



Topological explorations in neuroscience

MAP Plenum Lecture

28 March 2023

Blue Brain Project

EPFL

→ Bimod

$M \otimes N$
↓
 $\otimes Q$

→ O_P

$$F_P(V) \otimes F_Q(W)$$

||2

$$F_{P \otimes Q}(V \square W)$$

$$(P \circ V \circ P) \square (Q \circ W \circ Q) \xrightarrow{\tau_{V,W}} (P \otimes Q) \circ (V \square W) \circ (P \otimes Q)$$

$$((p; v_1, \dots, v_k; p_1, \dots, p_m), (q; w_1, \dots, w_\ell; q_1, \dots, q_n)) \mapsto (p \otimes q; (v_i w_j)_{i,j}; (p_i \otimes q_s)_{i,s})$$

$$\forall a: F_P V \longrightarrow F_P V'$$

$$b: F_Q W \longrightarrow F_Q W'$$

$$a^\#: V \longrightarrow P \circ V' \circ P$$

$$b^\#: W \longrightarrow Q \circ W' \circ Q$$

$$\exists V \square W \xrightarrow{a^\# \square b^\#} (P \circ V' \circ P) \square (Q \circ W' \circ Q) \xrightarrow{\tau_{V',W'}} (P \otimes Q) \circ (V' \square W') \circ (P \otimes Q)$$

$$\left(\tau_{V',W'} \circ (a^\# \square b^\#) \right)^\flat: F_{P \otimes Q}(V \square W) \longrightarrow F_{P \otimes Q}(V' \square W')$$

$$Q) \xrightarrow{\tau_{V,W}} (P \otimes Q) \circ (V \square W) \circ (P \otimes Q)$$

$$\downarrow (P \otimes Q) \circ (a^\# \square b^\#) \circ (P \otimes Q)$$

$$(P \otimes Q) \circ ((P \circ V' \circ P) \square (Q \circ W' \circ Q)) \circ (P \otimes Q)$$

$$\downarrow (P \otimes Q) \circ \tau_{V',W'} \circ (P \otimes Q)$$

$$(P \otimes Q)^{\circ 2} \circ (V' \square W') \circ (P \otimes Q)^{\circ 2}$$

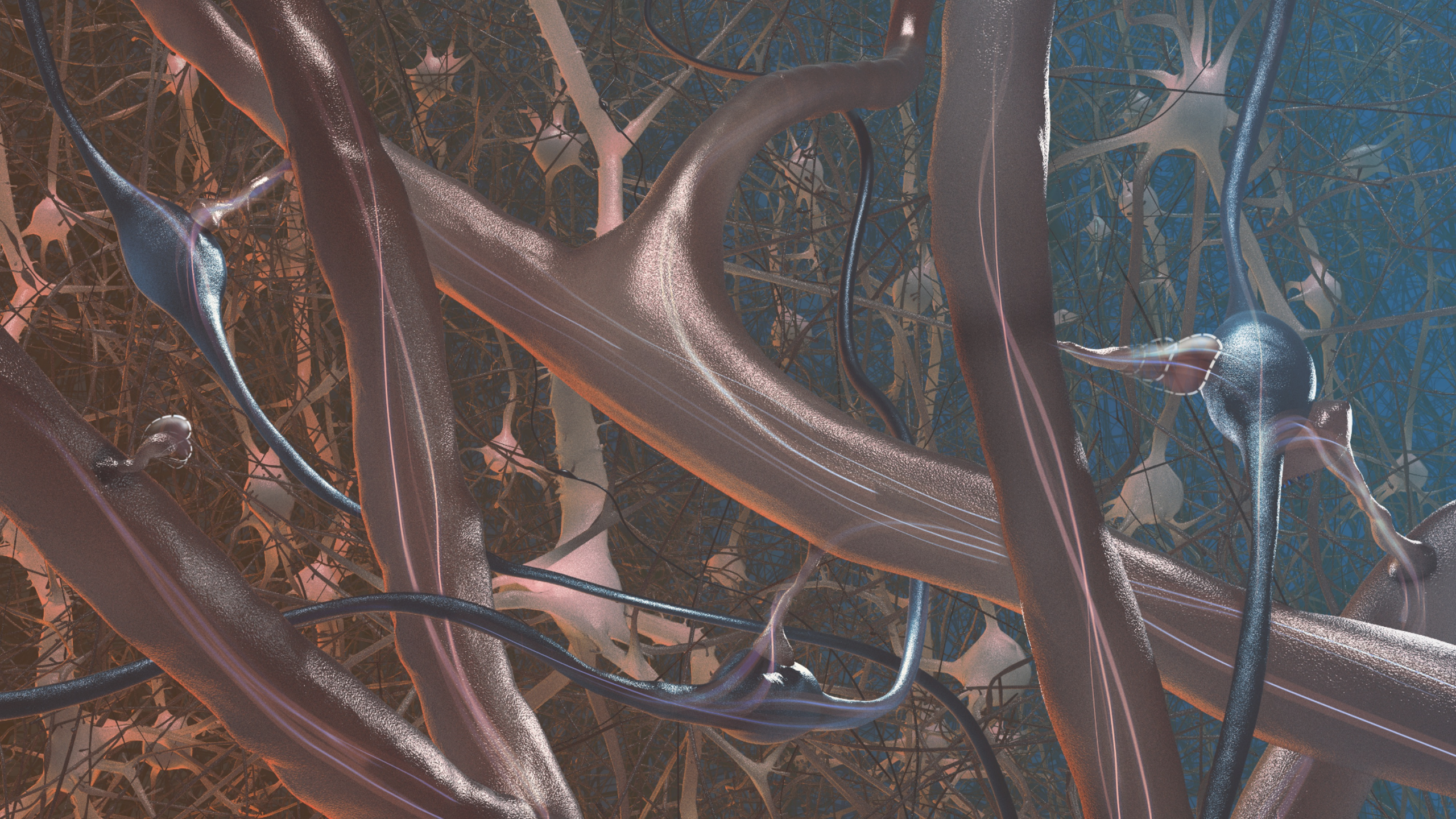
$$\downarrow \mu_{P \otimes Q} \circ (V' \square W') \circ \mu_{P \otimes Q}$$

$$\tau_{V',W'} \circ (P \otimes Q) \circ (V' \square W') \circ (P \otimes Q)$$

$$\begin{array}{ccc} L_P(P) \otimes Q \cup P \otimes L_Q(Q) & & \\ \downarrow & \searrow & \\ L_P(P) \otimes L_Q(Q) & & P \otimes Q \\ \downarrow \wr & \downarrow & \\ L_{P \otimes Q}(P \otimes Q) & & \end{array}$$

$$(a' \tilde{\otimes} b') \circ (a \tilde{\otimes} b) \stackrel{?}{=} (a' \circ a) \tilde{\otimes} (b' \circ b)$$

$$V \xrightarrow{a^\#} F_P V' \xrightarrow{a'} F_P V'' \xrightarrow{(a'a)^\#}$$





A glimpse of neuroscience

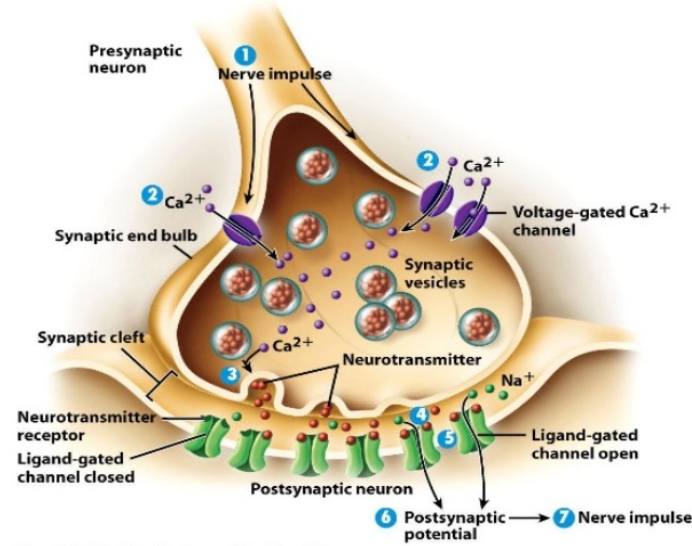
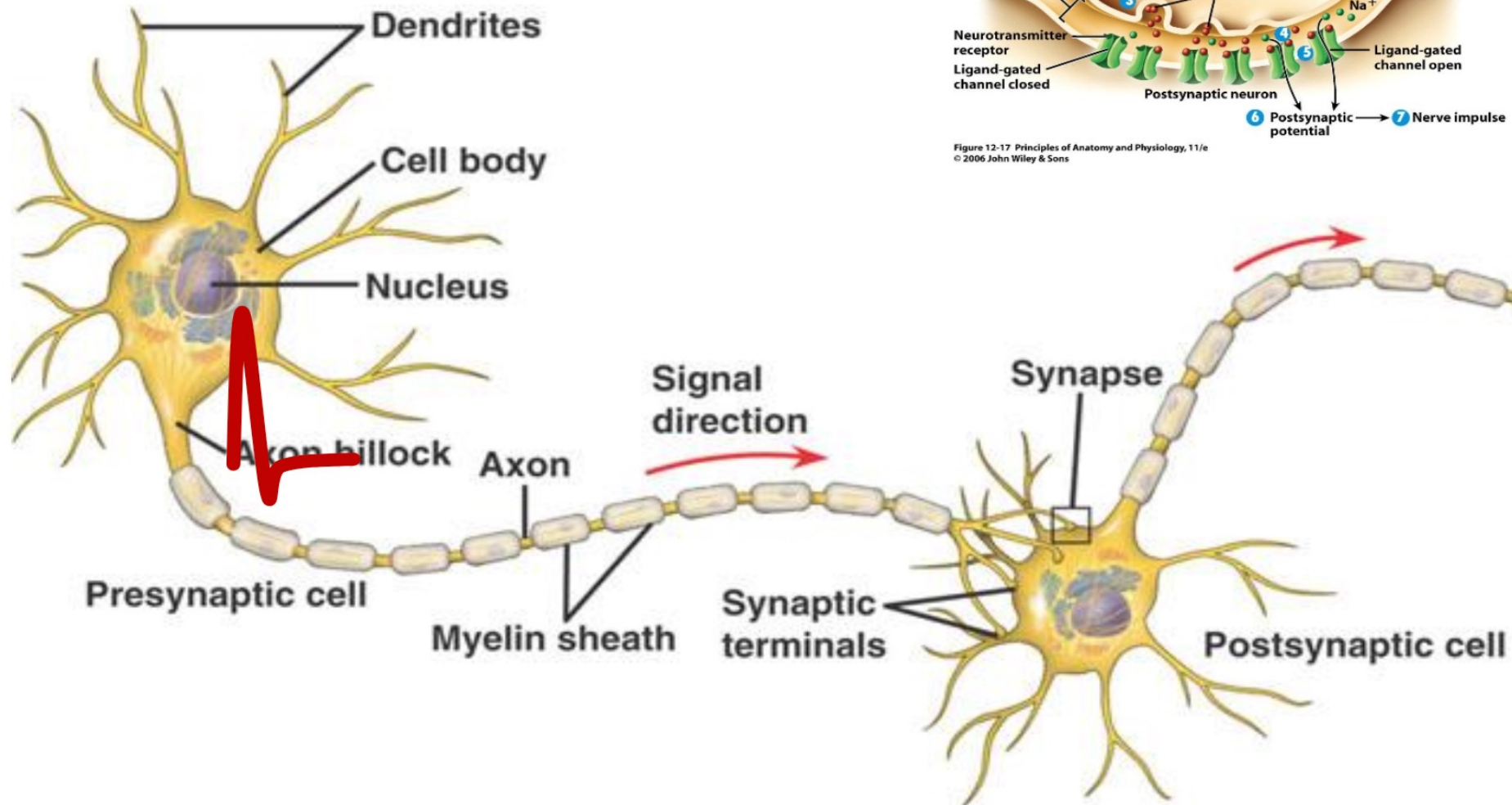
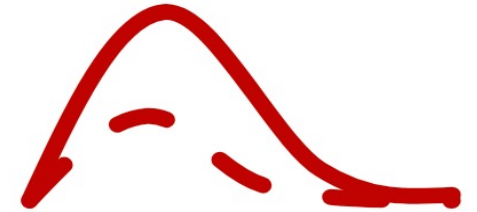


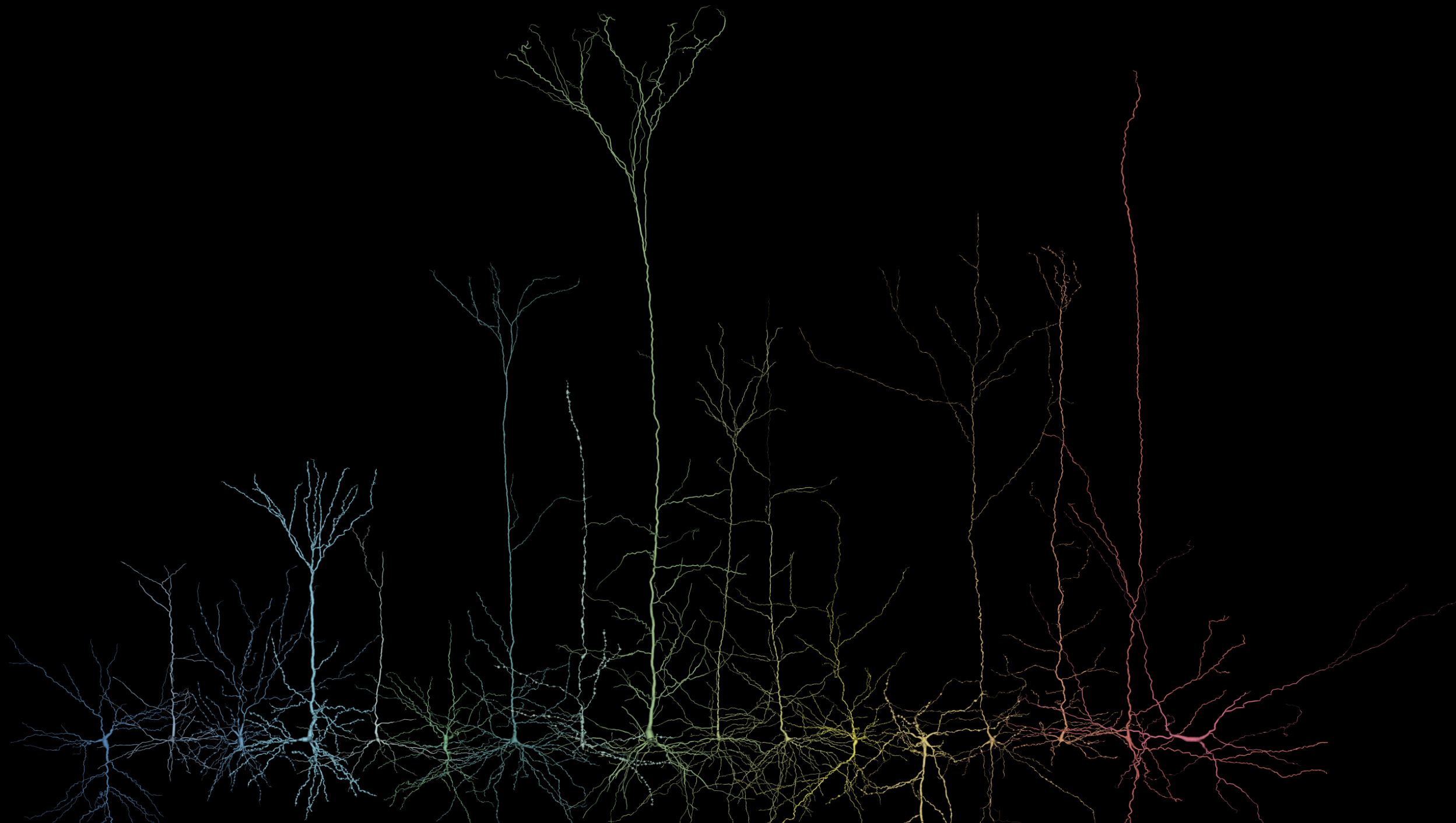
Figure 12-17 Principles of Anatomy and Physiology, 11/e
© 2006 John Wiley & Sons

Response



Failure





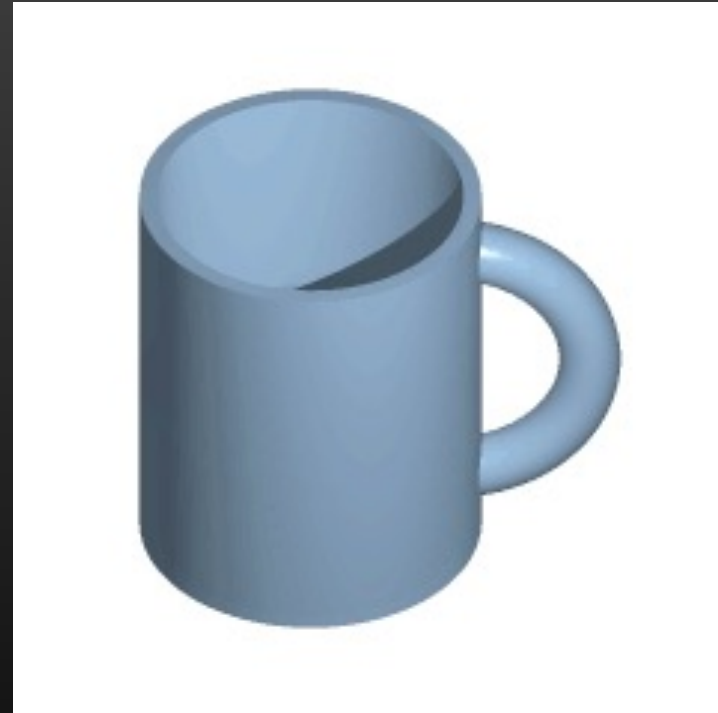


A glimpse of topology

deformation
connectivity
shape
continuous
path
cavity
invariants
classification
open
donut
simplex
proximity
topology
algebra
homology
equivalence
closed
continuity
complex
geometry
connected
mug

Topology is...

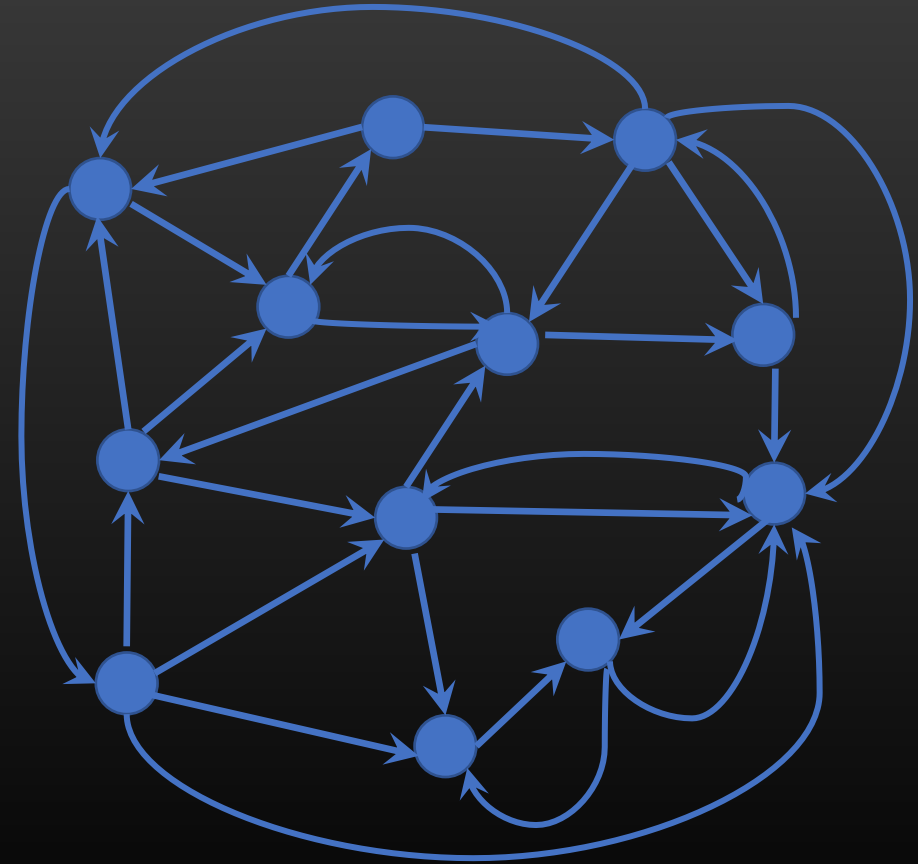
- the mathematics of **shape**;



Wikipedia, no license

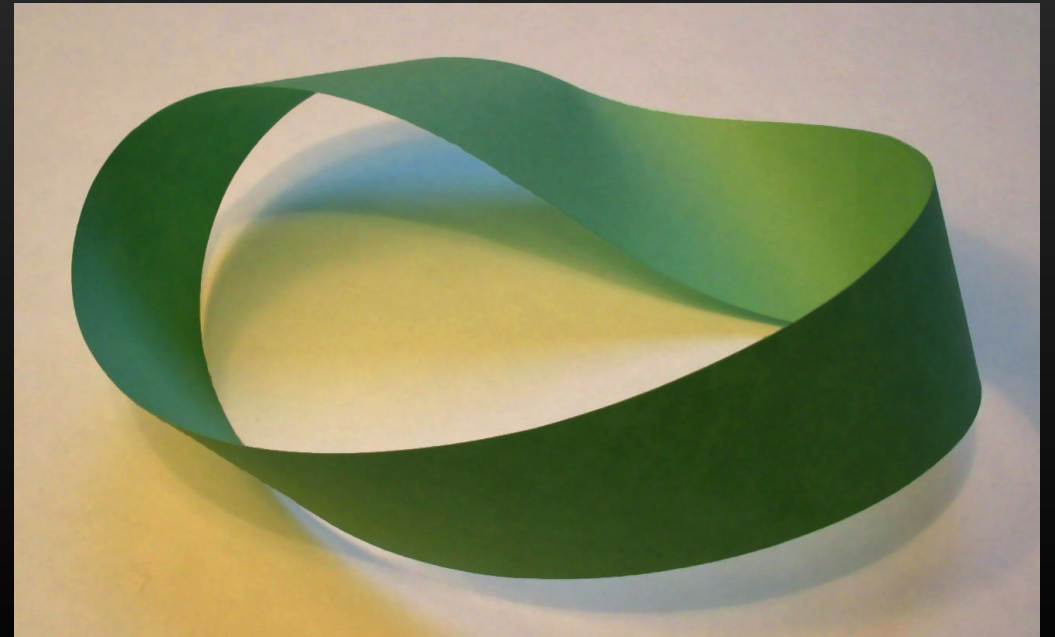
Topology is...

- the mathematics of **shape**;
- the mathematics of **connectivity**;



Topology is...

- the mathematics of **shape**;
- the mathematics of **connectivity**;
- the mathematics of **emergence of global structure from local constraints**.

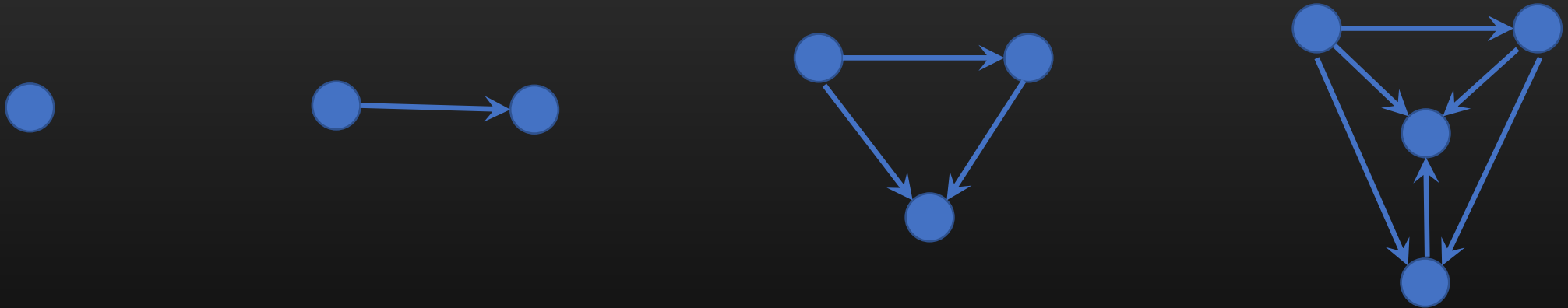


Application to data analysis (TDA)

The **shape** of a data set,
described by a **topological signature**
encoding its **multi-scale structure**,
can reveal important relations among the data points,
with the help of machine learning.

Application to network analysis

- For each type of network (undirected/directed/weighted...), choose an appropriate family of **significant subnetworks** (e.g., motifs, graphlets) to study.



Directed simplices of dimensions 0, 1, 2, and 3

Application to network analysis

- For each type of network (undirected/directed/weighted...), choose an appropriate family of **significant subnetworks** (e.g., motifs, graphlets) to study.
- The numbers of different types of significant subnetworks in a given network provide important **local information** about the network.
- Quantify how the significant subnetworks overlap in the network to obtain important **global information**.

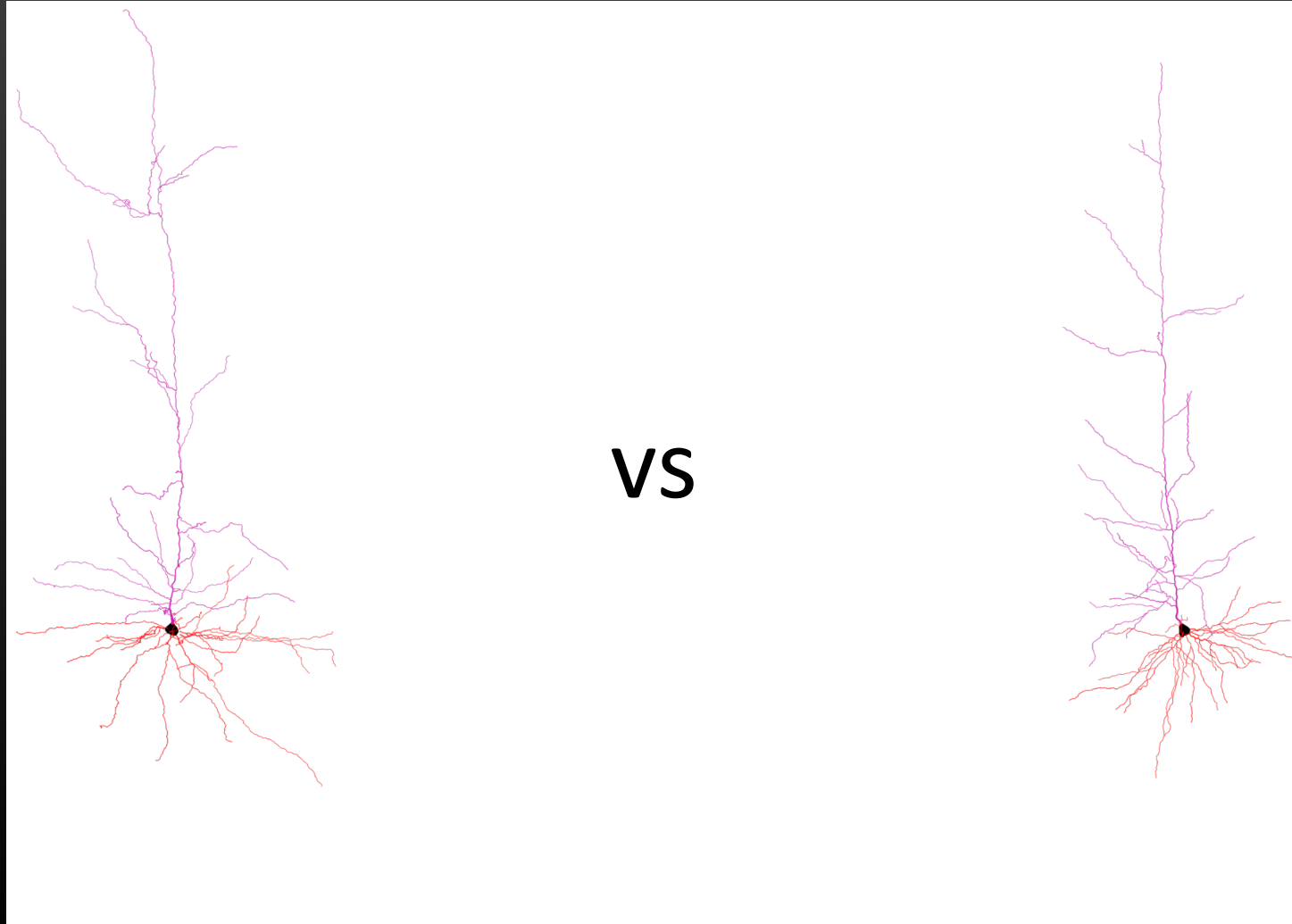
Classification of neuron morphologies

Y. Deitcher et al, Cerebral Cortex, 2017.

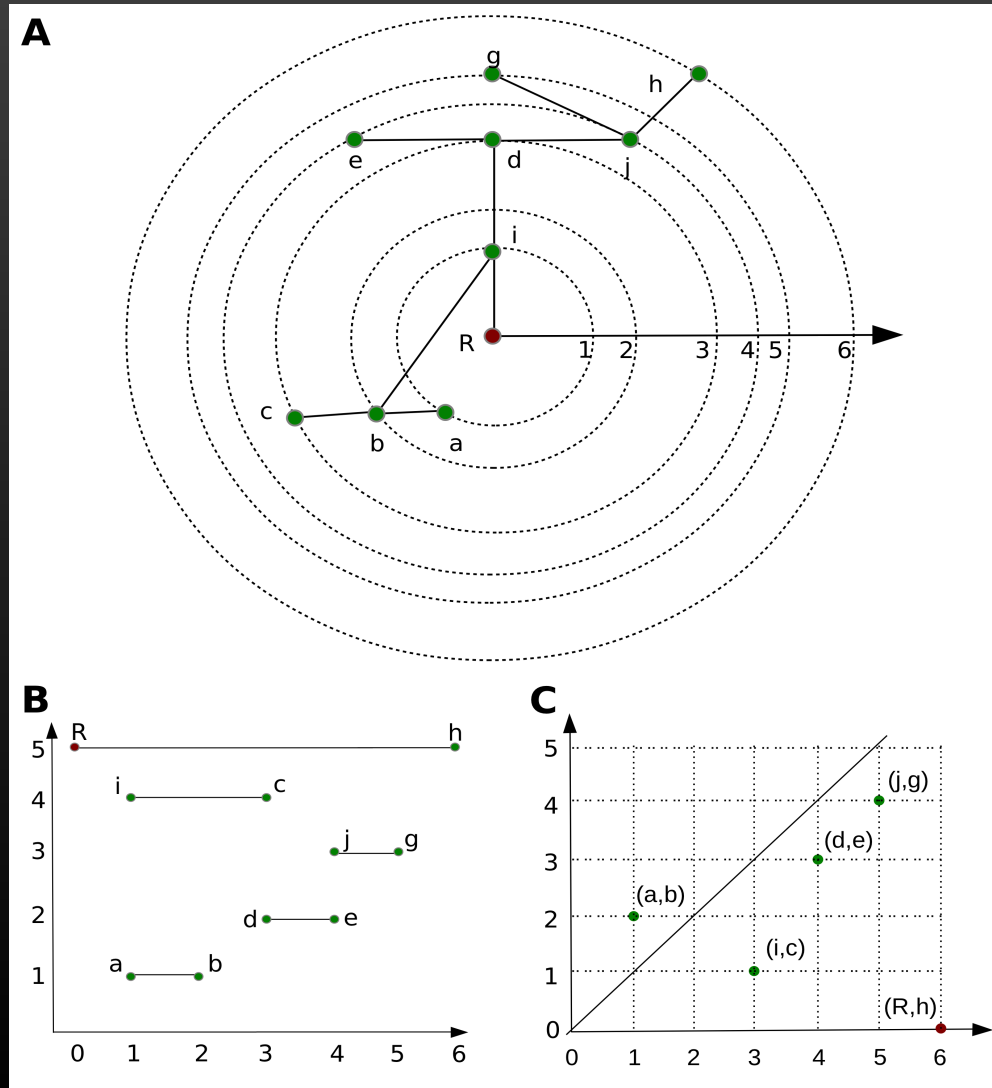
L. Kanari et al, Neuroinformatics, 2018.

L. Kanari et al, Cerebral Cortex, 2019.

How to classify neuron morphologies?



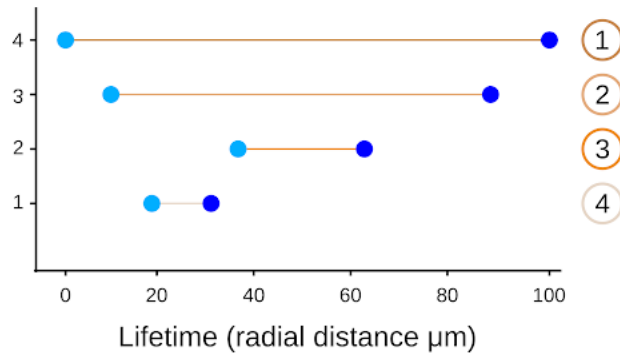
The TMD algorithm



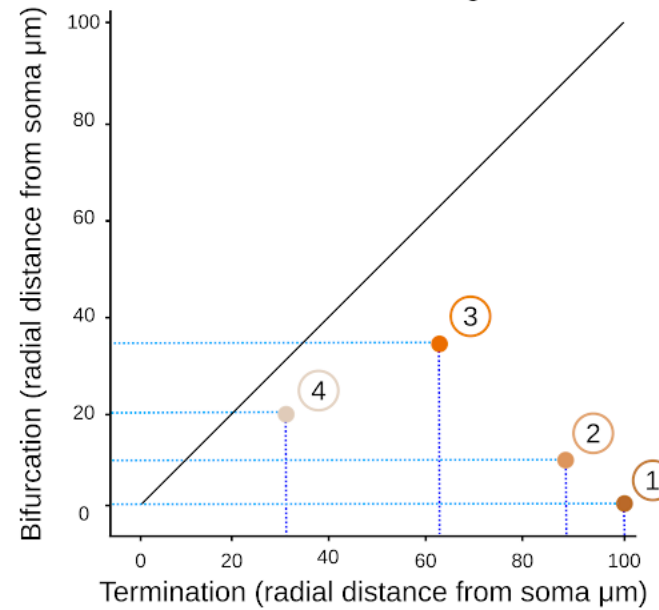
Idea: Starting at the leaves and descending recursively to the root, decompose the tree into branches, while respecting the **Elder Rule**, i.e., at any bifurcation, the elder (longer) branch survives and the younger branch is broken off.

Alternative representations

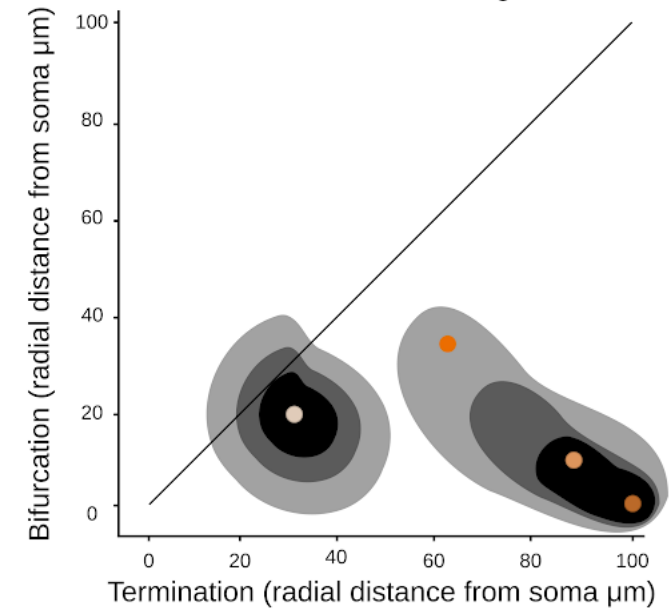
B. Persistence barcode



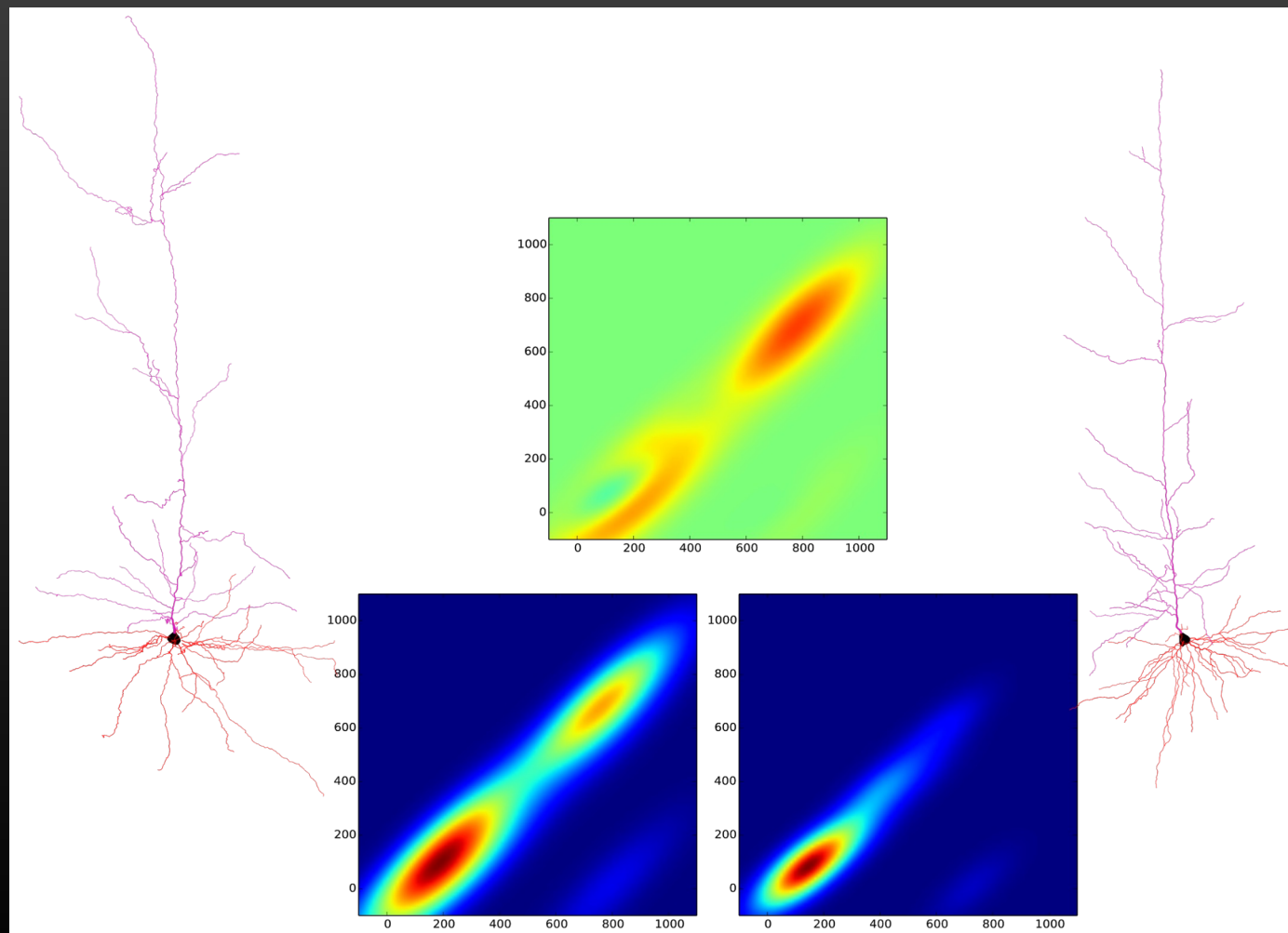
C. Persistence diagram



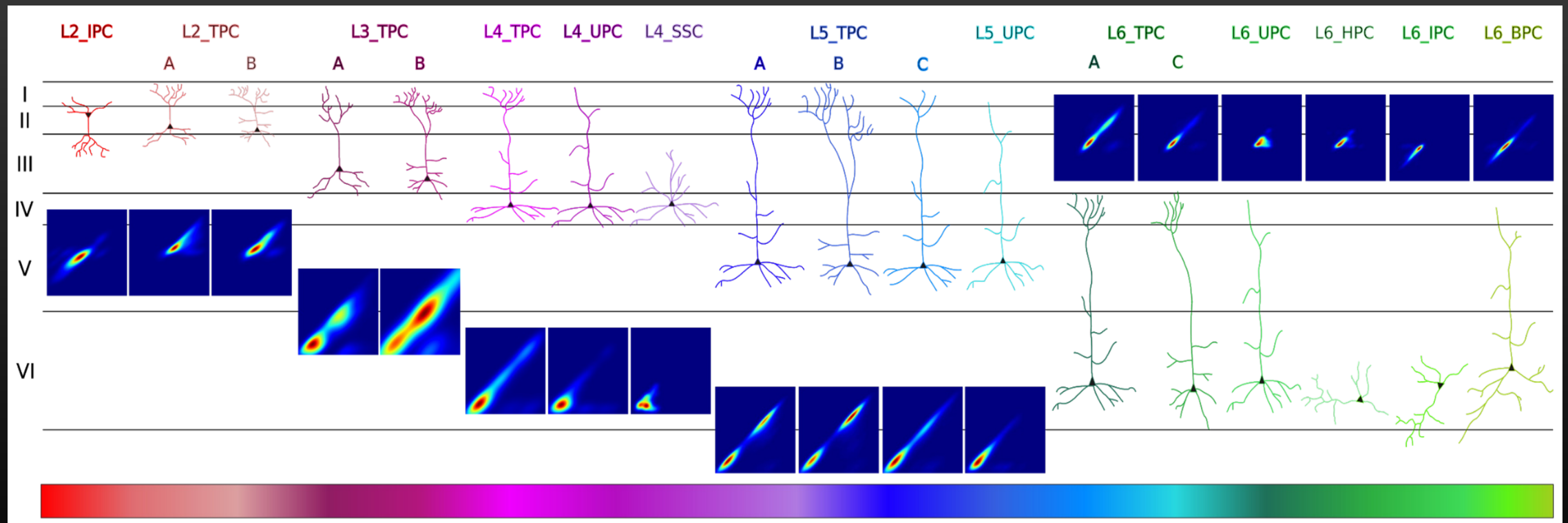
D. Persistence image



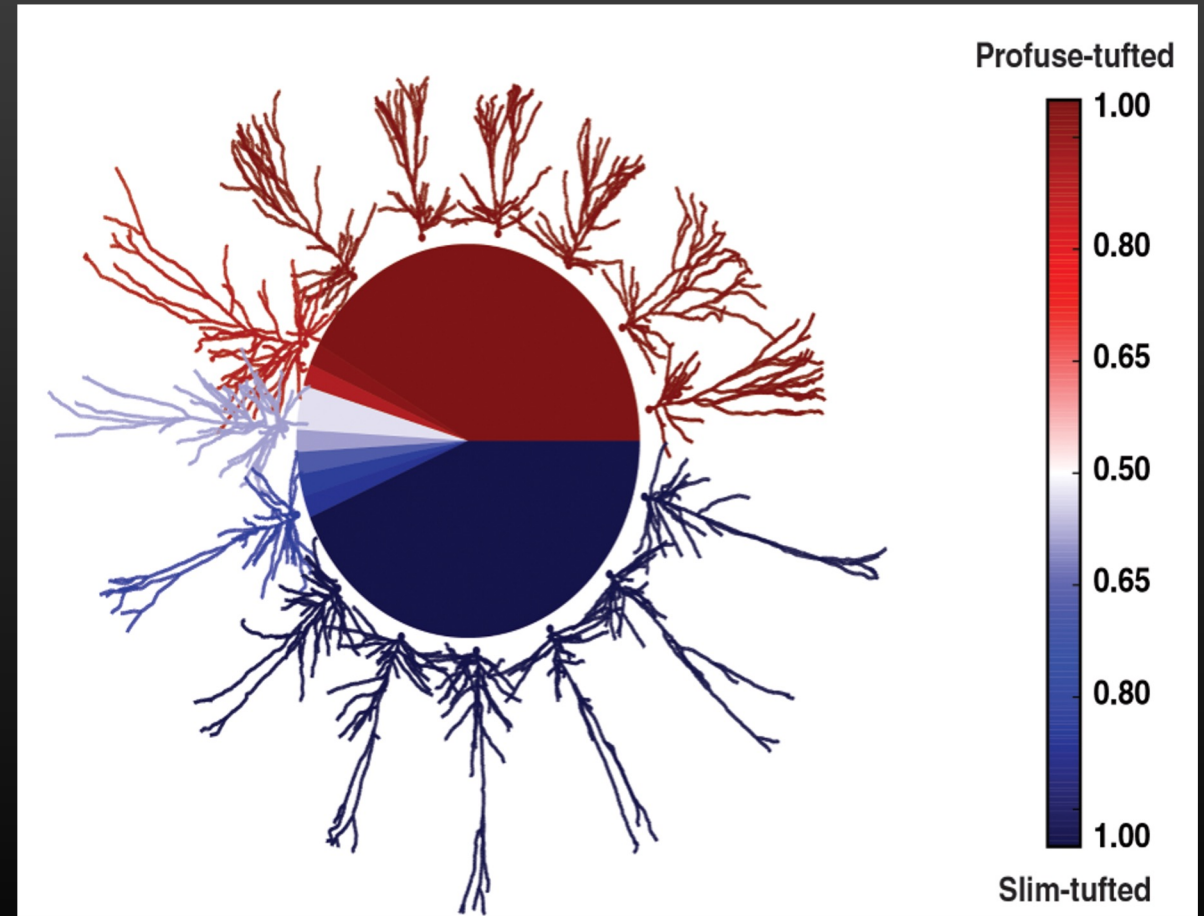
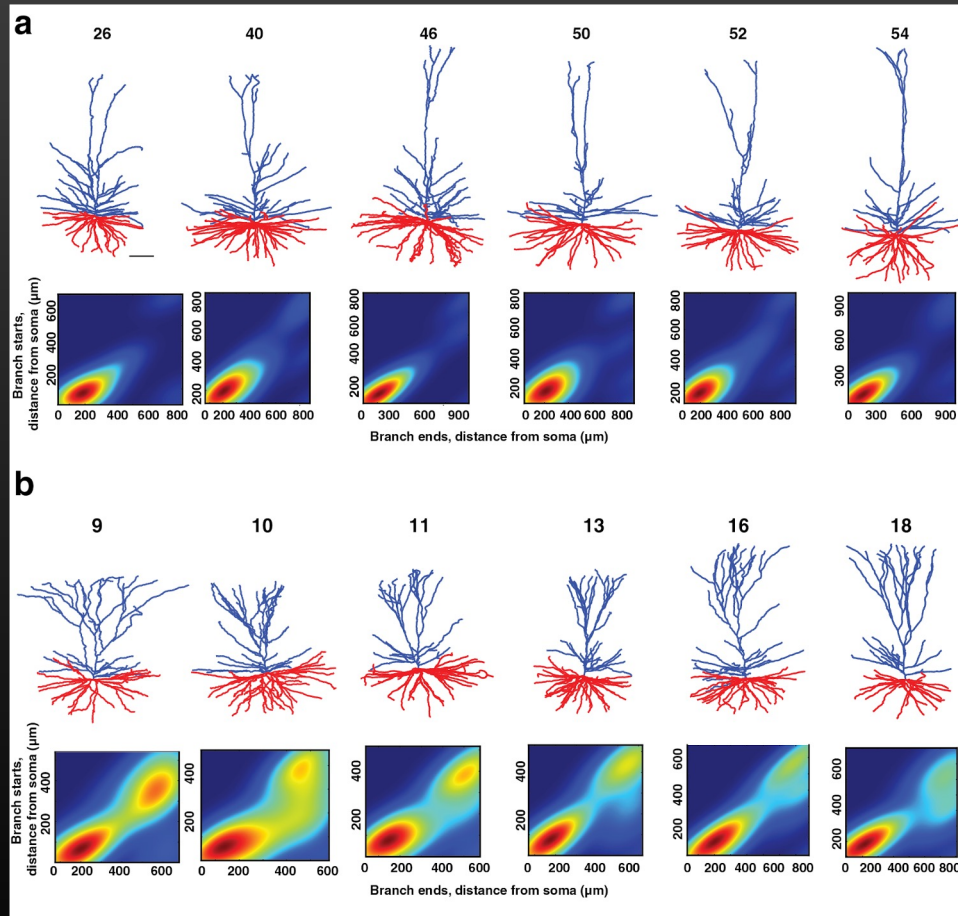
Classification by TMD



TMD of rat pyramidal cells



Human pyramidal cells



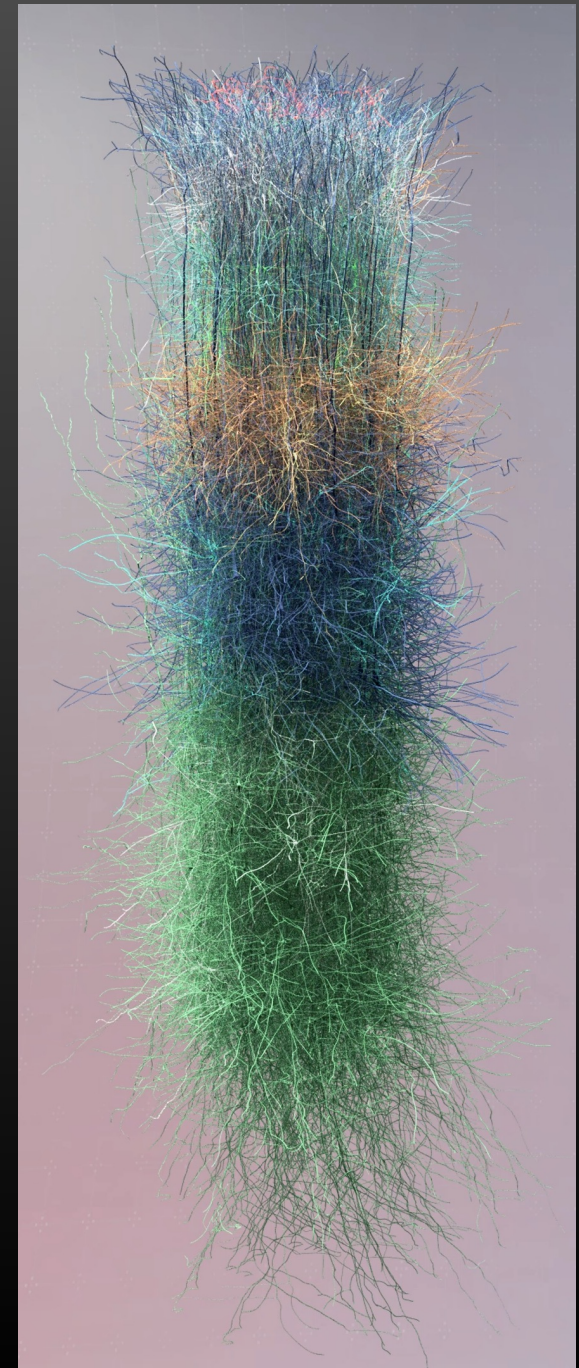
Topological analysis of the microconnectome

Reimann et al. Frontiers in Computational Neuroscience, 2017.

The Blue Brain model

- Digital reconstruction of the **microcircuit** of layers 1 through 6 of the somatosensory cortex of a 14-day-old rat : **31'000** neurons and **8 million** connections
- Simulations of **spontaneous** and **evoked** activity

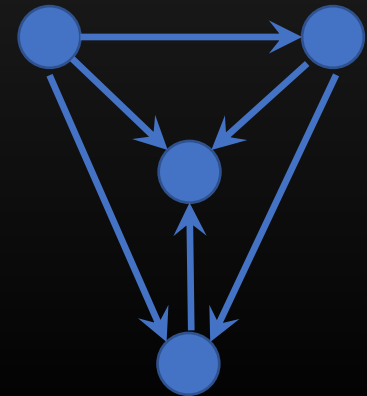
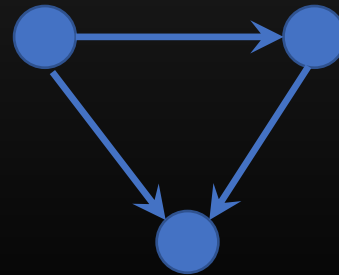
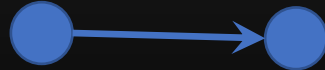
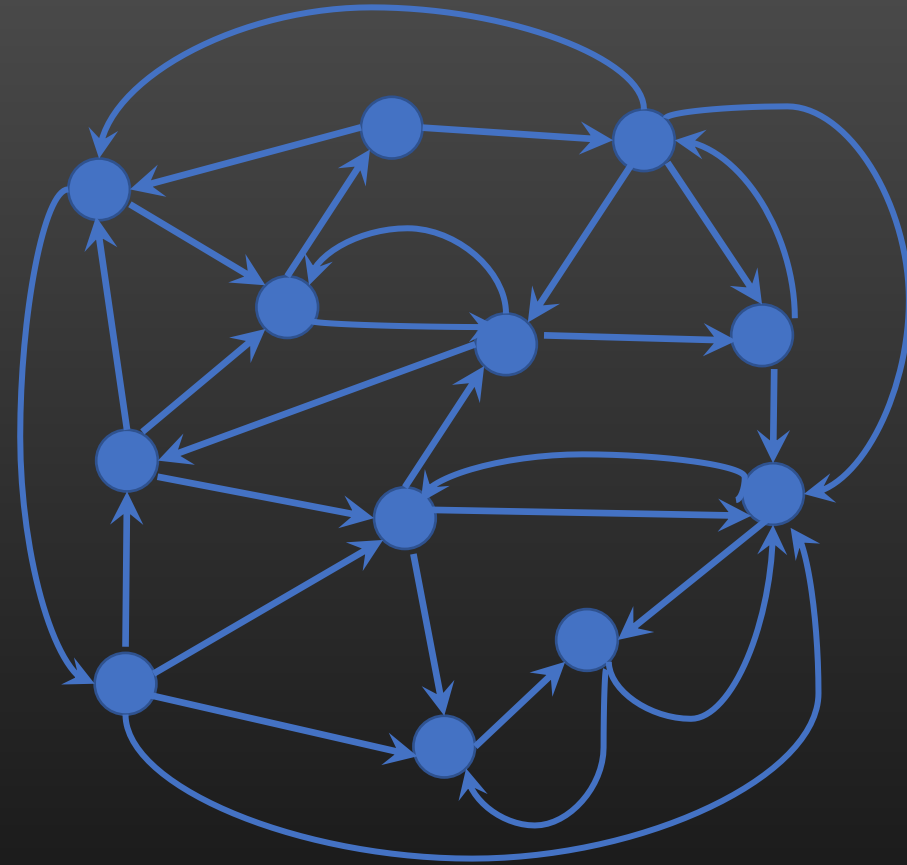
H. Markram et al., Cell, 2015



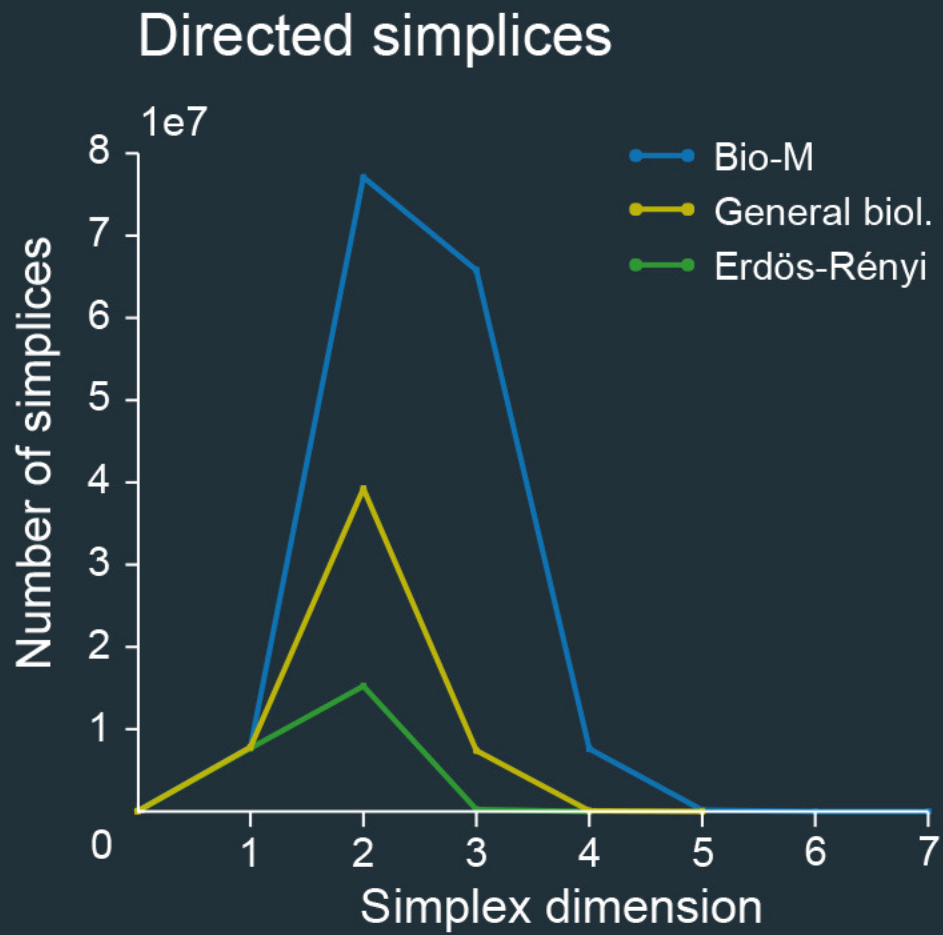
A 3D visualization of a complex neural network. The image shows a dense web of branching, translucent structures in shades of brown and tan, resembling dendrites or axons. Several nodes or junctions are highlighted with bright, glowing colors: a prominent red glow at the top center, a blue glow to the right, and several smaller blue and green glows along the branches. The background is dark, making the glowing structures stand out.

Connections with direction!

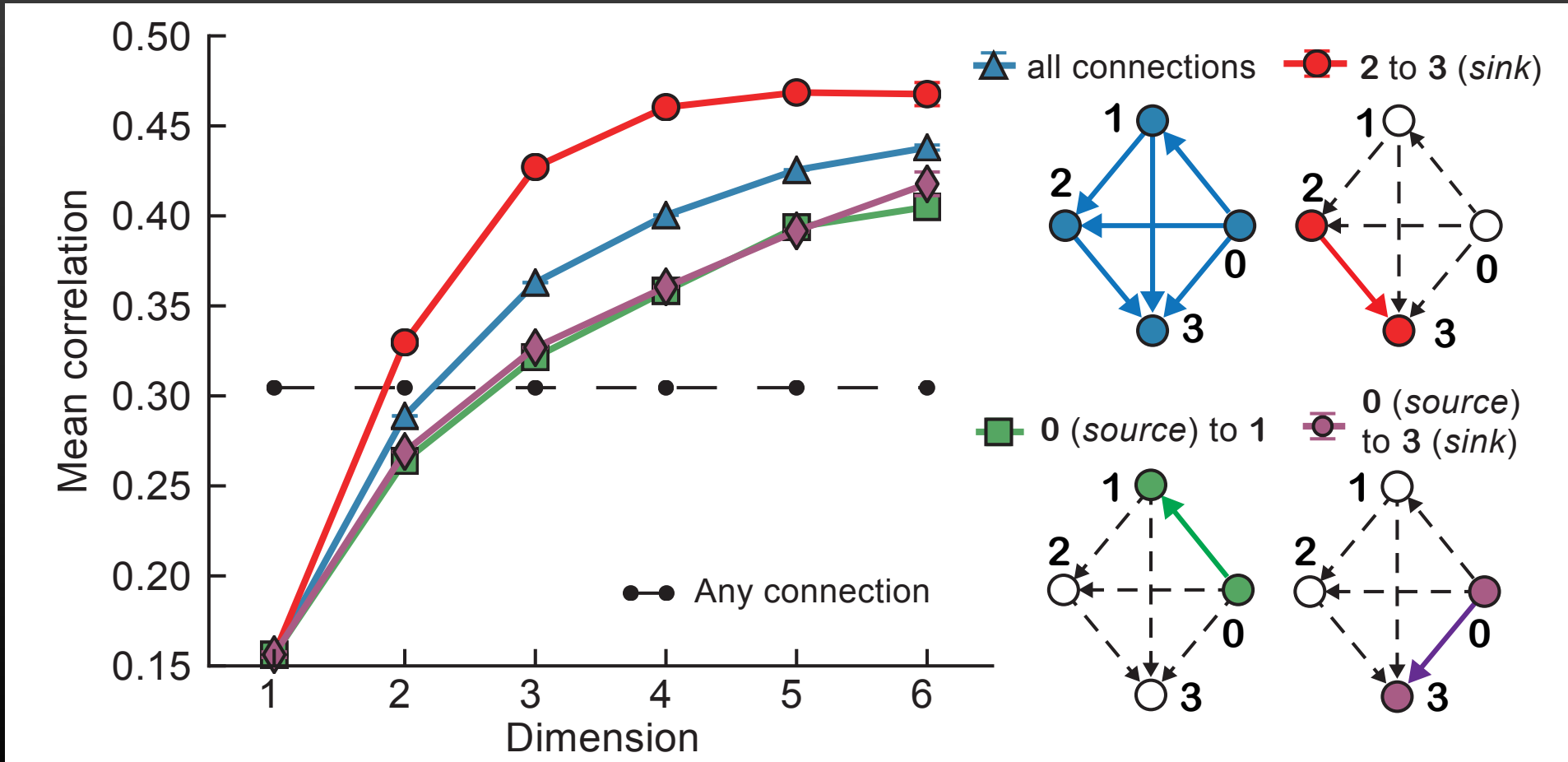
Represent the circuit by a **directed network**.



Measuring structure



The functional importance of simplices



The idea of a cavity



1 simplex



3 simplices...

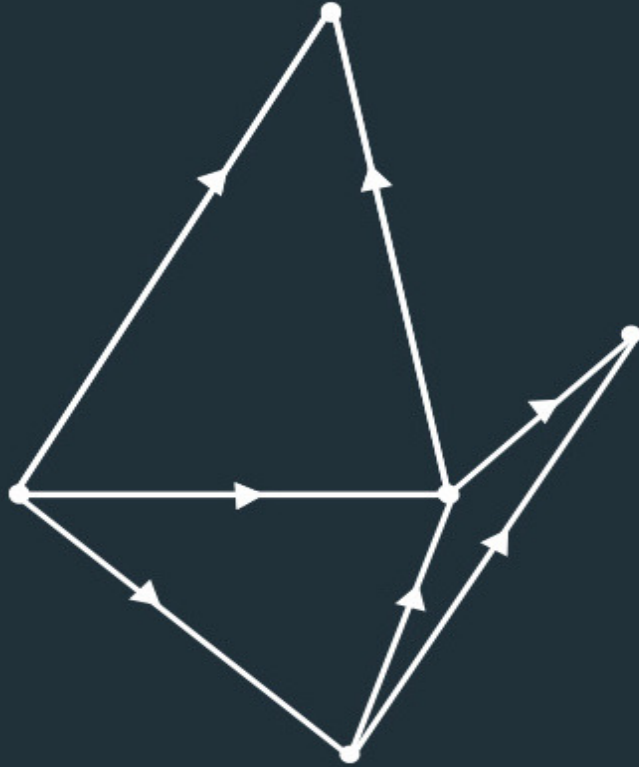


a cavity made
of 4 simplices

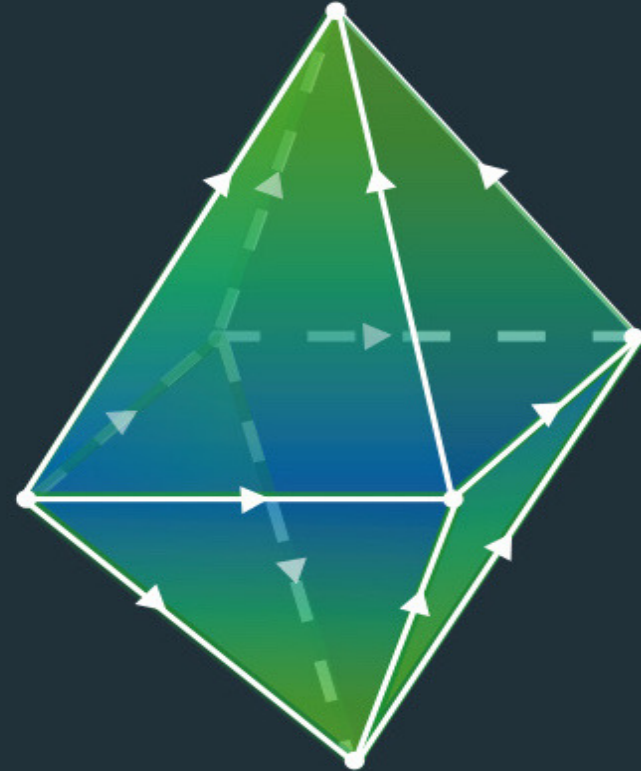
Higher dimensions for a cavity



1 simplex

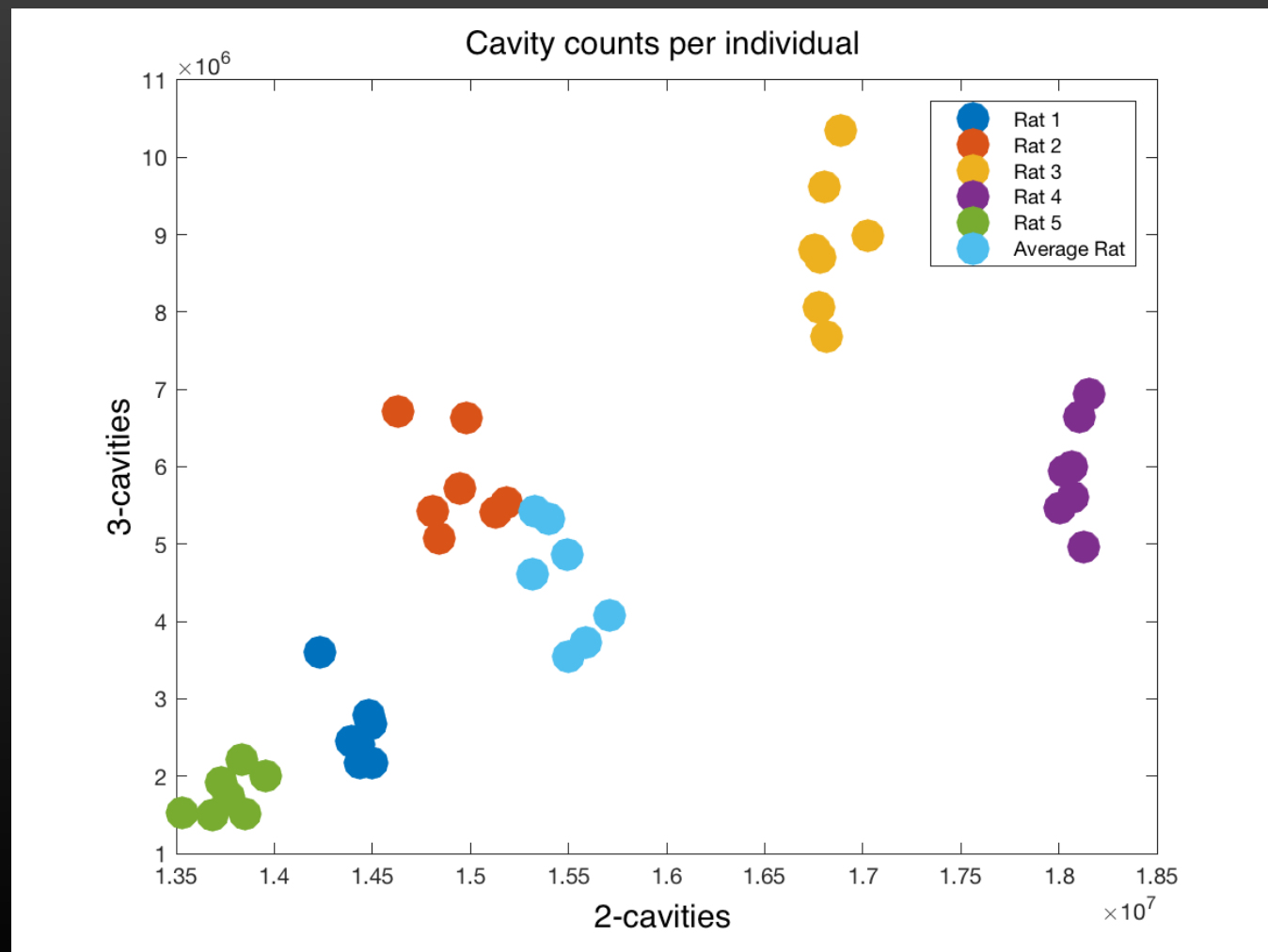


3 simplices...



a cavity made
of 8 simplices

Topology faithfully reflects biology



Other topological explorations

- TDA classification of neural dynamics
- A topological biomarker for long-term outcome in schizophrenia
- Reverse engineering of the TMD classification of neuron morphologies to synthesize digital neuron populations
- Topological analysis of larval fruit fly brains, leading to discovery of sexual dimorphism in brain structure
- TMD applied to analysis of microglia structure and evolution

Bardin, et al., Network Neuroscience, 2019.
Fournier, Scolamiero, et al, Molecular Psychiatry, 2020.
L. Kanari et al, Cell Reports, 2022.
Jiao et al, eLife, 2022.
Colombo et al, Nature Neuroscience, 2022.

Ongoing projects

- Topological analysis of synaptic plasticity
- Topological analysis of single-cell gene expression data

Thank you!



Membres du Laboratoire de
Topologie et Neurosciences