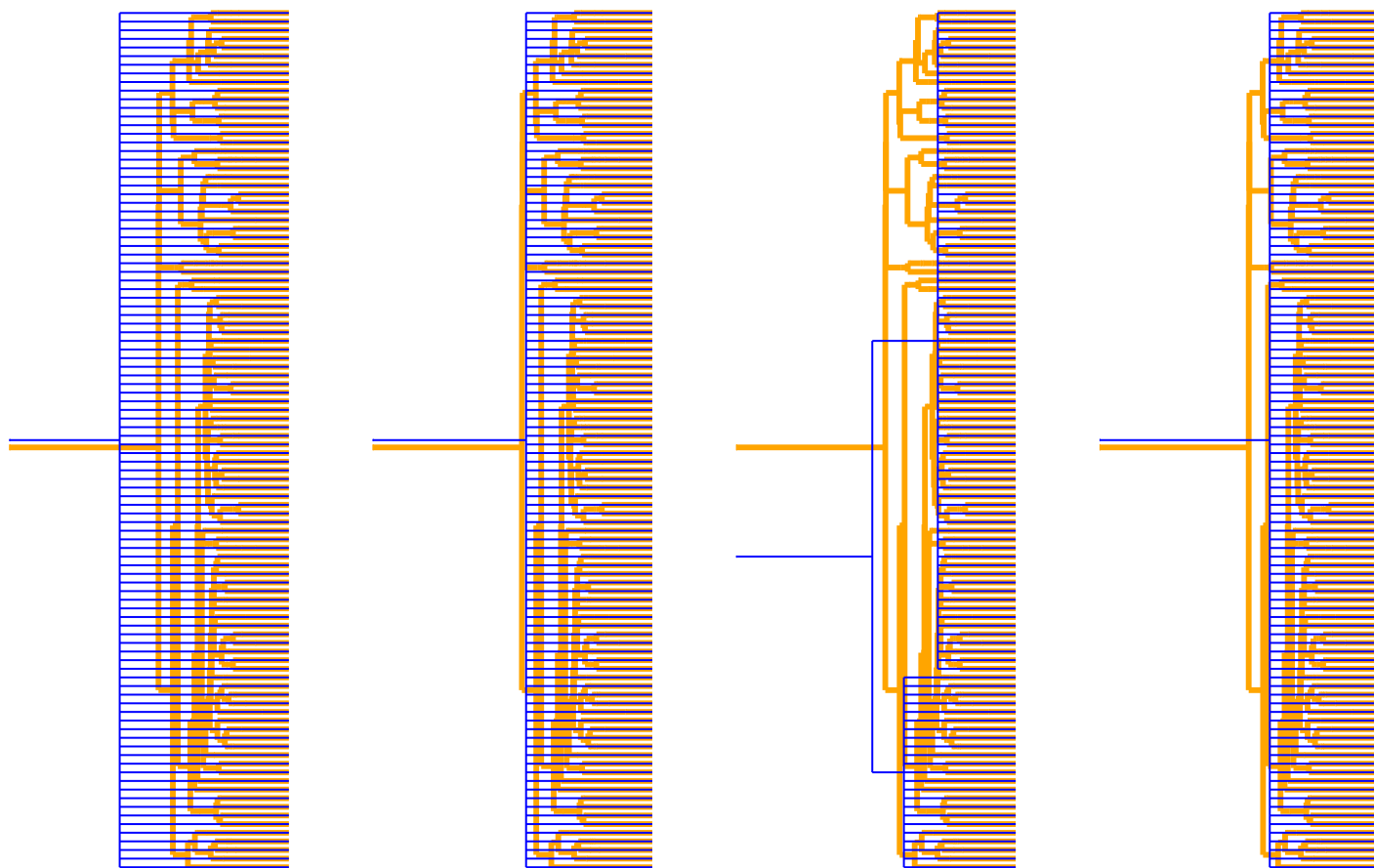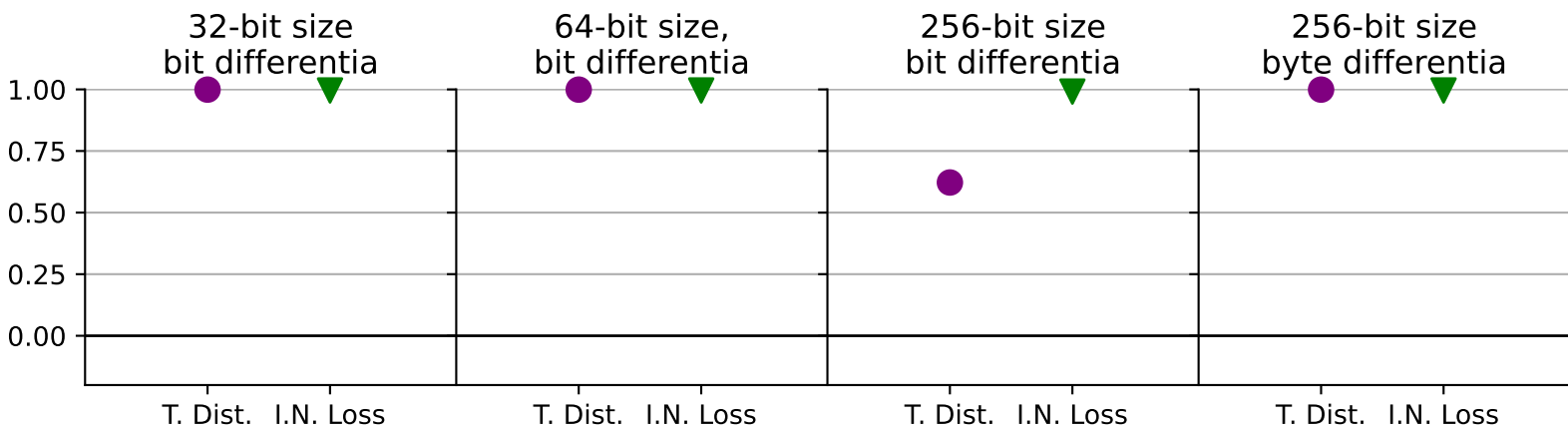policy = column-steady