



CENTER FOR RESEARCH IN HUMAN MOVEMENT VARIABILITY  
NONLINEAR ANALYSIS CORE

# Multifractal Methods for Movement Science

Presenters:

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# **Outline**

## **Part I: Monofractal Analysis**

- i. Monofractal introduction
- ii. Detrended Fluctuations Analysis step by step
- iii. MATLAB Tutorial

## **Part II: Multifractal Analysis**

- i. From monofractal to multifractal analysis
- ii. Multifractal Detrended Fluctuations Analysis step by step
- iii. MATLAB Tutorial

## **Part III: Surrogate Analysis**

- i. Surrogate analysis
- ii. Surrogate analysis step by step
- iii. MATLAB Tutorial

# Part I: MONOFRAC TAL ANALYSIS

Aaron Likens



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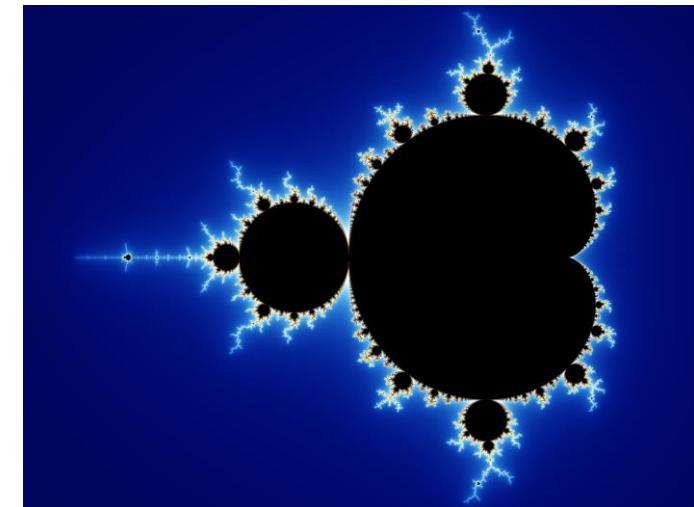
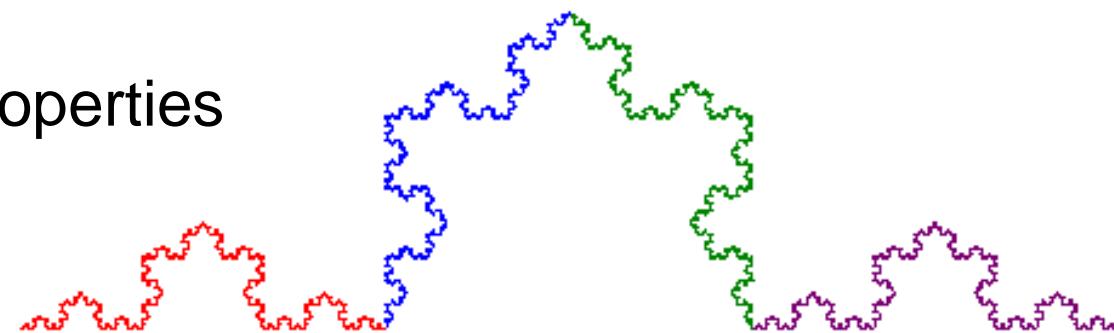
# OUTLINE

- Four properties of fractals
  - Self similarity
  - Scaling
  - Dimension
  - Statistical properties
- How, what, when, where are fractals?
- Fractal analysis step by step
- Best practices



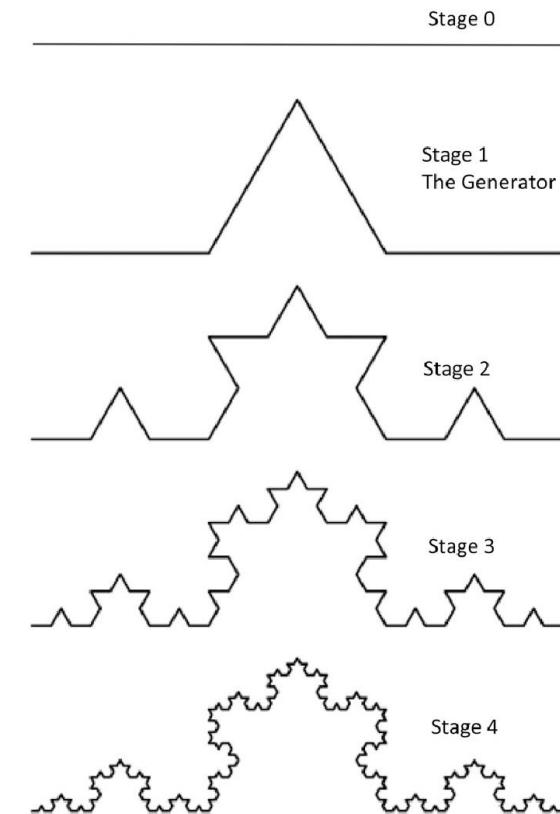
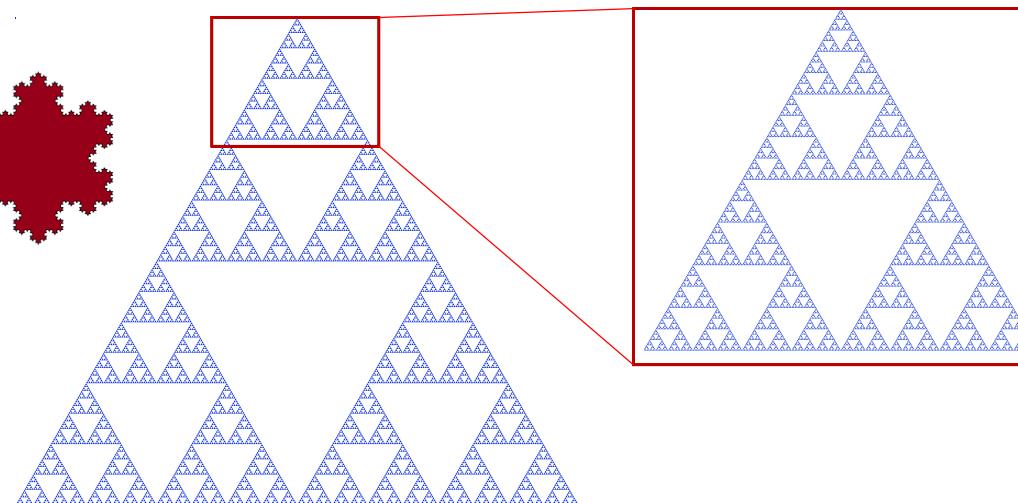
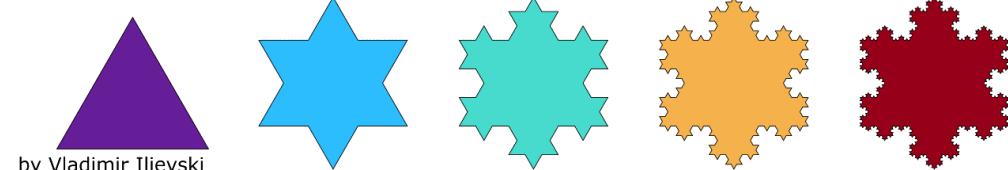
# BACKGROUND- Fractals Introduction

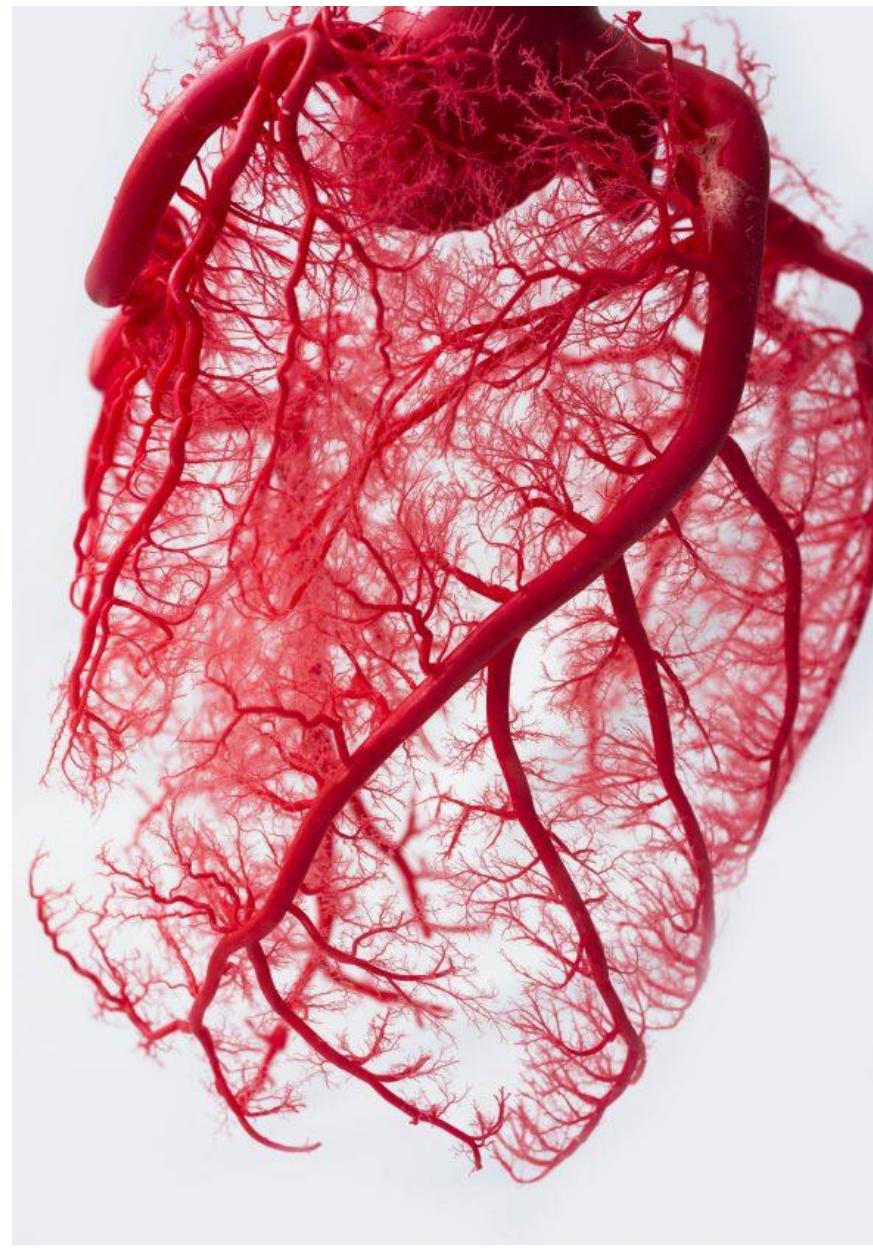
- **Fractal** objects when magnified:
  - Reveal finer and finer features;
  - Special case: look similar to larger features
- Four Properties:
  - Self-Similarity (Affinity)
  - Scaling
  - Dimensions
  - Statistical Properties



# BACKGROUND- Self-Similarity

- A **geometrical interpretation** is that small parts of an object (exactly) resemble the shape formed by the entire object
  - Scale-free
  - Inherent roughness



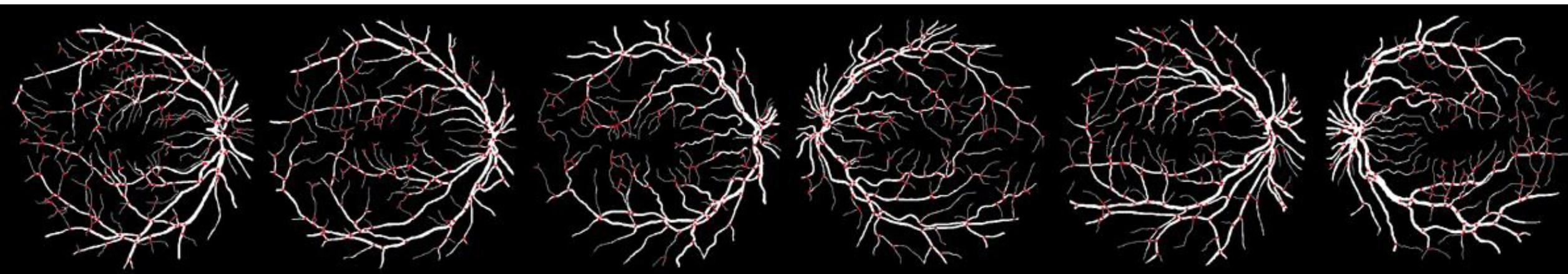


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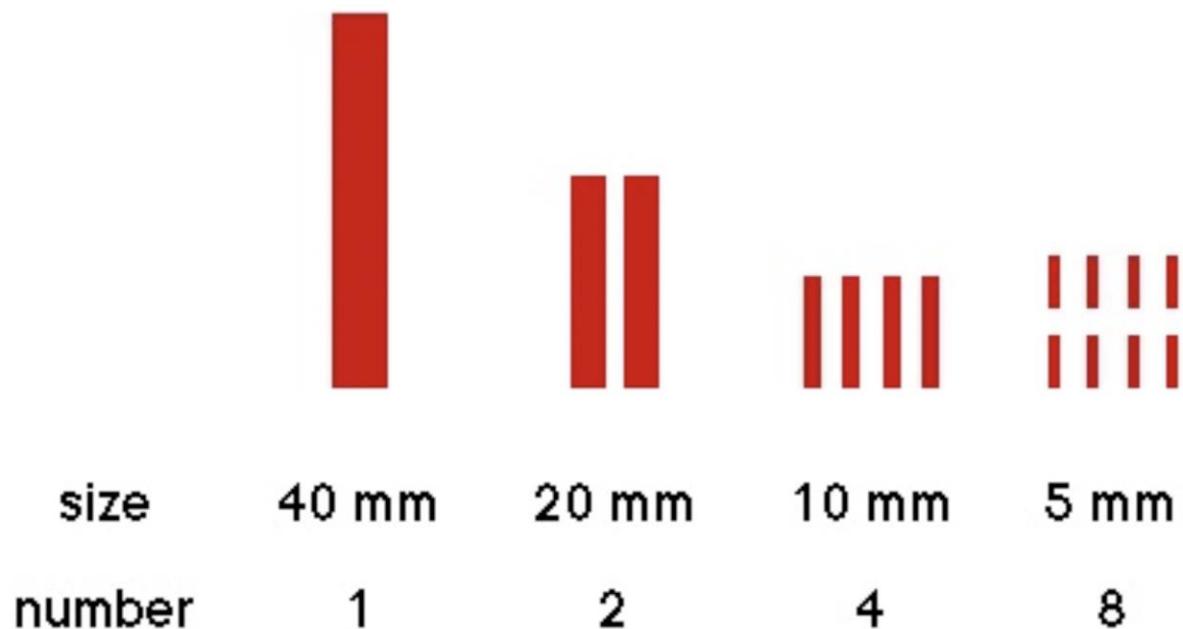
## BACKGROUND- Self-Similarity

- A **statistical interpretation** is that spatial limitations may prevent infinite expansion, therefore geometric self similarity may not exist, but statistical self similarity exists.
- It may not always **LOOK** fractal but it may **BE** fractal

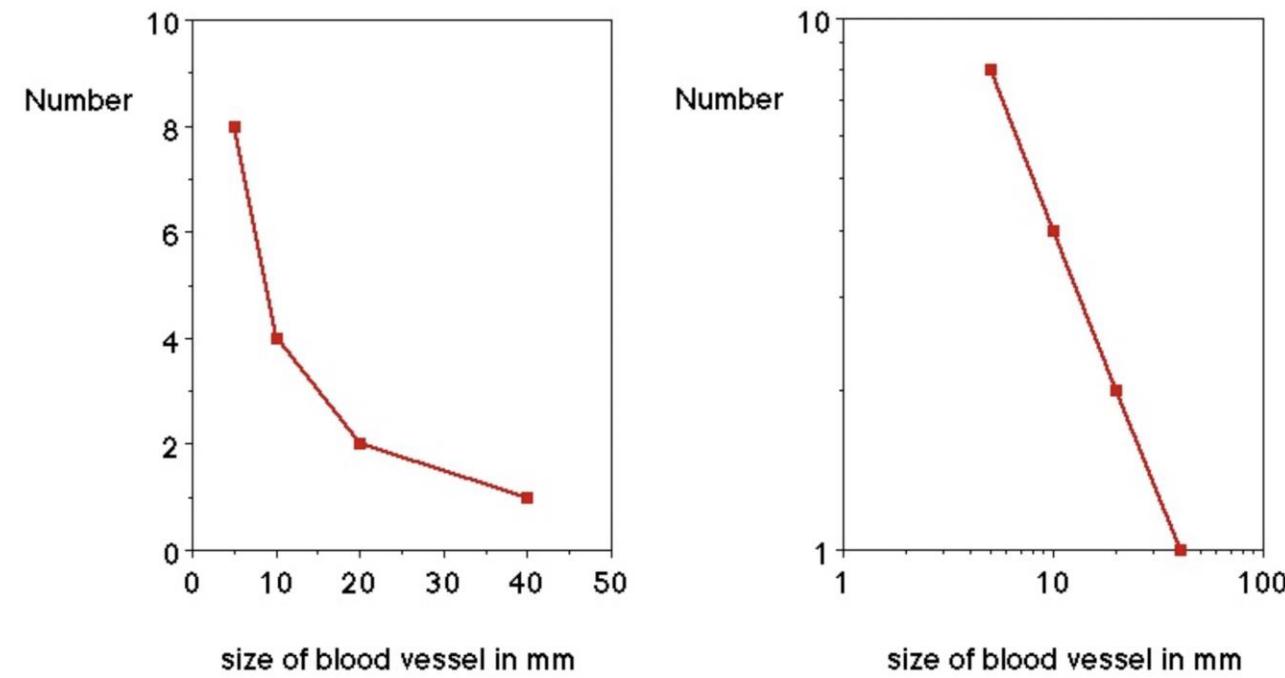


## BACKGROUND- Self-Similarity

### Retinal Blood Vessels

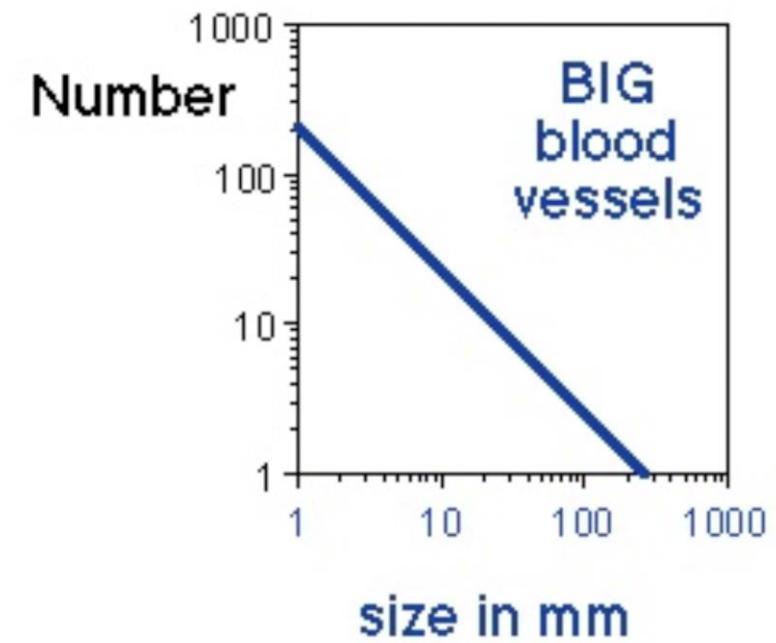
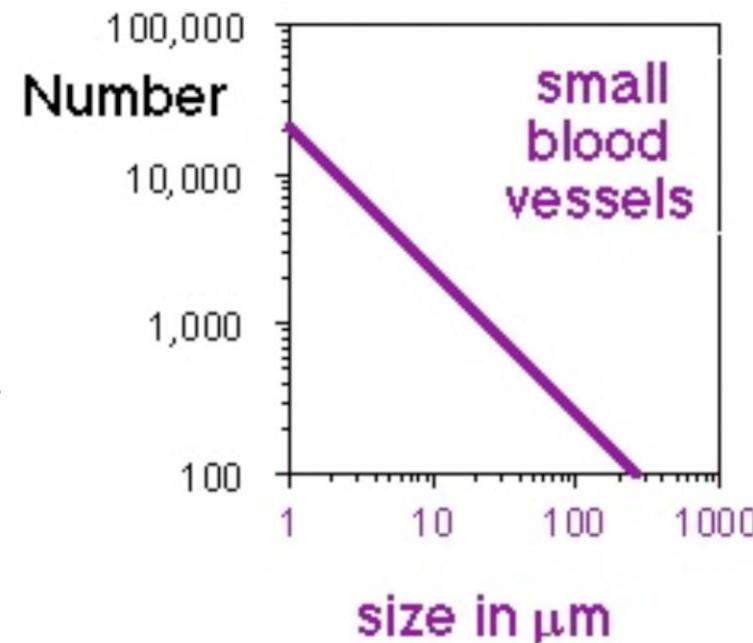


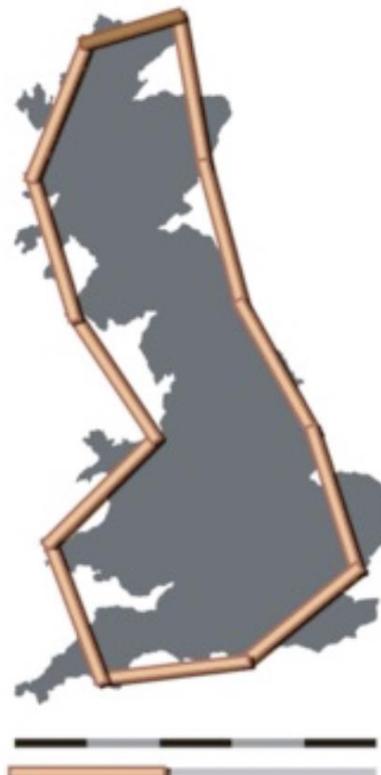
### Probability Density Function (PDF)



## BACKGROUND- Self-Similarity/Scaling

- Meaningful information is lost using a single resolution
- Our analysis is on this scaling relationship!





Unit = 200 km,  
Length = 2400 km (approx.)



Unit = 100 km,  
Length = 2800 km (approx.)



Unit = 50 km,  
Length = 3400 km (approx.)

How long is the coast of Britain?  
Mandelbrot, 1967, Science



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## BACKGROUND- Dimension

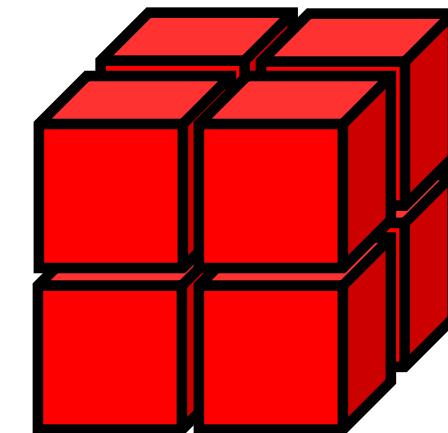
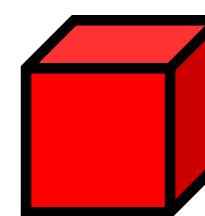
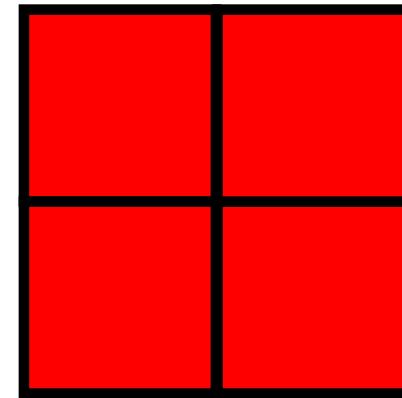
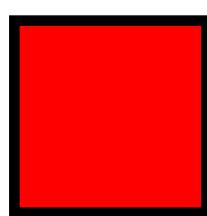


- The **fractal dimension** provides a quantitative measurement of self-similarity and scaling.
- Characterizes how the fractal object fills space

$$\text{Fractal Dimension (D)} = \frac{\ln N}{\ln R} = \frac{N \text{ Number of figures}}{R \text{ times larger}}$$

## BACKGROUND- Dimension

$$\text{Fractal Dimension (D)} = \frac{\ln N}{\ln R} = \frac{N \text{ Number of figures}}{R \text{ times larger}}$$

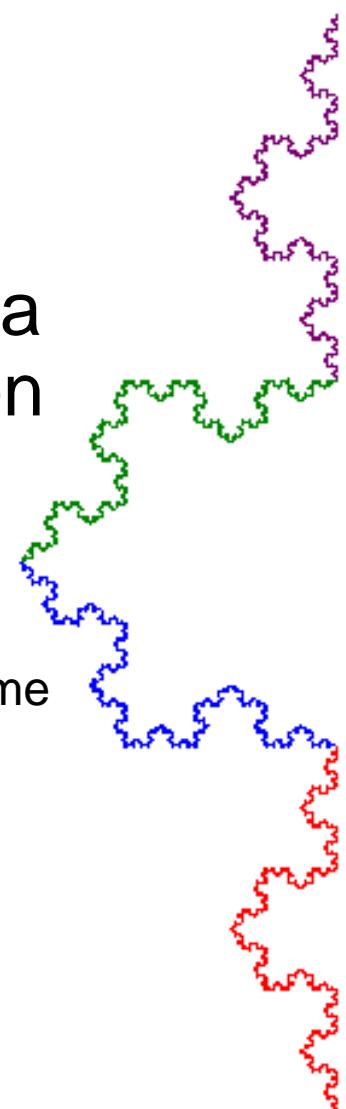


$$D = \frac{\ln 4}{\ln 2} = \frac{2}{1} = 2$$

$$D = \frac{\ln 8}{\ln 2} = \frac{3}{1} = 3$$

## BACKGROUND- Dimension

- A **fractal** is an object in space or process in time that has a fractal dimension ( $D$ ) greater than its topological dimension
  - Example:  $D = 1.26$ 
    - Since  $D > 1$ , it covers more than a 1-D line, but less than a 2-D area
    - Topological dimension is 1
      - This dimension tells us what the object is, such as an edge, surface, or volume
  - When fractal dimension > topological dimension
    - The edge, surface, or volume has more finer pieces than we would have expected of an object with its topological dimension



# BACKGROUND- Statistical Properties

Fractal or Not Fractal?



How can you tell?

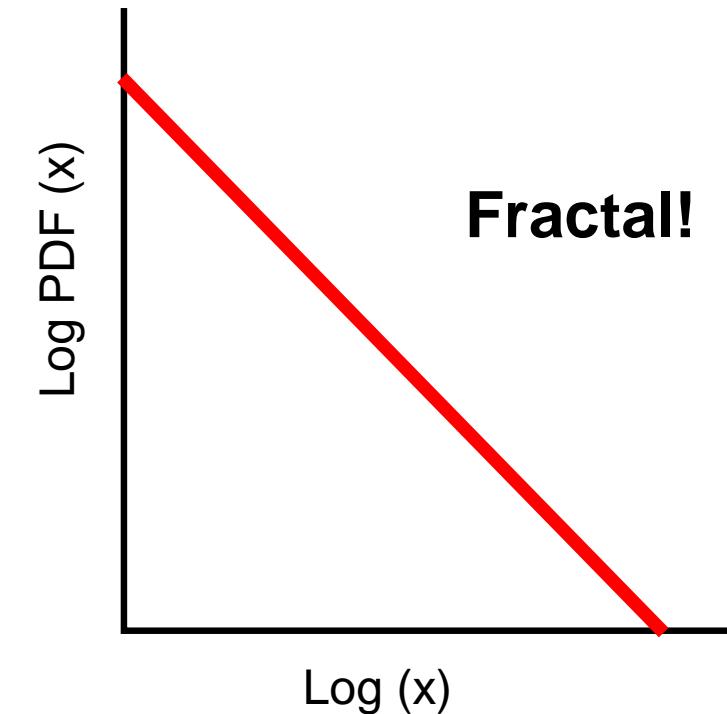


# BACKGROUND- Statistical Properties

Fractal or Not Fractal?



How can you tell?



# BACKGROUND- Statistical Properties

Fractal or Not Fractal?

How can you tell?



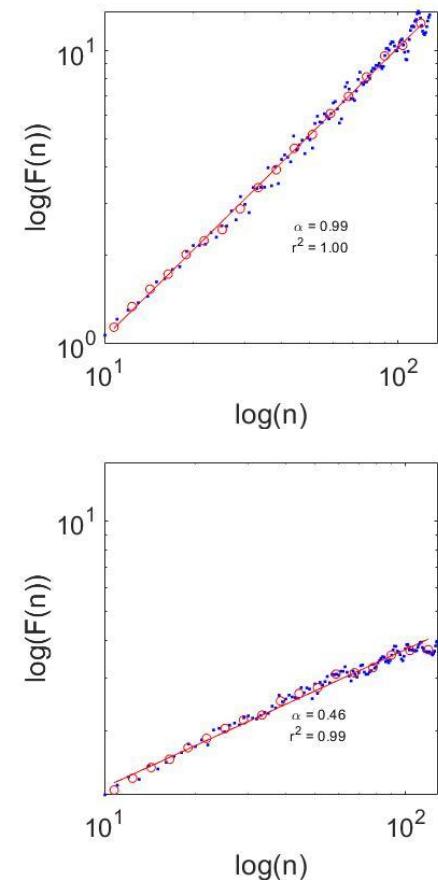
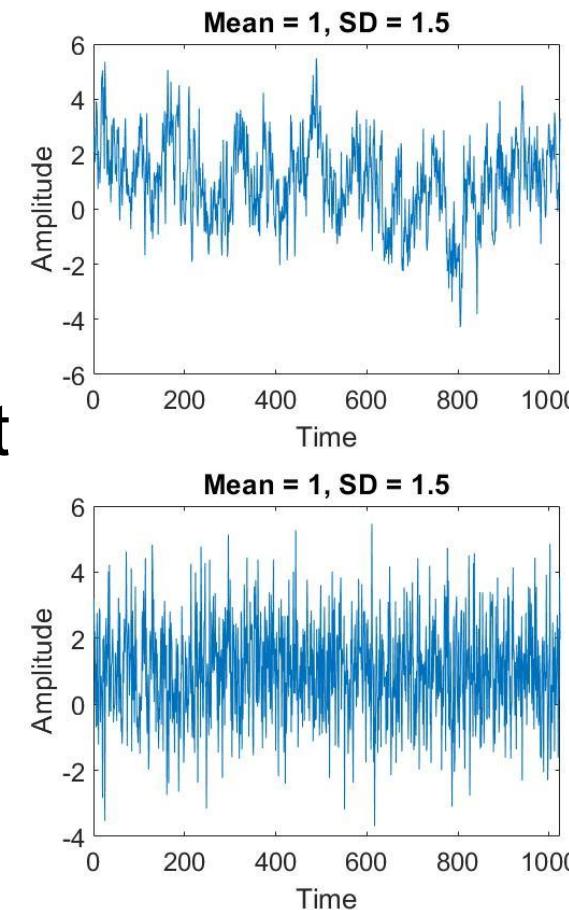
## Where can it be found and what does it tell us?

- Fractal patterns/behavior exists in:
  - DNA nucleotides
  - Neural patterns
  - Cardiovascular system
  - Heart rate
  - Inter-step intervals
  - Inter-organism communication
  - Geographical features
  - Weather patterns
- Fractal patterns/behavior can distinguish between healthy and unhealthy patients in:
  - **Center of Pressure**
  - **Gait**
  - Heart rate
  - Huntington's
  - Parkinson's
  - Alzheimers
  - ADHD



# What does this complex structure tell us?

- Characteristics that may not be present from traditional perspectives (i.e. Mean/SD)
- We can look at changes overtime in a system at different time-scales
- **Fractal analysis is measuring how some measure of variability changes as a function of scale**

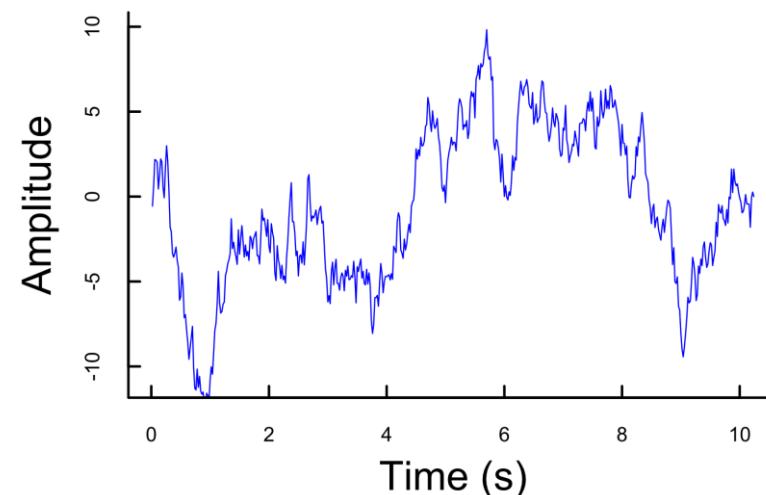
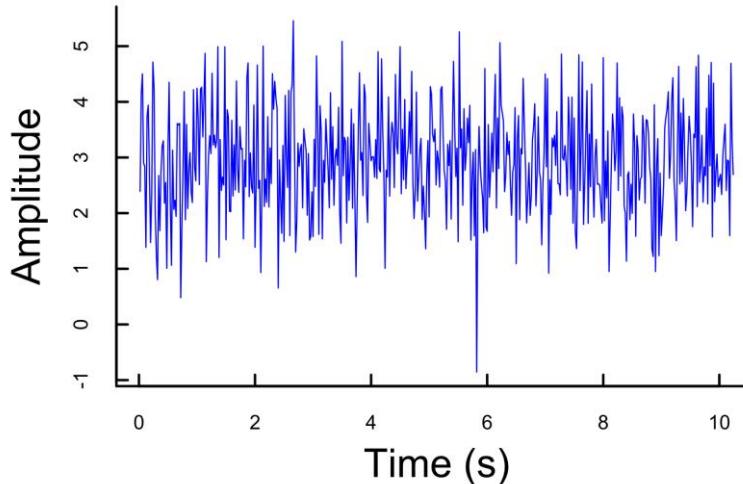


# How can we capture this complex structure?

- Fractal analysis techniques
  - **Monofractal Detrended Fluctuation Analysis (DFA)** (Peng et al 1994)
    - A method to determine the statistical self-similarity of long time-series that may have memory
  - Multifractal Detrended Fluctuation Analysis (MFDFA)
  - Fractal Regression
  - And many more!



## DFA ANALYSIS STEP BY STEP

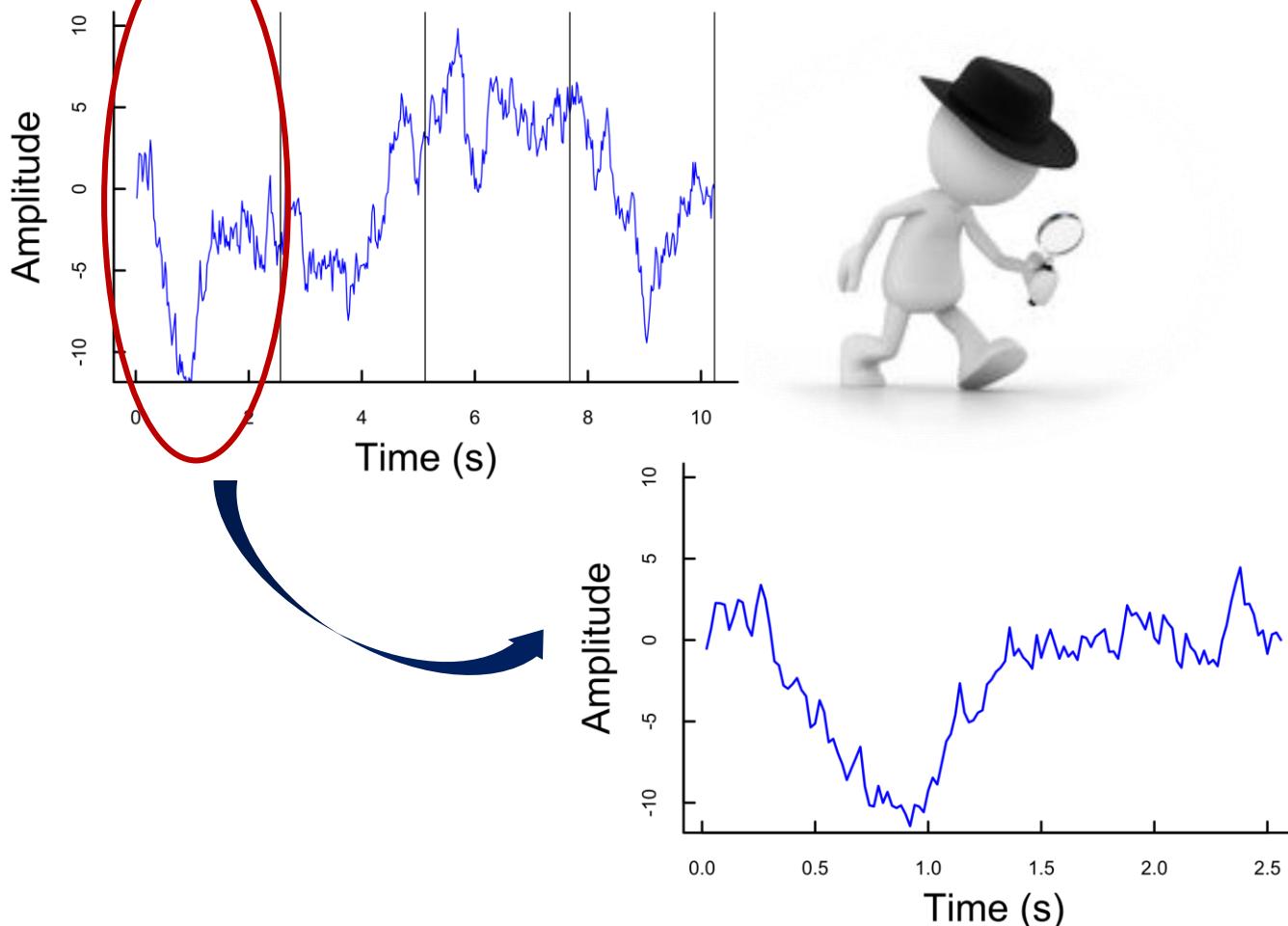


### Step 1

- Create a profile of a time series:
  - subtracting its mean from each data point
  - Integrate the time series
- This step allows the conversion of the time series to random walk-like process that meets the theoretical assumptions of DFA



## DFA ANALYSIS STEP BY STEP



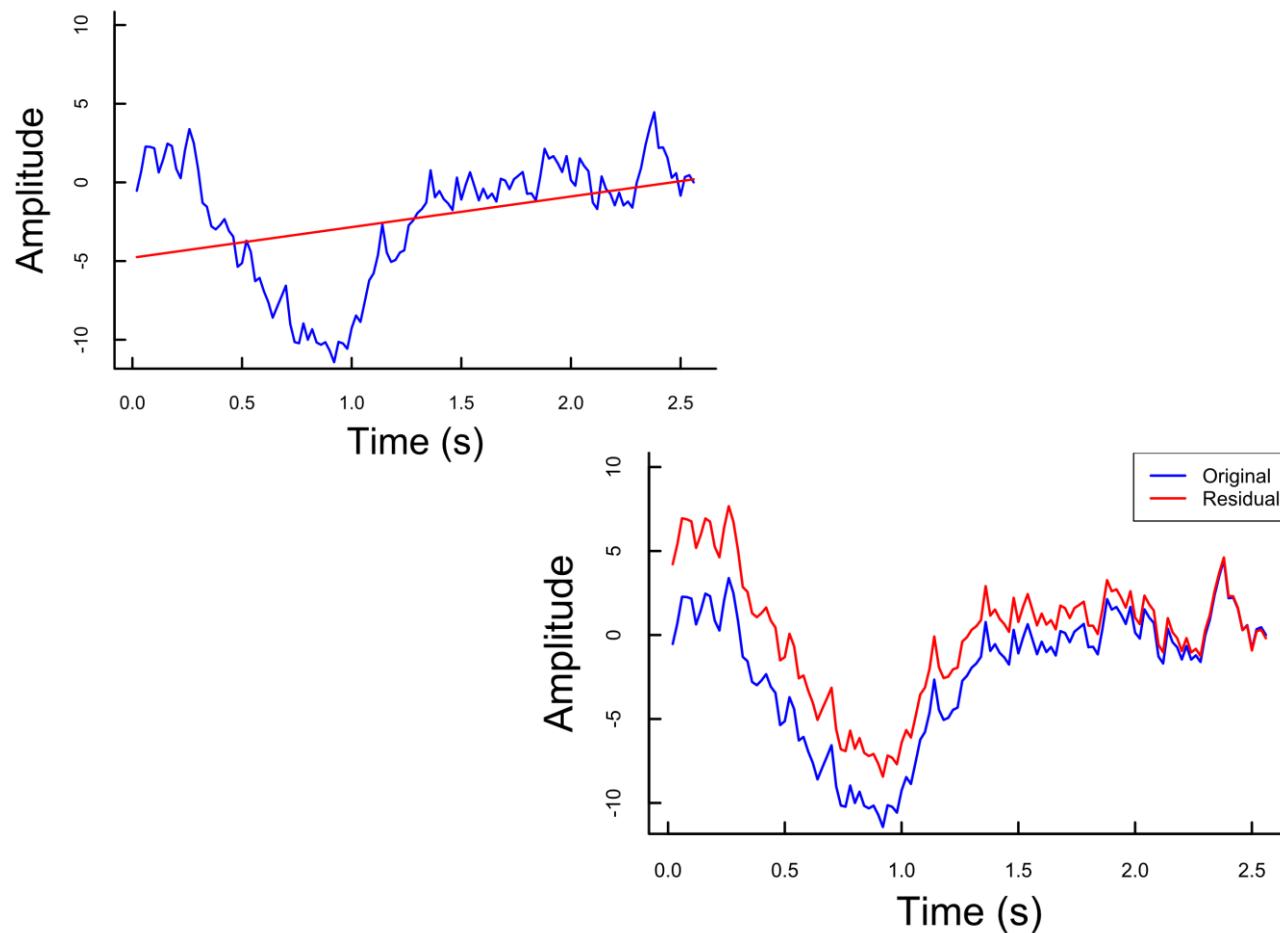
### **Step 2**

- Divide the series into a sequence of non-overlapping windows.
- In this example, the time series was separated into 4 windows (Top).

→ Zooming in



# DFA ANALYSIS STEP BY STEP



## Step 3

Detrending stage:

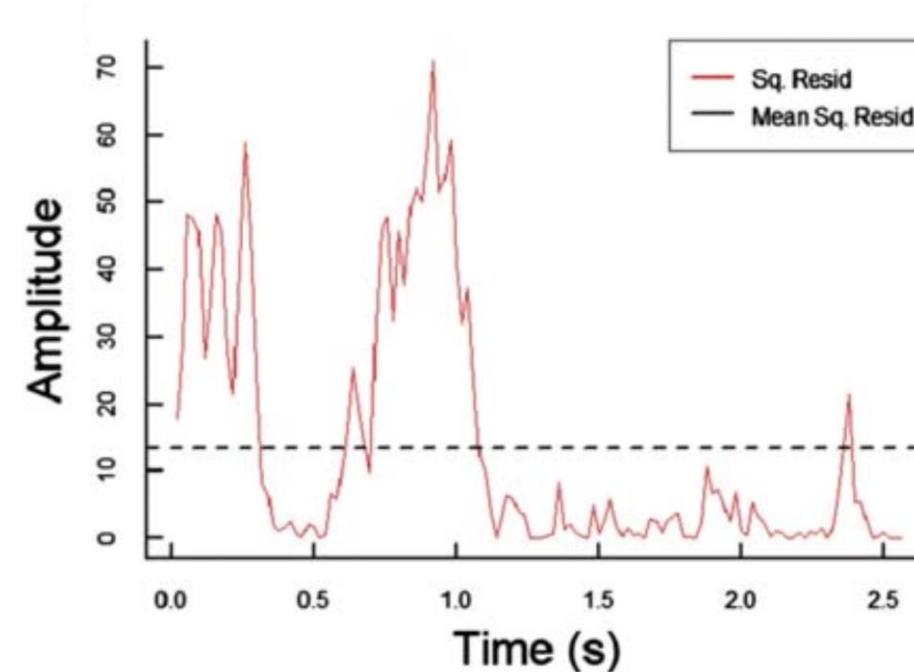
- This means fitting a regression line within each of the windows (Top)
- Then, we subtract the fitted trend line from the data in each window (Bottom)



## DFA ANALYSIS STEP BY STEP

### Step 4

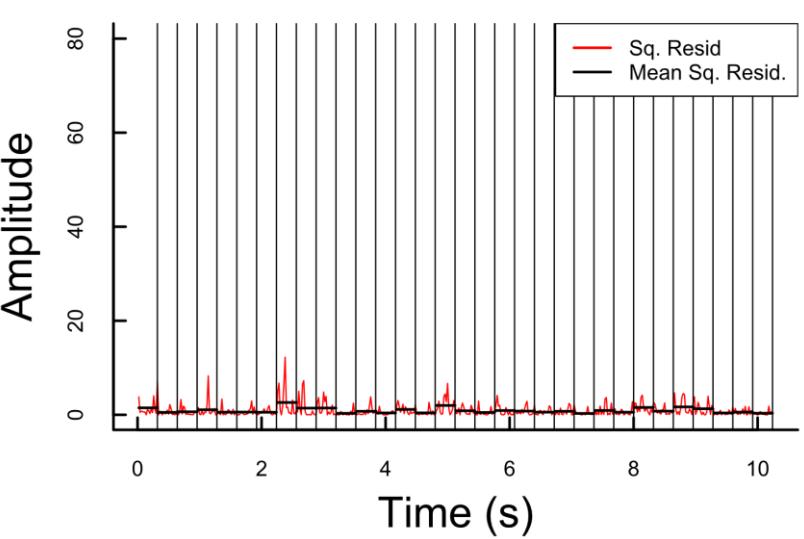
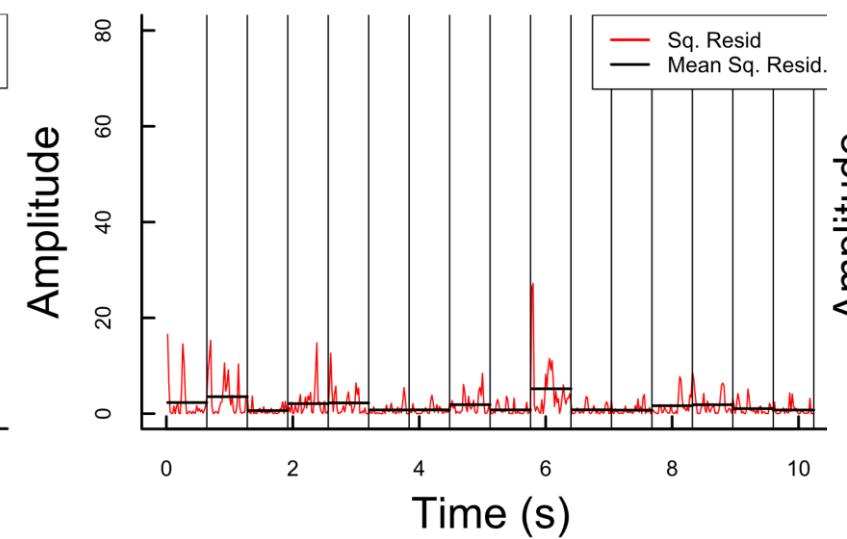
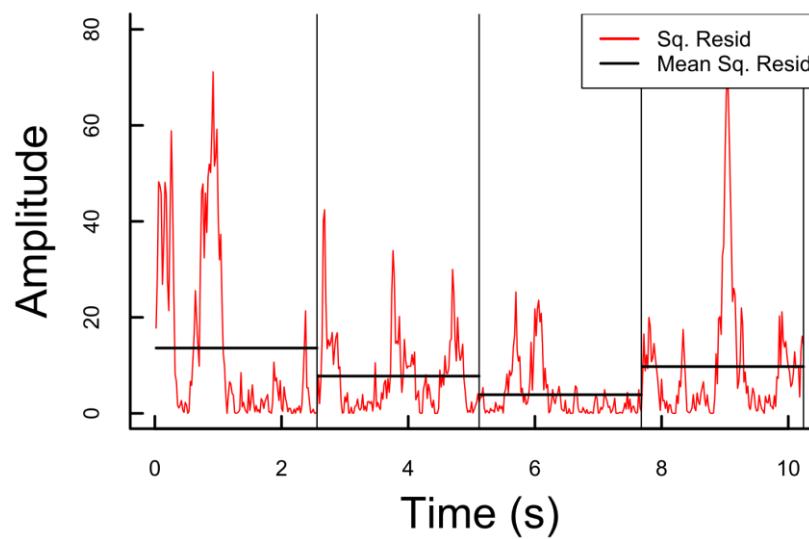
- Find the average fluctuation  $F(s)$  by taking the root mean square of the local residuals within each scale.



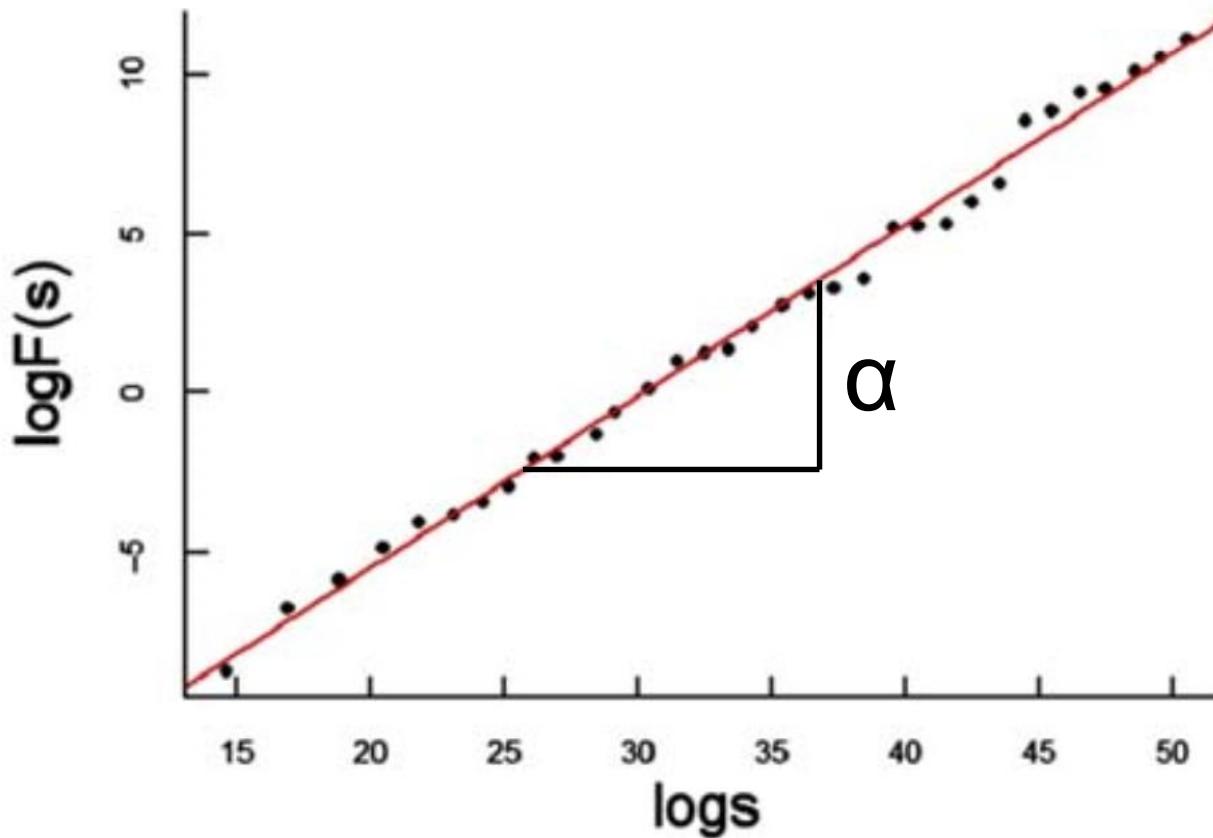
# DFA ANALYSIS STEP BY STEP

## Step 4

- Find the average fluctuation  $F(s)$  by taking the root mean square of the local residuals within each scale.



## DFA ANALYSIS STEP BY STEP



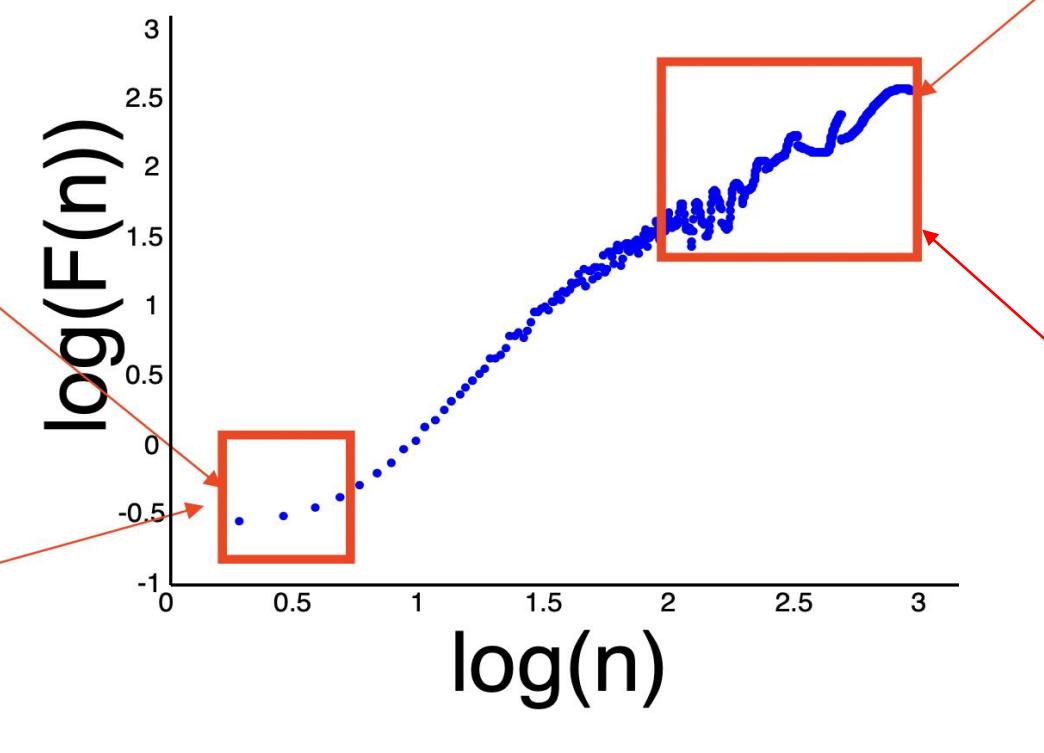
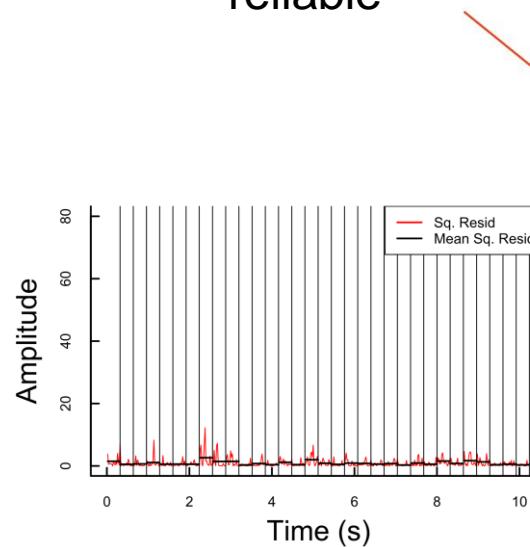
### Step 5

- Perform a regression to estimate the scaling exponent  $\alpha$
- $\alpha$  is a measure of how fast the standard deviation changes as a function of timescale

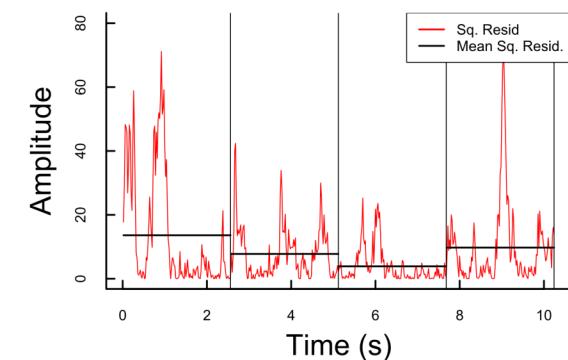


# DFA ANALYSIS Interpretation

- Many small windows
- SD's computed from only a few points
- Statistically less reliable

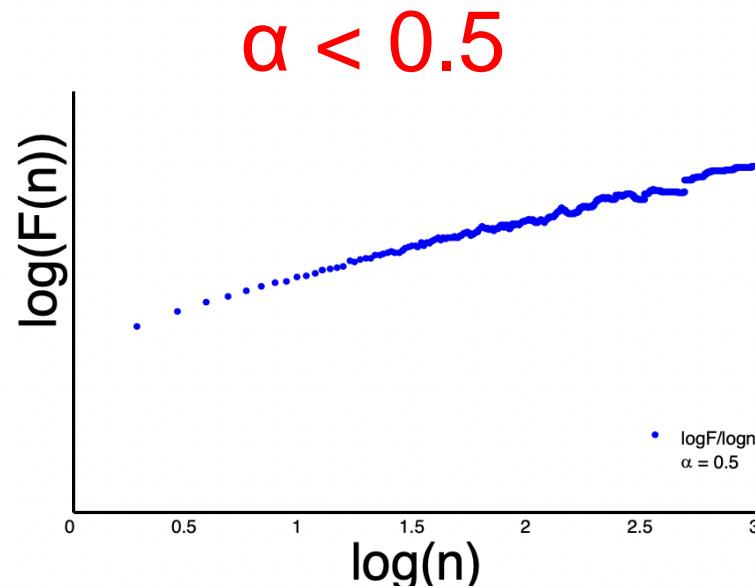


- Few large windows
- Fewer windows to compute average fluctuations
- More variable

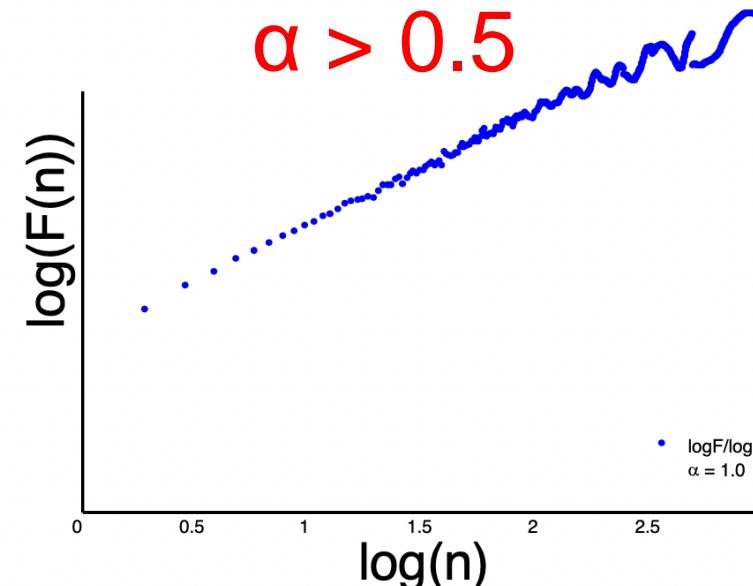


# DFA ANALYSIS Interpretation

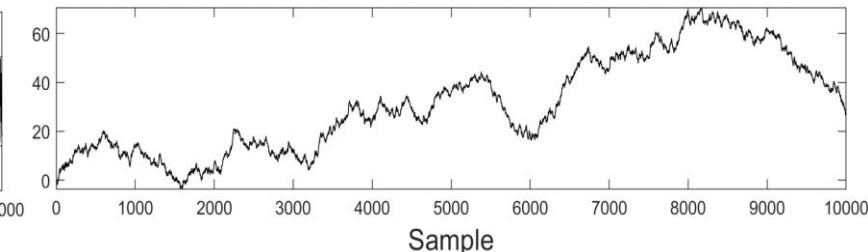
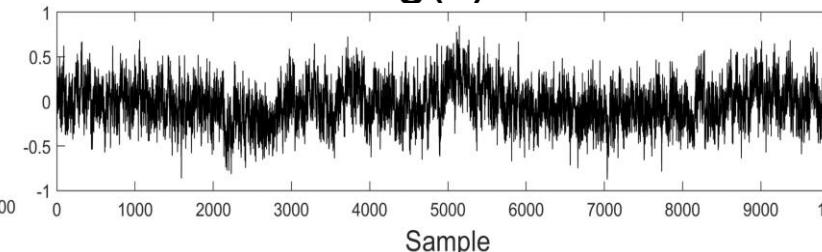
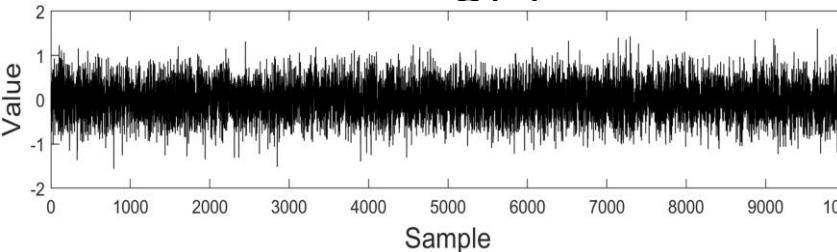
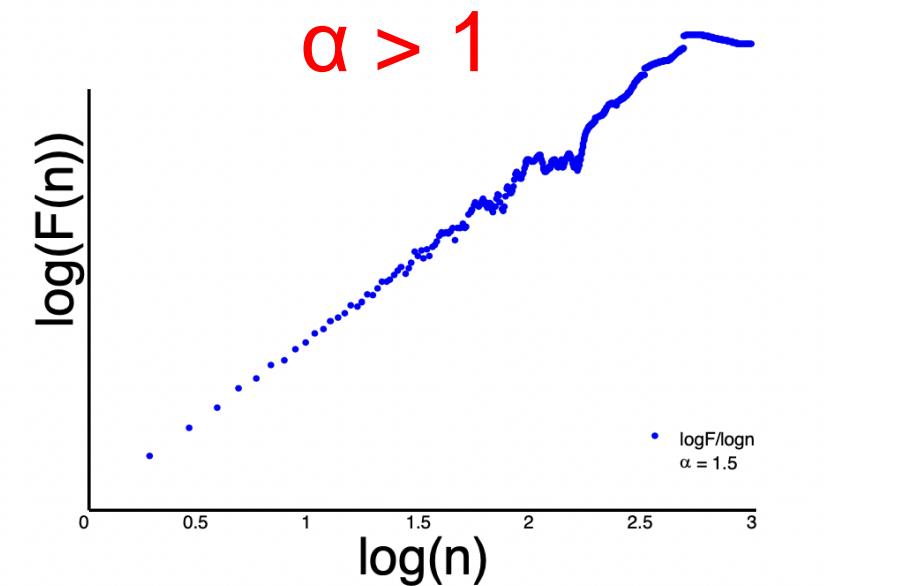
Negatively Correlated



Positively Correlated

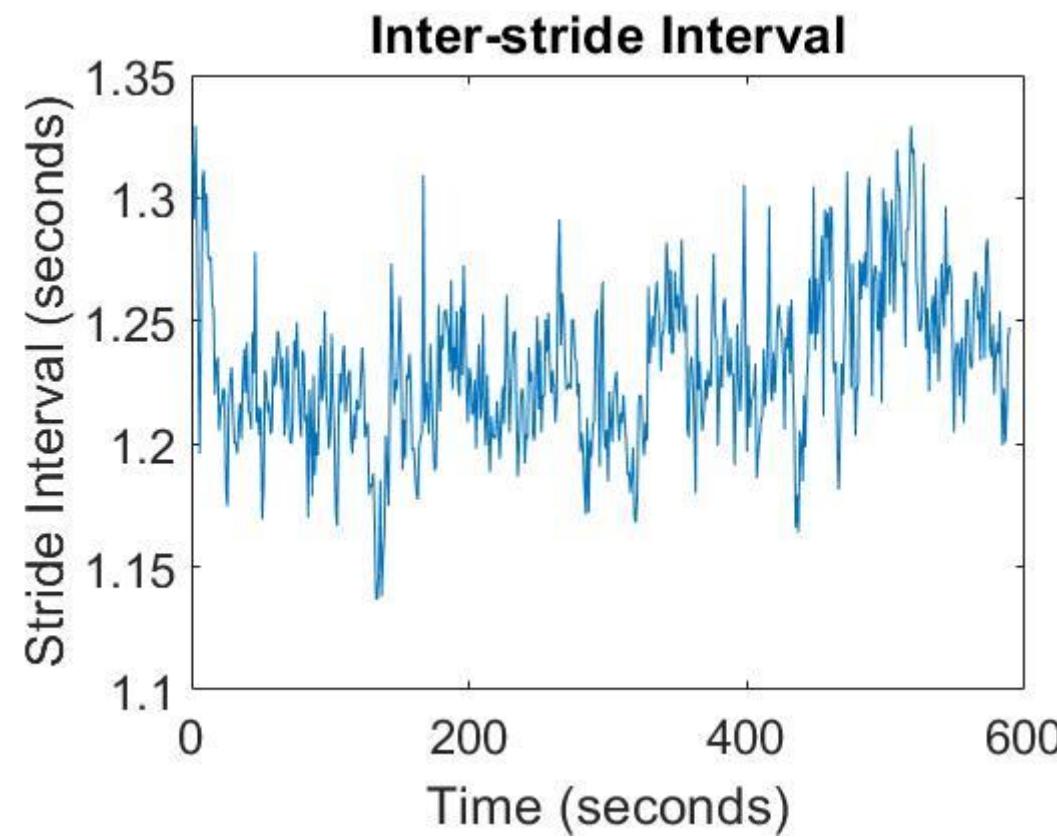


Nonstationary/Unbounded



# DFA Best Practices

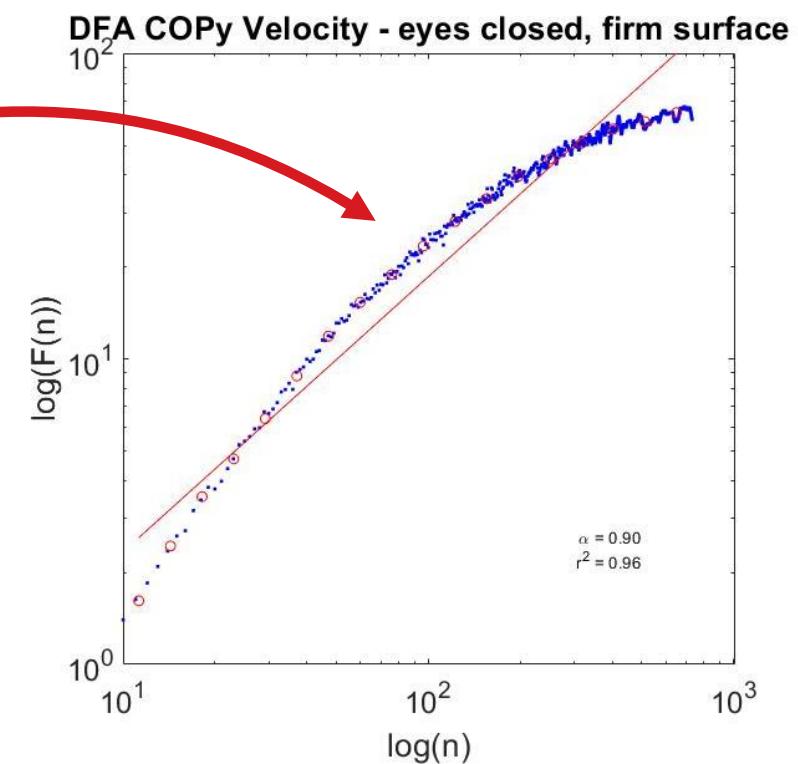
- Plot your data
  - Visually inspect for:
    - ↑ or ↓ trends
    - Structure or roughness
- Time series length
  - More is almost always better
  - $\geq 500$  datapoints for stable  $\alpha$  estimates
    - i.e. 500 steps, taps, beats
    - Options exist for shorter time series



# DFA Best Practices

- Investigating crossovers
  - Crossovers of short/long-term scaling behaviors
  - Begin DFA at lowest order
    - Inspect  $\log F(n) \times \log(n)$  plot for **crossover**
      - Repeat DFA with higher order if crossover exists

- Timescales
  - Minimum = 16 data points
  - Maximum =  $\frac{\text{Length of series}}{9}$



\*\*\*\*\*5 min Break\*\*\*\*\*

## Github link:

<https://github.com/aaronlikens/NACOB-2022-Multifractal-Methods-in-Movement-Science.git>

### MATLAB VERSION

There are no known incompatibilities using MATLAB version R2019a or later.

MATLAB Toolboxes Required:

Statistics and Machine Learning Toolbox

Signal Processing Toolbox

Image Processing Toolbox



## Images

- By Created by Wolfgang Beyer with the program Ultra Fractal 3. - Own work, CC BY-SA 3.0, <https://commons.wikimedia.org/w/index.php?curid=321973>
- <https://phys.org/news/2017-03-fractal-patterns-nature-art-aesthetically.html>
- <https://larryriddle.agnesscott.org/ifs/kcurve/kcurve.htm>
- By Bejan Stanislaus, CC BY-SA 3.0, <https://commons.wikimedia.org/w/index.php?curid=8862246>
- [https://www.researchgate.net/figure/The-first-stages-of-the-construction-of-von-Koch-curve-and-a-random-version-of-the-curve\\_fig1\\_329695536](https://www.researchgate.net/figure/The-first-stages-of-the-construction-of-von-Koch-curve-and-a-random-version-of-the-curve_fig1_329695536)
- <https://isquared.digital/visualizations/2020-06-15-koch-curve/>
- <https://iternal.us/what-is-a-fractal/>
- <https://webvision.med.utah.edu/tag/retinal-vasculature/>
- By Ivar Leidus - Own work, CC BY-SA 4.0, <https://commons.wikimedia.org/w/index.php?curid=97556224>

## Papers on polynomial order

- Kantelhardt, J. W., Koscielny-Bunde, E., Rego, H. H. A., Havlin, S., & Bunde, A. (2001). Detecting long-range correlations with detrended fluctuation analysis. *Physica A: Statistical Mechanics and Its Applications*, 295(3), 441454. Available from [https://doi.org/10.1016/S0378-4371\(01\)00144-3](https://doi.org/10.1016/S0378-4371(01)00144-3).
- Likens, A. D., Fine, J. M., Amazeen, E. L., & Amazeen, P. G. (2015). Experimental control of scaling behavior: What is not fractal? *Experimental Brain Research*, 233(10), 28132821.

## Peng paper on DFA

- Peng, C.-K., S. V. Buldyrev, S. Havlin, M. Simons, H. E. Stanley, and A. L. Goldberger. "Mosaic Organization of DNA Nucleotides." *Physical Review E* 49, no. 2 (February 1, 1994): 1685–89. <https://doi.org/10.1103/PhysRevE.49.1685>.

## Papers on time series length

- Delignieres, D., Ramdani, S., Lemoine, L., Torre, K., Fortes, M., & Ninot, G. (2006). Fractal analyses for 'short' time series: A re-assessment of classical methods. *Journal of Mathematical Psychology*, 50(6), 525544. Available from <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.jmp.2006.07.004>.
- Stroe-Kunold, E., Stadnytska, T., Werner, J., & Braun, S. (2009). Estimating long-range dependence in time series: An evaluation of estimators implemented in R. *Behavior Research Methods*, 41(3), 909923. Available from <https://doi.org/10.3758/BRM.41.3.909>.
- Marmelat, V., & Meidinger, R. L. (2019). Fractal analysis of gait in people with Parkinson's disease: Three minutes is not enough. *Gait & Posture*, 70, 229234. Available from <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.gaitpost.2019.02.023>.
- Yuan, Q., Gu, C., Weng, T., & Yang, H. (2018). Unbiased detrended fluctuation analysis: Long-range correlations in very short time series. *Physica A: Statistical Mechanics and Its Applications*, 505, 179189. Available from <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.physa.2018.03.043>.

## Papers on time scales

- Almurad, Z. M. H., & Delignières, D. (2016). Evenly spacing in detrended fluctuation analysis. *Physica A: Statistical Mechanics and Its Applications*, 451, 6369. Available from <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.physa.2015.12.155>.
- Likens, A. D., Fine, J. M., Amazeen, E. L., & Amazeen, P. G. (2015). Experimental control of scaling behavior: What is not fractal? *Experimental Brain Research*, 233(10), 28132821.
- Yuan, Q., Gu, C., Weng, T., & Yang, H. (2018). Unbiased detrended fluctuation analysis: Long-range correlations in very short time series. *Physica A: Statistical Mechanics and Its Applications*, 505, 179189. Available from <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.physa.2018.03.043>.



# Part II: MULTIFRACTAL DETRENDED FLUCTUATION ANALYSIS

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# Outline:

## Part II: Multifractal Analysis

- i. From monofractal to multifractal analysis
- ii. Multifractal Detrended Fluctuations Analysis step by step
- iii. MATLAB Tutorial

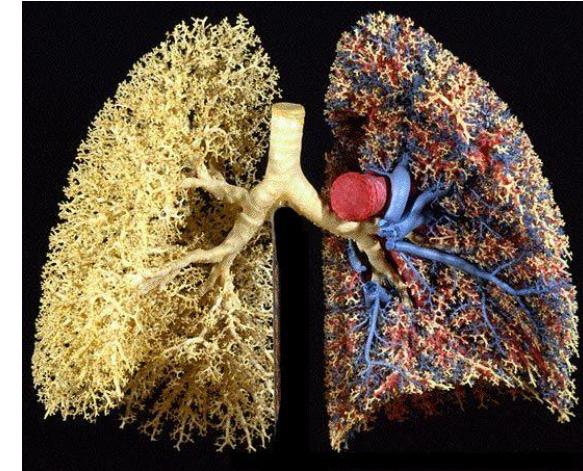


# Brief Recap on Fractals



*Aloe Vera plant*

Fractals are ubiquitous in nature



Many natural structures exhibit ***self-similarity***, where their structure repeat itself over many scales



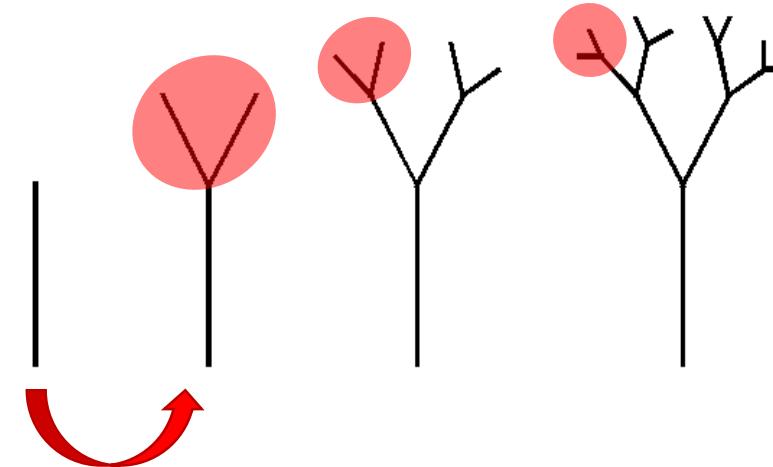
*Romanesco broccoli*

## Brief Recap on Fractals

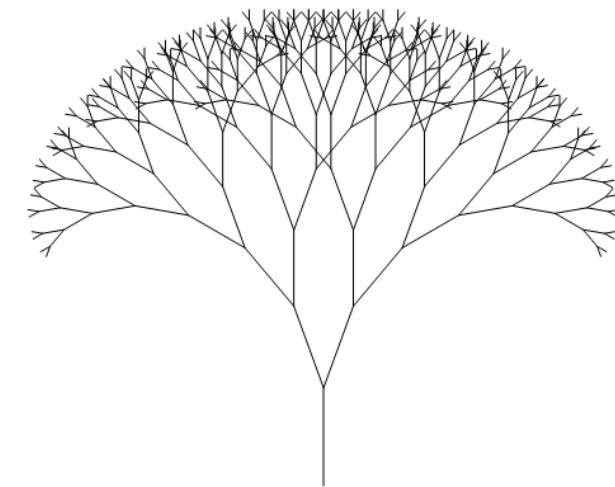
In fact, ***self-similarity*** can be easily illustrated through very simple mathematical rules.

### RULES:

1. Create a vertical line
2. Break that line in half and add it on top
3. Repeat



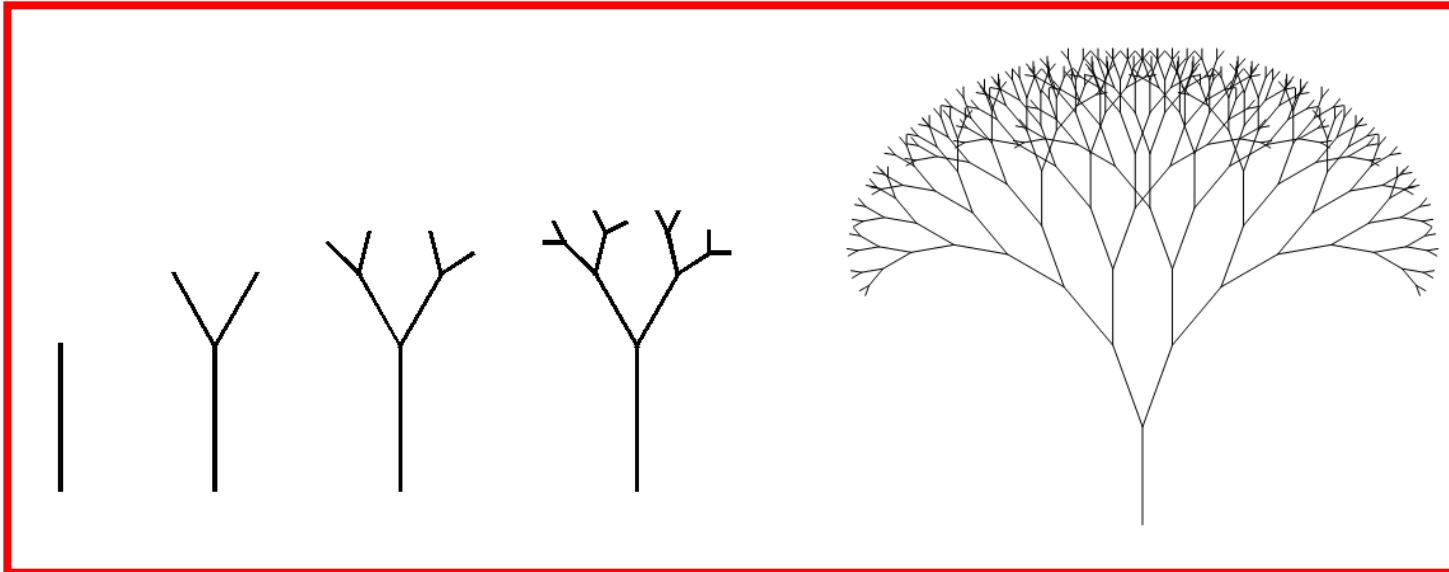
From a very simple set of rules, you get a complex structure



Fractal properties: *self-similarity*, *scale invariance*, *roughness*.

# Brief Recap on Fractals

What are differences that you observe between those two pictures?

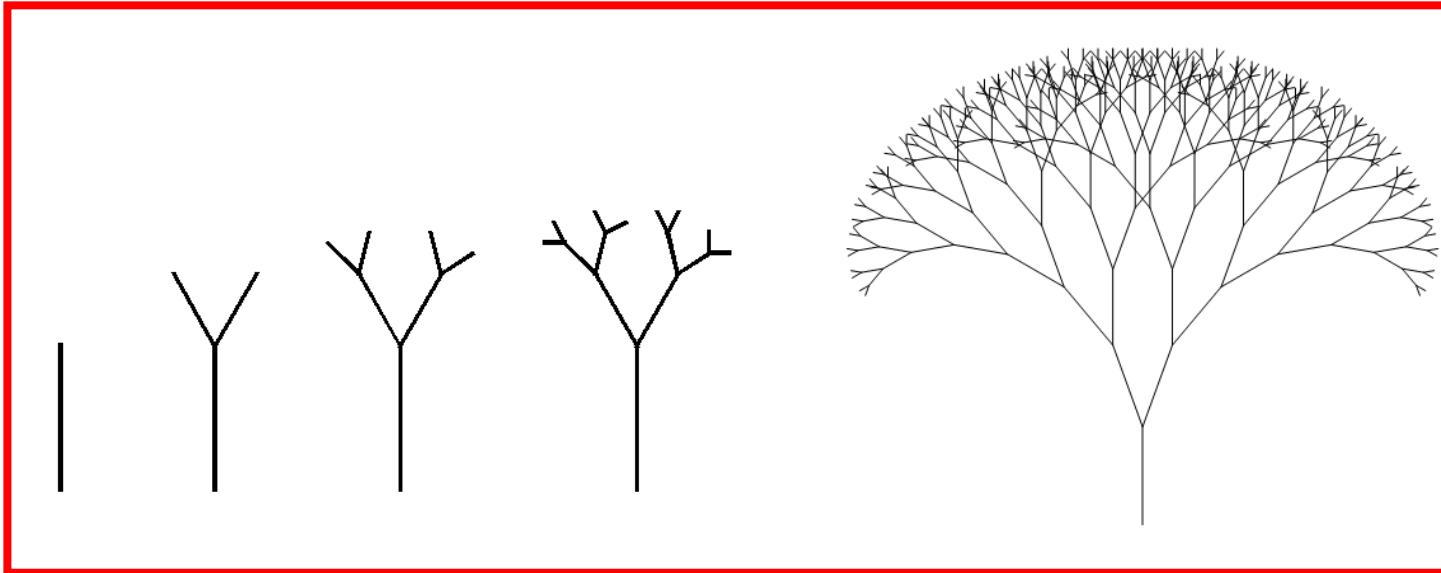


?



# Brief Recap on Fractals

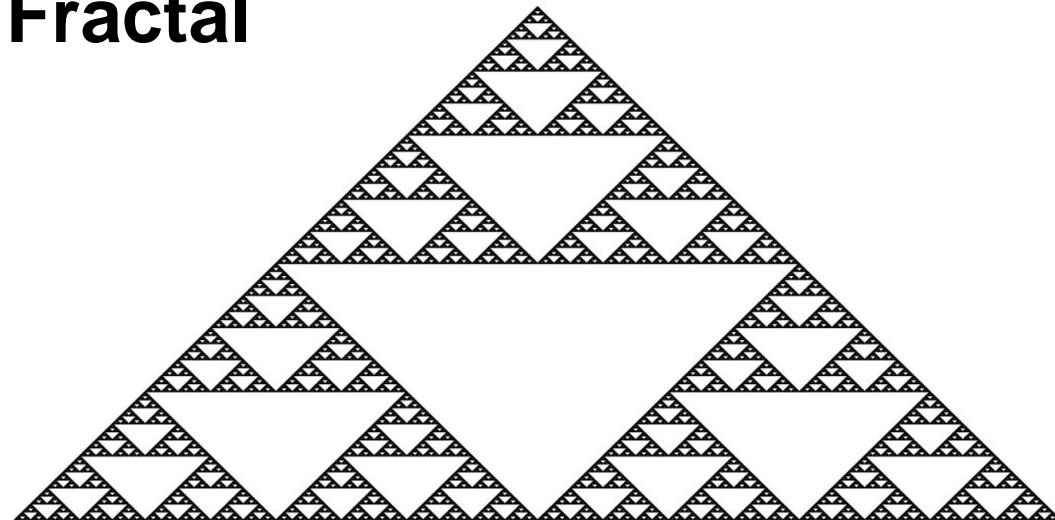
What are differences that you observe between those two pictures?



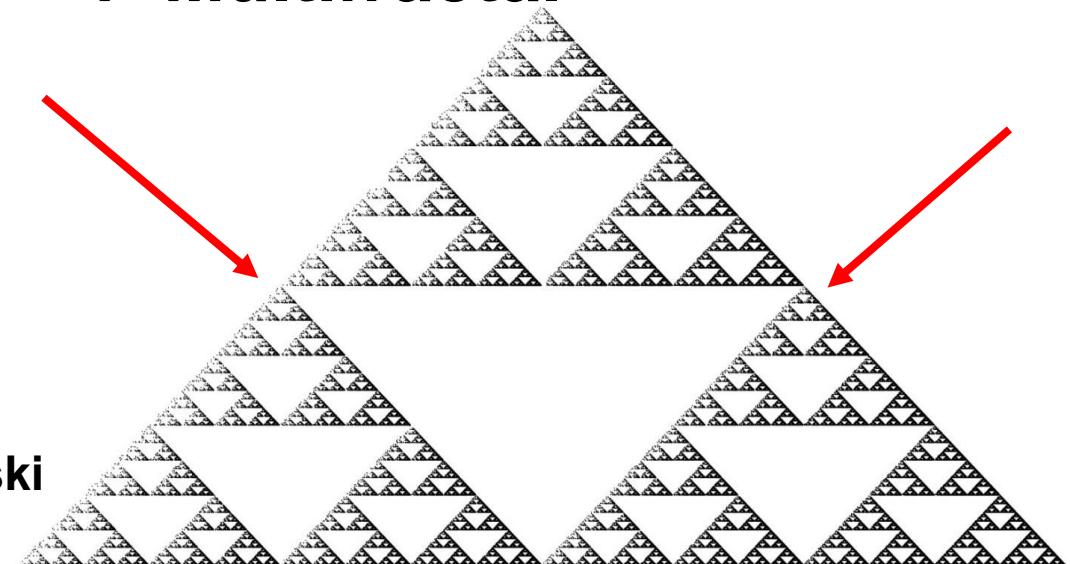
- There are some similarities, but nature is not quite perfect
- There is a physiological limit: trees don't grow forever

# MULTIFRACTALS ARE SELF-AFFINE\*

Here the scaling behavior is the same everywhere  
→ Fractal



Here the scaling behavior depends on where you look  
→ Multifractal



**Multifractals** have more than one scaling relationship, more than one scaling exponent



# JUST LIKE THE EXAMPLE ABOVE, OUR MOVEMENT IS NEVER PERFECTLY SIMILAR... 5

The surface you walk on is not always flat and stable



Your movement patterns constantly adapt to the environment



Movement patterns also vary from task to task (i.e., walk, run, ...)



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# So...Does it really make sense to only have a single strategy?



**Monofractals  
are overly  
restrictive!!!**



# MULTIFRACTALS

- Multifractals are **important** because they characterize many aspects of human variability:

- Entail coordination of multiple time scales
- Reflect the time varying demands and adaptability

- Human gait
- Upright posture
- Heart rate
- Neural activity
- Haptic perception
- Reaction times
- Speech production
- Time estimation
- Visual perception

Cavanaugh et al., 2017; Harrison & Stergiou, 2015; Ihlen (2013); Ihlen & Vereijken (2010); Ivanov et al., (2001); Likens et al., 2014; Palatinus et al., 2014; West & Scafetta (2003); Scafetta, Griffin, & West, (2003)



# DFA vs. MFDFA

## DFA

DFA is used to measure how variance (**2<sup>nd</sup> Statistical moment**) changes as a function of different time scales

## MFDFA

Multifractal Detrended Fluctuation Analysis (**MFDFA**) is used to measure how **variance** and other statistical moments change as a function of different time scales



\*Before we go further into the analysis, let's refresh our memory on a few earlier statistical concepts...

Who remembers the four main statistical moments from introductory statistics?

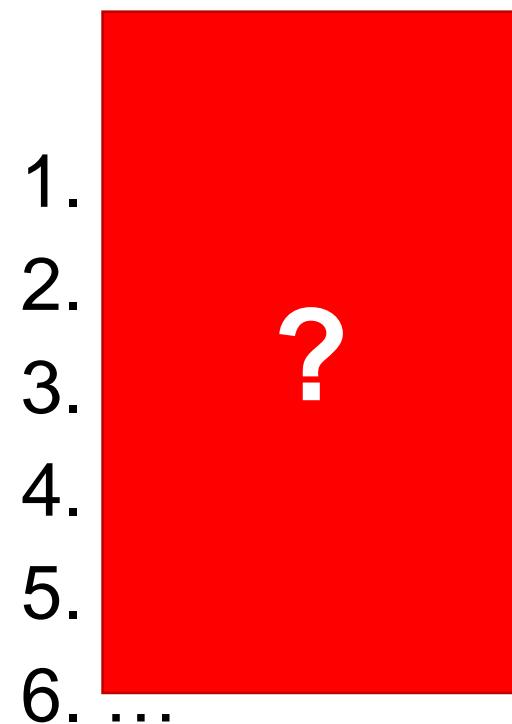


## QUICK RECALL

Just like there are higher derivative orders:

$y = f(x)$	Position (Displacement)
$\frac{dy}{dx} = y' = f'(x)$	
$\frac{d^2y}{dx^2} = y'' = f''(x)$	
$\frac{d^3y}{dx^3} = y''' = f'''(x)$	
$\frac{d^4y}{dx^4} = y^{(4)} = f^{(4)}(x)$	
$\frac{d^5y}{dx^5} = y^{(5)} = f^{(5)}(x)$	
$\frac{d^6y}{dx^6} = y^{(6)} = f^{(6)}(x)$	
Etc.	?

There are higher statistical moments:



# QUICK RECALL

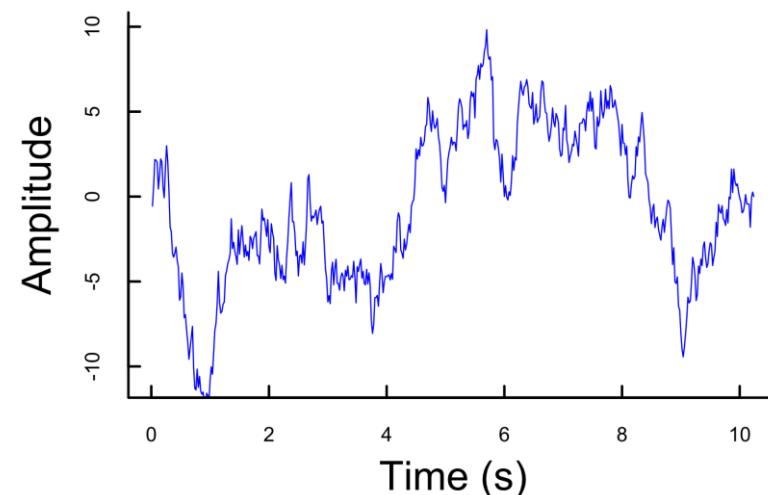
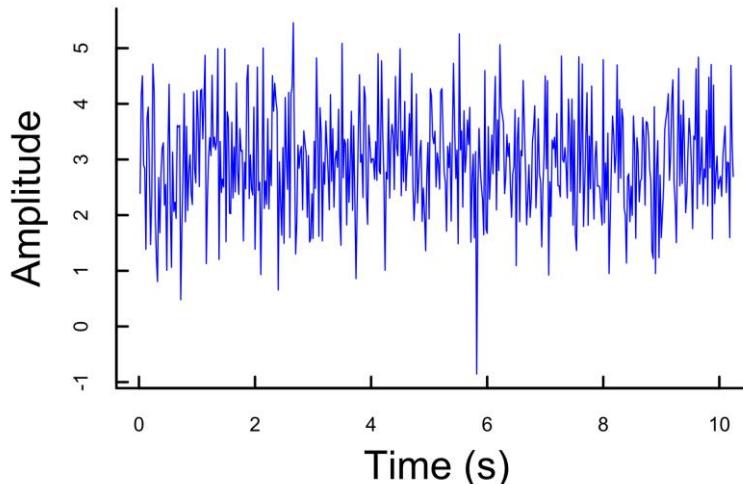
Just like there are higher derivative orders:

$y = f(x)$	Position (Displacement)
$\frac{dy}{dx} = y' = f'(x)$	Velocity
$\frac{d^2y}{dx^2} = y'' = f''(x)$	Acceleration
$\frac{d^3y}{dx^3} = y''' = f'''(x)$	Jerk
$\frac{d^4y}{dx^4} = y^{(4)} = f^{(4)}(x)$	Snap (Jounce)
$\frac{d^5y}{dx^5} = y^{(5)} = f^{(5)}(x)$	Crackle (Flounce)
$\frac{d^6y}{dx^6} = y^{(6)} = f^{(6)}(x)$	Pop (Pounce)
Etc.	

There are higher statistical moments:

1. Mean
2. Variance
3. Skewness
4. Kurtosis
5. ...
6. ...



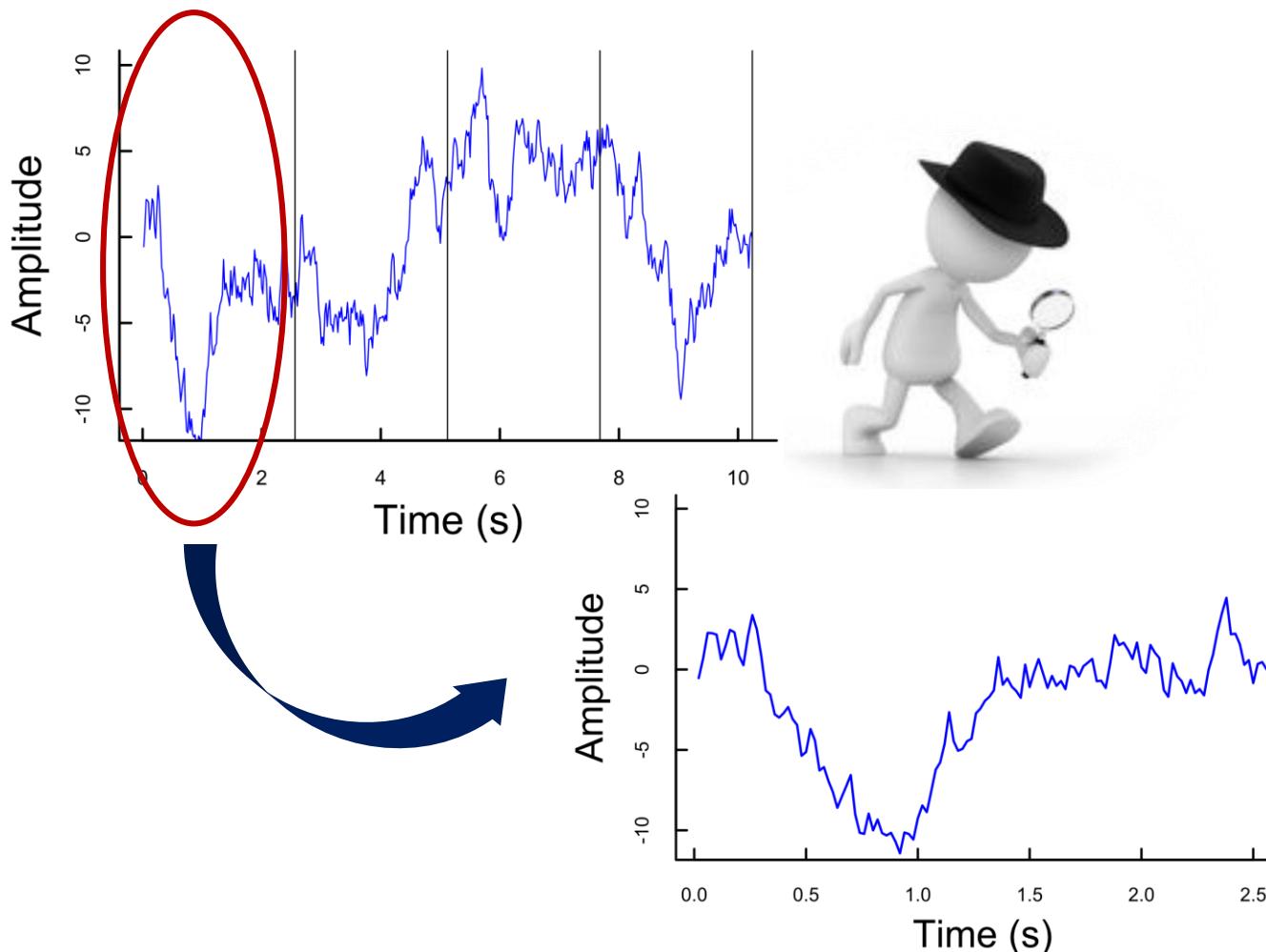


## Step 1

- Create a profile of a time series:
  - subtracting its mean from each data point
  - Integrate the time series
- This step allows the conversion of the time series to random walk-like process that meets the theoretical assumptions of DFA



# MFdfa ANALYSIS STEP BY STEP



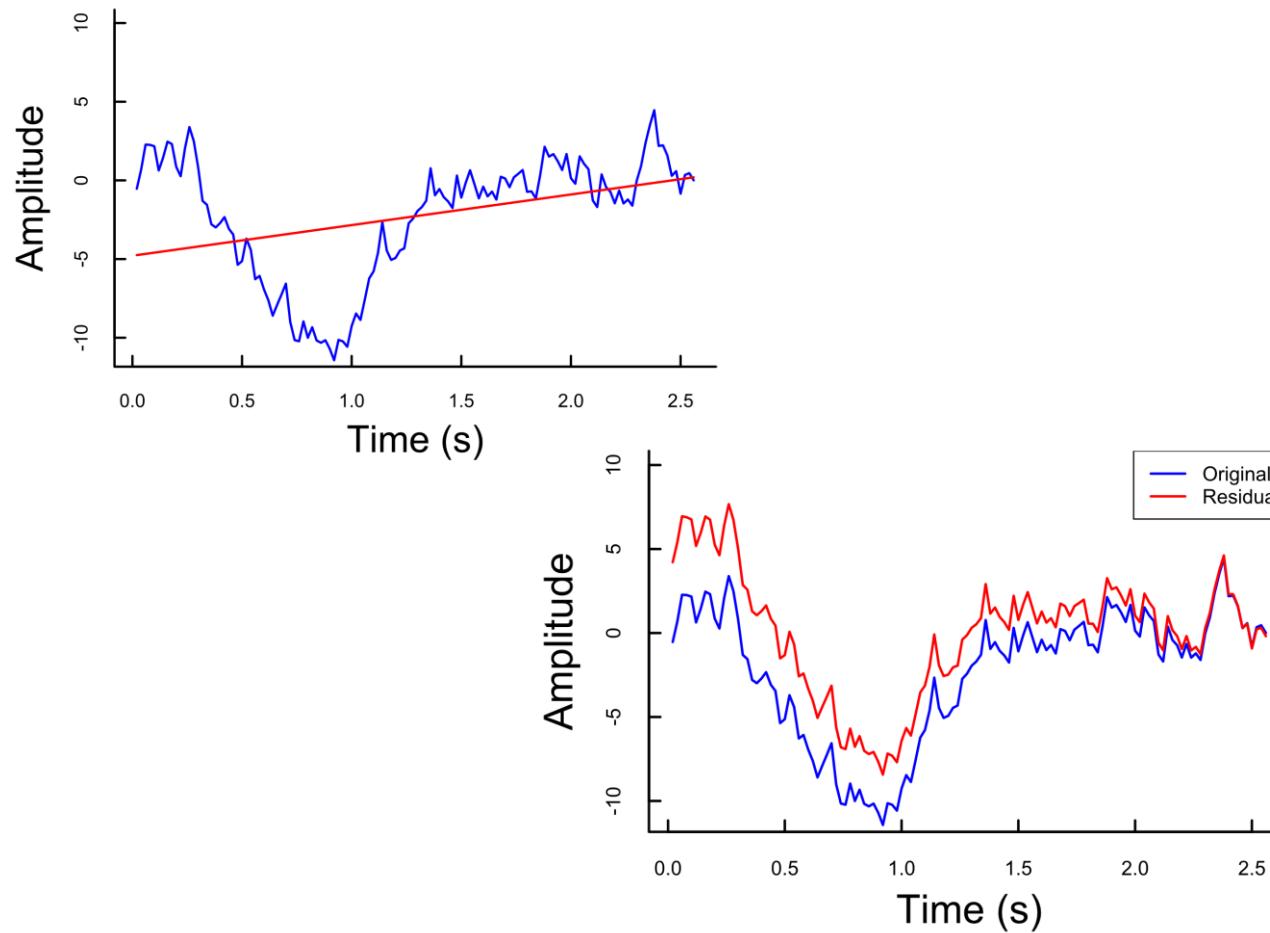
## Step 2

- Divide the series into a sequence of nonoverlapping windows.
- In this example, the time series was separated into 4 windows\* (Top).

→ Zooming in

\*In practice, 4 windows is not enough to obtain unbiased estimates of fluctuation but for the sake of this tutorial it will do

# MFdfa ANALYSIS STEP BY STEP



## Step 3

Detrending stage:

- This means fitting a regression line within each of the windows (Top).
- Then, we subtract the fitted trend line from the data in each window (Bottom).



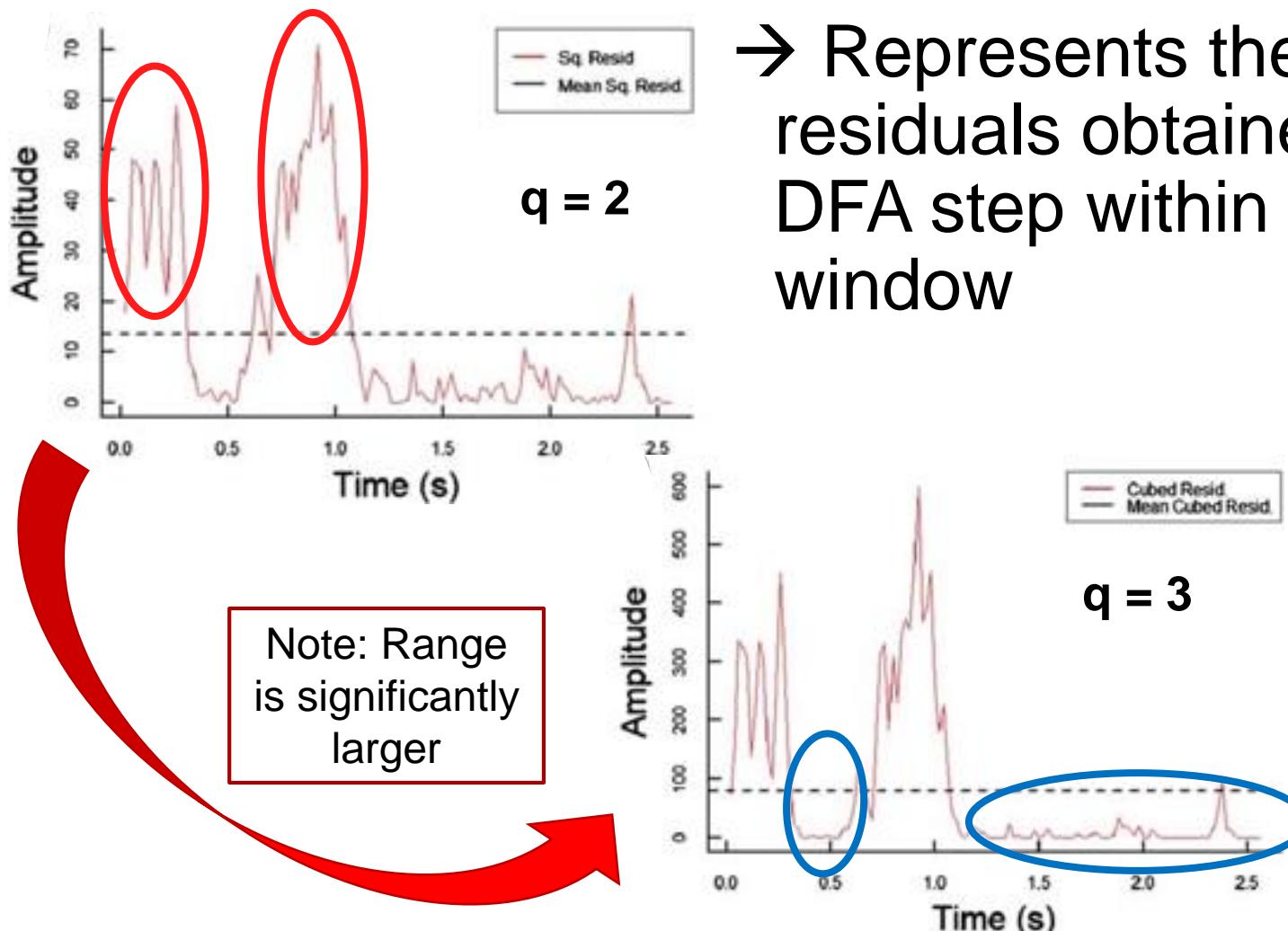
# MFdfa Analysis Step by Step

## Step 4

- Multifractal analysis involves analyzing several statistical moments (q-order)
- MFdfa focuses on analyzing the scaling behavior of these statistical moments.
- ***Monofractality*** (single power law) vs. ***Multifractality*** (multiple power law).



# MFDFA ANALYSIS STEP BY STEP



→ Represents the squared residuals obtained in the 4th DFA step within a single window

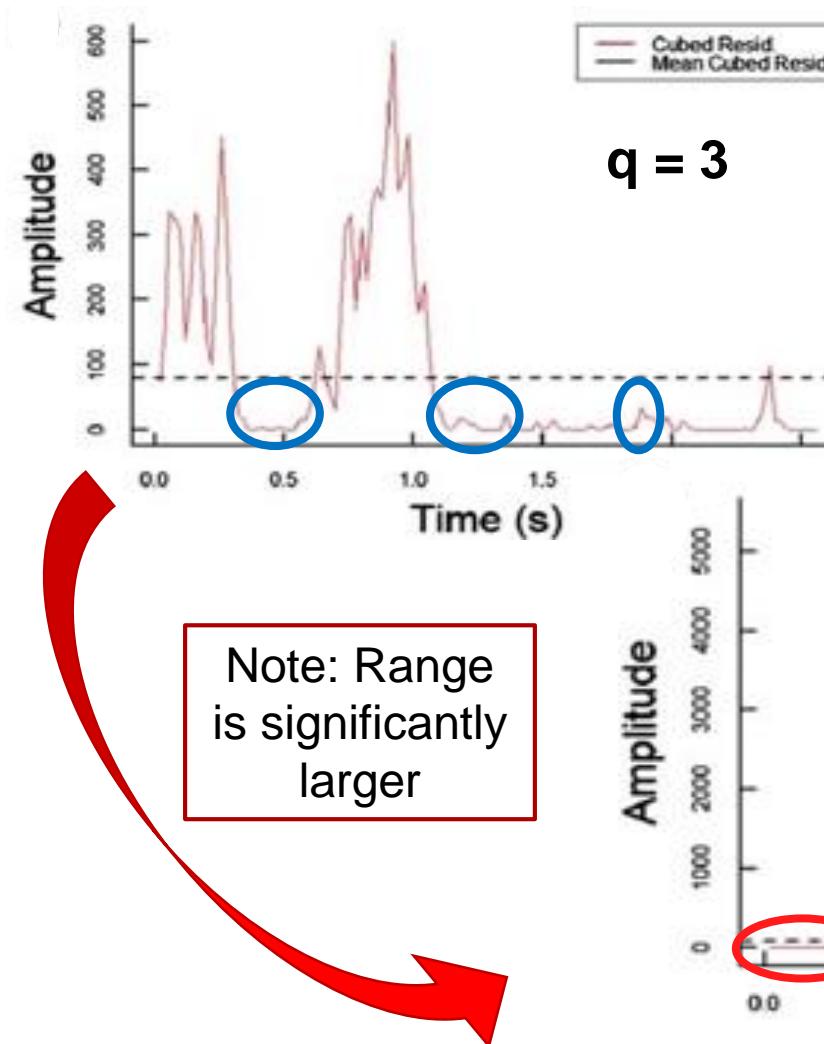
## Step 4 (continued)

→ In MFDFA we cubed the residuals instead of squaring them. This **magnifies large fluctuations** like those between 0 and 1.0s, while **minimizing smaller fluctuations**.

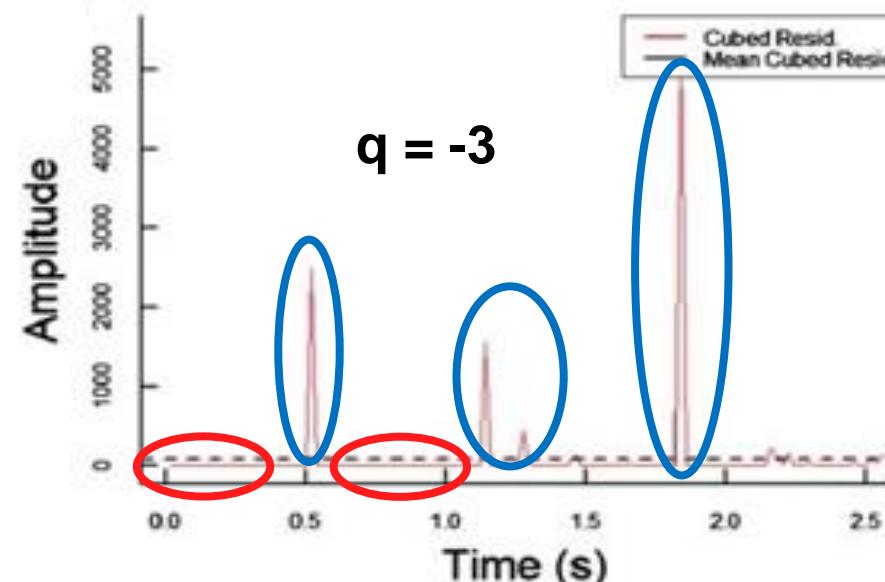


# MFDFA ANALYSIS STEP BY STEP

16



→ Represents the cubed residuals, raised to the **3<sup>rd</sup> power**

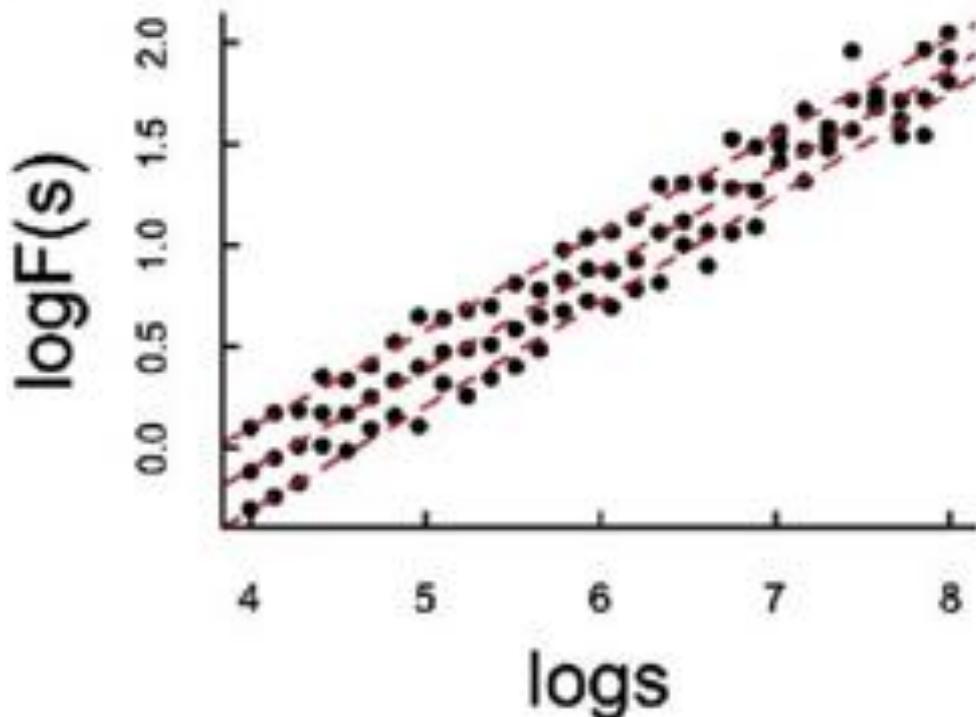


**Step 4 (continued)**

→ Residuals raised to a negative value, **-3<sup>rd</sup> power**, **emphasize small fluctuations** and **minimize larger fluctuations**.



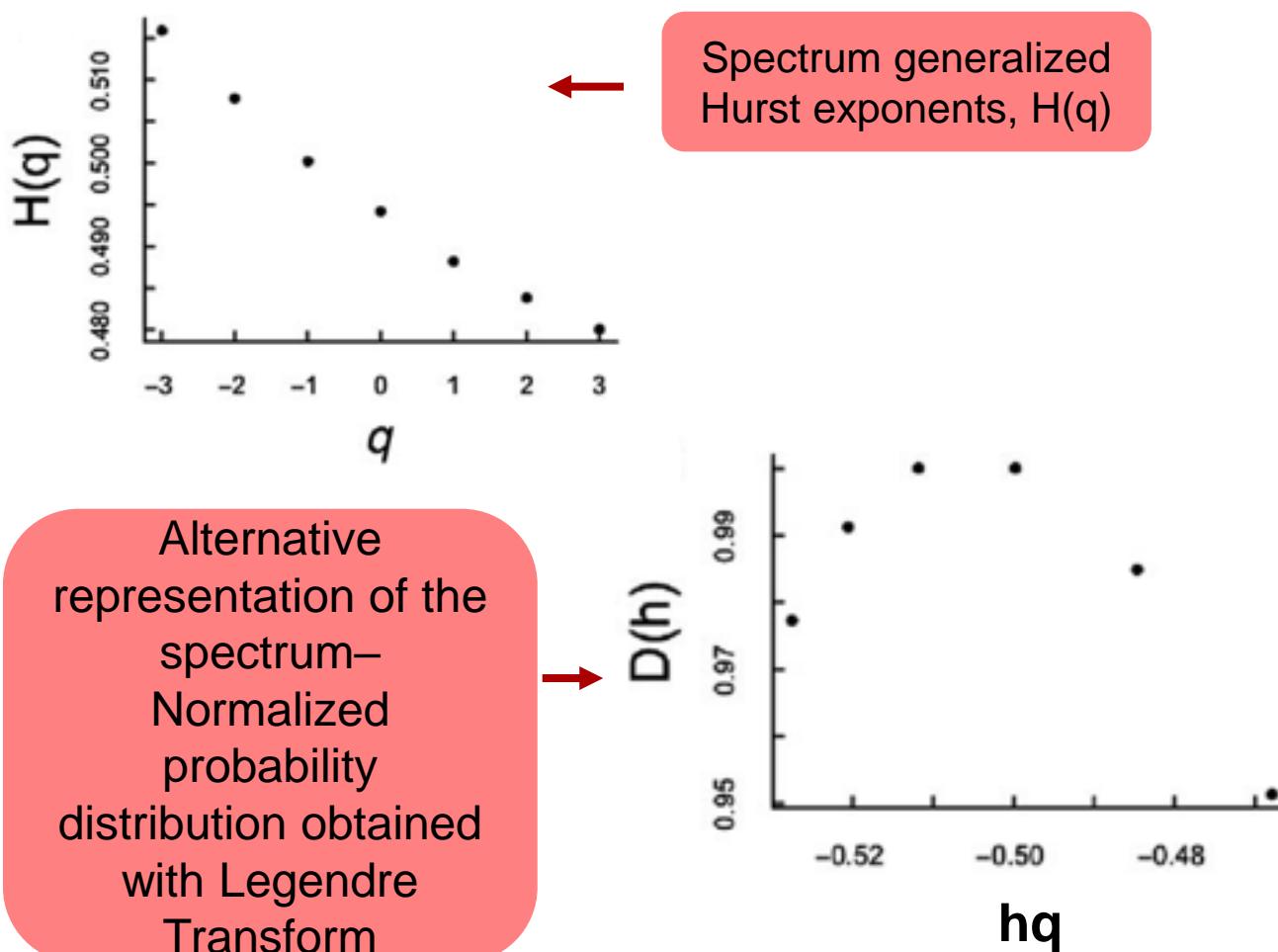
# MFdfa ANALYSIS STEP BY STEP



## Step 5

Now we can measure how  $F^{(q)}(s)$  varies as a function of scale, ‘ $s$ ’, via ordinary least squares regression.

# MFdfa ANALYSIS STEP BY STEP



## Step 5 (continued)

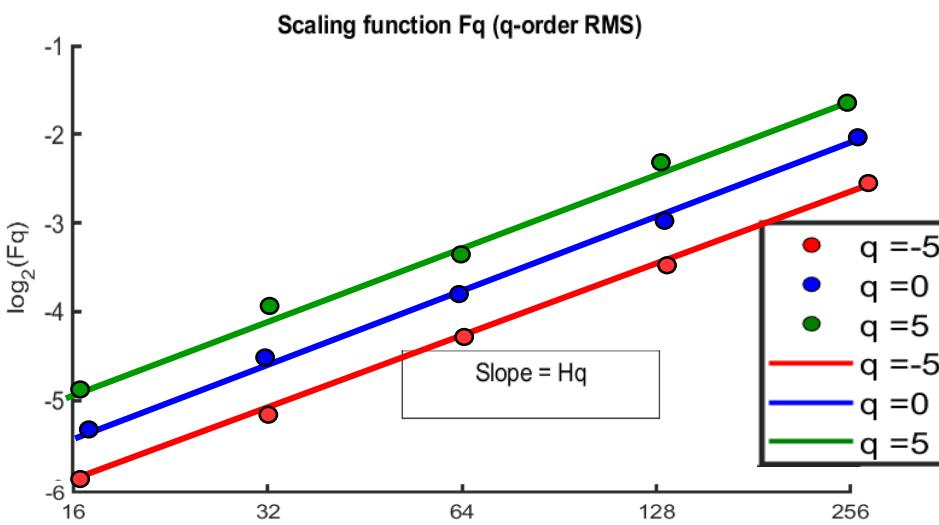
- The multifractal exponent provides a summary of the time-varying scaling exponents present in the data known as the **generalized exponent**,  $H(q)$ .



# Monofractals VS. Multifractals

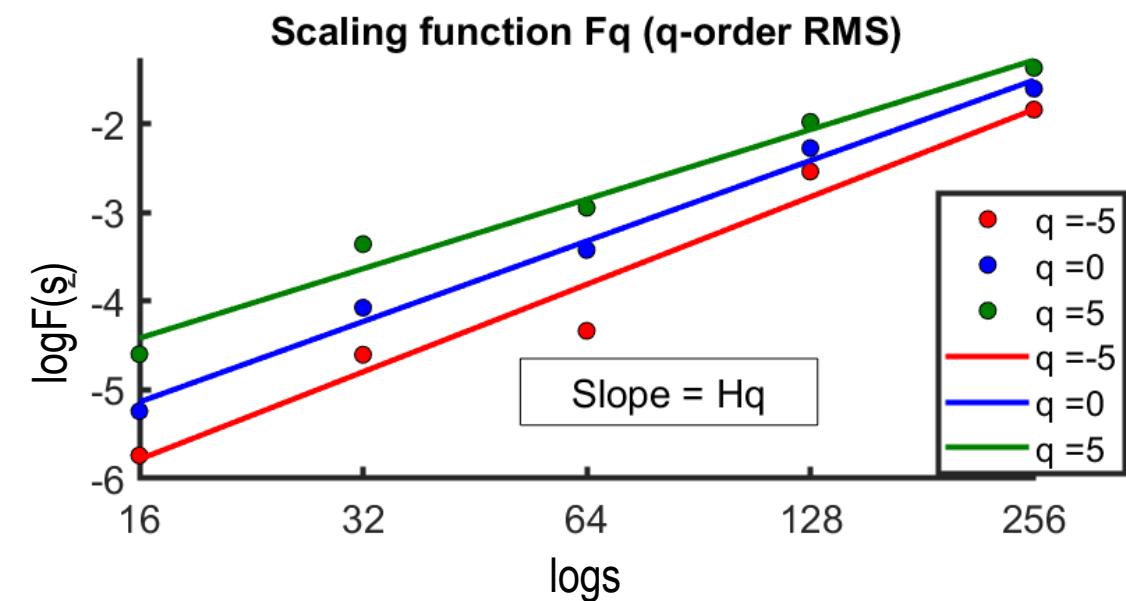
## Monofractals

- All regression lines are:
  - Parallel, single exponent
  - Constant (relatively)



## Multifractals

- q-order regression lines have different slopes, reflecting differing scaling behavior for different statistical moments



# MATLAB TUTORIAL PREVIEW

- MFdfa Functions quick run through:

[ Hq, tq, hq, Dq, Fq ]

=

MFdfa (signal, scale, q, m, Fig)

## OUTPUT VARIABLES:

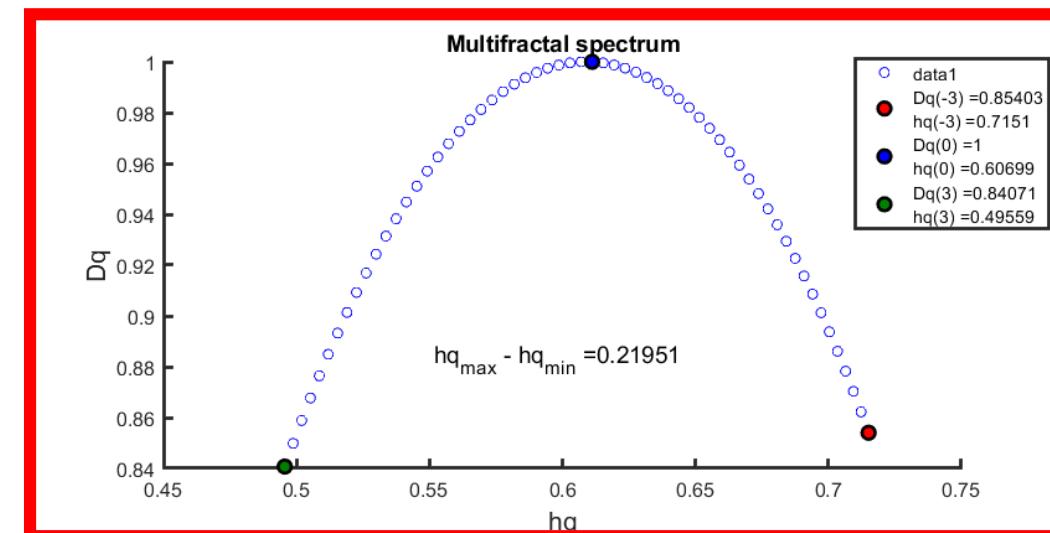
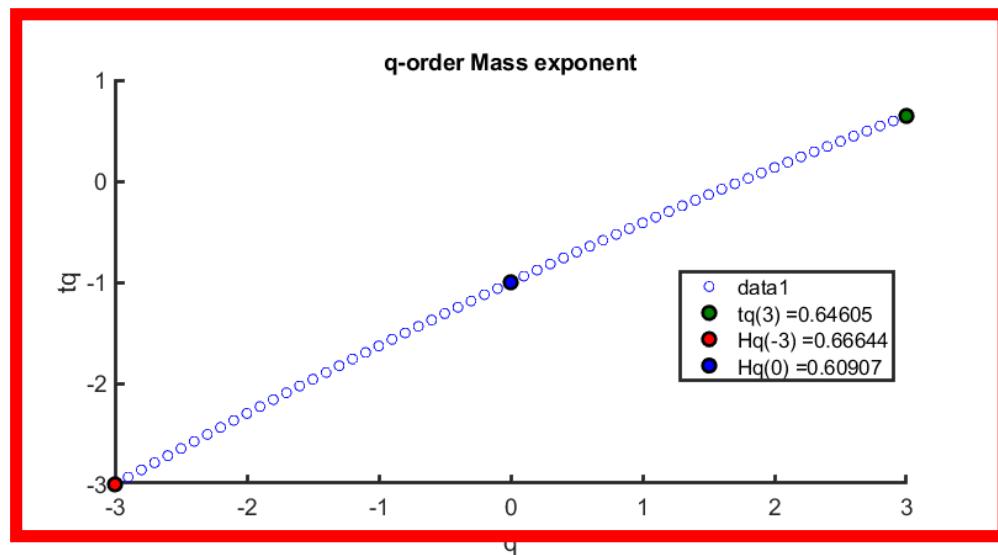
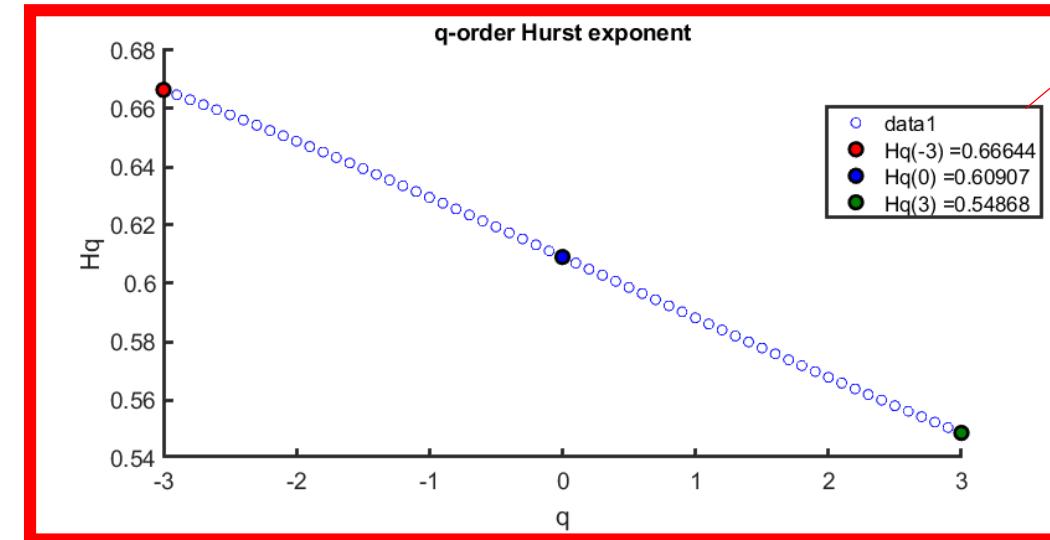
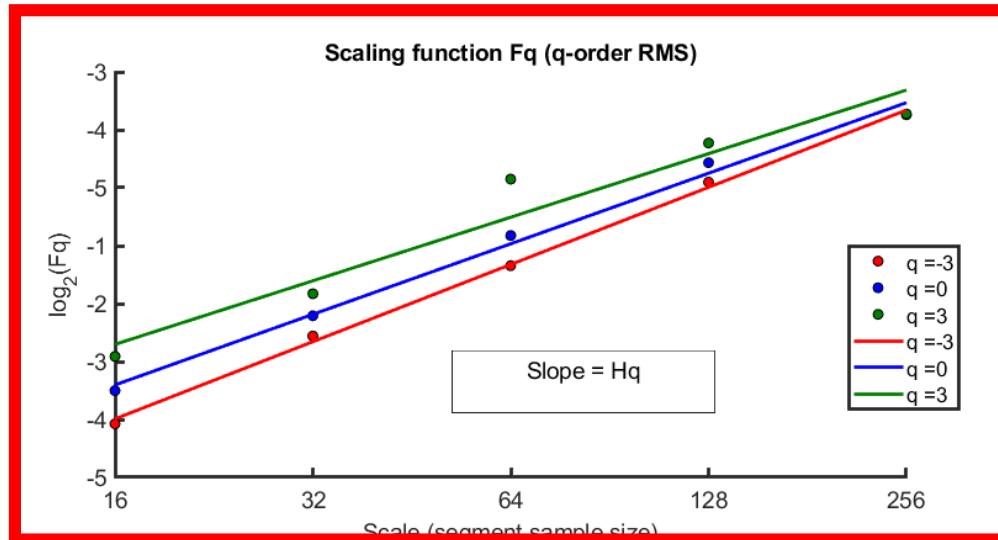
- **Hq**: q-order Hurst exponent
- **tq**: q-order mass exponent
- **hq**: q-order singularity exponent
- **Dq**: q-order dimension
- **Fq**: q-order scaling function

## INPUT PARAMETERS:

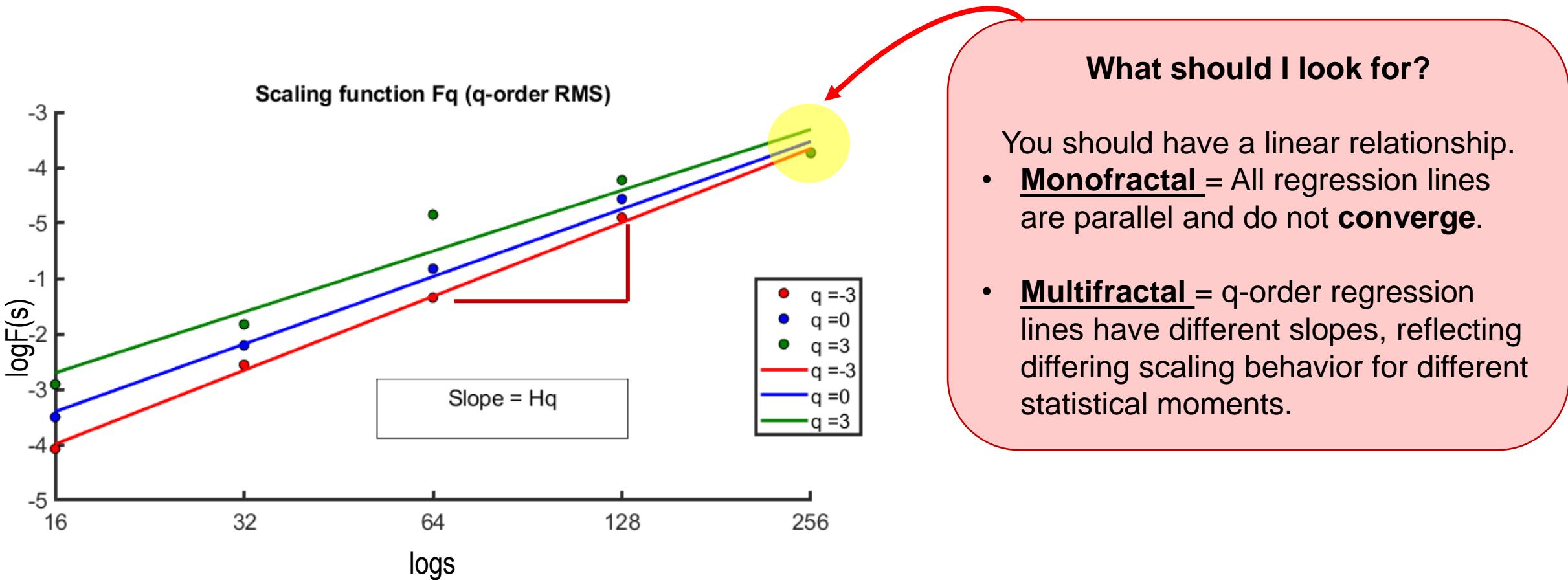
- **signal**: input signal
- **scale**: vector of scales
- **q-order**: weights the local variations
- **m**: polynomial order for the detrending
- **Fig**: 1 or 0 binary for output plot



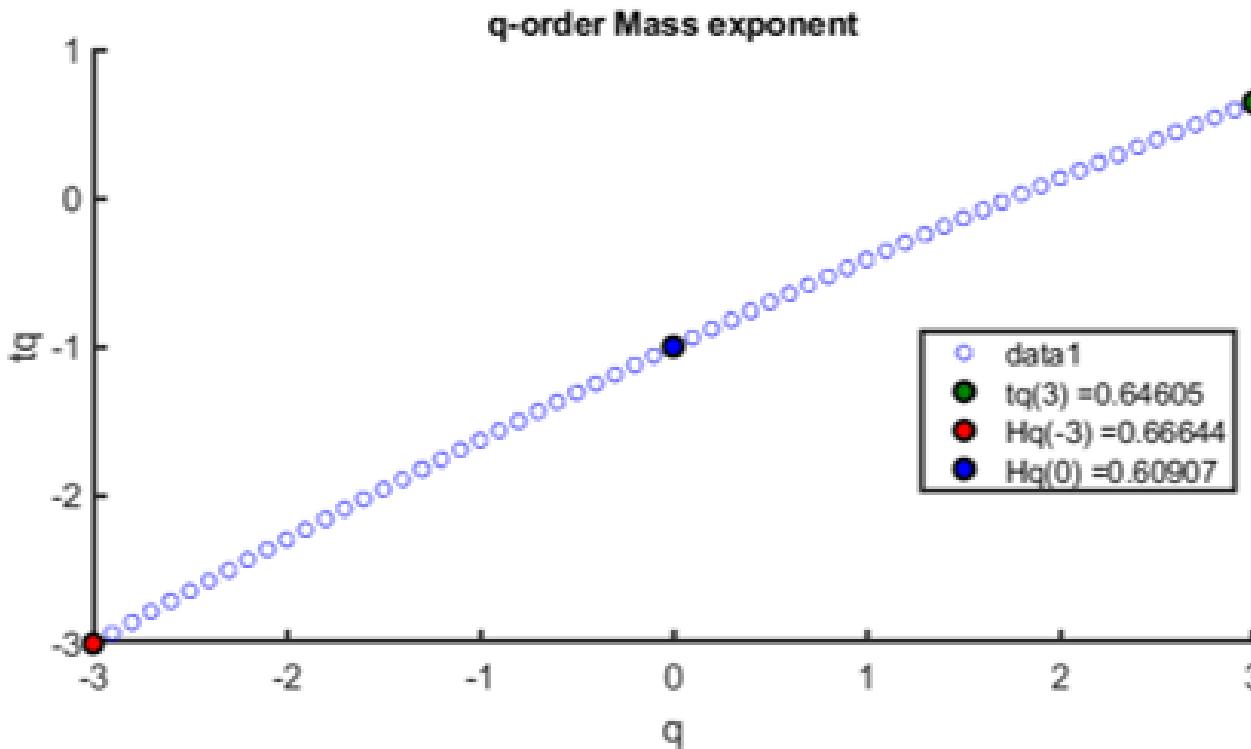
# ANALYSIS OUTPUT- What to look for?

 $H_q$ 

# ANALYSIS OUTPUT- What to look for?



# ANALYSIS OUTPUT- What to look for?



This graph represents a different scaling exponent.

## What should I look for?

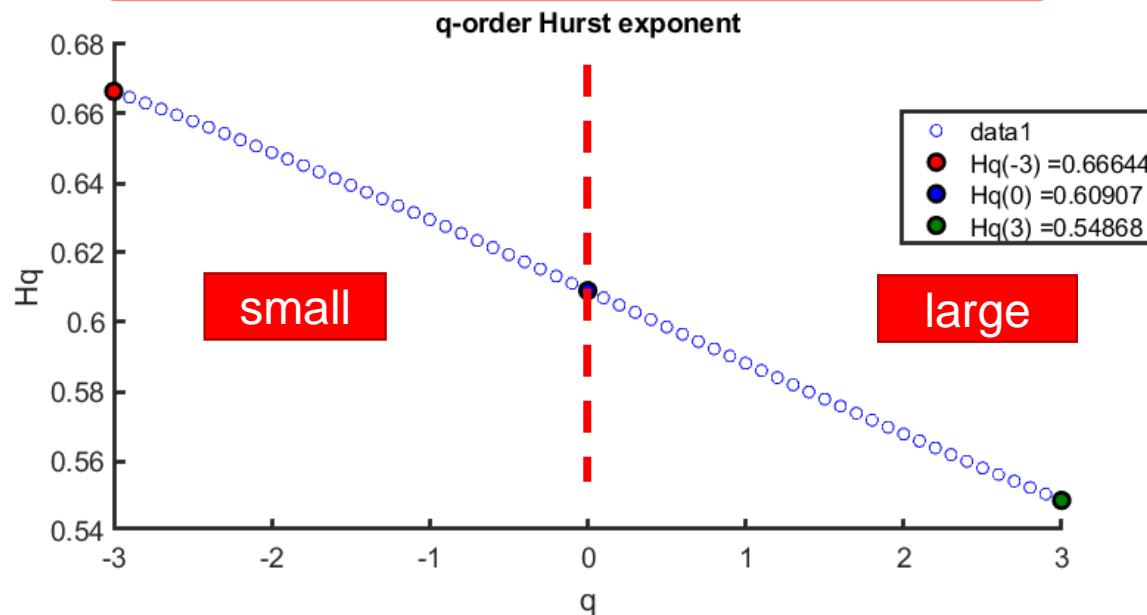
- Nonlinearity: different slope on either side of  $q = 0$
- Increasing function



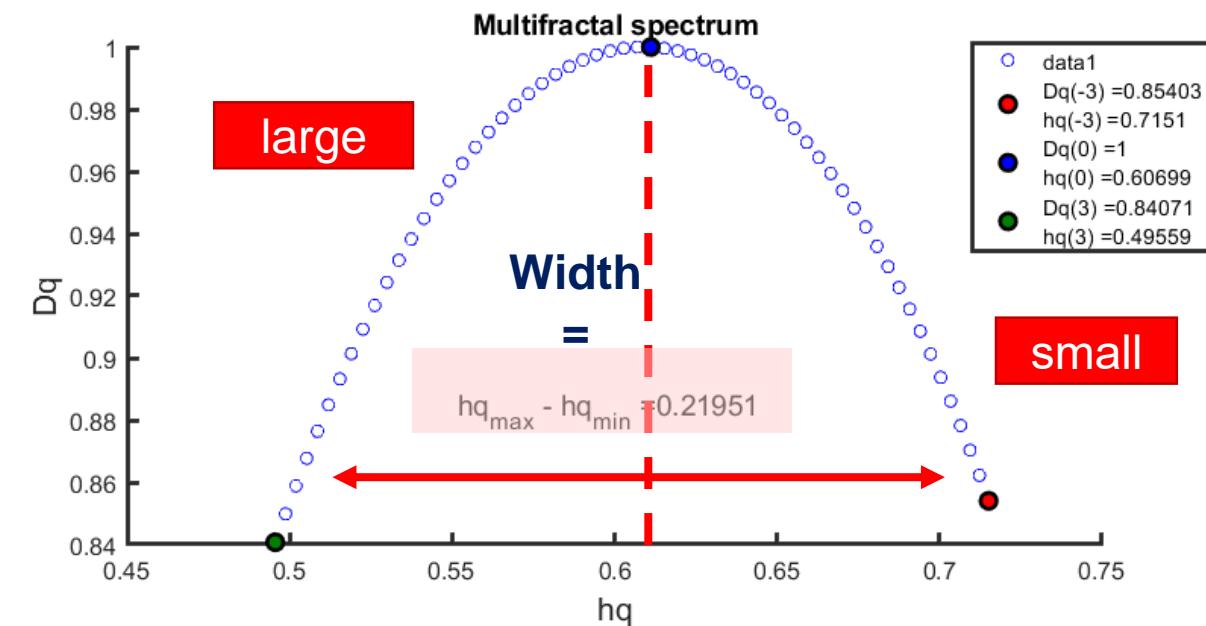
# ANALYSIS OUTPUT- What to look for?

24

Spectrum generalized Hurst exponents,  $H(q)$



Alternative representation of the spectrum



- Should be a **monotonically decreasing function** (negative slope and no change of direction)
- Values  $< q$  correspond to **smaller** fluctuations
- Values  $> q$  correspond to **larger** fluctuations

- **Inverted "U"**
- **$h_q$ - x-axis:** large values correspond to small fluctuations; small values correspond to large fluctuations
- **Width** will increase as the  $q$ -order increases
- **Look for asymmetry**

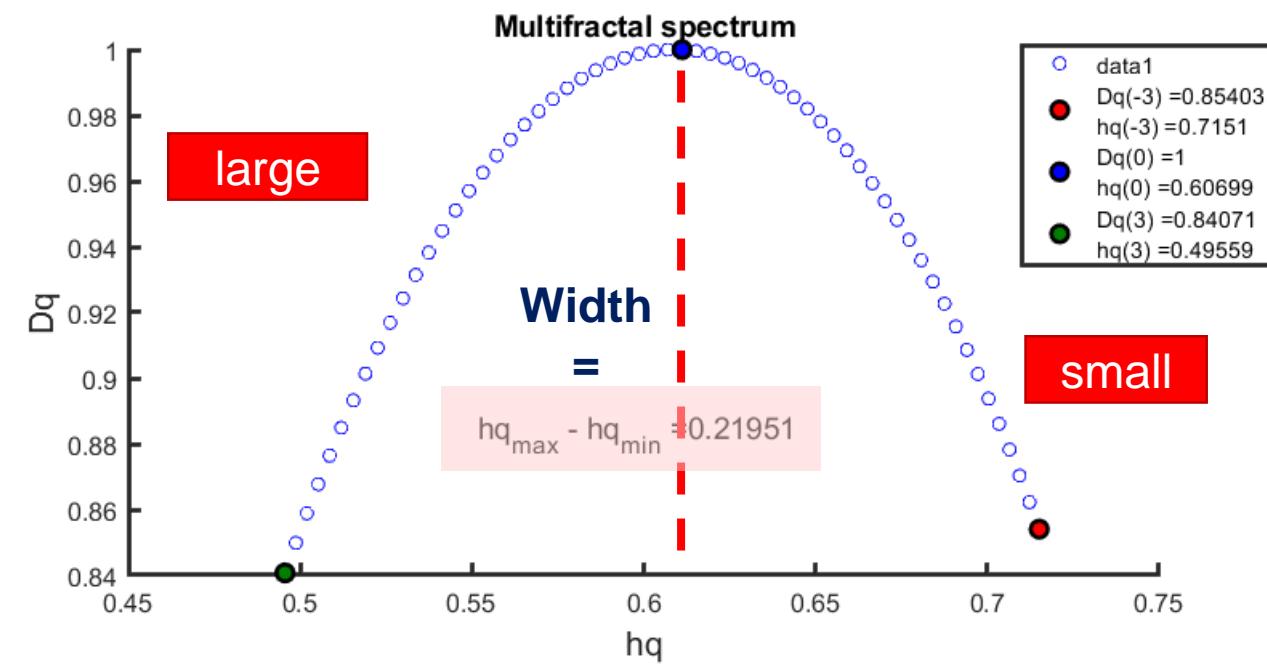


## How do I interpret the multifractal width?

The **width** and **shape** of the multifractal spectrum reflect the temporal variation of the local *Hurst exponent*, to put it simply, it **reflects the change in scaling exponents overtime**.

Larger width can be interpreted as greater number of patterns (i.e., more behavioral strategies) in a time series.

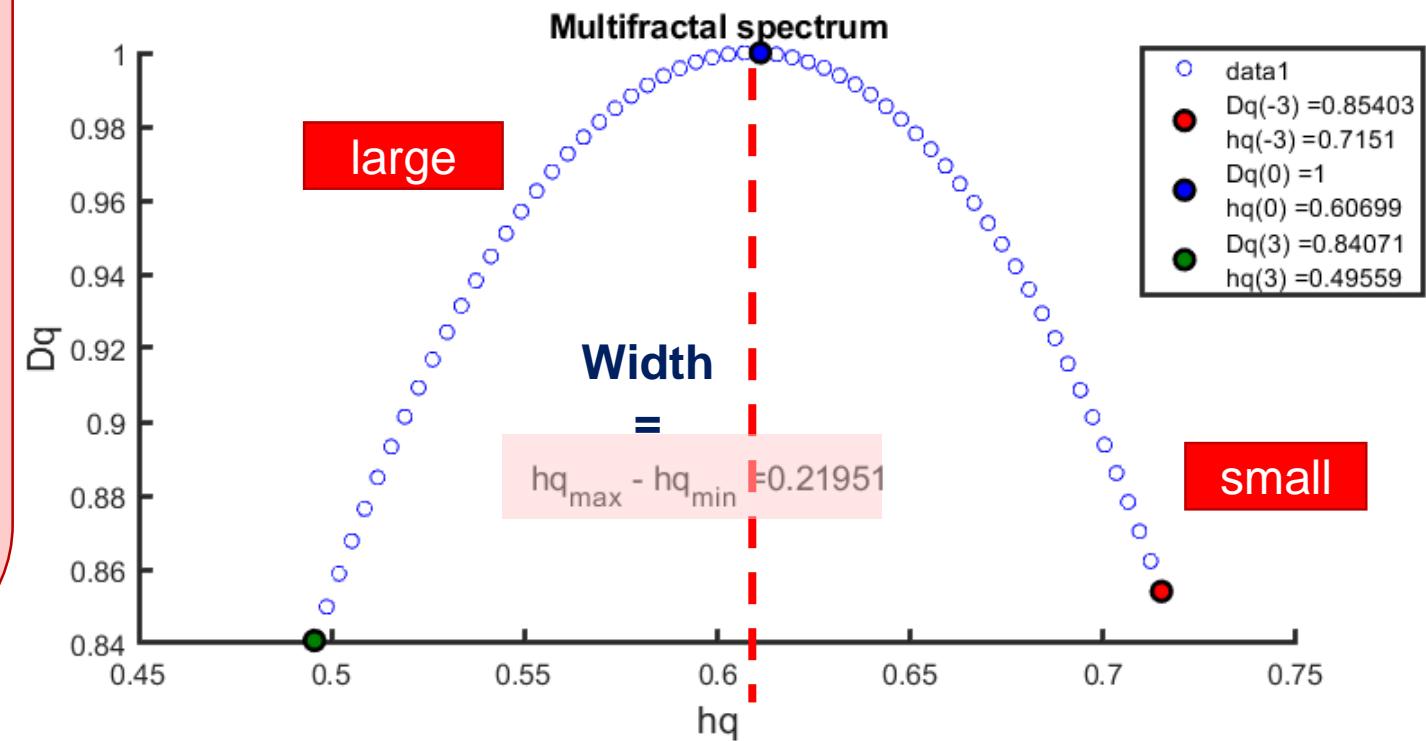
## Alternative representation of the spectrum



## What does the inverted “U” mean if it is asymmetric?

Indicates more variability in the larger asymmetric side. For instance, let's say that the left side (**large fluctuation**) is larger than the right side. It would mean that for this trial and task the participant exhibited more variability in the large fluctuations compared to the small fluctuations.

## Alternative representation of the spectrum



# MFdfa Best Practices

What should my data look like to perform MFdfa?

1. Structurally your data should be a **time-series similar to noise**, meaning your time series should NOT be smooth. *Examples of noisy data:* stride intervals, velocity,... If your time series is smooth (i.e., COP), raw data will require some transformation in order to run this analysis.
2. Local fluctuations within the time series **cannot be close to zero**.
3. Time series should be **scale-invariant** within the predefined range of scales



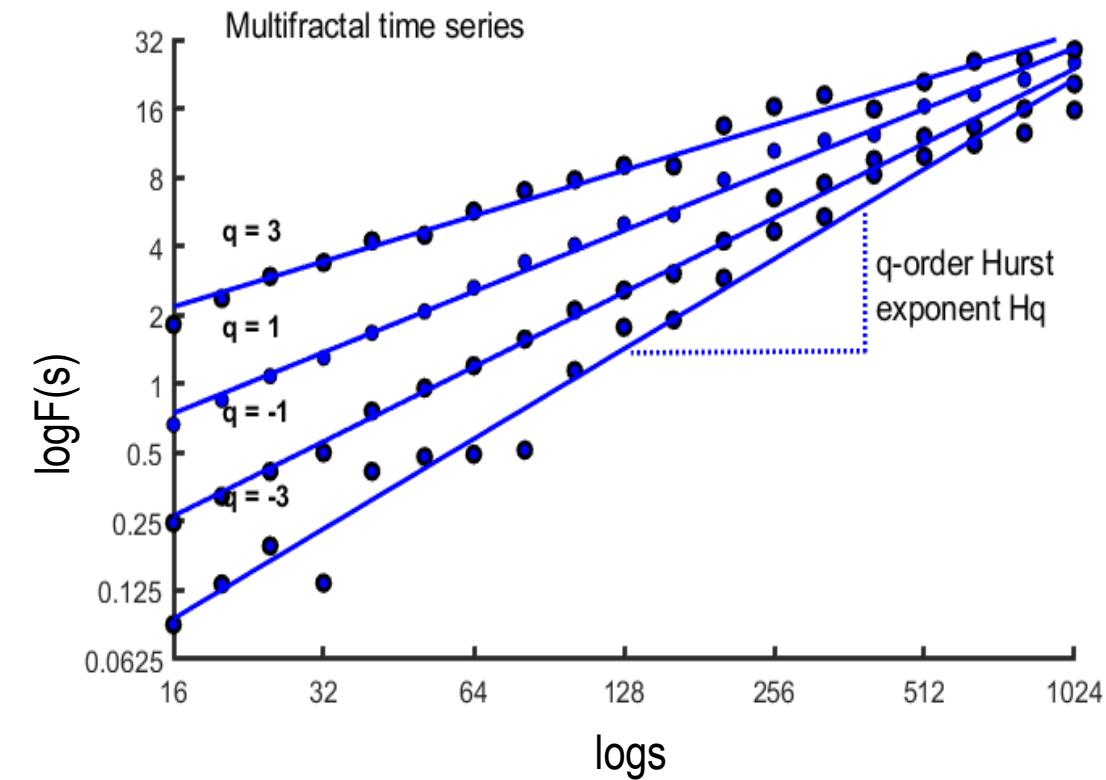
Ilhen, 2012



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NONLINEAR ANALYSIS CORE

UNIVERSITY OF  
**Nebraska**  
Omaha

- **Check for scale-invariance** - examine the logscale by  $\log(f_q)$  plot for linearity
- **Series Length** - 500 time points minimum
- **Scales** -  $[16 < \text{scale} < N/9]$
- **q range/magnitude** - more extreme values of q require longer data sets. Recommend  $q = -3:3$
- **Detrending order, m** - linear detrending has been used in movement science
  - Selecting a min scale is recommended to avoid overfitting
  - See Kantelhardt et al. (2001)



# MATLAB TUTORIAL

## TIME TO PRACTICE WHAT WE HAVE LEARNED!!!!!

You can use your own data or you can practice on the data set provided in **Github**: <https://github.com/aaronlikens/NACOB-2022-Multifractal-Methods-in-Movement-Science.git>

## DOWNLOAD MFDFA FOLDER

This folder contains the following folders: **ANALYSIS OUTPUT** (figures, summary tables), **DATA** (Stride Intervals for each trials and participants), **FUNCTION** ( MFDFA)

## OPEN MATLAB

Open the script called 'J.12 MultifractalsTutorial'



# \*\*\*\*\*5 min Break\*\*\*\*\*

## Github link:

<https://github.com/aaronlikens/NACOB-2022-Multifractal-Methods-in-Movement-Science.git>

## **MATLAB VERSION:**

There are no known incompatibilities using MATLAB version R2019a or later.

## **MATLAB Toolboxes Required:**

Statistics and Machine Learning Toolbox  
Signal Processing Toolbox  
Image Processing Toolbox



# Part III: Surrogate Analysis

Aaron D. Likens



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NONLINEAR ANALYSIS CORE



# Introduction

What are the goals  
of time series analysis?



To understand the underlying  
mechanism that generates  
different dynamics for different  
time series



Random



Deterministic

*What kind of dynamics?*



# Nonlinearity

Does a time series contain  
nonlinear structures?



Apply nonlinear tools



Spurious results simply due to the reflection  
of practical limitations

***Important to establish the  
evidence of nonlinearity in a time  
series first.***



# Nonlinear Systems

- 1) A nonlinear system is a system which does not have a linear origin.
- 2) For our discussion, a nonlinear system will be limited only to a stationary time series and will not include non-stationary stochastic process.



# What is surrogation?

## surrogate *verb*

sur·ro·gate | \ 'sər-ə-gāt (🔊), 'sə-rə- \

surrogated; surrogating

### Definition of *surrogate* (Entry 2 of 2)

*transitive verb*

: to put in the place of another:

**a** : to appoint as successor, deputy, or substitute for oneself

**b** : SUBSTITUTE

Merriam-Webster Dictionary

<https://www.merriam-webster.com/dictionary/surrogate>



# Identifying Nonlinearity

## Direct application of nonlinear measures

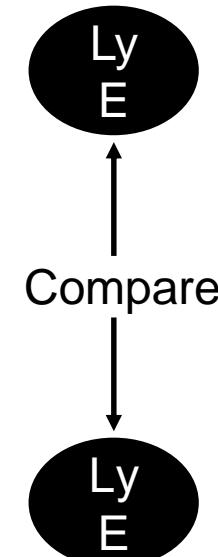
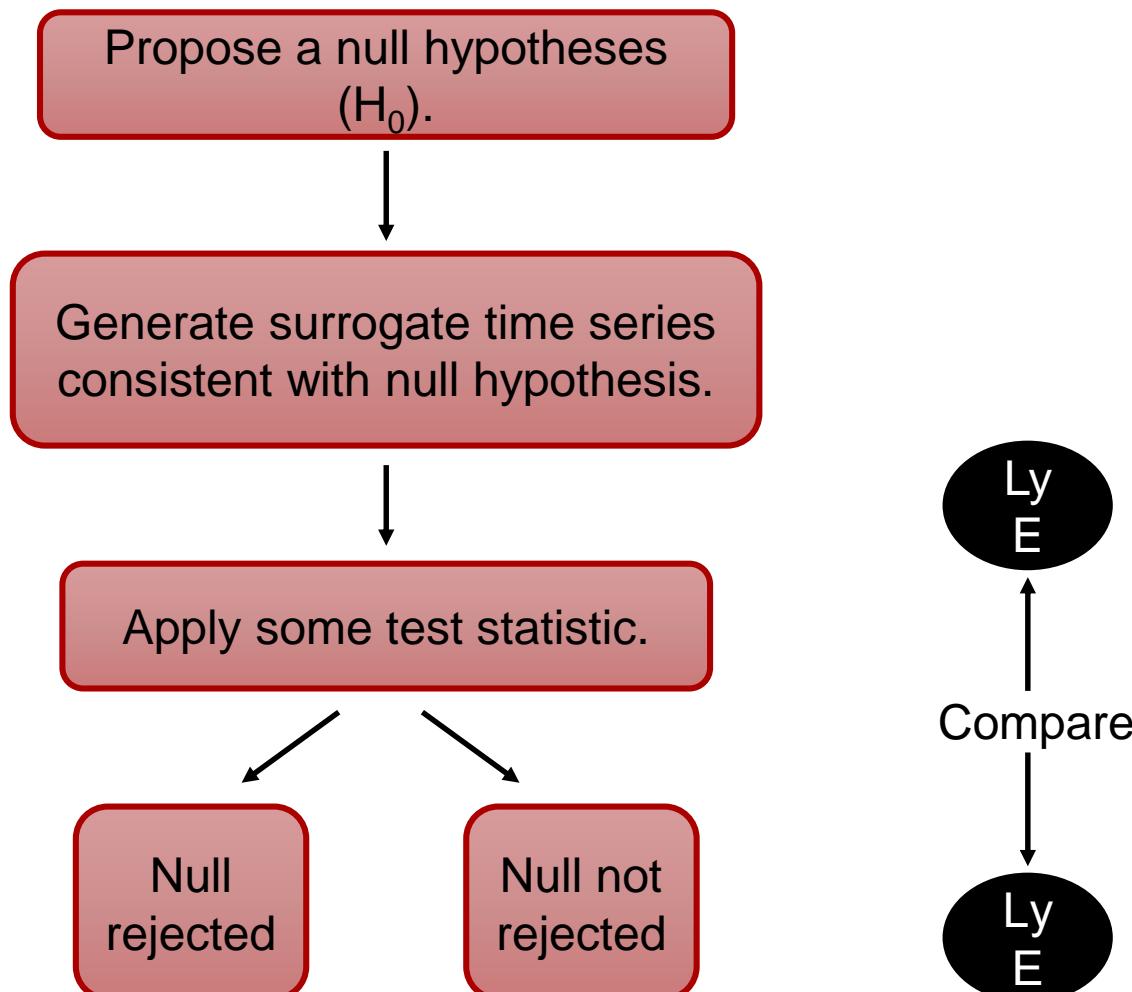
- Examples:
- Largest LyE
- Correlation Dimension
- Spurious results are possible due to limitations in data
- Subjective judgments are involved

## Surrogate methods

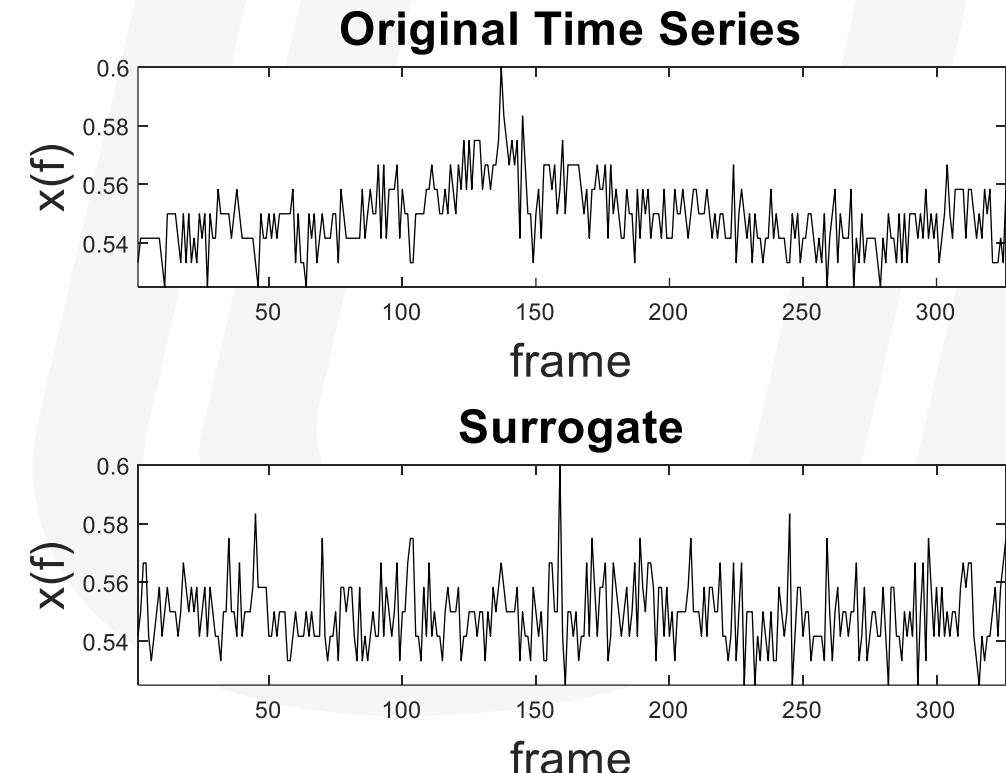
- Can be used to compensate the weakness of the first approach
- An indirect approach to identify the evidence of nonlinearity by excluding a linear origin as a null hypothesis



# General Surrogate Method



$H_0$ : The time series is generated by a linear stochastic process.



# Discriminating Statistics

There are many different discriminating statistics.

## Examples:

- Correlation dimension.
- Largest Lyapunov exponent.
- Approximate Entropy.



# Discriminating Statistics

In general . . .

## Null Hypothesis is true

- Consistent results for both surrogates and original time series

## Null Hypothesis is not true

(reject Null)

- The discriminating statistics of the original time series should be different from the distribution of the discriminating statistics for its surrogates.



# Discriminating Statistics

## Two different views

All nonlinear methods should be able to detect the presence of nonlinearity by rejecting the null hypothesis at different significance levels.

The mismatch between a surrogate algorithm and discriminating statistics can lead to a spurious result.

The use of multiple discriminating statistics is encouraged to establish the evidence of nonlinearity in a time series.



# Rank order



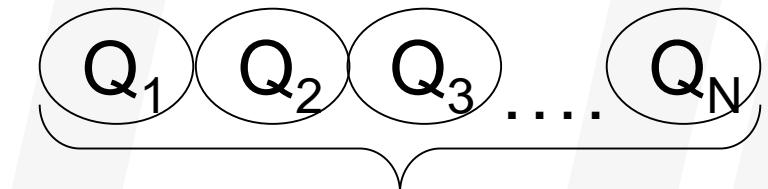
What criteria should we use to determine whether the null hypothesis should be rejected or not ?



## Parametric Statistics

- Let  $\mu_H$  be the mean and  $\sigma_H$  be the standard deviation of discriminating statistics for surrogate data.
- Let  $Q_D$  be the statistic for the original data.
- The rejection of the null hypothesis at 95% level of confidence is indicated by “significance” of about 2 ‘sigmas (S)’.

Assumption: The distribution of discriminating statistics is Gaussian.



$\mu_H$  and  $\sigma_H$

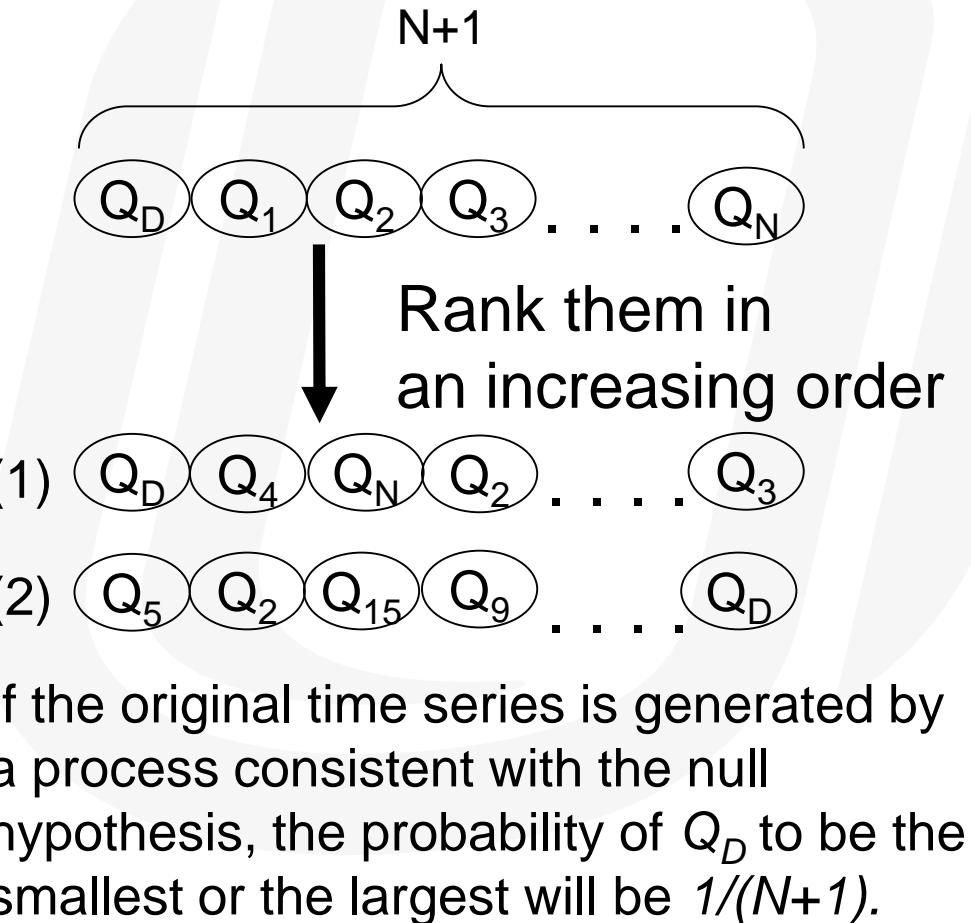
$$S = \frac{|Q_D - \mu_H|}{\sigma_H}$$



# Rank-Order Criterion

**Examines the ranks of discriminating statistics of an original time series and surrogates.**

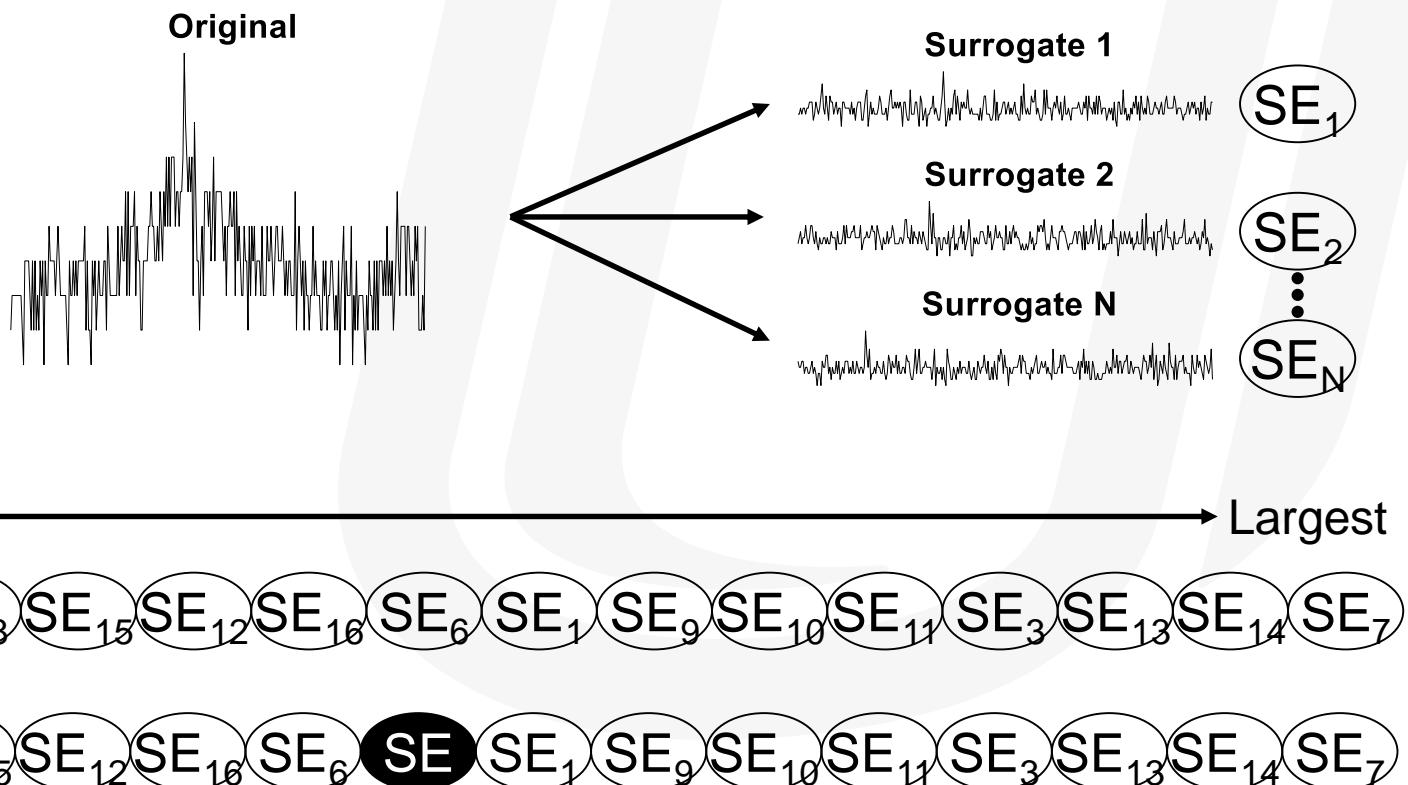
- Rank all discriminating statistics in an ascending order.
- The null hypothesis is rejected when discriminating statistics of an original time series is the smallest (1) or the largest values (2).
- For a one sided test,  $1/(N+1)$  is regarded as a false rejection rate while  $2/(N+1)$  for a two-sided test.



## Example with Sample Entropy

Let SE be the Sample Entropy calculated from N surrogates.

$SE_0 < SE_{1\dots N}$  Null hypothesis rejected  
 $SE_0 \not< SE_{1\dots N}$  Null hypothesis rejected

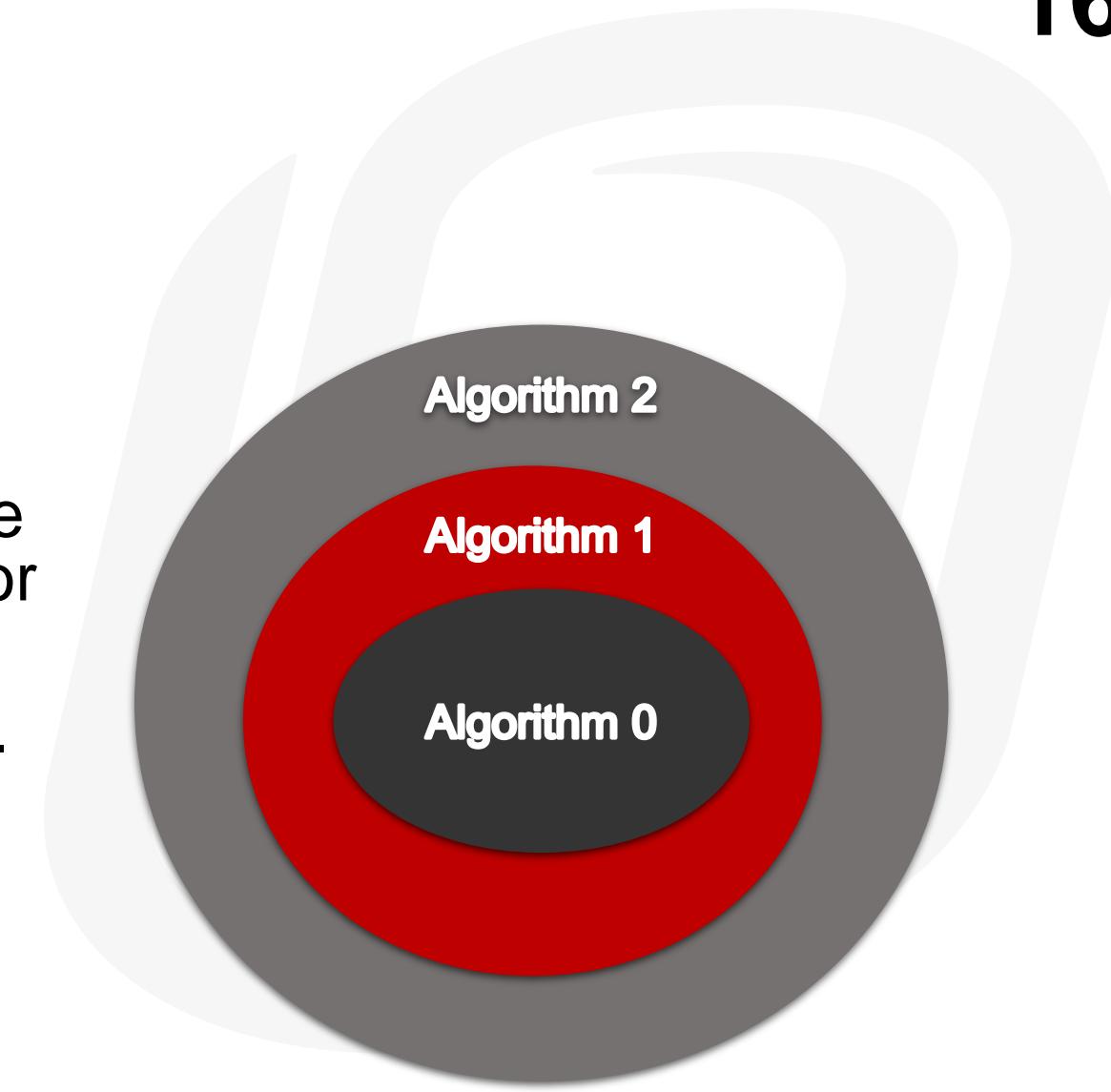


# Linear Surrogation



# Linear Surrogation Methods

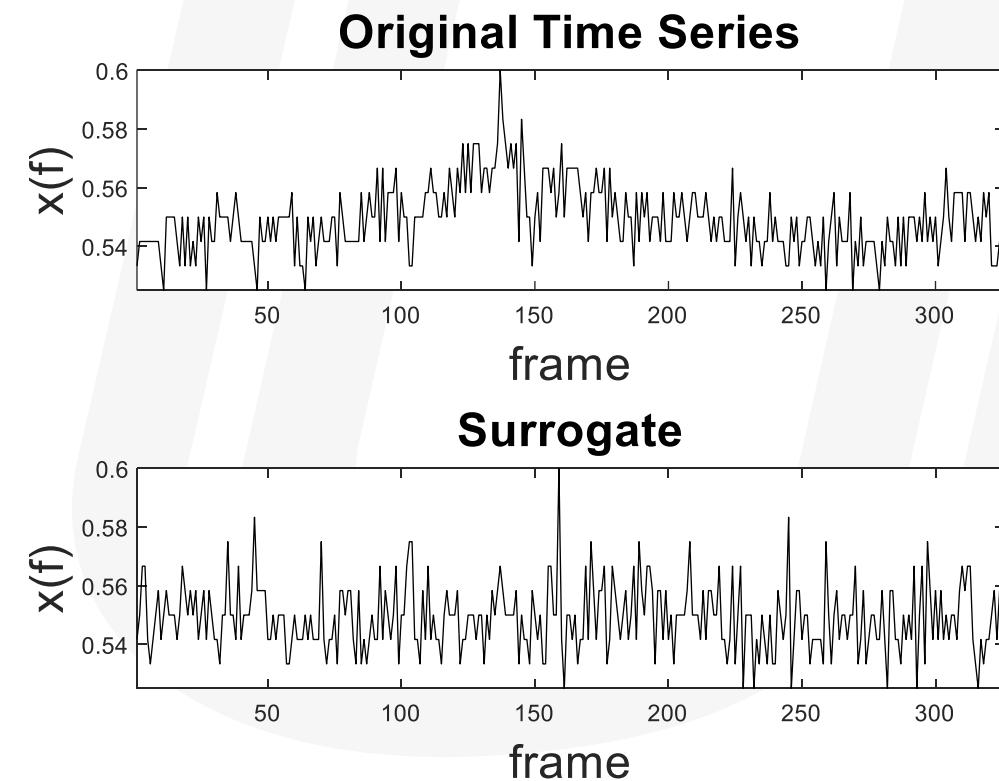
- Most commonly applied surrogate algorithms originally developed by Theiler et al (1992).
- Applied to a stationary irregular time series without any long-term trend or periodicity.
- Hierarchical composite hypotheses.
  - Algorithm 0.
  - Algorithm 1 (Fourier transform surrogate).
  - Algorithm 2 (Amplitude Adjusted Fourier Transform, AAFT).



# Linear Surrogate Methods

## Algorithm 0

- $H_o$ : Independent and identically Distributed (IID)
- Original time series is visually different from the randomly shuffles A0 surrogate

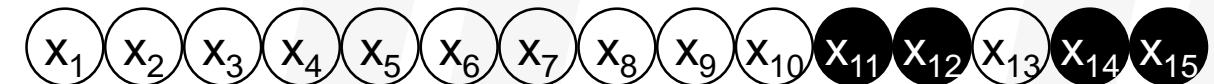


# Linear Surrogate Methods

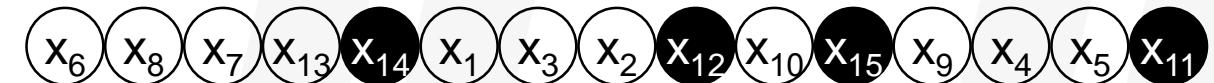
## Algorithm 0

- Original time series and surrogate have the same probability distribution

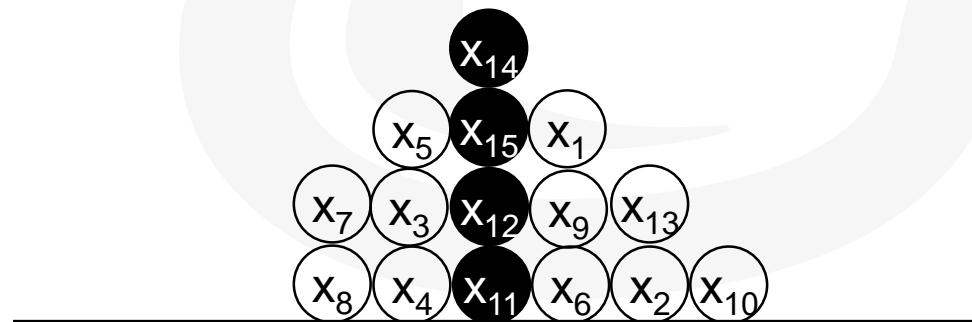
Original Time Series



Surrogate Time Series: Randomly Shuffled



The distribution in both is preserved



The rejection of the null hypothesis  
of linearly filtered noise



May be an indication of the presence  
of more complex structure such as  
**nonlinearity** in the time series



~~Underlying  
dynamics  
are nonlinear~~

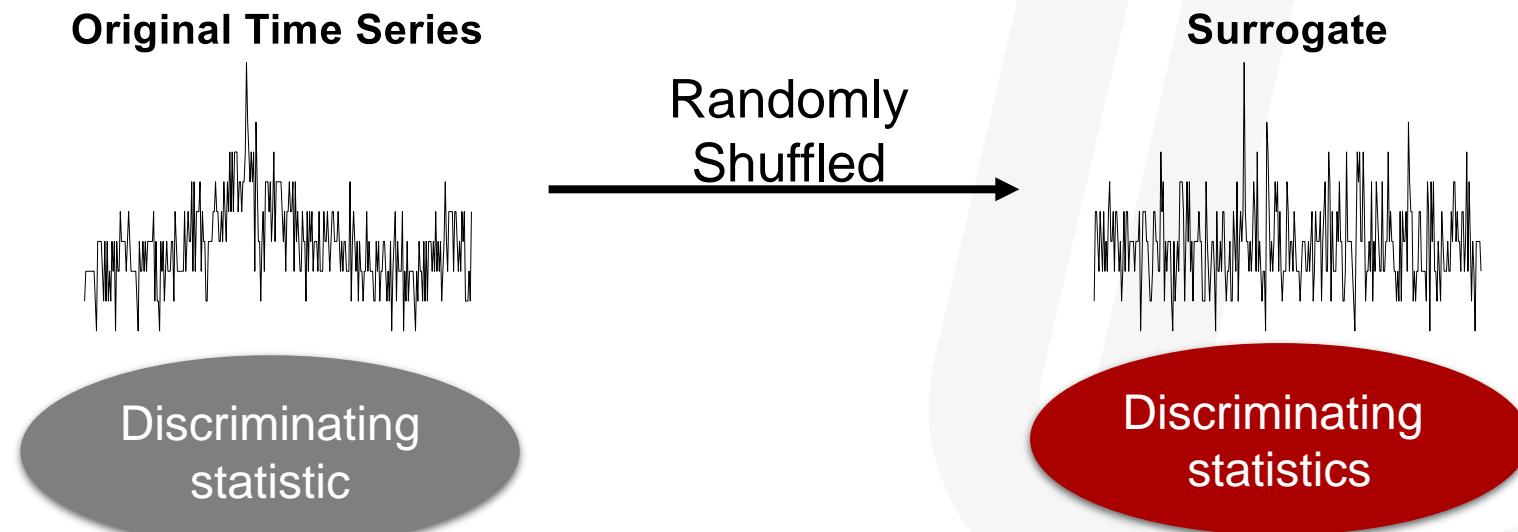


Due to a measurement  
distortion. Underlying  
dynamics are linear  
stochastic

# Linear Surrogate Methods

## Algorithm 0

- Null Hypothesis: IID noise



Reject the hypothesis of independence.  
Some kind of correlations among data points

# Linear Surrogate Methods

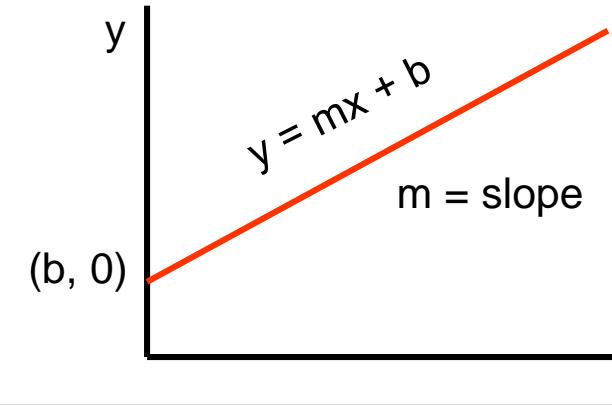
## Algorithm 1:

- Used to test if a time series is generated from a linear Gaussian stochastic process.
- $H_0$ : A linear filter of IID noise.

## Linear Gaussian stochastic process

$$y_n = \sum_{i=0}^M a_i y_{n-i} + \sum_{i=0}^N b_i \eta_{n-i} = a_0 y_{n-1} + b_0 \eta_{n-1} + a_1 y_{n-2} + b_1 \eta_{n-2} + a_2 y_{n-3} + b_2 \eta_{n-3}$$

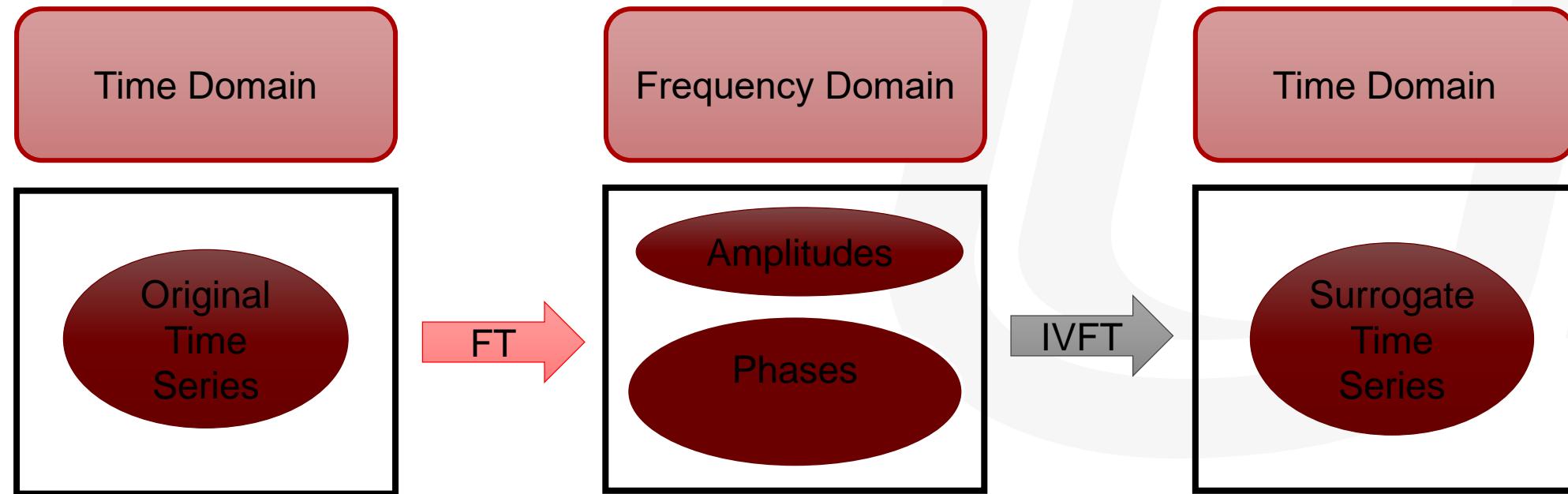
## Linear system: $y = mx + b$



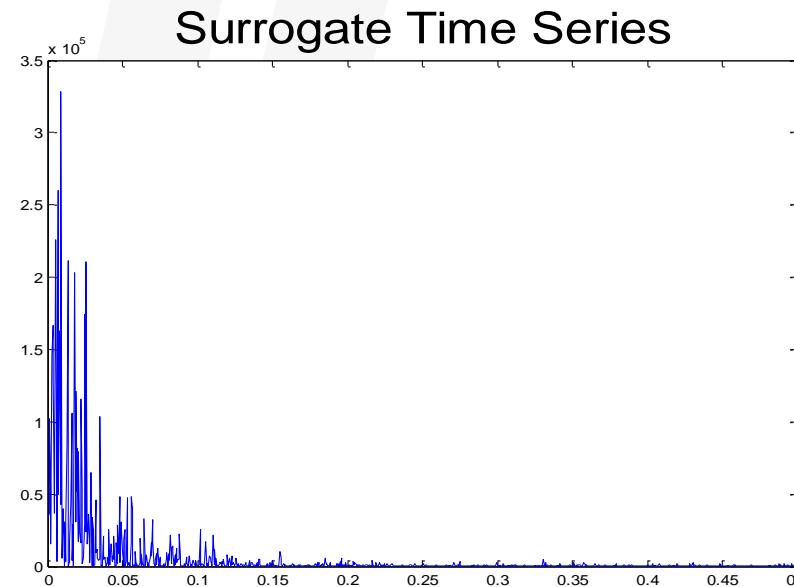
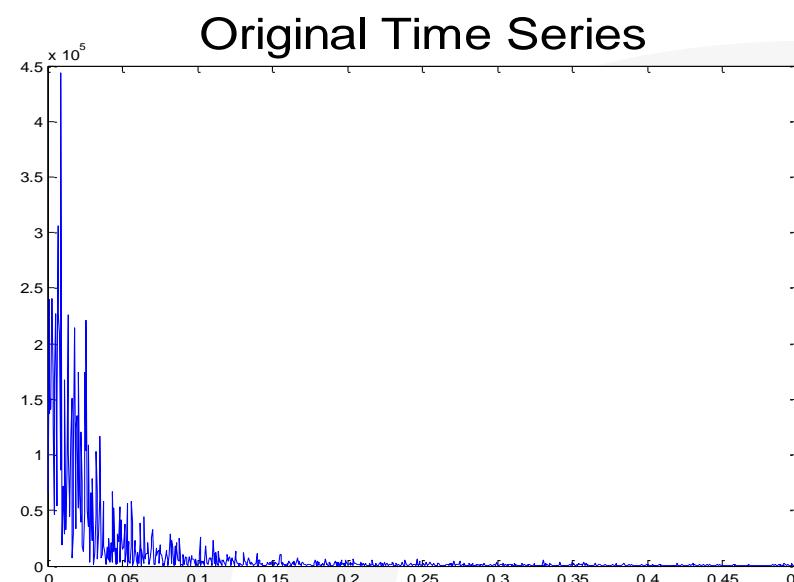
# Linear Surrogate Methods

## Algorithm 1

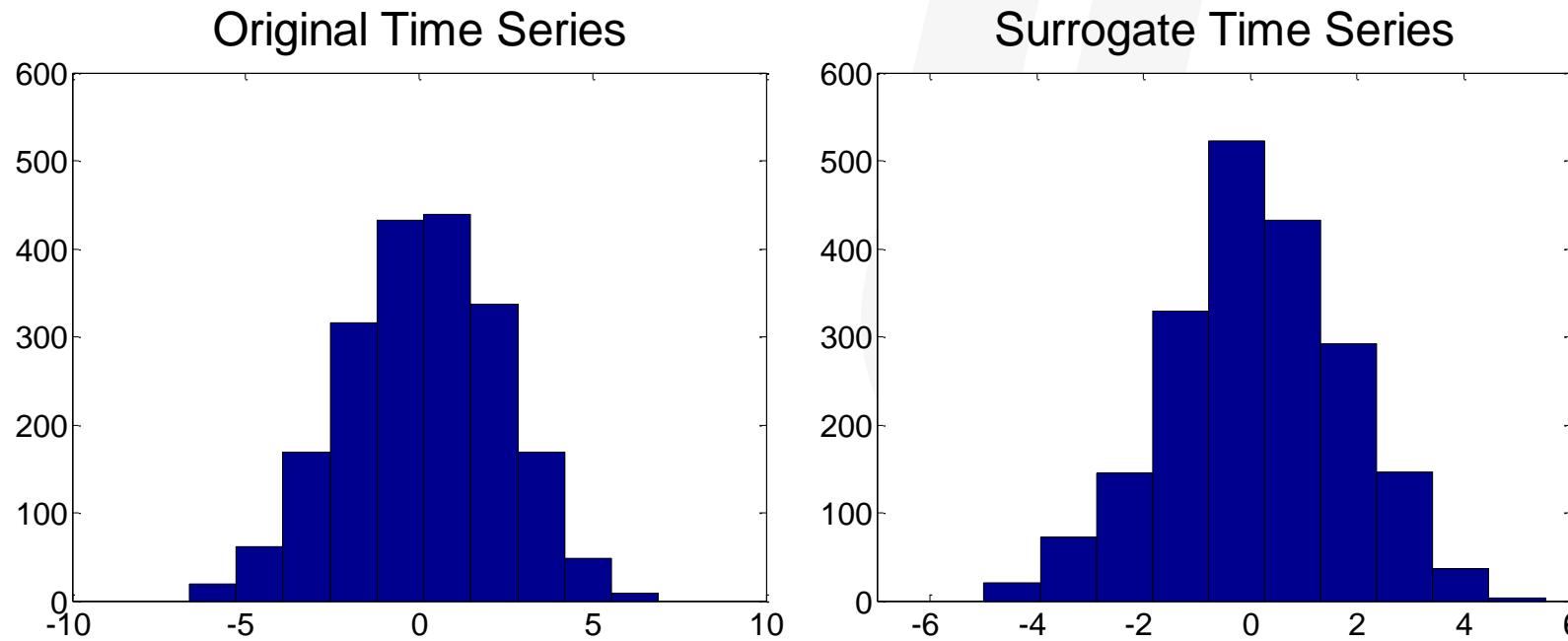
- Data is transformed into the frequency domain, shuffled by phases, and inverse transformed back into the time domain



- Surrogate time series generated by Algorithm 1 preserves the linear correlations, the discrete Fourier power spectrum as the original time series.
- Any additional structure should be destroyed.



- Surrogate time series does not preserve the probability distribution of the original data.
- A false rejection of the null hypothesis may occur (especially with a coarsely grained time series).

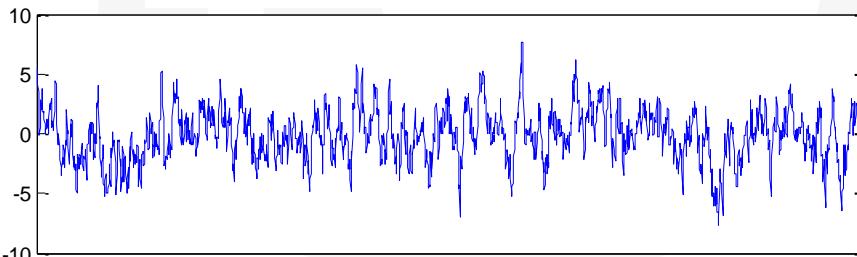
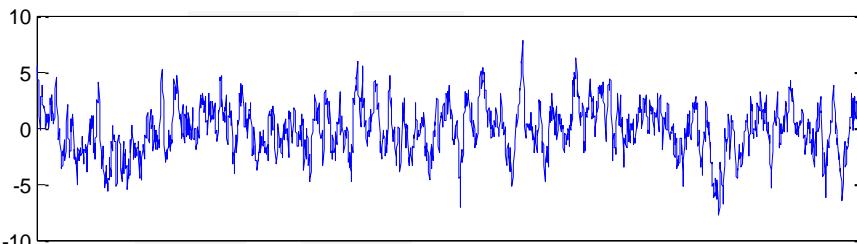


# Example

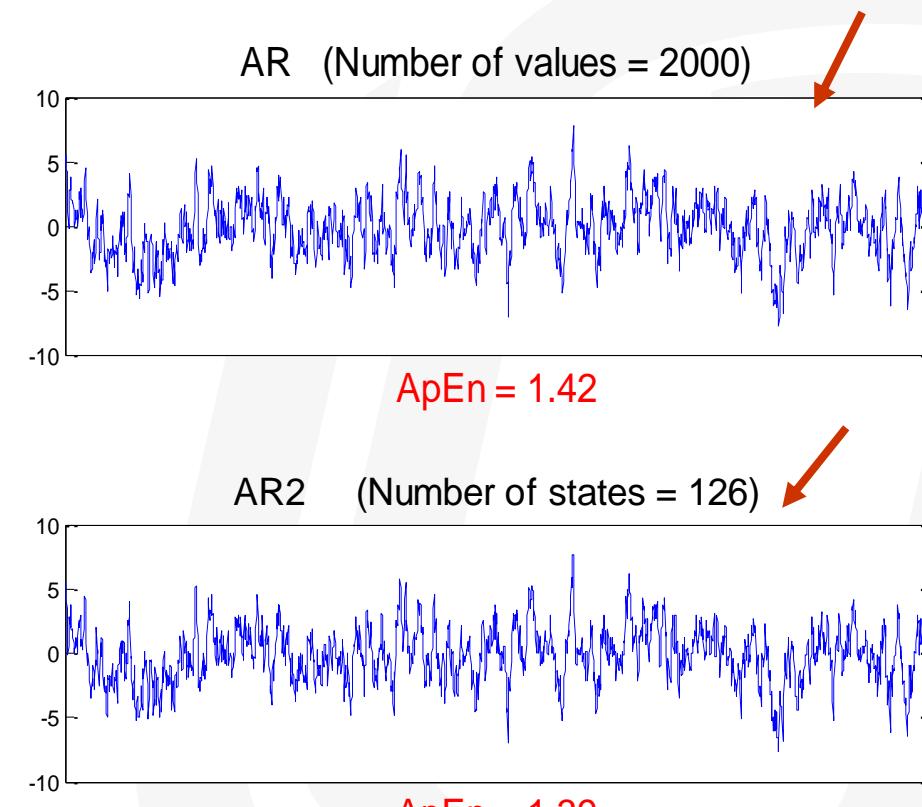
What's the  
difference  
between these  
two time series?



Is there any  
difference?



- AR is generated by the linear Gaussian stochastic process, which is **consistent with the null hypothesis of Algorithm 1.**
- AR2 is another time series created by making AR coarse (removing the precision).
- AR has higher resolutions while AR2 has lower resolutions.  
e.g.



AR: 1.2345 → AR has more states.

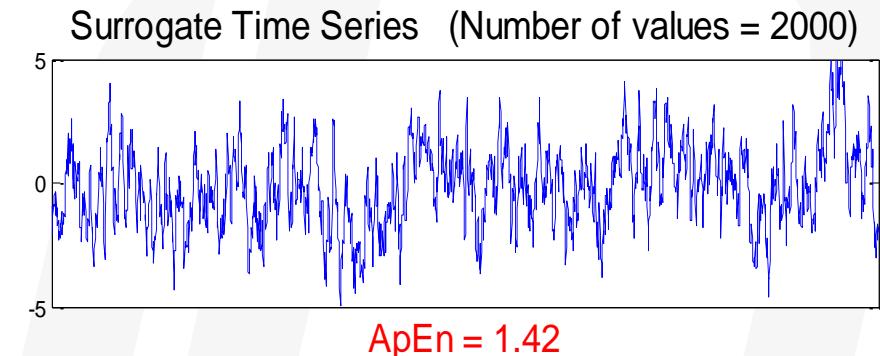
AR2: 1.2 → AR2 has fewer states than AR.



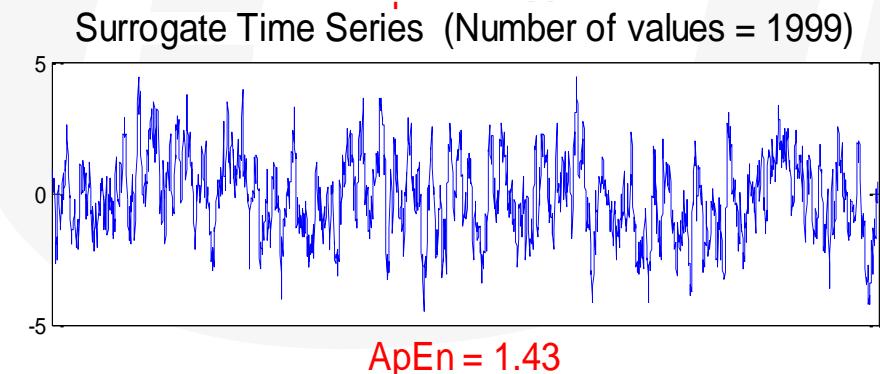
# Example

- 19 surrogate time series are generated from AR and AR2.
- Visually, it's hard to differentiate between the surrogates generated from AR and ones generated from AR2.

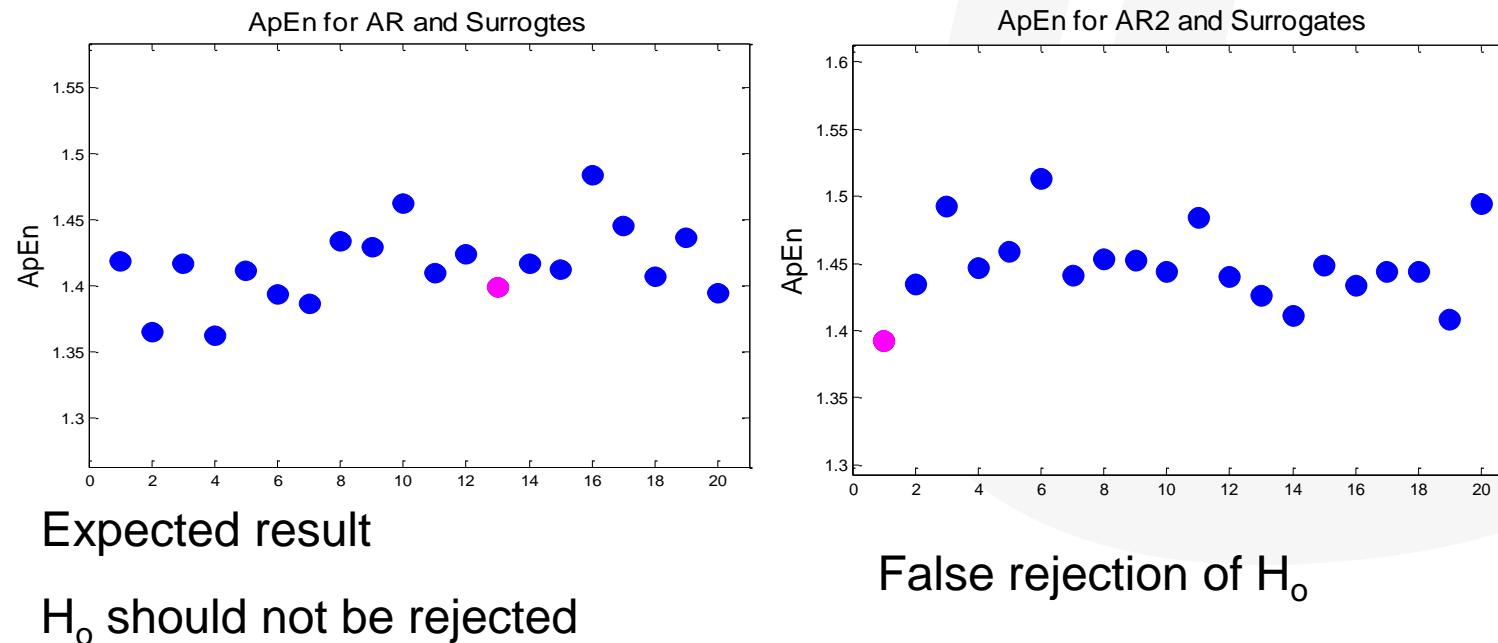
AR



AR2



- However, the results of the null hypothesis testing using the ApEn as a discriminating statistics are different between AR and AR2.
- A pink dot represent the ApEn for the original time series while blue dots represent ApEn's for the surrogate time series.



# How did this happen?

- The discrepancy in the results between AR and AR2 hypothesis testing seems to be due to an increase in the number of values in surrogate time series generated from AR2.
- The process of generating surrogate time series using the Fourier transform increases the number of unique values in surrogate time series generated from AR2.

	# of states	ApEn
AR	2000	1.42
Surrogates	2000	1.42

	# of states	ApEn
AR2	126	1.39
Surrogates	1999	1.43

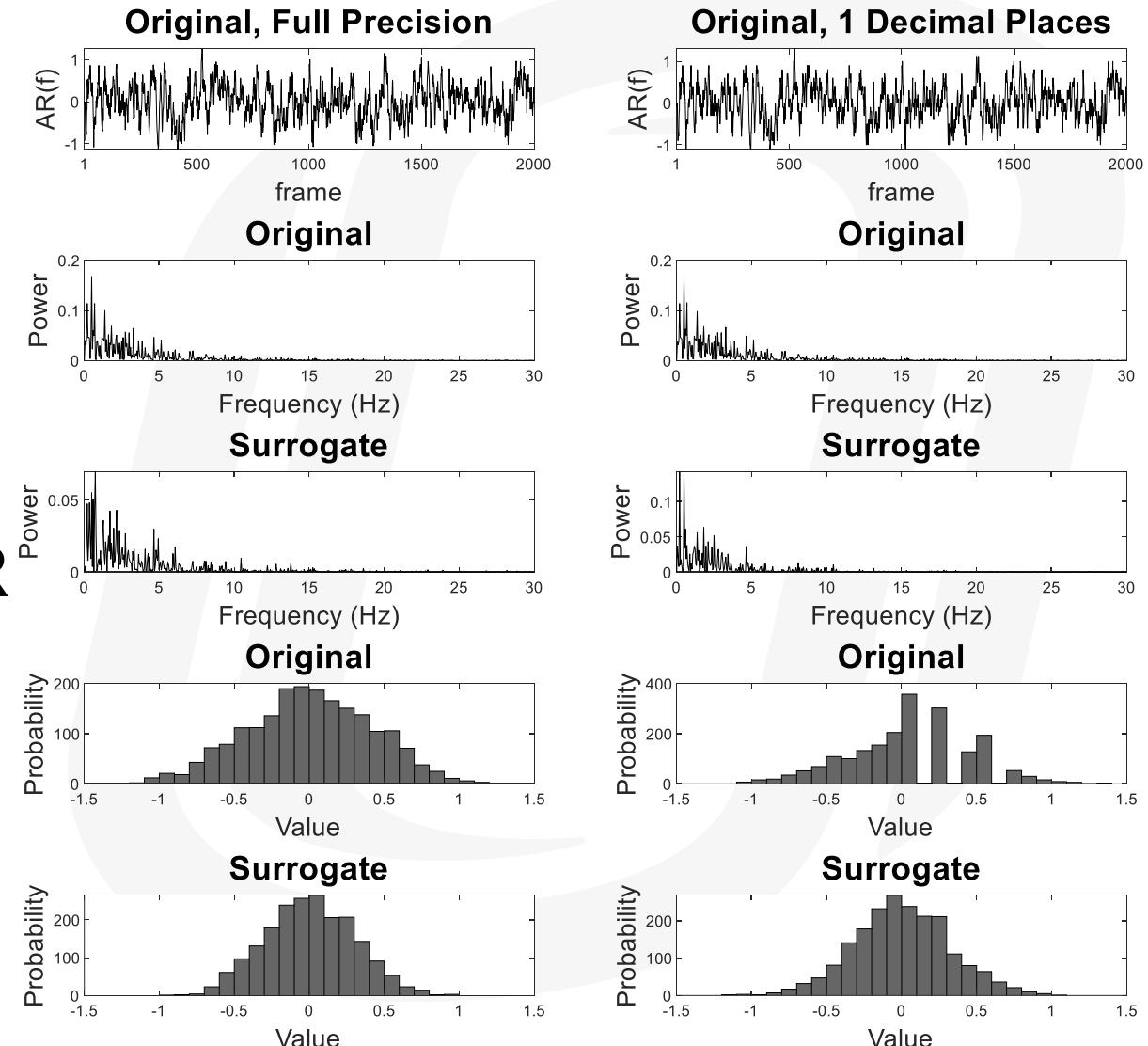
The increase in the number of values in the surrogate time series is reflected in the value of ApEn of surrogates generated from AR2.



# Linear Surrogate Methods

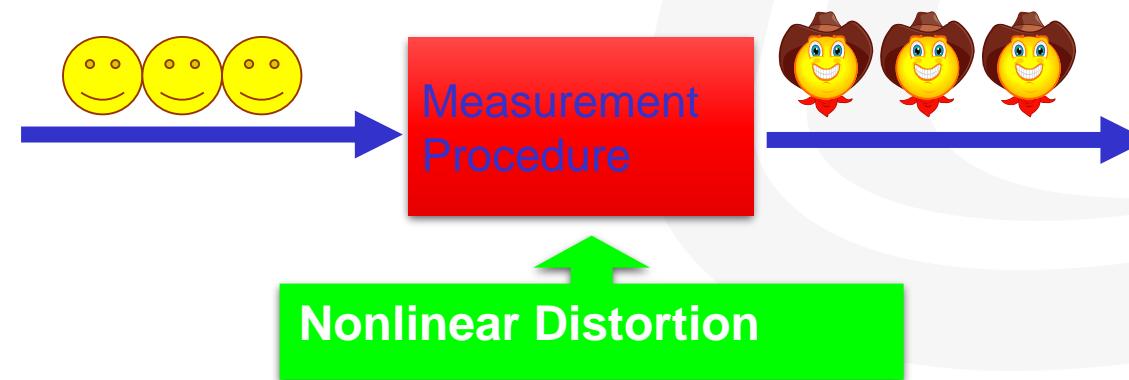
## Algorithm 1

- Frequency distribution in AR and in AR2 are preserved.
- The probability distribution in AR and in AR2 is not preserved.
- **A false rejection of the null hypothesis may occur**



## Algorithm 2 (AAFT) (Amplitude Adjusted Fourier Transform)

- $H_o$ : A static monotonic nonlinear filter.
- A measurement procedure is regarded as a nonlinear filter which enhances fluctuations in a system with linear dynamics as it goes through the filter.



# Linear Surrogate Methods

## Algorithm 2 or AAFT

$H_o$ : static and monotonic nonlinear filter

1. Original time series
2. Rank-order the original  $\{x_n\}$  time series
3. Generate a random time series and call it  $\{y_n\}$
4. Sort  $\{y_n\}$  in ascending order and call it Sorted  $\{y_n\}$
5. Re-order Sorted  $\{y_n\}$  according to original rank and call it Re-ordered  $\{y_n\}$
6. Apply Algorithm 1 on Re-ordered  $\{y_n\}$  and call it Surrogate  $\{y_n\}$
7. Rank order Surrogate  $\{y_n\}$  and call it Rank Surrogate  $\{y_n\}$
8. Re-order Rank Surrogate  $\{y_n\}$  and call it Final Reorder
9. Arrange  $\{x_n\}$  according to the Final Reorder

A result of testing with Algorithm 1 → not generated from a linear Gaussian stochastic process.

$$O_n = f(U_n)$$

Test to see if it's generated from a linear Gaussian stochastic process with Algorithm 2



# Linear Surrogate Methods

## Algorithm 2 or AAFT

1. Original time series
2. Rank-order the original  $\{x_n\}$  time series
3. Generate a random time series and call it  $\{y_n\}$
4. Sort  $\{y_n\}$  in ascending order and call it Sorted  $\{y_n\}$

Step 1	Step 2	Step 3	Step 4	Step 5	Step 6	Step 7	Step 8	Step 9
125.00	5	1.5	-2.43	0.23	1.07	5	9	188.22
67.37	4	-0.28	-1.50	-0.28	1.19	4	10	276.97
46.33	1	0.50	-0.52	-2.34	-0.55	3	3	49.83
49.64	2	1.03	-0.28	-1.50	-1.06	9	2	49.64
49.83	3	-1.5	0.23	-0.52	-1.48	8	1	46.33
172.36	8	-2.34	0.26	0.50	-0.06	6	6	138.77
188.22	9	0.26	0.32	1.03	0.17	7	7	157.40
157.40	7	-0.52	0.50	0.32	-0.12	10	5	125.00
138.77	6	0.23	1.03	0.26	-0.28	1	4	67.37
276.97	10	0.32	1.50	1.50	0.30	2	8	172.36



# Linear Surrogate Methods

## Algorithm 2 or AAFT

5. Re-order Sorted  $\{y_n\}$  according to original rank and call it Re-ordered  $\{y_n\}$
6. Apply Algorithm 1 on Re-ordered  $\{y_n\}$  and call it Surrogate  $\{y_n\}$
7. Rank order Surrogate  $\{y_n\}$  and call it Rank Surrogate  $\{y_n\}$

Step 1	Step 2	Step 3	Step 4	Step 5	Step 6	Step 7	Step 8	Step 9
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276.97	10	0.32	1.50	1.50	0.30	8	8	172.36



# Linear Surrogate Methods

## Algorithm 2 or AAFT

8. Re-order Rank Surrogate  $\{y_n\}$  and call it Final Reorder
9. Arrange  $\{x_n\}$  according to the Final Reorder

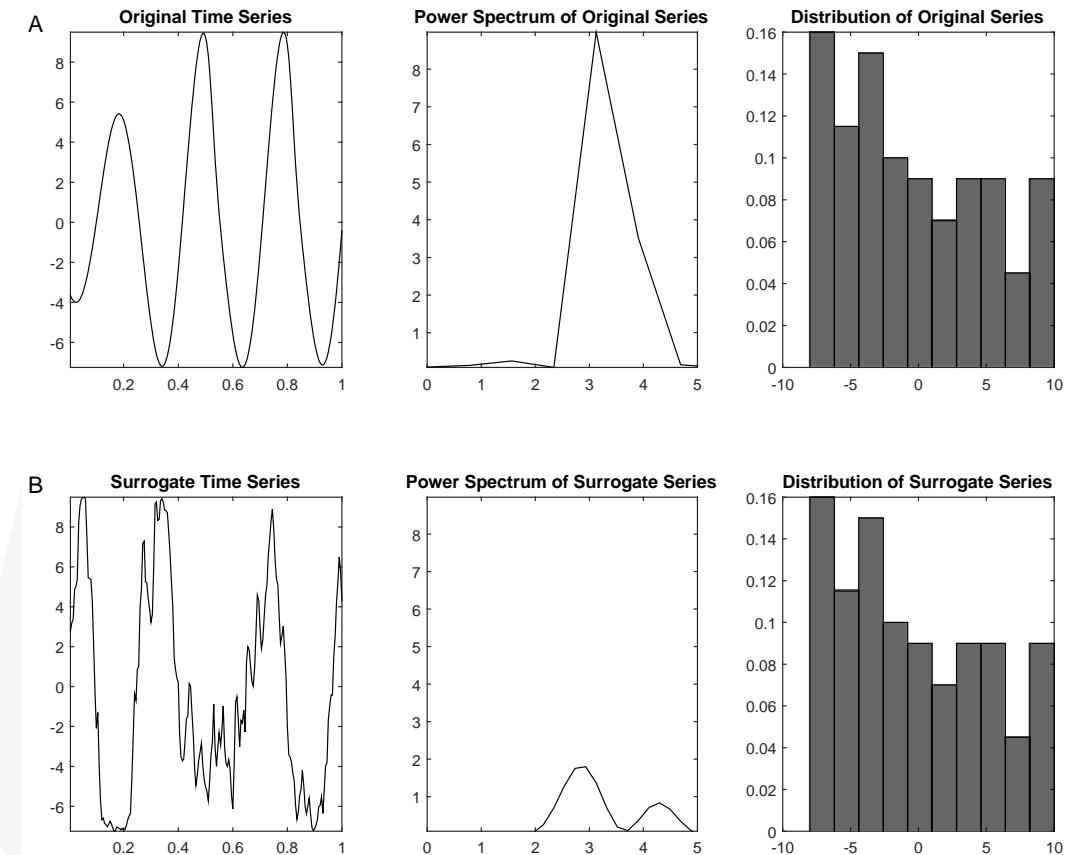
Step 1	Step 2	Step 3	Step 4	Step 5	Step 6	Step 7	Step 8	Step 9
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138.77	6	0.23	1.03	0.32	-0.28	4	4	67.37
276.97	10	0.32	1.50	1.50	0.30	8	8	172.36

# Linear Surrogate Methods

## Algorithm 2

- Algorithm 2 preserves the amplitude distribution and power spectrum of the original time series (top) except during short and strongly correlated series (bottom)

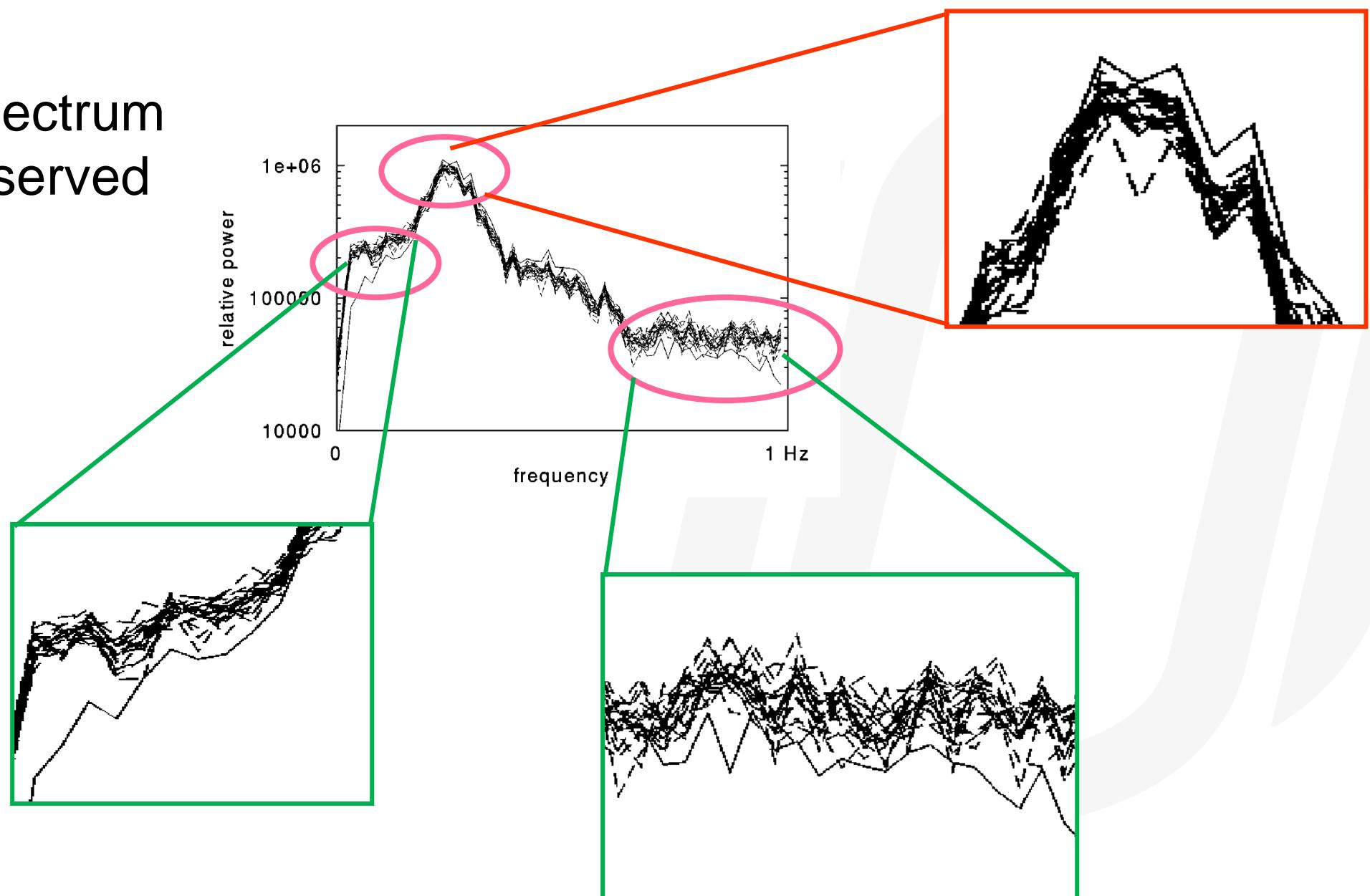
When a time series is short and strongly correlated, rescaling of the inverse Fourier transformed data can change the linear correlations of the time series



A discrepancy between the power spectrum of the original time series and surrogate time series.



Power Spectrum  
is not preserved



# Linear Surrogate Methods

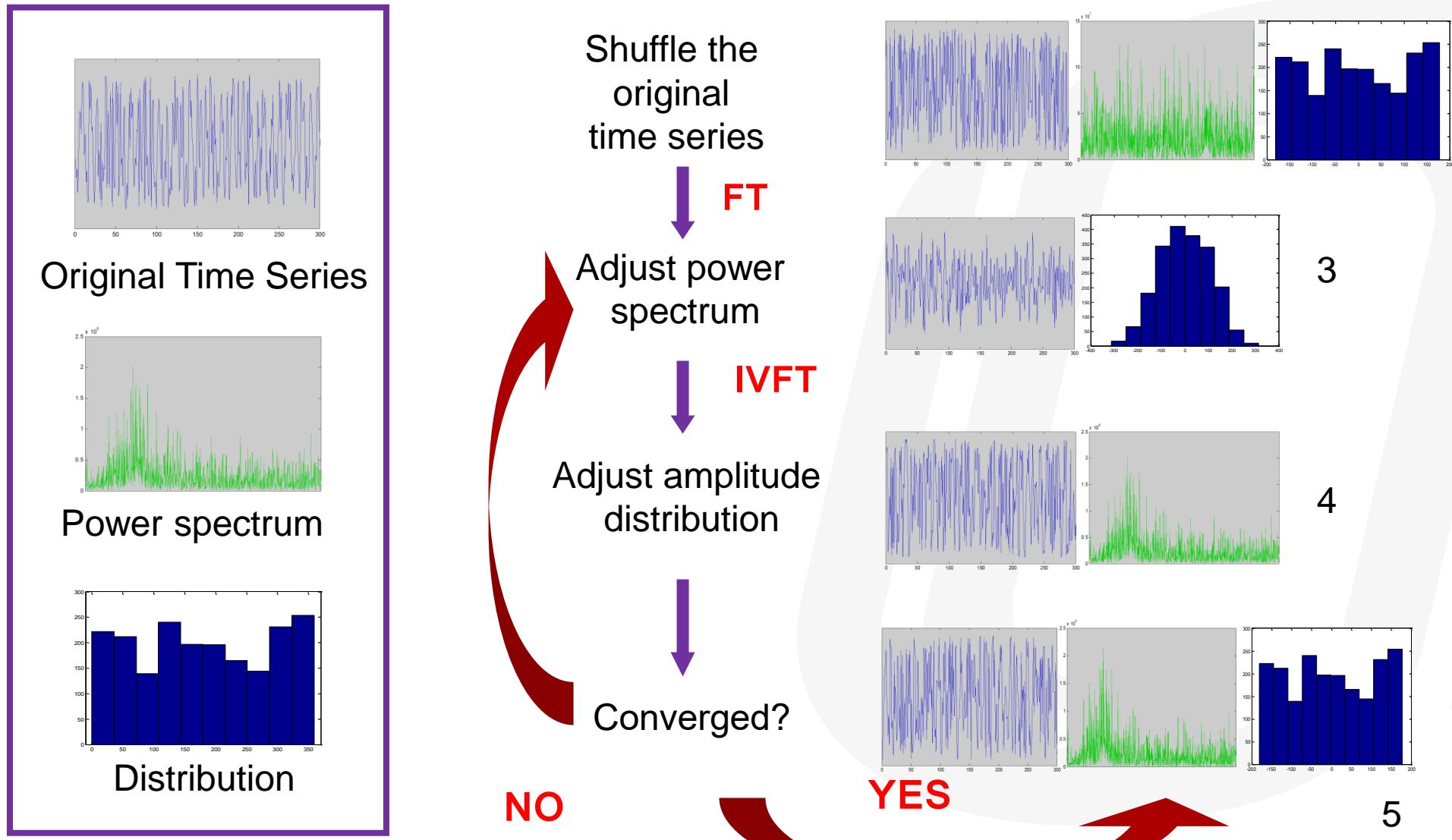
## Iterated AAFT (IAAFT)

Proposed by Schreiber et al (1996) as an improvement to AAFT

Let  $\{x_n\}$  be the original time series where  $n=1, 2, \dots, N$ .

1. Sort  $\{x_n\}$  in an ascending order and store this sorted time series Sorted\_{ $x_n$ }.
2. Take the Fourier transform of  $\{x_n\}$  and store the squared amplitudes of the Fourier transform of  $\{x_n\}$ ,  $X_k^2$ .
3. Shuffle  $\{x_n\}$  and take the Fourier transform and call it FTRandomized{ $x_n$ }.
4. To adjust power spectrum, replace the squared amplitudes of FTRandomized{ $x_n$ } by  $\{X_k^2\}$ . The phases are kept unchanged. Then transform back by taking the inverse Fourier transform.
5. The procedure at Step 4 will change the amplitude distribution. Therefore, adjust the amplitudes by ranking the values of this time series and replacing them by the values of Sorted\_{ $x_n$ }.
6. However, again the procedure at Step 5 may alter the power spectrum, so Step 4 and Step 5 are repeated until some convergence is achieved.



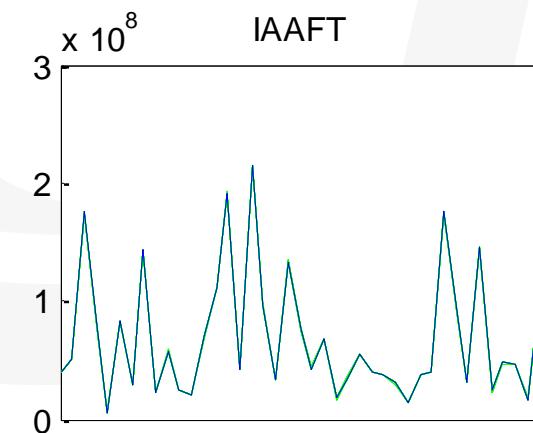
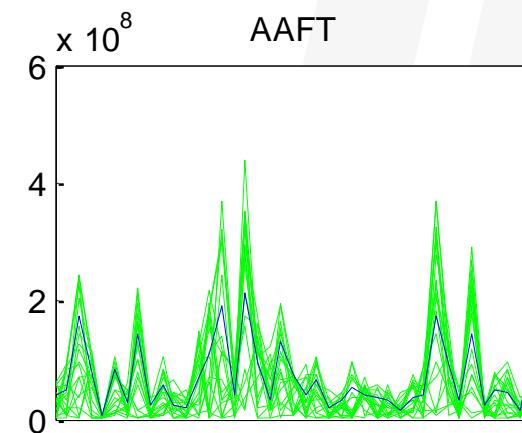
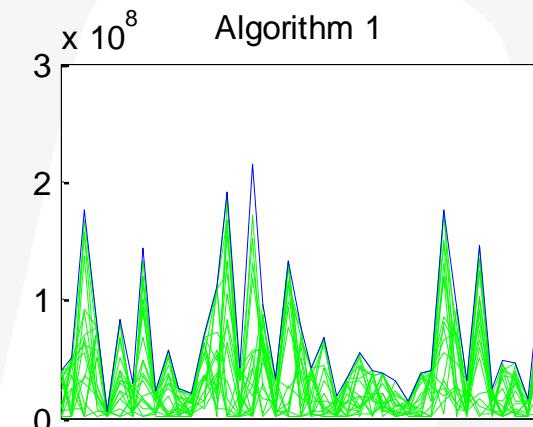
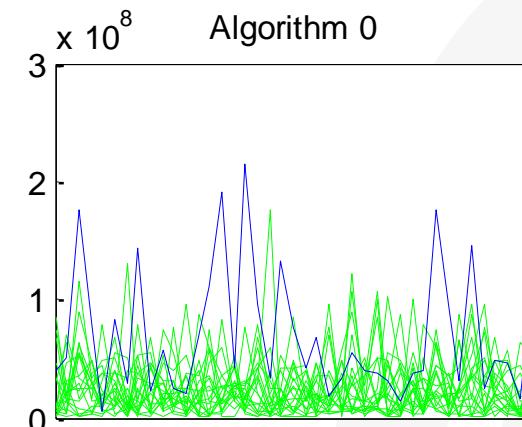


## Iterated AAFT (IAAFT)

A surrogate time series generated by IAAFT preserves the power spectrum of an original time series much better than the other surrogate algorithms.

Green: power spectrum of surrogates.

Blue: power spectrum of original time series.

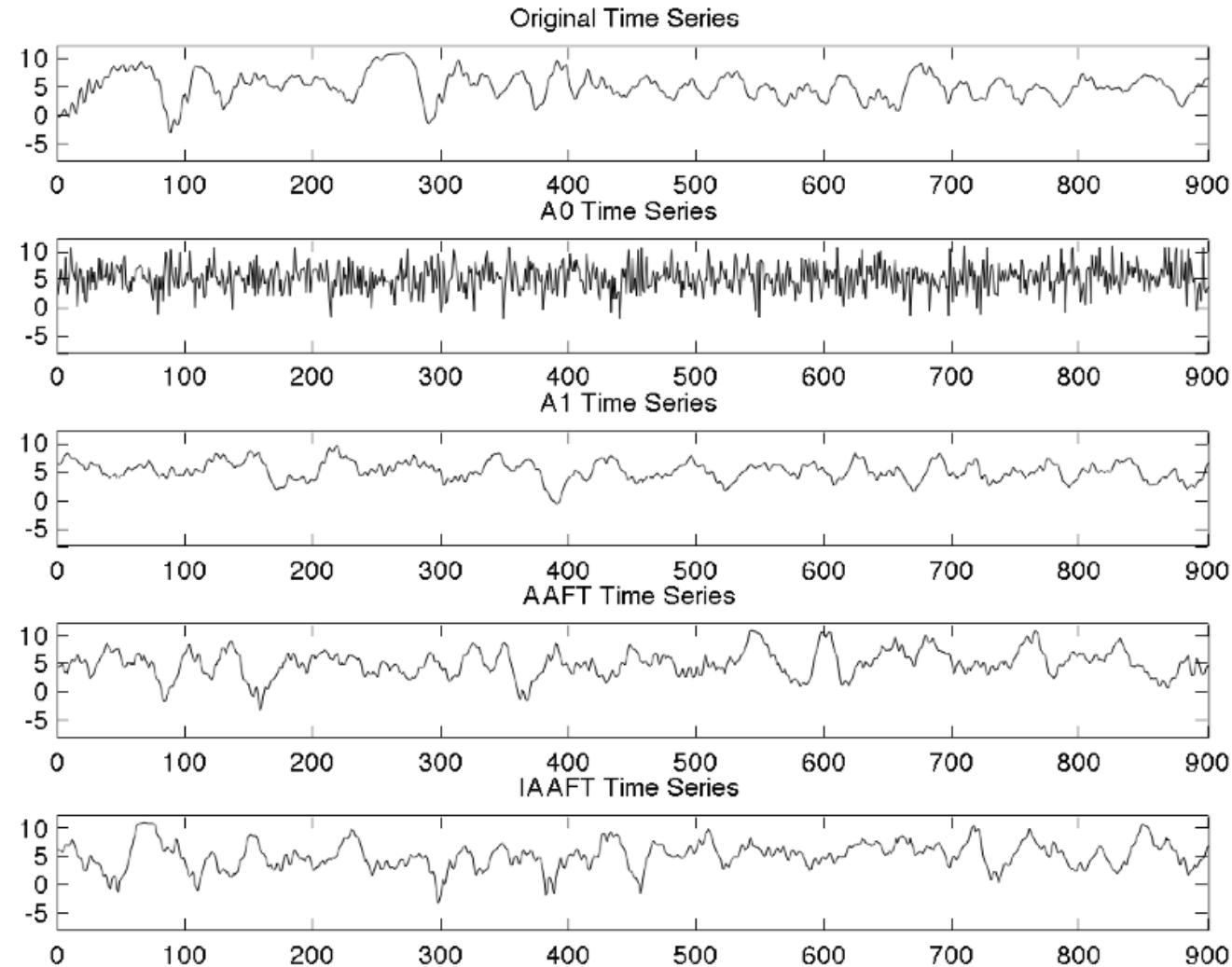


## Limitations of IAAFT

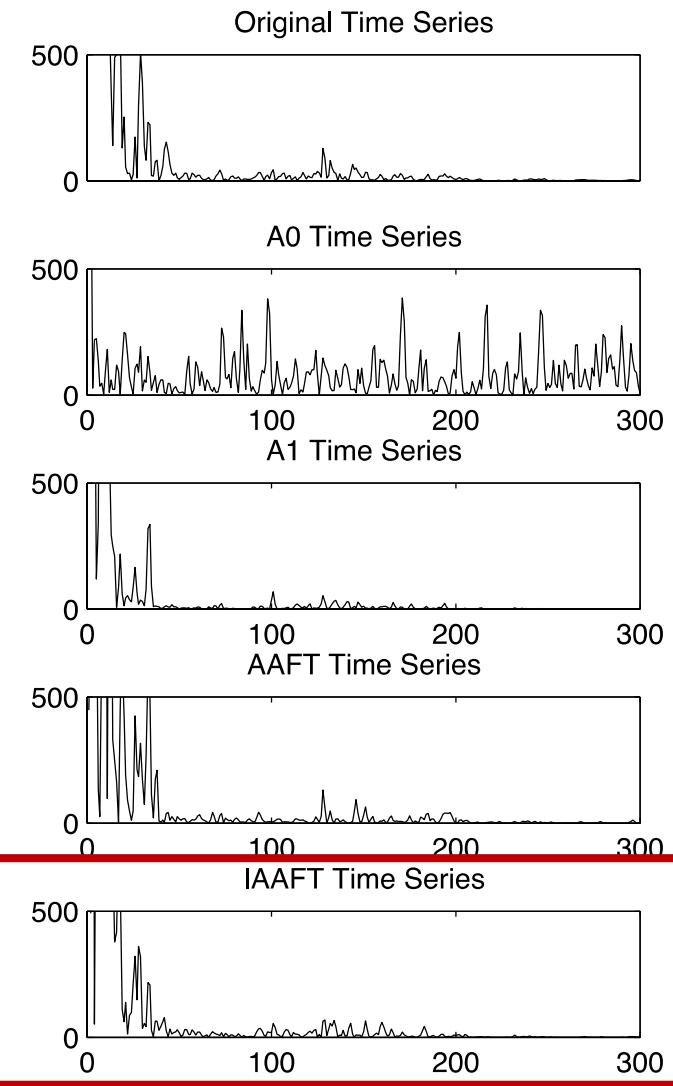
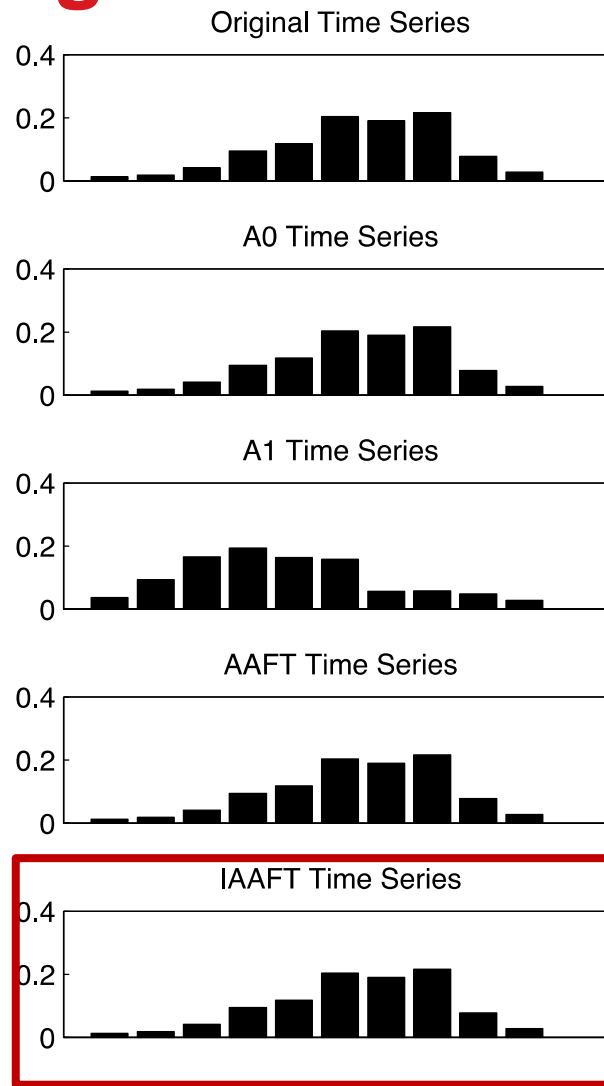
- There is no guarantee that iterations will eventually converge.
- There is also a concern that surrogate time series generated by IAAFT for a data with short length may not have enough randomization, which makes hypothesis testing against a specific system rather than a general class of the system.



# Linear Surrogate Methods



# Linear Surrogate Methods



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# Rejection of Null Hypothesis

- Rejecting the  $H_0$ :
  - Indicates more complex dynamics than linear dynamics
  - Indicates the underlying dynamics are not consistent with the null hypothesis
- May not conclude the original and surrogate are from the same population
  - May be due to inadequate statistics
- As with all nonlinear methods, multiple nonlinear tools should be used
- Techniques described thus far are not appropriate for time series with inherent periodicity
  - False rejection of  $H_0$  because structure of time series has changed (Algorithm 0 and Algorithm 1) or the geometric structure has changed (Algorithm 2 and IAAFT)



## Summary

- Surrogate methods are used with hypothesis testing.
- Each algorithm generates a surrogate time series which is consistent with a specific null hypothesis.
- The linear surrogate methods are applied to a stationary irregular time series without any long term trend or periodicity.
- Surrogate methods are used as an indirect approach to identify the nature of a time series. They try to narrow down the possibility of what a time series is by eliminating the possibilities of what a time series is not.
- A surrogate method alone cannot decide what the time series is, but it may be a helpful tool when it is used with other nonlinear tools.



## Acknowledgements

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  - Mr. Joel Sommerfeld
  - Mr. Tyler Wiles
  - Dr. Jenna Yentes
  - Mr. Ben Senderling
  - Mr. Cory Fredrick



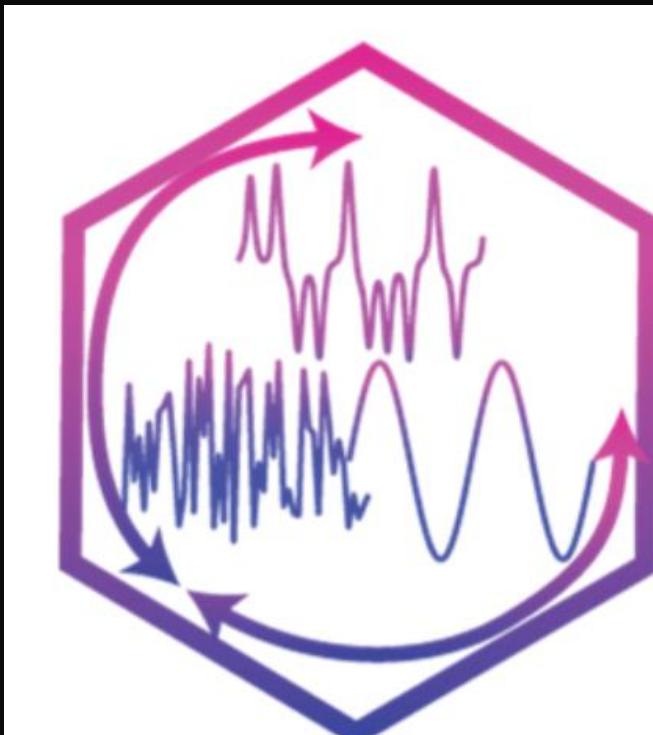


# Thank you for attending our workshop!!!

Please fill out the Post-Workshop Survey.  
We would really appreciate it! Thank you!

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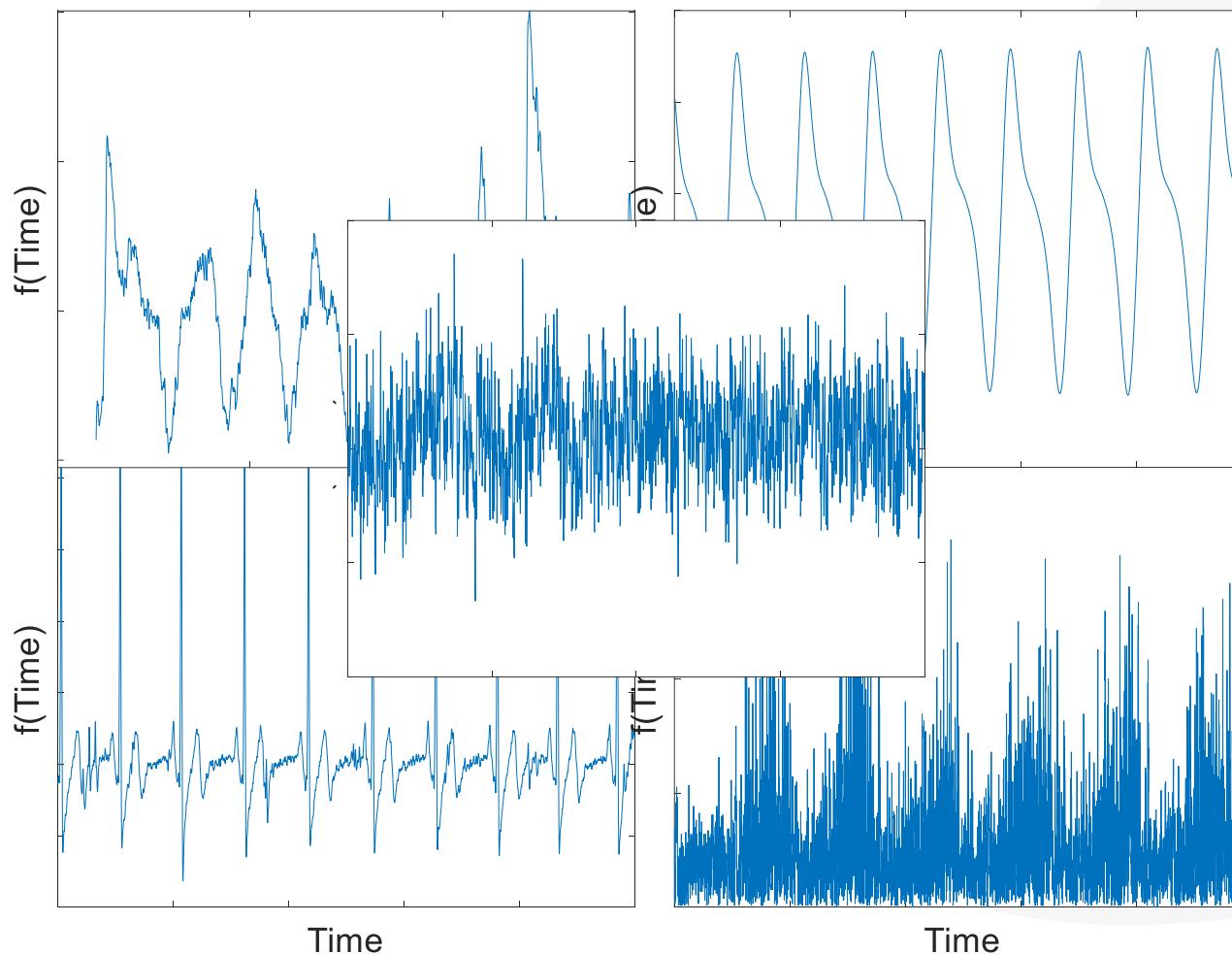


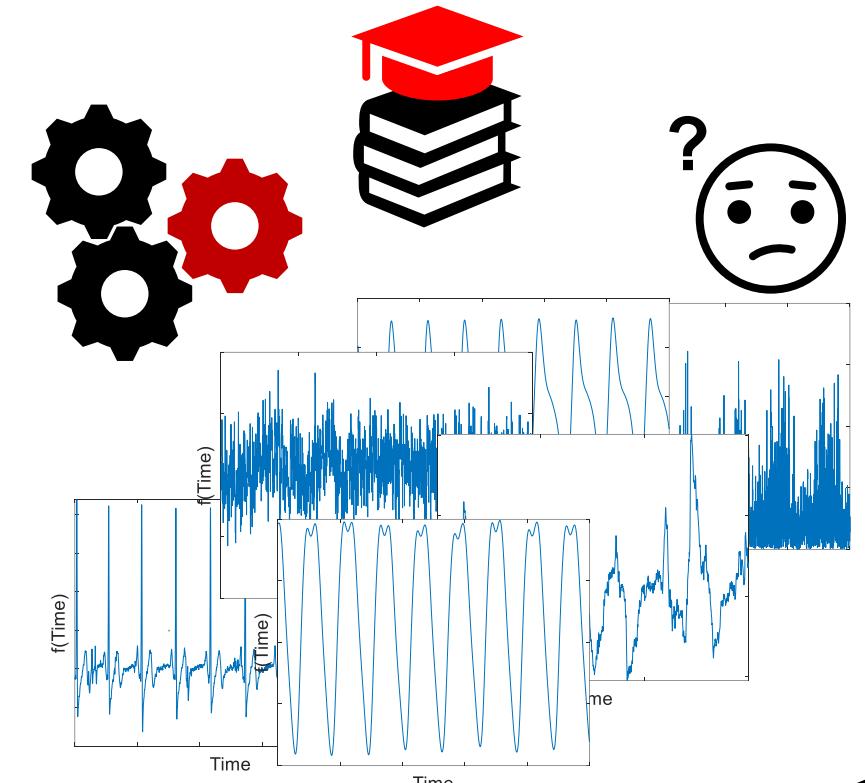
## NONAN Core Services

- Access to “tried and true” and cutting-edge nonlinear analysis tools
- Assistance in experimental design
- Custom nonlinear analysis software
- Data processing
- Interpretation and dissemination of results
- Statistical analysis (e.g., regression, ANOVA, linear mixed effects modeling, structural equation modeling)
- Validation studies
- The Core is also actively exploring and validating new techniques and algorithms for the next generation of nonlinear analysis.

Link: [https://www.unomaha.edu/college-of-education-health-and-human-sciences/cobre/research-cores/nonlinear-analysis-core.php#:~:text=The%20Nonlinear%20Analysis%20\(NONAN\)%20Core,way%20beyond%20looking%20at%20averages](https://www.unomaha.edu/college-of-education-health-and-human-sciences/cobre/research-cores/nonlinear-analysis-core.php#:~:text=The%20Nonlinear%20Analysis%20(NONAN)%20Core,way%20beyond%20looking%20at%20averages).

**Does your data look this?  
You can see the patterns but not the next step?**





Statistics

$$\bar{x} / s$$

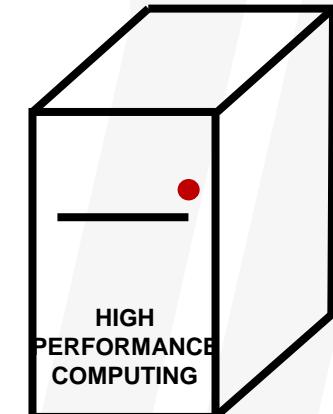
Visualization



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$$\lambda = f(\text{time})$$

- Regularity
- Divergence
- Self-Similarity
- Fractals
- Complexity



Education



Publishing



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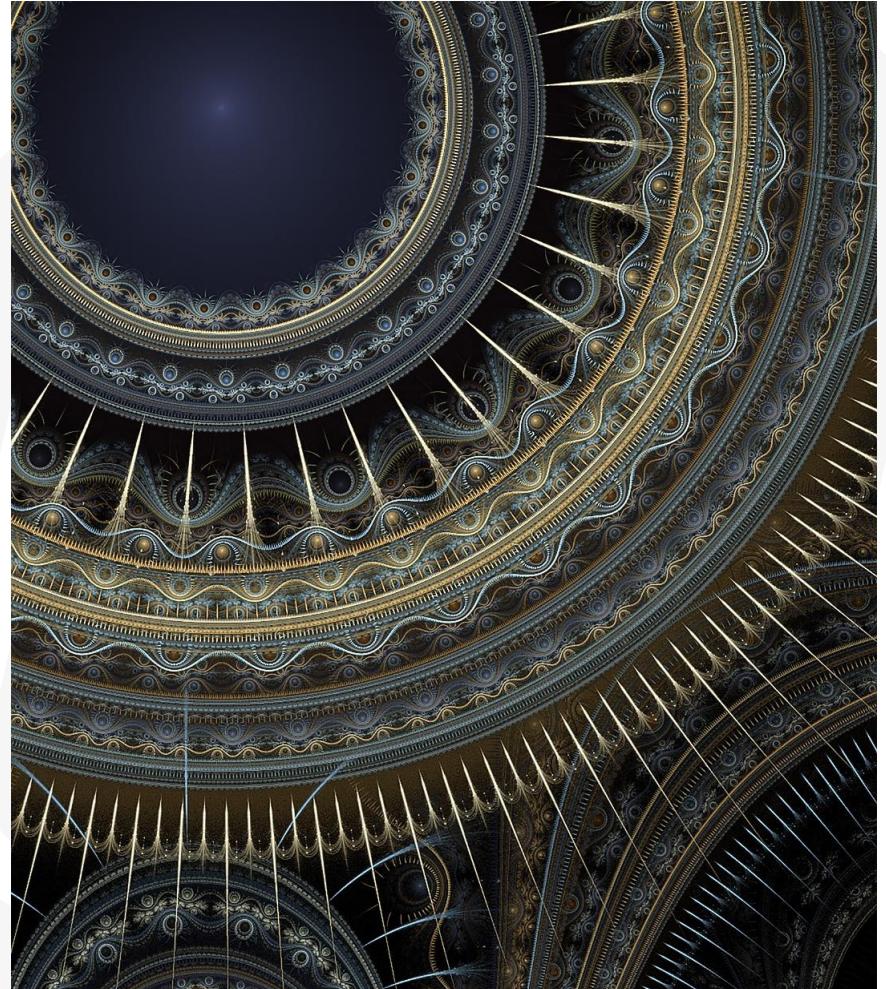
# What do we do?

- NONAN provides expertise and resources for innovative nonlinear analyses.
- Provide:
  - Consultation
  - Data processing
  - Education
  - Interpretation
  - Dissemination
  - Quality assurance



# Analysis Methods

- Detrended Fluctuation Analysis
- Entropy
- Largest Lyapunov Exponent
- Recurrence Quantification Analysis
- Relative Phase
- Surrogation





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