AN M-CHANNEL CRITICALLY SAMPLED FILTER BANK FOR GRAPH SIGNALS

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ABSTRACT

We investigate an M-channel critically sampled filter bank for graph signals where each of the M filters is supported on a different subband of the graph Laplacian spectrum. We partition the graph vertices such that the mth set comprises a uniqueness set for signals supported on the mth subband. For analysis, the graph signal is filtered on each subband and downsampled on the corresponding set of vertices. However, the classical synthesis filters are replaced with interpolation operators, circumventing the issue of how to design a downsampling pattern and graph spectral filters to ensure perfect reconstruction for signals that do not reside on bipartite graphs. The resulting transform is critically sampled and graph signals are perfectly reconstructable from their analysis coefficients. We empirically explore the joint vertex-frequency localization of the dictionary atoms and sparsity of the analysis coefficients, as well as the ability of the proposed transform to compress piecewise-smooth graph signals.

Index Terms— Graph signal processing, filter bank, sampling, interpolation, wavelet, compression

1. INTRODUCTION

In graph signal processing [2], transforms and filter banks can help exploit structure in the data, in order, for example, to compress a graph signal, remove noise, or fill in missing information. Broad classes of recently proposed transforms include graph Fourier transforms, vertex domain designs such as [3, 4], top-down approaches such as [5, 6, 7], diffusion-based designs such as [8, 9], spectral domain designs such as [10, 11], windowed graph Fourier transforms [12], and generalized filter banks, the last of which we focus on in this paper. For further introduction to dictionary designs for graph signals, see [2].

The extension of the classical two channel critically sampled filter bank to the graph setting was first proposed in [13]. Fig. 1 shows the analysis and synthesis banks, where H_i and G_i are graph spectral filters [2], and the lowpass and highpass bands are downsampled on complementary sets of vertices. For a general weighted, undirected graph, it is not straightforward how to design the downsampling and the four graph spectral filters to ensure perfect reconstruction. One
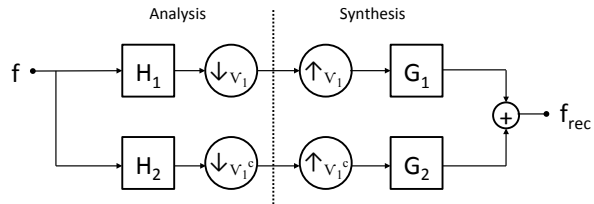
Fig. 1. Extension of the classical two channel critically sampled filter bank to the graph setting. Here, $\mathbf{H}_1$ and $\mathbf{H}_2$ are lowpass and highpass graph spectral filters, respectively.

approach is to separate the graph into a union of subgraphs, each of which has some regular structure. For example, [14, 15] show that the normalized graph Laplacian eigenvectors of *bipartite* graphs have a spectral folding property that make it possible to design analysis and synthesis filters to guarantee perfect reconstruction. They take advantage of this property by decomposing the graph into bipartite graphs and constructing a multichannel, separable filter bank, while [16] adds vertices and edges to the original graph to form an approximating bipartite graph. References [17, 18] generalize this spectral folding property to M-block cyclic graphs, and leverage it to construct M-channel graph filter banks. Another class of regular structured graphs is *shift invariant* graphs [19, Chapter 5.1]. These graphs have a circulant graph Laplacian and their eigenvectors are the columns of the discrete Fourier transform matrix. Any graph can be written as the sum of circulant graphs, and [20, 21, 22] use this fact to design critically sampled graph filter banks with perfect reconstruction. Other recently investigated architectures include lifting transforms [23, 24] and pyramid transforms [25].

Our approach in this paper is to replace the synthesis filters with interpolation operators on each subband of the graph spectrum. While this idea was initially suggested independently in [26], we investigate it in more detail here. Our construction leverages the recent flurry of work in sampling and reconstruction of graph signals [26]-[35]. The key property we use is that any signal whose graph Fourier transform has exactly k non-zero coefficients can be perfectly recovered from samples of that signal on k appropriately selected vertices (see, e.g., [26, Theorem 1] [35, Proposition 1]).

2. M-CHANNEL CRITICALLY SAMPLED FILTER BANK

We consider graph signals $f \in \mathbb{R}^N$ residing on a weighted, undirected graph $\mathcal{G} = \{\mathcal{V}, \mathcal{E}, \mathbf{W}\}$, where $\mathcal{V}$ is the set of N vertices, $\mathcal{E}$ is the set of edges, and $\mathbf{W}$ is the weighted adjacency matrix. Throughout, we take $\mathcal{L}$ to be the combinatorial graph Laplacian $\mathbf{D} - \mathbf{W}$, where $\mathbf{D}$ is the diagonal matrix of vertex degrees. However, our
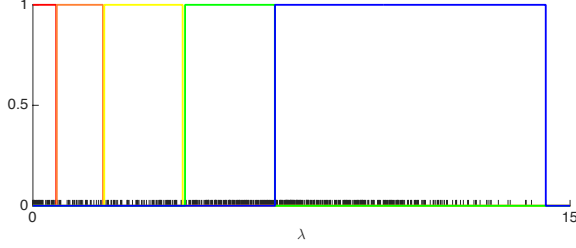
Fig. 2. Example ideal filter bank. The red, orange, yellow, green, and blue filters span 31, 31, 63, 125, and 250 graph Laplacian eigenvalues, respectively, on a 500 node sensor network with a maximum graph Laplacian eigenvalue of 14.3. The tick marks on the x-axis represent the locations of the graph Laplacian eigenvalues.

theory and proposed transform also apply to the normalized graph Laplacian $\mathbf{I} - \mathbf{D}^{-\frac{1}{2}}\mathbf{W}\mathbf{D}^{-\frac{1}{2}}$, or any other Hermitian operator. We can diagonalize the graph Laplacian as $\mathcal{L} = \mathbf{U}\boldsymbol{\Lambda}\mathbf{U}^{*}$, where $\boldsymbol{\Lambda}$ is the diagonal matrix of eigenvalues $\lambda_0, \lambda_1, \dots, \lambda_{N-1}$ of $\mathcal{L}$, and the columns $u_0, u_1, \dots, u_{N-1}$ of $\mathbf{U}$ are the associated eigenvectors of $\mathcal{L}$. The graph Fourier transform of a signal is $\hat{f} = \mathbf{U}^{*}f$, and $\hat{g}(\mathcal{L})f = \mathbf{U}\hat{g}(\boldsymbol{\Lambda})\mathbf{U}^{*}f$ filters a graph signal by $\hat{g}(\cdot)$. We use the notation $\mathbf{U}_{\mathcal{R}}$ to denote the submatrix formed by taking the columns of $\mathbf{U}$ associated with the Laplacian eigenvalues indexed by $\mathcal{R} \subseteq \{0, 1, \dots, N-1\}$. Similarly, we use the notation $\mathbf{U}_{\mathcal{S},\mathcal{R}}$ to denote the submatrix formed by taking the rows of $\mathbf{U}_{\mathcal{R}}$ associated with the vertices indexed by the set $\mathcal{S} \subseteq \{1, 2, \dots, N\}$.

We start by constructing an ideal filter bank of M graph spectral filters, where each filter $\hat{h}_m(\lambda)$ is equal to 1 on a subset of the spectrum, and 0 elsewhere. We choose the filters so that for each $\ell \in \{0, 1, \dots, N-1\}$, $\hat{h}_m(\lambda_\ell) = 1$ for exactly one m. Fig. 2 shows an example of such an ideal filter bank. Equivalently, we are forming a partition $\{\mathcal{R}_1, \mathcal{R}_2, \dots, \mathcal{R}_M\}$ of $\{0, 1, \dots, N-1\}$ and setting

$$\hat{h}_m(\lambda_\ell) = \begin{cases} 1, & \text{if } \ell \in \mathcal{R}_m \\ 0, & \text{otherwise} \end{cases}, \ m = 1, 2, \dots, M.$$

The next step, which we discuss in detail in the next section, is to partition the vertex set $\mathcal{V}$ into subsets $\mathcal{V}_1, \mathcal{V}_2, \dots, \mathcal{V}_M$ such that $\mathcal{V}_m$ forms a uniqueness set for $\mathrm{col}(\mathbf{U}_{\mathcal{R}_m})$.

Definition 1 (Uniqueness set [27])**.** *Let $\mathcal{P}$ be a subspace of $\mathbb{R}^n$. Then a subset $\mathcal{V}_s$ of the vertices $\mathcal{V}$ is a uniqueness set for $\mathcal{P}$ if and only if for all $f, g \in \mathcal{P}$, $f_{\mathcal{V}_s} = g_{\mathcal{V}_s}$ implies $f = g$. That is, if two signals in $\mathcal{P}$ have the same values on the vertices in the uniqueness set $\mathcal{V}_s$, then they must be the same signal.*

The following equivalent characterization of a uniqueness set is often useful.

Lemma 1 ([29], [31])**.** *The set $\mathcal{S}$ of k vertices is a uniqueness set for $\mathrm{col}(\mathbf{U}_{\mathcal{T}})$ if and only if the matrix whose columns are $u_{\mathcal{T}_1}, u_{\mathcal{T}_2}, \dots, u_{\mathcal{T}_k}, \delta_{\mathcal{S}_1^c}, \delta_{\mathcal{S}_2^c}, \dots, \delta_{\mathcal{S}_{n-k}^c}$ is nonsingular, where each $\delta_{\mathcal{S}_i^c}$ is a Kronecker delta centered on a vertex not included in S.*

The mth channel of the analysis bank filters the graph signal by an ideal filter on subband $\mathcal{R}_m$, and downsamples the result onto the vertices in $\mathcal{V}_m$. For synthesis, we can interpolate from the samples on $\mathcal{V}_m$ to $\mathrm{col}(\mathbf{U}_{\mathcal{R}_m})$. If there is no error in the coefficients,
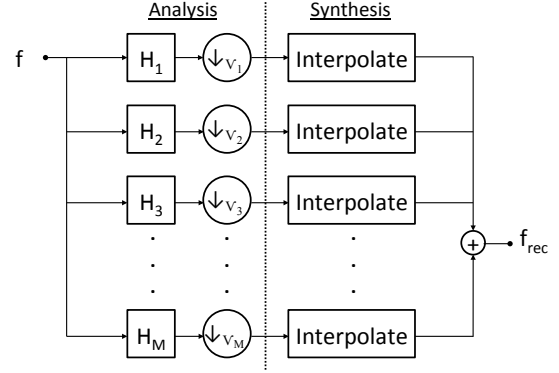

Fig. 3. The M-channel critically sampled filter bank architecture. The sets $\mathcal{V}_1, \mathcal{V}_2, \dots, \mathcal{V}_M$ form a partition of the set $\mathcal{V}$ of vertices, where each set $\mathcal{V}_m$ is a uniqueness set for graph signals supported on a different subband in the spectral domain.

then the reconstruction is perfect, because $\mathcal{V}_m$ is a uniqueness set for $\mathrm{col}(\mathbf{U}_{\mathcal{R}_m})$. Fig. 3 shows the architecture of the proposed M-channel critically sampled filter bank with interpolation on the synthesis side.

3. PARTITIONING THE GRAPH INTO UNIQUENESS SETS FOR DIFFERENT FREQUENCY BANDS

For the easier case of $M = 2$ channels, if a set of vertices is a uniqueness set for the signals contained in a band of spectral frequencies, then the complement set of vertices is a uniqueness set for the set of signals with no energy in that band of spectral frequencies.

Proposition 1. *On a graph $\mathcal{G}$ with N vertices, let $\mathcal{T} \subseteq \{0, 1, \dots, N-1\}$ denote a subset of the graph Laplacian eigenvalue indices, and let $\mathcal{T}^c = \{0, 1, \dots, N-1\} \setminus \mathcal{T}$. Then $\mathcal{S}^c$ is a uniqueness set for $col(\mathbf{U}_{\mathcal{T}^c})$ if and only if $\mathcal{S}$ is a uniqueness set for $col(\mathbf{U}_{\mathcal{T}})$.*

This fact follows from either the CS decomposition [36, Equation (32)]) or the nullity theorem [37, Theorem 2.1]. We also provide a standalone proof in [38] that only requires that the space spanned by the first k columns of $\mathbf{U}$ is orthogonal to the space spanned by the last $N - k$ columns, not that $\mathbf{U}$ is an orthogonal matrix. The Steinitz exchange lemma guarantees that we can find the uniqueness set $\mathcal{S}$ (and thus $\mathcal{S}^c$), and the graph signal processing literature contains methods such as Algorithm 1 of [31] to do so.

The issue with using the methods of Proposition 1 for the case of $M > 2$ is that while the submatrix $\mathbf{U}_{\mathcal{S}^c, \mathcal{T}^c}$ is nonsingular, it is not necessarily orthogonal, and so we cannot proceed with an inductive argument. The following proposition and corollary, whose proofs are included in [38], circumvent this issue by only using the nonsingularity of the original matrix. The proof of Proposition 2 is due to Federico Poloni [39], and we later discovered the same method in [40], [41, Theorem 3.3].

Proposition 2. *Let $\mathbf{A}$ be an $N \times N$ nonsingular matrix, and $\beta = \{\beta_1, \beta_2, \dots, \beta_M\}$ be a partition of $\{1, 2, \dots, N\}$. Then there exists another partition $\alpha = \{\alpha_1, \alpha_2, \dots, \alpha_M\}$ of $\{1, 2, \dots, N\}$ with $|\alpha_i| = |\beta_i|$ for all i such that the M square submatrices $\mathbf{A}_{\alpha_i, \beta_i}$ are all nonsingular.*

Corollary 1. *For any partition $\{\mathcal{R}_1, \mathcal{R}_2, \ldots \mathcal{R}_M\}$ of the graph Laplacian eigenvalue indices $\{0, 1, \ldots, N-1\}$ into M subsets, there exists a partition $\{\mathcal{V}_1, \mathcal{V}_2, \ldots, \mathcal{V}_M\}$ of the graph vertices into M subsets such that for every $m \in \{1, 2, \ldots, M\}$, $|\mathcal{V}_m| = |\mathcal{R}_m|$ and $\mathcal{V}_m$ is a uniqueness set for $\mathrm{col}\,(\mathbf{U}_{\mathcal{R}_m})$.*

Corollary 1 ensures the existence of the desired partition, and the proof of Proposition 2 suggests that we can find it inductively. However, given a partition of the columns of $\mathbf{A}$ into two sets $\mathcal{T}$ and $\mathcal{T}^c$, Proposition 2 does not provide a constructive method to partition the rows of $\mathbf{A}$ into two sets $\mathcal{S}$ and $\mathcal{S}^c$ such that the submatrices $\mathbf{A}_{\mathcal{S},\mathcal{T}}$ and $\mathbf{A}_{\mathcal{S}^c,\mathcal{T}^c}$ are nonsingular. This problem is studied in the more general framework of matroid theory in [41], which gives an algorithm to find the desired row partition into two sets. We summarize this method in Algorithm 1, which takes in a partition $\{\mathcal{R}_1, \mathcal{R}_2, \ldots \mathcal{R}_M\}$ of the spectral indices and constructs the partition $\{\mathcal{V}_1, \mathcal{V}_2, \ldots, \mathcal{V}_M\}$ of the vertices. In Fig. 4, we show two examples of the resulting partitions.

Algorithm 1 Partition the vertices into uniqueness sets for each frequency band

> **Input** $\mathbf{U}$, a partition $\{\mathcal{R}_1, \mathcal{R}_2, \ldots, \mathcal{R}_M\}$
> $\mathcal{S} \leftarrow \emptyset$
> **for** $m = 1, 2, \ldots, M$ **do**
> > Find sets $\gamma_1, \gamma_2 \subset \mathcal{S}^c$ s.t. $\mathbf{U}_{\gamma_1, \mathcal{R}_m}$ and $\mathbf{U}_{\gamma_2, \mathcal{R}_{m+1:M}}$ are nonsingular
> > **while** $\gamma_1 \cap \gamma_2 \neq \emptyset$ **do**
> > > Find a chain of pivots from an element $y \in \mathcal{S}^c \setminus (\gamma_1 \cup \gamma_2)$ to an element $z \in \gamma_1 \cap \gamma_2$ (c.f. [41] for details)
> > > Update γ_1 and γ_2 by carrying out a series of exchanges resulting with y and z each appearing in exactly one of γ_1 or γ_2
> > **end while**
> > $\mathcal{V}_m \leftarrow \gamma_1$
> > $\mathcal{S} \leftarrow \mathcal{S} \cup \gamma_1$
> **end for**
> **Output** the partition $\{\mathcal{V}_1, \mathcal{V}_2, \ldots, \mathcal{V}_M\}$

Remark 1. *While Algorithm 1 always finds a partition into uniqueness sets, such a partition is usually not unique, and the initial choices of γ_i in each loop play a significant role in the final partition. In the numerical experiments in the next section, we use the greedy algorithm in [31, Algorithm 1] to find an initial choice for γ_1, and use row reduction after permuting the complement of γ_1 to the top to find an initial choice for γ_2.*

4. ILLUSTRATIVE EXAMPLES

We can represent the proposed filter bank as an $N \times N$ dictionary matrix $\mathbf{\Phi}$ that maps graph signals to their filter bank analysis coefficients.

4.1. Joint vertex-frequency localization of atoms and example analysis coefficients

We start by empirically showing that the dictionary atoms (the columns of $\mathbf{\Phi}$) are jointly localized in the vertex and graph spectral domains. On the Stanford bunny graph [43] with 2503 vertices, we partition the spectrum into five bands, and show the resulting partition into uniqueness sets in Fig. 6(c). The first row of Fig. 5 shows
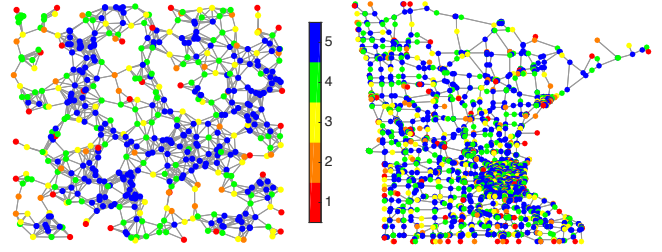

Fig. 4. Partitions of a 500 node random sensor network and the Minnesota road network [42] into uniqueness sets for five different spectral bands, with the indices increasing from lowpass bands (1) to highpass bands (5).

five different example atoms whose energy is concentrated on different spectral bands. We see that these atoms are generally localized in the vertex domain as well. Some atoms such as the one shown at wavelet scale 3 are more spread in the vertex domain, possibly as a result of using ideal filters in the filter bank. The second row of Fig. 5 shows the spectral content of all atoms in each band, with the average for each represented by a thick black line. As expected, the energies of the atoms are localized in the spectral domain as well. While the transform is not orthogonal, each atom is orthogonal to all atoms concentrated on other spectral bands. One possible extension is to find a fast algorithm to orthogonalize the atoms within each band. Note also that the wavelet atoms at all scales have mean zero, as they have no energy at eigenvalue zero.

Next we apply the proposed transform to a piecewise-smooth graph signal f that is shown in the vertex domain in Fig. 6(a), and in the graph spectral domain in Fig. 6(b). The full set of analysis coefficients is shown in Fig. 6(d), and these are separated by band in the third row of Fig. 5. We see that with the exception of the lowpass channel, the coefficients are clustered around the two main discontinuities (around the midsection and tail of the bunny). The bottom row of Fig. 5 shows the interpolation of these coefficients onto the corresponding spectral bands, and if we sum these reconstructions together, we recover exactly the original signal in Fig. 6(a).

4.2. Sparse approximation

Next, we compress a piecewise-smooth graph signal f via the sparse coding optimization

$$\underset{x}{\mathrm{argmin}} \, ||f - \mathbf{\Phi}x||_2^2 \quad \text{subject to } ||x||_0 \leq T, \qquad (1)$$

where T is a predefined sparsity level. After first normalizing the atoms of various critically-sampled dictionaries, we use the greedy orthogonal matching pursuit (OMP) algorithm [44, 45] to approximately solve (1). For the M-channel filter bank, the partition into uniqueness sets is shown in Fig. 4, and the filter bank is shown in Fig. 2. We show the reconstruction errors in Fig. 7(d).

5. ONGOING WORK

Our ongoing work, which is discussed in more detail in [38], includes investigating (i) computational approximations for identifying uniqueness sets and performing interpolation, in order to improve the scalability of the proposed transform; (ii) the role of the initial choice of the γ_i's in Algorithm 1 in improving the robustness
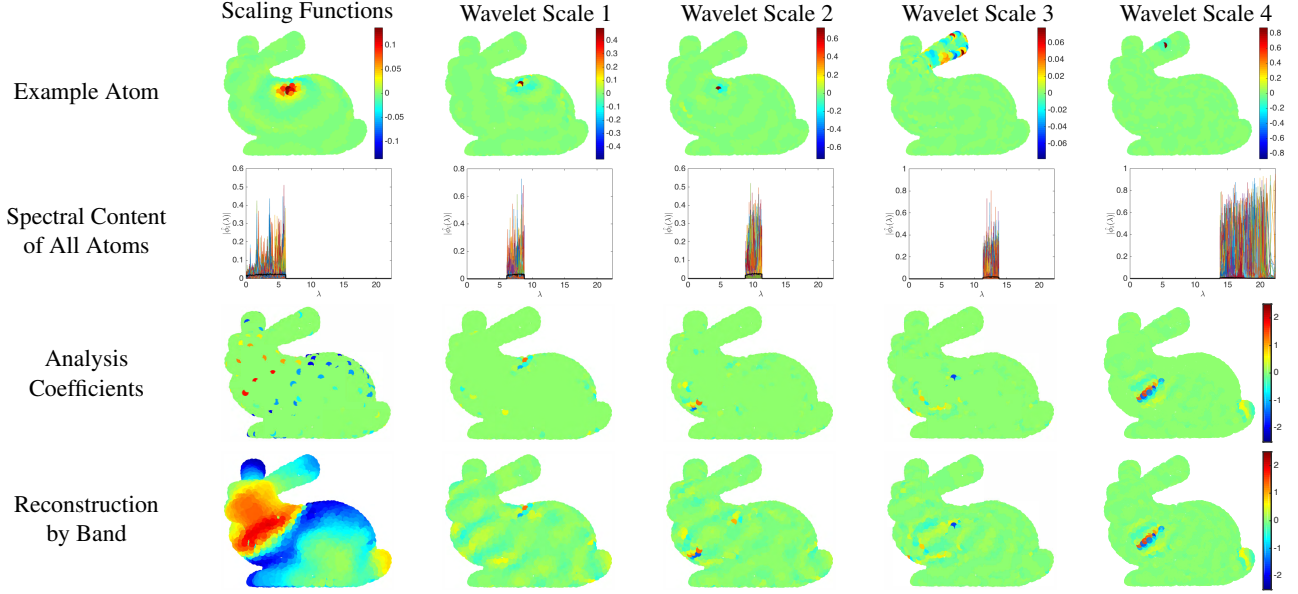
Fig. 5. M-channel filter bank example. The first row shows example atoms in the vertex domain. The second row shows all atoms in the spectral domain, with an average of the atoms in each band shown by the thick black lines. The third row shows the analysis coefficients of Fig. 6(d) by band, and the last row is the interpolation by band from those coefficients.
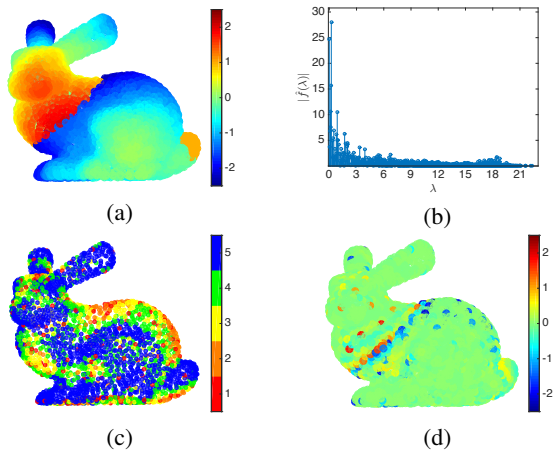

Fig. 6. (a)-(b) Piecewise smooth signal on the Stanford bunny graph [43] in the vertex and graph spectral domains, respectively. (c) Partition of the graph into uniqueness sets for five different spectral bands. (d) M-channel filter bank analysis coefficients of the signal shown in (a) and (b).

of the reconstruction to noisy or thresholded filter bank coefficients; (iii) how iterating the filter bank with fewer channels at each step compares to a single filter bank with more channels and each filter supported on a smaller region of the spectrum; and (iv) a formal characterization of the relationships between the decay of the analysis coefficients under the proposed transform and different properties of graph signals, as well as the underlying graph structure.
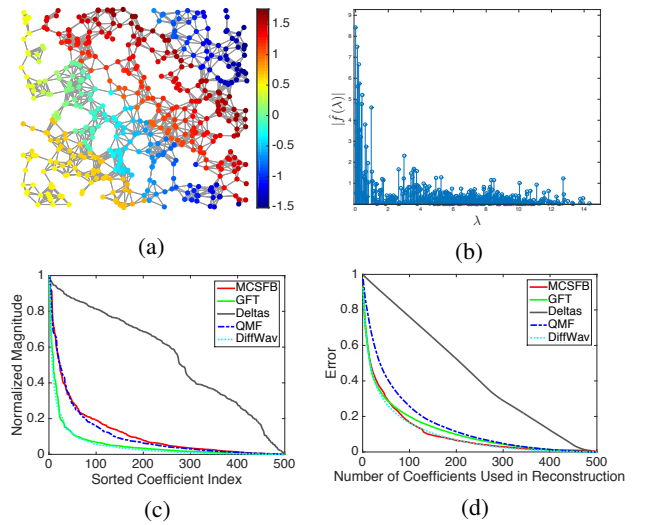

Fig. 7. Compression example. (a)-(b) Piecewise-smooth signal from [25, Fig. 11] in the vertex and graph spectral domains. (c) The normalized sorted magnitudes of the transform coefficients for the proposed M-channel critically sampled filter bank, the graph Fourier transform, the basis of Kronecker deltas, the quadrature mirror filterbank [14], and the diffusion wavelet transform [8]. (d) The reconstruction errors $\frac{\left\| f_{\text{reconstruction}} - f \right\|_2}{\|f\|_2}$, as a function of the sparsity threshold T in (1).

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