

Probabilistic hyperbolic embedding of networks

Combining network geometry with Bayesian inference

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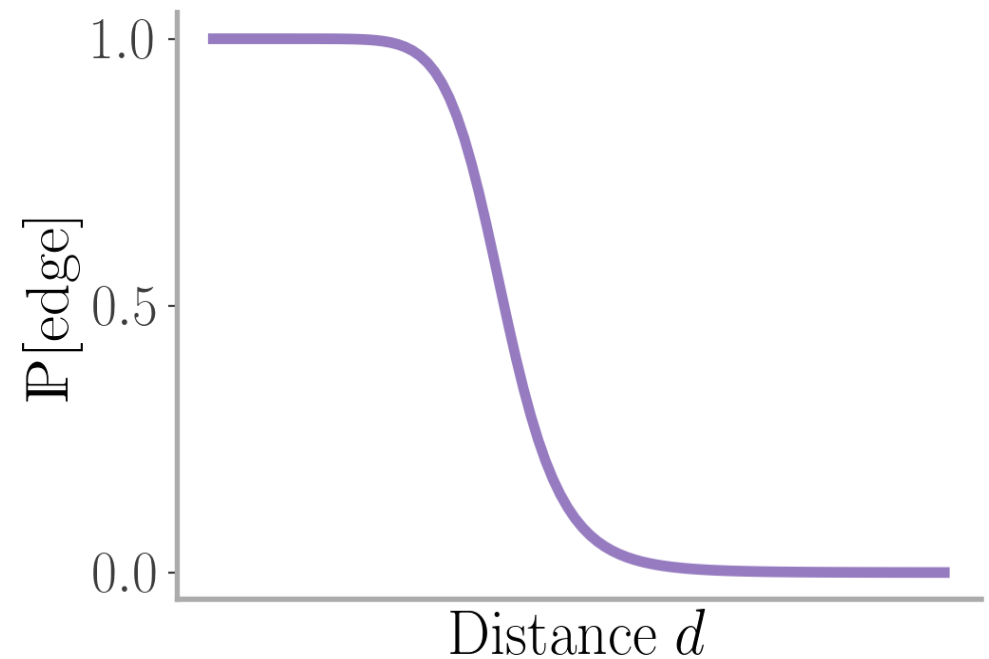
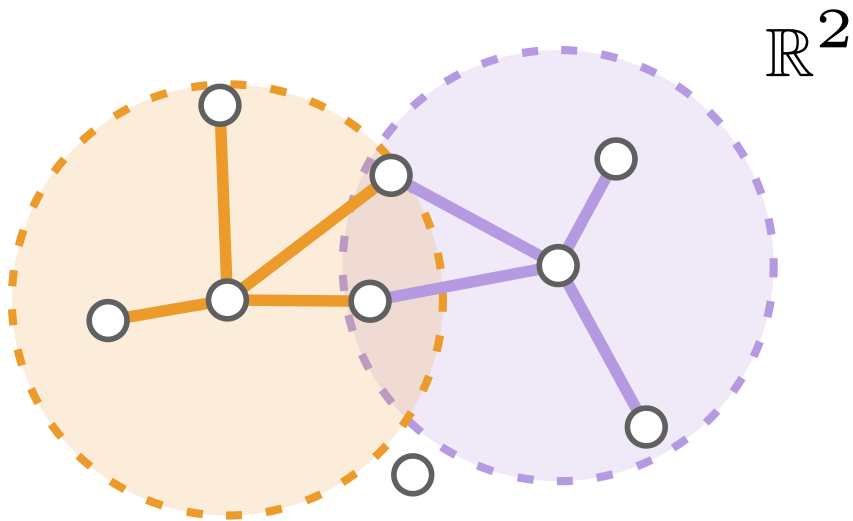
2025-05-06



Creating edges requires a cost

Vertices are placed in metric space. The edge cost **increases with its length**.

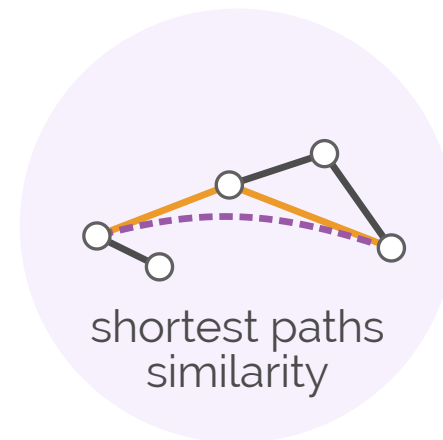
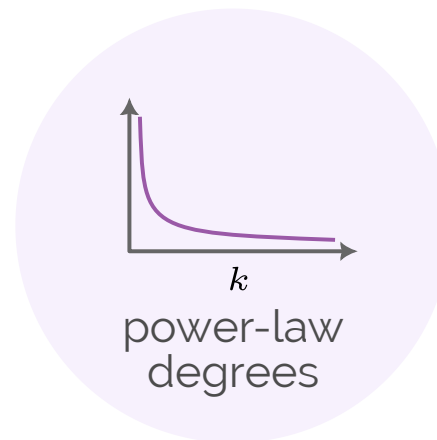
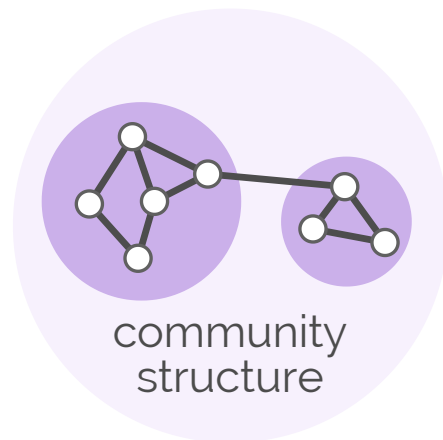
The metric space can be physical (e.g. transportation network, brain network) or not.



Latent hyperbolic space

Graphs obtained from hyperbolic space reproduce many empirically observed properties.

- Krioukov, D., et al. *Hyperbolic geometry of complex networks*. Phys. Rev. E **82**, 036106 (2010).
- Zuev, K., et al. *Emergence of Soft Communities from Geometric Preferential Attachment*. Sci. Rep. **5**, 9421 (2015).
- Krioukov, D., et al. *Clustering Implies Geometry in Networks*. Phys. Rev. Lett. **116**, 208302 (2016).
- Faqeeh, A., et al. *Characterizing the Analogy Between Hyperbolic Embedding and Community Structure of Complex Networks*. Phys. Rev. Lett. **121**, 098301 (2018).



... and others!

$\mathbb{H}^2$ and $\mathbb{S}^1$ random graph models

Each edge (u, v) exists with probability

$\mathbb{H}^2$ model

$$\mathbb{P}[(u, v) | x_u, x_v, \beta] = \frac{1}{1 + \exp\{\beta(d_{\mathbb{H}}(x_u, x_v) - R)\}},$$

where $d_{\mathbb{H}}$ is the hyperbolic distance, β is the sigmoid sharpness, R is the maximal radial coordinate, $x_u, x_v \in \mathbb{H}^2$ are the positions of vertices u and v respectively.

Using an approximation for $d_{\mathbb{H}}$, this is equivalent to

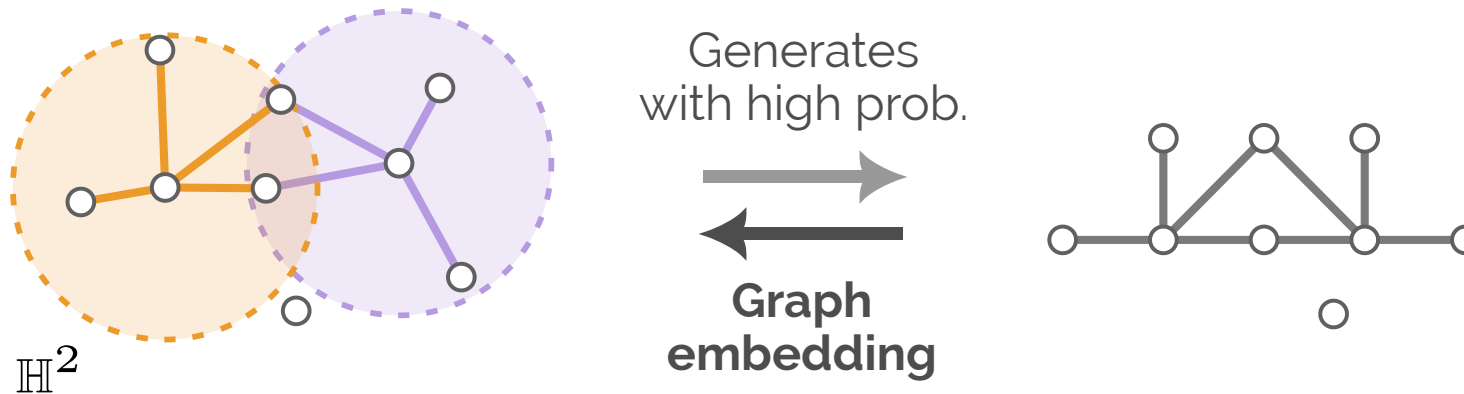
$\mathbb{S}^1$ model

$$p_{uv} = \frac{1}{1 + \left(\frac{d_{\mathbb{S}}(\theta_u, \theta_v)}{\mu \kappa_u, \kappa_v} \right)^\beta} \approx \mathbb{P}[(u, v) | x_u, x_v, \beta],$$

where $d_{\mathbb{S}}$ is the arc length, μ is a scaling factor, $x_u = (r_u, \theta_u)$ is written by its coordinates, $\kappa_u = \kappa_0 e^{(\hat{R} - r_u)/2}$ is a rescaling of r_u and κ_0 is the minimum degree.

Graph vertex embedding in a nutshell

We want to **represent a given graph** using a hyperbolic embedding.



This amounts to:

Pairs of vertices are $\begin{cases} \text{close} & \text{if connected in graph,} \\ \text{far} & \text{if not connected in graph.} \end{cases}$

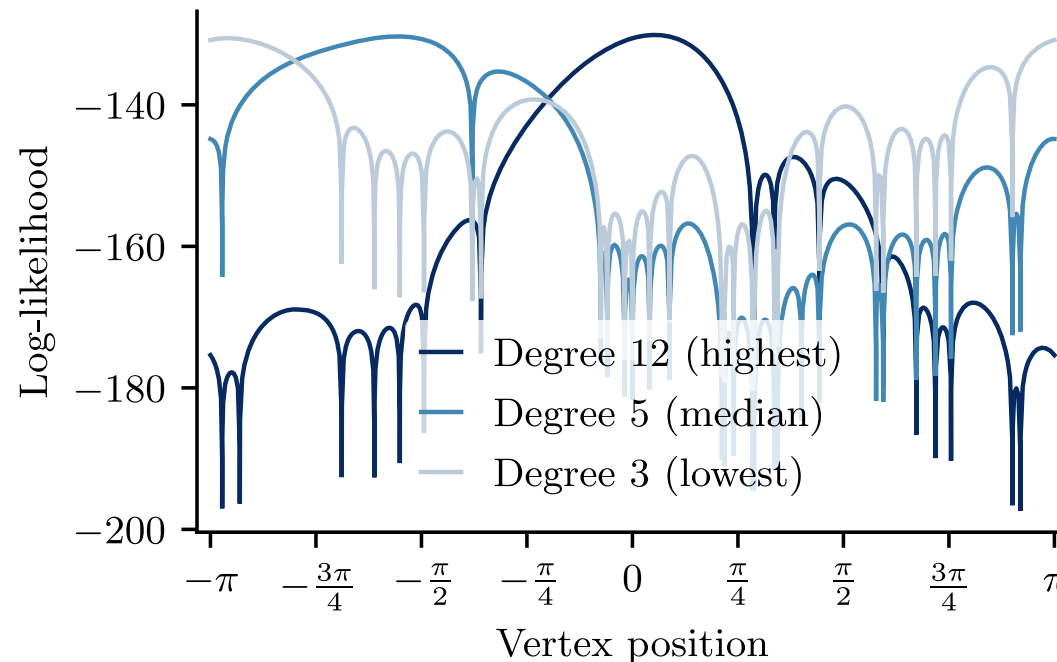
Embedding with maximum likelihood

The likelihood of obtaining a graph $G = (V, E)$ is simply

$$\mathbb{P}[G|\theta, \kappa, \beta] = \prod_{(u,v) \in V^2} p_{uv}^{a_{uv}} (1 - p_{uv})^{1-a_{uv}},$$

where $a_{uv} = 1$ if u and v are connected and is 0 otherwise.

Many algorithms give a maximum likelihood estimator (MLE). This is challenging because of the **abundance of local maxima**.



Current algorithms don't give the entire picture

Every algorithm

- Papadopoulos, F. et al. Phys. Rev. E **92**, 022807 (2015).
- Alanis-Lobato, G. et al. Appl. Netw. Sci. **1**, 1–14 (2016).
- Muscoloni, A. et al. Nat. Commun. **8**, 1615 (2017).
- García-Pérez, G. et al. New J. Phys. **21**, 123033 (2019).
- Wang, Z. et al. J. Stat. Mech.: Theory Exp. 123401 (2019).
- ...

yields a **single embedding**.

We currently ignore

- if there exists many plausible embeddings;
- how precise the vertex coordinates are.

We address both issues using a Bayesian approach.

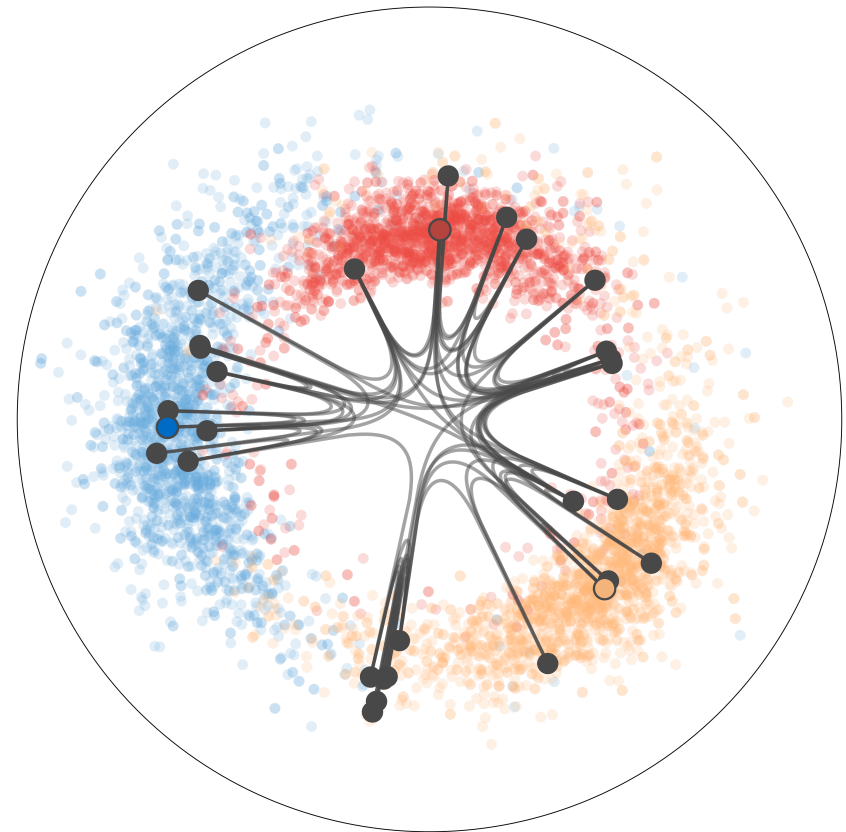
$\mathbb{S}^1$ Bayesian model

The posterior of the Bayesian $\mathbb{S}^1$ model is

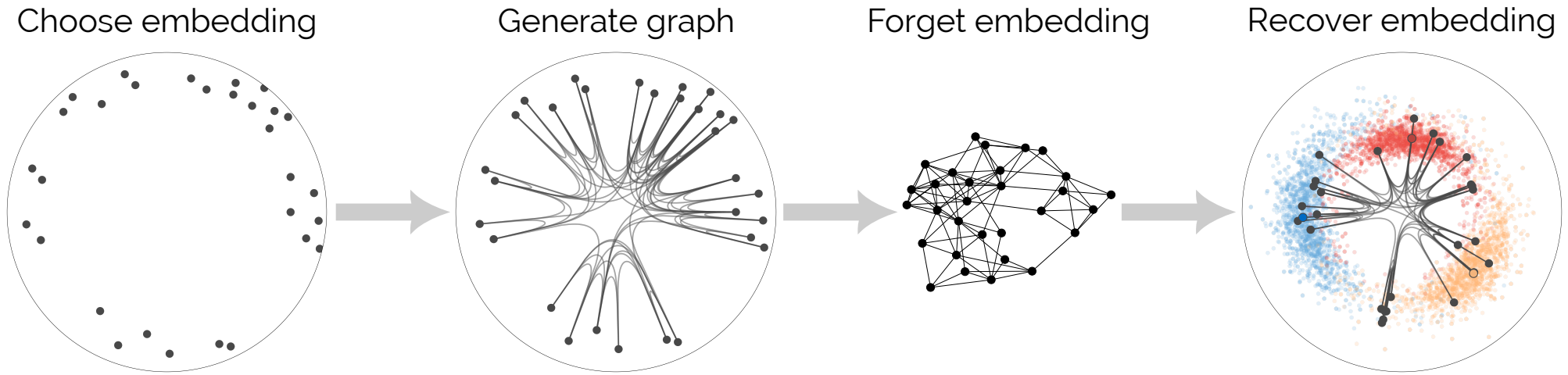
$$p(\theta, \kappa, \beta | G) \propto \mathbb{P}[G | \theta, \kappa, \beta] p(\beta) \prod_{v \in V} p(\theta_v) p(\kappa_v),$$

where the priors are

$$\begin{aligned} \theta_u &\sim \text{Uniform}[-\pi, \pi), \\ \kappa_u &\sim \text{Cauchy}, \quad \kappa_u > \epsilon, \\ \beta &\sim \text{Normal}, \quad \beta > 1. \end{aligned}$$

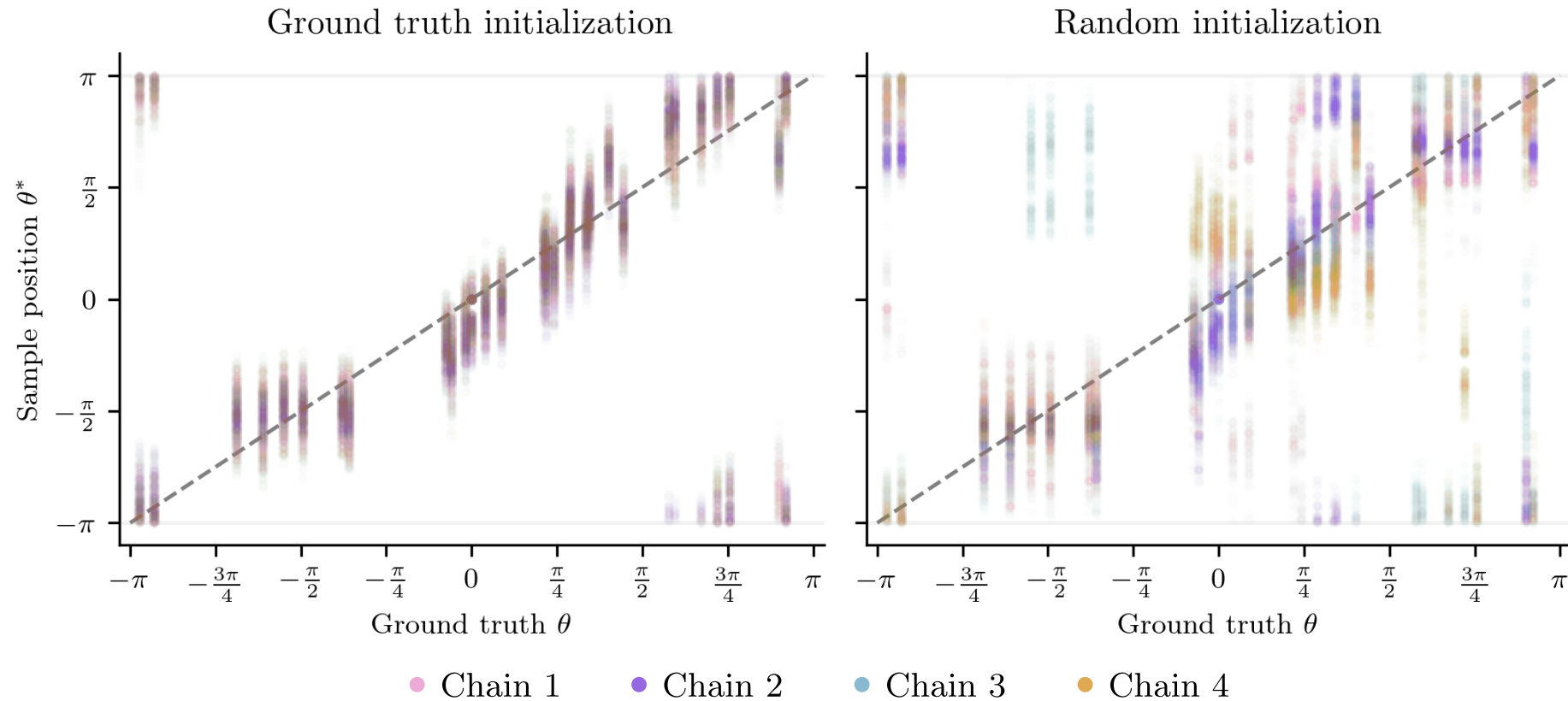


Sanity check with synthetic data



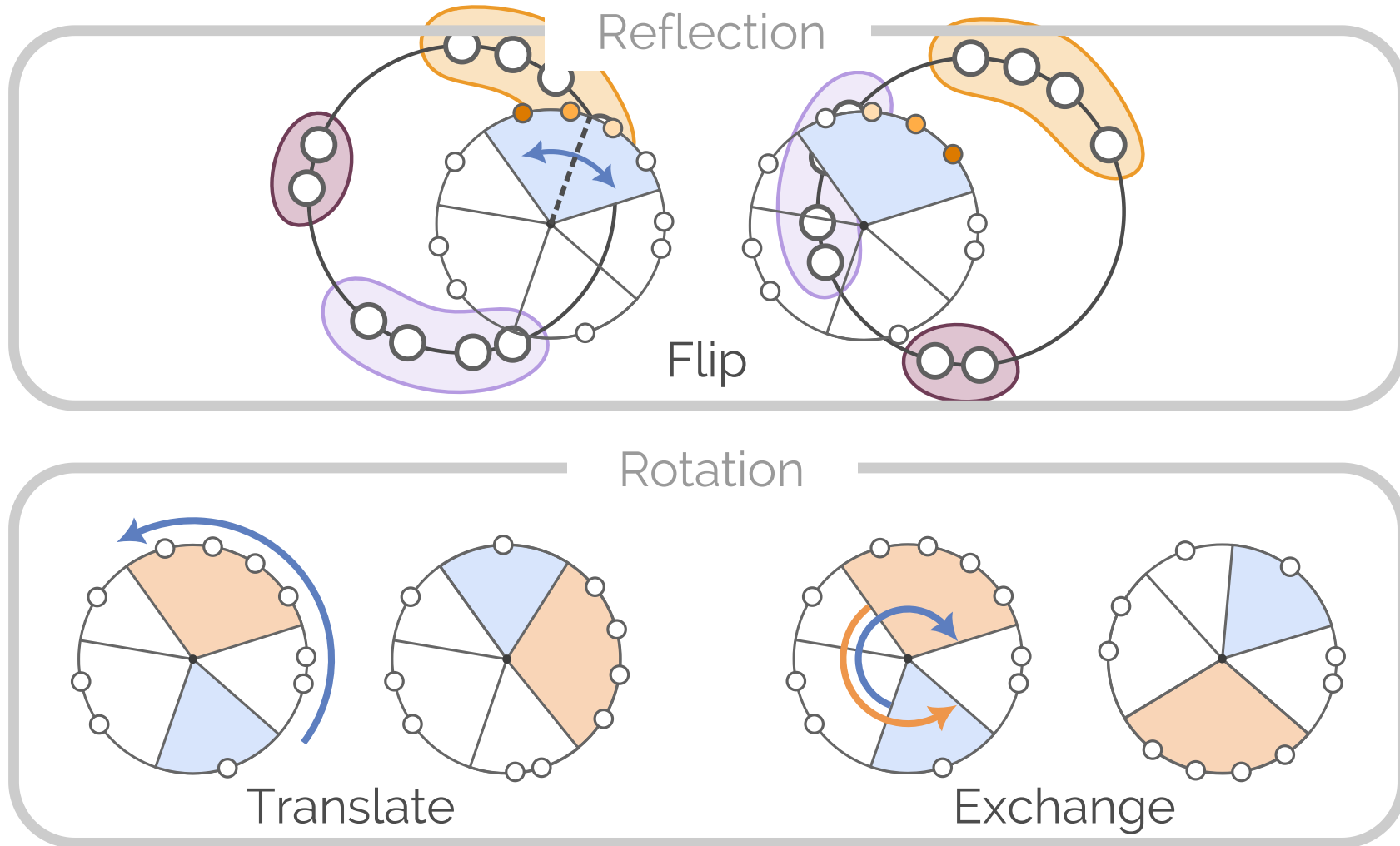
Usual sampling methods don't work

Hamiltonian Monte Carlo¹ (HMC) and random walk don't sample properly.



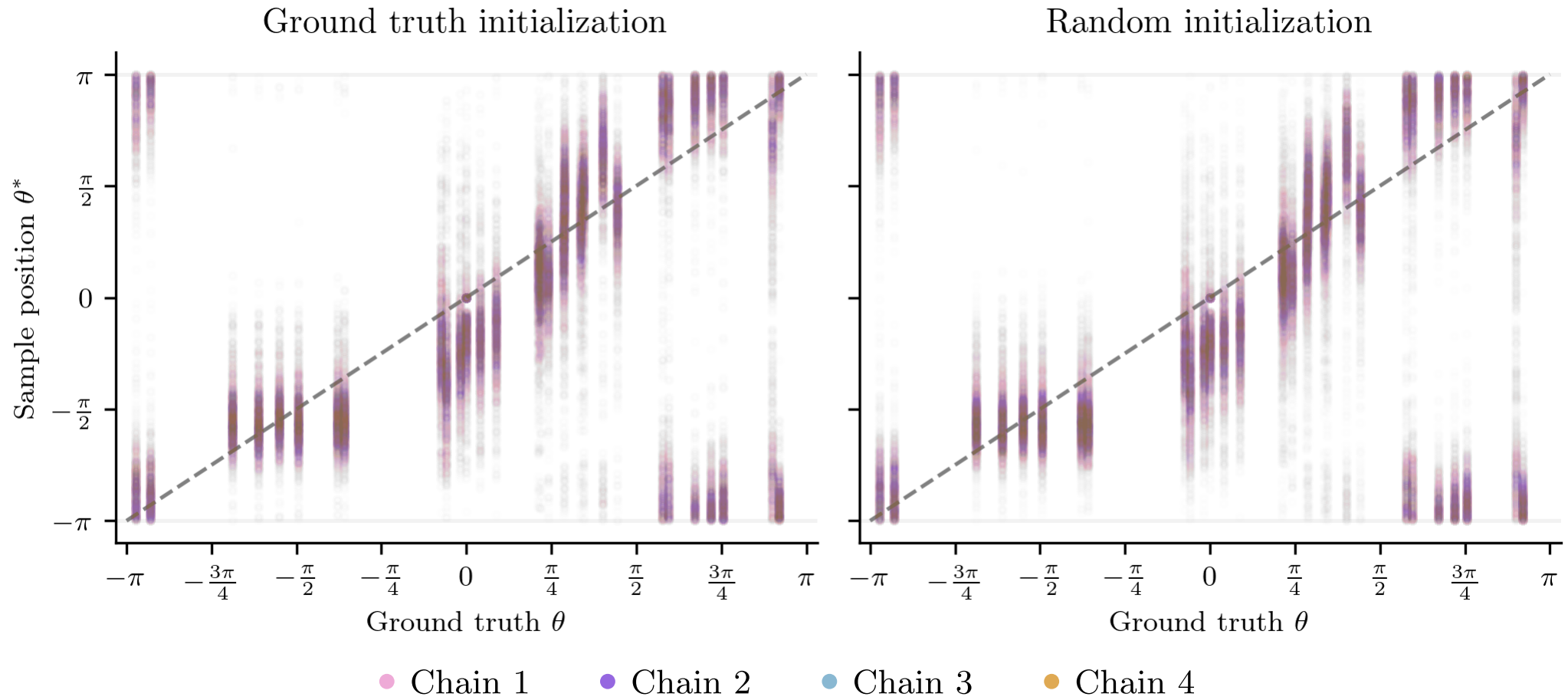
Locality implies clusters

Since edges are local, groups of nearby vertices should be moved together.

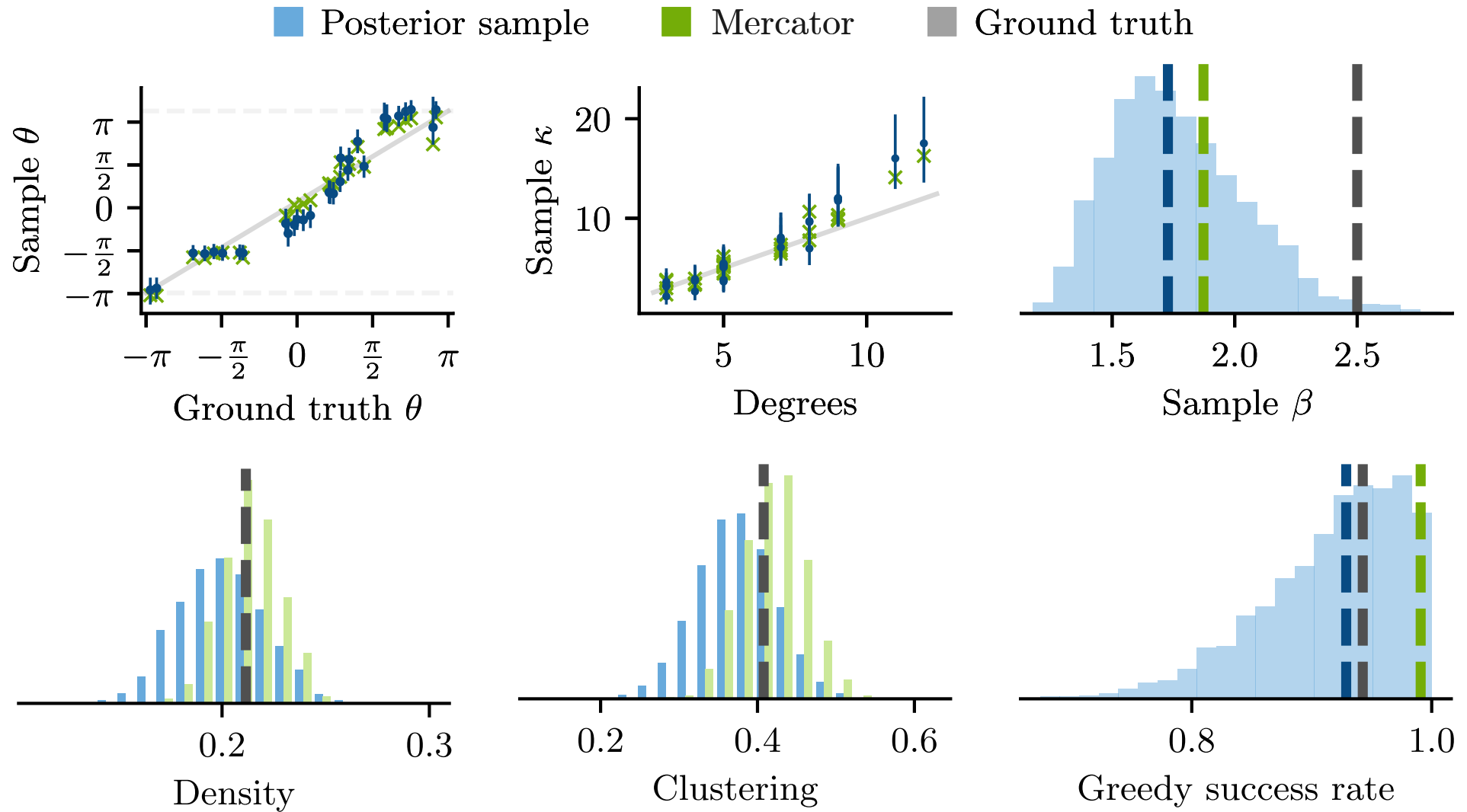


Cluster transformations fix the sampling issue

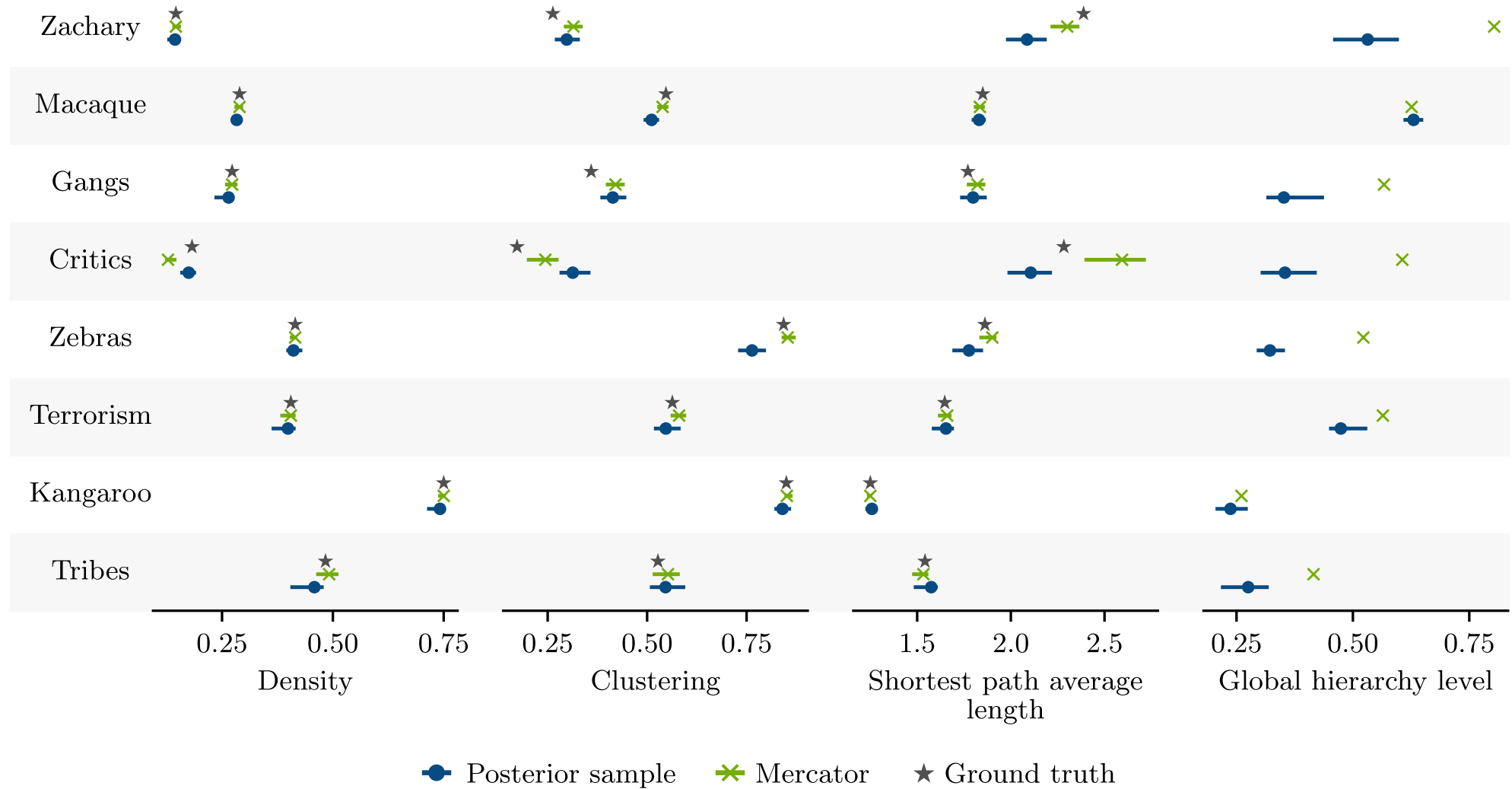
Cluster transformations + random walk yield good samples of the posterior.



Embedding error bars



Empirical networks properties

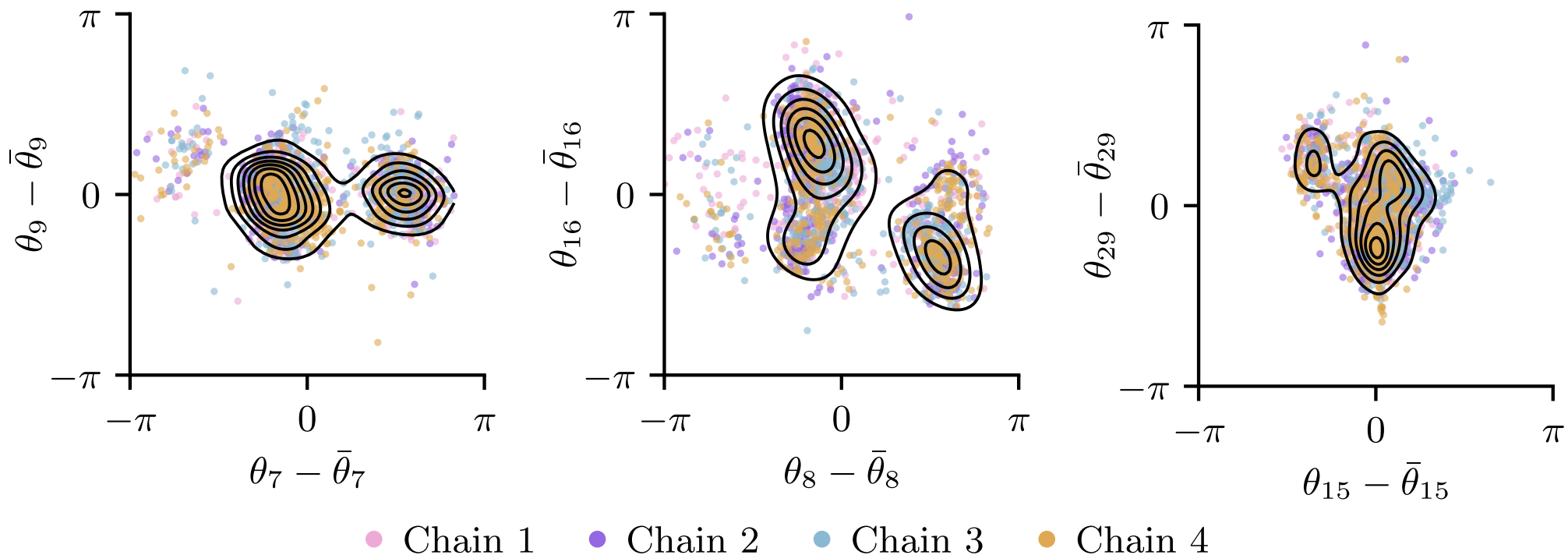


Induced multimodal distribution

Conflicting ground truth model:

- A vertex v is given two positions $\theta_v^{(1)}$ and $\theta_v^{(2)}$.
- When generating G with the $\mathbb{S}^1$ model, each edge probability including v uses randomly $\theta_v^{(1)}$ or $\theta_v^{(2)}$.

Marginal posterior distributions



Takeaways

- Hyperbolic random geometric graphs reproduce many empirically observed properties.
- Locality $\implies$ clusters as coarse-graining;
- Bayesian approach finds error bars and can identify multiple good embeddings.

Paper:

Lizotte, S., Young, J.-G. and Allard A. *Symmetry-driven embedding of networks in hyperbolic space*. arXiv:2406.10711 (2024).

[Accepted at Communication Physics]



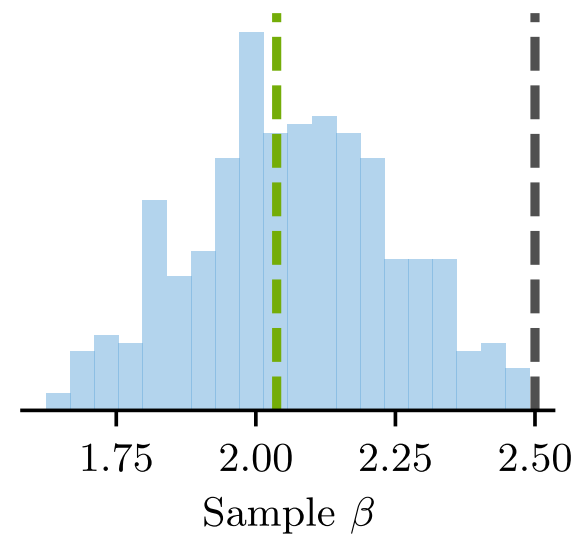
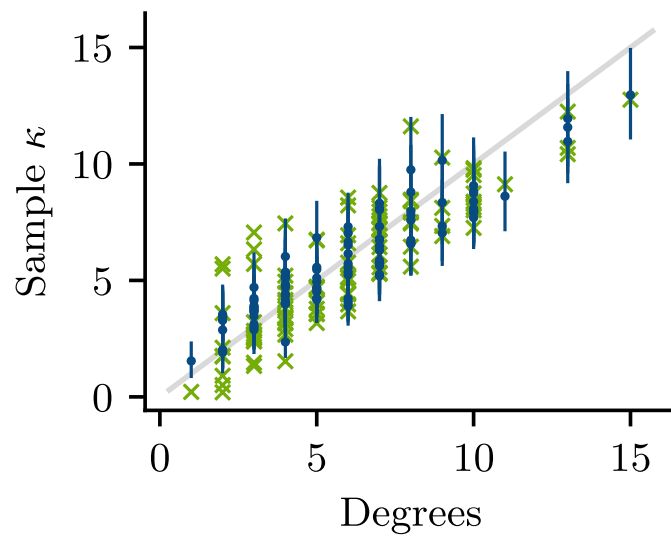
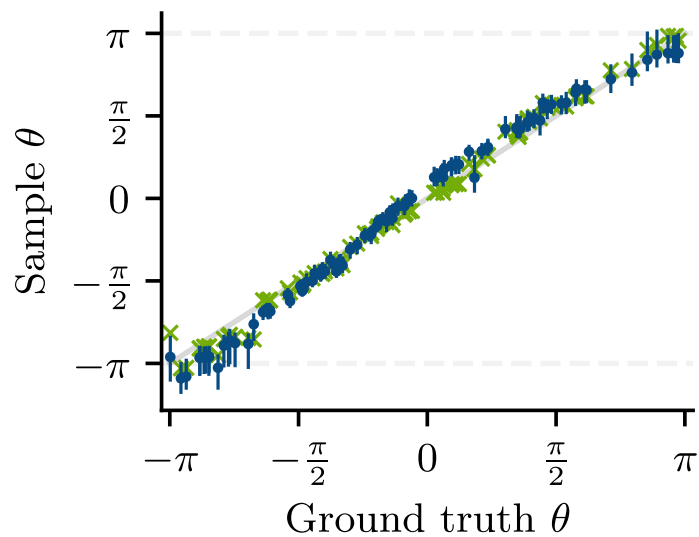
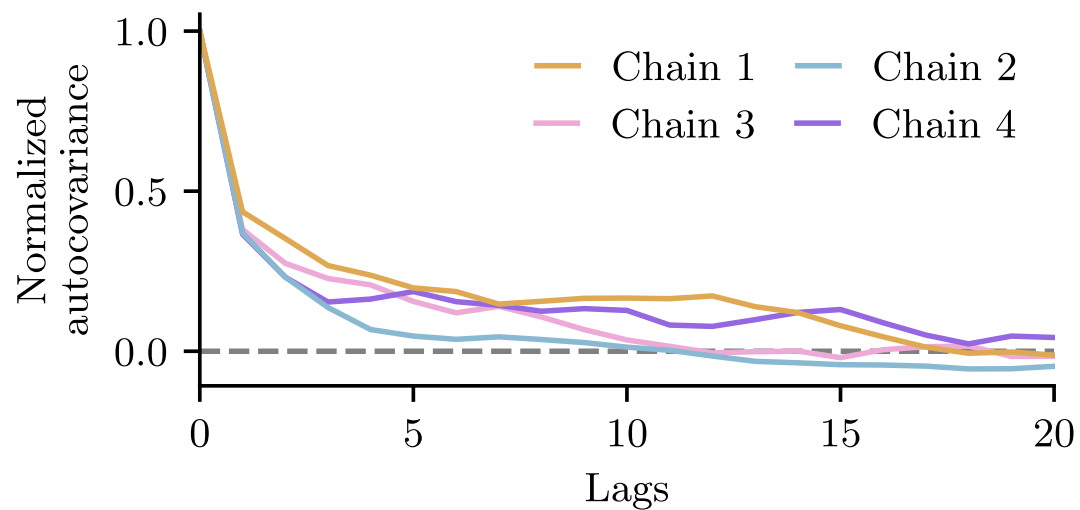
Antoine Allard



Jean-Gabriel Young

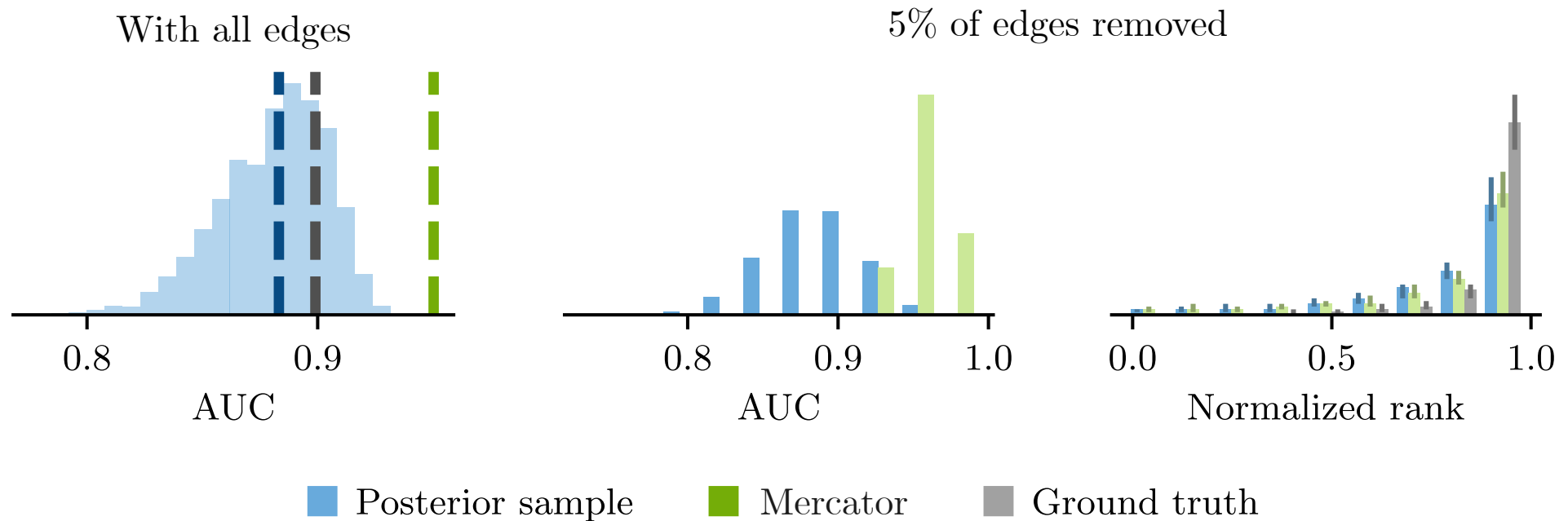


Synthetic graph of 100 vertices

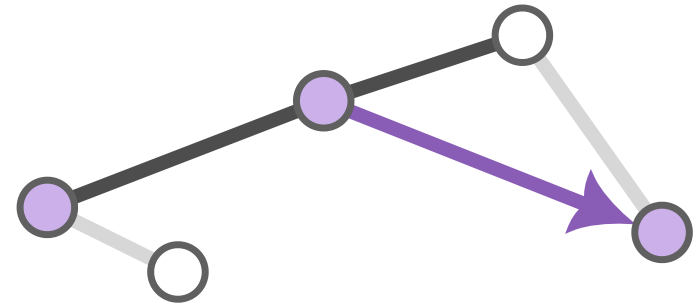
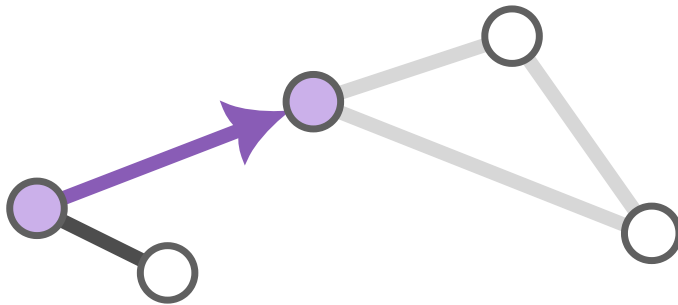
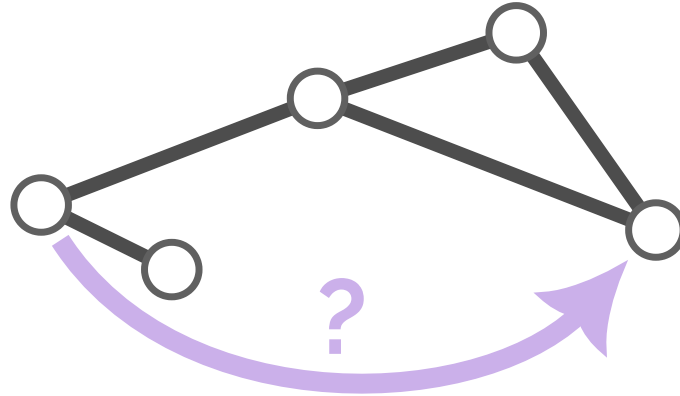


■ Posterior sample ■ Mercator ■ Ground truth

Link prediction is equivalent when sampling



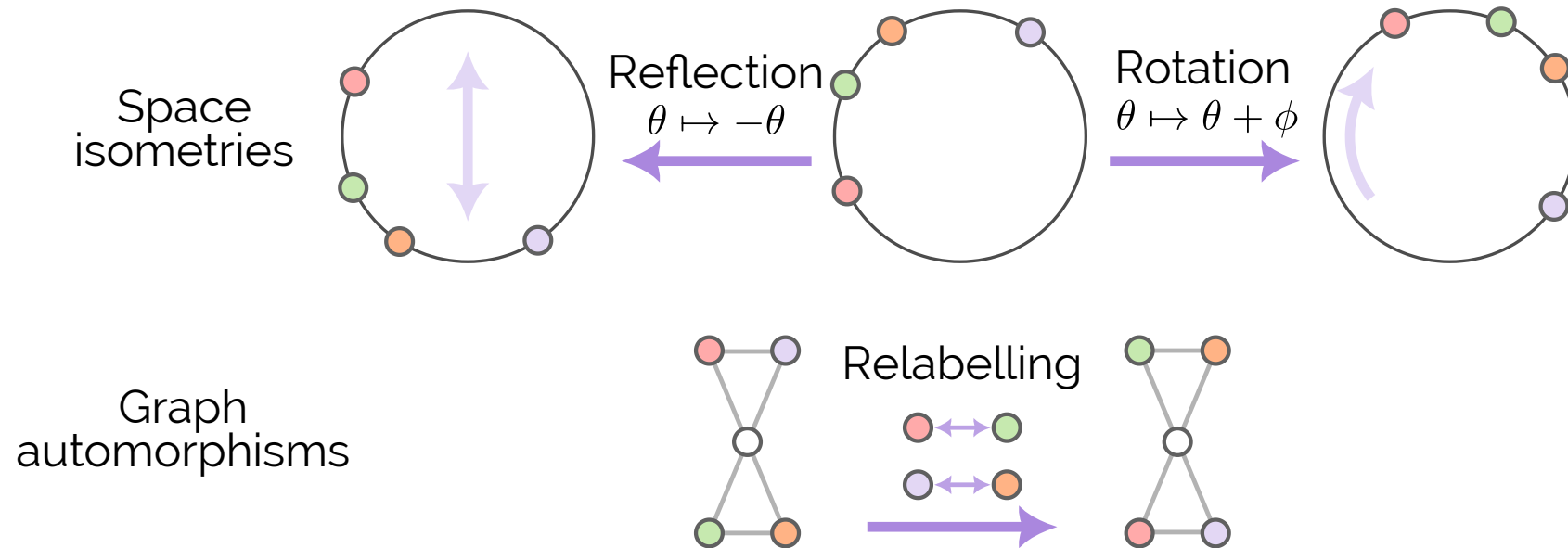
Greedy routing



Go to the neighbour closest to the destination.

Model symmetries

The $\mathbb{S}^1$ model is not identifiable because of graph and space symmetries.



Comparing embeddings requires alignment.

