How to Measure Legislative District Compactness If You Only Know it When You See it[1]

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Stony Brook University, Institute for Advanced Computational Science, 2/15/2018

[1] Based on joint work with Aaron Kaufman and Mayya Komisarchik
[2] GaryKing.org

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A simple single compactness dimension that you know when you see

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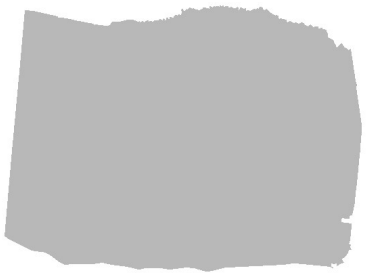

More Compact ⟵ ⟶ Less Compact

Compactness According to the Law

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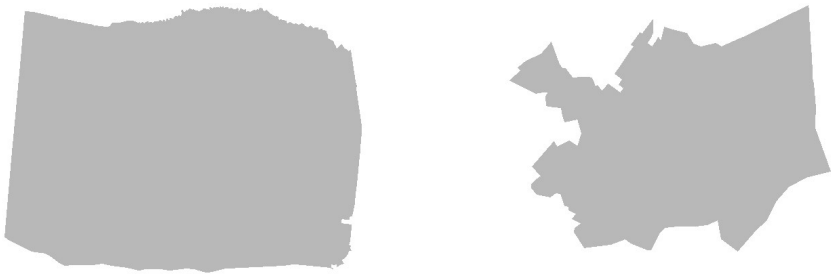

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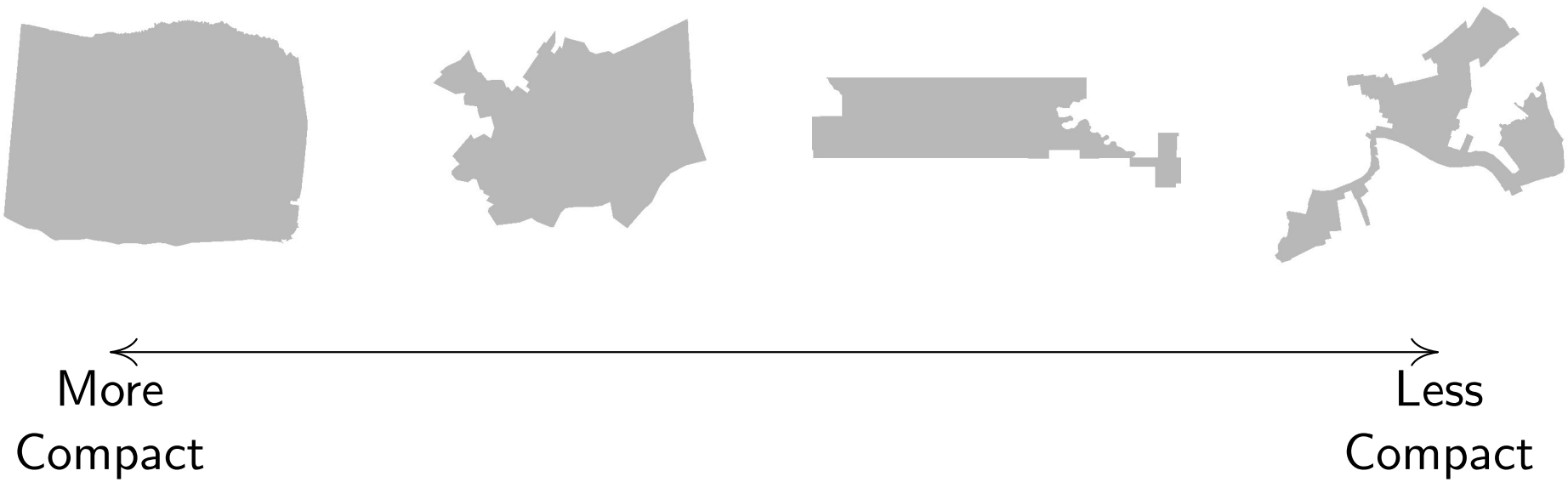

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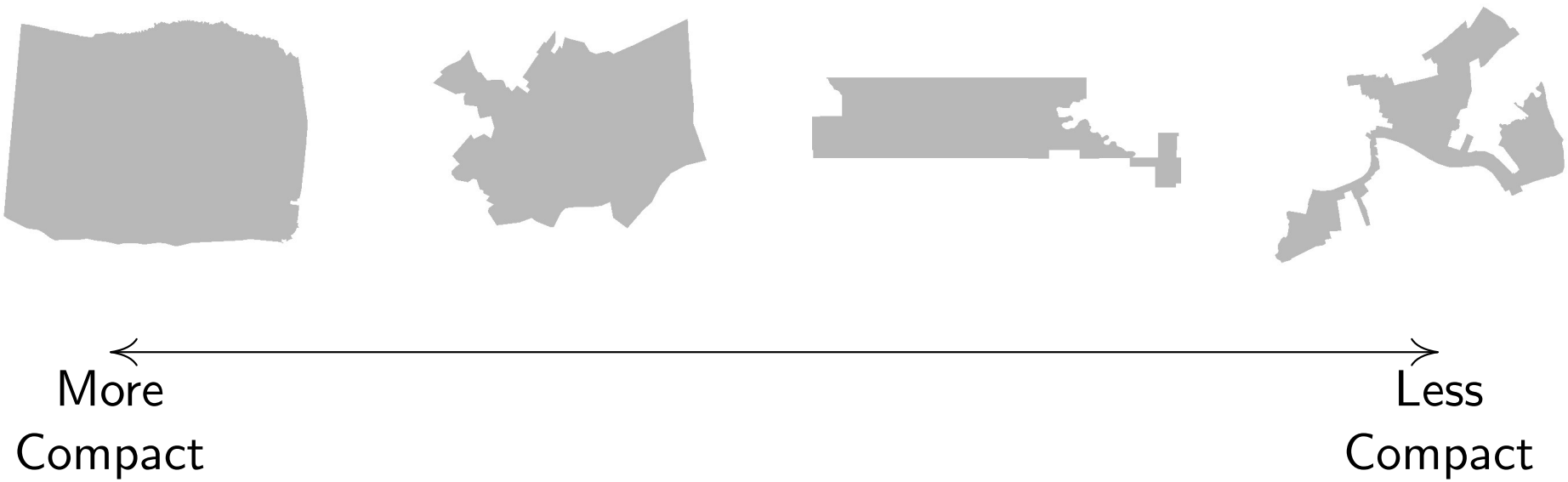

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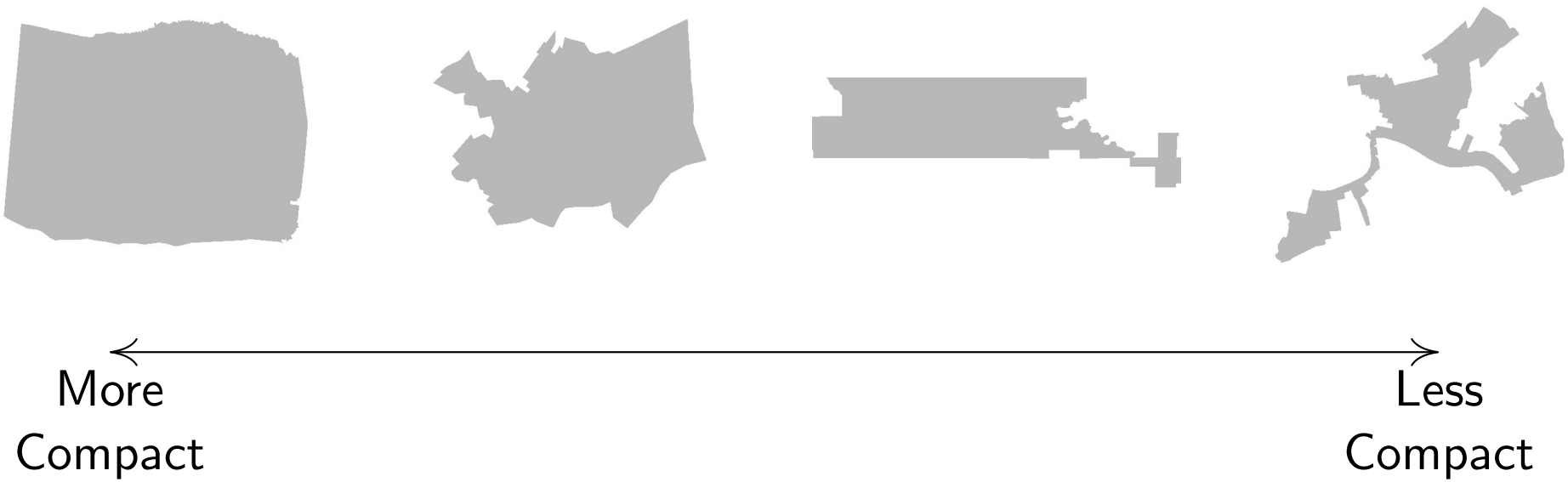

- The dimension is intuitive
- How to estimate where a new district shape falls on this dimension?

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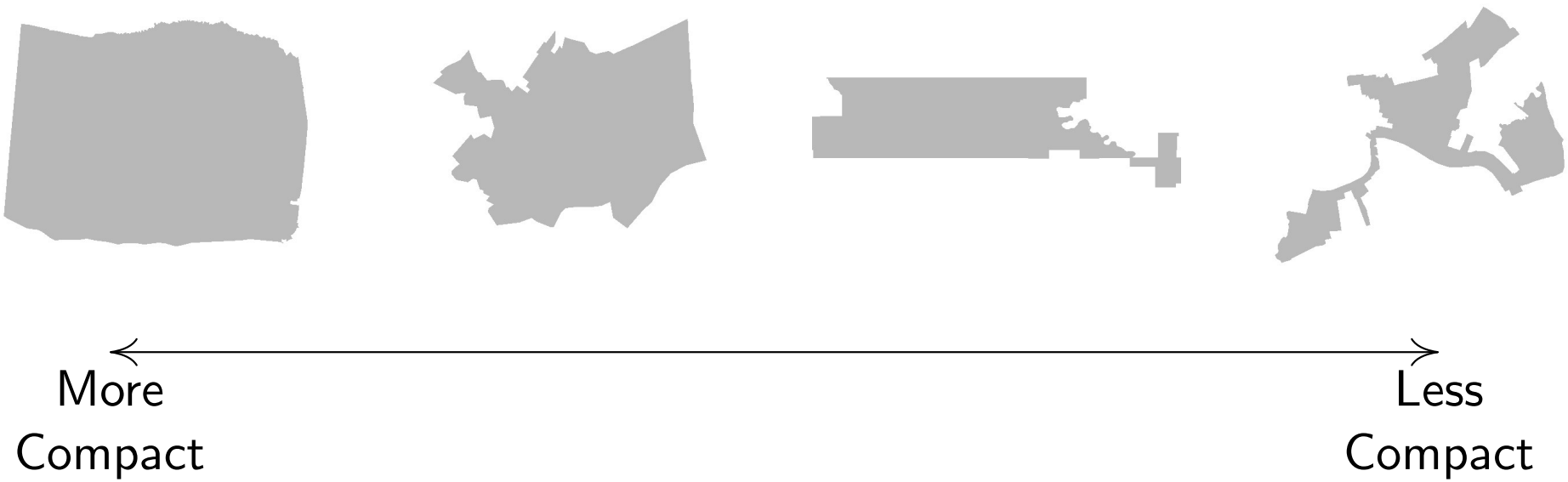

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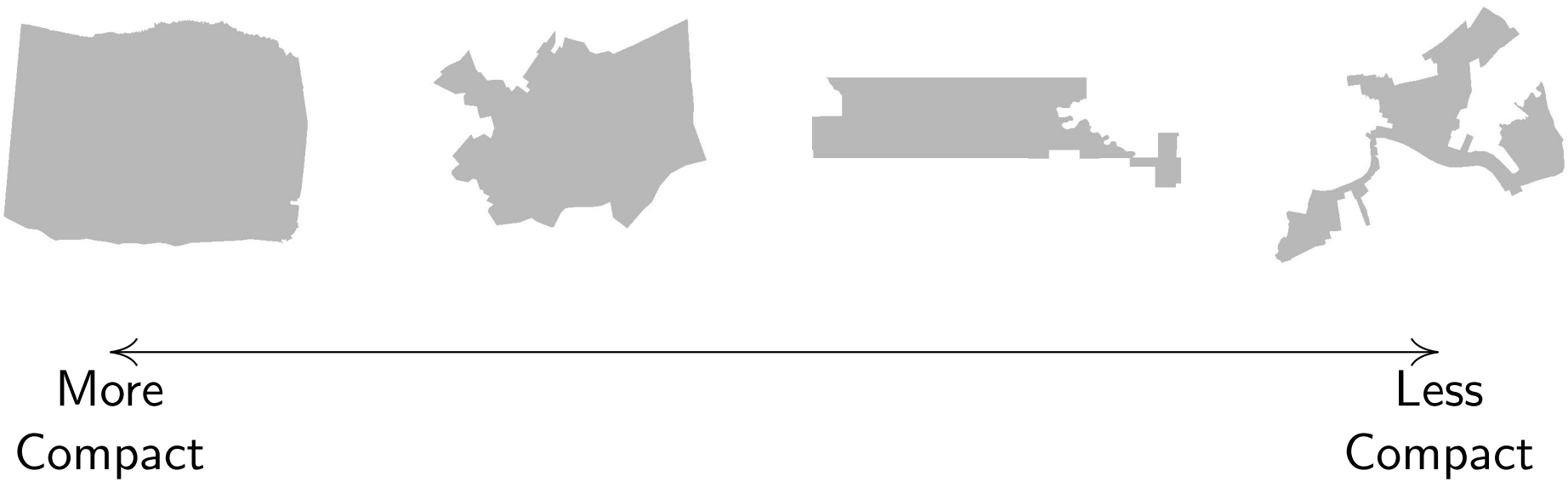

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- $\rightsquigarrow$ Let's start with existing measures by social scientists

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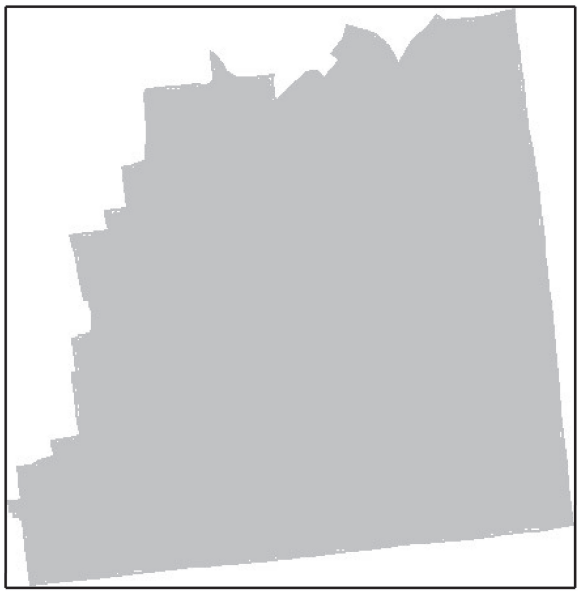

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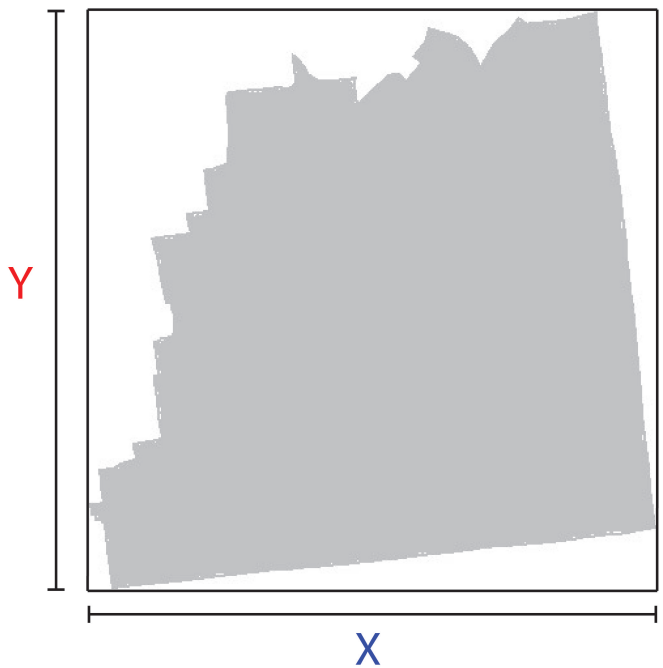

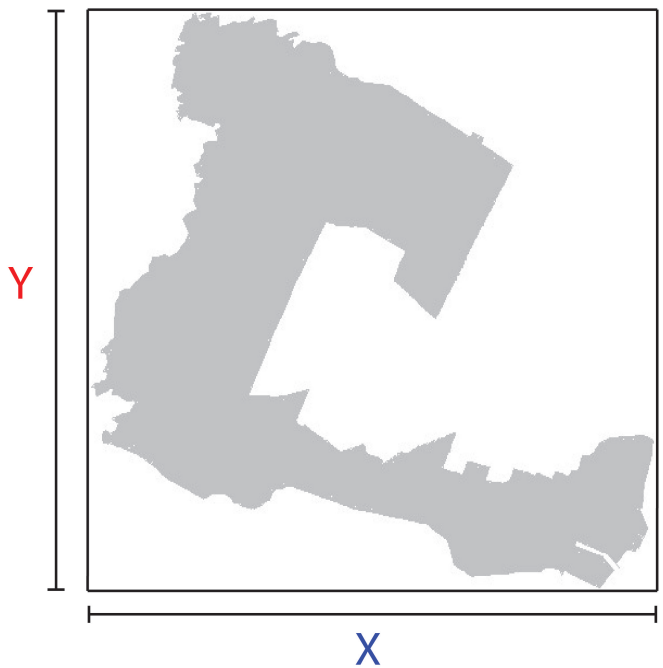

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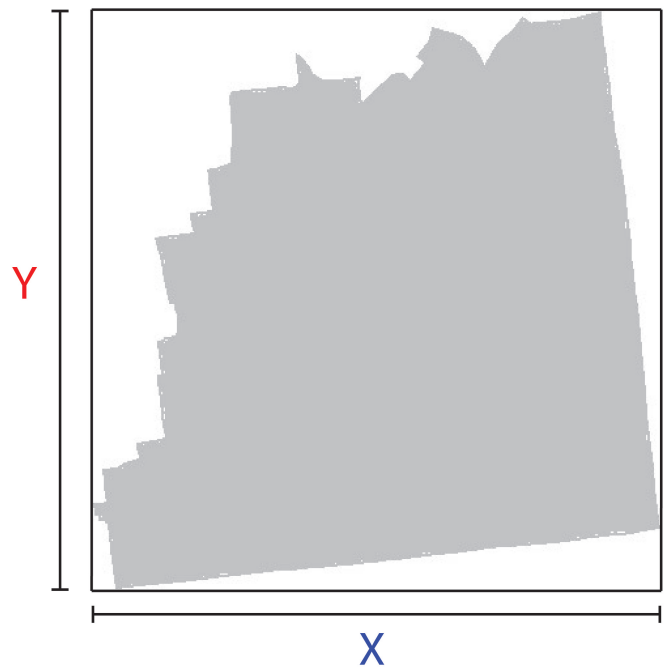

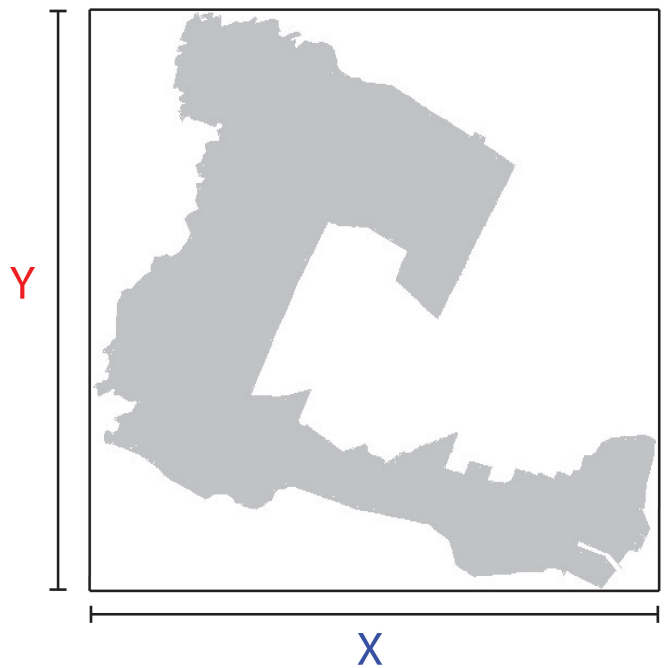

In both districts: $X/Y \approx 1.30$

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Circular districts are most compact

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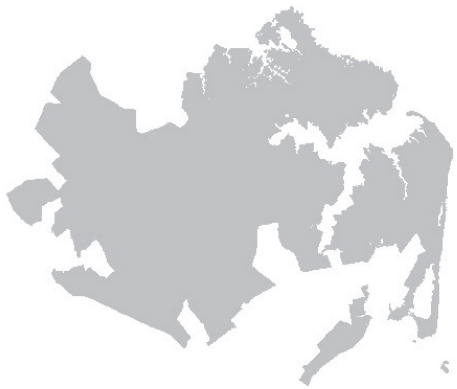

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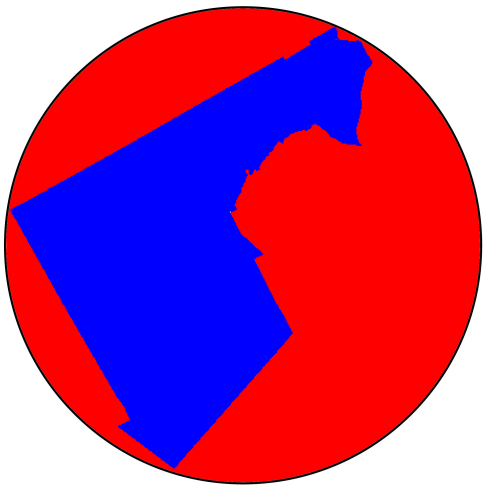

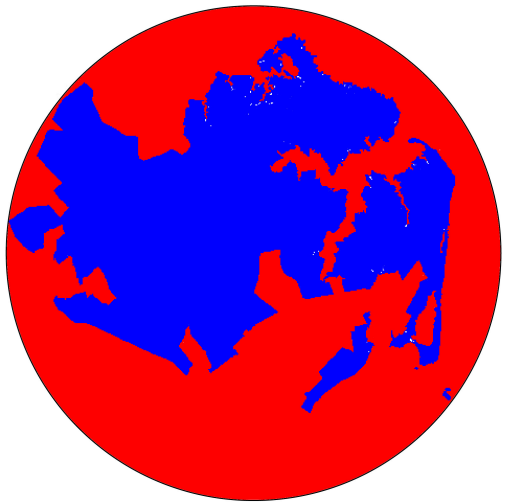

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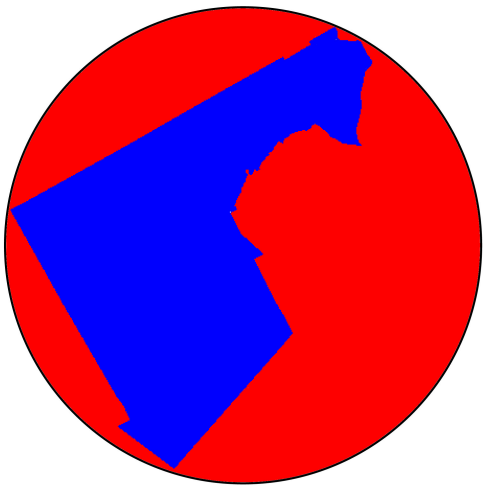

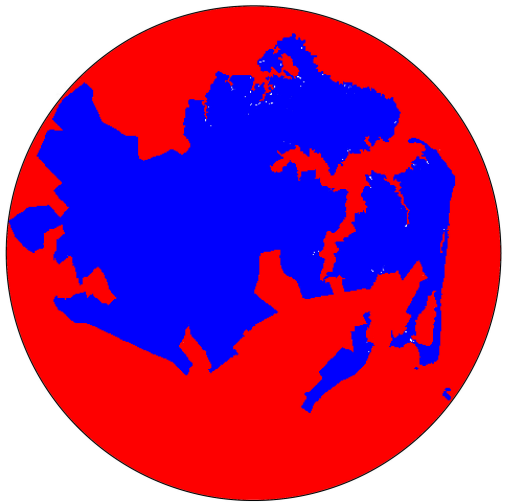

In both cases, $X/(Y + X) \approx 0.37$

Measure 3: Boyce-Clark, Variation in Centroid Deviations

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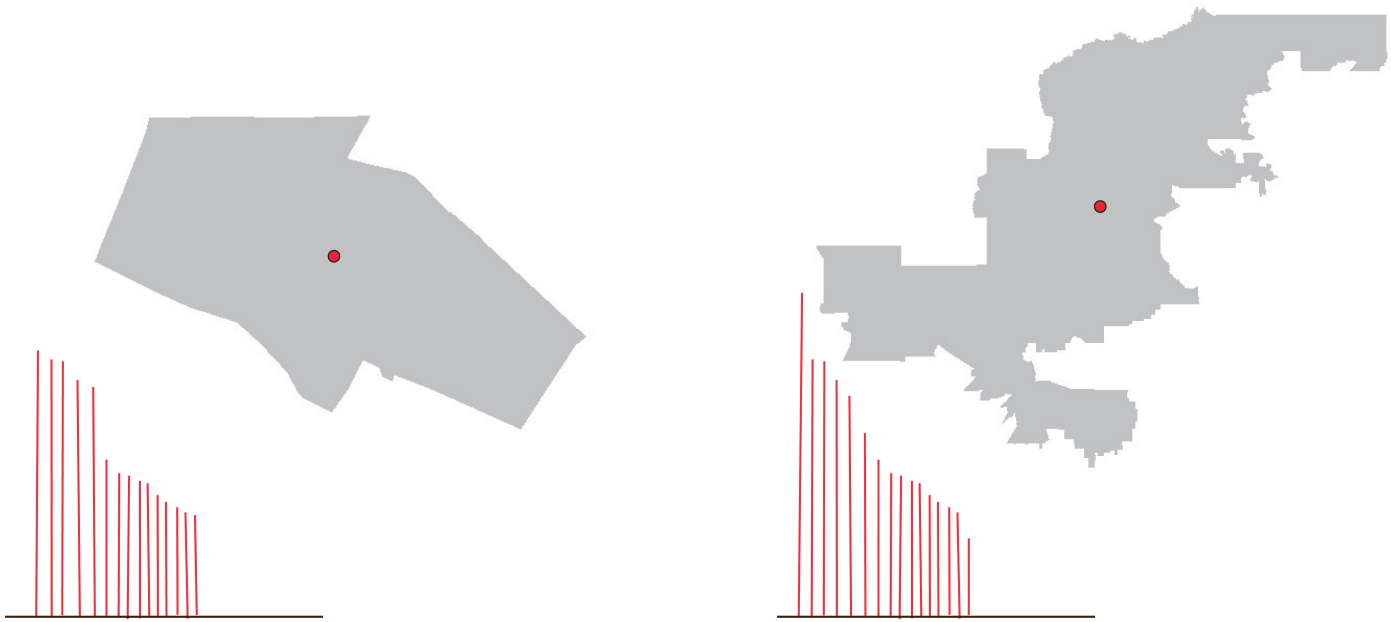

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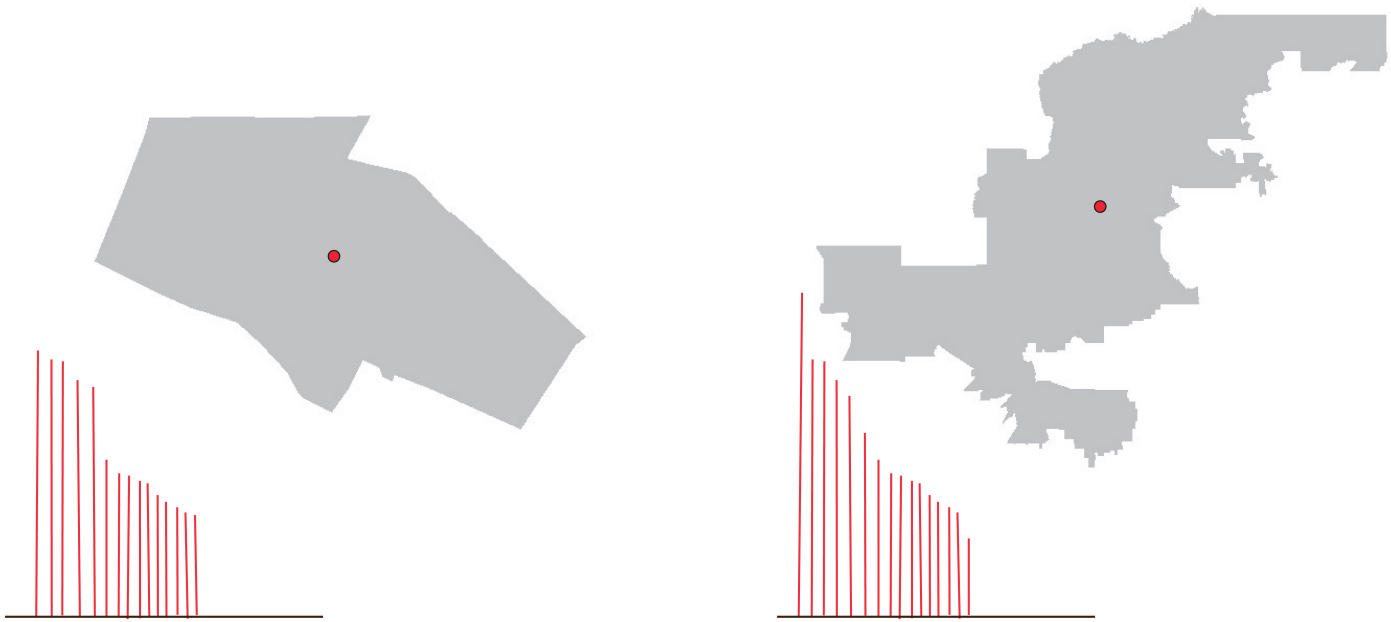

In both cases, $\text{MAD}(r)/\bar{r} \approx 0.31$

A Brief Rotational Invariance Interlude:

A Brief Rotational Invariance Interlude: Can you Name this Celebrity?

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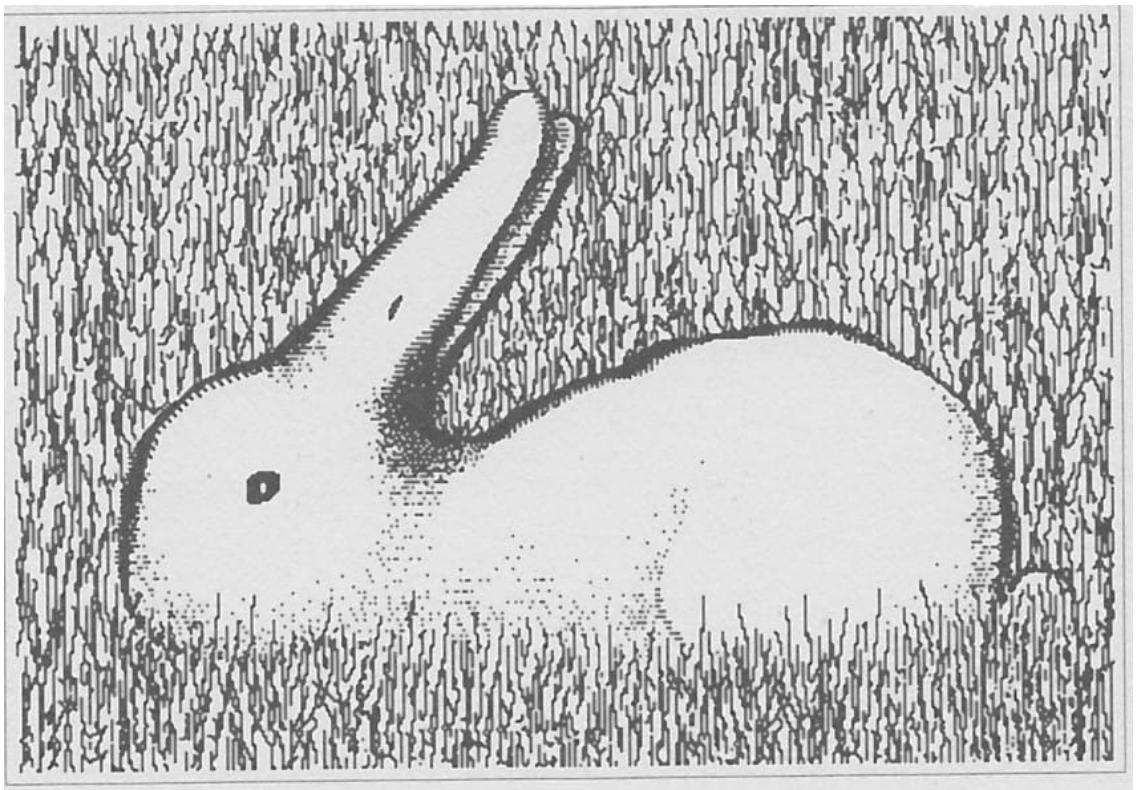
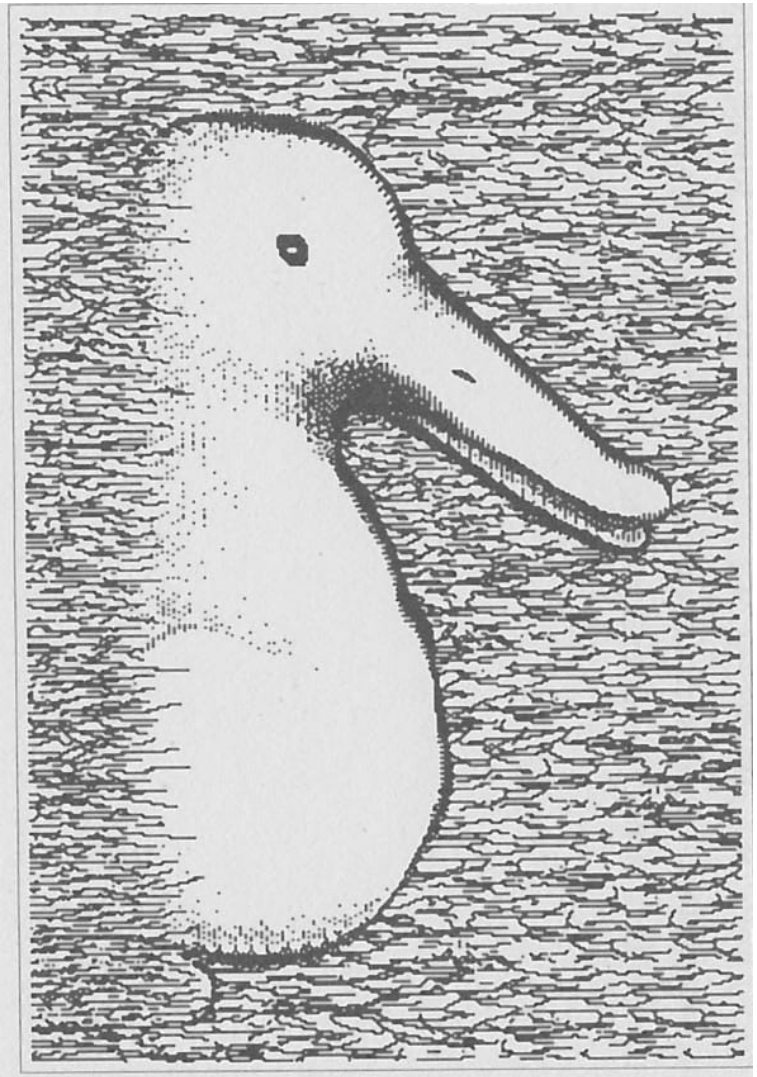
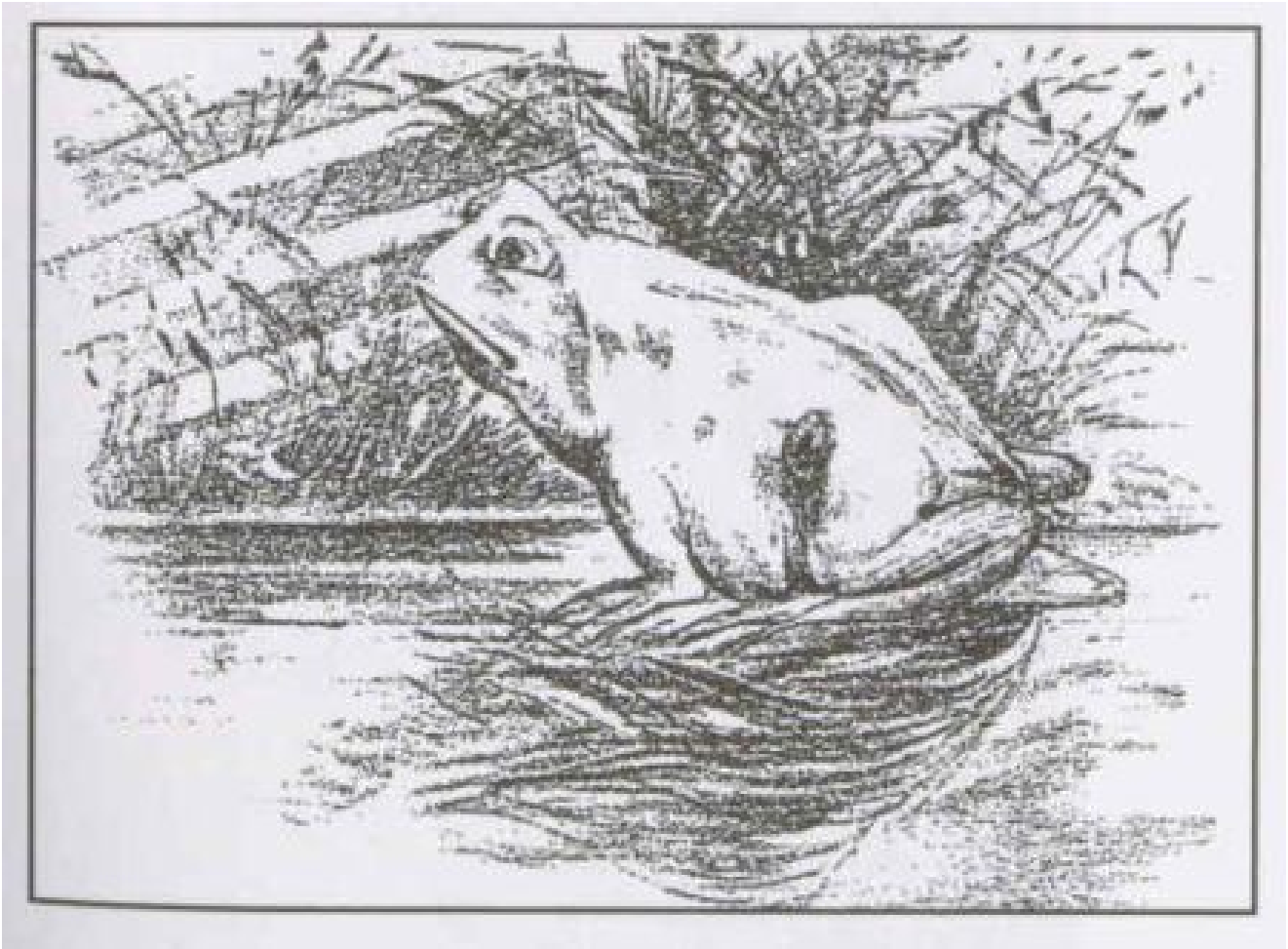
A Brief Interlude on Perception: See the Rabbit?



A Brief Interlude on Perception: See the ~~Rabbit~~ Duck?



A Brief Interlude on Perception: See the Frog?



A Brief Interlude on Perception: See the ~~Frog~~ Horse?

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- $\rightsquigarrow$ Measuring "you know it when you see it": No rotational invariance

New Measure: Y-Symmetry, area of symmetric reflection

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Symmetric figures (circles, squares) are more compact

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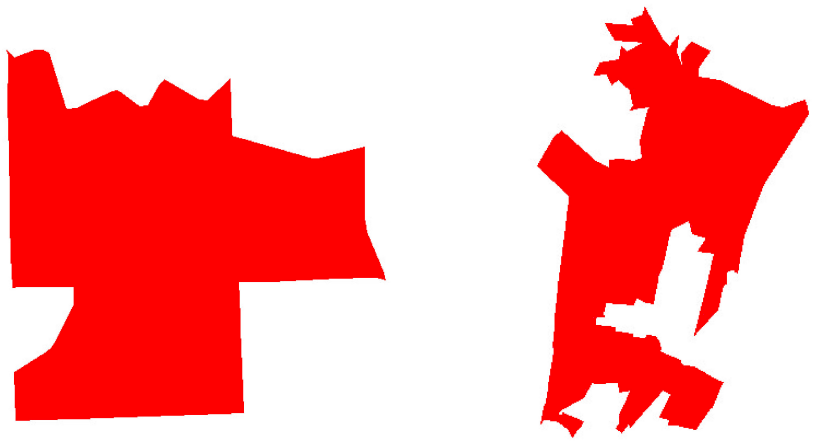

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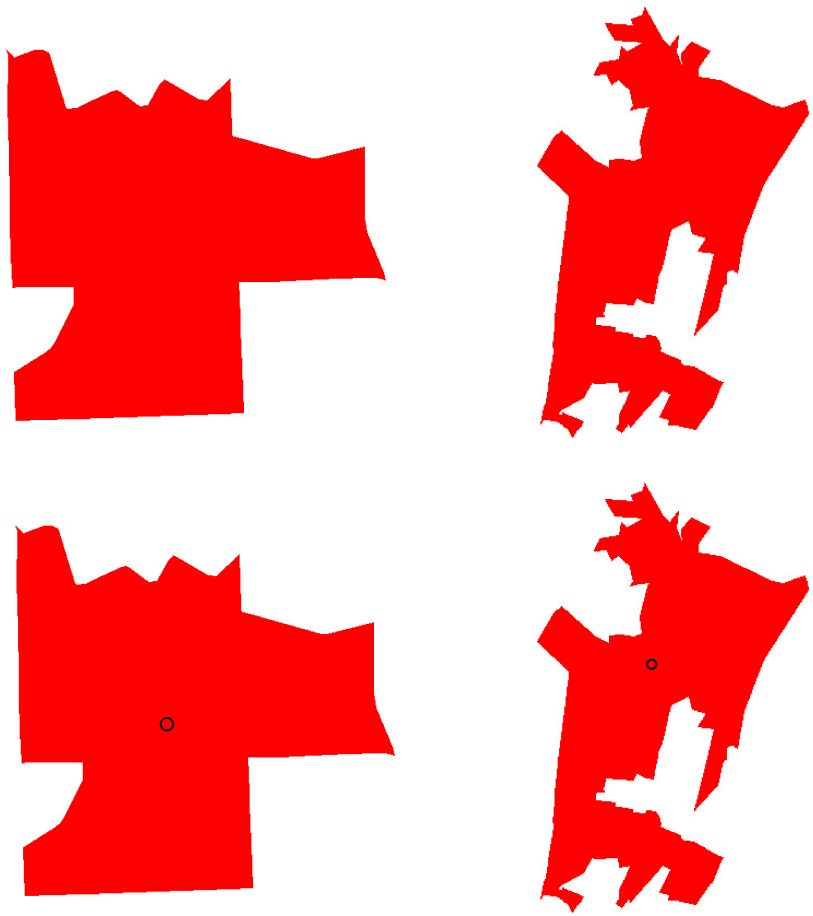

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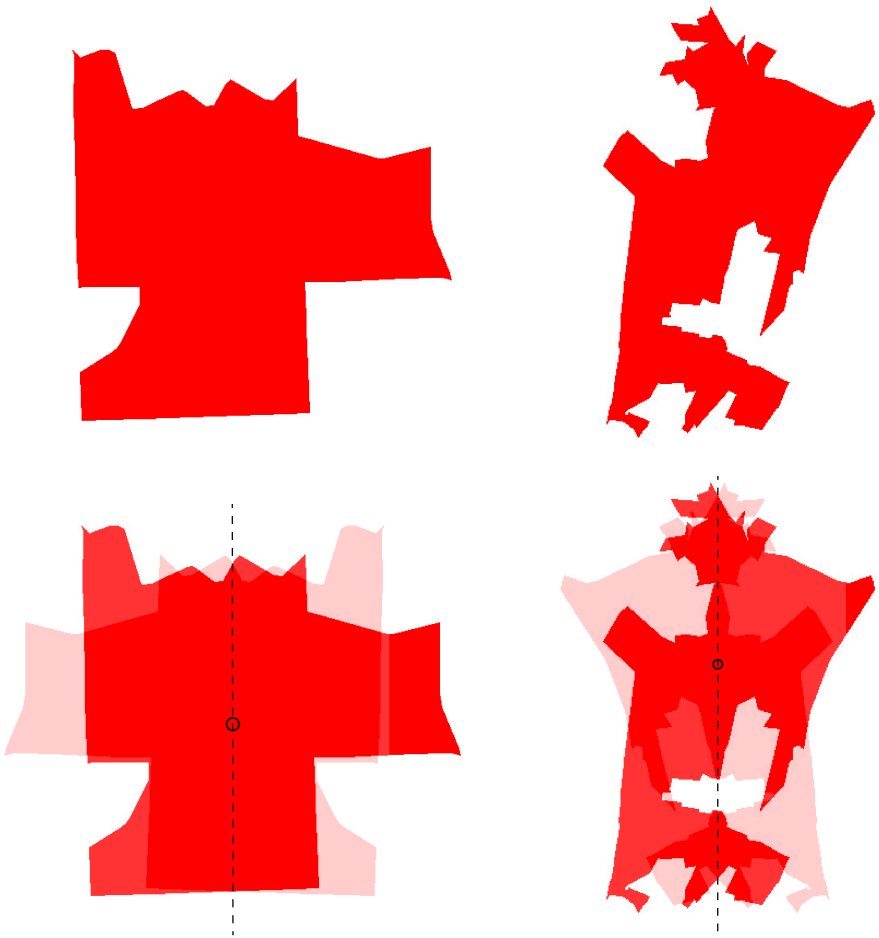

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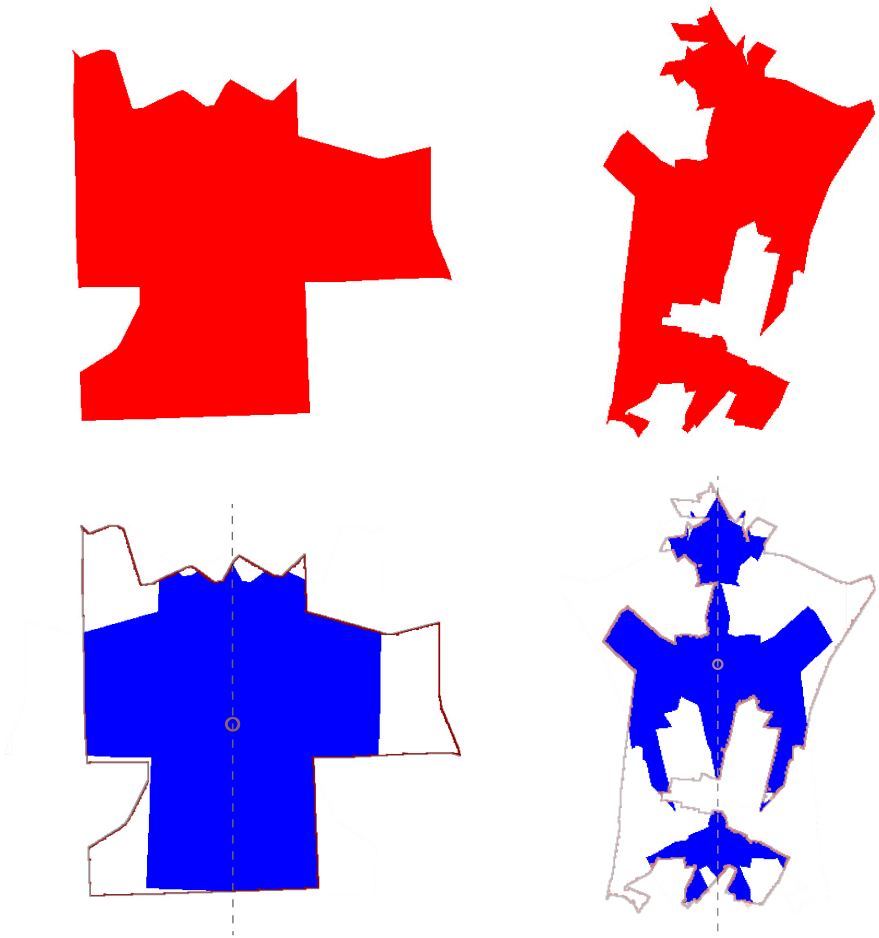

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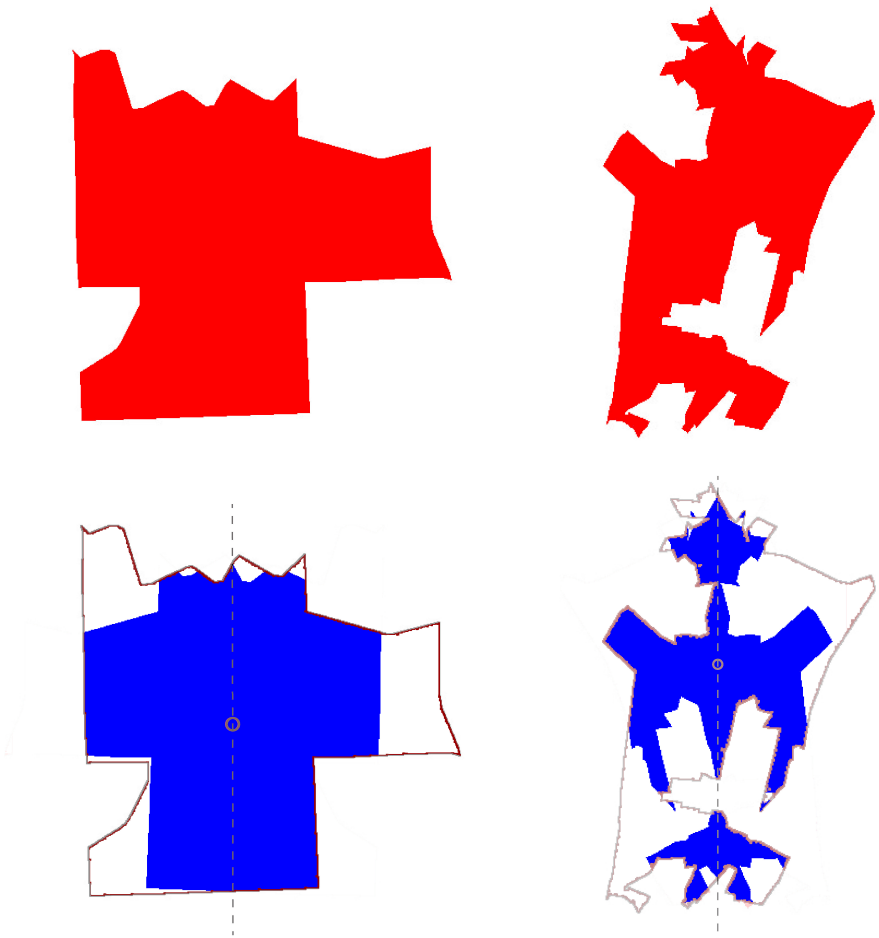

In both cases, Overlap/Original Area ≈ 0.34

New Measure 2: Number of Visually Significant Corners

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Computer vision algorithm identifies "objects" in photos

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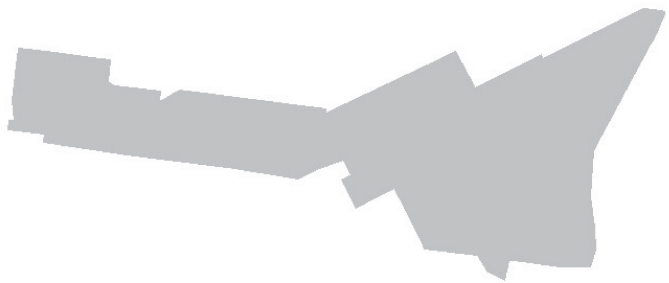

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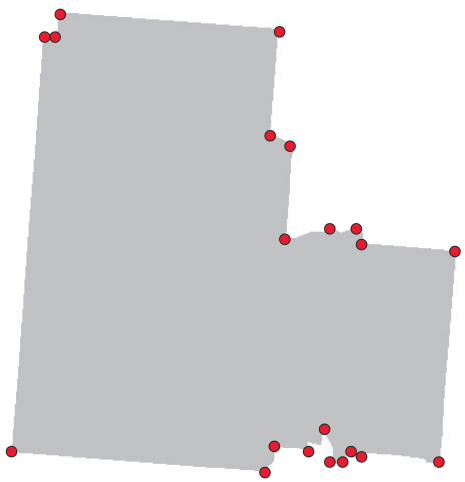

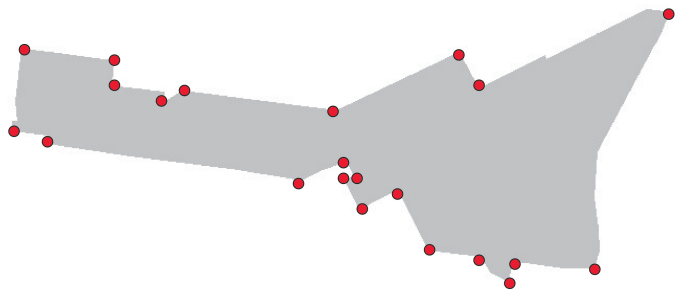

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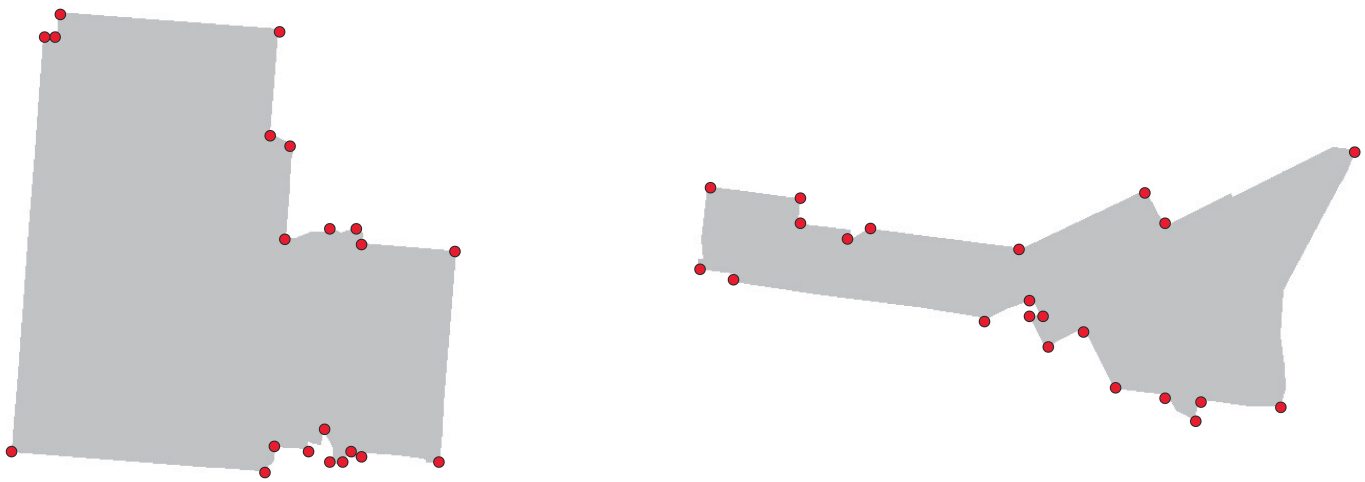
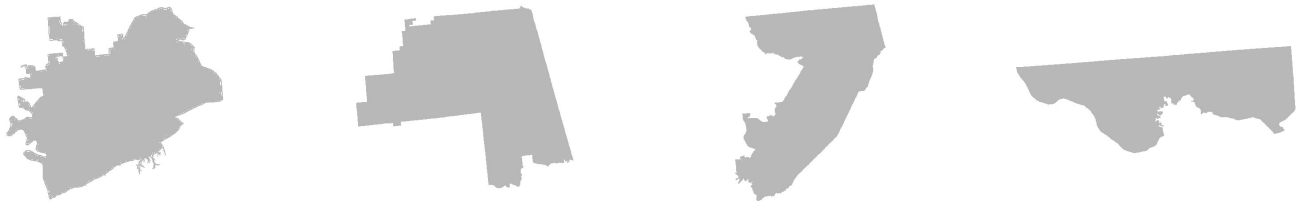


Both districts have 21 significant corners

Which is more compact?



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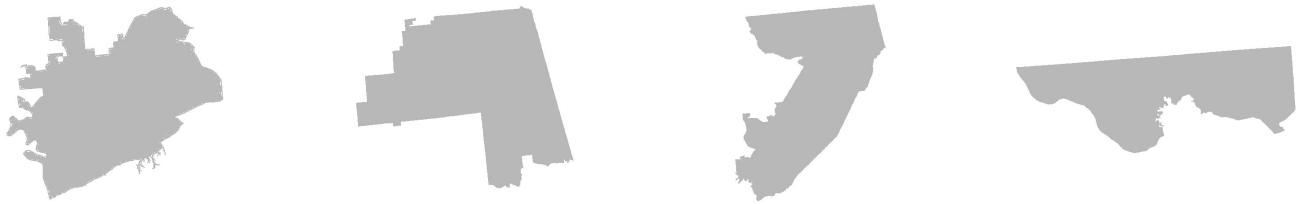

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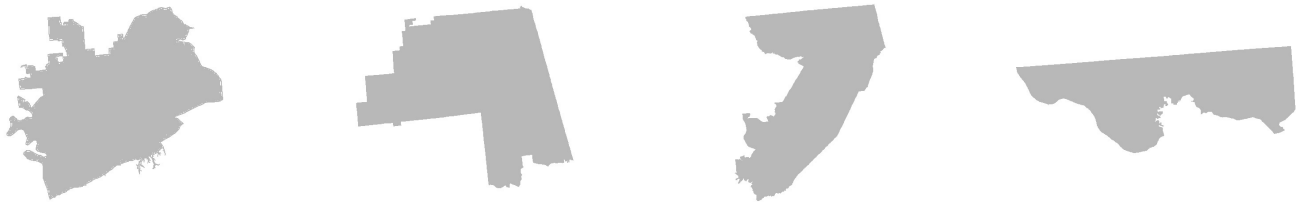

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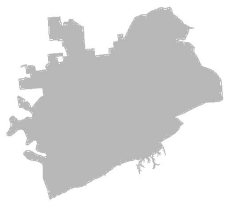
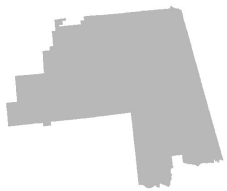

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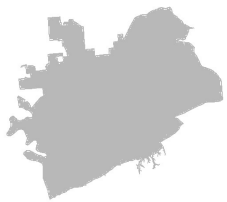
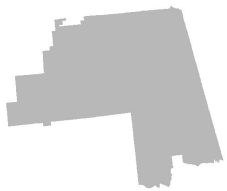

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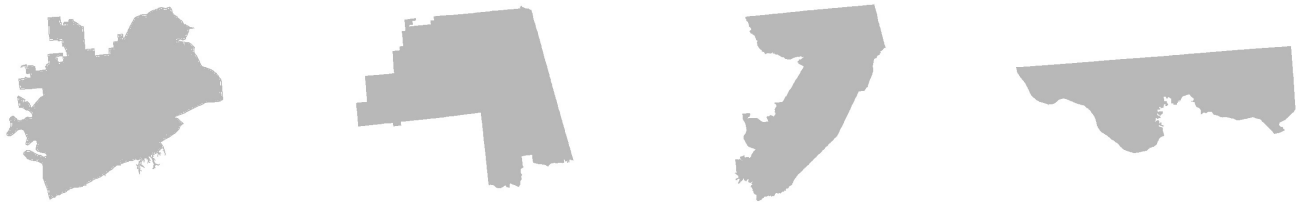

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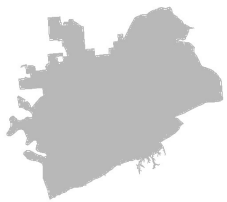
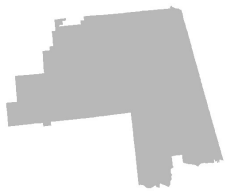

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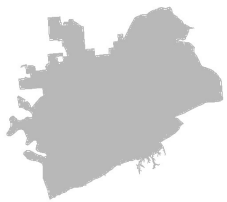
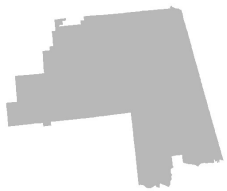

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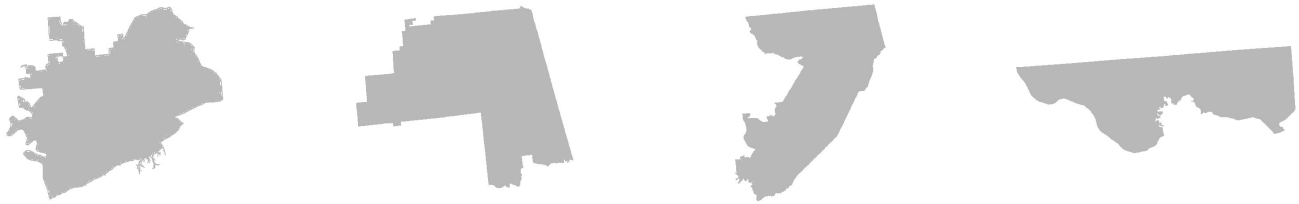

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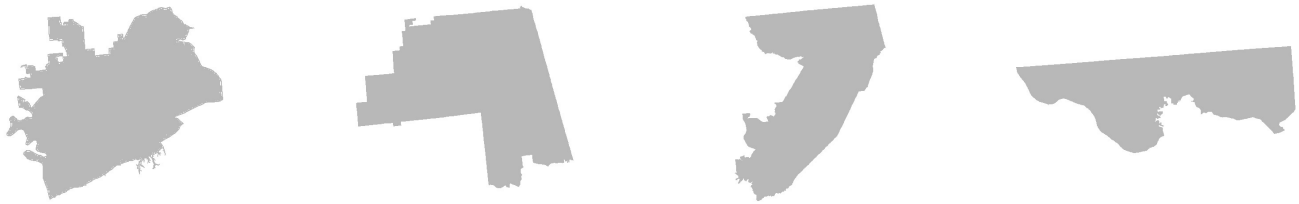

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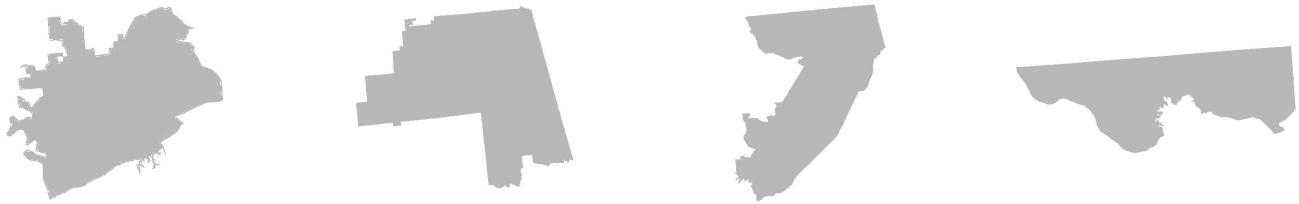

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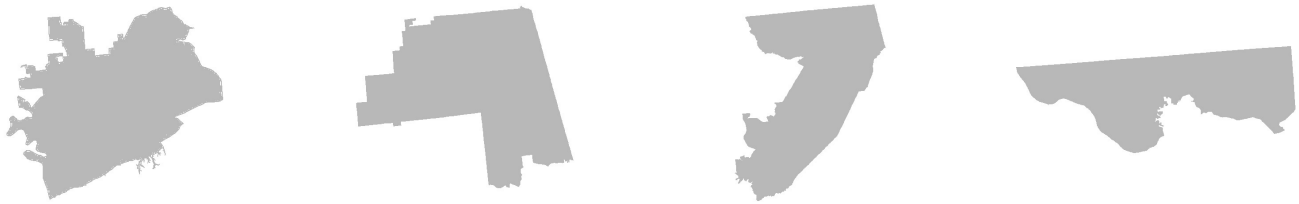

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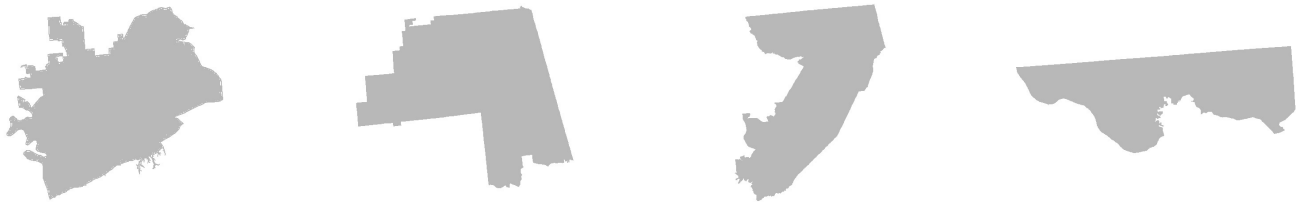

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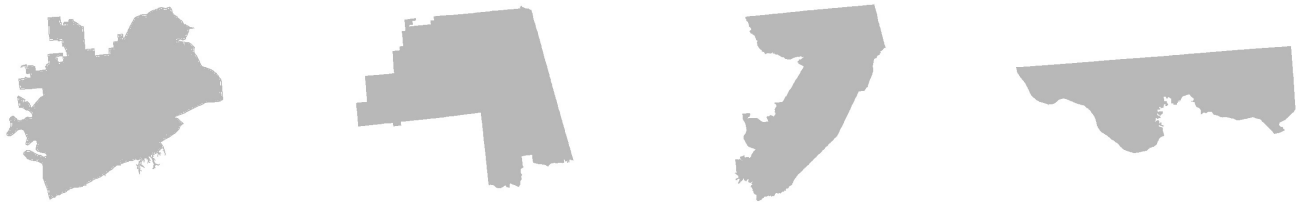

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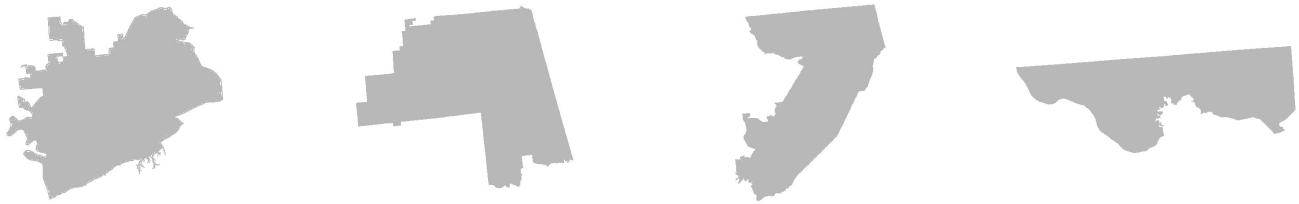

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- Many more inconsistencies on individual districts

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Paired Comparisons (Fechner 1860; Thurstone 1912) v Ranking (very old, rarely used)

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Paired Comparison

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Paired Comparison

Utterly fails on inter- and intra-coder reliability

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Full Ranking

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Full Ranking — on line

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We show: very high reliability

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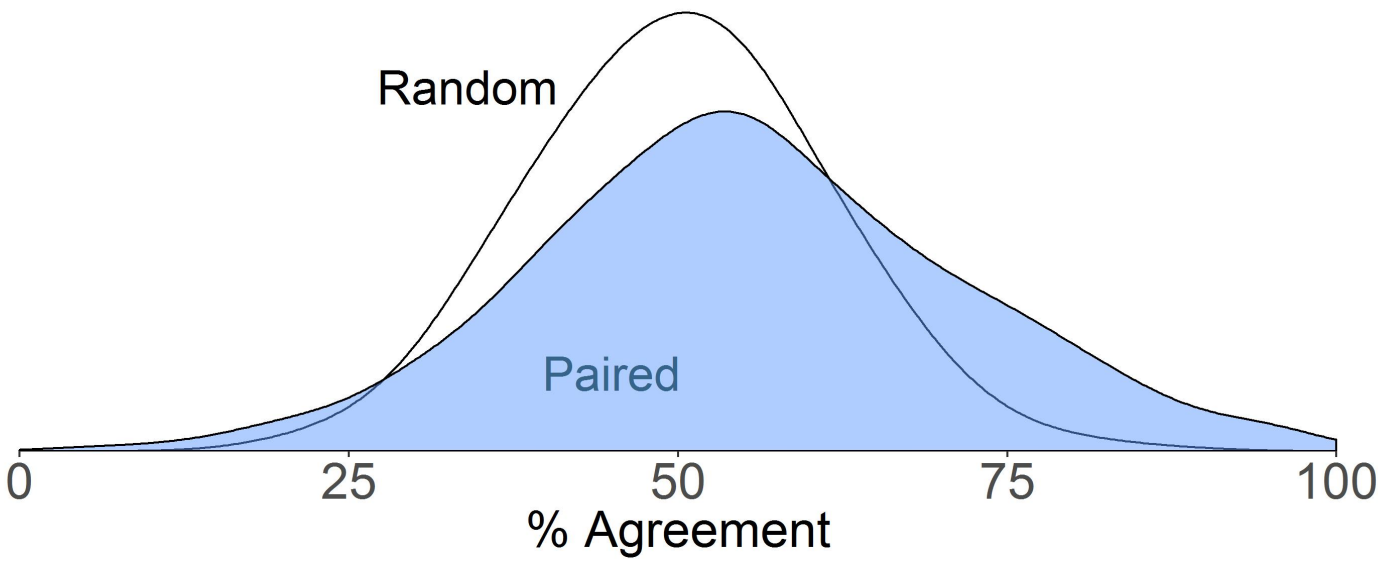

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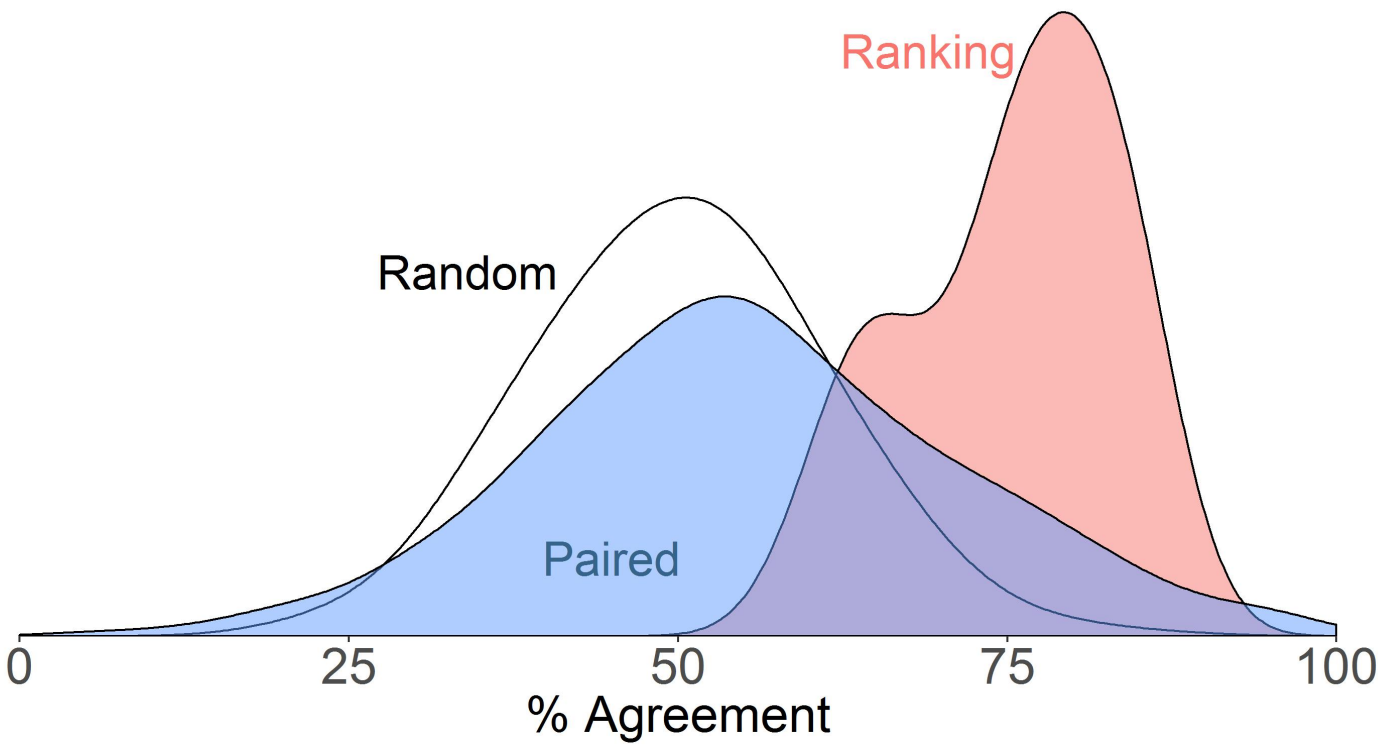

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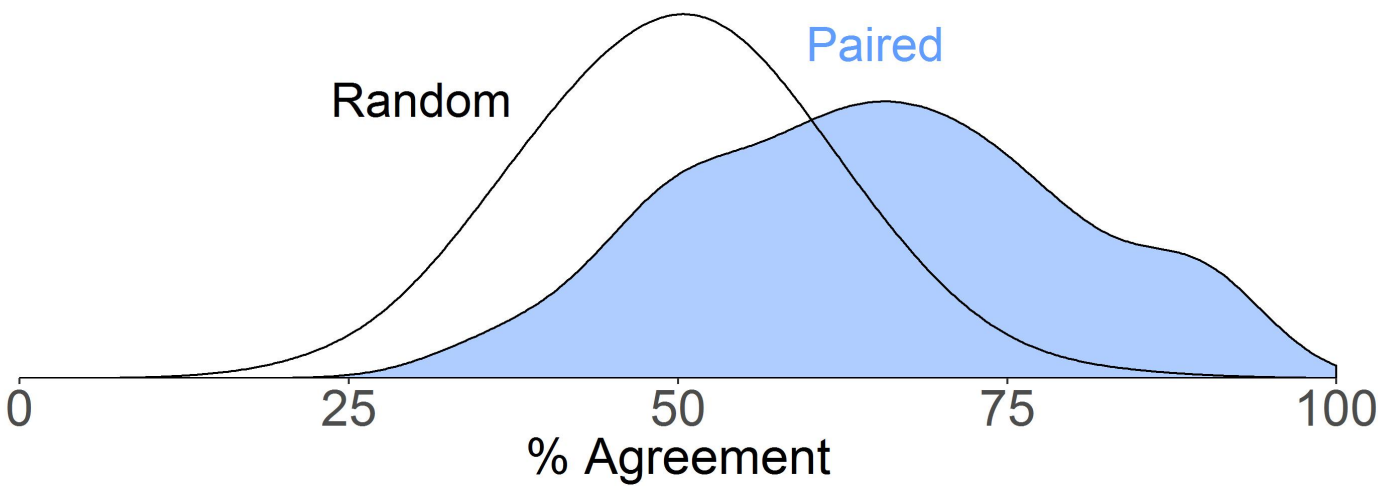

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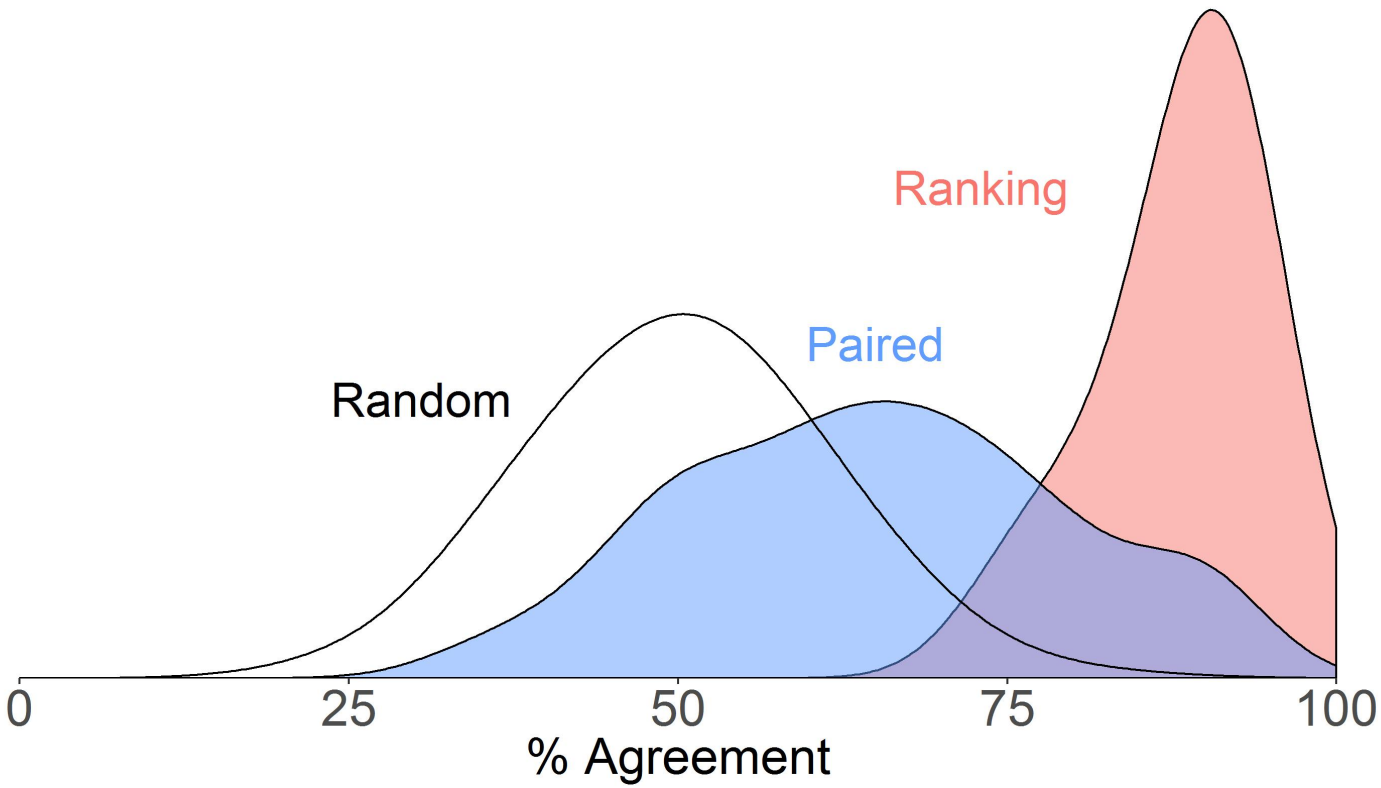

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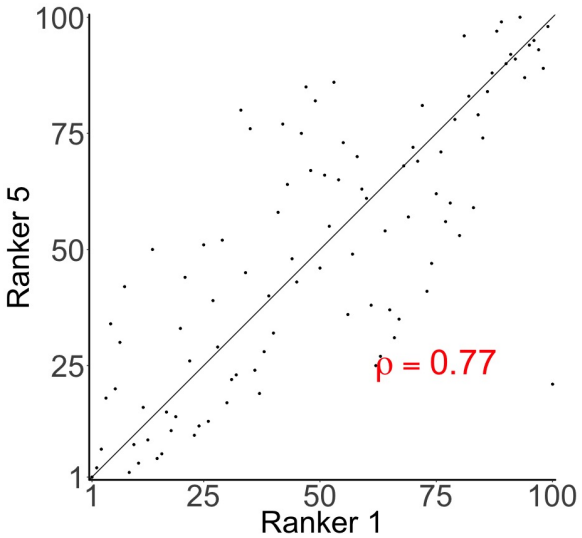

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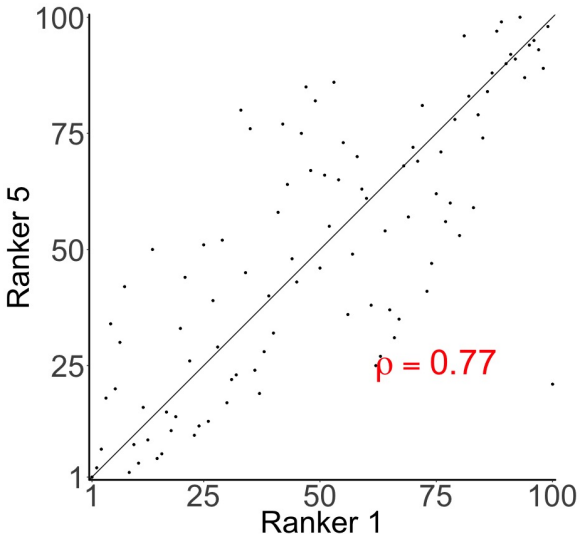

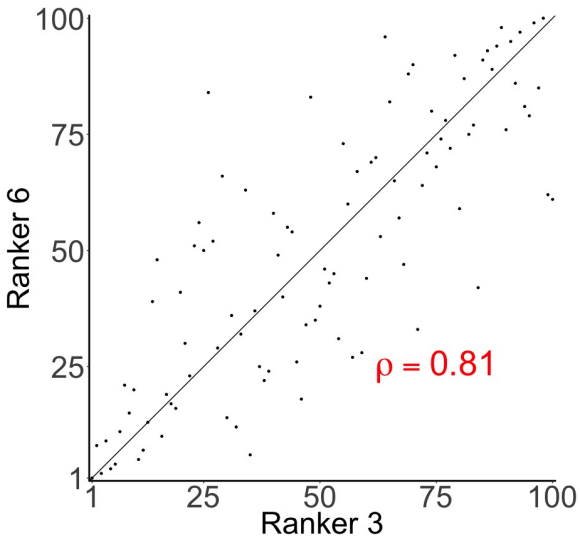

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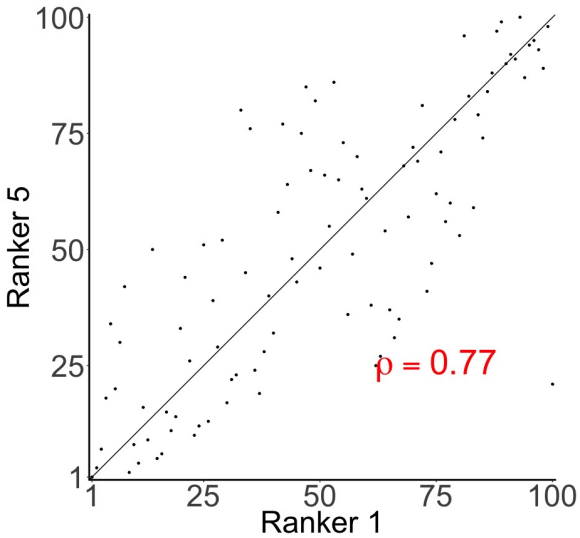

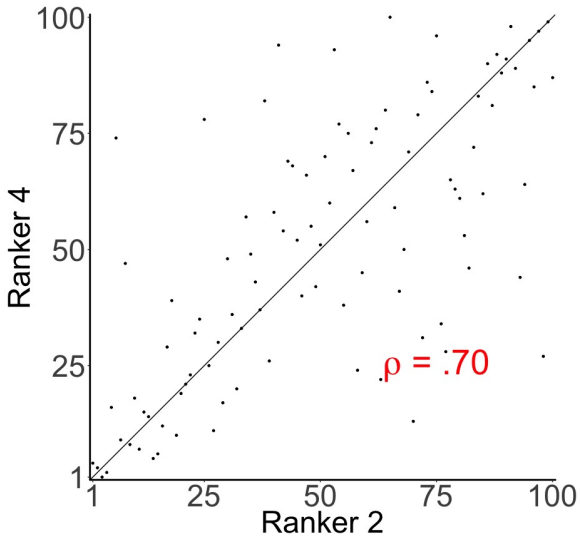

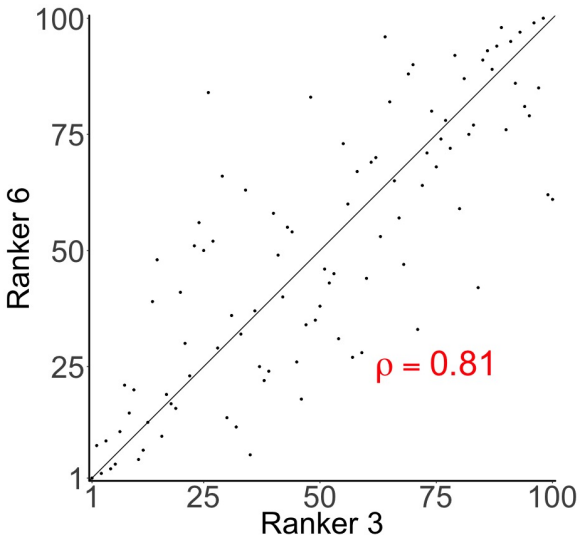

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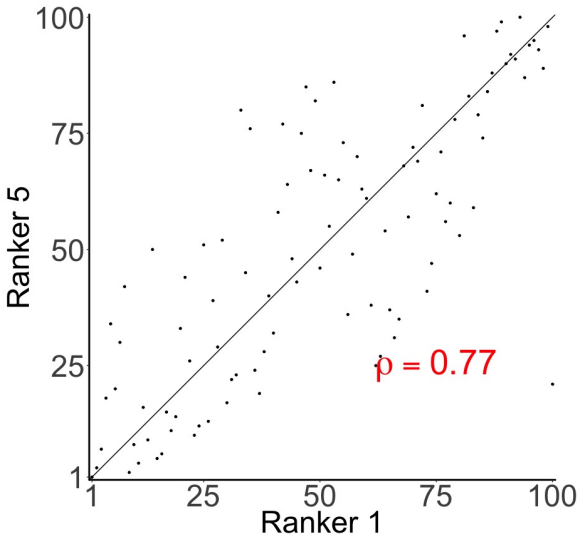

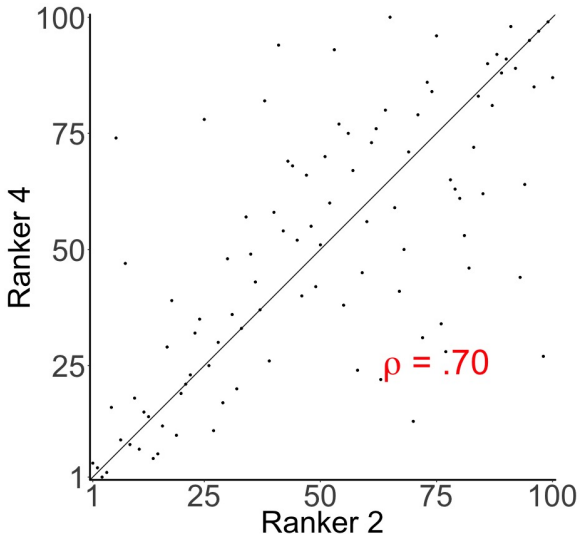

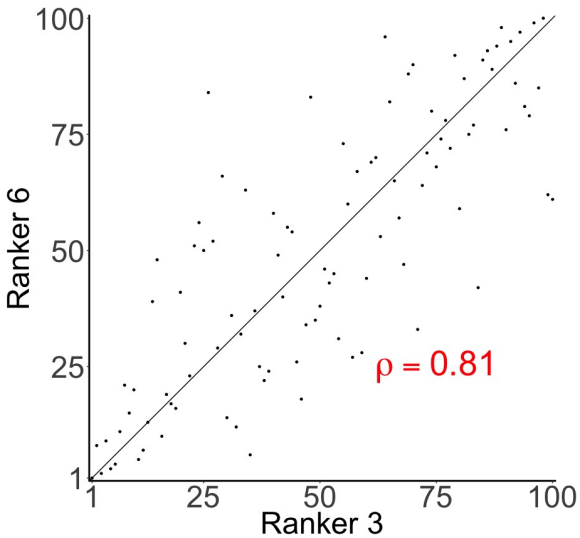

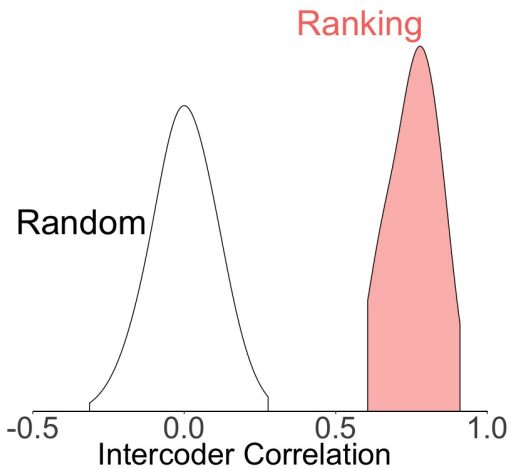

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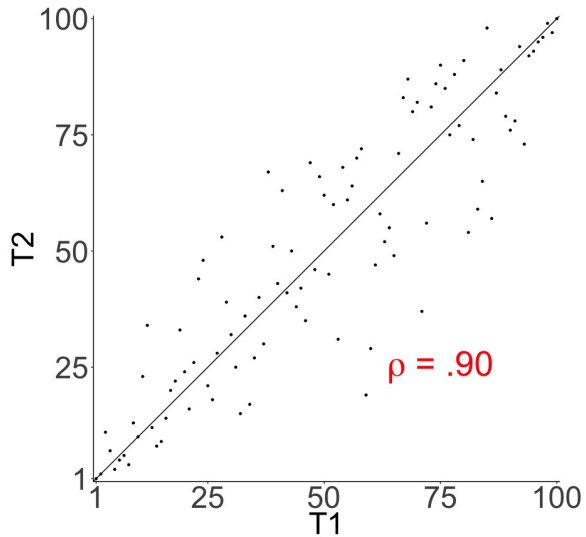

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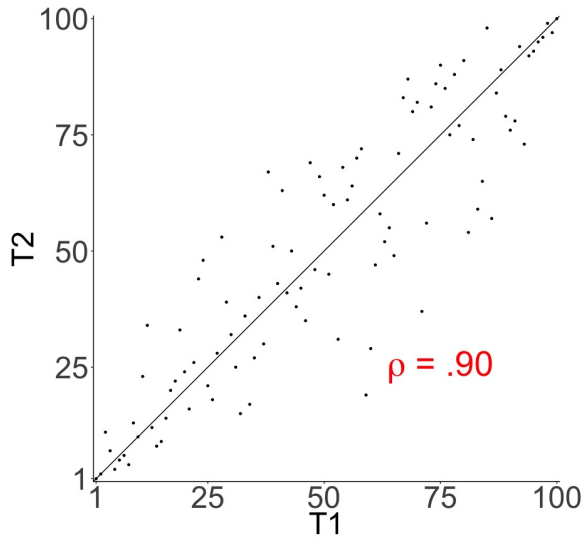

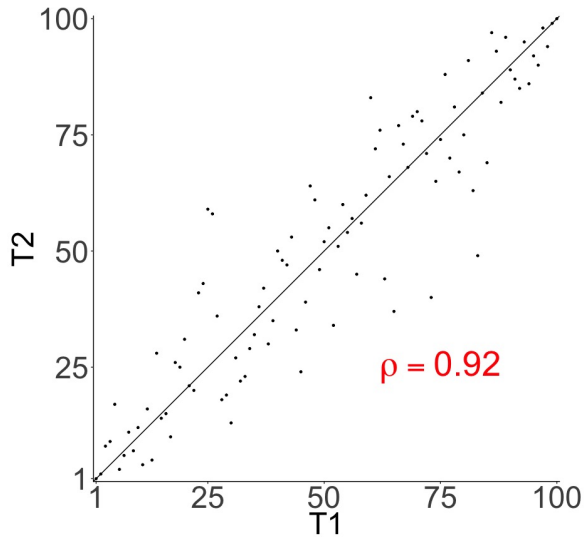

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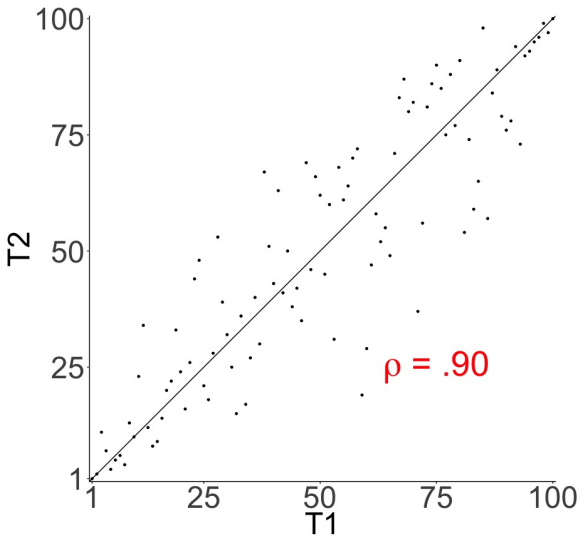

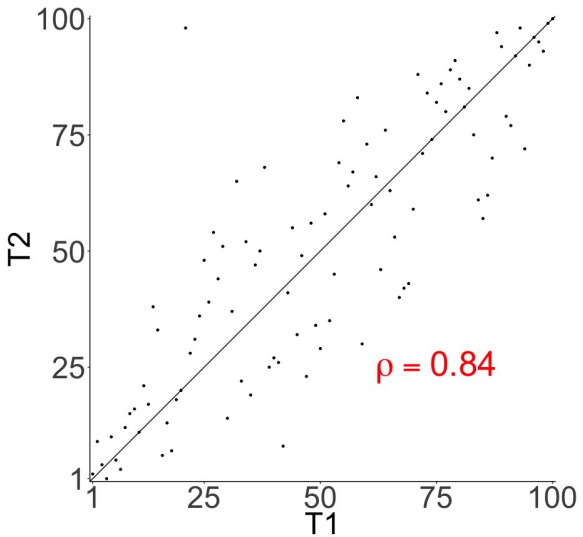

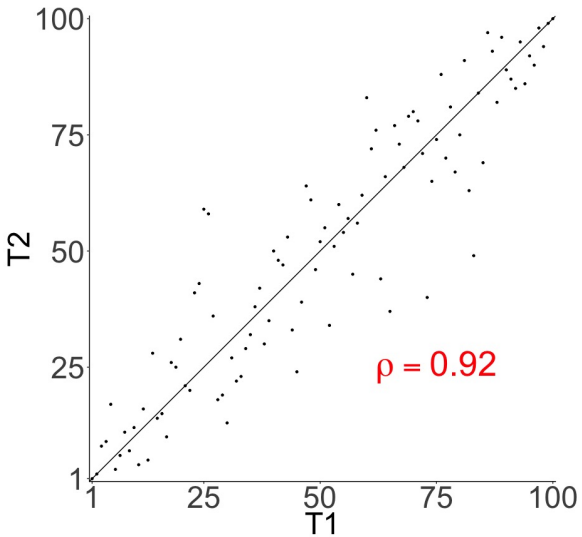

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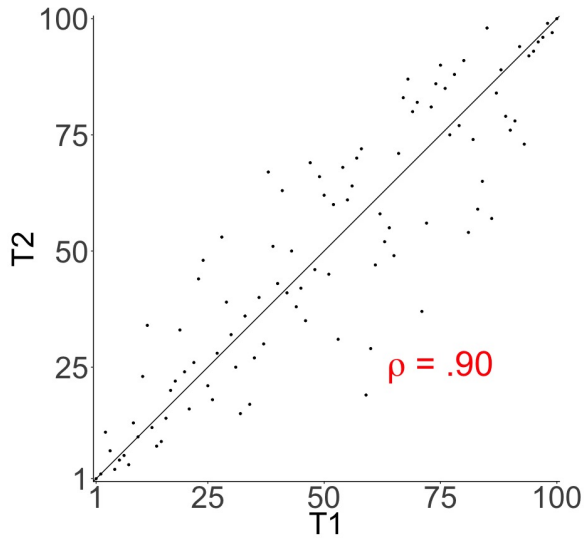

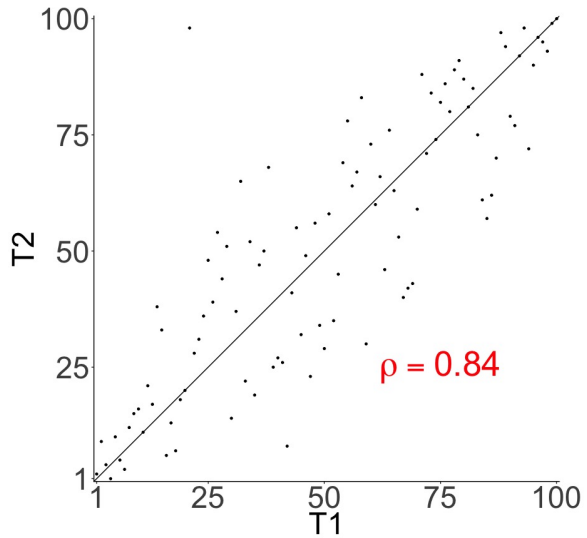

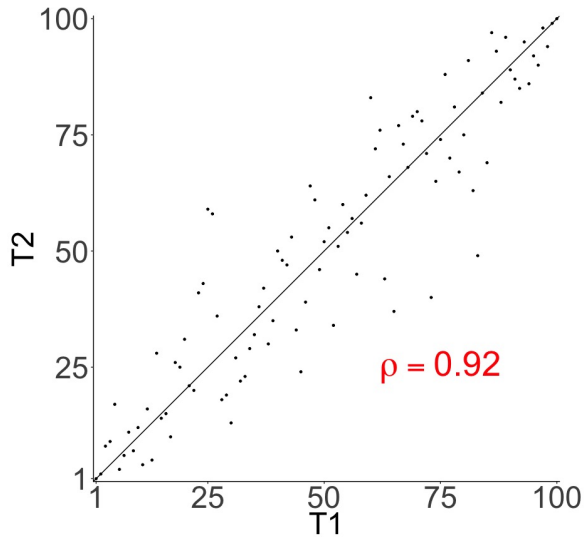

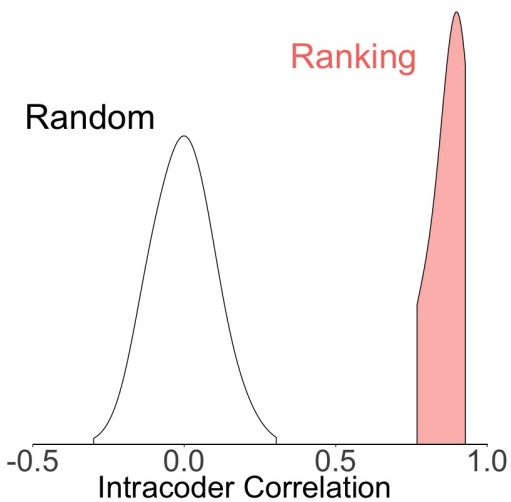

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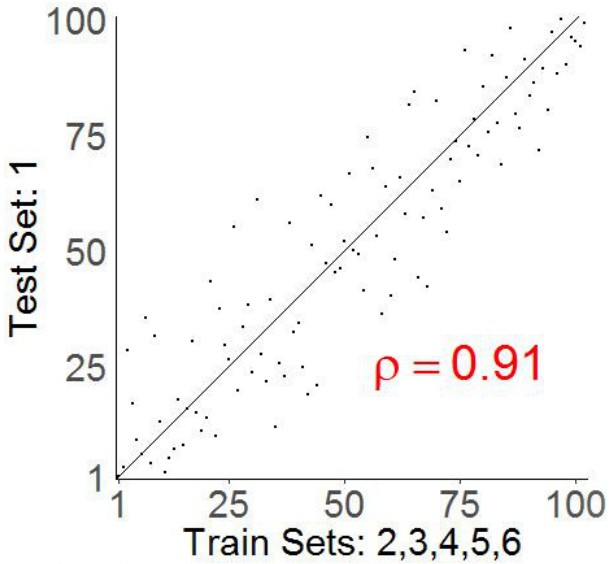

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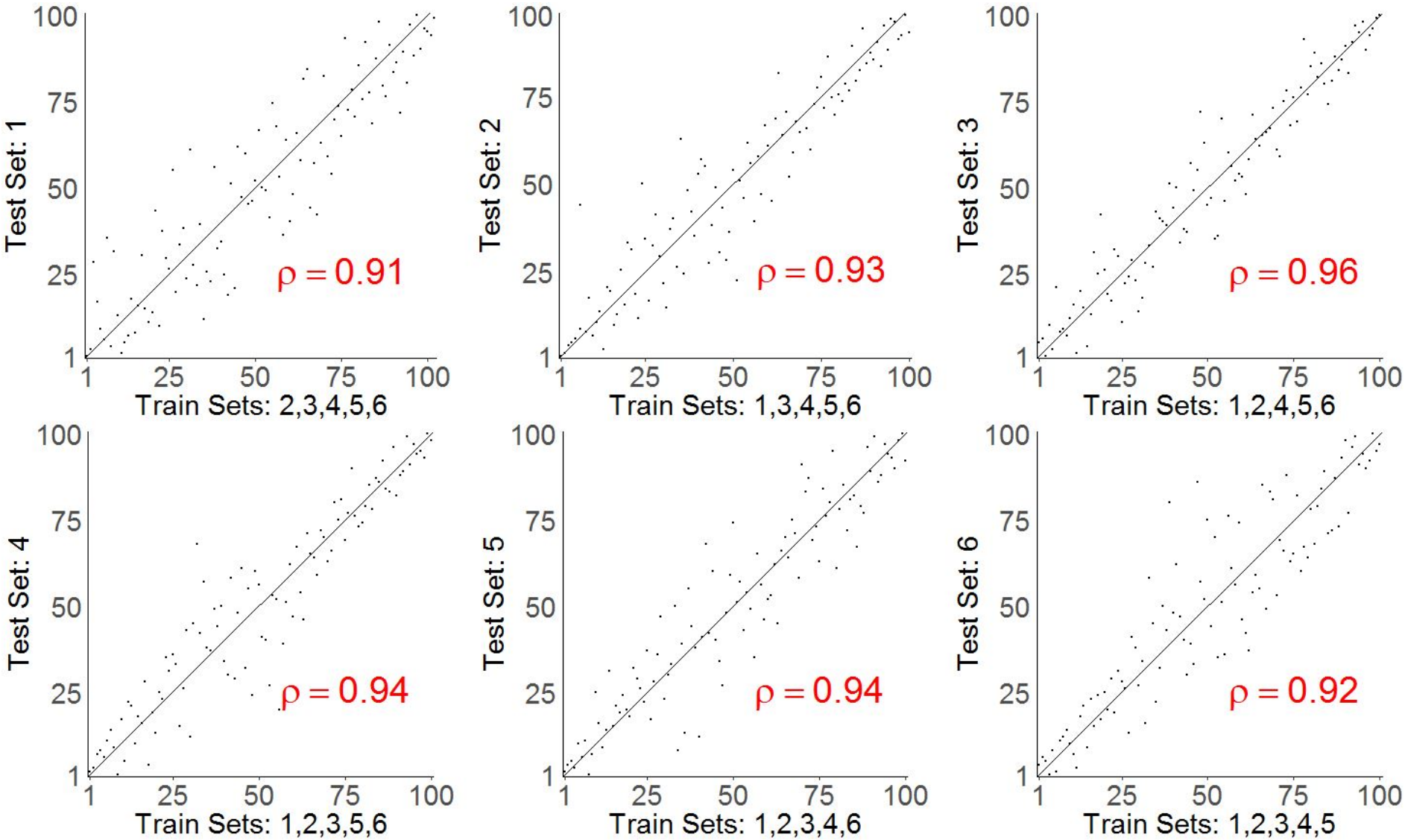

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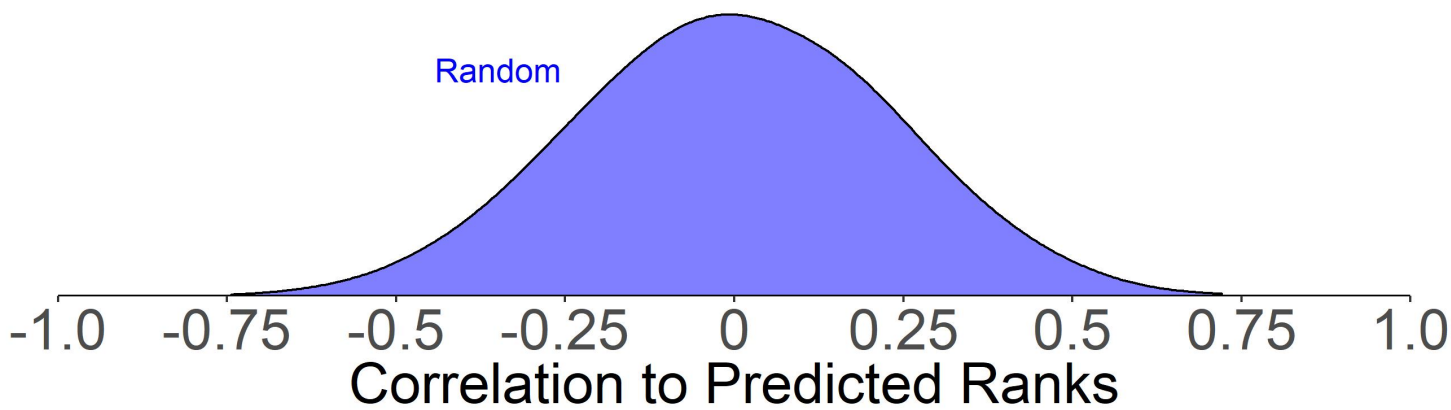

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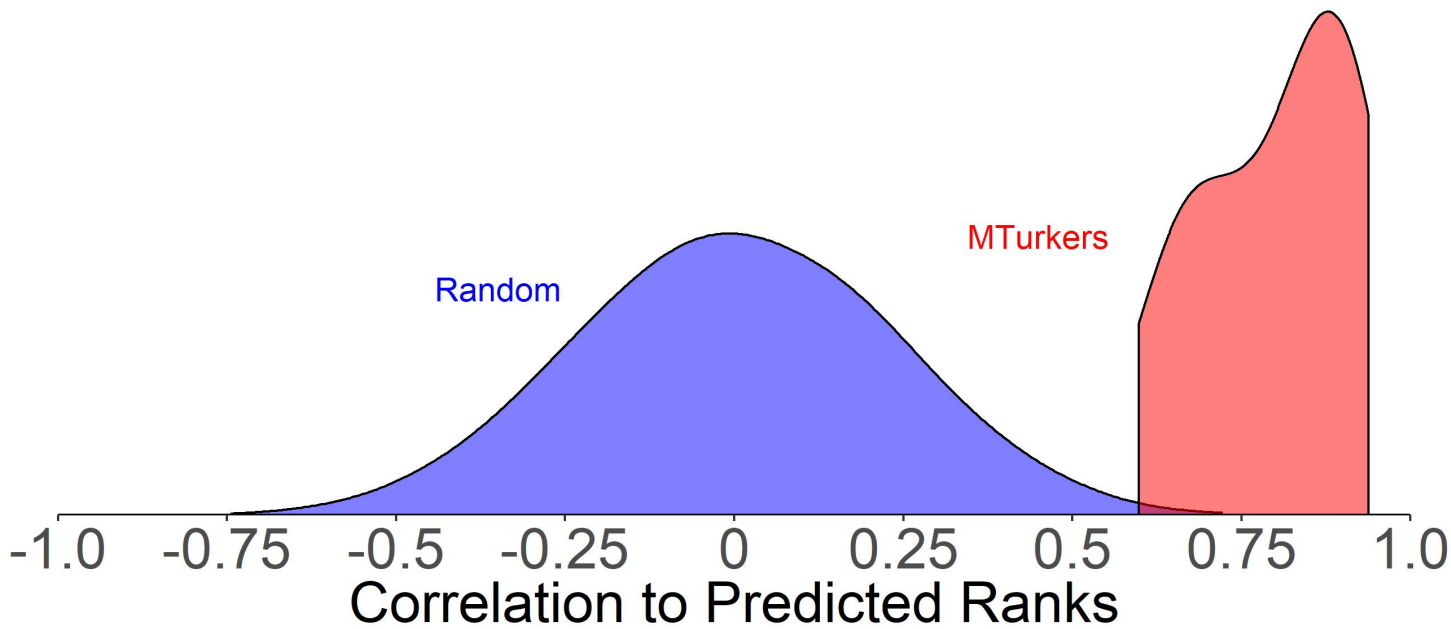

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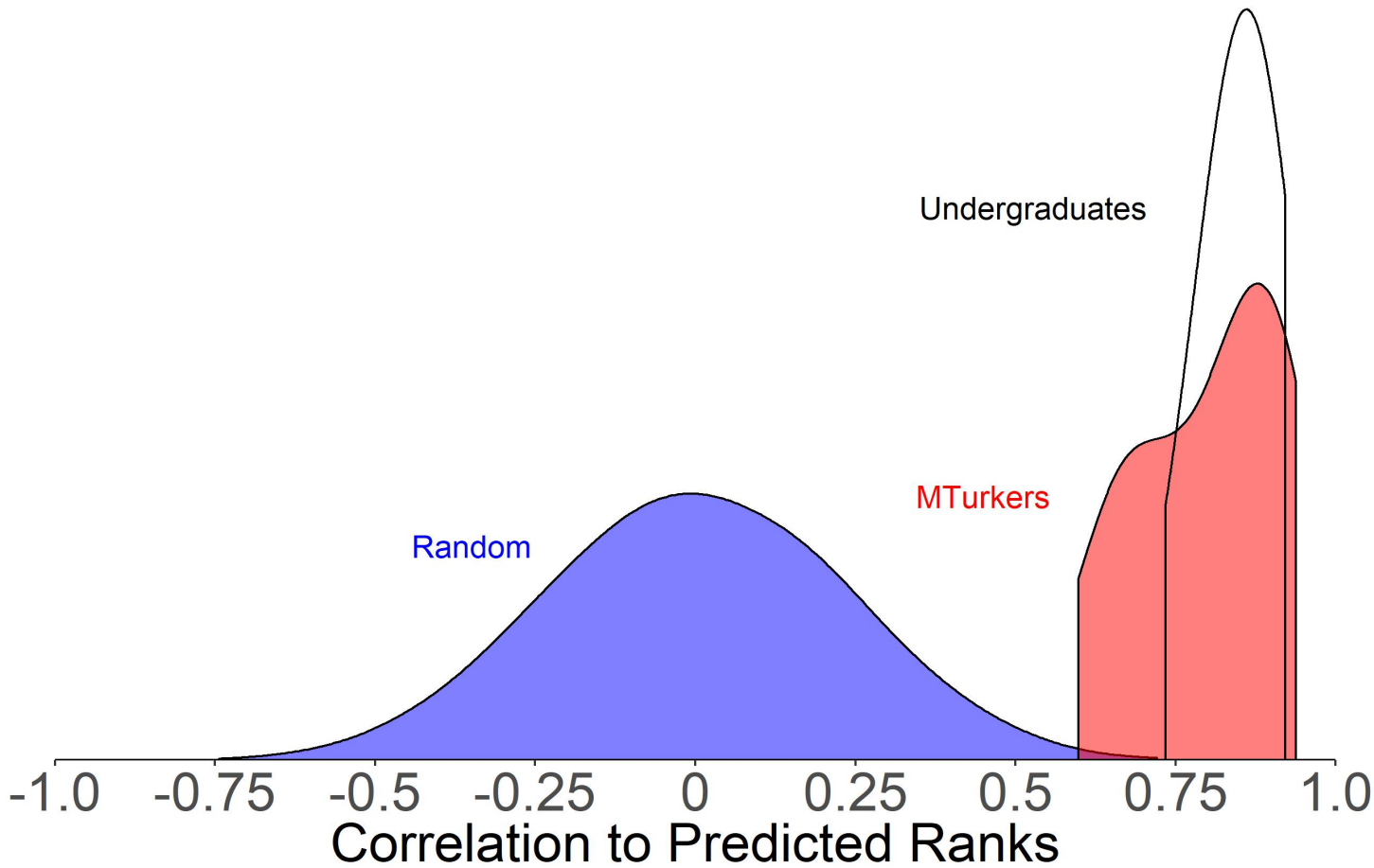

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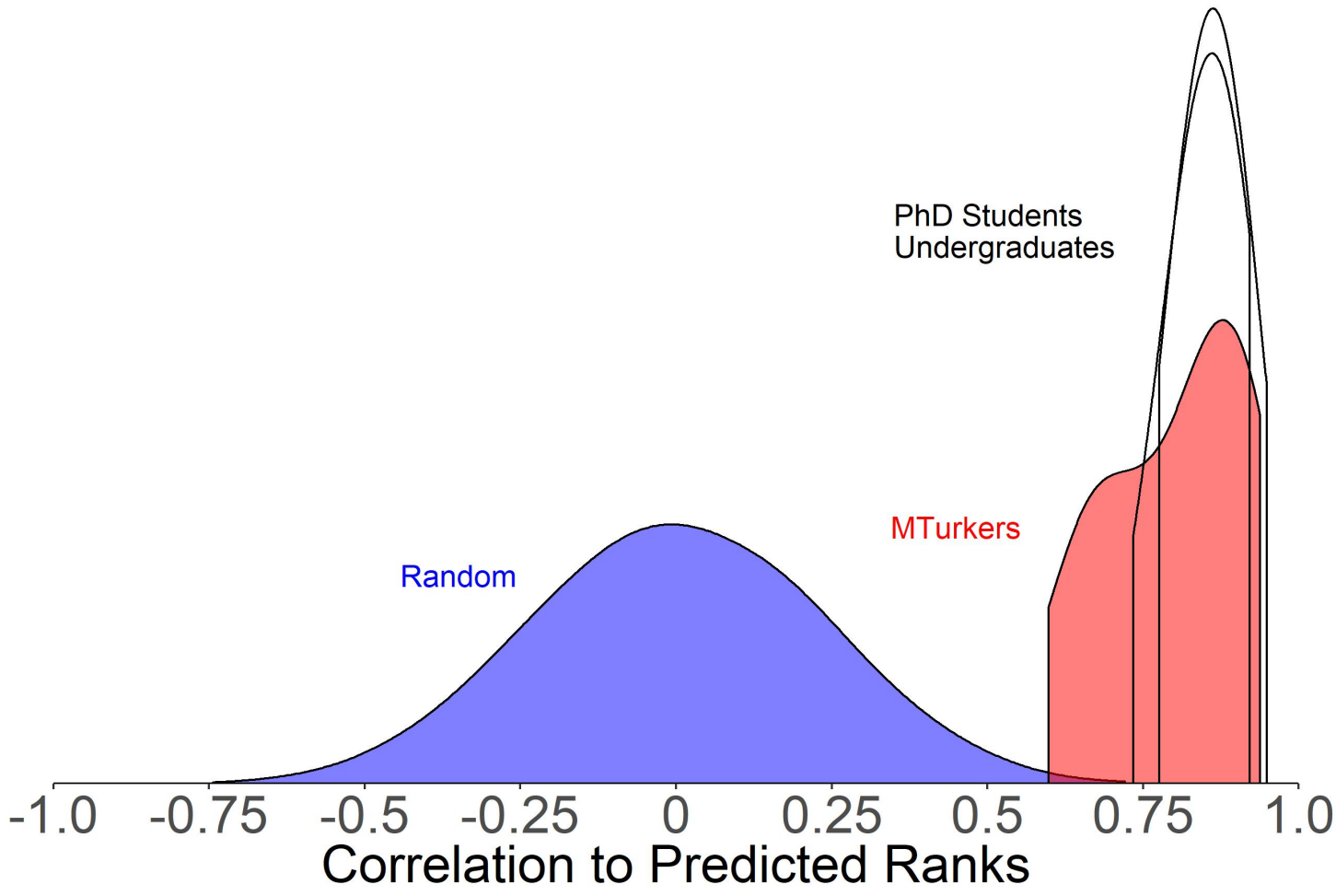

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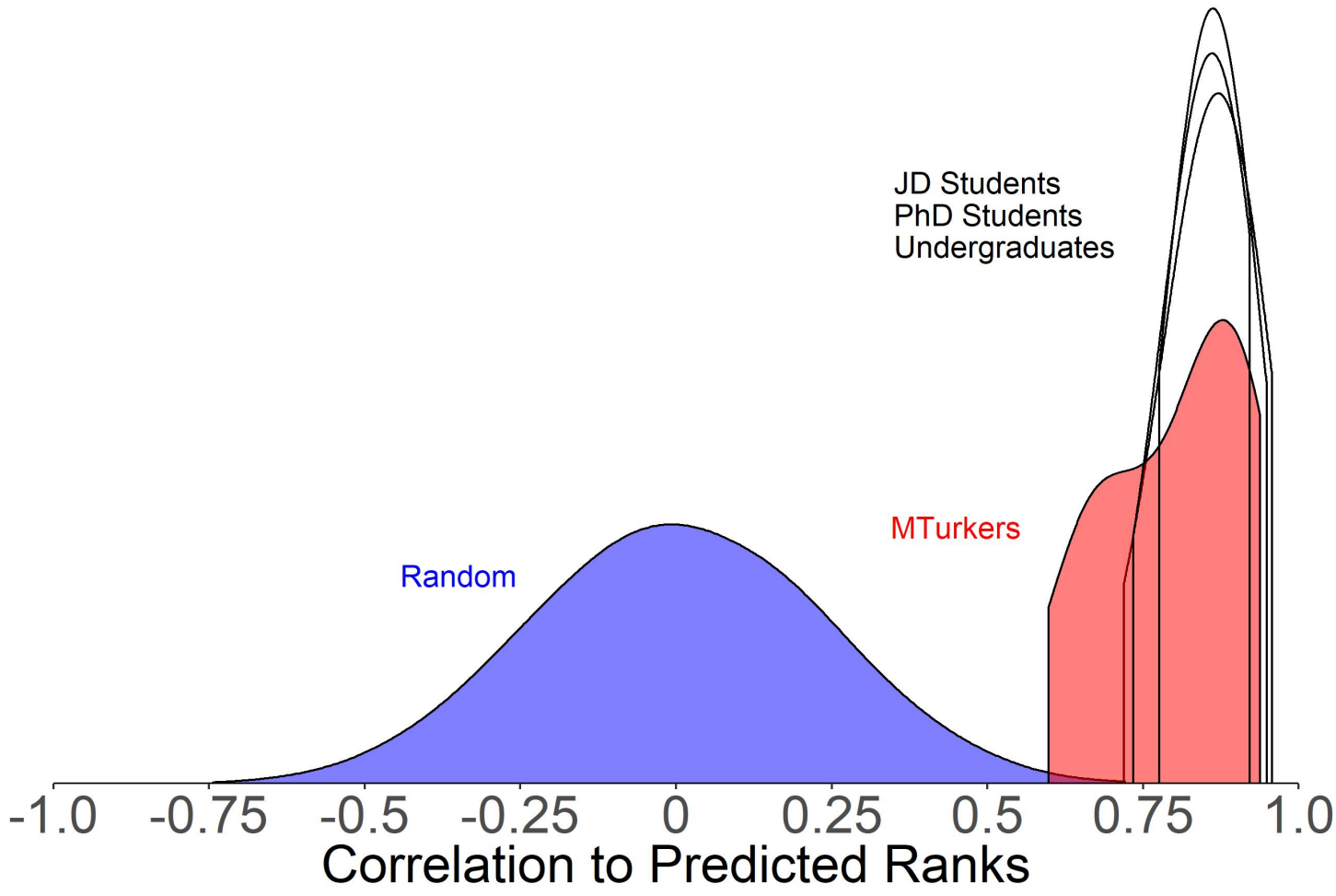

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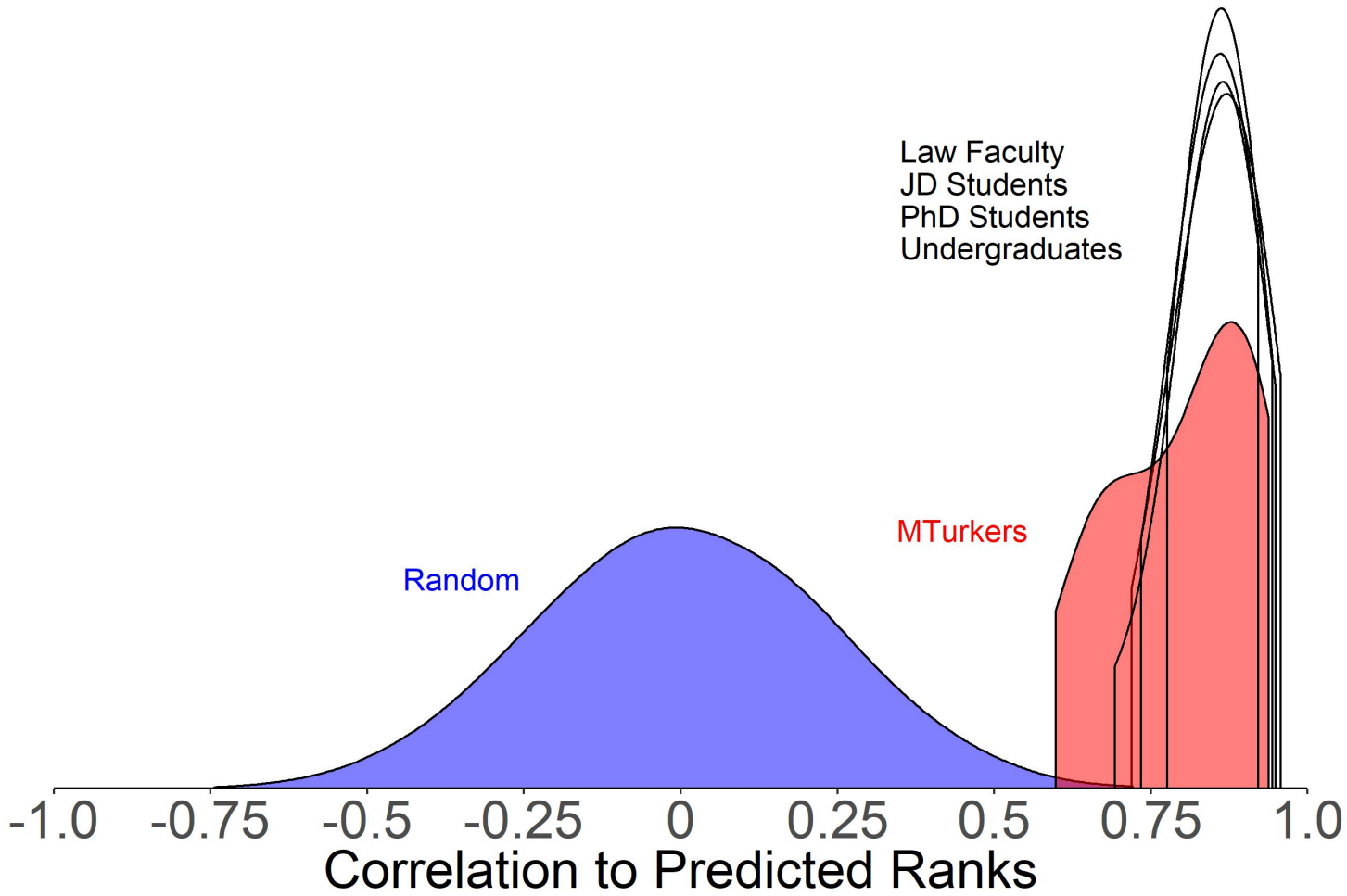

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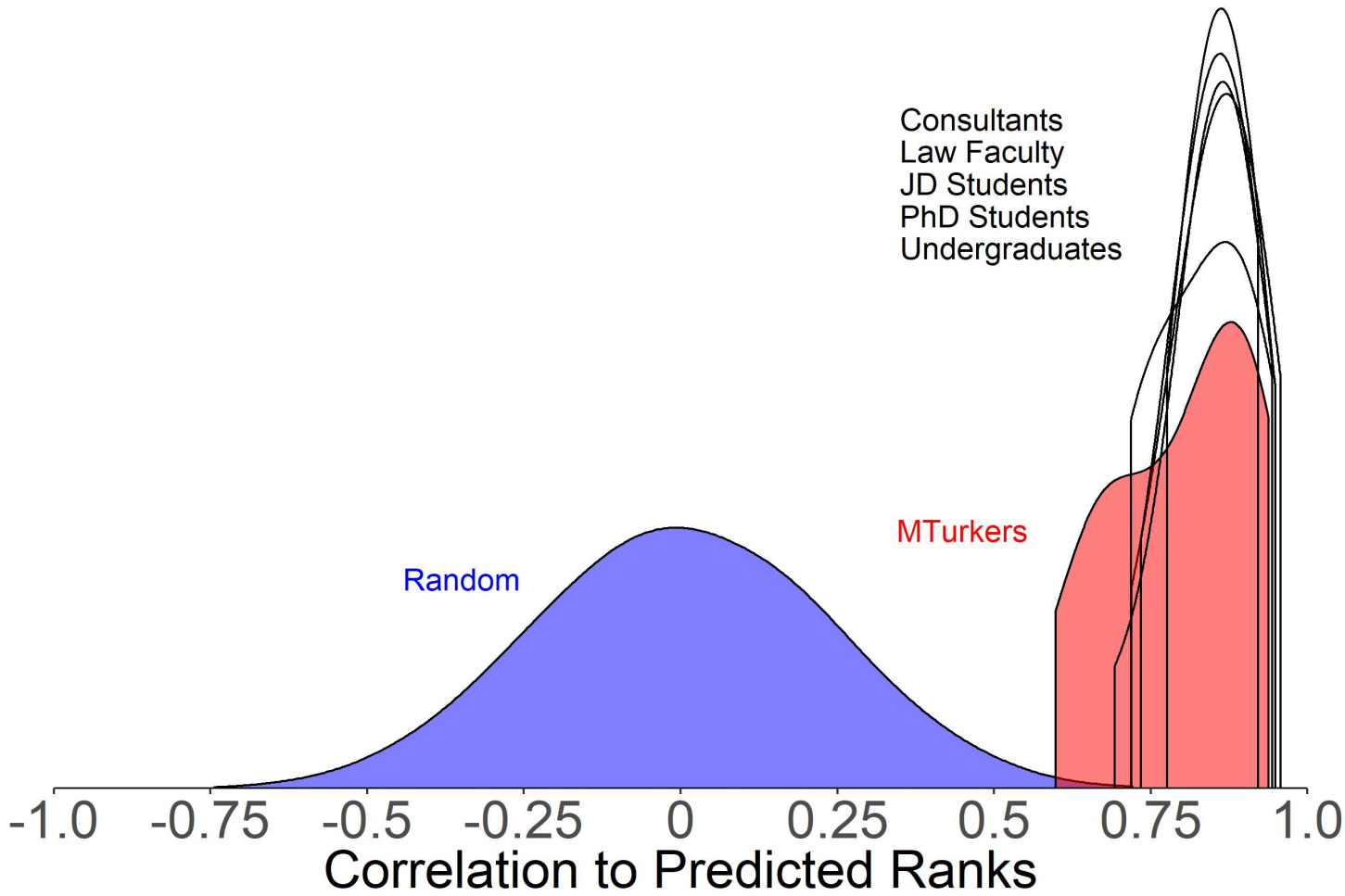

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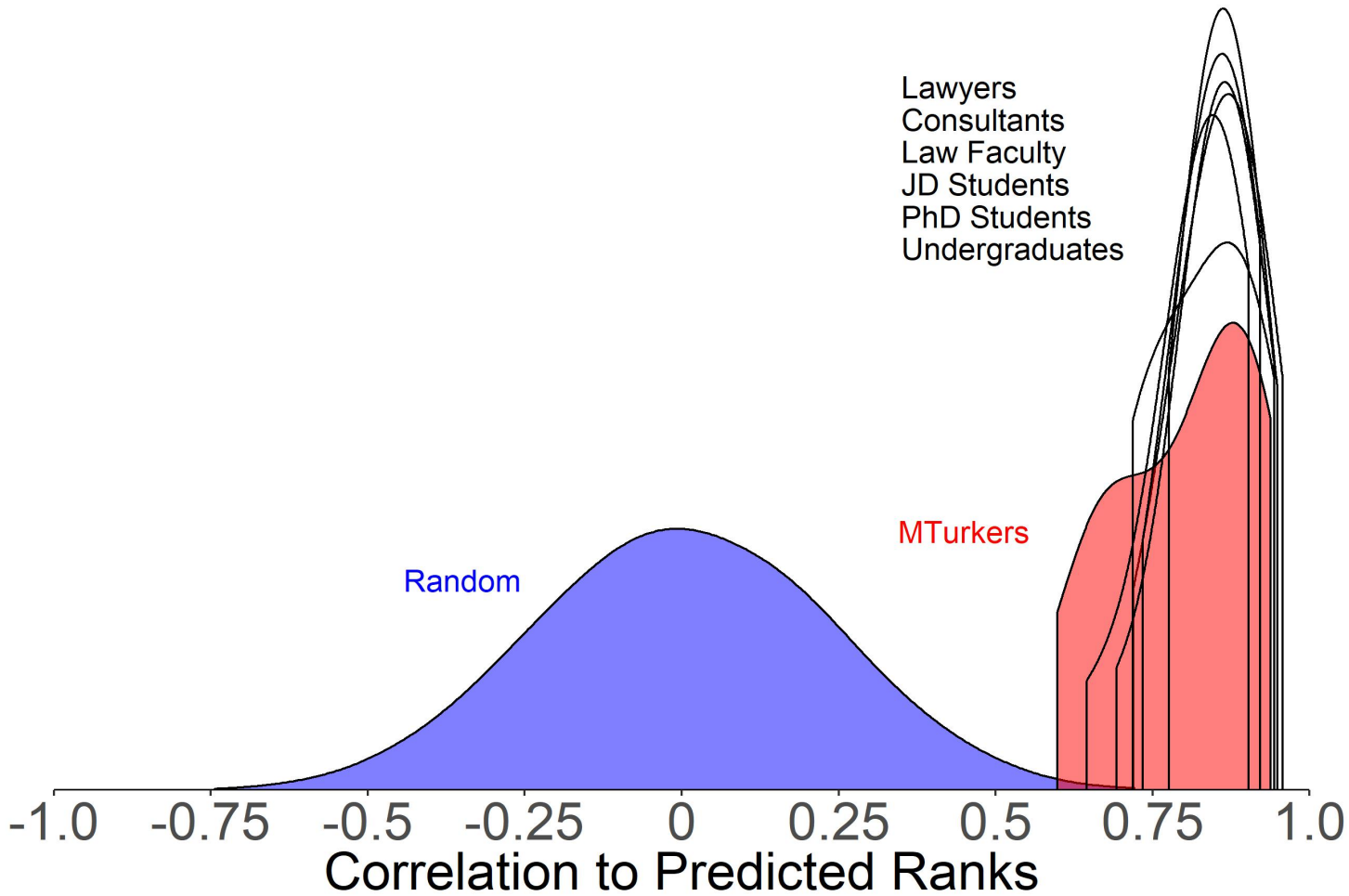

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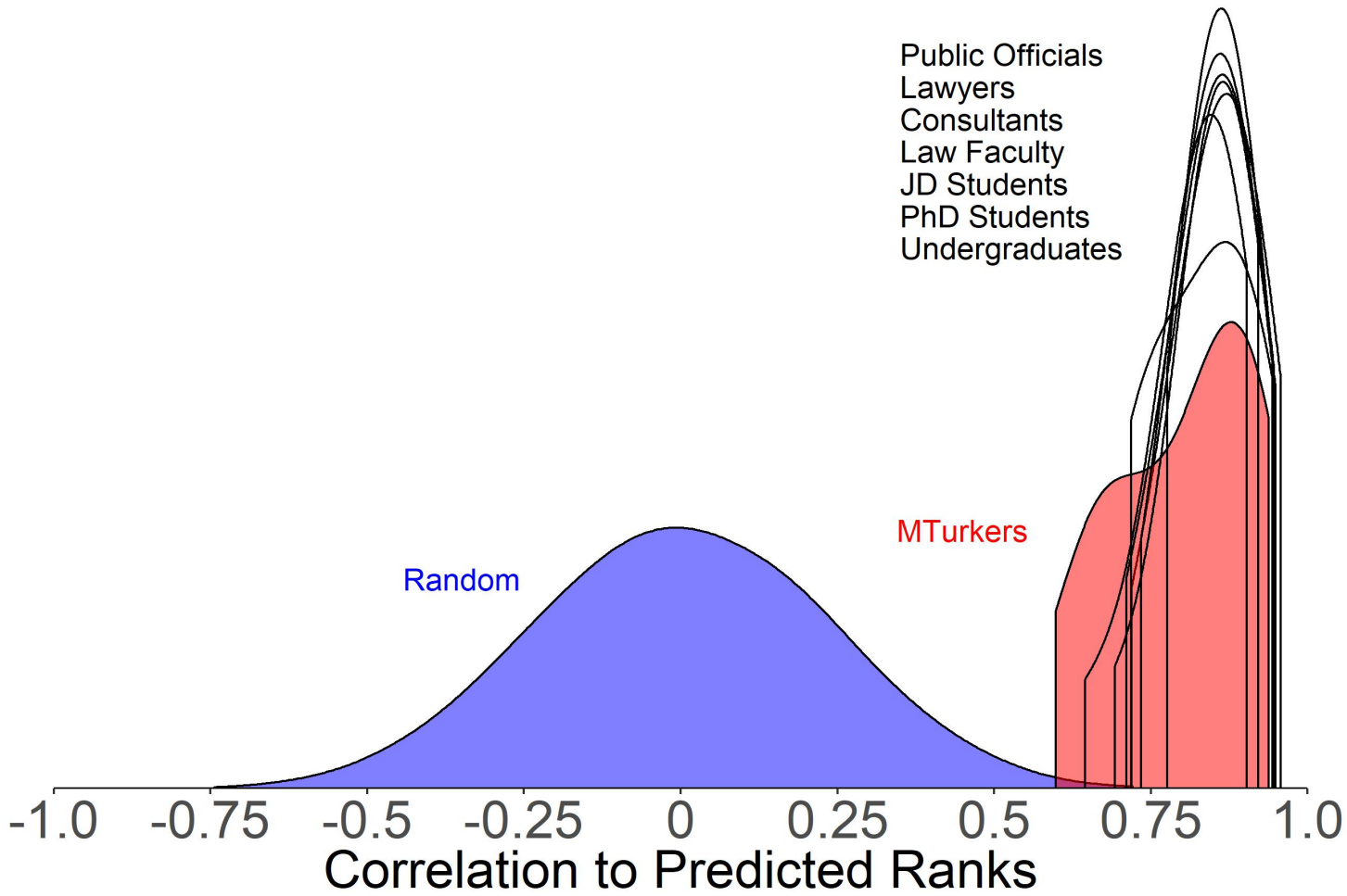

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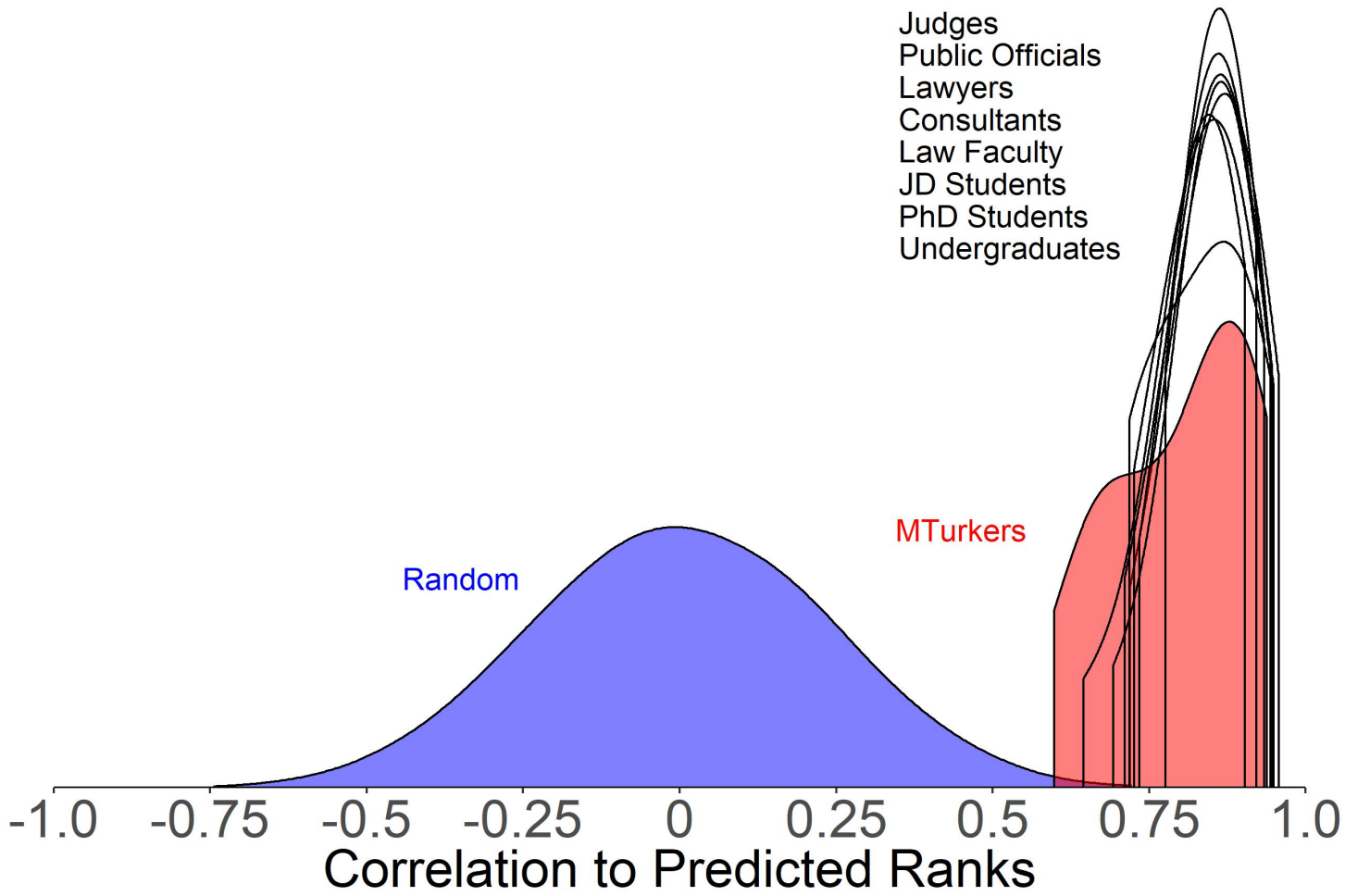

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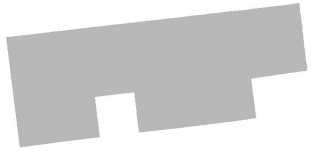
Reock				

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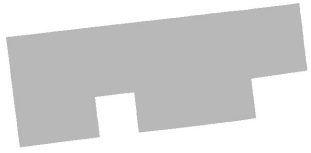
Reock				
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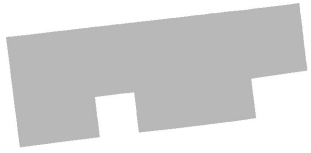
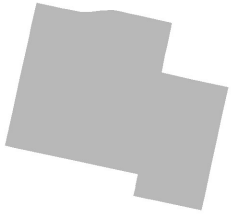
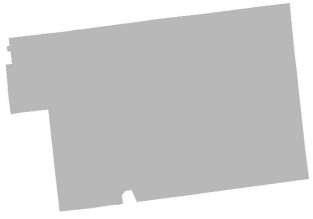
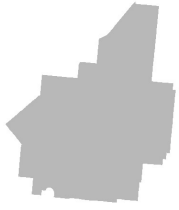
Reock				
Boyce-Clark				
Length/Width				

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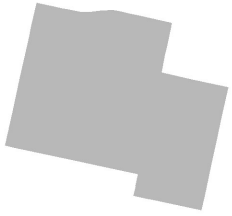
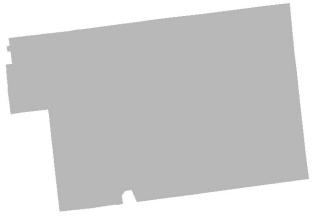
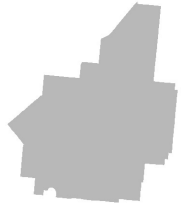
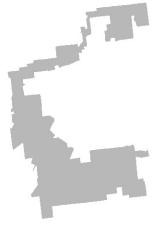
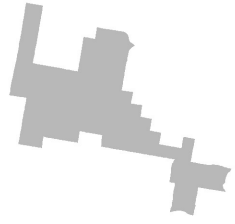
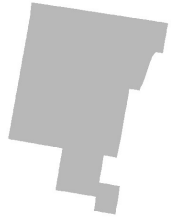
Boyce-Clark				
Length/Width				
X-Symmetry				

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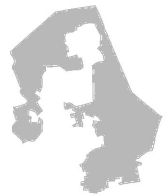
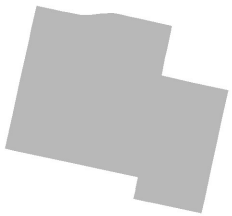
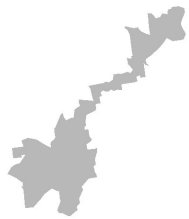
Reock				
Boyce-Clark				
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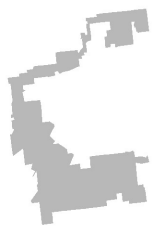
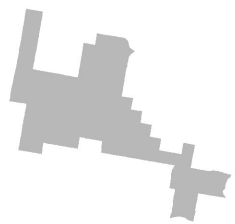
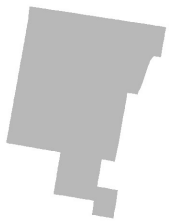
X-Symmetry				

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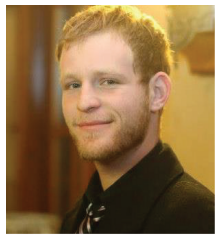
For more information



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j.mp/MayyaKomisarchik

Paper, data, software, slides: j.mp/Compactness