

The Waisman Laboratory  
for Brain Imaging and Behavior



University of Wisconsin  
**SCHOOL OF MEDICINE  
AND PUBLIC HEALTH**

# Topological inference and learning for graphs

Moo K. Chung  
University of Wisconsin-Madison  
[www.stat.wisc.edu/~mchung](http://www.stat.wisc.edu/~mchung)

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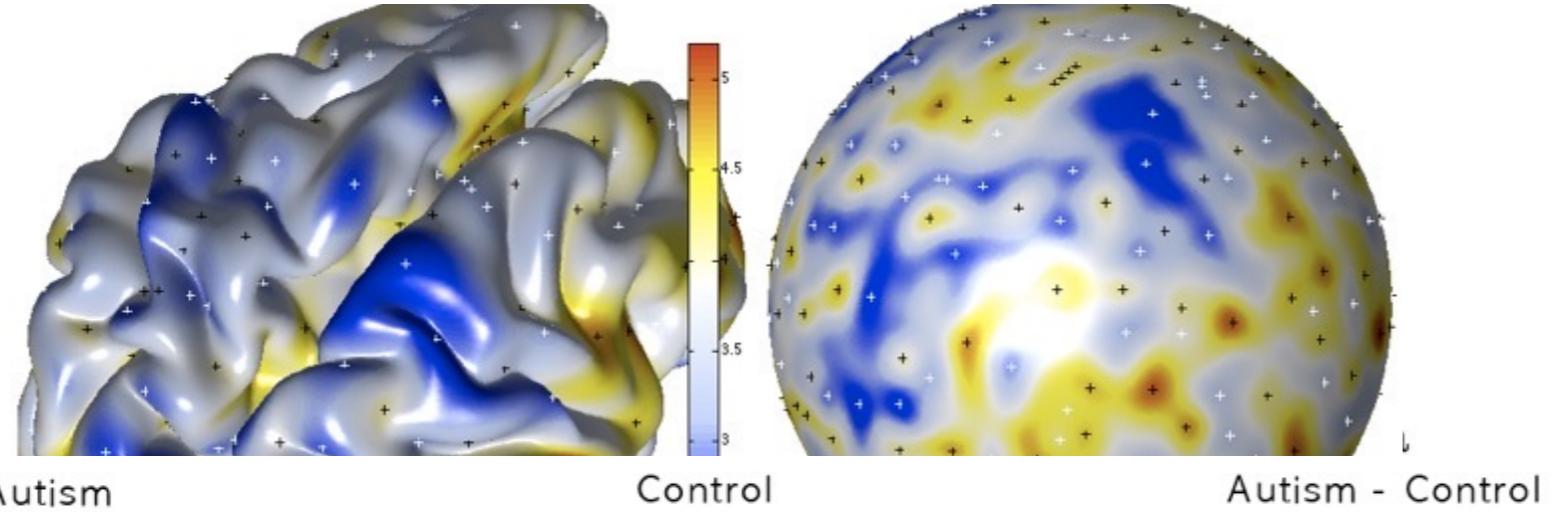
# Abstract

Many previous studies on networks have mainly focused analyzing graph theory features that are often parameter dependent. Persistent homology provides a more coherent mathematical framework that is invariant to the choice of parameters. Instead of looking at networks at a fixed scale, persistent homology charts the topological changes of networks over every possible parameter. In doing so, it reveals the most persistent topological features that are robust to parameter changes. In this talk, we present novel topological inference and learning frameworks that can integrate networks of different sizes, topology or modalities through the Wasserstein distances. The use of Wasserstein distances bypasses the intrinsic computational bottleneck associated with persistent homology. It is now possible to perform various graph computations including matching in  $O(n \log n)$ . We demonstrate the versatility of the proposed method through the twin brain imaging study where we determine the extent to which brain networks are genetically heritable. The talk is based on preprints: Songdechakraiwut et al. 2021 ([arXiv:2012.0067](https://arxiv.org/abs/2012.0067)), Anand et al. 2021 ([arXiv:2110.14599](https://arxiv.org/abs/2110.14599)) and Chung et al. 2022 ([arXiv:2201.00087](https://arxiv.org/abs/2201.00087)).

Chung et al., 2009  
Information Processing  
in Medical Imaging  
(IPMI) 5636:386-397.

# Persistence Diagrams of Cortical Surface Data

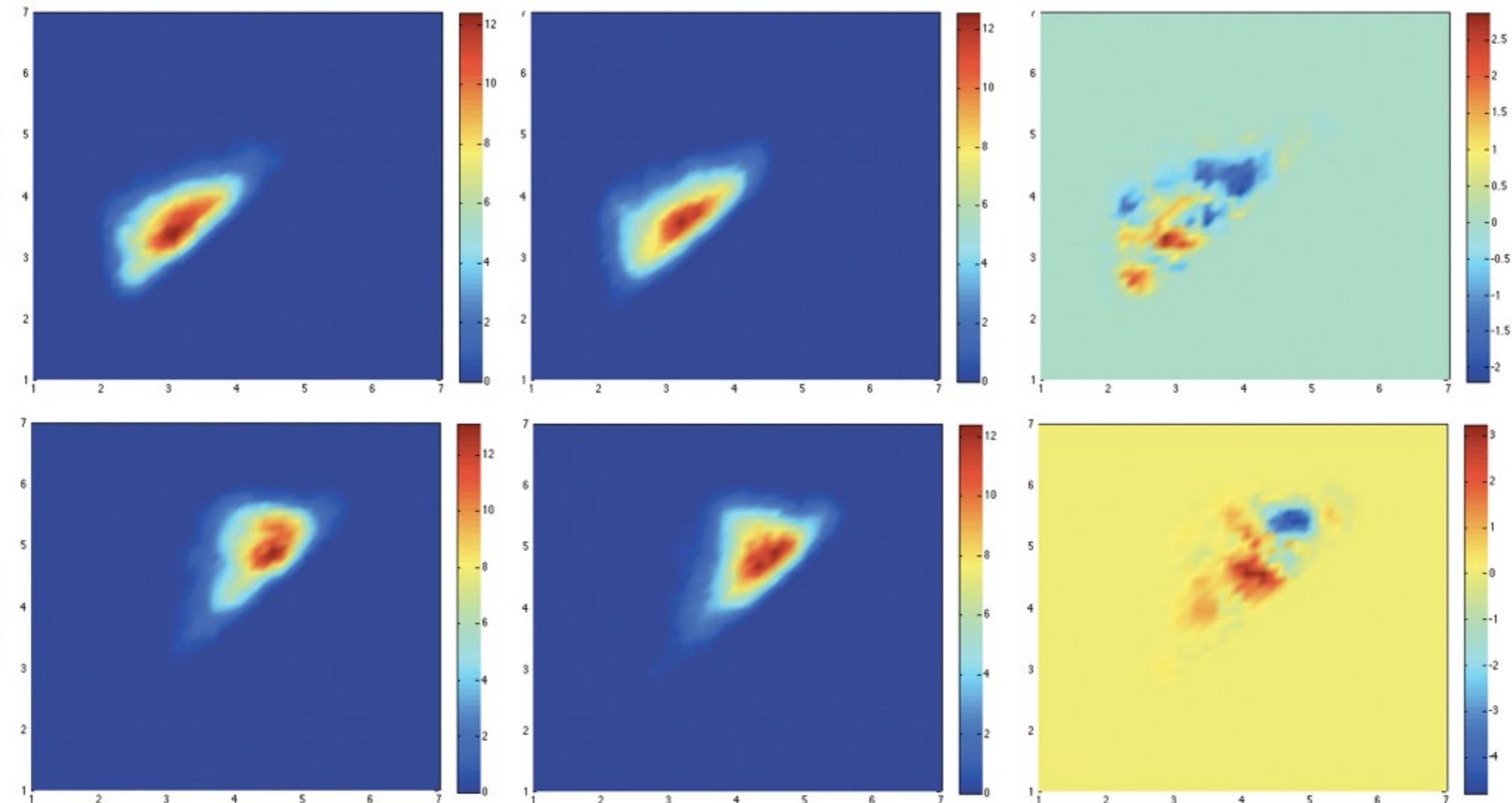
Moo K. Chung<sup>1,2</sup>, Peter Bubenik<sup>3</sup>, and Peter T. Kim<sup>4</sup>



Autism

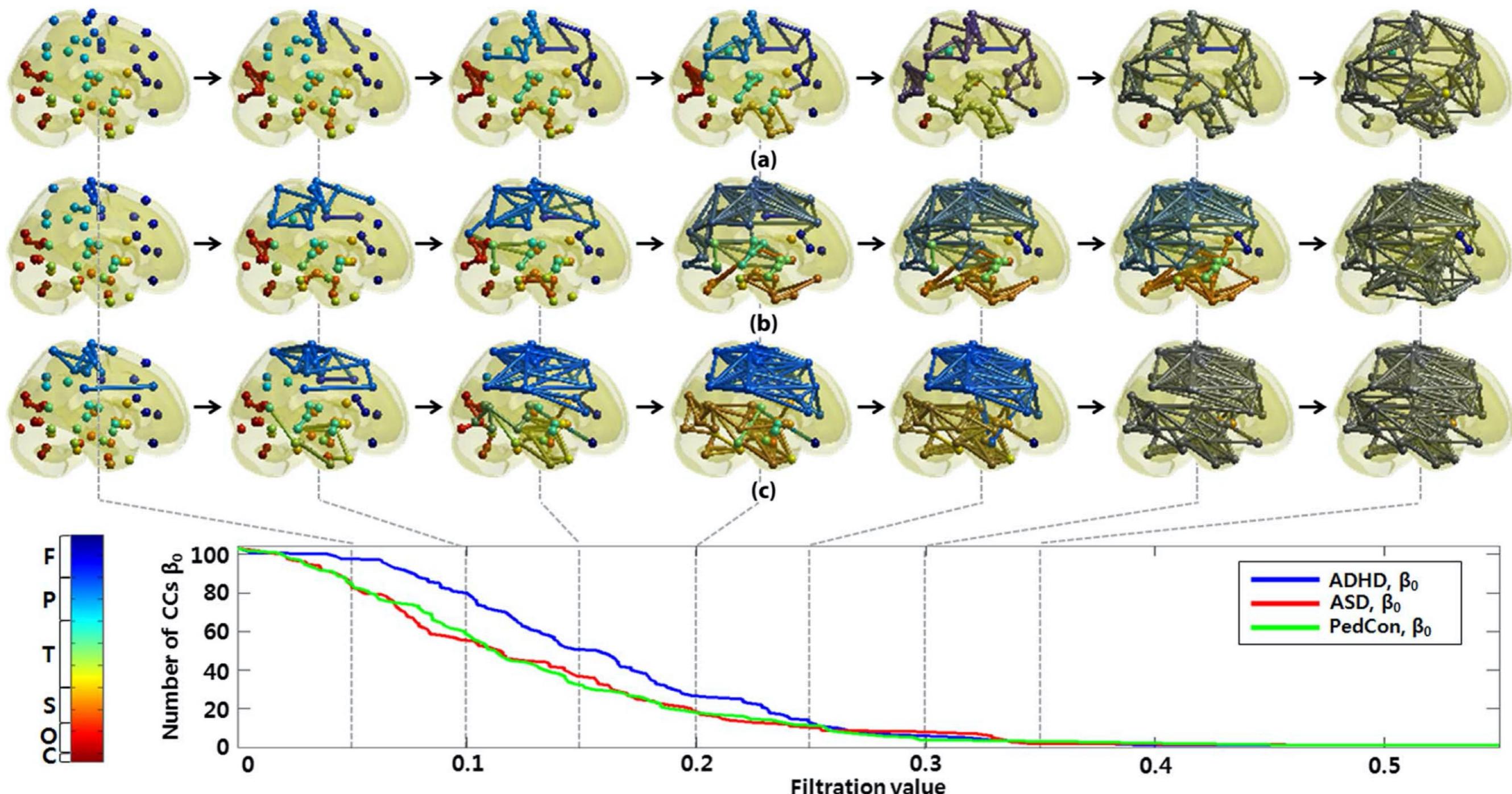
Control

Autism - Control



*First persistent homology paper in medical imaging*

# Baseline TDA data representation technique



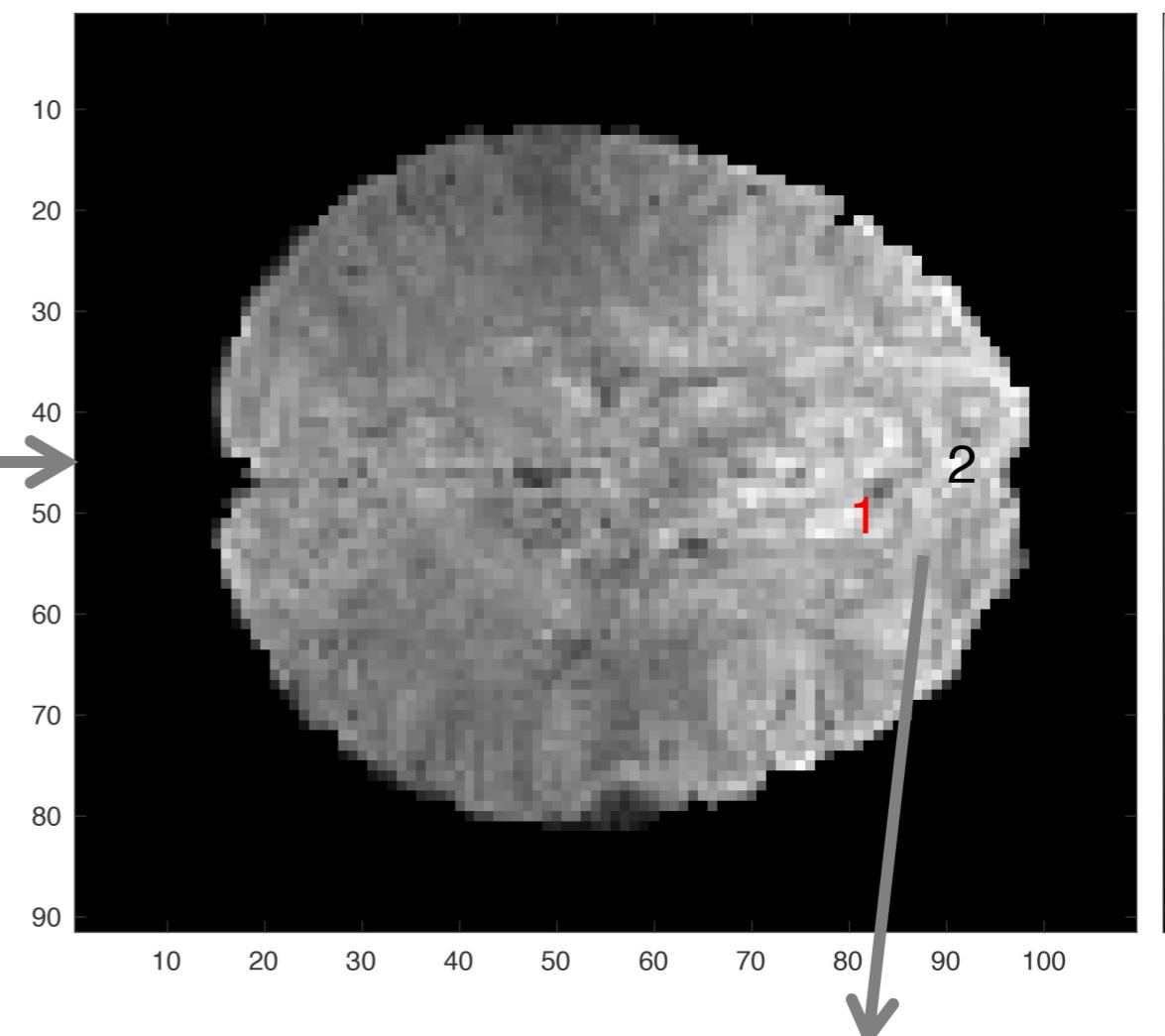
Lee et al. (2011) ISBI

First persistent homology paper  
in brain network analysis

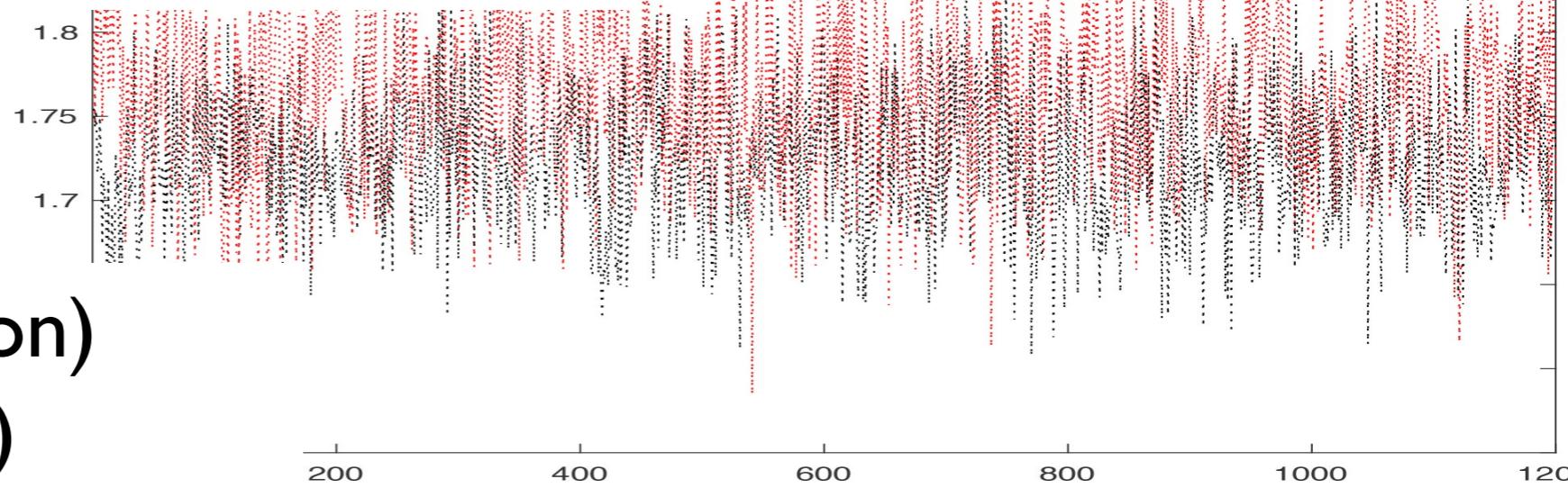
Lee et al. 2012 IEEE Transactions  
on Medical Imaging 31:2267-2277

# Brain Network Data

# Resting-state functional magnetic resonance imaging (rs-fMRI)



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University of Wisconsin-Madison

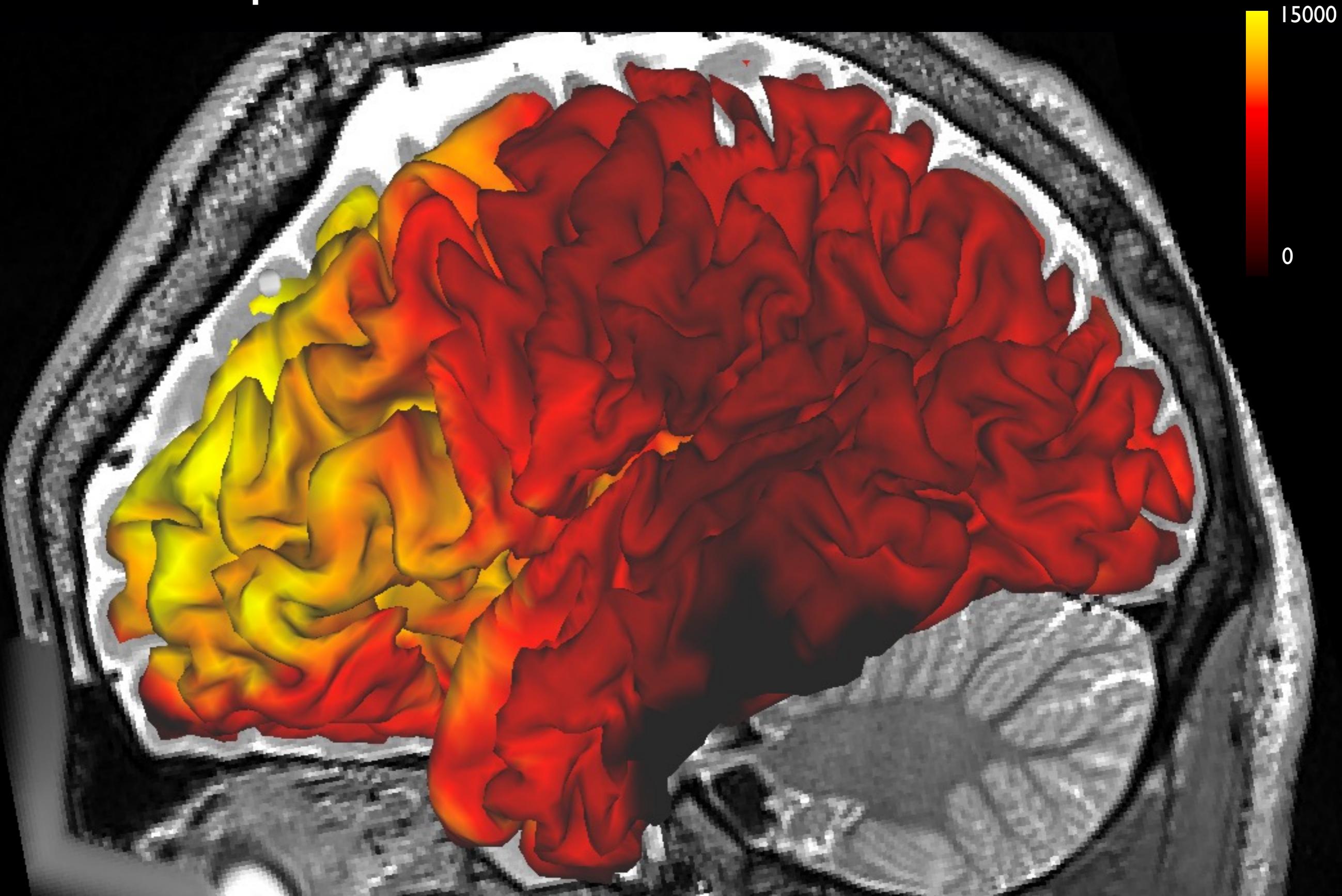


295 time points (Madison)

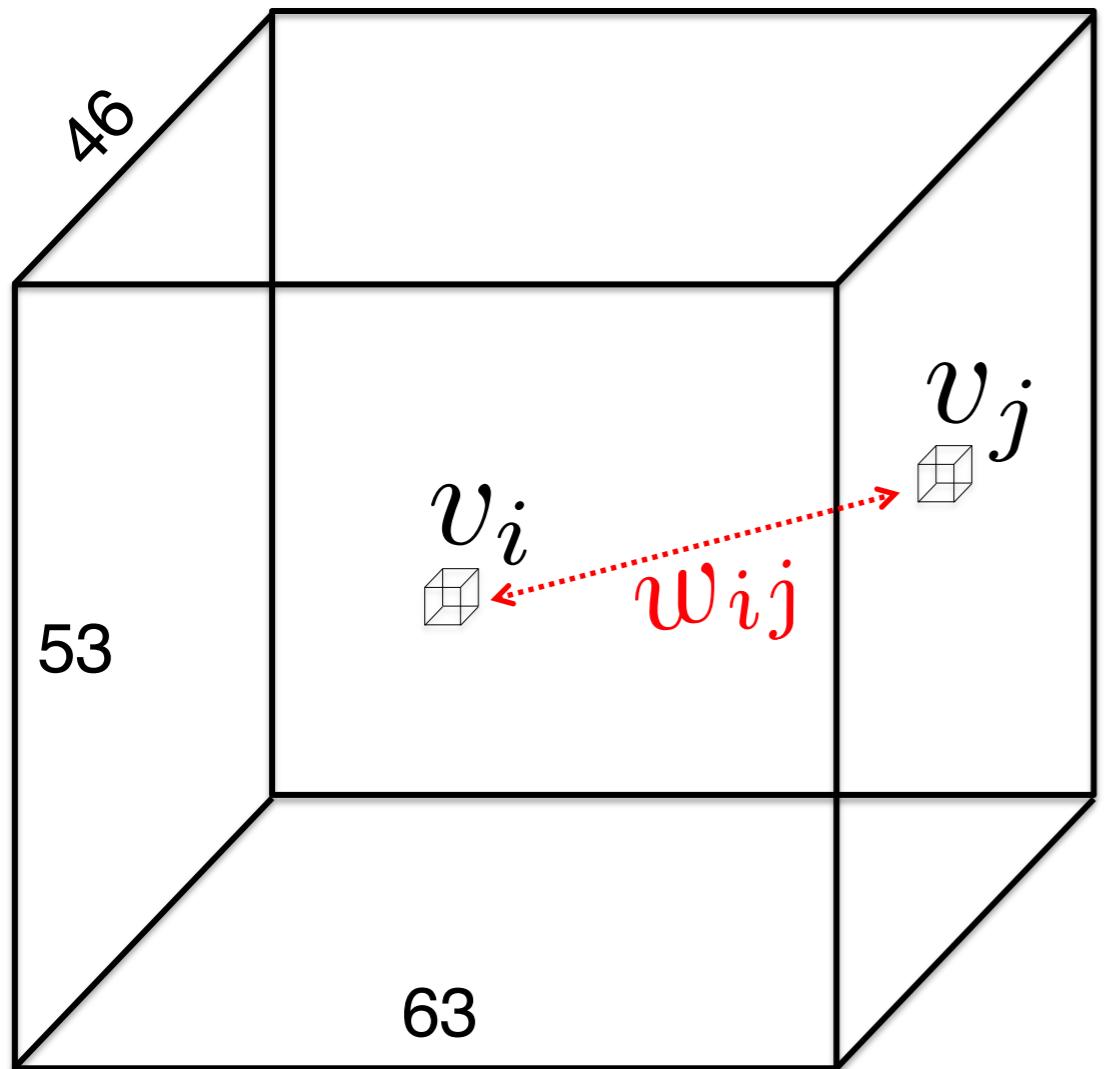
1200 time points (HCP)

Resting state fMRI (every 30 seconds)

1200 time points x 3D volume



# How big brain network data is?

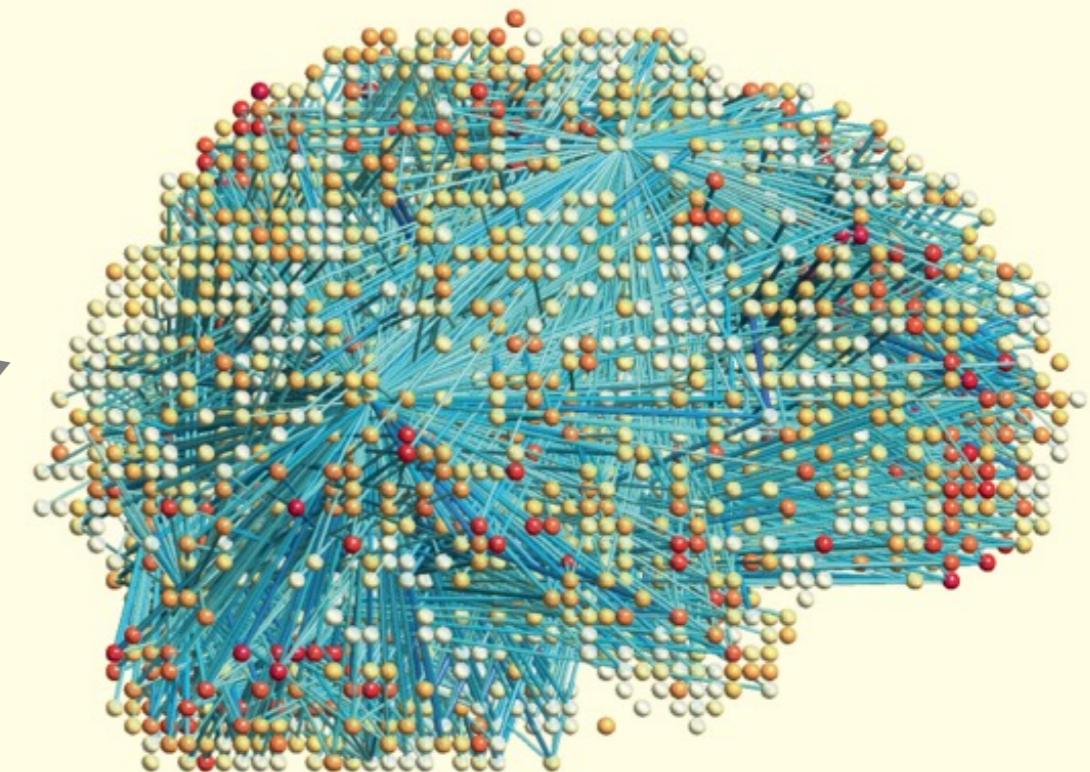


$p=25972$  voxels (3mm) in the brain  
→  $25972 \times 25972 = 0.67$  billion connections  
5.2GB memory

300000 voxels (1mm)  
→ **90 billion connections**  
→ 700 GB memory

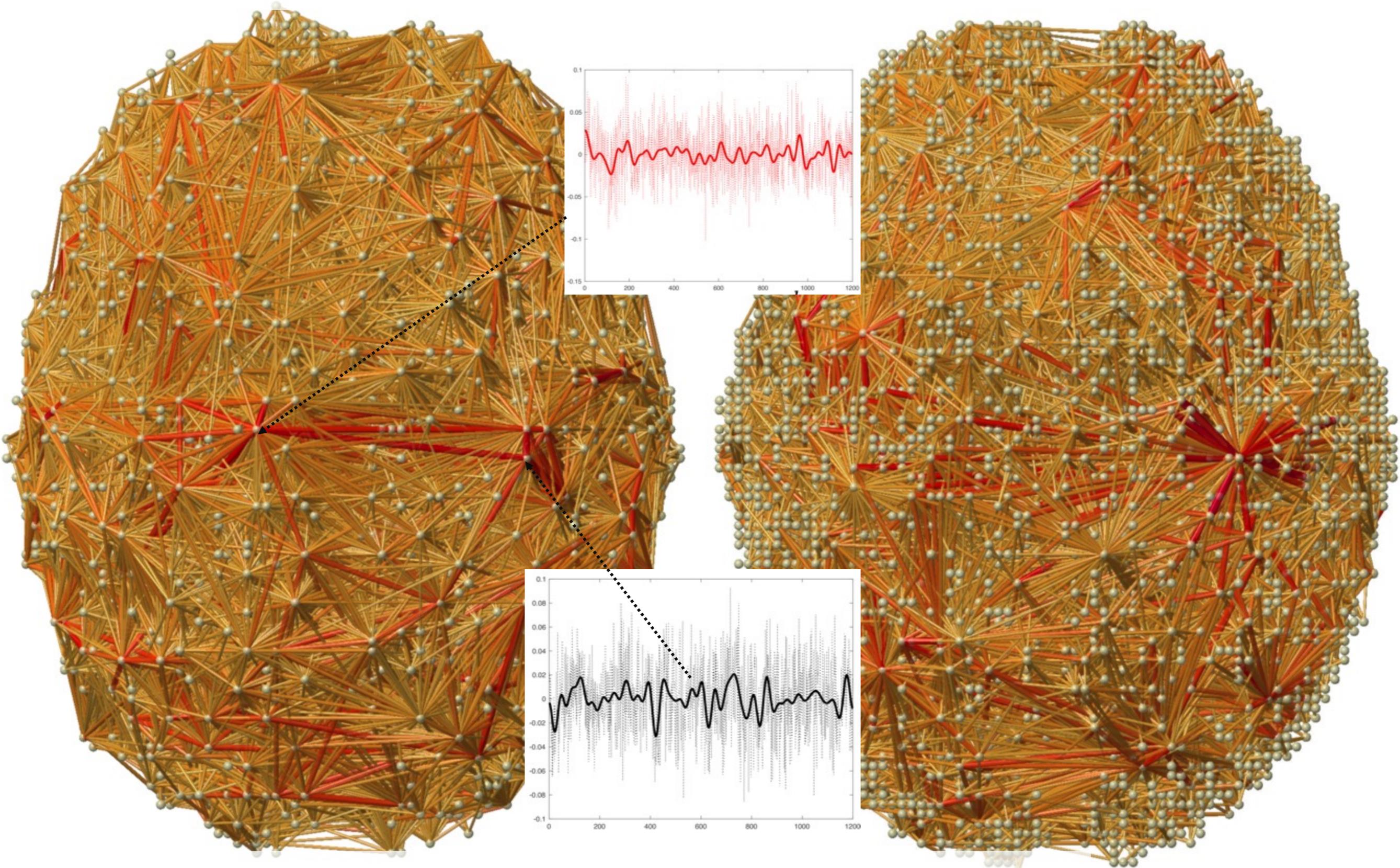
$v_i$

## BRAIN NETWORK ANALYSIS



Moo K. CHUNG  
2019 Cambridge University Press

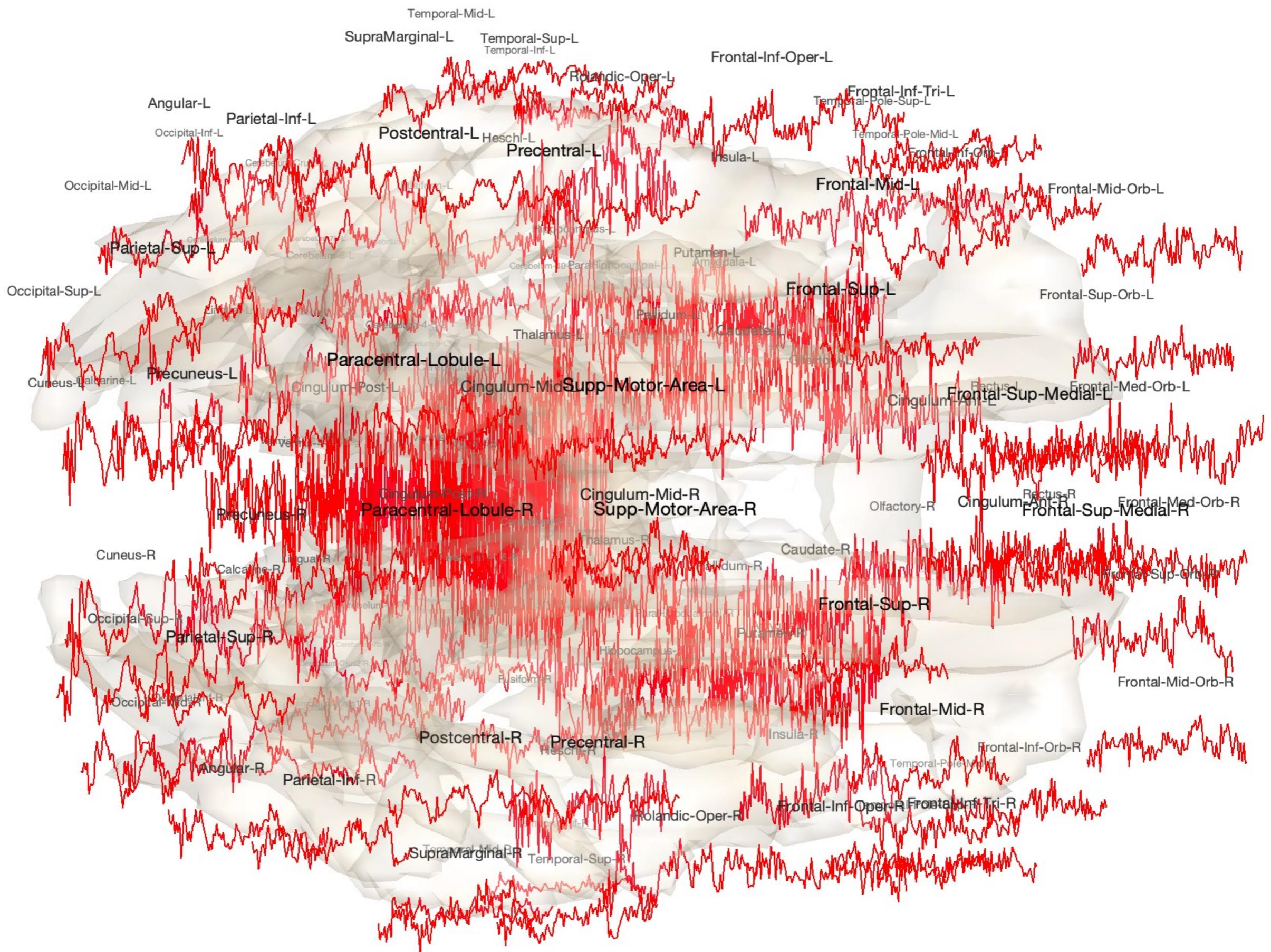
# Correlation brain network at voxel level

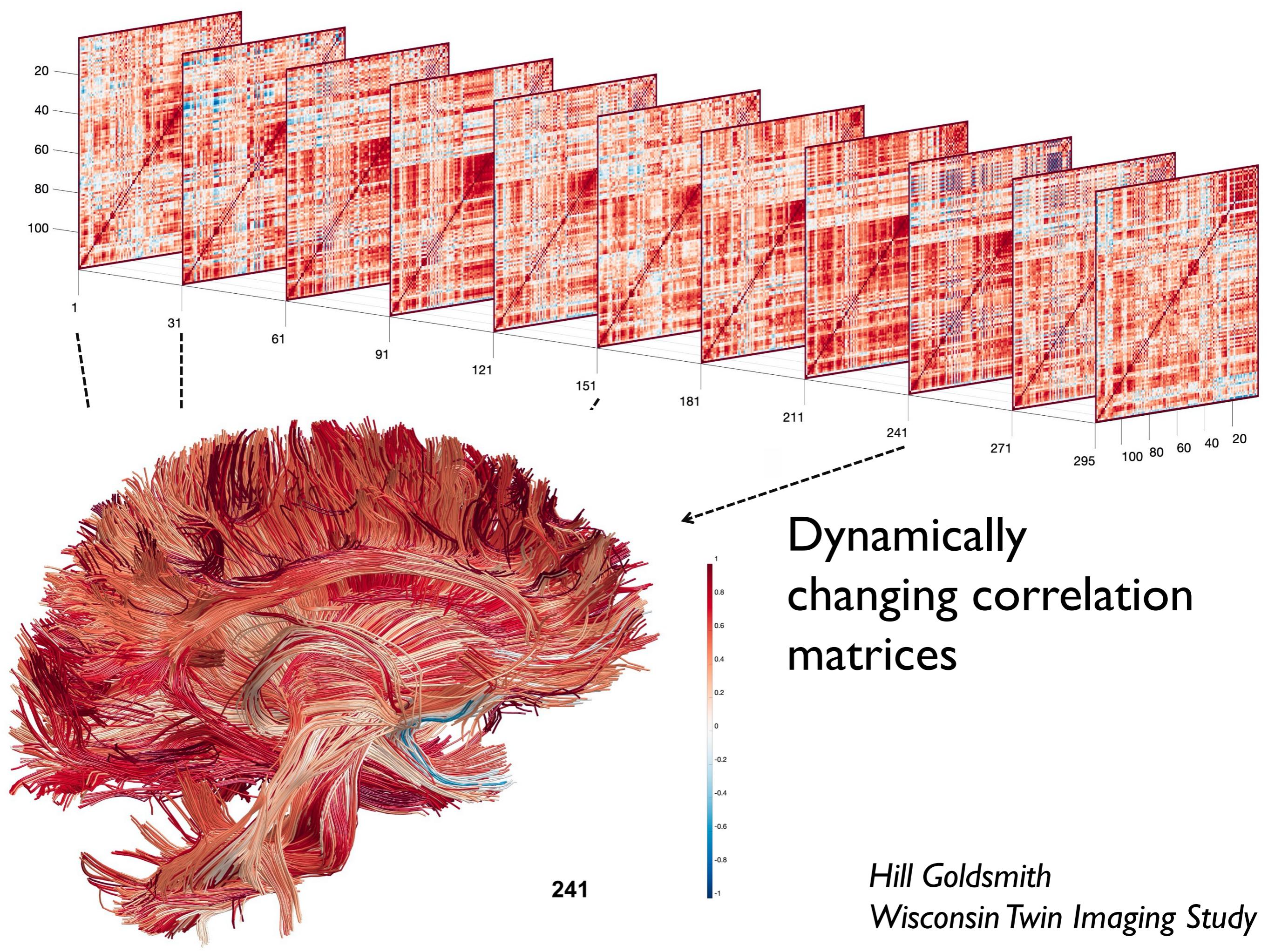


Correlation network of 300000 time series

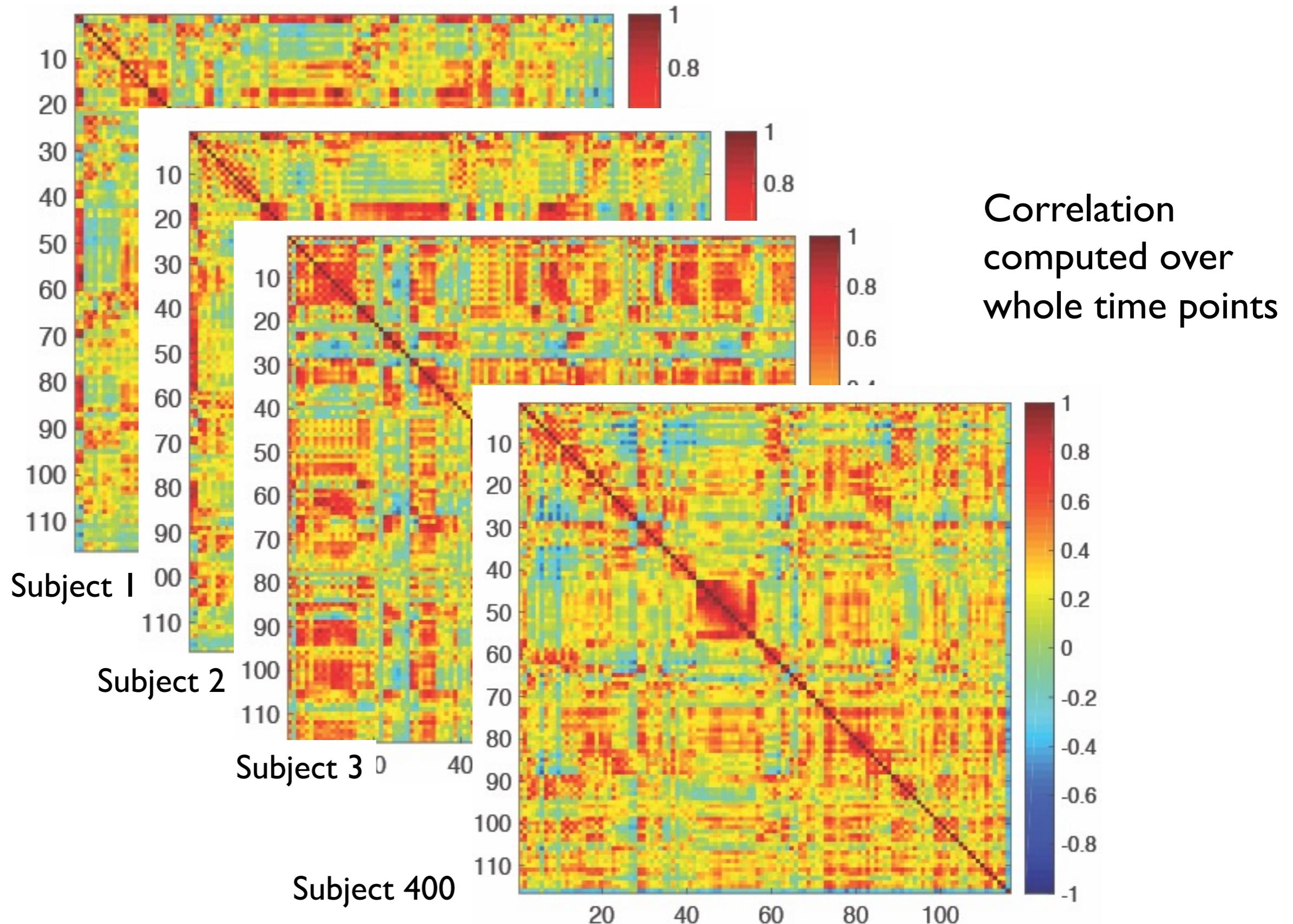
Complete graph with about  $300000^2/2$  cycles.

# Time series averaged into 116 brain regions

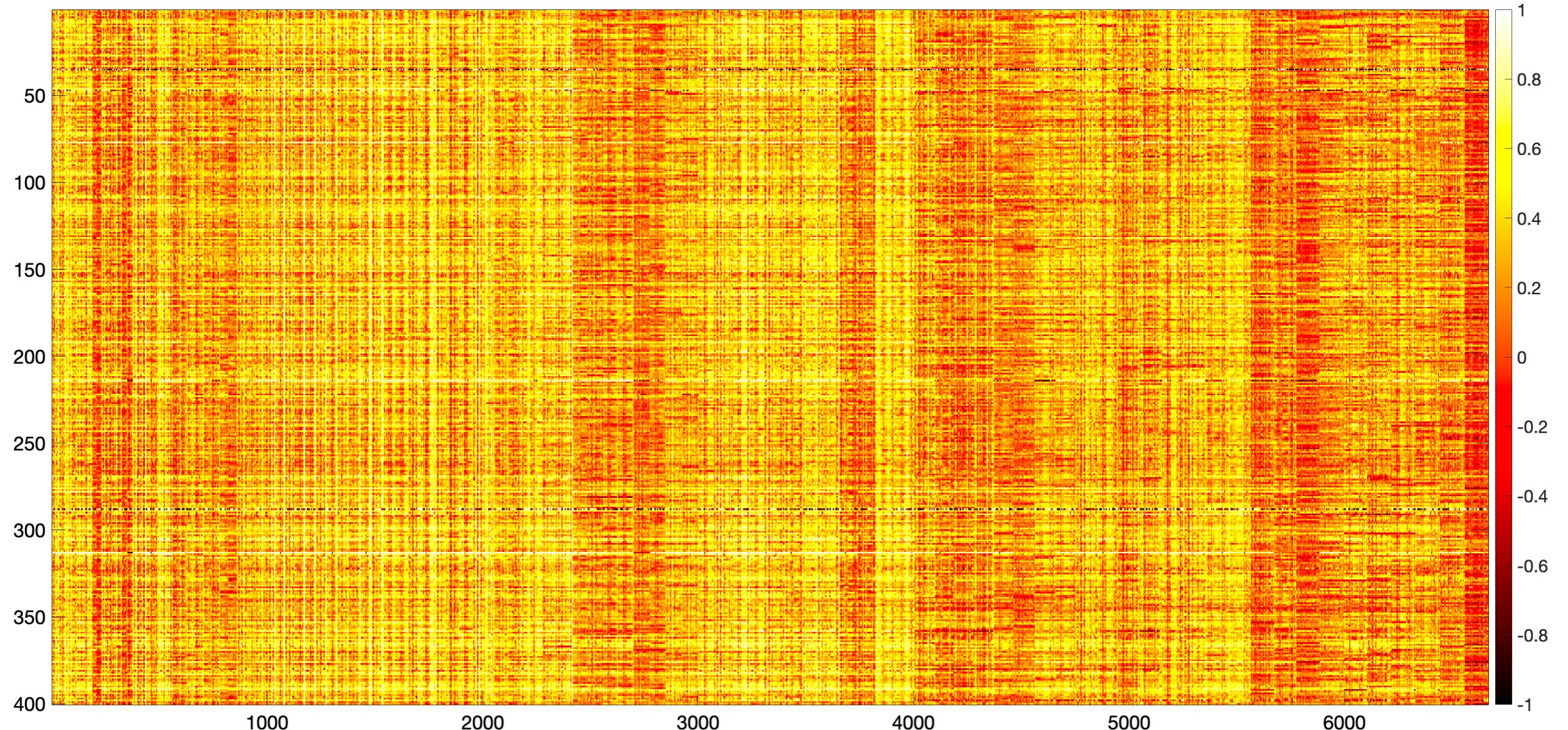




# Subject level brain connectivity matrix



edge index



116 nodes networks  
6670 edges per network

168 males, 232 females  
124 MZ-twins, 70 DZ-twins

# 54 Subjects Multimodal Brain Network Data

<http://github.com/laplcebeltrami/maltreated>

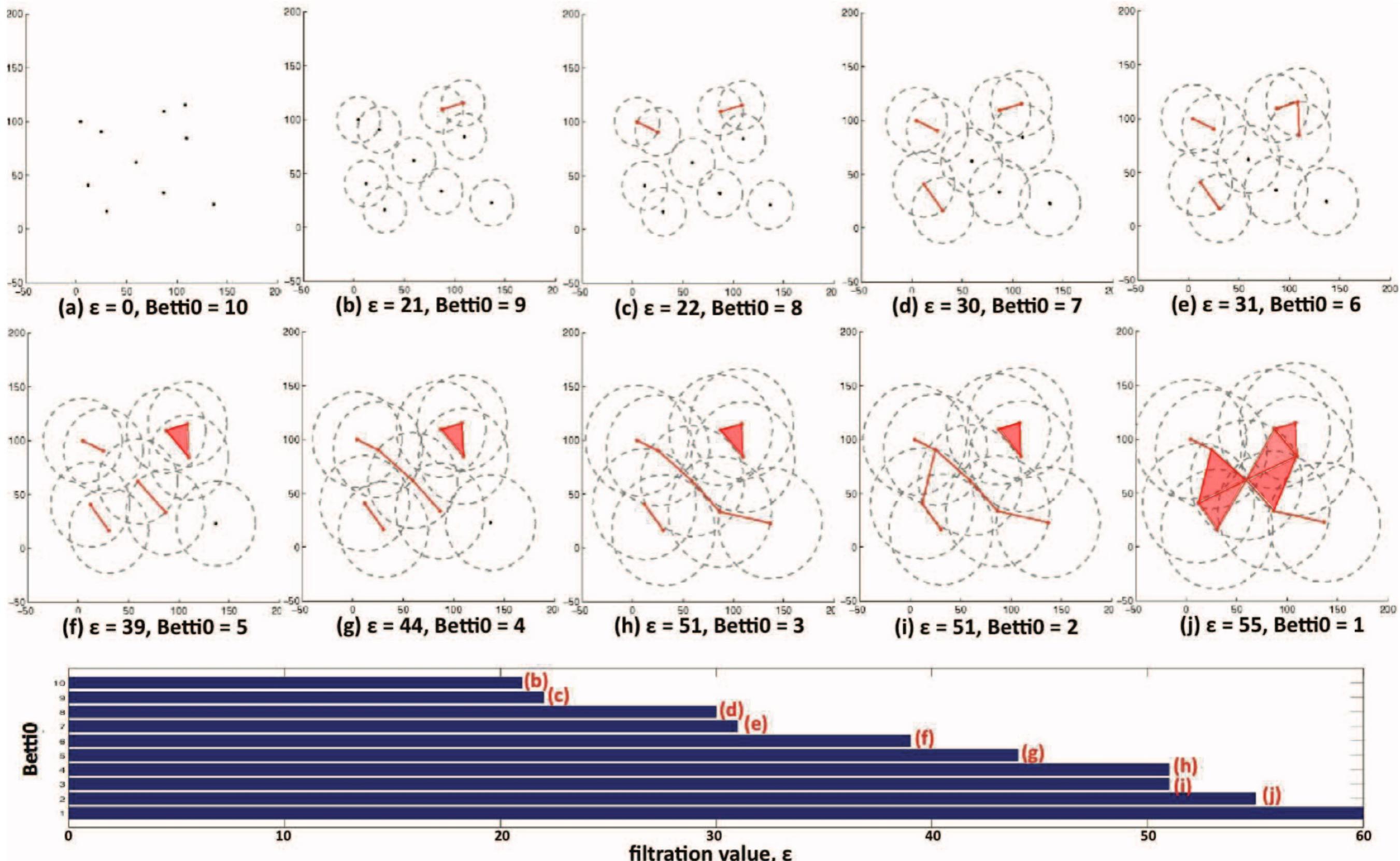
Chung, M.K., Hanson, J.L., Ye, J., Davidson, R.J. Pollak, S.D. 2015 Persistent homology in sparse regression and its application to brain morphometry. *IEEE Transactions on Medical Imaging*, 34:1928-1939

Chung, M.K., Hanson, J.L., Lee, H., Adluru, N., Alexander, A.L., Davidson, A.L., Pollak, S.D. 2013. Persistent homological sparse network approach to detecting white matter abnormality in maltreated children: MRI and DTI multimodal study, *MICCAI* 8149:300-307

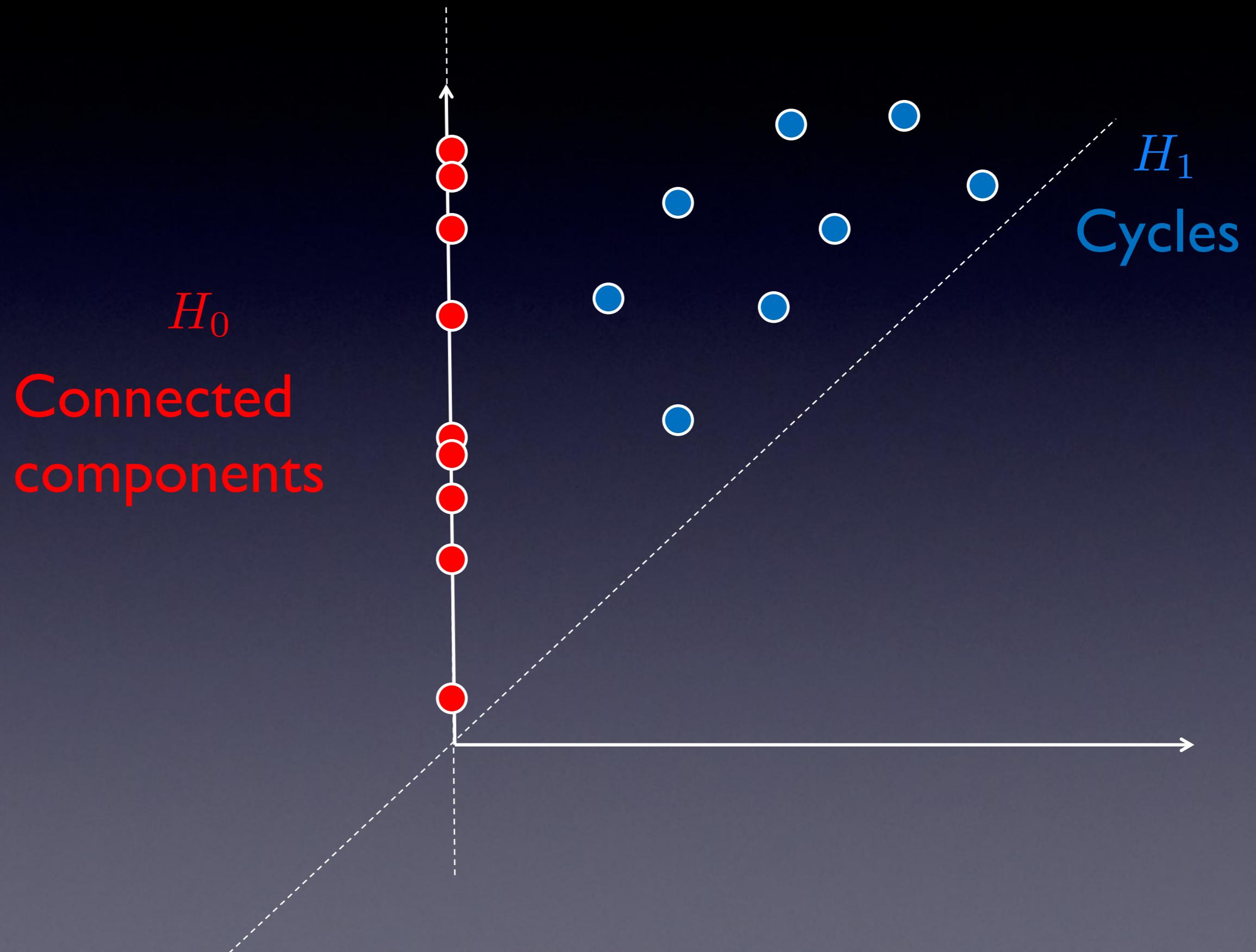
Chung, M.K., Hanson, J.L., Adluru, Aleander, A.L., Davidson, R.J., Pollak, S.D. 2017 Integrative structural brain network analysis in diffusion tensor imaging, *Brain Connectivity* 7:331-346

# Persistent Homology on Graph filtrations

# Rips filtration



# Persistence diagram for Rips filtrations



# Graph Filtrations

Weighted complete graph

$$\mathcal{X} = (V, w) \quad \begin{matrix} \text{Node} & \text{Edge} \\ \text{set} & \text{weight} \end{matrix} \quad w = (w_{ij})$$

Binary graph

$$\mathcal{X}_\epsilon = (V, w_\epsilon)$$

$$w_{\epsilon,ij} = \begin{cases} 1 & \text{if } w_{ij} > \epsilon; \\ 0 & \text{otherwise.} \end{cases}$$

Graph filtration

$$\mathcal{X}_{\epsilon_0} \supset \mathcal{X}_{\epsilon_1} \supset \mathcal{X}_{\epsilon_2} \supset \cdots$$

for increased edge weights

$$\epsilon_0 < \epsilon_1 < \epsilon_2 < \cdots$$

# Rips filtration

vs.

# graph filtration

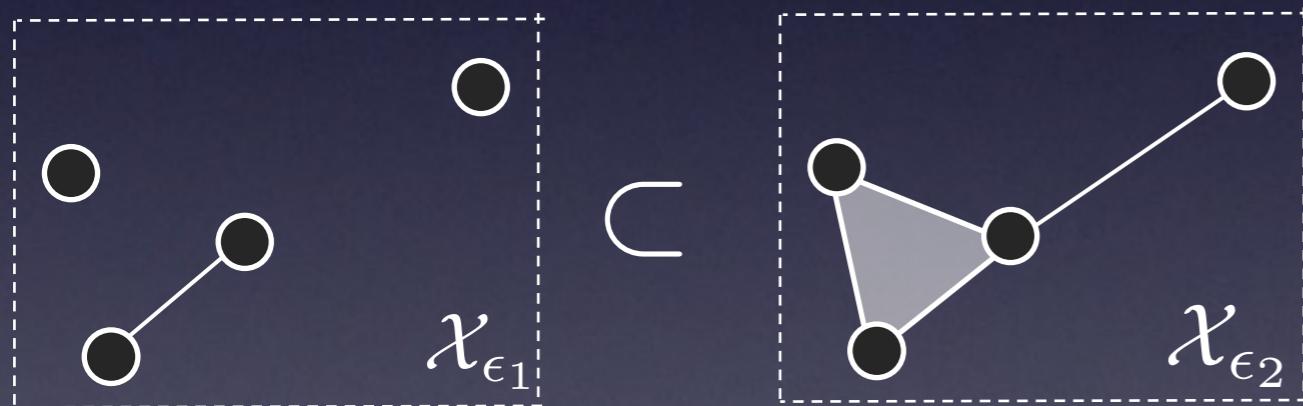
Metric space

$$\mathcal{X} = (V, w) \quad w = (w_{ij})$$

Node set      Metric

$$w_{ik} < w_{ij} + w_{jk}$$

Rips complex = Simplicial complex



Rips filtration

$$\mathcal{X}_{\epsilon_0} \subset \mathcal{X}_{\epsilon_1} \subset \mathcal{X}_{\epsilon_2} \subset \dots$$

for increased radius

$$\epsilon_0 < \epsilon_1 < \epsilon_2 < \dots$$

Weighted graph

$$\mathcal{X} = (V, w) \quad w = (w_{ij})$$

Node set      Edge weight

Binary graph = 1-skeleton



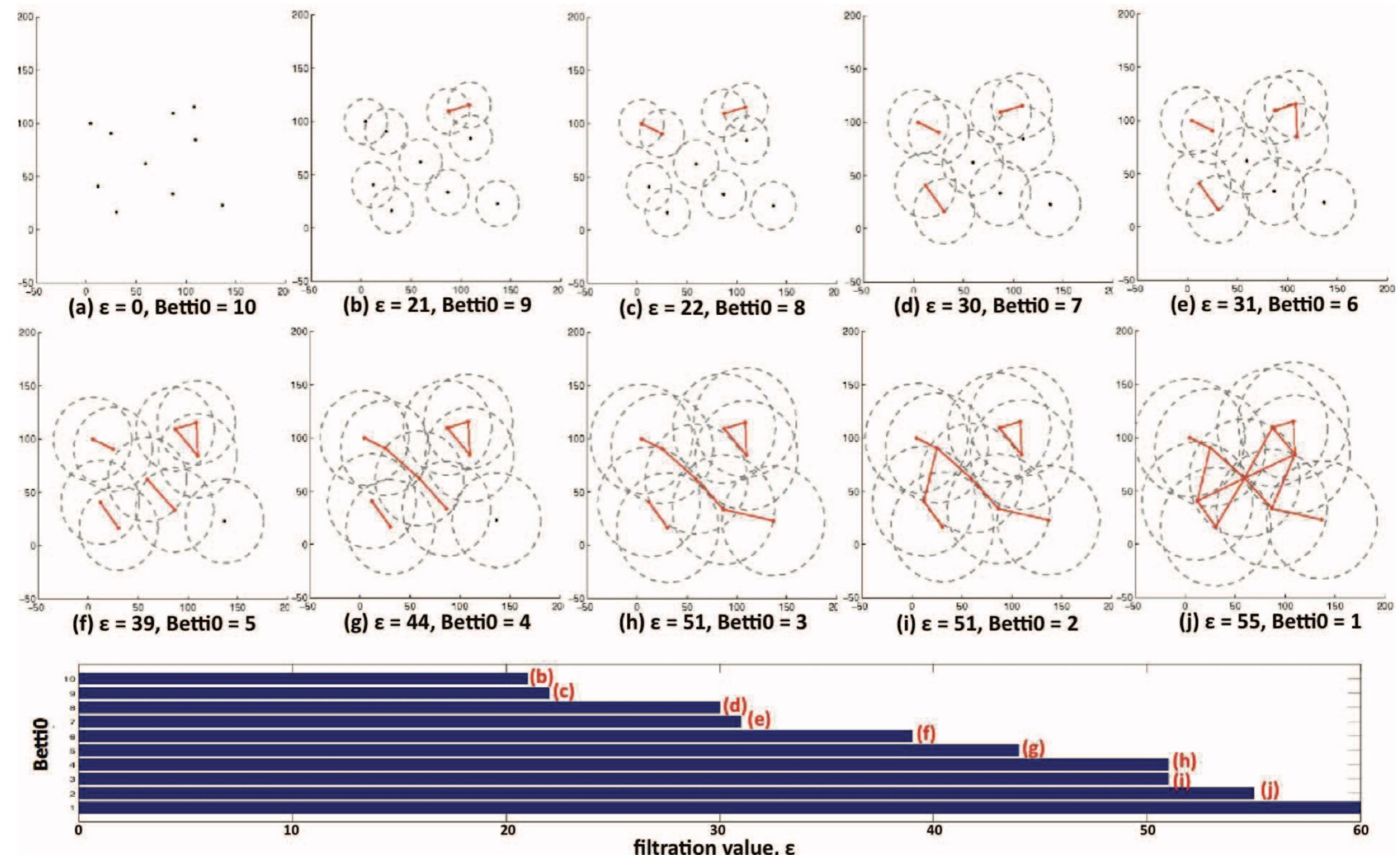
Graph filtration

$$\mathcal{X}_{\epsilon_0} \supset \mathcal{X}_{\epsilon_1} \supset \mathcal{X}_{\epsilon_2} \supset \dots$$

for increased edge weights

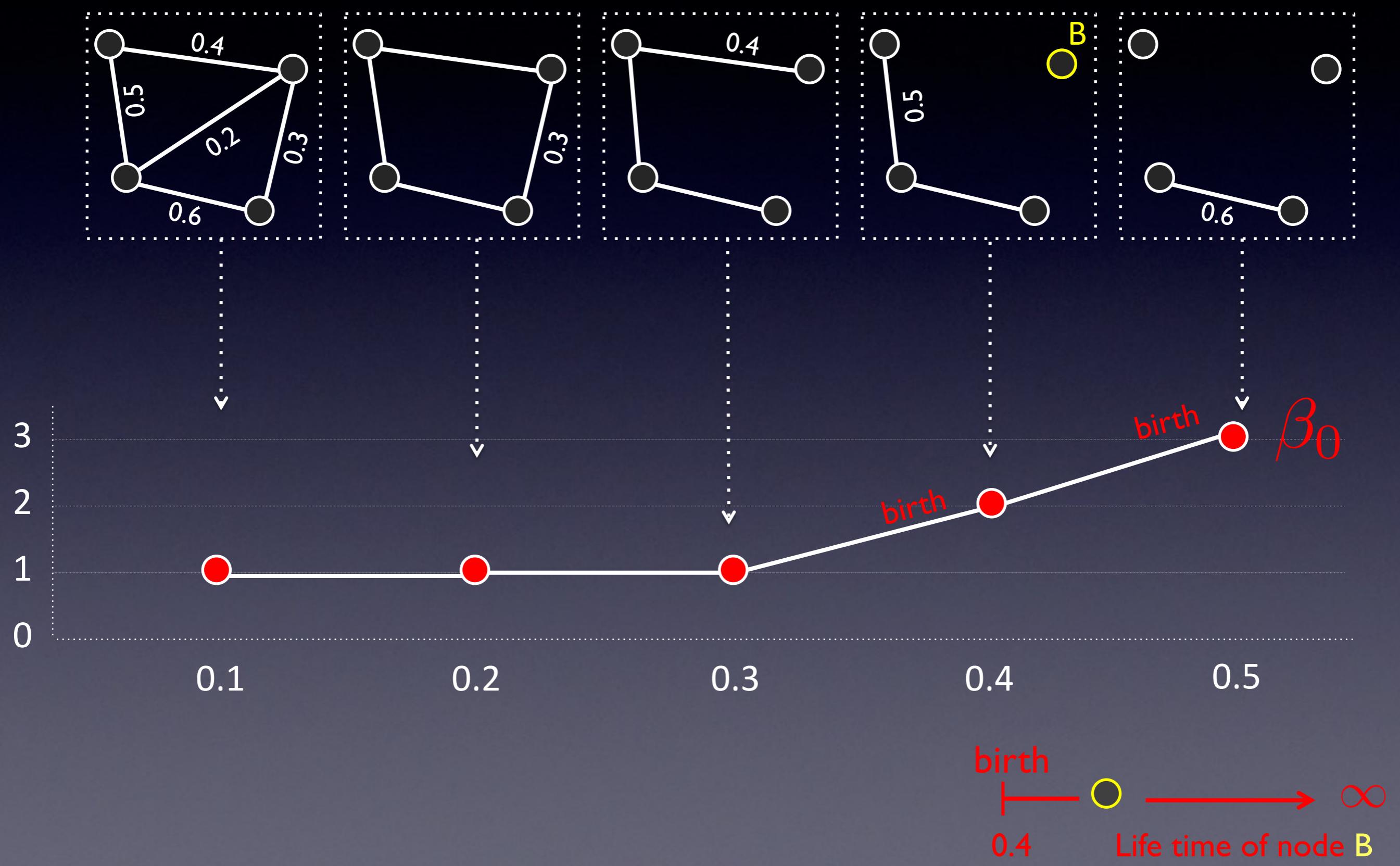
$$\epsilon_0 < \epsilon_1 < \epsilon_2 < \dots$$

# Graph filtration

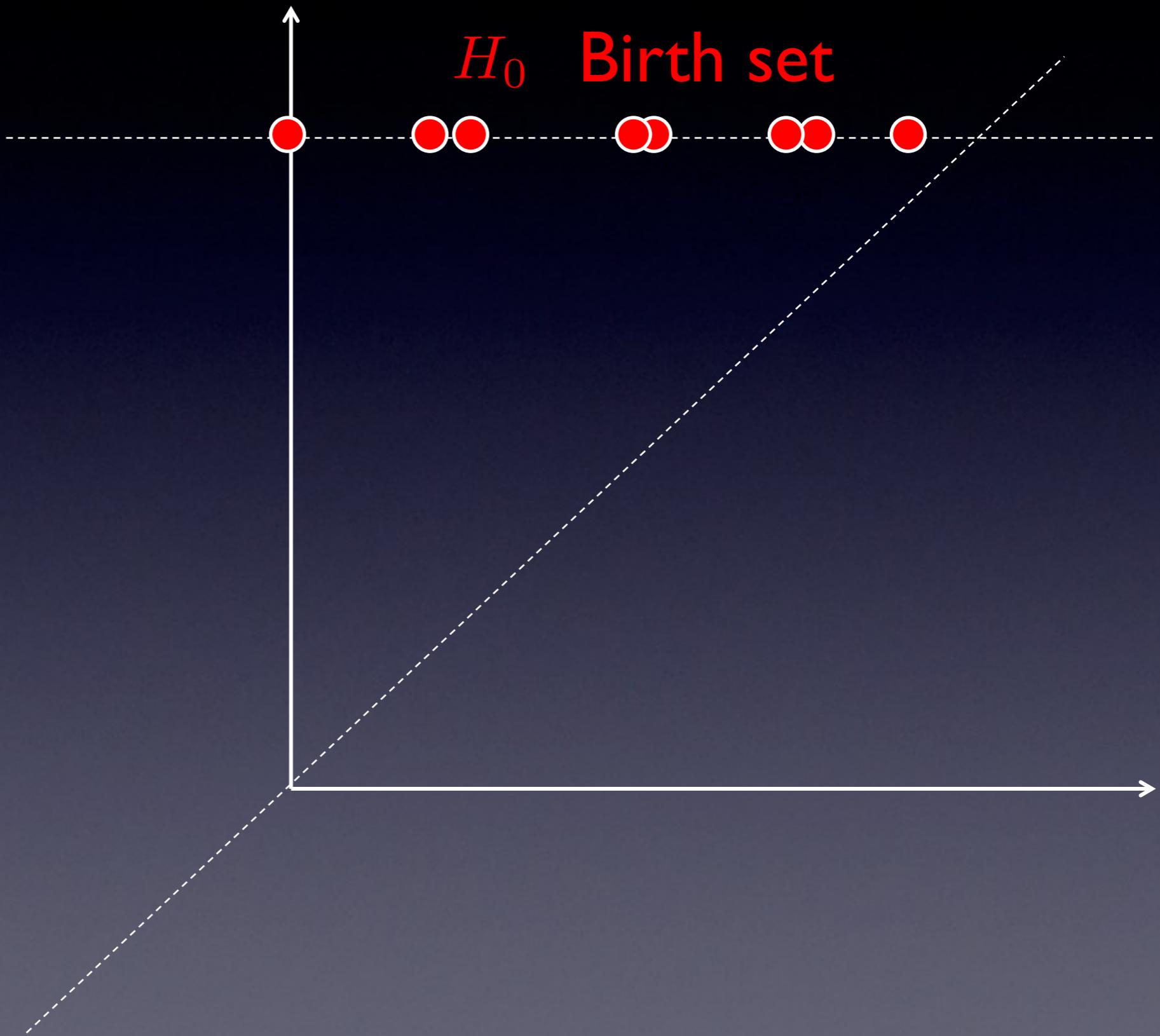


# 0D Persistence = Life time (death – birth) of 0-cycle

Edges create components

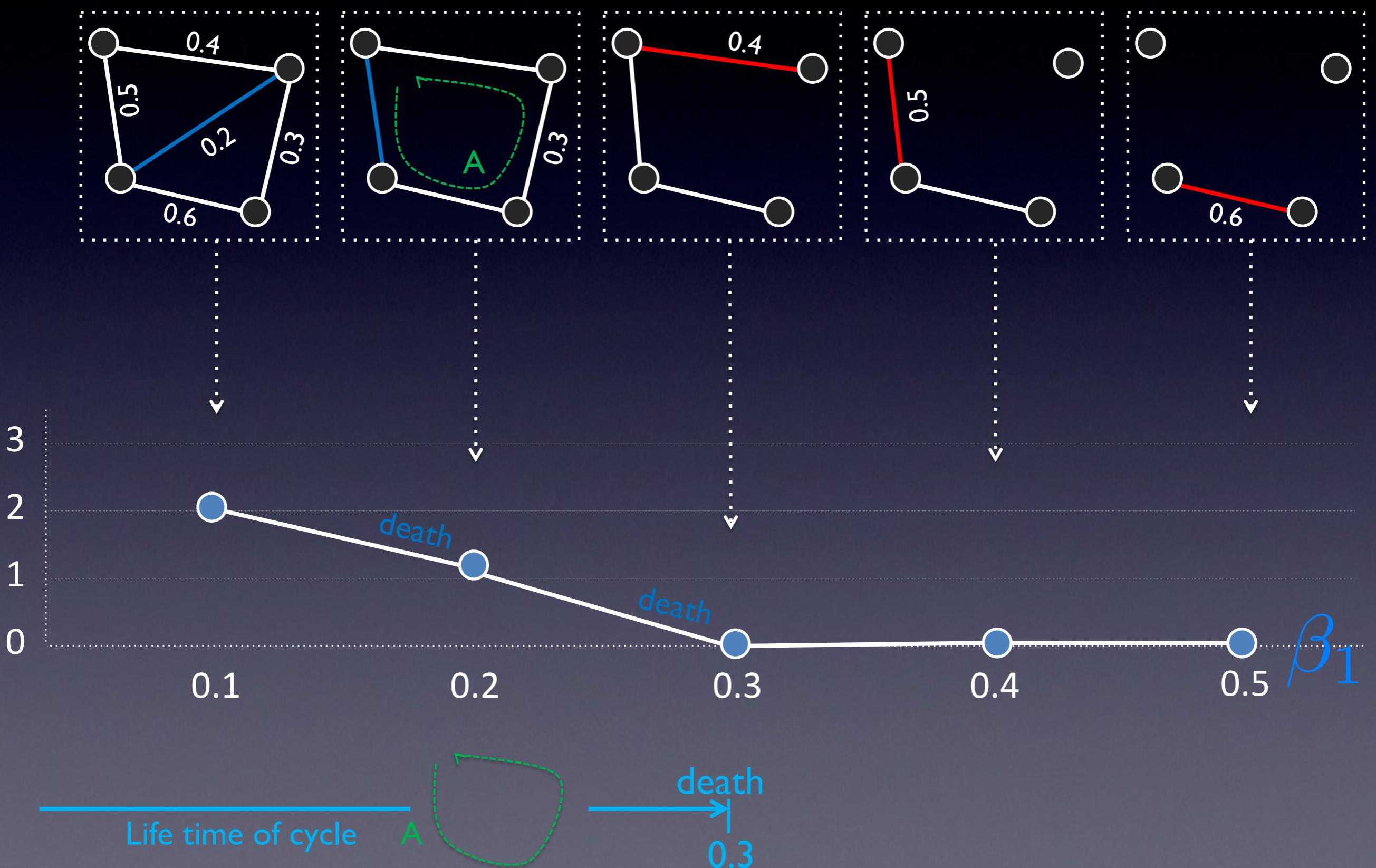


# Persistence diagram for graph filtrations

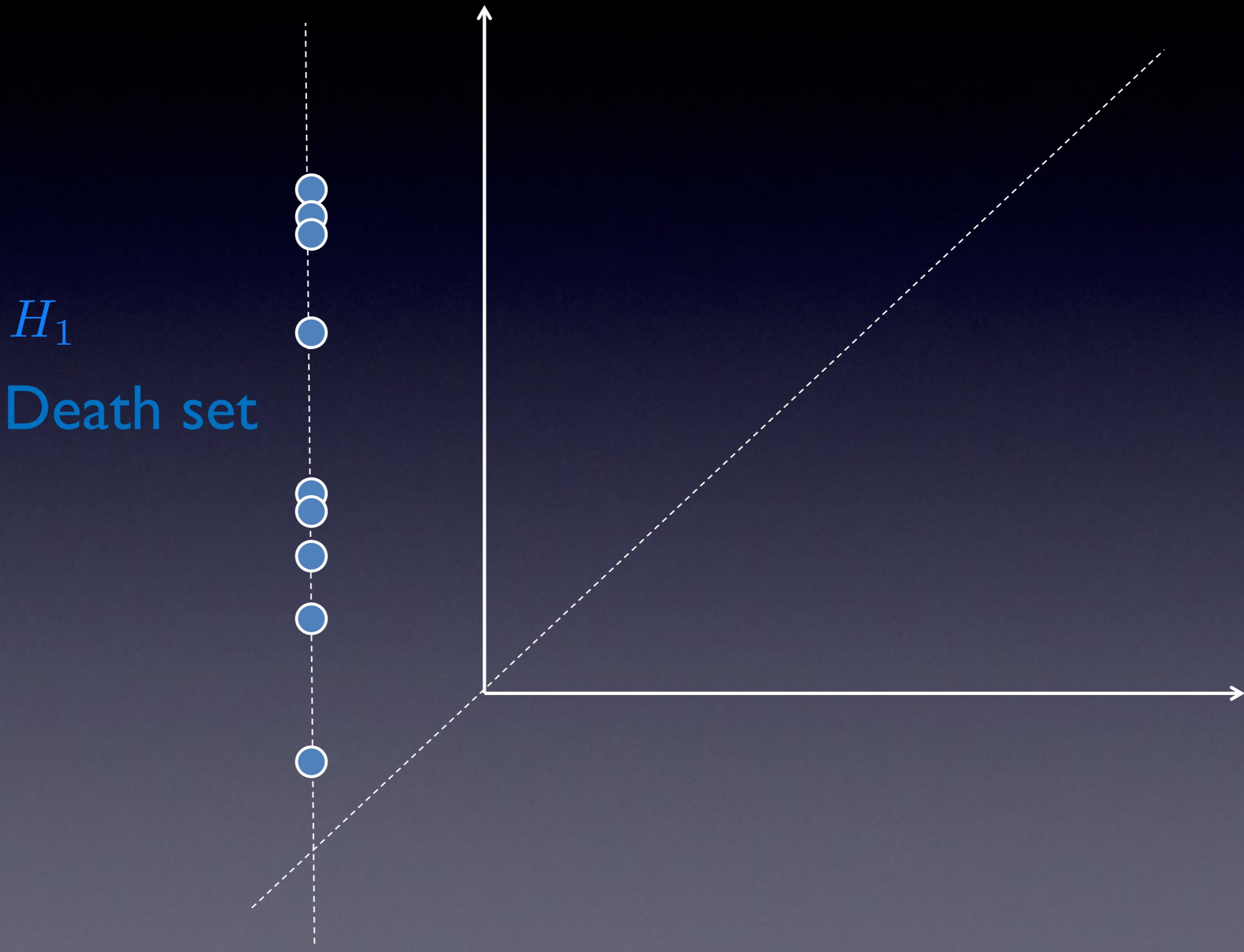


# ID Persistence = Life time (death – birth) of l-cycle

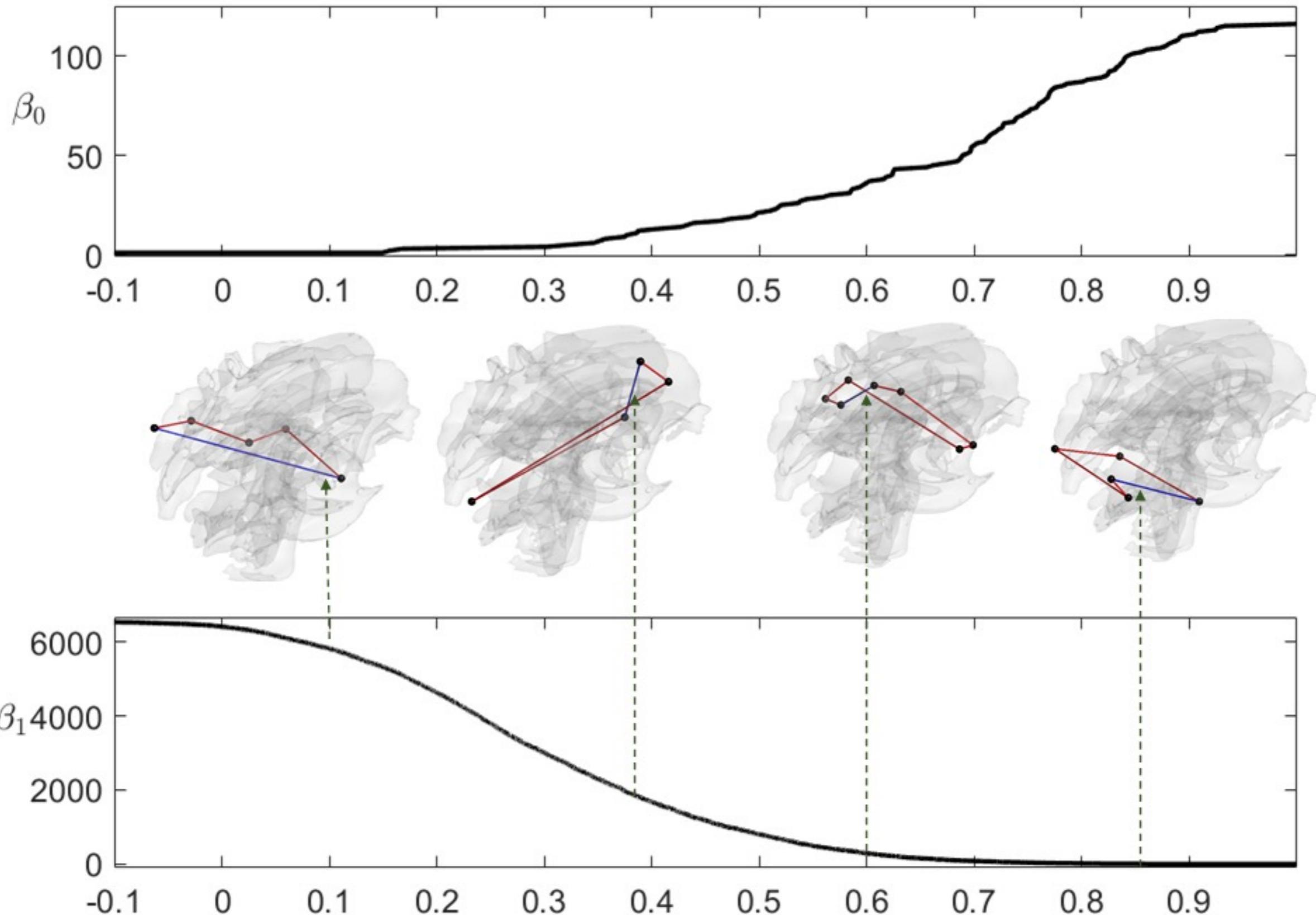
Edges destroy cycles



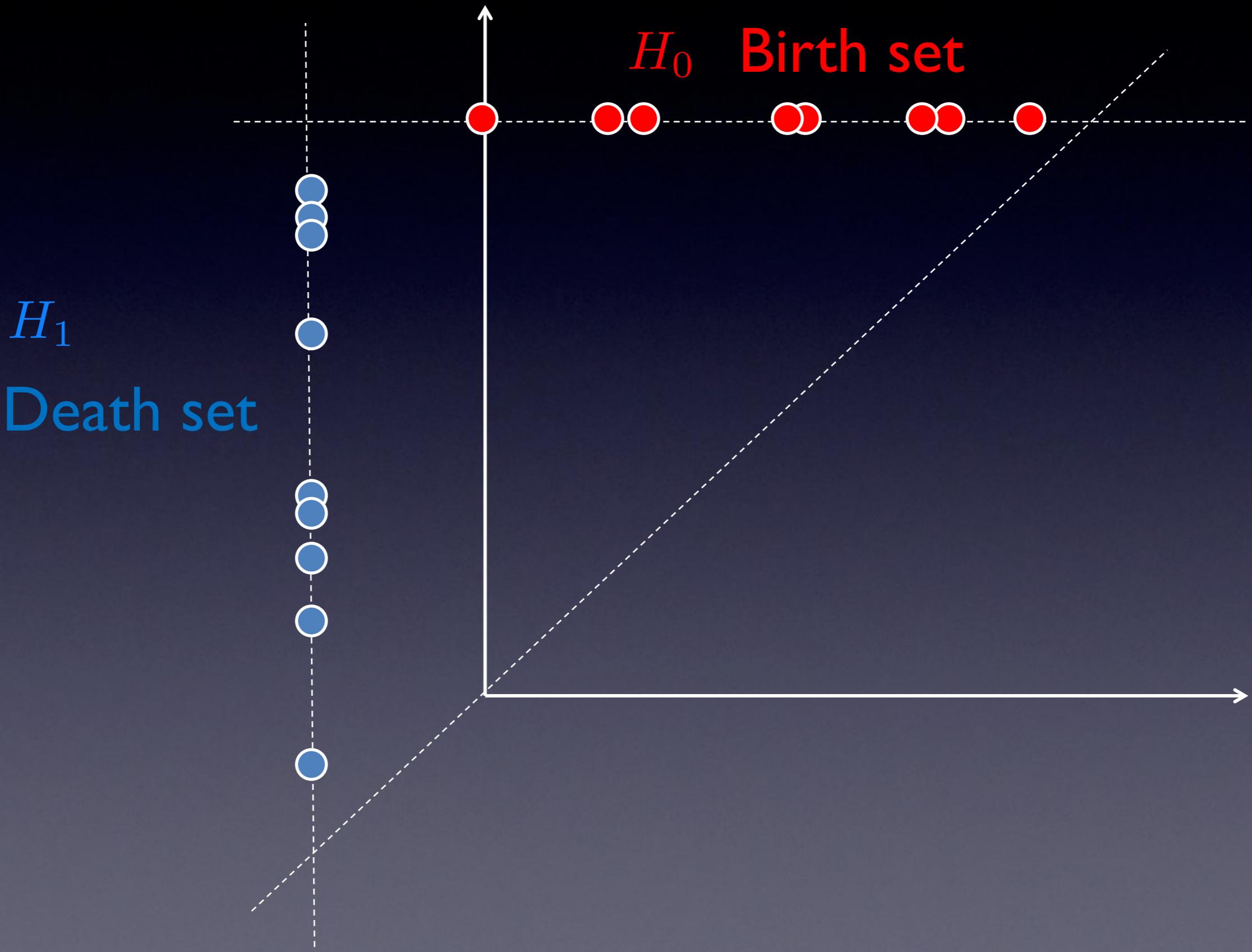
# Persistence diagram for graph filtrations



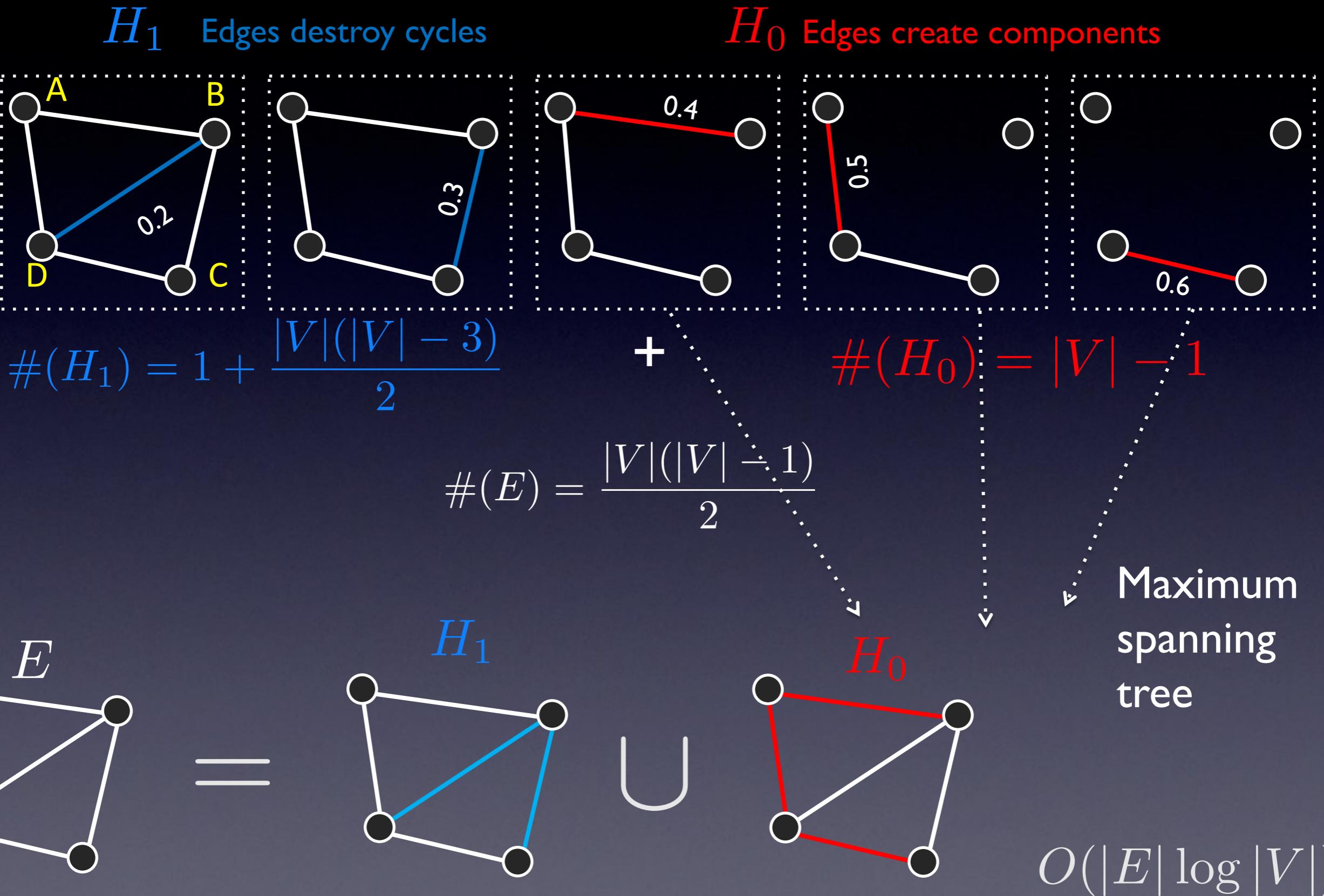
# Betti curves for average network of 400 subjects



# Persistence diagram for graph filtrations

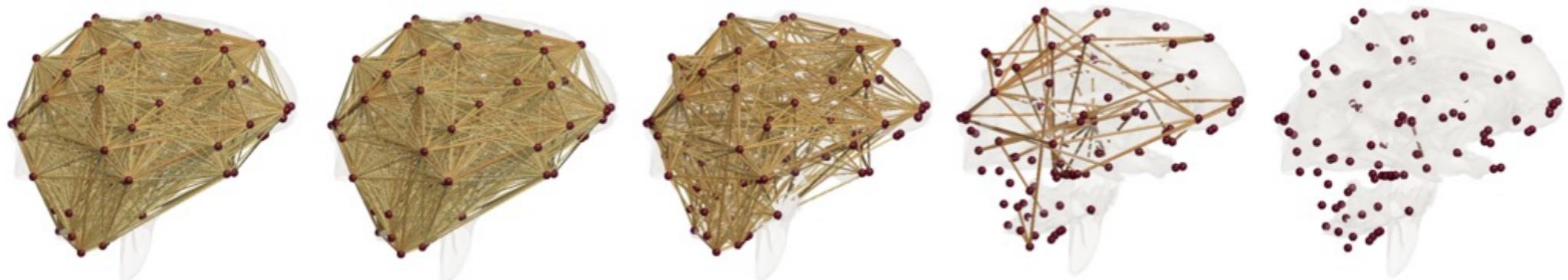


# Theorem: Birth & death decomposition



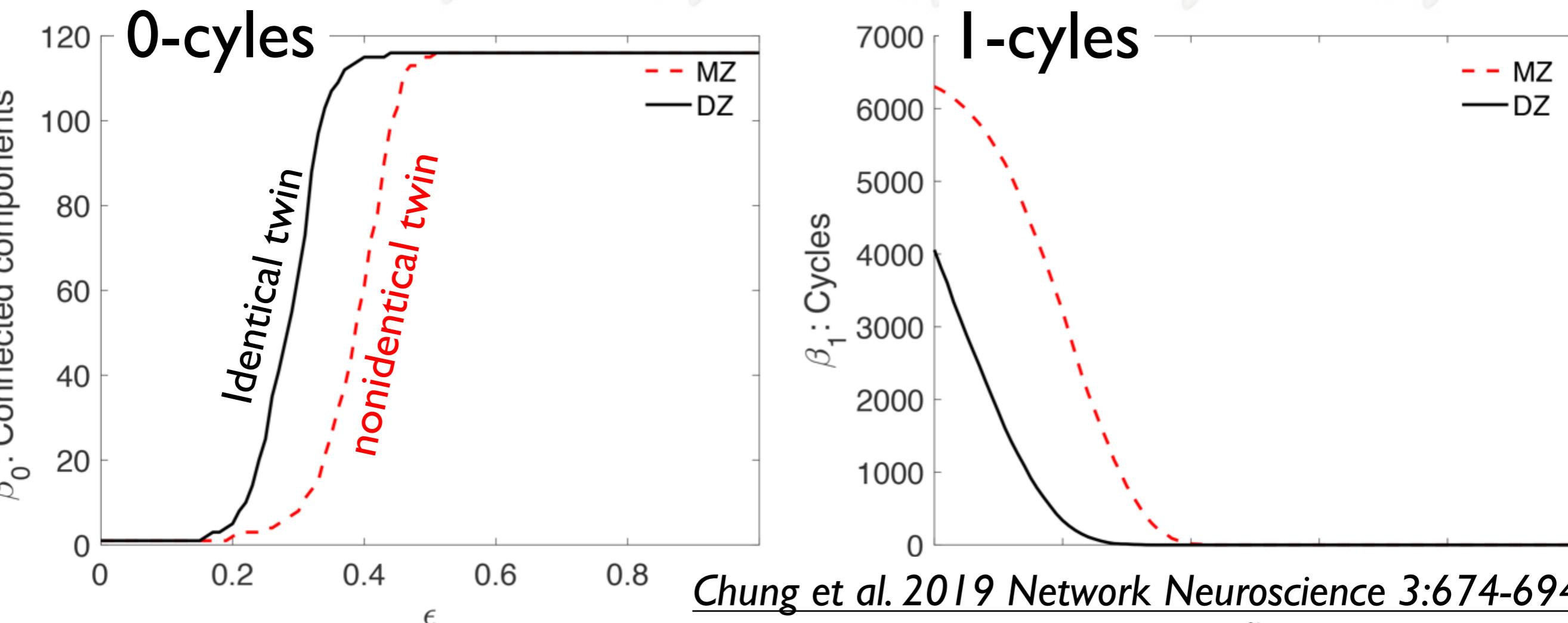
# Genetic difference in brain network in HCP

Identical  
twins



0.1 0.2 0.3 0.4 0.5

Nonidentical  
twins



# Wasserstein distance on graph filtrations

# 2-Wasserstein distance between persistent diagrams

Random variables:

$$X \sim f_1 \quad Y \sim f_2$$

2-Wasserstein distance:  $\mathcal{D}(X, Y) = (\inf \mathbb{E} \|X - Y\|^2)^{1/2}$

Persistent diagrams

$$P_1 = \{x_1, \dots, x_q\} \subset \mathbb{R}^2 \qquad P_2 = \{y_1, \dots, y_q\} \in \mathbb{R}^2$$

Empirical distributions

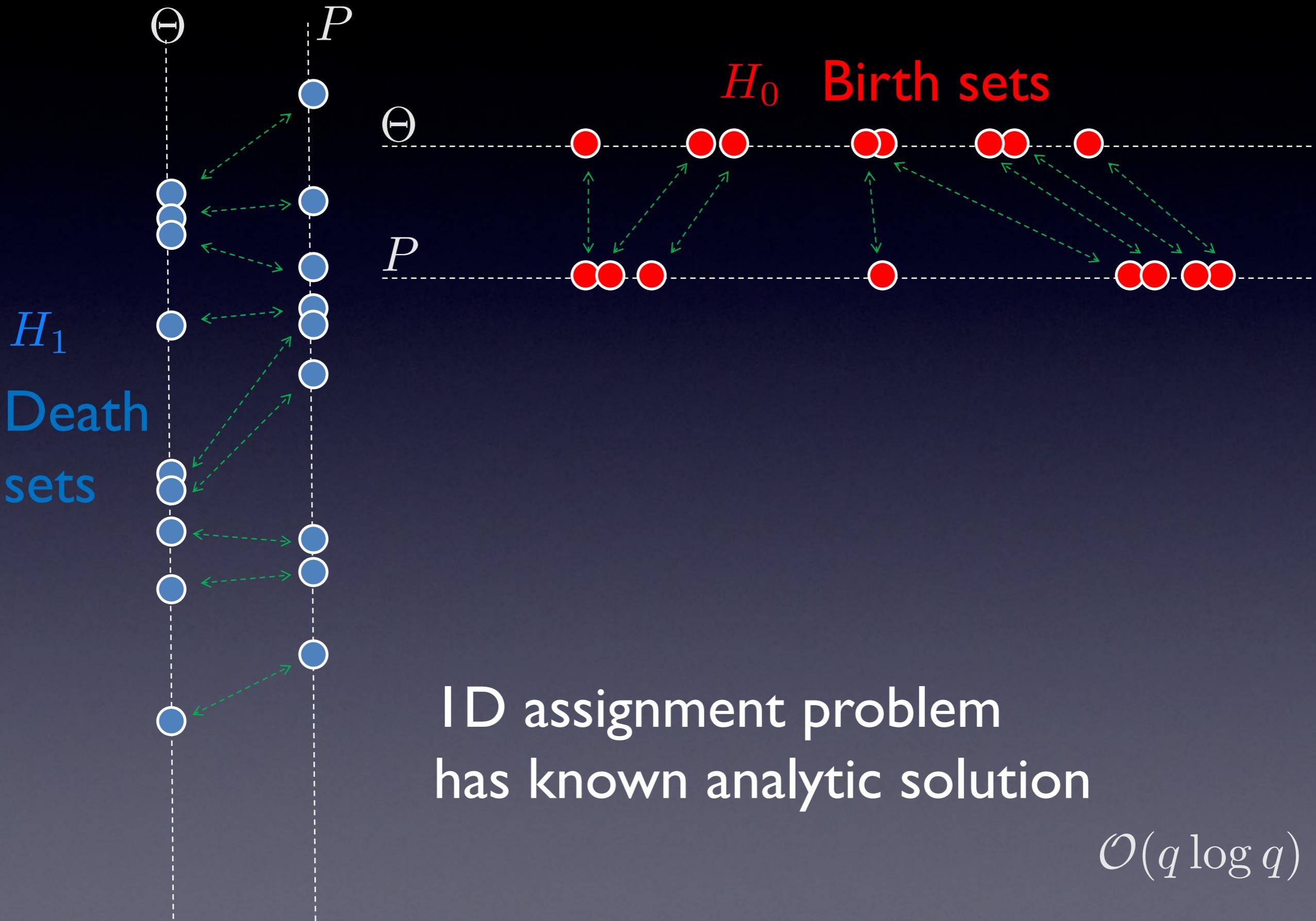
$$f_1(x) = \frac{1}{q} \sum_{i=1}^q \delta(x - x_i) \qquad f_2(y) = \frac{1}{q} \sum_{i=1}^q \delta(y - y_i)$$



$$\mathcal{L}(P_1, P_2) = \inf_{\psi: P_1 \rightarrow P_2} \left( \sum_{x \in P_1} \|x - \psi(x)\|^2 \right)^{1/2}$$

Assignment problem: Hungarian algorithm  $\mathcal{O}(q^3)$

# Wasserstein distance for graph filtrations



# Theorem:Wasserstein distance on graph filtrations

$$\begin{aligned}\mathcal{L}_{0D}(\Theta, P) &= \min_{\tau} \sum_{b \in E_0} [b - \tau(b)]^2 \\ &= \sum_{b \in E_0} [b - \tau_0^*(b)]^2\end{aligned}$$

$\tau_0^*$  :The  $i$ -th smallest birth value to the  $i$ -th smallest birth value

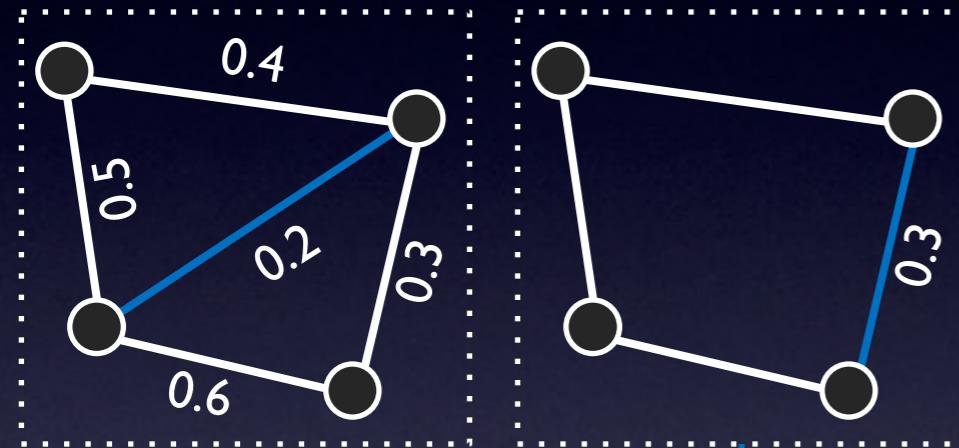
$$\begin{aligned}\mathcal{L}_{1D}(\Theta, P) &= \min_{\tau} \sum_{d \in E_1} [d - \tau(d)]^2 \\ &= \sum_{d \in E_1} [d - \tau_1^*(d)]^2\end{aligned}$$

$\tau_1^*$  :The  $i$ -th smallest death value to the  $i$ -th smallest death value

# Graph matching by minimizing Wasserstein distances

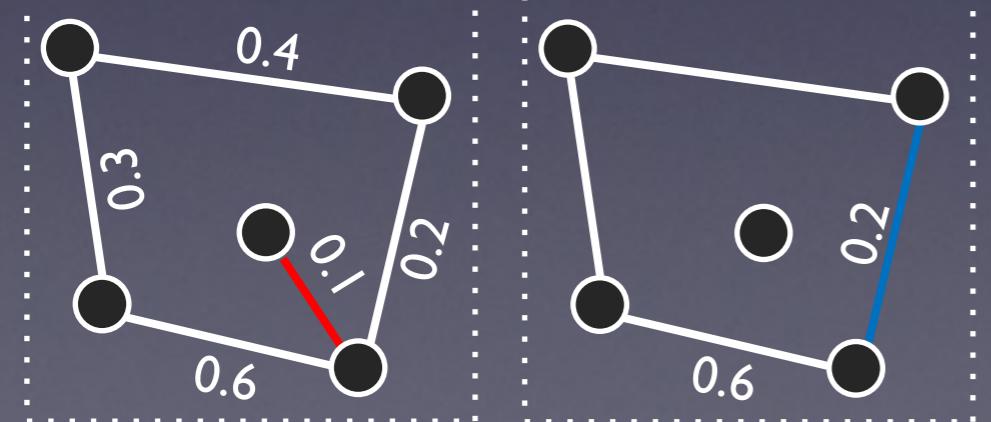
$$\mathcal{L}(\Theta, P) = \mathcal{L}_{0D}(\Theta, P) + \mathcal{L}_{1D}(\Theta, P)$$

$H_1$  Edges destroy cycles

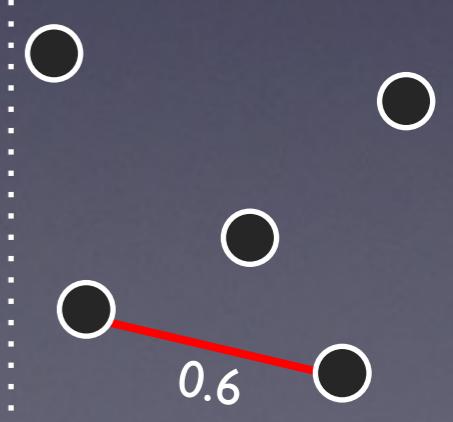
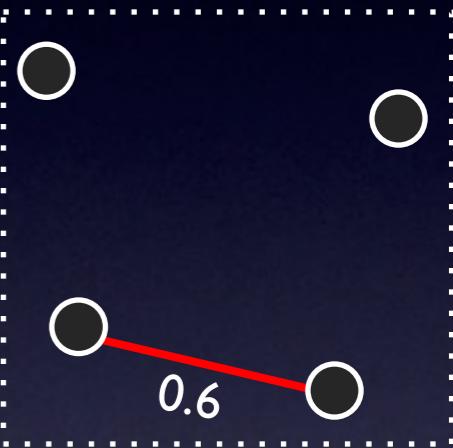
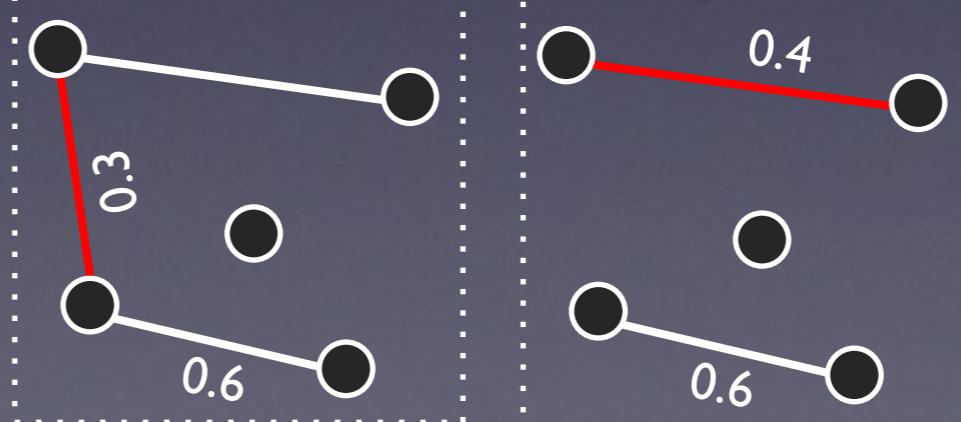
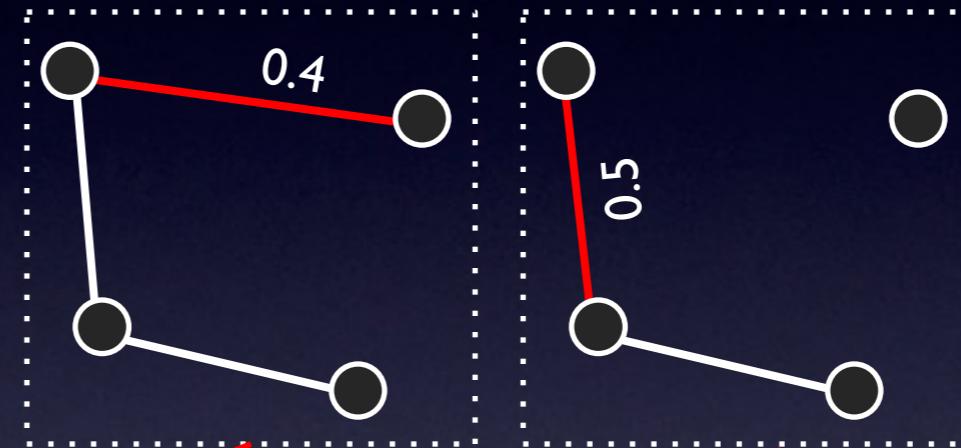


Match longer persistence first

Match longer persistence first

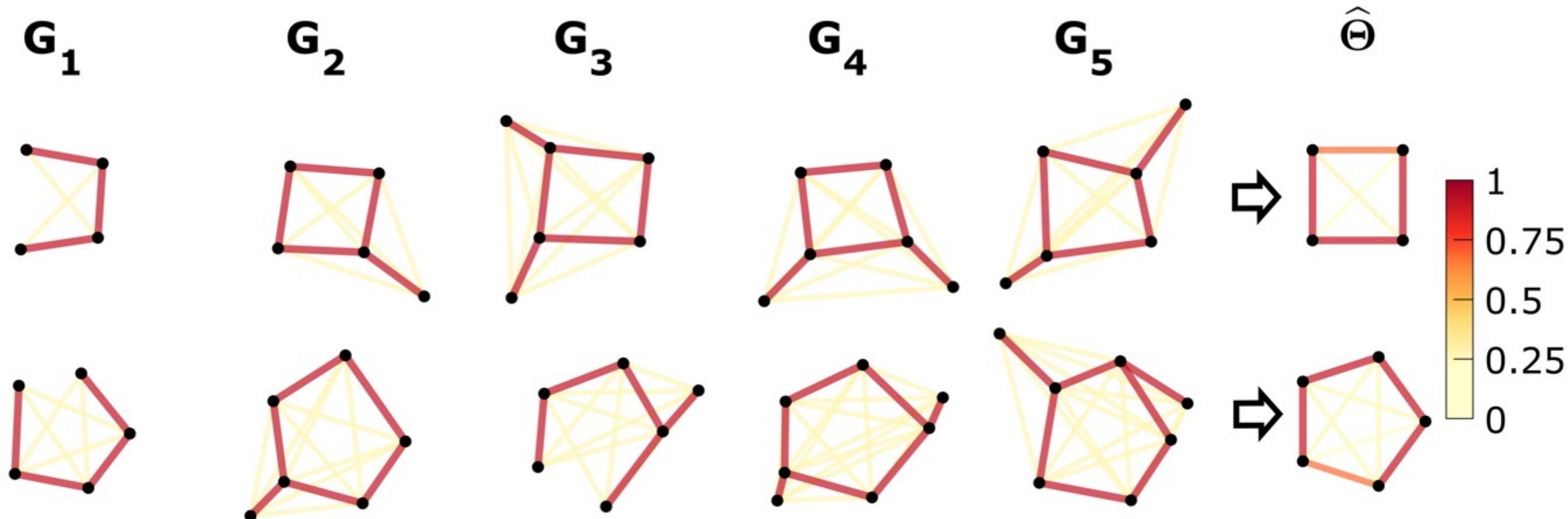


$H_0$  Edges create components



# Graph matching → Topological mean of graphs

Death values of  $\Theta$  are given by averaging the sorted death values of  $G_k$ .

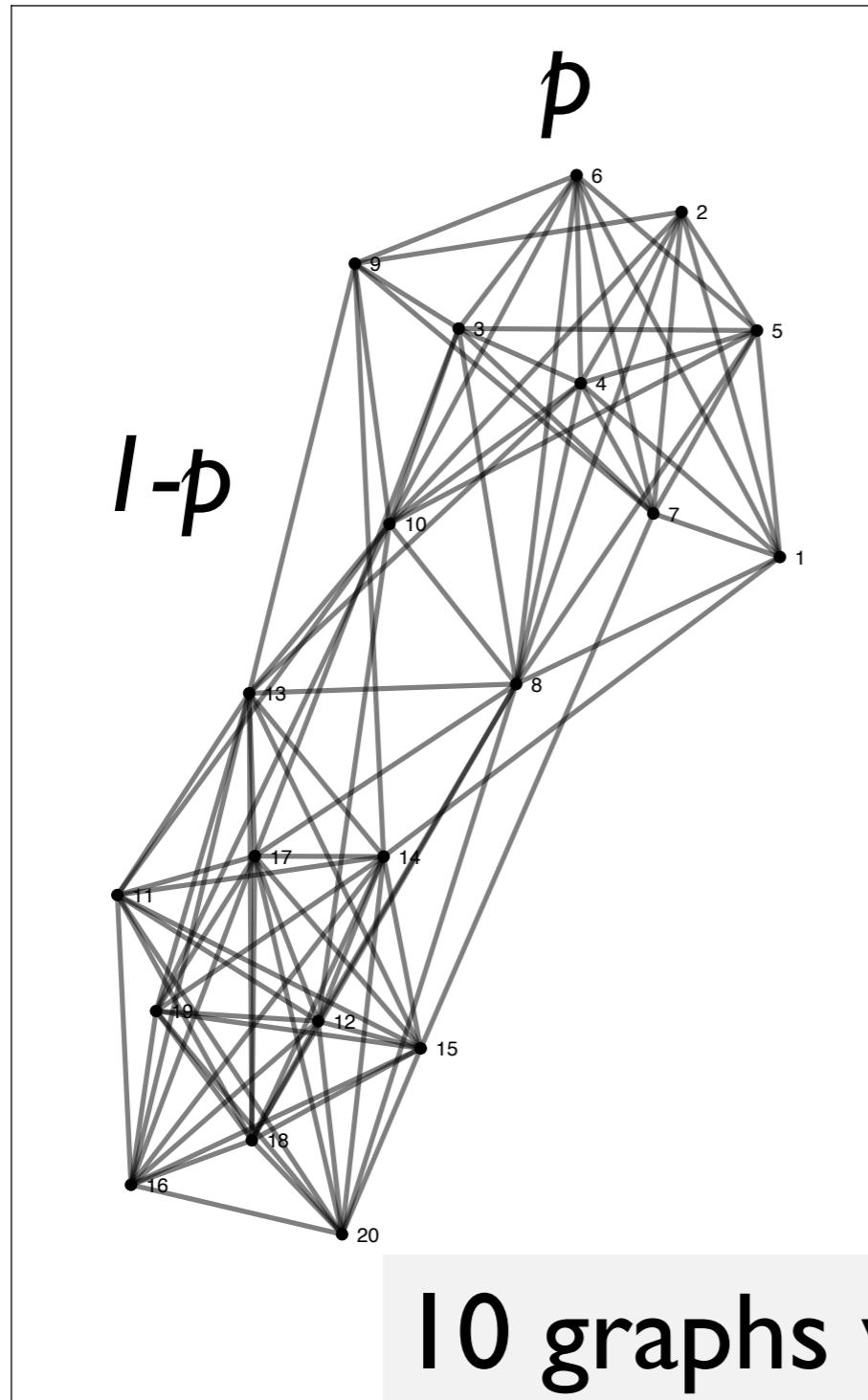


Topological averaging:  $G_1 + G_2 + \cdots + G_n$

# Validation

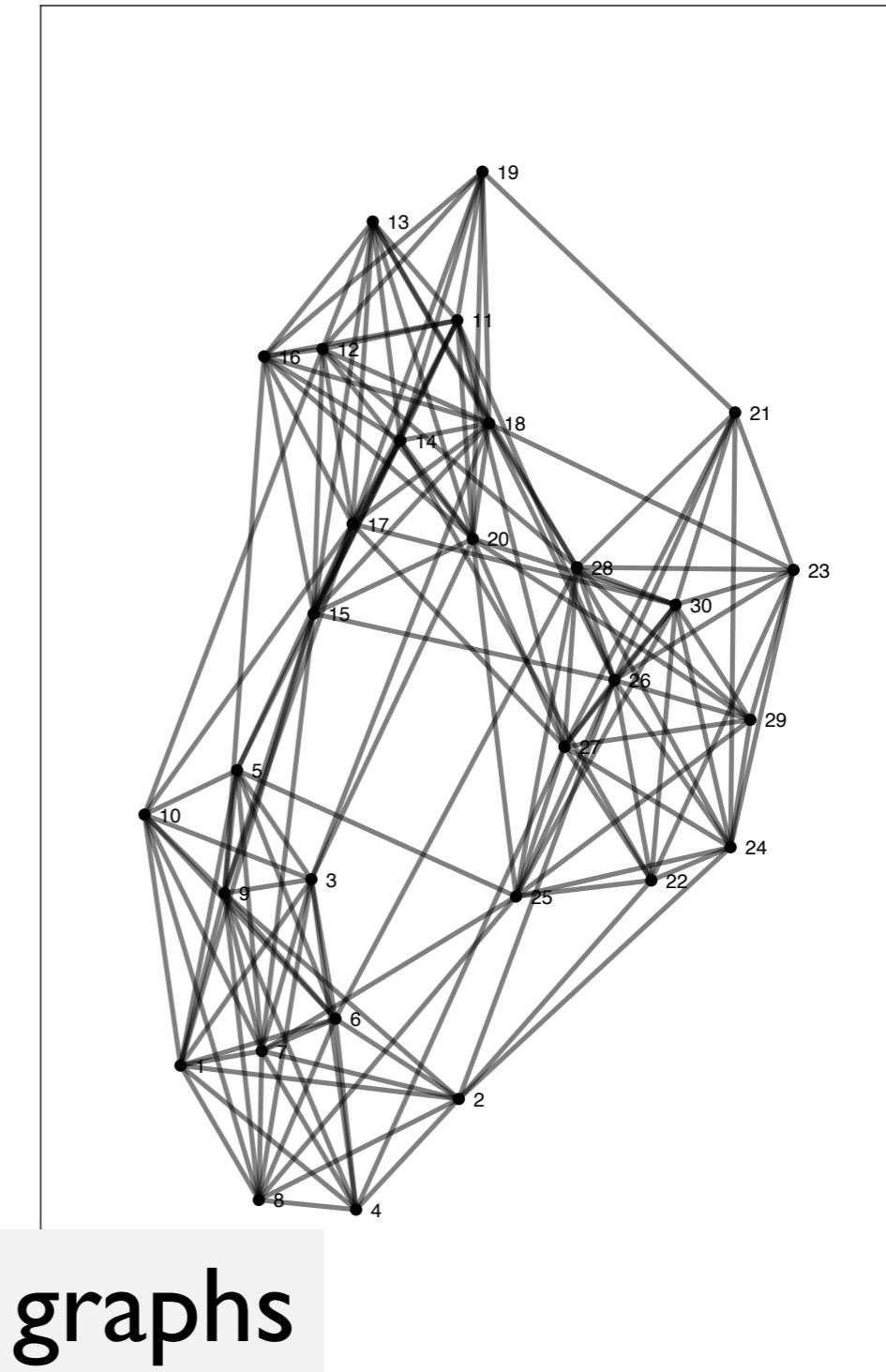
# Random graph model

Within module connection probability  $p$   
Between module connection probability  $1-p$



10 graphs vs. 10 graphs

Graph with 2 modules



Graph with 3 modules

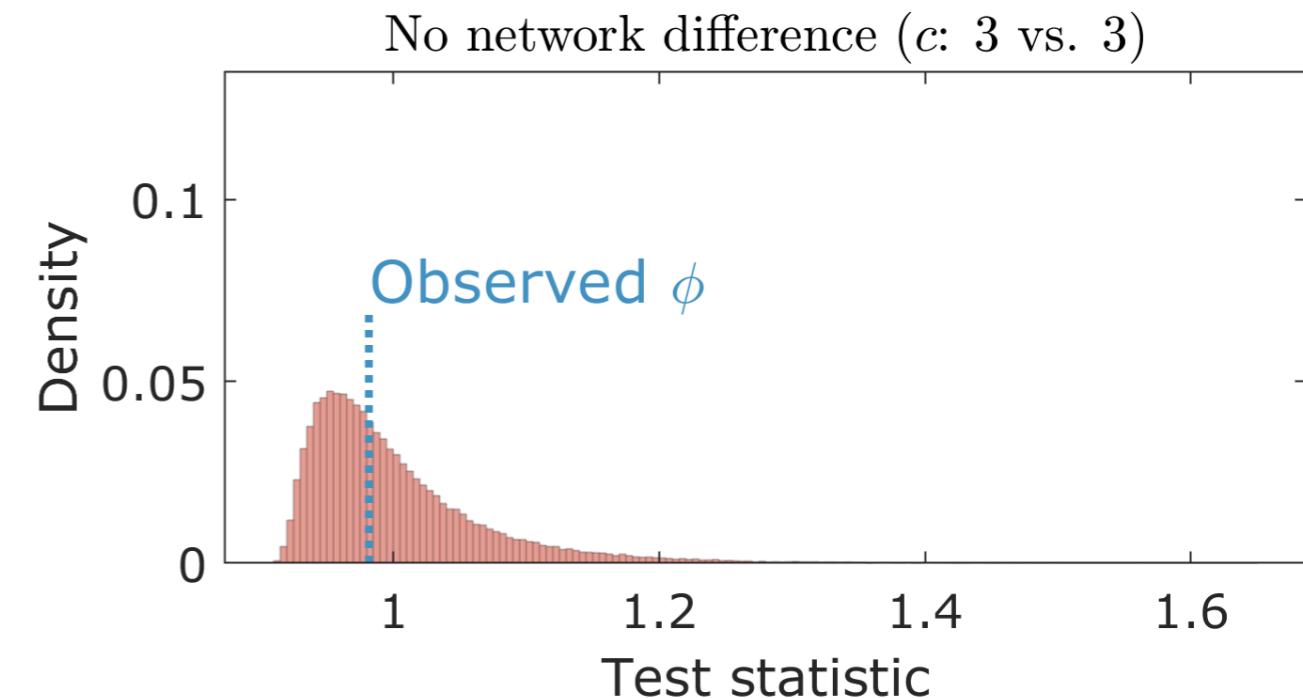
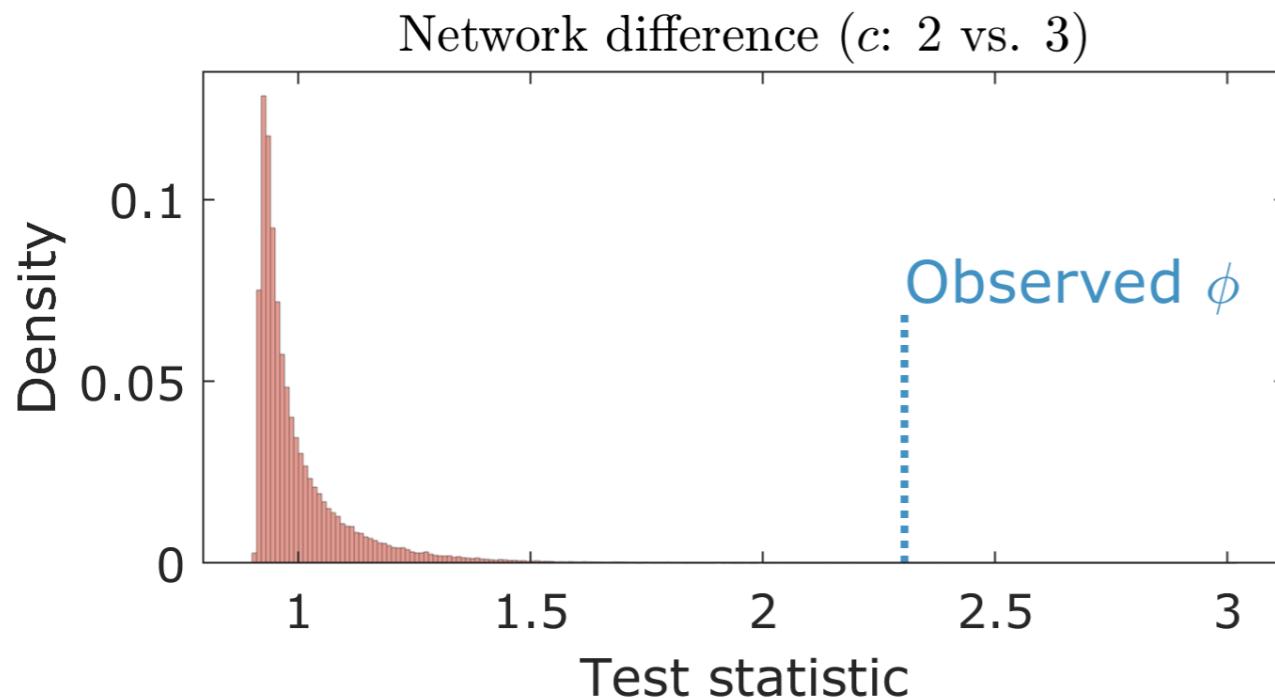
# Ratio statistic for Wasserstein distances

Between-group distance

$$l_B \propto \sum_{i \in C_1, j \in C_2} \mathcal{L}(G_i, G_j)$$

Within-group distance

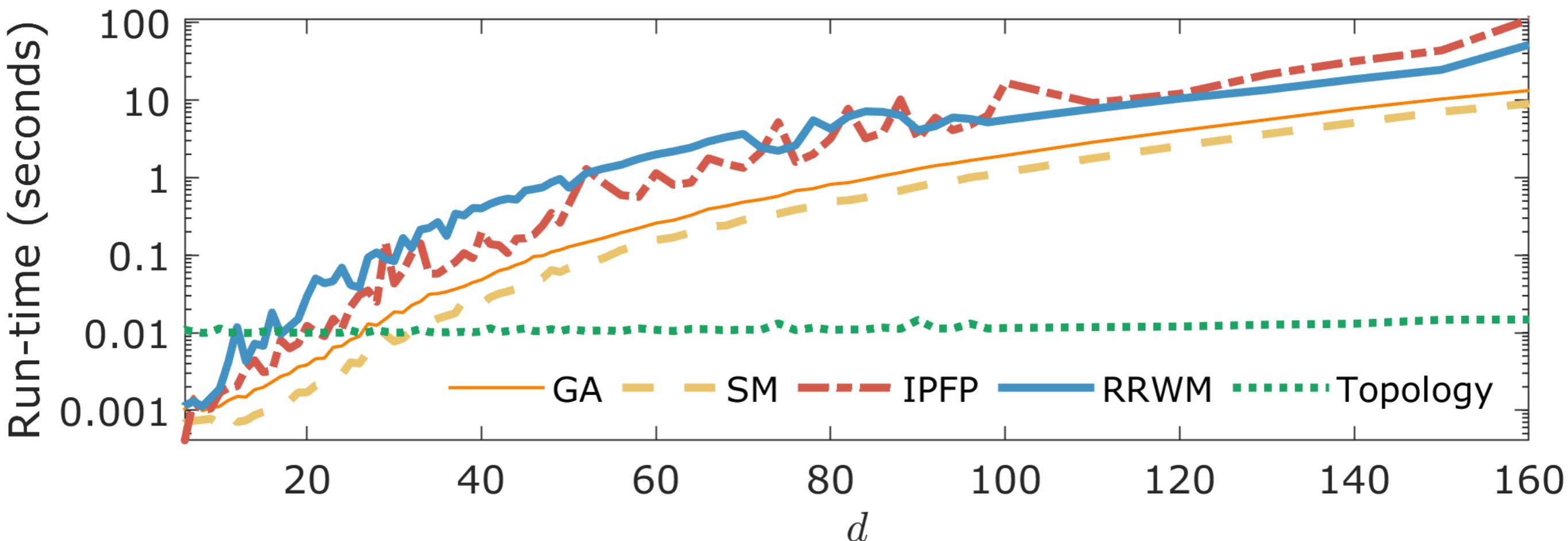
$$l_W \propto \sum_k \sum_{i, j \in C_k} \mathcal{L}(G_i, G_j) \quad \longrightarrow \quad \text{Statistic} \quad \phi = \frac{l_B}{l_W}$$



# Performance: Average $p$ -value in 50 simulations

nodes	modules	$p$	Graduated assignment	Spectral matching	Reweighted random walk	Integer projected fixed point	$\mathcal{L}_{top}$
12 vs. 12	2 vs. 3	0.6	0.45 ± 0.27	0.48 ± 0.30	0.28 ± 0.31	0.34 ± 0.28	0.08 ± 0.16
		0.8	0.26 ± 0.24	0.30 ± 0.28	0.06 ± 0.12	0.28 ± 0.28	0.01 ± 0.03
	2 vs. 6	0.6	0.06 ± 0.10	0.17 ± 0.20	0.04 ± 0.13	0.23 ± 0.28	0.00 ± 0.00
		0.8	0.00 ± 0.01	0.01 ± 0.03	0.00 ± 0.00	0.02 ± 0.04	0.00 ± 0.00
	3 vs. 6	0.6	0.40 ± 0.29	0.35 ± 0.28	0.24 ± 0.26	0.35 ± 0.28	0.06 ± 0.13
		0.8	0.21 ± 0.23	0.28 ± 0.27	0.08 ± 0.14	0.26 ± 0.25	0.00 ± 0.01
18 vs. 18	2 vs. 3	0.6	0.25 ± 0.23	0.41 ± 0.26	0.26 ± 0.24	0.42 ± 0.28	0.01 ± 0.02
		0.8	0.12 ± 0.17	0.19 ± 0.22	0.00 ± 0.00	0.04 ± 0.05	0.00 ± 0.00
	2 vs. 6	0.6	0.02 ± 0.05	0.07 ± 0.17	0.00 ± 0.00	0.14 ± 0.20	0.00 ± 0.00
		0.8	0.00 ± 0.00	0.00 ± 0.00	0.00 ± 0.00	0.00 ± 0.00	0.00 ± 0.00
	3 vs. 6	0.6	0.28 ± 0.24	0.37 ± 0.31	0.21 ± 0.24	0.37 ± 0.30	0.01 ± 0.01
		0.8	0.15 ± 0.22	0.13 ± 0.14	0.00 ± 0.01	0.16 ± 0.18	0.00 ± 0.00
24 vs. 24	2 vs. 3	0.6	0.23 ± 0.25	0.30 ± 0.26	0.14 ± 0.20	0.31 ± 0.28	0.00 ± 0.01
		0.8	0.06 ± 0.11	0.12 ± 0.19	0.00 ± 0.00	0.01 ± 0.05	0.00 ± 0.00
	2 vs. 6	0.6	0.00 ± 0.01	0.03 ± 0.06	0.00 ± 0.00	0.09 ± 0.13	0.00 ± 0.00
		0.8	0.00 ± 0.00	0.00 ± 0.00	0.00 ± 0.00	0.00 ± 0.00	0.00 ± 0.00
	3 vs. 6	0.6	0.24 ± 0.26	0.29 ± 0.28	0.10 ± 0.13	0.37 ± 0.26	0.00 ± 0.00
		0.8	0.07 ± 0.12	0.13 ± 0.19	0.00 ± 0.01	0.12 ± 0.19	0.00 ± 0.00

# Fastest possible graph matching algorithm



Graduated assignment (GA)  
Spectral matching (SM)  
Integer projected fixed point method (IPFP)  
Re-weighted random walk matching (RRWM)

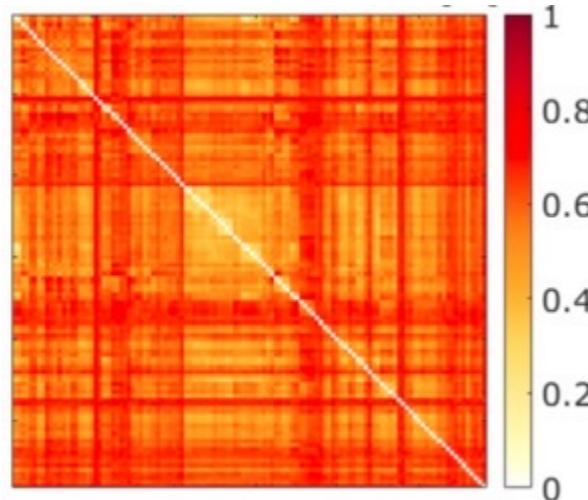
# Topological Regression

# Subject-level learning

Structural network template  
 $P$

Functional network of subject  $k$

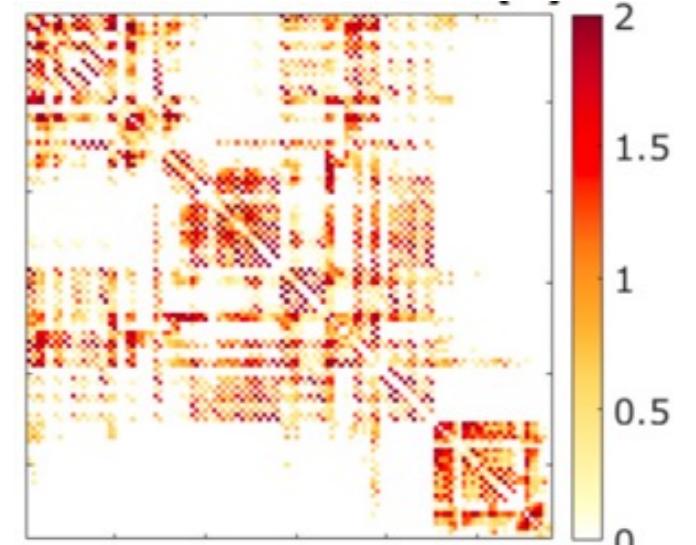
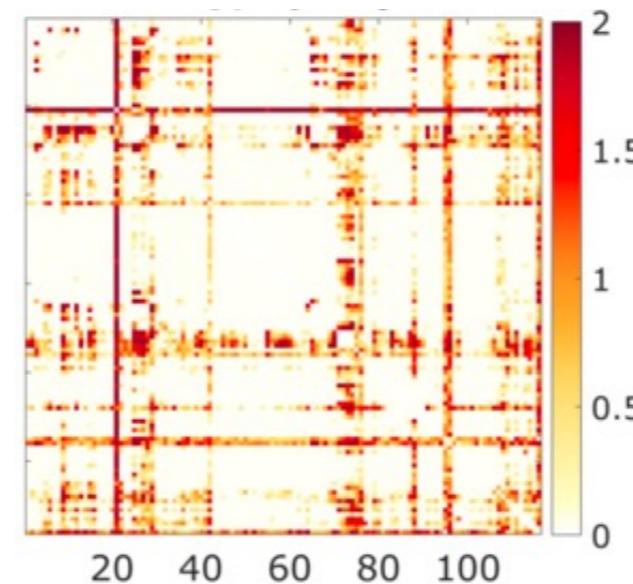
$$G_k = (V, w^k)$$



Dense cycles

Graph matching

Estimated model



Sparse trees

$$\widehat{\Theta}_k = \arg \min_{\Theta} \mathcal{L}_F(\Theta, G_k) + \lambda_k \mathcal{L}(\Theta, P)$$



Frobenius norm  
Goodness-of-fit



Control amount  
of topology



Topological loss

# Topological gradient descent

$$\widehat{\Theta}_k = \arg \min_{\Theta} \mathcal{L}_F(\Theta, G_k) + \lambda_k \mathcal{L}_{top}(\Theta, P)$$

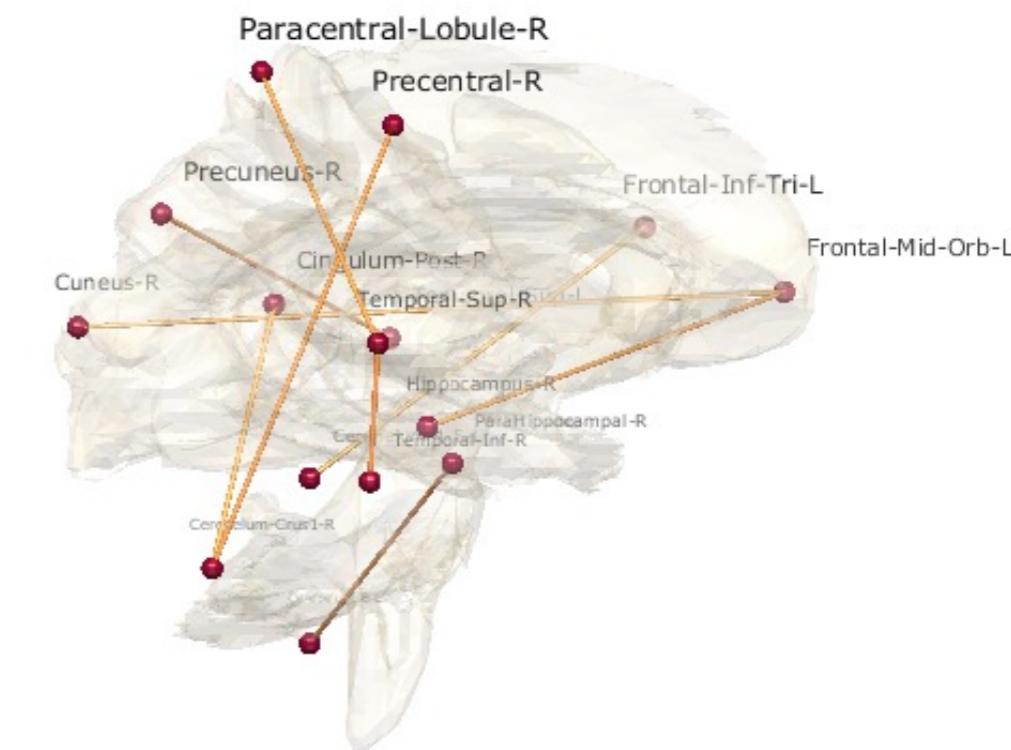
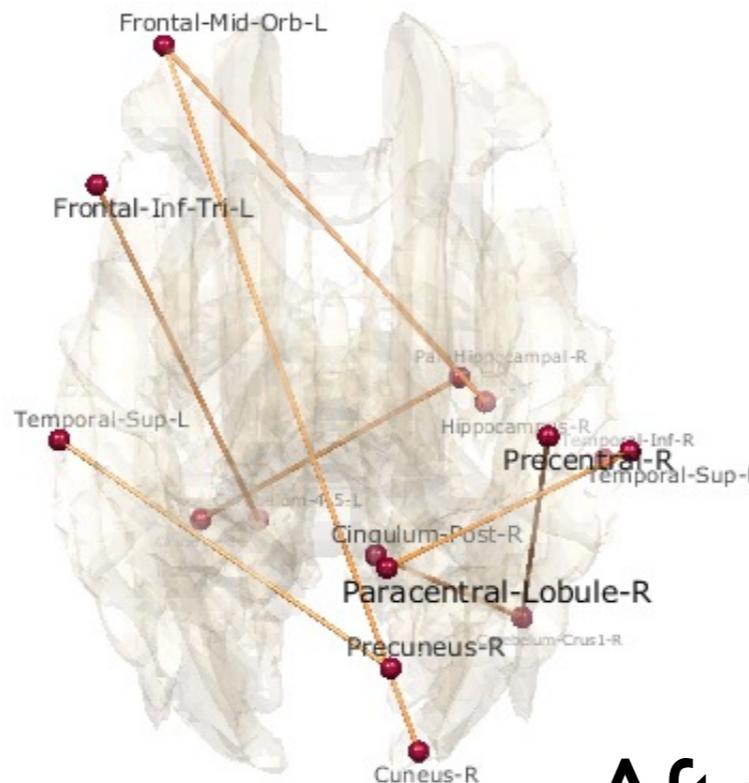
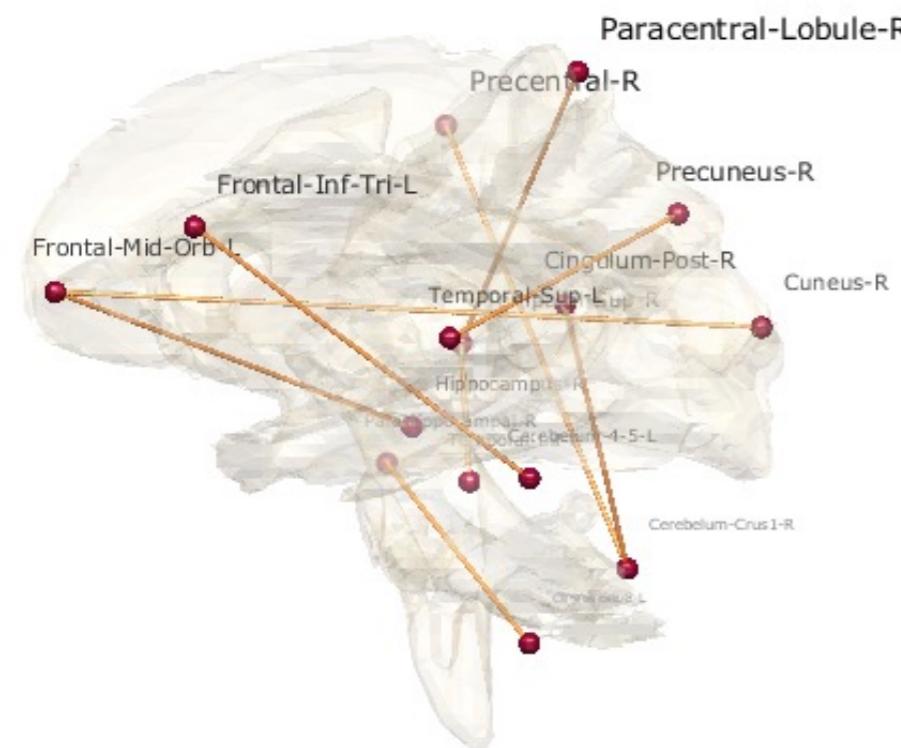
Topological gradient by matching sorted birth and death values

$$\frac{\partial \mathcal{L}_{top}(\Theta, P)}{\partial w_{ij}^{\Theta}} = \begin{cases} 2[w_{ij}^{\Theta} - \tau_{0*}(w_{ij}^{\Theta})] & \text{if } w_{ij}^{\Theta} \in E_0; \\ 2[w_{ij}^{\Theta} - \tau_{1*}(w_{ij}^{\Theta})] & \text{if } w_{ij}^{\Theta} \in E_1 \end{cases}$$

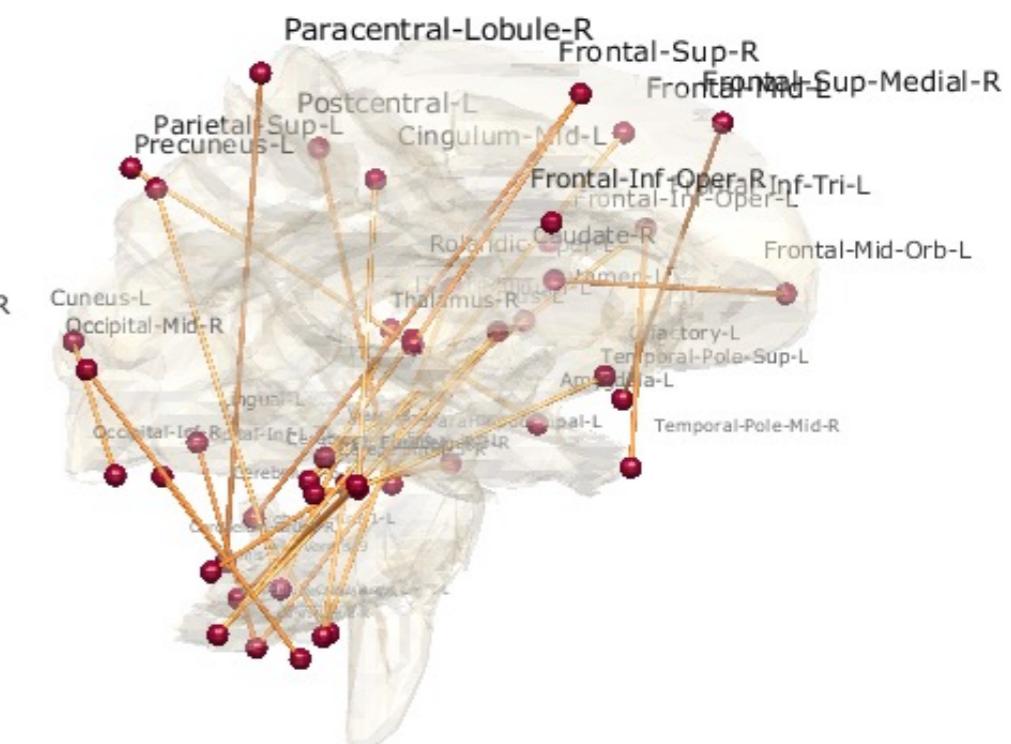
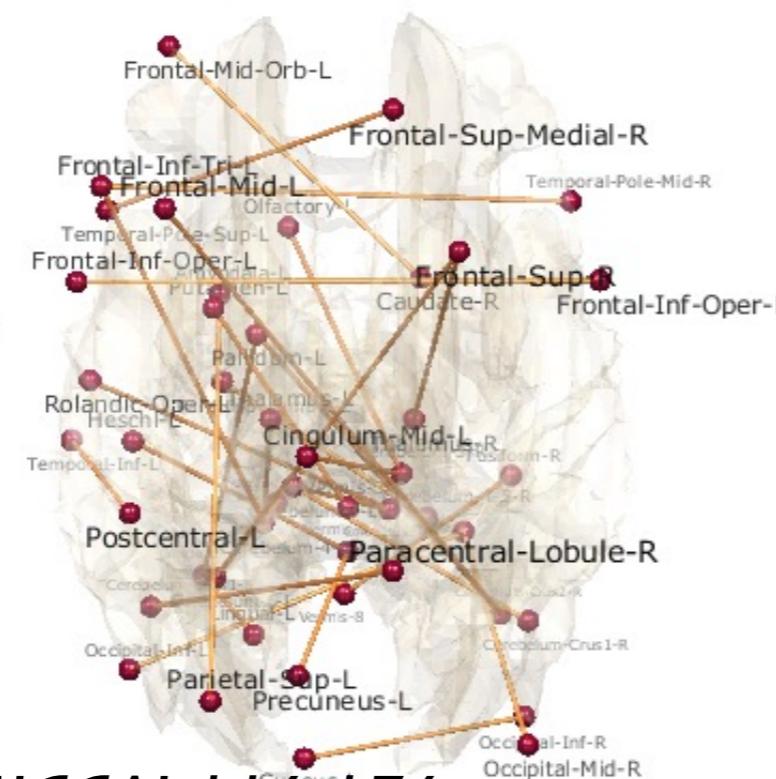
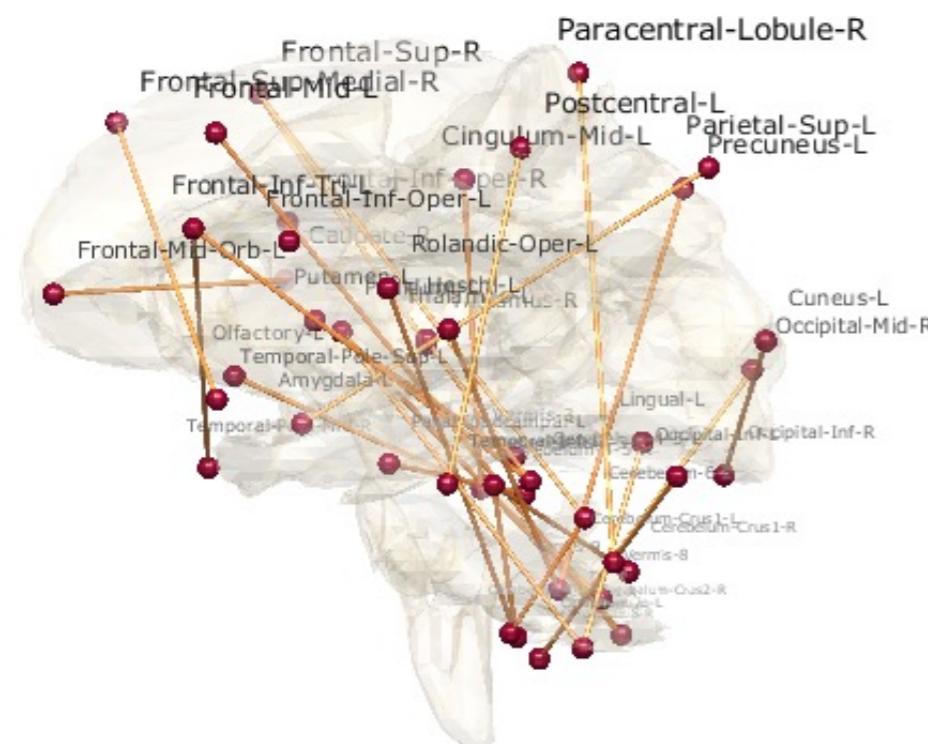
Run time  $O(|E| \log |V|)$

# Heritability index above 1.00 through ACE-model

## Original Pearson correlation



After topological learning



Topological  
clustering

# Wasserstein graph clustering

$$\mathcal{L}_{top}(\Theta, P) = \mathcal{L}_{0D}(\Theta, P) + \mathcal{L}_{1D}(\Theta, P)$$

L2-norm on  
sorted birth  
values

L2-norm on  
sorted death  
values

$$\cup_{i=1}^k C_i = \{G_1, \dots, G_n\}, \quad C_i \cap C_j = \emptyset$$

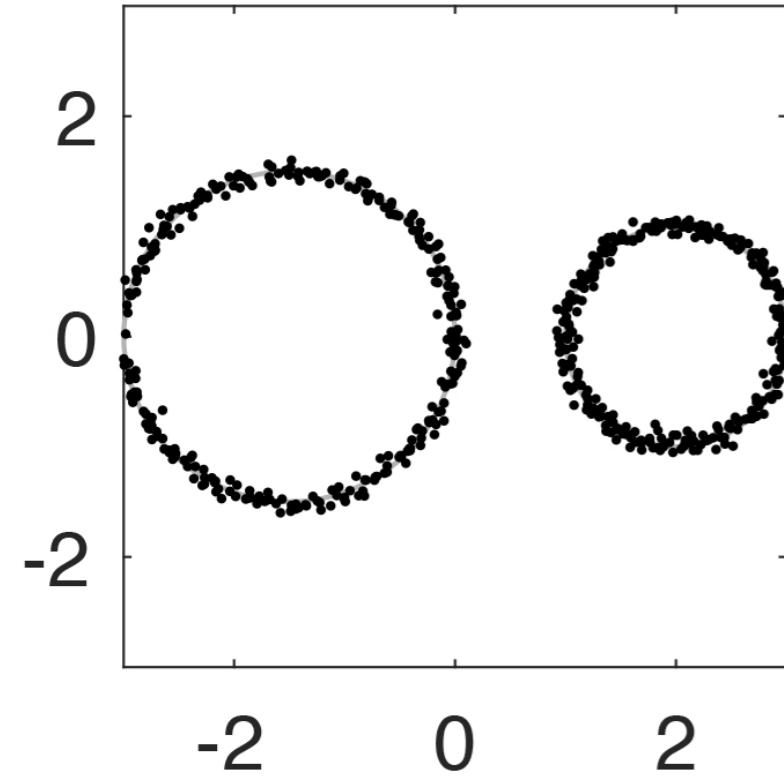
$$l_W(C; \mu) = \sum_{j=1}^k \sum_{X \in C_j} \mathcal{L}_{top}(X, \mu_j)$$

$$\mu_j = \frac{1}{|C_j|} \sum_{X \in C_j} X$$

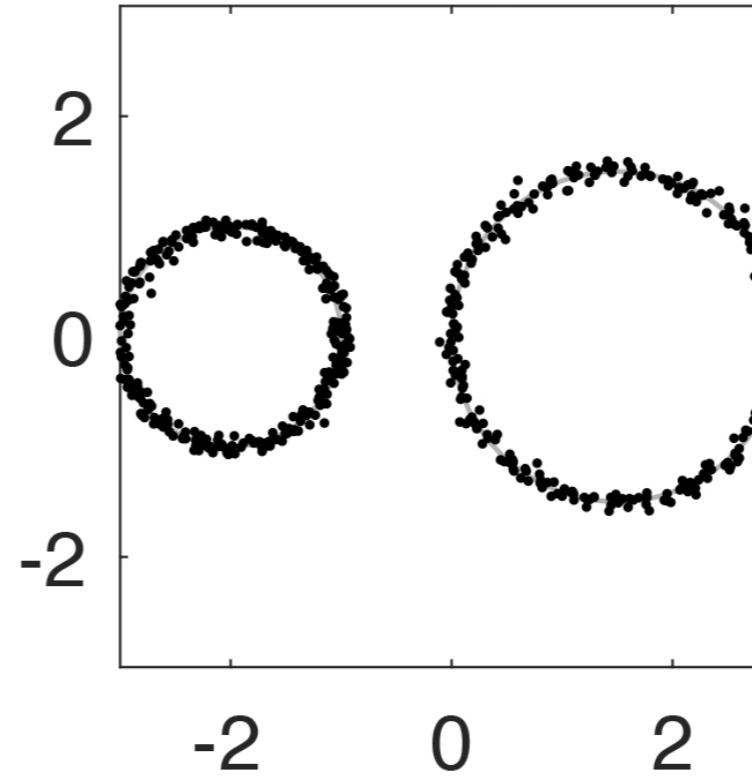
Proof of convergence  
Chung et al. 2022 arXiv:2201.00087

# No topological difference

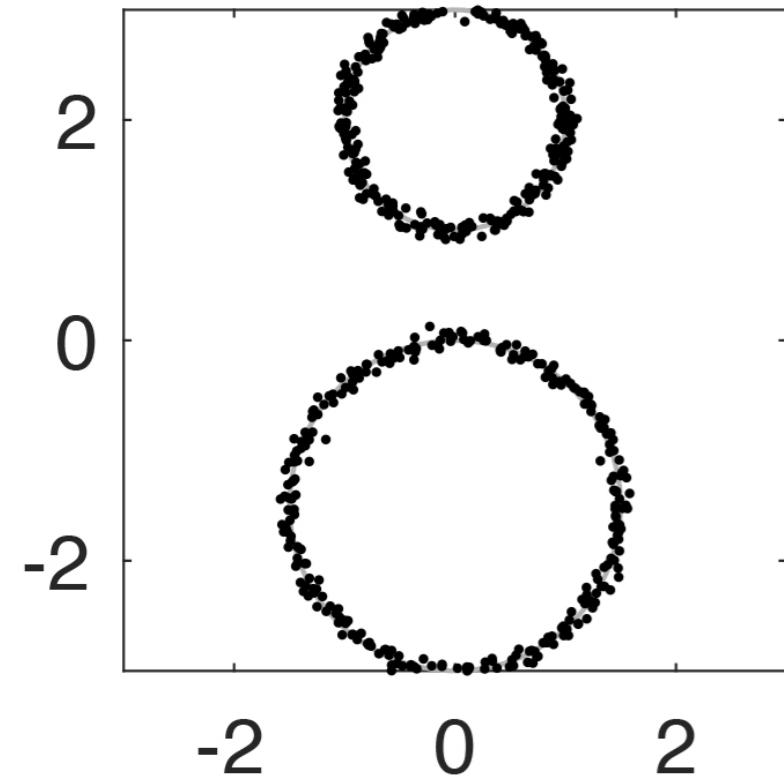
**Group 1**



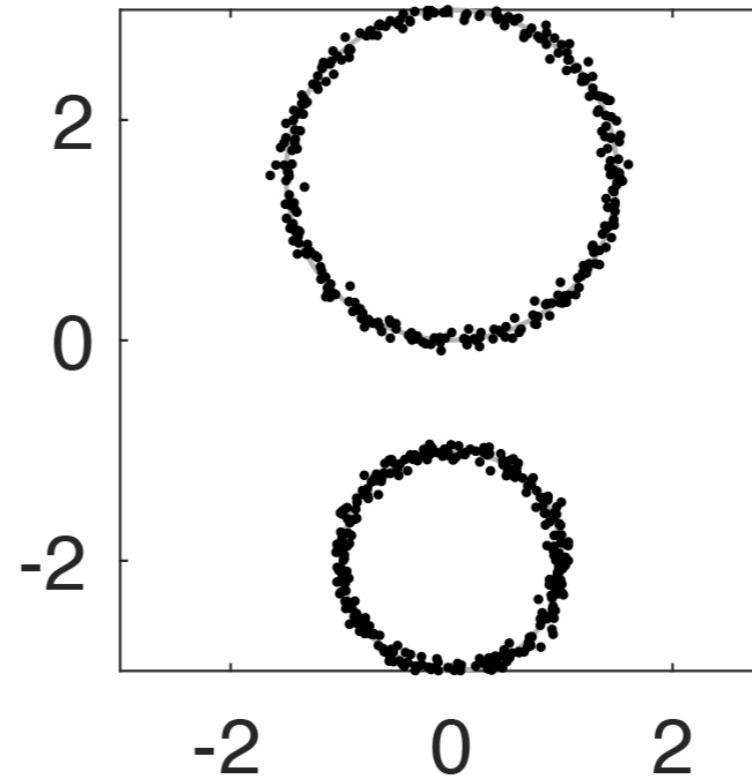
**Group 2**



**Group 3**



**Group 4**

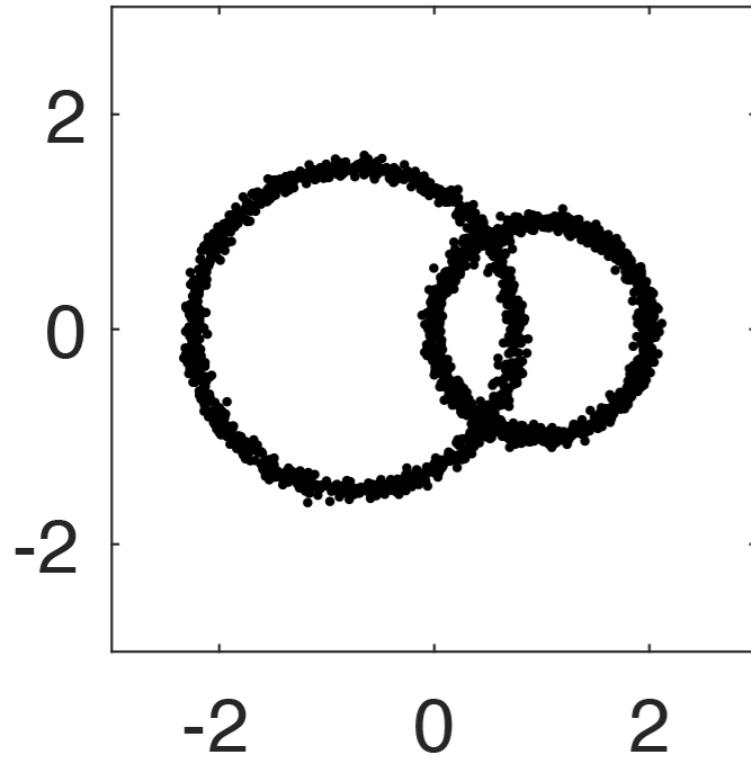


K-means  
clustering  
 $1.00 \pm 0.04$

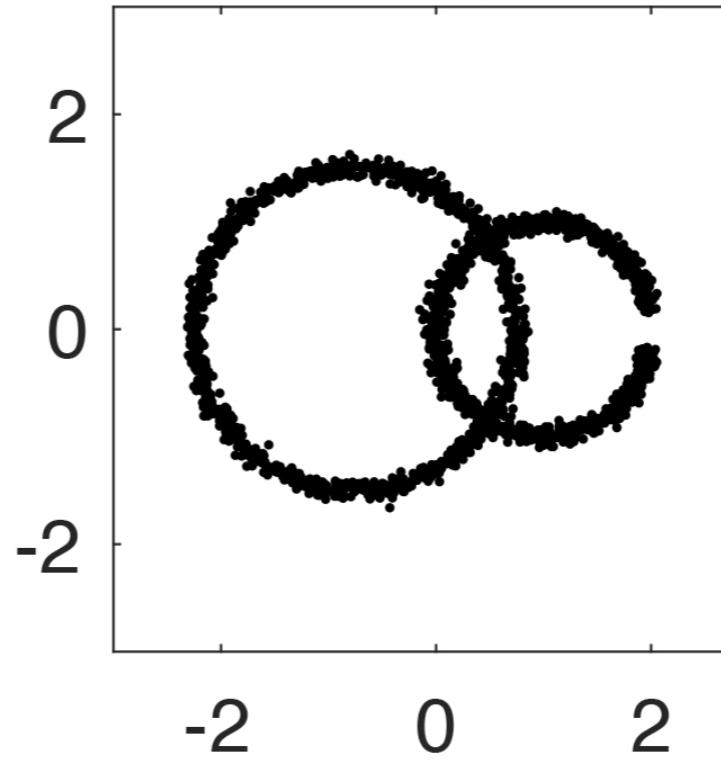
Wasserstein  
Graph clustering  
 $0.53 \pm 0.08$

# Topological difference

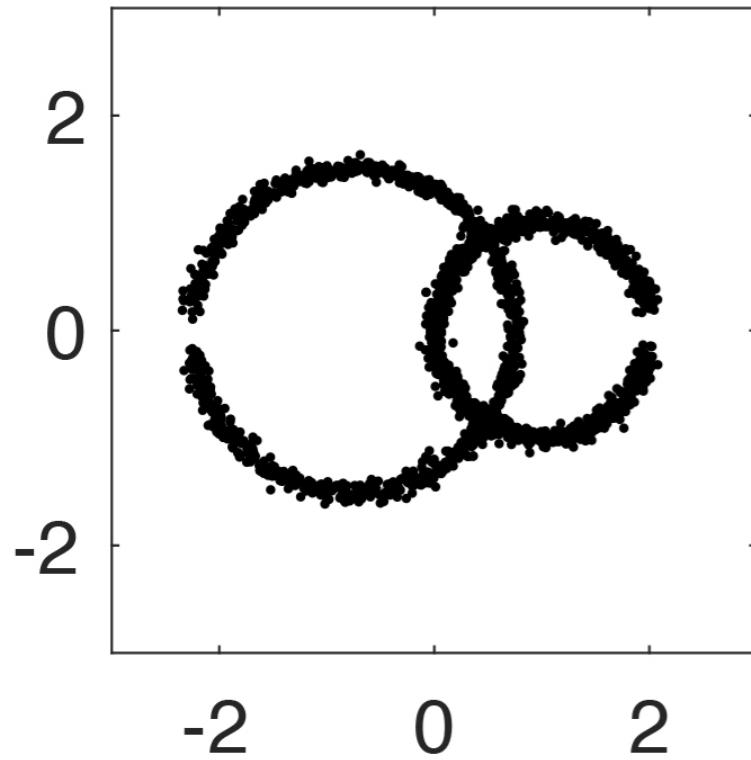
**Group 1**



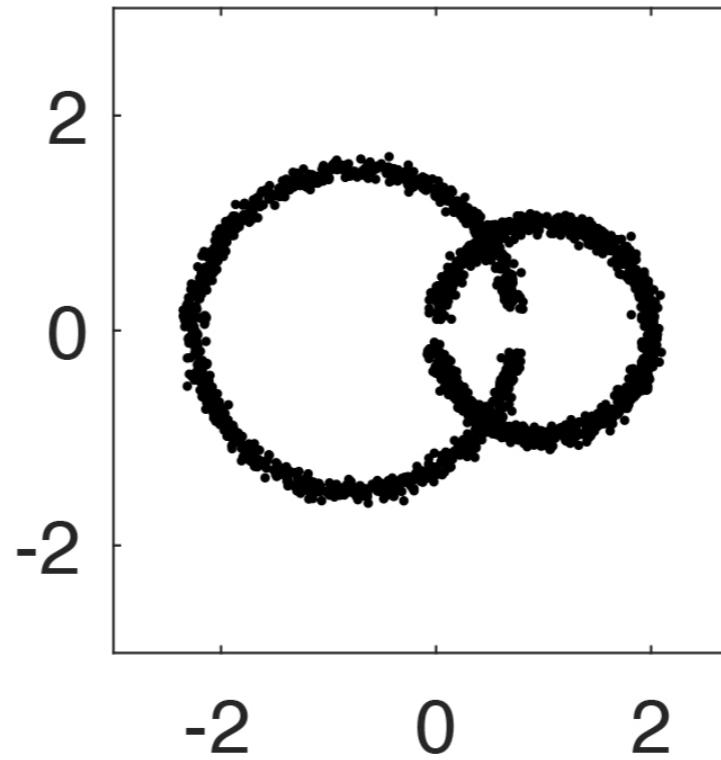
**Group 2**



**Group 3**



**Group 4**

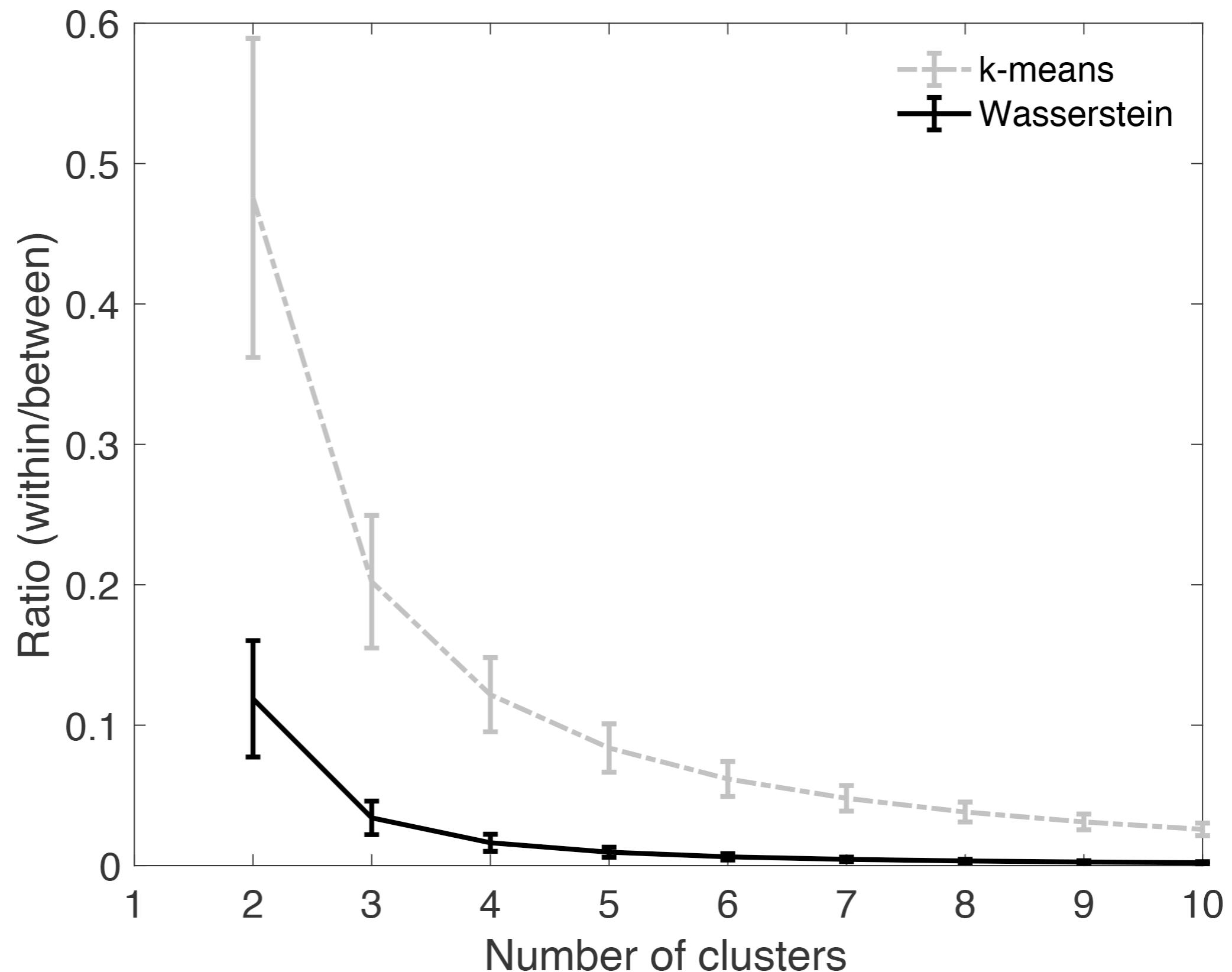


K-means  
clustering  
**0.83 +- 0.10**

Wasserstein  
Graph clustering  
**0.96 +- 0.10**

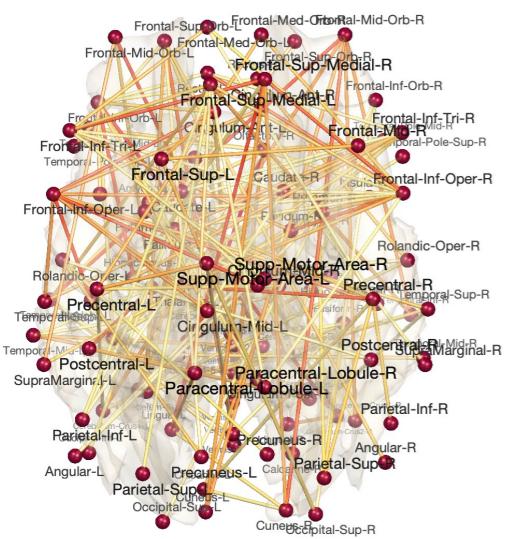
**16% improvement**

$$\frac{1}{\phi} = \frac{l_W}{l_B}$$



The within cluster variance of Wasserstein clustering  
is **6 times** smaller than k-means clustering.

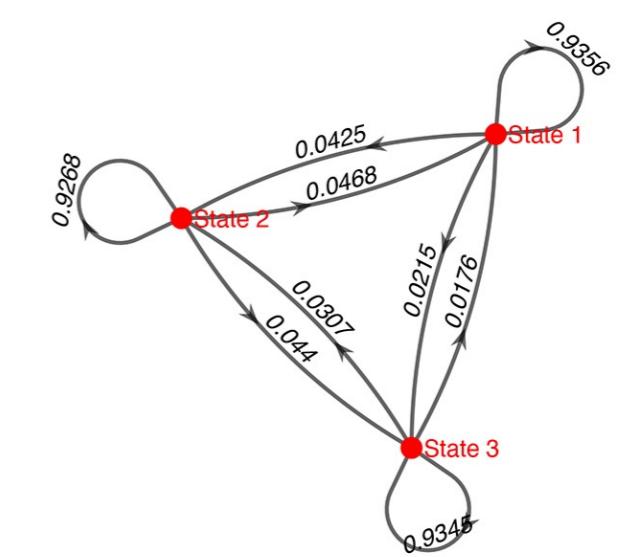
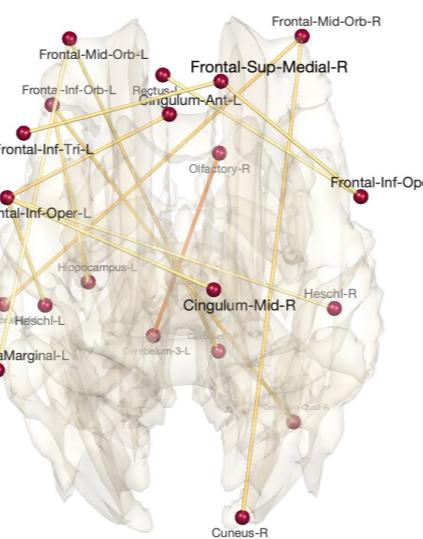
State 1



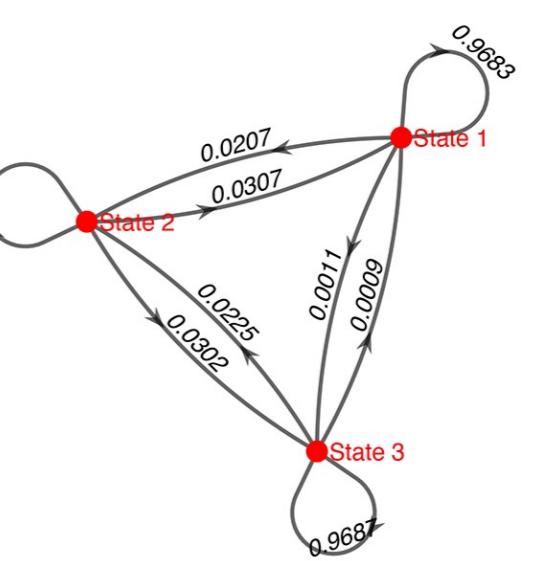
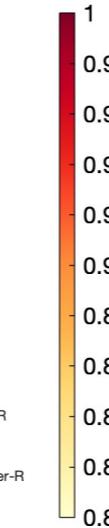
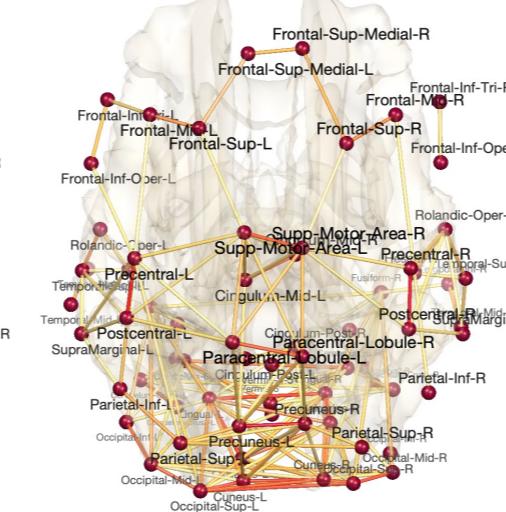
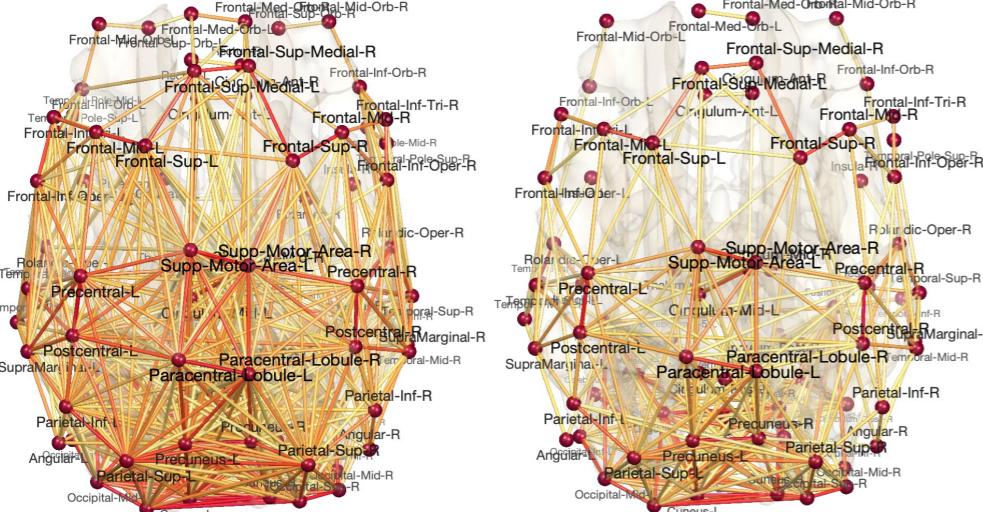
State 2



State 3



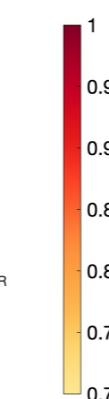
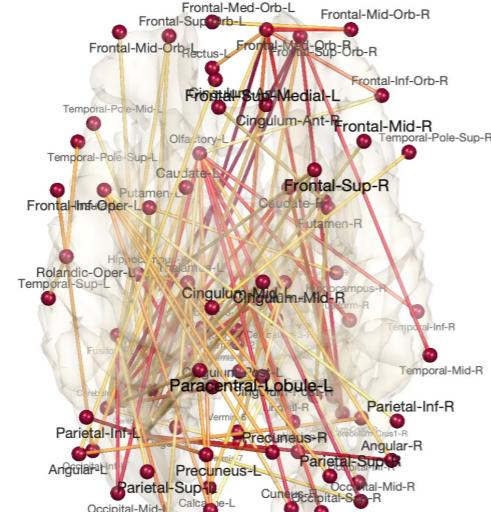
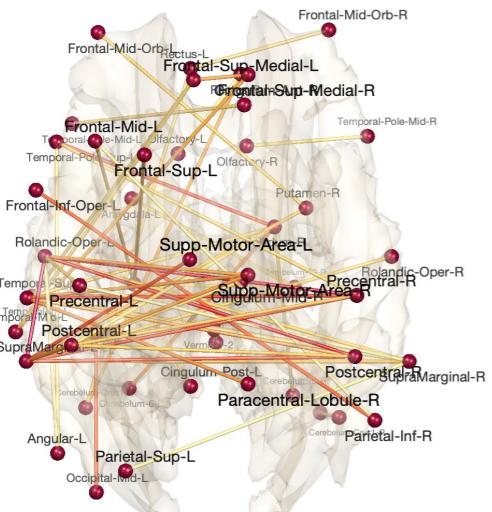
k-means



## Markov chains

**Heritability index  
for UW-Madison twin  
study – 200 twin pairs**

Wasserstein



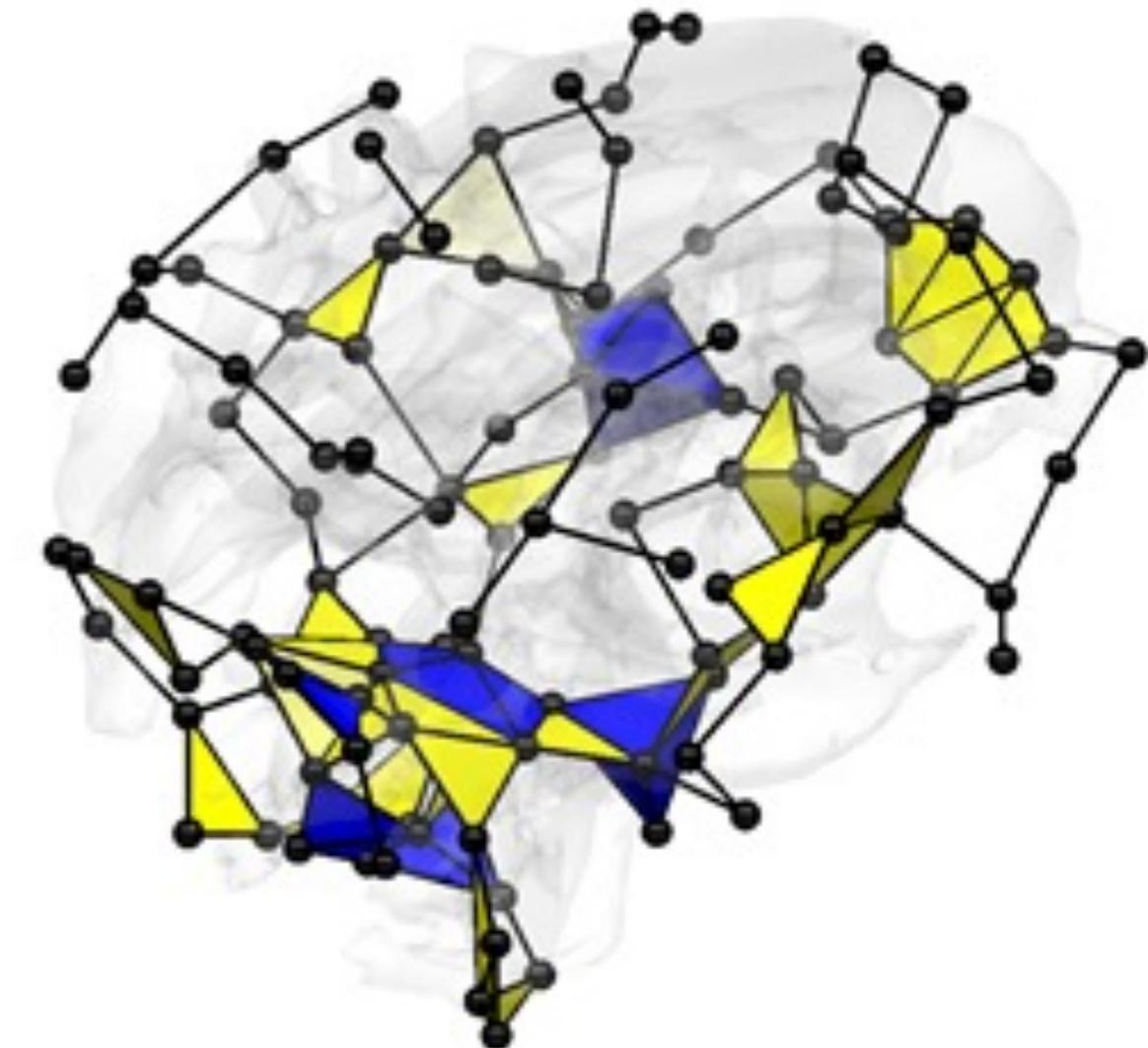
Heritability Index

Explicit modeling  
of 1-cycles: higher  
order connectivity

# Graph *vs.* simplicial complex



Pairwise interaction



Higher order interaction  
**Yellow** = 3 nodes (2 simplices)  
**Blue** = 4 nodes (3 simplices)

# $k$ -th Hodge Laplacian

$$\Delta_k = \partial_{k+1} \partial_{k+1}^\top + \partial_k^\top \partial_k$$

For graph,

$$\Delta_0 = \partial_1 \partial_1^\top$$

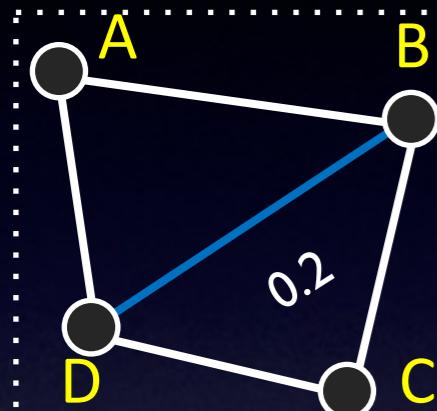
$\ker \Delta_0$  is spanned by the **eigenvectors** of zero **eigenvalues**

# of zero eigenvalues  
= # of  $k$ -cycles

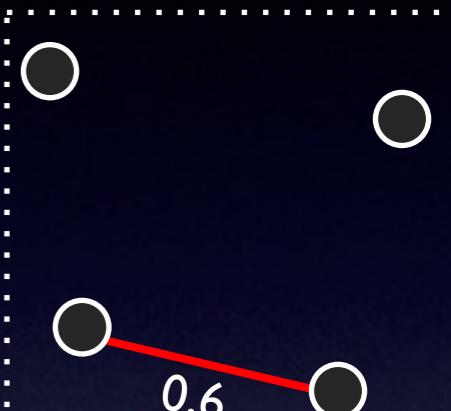
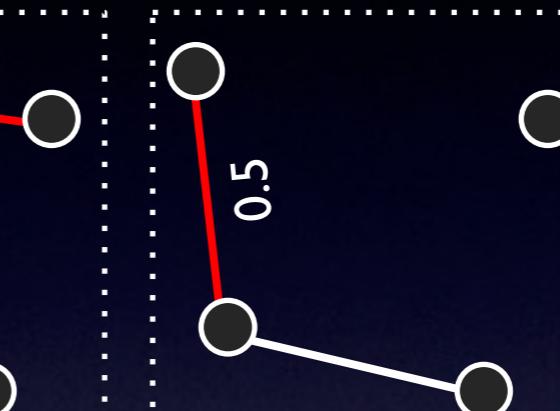
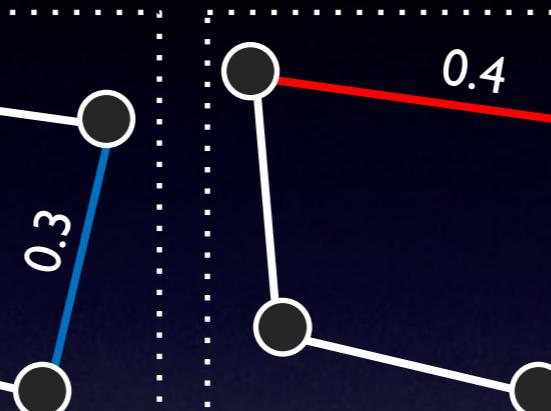
# Theorems (Identification of 1-cycle basis)

Anand et al. 2021, arXiv:2110.14599

$H_1$  Edges destroy cycles



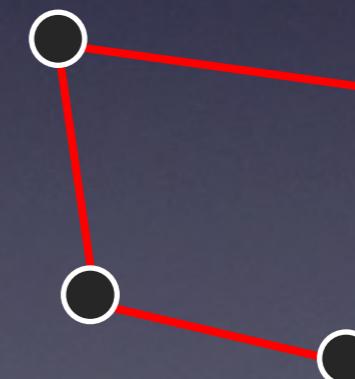
$H_0$  Edges create components



I-cycle basis



$H_0$  Birth set



Maximum spanning tree

Compute the eigenvector of zero eigenvalue of the 1<sup>st</sup> Hodge Laplacian

# Basis expansion using l-cycle basis

Anand et al. 2021, arXiv:2110.14599

l-cycle basis:  $\mathcal{C}^1, \dots, \mathcal{C}^Q$

vector of 0's and 1's

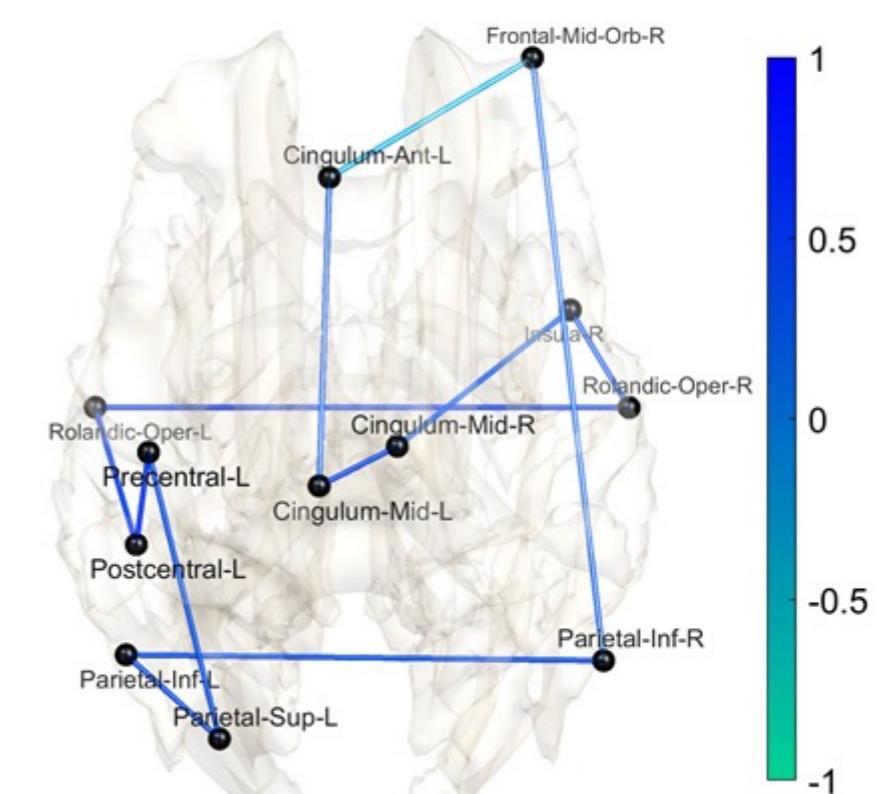
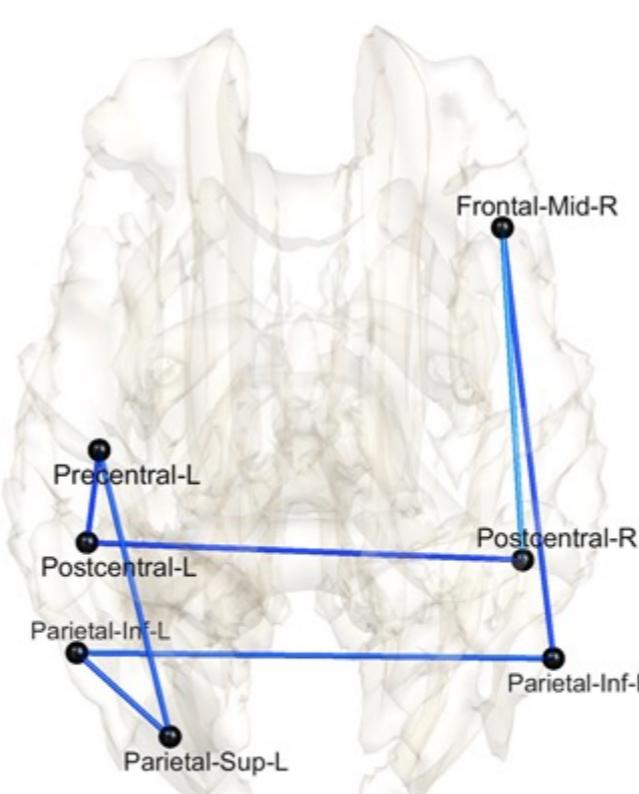
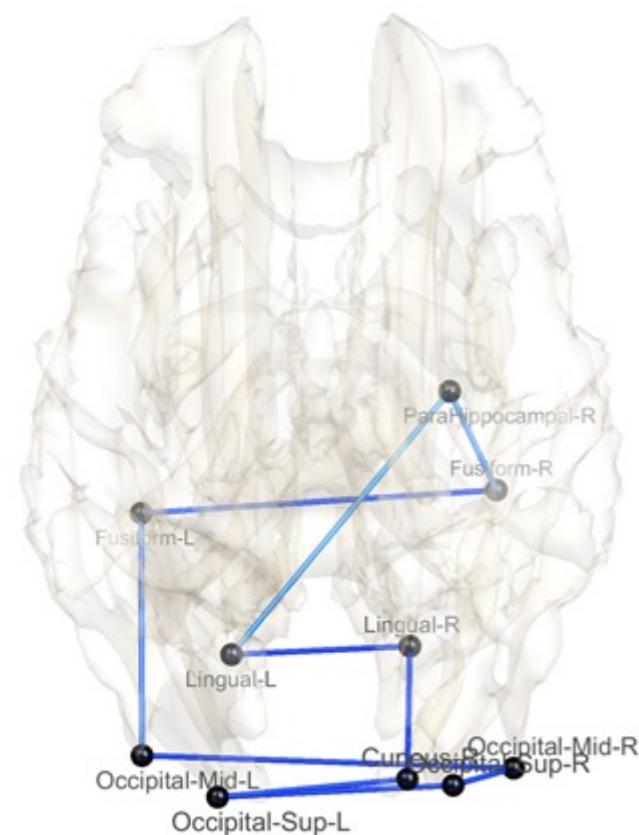
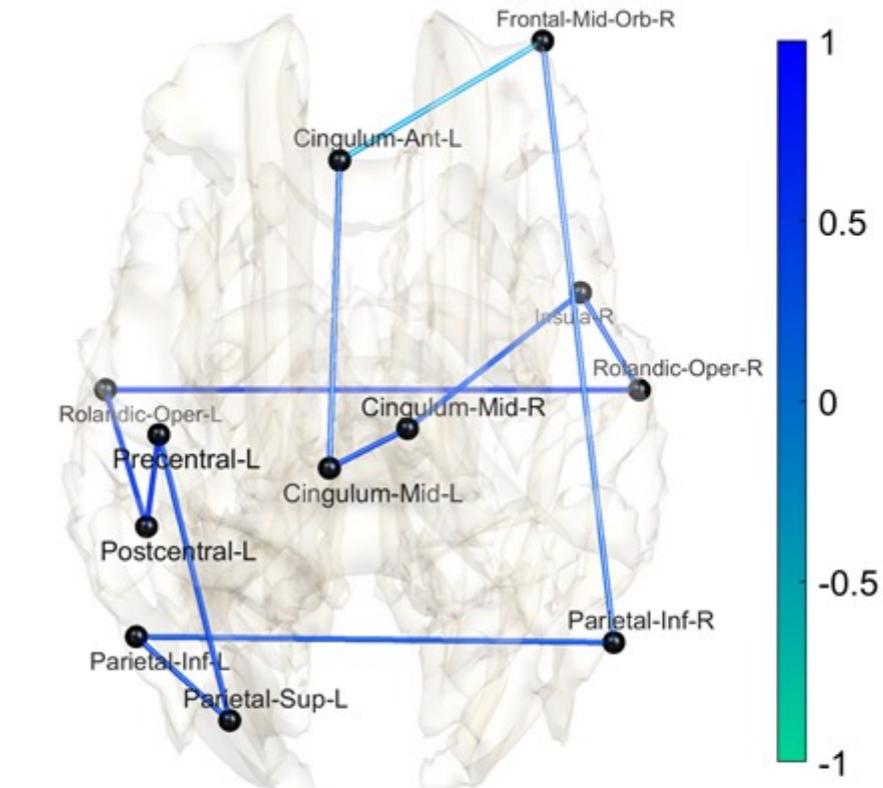
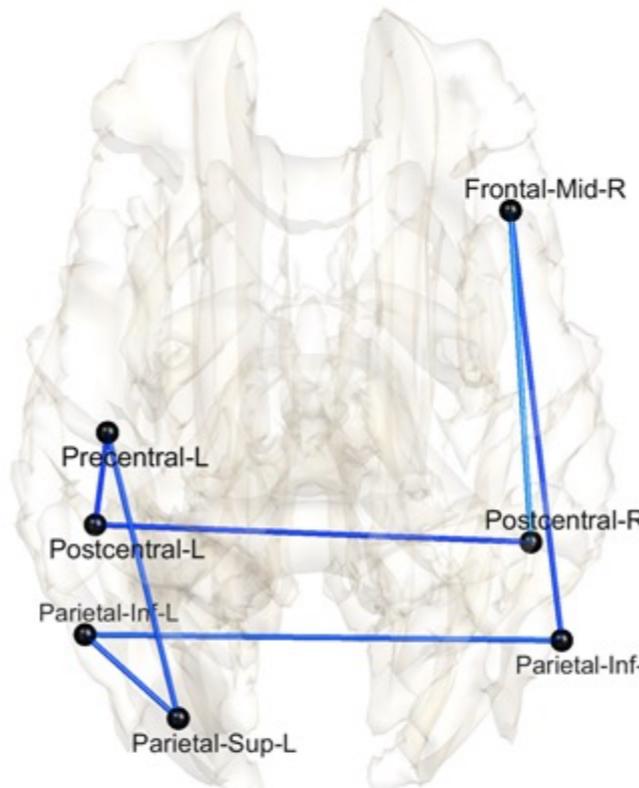
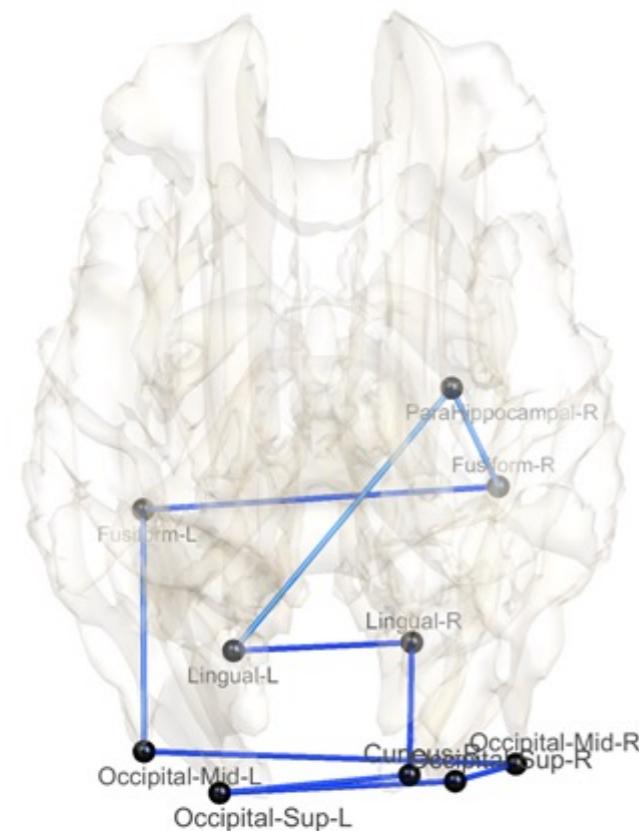
$$\text{Correlation matrix} = \sum_{j=1}^Q \alpha_j \mathcal{C}^j$$

Least squares estimation

Test statistic:

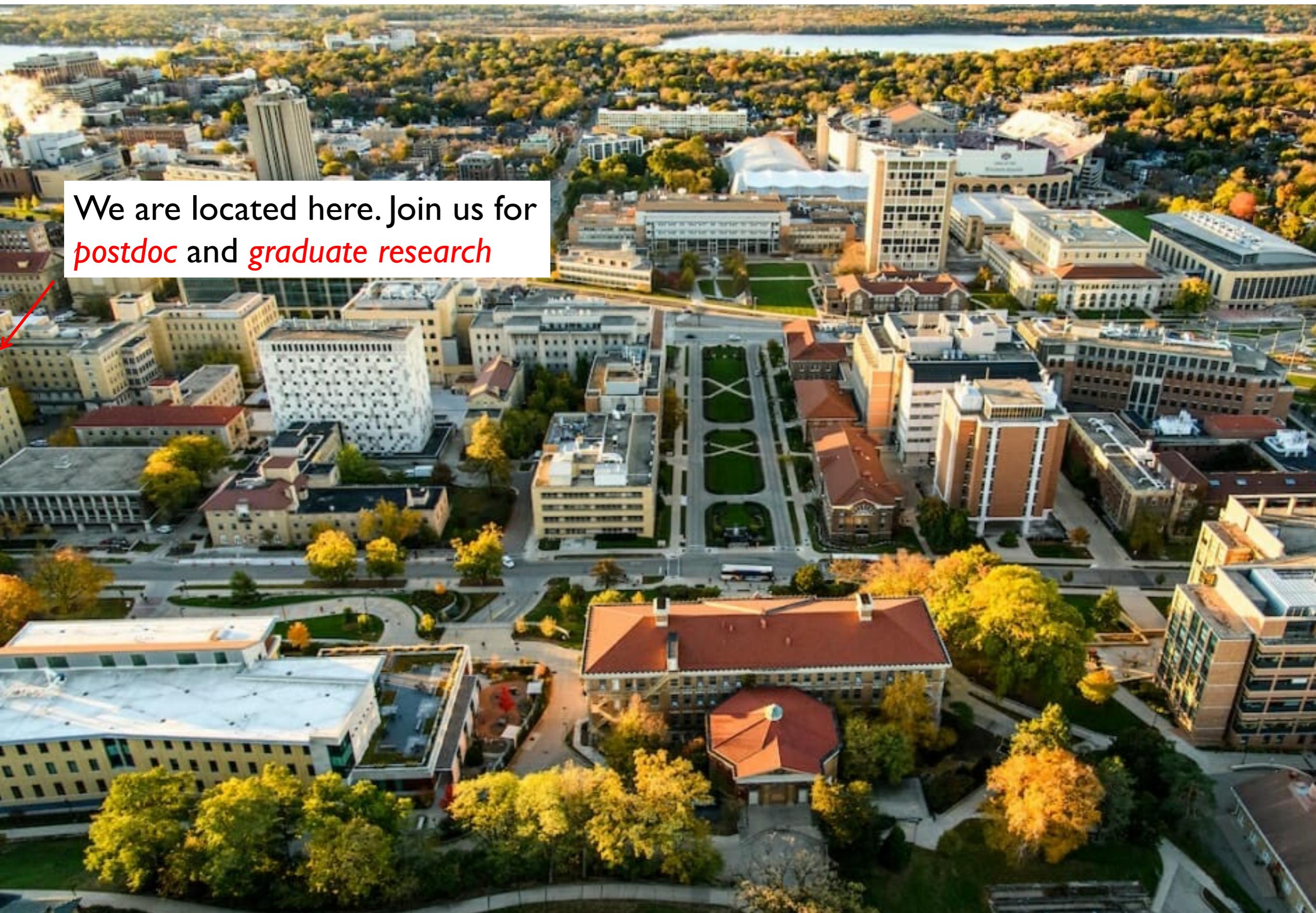
$$T(\text{Group1}, \text{Group2}) = \max_{1 \leq j \leq Q} |\bar{\alpha}_j^{\text{Group1}} - \bar{\alpha}_j^{\text{Group2}}|$$

# Three biggest cycle differences in male vs. female in HCP



$p$ -value = 0.007

# Thank you.

An aerial photograph of a large university campus during autumn. The campus is filled with buildings of various architectural styles, including modern glass structures and older stone buildings. The grounds are dotted with numerous trees whose leaves are a vibrant yellow and orange. In the background, a large body of water is visible under a clear sky.

We are located here. Join us for  
*postdoc* and *graduate research*

