

## 8 Supplementary Material for Graph Clustering: Block-models and model free results

### Proof of Proposition 2

1. Proof by verification.
2.  $LY = Y\hat{\Lambda}Y^TY + (BB^T)\hat{L}(BB^T)Y = Y\hat{\Lambda}$ . Since  $B$  is the orthogonal complement of  $Y$ , it follows that it is a stable subspace as well.
3. This is a well known result; see for example [19].

The celebrated Sinus Theorem is reproduced here for completeness.

**Theorem 13 (Sinus Theorem of Davis-Kahan, from [19], Theorem V.3.6)** *Let  $\hat{L}$  be a Hermitian matrix with spectral resolution given by (4),  $Y$  be any  $n \times K$  matrix with orthonormal columns, and  $M$  any symmetric  $K \times K$  matrix with eigenvalues  $\mu_{1:K}$ . Let  $R = \hat{L}Y - YM$  and  $\Delta = \min_{\lambda \in \hat{\lambda}_{K+1:n}, \mu \in \mu_{1:K}} |\lambda - \mu| > 0$ . Then, for any unitarily invariant norm  $\|\cdot\|$ ,  $\|\text{diag}(\sin \theta_{1:K}(\hat{Y}, Y))\| \leq \frac{\|R\|}{\Delta}$ , where  $\theta_{1:K}$  are the canonical angles between  $\mathcal{R}(\hat{Y})$  and  $\mathcal{R}(Y)$ .*

**Proof of Proposition 5** This is a corollary of Theorem 3.6 in [19]. If eigenvalues are sorted by their absolute values, then  $\hat{\lambda}_{K+1:n} \in [-|\hat{\lambda}_{K+1}|, |\hat{\lambda}_{K+1}|]$  and  $\mu_{1:K} \in \mathbb{R} \setminus (-|\hat{\lambda}_{K+1}| - \Delta, |\hat{\lambda}_{K+1}| + \Delta)$ . If we set  $M = \hat{\Lambda}$ , so that  $\hat{\lambda}_{1:K} \in \mathbb{R} \setminus (-|\hat{\lambda}_{K+1}| - \Delta, |\hat{\lambda}_{K+1}| + \Delta)$ . Now we view  $Y$  as a perturbation of  $\hat{Y}$ , hence

$$R = \hat{L}Y - Y\hat{\Lambda} = \hat{L}Y - LY + (LY - Y\hat{\Lambda}) = (\hat{L} - L)Y \quad (11)$$

$$\|R\| = \|(\hat{L} - L)Y\| \leq \|\hat{L} - L\| \|Y\| \leq \varepsilon. \quad (12)$$

From Theorem 13 the result follows.  $\square$

**Proof of Proposition 6** For 1:

$$\begin{aligned} \|F\|_F^2 &= \text{trace } FF^T = \text{trace } U\Sigma V^T V\Sigma U^T = \text{trace } U^T U\Sigma V^T V\Sigma = \text{trace } \Sigma^2 \\ &= 1 + \sum_{k=2}^K \cos^2 \theta_k = 1 + \sum_{k=2}^K (1 - \sin^2 \theta_k) = K - \sum_{k=2}^K \sin^2 \theta_k \text{ since } \theta_1 = 0 \quad (13) \\ &\geq K - (K-1)\varepsilon'^2 \quad (14) \end{aligned}$$

For 2: Denote  $\text{trace } \hat{M}^T M = \langle \hat{M}, M \rangle_F$ . Then  $\|M - \hat{M}\|_F^2 = \|M\|_F^2 + \|\hat{M}\|_F^2 - 2\langle \hat{M}, M \rangle_F \leq K + K - 2(K - (K-1)\varepsilon'^2) = 2(K-1)\varepsilon'^2$ .  $\square$

**Proof of Proposition 7** We have that  $|\langle M - \hat{M}, M' - \hat{M} \rangle_F| \leq \|M - \hat{M}\|_F \|M' - \hat{M}\|_F$ . From Proposition 6 the r.h.s is no larger than  $2(K-1)\varepsilon'^2$ .

$$-\langle M - \hat{M}, M' - \hat{M} \rangle_F \leq \|M - \hat{M}\|_F \|M' - \hat{M}\|_F \leq 2(K-1)\varepsilon'^2 \quad (15)$$

$$-\langle M, M' \rangle_F + \langle \hat{M}, M \rangle_F + \langle \hat{M}, M' \rangle_F - \|\hat{M}\|_F^2 \leq 2(K-1)\varepsilon'^2 \quad (16)$$

$$\begin{aligned} \langle M, M' \rangle_F &\geq \langle \hat{M}, M \rangle_F + \langle \hat{M}, M' \rangle_F - K - 2(K-1)\varepsilon'^2 \quad (17) \\ &\geq 2K - 2(K-1)\varepsilon'^2 - K - 2(K-1)\varepsilon'^2 = K - 4(K-1)\varepsilon'^2 \quad (18) \end{aligned}$$

Now, note that  $\text{trace } MM' = \text{trace } YY^T Y' (Y')^T = \text{trace}((Y')^T Y) (Y^T Y) = \|Y^T Y'\|_F^2$ . Moreover, by (7),  $Y_Z$  and  $Y$  differ by a unitary transformation. Since  $\|\cdot\|_F$  is unitarily invariant, the result follows.

**Proof of Theorem 4** We apply Theorem 9 of [13] with  $A_X = Z$ ,  $A_{X'} = Z'$ , and  $\tilde{A}_X = Y$ ,  $\tilde{A}_{X'} = Y'$ . It follows that  $p_{XY_{kk'}} = \sum_{i \in k \cap k'} \hat{d}_i / \sum_{i=1}^n \hat{d}_i$ . Hence, the point weights are proportional to  $\hat{d}_{1:n}$ . Also, evidently,  $p_{min}/p_{max} = \delta_0$ , and the result follows.

Note that we use the fact that both PFM's have degrees equal to  $\hat{d}_{1:n}$  to obtain this proof.  $\square$

**Proposition 14** *Assumptions 3 and 4, imply  $\|\text{diag}(\sin \theta_{1:K}(\hat{Y}, Y))\| \leq \varepsilon / |\hat{\lambda}_K^A| = \varepsilon'$ , where  $\hat{\lambda}_K^A$  is the  $K$ -th eigenvalue of  $\hat{A}$ .*

**Proof of Proposition 14** We consider  $\hat{A}$  a perturbation of  $A$ , its eigenvectors  $\hat{Y}$  as the perturbed eigenvectors of  $A$  and  $M = \hat{\Lambda}$ . Then,  $R = A\hat{Y} - \hat{Y}\hat{\Lambda}$

$$\|R\| = \|A\hat{Y} - \hat{Y}\hat{\Lambda}\| \quad (19)$$

$$= \|(A\hat{Y} - \hat{A}\hat{Y}) + (\hat{A}\hat{Y} - \hat{Y}\hat{\Lambda})\| \quad (20)$$

$$\leq \|(A - \hat{A})\hat{Y}\| \quad (21)$$

$$\leq \|A - \hat{A}\|\|\hat{Y}\| \leq \varepsilon. \quad (22)$$

The separation between  $\hat{\Lambda}$  and the residual spectrum of  $A$  is  $|\hat{\lambda}_K|$ . From the main Davis-Kahan theorem 13 the result follows.  $\square$

**Proof of Proposition 8** The proofs of 1 and 2 are straightforward. To show 3, note that  $A = ZC^{-1}Z^T\hat{A}ZC^{-1}Z^T = Y_ZC^{1/2}BC^{1/2}Y_Z^T = Y_ZU\Lambda U^TY_Z^T = Y\Lambda Y^T$ . The definition of  $B$  above shows that this is the Maximum Likelihood estimator of  $B$  given the clustering  $\mathcal{C}$ .

$$\Leftrightarrow B_{kl} = \frac{\#\text{edges from cluster } k \text{ to cluster } l}{n_k n_l} \quad (23)$$

**Proof of Theorem 9** We now follow the steps outlined in section 3 with  $\varepsilon'$  from Proposition 14 to obtain our main stability result.

**Proof of Proposition 10** In the Proof of Proposition 7, we replace the bounds corresponding to  $\langle \hat{M}, M \rangle_F, \|\hat{M} - M\|_F$  by the actual values computed from  $M, \hat{M}$ . We obtain

$$\langle M, M' \rangle_F \geq \langle \hat{M}, M \rangle_F - (K-1)(\varepsilon')^2 - 2\sqrt{2(K-1)}\varepsilon'\|\hat{M} - M\|_F. \quad (24)$$

### Proof of Proposition 3

From the Proof of this theorem, we have that  $\|L^* - \hat{L}\| = o(1)$ ,  $\|(D^*)^{1/2} - \hat{D}^{1/2}\| = o(1)$ ,  $\|\lambda^* - \hat{\Lambda}\| = o(1)$ , and  $\|\hat{Y} - Y^*\| = o(1)$ . Let  $Z$  be the indicator matrix of  $\mathcal{C}^*$ . The principal eigenvectors of  $L^*$  are  $Y^* = (D^*)^{1/2}Z(C^*)^{-1/2}$ . It follows then that  $\|Z^T\hat{D}Z - Z^TD^*Z\| = o(1)$ , and since  $C = Z^T\hat{D}Z$ ,  $Y_Z = \hat{D}^{1/2}ZC^{-1/2}$  we have that  $\|Y_Z - Y^*\| = o(1)$ ,  $\|F^* - F\| = o(1)$  where  $F^* = Y^TY^*$ . Moreover, since  $\|\hat{Y} - Y^*\| = o(1)$ ,  $\|F - I\| = o(1)$  Hence  $\|UV^T - I\| = o(1)$ . Since the choice of  $B$  depends only on  $\mathcal{R}(Y_Z)$ , it follows immediately that  $\|BB^T\hat{L}B^TB - B^*(B^*)^TL^*(B^*)^TB^*\| = o(1)$ . Now,  $L = Y_ZUV^T\hat{\Lambda}VU^TY_Z^T + BB^T\hat{L}B^TB$ , and  $L^* = Y^*\Lambda^*(Y^*)^T + B^*(B^*)^TL^*(B^*)^TB^*$ , which completes the proof.  $\square$

**perturbation of the PFM model** To obtain a noisy PFM model  $A$ , we calculate the first  $K$  piecewise constant [14] eigenvectors  $V$  of the transition matrix  $P = D^{-1}A$ , from which we obtain  $V^*$  by perturbing each entry in  $V$  with a noise  $\epsilon \sim \text{unif}(0, 10^{-4})$ . The perturbed similarity matrix  $A$  is then obtained as  $A = D^{1/2}(D^{1/2}V^*\hat{\Lambda}V^*TD^{1/2} + \hat{Y}_{low}\hat{\Lambda}_{low}\hat{Y}_{low}^T)D^{1/2}$ . An adjacency matrix  $\hat{A}$  is generated from  $A$ . In figure 2, we show the perturbed graphs  $A$  and  $\hat{A}$ .

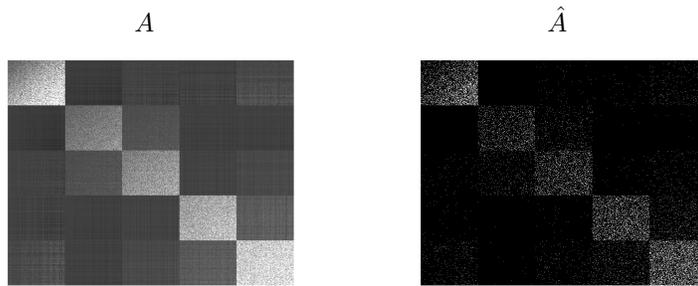


Figure 2: Left: the visualization of the perturbed  $A$ . Right: the visualization of the perturbed  $\hat{A}$