

# Graph Topological Stability via Matrix Differential Equations

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#### Introduction Graphs and Higher-Order Interactions

Graph  $\mathcal{G}$  is a pair of sets,  $\mathcal{G} = (V, E)$ : • V is the set of vertices, |V| = n•  $\mathcal{E}$  is the set of edges,  $\mathcal{E} \subseteq V, \times V, |\mathcal{E}| = m$ Pairwise Interactions



Higher-order relations

#### **Outline:**

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There is a number of ways to introduce higher-order interactions in the network: hypergraphs, motifs, etc.; we focus on:

# Definition

For a given set V, a family X of its subsets is called a simplicial complex if for any set S in X, every  $S' \subseteq S$  also belongs to X.



$$\begin{split} & [A, B, C], -2\text{-simplices}, \ K_2(X) \\ & [A, B], [A, C], [B, C], [B, D], \\ & [C, D], [C, E], [D, E], [E, F], -1\text{-simplices}, \ K_1(X) \\ & [A], [B], [C], [D], [E], [F]-0\text{-simplices}, \ K_0(X) \end{split}$$

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#### Introduction Chains and Boundary Operators

Inside the simplicial complex X, simplexes of different orders are connected through the boundary relation  $\partial_k$ .



Formal linear Chain Spaces are spanned by the simplexes  $\sigma_i$  of the same cardinality ( $\sigma_i \in K_k(X)$ ):

$$C_k(X) = \operatorname{span}(\sigma_1, \ldots, \sigma_{|\kappa_k(X)|})$$

### Examples of Chain Spaces

- $C_0(X)$  states of vertices;
- $C_1(X)$  edge flows;

. . . .

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#### Introduction Chains and Boundary Operators

### Definition

he boundary operator 
$$\partial_k : C_k(X) \to C_{k-1}(X)$$
  
 $\partial_k[v_0, v_1, \dots, v_p] = \sum_{j=0}^k (-1)^j [v_0, \dots, v_{j-1}, v_{j+1}, \dots, v_k]$ 



of

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 $\partial_k \partial_{k+1} = 0$ 

#### Introduction High-order Laplacians for Graphs

The conjugate map  $\partial_k^* (B_k^T)$  is called a **co-boundary** operator.

$$(\partial_1^*f)[v_1,v_2]=f(v_2)-f(v_1)\quad \leftrightarrow\quad 
abla f(x)=rac{1}{\Delta x}\left(f(x+\Delta x)-f(x)
ight)$$

### Definition

Analogous to the continuous Laplacian operator,  $L = \nabla^T \nabla$ , one defines the classical graph Laplacian or connecting Laplacian:

$$L_0 = B_1 B_1^T, \qquad L_0 \in Mat_{n imes n}$$

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#### Introduction High-order Laplacians for Graphs

### Definition

The higher-order graph Laplacian is given by:

$$L_k = B_k^T B_k + B_{k+1} B_{k+1}^T$$

In case  $k = 1, L_1 = B_1^T B_1 + B_2 B_2^T$  is called a Hodge Laplacian,  $L_1 \in Mat_{m \times m}$ 

dim ker  $L_0$  = number of connected components Cheeger constant, Fiedler vector **Outline:** 

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Hodge Laplacians on Graphs L.H. Lim

# Problem Statement

Let us assume weighted generalizations of the boundary operators:

 $B_1 \mapsto D_v^+ B_1 W, \qquad B_2 \mapsto W^+ B_2 D_t$ 

■ *W* is the diagonal matrix of weights of *edges*;

- $D_v(W)$  is the diagonal matrix of weights of vertices;
- **D** $_t(W)$  is the diagonal matrix of weights of *triangles*.

### Probem Statement

Given the weighted connected graph  $\mathcal{G}$  with the simplicial complex  $X = (V, \mathcal{E}, T)$  and k one-dimensional holes, find the smallest perturbation  $\Delta W$  of edges' weights that increases the number of 1-dimensional holes in the graph  $\mathcal{G}$ .

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T - set of triangles in X, T =  $K_2(X)$ 

#### Problem Statement Target Functional

Consider the perturbation  $\Delta W = \varepsilon E$ :

- $\varepsilon \geq 0$ , ||E|| = 1;
- $\quad \blacksquare W + \varepsilon E \ge 0.$

The target functional:

$$F_{k}(\varepsilon, E) = \underbrace{\frac{1}{2} \sum_{i=1}^{k+1} \lambda_{i}^{2}}_{\text{control ker } L_{1}} + \underbrace{\frac{\alpha}{2} \max\left(0, 1 - \frac{\mu_{2}}{\mu}\right)^{2}}_{\text{connectedness}}$$

where  $\lambda_i \in \sigma(L_1(W + \varepsilon E)),$  $\mu_2 \in \sigma(L_0(W + \varepsilon E)).$ 

# Why connectedness?

- $\sigma(L_1)$  contains non-zero part of  $\sigma(L_0)$ ;
- due to W<sup>+</sup>, L<sub>1</sub> can be discontinuous upon complete edge elimination;
- complete edge
   elimination =
   dimensionality reduction.

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$$\begin{split} \|E\| &= \sqrt{\langle E, E \rangle_F} \\ \langle A, B \rangle_F &= \operatorname{Tr}(A^T B) \end{split}$$

 $\sigma(A) =$  ordered by magnitude spectrum of A

### Gradient Flow Approach Inner and Outer Iterations

The optimization task:

 $\operatorname{argmin}_{\varepsilon} F_k(\varepsilon, E), \quad \text{where } \|E\| = 1, \ W + \varepsilon E \succeq 0$ 

# Optimization: Inner Iteration

Assume  $\varepsilon$  is fixed, then one optimizes for *E*:

For the case of simple eigenvalue  $\lambda(t)$  with corresponding unit eigenvector x, we use the derivative formula:

$$\frac{d}{dt}\lambda(t) = \left\langle \frac{d}{dt}L(t), xx^{T} \right\rangle$$

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Constrained graph partitioning via matrix differential equations E. Andreotti, D. Edelmann, N. Guglielmi, and C. Lubich,



### Gradient Flow Approach Inner and Outer Iterations

**Constraints** are taken in the account through projections to corresponding manifolds (in Frobenius norm):

- $W + \varepsilon E \ge 0 \leftrightarrow \mathbb{P}_+ \text{non-negativity projector};$
- $||E|| = 1 \leftrightarrow \dot{E}(t) = -\nabla_E F_k(\varepsilon, E(t)) + \kappa E(t)$  trajectory's projection on the unit sphere.

# Optimization: Inner Iteration

$$\dot{\mathsf{E}}(t) = - 
abla_{\mathsf{E}} \mathbb{P}_+ \mathsf{F}_{\mathsf{k}}(arepsilon, \mathsf{E}(t)) + \kappa \mathbb{P}_+ \mathsf{E}(t)$$

minimizer  $E^*(\varepsilon) = \lim_{t \to \infty} E(t)$ 

■ if  $\mathbb{P}_+$  support is conserved,  $F_k(\varepsilon, E(t))$  monotonically decreases;

**P**<sub>+</sub> limits the control of the rank of the minimizer  $E^*(\varepsilon)$ .

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### Gradient Flow Approach Outer Iteration

- inner iteration is Euler integrated conserving monotonicity;
- inner iteration converges to a local minimizer  $E^*(\varepsilon)$ ;
- outer iteration conducts a search for the minimal  $\varepsilon$  such that  $F_k(\varepsilon, E^*(\varepsilon)) = 0$ ;
- due to the intrinsic structure of the target functional:
  - outer iteration is started with small  $\varepsilon$ ;
  - quasi-homotopic transition: the minimizer  $E^*(\varepsilon)$  is used as an initial point in Euler integration for the inner iteration when  $\varepsilon$  is modified to a nearby value;
  - **forward phase**: increase  $\varepsilon$  until  $F_k(\varepsilon, E^*(\varepsilon)) = 0$ ;
  - **backward phase**: decrease  $\varepsilon$  while  $F_k(\varepsilon, E^*(\varepsilon)) = 0$  holds.

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# Illustrative Example



- the set of triangles *T* in the simplicial complex consists of 3 triangles, [1, 2, 3], [4, 5, 6] and [4, 6, 7];
- weights of the edges are randomly sampled,  $w_i \sim U\left[\frac{1}{4}, \frac{3}{4}\right]$ ;
- weight of the vertex in matrix D<sub>v</sub> equals the sum of all adjacent edges;
- weight of the triangle is a minimal weight of included edges:

 $w([i, j, k]) = \min\{w_{[i, j]}, w_{[i, k]}, w_{[j, k]}\}$ 

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U[a, b] – uniform distribution on [a, b] segment

# Example: Flow



#### Example Triangulation



- (*n* − 4) points are randomly thrown on the unit square;
- Delauney triangulation of sampled and corner points is calculated;
- edges randomly added or removed to reach the target sparsity ν;
- weights of the edges are randomly sampled,  $w_i \sim U\left[\frac{1}{4}, \frac{3}{4}\right]$ .

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#### Example Triangulation





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# Inheritance of the Spectrum

# Theorem (HOL's Inheritance of the Spectrum)

Given the Classical Laplacian  $L_0$  and the Hodge Laplacian  $L_1$  for graph  $\mathcal{G}$ , one gets:  $\sigma_+(L_0) \subseteq \sigma_+(L_1);$ 

2 if  $0 \neq \mu \in \sigma_+(L_0) \subseteq \sigma_+(L_1)$ , then eigenvectors are related as follows:

- 1 if x is an eigenvector for  $L_0$  with  $\mu$ -eigenvalue, then  $y = \frac{1}{\sqrt{\mu}}B_1^T x$  is an eigenvector for  $L_1$  with the same eigenvalue
- 2 if u is an eigenvector for  $L_1$  with  $\mu$ -eigenvalue and  $u \notin \ker B_1$ , then  $v = \frac{1}{\sqrt{\mu}}B_1u$  is an eigenvector for  $L_0$  with the same eigenvalue

3  $\mu \in \sigma_+(L_1)$  and  $\mu \notin \sigma_+(L_0)$ , then its corresponding eigenvector u is in ker  $B_1$ and the eigen-properties hold for the second term in the  $L_1$ :

$$B_2 B_2^T u = \mu u$$

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 $\sigma_+(\cdot)$  denotes the positive part of the spectrum

# Inheritance of the Spectrum



Figure: Illustration for the Combinatorial Spectrum Inheritance

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# Th-Limit to the Continuous Case

One can show the convergence of the discrete  $L_1$  to the continuous  $L_1$  as  $|V| \rightarrow \infty$  for:

$$w([i,j]) = d(x_i, x_j)$$

$$w([i]) = \sum_{[i,j] \in \mathcal{E}} w([i,j])$$

$$w([i,j]) = w([i,j]) = w([i,j]) = w([i,j])$$

• 
$$w([i,j,k]) = w([i,j])w([i,k])w([j,k])$$

#### Note:

The elimination of the edge here eliminates also **triangle** and **vertex**. Such setup is less sensible for the current work's topological stability definition.

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Helmholtzian Eigenmap: Topological feature discovery & edge flow learning from point cloud data Y.-C. Chen, M. Meila, I.G. Kevrekidis

