

Transdisciplinary Power Grid Science

Paul Hines
Santa Fe Institute, Comenius Program
November 2014

Credits

Good ideas: P. Rezaei, M. Eppstein, M. Korkali, J. Veneman, B. Tivnan,
J. Bongard, S. Blumsack

Funding: Dept. of Energy, National Science Foundation, MITRE

Errors and omissions: Paul Hines

NY city, Nov. 9, 1965
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Outline

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- Why I am a power grid scientist/engineer

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- What is the power grid and what makes it “complex”

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- Cascading failures in power grids

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- What is the power grid and what makes it “complex”
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- Smart Grid: Will it make blackouts better or worse?

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- Why I am a power grid scientist/engineer
- What is the power grid and what makes it “complex”
 - What is transdisciplinary power grid science?
- Cascading failures in power grids
- Smart Grid: Will it make blackouts better or worse?
- Carrots vs. Sticks: Smart Grid and human behavior

Background



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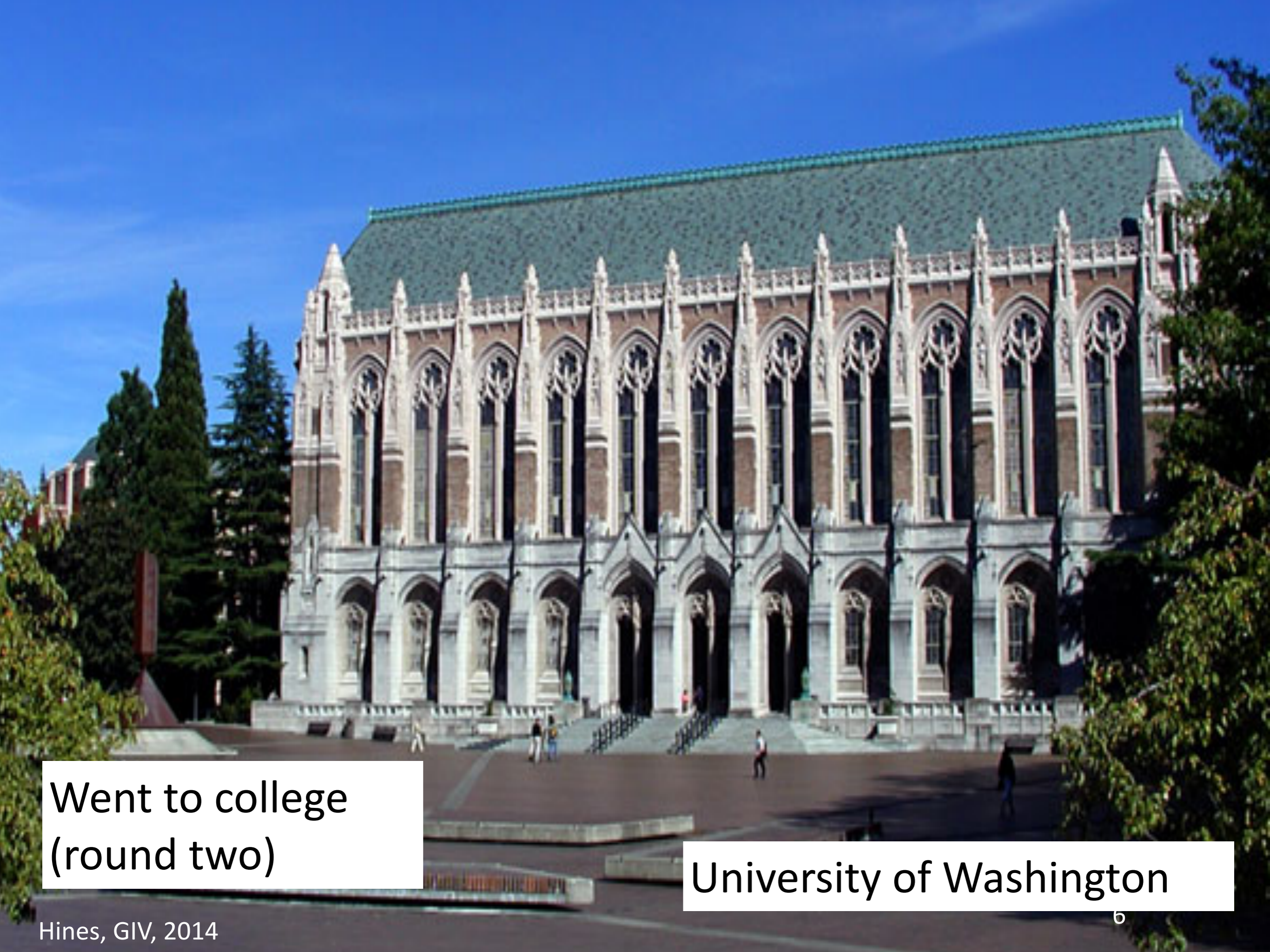
NY city, Nov. 9, 1965
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Went to College (the first time),
power engineering

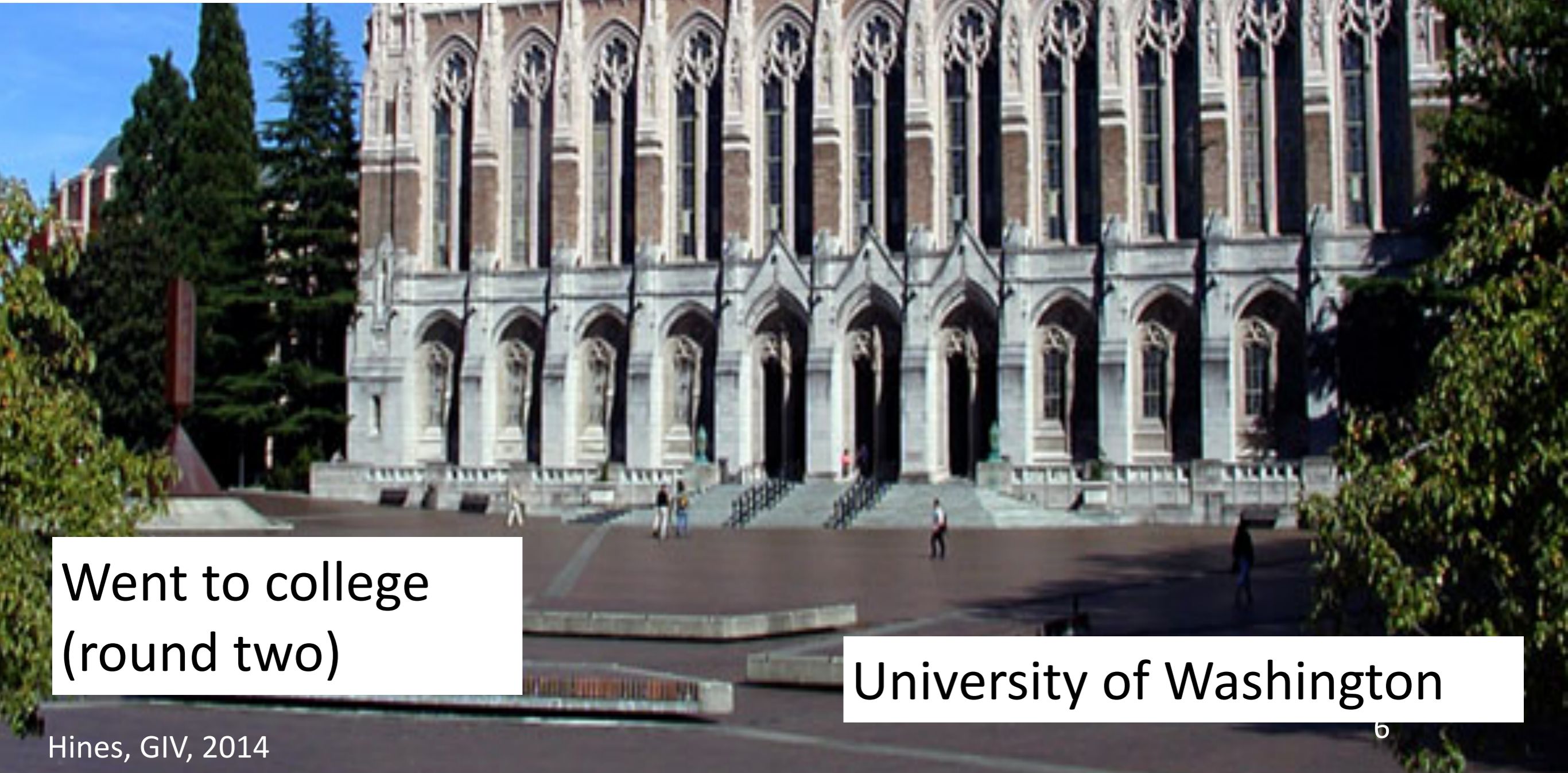
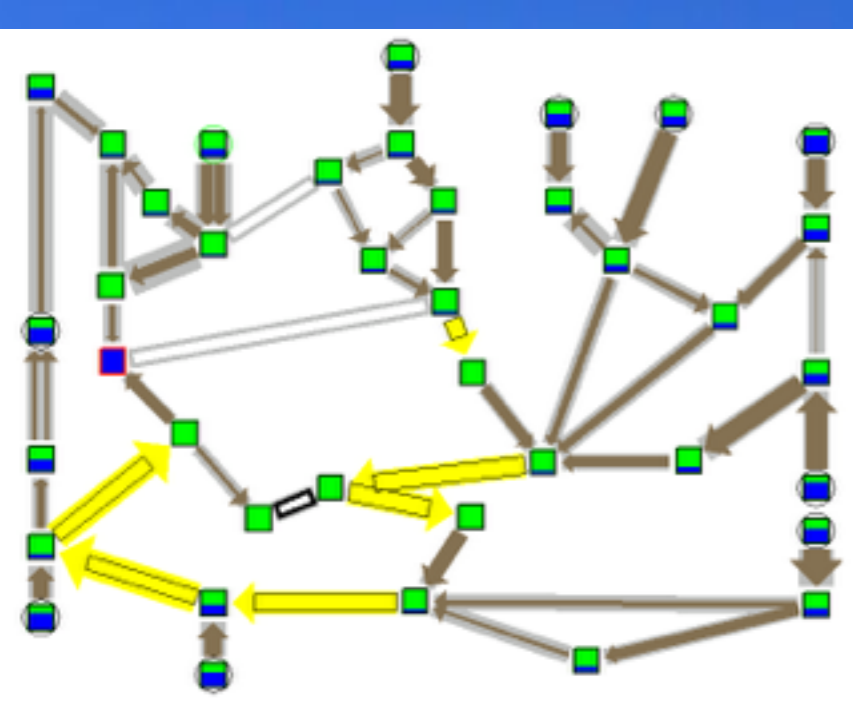


Went to work,
got a bit bored



Went to college
(round two)

University of Washington



Went to college
(round two)

University of Washington



INMA FOUNDATION

Building Bridges Across Cultural Borders

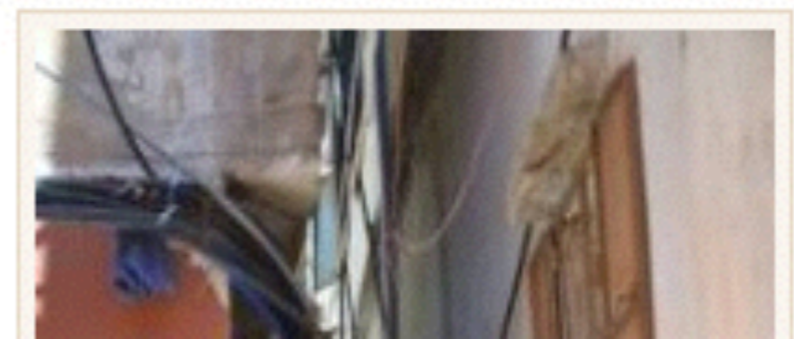
Learned Arabic



The INMA Volunteer Experience

When we arrived in Beirut we were still not sure what to expect. We knew we would be working with kids in a Palestinian refugee camp - but that was about it.

The first impression as we walked into the camp was of an incredible web of electrical wires and water pipes haphazardly

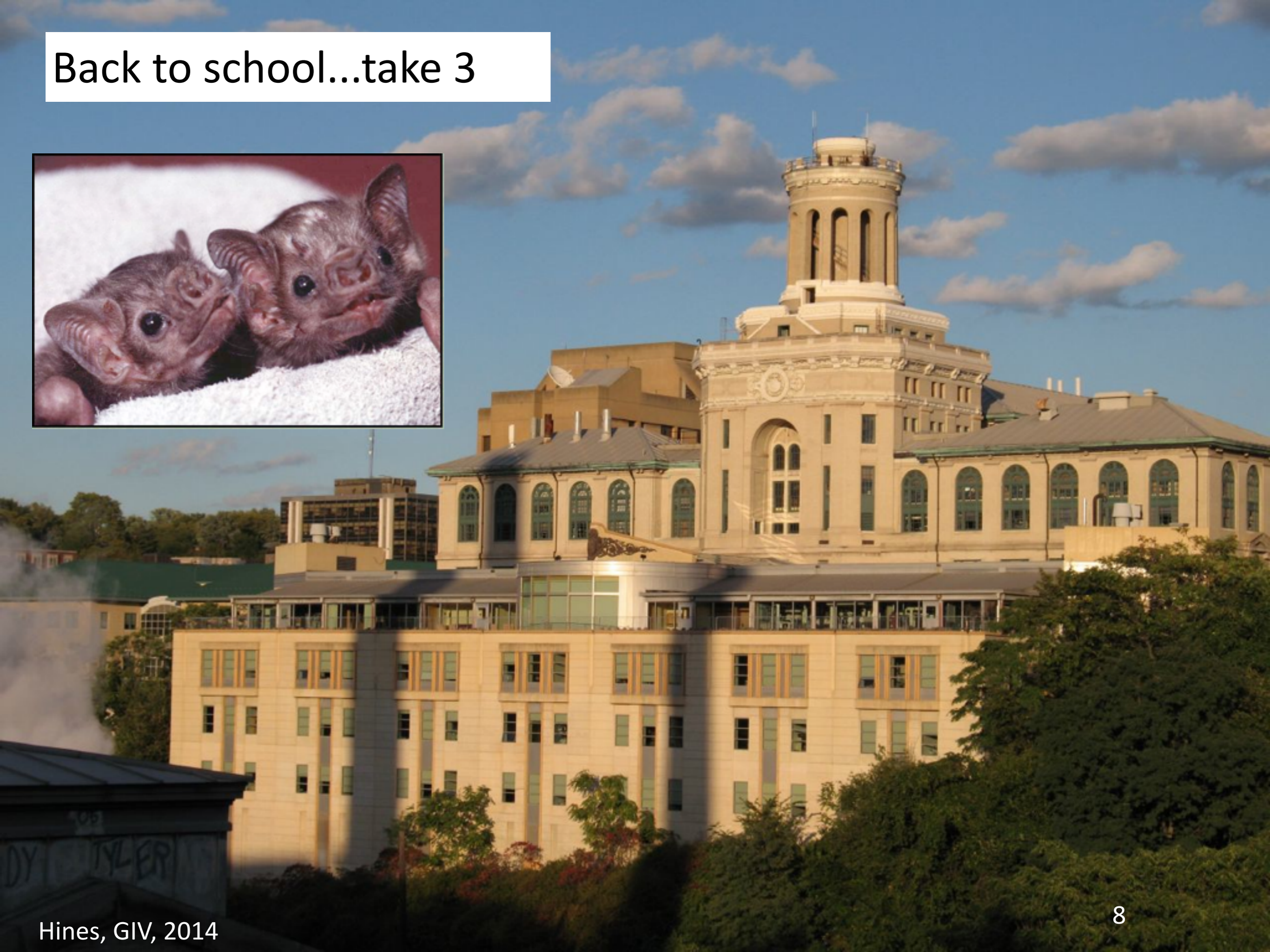


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-  [ABOUT](#)
-  [FAITH](#)
-  [PROJECTS](#)
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-  [VIDEOS](#)

Back to school...take 3



Back to school...take 3



After a few other detours

ALSTOM

Shaping the

Group

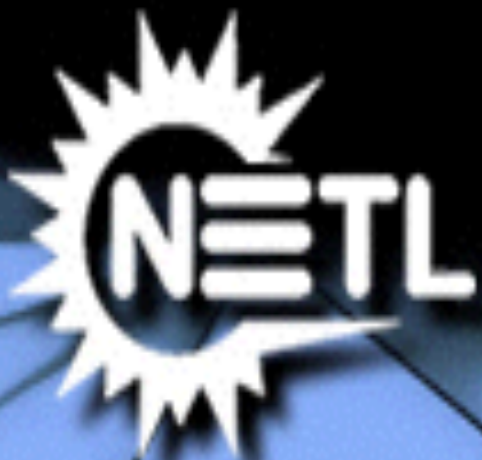
Power

Transport

Grid

Countries

Site Map




the **ENERGY** lab

Where energy challenges converge and energy solutions emerge



FERC

FEDERAL ENERGY REGULATORY COMMISSION



Back to college...4th time is the charm?

Why I'm an engineer



Why I'm an engineer

In order to make the



Why I'm an engineer

In order to make the



Why I'm an engineer

**In order to make the
world a better place**



Why I'm an engineer

**In order to make the
world a better place
(cultivate the universe)**



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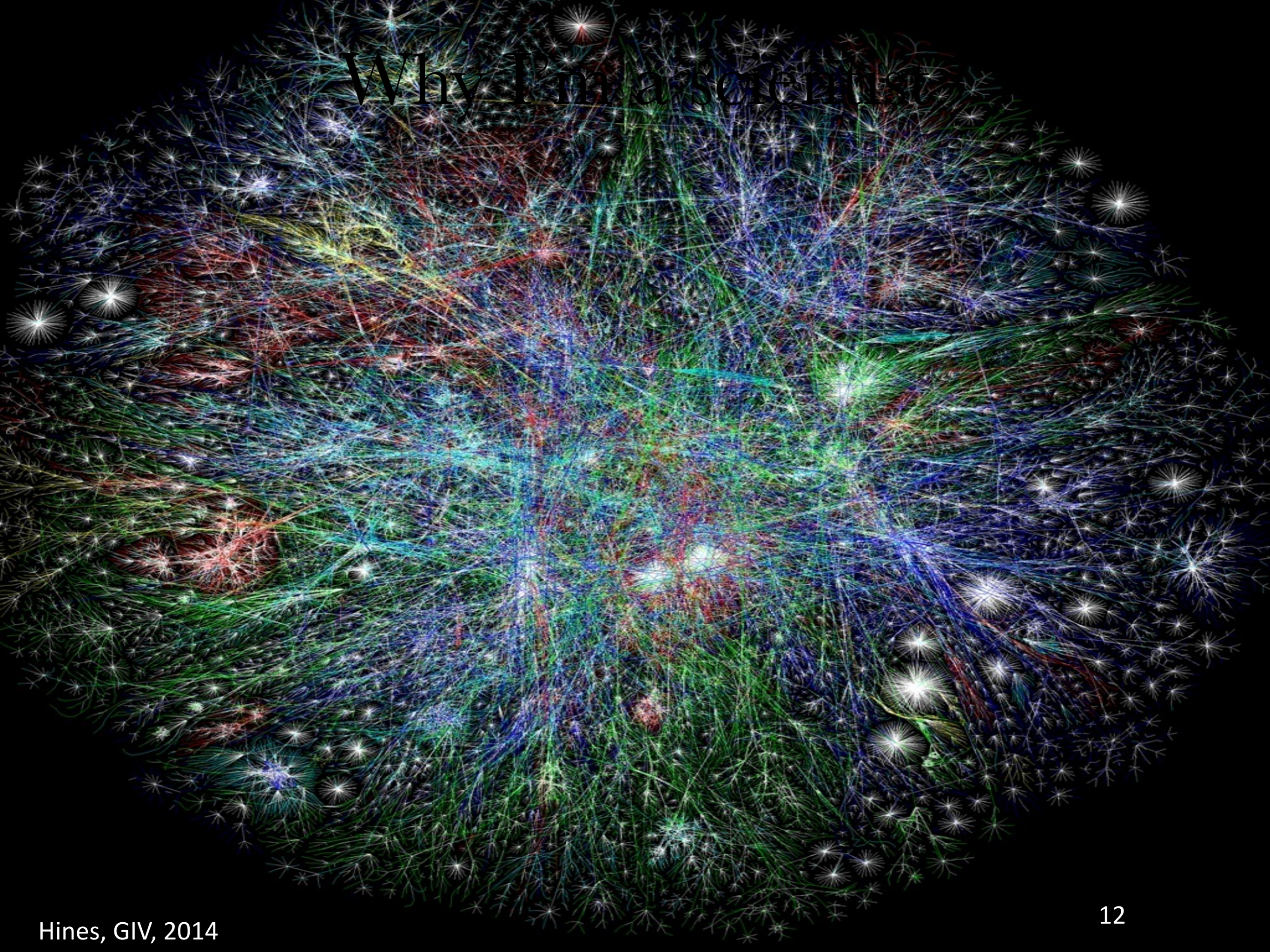
**In order to make the
world a better place
(cultivate the universe)**



“IEEE's core purpose is to foster technological innovation and excellence for the benefit of humanity.”



Why I'm a scientist



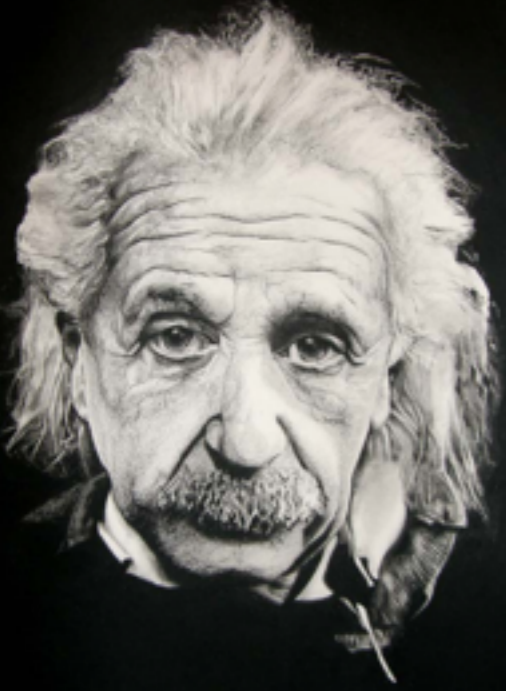


Why I'm a scientist

Because it is good

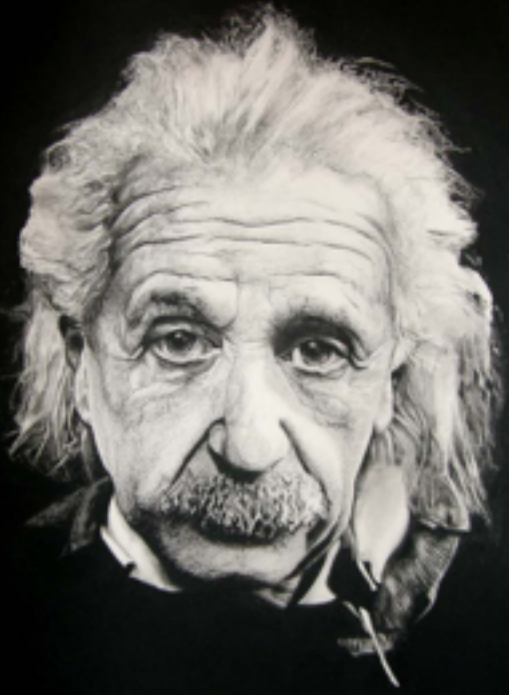
Why I'm a scientist

Because it is good
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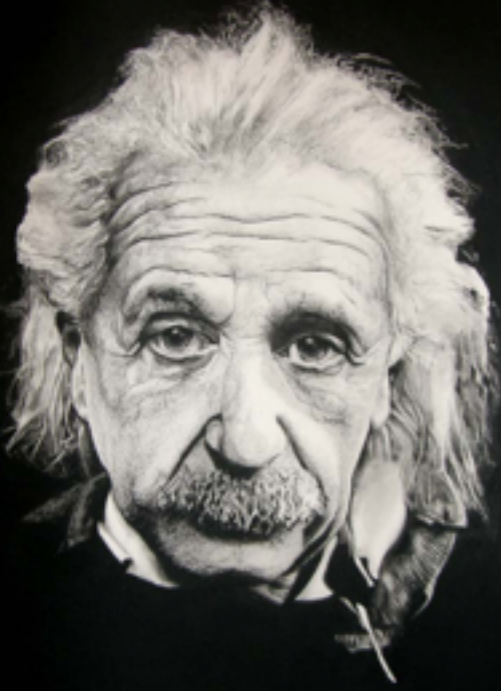
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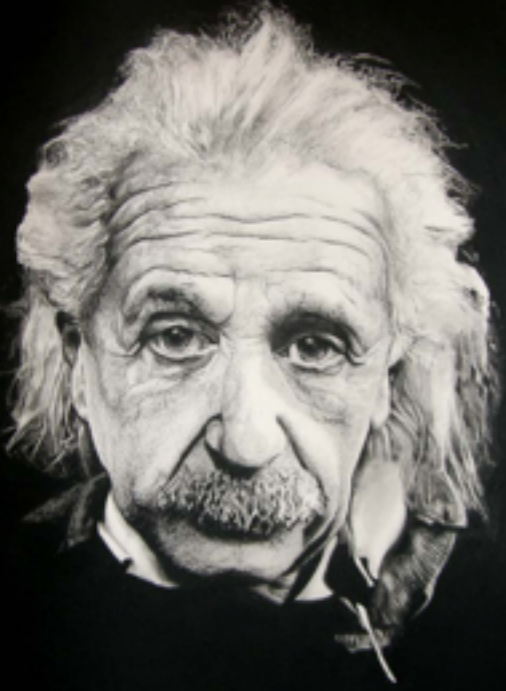
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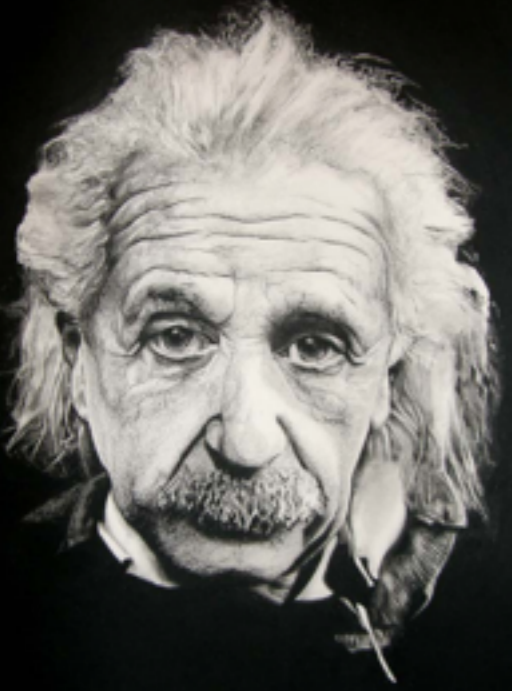
“I want to know God's thoughts –



Why I'm a scientist

Because it is good
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“I want to know God's thoughts –
the rest are mere details”

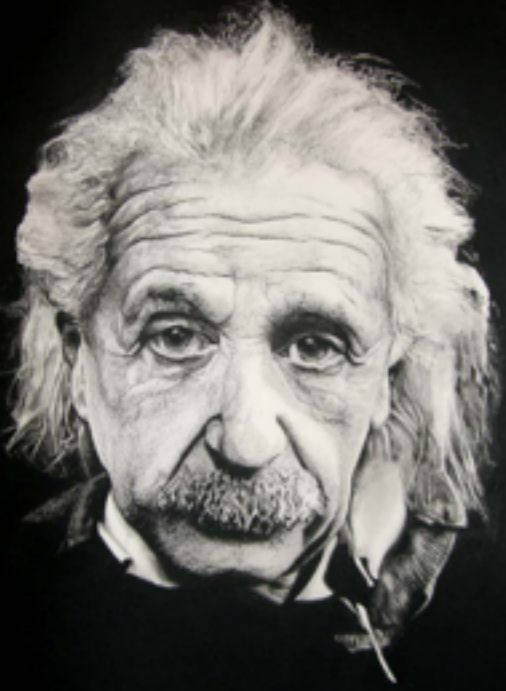


Why I'm a scientist

Because it is good
to understand the universe.

“I want to know God's thoughts –
the rest are mere details”

Albert Einstein



What is the grid, and how is it complex?

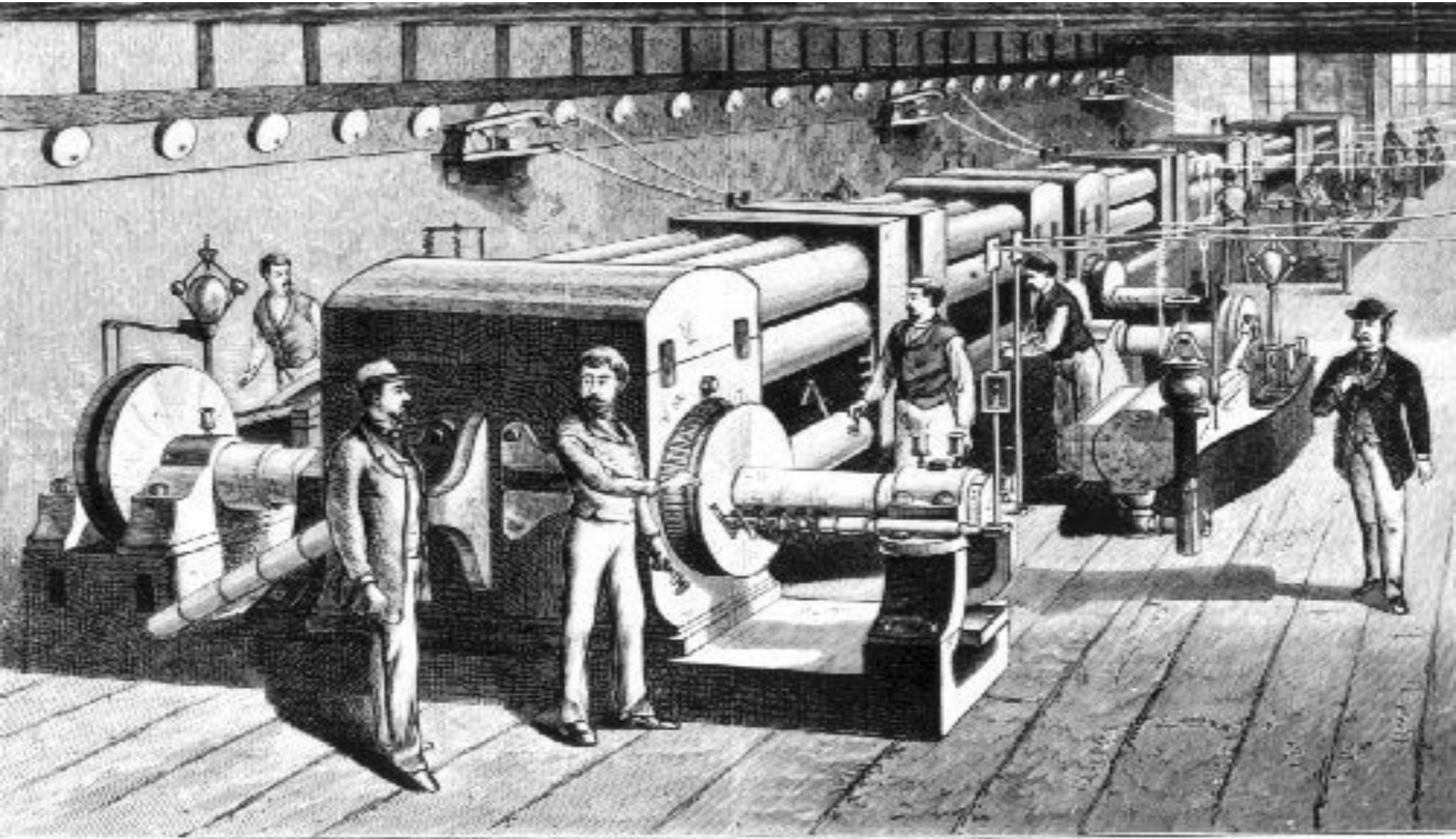
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le at:
v/apod/ap001127.html

Astronomy Picture of the Day
2000 November 27
<http://astwrp.gsfc.nasa.gov/apod/astropix.html>

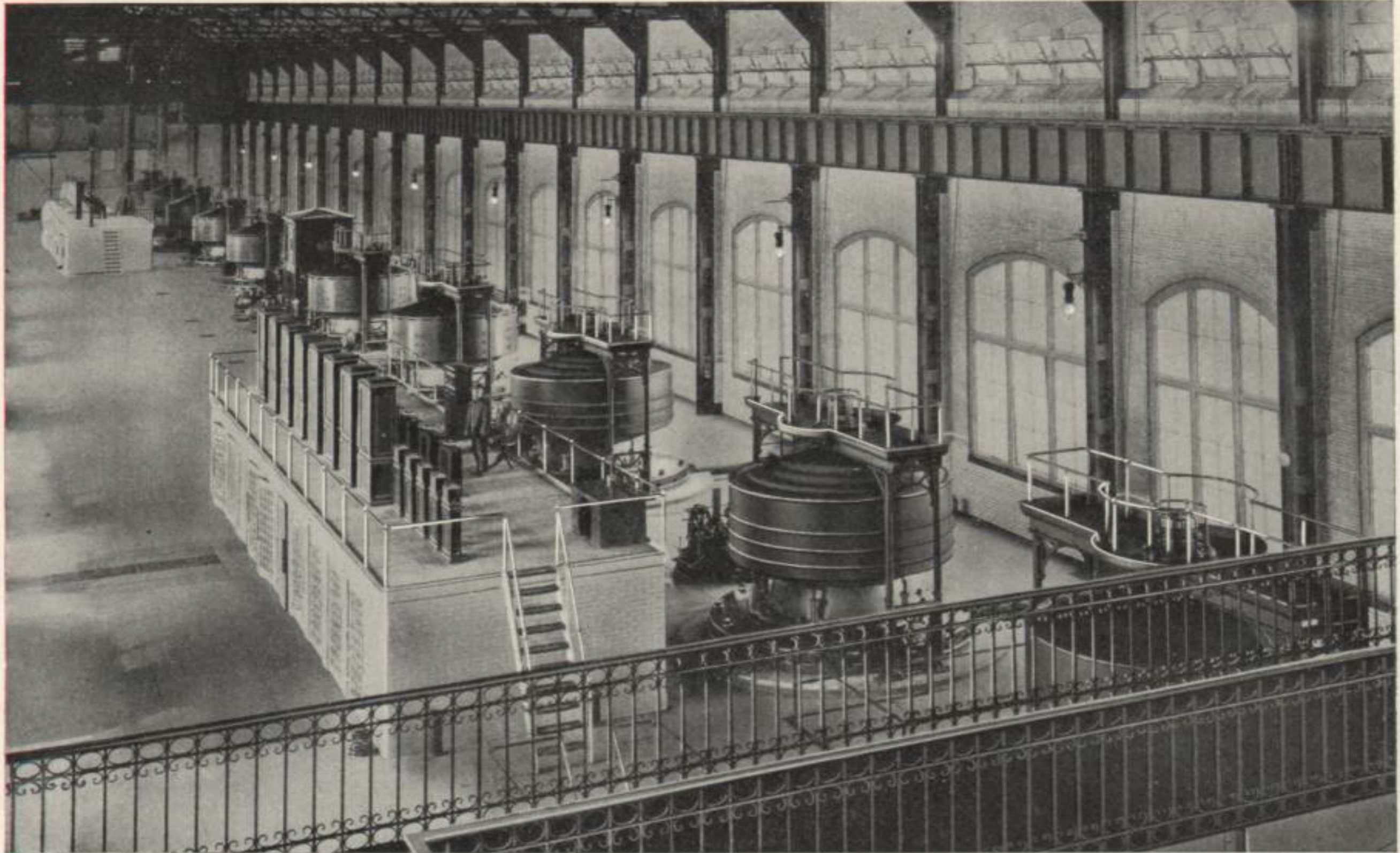
Pearl street station



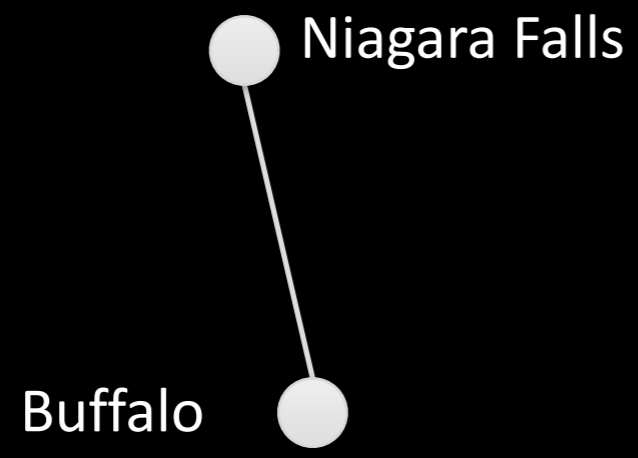
THE DYNAMO ROOM.

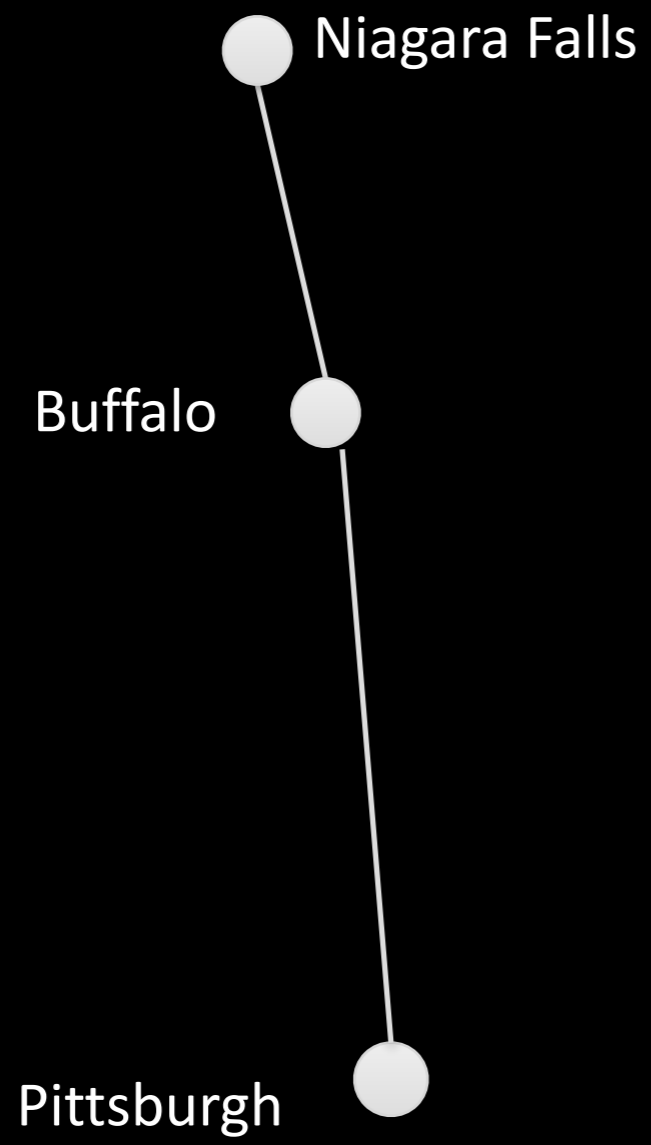
FIRST EDISON ELECTRIC LIGHTING STATION IN NEW YORK.

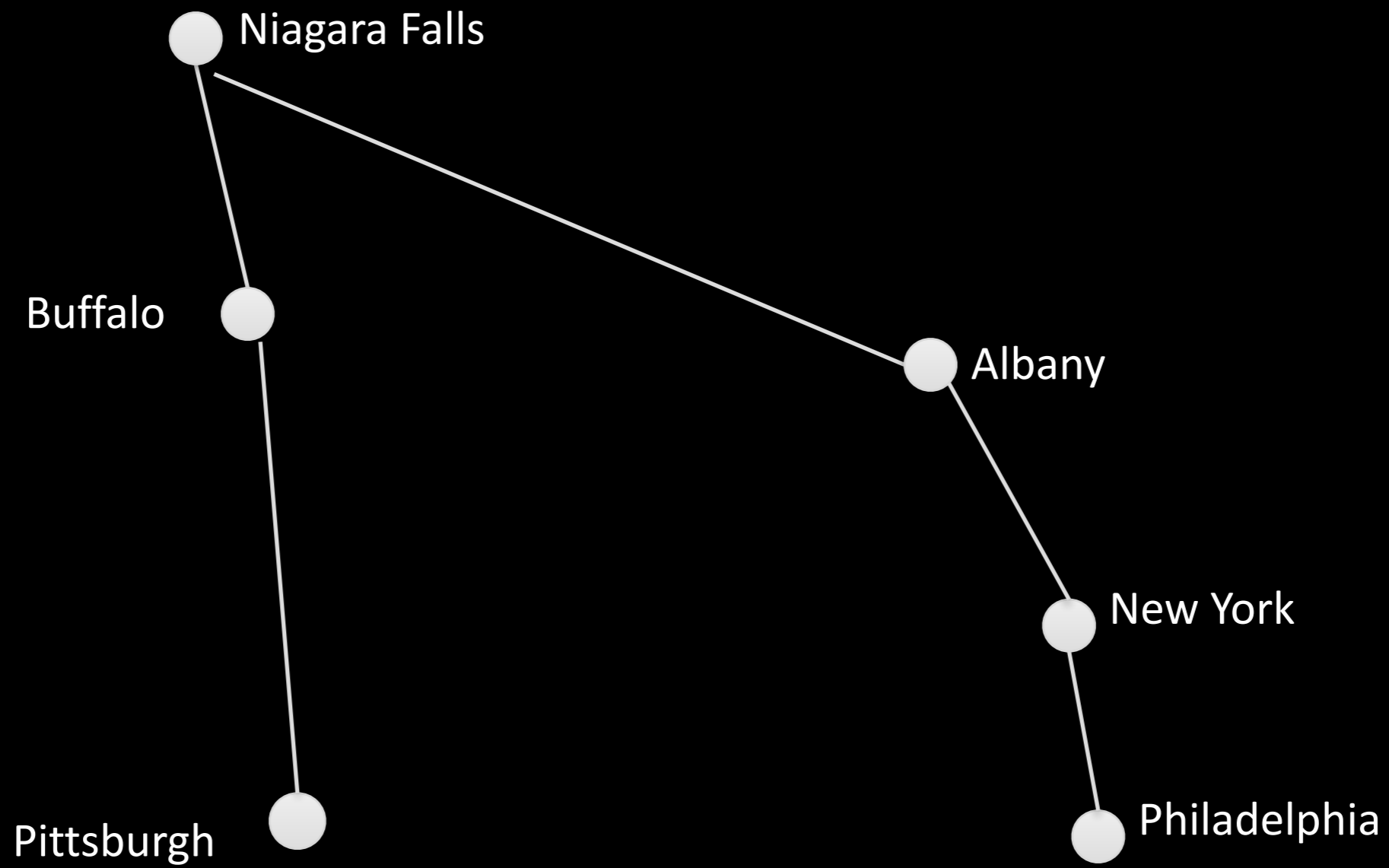
1895: Niagara Falls to Buffalo

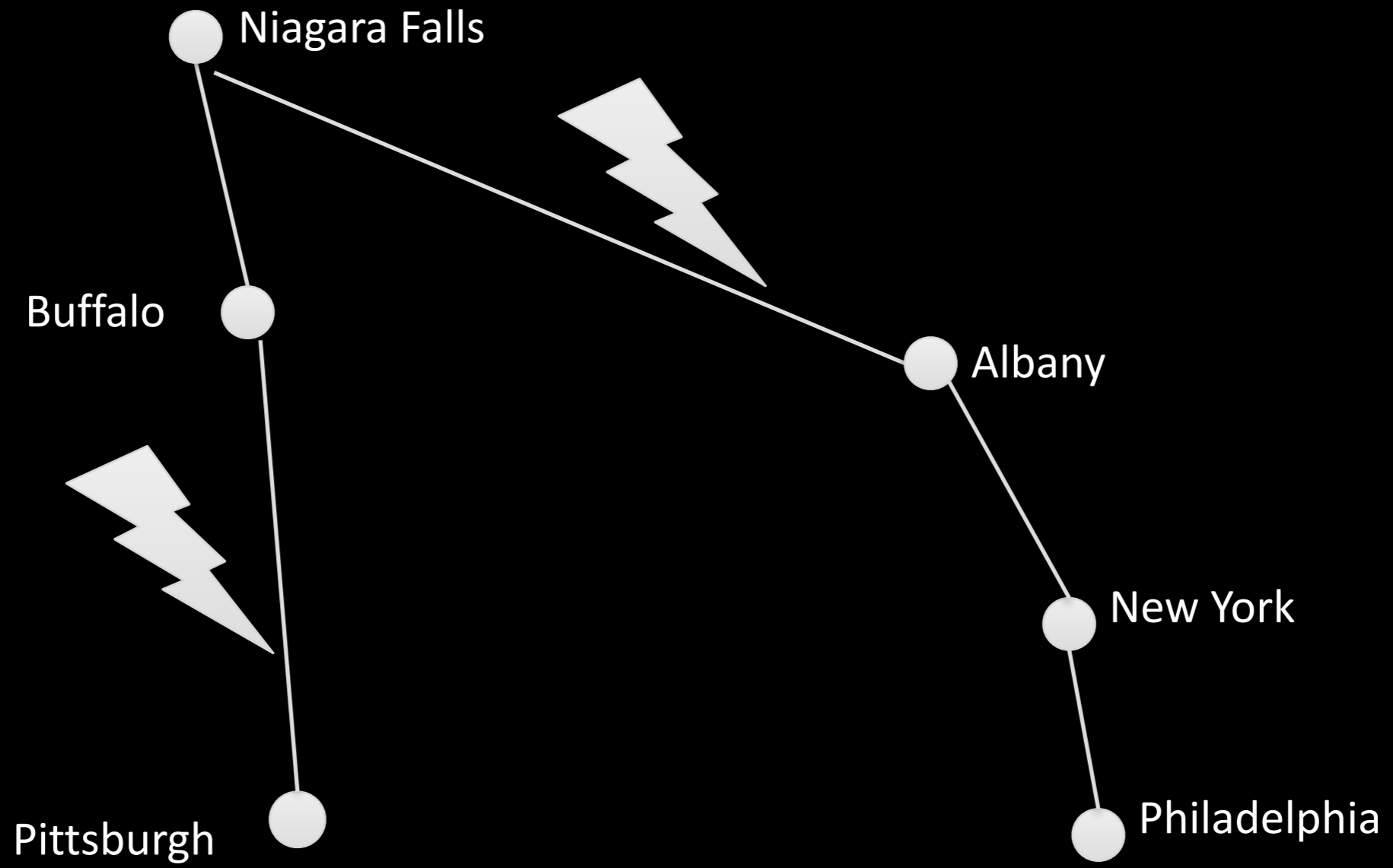


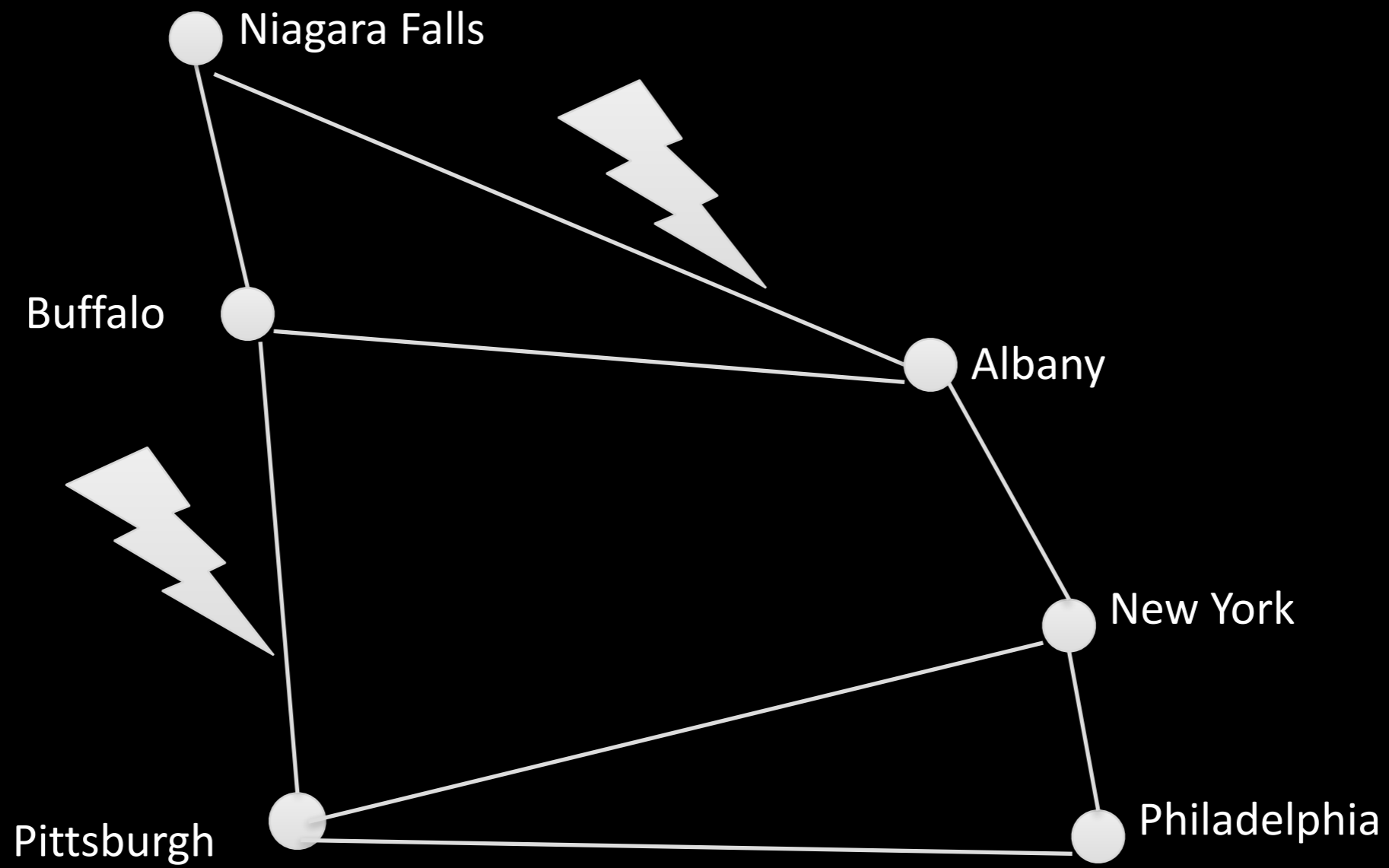
GENERATING STATION OF THE NIAGARA FALLS POWER COMPANY, SHOWING THE TEN 5,000 H. P. GENERATORS











US Northeast and Canada
August 14, 2003
50 million people





California, Arizona, Mexico
September 8, 2011
5 million people



Northern India

July 30, 2012: 350 million people

July 31, 2012: 700 million people



Photo: Bikas Das/AP Photo
IEEE Spectrum, Oct. 2012

Bangladesh. 1 November 2014



Officials said it would take at least 12 hours to repair the system and restore power to the capital Dhaka [AP]

Things we know about power grids

Things we know about power grids



The physics
of generation

Things we know about power grids



The physics
of generation



The physics of
transmission

Things we know about power grids



The physics
of generation

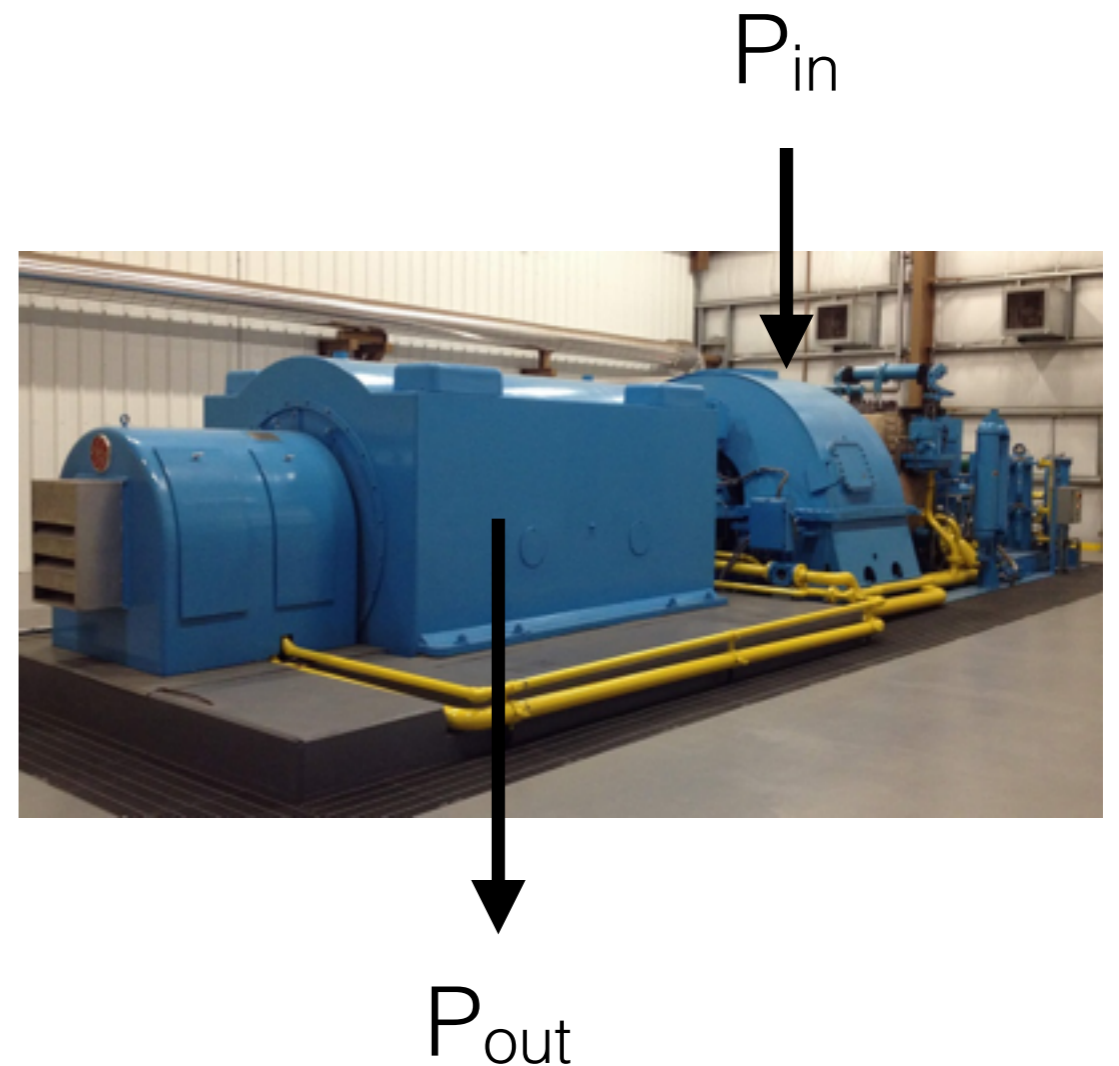


The physics of
transmission



That they
mostly work
(note the simple
interface)

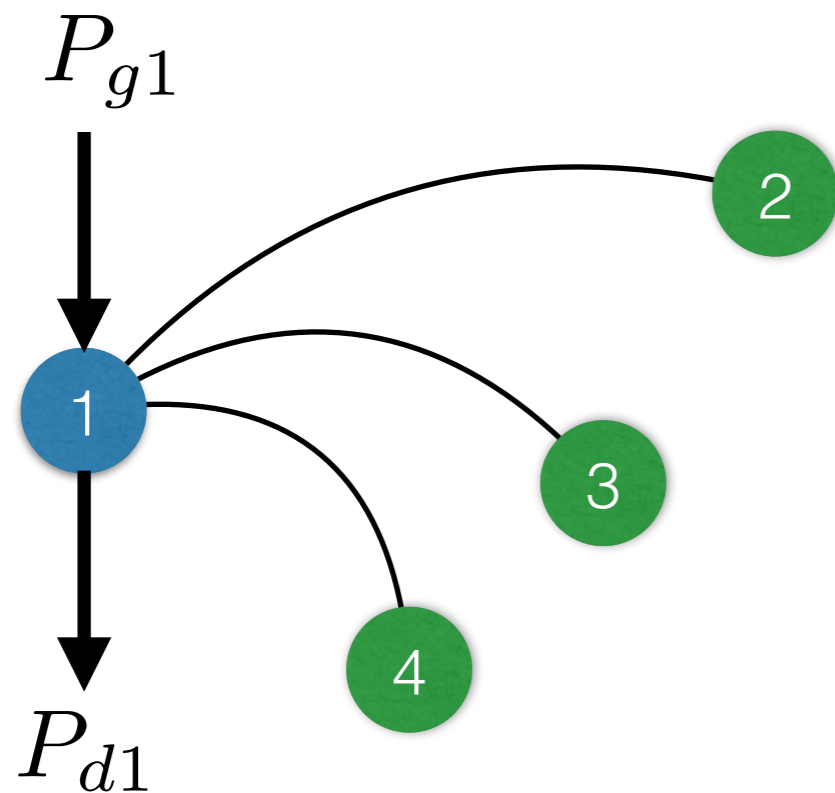
Two key principles



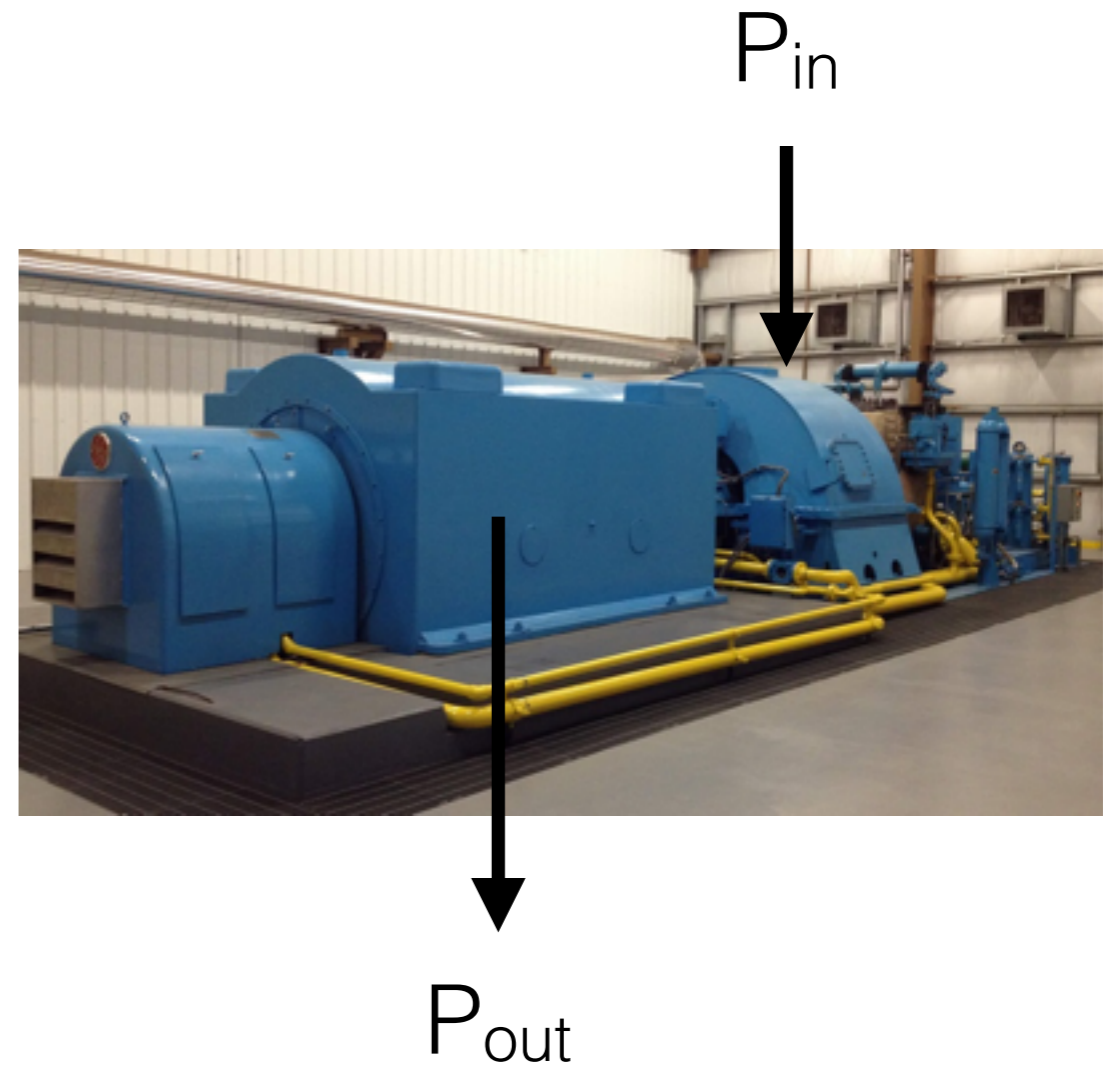
What goes in, must come out
(there is no storage)

If what goes out is not
equal to what goes in
generators speed up/down

Two key principles

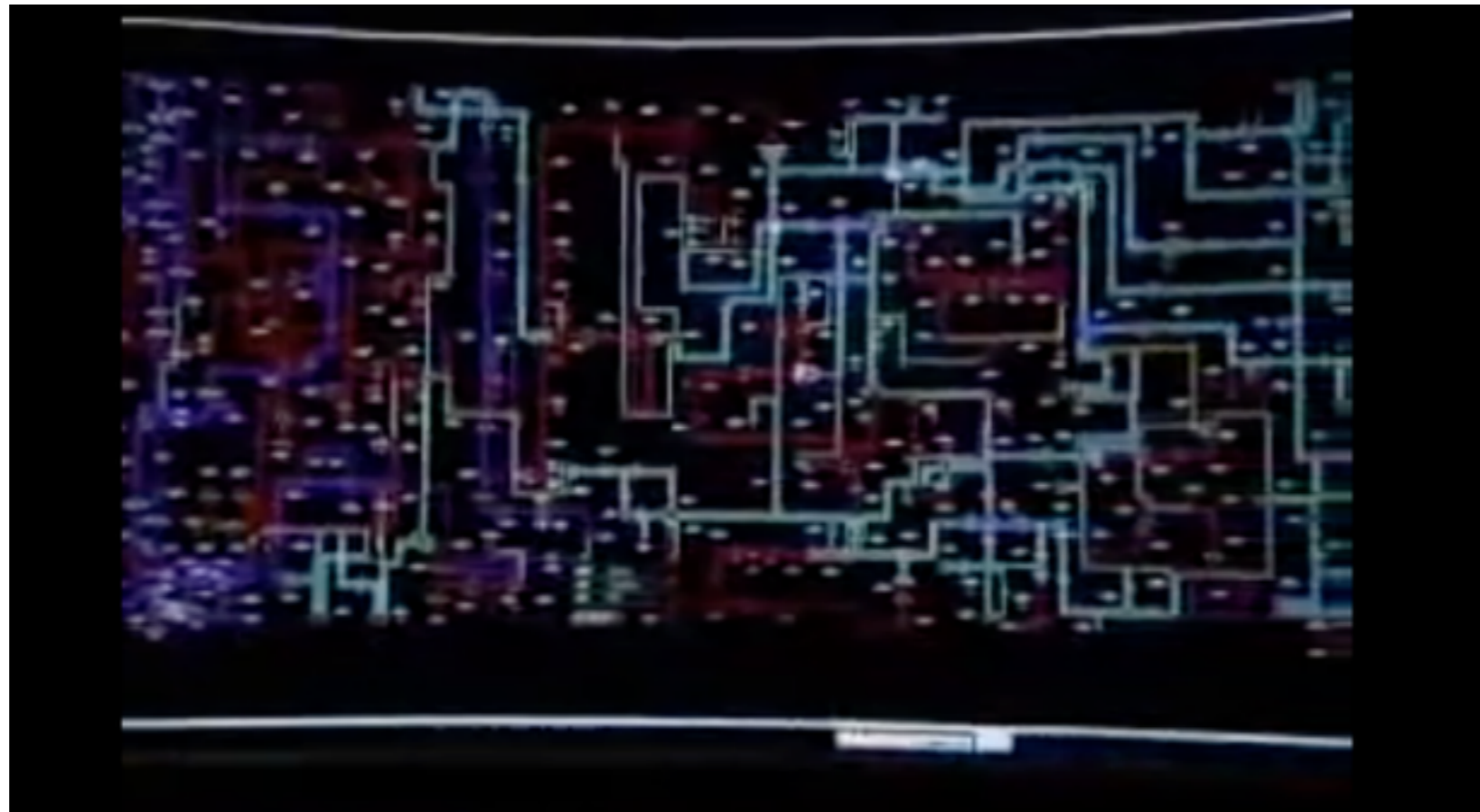


What goes in, must come out
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If what goes out is not
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generators speed up/down

Illustration of this process

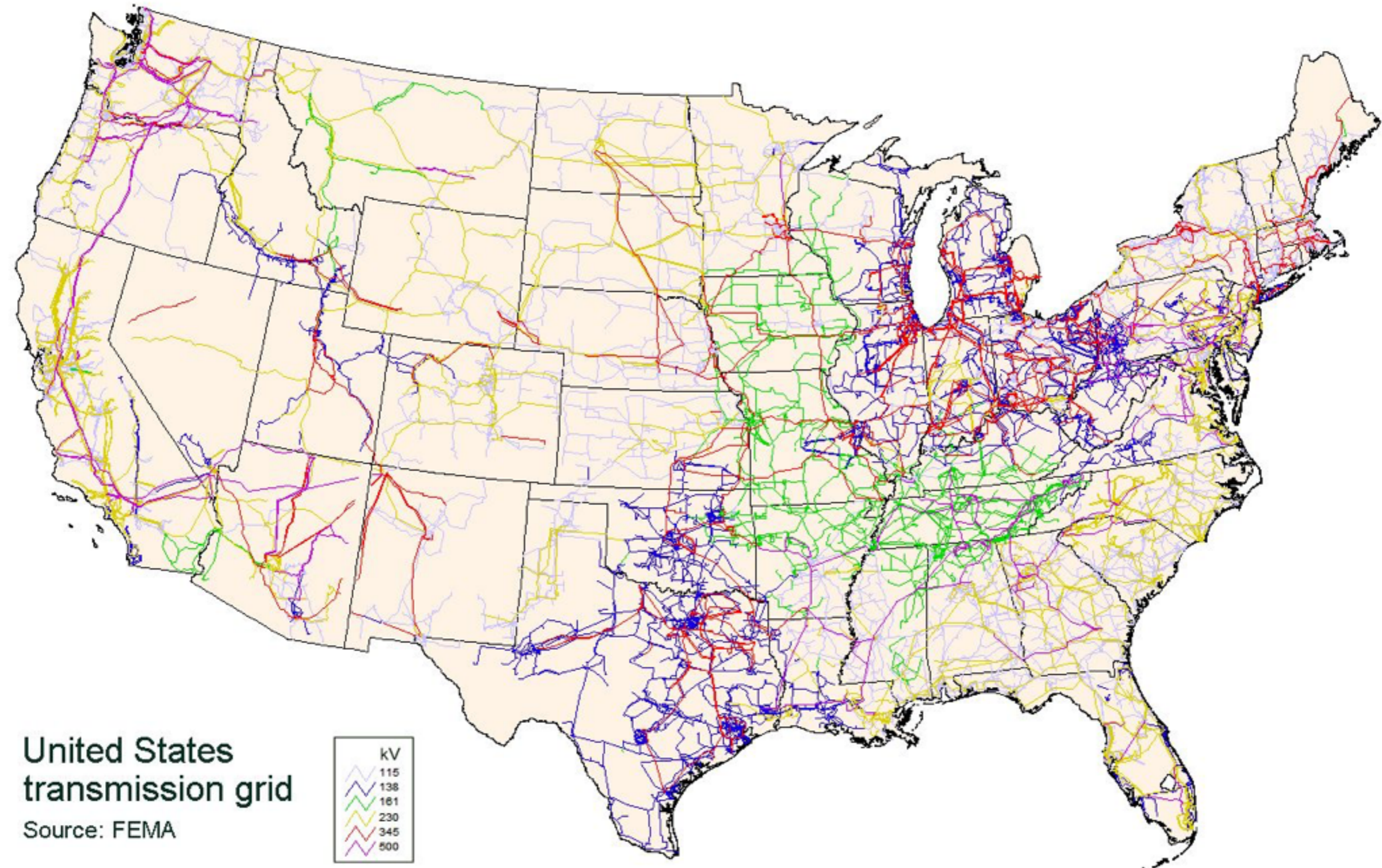


<http://youtu.be/UTM2Ck6XWHg>

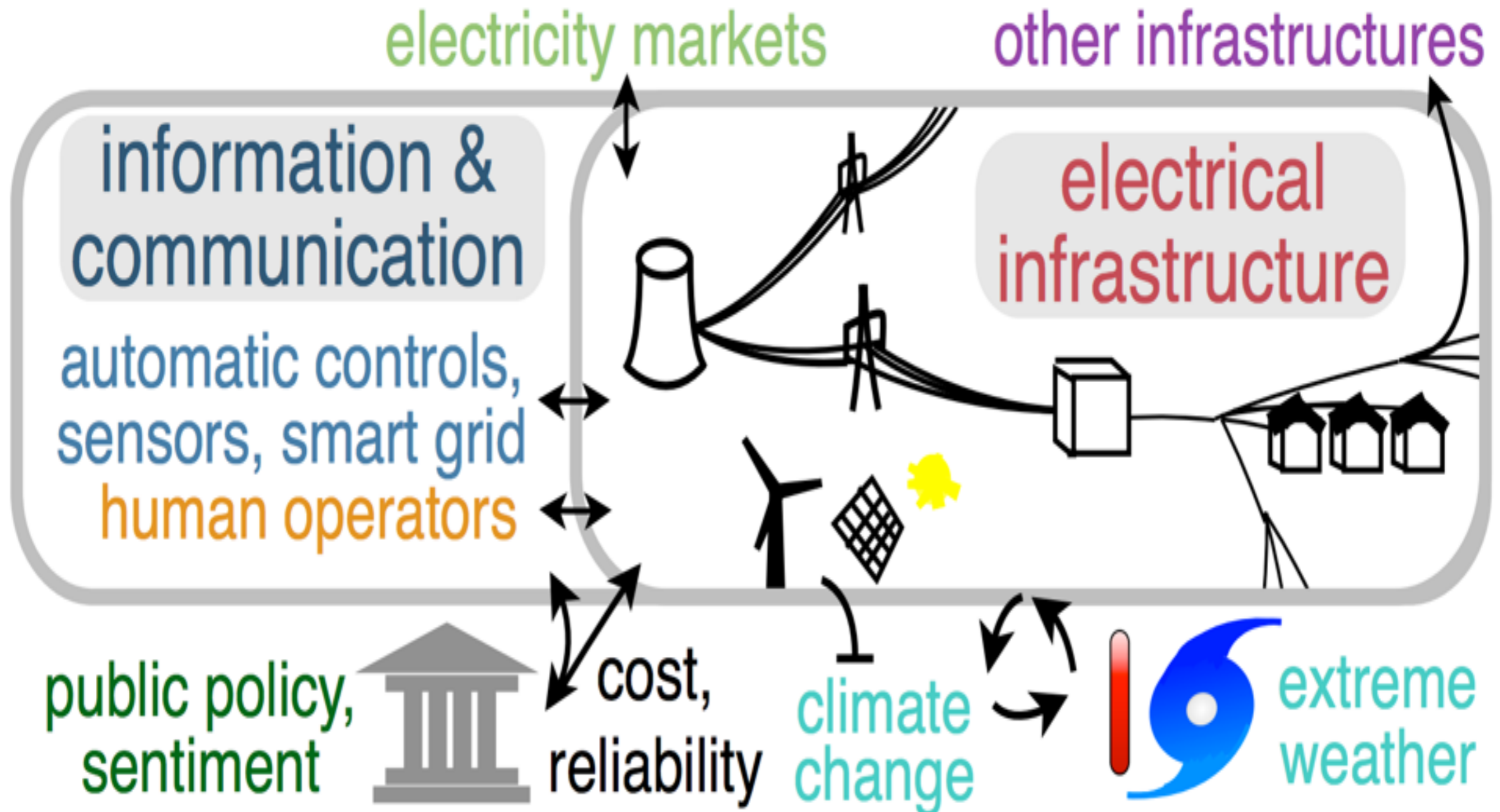
Things that we don't know

- Exactly why cascades happen
- How to make them not happen
- How to incorporate intermittent wind and solar at very large scales without adding risk to this fragile system
- (and especially) How to coordinate the actions of millions of devices and people (and the weather) to improve reliability, efficiency and sustainability

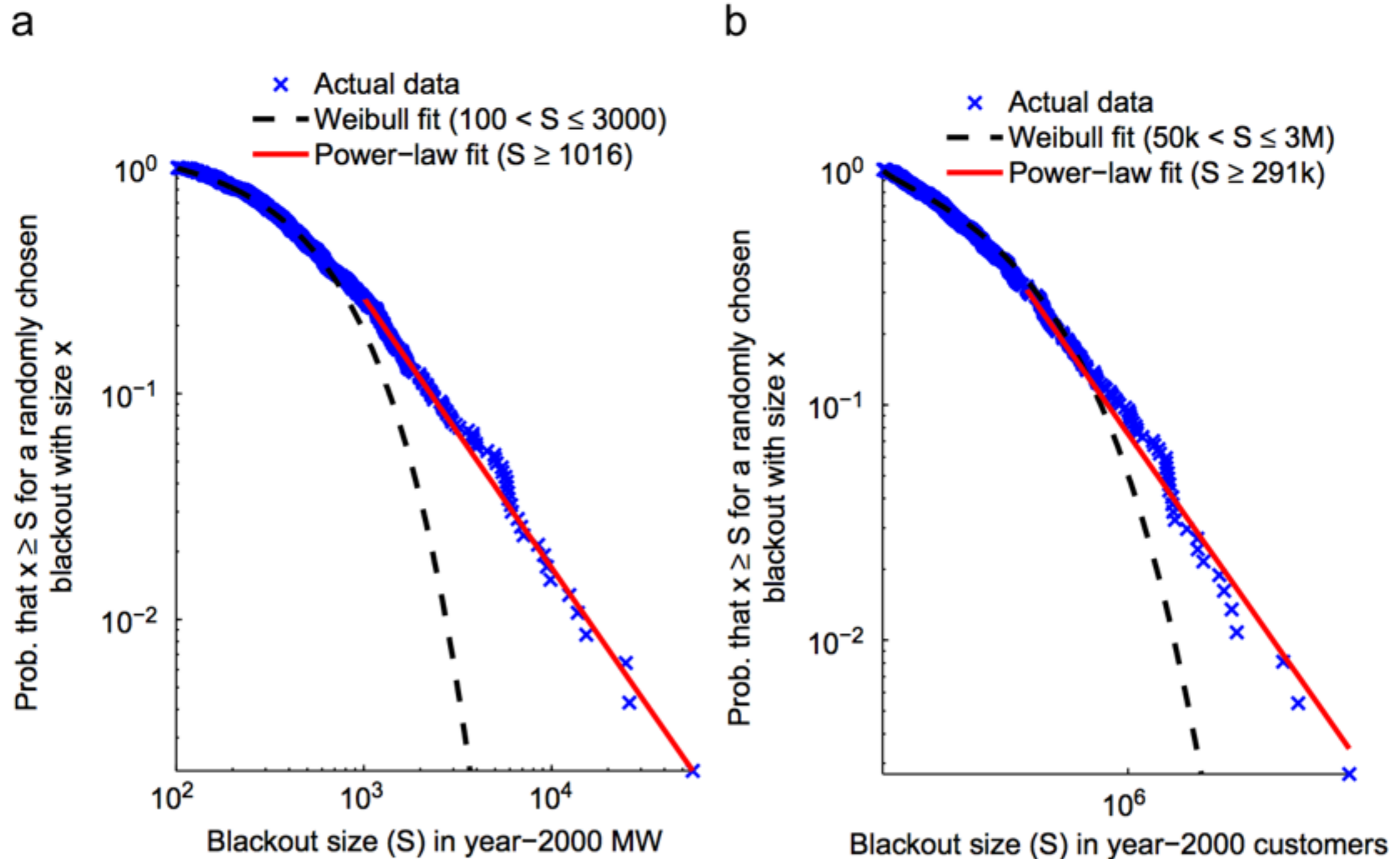
The US Power Grid



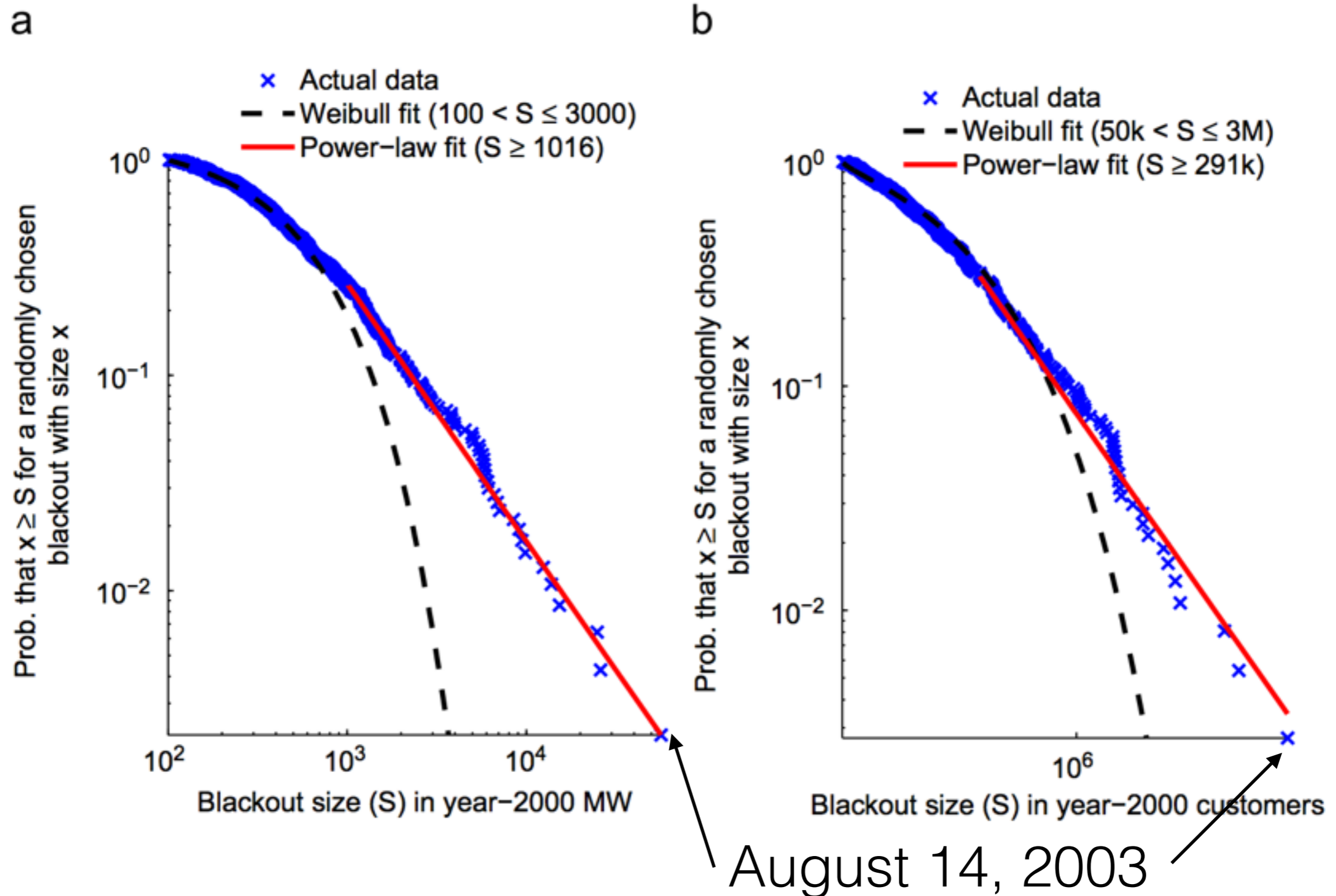
The more important picture...



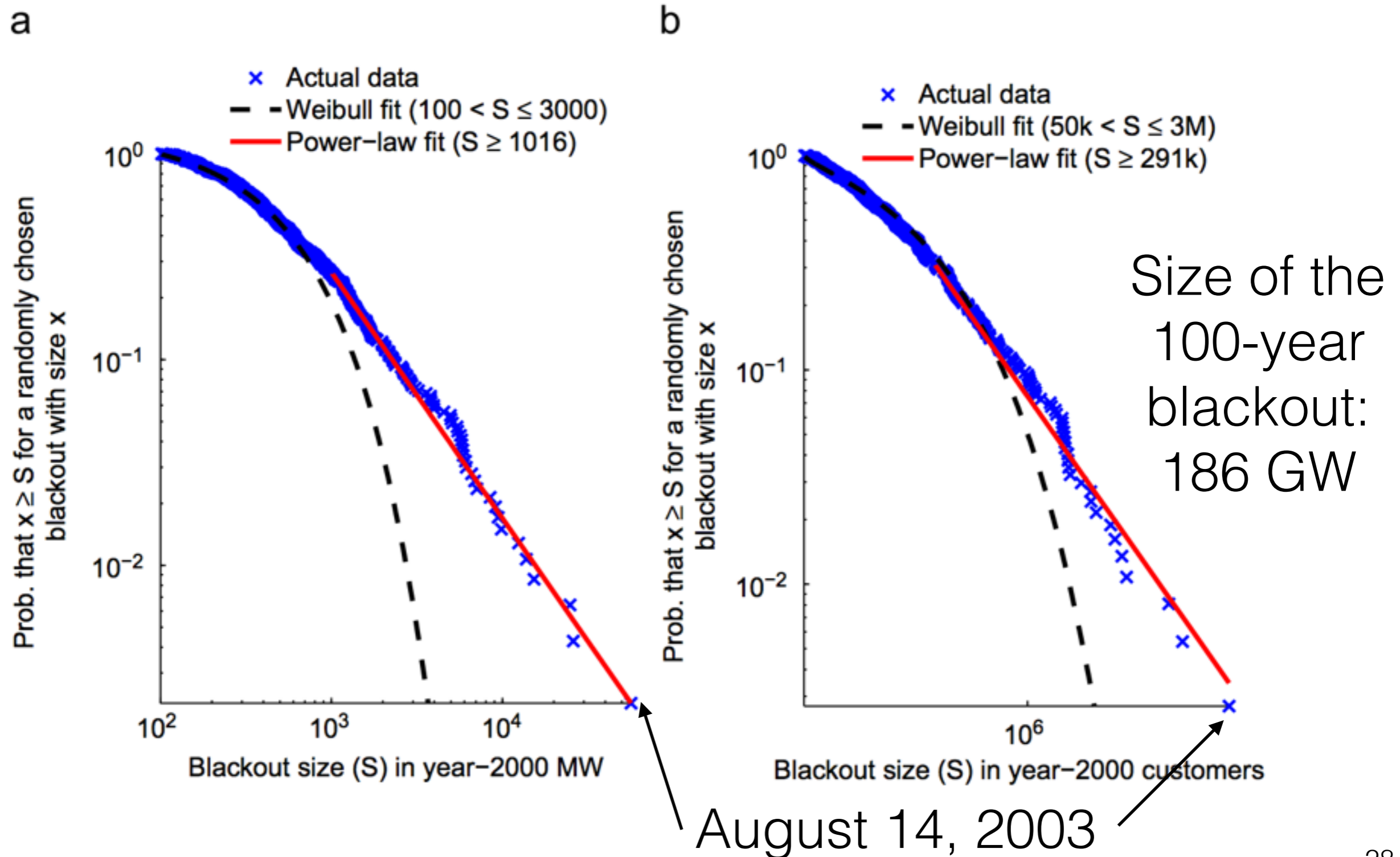
Because of complex interactions among nature, components and people we get power laws in in blackout sizes



Because of complex interactions among nature, components and people we get power laws in in blackout sizes



Because of complex interactions among nature, components and people we get power laws in in blackout sizes



Key points about power laws and risk

- Risk is probability times cost
- If event cost is distributed as a power law, and the slope is shallow (-1), then risk is infinite, and very hard to measure

Cascading Failures



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NY city, Nov. 9, 1965
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August 14, 2003



1.
16:05:57



2.
16:05:58



3.

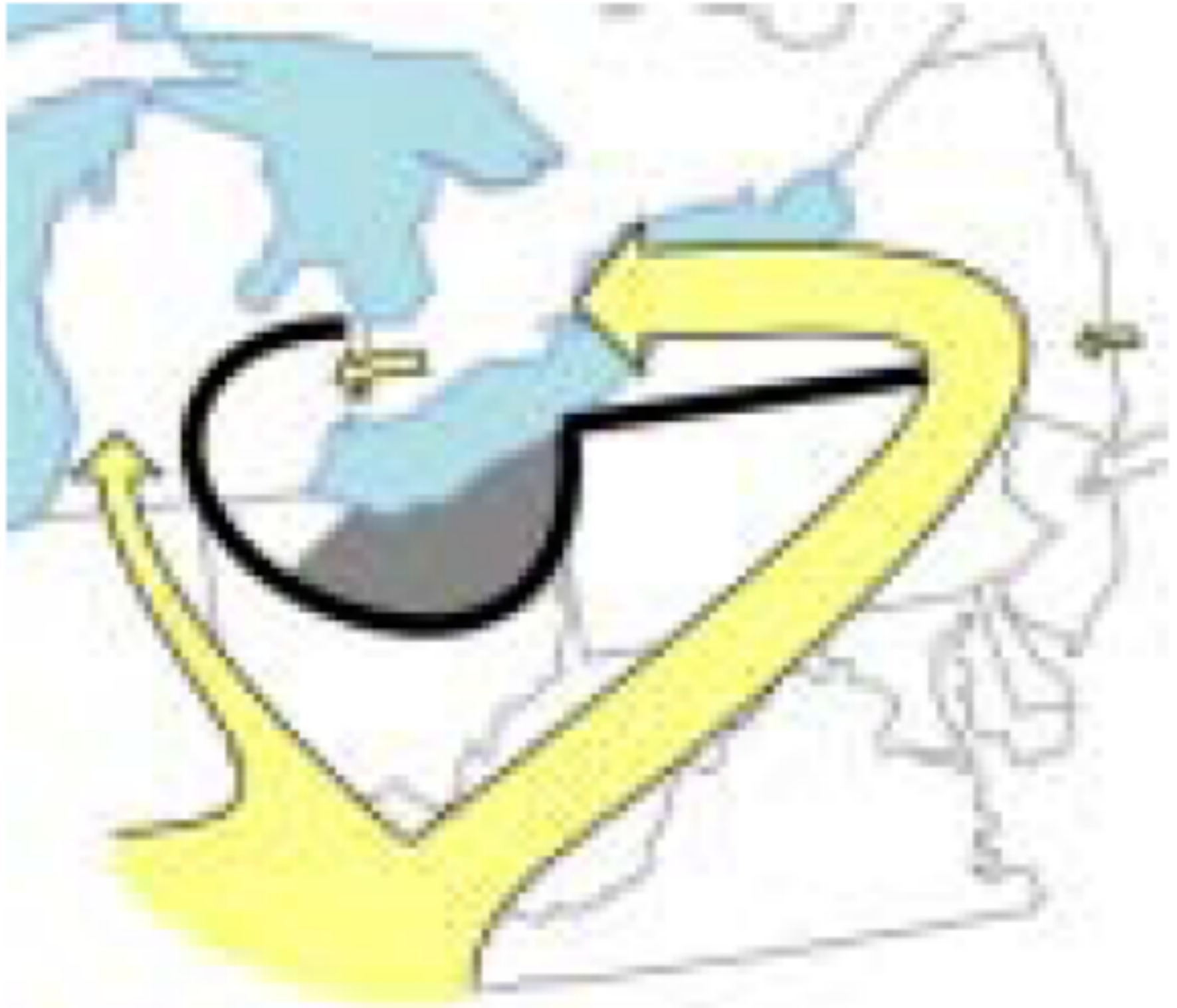
16:09:25



4.
16:10:37



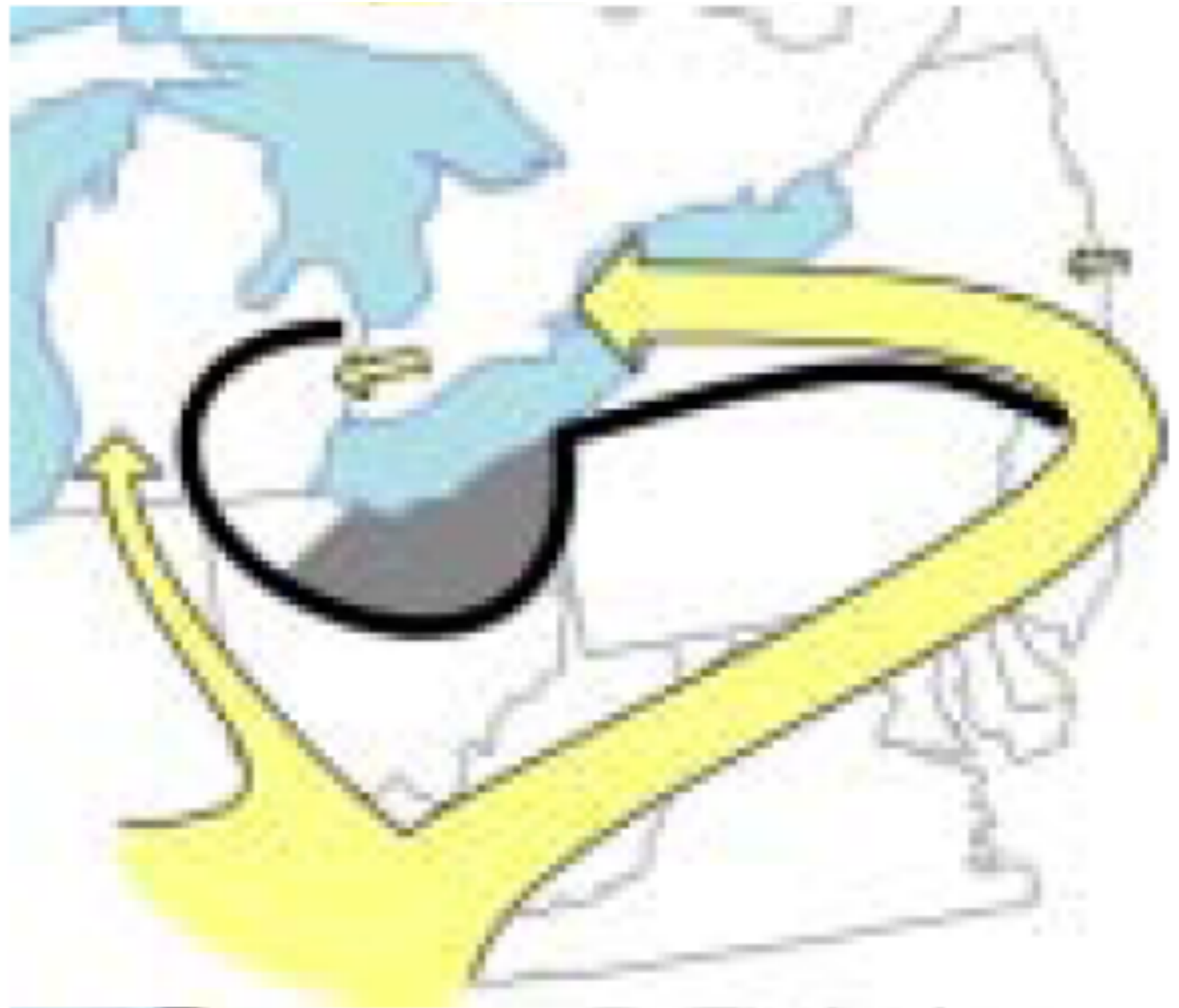
6.
16:10:40



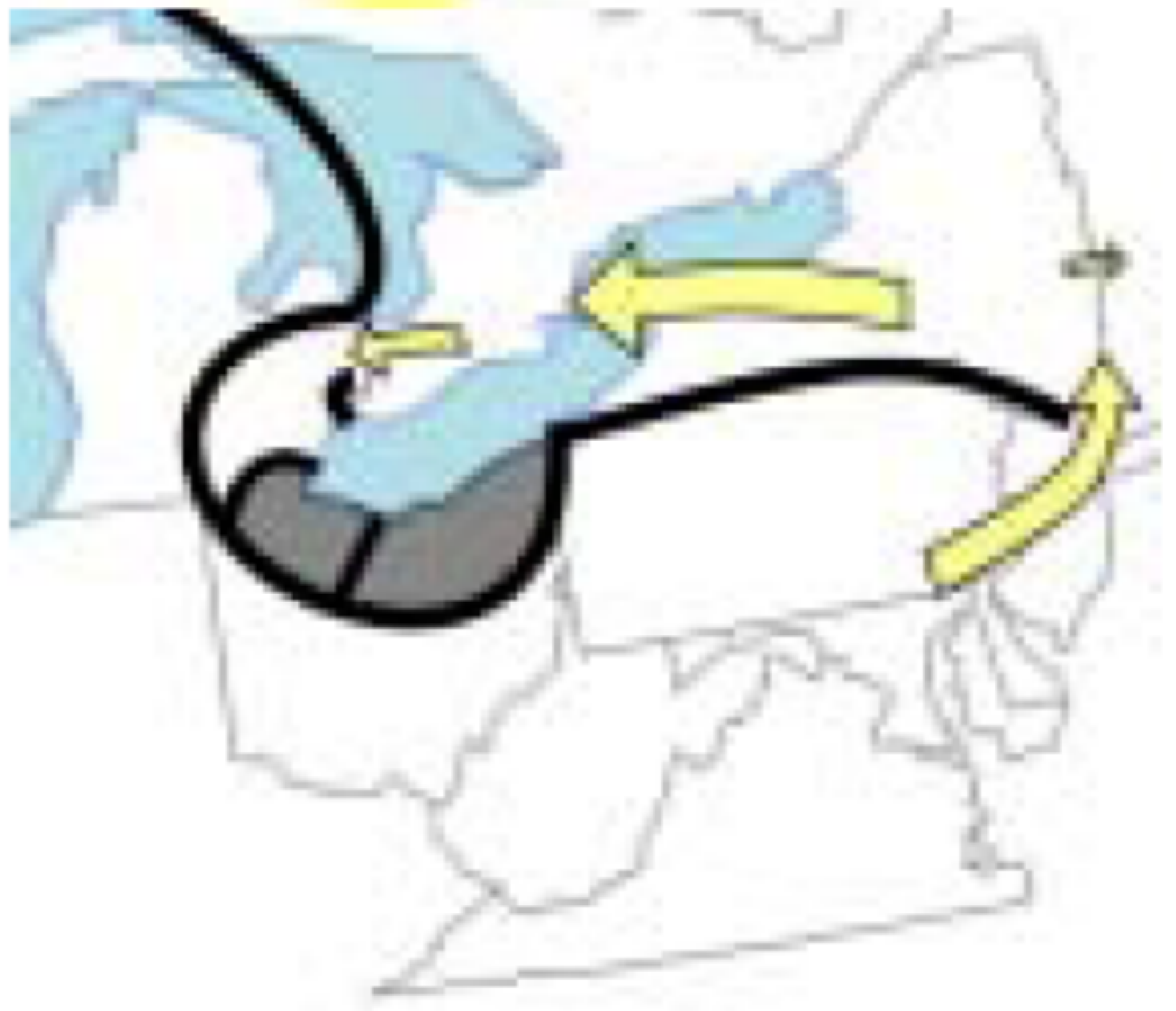
7.
16:10:41



8.
16:10:44



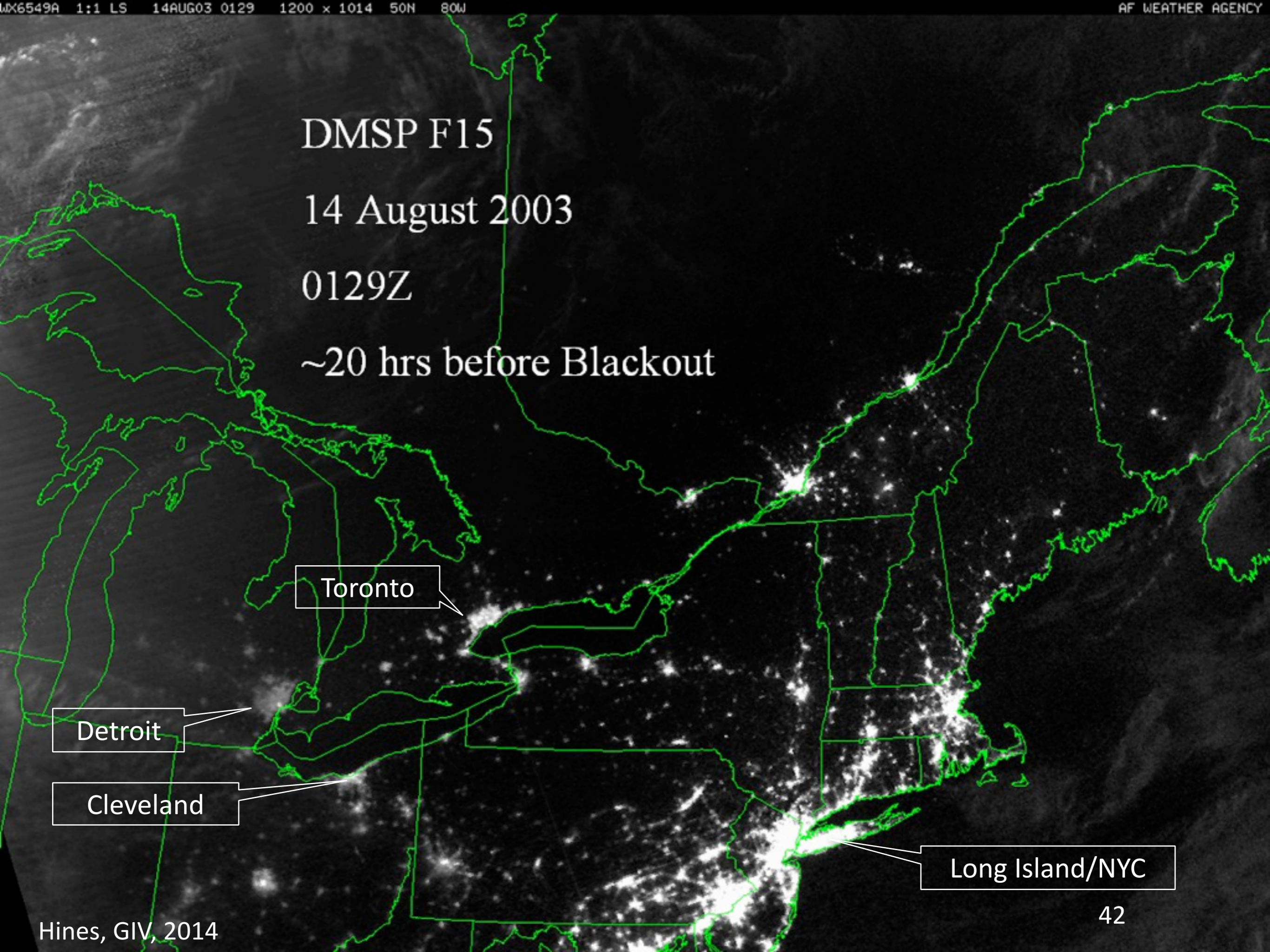
9.
16:10:45



10.
16:13:00



DMSF F15
14 August 2003
0129Z
~20 hrs before Blackout



Toronto

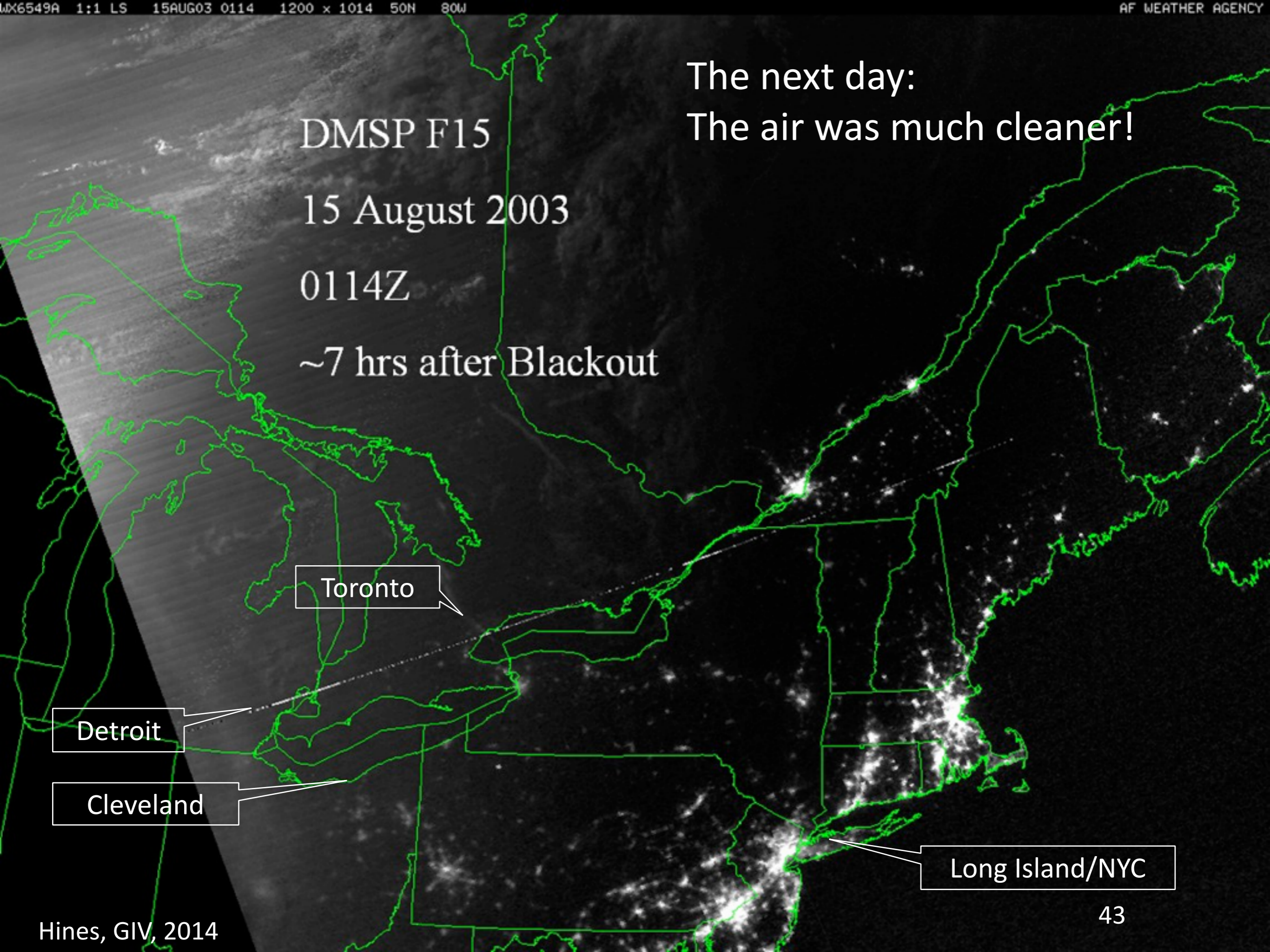
Detroit

Cleveland

Long Island/NYC

The next day:
The air was much cleaner!

DMSP F15
15 August 2003
0114Z
~7 hrs after Blackout



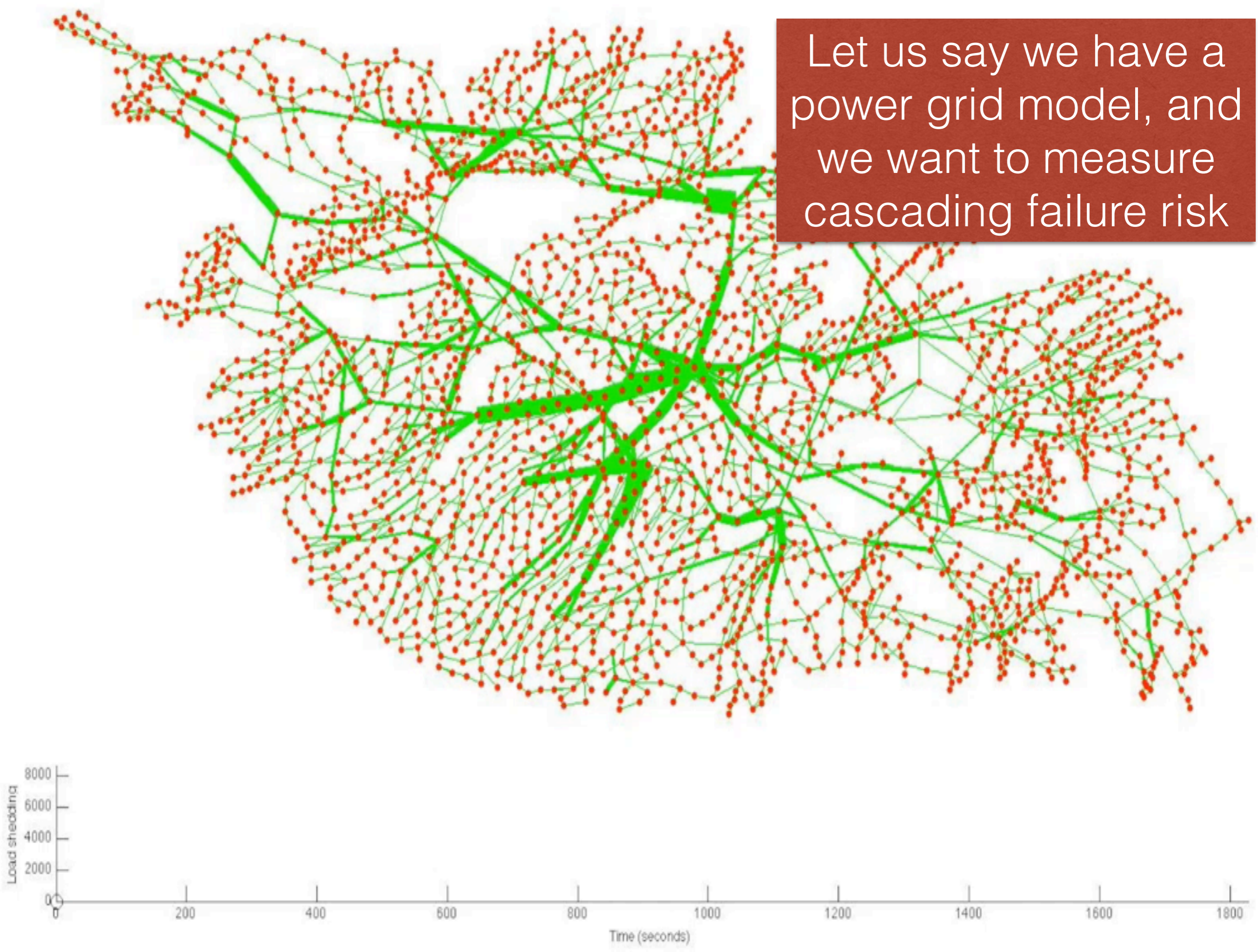
Toronto

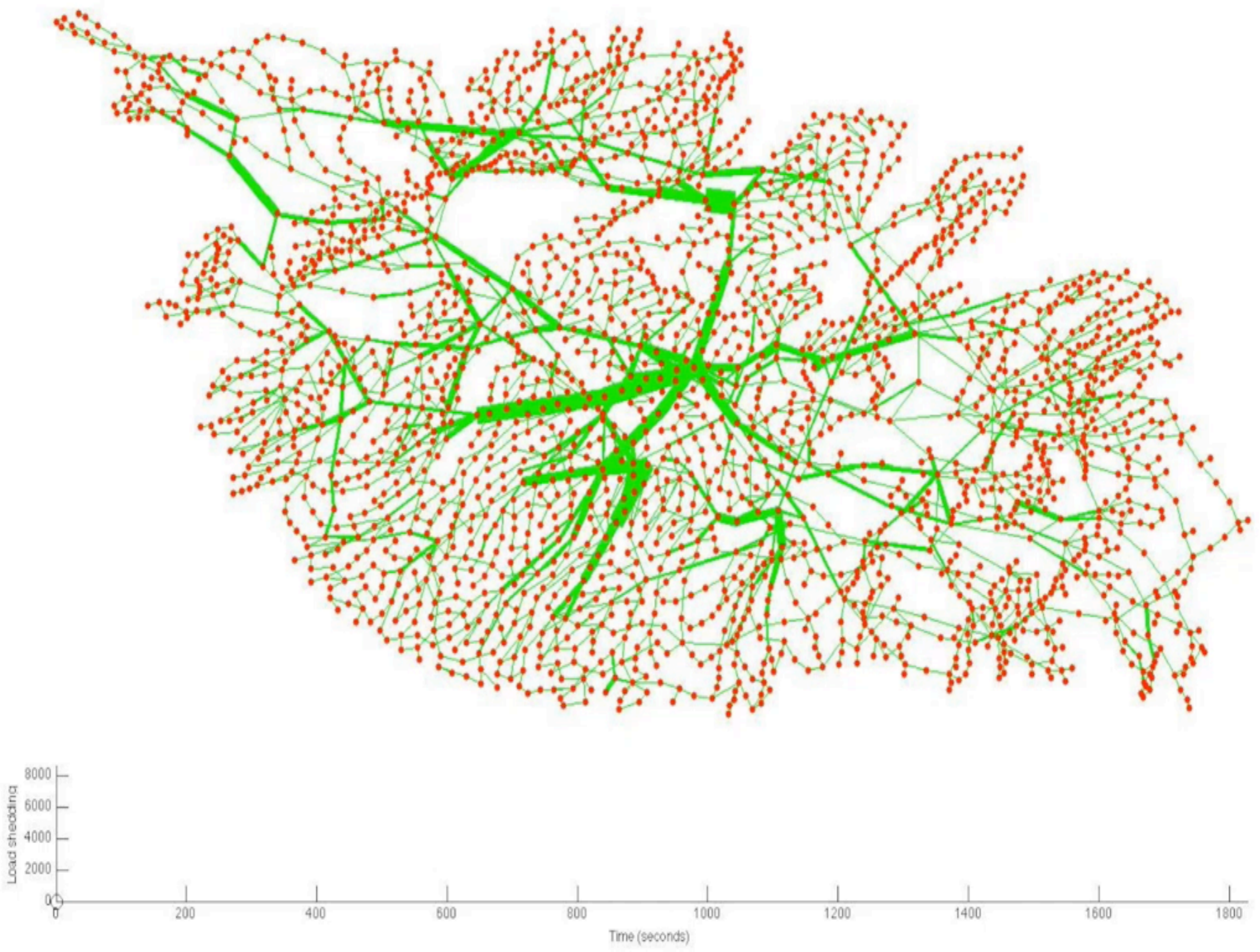
Detroit

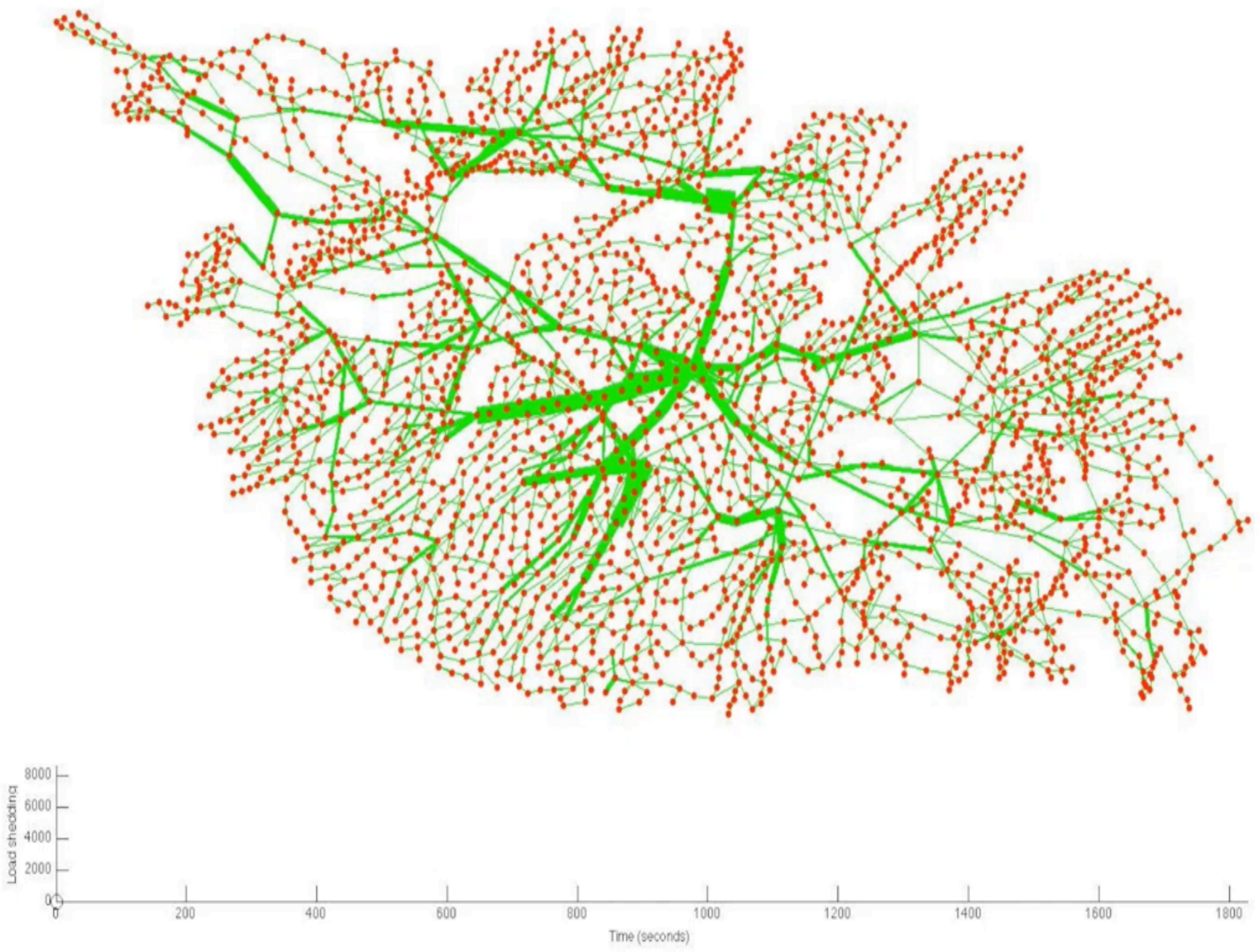
Cleveland

Long Island/NYC

Let us say we have a power grid model, and we want to measure cascading failure risk







The risk analysis challenge



The risk analysis challenge

- N-1 security analysis has been the guiding risk analysis principle for >50 years



The risk analysis challenge

- N-1 security analysis has been the guiding risk analysis principle for >50 years
- But:
 - The probability of a single line outage is $\sim 10^{-4}$
 - Large systems have $\sim 10^4$ lines; ~ 1 failure/hour
 - Even if outages are uncorrelated (false) N-2 events are ~ 1 x/year



The risk analysis challenge

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- $\sim 1970s$, Monte Carlo methods were developed for probabilistic reliability analysis



The risk analysis challenge

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- But:
 - The probability of a single line outage is $\sim 10^{-4}$
 - Large systems have $\sim 10^4$ lines; ~ 1 failure/hour
 - Even if outages are uncorrelated (false) N-2 events are ~ 1 x/year
- ~1970s, Monte Carlo methods were developed for probabilistic reliability analysis
- But, Monte Carlo is super-slow:
 - combinatorial number of possible triggering combinations, each with very small probabilities
 - event costs (blackout sizes) span 3-4 orders of magnitude



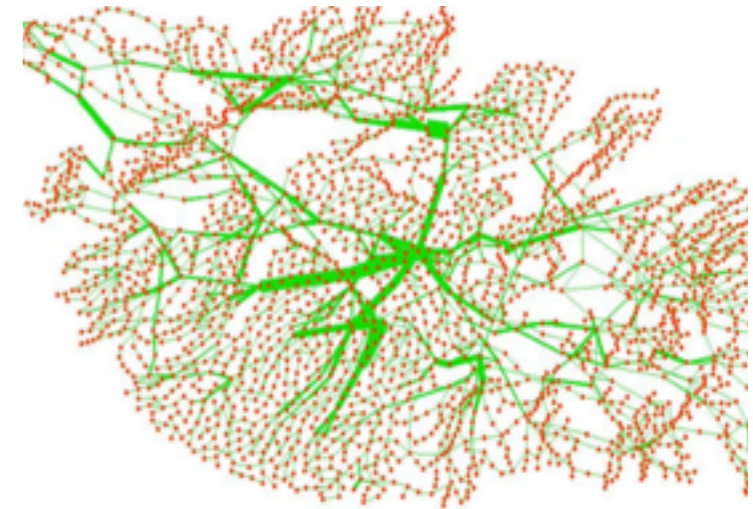
But most combinations are benign,
only a few are “malignant”

But most combinations are benign, only a few are “malignant”

Evidence

There are 4.2 million $n-2$ combinations in the “Polish” grid.

Only 300-400 of these cause large blackouts.

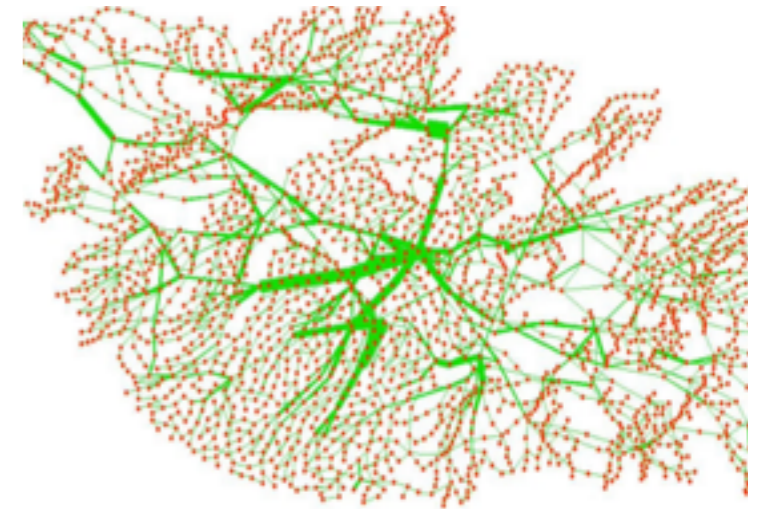


But most combinations are benign, only a few are “malignant”

Evidence

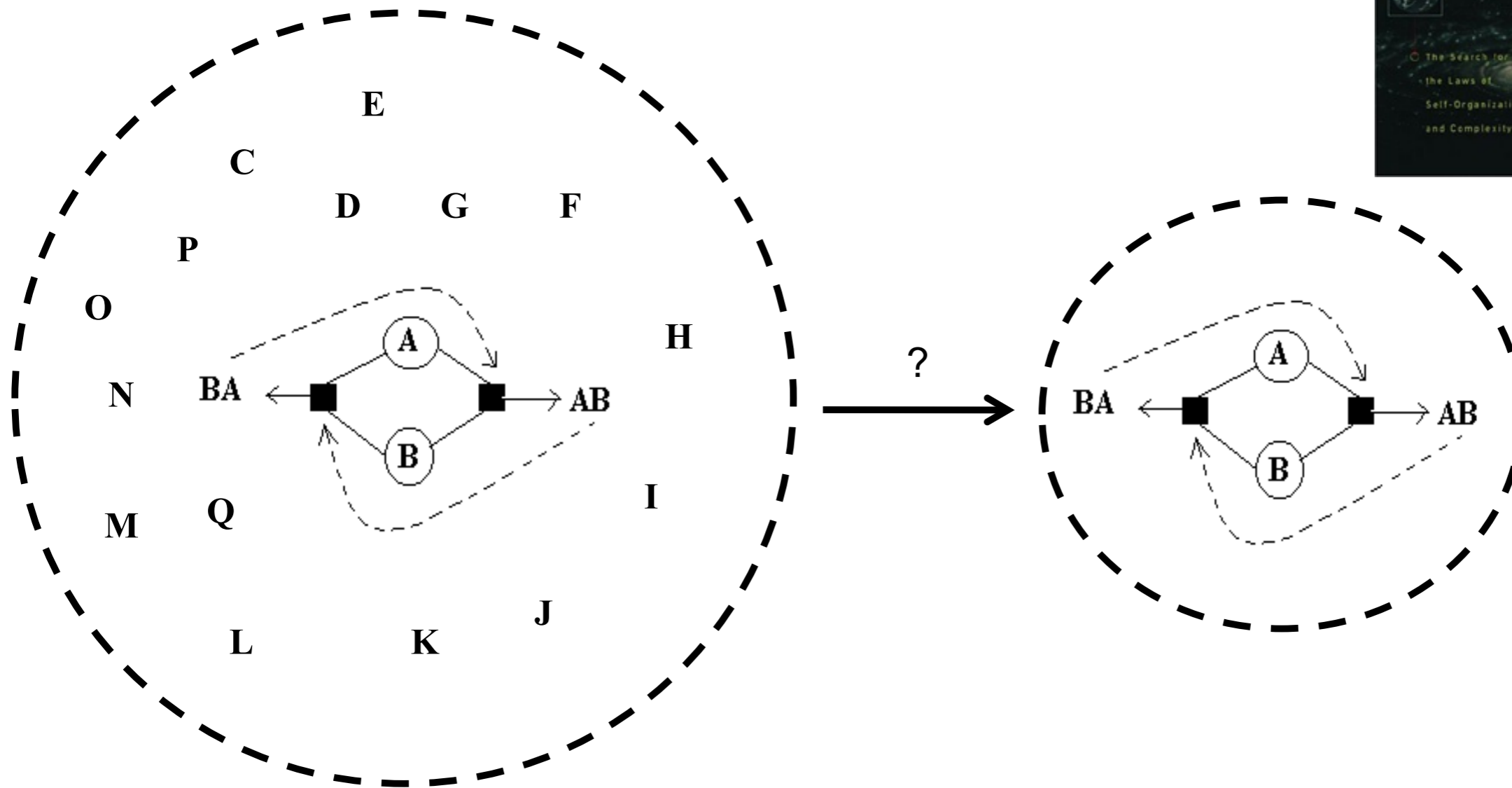
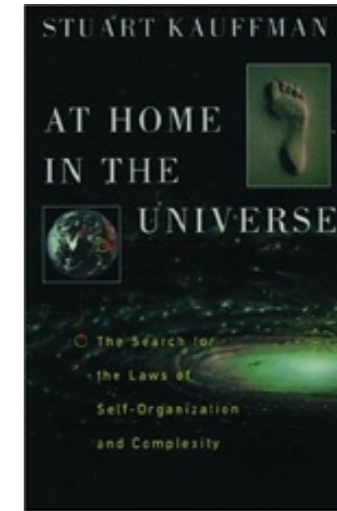
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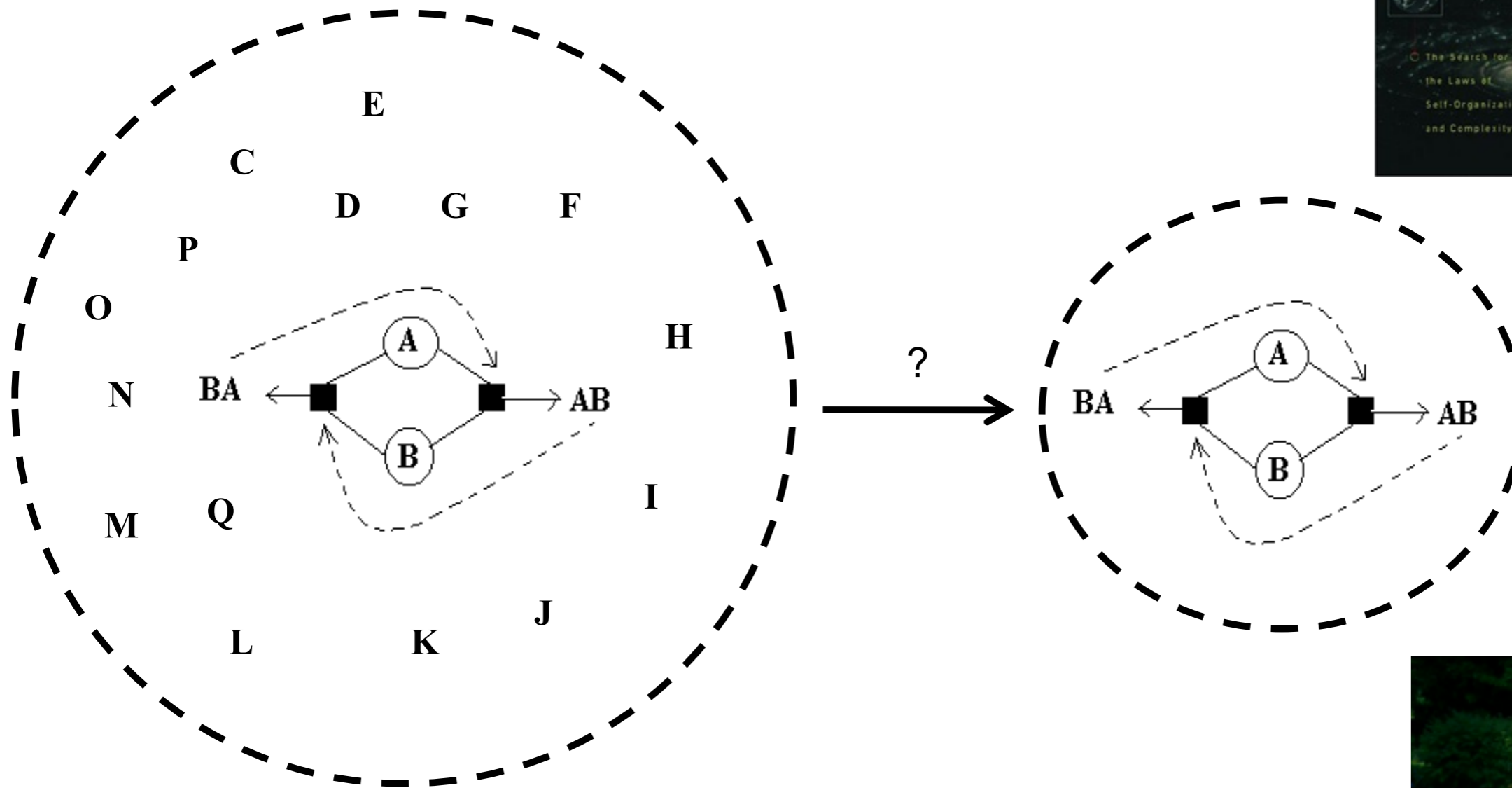
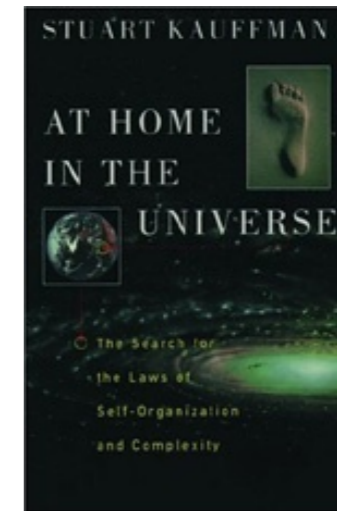
Can we somehow quickly find the malignant combinations, and then use their probabilities to estimate risk?

Stuart A. Kauffman, *At Home in the Universe*, 1996



Searching for Autocatalytic Sets from among a large collection of molecules

Stuart A. Kauffman, *At Home in the Universe*, 1996

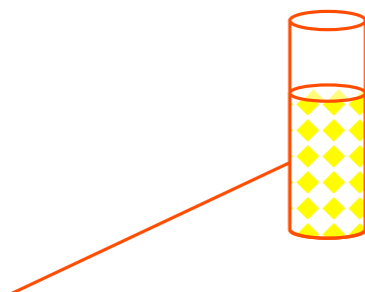


Searching for Autocatalytic Sets from among a large collection of molecules



M. Eppstein

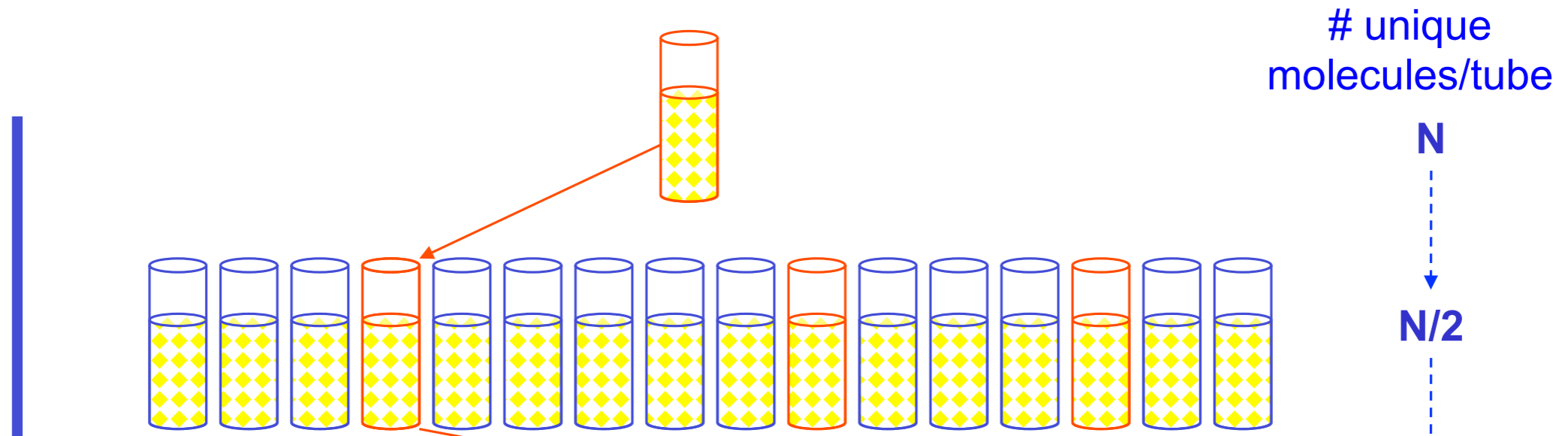
The Random Chemistry algorithm



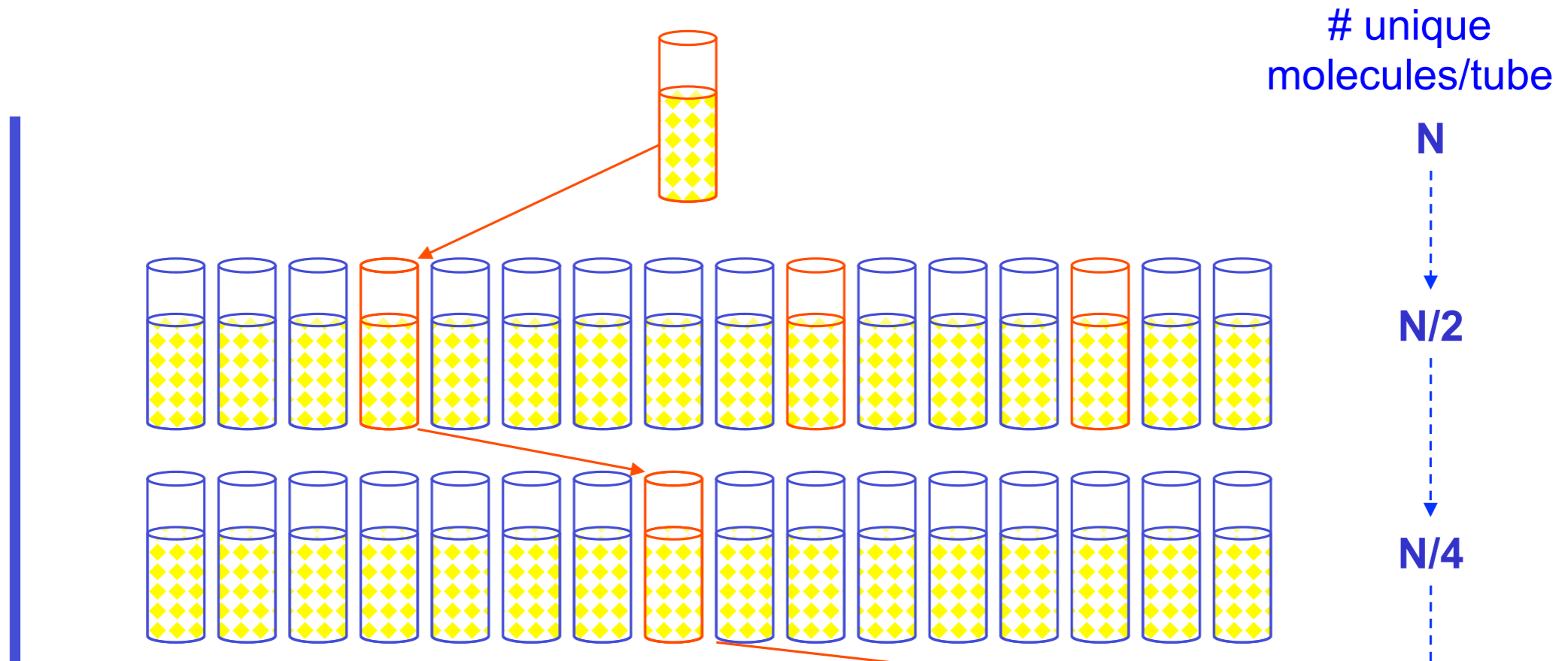
unique
molecules/tube

N
⋮

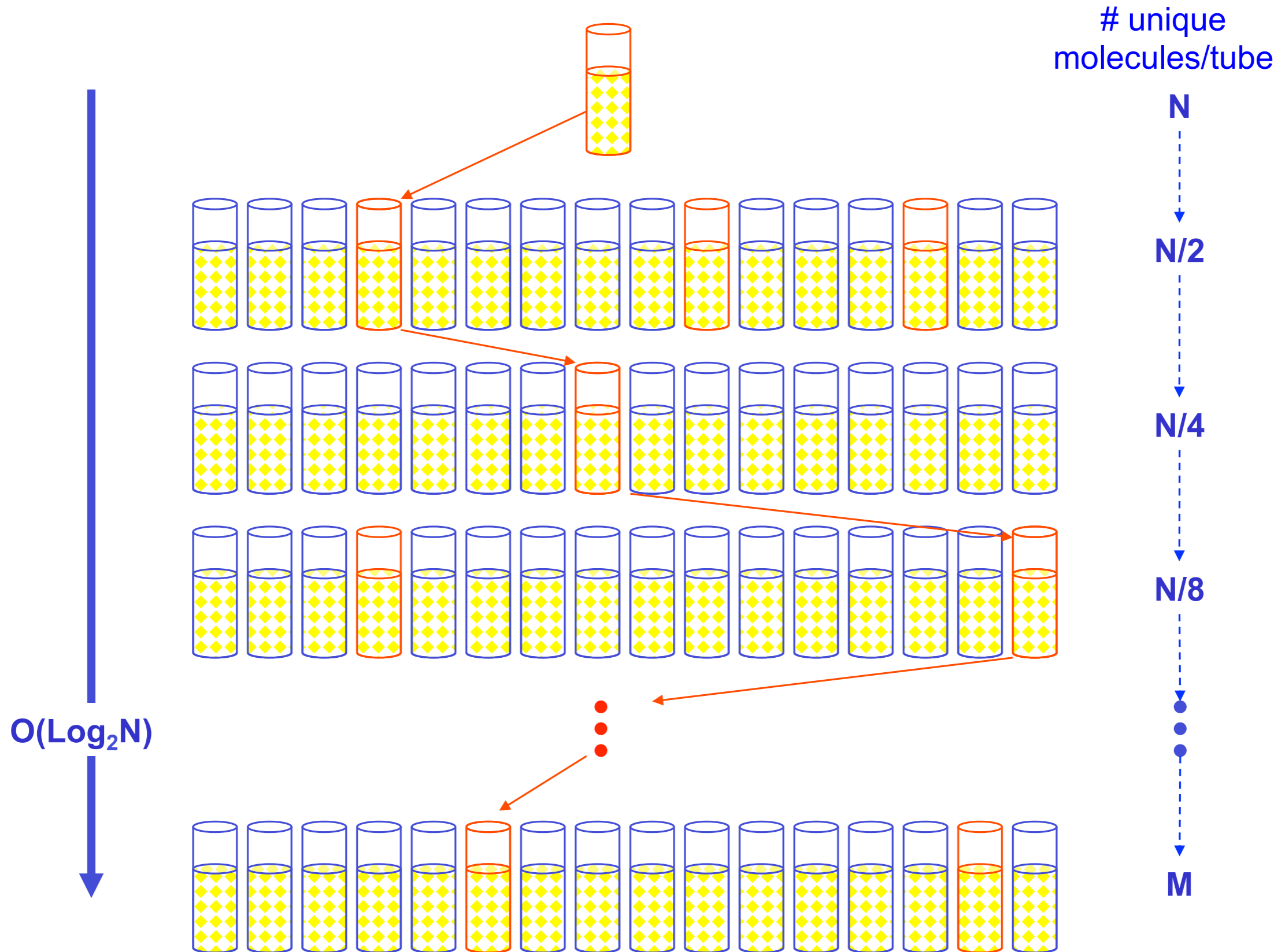
The Random Chemistry algorithm



The Random Chemistry algorithm



The Random Chemistry algorithm



Estimating risk from RC (1)

$$\hat{R}_{RC,k}(x) = \frac{\hat{m}_k}{|\Omega_{RC,k}|} \sum_{d \in \Omega_{RC,k}} S(d, x) \left(\prod_{i \in d} p_i \right)$$

Estimating risk from RC (1)

The estimated number of malignancies of size k

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The number of malignancies of size k found by RC

Estimating risk from RC (1)

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Blackout sizes

The number of malignancies of size k found by RC

Estimating risk from RC (1)

The estimated number of malignancies of size k

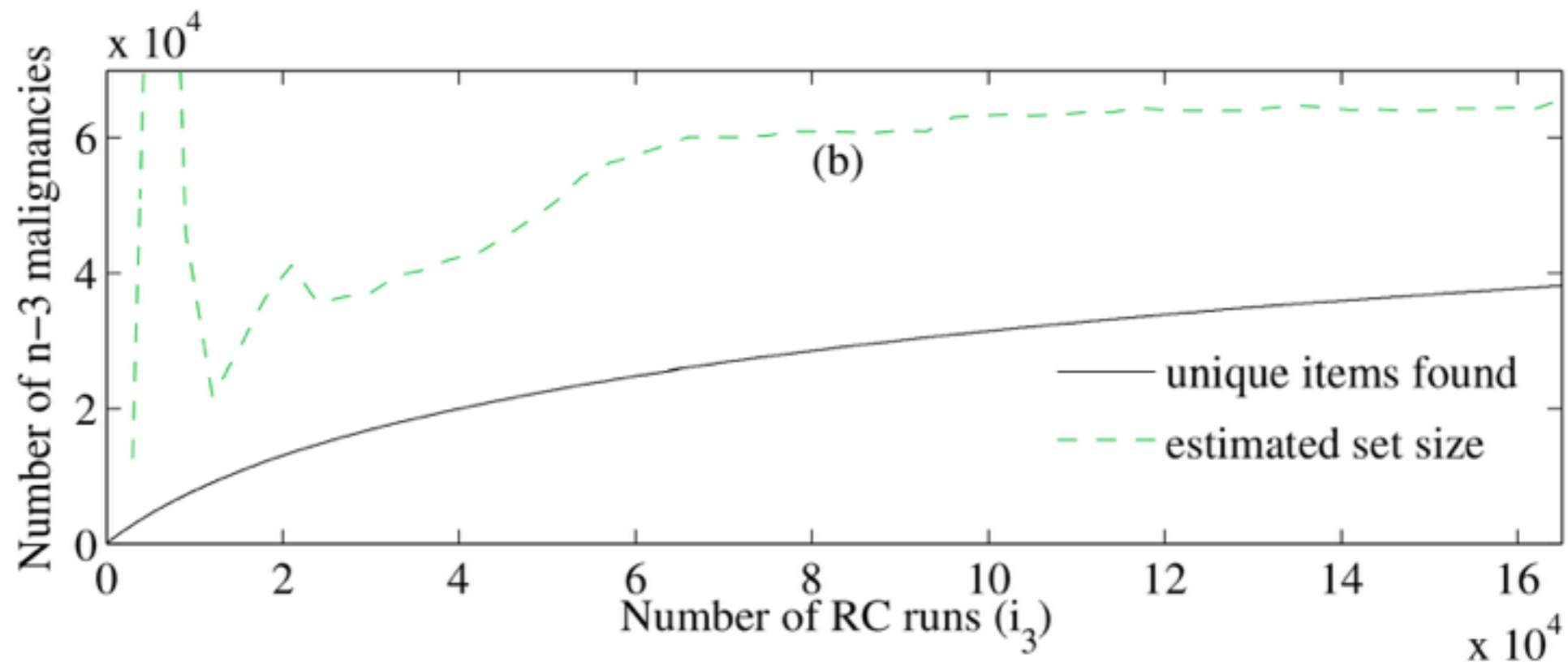
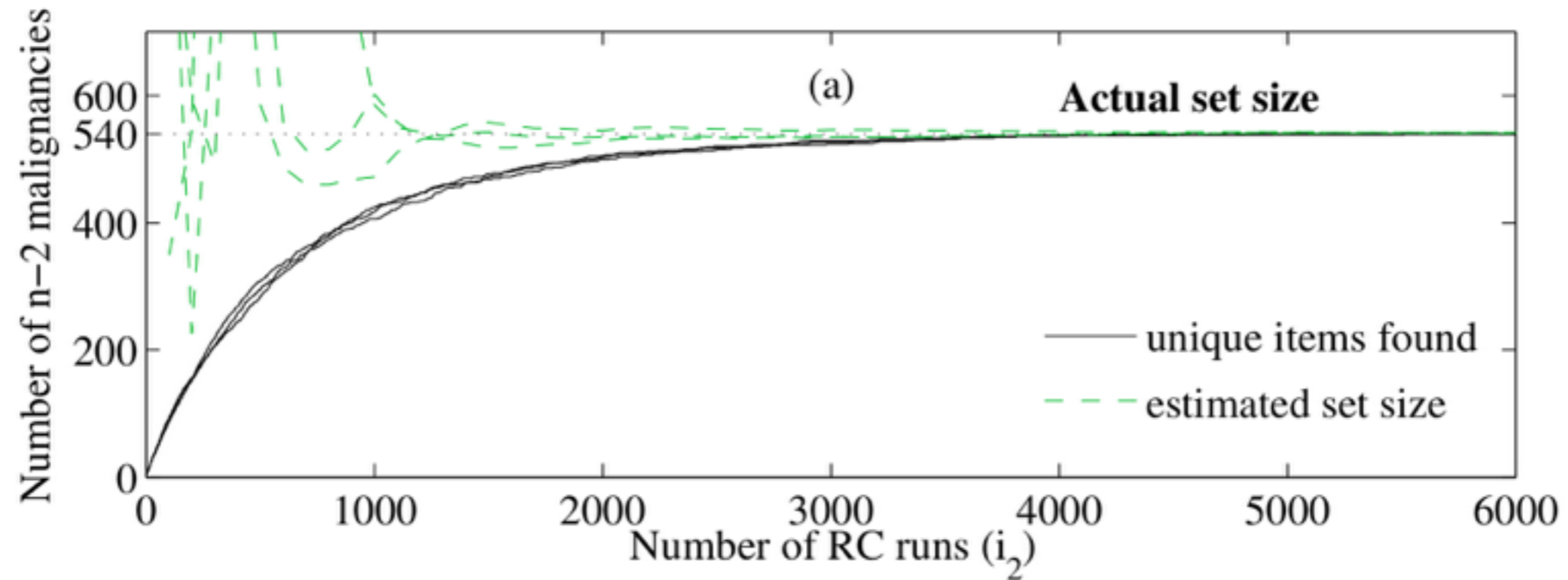
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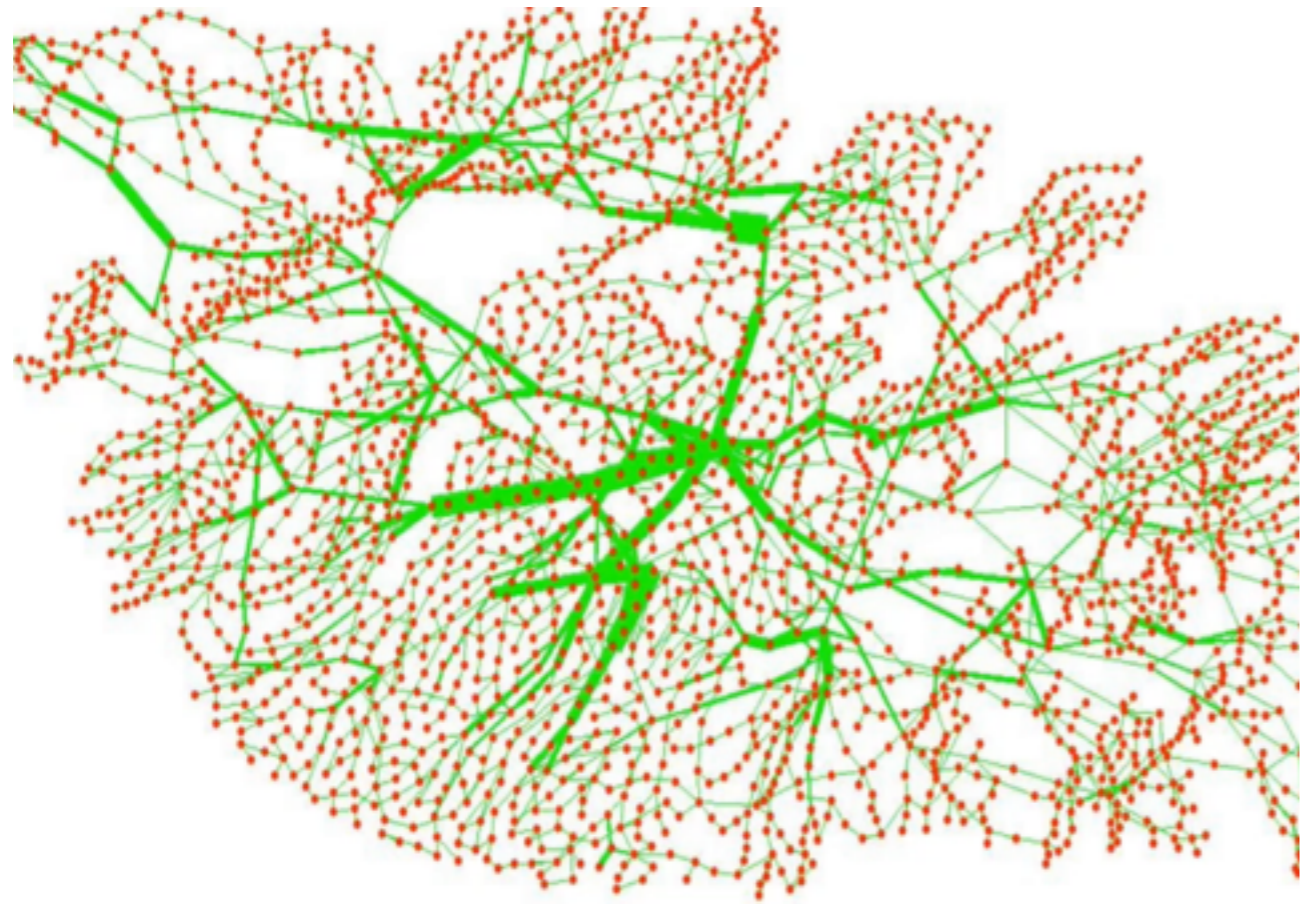
Blackout sizes

Combined probability

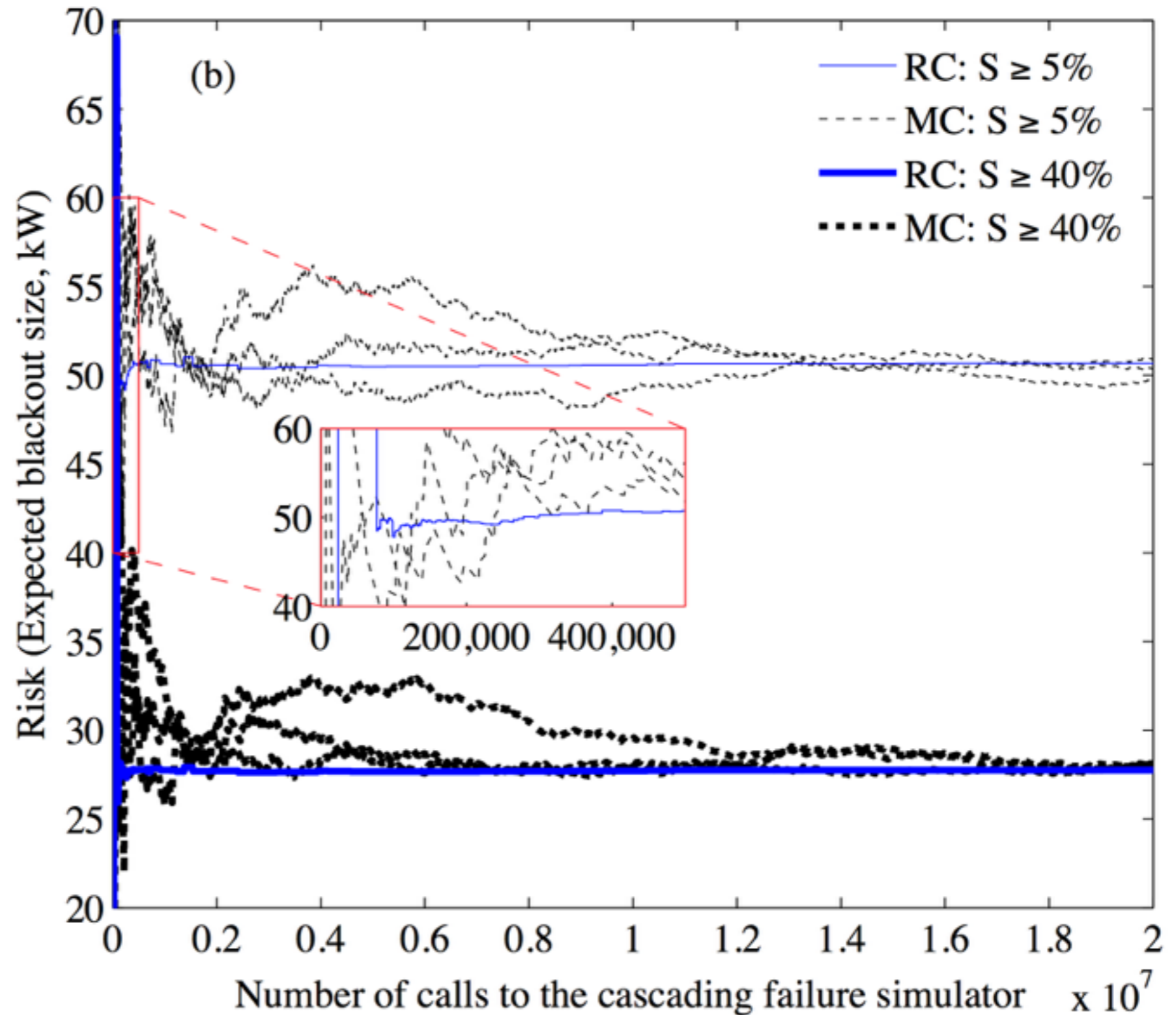
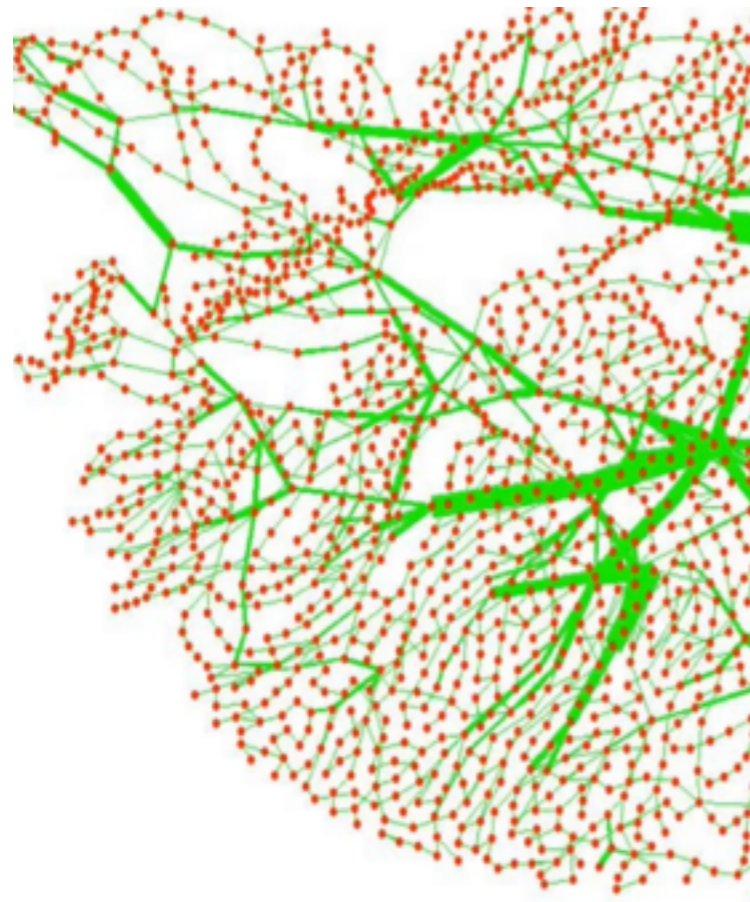
Estimating the set size



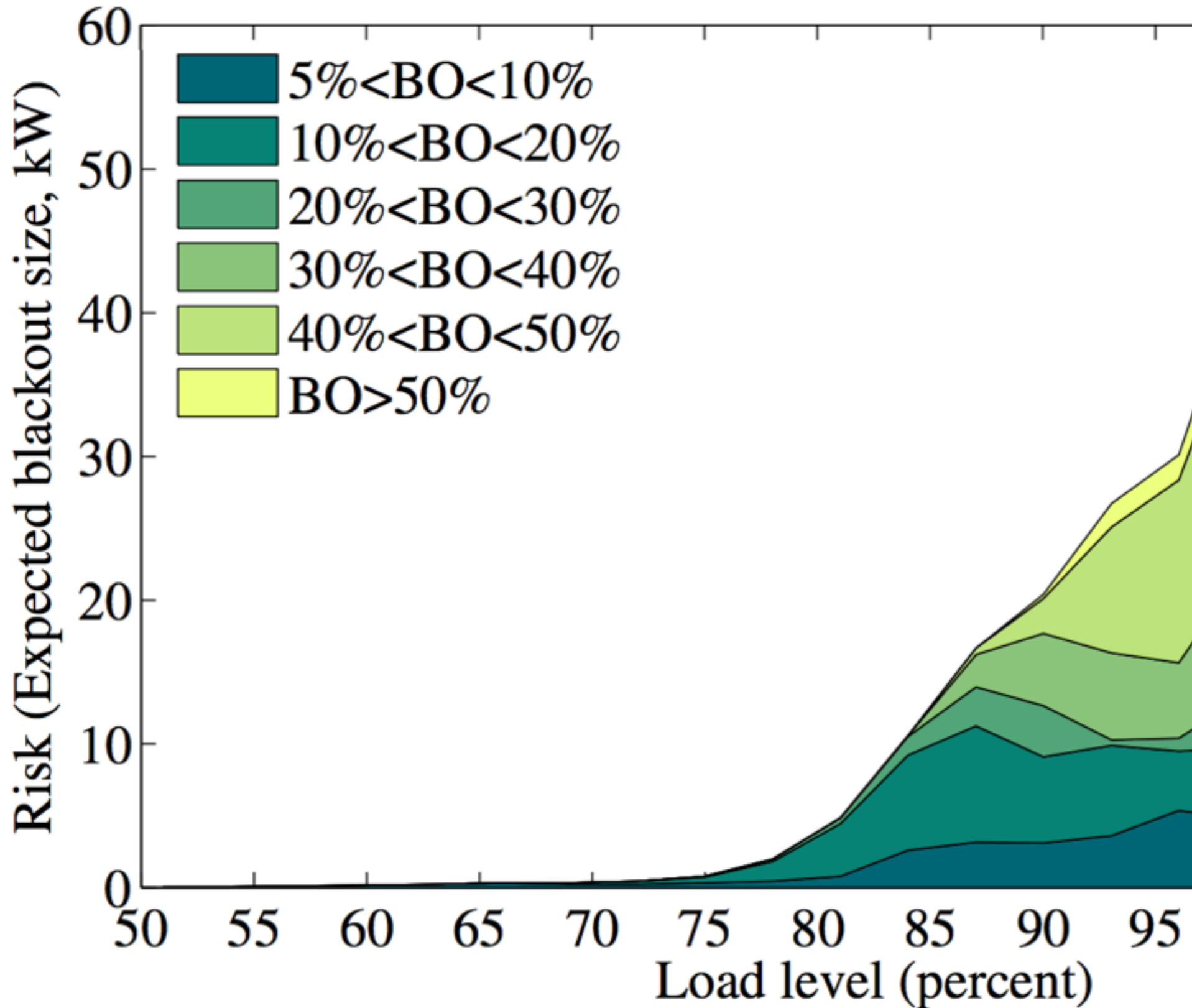
Comparing RC to Monte Carlo



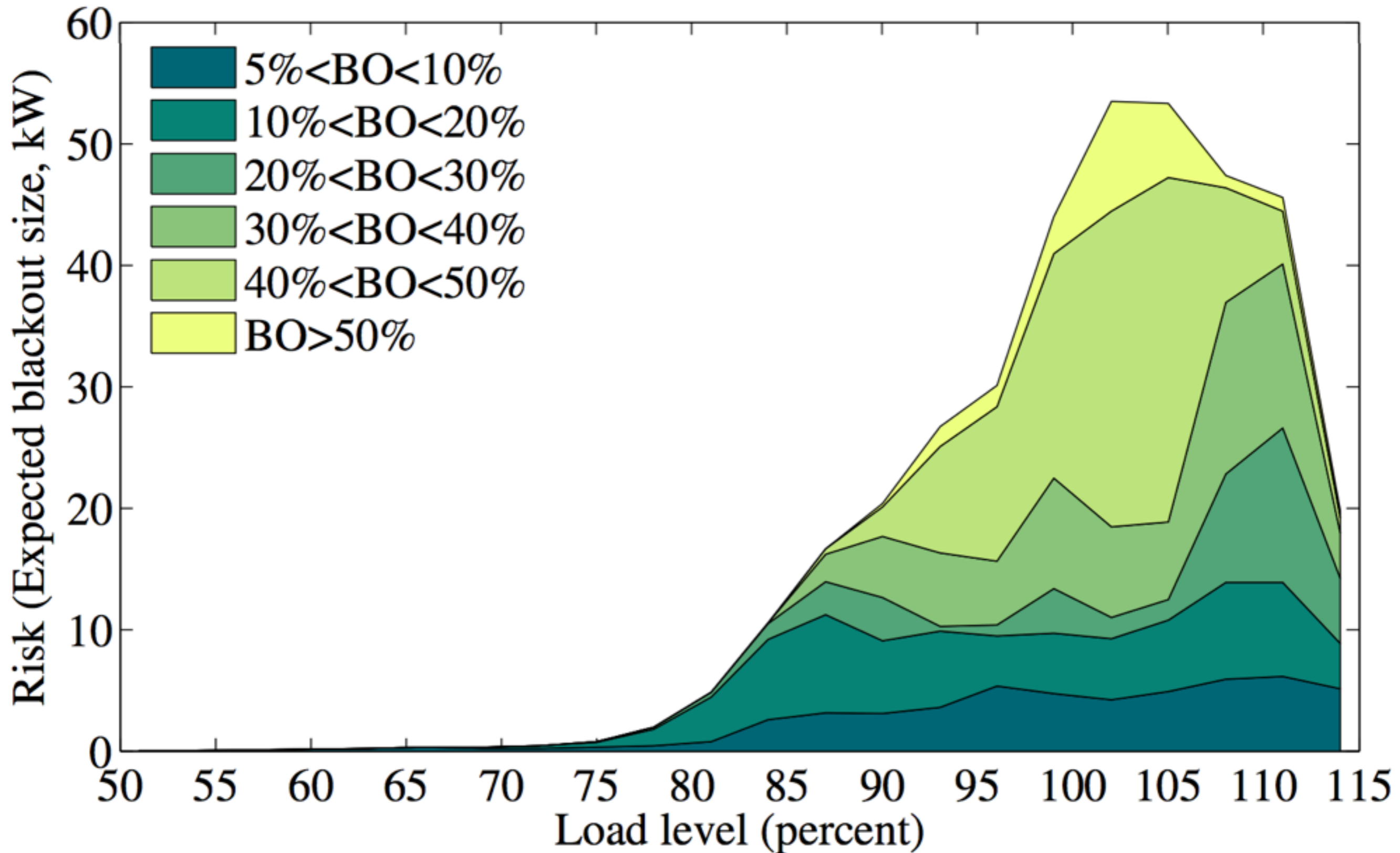
Comparing RC to Monte Carlo



Risk vs. load

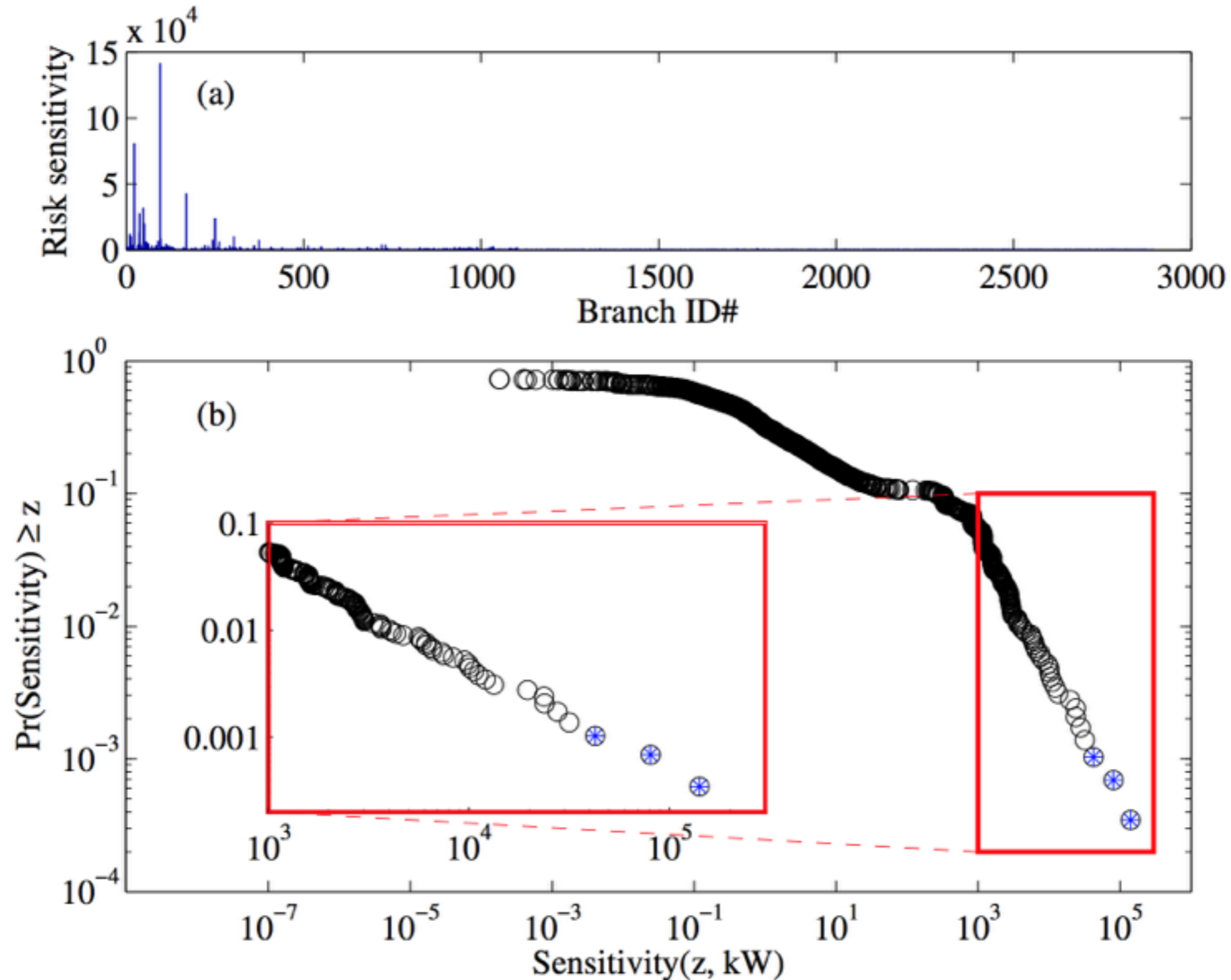


Risk vs. load



After many simulations, differentiate (1) to get
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- Large blackout risk decreases by 61%
- Very large ($S > 40\%$) blackout risk decreases by 83%

What happens when the grid gets smart?



Coupling the power grid to communications systems

Credits

Good ideas: P. Rezaei, M. Eppstein, M. Korkali, J. Veneman, B. Tivnan, J. Bongard

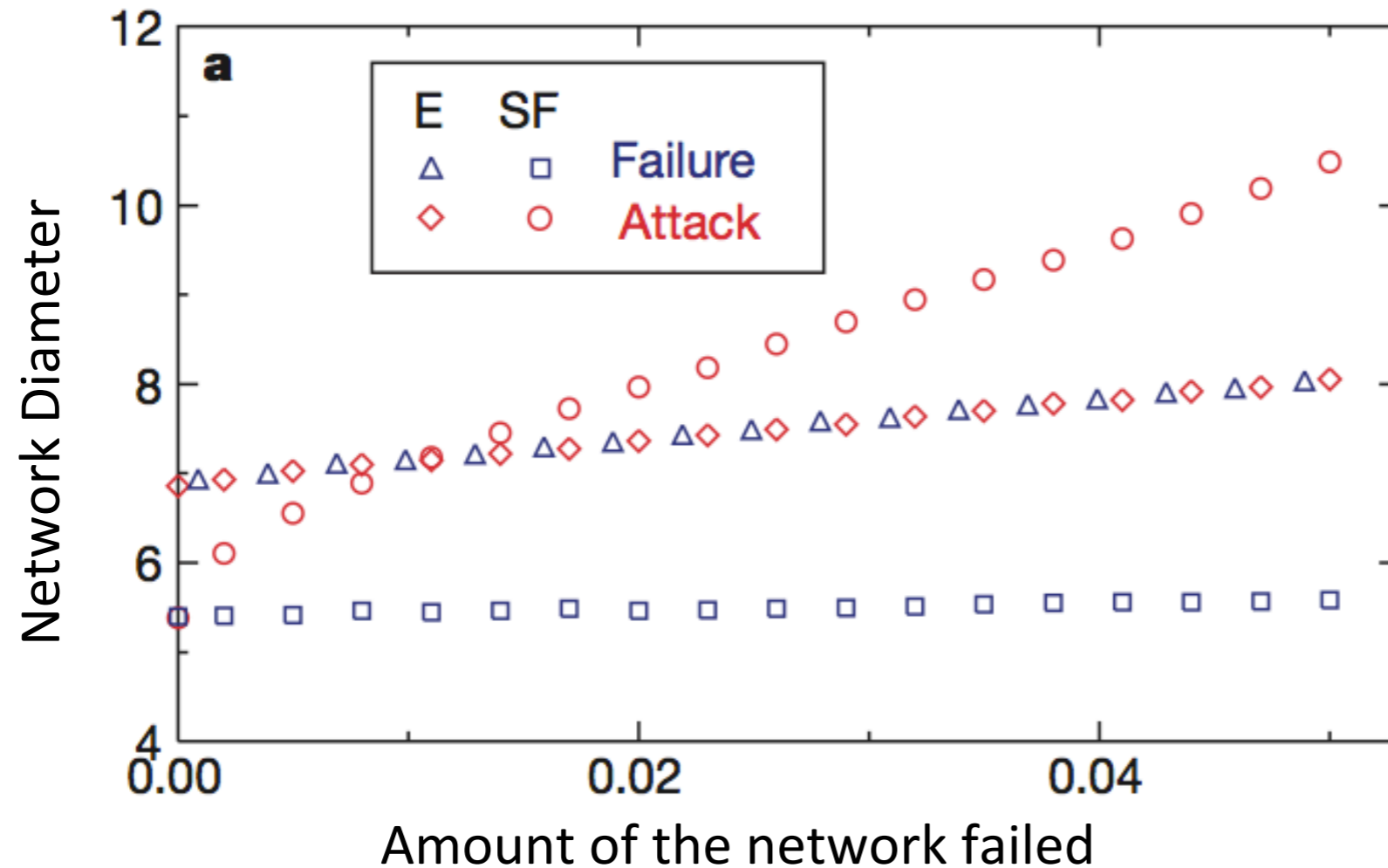
Funding: Dept. of Energy, National Science Foundation, MITRE

Errors and omissions: Paul Hines

NY city, Nov. 9, 1965

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A key result in network science



Key question

If we couple the power grid to communications systems will risk increase or decrease?

Perhaps coupling will cause
risk to increase?

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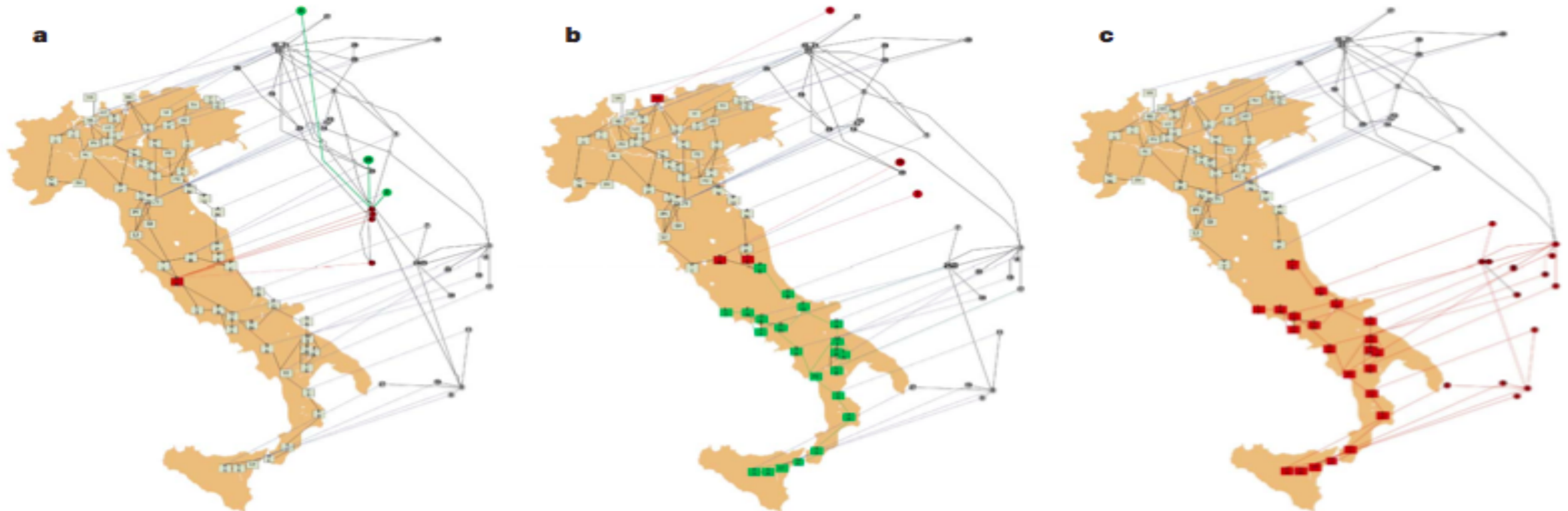
Vol 464 | 15 April 2010 | doi:10.1038/nature08932

nature

LETTERS

Catastrophic cascade of failures in interdependent networks

Sergey V. Buldyrev^{1,2}, Roni Parshani³, Gerald Paul², H. Eugene Stanley² & Shlomo Havlin³



Perhaps coupling will cause risk to go down, and then up?

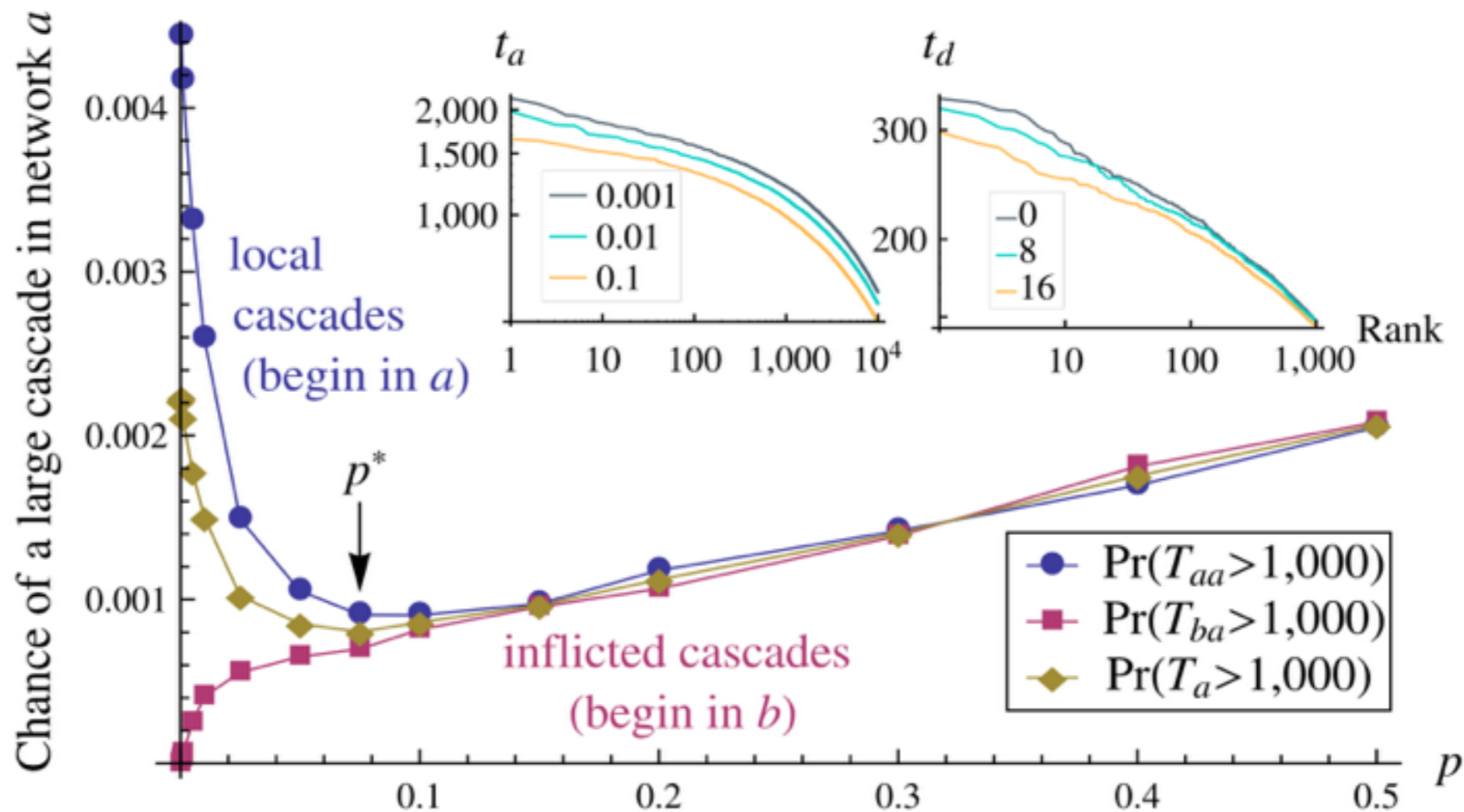
Suppressing cascades of load in interdependent networks

Charles D. Brummitt^{a,b,1}, Raissa M. D'Souza^{b,c,d,e}, and E. A. Leicht^f

^aDepartment of I
Science, Universit
Networks Compli

Edited by H. Eug

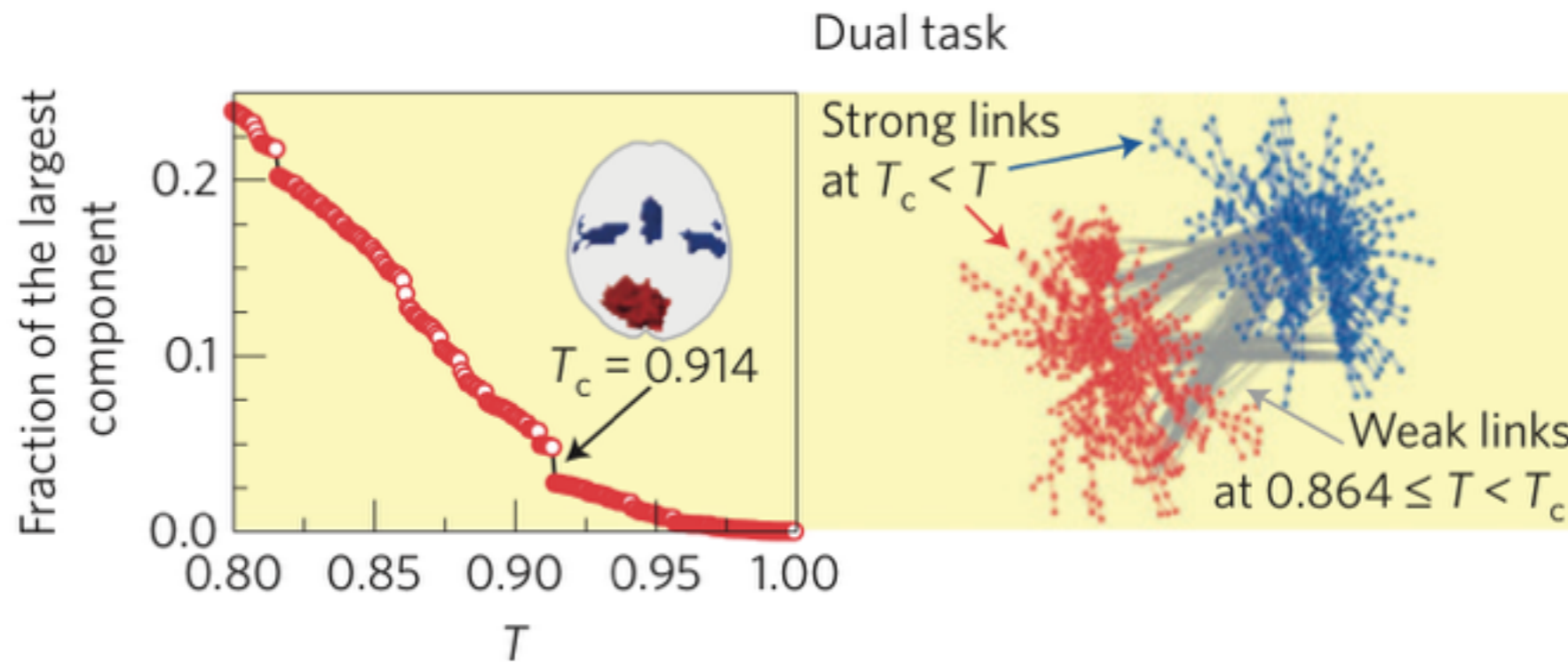
Understanding
cascading beha
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coupled electri



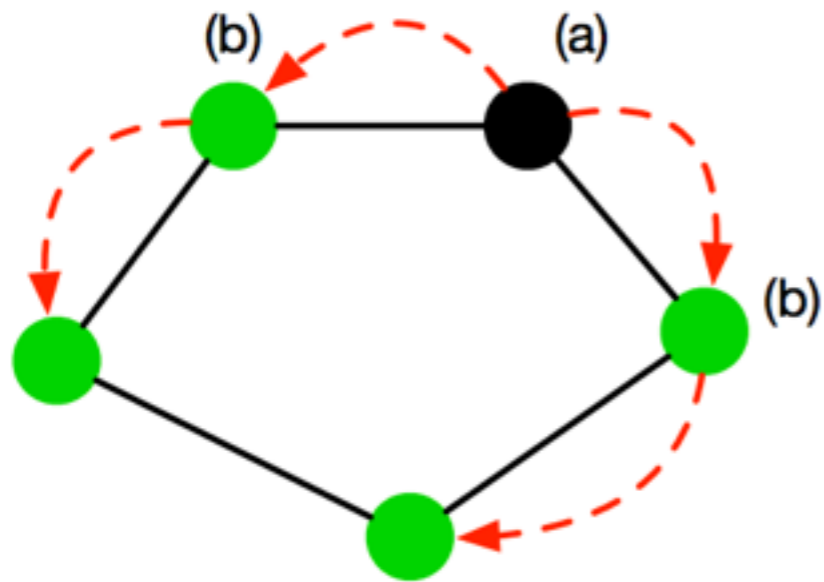
Or maybe coupling is useful?

Avoiding catastrophic failure in correlated networks of networks

Saulo D. S. Reis^{1,2}, Yanqing Hu¹, Andrés Babino³, José S. Andrade Jr², Santiago Canals⁴, Mariano Sigman^{3,5} and Hernán A. Makse^{1,2,3*}

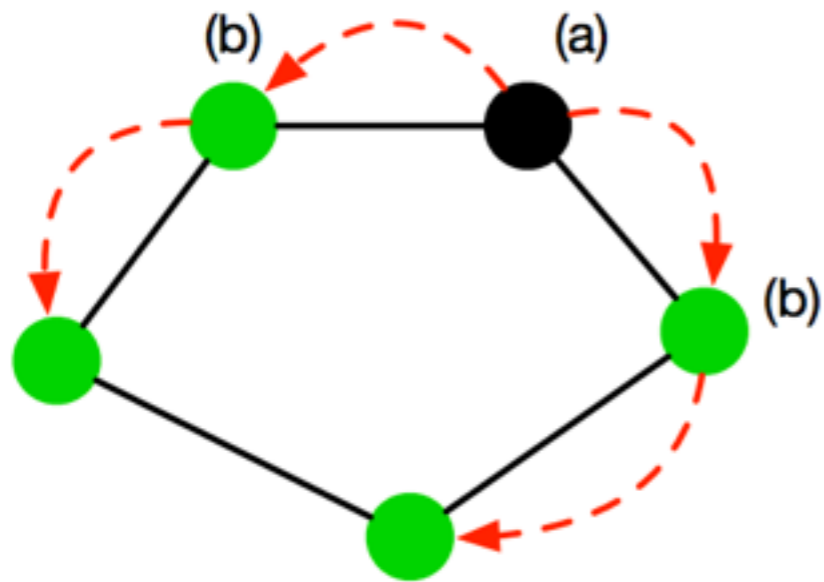


However the mechanics of cascading in the grid differ from contagion models

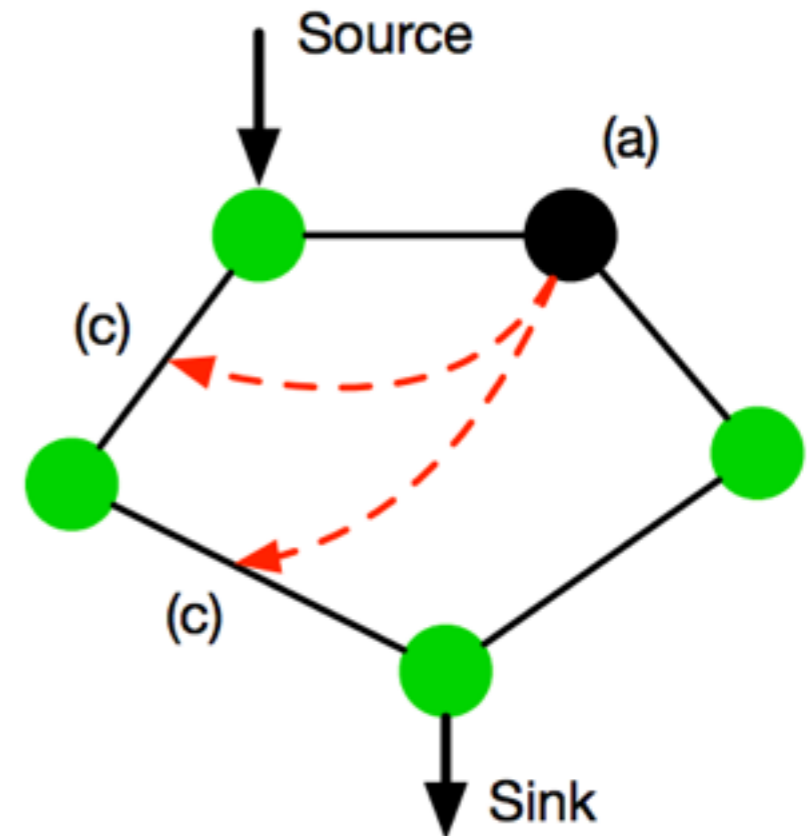


Conventional
models of
contagion

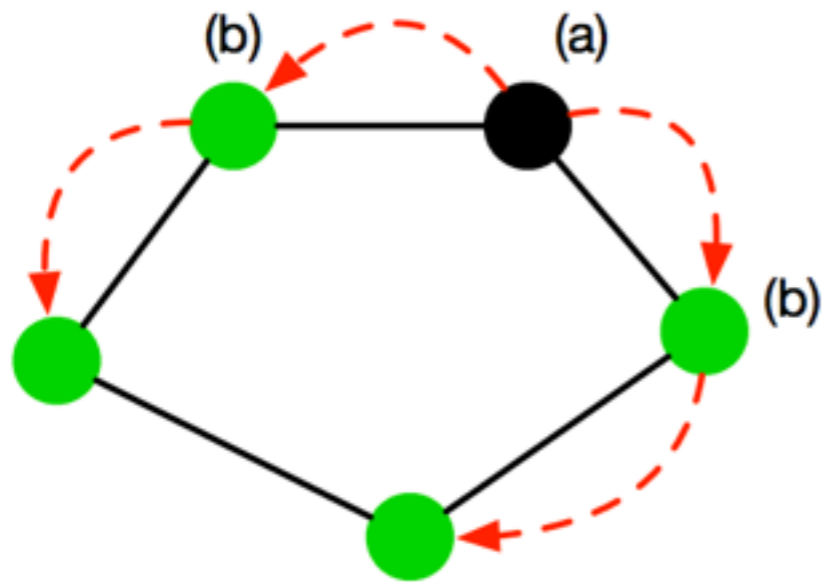
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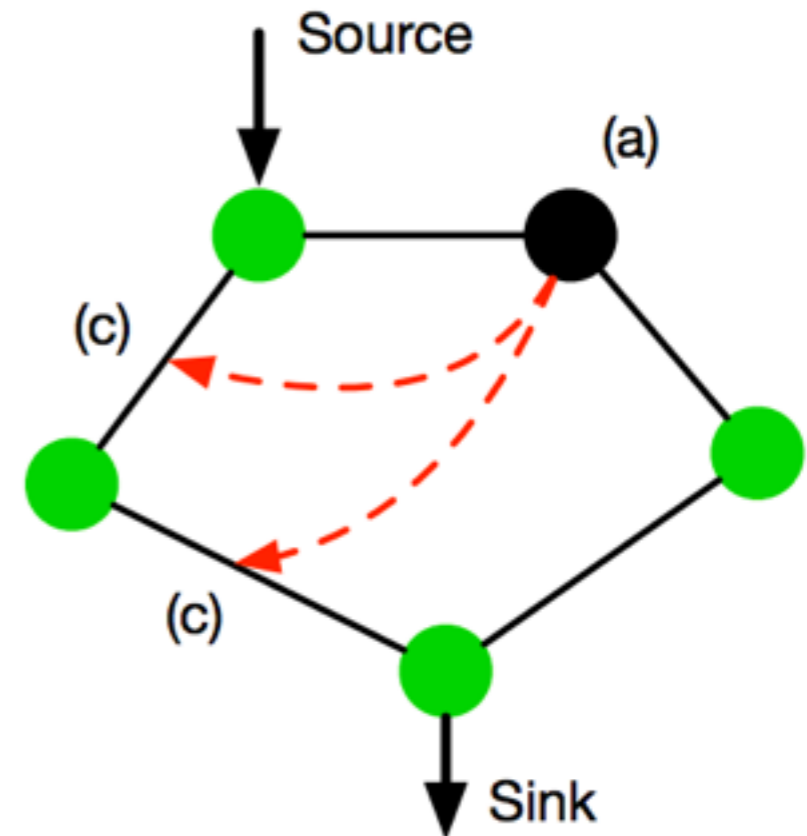
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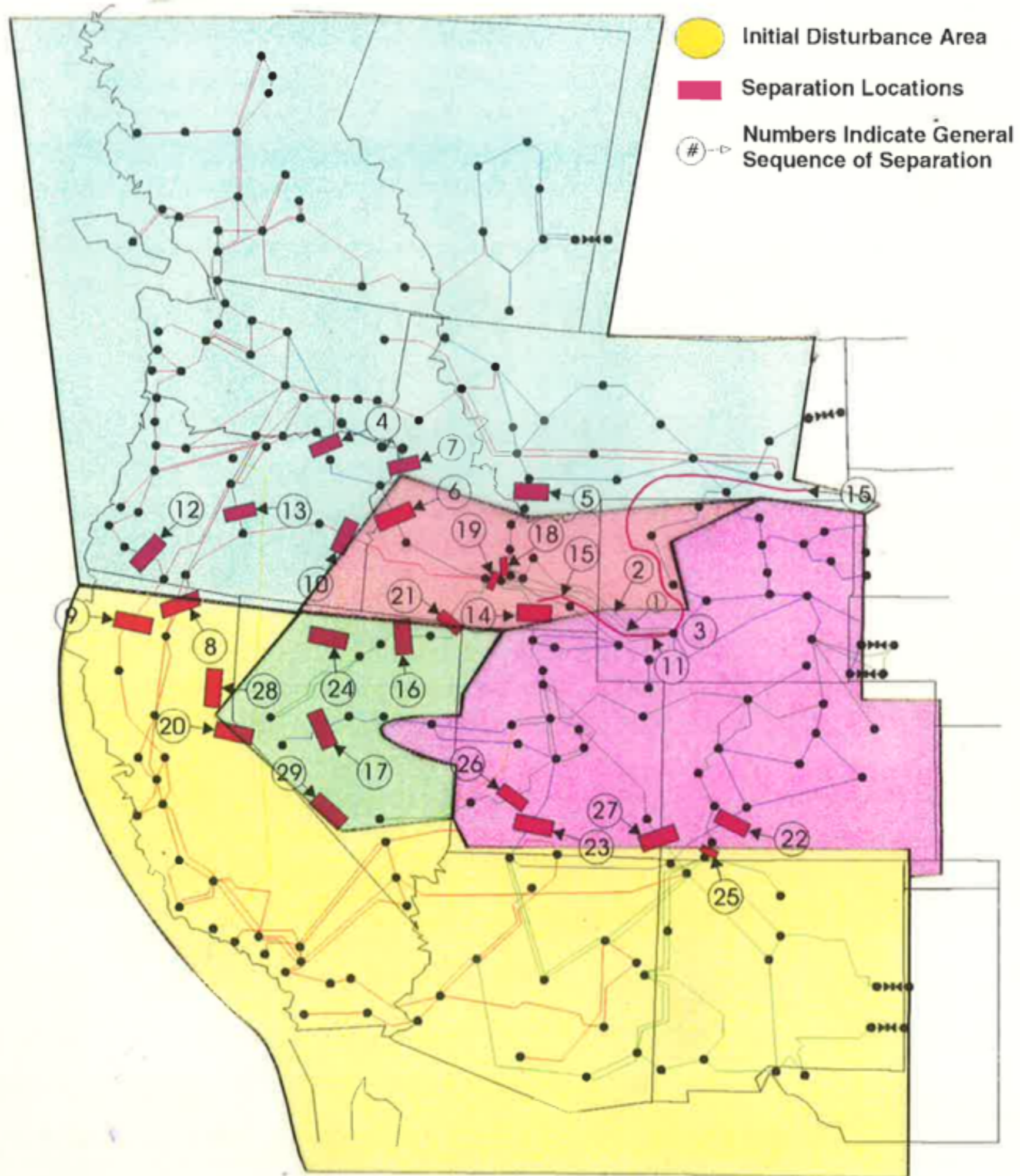


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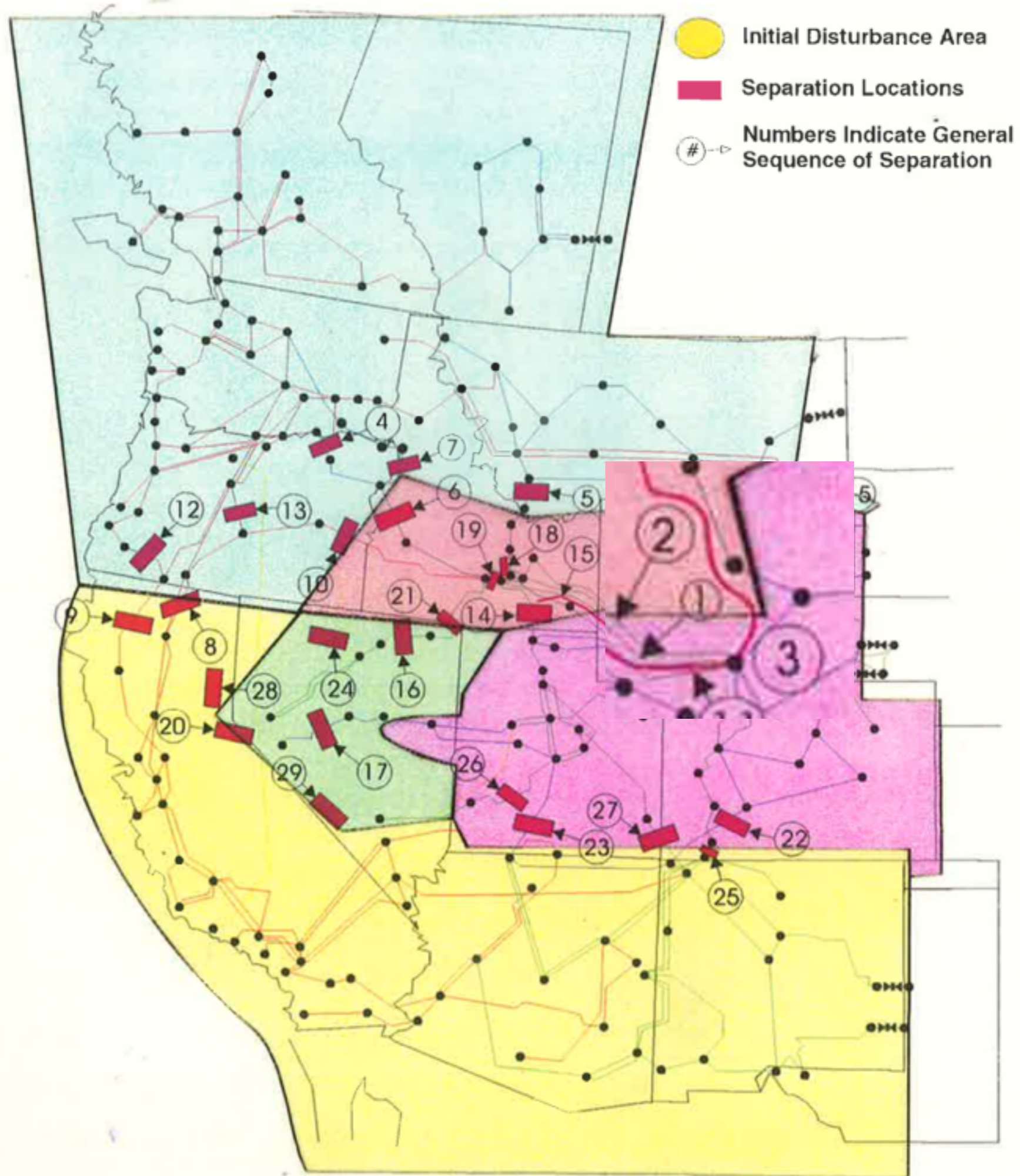


Cascading in power grids

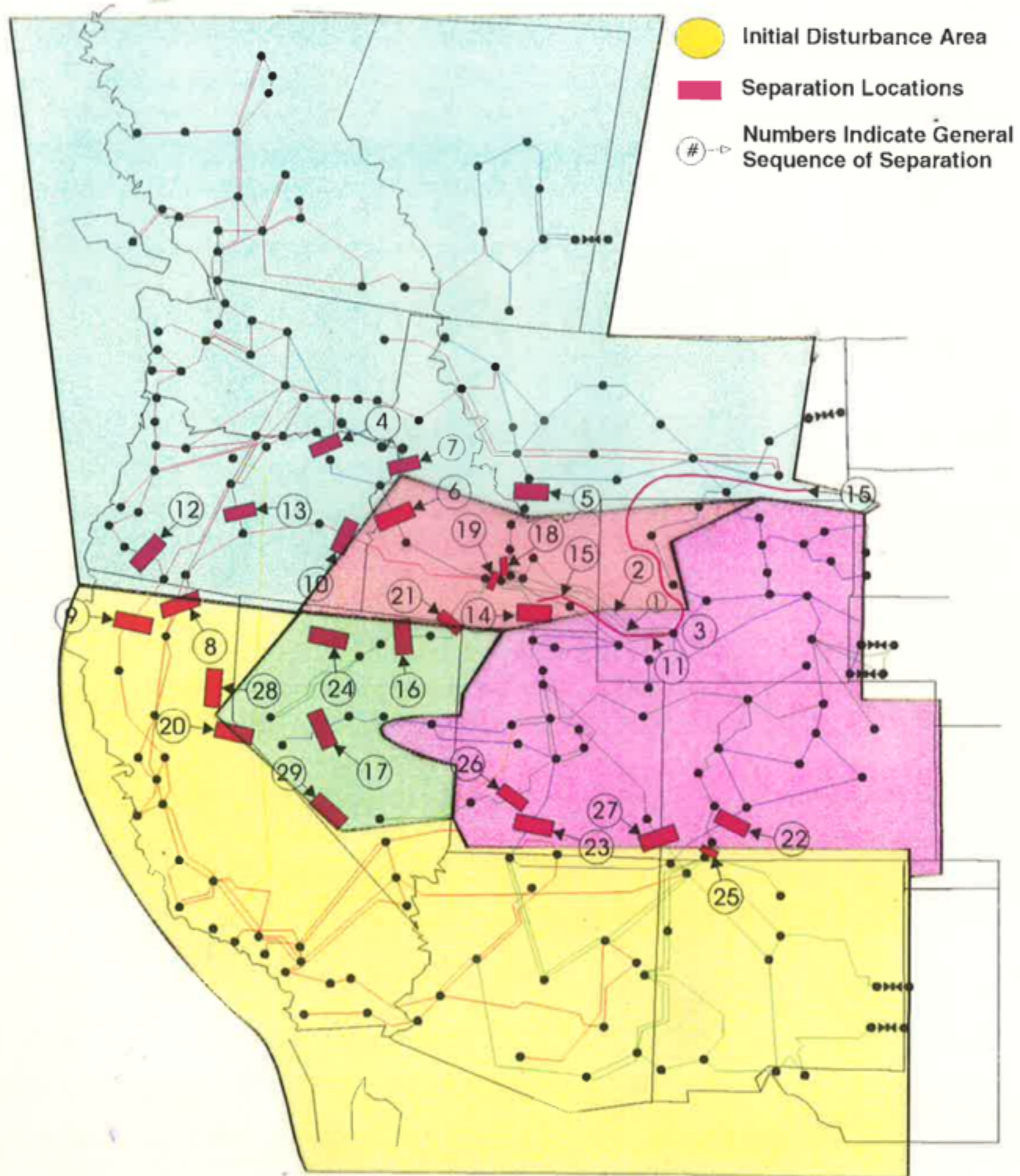
Just in case you think this is just in my silly toy model



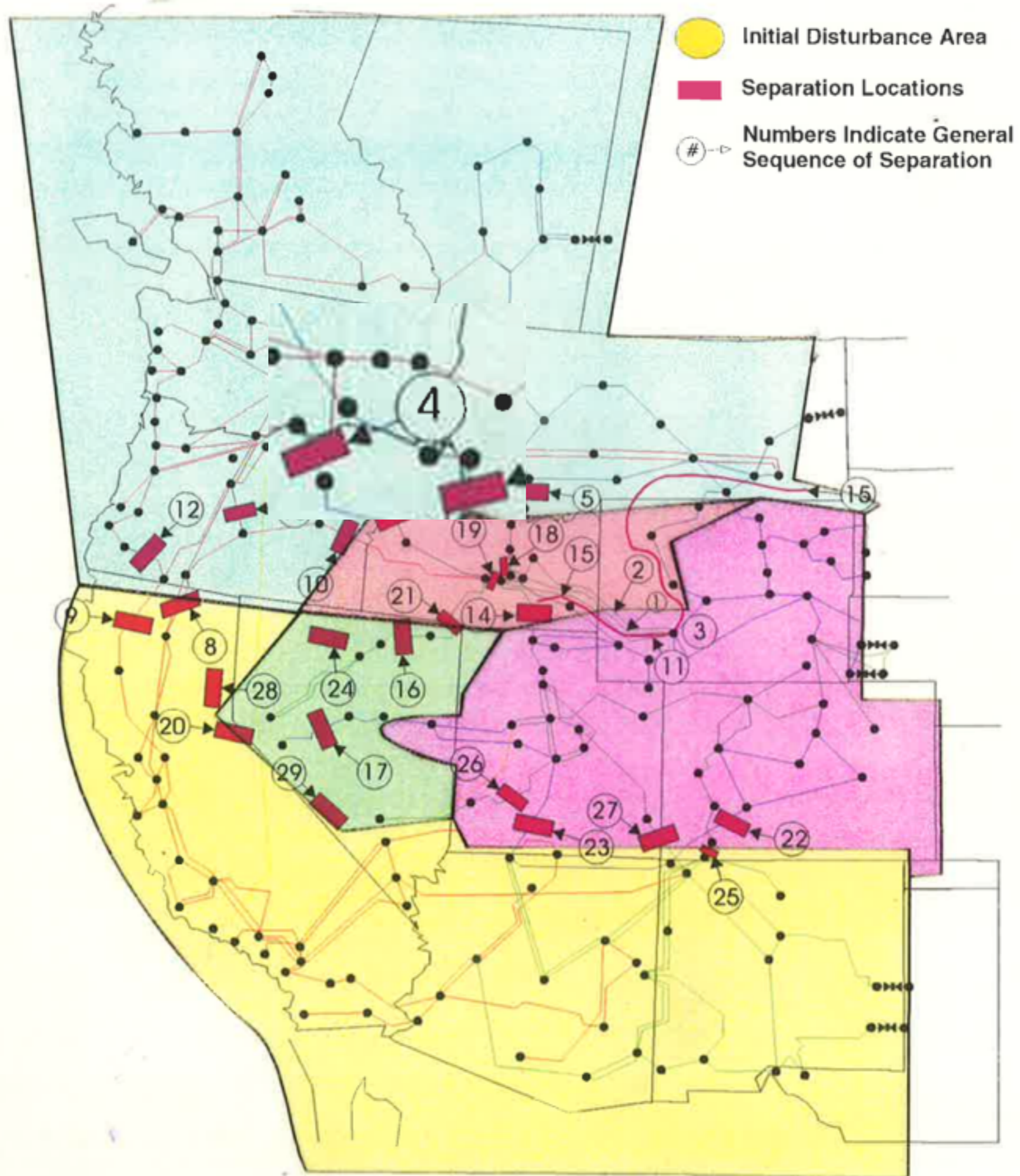
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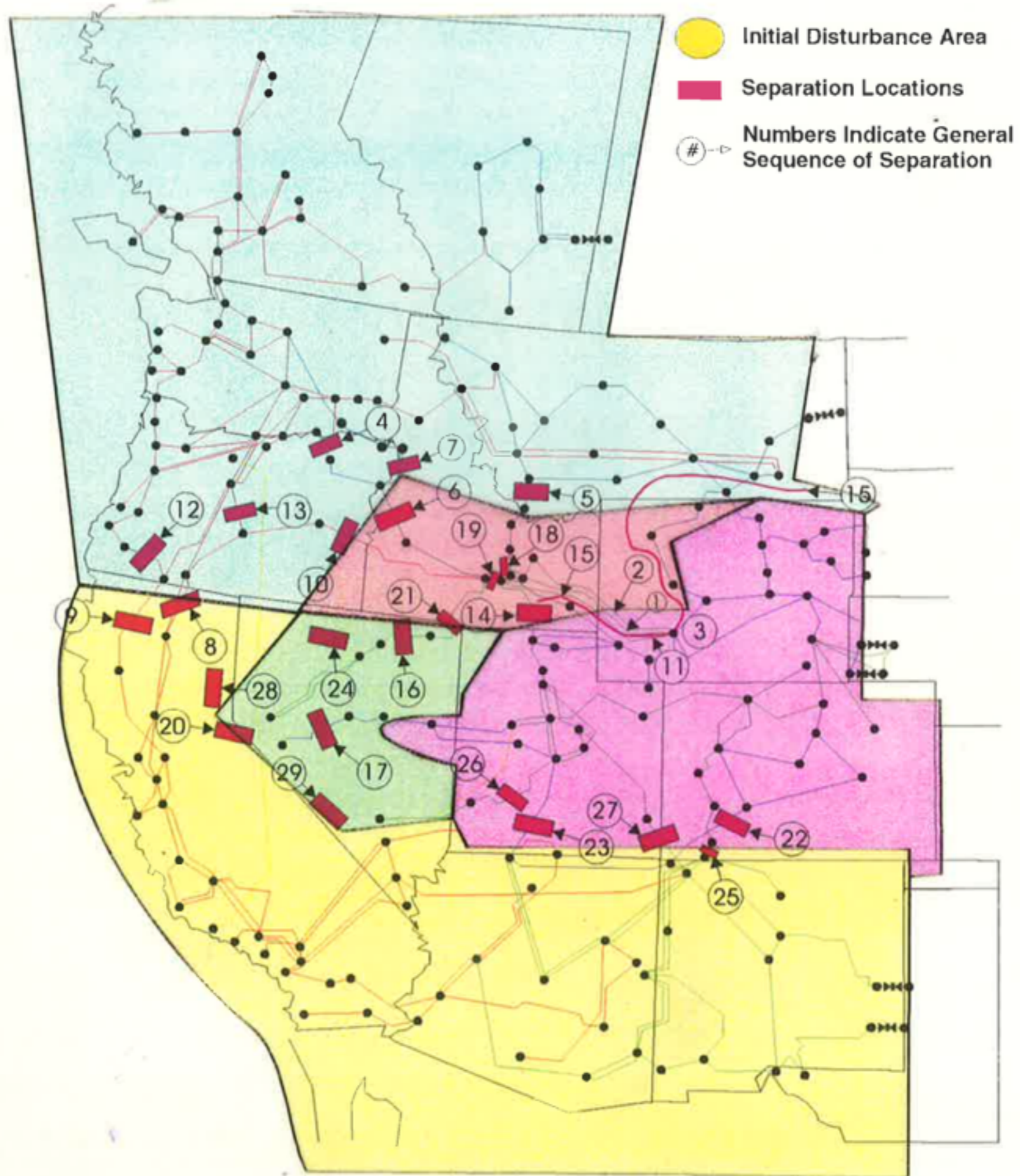
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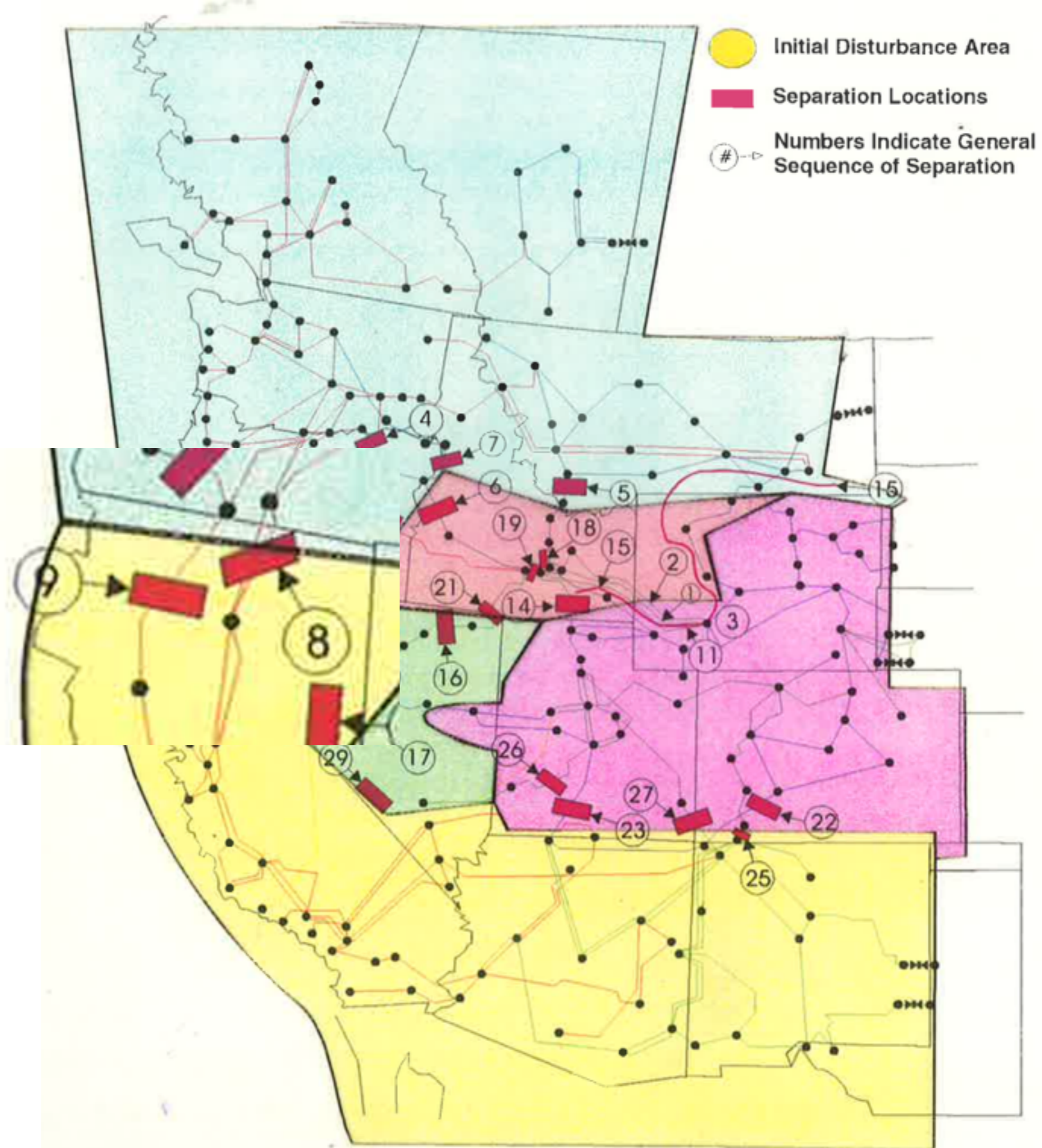
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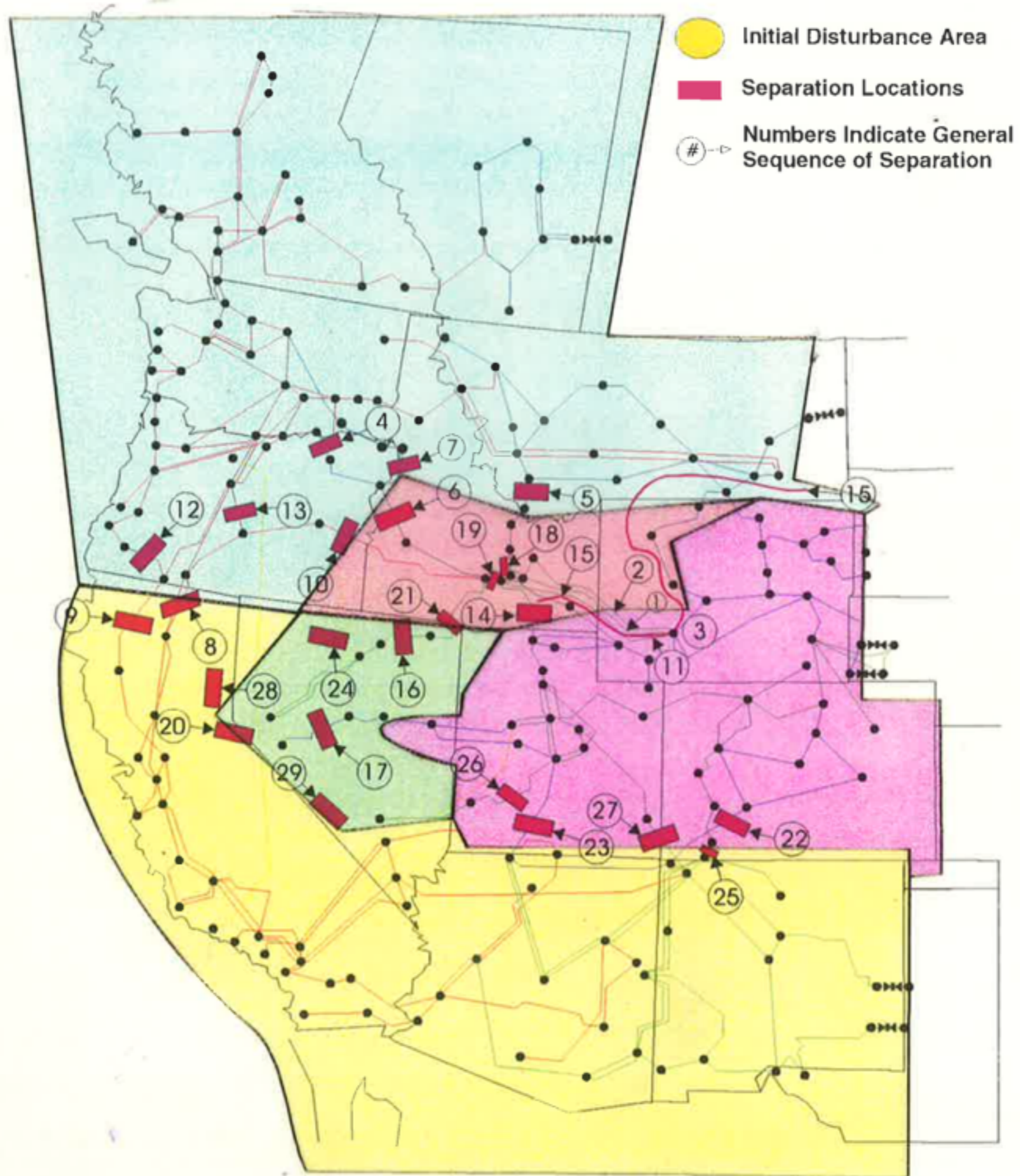
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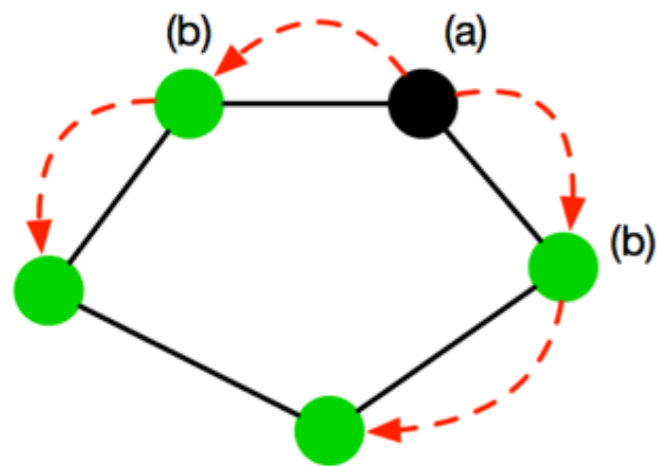
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If you model power grids this way, you can get dramatically erroneous answers

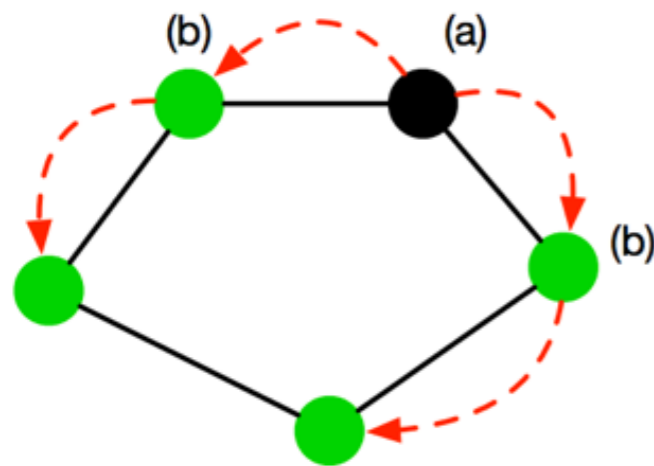


Conventional
models of
contagion

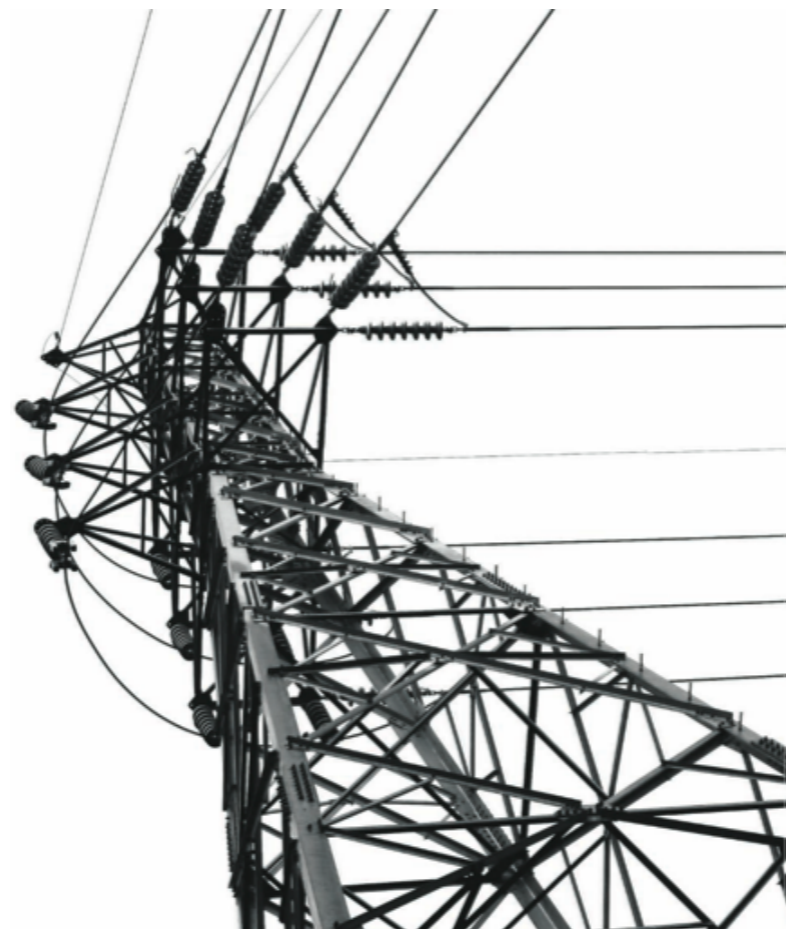
If you model power grids this way, you can get dramatically erroneous answers

Do topological models provide good information about electricity infrastructure vulnerability?

Paul Hines,^{1,a)} Eduardo Cotilla-Sanchez,^{1,b)} and Seth Blumsack^{2,c)}
¹School of Engineering, University of Vermont, Burlington, Vermont 05405, USA
²Department of Energy and Mineral Engineering, Pennsylvania State University, University Park, Pennsylvania 16802, USA



Conventional models of contagion



EDITORS' CHOICE
EDITED BY KRISTEN MUELLER AND JAKE YESTON

ENGINEERING

What Keeps the Power On?

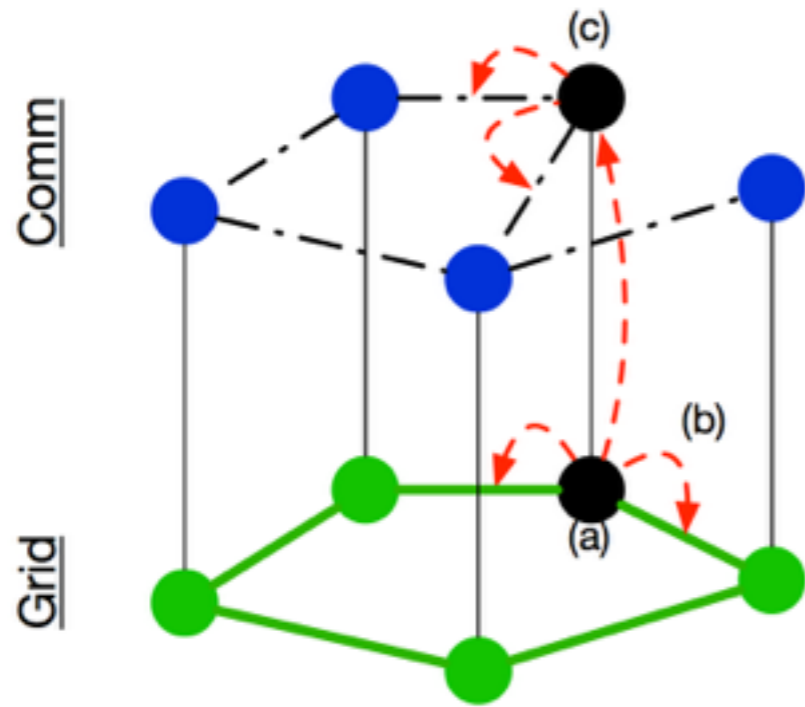
Topological models use tools from graph theory to explore connections among elements of complex systems. Recently their application to electricity distribution has stoked fears, including in the U.S. Congress, that massive grids could be crippled by seemingly minor initial disruptions. Targeted attacks on nodes with low loads but high connectivity, some argued, could inflict more damage than attacks on the highest-loaded nodes. Yet such systemwide failures are dictated not only by the nodes and connectivity of the system but also by the laws of Ohm and Kirchhoff that describe the physics of electrical flow. In a systematic comparison of topological and current-flow models, Hines *et al.* show that topological models, which do not fully capture the effects of electrical flow, can lead to some misleading conclusions. Though all models showed that different types of targeted disruption would inflict more damage than would random failures, the physics-based measure of blackout size—the amount of electrical load curtailed—did not show the same susceptibility to disruption of low-traffic nodes as did the topological measures of connectivity that so alarmed Congress. Allocation of infrastructure protection resources informed by physics-based models would focus on nodes that transport the largest amounts of power. — BW

Chaos 20, 33122 (2010).

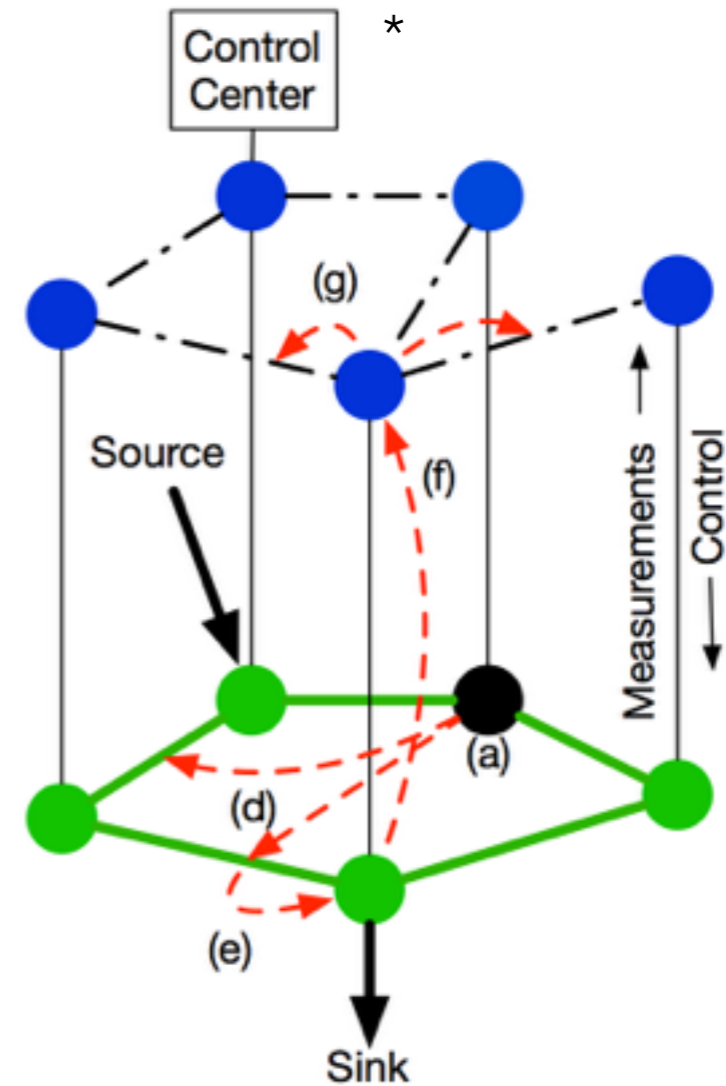
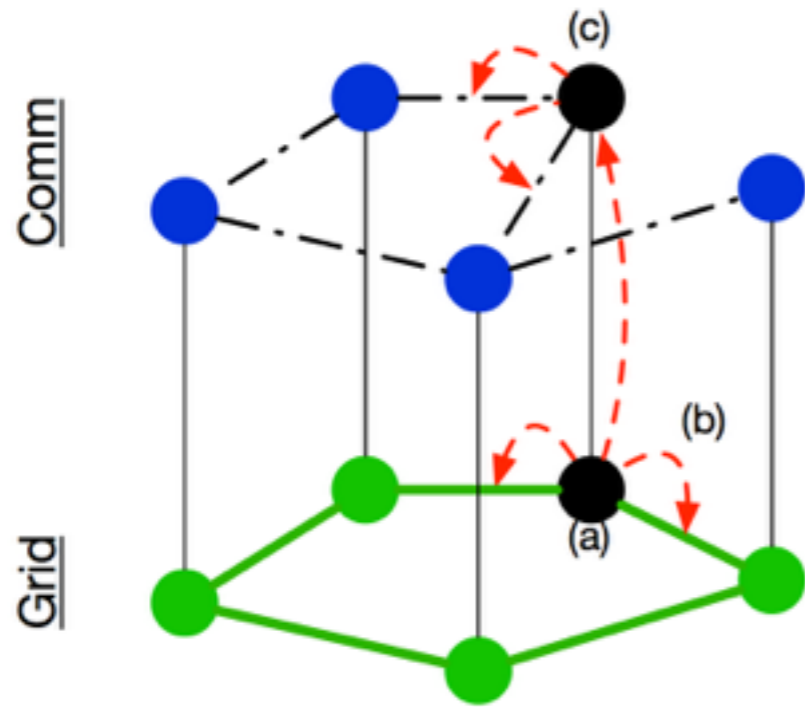
Let's use *reasonably* accurate grid models, and
then couple them to a very simple comm.
model



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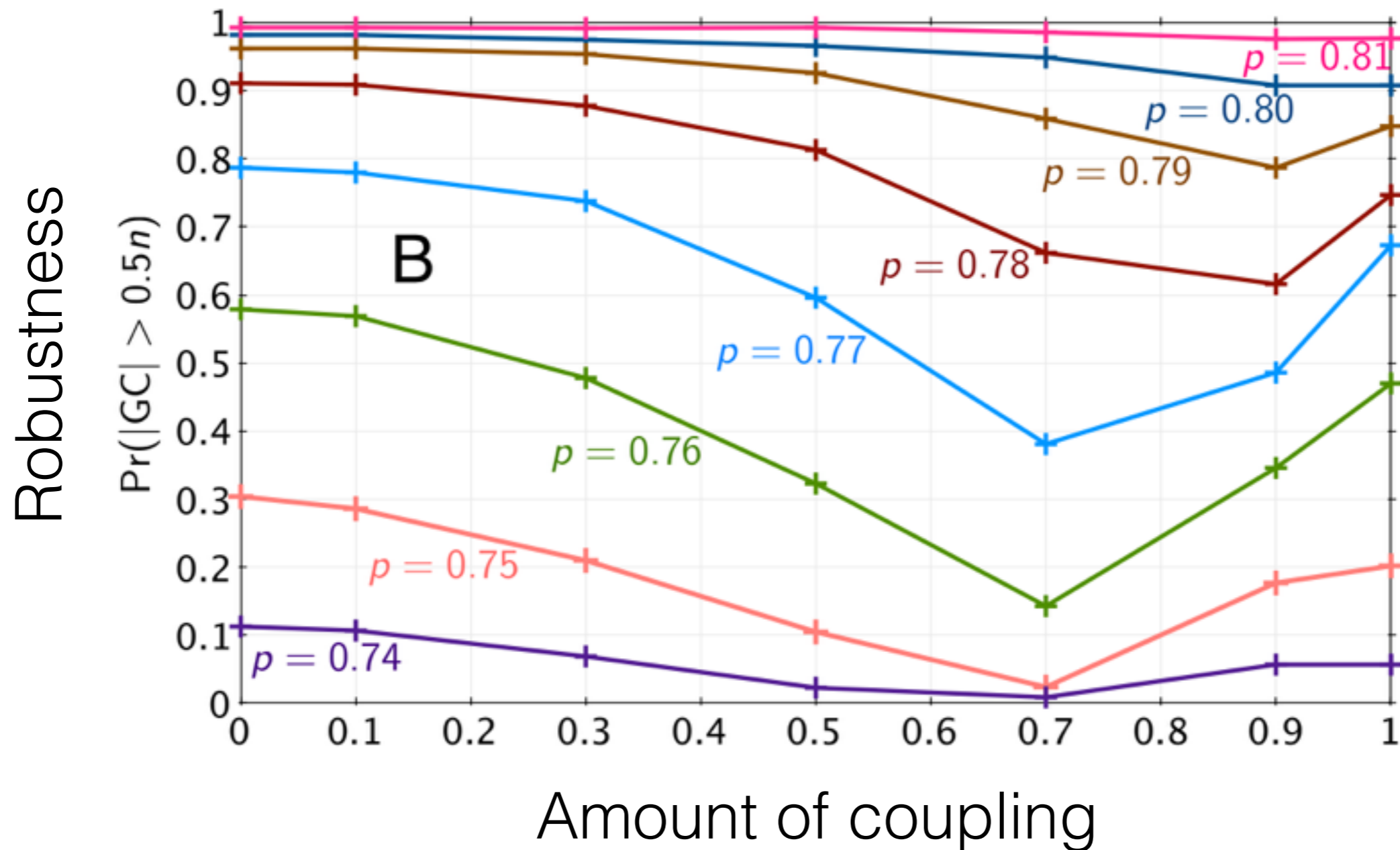
*Model is very similar to work by Parandehgheibi, Modiano & Hay

How does robustness change with the level of coupling? *Comparison result*

Coupled topological model with Polish grid coupled to Comm. network (10% rewired copy of grid)

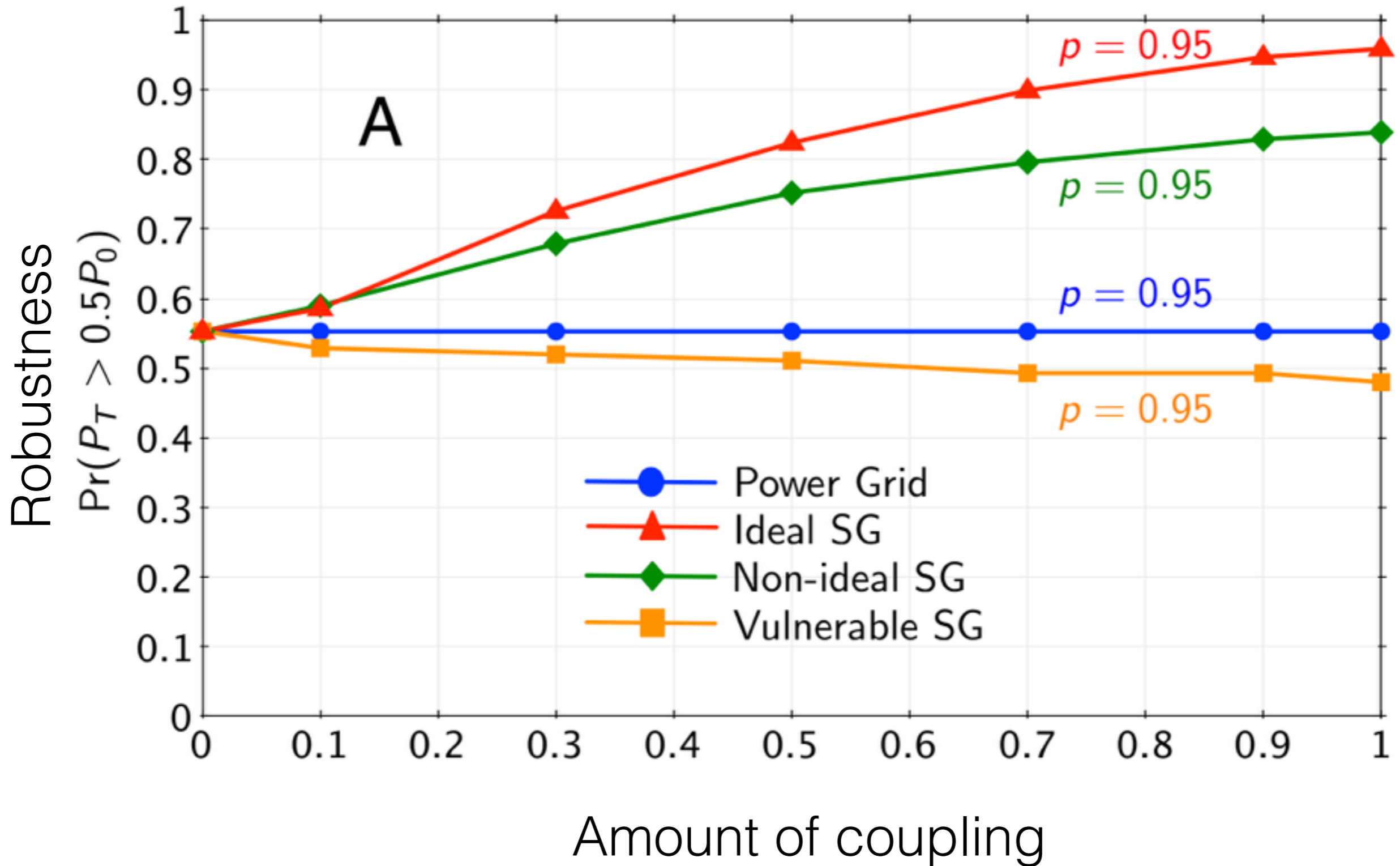
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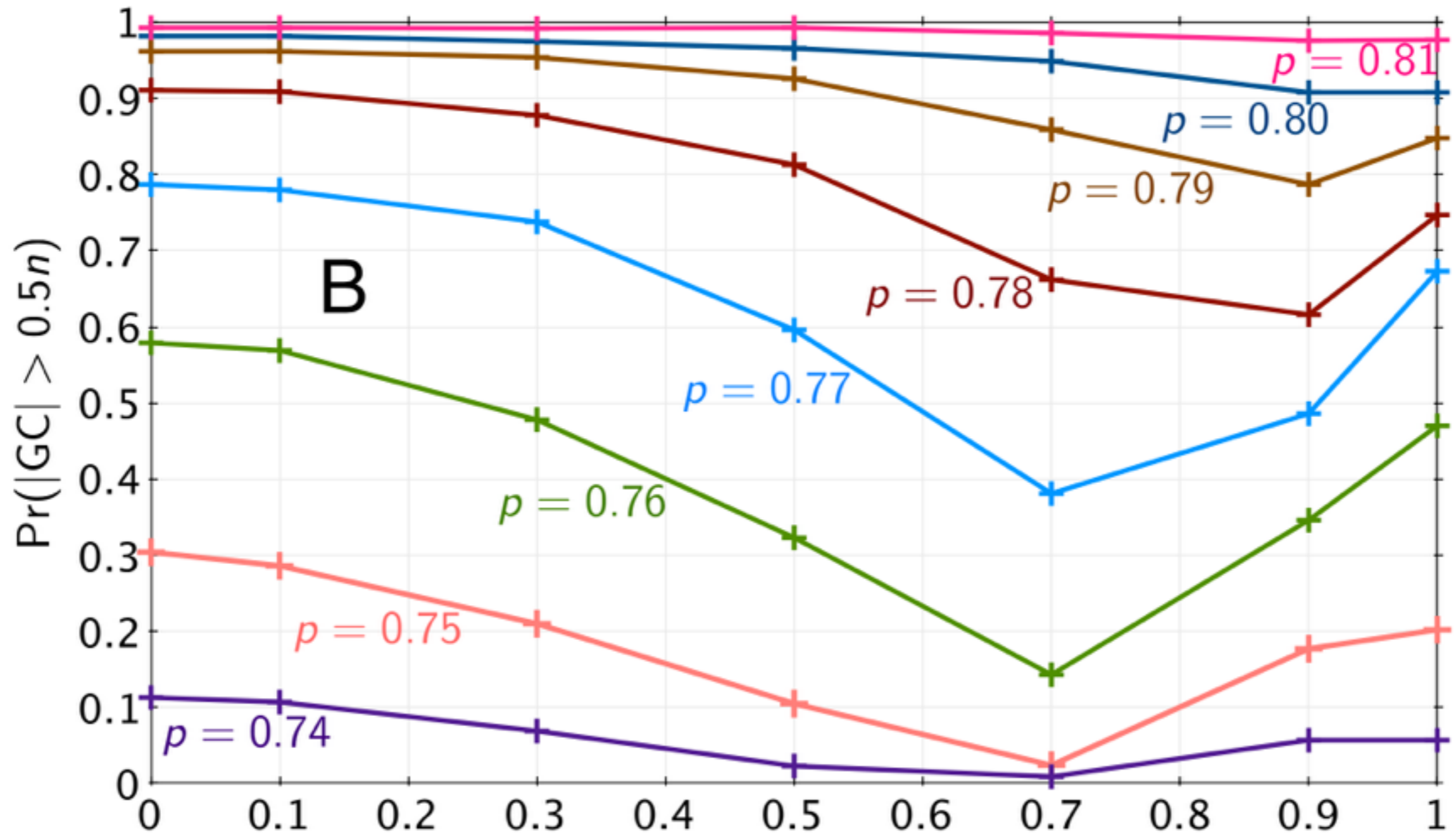


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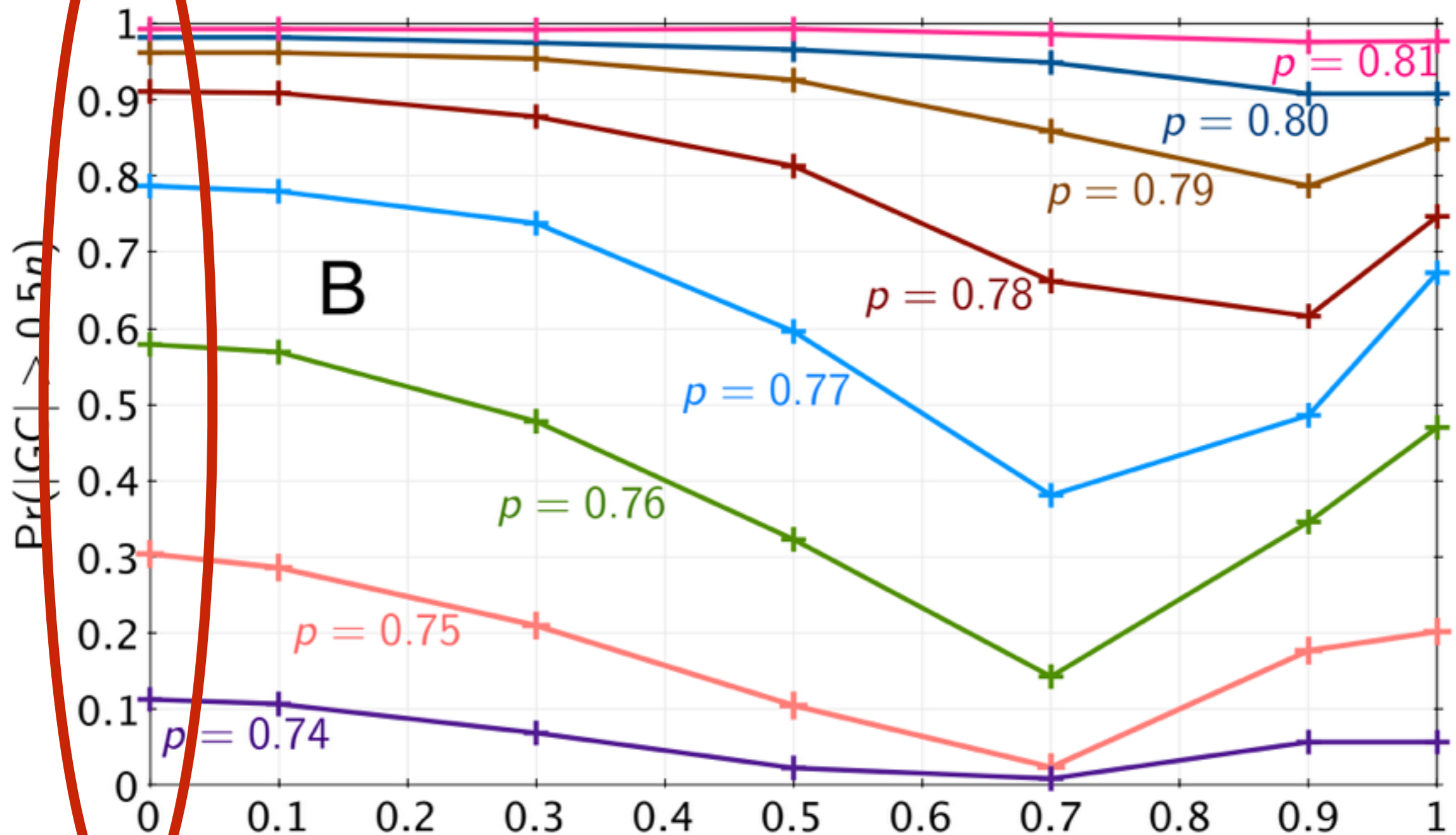
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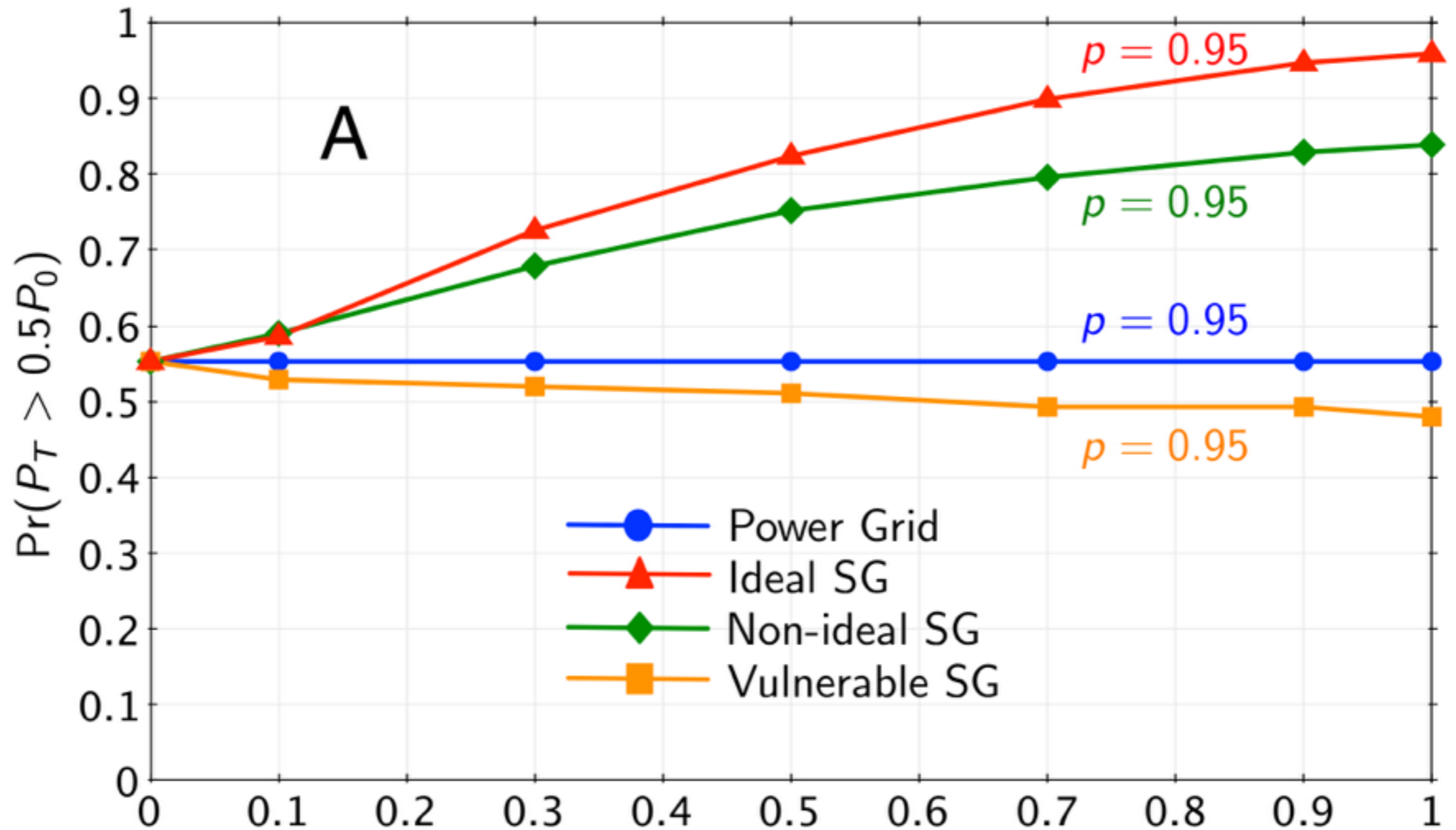
Optimal coupling



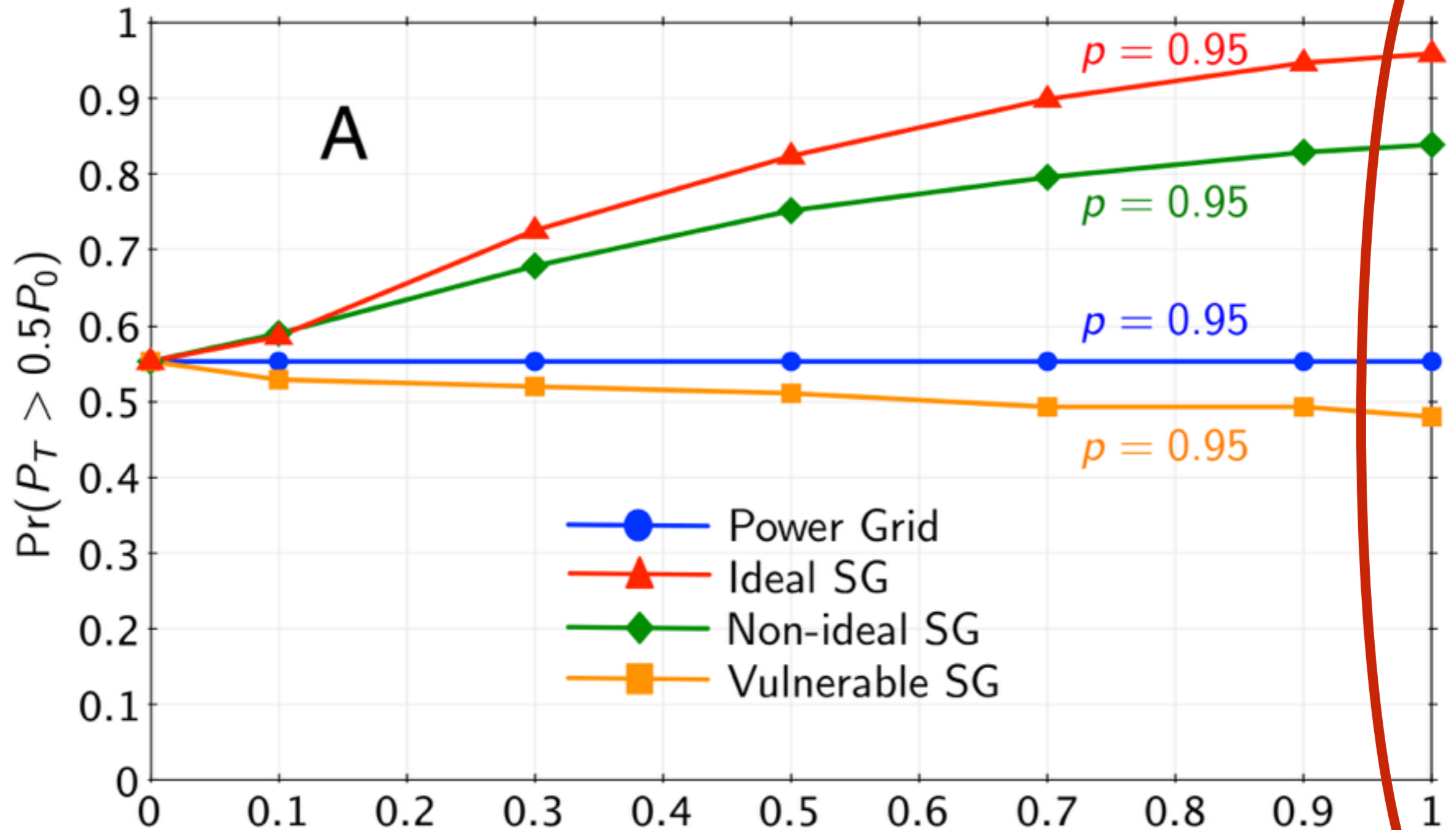
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Implications

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Consumer Behavior

Carrots vs. Sticks



Paul Hines
Santa Fe Institute, Comenius Program
November 2014

Credits

Good ideas: Seth Blumsack

Funding: Dept. of Energy, Green Mountain Power

Errors and omissions: Paul Hines

NY city, Nov. 9, 1965
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Silver Spring Networks

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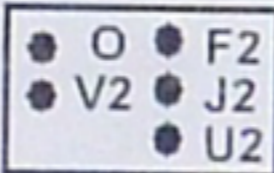


FCC ID: OWS-NIC507, IC: 5975A-NIC507

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I-210+



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SmartMeter



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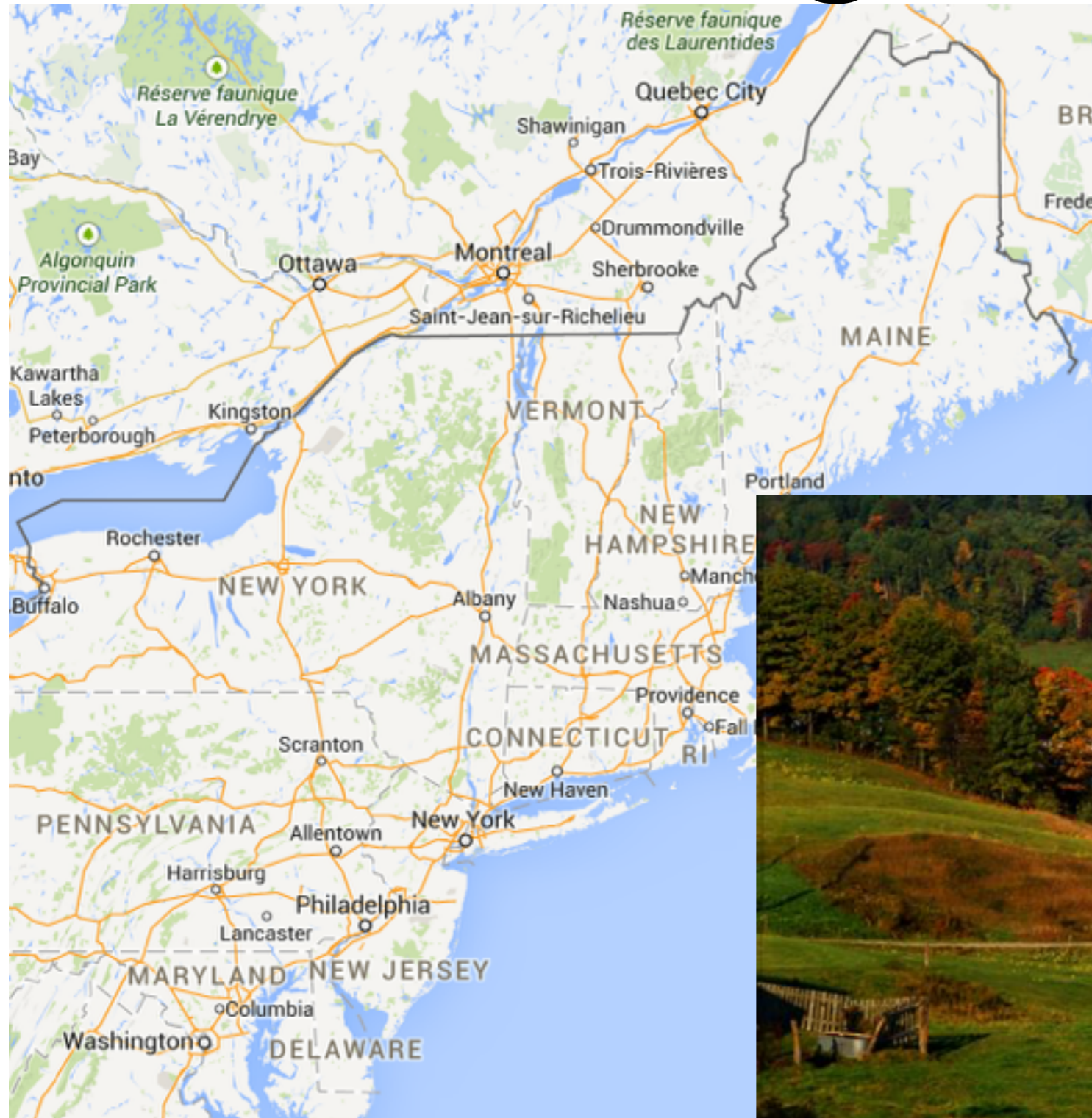
How do we get better results without this?



Different types of electricity prices

- Real time pricing
- Time-of-use
- **Critical Peak Pricing (stick)**
- **Critical Peak Rebate (carrot)**

eEnergy Vermont



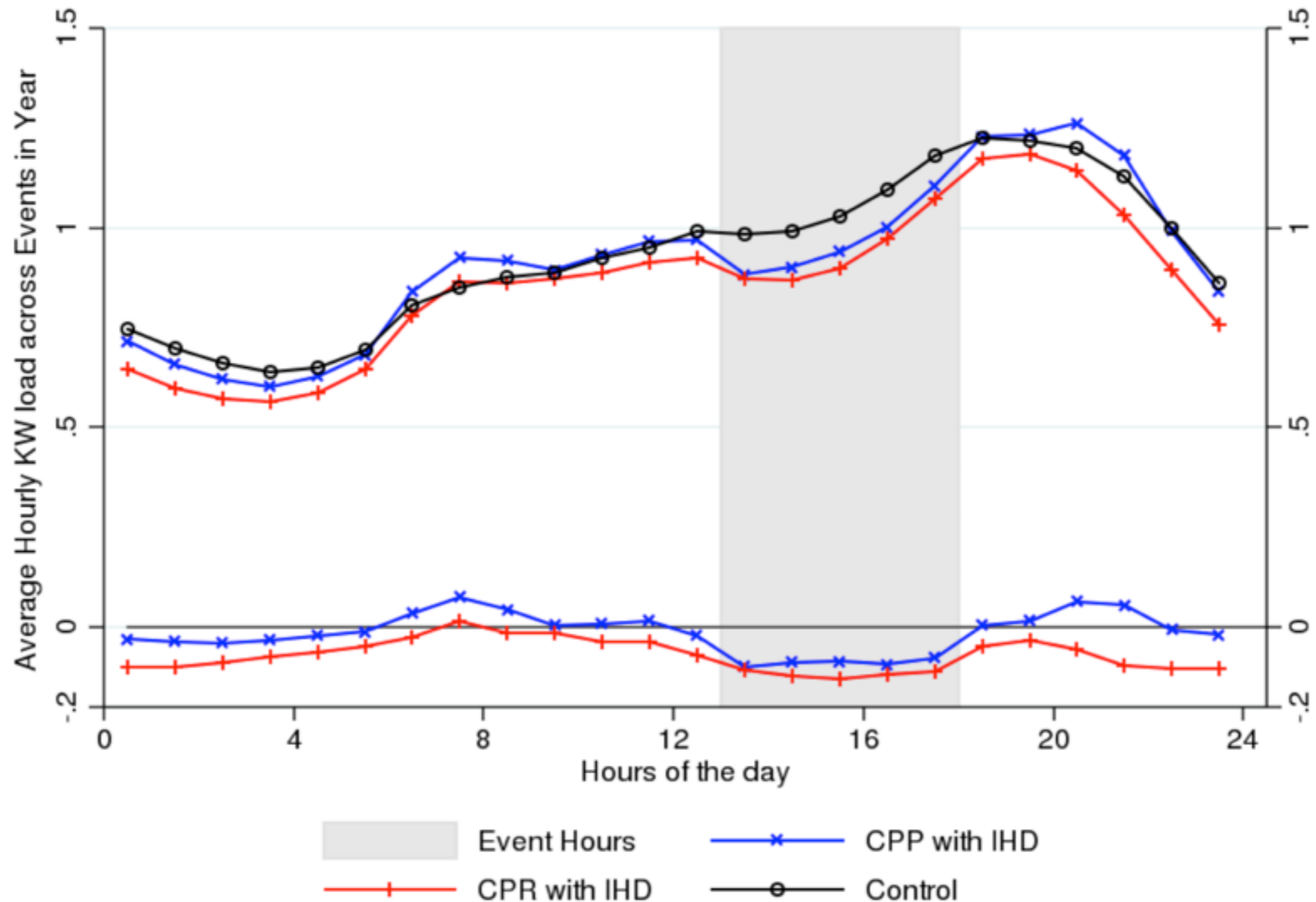
Experimental setup

Group No	Group Name	Survey	Year 1	Year 2	IHD	Notification	Required sample size
1	CPR	X	CPR	CPR		X	390
2	CPR+IHD	X	CPR	CPR	X	X	195
3	CPP	X	CPP	CPP		X	390
4	CPP+IHD	X	CPP	CPP	X	X	195
5	CPR-CPP	X	CPR	CPP		X	390
6	CPR-CPP+IHD	X	CPR	CPP	X	X	195
7	Flat+Notification	X	Flat	Flat		X	390
C1	Flat w/o Notification (Control)	X	Flat	Flat			390
C2	Control, No Survey		Flat	Flat			1200
Totals							3735

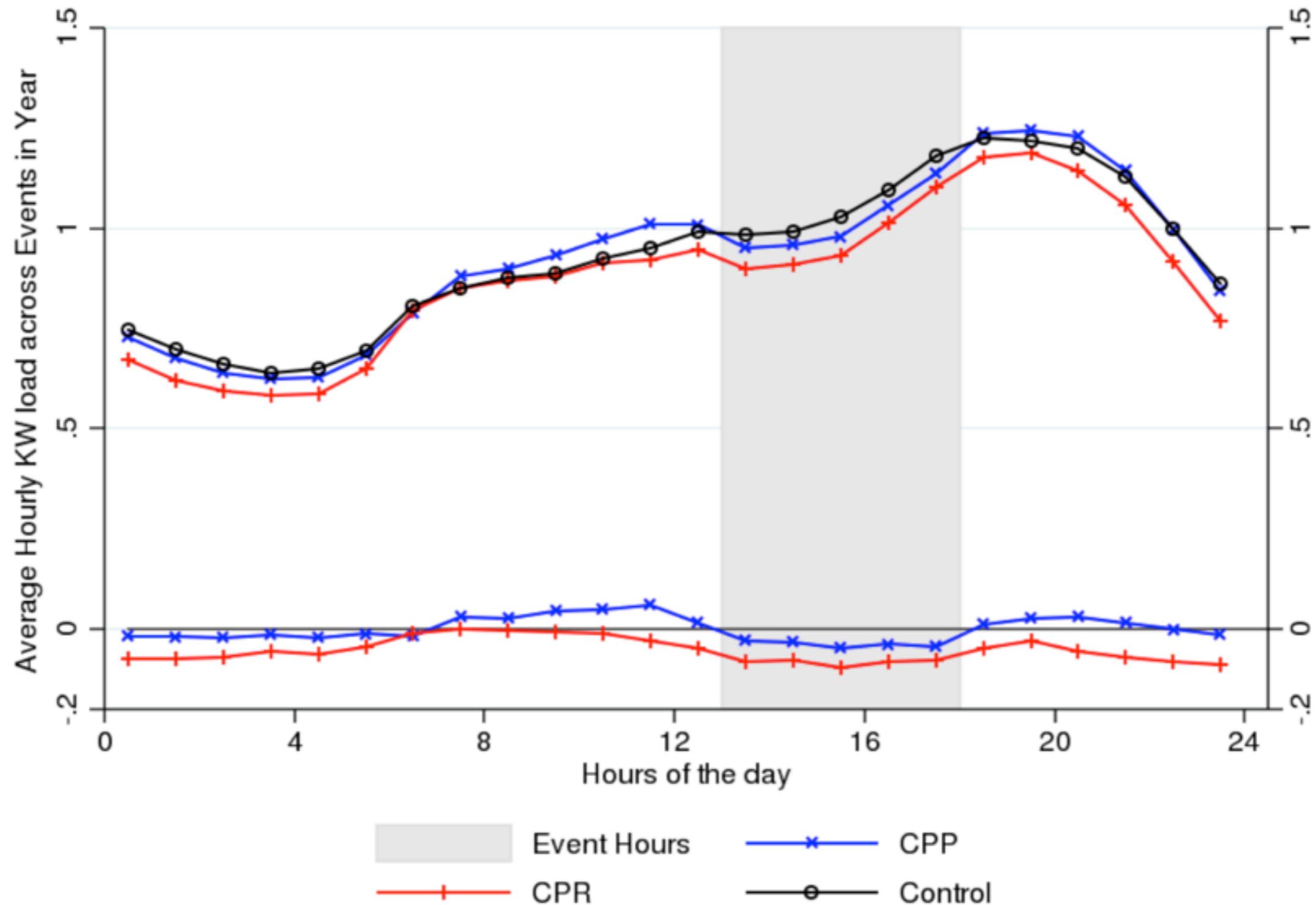
Predictions...

- Classical economic theory assumes that
 - people react about the same to losing money and winning money
 - people will gather the information needed to make rational decisions
- Thus, we would expect the carrot and the stick to work about equally as well, and the additional information would be only marginally helpful

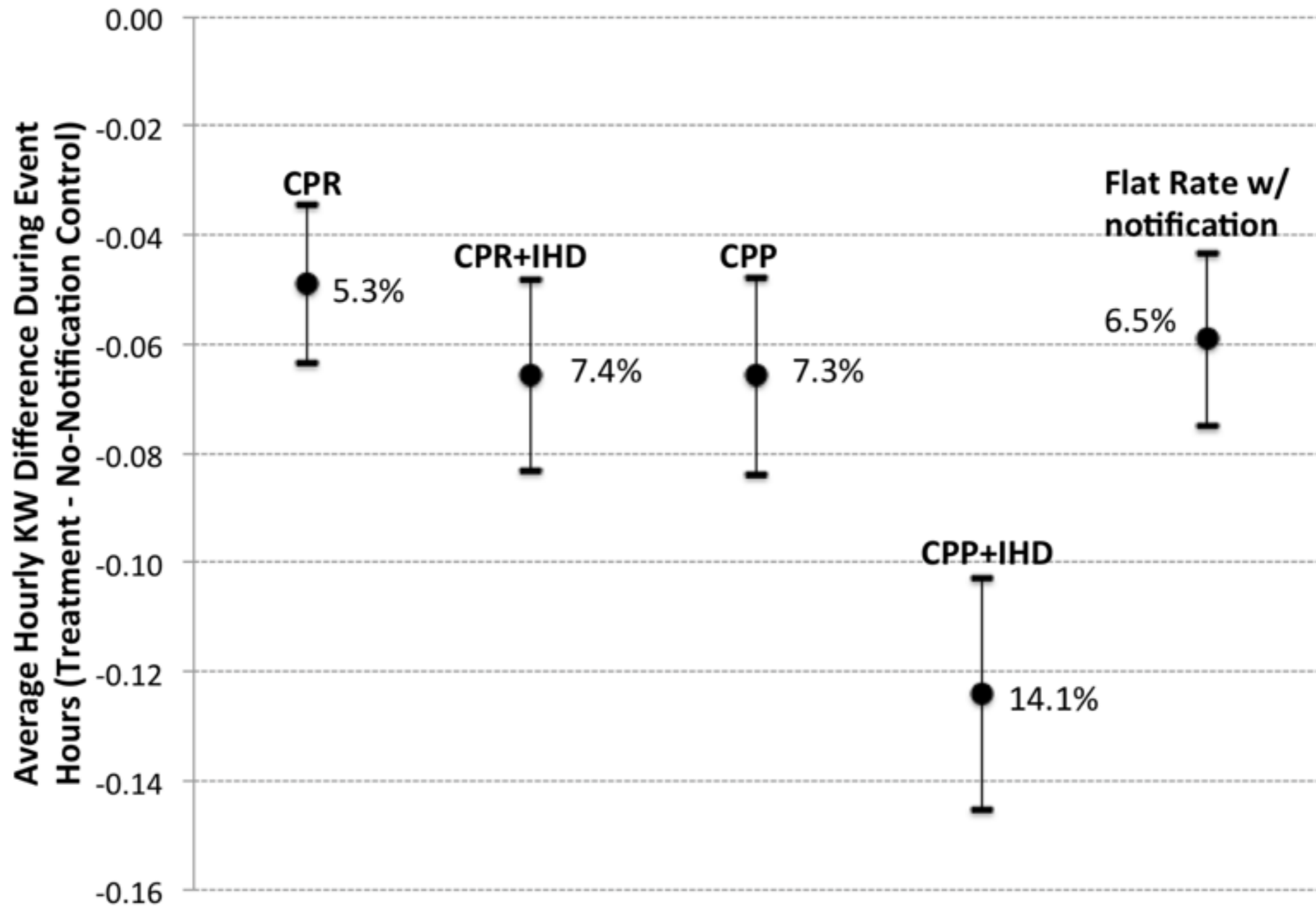
Event day behavior with IT



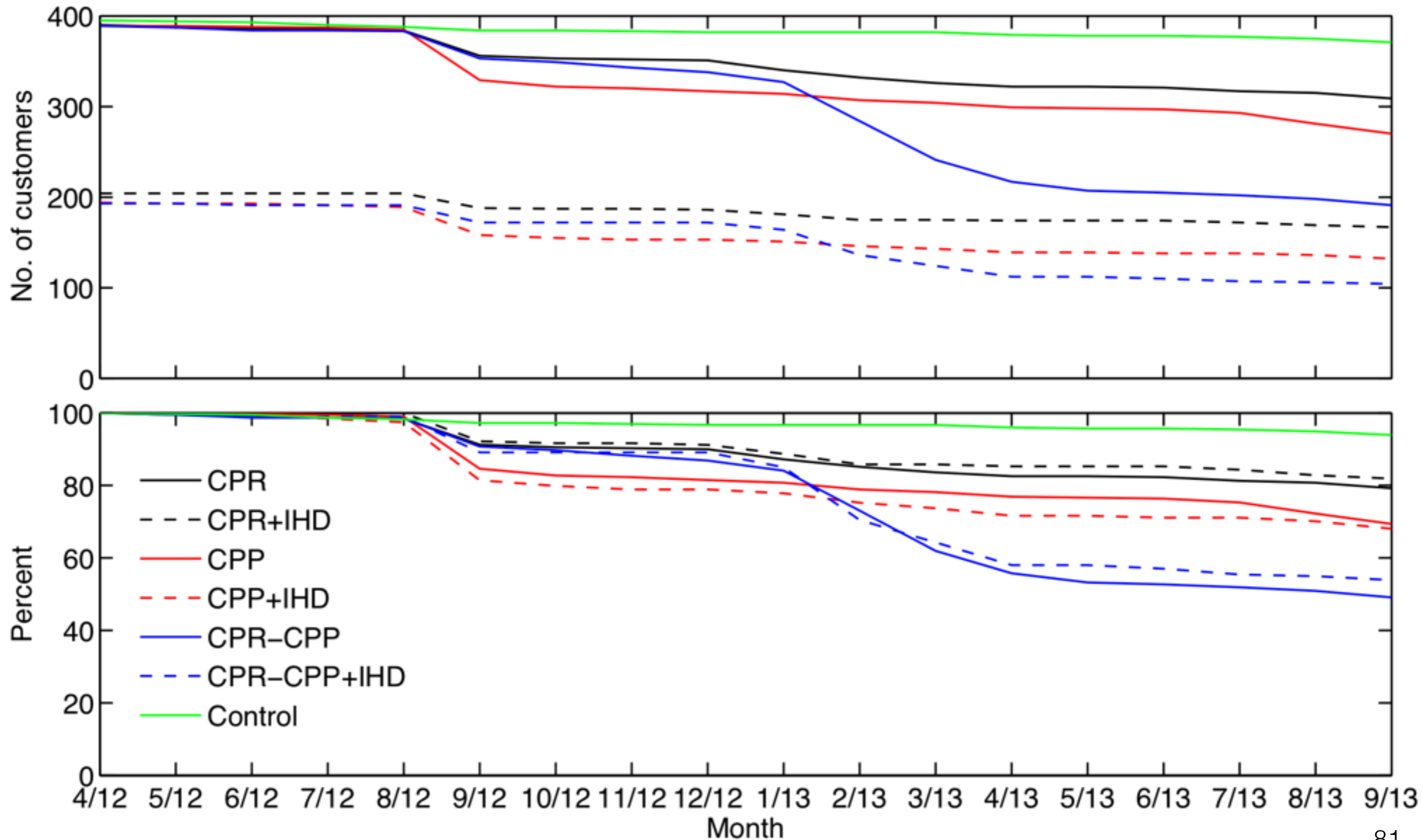
Event day behavior without IT



Overall results



Customer Endurance



Conclusions

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- In some cases, people respond about as well to simple notification as they do to small financial incentives

Conclusions

- Without good information people can't really respond to prices
- In some cases, people respond about as well to simple notification as they do to small financial incentives
- People respond well to penalties, but they don't like them

Transdisciplinary Power Grid Science

Paul Hines
Santa Fe Institute, Comenius Program
November 2014

Credits

Good ideas: P. Rezaei, M. Eppstein, M. Korkali, J. Veneman, B. Tivnan,
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