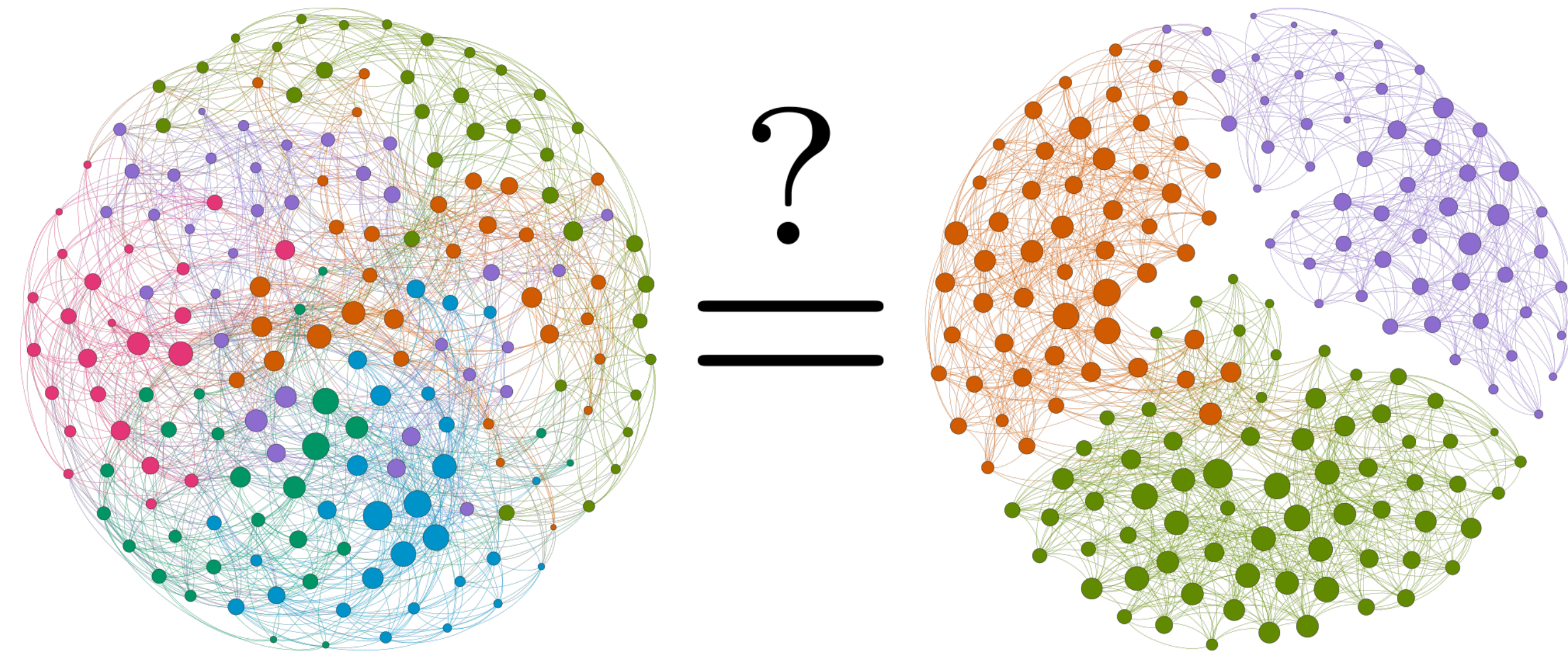


# Practical Methods for Graph Two-Sample Testing

Debarghya Ghoshdastidar, Ulrike von Luxburg

## Graph two-sample testing



*How to decide whether two (families of) graphs come from the same underlying population?*

- Standard tests need large sample size
- Existing graph tests need bootstrap samples — difficult for small population

**Problem:** Fix  $m$ , and let  $V$  be a common set of  $n$  vertices  
Given graphs  $G_1, \dots, G_m \sim_{\text{iid}} \mathcal{P}_n$  and  $H_1, \dots, H_m \sim_{\text{iid}} \mathcal{Q}_n$  defined on  $V$   
Test:  $\mathcal{H}_0 : \mathcal{P}_n = \mathcal{Q}_n$  or  $\mathcal{H}_1 : \|\mathcal{P}_n - \mathcal{Q}_n\| > \delta_n$

## New tests for IER graphs based on asymptotic distributions

**IER** (Inhomogeneous Erdős-Rényi graph) : Edges independent, but have arbitrary probabilities

$\mathcal{P}_n = \text{IER}(P_n)$  and  $\mathcal{Q}_n = \text{IER}(Q_n)$  parameterized by  $n \times n$  matrices

### Asymptotic normal test

- Applicable for sample size  $m > 1$
- Test based on entry-wise difference in adjacency matrices

$$T_n = \frac{\sum_{i < j} \left( \sum_{k \leq m/2} (A_{G_k})_{ij} - (A_{H_k})_{ij} \right) \left( \sum_{k > m/2} (A_{G_k})_{ij} - (A_{H_k})_{ij} \right)}{\sqrt{\sum_{i < j} \left( \sum_{k \leq m/2} (A_{G_k})_{ij} + (A_{H_k})_{ij} \right) \left( \sum_{k > m/2} (A_{G_k})_{ij} + (A_{H_k})_{ij} \right)}}$$

**Result:**

$\mathcal{H}_0 : \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} T_n$  dominated by  $\mathcal{N}(0, 1)$

$\mathcal{H}_1 : T_n \rightarrow \infty$  if  $\delta_n \gg \sqrt{\frac{1}{m} (\|P_n\|_F \vee \|Q_n\|_F)}$

### Asymptotic Tracy-Widom test

- Applicable for unit sample size ( $m = 1$ )
- Test captures difference in graph spectrum

$$T_n = n^{2/3} (\|(A_{G_1} - A_{H_1}) \circ S\|_2 - 2)$$

where  $S$  does entry-wise re-scaling

**Result:**

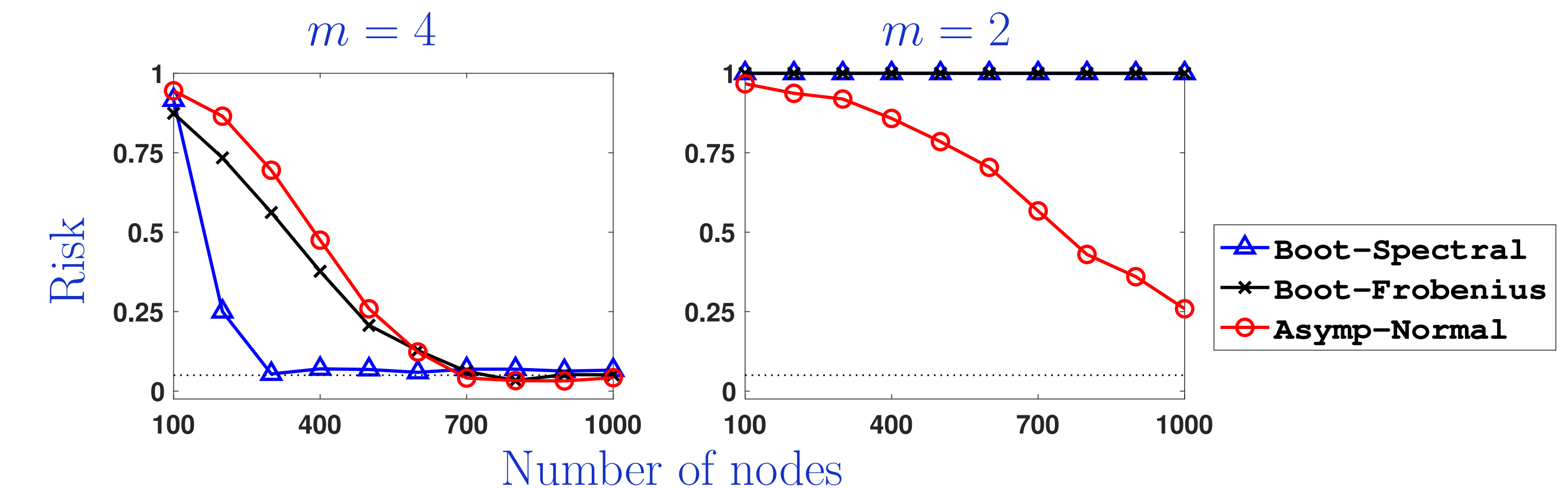
$\mathcal{H}_0 : \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} T_n$  nearly follows  $TW_1$  law

$\mathcal{H}_1 : T_n \rightarrow \infty$  if  $\delta_n \gg k\sqrt{n\rho}$  for  $k$ -SBM  
where  $\rho = \|P_n\|_{\max} \vee \|Q_n\|_{\max}$

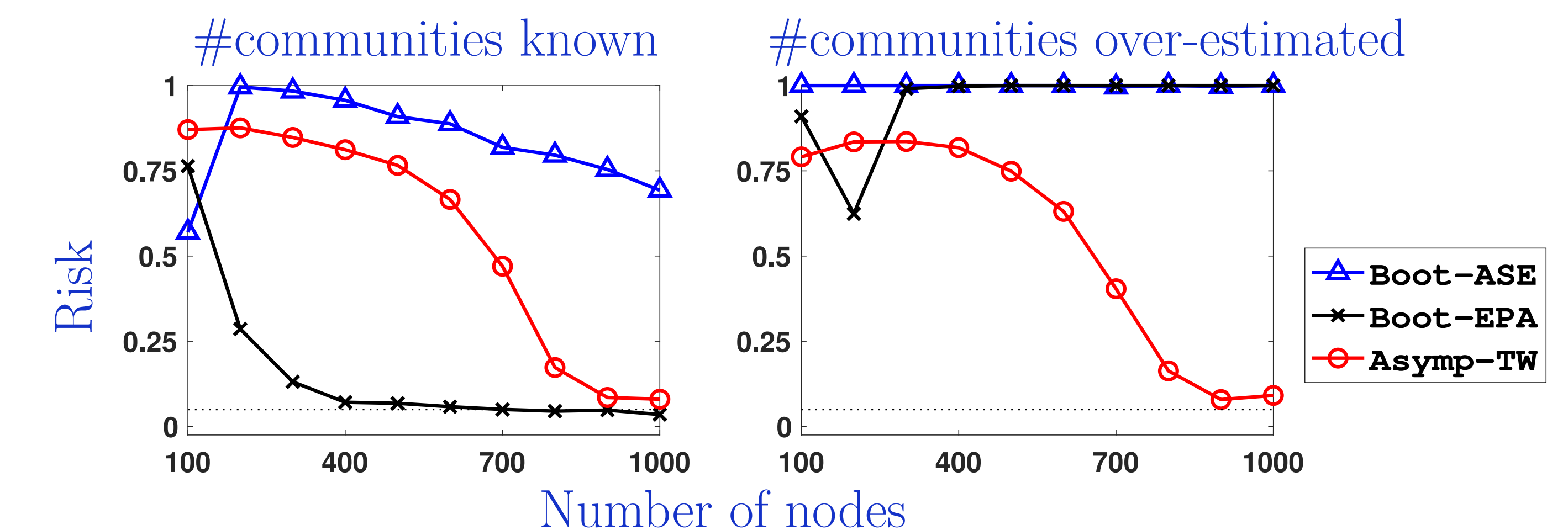
*For graphs on a common vertex set, our asymptotic tests are fast and easy to use*

## Testing random graphs

- Graphs from stochastic block model  
— 2 communities; different parameters under  $\mathcal{H}_0$  and  $\mathcal{H}_1$
- **Sample size  $m > 1$ :** Our test works even for sample size 2, but existing (bootstrap) tests need more samples



- **Sample size  $m = 1$ :** Bootstrap tests fail if number of communities not known correctly, but our test works



## Testing networks in Oregon data set

- Peering networks of 11806 routers over 9 weeks
- Networks change considerably over the weeks

