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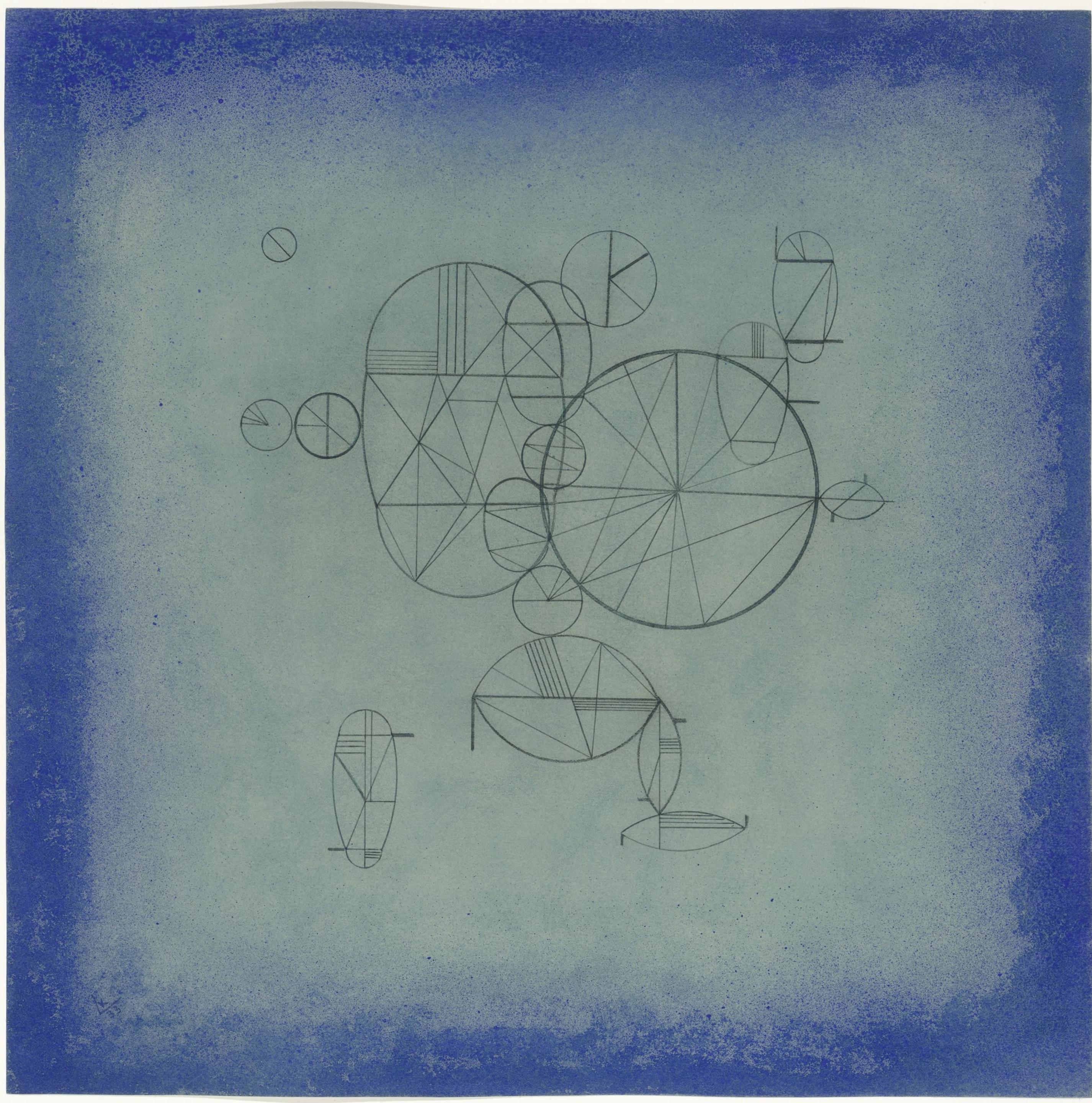


Image Credits:  
Wassily Kandinsky -  
Round poetry 1933

# Multiway $p$ -Spectral Clustering on Grassmann Manifolds

D. Pasadakis, C. L. Alappat,  
O. Schenk, G. Wellein

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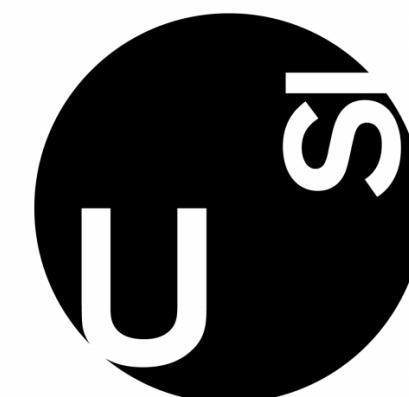
D. Pasadakis<sup>1</sup>, C.L. Alappat<sup>2</sup>, O. Schenk<sup>1</sup>, G. Wellein<sup>2</sup>

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Institute of Computing

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Università  
della  
Svizzera  
italiana

Institute of  
Computing  
CI



May 17, 2021

## 2-norm Definitions

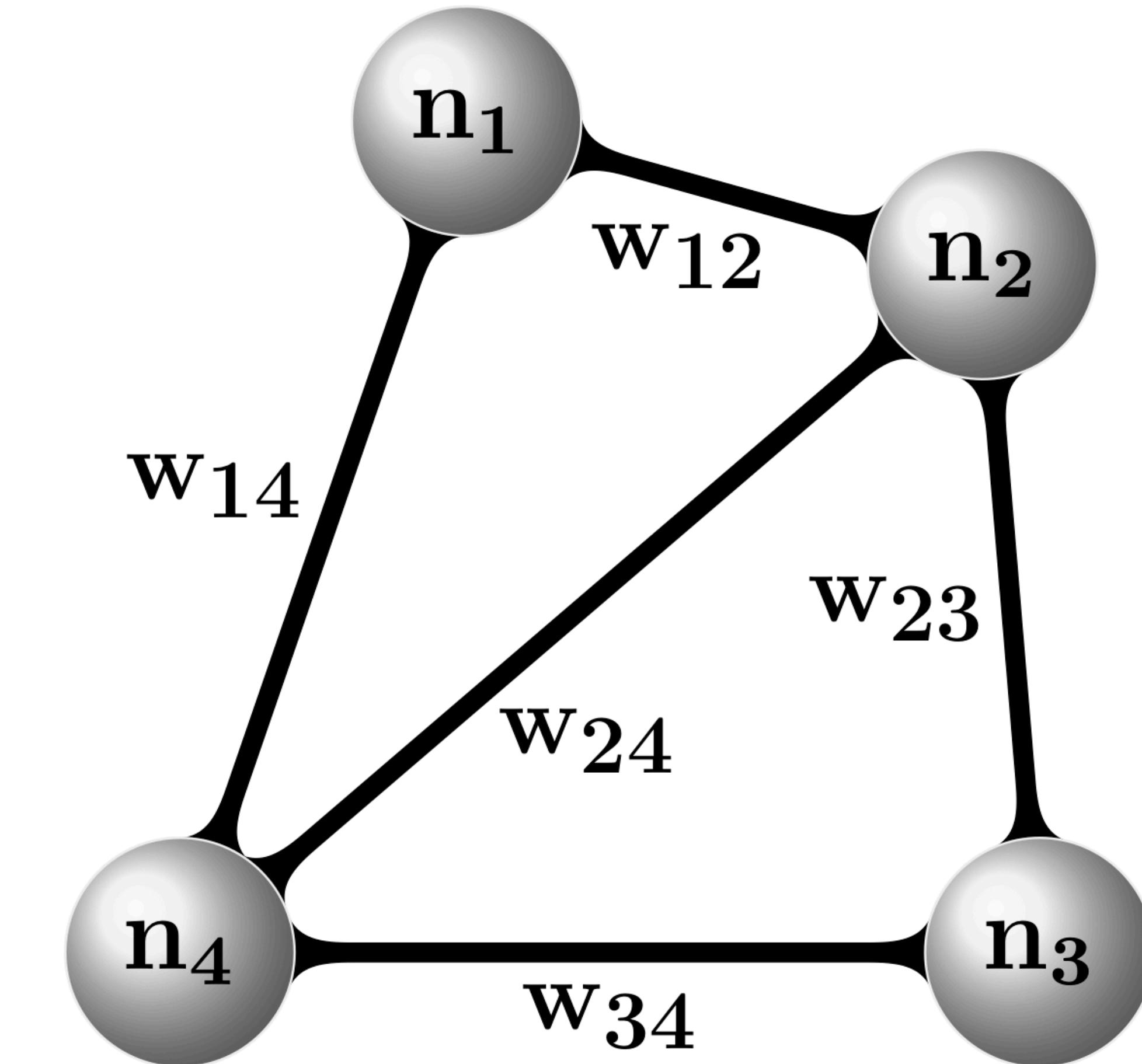
For a graph  $\mathcal{G}(V, E, W)$

- Adjacency:  $W \in \mathbb{R}^{n \times n}$ , Degree:  $D \in \mathbb{R}^{n \times n}$ .
- Graph Laplacian:  $\Delta_2 \in \mathbb{R}^{n \times n}$ .

$$W = \begin{bmatrix} 0 & w_{12} & 0 & w_{14} \\ w_{12} & 0 & w_{23} & w_{24} \\ 0 & w_{23} & 0 & w_{34} \\ w_{14} & w_{24} & w_{34} & 0 \end{bmatrix}, \quad d_{ii} = \begin{bmatrix} \sum_j w_{1j} \\ \sum_j w_{2j} \\ \sum_j w_{3j} \\ \sum_j w_{4j} \end{bmatrix}.$$

$$\Delta_2 = D - W,$$

$$\lambda_1 \leq \lambda_2 \leq \dots \leq \lambda_n, \lambda_1 = 0, \mathbf{v}^{(1)} = c \cdot \mathbf{e}.$$



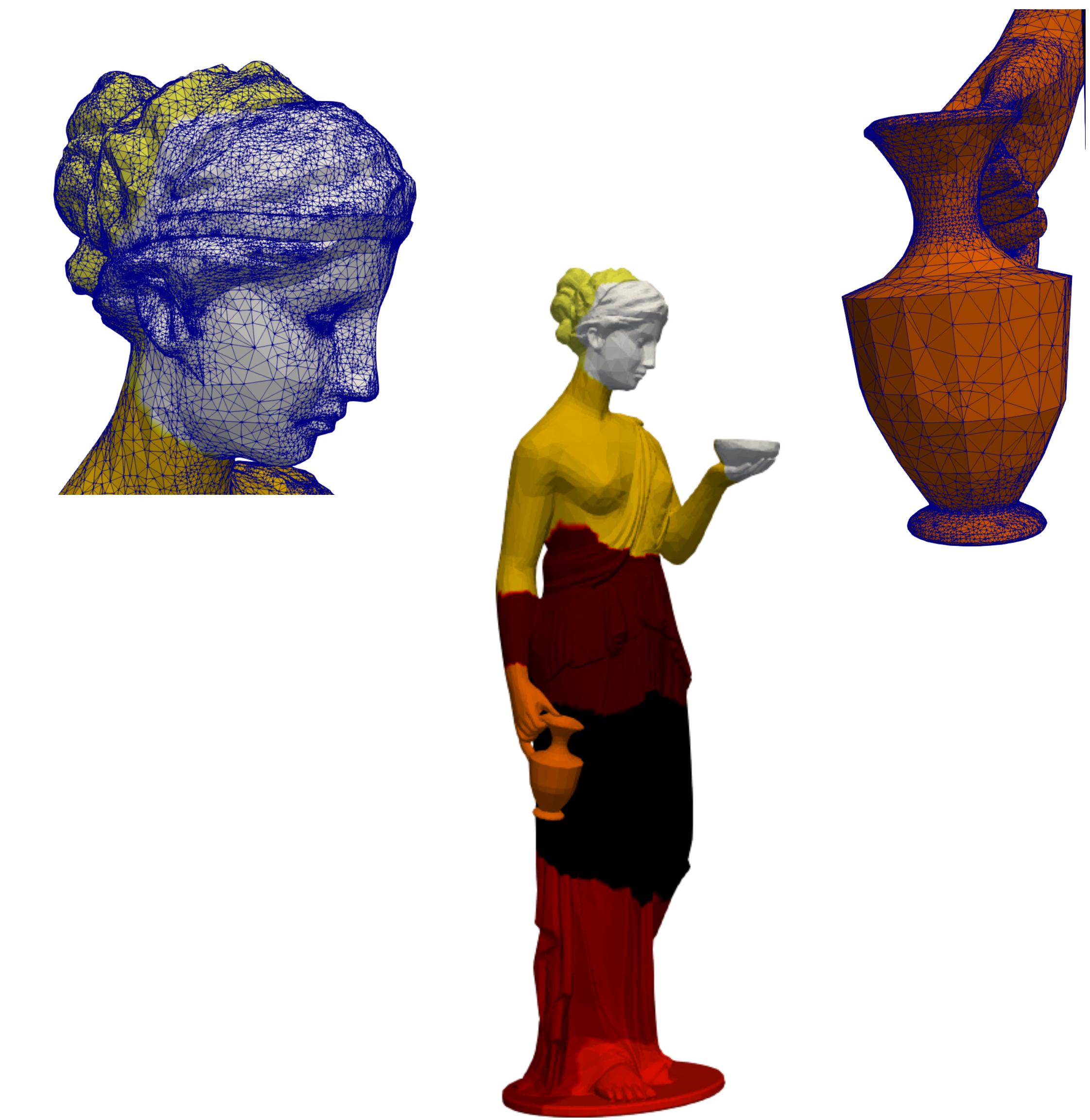
## Balanced Cut Metrics - Multiway

For subsets  $C_1, \dots, C_k$

- $\text{cut}(C, \bar{C}) = \sum_{i \in C, j \in \bar{C}} w_{ij}$
- $\text{vol}(C) = \sum_{i \in C} d_{ii}$
- Minimize the balanced cut criteria

$$\text{RCut}(C_1, \dots, C_k) = \sum_{i=1}^k \frac{\text{cut}(C_i, \bar{C}_i)}{|C_i|}$$

$$\text{NCut}(C_1, \dots, C_k) = \sum_{i=1}^k \frac{\text{cut}(C_i, \bar{C}_i)}{\text{vol}(C_i)}$$



# $p$ -norm Definitions

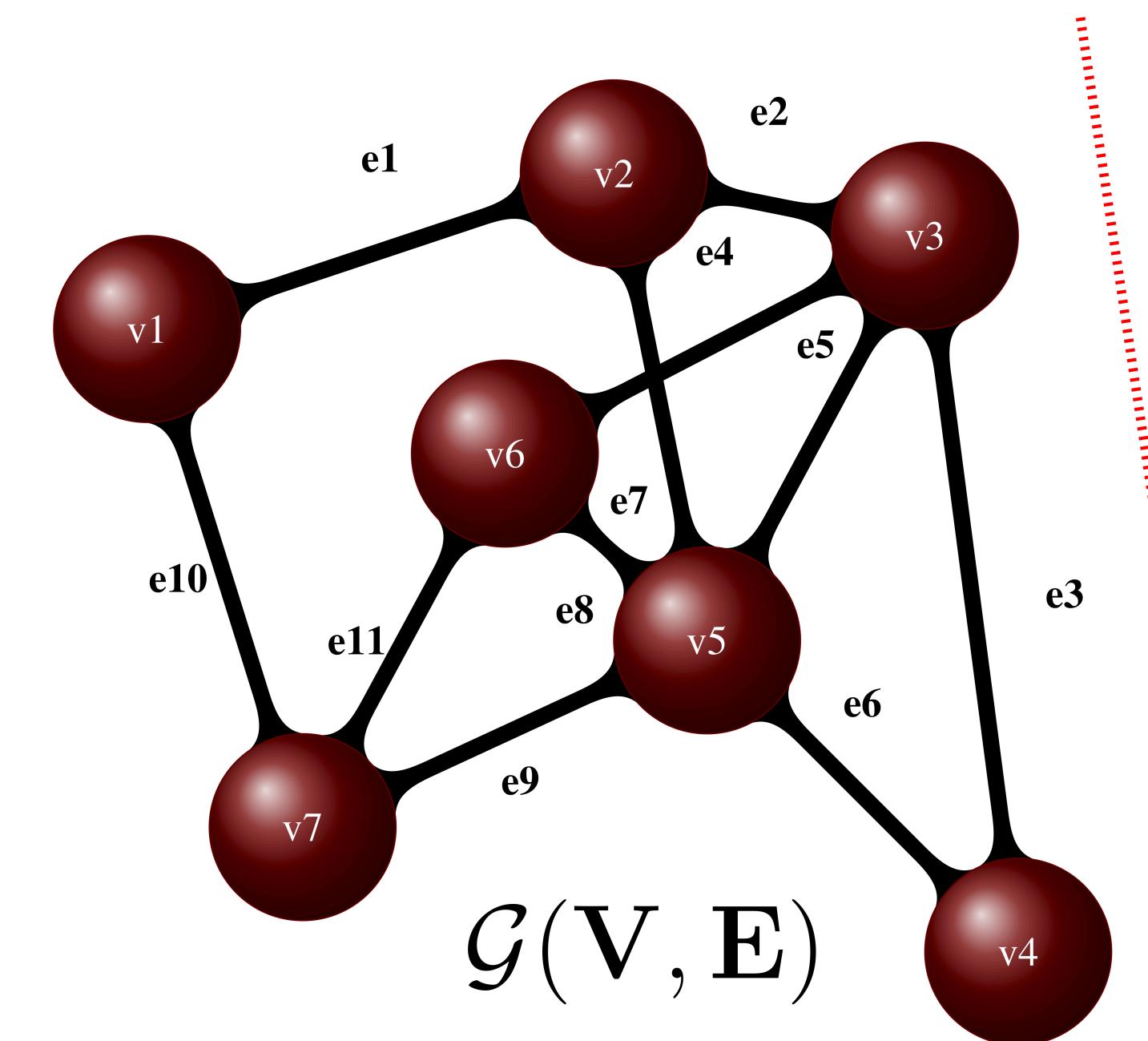
For a graph  $\mathcal{G}(V, E, W)$ ,  $p \in (1, 2]$

- $\phi_p(x) = |x|^{p-1} \text{sign}(x)$ ,
- $p$ -norm:  $\|\mathbf{u}\|_p = \sqrt[p]{\sum_{i=1}^n |u_i|^p}$ .

- \*  $p$ -eigenspectrum:  $(\Delta_p \mathbf{v})_i = \lambda_p \phi_p(v_i)$ ,
- \*  $\lambda_p^{(1)} = 0 \rightarrow \# \text{ of conn. components}$ ,
- \*  $\mathbf{v}_p^{(1)} = c \cdot \mathbf{e}$ ,
- \*  $\text{cut} \leq \text{pcut} \leq p (\max_{i \in V} d_{ii})^{\frac{p-1}{p}} (\text{cut})^{\frac{1}{p}}$ .

For a node  $i \in V$

$$(\Delta_p \mathbf{u})_i = \sum_{j \in V} w_{ij} \phi_p(u_i - u_j)$$



# $p$ -norm Definitions

For a graph  $\mathcal{G}(V, E, W)$ ,  $p \in (1, 2]$

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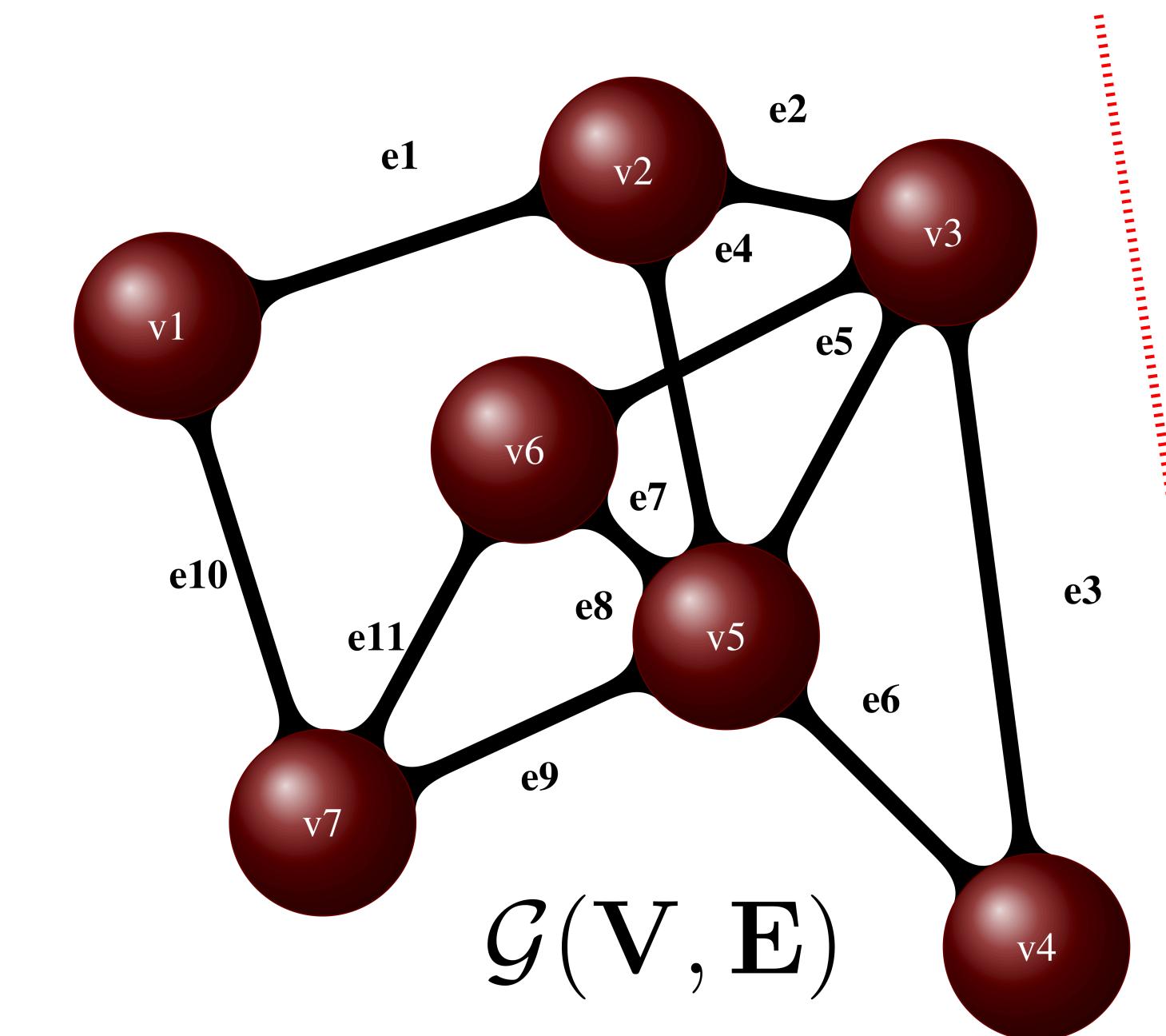
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$$(\Delta_p \mathbf{u})_i = \sum_{j \in V} w_{ij} \phi_p(u_i - u_j)$$

Gajewski & Gärtner, 2001  
Amghibech, 2006  
Bühler & Hein, 2009



# Spectral Direct Multiway Clustering

Avoid

- lack of global information, and
- dependency on first recursive steps.

## 2-Laplacian

$$\min_{\mathbf{U} \in \mathbb{R}^{n \times k}} F_2(\mathbf{U}) = \text{Tr} \left( \mathbf{U}^\top \Delta_2 \mathbf{U} \right),$$

$$\text{s.t. } \mathbf{U}^\top \mathbf{U} = \mathbf{I}.$$

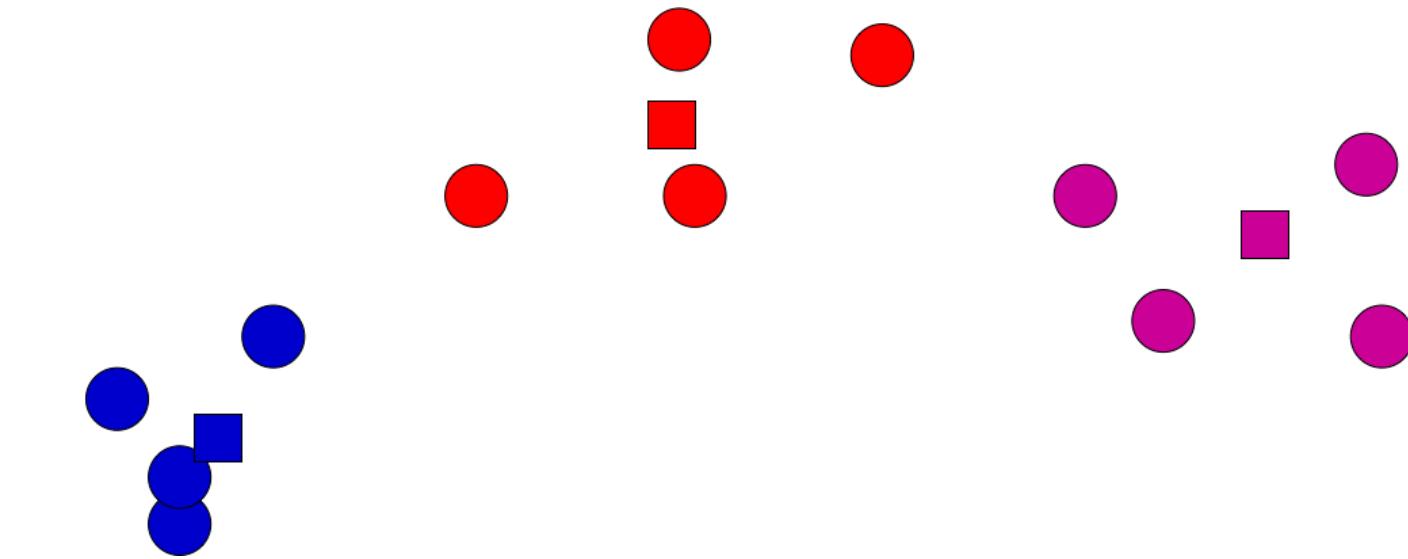
	$\mathbf{u}_1$	$\dots$	$\mathbf{u}_k$
$\mathbf{U}_1$	$u_{11}$	$\dots$	$u_{1k}$
$\vdots$	$\vdots$	$\dots$	$\vdots$
$\mathbf{U}_n$	$u_{n1}$	$\dots$	$u_{nk}$

⇒ Dimensionality reduction:  $n \times n \rightarrow n \times k$

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## 2-Laplacian

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$\vdots$	$\vdots$	$\dots$	$\vdots$
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# $p$ -Spectral Direct Multiway Clustering

Combine benefits from

- sparse solution vectors,
- proven optimal cuts (unweighted path graphs),
- global information.

$p$ -Laplacian,  $p \in (1, 2]$

$$\min_{\mathbf{U} \in \mathbb{R}^{n \times k}} F_p(\mathbf{U}) = \sum_{l=1}^k \sum_{ij} \frac{w_{ij}|u_i^l - u_j^l|^p}{2\|\mathbf{u}^l\|_p^p}$$

$$\text{s.t. } \sum_{i=1}^n \phi_p(u_i^l) \phi_p(u_i^m) = 0 \quad \forall l \neq m, \quad p \in (1, 2], \quad l \in [1, k], \quad m \in [1, k].$$

$$\begin{array}{c|ccccccccc} & u_1^p & \cdots & u_k^p & & & & & & \\ \hline U_1 & u_{11}^p & \cdots & u_{1k}^p & & & & & & \\ \vdots & \vdots & \ddots & \vdots & & & & & & \\ U_n & u_{n1}^p & \cdots & u_{nk}^p & & & & & & \end{array}$$

# $p$ -Spectral Direct Multiway Clustering

Combine benefits from

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- global information.

**Bresson et al., 2013**

**Rangapuram et al., 2014**

**Tudisco & Hein, 2017**

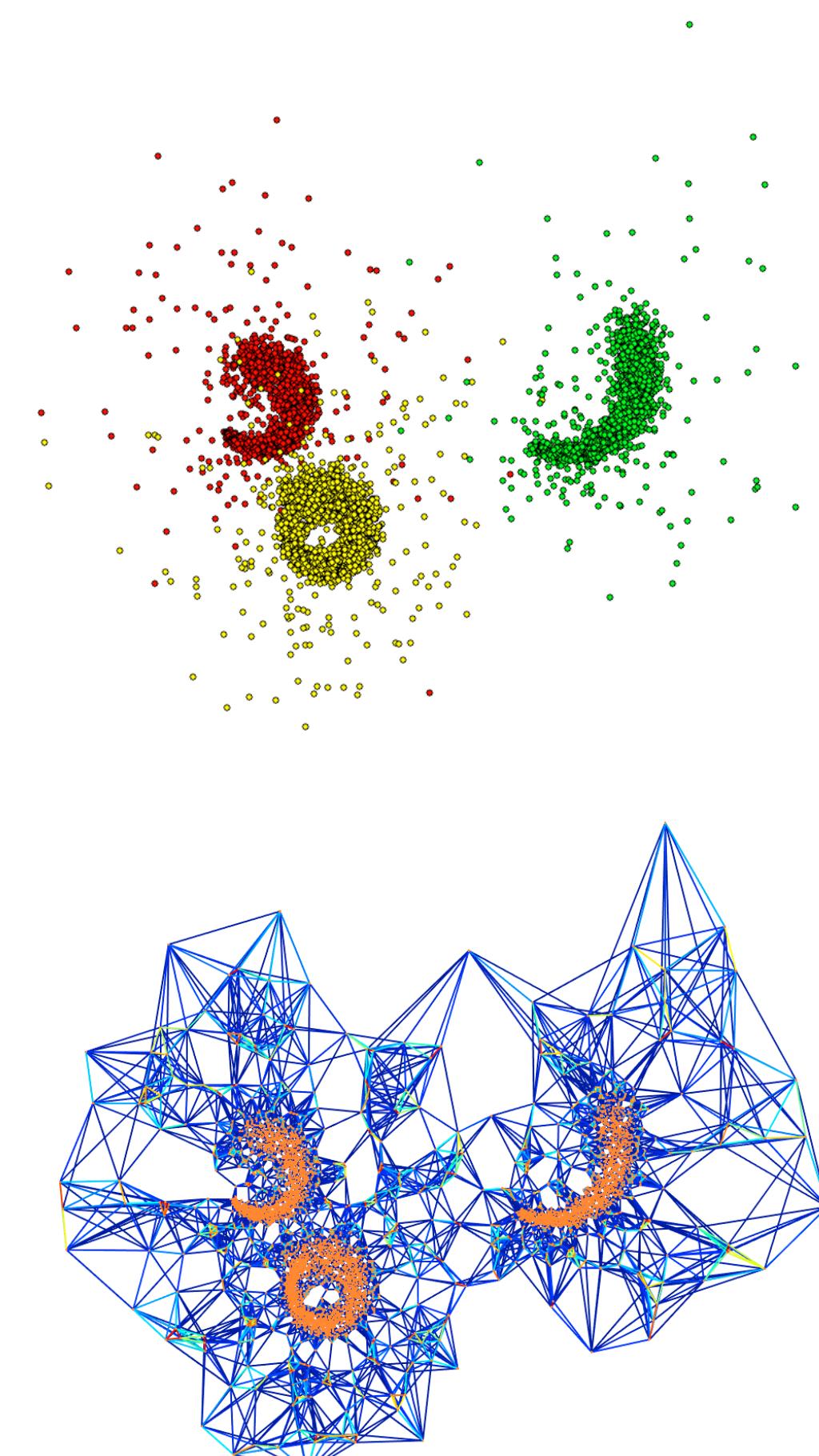
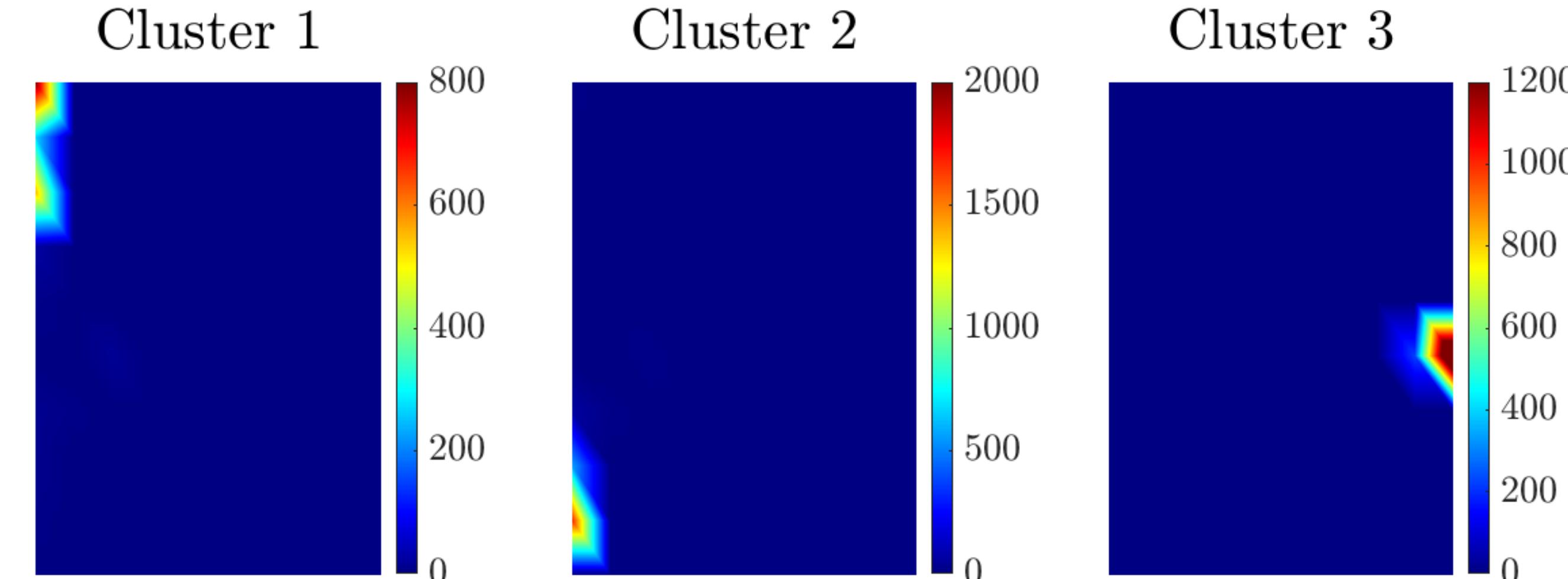
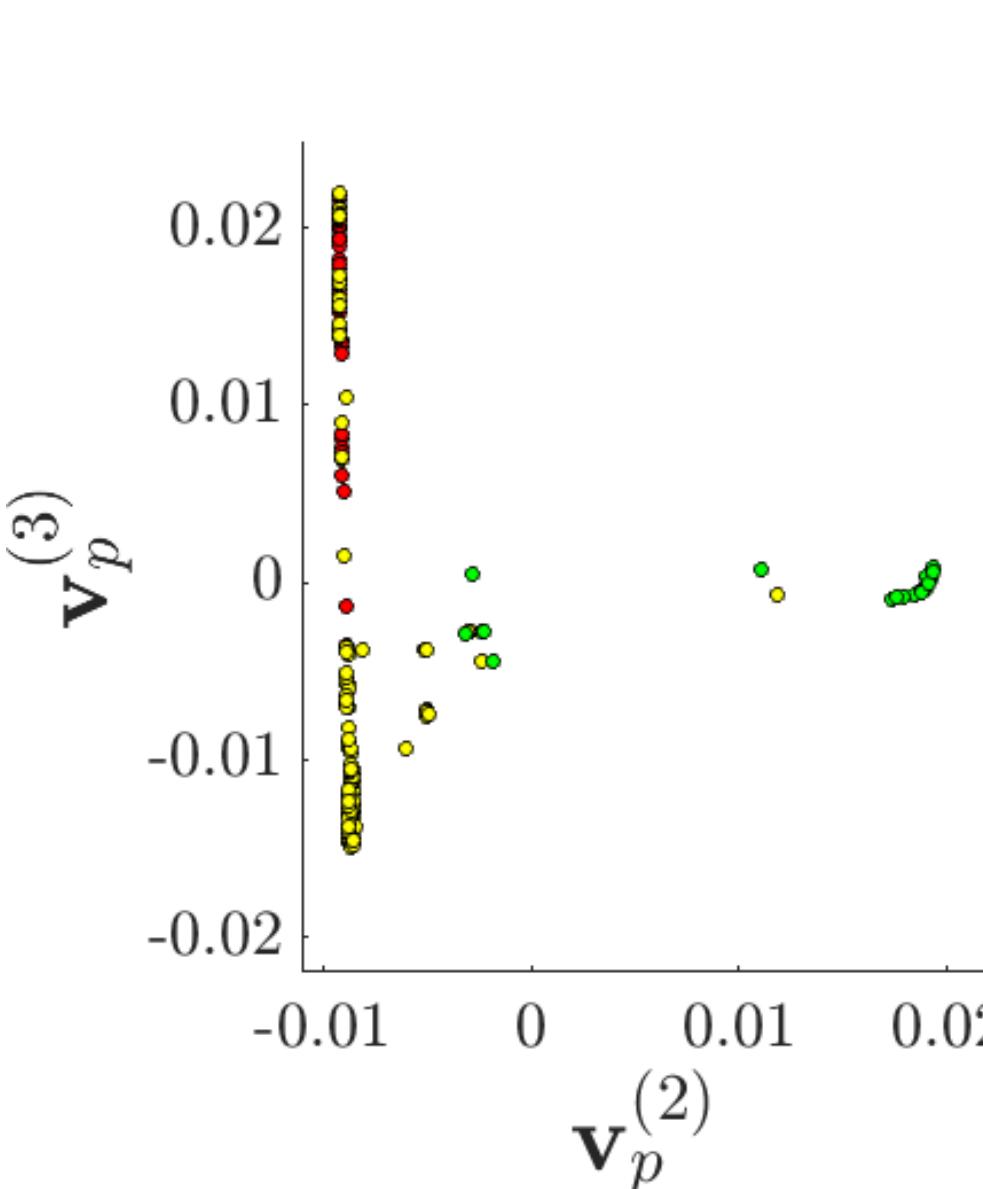
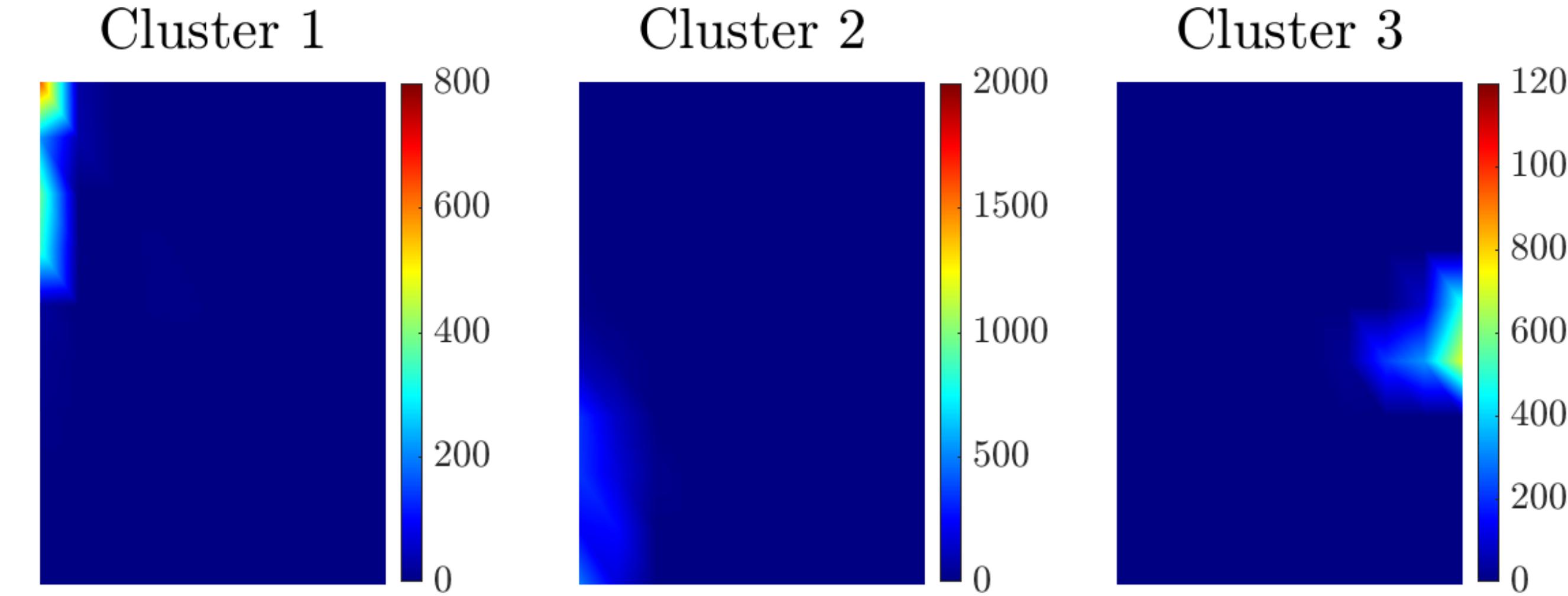
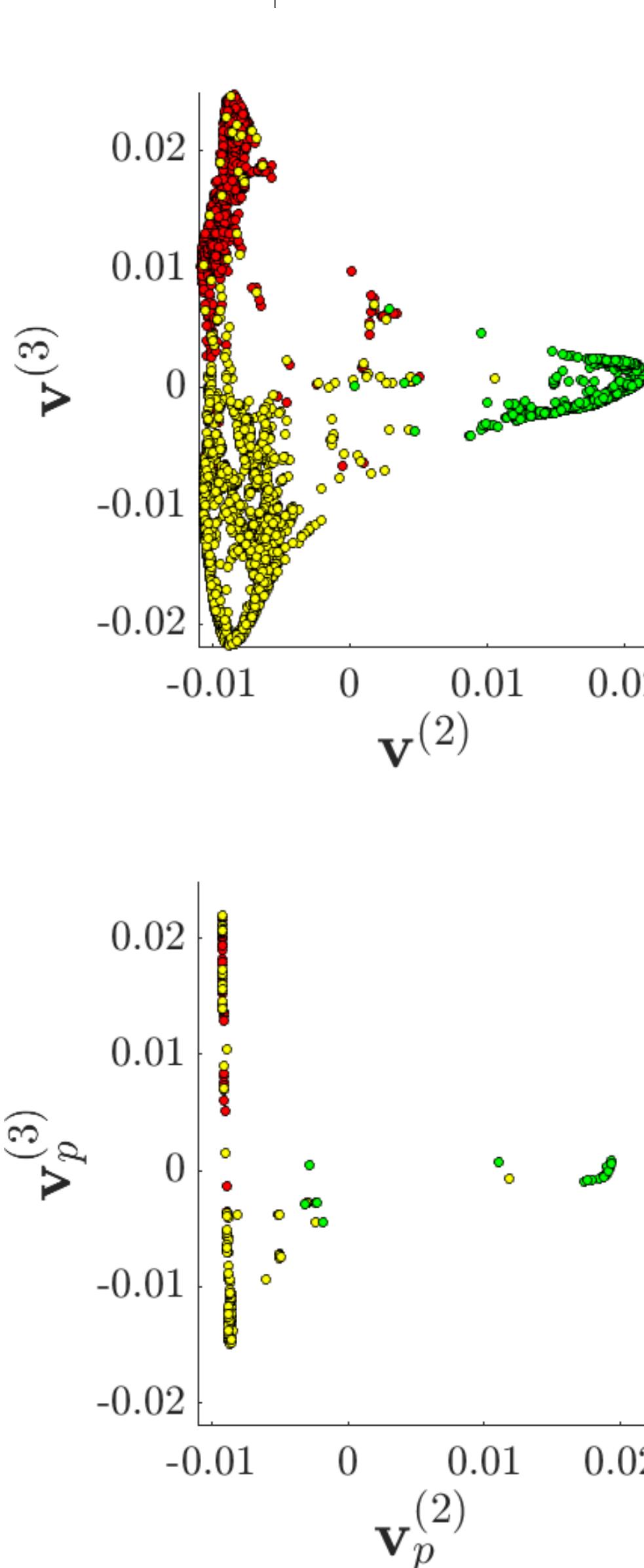
$p$ -Laplacian,  $p \in (1, 2]$

$$\min_{\mathbf{U} \in \mathbb{R}^{n \times k}} F_p(\mathbf{U}) = \sum_{l=1}^k \sum_{ij} \frac{w_{ij} |u_i^l - u_j^l|^p}{2 \|\mathbf{u}^l\|_p^p}$$

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	$\mathbf{u}_1^p$	$\dots$	$\mathbf{u}_k^p$
$\mathbf{U}_1$	$u_{11}^p$	$\dots$	$u_{1k}^p$
$\vdots$	$\vdots$	$\dots$	$\vdots$
$\mathbf{U}_n$	$u_{n1}^p$	$\dots$	$u_{nk}^p$

# $p$ -spectral embeddings



**worms dataset**

$p = 1.2$

nodes = 3200

edges = 19319

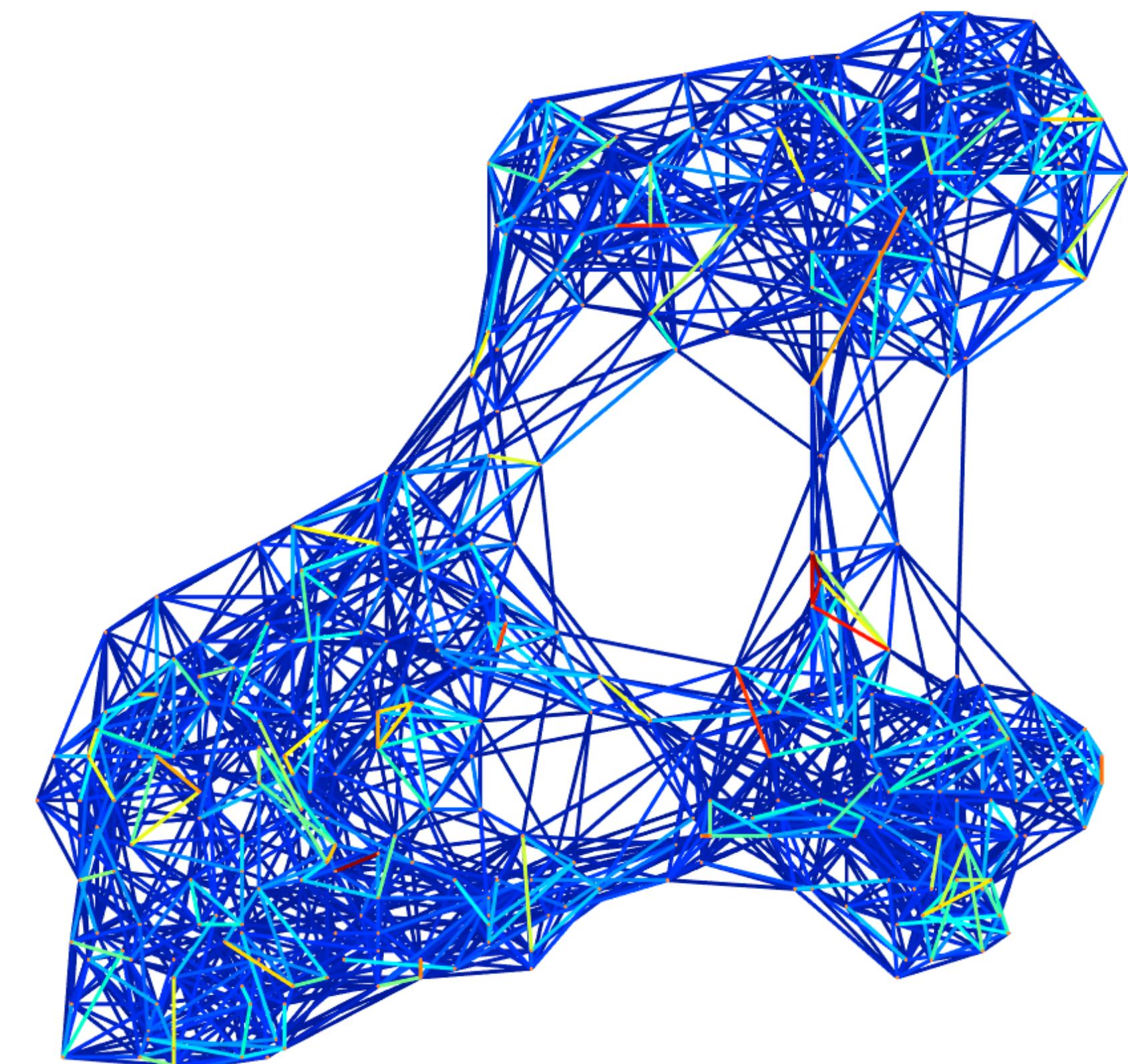
# Utilizing the Manifold

- $p$ -orthogonality  $\Rightarrow$  intractable optimization problem  $\Rightarrow$  consider  $\mathbf{U}^\top \mathbf{U} = \mathbf{I}$ . **Luo et al., 2010**

## Preserving mutual orthogonality

$$\begin{aligned}\mathcal{St}(k, n) &= \{\mathbf{U} \in \mathbb{R}^{n \times k} \mid \mathbf{U}^\top \mathbf{U} = \mathbf{I}\}, \\ \mathcal{Gr}(k, n) &\simeq \mathcal{St}(k, n)/\mathcal{O}(k) \\ &= \{\text{span}(\mathbf{U}) : \mathbf{U} \in \mathbb{R}^{n \times k}, \mathbf{U}^\top \mathbf{U} = \mathbf{I}\}.\end{aligned}$$

- \*  $\mathcal{St}(k, n)$   $\Rightarrow$  unique choice of  $\mathbf{U}$   $\Rightarrow$  identifiability issue, local minima problem.



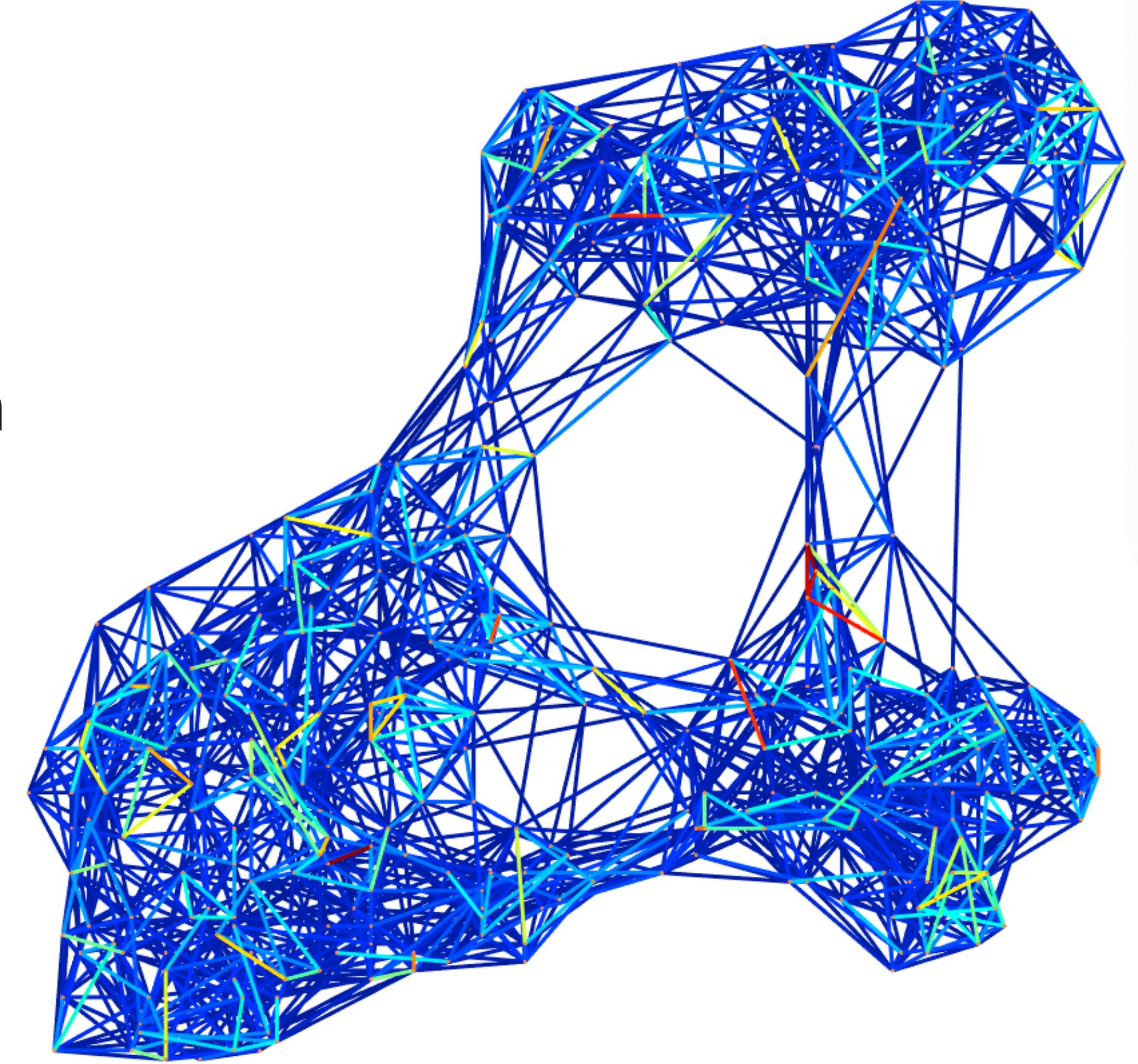
# Utilizing the Manifold

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**Ecoli graph**

nodes = 336

edges = 2280

# Utilizing the Manifold

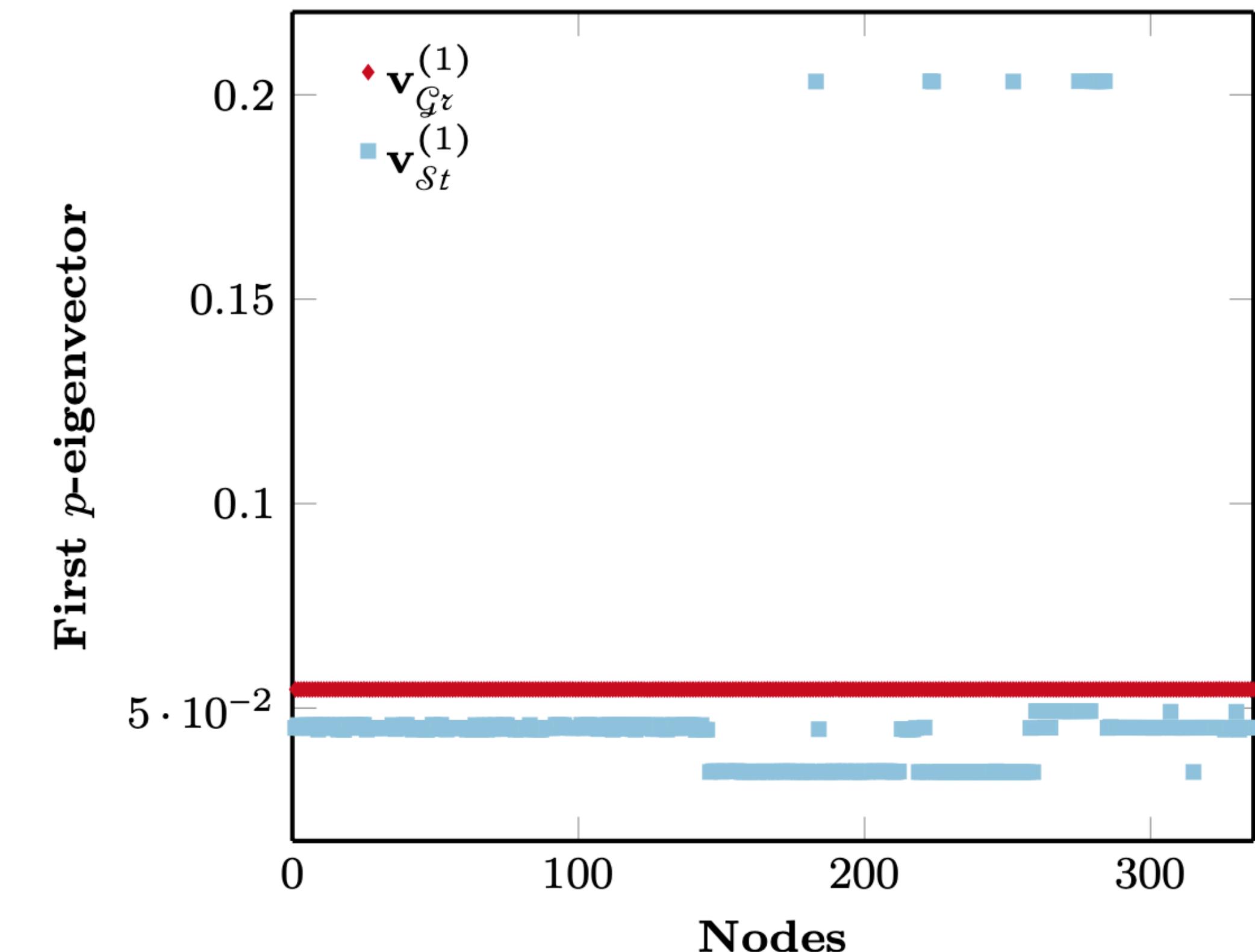
- $p$ -orthogonality  $\Rightarrow$  intractable optimization problem  $\Rightarrow$  consider  $\mathbf{U}^\top \mathbf{U} = \mathbf{I}$ .

## Preserving mutual orthogonality

$$\begin{aligned}\mathcal{S}t(k, n) &= \{\mathbf{U} \in \mathbb{R}^{n \times k} \mid \mathbf{U}^\top \mathbf{U} = \mathbf{I}\}, \\ \mathcal{G}\mathcal{r}(k, n) &\simeq \mathcal{S}t(k, n)/\mathcal{O}(k) \\ &= \{\text{span}(\mathbf{U}) : \mathbf{U} \in \mathbb{R}^{n \times k}, \mathbf{U}^\top \mathbf{U} = \mathbf{I}\}.\end{aligned}$$

\*  $\mathcal{G}\mathcal{r}(k, n)$   $\Rightarrow$  non unique choice of  $\mathbf{U}$ ,

$$\mathbf{U}^{\mathcal{G}\mathcal{r}} = \{\mathbf{U}\mathbf{Q} \mid \forall \mathbf{Q} \in \mathcal{O}(k)\}, \quad \mathbf{U} \in \mathbb{R}^{n \times k}, \quad n \gg k.$$



## Ecoli 1st eigenvectors

# Utilizing the Manifold

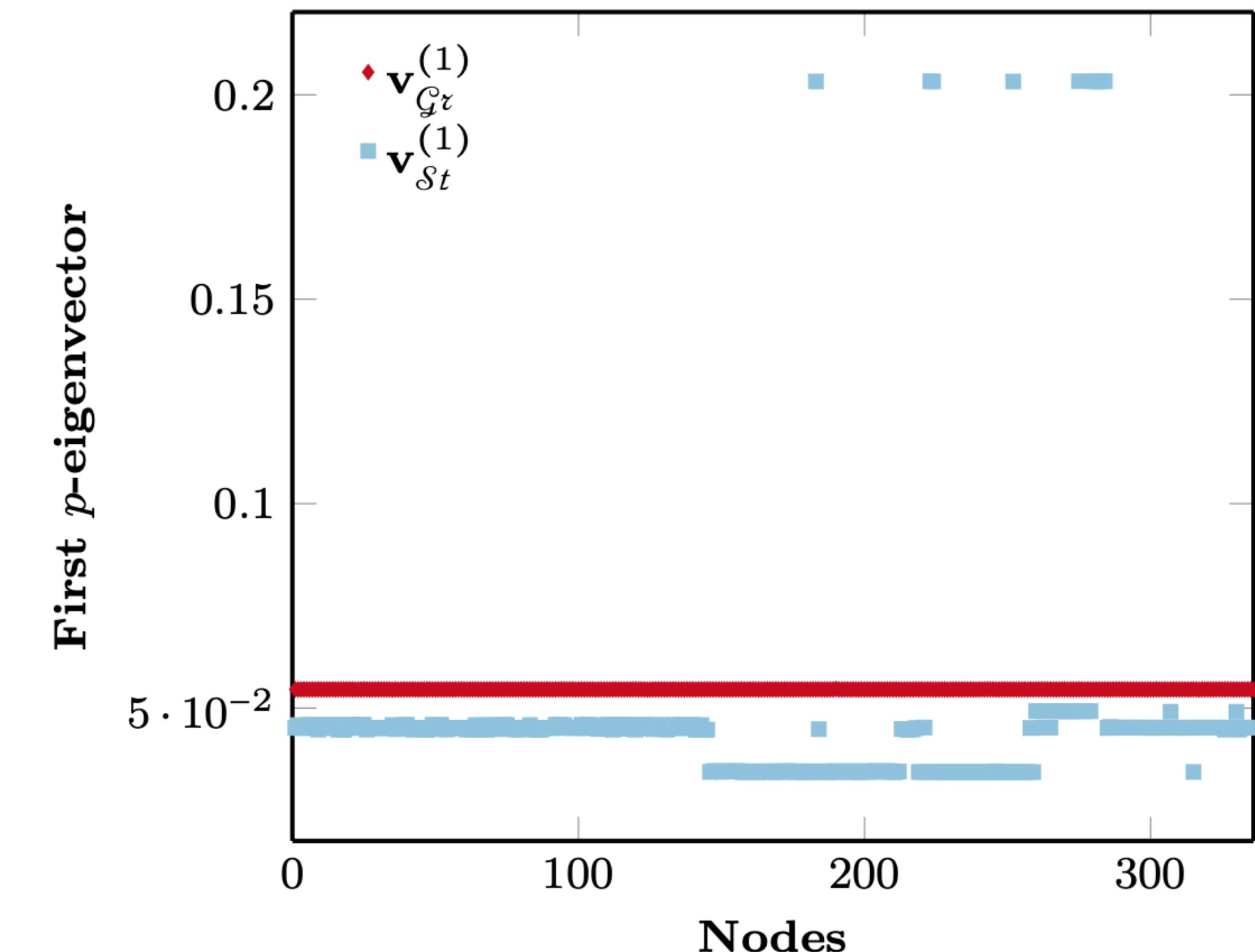
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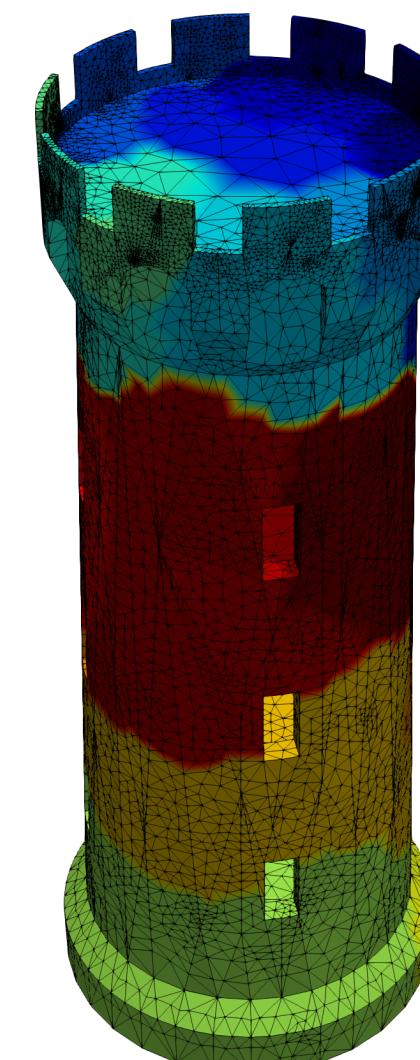
## Ecoli 1st eigenvectors

# pGrassmann Spectral Clustering

## Unconstrained optimization problem

$$\min_{\mathbf{U} \in \mathcal{G}\mathcal{r}(k,n)} F_p(\mathbf{U}) = \sum_l^k \sum_{ij}^N \frac{w_{ij} |u_i^l - u_j^l|^p}{2 \|\mathbf{u}^l\|_p^p}, \quad p \in (1, 2].$$

- cluster indices  $l, m = 1, 2, \dots, k$ ,
- $k$  predetermined for this work.



## ALGORITHM: main pGrass loop

```
1 Initialize:  $\mathbf{c}$ ,  $r_{\text{new,old,best}} = \text{Cut}(\mathbf{c})$   $\triangleright p = 2$ 
2 while  $p \geq p_w$   $\&\&$   $r_{\text{new}} \leq 1.05 \cdot r_{\text{old}}$  do
3   Reduce  $p$ 
4   Find  $\mathbf{U}$ : minimize  $F_p(\mathbf{U})$  using  $\mathbf{W}$   $\mathbf{U} \in \mathcal{G}\mathcal{r}(k,n)$ 
5    $\mathbf{c} = \text{discretize}(\mathbf{U})$ 
6    $r_{\text{old}} = r_{\text{new}}$ 
7    $r_{\text{new}} = \text{Cut}(\mathbf{c})$ 
8   if  $r_{\text{new}} < r_{\text{best}}$  then
9      $r_{\text{best}} = r_{\text{new}}$ 
10     $\mathbf{c}_{\text{best}} = \mathbf{c}$ 
11 end if
12 end while
```

# Key Algorithmic Components

## Minimization on the manifold

- Software package ROPTLIB.
- Newton's method, truncated CG for the linear steps.
- Inputs: Euclidean gradient ( $\mathbf{g}^k$ ) and Hessian.
- Converges if:  $\|\mathbf{g}_m^k\|/\|\mathbf{g}_0^k\| < 10^{-6}$ .

► <https://github.com/whuang08/ROPTLIB>

Huang et al., 2018

## ALGORITHM: main pGrass loop

```
1 Initialize:  $\mathbf{c}, \mathbf{r}_{\text{new}, \text{old}, \text{best}} = \text{Cut}(\mathbf{c})$   $\triangleright p = 2$ 
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3   Reduce  $p$ 
4   Find  $\mathbf{U}$ :  $\underset{\mathbf{U} \in \mathcal{G}(k, n)}{\text{minimize}} F_p(\mathbf{U})$  using  $\mathbf{W}$ 
5    $\mathbf{c} = \text{discretize}(\mathbf{U})$ 
6    $\mathbf{r}_{\text{old}} = \mathbf{r}_{\text{new}}$ 
7    $\mathbf{r}_{\text{new}} = \text{Cut}(\mathbf{c})$ 
8   if  $\mathbf{r}_{\text{new}} < \mathbf{r}_{\text{best}}$  then
9      $\mathbf{r}_{\text{best}} = \mathbf{r}_{\text{new}}$ 
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# Key Algorithmic Components

## Monitor monotonic descent

- Discrete objective (RCut, NCut).
- Experiments on synthetic datasets.

$$\text{RCut}(C_1, \dots, C_k) = \sum_{i=1}^k \frac{\text{cut}(C_i, \bar{C}_i)}{|C_i|}$$

$$\text{NCut}(C_1, \dots, C_k) = \sum_{i=1}^k \frac{\text{cut}(C_i, \bar{C}_i)}{\text{vol}(C_i)}$$

---

## ALGORITHM: main pGrass loop

---

```
1 Initialize:  $\mathbf{c}, r_{\text{new},\text{old},\text{best}} = \text{Cut}(\mathbf{c})$   $\triangleright p = 2$ 
2 while  $p \geq p_w$   $\&\&$   $r_{\text{new}} \leq 1.05 \cdot r_{\text{old}}$  do
3   Reduce  $p$ 
4   Find  $\mathbf{U}$ : minimize  $F_p(\mathbf{U})$  using  $\mathbf{W}_{\mathbf{U} \in \mathcal{G}^r(k,n)}$ 
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10     $\mathbf{c}_{\text{best}} = \mathbf{c}$ 
11 end if
12 end while
```

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# Key Algorithmic Components

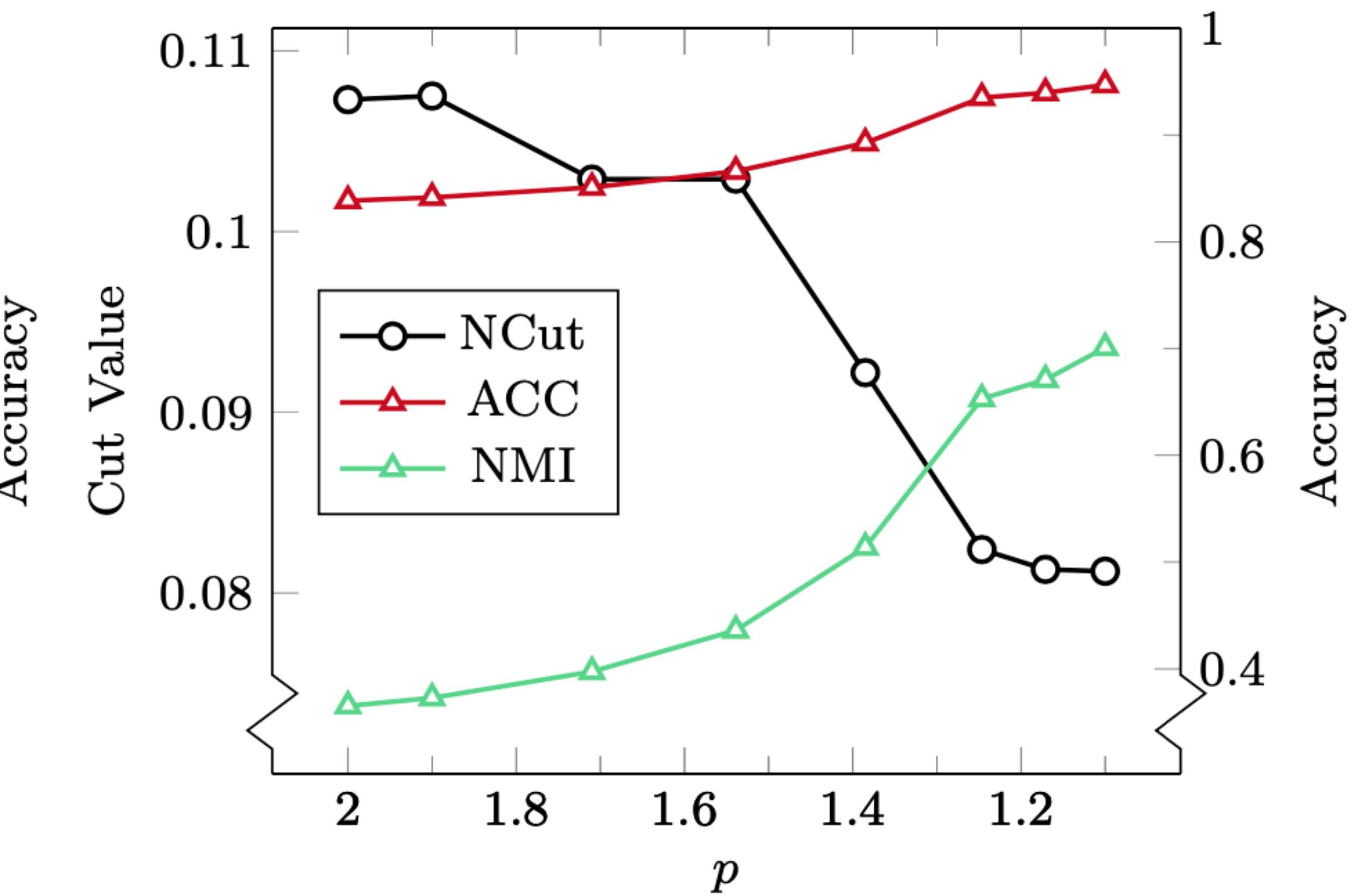
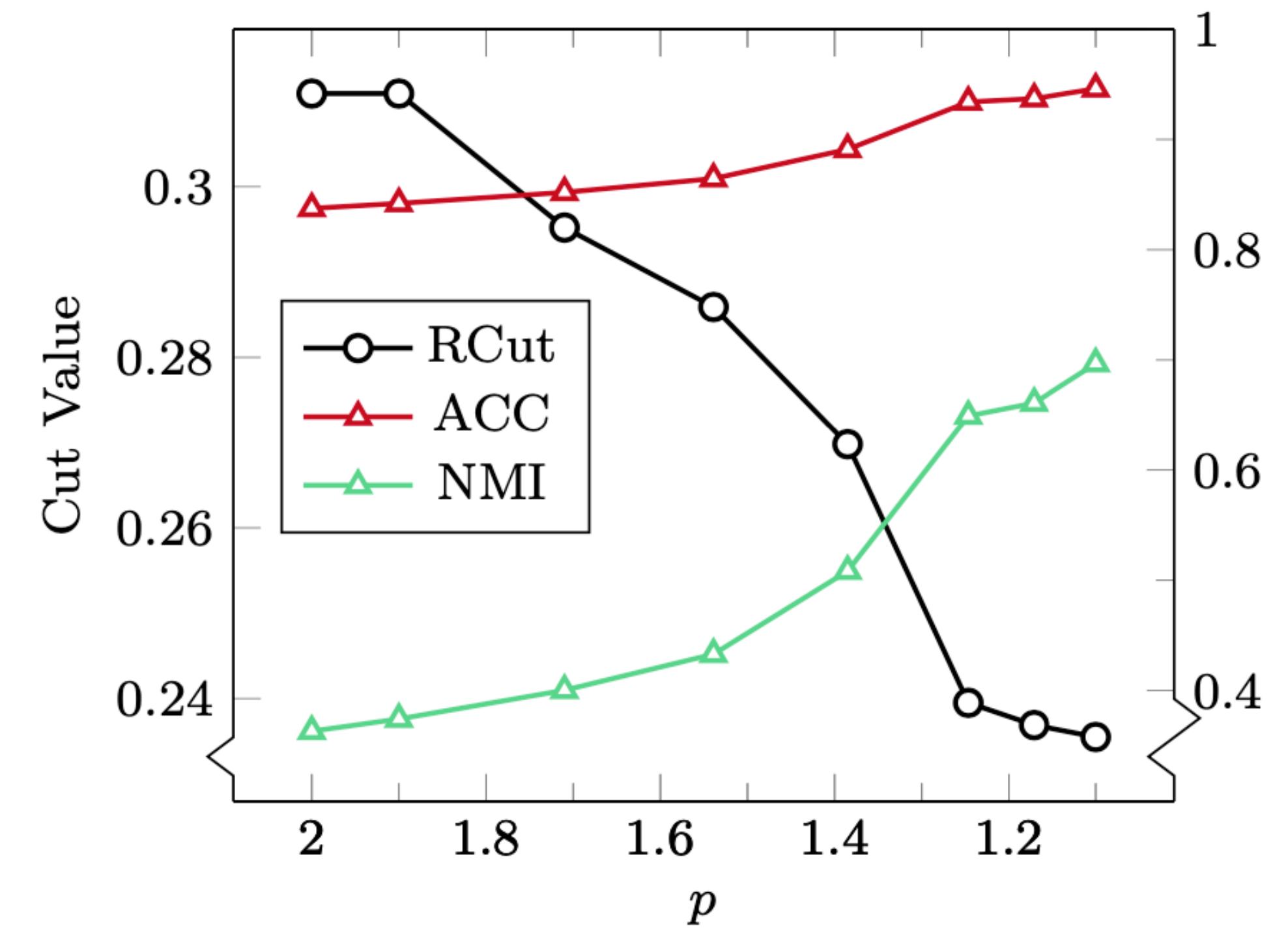
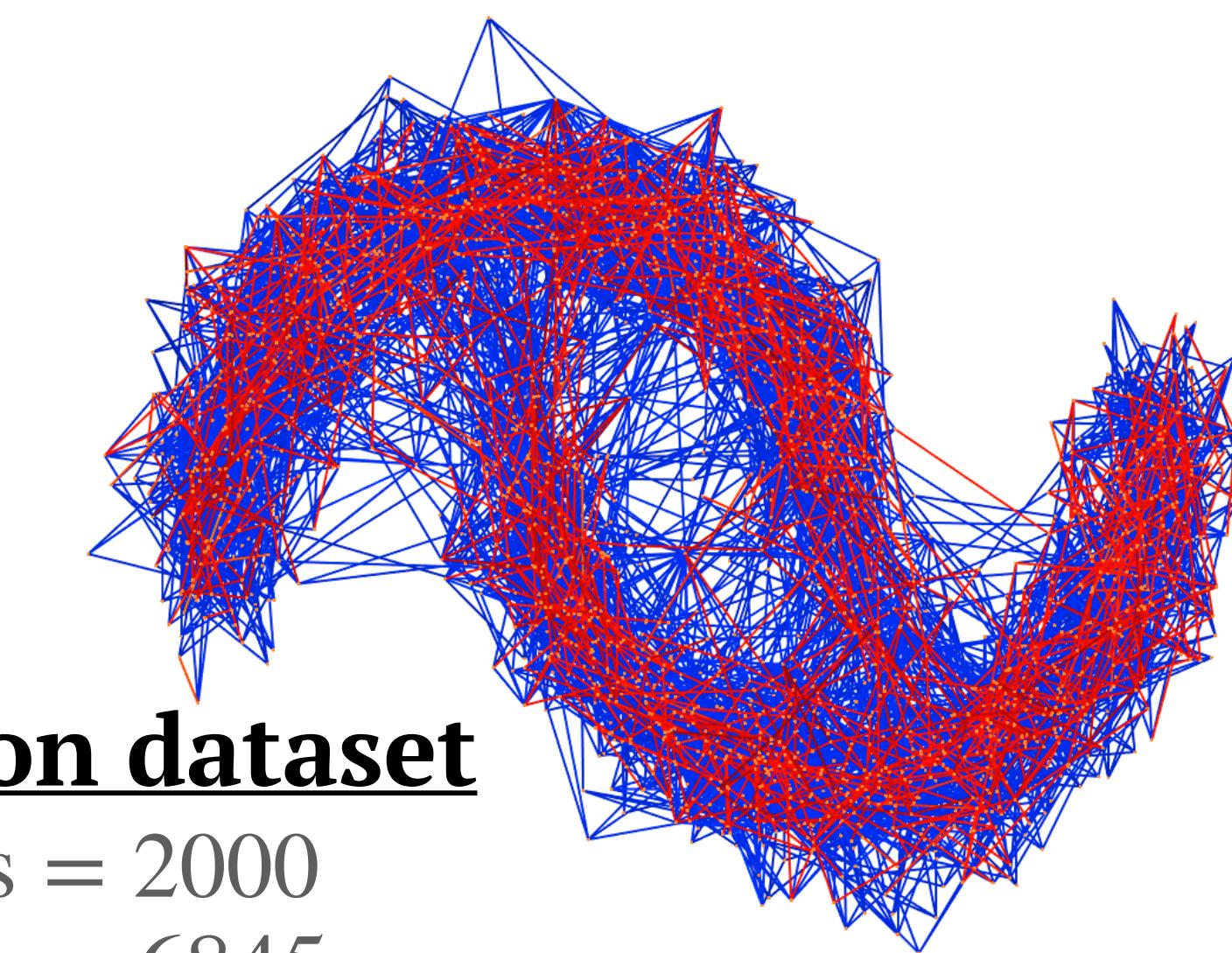
## Monitor monotonic descent

- Discrete objective (RCut, NCut).
- Experiments on synthetic datasets.

**HighMoon dataset**

nodes = 2000

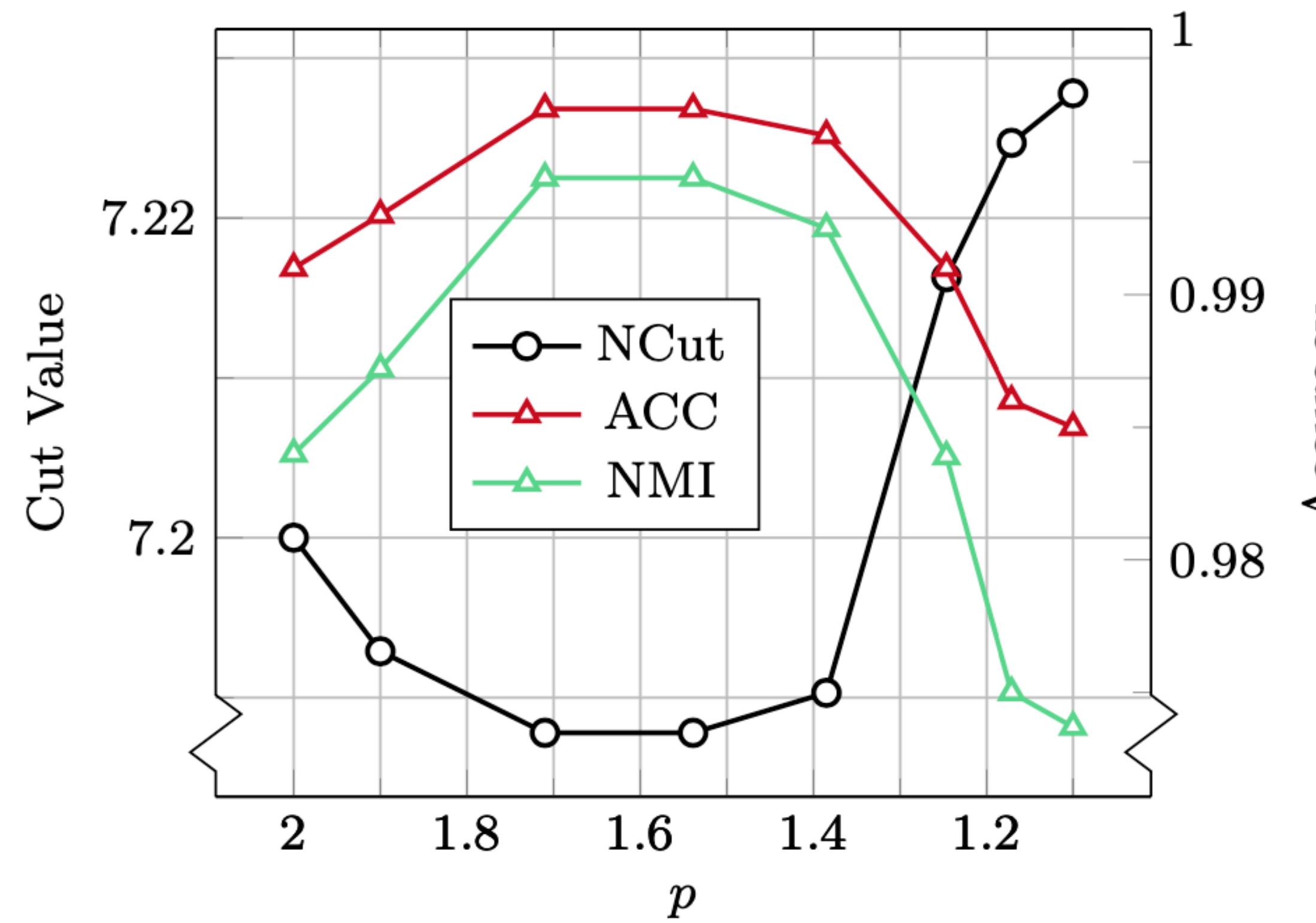
edges = 6845



# Key Algorithmic Components

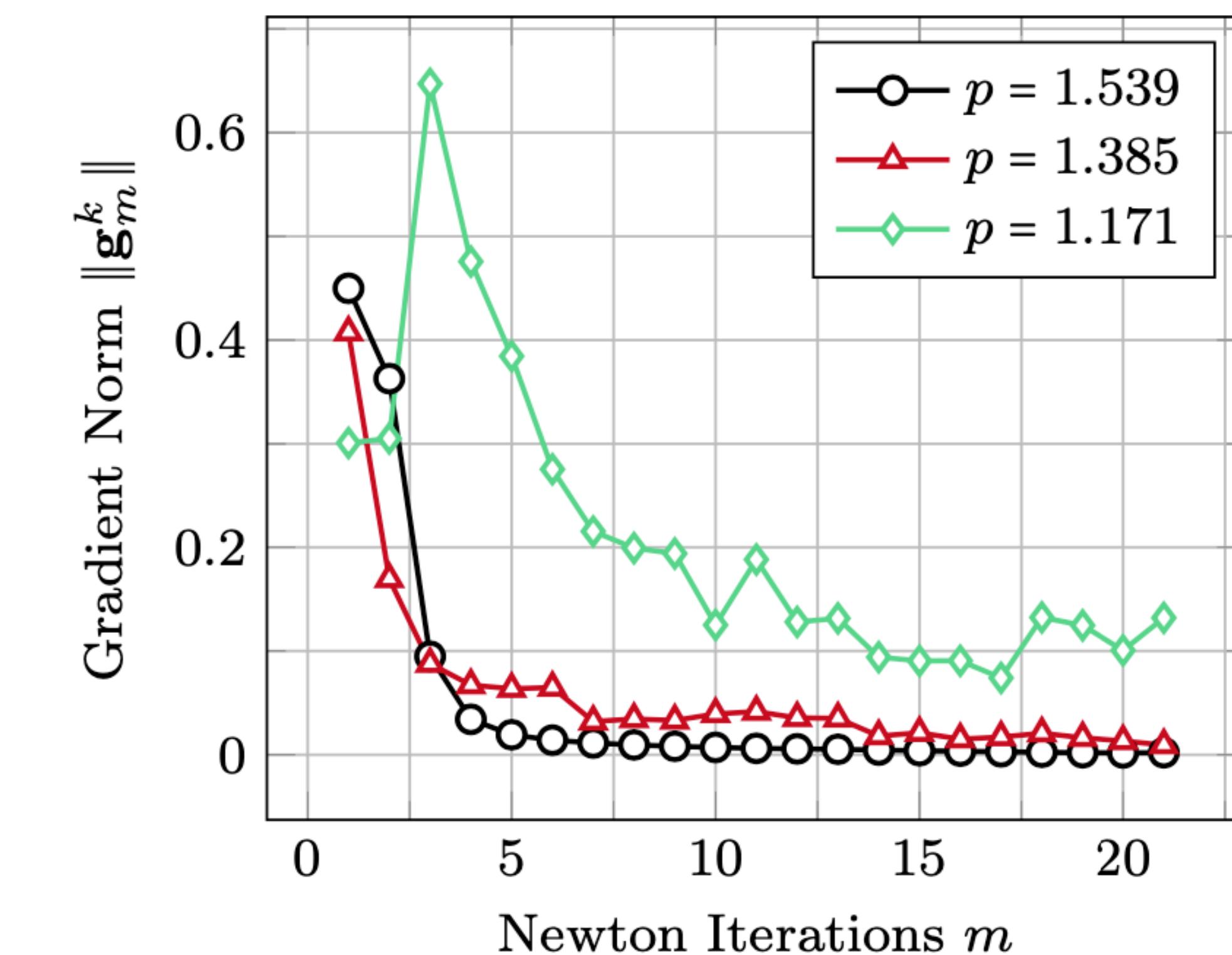
## Monitor monotonic descent

- Discrete objective (RCut, NCut).
- Experiments on synthetic datasets.



## LFR dataset

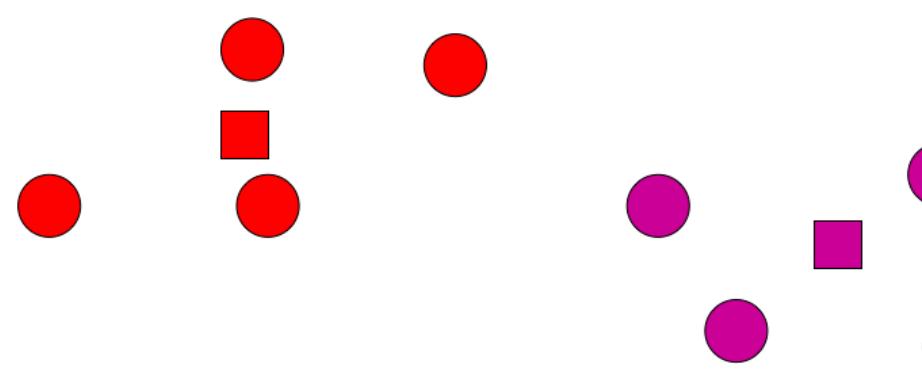
nodes = 1000  
edges = 2280  
 $k = 19, \mu = 0.38$



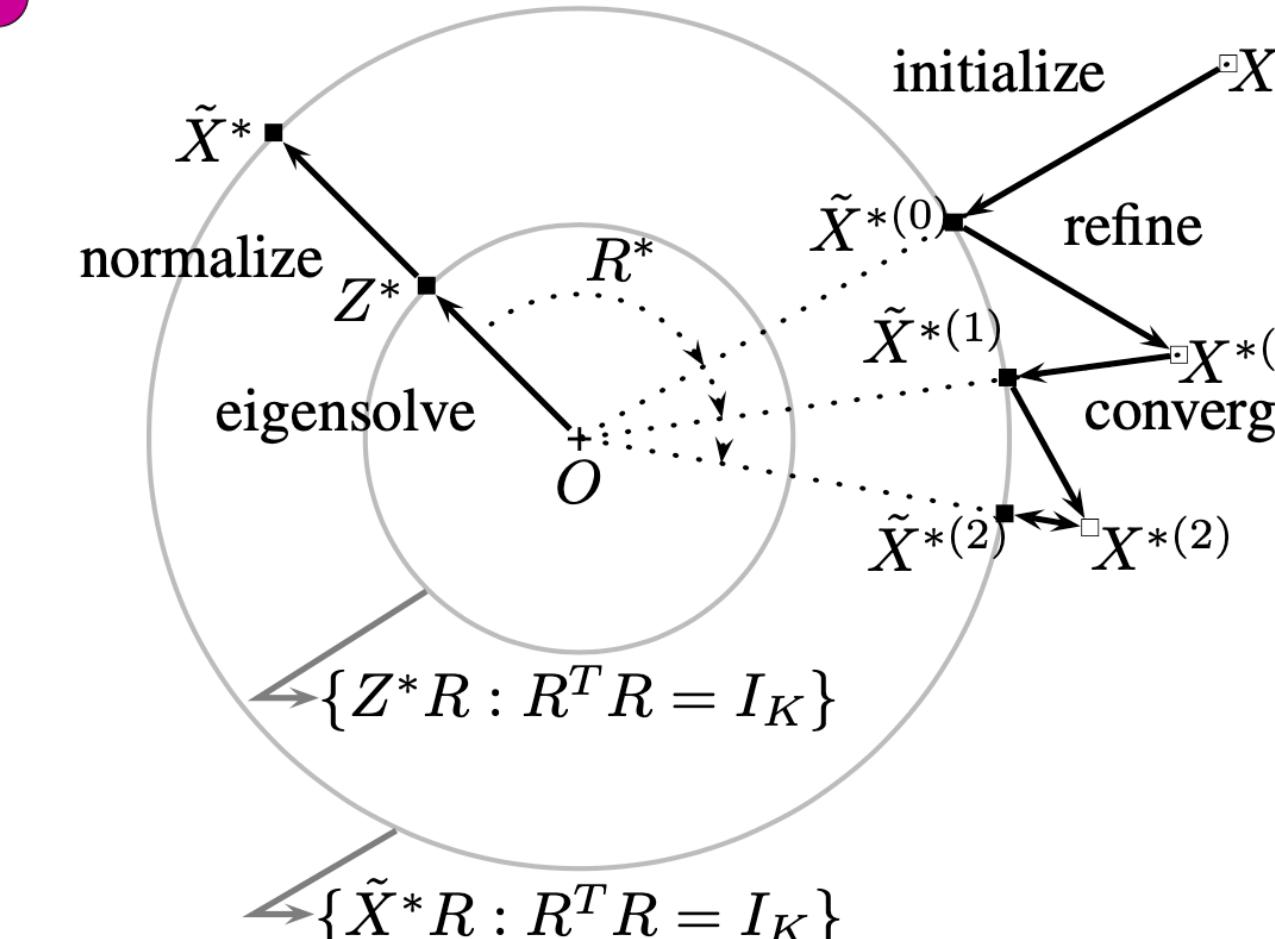
# Key Algorithmic Components

## Discretize the $p$ -eigenvectors

- ① k-means orthogonal  $\Rightarrow$  pGrass-kmeans.
- ② Rotate the normalized eigenvectors to obtain an optimal clustering  $\Rightarrow$  pGrass-disc.



Meila, 2019



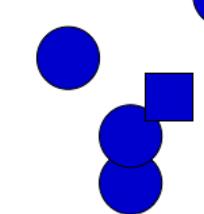
Yu & Shi, 2003

## ALGORITHM: main pGrass loop

```

Initialize:  $\mathbf{c}, r_{\text{new}, \text{old}, \text{best}} = \text{Cut}(\mathbf{c})$   $\triangleright p = 2$ 
while  $p \geq p_w$   $\&\&$   $r_{\text{new}} \leq 1.05 \cdot r_{\text{old}}$  do
    1 Reduce  $p$ 
    2 Find  $\mathbf{U}$ : minimize  $F_p(\mathbf{U})$  using  $\mathbf{W}$ 
         $\mathbf{U} \in \mathcal{G}\mathfrak{r}(k, n)$ 
    3  $\mathbf{c} = \text{discretize}(\mathbf{U})$ 
    4  $r_{\text{old}} = r_{\text{new}}$ 
    5  $r_{\text{new}} = \text{Cut}(\mathbf{c})$ 
    6 if  $r_{\text{new}} < r_{\text{best}}$  then
        7      $r_{\text{best}} = r_{\text{new}}$ 
        8      $\mathbf{c}_{\text{best}} = \mathbf{c}$ 
    9 end if
.0
.1 end while

```



# Numerical Experiments

## Methods under consideration

- i. **Spec:** Traditional direct multiway spectral clustering.  
▶ <https://github.com/panji530/Ncut9> **Yu & Shi, 2003; Luxburg, 2007**
- ii. **pSpec:** Recursive bi-partitioning with the  $p$ -Laplacian.  
▶ <https://www.ml.uni-saarland.de/code/pSpectralClustering> **Bühler & Hein, 2009**
- iii. **kCuts:** A tight continuous relaxation for the balanced direct  $k$ -cut problem.  
▶ <https://www.ml.uni-saarland.de/code/cfsp> **Rangapuram et al., 2014**
- iv. **Graclus:** A multilevel algorithm using a weighted kernel k-means objective, thus eliminating the need for eigenvector computations.  
▶ <https://www.cs.utexas.edu/users/dml/Software/graclus.html> **Dhillon et al., 2007**
- v. **pMulti:** The first full eigenvector analysis of  $p$ -Laplacian leading to direct multiway clustering. **Luo et al., 2010**  
▷ We implement this method in MATLAB R2020a.

# Experimental Setup

## Graph construction

- $\mathbf{G} \in \mathbb{R}^{n \times n} \rightarrow$  k-NN routine.
- $\mathbf{S} \in \mathbb{R}^{n \times n} \rightarrow$  Gaussian similarity kernel.
- $\mathbf{W} = \mathbf{G} \odot \mathbf{S}.$



## Labelling accuracy metrics

- ✓ Unsupervised clustering accuracy

$$\text{ACC} = \frac{1}{n} \sum_i^n \delta(l_i, c_i) \in [0, 1],$$

$l_i$ : true class label,  $c_i$ : inferred cluster label of  $u_i$ ,  $\delta(\cdot)$ : Dirac delta function.

- ✓ Normalized mutual information

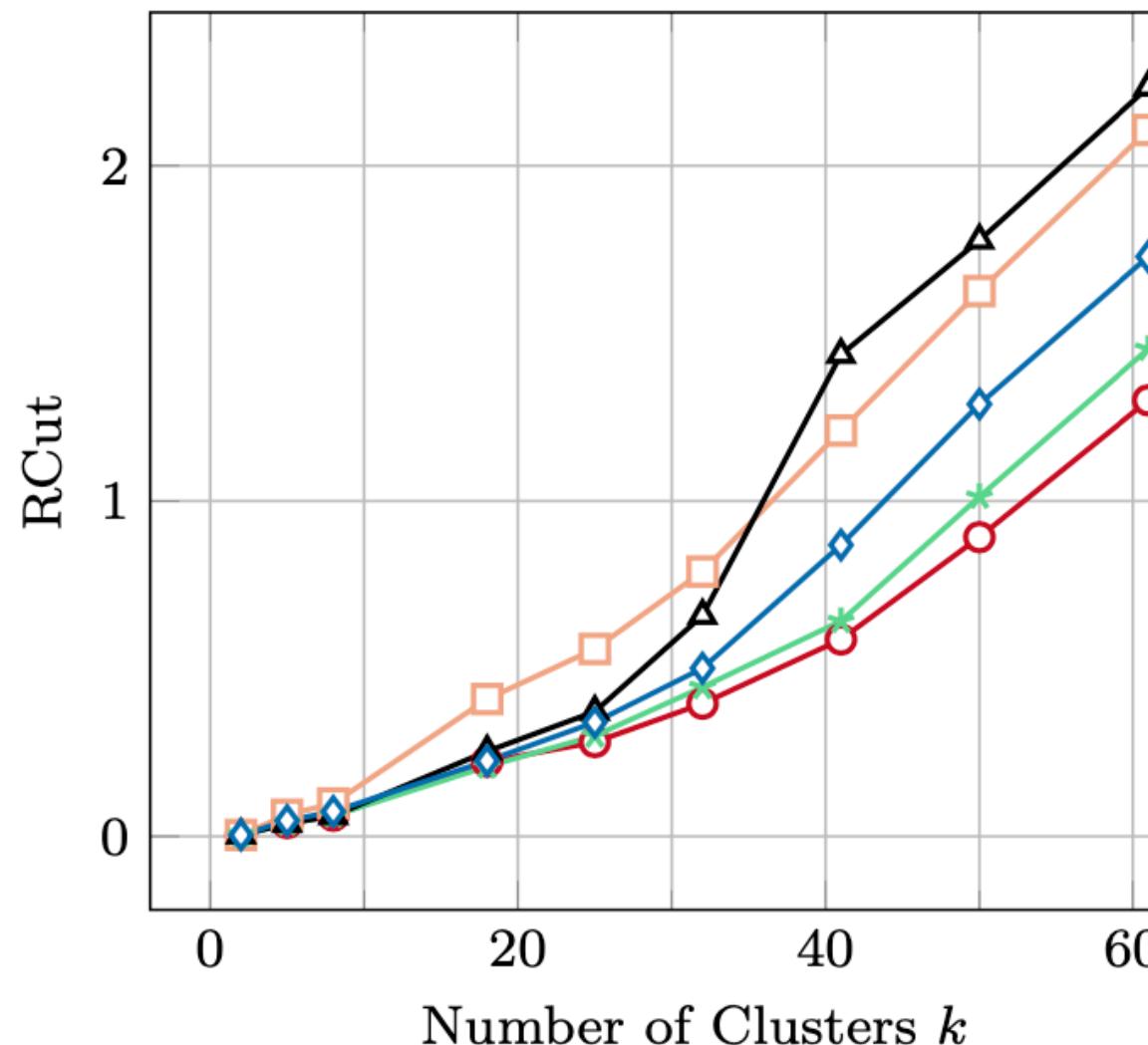
$$\text{NMI} = \frac{I(l, c)}{\max\{H(l), H(c)\}} \in [0, 1],$$

$I(l, c)$ : mutual information between  $l, c$ ,  $H(\cdot)$  their entropy.

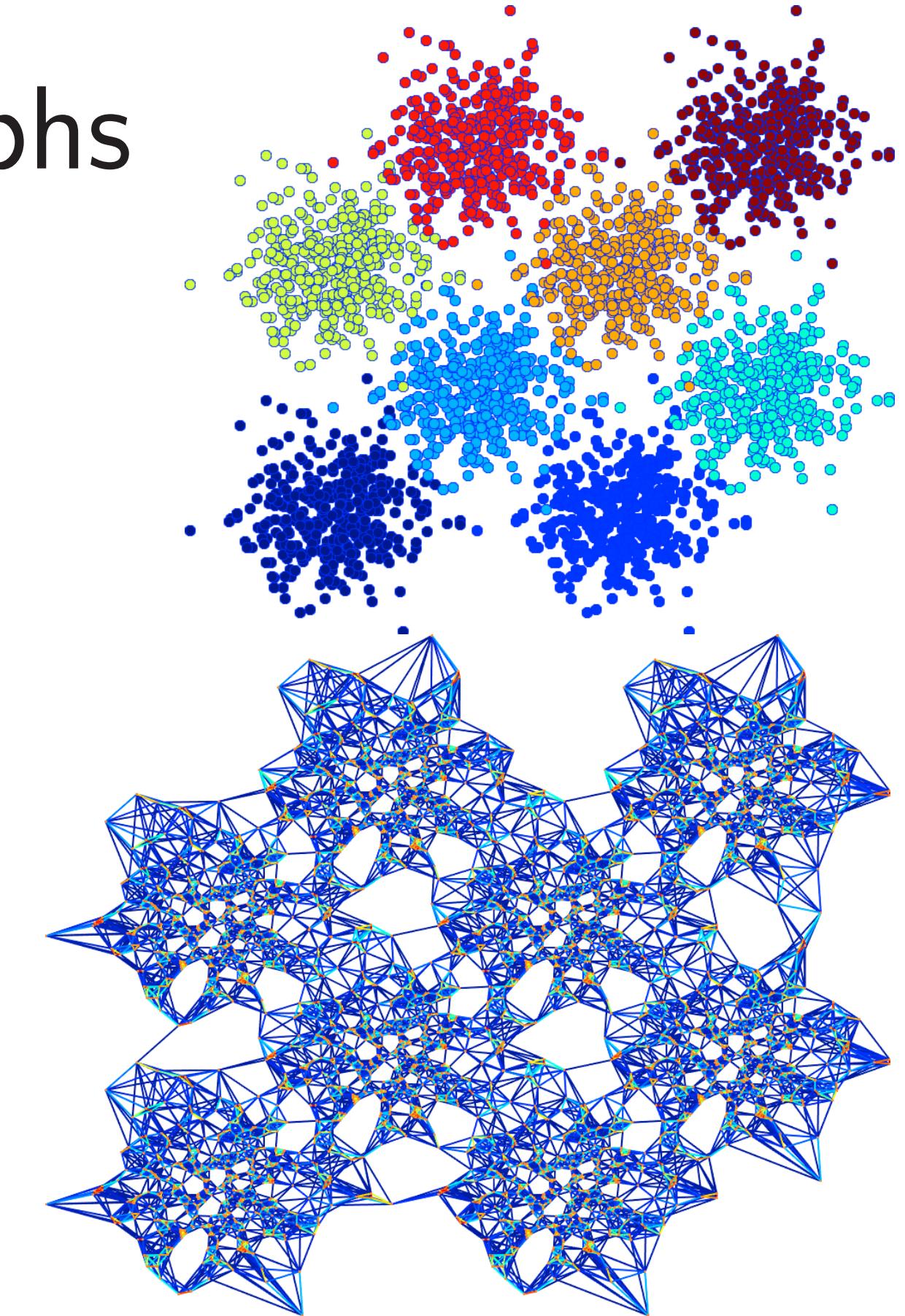
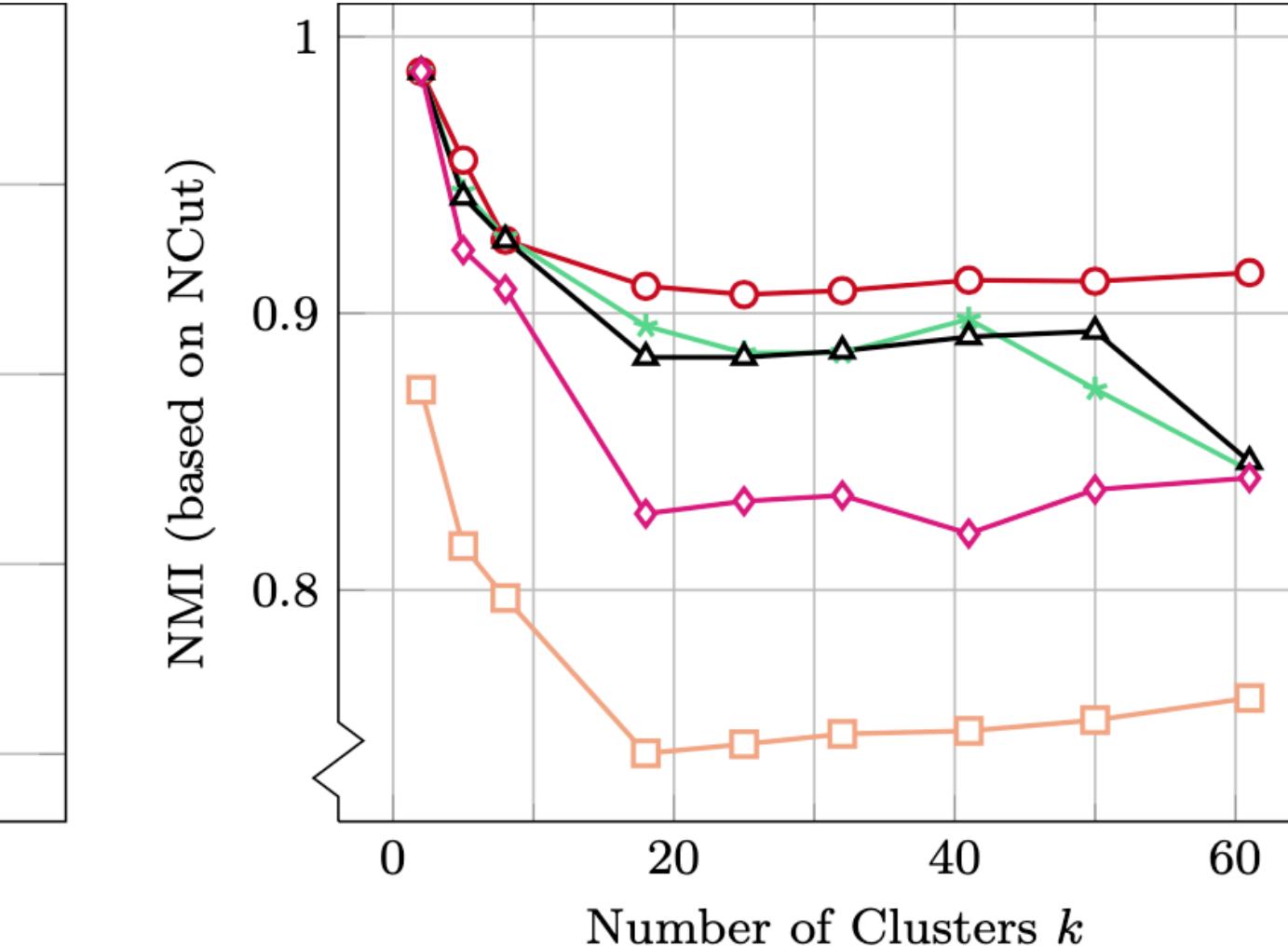
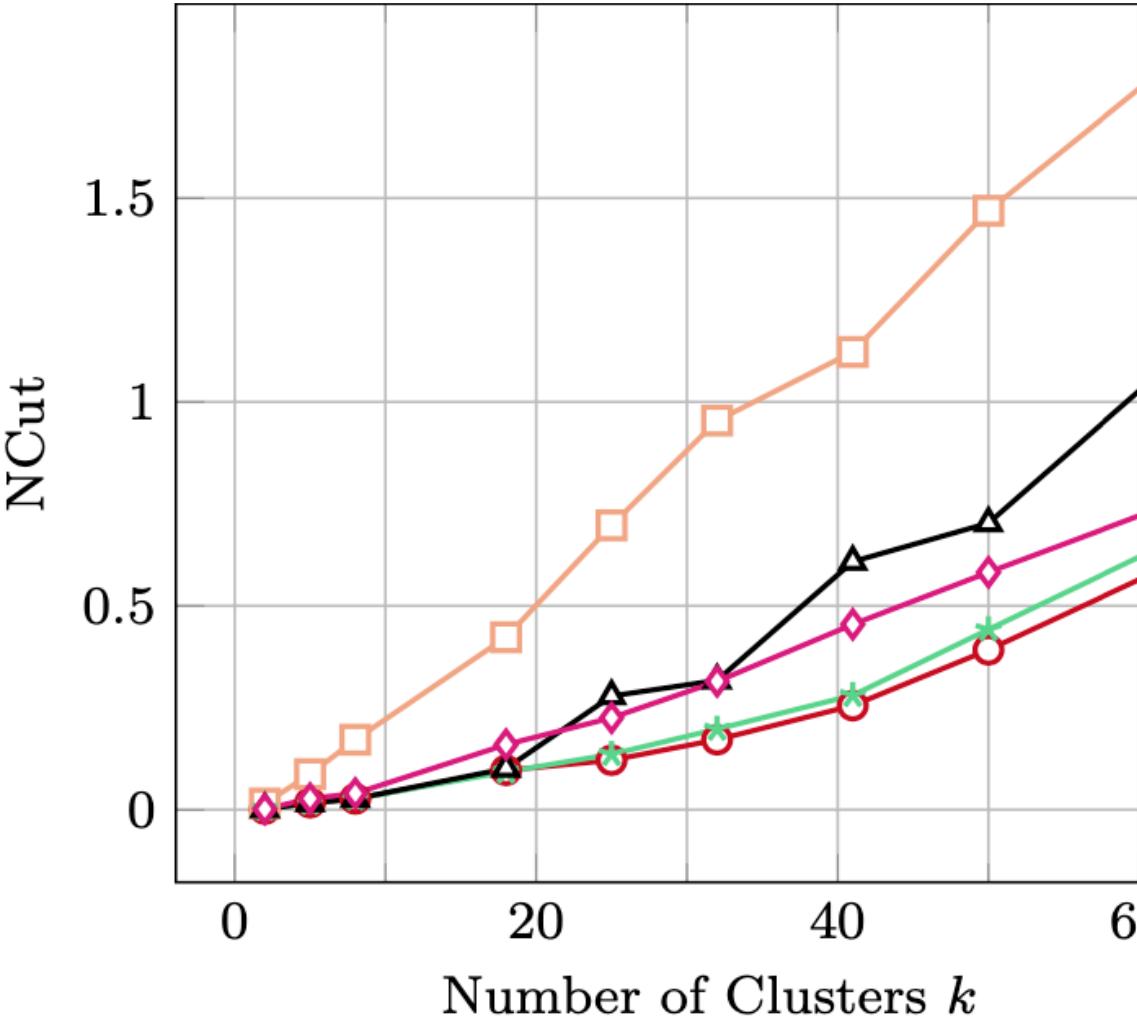
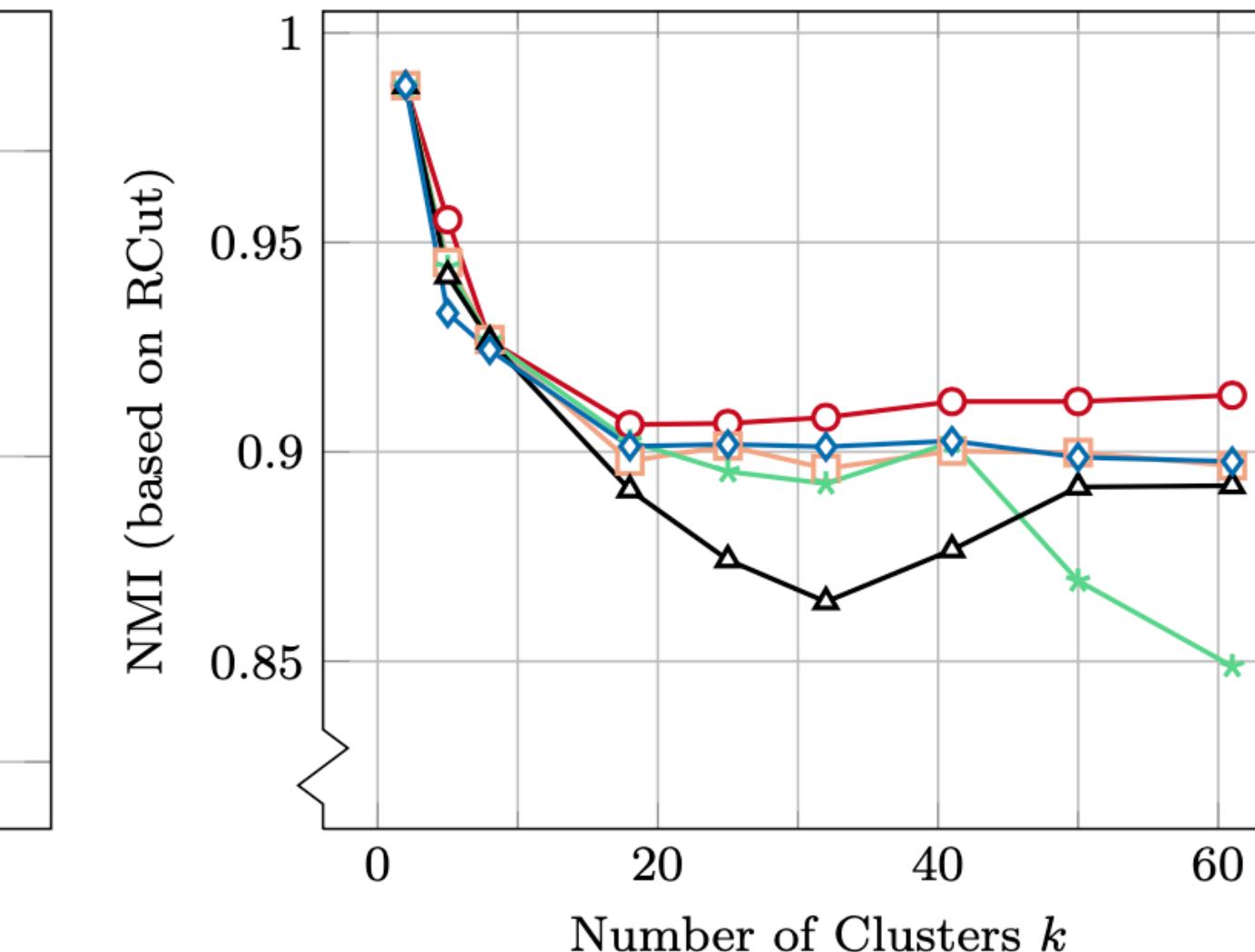
# Highlighted Results – Artificial Graphs

Increasing the number of clusters  $k$

—○— pGrass —□— Spec —★— pSpec



—△— kCuts —◇— pMulti —◆— Graclus



## Gaussian datasets

$k \in [2, 61]$

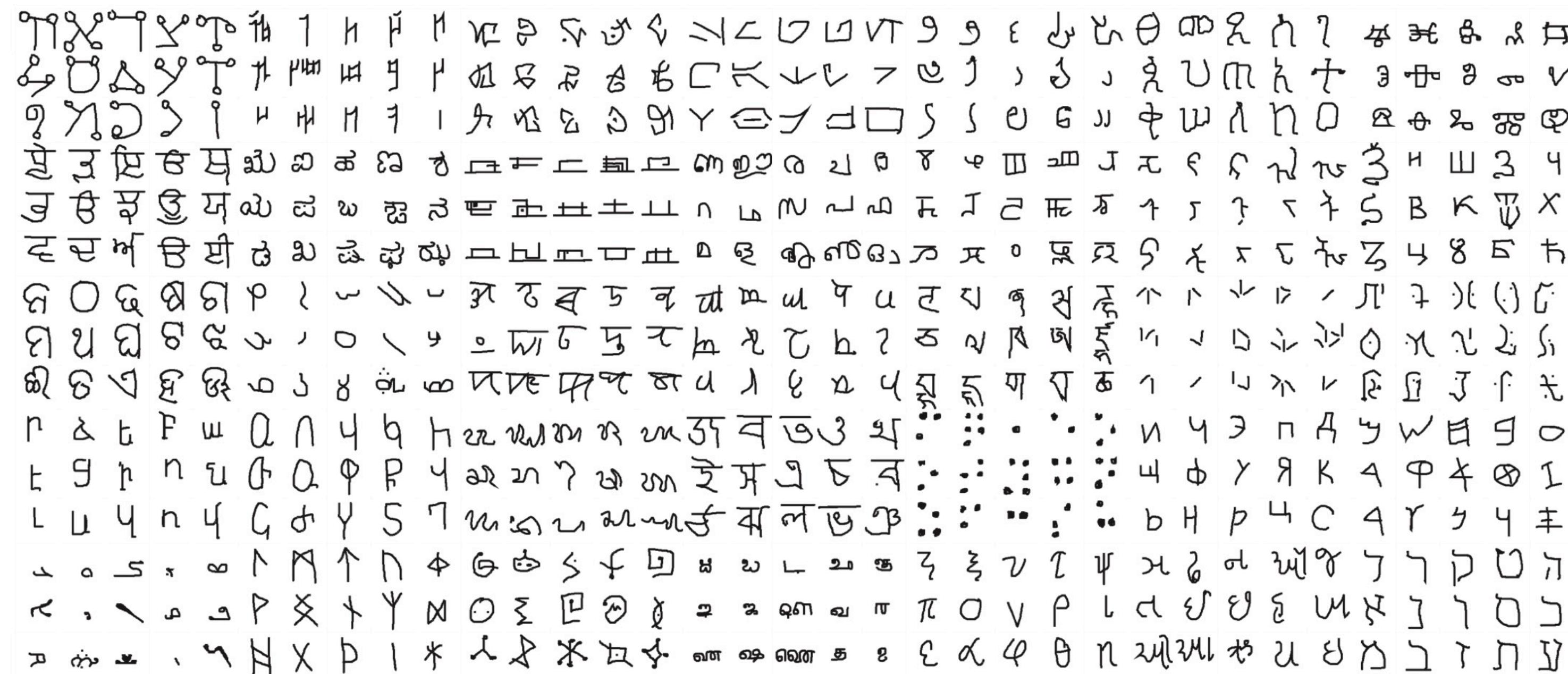
nodes  $\in [800, 25000]$

edges  $\in [4900, 145000]$

# Highlighted Results – Real-World Graphs

## Classification of Handwritten Characters

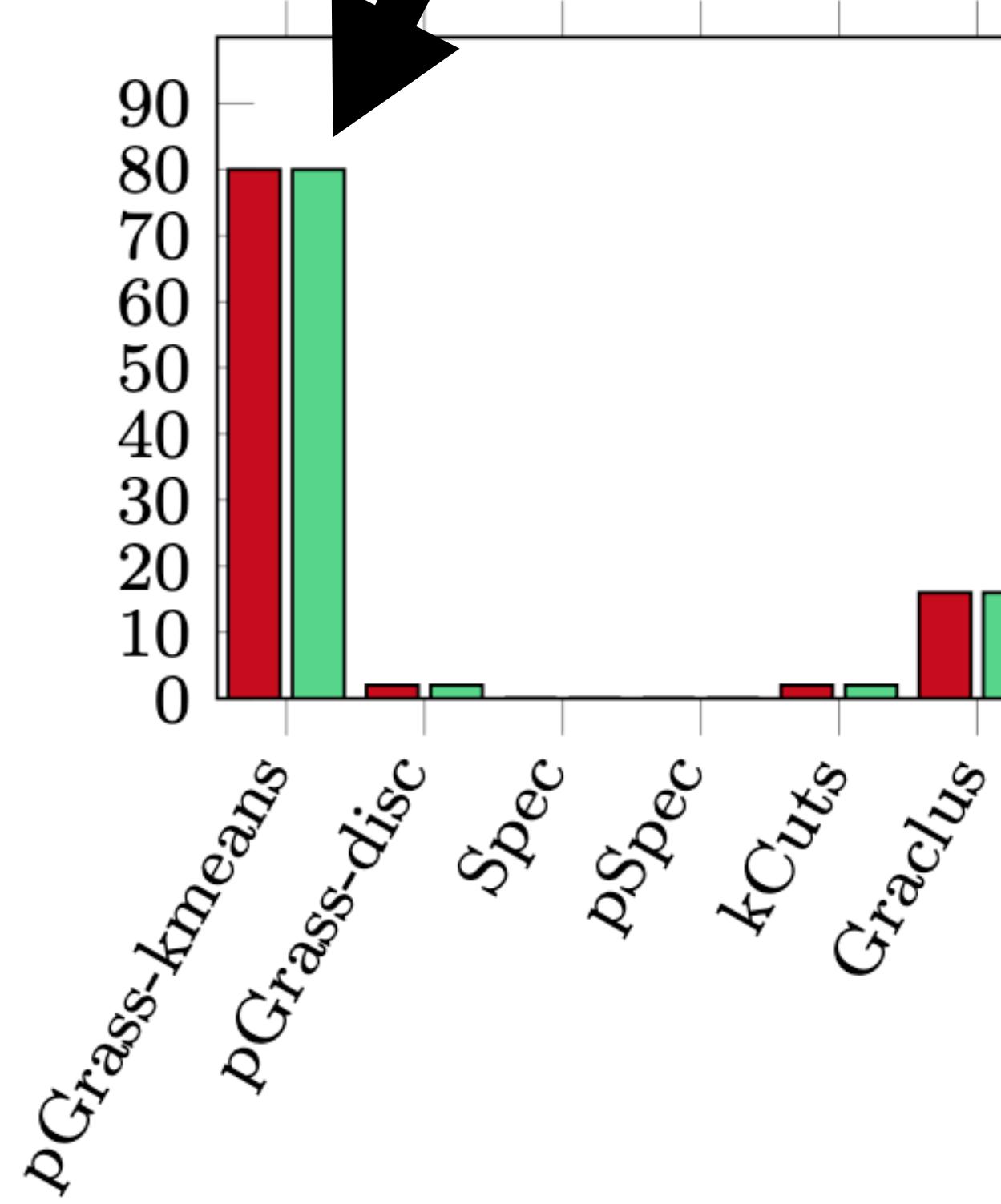
- Omniglot database: 1623 different handwritten characters from 50 alphabets.
  - ▶ <https://github.com/brendenlake/omniglot>



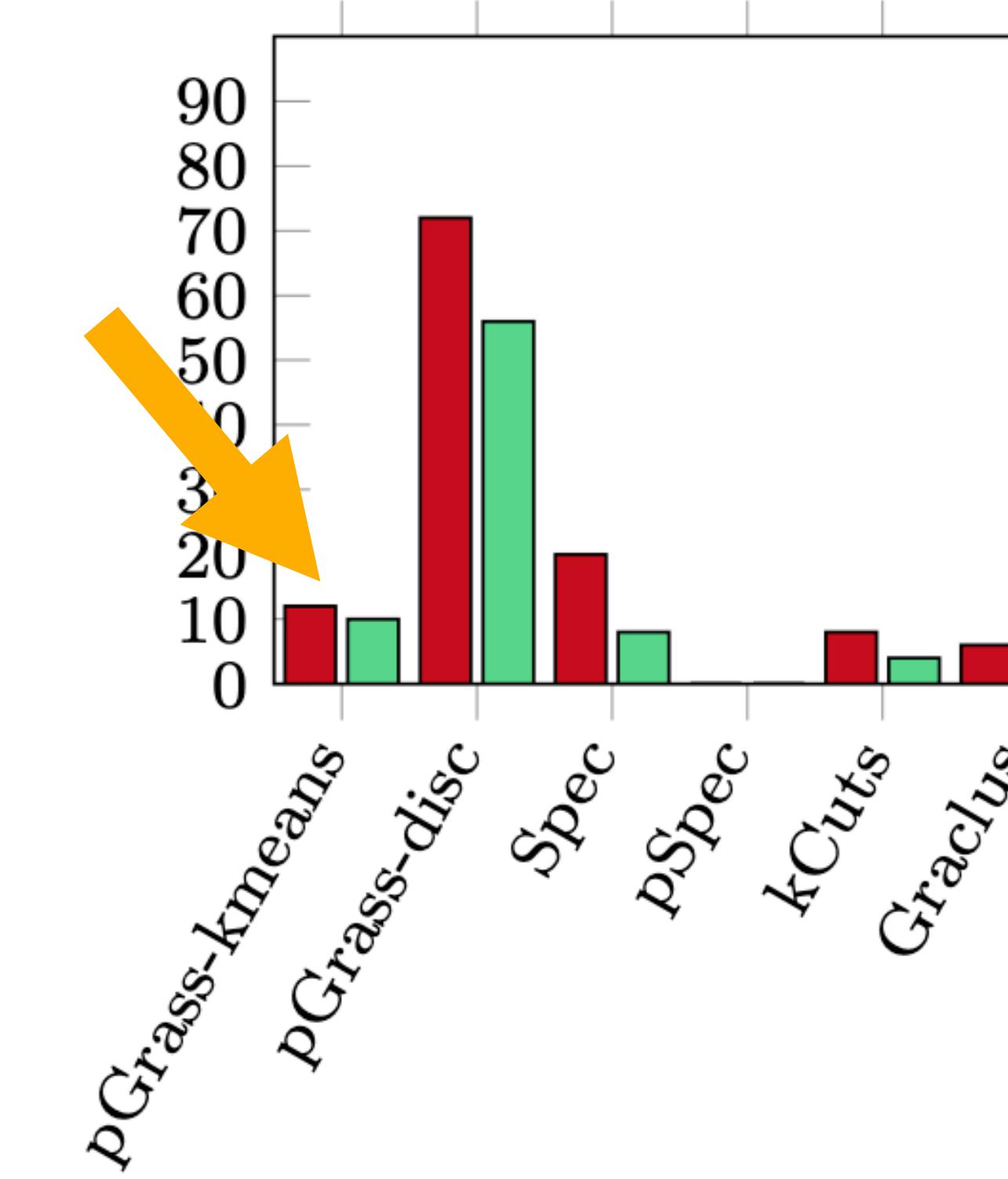
# Highlighted Results – Real-World Graphs

## Classification of Handwritten Characters

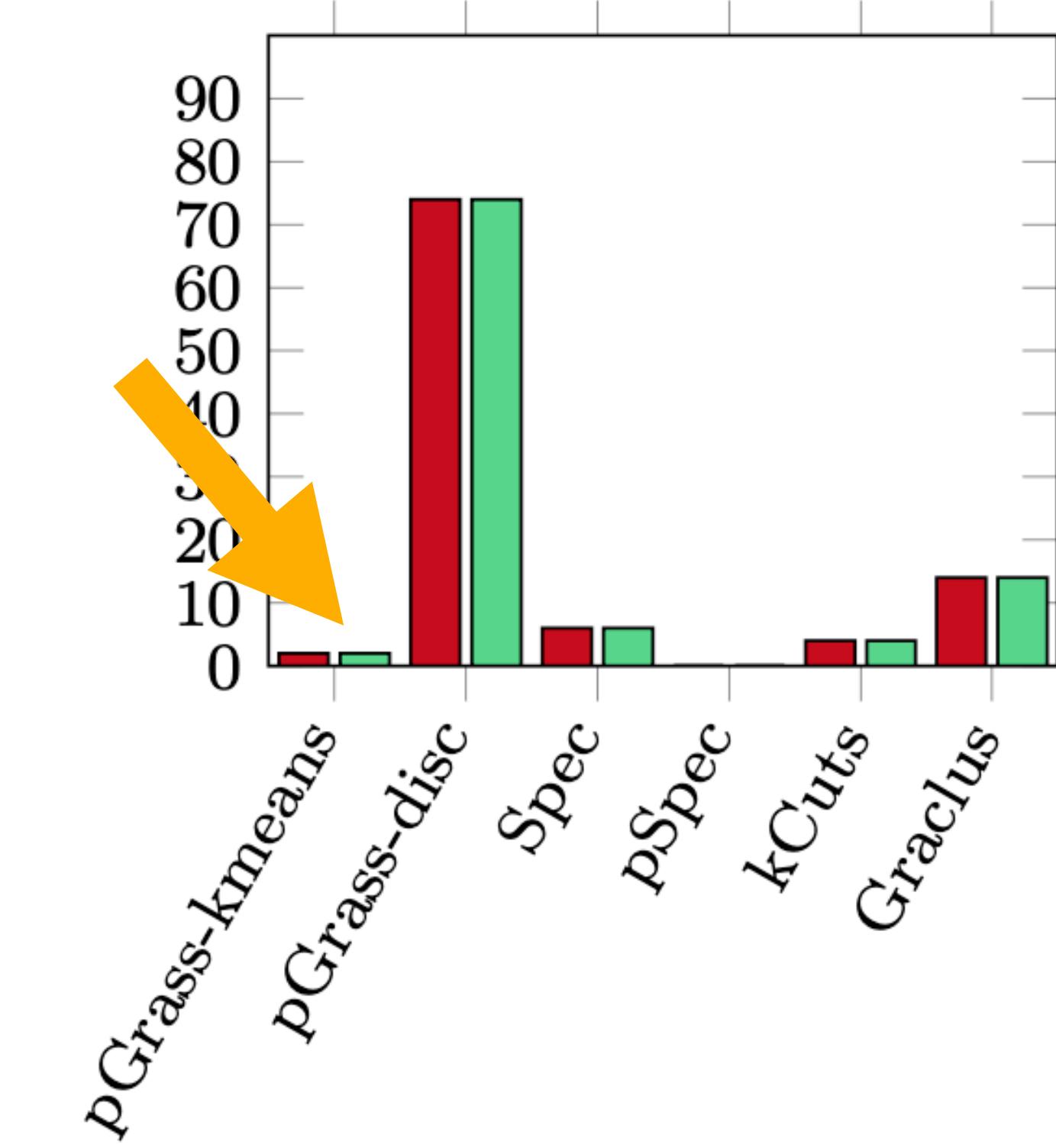
■ Best ■ Strictly Best



(a) NCut



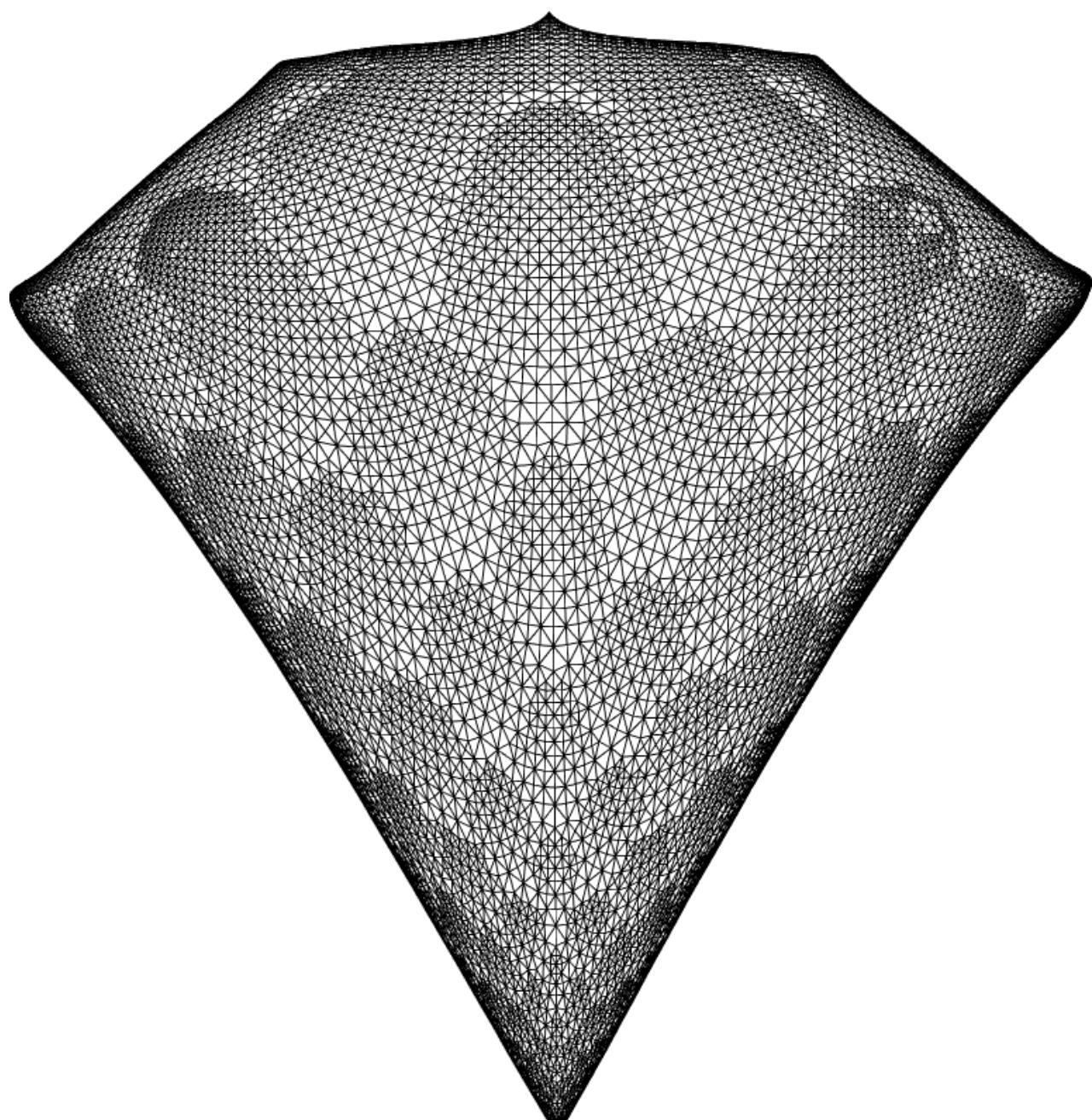
(b) NCut-based ACC



(c) NCut-based NMI

## Conclusions

- A direct multiway  $p$ -spectral graph clustering framework.
- Simple algorithm, utilizing packages of Riemannian optimization.
- pGrass embeddings lead to either superior graph cut values or labelling accuracy metrics.
- Consistent results over synthetic and real-world graphs.



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# **Additional Material**

# Highlighted Results – Real-World Graphs

## Classification of Facial Images

- ① Olivetti: 400 images – 40 subjects. ► <https://cam-orl.co.uk/facedatabase.html>
- ② Faces95: 1440 images – 72 subjects. ► <https://cmp.felk.cvut.cz/spacelib/faces/>
- ③ FACES: 2052 images – 171 subjects. ► <https://faces.mpg.de/imeji/>

Method	Olivetti			Faces95			FACES		
	NCut	ACC	NMI	NCut	ACC	NMI	NCut	ACC	NMI
pGrass - kmeans	<b>3.984</b>	-4.15%	-2.28%	<b>2.658</b>	-5.77%	-4.24%	<b>29.42</b>	-3.58%	-2.41%
pGrass - disc	-4.50%	<b>0.716</b>	<b>0.831</b>	-4.50%	<b>0.609</b>	<b>0.758</b>	-6.08%	<b>0.802</b>	<b>0.91</b>
Spec	-24.84%	-9.19%	-5.27%	-24.84%	-4.23%	-0.90%	-15.05%	-2.50%	-1.23%
pSpec	-8.04%	-7.41%	-3.06%	-8.04%	-6.86%	-6.02%	-4.34%	-6.73%	-2.71%
kCuts	-1.41%	-6.78%	-3.20%	-1.41%	-10.37%	-7.70%	-7.67%	-13.0%	-6.99%
Graclus	-23.10%	-6.36%	-2.25%	-23.11%	-9.25%	-2.38%	-9.98%	-3.70%	-2.56%

# Highlighted Results – Real-World Graphs

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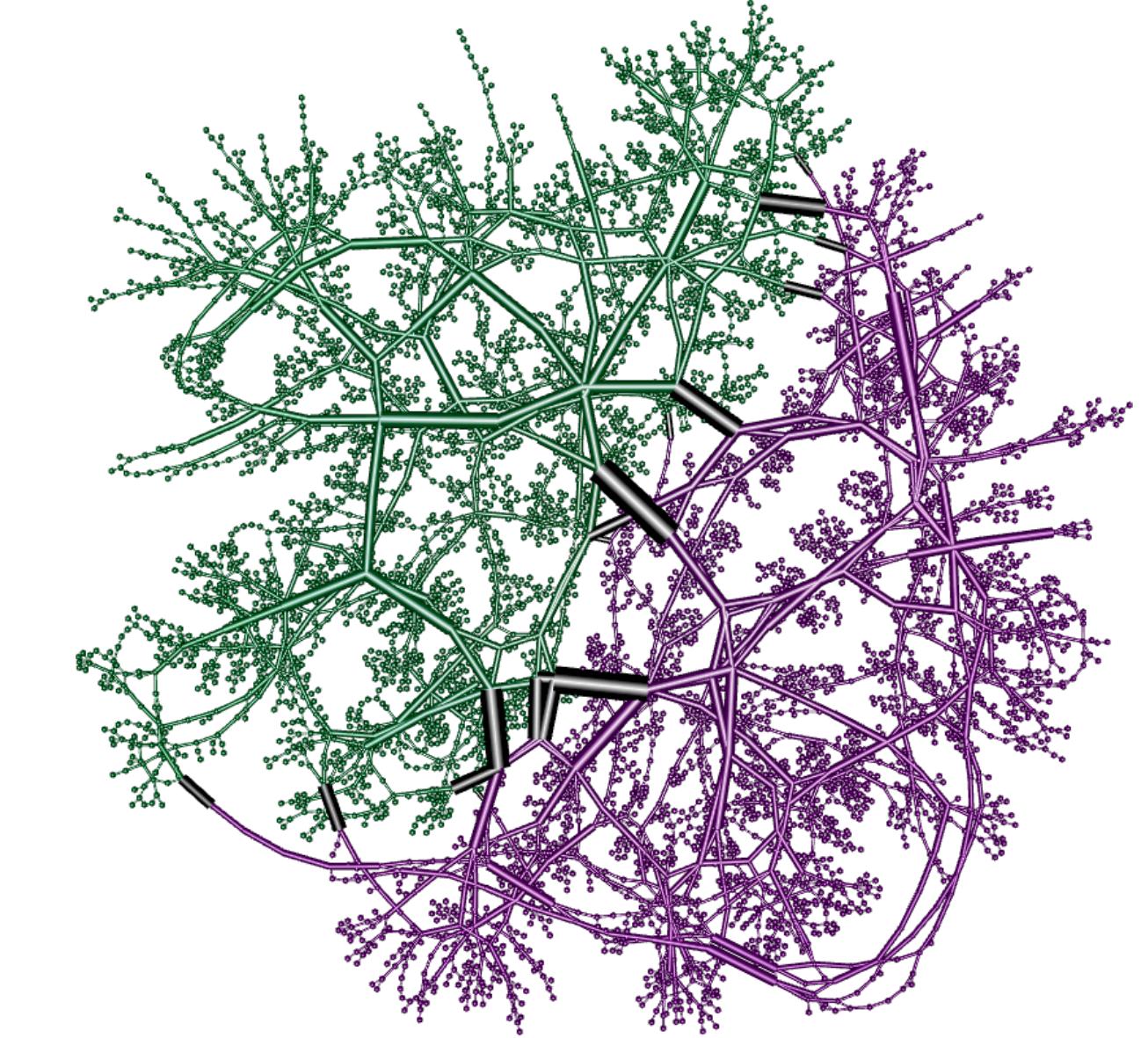
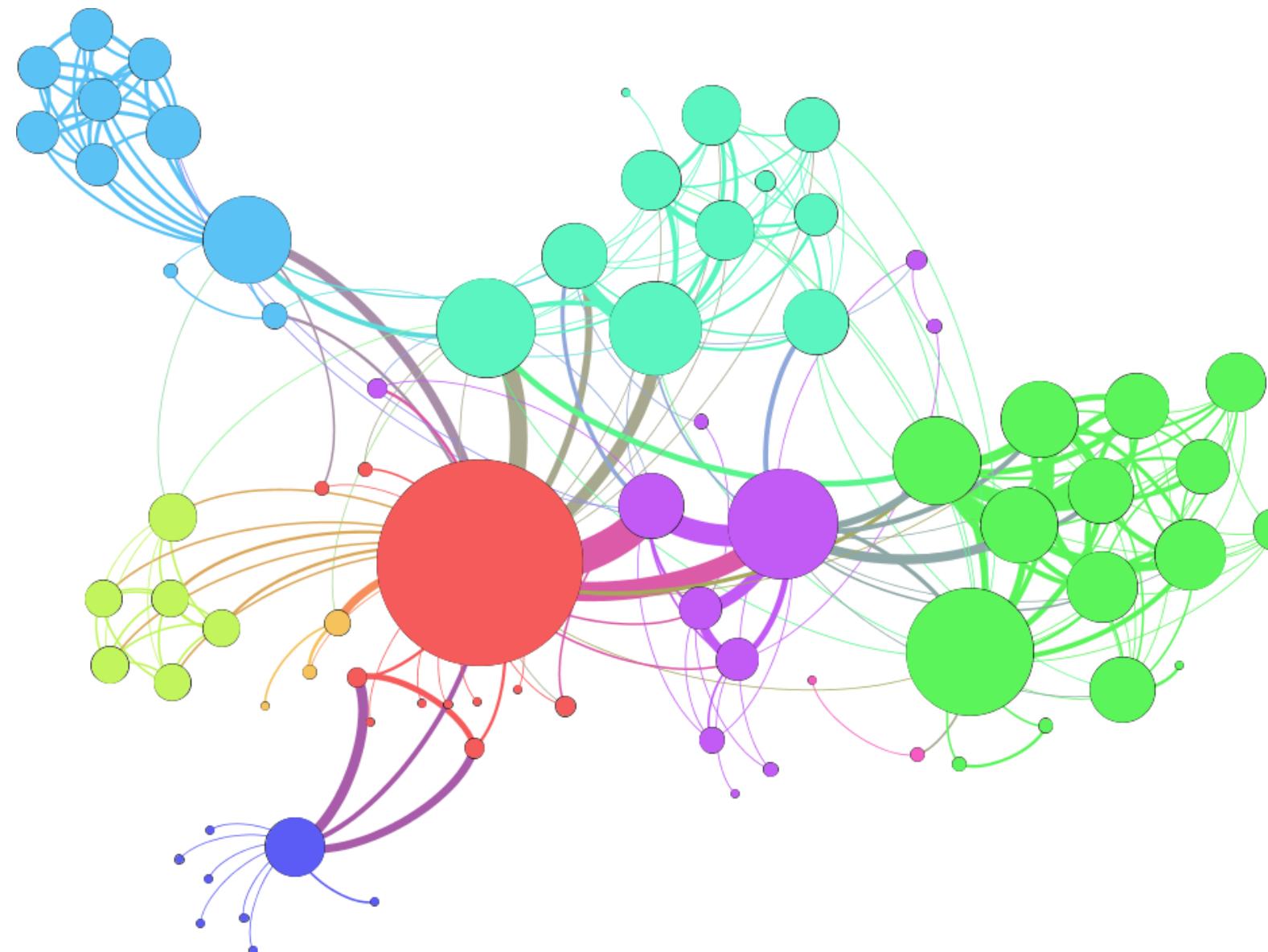
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# Spectral Clustering Applications



# Spectral Bi-Partitioning

## 2-Laplacian

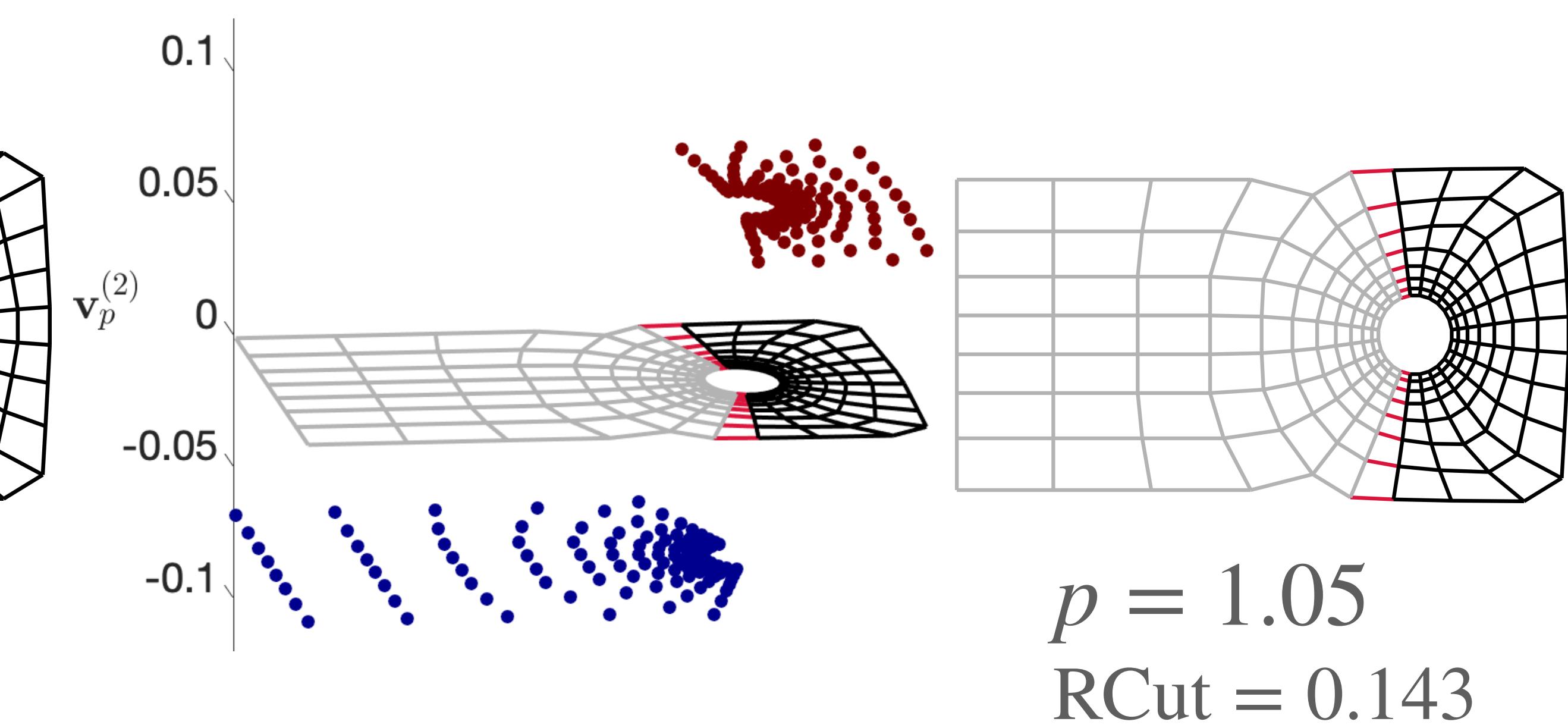
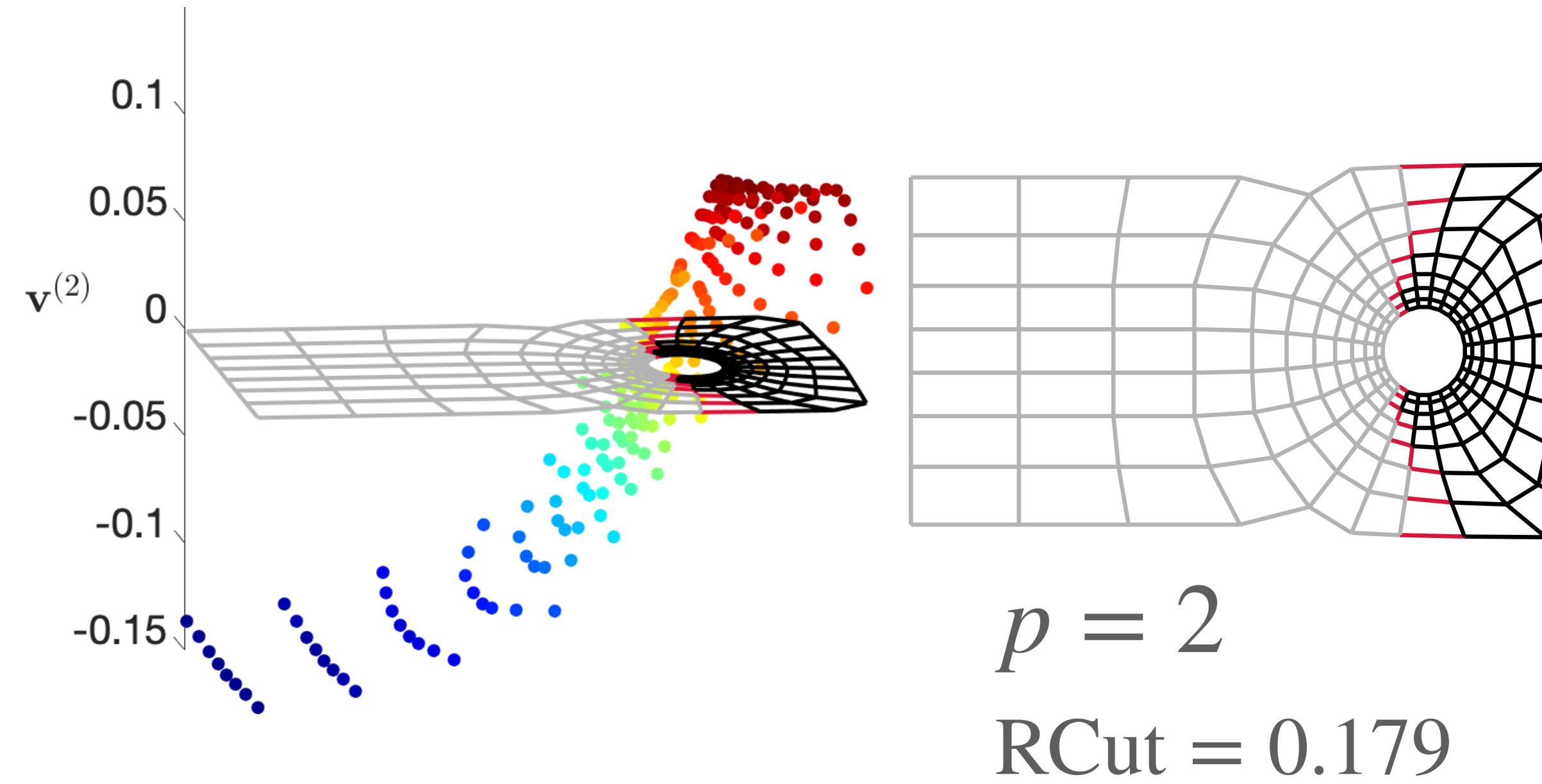
$$\min_{\mathbf{u} \in \mathbb{R}^n} \frac{\langle \mathbf{u}, \Delta_2 \mathbf{u} \rangle}{\|\mathbf{u}\|_2^2} = \min_{\mathbf{u} \in \mathbb{R}^n} \frac{1}{2} \frac{\sum_{i,j=1}^n w_{ij} (u_i - u_j)^2}{\|\mathbf{u}\|_2^2},$$

s.t.  $\mathbf{u}^\top \cdot \mathbf{e} = 0.$

## $p$ -Laplacian, $p \in (1, 2]$

$$\min_{\mathbf{u} \in \mathbb{R}^n} \frac{\langle \mathbf{u}, \Delta_p \mathbf{u} \rangle}{\|\mathbf{u}\|_p^p} = \min_{\mathbf{u} \in \mathbb{R}^n} \frac{1}{2} \frac{\sum_{i,j=1}^n w_{ij} |u_i - u_j|^p}{\|\mathbf{u}\|_p^p},$$

s.t.  $\mathbf{e}^\top \phi_p(\mathbf{u}) = 0$

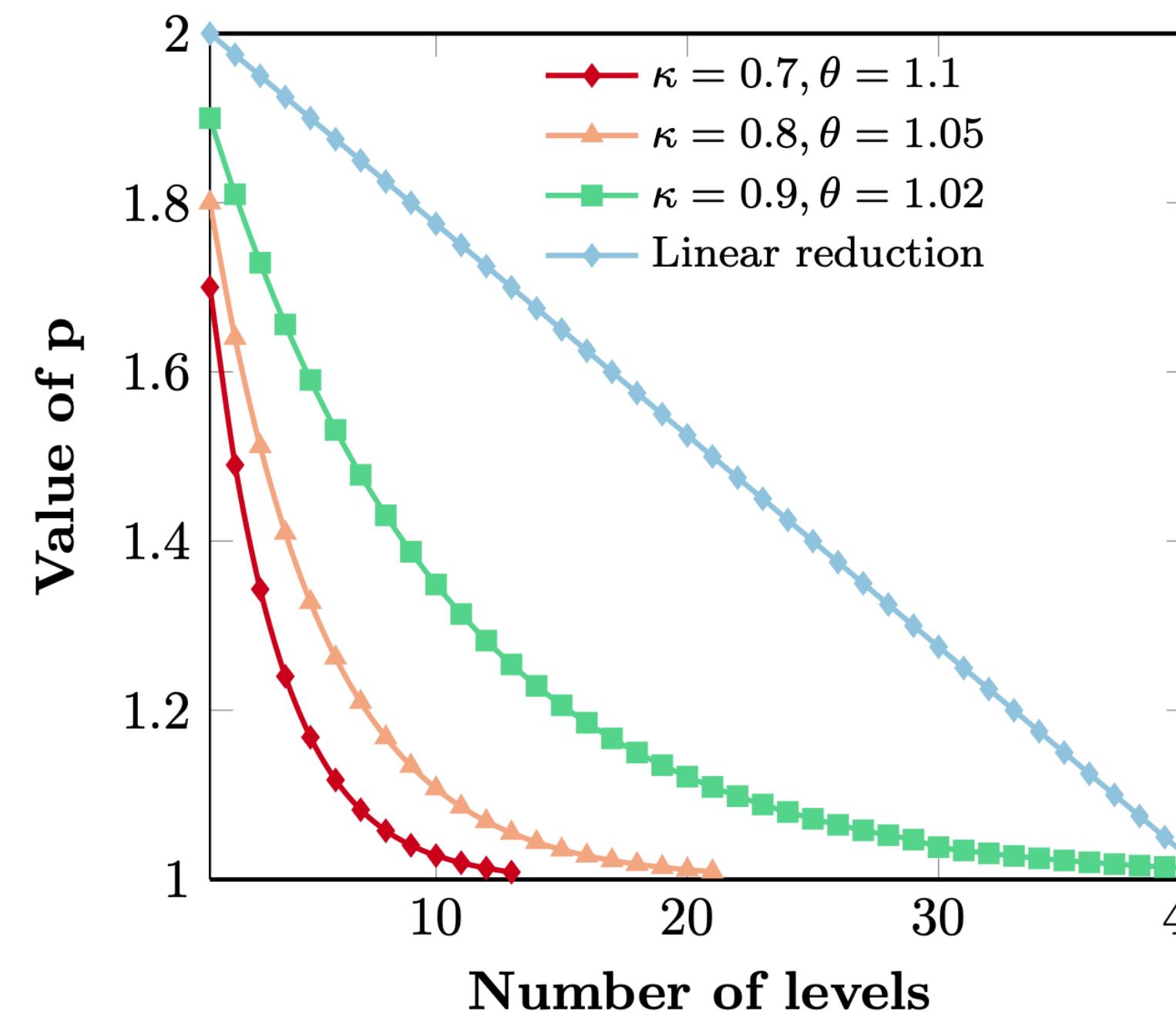


# Key Algorithmic Components

## Pseudocontinuous minimization

$$p = 1 + \max (\text{tol}, \min (\kappa \cdot (p - 1), (p - 1)^\theta)) ,$$

with  $\kappa \in (0, 1)$ ,  $\theta \in (1, 2)$ , and  $\text{tol} = 10^{-1}$ .



## ALGORITHM: main pGrass loop

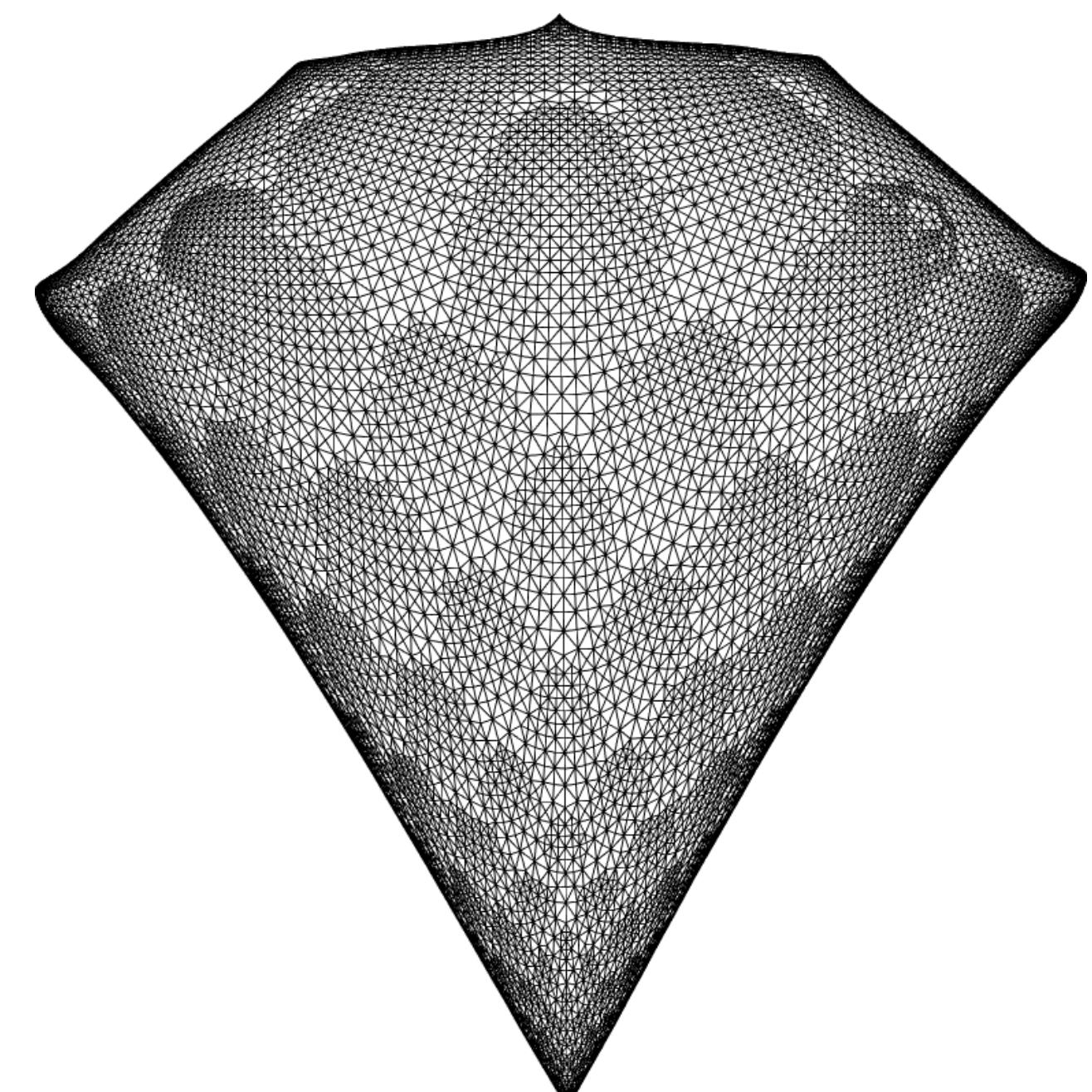
```
1 Initialize:  $\mathbf{c}, r_{\text{new},\text{old},\text{best}} = \text{Cut}(\mathbf{c})$   $\triangleright p = 2$ 
2 while  $p \geq p_w$   $\&\&$   $r_{\text{new}} \leq 1.05 \cdot r_{\text{old}}$  do
3   Reduce  $p$ 
4   Find  $\mathbf{U}$ : minimize  $F_p(\mathbf{U})$  using  $\mathbf{W}$ 
       $\mathbf{U} \in \mathcal{G}\mathcal{r}(k,n)$ 
5    $\mathbf{c} = \text{discretize}(\mathbf{U})$ 
6    $r_{\text{old}} = r_{\text{new}}$ 
7    $r_{\text{new}} = \text{Cut}(\mathbf{c})$ 
8   if  $r_{\text{new}} < r_{\text{best}}$  then
9      $r_{\text{best}} = r_{\text{new}}$ 
10     $\mathbf{c}_{\text{best}} = \mathbf{c}$ 
11 end if
12 end while
```

## Conclusions

- A direct multiway  $p$ -spectral graph clustering framework.
- Simple algorithm, utilizing packages of Riemannian optimization.
- Consistent results over synthetic and real-world graphs.

## Future Perspectives

- Embody the pGrass algorithm in a multilevel hierarchy based framework.
- Estimate optimal value of  $p$  and number of clusters  $k$ .
- High performance implementation → block eigenvalue computations.



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