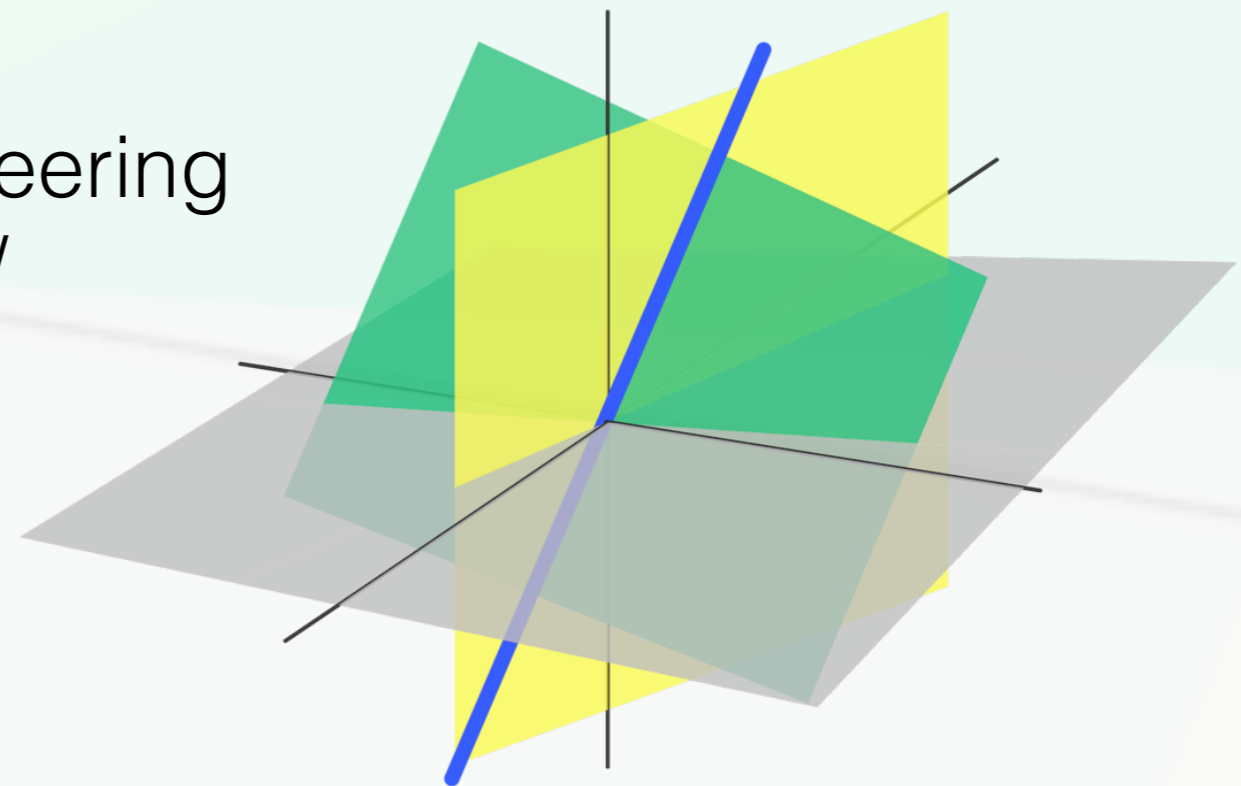


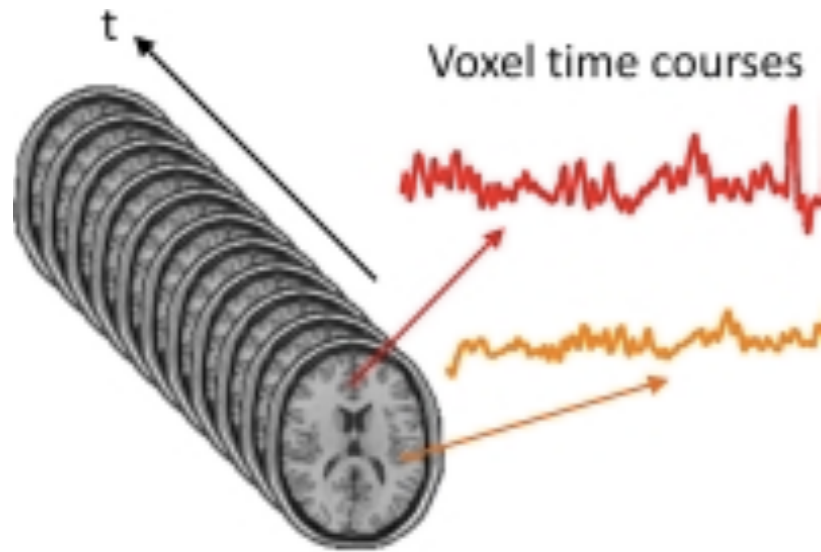
# Finding **low-dimensional** structure in **large-scale** neural datasets

Eva Dyer

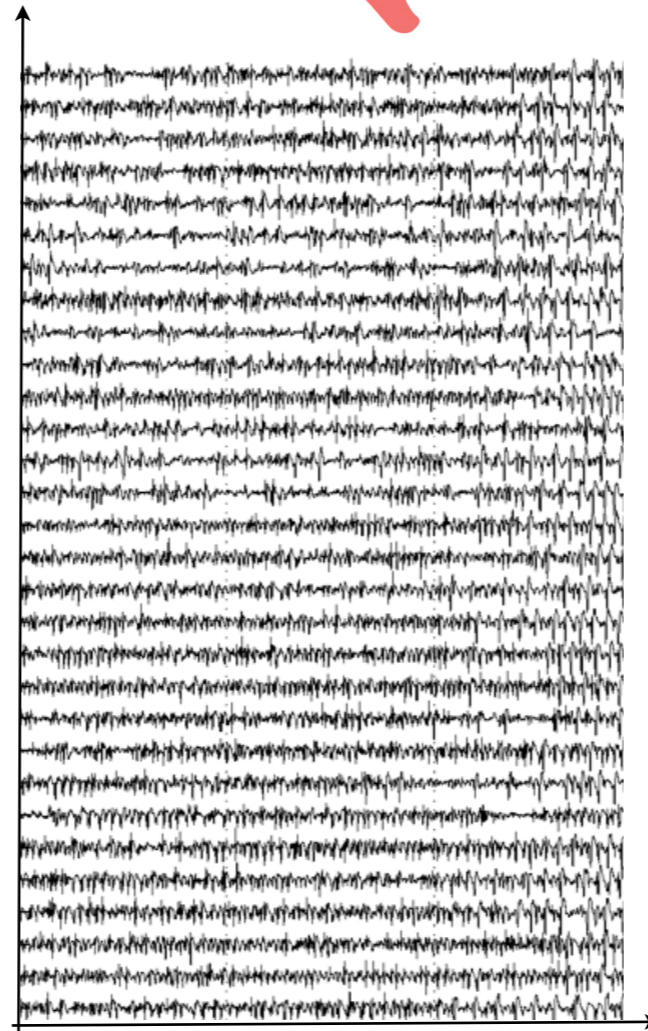
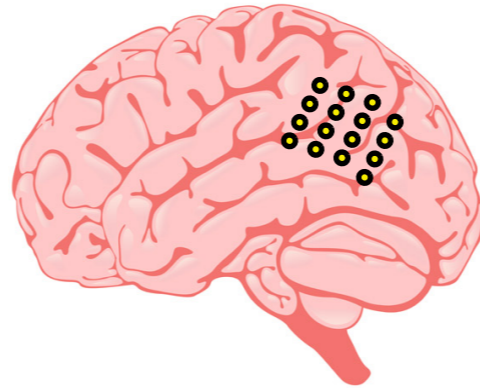
Department of Biomedical Engineering  
Georgia Institute of Technology //  
Emory University



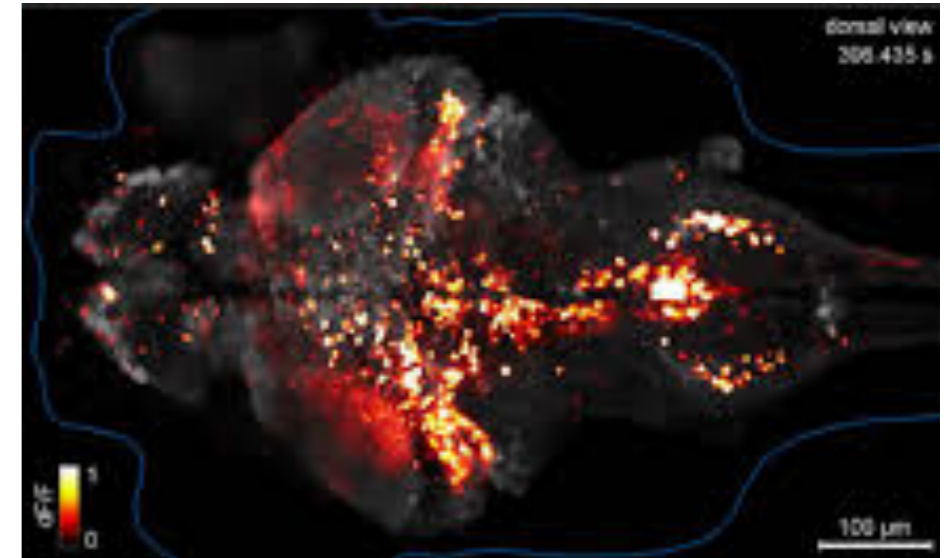
# neural data deluge



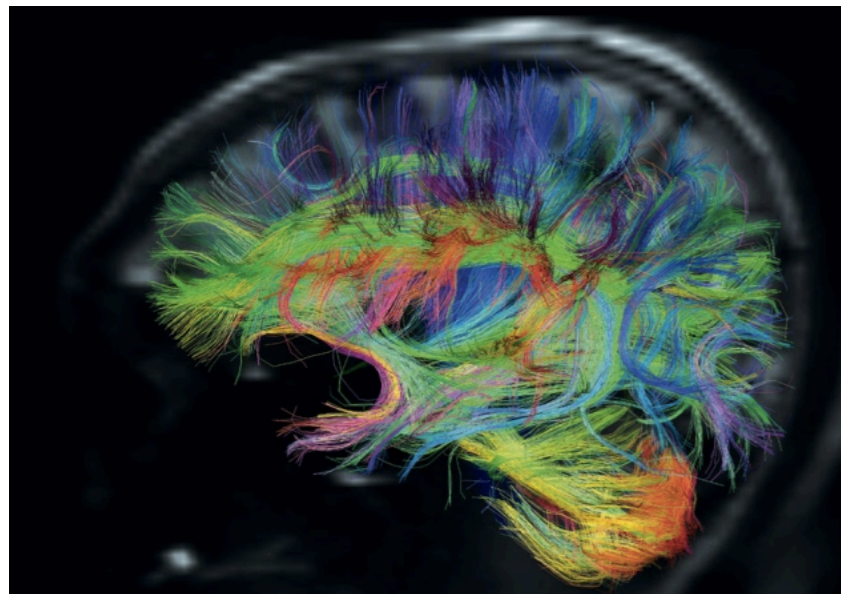
fMRI



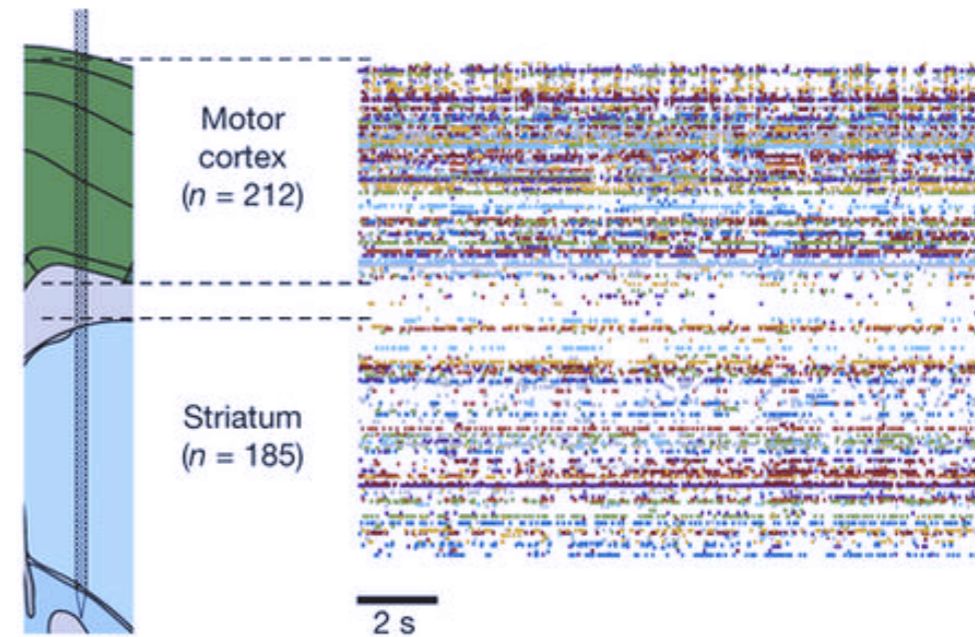
ecog



calcium imaging

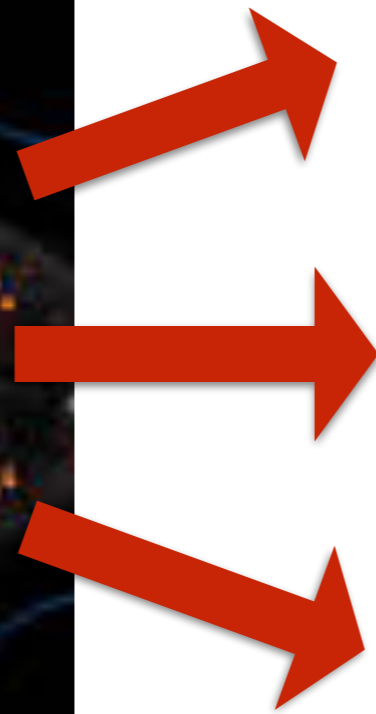
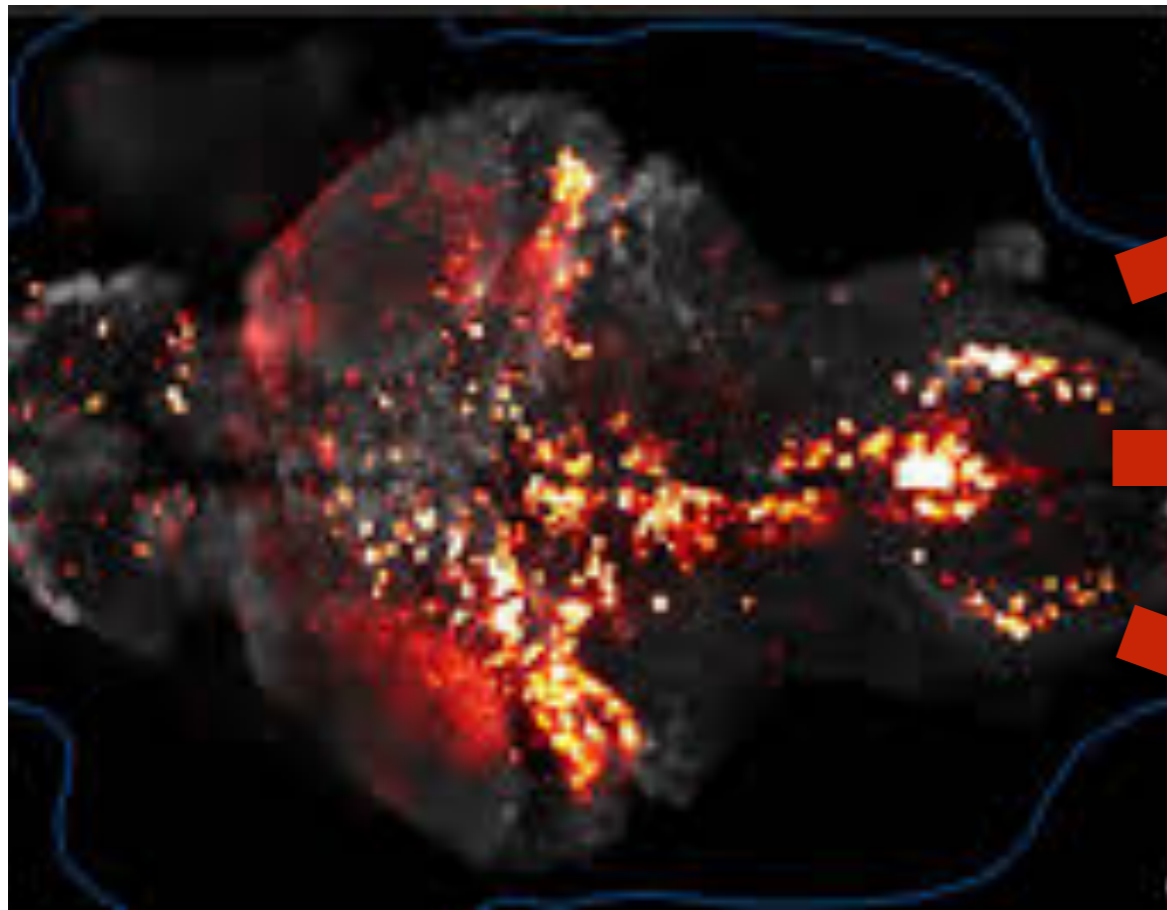


DTI



extracellular arrays

# why reduce dimensionality?

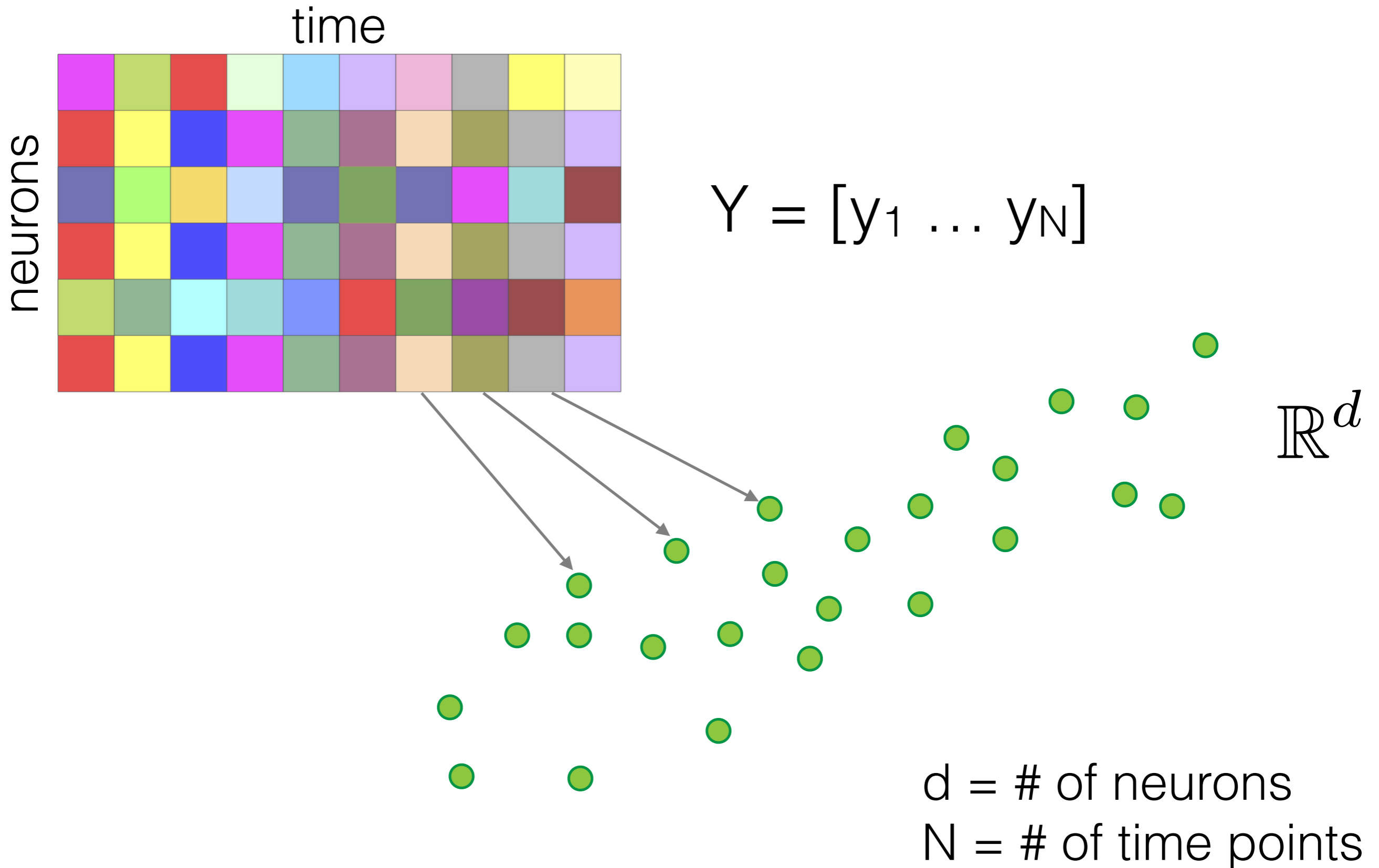


compression

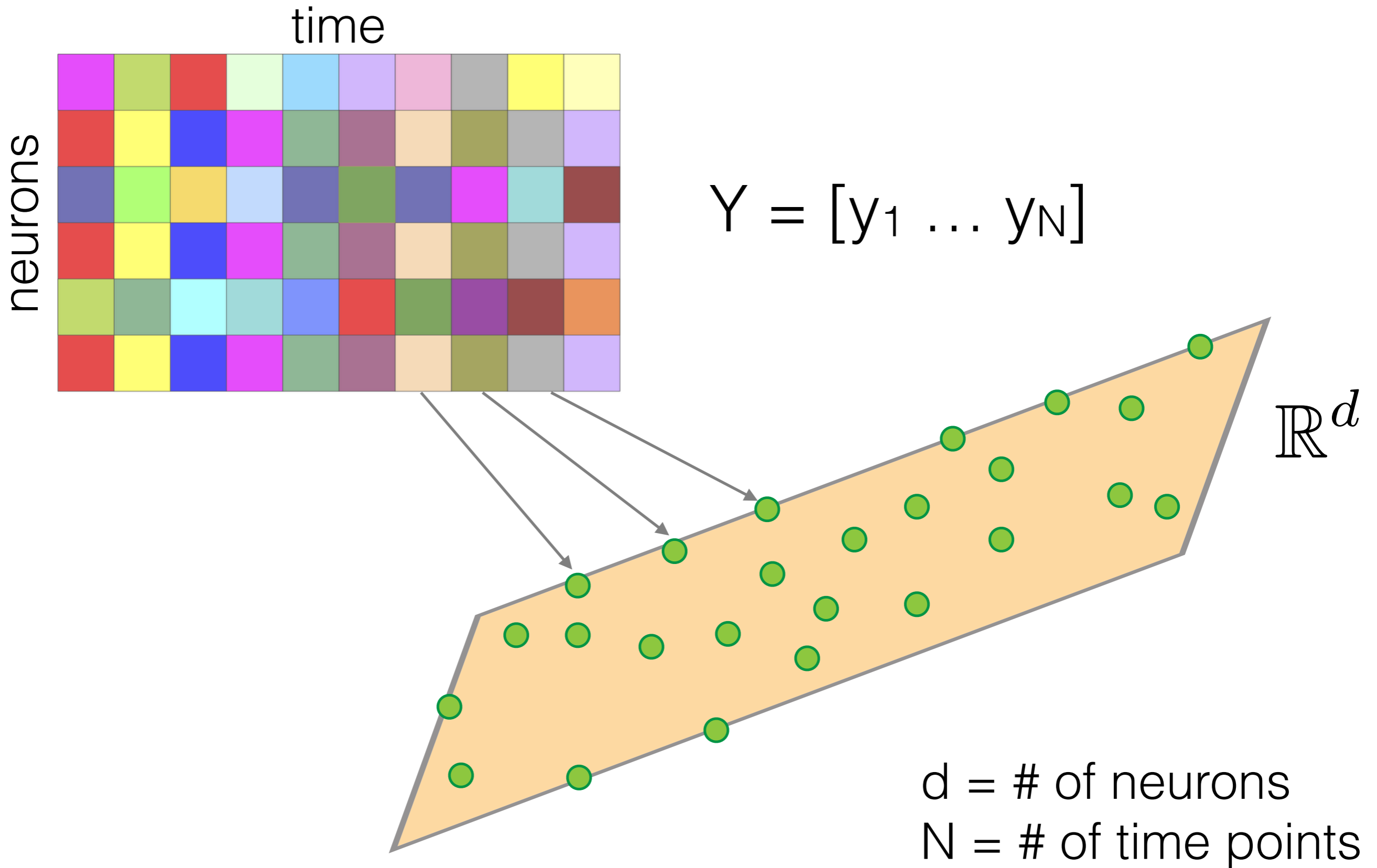
denoising

interpret complex data

# low-dimensional models

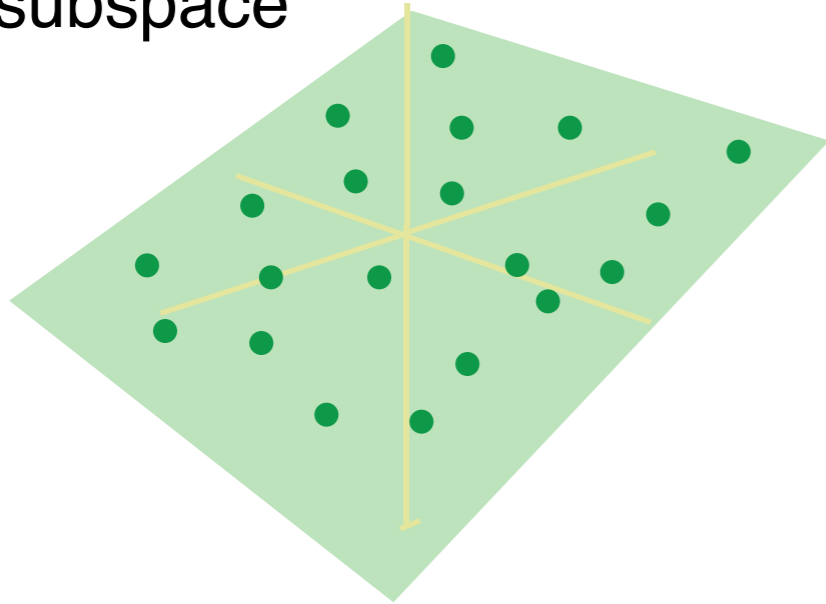


# low-dimensional models



# low rank model

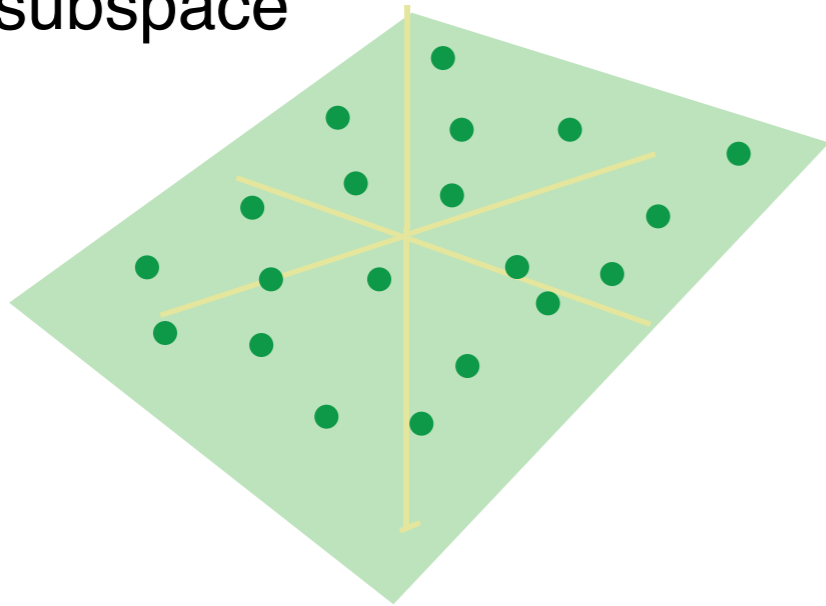
linear subspace  
*PCA*



$$\min_{\mathbf{A}} \|\mathbf{Y} - \mathbf{A}\|_F \quad \text{s.t.} \quad \text{rank}(\mathbf{A}) \leq k$$

# low rank model

linear subspace  
*PCA*

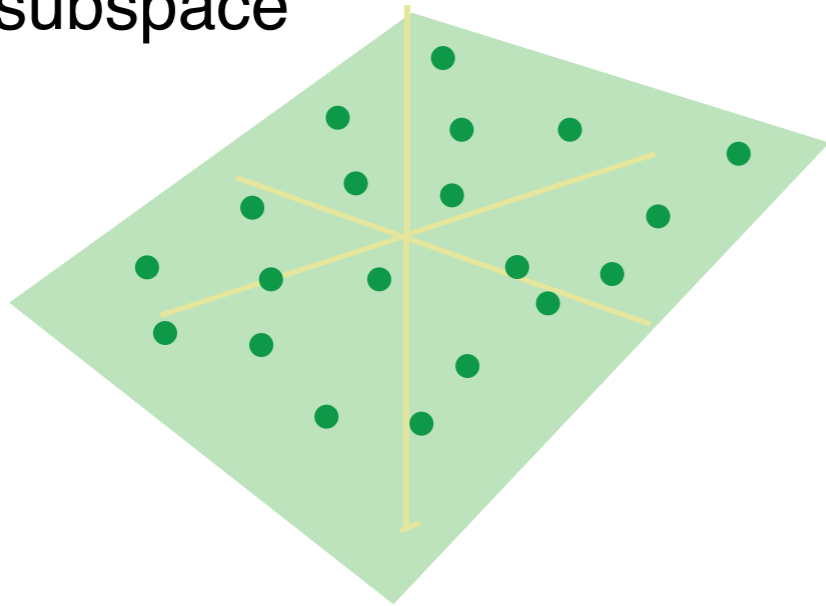


$$\min_{\mathbf{A}} \|\mathbf{Y} - \mathbf{A}\|_F \quad \text{s.t.} \quad \text{rank}(\mathbf{A}) \leq k$$

data matrix

# low rank model

linear subspace  
*PCA*



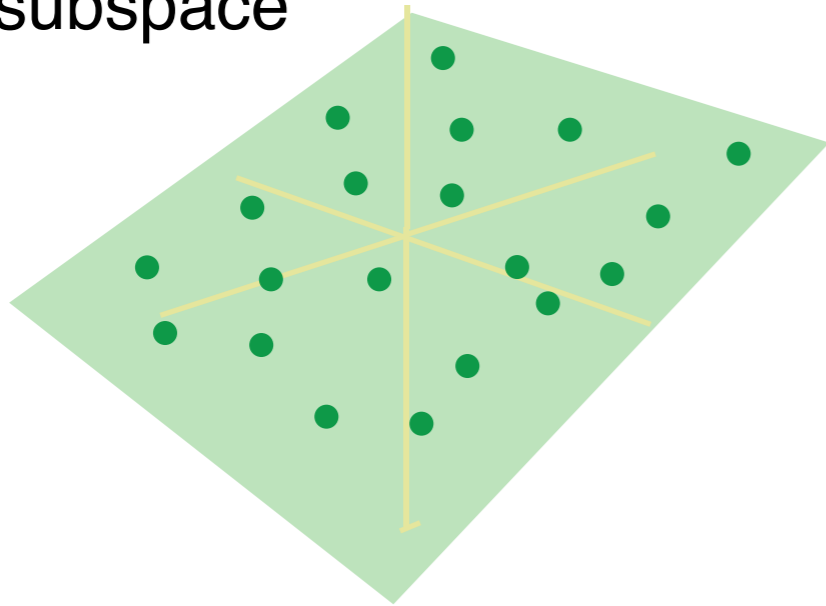
$$\min_{\mathbf{A}} \|\mathbf{Y} - \mathbf{A}\|_F \quad \text{s.t.} \quad \text{rank}(\mathbf{A}) \leq k$$

“low rank” approximation



# low rank model

linear subspace  
*PCA*

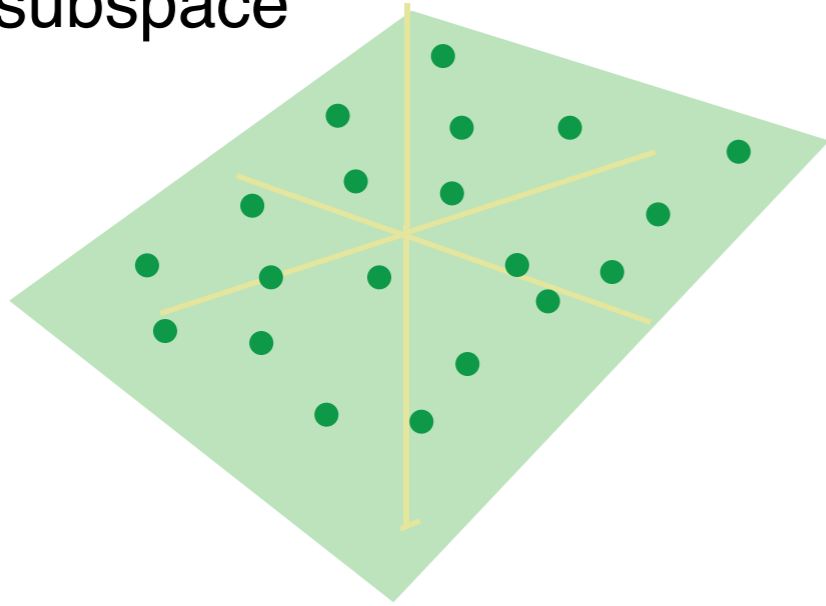


$$\min_{\mathbf{A}} \|\mathbf{Y} - \mathbf{A}\|_F \quad \text{s.t.} \quad \text{rank}(\mathbf{A}) \leq k$$

subject to = constraints

# low rank model

linear subspace  
*PCA*

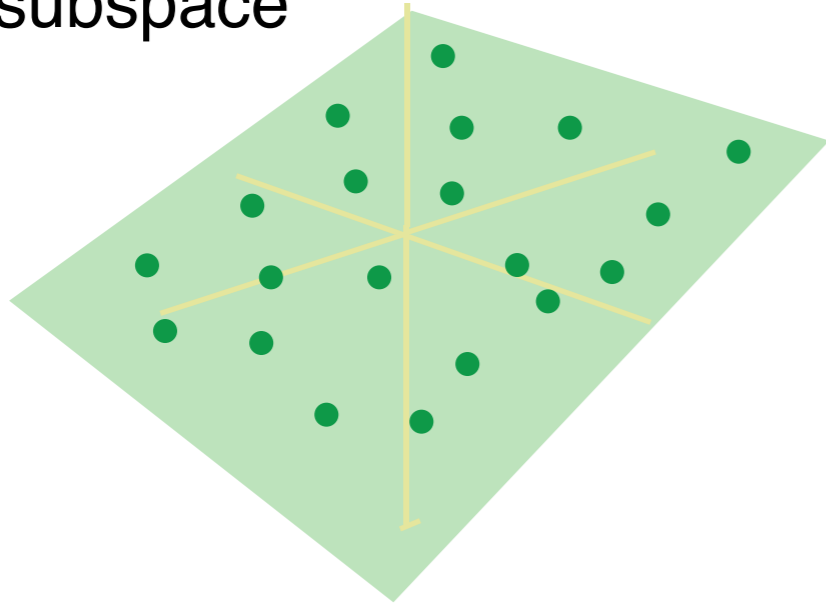


$$\min_{\mathbf{A}} \|\mathbf{Y} - \mathbf{A}\|_F \quad \text{s.t.} \quad \text{rank}(\mathbf{A}) \leq k$$

↑  
 $\text{rank}(\mathbf{A}) = ?$

# low rank model

linear subspace  
*PCA*

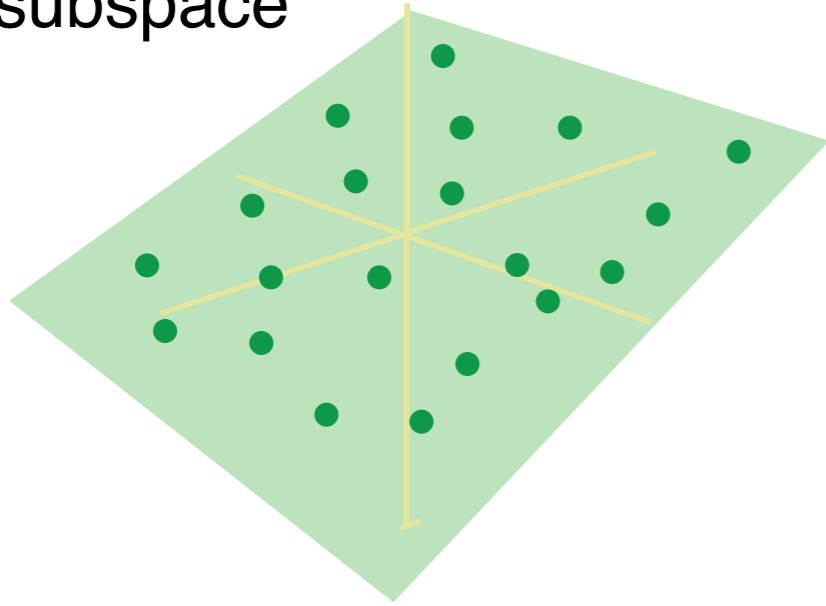


$$\min_{\mathbf{A}} \|\mathbf{Y} - \mathbf{A}\|_F \quad \text{s.t.} \quad \text{rank}(\mathbf{A}) \leq k$$

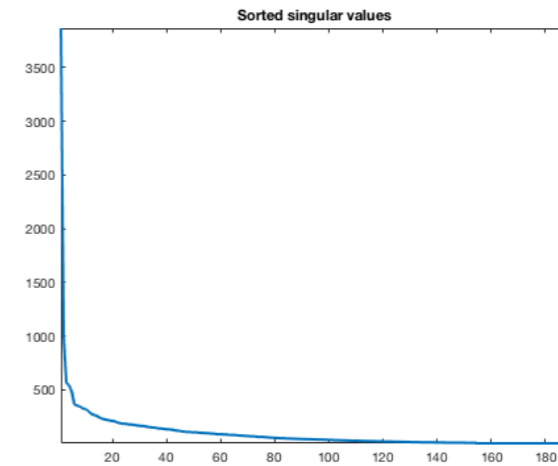
rank(A) = ?

# low rank model

linear subspace  
*PCA*



$$[U, S, V] = \text{svd}(Y)$$

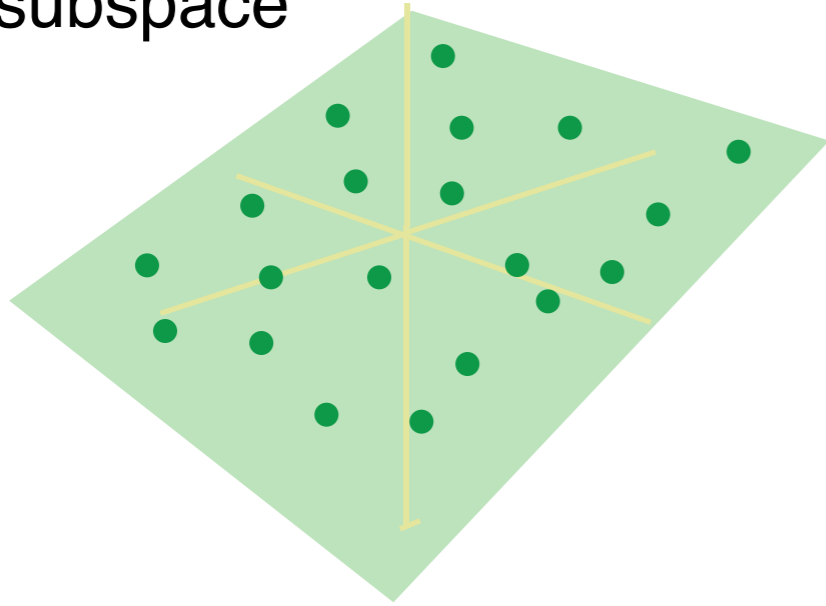


$$\min_{\mathbf{A}} \|\mathbf{Y} - \mathbf{A}\|_F \quad \text{s.t.} \quad \text{rank}(\mathbf{A}) \leq k$$

→ 
$$\mathbf{A} = \mathbf{U}_k \mathbf{S}_k \mathbf{V}_k^T \quad (\text{truncated SVD})$$

# low rank model

linear subspace  
PCA



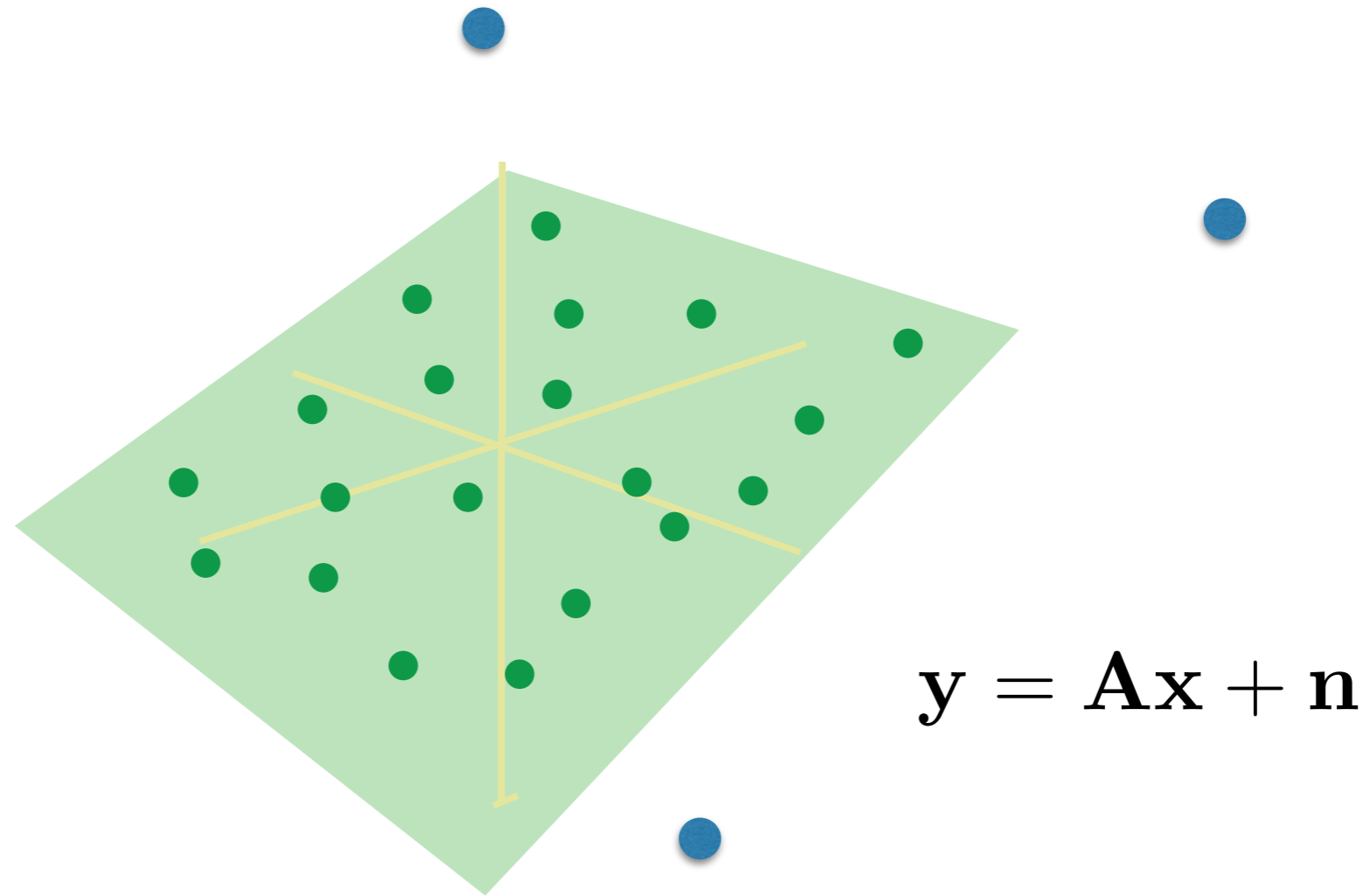
**Covariance matrix**

$$C = (\mathbf{Y} - \bar{\mathbf{y}})^T (\mathbf{Y} - \bar{\mathbf{y}})$$

## **PCA:**

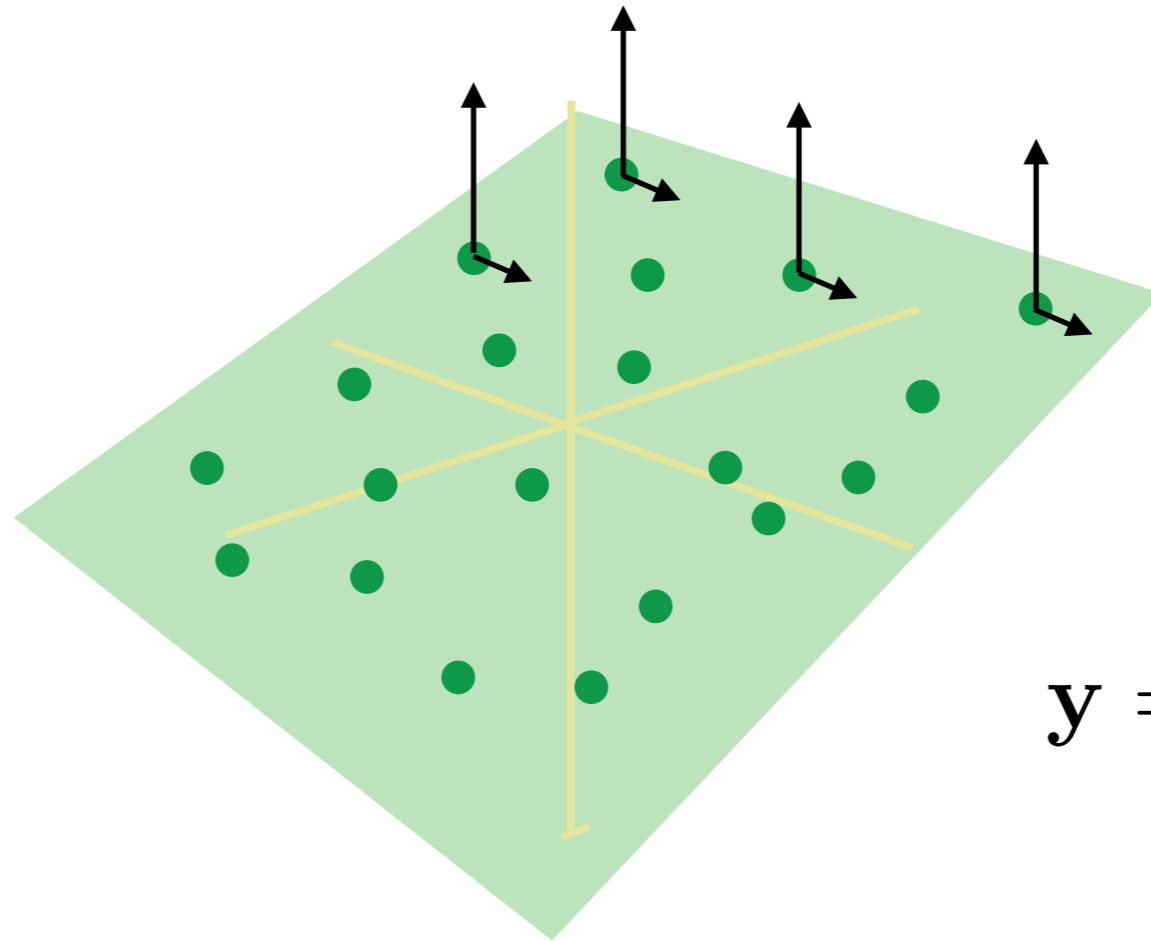
1. Compute the covariance matrix (C)
2. Compute eigenvalue decomposition of C
3. Output > top k eigenvectors and their eigenvalues

# extensions of PCA



1. **Robust PCA - sparse LARGE errors**
2. Factor analysis (FA) - noise of unequal variance
3. Non-negative matrix factorization (NMF)

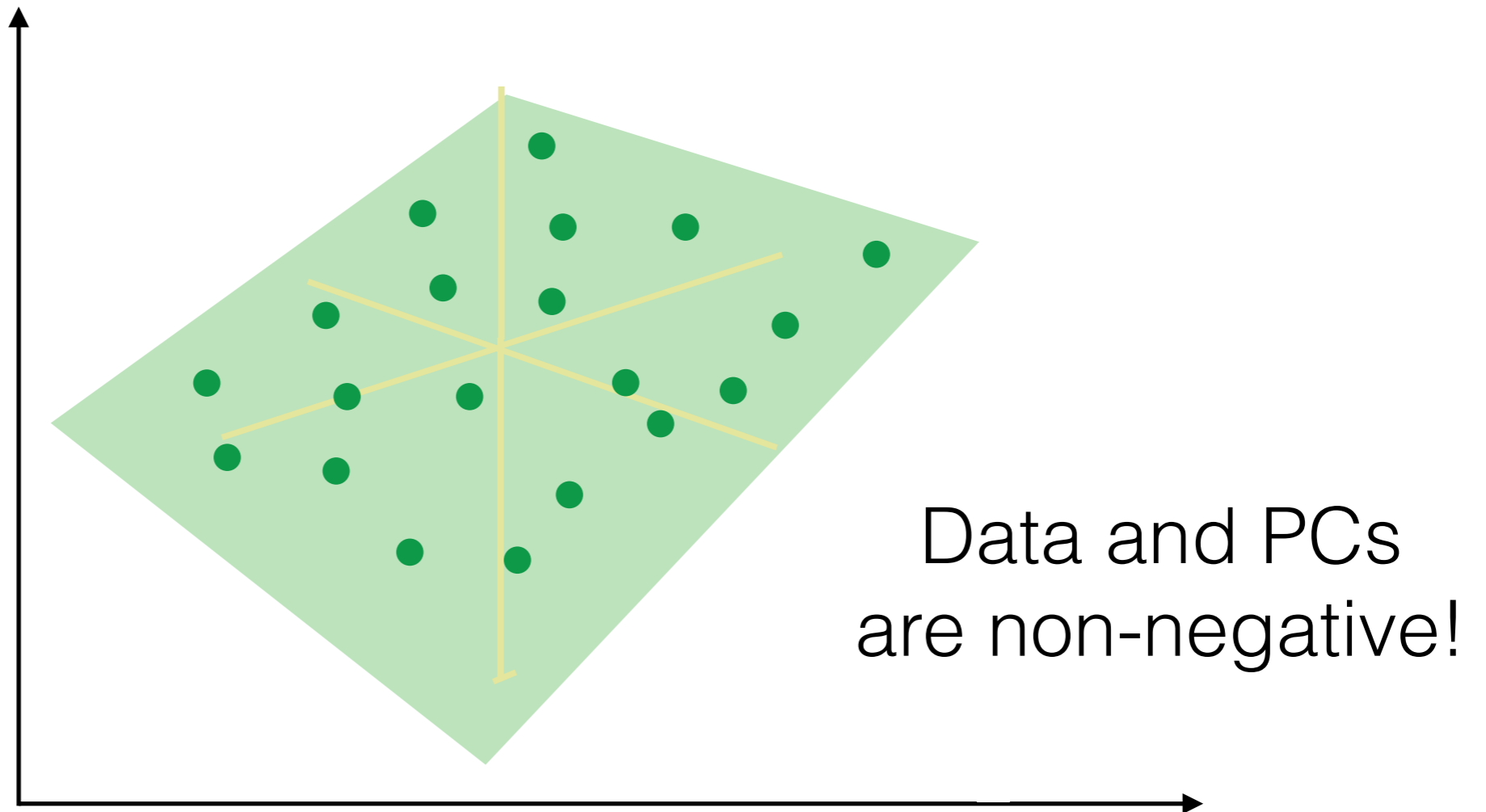
# extensions of PCA



$$y = Ax + n$$

1. Robust PCA - sparse errors
- 2. Factor analysis (FA) - noise of unequal variance**
3. Non-negative matrix factorization (NMF)

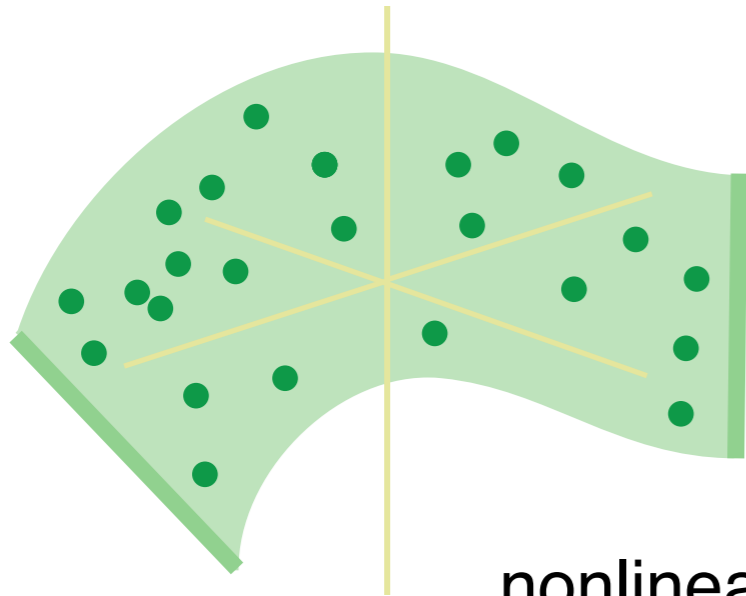
# extensions of PCA



1. Robust PCA - sparse errors
2. Factor analysis (FA) - noise of unequal variance
- 3. Non-negative matrix factorization (NMF)**



# nonlinear models (manifolds)

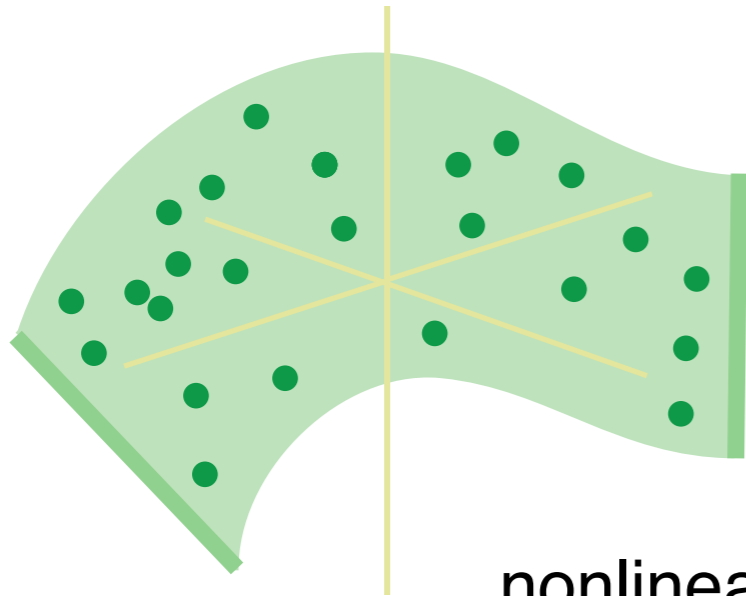


nonlinear manifold  
*Isomap, LLE*

$$\min_{\mathcal{P}} |d(y_i, y_j) - d(\mathcal{P}y_i, \mathcal{P}y_j)|$$

distance between original data points

# nonlinear models (manifolds)



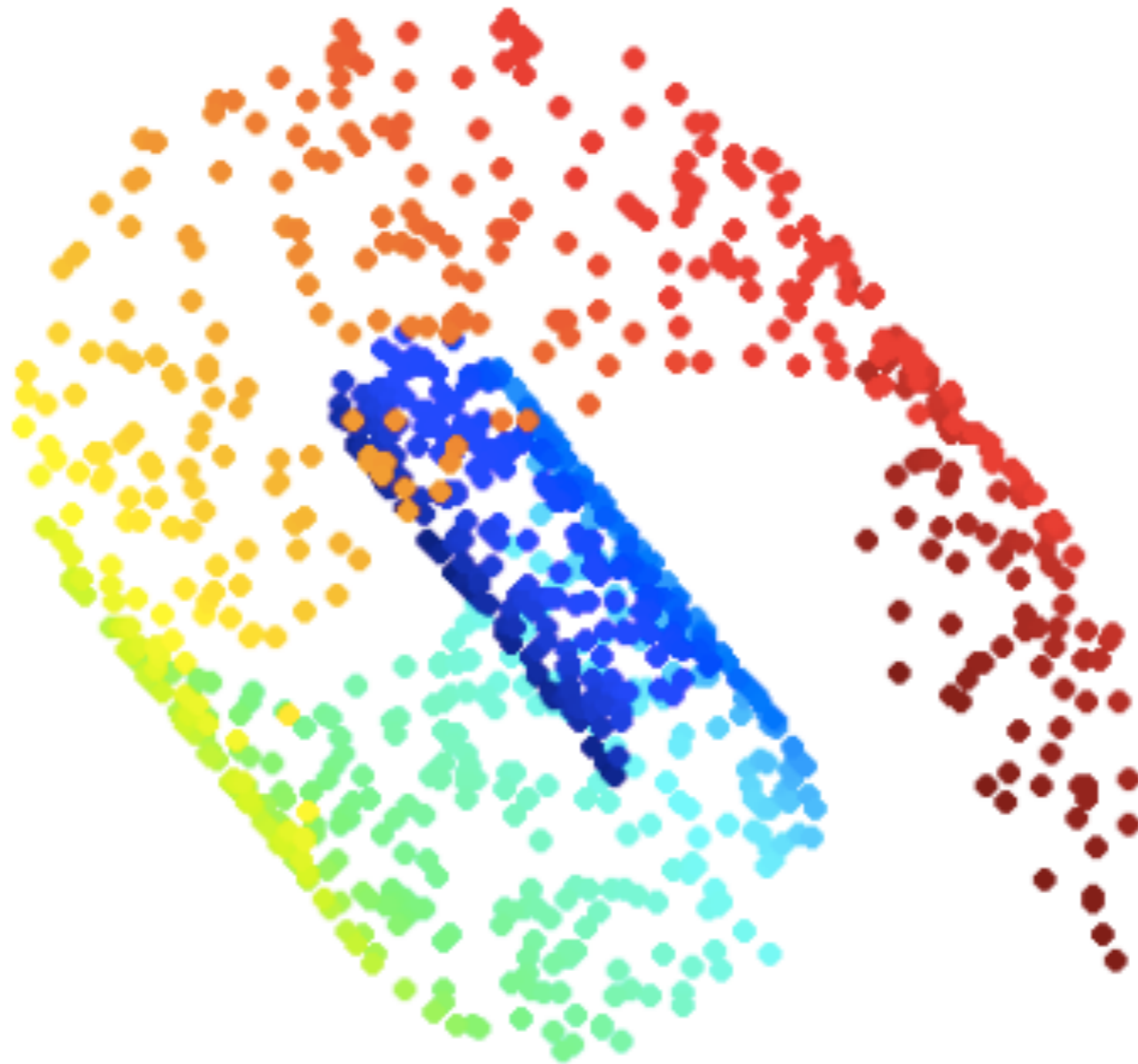
nonlinear manifold  
*Isomap, LLE*

$$\min_{\mathcal{P}} |d(y_i, y_j) - d(\mathcal{P}y_i, \mathcal{P}y_j)|$$

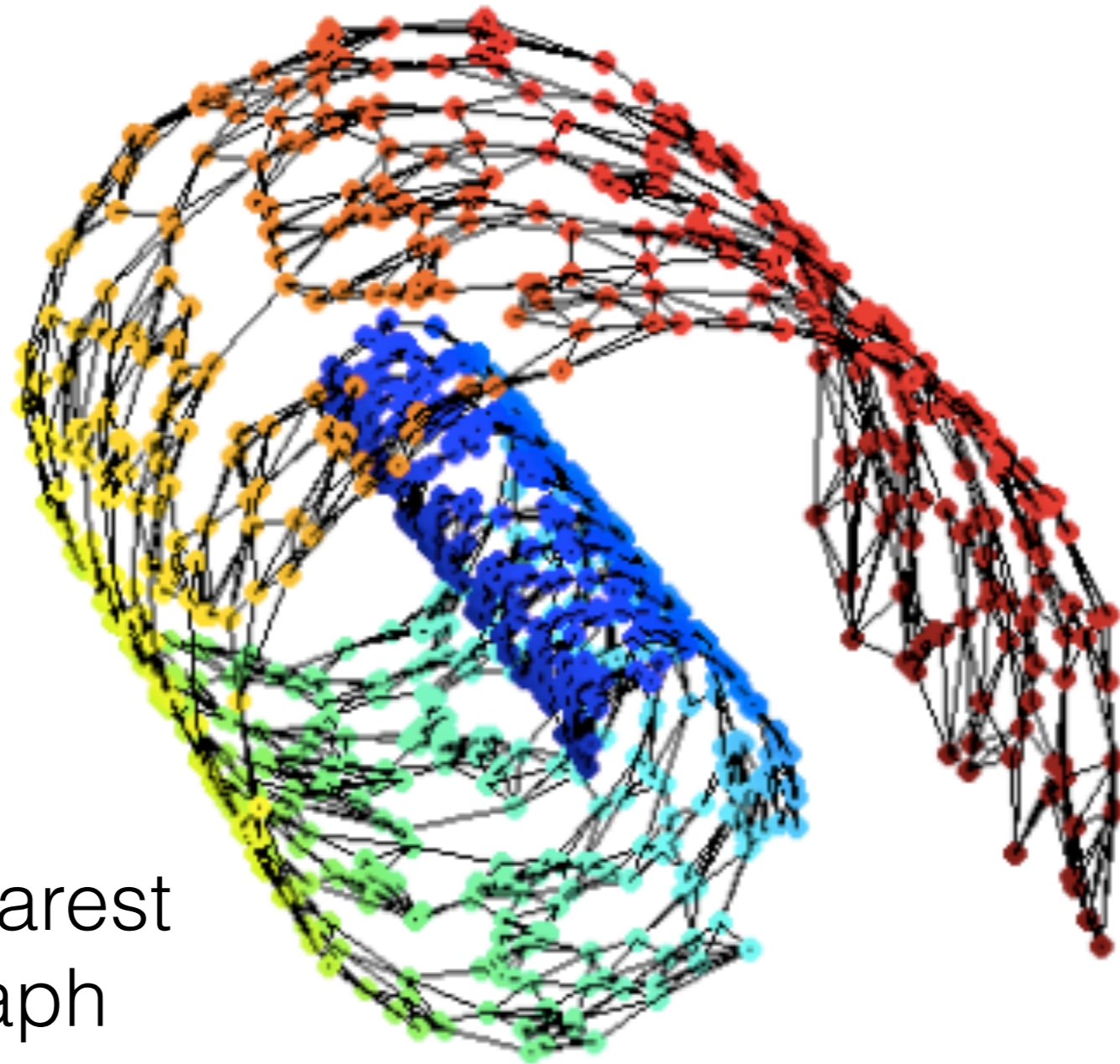
distance between projected data points

# nonlinear models (manifolds)

swiss roll

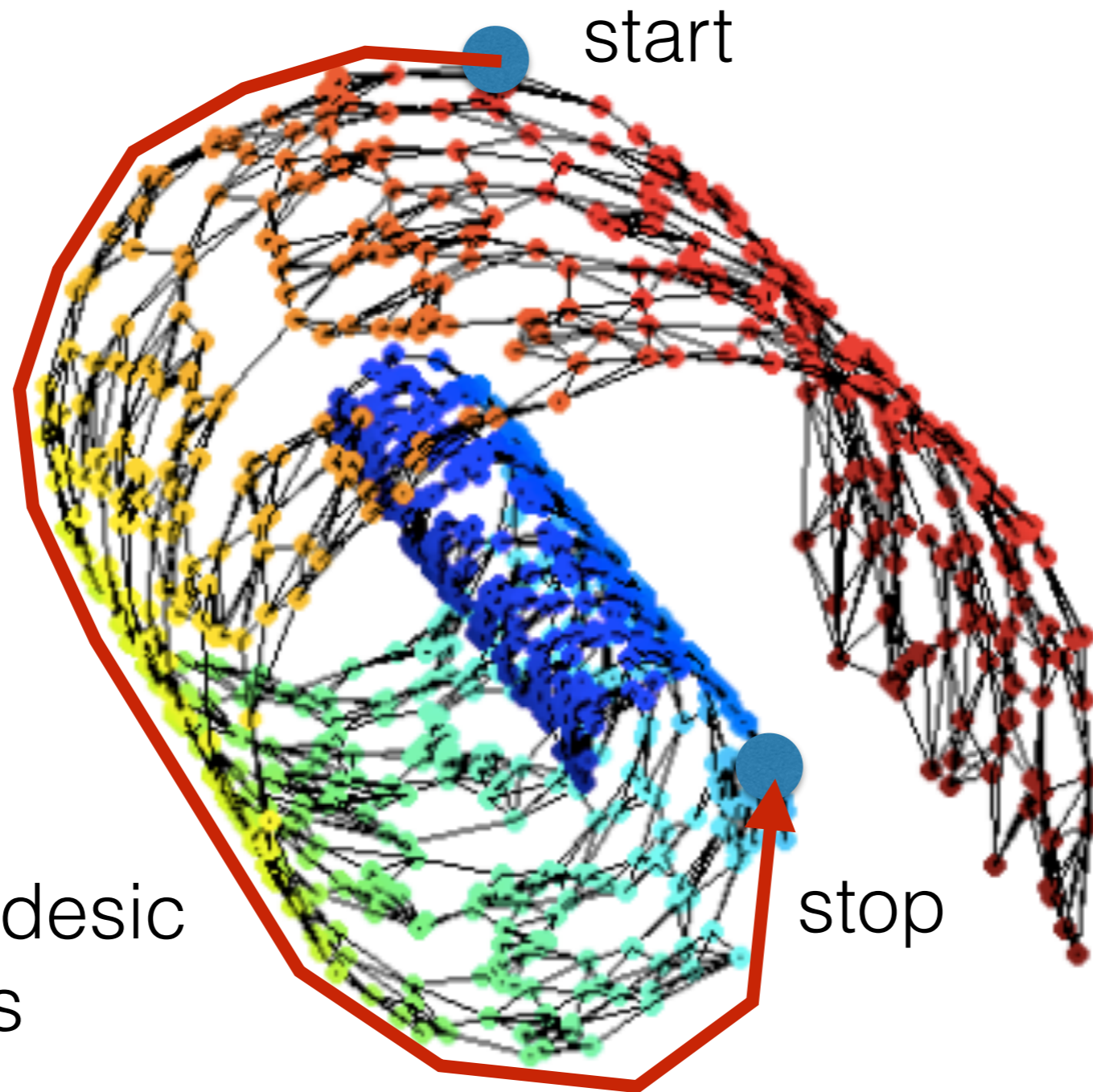


# nonlinear models (manifolds)



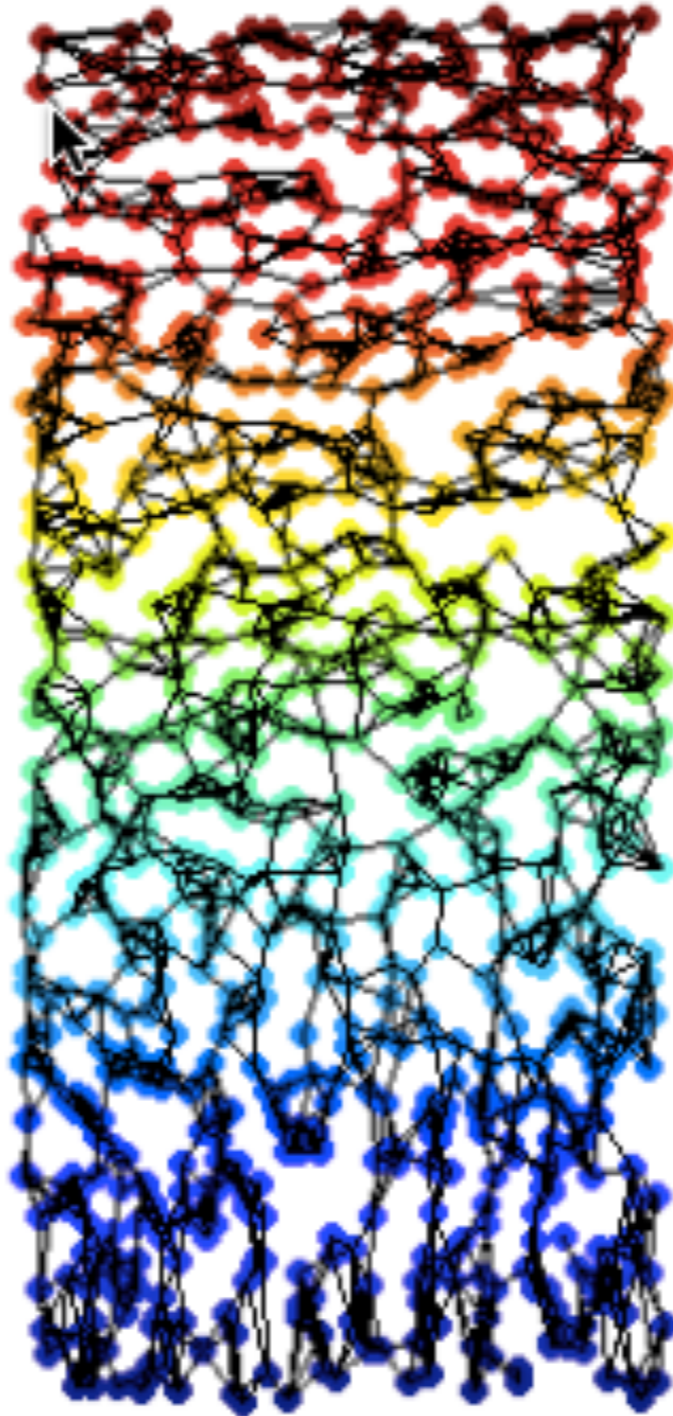
Compute k-nearest  
neighbor graph

# nonlinear models (manifolds)



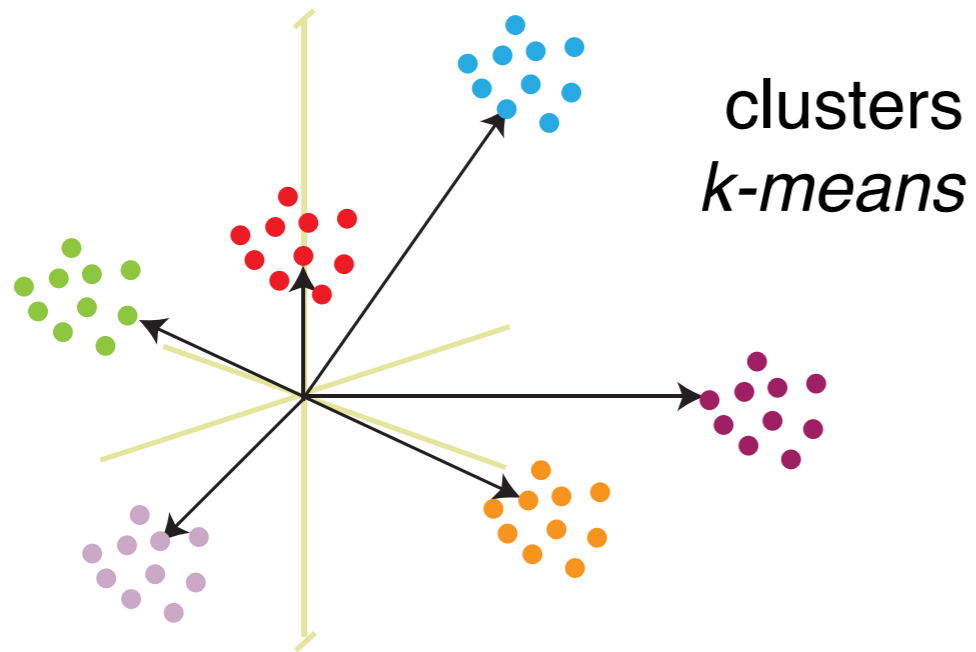
Compute geodesic  
distances

# nonlinear models (manifolds)



Compute leading  
eigenvectors

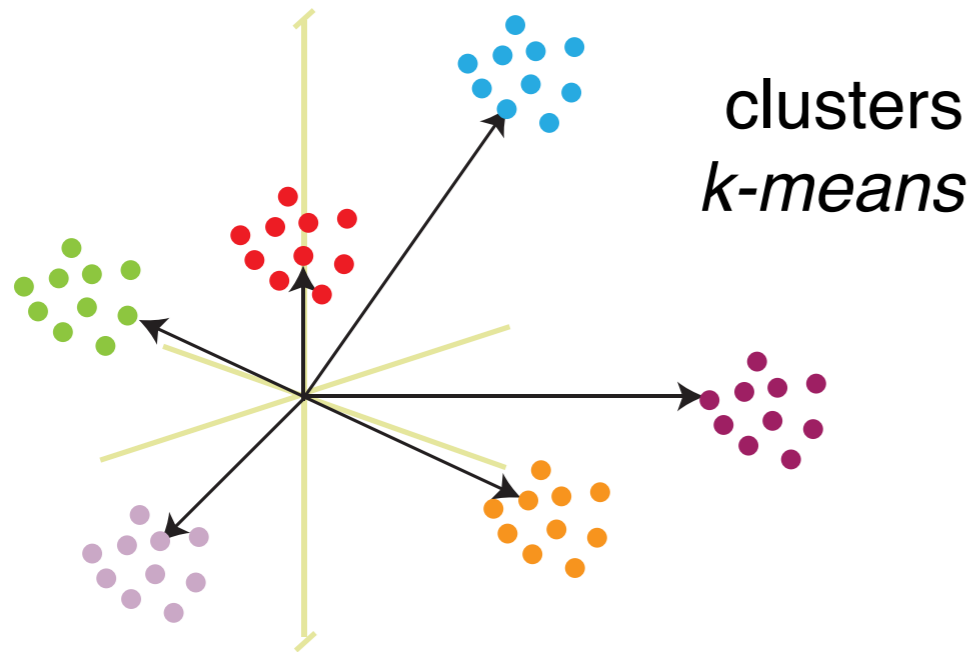
# cluster model



$$\min_{\mathbf{c}_1, \dots, \mathbf{c}_k} \sum_{j=1}^k \sum_{i \in \Omega_j} \|y_i - \mathbf{c}_j\|_2$$

ith data point

# cluster model

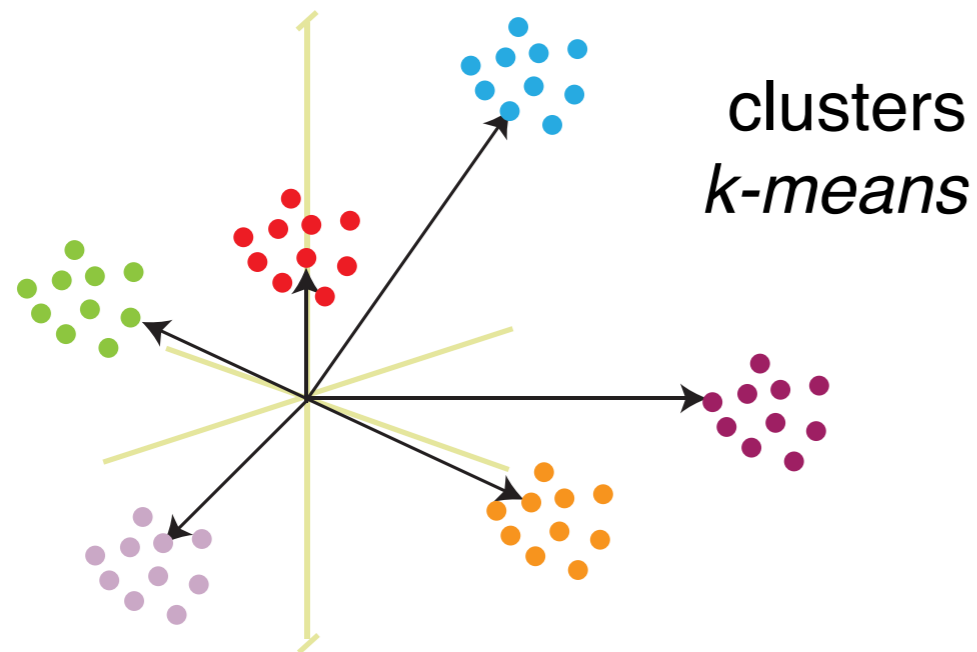


$$\min_{\mathbf{c}_1, \dots, \mathbf{c}_k} \sum_{j=1}^k \sum_{i \in \Omega_j} \|y_i - \mathbf{c}_j\|_2$$

jth cluster  
center



# cluster model

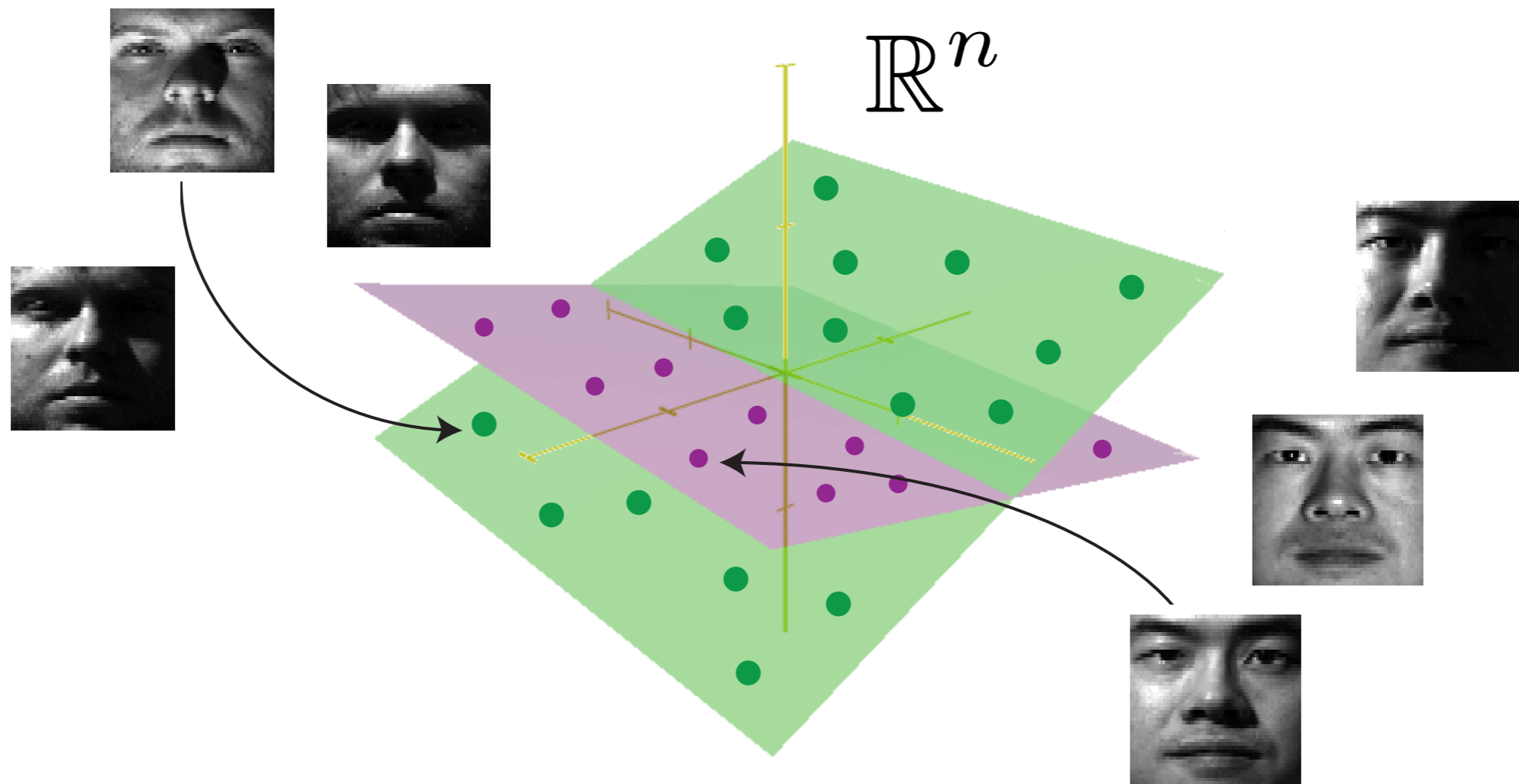


$$\min_{\mathbf{c}_1, \dots, \mathbf{c}_k} \sum_{j=1}^k \sum_{i \in \Omega_j} \|y_i - \mathbf{c}_j\|_2$$

## **kmeans:**

1. Randomly initialize cluster centers
2. Assign each data point to its closest cluster center
3. Update cluster centers (mean of all assigned points)
4. Iterate steps 2-3 until convergence

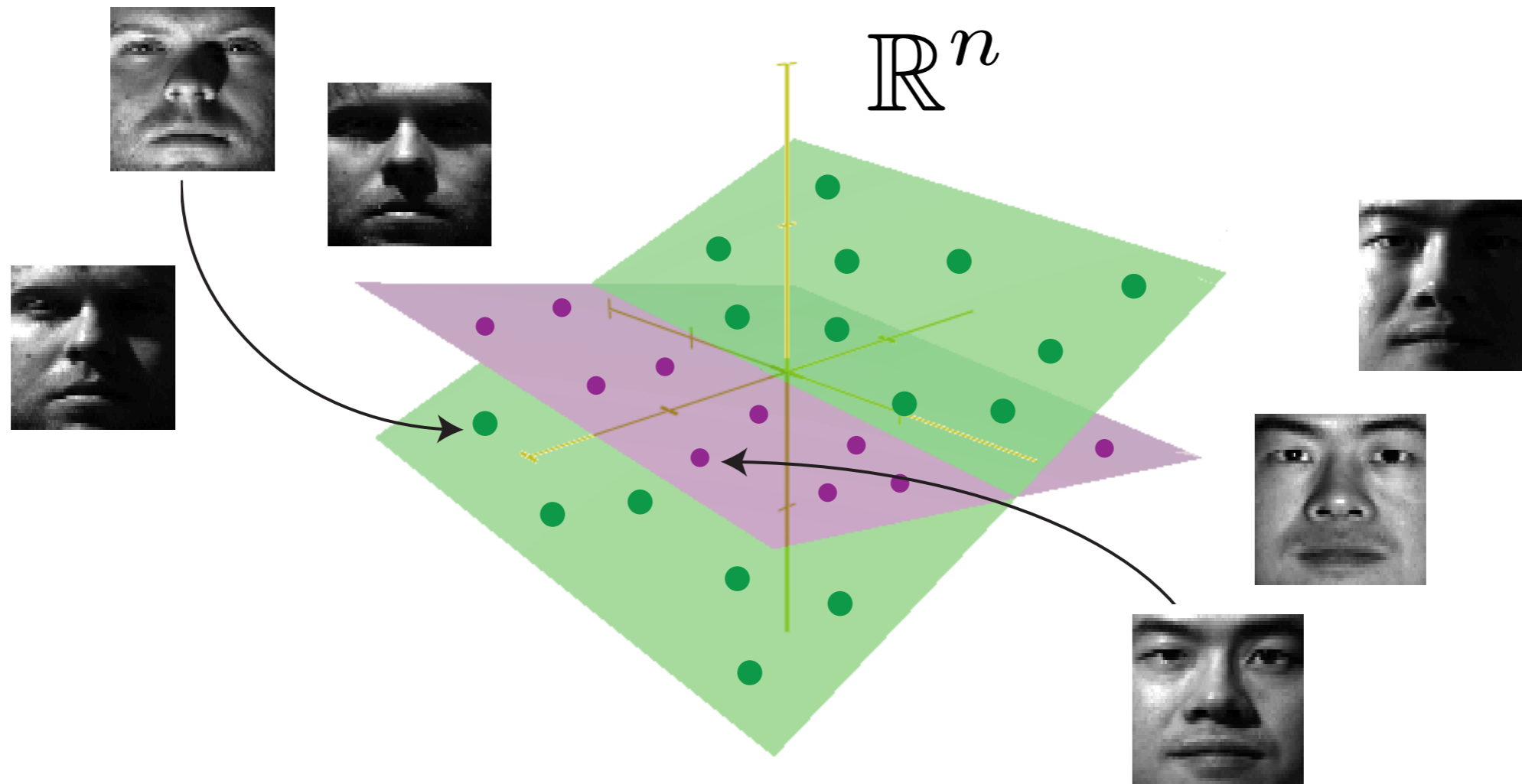
# union of subspaces



$$\min_{\mathbf{A}_i, \Omega_i} \sum \|\mathbf{Y}_{\Omega_i} - \mathbf{A}_i\|_F \quad \text{s.t.} \quad \text{rank}(\mathbf{A}_i) \leq k_i$$

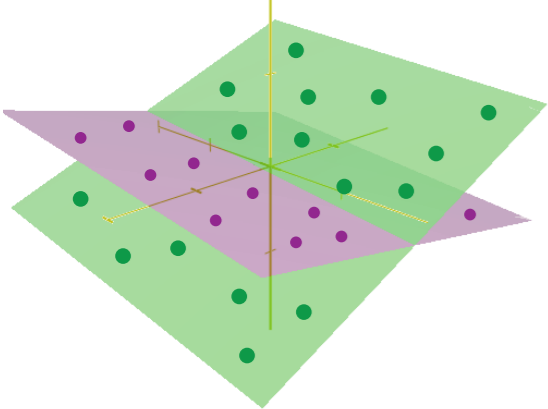
subset of data in ith subspace

# union of subspaces

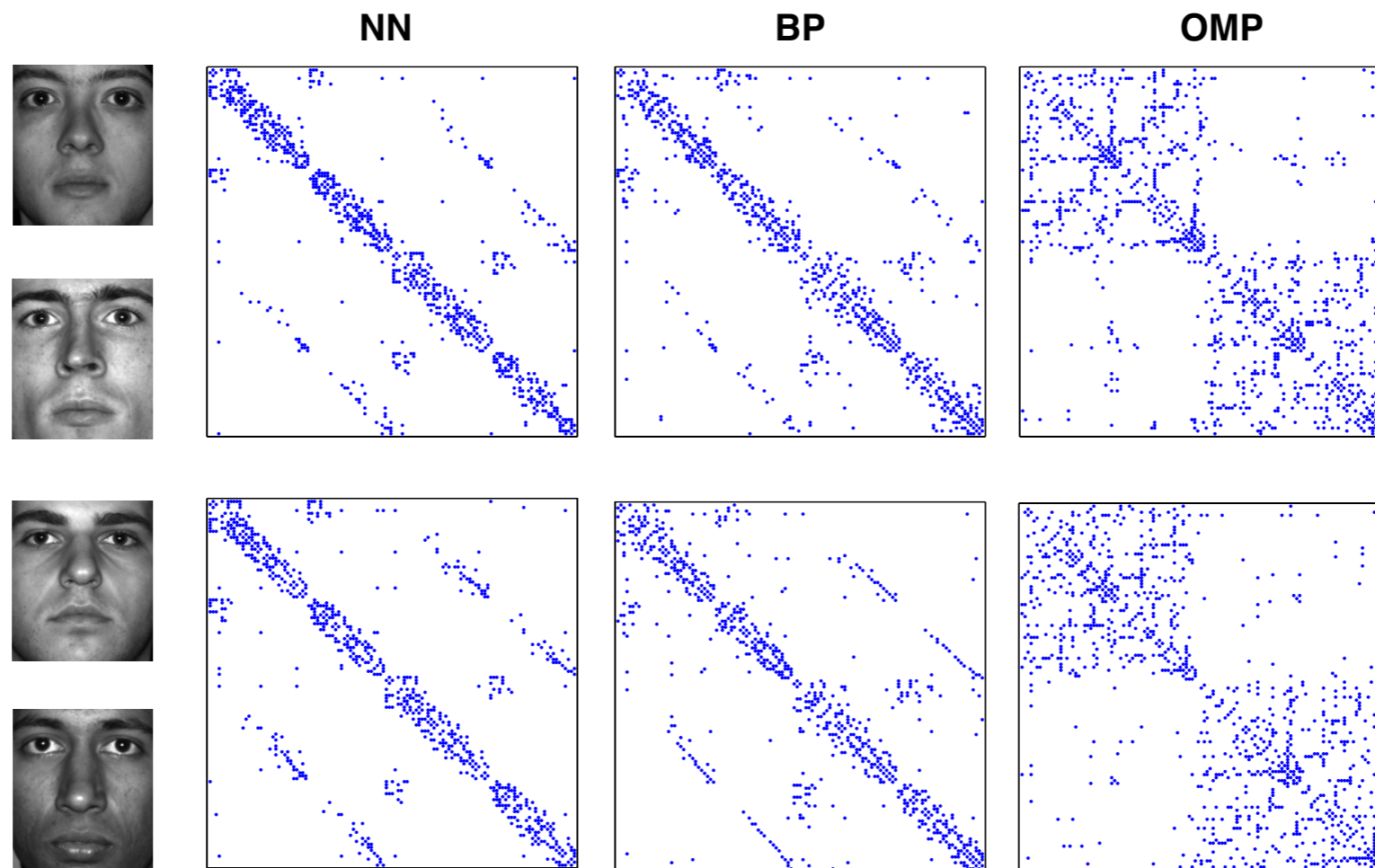


$$\min_{\mathbf{A}_i, \Omega_i} \sum \|\mathbf{Y}_{\Omega_i} - \mathbf{A}_i\|_F \quad \text{s.t.} \quad \text{rank}(\mathbf{A}_i) \leq k_i$$

low rank approx of ith cluster

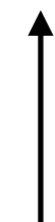


# union of subspaces

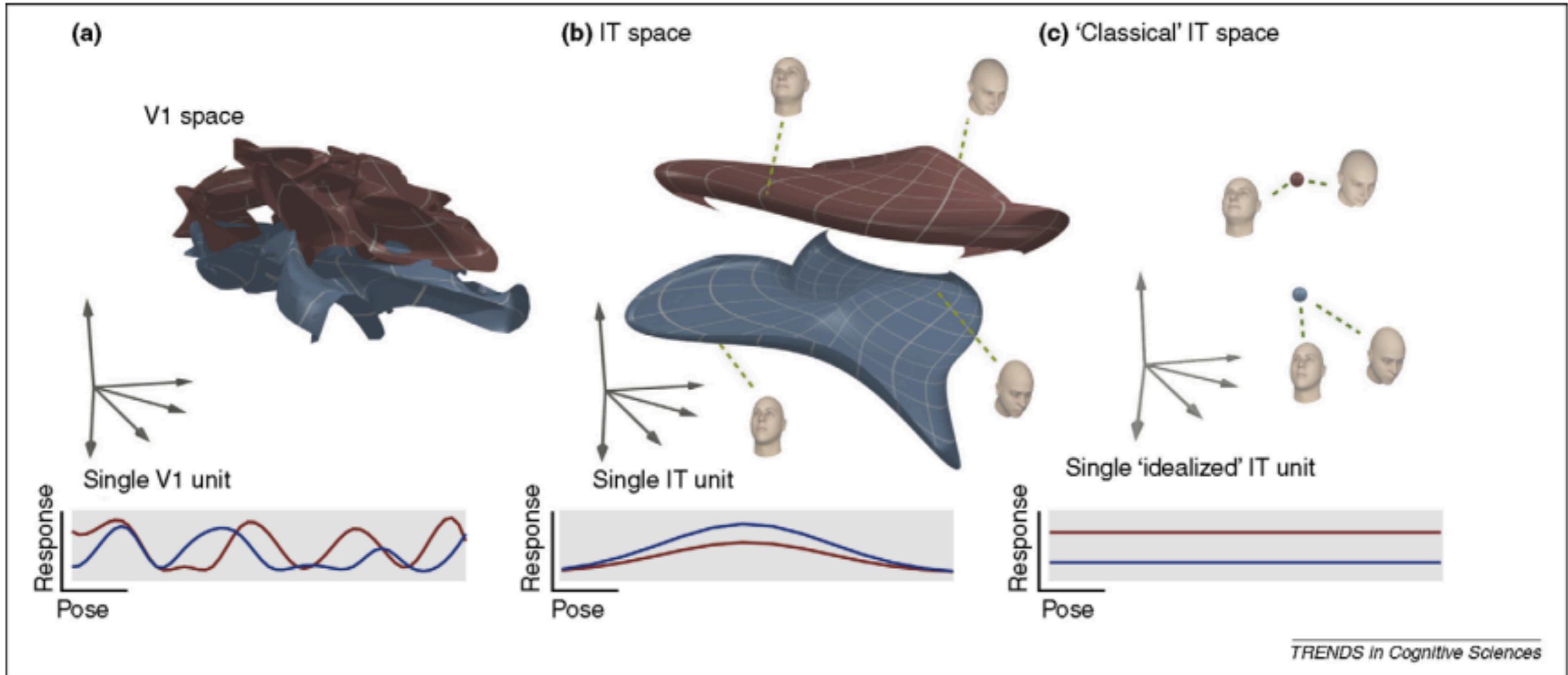


## **sparse subspace clustering (SSC):**

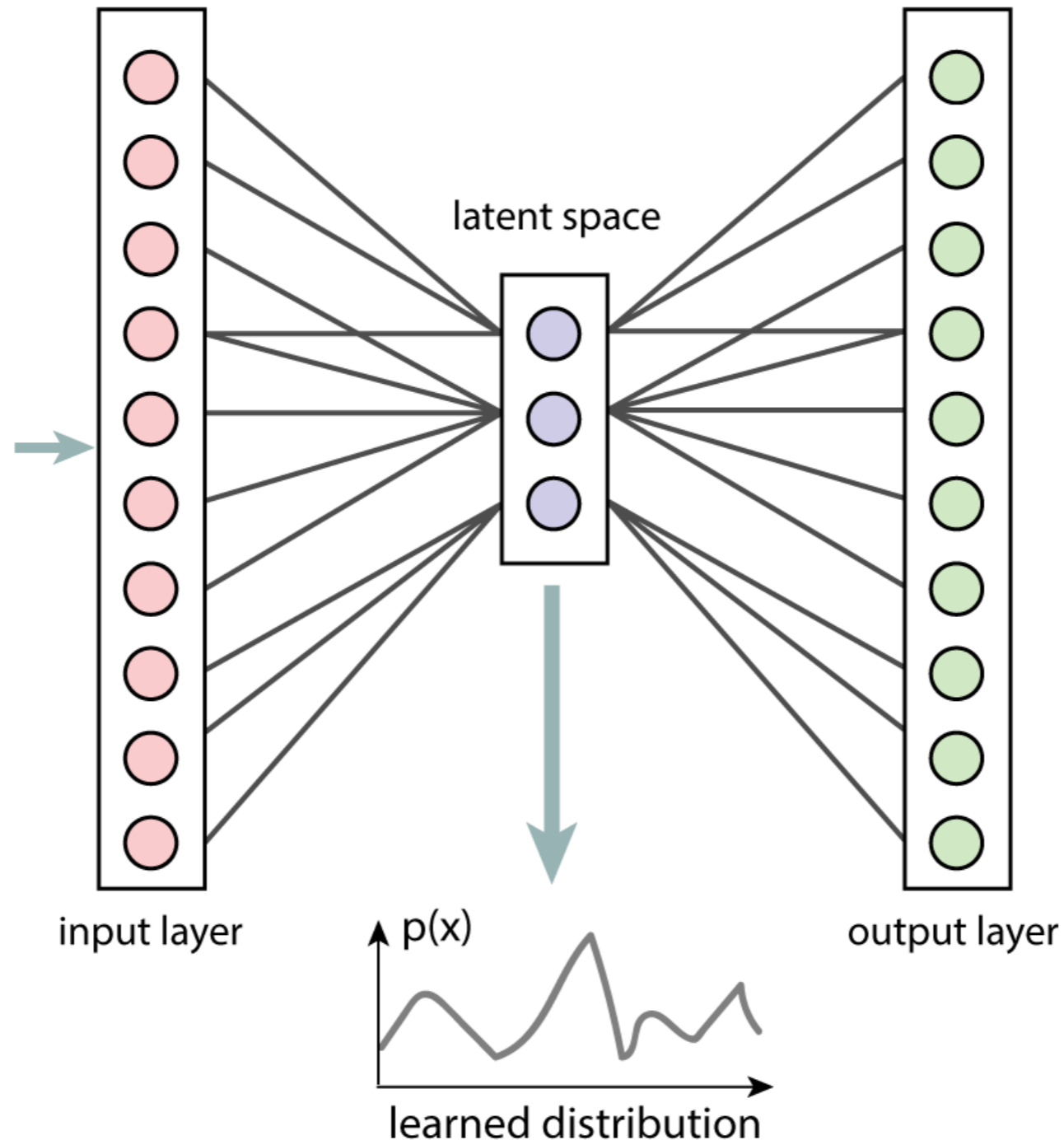
1. Compute the subspace affinity matrix ( $C$ )
2. Cluster the affinity matrix  $C$
3. For each subspace cluster, run SVD and get low rank approximation



# “tangled” manifolds

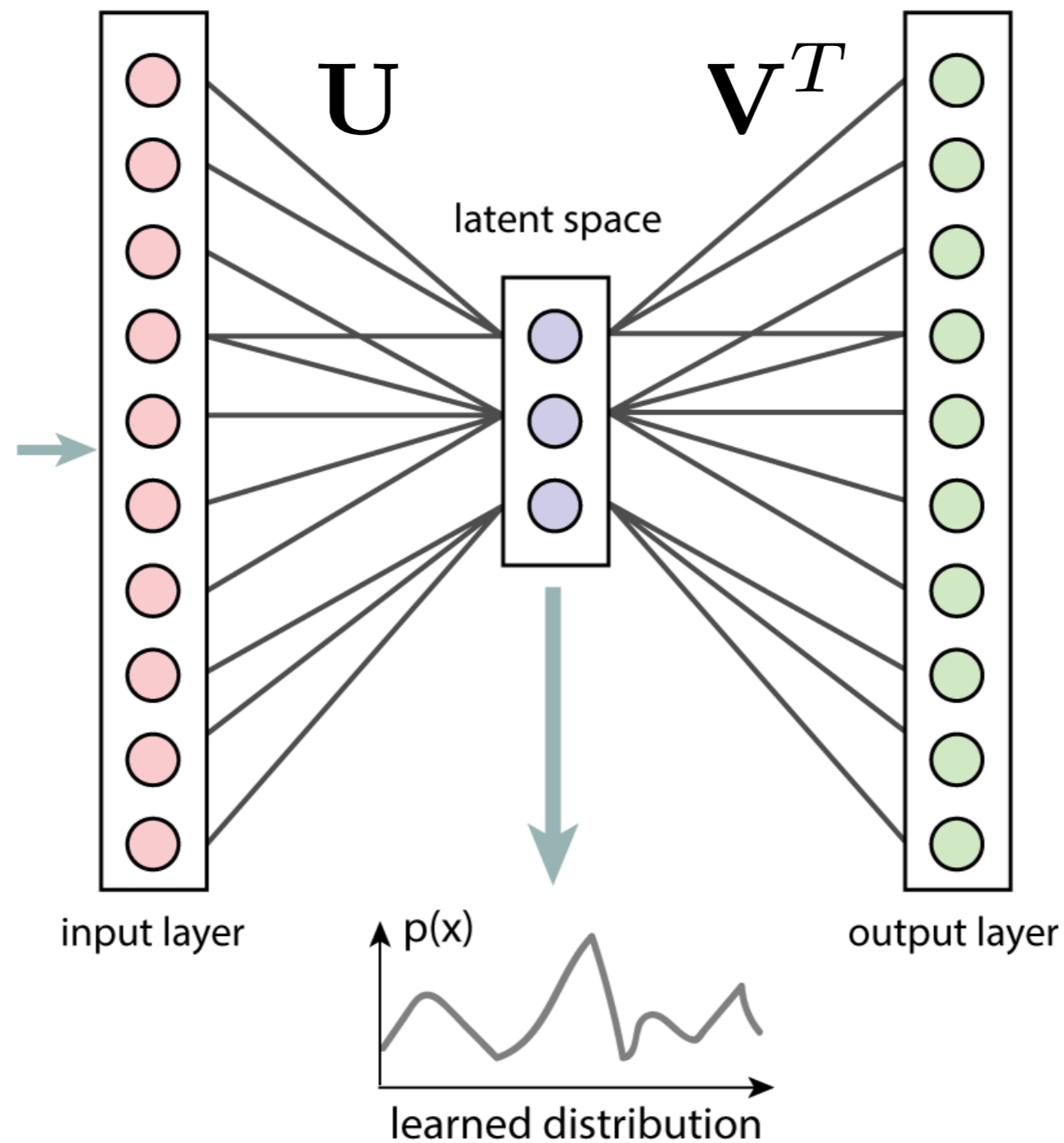


# autoencoders



$$\min_f f(\mathbf{Y}_{in}, \mathbf{Y}_{out})$$

# linear autoencoder -> PCA



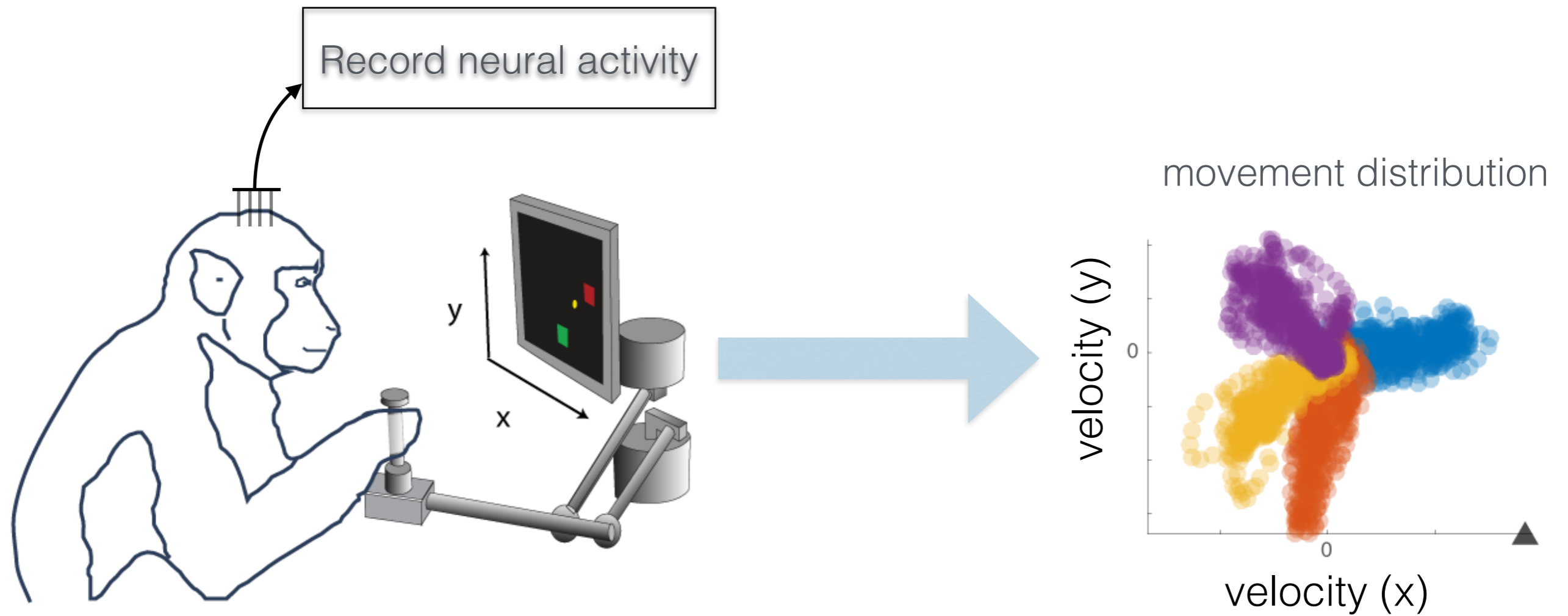
$$\mathbf{Y} \approx \mathbf{U}\mathbf{S}\mathbf{V}^T$$

$$\min_f f(\mathbf{Y}_{in}, \mathbf{Y}_{out})$$

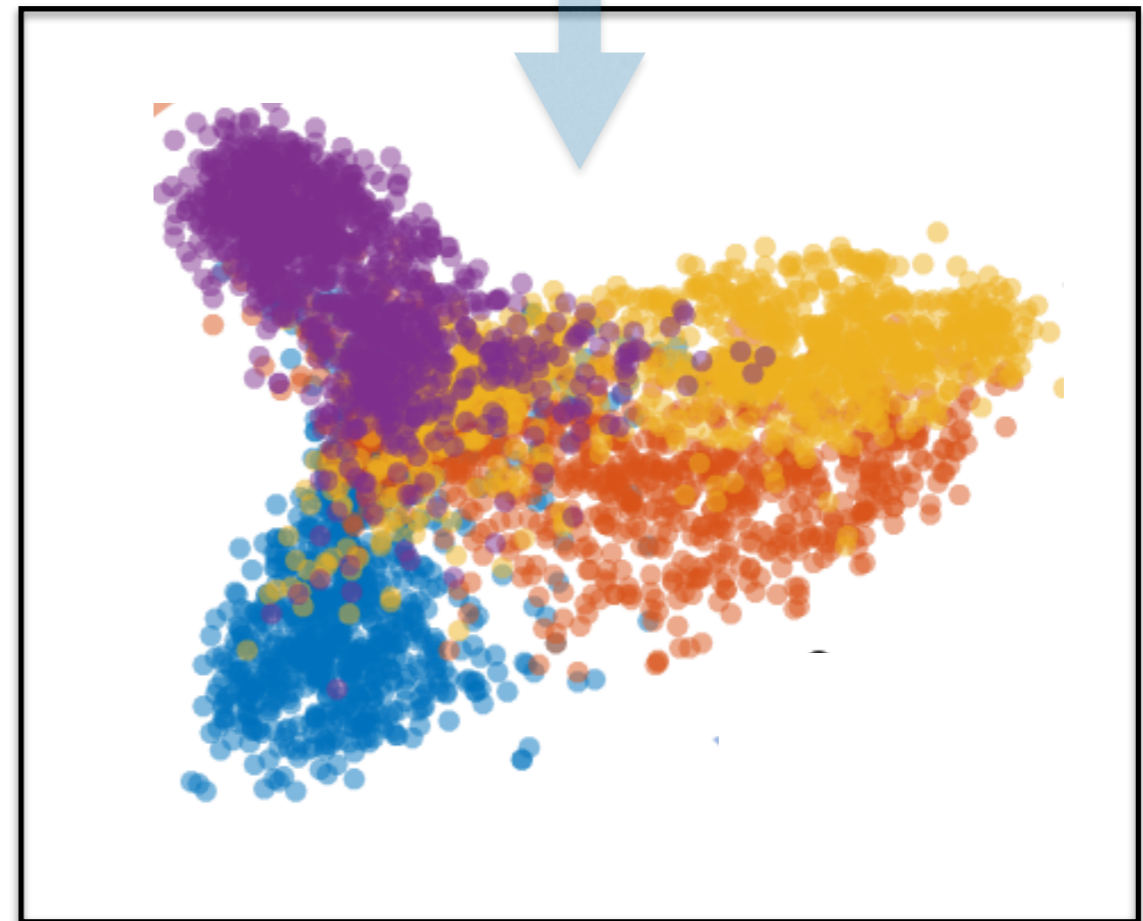
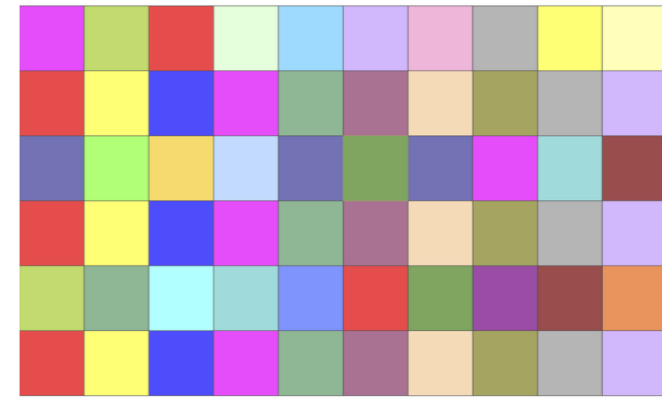
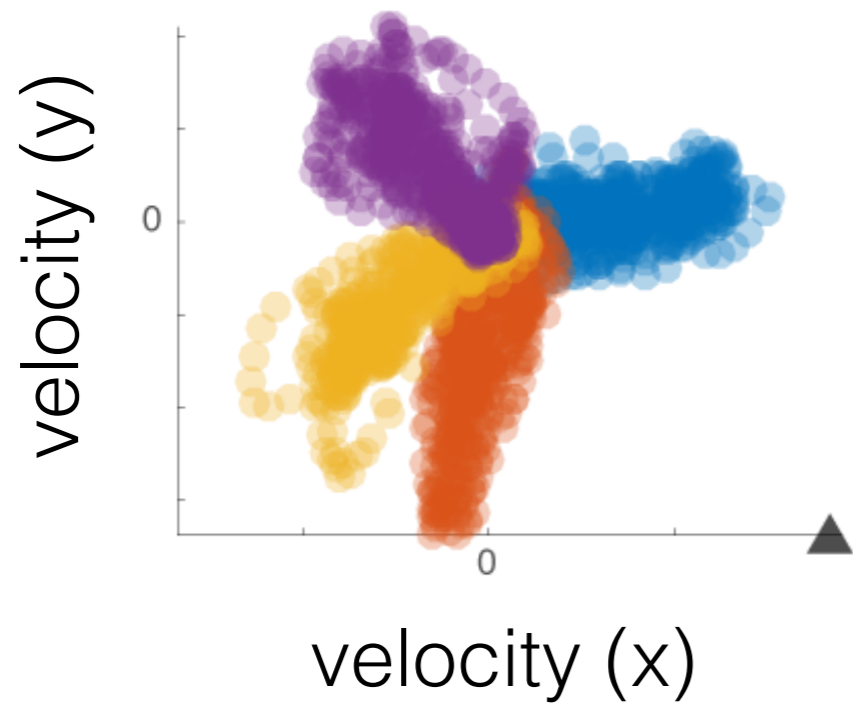
application to  
movement decoding



# movement decoding

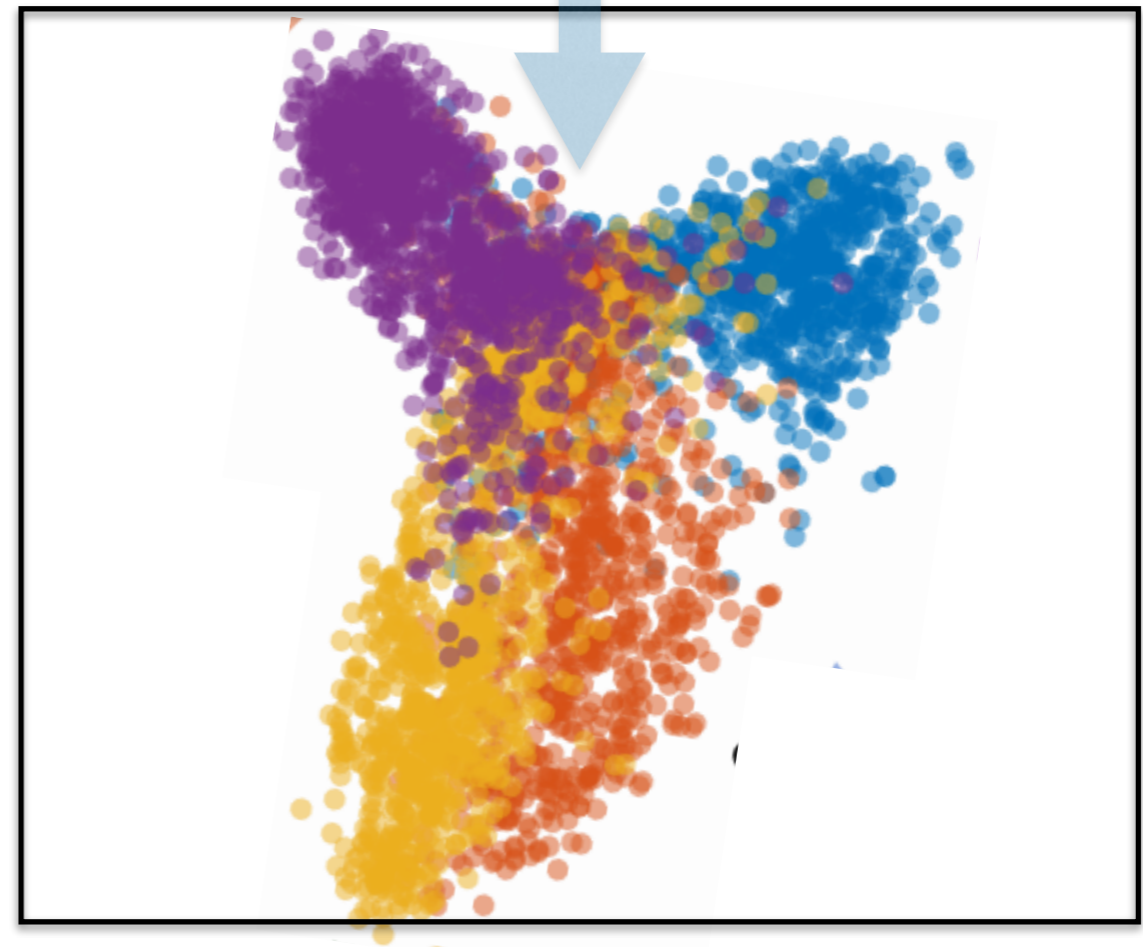
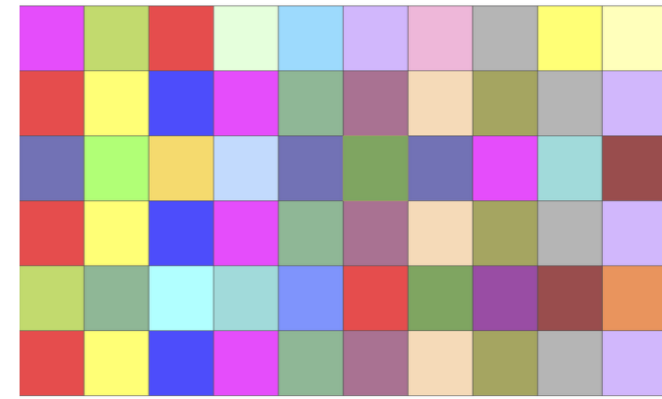
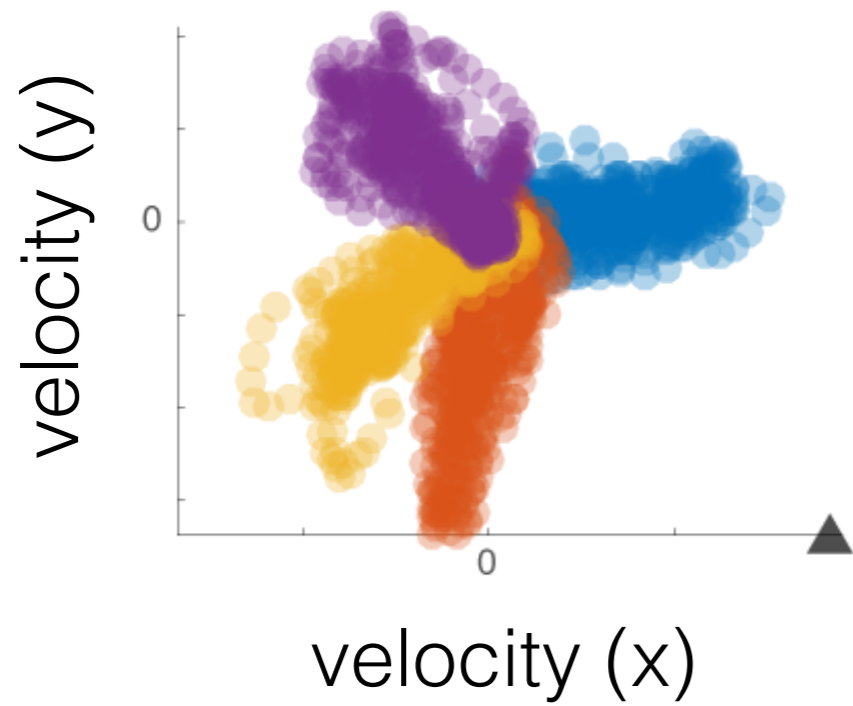


# neural responses are low-d



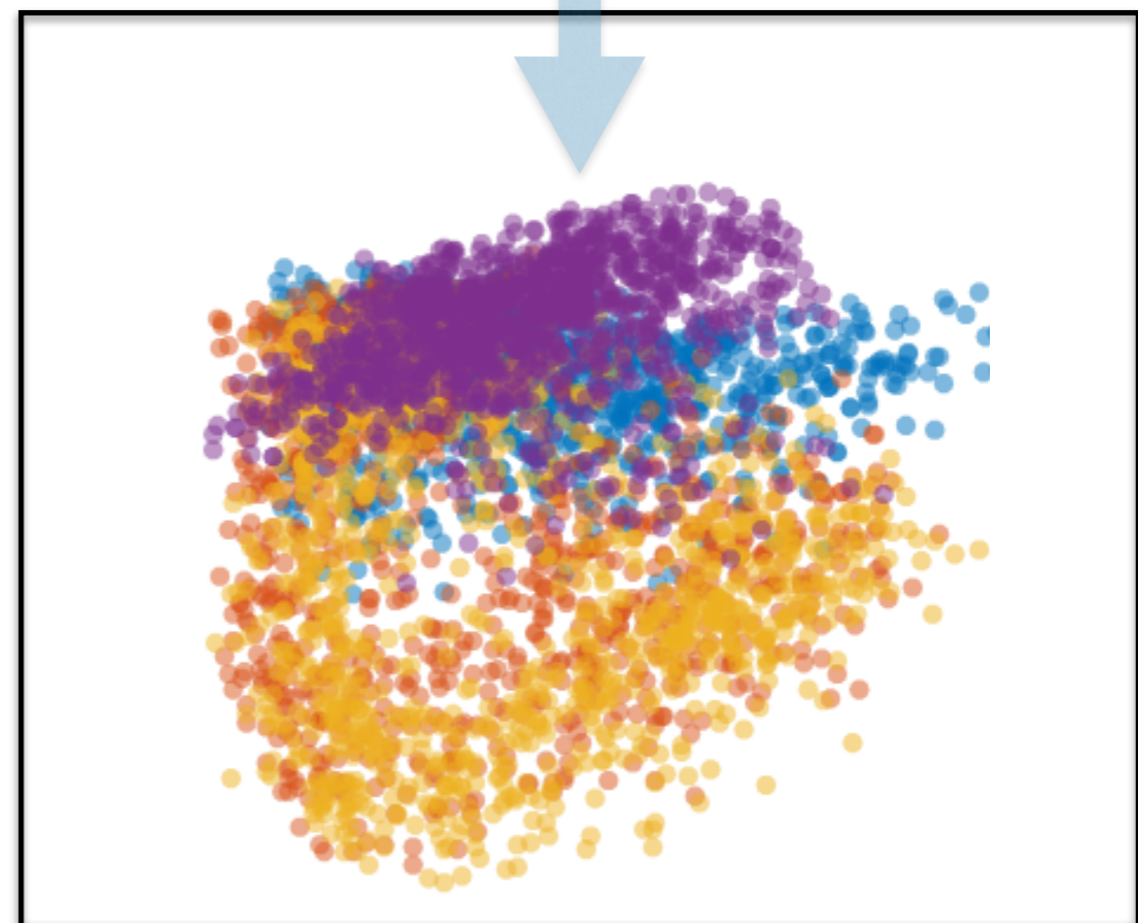
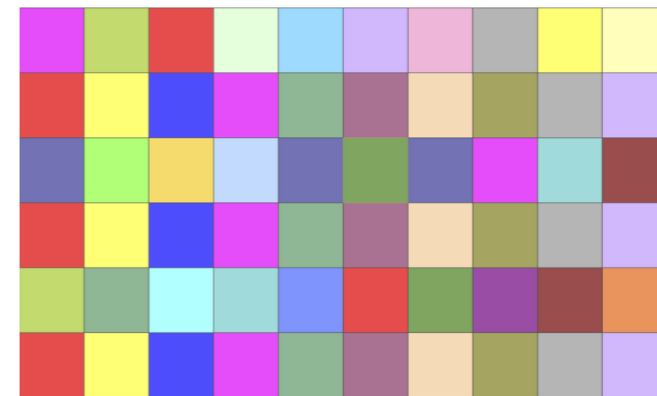
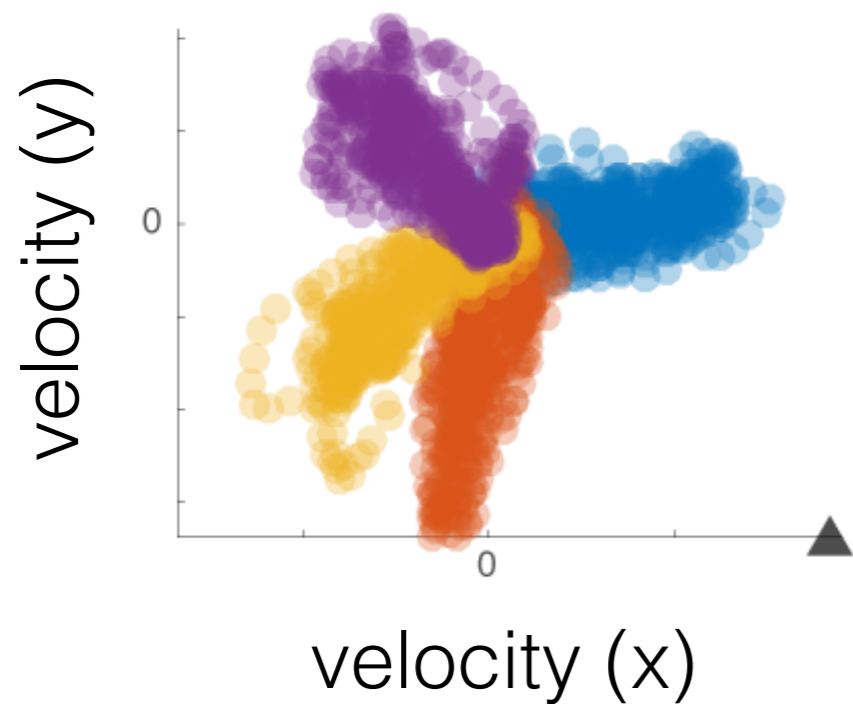
**good** low-d representation

# neural responses are low-d



**good** low-d representation

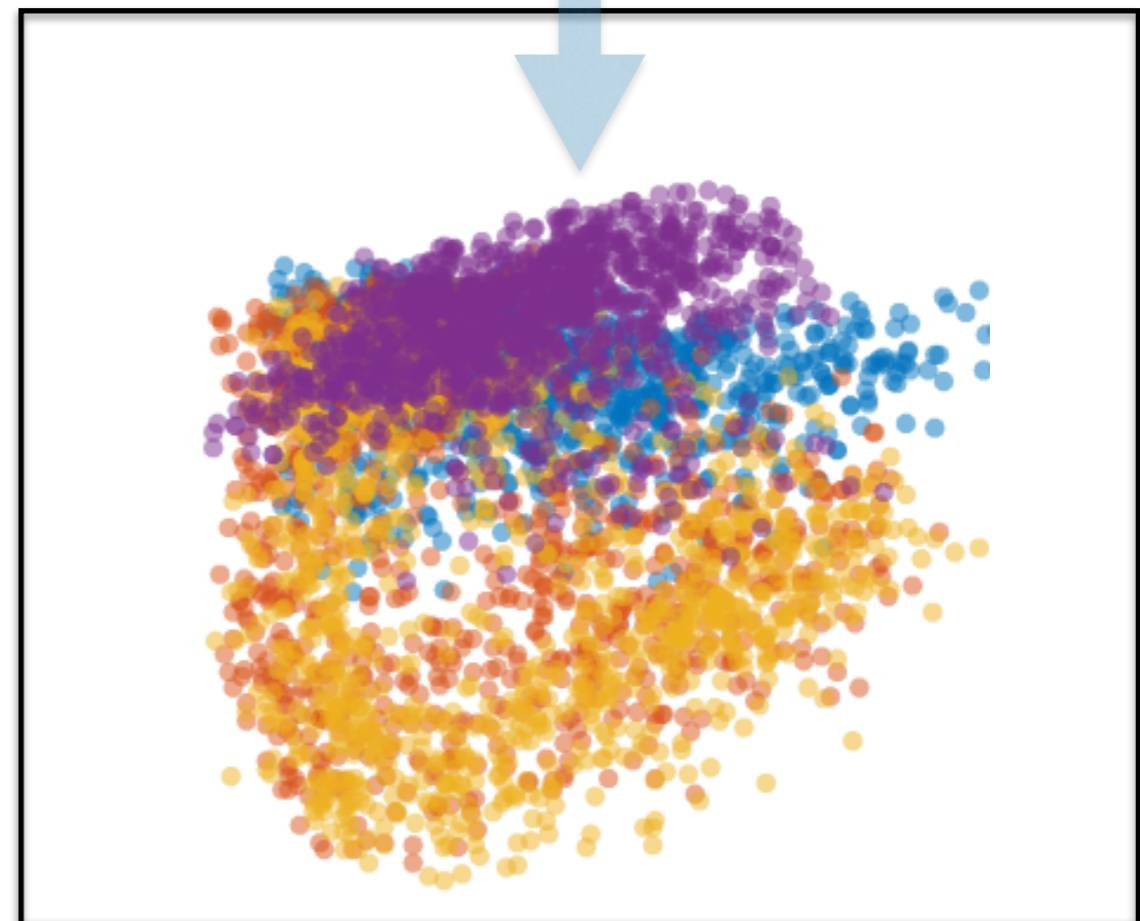
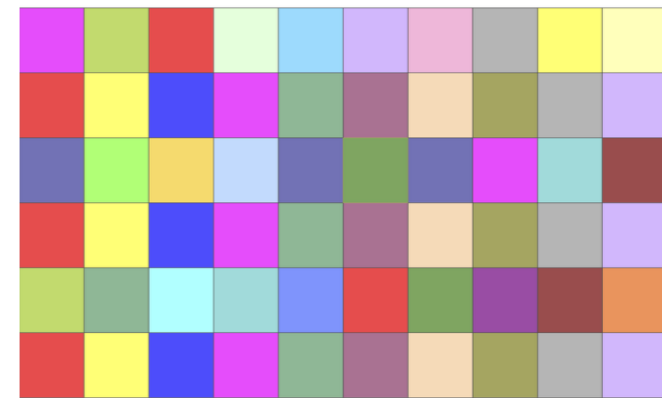
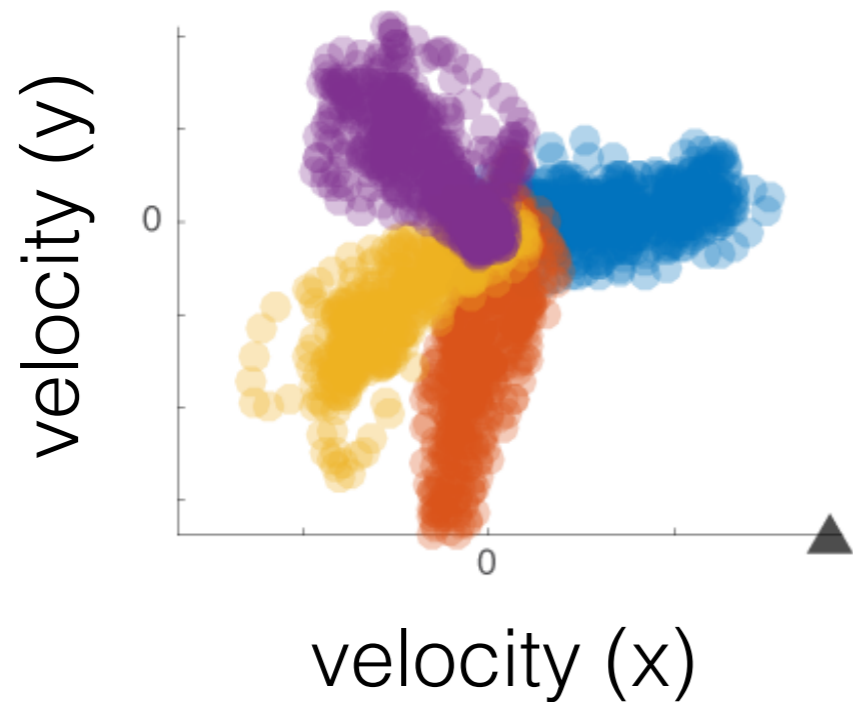
# neural responses are low-d



**challenge:** signal and noise structure vary!

**bad** low-d representation

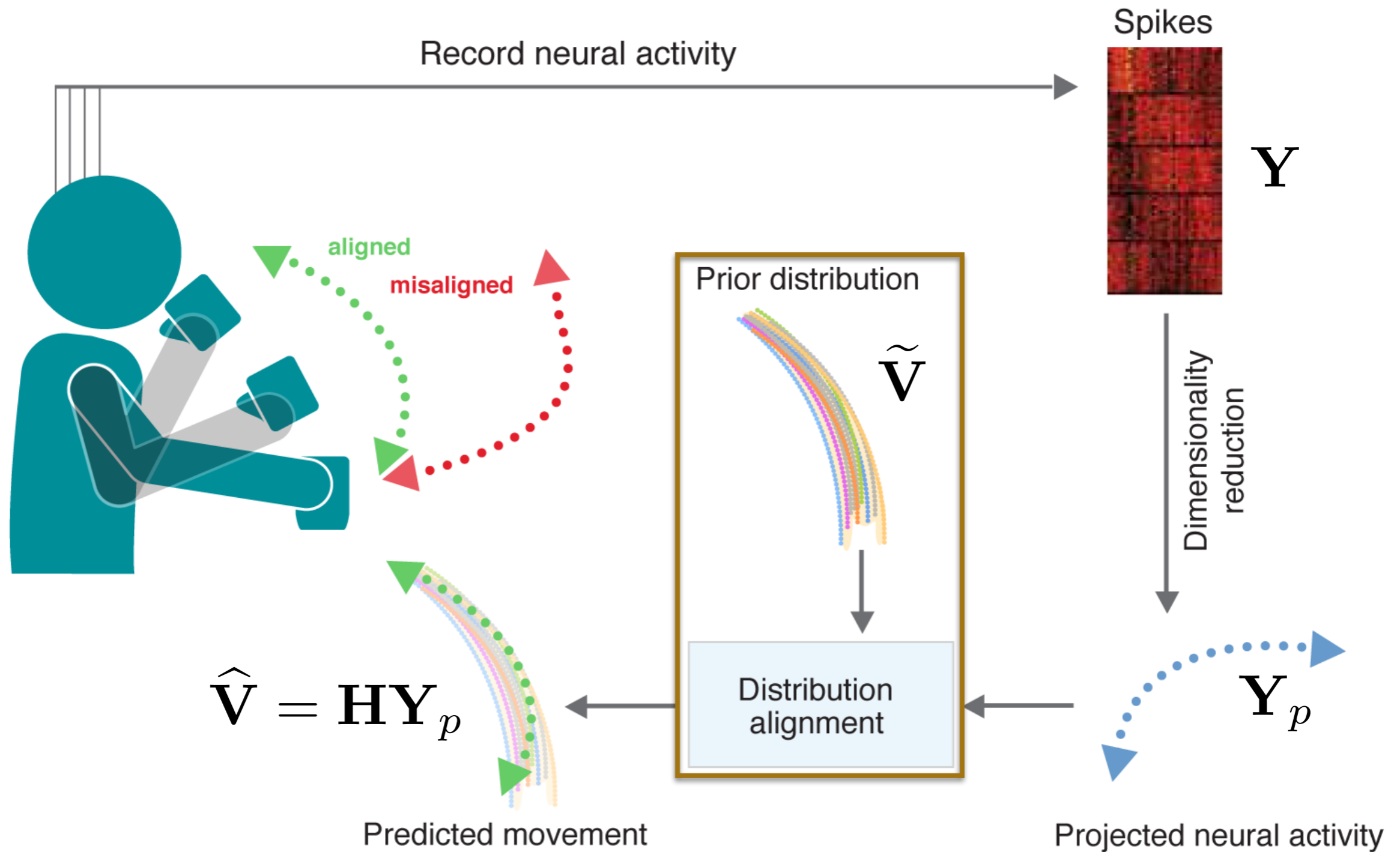
# neural responses are low-d



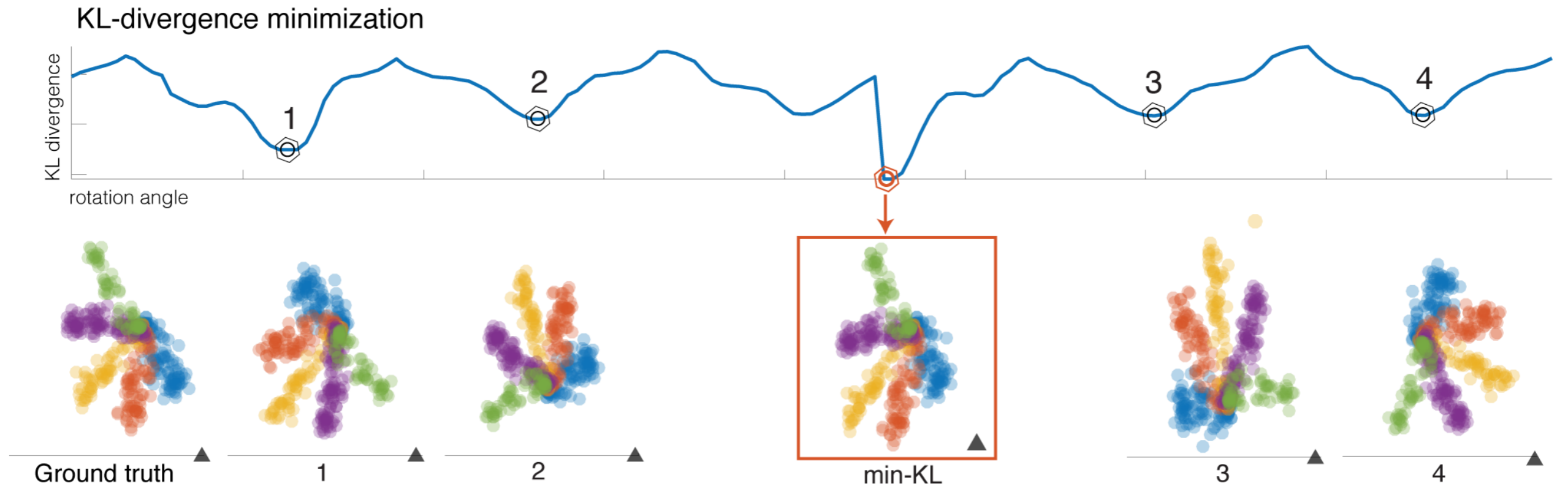
**solution:** leverage distribution of known movements

**bad** low-d representation

# distribution alignment approach

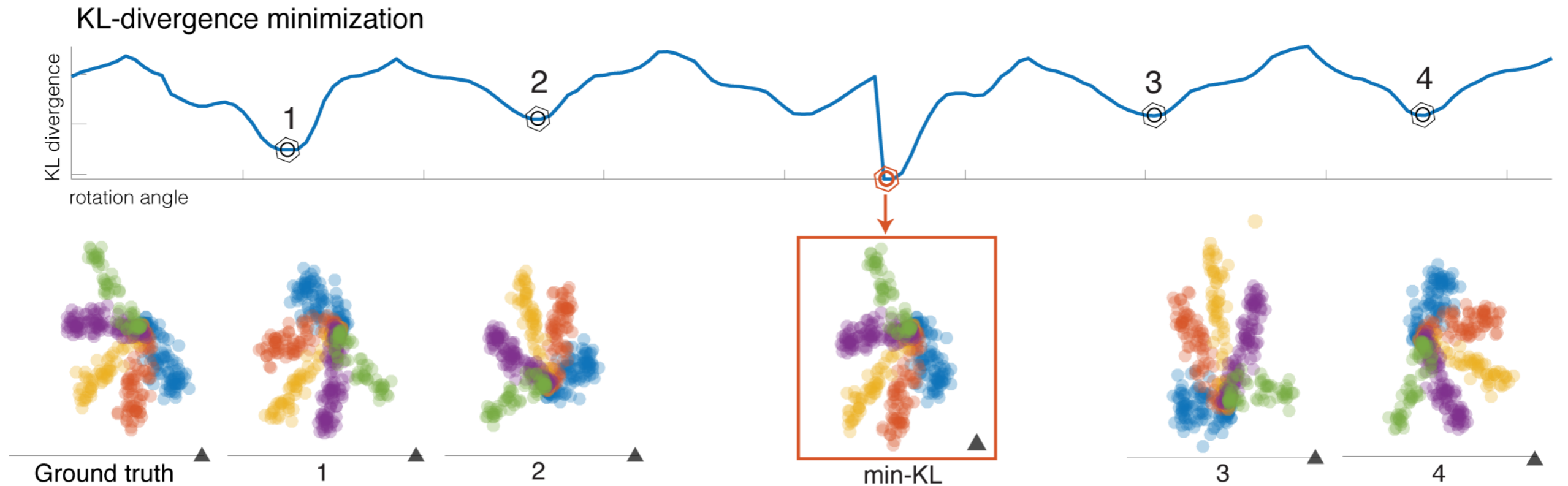


# KL-divergence minimization



**goal:** align neural activities with prior movement distribution

# KL-divergence minimization

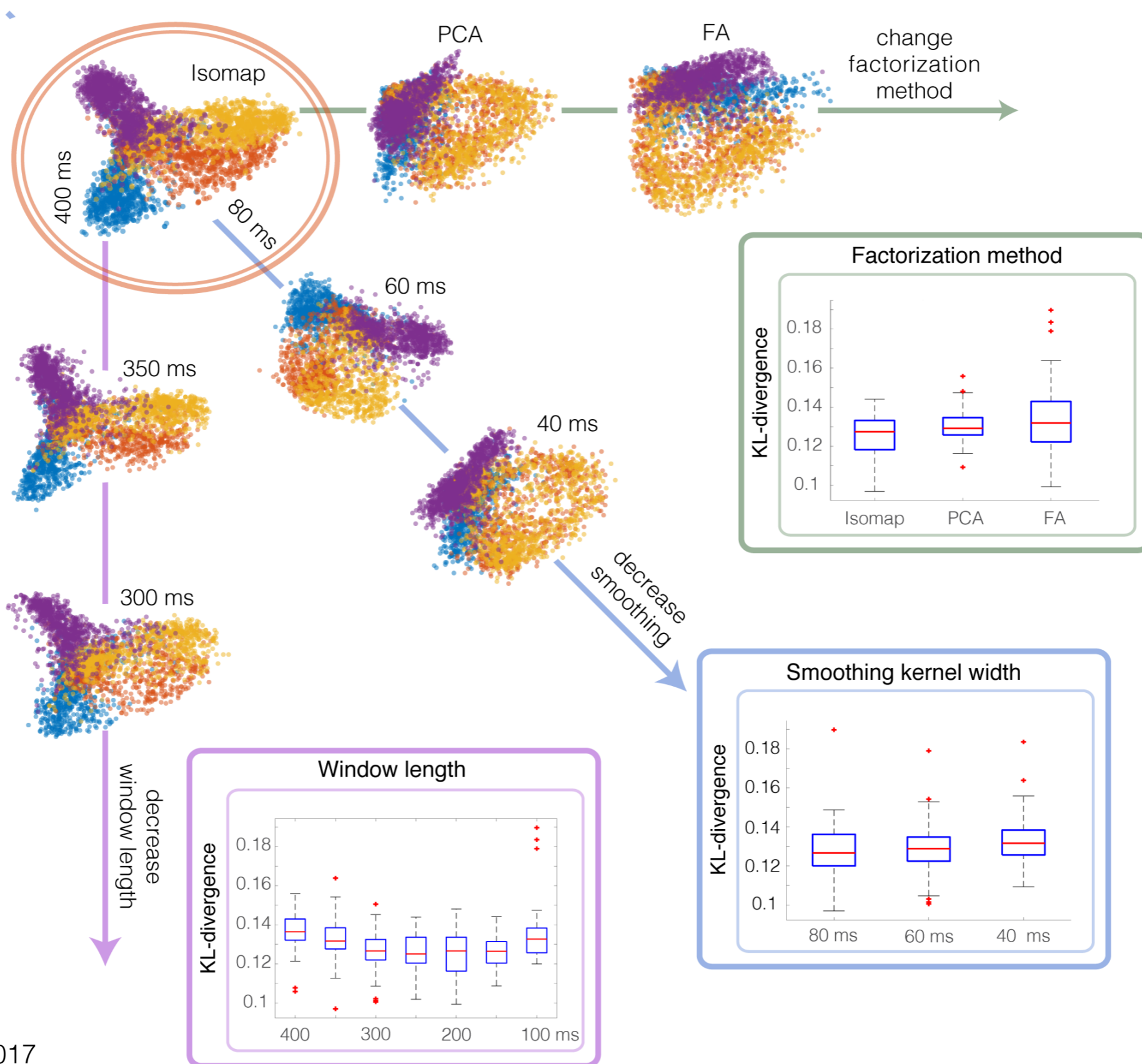


$$\mathbf{H}^* = \arg \min_{\mathbf{H} \in \mathbb{R}^{d \times 3}} \text{KL}(p || q)$$

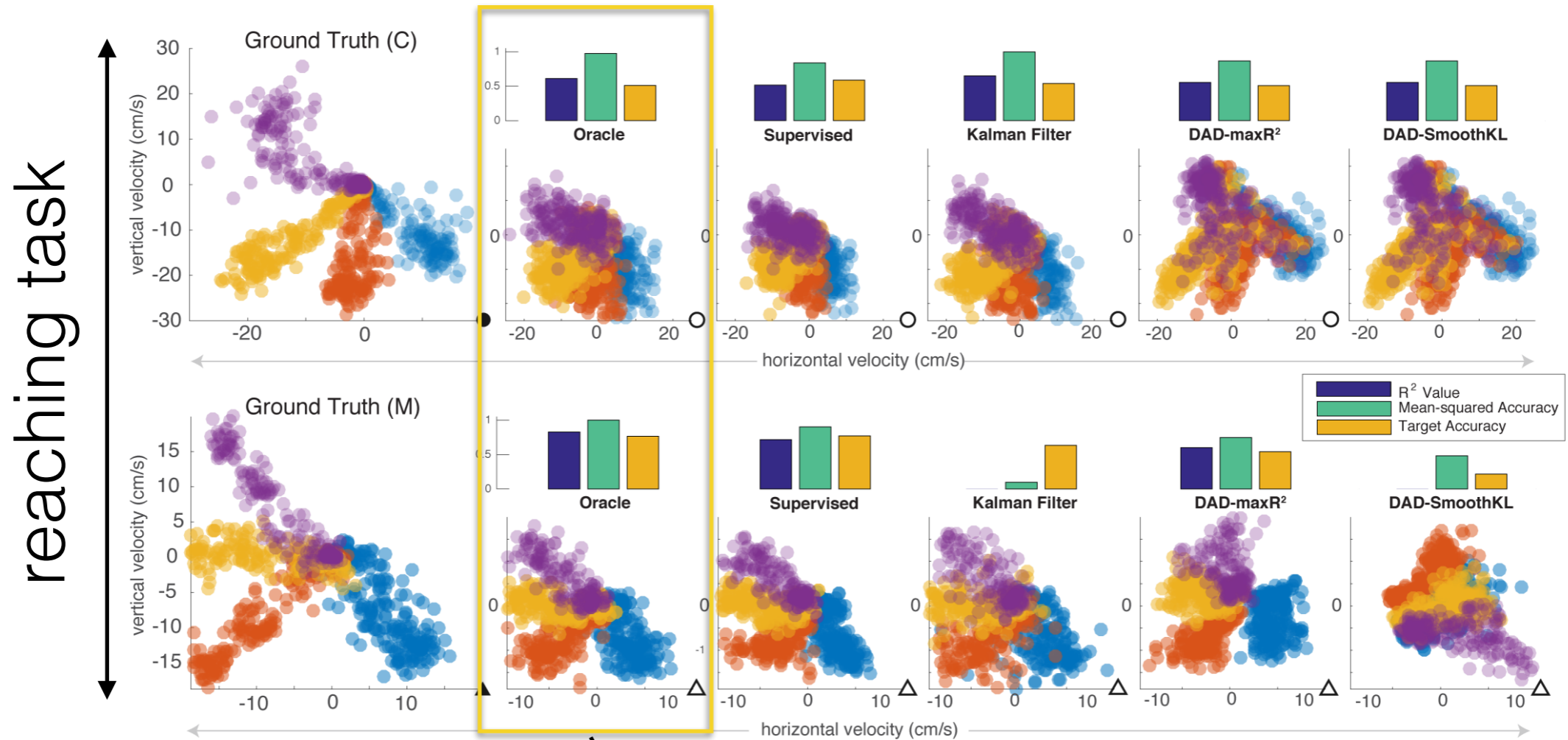
Estimate  $\mathbf{p}$  from  $\tilde{\mathbf{V}}$   
Estimate  $\mathbf{q}$  from  $\hat{\mathbf{V}} = \mathbf{H}\mathbf{Y}_p$



# model selection

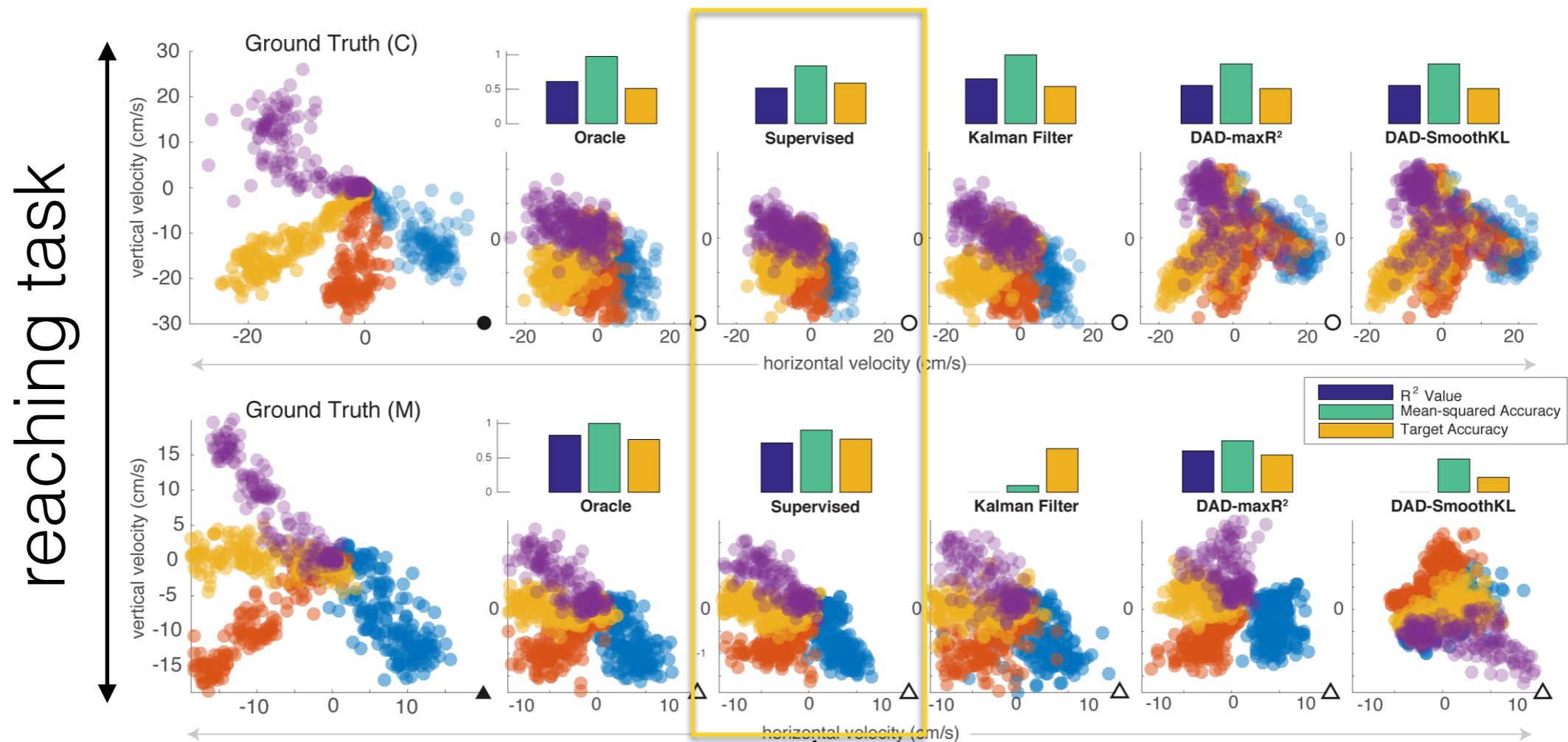


# decoding results



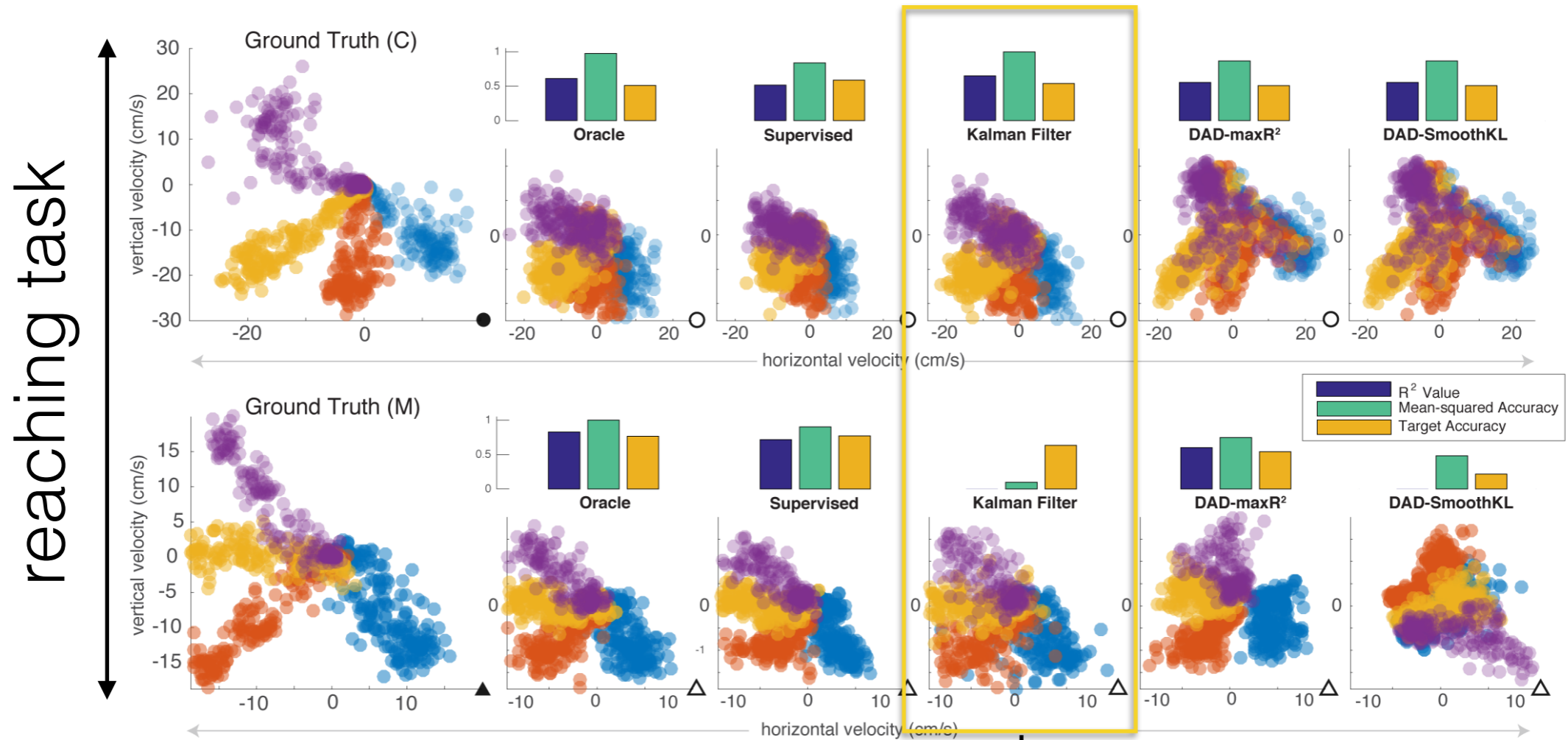
optimal linear map on test set

# decoding results



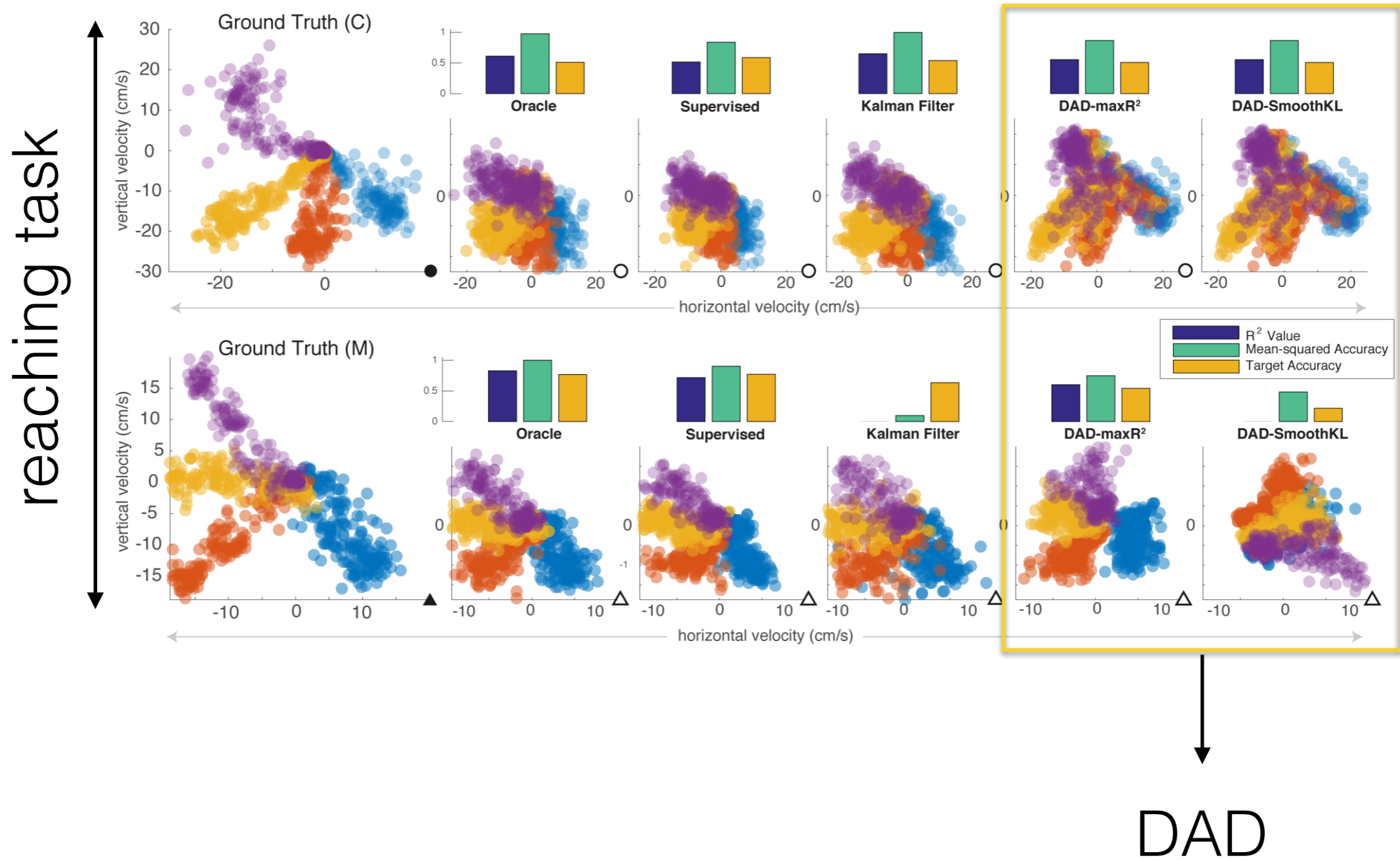
L2-regularized estimate

# decoding results

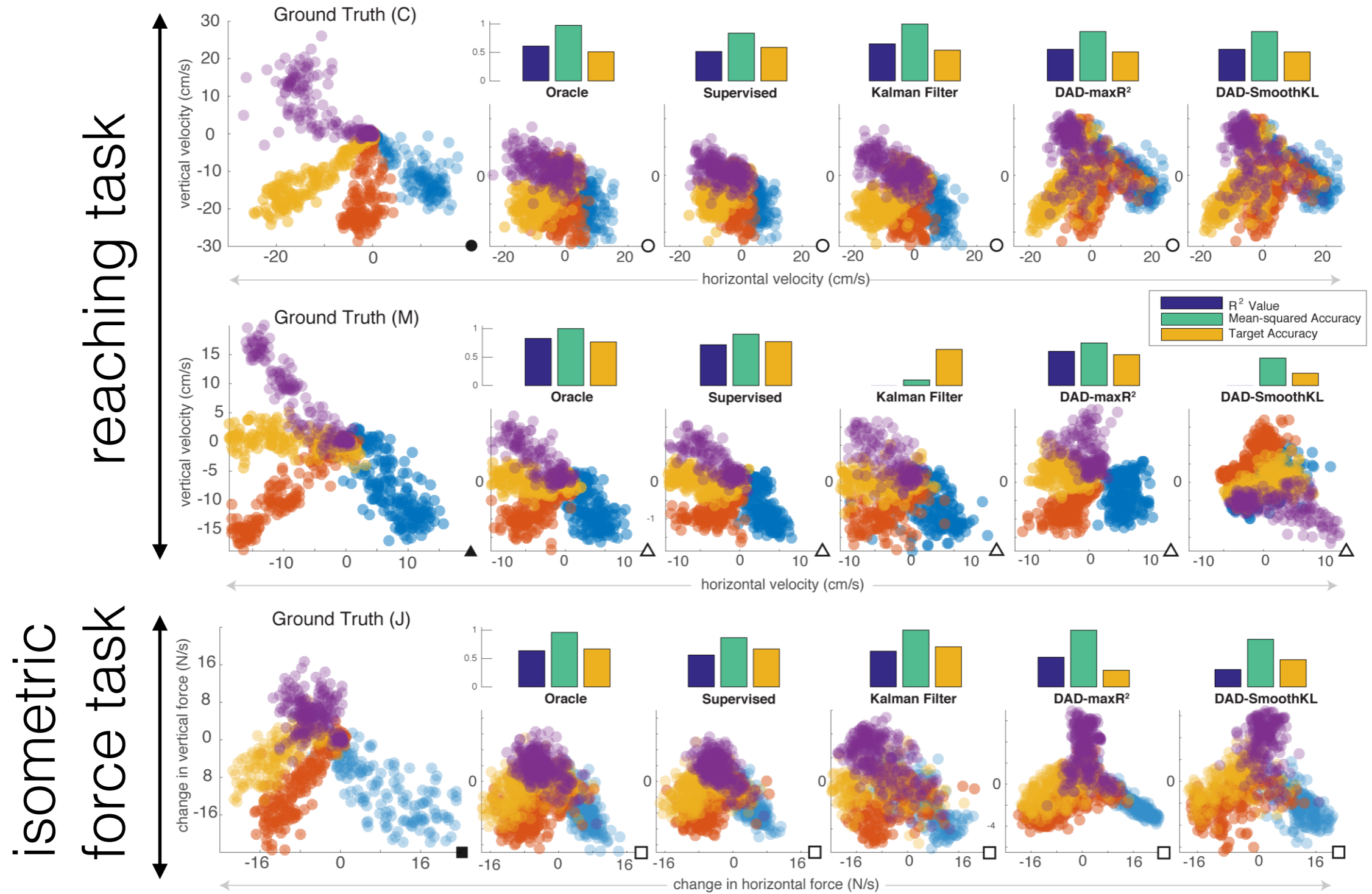


supervised method which leverages dynamics

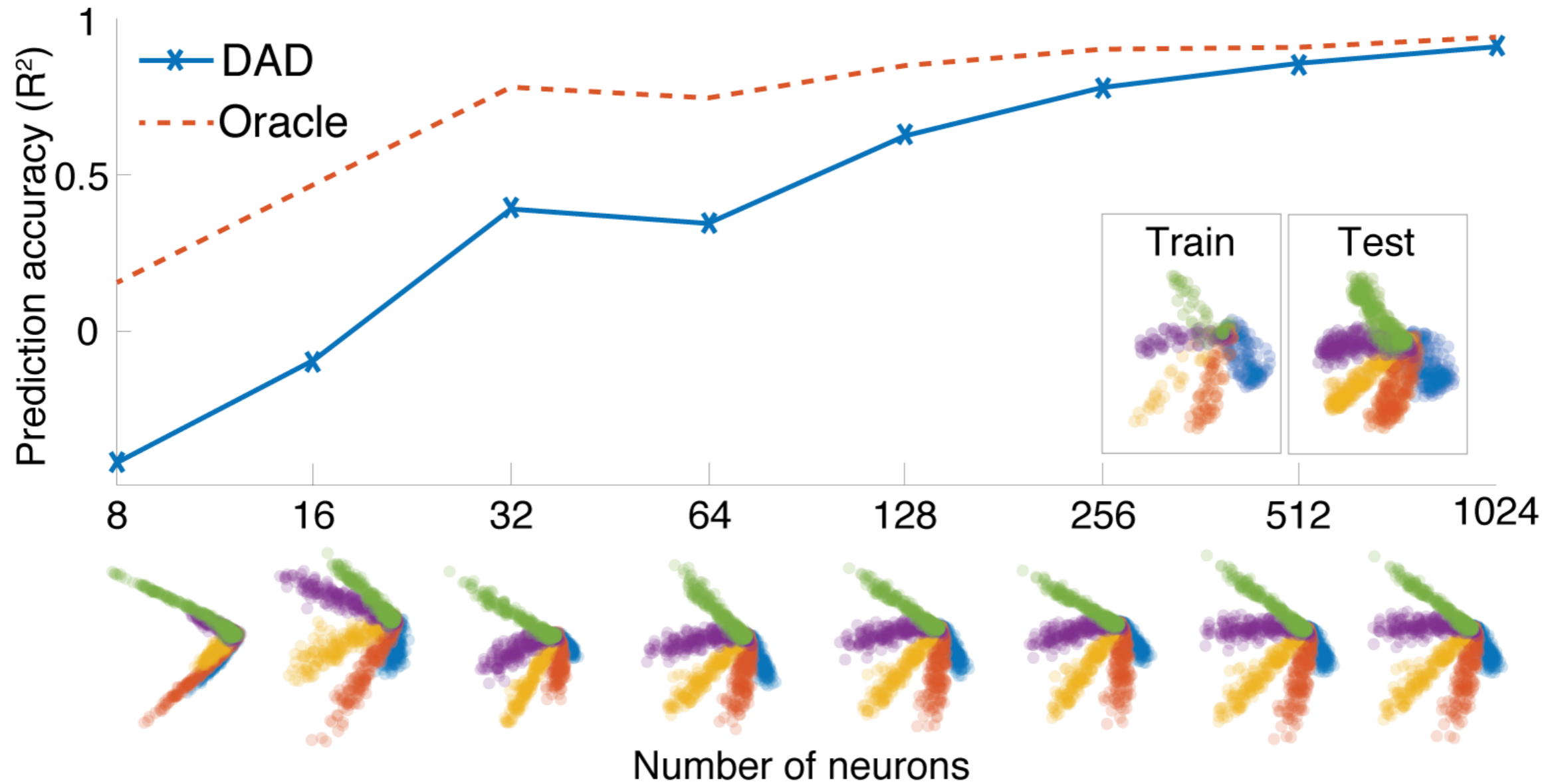
# decoding results



# decoding results



# increasing the population size

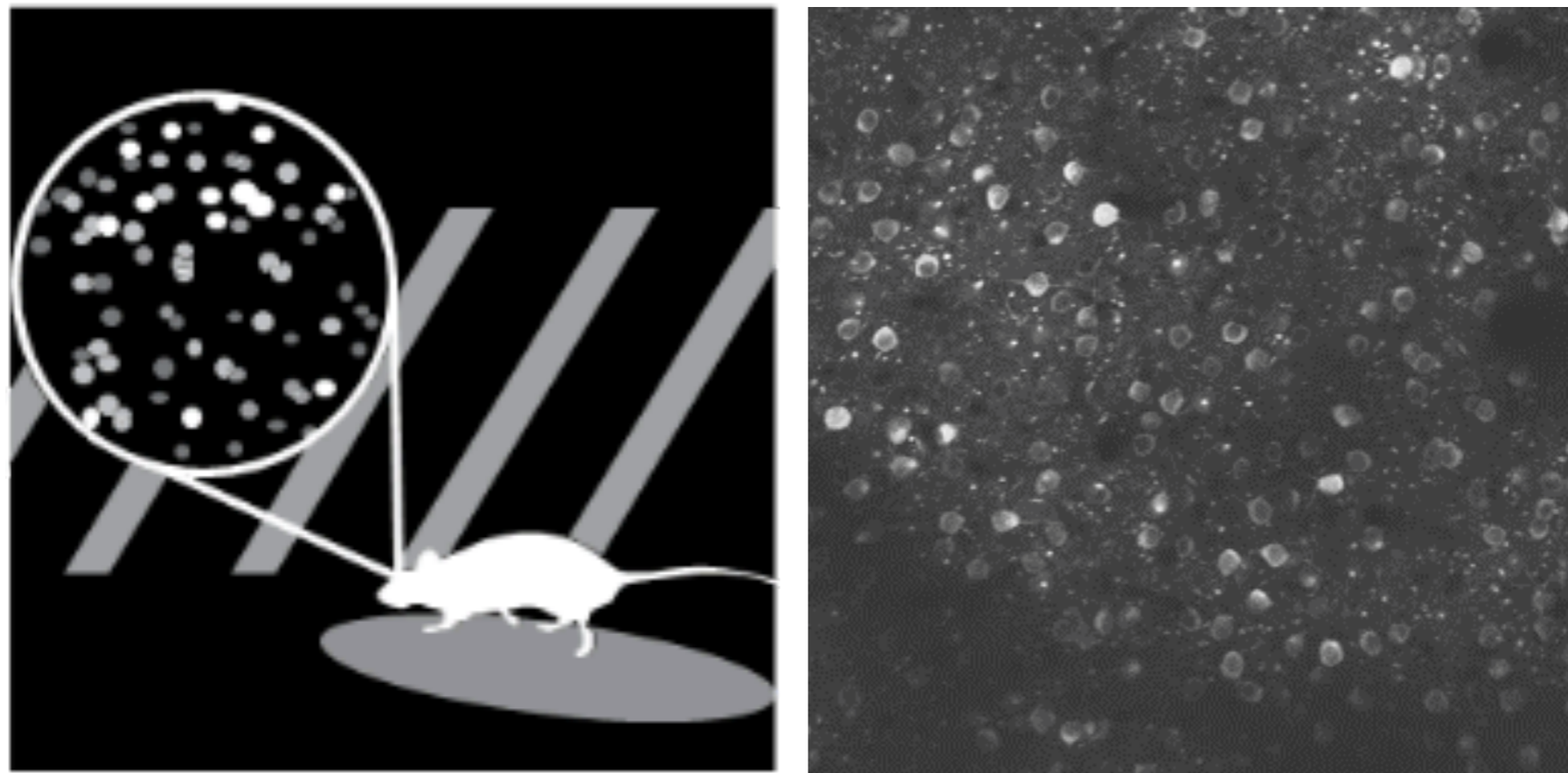


application to  
visual coding

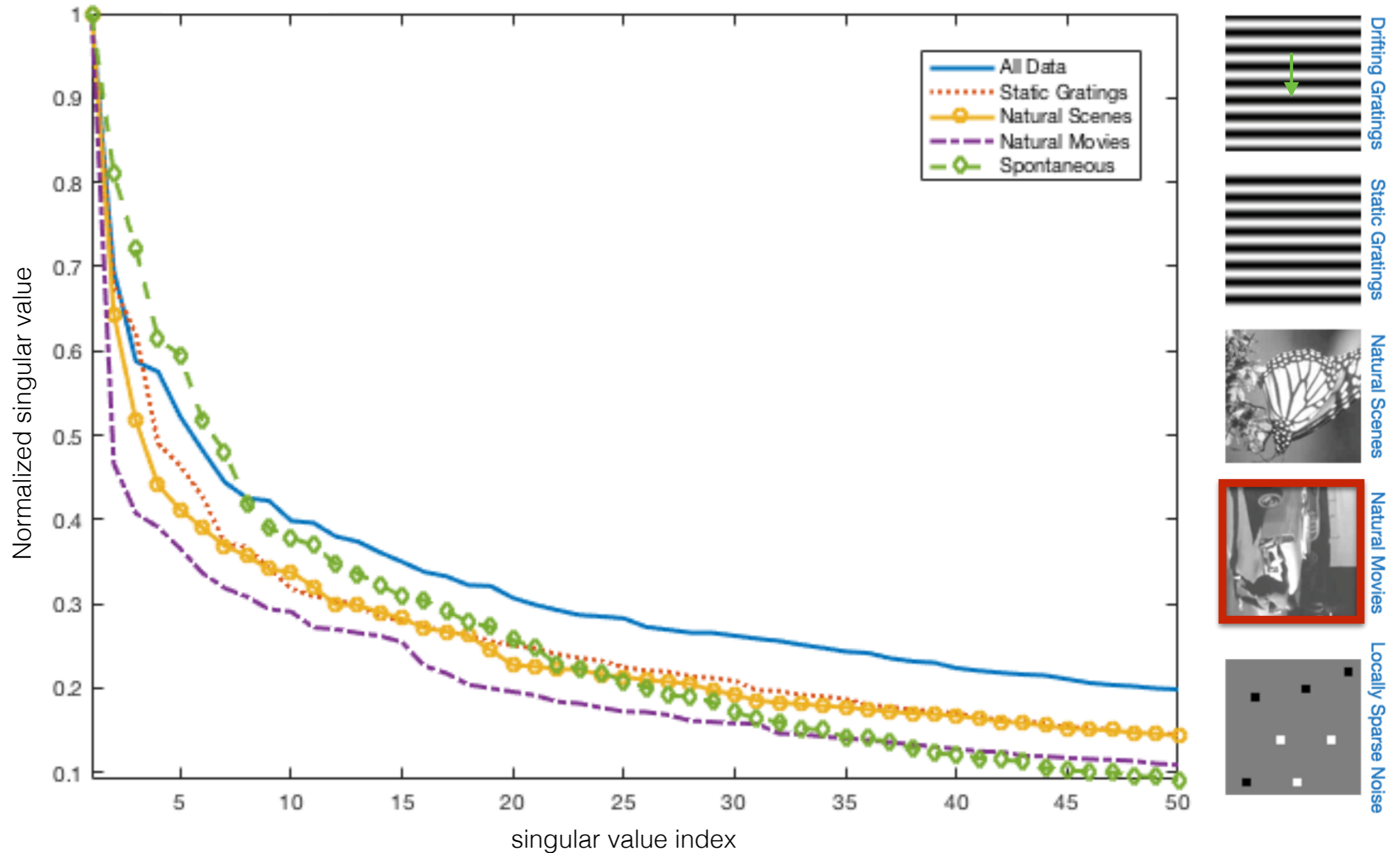


# visual coding

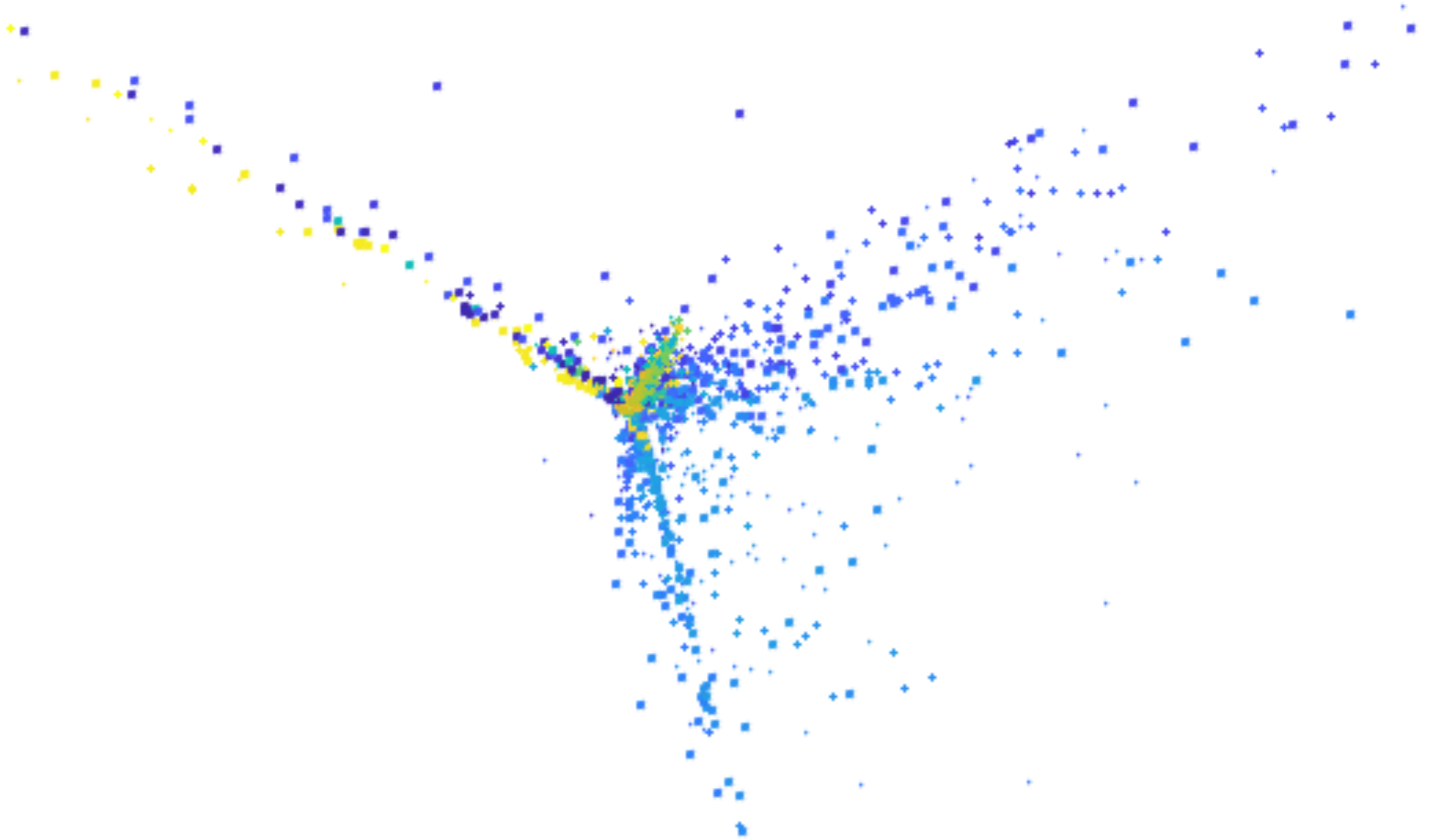
## Allen Institute Brain Observatory



# naturalistic stimuli are low-d



# visualizing population dynamics



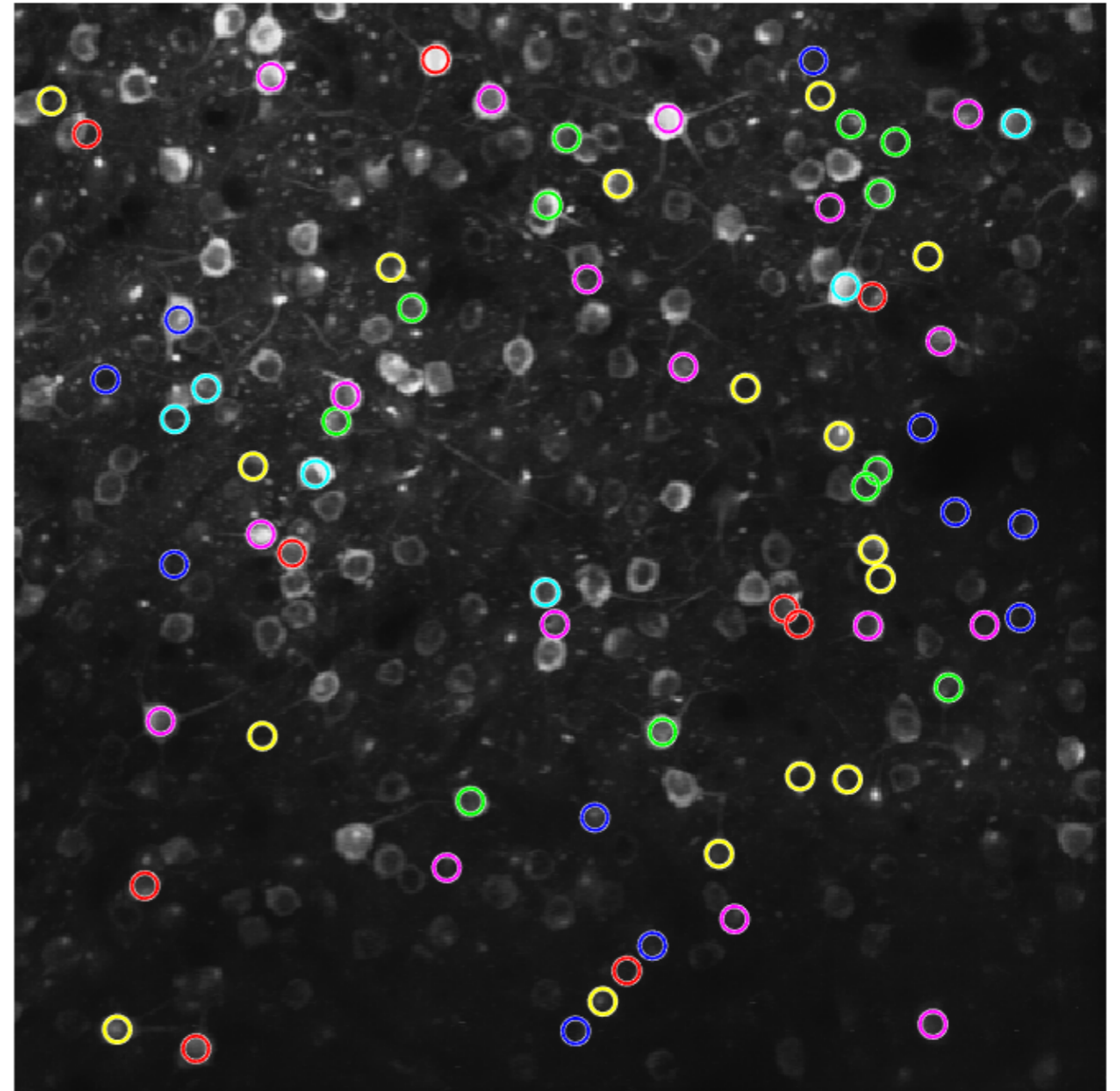
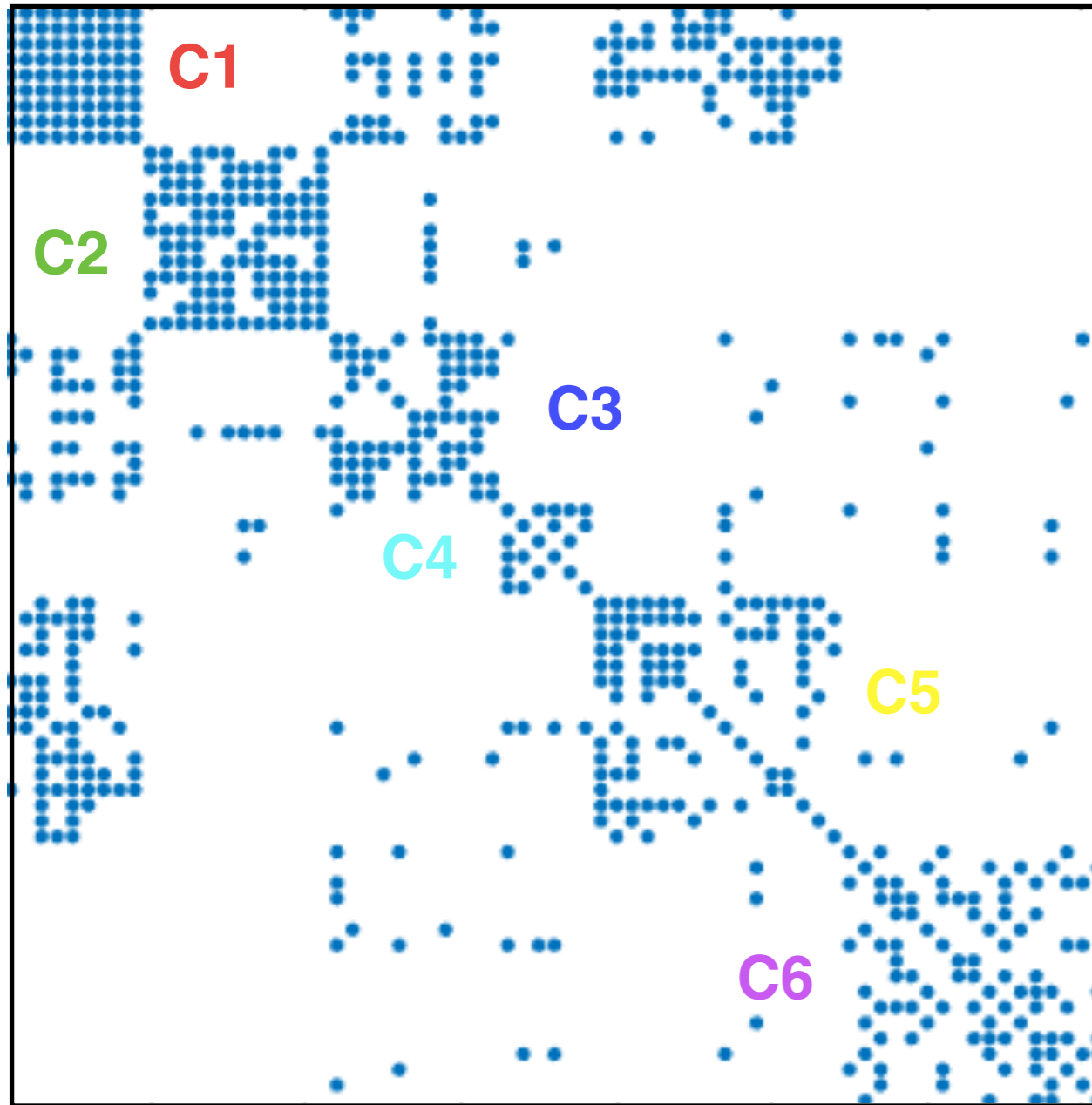
**all 212 neurons**

start

stop

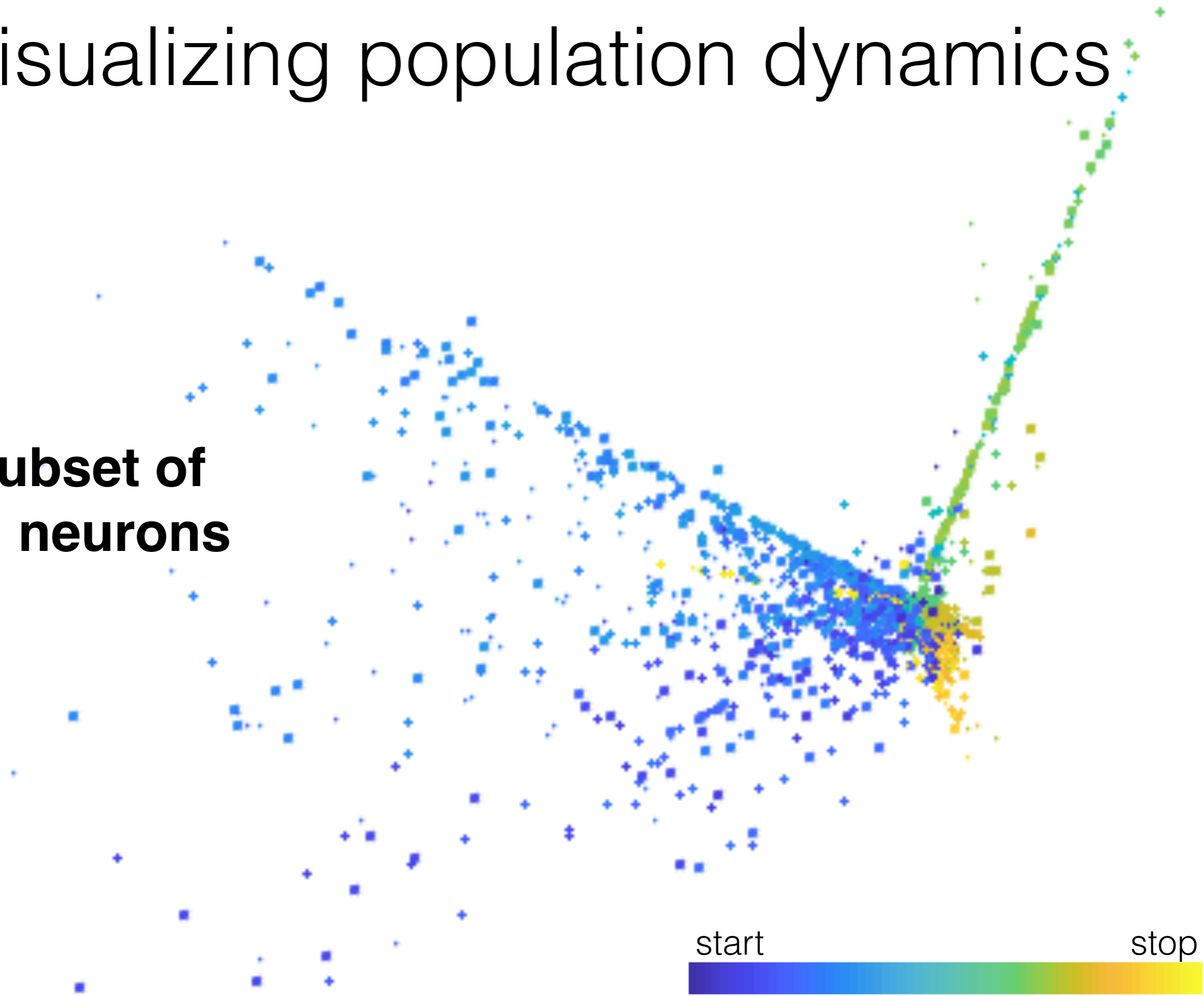


# cluster analysis - natural movies



# visualizing population dynamics

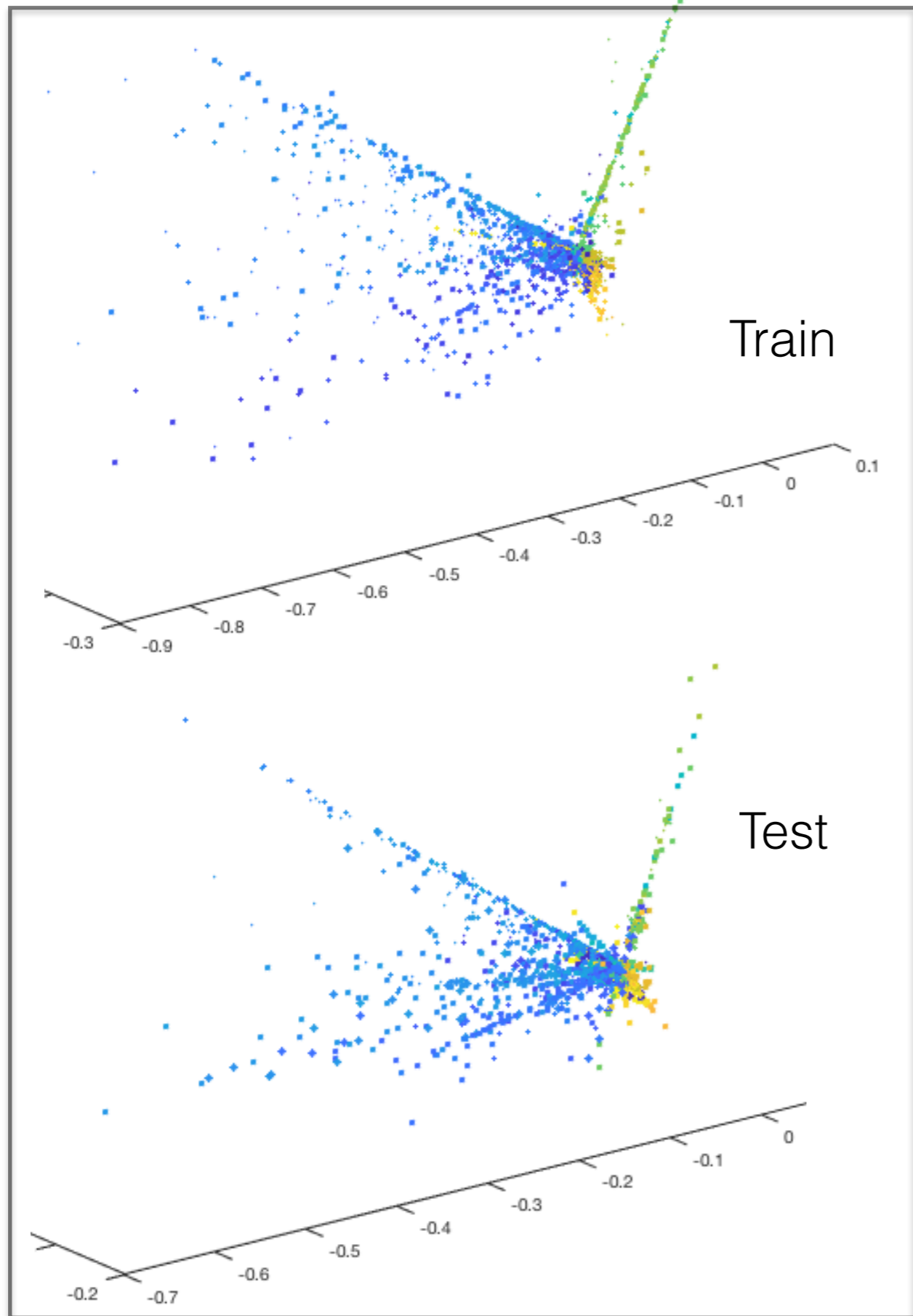
**subset of  
71 neurons**



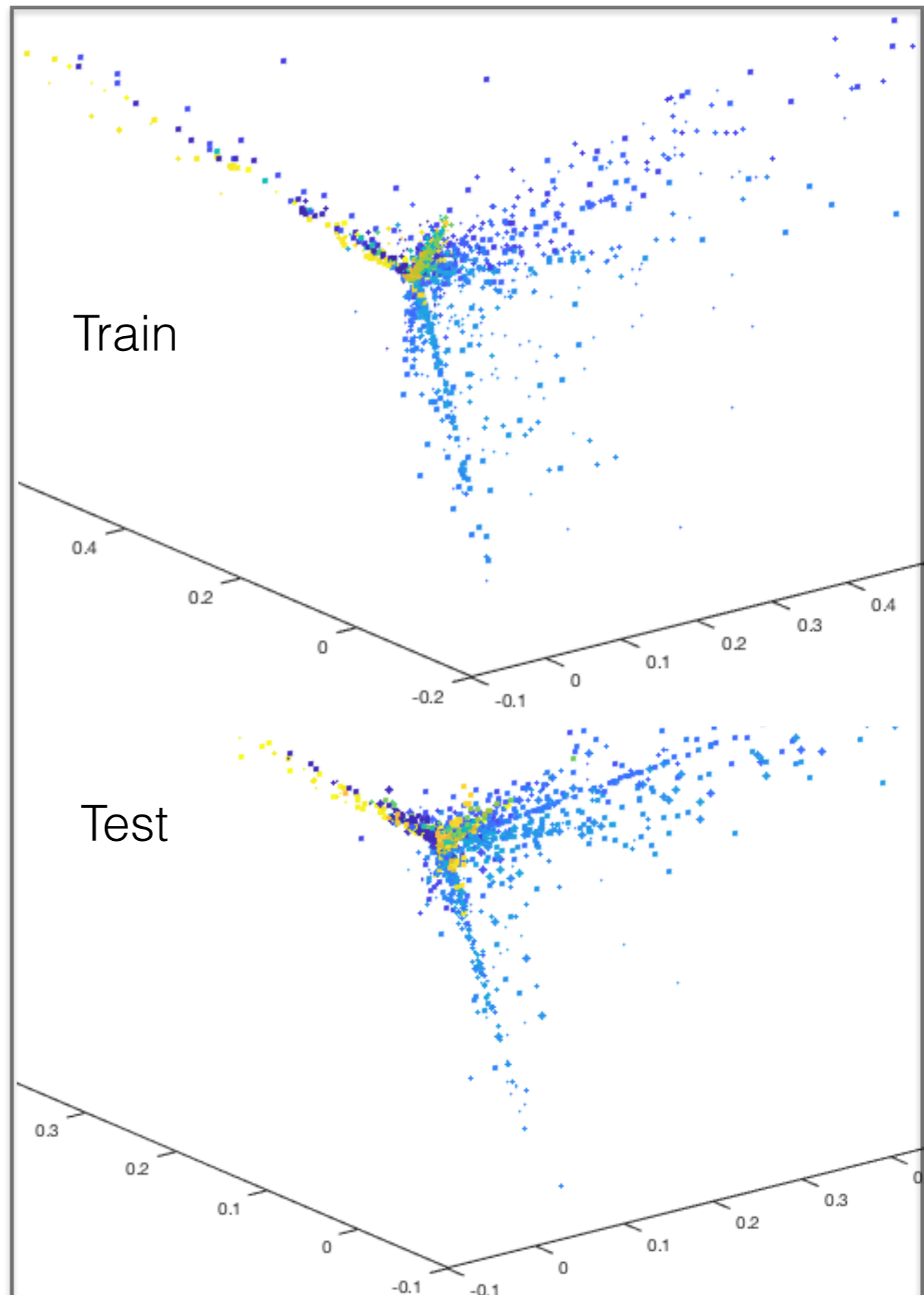
start

stop

**subset**



**all**



# summary

## **overview of low-dimensional models**

- Linear subspace models (PCA, FA, NMF)
- Manifold models (Isomap, LLE)
- Clustering models (kmeans)
- Unions of subspaces (SSC)

## **example 1: movement decoding**

- use movement priors to guide factorizations
- decode without supervised data

## **example 2: visual coding**

- cluster neurons then factorize
- not all neurons are created equal

# collaborators

## movement decoding

Mohammad Gheshlagi Azar (DeepMind)

Konrad Kording (UPenn)

Lee Miller (Northwestern)

## visual coding

Saskia de Vries (Allen Institute)



# code/data refs

## **Matlab Toolbox for dimensionality reduction**

- <https://lvdmaaten.github.io/drtoolbox/>

## **Python Tutorials on PCA**

- [https://sebastianraschka.com/Articles/2015\\_pca\\_in\\_3\\_steps.html](https://sebastianraschka.com/Articles/2015_pca_in_3_steps.html)

## **MATLAB Tutorial on Isomap**

- [http://www.numerical-tours.com/matlab/shapes\\_7\\_isomap/](http://www.numerical-tours.com/matlab/shapes_7_isomap/)

## **Distribution Alignment Decoding (DAD)**

- <https://github.com/KordingLab/DAD/tree/master/data/demo>

# paper refs

## **Dimensionality reduction for neural data (Review)**

- <https://stat.columbia.edu/~cunningham/pdf/CunninghamNN2014.pdf>

## **Distribution Alignment Decoding (DAD)**

- <http://rdcu.be/Bafy>

## **Brain Observatory Pipeline Paper**

- <https://www.biorxiv.org/content/early/2018/06/29/359513>

**thank you!**

**(web)**

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