

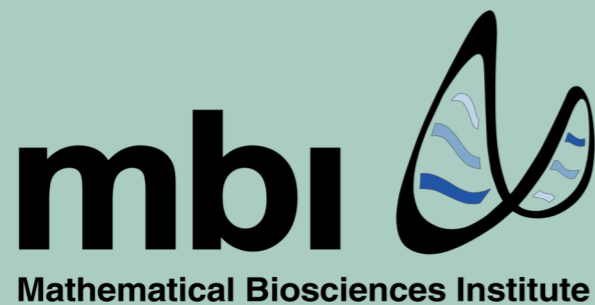
# TOPOLOGICAL DATA ANALYSIS FOR BIOLOGICAL RING CHANNELS

Veronica Ciocanel

OSU President's Postdoctoral Scholar

Mathematical Biosciences Institute

The Ohio State University

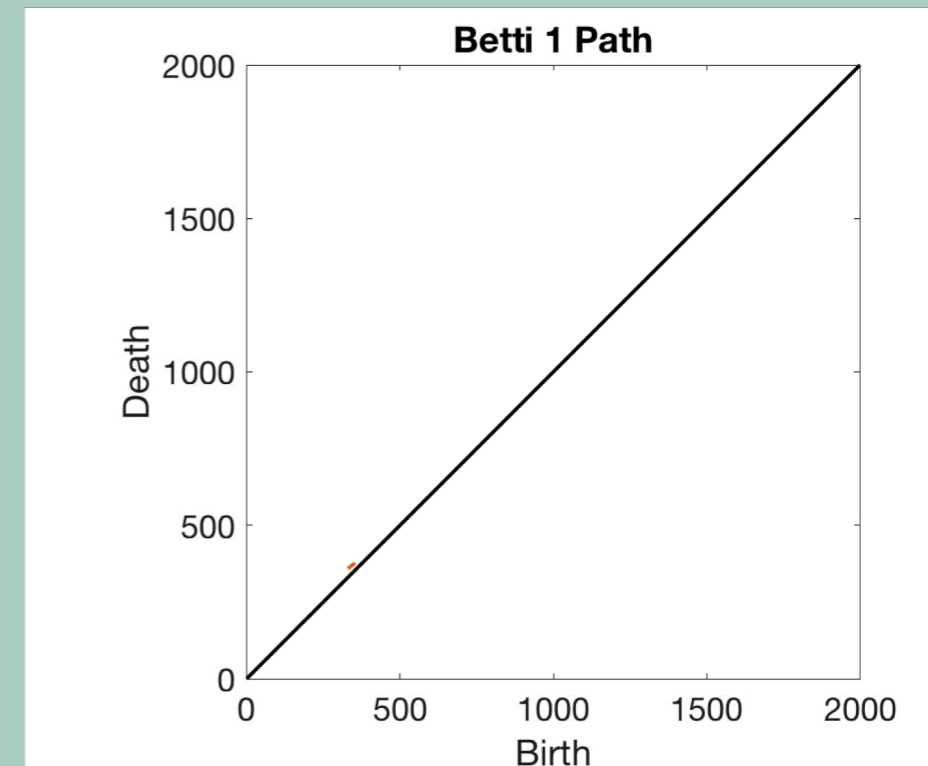


SIAM

Dynamical Systems

Snowbird, UT

May 21<sup>st</sup> 2019



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# TOPOLOGICAL DATA ANALYSIS FOR BIOLOGICAL RING CHANNELS

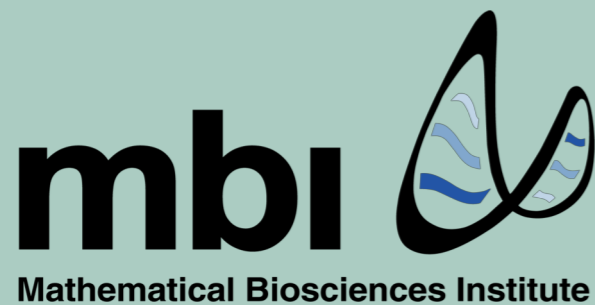
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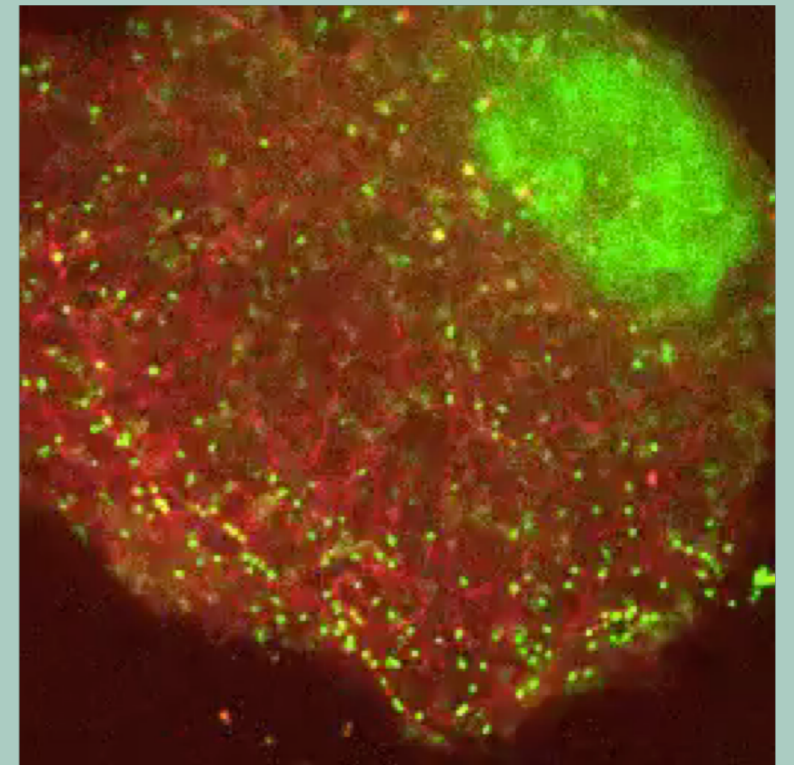


SIAM

Dynamical Systems

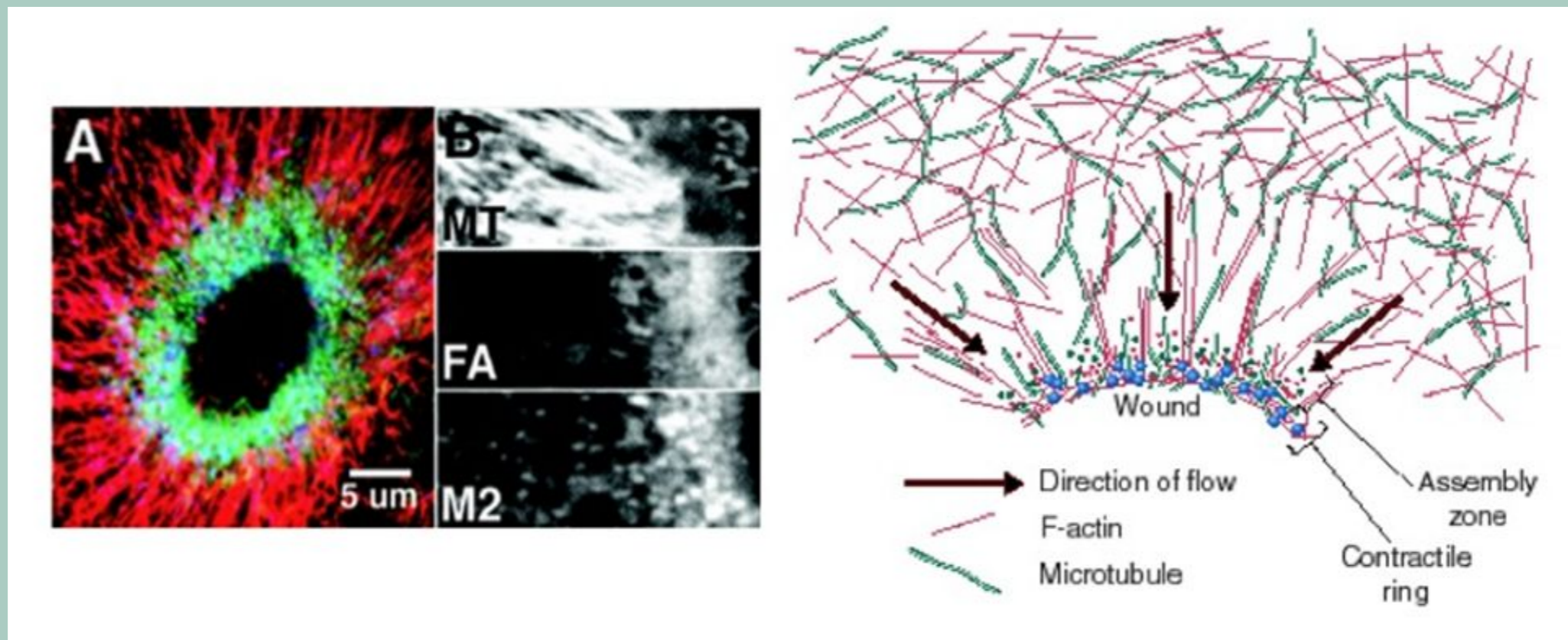
Snowbird, UT

May 21<sup>st</sup> 2019



# MOTIVATION

- Cells use many channels to communicate, each with different functions.
- **Ring channels** play critical roles in oogenesis, wound healing, and cell division.

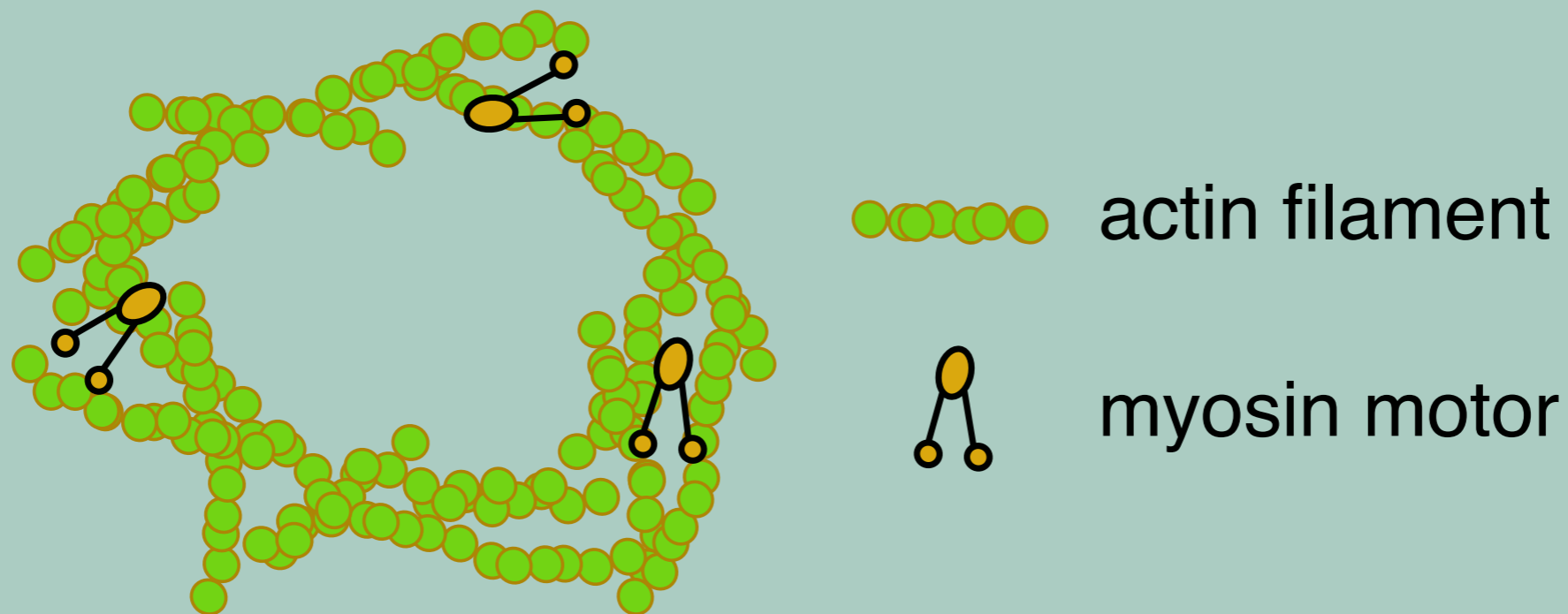


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# MOTIVATION

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- Often, ring channels maintain precise diameters over a large time scale.
- Non-muscle myosin motor proteins are often “in charge” of creating appropriate constriction of the ring.





# SPECIFIC MOTIVATION



Biophysical Journal  
Article



## Antagonistic Behaviors of NMY-1 and NMY-2 Maintain Ring Channels in the *C. elegans* Gonad

Valerie C. Coffman,<sup>1</sup> Torah M. Kachur,<sup>2</sup> David B. Pilgrim,<sup>2</sup> and Adriana T. Dawes<sup>1,3,\*</sup>

<sup>1</sup>Department of Molecular Genetics, The Ohio State University, Columbus, Ohio; <sup>2</sup>Department of Biological Sciences, University of Alberta, Edmonton, Alberta Canada; and <sup>3</sup>Department of Mathematics, The Ohio State University, Columbus, Ohio

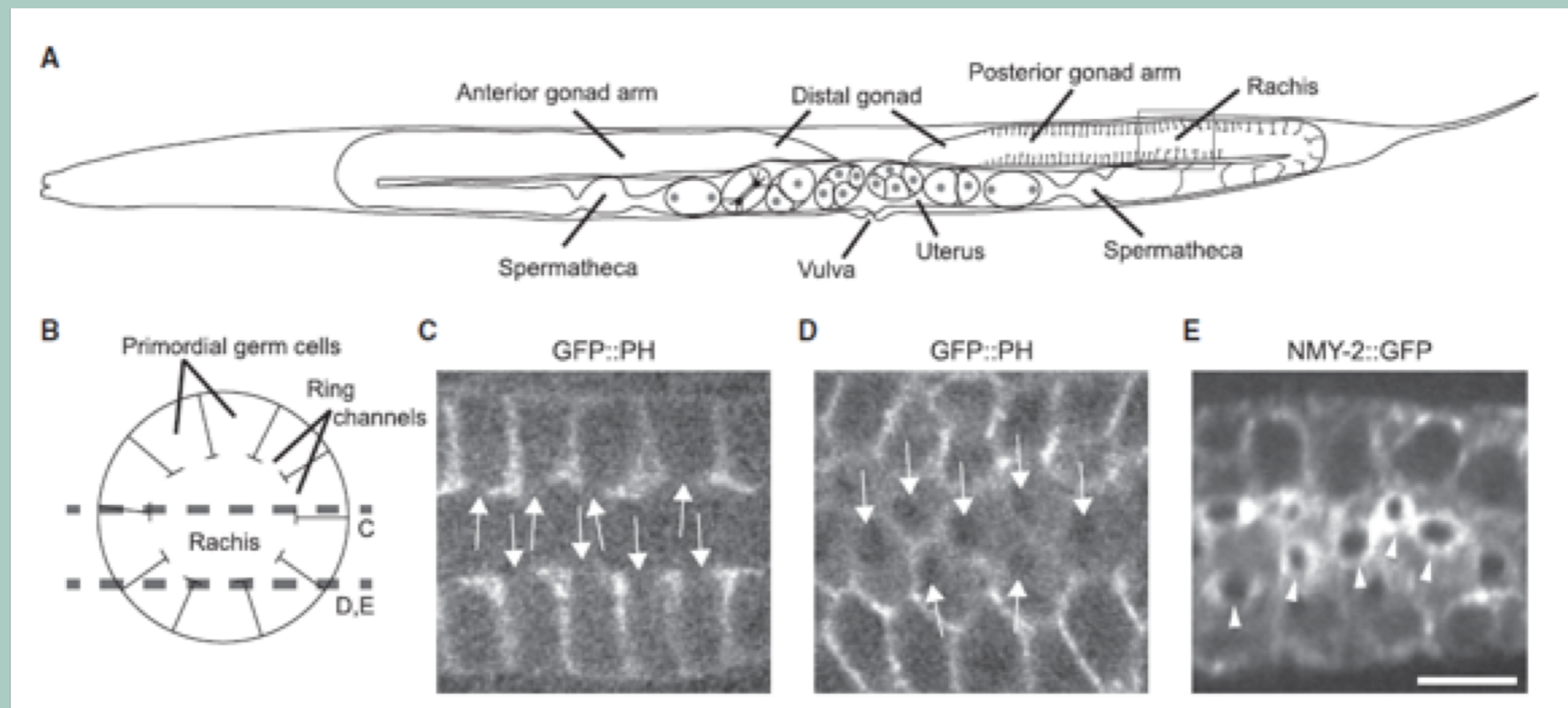
**ABSTRACT** Contractile rings play critical roles in a number of biological processes, including oogenesis, wound healing, and cytokinesis. In many cases, the activity of motor proteins such as nonmuscle myosins is required for appropriate constriction of these contractile rings. In the gonad of the nematode worm *Caenorhabditis elegans*, ring channels are a specialized form of contractile ring that are maintained at a constant diameter before oogenesis. We propose a model of ring channel maintenance that explicitly incorporates force generation by motor proteins that can act normally or tangentially to the ring channel opening. We find that both modes of force generation are needed to maintain the ring channels. We demonstrate experimentally that the type II myosins NMY-1 and NMY-2 antagonize each other in the ring channels by producing force in perpendicular directions: the experimental depletion of NMY-1/theoretical decrease in orthogonal force allows premature ring constriction and cellularization, whereas the experimental depletion of NMY-2/theoretical decrease in tangential force opens the ring channels and prevents cellularization. Together, our experimental and theoretical results show that both forces, mediated by NMY-1 and NMY-2, are crucial for maintaining the appropriate ring channel diameter and dynamics throughout the gonad.



Adriana Dawes, OSU

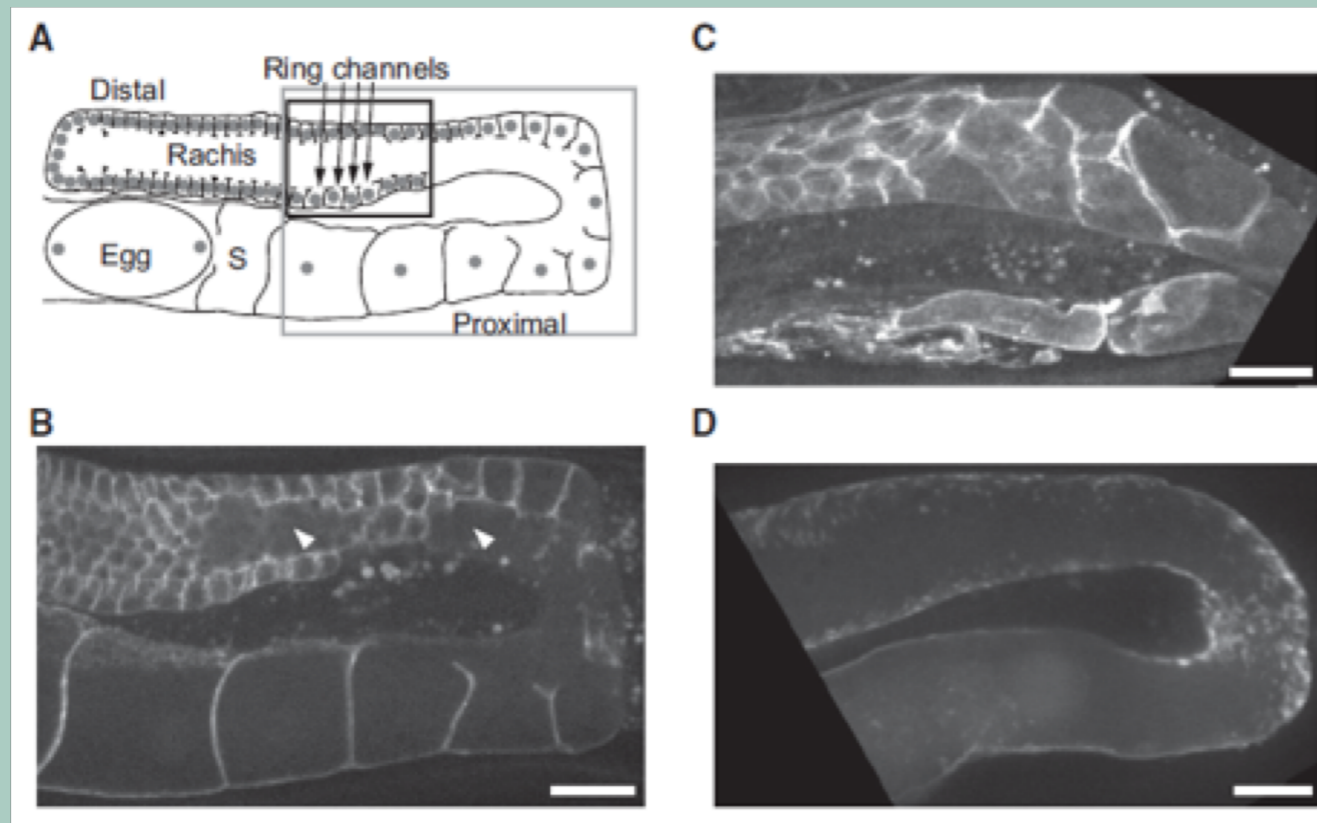
- ❑ In the worm *C. elegans*: ring channels allow for nutrient exchange in development.

# SPECIFIC MOTIVATION



- Ring channels (formed of actin polymers) in the worm.

# THE QUESTION



Knockdown  
motor 1

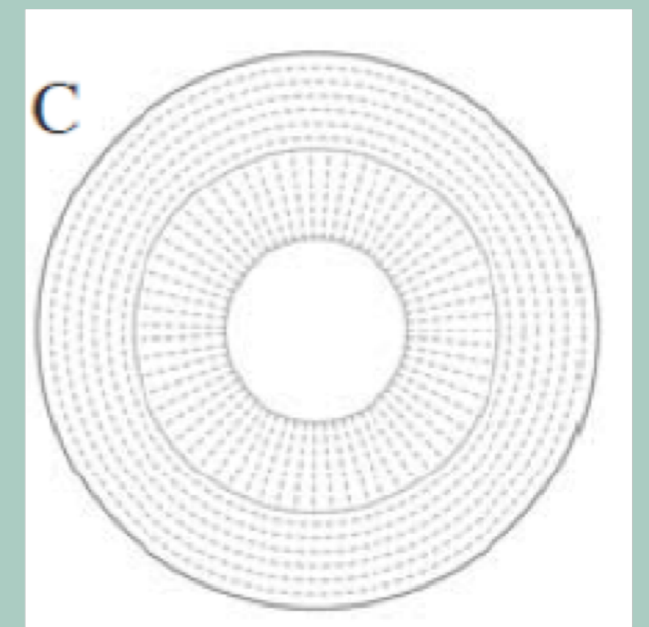
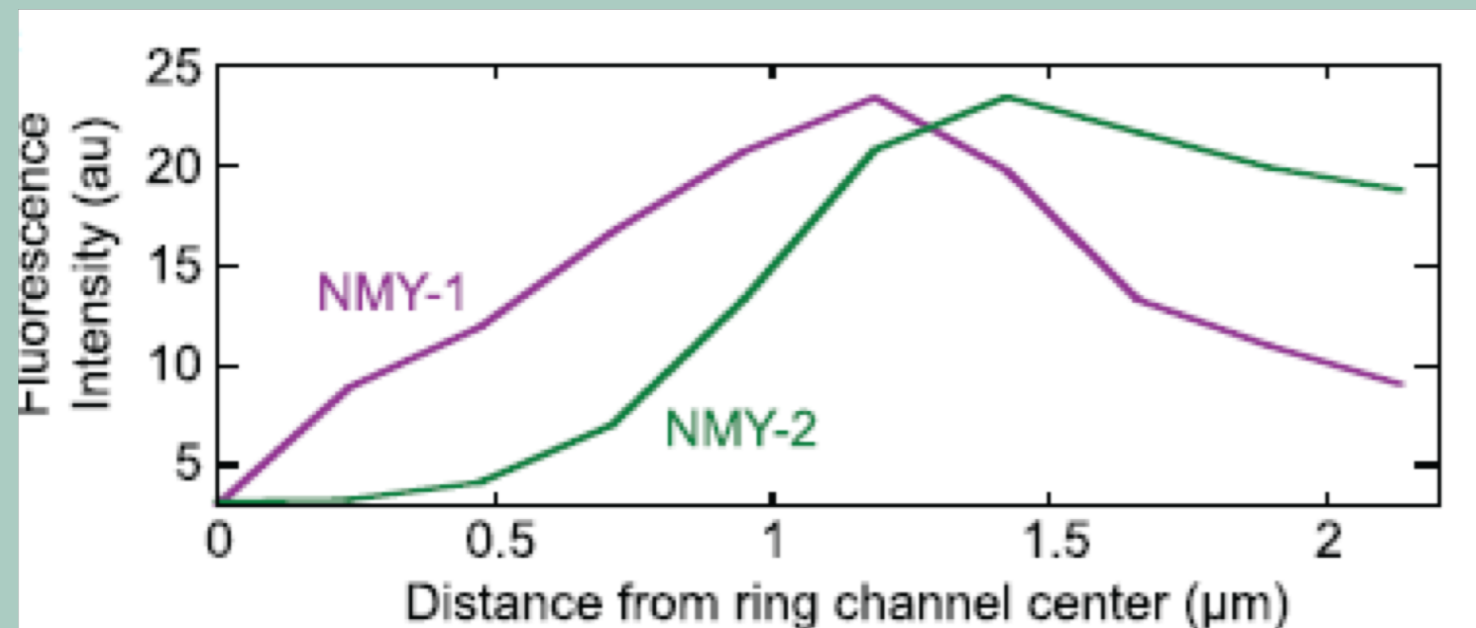
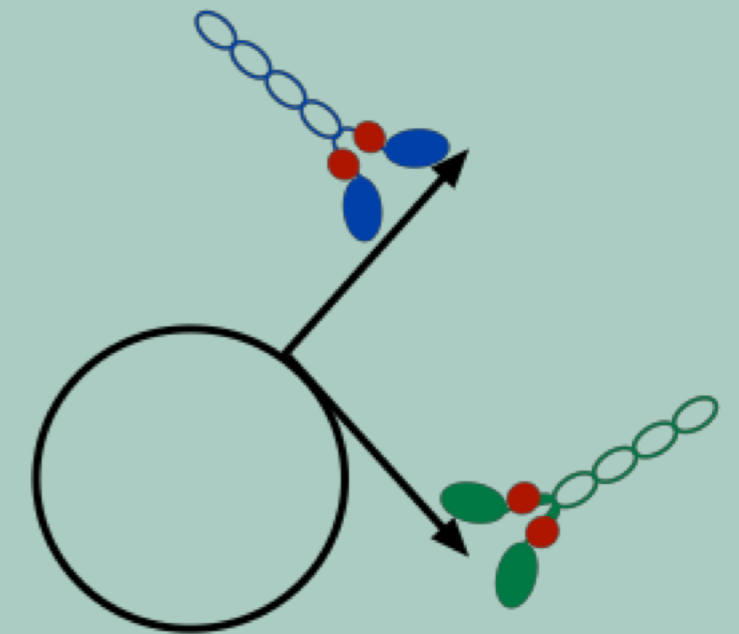
Knockdown  
motor 2

- ❑ Two types of myosin motors, believed to function similarly, are involved in ring channel dynamics.
- ❑ Experiments show that they antagonize each other with respect to cellularization.



# GOALS

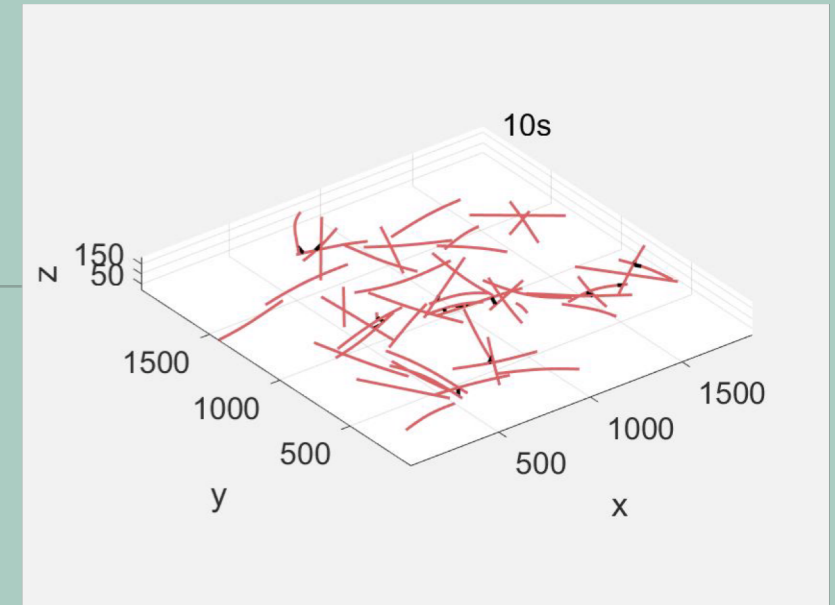
- Investigate ring formation using agent-based models for actin filaments and motors.
- Identify potential mechanistic differences between motors.



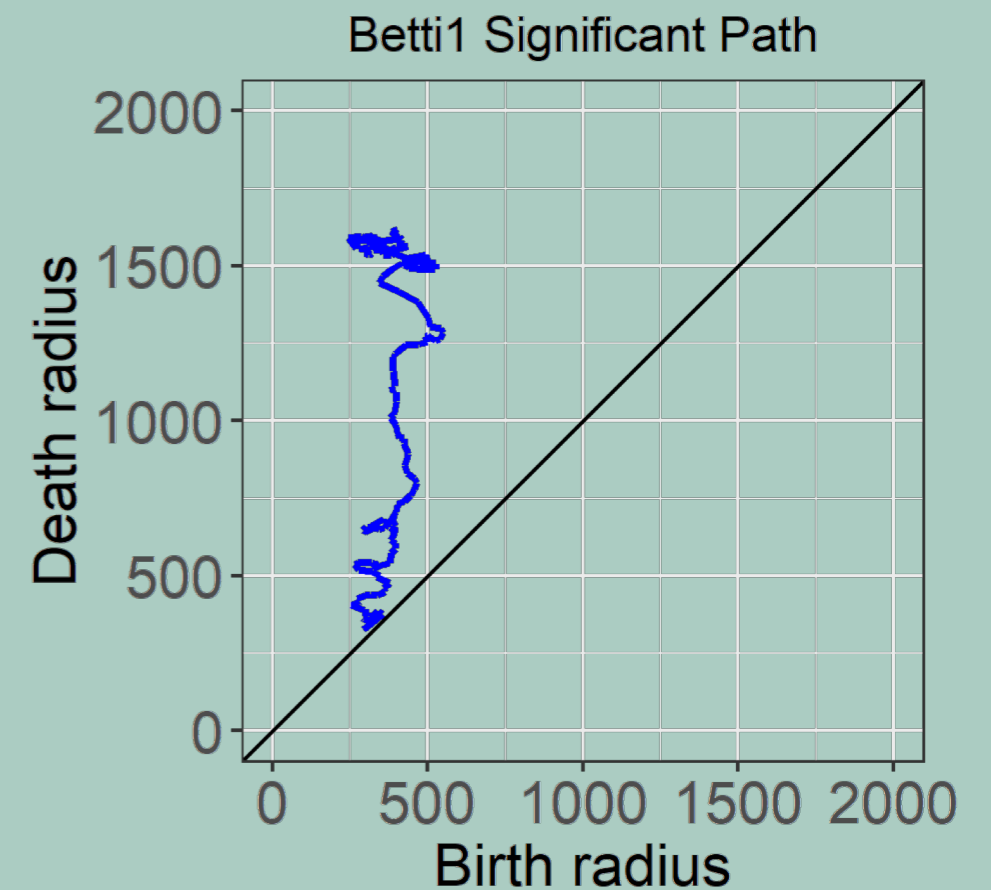


# OUTLINE

1. Agent-based model simulations of actin-myosin interactions and data analysis measures



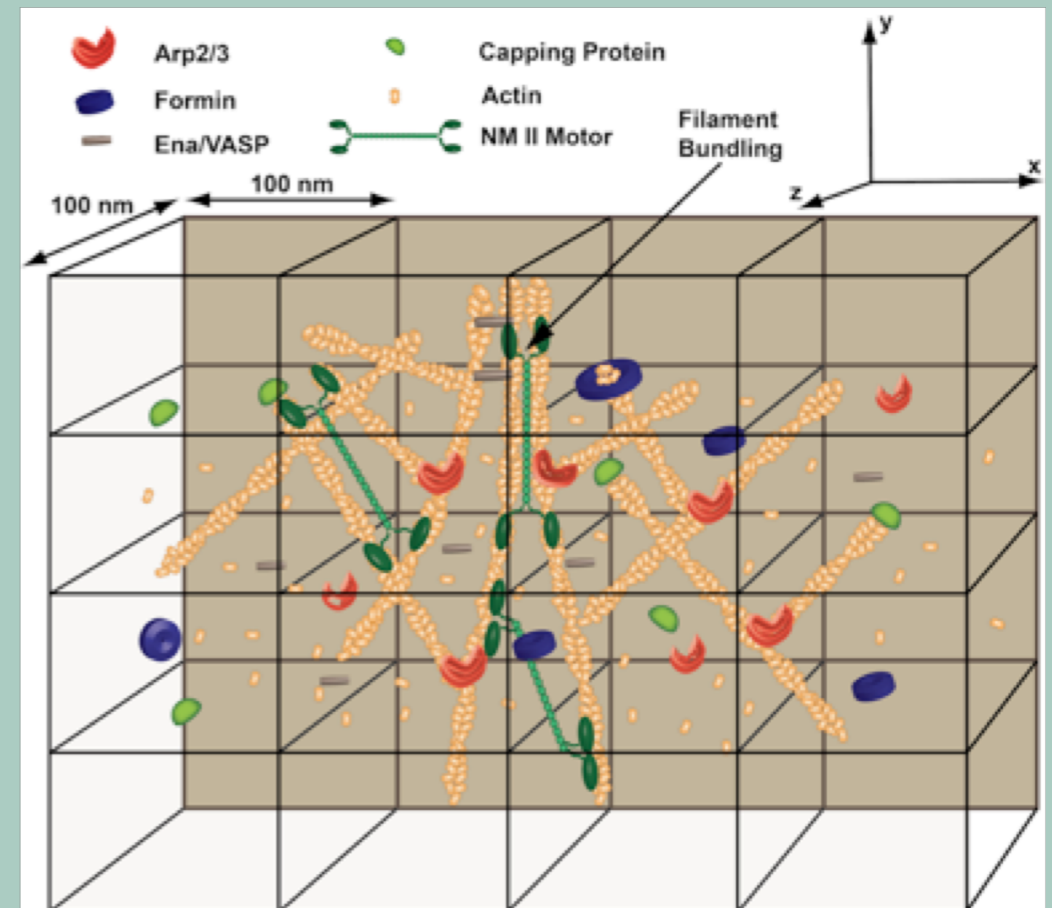
2. Detecting ring structure in time-series simulation data



3. Connection with in vitro experimental data

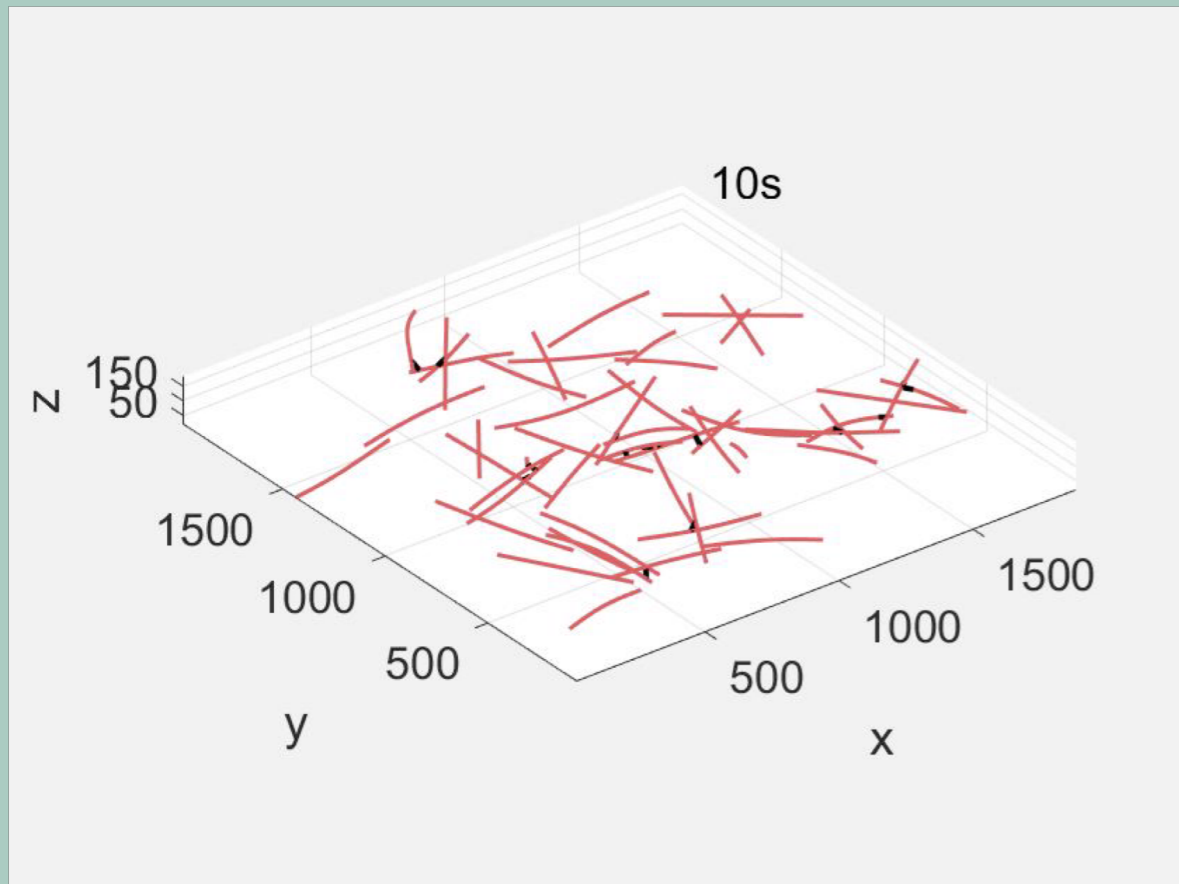
# I. AGENT-BASED MODELING AND SIMULATION

- Accounts for dynamics and molecular transport of chemical species.
- Diffusion and active transport are modeled as stochastic jumps between compartments.
- Is based on energy minimization.



Medyan (Papoian Lab)

# DATA ANALYSIS MEASURES



*Riley Juenemann,  
Tulane University*



*Scott McKinley,  
Tulane University*

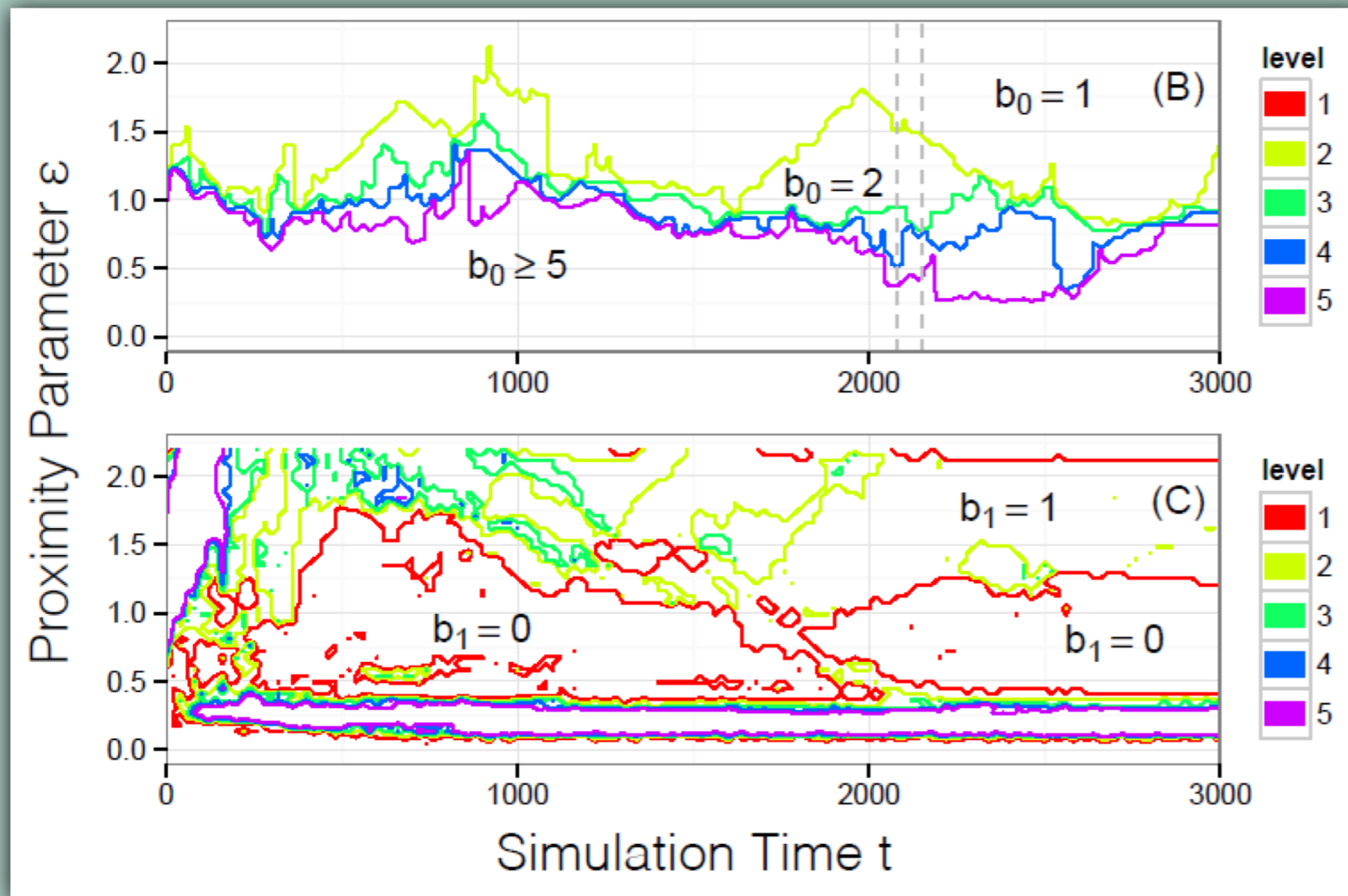
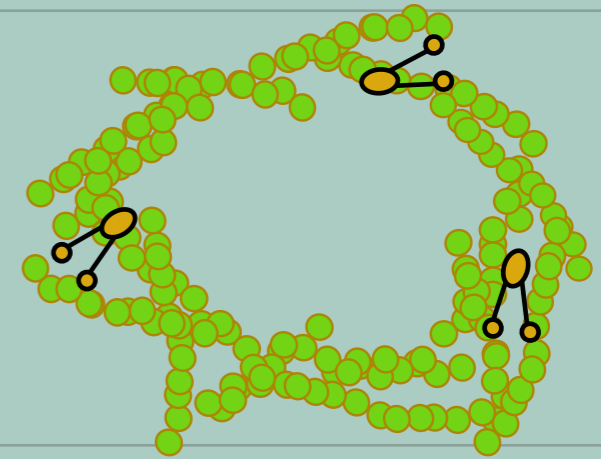
actin  
filament

myosin  
motor

cross-  
linker

□ Contractility, alignment, filament length distributions

# 2. DETECTING RING STRUCTURE

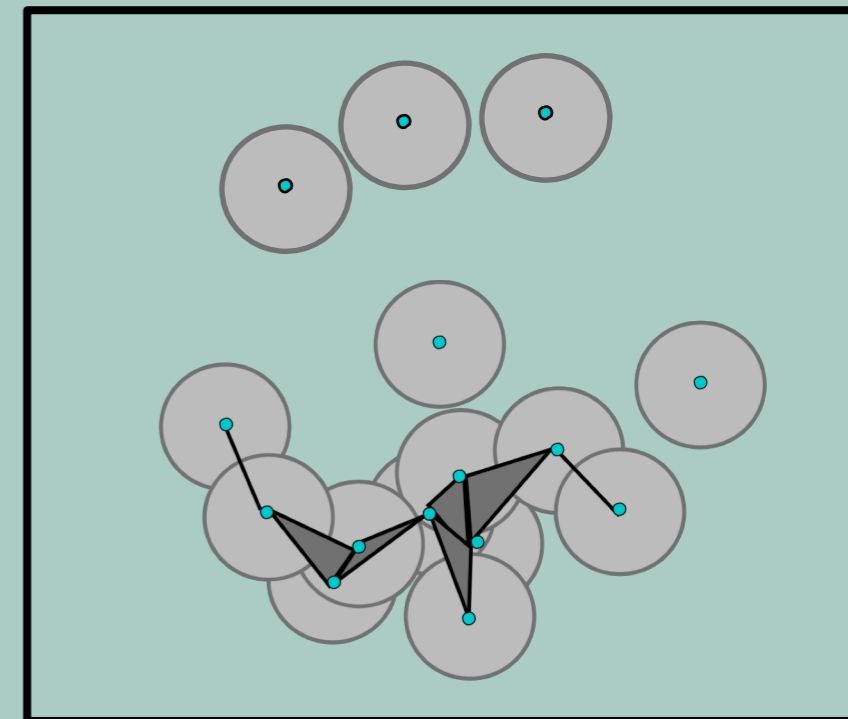
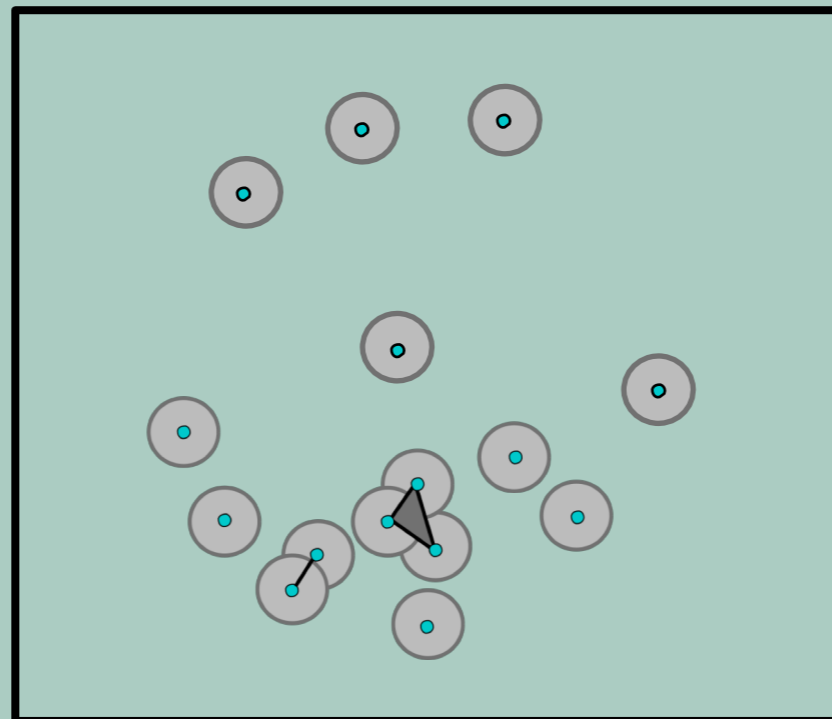
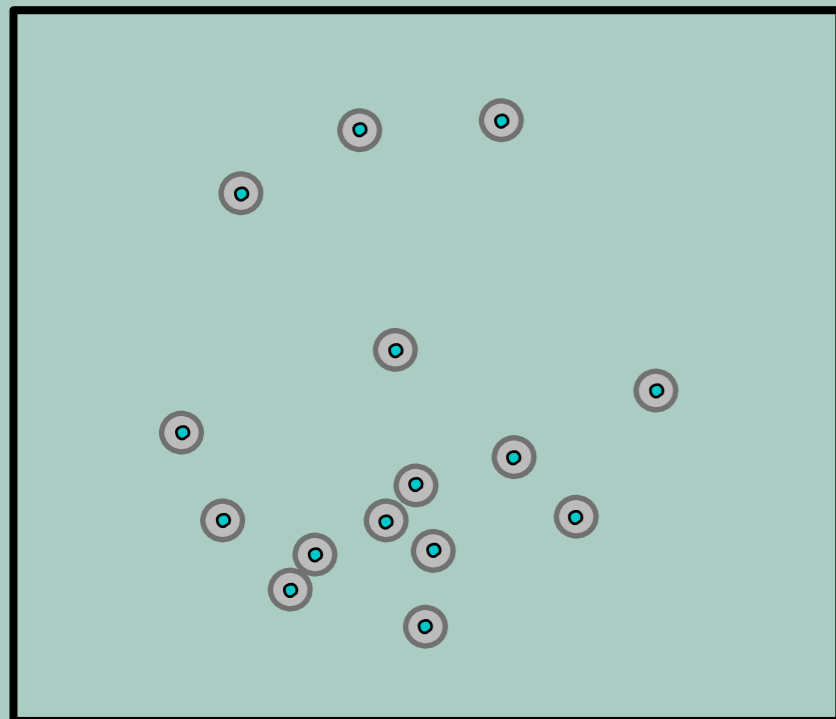
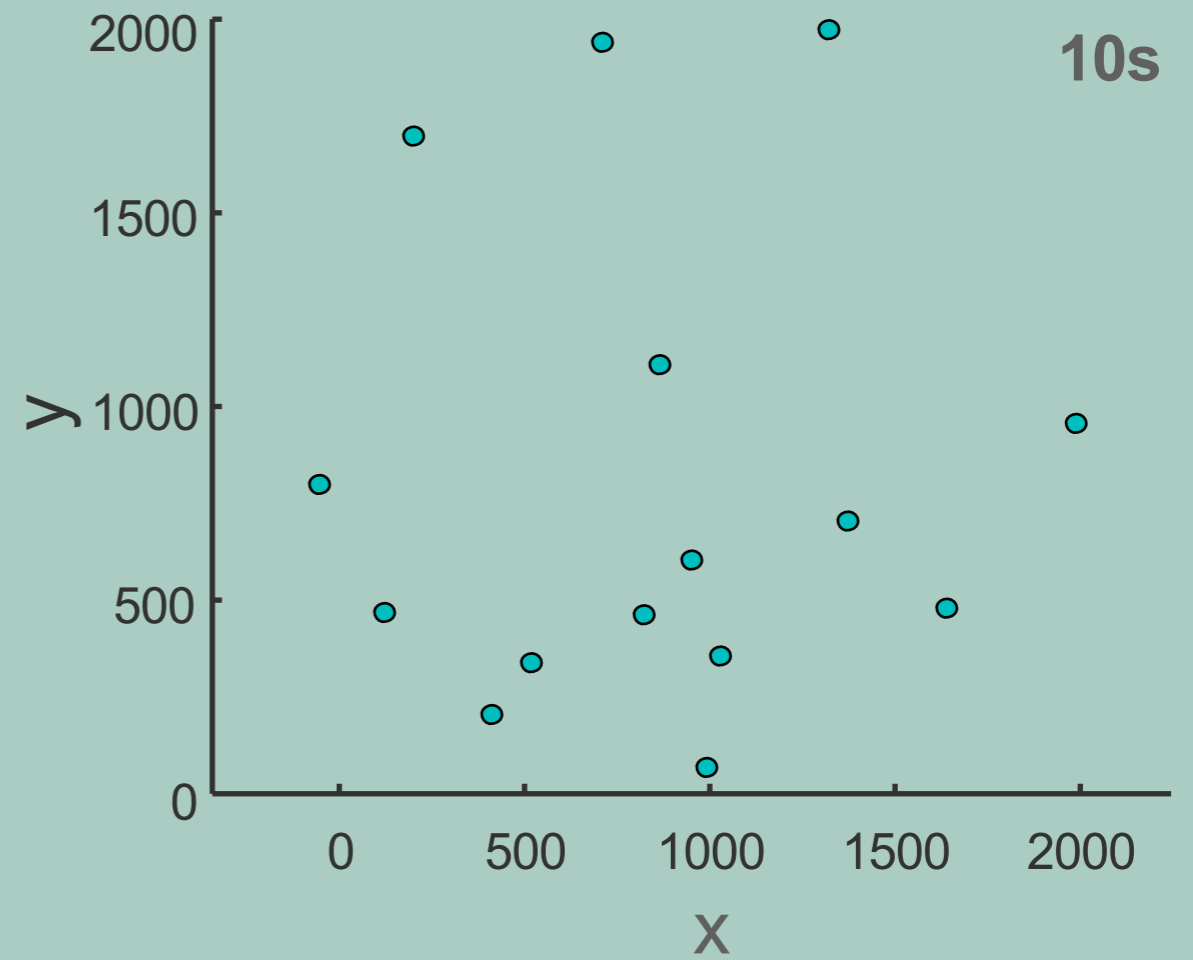
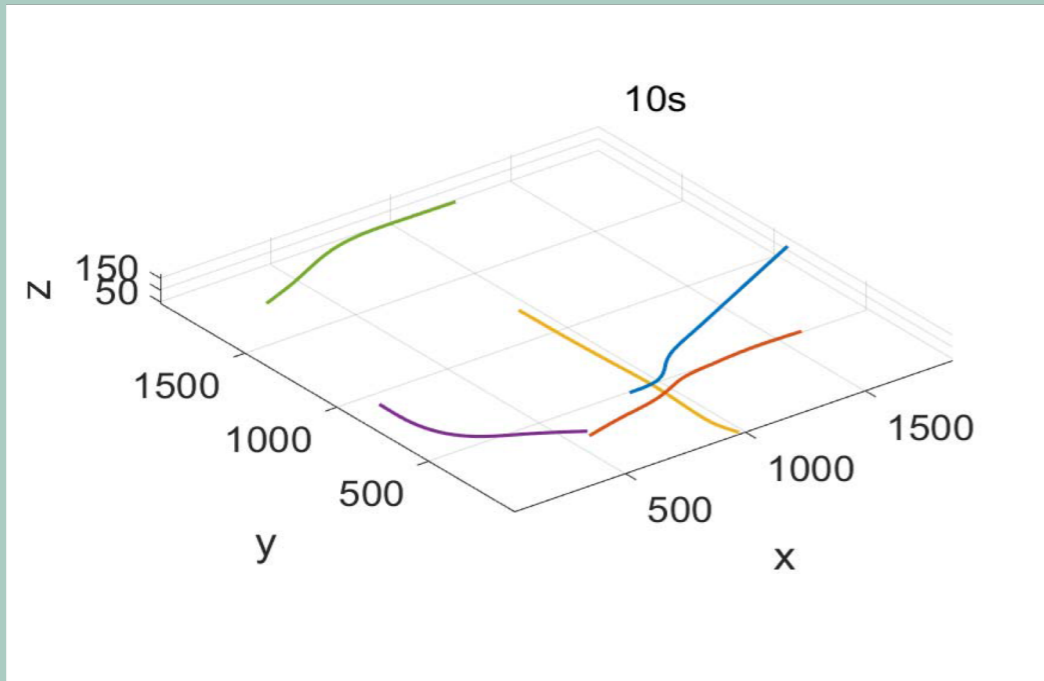


*Chad Topaz,  
Williams College*

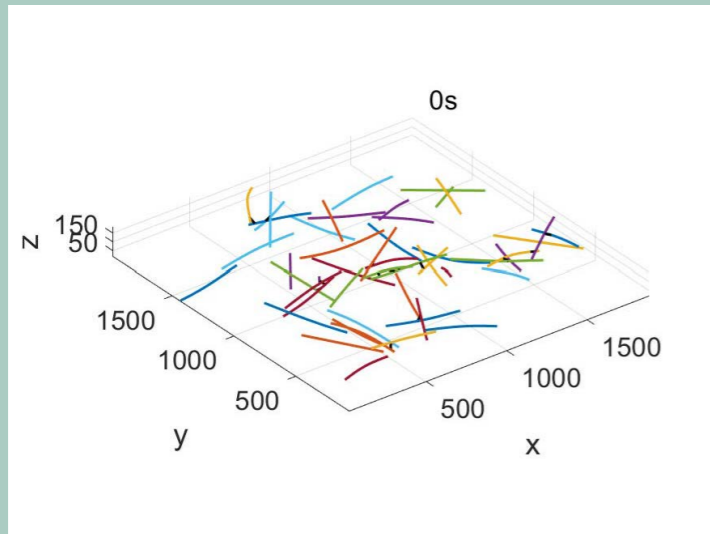
□ Inspiration: Crocker plots (Topaz, Zieglemeier, Halverson)



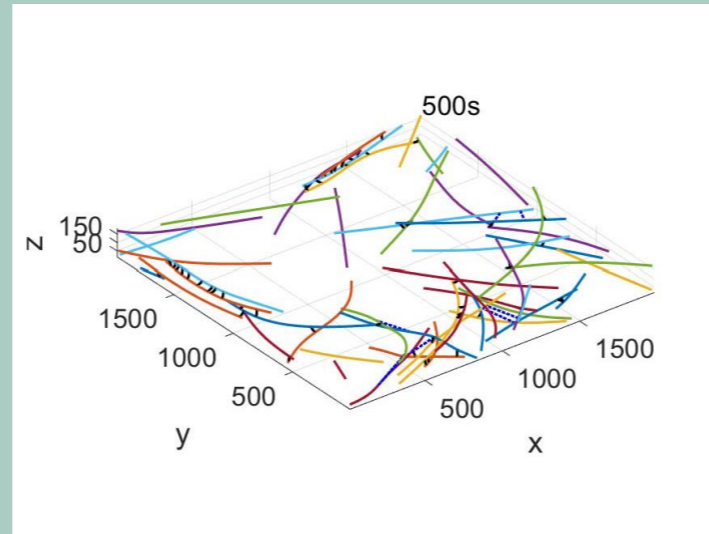
# FRAMEWORK



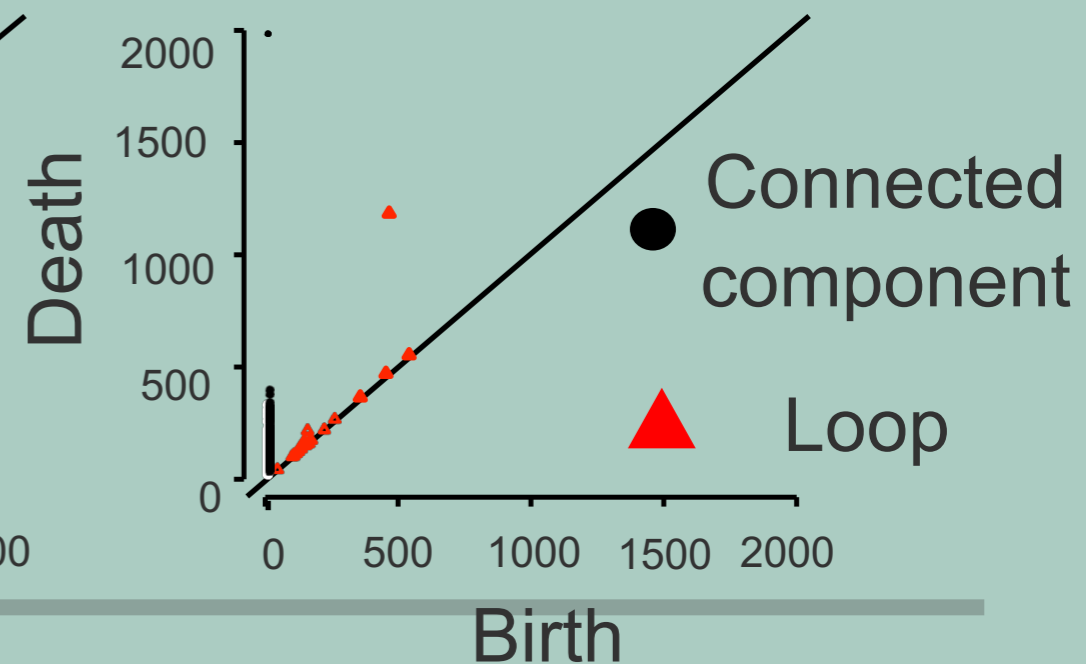
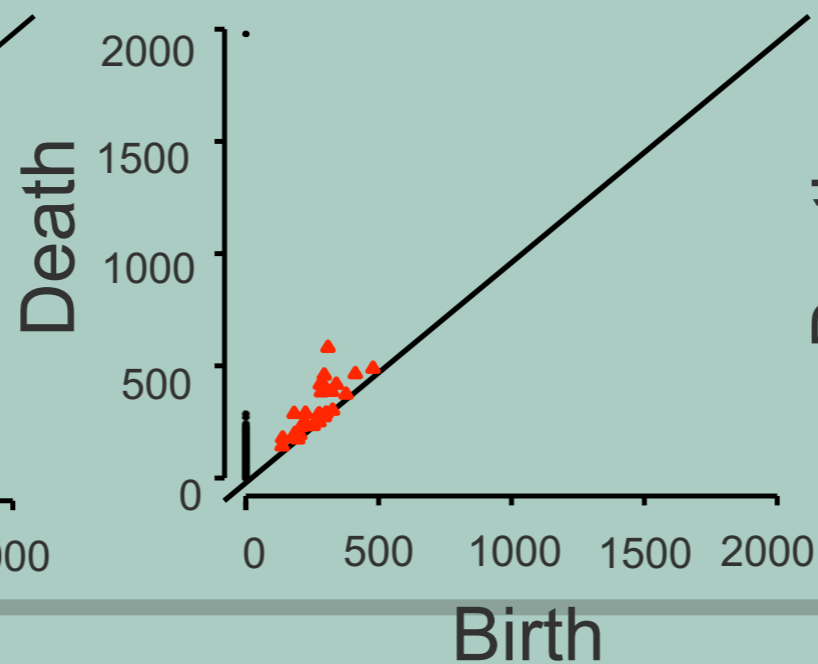
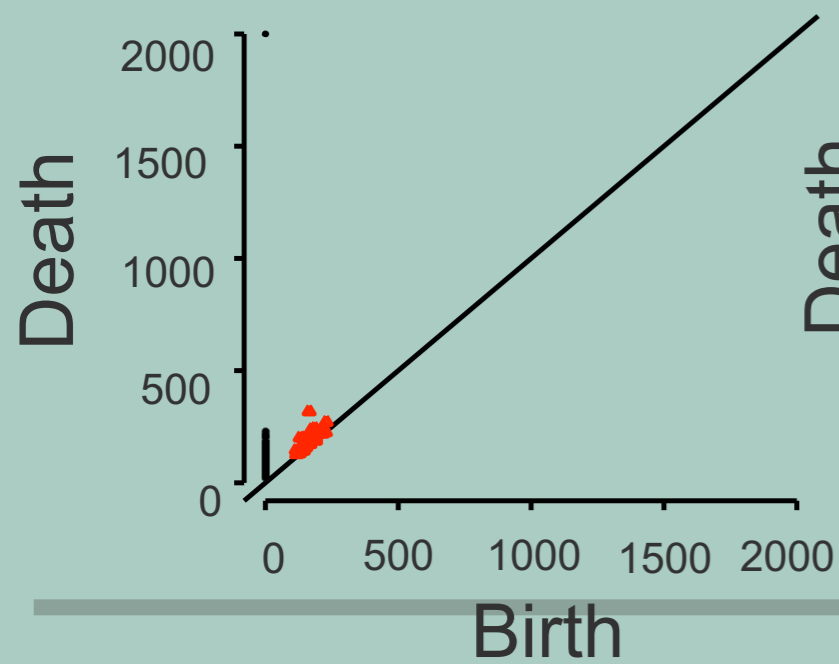
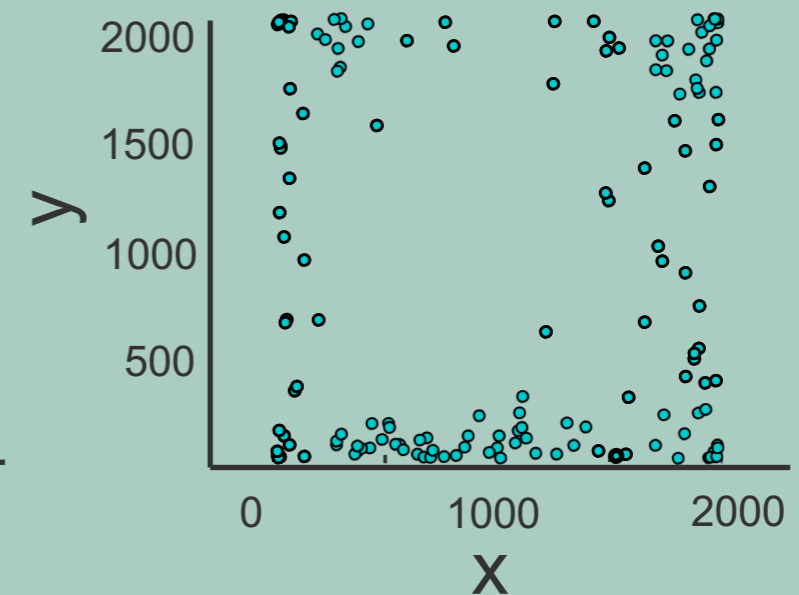
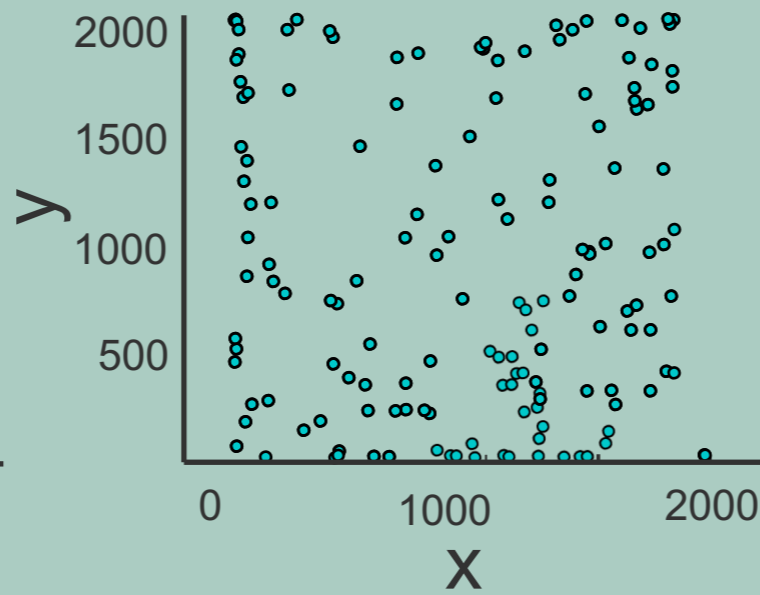
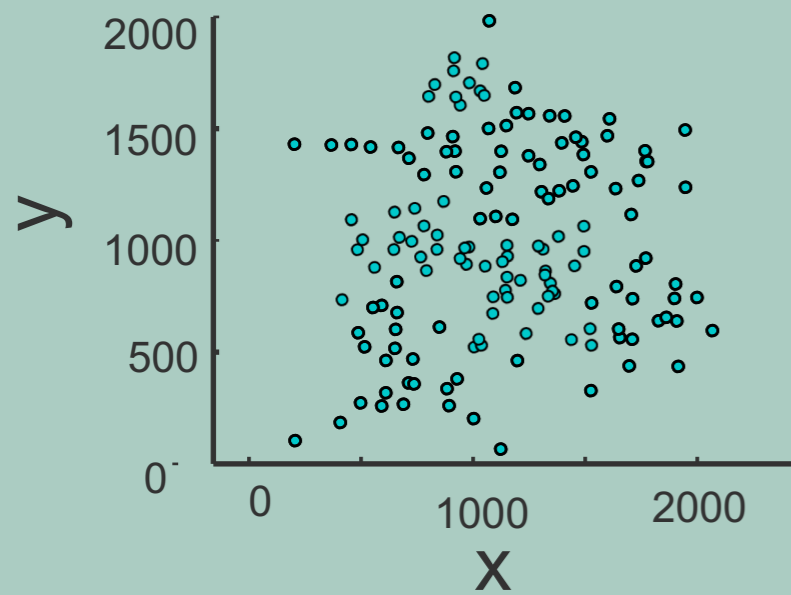
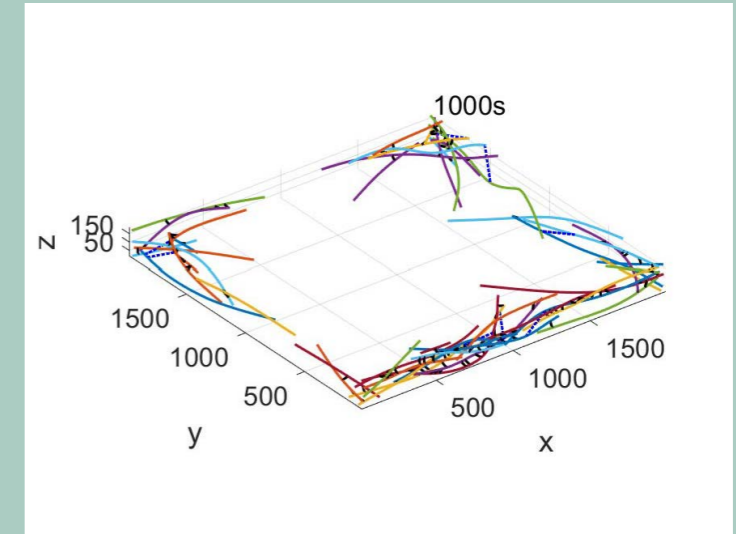
0s

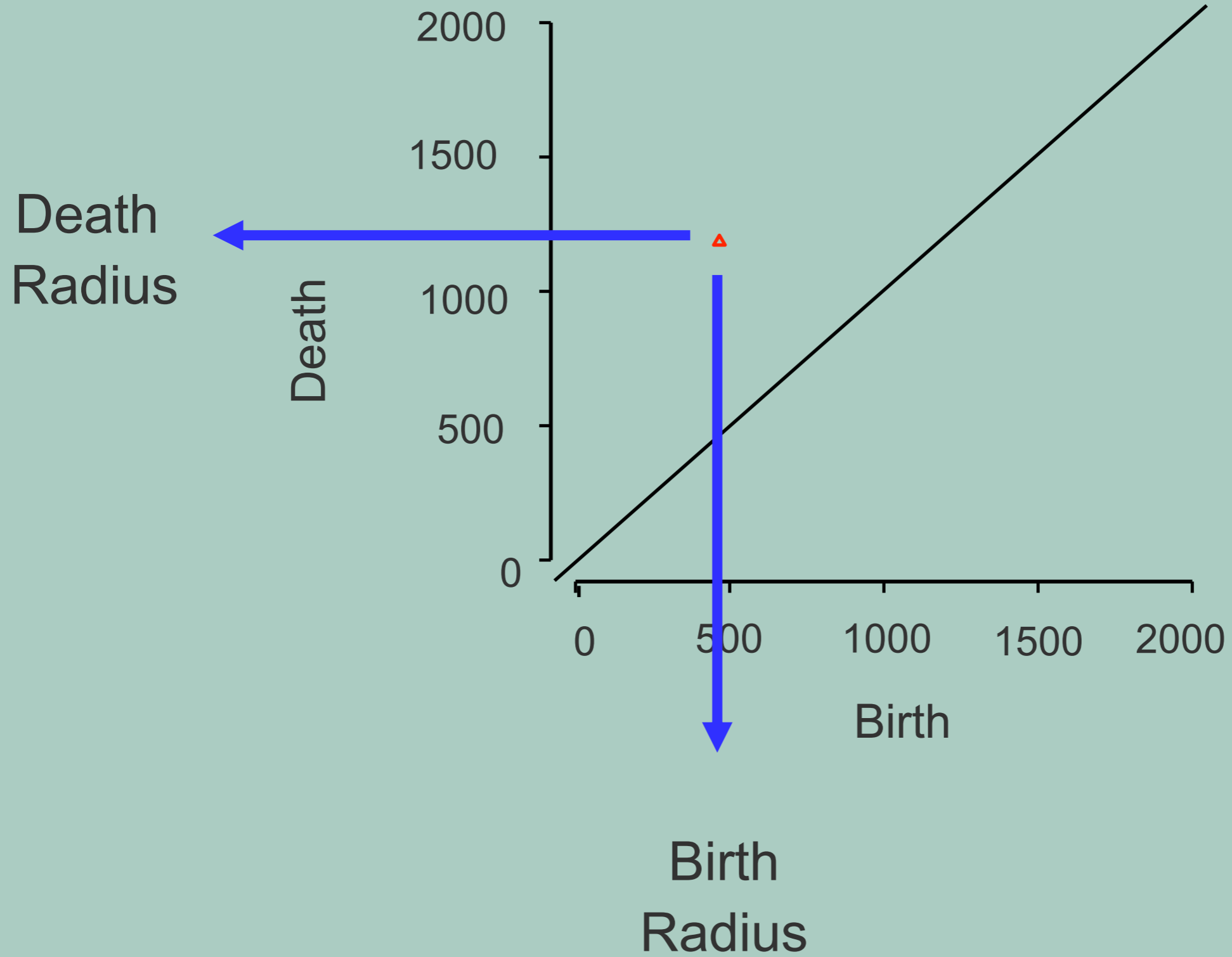


500s



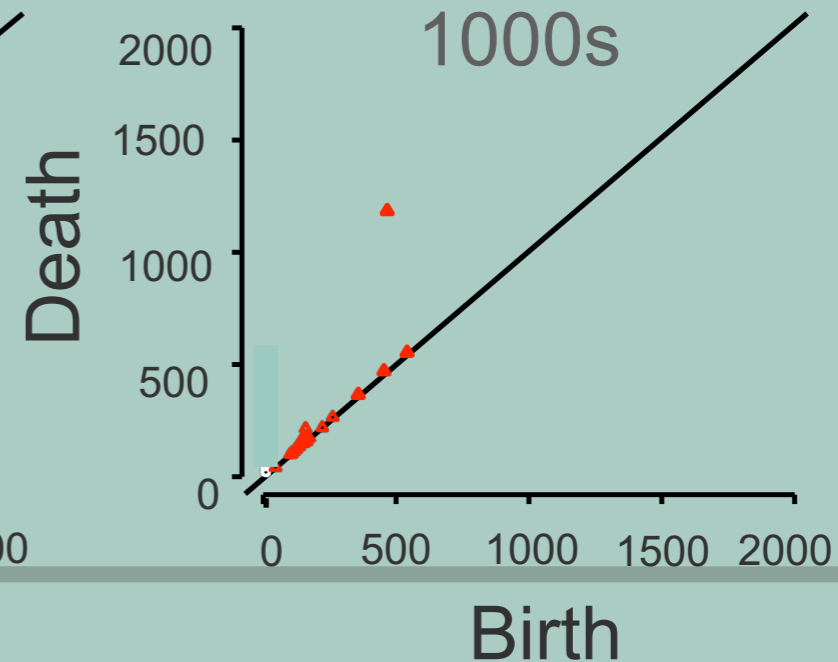
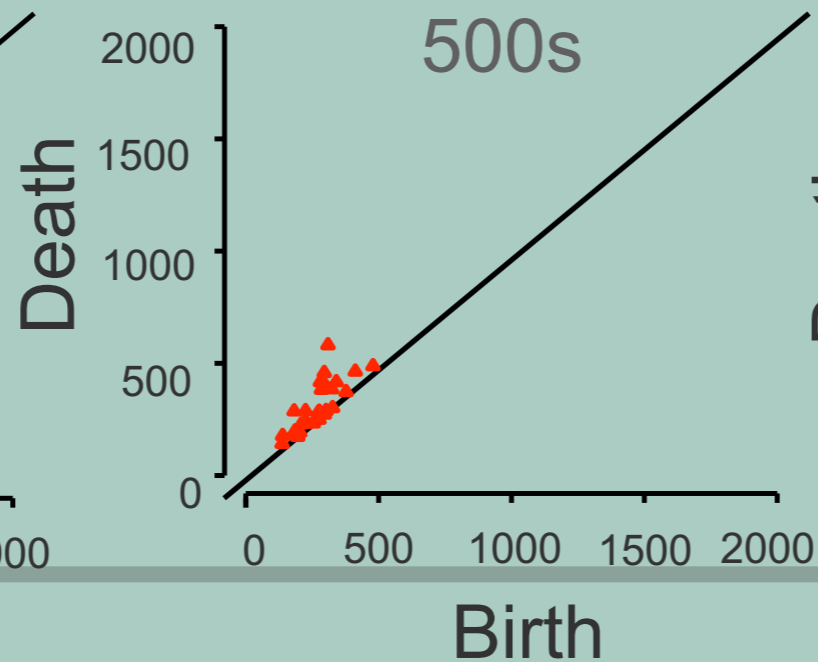
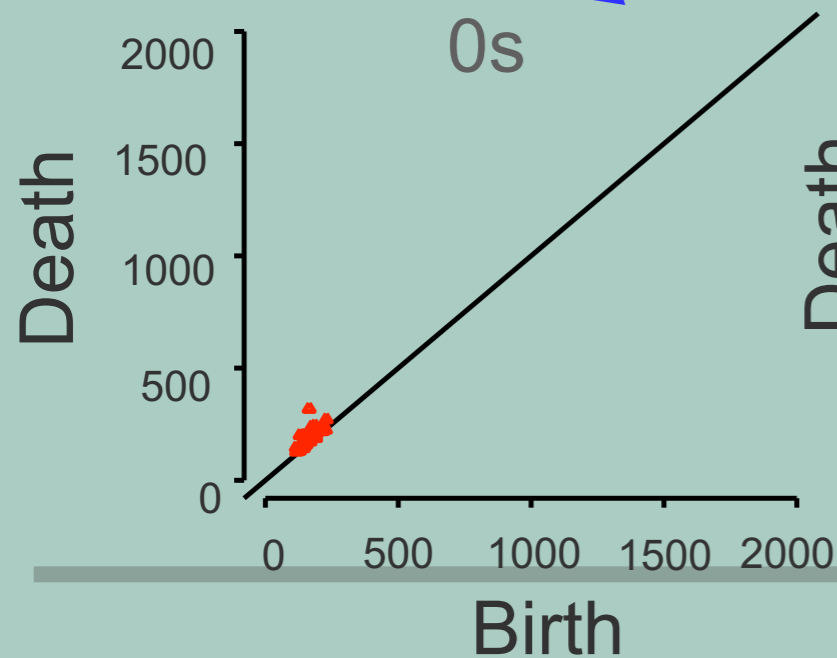
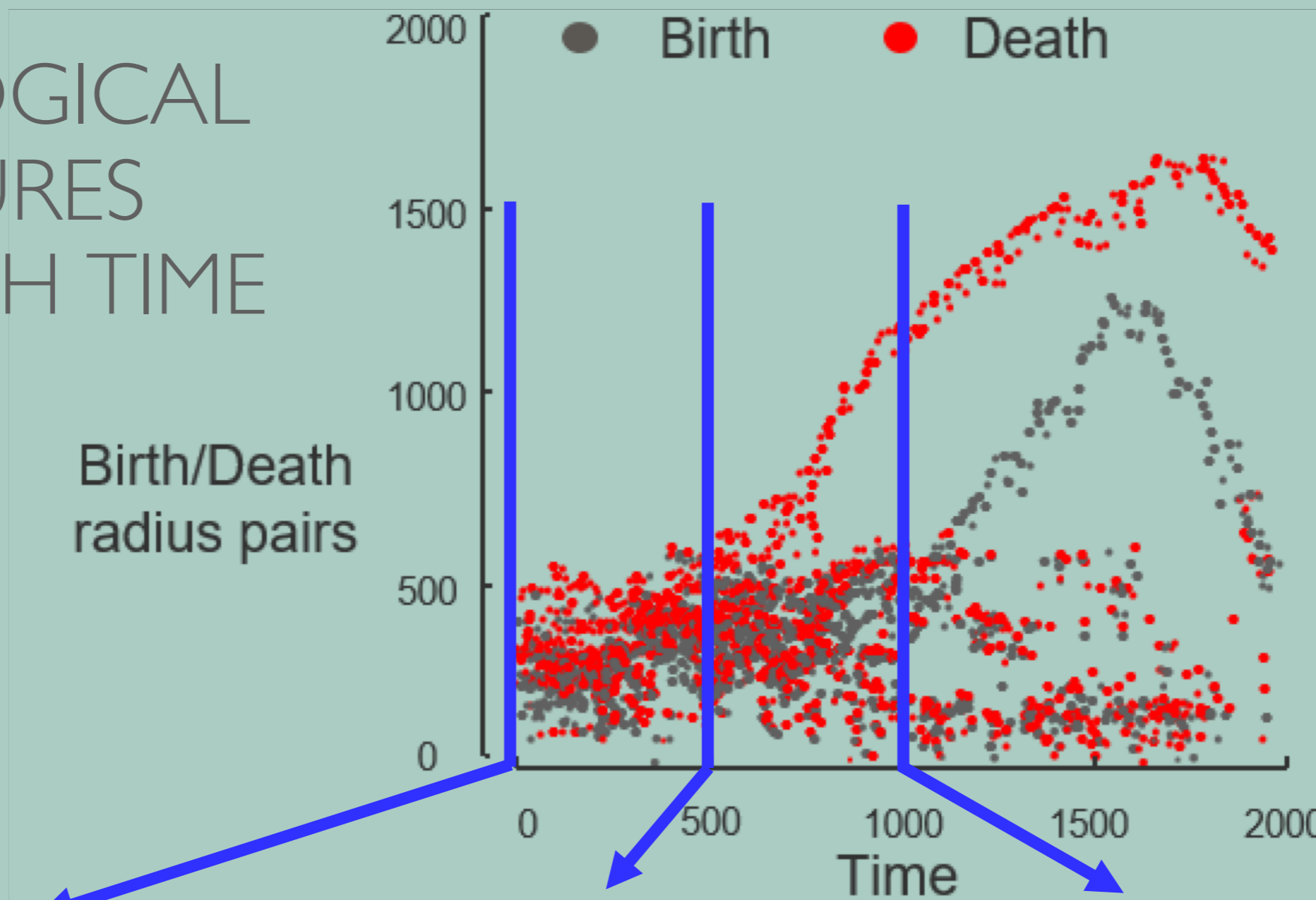
1000s





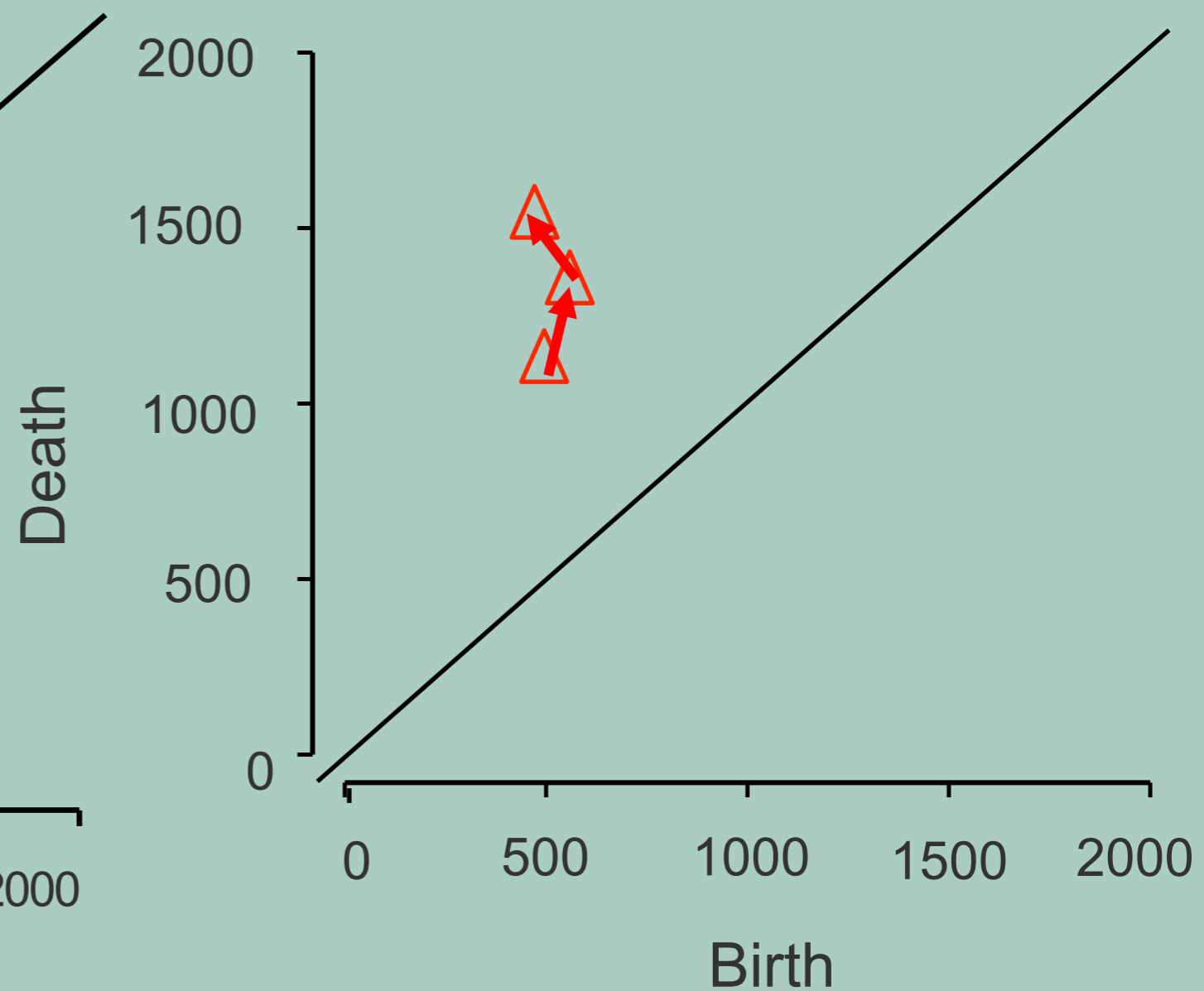
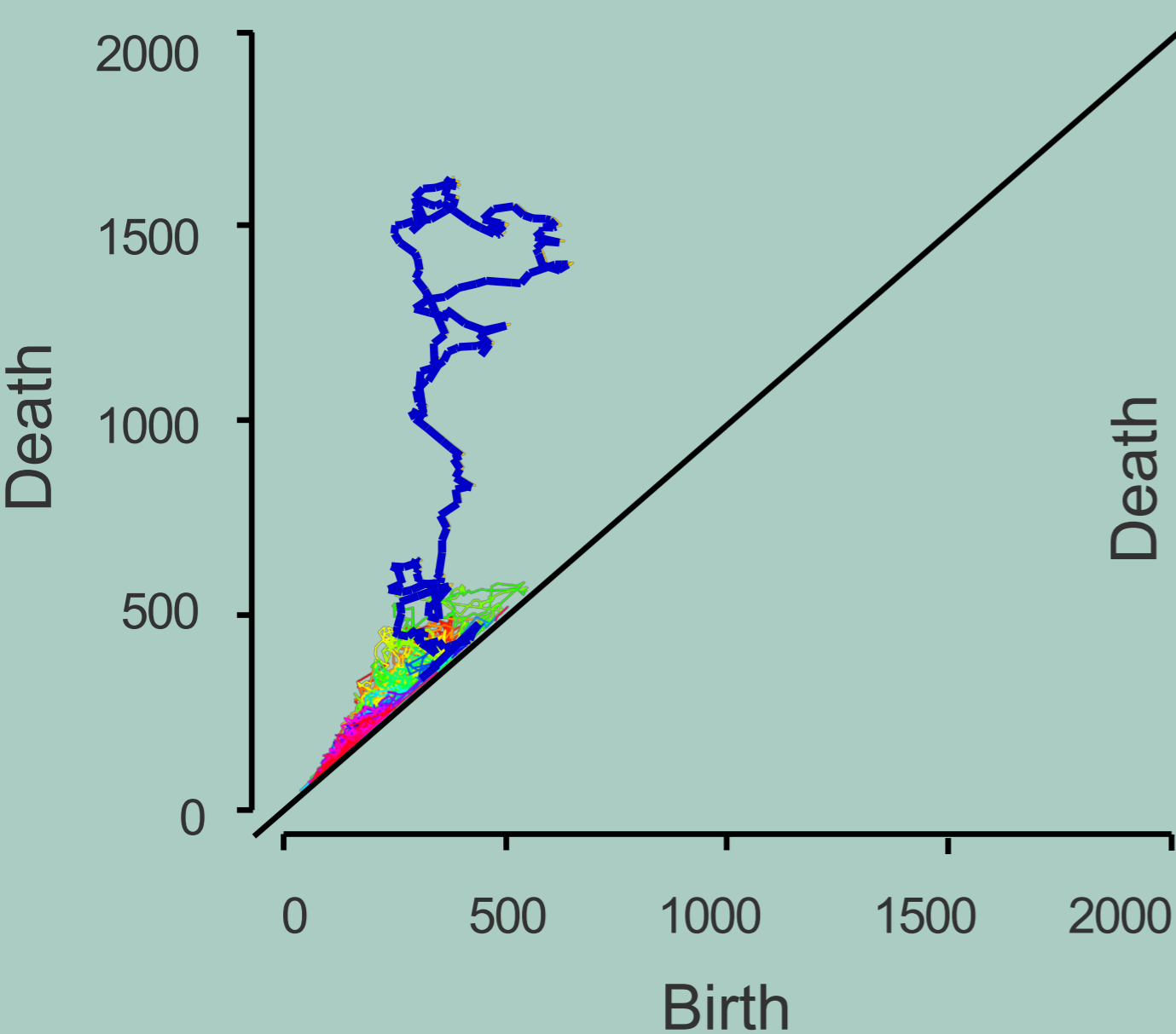
# TOPOLOGICAL FEATURES THROUGH TIME

Birth/Death  
radius pairs

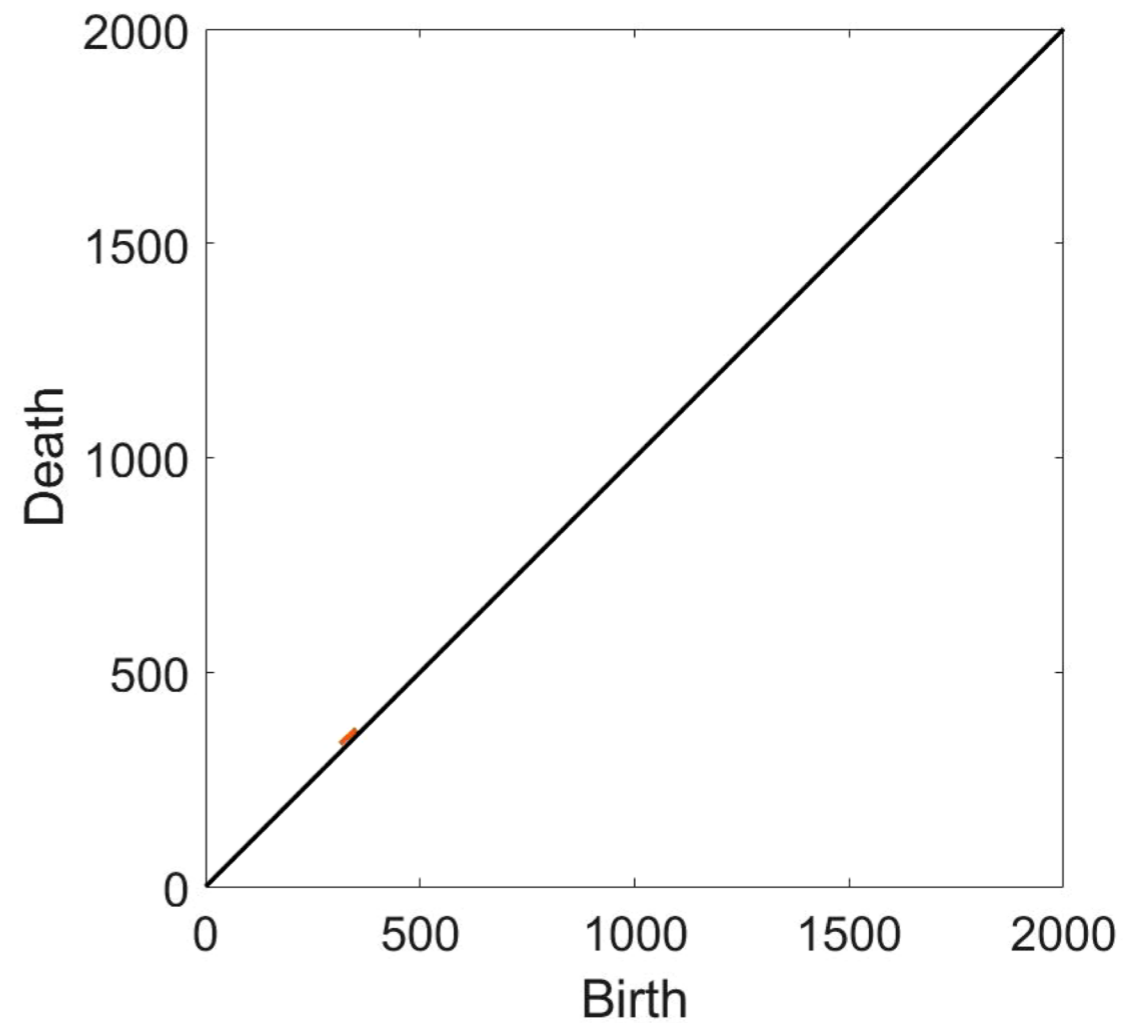
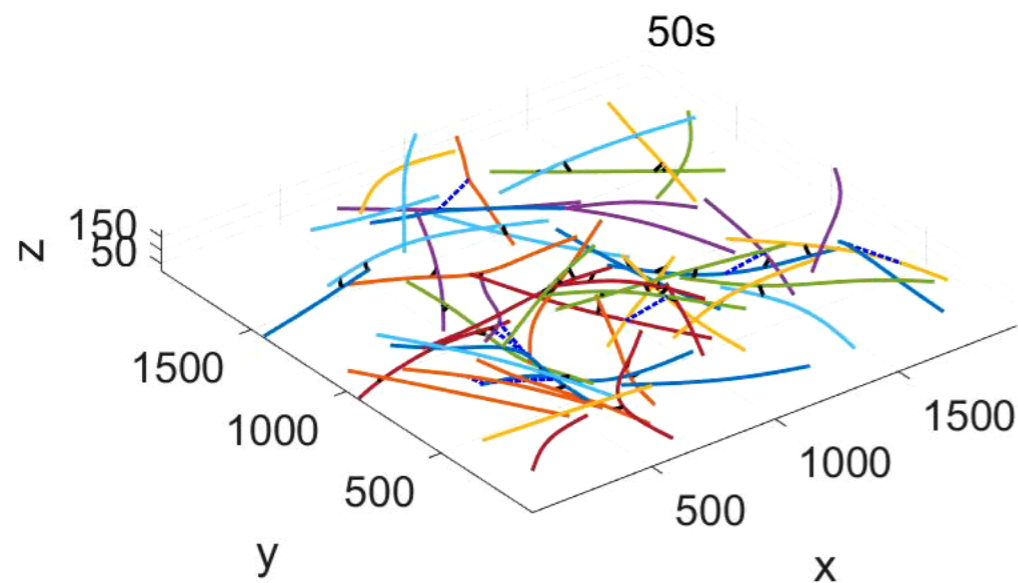




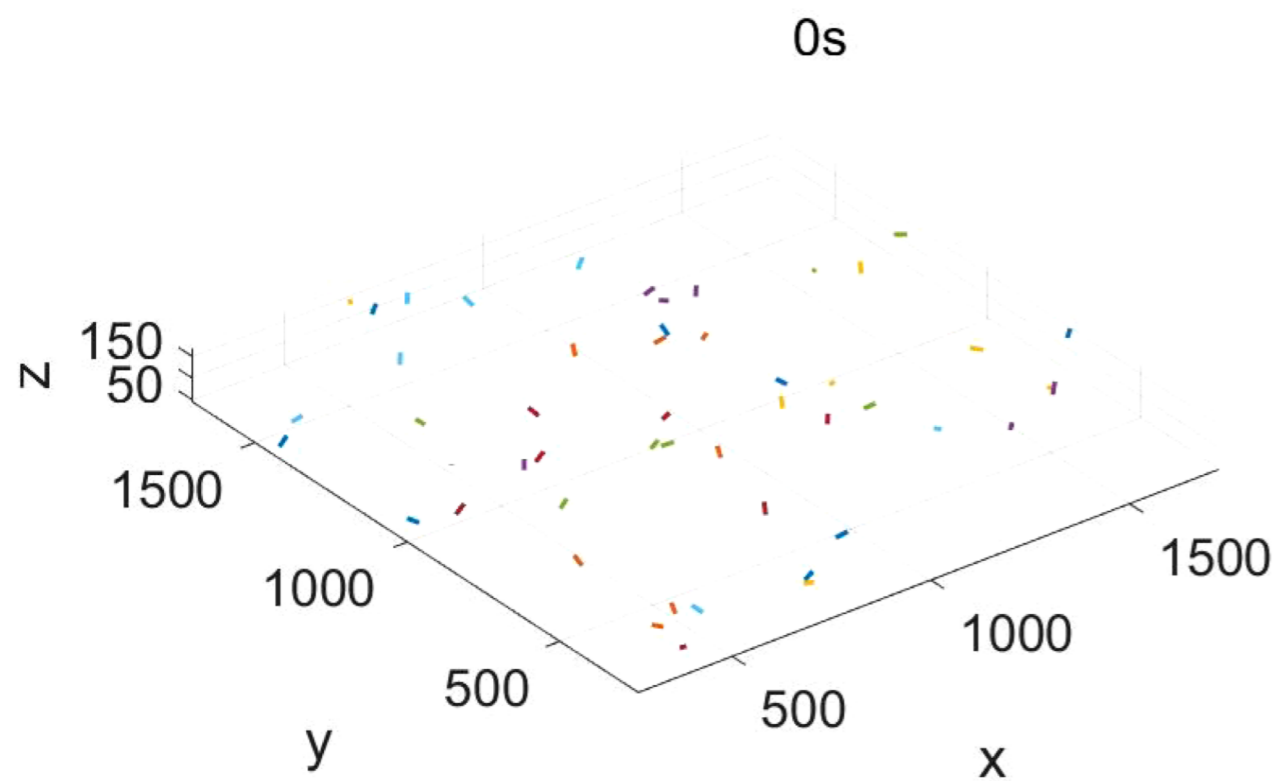
- Propose a method for connecting pairs through time.
- Extract the most significant Betti 1 path.



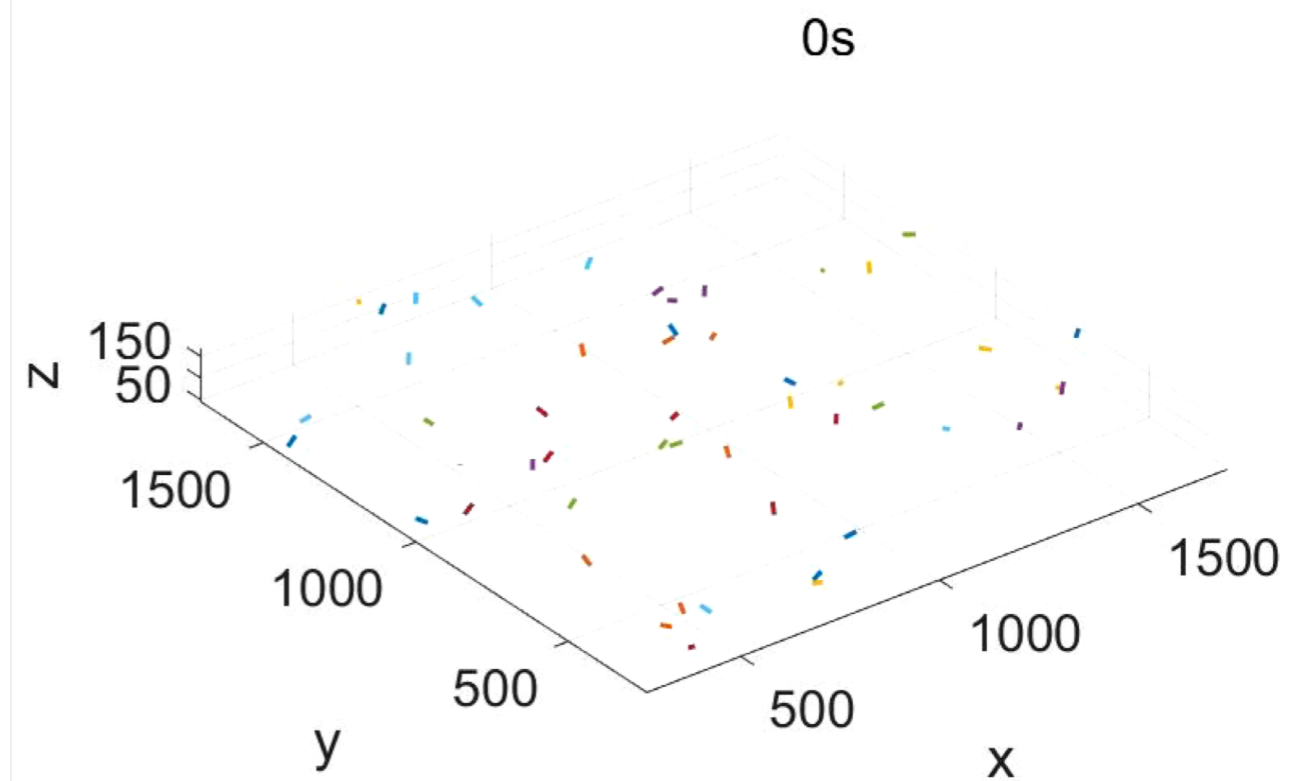
# VISUALIZATION OF SIGNIFICANT PATH (RING STRUCTURE) EMERGENCE



# EXPLORE PARAMETER DIFFERENCES: ON-RATE

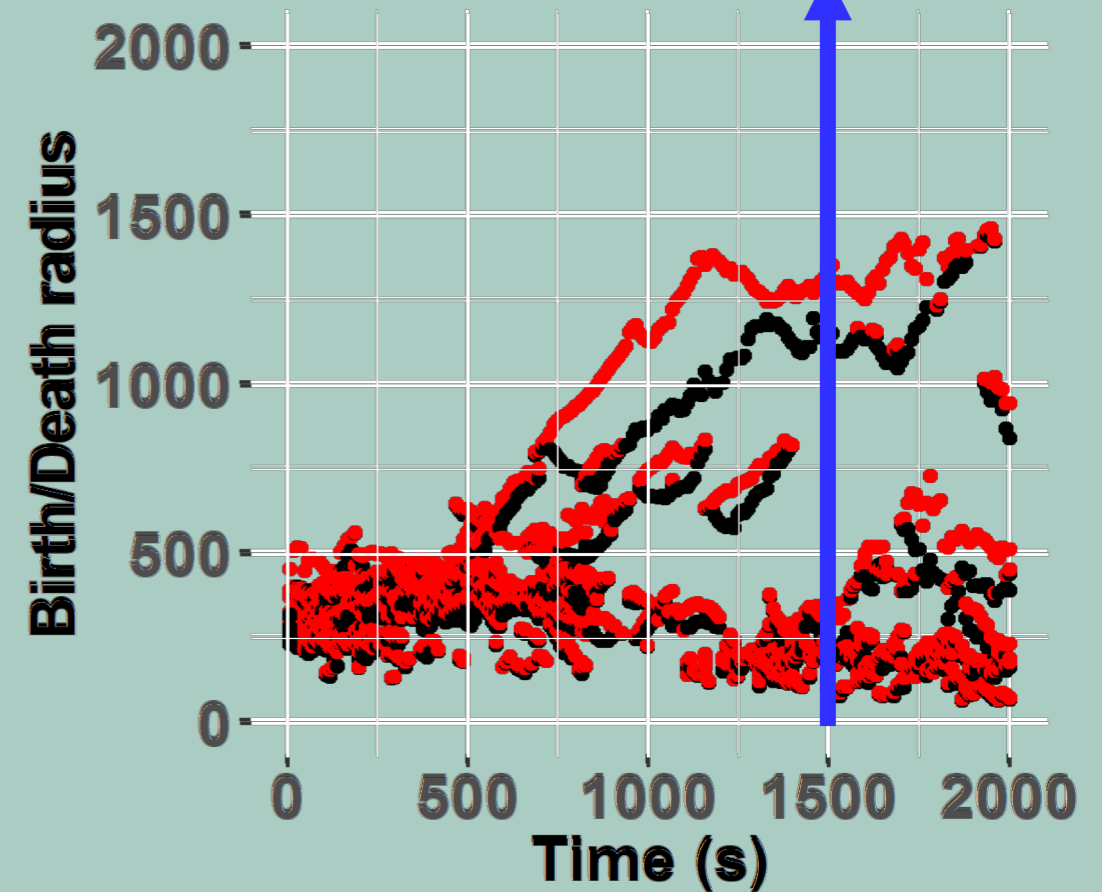
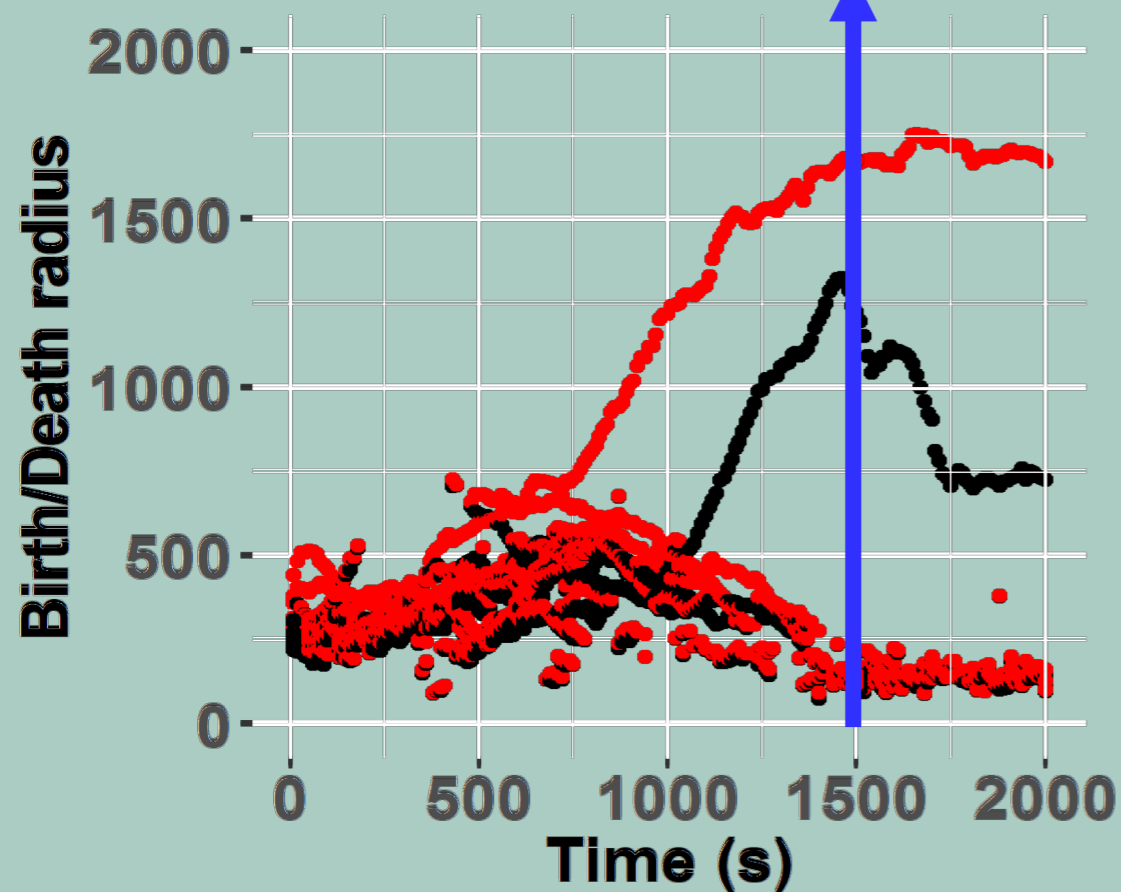
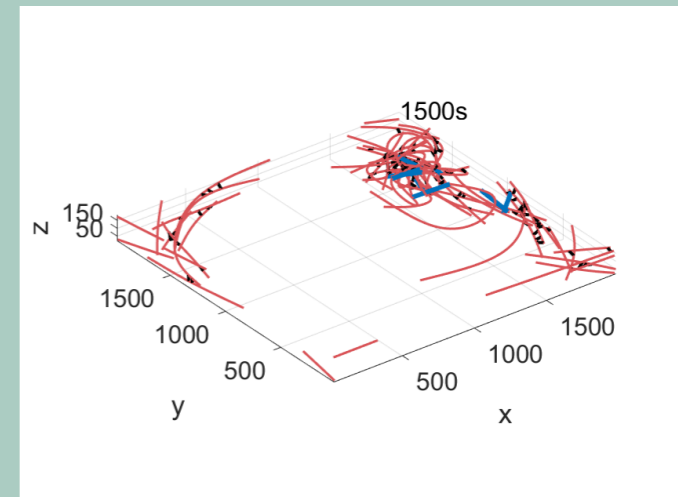
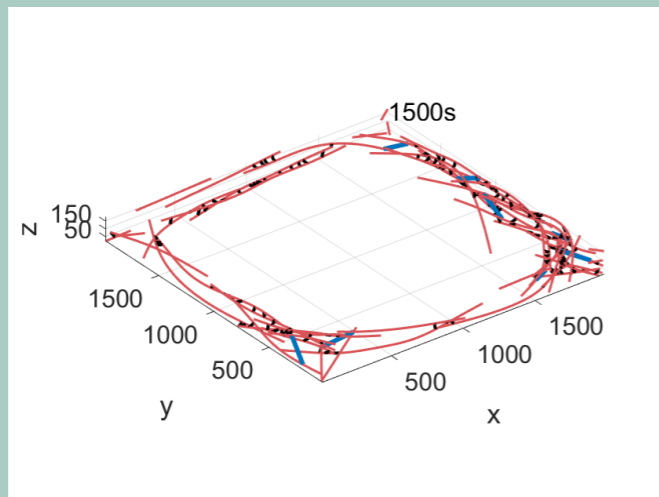


Small on-rate



Large on-rate

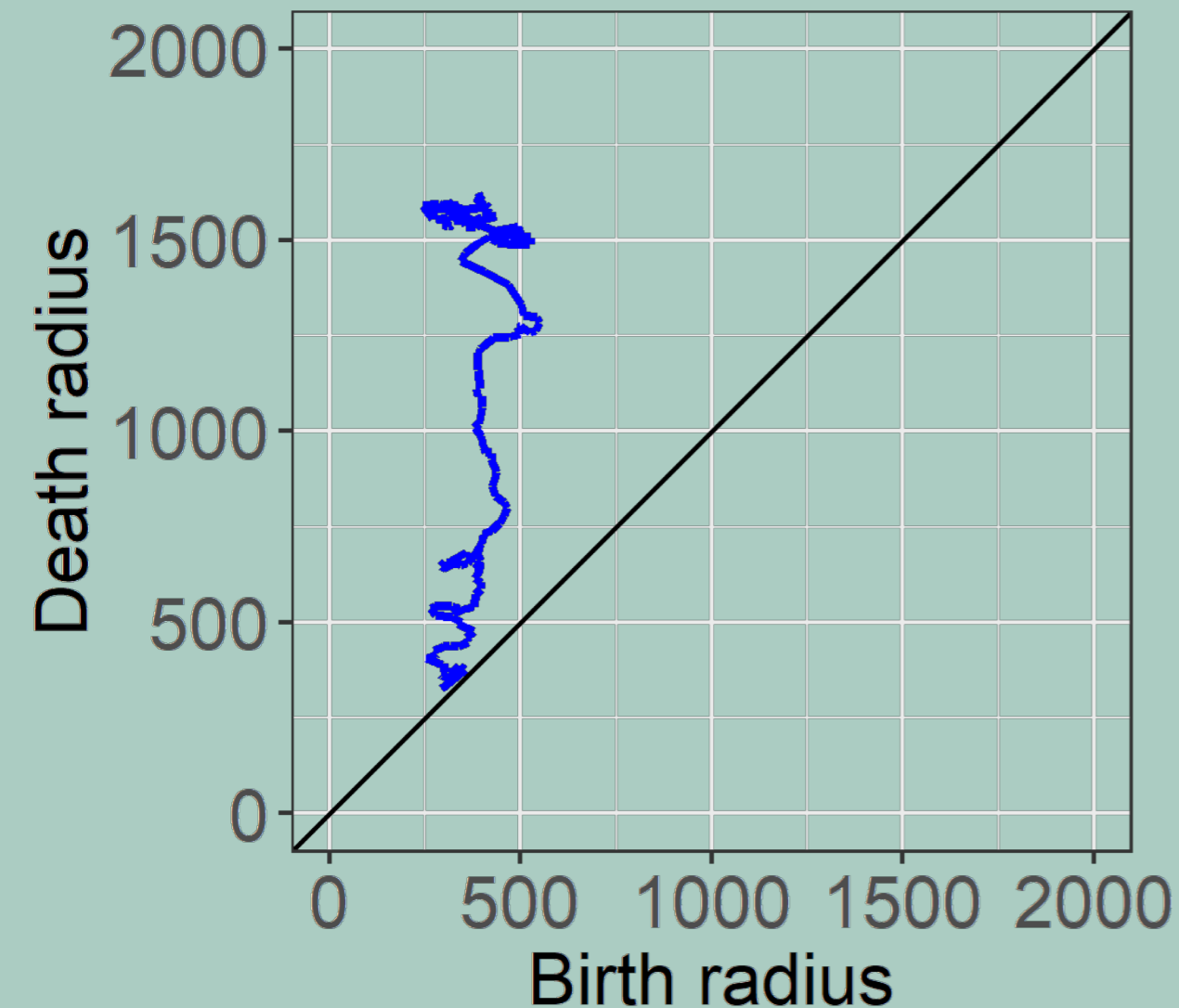
# TOPOLOGICAL FEATURES THROUGH TIME





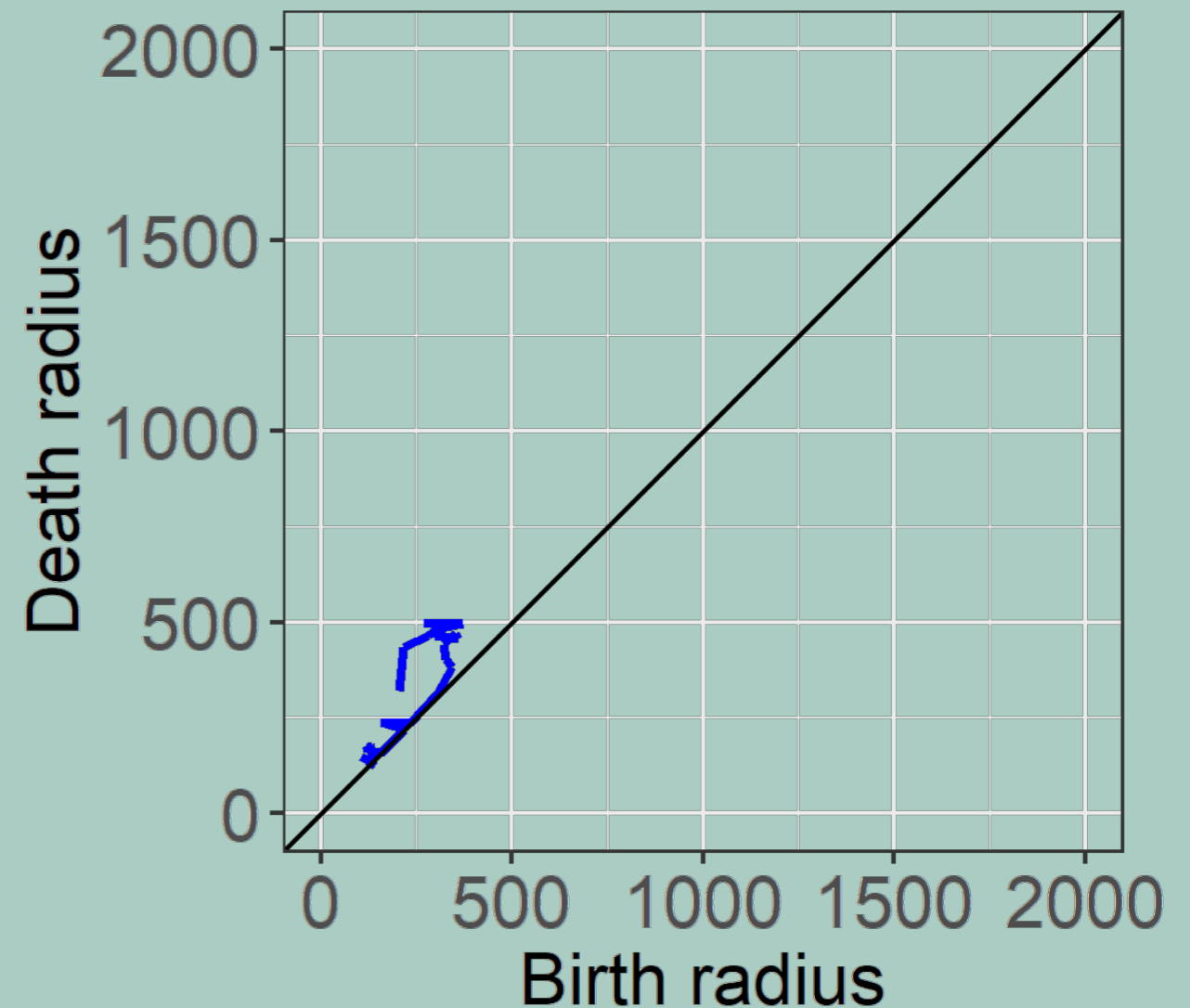
# DETECTING RING STRUCTURE

Betti1 Significant Path



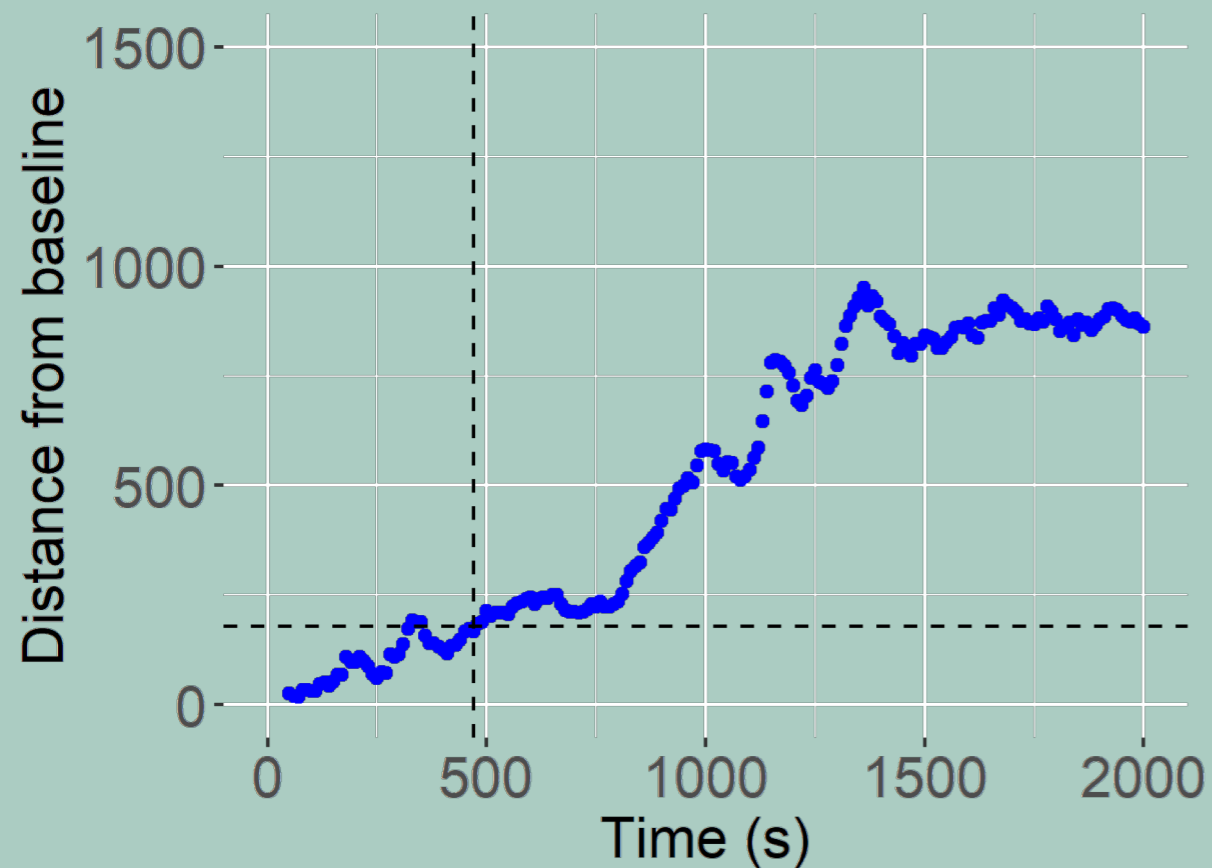
Small on-rate

Betti1 Significant Path

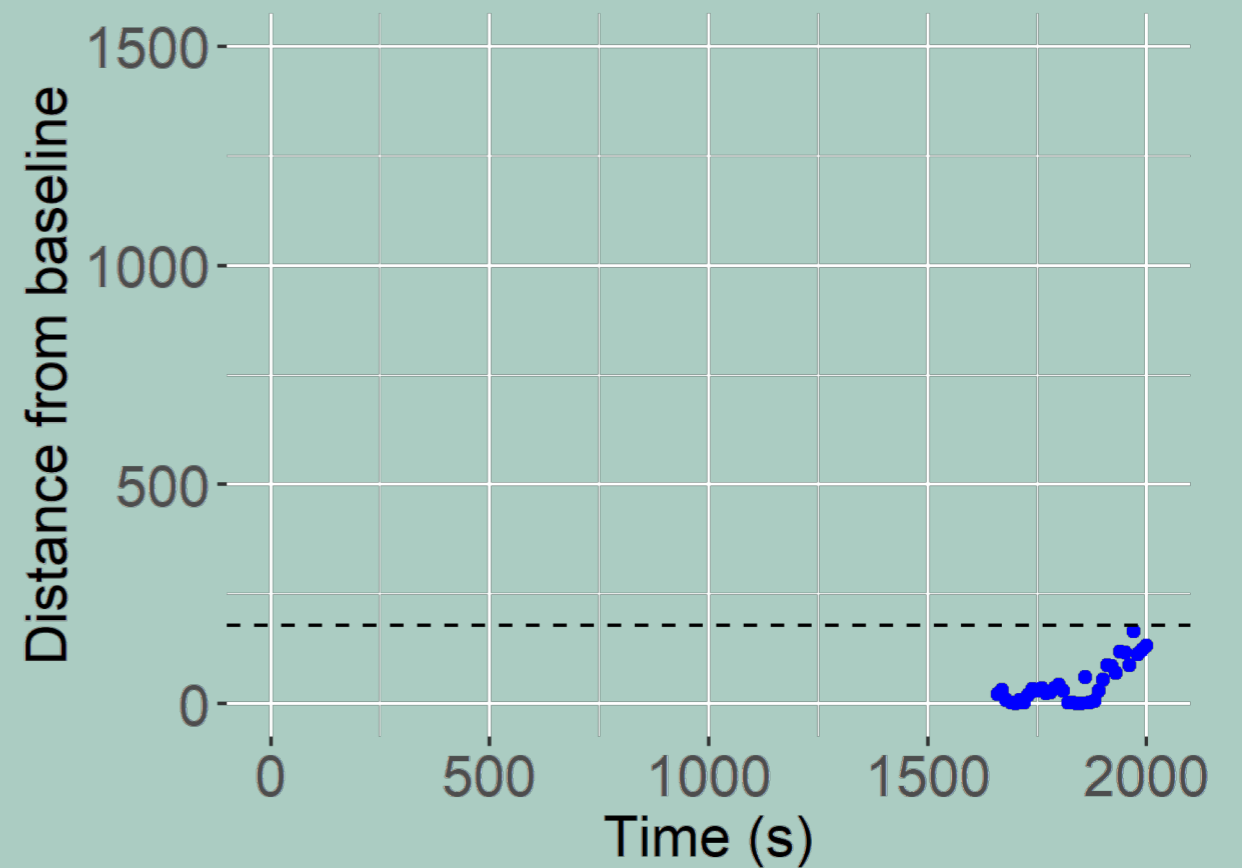


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# DETECTING RING STRUCTURE

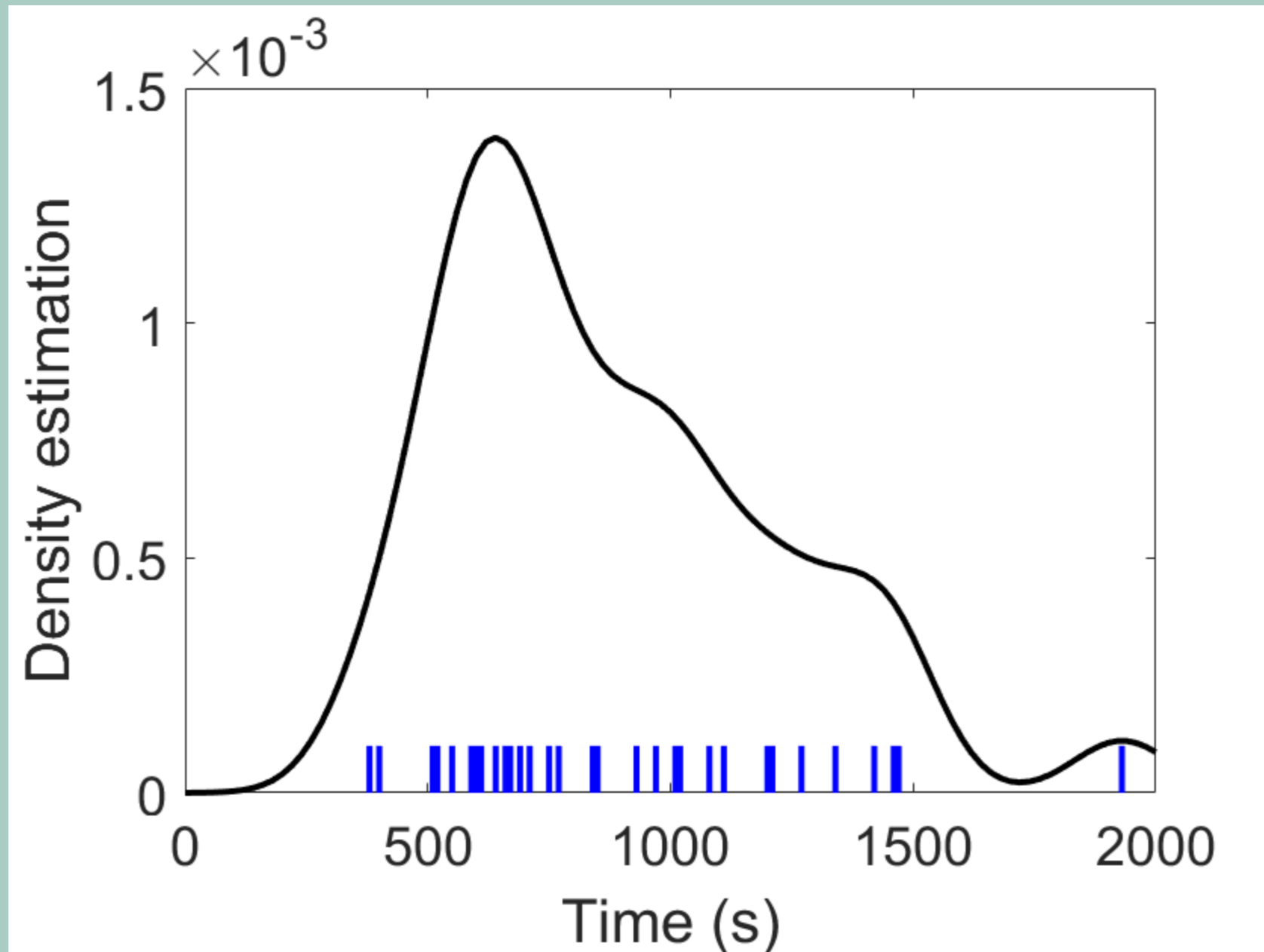


Small on-rate



Large on-rate

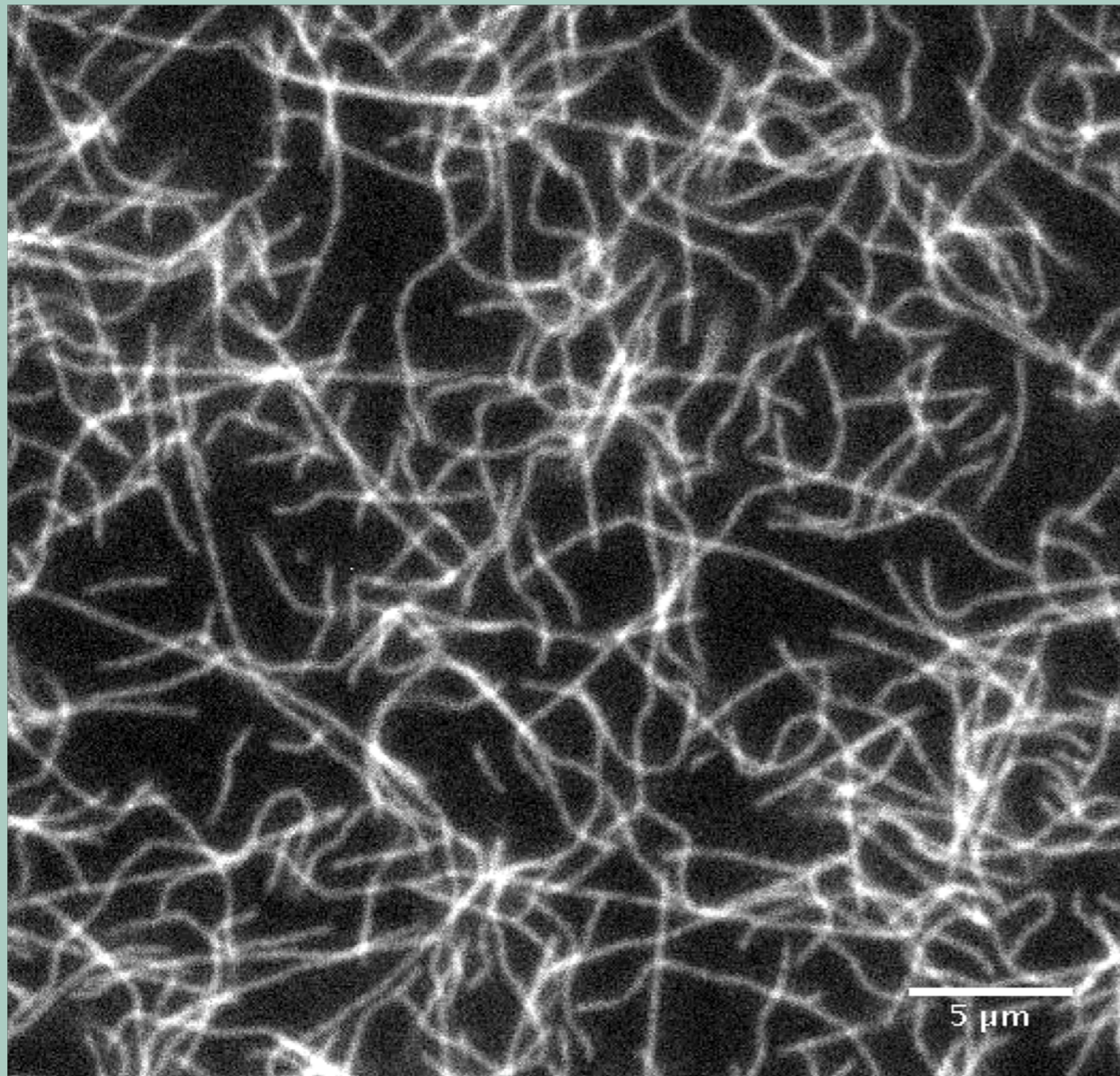
# TIME OF RING FORMATION



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# 3. CONNECTION TO IN-VITRO EXPERIMENTAL DATA

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Myosin VI – actin interactions

*Tim Atherton*  
*Tufts University*

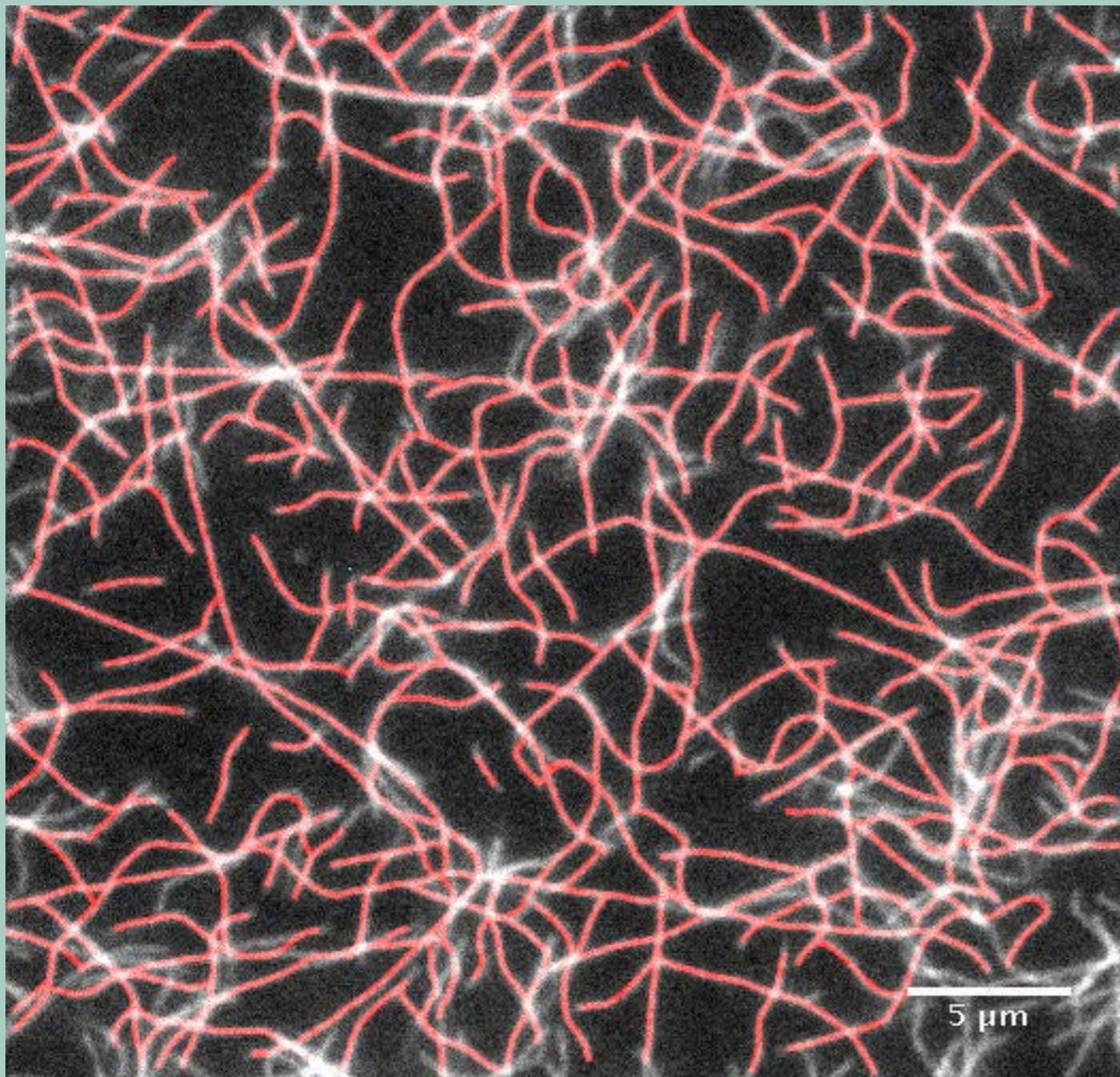


*David Altman*  
*Willamette University*

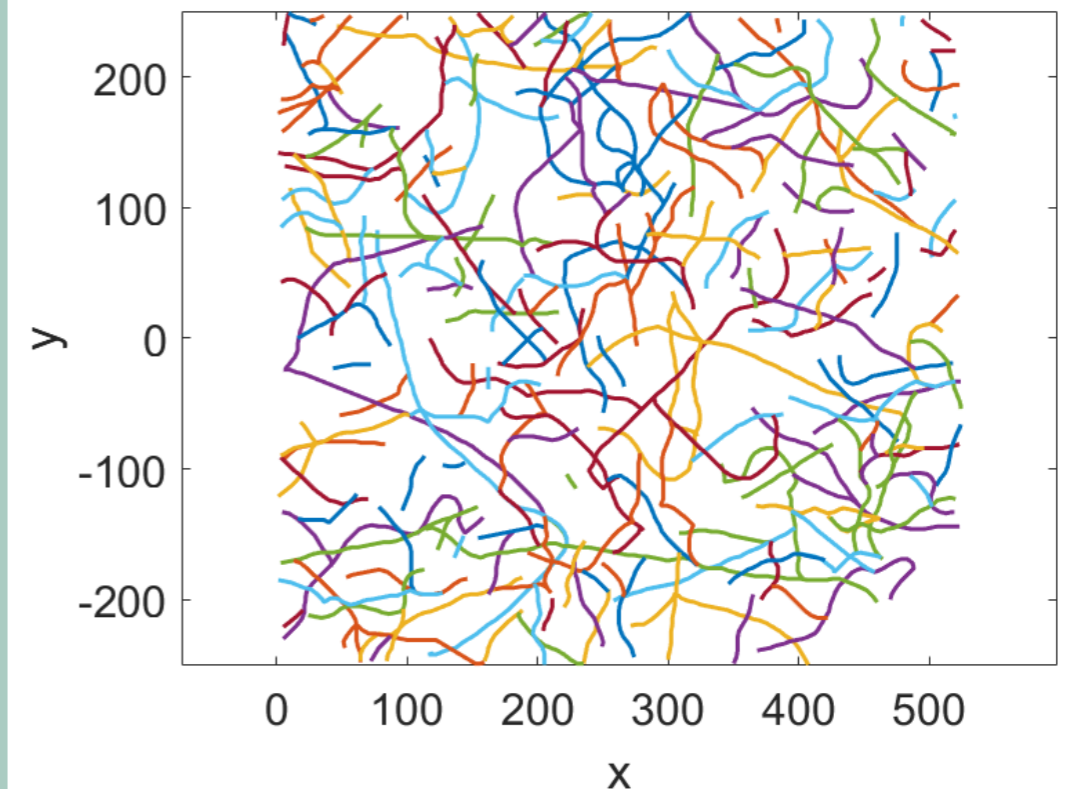




# CONNECTION TO IN-VITRO EXPERIMENTAL DATA

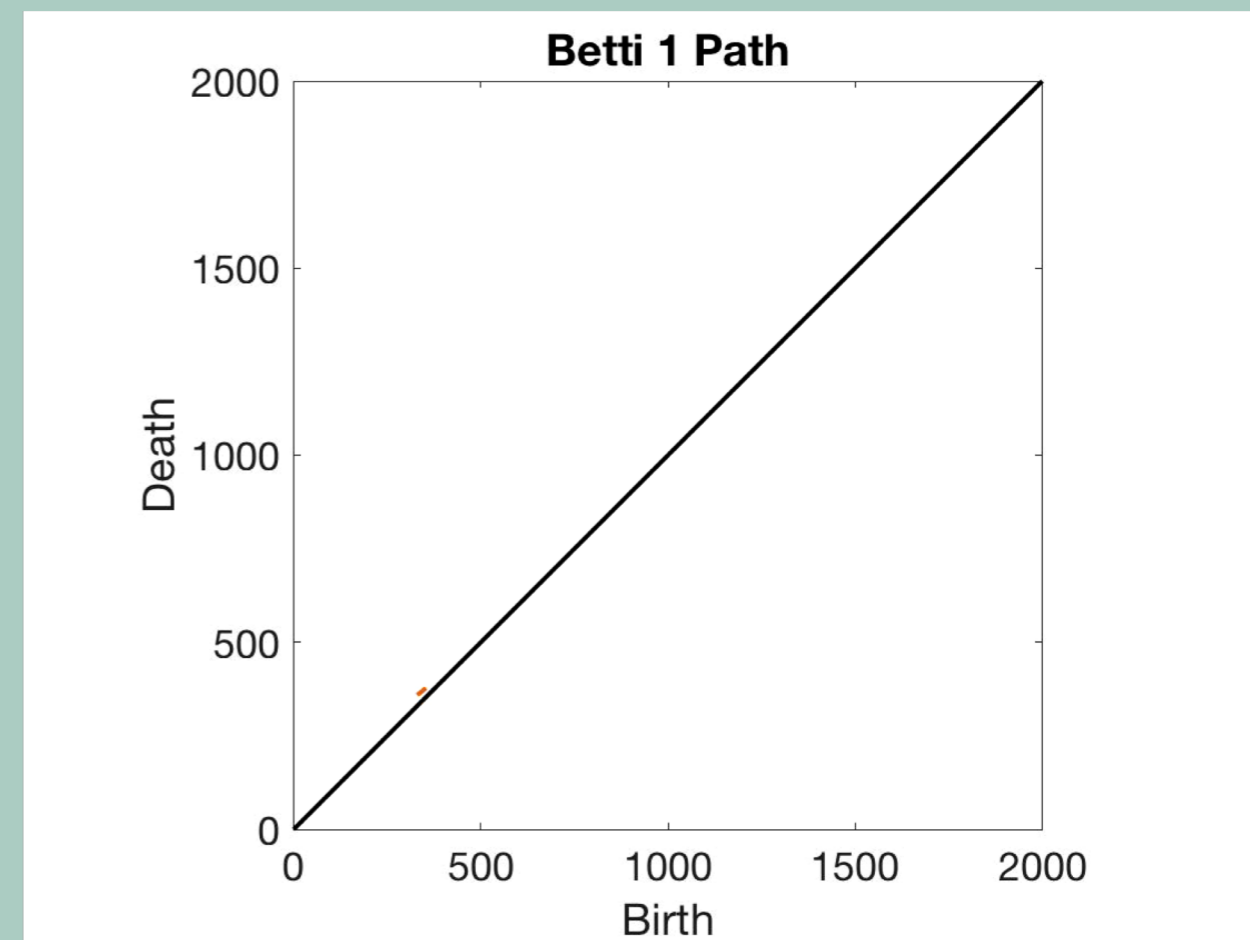


- Trace the actin filaments
- Apply data analysis measures and connect to simulations



# FUTURE WORK

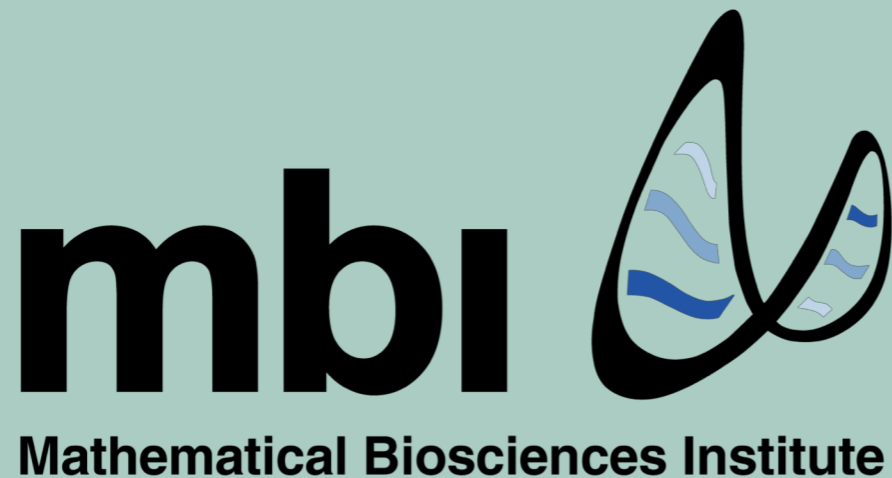
- Modeling and simulation of ring formation and maintenance with realistic biological mechanisms
- Stability? Rigorous measure of significant paths?
- Comparison/incorporation into vines and vineyards<sup>1</sup> framework.



<sup>1</sup>Cohen-Steiner, Edelsbrunner, Morozov (2006)

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# ACKNOWLEDGMENTS



This work was supported by NSF DMS-1408742 and by the Mathematical Biosciences Institute and NSF DMS-1440386.

**Thank you for your attention!**

[go.osu.edu/veronicaciocanel](http://go.osu.edu/veronicaciocanel)



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