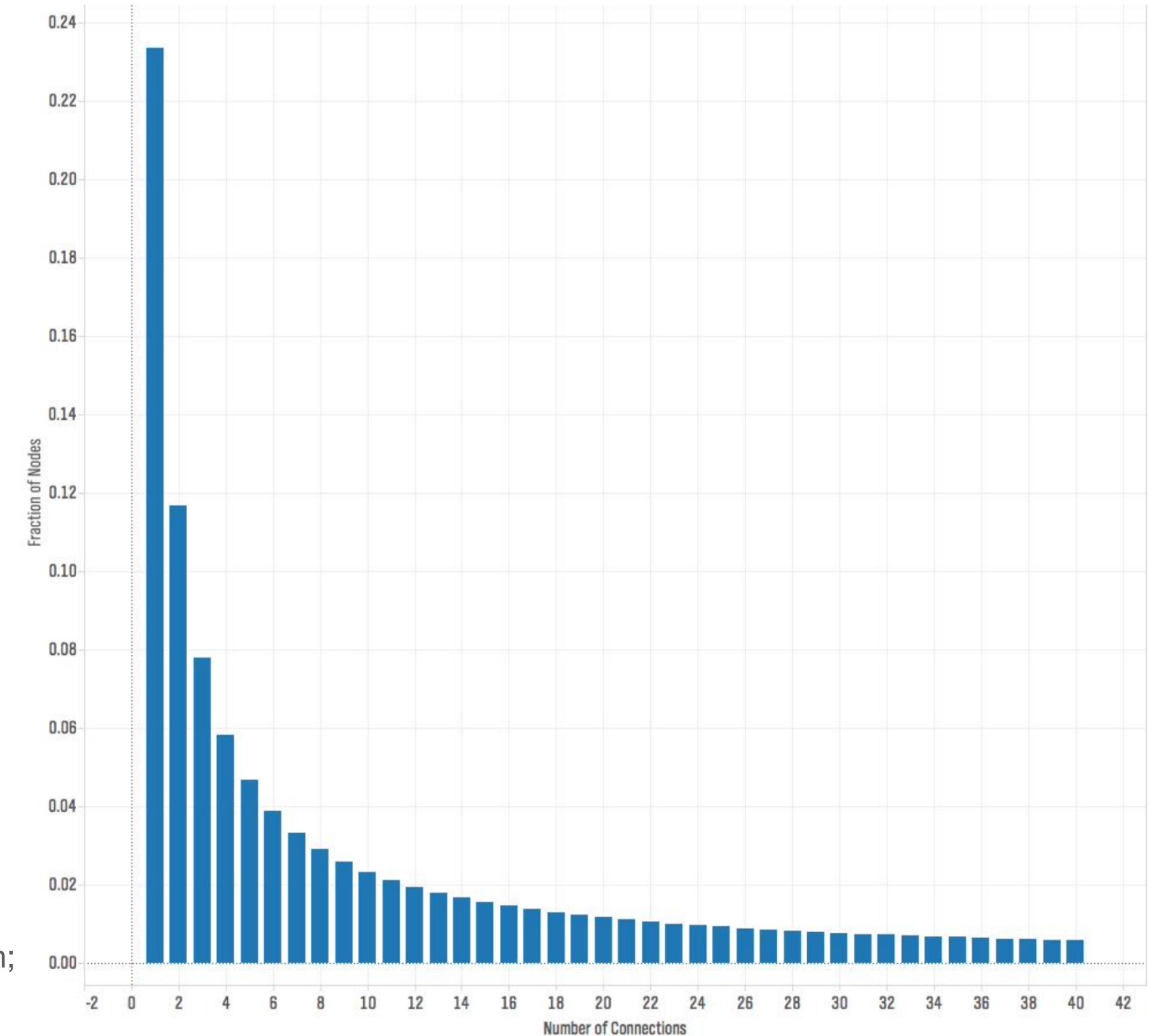
Motivation

Graph algorithms scale with **number of vertices**

- Important data analysis algorithms scale with **number of vertices n** in a graph:
 - Spectral decomposition: $\Omega(n^2)$ (widely believed: $\Omega(n^{2.376\dots})$)
 - Graph neural networks (e.g. graph convolutional network): $\Omega(n^2)$
- In most graph-based task, complexity of the task does not scale with **n**
 - **n** represents resolution of dataset, not complexity.

Realistic graphs demonstrate intrinsic simplicity

- ‘Small world phenomenon’.
- Scale-free/power-law graphs.



Reference: Kleinberg 2004, The small world phenomenon and decentralized search;
Milgram 1967, “The small world problem”;
Barabasi, Albert 1999, Emergence of scaling in random networks.

Figure by PJ Lamberson - UCLA

Solution: Sample small subset of nodes!

Two criteria

- Subsampling a small subset of k vertices, $k \ll n$, scales graph algorithms:
 1. Find an “informative” subset.

Strategy: optimal sampling

2. Find a “transferable” subset that is robust when the graph grows in size.

Strategy: graph limit

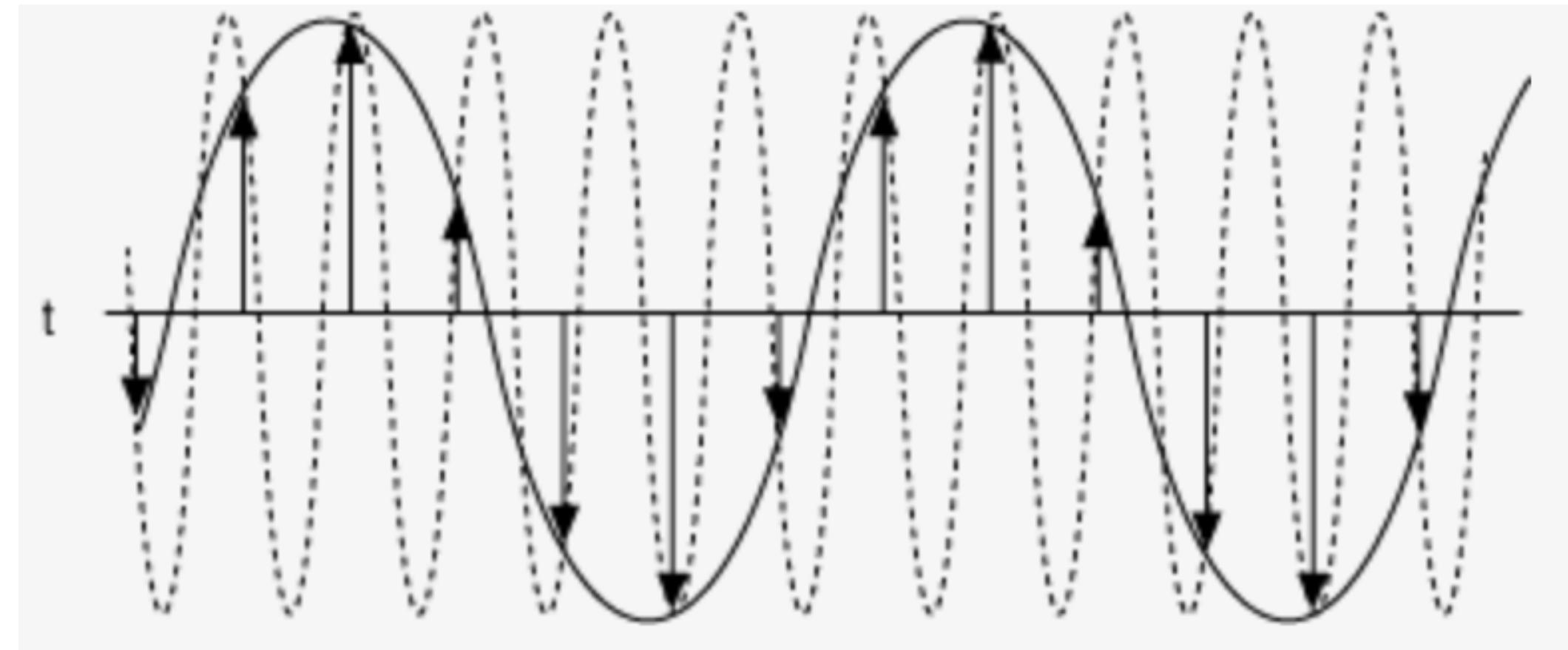
Look ahead: What can we do with such a **subset**?

- Faster existing algorithms:
 - Spectral decomposition (e.g. eigenvector positional encoding):
 $\Omega(\cancel{n^2}) \gg \Omega(k^2)$
 - Graph neural networks (e.g. graph convolutional network): $\Omega(\cancel{n^2}) \gg \Omega(k^2)$
- Theory: consistency/transferability results implies small decay in performance
- Empirical: node classification on citation network datasets

Informative subset: Sampling theory

Warm up: $L^1(\mathbb{R})$

Theorem (Shannon-Nyquist theorem): An analog signal $f \in L^1(\mathbb{R})$ with bandwidth in $(0, 2k)$ is uniquely determined by uniform discrete samples at rate k .



Reference: Shannon, C.E., 1949. Communication in the Presence of Noise.
Figure by National Instruments

Informative subset: Sampling theory

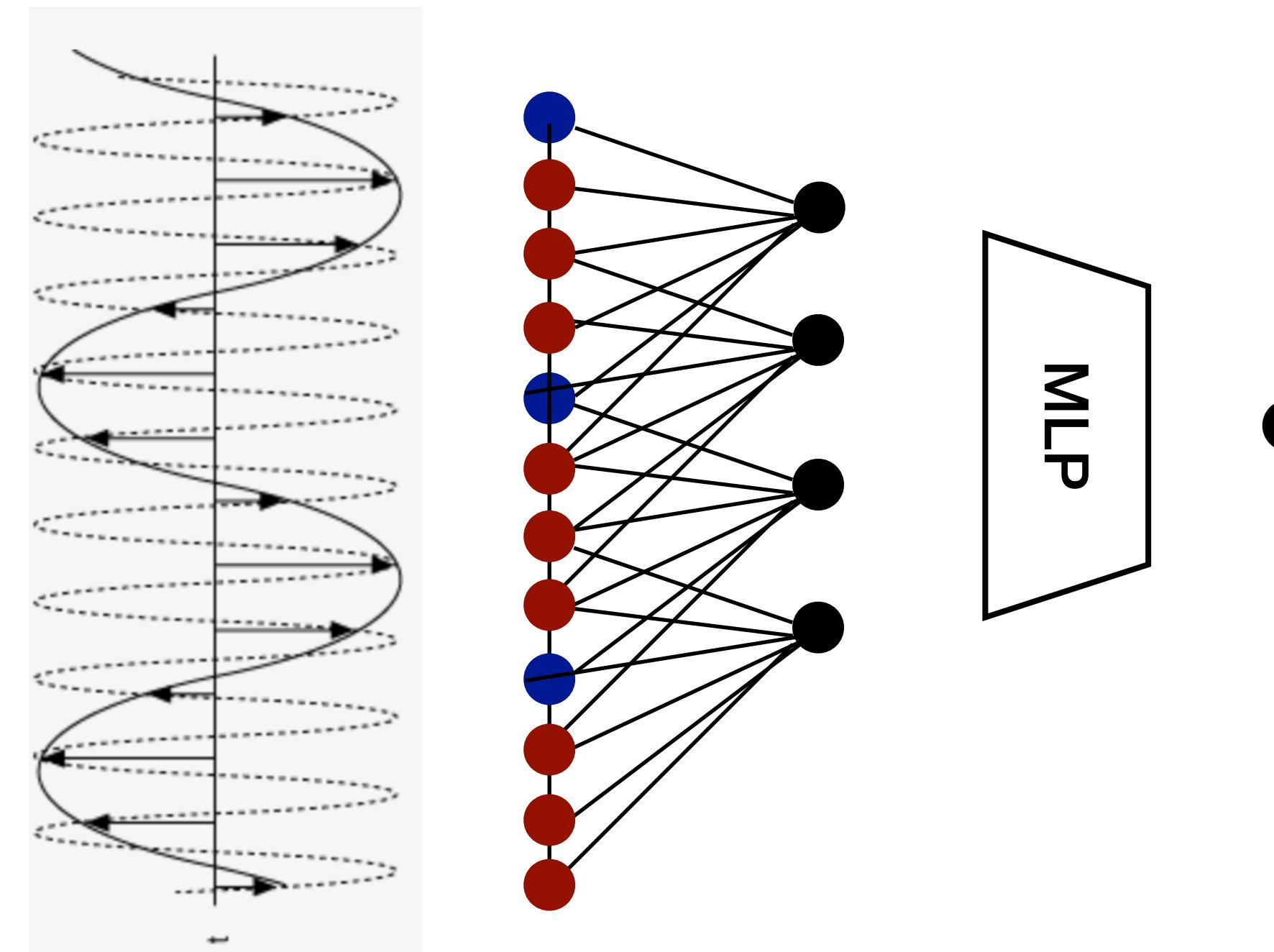
Corollary: 1D-CNN, path graph

Theorem (Shannon-Nyquist theorem): An analog signal $f \in L^1(\mathbb{R})$ with bandwidth in $(0, 2k)$ is uniquely determined by uniform discrete samples at rate k .

Corollary (Sampling for 1D-CNN): Given an analog 1D-image $f \in L^1([0,1])$ with bandwidth in $(0, 2k)$ and n uniform pixels, only $k \ll n$ pixels is needed to uniquely determine f .

Informative subset: Sampling theory

Corollary: 1D-CNN, path graph



Corollary (Sampling for 1D-CNN): Given an *analog 1D-image* $f \in L^1([0,1])$ with bandwidth in $(0, 2k)$ and n uniform pixels, only $k \ll n$ pixels is needed to uniquely determine f .

Informative subset: Sampling theory

Finite graph $G = (V, E)$ sampling

$$f : V \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$$

Theorem (Pesenson, 2008, informal): A *graph signal* $f \in \ell^2(G)$ with limited **bandwidth** λ is uniquely determined by a **uniqueness set** $U \subseteq V$

$$\text{Normalized Laplacian } I - (D^\dagger)^{1/2} A (D^\dagger)^{1/2}$$

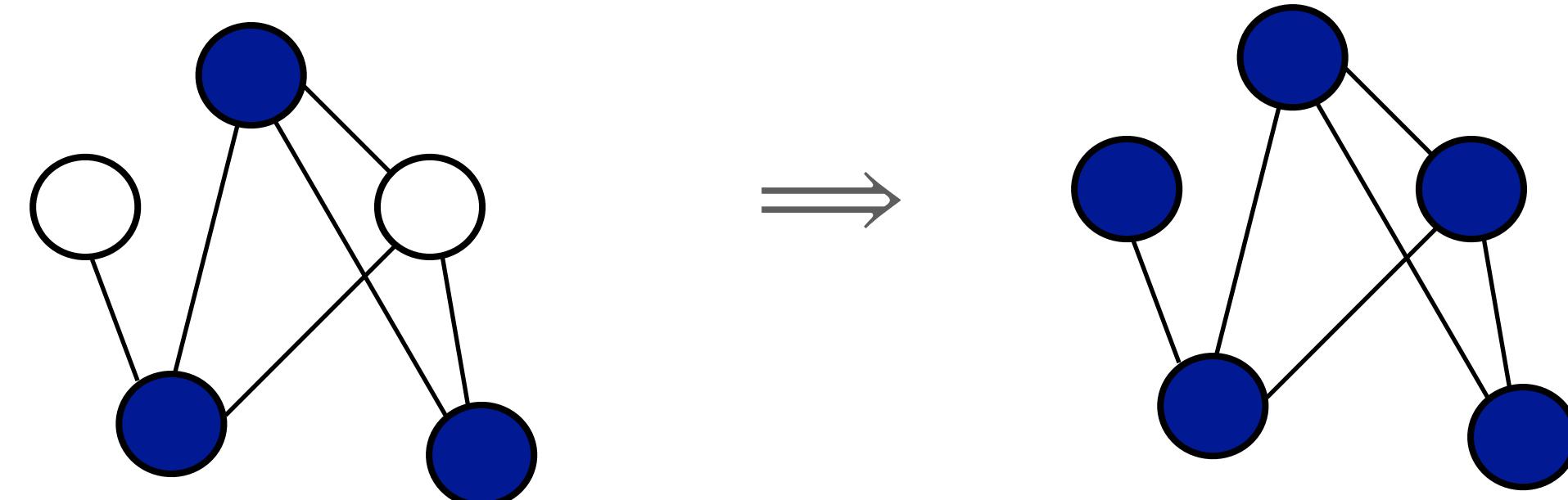
$$\|f_1 - f_2\|_{\ell^2(U)} = 0 \implies \|f_1 - f_2\|_{\ell^2(G)} = 0$$

Graph Fourier transform

$$\text{Eigenvalues/frequencies } \lambda_1 \leq \lambda_2 \leq \dots \leq \lambda_n$$

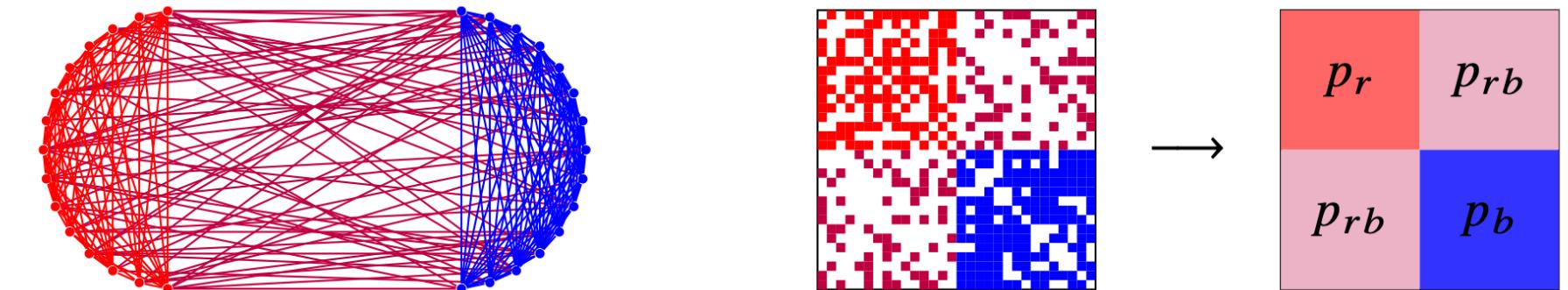
Bandwidth cutoff at λ

$$\text{Paley-Wiener space } PW_\lambda(G)$$



Towards transferable subset: graph limit

Graphons and limit of dense graphs



- Graphons are symmetric, measurable functions $\mathbf{W} : [0,1] \times [0,1] \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$
- Interpretation:
 1. $(V = [0,1], E = \{(u, v) : \mathbf{W}(u, v) \neq 0\})$ (informal)
 2. Finite graph sampler:
 1. Given number of nodes n , sample $v_1, \dots, v_n \stackrel{\text{iid}}{\sim} \text{Unif}[0,1]$
 2. For each $i < j \in [n]$, sample $(v_i, v_j) \stackrel{\text{iid}}{\sim} \text{Bern}(\mathbf{W}(v_i, v_j))$

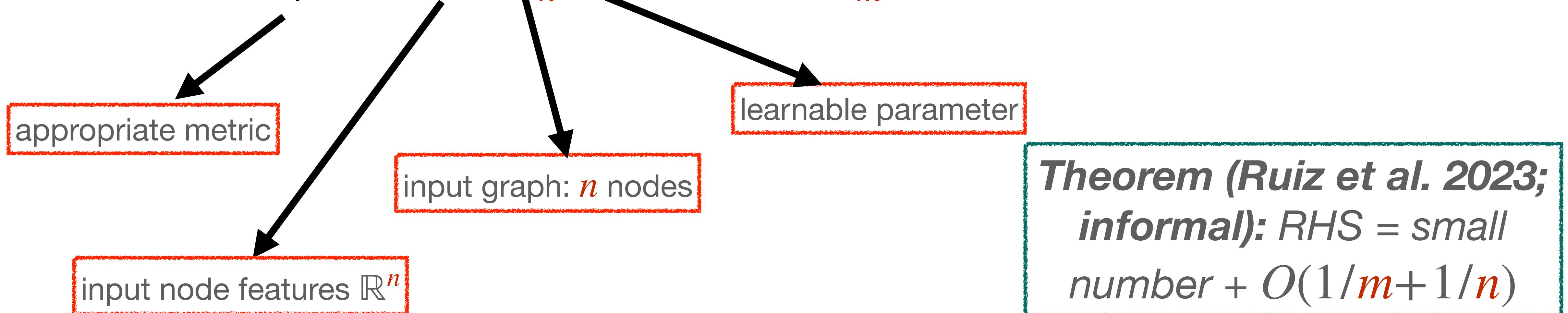
Reference: Lovasz, 2012, Large network and graph limits;
Borgs, Chayes, Lovasz, Sos and Vesztergombi 2006 - 2008: Convergent sequences of dense graphs I, II: Subgraph frequencies, metric properties and testing,
Figure: Zhao, Graph Theory and Additive Combinatorics pg 134

Towards transferable subset: graph limit

Transferability of graphs sampled from graphons

- Transferability between graphs with similar structures: for some rate $c > 0$,

$$d_?(\text{GNN}(\cdot, G_n, \theta), \text{GNN}(\cdot, G_m, \theta)) \leq O(1/m^c + 1/n^c)$$



Transferable subset: graph limit

Putting together...

- Uniqueness set for a finite graph = informative subset
- Finite graphs sampled from the same limit graphons are structurally similar

⇒ Study how to sample informative subset from limit graphon and get transferability for free

Our results

Finite graph $G = (V, E)$ sampling

Informative subset: Sampling theory

$$f : V \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$$

Theorem (Pesenson, 2008, informal): A *graph signal* $f \in \ell^2(G)$ with limited **bandwidth** λ is uniquely determined by a **uniqueness set** $U \subseteq V$

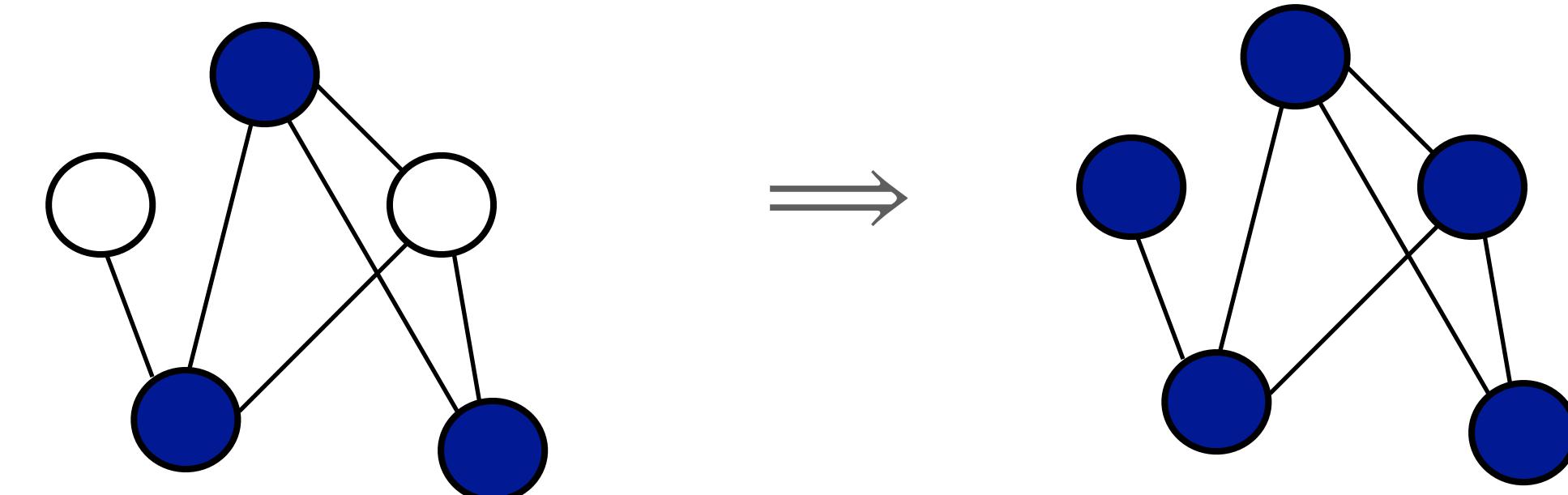
$$\text{Normalized Laplacian } I - (D^\dagger)^{1/2} A (D^\dagger)^{1/2}$$

Graph Fourier transform

$$\text{Eigenvalues/frequencies } \lambda_1 \leq \lambda_2 \leq \dots \leq \lambda_n$$

Bandwidth cutoff at λ

$$\text{Paley-Wiener space } PW_\lambda(G)$$



Graphon $W: [0,1]^2 \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ sampling (via Poincaré inequality) Informative subset: Sampling theory

$f: [0,1] \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$

Theorem 2,3 (L., Ruiz, Jegelka, 2023; informal): A *graphon* signal $f \in L^2([0,1])$ with limited bandwidth λ is uniquely determined by a msrbl uniqueness set s

Normalized graphon Laplacian

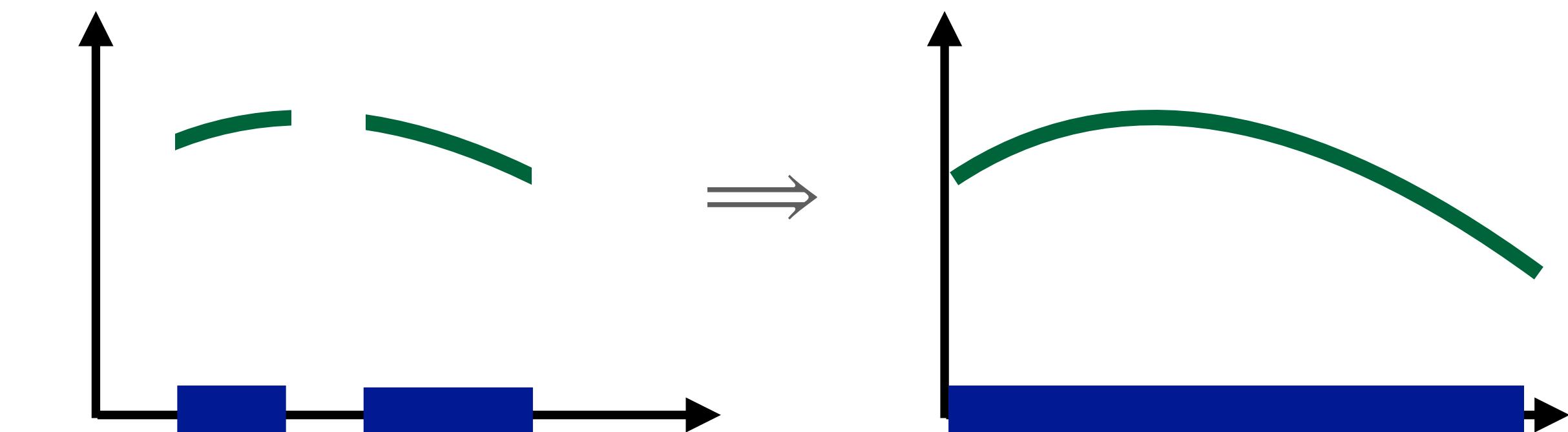
$$\|f_1 - f_2\|_{L^2(U)} = 0 \implies \|f_1 - f_2\|_{L^2([0,1])} = 0$$

Graphon Fourier transform

Eigenvalues/frequencies $\lambda_1 \leq \lambda_2 \leq \dots \leq \lambda_{-1}$

Bandwidth cutoff at λ

graphon Paley-Wiener space $PW_\lambda(W)$



Towards a sampling algorithm

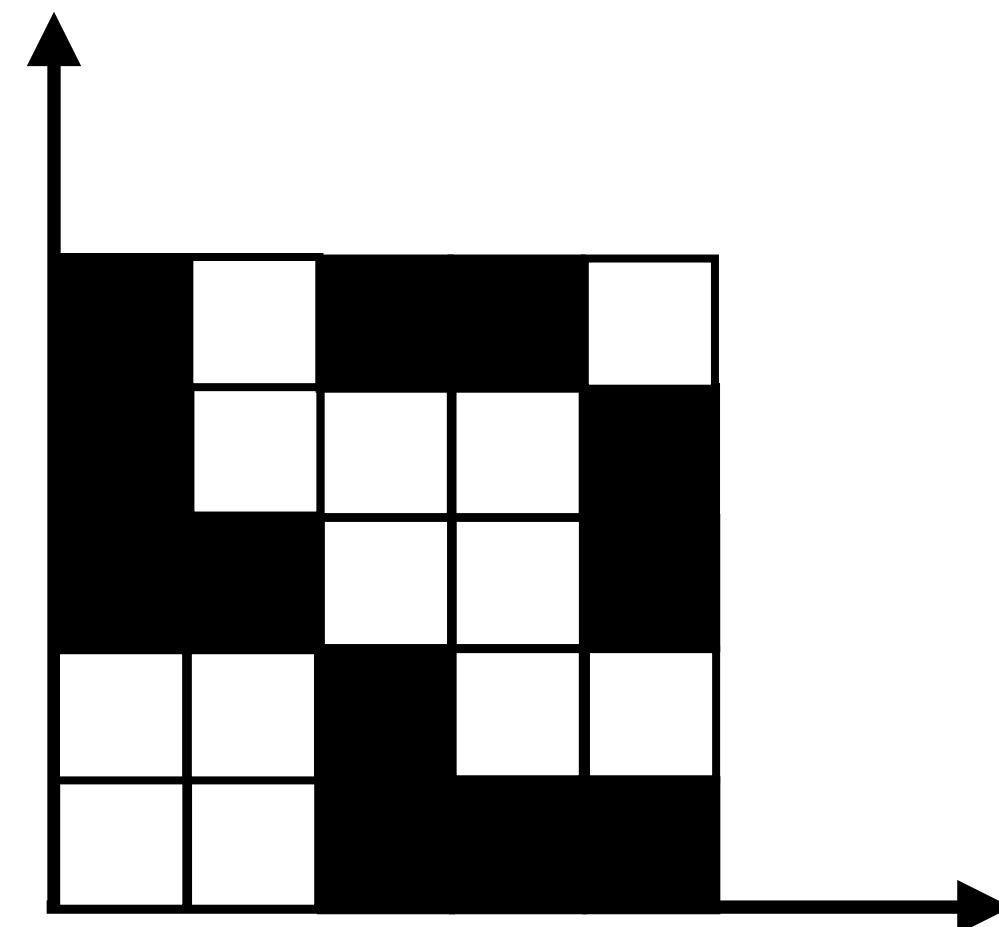
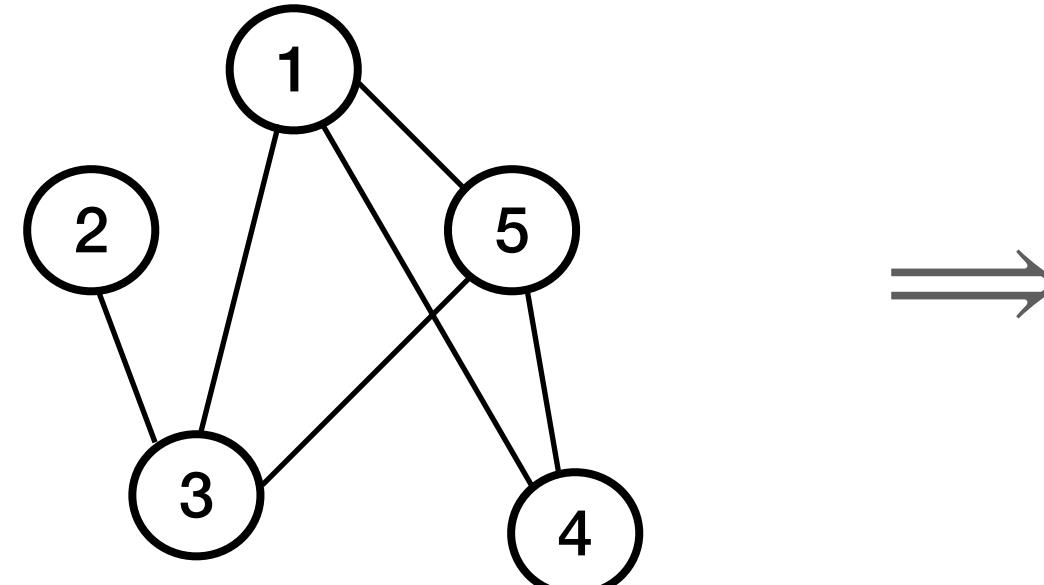
Input: large graph $G_{\textcolor{red}{N}}$. **Output:** small uniqueness set for all $G_{\textcolor{red}{n}}, \textcolor{red}{n} \geq N$

1. Obtain an approximation of the limit graphon with $G_{\textcolor{red}{N}}$.
2. Approximate uniqueness set $U \subseteq [0,1]$ by G_N uniqueness set $U_N \subseteq [\textcolor{red}{N}]$.
3. Map $U_N \subseteq [\textcolor{red}{N}]$ to nodes $U_n \subseteq [\textcolor{red}{n}]$ of finite graph $G_{\textcolor{red}{n}}, \textcolor{red}{n} \geq N$.

1. Obtain an approximation of limit graphon

Graphon is the closure of graphs (under cut norm)

- Embed G_N vertices into $[0,1]$ - induced graphon



Theorem (Lovász and Szegedy 2007): Graphon space is compact. Finite graphs are dense.

Towards a sampling algorithm

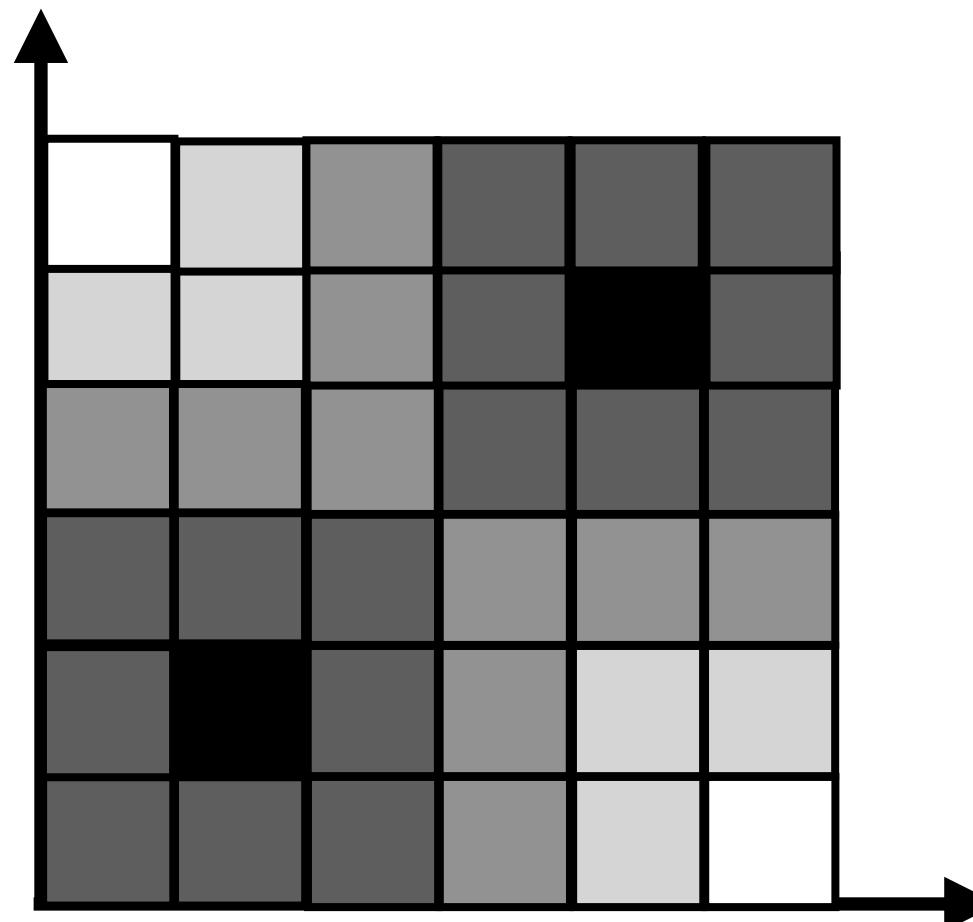
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2. Approximate uniqueness set of graphons

Graphon $W \equiv$ mixture model of random graphs $K = (\Omega, \sum_i P_i, k)$

Proposition 2 (L., Ruiz, Jegelka, 2023; informal): A graphon random model is equivalent to mixture models of random graphs. Well-fittedness measured by a difficulty function $\varphi(W; k, P_i)$ (Schiebinger et al. 2015)



$$\equiv dP = \frac{p_{\mathcal{N}(0.25, \sigma^2)} + p_{\mathcal{N}(0.75, \sigma^2)}}{2}$$

2. Approximate uniqueness set of graphons

Gaussian elimination find uniqueness set with high probability

Theorem (L., Ruiz, Jegelka, 2023; informal) - Corollary of Theorem 2 (Schiebinger et. al, 2015): If $\varphi \ll 1$, GE with pivoting find uniqueness set with high probability.

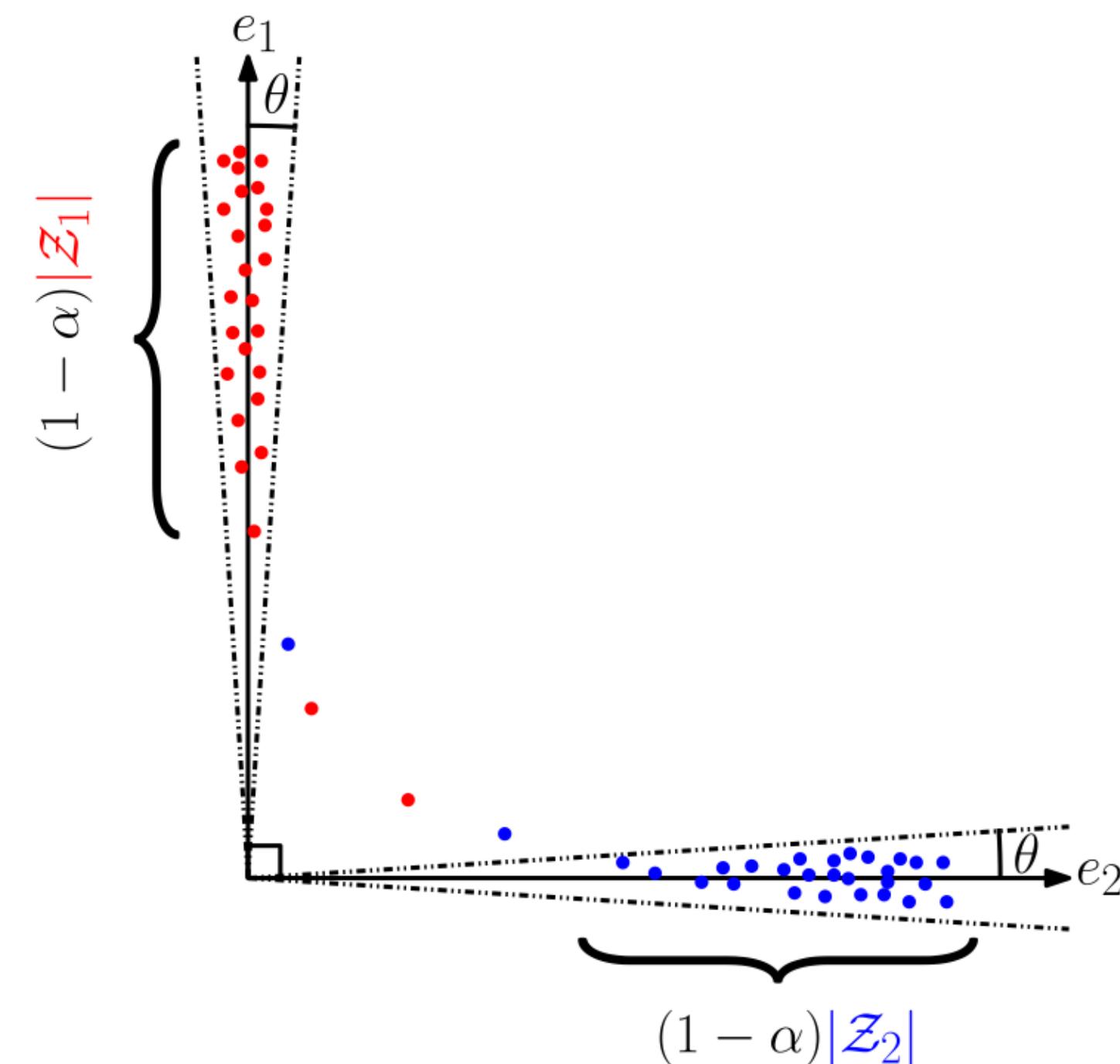


Figure from Schiebinger et al.
Reference: Schiebinger, Wainwright, Yu 2015. The geometry of kernelized spectral clustering

Towards a sampling algorithm

Input: large graph G_N . **Output:** small uniqueness set for all $G_n, n \geq N$

1. Obtain an approximation of the limit graphon with G_N .
2. Approximate uniqueness set $U \subseteq [0,1]$ by G_N uniqueness set $U_N \subseteq [N]$.
3. Map $U_N \subseteq [N]$ to nodes $U_n \subseteq [n]$ of finite graph $G_n, n \geq N$.

3. Map graphon uniqueness set to nodes in graph Consistency result

***Proposition 6 (L., Ruiz, Jegelka, 2023; informal):** If $\varphi \ll 1$, for a sequence of graphs $G_N \rightarrow W$, there exists a number of node N such that for all $n > N$, uniqueness set of G_N is also a uniqueness set of G_n .*

Empirical results

Experiments

Transferability

Table 2: Classification accuracy on the MalNet-Tiny dataset, (i) w/o positional encodings (PEs), (ii) w/ PEs computed on the full graph, (iii) w/ PEs computed on a graphon-sampled subgraph (removing or not isolated nodes), and (iv) w/ PEs computed on a subgraph with randomly sampled nodes (removing or not isolated nodes).

	no PEs	full graph PEs	graphon sampled PEs		randomly sampled PEs	
			w/ isolated	w/o	w/ isolated	w/o
mean	0.26±0.03	0.43±0.07	0.29±0.06	0.33±0.06	0.28±0.07	0.27±0.07
max	0.30	0.51	0.40	0.42	0.35	0.37

Conclusion

- Subsampling a small subset of k vertices, $k \ll n$, scales graph algorithms:
 - Find an ‘informative’ subset: sampling theory
 - Find a ‘transferable’ subset: graph limit
- We derived a consistent algorithm that approximately samples from the limiting graphon uniqueness set, under theoretical guarantees.
- We tested our approach in real-world datasets, showing improvement over uniformly random sampling.

Thank you!

Q&A



- Major thanks to my collaborators Luana Ruiz and Stefanie Jegelka
- Contact: thienle@mit.edu
- Full paper:

