

# CHAOS, CRITICALITY, AND COMPUTATION IN RECURRENT NETWORKS

MORITZ HELIAS

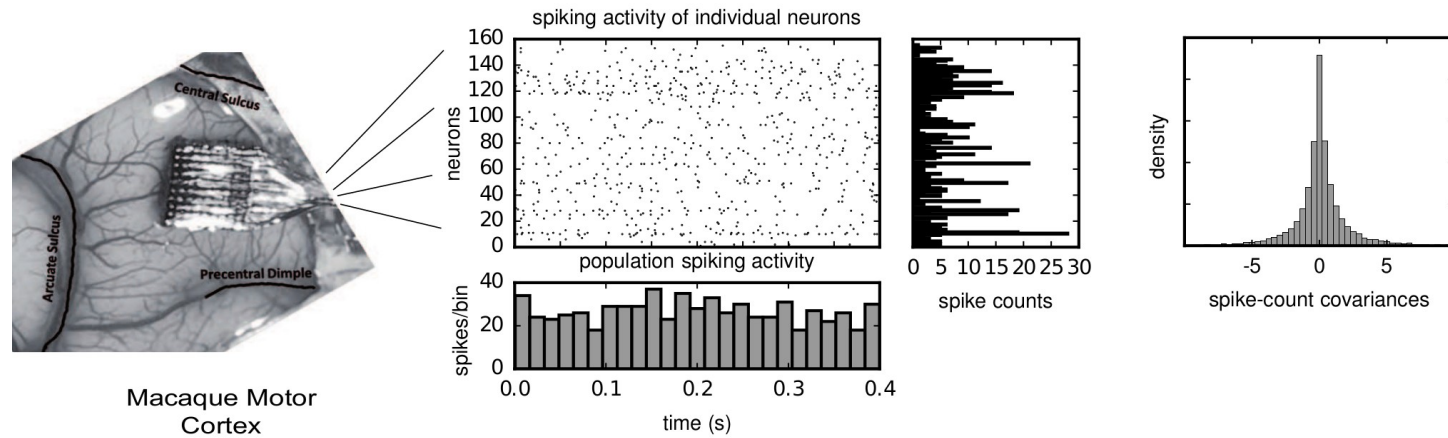
2023-06-15 LAUSANNE

COMPUTATIONAL AND SYSTEMS NEUROSCIENCE (INM-6)

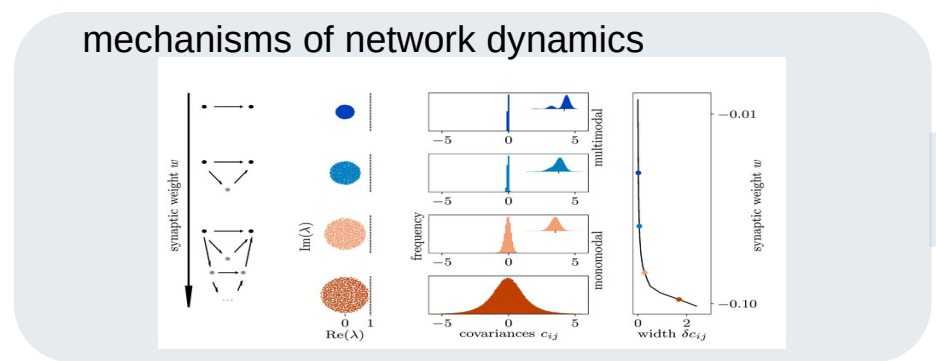
THEORETICAL NEUROSCIENCE (IAS-6)

FACULTY OF PHYSICS, RWTH AACHEN UNIVERSITY

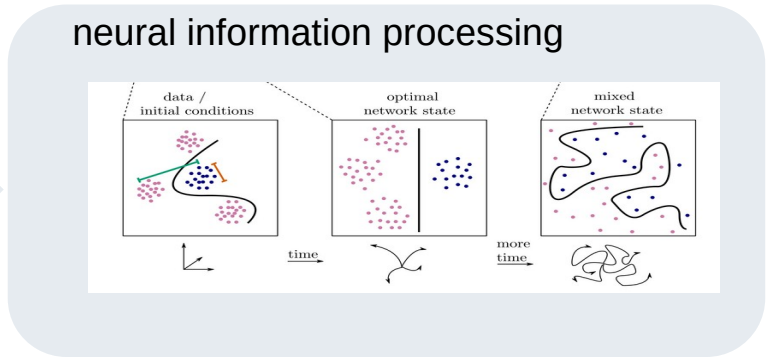
# INFERENCE OF COLLECTIVE NETWORK DYNAMICS FROM OBSERVED ACTIVITY



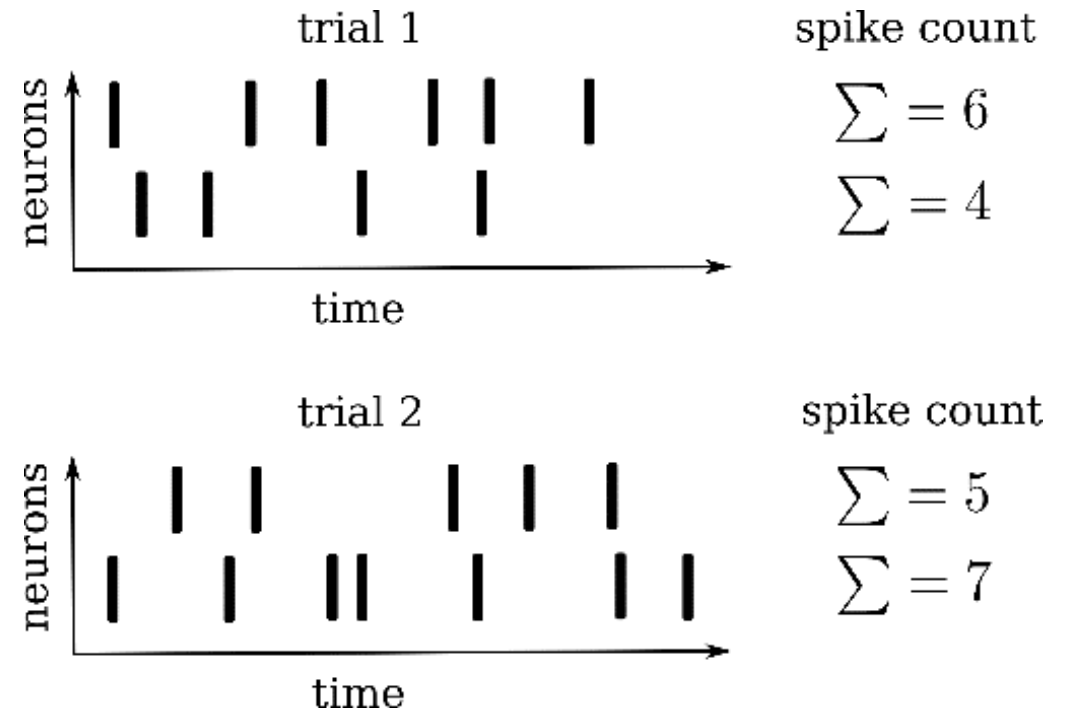
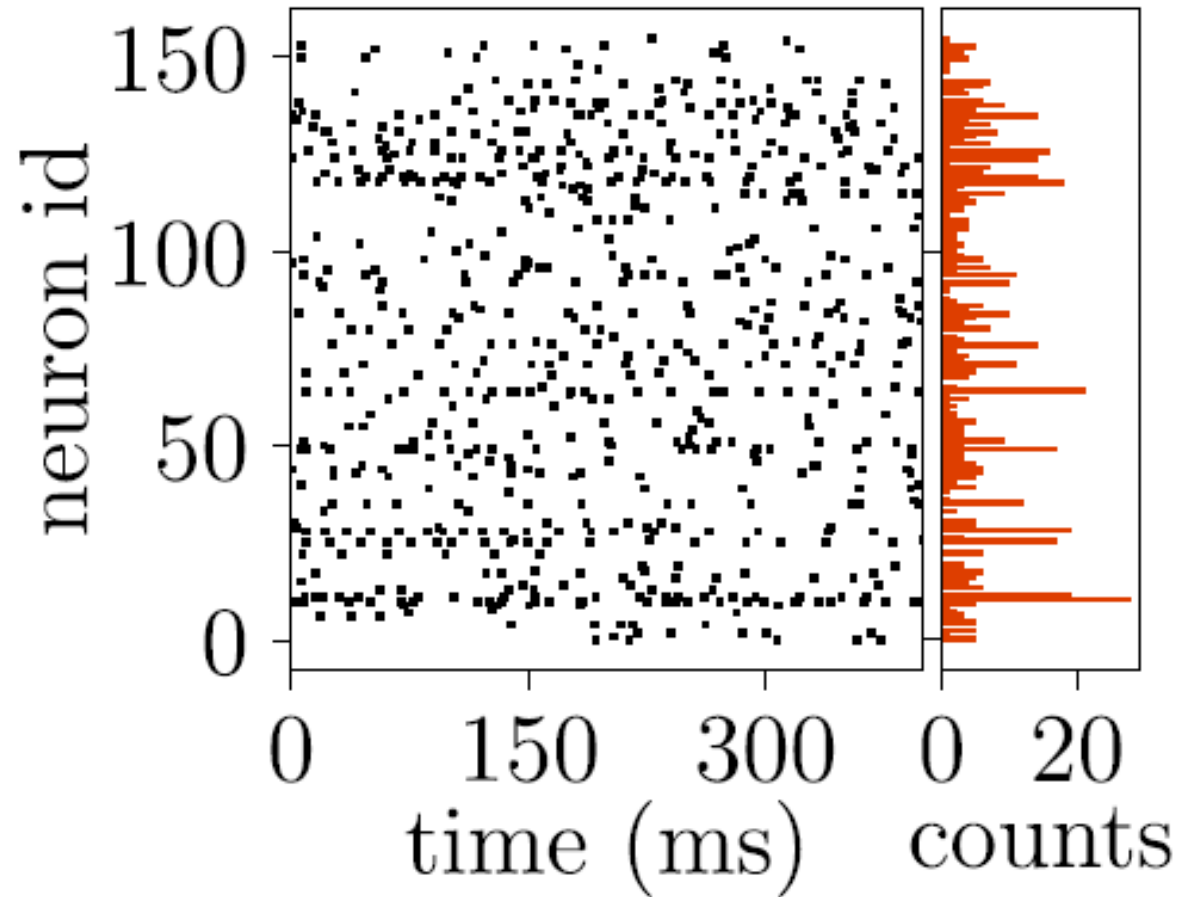
extract



implement

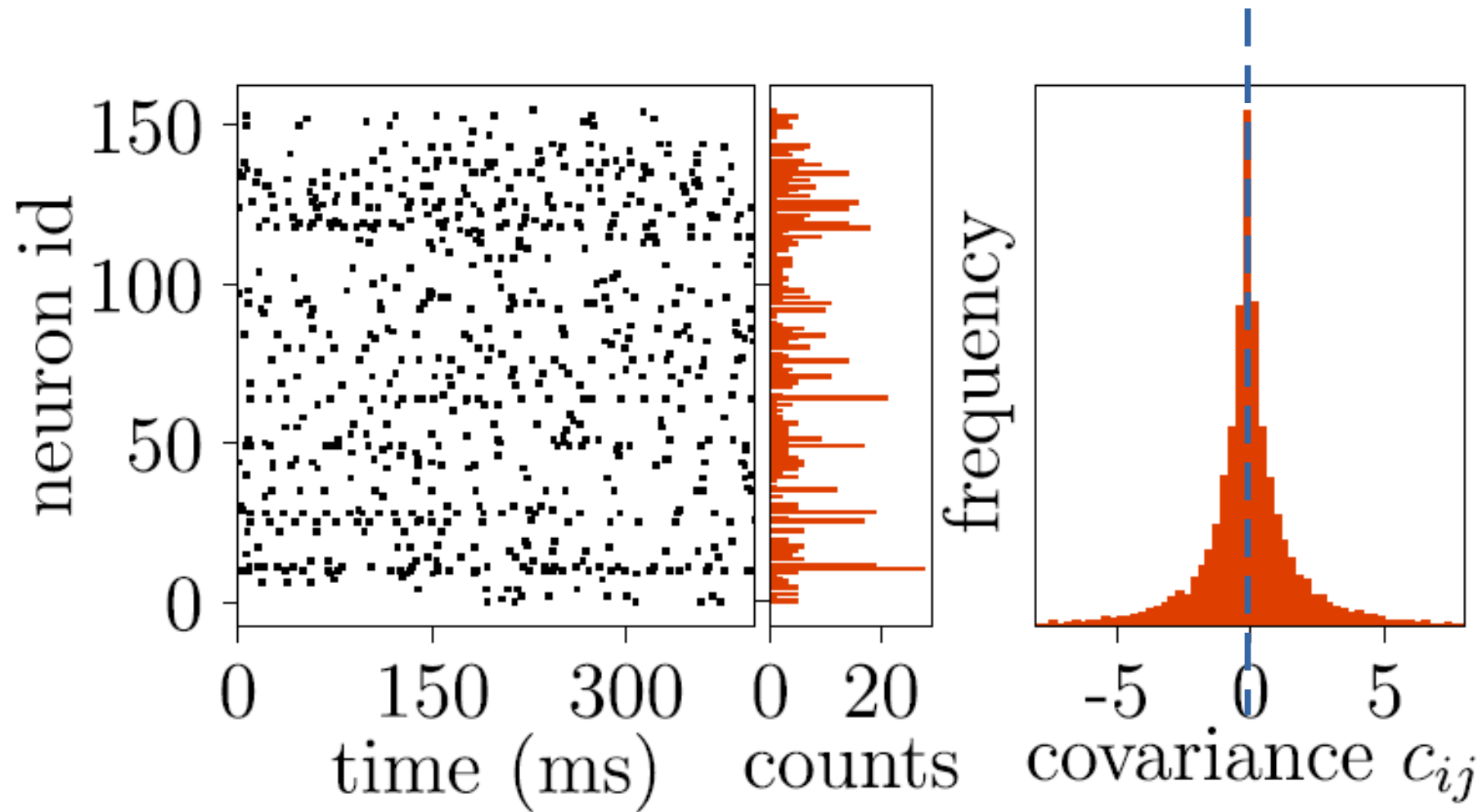


# COLLECTIVE DYNAMICS - CORRELATIONS



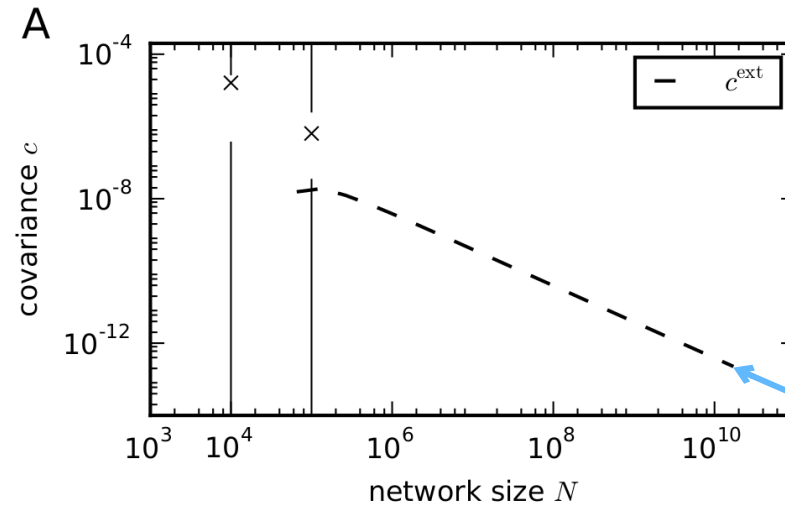
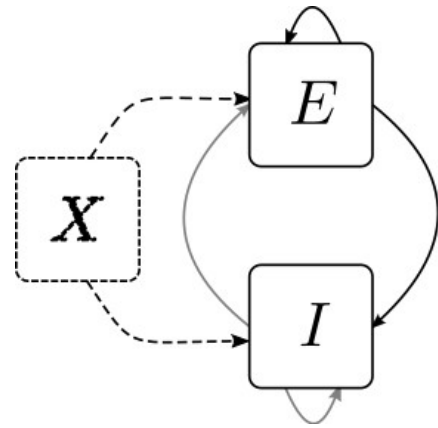
(Brochier et al. 2018)

# SMALL AVERAGE CORRELATIONS



(Brochier et al. 2018)

# SMALL AVERAGE CORRELATIONS – BALANCED STATE



Finite size-theory of **average** fluctuations  
Helias et al. 2014

$$c_{\alpha\beta} = \langle c_{ij} \rangle_{i \in \alpha, j \in \beta} \quad \alpha, \beta \in \{E, I, X\}$$

$$\begin{pmatrix} c_{EE} \\ c_{EI} \\ c_{II} \end{pmatrix} = \mathbf{c}_{\text{int}}(a_E, a_I) + \mathbf{c}_{\text{ext}}(a_x)$$

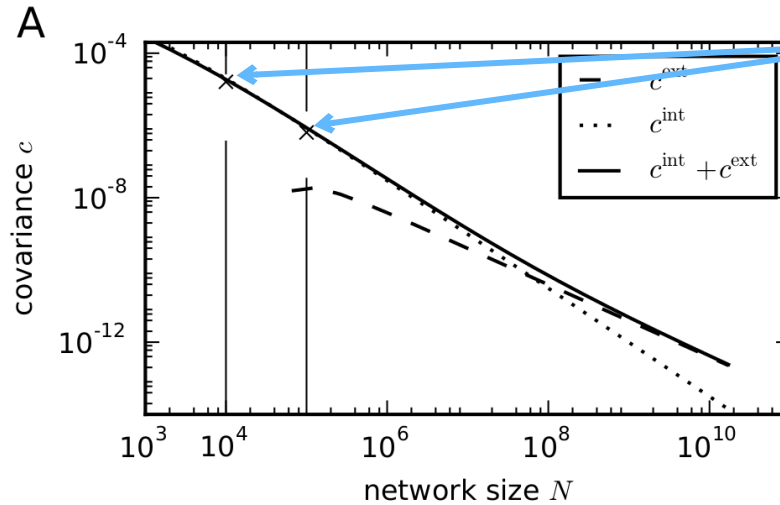
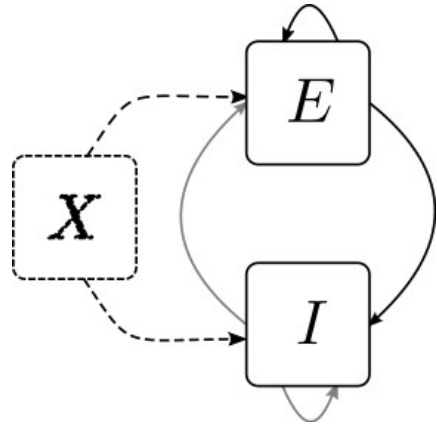
intrinsic externally-driven

Renart et al. 2010



# AVERAGE CORRELATIONS

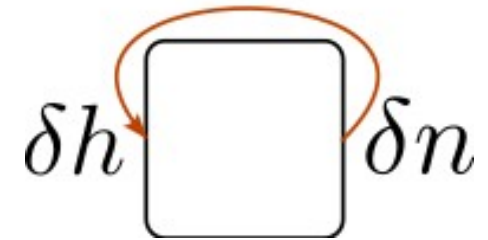
## - PREDOMINANTLY GENERATED INTRINSICALLY



simulation

explanation:  
negative feedback by inhibition

$$\text{eig}(J) < 0$$



Finite size-theory of **average** fluctuations

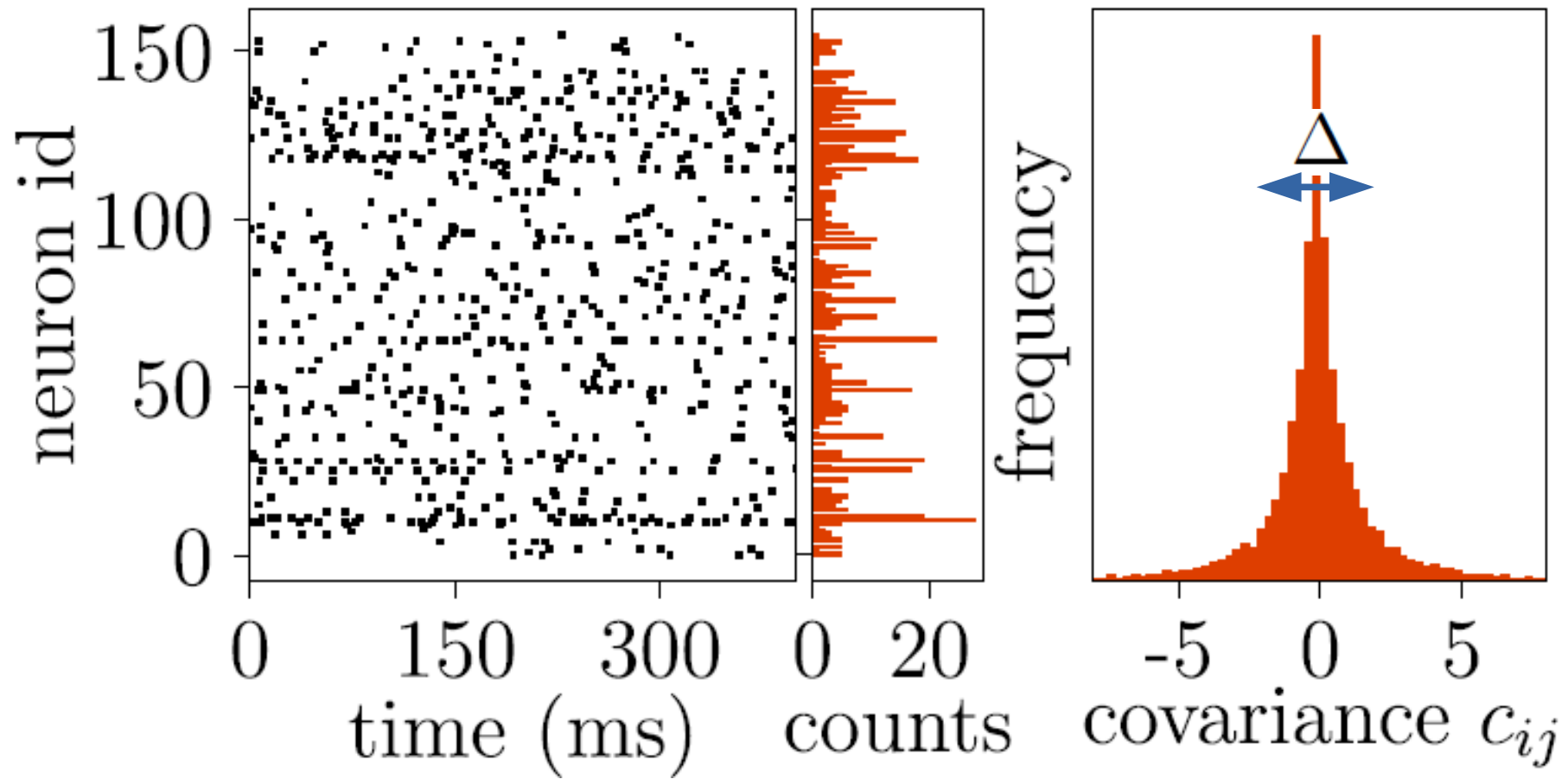
Helias et al. 2014

$$c_{\alpha\beta} = \langle c_{ij} \rangle_{i \in \alpha, j \in \beta} \quad \alpha, \beta \in \{E, I, X\}$$

$$\begin{pmatrix} c_{EE} \\ c_{EI} \\ c_{II} \end{pmatrix} = \begin{matrix} \text{intrinsic} \\ \\ \end{matrix} \mathbf{c}_{\text{int}}(a_E, a_I) + \begin{matrix} \text{externally-driven} \\ \\ \end{matrix} \mathbf{c}_{\text{ext}}(a_x)$$

Renart et al. 2010

# WIDE DISTRIBUTION



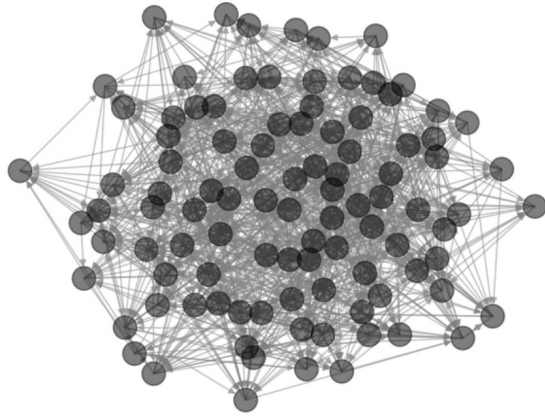




# SIGNATURES OF CRITICAL STATES IN MOTOR CORTEX

DAVID DAHMEN

# LINEAR NETWORK MODEL (LINEAR RESPONSE THEORY)



$$\tau \frac{dx_i(t)}{dt} = -x_i(t) + \sum_{j=1}^N W_{ij} x_j(t) + \xi_i(t)$$

exponential relaxation

i.i.d. Gaussian  
coupling weights

external  
white noise  
Var = D

- Linear response theory captures fluctuations in asynchronous irregular brain states (Lindner et al. 2006, Pernice et al. 2011, Trousdale et al. 2012, Grytskyy et al. 2014)

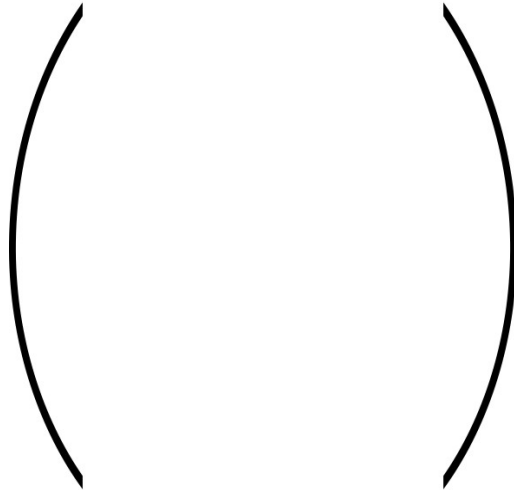
# COVARIANCES ↔ CONNECTIVITY

$$C = [1 - W]^{-1} D [1 - W]^{-T}$$

(Lindner et al. 2006, Pernice et al. 2011, Trousdale et al. 2012, Grytskyy et al. 2014)

# COVARIANCES ↔ CONNECTIVITY

$$C = [1 - W]^{-1} D [1 - W]^{-T}$$



matrix equation

$N \times N$

(Lindner et al. 2006, Pernice et al. 2011, Trousdale et al. 2012, Grytskyy et al. 2014)

# COVARIANCES ↔ CONNECTIVITY

$$C = [1 - W]^{-1} D [1 - W]^{-T}$$



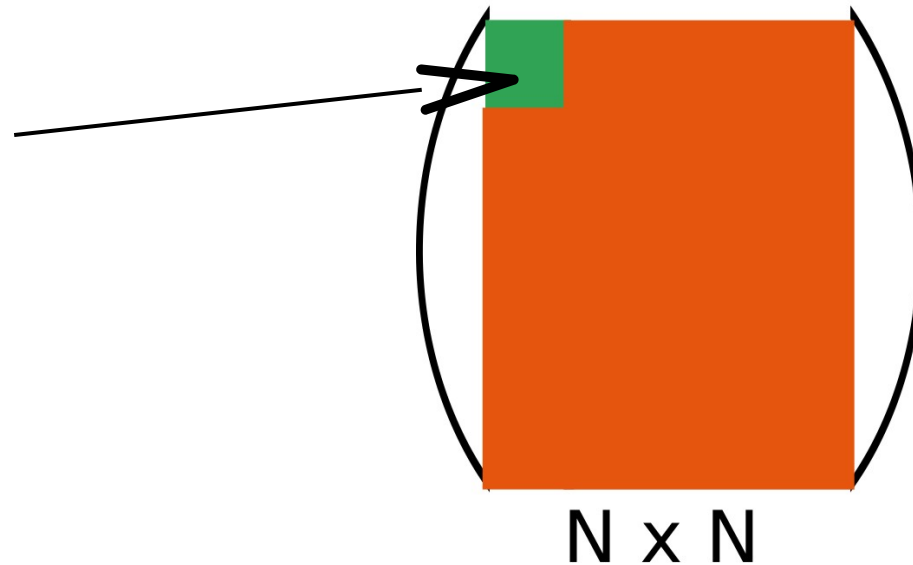
N x N

matrix equation

(Lindner et al. 2006, Pernice et al. 2011, Trousdale et al. 2012, Grytskyy et al. 2014)

# COVARIANCES ↔ CONNECTIVITY

$$C = [1 - W]^{-1} D [1 - W]^{-T}$$

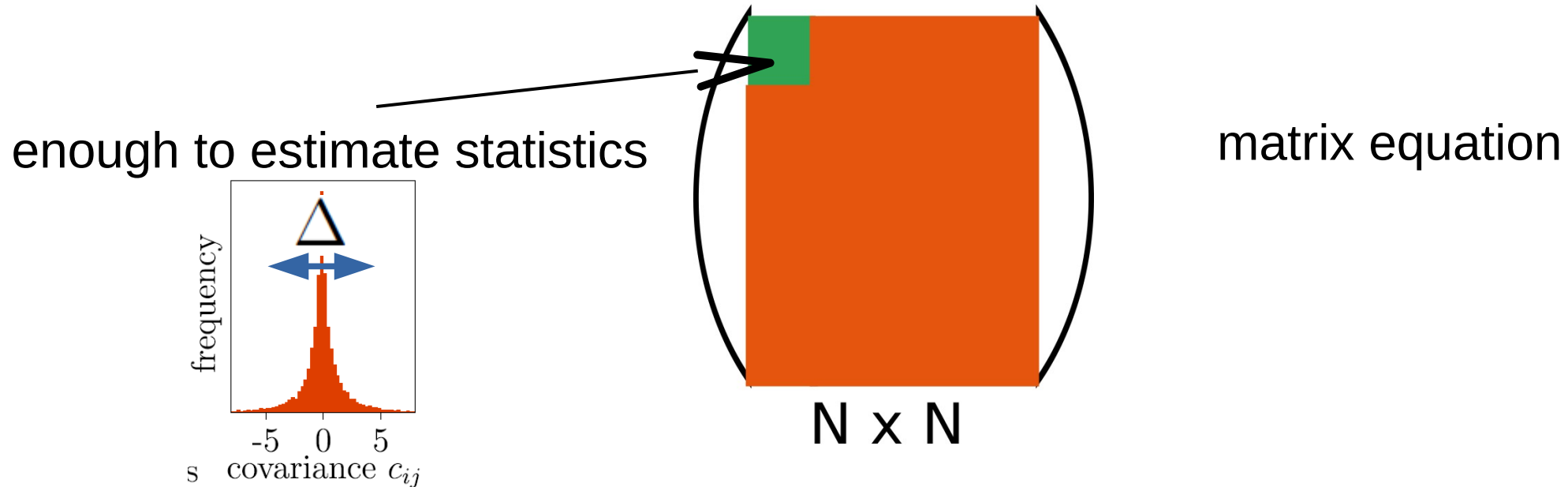


matrix equation

(Lindner et al. 2006, Pernice et al. 2011, Trousdale et al. 2012, Grytskyy et al. 2014)

# COVARIANCES ↔ CONNECTIVITY

$$C = [1 - W]^{-1} D [1 - W]^{-T}$$



(Lindner et al. 2006, Pernice et al. 2011, Trousdale et al. 2012, Grytskyy et al. 2014)


# FIELD THEORETIC FORMULATION

$$C = [1 - W]^{-1} D [1 - W]^{-T}$$



# FIELD THEORETIC FORMULATION

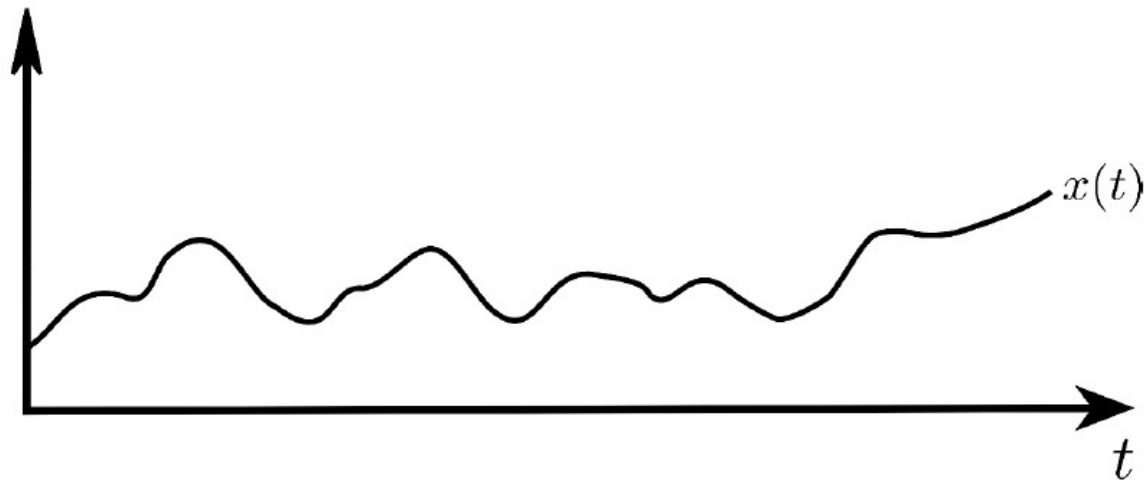
$$C = [1 - W]^{-1} D [1 - W]^{-T}$$

$$\tau \frac{dx_i(t)}{dt} = -x_i(t) + \sum_{j=1}^N W_{ij} x_j(t) + \xi_i(t)$$


# FIELD THEORETIC FORMULATION

$$C = [\mathbf{1} - W]^{-1} D [\mathbf{1} - W]^{-T}$$

$$\tau \frac{dx_i(t)}{dt} = -x_i(t) + \sum_{j=1}^N W_{ij} x_j(t) + \xi_i(t)$$



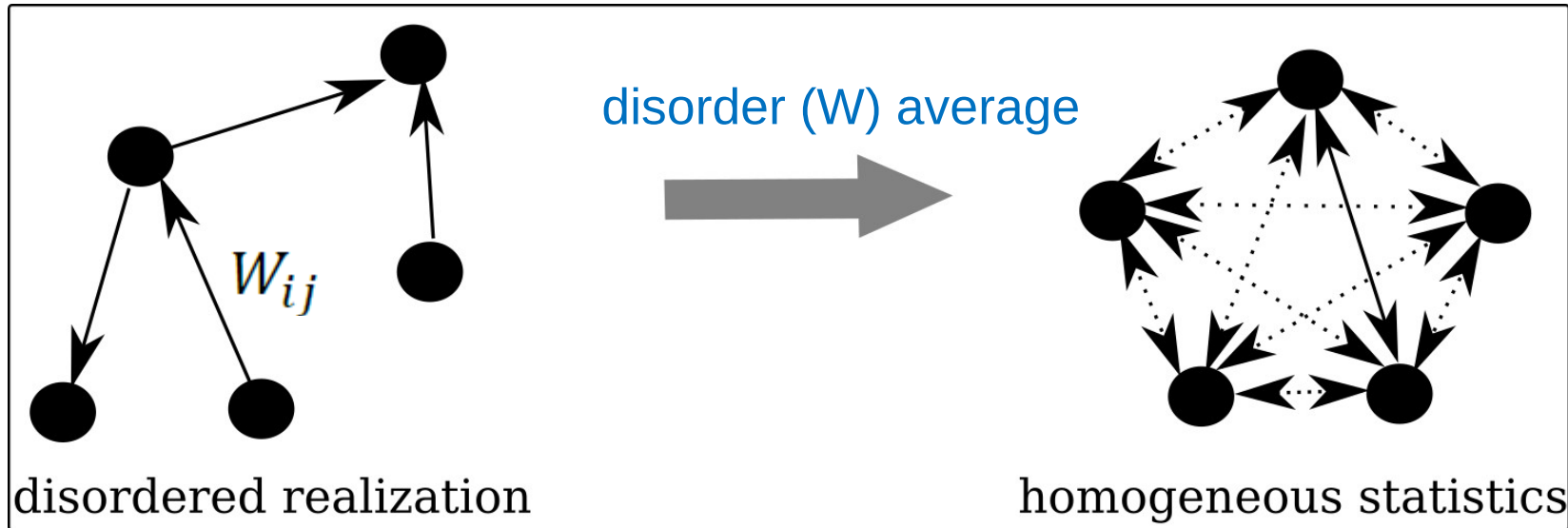
$$p[x(t)] = \int D\tilde{x} e^{S(\tilde{x}, x|W)}$$

Martin Siggia Rose formalism

Martin et al. 1973, DeDominicis 1975, Janssen 1976

# ENSEMBLES OF NETWORKS

$$p[x(t)] = \int D\tilde{x} e^{S(\tilde{x}, x|W)}$$



$$S_0(\tilde{X}, X) = \tilde{X}^T (1 - \mu\{\mathbf{1}\})X + \frac{D}{2} \tilde{X}^T \tilde{X}$$

$$S_{\text{int}}(\tilde{X}, X) = \frac{\sigma^2}{2N} \tilde{X}^T \tilde{X} X^T X$$

# BEYOND MEAN-FIELD THEORY

$$S_0(\tilde{X}, X) = \tilde{X}^T (1 - \mu\{\mathbf{1}\})X + \frac{D}{2} \tilde{X}^T \tilde{X}$$

$$S_{\text{int}}(\tilde{X}, X) = \frac{\sigma^2}{2N} \tilde{X}^T \tilde{X} X^T X \longrightarrow \text{mean + fluctuation corrections}$$

Result:

variance of entries of  $W$

spectral radius of connectivity  $W$

$$R^2 = 1 - \sqrt{\frac{1}{1 + N \Delta}}$$

number of neurons

width of distribution of correlations

# LARGE WIDTH IMPLIES CRITICALITY

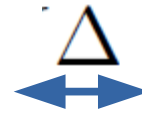
spectrum of connectivity  $W$

edge of spectrum  $\lambda_{\max}$   
determines stability  
of dynamics

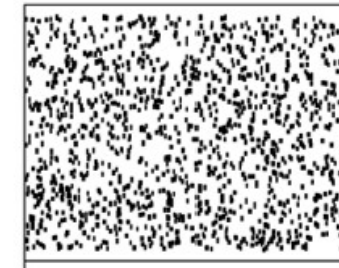
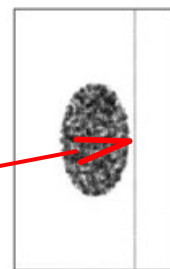
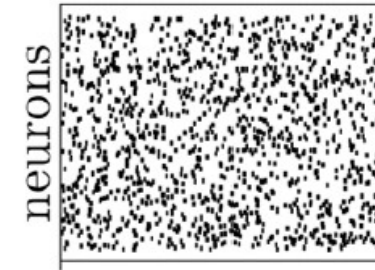
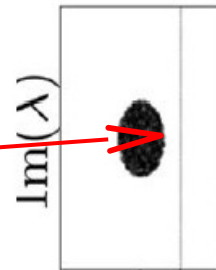
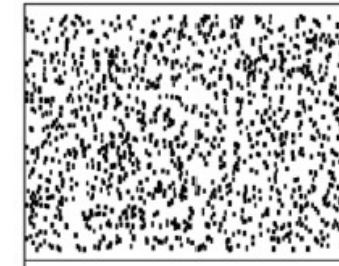
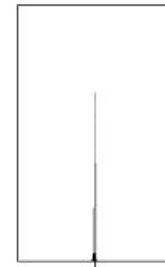
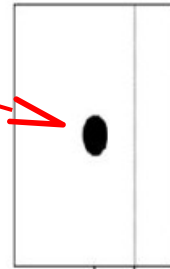
loss of stability  
→ critical point

$R^2$

theory



data

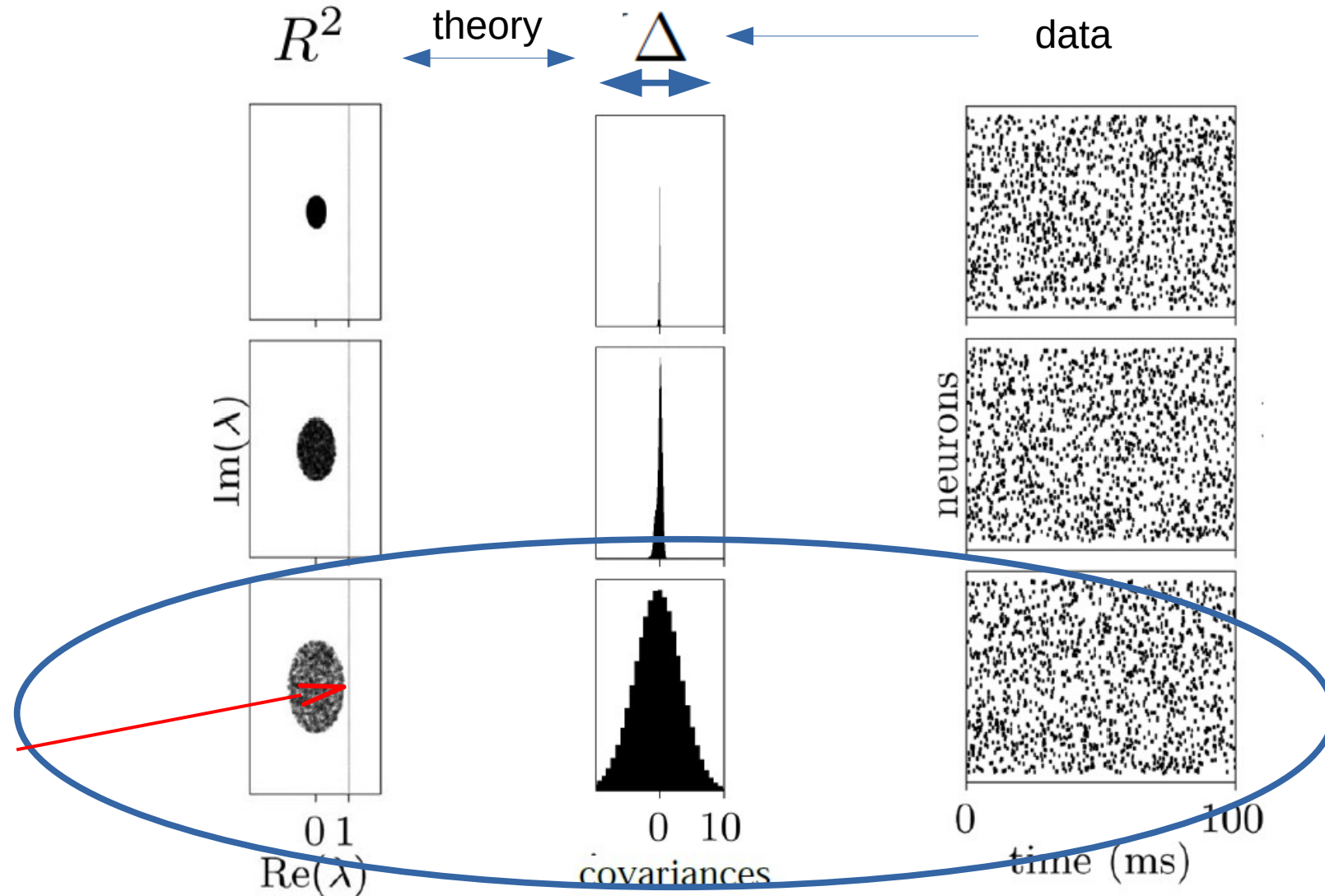


0 1  
 $\text{Re}(\lambda)$

0 10  
covariances

0 100  
time (ms)

# LARGE WIDTH IMPLIES CRITICALITY



loss of stability  
→ critical point

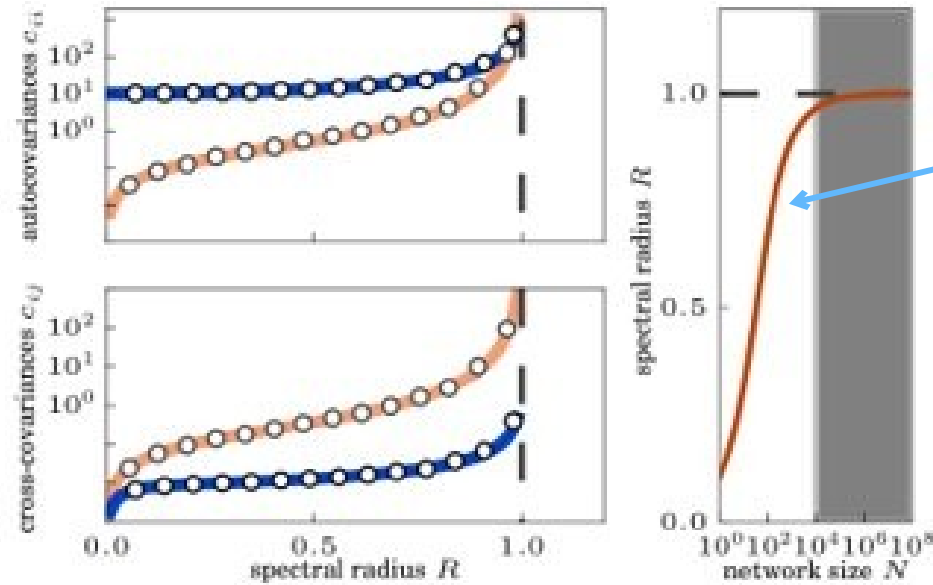
# MOTOR CORTEX NEARLY UNSTABLE

theory

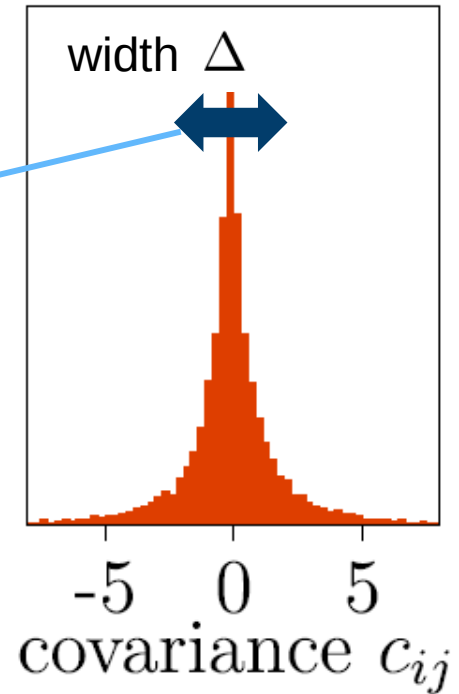
- spectral radius  $R$  of the coupling matrix

$$R^2 = 1 - \sqrt{\frac{1}{1 + N \Delta}}$$

width



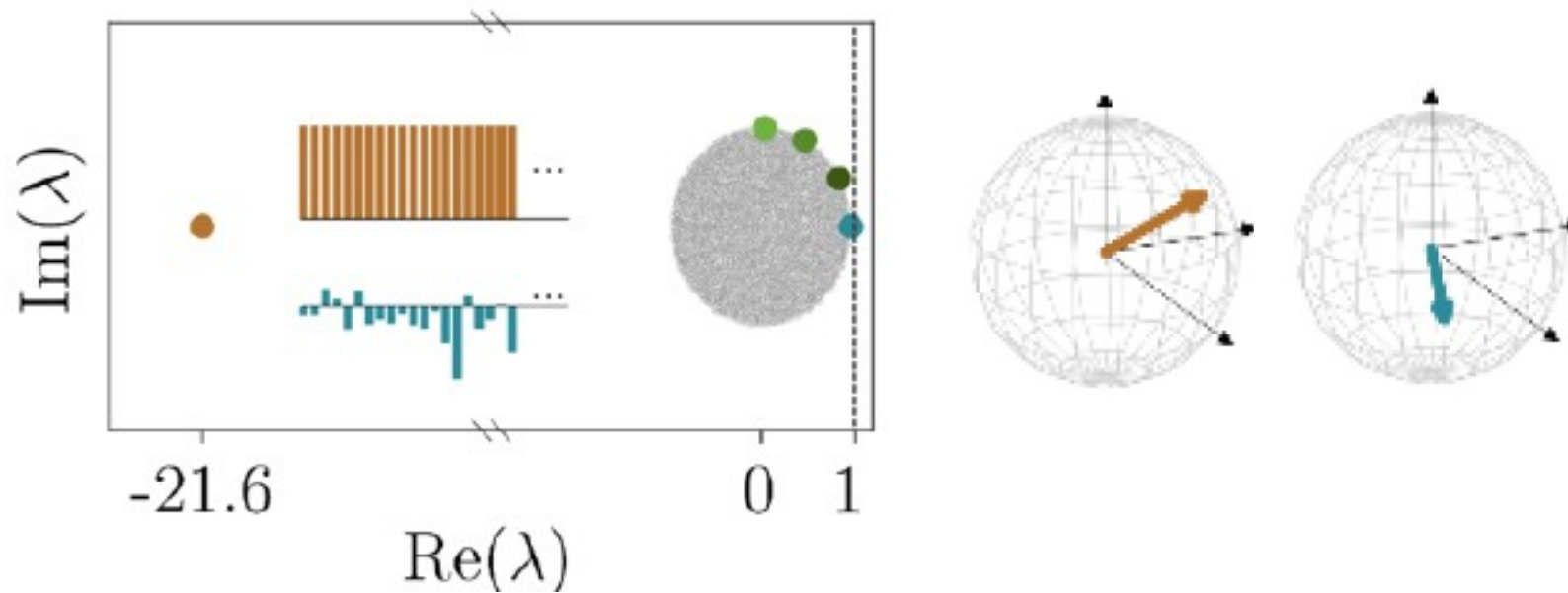
data



- Motor cortex is operating close to critical point of linear instability  $R=1$  !

# DYNAMICAL AND FUNCTIONAL CONSEQUENCES

## - RICH REPERTOIRE OF DYNAMICAL MODES

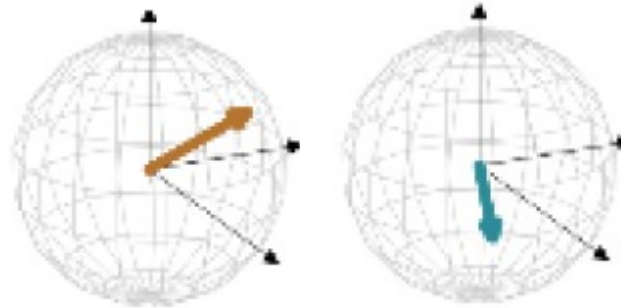
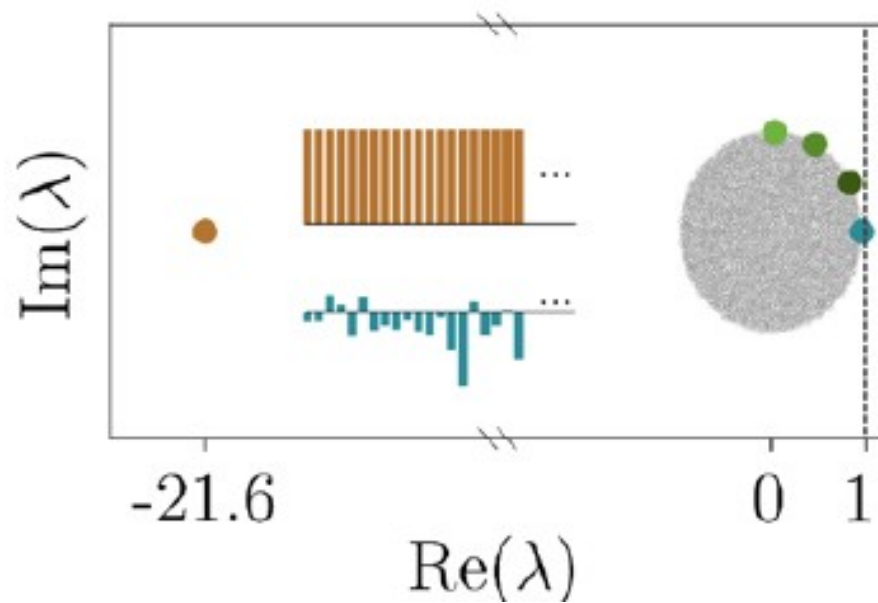


*Dahmen et al., Second type of criticality in the brain uncovers rich multiple-neuron dynamics, PNAS, 2019*

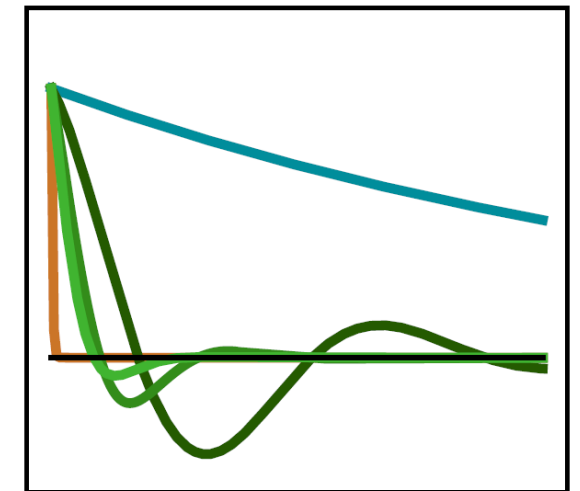


# DYNAMICAL AND FUNCTIONAL CONSEQUENCES

## - RICH REPERTOIRE OF DYNAMICAL MODES



$$v_\alpha(t) \sim e^{-t/\frac{\tau}{1-\lambda_\alpha}}$$

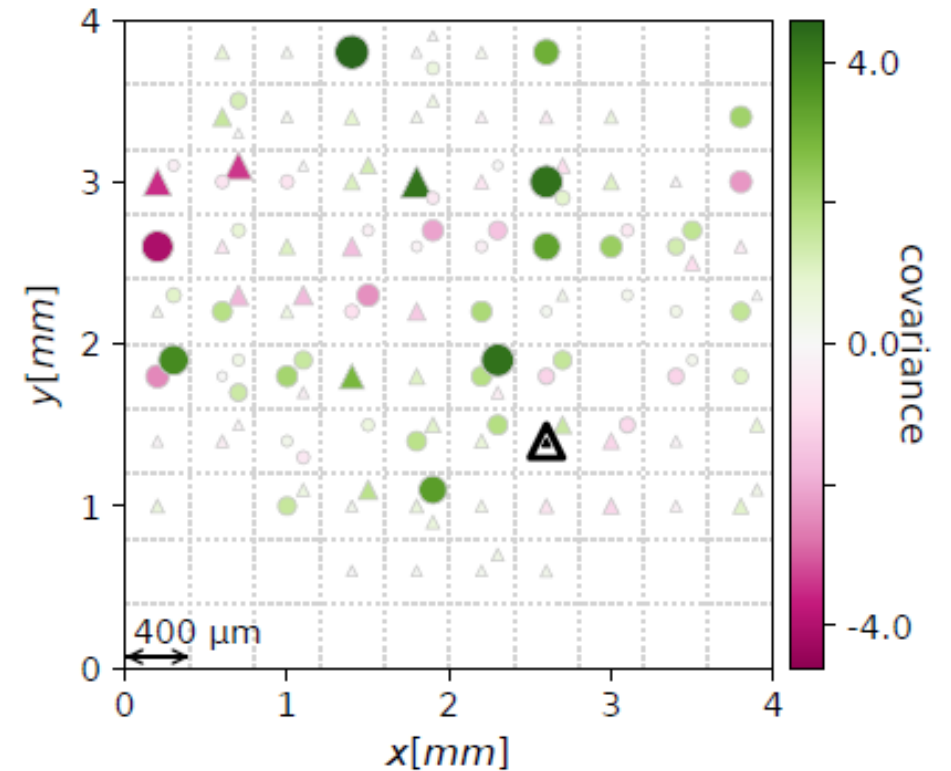
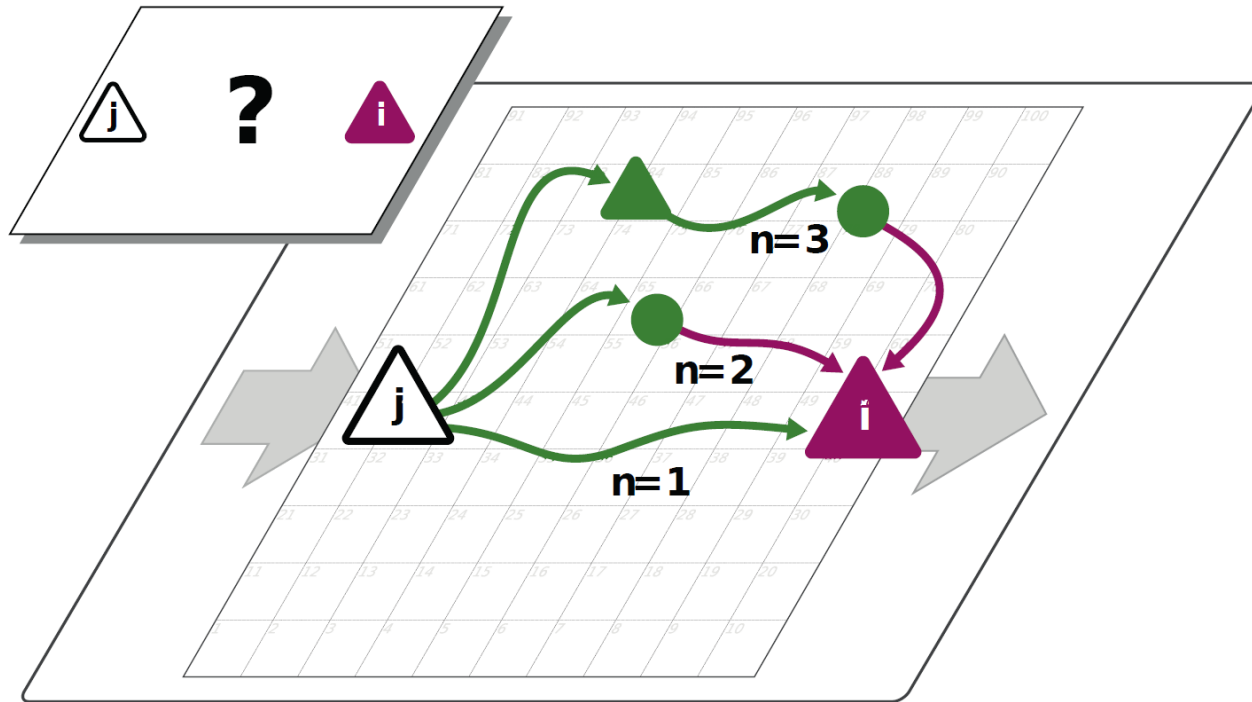


time

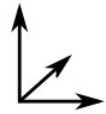
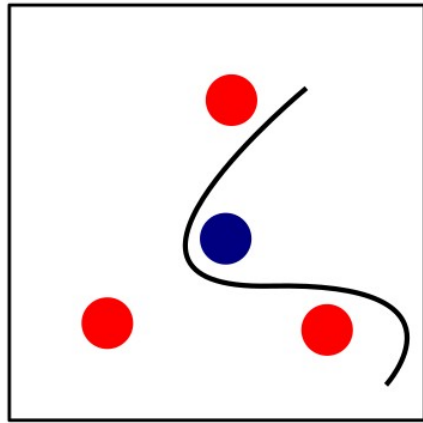
*Dahmen et al., Second type of criticality in the brain uncovers rich multiple-neuron dynamics, PNAS, 2019*

# DYNAMICAL AND FUNCTIONAL CONSEQUENCES

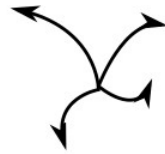
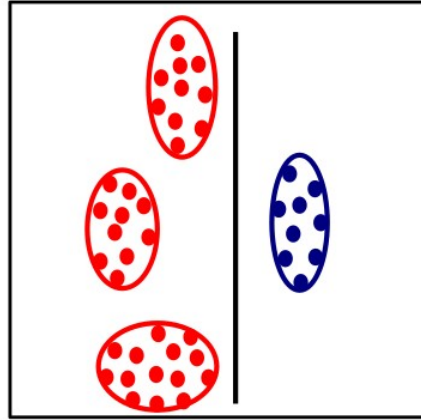
## -LONG-RANGE INTERACTIONS DESPITE SHORT-RANGE CONNECTIONS



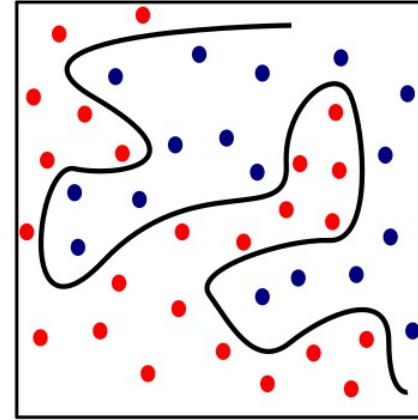
*Dahmen et al., Long-range coordination patterns in cortex change with behavioral context, elife, 2022*



time  
→



more  
time  
→



Christian  
Keup



Tobias  
Kühn

# TRANSIENT CHAOTIC DIMENSIONALITY EXPANSION

CHRISTIAN KEUP, TOBIAS KÜHN, DAVID DAHMEN

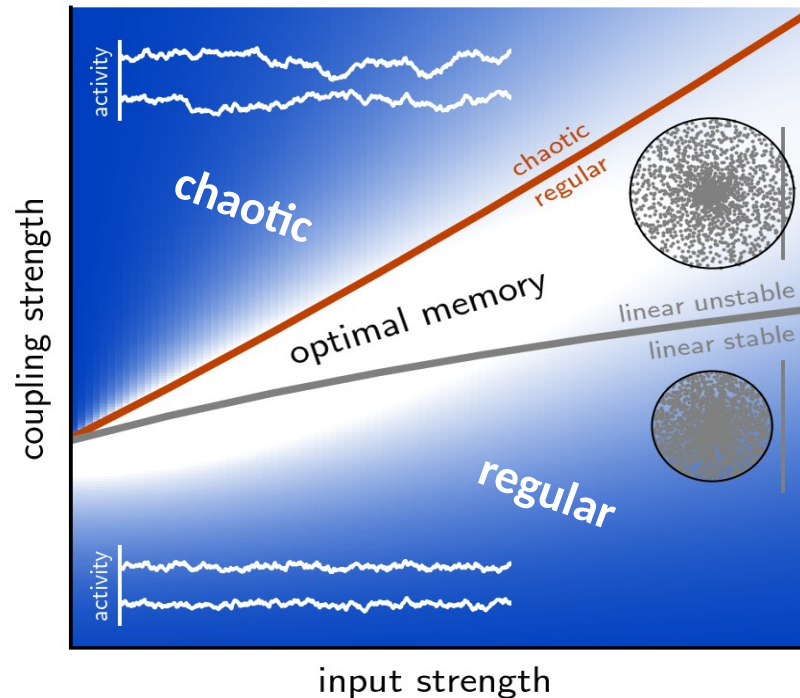
# DRIVEN RANDOM RATE NETWORKS

## - OPTIMAL MEMORY CLOSE TO CRITICALITY

nonlinear network:

$$\tau \frac{dx_i(t)}{dt} = -x_i(t) + \sum_{j=1}^N J_{ij} \phi(x_j(t)) + \xi_i(t)$$

coupling
input



transition to chaos  $\text{Var}(\text{input}) > \text{Var}(\text{neurons})$   
 $g^2 \langle \phi^2 \rangle > \langle x^2 \rangle$

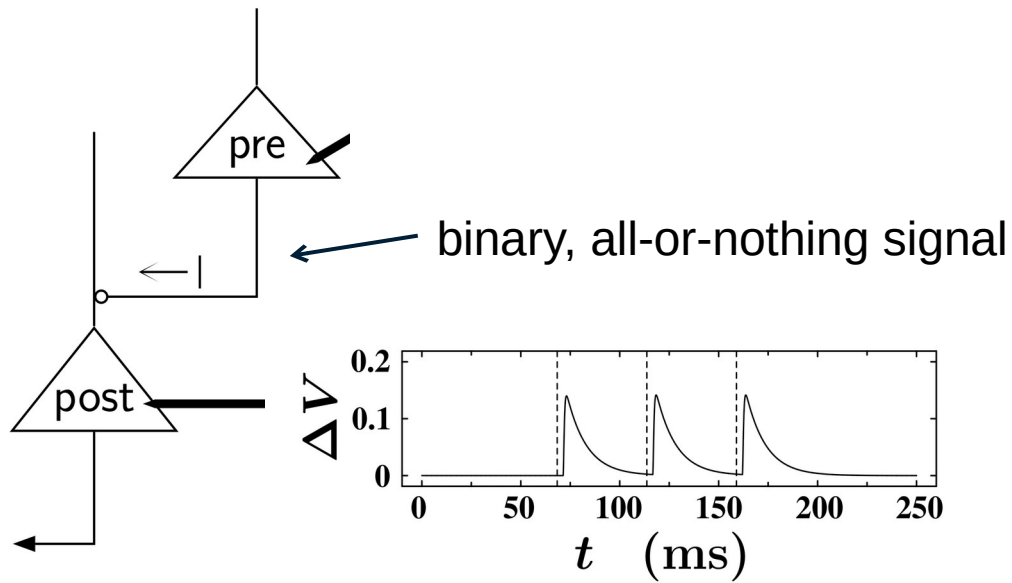
dynamical state between loss of linear stability and onset of chaos has optimal memory

linear instability  $R^2 = g^2 \langle \phi'^2 \rangle > 1$

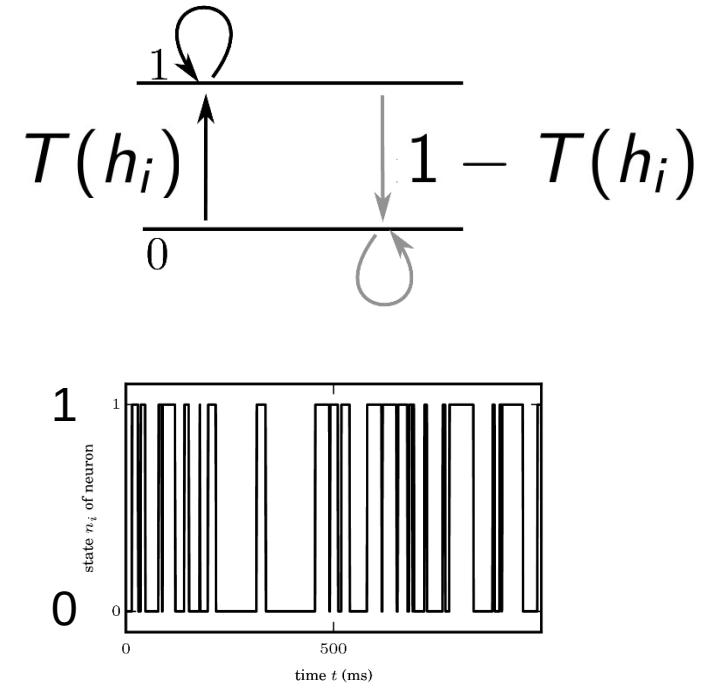
Schuecker et al., Optimal Sequence Memory in Driven Random Networks, PRX, 2018

# SPIKING INTERACTION: ABSTRACTION AS BINARY

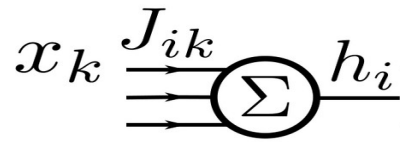
Taking into account discrete coupling



Binary neurons

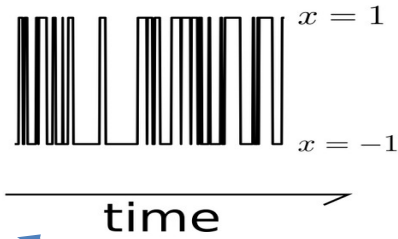
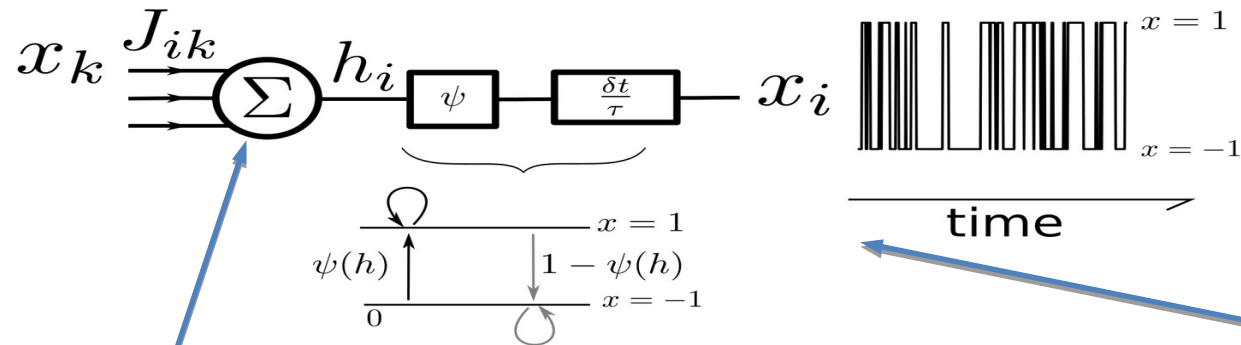


# DISCRETE COUPLING: BINARY NEURON



$$h_i = \sum_j J_{ij} x_j$$

# DISCRETE COUPLING: BINARY NEURON

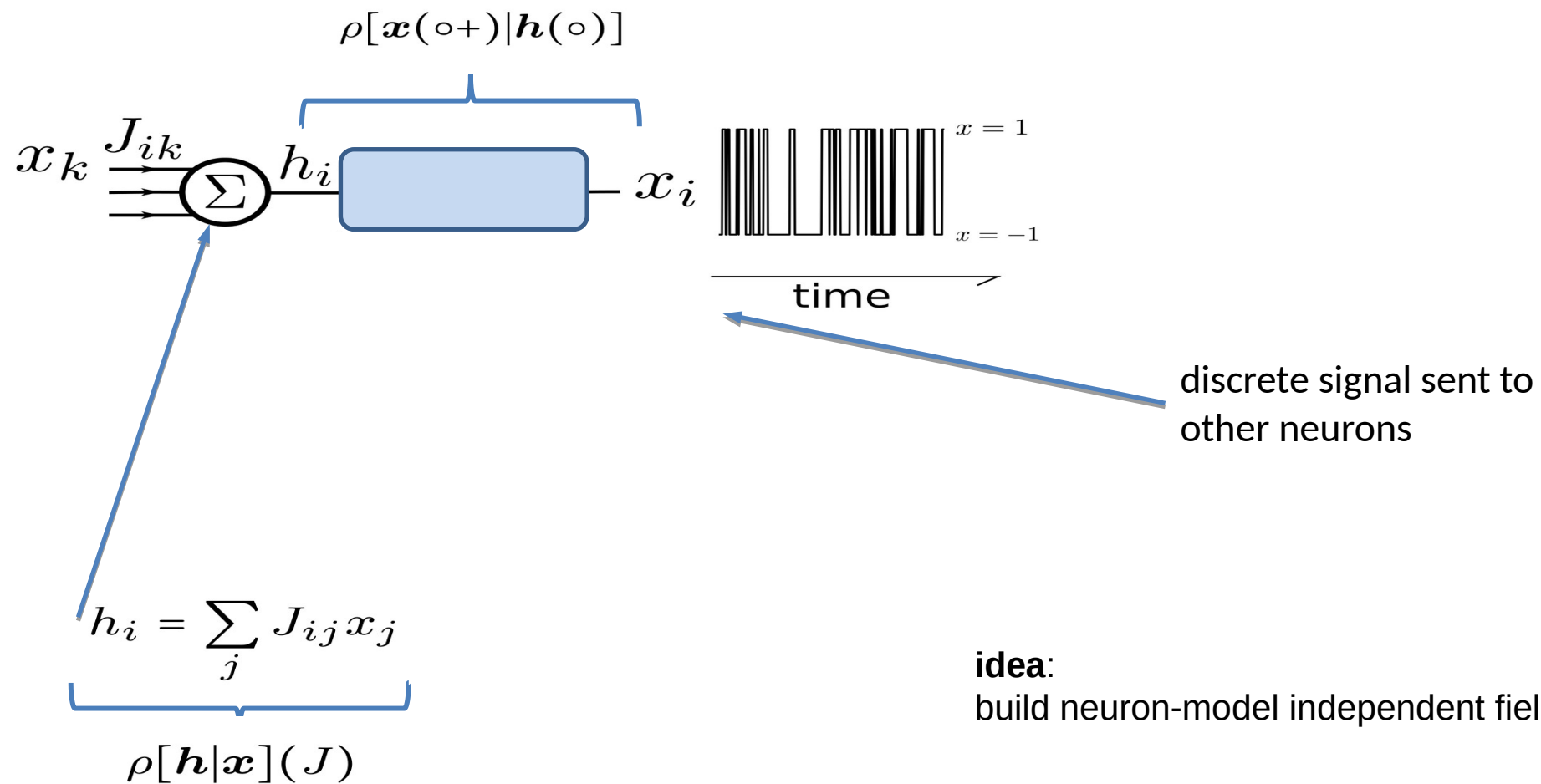


discrete signal sent to other neurons

$$h_i = \sum_j J_{ij} x_j$$

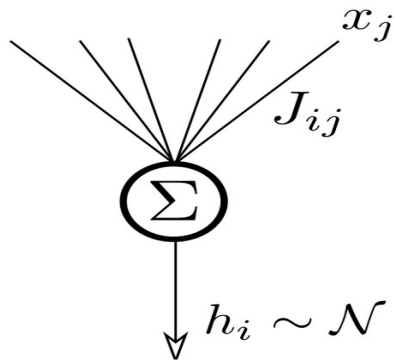
$t_u \sim$  Poisson proc. (rate =  $\tau^{-1}$ )

# MODEL-INDEPENDENT FIELD THEORY





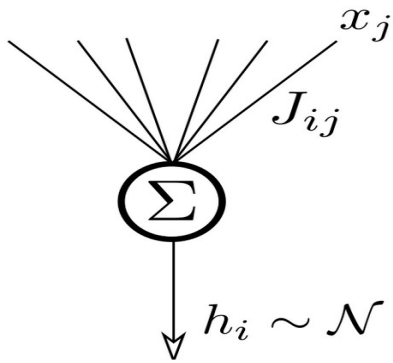
# MODEL-INDEPENDENT FIELD THEORY



- instantaneous synaptic coupling

$$\rho[\mathbf{h}|\mathbf{x}](J) = \delta[\mathbf{h} - \mathbf{J}\mathbf{x}]$$

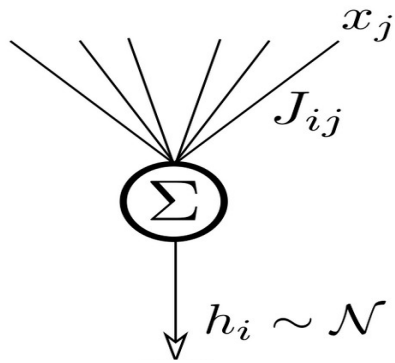
# MODEL-INDEPENDENT FIELD THEORY



- instantaneous synaptic coupling

$$\begin{aligned}\rho[\mathbf{h}|\mathbf{x}](J) &= \delta[\mathbf{h} - \mathbf{J}\mathbf{x}] \\ &= \int \mathcal{D}\hat{\mathbf{h}} \exp(\hat{\mathbf{h}}^T \mathbf{h}) \exp(-\hat{\mathbf{h}}^T \mathbf{J}\mathbf{x}).\end{aligned}$$

# MODEL-INDEPENDENT FIELD THEORY



- instantaneous synaptic coupling

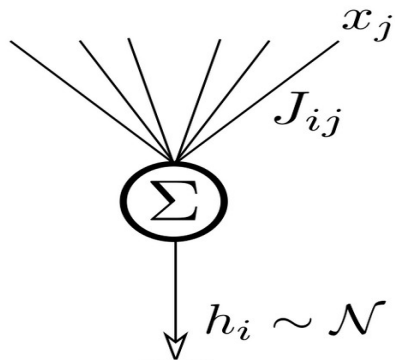
$$\begin{aligned}\rho[\mathbf{h}|\mathbf{x}](J) &= \delta[\mathbf{h} - \mathbf{J}\mathbf{x}] \\ &= \int \mathcal{D}\hat{\mathbf{h}} \exp(\hat{\mathbf{h}}^T \mathbf{h}) \exp(-\hat{\mathbf{h}}^T \mathbf{J}\mathbf{x}).\end{aligned}$$

linear J in exponent



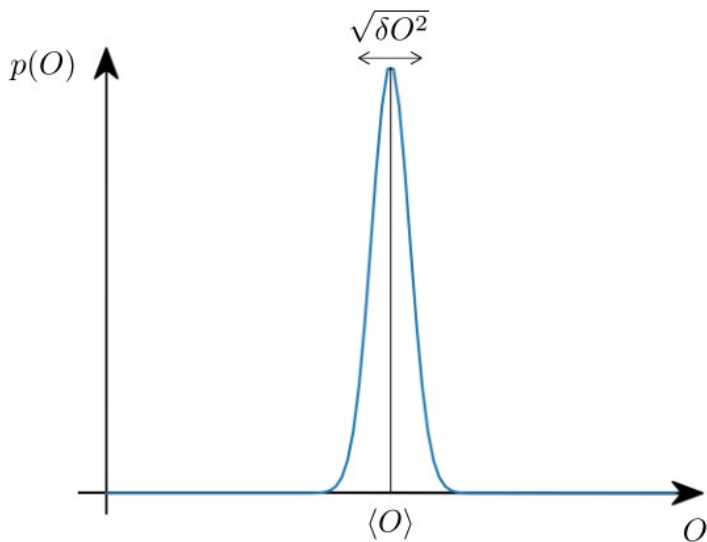
# MODEL-INDEPENDENT FIELD THEORY

linear J in exponent



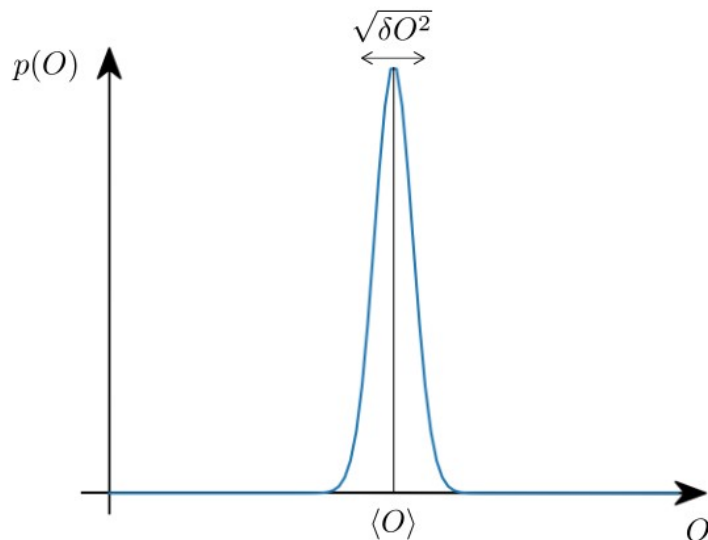
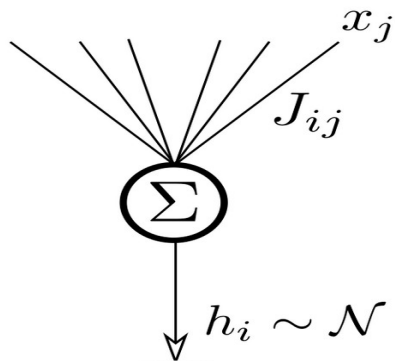
- instantaneous synaptic coupling

$$\begin{aligned}\rho[\mathbf{h}|\mathbf{x}](J) &= \delta[\mathbf{h} - \mathbf{J}\mathbf{x}] \\ &= \int \mathcal{D}\hat{\mathbf{h}} \exp(\hat{\mathbf{h}}^T \mathbf{h}) \exp(-\hat{\mathbf{h}}^T \mathbf{J}\mathbf{x}).\end{aligned}$$



# MODEL-INDEPENDENT FIELD THEORY

linear J in exponent



- instantaneous synaptic coupling

$$\begin{aligned} \rho[\mathbf{h}|\mathbf{x}](J) &= \delta[\mathbf{h} - \mathbf{J}\mathbf{x}] \\ &= \int \mathcal{D}\hat{\mathbf{h}} \exp(\hat{\mathbf{h}}^T \mathbf{h}) \exp(-\hat{\mathbf{h}}^T \mathbf{J}\mathbf{x}). \end{aligned}$$

- only term affected: interaction

$$\begin{aligned} &= \langle \exp(-\hat{\mathbf{h}}^T \mathbf{J}\mathbf{x}) \rangle_{J_{ij} \text{ i.i.d. } \mathcal{N}(\frac{\bar{g}}{N}, \frac{g^2}{N})} \\ &= \exp\left(-\frac{\bar{g}}{N} \hat{\mathbf{h}}^T \mathcal{R} + \frac{g^2}{2N} \hat{\mathbf{h}}^T \mathcal{Q} \hat{\mathbf{h}}\right) \end{aligned}$$

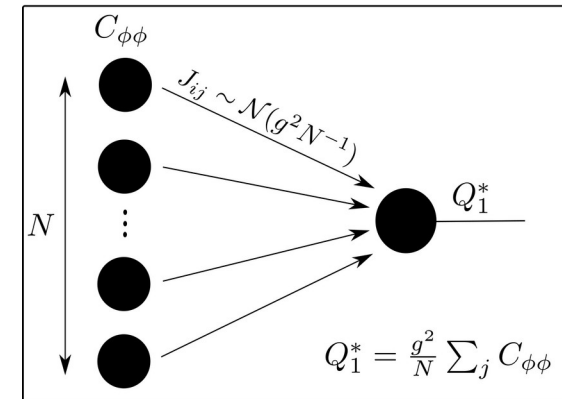
- auxiliary fields

$$\begin{aligned} \mathcal{R}(t) &= \frac{\bar{g}}{N} \sum_{j=1}^N x_j(t) \\ \mathcal{Q}(t, s) &= \frac{g^2}{N} \sum_{j=1}^N x_j(t) x_j(s) \end{aligned}$$

# Macroscopic field theory

- auxiliary fields and conjugate fields  $(\mathcal{R}, \mathcal{Q}, \hat{\mathcal{R}}, \hat{\mathcal{Q}}) \sim e^{N S[\mathcal{R}, \mathcal{Q}, \hat{\mathcal{R}}, \hat{\mathcal{Q}}]}$

- saddle point approximation  $\delta S / \delta R \stackrel{!}{=} 0, \dots \rightarrow$



$$R(t) = \bar{g} \langle x(t) \rangle_{S(R, Q)}$$

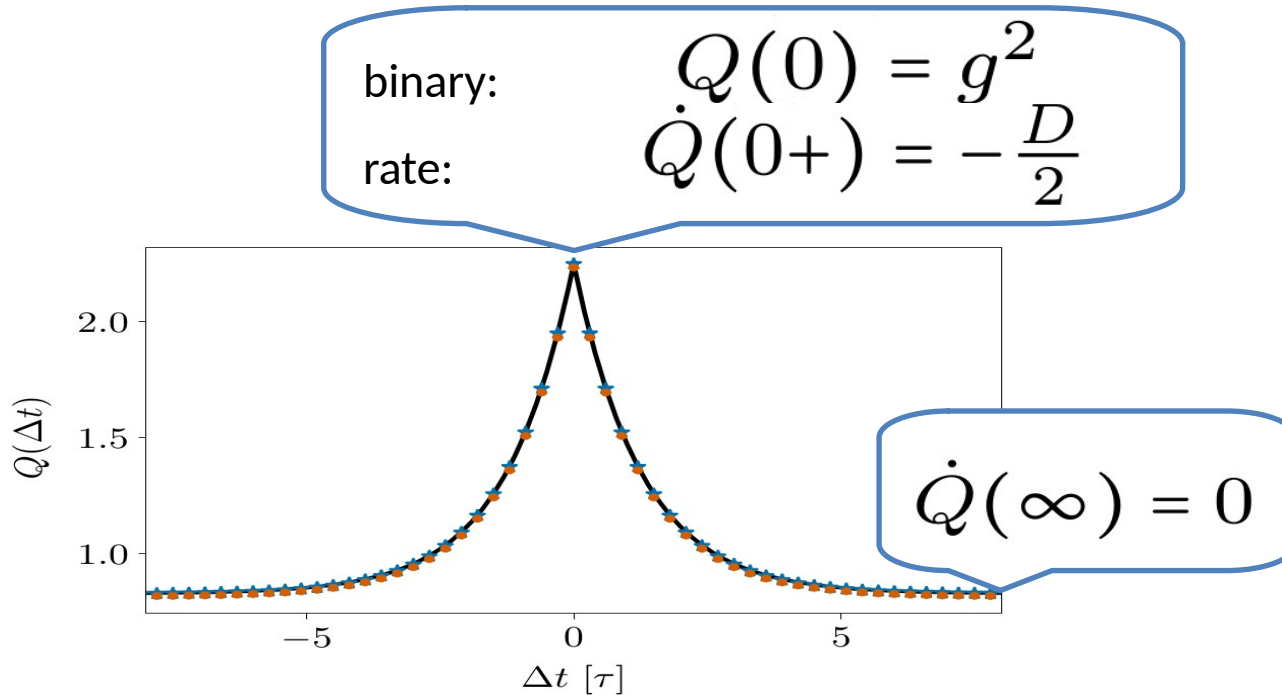
$$Q(t, s) = g^2 \langle x(t) x(s) \rangle_{S(R, Q)}$$

mean input to a neuron  
variance of input

dynamical mean-field theory (DMFT)

# Continuous and discrete coupling: same DMFT

autocorrelation function



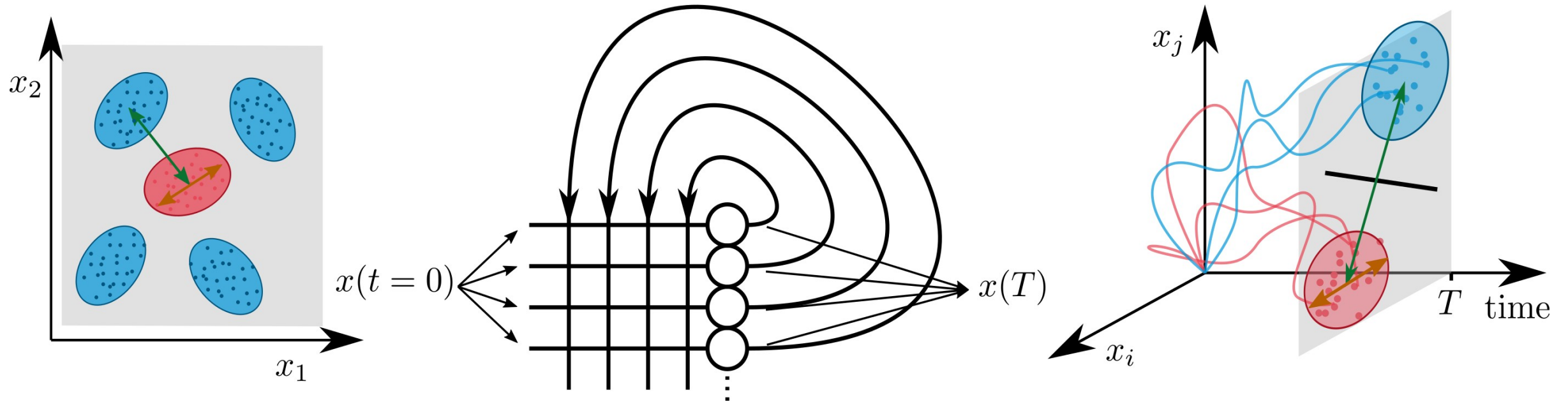
- same activity statistics (mean and fluctuations)

same dynamical e.o.m.

$$\tau^2 \ddot{Q}(\Delta t) = -V'_{Q(0)}(Q(\Delta t))$$

# CLASSIFICATION OF INPUT PATTERNS

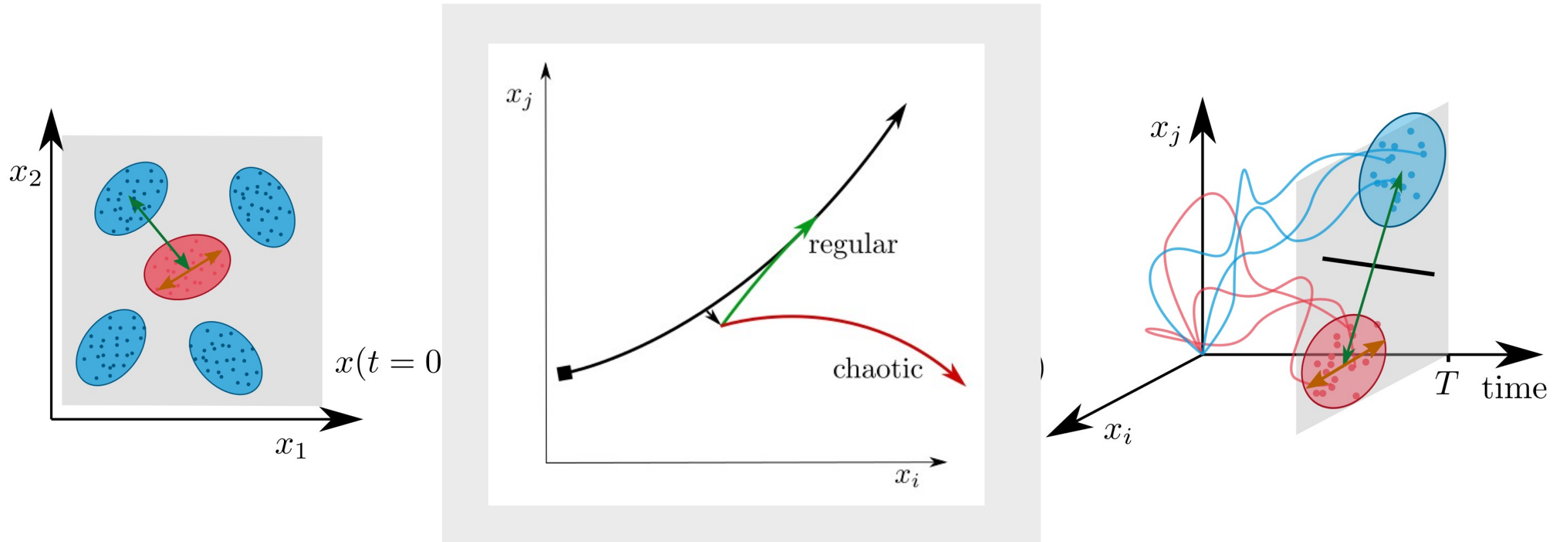
## Reservoir computing setup



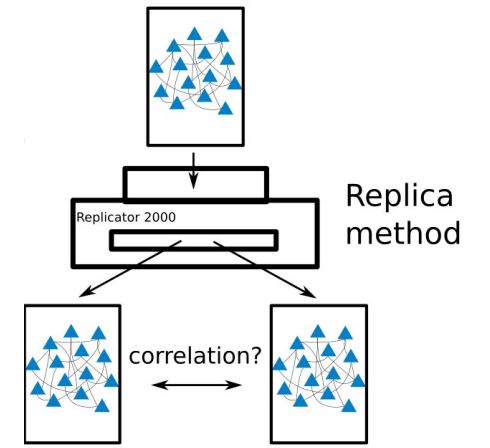


# CLASSIFICATION OF INPUT PATTERNS

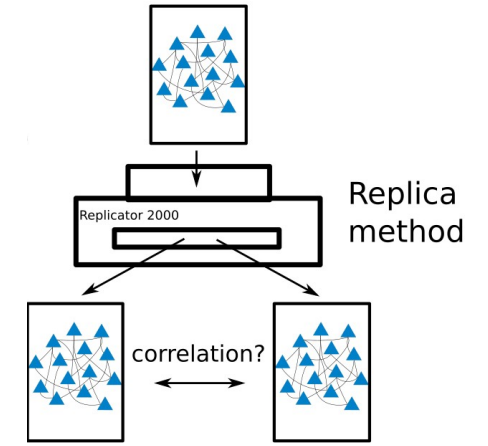
## Reservoir computing setup



# CHAOS AS CORRELATION TRANSMISSION

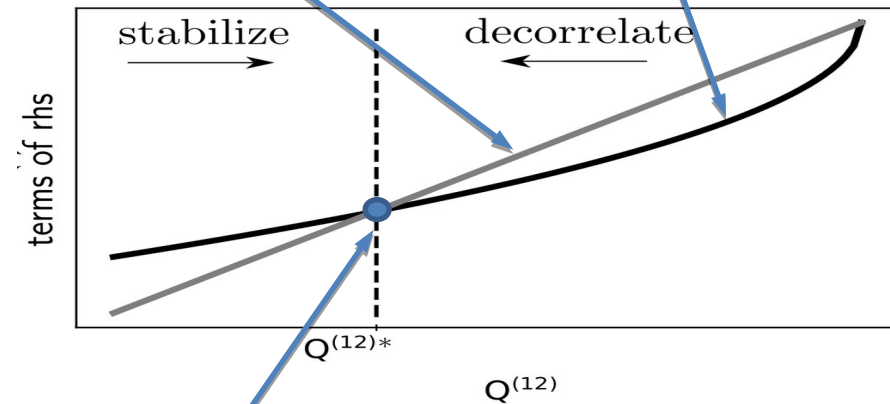
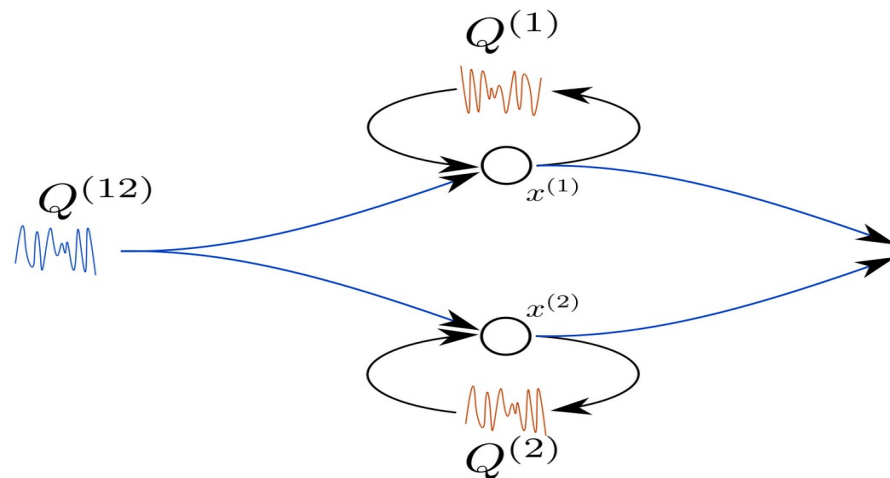


# CHAOS AS CORRELATION TRANSMISSION



- correlation between replicas  $Q^{(12)} = \frac{g^2}{N} \langle x^{(1)\top} x^{(2)} \rangle$

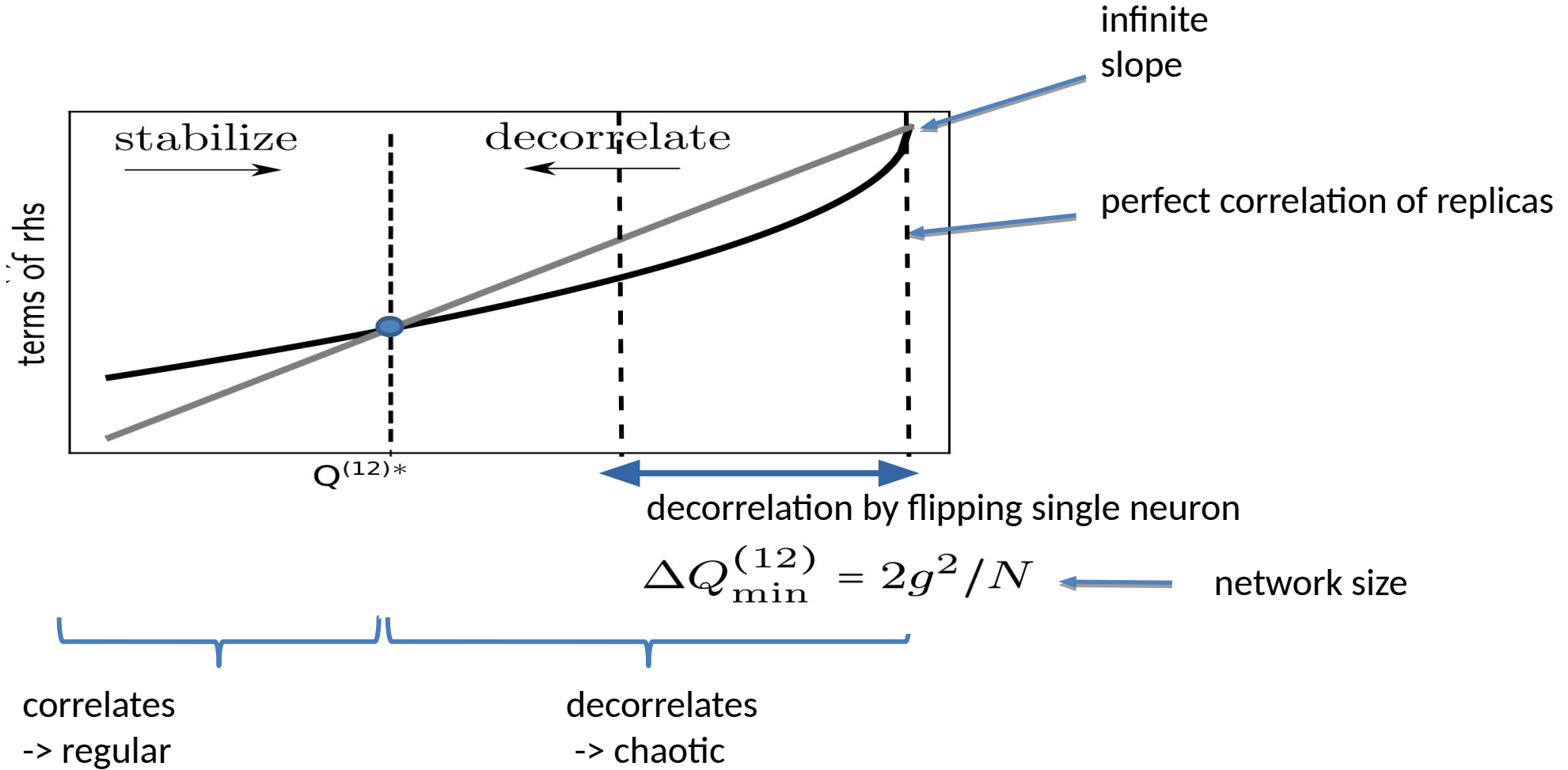
$$\tau \frac{d}{dt} Q^{(12)}(t) = - \underbrace{Q^{(12)}(t)}_{\text{correlation between outputs of replicas}} + \underbrace{g^2 \left( 1 - \langle \|\phi(h^{(1)}) - \phi(h^{(2)})\| \rangle \right)}_{\text{correlation between inputs}}$$



fixed point

infinite Lyapunov exponent  
(van Vreeswijk & Sompolinsky 1996, 1998)

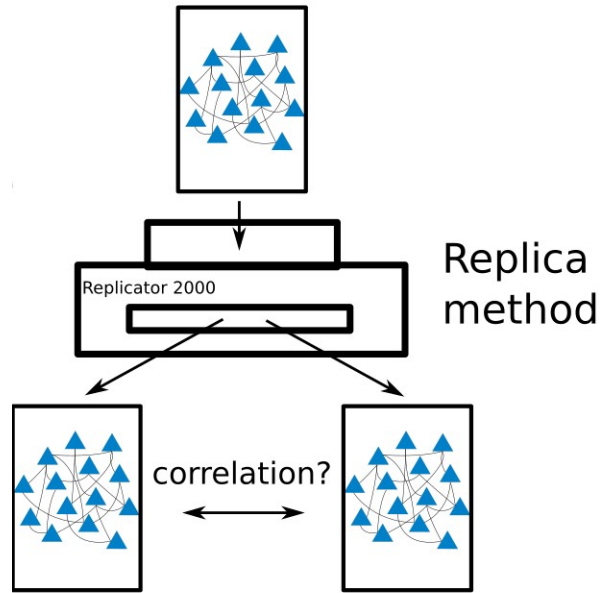
# NETWORK-SIZE DEPENDENT TRANSITION



$N \rightarrow \text{infinity}$ : always chaotic  
 Van Vreeswijk & Sompolinsky 1996

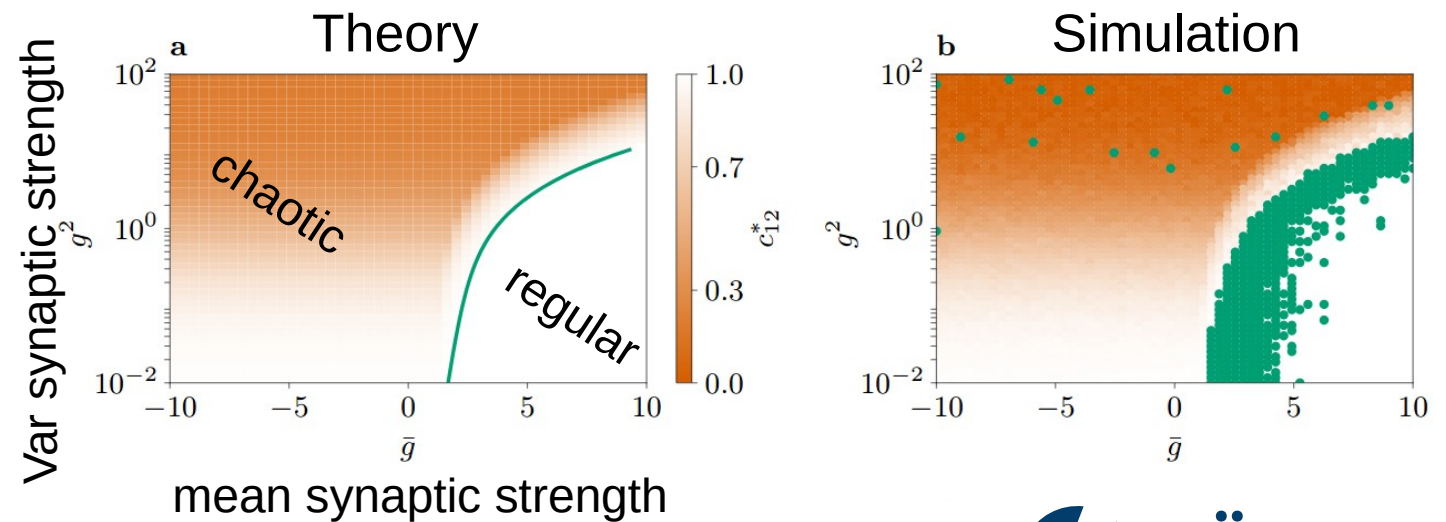
# TRANSITION TO CHAOS IN BINARY NETWORKS

## Replica decorrelation



condition for finite-size transition to chaos

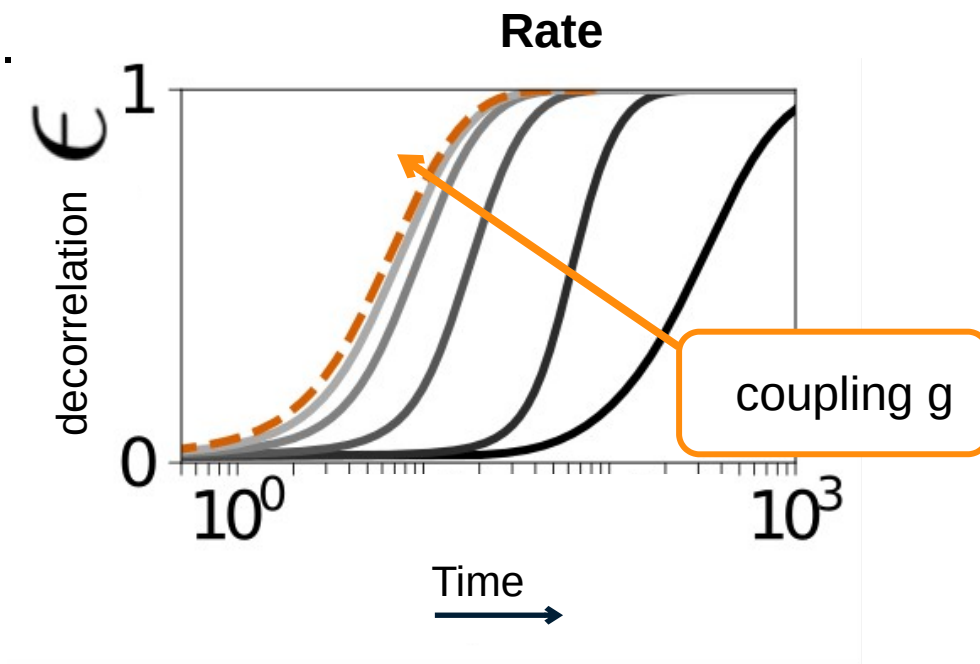
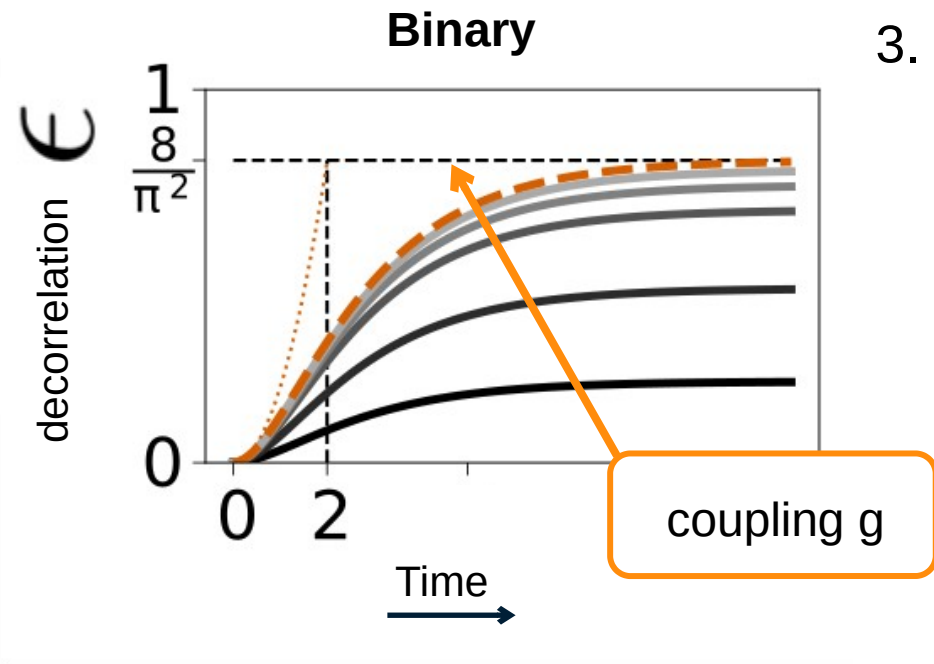
$$1 \lesssim \sqrt{\frac{2}{\pi}} g \langle T'(h) \rangle_h \sqrt{N}$$



# CHAOS IN BINARY NETWORKS

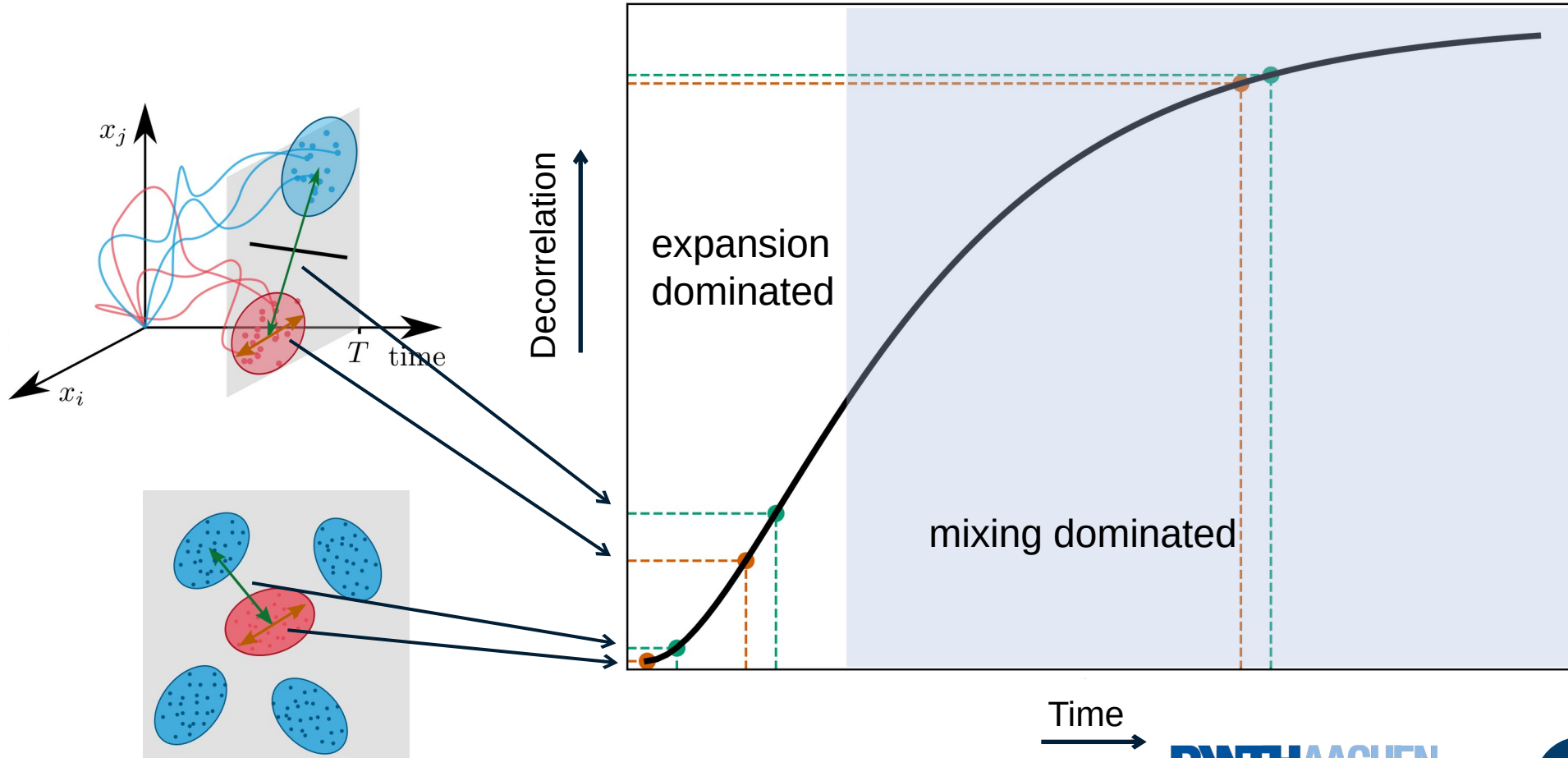
## Differences to continuous rate networks

1. Mutually exclusive regimes.
2. Limited chaotic attractor.
3. No critical slowing down.



# DECORRELATION CURVE

Inter-class distance increases compared to intra-class distance

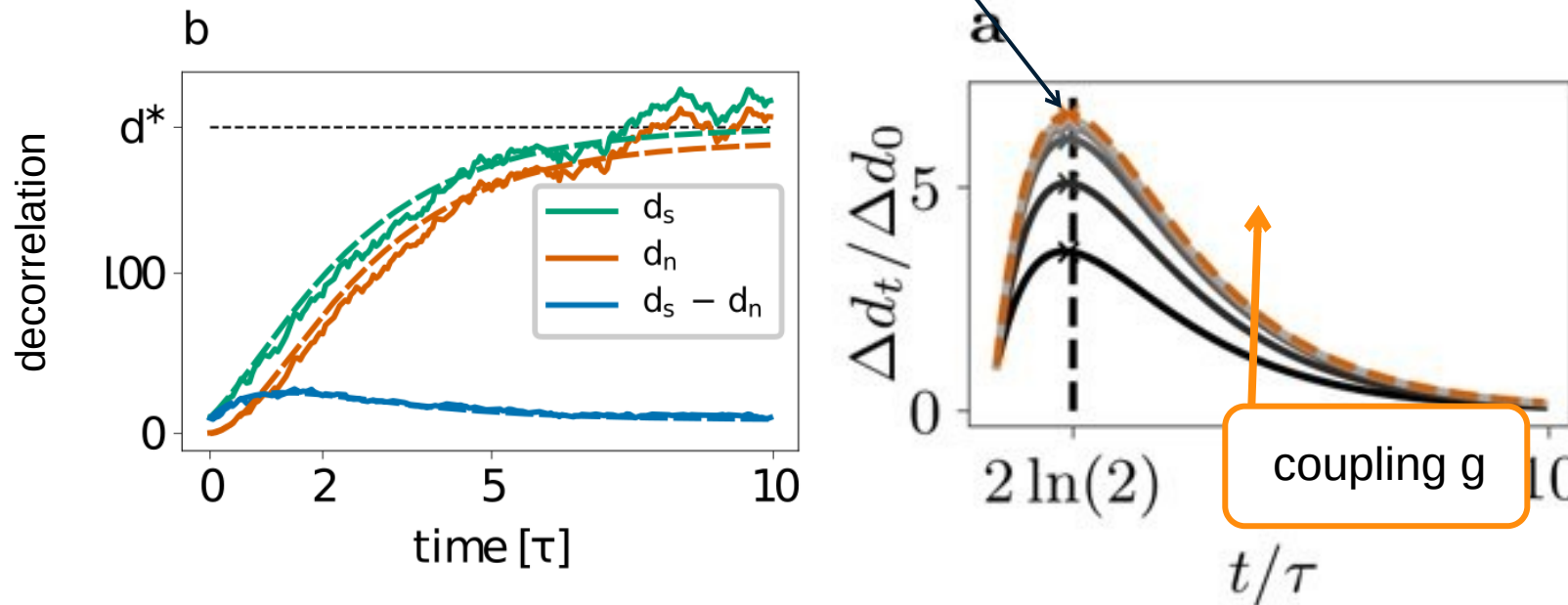


# TRANSIENT CHAOTIC DIMENSIONALITY EXPANSION

## Classification in chaotic binary networks

- Input data: 50 Gaussian classes in 8 dim. (not linearly separable)
- Linear readout accuracy peaks during expansion phase

**optimal signal after  
 $2 \ln(2) \sim 1.5$   
activations per neuron**





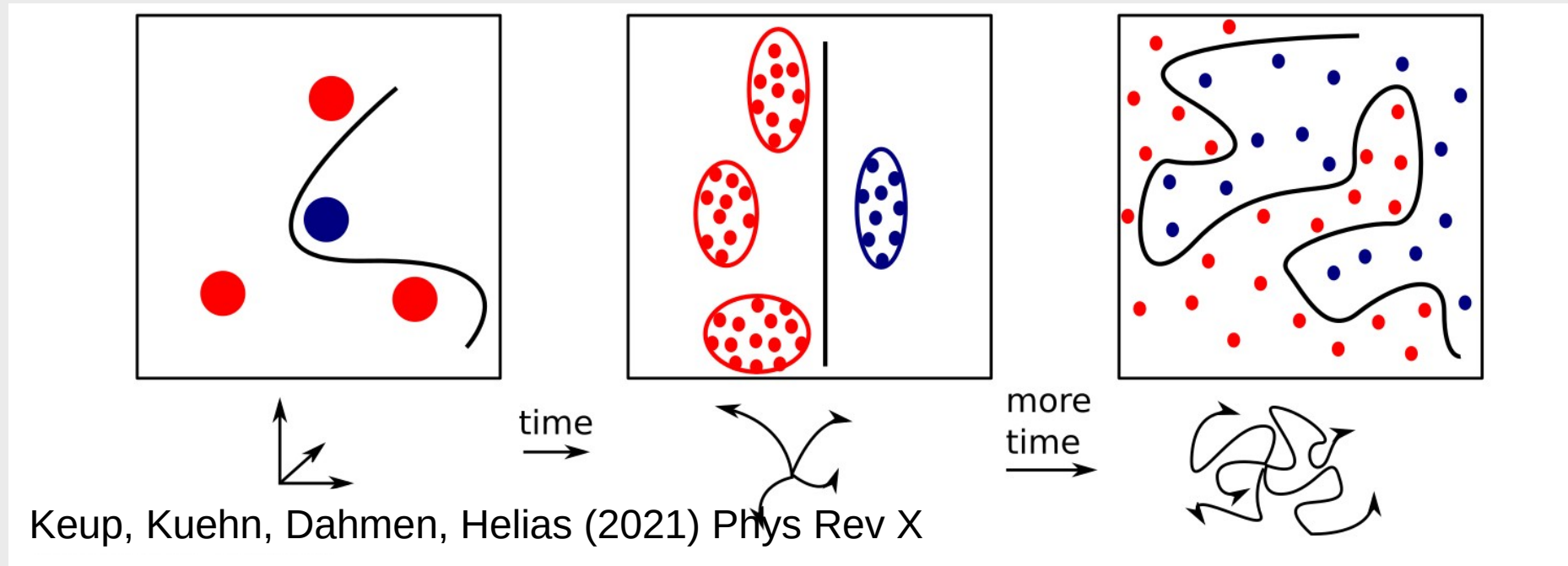
# TRANSIENT CHAOTIC DIMENSIONALITY EXPANSION

## Classification in chaotic binary networks

- Input data: 50 Gaussian classes in 8 dim. (not linearly separable)

optimal signal after  
 $2 \ln(2) \sim 1.5$   
 activations per neuron

unit  
 30  
 1  
 30  
 1  
 0



# Acknowledgments



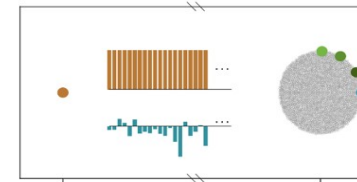
Federal Ministry  
of Education  
and Research

**HELMHOLTZ**  
RESEARCH FOR GRAND CHALLENGES



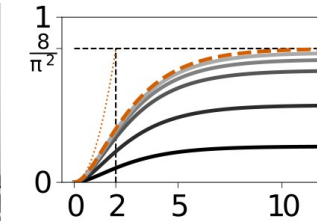
# SUMMARY

- novel type of critical state
  - implied by wide distribution of correlations
  - dynamics close to linear instability and chaos
  - caused by disorder of connectivity



Dahmen, Gruen, Diesmann, Helias (2019) *PNAS*

- chaotic dynamics enhances separability
  - discrete coupling: stereotypical and fast
  - quick separation of signals by recurrent networks



Keup, Kuehn, Dahmen, Helias (2021) *Phys Rev X*