

# Unsupervised learning for Optimal Transport plan prediction between unbalanced graphs

Sonia Mazelet, Rémi Flamary, Bertrand Thirion

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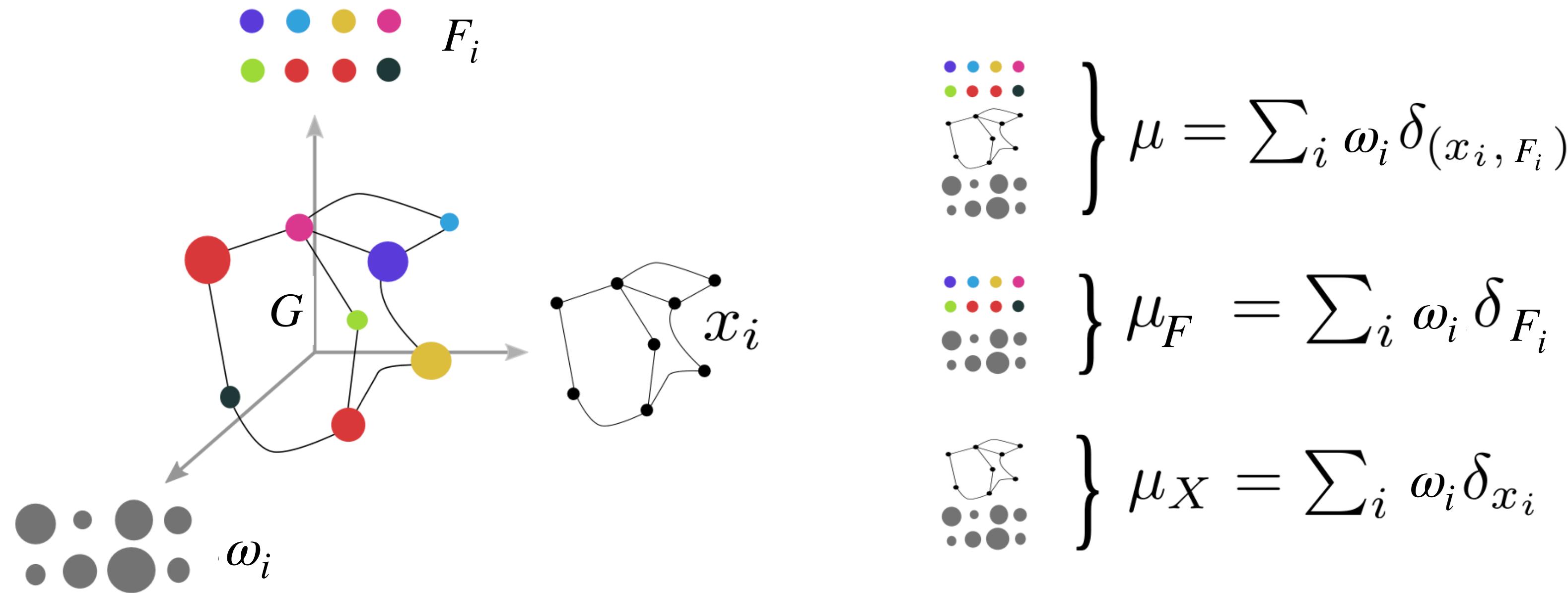
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# Optimal transport on graphs

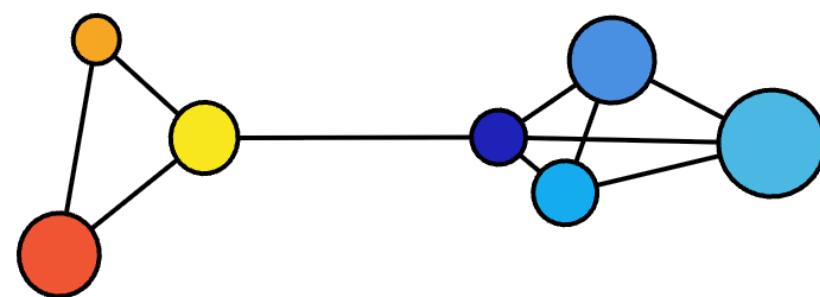
Graphs modeled as probability measures [Vayer et al., 2019] characterized by:

- geometry (adjacency matrix, shortest path distance matrix...):  $D$
- node features:  $F$
- node weights:  $\omega$

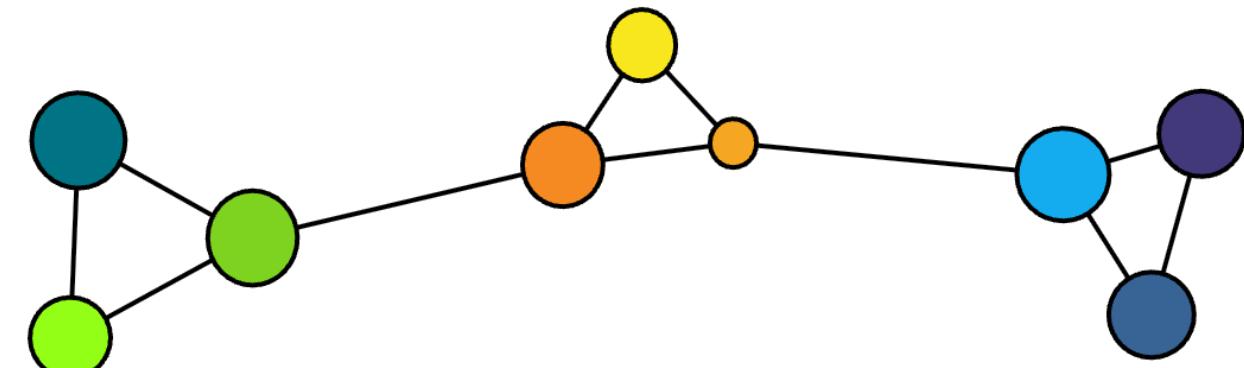


# Graph matching

**Goal:** given a pair of graphs, find a matching between the nodes that preserves the graph geometry, node features and discards nodes that do not have a good matching.



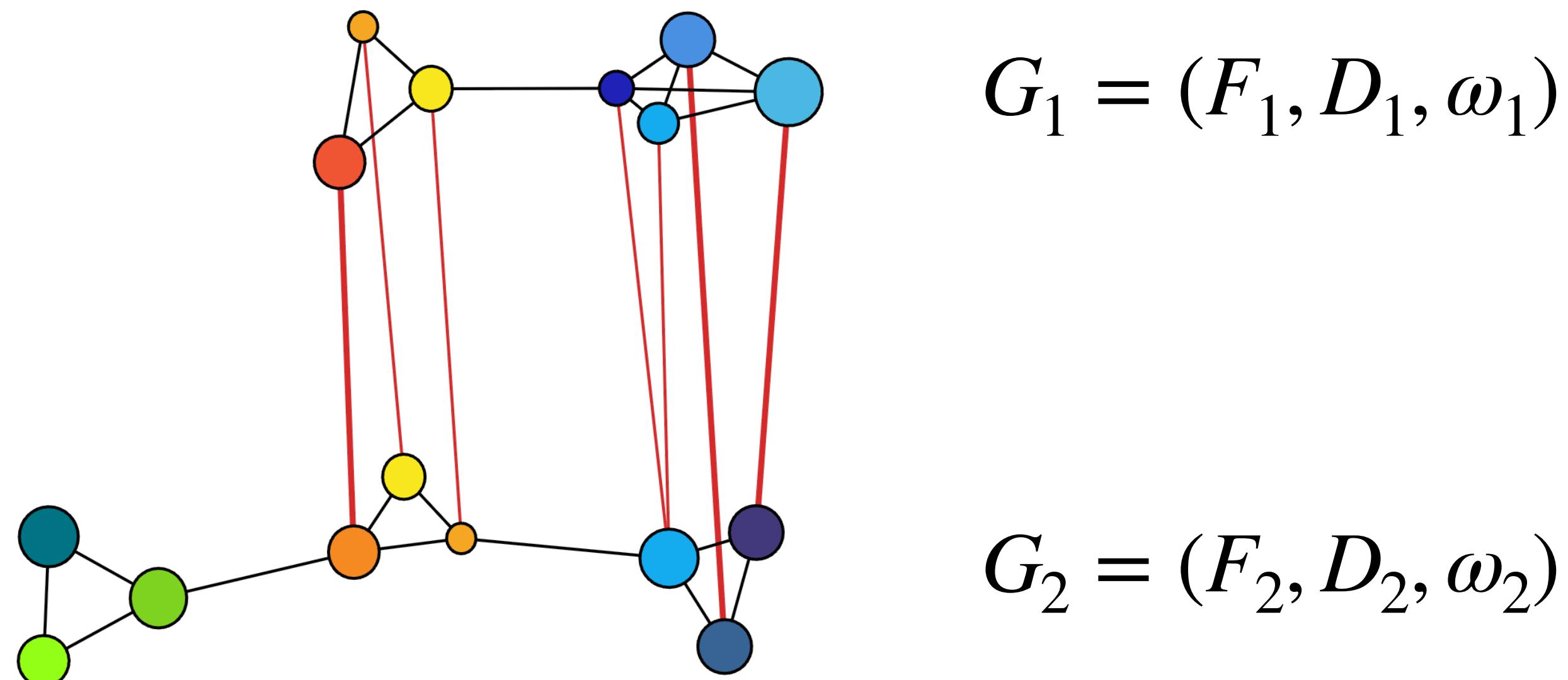
$$G_1 = (F_1, D_1, \omega_1)$$



$$G_2 = (F_2, D_2, \omega_2)$$

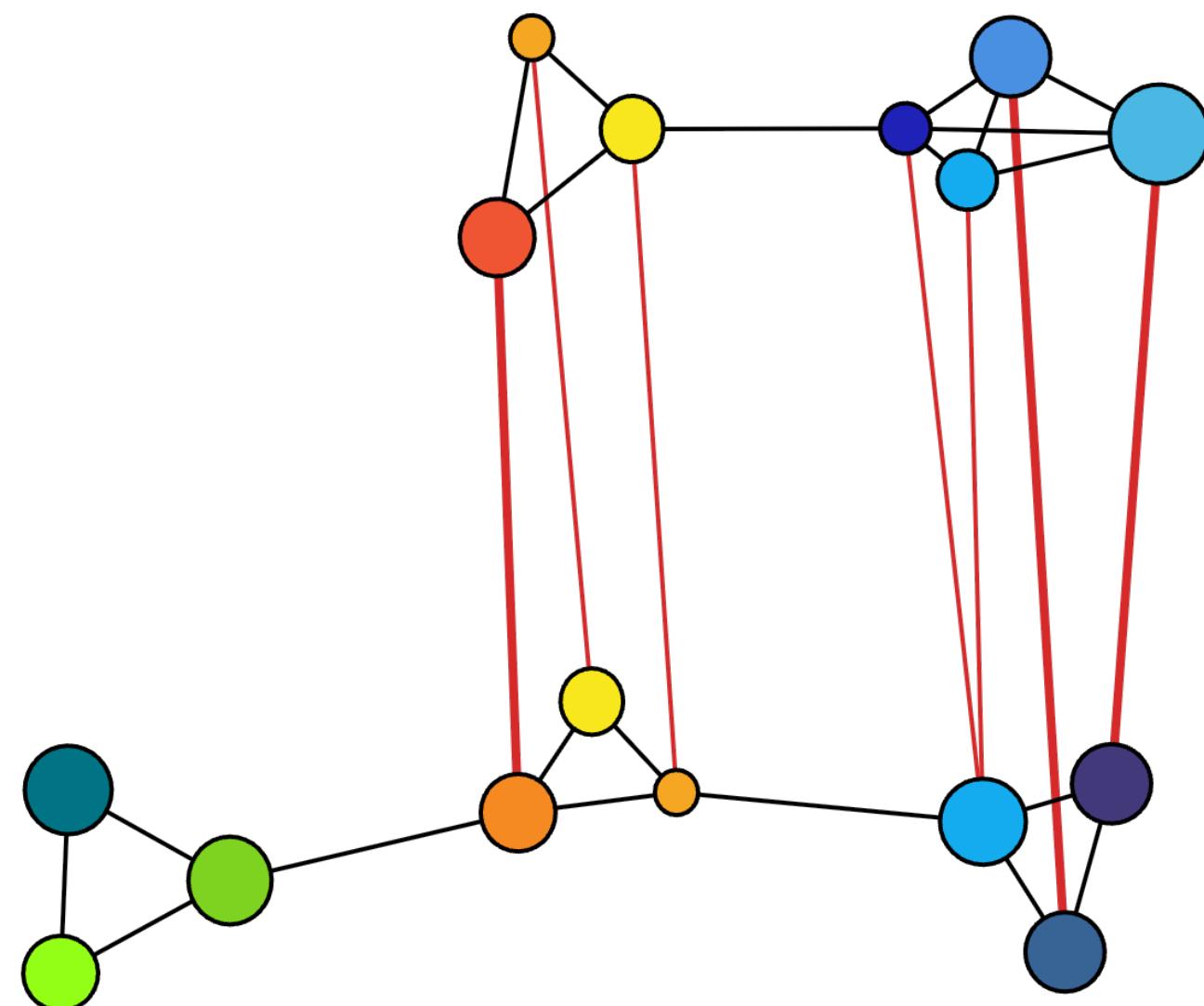
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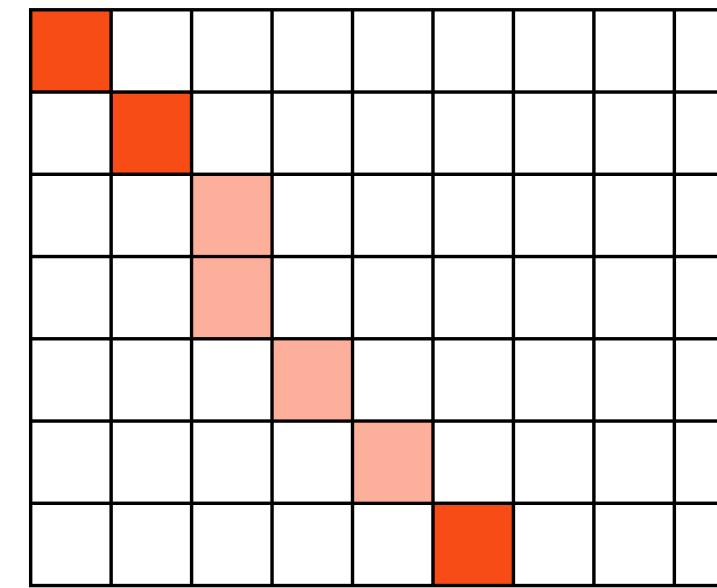
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**optimal transport plan  $P$ :**

$P_{i,j}$  = mass transported from  $n_1(i)$  to  $n_2(j)$

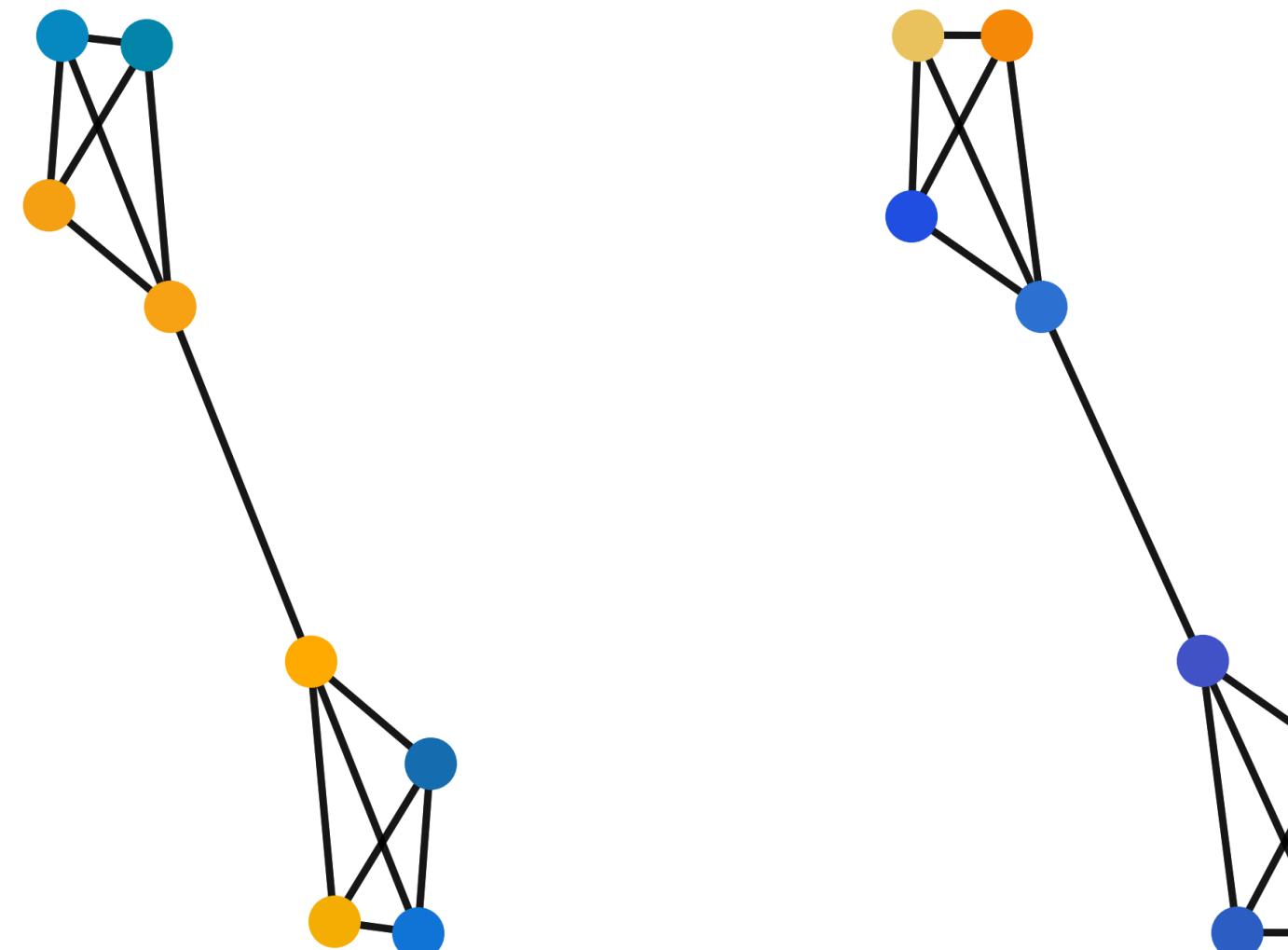


# Optimal transport distance between graphs

**Fused Unbalanced Gromov Wasserstein (FUGW) optimal transport loss [Thual et al., 2022]**

$$L^{\alpha, \rho}(G_1, G_2, \mathbf{P}) = (1 - \alpha) \sum_{i,j=1}^{n_1, n_2} \|(\mathbf{F}_1)_i - (\mathbf{F}_2)_j\|_2^2 \mathbf{P}_{i,j} + \alpha \sum_{i,j,k,l=1}^{n_1, n_2, n_1, n_2} |(\mathbf{D}_1)_{i,k} - (\mathbf{D}_2)_{j,l}|^2 \mathbf{P}_{i,j} \mathbf{P}_{k,l} + \rho (\text{KL}(\mathbf{P}_{\#1} \otimes \mathbf{P}_{\#1} | \omega_1 \otimes \omega_1) + \text{KL}(\mathbf{P}_{\#2} \otimes \mathbf{P}_{\#2} | \omega_2 \otimes \omega_2))$$

match nodes with similar  
node features

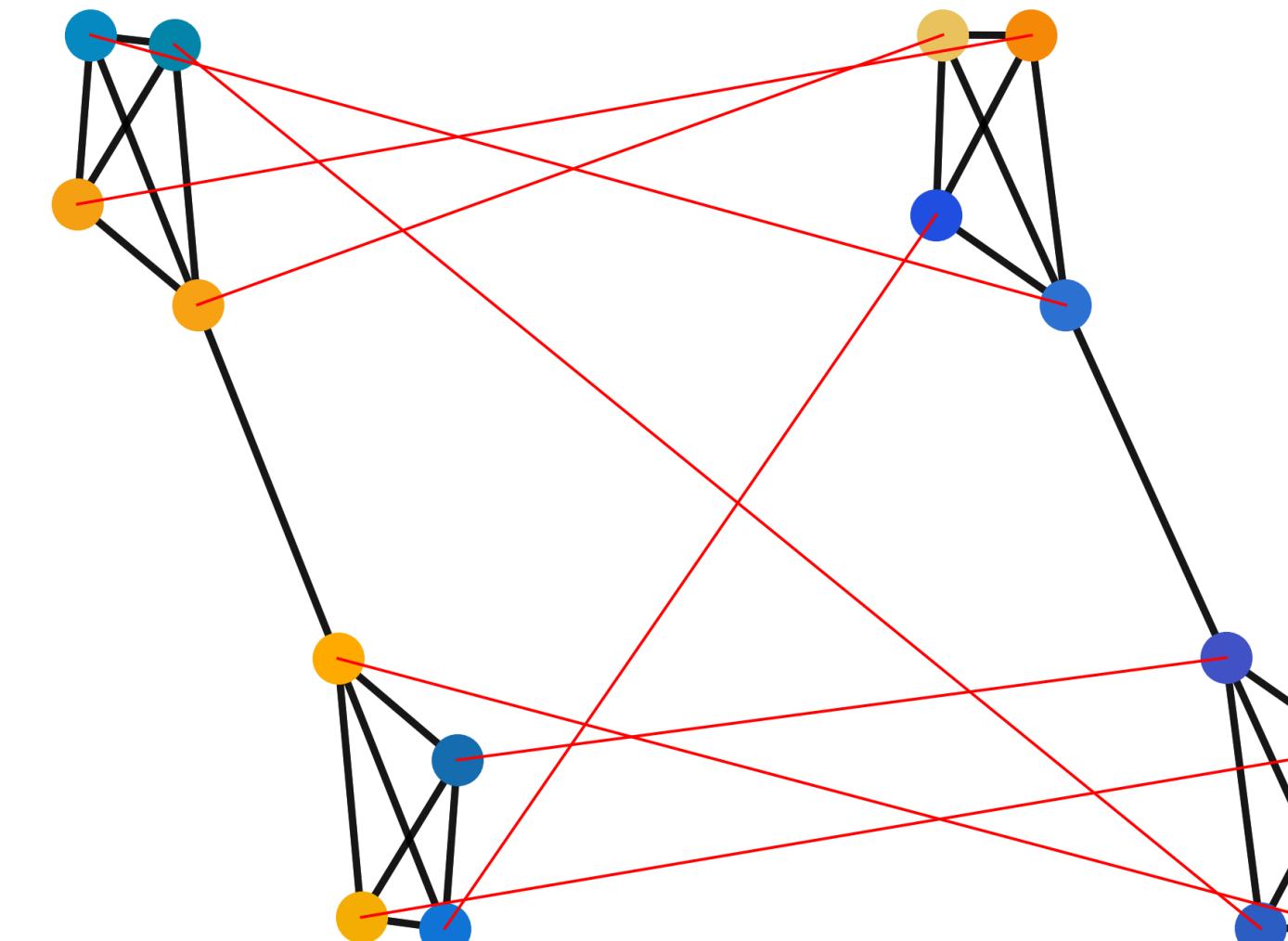


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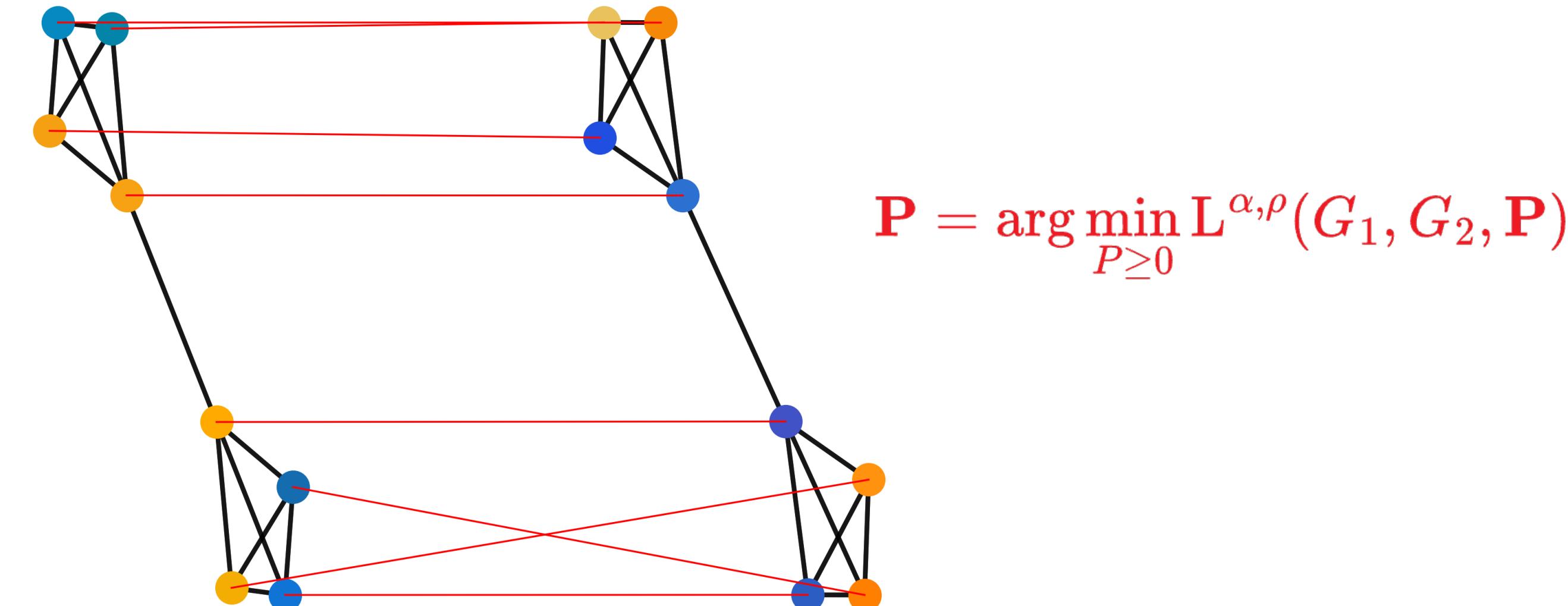
$$\mathbf{P} = \arg \min_{P \geq 0} L^{\alpha,\rho}(G_1, G_2, \mathbf{P})$$

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preserve local geometry

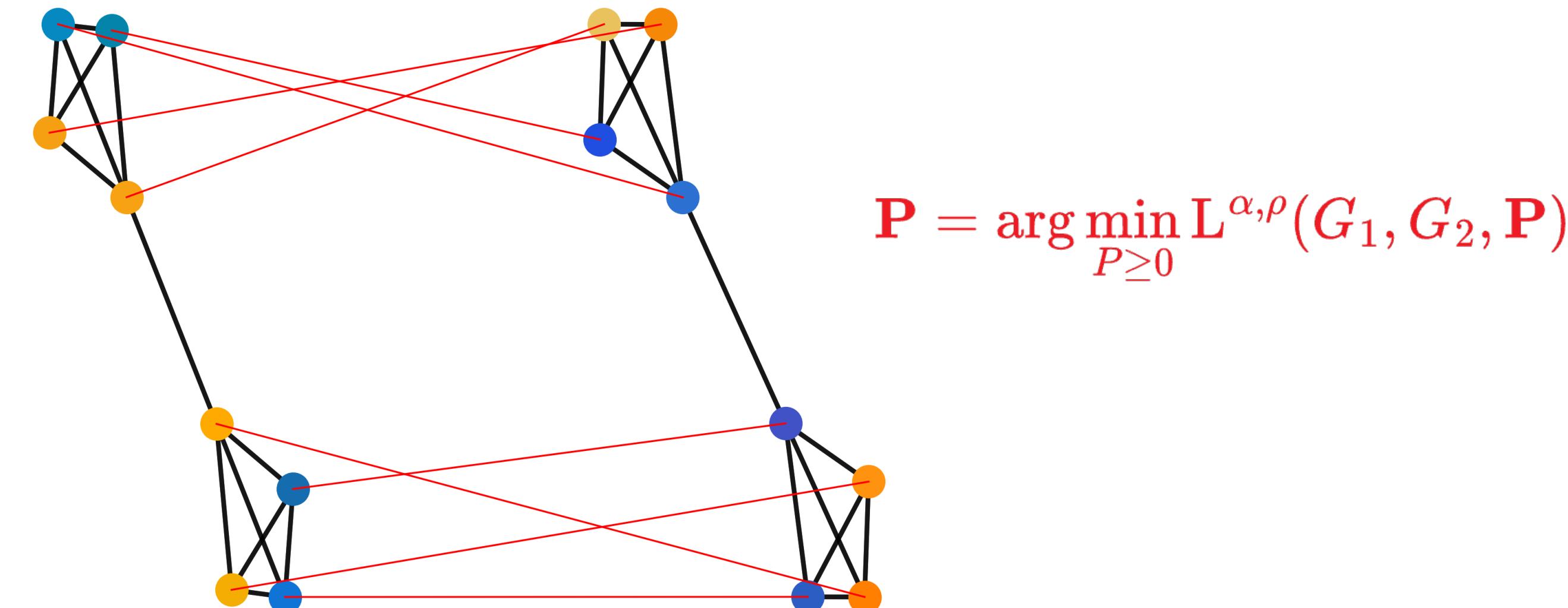


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match nodes with similar node features      preserve local geometry

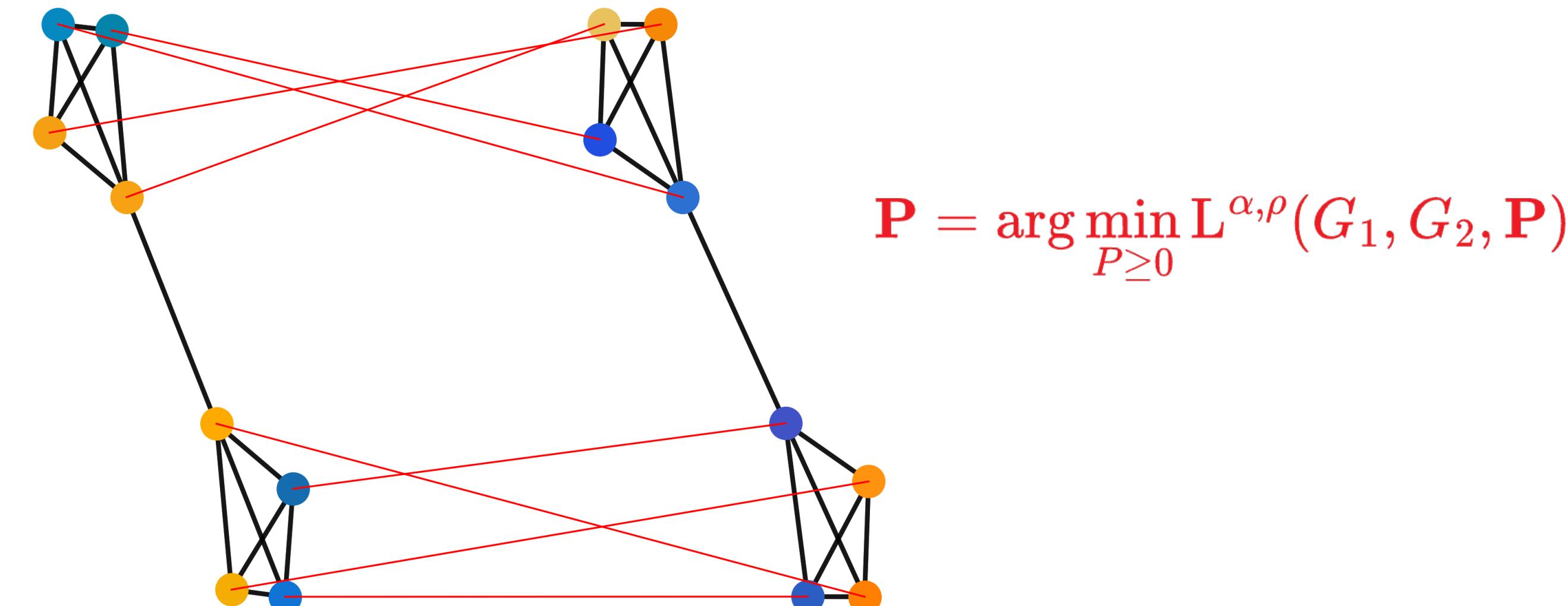


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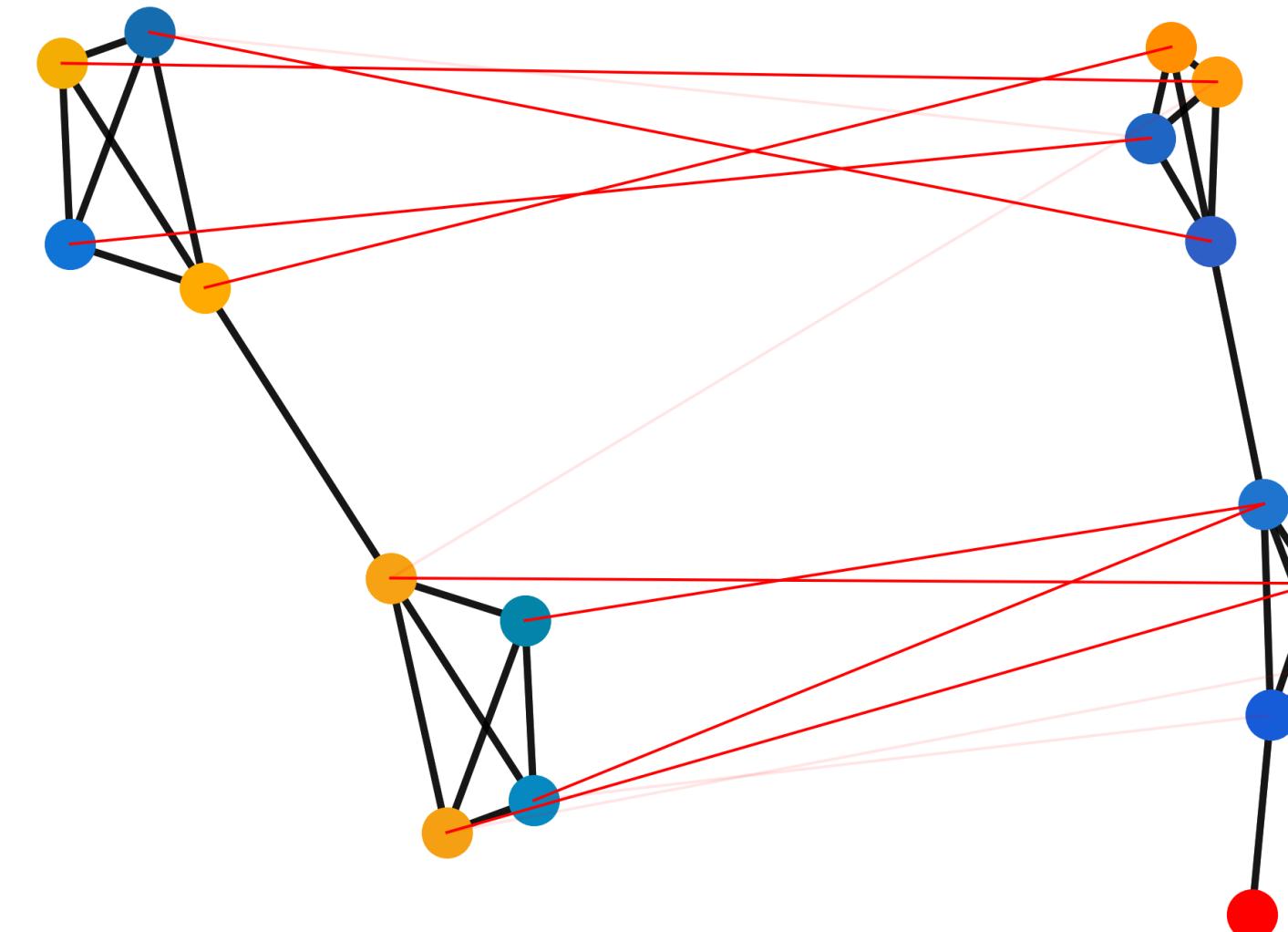
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match nodes with similar  
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$$\mathbf{P} = \arg \min_{P \geq 0} L^{\alpha, \rho}(G_1, G_2, \mathbf{P})$$

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match nodes with similar node features      preserve local geometry      discard nodes that do not have a good match

**FUGW distance:**  $\text{FUGW}^{\alpha,\rho}(G_1, G_2) = \min_{P \geq 0} L^{\alpha,\rho}(G_1, G_2, P)$

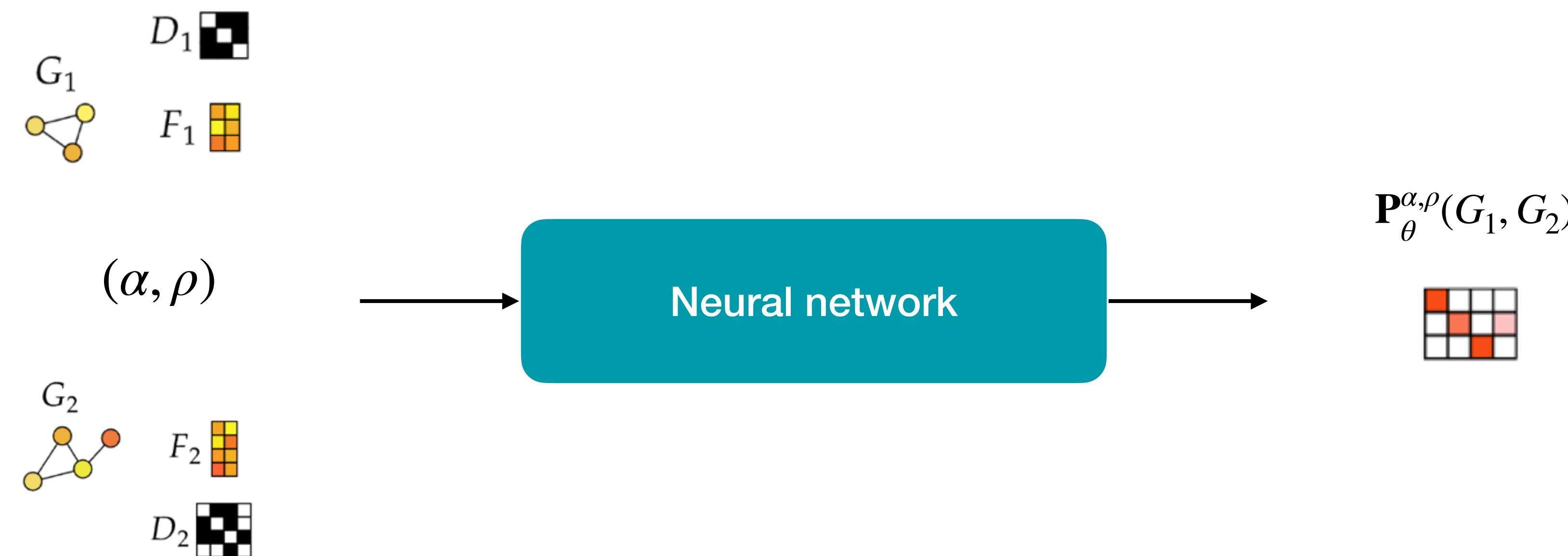
**Solve the OT problem:** batch coordinate descent with complexity  $O(kn^3)$  for  $k$  the number of iterations and  $n$  the number of graph nodes.

→ unscalable for large graphs

# Predicting FUGW plan

**Goal:** learn to predict FUGW plan  $\mathbf{P}_\theta^{\alpha,\rho}(G_1, G_2)$  for all graph pairs  $(G_1, G_2) \sim \mathcal{D}$  and parameters  $(\alpha, \rho) \sim \mathcal{P}$ .

**Method:** Neural Network based cross attention and Graph Convolutional Networks that predicts OT plans.



# Training a graph matching neural network

- Most method are trained in a supervised way [Wang et al., 2019][Sarlin et al. 2020][Zanfir et al. 2020]:  $\ell(\hat{M}, M)$  for ground truth matching  $M$



- In practice, ground truth matching is hard to compute and most methods are only applicable to images.

# Training a graph matching neural network: a few unsupervised methods

- Learn to match copies of the same graph  
*[Liu et al. 2022]*

**original image**

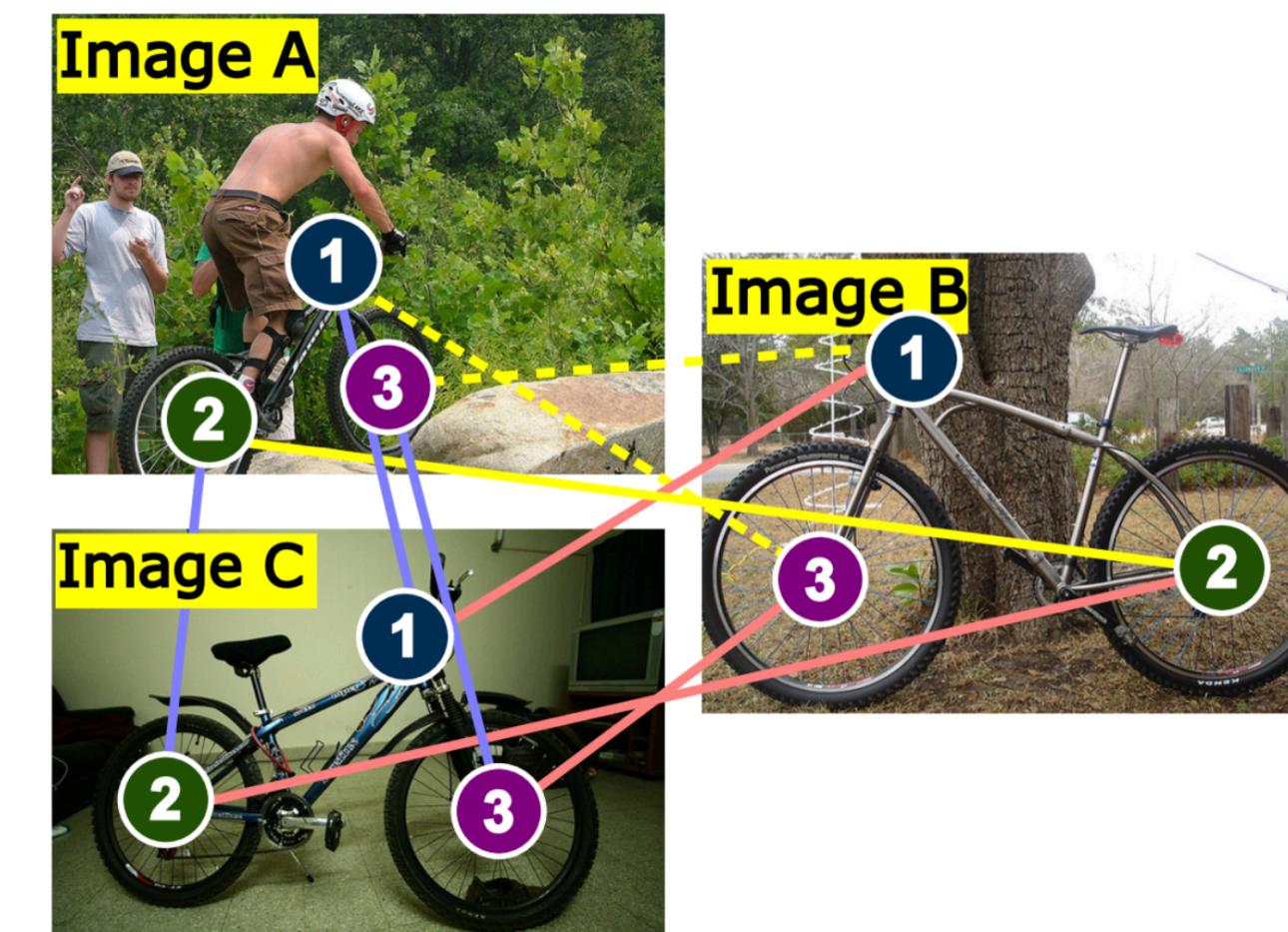


**augmented image**



- Minimize a criterion that is domain specific  
*[Tourani et al. 2024]*

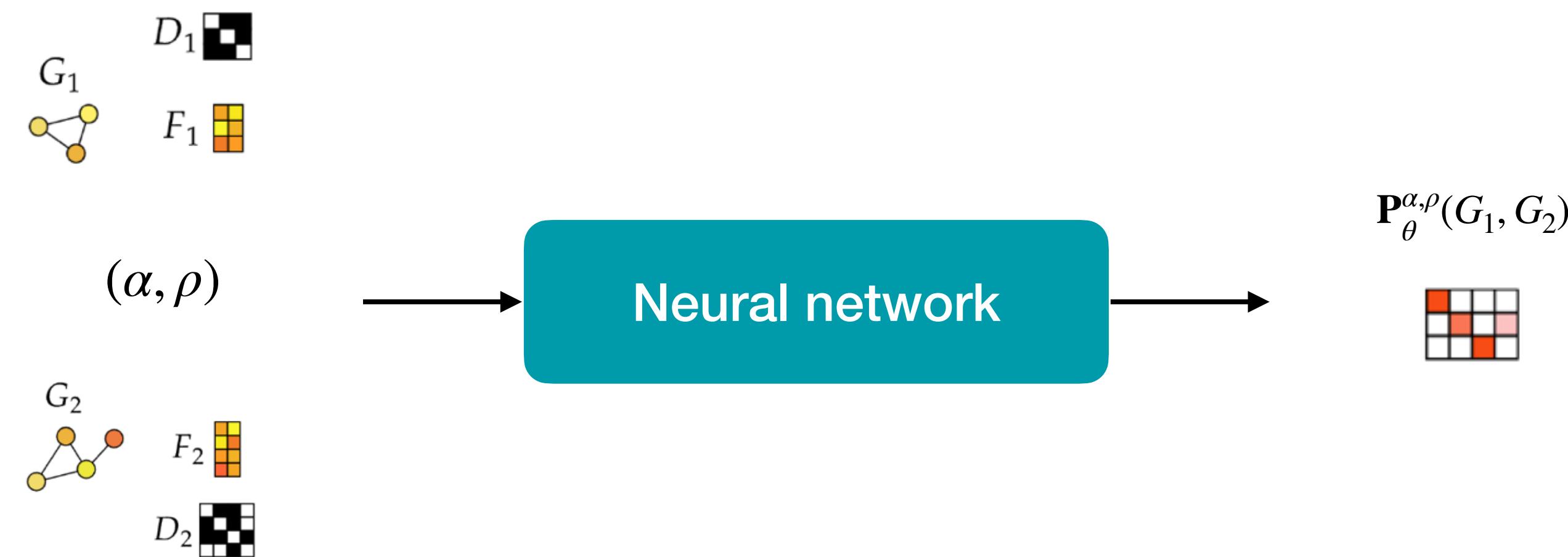
**cycle consistency criterion**



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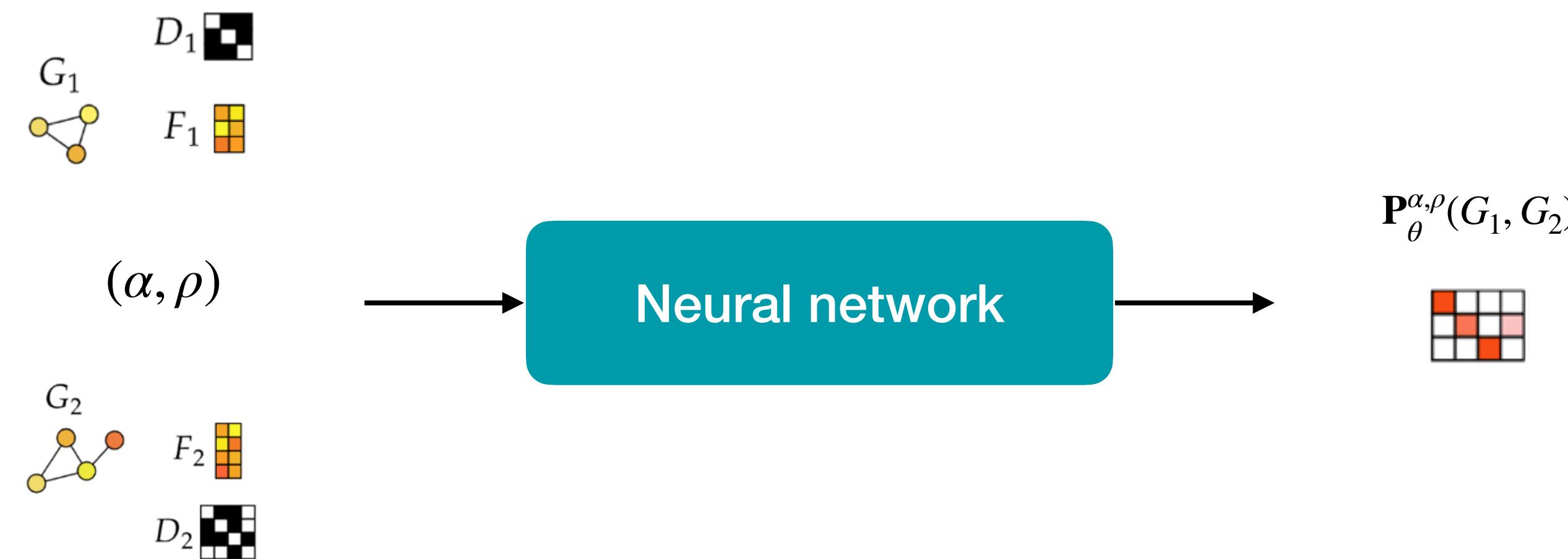


**Supervised training?** Unscalable

# Predicting FUGW plan

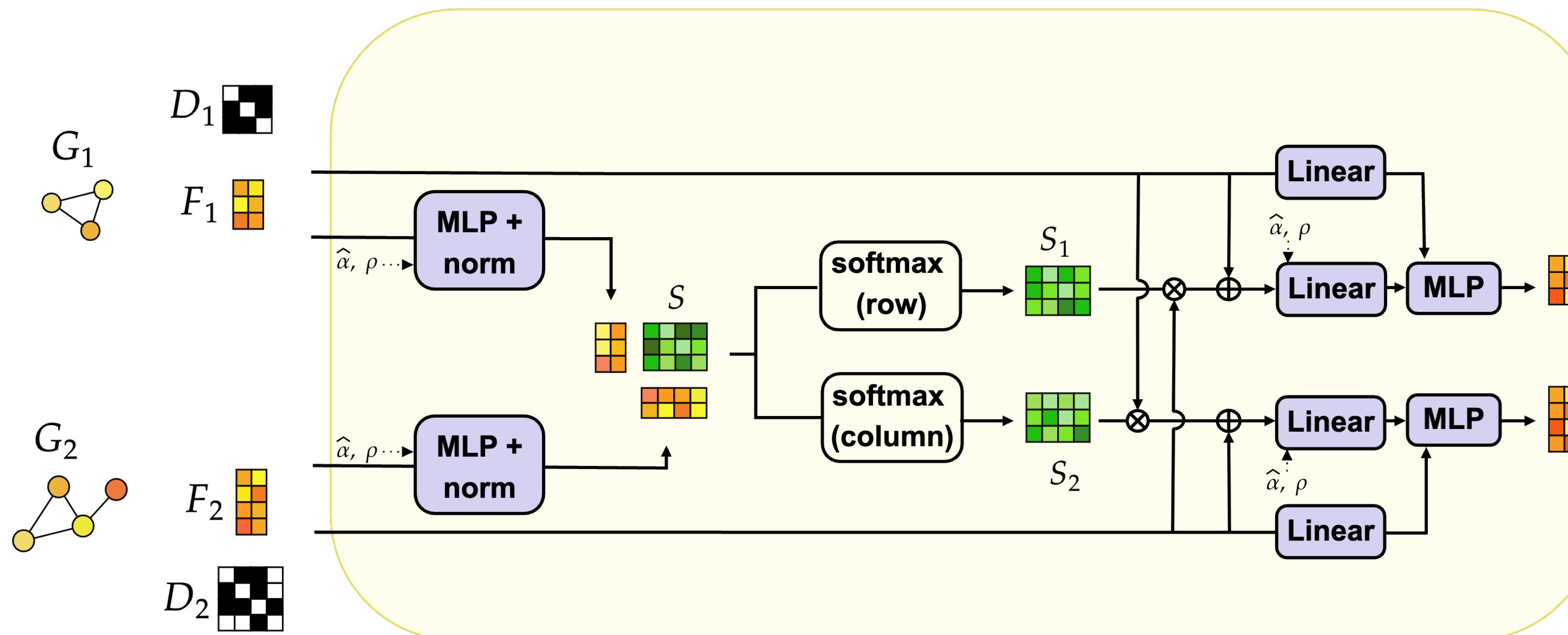
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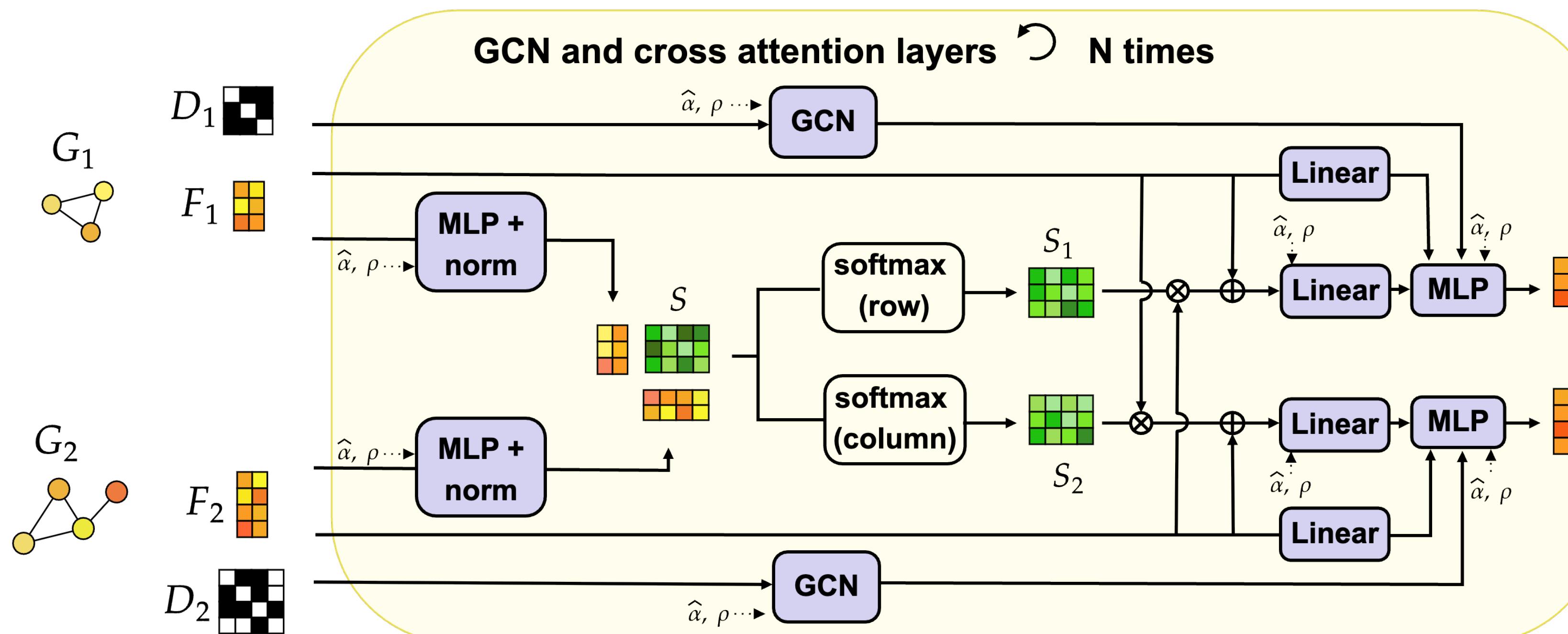


**Amortized optimisation:**  $\min_{\theta} \mathbb{E}_{G_1, G_2 \sim \mathcal{D}, \alpha, \rho \sim \mathcal{P}} \left[ \mathcal{L}^{\alpha, \rho}(G_1, G_2, \mathbf{P}_\theta^{\alpha, \rho}(G_1, G_2)) \right] \longrightarrow \text{unsupervised}$

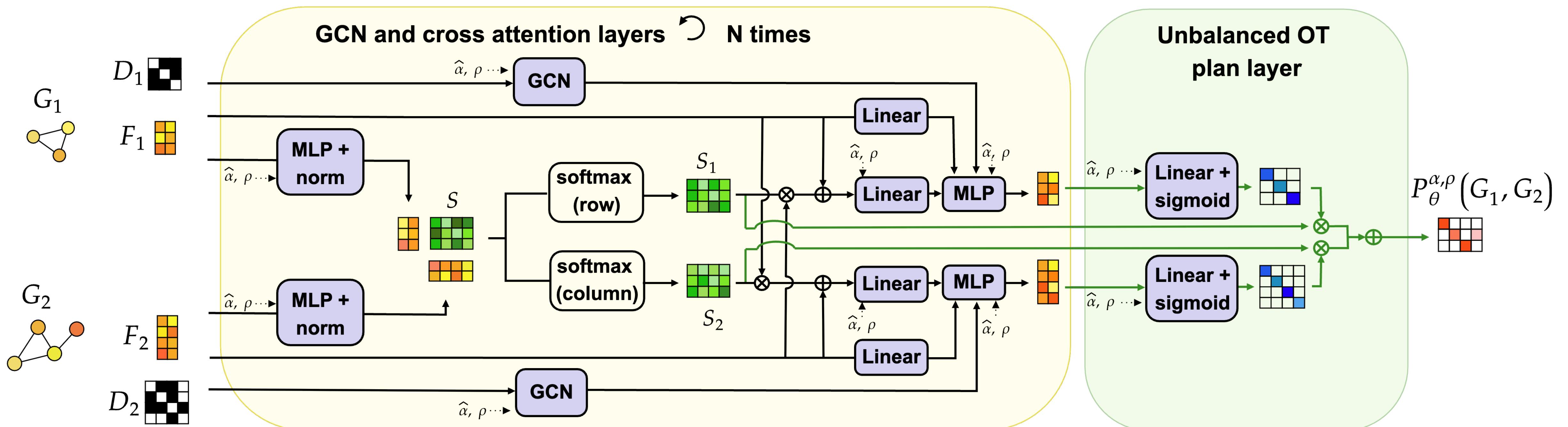
# Unbalanced learning of Optimal Transport plans (ULOT)



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Complexity:  $O(n^2)$  for  $n$  the number of graph nodes

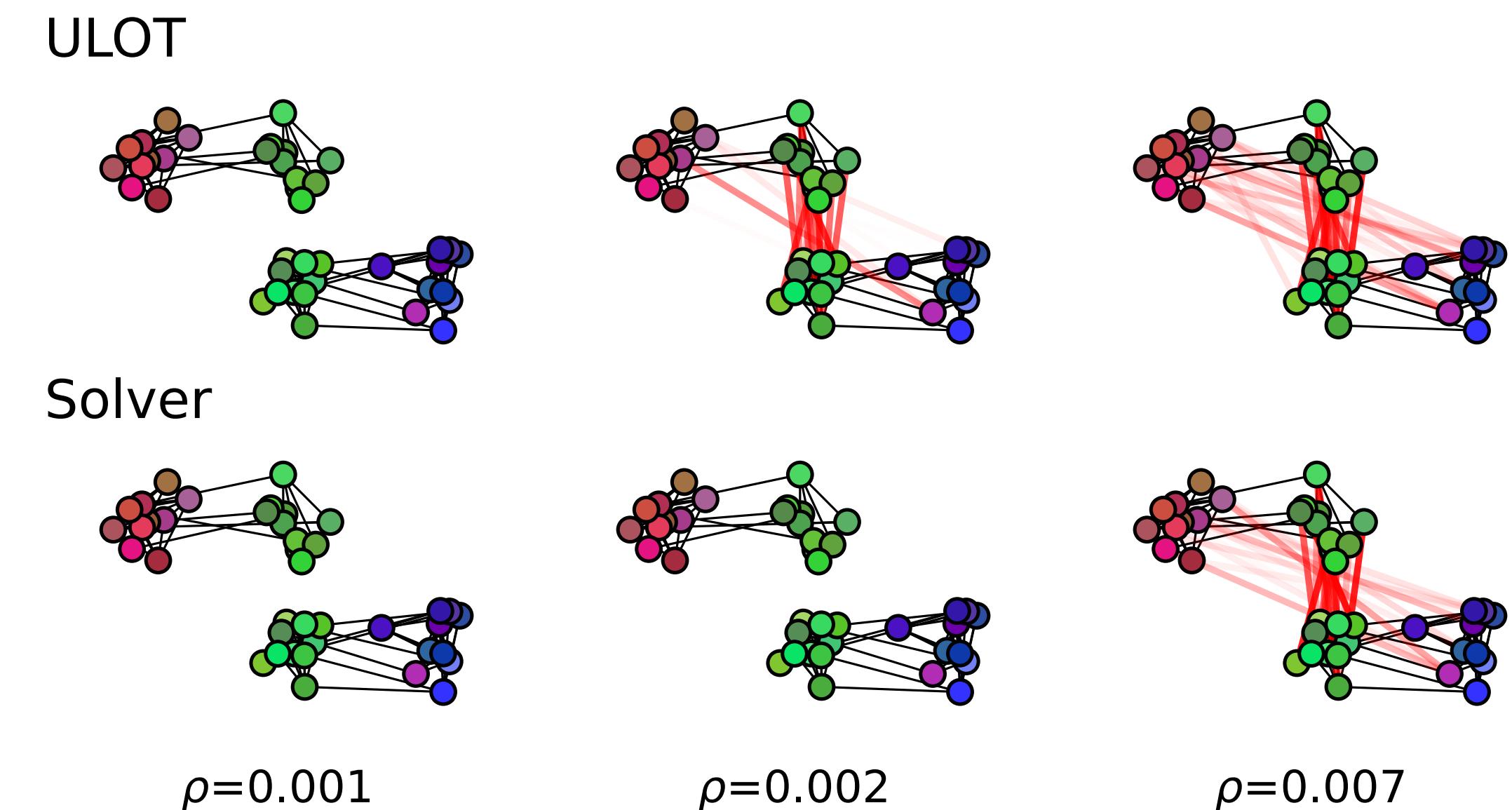
# Results on simulated graphs: effect of the $\rho$ parameter

- ULOT trained on a dataset of Stochastic Block Model (SBM) graphs.
- Test on a pair of SBMs with one shared cluster
- ULOT plans similar to solver plans, sometimes better

$$\text{FUGW} = (1 - \alpha)W + \alpha GW + \rho M$$

node features      structure      marginals regularization

OT plan with respect to  $\rho$  for  $(1, 2) \rightarrow (2, 3)$

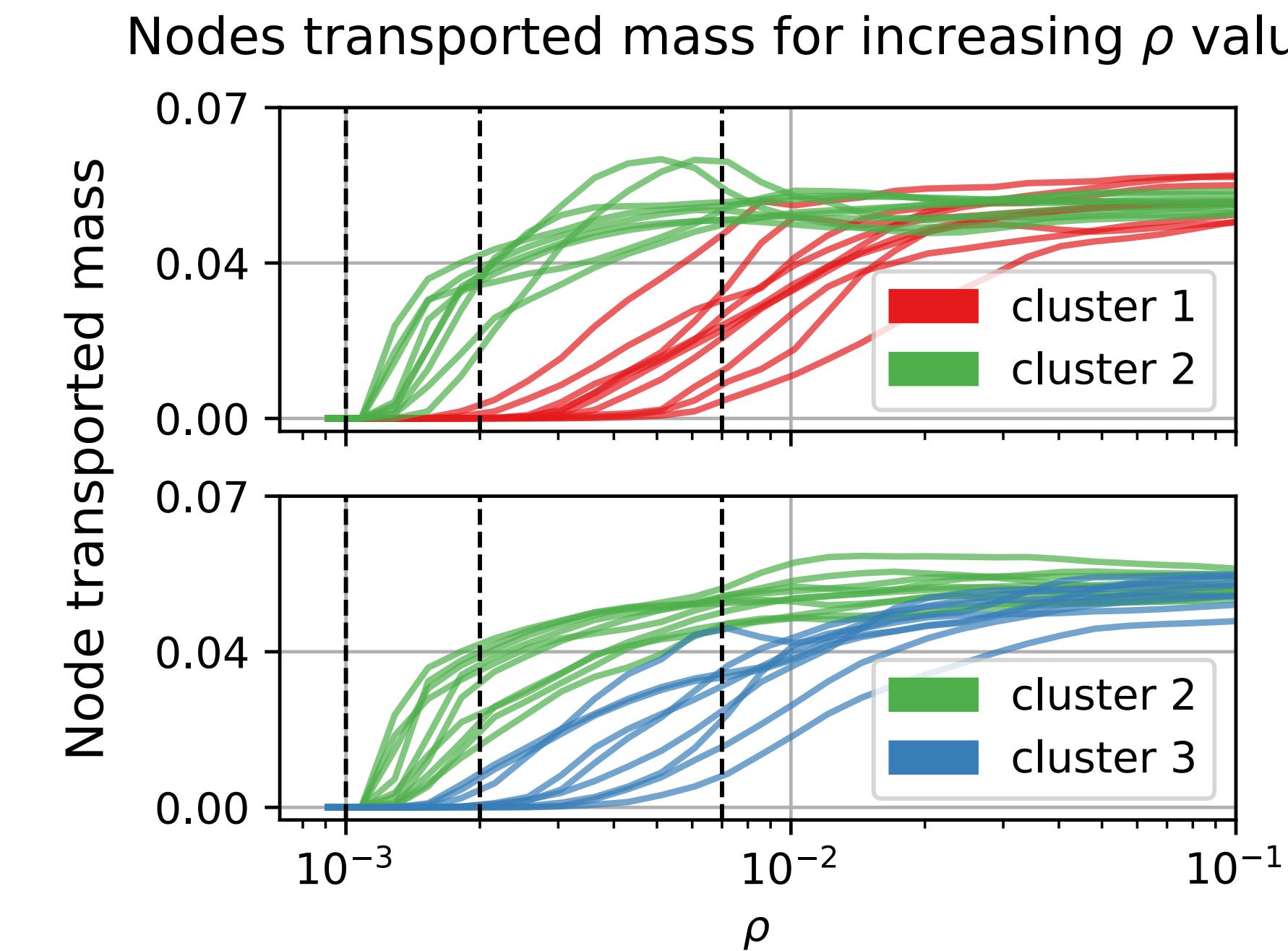


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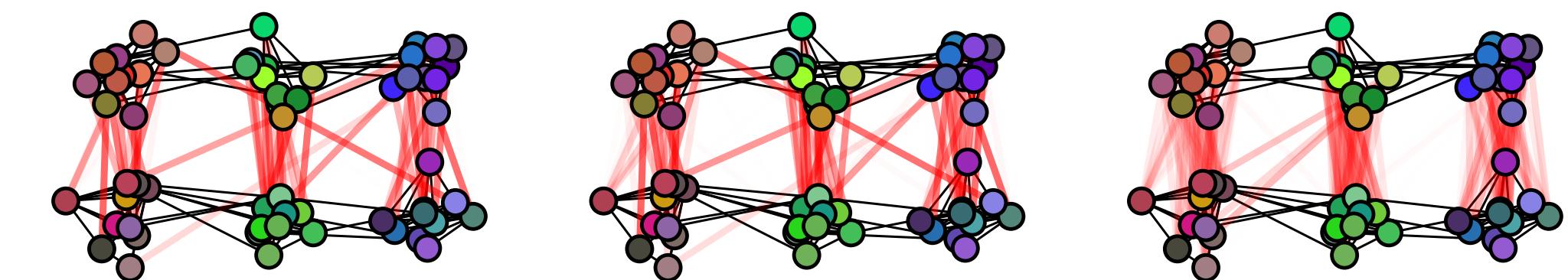
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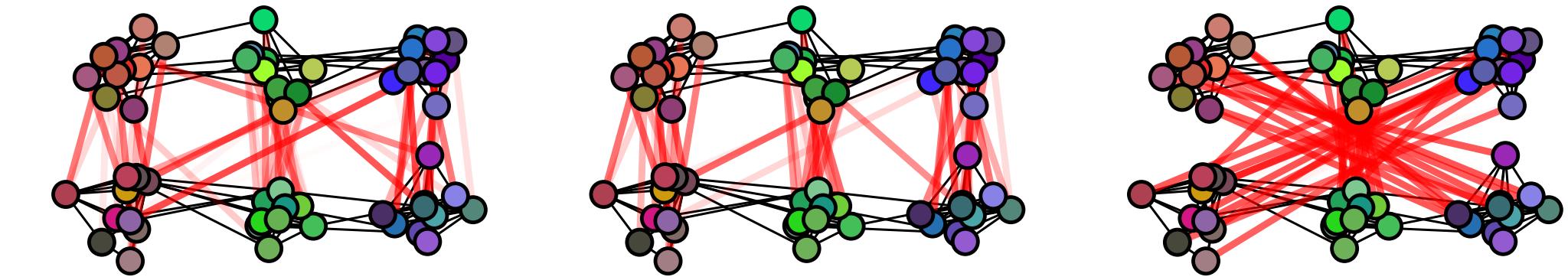
node features      structure      marginals regularization

OT plan with respect to  $\alpha$  for  $(1, 2, 3) \rightarrow (1, 2, 3)$

ULOT



Solver



$\alpha=0.0$

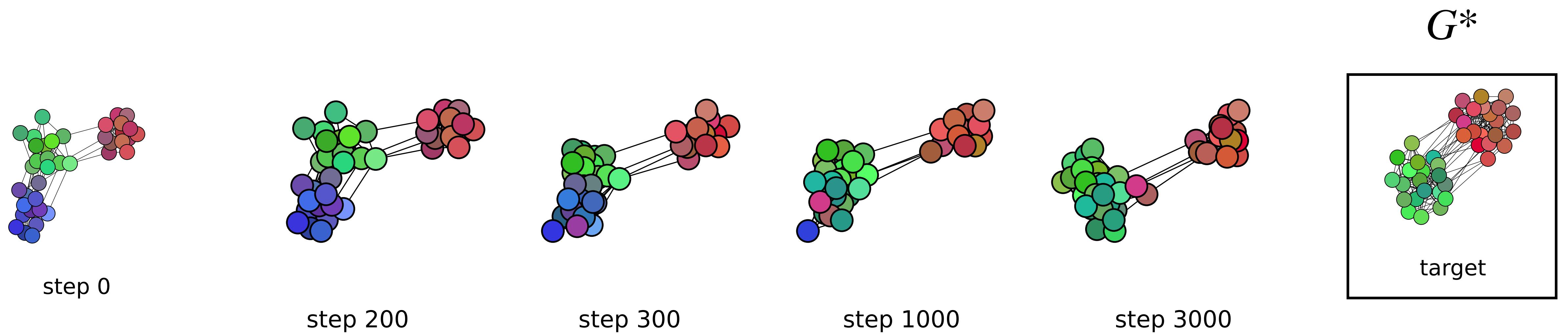
$\alpha=0.5$

$\alpha=1.0$

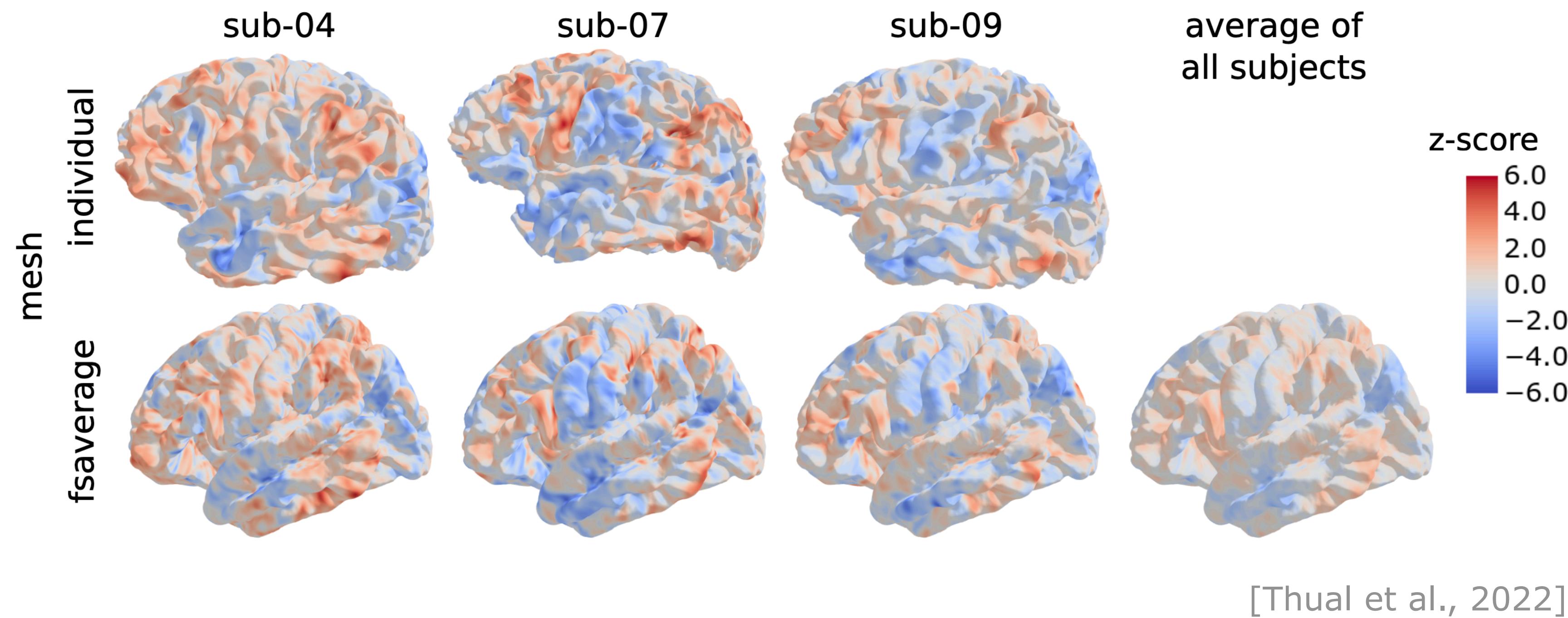
# Application: minimizing functionals of the ULOT plan

ULOT transport plan is fully differentiable so we can minimize functionals of the plans and visualize the gradient descent steps

$$\min_G L^{\alpha, \rho}(G, G^*, P_{\theta}^{\alpha, \rho}(G, G^*))$$



# Application to brain alignment



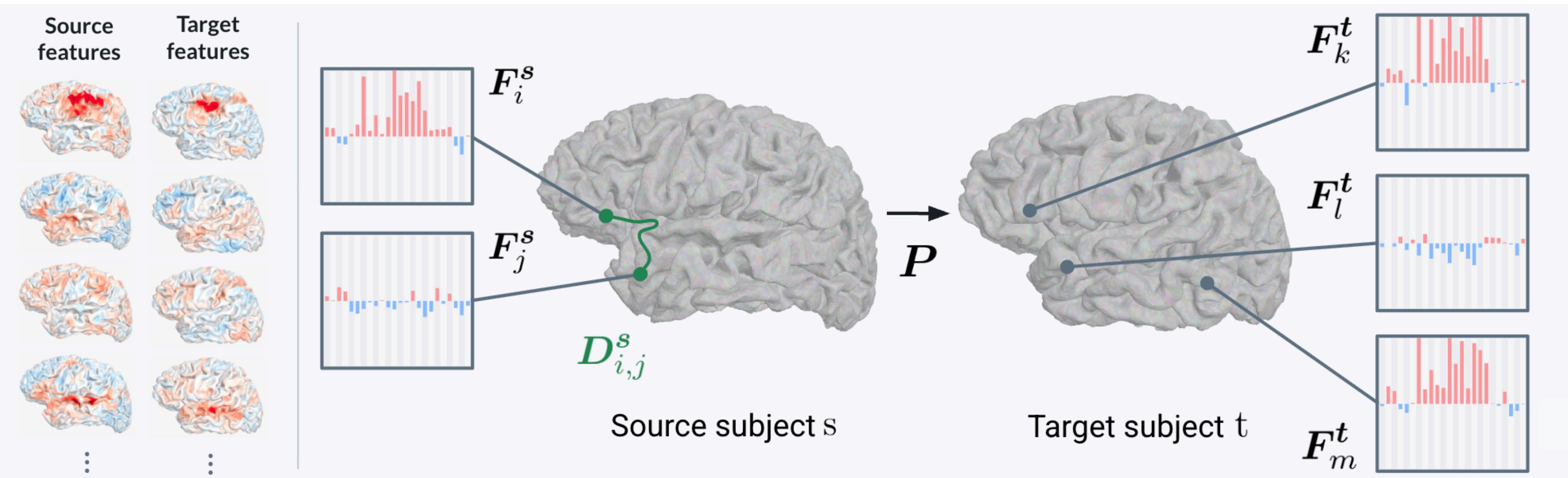
High inter subject variability (in terms of brain geometry or functional signatures) prevents generalization of observations made on a group of subjects.

**Current methods:** map the data to a common template, resulting in loss of detail.

# FUGW for brain alignment

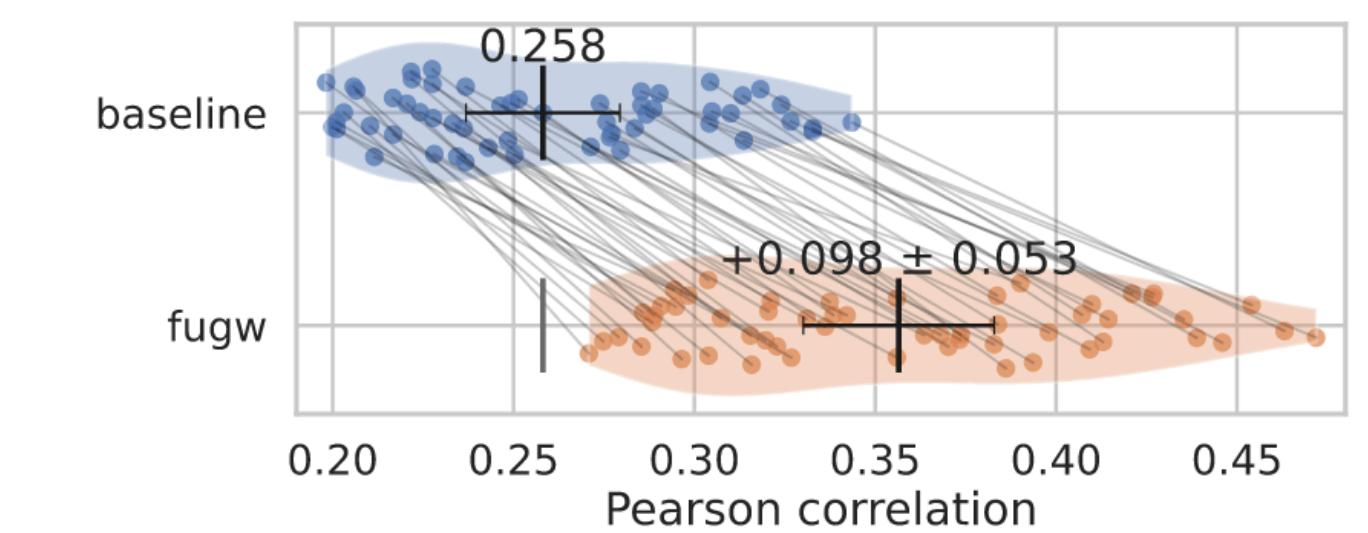
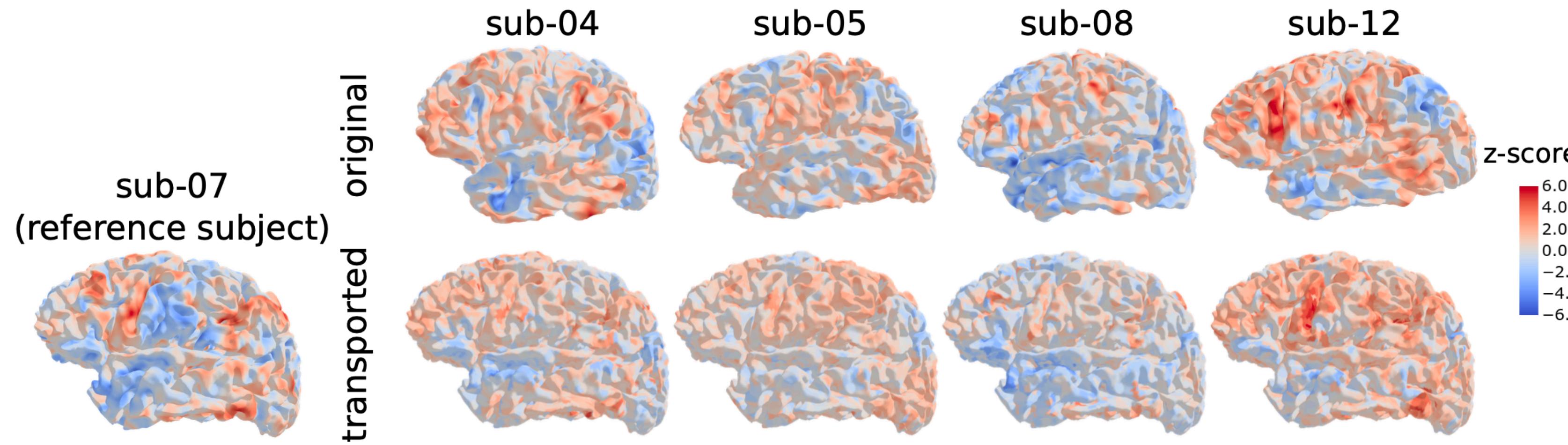
[Thual et al., 2022]: Brain alignment with FUGW transport plan.

Graphs constructed from the brain surface geometries and functional MRI activations for different tasks from the Individual Brain Charting dataset, 1000 nodes.



# Results

- Transporting individual maps onto a reference subject.
- High correlation gains between the source and target contrasts after FUGW alignment.



# Limitations

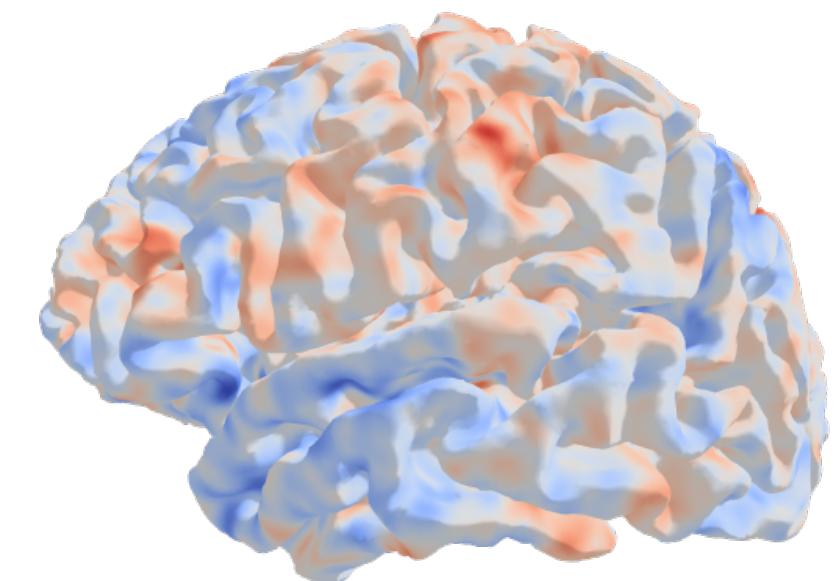
## Computational time:

- 4 minutes for aligning one pair with 10k vertices on a single GPU.
- Limits applications for computing alignments on large populations

## Choice of FUGW hyper parameters:

- Hyper parameters highly influence the transport plan
- Hyper parameters cannot be finely tuned because of high computational time.

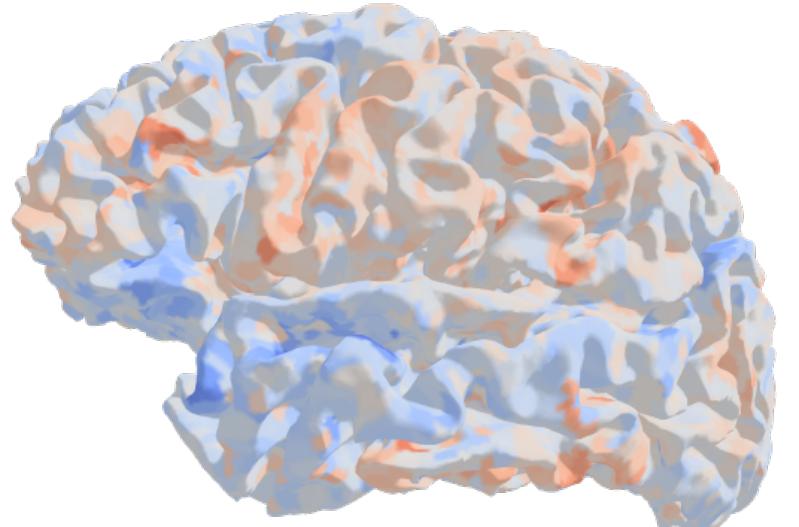
**Proposed method:** use ULOT to align brains.



source subject  $G_s$

$$P_\theta(G_s, G_t)$$

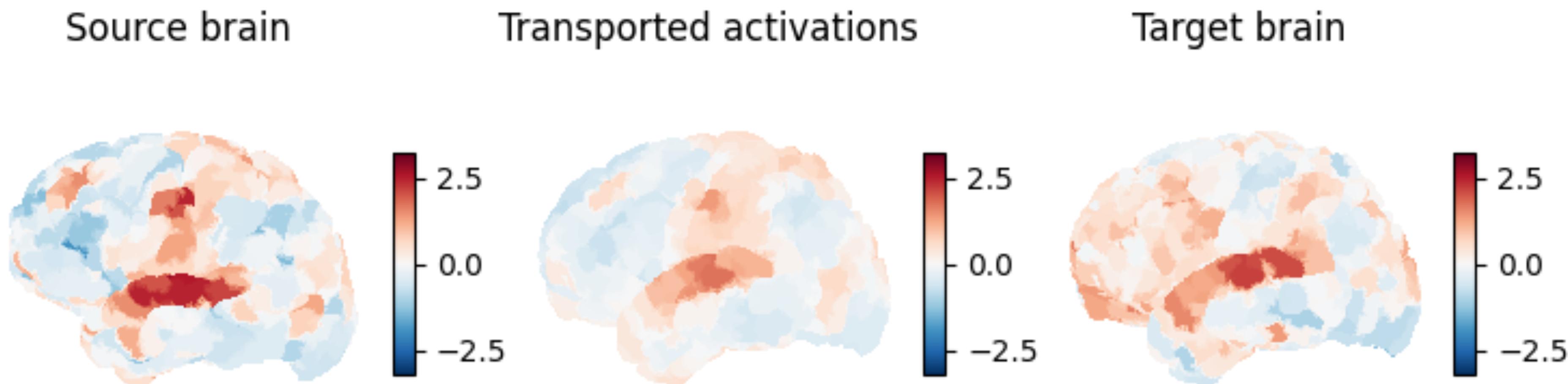
→



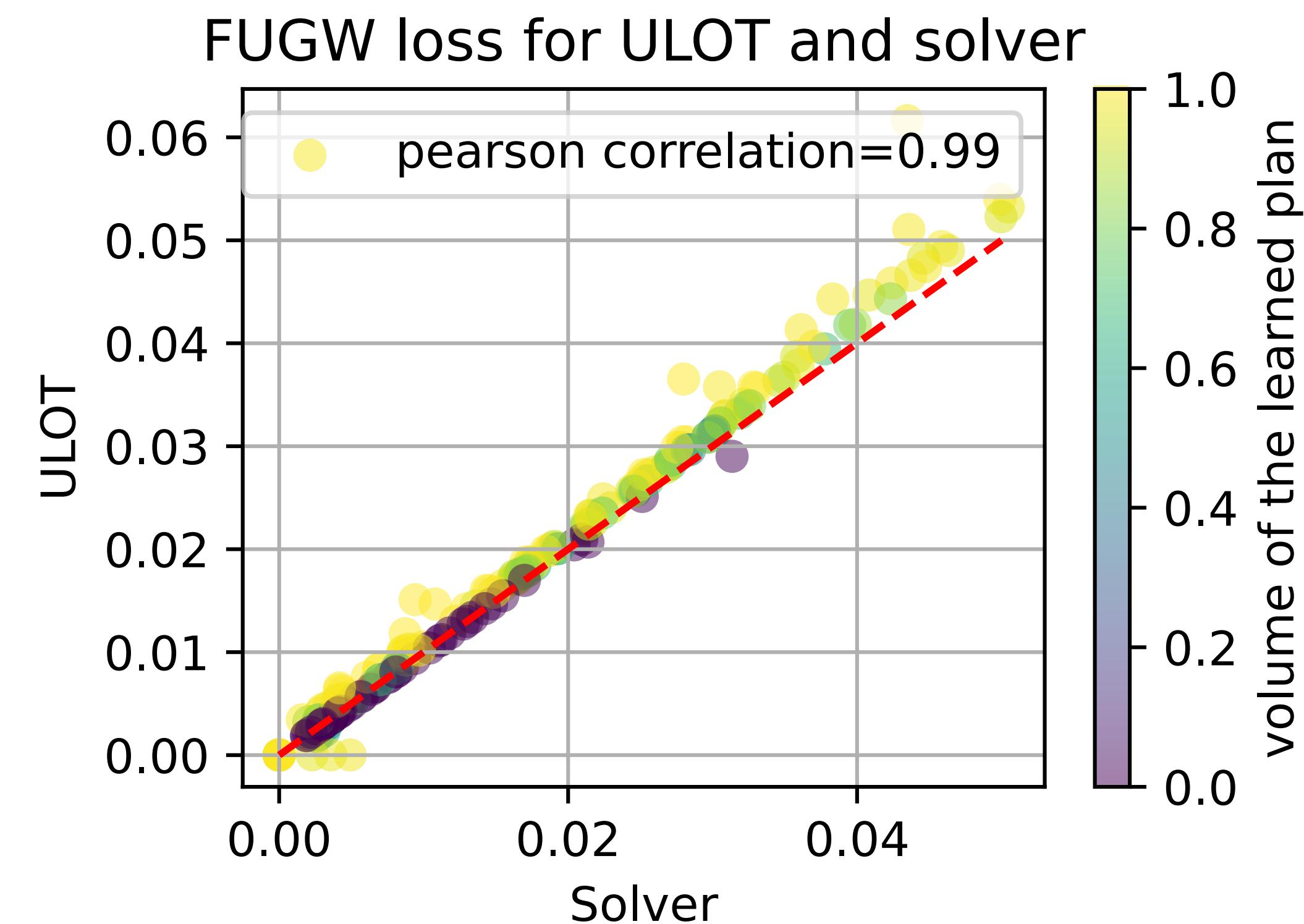
target subject  $G_t$

# Visualisation of ULOT brain alignment

- Using the ULOT transport plan to transport functional MRI activations from a source subject to a target subject

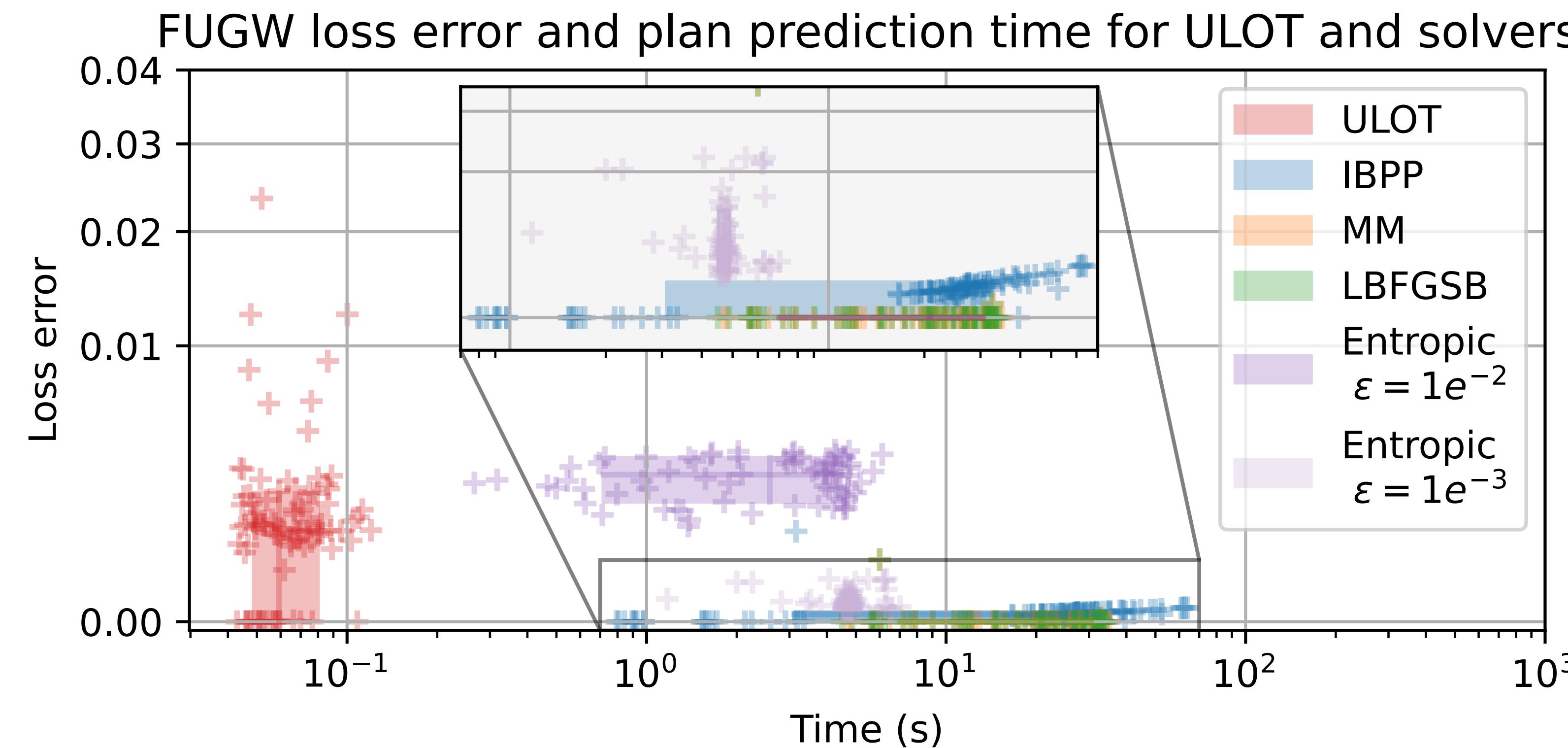


# Applications to fMRI data



ULOT predicted plans with low error compared to solvers, and up to 100 times faster: allows extensive parameter selection and scalability to large graphs.

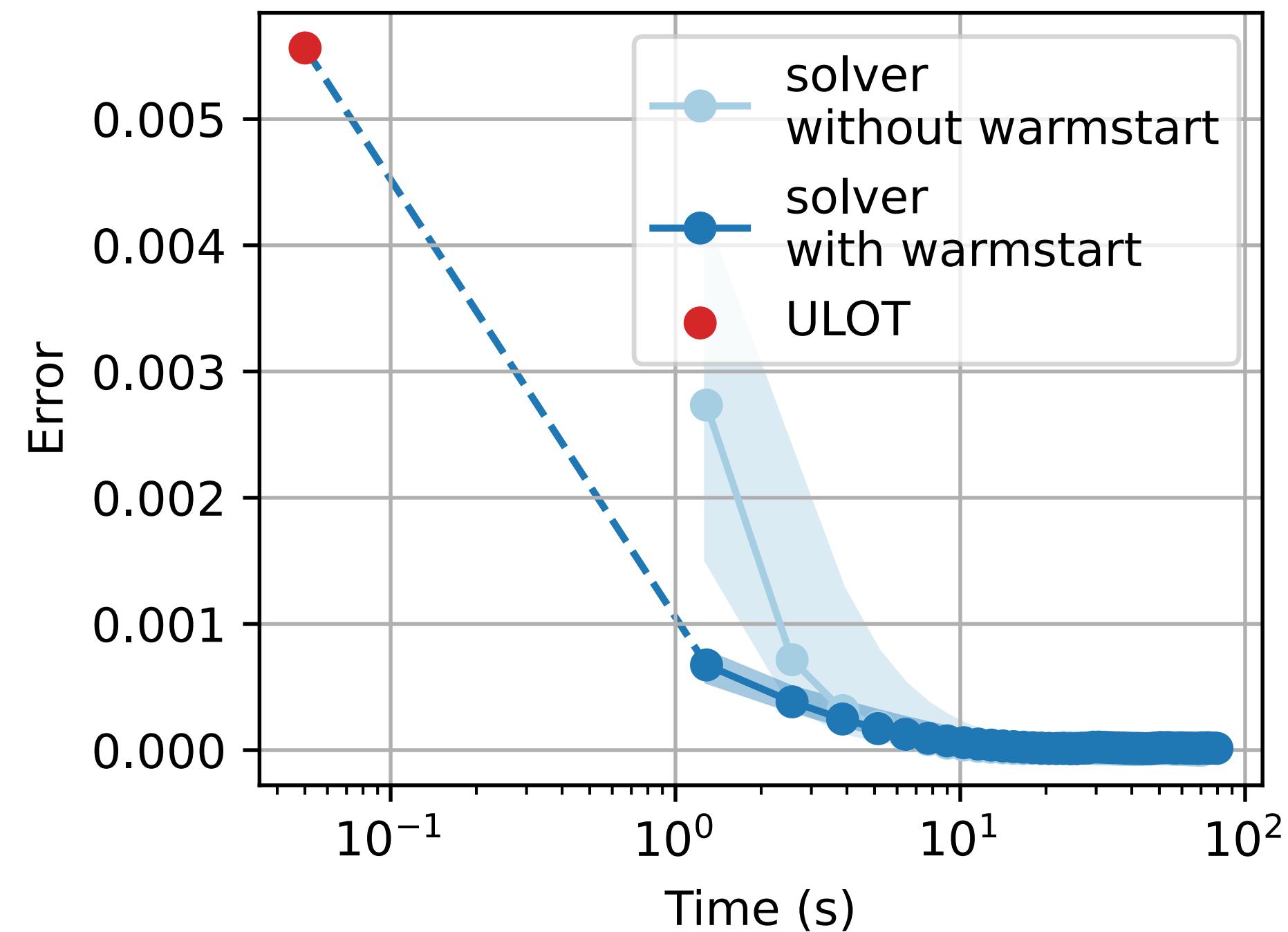
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# ULOT transport plan as warm start to solvers

Solver iterations with and without ULOT warmstart

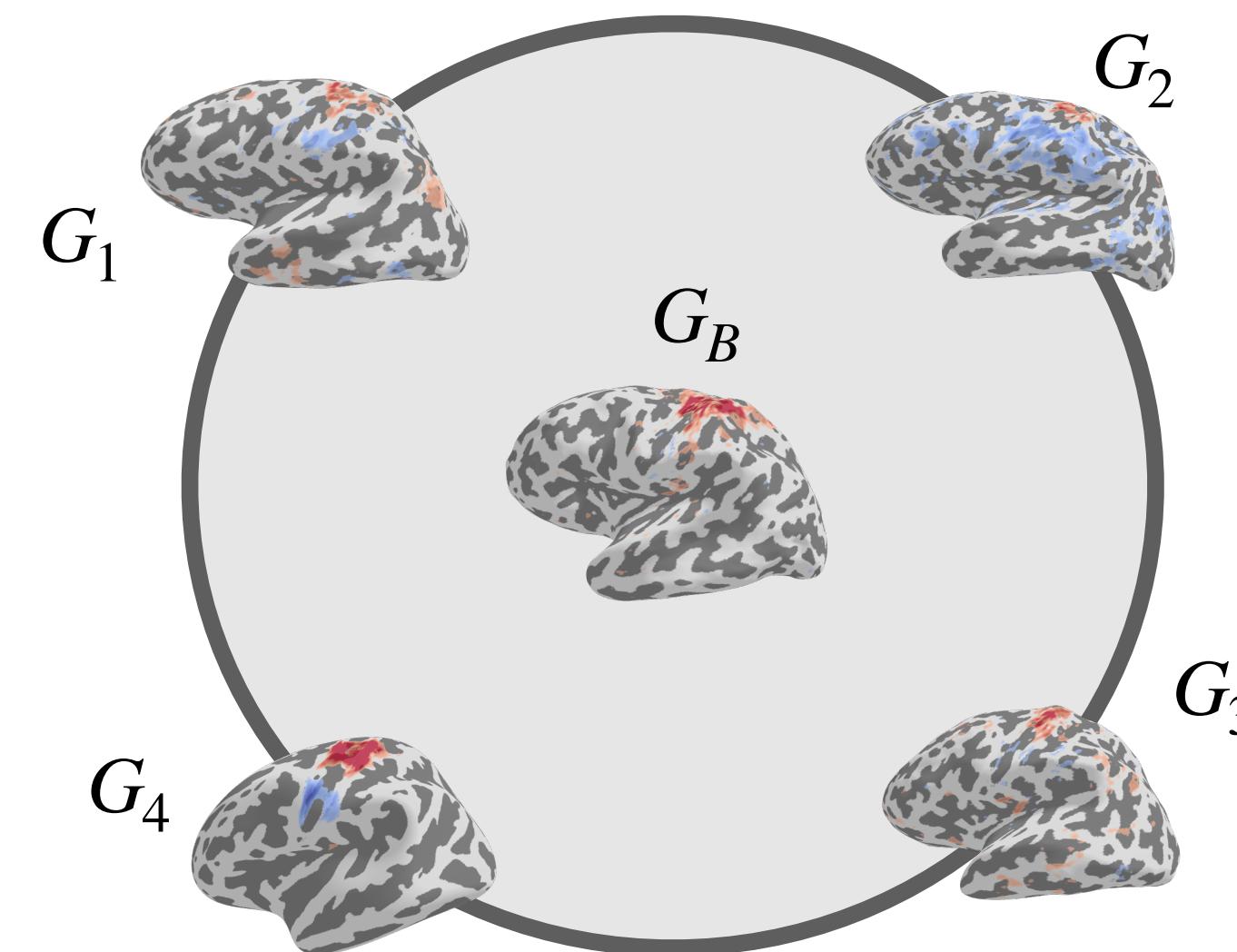


In cases where high precision plans are needed ULOT can be used as a warm start to solvers for faster convergence.

# Future work on fMRI data

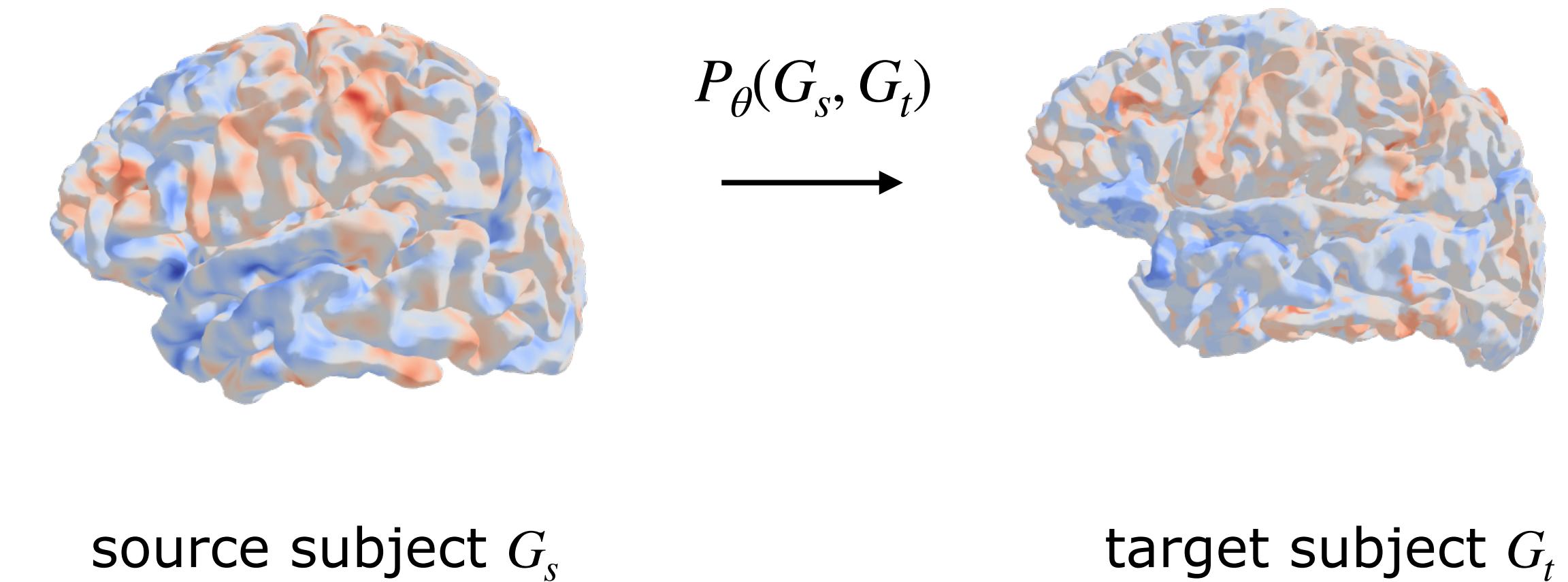
## Fast and scalable barycenter

**computation:** barycenter computation requires to solve many FUGW problems, which can be solved efficiently with ULOT



$$G_B = \arg \min_G \sum_{i=1}^n FUGW(G, G_i)$$

**fMRI activation prediction:** scale results from [Thual et al., 2022] to higher resolution graphs



# Conclusion



- Efficient method for transport plan prediction between graphs with low error and up to 100 times faster than classical solvers.
- Enables FUGW hyper parameter selection, and applications that involve computing many transport plans (barycenters, minimization of functionals of the transport plan).
- Limitations and future work:
  - transport plan error can still be a problem in some applications where high precision is needed.
  - applications to neural dataset is limited because of the small size of datasets: need to investigate further data augmentation techniques.



**paper**

