# Supplementary Materials: L<sup>2</sup>-GCN: Layer-Wise and Learned Efficient Training of Graph Convolutional Networks

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#### Appendix

## A. Proof of Theorem 5

Let GNN  $\mathcal{A}_{Con} = \mathcal{R} \circ \mathcal{L}_{Con}^{(L)} \circ \dots \circ \mathcal{L}_{Con}^{(1)}$  be conventionally trained by the optimization formulation (10) in the main text, with the conditions in Theorem 2 holding, i.e.  $\mathcal{L}_{Con}^{(l)}, l \in L$  are injective, therefore  $\mathcal{A}_{Con}$  is as powerful as WL test, we have:

$$Prob\{\mathcal{R} \circ \mathcal{L}_{Con}^{(L)} \circ \dots \circ \mathcal{L}_{Con}^{(1)}(G_1) \\ \neq \mathcal{R} \circ \mathcal{L}_{Con}^{(L)} \circ \dots \circ \mathcal{L}_{Con}^{(1)}(G_2) | G_1 \ncong G_2\} = C_{WL}$$

Now we prove that it can also be layer-wise trained by the optimization formulation (11) in the main text to achieve  $Prob\{\mathcal{R} \circ \mathcal{L}_{Lay}^{(L)} \circ ... \circ \mathcal{L}_{Lay}^{(1)}(G_1) \neq \mathcal{R} \circ \mathcal{L}_{Lay}^{(L)} \circ ... \circ \mathcal{L}_{Lay}^{(1)}(G_2) | G_1 \ncong G_2\} = C_{WL}.$ 

(a) When training the 1st-layer mapping, we are going to solve the optimization problem as:

$$\mathcal{L}_{Lay}^{(1)} = max_{\mathcal{L}^{(1)}} \operatorname{Prob}\{\mathcal{R} \circ \mathcal{L}^{(1)}(G_1) \\ \neq \mathcal{R} \circ \mathcal{L}^{(1)}(G_2) | G_1 \not\cong G_2\}.$$
(1)

We can show that  $\mathcal{L}_{Lay}^{(1)}$  is injective as follows. Suppose that the optimal solution  $\mathcal{L}_{Lay}^{(1)}$  is not injective. Since we can conventionally train  $\mathcal{A}_{Con}$ , we have a feasible injective solution  $\mathcal{L}_{Lay}^{(1)}$ . For any non-isomorphic graph pairs  $G_1$  and  $G_2$ , if layer-wise training has the correct mapping as  $\mathcal{R} \circ$  $\mathcal{L}_{Lay}^{(1)}(G_1) \neq \mathcal{R} \circ \mathcal{L}_{Lay}^{(1)}(G_2)$ , but conventional training maps wrongly as  $\mathcal{R} \circ \mathcal{L}_{Con}^{(1)}(G_1) = \mathcal{R} \circ \mathcal{L}_{Con}^{(1)}(G_2)$ , due to  $\mathcal{R}$  is injective on multiset, for conventional training we have:

$$\{ \boldsymbol{x}_{i,G_{1},Con}^{(1)} : \boldsymbol{x}_{i,G_{1},Con}^{(1)} = \\ \mathcal{L}_{Con}^{(1)}(\boldsymbol{x}_{i,G_{1}}^{(0)}, \{ \boldsymbol{x}_{j,G_{1}}^{(0)} : j \in \mathcal{N}_{G_{1}}(i) \}), i \in N \} \\ = \{ \boldsymbol{x}_{i,G_{2},Con}^{(1)} : \boldsymbol{x}_{i,G_{2},Con}^{(1)} = \\ \mathcal{L}_{Con}^{(1)}(\boldsymbol{x}_{i,G_{2}}^{(0)}, \{ \boldsymbol{x}_{j,G_{2}}^{(0)} : j \in \mathcal{N}_{G_{2}}(i) \}), i \in N \}.$$

Therefore there existing a bijective mapping  $\phi: \{1,...,N\} \rightarrow \{1,...,N\}$  such that:

$$\mathcal{L}_{Con}^{(1)}(\boldsymbol{x}_{i,G_1}^{(0)}, \{\boldsymbol{x}_{j,G_1}^{(0)} : j \in \mathcal{N}_{G_1}(i)\}) \\ = \mathcal{L}_{Con}^{(1)}(\boldsymbol{x}_{k,G_2}^{(0)}, \{\boldsymbol{x}_{j,G_2}^{(0)} : j \in \mathcal{N}_{G_2}(k)\}), i = \phi(k).$$

Since  $\mathcal{L}_{Can}^{(1)}$  is injective, we always have:

$$\begin{aligned} \boldsymbol{x}_{i,G_1}^{(0)} &= \boldsymbol{x}_{k,G_2}^{(0)}, \\ \{ \boldsymbol{x}_{j,G_1}^{(0)} : j \in \mathcal{N}_{G_1}(i) = \{ \boldsymbol{x}_{j,G_2}^{(0)} : j \in \mathcal{N}_{G_2}(k) \}, i = \phi(k). \end{aligned}$$

Thus for layer-wise training we have:

$$\begin{aligned} \boldsymbol{x}_{i,G_{1},Lay}^{(1)} &= \boldsymbol{x}_{k,G_{2},Lay}^{(1)}, \\ \boldsymbol{x}_{i,G_{1},Lay}^{(1)} &= \mathcal{L}_{Lay}^{(1)}(\boldsymbol{x}_{i,G_{1}}^{(0)}, \{\boldsymbol{x}_{j,G_{1}}^{(0)} : j \in \mathcal{N}_{G_{1}}(i)\}), \\ \boldsymbol{x}_{k,G_{2},Lay}^{(1)} &= \mathcal{L}_{Lay}^{(1)}(\boldsymbol{x}_{k,G_{2}}^{(0)}, \{\boldsymbol{x}_{j,G_{2}}^{(0)} : j \in \mathcal{N}_{G_{2}}(k)\}), i = \phi(k), \end{aligned}$$

which results in:

$$\begin{aligned} & \{ \boldsymbol{x}_{i,G_{1},Lay}^{(1)} : \boldsymbol{x}_{i,G_{1},Lay}^{(1)} = \\ & \mathcal{L}_{Lay}^{(1)}(\boldsymbol{x}_{i,G_{1}}^{(0)}, \{ \boldsymbol{x}_{j,G_{1}}^{(0)} : j \in \mathcal{N}_{G_{1}}(i) \} ), i \in N \} \\ & = \{ \boldsymbol{x}_{i,G_{2},Lay}^{(1)} : \boldsymbol{x}_{i,G_{2},Lay}^{(1)} = \\ & \mathcal{L}_{Lay}^{(1)}(\boldsymbol{x}_{i,G_{2}}^{(0)}, \{ \boldsymbol{x}_{j,G_{2}}^{(0)} : j \in \mathcal{N}_{G_{2}}(i) \} ), i \in N \}. \end{aligned}$$

We have  $\mathcal{R} \circ \mathcal{L}_{Lay}^{(1)}(G_1) = \mathcal{R} \circ \mathcal{L}_{Lay}^{(1)}(G_2)$ , which comes to a contradiction. Hence, we reach that if  $\mathcal{R} \circ \mathcal{L}_{Lay}^{(1)}(G_1) \neq \mathcal{R} \circ \mathcal{L}_{Lay}^{(1)}(G_2)$  correctly, then we have  $\mathcal{R} \circ \mathcal{L}_{Con}^{(1)}(G_1) \neq \mathcal{R} \circ \mathcal{L}_{Con}^{(1)}(G_2)$  correctly. However, not vice versa, it is easily to prove that if  $\mathcal{R} \circ \mathcal{L}_{Con}^{(1)}(G_1) \neq \mathcal{R} \circ \mathcal{L}_{Con}^{(1)}(G_2)$  correctly, we may have  $\mathcal{R} \circ \mathcal{L}_{Lay}^{(1)}(G_1) = \mathcal{R} \circ \mathcal{L}_{Lay}^{(1)}(G_2)$  wrongly. Therefore we have:

$$Prob\{\mathcal{R} \circ \mathcal{L}_{Lay}^{(1)}(G_1) \neq \mathcal{R} \circ \mathcal{L}_{Lay}^{(1)}(G_2) | G_1 \ncong G_2\}$$
  
$$< Prob\{\mathcal{R} \circ \mathcal{L}_{Con}^{(1)}(G_1) \neq \mathcal{R} \circ \mathcal{L}_{Con}^{(1)}(G_2) | G_1 \ncong G_2\},\$$

which is contradict to (1). Thus,  $\mathcal{L}_{Lay}^{(1)}$  is injective. (b) Assume we have finished training l-1 layer-wise mapping  $\mathcal{L}_{Lay}^{(l-1)}, ..., \mathcal{L}_{Lay}^{(l)}$  which are injective. When training the *l*st-layer mapping, we are going to solve the optimization problem as:

$$\mathcal{L}_{Lay}^{(l)} = max_{\mathcal{L}^{(l)}} \operatorname{Prob}\{\mathcal{R} \circ \mathcal{L}^{(l)} \circ \mathcal{L}_{Lay}^{(l-1)} \circ \dots \circ \mathcal{L}_{Lay}^{(1)}(G_1) \\ \neq \mathcal{R} \circ \mathcal{L}^{(l)} \circ \mathcal{L}_{Lay}^{(l-1)} \circ \dots \circ \mathcal{L}_{Lay}^{(1)}(G_2) | G_1 \ncong G_2 \}.$$
(2)

We can show that  $\mathcal{L}_{Lay}^{(l)}$  is injective. Suppose optimal the solution  $\mathcal{L}_{Lay}^{(l)}$  is not injective. Since we can conventionally train  $\mathcal{A}_{Con}$ , we have a feasible injective solution  $\mathcal{L}_{Con}^{(l)}$ . For any non-isomorphic graphs  $G_1, G_2$ , similar to the induction in (a), we have:

$$Prob\{\mathcal{R} \circ \mathcal{L}_{Lay}^{(l)} \circ \mathcal{L}_{Lay}^{(l-1)} \circ \dots \circ \mathcal{L}_{Lay}^{(1)}(G_1) \neq \mathcal{R} \circ$$
$$\mathcal{L}_{Lay}^{(l)} \circ \mathcal{L}_{Lay}^{(l-1)} \circ \dots \circ \mathcal{L}_{Lay}^{(1)}(G_2) | G_1 \ncong G_2 \}$$
$$< Prob\{\mathcal{R} \circ \mathcal{L}_{Con}^{(l)} \circ \mathcal{L}_{Lay}^{(l-1)} \circ \dots \circ \mathcal{L}_{Lay}^{(1)}(G_1) \neq \mathcal{R}$$
$$\circ \mathcal{L}_{Con}^{(l)} \circ \mathcal{L}_{Lay}^{(l-1)} \circ \dots \circ \mathcal{L}_{Lay}^{(1)}(G_2) | G_1 \ncong G_2 \},$$

which contradicts (2). Thus,  $\mathcal{L}_{Lau}^{(l)}$  is injective.

With (a) and (b), we have the result: through layerwise trained by the optimization formulation (11) in the main text, we have injective layered mappings  $\mathcal{L}_{Lay}^{(l)}$ ,  $l \in L$ . With Theorem 2, we come to the conclusion that  $\mathcal{A}_{Lay} = \mathcal{R} \circ \mathcal{L}_{Lay}^{(L)} \circ \dots \circ \mathcal{L}_{Lay}^{(1)}$  is as powerful as WL test, i.e.  $Prob\{\mathcal{R} \circ \mathcal{L}_{Lay}^{(L)} \circ \dots \circ \mathcal{L}_{Lay}^{(1)}(G_1) \neq \mathcal{R} \circ \mathcal{L}_{Lay}^{(L)} \circ \dots \circ \mathcal{L}_{Lay}^{(1)}(G_2) | G_1 \ncong$  $G_2\} = C_{WL}$ , which finishes the proof.

#### **B.** Proof of Theorem 6

Let's denote a layer-wise trained GNN as  $\mathcal{A}_{Lay} = \mathcal{R} \circ \mathcal{L}_{Lay}^{(L)} \circ \ldots \circ \mathcal{L}_{Lay}^{(1)}$ , whose layer mapping  $\mathcal{L}_{Lay}^{(l)} : \mathbb{R}^D \times \mathbb{M}^D \to \mathbb{R}^D$  can distinguish  $\boldsymbol{x}_i^{(l-1)}$ , i.e.  $\mathcal{L}_{Lay}^{(l)}(\boldsymbol{x}_i^{(l-1)}, \{\boldsymbol{x}_j^{(l-1)} : j \in \mathcal{N}_k\})$  if  $\boldsymbol{x}_i^{(l-1)} \neq \mathcal{L}_{Lay}^{(l)}(\boldsymbol{x}_k^{(l-1)}, \{\boldsymbol{x}_j^{(l-1)} : j \in \mathcal{N}_k\})$  if  $\boldsymbol{x}_i^{(l-1)} \neq \mathcal{L}_{Lay}^{(l-1)}$ .  $\boldsymbol{x}_i^{(l-1)}$ . We show that for any two non-isomorphic graphs  $G_1, G_2$ , if l-1 layer network  $\mathcal{R} \circ \mathcal{L}_{Lay}^{(l-1)} \circ \dots \circ \mathcal{L}_{Lay}^{(1)}$  can successfully distinguishes them as:

$$\mathcal{R} \circ \mathcal{L}_{Lay}^{(l-1)} \circ \dots \circ \mathcal{L}_{Lay}^{(1)}(G_1) \neq \mathcal{R} \circ \mathcal{L}_{Lay}^{(l-1)} \circ \dots \circ \mathcal{L}_{Lay}^{(1)}(G_2).$$
(3)

Then l layer network  $\mathcal{R} \circ \mathcal{L}_{Lay}^{(l)} \circ \mathcal{L}_{Lay}^{(l-1)} \circ \dots \circ \mathcal{L}_{Lay}^{(1)}$  also can distinguish them as:

$$\mathcal{R} \circ \mathcal{L}_{Lay}^{(l)} \circ \mathcal{L}_{Lay}^{(l-1)} \circ \dots \circ \mathcal{L}_{Lay}^{(1)}(G_1) 
\neq \mathcal{R} \circ \mathcal{L}_{Lay}^{(l)} \circ \mathcal{L}_{Lay}^{(l-1)} \circ \dots \circ \mathcal{L}_{Lay}^{(1)}(G_2).$$
(4)

Suppose (4) does not hold, since  $\mathcal{R}$  is injective on multiset, the same as the proof in Theorem 5, there exists a bijective mapping  $\phi : \{1, ..., N\} \rightarrow \{1, ..., N\}$  such that:

$$\mathcal{L}_{Lay}^{(l)}(\boldsymbol{x}_{i,G_1}^{(l-1)}, \{\boldsymbol{x}_{j,G_1}^{(l-1)} : j \in \mathcal{N}_{G_1}(i)\}) \\ = \mathcal{L}_{Lay}^{(l)}(\boldsymbol{x}_{k,G_2}^{(l-1)}, \{\boldsymbol{x}_{j,G_2}^{(l-1)} : j \in \mathcal{N}_{G_2}(k)\}), i = \phi(k).$$

Since the layer mapping can distinguish  $\boldsymbol{x}_{i}^{(l-1)}$ , resulting that if  $\mathcal{L}_{Lay}^{(l)}(\boldsymbol{x}_{i}^{(l-1)}, \{\boldsymbol{x}_{j}^{(l-1)} : j \in \mathcal{N}(i)\}) = \mathcal{L}_{Lay}^{(l)}(\boldsymbol{x}_{k}^{(l-1)}, \{\boldsymbol{x}_{j}^{(l-1)} : j \in \mathcal{N}(k)\})$ , we have  $\boldsymbol{x}_{i}^{(l-1)} = \mathcal{L}_{Lay}^{(l-1)}(\boldsymbol{x}_{k}^{(l-1)}, \{\boldsymbol{x}_{j}^{(l-1)} : j \in \mathcal{N}(k)\})$ , we have  $\boldsymbol{x}_{i}^{(l-1)} = \mathcal{L}_{Lay}^{(l-1)}(\boldsymbol{x}_{k}^{(l-1)}, \{\boldsymbol{x}_{j}^{(l-1)} : j \in \mathcal{N}(k)\})$ .  $\boldsymbol{x}_{k}^{(l-1)}$ . Therefore we have:

$$\boldsymbol{x}_{i,G_1}^{(l-1)} = \boldsymbol{x}_{k,G_2}^{(l-1)}, i = \phi(k).$$

Due to the injectivity of  $\mathcal{R}$ , here comes the result:

$$\mathcal{R} \circ \mathcal{L}_{Lay}^{(l-1)} \circ \dots \circ \mathcal{L}_{Lay}^{(1)}(G_1) = \mathcal{R} \circ \mathcal{L}_{Lay}^{(l-1)} \circ \dots \circ \mathcal{L}_{Lay}^{(1)}(G_2).$$

which is contradict to (3). Thus, (4) holds, and we have the conclusion: for any two non-isomorphic graphs  $G_1, G_2$ , if l-1 layer network can successfully distinguishes them, then *l* layer network also can distinguish them, which results in:

$$Prob\{\mathcal{R} \circ \mathcal{L}_{Lay}^{(l-1)} \circ \dots \circ \mathcal{L}_{Lay}^{(1)}(G_1) \\ \neq \mathcal{R} \circ \mathcal{L}_{Lay}^{(l-1)} \circ \dots \circ \mathcal{L}_{Lay}^{(1)}(G_2) | G_1 \ncong G_2 \}$$

$$\leq Prob\{\mathcal{R} \circ \mathcal{L}_{Lay}^{(l)} \circ \mathcal{L}_{Lay}^{(l-1)} \circ \dots \circ \mathcal{L}_{Lay}^{(1)}(G_1) \\ \neq \mathcal{R} \circ \mathcal{L}_{Lay}^{(l)} \circ \mathcal{L}_{Lay}^{(l-1)} \circ \dots \circ \mathcal{L}_{Lay}^{(1)}(G_2) | G_1 \ncong G_2 \}.$$
(5)

## C. Dataset Statistic

Dataset statistic is shown in Table 1.

Table 1: Datasets Statistics.

Dataset	Nodes	Edges	Features	Classes
Cora	2780	13264	1433	7
PubMed	19717	108365	500	3
PPI	56944	818716	50	121
Reddit	232965	11606919	602	41
Amazon-670K	643474	1000746	100	32
Amazon-3M	2460406	48396681	100	38