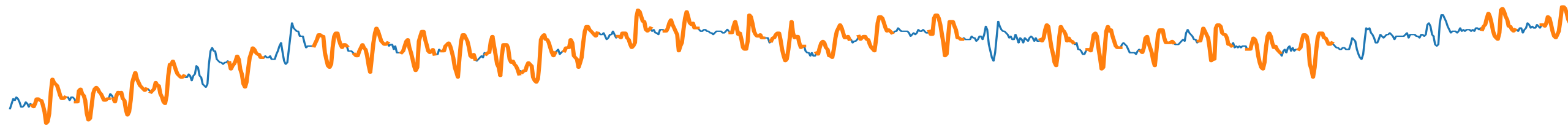


# Motiflets – Simple and Accurate Detection of Motifs in Time Series



**Patrick Schäfer, Ulf Leser**

Humboldt-University of Berlin, Germany

[patrick.schaefer@hu-berlin.de](mailto:patrick.schaefer@hu-berlin.de)

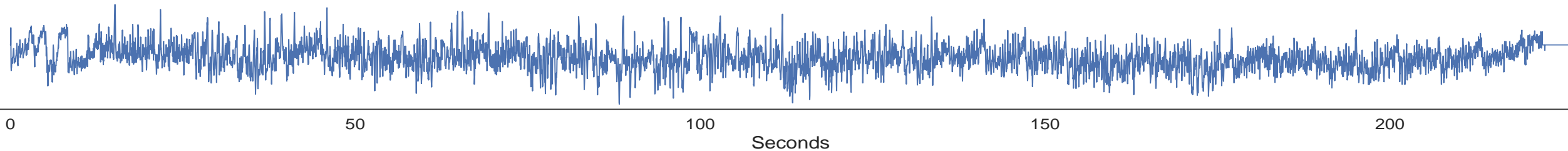


**Source  
Codes**

**VLDB, Vancouver, Canada - August 28 to September 1, 2023**

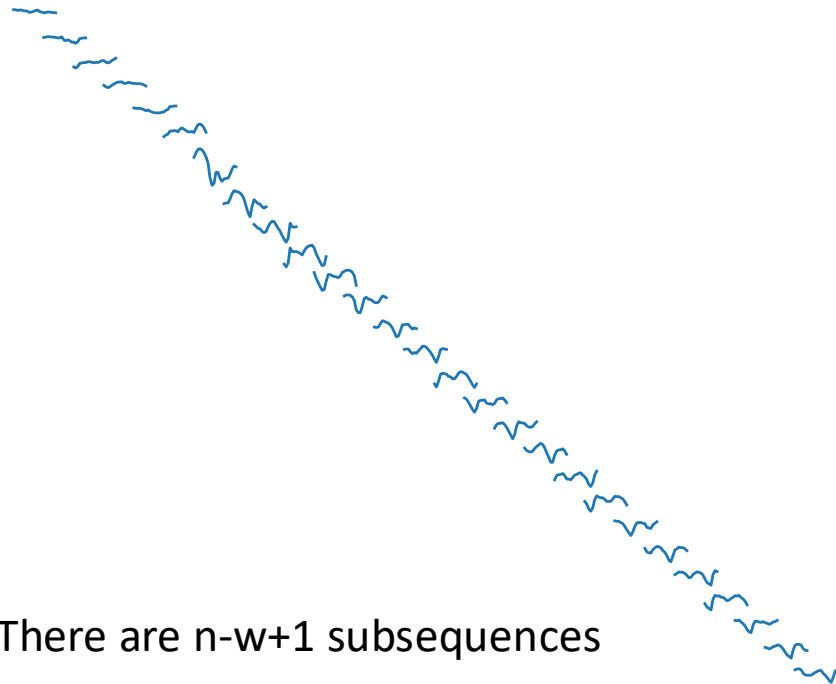
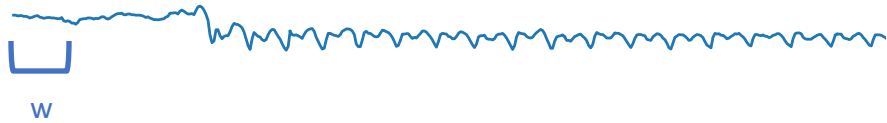
# Time Series

- Time series are **ubiquitous!**
- We record data over time:
  - Sensors data, Medical (ECG and EEG), Financial, Meteorological, Biological Processes, Motion Data and Video, Music

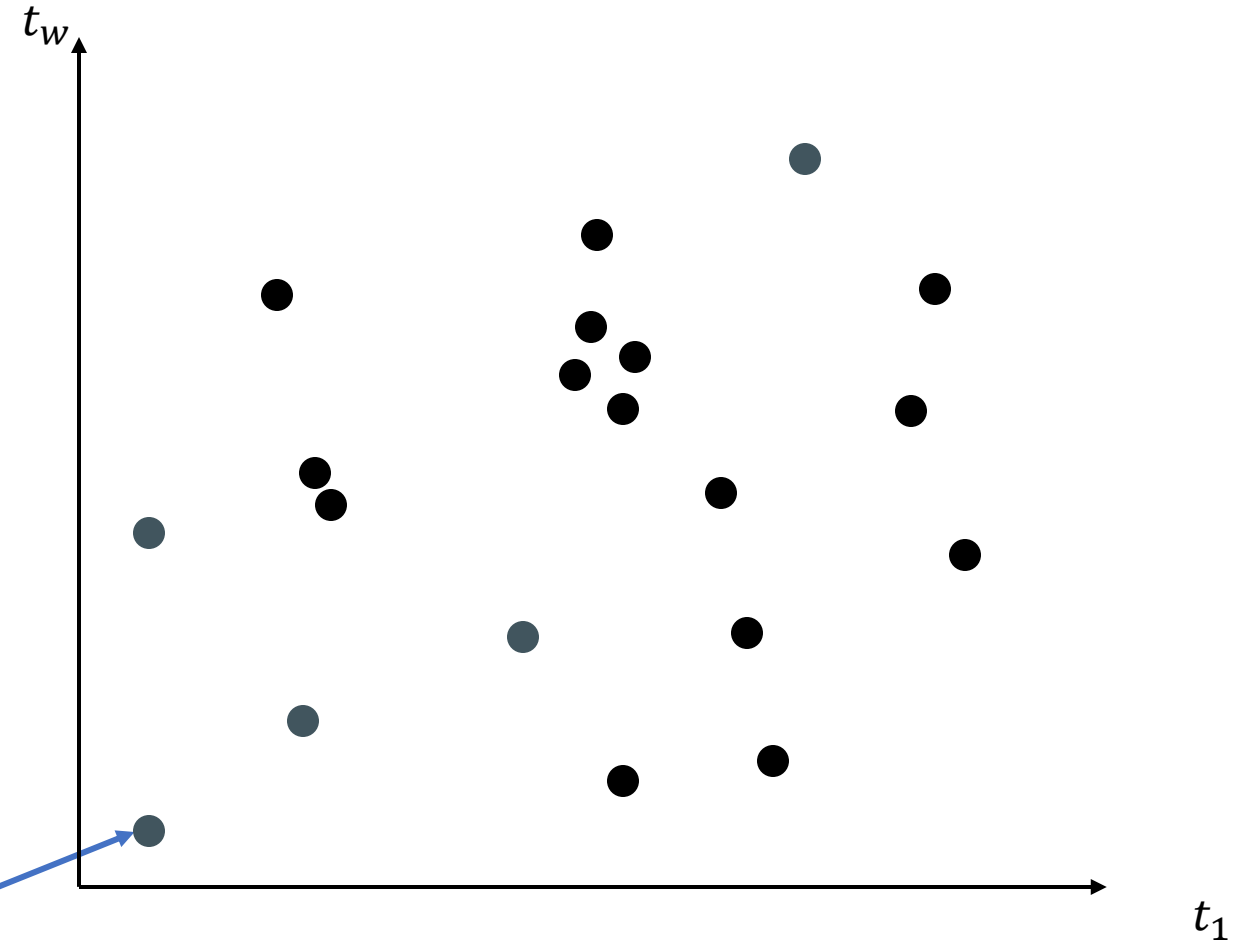


# Geometric Representation

We think of  $w$ -length subsequences of a time series as points in  $w$ -dim space

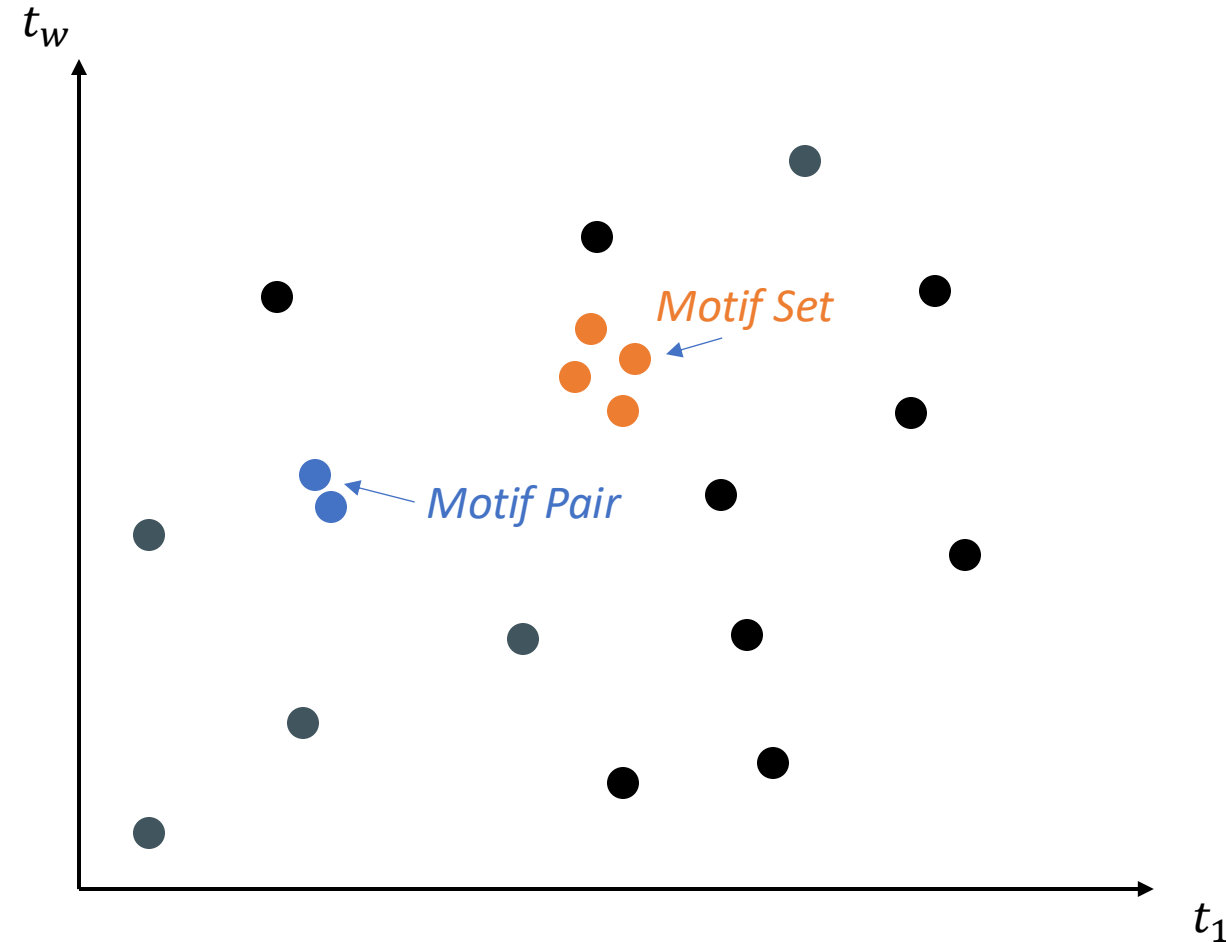


There are  $n-w+1$  subsequences



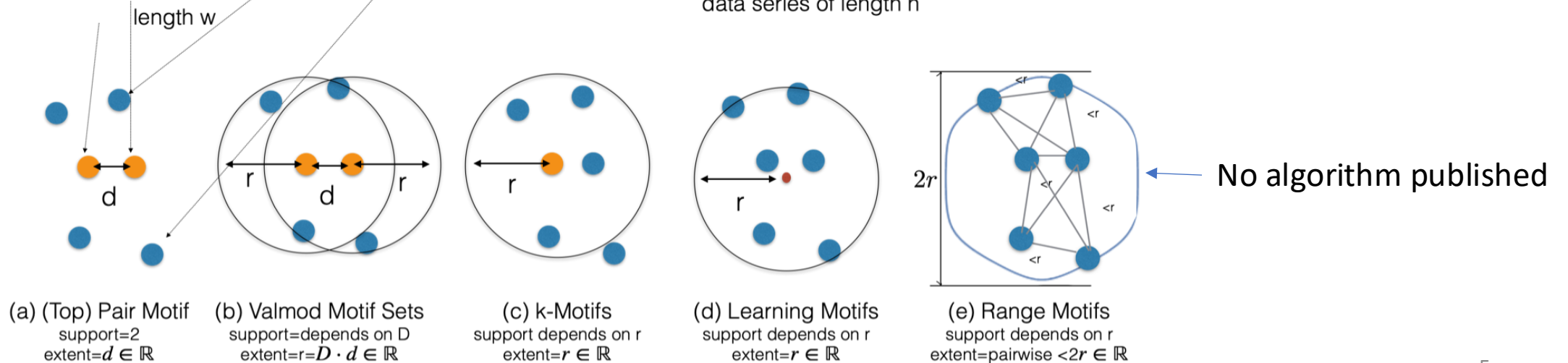
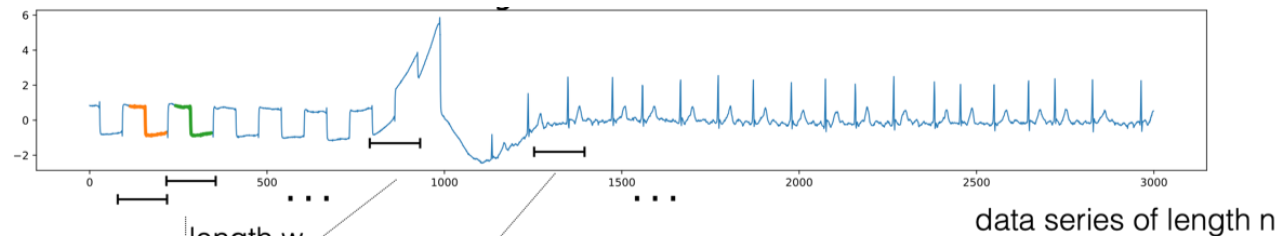
# Motifs

- **Pair Motif:** Two subsequences closest to each other – (smallest distance)
- But interesting motifs seldom occur in mere pairs
- **Motif Sets:** Frequent approximately repeated patterns of a time series



# SotA in Motif Set Discovery

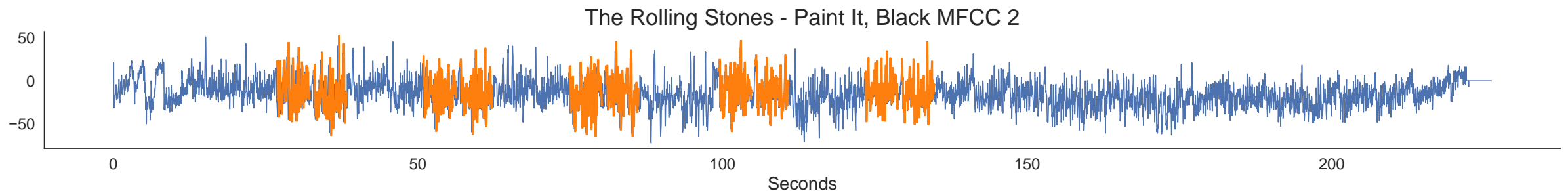
- Each definition can be mapped to a geometric shape (hypersphere)
- **The distance threshold  $r$  is the crucial input parameter**



# Rolling Stones – Paint it black

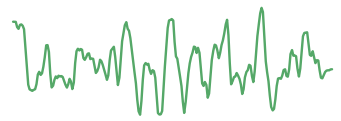
(Motivating Example)

*Can you spot, what is frequent?*



MFCC representation of the song: Rollings Stones, Paint it Black

I see the girls walk by,  
dressed in their summer clothes



0 2 4  
time

Rhythmical section (10x)



Are we confident, we found all occurrences?

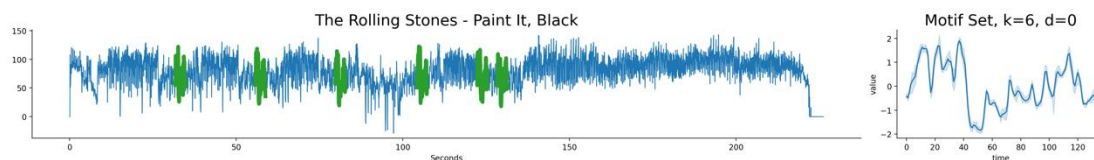
## 1.) SotA: Motif set found for small $r$



Motif Set with 6 occurrences of 3 sec

1. I have to turn my head...
2. Like a newborn baby...
3. It's not easy facing up...
4. My love will laugh with me...
5. I see the girls walk by...
6. I have to turn my head...

(similar rhythmical section)



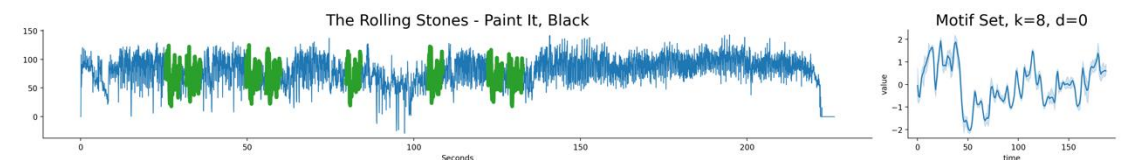
## 2.) SotA: Motif set found for larger $r$



Motif Set with 8 occurrences of 4.3 sec

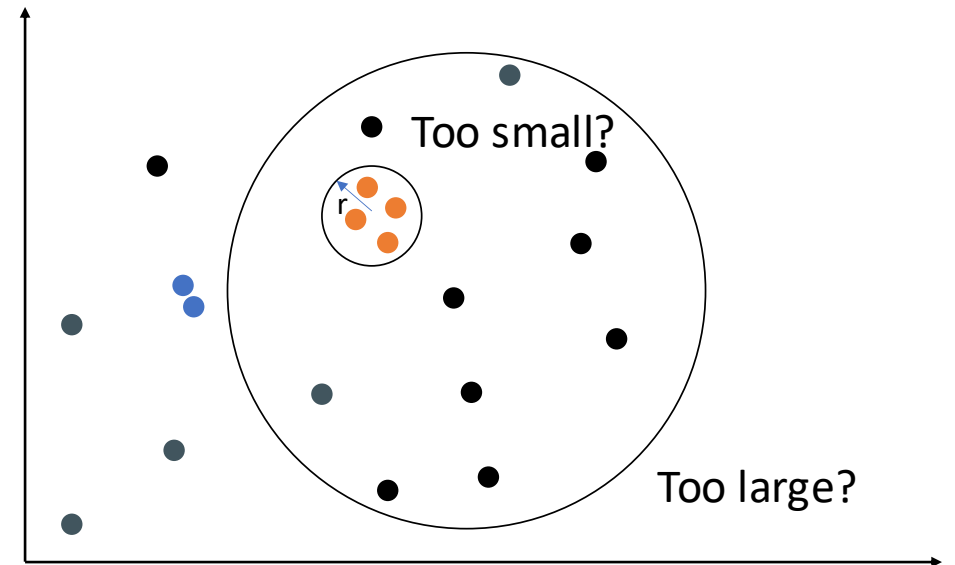
1. I see the girls walk by, dressed in their ...
2. I have to turn my head until my...
3. I see people turn their heads and quickly...
4. Like a newborn baby, it just happens...
5. It's not easy facing up when your whole...
6. My love will laugh with me before the...
7. I see the girls walk by, dressed in their...
8. I have to turn my head until my...

(similar rhythmical section)



# Distance 1/2

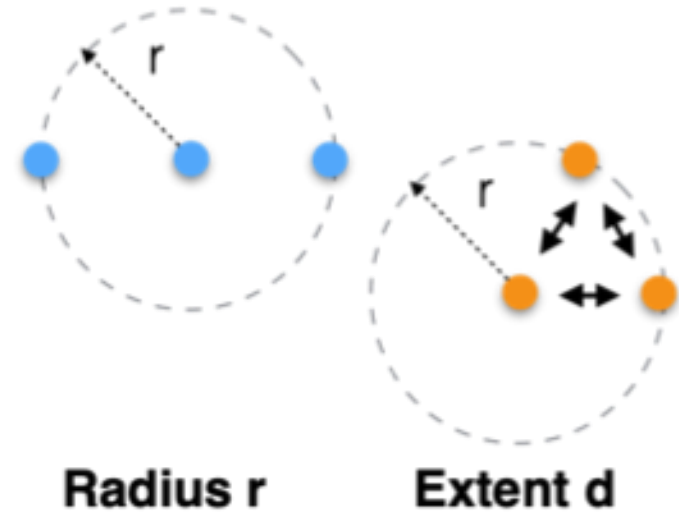
- Problem 1: The distance is a **real value**, and it is hard to estimate by a user
  - If  $r$  set too small, we miss occurrences
  - If  $r$  set too large, we find everything
- Similar problems exist with the **length of the motif**





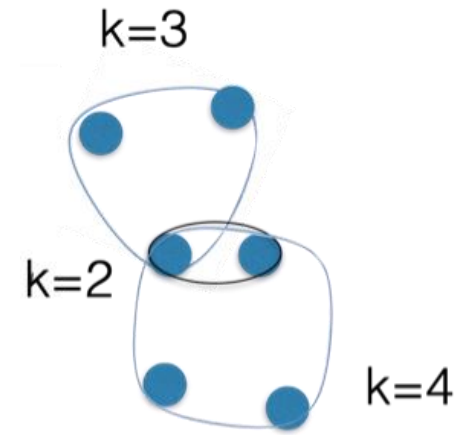
# Distance 2/2

- Problem 2: The hypersphere defined by SotA **overestimates the actual hypersphere** of the TOP motif set
- Radius is equal for both motifs of size 3
- But the extent (maximum over pairwise distances) is smaller for the orange motif set



# k-Motiflets

- k-Motiflets is a motif set discovery algorithm
- It finds **k-frequent motifs of smallest pairwise distance**
  - For  $k=2$  it is equal to pair motif discovery
- It has two input parameters:
  - **k: size of desired motif set**
  - w: length of subsequences
- **... and no radius/distance as input**



**(f) k-Motiflets**  
support= $k \in \mathbb{N}$   
extent depends on  $k$

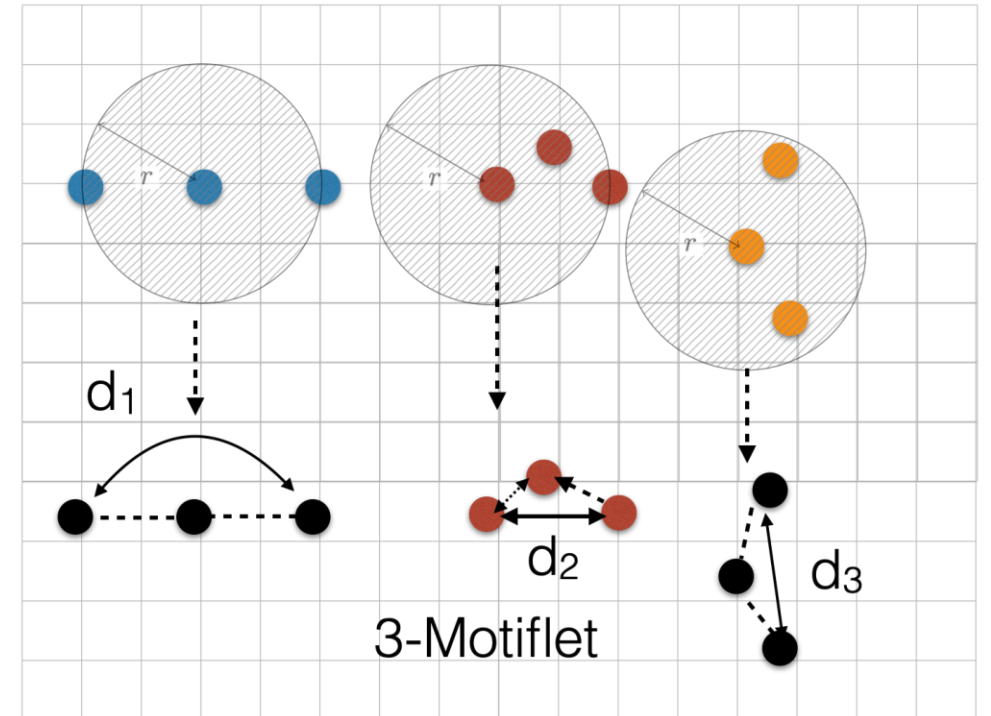
*Geometric Shape:  
Reuleaux polygon*

# Motiflets - Algorithm

- To find a k-Motiflet:
  1. Input  $k$  as parameter
  2. Perform a k-NN search around each of  $O(n)$  subsequences of the TS
  3. For each candidate, compute maximum over pairwise distances (“extent”)
  4. Minimize over all candidate sets

- Complexity:  $O(n^2k + k^2n)$

(1) (k-1)-NN query for each subsequence

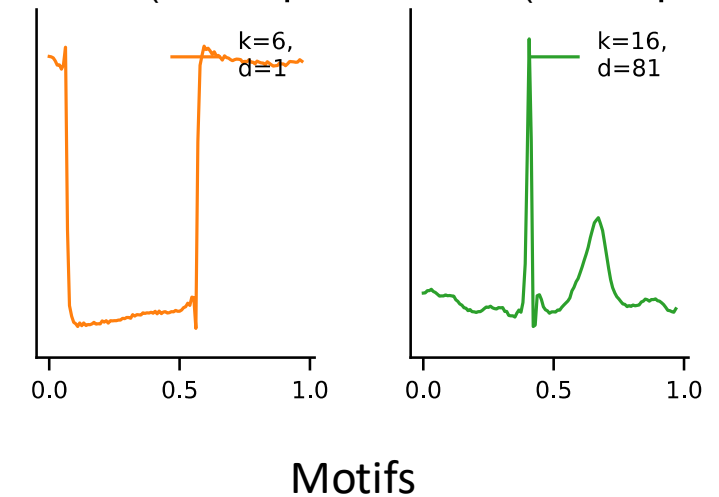
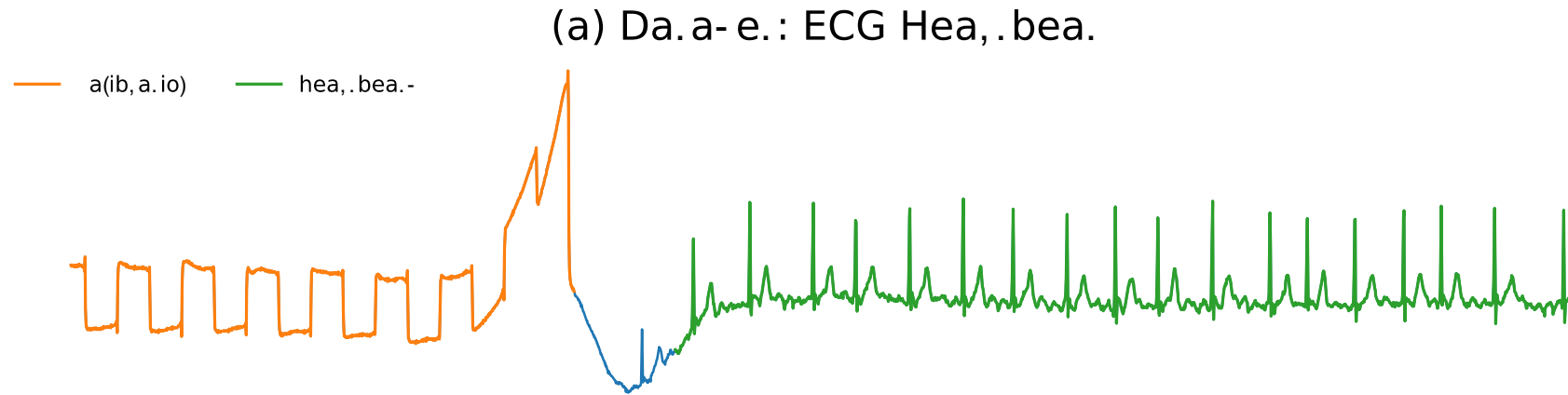


(2) Determine Pairwise Extent

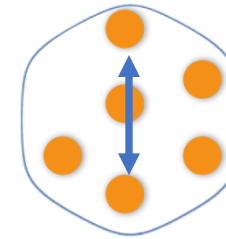
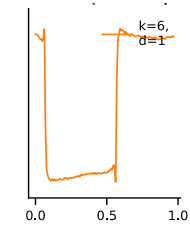
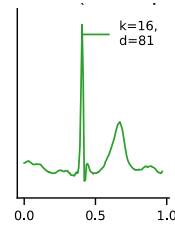
$d_2$  has smallest extent

# Finding representative k's

- Consider this ECG trace



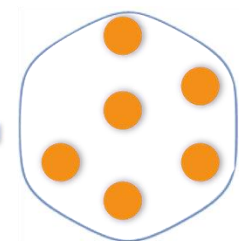
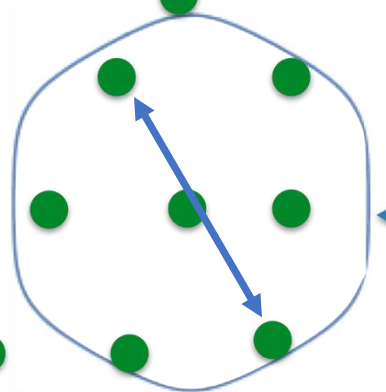
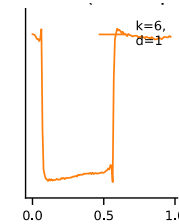
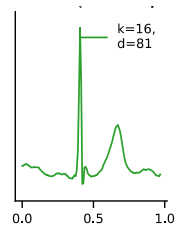
- It contains two motifs: 6 calibration signals and ~16 full ECG waves
- How to find the largest set of repeats of each motif?**



Up to  $k=6$ ,  
extent increases  
linearly/slightly

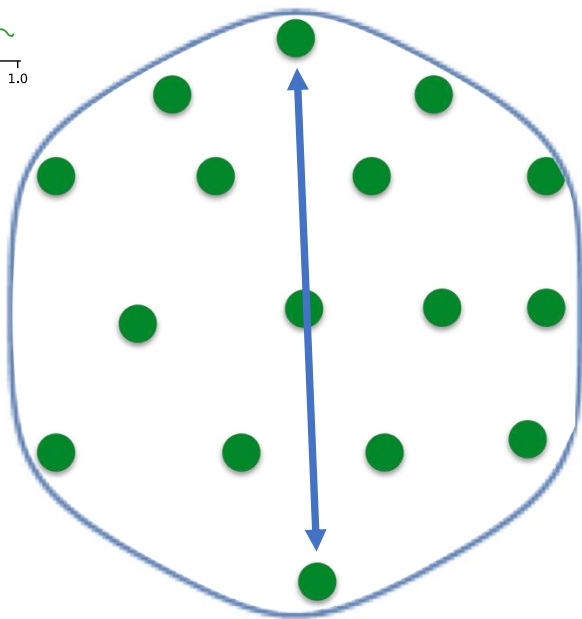
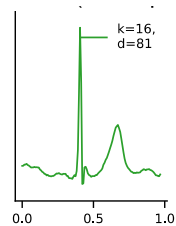
6-Motiflet with  
smallest extent

For  $k=7$ ,  
extent increases  
sharply

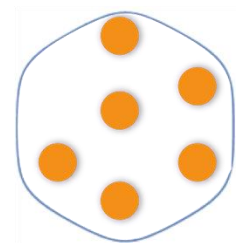
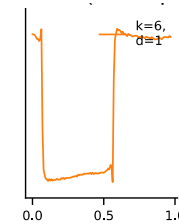


7-Motiflet with  
smallest extent

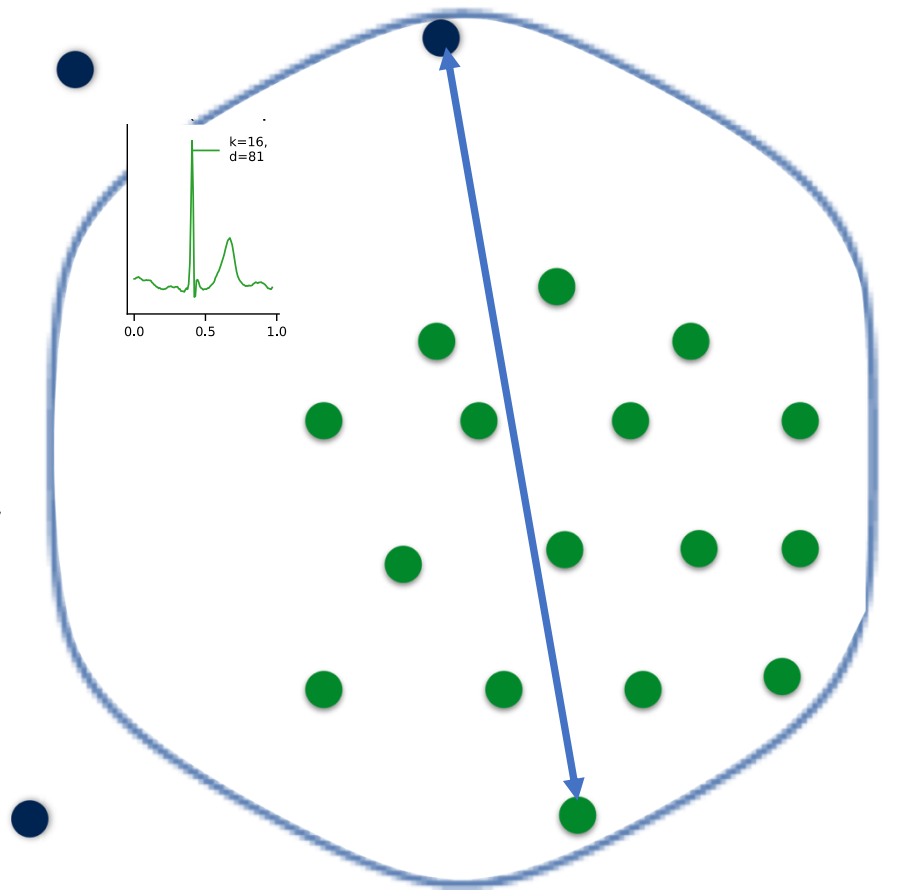
Up to  $k=16$ ,  
extent increases  
linearly/slightly



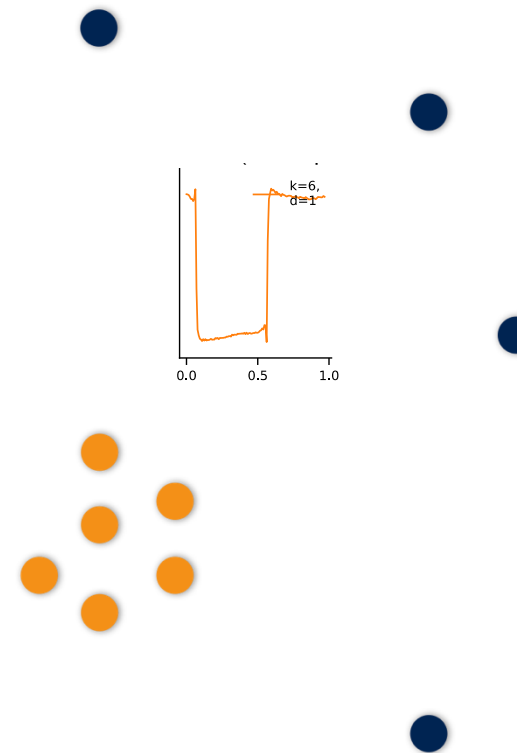
16-Motiflet with  
smallest extent



Once we increase  $k > 16$ ,  
extent increases sharply



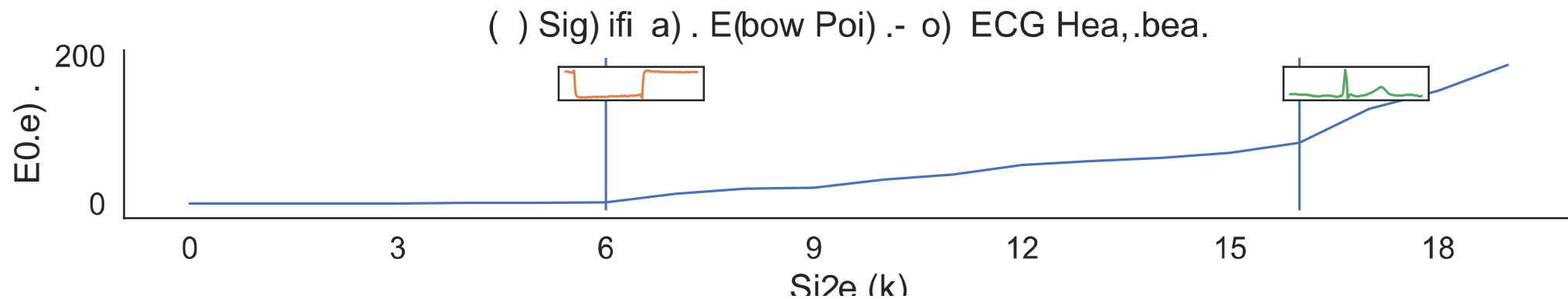
17-Motiflet with  
smallest extent





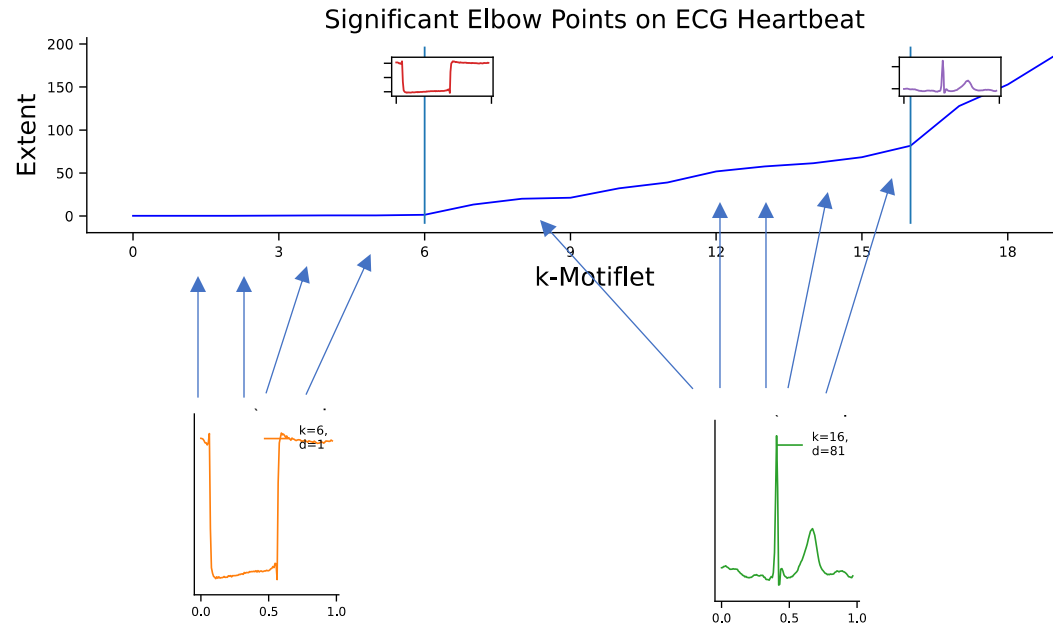
# Elbow Plots

- Plot the size  $k$  of the  $k$ -Motiflet against its extent

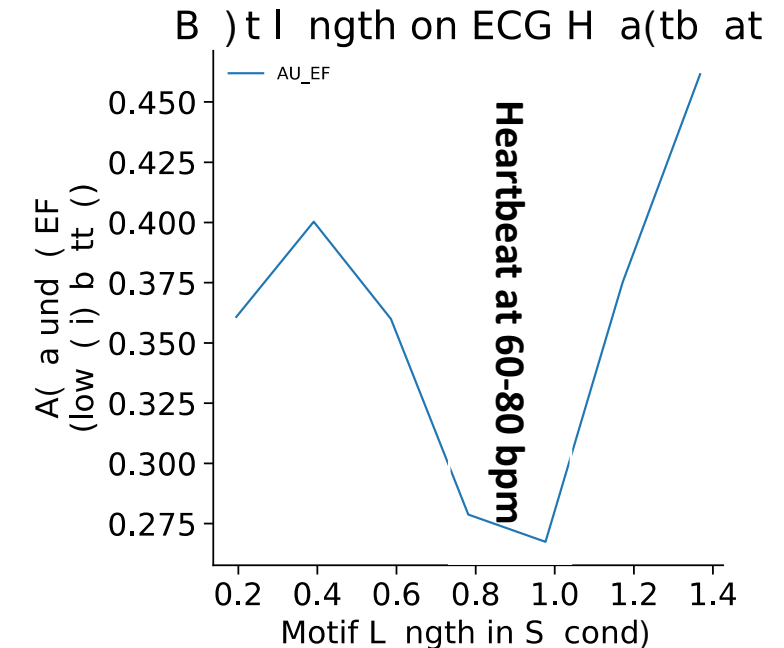


- Elbows** represent the largest meaningful motif set
- A sharp increase in extent indicates adding a dissimilar subsequence

# Finding Motif Lengths



- **Long flat stretches**: correspond to high numbers of repeats of the same motif
- Measured by **area under the elbow plot**



- For each length, we compute its area
- Minima correspond to long stretches

We first  
load the  
dataset

jupyter use\_cases\_paper Last Checkpoint: vor 2 Minuten (unsaved changes) Logout

File Edit View Insert Cell Kernel Widgets Help Trusted Python 3 (pykernel) O

Run Validate

## Dataset: ECG heartbeats from the LTAF database

### References

- [1] <https://academic.oup.com/europace/article/9/7/466/553888>

```
In [ ]: file = 'ecg-heartbeat-av.csv'
ds_name = "ECG Heartbeat"
series, df_gt = ml.read_dataset_with_index(file)
plot_dataset(file, series, ds_name=ds_name, ground_truth=df_gt)
```

### First, we learn the length(s) of the motifs from the data

```
In [ ]: ks = 20
length_range = np.arange(25,200,25)
motif_length = plot_motif_length_selection(
    ks, series, file,
    motif_length_range=length_range, ds_name=ds_name)
print("Found motif length", motif_length)
```

### Finally, we run k-Motiflets with the found motif length

```
In [ ]: dists, candidates, elbow_points = plot_elbow(
    ks, series, file,
    ds_name=ds_name,
    motif_length=motif_length,
    plot_elbows=True,
    ground_truth=df_gt)
```

## Dataset: Muscle Activation Dataset

### References

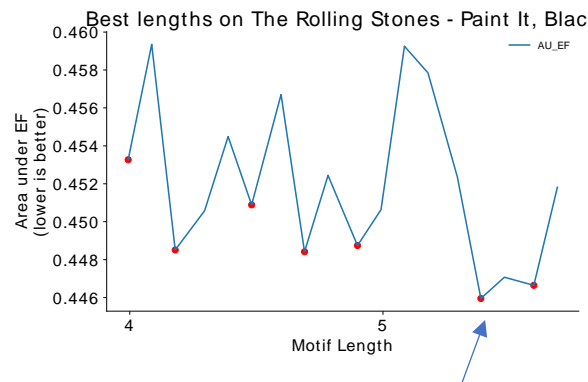
- [1] <https://link.springer.com/content/pdf/10.1007/s10618-007-0070-1.pdf>
- [2] <http://www.cs.ucr.edu/~eamonn/SAX/SAX.html>

```
In [ ]: file = 'muscle_activation.csv'
ds_name = "Muscle Activation"

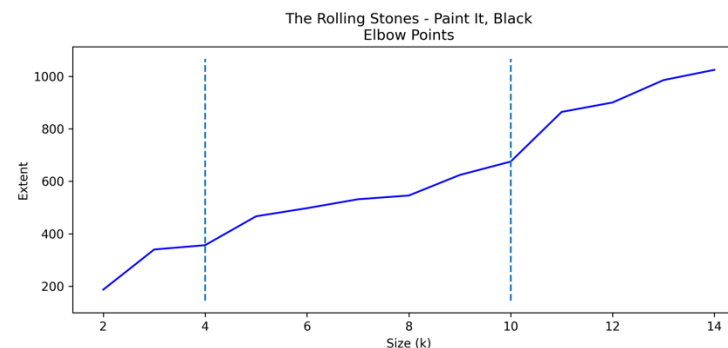
series, df_gt = ml.read_dataset_with_index(file)
plot_dataset(file, series, ds_name=ds_name, ground_truth=df_gt)
```

# Rolling Stones – Paint it black (Motivating Example)

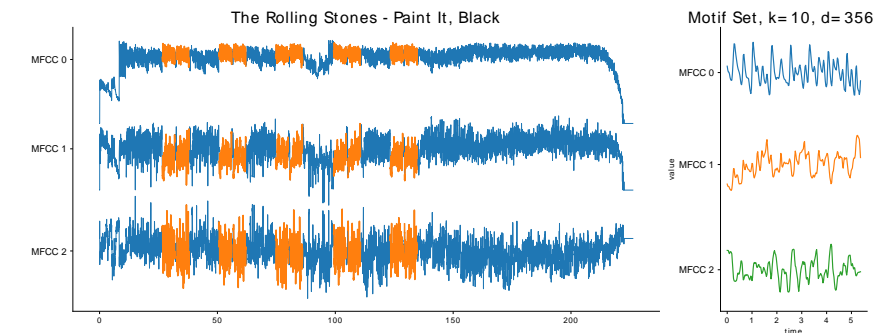
- Human voice is represented by low frequencies
  - we use the first MFCCs from the wave file
  - and search for k-Motiflets
- We found all 10 repeats of length 5.4 seconds



Best length ~5.4 sec



Found elbows at  
k=4 and k=10



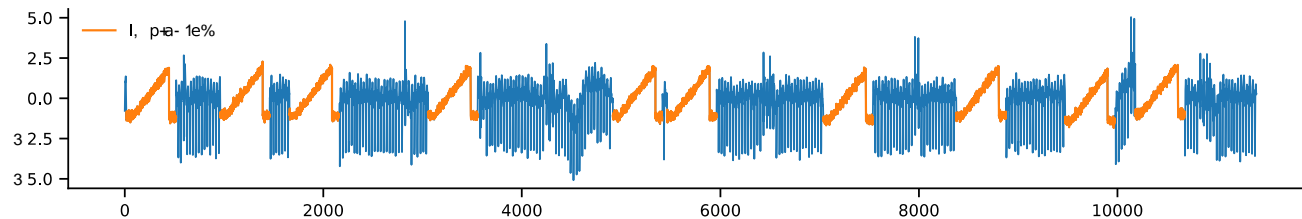
Found 10-Motiflet:

I see the girls walk by  
Dressed in their summer clothes  
... (10x)

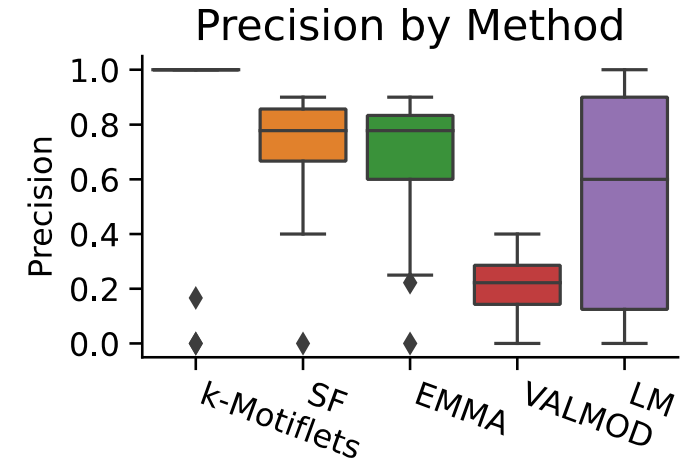


# Motiflets find better Motifs

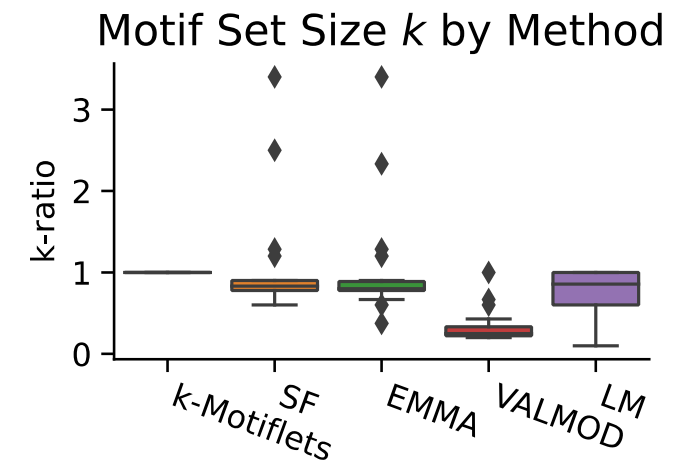
- We created a semi-synthetic benchmark with 25 ts with implanted motif sets
  - Use gold standard parameters as input to each method
  - (i.e.  $k$  for k-Motiflets or the radius for SoTA)



Recall: hypersphere defined by SotA **overestimates the actual hypersphere**

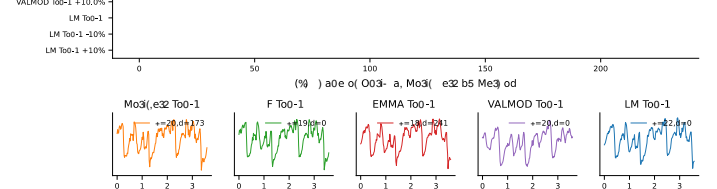
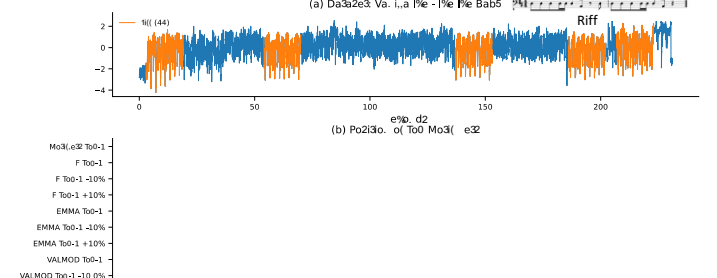
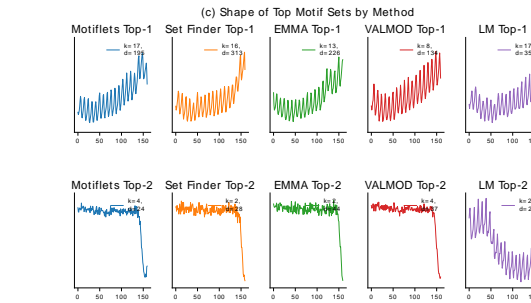
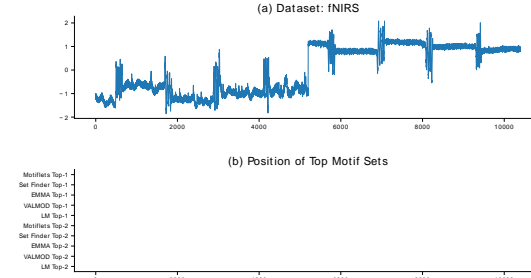
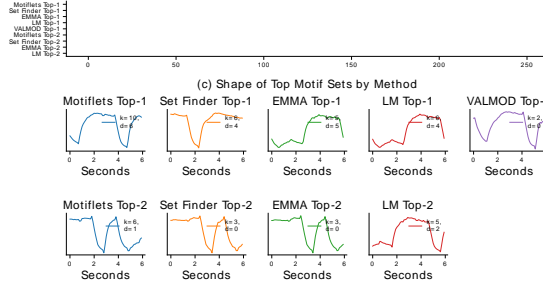
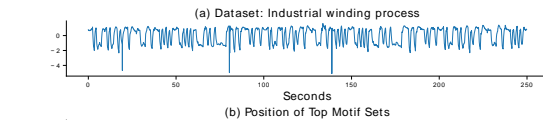
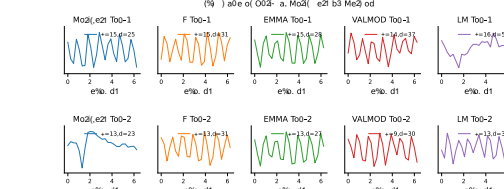
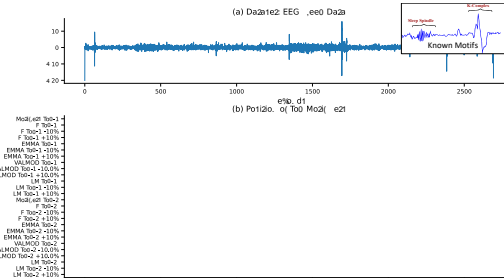
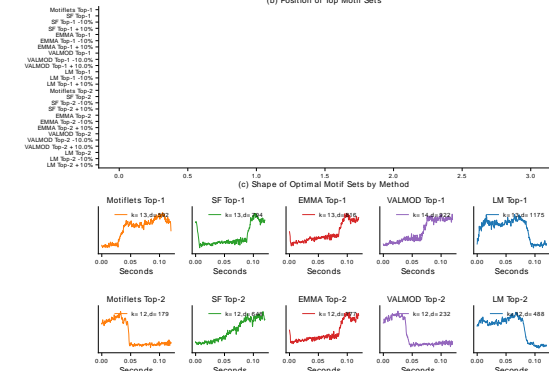
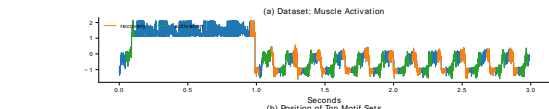
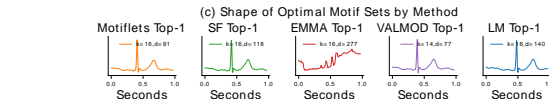
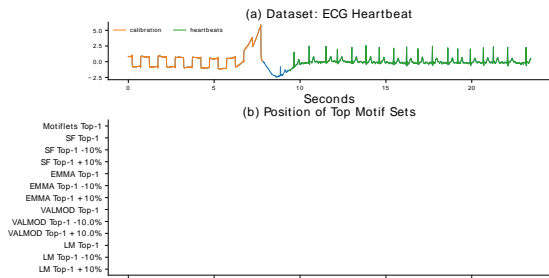


Motiflets outperform SoTA by a large margin



SoTA often finds too small or too large motif sets

# Many Other Real-World Use-Cases



Please see  
the paper and supporting website

# Conclusion



**Source  
Codes**

- Many different motif set discovery algorithms exist
  - As central parameters they all take **length  $w$  and distance  $r$**
- We propose  $k$ -Motiflets as the set of exactly  $k$  occurrences of a motif of length  $w$ 
  - We argue that the value of  $k$  is much easier to set than the distance  $r$
  - We introduce tools to automatically determine meaningful input values
  - Motiflets produce better motifs than all competitors at lower runtimes



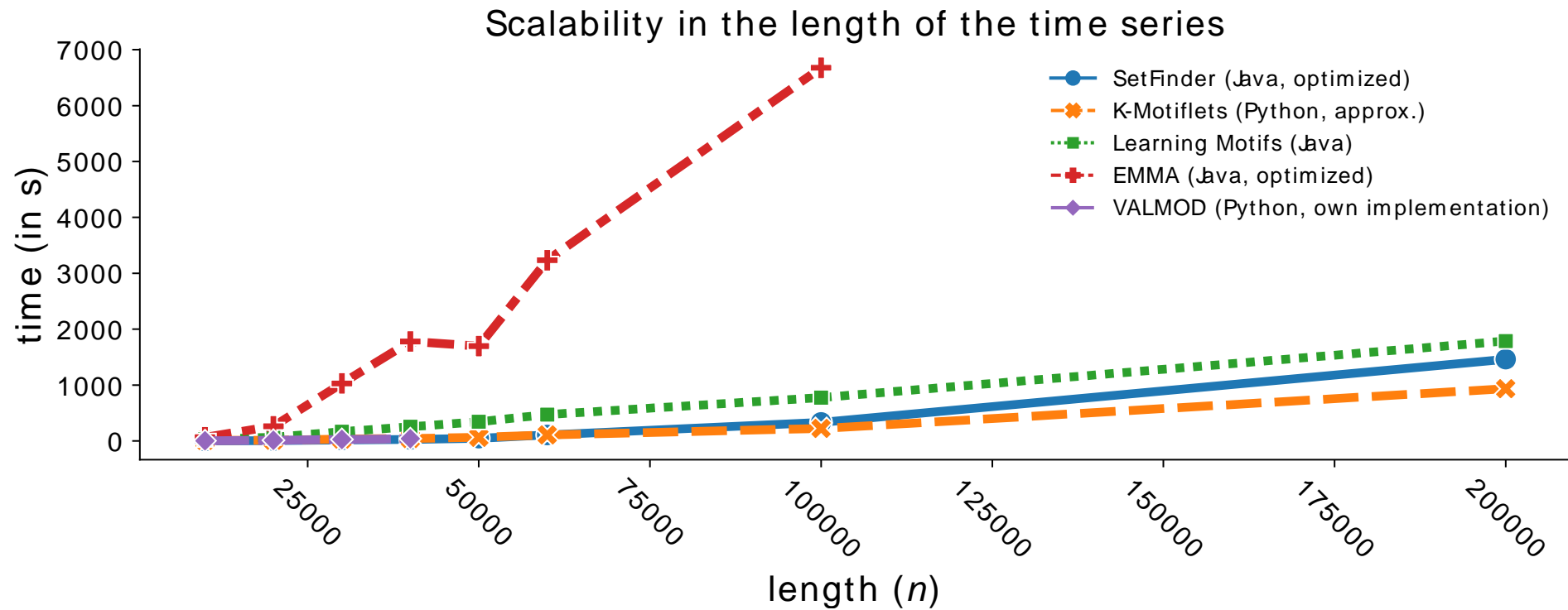
**Source  
Codes**

Thank you!  
Questions?



# Backup Slides

# Backup – Scalability



# Backup – Rolling Stones – Paint it black



- |    |  |    |   |
|----|--|----|---|
| B1 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>I see a red door<br/>And I want it painted black<br/>No colors anymore<br/>I want them to turn black</li> </ul>                                 | D1 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>No more will my green sea<br/>Go turn a deeper blue<br/>I could not foresee this thing<br/>Happening to you</li> </ul>   |
| C1 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>I see the girls walk by (1)<br/>Dressed in their summer clothes<br/>I have to turn my head (2)<br/>Until my darkness goes</li> </ul>            | C4 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>If I look hard enough (7)<br/>Into the setting sun<br/>My love will laugh with me (8)<br/>Before the morning comes</li> </ul>  |
| B2 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>I see a line of cars<br/>And they're all painted black<br/>With flowers and my love<br/>Both never to come back</li> </ul>                      | B1 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>I see a red door<br/>And I want it painted black<br/>No colors anymore<br/>I want them to turn black</li> </ul>  |
| C2 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>I've seen people turn their heads (3)<br/>And quickly look away<br/>Like a newborn baby (4)<br/>It just happens everyday</li> </ul>             | C1 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>I see the girls walk by (9)<br/>Dressed in their summer clothes<br/>I have to turn my head (10)<br/>Until my darkness goes</li> </ul>  |
| B3 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>I look inside myself<br/>And see my heart is black<br/>I see my red door<br/>I must have it painted black</li> </ul>                            | F  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>I wanna see it painted<br/>Painted black<br/>Black as night<br/>Black as coal<br/>I wanna see the sun<br/>Blotted out from the sky<br/>I wanna see it painted, painted, painted<br/>Painted black, yeah</li> </ul> |
| C3 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Maybe then, I'll fade away (5)<br/>And not have to face the facts<br/>It's not easy facing up (6)<br/>When your whole world is black</li> </ul> |    |   |

The instruments and the style are all played in the same manner for the B and C parts.

In the verse D1, the instrumentation changes slightly with all the other instruments dropping out except for the sitar.

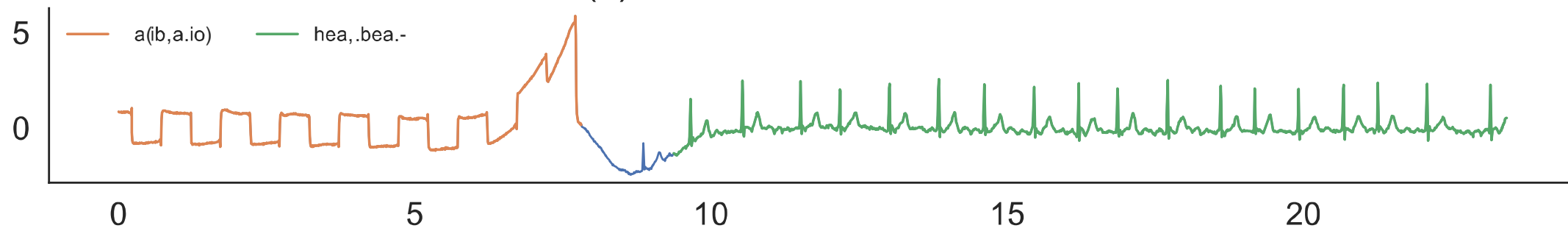
# Backup – 10-Motiflet Found

- |    |  |    |   |
|----|--|----|---|
| B1 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>I see a red door<br/>And I want it painted black<br/>No colors anymore<br/>I want them to turn black</li></ul>                                 | D1 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>No more will my green sea<br/>Go turn a deeper blue<br/>I could not foresee this thing<br/>Happening to you</li></ul>   |
| C1 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>I see the girls walk by (1)<br/>Dressed in their summer clothes<br/>I have to turn my head (2)<br/>Until my darkness goes</li></ul>            | C4 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>If I look hard enough (7)<br/>Into the setting sun<br/>My love will laugh with me (8)<br/>Before the morning comes</li></ul>  |
| B2 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>I see a line of cars<br/>And they're all painted black<br/>With flowers and my love<br/>Both never to come back</li></ul>                      | B1 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>I see a red door<br/>And I want it painted black<br/>No colors anymore<br/>I want them to turn black</li></ul>  |
| C2 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>I've seen people turn their heads (3)<br/>And quickly look away<br/>Like a newborn baby (4)<br/>It just happens everyday</li></ul>             | C1 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>I see the girls walk by (9)<br/>Dressed in their summer clothes<br/>I have to turn my head (10)<br/>Until my darkness goes</li></ul>  |
| B3 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>I look inside myself<br/>And see my heart is black<br/>I see my red door<br/>I must have it painted black</li></ul>                            | F  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>I wanna see it painted<br/>Painted black<br/>Black as night<br/>Black as coal<br/>I wanna see the sun<br/>Blotted out from the sky<br/>I wanna see it painted, painted, painted<br/>Painted black, yeah</li></ul> |
| C3 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Maybe then, I'll fade away (5)<br/>And not have to face the facts<br/>It's not easy facing up (6)<br/>When your whole world is black</li></ul> |    |   |

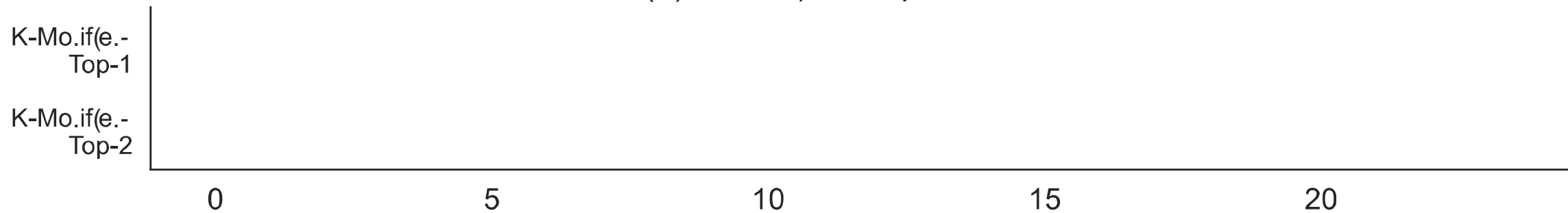
The instruments and the style are all played in the same manner for the B and C parts.

In the verse D1, the instrumentation changes slightly with all the other instruments dropping out except for the sitar.

(a) Da.a-e.: ECG Hea,.bea.



(b) Po-i.io) of Top Mo.if Se.-



( ) Sig) ifi a) . E(bow Poi) .- o) ECG Hea,.bea.

