

COMMUNITY DETECTION IN BRAIN FUNCTIONAL NETWORKS BEYOND THE RESOLUTION LIMIT

CARLO NICOLINI, CÉCILE BORDIER AND
ANGELO BIFONE

Center for Neuroscience and Cognitive Systems, Istituto Italiano di Tecnologia, Rovereto, Italy
University of Verona, Italy



ISTITUTO ITALIANO
DI TECNOLOGIA



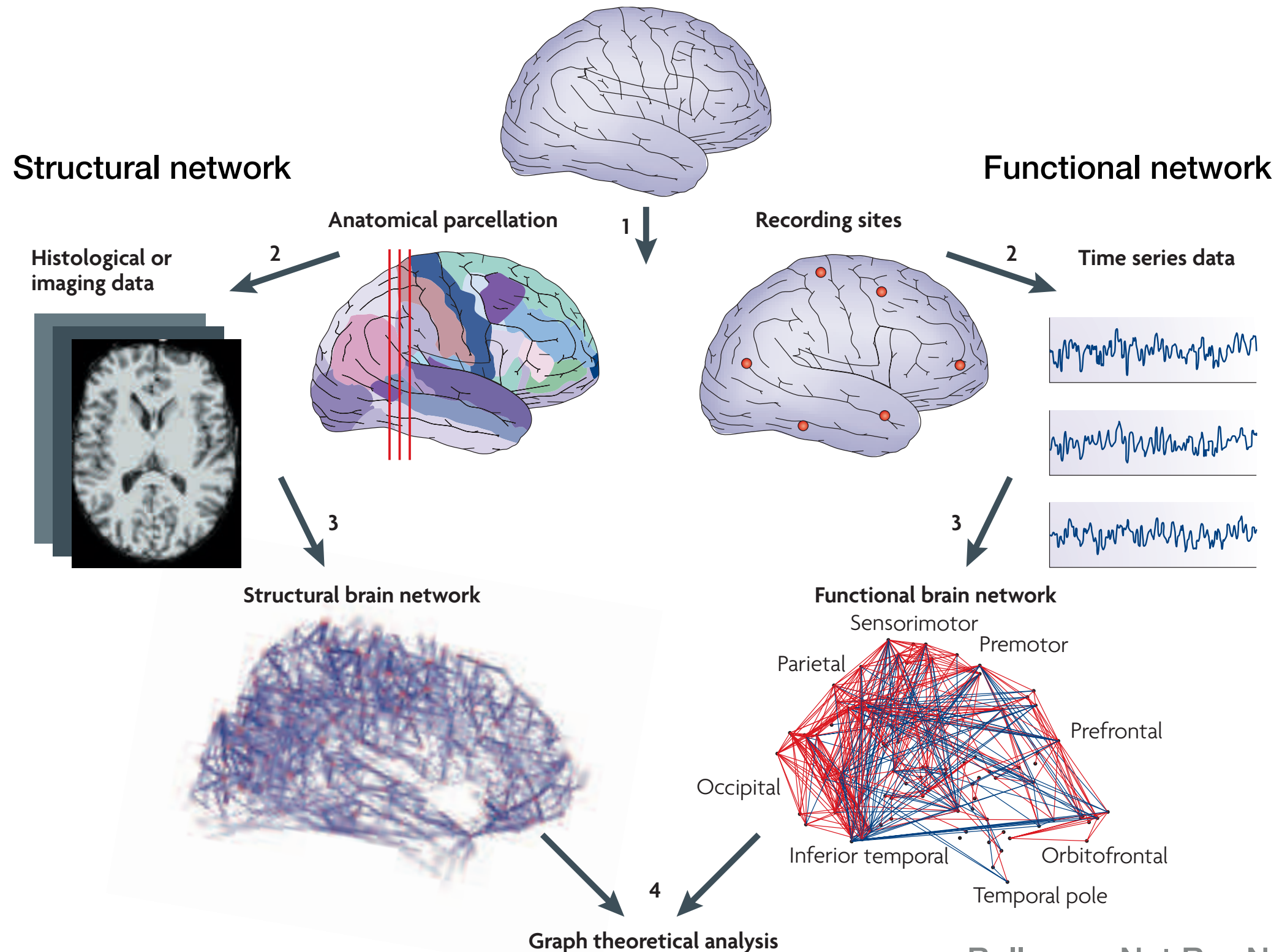
UNIVERSITÀ
di **VERONA**



 [brainetlab.github.io](https://github.com/brainetlab/brainetlab.github.io)

arxiv.org/1609.04316

GRAPH THEORY FOR BRAIN NETWORKS



FUNCTIONAL BRAIN NETWORKS

FUNCTIONAL BRAIN NETWORKS

- ▶ A mirror over the living brain.

FUNCTIONAL BRAIN NETWORKS

- ▶ A mirror over the living brain.
- ▶ Clinically important biomarker.

FUNCTIONAL BRAIN NETWORKS

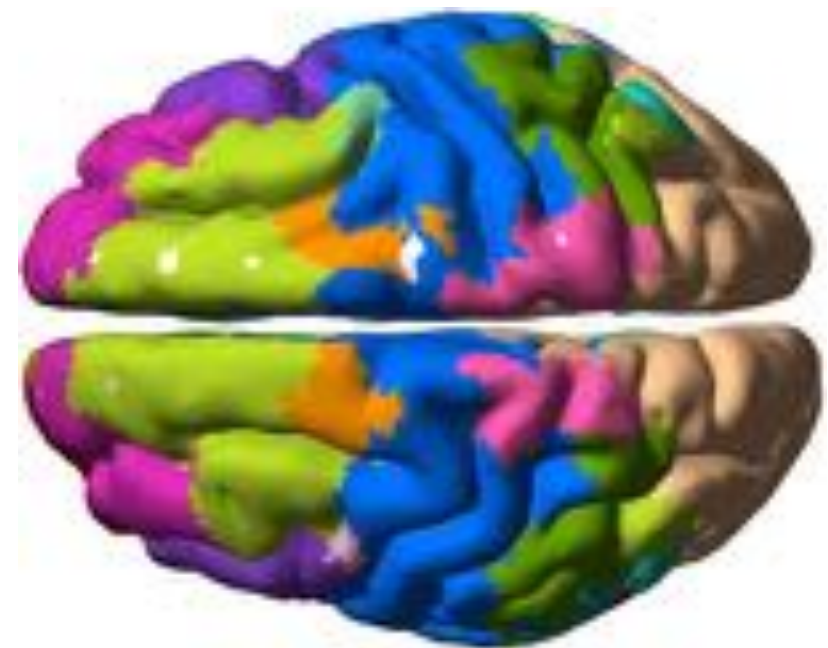
- ▶ A mirror over the living brain.
- ▶ Clinically important biomarker.
- ▶ Aberrant connectivity is observed in many diseases.

FUNCTIONAL BRAIN NETWORKS

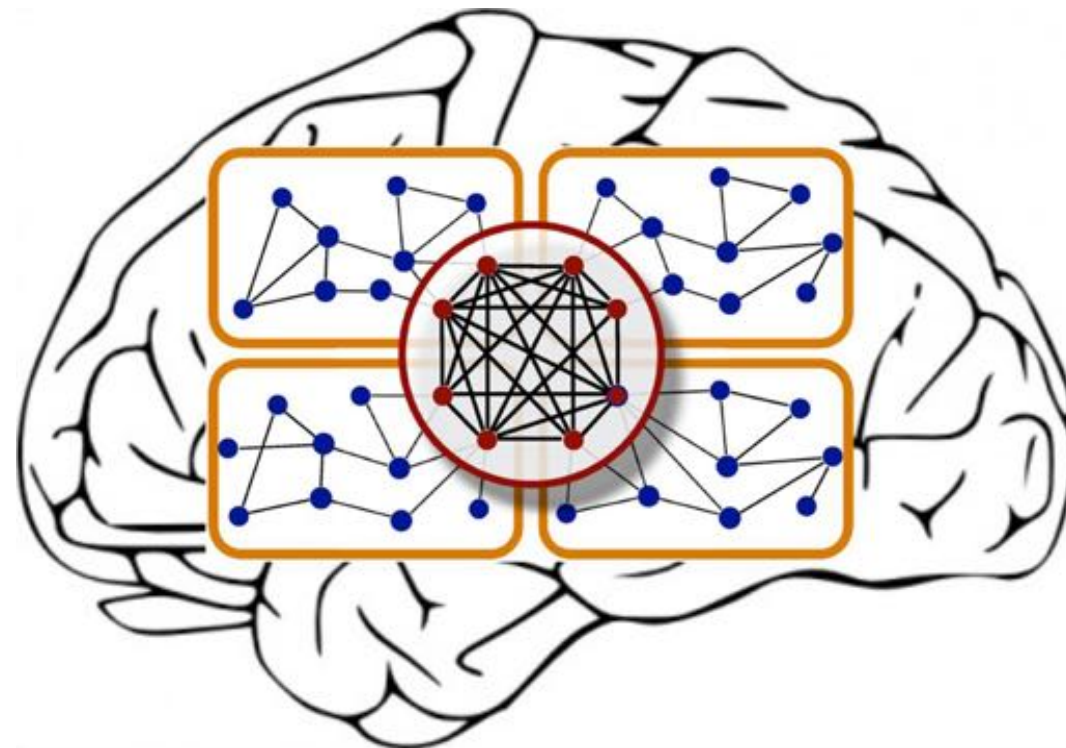
- ▶ A mirror over the living brain.
- ▶ Clinically important biomarker.
- ▶ Aberrant connectivity is observed in many diseases.
- ▶ Modular structure of FC connectivity.

FUNCTIONAL BRAIN NETWORKS

- ▶ A mirror over the living brain.
- ▶ Clinically important biomarker.
- ▶ Aberrant connectivity is observed in many diseases.
- ▶ Modular structure of FC connectivity.
- ▶ Graph theoretical community detection unveils the mesoscopic organization of functional connectivity.

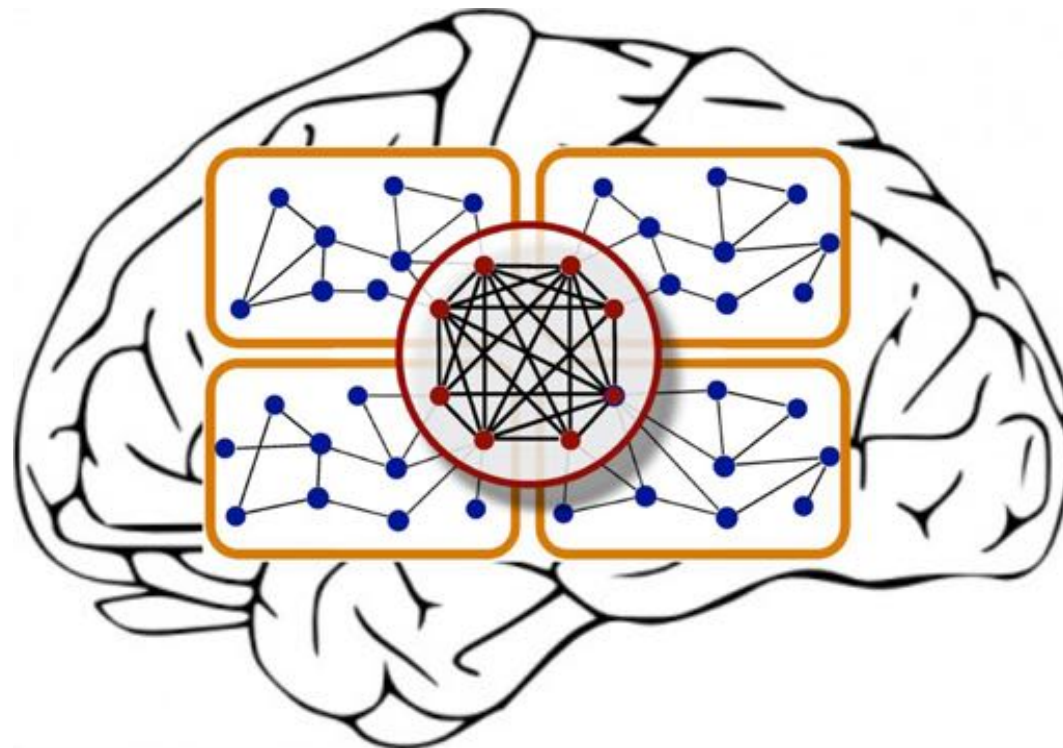


WHY LOOKING FOR MODULES IN THE BRAIN?



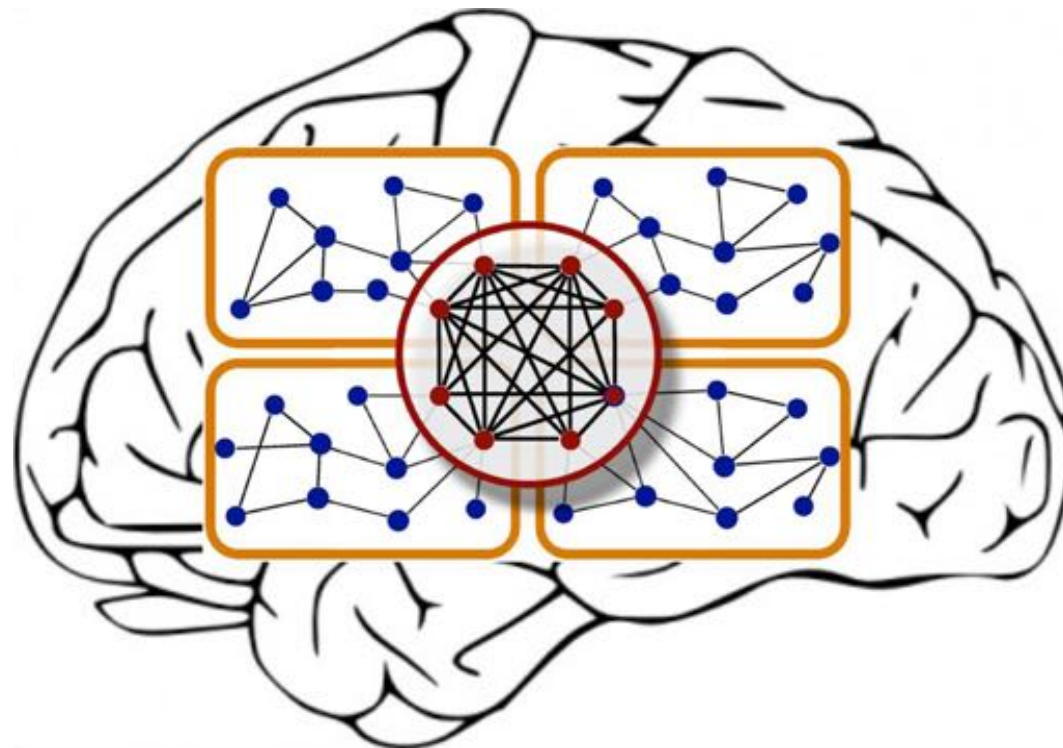
WHY LOOKING FOR MODULES IN THE BRAIN?

- “Nearly decomposable systems” are faster to adapt and evolve in a changing environment [Simon 1962].



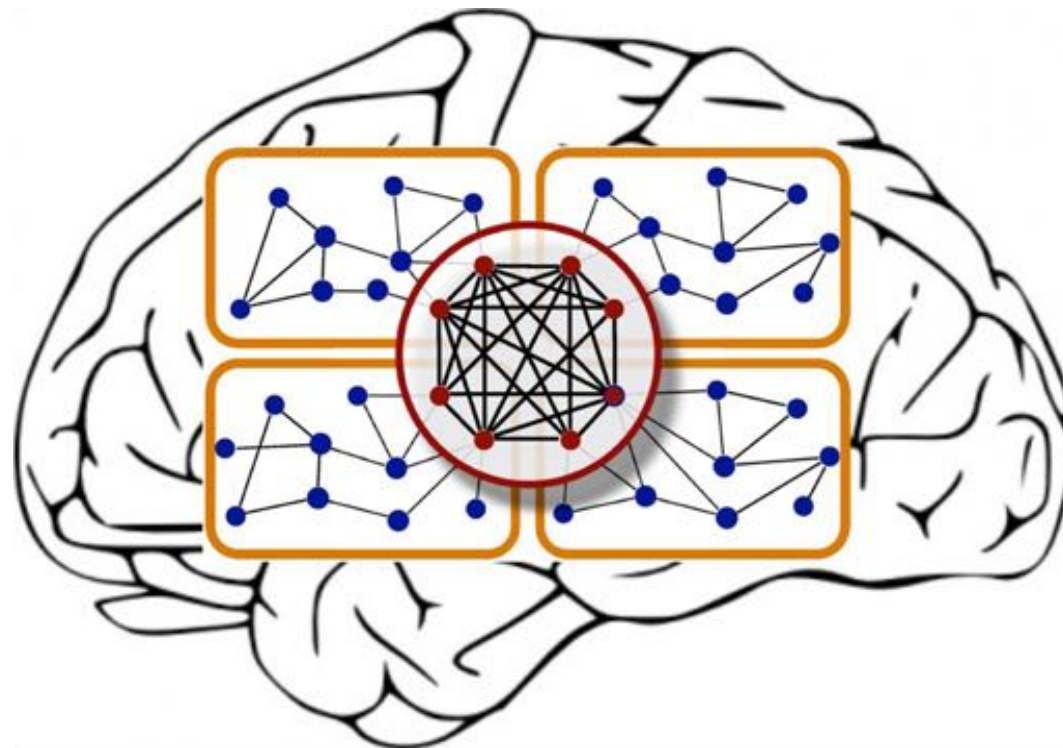
WHY LOOKING FOR MODULES IN THE BRAIN?

- ▶ “Nearly decomposable systems” are faster to adapt and evolve in a changing environment [Simon 1962].
- ▶ Confers stability against abrupt external changes (lesions).



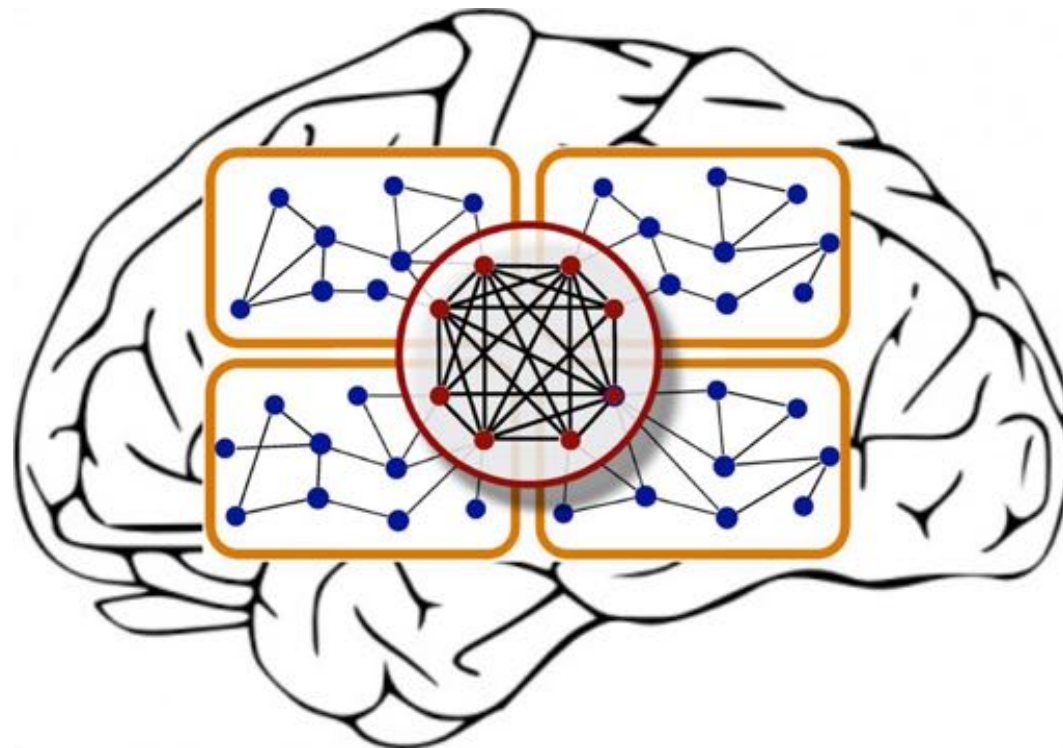
WHY LOOKING FOR MODULES IN THE BRAIN?

- ▶ “Nearly decomposable systems” are faster to adapt and evolve in a changing environment [Simon 1962].
- ▶ Confers stability against abrupt external changes (lesions).
- ▶ Allows for functional segregation and integration.



WHY LOOKING FOR MODULES IN THE BRAIN?

- ▶ “Nearly decomposable systems” are faster to adapt and evolve in a changing environment [Simon 1962].
- ▶ Confers stability against abrupt external changes (lesions).
- ▶ Allows for functional segregation and integration.
- ▶ Coevolution of structural and functional connectivity.



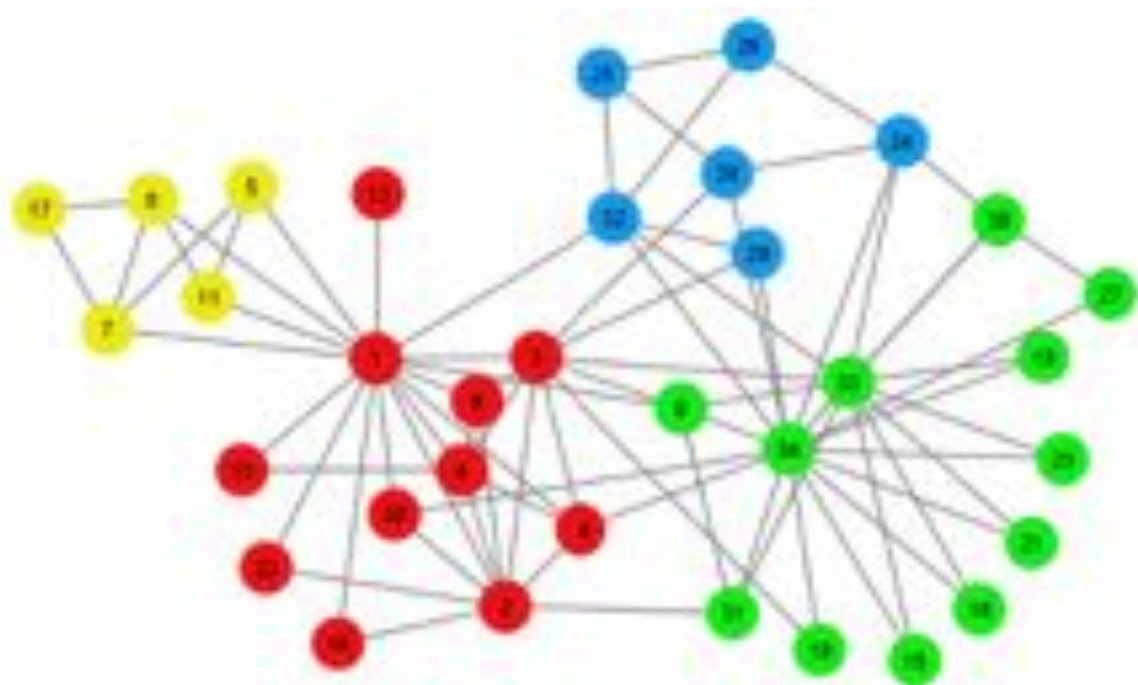
NEWMAN-GIRVAN MODULARITY

$$Q = \frac{1}{2m} \sum_{ij} \left[A_{ij} - \frac{k_i k_j}{2m} \right] \delta(\sigma_i, \sigma_j)$$

1 if node i and node j in the same community

Observed fraction intracluster edges

Expected fraction of intracluster edges



- Based on a null configuration model
- Same degree sequence
- Randomly rewired

Newman, 2006

Zachary, 1977

MOST USED QUALITY FUNCTION FOR COMMUNITY DETECTION

MOST USED QUALITY FUNCTION FOR COMMUNITY DETECTION

But it has some problems:

MOST USED QUALITY FUNCTION FOR COMMUNITY DETECTION

But it has some problems:

- ▶ **Resolution limit:**

Inability to detect communities smaller than a certain scale.

MOST USED QUALITY FUNCTION FOR COMMUNITY DETECTION

But it has some problems:

- ▶ **Resolution limit:**

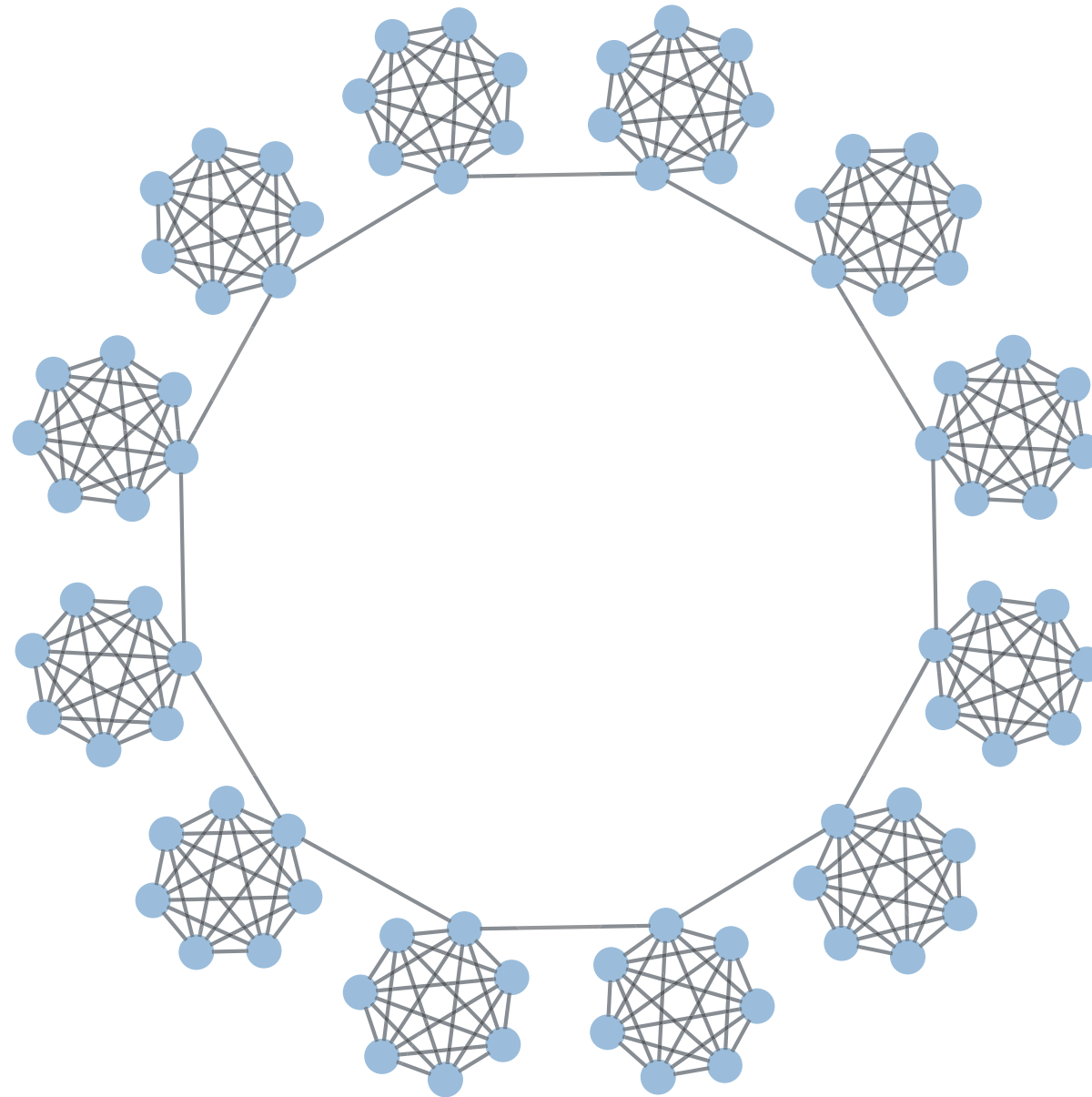
Inability to detect communities smaller than a certain scale.

- ▶ **Degeneracy:**

Many high Q solutions are different.

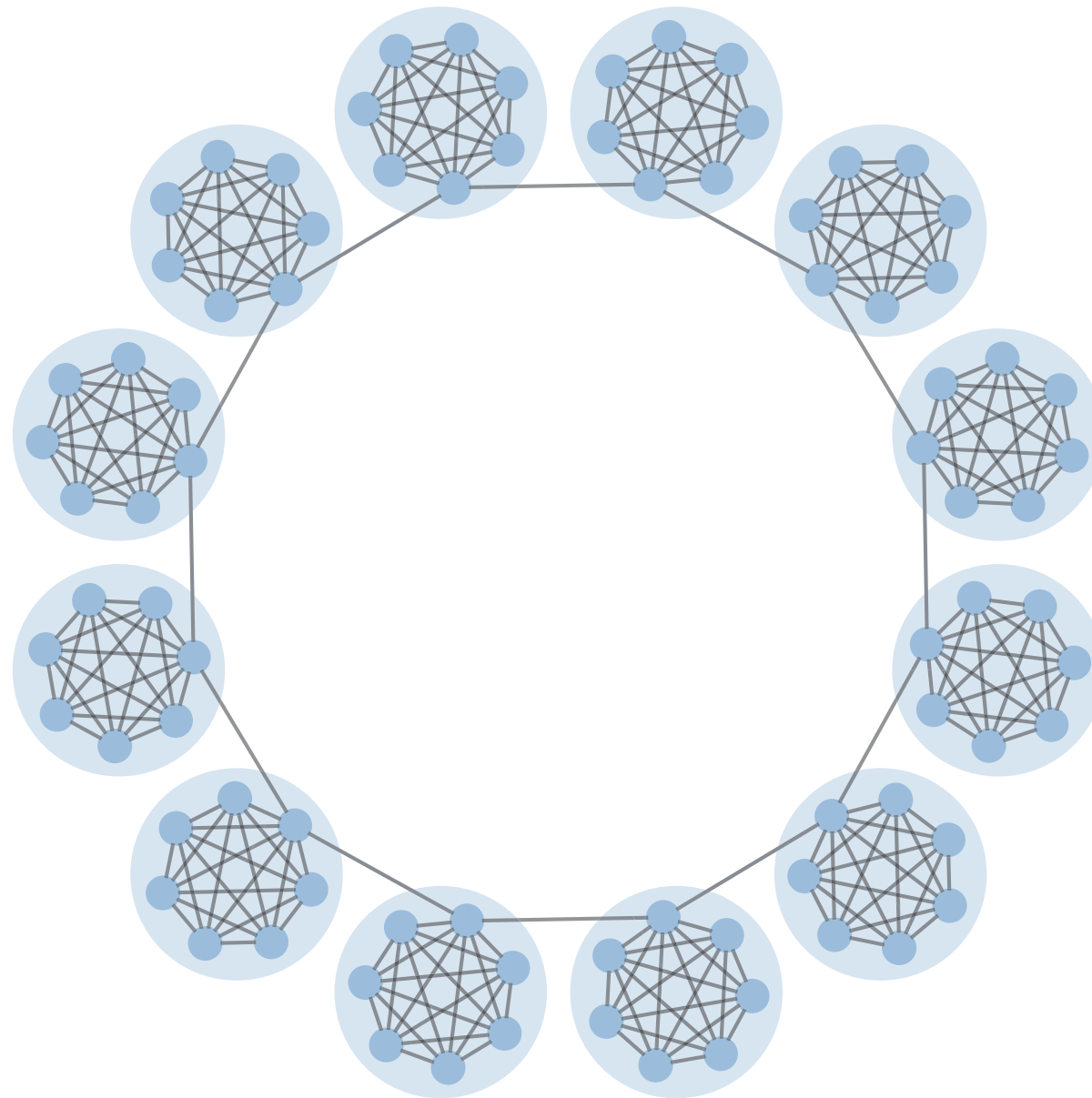
RESOLUTION LIMIT: AN EXAMPLE

RESOLUTION LIMIT: AN EXAMPLE



Original network

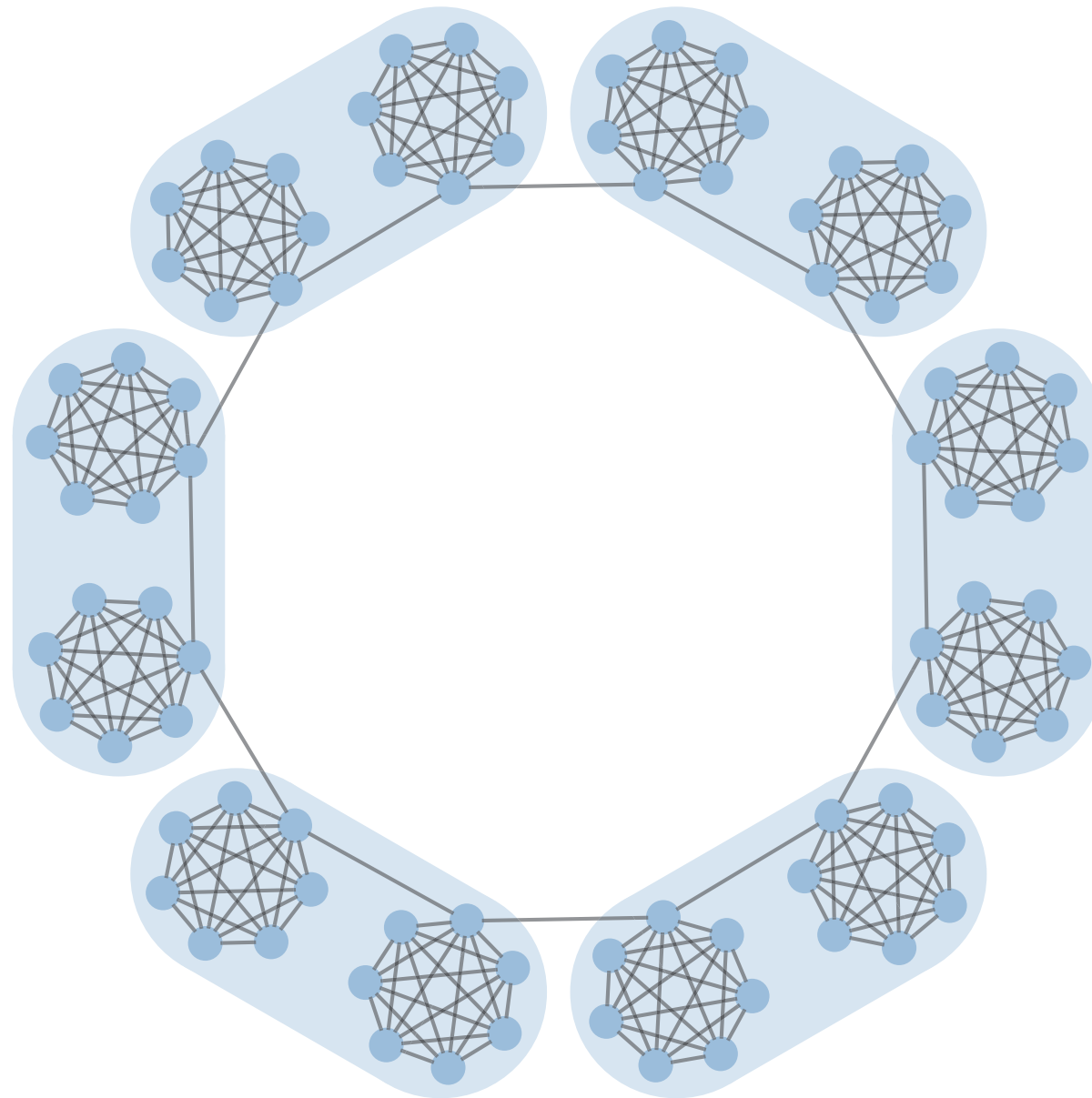
RESOLUTION LIMIT: AN EXAMPLE



Ground truth
partition

Adapted from Traag, 2011

RESOLUTION LIMIT: AN EXAMPLE

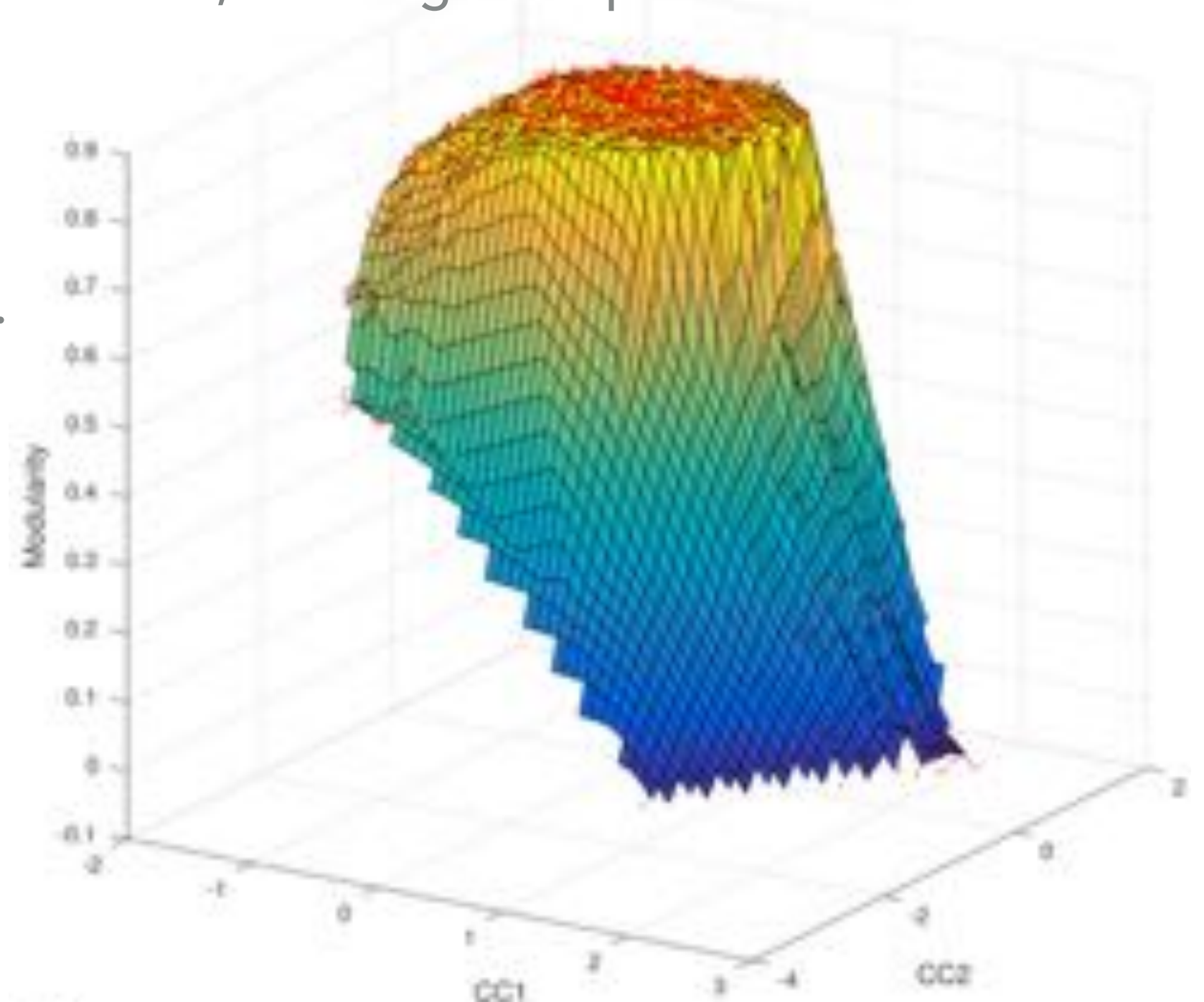
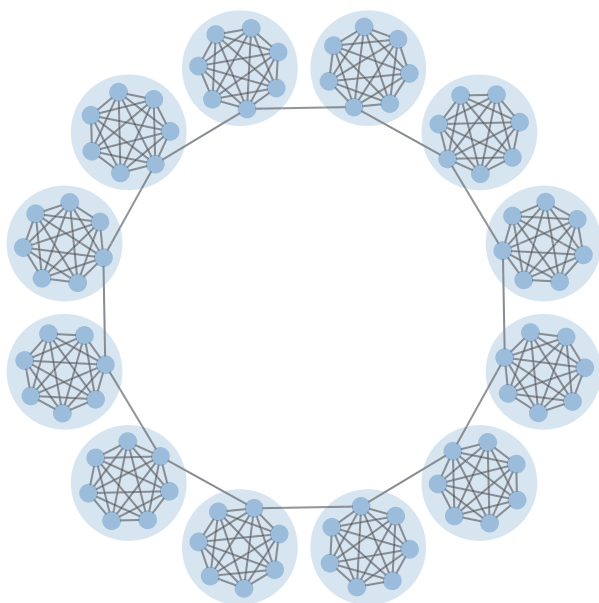


Maximum modularity
partition

Adapted from Traag, 2011

DEGENERACY

- ▶ Degeneracy landscape of a $k=24, n=5$ ring of cliques.
- ▶ Curvilinear components analysis.
- ▶ Red points are solutions.
- ▶ Distance embedding.



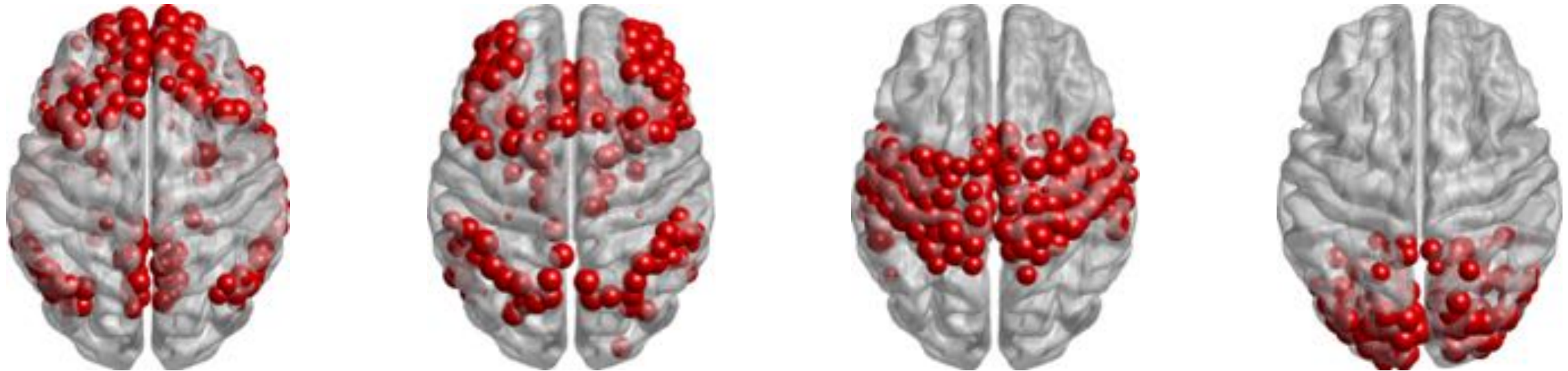
Adapted from Good et al. (2008)

RESOLUTION LIMIT

Resolution limit is an almost ubiquitous phenomenon:

- ▶ Resolution parameter γ [Arenas 2008, Reichardt 2006] only shifts the problem at different scales.
- ▶ It depends on Modularity, not on the heuristic.
- ▶ In Infomap depends on intercluster edges [Kawamoto 2015].
- ▶ Global parameters? Resolution limit kicks in [Fortunato 2016].

REAL WORLD EFFECTS OF RESOLUTION LIMIT



- Resting state group average over 27 healthy subjects.
- 4 modules found by modularity maximization.

$$m_c \geq \sqrt{\frac{m}{2}}$$

We need to move this limit away.

SURPRISE

$$S = -\log_{10} \sum_{i=m_{\zeta}}^m \frac{\binom{p_{\zeta}}{i} \binom{p-p_{\zeta}}{m-i}}{\binom{p}{m}}$$

SURPRISE

$$S = -\log_{10} \sum_{i=m_{\zeta}}^m \frac{\binom{p_{\zeta}}{i} \binom{p-p_{\zeta}}{m-i}}{\binom{p}{m}}$$

- p-value of a Fisher exact test based on urn model.

SURPRISE

$$S = -\log_{10} \sum_{i=m_{\zeta}}^m \frac{\binom{p_{\zeta}}{i} \binom{p-p_{\zeta}}{m-i}}{\binom{p}{m}}$$

- p-value of a Fisher exact test based on **urn** model.
- Measures how surprising is to observe that the intracluster density is the same as graph density.

SURPRISE

$$S = -\log_{10} \sum_{i=m_\zeta}^m \frac{\binom{p_\zeta}{i} \binom{p-p_\zeta}{m-i}}{\binom{p}{m}}$$

- ▶ p-value of a Fisher exact test based on **urn** model.
- ▶ Measures how surprising is to observe that the intracluster density is the same as graph density.
- ▶ The higher Surprise, the better the clustering.

SURPRISE

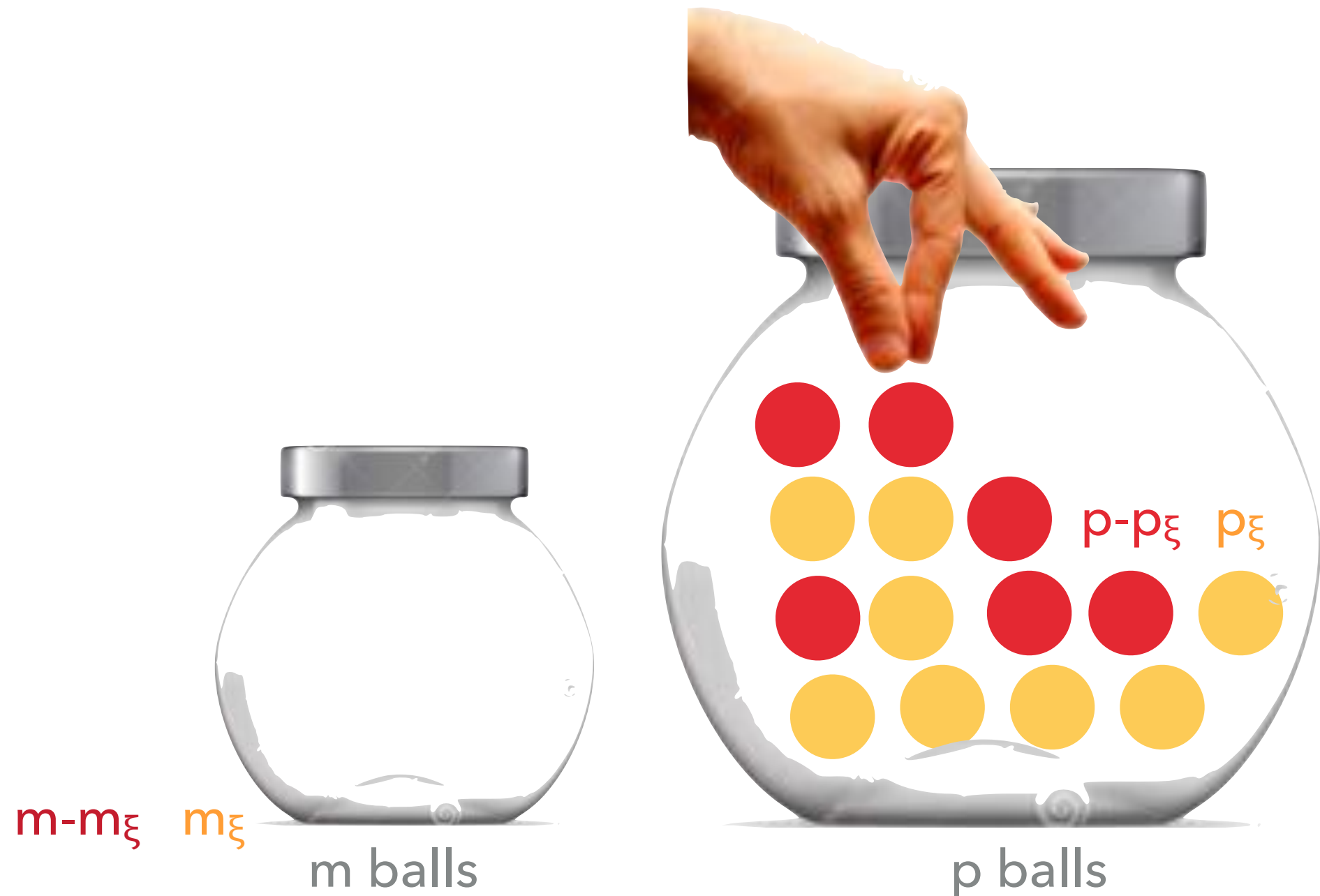
$$S = -\log_{10} \sum_{i=m_\zeta}^m \frac{\binom{p_\zeta}{i} \binom{p-p_\zeta}{m-i}}{\binom{p}{m}}$$

- ▶ p-value of a Fisher exact test based on **urn** model.
- ▶ Measures how surprising is to observe that the intracluster density is the same as graph density.
- ▶ The higher Surprise, the better the clustering.
- ▶ Attention to the statistical significance of the partitioning.

URN MODEL

p total balls, p_ξ yellow and $p - p_\xi$ red.

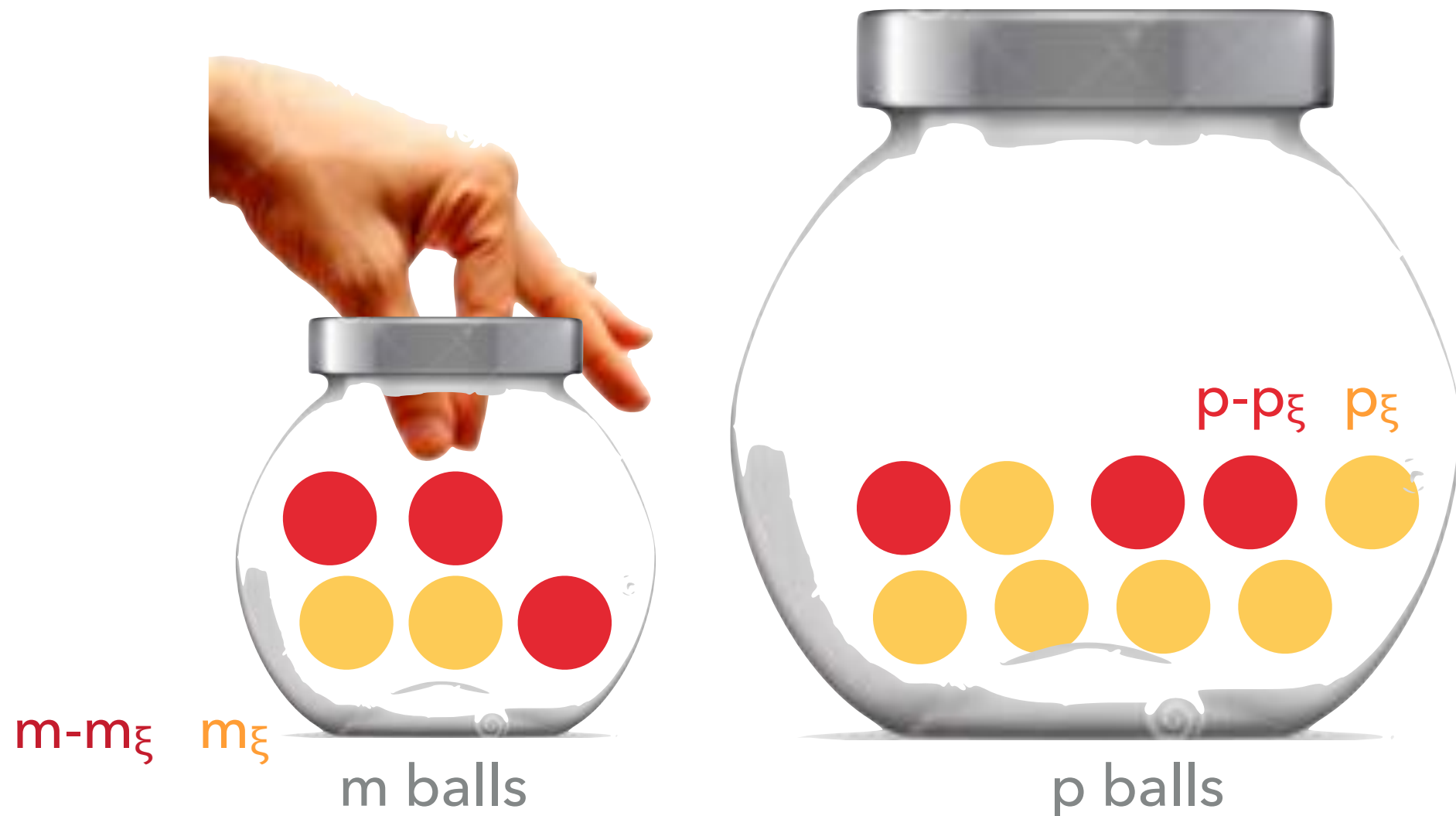
Pick m marbles, randomly, what is the probability of having at least m_ξ yellow balls?



URN MODEL

p total balls, p_ξ yellow and $p - p_\xi$ red.

Pick m marbles, randomly, what is the probability of having at least m_ξ yellow balls?

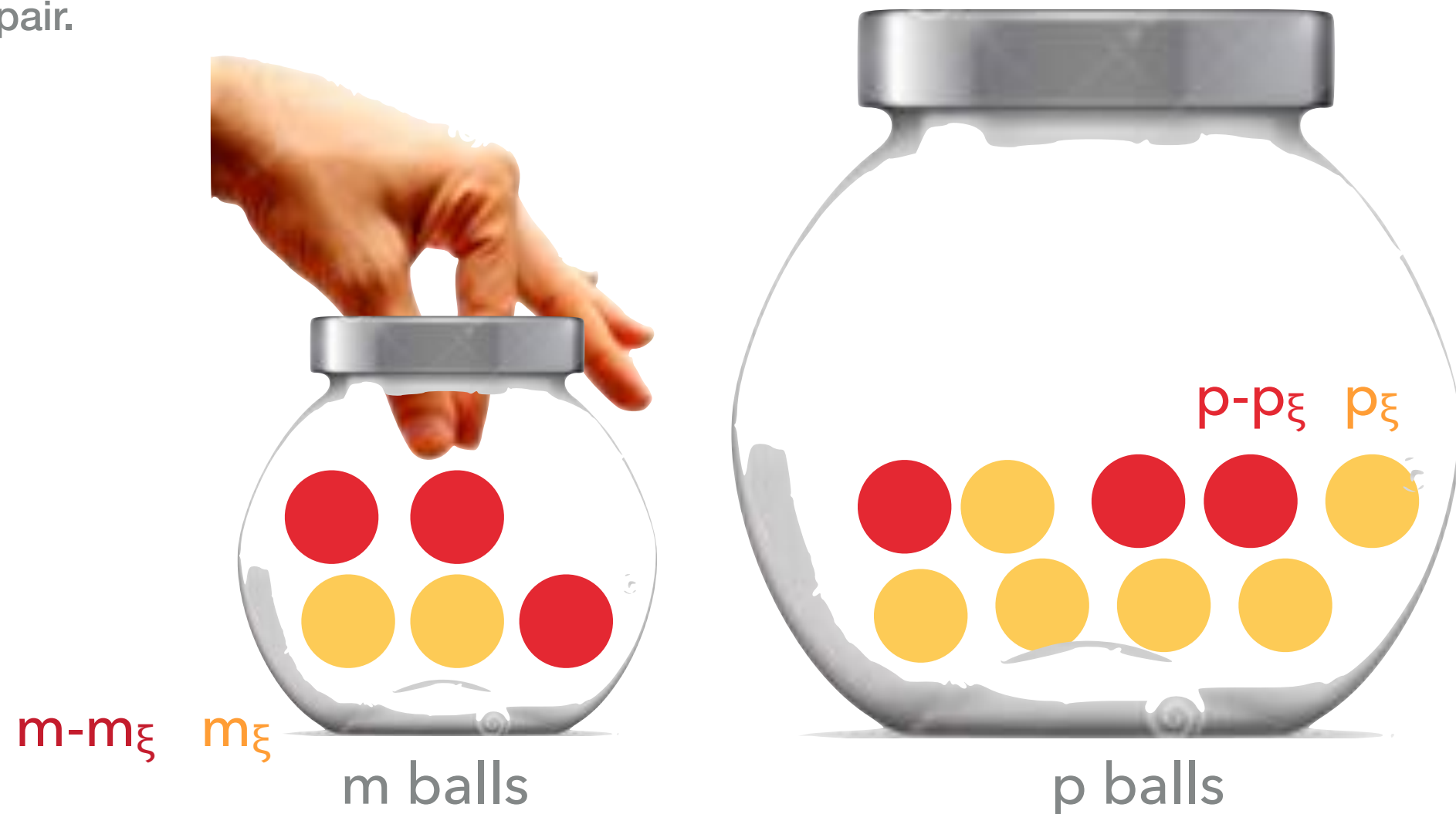


URN MODEL

p total balls, p_ξ yellow and $p - p_\xi$ red.

Pick m marbles, randomly, what is the probability of having at least m_ξ yellow balls?

Every marble is a node pair.



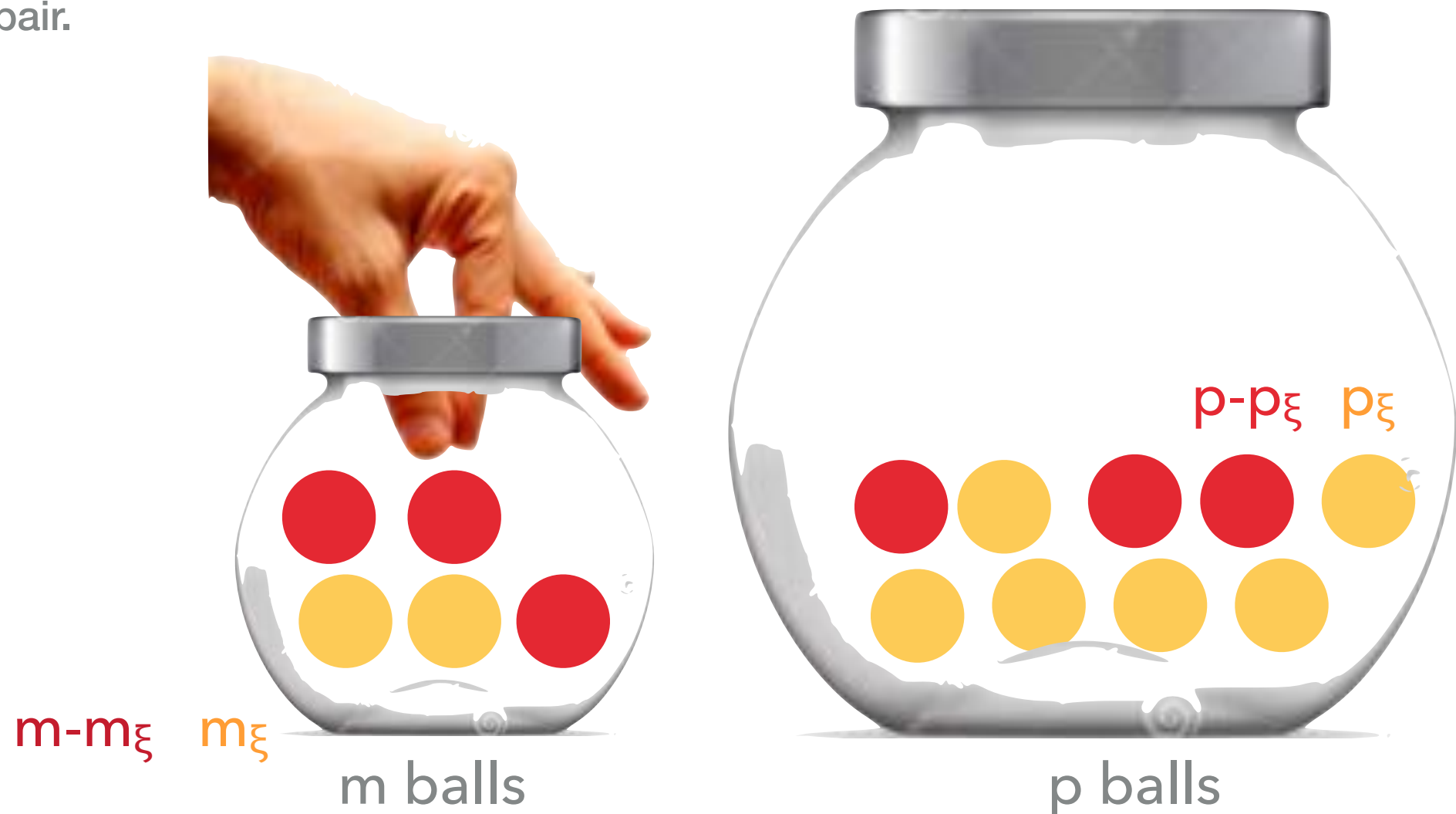
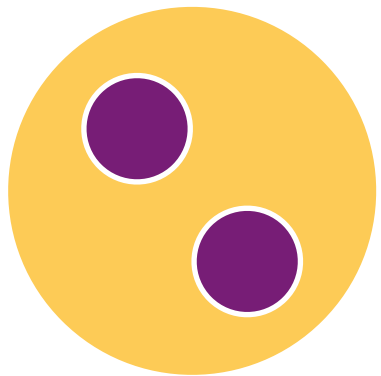
URN MODEL

p total balls, p_ξ yellow and $p - p_\xi$ red.

Pick m marbles, randomly, what is the probability of having at least m_ξ yellow balls?

Every marble is a node pair.

Intracuster pairs



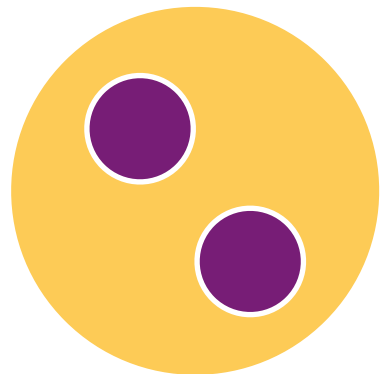
URN MODEL

p total balls, p_ξ yellow and $p - p_\xi$ red.

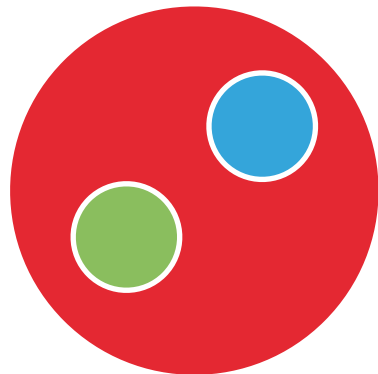
Pick m marbles, randomly, what is the probability of having at least m_ξ yellow balls?

Every marble is a node pair.

Intracuster pairs



Intercluster pairs

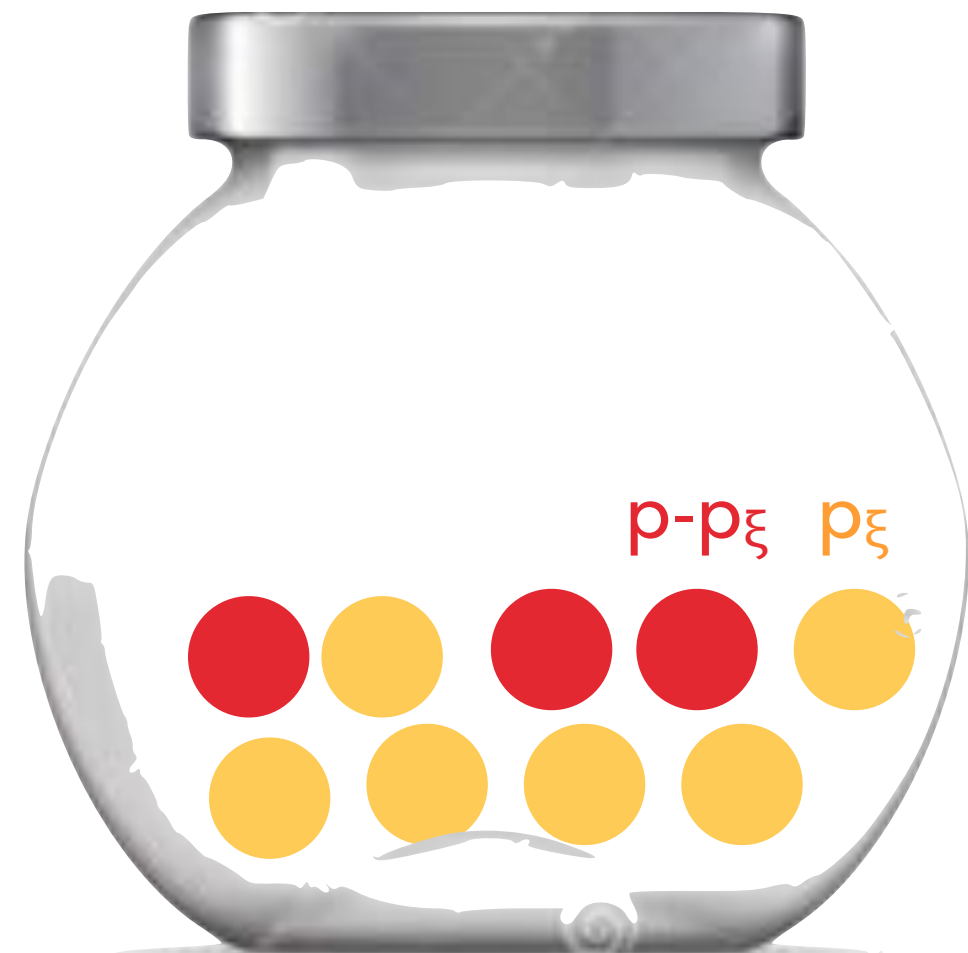


$m - m_\xi$ m_ξ

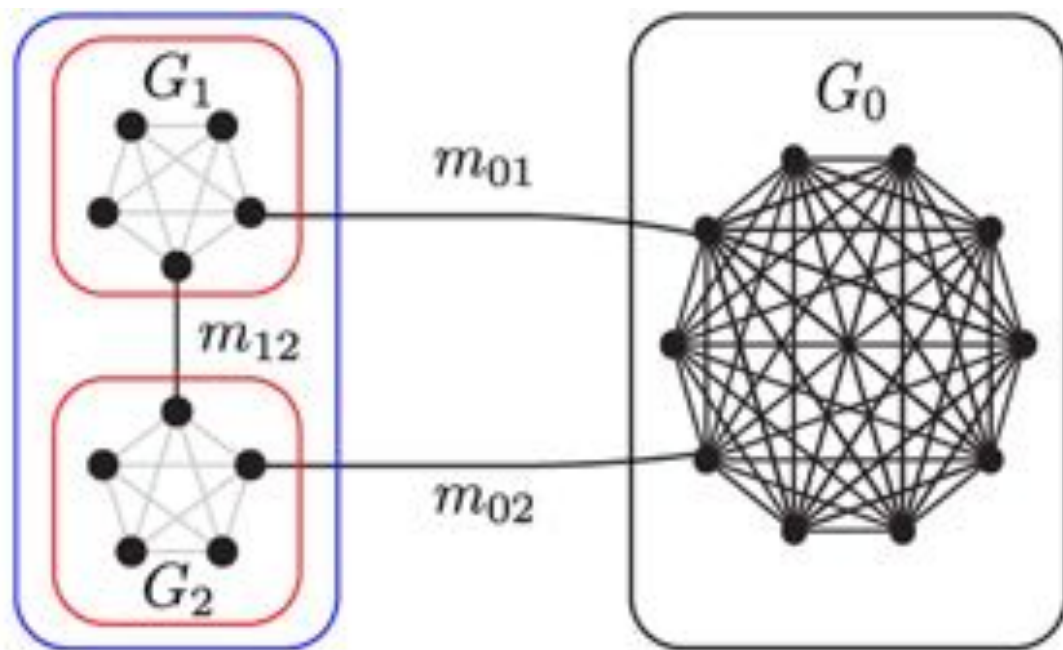
m balls



p balls

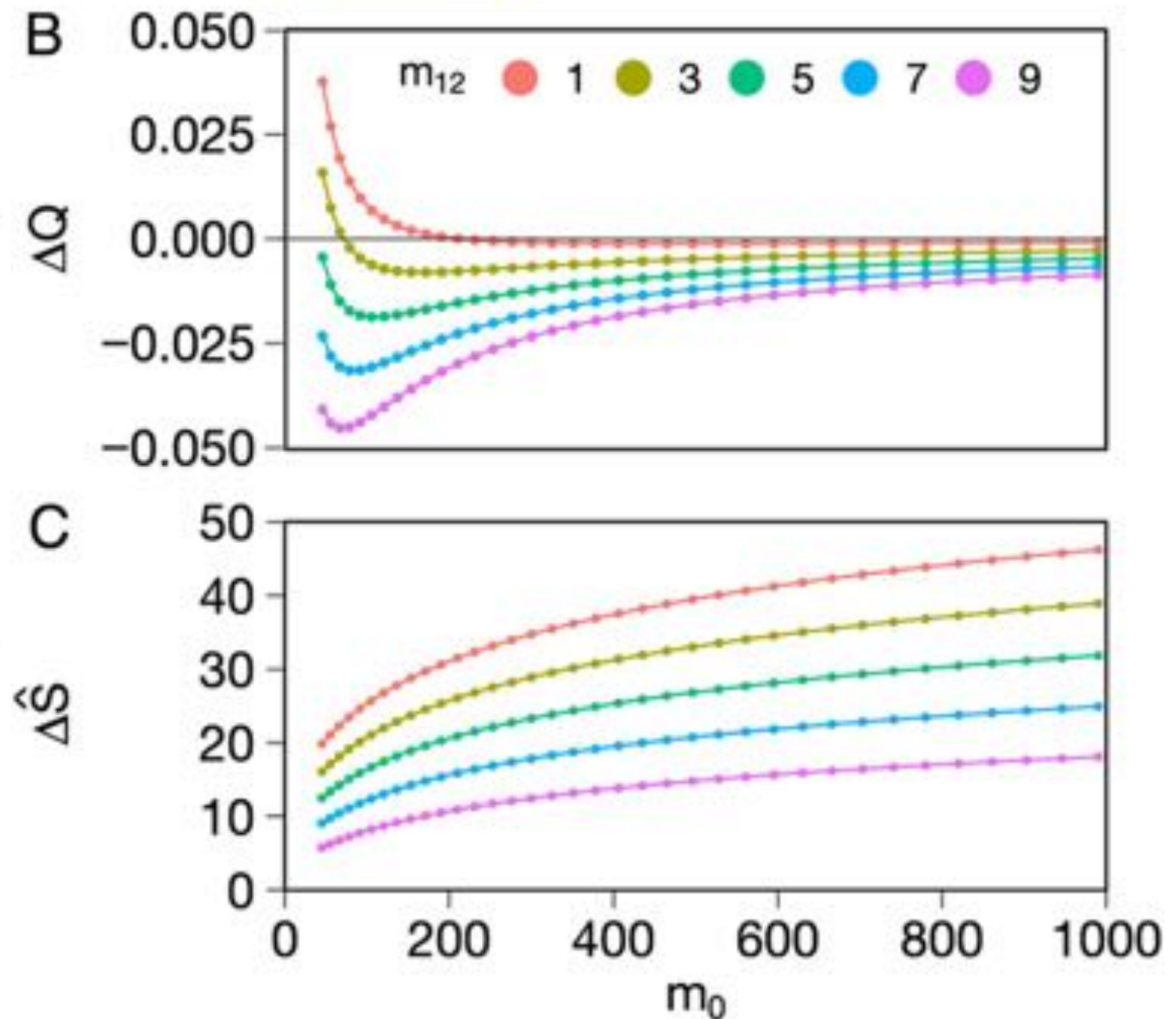


RESOLUTION LIMIT AND SURPRISE



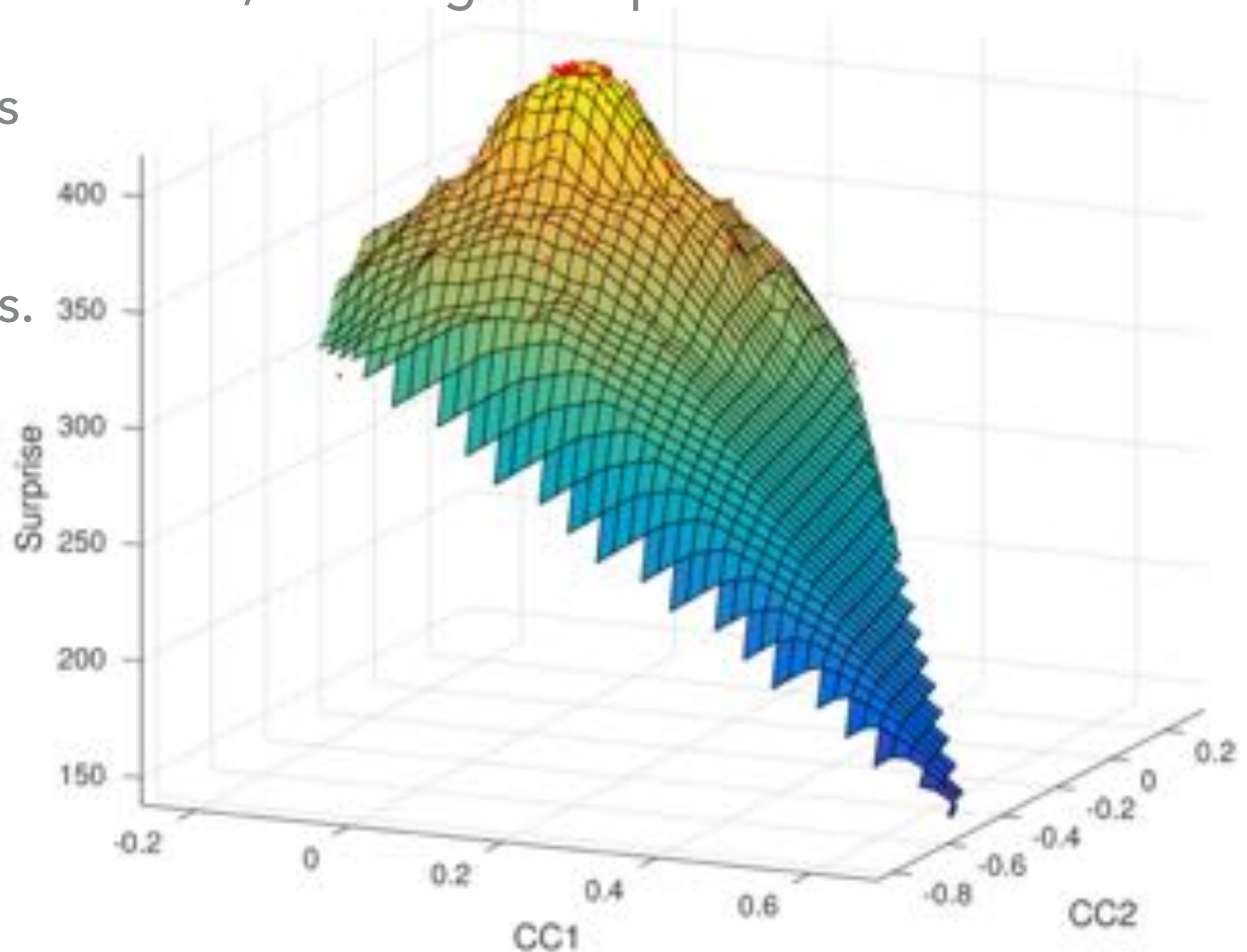
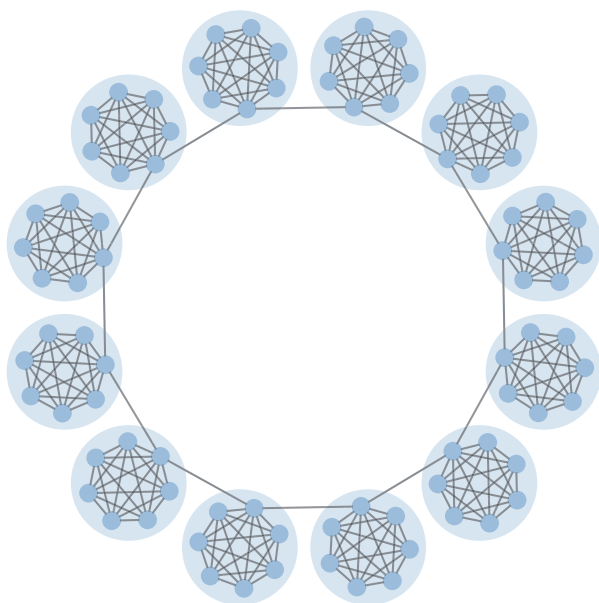
$$\Delta Q = Q_A - Q_B$$

$$\Delta S = S_A - S_B$$



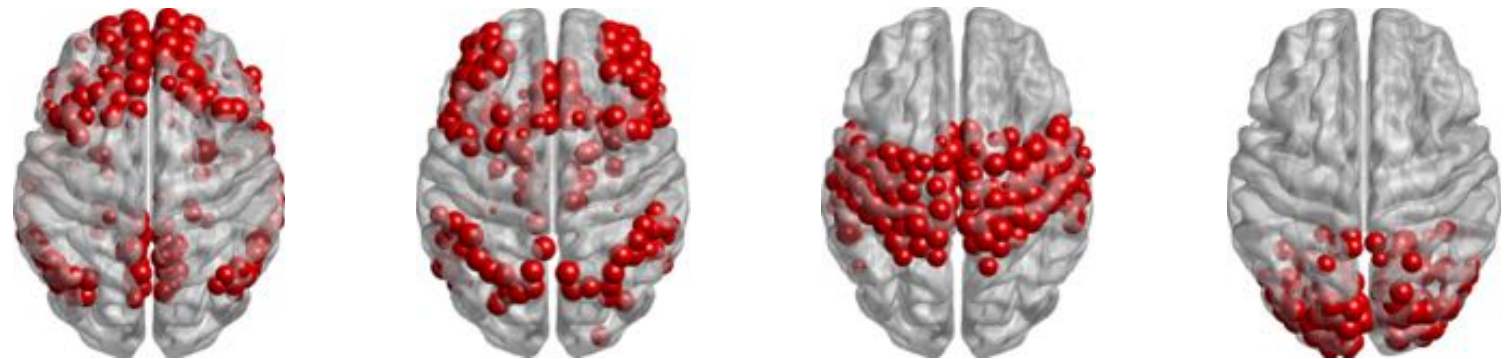
NO DEGENERACY

- Degeneracy landscape of a $k=24, n=5$ ring of cliques.
- Curvilinear components analysis.
- Red points are solutions.
- Distance embedding.

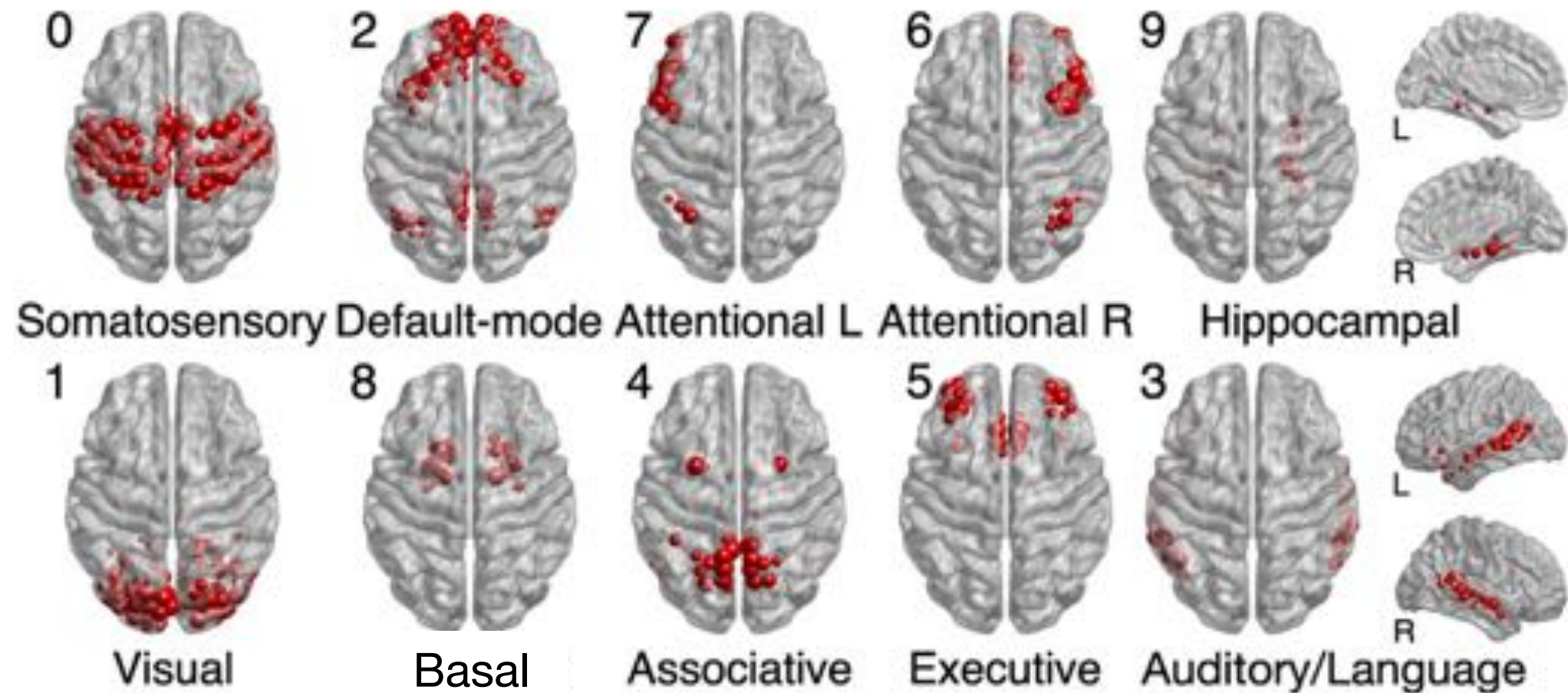


APPLICATION OF SURPRISE OPTIMIZATION

Modularity



Surprise



ASYMPTOTICAL SURPRISE

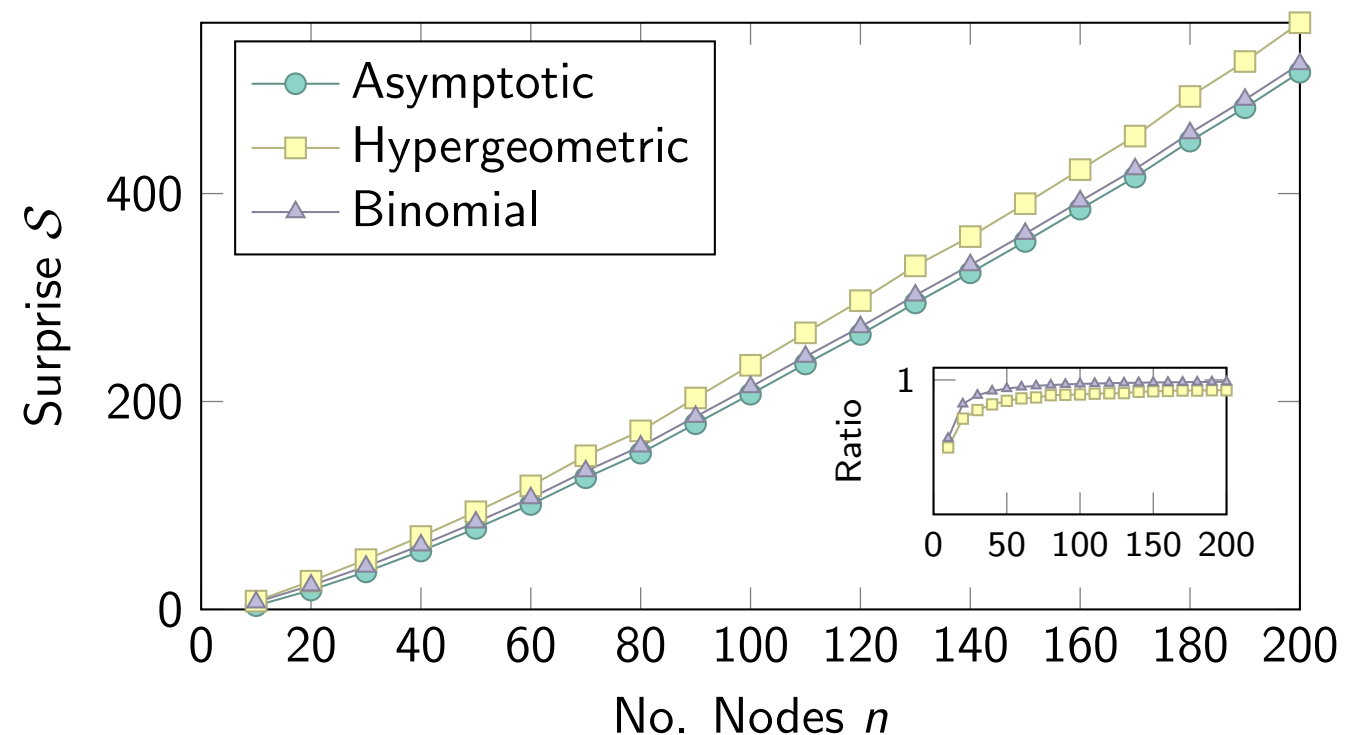
$$S_a = m D_{\text{KL}} \left(\frac{m_\zeta}{m} \parallel \frac{p_\zeta}{p} \right)$$

- ▶ Asymptotical approximation valid for large n .
- ▶ Information theoretic distributions pseudo-distance.
- ▶ Information gained.
- ▶ Supports weighted graphs.

ASYMPTOTICAL SURPRISE

$$S_a = m D_{\text{KL}} \left(\frac{m_\zeta}{m} \parallel \frac{p_\zeta}{p} \right)$$

- ▶ Asymptotical approximation valid for large n .
- ▶ Information theoretic distributions pseudo-distance.
- ▶ Information gained.
- ▶ Supports weighted graphs.

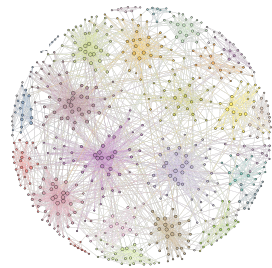


COMPARING ASYMPTOTICAL SURPRISE WITH OTHER METHODS

How to make fair comparison on brain networks if we don't have the brain networks community structure?

COMPARING ASYMPTOTICAL SURPRISE WITH OTHER METHODS

How to make fair comparison on brain networks if we don't have the brain networks community structure?

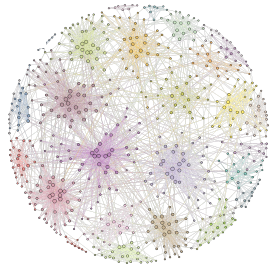


**GENERATE A NETWORK
WITH GIVEN COMMUNITY
STRUCTURE**

LFR Model

COMPARING ASYMPTOTICAL SURPRISE WITH OTHER METHODS

How to make fair comparison on brain networks if we don't have the brain networks community structure?



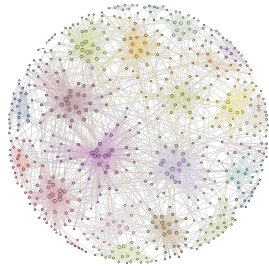
**GENERATE A NETWORK
WITH GIVEN COMMUNITY
STRUCTURE**

**COMPUTE THE NEAREST
POSITIVE DEFINITE
MATRIX**

LFR Model

COMPARING ASYMPTOTICAL SURPRISE WITH OTHER METHODS

How to make fair comparison on brain networks if we don't have the brain networks community structure?



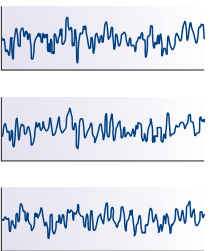
**GENERATE A NETWORK
WITH GIVEN COMMUNITY
STRUCTURE**

**COMPUTE THE NEAREST
POSITIVE DEFINITE
MATRIX**

LFR Model

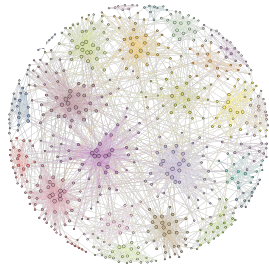
neuroSim R package

**SIMULATE RS BOLD
SIGNALS FOR MANY
VIRTUAL SUBJECTS**



COMPARING ASYMPTOTICAL SURPRISE WITH OTHER METHODS

How to make fair comparison on brain networks if we don't have the brain networks community structure?



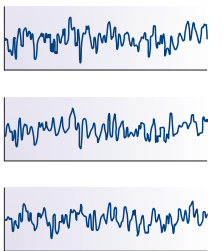
**GENERATE A NETWORK
WITH GIVEN COMMUNITY
STRUCTURE**

**COMPUTE THE NEAREST
POSITIVE DEFINITE
MATRIX**

LFR Model

neuroSim R package

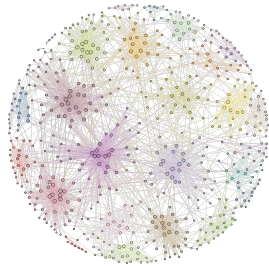
**SIMULATE RS BOLD
SIGNALS FOR MANY
VIRTUAL SUBJECTS**



**INJECT CORRELATION
INTO SYNTHETIC TIME
SERIES**

COMPARING ASYMPTOTICAL SURPRISE WITH OTHER METHODS

How to make fair comparison on brain networks if we don't have the brain networks community structure?



**GENERATE A NETWORK
WITH GIVEN COMMUNITY
STRUCTURE**

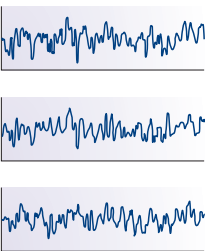
**COMPUTE THE NEAREST
POSITIVE DEFINITE
MATRIX**

LFR Model

neuroSim R package

Rician distribution

**SIMULATE RS BOLD
SIGNALS FOR MANY
VIRTUAL SUBJECTS**

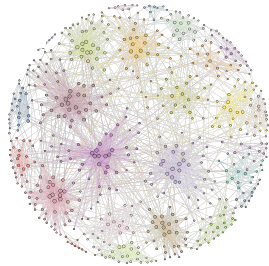


**INJECT CORRELATION
INTO SYNTHETIC TIME
SERIES**

**ADD REALISTIC NOISE TO
TIME SERIES**

COMPARING ASYMPTOTICAL SURPRISE WITH OTHER METHODS

How to make fair comparison on brain networks if we don't have the brain networks community structure?



**GENERATE A NETWORK
WITH GIVEN COMMUNITY
STRUCTURE**

**COMPUTE THE NEAREST
POSITIVE DEFINITE
MATRIX**

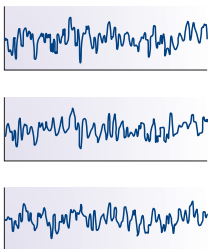
LFR Model

neuroSim R package

Rician distribution

Fisher Transformation

**SIMULATE RS BOLD
SIGNALS FOR MANY
VIRTUAL SUBJECTS**



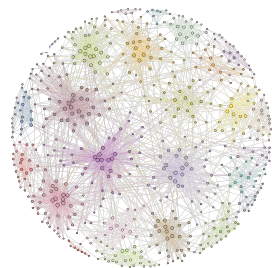
**INJECT CORRELATION
INTO SYNTHETIC TIME
SERIES**

**ADD REALISTIC NOISE TO
TIME SERIES**

GRAPH CREATION

COMPARING ASYMPTOTICAL SURPRISE WITH OTHER METHODS

How to make fair comparison on brain networks if we don't have the brain networks community structure?



**GENERATE A NETWORK
WITH GIVEN COMMUNITY
STRUCTURE**

**COMPUTE THE NEAREST
POSITIVE DEFINITE
MATRIX**

LFR Model

neuroSim R package

Rician distribution

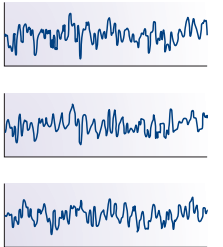
Fisher Transformation

Surprise, Infomap, Modularity

**RUN COMMUNITY
DETECTION TO ASSESS
EFFECTS OF NOISE**

GRAPH CREATION

**SIMULATE RS BOLD
SIGNALS FOR MANY
VIRTUAL SUBJECTS**

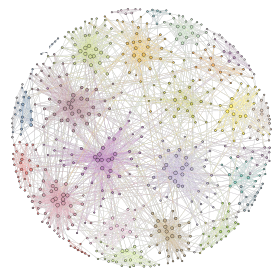


**INJECT CORRELATION
INTO SYNTHETIC TIME
SERIES**

**ADD REALISTIC NOISE TO
TIME SERIES**

COMPARING ASYMPTOTICAL SURPRISE WITH OTHER METHODS

How to make fair comparison on brain networks if we don't have the brain networks community structure?



**GENERATE A NETWORK
WITH GIVEN COMMUNITY
STRUCTURE**

**COMPUTE THE NEAREST
POSITIVE DEFINITE
MATRIX**

LFR Model

neuroSim R package

Rician distribution

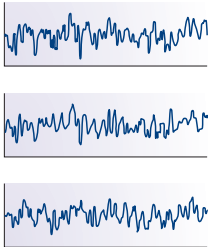
Fisher Transformation

Surprise, Infomap, Modularity

NMI

GRAPH CREATION

**SIMULATE RS BOLD
SIGNALS FOR MANY
VIRTUAL SUBJECTS**



**INJECT CORRELATION
INTO SYNTHETIC TIME
SERIES**

**ADD REALISTIC NOISE TO
TIME SERIES**

**GET PARTITION
SIMILARITY WITH THE
PLANTED ONE**

**RUN COMMUNITY
DETECTION TO ASSESS
EFFECTS OF NOISE**

COMPARING COMMUNITY DETECTION ON BRAIN NETWORKS

COMPARING COMMUNITY DETECTION ON BRAIN NETWORKS

► Varied $\text{SNR} = \langle S \rangle / \sigma_n$ and number of subjects.

COMPARING COMMUNITY DETECTION ON BRAIN NETWORKS

- ▶ Varied $\text{SNR} = \langle S \rangle / \sigma_n$ and number of subjects.
- ▶ Normalized Mutual Information (NMI)

COMPARING COMMUNITY DETECTION ON BRAIN NETWORKS

- ▶ Varied $\text{SNR} = \langle S \rangle / \sigma_n$ and number of subjects.
- ▶ Normalized Mutual Information (NMI)
- ▶ Matrix C_{ij} is the number of nodes in the planted community- i appearing in the detected community- j .

COMPARING COMMUNITY DETECTION ON BRAIN NETWORKS

- ▶ Varied $\text{SNR} = \langle S \rangle / \sigma_n$ and number of subjects.
- ▶ Normalized Mutual Information (NMI)
- ▶ Matrix C_{ij} is the number of nodes in the planted community- i appearing in the detected community- j .
- ▶ Sensitivity (Recall) = $\text{TP} / (\text{TP} + \text{FN})$

COMPARING COMMUNITY DETECTION ON BRAIN NETWORKS

- ▶ Varied $\text{SNR} = \langle S \rangle / \sigma_n$ and number of subjects.
- ▶ Normalized Mutual Information (NMI)
- ▶ Matrix C_{ij} is the number of nodes in the planted community- i appearing in the detected community- j .
- ▶ Sensitivity (Recall) = $\text{TP} / (\text{TP} + \text{FN})$
- ▶ Specificity = $\text{TN} / (\text{TN} + \text{FP})$

COMPARING COMMUNITY DETECTION ON BRAIN NETWORKS

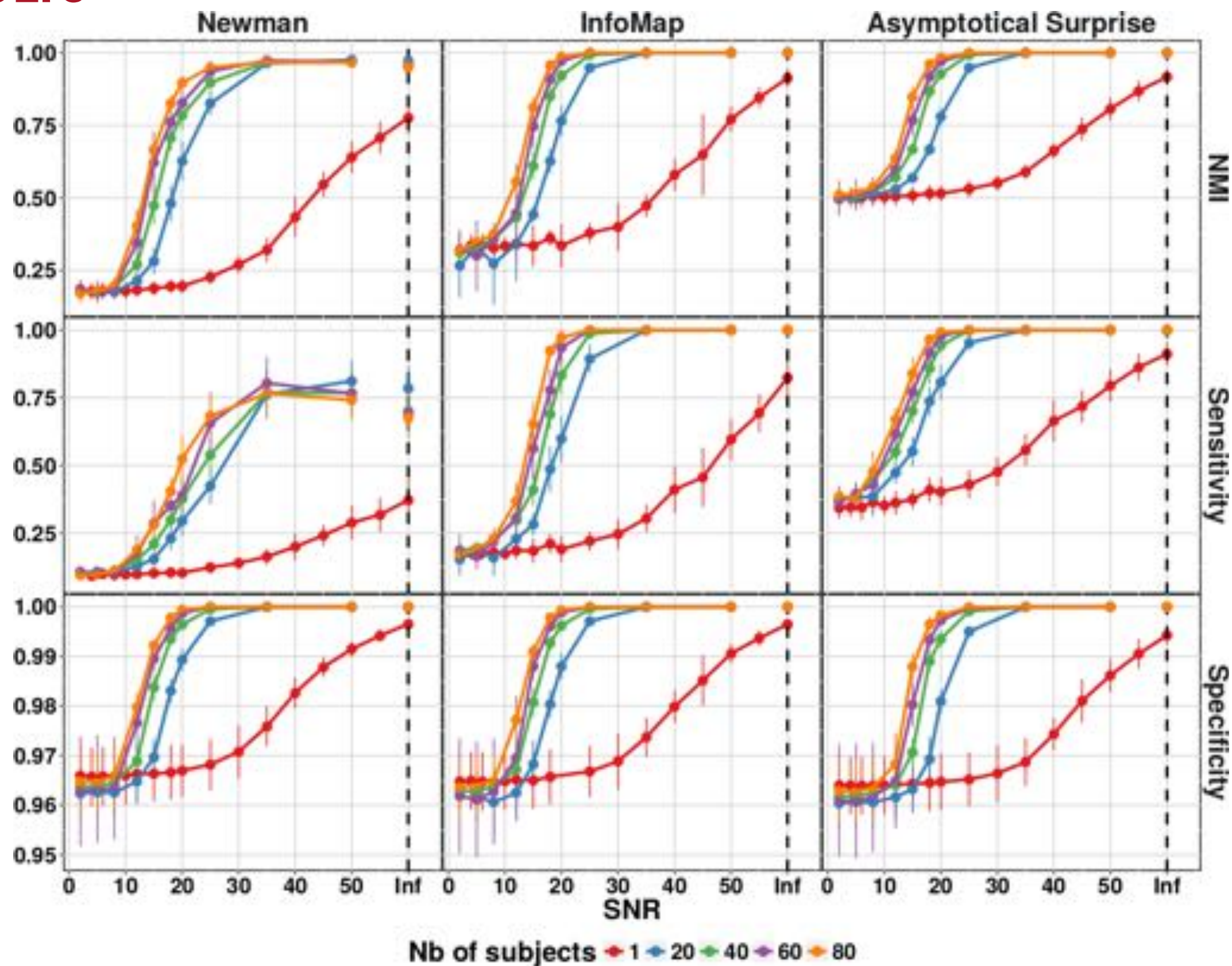
- Varied $SNR = \langle S \rangle / \sigma_n$ and number of subjects.
- Normalized Mutual Information (NMI)
- Matrix C_{ij} is the number of nodes in the planted community- i appearing in the detected community- j .
- Sensitivity (Recall) = $TP / (TP + FN)$
- Specificity = $TN / (TN + FP)$

TP	FN
FP	TN

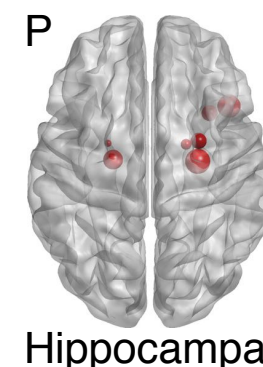
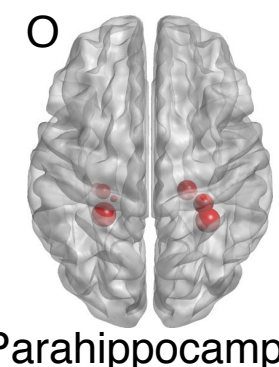
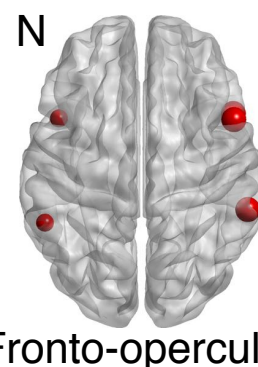
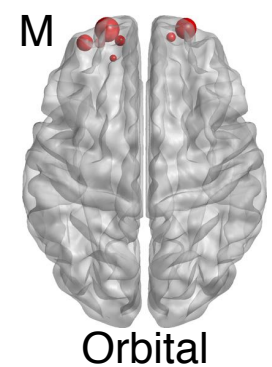
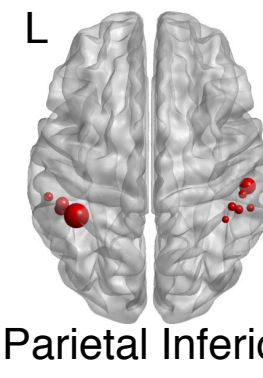
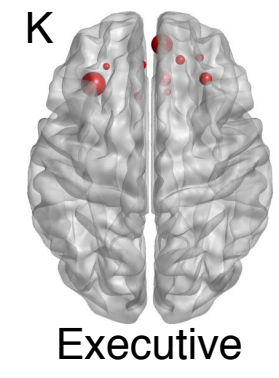
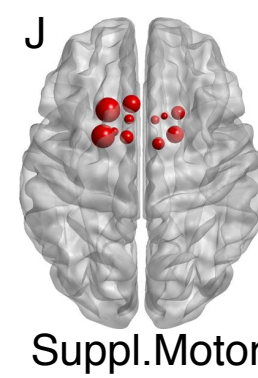
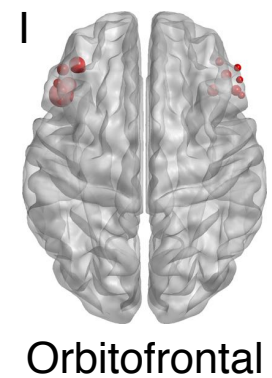
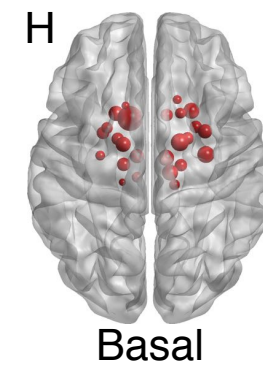
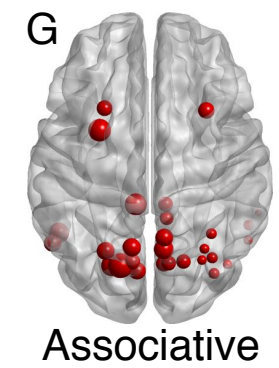
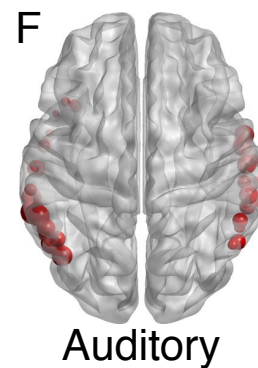
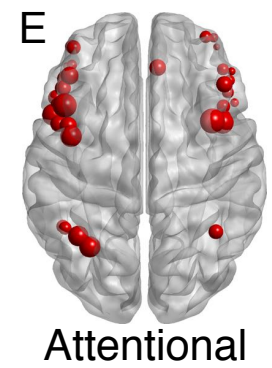
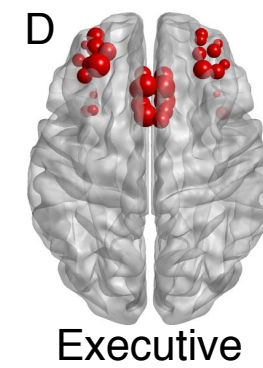
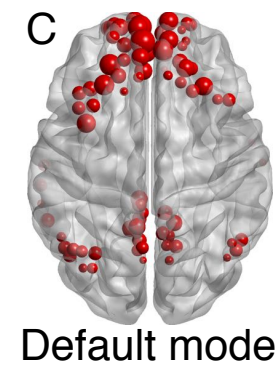
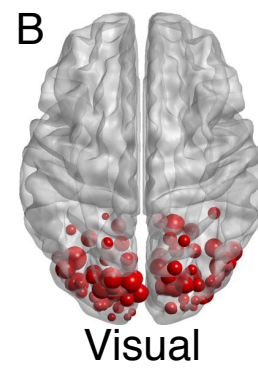
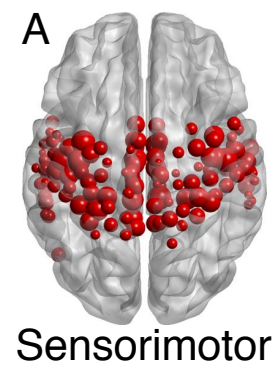
		Planted communities		
		1	2	3
Detected communities	A	4	2	
	B		1	1
	C			2

RESULTS

RESULTS



HUMAN RESTING STATE DATE



CONCLUSIONS

- ▶ Functional connectivity can be studied with graph-theoretical approaches.
- ▶ Resolution limit hindered detection of functional modules.
- ▶ Coarse resolution hides small details and differences between groups.
- ▶ Asymptotical Surprise can identify neurofunctionally plausible and anatomically well-defined substructures.

But ...

- ▶ It may overfit the community structure due to its improved sensitivity.

THANK YOU!



Angelo Bifone



github.com/carlonicolini

brainetlab.github.io



Cecile Bordier

REFERENCES

Nicolini C., Bifone A. Scientific Reports 6, 19250, (2016)

Nicolini C., Bordier C., Bifone A. Arvix 1609.04316 arxiv.org/1609.04316 