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## A STABILITY AND GRADIENT

### A.1 LEMMAS FOR THEOREM 6

We start by establishing the maximum variation in the sample loss and the maximum change in the gradient of the loss function with respect to the parameters  $\{\Theta, W\}$  of spectral GNNs, as defined in Eq. (1). These two properties play a crucial role in the subsequent analysis.

Based on Assumption 1, we derive the following lemmas.

**Lemma 17** (Bound of Loss function to Parameters). *Under Assumption 1, given a loss function  $\ell$  and a spectral GNN, for parameters  $\Theta, \bar{W}, \Theta', W'$  and any node  $v_i$  with truth class  $y_i$  we have*

$$\|\ell(y_i, \hat{y}_i|_{\Theta=\bar{\Theta}, W=\bar{W}}) - \ell(y_i, \hat{y}_i|_{\Theta', W'})\|_F \leq \alpha_1 \sqrt{\|\bar{\Theta} - \Theta'\|_F^2 + \|\bar{W} - W'\|_F^2}$$

where  $\alpha_1 = Lip(\ell)Lip(\Psi)$ .

*Proof.* Under Assumption 1, we have:

$$\|\ell(y_i, \hat{y}_i|_{\tau=\bar{\tau}}) - \ell(y_i, \hat{y}_i|_{\tau=\tau'})\| \leq Lip(\ell)\|\hat{y}_i|_{\tau=\bar{\tau}} - \hat{y}_i|_{\tau=\tau'}\|_F;$$

$$\|Lip(\ell)\|\hat{y}_i|_{\tau=\bar{\tau}} - \hat{y}_i|_{\tau=\tau'}\|_F \leq Lip(\Psi)\|\bar{\tau} - \tau'\|_F.$$

By combining the two inequalities above, we arrive at:

$$\|\ell(y_i, \hat{y}_i|_{\tau=\bar{\tau}}) - \ell(y_i, \hat{y}_i|_{\tau=\tau'})\| \leq Lip(\ell)Lip(\Psi)\|\bar{\tau} - \tau'\|_F.$$

□

**Lemma 18** (Bound of Gradient to Parameters). *Under Assumption 1, Assumption 2, for parameters  $\bar{\Theta}, \bar{W}, \Theta', W'$  of a spectral GNN, the following holds for any node  $v_i$  with truth class  $y_i$*

$$\|\nabla\ell(y_i, \hat{y}_i|_{\Theta=\bar{\Theta}, W=\bar{W}}) - \nabla\ell(y_i, \hat{y}_i|_{\Theta', W'})\|_F \leq \alpha_2 \sqrt{\|\bar{\Theta} - \Theta'\|_F^2 + \|\bar{W} - W'\|_F^2}$$

where  $\alpha_2 = (\text{Smt}(\Psi)\beta_1 + \text{Smt}(\ell)\text{Lip}(\Psi)\beta_2)$ .

*Proof.* Since we have

$$\begin{aligned} \nabla\ell(y_i, \hat{y}_i|_{\tau=\bar{\tau}}) &= \nabla_{\hat{y}_i}\ell(y, \hat{y}_i)|_{\tau=\bar{\tau}} \cdot \nabla\hat{y}_i|_{\tau=\bar{\tau}}; \\ \nabla\ell(y_i, \hat{y}_i|_{\tau=\tau'}) &= \nabla_{\hat{y}_i}\ell(y, \hat{y}_i)|_{\tau=\tau'} \cdot \nabla\hat{y}_i|_{\tau=\tau'}, \end{aligned}$$

this leads to

$$\begin{aligned} \nabla\ell(y_i, \hat{y}_i|_{\tau=\bar{\tau}}) - \nabla\ell(y_i, \hat{y}_i|_{\tau=\tau'}) &= \nabla_{\hat{y}_i}\ell(y, \hat{y}_i)|_{\tau=\bar{\tau}}(\nabla\hat{y}_i|_{\tau=\bar{\tau}} - \nabla\hat{y}_i|_{\tau=\tau'}) \\ &\quad + (\nabla_{\hat{y}_i}\ell(y, \hat{y}_i)|_{\tau=\bar{\tau}} - \nabla_{\hat{y}_i}\ell(y, \hat{y}_i)|_{\tau=\tau'}) \nabla\hat{y}_i|_{\tau=\tau'}. \end{aligned}$$

Hence, we obtain the following

$$\begin{aligned} \|\nabla\ell(y_i, \hat{y}_i|_{\tau=\bar{\tau}}) - \nabla\ell(y_i, \hat{y}_i|_{\tau=\tau'})\|_F &\leq \|\nabla_{\hat{y}_i}\ell(y, \hat{y}_i)|_{\tau=\bar{\tau}}\|_F \cdot \|\nabla\hat{y}_i|_{\tau=\bar{\tau}} - \nabla\hat{y}_i|_{\tau=\tau'}\|_F \\ &\quad + \|\nabla_{\hat{y}_i}\ell(y, \hat{y}_i)|_{\tau=\bar{\tau}} - \nabla_{\hat{y}_i}\ell(y, \hat{y}_i)|_{\tau=\tau'}\|_F \cdot \|\nabla\hat{y}_i|_{\tau=\tau'}\|_F. \end{aligned} \quad (5)$$

Under Assumption 1 and Assumption 2, we have:

$$\begin{aligned} \|\nabla\hat{y}_i|_{\tau=\bar{\tau}} - \nabla\hat{y}_i|_{\tau=\tau'}\|_F &\leq \text{Smt}(\Psi)\|\bar{\tau} - \tau'\|_F \\ \|\nabla_{\hat{y}_i}\ell(y, \hat{y}_i)|_{\tau=\bar{\tau}}\|_F &\leq \beta_1. \end{aligned} \quad (6)$$

Under Assumption 1, we have:

$$\begin{aligned} \|\nabla_{\hat{y}_i}\ell(y, \hat{y}_i)|_{\tau=\bar{\tau}} - \nabla_{\hat{y}_i}\ell(y, \hat{y}_i)|_{\tau=\tau'}\|_F &\leq \text{Smt}(\ell)\|\hat{y}_i|_{\tau=\bar{\tau}} - \hat{y}_i|_{\tau=\tau'}\|_F \\ &\leq \text{Smt}(\ell)\text{Lip}(\Psi)\|\bar{\tau} - \tau'\|_F. \end{aligned} \quad (7)$$

Under Assumption 2, we have:

$$\|\nabla\hat{y}_i|_{\tau=\tau'}\|_F \leq \beta_2. \quad (8)$$

Substitute Eq. (6), Eq. (7), and Eq. (8) into Eq. (5), we have

$$\begin{aligned} \|\nabla\ell(y_i, \hat{y}_i|_{\tau=\bar{\tau}}) - \nabla\ell(y_i, \hat{y}_i|_{\tau=\tau'})\|_F &\leq \text{Smt}(\Psi)\|\bar{\tau} - \tau'\|_F \cdot \beta_1 + \text{Smt}(\ell)\text{Lip}(\Psi)\|\bar{\tau} - \tau'\|_F \cdot \beta_2 \\ &= (\text{Smt}(\Psi)\beta_1 + \text{Smt}(\ell)\text{Lip}(\Psi)\beta_2)\|\bar{\tau} - \tau'\|_F. \end{aligned}$$

□

## A.2 PROOF OF THEOREM 6

**Theorem 6** (Stability and Gradient Norm). *Let  $\Psi$  be a spectral GNN trained using gradient descent for  $T$  iterations with a learning rate  $\eta$  on a training dataset  $S_m$ , and evaluated on a testing set  $\mathcal{D}_u$ . Under Assumption 1, for all iterations  $t \in [1, T]$  and any sample  $(x_i, y_i)$  in  $S_m$  or  $\mathcal{D}_u$ , if the gradient norm satisfies  $\|\nabla\ell(y_i, \hat{y}_i|_{\Theta^t, W^t})\|_F \leq \beta$ , where  $\{\Theta^t, W^t\}$  are the parameters at the  $t$ -th iteration, then  $\Psi$  satisfies  $\gamma$ -uniform transductive stability with:*

$$\gamma = r\beta, \quad r = \frac{2\eta\alpha_1}{m} \sum_{t=1}^T (1 + \eta\alpha_2)^{t-1},$$

where  $\alpha_1 = \text{Lip}(\ell) \cdot \text{Lip}(\Psi)$  and  $\alpha_2 = \text{Smt}(\Psi)\beta_1 + \text{Smt}(\ell)\text{Lip}(\Psi)\beta_2$ .

*Proof.* We define  $\tau = [\Theta; W]$  as the concatenation of the parameters  $\Theta$  and  $W$ . From Lemma 17 and Lemma 18, we derive:

$$\begin{aligned} \|\ell(y_i, \hat{y}_i|_{\tau}) - \ell(y_i, \hat{y}_i|_{\tau'})\|_F &\leq \alpha_1\|\tau - \tau'\|_F; \\ \|\nabla\ell(y_i, \hat{y}_i|_{\tau}) - \nabla\ell(y_i, \hat{y}_i|_{\tau'})\|_F &\leq \alpha_2\|\tau - \tau'\|_F, \end{aligned}$$

where  $\alpha_1 = Lip(\ell)Lip(\Psi)$  and  $\alpha_2 = (Smt(\Psi)\beta_1 + Smt(\ell)Lip(\Psi)\beta_2)$ . The updating rule for gradient descent is given by:

$$\begin{aligned}\tau^{t+1} &= \tau^t - \eta \nabla \mathcal{L}_{S_m}(\tau^t); \\ \tau_{ij}^{t+1} &= \tau_{ij}^t - \eta \nabla \mathcal{L}_{S_m^{ij}}(\tau_{ij}^t),\end{aligned}$$

where

$$\mathcal{L}_{S_m}(\tau^t) = \frac{1}{m} \sum_{r=1}^m \ell(y_r, \hat{y}_r | \tau^t) \text{ and } \mathcal{L}_{S_m^{ij}}(\tau_{ij}^t) = \frac{1}{m} \sum_{r=1}^m \ell(y_r, \hat{y}_r | \tau_{ij}^t).$$

represent the empirical loss on the training dataset  $S_m$  and  $S_m^{ij}$ , respectively. The difference between the empirical losses is given by:

$$\mathcal{L}_{S_m^{ij}}(\tau_{ij}^t) - \mathcal{L}_{S_m}(\tau^t) = \frac{1}{m} \left[ \sum_{r=1, r \neq i, j}^m \left( \ell(y_r, \hat{y}_r | \tau_{ij}^t) - \ell(y_r, \hat{y}_r | \tau^t) \right) + \ell(y_j, \hat{y}_j | \tau_{ij}^t) - \ell(y_i, \hat{y}_i | \tau^t) \right].$$

We derive the parameter difference:

$$\begin{aligned}\|\tau_{ij}^{t+1} - \tau^{t+1}\|_F &= \left\| \tau_{ij}^t - \eta \nabla \mathcal{L}_{S_m^{ij}}(\tau_{ij}^t) - \tau^t + \eta \nabla \mathcal{L}_{S_m}(\tau^t) \right\|_F \\ &\leq \|\tau_{ij}^t - \tau^t\|_F + \eta \left\| \nabla (\mathcal{L}_{S_m}(\tau^t) - \mathcal{L}_{S_m^{ij}}(\tau_{ij}^t)) \right\|_F \\ &= \|\tau_{ij}^t - \tau^t\|_F + \frac{\eta}{m} \left\| \nabla \left[ \sum_{\substack{r=1 \\ r \neq i, j}}^m \left( \ell(y_r, \hat{y}_r | \tau_{ij}^t) - \ell(y_r, \hat{y}_r | \tau^t) \right) + \ell(y_j, \hat{y}_j | \tau_{ij}^t) - \ell(y_i, \hat{y}_i | \tau^t) \right] \right\|_F \\ &\leq \|\tau_{ij}^t - \tau^t\|_F + \frac{\eta}{m} \left\| \sum_{\substack{r=1 \\ r \neq i, j}}^m \alpha_2 \|\tau_{ij}^t - \tau^t\|_F + \nabla \left[ \ell(y_j, \hat{y}_j | \tau_{ij}^t) - \ell(y_i, \hat{y}_i | \tau^t) \right] \right\|_F \quad (\text{Assumption 1}) \\ &\leq \|\tau_{ij}^t - \tau^t\|_F + \frac{\eta}{m} (m-1) \alpha_2 \|\tau_{ij}^t - \tau^t\|_F + \frac{\eta}{m} \left\| \nabla \left[ \ell(y_j, \hat{y}_j | \tau_{ij}^t) - \ell(y_i, \hat{y}_i | \tau^t) \right] \right\|_F \\ &\leq \|\tau_{ij}^t - \tau^t\|_F + \frac{\eta}{m} (m-1) \alpha_2 \|\tau_{ij}^t - \tau^t\|_F + \frac{2\eta\beta}{m} \quad (\text{Theorem 13}) \\ &= \left( 1 + \frac{m-1}{m} \eta \alpha_2 \right) \|\tau_{ij}^t - \tau^t\|_F + \frac{2\eta\beta}{m} \\ &\leq (1 + \eta \alpha_2) \|\tau_{ij}^t - \tau^t\|_F + \frac{2\eta\beta}{m}.\end{aligned}$$

After  $T$  iterations, we obtain

$$\begin{aligned}\|\tau_{ij}^T - \tau^T\|_F &\leq (1 + \eta \alpha_2) \|\tau_{ij}^{T-1} - \tau^{T-1}\|_F + \frac{2\eta\beta}{m} \\ &\leq (1 + \eta \alpha_2) [(1 + \eta \alpha_2) \|\tau_{ij}^{T-2} - \tau^{T-2}\|_F + \frac{2\eta\beta}{m}] \\ &\leq (1 + \eta \alpha_2)^T \|\tau_{ij}^0 - \tau^0\|_F + \sum_{t=1}^T (1 + \eta \alpha_2)^{t-1} \frac{2\eta\beta}{m} \\ &= \sum_{t=1}^T (1 + \eta \alpha_2)^{t-1} \frac{2\eta\beta}{m}.\end{aligned}$$

Since the loss function  $\ell$  is  $\alpha_1$ -Lipschitz continuous, for any sample  $(x_i, y_i)$  with parameters  $\tau^T = [\Theta^T; W^T]$  and  $\tau_{ij}^T = [\Theta_{ij}^T; W_{ij}^T]$ , we have:

$$\begin{aligned}|\ell(\hat{y}_i, y_i; \tau^T) - \ell(\hat{y}_i, y_i; \tau_{ij}^T)| &\leq \alpha_1 |\tau^T - \tau_{ij}^T| \\ &\leq \alpha_1 \sum_{t=1}^T (1 + \eta \alpha_2)^{t-1} \frac{2\eta\beta}{m}.\end{aligned}$$

The proof is completed.  $\square$

## B STABILITY ON GENERAL MULTI-CLASS CSBM

We derive the uniform transductive stability of spectral GNNs defined in Eq. (1) on graphs generated by  $G \sim \text{CSBM}(n, f, \Pi, Q)$ . Then we discuss how the non-linear feature transformation function affect the stability.

We first give a brief introduction to inequalities and lemmas used in this proof.

### B.1 LEMMAS FOR THEOREM 8

**Lemma 19** (Jensen’s Inequality). *Let  $X$  be an arbitrary random variable, and let  $f : \mathbb{R}^1 \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^1$  be a convex function such that  $\mathbb{E}[f(X)]$  is finite. Then  $f(\mathbb{E}[X]) \leq \mathbb{E}[f(X)]$ .*

**Lemma 20** (Markov’s Inequality). *If  $X$  is a non-negative random variable, then for all  $a > 0$ ,*

$$P(X \geq a) \leq \frac{\mathbb{E}[X]}{a}.$$

*That is, the probability that  $X$  exceeds any given value  $a$  is no more than the expectation of  $X$  divided by  $a$ .*

*Remark.* Lemma 19, Lemma 20 are important inequalities about a variable and its expectation. Details can be found in (Evans & Rosenthal, 2004).

**Lemma 21** (Cauchy-Schwarz Inequality (Arfken et al., 2011)).

$$\left(\sum_{k=1}^n a_k b_k\right)^2 \leq \left(\sum_{k=1}^n a_k^2\right) \left(\sum_{k=1}^n b_k^2\right).$$

The square of the  $\ell_2$ -norm of the product of two vectors is less than or equal to the product of the squares of the  $\ell_2$ -norms of the individual vectors.

**Lemma 22** (Trace and Frobenius Norm). *For any matrix  $A \in \mathbb{R}^{n \times n}$ , the relation between its trace and its Frobenius norm is*

$$\text{Tr}(A) \leq \sqrt{n} \cdot \|A\|_F.$$

*Proof.* The trace of  $A$  is defined as:

$$\text{Tr}(A) = \sum_{i=1}^n a_{ii}.$$

Applying the absolute value, we have:

$$\text{Tr}(A) \leq \sum_{i=1}^n |a_{ii}|.$$

Using the Cauchy-Schwarz inequality (Lemma 21), this becomes:

$$\sum_{i=1}^n |a_{ii}| \leq \sqrt{n} \cdot \sqrt{\sum_{i=1}^n |a_{ii}|^2}.$$

Since  $|a_{ii}|^2 = a_{ii}^2$ , we can write:

$$\sqrt{\sum_{i=1}^n |a_{ii}|^2} = \sqrt{\sum_{i=1}^n a_{ii}^2}.$$

Thus:

$$\text{Tr}(A) \leq \sqrt{n} \cdot \sqrt{\sum_{i=1}^n a_{ii}^2} = \sqrt{n} \cdot \|A\|_F.$$

□

**Lemma 23** (Partial Derivatives). For spectral graph neural networks defined as  $\hat{Y} = \text{softmax}\left(\sum_{k=0}^K \theta_k \tilde{A}^k XW\right)$ , with node feature matrix  $X \in \mathbb{R}^{n \times f}$  and ground truth node label matrix  $Y \in \mathbb{R}^{n \times C}$ , the cross-entropy loss for a single sample  $(x_i, y_i)$  is given by:

$$\ell(\hat{y}_i, y_i; \Theta, W) = - \sum_{c=1}^C Y_{ic} \log(\hat{Y}_{ic}).$$

The partial derivatives of  $\ell(\hat{y}_i, y_i; \Theta, W)$  with respect to  $\theta_k$  and  $W_{pq}$  are:

$$\begin{aligned} \frac{\partial \ell(\hat{y}_i, y_i; \Theta, W)}{\partial \theta_k} &= \sum_{c=1}^C (\hat{Y}_{ic} - Y_{ic}) (\tilde{A}^k XW)_{ic}, \\ \frac{\partial \ell(\hat{y}_i, y_i; \Theta, W)}{\partial W_{pq}} &= (\hat{Y}_{iq} - Y_{iq}) \left( \sum_{k=0}^K \theta_k \tilde{A}^k X \right)_{ip}. \end{aligned}$$

*Proof.* We begin with the following definitions:

$$Z = \sum_{k=0}^K \theta_k \tilde{A}^k XW, \quad \hat{Y}_{ic} = \frac{e^{Z_{ic}}}{\sum_{c'=1}^C e^{Z_{ic'}}}, \quad \ell(\hat{y}_i, y_i; \Theta, W) = - \sum_{c=1}^C Y_{ic} \log(\hat{Y}_{ic}),$$

where  $Z \in \mathbb{R}^{n \times C}$  represents the feature matrix after aggregation,  $\hat{Y}_{ic}$  is the softmax output for class  $c$ , and  $\ell(\hat{y}_i, y_i; \Theta, W)$  is the cross-entropy loss for sample  $(x_i, y_i)$ . We then compute the following partial derivatives:

$$\begin{aligned} \frac{\partial \ell(\hat{y}_i, y_i; \Theta, W)}{\partial \hat{Y}_{ic}} &= - \frac{Y_{ic}}{\hat{Y}_{ic}}, \\ \frac{\partial \hat{Y}_{ic}}{\partial Z_{ic'}} &= \hat{Y}_{ic} (\delta_{cc'} - \hat{Y}_{ic'}), \end{aligned}$$

where  $\delta_{cc'}$  is the Kronecker delta, which equals 1 if  $c = c'$  and 0 otherwise.

(1) **Gradient w.r.t.  $\theta_k$ :** We have:

$$\frac{\partial Z_{ic}}{\partial \theta_k} = (\tilde{A}^k XW)_{ic}.$$

By the chain rule of gradient, we have:

$$\begin{aligned} \frac{\partial \ell(\hat{y}_i, y_i; \Theta, W)}{\partial \theta_k} &= - \sum_{c=1}^C \frac{\ell(\hat{y}_i, y_i; \Theta, W)}{\partial \hat{Y}_{ic}} \cdot \left( \sum_{c'=1}^C \frac{\partial \hat{Y}_{ic}}{\partial Z_{ic'}} \cdot \frac{\partial Z_{ic'}}{\partial \theta_k} \right) \\ &= - \sum_{c=1}^C \frac{Y_{ic}}{\hat{Y}_{ic}} \cdot \left( \sum_{c'=1}^C \hat{Y}_{ic} (\delta_{cc'} - \hat{Y}_{ic'}) \cdot (\tilde{A}^k XW)_{ic'} \right) \\ &= - \sum_{c=1}^C Y_{ic} \cdot \left( \sum_{c'=1}^C (\delta_{cc'} - \hat{Y}_{ic'}) \cdot (\tilde{A}^k XW)_{ic'} \right) \\ &= - \sum_{c=1}^C Y_{ic} \cdot \left( (\tilde{A}^k XW)_{ic} - \sum_{c'=1}^C \hat{Y}_{ic'} (\tilde{A}^k XW)_{ic'} \right) \\ &= - \sum_{c=1}^C Y_{ic} (\tilde{A}^k XW)_{ic} + \sum_{c'=1}^C \hat{Y}_{ic'} (\tilde{A}^k XW)_{ic'} \\ &= \sum_{c=1}^C (\hat{Y}_{ic} - Y_{ic}) (\tilde{A}^k XW)_{ic} \end{aligned}$$

(2) **Gradient w.r.t.  $W$ :** Based on the following

$$Z_{ic} = \sum_{k=0}^K \theta_k \sum_{j=1}^n (\tilde{A}^k)_{ij} \sum_{r=1}^f X_{jr} W_{rc},$$

we have

$$\frac{\partial Z_{ic}}{\partial W_{pq}} = \sum_{k=0}^K \theta_k \sum_{j=1}^n (\tilde{A}^k)_{ij} X_{jp} \delta_{cq} = \delta_{cq} \sum_{k=0}^K \theta_k (\tilde{A}^k X)_{ip},$$

where  $\delta_{cq}$  is the Kronecker delta, which is 1 if  $c = q$  and 0 otherwise. Then, by the chain rule of gradient, we have:

$$\begin{aligned} \frac{\partial \ell(\hat{y}_i, y_i; \Theta, W)}{\partial W_{pq}} &= - \sum_{c=1}^C \frac{\ell(\hat{y}_i, y_i; \Theta, W)}{\partial \hat{Y}_{ic}} \cdot \left( \sum_{c'=1}^C \frac{\partial \hat{Y}_{ic}}{\partial Z_{ic'}} \cdot \frac{\partial Z_{ic'}}{\partial W_{pq}} \right) \\ &= - \sum_{c=1}^C \frac{Y_{ic}}{\hat{Y}_{ic}} \cdot \left( \sum_{c'=1}^C \hat{Y}_{ic} (\delta_{cc'} - \hat{Y}_{ic'}) \cdot \left( \delta_{c'q} \sum_{k=0}^K \theta_k (\tilde{A}^k X)_{ip} \right) \right) \\ &= - \sum_{c=1}^C Y_{ic} \cdot \left( \sum_{c'=1}^C (\delta_{cc'} - \hat{Y}_{ic'}) \cdot \left( \delta_{c'q} \sum_{k=0}^K \theta_k (\tilde{A}^k X)_{ip} \right) \right) \\ &= - \sum_{c=1}^C Y_{ic} \cdot \left( \left( \delta_{cq} \sum_{k=0}^K \theta_k (\tilde{A}^k X)_{ip} \right) - \sum_{c'=1}^C \hat{Y}_{ic'} \left( \delta_{c'q} \sum_{k=0}^K \theta_k (\tilde{A}^k X)_{ip} \right) \right) \\ &= - \sum_{c=1}^C Y_{ic} \left( \delta_{cq} \sum_{k=0}^K \theta_k (\tilde{A}^k X)_{ip} \right) + \sum_{c'=1}^C \hat{Y}_{ic'} \left( \delta_{c'q} \sum_{k=0}^K \theta_k (\tilde{A}^k X)_{ip} \right) \\ &= \sum_{c=1}^C (\hat{Y}_{ic} - Y_{ic}) \left( \delta_{cq} \sum_{k=0}^K \theta_k (\tilde{A}^k X)_{ip} \right) \\ &= \sum_{c=1}^C \sum_{k=0}^K \theta_k \delta_{cq} (\hat{Y}_{ic} - Y_{ic}) (\tilde{A}^k X)_{ip} \\ &= (\hat{Y}_{iq} - Y_{iq}) \left( \sum_{k=0}^K \theta_k \tilde{A}^k X \right)_{ip}. \end{aligned}$$

□

## B.2 PROOF OF THEOREM 8

**Theorem 8.** Consider a spectral GNN  $\Psi$  with polynomial order  $K$  trained using full-batch gradient descent for  $T$  iterations with a learning rate  $\eta$  on a training dataset  $S_m$  sampled from a graph  $G \sim cSBM(n, f, \Pi, Q)$  with average node degree  $d \ll n$ . When  $n \rightarrow \infty$  and  $K \ll n$ , under Assumptions 1, 2, and 4, for any node  $v_i, i \in [n]$ , and for a constant  $\epsilon \in (0, 1)$ , with probability at least  $1 - \epsilon$ ,  $\Psi$  satisfies  $\gamma$ -uniform transductive stability, where  $\gamma = r\beta$  and

$$\begin{aligned} \beta &= \frac{1}{\epsilon} \left[ O(\mathbb{E}[\|\hat{y}_i - y_i\|_F^2]) + O(\|\pi_{y_i}^\top \pi_{y_i} + \Sigma_{y_i}\|_F) \right. \\ &\quad \left. + O\left( \sum_{k=1}^K \sum_{j=1}^n \mathbb{E}[A_{ij}^k] \left\| \sum_{t=1}^n \mathbb{E}[A_{it}^k] \pi_{y_j}^\top \pi_{y_t} + \mathbb{E}[A_{ij}^k] \Sigma_{y_j} \right\|_F \right) \right]. \end{aligned}$$

*Proof.* Any spectral GNN described in Eq. (1) with a linear feature transformation function and a polynomial basis expanded on a normalized graph matrix can be expressed in the following form:

$$\hat{Y} = \text{softmax} \left( \sum_{k=0}^K \theta_k \tilde{A}^k X W \right), \quad (9)$$

where  $\tilde{A} = D^{-\frac{1}{2}}AD^{-\frac{1}{2}}$  is the normalized graph adjacency matrix, and  $D$  is the diagonal degree matrix. Here,  $Y \in \mathbb{R}^{n \times C}$  denotes the ground truth node label matrix.

(1) **Walk counting:** According to Definition 7, we have

$$\mathbb{E}[A_{ij}^k] = \sum_{p \in P_{ij}^k} \prod_{(v, v') \in p} Q_{yy'}$$

(2) **Feature expectation:** Since we have  $G \sim cSBM(n, f, \Pi, Q)$ , node classes have a uniform prior  $y_i \sim \mathcal{U}(1, C)$ . Thus,

$$\begin{aligned} \mathbb{E}[XW]_{ij} &= \frac{1}{n} \sum_{u=1}^n (\pi_{y_u} W)_j \\ &= \frac{1}{n} \sum_{u=1}^n \sum_{c=1}^C p(y_u = c) (\pi_c W)_j \\ &= \frac{1}{n} \sum_{u=1}^n \sum_{c=1}^C \frac{1}{C} (\pi_c W)_j \\ &= \frac{1}{C} \sum_{c=1}^C (\pi_c W)_j. \end{aligned} \tag{10}$$

– When  $k \geq 1$ , we have

$$\begin{aligned} \mathbb{E}[(\tilde{A}^k XW)_{ij}] &= \mathbb{E}[\tilde{A}_{is}^k] \mathbb{E}[(XW)_{sj}] \\ &= \sum_{s=1}^n \mathbb{E}[\tilde{A}_{is}^k] \mathbb{E}[(XW)_{sj}] \\ &= \sum_{s=1}^n \mathbb{E}[\tilde{A}_{is}^k] \cdot \frac{1}{C} \sum_{c=1}^C (\pi_c W)_j. \end{aligned}$$

– When  $k = 0$ , we have

$$\begin{aligned} \mathbb{E}[(IXW)_{ij}] &= \mathbb{E}[(XW)_{ij}] \\ &= \frac{1}{C} \sum_{c=1}^C (\pi_c W)_j. \end{aligned}$$

Thus,

$$\mathbb{E}[(\tilde{A}^k XW)_{ij}] = \begin{cases} \frac{1}{C} \sum_{c=1}^C (\pi_c W)_j, & k = 0 \\ \sum_{s=1}^n \mathbb{E}[\tilde{A}_{is}^k] \cdot \frac{1}{C} \sum_{c=1}^C (\pi_c W)_j, & k \geq 1 \end{cases} \tag{11}$$

(3) **Gradient Norm:** The gradient norm can be relaxed as:

$$\begin{aligned} \mathbb{E}[\|\nabla \ell(\hat{y}_i, y_i; \Theta, W)\|_F] &\leq \mathbb{E}[\|\nabla \ell(\hat{y}_i, y_i; \Theta, W)\|_{\ell_1}] \\ &= \sum_{k=0}^K \mathbb{E} \left[ \left\| \frac{\partial \ell(\hat{y}_i, y_i; \Theta, W)}{\partial \theta_k} \right\|_{\ell_1} \right] + \mathbb{E} \left[ \left\| \frac{\partial \ell(\hat{y}_i, y_i; \Theta, W)}{\partial W} \right\|_{\ell_1} \right]. \end{aligned} \tag{12}$$

According to Eq. (9) and Lemma 23, we get the partial derivatives  $\frac{\partial \ell(\hat{y}_i, y_i; \Theta, W)}{\partial \theta_k}$  and  $\frac{\partial \ell(\hat{y}_i, y_i; \Theta, W)}{\partial W_{pq}}$ . Specially, when  $m = 1$ , we get the partial derivatives of empirical loss on training sample  $(x_i, y_i)$ :

$$\frac{\partial \ell(\hat{y}_i, y_i; \Theta, W)}{\partial \theta_k} = \sum_{c=1}^C (\hat{Y}_{ic} - Y_{ic}) (\tilde{A}^k XW)_{ic} \tag{13}$$

$$\frac{\partial \ell(\hat{y}_i, y_i; \Theta, W)}{\partial W_{pq}} = \left( \hat{Y}_{iq} - Y_{iq} \right) \left( \sum_{k=0}^K \theta_k \tilde{A}^k X \right)_{ip} \quad (14)$$

Thus, we have:

$$\begin{aligned} \mathbb{E} \left[ \left\| \frac{\partial \ell(\hat{y}_i, y_i; \Theta, W)}{\partial \theta_k} \right\|_{\ell_1} \right] &= \mathbb{E} \left[ \left| \sum_{c=1}^C (\hat{Y}_{ic} - Y_{ic}) (\tilde{A}^k X W)_{ic} \right| \right] \\ &\leq \sum_{c=1}^C \mathbb{E} \left[ |(\hat{Y}_{ic} - Y_{ic}) (\tilde{A}^k X W)_{ic}| \right] \\ &= \sum_{c=1}^C \mathbb{E} \left[ |(\hat{Y}_{ic} - Y_{ic})| \cdot |(\tilde{A}^k X W)_{ic}| \right] \\ &\leq \sum_{c=1}^C \frac{1}{2} \left( \mathbb{E} \left[ (\hat{Y}_{ic} - Y_{ic})^2 \right] + \mathbb{E} \left[ (\tilde{A}^k X W)_{ic}^2 \right] \right) \\ &\quad (\text{Lemma 28}) \\ &= \frac{1}{2} \left( \mathbb{E} [\|\hat{y}_i - y_i\|_F^2] + \mathbb{E} [\|\tilde{A}_{i:}^k X W\|_F^2] \right); \end{aligned} \quad (15)$$

$$\begin{aligned} \mathbb{E} \left[ \left\| \frac{\partial \ell(\hat{y}_i, y_i; \Theta, W)}{\partial W} \right\|_{\ell_1} \right] &= \sum_{p=1}^f \sum_{q=1}^C \mathbb{E} \left[ \left\| \frac{\partial \ell(\hat{y}_i, y_i; \Theta, W)}{\partial W_{pq}} \right\|_{\ell_1} \right] \\ &= \sum_{p=1}^f \sum_{q=1}^C \mathbb{E} \left[ \left| (\hat{Y}_{iq} - Y_{iq}) \left( \sum_{k=0}^K \theta_k \tilde{A}^k X \right)_{ip} \right| \right] \\ &\leq \sum_{p=1}^f \sum_{k=0}^K |\theta_k| \left( \sum_{q=1}^C \mathbb{E} \left[ |(\hat{Y}_{iq} - Y_{iq})| \cdot |(\tilde{A}^k X)_{ip}| \right] \right) \\ &\leq \sum_{p=1}^f \sum_{k=0}^K |\theta_k| \left( \mathbb{E} \left[ \sum_{q=1}^C (\hat{Y}_{iq} - Y_{iq})^2 \right] + \mathbb{E} \left[ \sum_{q=1}^C (\tilde{A}^k X)_{ip}^2 \right] \right) \\ &\quad (\text{Lemma 28}) \\ &= \sum_{p=1}^f \sum_{k=0}^K |\theta_k| \left( \mathbb{E} [\|\hat{y}_i - y_i\|_F^2] + C \mathbb{E} \left[ (\tilde{A}^k X)_{ip}^2 \right] \right) \\ &= \sum_{k=0}^K |\theta_k| \left( f \cdot \mathbb{E} [\|\hat{y}_i - y_i\|_F^2] + C \mathbb{E} [\|\tilde{A}_{i:}^k X\|_F^2] \right). \end{aligned} \quad (16)$$

- (4) **Expectation**  $\mathbb{E} [\|\tilde{A}_{i:}^k X W\|_F^2]$  and  $\mathbb{E} [\|\tilde{A}_{i:}^k X\|_F^2]$ : For sparse graphs  $G$  with adjacency matrix  $A$ , when  $d \ll n$  (average degree much smaller than the number of nodes) and  $k \ll n$  (walk length much smaller than the number of nodes),  $A_{ia}^k$  and  $A_{ib}^k$  can be treated as independent variables due to the following reasons: (a). The overlap between walks of different lengths is limited due to the sparsity of the graph. (b). The existence of a  $k$ -length walk between two nodes is a rare event when  $k \ll n$ , and the joint occurrences of two rare events can be neglected. (c). When  $d \ll n$ , the variance of  $A_{ij}^k$  is negligible compared to

( $\mathbb{E}[A_{ij}^k]$ )<sup>2</sup>. Thus, by Eq. (11), we derive the following for the case  $k \geq 1$ :

$$\begin{aligned}
\mathbb{E}[\|\tilde{A}_{i:}^k XW\|_F^2] &= \mathbb{E}\left[\sum_{c=1}^C \left(\sum_{s=1}^n \tilde{A}_{is}^k (XW)_{sc}\right)^2\right] \\
&= \mathbb{E}\left[\sum_{c=1}^C \sum_{s=1}^n \sum_{t=1}^n \tilde{A}_{is}^k \tilde{A}_{it}^k (XW)_{sc} (XW)_{tc}\right] \\
&= \sum_{c=1}^C \sum_{s,t=1}^n \mathbb{E}\left[\tilde{A}_{is}^k \tilde{A}_{it}^k (XW)_{sc} (XW)_{tc}\right] \\
&= \sum_{c=1}^C \sum_{s,t=1}^n \mathbb{E}\left[\tilde{A}_{is}^k\right] \cdot \mathbb{E}\left[\tilde{A}_{it}^k\right] \cdot \mathbb{E}[(XW)_{sc} (XW)_{tc}] \\
&= \sum_{c=1}^C \sum_{s=1}^n \mathbb{E}\left[\tilde{A}_{is}^k\right] \left[\sum_{t=1, t \neq s}^n \mathbb{E}\left[\tilde{A}_{it}^k\right] \cdot \mathbb{E}[(XW)_{sc} (XW)_{tc}]\right. \\
&\quad \left. + \mathbb{E}\left[\tilde{A}_{is}^k\right] \cdot \mathbb{E}\left[(XW)_{sc}^2\right]\right] \\
&= \frac{1}{d^{2k}} \sum_{c=1}^C \sum_{s=1}^n \mathbb{E}\left[\tilde{A}_{is}^k\right] \left[\sum_{t=1, t \neq s}^n \mathbb{E}\left[\tilde{A}_{it}^k\right] \cdot (\pi_{y_s} W)_c \cdot (\pi_{y_t} W)_c\right. \\
&\quad \left. + \mathbb{E}\left[\tilde{A}_{is}^k\right] \cdot W_{:c}^\top (\pi_{y_s}^\top \pi_{y_s} + \Sigma_{y_s}) W_{:c}\right].
\end{aligned}$$

When  $k = 0$ , we have:

$$\begin{aligned}
\mathbb{E}\left[\|\tilde{A}_{i:}^k XW\|_F^2\right] &= \mathbb{E}\left[\|X_{i:} W\|_F^2\right] \\
&= \mathbb{E}\left[\sum_{c=1}^C (XW)_{ic}^2\right] \\
&= \sum_{c=1}^C W_{:c}^\top (\pi_{y_i}^\top \pi_{y_i} + \Sigma_{y_i}) W_{:c}.
\end{aligned}$$

Thus, we obtain

$$\mathbb{E}\left[\|\tilde{A}_{i:}^k XW\|_F^2\right] = \begin{cases} \sum_{c=1}^C W_{:c}^\top (\pi_{y_i}^\top \pi_{y_i} + \Sigma_{y_i}) W_{:c}, & k = 0 \\ \frac{1}{d^{2k}} \sum_{c=1}^C \sum_{s=1}^n \mathbb{E}\left[\tilde{A}_{is}^k\right] \left[\sum_{t=1, t \neq s}^n \mathbb{E}\left[\tilde{A}_{it}^k\right] \cdot (\pi_{y_s} W)_c \cdot (\pi_{y_t} W)_c\right. \\ \quad \left. + \mathbb{E}\left[\tilde{A}_{is}^k\right] \cdot W_{:c}^\top (\pi_{y_s}^\top \pi_{y_s} + \Sigma_{y_s}) W_{:c}\right], & k \geq 1 \end{cases} \quad (17)$$

Similarly, by Eq. (10), we have

$$\mathbb{E}\left[\|\tilde{A}_{i:}^k X\|_F^2\right] = \begin{cases} \sum_{c=1}^C I_{:c}^\top (\pi_{y_i}^\top \pi_{y_i} + \Sigma_{y_i}) I_{:c}, & k = 0 \\ \frac{1}{d^{2k}} \sum_{q=1}^f \sum_{s=1}^n \mathbb{E}\left[\tilde{A}_{is}^k\right] \left[\sum_{t=1, t \neq s}^n \mathbb{E}\left[\tilde{A}_{it}^k\right] \cdot \pi_{y_s, q} \cdot \pi_{y_t, q}\right. \\ \quad \left. + \mathbb{E}\left[\tilde{A}_{is}^k\right] \cdot I_{:q}^\top (\pi_{y_s}^\top \pi_{y_s} + \Sigma_{y_s}) I_{:q}\right], & k \geq 1 \end{cases} \quad (18)$$

By substituting Eq. (17) into Eq. (15), Eq. (18) into Eq. (16), and combining Eq. (15) and Eq. (16) into Eq. (12), we obtain:

$$\begin{aligned}
& \mathbb{E} [\|\nabla \ell(\hat{y}_i, y_i; \Theta, W)\|_F] \\
& \leq \frac{1}{2} \left( \mathbb{E} [\|\hat{y}_i - y_i\|_F^2] + \sum_{c=1}^C W_{:c}^\top (\pi_{y_i}^\top \pi_{y_i} + \Sigma_{y_i}) W_{:c} \right) \\
& + \sum_{k=1}^K \frac{1}{2} \left[ \mathbb{E} [\|\hat{y}_i - y_i\|_F^2] + \frac{1}{d^{2k}} \sum_{c=1}^C \sum_{s=1}^n \mathbb{E} [\tilde{A}_{is}^k] \right. \\
& \quad \cdot \left. \left[ \sum_{t=1, t \neq s}^n \mathbb{E} [\tilde{A}_{it}^k] \cdot (\pi_{y_s} W)_c \cdot (\pi_{y_t} W)_c + \mathbb{E} [\tilde{A}_{is}^k] \cdot W_{:c}^\top (\pi_{y_s}^\top \pi_{y_s} + \Sigma_{y_s}) W_{:c} \right] \right] \\
& + |\theta_0| \left( f \cdot \mathbb{E} [\|\hat{y}_i - y_i\|_F^2] + C \sum_{c=q}^f I_{:q}^\top (\pi_{y_i}^\top \pi_{y_i} + \Sigma_{y_i}) I_{:q} \right) \\
& + \sum_{k=1}^K |\theta_k| \left[ f \cdot \mathbb{E} [\|\hat{y}_i - y_i\|_F^2] + C \frac{1}{d^{2k}} \sum_{c=1}^C \sum_{s=1}^n \mathbb{E} [\tilde{A}_{is}^k] \right. \\
& \quad \cdot \left. \left[ \sum_{t=1, t \neq s}^n \mathbb{E} [\tilde{A}_{it}^k] \cdot \pi_{y_s, q} \cdot \pi_{y_t, q} + \mathbb{E} [\tilde{A}_{is}^k] \cdot I_{:q}^\top (\pi_{y_s}^\top \pi_{y_s} + \Sigma_{y_s}) I_{:q} \right] \right] \\
& = \left( \frac{K+1}{2} + f \sum_{k=0}^K |\theta_k| \right) \mathbb{E} [\|\hat{y}_i - y_i\|_F^2] \\
& \quad + \frac{1}{2} \sum_{c=1}^C W_{:c}^\top (\pi_{y_i}^\top \pi_{y_i} + \Sigma_{y_i}) W_{:c} + |\theta_0| C \sum_{c=1}^C I_{:c}^\top (\pi_{y_i}^\top \pi_{y_i} + \Sigma_{y_i}) I_{:c} \\
& \quad + \sum_{k=1}^K \frac{1}{d^{2k}} \sum_{c=1}^C \sum_{s=1}^n \mathbb{E} [\tilde{A}_{is}^k] \\
& \quad \cdot \left[ \sum_{t=1, t \neq s}^n \mathbb{E} [\tilde{A}_{it}^k] \cdot (\pi_{y_s} W)_c \cdot (\pi_{y_t} W)_c + \mathbb{E} [\tilde{A}_{is}^k] \cdot W_{:c}^\top (\pi_{y_s}^\top \pi_{y_s} + \Sigma_{y_s}) W_{:c} \right] \\
& \quad + \sum_{k=1}^K \frac{C}{d^{2k}} |\theta_k| \sum_{q=1}^f \sum_{s=1}^n \mathbb{E} [\tilde{A}_{is}^k] \\
& \quad \cdot \left[ \sum_{t=1, t \neq s}^n \mathbb{E} [\tilde{A}_{it}^k] \cdot \pi_{y_s, q} \cdot \pi_{y_t, q} + \mathbb{E} [\tilde{A}_{is}^k] \cdot I_{:q}^\top (\pi_{y_s}^\top \pi_{y_s} + \Sigma_{y_s}) I_{:q} \right] \\
& = \left( \frac{K+1}{2} + f \sum_{k=0}^K |\theta_k| \right) \mathbb{E} [\|\hat{y}_i - y_i\|_F^2] \\
& \quad + \frac{1}{2} \sum_{c=1}^C W_{:c}^\top (\pi_{y_i}^\top \pi_{y_i} + \Sigma_{y_i}) W_{:c} + |\theta_0| C \sum_{c=1}^C I_{:c}^\top (\pi_{y_i}^\top \pi_{y_i} + \Sigma_{y_i}) I_{:c} \\
& \quad + \sum_{k=1}^K \frac{1}{d^{2k}} \sum_{c=1}^C \sum_{s=1}^n \mathbb{E} [\tilde{A}_{is}^k] \left[ W_{:c}^\top \left( \sum_{\substack{t=1 \\ t \neq s}}^n \mathbb{E} [\tilde{A}_{it}^k] \pi_{y_s}^\top \pi_{y_t} + \mathbb{E} [\tilde{A}_{is}^k] (\pi_{y_s}^\top \pi_{y_s} + \Sigma_{y_s}) \right) W_{:c} \right] \\
& \quad + \sum_{k=1}^K \frac{C |\theta_k|}{d^{2k}} \sum_{q=1}^f \sum_{s=1}^n \mathbb{E} [\tilde{A}_{is}^k] \left[ \sum_{\substack{t=1 \\ t \neq s}}^n \mathbb{E} [\tilde{A}_{it}^k] \pi_{y_s, q} \pi_{y_t, q} + \mathbb{E} [\tilde{A}_{is}^k] I_{:q}^\top ((\pi_{y_s}^\top \pi_{y_s} + \Sigma_{y_s})) I_{:q} \right].
\end{aligned}$$

Under Assumption 4, we can further simplify and relax the expression to:

$$\begin{aligned}
& \mathbb{E} [\|\nabla\ell(\hat{y}_i, y_i; \Theta, W)\|_F] \\
& \leq \left( \frac{K+1}{2} + f \sum_{k=0}^K B_\Theta \right) \mathbb{E} [\|\hat{y}_i - y_i\|_F^2] \\
& \quad + \frac{1}{2} \text{Tr} (W^T (\pi_{y_i}^\top \pi_{y_i} + \Sigma_{y_i}) W) + B_\Theta C \text{Tr} (\pi_{y_i}^\top \pi_{y_i} + \Sigma_{y_i}) \\
& \quad + \sum_{k=1}^K \frac{1}{d^{2k}} \sum_{s=1}^n \mathbb{E} [\tilde{A}_{is}^k] \text{Tr} \left( \sum_{\substack{t=1 \\ t \neq s}}^n \mathbb{E} [\tilde{A}_{it}^k] \pi_{y_s}^\top \pi_{y_t} + \mathbb{E} [\tilde{A}_{is}^k] (\pi_{y_s}^\top \pi_{y_s} + \Sigma_{y_s}) \right) \\
& \quad + \sum_{k=1}^K \frac{CB_\Theta}{d^{2k}} \sum_{s=1}^n \mathbb{E} [\tilde{A}_{is}^k] \left[ \sum_{\substack{t=1 \\ t \neq s}}^n \mathbb{E} [\tilde{A}_{it}^k] \text{Tr} (\pi_{y_s}^\top \pi_{y_t}) + \mathbb{E} [\tilde{A}_{is}^k] \text{Tr} ((\pi_{y_s}^\top \pi_{y_s} + \Sigma_{y_s})) \right] \\
& \leq \left( \frac{K+1}{2} + fB_\Theta(K+1) \right) \mathbb{E} [\|\hat{y}_i - y_i\|_F^2] \\
& \quad + \left( \frac{B_W^2}{2} + B_\Theta C \right) \text{Tr} (\pi_{y_i}^\top \pi_{y_i} + \Sigma_{y_i}) \\
& \quad + \sum_{k=1}^K \frac{1+CB_\Theta}{d^{2k}} \sum_{j=1}^n \mathbb{E} [A_{ij}^k] \text{Tr} \left( \sum_{\substack{t=1 \\ t \neq j}}^n \mathbb{E} [A_{it}^k] \pi_{y_j}^\top \pi_{y_t} + \mathbb{E} [A_{ij}^k] (\pi_{y_j}^\top \pi_{y_j} + \Sigma_{y_j}) \right). \tag{19}
\end{aligned}$$

With Lemma 22, we rewrite it as

$$\begin{aligned}
\mathbb{E} [\|\nabla\ell(\hat{y}_i, y_i; \Theta, W)\|_F] & \leq O(\mathbb{E} [\|\hat{y}_i - y_i\|_F^2]) + O(\|\pi_{y_i}^\top \pi_{y_i} + \Sigma_{y_i}\|_F) \\
& \quad + O\left(\sum_{k=1}^K \sum_{j=1}^n \mathbb{E} [A_{ij}^k] \left\| \sum_{t=1}^n \mathbb{E} [A_{it}^k] \pi_{y_j}^\top \pi_{y_t} + \mathbb{E} [A_{ij}^k] \Sigma_{y_j} \right\|_F\right). \tag{20}
\end{aligned}$$

(5) **Concentration Bound:** By Jensen's inequality (Lemma 19), we have:

$$\mathbb{E} [\|\nabla\ell(\hat{y}_i, y_i; \Theta, W)\|_F]^2 \leq \mathbb{E} [\|\nabla\ell(\hat{y}_i, y_i; \Theta, W)\|_F^2],$$

which implies:

$$\mathbb{E} [\|\nabla\ell(\hat{y}_i, y_i; \Theta, W)\|_F] \leq \sqrt{\mathbb{E} [\|\nabla\ell(\hat{y}_i, y_i; \Theta, W)\|_F^2]}. \tag{21}$$

Using Markov's inequality (Lemma 20), for a positive constant  $a$ , we have:

$$\mathbb{P}(\|\nabla\ell(\hat{y}_i, y_i; \Theta, W)\|_F \geq a) \leq \frac{\mathbb{E} [\|\nabla\ell(\hat{y}_i, y_i; \Theta, W)\|_F]}{a} = \epsilon. \tag{22}$$

Solving for  $a$ , we obtain:

$$a = \frac{\mathbb{E} [\|\nabla\ell(\hat{y}_i, y_i; \Theta, W)\|_F]}{\epsilon}. \tag{23}$$

Therefore, combining Eq. (20), Eq. (21), Eq. (22), and Eq. (23), with probability at least  $1 - \epsilon$ , we have:

$$\|\nabla\ell(\hat{y}_i, y_i; \Theta, W)\|_F \leq \beta = \frac{1}{\epsilon} \mathbb{E} [\|\nabla\ell(\hat{y}_i, y_i; \Theta, W)\|_F].$$

When  $\|\nabla\ell(\hat{y}_i, y_i; \Theta, W)\|_F \leq \beta$ , according to Theorem 6, spectral GNNs on graphs  $G \sim cSBM(n, f, \Pi, Q)$  have  $\gamma$ -uniform transductive stability. We rewrite this in Big-O notation

as:

$$\begin{aligned} \gamma = r \cdot \beta, \quad \beta = \frac{1}{\epsilon} \left[ O \left( \mathbb{E} \left[ \|\hat{y}_i - y_i\|_F^2 \right] \right) + O \left( \|\pi_{y_i}^\top \pi_{y_i} + \Sigma_{y_i}\|_F \right) \right. \\ \left. + O \left( \sum_{k=1}^K \sum_{j=1}^n \mathbb{E}[A_{ij}^k] \left\| \sum_{t=1}^n \mathbb{E}[A_{it}^k] \pi_{y_j}^\top \pi_{y_t} + \mathbb{E}[A_{ij}^k] \Sigma_{y_j} \right\|_F \right) \right], \end{aligned}$$

where  $r$  is the same constant as in Theorem 6.

□

## C GENERALIZATION ERROR BOUND OF SPECTRAL GNNs

We derive the generalization error bound of spectral GNNs based on their uniform transductive stability. Subsequently, we analyze how the number of training samples affects the generalization error bound.

We begin by introducing two lemmas for this proof.

**Lemma 24** (Inequality for permutation (El-Yaniv & Pechyony, 2006)). *Let  $Z$  be a random permutation vector. Let  $f(Z)$  be an  $(m, q)$ -symmetric permutation function satisfying  $\|f(Z) - f(Z^{ij})\| \leq \beta$  for all  $i \in I_1^m$  and  $j \in I_{m+1}^{m+q}$ . Define  $H_2(n) \triangleq \sum_{i=1}^n \frac{1}{i^2}$  and  $\Omega(m, q) \triangleq q^2 (H_2(m+q) - H_2(q))$ . Then*

$$\mathbb{P}(f(Z) - \mathbb{E}[f(Z)] \geq \epsilon) \leq \exp\left(-\frac{\epsilon^2}{2\beta^2\Omega(m, q)}\right).$$

**Lemma 25** (Risk and uniform stability (El-Yaniv & Pechyony, 2006)). *Given any training set  $S_m$  and test set  $\mathcal{D}_u$ , the following holds:*

$$\mathbb{E}[\mathcal{L}_{\mathcal{D}_u}(\Theta, W) - \mathcal{L}_{S_m}(\Theta, W)] = \mathbb{E}[\Delta(i, j, i, i)], \quad i \in I_1^m, j \in I_{m+1}^{m+q},$$

where  $\Delta(i, j, i, i)$  denotes the change in the loss of sample  $(x_i, y_i)$  when the model is trained on two datasets: one with  $(x_i, y_i)$  in the training set and another with  $(x_j, y_j)$  from the test set exchanged with  $(x_i, y_i)$ .

### C.1 PROOF OF THEOREM 9

**Theorem 9** (Generalization Error Bound). *Let  $H_2(n) \triangleq \sum_{i=1}^n \frac{1}{i^2}$  and  $\Omega(m, n-m) \triangleq (n-m)^2 (H_2(n) - H_2(n-m))$ . For  $\epsilon \in (0, 1)$ , if a spectral GNN is  $\gamma$ -uniform transductive stability with probability  $1 - \epsilon$ , then under Assumption 3, for  $\delta \in (0, 1)$ , with probability at least  $(1 - \delta)(1 - \epsilon)$ , the generalization error  $\mathcal{L}_{\mathcal{D}_u}(\Theta, W) - \mathcal{L}_{S_m}(\Theta, W)$  is upper-bounded by:*

$$\gamma + \left( 2\gamma + \left( \frac{1}{n-m} + \frac{1}{m} \right) (B_\ell - \gamma) \right) \sqrt{2\Omega(m, n-m) \log \frac{1}{\delta}}. \quad (3)$$

*Proof.* Let  $\Delta(i, j, s, t) \triangleq \ell(\hat{y}_t, y_t; \Theta_{ij}^T, W_{ij}^T) - \ell(\hat{y}_s, y_s; \Theta^T, W^T)$ , where  $\Theta_{ij}^T, W_{ij}^T$  are model parameters trained on dataset  $S_m^{ij}$  for  $T$  iterations and  $\Theta^T, W^T$  are model parameters trained on dataset  $S_m$ . We first derive a bound on the permutation stability of the function  $f(S_m, \mathcal{D}_u) \triangleq \mathcal{L}_{\mathcal{D}_u}(\Theta, W) - \mathcal{L}_{S_m}(\Theta, W)$ , where  $q = n - m$ . The bound is given as:

$$\begin{aligned} \left\| (\mathcal{L}_{\mathcal{D}_u}(\Theta, W) - \mathcal{L}_{S_m}(\Theta, W)) - (\mathcal{L}_{\mathcal{D}_u}(\Theta^{ij}, W^{ij}) - \mathcal{L}_{S_m}(\Theta^{ij}, W^{ij})) \right\| \leq \\ \frac{1}{q} \sum_{r=m+1, r \neq j}^{m+q} \|\Delta(i, j, r, r)\| + \frac{1}{q} \|\Delta(i, j, i, j)\| + \frac{1}{m} \sum_{r=1, r \neq i}^m \|\Delta(i, j, r, r)\| + \frac{1}{m} \|\Delta(i, j, j, i)\|. \end{aligned} \quad (24)$$

According to Definition 5, Assumption 3 and Theorem 6, we have

$$\max_{1 \leq r \leq m+q} \|\Delta(i, j, r, r)\| \leq \gamma = \alpha_1 \sum_{t=1}^T (1 + \eta\alpha_2)^{t-1} \frac{2\eta\beta}{m}$$

Thus, Eq. (24) is bounded:

$$\begin{aligned} & \| (\mathcal{L}_{\mathcal{D}_u}(\Theta, W) - \mathcal{L}_{S_m}(\Theta, W)) - (\mathcal{L}_{\mathcal{D}_u}(\Theta^{ij}, W^{ij}) - \mathcal{L}_{S_m}(\Theta^{ij}, W^{ij})) \| \\ & \leq \frac{q-1}{q}\gamma + \frac{1}{q}B_\ell + \frac{m-1}{m}\gamma + \frac{1}{m}B_\ell \\ & = \left(\frac{q-1}{q} + \frac{m-1}{m}\right)\gamma + \left(\frac{1}{q} + \frac{1}{m}\right)B_\ell \end{aligned}$$

Let  $\tilde{\beta} = \left(\frac{q-1}{q} + \frac{m-1}{m}\right)\gamma + \left(\frac{1}{q} + \frac{1}{m}\right)B_\ell$ . Then, the function  $f(S_m, \mathcal{D}_u) = \mathcal{L}_{\mathcal{D}_u}(\Theta, W) - \mathcal{L}_{S_m}(\Theta, W)$  has transductive stability  $\tilde{\beta}$ . Apply Lemma 24 to  $f(S_m, \mathcal{D}_u)$ , equating the bound to  $\delta$

$$\exp\left(-\frac{\epsilon^2}{2\tilde{\beta}^2\Omega(m, q)}\right) = \delta,$$

we get

$$\epsilon = \tilde{\beta}\sqrt{2\Omega(m, q)\log\frac{1}{\delta}}$$

Therefore, we obtain that the probability at least  $1 - \delta$  that

$$\mathcal{L}_{\mathcal{D}_u}(\Theta, W) - \mathcal{L}_{S_m}(\Theta, W) - \mathbb{E}[\mathcal{L}_{\mathcal{D}_u}(\Theta^{ij}, W^{ij}) - \mathcal{L}_{S_m}(\Theta^{ij}, W^{ij})] \leq \tilde{\beta}\sqrt{2\Omega(m, q)\log\frac{1}{\delta}} \quad (25)$$

According to Lemma 25 and Theorem 6, for  $1 \leq i \leq m, m+1 \leq j \leq n$ , we have

$$\mathbb{E}[\mathcal{L}_{\mathcal{D}_u}(\Theta^{ij}, W^{ij}) - \mathcal{L}_{S_m}(\Theta^{ij}, W^{ij})] = \mathbb{E}[\Delta(i, j, i, i)] \leq \gamma \quad (26)$$

Substitute Eq. (26) into Eq. (25), we get:

$$\mathcal{L}_{\mathcal{D}_u}(\Theta, W) \leq \mathcal{L}_{S_m}(\Theta, W) + \gamma + \tilde{\beta}\sqrt{2\Omega(m, q)\log\frac{1}{\delta}}$$

It is rewritten as:

$$\mathcal{L}_{\mathcal{D}_u}(\Theta, W) - \mathcal{L}_{S_m}(\Theta, W) \leq \gamma + \left(2\gamma + \left(\frac{1}{n-m} + \frac{1}{m}\right)(B_\ell - \gamma)\right)\sqrt{2\Omega(m, n-m)\log\frac{1}{\delta}}$$

□

## C.2 PROOF OF LEMMA 10

**Lemma 10.** Consider a spectral GNN trained with  $m$  samples as  $n \rightarrow \infty$ . As the sample size  $m$  increases, the generalization error bound decreases at the rate  $O(1/m) + O(\sqrt{2\log(1/\delta)/m})$ .

*Proof.* The proof is proceeded in three steps:

- (1)  $\frac{1}{n-m}$  is neglectable compared with  $\frac{1}{m}$ : As  $m < n$ , we have  $m = o(n)$ .  
 $\frac{m}{n-m} = \frac{m}{n} \cdot \frac{1}{1-\frac{m}{n}}$  when  $n \rightarrow \infty$ , we have  $\frac{m}{n} \rightarrow 0$  and  $\frac{1}{1-\frac{m}{n}} \rightarrow 1$  as  $m = o(n)$ . Therefore,

$$\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \frac{m}{n-m} = 0, \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \frac{\frac{1}{n-m}}{\frac{1}{m}} = 0;$$

which indicates

$$\frac{1}{n-m} = o\left(\frac{1}{m}\right)$$

- (2)  $\Omega(m, n-m)$  increase with  $m$ : As  $H_2(k) = \sum_{i=1}^k \frac{1}{i^2}$ , we have:

$$H_2(n) - H_2(n-m) = \sum_{i=n-m+1}^n \frac{1}{i^2}$$

1404 As

$$1405 m \cdot \frac{1}{n^2} \leq \sum_{i=n-m+1}^n \frac{1}{i^2} \leq m \cdot \frac{1}{(n-m)^2},$$

1409 we have

$$1410 m \cdot \frac{1}{n^2} \leq H_2(n) - H_2(n-m) \leq m \cdot \frac{1}{(n-m)^2}.$$

1413 Multiple two sides with  $(n-m)^2$ , we have:

$$1414 (n-m)^2 \cdot m \cdot \frac{1}{n^2} \leq (n-m)^2 \cdot (H_2(n) - H_2(n-m)) \leq (n-m)^2 \cdot m \cdot \frac{1}{(n-m)^2},$$

1418 As  $\Omega(m, n-m) = (n-m)^2 (H_2(n) - H_2(n-m))$ , we have:

$$1420 \frac{m(n-m)^2}{n^2} \leq \Omega(m, n-m) \leq m$$

1423 i.e.,

$$1424 \Omega(m, n-m) = O(m)$$

1426 (3) Generalization error bound: From Theorem 6, we have  $\gamma = O(\frac{1}{m})$ . Therefore:

$$\begin{aligned} 1428 & \gamma + \left(2\gamma + \left(\frac{1}{n-m} + \frac{1}{m}\right) (B_\ell - \gamma)\right) \sqrt{2\Omega(m, n-m) \log \frac{1}{\delta}} \\ 1429 & = O\left(\frac{1}{m}\right) + \left(O\left(\frac{1}{m}\right) + \left(o\left(\frac{1}{m}\right) + \frac{1}{m}\right) \left(B_\ell - O\left(\frac{1}{m}\right)\right)\right) \sqrt{2O(m) \log \frac{1}{\delta}} \\ 1430 & = O\left(\frac{1}{m}\right) + B_\ell O\left(\frac{1}{m}\right) O(m^{1/2}) \sqrt{2 \log \frac{1}{\delta}} \\ 1431 & = O\left(\frac{1}{m} + B_\ell \sqrt{\frac{2 \log(\frac{1}{\delta})}{m}}\right) \end{aligned}$$

1440 In summary, the decay rate of generalization error bound is  $O\left(\frac{1}{m} + O\left(\sqrt{\frac{2 \log(\frac{1}{\delta})}{m}}\right)\right)$ .

1443  $\square$

1444 **Proposition 11.** For a spectral GNN  $\Psi_{\tilde{\sigma}}$  with a non-linear feature transformation function  $f_W(X) = \tilde{\sigma}(XW)$ , assume the gradient norm bound  $\beta$  in Theorem 9 is the same for  $\Psi$  and  $\Psi_{\tilde{\sigma}}$ . If  $\text{Lip}(\tilde{\sigma}) \leq 1$  and  $\text{Smt}(\tilde{\sigma}) \leq 1$ , then  $\gamma_{\tilde{\sigma}} \leq \gamma$ , where  $\gamma_{\tilde{\sigma}}$  is the stability of  $\Psi_{\tilde{\sigma}}$ .

1449 *Proof.* We consider spectral GNN  $\Psi$ :

$$1450 \Psi(M, X) = \sigma\left(\sum_{k=0}^K \tilde{A}^k XW\right)$$

1454 and spectral GNN  $\Psi_{\tilde{\sigma}}$ :

$$1456 \Psi_{\tilde{\sigma}}(M, X) = \sigma\left(\sum_{k=0}^K \tilde{\sigma}\left(\tilde{A}^k XW\right)\right)$$

(1) **Lipschitz Constant:** For any two sets of parameters  $(\Theta_1, W_1)$  and  $(\Theta_2, W_2)$ , we have:

$$\begin{aligned}
& \|\Psi_{\tilde{\sigma}}(\Theta_1, W_1) - \Psi_{\tilde{\sigma}}(\Theta_2, W_2)\| \\
&= \|\sigma(\sum_{i=0}^K \theta_{1k} \tilde{\sigma}(\tilde{A}^k X W_1)) - \sigma(\sum_{i=0}^K \theta_{2k} \tilde{\sigma}(\tilde{A}^k X W_2))\| \\
&\leq Lip(\sigma) \|\sum_{i=0}^K \theta_{1k} \tilde{\sigma}(\tilde{A}^k X W_1) - \sum_{i=0}^K \theta_{2k} \tilde{\sigma}(\tilde{A}^k X W_2)\| \\
&\leq Lip(\sigma) \|\sum_{i=0}^K (\theta_{1k} - \theta_{2k}) \tilde{\sigma}(\tilde{A}^k X W_1) + \sum_{i=0}^K \theta_{2k} (\tilde{\sigma}(\tilde{A}^k X W_1) - \tilde{\sigma}(\tilde{A}^k X W_2))\| \\
&\leq Lip(\sigma) (\|\sum_{i=0}^K (\theta_{1k} - \theta_{2k}) \tilde{\sigma}(\tilde{A}^k X W_1)\| + \|\sum_{i=0}^K \theta_{2k} (\tilde{\sigma}(\tilde{A}^k X W_1) - \tilde{\sigma}(\tilde{A}^k X W_2))\|) \\
&\leq Lip(\sigma) (\|\Theta_1 - \Theta_2\|_F \cdot \max_k \|\tilde{\sigma}(\tilde{A}^k X W_1)\|_2 + \|\Theta_2\|_F \cdot Lip(\tilde{\sigma}) \cdot \max_k \|\tilde{A}^k X (W_1 - W_2)\|_2)
\end{aligned}$$

Since  $Lip(\tilde{\sigma}) \leq 1$ , we have:

$$\|\Psi_{\tilde{\sigma}}(\Theta_1, W_1) - \Psi_{\tilde{\sigma}}(\Theta_2, W_2)\| \leq Lip(\sigma) (\|\Theta_1 - \Theta_2\|_F \cdot C_1 + \|\Theta_2\|_F \cdot \|W_1 - W_2\|_F \cdot C_2)$$

where  $C_1, C_2$  are constants depending on  $X, \tilde{A}$ . The right hand side is identical to the bound we get for  $\Psi$  without the activation function. Therefore,  $Lip(\Psi_{\tilde{\sigma}}) \leq Lip(\Psi)$ .

(2) **Smoothness Constant:** We first get partial derivatives of  $\Psi$  and  $\Psi_{\tilde{\sigma}}$  with respect to  $\theta_k$ :

$$\begin{aligned}
\frac{\partial \Psi}{\partial \theta_k} &= \nabla \sigma(\sum_{i=0}^K \theta_i \tilde{A}^i X W) \cdot \tilde{A}^k X W \\
\frac{\partial \Psi_{\tilde{\sigma}}}{\partial \theta_k} &= \nabla \sigma(\sum_{i=0}^K \theta_i \tilde{\sigma}(\tilde{A}^i X W)) \cdot \tilde{\sigma}(\tilde{A}^k X W)
\end{aligned}$$

Partial derivatives of  $\Psi$  and  $\Psi_{\tilde{\sigma}}$  with respect to  $W$  are:

$$\begin{aligned}
\frac{\partial \Psi}{\partial W} &= \nabla \sigma(\sum_{i=0}^K \theta_i \tilde{A}^i X W) \cdot \sum_{i=0}^K \theta_i \tilde{A}^i X \\
\frac{\partial \Psi_{\tilde{\sigma}}}{\partial W} &= \nabla \sigma(\sum_{i=0}^K \theta_i \tilde{\sigma}(\tilde{A}^i X W)) \cdot \sum_{i=0}^K \theta_i \nabla \tilde{\sigma}(\tilde{A}^i X W) \cdot \tilde{A}^i X
\end{aligned}$$

The Lipschitz constant of these gradients determine the smoothness. For  $\Psi_{\tilde{\sigma}}$ , the additional  $\tilde{\sigma}$  and  $\nabla \tilde{\sigma}$  terms do not increase the Lipschitz constant of the gradient as  $Lip(\tilde{\sigma}) \leq 1, Smt(\tilde{\sigma}) \leq 1$ :

- $\tilde{\sigma}$  is 1-Lipschitz, so it doesn't increase the difference between inputs.
- $\nabla \tilde{\sigma}$  is bounded by 1 (since  $Smt(\tilde{\sigma}) \leq 1$ ), so it doesn't amplify the gradient.

Therefore, the Lipschitz constant of the gradient of  $\Psi_{\tilde{\sigma}}$  is at most equal to that of  $\Psi$ , i.e., :

$$Smt(\Psi_{\tilde{\sigma}}) \leq Smt(\Psi)$$

(3) **Stability  $\gamma_{\tilde{\sigma}}$ :** According to Theorem 6, we have  $\alpha_1 = Lip(\ell) \cdot Lip(\Psi)$  and  $\alpha_2 = Smt(\Psi)\beta_1 + Smt(\ell)Lip(\Psi)\beta_2$ . Thus, we have a smaller  $\alpha_{1\tilde{\sigma}}, \alpha_{2\tilde{\sigma}}$  as  $Lip(\Psi_{\tilde{\sigma}}) \leq Lip(\Psi)$  and  $\Psi_{\tilde{\sigma}} \leq Smt(\Psi)$ . Then, we have  $r_{\tilde{\sigma}} \leq r$ .

As  $\beta$  is the same for  $\Psi_{\tilde{\sigma}}$  and  $\Psi$  and  $\gamma_{\tilde{\sigma}} = \beta r_{\tilde{\sigma}}, \gamma = \beta r$ , we have

$$\gamma_{\tilde{\sigma}} \leq \gamma$$

□

## 1512 D STABILITY ON SPECIALIZED CSBM

1513  
1514 We establish the uniform transductive stability of spectral GNNs with the architecture described  
1515 in Eq. (1) on graphs generated by  $G \sim \text{cSBM}(n, f, \mu, u, \lambda, d)$ . Theorem 13 is a specialized form  
1516 of Theorem 8, where the data model is specialized to nodes with binary classes and Gaussian node  
1517 features.

1518 We present lemmas essential for calculating node features after graph convolution in Appendix D.1.  
1519 Then we derive the expectation and variance of the element  $A_{ij}^k$  in the adjacency matrix and the ex-  
1520 pectation and variance of node features after graph convolution in Appendix D.2. Using these results,  
1521 we derive the transductive stability of spectral GNNs on the specialized data model in Appendix D.3.

### 1522 D.1 LEMMAS FOR THEOREM 13

1523  
1524 **Lemma 26** (Poisson Limit Theorem (Durrett, 2019)). *For each  $n$ , let  $X_{n,m}, 1 \leq m \leq n$ , be*  
1525 *independent random variables with  $\mathbb{P}(X_{n,m} = 1) = p_{n,m}$  and  $\mathbb{P}(X_{n,m} = 0) = 1 - p_{n,m}$ . Suppose:*

- 1526 1.  $\sum_{m=1}^n p_{n,m} \rightarrow \lambda \in (0, \infty)$ , and
- 1527 2.  $\max_{1 \leq m \leq n} p_{n,m} \rightarrow 0$ ,

1528  
1529 *then if  $S_n = \sum_{m=1}^n X_{n,m}$ ,  $S_n$  converges in distribution to a Poisson random variable with mean  $\lambda$ ,*  
1530 *i.e.,  $S_n \sim \text{Poisson}(\lambda)$ .*

1531  
1532 *Remark.* The Poisson limit theorem, also known as the law of rare events, states that the total number  
1533 of events will follow a Poisson distribution if the probability of occurrence of an event is small in  
1534 each trial but there are a large number of trials. For more details, see (Durrett, 2019).

1535 **Lemma 27** (Binomial Coefficient Approximation). *When  $n \gg k$ , the binomial coefficient  $\binom{n}{k}$  can*  
1536 *be approximated as:*

$$1537 \binom{n}{k} \approx \frac{n^k}{k!}.$$

1538  
1539 *Proof.* The binomial coefficient is defined as:

$$1540 \binom{n}{k} = \frac{n!}{k!(n-k)!}.$$

1541  
1542 Expanding the factorial terms for  $n!$ , we have:

$$1543 \binom{n}{k} = \frac{n \cdot (n-1) \cdot (n-2) \cdot \dots \cdot (n-k+1) \cdot (n-k)!}{k! \cdot (n-k)!}.$$

1544  
1545 Canceling the  $(n-k)!$  terms in the numerator and denominator gives:

$$1546 \binom{n}{k} = \frac{n \cdot (n-1) \cdot (n-2) \cdot \dots \cdot (n-k+1)}{k!}.$$

1547  
1548 When  $n \gg k$ , the terms  $(n-1), (n-2), \dots, (n-k+1)$  are approximately equal to  $n$ . Therefore,  
1549 the product simplifies as:

$$1550 n \cdot (n-1) \cdot (n-2) \cdot \dots \cdot (n-k+1) \approx n^k.$$

1551  
1552 Substituting this approximation, we obtain:

$$1553 \binom{n}{k} \approx \frac{n^k}{k!}, \quad \text{for } n \gg k.$$

1554 □

1555  
1556 **Lemma 28** (Expectations of  $\mathbb{E}[AB]$ ). *For any two random variables  $A$  and  $B$ , the following*  
1557 *inequality holds:*

$$1558 \mathbb{E}[AB] \leq \frac{1}{2}\mathbb{E}[A^2] + \frac{1}{2}\mathbb{E}[B^2].$$

1566 *Proof.* Define a function  $f(t)$  for any real number  $t$ :

$$1567$$

$$1568 \quad f(t) = \mathbb{E} \left[ \left( \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}}A - \frac{t}{\sqrt{2}}B \right)^2 \right].$$

$$1569$$

$$1570$$

1571 Since  $f(t)$  is the expectation of a squared term, it is non-negative for any real  $t$ , i.e.,  $f(t) \geq 0$ .

1572 Expanding  $f(t)$ , we get:

$$1573$$

$$1574 \quad f(t) = \mathbb{E} \left[ \frac{1}{2}A^2 - tAB + \frac{t^2}{2}B^2 \right].$$

$$1575$$

$$1576$$

1577 Rearranging terms, this becomes:

$$1578$$

$$1579 \quad f(t) = \frac{1}{2}\mathbb{E}[A^2] - t\mathbb{E}[AB] + \frac{t^2}{2}\mathbb{E}[B^2].$$

$$1580$$

1581 Since  $f(t) \geq 0$  for all  $t$ , substitute  $t = 1$  to simplify:

$$1582$$

$$1583 \quad f(1) = \frac{1}{2}\mathbb{E}[A^2] - \mathbb{E}[AB] + \frac{1}{2}\mathbb{E}[B^2] \geq 0.$$

$$1584$$

1585 Rearranging this inequality gives:

$$1586$$

$$1587 \quad \mathbb{E}[AB] \leq \frac{1}{2}\mathbb{E}[A^2] + \frac{1}{2}\mathbb{E}[B^2].$$

$$1588$$

1589 Thus, the result holds.  $\square$

1590 **Lemma 29** (Monotonicity of  $g(\lambda)$ ). *The function  $g(\lambda) = \left( (d + \lambda\sqrt{d})^k - (d - \lambda\sqrt{d})^k \right)^2$  satisfies*

1591 *the following properties:*

- 1594 • *It monotonically increases on  $\lambda \in [0, \sqrt{d}]$ .*
- 1595 • *It monotonically decreases on  $\lambda \in [-\sqrt{d}, 0]$ .*
- 1596 • *It achieves its minimum value when  $\lambda = 0$ .*

1597 *Proof.* First, observe that  $g(\lambda)$  is an even function because:

$$1598$$

$$1599 \quad g(-\lambda) = \left( (d - \lambda\sqrt{d})^k - (d + \lambda\sqrt{d})^k \right)^2 = \left( (d + \lambda\sqrt{d})^k - (d - \lambda\sqrt{d})^k \right)^2 = g(\lambda).$$

$$1600$$

1601 Thus, it is symmetric about  $\lambda = 0$ . Therefore, we only need to analyze its behavior for  $\lambda \geq 0$ , and

1602 the results for  $\lambda < 0$  follow by symmetry.

1603 Define:

$$1604 \quad A = d + \lambda\sqrt{d}, \quad B = d - \lambda\sqrt{d}.$$

$$1605$$

1606 Then, the function  $g(\lambda)$  can be rewritten as:

$$1607$$

$$1608 \quad g(\lambda) = (A^k - B^k)^2.$$

$$1609$$

1610 Using the chain rule:

$$1611$$

$$1612 \quad g'(\lambda) = 2(A^k - B^k) \cdot \frac{\partial}{\partial \lambda}(A^k - B^k).$$

$$1613$$

1614 The derivative of  $A^k - B^k$  with respect to  $\lambda$  is:

$$1615$$

$$1616 \quad \frac{\partial}{\partial \lambda}(A^k - B^k) = k\sqrt{d}(A^{k-1} + B^{k-1}).$$

$$1617$$

1618 Thus:

$$1619 \quad g'(\lambda) = 2k\sqrt{d}(A^k - B^k)(A^{k-1} + B^{k-1}).$$

When  $\lambda \geq 0, A \geq B > 0$ , we have:

$$A^k - B^k \geq 0, \quad A^{k-1} + B^{k-1} \geq 0.$$

Therefore:

$$g'(\lambda) \geq 0 \quad \text{for } \lambda \geq 0.$$

This shows that  $g(\lambda)$  is monotonically increasing on  $[0, \sqrt{d}]$ .

By the even symmetry of  $g(\lambda)$ , we have:

$$g'(-\lambda) = -g'(\lambda).$$

Since  $g'(\lambda) \geq 0$  for  $\lambda \geq 0$ , it follows that  $g'(\lambda) \leq 0$  for  $\lambda \leq 0$ . Thus,  $g(\lambda)$  monotonically decreases on  $[-\sqrt{d}, 0]$ .

At  $\lambda = 0, A = B = d$ , we have:

$$g(0) = (d^k - d^k)^2 = 0.$$

Thus,  $g(\lambda)$  achieves its minimum value when  $\lambda = 0$ .

The proof is complete.  $\square$

**Lemma 30** (Monotonicity of  $g(\lambda)$ ). *The function  $g(\lambda) = \sum_{s=1}^k (d + \lambda\sqrt{d})^{k-s} (d - \lambda\sqrt{d})^s$  satisfies the following properties:*

- *It monotonically decreases on  $\lambda \in [0, \sqrt{d}]$ .*
- *It monotonically increases on  $\lambda \in [-\sqrt{d}, 0]$ .*
- *It achieves its maximum value at  $\lambda = 0$ .*

*Proof.* The function  $g(\lambda)$  can be rewritten as:

$$g(\lambda) = (2d)^k - (d + \lambda\sqrt{d})^k - (d - \lambda\sqrt{d})^k.$$

Differentiate  $g(\lambda)$  with respect to  $\lambda$ :

$$g'(\lambda) = k\sqrt{d} \left[ (d - \lambda\sqrt{d})^{k-1} - (d + \lambda\sqrt{d})^{k-1} \right].$$

- When  $\lambda > 0$ , we have  $(d - \lambda\sqrt{d}) < (d + \lambda\sqrt{d})$ . This implies  $(d - \lambda\sqrt{d})^{k-1} < (d + \lambda\sqrt{d})^{k-1}$  and  $g'(\lambda) < 0$ . Therefore,  $g(\lambda)$  is strictly decreasing on  $\lambda \in [0, \sqrt{d}]$ .
- When  $\lambda < 0$ , we have  $(d - \lambda\sqrt{d}) > (d + \lambda\sqrt{d})$ . This implies  $(d - \lambda\sqrt{d})^{k-1} > (d + \lambda\sqrt{d})^{k-1}$  and  $g'(\lambda) > 0$ . Therefore,  $g(\lambda)$  is strictly increasing on  $\lambda \in [-\sqrt{d}, 0]$ .
- When  $\lambda = 0$ , we have  $(d + \lambda\sqrt{d}) = (d - \lambda\sqrt{d}) = d$  and  $g(0) = (2d)^k - 2d^k$ . This is the maximum value of  $g(\lambda)$ , as  $g'(\lambda)$  changes sign from positive to negative at  $\lambda = 0$ .

The proof is complete.  $\square$

D.2 EXPECTATION AND VARIANCE OF  $A_{ij}^k$  AND  $(\tilde{A}^k XW)_{ij}$ 

**Theorem 31** (Expectation and Variance of  $A_{ij}^k$ ). *Let the graph be generated by  $G \sim cSBM(n, f, \mu, u, \lambda, d)$ . For  $n \rightarrow \infty$ ,  $d \ll n$ , and  $2 \leq k \leq k^2 \ll n$ , the number of  $k$ -length walks connecting nodes  $v_i$  and  $v_j$  follows a Poisson distribution,  $\text{Poisson}(\rho')$ , where:*

$$\rho' = \begin{cases} \rho_{=} = \frac{(k-1)!}{n \cdot 2^{k-1}} \sum_{a=2}^{k+1} O \left( \sum_{s=\min(2, 2(a-2), 2(k+1-a))}^{\min(2(a-1), 2(k+1-a))} c_{in}^{k-s} \cdot c_{out}^s \right), & \text{if } y_i = y_j, \\ \rho_{\neq} = \frac{(k-1)!}{n \cdot 2^{k-1}} \sum_{a=1}^k O \left( \sum_{s=1}^{\min(2a-1, 2(k-a)+1)} c_{in}^{k-s} \cdot c_{out}^s \right), & \text{if } y_i \neq y_j. \end{cases}$$

The expectation and variance are:

$$\mathbb{E}[A_{ij}^k] = \rho', \quad \mathbb{V}[A_{ij}^k] = \rho'.$$

When  $k = 1$ , the 1-length walk (i.e., a single edge) connecting nodes  $v_i$  and  $v_j$  follows a Bernoulli distribution,  $\text{Ber}(p)$ , where:

$$p = \begin{cases} p_{=} = \frac{c_{in}}{n}, & \text{if } y_i = y_j, \\ p_{\neq} = \frac{c_{out}}{n}, & \text{if } y_i \neq y_j. \end{cases}$$

The expectation and variance in this case are:

$$\mathbb{E}[A_{ij}^k] = p, \quad \mathbb{V}[A_{ij}^k] = p(1-p).$$

*Proof.* According to Definition 7, the expectation of  $A_{ij}^k$ , the number of  $k$ -length walks between nodes  $v_i$  and  $v_j$ , is given by:

$$\mathbb{E}[A_{ij}^k] = \sum_{p \in \mathcal{P}_{ij}^k} \prod_{(v, v') \in p} Q_{yy'},$$

where  $\mathcal{P}_{ij}^k$  represents the set of all  $k$ -length walks between  $v_i$  and  $v_j$ , and  $Q_{yy'}$  is the probability of an edge between nodes  $v$  and  $v'$ , conditioned on their respective classes  $y$  and  $y'$ .

When  $C = 2$  (binary classes), the edge probabilities  $Q_{yy'}$  are:

$$Q_{yy'} = \begin{cases} \frac{c_{in}}{n}, & \text{if } y = y', \\ \frac{c_{out}}{n}, & \text{if } y \neq y', \end{cases}$$

where  $c_{in}$  and  $c_{out}$  are the intra-class and inter-class edge probabilities, respectively.

**Case 1:  $y_i = y_j$  and  $k \geq 2$** 

For nodes  $v_i$  and  $v_j$  sharing the same class  $y_i$ , we consider walks of length  $k$  that include  $a$  nodes sharing the class  $y_i$  and  $k + 1 - a$  nodes with different classes. Since  $v_i$  and  $v_j$  both belong to class  $y_i$ , we need to choose  $a - 2$  nodes from the same cluster and  $k - a + 1$  nodes from the other cluster. The total number of ways to arrange these nodes in a walk is  $(k - 1)!$ , as there are  $k - 1$  positions to fill. The probability of each edge depends on whether it connects nodes of the same class or different classes.

The number of ways to choose the nodes is as follows:

- Choose  $a - 2$  nodes from  $\frac{n}{2} - 2$  nodes in the same cluster:  $\binom{\frac{n}{2}-2}{a-2}$ .
- Choose  $k - a + 1$  nodes from  $\frac{n}{2}$  nodes in the other cluster:  $\binom{\frac{n}{2}}{k-a+1}$ .

The number of ways to arrange these nodes is  $(k - 1)!$ . Considering the class changes in the  $k$ -length walk, let  $s$  denote the number of walk class changes:

- If  $2a \geq k + 1$ , then  $s_{\min} = \min(2, 2(k + 1 - a))$  and  $s_{\max} = 2(k + 1 - a)$ .
- If  $2a \leq k + 1$ , then  $s_{\min} = \min(2, 2(a - 2))$  and  $s_{\max} = 2(a - 1)$ .

The probability of a  $k$ -length walk with  $a$  nodes sharing the same class as  $v_i$  is:

$$p_k^a(v_i, v_j \mid y_i = y_j) = \begin{cases} \binom{\frac{n}{2}-2}{a-2} \cdot \binom{\frac{n}{2}}{k-a+1} \cdot (k-1)! \cdot \left( \sum_{s=\min(2, 2(k+1-a))}^{2(k+1-a)} \left(\frac{c_{in}}{n}\right)^{k-s} \cdot \left(\frac{c_{out}}{n}\right)^s \right), & \text{if } 2a \geq k+1; \\ \binom{\frac{n}{2}-2}{a-2} \cdot \binom{\frac{n}{2}}{k-a+1} \cdot (k-1)! \cdot \left( \sum_{s=\min(2, 2(a-2))}^{2(a-1)} \left(\frac{c_{in}}{n}\right)^{k-s} \cdot \left(\frac{c_{out}}{n}\right)^s \right), & \text{if } 2a < k+1. \end{cases}$$

The total probability of a  $k$ -length walk connecting  $v_i$  and  $v_j$  when  $y_i = y_j$  is:

$$p_k(v_i, v_j \mid y_i = y_j) = \sum_{a=2}^{\frac{k+1}{2}} \binom{\frac{n}{2}-2}{a-2} \cdot \binom{\frac{n}{2}}{k-a+1} \cdot (k-1)! \cdot \sum_{s=\min(2, 2(a-2))}^{2(a-1)} \left(\frac{c_{in}}{n}\right)^{k-s} \cdot \left(\frac{c_{out}}{n}\right)^s + \sum_{a=\frac{k+1}{2}}^{k+1} \binom{\frac{n}{2}-2}{a-2} \cdot \binom{\frac{n}{2}}{k-a+1} \cdot (k-1)! \cdot \sum_{s=\min(2, 2(k+1-a))}^{2(k+1-a)} \left(\frac{c_{in}}{n}\right)^{k-s} \cdot \left(\frac{c_{out}}{n}\right)^s. \quad (27)$$

Using Lemma 27, the binomial coefficients simplify as:

$$\binom{\frac{n}{2}-2}{a-2} = \frac{\left(\frac{n}{2}-2\right)^{a-2}}{(a-2)!}, \quad \binom{\frac{n}{2}}{k-a+1} = \frac{\left(\frac{n}{2}\right)^{k-a+1}}{(k-a+1)!}.$$

Thus, we have

$$\binom{\frac{n}{2}-2}{a-2} \cdot \binom{\frac{n}{2}}{k-a+1} \cdot (k-1)! = O\left(\left(\frac{n}{2}\right)^{k-1} \cdot \frac{(k-1)!}{(a-2)}\right).$$

Substituting into Eq. (27), we get:

$$p_k(v_i, v_j \mid y_i = y_j) = \sum_{a=2}^{\frac{k+1}{2}} O\left(\left(\frac{n}{2}\right)^{k-1} \cdot \frac{(k-1)!}{(a-2)}\right) \cdot \left( \sum_{s=\min(2, 2(a-2))}^{2(a-1)} \left(\frac{c_{in}}{n}\right)^{k-s} \cdot \left(\frac{c_{out}}{n}\right)^s \right) + \sum_{a=\frac{k+1}{2}}^{k+1} O\left(\left(\frac{n}{2}\right)^{k-1} \cdot \frac{(k-1)!}{(a-2)}\right) \cdot \left( \sum_{s=\min(2, 2(k+1-a))}^{2(k+1-a)} \left(\frac{c_{in}}{n}\right)^{k-s} \cdot \left(\frac{c_{out}}{n}\right)^s \right) = \frac{1}{n \cdot 2^{k-1}} \sum_{a=2}^{\frac{k+1}{2}} O\left(\frac{(k-1)!}{(a-2)} \cdot \left( \sum_{s=\min(2, 2(a-2))}^{2(a-1)} c_{in}^{k-s} \cdot c_{out}^s \right)\right) + \frac{1}{n \cdot 2^{k-1}} \sum_{a=\frac{k+1}{2}}^{k+1} O\left(\frac{(k-1)!}{(a-2)} \cdot \left( \sum_{s=\min(2, 2(k+1-a))}^{2(k+1-a)} c_{in}^{k-s} \cdot c_{out}^s \right)\right) = \frac{(k-1)!}{n \cdot 2^{k-1}} \sum_{a=2}^{k+1} O\left(\sum_{s=\min(2, 2(a-2), 2(k+1-a))}^{\min(2(a-1), 2(k+1-a))} c_{in}^{k-s} \cdot c_{out}^s\right). \quad (28)$$

### Case 2: $y_i \neq y_j$ and $k \geq 2$

For nodes  $v_i$  and  $v_j$ , when they belong to different classes ( $y_i \neq y_j$ ), we count the walks of length  $k$  where there are  $a$  nodes of the same class as  $v_i$  and  $k+1-a$  nodes of the class of  $v_j$ . We need to choose  $a-1$  nodes from the same cluster as  $v_i$  and  $k-a$  nodes from the cluster of  $v_j$ . The total number of ways to arrange these nodes in a walk is  $(k-2)!$ , as there are  $k-2$  positions to fill.

The number of ways to choose the nodes is:

- 1782 • Choose  $a - 1$  nodes from  $\frac{n}{2} - 1$  nodes in the same cluster as  $v_i$ :  $\binom{\frac{n}{2}-1}{a-1}$ ;  
 1783  
 1784 • Choose  $k - a$  nodes from  $\frac{n}{2} - 1$  nodes in the same cluster as  $v_j$ :  $\binom{\frac{n}{2}-1}{k-a}$ .  
 1785

1786 The number of ways to arrange these nodes is  $(k - 1)!$ . Considering the class changes in the  
 1787  $k$ -length walk, let  $s$  denote the number of class changes. The minimum and maximum values of  $s$   
 1788 are:

- 1789 • If  $2a \geq k + 1$ , then  $s_{\min} = 1$  and  $s_{\max} = 2(k - a) + 1$ ;  
 1790  
 1791 • If  $2a \leq k + 1$ , then  $s_{\min} = 1$  and  $s_{\max} = 2a - 1$ .  
 1792

1793 The probability of a  $k$ -length walk with  $a$  nodes sharing the same class as  $v_i$  is:

1794 
$$p_k^a(v_i, v_j | y_i \neq y_j) =$$
  
 1795 
$$\begin{cases} \binom{\frac{n}{2}-1}{a-1} \cdot \binom{\frac{n}{2}-1}{k-a} \cdot (k-1)! \cdot \left( \sum_{s=1}^{2(k-a)+1} \left(\frac{c_{in}}{n}\right)^{k-s} \cdot \left(\frac{c_{out}}{n}\right)^s \right), & \text{if } 2a \geq k + 1 \\ \binom{\frac{n}{2}-1}{a-1} \cdot \binom{\frac{n}{2}-1}{k-a} \cdot (k-1)! \cdot \left( \sum_{s=1}^{2a-1} \left(\frac{c_{in}}{n}\right)^{k-s} \cdot \left(\frac{c_{out}}{n}\right)^s \right), & \text{if } 2a < k + 1 \end{cases}$$
  
 1796  
 1797  
 1798

1799 The total probability of a  $k$ -length walk connecting  $v_i$  and  $v_j$  when  $y_i \neq y_j$  is:

1800 
$$p_k(v_i, v_j | y_i \neq y_j) =$$
  
 1801 
$$\sum_{a=1}^{\frac{k+1}{2}} \binom{\frac{n}{2}-1}{a-1} \cdot \binom{\frac{n}{2}-1}{k-a} \cdot (k-1)! \cdot \left( \sum_{s=1}^{2a-1} \left(\frac{c_{in}}{n}\right)^{k-s} \cdot \left(\frac{c_{out}}{n}\right)^s \right)$$
  
 1802  
 1803 
$$+ \sum_{a=\frac{k+1}{2}}^k \binom{\frac{n}{2}-1}{a-1} \cdot \binom{\frac{n}{2}-1}{k-a} \cdot (k-1)! \cdot \left( \sum_{s=1}^{2(k-a)+1} \left(\frac{c_{in}}{n}\right)^{k-s} \cdot \left(\frac{c_{out}}{n}\right)^s \right)$$
  
 1804  
 1805  
 1806  
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 1812  
 1813  
 1814  
 1815  
 1816  
 1817  
 1818  
 1819

1808 When  $k \ll n$ , using Lemma 27, we have

1809 
$$\binom{\frac{n}{2}-1}{a-1} = \frac{(\frac{n}{2}-1)^{a-1}}{(a-1)!}, \quad \binom{\frac{n}{2}-1}{k-a} = \frac{(\frac{n}{2}-1)^{k-a}}{(k-a)!}.$$
  
 1810  
 1811  
 1812

1813 Then:

1814 
$$\binom{\frac{n}{2}-1}{a-1} \cdot \binom{\frac{n}{2}-1}{k-a} \cdot (k-1)! = \frac{(\frac{n}{2}-1)^{a-1}}{(a-1)!} \cdot \frac{(\frac{n}{2}-1)^{k-a}}{(k-a)!} \cdot (k-1)!$$
  
 1815  
 1816 
$$= \left(\frac{n}{2}-1\right)^{k-1} \cdot \frac{(k-1)}{(a-1)}$$
  
 1817  
 1818  
 1819

1820 We simplify Eq. (29) to

1821 
$$p_k(v_i, v_j | y_i \neq y_j) = \sum_{a=1}^{\frac{k+1}{2}} \left(\frac{n}{2}-1\right)^{k-1} \cdot \frac{(k-1)}{(a-1)} \cdot \left( \sum_{s=1}^{2a-1} \left(\frac{c_{in}}{n}\right)^{k-s} \cdot \left(\frac{c_{out}}{n}\right)^s \right)$$
  
 1822  
 1823 
$$+ \sum_{a=\frac{k+1}{2}}^k \left(\frac{n}{2}-1\right)^{k-1} \cdot \frac{(k-1)}{(a-1)} \cdot \left( \sum_{s=1}^{2(k-a)+1} \left(\frac{c_{in}}{n}\right)^{k-s} \cdot \left(\frac{c_{out}}{n}\right)^s \right)$$
  
 1824  
 1825  
 1826  
 1827 
$$= \frac{1}{n \cdot 2^{k-1}} \sum_{a=1}^{\frac{k+1}{2}} O \left( \left(\frac{k-1}{a-1}\right) \cdot \left( \sum_{s=1}^{2a-1} c_{in}^{k-s} \cdot c_{out}^s \right) \right)$$
  
 1828  
 1829  
 1830 
$$+ \frac{1}{n \cdot 2^{k-1}} \sum_{a=\frac{k+1}{2}}^k O \left( \left(\frac{k-1}{a-1}\right) \cdot \left( \sum_{s=1}^{2(k-a)+1} c_{in}^{k-s} \cdot c_{out}^s \right) \right)$$
  
 1831  
 1832  
 1833 
$$= \frac{(k-1)!}{n \cdot 2^{k-1}} \sum_{a=1}^k O \left( \sum_{s=1}^{\min(2a-1, 2(k-a)+1)} c_{in}^{k-s} \cdot c_{out}^s \right).$$
  
 1834  
 1835

1836 **Case 3:**  $k = 1$

1837 When  $k = 1$ , we have  $A^k = A$  and

$$1839 \mathbb{E}[A_{ij}] = \begin{cases} \frac{c_{in}}{n}, & \text{if } y_i = y_j, \\ \frac{c_{out}}{n}, & \text{if } y_i \neq y_j. \end{cases}$$

1842 In the following, we show that when a graph is sparse and  $k$  is small,  $A_{ij}^k$  can be modeled using a  
1843 Poisson distribution.

- 1845 • For sparse graphs with a large number of nodes ( $n \rightarrow \infty, d \ll n$ ), the probability of a  
1846 potential  $k$ -length walk existing is very small.
- 1847 • When  $k \ll n$ , the dependence between two different  $k$ -length walks is negligible.
- 1848 • The number of potential  $k$ -length walks is large ( $n^{k-1}$  as  $n \rightarrow \infty$ ).

1851 Thus, according to Lemma 26, the number of  $k$ -length walks connecting nodes  $v_i$  and  $v_j$ ,  $A_{ij}^k$ ,  
1852 follows a Poisson distribution  $Poisson(\rho')$  when  $k \geq 2$ , where:

$$1854 \rho' = \begin{cases} \rho = \frac{(k-1)!}{n \cdot 2^{k-1}} \sum_{a=2}^{k+1} O \left( \sum_{s=\min(2, 2(a-2), 2(k+1-a))}^{\min(2(a-1), 2(k+1-a))} c_{in}^{k-s} \cdot c_{out}^s \right), & \text{if } y_i = y_j, \\ \rho \neq \frac{(k-1)!}{n \cdot 2^{k-1}} \sum_{a=1}^k O \left( \sum_{s=1}^{\min(2a-1, 2(k-a)+1)} c_{in}^{k-s} \cdot c_{out}^s \right), & \text{if } y_i \neq y_j. \end{cases}$$

1859 When  $k = 1$ ,  $p(v_i, v_j)$  follows a Bernoulli distribution  $Ber(p)$ , where:

$$1861 p = \begin{cases} \frac{c_{in}}{n}, & \text{if } y_i = y_j, \\ \frac{c_{out}}{n}, & \text{if } y_i \neq y_j. \end{cases}$$

1864 This completes the proof.

1865  $\square$

1867 **Theorem 32** (Expectation and variance of  $(\tilde{A}^k XW)_{ij}$ ). *Given a graph generated by  $G \sim$   
1868  $cSBM(n, f, \mu, u, \lambda, d)$ . The input node feature matrix is  $X$  and the normalized adjacency ma-  
1869 trix is  $\tilde{A}$ . The  $k$ -th power matrix  $\tilde{A}^k$  is applied to obtain a new feature matrix  $\tilde{A}^k XW$ , then the  
1870 expectation and the variance of  $(\tilde{A}^k XW)_{ij}$  are as follows:*

1872 For  $k = 1$ :

$$1873 \mathbb{E} \left[ (\tilde{A}^k XW)_{ij} \right] = \frac{1}{2d} \sqrt{\frac{\mu}{n}} (c_{in} - c_{out}) y_i uW_{:j}$$

$$1874 \mathbb{V} \left[ (\tilde{A}^k XW)_{ij} \right] = \frac{1}{2 \cdot d^2} \left( d - \frac{c_{in}^2 + c_{out}^2}{n} \right) \cdot \left( \frac{\mu}{n} (uW_{:j})^2 + \frac{\|W_{:j}\|_2^2}{f} \right)$$

1878 For  $k \geq 2$ :

$$1879 \mathbb{E} \left[ (\tilde{A}^k XW)_{ij} \right] = \frac{(k-1)!}{d^k \cdot 2^{k-1}} O(c_{in}^k - c_{out}^k) \sqrt{\frac{\mu}{n}} y_i uW_{:j}$$

$$1884 \mathbb{V} \left[ (\tilde{A}^k XW)_{ij} \right] = \frac{(k-1)!}{d^{2k} \cdot 2^k} \left( \sum_{a=2}^{k+1} O \left( \sum_{s=\min(2, 2(a-2), 2(k+1-a))}^{\min(2(a-1), 2(k+1-a))} c_{in}^{k-s} \cdot c_{out}^s \right) \right. \\ 1885 \left. + \sum_{a=1}^k O \left( \sum_{s=1}^{\min(2a-1, 2(k-a)+1)} c_{in}^{k-s} \cdot c_{out}^s \right) \right) \left( \frac{\mu}{n} (uW_{:j})^2 + \frac{\|W_{:j}\|_2^2}{f} \right)$$

1890 *Proof.* Given that the node feature  $x_i$  for node  $v_i$ , generated by a conditional Stochastic Block Model  
 1891 (cSBM) conditioned on  $u$  and node class  $y_i$ , is distributed as:

$$1892 x_i \sim \mathcal{N}\left(\sqrt{\frac{\mu}{n}}y_i u, \frac{I_f}{f}\right)$$

1893  
 1894  
 1895 For a linear transformation matrix  $W$ , the transformed node feature is given by:

$$1896 x_i W \sim \mathcal{N}\left(\sqrt{\frac{\mu}{n}}y_i u W, \frac{W^T W}{f}\right)$$

1897  
 1898  
 1899 Feature after transformation with  $W$  and propagation with  $\tilde{A}^k$  is

$$1900 \begin{aligned} (\tilde{A}^k X W)_{ij} &= \sum_{r=1}^n \tilde{A}_{ir}^k (X W)_{rj} \\ &= \sum_{r=1}^n \tilde{A}_{ir}^k \left( \sqrt{\frac{\mu}{n}} y_r u W_{:j} + \frac{\epsilon_r W_{:j}}{\sqrt{f}} \right) \\ &= \sum_{r=1}^n \tilde{A}_{ir}^k \sqrt{\frac{\mu}{n}} y_r u W_{:j} \end{aligned}$$

1901 and

$$1902 \mathbb{E} \left[ (\tilde{A}^k X W)_{ij} \right] = \sqrt{\frac{\mu}{n}} \left( \sum_{r=1}^n \mathbb{E} [\tilde{A}_{ir}^k] y_r \right) u W_{:j} \quad (31)$$

1903 We now derive the expectation  $\mathbb{E}[A_{ij}^k]$  of the adjacency matrix  $A$  raised to the power  $k$ .

1904  
 1905  
 1906 **1. Expectation  $\mathbb{E} \left[ (\tilde{A}^k X W)_{ij} \right]$  when  $k \geq 2$**

1907 Two clusters generated by cSBM are in equal size. According to Theorem 31, we have

$$1908 \begin{aligned} \mathbb{E} \left[ (\tilde{A}^k X W)_{ij} \right] &= \sqrt{\frac{\mu}{n}} \left( \sum_{r=1}^n \mathbb{E} [\tilde{A}_{ir}^k] y_r \right) u W_{:j} \\ &= \frac{1}{d^k} \sqrt{\frac{\mu}{n}} \left( \sum_{r=1}^n (\mathbb{E} [A_{ir}^k | y_i = y_r] + \mathbb{E} [A_{ir}^k | y_i \neq y_r]) y_r \right) u W_{:j} \\ &= \frac{1}{d^k} \sqrt{\frac{\mu}{n}} \left( \sum_{r=1}^n \left( \frac{(k-1)!}{n \cdot 2^{k-1}} \sum_{a=2}^{k+1} O \left( \sum_{s=\min(2, 2(a-2), 2(k+1-a))}^{\min(2(a-1), 2(k+1-a))} c_{in}^{k-s} \cdot c_{out}^s \right) \right. \right. \\ &\quad \left. \left. + \frac{(k-1)!}{n \cdot 2^{k-1}} \sum_{a=1}^k O \left( \sum_{s=1}^{\min(2a-1, 2(k-a)+1)} c_{in}^{k-s} \cdot c_{out}^s \right) \right) y_r \right) u W_{:j} \\ &= \frac{(k-1)!}{d^k \cdot 2^{k-1}} O \left( \sum_{a=2}^{k+1} \sum_{s=\min(2, 2(a-2), 2(k+1-a))}^{\min(2(a-1), 2(k+1-a))} c_{in}^{k-s} \cdot c_{out}^s \right. \\ &\quad \left. - \sum_{a=1}^k \sum_{s=1}^{\min(2a-1, 2(k-a)+1)} c_{in}^{k-s} \cdot c_{out}^s \right) \sqrt{\frac{\mu}{n}} y_i u W_{:j} \\ &= \frac{(k-1)!}{d^k \cdot 2^{k-1}} O(c_{in}^k - c_{out}^k) \sqrt{\frac{\mu}{n}} y_i u W_{:j} \end{aligned}$$

1909  
 1910  
 1911 **2. Variance  $\mathbb{E} \left[ (\tilde{A}^k X W)_{ij} \right]$  when  $k \geq 2$**

The variance of new feature  $X'_{ij}$  given  $u, Y$  can be expressed as:

$$\begin{aligned}
\mathbb{V} \left[ (\tilde{A}^k X W)_{ij} \right] &= \mathbb{V} \left[ \sum_{r=1}^n \tilde{A}_{ir}^k \left( \sqrt{\frac{\mu}{n}} y_r u W_{:j} + \frac{\epsilon_r W_{:j}}{\sqrt{f}} \right) \right] \\
&= \sum_{r=1}^n \mathbb{V} \left[ \tilde{A}_{ir}^k \left( \sqrt{\frac{\mu}{n}} y_r u W_{:j} + \frac{\epsilon_r W_{:j}}{\sqrt{f}} \right) \right], \quad \text{feature dimension independent} \\
&= \sum_{r=1}^n \left[ \mathbb{E} \left[ (\tilde{A}_{ir}^k)^2 \right] \mathbb{E} \left[ \left( \sqrt{\frac{\mu}{n}} y_r u W_{:j} + \frac{\epsilon_r W_{:j}}{\sqrt{f}} \right)^2 \right] - \left( \mathbb{E} \left[ \tilde{A}_{ir}^k \right] \right)^2 \left( \mathbb{E} \left[ \sqrt{\frac{\mu}{n}} y_r u W_{:j} + \frac{\epsilon_r W_{:j}}{\sqrt{f}} \right] \right)^2 \right] \\
&= \sum_{r=1}^n \left[ \mathbb{E} \left[ (\tilde{A}_{ir}^k)^2 \right] \left( \left( \sqrt{\frac{\mu}{n}} y_r u W_{:j} \right)^2 + \frac{\|W_{:j}\|_2^2}{f} \right) - \left( \mathbb{E} \left[ \tilde{A}_{ir}^k \right] \right)^2 \left( \mathbb{E} \left[ \sqrt{\frac{\mu}{n}} y_r u W_{:j} + \frac{\epsilon_r W_{:j}}{\sqrt{f}} \right] \right)^2 \right] \\
&= \sum_{r=1}^n \left[ \mathbb{E} \left[ (\tilde{A}_{ir}^k)^2 \right] \left( \left( \sqrt{\frac{\mu}{n}} y_r u W_{:j} \right)^2 + \frac{\|W_{:j}\|_2^2}{f} \right) - \left( \mathbb{E} \left[ \tilde{A}_{ir}^k \right] \right)^2 \left( \sqrt{\frac{\mu}{n}} y_r u W_{:j} \right)^2 \right] \\
&= \sum_{r=1}^n \left[ \left( \left( \mathbb{E} \left[ \tilde{A}_{ir}^k \right] \right)^2 + \mathbb{V} \left[ \tilde{A}_{ir}^k \right] \right) \cdot \left( \left( \sqrt{\frac{\mu}{n}} y_r u W_{:j} \right)^2 + \frac{\|W_{:j}\|_2^2}{f} \right) \right. \\
&\quad \left. - \left( \mathbb{E} \left[ \tilde{A}_{ir}^k \right] \right)^2 \left( \sqrt{\frac{\mu}{n}} y_r u W_{:j} \right)^2 \right] \\
&= \frac{1}{d^{2k}} \sum_{r=1}^n \left[ \left( \left( \mathbb{E} \left[ A_{ir}^k \right] \right)^2 + \mathbb{V} \left[ A_{ir}^k \right] \right) \cdot \left( \frac{\mu}{n} (u W_{:j})^2 + \frac{\|W_{:j}\|_2^2}{f} \right) \right. \\
&\quad \left. - \left( \mathbb{E} \left[ A_{ir}^k \right] \right)^2 \frac{\mu}{n} (u W_{:j})^2 \right] \\
&= \frac{1}{d^{2k}} \sum_{r=1}^n \left[ \left( \mathbb{E} \left[ A_{ir}^k \right] \right)^2 \cdot \frac{\|W_{:j}\|_2^2}{f} + \mathbb{V} \left[ A_{ir}^k \right] \cdot \left( \frac{\mu}{n} (u W_{:j})^2 + \frac{\|W_{:j}\|_2^2}{f} \right) \right] \\
&= \frac{1}{d^{2k}} \frac{n}{2} \left( \left( \mathbb{E} \left[ A_{ir}^k | y_i = y_r \right] \right)^2 + \left( \mathbb{E} \left[ A_{ir}^k | y_i \neq y_r \right] \right)^2 \right) \cdot \frac{\|W_{:j}\|_2^2}{f} \\
&\quad + \frac{1}{d^{2k}} \frac{n}{2} \left( \mathbb{V} \left[ A_{ir}^k | y_i = y_r \right] + \mathbb{V} \left[ A_{ir}^k | y_i \neq y_r \right] \right) \cdot \left( \frac{\mu}{n} (u W_{:j})^2 + \frac{\|W_{:j}\|_2^2}{f} \right)
\end{aligned} \tag{32}$$

According to Theorem 31, when  $k \geq 2$ , we have

$$\begin{aligned}
\left( \mathbb{E} \left[ A_{ij}^k | y_i = y_j \right] \right)^2 &= \left( \frac{(k-1)!}{n \cdot 2^{k-1}} \sum_{a=2}^{k+1} O \left( \sum_{s=\min(2, 2(a-2), 2(k+1-a))}^{\min(2(a-1), 2(k+1-a))} c_{in}^{k-s} \cdot c_{out}^s \right) \right)^2 \\
\left( \mathbb{E} \left[ A_{ij}^k | y_i \neq y_j \right] \right)^2 &= \left( \frac{(k-1)!}{n \cdot 2^{k-1}} \sum_{a=1}^k O \left( \sum_{s=1}^{\min(2a-1, 2(k-a)+1)} c_{in}^{k-s} \cdot c_{out}^s \right) \right)^2
\end{aligned}$$

Two clusters generated by cSBM are in equal size. Then, Eq. (32) is written as:

$$\begin{aligned}
\mathbb{V} \left[ (\tilde{A}^k X W)_{ij} \right] &= \frac{1}{d^{2k}} \frac{n}{2} \left( (\mathbb{E} [A_{ir}^k | y_i = y_r])^2 + (\mathbb{E} [A_{ir}^k | y_i \neq y_r])^2 \right) \cdot \frac{\|W_{:j}\|_2^2}{f} \\
&+ \frac{1}{d^{2k}} \frac{n}{2} \left( \mathbb{V} [A_{ir}^k | y_i = y_r] + \mathbb{V} [A_{ir}^k | y_i \neq y_r] \right) \cdot \left( \frac{\mu}{n} (uW_{:j})^2 + \frac{\|W_{:j}\|_2^2}{f} \right) \\
&= \frac{((k-1)!)^2}{n \cdot d^{2k} \cdot 2^{2k-1}} O \left( \left( \sum_{a=2}^{k+1} O \left( \sum_{s=\min(2,2(a-2),2(k+1-a))}^{\min(2(a-1),2(k+1-a))} c_{in}^{k-s} \cdot c_{out}^s \right) \right)^2 \right. \\
&+ \left. \left( \sum_{a=1}^k O \left( \sum_{s=1}^{\min(2a-1,2(k-a)+1)} c_{in}^{k-s} \cdot c_{out}^s \right) \right)^2 \right) \cdot \frac{\|W_{:j}\|_2^2}{f} \\
&+ \frac{(k-1)!}{d^{2k} \cdot 2^k} \left( \sum_{a=2}^{k+1} O \left( \sum_{s=\min(2,2(a-2),2(k+1-a))}^{\min(2(a-1),2(k+1-a))} c_{in}^{k-s} \cdot c_{out}^s \right) \right) \\
&+ \sum_{a=1}^k O \left( \sum_{s=1}^{\min(2a-1,2(k-a)+1)} c_{in}^{k-s} \cdot c_{out}^s \right) \left( \frac{\mu}{n} (uW_{:j})^2 + \frac{\|W_{:j}\|_2^2}{f} \right) \\
&= \frac{(k-1)!}{d^{2k} \cdot 2^k} \left( \sum_{a=2}^{k+1} O \left( \sum_{s=\min(2,2(a-2),2(k+1-a))}^{\min(2(a-1),2(k+1-a))} c_{in}^{k-s} \cdot c_{out}^s \right) \right) \\
&+ \sum_{a=1}^k O \left( \sum_{s=1}^{\min(2a-1,2(k-a)+1)} c_{in}^{k-s} \cdot c_{out}^s \right) \left( \frac{\mu}{n} (uW_{:j})^2 + \frac{\|W_{:j}\|_2^2}{f} \right), \quad n \rightarrow \infty
\end{aligned}$$

### 3. Expectation and variance of $(\tilde{A}^k X W)_{ij}$ when $k = 1$

$$\begin{aligned}
\mathbb{E} \left[ (\tilde{A} X W)_{ij} \right] &= \sqrt{\frac{\mu}{n}} \left( \sum_{r=1}^n \mathbb{E} [\tilde{A}_{ir}] y_r \right) uW_{:j} \\
&= \frac{1}{d} \sqrt{\frac{\mu}{n}} \left( \sum_{r=1}^n \mathbb{E} [A_{ir} | y_i = y_r] y_i - \sum_{r=1}^n \mathbb{E} [A_{ir} | y_i \neq y_r] y_i \right) uW_{:j} \\
&= \frac{1}{d} \sqrt{\frac{\mu}{n}} \left( \frac{n}{2} \frac{c_{in}}{n} y_i - \frac{n}{2} \frac{c_{out}}{n} y_i \right) uW_{:j} \\
&= \frac{1}{2d} \sqrt{\frac{\mu}{n}} (c_{in} - c_{out}) y_i uW_{:j}
\end{aligned}$$

when  $k = 1$ , we have

$$\begin{aligned}
(\mathbb{E} [A_{ij}^k | y_i = y_j])^2 &= \left( \frac{c_{in}}{n} \right)^2 \\
(\mathbb{E} [A_{ij}^k | y_i \neq y_j])^2 &= \left( \frac{c_{out}}{n} \right)^2
\end{aligned}$$

Eq. (32) is written as:

$$\begin{aligned}
\mathbb{V} \left[ (\tilde{A}XW)_{ij} \right] &= \frac{1}{d^2} \frac{n}{2} \left( (\mathbb{E} [A_{ir}^k | y_i = y_r])^2 + (\mathbb{E} [A_{ir}^k | y_i \neq y_r])^2 \right) \cdot \frac{\|W_{:j}\|_2^2}{f} \\
&+ \frac{1}{d^2} \frac{n}{2} (\mathbb{V} [A_{ir}^k | y_i = y_r] + \mathbb{V} [A_{ir}^k | y_i \neq y_r]) \cdot \left( \frac{\mu}{n} (uW_{:j})^2 + \frac{\|W_{:j}\|_2^2}{f} \right) \\
&= \frac{1}{d^2} \frac{n}{2} \left( \left( \frac{c_{in}}{n} \right)^2 + \left( \frac{c_{out}}{n} \right)^2 \right) \cdot \frac{\|W_{:j}\|_2^2}{f} \\
&+ \frac{1}{d^2} \frac{n}{2} \left( \frac{c_{in}}{n} \left( 1 - \frac{c_{in}}{n} \right) + \frac{c_{out}}{n} \left( 1 - \frac{c_{out}}{n} \right) \right) \cdot \left( \frac{\mu}{n} (uW_{:j})^2 + \frac{\|W_{:j}\|_2^2}{f} \right) \\
&= \frac{1}{2n \cdot d^2} (c_{in}^2 + c_{out}^2) \cdot \frac{\|W_{:j}\|_2^2}{f} \\
&+ \frac{1}{2 \cdot d^2} \left( d - \frac{c_{in}^2 + c_{out}^2}{n} \right) \cdot \left( \frac{\mu}{n} (uW_{:j})^2 + \frac{\|W_{:j}\|_2^2}{f} \right) \\
&= \frac{1}{2 \cdot d^2} \left( d - \frac{c_{in}^2 + c_{out}^2}{n} \right) \cdot \left( \frac{\mu}{n} (uW_{:j})^2 + \frac{\|W_{:j}\|_2^2}{f} \right), \quad n \rightarrow \infty
\end{aligned}$$

□

### D.3 PROOF OF THEOREM 13

We first give a lemma about the order of  $\mathbb{E} [A_{ij}^k]$ , which will be used in proof of Theorem 13.

**Lemma 33** (order of  $\mathbb{E} [A_{ij}^k]$ ). *The order of  $\mathbb{E} [A_{ij}^k]$  is  $O\left(\frac{k! \cdot d^k}{n \cdot 2^k}\right)$ .*

*Proof.* According to Theorem 31,  $A_{ij}^k | y_i = y_j$  and  $A_{ij}^k | y_i \neq y_j$  obeys different Poisson distributions.

As

$$c_{in}^{k-s} \cdot c_{out}^s = O(d^k),$$

we have,

$$\begin{aligned}
\rho_{=} &= \frac{(k-1)!}{n \cdot 2^{k-1}} \sum_{a=2}^{k+1} O \left( \sum_{s=\min(2, 2(a-2), 2(k+1-a))}^{\min(2(a-1), 2(k+1-a))} c_{in}^{k-s} \cdot c_{out}^s \right) \\
&= \frac{(k-1)!}{n \cdot 2^{k-1}} \sum_{a=2}^{k+1} O \left( \sum_{s=\min(2, 2(a-2), 2(k+1-a))}^{\min(2(a-1), 2(k+1-a))} d^k \right) \\
&= \frac{(k-1)!}{n \cdot 2^{k-1}} \sum_{a=2}^{k+1} O(k \cdot d^k) \\
&= \frac{(k-1)!}{n \cdot 2^{k-1}} O(k^2 \cdot d^k) \\
&= O \left( \frac{k! \cdot d^k}{n \cdot 2^k} \right)
\end{aligned}$$

similarly, we have  $\rho_{\neq} = O\left(\frac{k! \cdot d^k}{n \cdot 2^k}\right)$

□

Below, we prove Theorem 13, which is a specific case of Theorem 8 when the graph is generated by  $G \sim cSBM(n, f, \mu, u, \lambda, d)$ .

**Theorem 13.** *Consider a spectral GNN  $\Psi$  parameterized by  $\Theta, W$  trained using full-batch gradient descent for  $T$  iterations with a learning rate  $\eta$  on a training dataset containing  $m$  samples drawn from nodes on a graph  $G \sim cSBM(n, f, \mu, u, \lambda, d)$ . When  $n \rightarrow \infty$ ,  $k \ll n$ , and  $d \ll n$ , under*

Assumptions 1, 2, and 4, for any node  $v_i$  on the graph, with probability at least  $1 - \epsilon$  for a constant  $\epsilon \in (0, 1)$ ,  $\Psi$  satisfies  $\gamma$ -uniform transductive stability, where  $\gamma = r\beta$  and

$$\beta = \frac{1}{\epsilon} \left[ O(\mathbb{E}[\|\hat{y}_i - y_i\|_F^2]) + O\left(\sum_{k=2}^K \left(\mathbb{E}[(A_{ij}^k | y_i = y_j)^2] + \mathbb{E}[(A_{ij}^k | y_i \neq y_j)^2]\right)\right) \right].$$

*Proof.* Any spectral GNNs in Eq. (1) with linear feature transformation function, and polynomial basis expanded on normalized graph matrix can be transformed into the format:

$$\hat{Y} = \text{softmax}\left(\sum_{k=0}^K \theta_k \tilde{A}^k XW\right) \quad (33)$$

where  $\tilde{A} = D^{-\frac{1}{2}}AD^{-\frac{1}{2}}$  is the normalized graph adjacency matrix,  $D$  is the diagonal degree matrix. We denotes  $Y \in \mathbb{R}^{n \times C}$  as the ground truth node label matrix.

When graph  $G \sim cSBM(n, f, \mu, u, \lambda, d)$ , the node feature

$$x_i \sim \mathcal{N}(y_i \sqrt{\mu/nu}, I_f/f)$$

Denote  $B = XW$  and  $S = BB^\top$ , then we have

$$B_{ik} \sim \mathcal{N}(y_i \sqrt{\frac{\mu}{n}} uW_{:k}, \frac{\|W_{:k}\|_F^2}{f})$$

- when  $i \neq j$ ,  $B_{ik}, B_{jk}$  are independent, then

$$\begin{aligned} \mathbb{E}[S_{ij}] &= \sum_{k=1}^C \mathbb{E}[B_{ik}B_{kj}^\top] \\ &= \sum_{k=1}^C y_i y_j \frac{\mu}{n} (uW_{:k})^2 \\ &= y_i y_j \frac{\mu}{n} \|uW\|_F^2; \end{aligned}$$

- when  $i = j$ :

$$\mathbb{E}[S_{ii}] = \frac{\mu}{n} \|uW\|_F^2 + \frac{\|W\|_F^2}{f}$$

When node number  $n \rightarrow \infty$ , we have

$$\sum_{q=1, q \neq j}^n \mathbb{E}[S_{jq}] = \frac{n}{2} y_j^2 \frac{\mu}{n} \|uW\|_F^2 + \frac{n}{2} y_j (-y_j) \frac{\mu}{n} \|uW\|_F^2 = 0.$$

Therefore,

$$\begin{aligned} &\sum_{j=1}^n \sum_{q=1, q \neq j}^n \mathbb{E}[A_{ij}^k A_{iq}^k] \mathbb{E}[S_{jq}] \\ &= \frac{n^2}{4} \rho_{k=}^2 \frac{\mu}{n} \|uW\|_F^2; \quad (y_i = y_j = y_q) \\ &+ \frac{n^2}{4} \rho_{k \neq} \rho_{k \neq} - \frac{\mu}{n} \|uW\|_F^2; \quad (y_i = y_j \neq y_q) \\ &+ \frac{n^2}{4} \rho_{k \neq} \rho_{k=} - \frac{\mu}{n} \|uW\|_F^2; \quad (y_i \neq y_j = y_q) \\ &+ \frac{n^2}{4} \rho_{k \neq}^2 \frac{\mu}{n} \|uW\|_F^2; \quad (y_i = y_q \neq y_j) \\ &= \frac{n^2}{4} \cdot \frac{\mu}{n} \|uW\|_F^2 \cdot (\rho_{k=}^2 - 2\rho_{k \neq} \rho_{k=} + \rho_{k \neq}^2) \\ &= \frac{n^2}{4} \cdot \frac{\mu}{n} \|uW\|_F^2 \cdot (\rho_{k=} - \rho_{k \neq})^2 \end{aligned} \quad (34)$$

According to Theorem 31,

- when  $k \geq 2$ ,  $A_{ij}^k \sim \text{Poisson}(\rho_k')$ , then

$$\begin{aligned}
\mathbb{E} \left[ \|\tilde{A}_{i:}^k XW\|_F^2 \right] &= \mathbb{E} \left[ \tilde{A}_{i:}^k XW (XW)^\top (\tilde{A}_{i:}^k)^\top \right] \\
&= \mathbb{E} \left[ \tilde{A}_{i:}^k S (\tilde{A}_{i:}^k)^\top \right] \\
&= \mathbb{E} \left[ \sum_{q=1}^n \sum_{j=1}^n (\tilde{A}_{ij}^k \tilde{A}_{iq}^k S_{jq}) \right] \\
&= \frac{1}{d^{2k}} \mathbb{E} \left[ \sum_{q=1}^n \sum_{j=1}^n (A_{ij}^k A_{iq}^k S_{jq}) \right] \\
&= \frac{1}{d^{2k}} \sum_{q=1}^n \sum_{j=1}^n \mathbb{E} [A_{ij}^k A_{iq}^k] \mathbb{E} [S_{jq}] \\
&= \frac{1}{d^{2k}} \sum_{j=1}^n \mathbb{E} [(A_{ij}^k)^2] \mathbb{E} [S_{jj}] + \frac{1}{d^{2k}} \sum_{j=1}^n \sum_{q=1, q \neq j}^n \mathbb{E} [A_{ij}^k A_{iq}^k] \mathbb{E} [S_{jq}] \\
&= \frac{1}{d^{2k}} \frac{n}{2} \mathbb{E} [(A_{ij}^k)^2 | y_i = y_j] \mathbb{E} [S_{jj}] + \frac{1}{d^{2k}} \frac{n}{2} \mathbb{E} [(A_{ij}^k)^2 | y_i \neq y_j] \mathbb{E} [S_{jj}] \\
&\quad + \frac{1}{d^{2k}} \frac{n^2}{4} \cdot \frac{\mu}{n} \|uW\|_F^2 \cdot (\rho_{k=} - \rho_{k \neq})^2 \quad (\text{Eq. (34)}) \\
&= \frac{1}{d^{2k}} \frac{n}{2} (\rho_{k=} + \rho_{k=}^2 + \rho_{k \neq} + \rho_{k \neq}^2) \left( \frac{\mu}{n} \|uW\|_F^2 + \frac{\|W\|_F^2}{f} \right) \\
&\quad + \frac{1}{d^{2k}} \frac{n^2}{4} \cdot \frac{\mu}{n} \|uW\|_F^2 \cdot (\rho_{k=} - \rho_{k \neq})^2 \\
&= \frac{1}{2d^{2k}} \zeta_k \left( \mu \|uW\|_F^2 + \frac{n \|W\|_F^2}{f} \right) + \frac{n\mu}{4d^{2k}} \|uW\|_F^2 \cdot (\rho_{k=} - \rho_{k \neq})^2
\end{aligned}$$

where  $\zeta_k = \rho_{k=}^2 + \rho_{k=} + \rho_{k \neq}^2 + \rho_{k \neq}$

- when  $k = 1$ ,  $A_{ij} \sim \text{Ber}(p)$ , then

$$\begin{aligned}
\mathbb{E} \left[ \|\tilde{A}_{i:} XW\|_F^2 \right] &= \frac{1}{d^2} \frac{n}{2} (p_{=}^2 + p_{=} (1 - p_{=}) + p_{\neq}^2 + p_{\neq} (1 - p_{\neq})) \left( \frac{\mu}{n} \|uW\|_F^2 + \frac{\|W\|_F^2}{f} \right) \\
&= \frac{1}{d^2} \frac{n}{2} (p_{=} + p_{\neq}) \left( \frac{\mu}{n} \|uW\|_F^2 + \frac{\|W\|_F^2}{f} \right) \\
&= \frac{1}{d^2} \frac{n}{2} \frac{2d}{n} \left( \frac{\mu}{n} \|uW\|_F^2 + \frac{\|W\|_F^2}{f} \right) \\
&= \frac{1}{d} \left( \frac{\mu}{n} \|uW\|_F^2 + \frac{\|W\|_F^2}{f} \right)
\end{aligned}$$

Substituting  $\mathbb{E} \left[ \|\tilde{A}_{i:} XW\|_F^2 \right]$  into Eq. (15), we have

$$\begin{aligned}
\mathbb{E} \left[ \left| \frac{\partial \ell(\hat{y}_i, y_i; \Theta, W)}{\partial \theta_k} \right| \right] &= \\
&\begin{cases} \frac{1}{2} \left( \mathbb{E} [\|\hat{y}_i - y_i\|_F^2] + \left( \frac{\mu}{n} \|uW\|_F^2 + \frac{\|W\|_F^2}{f} \right) \right), & \text{if } k = 0 \\ \frac{1}{2} \left( \mathbb{E} [\|\hat{y}_i - y_i\|_F^2] + \frac{1}{d} \left( \frac{\mu}{n} \|uW\|_F^2 + \frac{\|W\|_F^2}{f} \right) \right), & \text{if } k = 1 \\ \frac{1}{2} \left( \mathbb{E} [\|\hat{y}_i - y_i\|_F^2] + \frac{1}{2d^{2k}} \zeta_k \left( \mu \|uW\|_F^2 + \frac{n \|W\|_F^2}{f} \right) + \frac{n\mu}{4d^{2k}} \|uW\|_F^2 \cdot (\rho_{k=} - \rho_{k \neq})^2 \right), & \text{if } k \geq 2 \end{cases} \\
&\quad (35)
\end{aligned}$$

Similarly, we have

$$\mathbb{E} \left[ \|\tilde{A}_{i;X}^k\|_F^2 \right] = \begin{cases} \frac{\mu}{n} \|u\|_F^2 + 1, & \text{if } k = 0 \\ \frac{1}{d} \left( \frac{\mu}{n} \|u\|_F^2 + 1 \right), & \text{if } k = 1 \\ \frac{1}{2d^{2k}} \zeta_k \left( \mu \|u\|_F^2 + 1 \right) + \frac{n\mu}{4d^{2k}} \|u\|_F^2 \cdot (\rho_{k=} - \rho_{k\neq})^2, & \text{if } k \geq 2 \end{cases}$$

Substituting  $\mathbb{E} \left[ \|\tilde{A}_{i;X}^k\|_F^2 \right]$  into Eq. (16), we have

$$\begin{aligned} \mathbb{E} \left[ \left\| \frac{\partial \ell(\hat{y}_i, y_i; \Theta, W)}{\partial W} \right\|_{\ell_1} \right] &= |\theta_0| \left( f \cdot \mathbb{E} [\|\hat{y}_i - y_i\|_F^2] + C \left( \frac{\mu}{n} \|u\|_F^2 + 1 \right) \right) \\ &+ |\theta_1| \left( f \cdot \mathbb{E} [\|\hat{y}_i - y_i\|_F^2] + C \frac{1}{d} \left( \frac{\mu}{n} \|u\|_F^2 + 1 \right) \right) \\ &+ \sum_{k=2}^K \frac{1}{d^{2k}} |\theta_k| \left( f \cdot \mathbb{E} [\|\hat{y}_i - y_i\|_F^2] + C \frac{1}{2d^{2k}} \zeta_k \left( \mu \|u\|_F^2 + 1 \right) + \frac{n\mu}{4d^{2k}} \|u\|_F^2 \cdot (\rho_{k=} - \rho_{k\neq})^2 \right) \end{aligned} \quad (36)$$

Substitute Eq. (35), Eq. (36) into Eq. (12), we have

$$\begin{aligned} \mathbb{E} [\|\nabla \ell(\hat{y}_i, y_i; \Theta, W)\|_F] &\leq \sum_{k=0}^K \mathbb{E} \left[ \left\| \frac{\partial \ell(\hat{y}_i, y_i; \Theta, W)}{\partial \theta_k} \right\|_{\ell_1} \right] + \mathbb{E} \left[ \left\| \frac{\partial \ell(\hat{y}_i, y_i; \Theta, W)}{\partial W} \right\|_{\ell_1} \right] \\ &= \frac{1}{2} \left( \mathbb{E} [\|\hat{y}_i - y_i\|_F^2] + \left( \frac{\mu}{n} \|uW\|_F^2 + \frac{\|W\|_F^2}{f} \right) \right) \\ &+ \frac{1}{2} \left( \mathbb{E} [\|\hat{y}_i - y_i\|_F^2] + \frac{1}{d} \left( \frac{\mu}{n} \|uW\|_F^2 + \frac{\|W\|_F^2}{f} \right) \right) \\ &+ \sum_{k=2}^K \frac{1}{2} \left( \mathbb{E} [\|\hat{y}_i - y_i\|_F^2] + \frac{1}{2d^{2k}} \zeta_k \left( \mu \|uW\|_F^2 + \frac{n\|W\|_F^2}{f} \right) + \frac{n\mu}{4d^{2k}} \|uW\|_F^2 \cdot \tilde{\zeta}_k^2 \right) \quad (37) \\ &+ |\theta_0| \left( f \cdot \mathbb{E} [\|\hat{y}_i - y_i\|_F^2] + C \left( \frac{\mu}{n} \|u\|_F^2 + 1 \right) \right) \\ &+ |\theta_1| \left( f \cdot \mathbb{E} [\|\hat{y}_i - y_i\|_F^2] + C \frac{1}{d} \left( \frac{\mu}{n} \|u\|_F^2 + 1 \right) \right) \\ &+ \sum_{k=2}^K \frac{1}{d^{2k}} |\theta_k| \left( f \cdot \mathbb{E} [\|\hat{y}_i - y_i\|_F^2] + C \frac{1}{2d^{2k}} \zeta_k \left( \mu \|u\|_F^2 + 1 \right) + \frac{n\mu}{4d^{2k}} \|u\|_F^2 \cdot \tilde{\zeta}_k^2 \right) \end{aligned}$$

where  $\zeta_k = \rho_{k=}^2 + \rho_{k\neq} + \rho_{k\neq}^2 + \rho_{k\neq}$ ,  $\tilde{\zeta}_k = \rho_{k=} - \rho_{k\neq}$ .

According to Lemma 33, when  $n \rightarrow \infty$ , we have

$$\begin{aligned} n \left( \tilde{\zeta}_k \right)^2 &= n (\rho_{=} - \rho_{\neq})^2 \\ &= n \left( O \left( \frac{k! \cdot d^k}{n \cdot 2^k} \right) \right)^2 \\ &= n O \left( \frac{(k! \cdot d^k)^2}{n^2 \cdot 2^{2k}} \right) \\ &= O \left( \frac{(k! \cdot d^k)^2}{n \cdot 2^{2k}} \right) \\ &\rightarrow 0 \end{aligned}$$

Thus,  $n \left( \tilde{\zeta}_k \right)^2$  can be neglected. Thus, we rewrite Eq. (37) as

$$\begin{aligned}
\mathbb{E} [\|\nabla \ell(\hat{y}_i, y_i; \Theta, W)\|_F] &= \sum_{k=0}^K \mathbb{E} \left[ \left\| \frac{\partial \ell(\hat{y}_i, y_i; \Theta, W)}{\partial \theta_k} \right\|_{\ell_1} \right] + \mathbb{E} \left[ \left\| \frac{\partial \ell(\hat{y}_i, y_i; \Theta, W)}{\partial W} \right\|_{\ell_1} \right] \\
&= \frac{1}{2} \left( \mathbb{E} [\|\hat{y}_i - y_i\|_F^2] + \left( \frac{\mu}{n} \|uW\|_F^2 + \frac{\|W\|_F^2}{f} \right) \right) \\
&\quad + \frac{1}{2} \left( \mathbb{E} [\|\hat{y}_i - y_i\|_F^2] + \frac{1}{d} \left( \frac{\mu}{n} \|uW\|_F^2 + \frac{\|W\|_F^2}{f} \right) \right) \\
&\quad + \sum_{k=2}^K \frac{1}{2} \left( \mathbb{E} [\|\hat{y}_i - y_i\|_F^2] + \frac{1}{2d^{2k}} \zeta_k \left( \mu \|uW\|_F^2 + \frac{n\|W\|_F^2}{f} \right) \right) \\
&\quad + |\theta_0| \left( f \cdot \mathbb{E} [\|\hat{y}_i - y_i\|_F^2] + C \left( \frac{\mu}{n} \|u\|_F^2 + 1 \right) \right) \\
&\quad + |\theta_1| \left( f \cdot \mathbb{E} [\|\hat{y}_i - y_i\|_F^2] + C \frac{1}{d^{2k-1}} \left( \frac{\mu}{n} \|u\|_F^2 + 1 \right) \right) \\
&\quad + \sum_{k=2}^K \frac{1}{d^{2k}} |\theta_k| \left( f \cdot \mathbb{E} [\|\hat{y}_i - y_i\|_F^2] + C \frac{1}{2d^{2k}} \zeta_k \left( \mu \|u\|_F^2 + 1 \right) \right) \\
&\leq \frac{1}{2} \left( \mathbb{E} [\|\hat{y}_i - y_i\|_F^2] + \left( \frac{\mu}{n} \|u\|_F^2 B_W^2 + \frac{B_W^2}{f} \right) \right) \\
&\quad + \frac{1}{2} \left( \mathbb{E} [\|\hat{y}_i - y_i\|_F^2] + \frac{1}{d} \left( \frac{\mu}{n} \|u\|_F^2 B_W^2 + \frac{B_W^2}{f} \right) \right) \\
&\quad + \sum_{k=2}^K \frac{1}{2} \left( \mathbb{E} [\|\hat{y}_i - y_i\|_F^2] + \frac{1}{2d^{2k}} \zeta_k \left( \mu \|u\|_F^2 B_W^2 + \frac{nB_W^2}{f} \right) \right) \\
&\quad + B_\Theta \left( f \cdot \mathbb{E} [\|\hat{y}_i - y_i\|_F^2] + C \left( \frac{\mu}{n} \|u\|_F^2 + 1 \right) \right) \\
&\quad + B_\Theta \left( f \cdot \mathbb{E} [\|\hat{y}_i - y_i\|_F^2] + C \frac{1}{d} \left( \frac{\mu}{n} \|u\|_F^2 + 1 \right) \right) \\
&\quad + \sum_{k=2}^K \frac{1}{d^{2k}} B_\Theta \left( f \cdot \mathbb{E} [\|\hat{y}_i - y_i\|_F^2] + C \frac{1}{2d^{2k}} \zeta_k \left( \mu \|u\|_F^2 + 1 \right) \right) \\
&= \left( \frac{K+1}{2} + 2fB_\Theta + \sum_{k=2}^K \frac{f}{d^{2k}} B_\Theta \right) \mathbb{E} [\|\hat{y}_i - y_i\|_F^2] \\
&\quad + \left( 1 + \frac{1}{d} \right) \left( \left( \frac{B_W^2}{2} + CB_\Theta \right) \frac{\mu}{n} \|u\|_F^2 + \frac{B_W^2}{2f} + CB_\Theta \right) \\
&\quad + \sum_{k=2}^K \frac{\zeta_k}{d^{2k}} \left( \left( \mu \|u\|_F^2 + \frac{n}{f} \right) \frac{B_W^2}{4} + (\mu \|u\|_F^2 + 1) \frac{B_\Theta}{d^{2k}} \right)
\end{aligned} \tag{38}$$

We express the result in big- $O$  notation:

$$\mathbb{E} [\|\nabla \ell(\hat{y}_i, y_i; \Theta, W)\|_F] = O \left( \mathbb{E} [\|\hat{y}_i - y_i\|_F^2] \right) + O \left( \sum_{k=2}^K \zeta_k \right)$$

where  $\zeta_k = \mathbb{E} \left[ (A_{ij}^k | y_i = y_j)^2 \right] + \mathbb{E} \left[ (A_{ij}^k | y_i \neq y_j)^2 \right]$

After obtaining the upper bound of the gradient norm, and applying Theorem 6, we derive the uniform transductive stability of spectral GNNs on graphs  $G \sim cSBM(n, f, \mu, u, \lambda, d)$  with two classes ( $C = 2$ ) in big- $O$  notation as:

$$\gamma = r\beta; \beta = \frac{1}{\epsilon} \left[ O(\mathbb{E}[\|\hat{y}_i - y_i\|_F^2]) + O\left(\sum_{k=2}^K \left(\mathbb{E}\left[(A_{ij}^k | y_i = y_j)^2\right] + \mathbb{E}\left[(A_{ij}^k | y_i \neq y_j)^2\right]\right)\right) \right]$$

where  $r$  is the same as that in Theorem 6. □

## E ANALYSIS OF PROPERTIES

In this section, we first derive the relationship between the parameter  $\lambda$  in cSBM and the edge homophilic ratio of the graph. We then analyze how the expected prediction error,  $\mathbb{E}[\|\hat{y}_i - y_i\|_F^2]$ , and  $\zeta_k$  vary with  $\lambda$  and  $K$ . Finally, we examine the impact of  $\lambda$  and  $K$  on the uniform transductive stability and generalization performance of spectral GNNs.

### E.1 PROOF OF PROPOSITION 12

**Proposition 12.** For a graph  $G \sim \text{cSBM}(n, \mu, u, \lambda, d)$ , the expected edge homophily ratio is:

$$\mathbb{E}[H_{edge}] = \frac{d + \lambda\sqrt{d}}{2d}; \quad \mathbb{E}[H_{edge}] = \frac{c_{in}}{c_{in} + c_{out}}. \quad (4)$$

*Proof.* Graphs generated with cSBM contain two clusters of equal size. Thus, there are  $\frac{n}{2}$  nodes in each cluster belonging to the same class. The expected number of edges between nodes of the same class is given by:

$$\mathbb{E}[E_{same}] = \binom{\frac{n}{2}}{2} \cdot \frac{c_{in}}{n} = \frac{c_{in}(n-2)}{8},$$

where  $\binom{\frac{n}{2}}{2}$  represents the number of possible edges between nodes within the same cluster, and  $\frac{c_{in}}{n}$  is the probability of an edge existing between two nodes of the same class.

The expected number of edges between nodes of different classes is given by:

$$\mathbb{E}[E_{diff}] = \frac{n}{2} \cdot \frac{n}{2} \cdot \frac{c_{out}}{n} \cdot \frac{1}{2} = \frac{c_{out}n}{8},$$

where  $\frac{n}{2} \cdot \frac{n}{2}$  represents the total number of possible edges between nodes in different clusters,  $\frac{c_{out}}{n}$  is the probability of an edge existing between nodes of different classes, and the factor  $\frac{1}{2}$  accounts for double-counting edges.

The expected value of  $H_{edge}$ , the ratio of the expected number of edges between nodes of the same class to the total expected number of edges, is given by:

$$\begin{aligned} \mathbb{E}[H_{edge}] &= \frac{\mathbb{E}[E_{same}]}{\mathbb{E}[E_{same}] + \mathbb{E}[E_{diff}]} \\ &= \frac{\frac{c_{in}(n-2)}{8}}{\frac{c_{in}(n-2)}{8} + \frac{c_{out}n}{8}} \\ &= \frac{(d + \lambda\sqrt{d})(n-2)}{(d + \lambda\sqrt{d})(n-2) + (d - \lambda\sqrt{d})n} \\ &= \frac{d + \lambda\sqrt{d}}{2d}, \quad \text{as } n \rightarrow \infty. \end{aligned}$$

Here,  $d$  represents the average degree, and  $\lambda$  measures the level of separation between clusters. As  $n \rightarrow \infty$ , the terms involving  $(n-2)$  and  $n$  simplify, yielding the final expression for  $\mathbb{E}[H_{edge}]$ .

We also derive the relationship between the expectation of  $H_{edge}$  and the parameters  $c_{in}$  and  $c_{out}$  as follows:

$$\begin{aligned}
\mathbb{E}[H_{edge}] &= \frac{\mathbb{E}[E_{\text{same}}]}{\mathbb{E}[E_{\text{same}}] + \mathbb{E}[E_{\text{diff}}]} \\
&= \frac{c_{in}(n-2)}{\frac{c_{in}(n-2)}{8} + \frac{c_{out}n}{8}} \\
&= \frac{c_{in}(n-2)}{c_{in}(n-2) + c_{out}n} \\
&= \frac{c_{in}}{c_{in} + c_{out}}, \quad \text{as } n \rightarrow \infty.
\end{aligned}$$

□

## E.2 PROOF OF THEOREM 14

**Theorem 14** ( $\mathbb{E}[\|\hat{y}_i - y_i\|_F^2]$  and  $\lambda, K$ ). *Given a graph  $G \sim cSBM(n, \mu, u, \lambda, d)$  and a spectral GNN of order  $K$ ,  $\mathbb{E}[\|\hat{y}_i - y_i\|_F^2]$  for any node  $v_i$  satisfies the following: it increases with  $\lambda \in [-\sqrt{d}, 0]$ , decreases with  $\lambda \in [0, \sqrt{d}]$ , and reaches its maximum at  $\lambda = 0$ ; it increases with  $K$  if  $\sum_{k=2}^K \theta_k \frac{(k-1)!}{2^{k-1}}$  grows more slowly than  $\sum_{k=2}^K \theta_k^2 \frac{(k-1)!}{2^k}$  as  $K$  increases.*

*Proof.* Denote

$$Z = \sum_{k=0}^K \theta_k \tilde{A}^k XW, \quad \hat{Y} = \text{softmax}(Z).$$

For any node  $v_i$  with true class  $y_i$ , its prediction is denoted as:

$$\hat{y}_i = \text{softmax}(Z_{i:}).$$

In the case of binary classification ( $C = 2$ ), for a node with true class  $y_i = [1, 0]$ , the predicted class is:

$$\hat{y}_i = [\hat{y}_1, \hat{y}_2] = \text{softmax}([Z_{i1}, Z_{i2}]) = [\sigma(Z_{i1} - Z_{i2}), 1 - \sigma(Z_{i1} - Z_{i2})],$$

where  $\sigma(x) = \frac{1}{1+e^{-x}}$  is the sigmoid function.

Let  $z_i = Z_{i1} - Z_{i2}$ , then:

$$\hat{y}_i = [\sigma(z_i), 1 - \sigma(z_i)].$$

Thus, the squared Frobenius norm of the difference between  $\hat{y}_i$  and  $y_i$  is:

$$\|\hat{y}_i - y_i\|_F^2 = (\sigma(z_i) - 1)^2 + (1 - \sigma(z_i))^2 = 2(1 - \sigma(z_i))^2.$$

Taking the expectation, we have:

$$\mathbb{E}[\|\hat{y}_i - y_i\|_F^2] = 2\mathbb{E}[(1 - \sigma(z_i))^2].$$

As the node feature  $x_i \sim \mathcal{N}(y_i \sqrt{\mu/nu}, I_f/f)$ , any linear combination of Gaussian variables is still Gaussian. Therefore, we have:

$$z_i \sim \mathcal{N}(\mu_{z_i}, \omega_{z_i}^2),$$

where:

$$\mu_{z_i} = \mathbb{E}[z_i] = \mathbb{E}[Z_{i1} - Z_{i2}] = \mathbb{E}[Z_{i1}] - \mathbb{E}[Z_{i2}].$$

Given that  $c_{in} = d + \lambda\sqrt{d}$ ,  $c_{out} = d - \lambda\sqrt{d}$ , and  $\lambda \in [-\sqrt{d}, \sqrt{d}]$ , we observe:

$$c_{in}^k - c_{out}^k = O(d^k), \quad c_{in}^k = O(d^k), \quad c_{out}^k = O(d^k). \quad (39)$$

Assuming  $u \sim \mathcal{N}(0, I_f)$ ,  $d \ll f$ , and that  $\Theta, W$  are bounded (as per Assumption 4), we analyze the dominant terms in  $\mu_{z_i}$  and  $\omega_{z_i}^2$ . From Theorem 32, we derive the expectation of  $(\tilde{A}^k X W)_{ij}$ . Consequently, we obtain:

$$\begin{aligned} \mu_{z_i} &= \mathbb{E}[Z_{i1}] - \mathbb{E}[Z_{i2}] = \theta_0 \sqrt{\frac{\mu}{n}} y_i u(W_{:1} - W_{:2}) \\ &\quad + \theta_1 \frac{1}{2d} \sqrt{\frac{\mu}{n}} (c_{in} - c_{out}) y_i u(W_{:1} - W_{:2}) \\ &\quad + \sum_{k=2}^K \theta_k \frac{(k-1)!}{d^k \cdot 2^{k-1}} O(c_{in}^k - c_{out}^k) \sqrt{\frac{\mu}{n}} y_i u(W_{:1} - W_{:2}) \\ &= O\left(\sum_{k=2}^K \theta_k \frac{(k-1)!}{2^{k-1}}\right) \quad (\text{from Eq. (39)}). \end{aligned} \quad (40)$$

Since  $\tilde{A}^k$  and  $X$  are independent, and the columns of  $X$  are also independent, it follows that  $(\sum_{k=0}^K \theta_k \tilde{A}^k X)_{ij}$  and  $(\sum_{k=0}^K \theta_k \tilde{A}^k X)_{it}$  are independent. According to Theorem 32, we compute the variance of  $(\tilde{A}^k X W)_{ij}$ . Then, we have:

$$\begin{aligned} \omega_{z_i}^2 &= \text{Var}(Z_{i1} - Z_{i2}) \\ &= \text{Var}\left(\left(\sum_{k=0}^K \theta_k \tilde{A}^k X\right)_i (W_{:1} - W_{:2})\right) \\ &= \text{Var}\left(\sum_{j=1}^f \left(\sum_{k=0}^K \theta_k \tilde{A}^k X\right)_{ij} (W_{j1} - W_{j2})\right) \\ &= \sum_{j=1}^f (W_{j1} - W_{j2})^2 \sum_{k=0}^K \theta_k^2 \text{Var}\left(\left(\tilde{A}^k X\right)_{ij}\right) \quad (\text{independence}) \\ &= \sum_{j=1}^f (W_{j1} - W_{j2})^2 \sum_{k=0}^K \theta_k^2 \left[ \frac{1}{2 \cdot d^2} \left(d - \frac{c_{in}^2 + c_{out}^2}{n}\right) \cdot \left(\frac{\mu}{n} (uW_{:j})^2 + \frac{\|W_{:j}\|_2^2}{f}\right) \right. \\ &\quad + \frac{(k-1)!}{d^{2k} \cdot 2^k} \left(\sum_{a=2}^{k+1} O\left(\sum_{s=\min(2, 2(a-2), 2(k+1-a))}^{\min(2(a-1), 2(k+1-a))} c_{in}^{k-s} \cdot c_{out}^s\right)\right) \\ &\quad \left. + \sum_{a=1}^k O\left(\sum_{s=1}^{\min(2a-1, 2(k-a)+1)} c_{in}^{k-s} \cdot c_{out}^s\right)\right) \cdot \left(\frac{\mu}{n} (uW_{:j})^2 + \frac{\|W_{:j}\|_2^2}{f}\right) \right] \\ &= O\left(\sum_{k=2}^K \theta_k^2 \frac{(k-1)!}{2^k}\right) \quad (\text{from Eq. (39)}). \end{aligned} \quad (41)$$

(1)  $\mathbb{E}[\|\hat{y}_i - y_i\|_F^2]$  and  $\lambda$ : According to Lemma 29 and Lemma 30, we know that:

- $\mu_{z_i}$  monotonically decreases, and  $\omega_{z_i}^2$  monotonically increases on  $\lambda \in [-\sqrt{d}, 0]$ ;
- $\mu_{z_i}$  monotonically increases, and  $\omega_{z_i}^2$  monotonically decreases on  $\lambda \in [0, \sqrt{d}]$ ;
- $\mu_{z_i}$  achieves its minimum value, and  $\omega_{z_i}^2$  achieves its maximum value when  $\lambda = 0$ .

The expectation of  $(1 - \sigma(z_i))^2$  is given by:

$$\mathbb{E}[(1 - \sigma(z_i))^2] = \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} (1 - \sigma(z_i))^2 \cdot \frac{1}{\sqrt{2\pi}\omega_{z_i}} e^{-\frac{(z - \mu_{z_i})^2}{2\omega_{z_i}^2}} dz_i. \quad (42)$$

Since the integral decreases with  $\mu_{z_i}$  and increases with  $\omega_{z_i}^2$ , we conclude:

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- $\mathbb{E}[(1 - \sigma(z_i))^2]$  increases on  $\lambda \in [-\sqrt{d}, 0]$ ;
  - $\mathbb{E}[(1 - \sigma(z_i))^2]$  decreases on  $\lambda \in [0, \sqrt{d}]$ ;
  - $\mathbb{E}[(1 - \sigma(z_i))^2]$  achieves its maximum value when  $\lambda = 0$ .

2488 Since  $\mathbb{E}[\|\hat{y}_i - y_i\|_F^2]$  has the same trend as  $\mathbb{E}[(1 - \sigma(z_i))^2]$ , we observe the same behavior  
2489 for  $\mathbb{E}[\|\hat{y}_i - y_i\|_F^2]$ .

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2491 (2)  $\mathbb{E}[\|\hat{y}_i - y_i\|_F^2]$  **and**  $K$ : We rewrite  $z$  as:

$$z = \mu_{z_i} + \omega_{z_i} y,$$

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2493 where  $y \sim \mathcal{N}(0, 1)$ . Substituting into Eq. (42), we have:

$$2494 \mathbb{E}[(1 - \sigma(z_i))^2] = \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} (1 - \sigma(\mu_{z_i} + \omega_{z_i} y))^2 \frac{1}{\sqrt{2\pi}} e^{-\frac{y^2}{2}} dy.$$

2495  
2496 (a) If  $\mu_{z_i}$  increases faster than  $\omega_{z_i}^2$  as  $K$  increases: In this case,  $z$  is dominated by  $\mu_{z_i}$ , and  
2497 we have:

$$2500 \mathbb{E}[(1 - \sigma(z))^2] = \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} (1 - \sigma(\mu_{z_i}))^2 \frac{1}{\sqrt{2\pi}} e^{-\frac{y^2}{2}} dy$$

$$2501 = (1 - \sigma(\mu_{z_i}))^2$$

$$2502 \leq 0.25.$$

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2504 (b) If  $\mu_{z_i}$  increases slower than  $\omega_{z_i}^2$  as  $K$  increases: In this case,  $z$  is dominated by  $\omega_{z_i} y$ ,  
2505 and we have:

$$2506 \mathbb{E}[(1 - \sigma(z))^2] = \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} (1 - \sigma(\omega_{z_i} y))^2 \frac{1}{\sqrt{2\pi}} e^{-\frac{y^2}{2}} dy$$

$$2507 = \int_{-\infty}^0 (1 - 0) \cdot \frac{1}{\sqrt{2\pi}} e^{-\frac{y^2}{2}} dy + \int_0^{\infty} (1 - 1)^2 \cdot \frac{1}{\sqrt{2\pi}} e^{-\frac{y^2}{2}} dy$$

$$2508 = 0.5.$$

2509 From this analysis, we conclude:

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- If  $\mu_{z_i}$  increases slower than  $\omega_{z_i}^2$  as  $K$  increases,  $\mathbb{E}[(1 - \sigma(z))^2]$  approaches 0.5.
  - If  $\mu_{z_i}$  increases faster than  $\omega_{z_i}^2$  as  $K$  increases,  $\mathbb{E}[(1 - \sigma(z))^2]$  is at most 0.25.

2517 Briefly, when  $\mu_{z_i}$  increases slower than  $\omega_{z_i}^2$  as  $K$  increases,  $\mathbb{E}[\|\hat{y}_i - y_i\|_F^2]$  increases with  $K$ .  
2518 From Eq. (40) and Eq. (41), we observe that the dominant term of  $\mu_{z_i}$  is  $\sum_{k=2}^K \theta_k \frac{(k-1)!}{2^{k-1}}$ ,  
2519 while the dominant term of  $\omega_{z_i}^2$  is  $\sum_{k=2}^K \theta_k^2 \frac{(k-1)!}{2^k}$ . Therefore,  $\mathbb{E}[\|\hat{y}_i - y_i\|_F^2]$  increases with  
2520  $K$  if  $\sum_{k=2}^K \theta_k \frac{(k-1)!}{2^{k-1}}$  grows slower than  $\sum_{k=2}^K \theta_k^2 \frac{(k-1)!}{2^k}$ .

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### 2527 E.3 PROOF OF THEOREM 15

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2529 **Theorem 15** ( $\zeta_k$  and  $\lambda, K$ ). Given a graph  $G \sim cSBM(n, \mu, u, \lambda, d)$  and a spectral GNN of order  
2530  $K$ ,  $\zeta_k$  has the following properties: (1) it increases with  $\lambda \in [-\sqrt{d}, 0]$ , decreases with  $\lambda \in [0, \sqrt{d}]$ ,  
2531 and achieves its maximum value at  $\lambda = 0$ ; (2) it increases with  $k$  as  $k$  grows, for  $k \in [0, K]$ .

2532  
2533 *Proof.* As

$$2534 \zeta_k = \mathbb{E}[(A_{ij}^k | y_i = y_j)^2] + \mathbb{E}[(A_{ij}^k | y_i \neq y_j)^2]$$

$$2535 = (\mathbb{E}[A_{ij}^k | y_i = y_j])^2 + \mathbb{V}[A_{ij}^k | y_i = y_j] + (\mathbb{E}[A_{ij}^k | y_i \neq y_j])^2 + \mathbb{V}[A_{ij}^k | y_i \neq y_j]. \quad (43)$$

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According to Theorem 31, we have explicit forms of  $\mathbb{E}[A_{ij}^k]$  and  $\text{Var}(A_{ij}^k)$  for the cases  $y_i = y_j$  and  $y_i \neq y_j$ . Substituting these into Eq. (43), we get:

$$\begin{aligned} \zeta_k &= \rho_{=}^2 + \rho_{=} + \rho_{\neq}^2 + \rho_{\neq} \\ &= \left( \frac{(k-1)!}{n \cdot 2^{k-1}} \sum_{a=2}^{k+1} O \left( \sum_{s=\min(2, 2(a-2), 2(k+1-a))}^{\min(2(a-1), 2(k+1-a))} c_{in}^{k-s} \cdot c_{out}^s \right) \right)^2 \\ &\quad + \frac{(k-1)!}{n \cdot 2^{k-1}} \sum_{a=2}^{k+1} O \left( \sum_{s=\min(2, 2(a-2), 2(k+1-a))}^{\min(2(a-1), 2(k+1-a))} c_{in}^{k-s} \cdot c_{out}^s \right) \\ &\quad + \left( \frac{(k-1)!}{n \cdot 2^{k-1}} \sum_{a=1}^k O \left( \sum_{s=1}^{\min(2a-1, 2(k-a)+1)} c_{in}^{k-s} \cdot c_{out}^s \right) \right)^2 \\ &\quad + \frac{(k-1)!}{n \cdot 2^{k-1}} \sum_{a=1}^k O \left( \sum_{s=1}^{\min(2a-1, 2(k-a)+1)} c_{in}^{k-s} \cdot c_{out}^s \right). \end{aligned}$$

Given  $c_{in} = d + \lambda\sqrt{d}$  and  $c_{out} = d - \lambda\sqrt{d}$ , all terms  $\rho_{=}^2 + \rho_{=} + \rho_{\neq}^2 + \rho_{\neq}$  in  $\zeta_k$  are in the form:

$$g(\lambda) = \sum_{s=1}^k (d + \lambda\sqrt{d})^{k-s} \cdot (d - \lambda\sqrt{d})^s.$$

According to Lemma 30, functions in this form  $g(\lambda)$  strictly increase on  $\lambda \in [-\sqrt{d}, 0]$  and strictly decrease on  $\lambda \in [0, \sqrt{d}]$ . Therefore,  $\zeta_k$  strictly increases on  $\lambda \in [-\sqrt{d}, 0]$  and strictly decreases on  $\lambda \in [0, \sqrt{d}]$ . When  $k$  increases,  $\zeta_k$  contains more terms, causing it to increase with  $k$  in the order of  $K$ .  $\square$

#### E.4 PROOF OF PROPOSITION 16

**Proposition 16.** For a fixed  $K$ ,  $\gamma$ -uniform transductive stability and generalization error bound strictly increase as  $\lambda$  moves from  $-\sqrt{d}$  to 0, and decreases as  $\lambda$  moves from 0 to  $\sqrt{d}$ . For a fixed  $\lambda$ , if  $\sum_{k=2}^K \theta_k \frac{(k-1)!}{2^{k-1}}$  grows more slowly than  $\sum_{k=2}^K \theta_k^2 \frac{(k-1)!}{2^k}$  as  $K$  increases, then  $\gamma$ -uniform transductive stability and generalization error bound increase with  $K$ .

*Proof.* According to Theorem 6 and Theorem 13, the uniform stability of spectral GNNs depends on the upper bound of the gradient norm  $\beta$ , and

$$\begin{aligned} \beta &= \left( \frac{K+1}{2} + 2fB_{\Theta} + \sum_{k=2}^K \frac{f}{d^{2k}} B_{\Theta} \right) \mathbb{E} [\|\hat{y}_i - y_i\|_F^2] \\ &\quad + \left( 1 + \frac{1}{d} \right) \left( \left( \frac{B_W^2}{2} + CB_{\Theta} \right) \frac{\mu}{n} \|u\|_F^2 + \frac{B_W^2}{2f} + CB_{\Theta} \right) \\ &\quad + \sum_{k=2}^K \frac{\zeta_k}{d^{2k}} \left( \left( \mu \|u\|_F^2 + \frac{n}{f} \right) \frac{B_W^2}{4} + (\mu \|u\|_F^2 + 1) \frac{B_{\Theta}}{d^{2k}} \right) \end{aligned}$$

where  $\zeta_k = \rho_{=}^2 + \rho_{=} + \rho_{\neq}^2 + \rho_{\neq}$ , and  $\rho_{=}$  and  $\rho_{\neq}$  are the parameters of distribution in Theorem 31.

Denote

$$\psi_y = \left( \frac{K+1}{2} + 2fB_{\Theta} + \sum_{k=2}^K \frac{f}{d^{2k}} B_{\Theta} \right);$$

$$\psi_1 = \sum_{k=2}^K \frac{\zeta_k}{d^{2k}} \left( \left( \mu \|u\|_F^2 + \frac{n}{f} \right) \frac{B_W^2}{4} + (\mu \|u\|_F^2 + 1) \frac{B_{\Theta}}{d^{2k}} \right).$$

We show that the terms  $\mathbb{E} [\|\hat{y}_i - y_i\|_F^2]$ ,  $\psi_y$ , and  $\psi_1$  can all be affected by  $\lambda$ ,  $K$ .

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(1) **Term**  $\mathbb{E} [\|\hat{y}_i - y_i\|_F^2]$

According to Theorem 14, the expected prediction error  $\mathbb{E} [\|\hat{y}_i - y_i\|_F^2]$  strictly increases with  $\lambda \in [-\sqrt{d}, 0]$  and decreases with  $\lambda \in [0, \sqrt{d}]$ . In addition, it increases with  $K$  when  $\sum_{k=2}^K \theta_k \frac{(k-1)!}{2^{k-1}}$  grows slower than  $\sum_{k=2}^K \theta_k^2 \frac{(k-1)!}{2^k}$ .

(2) **Term**  $\psi_y$

As  $\psi_y = \left( \frac{K+1}{2} + \sum_{k=0}^K |\theta_k| f \right)$  which does not contain  $\lambda$ , the class distribution has no effect on  $\psi_y$ . It also increases with order  $K$ .

(3) **Terms**  $\psi_1$

According to Theorem 15,  $\zeta_k$  strictly increases on  $\lambda \in [-\sqrt{d}, 0]$ , decreases on  $\lambda \in [0, \sqrt{d}]$  and it increases with order  $K$ .

Since all the other elements in  $\psi_1$  except  $\zeta_k$  are positive,  $\psi_1$  and  $\zeta_k$  has same trend when  $\lambda$  and  $K$  changes.

According to Proposition 12, we have

$$\lambda \in [0, \sqrt{d}] \Leftrightarrow H_{edge} \in [0.5, 1] \text{ and } \lambda \in [-\sqrt{d}, 0] \Leftrightarrow H_{edge} \in [0, 0.5].$$

According to Theorem 9, any factors affecting  $\gamma$  affect the generalization error bound. Thus, we conclude the following cases:

(a) uniform transductive stability  $\gamma$ , generalization error bound and  $\lambda$

From the above analysis, we know that  $\phi_y$  is not affected by  $\lambda$ , and terms  $\mathbb{E} [\|\hat{y}_i - y_i\|_F^2]$ ,  $\psi_1$  strictly increase on  $\lambda \in [-\sqrt{d}, 0]$  and decrease on  $\lambda \in [0, \sqrt{d}]$ . According to Theorem 6 and Theorem 9, this shows that the stability decreases and the generalization error bound increases when  $H_{edge} \in (0, 0.5]$ . The stability increases and the generalization error bound decreases when  $H_{edge} \in [0, 0.5)$ . Spectral GNNs are stable and generalize well on strong homophilic and heterophilic graphs.

(b) uniform transductive stability  $\gamma$ , generalization error bound, and  $K$

From the above analysis, we know that terms  $\phi_y, \psi_1$  increase with  $K$ . According to Theorem 14, when the condition  $\sum_{k=2}^K \theta_k \frac{(k-1)!}{2^{k-1}}$  grows slower than  $\sum_{k=2}^K \theta_k^2 \frac{(k-1)!}{2^k}$  is satisfied, the expected prediction error  $\mathbb{E} [\|\hat{y}_i - y_i\|_F^2]$  increases with  $K$ .

Therefore, when above condition is satisfied, the gradient norm bound  $\beta$  increase with  $K$ . According to Theorem 6 and Theorem 9, this indicates that the uniform transductive stability  $\gamma$  and generalization error bound also increases with  $K$ .

□

## F DETAILS OF EXPERIMENTS

### F.1 DATASETS

The statistical properties of real-world datasets, including the number of nodes, edges, feature dimensions, node classes, and edge homophily ratios, are summarized in Table 2 and Table 3. We use the directed and cleaned versions of the Chameleon and Squirrel datasets provided by (Platonov et al., 2023), where repeated nodes have been removed.

### F.2 SPECTRAL GNNs

In the literature, there are generally two kinds of architectures for spectral GNNs:

- Early spectral GNNs architecture: It is given by  $Y = X_L, X_l = \alpha \left( \sum_{k=1}^K M^k X_{l-1} H_{lk} \right)$ , where  $M$  is a graph matrix,  $X_l$  is the feature at the  $l$ -th layer,  $H_{lk} \in \mathbb{R}^{f_l \times f_{l-1}}$ ,  $f_l$  is

Statistics	Texas	Wisconsin	Cornell	Actor	Chameleon	Squirrel	Citeseer	Pubmed	Cora
# Nodes	183	251	183	7,600	890	2,223	3,327	19,717	2,708
# Edges	295	466	295	26,752	27,168	131,436	4,676	44,327	5,278
# Features	1,703	1,703	1,703	932	2,325	2,089	3,703	500	1,433
# Classes	5	5	5	5	5	6	5	7	
Edge Homophily	0.11	0.21	0.22	0.24	0.22	0.74	0.8	0.81	

Table 2: Statistics of real-world datasets.

Statistics	OGBN-Arxiv	OGBN-Products
# Nodes	169,343	2,449,029
# Edges	2,315,598	61,859,140
# Features	128	100
# Classes	40	47
Edge Homophily	0.65	0.81

Table 3: Statistics of OGBN datasets.

the feature dimension of the  $l$ -th layer, and  $\alpha$  is an activation function. This describes the architecture of earlier spectral GNNs, such as GCN ( $M^k = D^{-1/2}(I + A)D^{-1/2}$ ) and ChebNet (where  $M^k$  represents the Chebyshev polynomial basis expanded on the normalized graph Laplacian matrix).

- Modern spectral GNNs architecture: Recent advances in spectral GNNs do not adhere to this multi-layer architecture. Instead, state-of-the-art spectral GNNs employ a single-layer structure as described in Eq. (1) of our paper:

$$\Psi(M, X) = \sigma(g_{\Theta}(M)f_W(X)),$$

where  $M \in \mathbb{R}^{n \times n}$  is a graph matrix (e.g., Laplacian or adjacency matrix),  $g_{\Theta}(M) = \sum_{k=0}^K \theta_k T_k(M)$  performs graph convolution using the  $k$ -th polynomial basis  $T_k(\cdot)$  and learnable parameters  $\Theta = \{\theta_k\}_{k=0}^K$ ,  $f_W(X)$  is a feature transformation parameterized by  $W$ , and  $\sigma$  is a non-linear activation function (e.g., softmax). Recent spectral GNNs, such as GPRGNN, JacobiConv, BernNet, ChebBase, and ChebNetII, adopt this architecture (Chien et al., 2021; Wang & Zhang, 2022; He et al., 2021; 2022b), and it serves as the basis for theoretical analysis of spectral GNNs (Wang & Zhang, 2022; Balcilar et al., 2021).

We study spectral GNNs with modern architecture. We detail the spectral GNNs used in our experiments below. For a graph with adjacency matrix  $A$ , degree matrix  $D$ , and identity matrix  $I$ , we define the following matrices: the normalized Laplacian matrix  $\hat{L} = I - D^{-1/2}AD^{-1/2}$ , the shifted normalized Laplacian matrix  $\tilde{L} = -D^{-1/2}AD^{-1/2}$ , the normalized adjacency matrix  $\tilde{A} = D^{-1/2}AD^{-1/2}$ , and the normalized adjacency matrix with self-loops  $\tilde{A}' = (D + I)^{-1/2}(A + I)(D + I)^{-1/2}$ .

**ChebNet** (Defferrard et al., 2016): This model uses the Chebyshev basis to approximate a spectral filter:

$$\hat{Y} = \sum_{k=0}^K \theta_k T_k(\tilde{L})f_W(X)$$

where  $X$  is the raw feature matrix,  $\Theta = [\theta_0, \theta_1, \dots, \theta_K]$  is the graph convolution parameter,  $W$  is the feature transformation parameter and  $f_W(X)$  is usually a 2-layer MLP.  $T_k(\tilde{L})$  is the  $k$ -th Chebyshev basis expanded on the shifted normalized graph Laplacian matrix  $\tilde{L}$  and is recursively calculated:

$$\begin{aligned} T_0(\tilde{L}) &= I \\ T_1(\tilde{L}) &= \tilde{L} \\ T_k(\tilde{L}) &= 2\tilde{L}T_{k-1}(\tilde{L}) - T_{k-2}(\tilde{L}) \end{aligned}$$

2700 **ChebNetII** (He et al., 2022a): The model is formulated as

$$2701 \hat{Y} = \frac{2}{K+2} \sum_{k=0}^K \sum_{j=0}^K \theta_j T_k(x_j) T_k(\tilde{L}) f_W(X),$$

2702 where  $X$  is the input feature matrix,  $W$  is the feature transformation parameter,  $f_W(X)$  is usually a  
2703 2-layer MLP,  $T_k(\cdot)$  is the  $k$ -th Chebyshev basis expanded on  $\cdot$ ,  $x_j = \cos((j+1/2)\pi/(K+1))$  is  
2704 the  $j$ -th Chebyshev node, which is the root of the Chebyshev polynomials of the first kind with degree  
2705  $K+1$ , and  $\theta_j$  is a learnable parameter. Graph convolution parameter in ChebNet is reparameterized  
2706 with Chebyshev nodes and learnable parameters  $\theta_j$ .  
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2710 **JacobiConv** (Wang & Zhang, 2022): This model uses the Jacobi basis to approximate a filter as:

$$2711 \hat{Y} = \sum_{k=0}^K \theta_k T_k^{a,b}(\tilde{A}) f_W(X),$$

2712 where  $X$  is the input feature matrix,  $\Theta = [\theta_0, \theta_1, \dots, \theta_K]$  is the graph convolution parameter,  $W$  is  
2713 the feature transformation parameter and  $f_W(X)$  is usually a 2-layer MLP.  $T_k^{a,b}(\tilde{A})$  is the Jacobi  
2714 basis on normalized graph adjacency matrix  $\tilde{A}$  and is recursively calculated as  
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$$2718 T_k^{a,b}(\tilde{A}) = I$$

$$2719 T_k^{a,b}(\tilde{A}) = \frac{1-b}{2}I + \frac{a+b+2}{2}\tilde{A}$$

$$2720 T_k^{a,b}(\tilde{A}) = \gamma_k \tilde{A} T_{k-1}^{a,b}(\tilde{A}) + \gamma'_k T_{k-1}^{a,b}(\tilde{A}) + \gamma''_k T_{k-2}^{a,b}(\tilde{A})$$

2721 where  $\gamma_k = \frac{(2k+a+b)(2k+a+b-1)}{2k(k+a+b)}$ ,  $\gamma'_k = \frac{(2k+a+b-1)(a^2-b^2)}{2k(k+a+b)(2k+a+b-2)}$ ,  $\gamma''_k = \frac{(k+1-1)(k+b-1)(2k+a+b)}{k(k+a+b)(2k+a+b-2)}$ .  $a$   
2722 and  $b$  are hyper-parameters. Usually, grid search is used to find the optimal  $a$  and  $b$  values.  
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2726 **GPRGNN** (Chien et al., 2021): This model uses the monomial basis to approximate a filter:

$$2727 \hat{Y} = \sum_{k=0}^K \theta_k \tilde{A}'^k f_W(X)$$

2728 where  $X$  is the input feature matrix,  $\Theta = [\theta_0, \theta_1, \dots, \theta_K]$  is the graph convolution parameter,  $W$   
2729 is the feature transformation parameter and  $f_W(X)$  is usually a 2-layer MLP.  $\tilde{A}'$  is the normalized  
2730 adjacency matrix with self-loops.  
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2734 **BernNet** (He et al., 2021): This model uses the Bernstein basis for approximation:

$$2735 \hat{Y} = \sum_{k=0}^K \theta_k \frac{1}{2^K} \binom{K}{k} (2I - \hat{L})^{K-k} \hat{L}^k f_W(X)$$

2736 where  $X$  is the input feature matrix,  $\Theta = [\theta_0, \theta_1, \dots, \theta_K]$  is the graph convolution parameter,  $W$   
2737 is the feature transformation parameter and  $f_W(X)$  is usually a 2-layer MLP.  $\hat{L}$  is the normalized  
2738 Laplacian matrix.  
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### 2743 F.3 HYPER-PARAMETER SETTINGS

2744 All experiments were conducted on an NVIDIA RTX A6000 GPU with 48GB of memory.

2745 We employ a two-layer Multi-Layer Perceptron (MLP) with a hidden layer size of 64 for the  
2746 feature transformation function  $f_W$ , using ReLU as the activation function across all spectral GNN  
2747 models.  
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2749 Following (Tang & Liu, 2023a; Cong et al., 2021), the dropout rate and weight decay are set to  
2750 0.0. The Adam optimizer is used for optimization. Each experiment runs for a maximum of 300  
2751 iterations and is repeated 10 times to report the mean and variance of the results. A grid search is  
2752 conducted to determine the best learning rate from  $\{0.05, 0.01, 0.001\}$ .  
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### 2754 F.4 DETAILED EXPERIMENTAL RESULTS

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$H_{edge}$	0.1	0.2	0.3	0.4	0.5	0.6	0.7	0.8	0.9
ChebNet	94.92±0.24	86.08±0.43	81.09±0.63	75.11±0.73	72.69±0.66	74.66±0.65	79.62±0.78	86.03±0.6	94.64±0.39
Acc Gap	5.08±0.24	13.92±0.41	18.91±0.57	24.89±0.72	27.3±0.62	25.34±0.68	20.38±0.74	13.97±0.61	5.36±0.41
Loss Gap	0.64±0.07	3.15±0.14	3.72±0.2	5.42±0.24	5.88±0.5	6.01±0.27	4.62±0.3	3.04±0.18	0.98±0.06
ChebNetII	92.19±0.51	85.03±0.58	79.83±0.43	77.55±0.64	77.34±0.54	77.7±0.57	78.22±0.73	83.68±0.41	91.43±0.48
Acc Gap	7.81±0.47	14.97±0.58	20.17±0.41	22.45±0.66	22.66±0.49	22.3±0.57	21.77±0.71	16.32±0.44	8.57±0.47
Loss Gap	0.66±0.07	1.84±0.11	3.55±0.21	4.77±0.26	4.86±0.13	4.64±0.21	4.23±0.33	2.14±0.17	0.72±0.05
JacobiConv	89.25±3.35	77.23±4.51	77.19±0.66	77.0±0.55	79.06±0.61	80.2±0.57	84.64±0.39	90.48±0.24	96.91±0.24
Acc Gap	10.71±2.86	22.73±4.36	22.8±0.67	23.0±0.54	20.94±0.61	19.8±0.6	15.36±0.41	9.51±0.24	3.09±0.25
Loss Gap	0.69±0.26	1.58±0.45	4.08±0.21	4.33±0.14	5.36±0.33	1.95±0.13	1.58±0.13	0.99±0.06	0.16±0.01
GPRGNN	90.33±0.57	87.06±0.64	81.71±0.41	77.03±0.47	77.23±0.65	79.52±0.59	82.72±0.52	89.25±0.5	96.45±0.18
Acc Gap	9.66±0.54	12.94±0.67	18.29±0.42	22.96±0.49	22.77±0.64	20.48±0.6	17.27±0.52	10.75±0.54	3.55±0.2
Loss Gap	1.42±0.08	2.21±0.14	3.27±0.2	4.72±0.19	5.17±0.13	4.7±0.25	3.7±0.47	2.4±0.32	1.05±0.11
BernNet	87.44±0.5	82.92±0.67	79.3±0.44	77.69±0.53	77.97±0.54	77.49±0.72	76.58±0.79	79.73±1.3	85.68±1.05
Acc Gap	12.55±0.5	17.08±0.76	20.7±0.44	22.31±0.54	22.03±0.55	22.51±0.64	23.41±0.8	20.27±1.39	14.32±1.06
Loss Gap	1.2±0.06	2.45±0.21	3.69±0.16	4.77±0.24	4.72±0.15	4.7±0.17	4.35±0.35	2.92±0.31	1.36±0.14

Table 4: Testing accuracy, accuracy gap, loss gap of spectral GNNs on synthetic datasets with edge homophilic ratio  $H_{edge} \in [0.1, 0.9]$ . Small accuracy and loss gaps imply good generalization capability.

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Datasets	Texas	Wisconsin	Actor	Squirrel	Chameleon	Cornell	Citeseer	Pubmed	Cora
ChebNet	40.82±7.25	52.23±3.77	26.63±0.53	30.08±1.14	33.94±1.58	44.88±6.19	64.16±0.82	84.74±0.37	74.95±0.96
Acc Gap	59.18±6.94	47.77±3.92	73.26±0.54	69.92±1.28	66.06±1.52	55.12±5.95	35.82±0.75	15.25±0.37	25.05±0.92
Loss Gap	5.91±0.66	5.77±0.87	21.64±0.8	35.68±2.33	36.17±3.04	6.57±0.82	4.68±0.22	1.44±0.06	3.9±0.29
ChebNetII	77.55±5.71	74.38±3.08	27.94±0.36	28.1±1.82	38.45±1.63	73.69±5.12	65.85±0.52	84.7±0.3	74.0±0.8
Acc Gap	22.45±5.2	25.62±3.31	71.94±0.33	71.83±1.77	61.47±1.53	26.31±5.0	34.12±0.48	15.16±0.28	26.0±0.75
Loss Gap	1.1±0.27	1.39±0.32	20.16±0.76	27.56±2.88	19.33±1.68	1.7±0.3	2.66±0.09	1.13±0.09	2.14±0.09
JacobiConv	78.06±5.31	77.62±2.92	27.89±0.63	26.78±1.28	32.2±2.08	80.41±3.98	73.56±0.64	86.33±0.47	84.31±0.49
Acc Gap	21.94±5.41	22.38±2.85	71.97±0.66	50.85±11.88	63.82±9.46	19.59±4.18	26.41±0.65	10.87±1.45	15.69±0.5
Loss Gap	0.94±0.26	1.19±0.22	31.67±0.86	32.75±11.57	38.77±7.16	0.91±0.16	2.16±0.06	0.51±0.14	1.28±0.09
GPRGNN	46.84±6.22	72.08±3.23	26.29±0.65	29.91±1.19	34.28±1.58	61.33±6.12	72.89±0.62	85.42±0.4	84.37±0.51
Acc Gap	53.16±6.12	27.92±2.92	71.52±4.82	70.09±1.09	65.72±1.69	38.67±6.43	27.08±0.67	14.58±0.37	15.63±0.54
Loss Gap	3.35±0.83	1.6±0.31	29.22±2.69	35.34±5.58	29.88±2.22	2.2±0.53	3.32±0.16	1.24±0.09	1.54±0.1
BernNet	75.92±5.31	81.85±2.23	27.28±0.76	33.42±1.14	33.72±1.38	81.43±3.46	67.17±0.59	84.82±0.25	73.39±0.87
Acc Gap	24.08±5.41	18.15±2.16	72.61±0.71	66.58±1.11	66.28±1.33	18.57±3.57	32.8±0.57	14.95±0.45	26.61±0.87
Loss Gap	1.24±0.31	0.87±0.26	24.68±0.71	28.17±1.47	27.83±1.75	1.06±0.18	2.66±0.09	1.13±0.13	2.18±0.08

Table 5: Testing accuracy, accuracy gap, loss gap of spectral GNNs on real world datasets with edge homophilic ratio  $H_{edge} \in [0.11, 0.81]$ . Small accuracy and loss gaps imply good generalization capability.

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Order K	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
ChebNet	87.31±0.3	89.11±0.31	88.48±0.49	84.19±0.9	71.3±3.0	79.58±0.52	80.77±0.62	76.21±0.51	82.94±0.48	86.08±0.41
Acc Gap	12.7±0.32	10.89±0.31	11.52±0.5	15.8±0.92	28.7±3.54	20.42±0.51	19.23±0.57	23.79±0.47	17.06±0.45	13.92±0.42
Loss Gap	2.2±0.09	1.76±0.07	1.9±0.14	2.84±0.27	7.2±1.45	3.88±0.2	3.08±0.21	3.79±0.26	3.8±0.11	3.15±0.14
ChebNetII	85.92±0.56	80.1±0.99	82.65±0.7	85.56±0.45	84.64±0.8	84.62±0.59	85.27±0.51	86.2±0.64	86.39±0.5	85.03±0.57
Acc Gap	14.07±0.53	19.9±1.02	17.35±0.73	14.44±0.45	15.36±0.87	15.38±0.6	14.73±0.5	13.79±0.6	13.61±0.49	14.97±0.58
Loss Gap	1.94±0.08	3.23±0.31	2.62±0.14	2.06±0.14	1.94±0.21	1.95±0.17	1.99±0.15	1.75±0.14	1.83±0.11	1.84±0.11
JacobiConv	77.44±0.67	80.51±0.48	49.44±1.12	39.85±1.91	48.81±2.65	47.73±7.63	60.29±7.48	67.53±7.95	68.03±9.15	77.23±4.79
Acc Gap	22.55±0.62	19.49±0.46	50.56±1.18	60.13±1.98	51.19±2.63	52.25±7.08	39.7±7.32	32.45±7.76	31.96±9.19	22.73±4.82
Loss Gap	5.72±0.19	5.8±0.26	8.81±0.79	12.63±1.22	7.3±1.01	8.23±1.77	4.98±1.23	3.42±1.39	3.33±1.32	1.58±0.48
GPRGNN	83.61±0.66	86.14±0.29	79.44±1.05	88.36±0.28	87.25±0.5	88.0±0.39	87.57±0.47	87.5±0.3	87.17±0.3	87.06±0.59
Acc Gap	16.39±0.69	13.86±0.29	20.56±1.06	11.63±0.29	12.76±0.49	12.01±0.32	12.43±0.48	12.49±0.33	12.84±0.29	12.94±0.68
Loss Gap	2.37±0.11	2.21±0.1	3.18±0.19	1.83±0.1	2.14±0.2	1.93±0.09	2.06±0.13	2.12±0.09	2.19±0.13	2.21±0.14
BernNet	82.76±0.72	81.14±0.41	81.21±0.57	81.47±0.6	81.77±0.66	82.11±0.75	82.32±0.88	82.55±0.84	82.8±0.81	82.92±0.79
Acc Gap	17.24±0.71	18.86±0.39	18.79±0.56	18.53±0.7	18.23±0.62	17.89±0.85	17.68±0.84	17.45±0.79	17.2±0.79	17.08±0.7
Loss Gap	2.45±0.17	3.02±0.11	2.95±0.21	2.84±0.2	2.75±0.21	2.65±0.21	2.59±0.22	2.54±0.2	2.49±0.21	2.45±0.21

Table 6: Testing accuracy, accuracy gap, loss gap of spectral GNNs on synthetic dataset of edge homophilic ratio  $H_{edge} = 0.2$  when  $K \in [1, 10]$ . Small accuracy and loss gaps imply good generalization capability.

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Order K	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
ChebNet	83.78±2.45	80.61±4.59	80.51±3.47	61.73±5.0	63.37±8.57	36.33±5.72	44.18±5.0	24.39±2.14	30.2±4.8	40.82±7.35
Acc Gap	16.22±2.45	19.39±4.8	19.49±3.78	38.27±5.0	36.63±7.86	63.67±6.12	55.82±5.0	75.61±2.24	69.8±5.0	59.18±7.15
Loss Gap	1.49±0.44	1.26±0.44	1.48±0.31	2.77±0.53	3.08±0.59	8.98±0.68	6.09±0.72	7.99±0.93	9.0±1.03	5.91±0.69
ChebNetII	80.41±3.98	75.41±5.72	76.53±4.29	76.53±4.59	76.94±5.0	78.78±5.61	78.88±5.2	77.45±4.9	76.94±5.72	77.55±5.51
Acc Gap	19.59±3.78	24.59±5.2	23.47±4.59	23.47±4.49	23.06±4.8	21.22±5.61	21.12±5.82	22.55±4.49	23.06±5.61	22.45±5.31
Loss Gap	0.74±0.14	1.2±0.44	1.15±0.29	1.28±0.3	1.23±0.33	1.11±0.29	1.16±0.26	1.21±0.29	1.24±0.27	1.1±0.27
JacobiConv	52.24±5.41	80.92±3.78	75.31±5.31	74.39±3.78	79.08±3.67	78.67±4.08	80.0±3.06	73.67±6.33	77.65±5.41	78.06±5.61
Acc Gap	47.76±5.31	19.08±3.98	24.69±5.0	25.61±3.67	20.92±3.47	21.33±3.67	20.0±3.06	26.33±6.84	22.35±5.1	21.94±5.41
Loss Gap	2.54±0.42	0.89±0.2	1.1±0.25	1.18±0.27	0.9±0.17	0.97±0.16	0.93±0.13	1.22±0.39	0.97±0.26	0.94±0.24
GPRGNN	53.88±4.8	49.18±5.1	46.73±5.82	45.82±6.64	46.12±5.41	45.61±5.2	46.43±4.59	46.12±5.0	47.55±4.8	46.84±6.22
Acc Gap	46.12±4.9	50.82±5.31	53.27±5.61	54.18±6.63	53.88±5.72	54.39±5.2	53.57±4.9	53.88±4.9	52.45±5.1	53.16±6.43
Loss Gap	2.6±0.44	3.21±0.53	3.5±0.67	3.6±0.63	3.58±0.63	3.51±0.64	3.47±0.48	3.44±0.61	3.22±0.73	3.35±0.83
BernNet	76.73±3.67	75.92±2.45	75.61±3.67	77.04±3.88	77.14±4.39	75.2±4.7	74.9±5.72	75.2±5.2	74.8±5.92	75.71±5.71
Acc Gap	23.27±3.67	24.08±2.65	24.39±3.57	22.96±3.98	22.86±4.29	24.8±4.69	25.1±5.2	24.8±5.61	25.2±6.02	24.29±5.61
Loss Gap	0.96±0.22	0.95±0.18	1.01±0.17	1.02±0.21	1.06±0.21	1.13±0.25	1.19±0.31	1.18±0.26	1.27±0.34	1.25±0.31

Table 7: Testing accuracy, accuracy gap, loss gap of spectral GNNs on Texas dataset of edge homophilic ratio  $H_{edge} = 0.11$  when  $K \in [1, 10]$ . Small accuracy and loss gaps imply good generalization capability.

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