

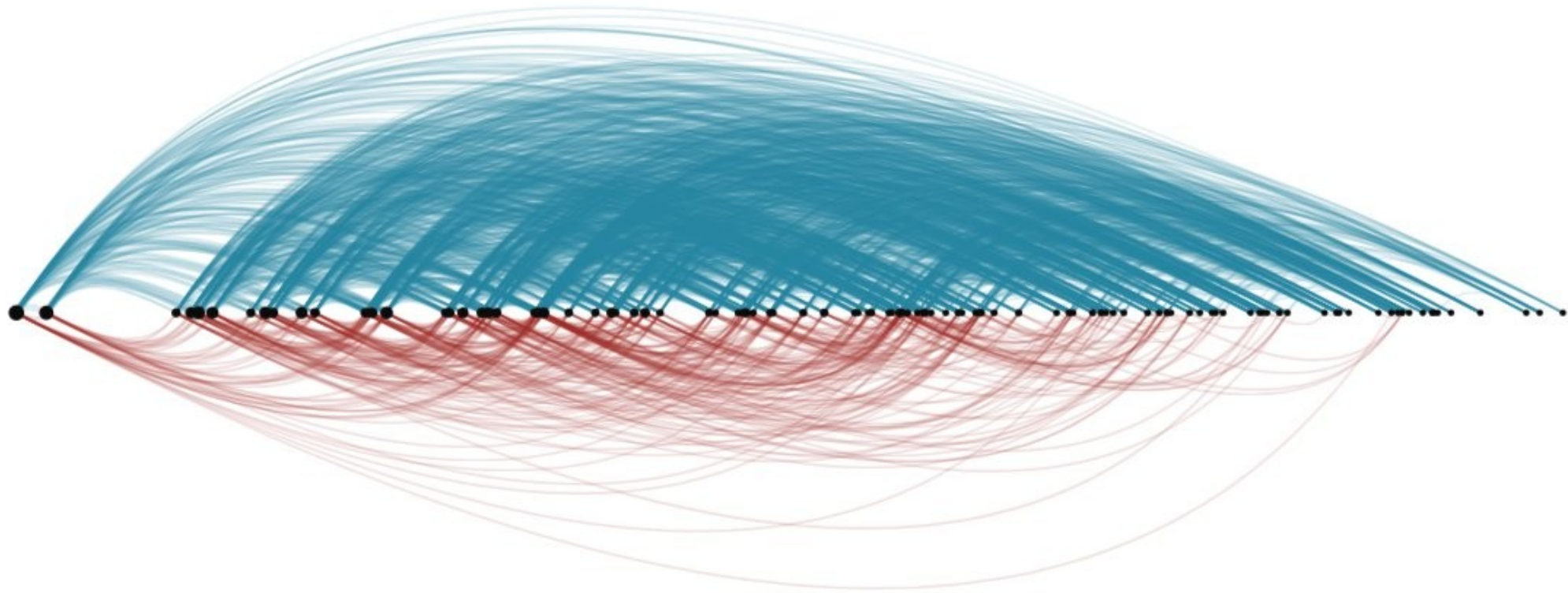
# Hierarchical community structure in networks

Pre-prints available

[arXiv:2009.07196](https://arxiv.org/abs/2009.07196)

[arXiv:2009.07525](https://arxiv.org/abs/2009.07525)

Leto Peel  
Maastricht University  
@PiratePeel



Hierarchies?

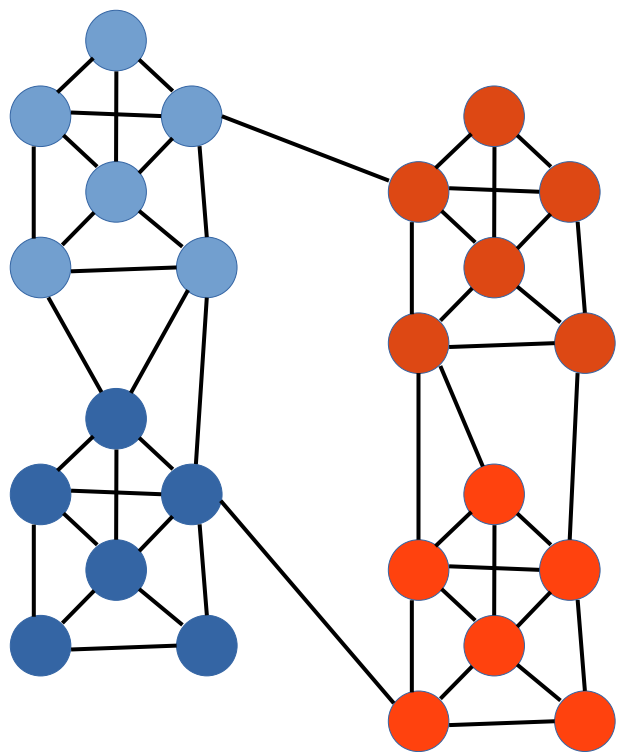


These are not the hierarchies  
we are looking for!

Hierarchies?



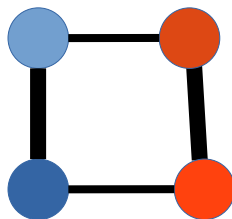
# Building the hierarchy



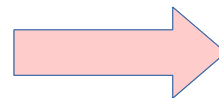
Observed network



infer  
communities



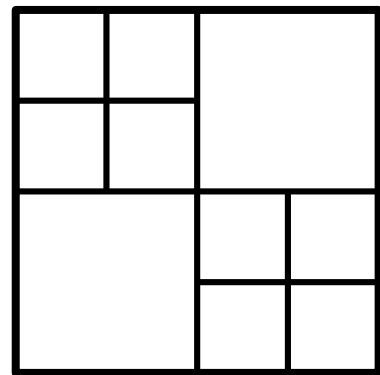
Multigraph



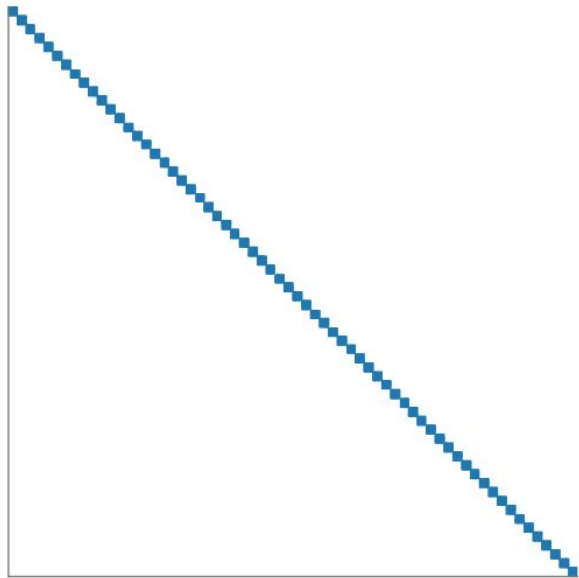
infer  
communities



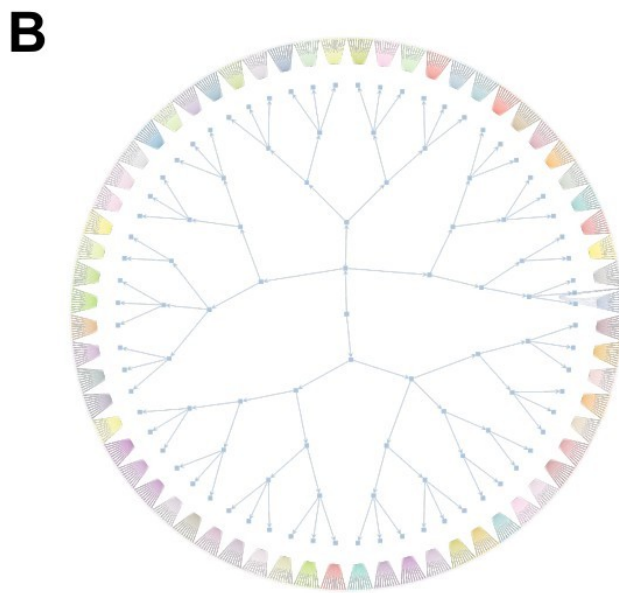
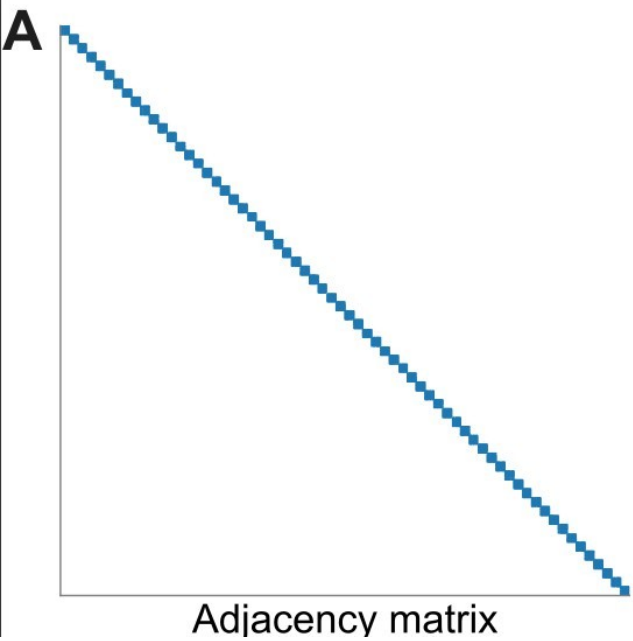
Multigraph

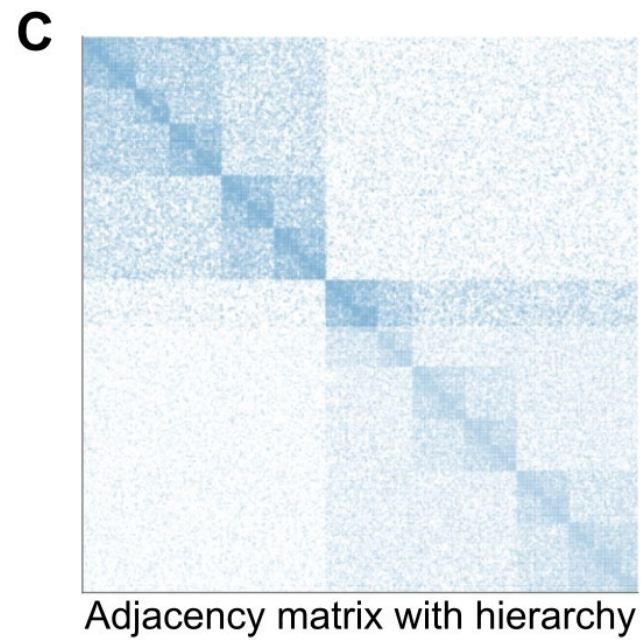
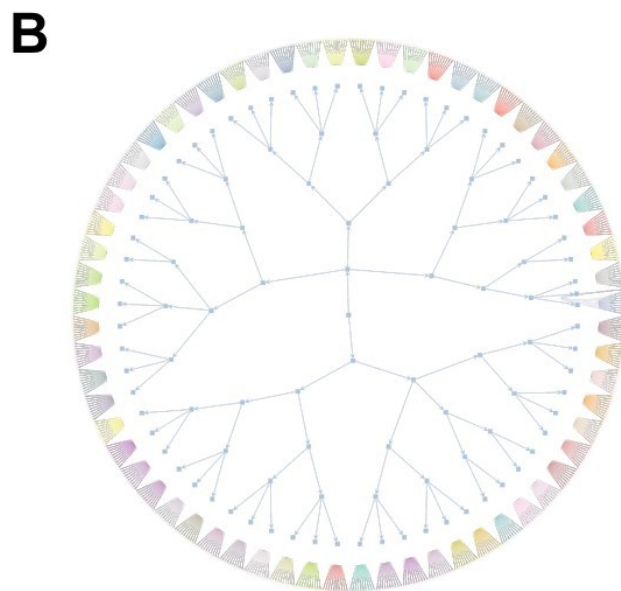
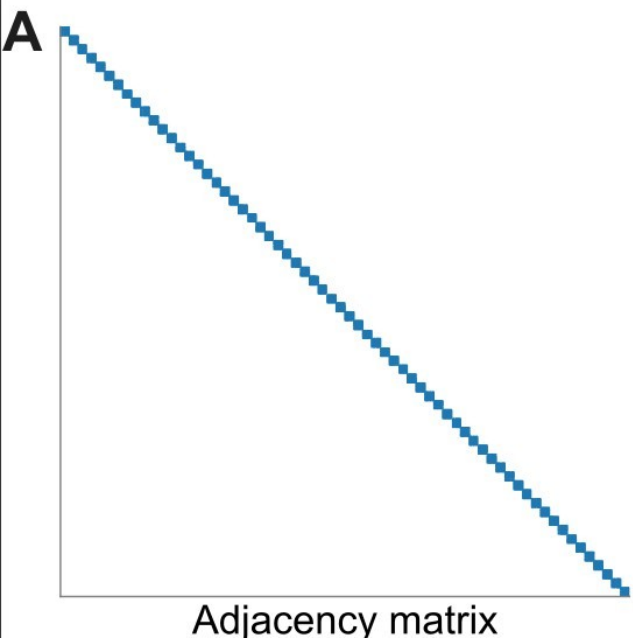


**A**



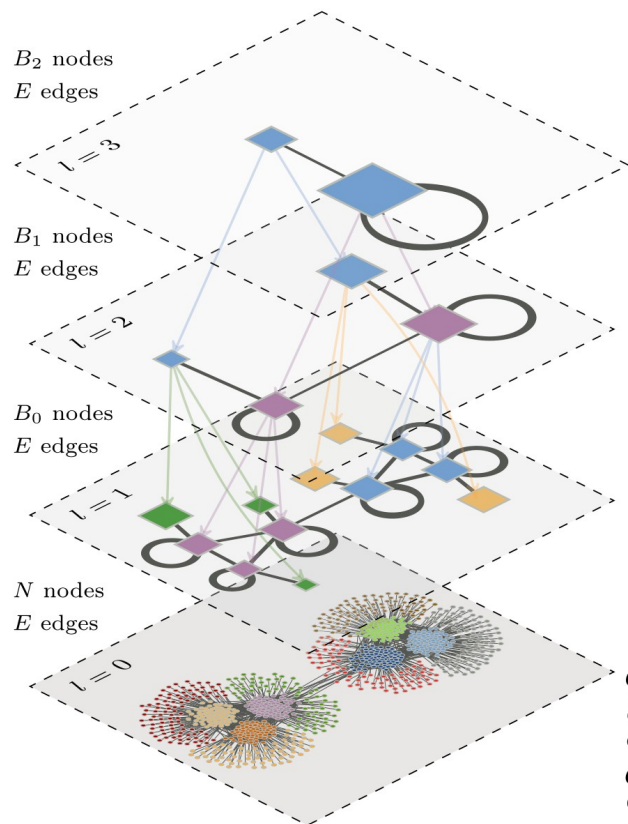
Adjacency matrix



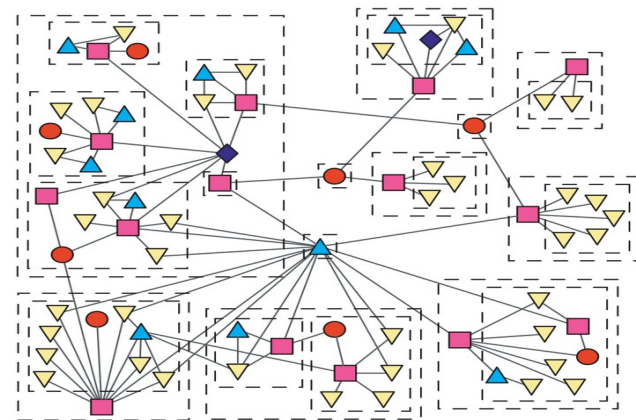
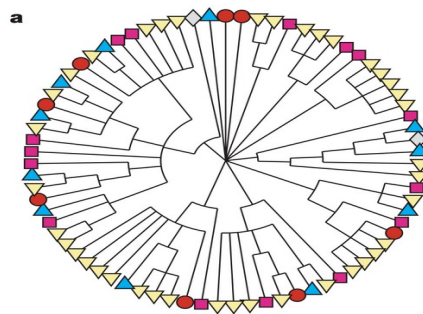




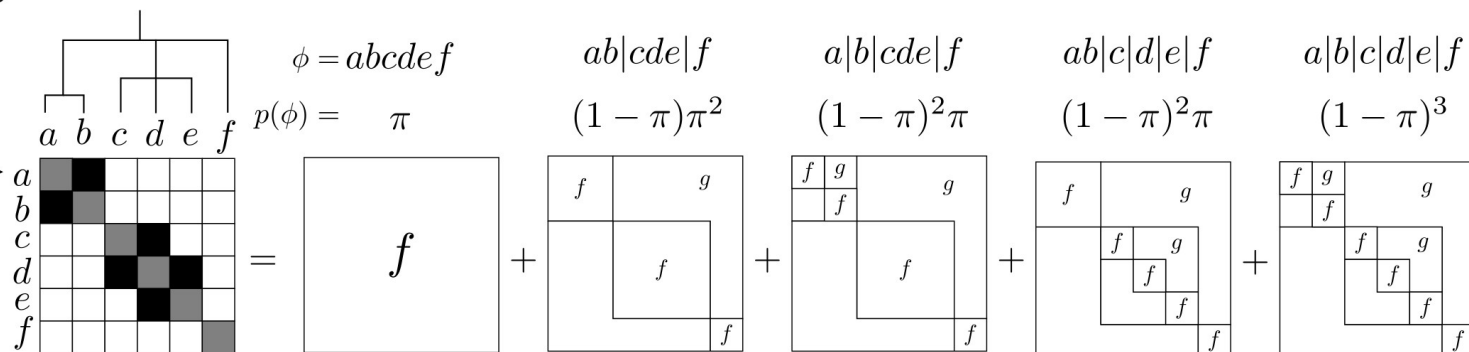
# Inferring hierarchical structure



[Peixoto 2014]



[Clauset, Moore & Newman 2008]



[Blundell & Teh 2013]



There's no free lunch!

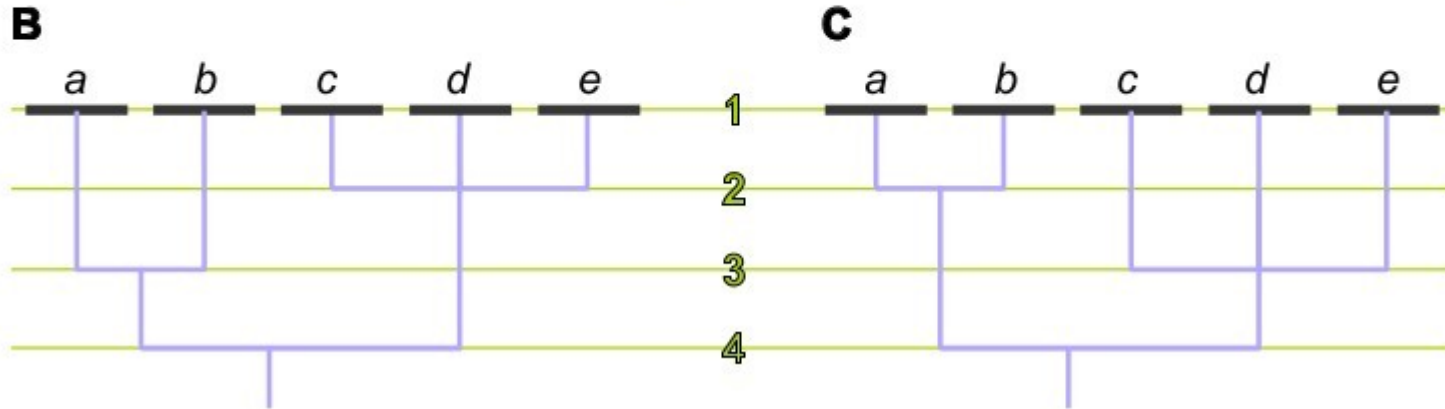
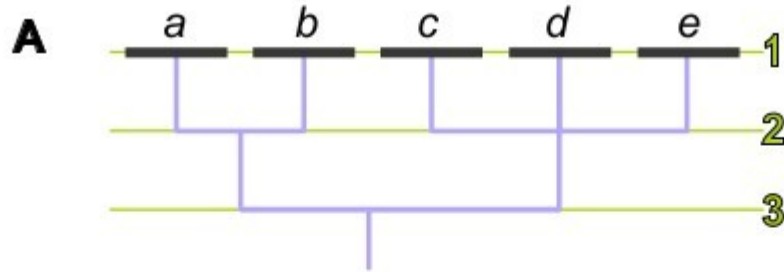


(especially true for virtual conferences!)

When are hierarchies identifiable?

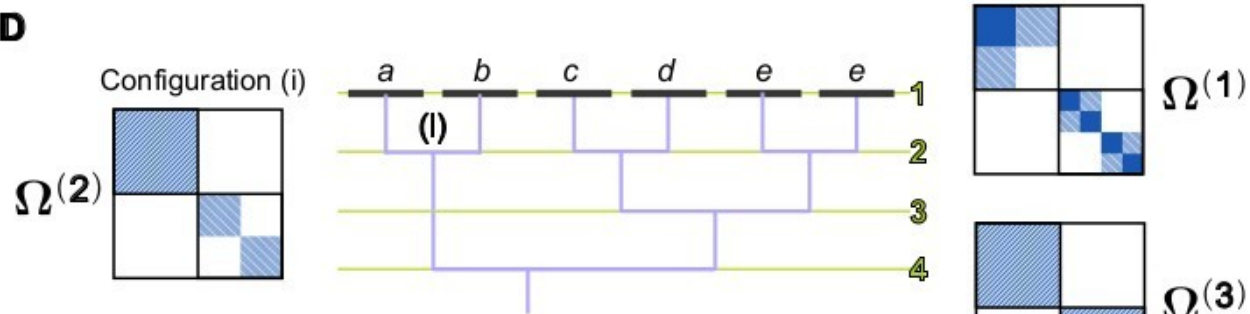
Assigning branches to levels

# Assigning branches to levels

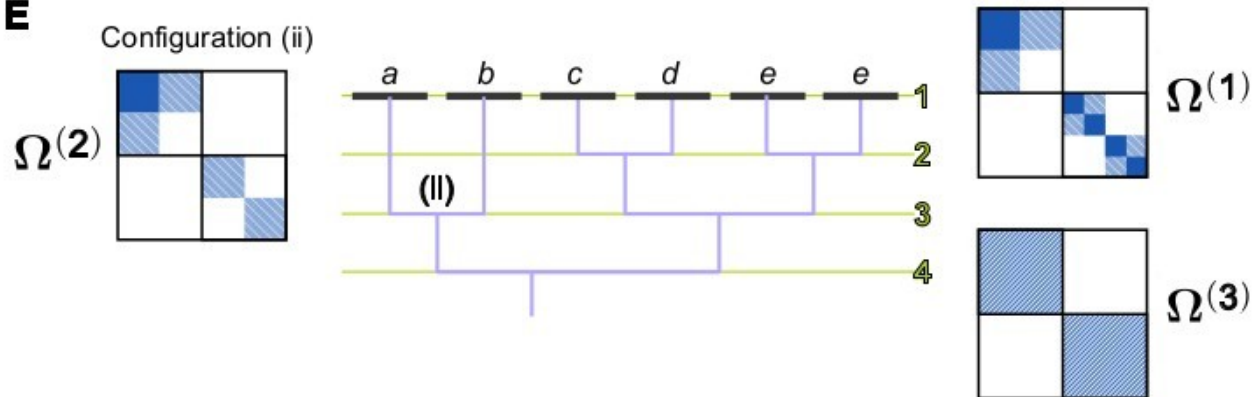


# Assigning branches to levels

**D**



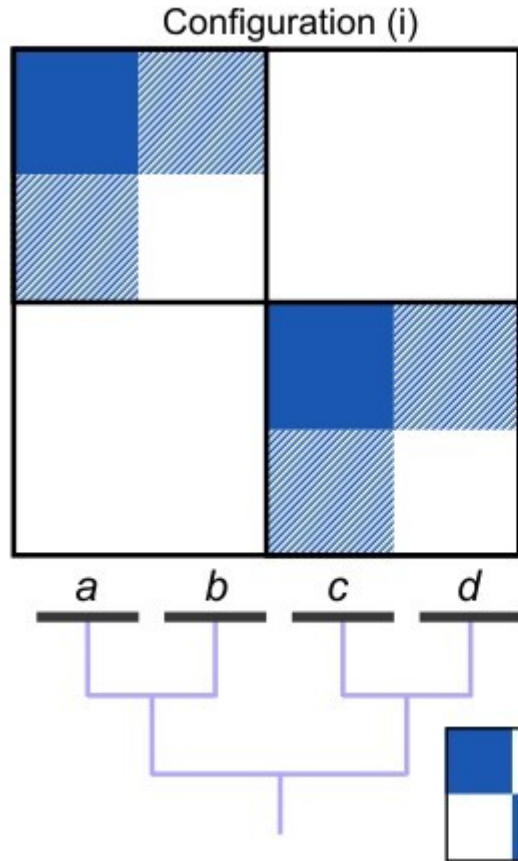
**E**



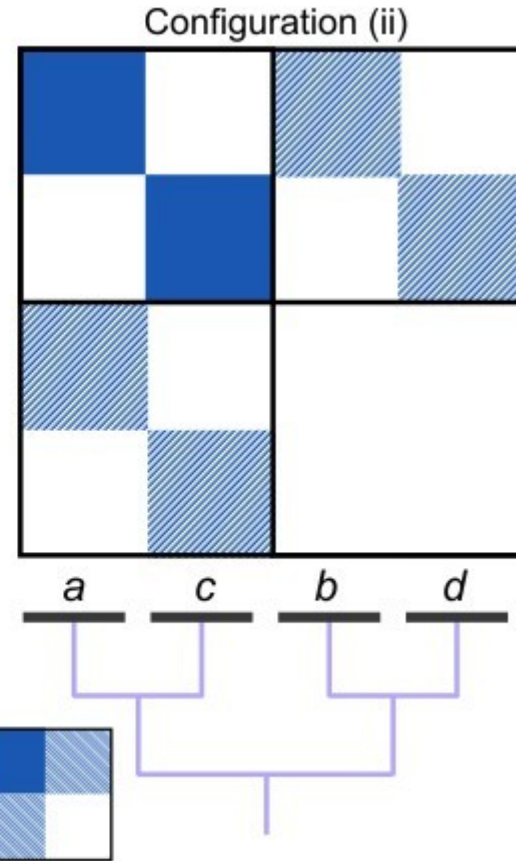
Order of agglomeration

# Order of agglomeration

**A**



Reordering  
 $\Omega^{(1)}$

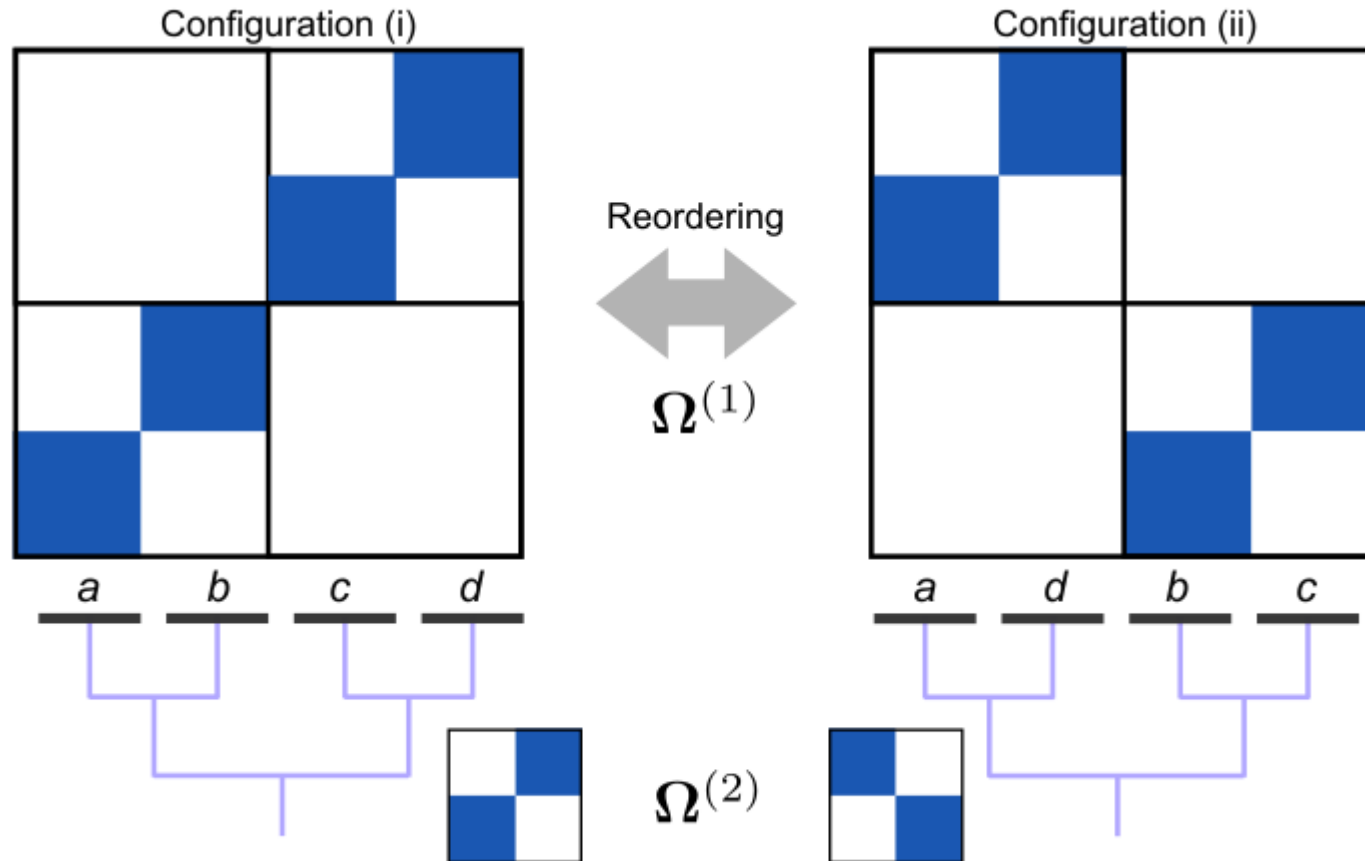


$\Omega^{(2)}$



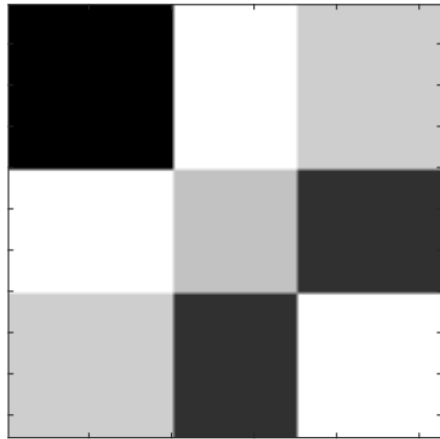
# Order of agglomeration

**B**

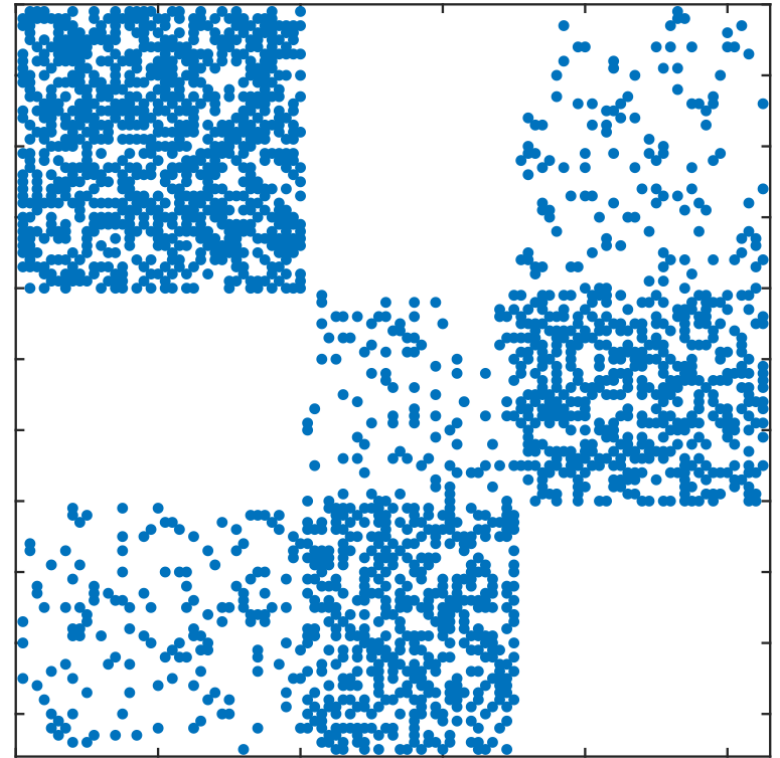
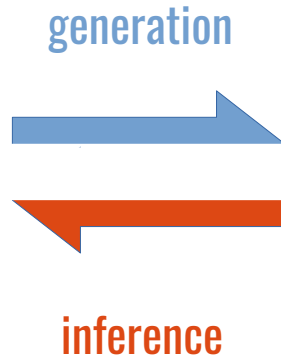


Number of levels

# The Stochastic Blockmodel (SBM)



Mixing Matrix



Adjacency Matrix

# Spectral methods of inference

Adjacency matrix [Donath and Hoffmann 1972]

Laplacian [Fiedler 1973]

Modularity Matrix -- e.g., [Newman 2006], [Nadakuditi & Newman 2012]

Non-Backtracking matrix --- e.g., [Krzakala et al 2013]

Regularized spectral clustering --- e.g., [Rohe 2011], [Le et al 2016]

Bethe Hessian --- [Saade et al. 2014], [Le & Levina 2015]

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The logo consists of the letters "SBM" in a bold, white, sans-serif font, centered within a solid blue rectangular background.

structural  
equivalence\*

$$A = H\Theta H^\top$$

*probabilistic  
relaxation* →

stochastic  
equivalence\*

$$\mathbb{E}[A] = H\Omega H^\top$$

↓ *generalization*

equitable  
partition (EP)

$$AH = HA^\pi$$

*probabilistic  
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stochastic equitable  
partition (sEP)

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external equitable  
partition (EEP)

$$LH = HL^\pi$$

*probabilistic  
relaxation* →

stochastic external  
equitable partition (sEEP)

$$\mathbb{E}[L]H = H\mathbb{E}[L]^\pi$$

*this paper*

structural  
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SBM

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*this paper*



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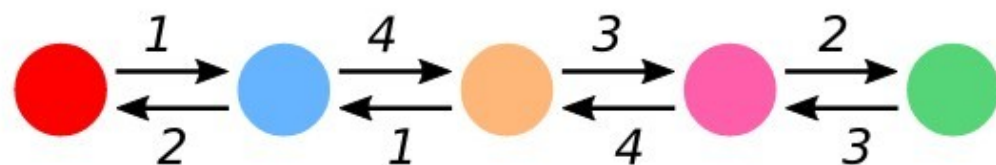
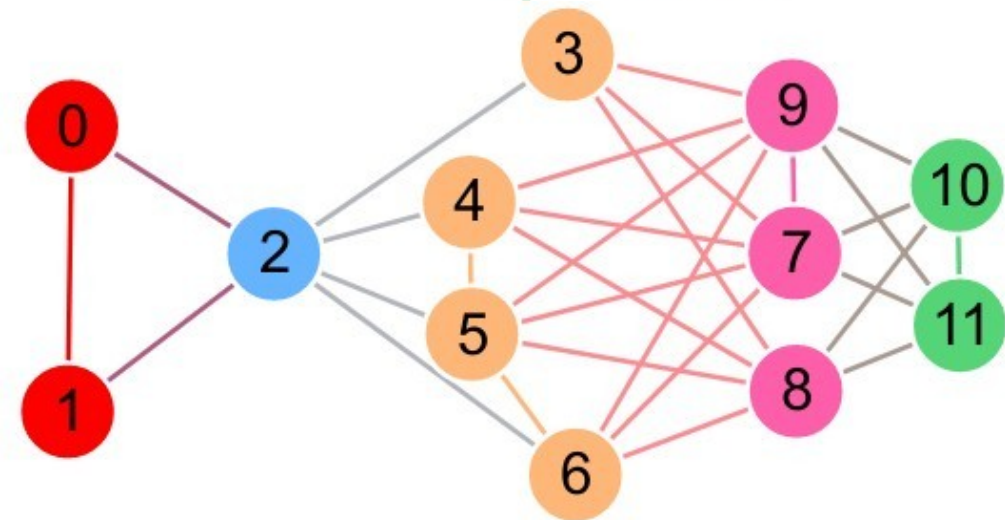
probabilistic  
relaxation

stochastic  
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$$\mathbb{E}[A] = H\Omega H^\top$$

generalization

generalization



external equitable  
partition (EEP)

$$LH = HL^\pi$$

probabilistic  
relaxation

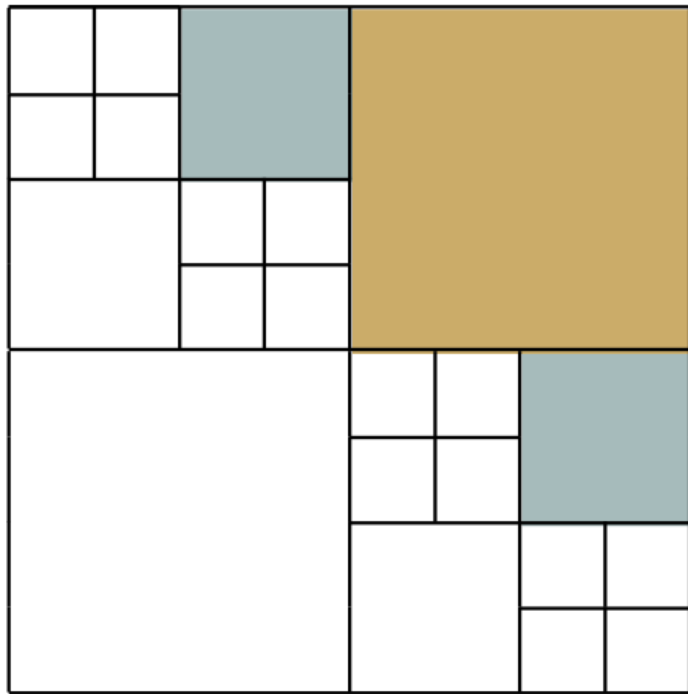
stochastic external  
equitable partition (sEEP)

$$\mathbb{E}[L]H = H\mathbb{E}[L]^\pi$$

this paper

## Generate a simple hierarchy...

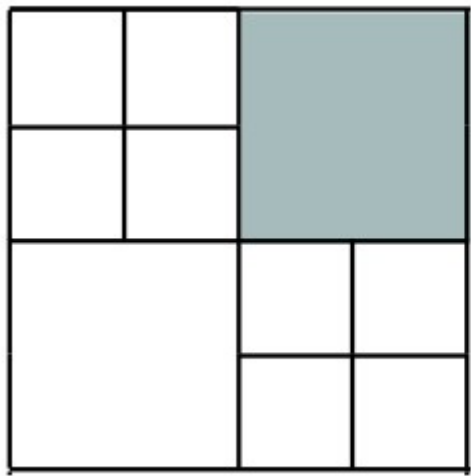
$$\mathbb{E}[A] =$$



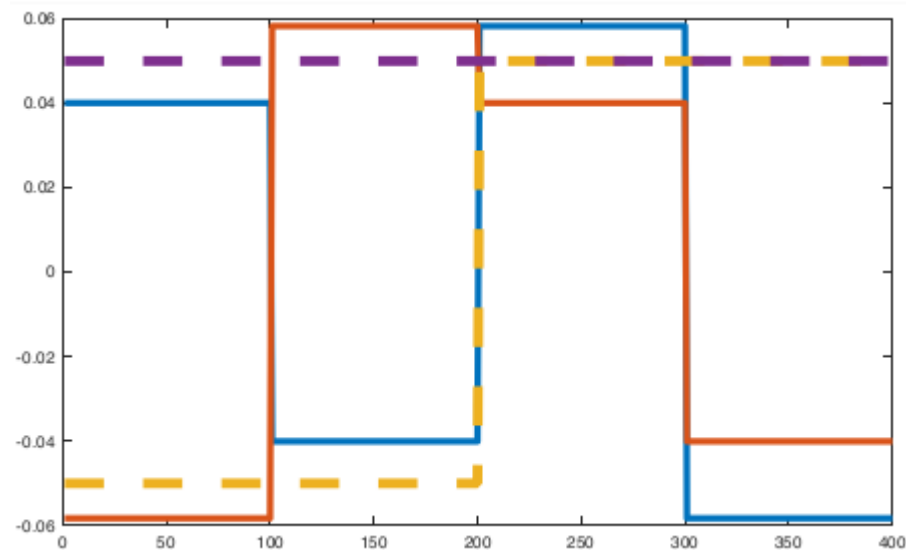
Constant probability  
between groups at each  
hierarchical level

# Spectral properties

$$\mathbb{E}[A]$$

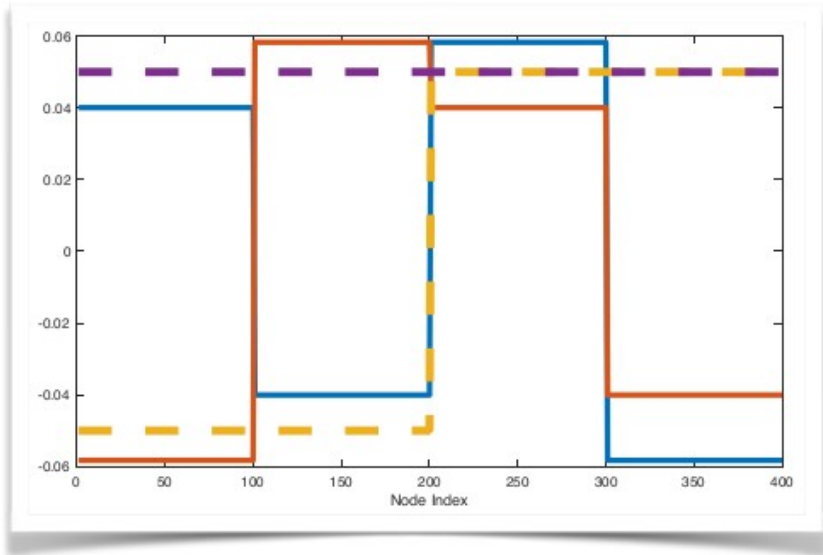


First 4 Eigenvectors of the Laplacian

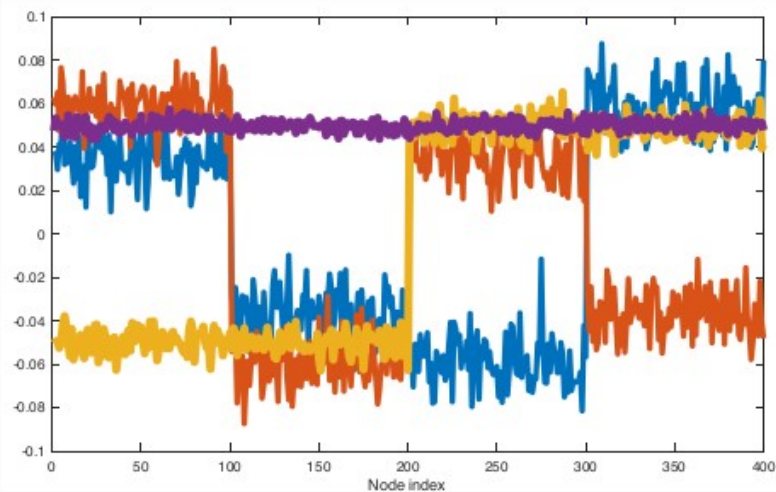
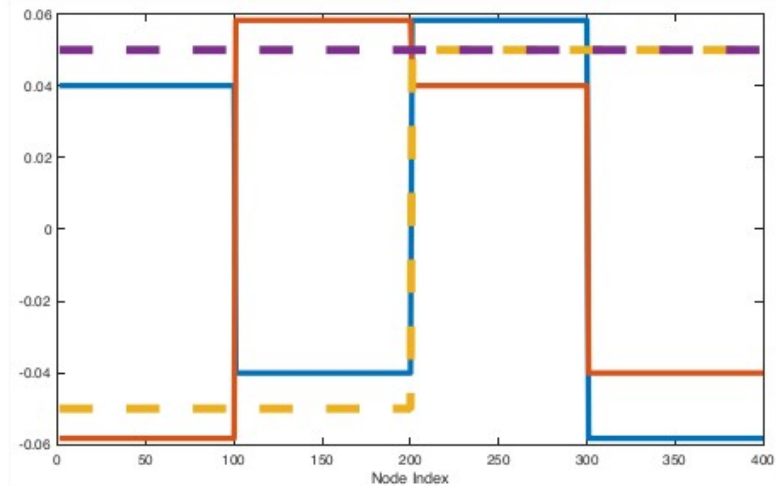


Node index

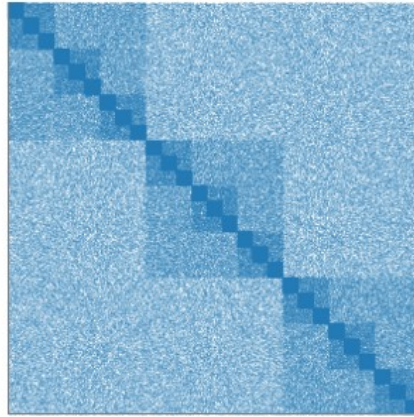
If we could just “see” the expected adjacency matrix,  
then we could just look for constant eigenvectors



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then we could just look for constant eigenvectors

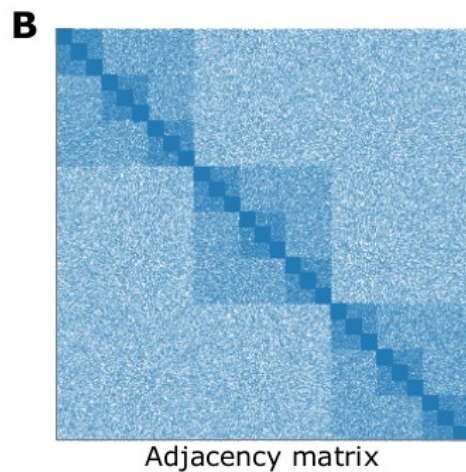
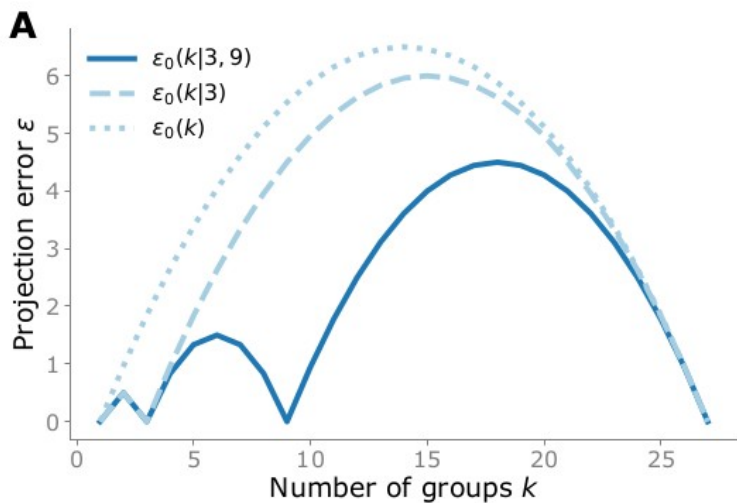


# Expected projection error



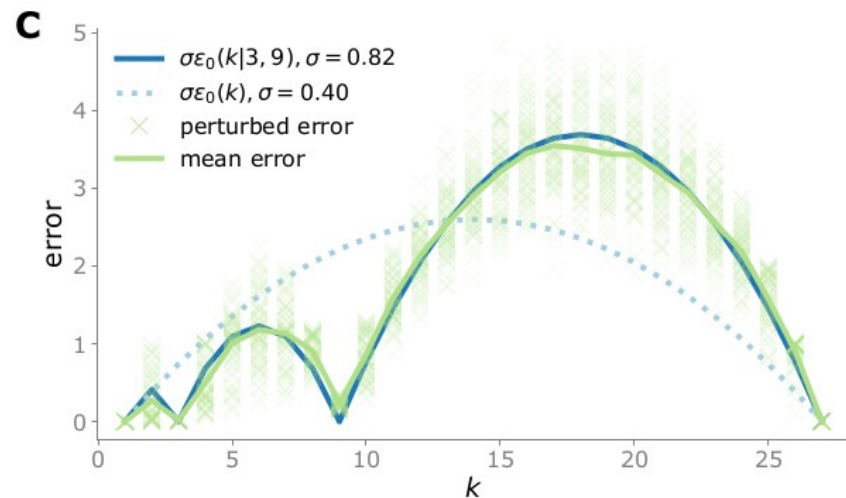
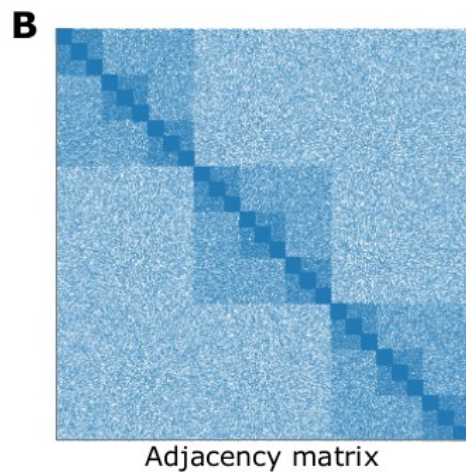
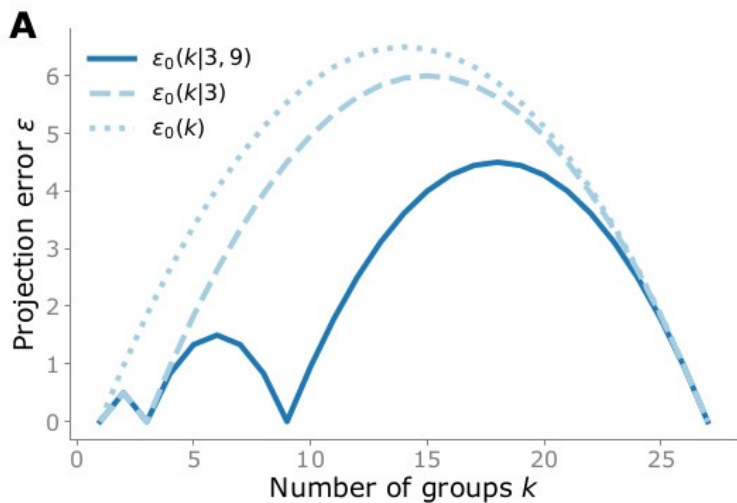
Adjacency matrix

# Expected projection error



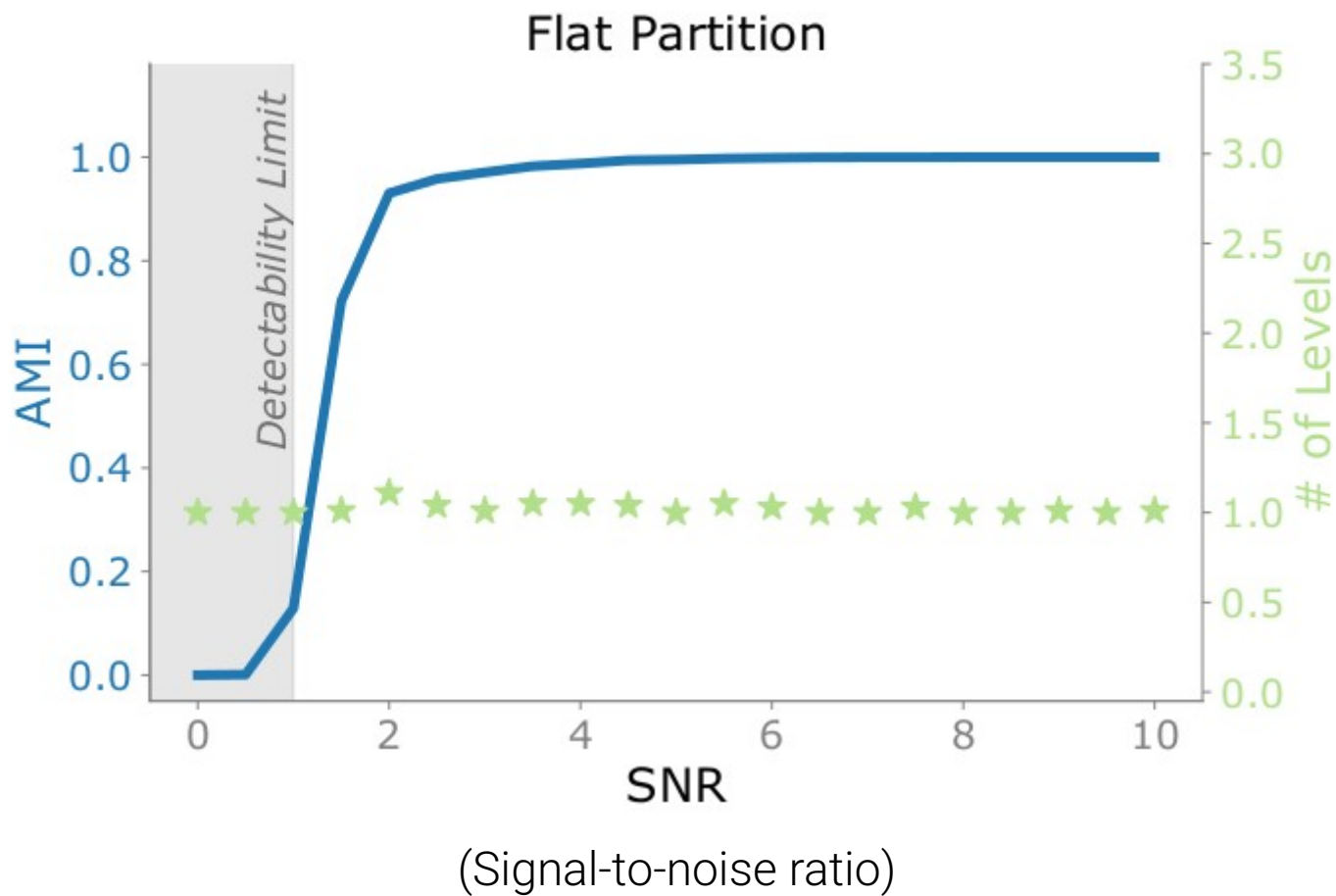


# Expected projection error

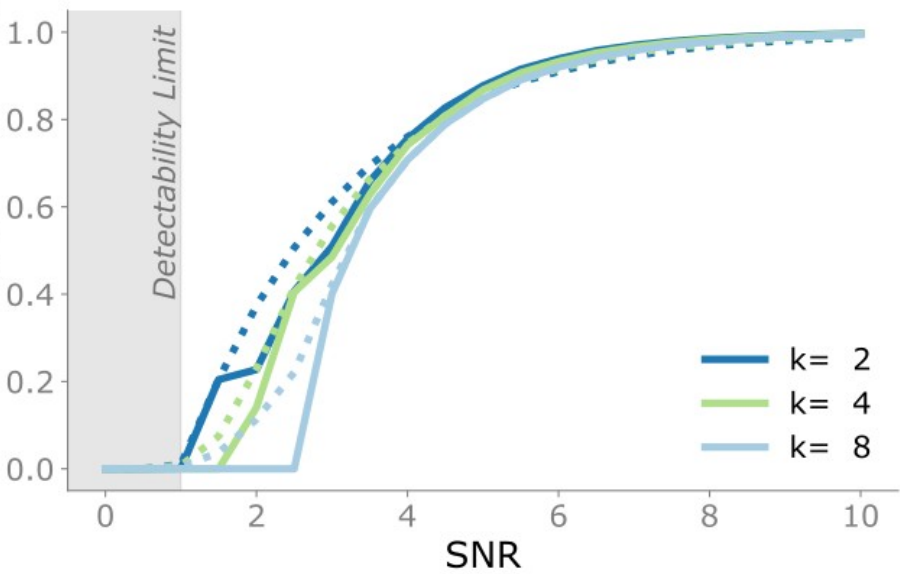
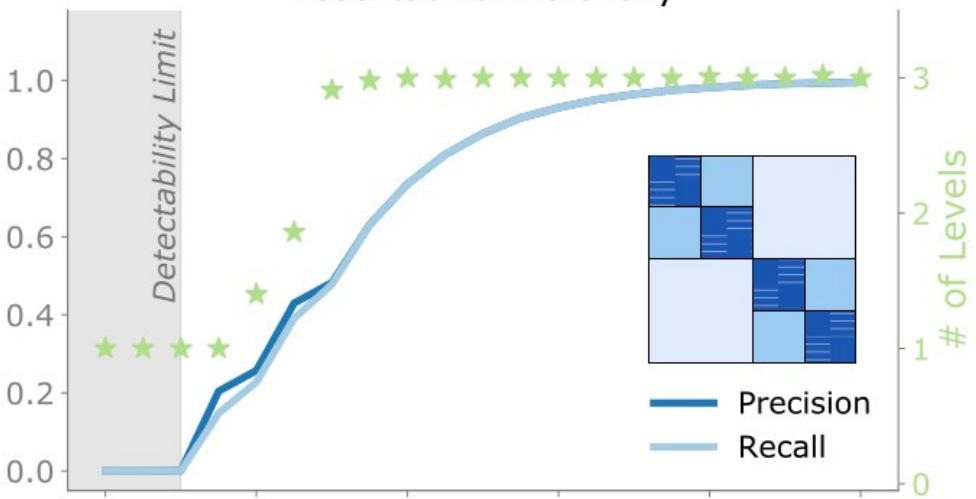


It's fast, but does it work?

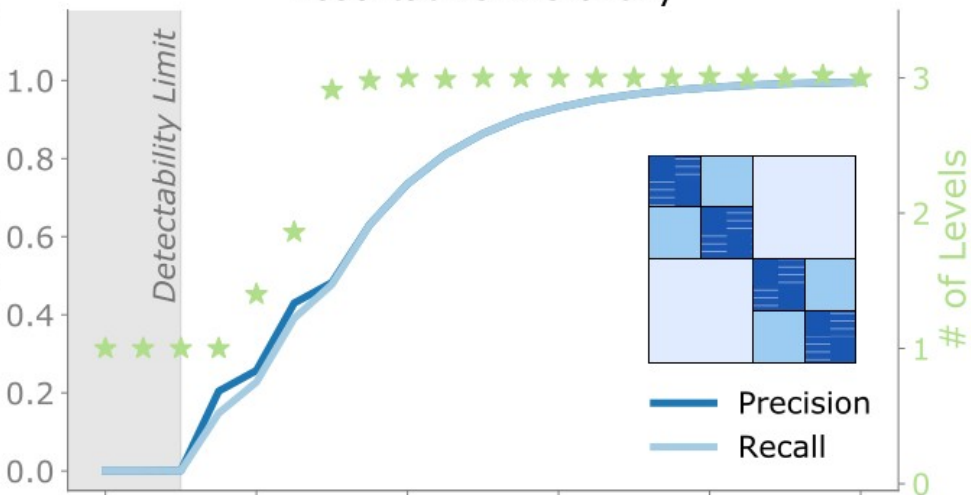




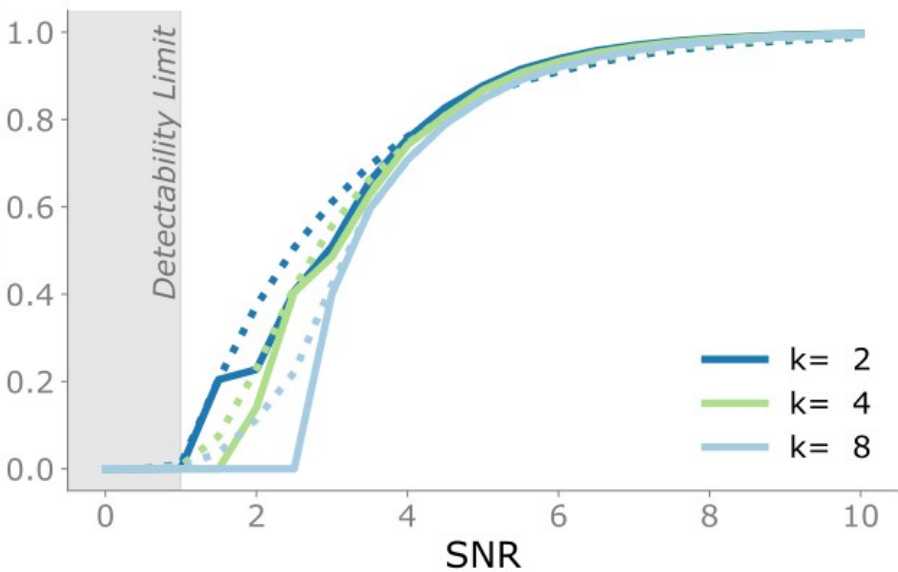
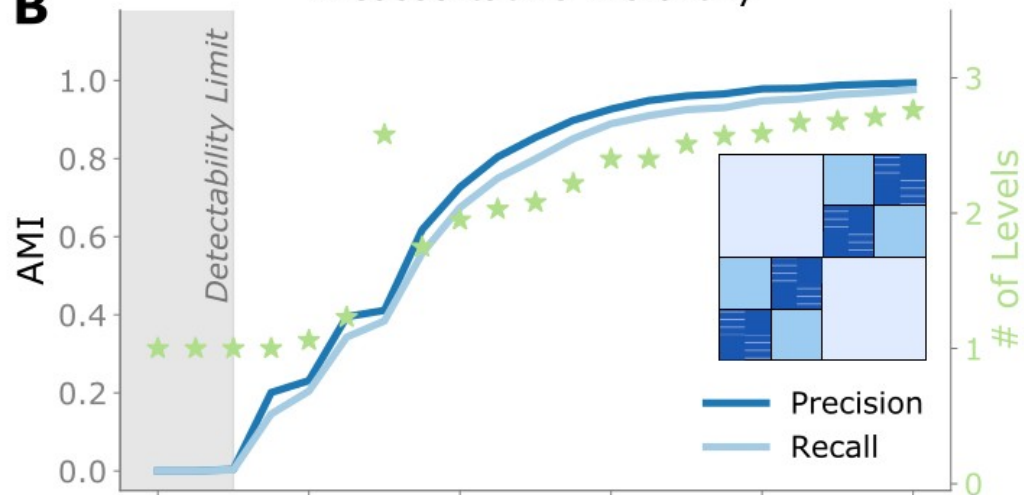
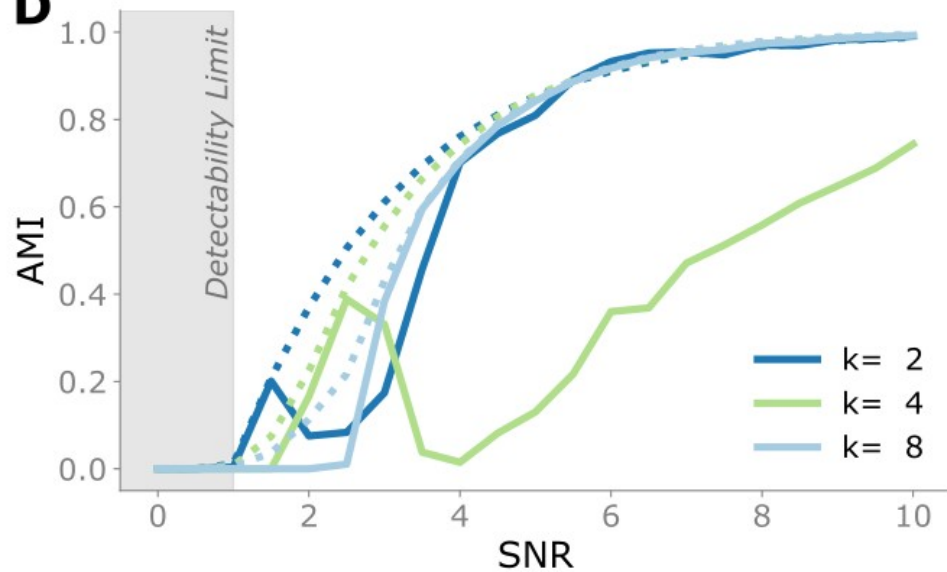
## Assortative Hierarchy

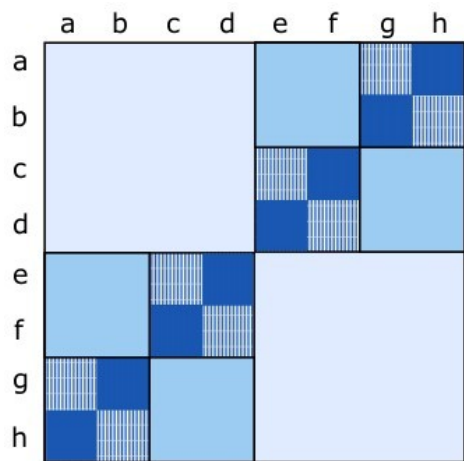


Assortative Hierarchy

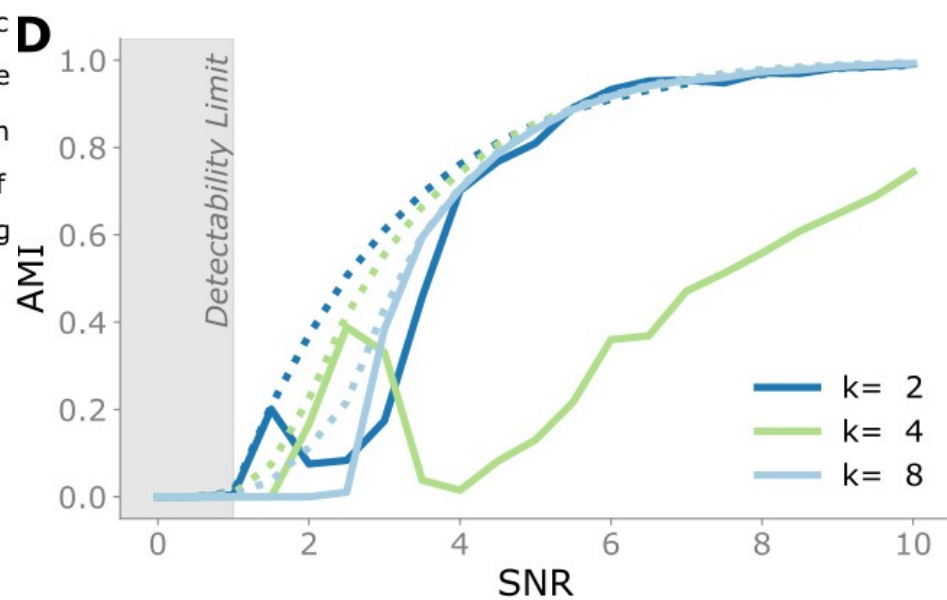
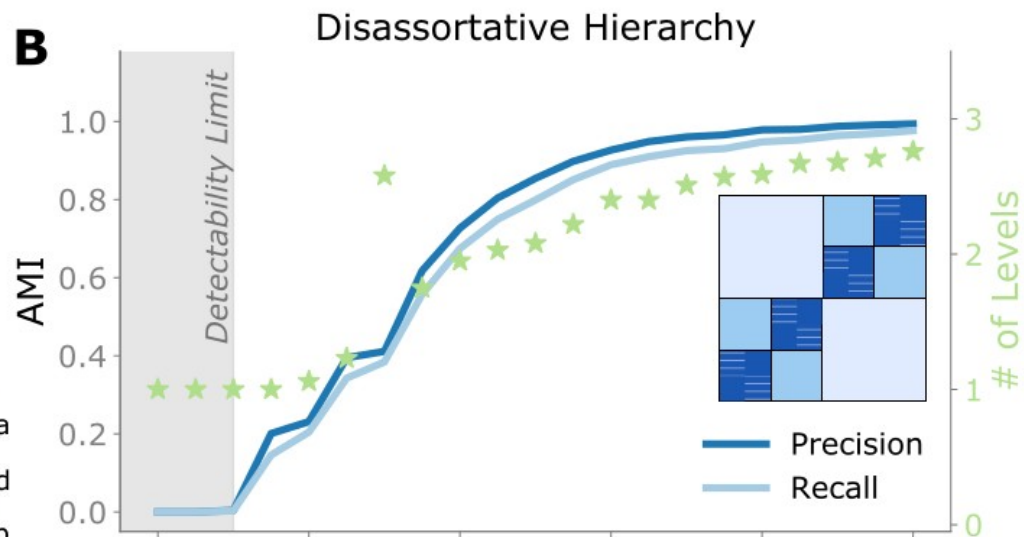
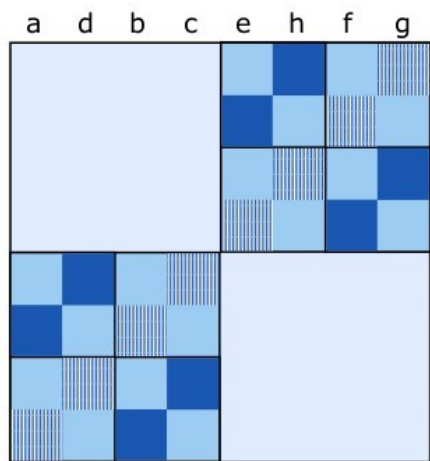
**B**

Disassortative Hierarchy

**D**



Reordering  
 $\Omega^{(1)}$



So what method should I use?





Take home questions...

## Take home questions...

- When do we have enough data to support a hierarchy?

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- When do we have enough data to support a hierarchy?
- How do we account for identifiability issues when measuring performance?

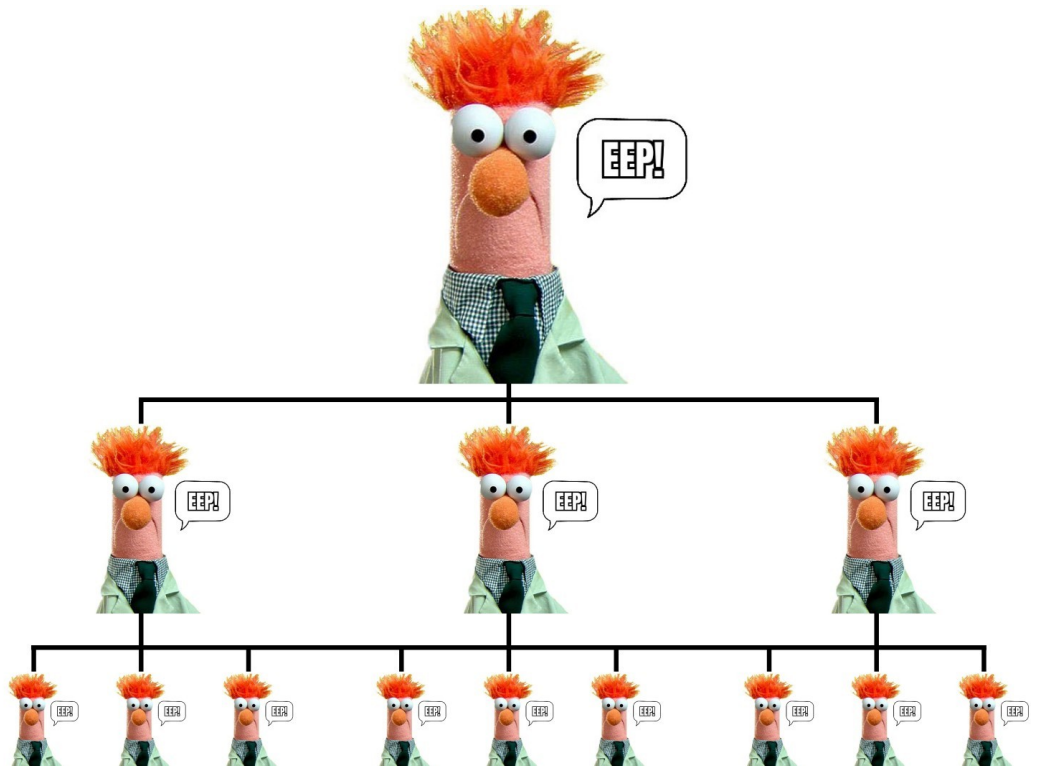
## Take home questions...

- When do we have enough data to support a hierarchy?
- How do we account for identifiability issues when measuring performance?
- Can we stop overloading terms? (community, hierarchy, higher-order, etc.)

In collaboration with



Michael Schaub  
(RWTH Aachen)



"It's EEPs all the way down"

Pre-prints available

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arXiv:2009.07525

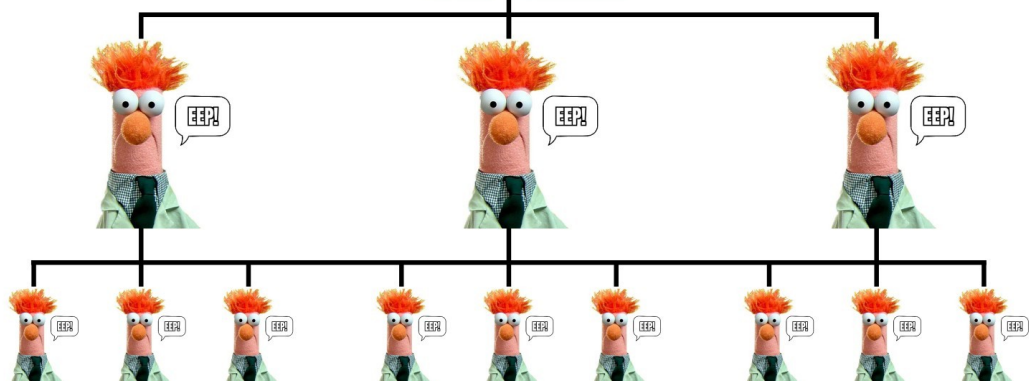
Contact:

l.peel@maastrichtuniversity.nl  
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