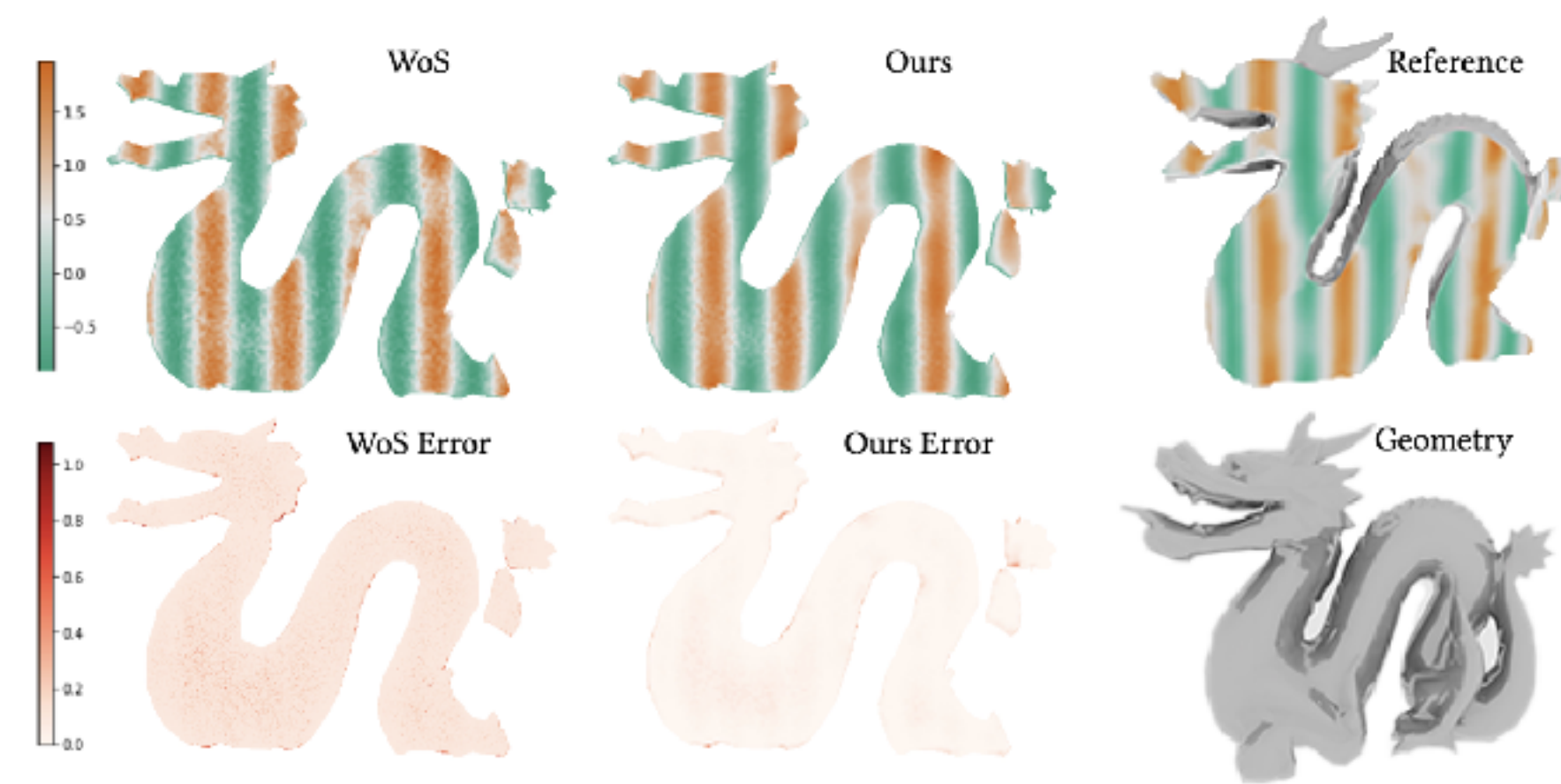
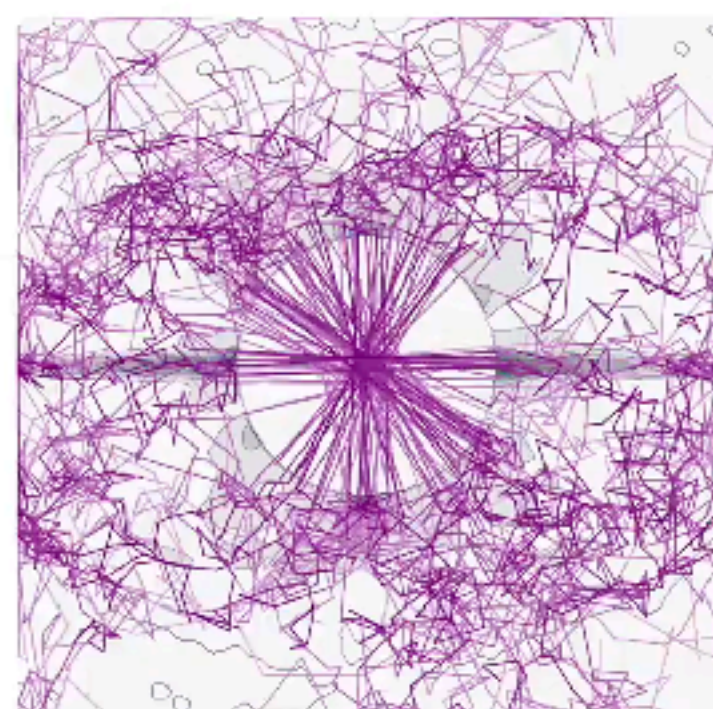




Shapes as Fields

Toward Geometry Processing without Discretization

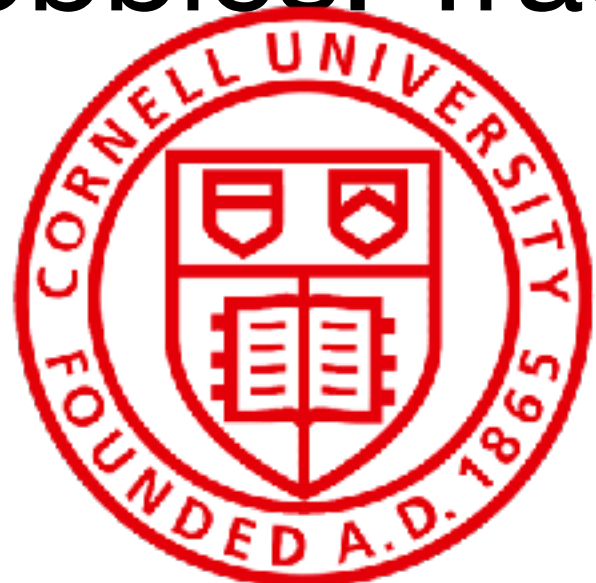
Guandao Yang
Postdoc, Stanford



Guandao Yang

Postdoc @ Stanford

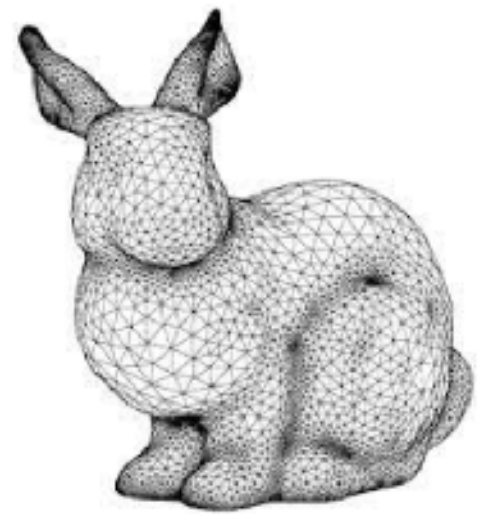
- Ph.D. from Cornell University, advised by Prof. Serge Belongie and Prof. Bharath Hariharan
- Research in the intersection of ML, CV, and CG.
- Collaborate with NVIDIA, Intel, Google, Magic Leap, and Adobe
- Hobbies: Trad climbing, piano



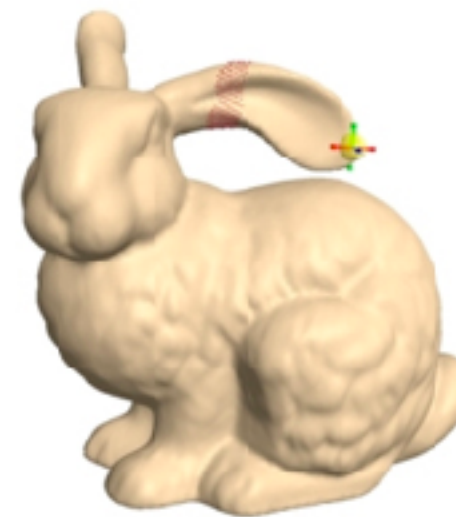
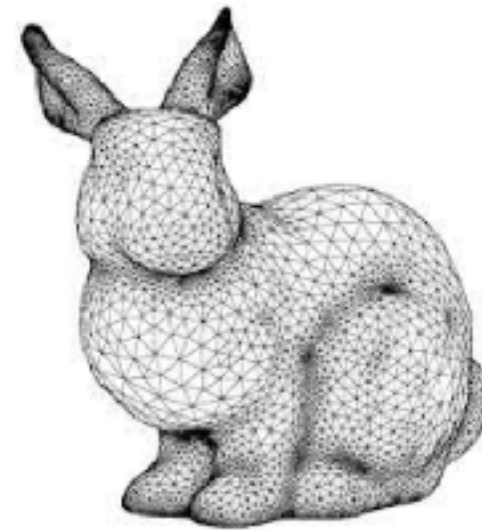
Geometry Processing

Creation, Manipulation, Analysis of Shapes

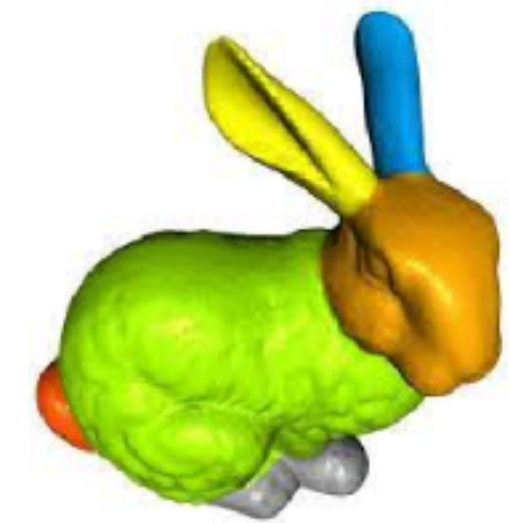
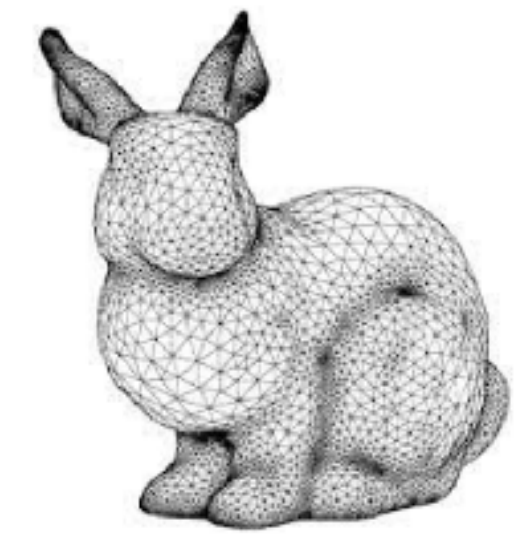
Creation



Manipulation

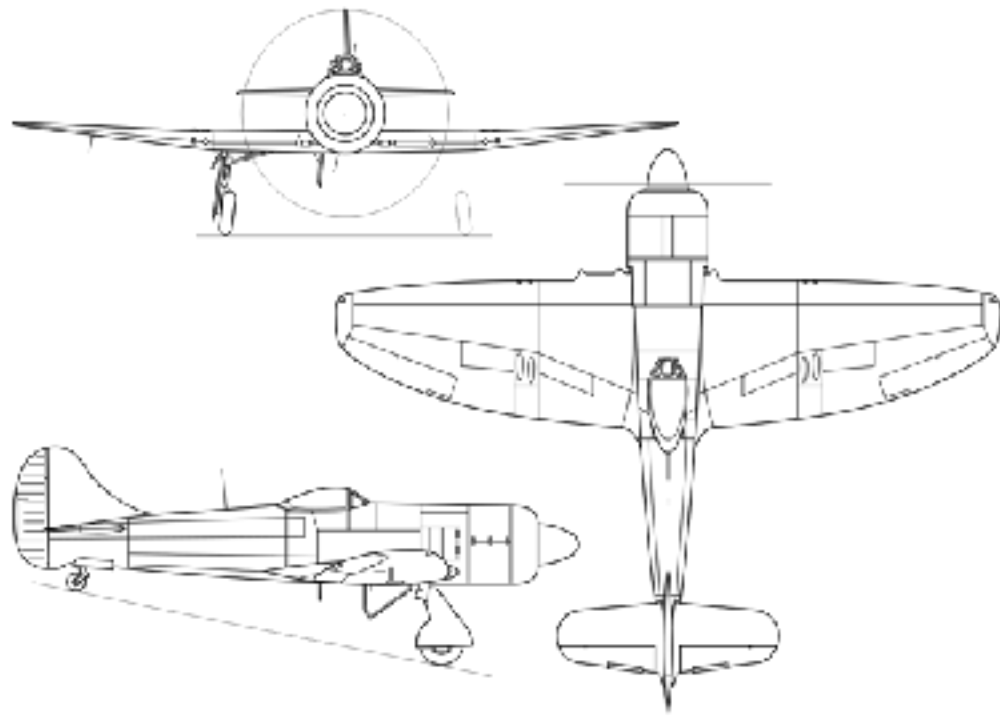


Analysis

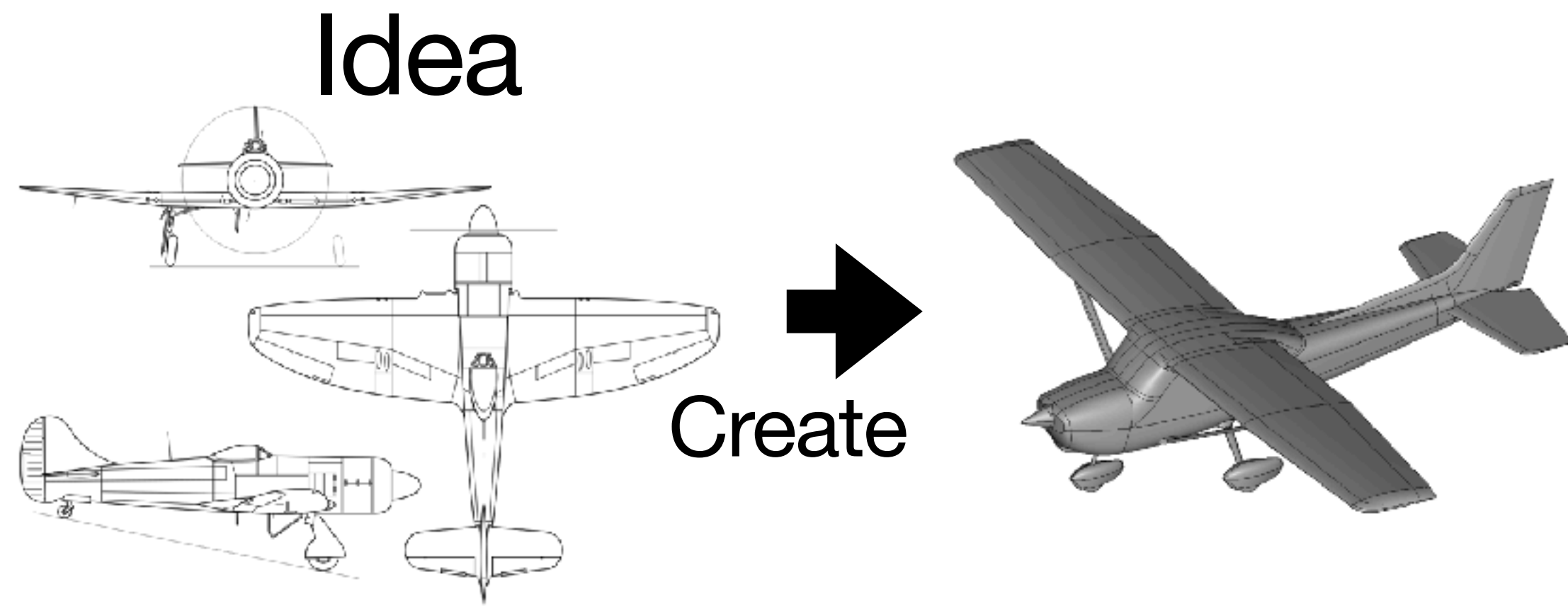


The Birth of a Digital Shape

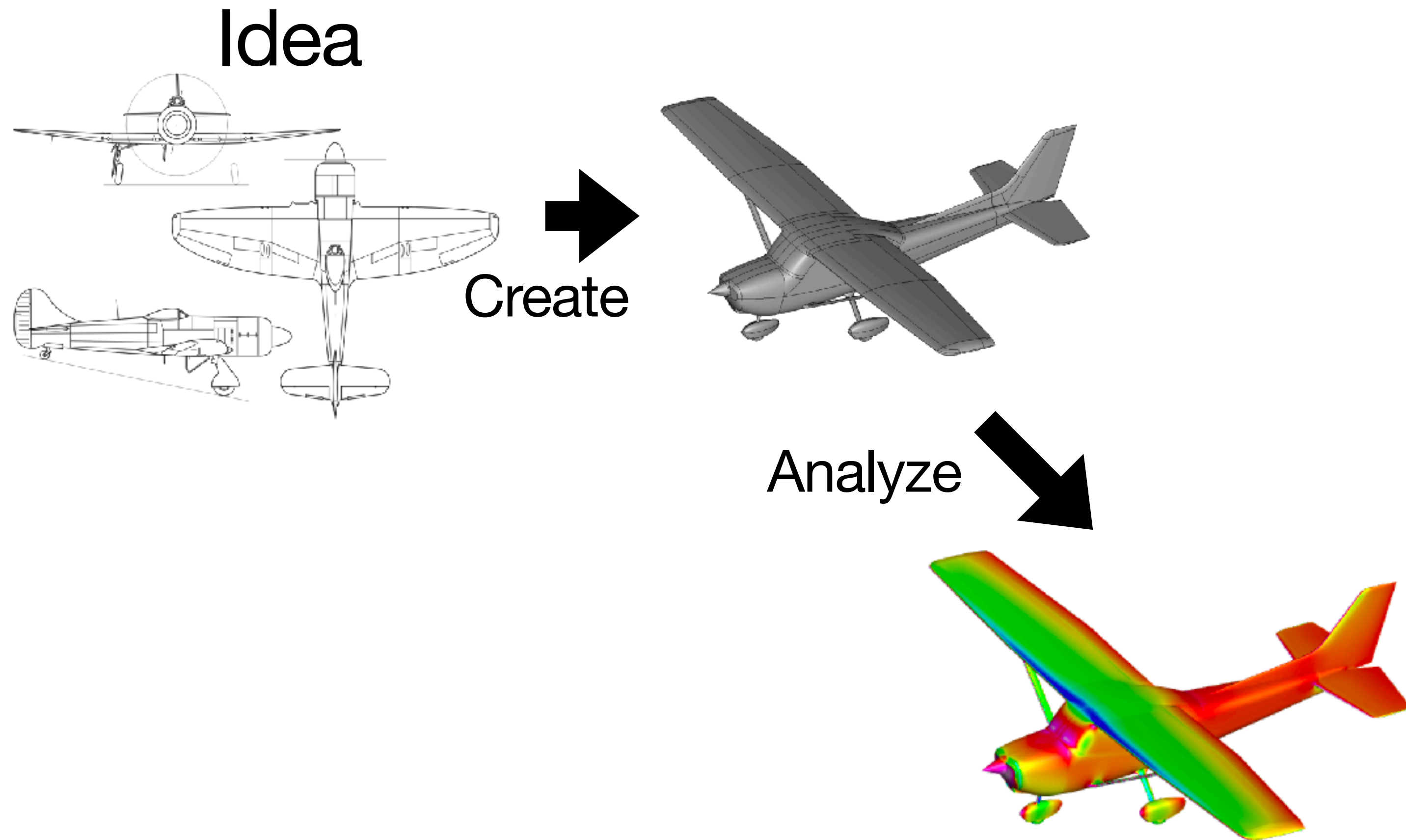
Idea



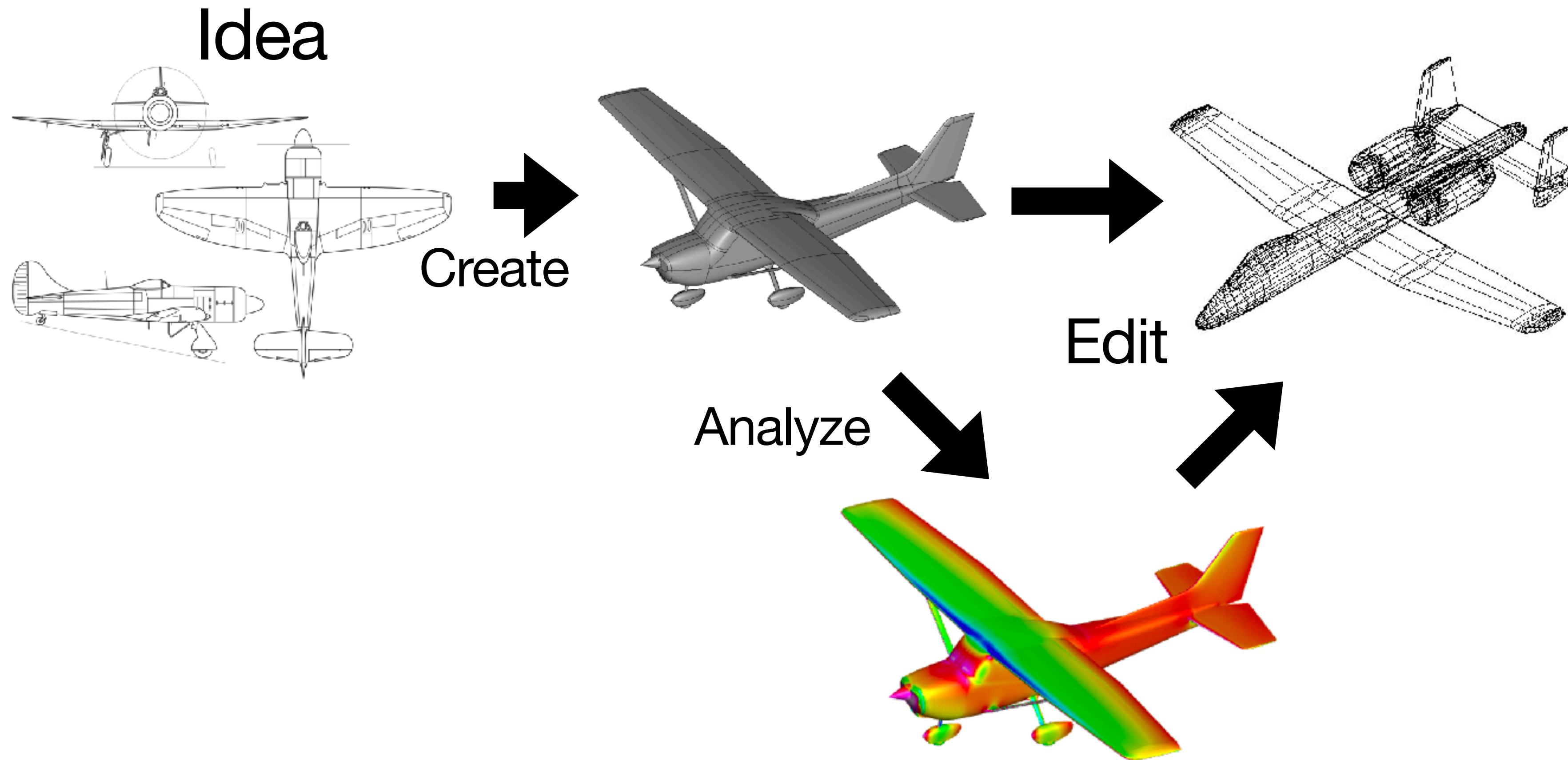
The Birth of a Digital Shape



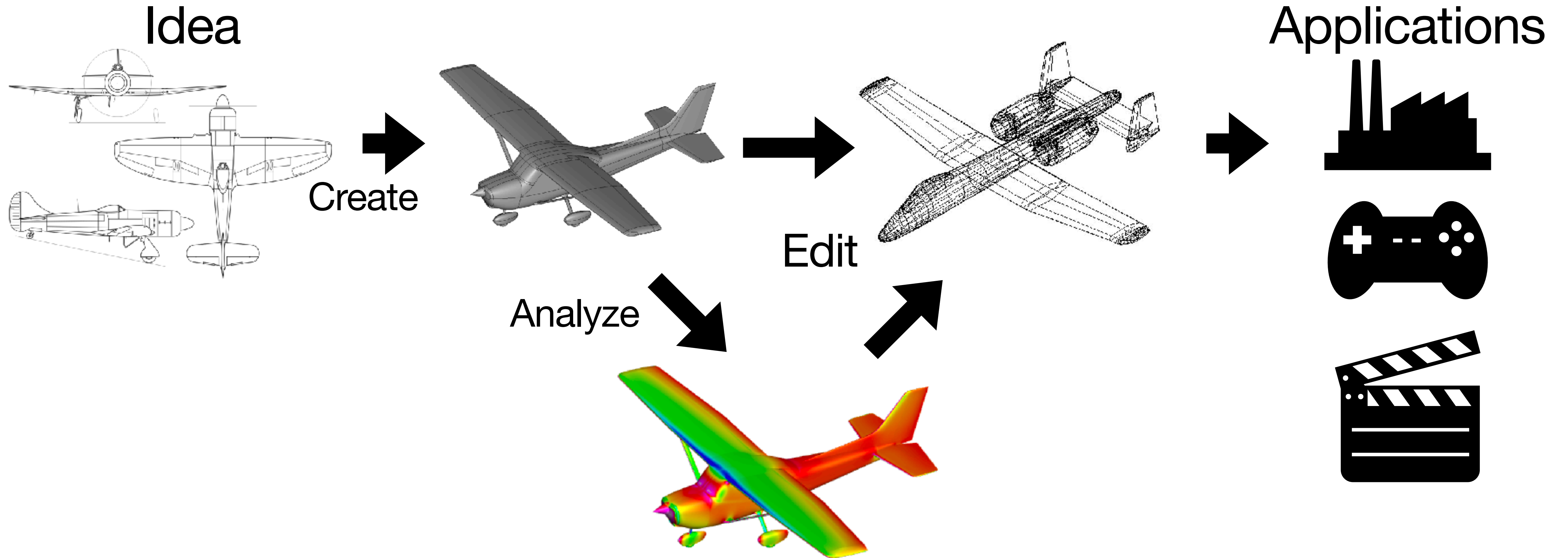
The Birth of a Digital Shape



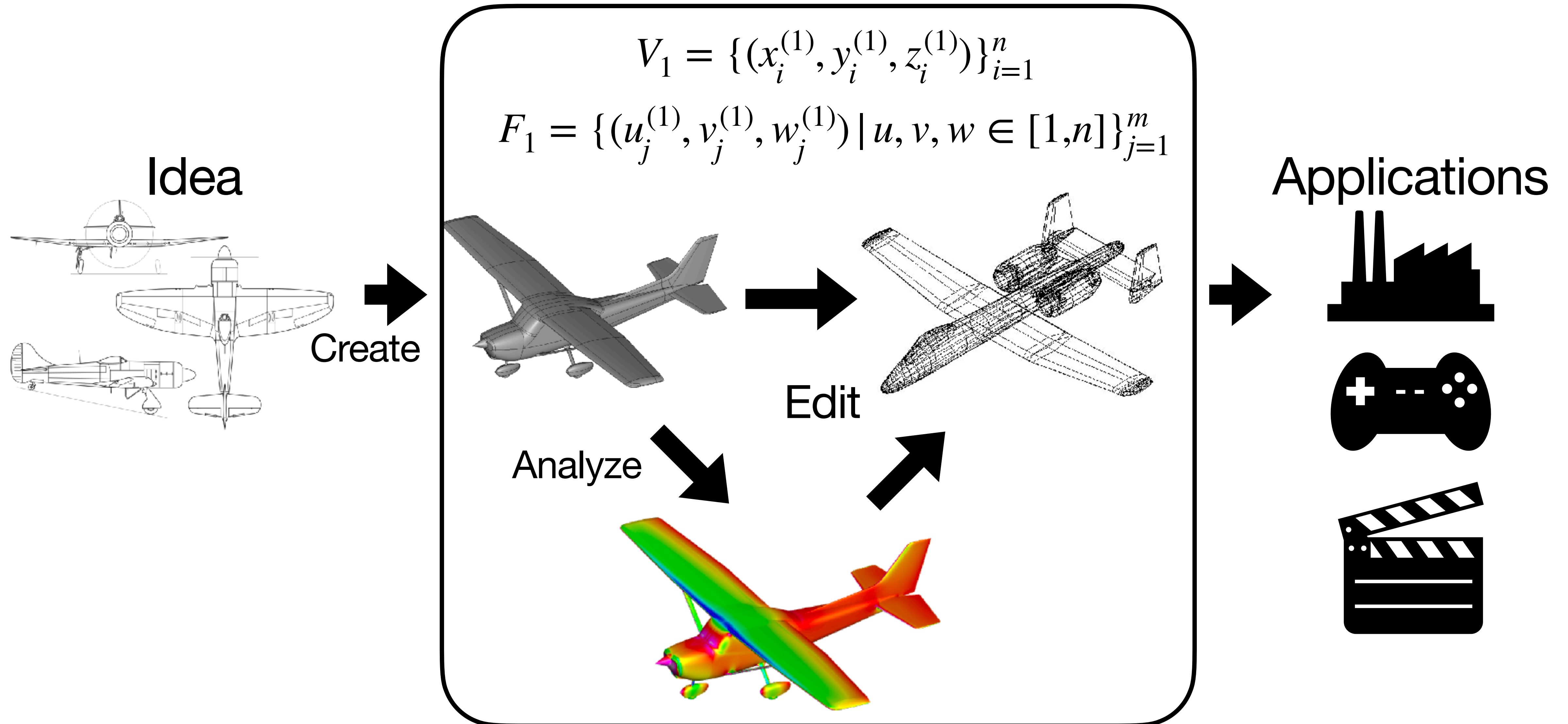
The Birth of a Digital Shape



The Birth of a Digital Shape



Geometry Processing is usually done with Mesh

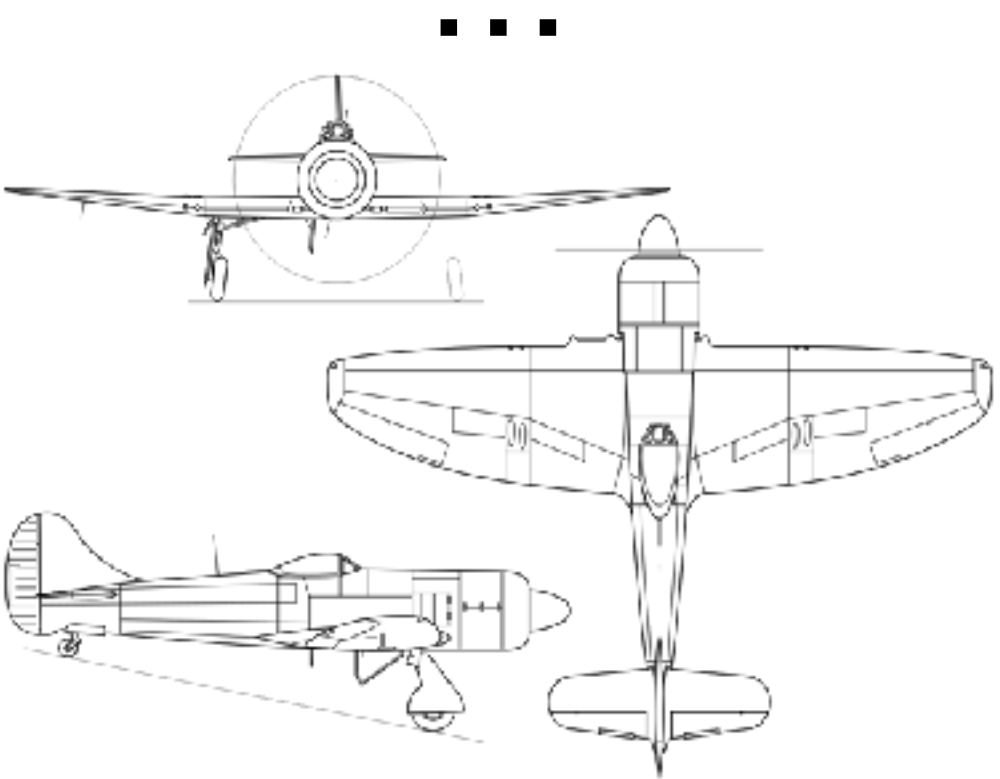


Mesh Creation is Hard

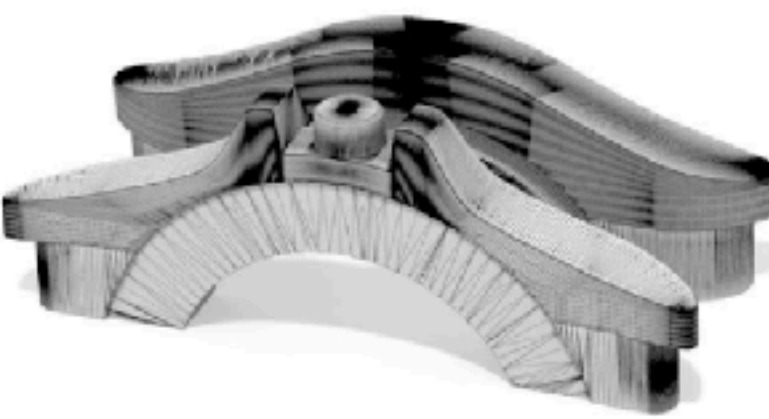
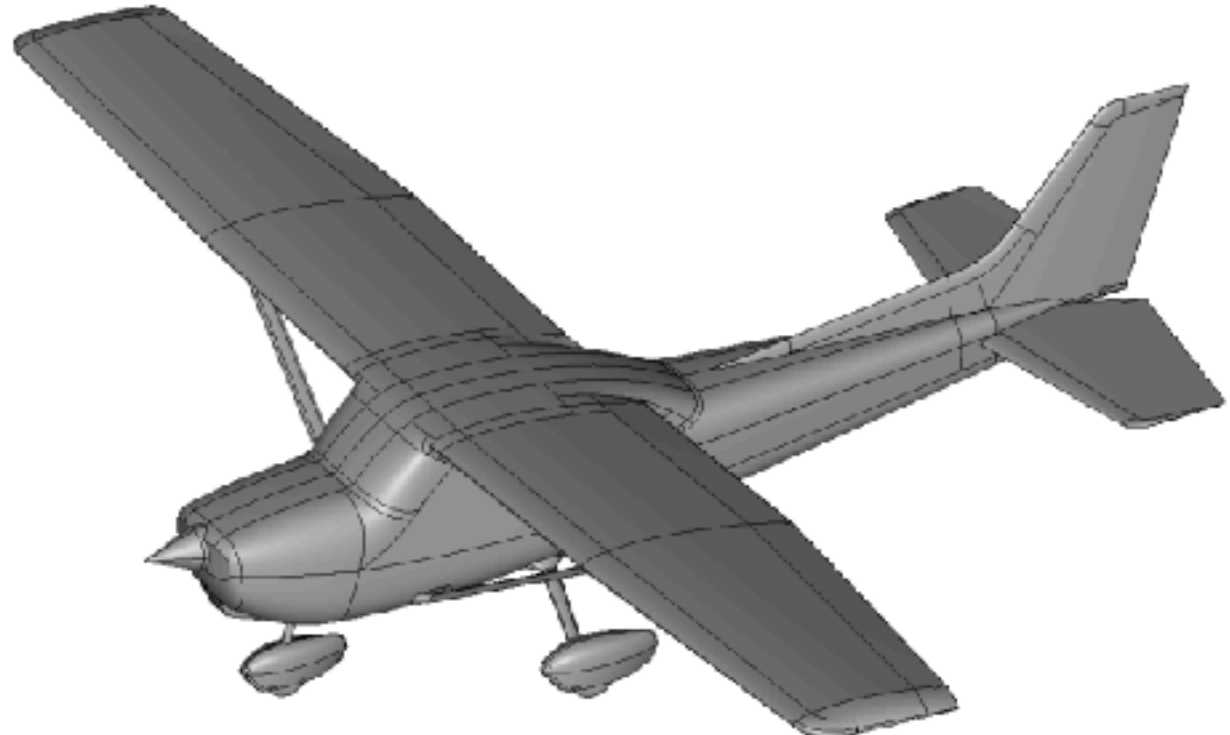
Point clouds,
Sketch,
Image, Ideas,
...

$$V_1 = \{(x_i^{(1)}, y_i^{(1)}, z_i^{(1)})\}_{i=1}^n$$

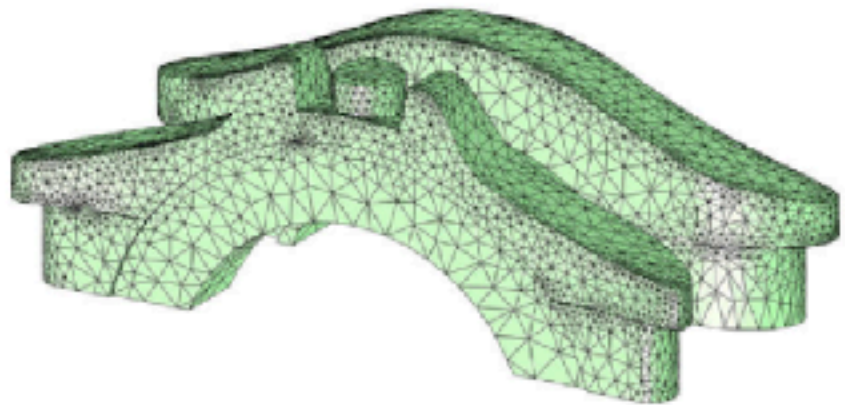
$$F_1 = \{(u_j^{(1)}, v_j^{(1)}, w_j^{(1)}) \mid u, v, w \in [1, n]\}_{j=1}^m$$



Create

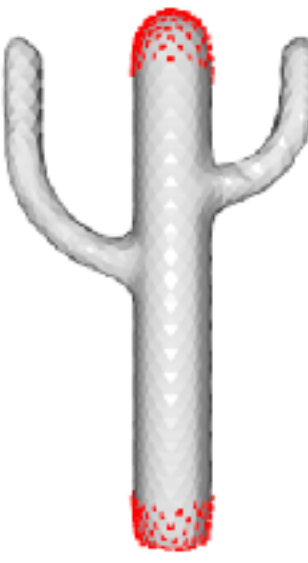


input
(Thingi10k #996816)

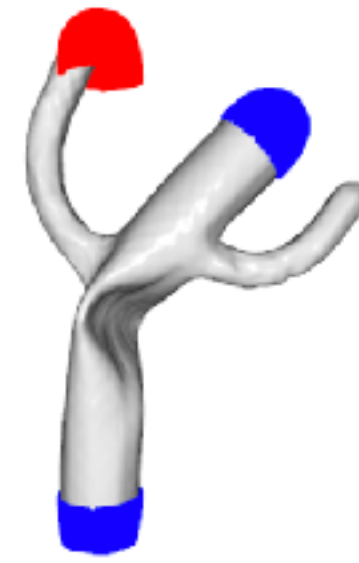


mesh w/ FASTTETWILD
1 hour 25 minutes

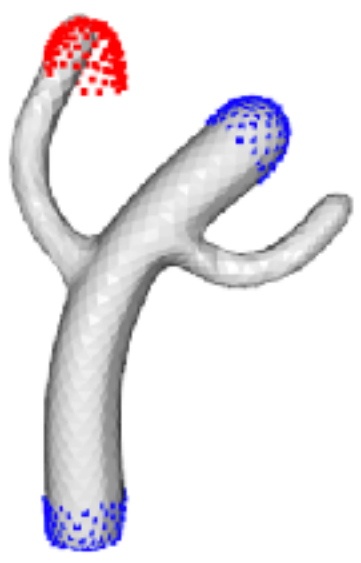
User Input



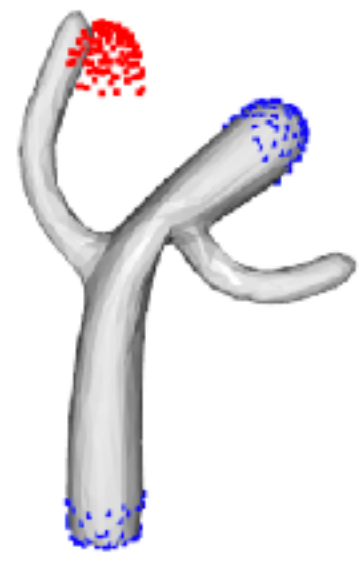
MC



Original



Remeshed



(Yang et. al., 2021)

*"I hate meshes.
I cannot believe how hard this is.
Geometry is hard."*

—David Baraff
Senior Research Scientist
Pixar Animation Studios

(Sawhney et. al., 2020, Sawhney et. al. 2022)

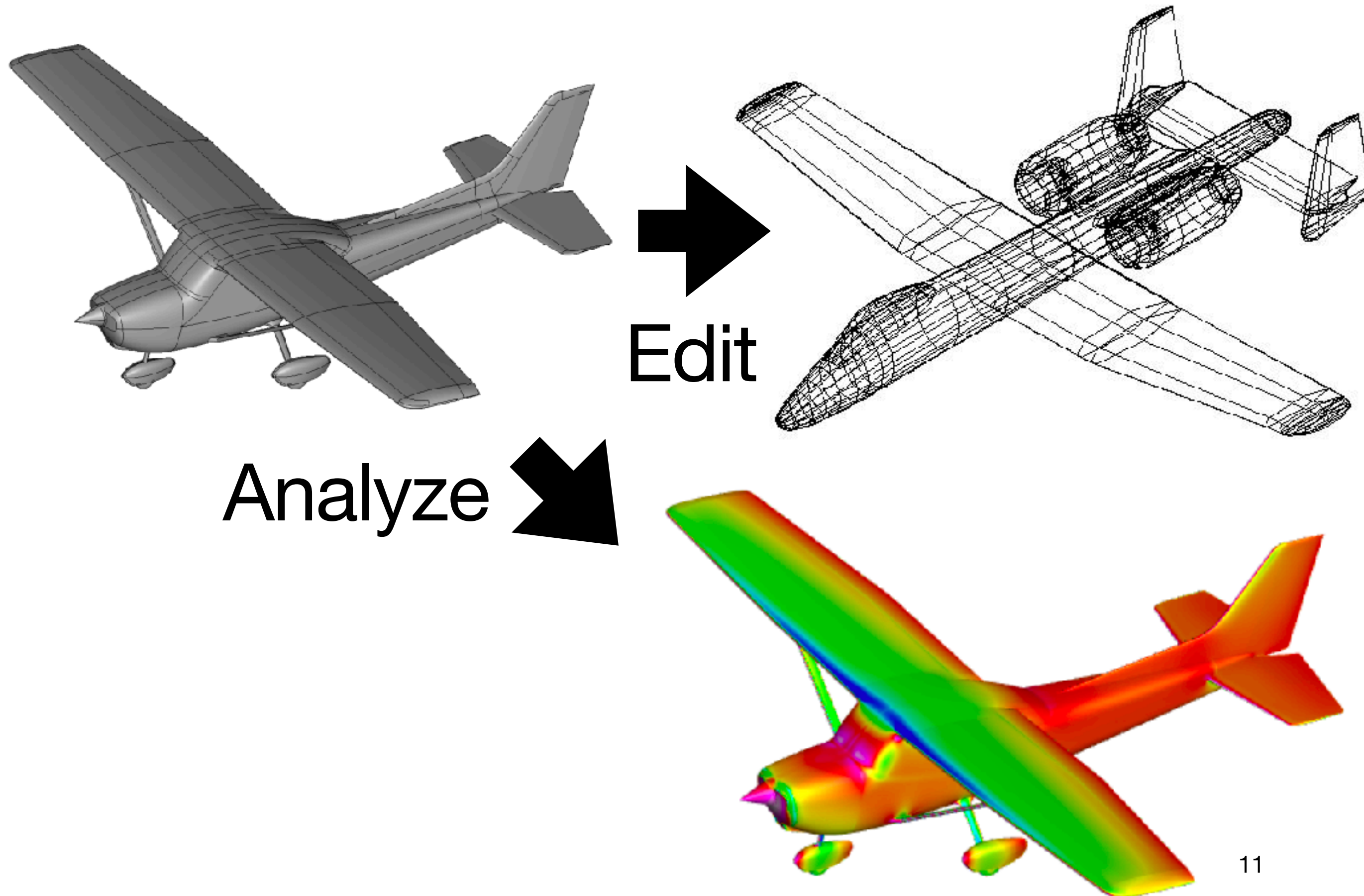
Credit to Prof. Keenan Crane, Monte Carlo Geometry Processing

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?>

Mesh Editing and Analysis are also Difficult

$$V_1 = \{(x_i^{(1)}, y_i^{(1)}, z_i^{(1)})\}_{i=1}^n$$

$$F_1 = \{(u_j^{(1)}, v_j^{(1)}, w_j^{(1)}) \mid u, v, w \in [1, n]\}_{j=1}^m$$

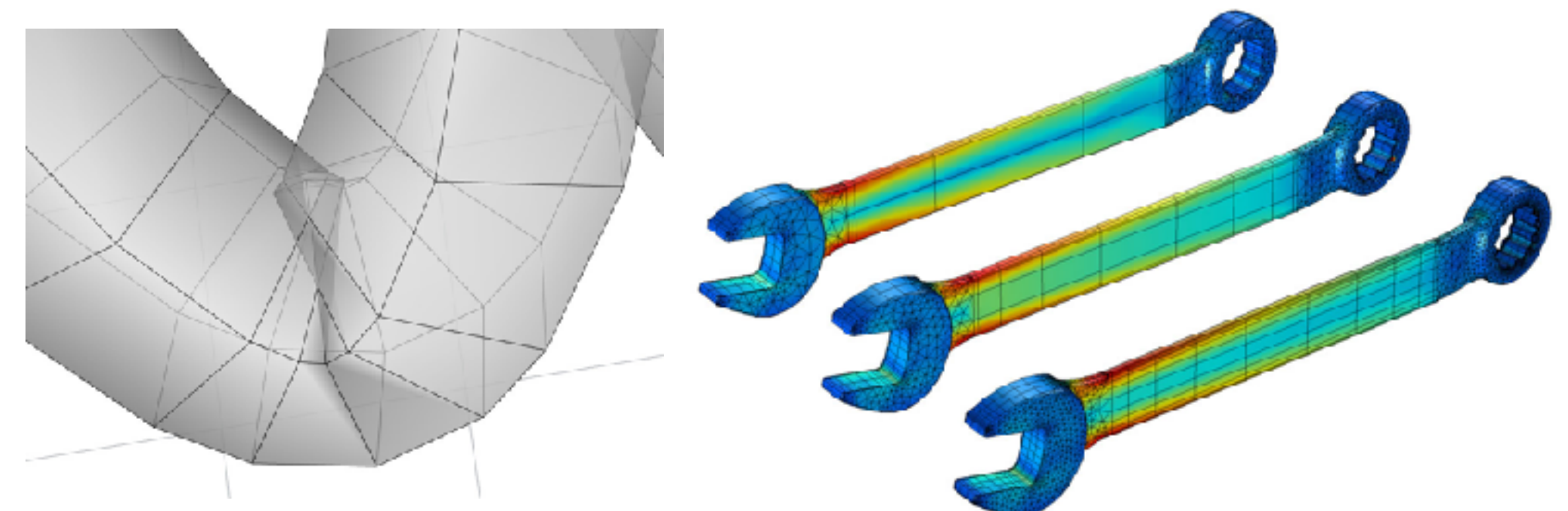
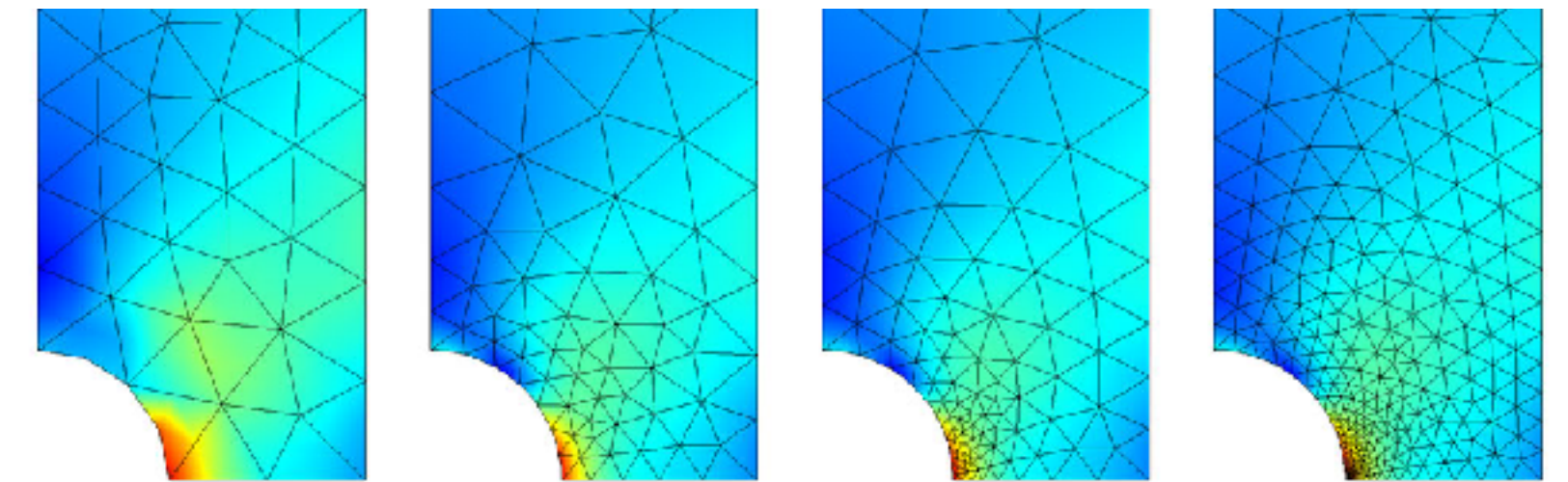


Topological changes



(Liu et. al., SIG 22')

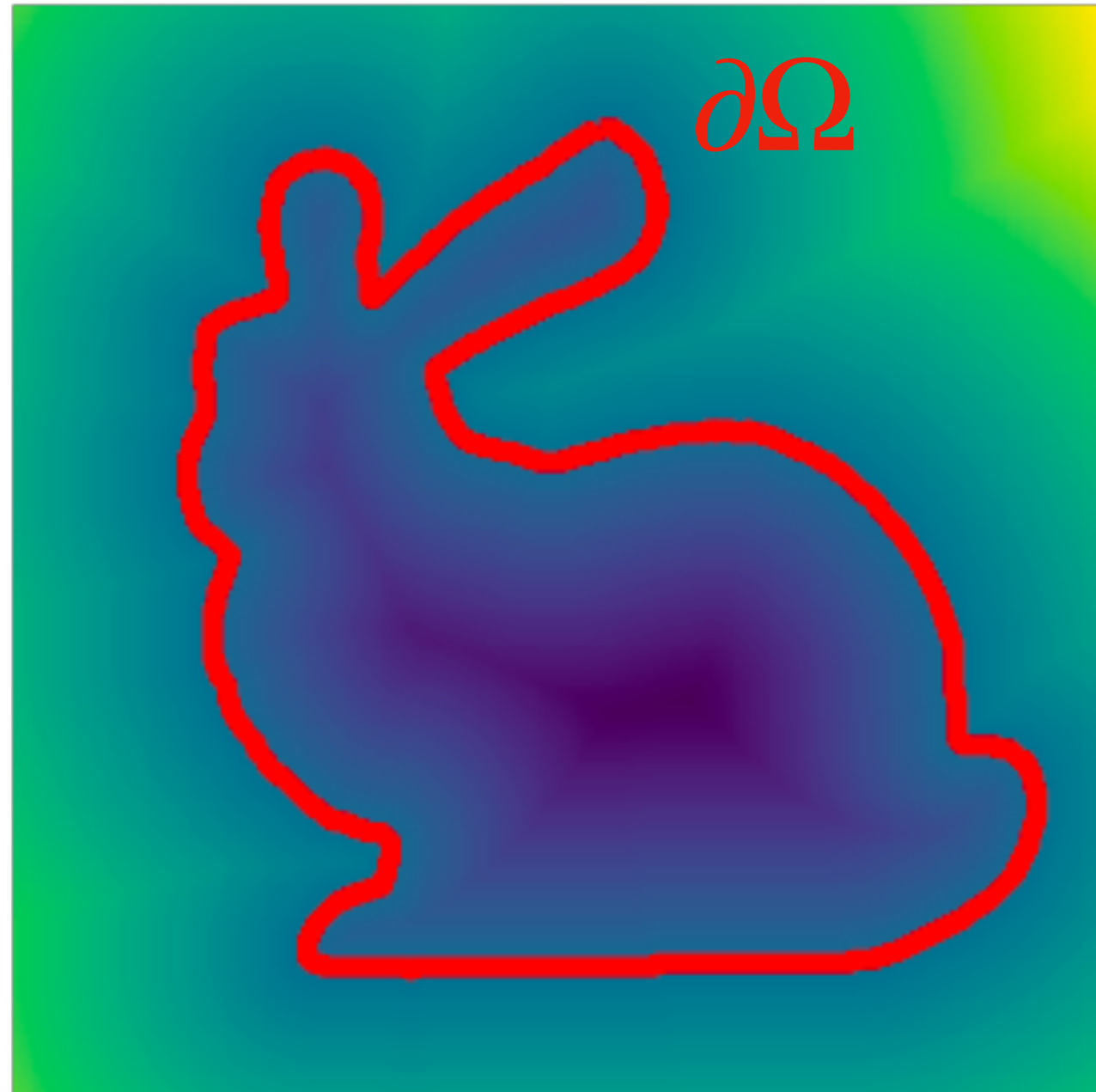
Sensitive to discretization



<https://www.comsol.com/multiphysics/mesh-refinement>

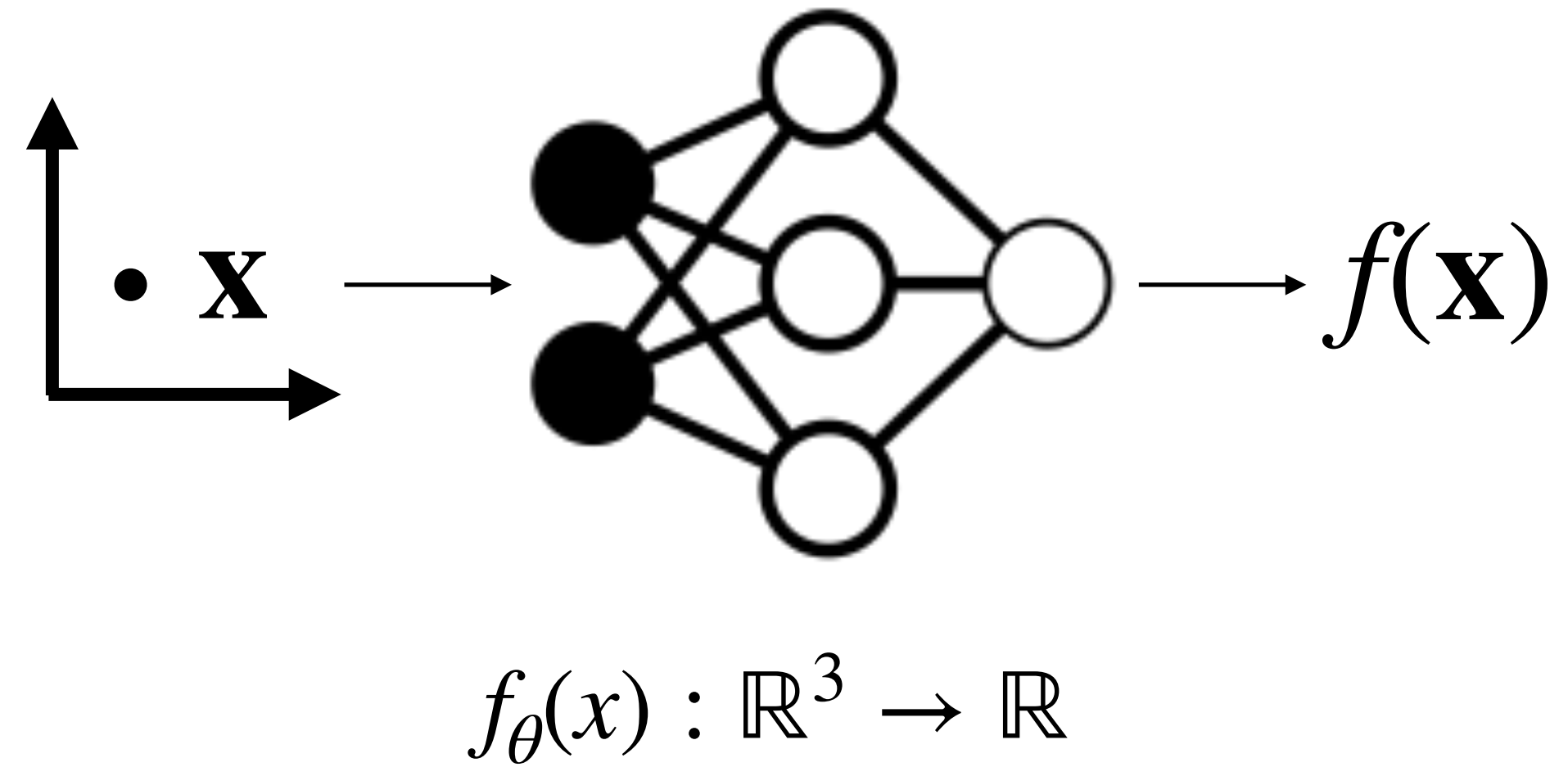
Can we use a different representation?

Neural Fields

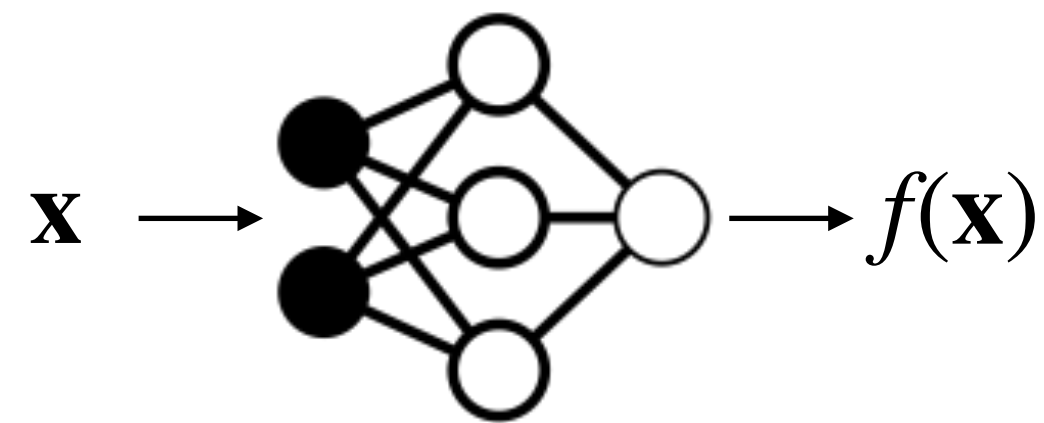
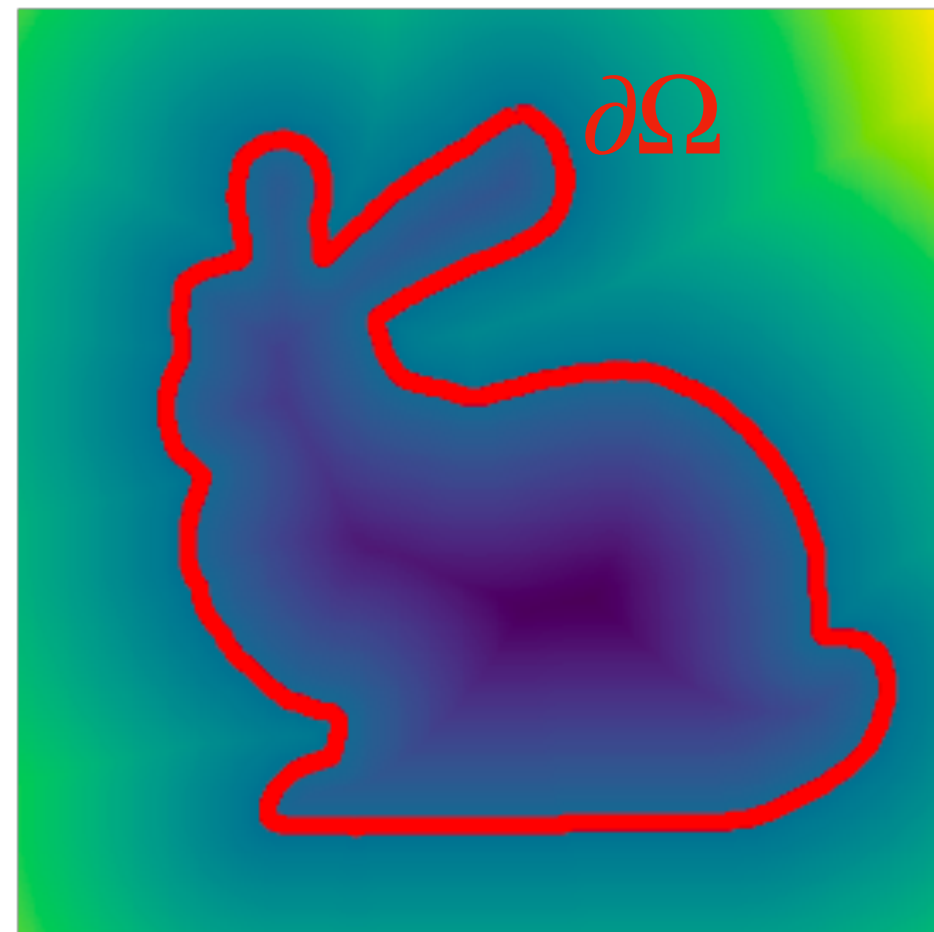


$$f: \mathbb{R}^3 \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$$

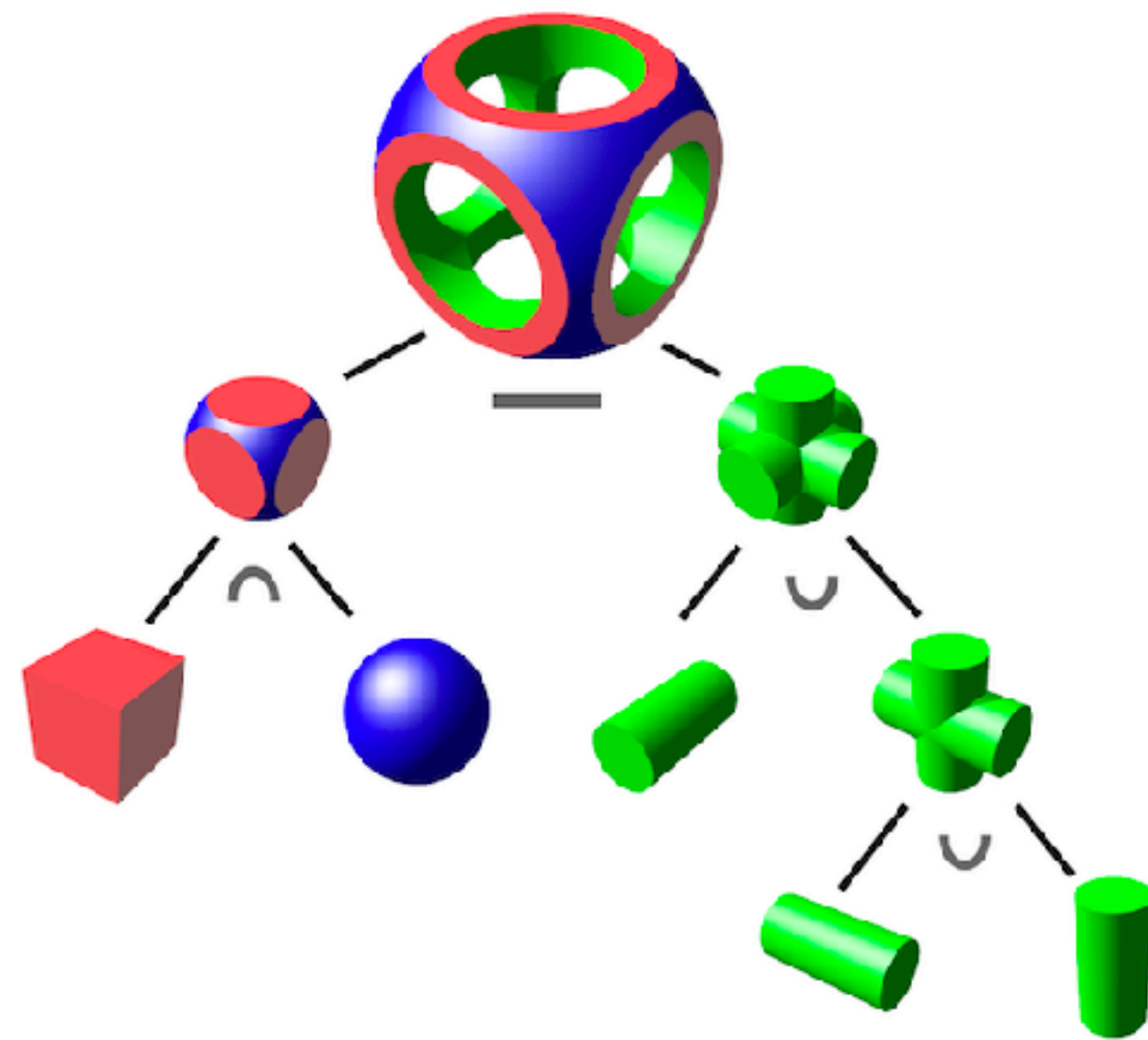
$$\partial\Omega = \{\mathbf{x} \mid f(\mathbf{x}) = c\}$$



Neural Fields



Neural Fields

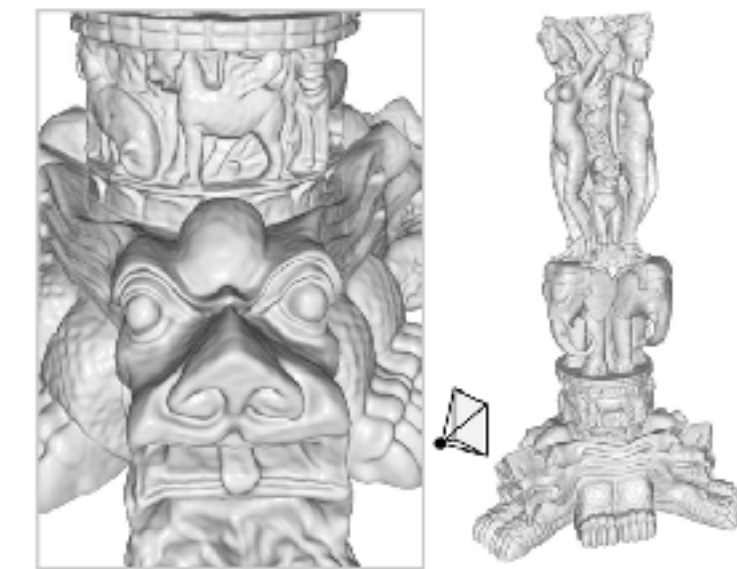


Topological changes



Compact

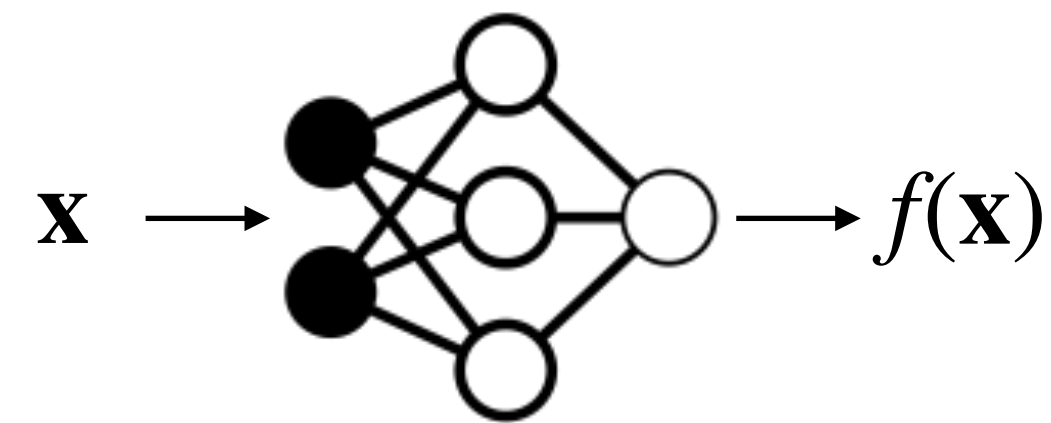
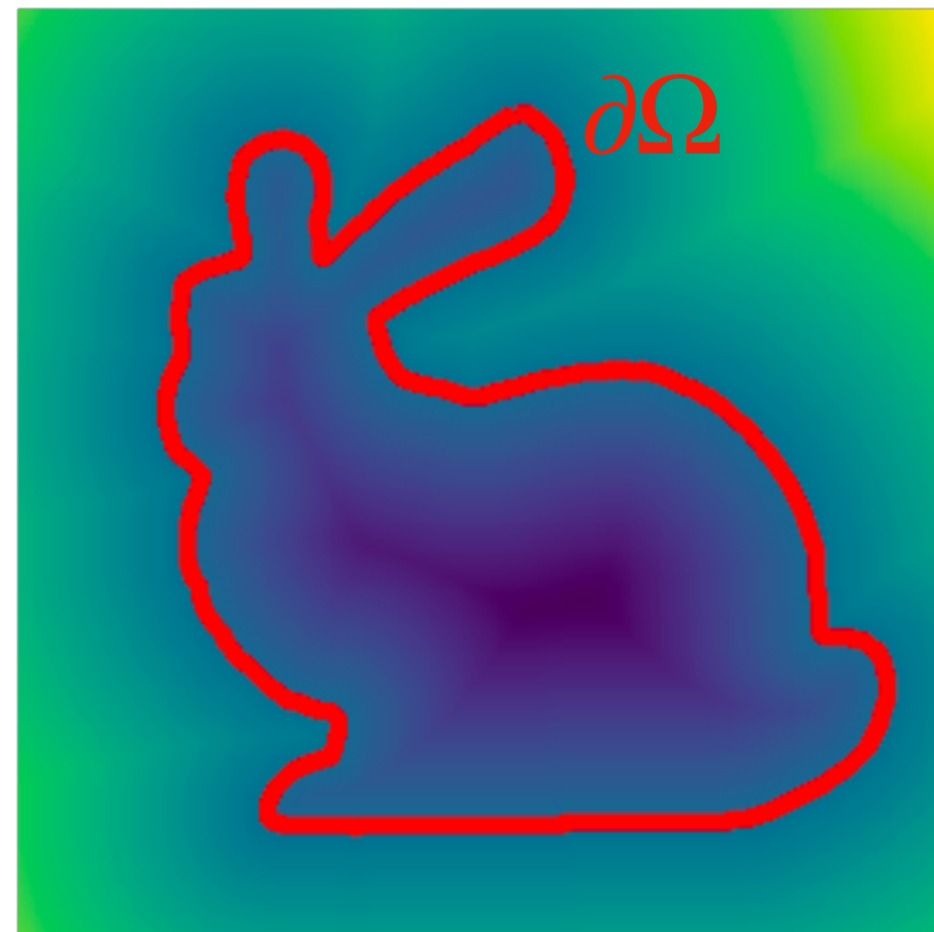
(Davies et al., 2020, Martel et al., 2021, Mescheder et al., 2021)



High fidelity

(Sitzmann et al., 2020, Martel et al., 2021, Park et al., 2019)

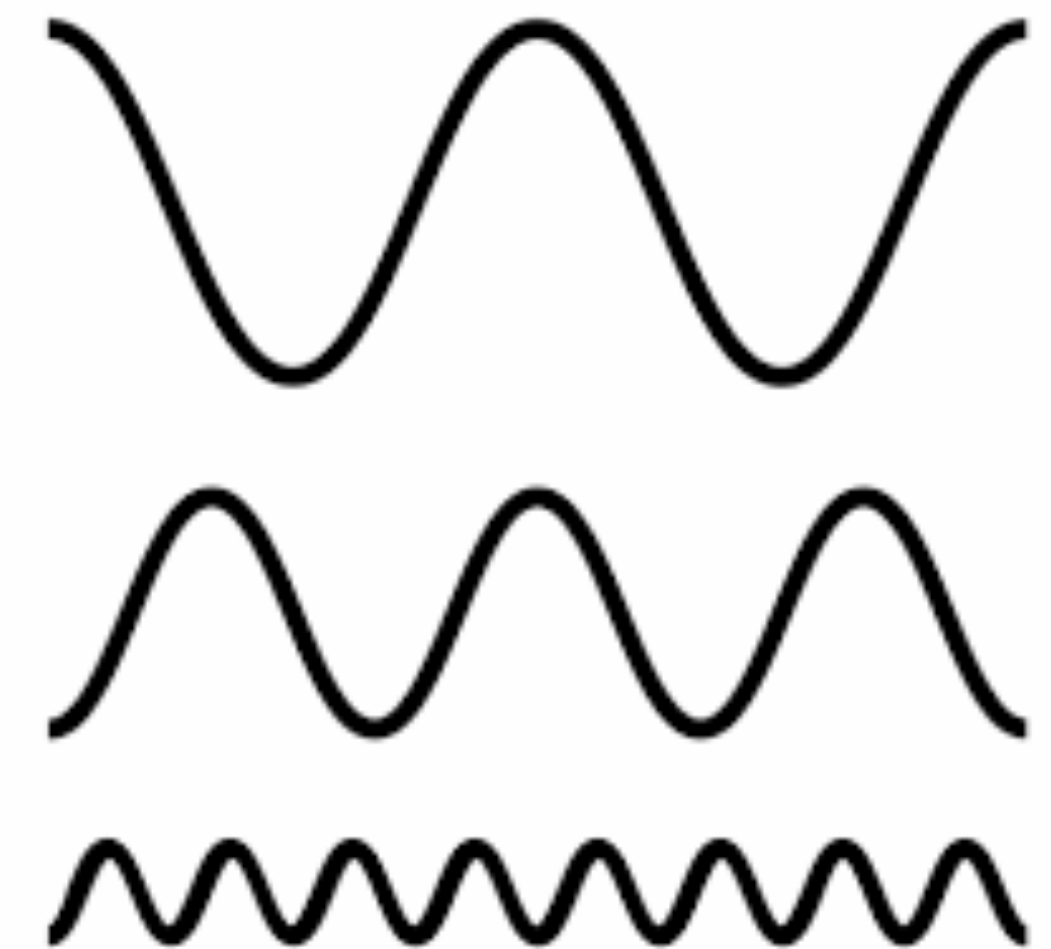
Neural Fields



Neural Fields

Easy to optimize
(with Deep Learning Frameworks)

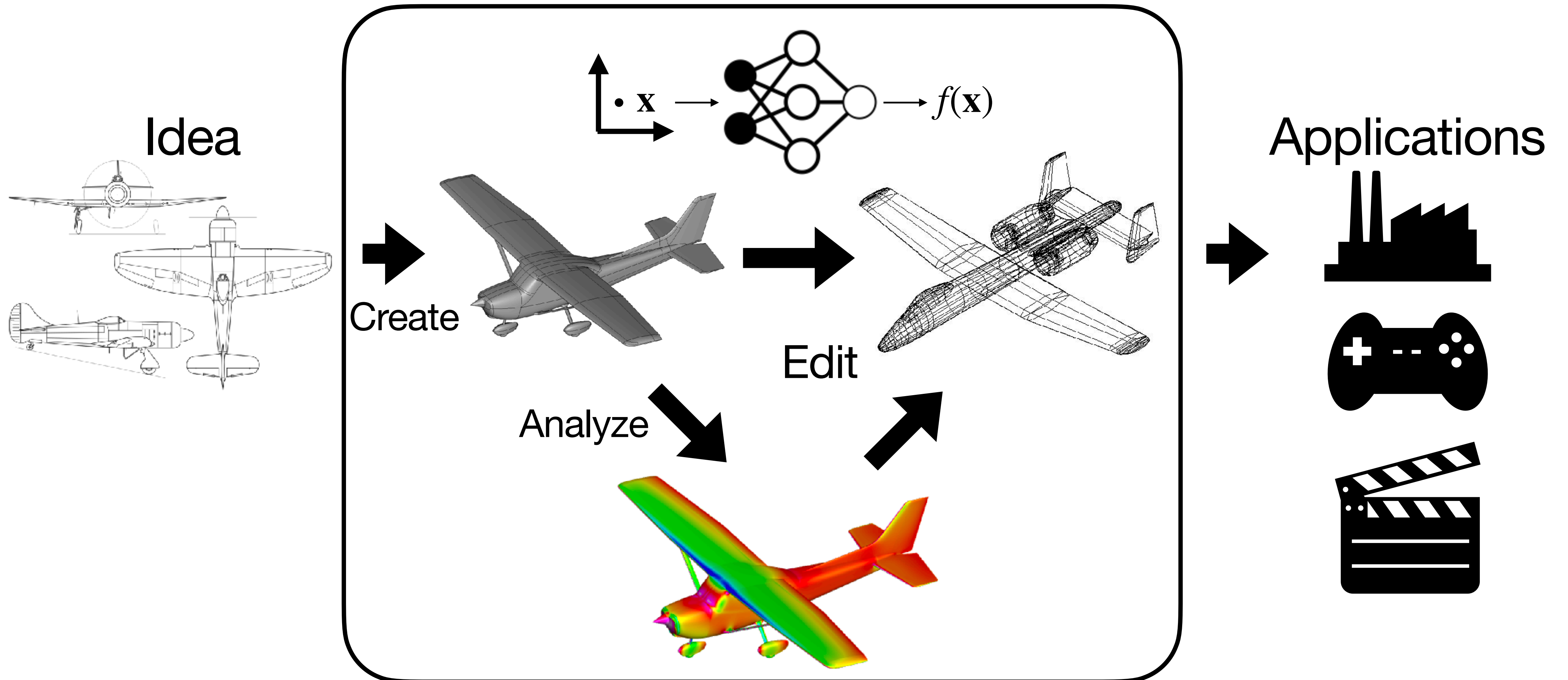
(Sitzmann et al., 2020,
Lindel et al., 2021, Tancik et al., 2022)



Continuous, avoid explicit discretization, and easy access to gradient

(Yang et al., 2022)

Geometry Processing with Neural Fields



Today's Agenda

Synthesis

Analysis



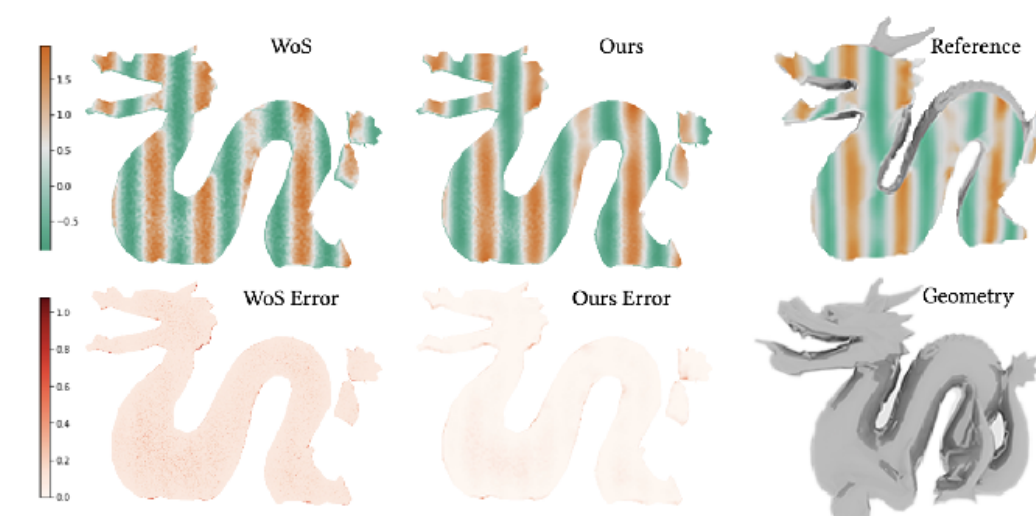
PointFlow (ICCV 2019)



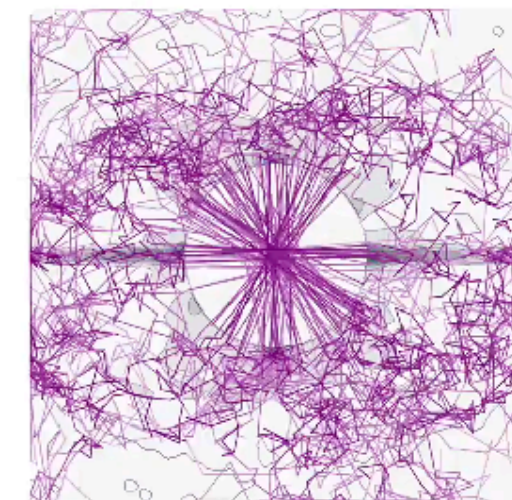
ShapeGF (ECCV 2020)



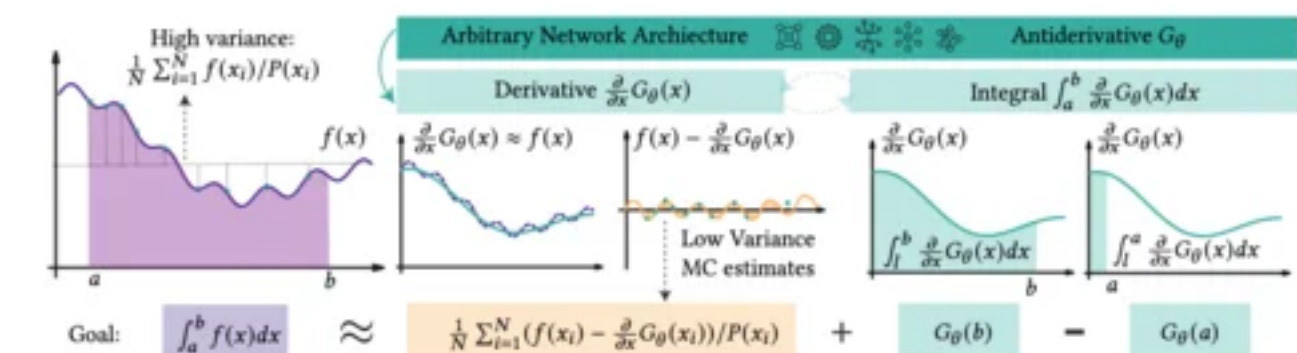
NFGP (NeurIPS 2021)



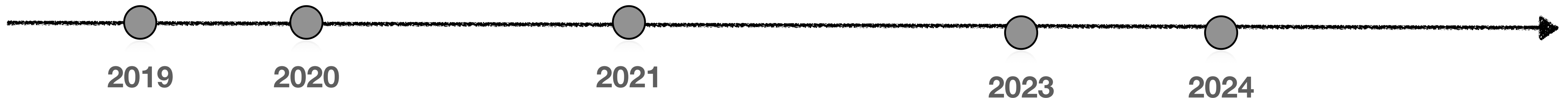
Neural cache (SIG Asia 2023)



Symmetry (SIG Asia 2024)



NCV (SIGGRAPH 2024)



Synthesis - Generation

Synthesis



PointFlow (ICCV 2019)

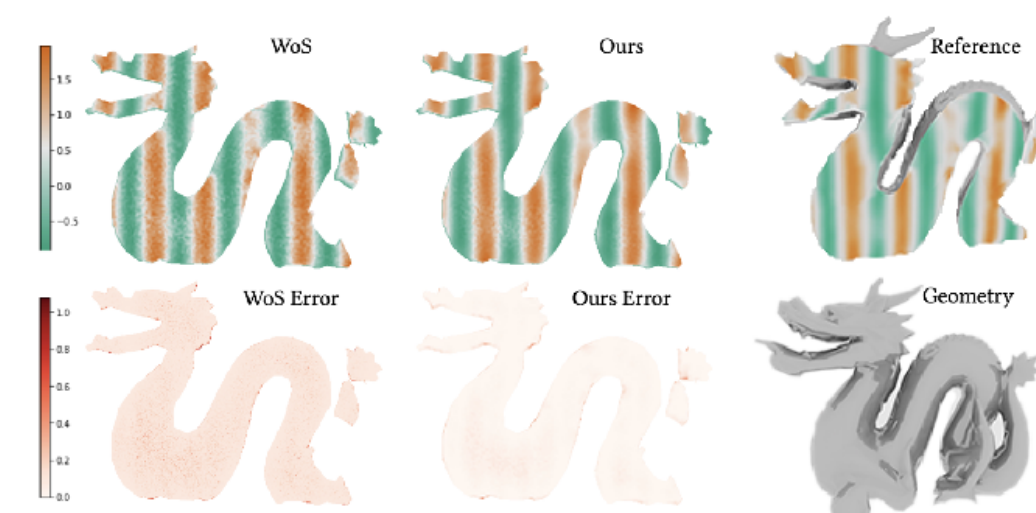


ShapeGF (ECCV 2020)

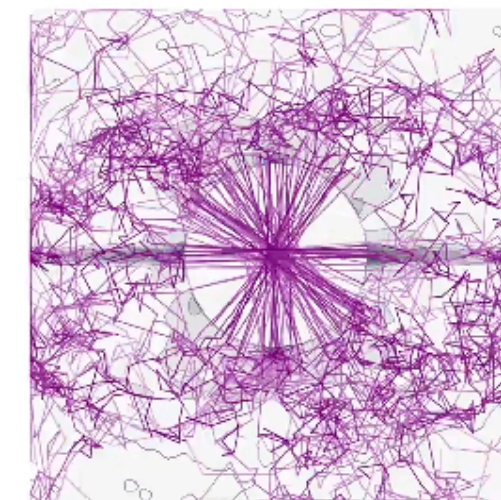


NFGP (NeurIPS 2021)

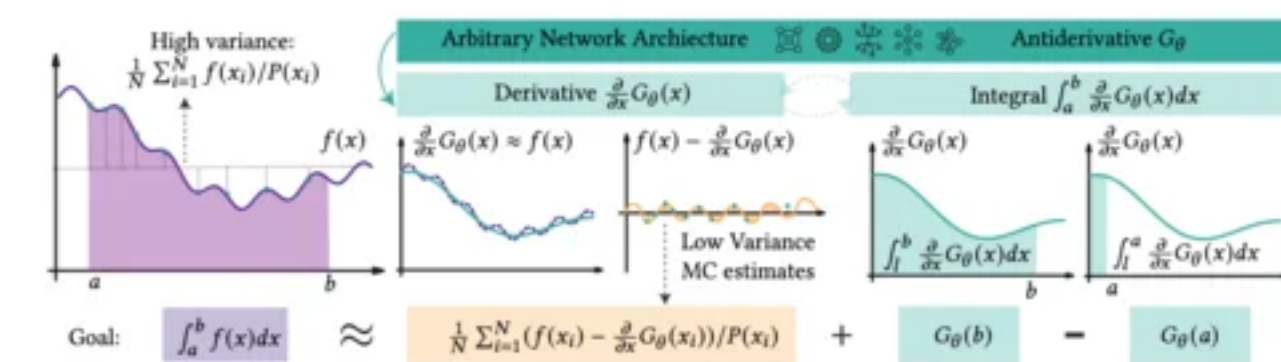
Analysis



Neural cache (SIG Asia 2023)



Symmetry (SIG Asia 2024)



NCV (SIGGRAPH 2024)

2019

2020

2021

2023

2024

Problem Set-up: Shape Generation

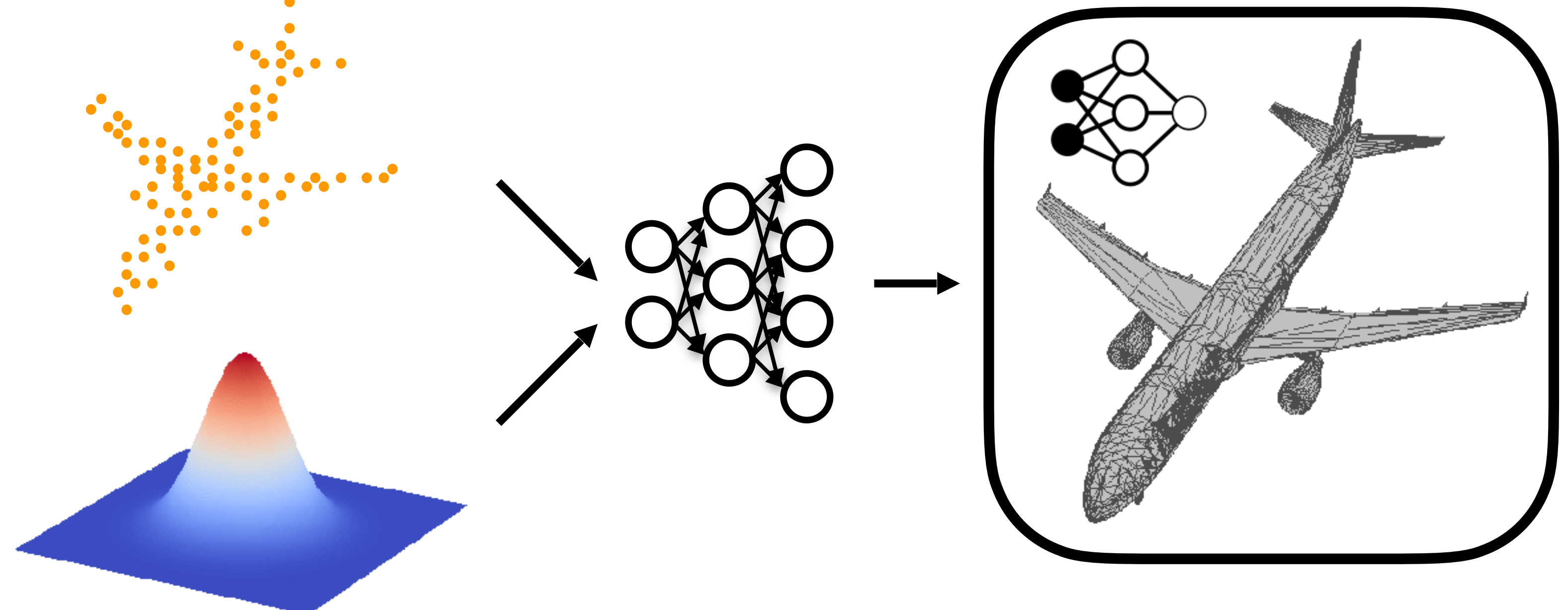
S H A P E N E T

Training

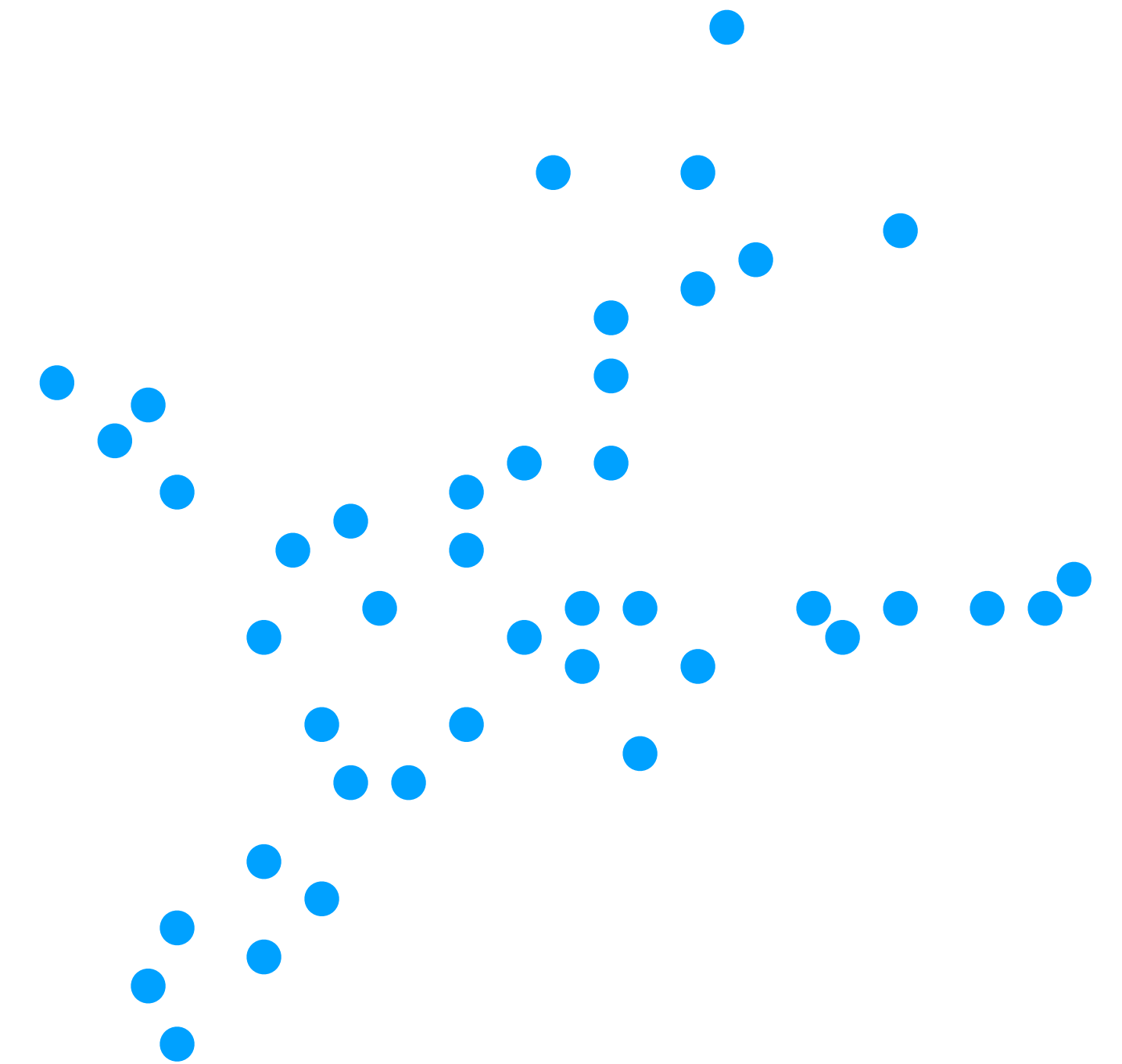
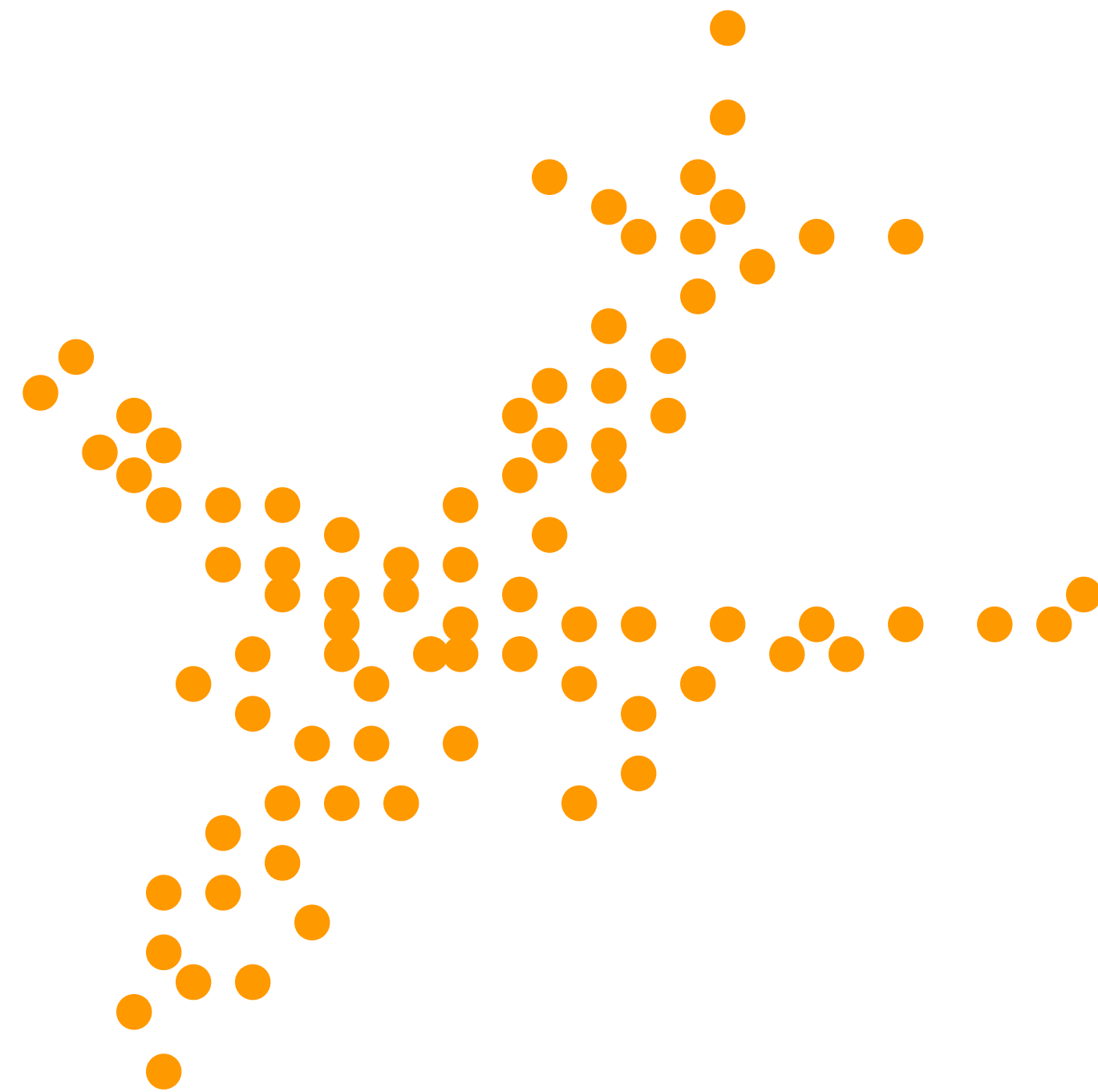
(A collection of 3D point clouds)



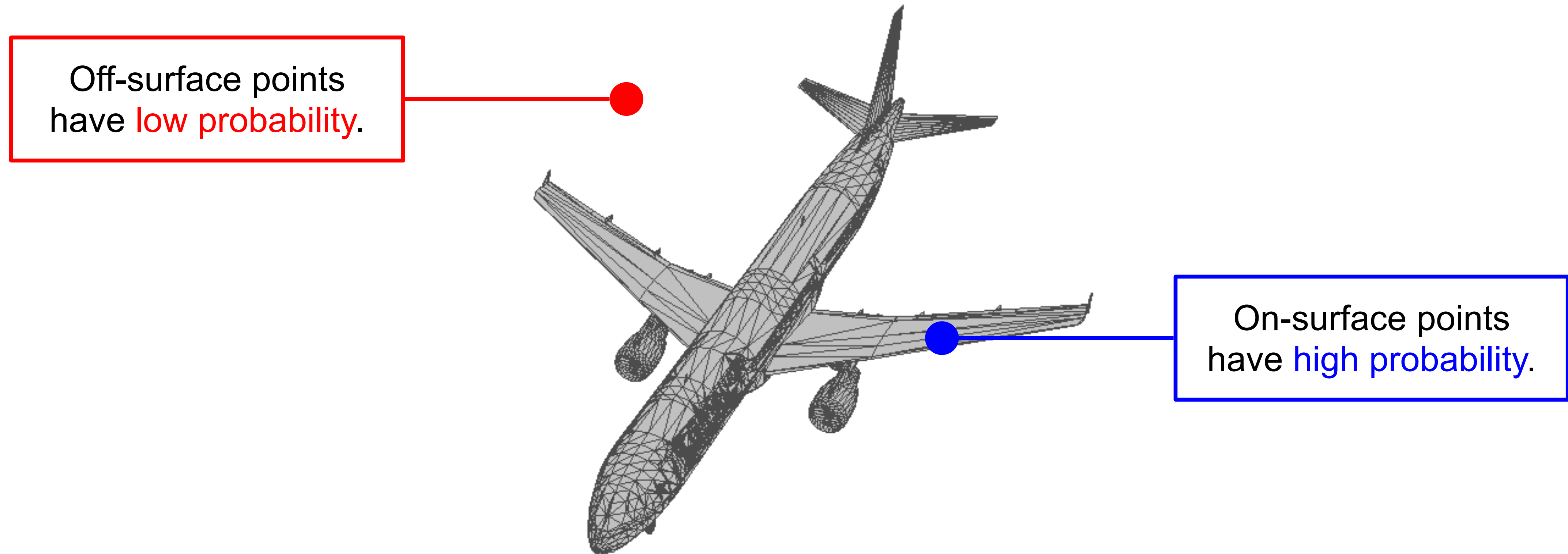
Testing



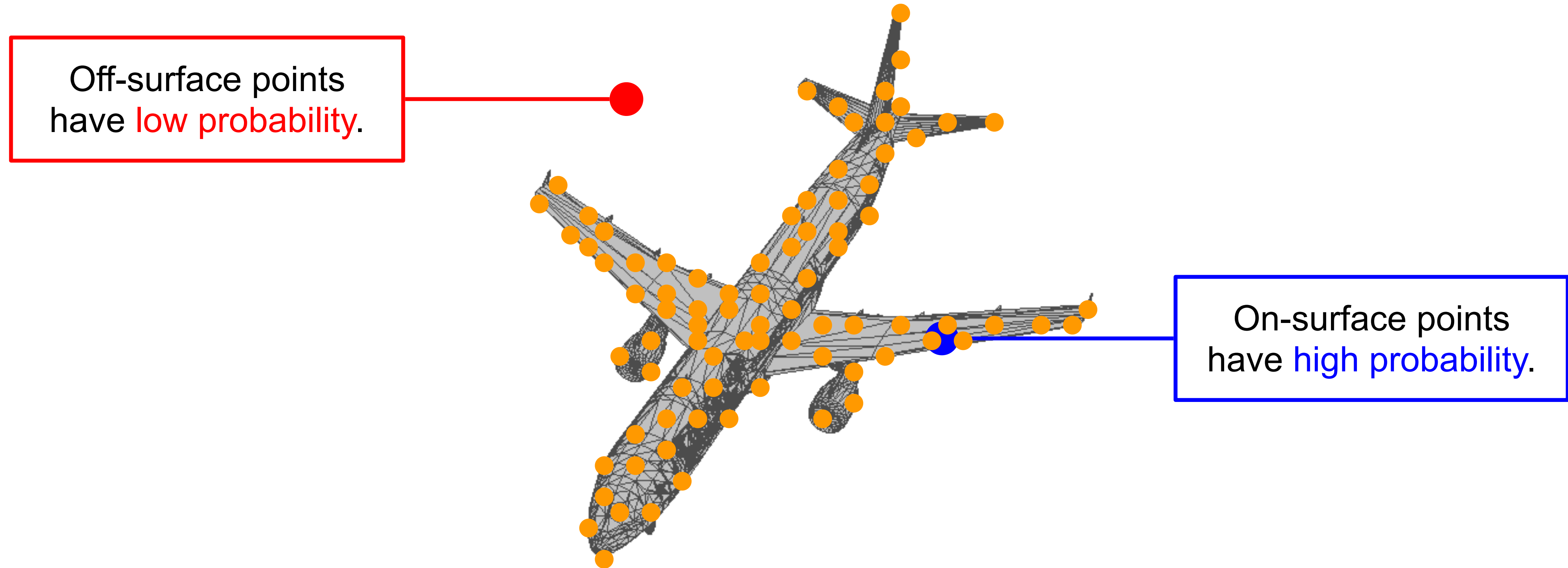
Representation for Arbitrary Size Point Clouds



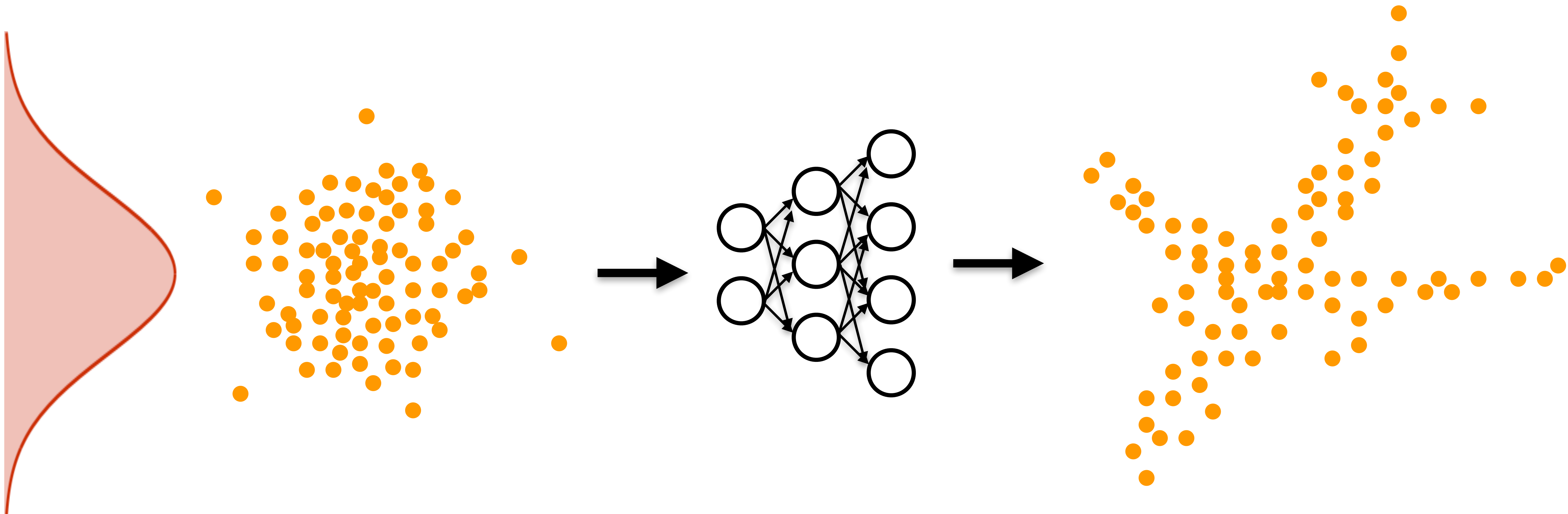
Each shape is a distribution of 3D points.
(i.e. shape as a 3D density field)



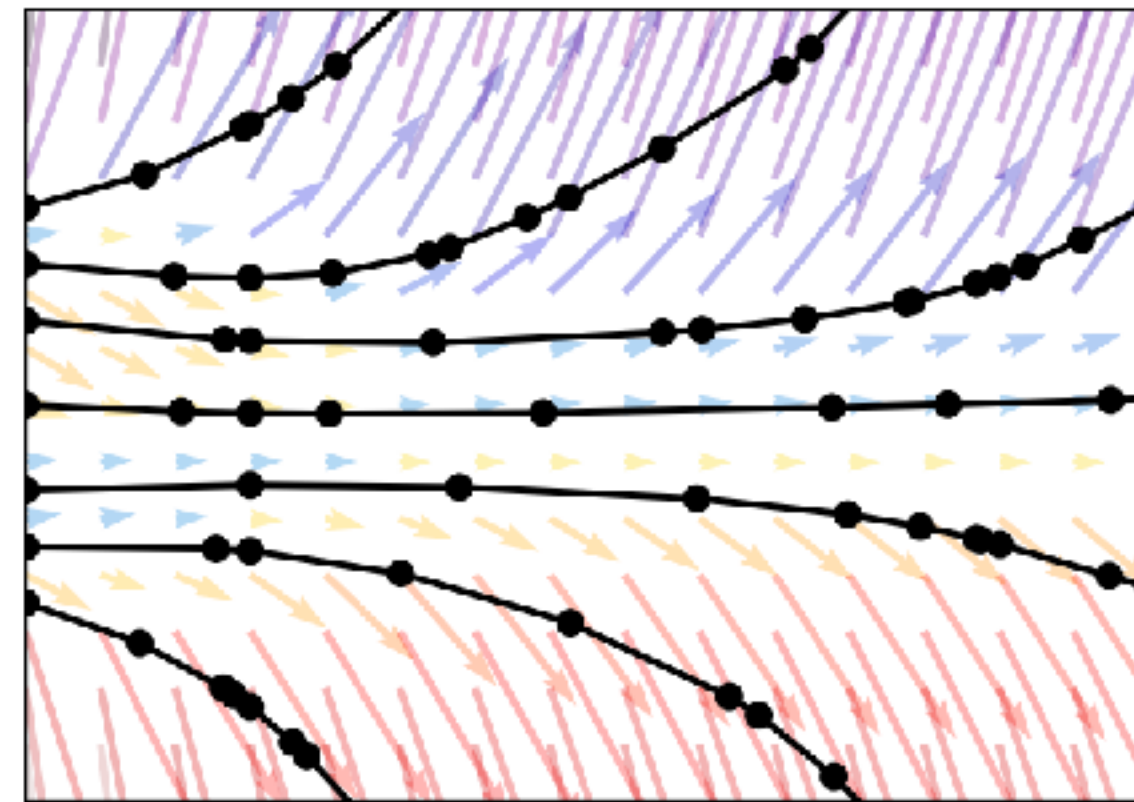
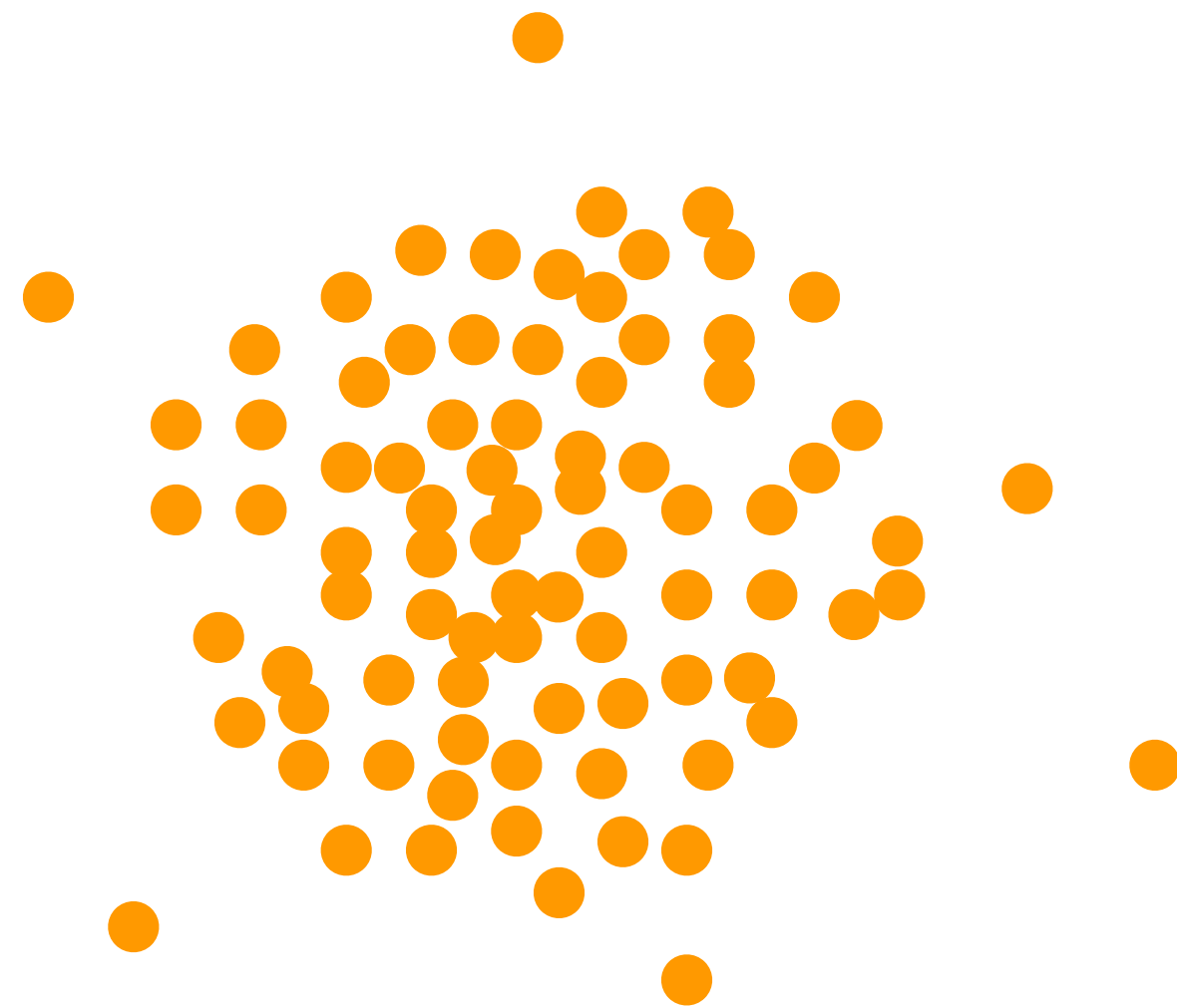
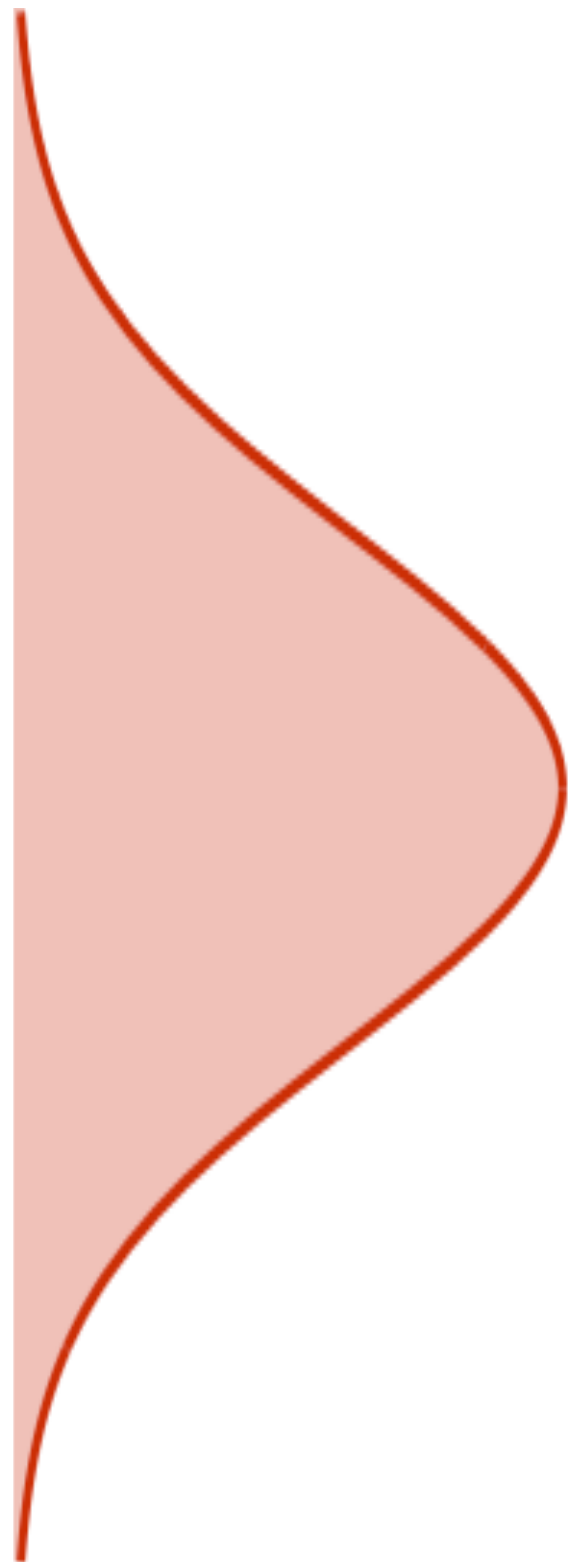
Point cloud is a sampled from such distribution



Transforming a Gaussian to a Shape

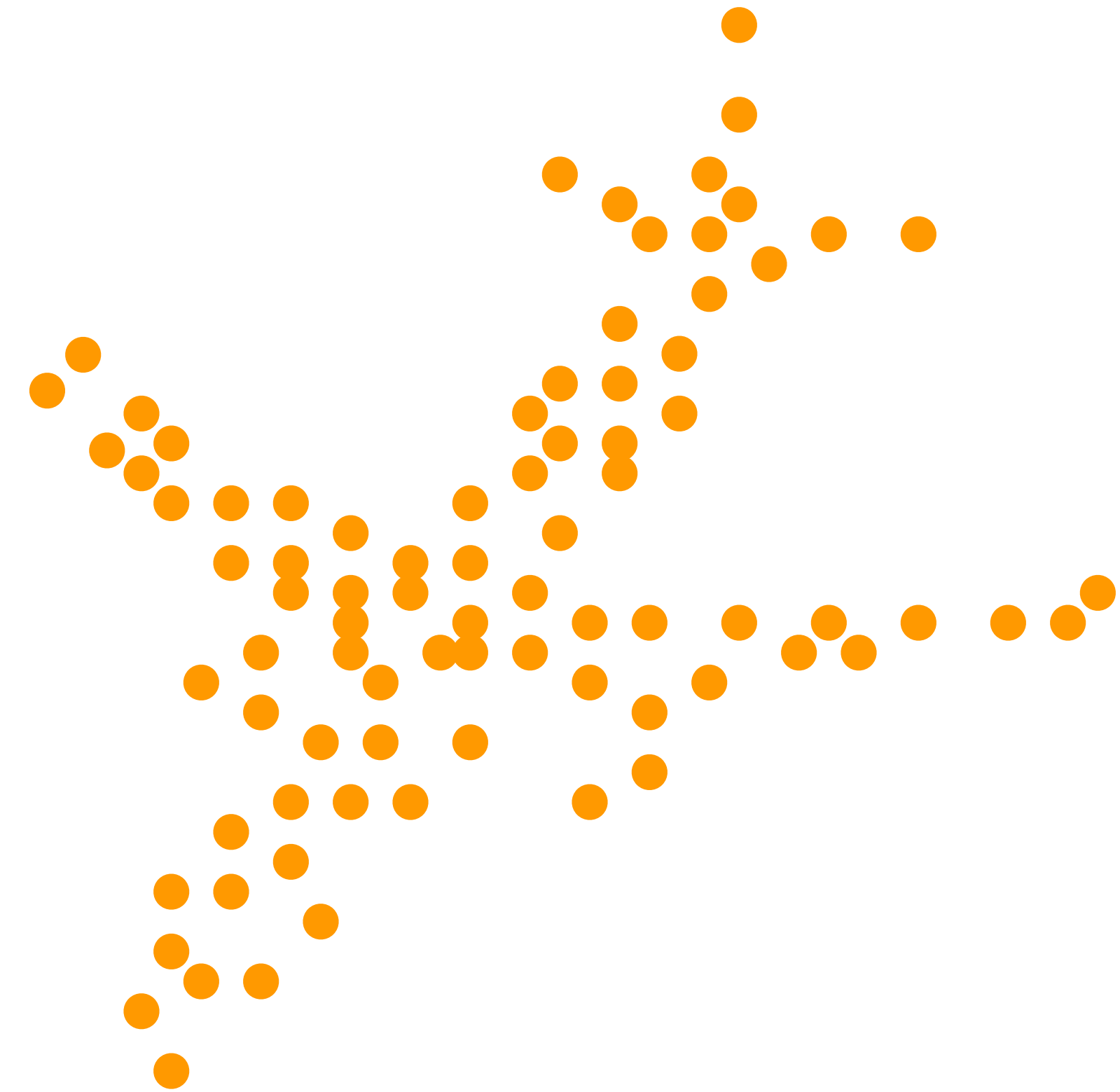


Transforming a Gaussian to a Shape

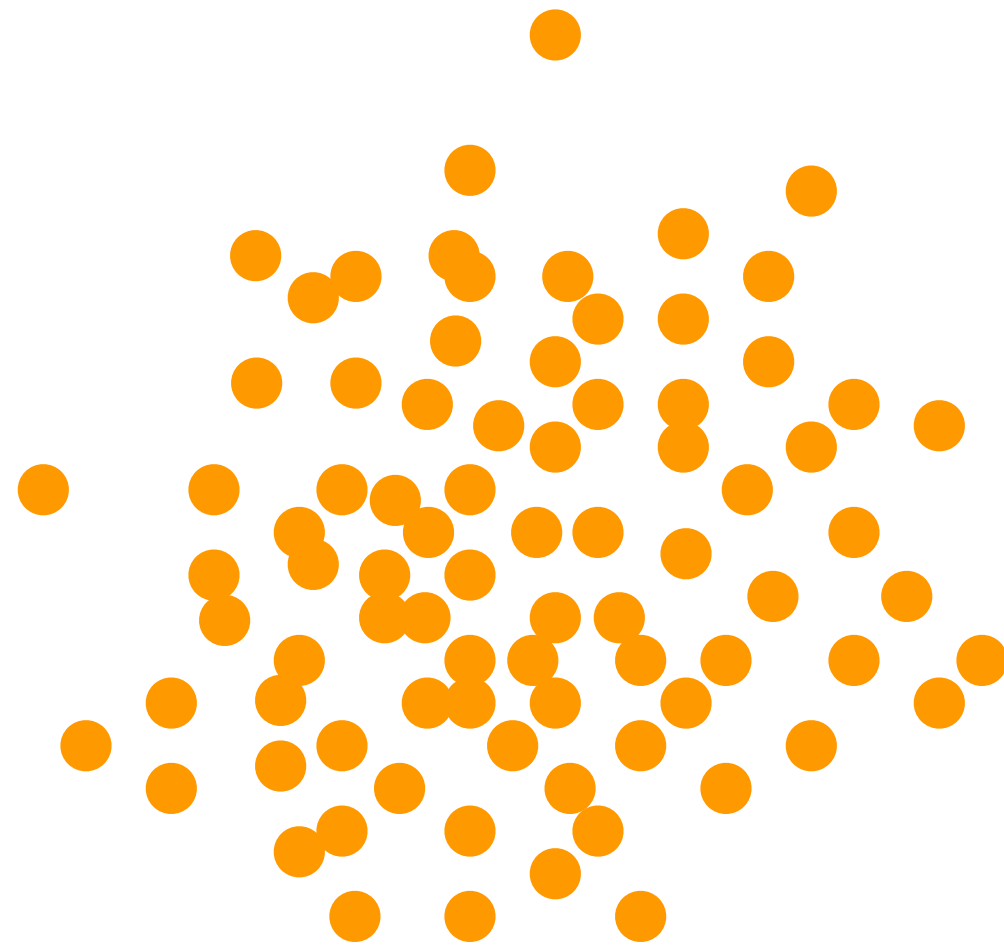
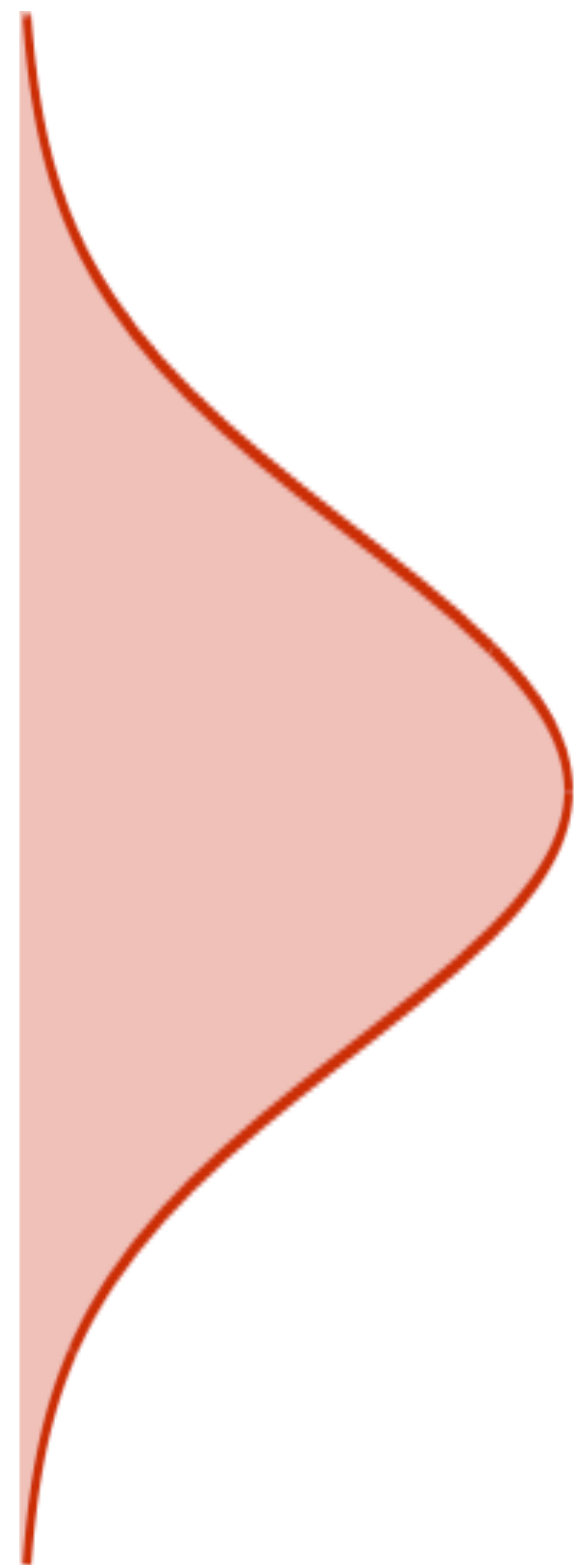


CNF

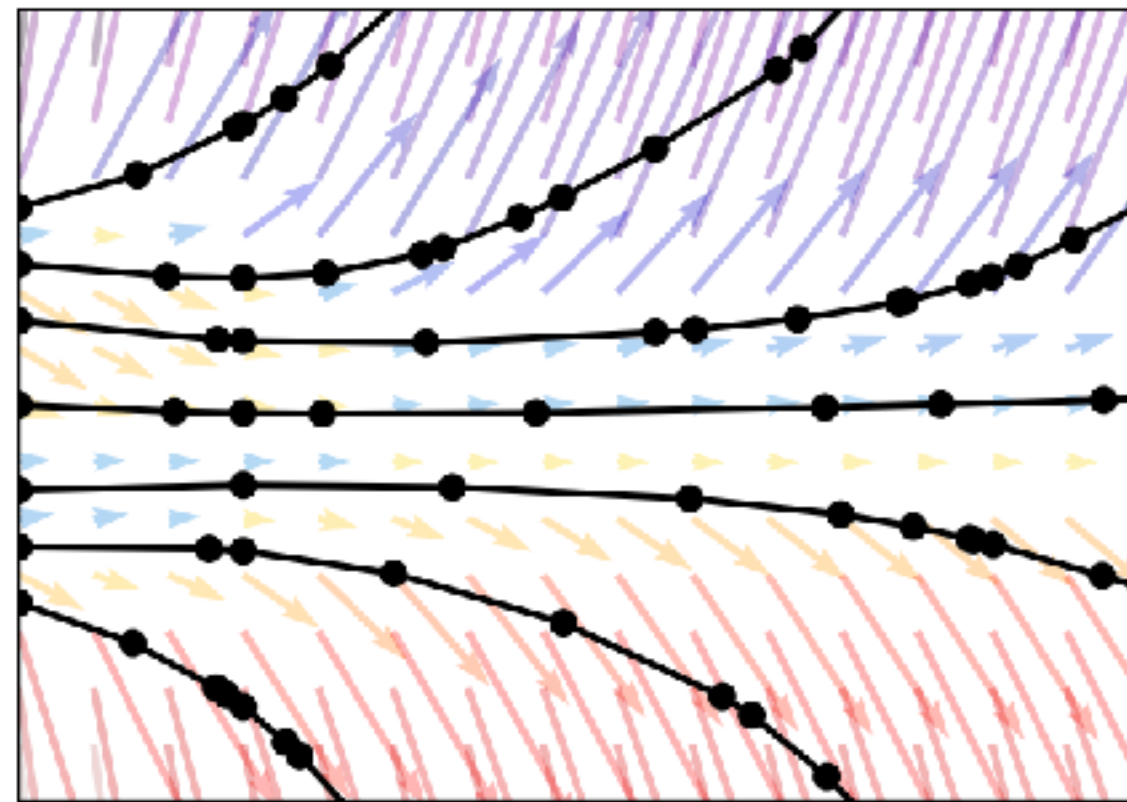
(Chen et al., 2018)



Continuous Normalizing Flow



$$y = y(t_0)$$

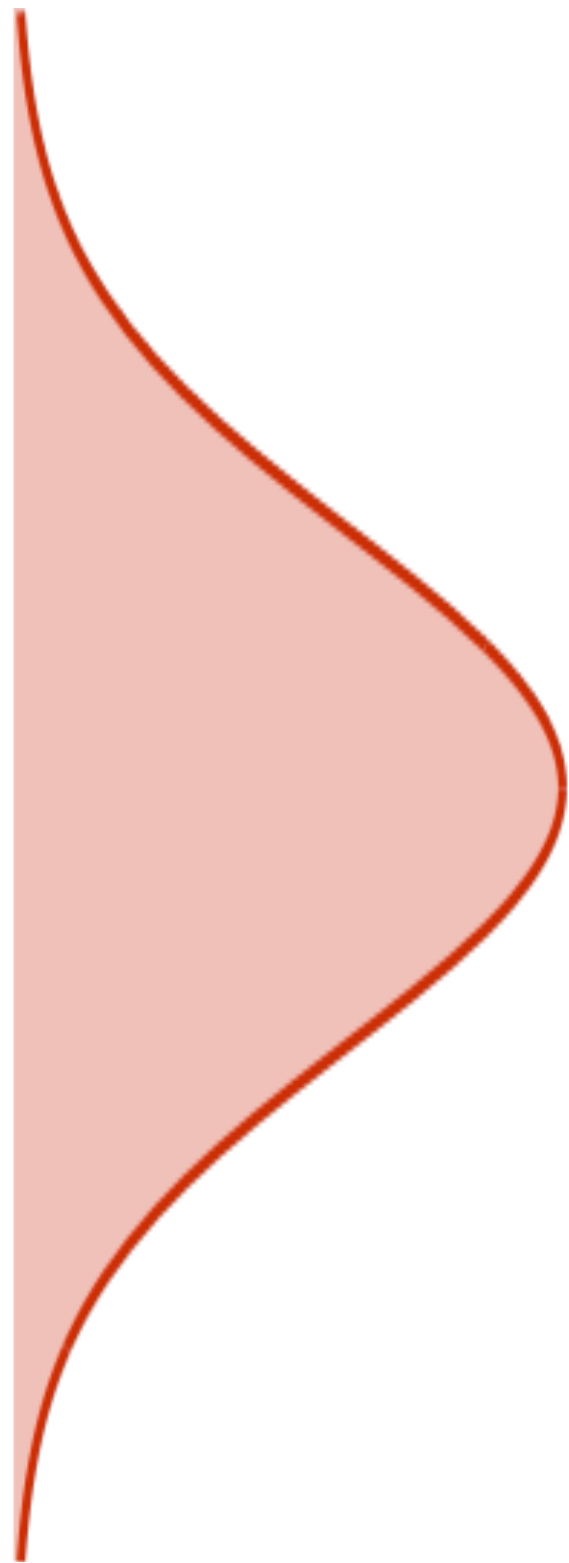


CNF

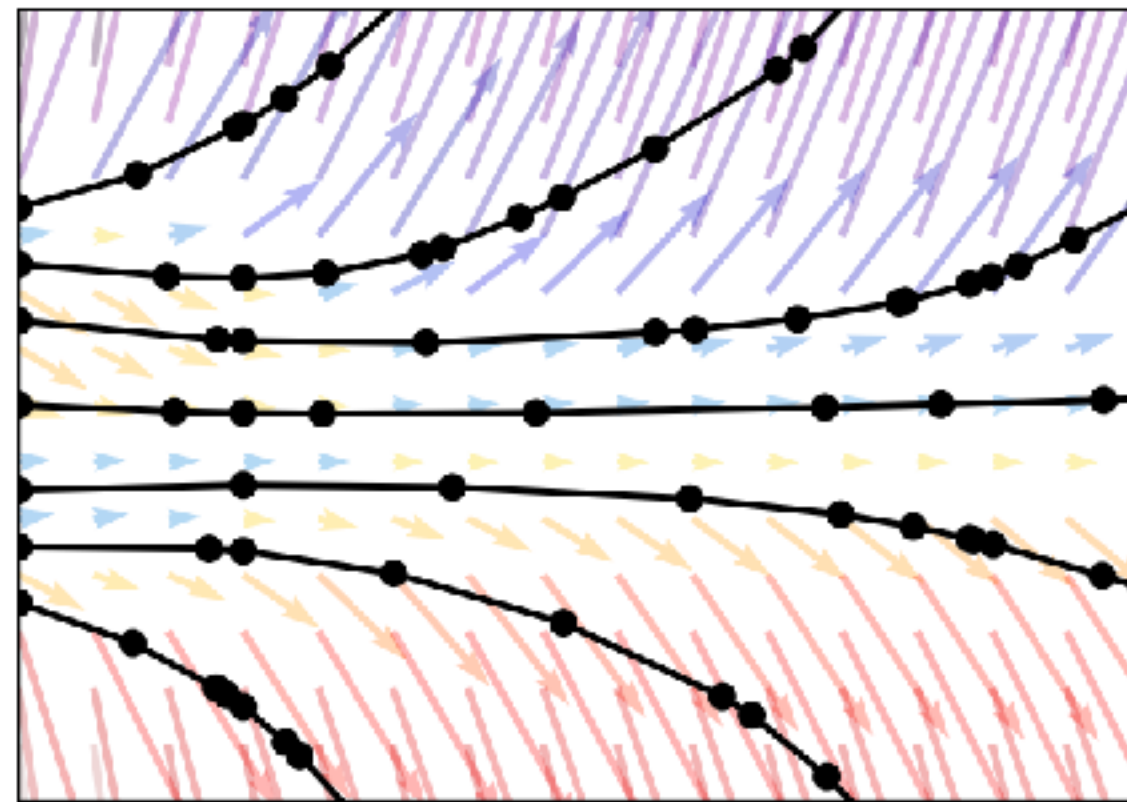
$$x = y(t_1)$$

$$x = y(t_1) = y + \int_{t_0}^{t_1} g_{\theta}(y(t), t) dt$$

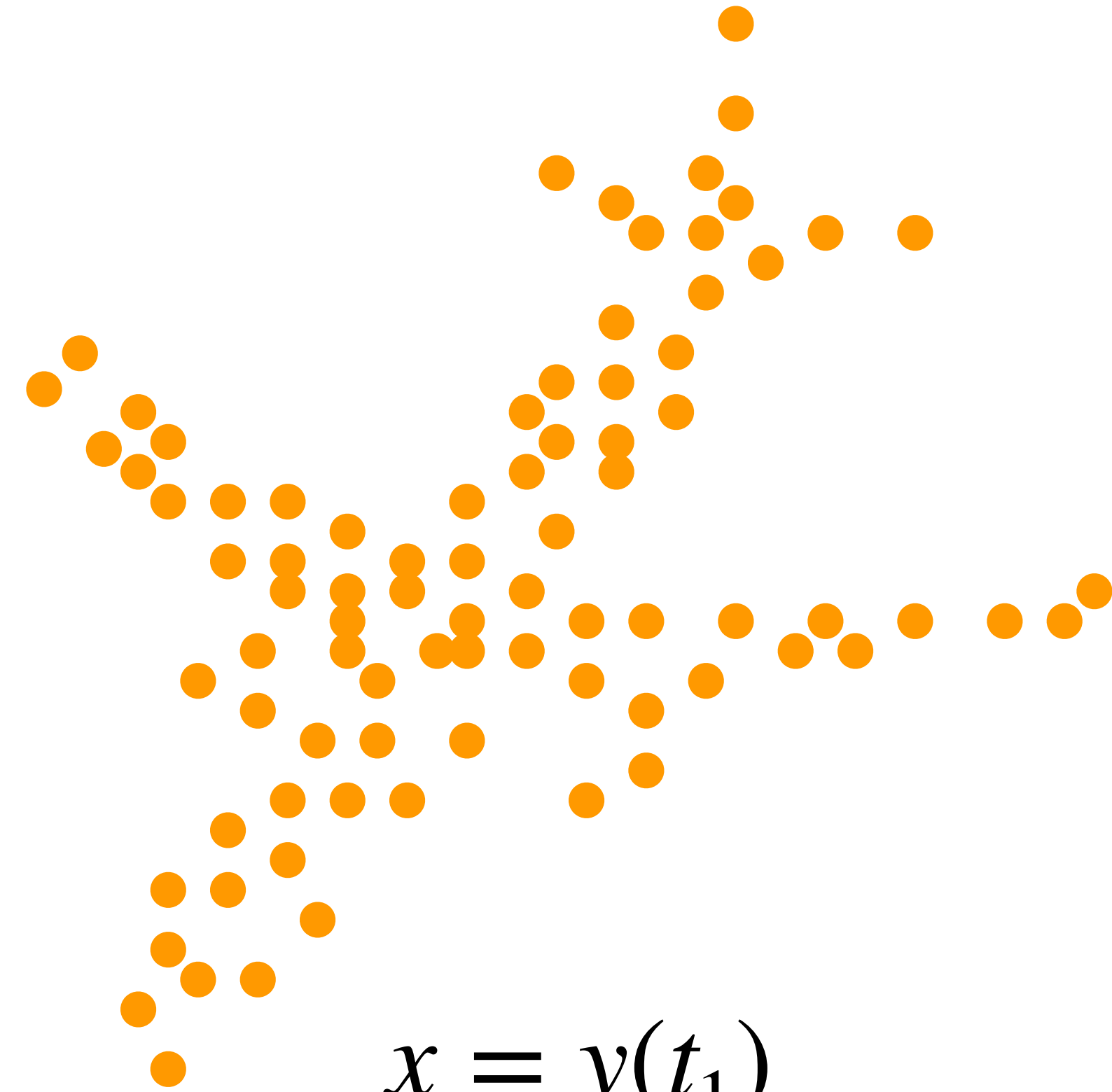
Continuous Normalizing Flow



$$y = y(t_0)$$



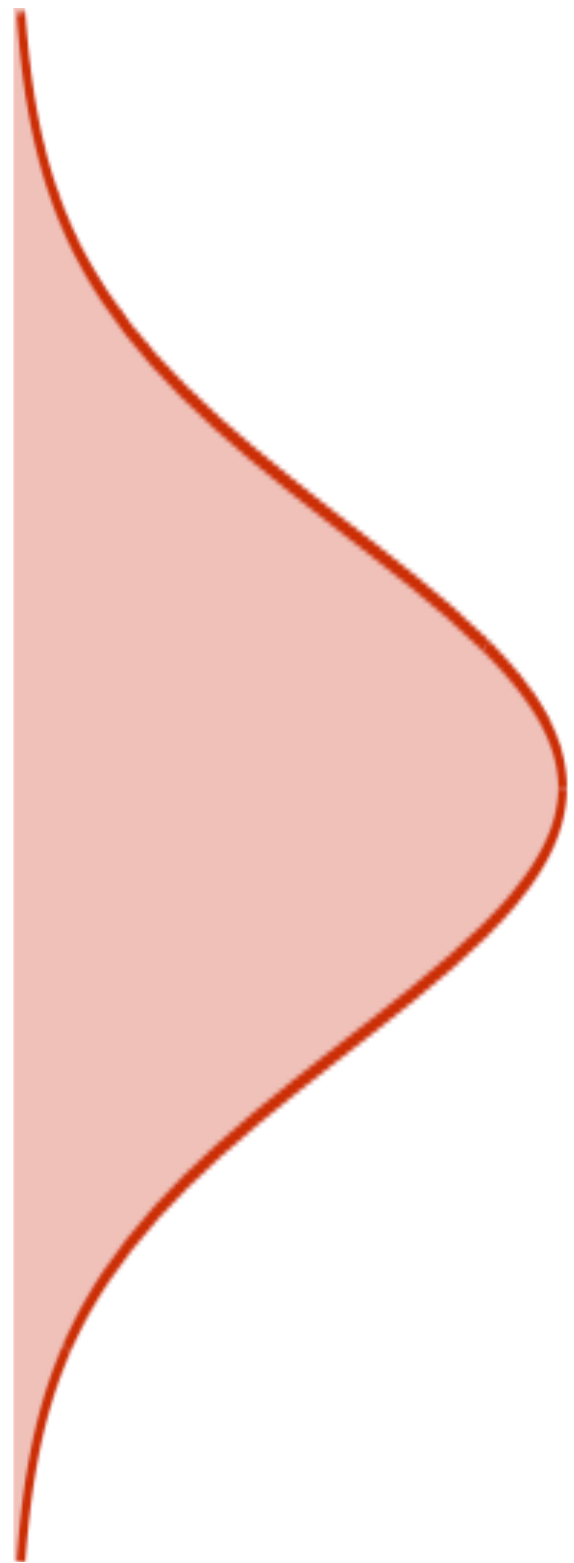
CNF



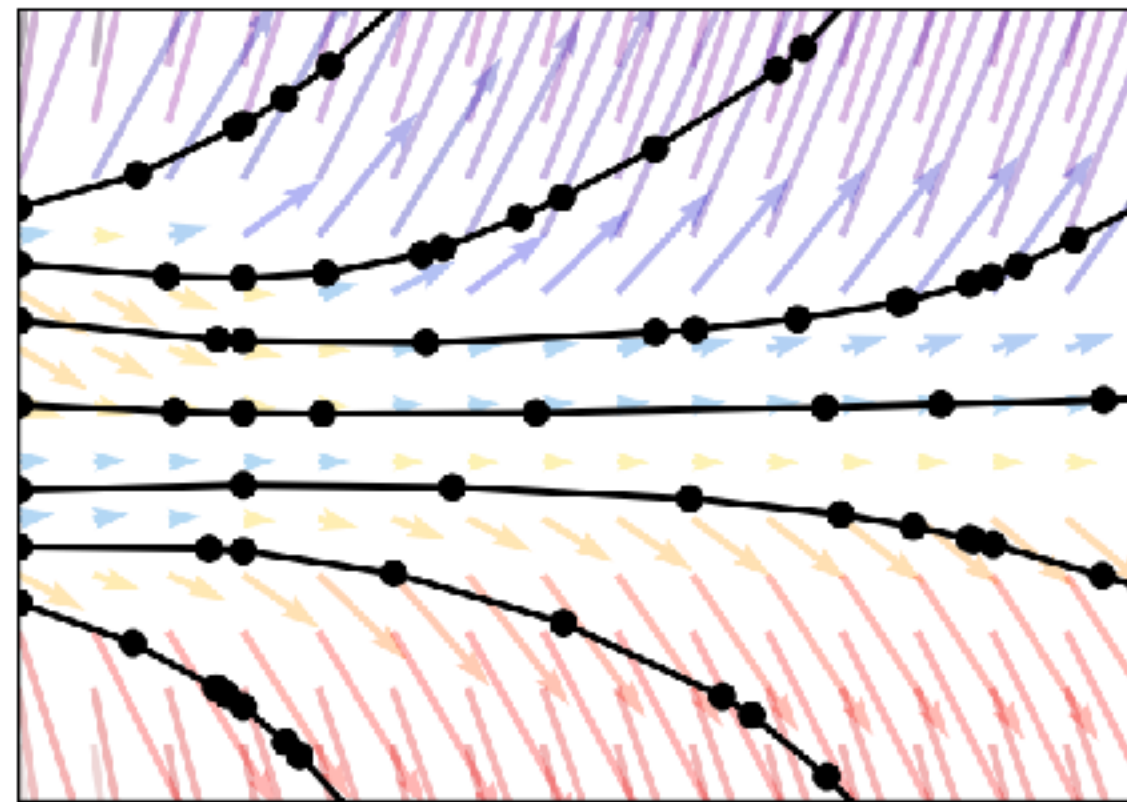
$$x = y(t_1)$$

$$x = y(t_1) = y + \int_{t_0}^{t_1} g_{\theta}(y(t), t) dt$$

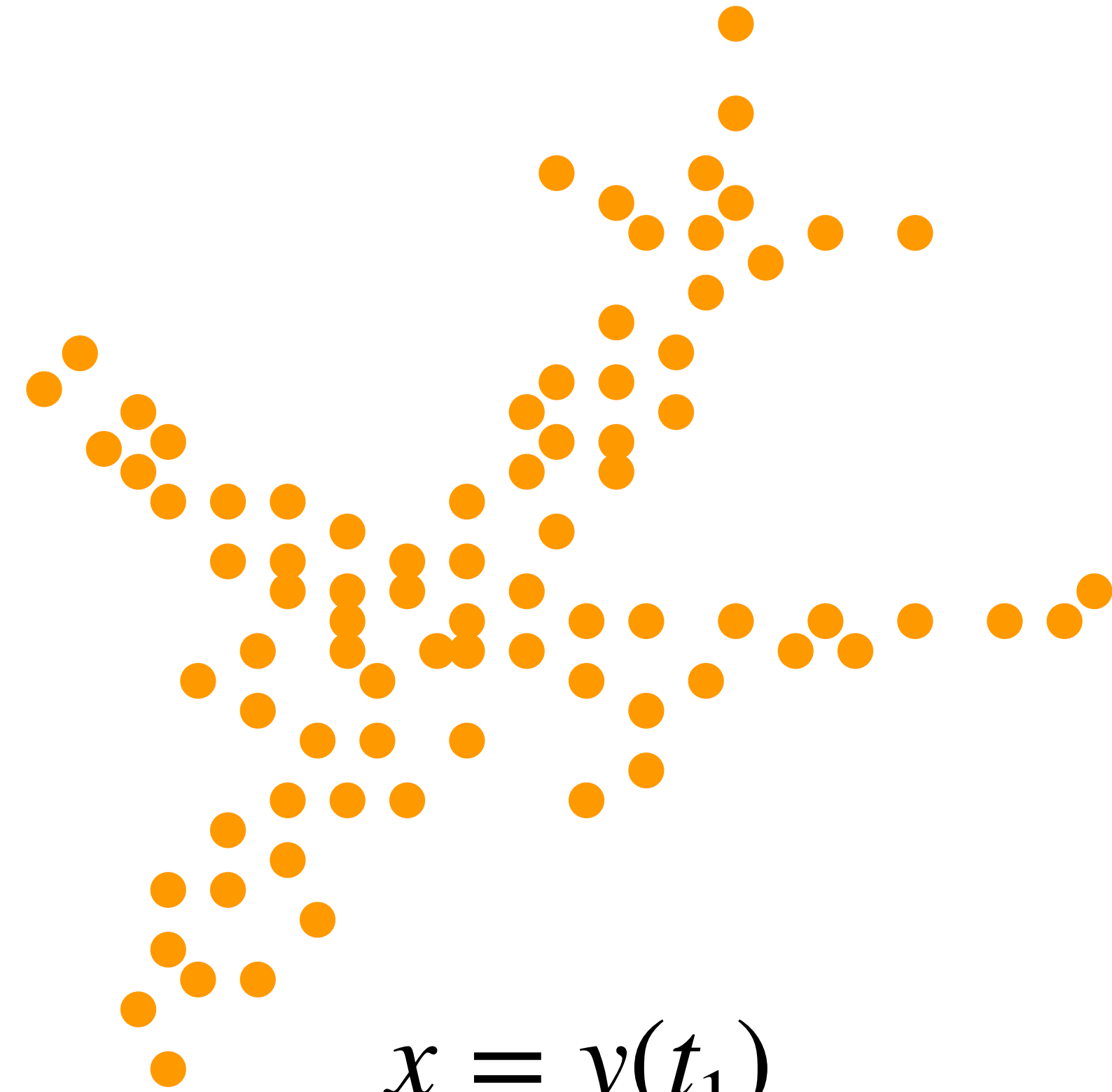
CNF is invertible



$$y = y(t_0)$$



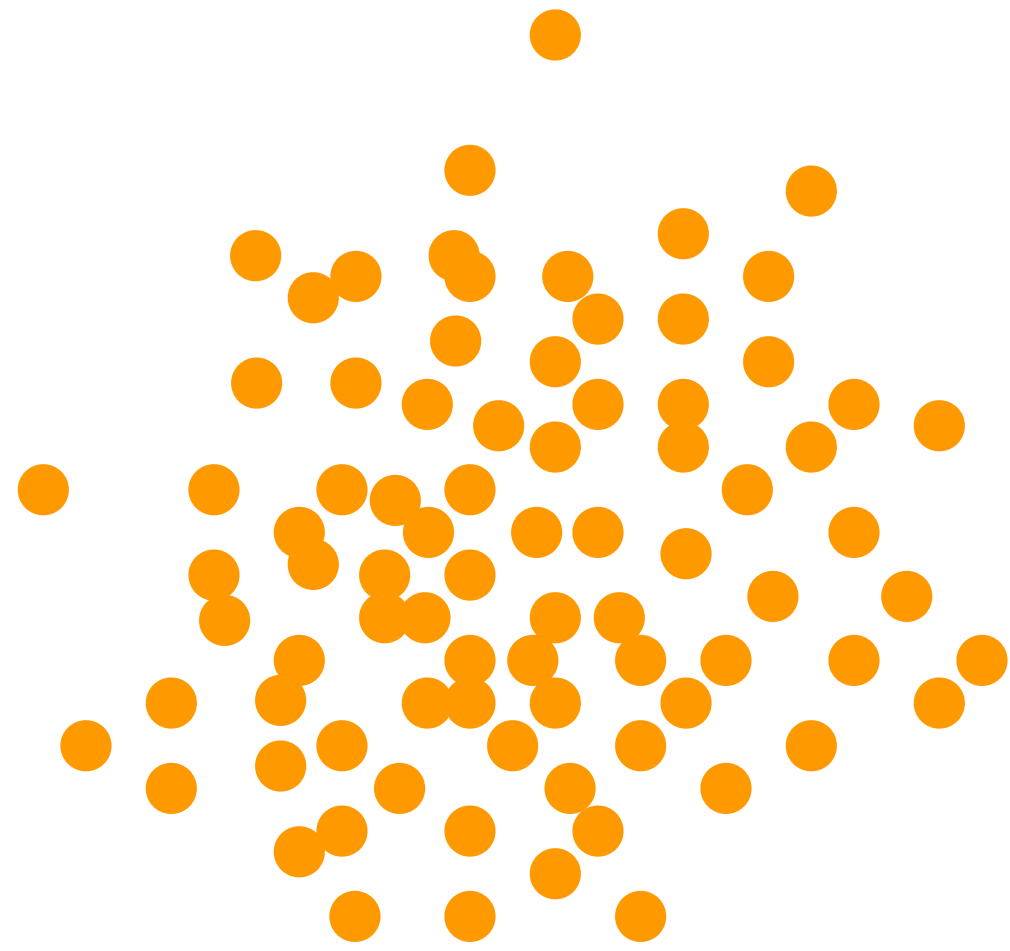
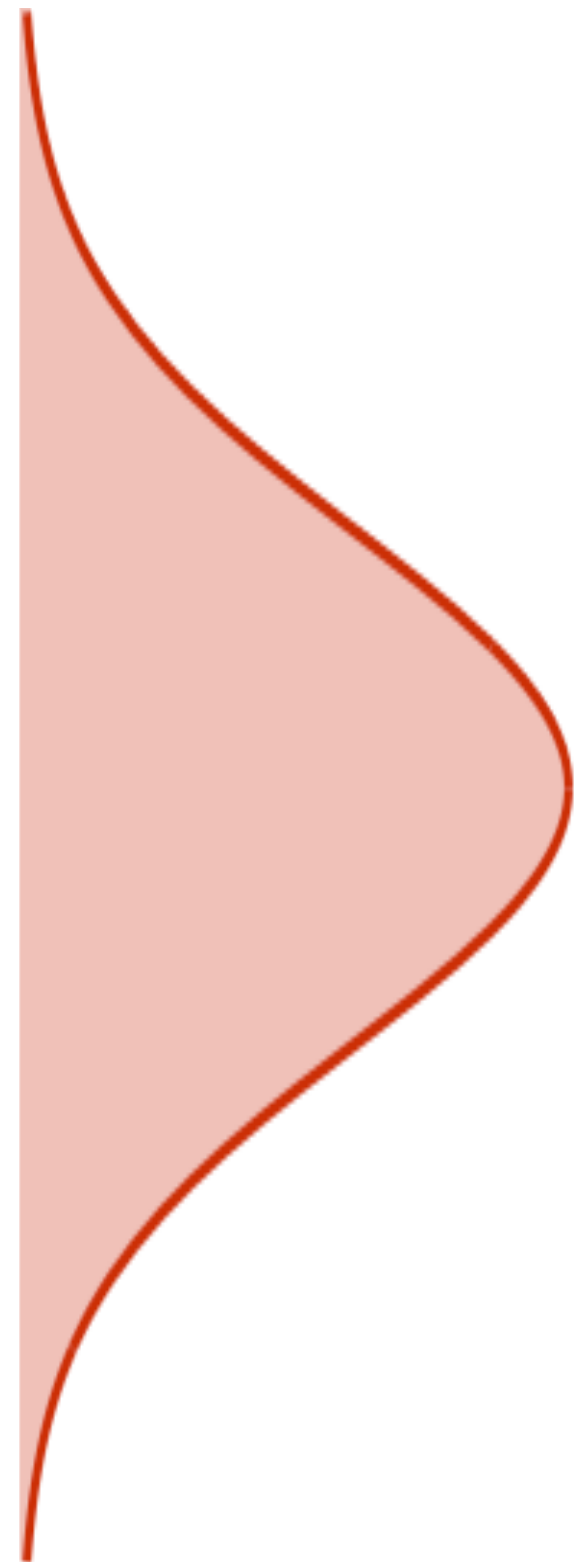
CNF



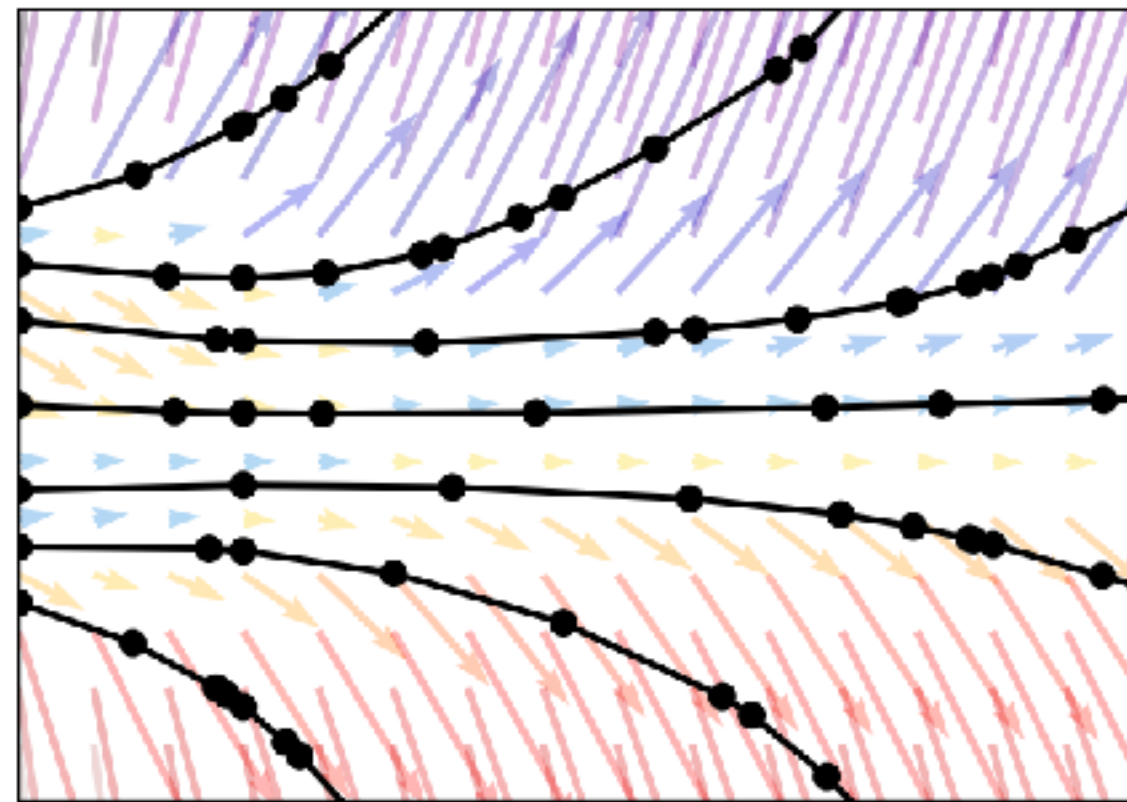
$$x = y(t_1)$$

$$y = y(t_0) = x + \int_{t_1}^{t_0} g_{\theta}(y(t), t) dt$$

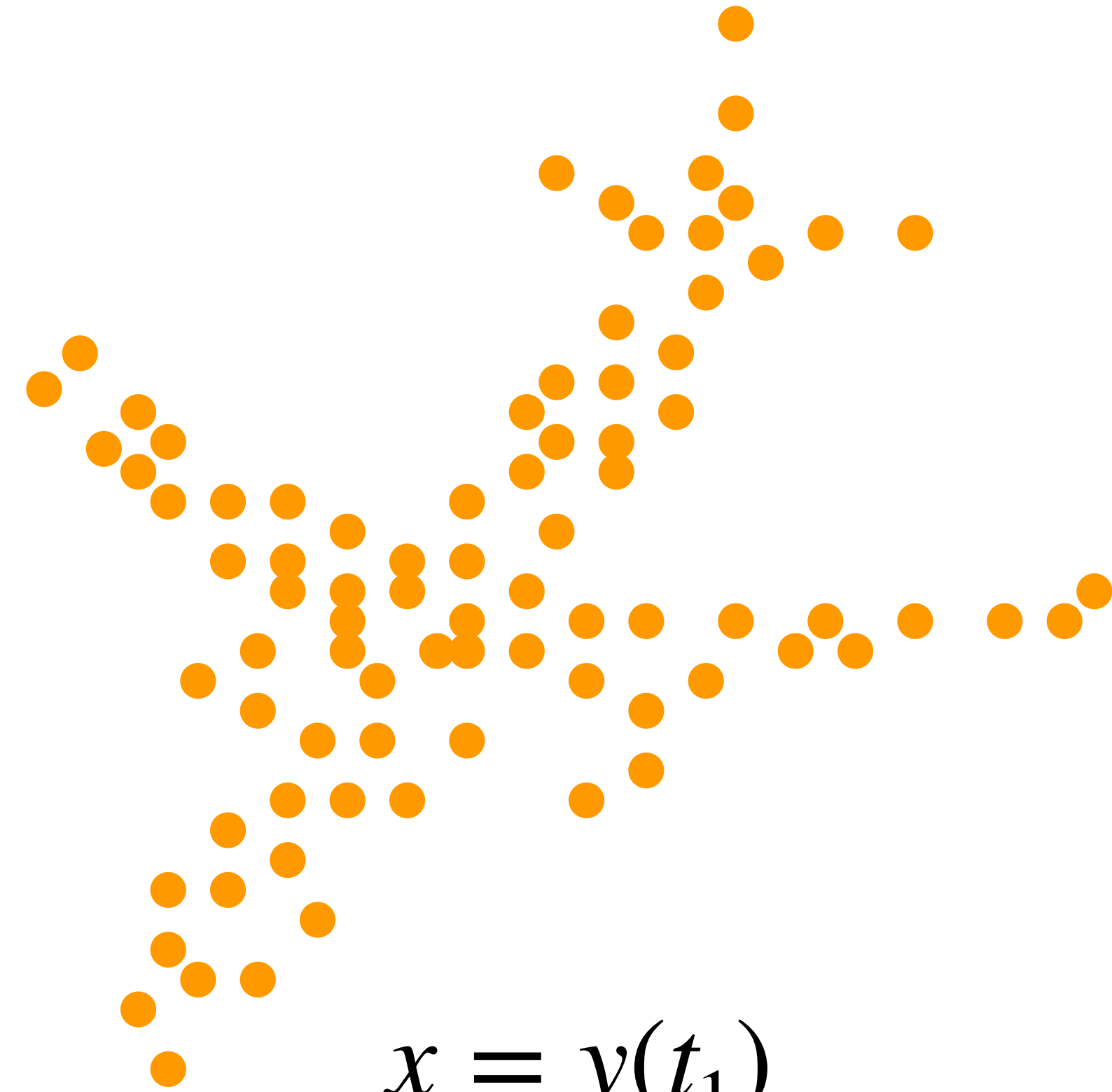
CNF is invertible



$$y = y(t_0)$$



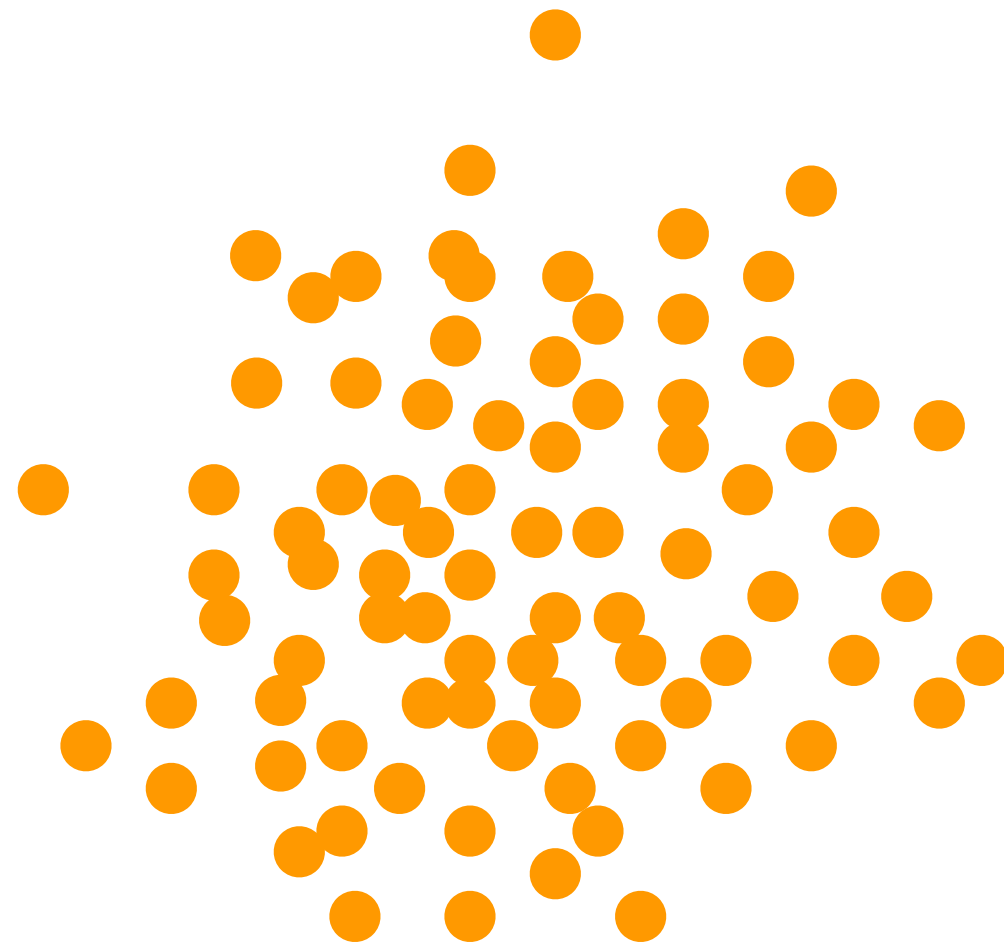
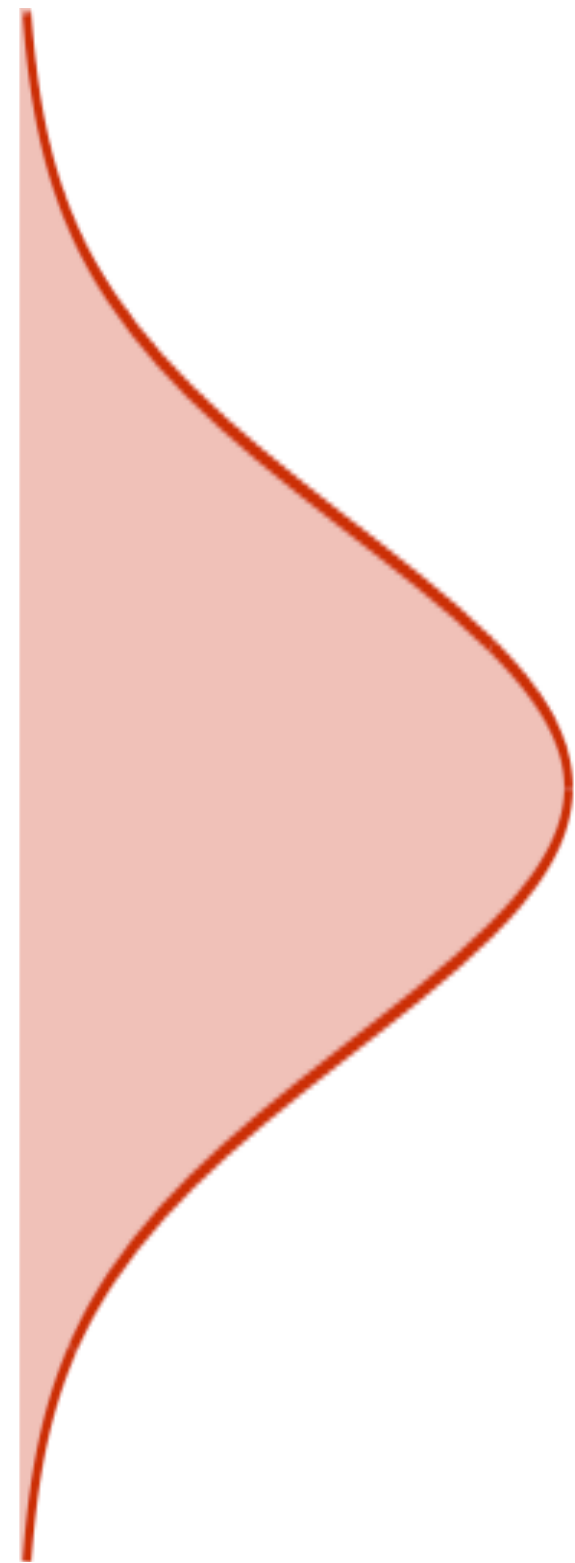
CNF



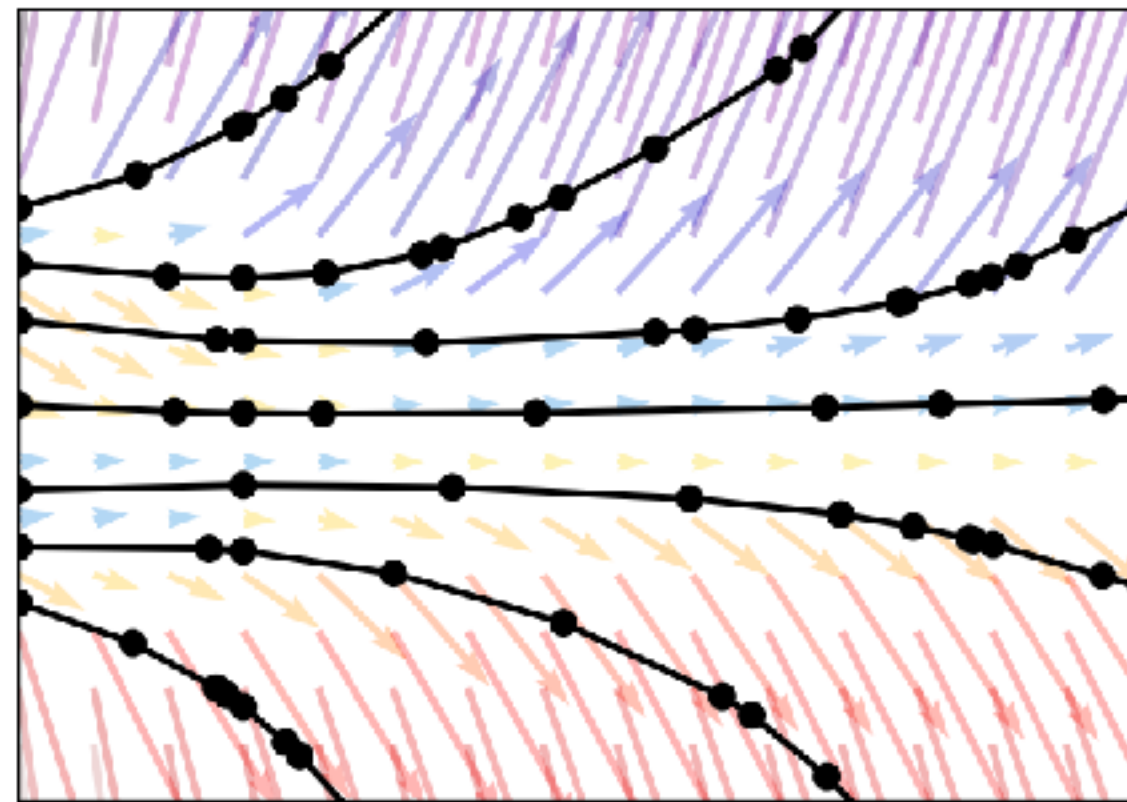
$$x = y(t_1)$$

$$y = y(t_0) = x + \int_{t_1}^{t_0} g_{\theta}(y(t), t) dt$$

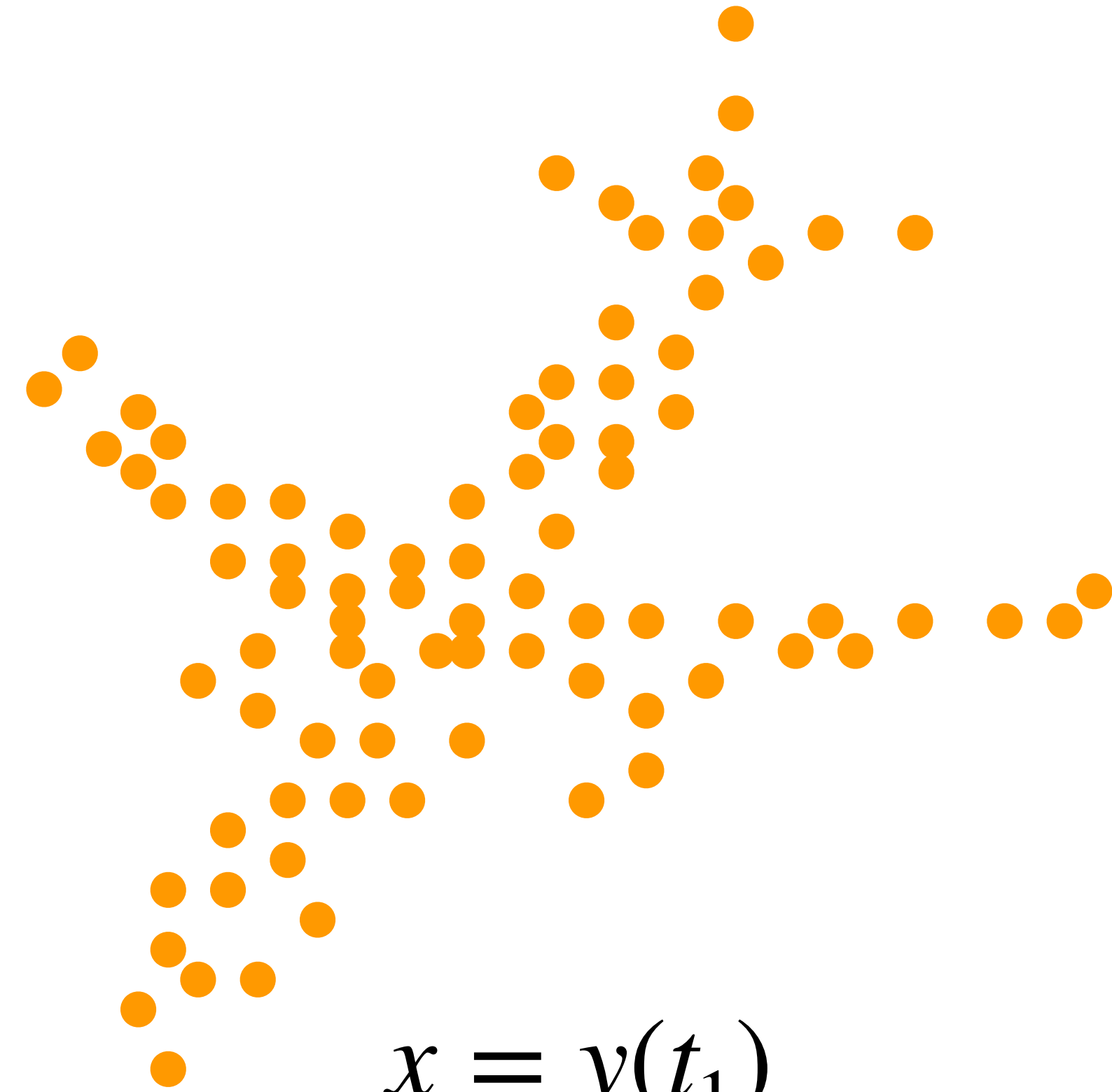
Change of Variable Formula



$$y = y(t_0)$$



CNF



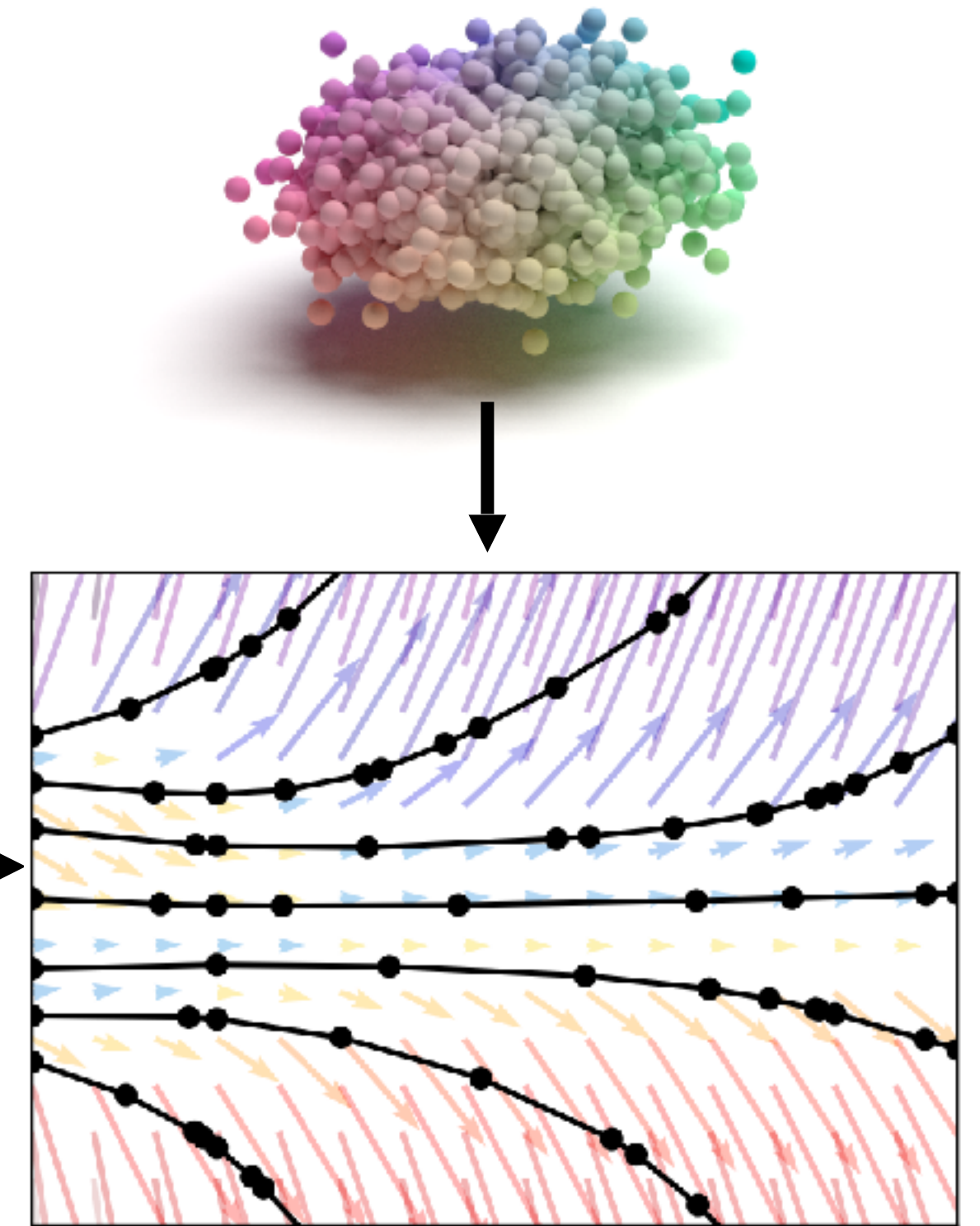
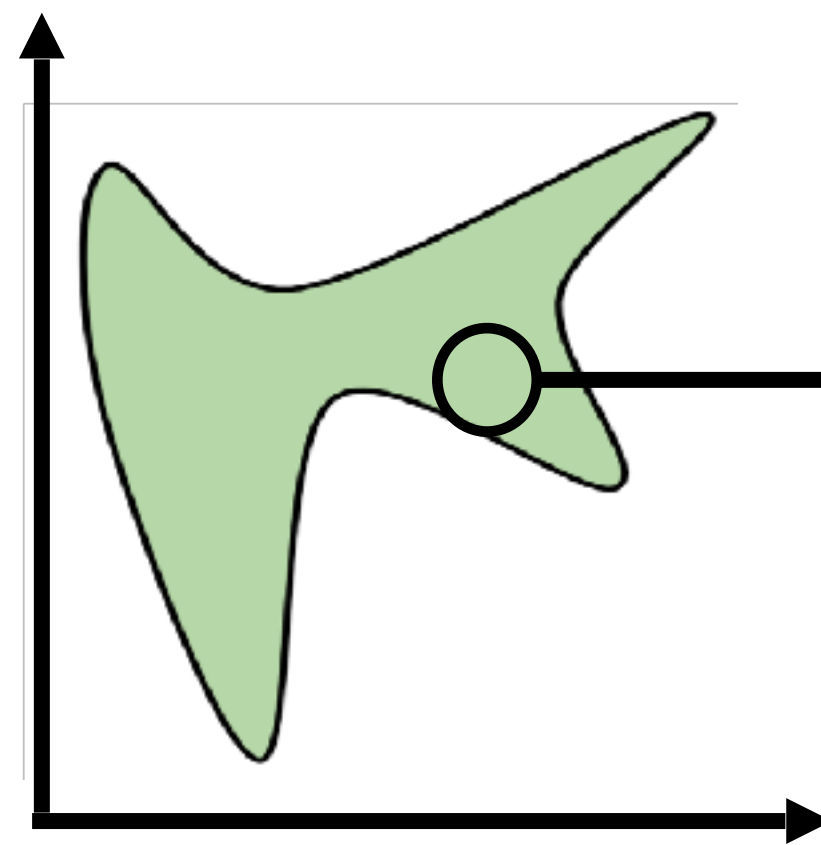
$$x = y(t_1)$$

$$\log P(x) = \log P \left(x + \int_{t_1}^{t_0} g_\theta(y(t), t) dt \right) - \int_{t_0}^{t_1} \text{Tr} \left(\frac{\partial g_\theta(x(t), t)}{\partial x(t)} \right) dt$$

Encoding multiple shapes

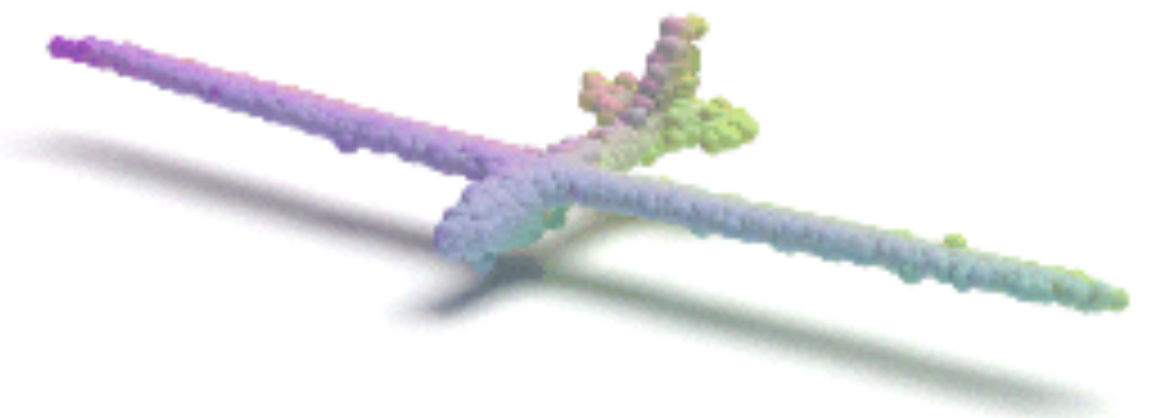
$$g_\theta : \mathbb{R}^3 \times \mathbb{R} \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^3$$

$$g_\theta : \mathbb{R}^3 \times \mathbb{R} \times \mathbb{R}^{128} \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^3$$

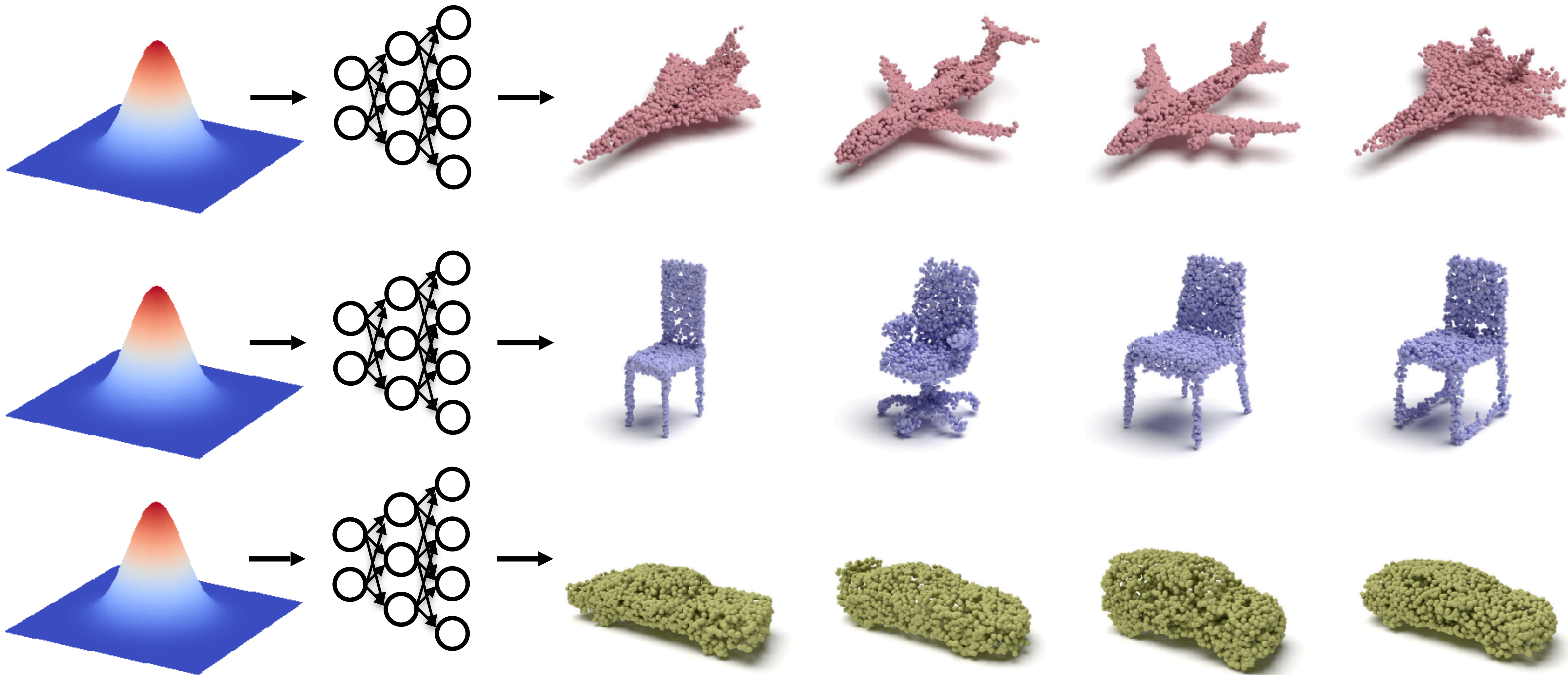


Point CNF

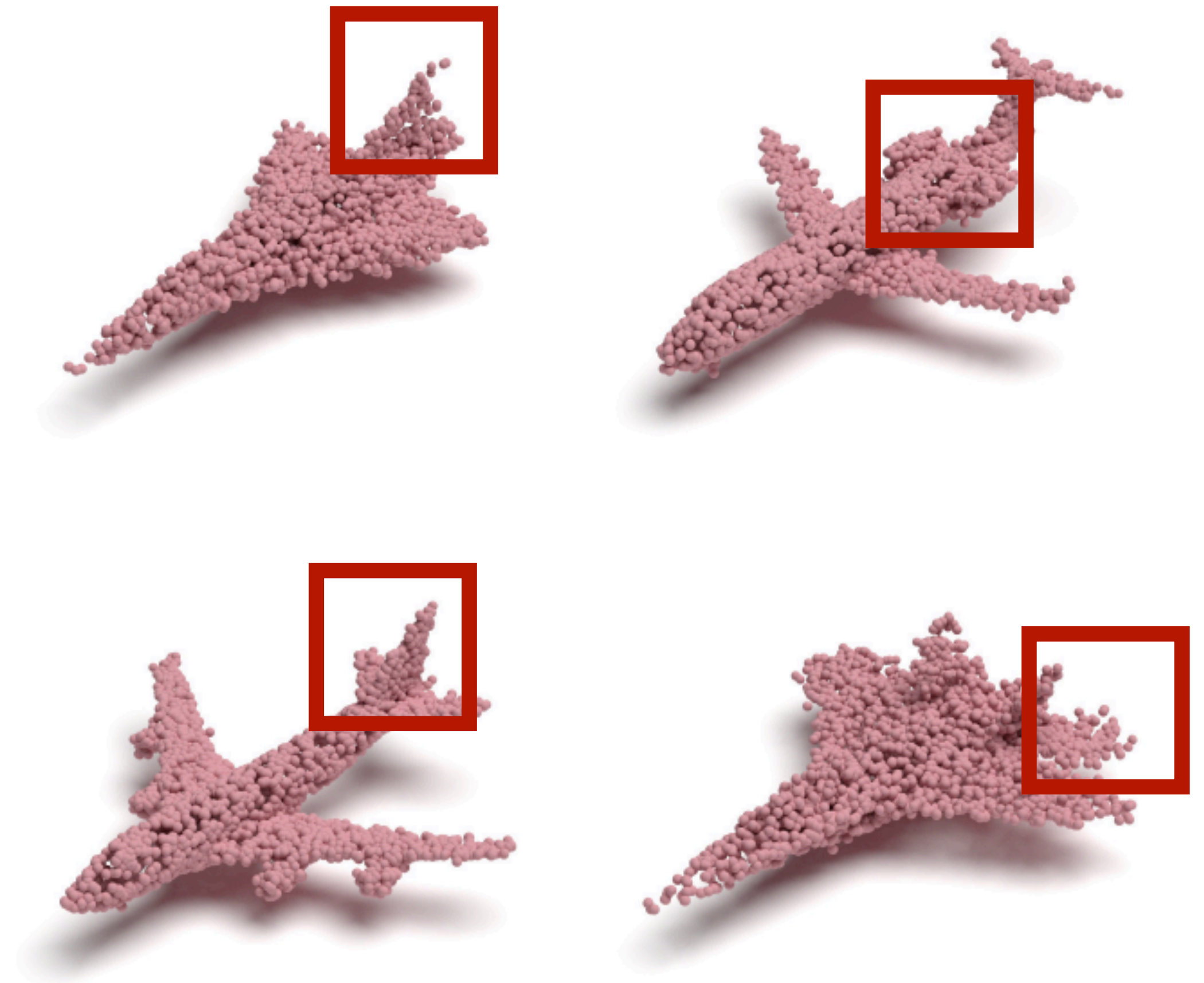
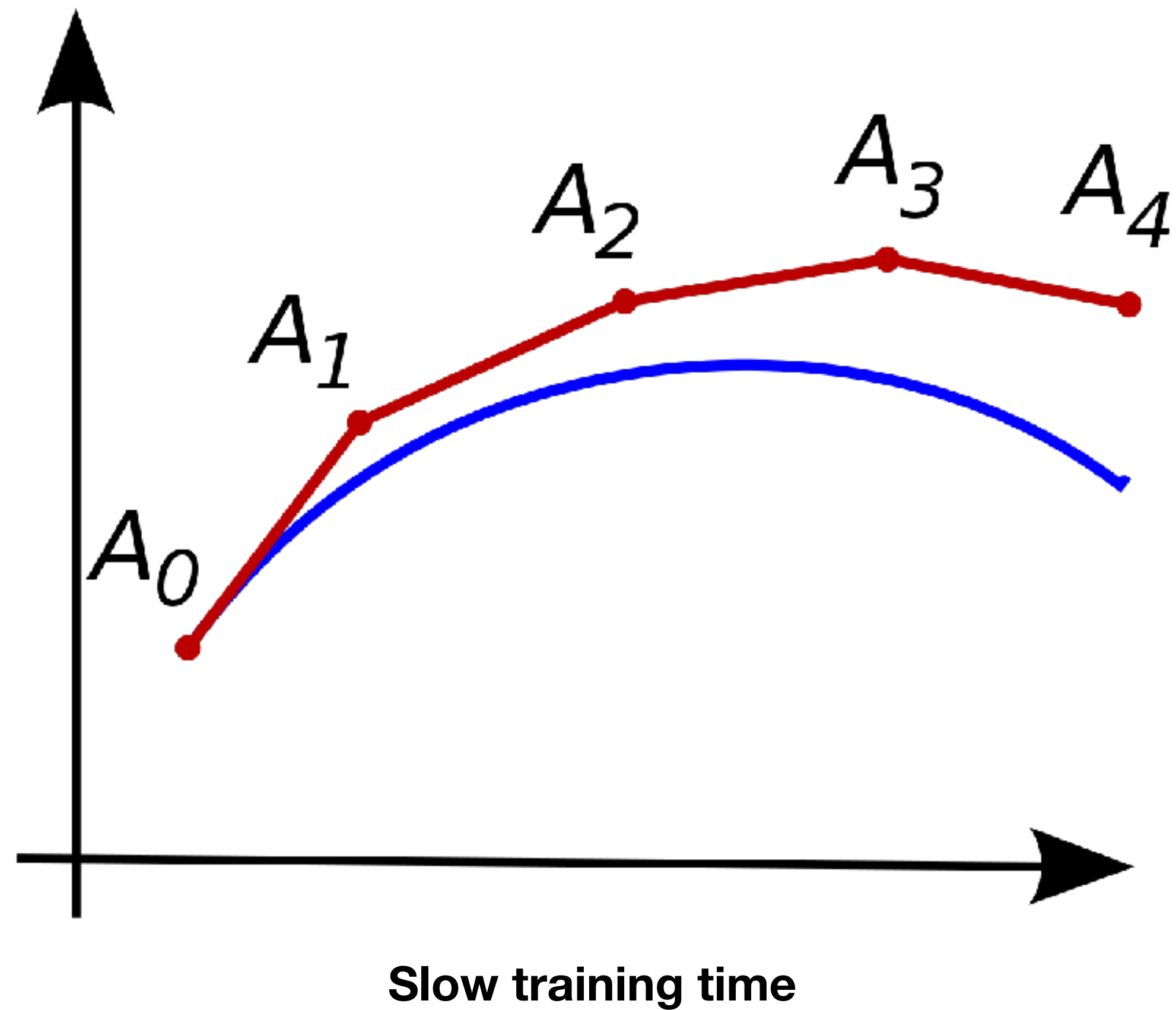
$$\log P(x|z) = \log P \left(x + \int_{t_1}^{t_0} g_\theta(y(t), t, z) dt \right) - \int_{t_0}^{t_1} \text{Tr} \left(\frac{\partial g_\theta(x(t), t, z)}{\partial x(t)} \right) dt$$



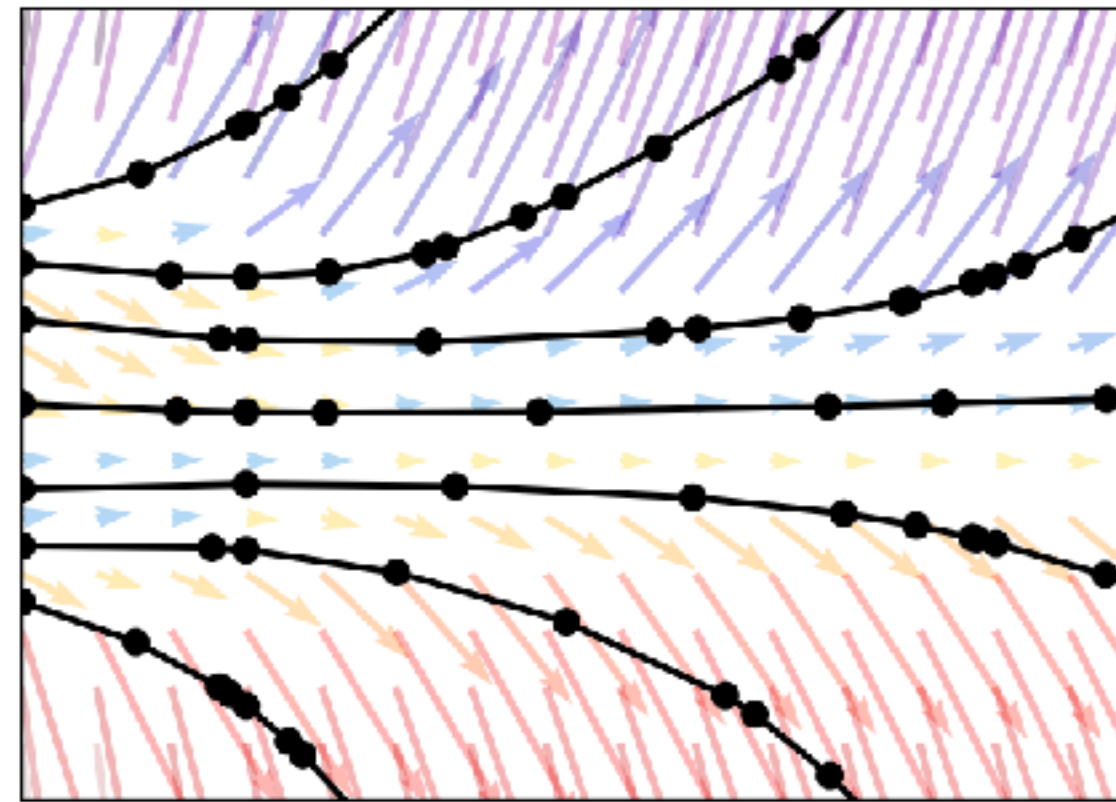
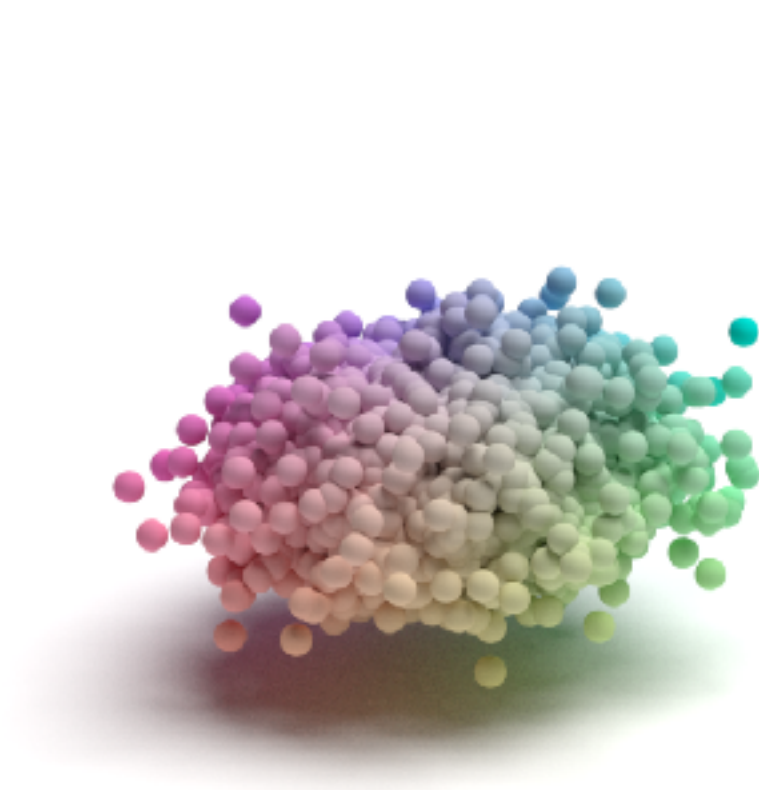
Generation Results



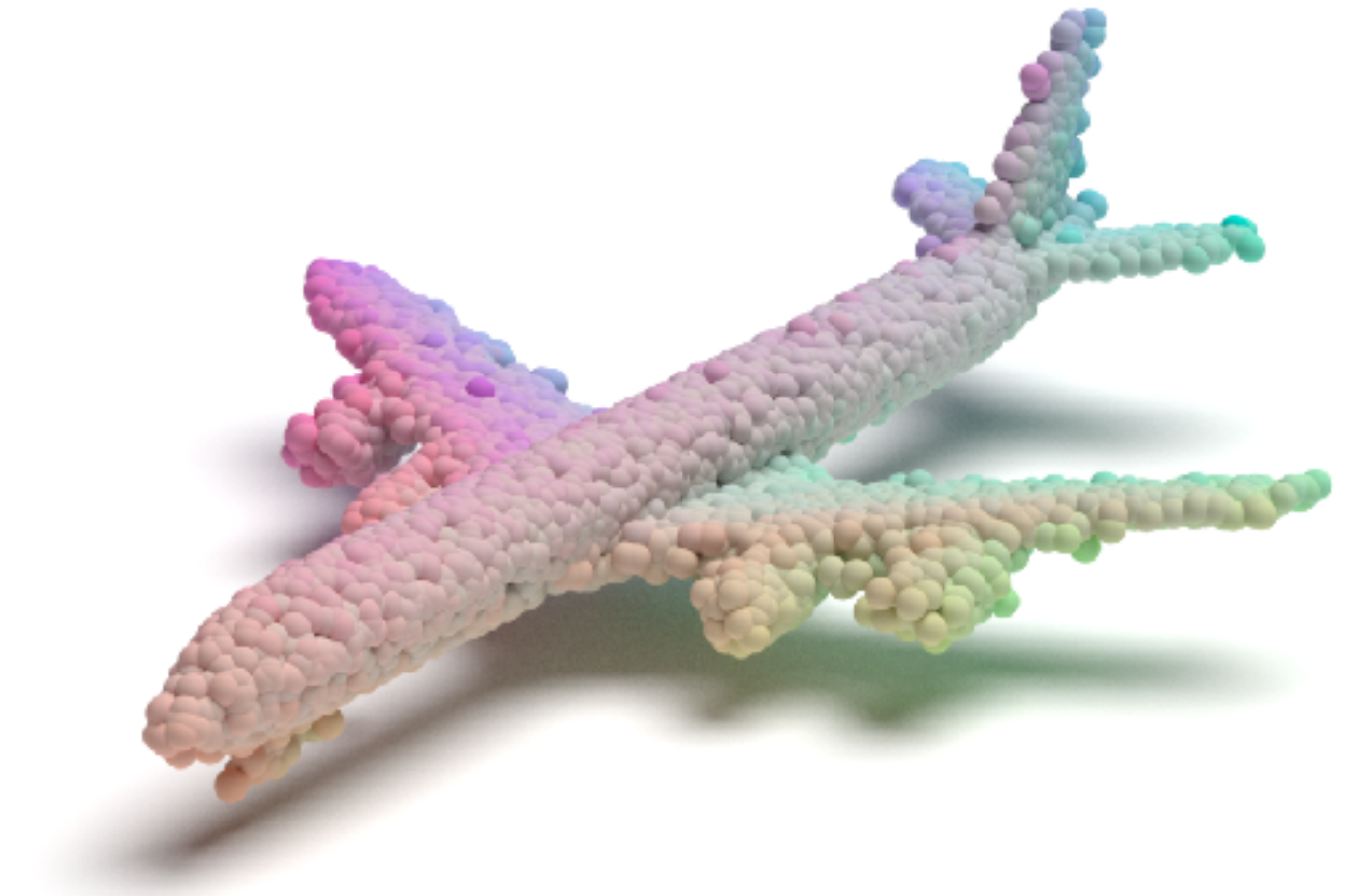
Limitation



Modeling a normalized distribution is hard



Point CNF

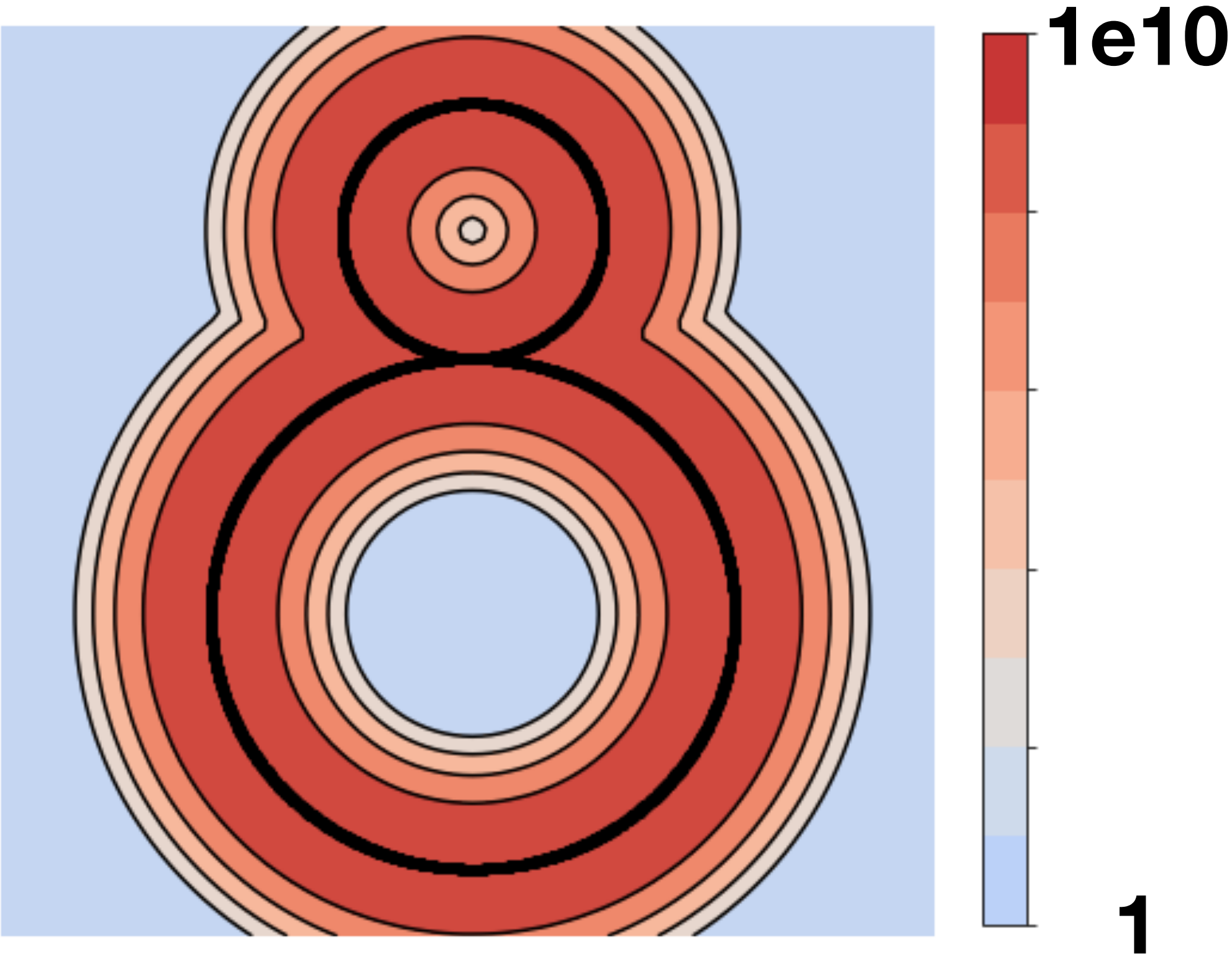


$$\log P(x) = \log P \left(x + \int_{t_1}^{t_0} g_{\theta}(y(t), t) dt \right) - \int_{t_0}^{t_1} \text{Tr} \left(\frac{\partial g_{\theta}(x(t), t)}{\partial x(t)} \right) dt$$

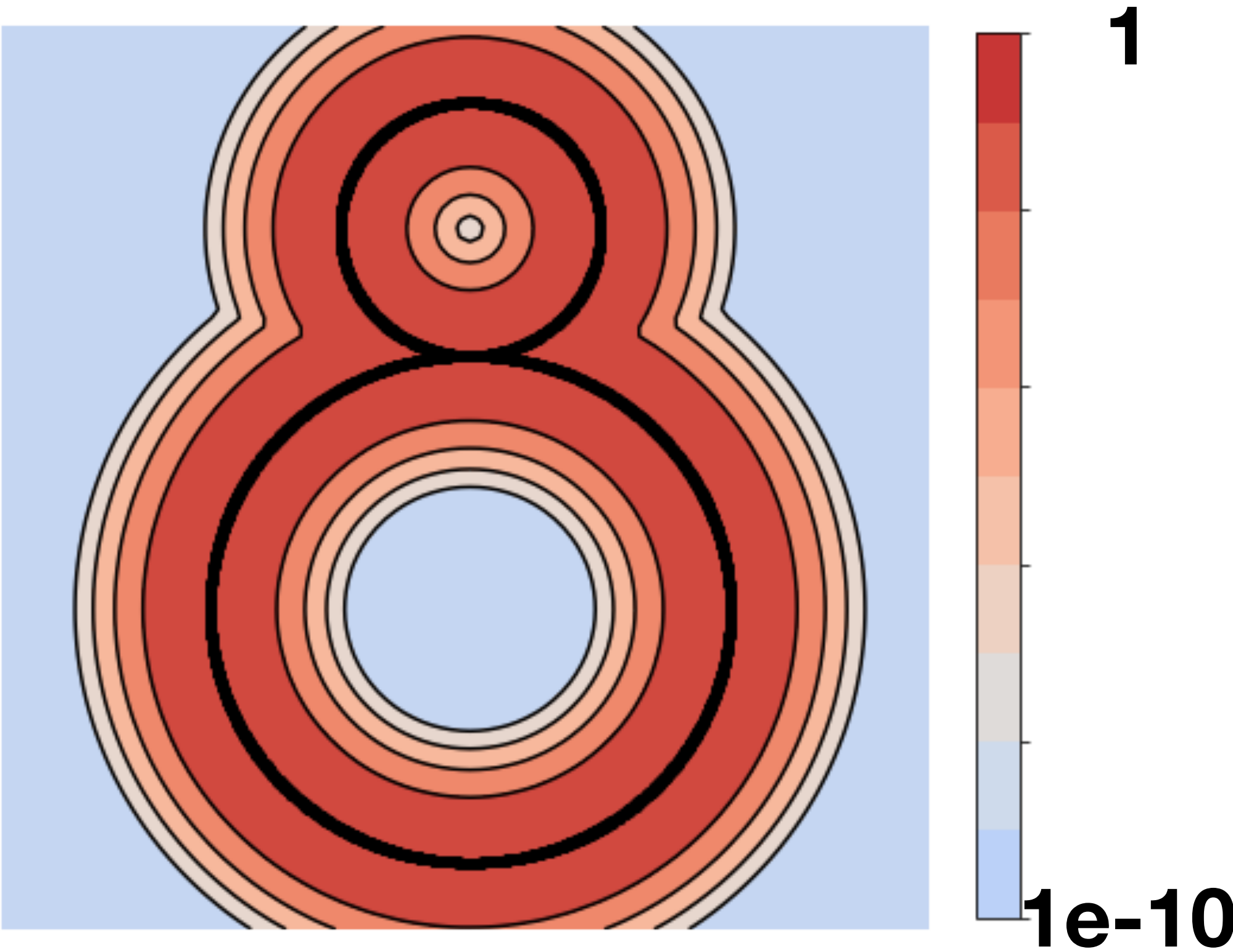
**Invertible
(Restricted)**

**Normalizing
(Slow, create noise)**

Each shape is an **unnormalized** 3D density fields.



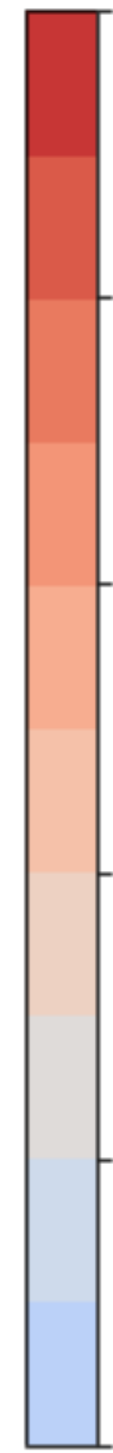
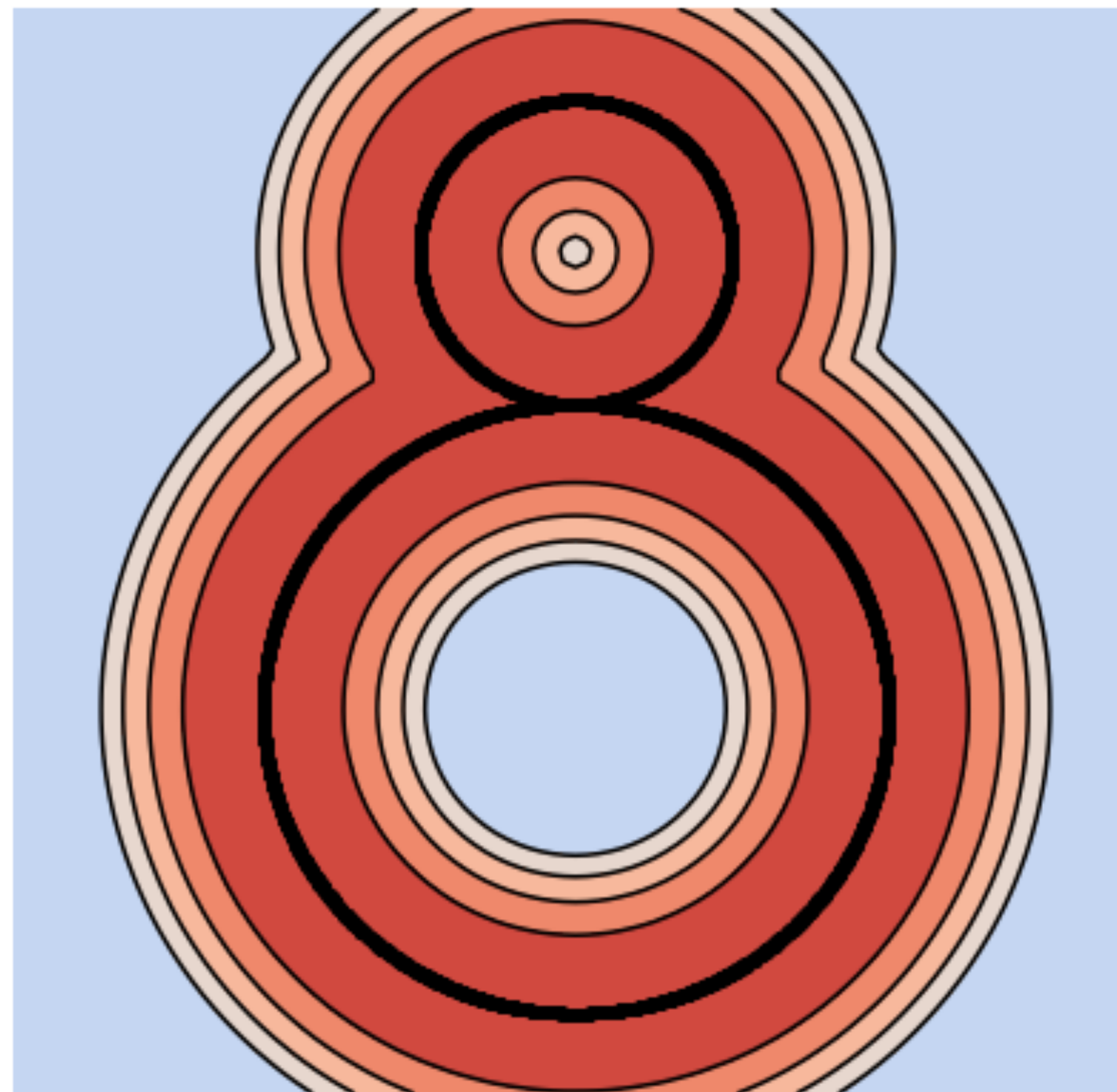
Density field



Density field

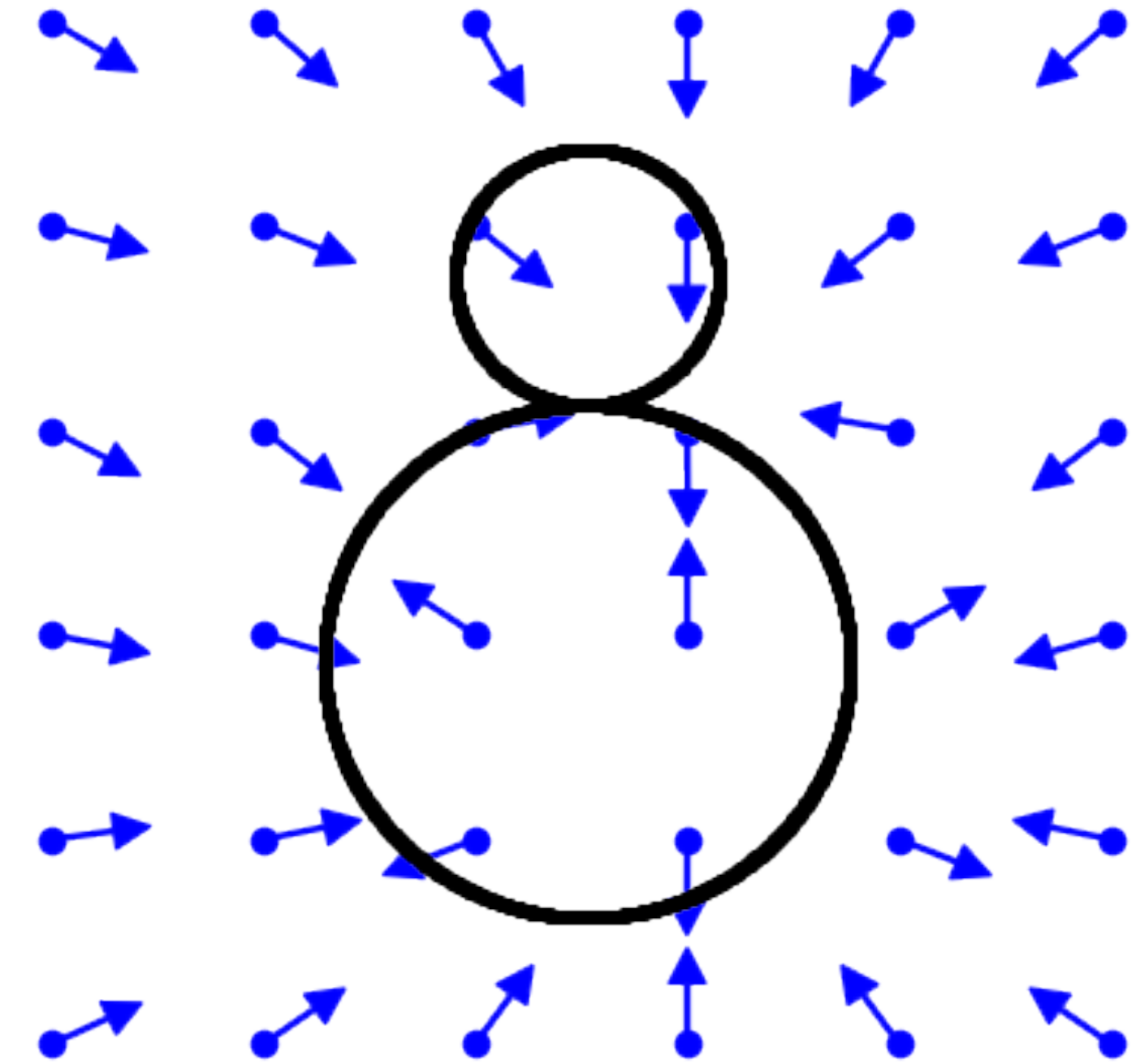
Different scale, SAME SHAPE

Representing an **unnormalized** 3D density field



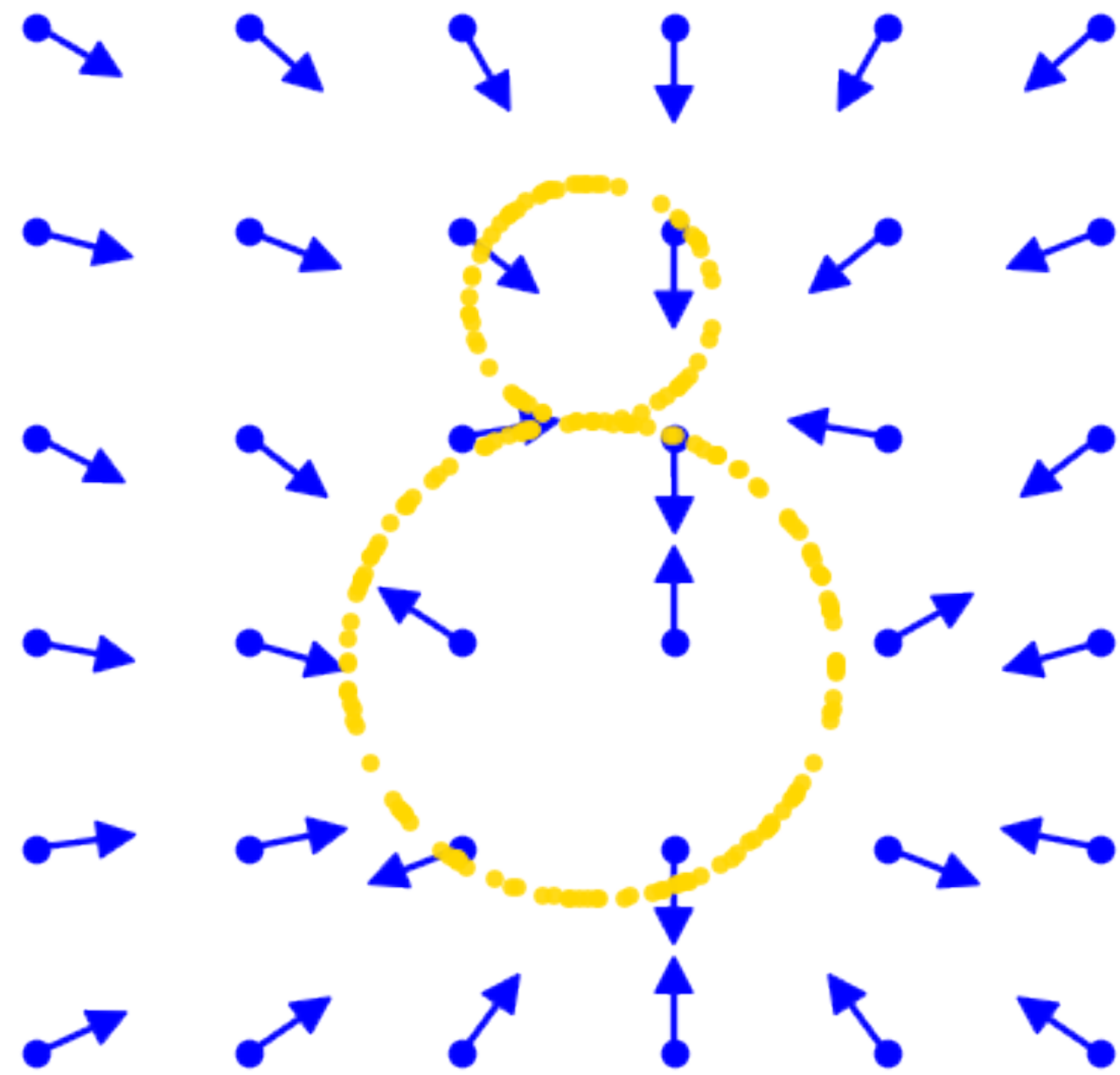
??
??
??
??
??

Unnormalized density field

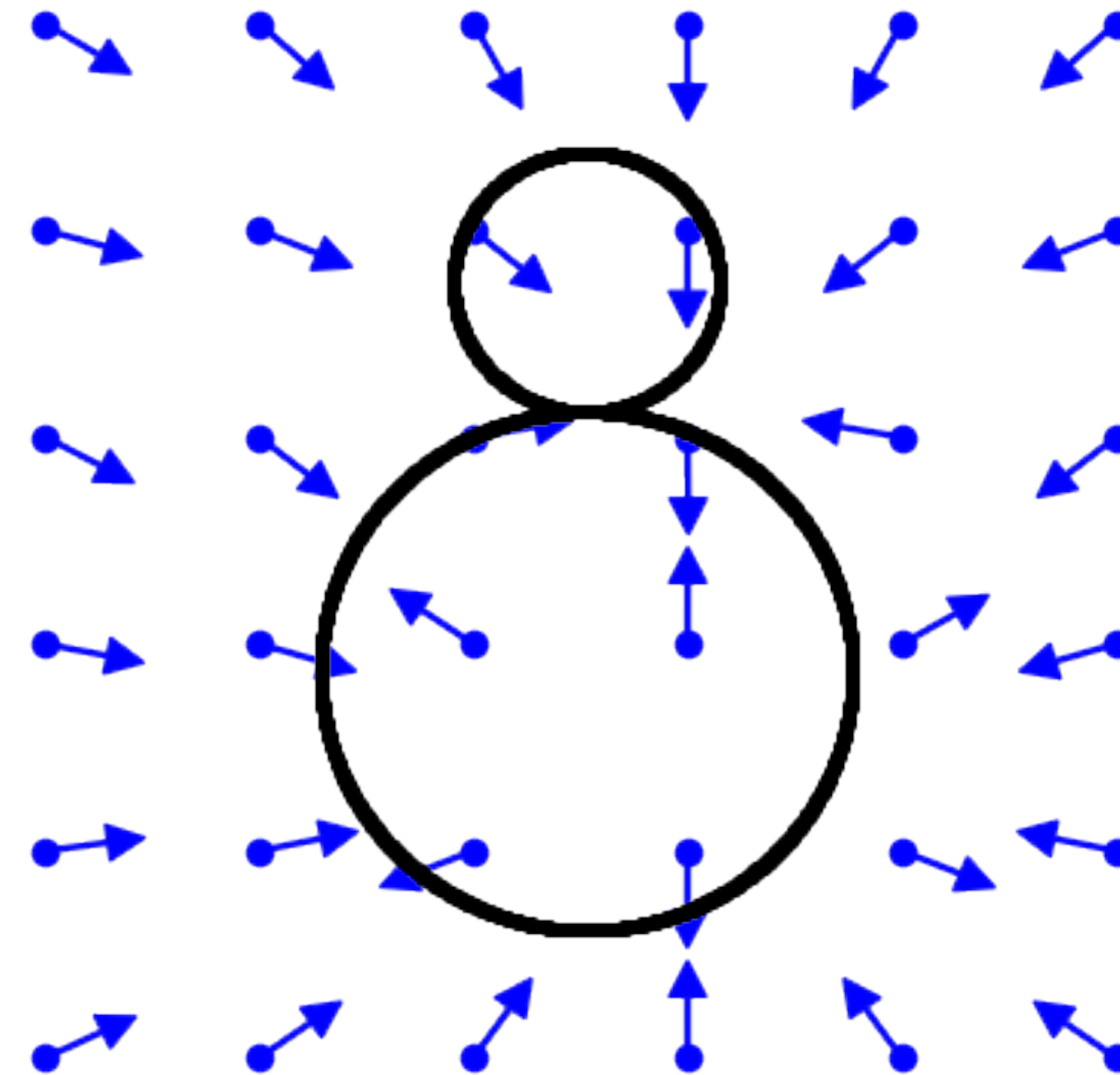


Gradient field

Representing an **unnormalized** 3D density field.

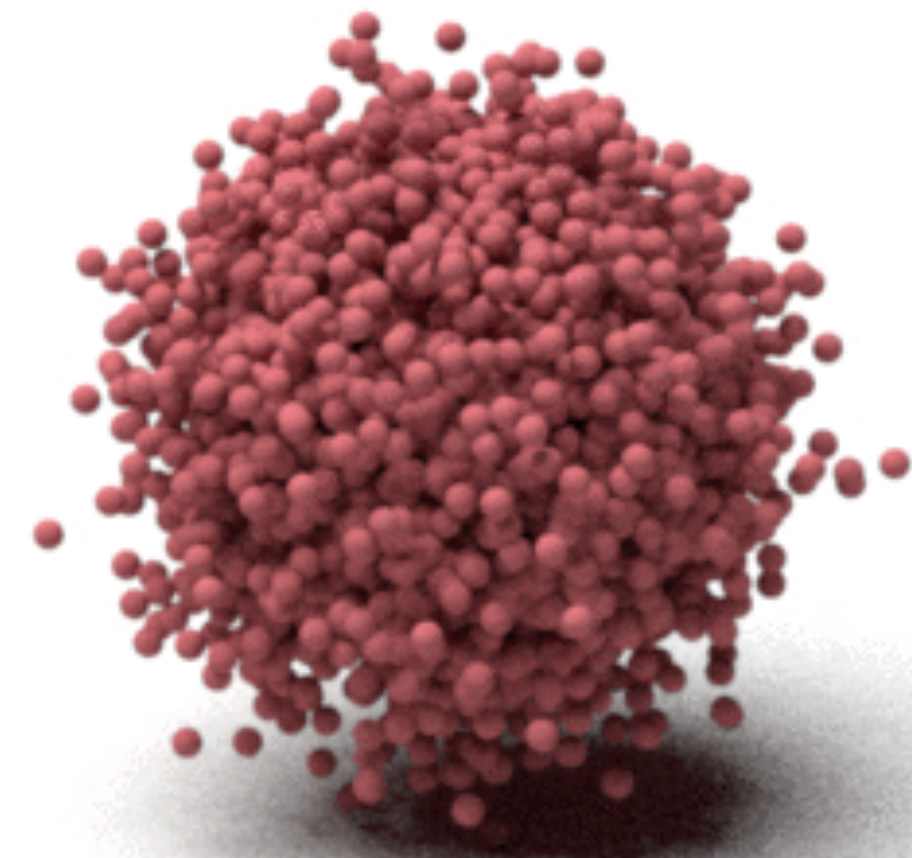
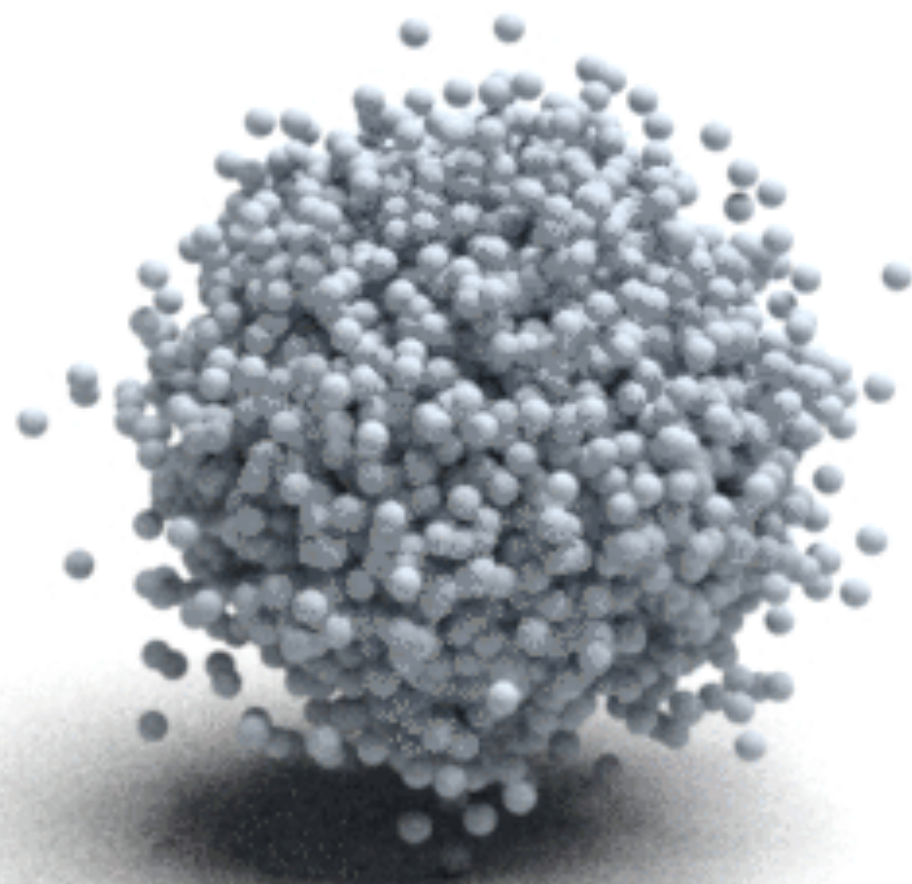
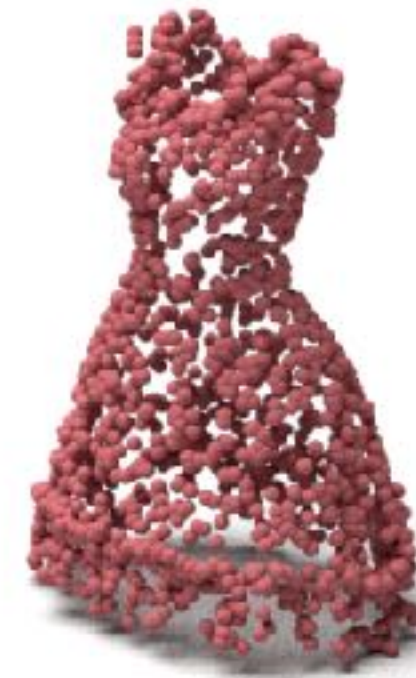
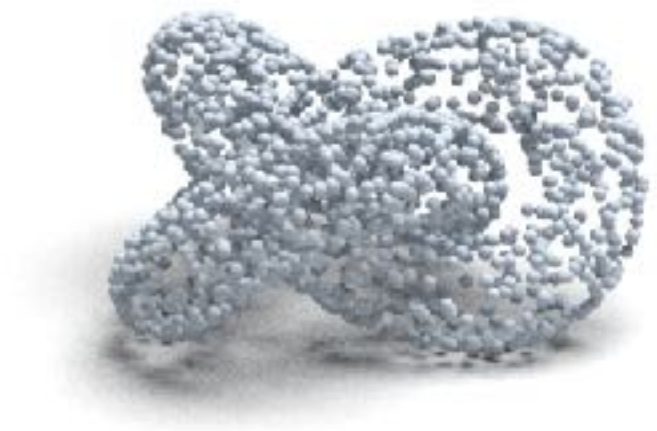


Point cloud creation as
stochastic gradient ascend



Gradient field

Complicated topologies and non-watertight mesh



Learning Gradient Fields for Shape Generation

Ruojin Cai*, Guandao Yang*, Hadar Averbuch-Elor, Zekun Hao, Serge Belongie, Noah Snavely, and Bharath Hariharan

Cornell University

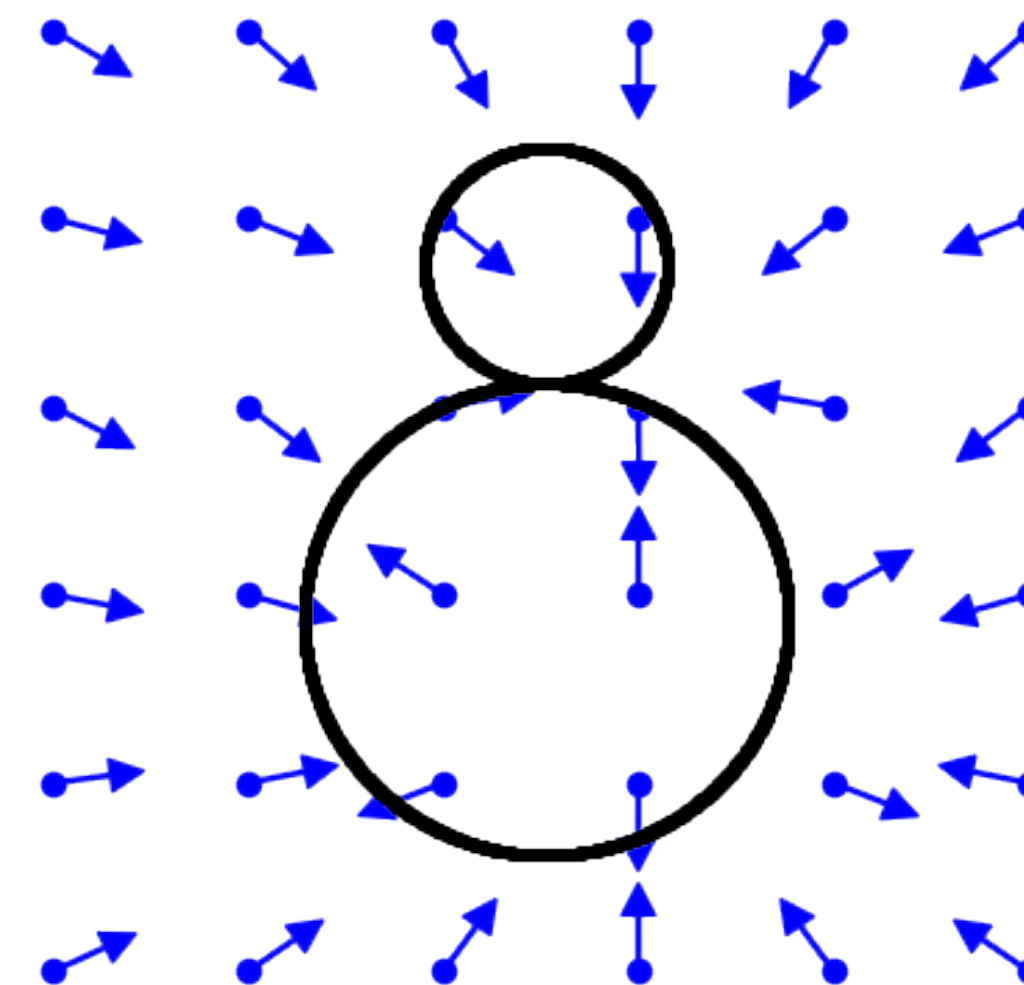
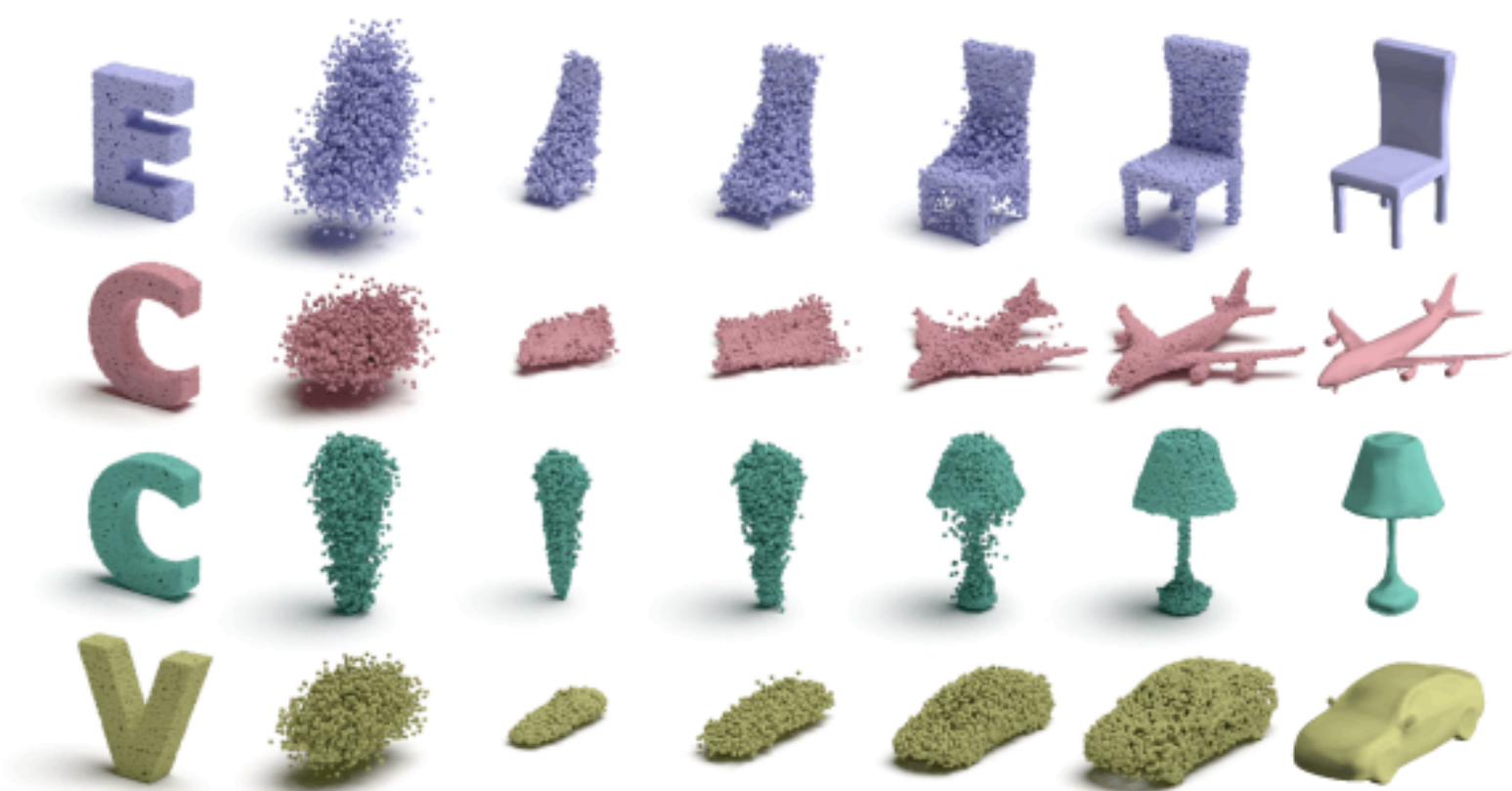


Fig. 1. To generate shapes, we sample points from an arbitrary prior (depicting the letters “E”, “C”, “C”, “V” in the examples above) and move them stochastically along a learned gradient field, ultimately reaching the shape’s surface. Our learned fields also enable extracting the surface of the shape, as demonstrated on the right.

Abstract. In this work, we propose a novel technique to generate shapes from point cloud data. A point cloud can be viewed as samples from a distribution of 3D points whose density is concentrated near the surface of the shape. Point cloud generation thus amounts to moving randomly sampled points to high-density areas. We generate point clouds by performing stochastic gradient ascent on an unnormalized probability density, thereby moving sampled points toward the high-likelihood regions. Our model directly predicts the gradient of the log density field and can be trained with a simple objective adapted from score-based generative models. We show that our method can reach state-of-the-art performance for point cloud auto-encoding and generation, while also allowing for extraction of a high-quality implicit surface. Code is available at <https://github.com/RuojinCai/ShapeGF>.

Keywords: 3D generation, generative models

* Equal contribution.



Ruojin Cai



Zekun Hao



Hadar Averbuch-Elor



Noah Snavely

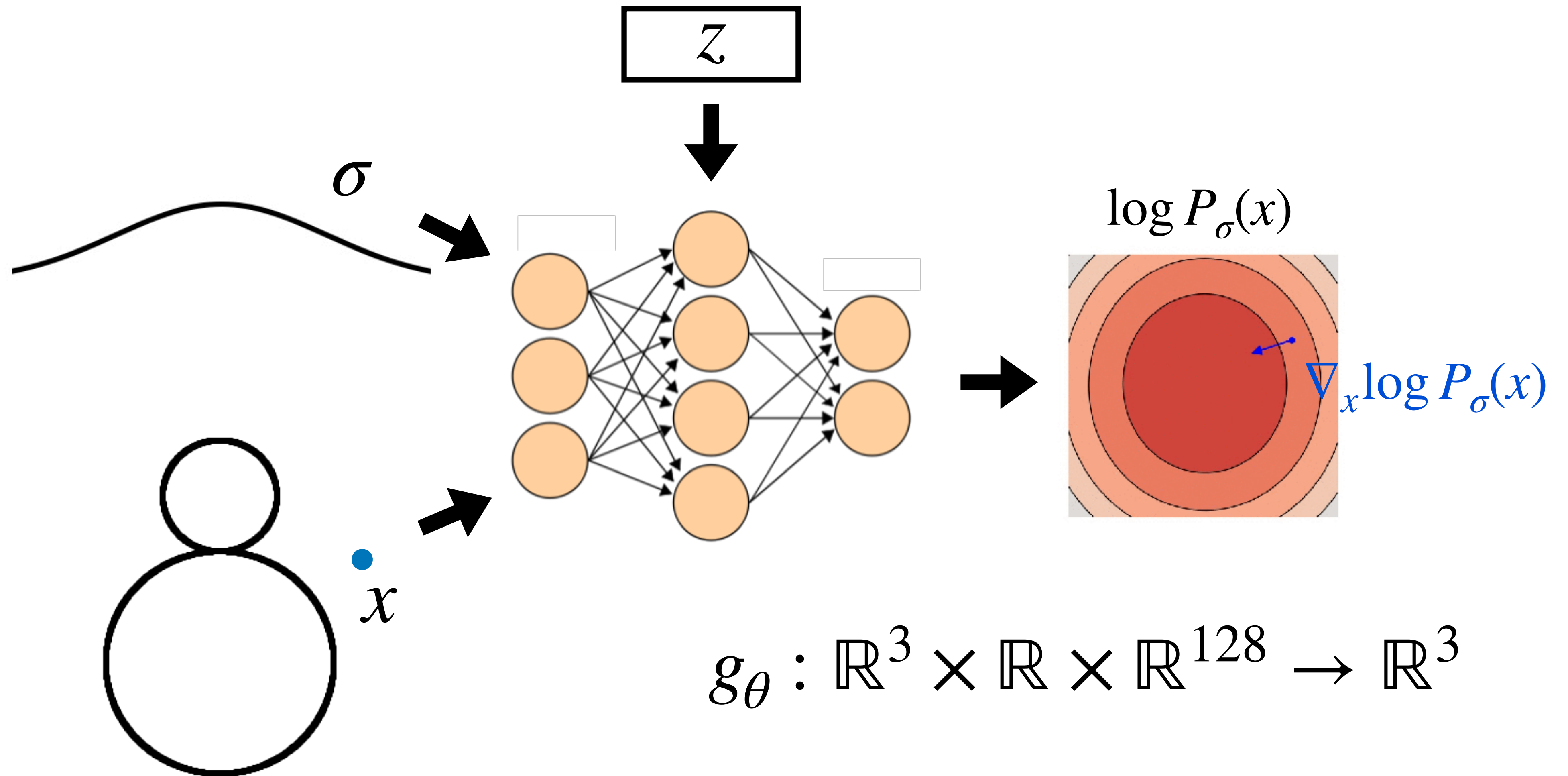


Serge Belongie

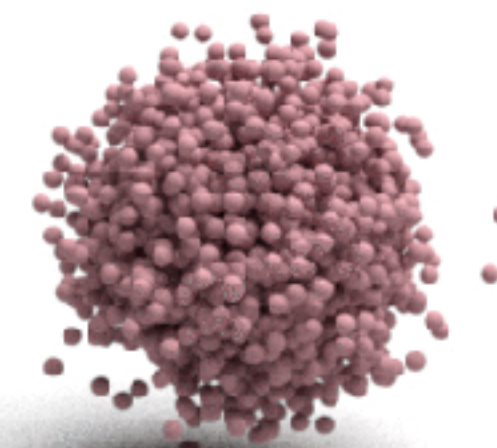
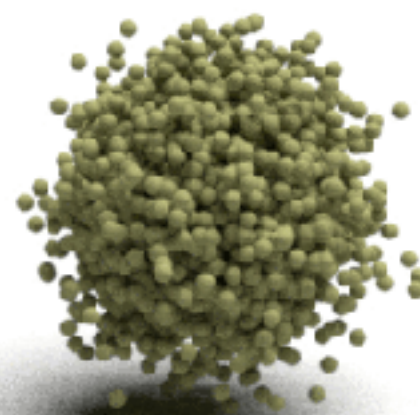
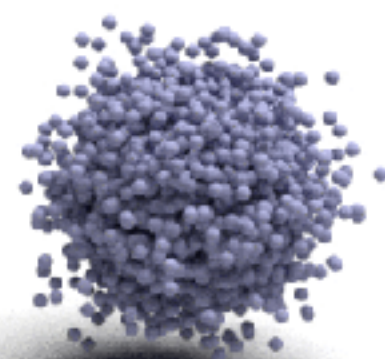
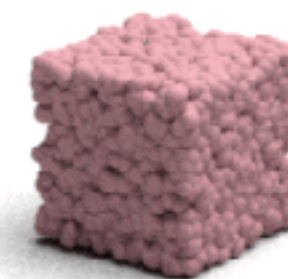
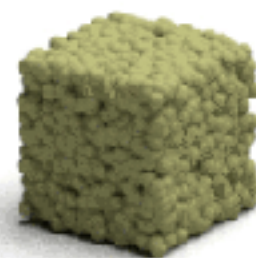
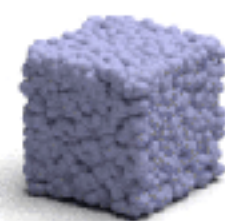


Bharath Hariharan

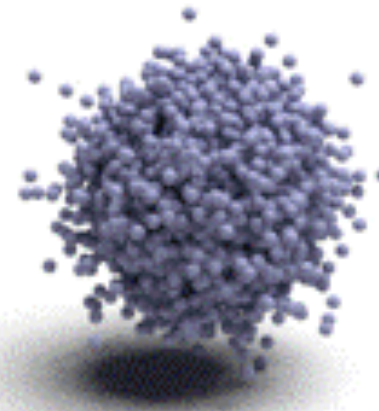
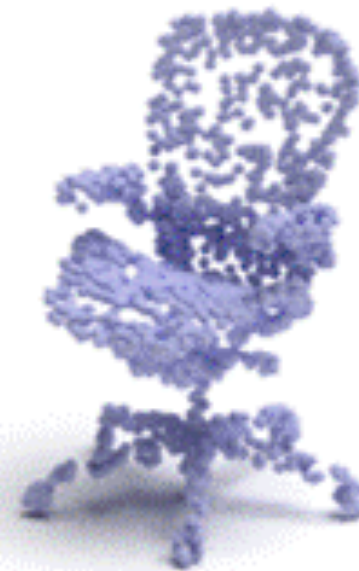
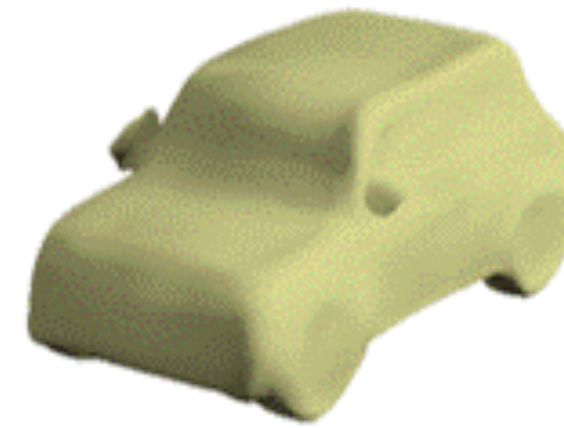
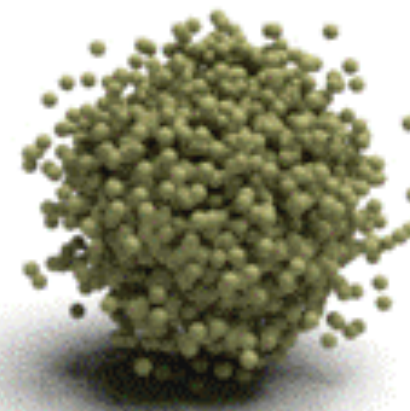
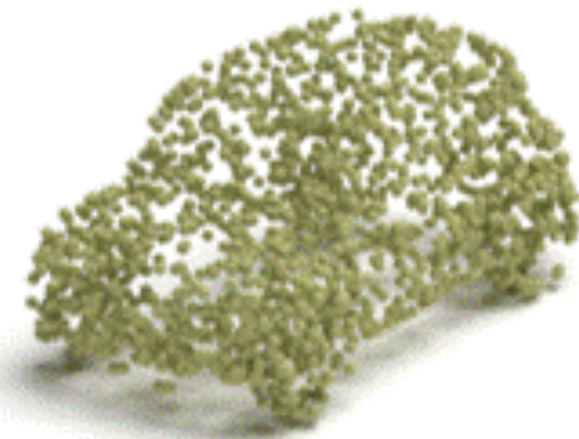
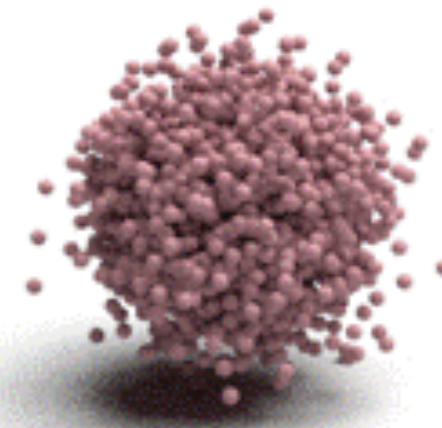
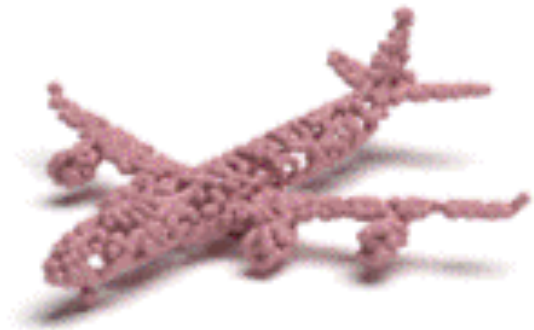
Learning a conditional neural gradient field



Generation results



Auto-encoding and surface extraction



Input

Point cloud

Surface

Synthesis - Editing

Synthesis

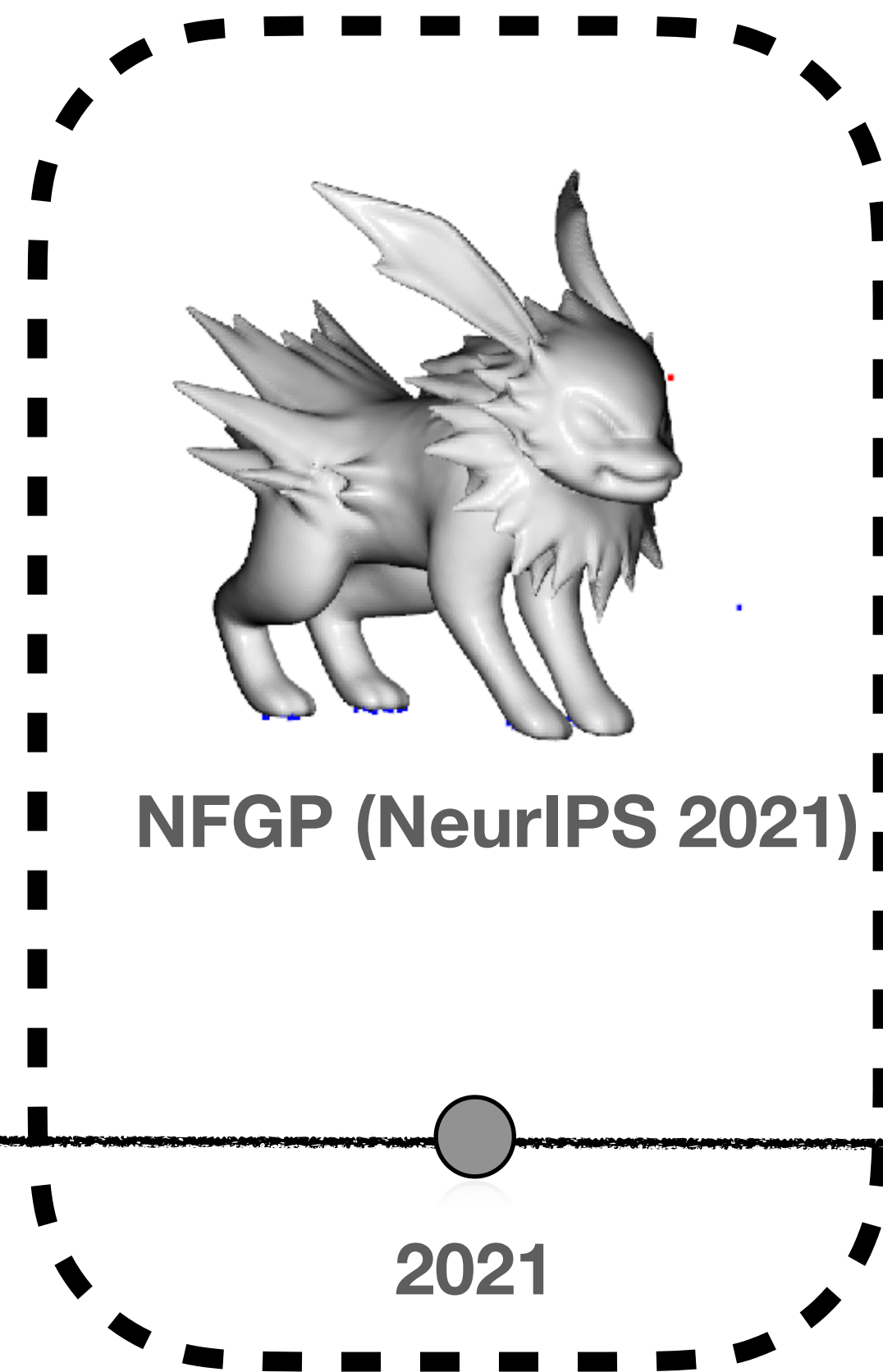
Analysis



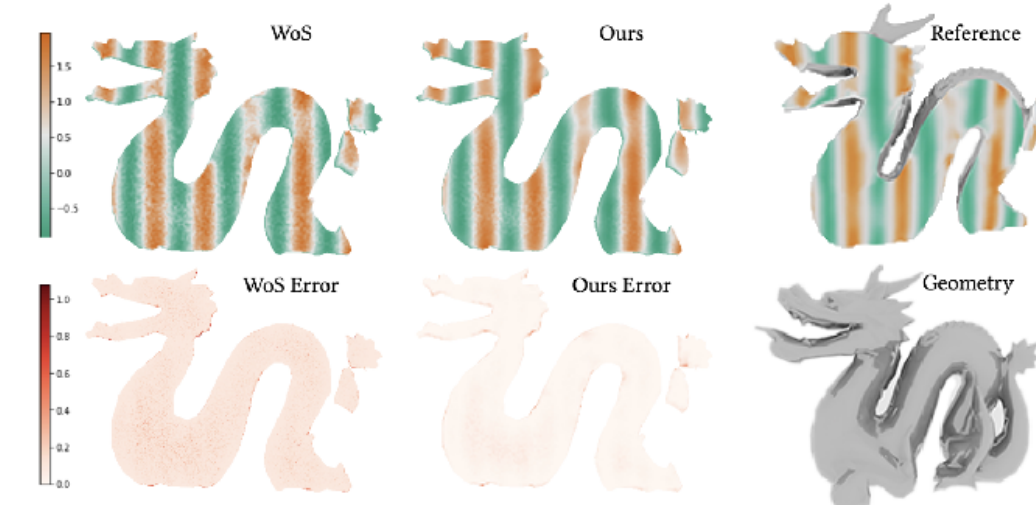
PointFlow (ICCV 2019)



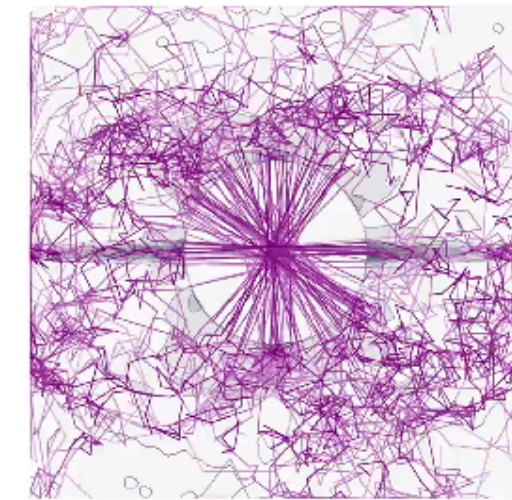
ShapeGF (ECCV 2020)



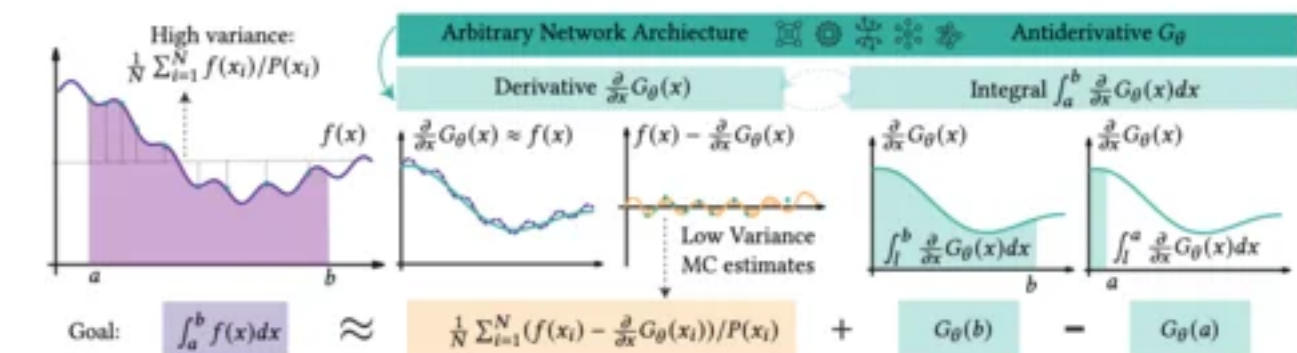
NFGP (NeurIPS 2021)



Neural cache (SIG Asia 2023)



Symmetry (SIG Asia 2024)



NCV (SIGGRAPH 2024)

2019

2020

2021

2023

2024

Elastic Deformation

Elastically Deformable Models

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Abstract: The theory of elasticity describes deformable materials such as rubber, cloth, paper, and flexible metals. We employ elasticity theory to construct differential equations that model the behavior of non-rigid curves, surfaces, and solids as a function of time. Elastically deformable models are active: they respond in a natural way to applied forces, constraints, ambient media, and impenetrable obstacles. The models use fundamentally dynamic and realistic animation is created by numerically solving their underlying differential equations. Thus, the description of shape and the description of motion are unified.

Keywords: Modeling, Deformation, Elasticity, Dynamics, Animation, Simulation
CR categories: G.1.3—Partial Differential Equations; I.3.5—Computational Geometry and Object Modeling (Curve, Surface, Solid, and Object Representations); I.3.7—Three-Dimensional Graphics and Realism

1. Introduction

Methods to formulate and represent instantaneous shapes of objects are central to computer graphics modeling. These methods have been particularly successful for modeling rigid objects whose shapes do not change over time. This paper develops an approach to modeling which incorporates the physically-based dynamics of flexible materials into the purely geometric models which have been used traditionally. We propose models based on elasticity theory which conveniently represent the shape and motion of deformable materials, especially when these materials interact with other physically-based computer graphics objects.

1.1. Physical Models versus Kinematic Models

Most traditional methods for computer graphics modeling are kinematic; that is, the shapes are compositions of geometrically or algebraically defined primitives. Kinematic models are passive because they do not interact with each other or with external forces. The models are either stationary or are subjected to motion according to prescribed

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trajectories. Expertise is required to create natural and pleasing dynamics with passive models.

As an alternative, we advocate the use of active models in computer graphics. Active models are based on principles of mathematical physics [5]. They react to applied forces (such as gravity), to constraints (such as linkages), to ambient media (such as viscous fluids), or to impenetrable obstacles (such as supporting surfaces) as one would expect real, physical objects to react.

This paper develops models of deformable curves, surfaces, and solids which are based on simplifications of elasticity theory. By simulating physical properties such as tension and rigidity, we can model static shapes exhibited by a wide range of deformable objects, including string, rubber, cloth, paper, and flexible metals. Furthermore, by including physical properties such as mass and damping, we can simulate the dynamics of these objects. The simulation involves numerically solving the partial differential equations that govern the evolving shape of the deformable object and its motion through space.

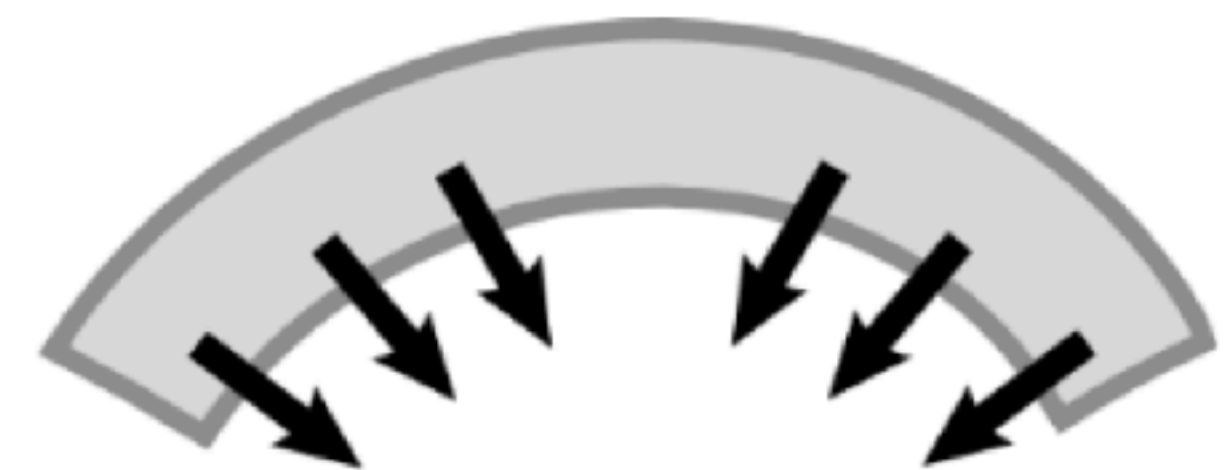
The dynamic behavior inherent to our deformable models significantly simplifies the animation of complex objects. Consider the graphical representation of a coiled telephone cord. The traditional approach has been to represent the instantaneous shape of the cord as a mesh assembly of bicubic spline patches or polygons. Making the cord move plausibly is a nontrivial task. In contrast, our deformable models can provide a physical representation of the cord which exhibits natural dynamics as it is subjected to external forces and constraints.

1.2. Outline

The remainder of the paper develops as follows: Section 2 discusses the connections of our work to other physical models in computer graphics. Section 3 gives differential equations of motion describing the dynamic behavior of deformable models under the influence of external forces. Section 4 contains an analysis of deformation and defines deformation energies for curve, surface, and solid models. Section 5 lists various external forces that can be applied to deformable models to produce animation. Section 6 describes our implementation of deformable models. Section 7 presents simulations illustrating the application of deformable models. Section 8 discusses our work in progress.



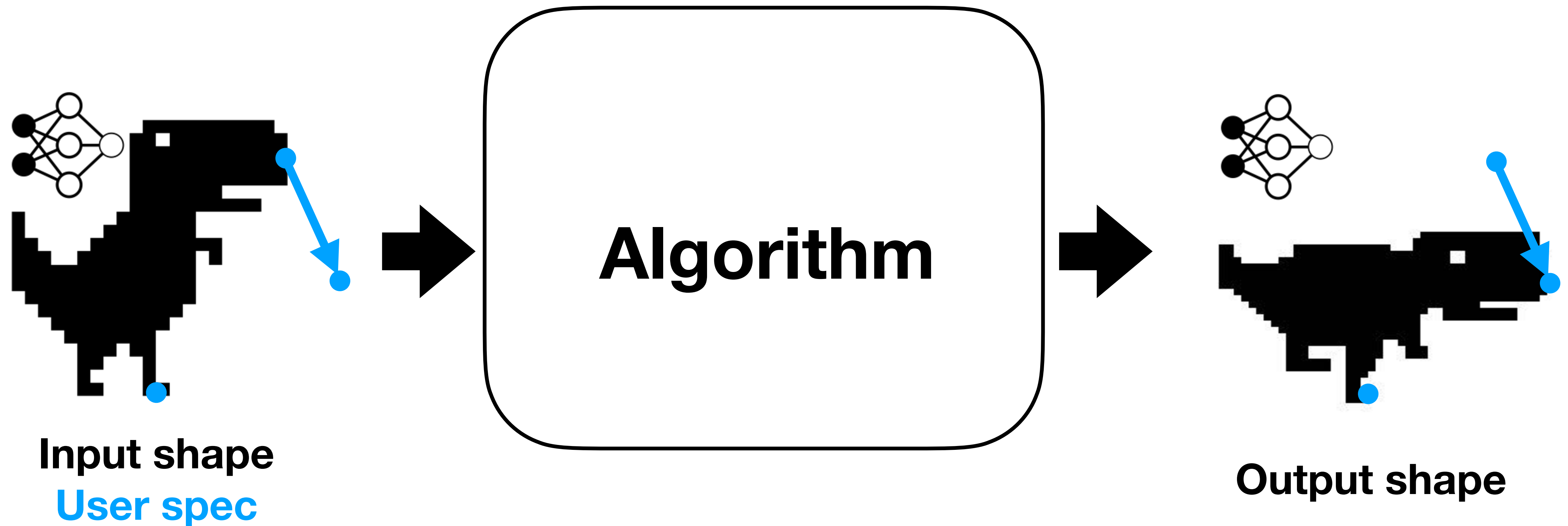
Stretching



Bending

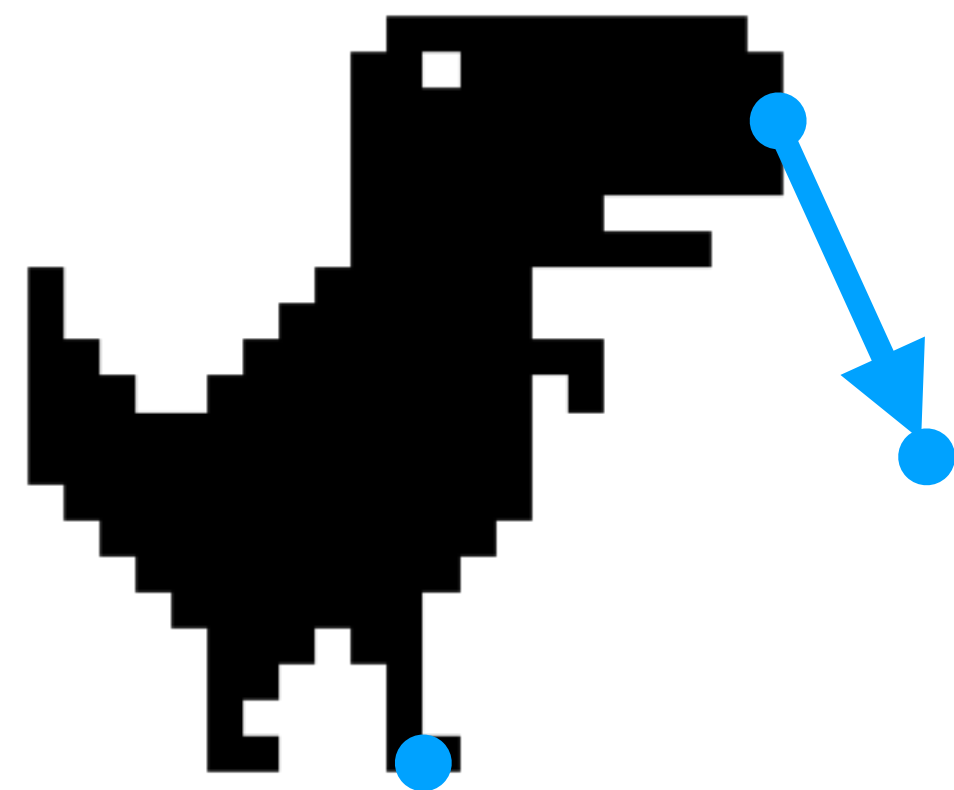
Terzopoulos et. al., 1987;
Sorkine and Alexa, 2007;
Levi and Gotsman, 2015

Elastic Deformation with Neural Fields

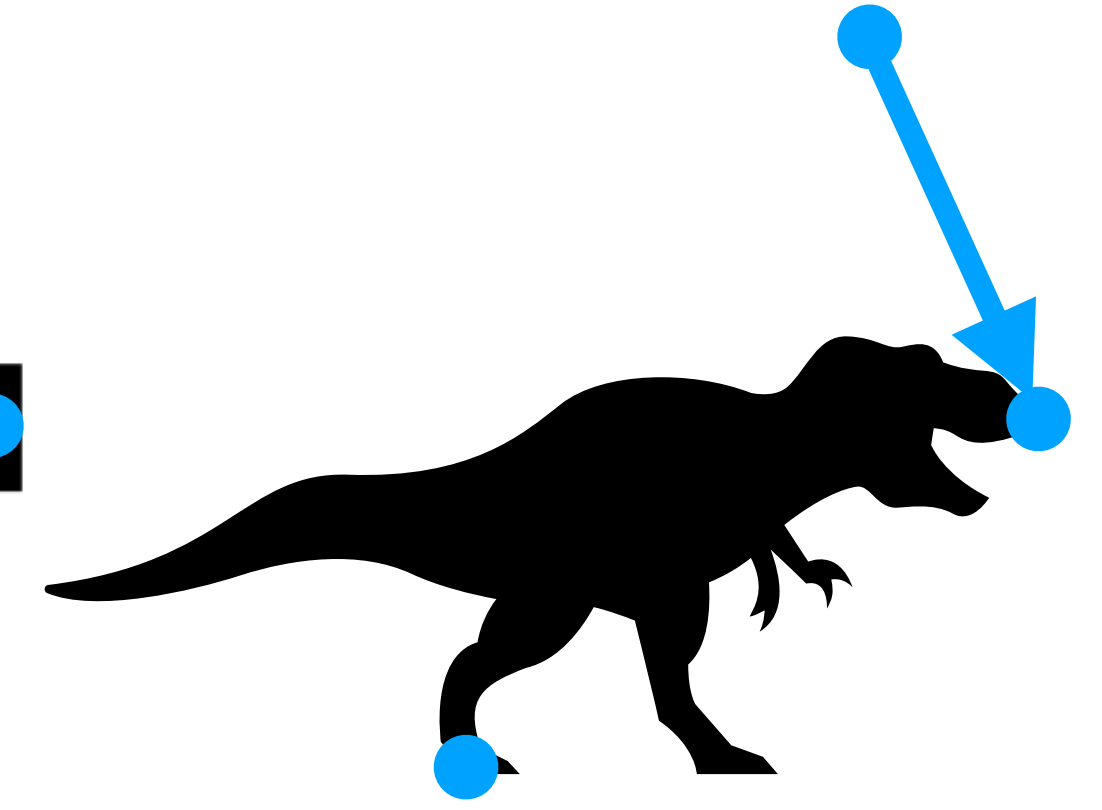
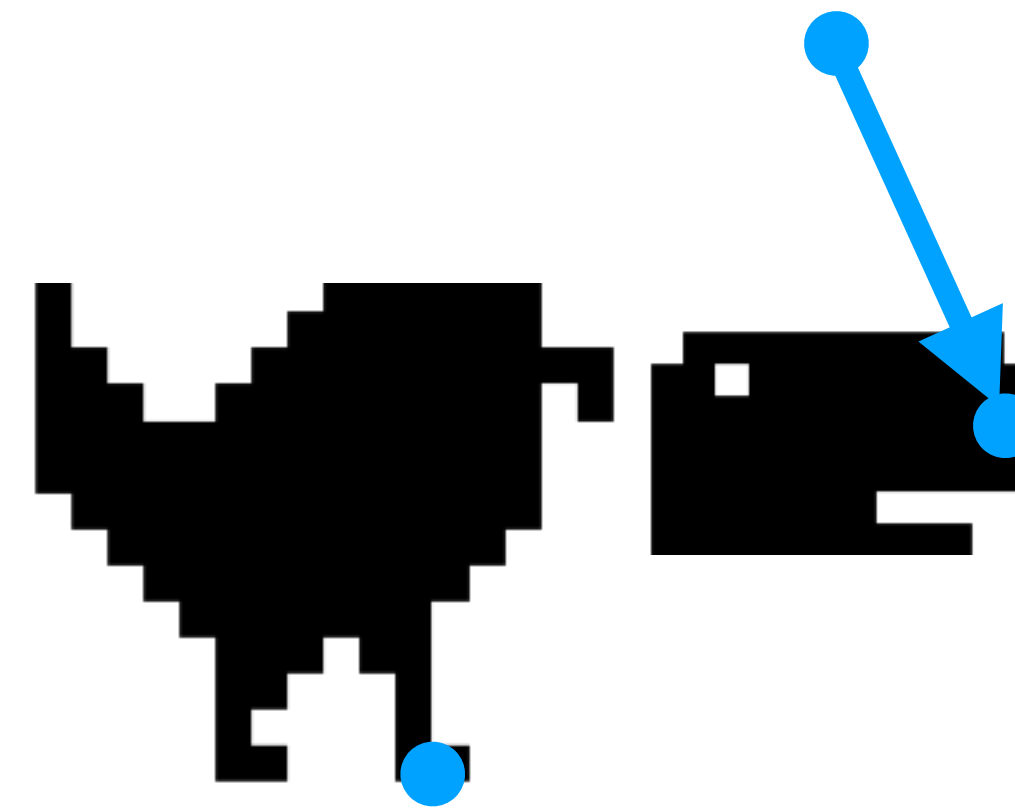


Elastic Deformation is under constrained

Input (sparse!)



Multiple possible outputs



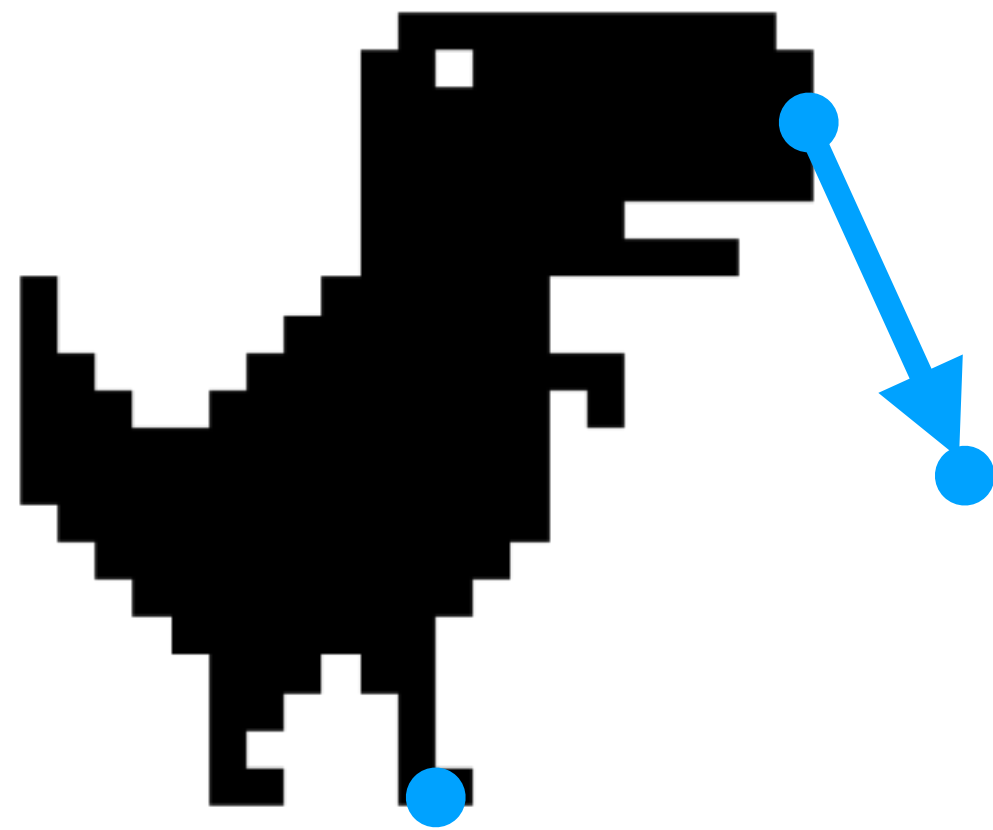
Broken head :(

Changed surface details

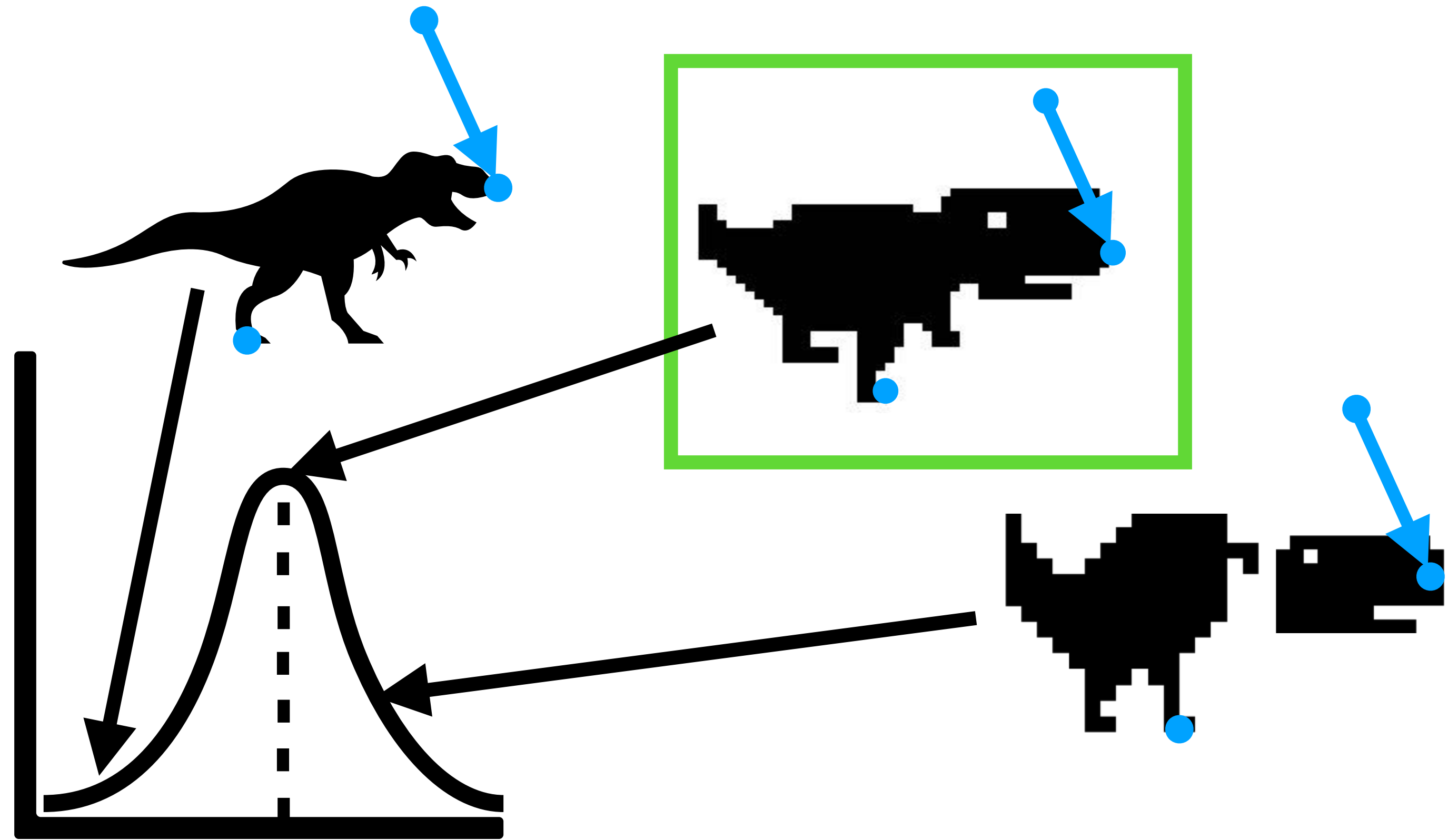
Editing algorithm requires prior knowledge

Shape Priors for Editing

Input (sparse!)



Multiple possible outputs



Quantify Priors



$$f : (u, v) \mapsto (x, y, z)$$

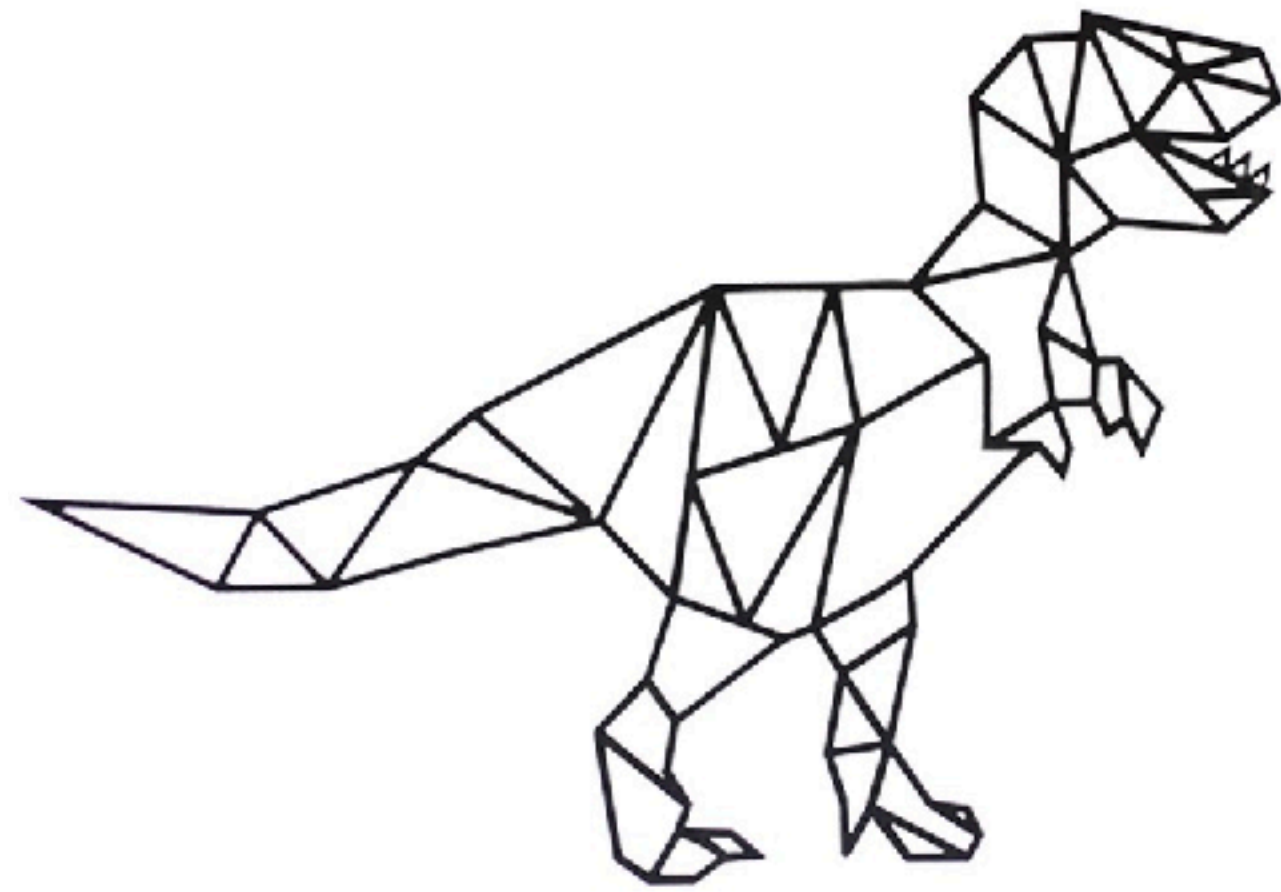
Normal

$$\mathbf{n} = \frac{f_u \times f_v}{\|f_u \times f_v\|}$$

Curvature

$$\mathbf{II} = \begin{bmatrix} f_{uu}^T \mathbf{n} & f_{uv}^T \mathbf{n} \\ f_{vu}^T \mathbf{n} & f_{vv}^T \mathbf{n} \end{bmatrix} \quad \kappa = \frac{|\mathbf{II}|}{|\mathbf{I}|}$$

Quantify Prior - Mesh



$$V = \{(x_i, y_i, z_i)\}_{i=1}^n$$

$$F = \{(u, v, w) \mid 1 \leq u, v, w, \leq n\}$$

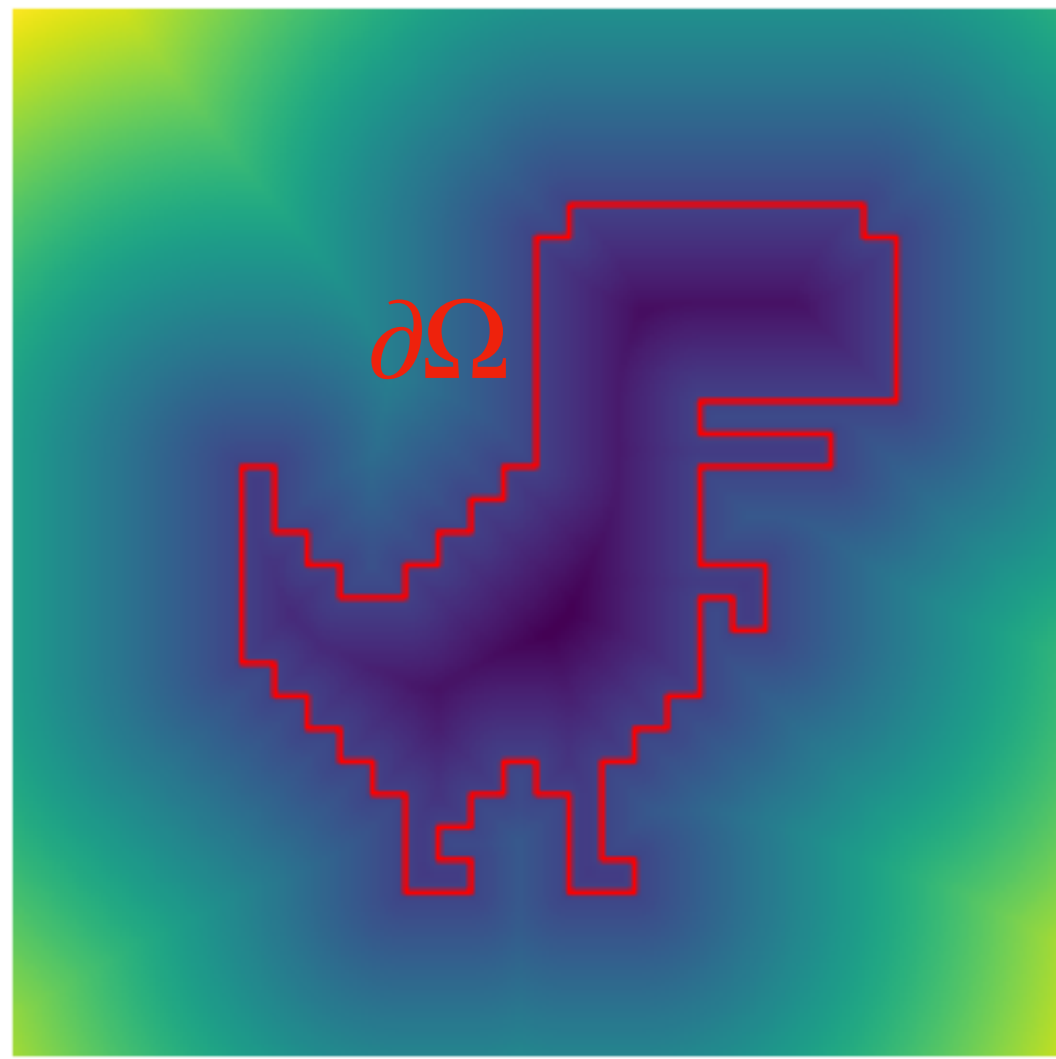
Normal

$$\mathbf{n}_{i,j,k} = \frac{(V_j - V_i) \times (V_k - V_i)}{|(V_j - V_i) \times (V_k - V_i)|}$$

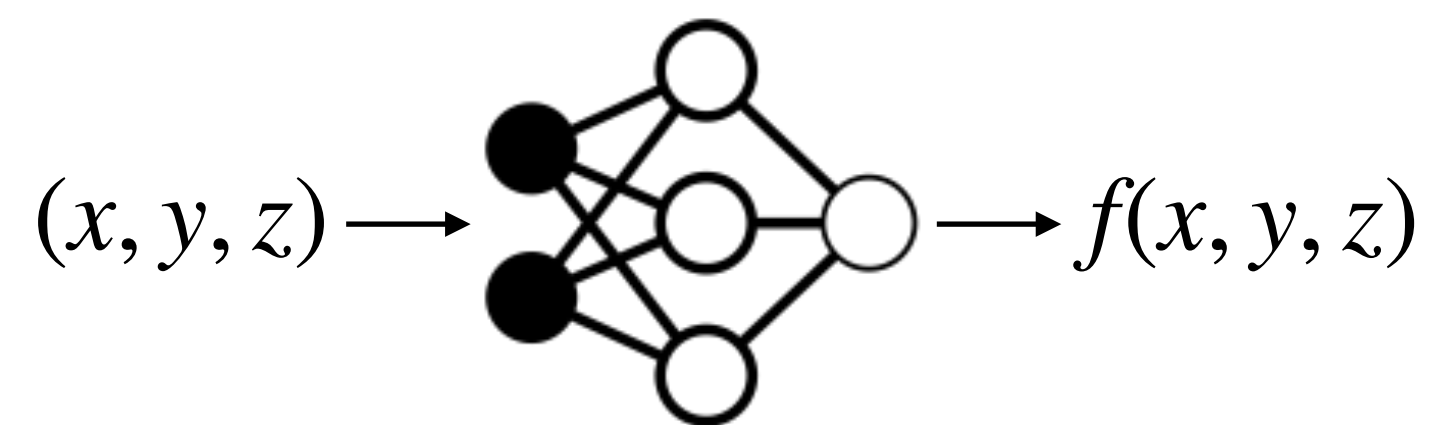
Curvature

$$\kappa_i = \frac{1}{2} \sum_{j \in \mathcal{N}(i)} (\cot \alpha_{ij} + \cot \beta_{ij})(V_i - V_j)$$

Quantify Prior - Neural Fields



Normal



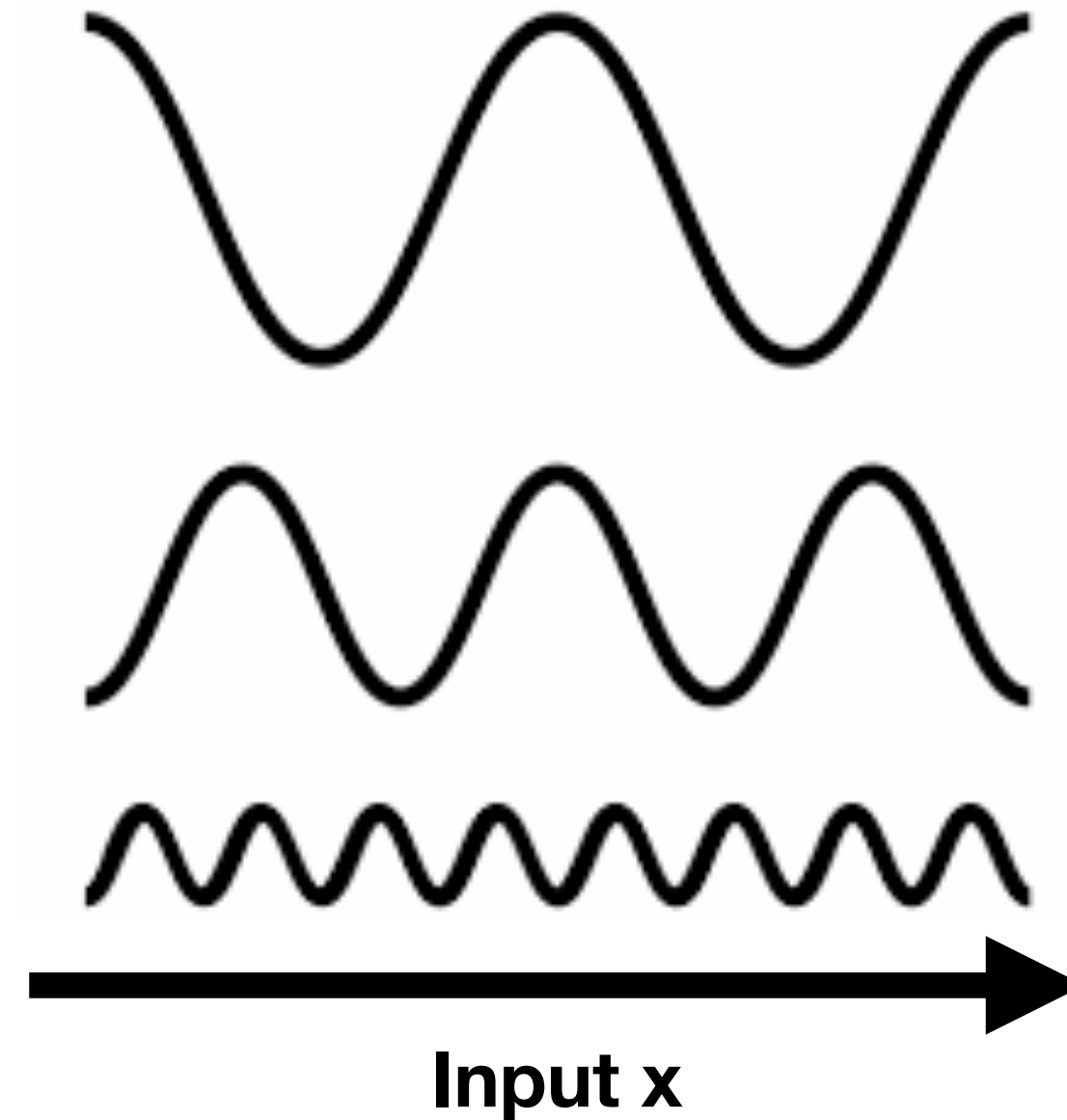
Curvature

$$\partial\Omega = \{(x, y, z) \mid f(x, y, z) = 0\}$$

Differentiability of Neural Fields

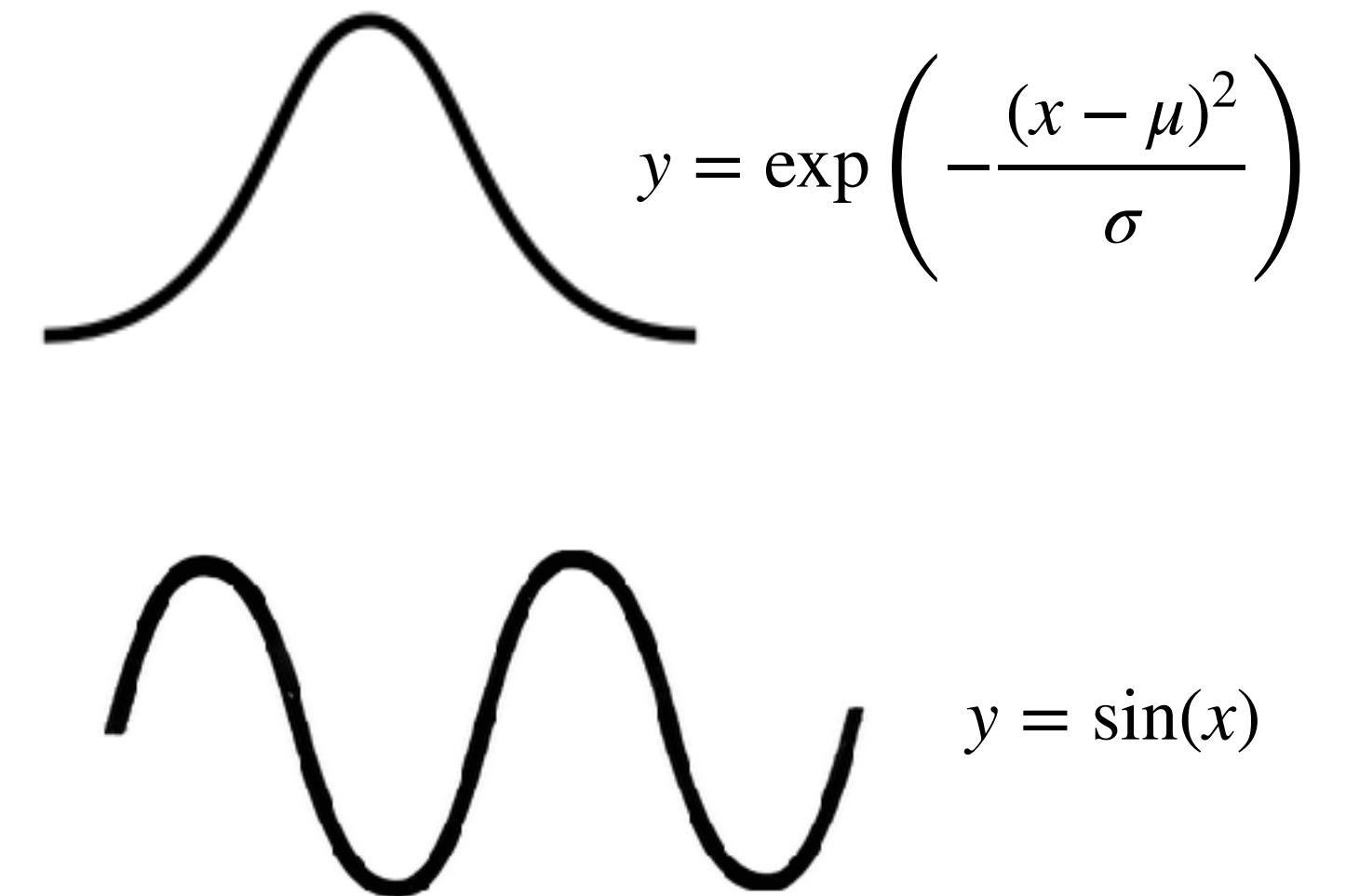


AutoGrad Frameworks



Positional Encoding

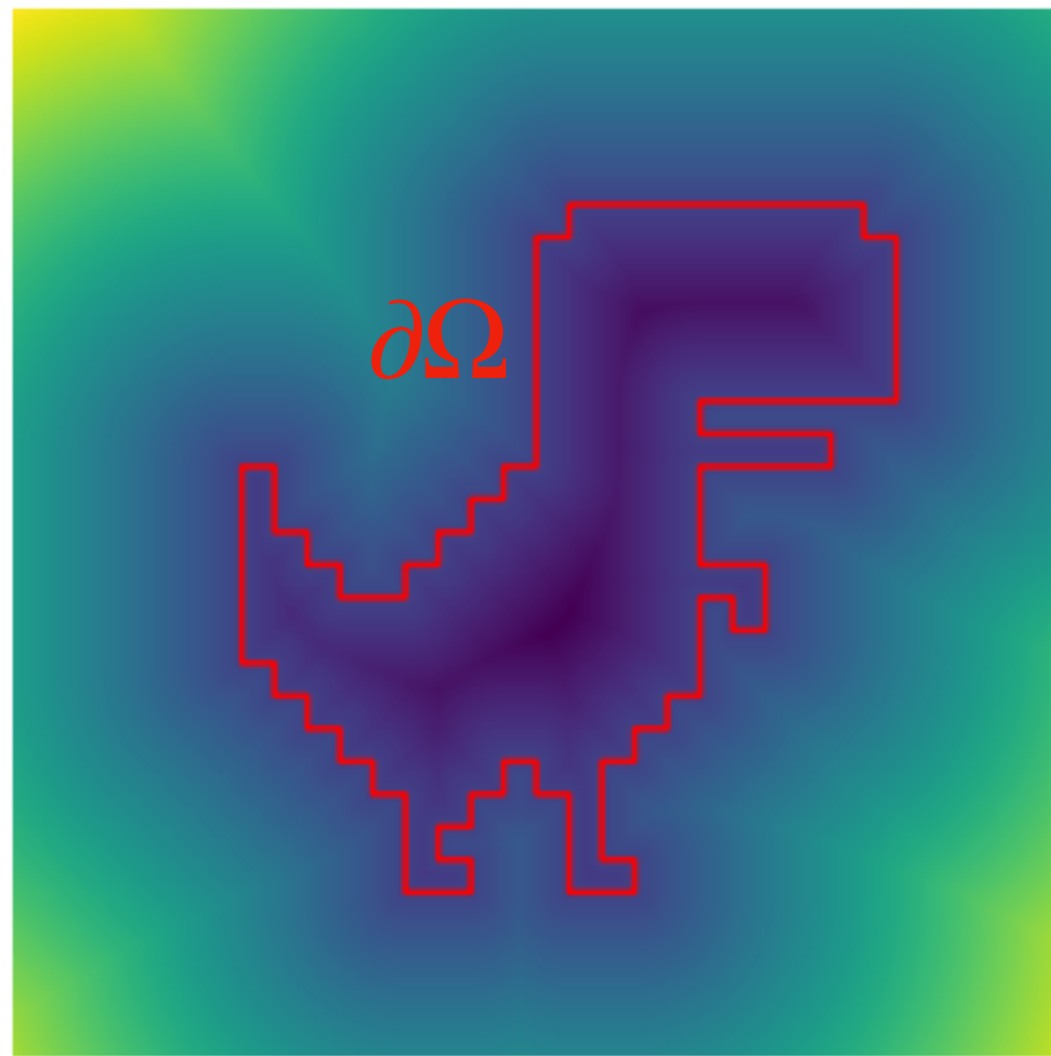
(Tannic et al., 2020, Mildenhall et al., 2020)



Smooth Activation

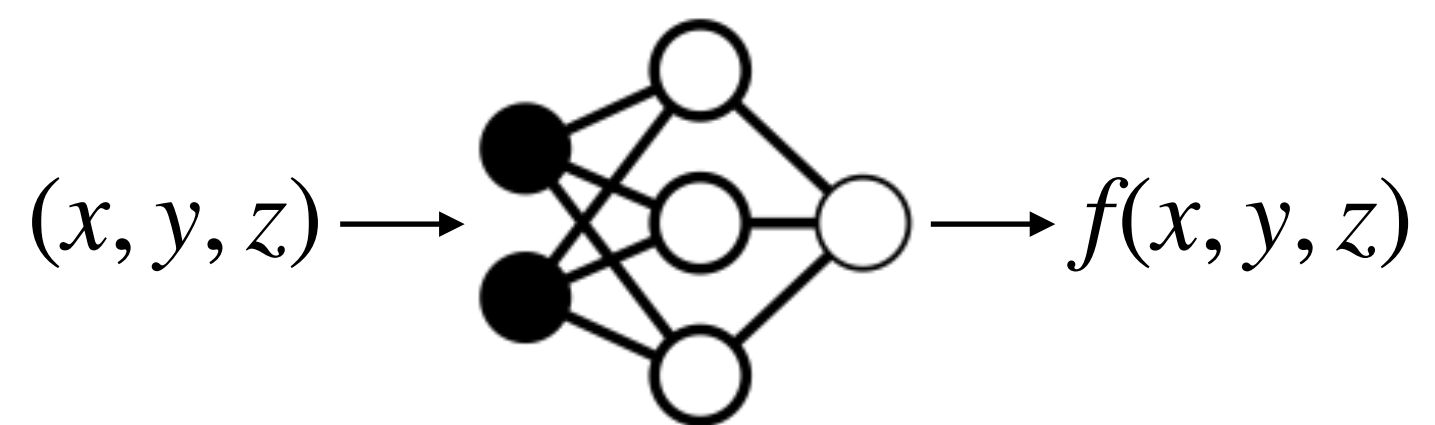
(Sitzmann et al., 2020, Chng et al., 2022, Ramasinghe et al. 2022, Zheng et al., 2021, Fathony et al., 2021)

Quantify Prior - Neural Fields



Normal

$$\mathbf{n}(\mathbf{x}) = \frac{\nabla f(\mathbf{x})}{\|\nabla f(\mathbf{x})\|}$$

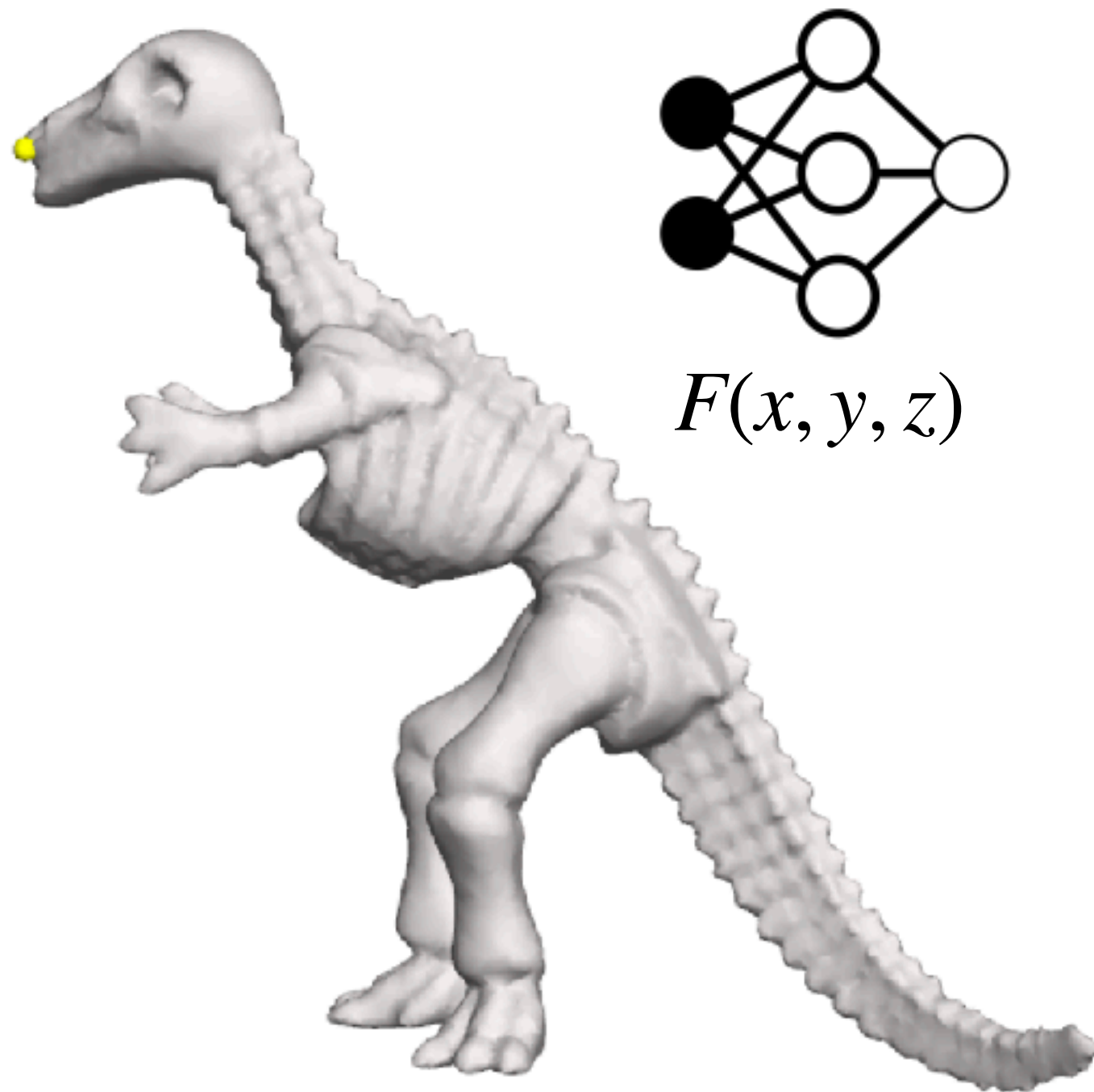


Curvature

$$\kappa(\mathbf{x}) = -\frac{1}{2} \nabla \cdot \left(\frac{\nabla f(\mathbf{x})}{\|\nabla f(\mathbf{x})\|} \right)$$

$$\partial\Omega = \{(x, y, z) \mid f(x, y, z) = 0\}$$

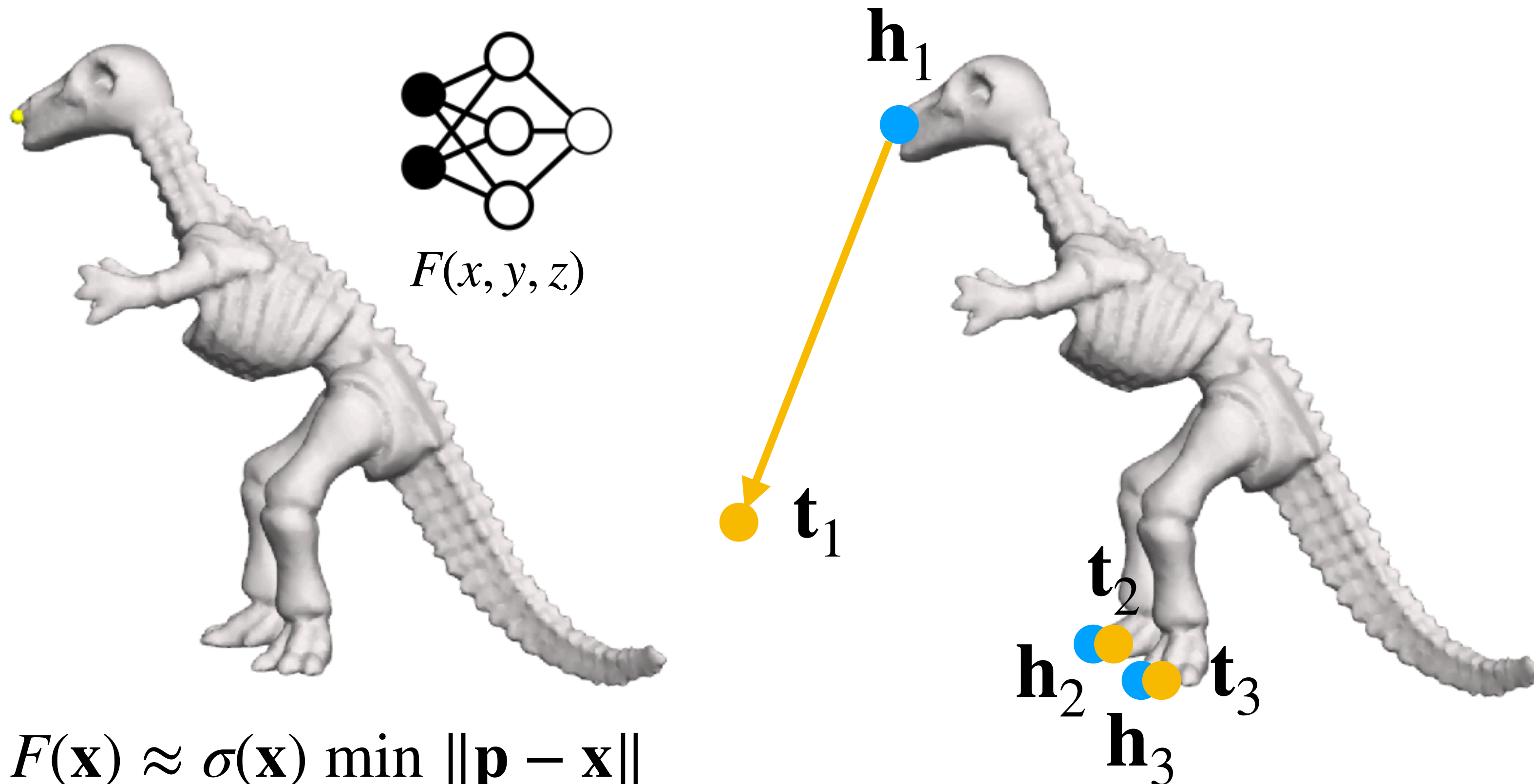
Problem Setup



$$F(\mathbf{x}) \approx \sigma(\mathbf{x}) \min_{\mathbf{p} \in \partial\Omega} \|\mathbf{p} - \mathbf{x}\|$$

$$\sigma(\mathbf{x}) = \begin{cases} -1 & \text{if } \mathbf{x} \in \Omega \\ 1 & \text{otherwise} \end{cases}$$

Problem Setup

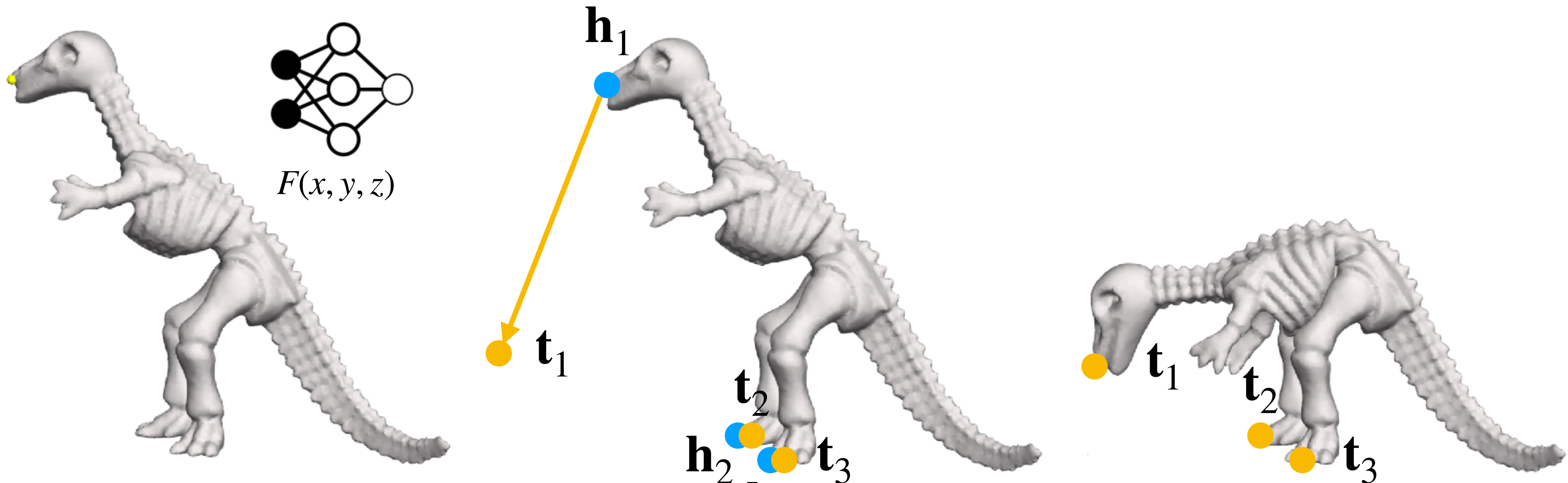


$$F(\mathbf{x}) \approx \sigma(\mathbf{x}) \min_{\mathbf{p} \in \partial\Omega} \|\mathbf{p} - \mathbf{x}\|$$

$$\sigma(\mathbf{x}) = \begin{cases} -1 & \text{if } \mathbf{x} \in \Omega \\ 1 & \text{otherwise} \end{cases}$$

User specification

Problem Setup



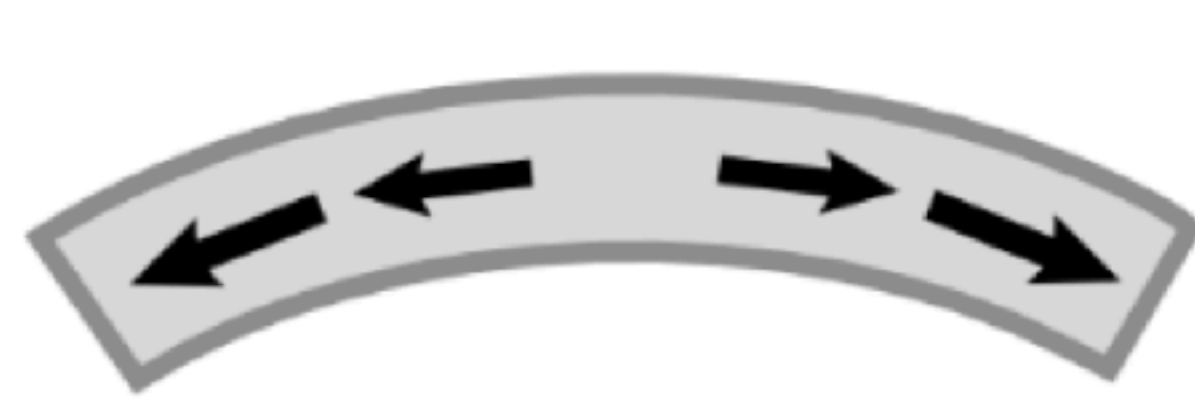
$$F(\mathbf{x}) \approx \sigma(\mathbf{x}) \min_{\mathbf{p} \in \partial\Omega} \|\mathbf{p} - \mathbf{x}\|$$

$$\sigma(\mathbf{x}) = \begin{cases} -1 & \text{if } \mathbf{x} \in \Omega \\ 1 & \text{otherwise} \end{cases}$$

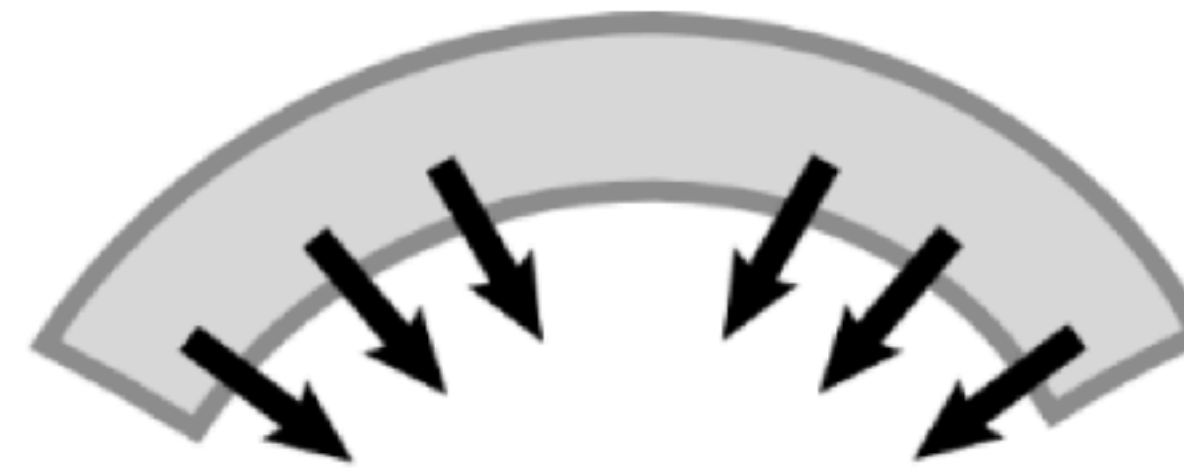
User specification

Desired Output
Natural Elastic Deformation

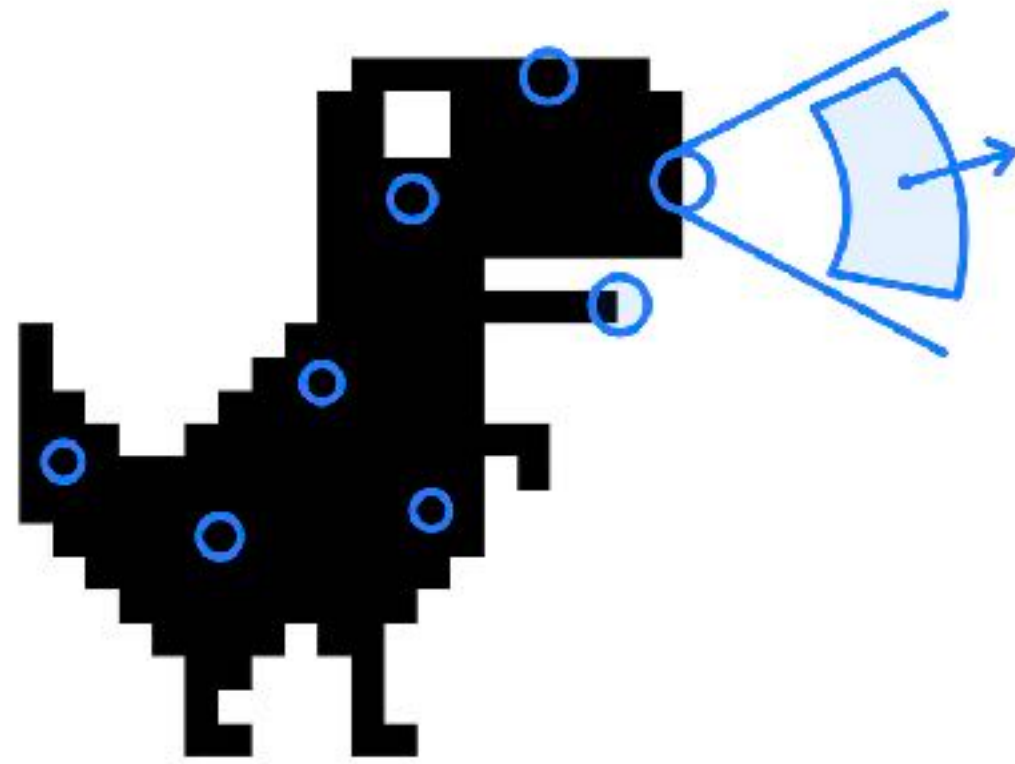
Elastic Deformation



Stretching



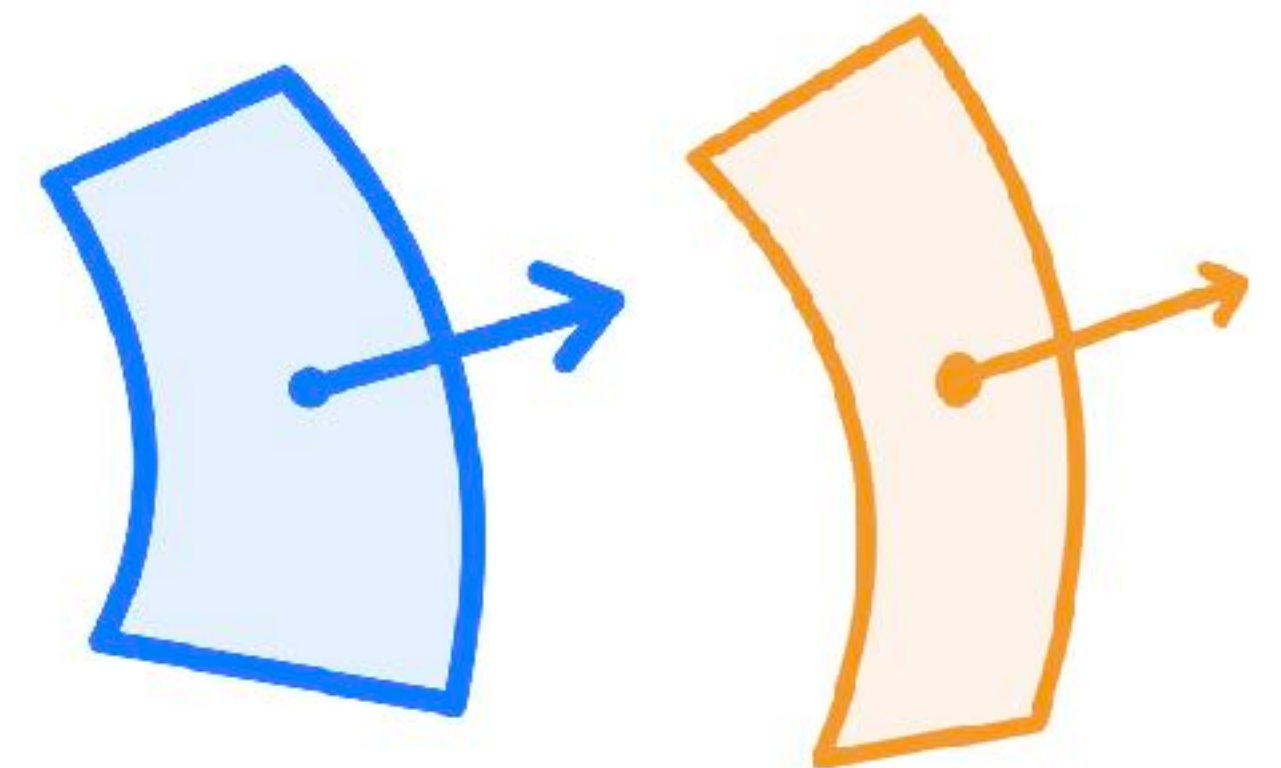
Bending



1. Sampling



2. Correspondences



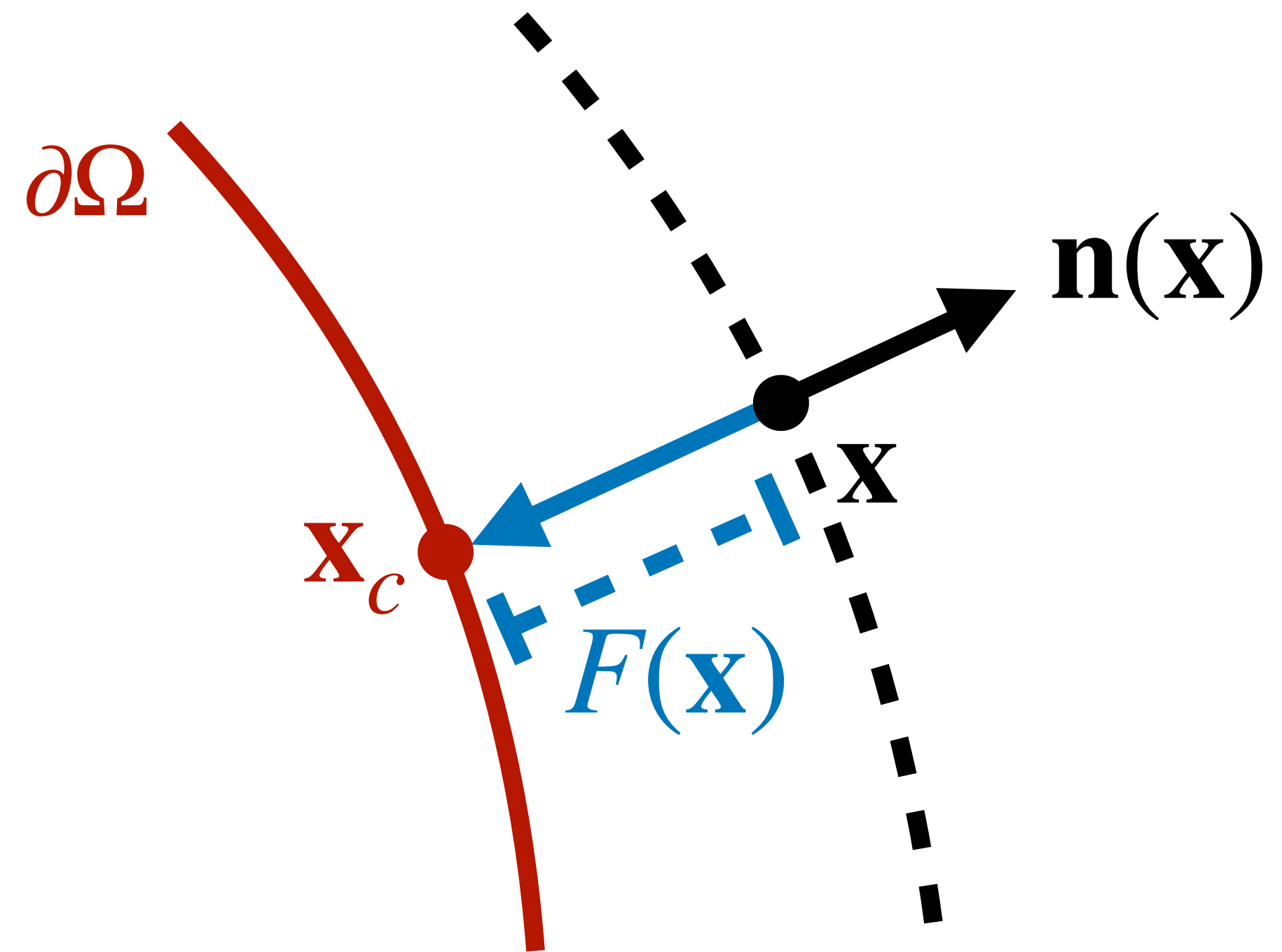
3. Comparing

Step 1: Sampling

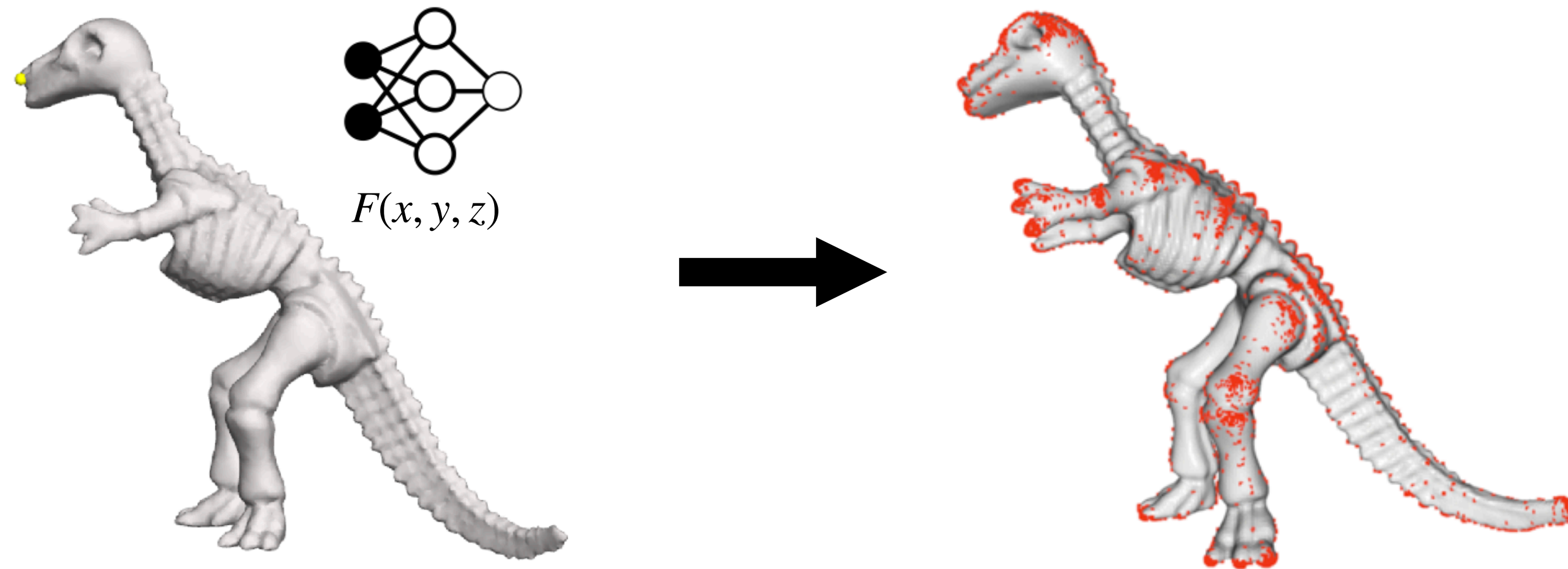
$$F(\mathbf{x}) \approx SDF(\mathbf{x})$$

$$\mathbf{x}_c = \mathop{\text{arg min}}_{\mathbf{p} \in \partial\Omega} |\mathbf{p} - \mathbf{x}|$$

$$= \mathbf{x} - F(\mathbf{x})\mathbf{n}(\mathbf{x})$$



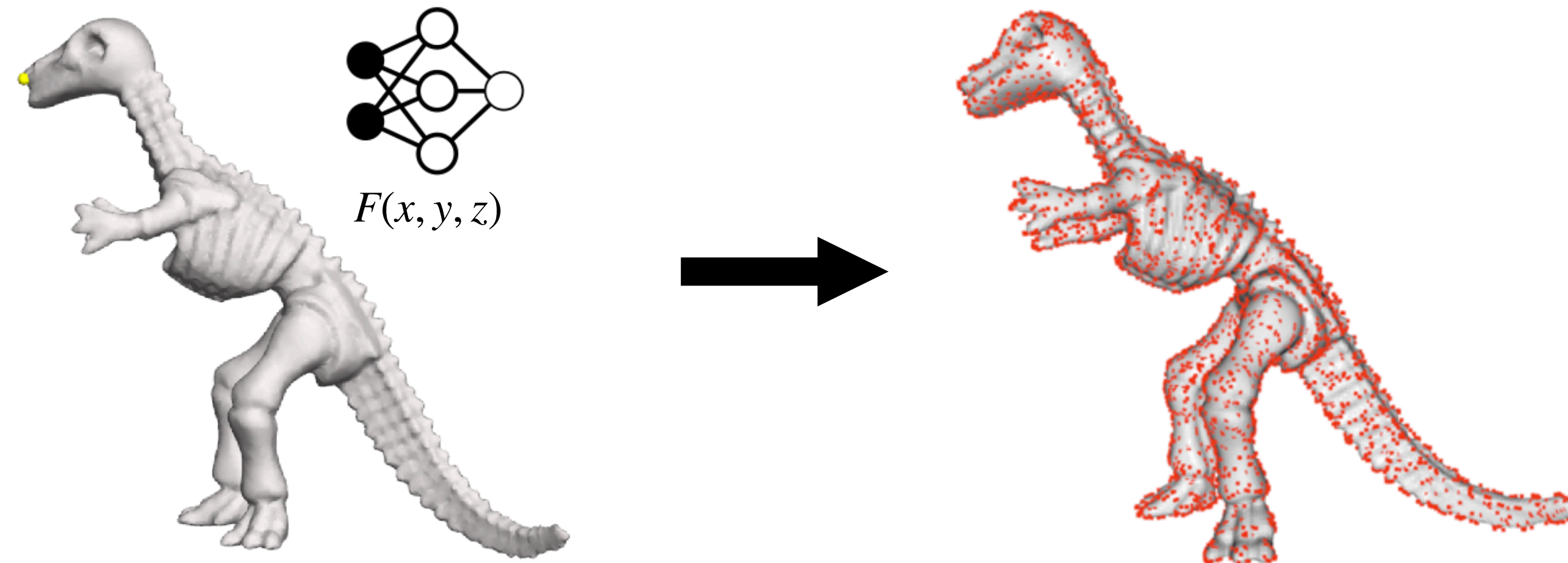
Step 1: Sampling



$$\mathbf{x}_0 \sim U([-1, 1]^3)$$

$$\hat{\mathbf{x}} = \mathbf{x}_0 - F(\mathbf{x}_0)\mathbf{n}(\mathbf{x}_0)$$

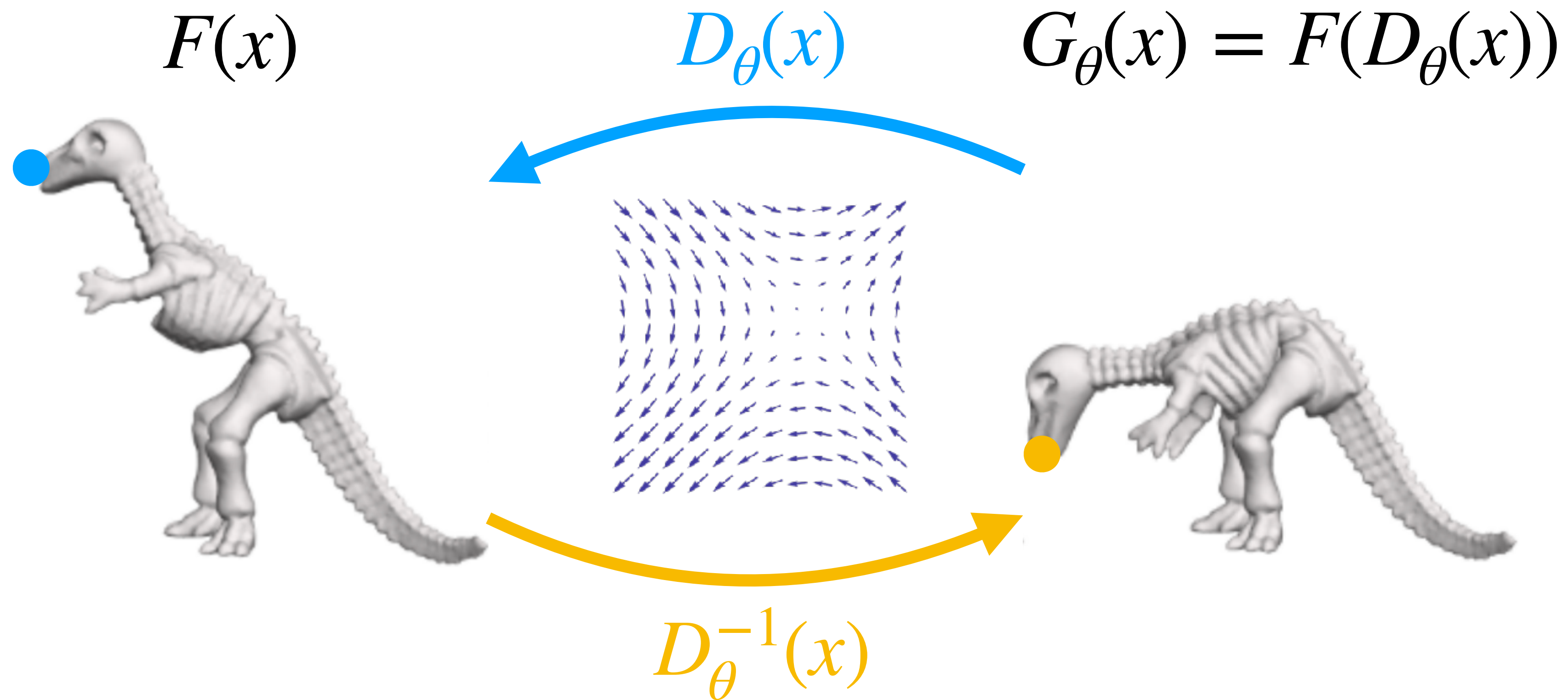
Step 1: Sampling



$$\mathbf{x}_0 \sim \{\mathbf{x} \mid \mathbf{x} \in U([-1, 1]^3), F(\mathbf{x}) < \tau\}$$

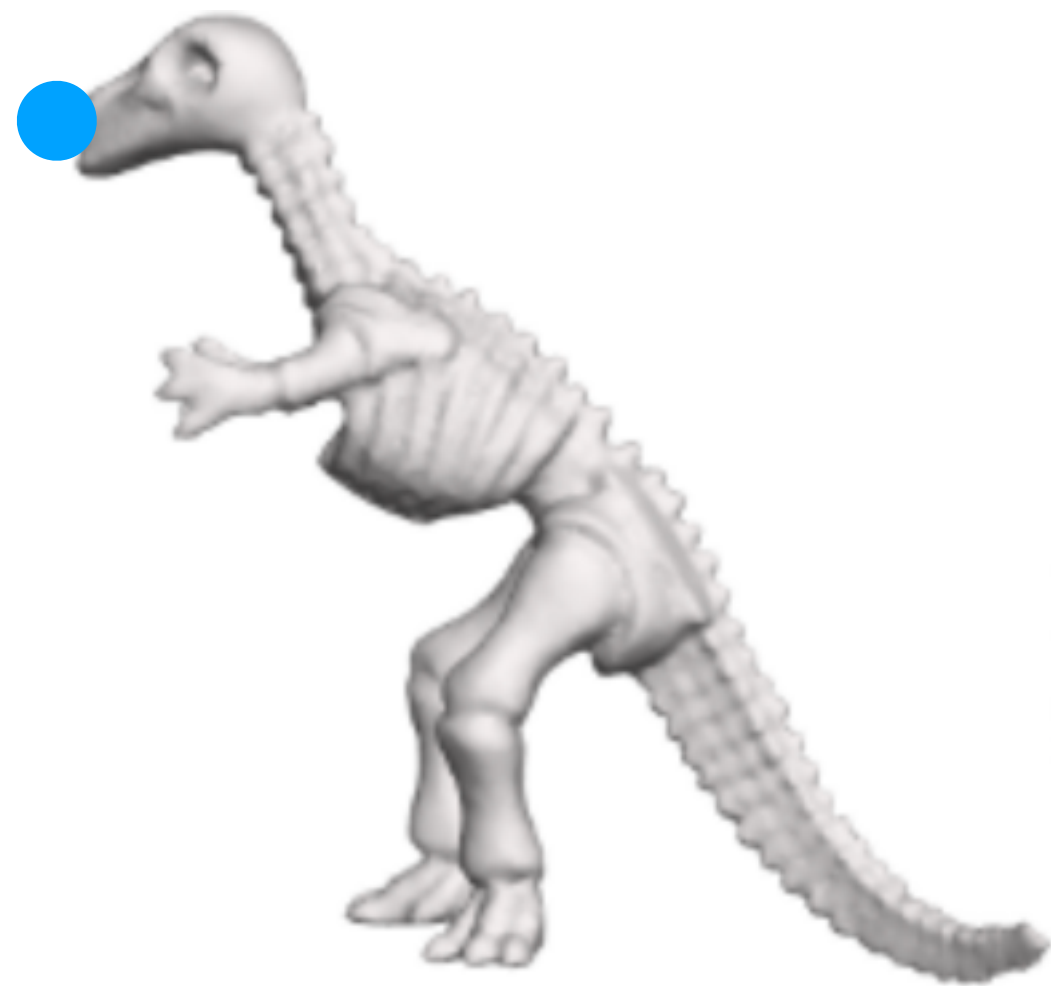
$$\hat{\mathbf{x}} = \mathbf{x}_0 - F(\mathbf{x}_0)\mathbf{n}(\mathbf{x}_0)$$

Step 2: Correspondences

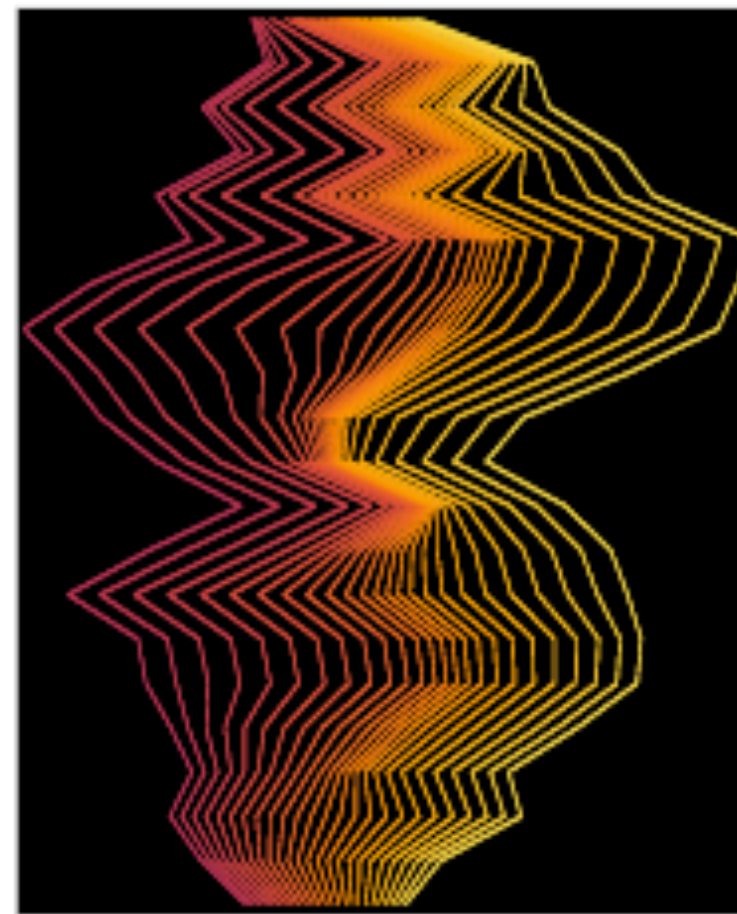


Step 2: Correspondences

$$F(x)$$

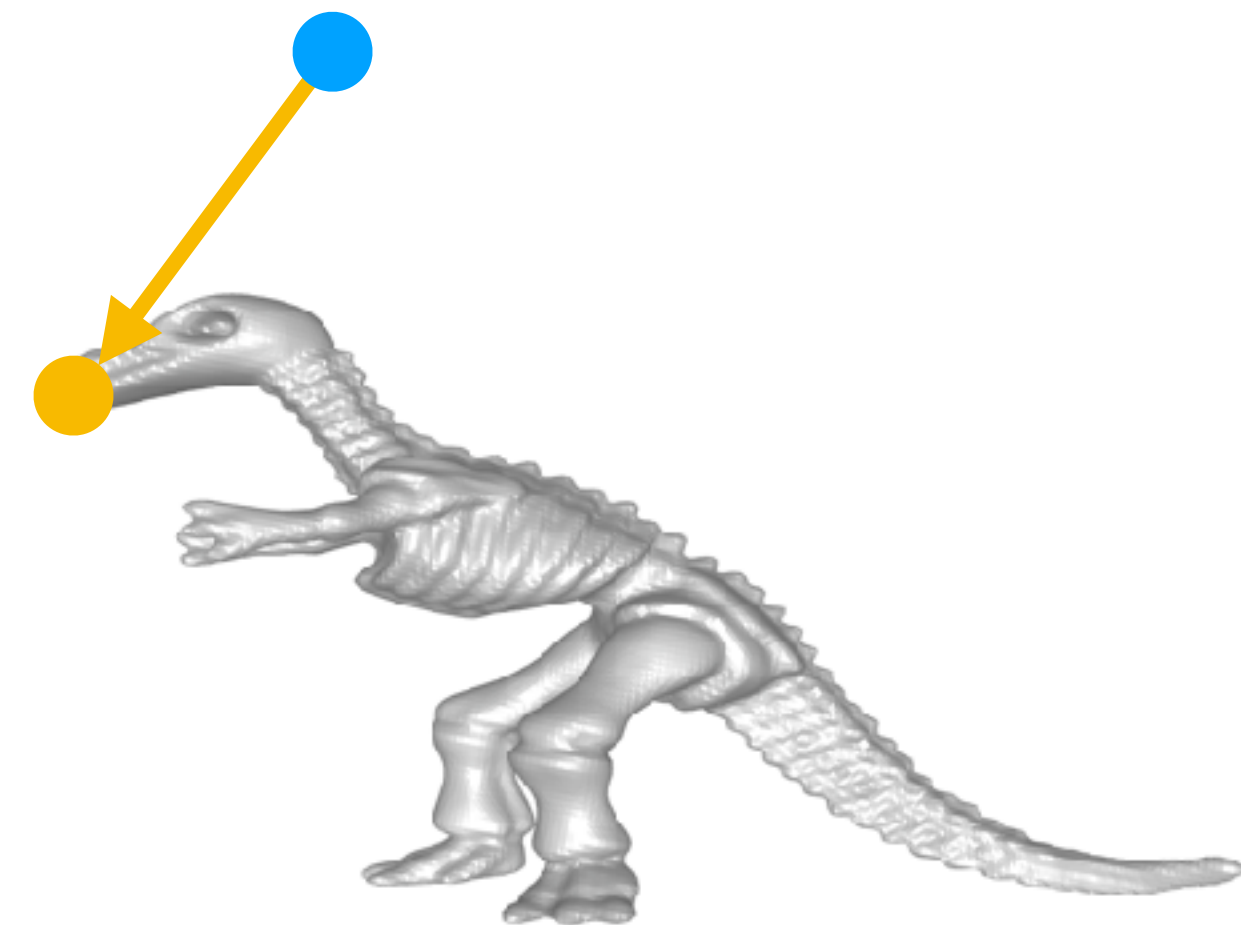


$$D_{\theta}(x) = x + g_{\theta}(x)$$



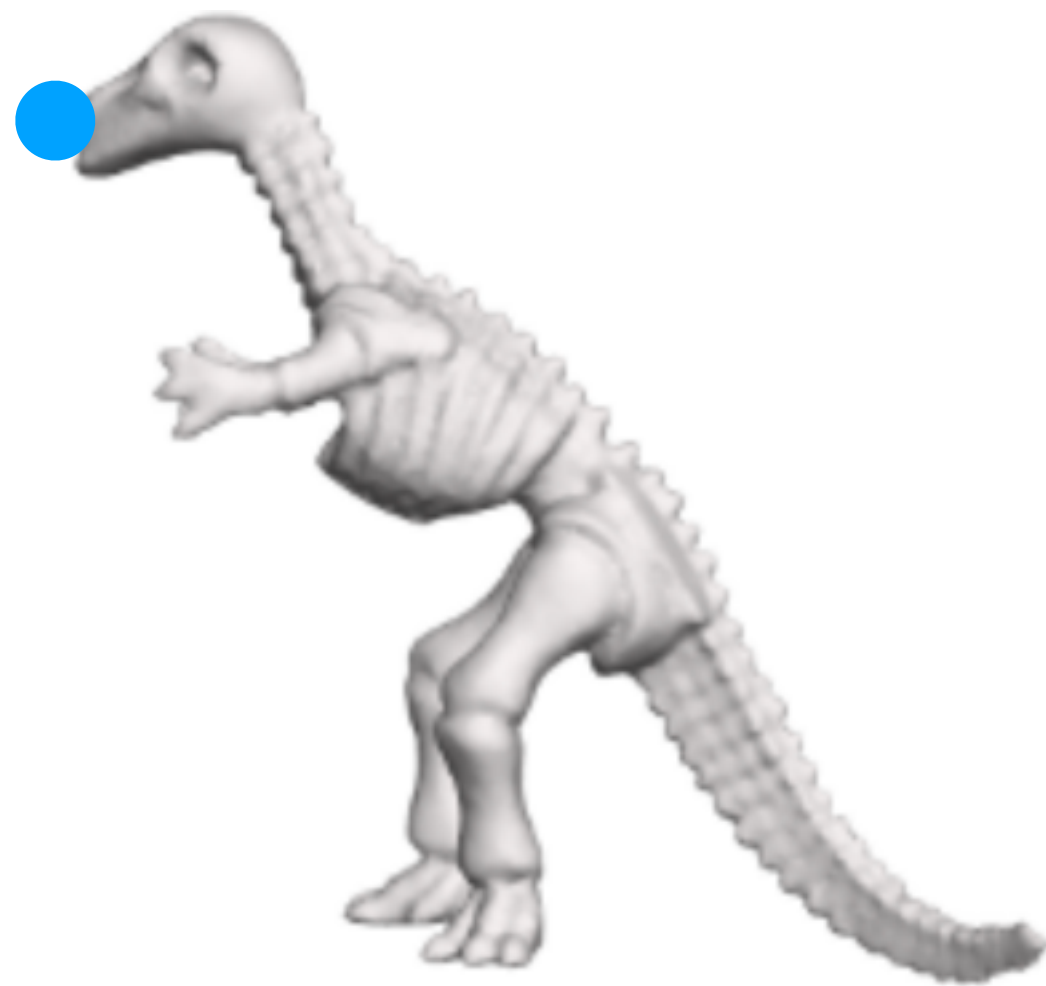
Invertible ResNet
(Behrmann *et. al.*, 2019)

$$G_{\theta}(x) = F(D_{\theta}(x))$$

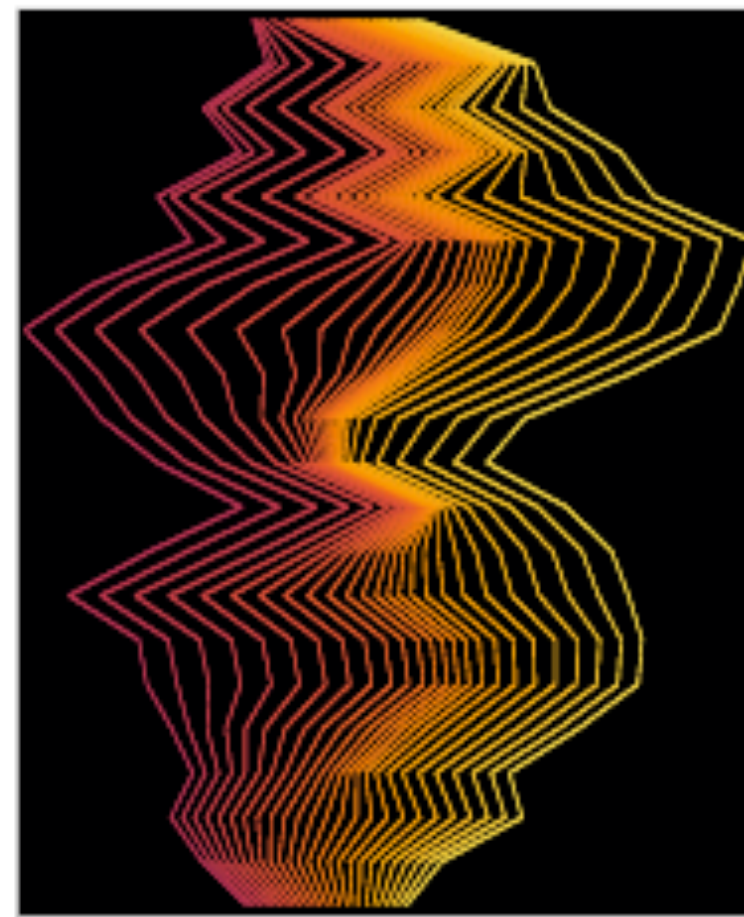


Step 2: Correspondences

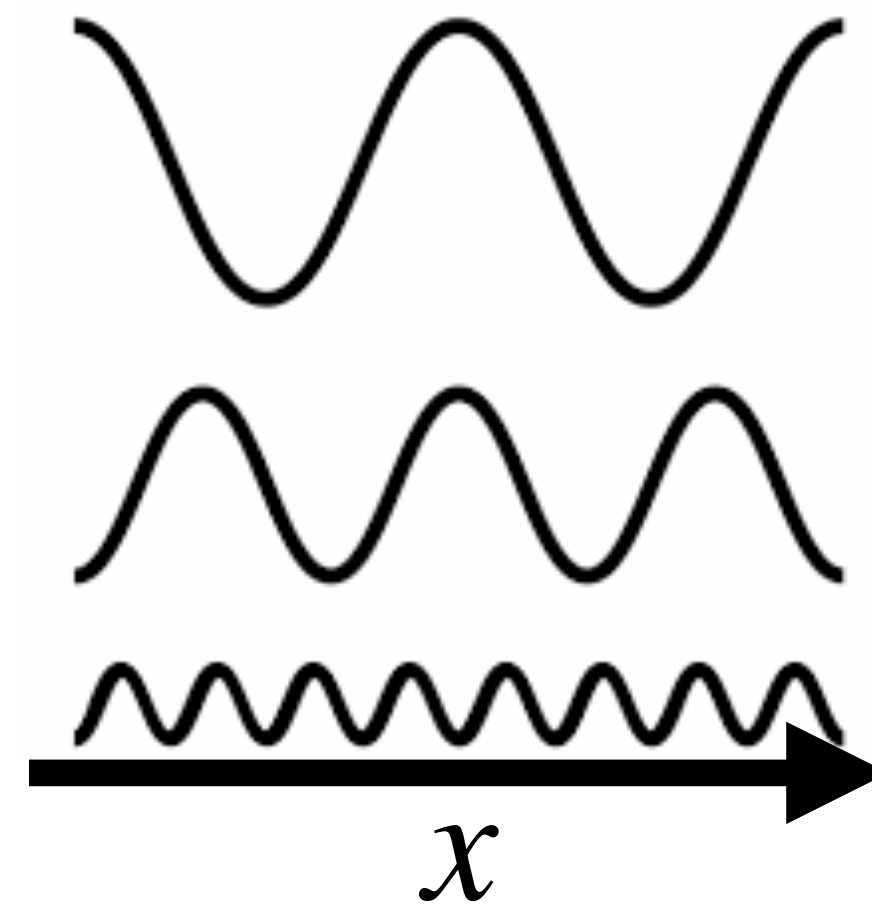
$$F(x)$$



$$D_{\theta}(x) = x + g_{\theta}(x)$$



Invertible ResNet
(Behrman et. al., 2019)

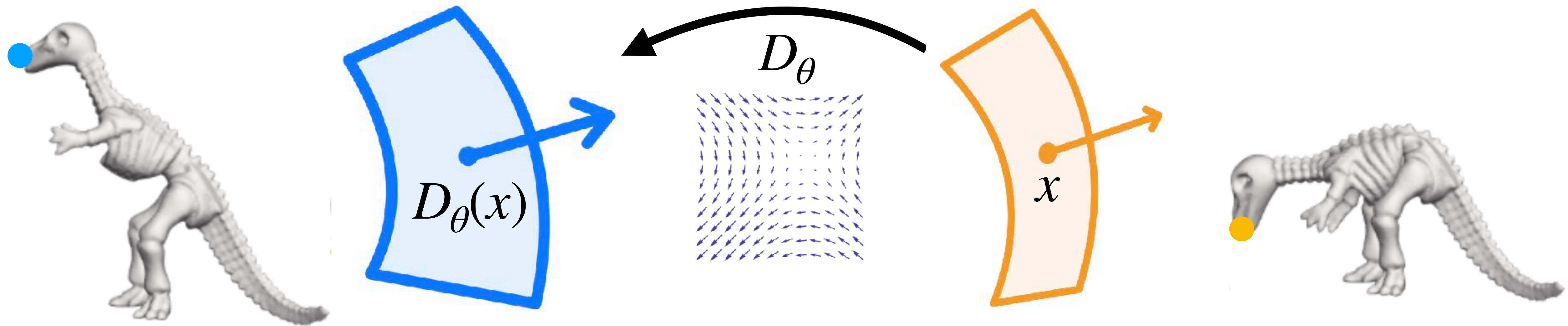


Lip-bounded
Positional Encoding

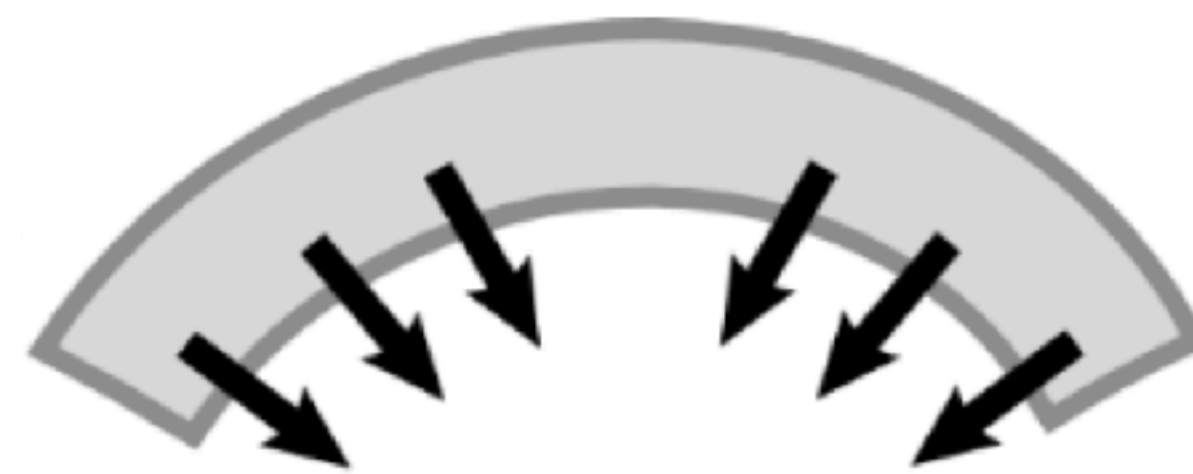
$$G_{\theta}(x) = F(D_{\theta}(x))$$



Step 3: Comparing



Stretching

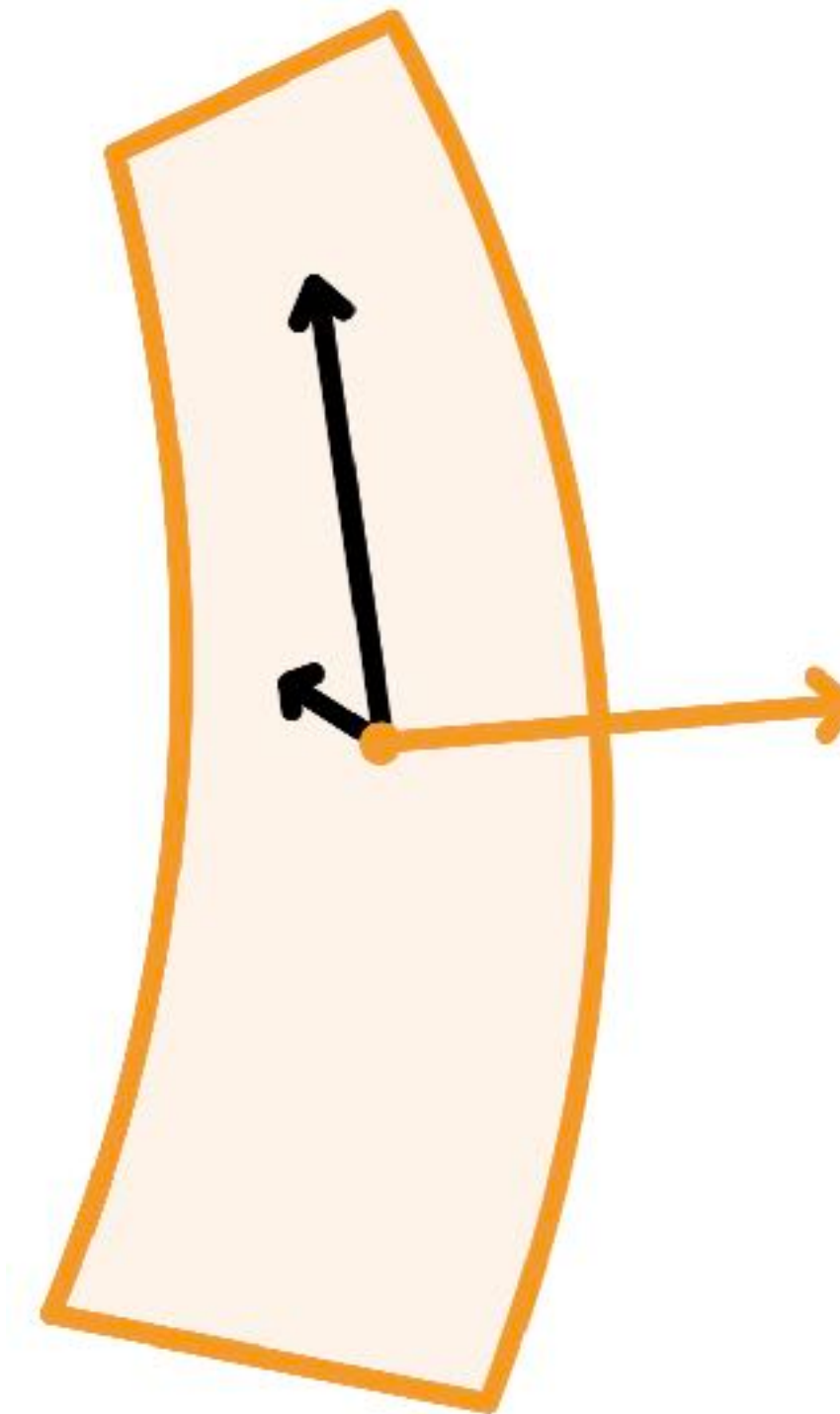
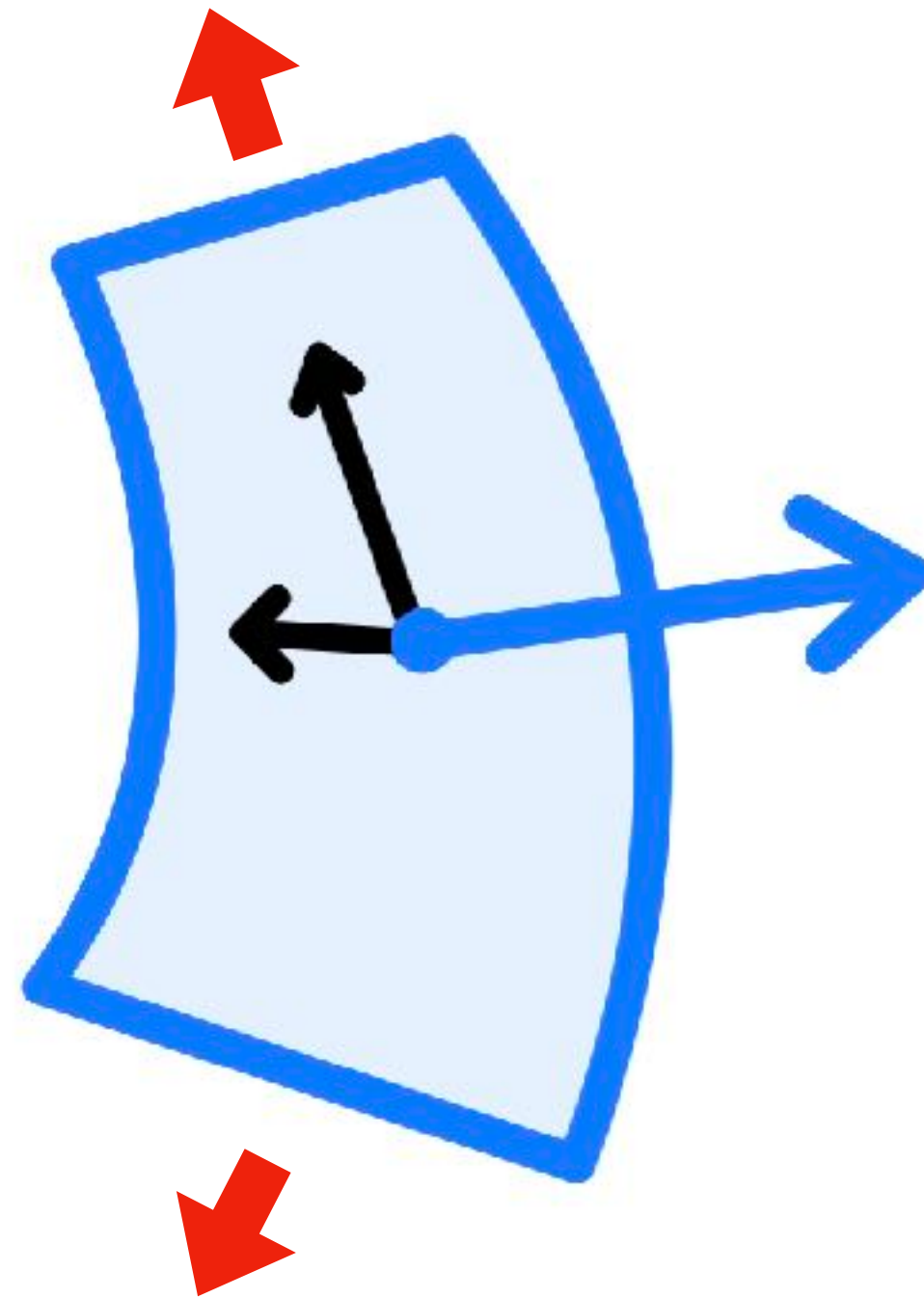


Bending

Step 3: Comparing



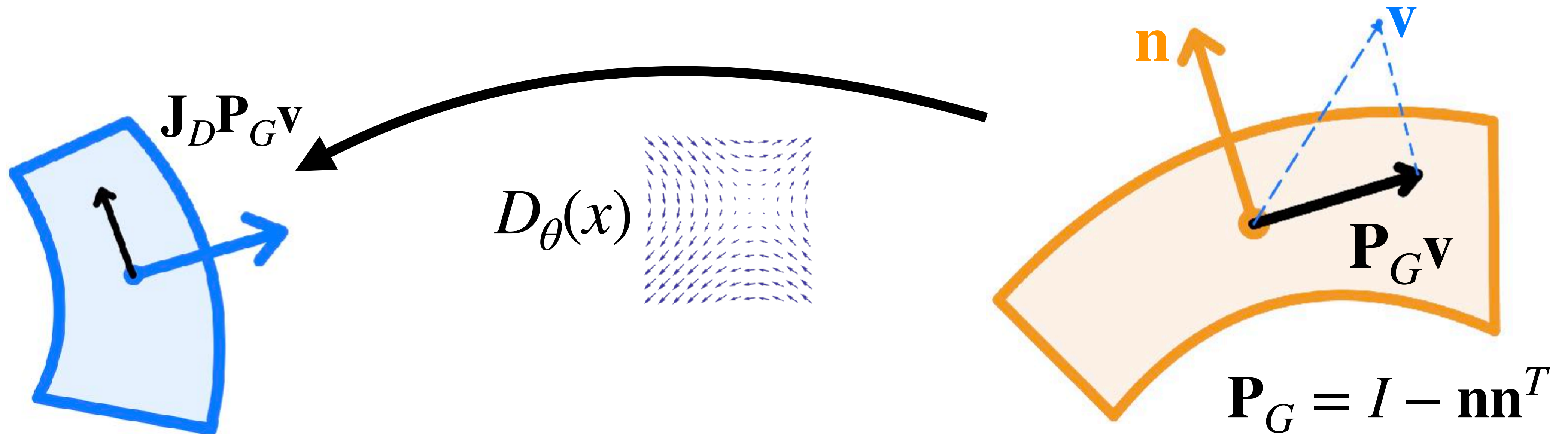
Stretch - change of tangent dot-product



Step 3: Comparing



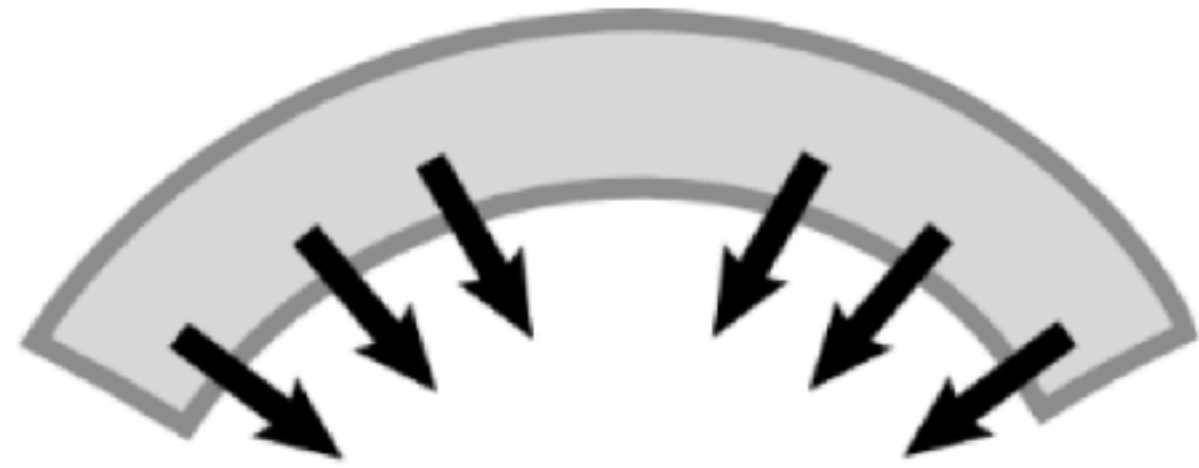
Stretch - change of tangent dot-product



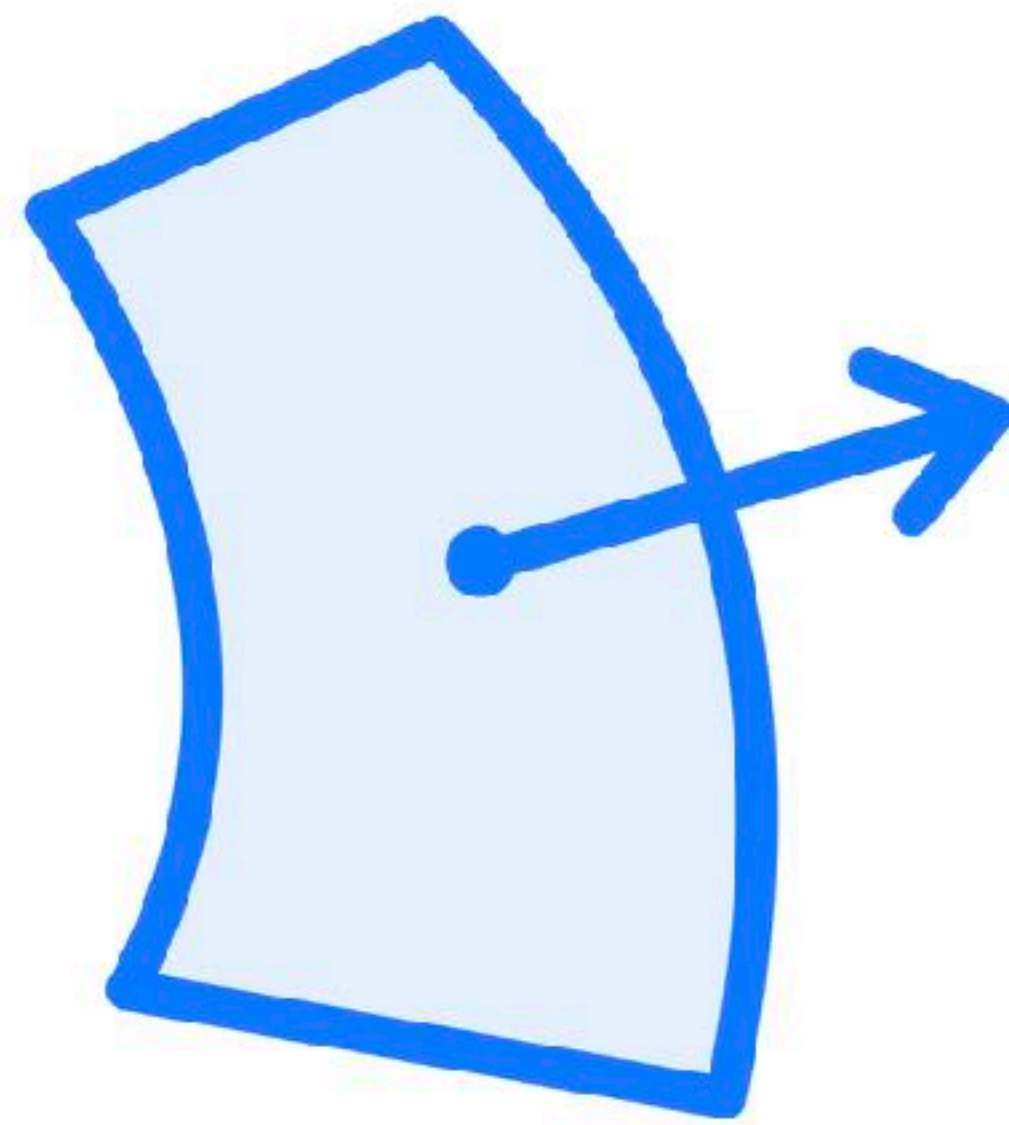
$$\mathbf{P}_G = \mathbf{I} - \mathbf{n}\mathbf{n}^T$$

$$\mathcal{L}_s = \int \left\| \mathbf{P}_G^T (\mathbf{I} - \mathbf{J}_D^T \mathbf{J}_D) \mathbf{P}_G \right\|_F dx$$

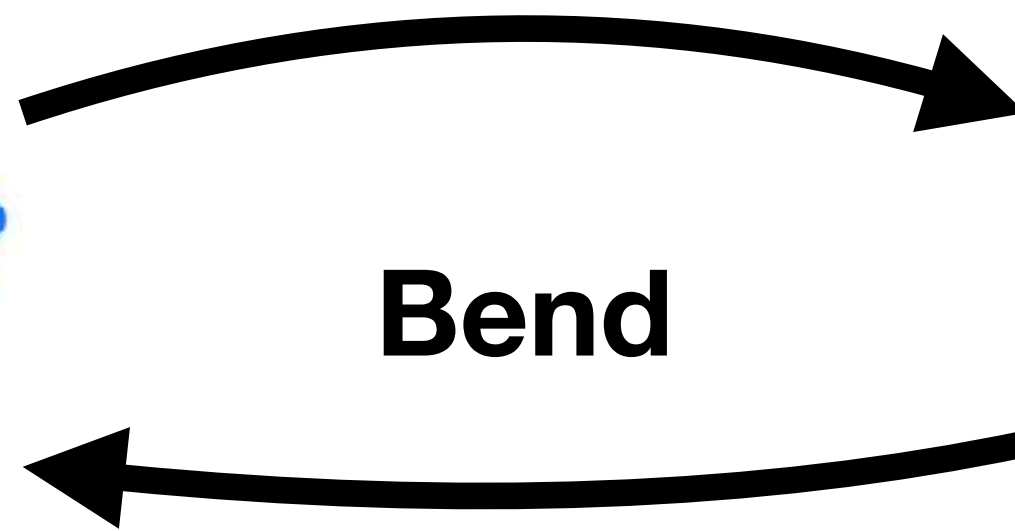
Step 3: Comparing



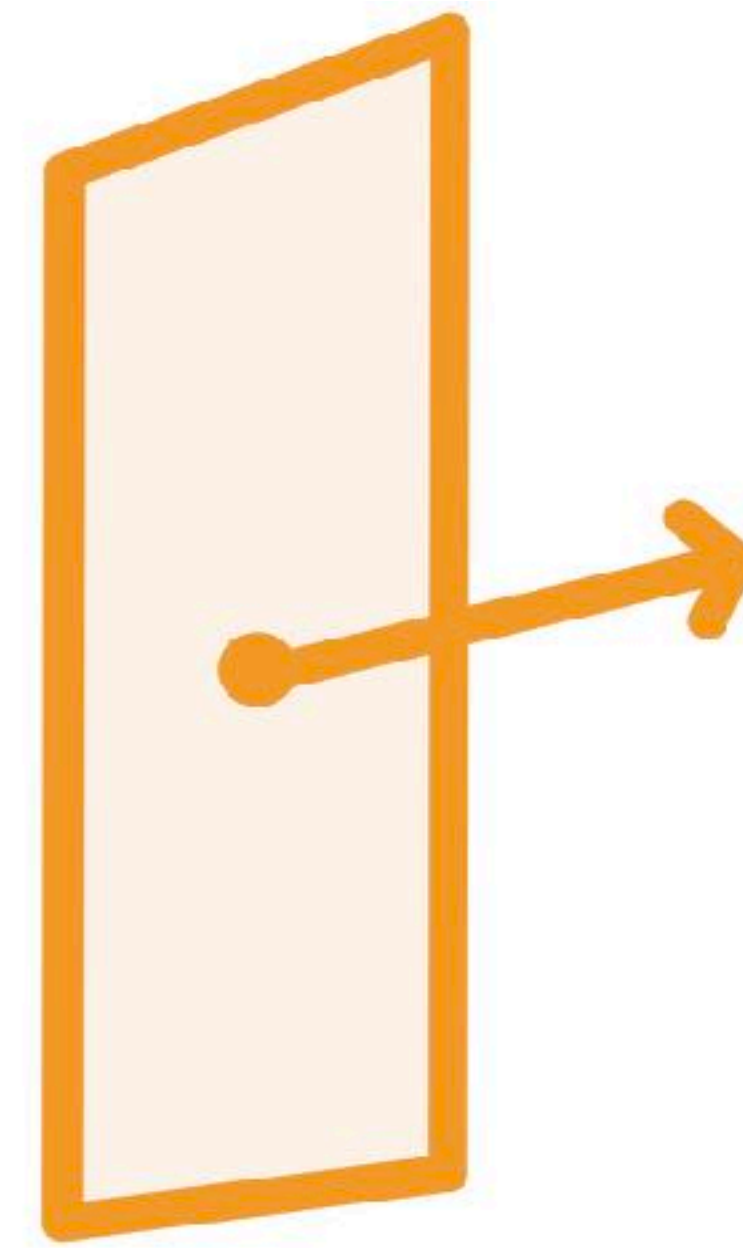
Bending - change of curvature



More curved

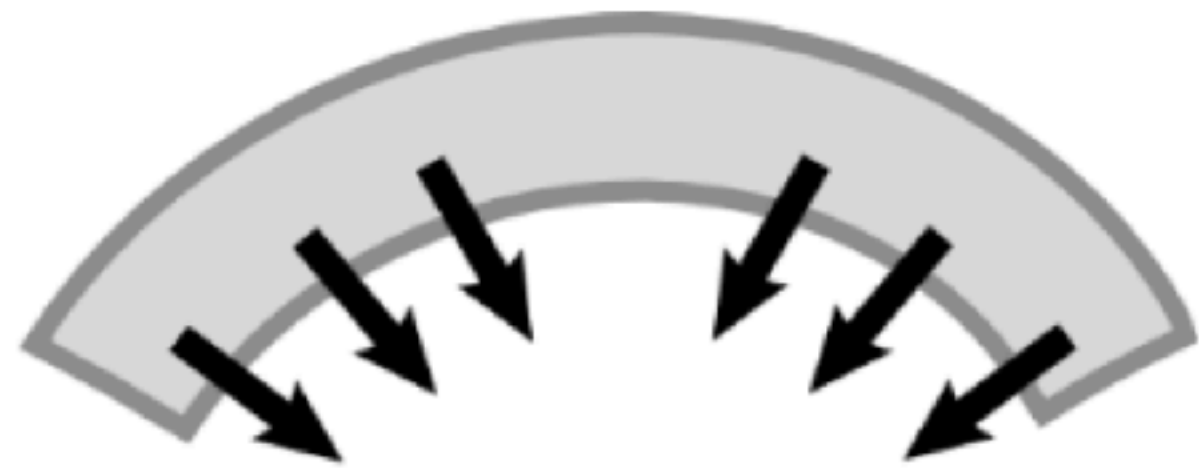


Bend



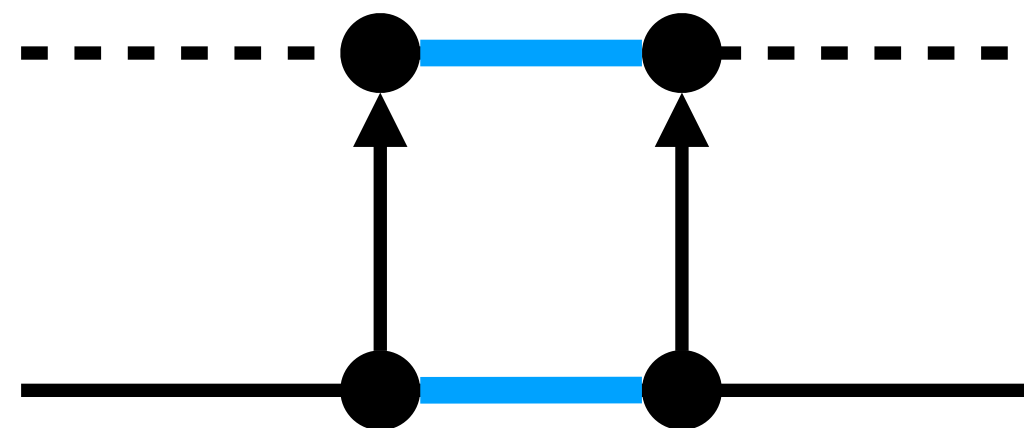
Less curved

Step 3: Comparing

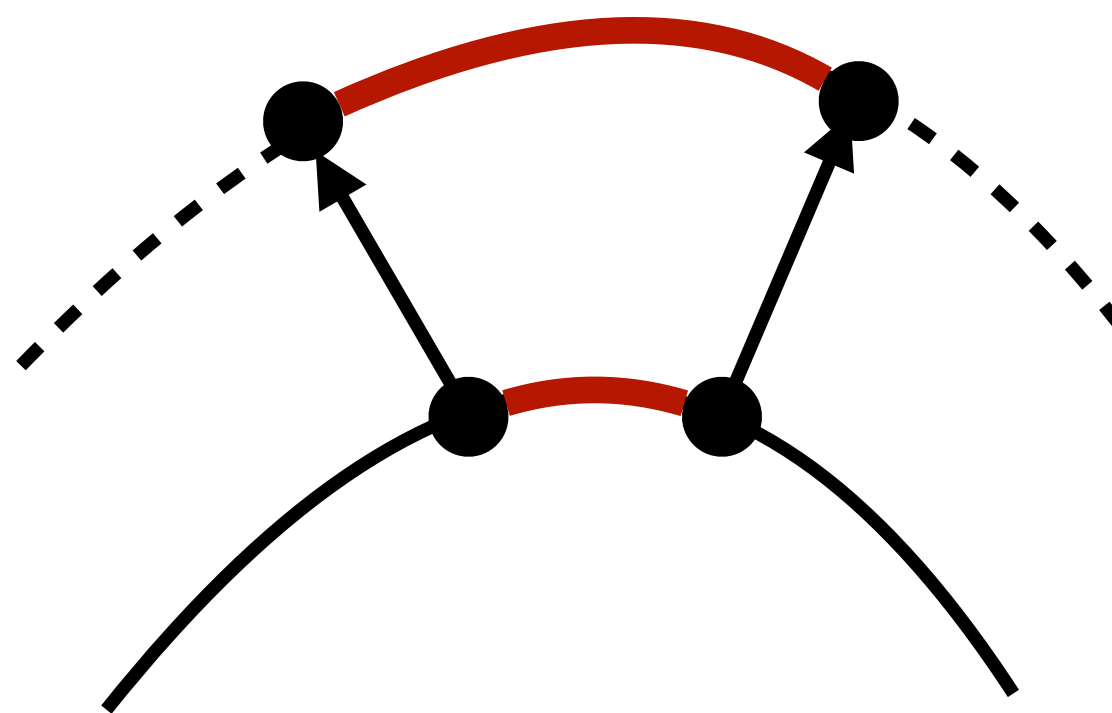


Bending - change of **curvature**

Curvature - change along normal direction



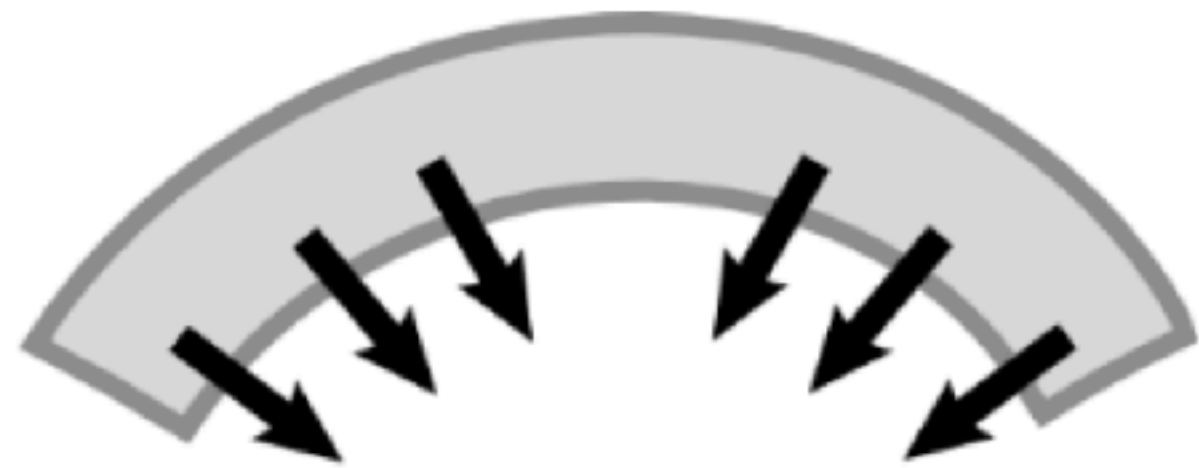
Low curvature
Little change



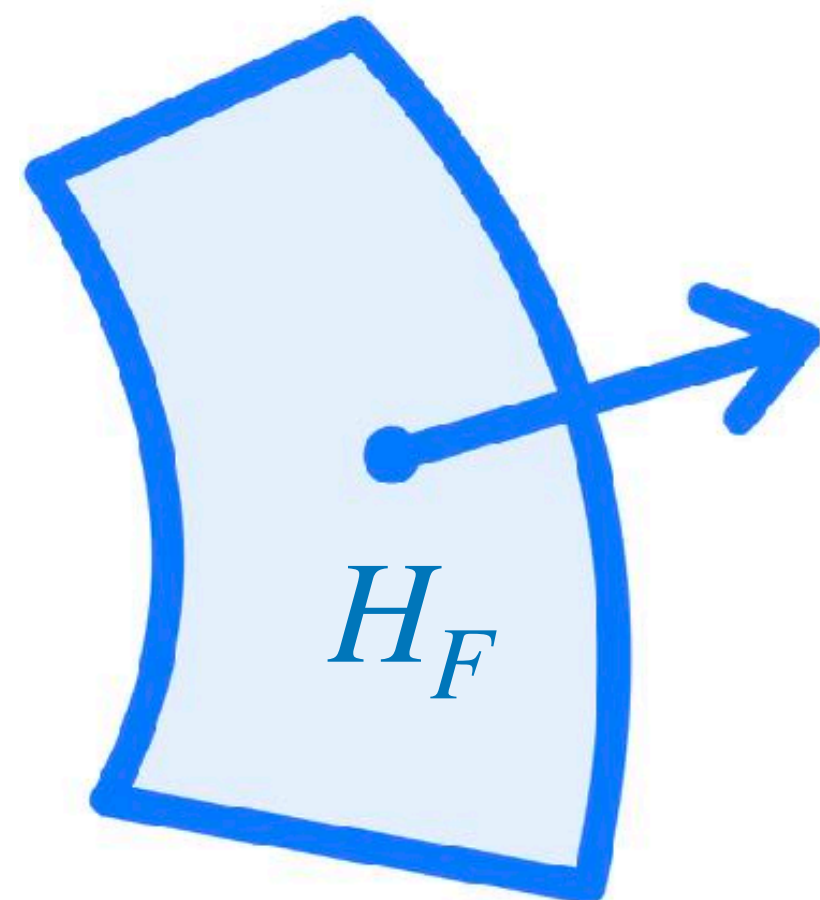
High curvature
Large change

$$H_f = \begin{bmatrix} f_{xx} & f_{xy} & f_{xz} \\ f_{yx} & f_{yy} & f_{yz} \\ f_{zx} & f_{zy} & f_{zz} \end{bmatrix}$$

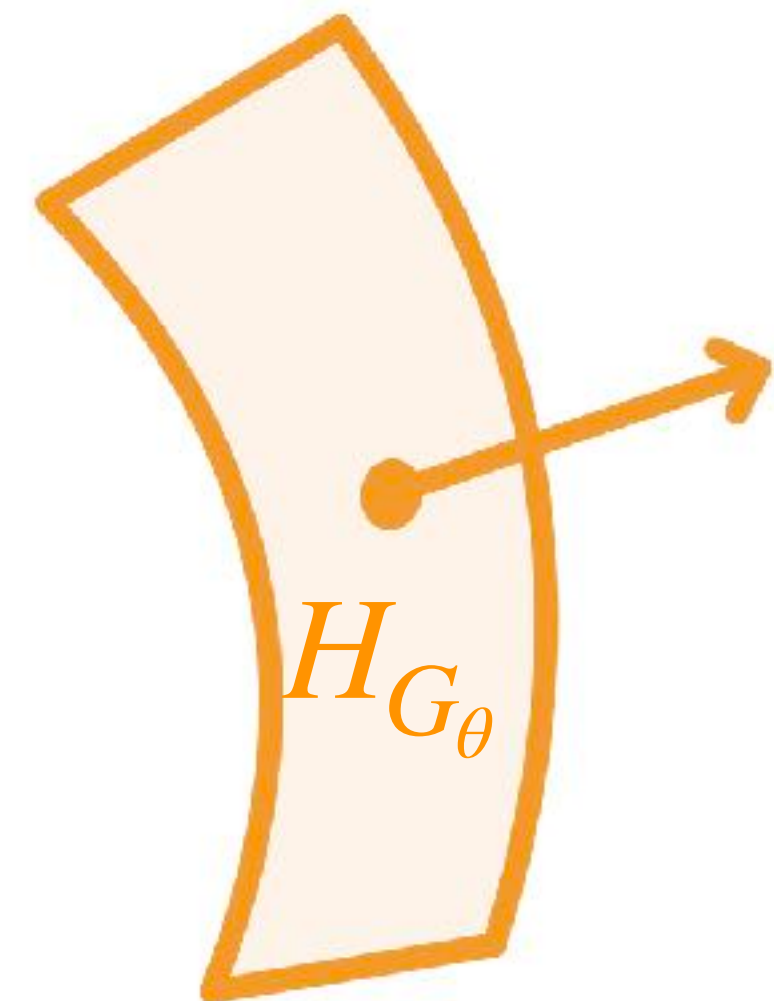
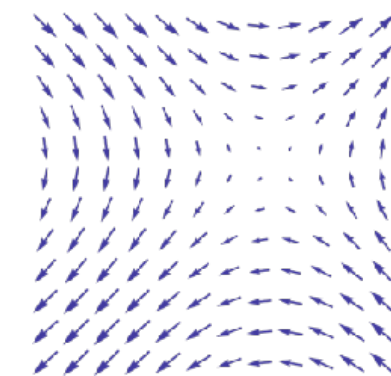
Step 3: Comparing



Bending - change of **curvature**



$D_\theta(x)$

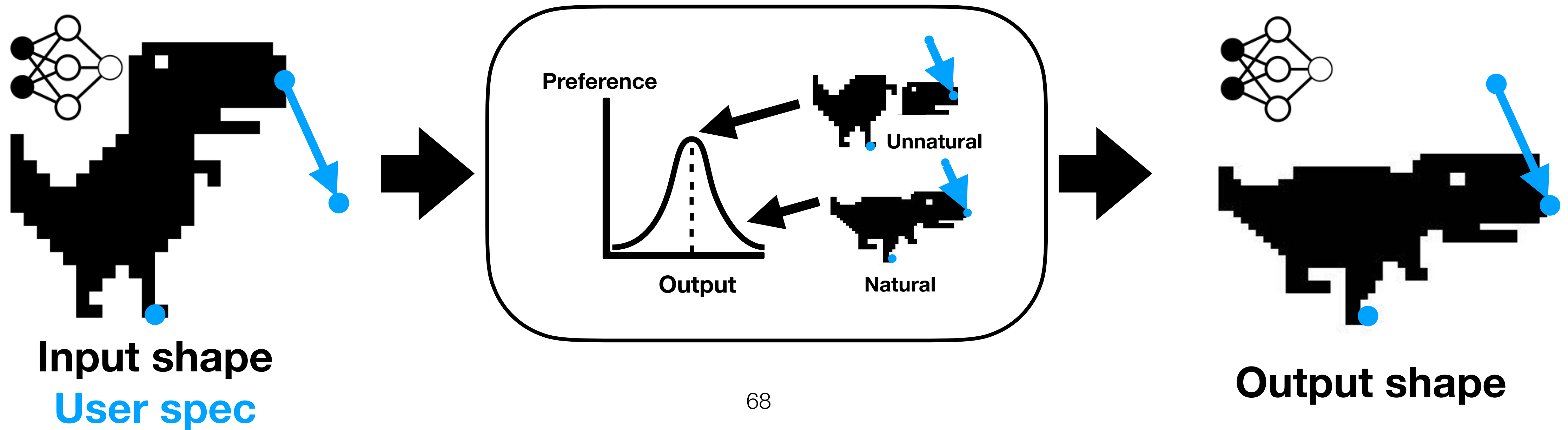


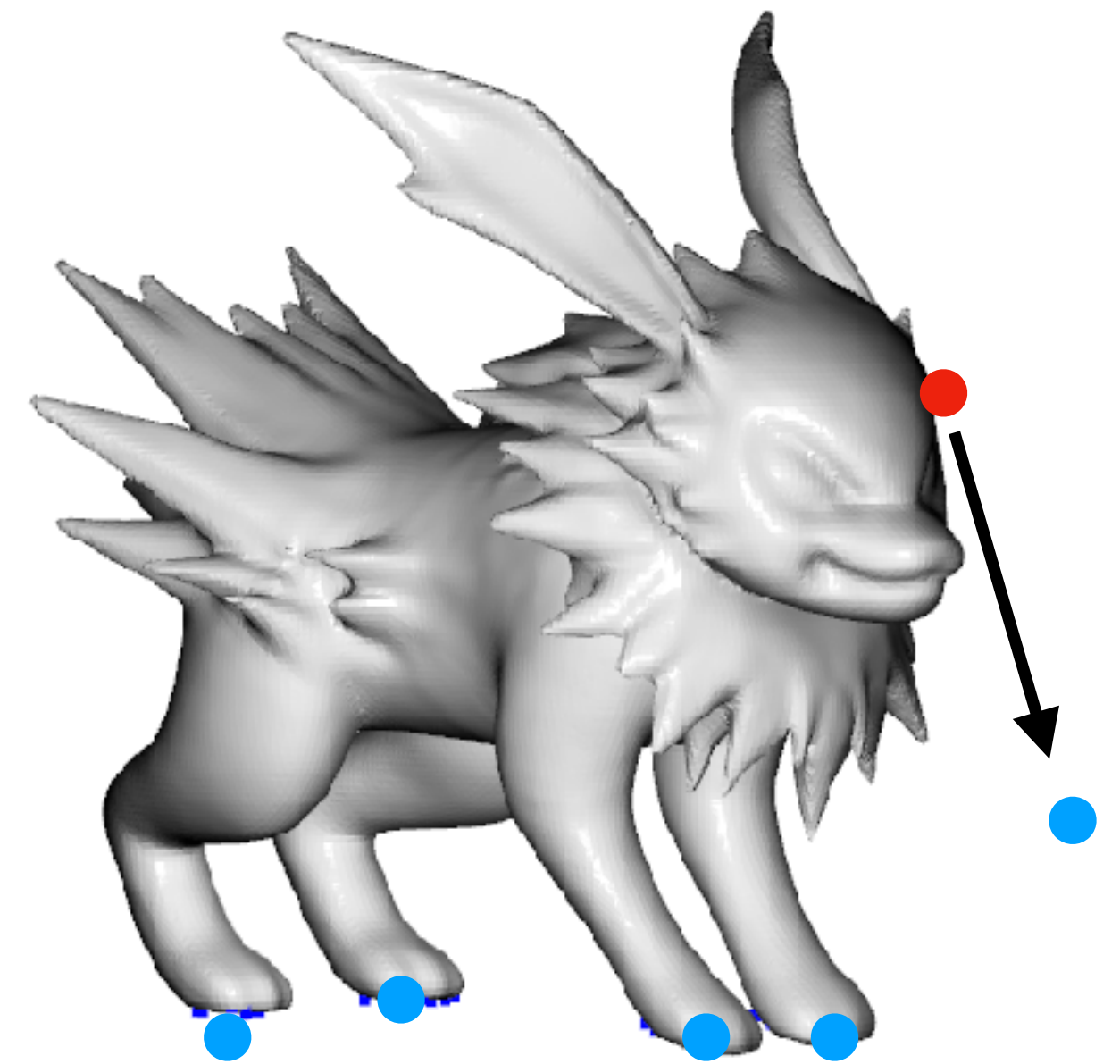
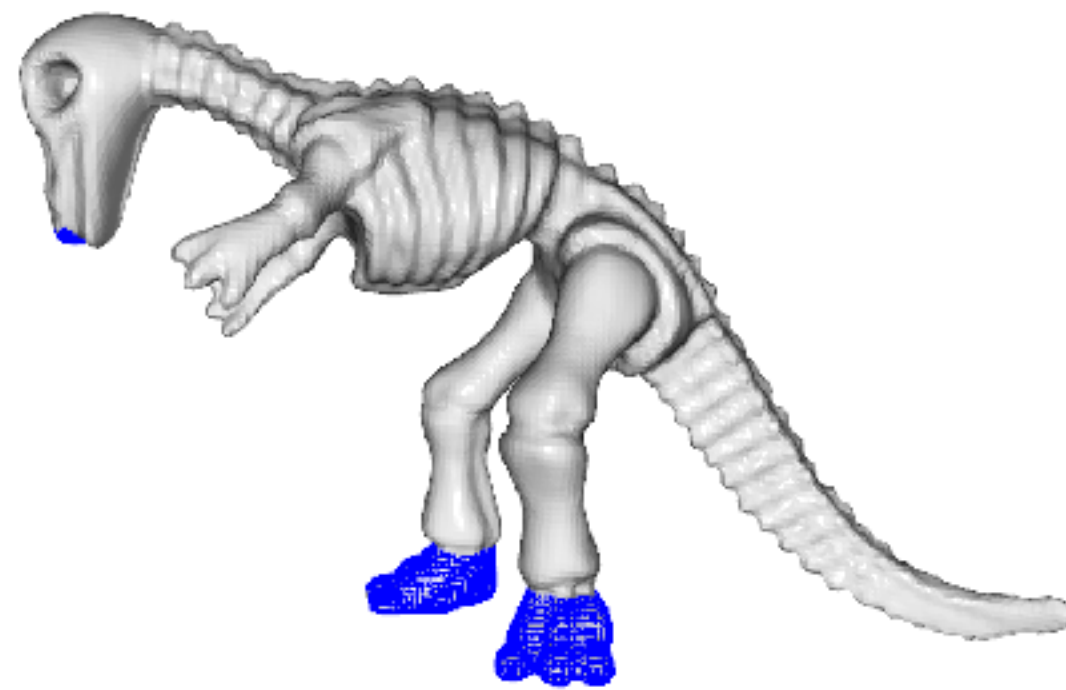
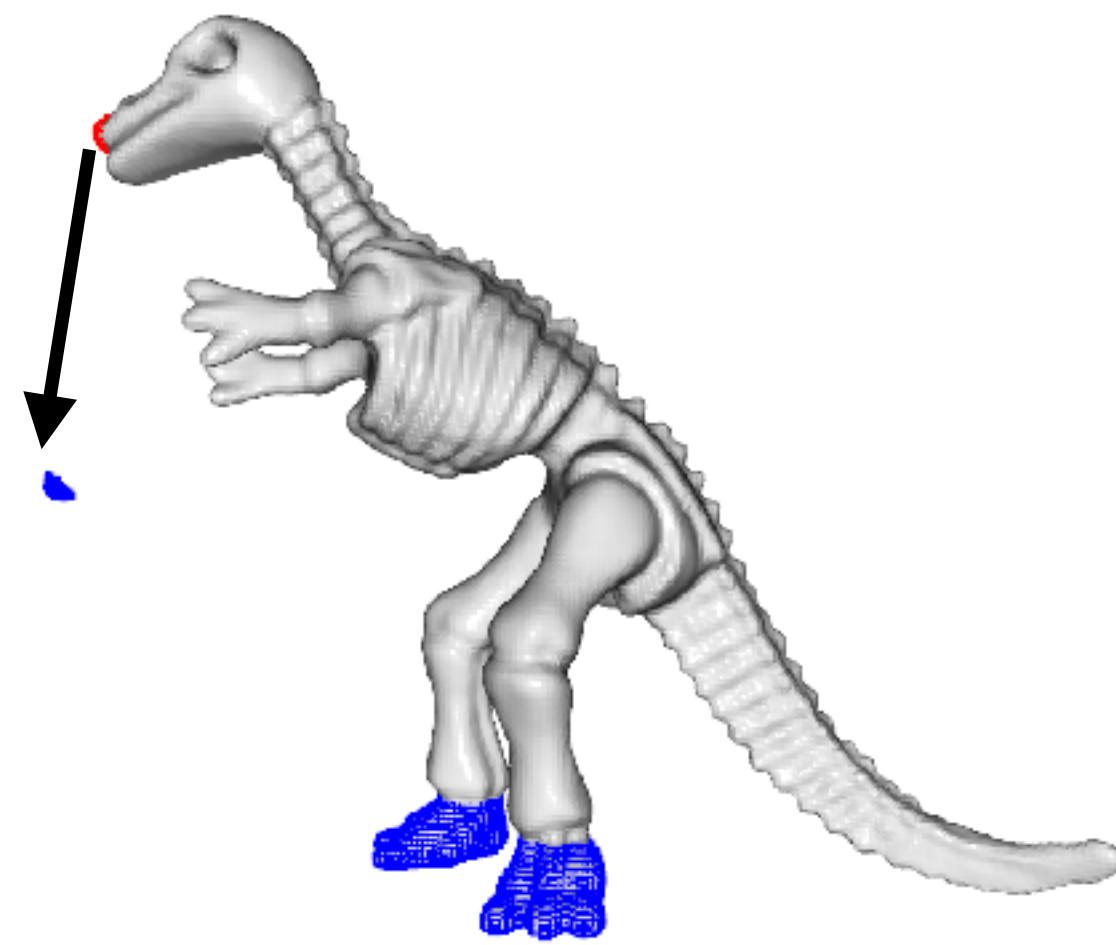
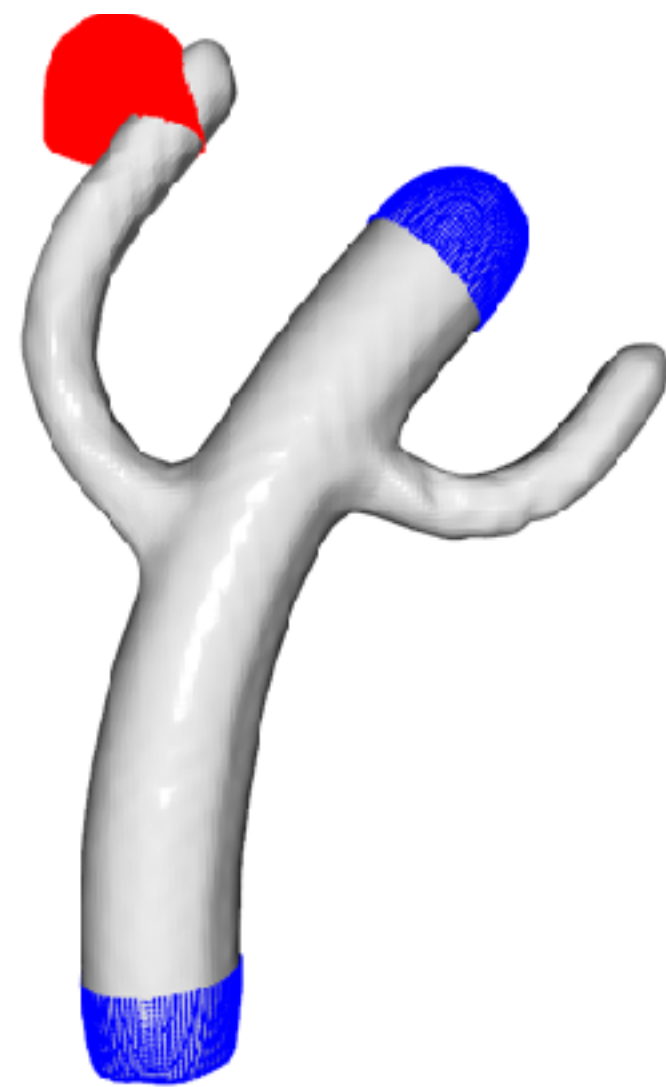
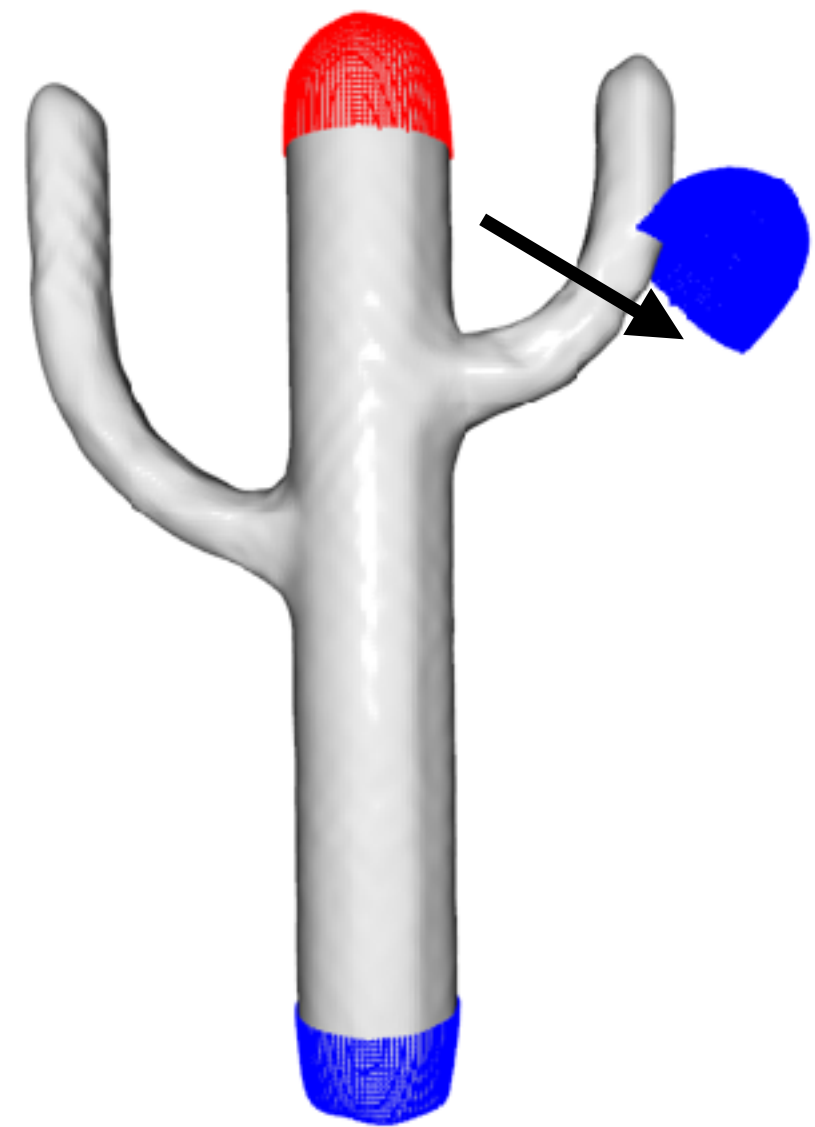
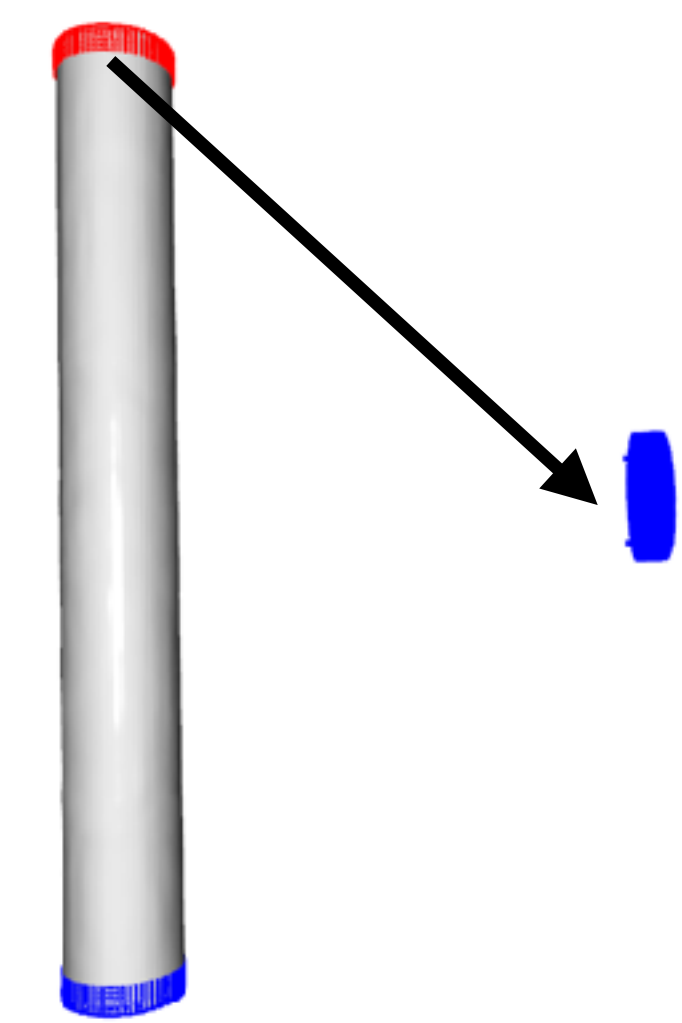
$$\mathcal{L}_b = \int_x \left\| \mathbf{P}_G^T (\mathbf{H}_G - \mathbf{J}_D^T \mathbf{H}_F \mathbf{J}_D) \mathbf{P}_G \right\|_F dx$$

Final Objective

$$\mathcal{L}_s = \int_x \left\| \mathbf{P}_G^T (\mathbf{I} - \mathbf{J}_D^T \mathbf{J}_D) \mathbf{P}_G \right\|_F dx \quad \mathcal{L}_{spec} = \sum_i \max(\tau, |D_\theta(t_i) - h_i|)$$

$$\mathcal{L}_b = \int_x \left\| \mathbf{P}_G^T (\mathbf{H}_G - \mathbf{J}_D^T \mathbf{H}_F \mathbf{J}_D) \mathbf{P}_G \right\|_F dx \quad \min_{\theta} k_s \mathcal{L}_s + k_b \mathcal{L}_b + k_c \mathcal{L}_{spec}$$





Analysis - Solving PDEs

Synthesis



PointFlow (ICCV 2019)

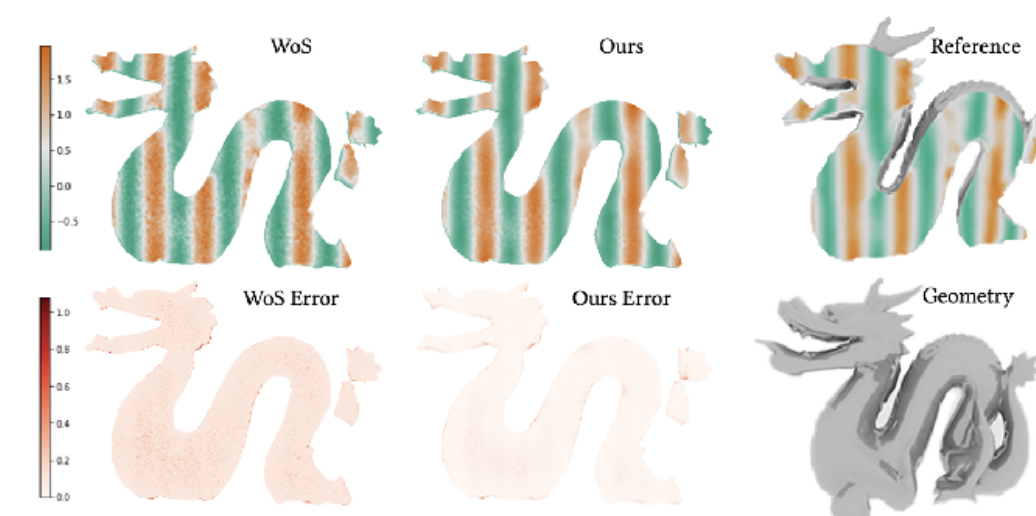


ShapeGF (ECCV 2020)

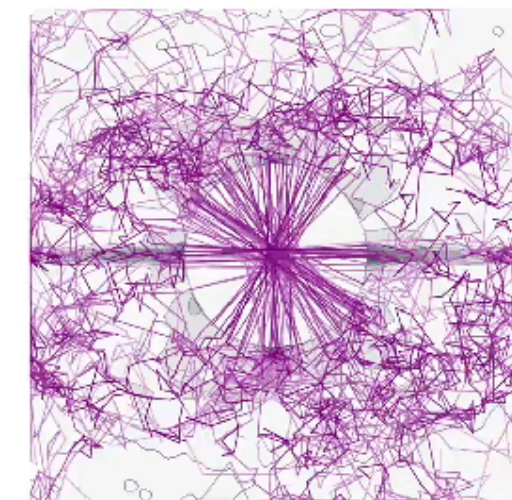


NFGP (NeurIPS 2021)

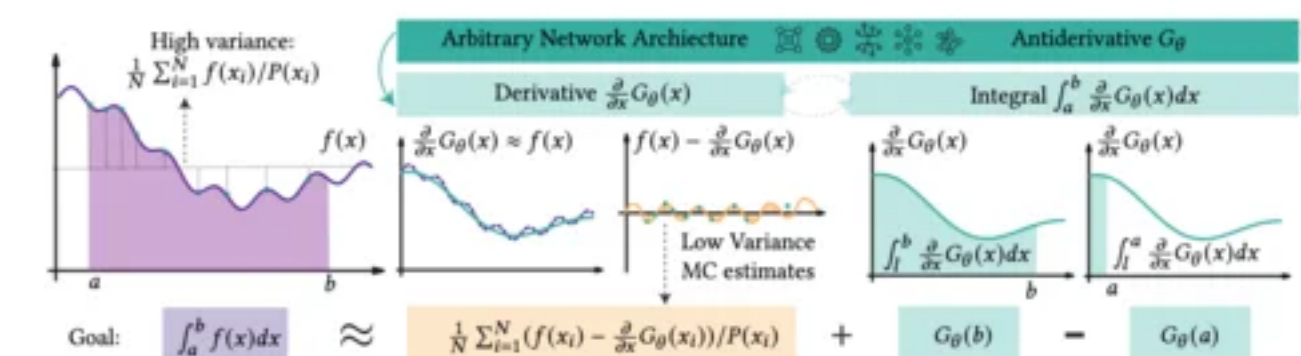
Analysis



Neural cache (SIG Asia 2023)



Symmetry (SIG Asia 2024)



NCV (SIGGRAPH 2024)

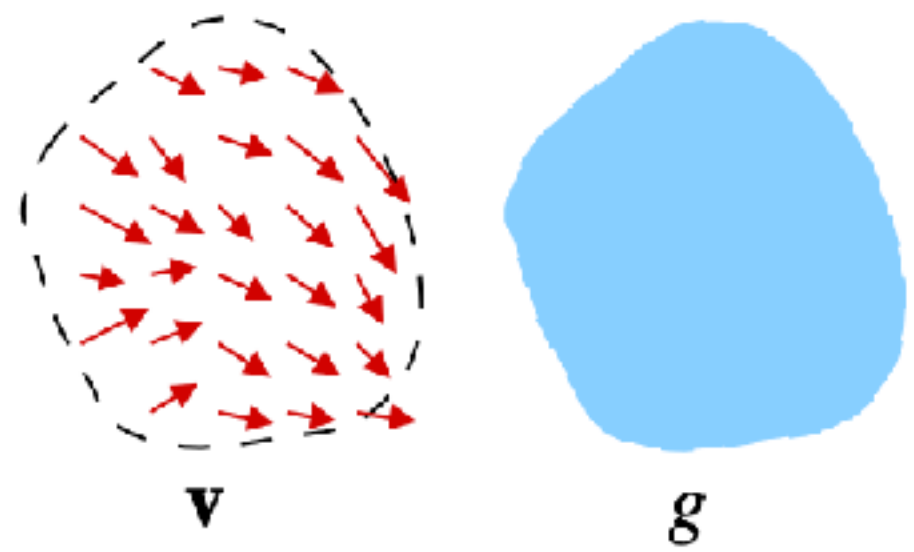
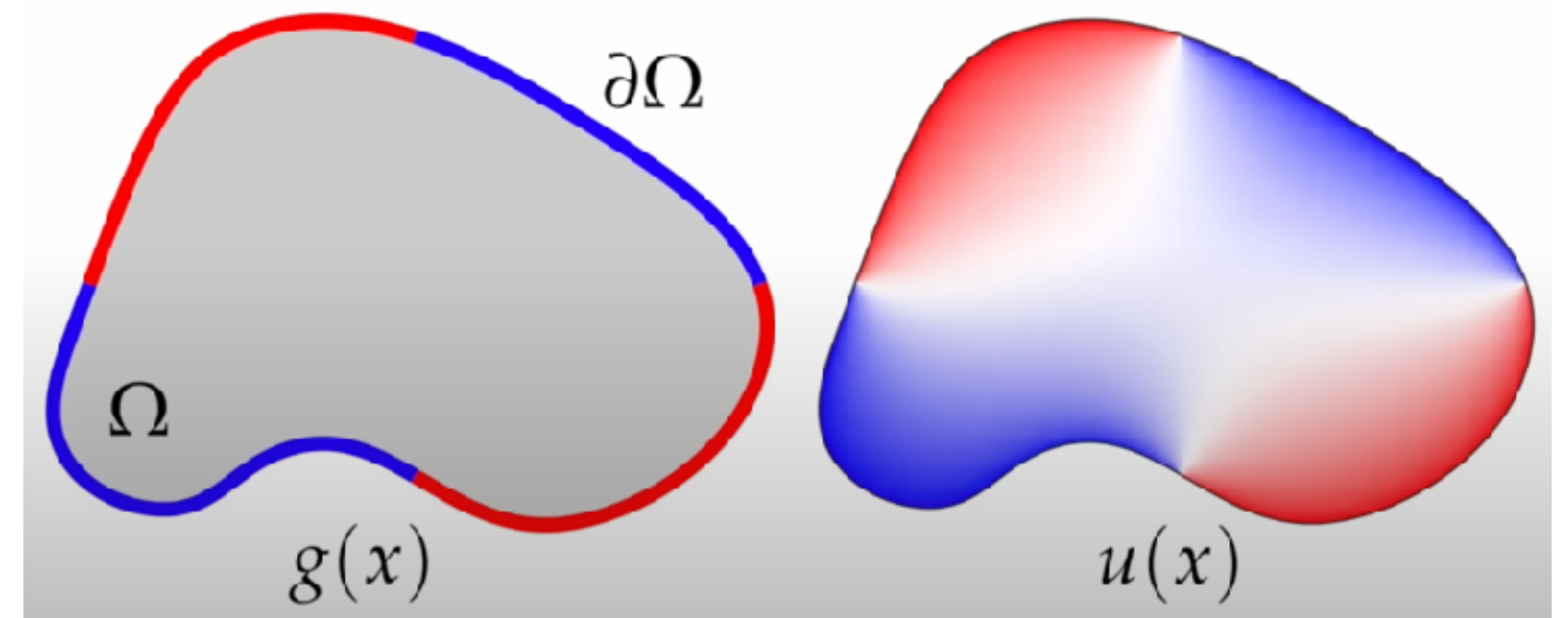


Partial Differential Equations are Important

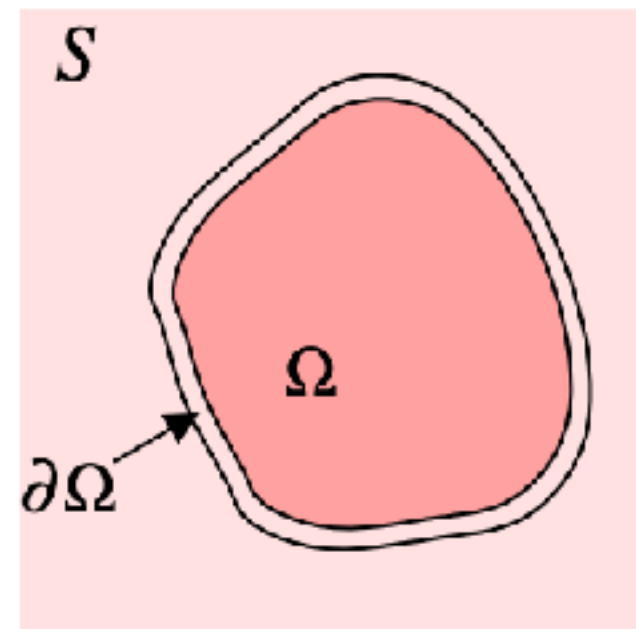
Equations that involve partial derivatives.

e.g. Laplace Equation

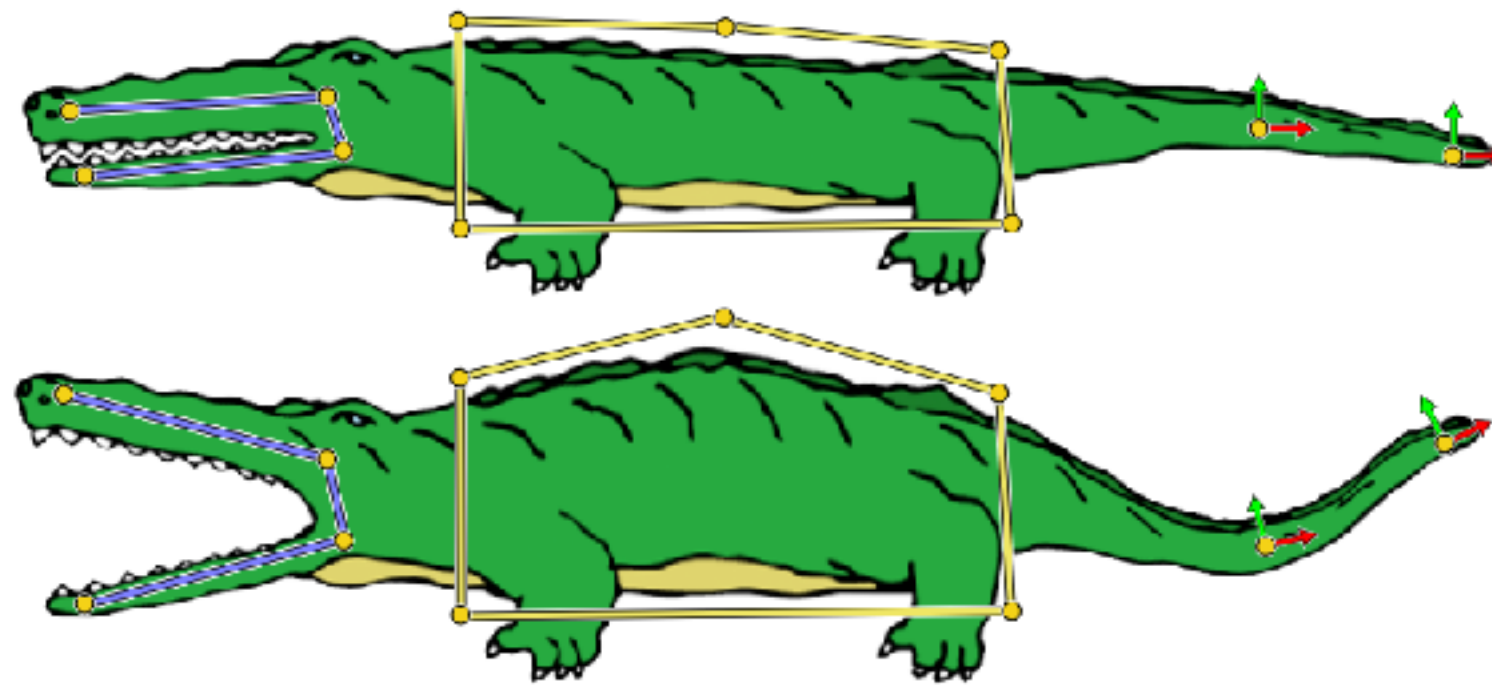
$$\begin{aligned} \Delta u &= 0 \quad \text{on } \Omega \\ u &= g \quad \text{on } \partial\Omega \end{aligned}$$



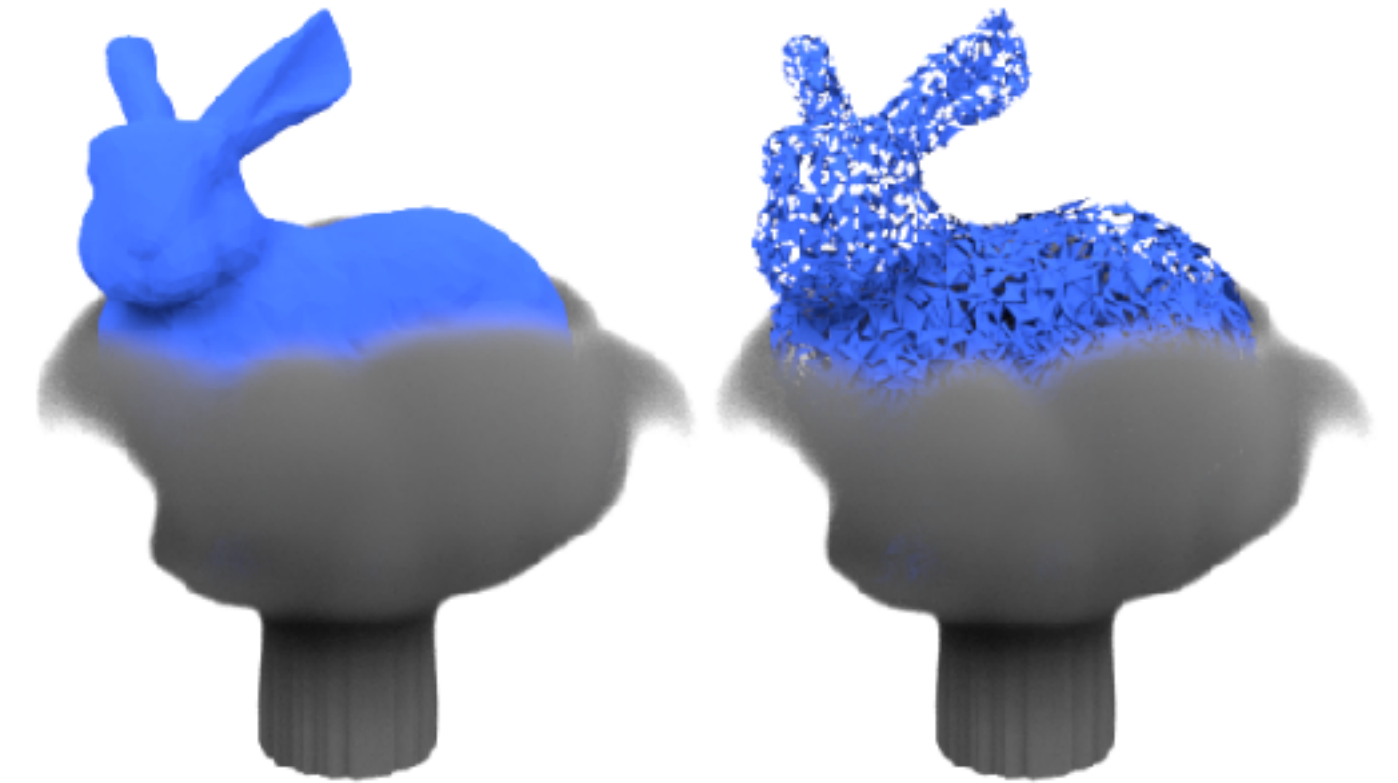
(Poisson eq) Image Editing
(Perez, Gangnet, and Blake, 2012)



f^*
 f



(Biharmonic equation) Deformation
(Jacobson et. al, 2011)



(Navier-Stokes) Fluid Simulation
(Rioux-Lavoie et. al, 2022)

Solving PDEs - Finite-element Method

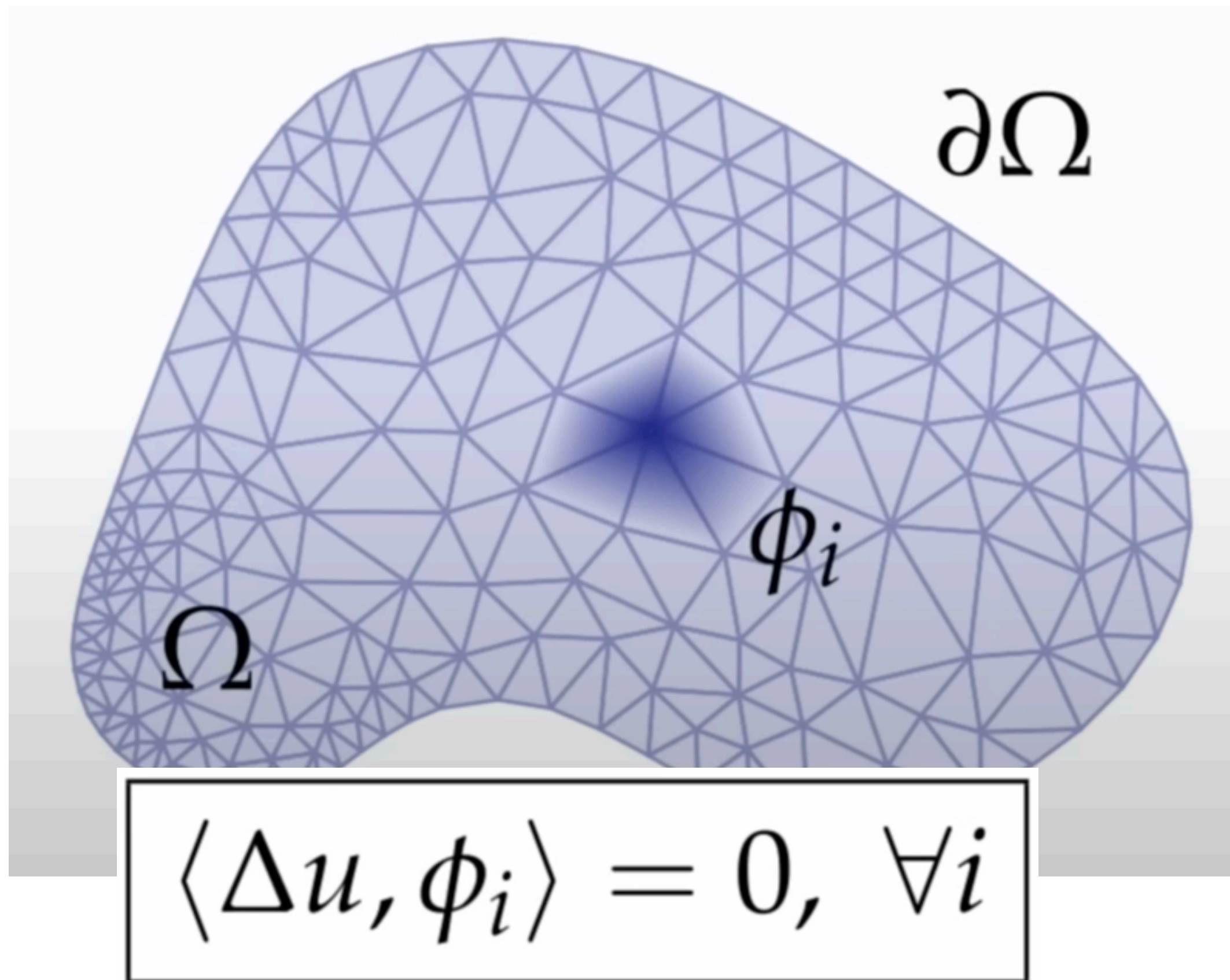


Figure Credit: Keenan Crane

Solving PDEs - Finite-element Method

Discretization can be difficult.

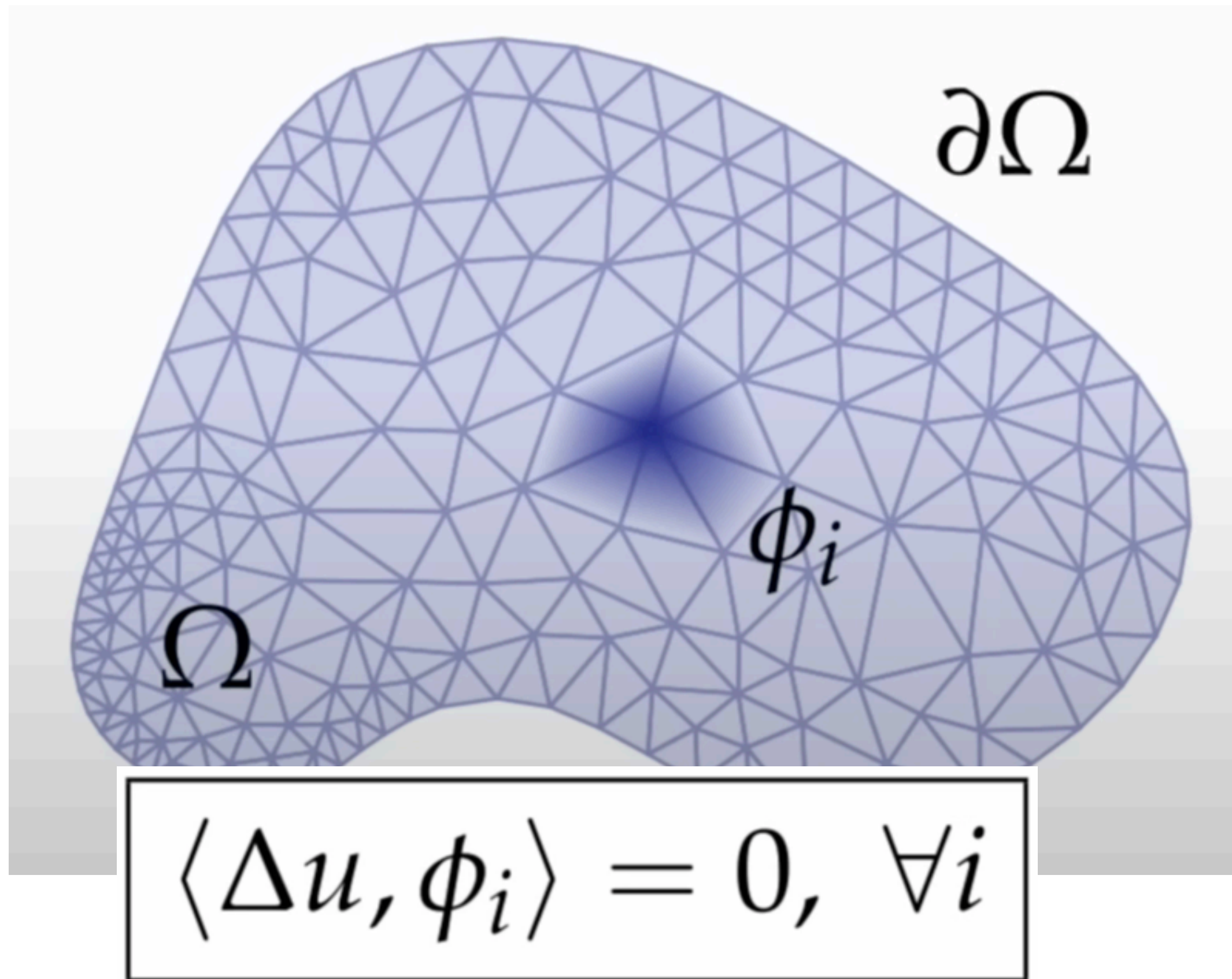
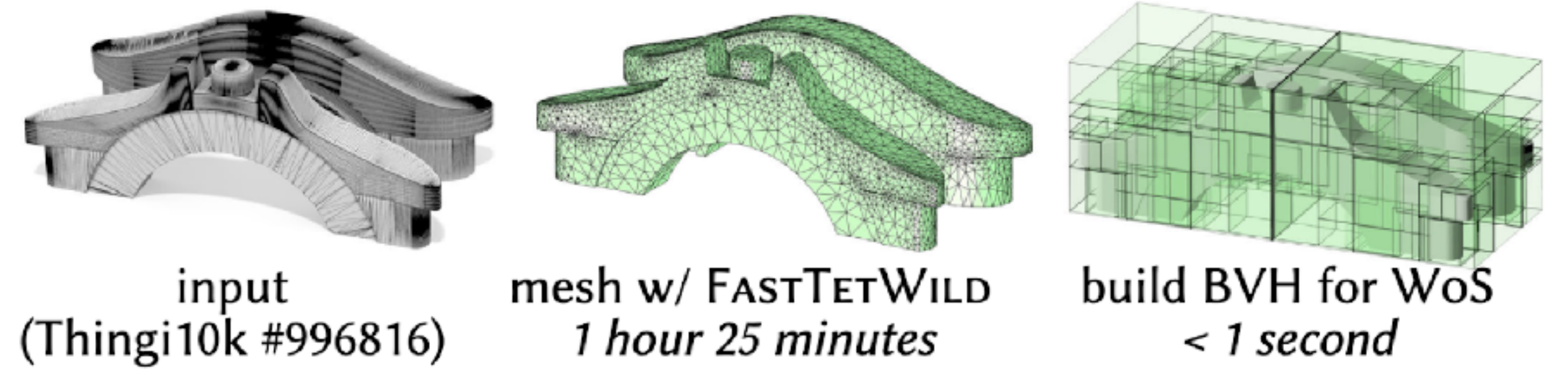
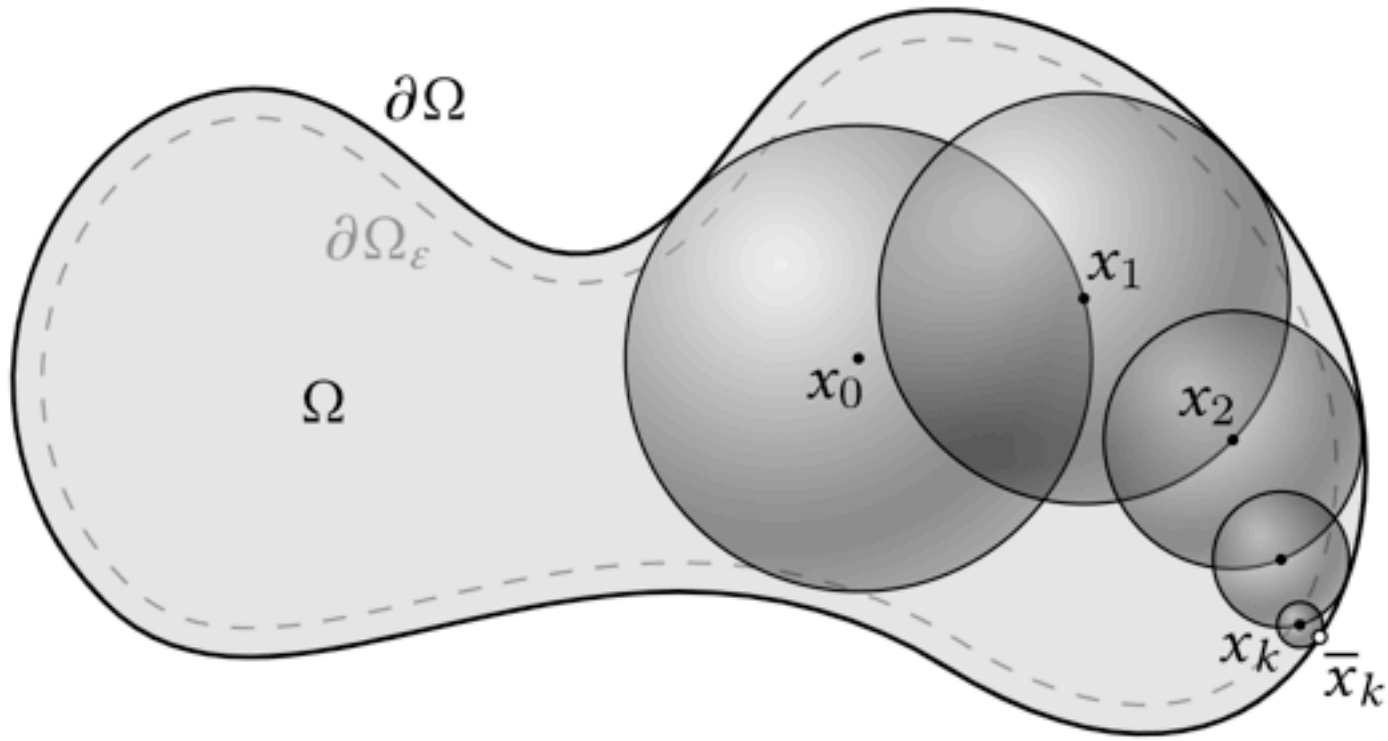


Figure Credit: Keenan Crane



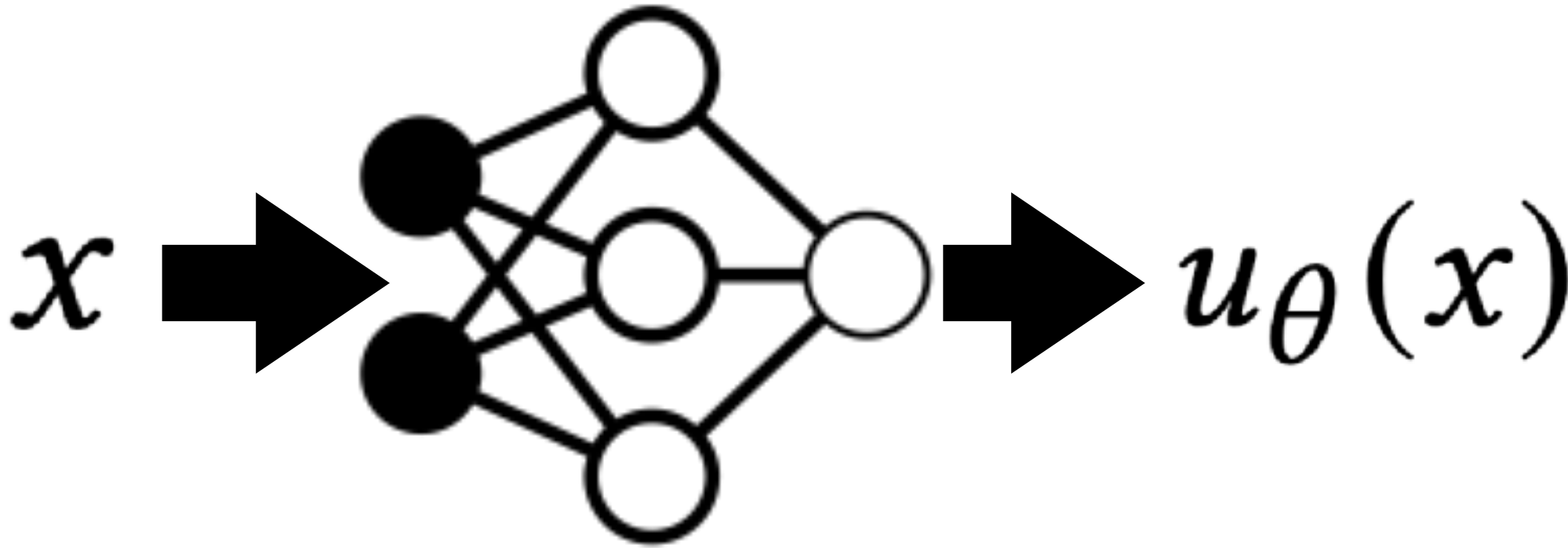
Can we solve PDEs without Discretization?



$$\hat{u}(x) = \begin{cases} g(\bar{x}) & \text{if } d_\Omega(x) < \epsilon \\ \hat{u}(y_i), y_i \sim \mathcal{U}_{\partial B(x)} & \text{otherwise} \end{cases}$$

Derive an integral solution for the PDE; estimate the integral by Monte Carlo method.

(Shawney and Crane, 2020)

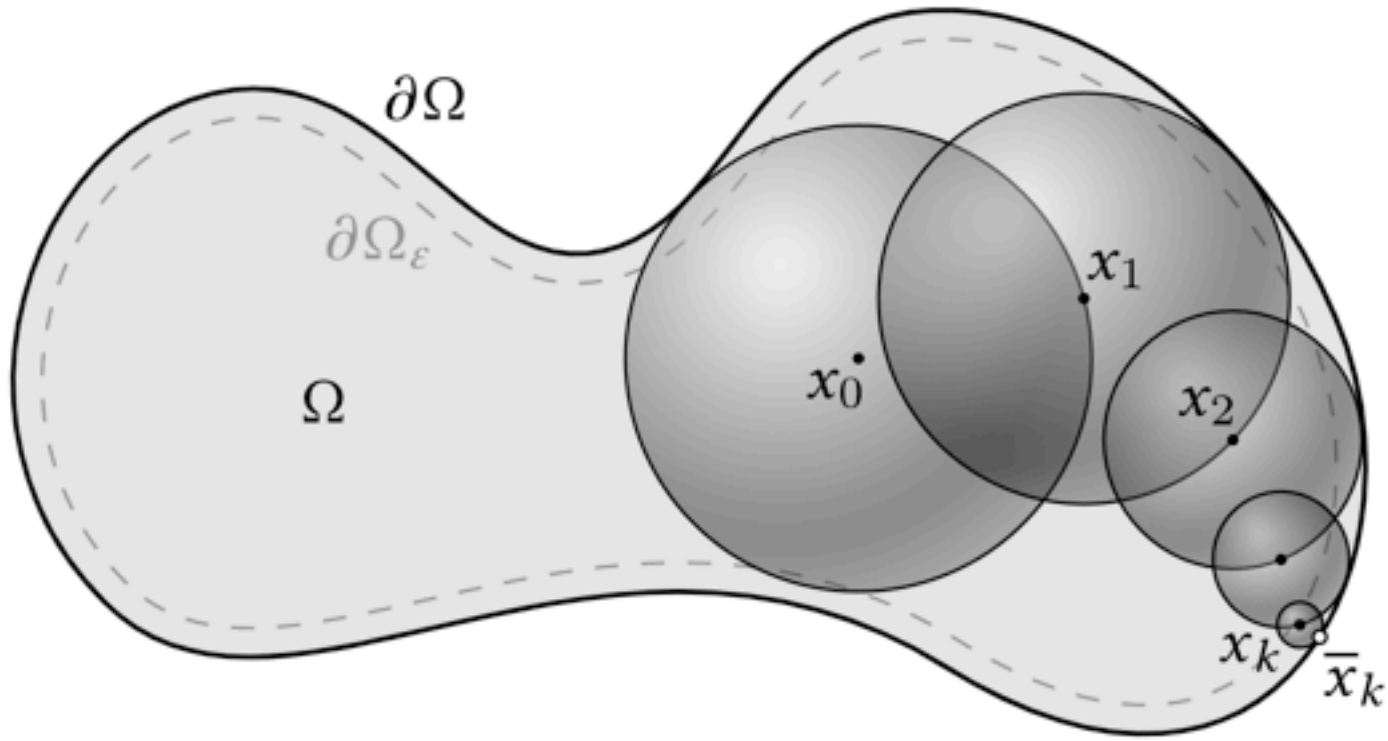


$$\mathcal{L}(\theta) = \int_\Omega |u_\theta(x) - f(x)|^2 dx + \int_{\partial\Omega} |u_\theta(x) - g(x)|^2 dx$$

Neural network represent the mapping from spatial coordinate to the PDE solutions; train with losses to enforce PDE constraints.

(Raissi et. al., 2019, Sitzmann et. al., 2020)

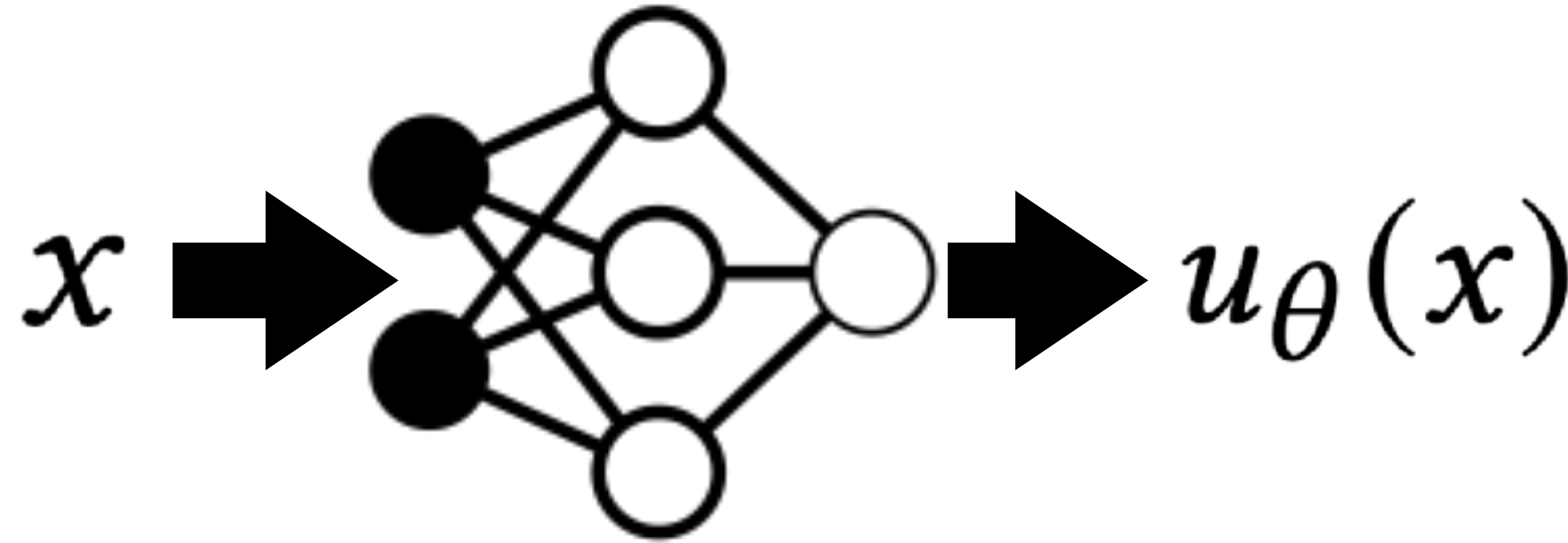
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Unbiased (accurate)

High variance (slow)

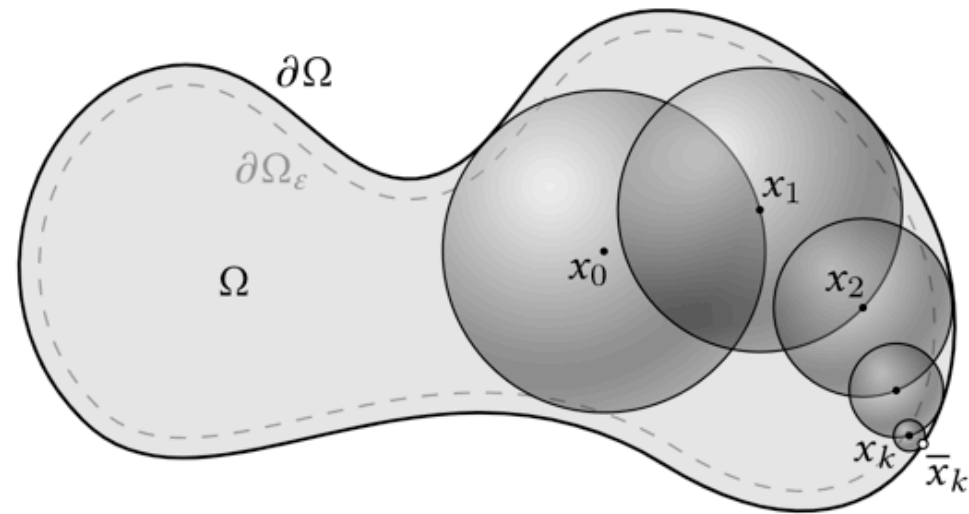


$$\mathcal{L}(\theta) = \int_{\Omega} |u_{\theta}(x) - f(x)|^2 dx + \int_{\partial\Omega} |u_{\theta}(x) - g(x)|^2 dx$$

Biased (inaccurate)

Low-variance (fast)

Can we solve PDEs without Discretization?



$$\hat{u}(x) = \begin{cases} g(\bar{x}) & \text{if } d_{\Omega}(x) < \epsilon \\ \hat{u}(y_i), y_i \sim \mathcal{U}_{\partial B(x)} & \text{otherwise} \end{cases}$$

Unbiased (accurate)

High variance (slow)

Our hypothesis: hybrid methods are better!

Neural Caches for Monte Carlo Partial Differential Equation Solver

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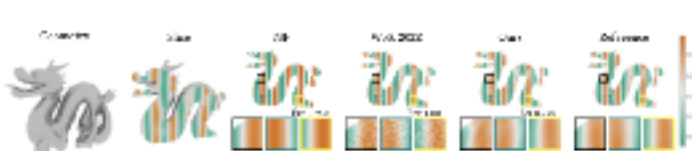
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ABSTRACT
This paper presents a method for solving partial differential equations (PDEs) using a hybrid of Monte Carlo and neural networks. The method is unbiased and accurate, and it has low variance and fast convergence. We compare our method to Monte Carlo, neural networks, and hybrid methods. Our method consistently outperforms the other methods in terms of accuracy and variance.

INTRODUCTION
Solving partial differential equations (PDEs) is a fundamental problem in many scientific and engineering domains. Traditional methods for solving PDEs, such as finite difference, finite element, and finite volume methods, require discretization of the domain and can be computationally expensive. Monte Carlo methods, on the other hand, are unbiased and accurate, but they have high variance and slow convergence. Neural networks have been used to approximate the solution of PDEs, but they are often biased and inaccurate. In this paper, we propose a hybrid method that combines the strengths of Monte Carlo and neural networks. Our method is unbiased and accurate, and it has low variance and fast convergence. We compare our method to Monte Carlo, neural networks, and hybrid methods. Our method consistently outperforms the other methods in terms of accuracy and variance.

Neural Control Variates with Automatic Integration

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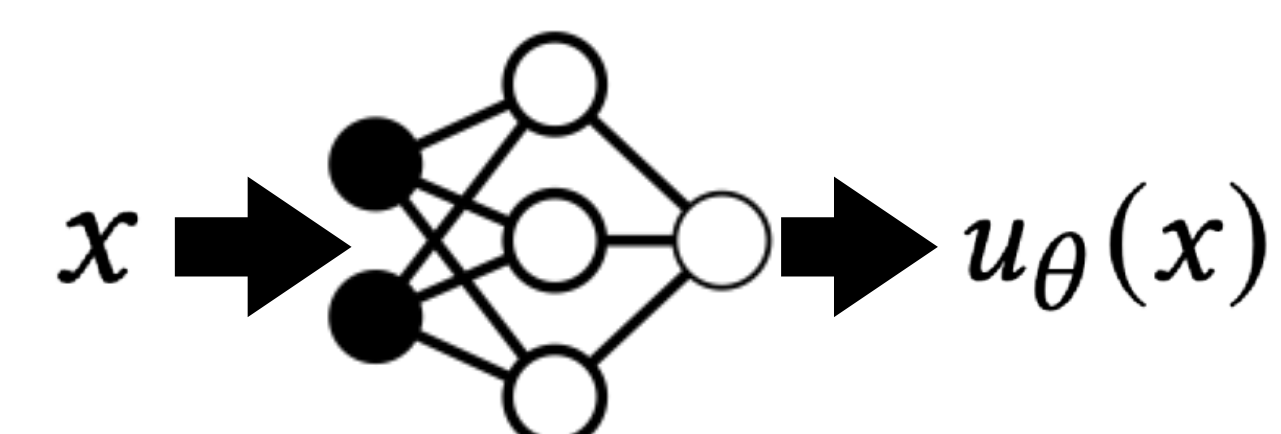
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$$\mathcal{L}(\theta) = \int_{\Omega} |u_{\theta}(x) - f(x)|^2 dx + \int_{\partial\Omega} |u_{\theta}(x) - g(x)|^2 dx$$

Biased (inaccurate)

Low-variance (fast)

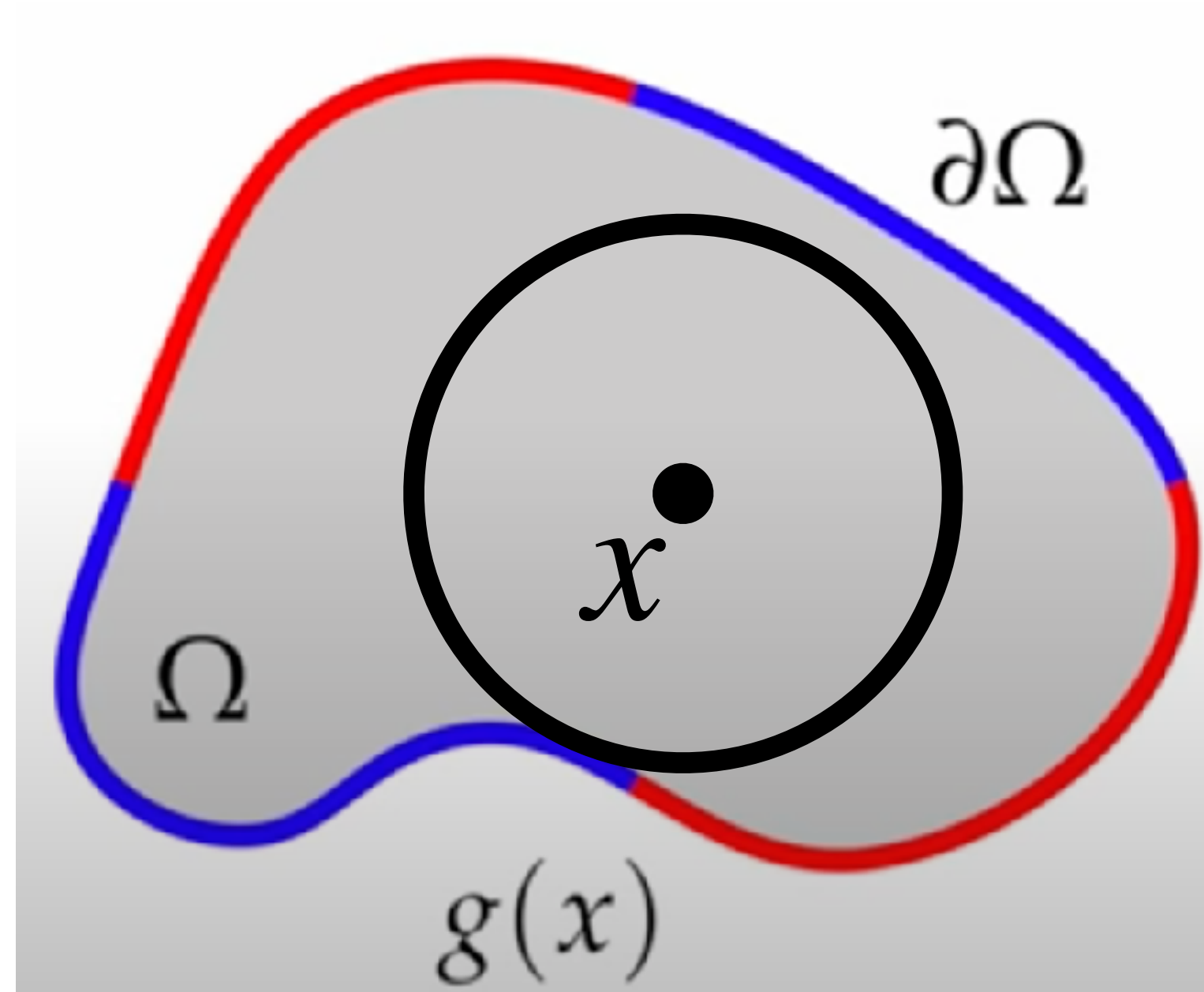
Accurate + Fast



Zilu Li Xi Deng Qingqing Zhao Chris De Sa Bharath Hariharan Leonidas Guibas Steve Marschner Gordon Wetzstein

Monte Carlo Solver for Laplace Equation

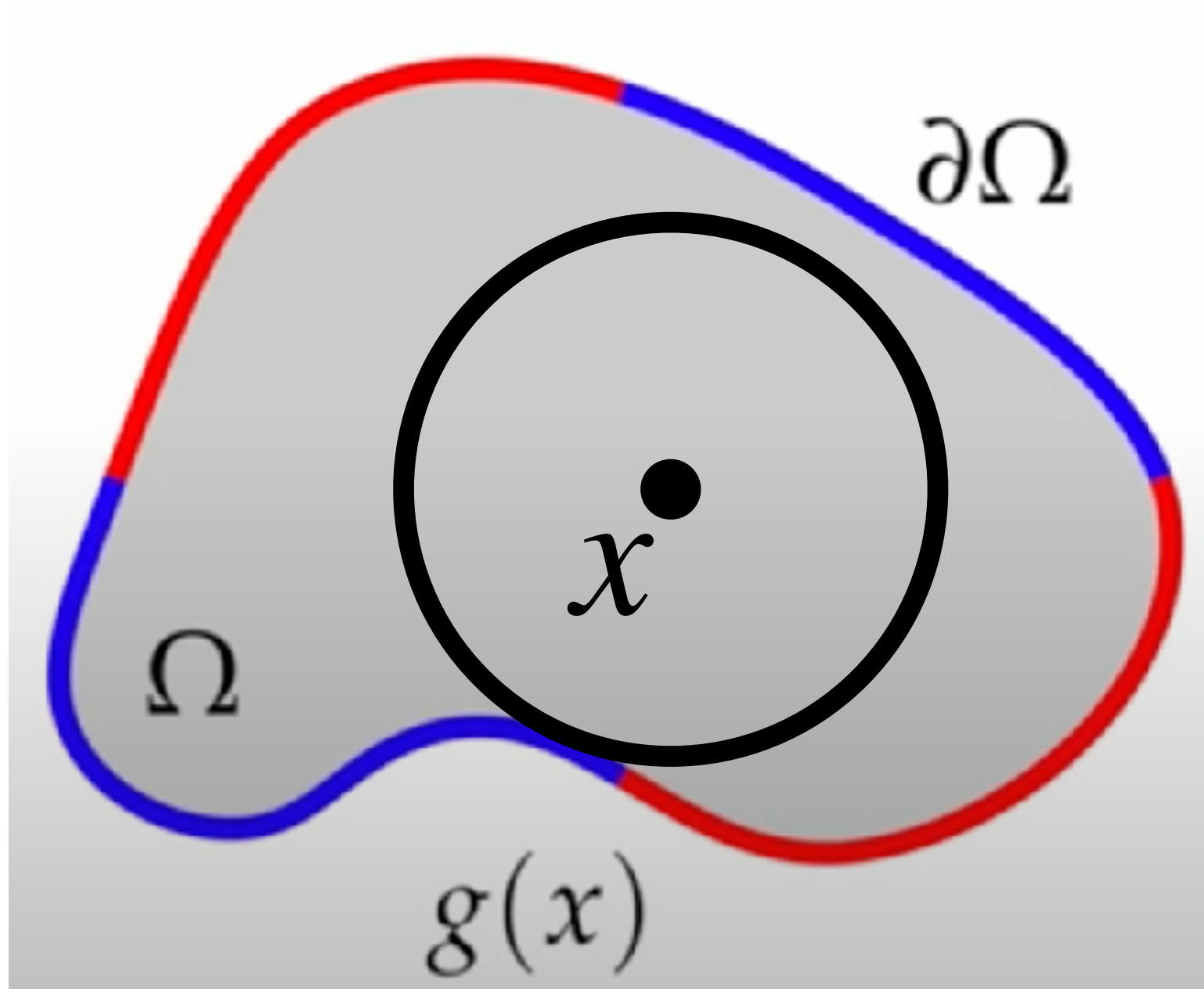
$$\begin{array}{ll} \Delta u = 0 & \text{on } \Omega, \\ u = g & \text{on } \partial\Omega. \end{array}$$



$$u(x) = \frac{1}{|\partial B(x)|} \int_{\partial B(x)} u(y) dy$$

Monte Carlo Solver for Laplace Equation

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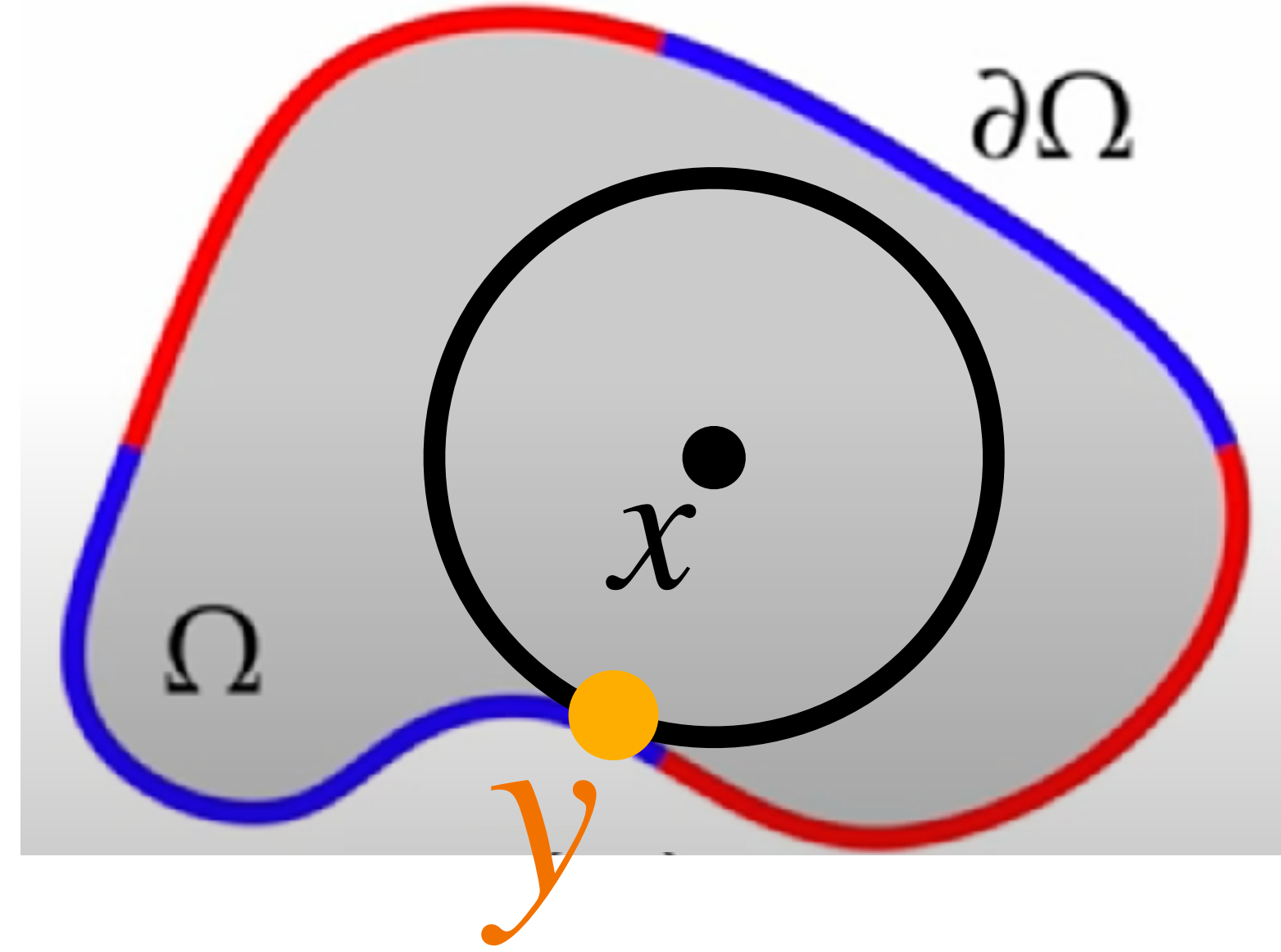
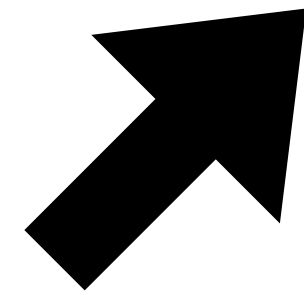
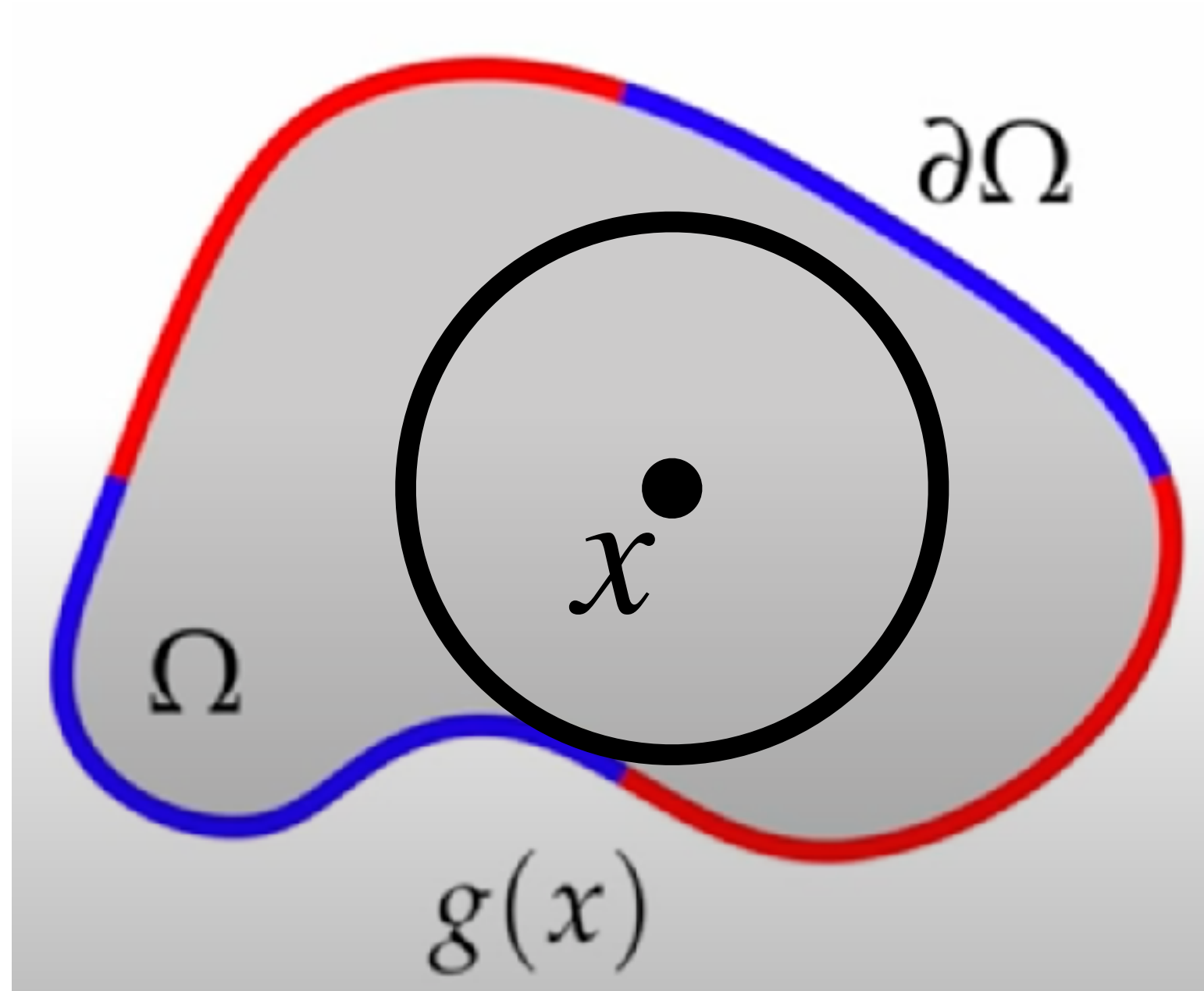


$$u(x) = \frac{1}{|\partial B(x)|} \int_{\partial B(x)} u(y) dy$$

$$\hat{u}(x) = \begin{cases} g(\bar{x}) & \text{if } d_{\Omega}(x) < \epsilon \\ \hat{u}(y_i), y_i \sim \mathcal{U}_{\partial B(x)} & \text{otherwise} \end{cases}$$

Monte Carlo Solver for Laplace Equation

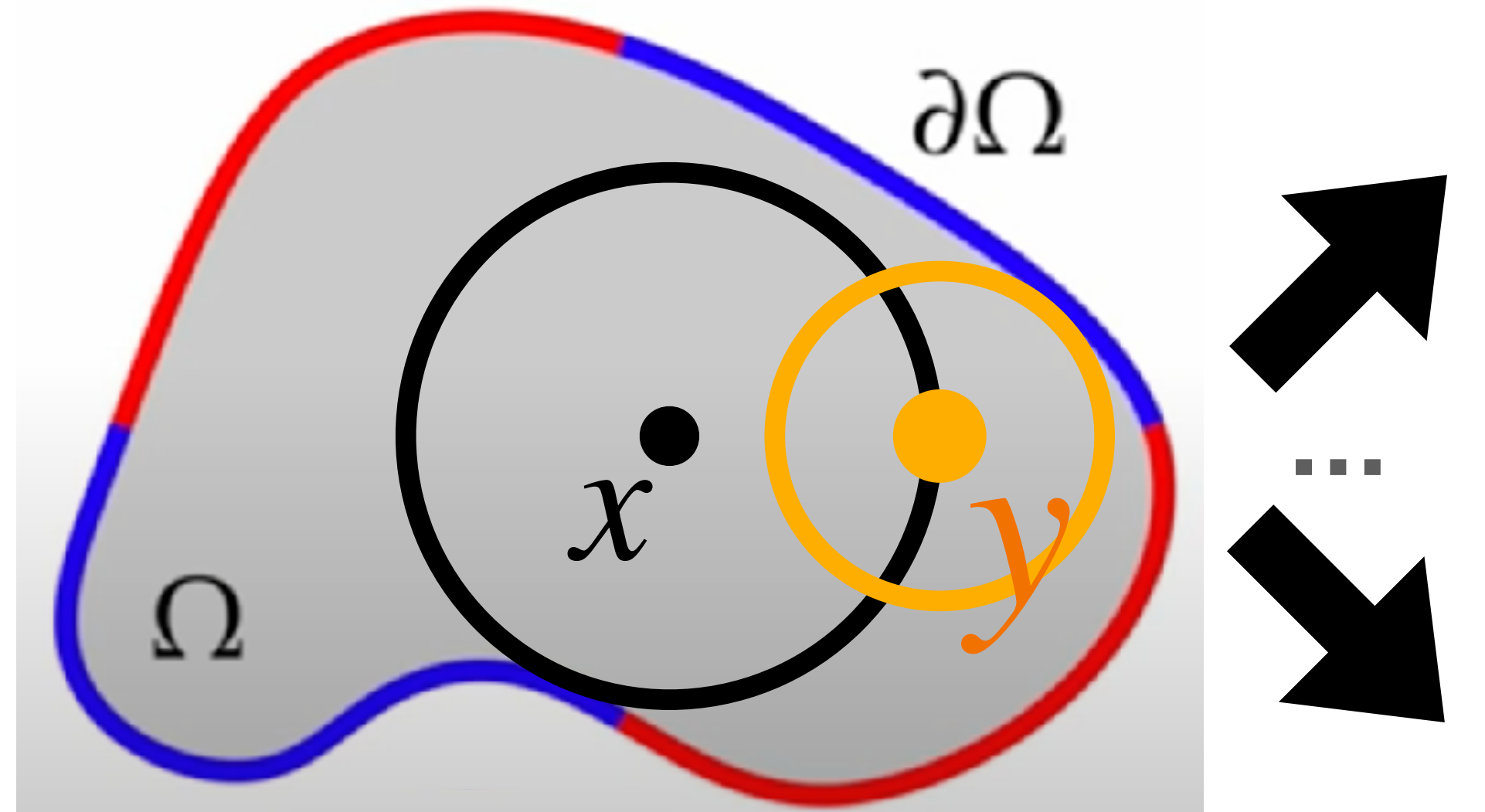
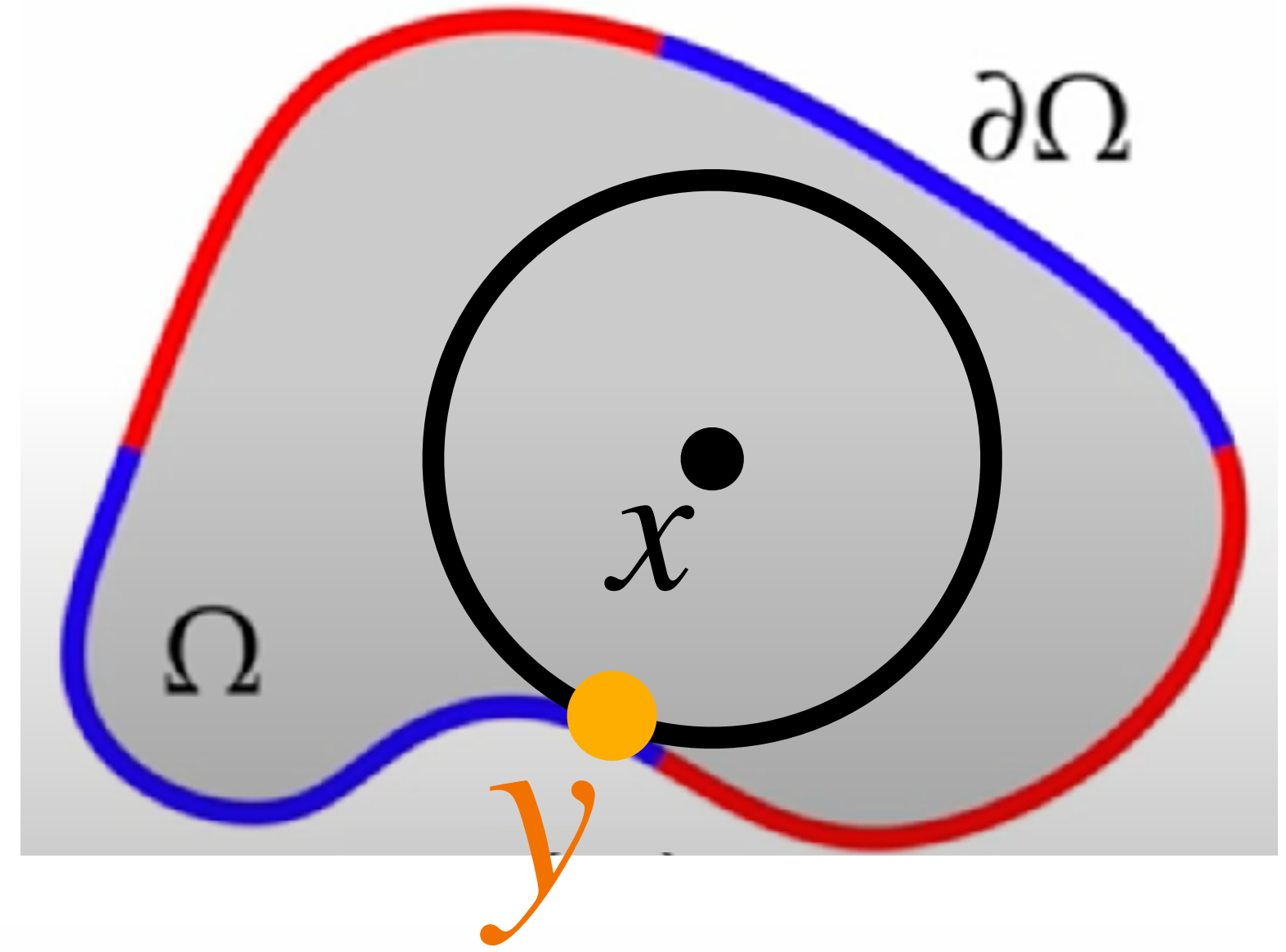
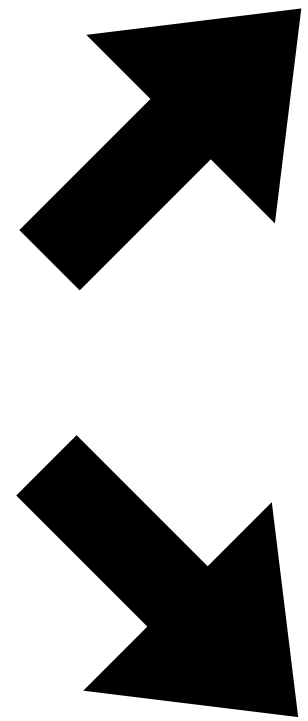
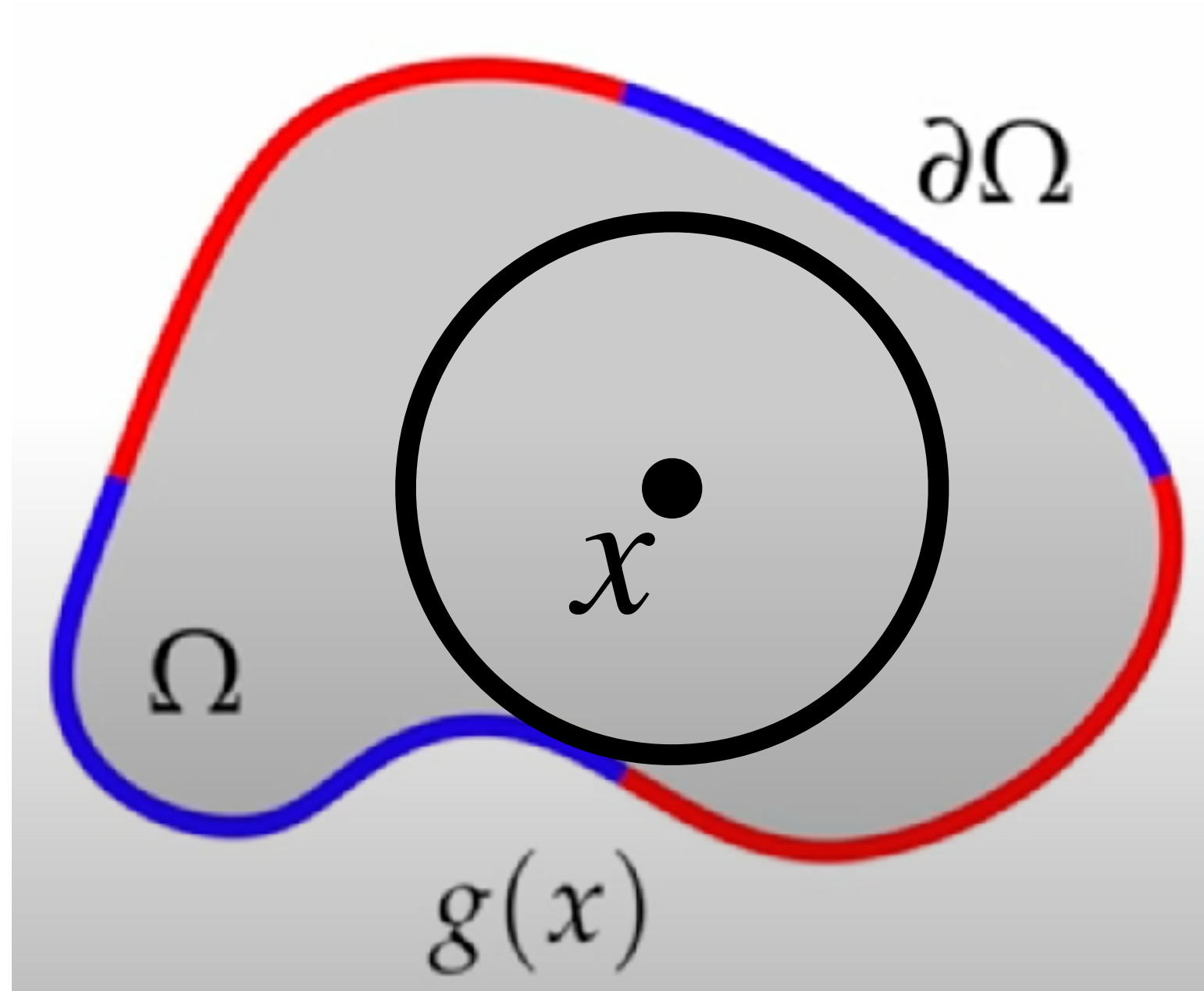
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Monte Carlo Solver for Laplace Equation

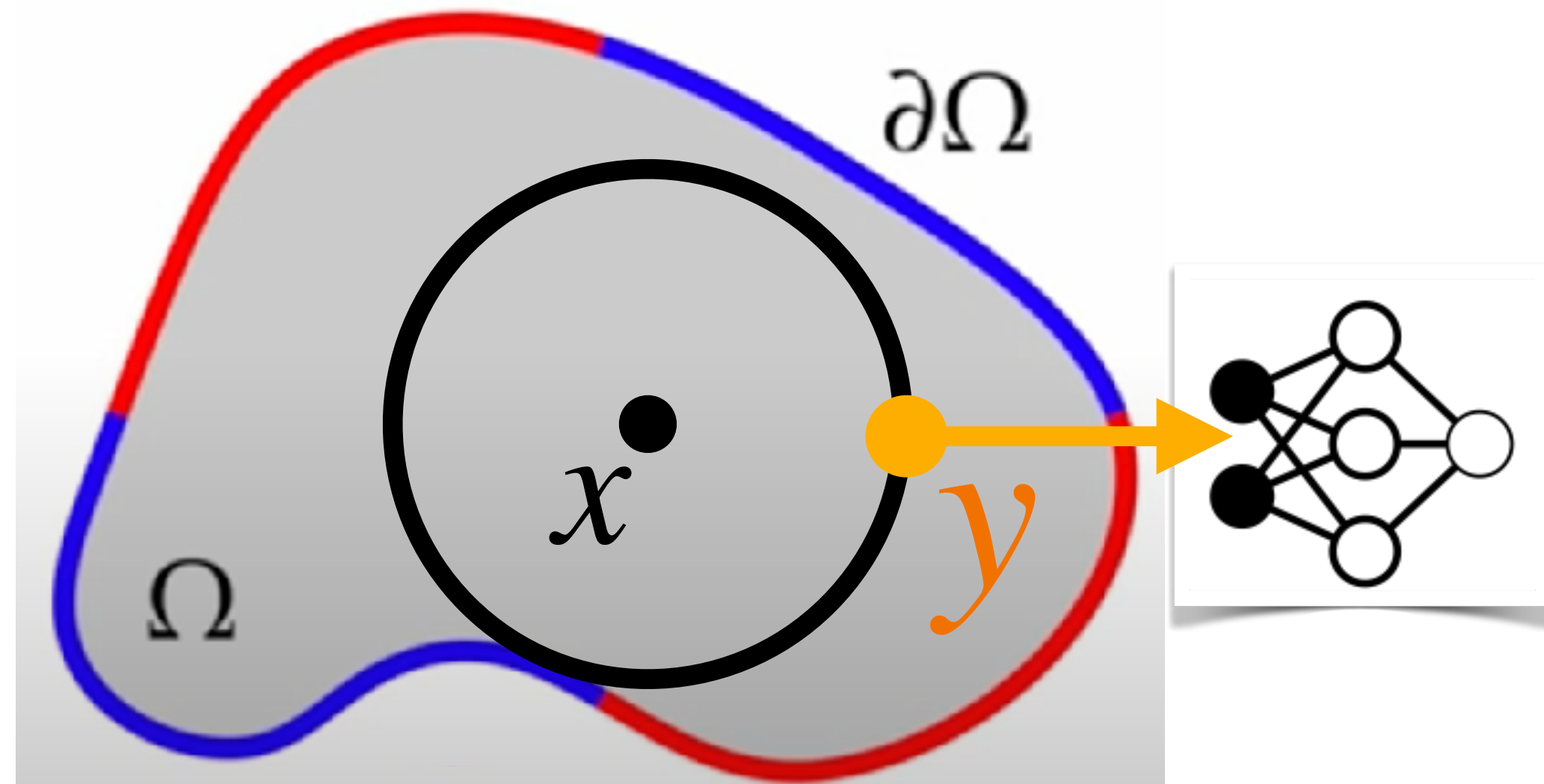
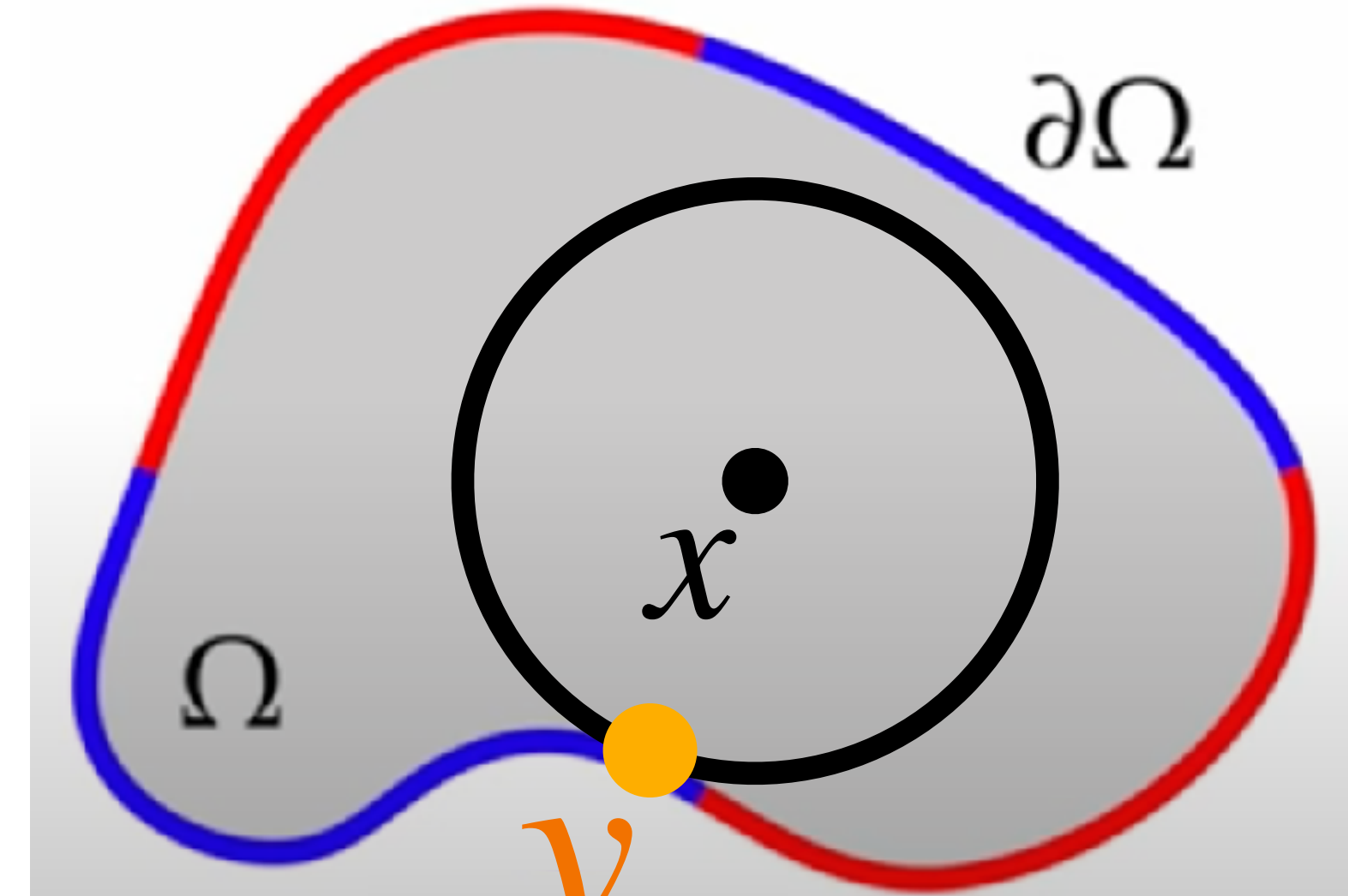
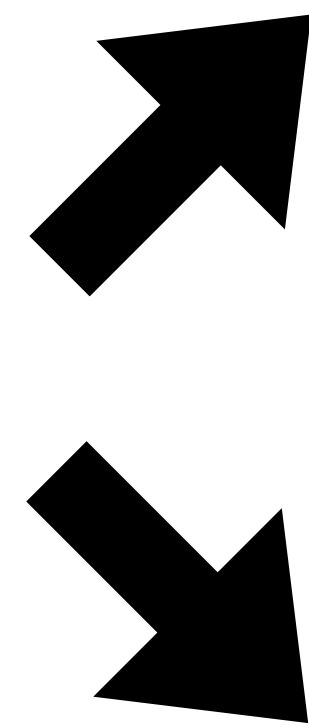
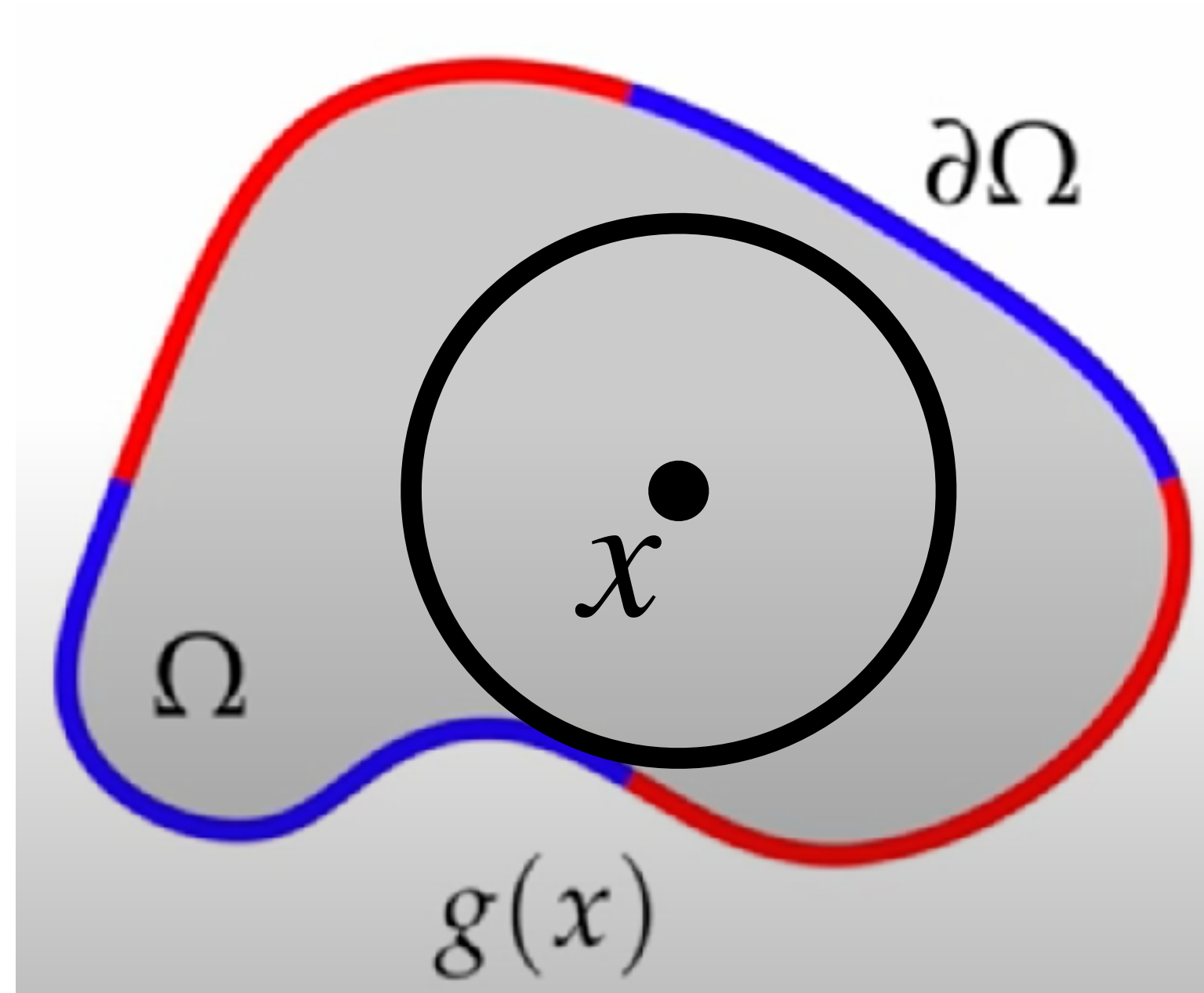
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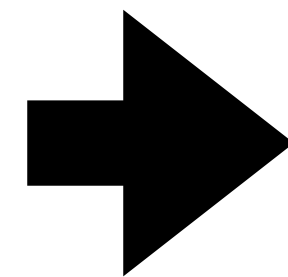
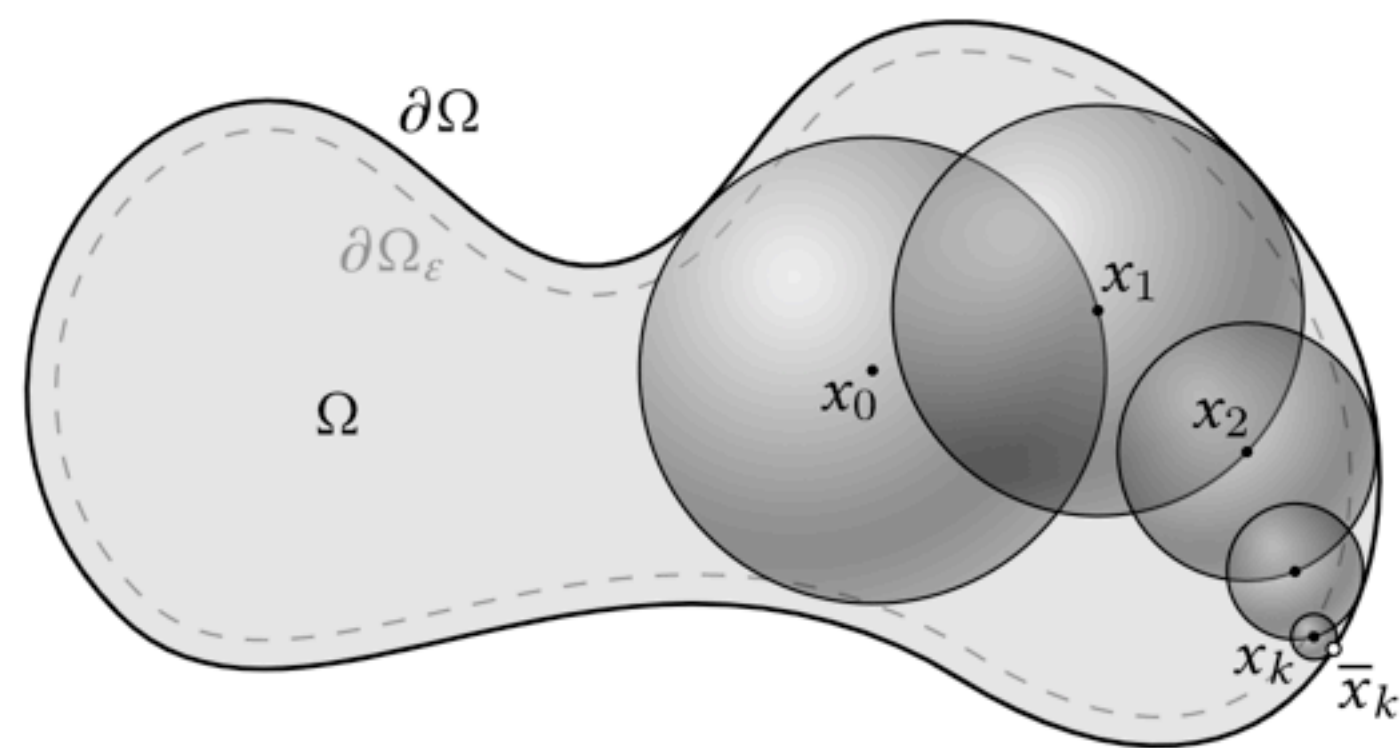
Our Method

$$\begin{cases} \Delta u = 0 & \text{on } \Omega, \\ u = g & \text{on } \partial\Omega. \end{cases}$$

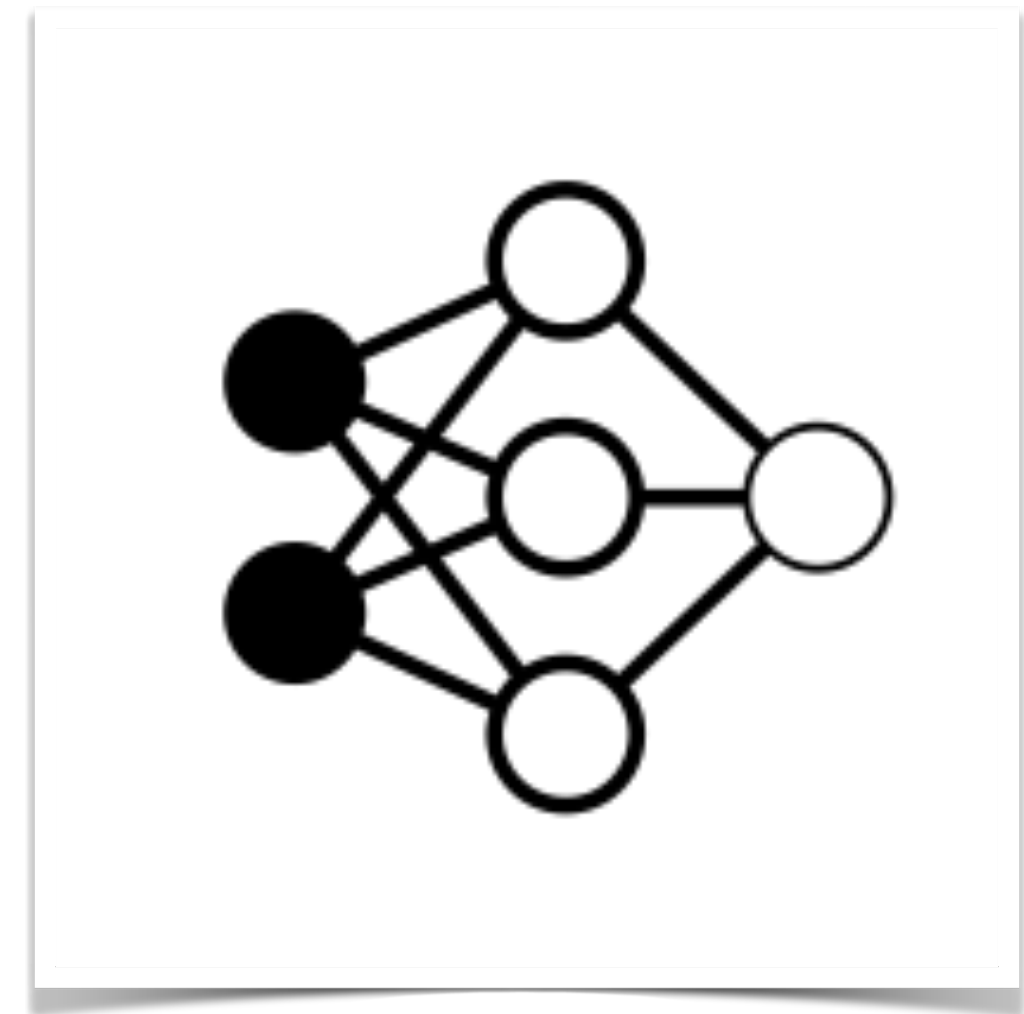
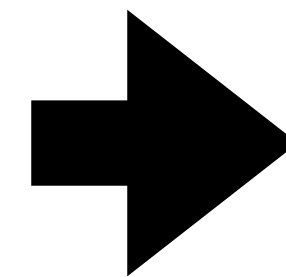


$$\hat{u}_{\theta,n}(x) = \begin{cases} g(\bar{x}) & \text{if } d_{\Omega}(x) < \epsilon \\ u_{\theta}(x) & \text{if } n = 0 \\ \hat{u}_{\theta,n-1}(y_i), y_i \sim \mathcal{U}_{\partial B(x)} & \text{otherwise} \end{cases}$$

Our method - training



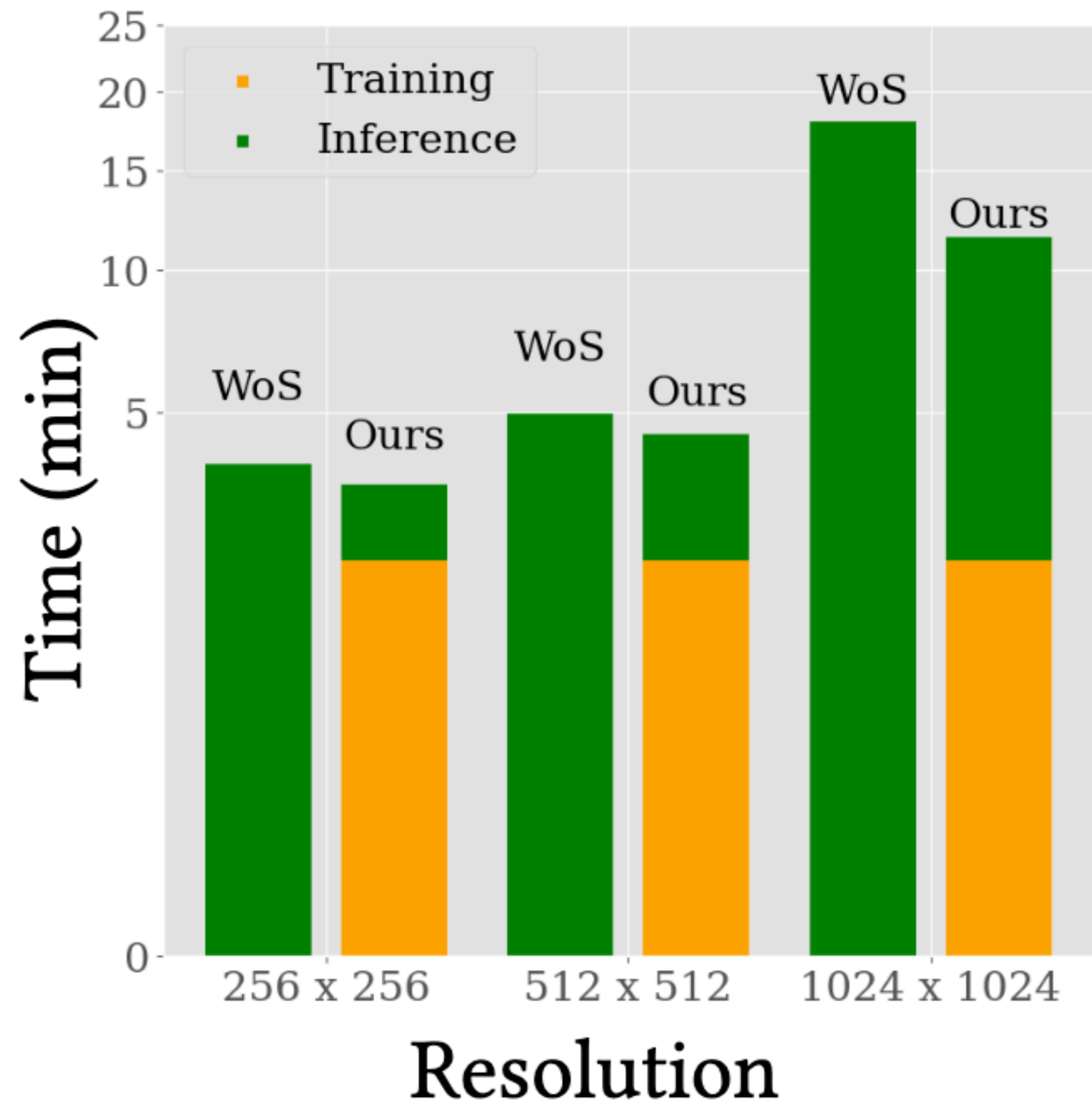
$$\begin{aligned} & (x_0^{(1)}, \hat{u}(x_0^{(1)})) \\ & \dots \\ & (x_0^{(n)}, \hat{u}(x_0^{(n)})) \end{aligned}$$



$$y_i^{(k+1)} = (ky_i^{(k)} + \hat{u}(x_i)) / (k + 1)$$

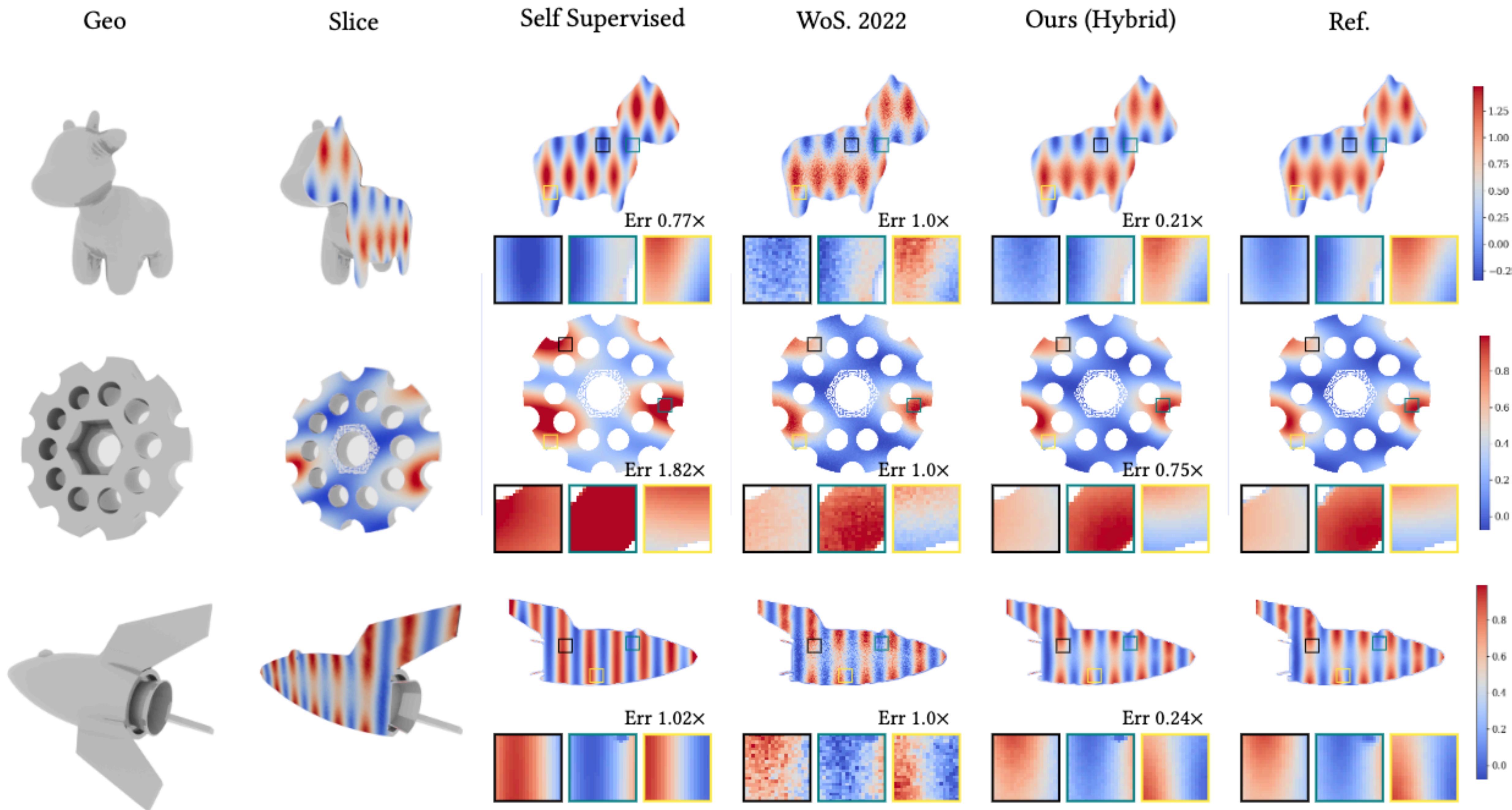
$$\mathcal{L}_t(\theta) = \frac{1}{n} \sum_{i=1}^n \left\| u_\theta(x_i) - y_i^{(t)} \right\|^2$$

Cow Scene

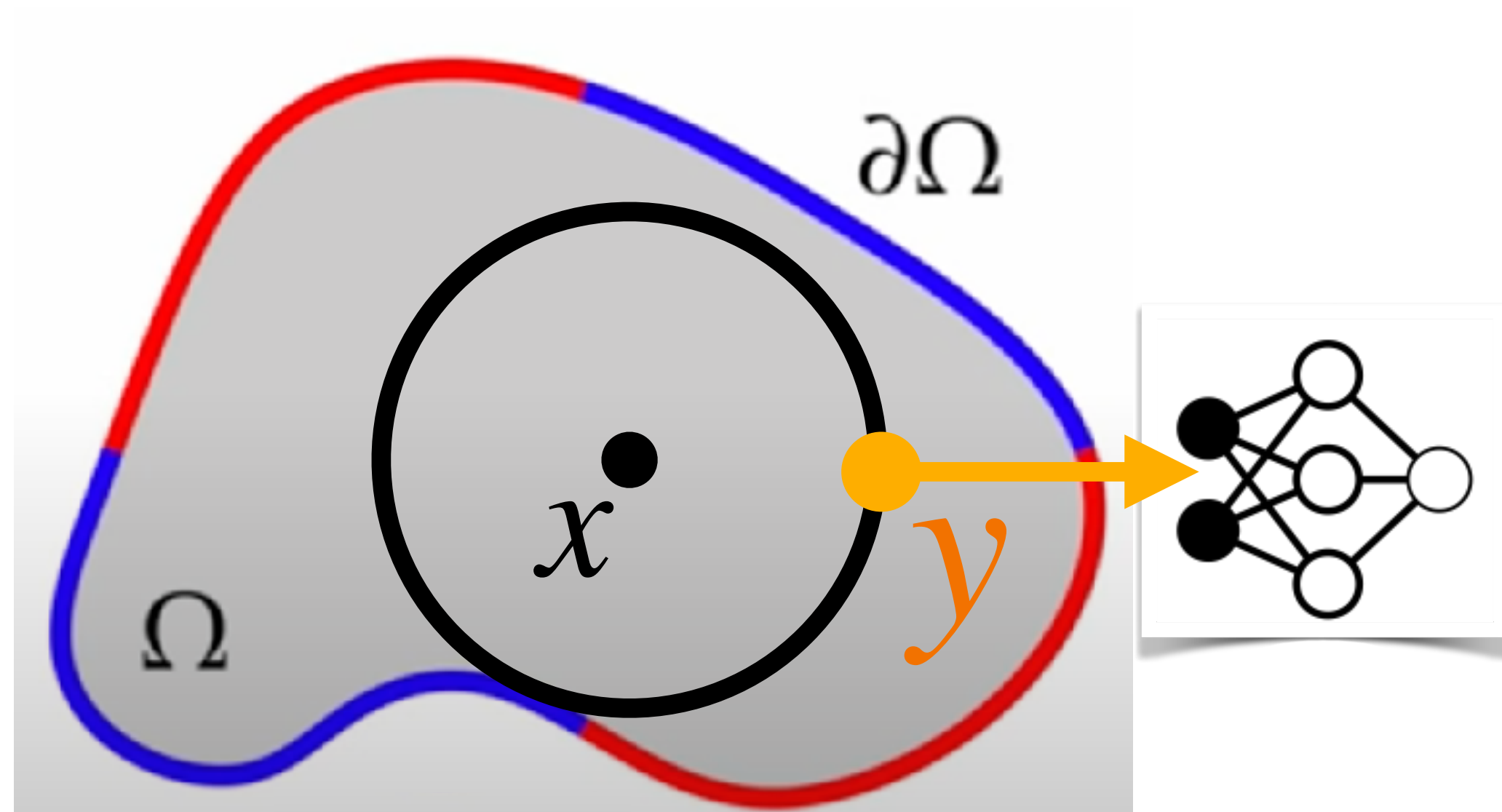


Bunny Scene

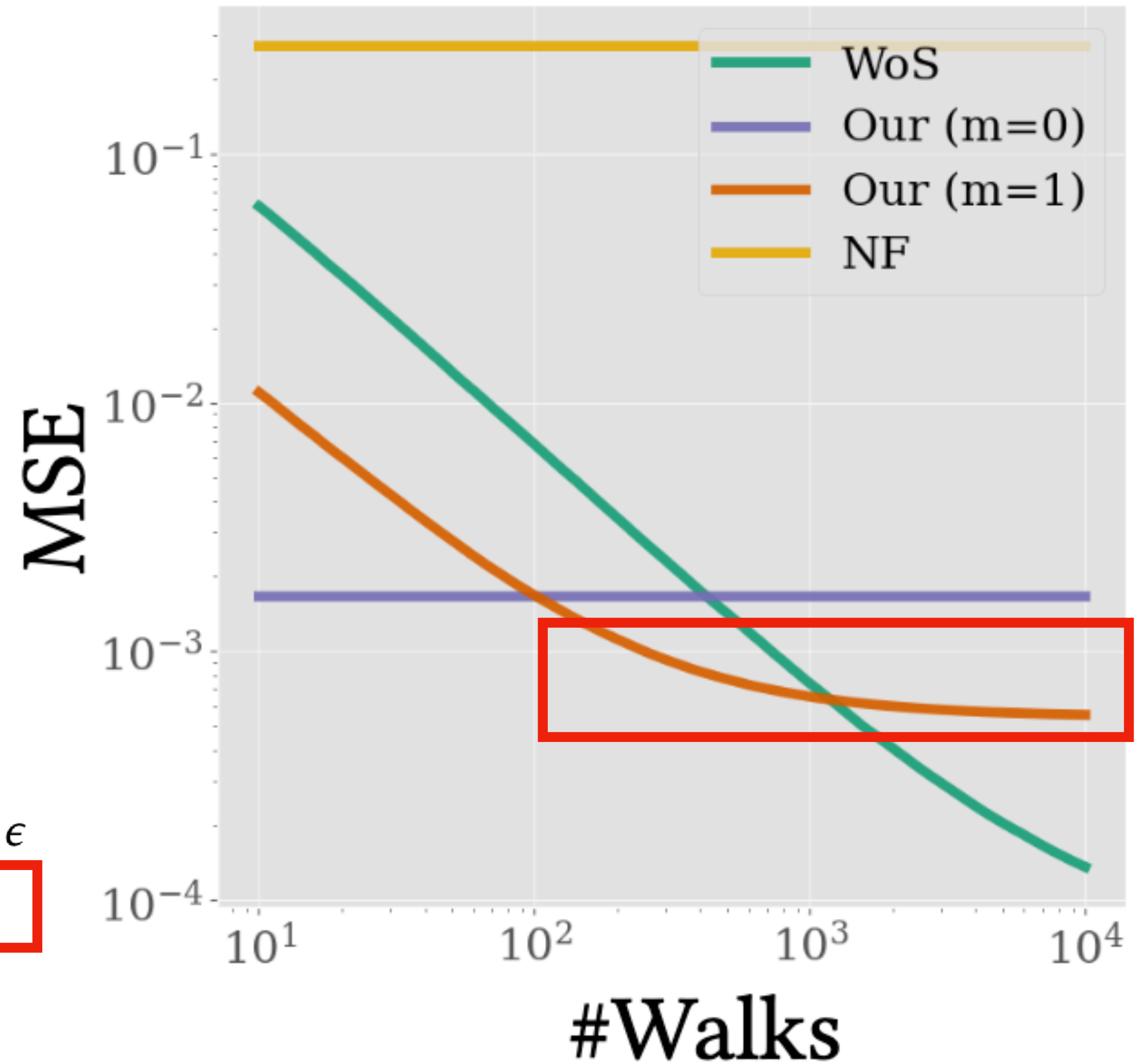




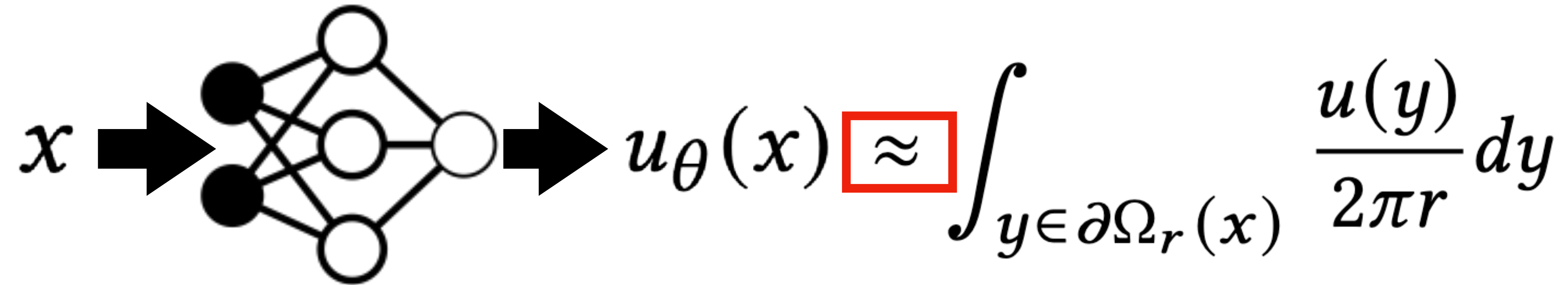
Limitation - Bias



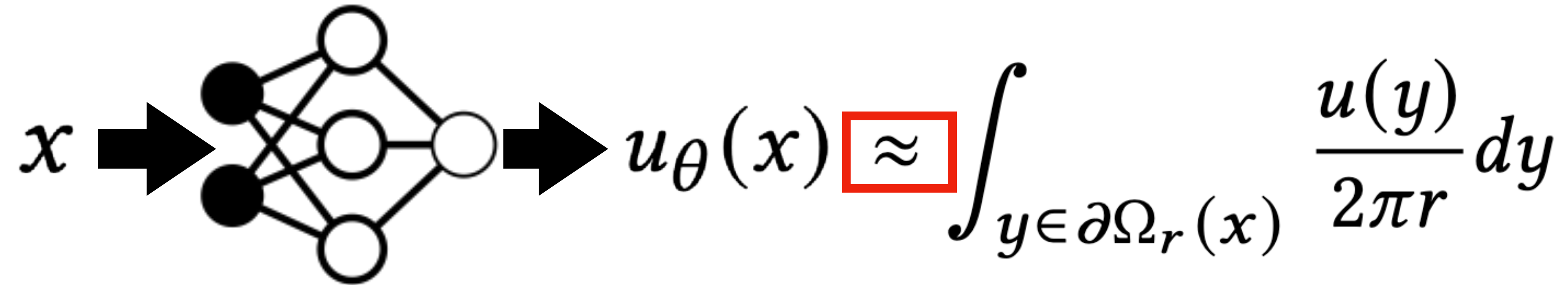
$$\hat{u}_{\theta,n}(x) = \begin{cases} g(\bar{x}) & \text{if } d_{\Omega}(x) < \epsilon \\ u_{\theta}(x) & \text{if } n = 0 \\ \hat{u}_{\theta,n-1}(y_i), y_i \sim \mathcal{U}_{\partial B(x)} & \text{otherwise} \end{cases}$$



Neural field is a biased estimator for Integral

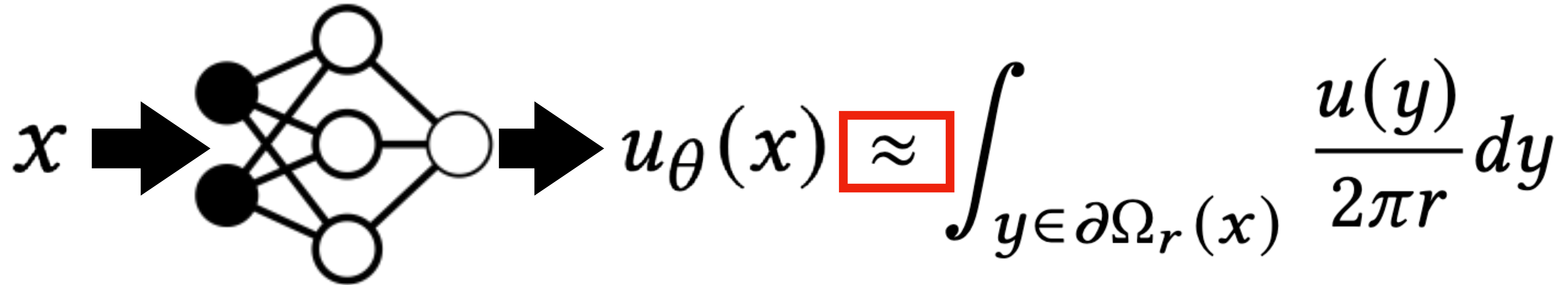


Solution: Control Variates



$$\int_{y \in \partial\Omega_r(x)} \frac{u(y)}{2\pi r} dy = u_\theta(x) - u_\theta(x) + \int_{y \in \partial\Omega_r(x)} \frac{u(y)}{2\pi r} dy$$

Solution: Control Variates

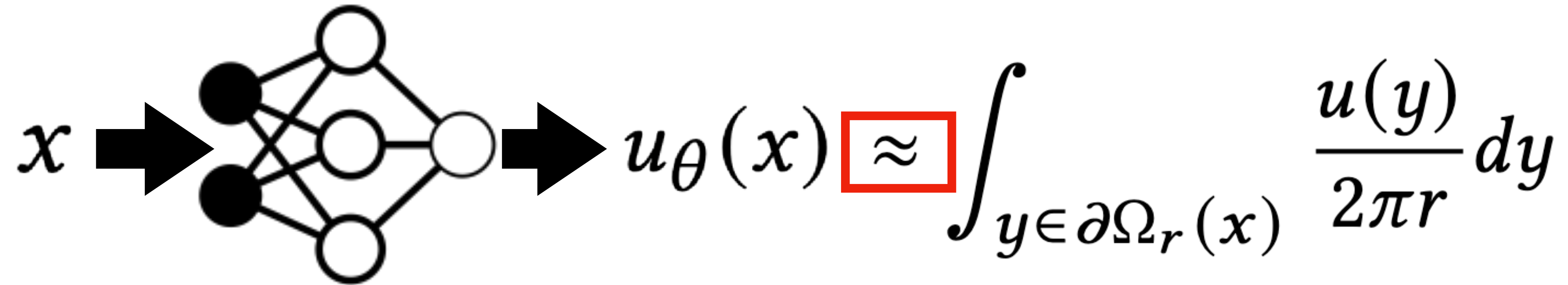


$$\int_{y \in \partial\Omega_r(x)} \frac{u(y)}{2\pi r} dy = u_\theta(x) - u_\theta(x) + \int_{y \in \partial\Omega_r(x)} \frac{u(y)}{2\pi r} dy$$
$$= u_\theta(x) + \int_{y \in \partial\Omega_r(x)} \frac{u(y) - v_\theta(y)}{2\pi r} dy$$



$$u_\theta(x) = \int_{y \in \partial\Omega_r(x)} \frac{v_\theta(y)}{2\pi r} dy$$

Solution: Control Variates



$$\begin{aligned} \int_{y \in \partial\Omega_r(x)} \frac{u(y)}{2\pi r} dy &= u_\theta(x) - u_\theta(x) + \int_{y \in \partial\Omega_r(x)} \frac{u(y)}{2\pi r} dy \\ &= u_\theta(x) + \int_{y \in \partial\Omega_r(x)} \frac{u(y) - v_\theta(y)}{2\pi r} dy \\ &= u_\theta(x) + \mathbb{E}_{y \in \mathcal{U}[\partial\Omega_r(x)]} [u(y) - v_\theta(y)] \end{aligned}$$

Solution: Control Variates

Two requirements:

$$\begin{aligned}\int_{y \in \partial\Omega_r(x)} \frac{u(y)}{2\pi r} dy &= u_\theta(x) - u_\theta(x) + \int_{y \in \partial\Omega_r(x)} \frac{u(y)}{2\pi r} dy \\ &= u_\theta(x) + \int_{y \in \partial\Omega_r(x)} \frac{u(y) - v_\theta(y)}{2\pi r} dy \\ &= u_\theta(x) + \mathbb{E}_{y \in \mathcal{U}[\partial\Omega_r(x)]} [u(y) - v_\theta(y)]\end{aligned}$$

$$u_\theta(x) = \int_{y \in \partial\Omega_r(x)} \frac{v_\theta(y)}{2\pi r} dy$$

$$\mathbb{V} [u(y) - v_\theta(y)] \lll \mathbb{V} [u(y)]$$

Neural Control Variates with Automatic Integration

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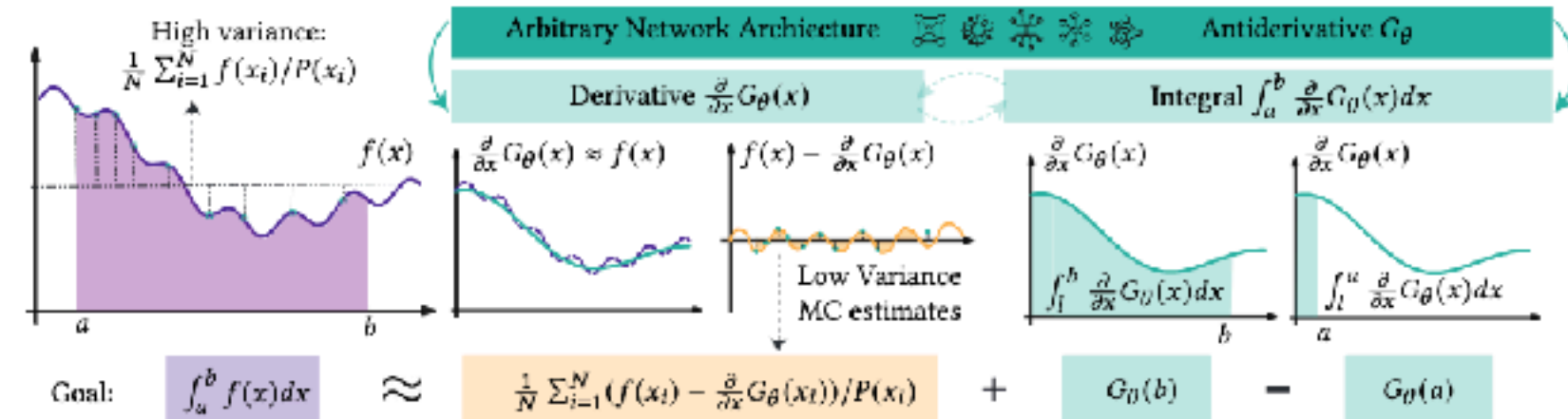


Figure 1: We propose a novel method to use arbitrary neural network architectures as control variates (CV). Instead of using the network to approximate the integrand, we deploy it to approximate the antiderivative of the integrand. This allows us to construct pairs of networks where one is the analytical integral of the other, tackling a main challenge of neural CV methods.

ABSTRACT

This paper presents a method to leverage arbitrary neural network architecture for control variates. Control variates are crucial in reducing the variance of Monte Carlo integration, but they hinge on finding a function that both correlates with the integrand and has a known analytical integral. Traditional approaches rely on heuristics to choose this function, which might not be expressive enough to correlate well with the integrand. Recent research alleviates this issue by modeling the integrands with a learnable parametric model, such as a neural network. However, the challenge remains in creating an expressive parametric model with a known analytical integral. This paper proposes a novel approach to construct learnable parametric control variates functions from

arbitrary neural network architectures. Instead of using a network to approximate the integrand directly, we employ the network to approximate the anti-derivative of the integrand. This allows us to use automatic differentiation to create a function whose integration can be constructed by the antiderivative network. We apply our method to solve partial differential equations using the Walk-on-sphere algorithm [Sawhney and Crane 2020]. Our results indicate that this approach is unbiased using various network architectures and achieves lower variance than other control variate methods.

CCS CONCEPTS

• Computing methodologies \rightarrow Computer graphics; Modeling and simulation; Neural networks.

KEYWORDS

Control Variates, Monte Carlo Methods, PDE Solvers

ACM Reference Format:

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ACM ISBN 979-8-4007-6525-0/24/07...\$15.00
<https://doi.org/10.1145/3641519.3657395>

$$u_\theta(x) = \int_{y \in \partial\Omega_r(x)} \frac{v_\theta(y)}{2\pi r} dy$$

$$\mathbb{V} [u(y) - v_\theta(y)] \ll \ll \mathbb{V} [u(y)]$$



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Xi Deng



Qingqing Zhao



Bharath Hariharan

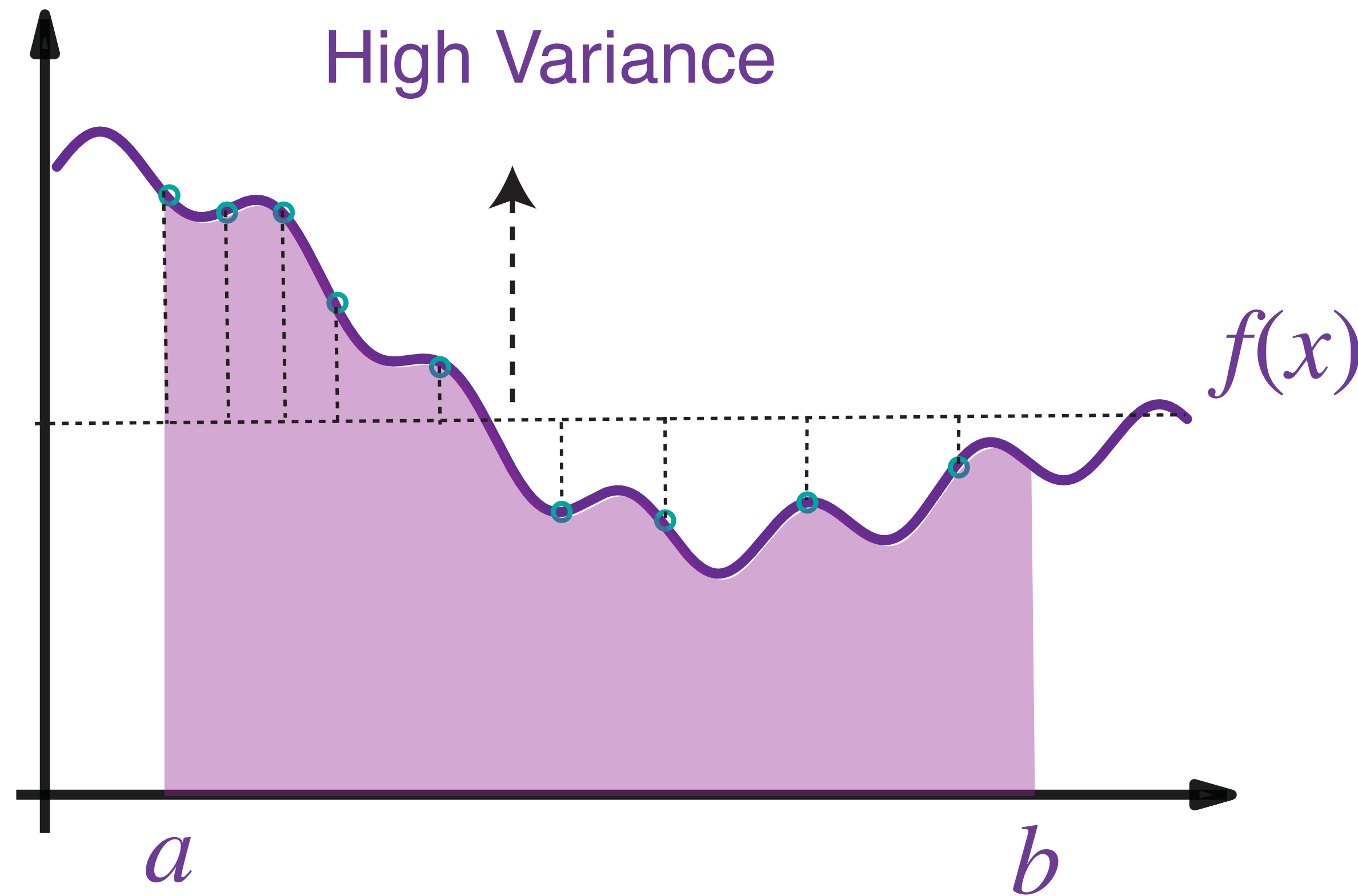


Leonidas Guibas

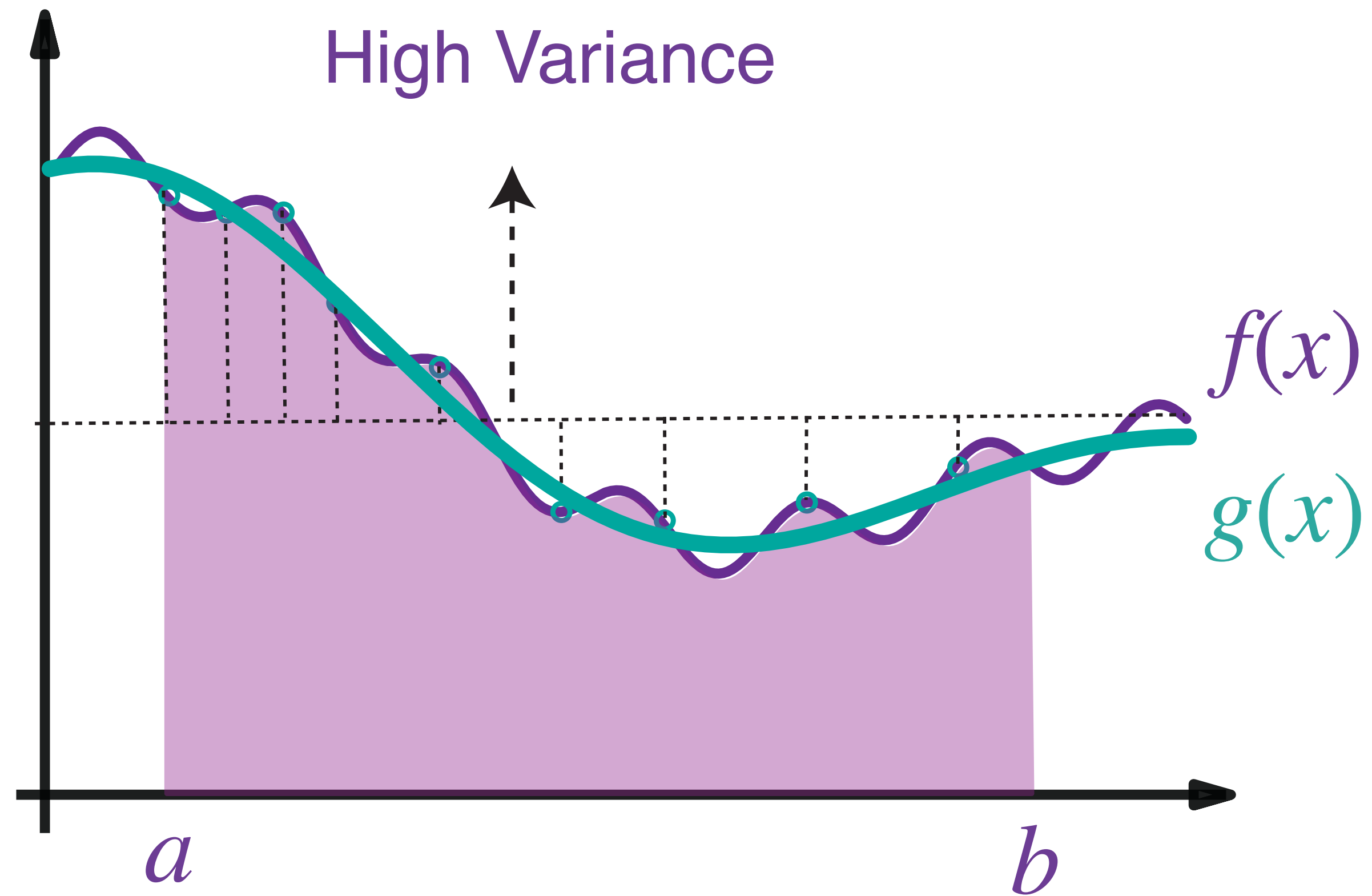


Gordon Wetzstein

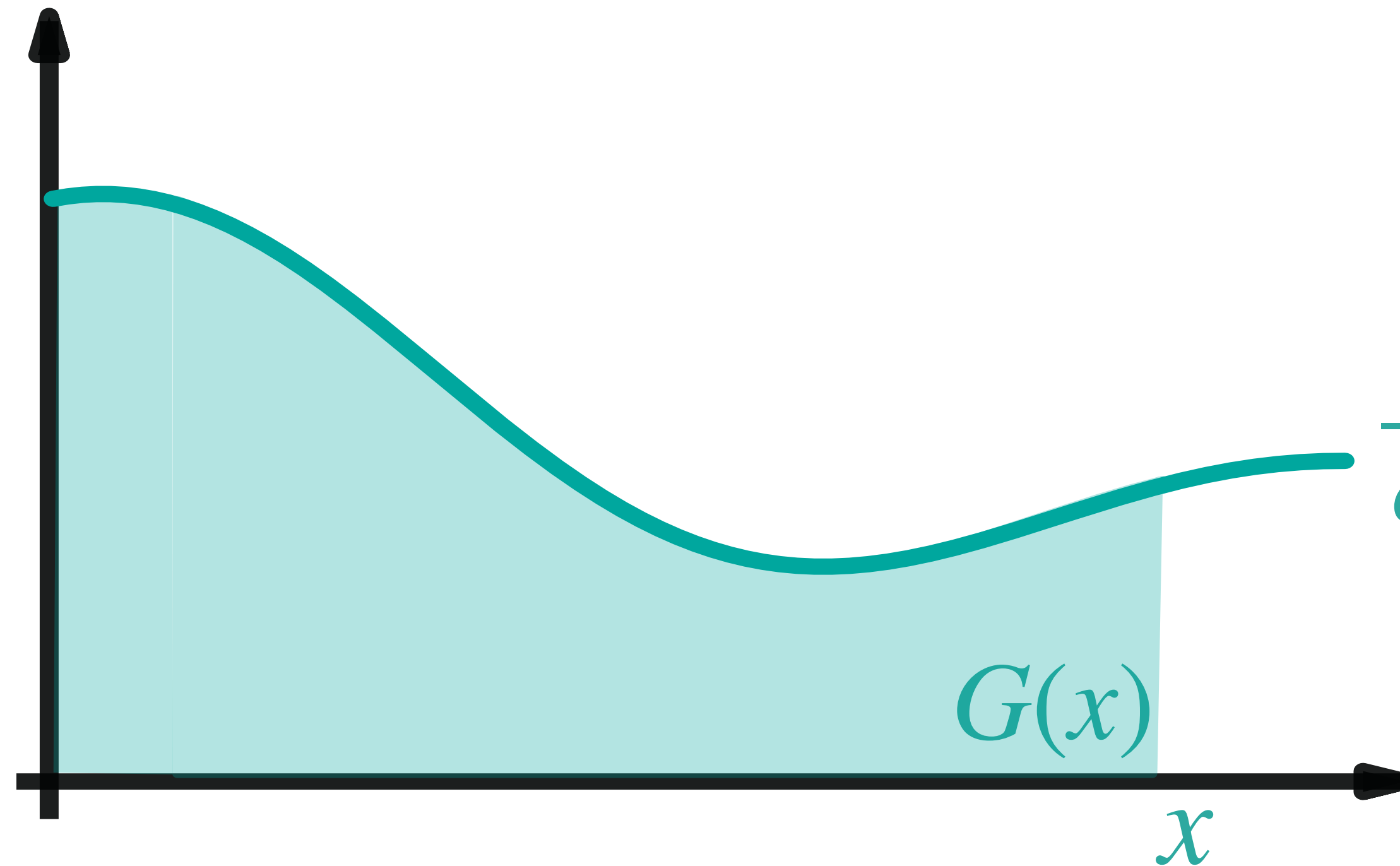
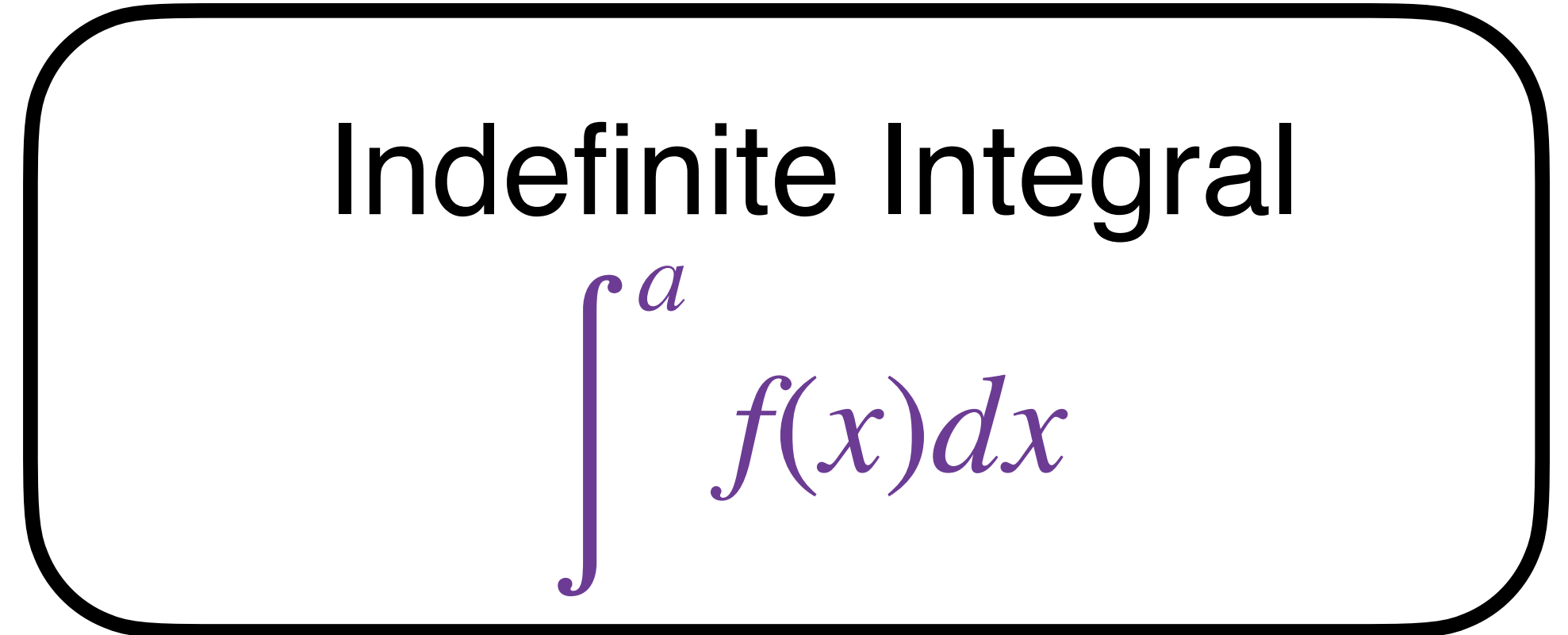
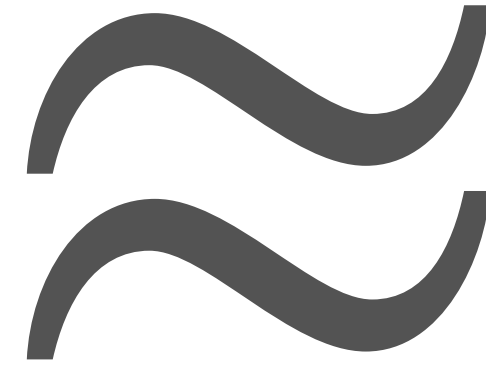
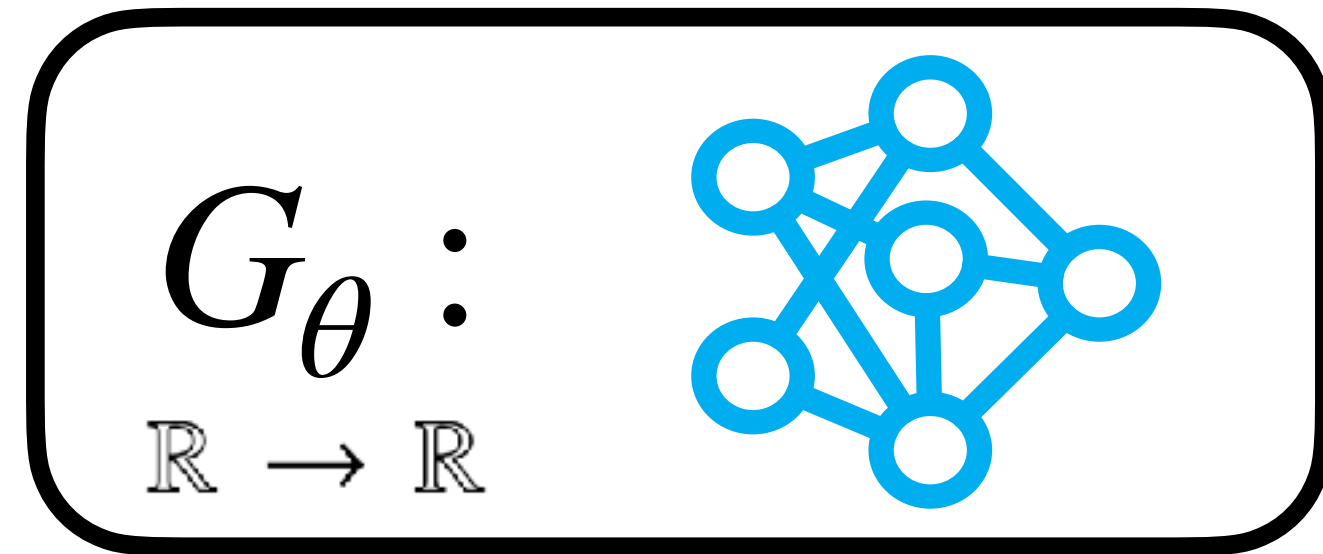
1D Example - estimating $\int_a^b f(x)dx$



1D Example - estimating $\int_a^b f(x)dx$

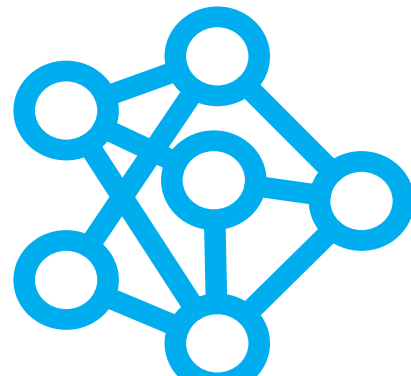


Instantiate the Network to Approximate Indefinite Integral

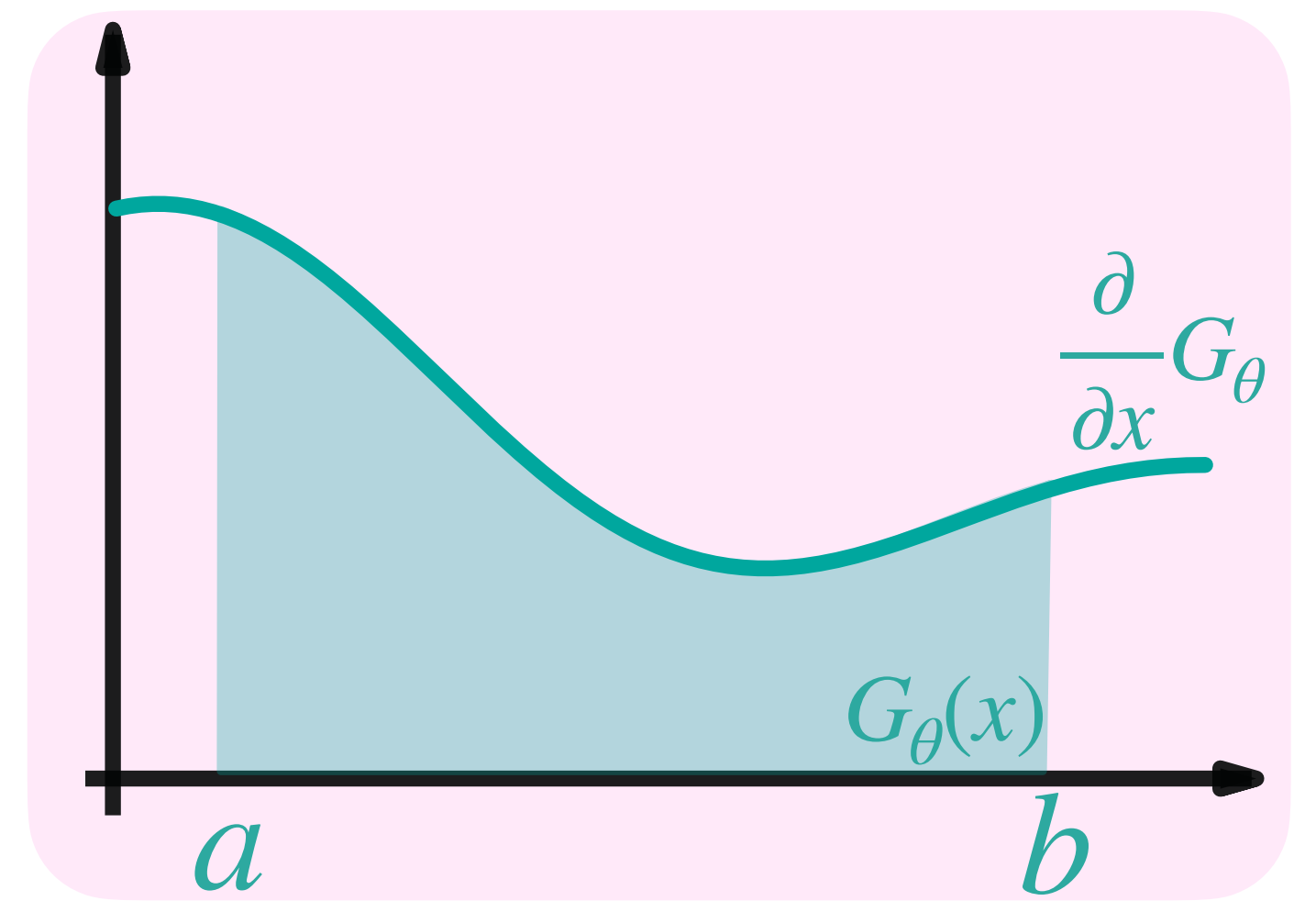
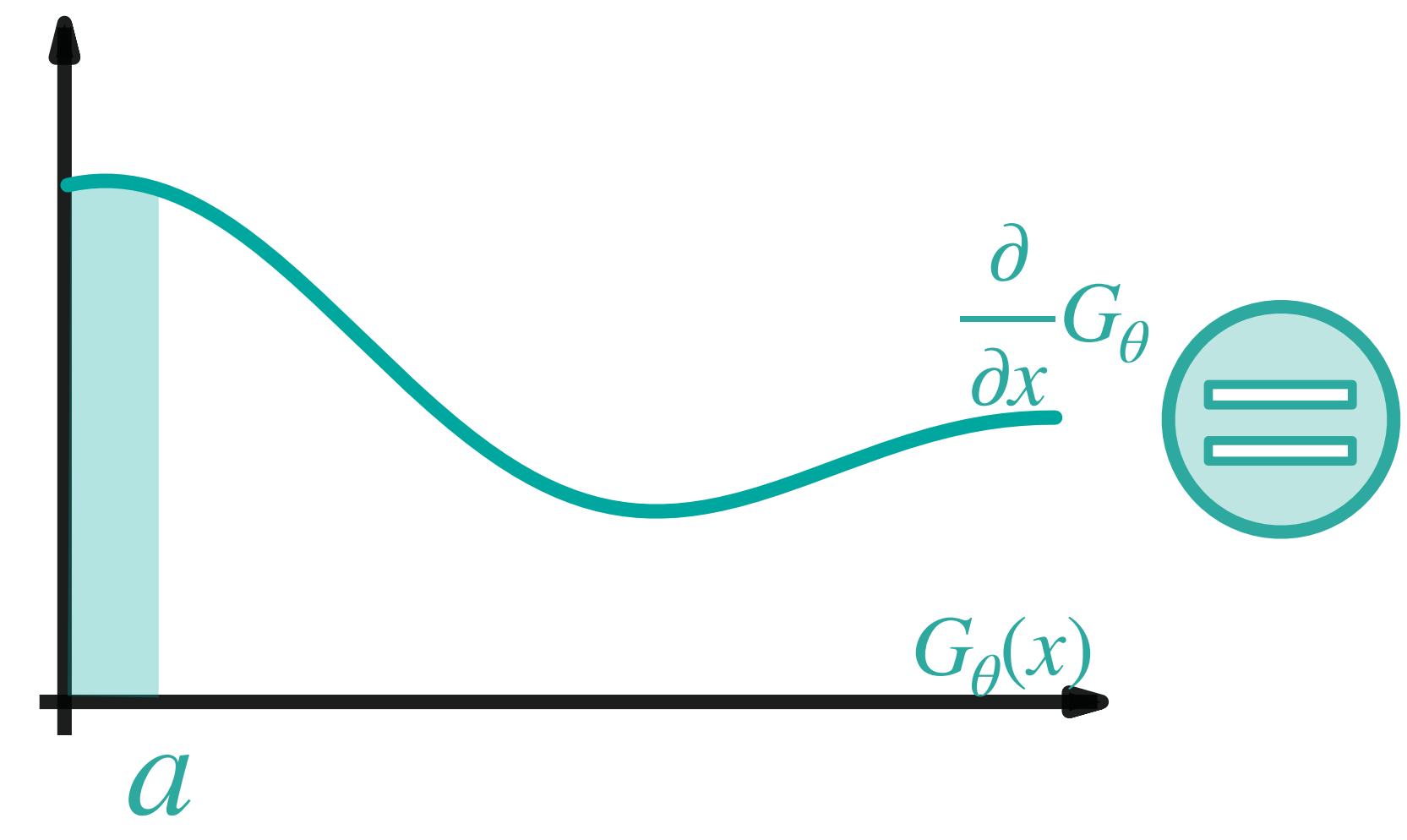
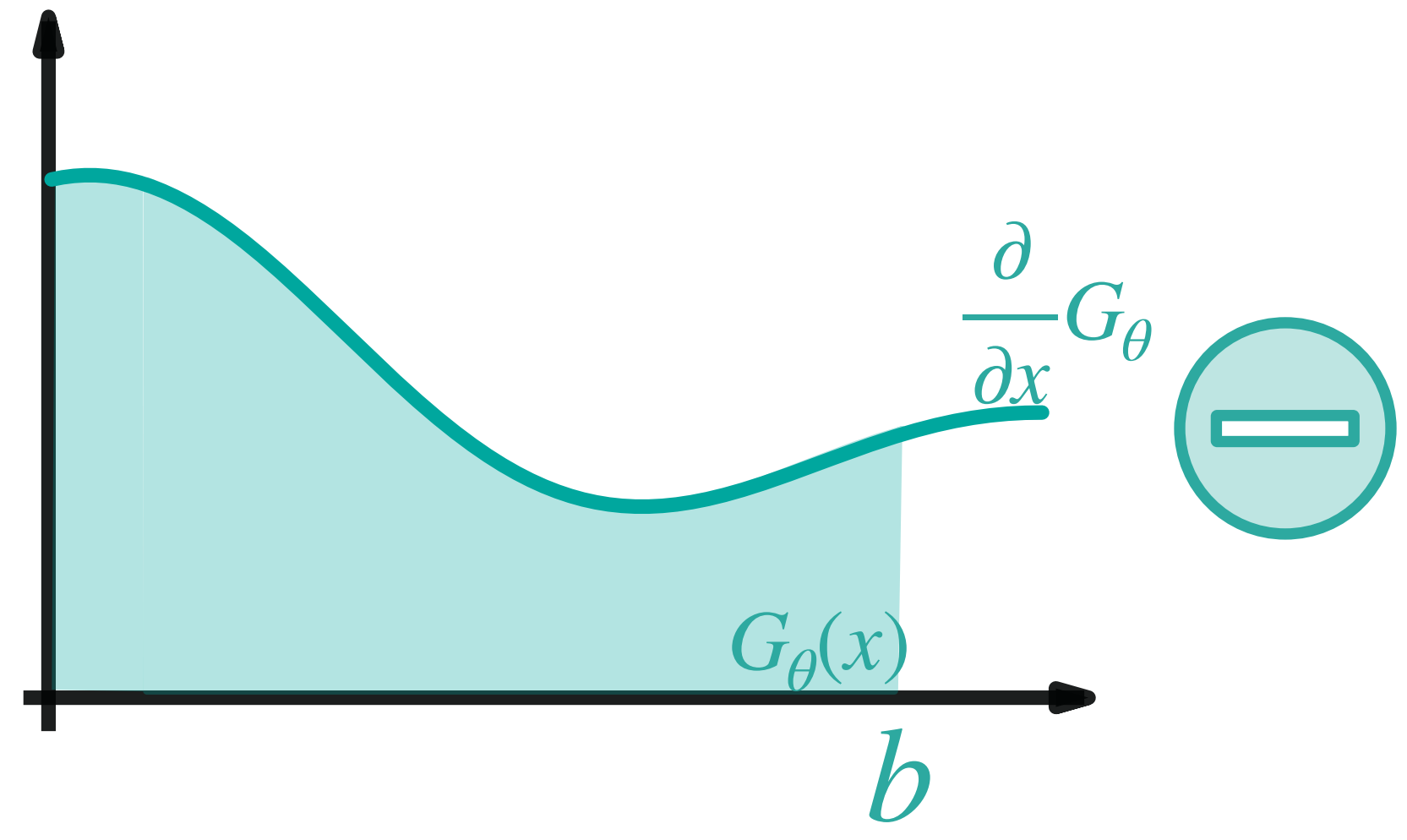


$$\frac{\partial}{\partial x} G_\theta \approx f(x)$$

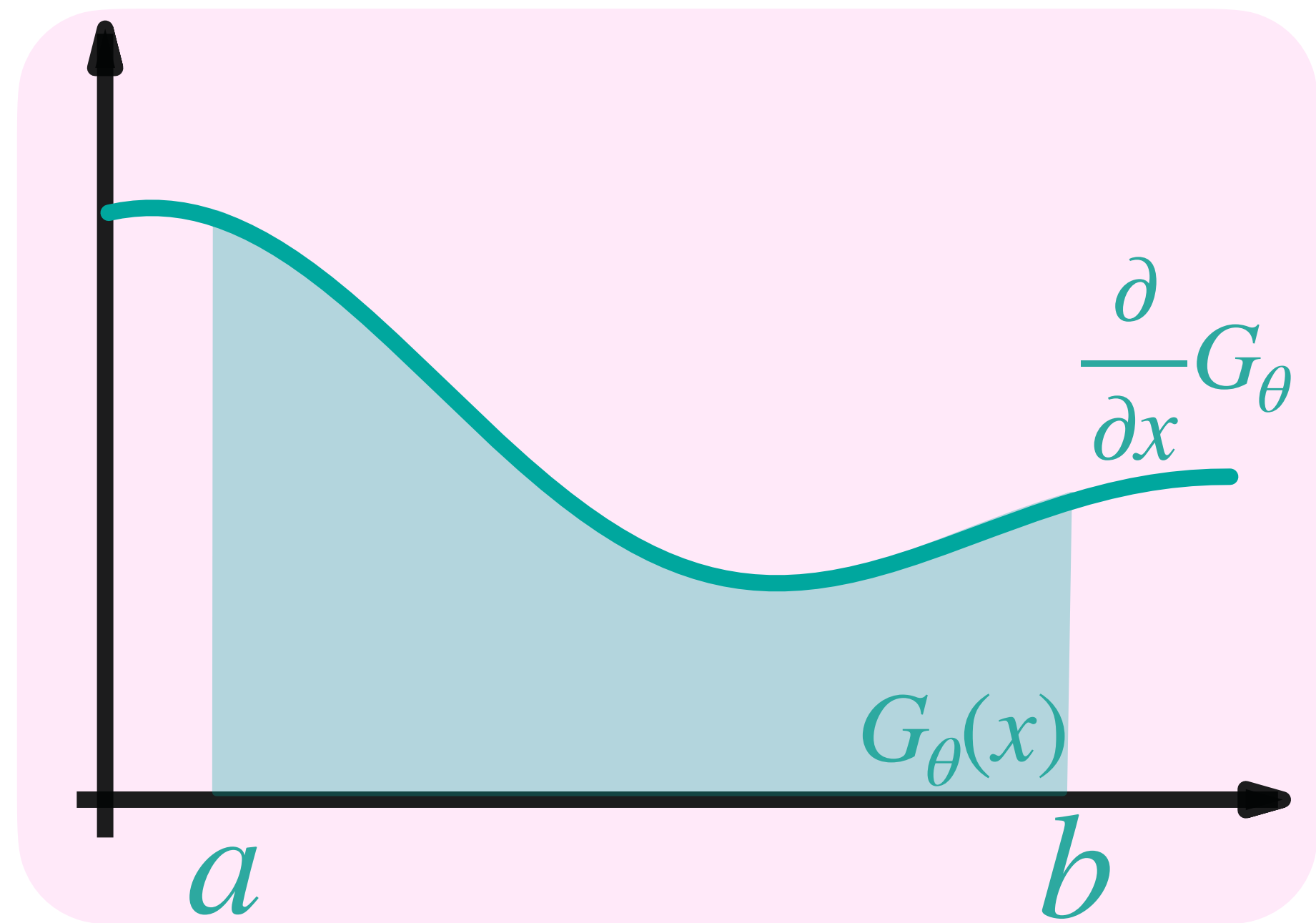
Approximating the Definite Integral

$G_\theta(x)$ 

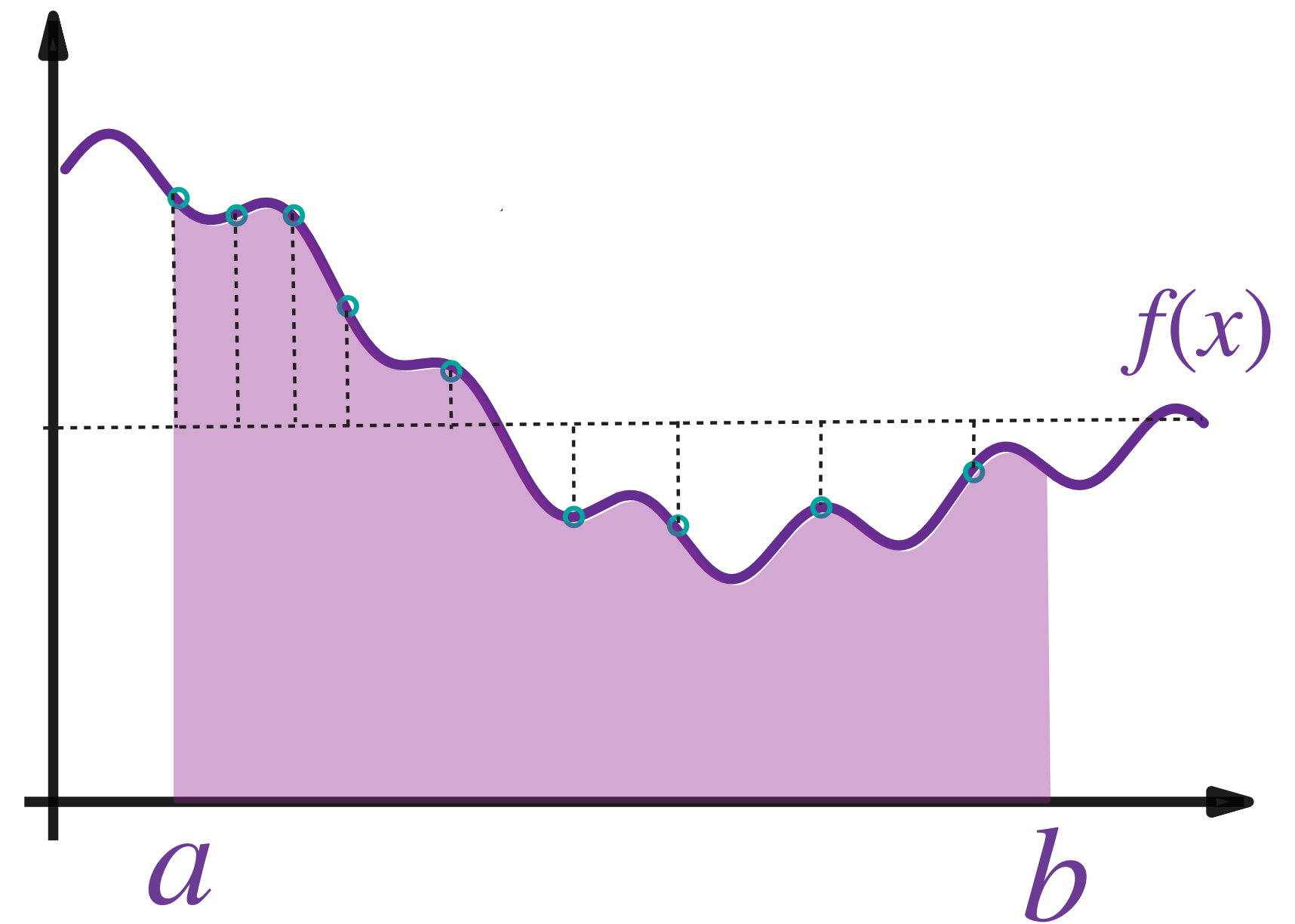
$G_\theta(b)$ — $G_\theta(a)$ = $\int_a^b \frac{\partial}{\partial x} G_\theta(x) dx$



Approximating the Definite Integral



\approx

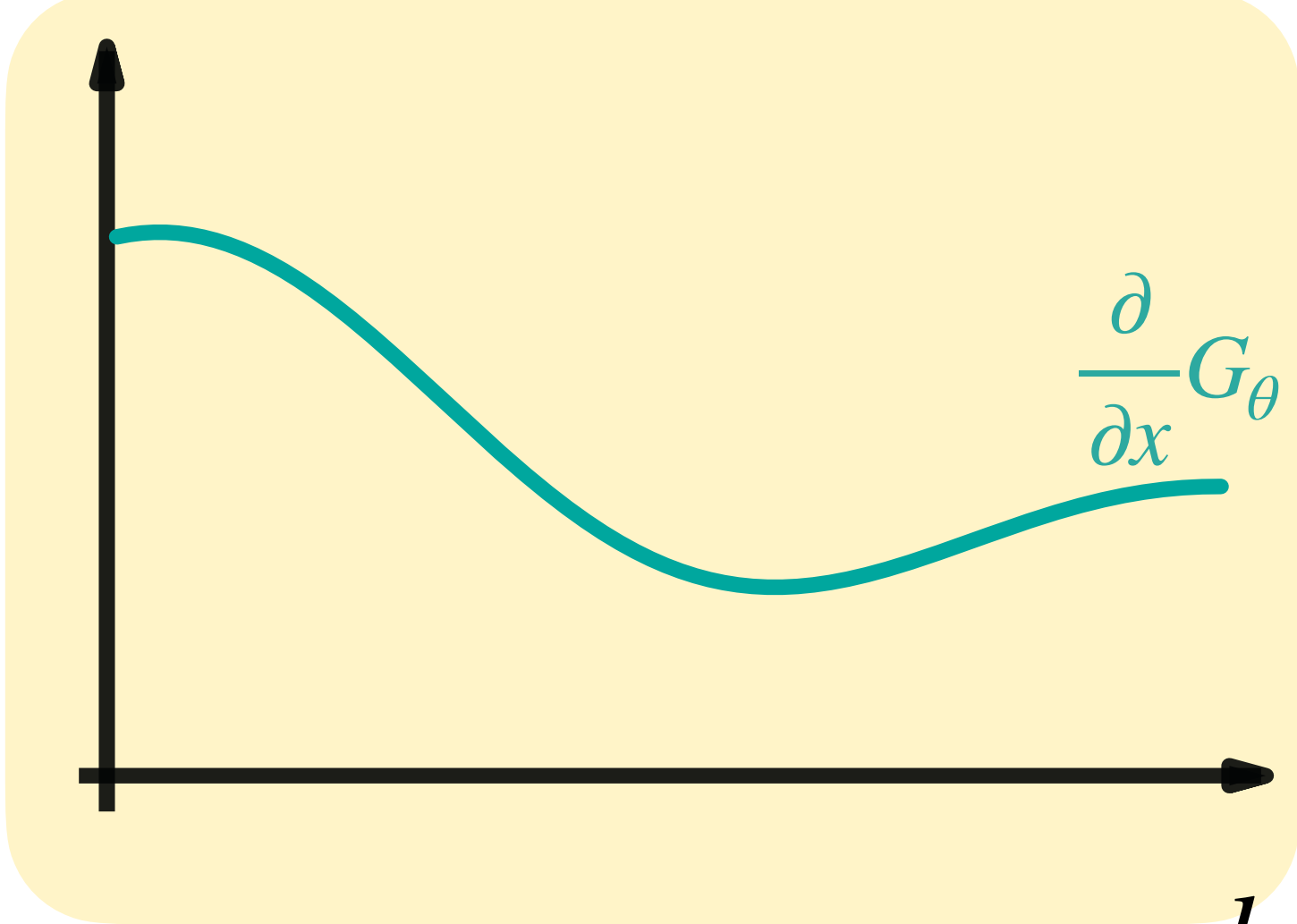
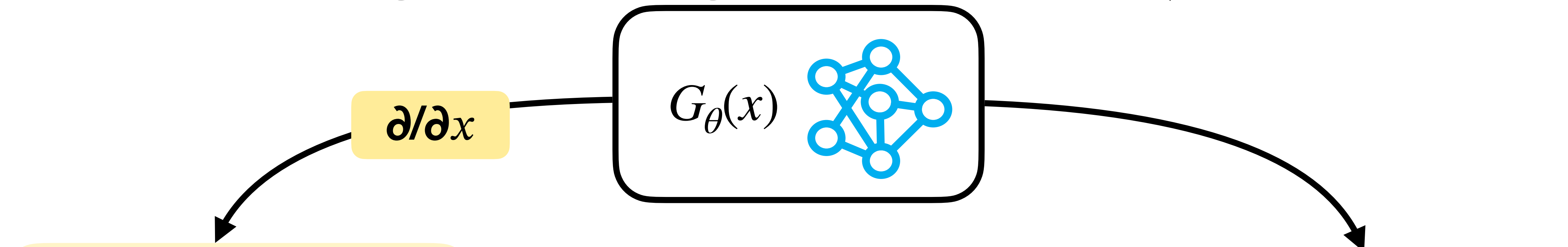


$$\int_a^b \frac{\partial}{\partial x} G_\theta(x) dx$$

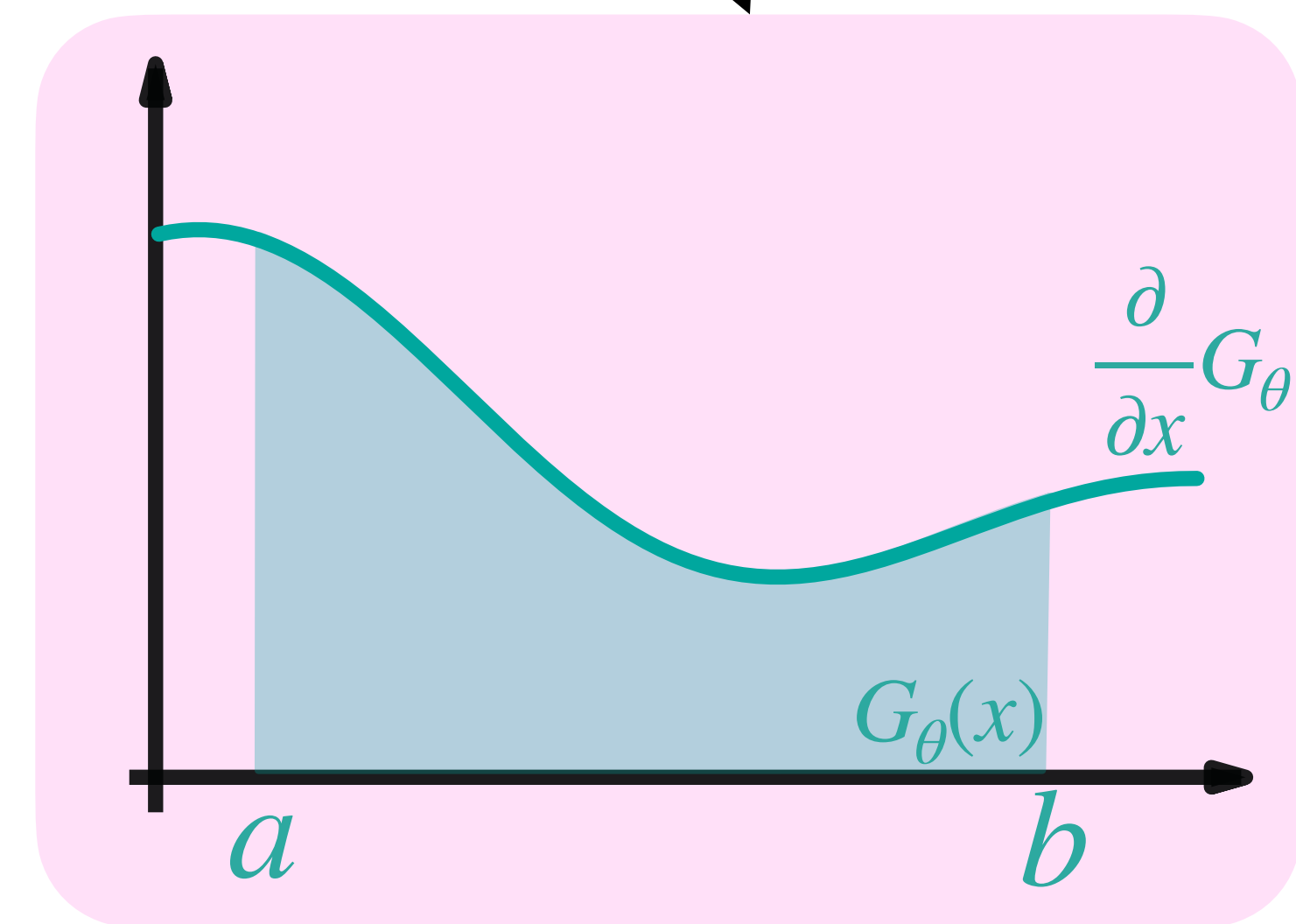
$$\int_a^b f(x) dx$$

Computing the Integrand $g(x)$

✓ $u_\theta(x) = \int_{y \in \partial\Omega_r(x)} \frac{v_\theta(y)}{2\pi r} dy$

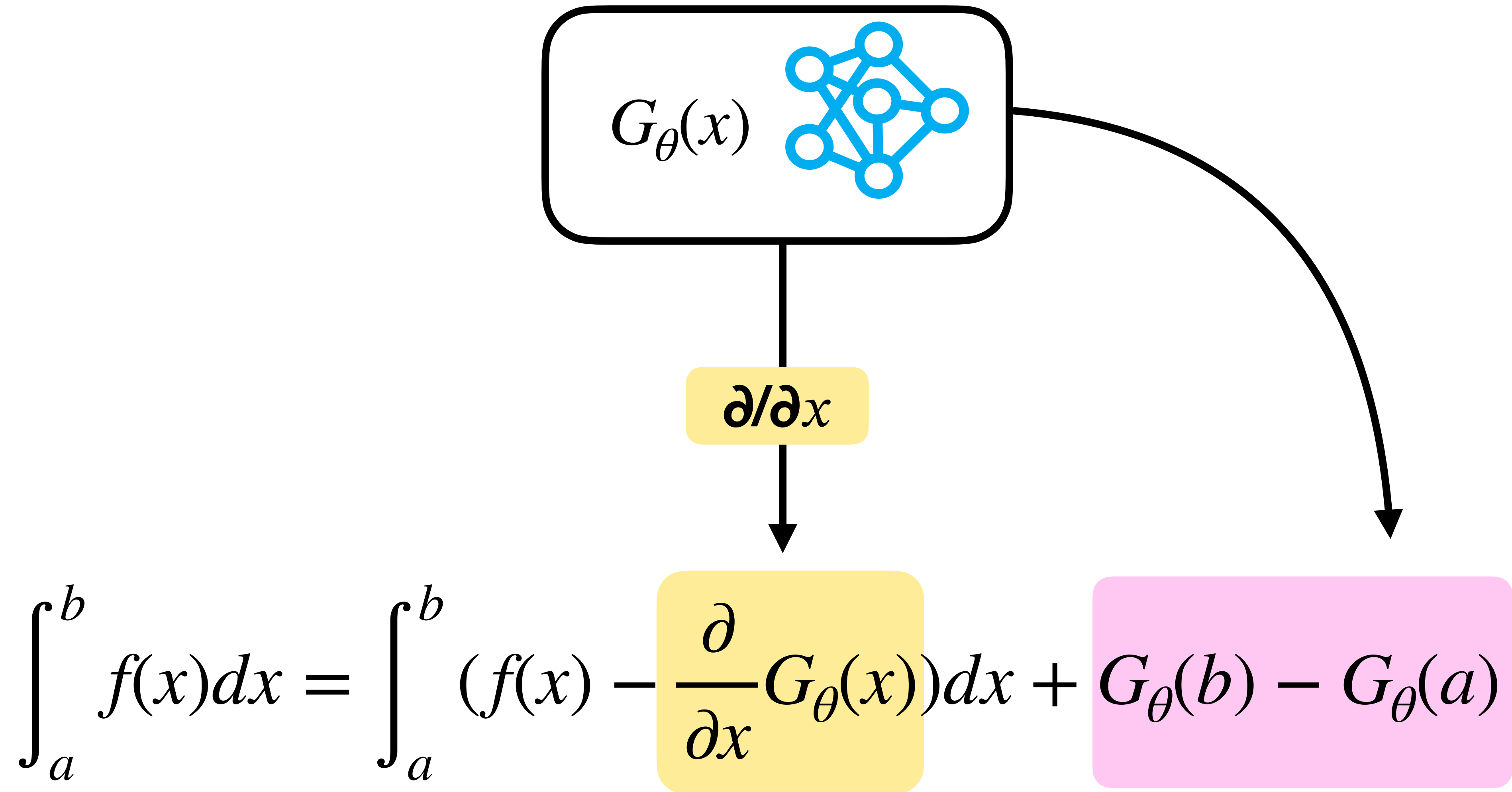


$$g_\theta(x) = \frac{\partial}{\partial x} G_\theta$$



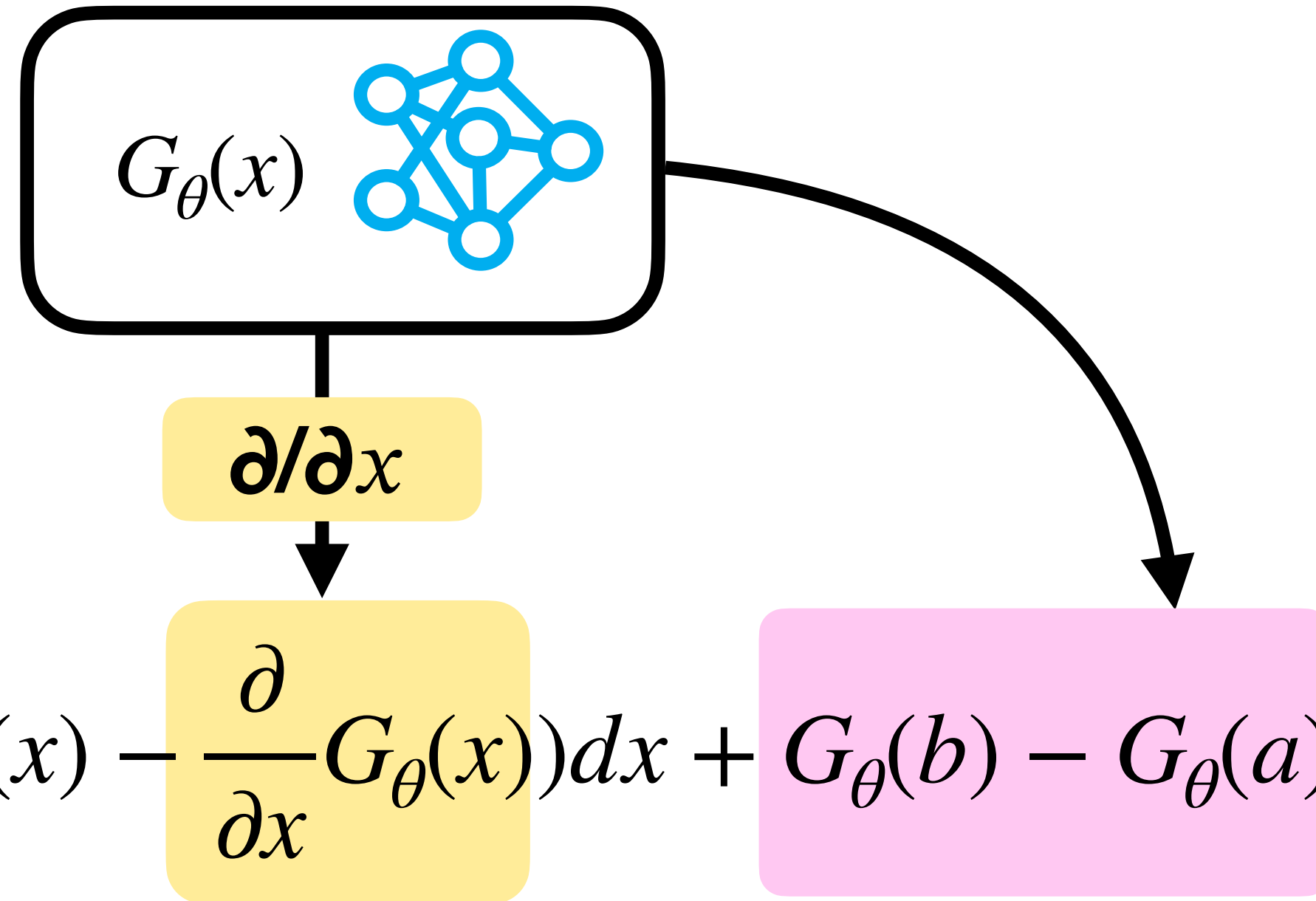
$$\int_a^b \frac{\partial}{\partial x} G_\theta(x) dx = G_\theta(b) - G_\theta(a)$$

Constructing Control Variates



Training

$$\checkmark \mathbb{V} [u(y) - v_{\theta}(y)] \ll \ll \mathbb{V} [u(y)]$$



Objective: Minimizing the Variance

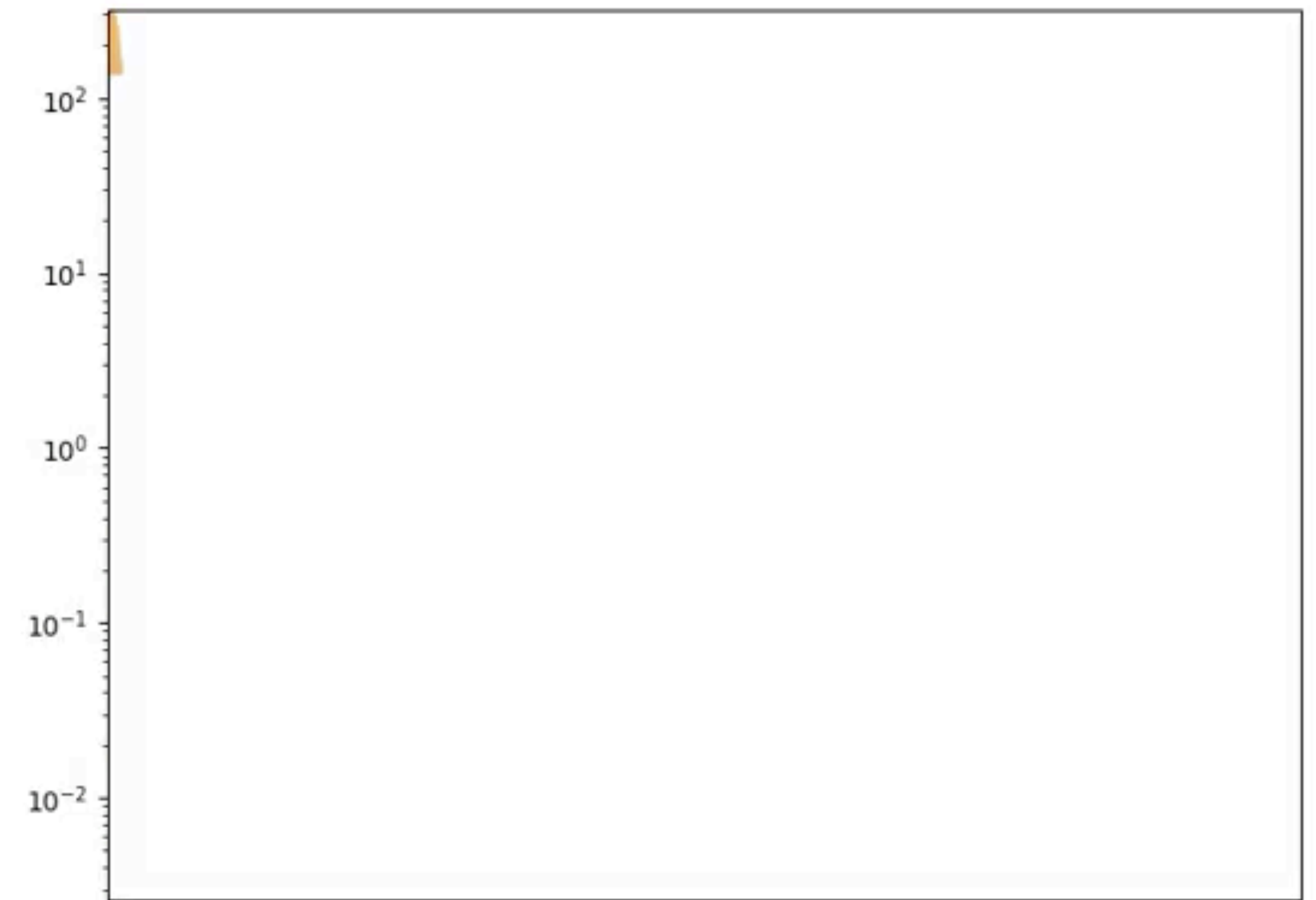
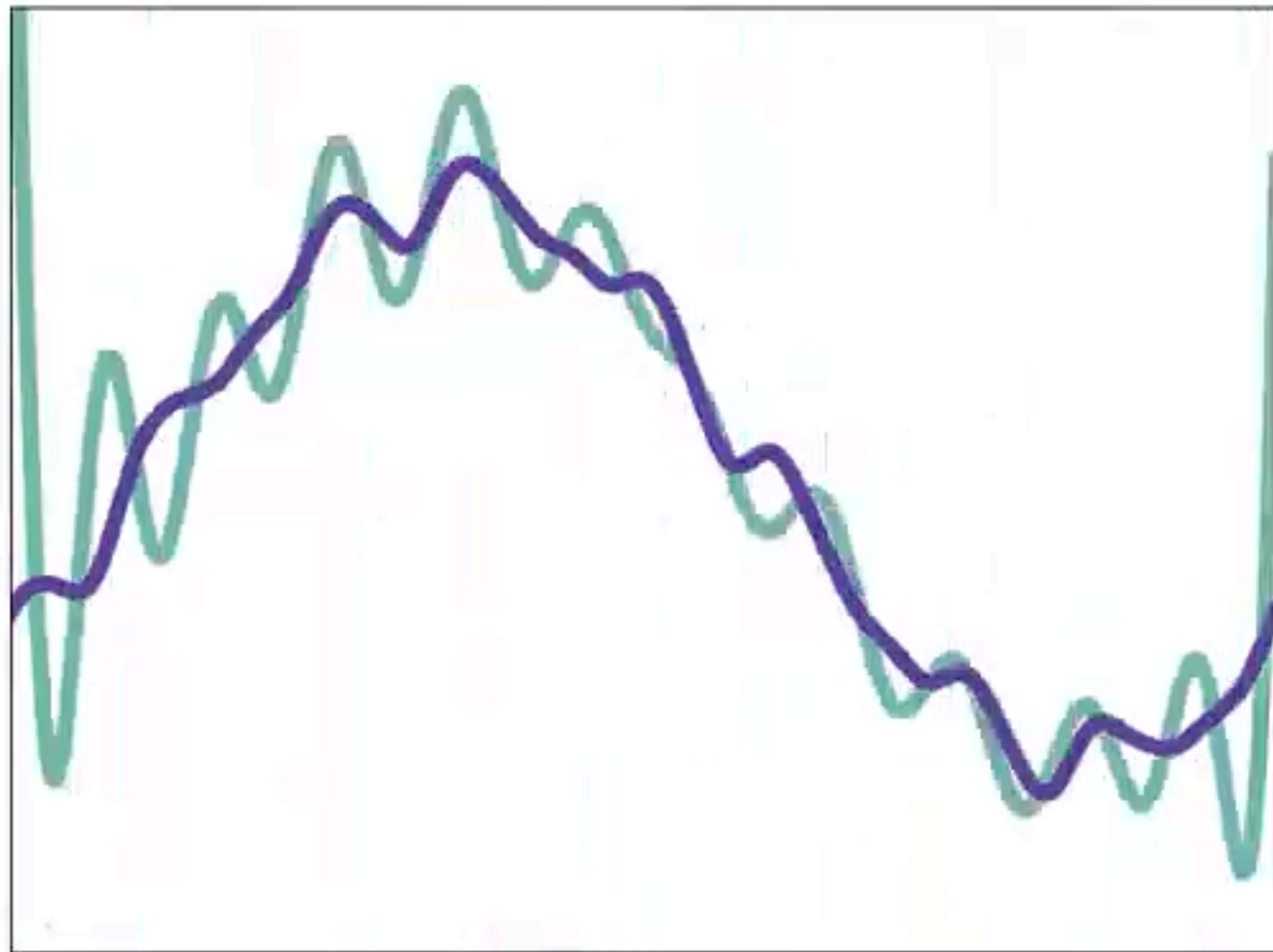
$$\mathbb{V} = \int_a^b \left(f(x) - \frac{\partial}{\partial x} G_{\theta}(x) \right)^2 dx - \left(G_{\theta}(a) - G_{\theta}(b) - \int_a^b f(x) dx \right)^2$$

Training the Derivative Network

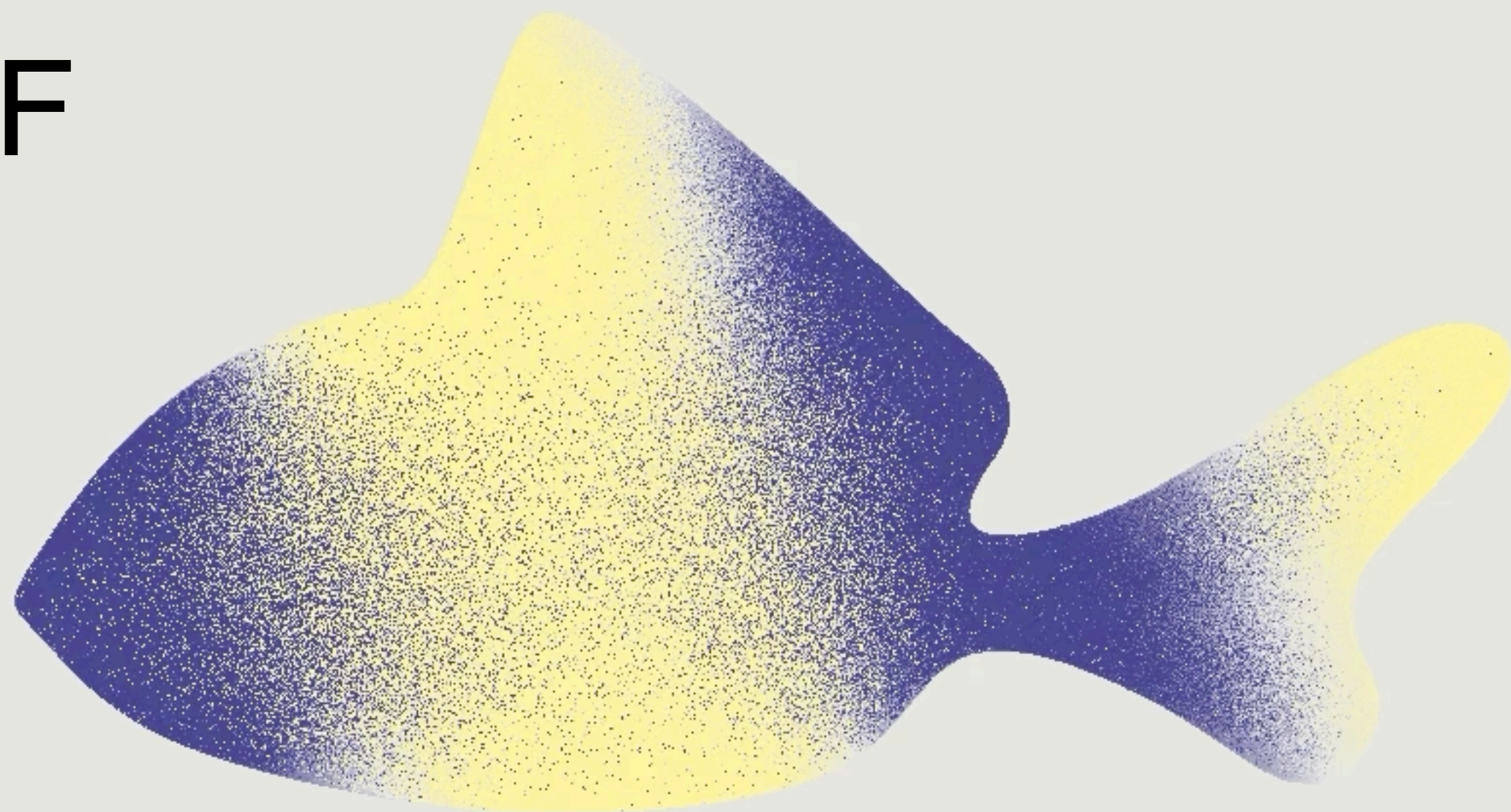
Objective: Minimizing the Variance

$$- : f(x) \quad - : \frac{\partial}{\partial x} G_{\theta}$$

$$\text{Var}(f - g)$$

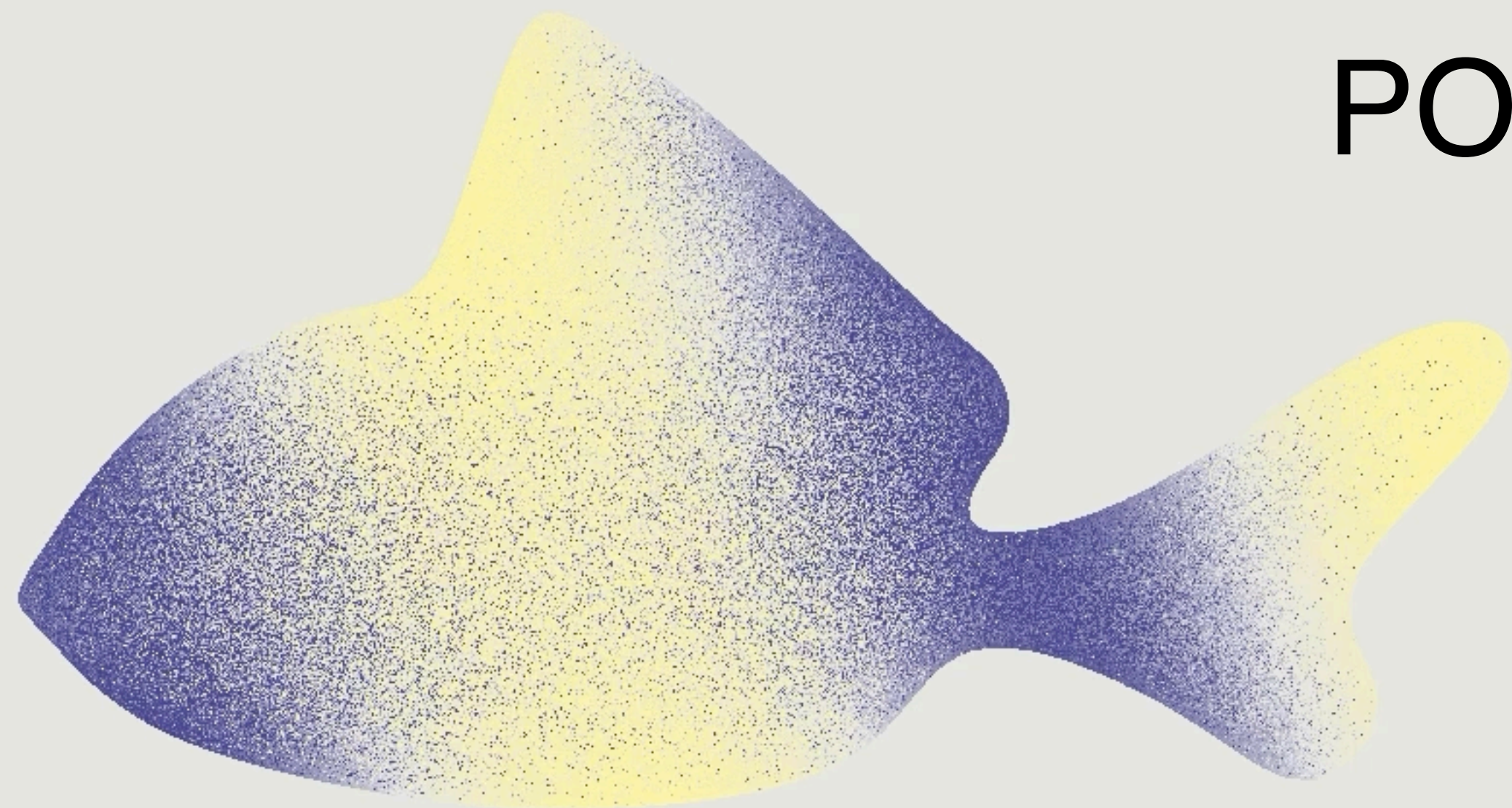


NF



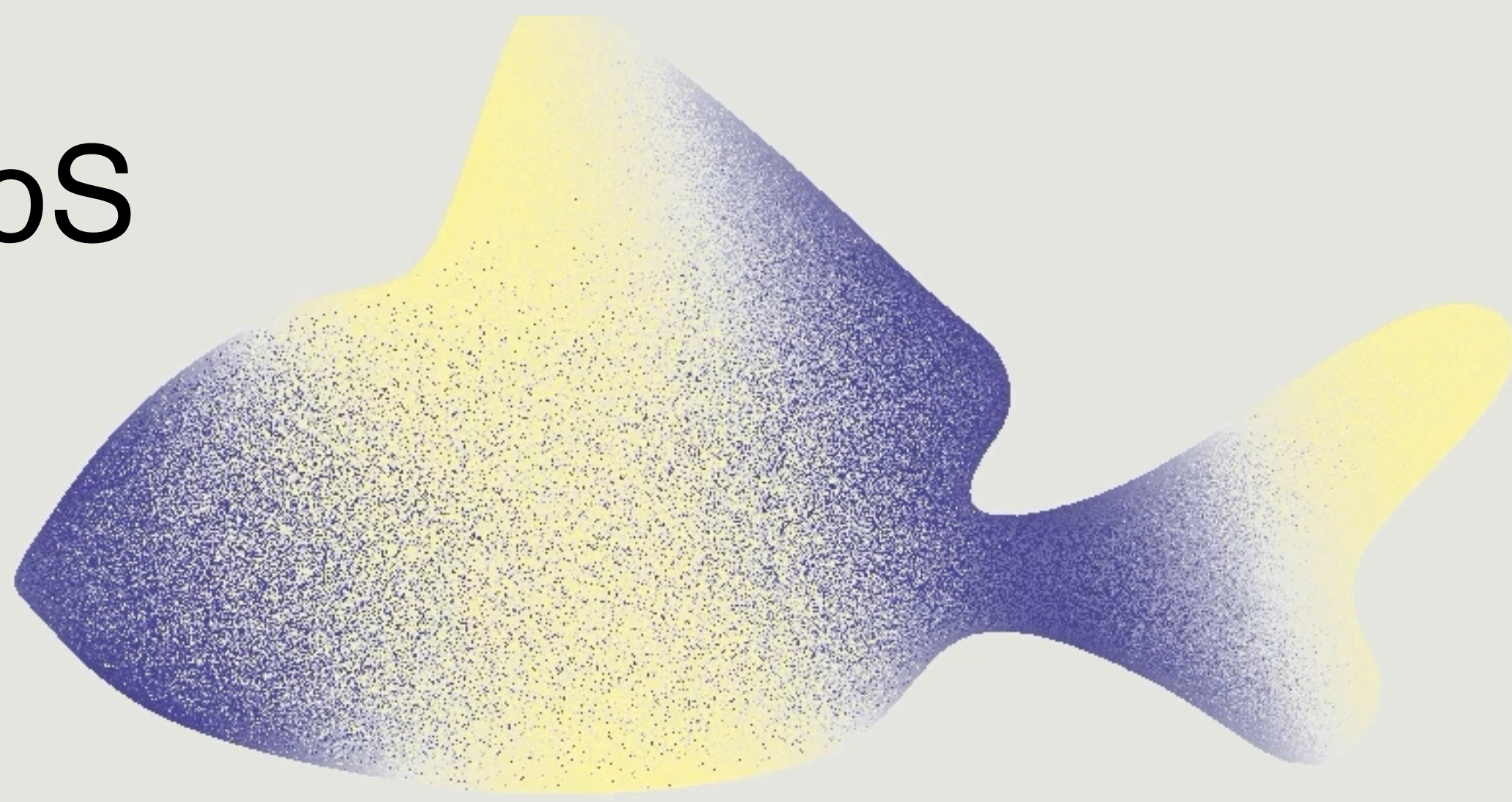
Var 14.67 x

POLY



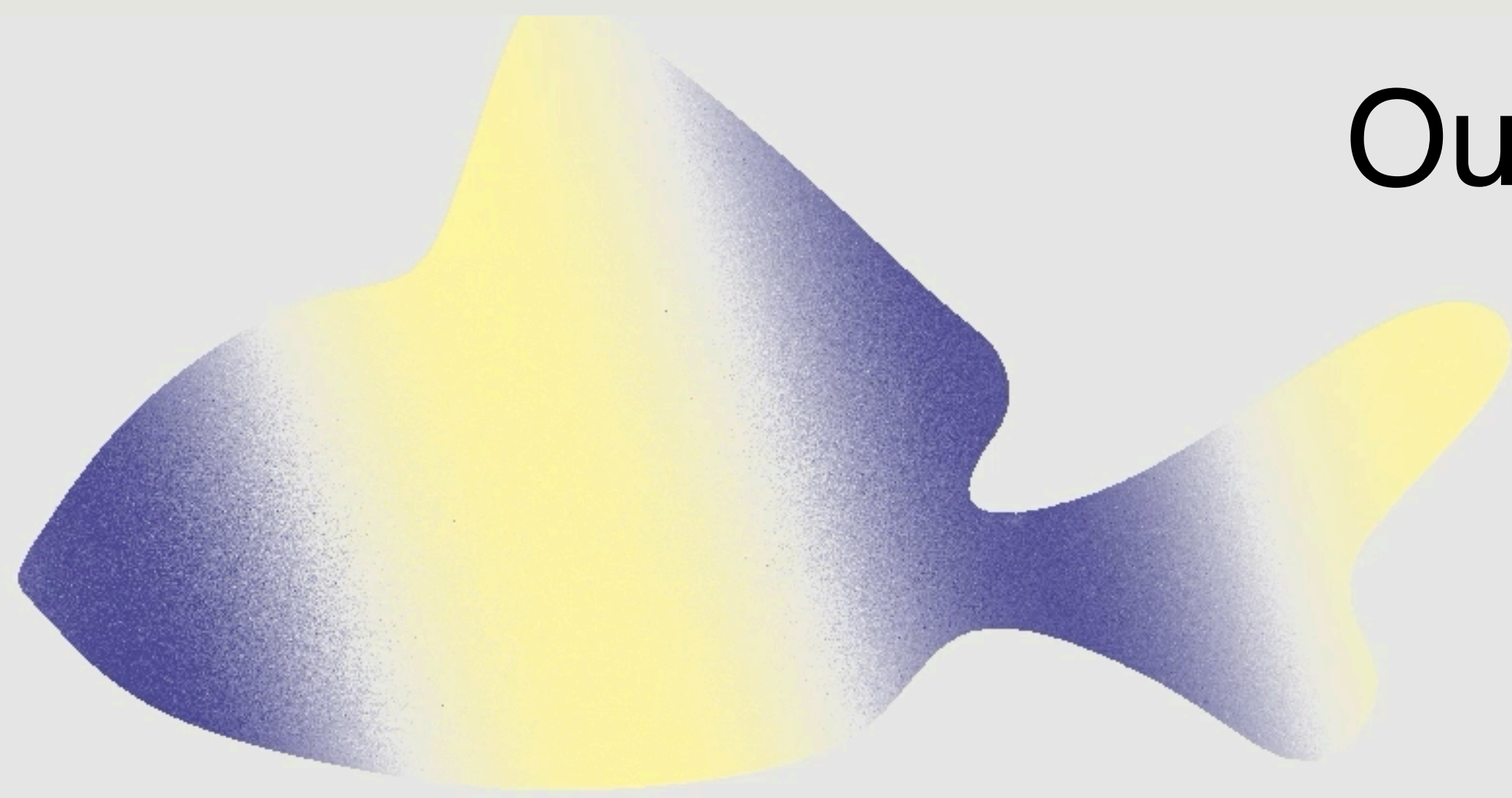
Var 1.24 x

WoS



Var 1.00 x

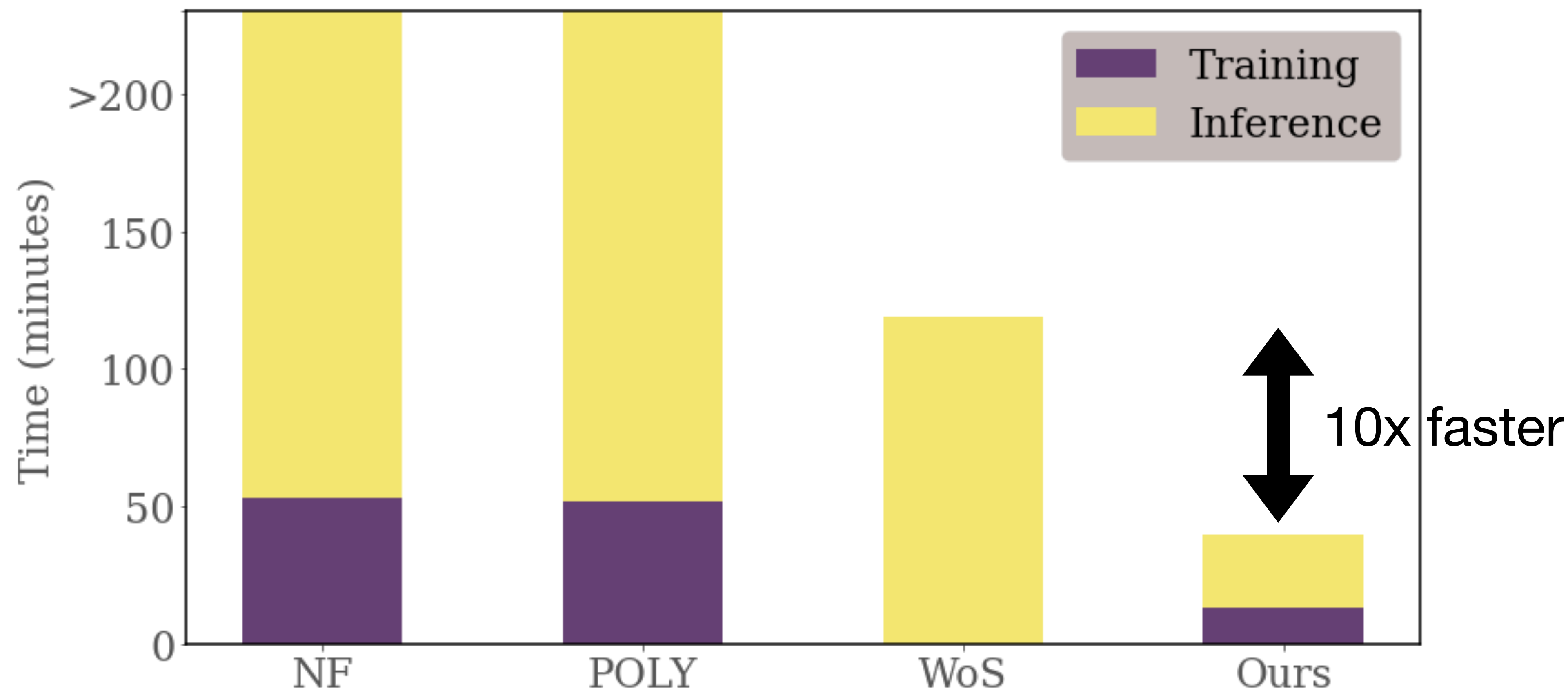
Ours



Var 0.30 x

Our estimator is faster for high resolution

Computational Time Breakdown to Create a 1024 Resolution Image



Analysis - Symmetry Detection

Synthesis

Analysis



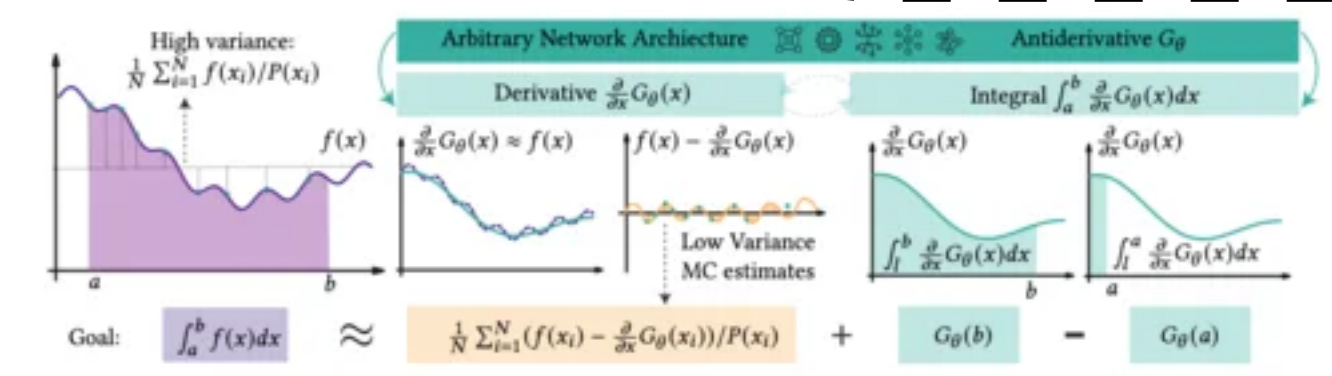
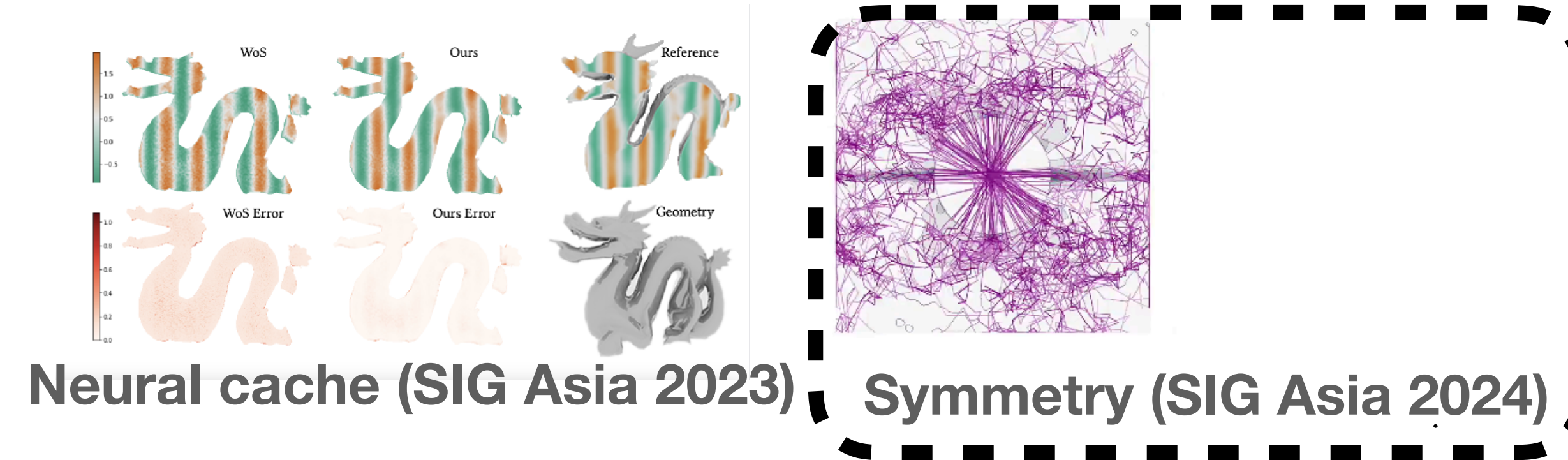
PointFlow (ICCV 2019)



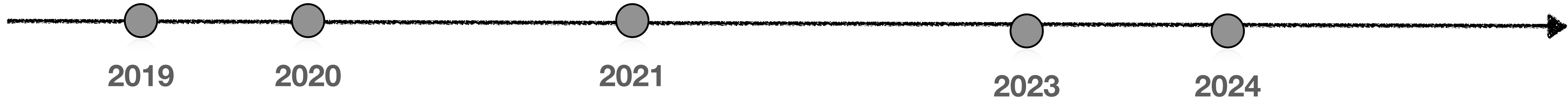
ShapeGF (ECCV 2020)



NFGP (NeurIPS 2021)

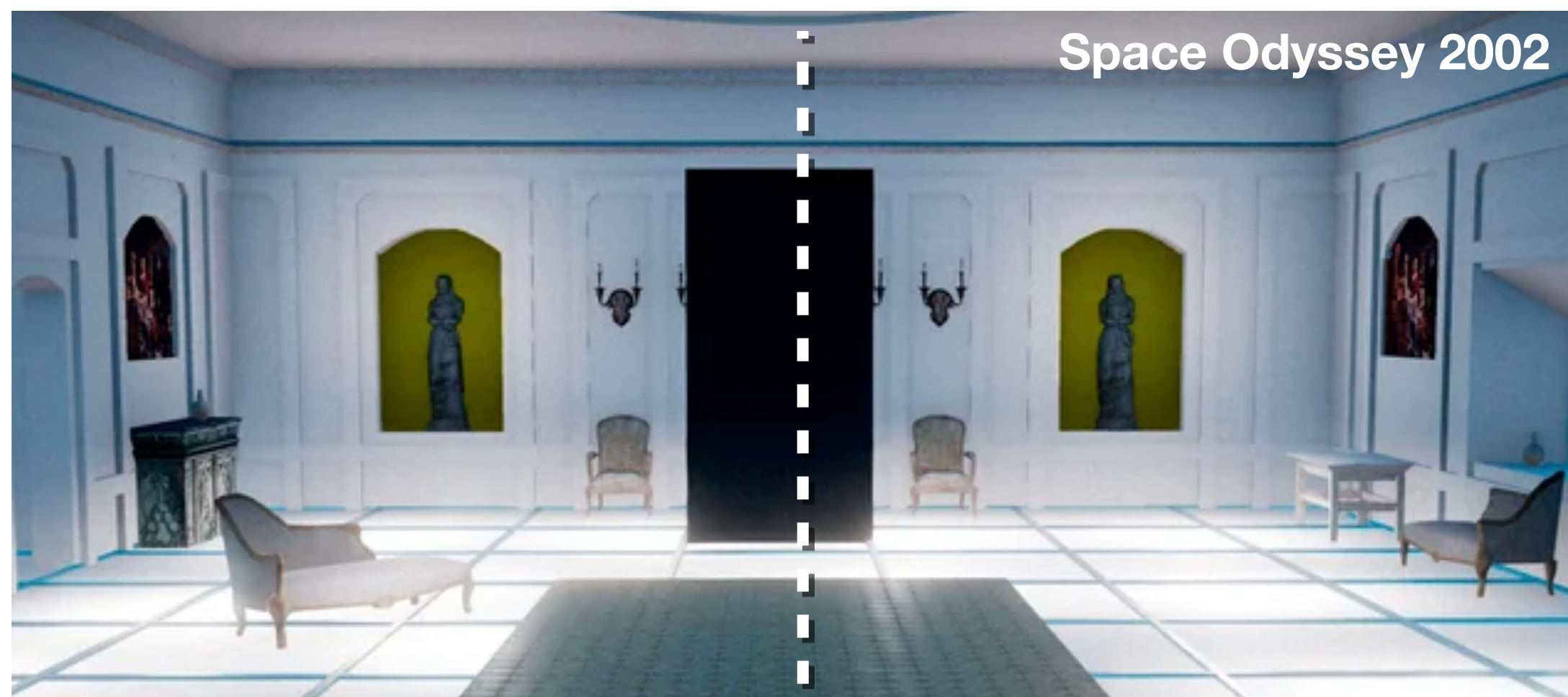
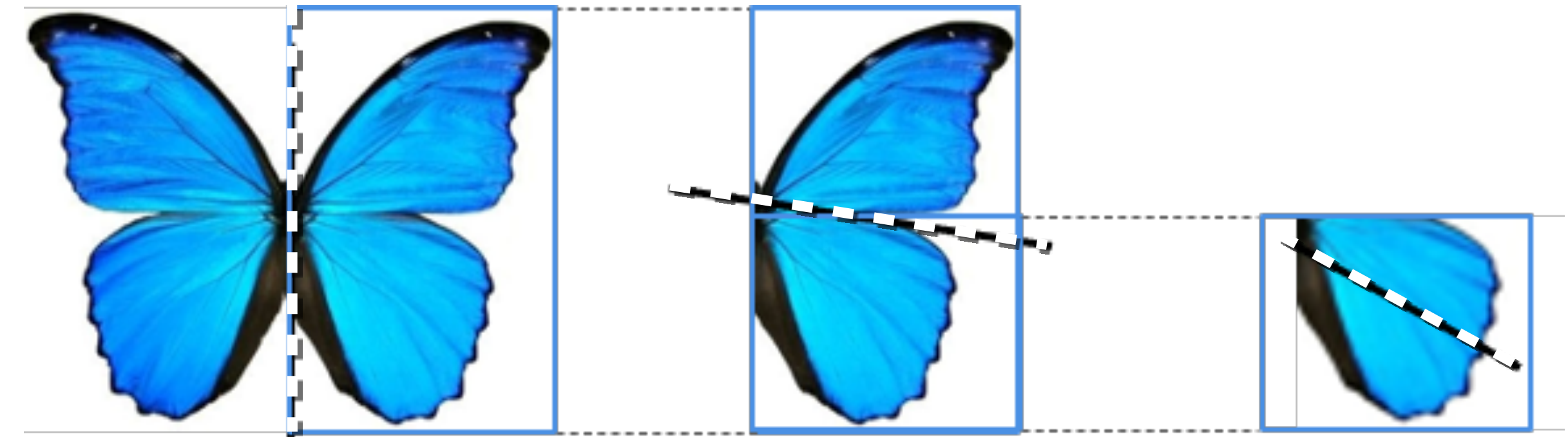
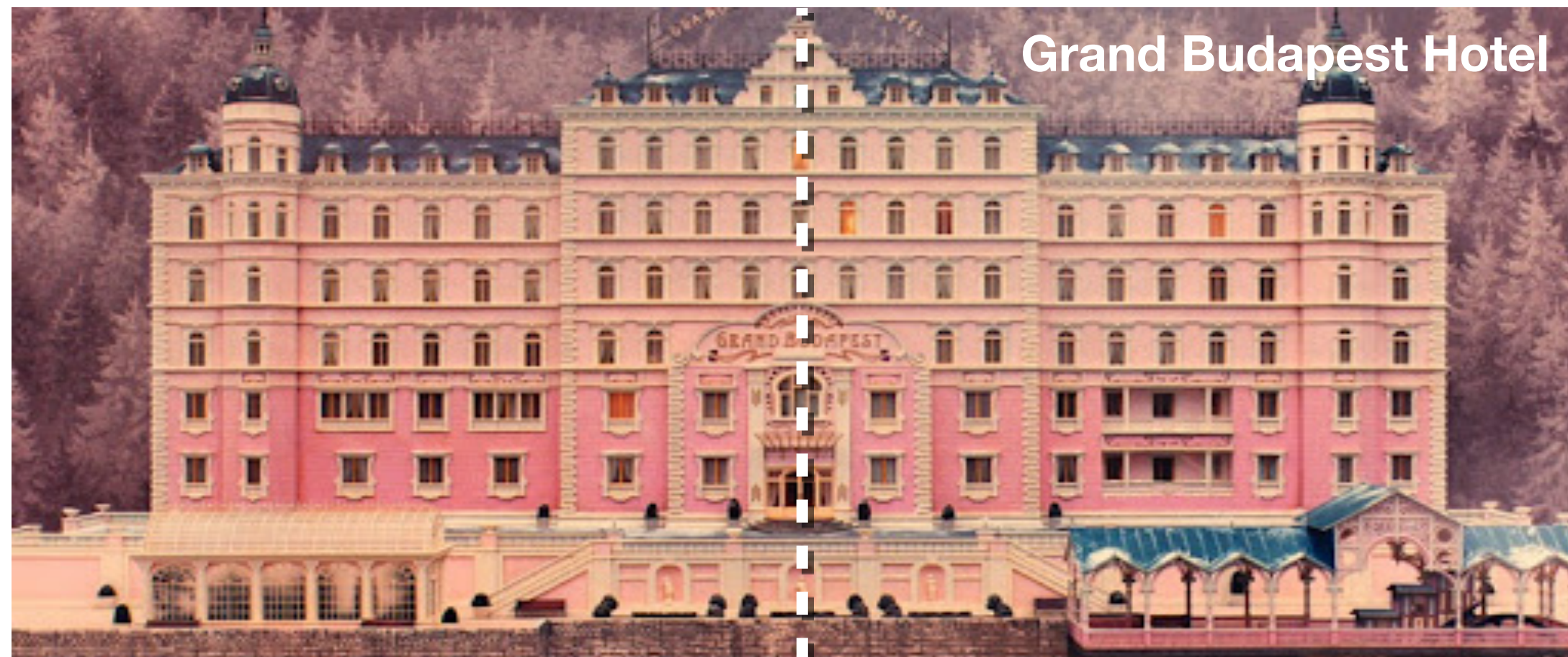


NCV (SIGGRAPH 2024)



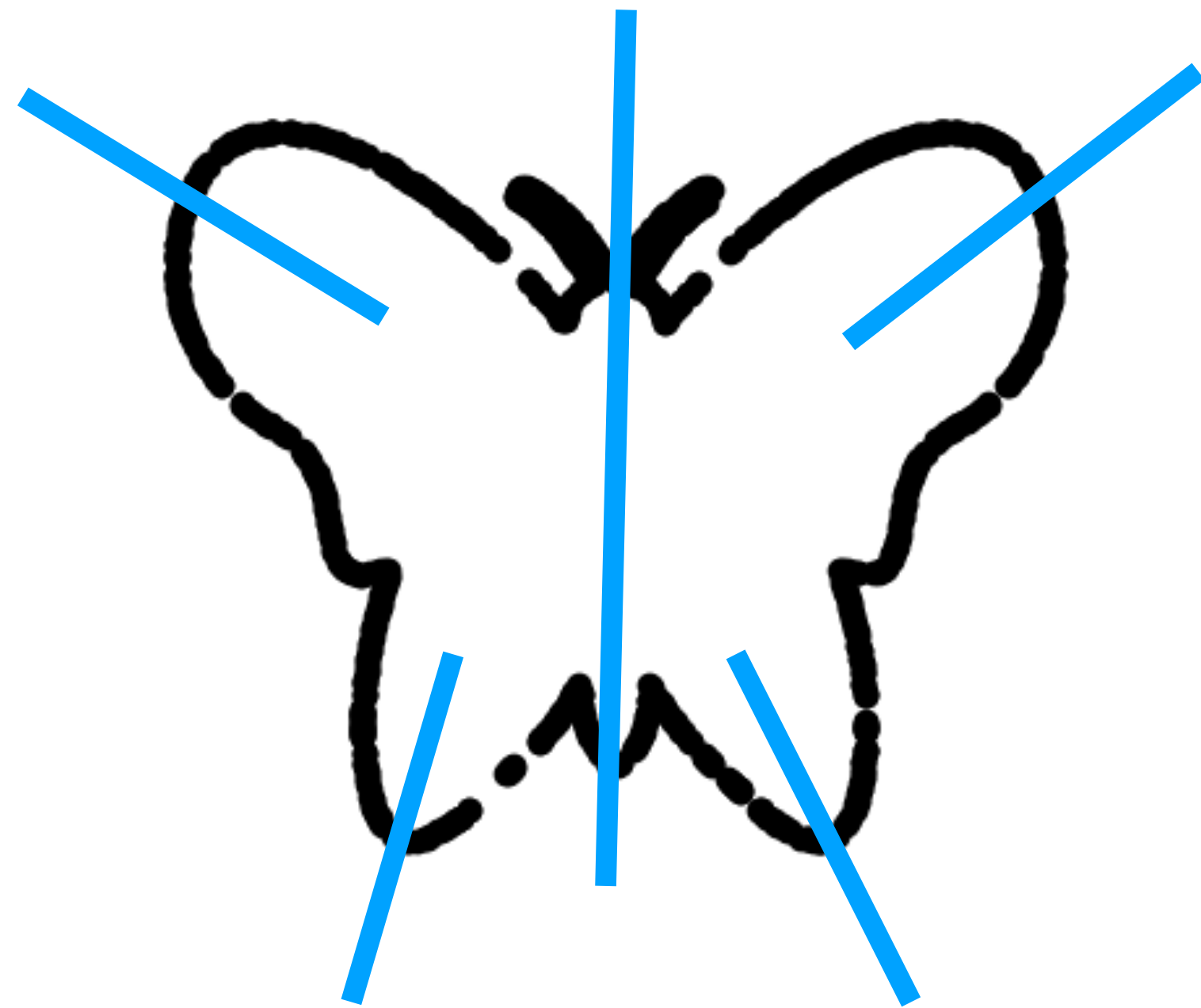
Symmetry is ubiquitous

How do we detect symmetry of a shape?



How do we detect symmetry of a shape?

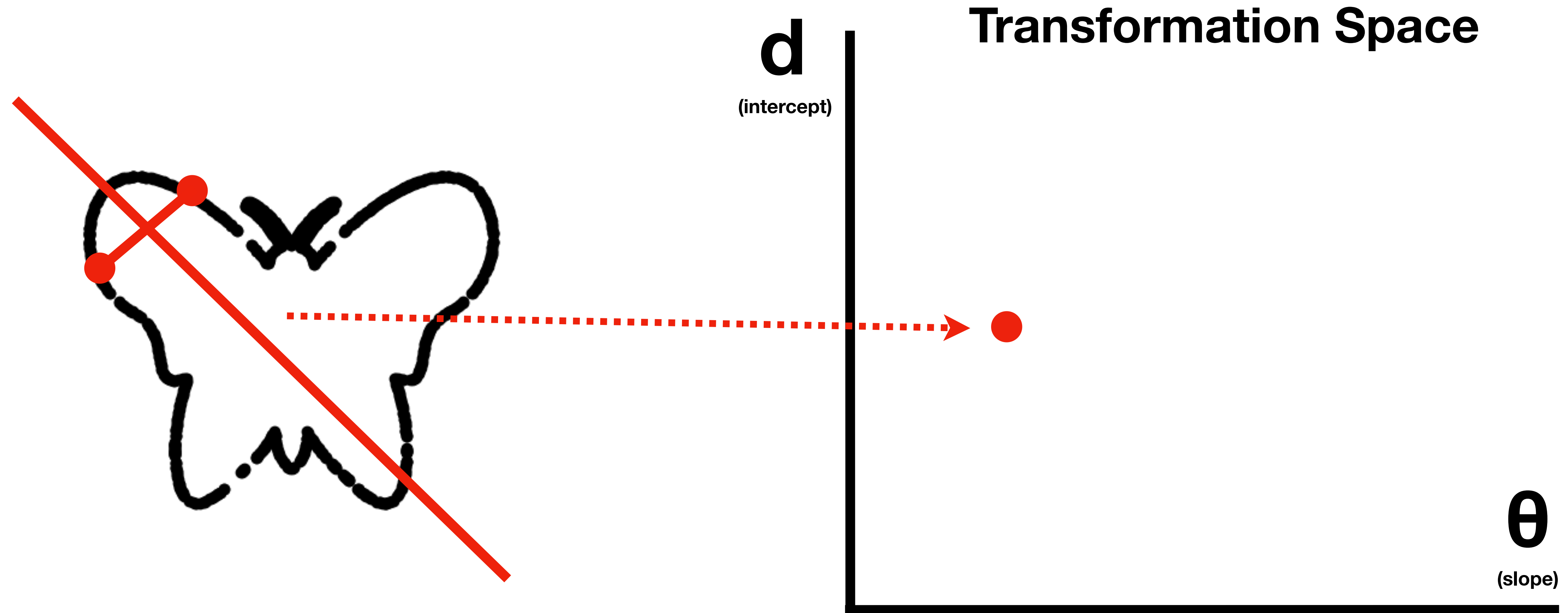
IDEA: Voting



(Mitra et al. 2006)

How do we detect symmetry of a shape?

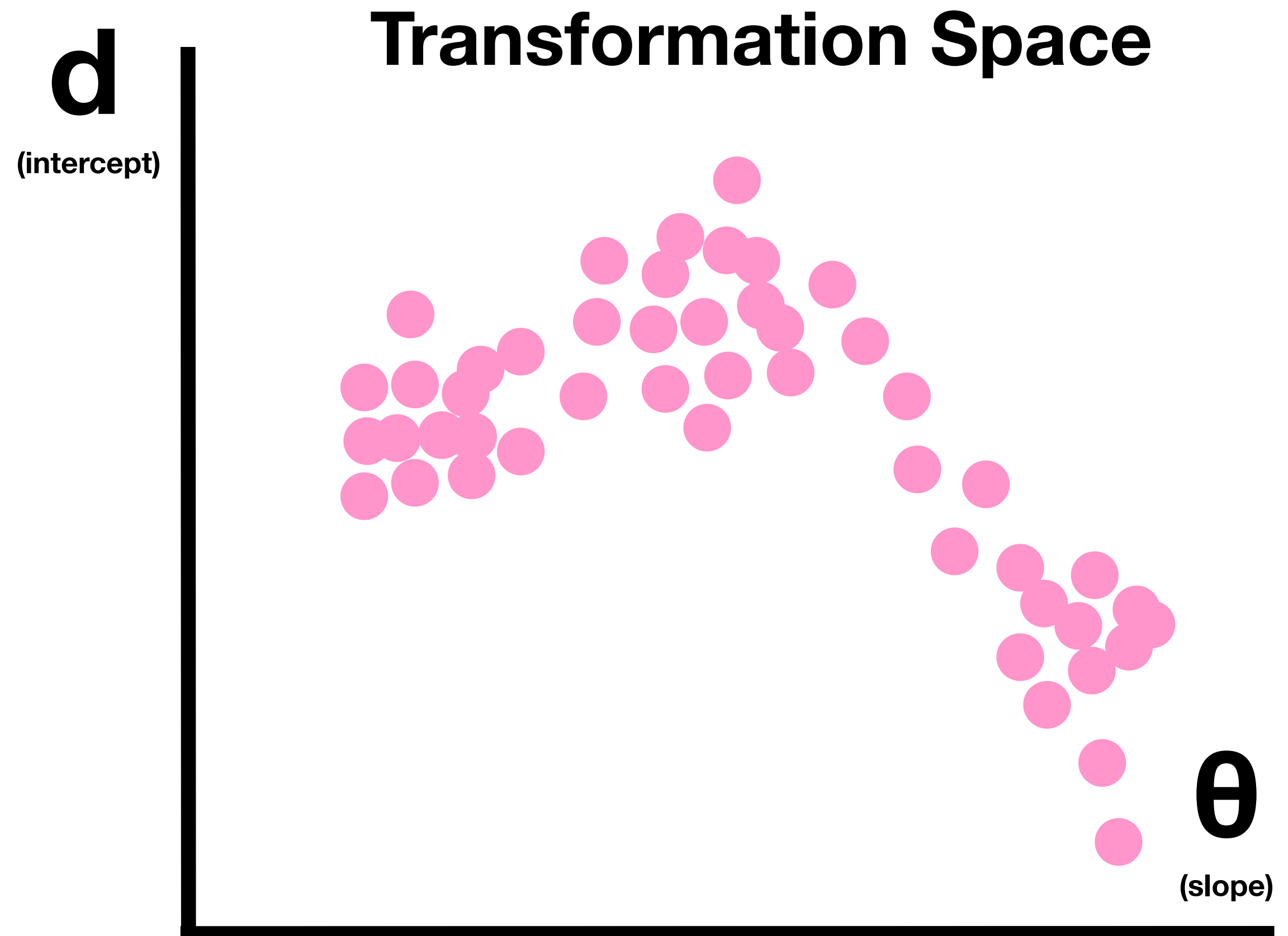
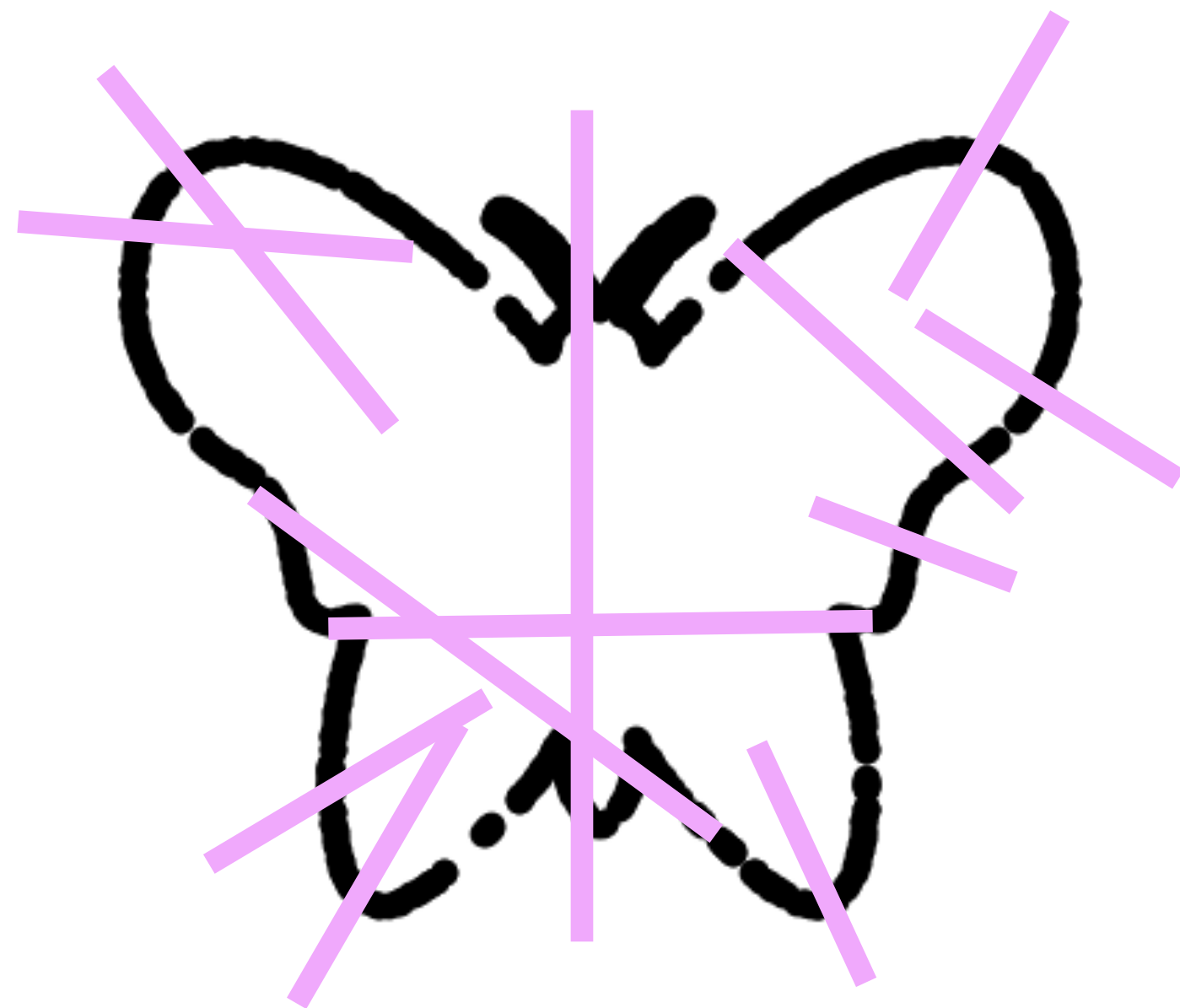
IDEA: Voting



(Mitra et al. 2006)

How do we detect symmetry of a shape?

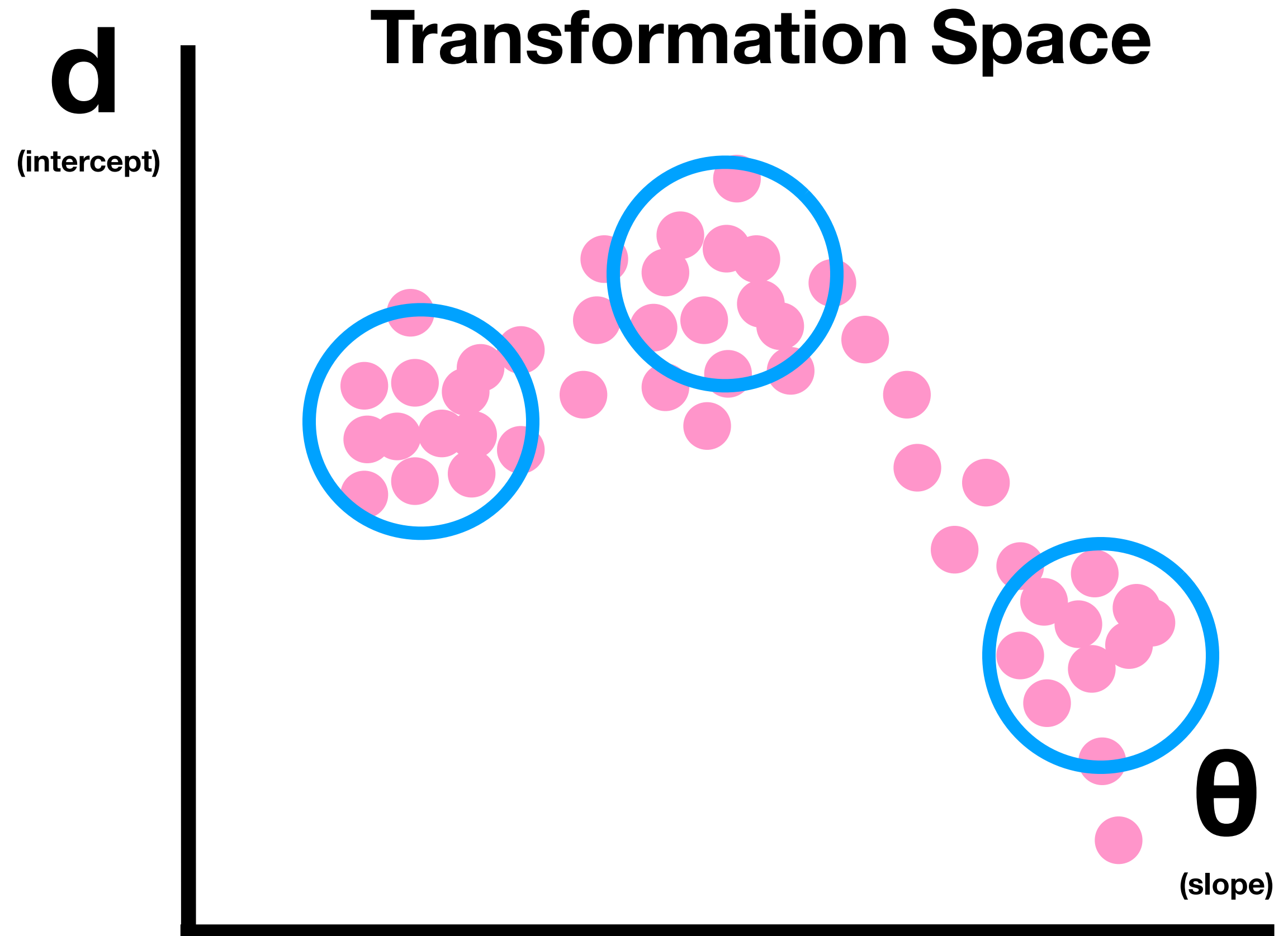
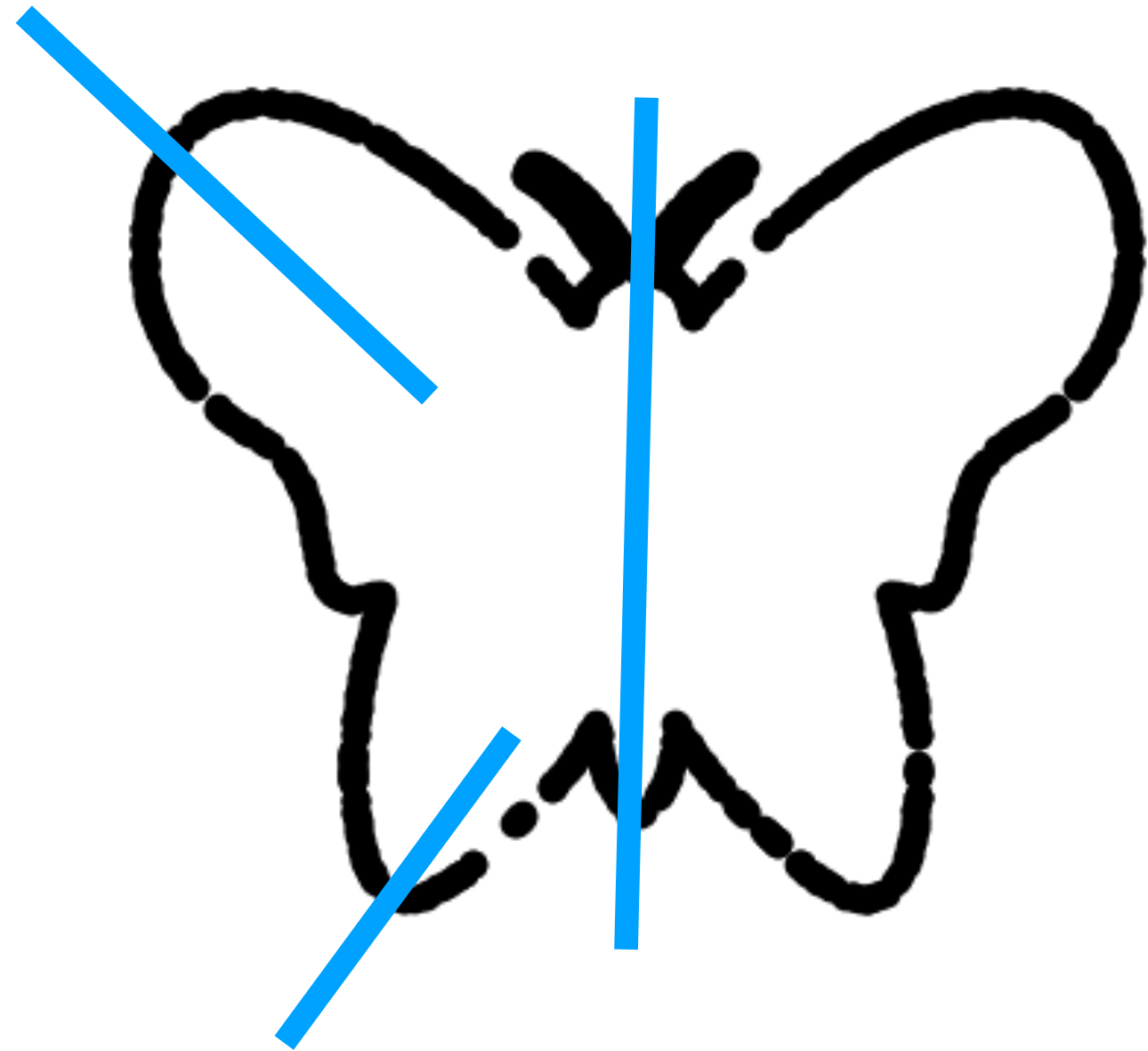
IDEA: Voting



(Mitra et al. 2006)

How do we detect symmetry of a shape?

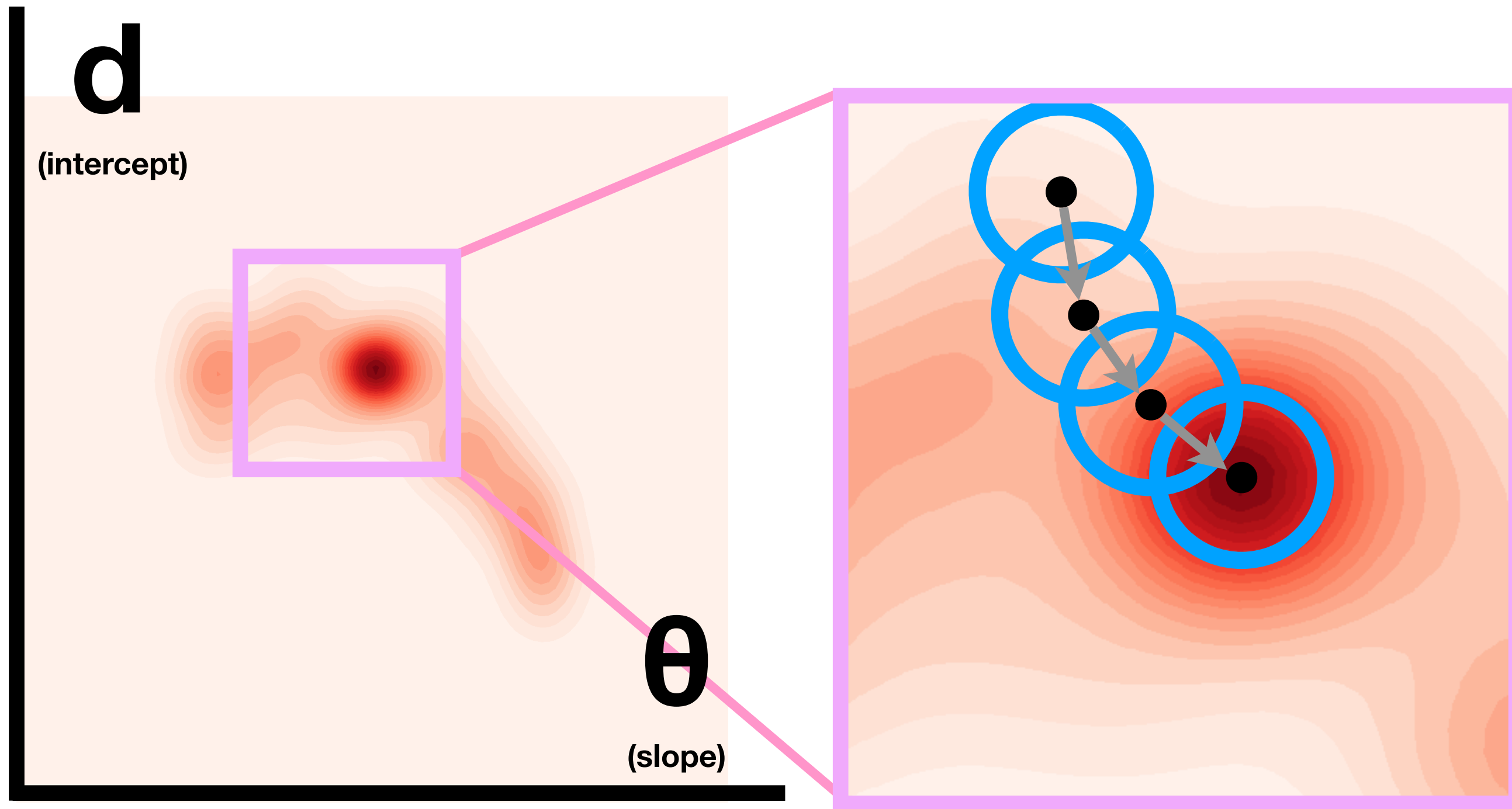
IDEA: Voting



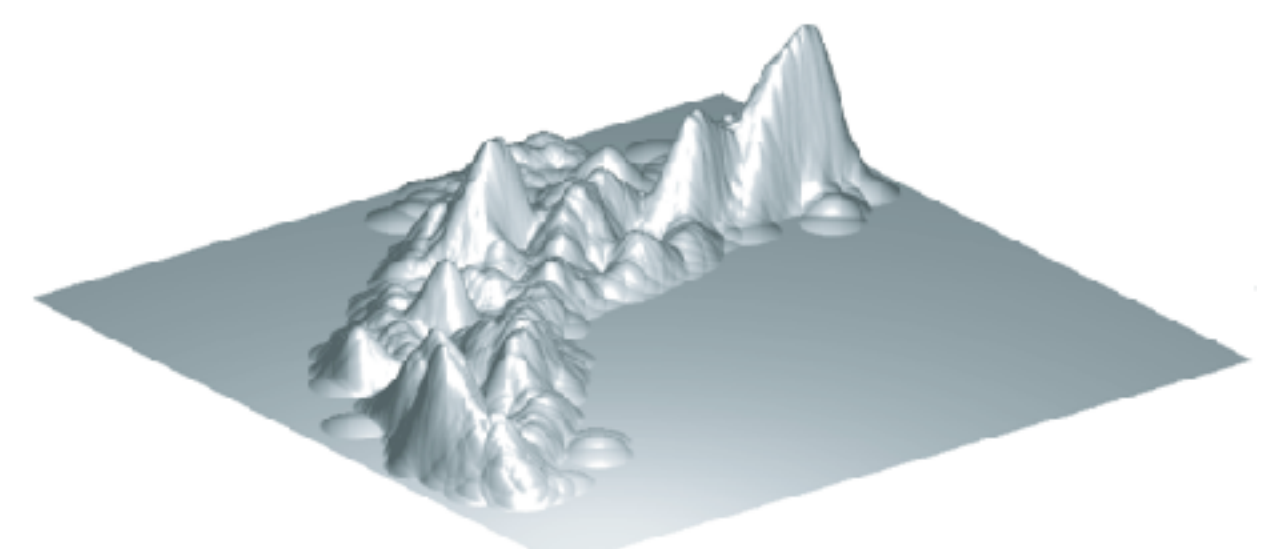
(Mitra et al. 2006)

How do we detect symmetry of a shape?

Prior works - mean shift to seek mode



$$p(T) = \frac{1}{|N(T)|h^d} \sum_{T_i \in N(T)}^n K\left(\frac{T - T_i}{h}\right)$$

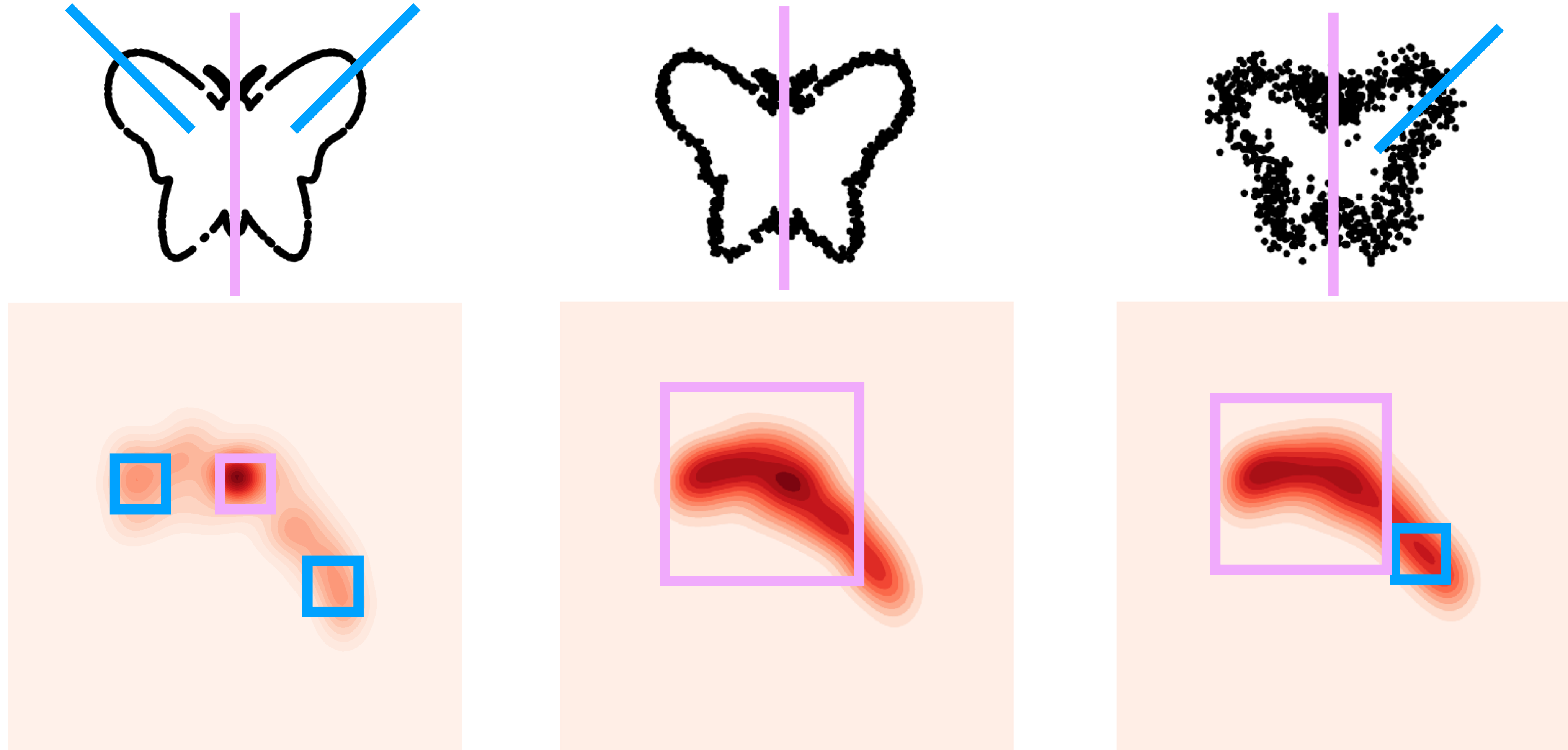


$$T^{(k+1)} \leftarrow \frac{\sum_{T' \in N_k} K((T' - T^{(k)})h^{-1})T'}{\sum_{T' \in N_k} K((T' - T^{(k)})h^{-1})}$$

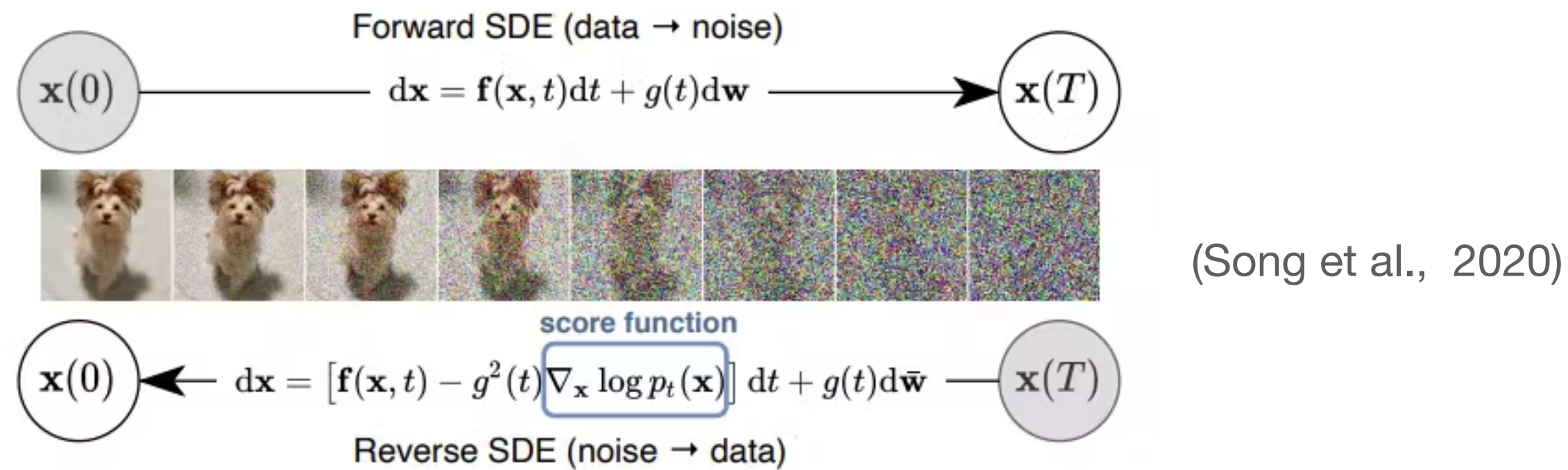
(Mitra et al. 2006)

How do we detect symmetry?

Prior works limitation: unable to handle noisy shape



Other mode-seeking algorithms?

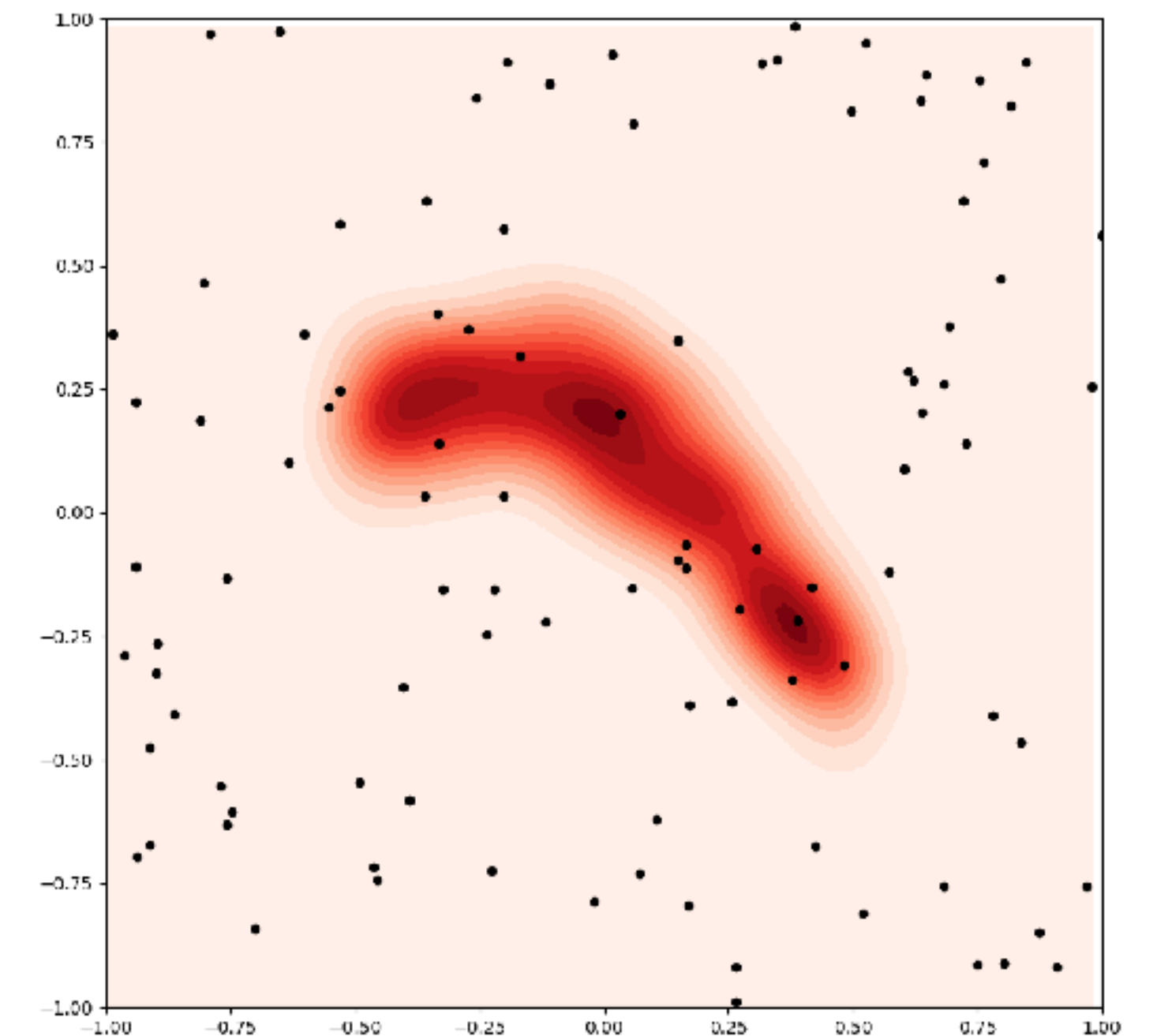


$$P_{\sigma}(x) = \int P_{\text{data}}(y) \mathcal{N}(x; y, \sigma^2 I) dy \approx \frac{1}{|\mathcal{X}|} \sum_{i=1}^{|\mathcal{X}|} \mathcal{N}(x; x_i, \sigma^2 I)$$

$$\nabla_x \log P_{\sigma}(x) \approx \left(\frac{\sum_{y \in \mathcal{X}} \mathcal{N}(x; y, \sigma^2 I) \cdot y}{\sum_{y \in \mathcal{X}} \mathcal{N}(x; y, \sigma^2 I)} - x \right) \sigma^{-2}$$

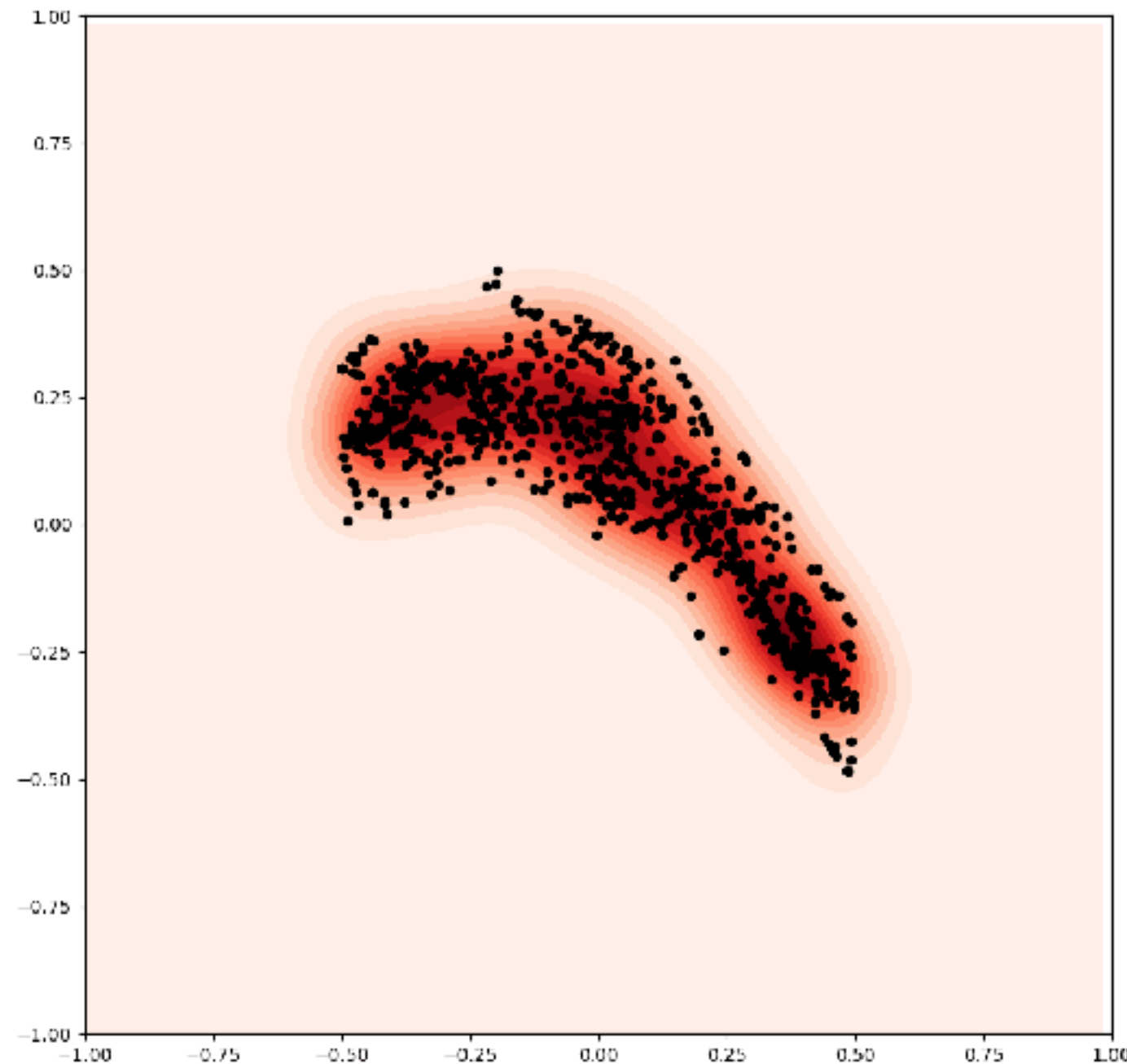
$$x^{(t+1)} \leftarrow x^{(t)} + \alpha_t \nabla_x \log P_{\sigma_t}(x^{(t)}) + \sqrt{2\alpha_t \beta_t} \epsilon_t$$

Langevin



Mean shift is a form of Langevin **without Stochasticity**

Meanshift



$$p(T) = \frac{1}{|N(T)|h^d} \sum_{T_i \in N(T)} K\left(\frac{T - T_i}{h}\right)$$

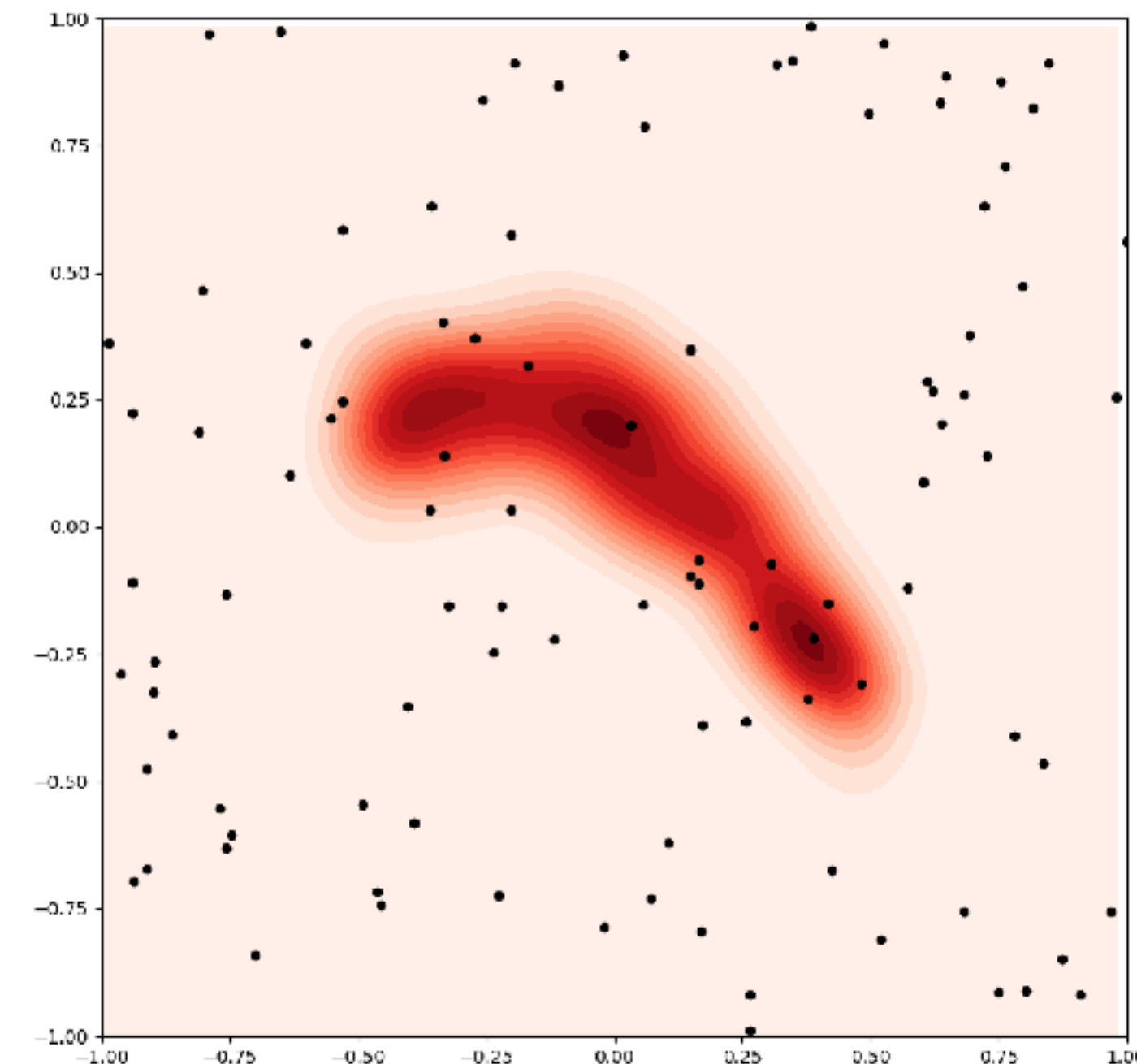
$$T^{(k+1)} \leftarrow \frac{\sum_{T' \in N_k} K((T' - T^{(k)})h^{-1})T'}{\sum_{T' \in N_k} K((T' - T^{(k)})h^{-1})}$$

$$P_\sigma(x) = \int P_{\text{data}}(y) \mathcal{N}(x; y, \sigma^2 I) dy \approx \frac{1}{|\mathcal{X}|} \sum_{i=1}^{|\mathcal{X}|} \mathcal{N}(x; x_i, \sigma^2 I)$$

$$\nabla_x \log P_\sigma(x) \approx \left(\frac{\sum_{y \in \mathcal{X}} \mathcal{N}(x; y, \sigma^2 I) \cdot y}{\sum_{y \in \mathcal{X}} \mathcal{N}(x; y, \sigma^2 I)} - x \right) \sigma^{-2}$$

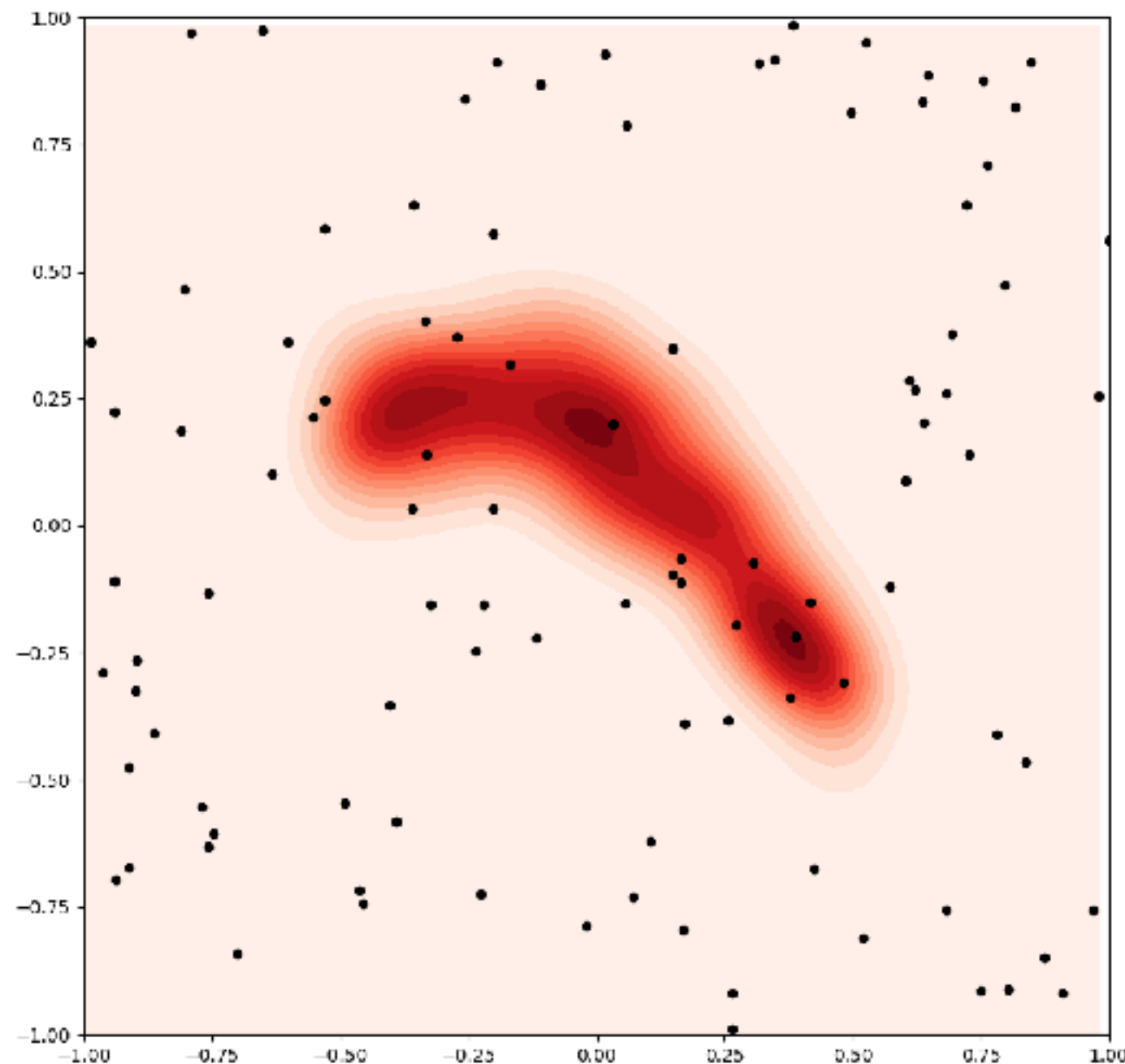
$$x^{(t+1)} \leftarrow x^{(t)} + \alpha_t \nabla_x \log P_{\sigma_t}(x^{(t)}) + \sqrt{2\alpha_t \beta_t} \epsilon_t$$

Langevin



Our method: Langevin with Stochasticity

Langevin

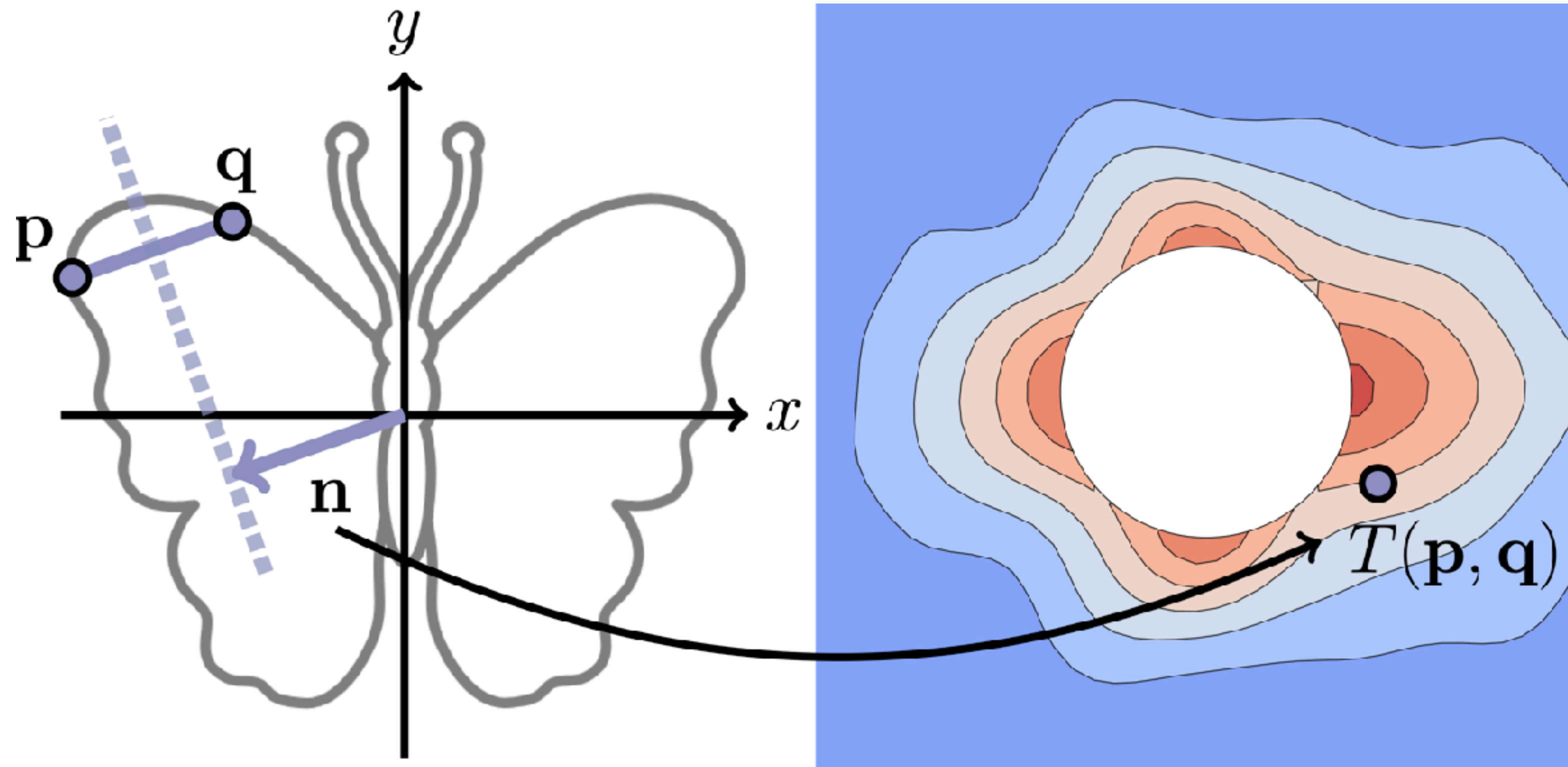


$$P_{\sigma}(x) = \int P_{\text{data}}(y) \mathcal{N}(x; y, \sigma^2 I) dy \approx \frac{1}{|\mathcal{X}|} \sum_{i=1}^{|\mathcal{X}|} \mathcal{N}(x; x_i, \sigma^2 I)$$

$$\nabla_x \log P_{\sigma}(x) \approx \left(\frac{\sum_{y \in \mathcal{X}} \mathcal{N}(x; y, \sigma^2 I) \cdot y}{\sum_{y \in \mathcal{X}} \mathcal{N}(x; y, \sigma^2 I)} - x \right) \sigma^{-2}$$

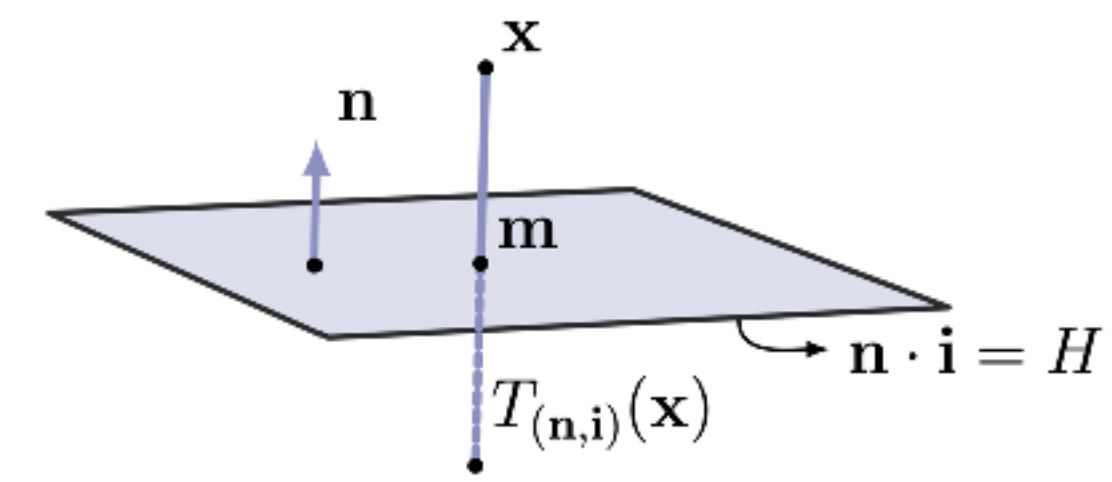
$$x^{(t+1)} \leftarrow x^{(t)} + \alpha_t \nabla_x \log P_{\sigma_t}(x^{(t)}) + \sqrt{2\alpha_t} \beta_t \epsilon_t$$

Step 1: Create Transformation Space

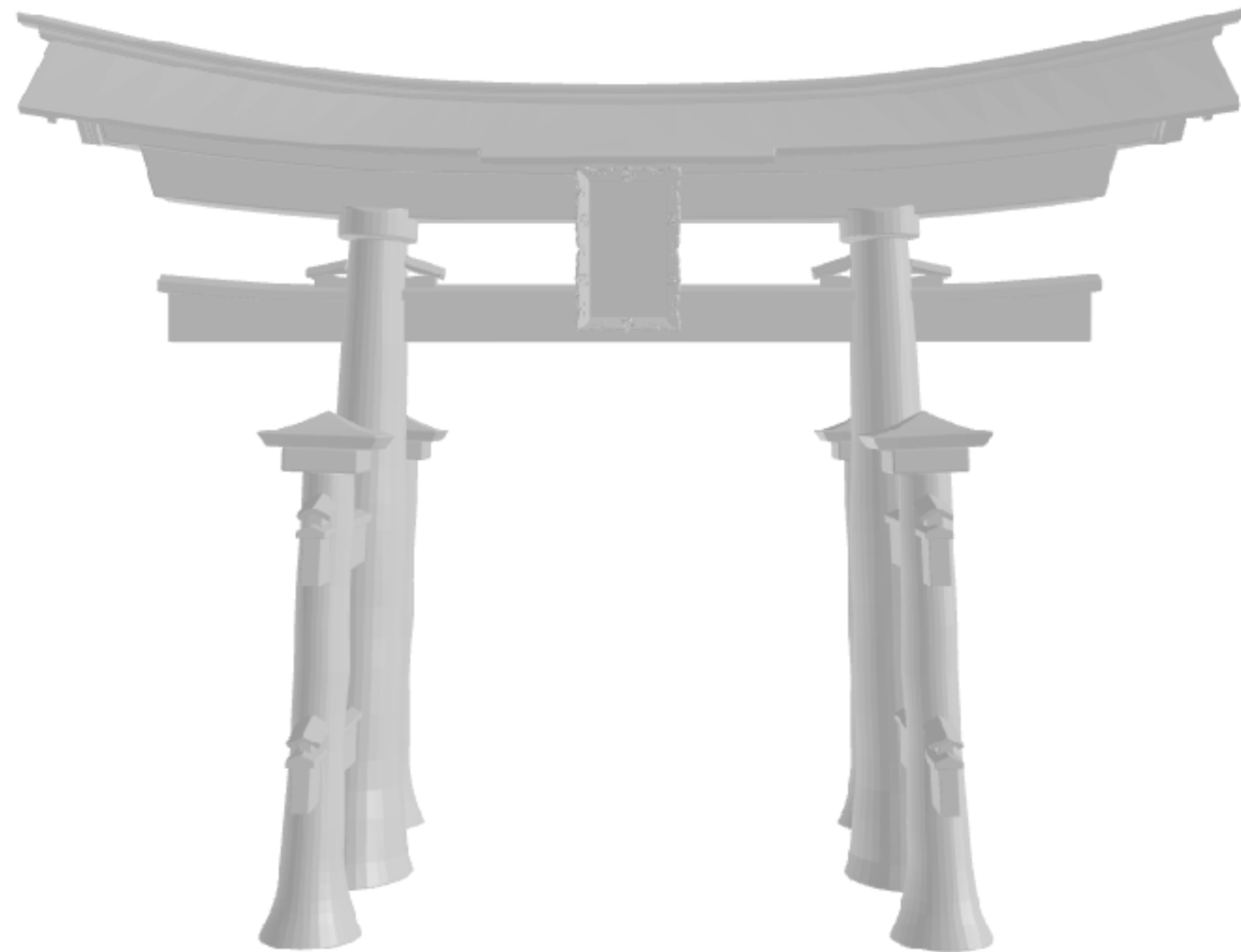


$$T(p, q) = n(p, q) \cdot (\text{sign}(l(p, q)) \cdot k + l(p, q))$$

Transformation Space in 3D



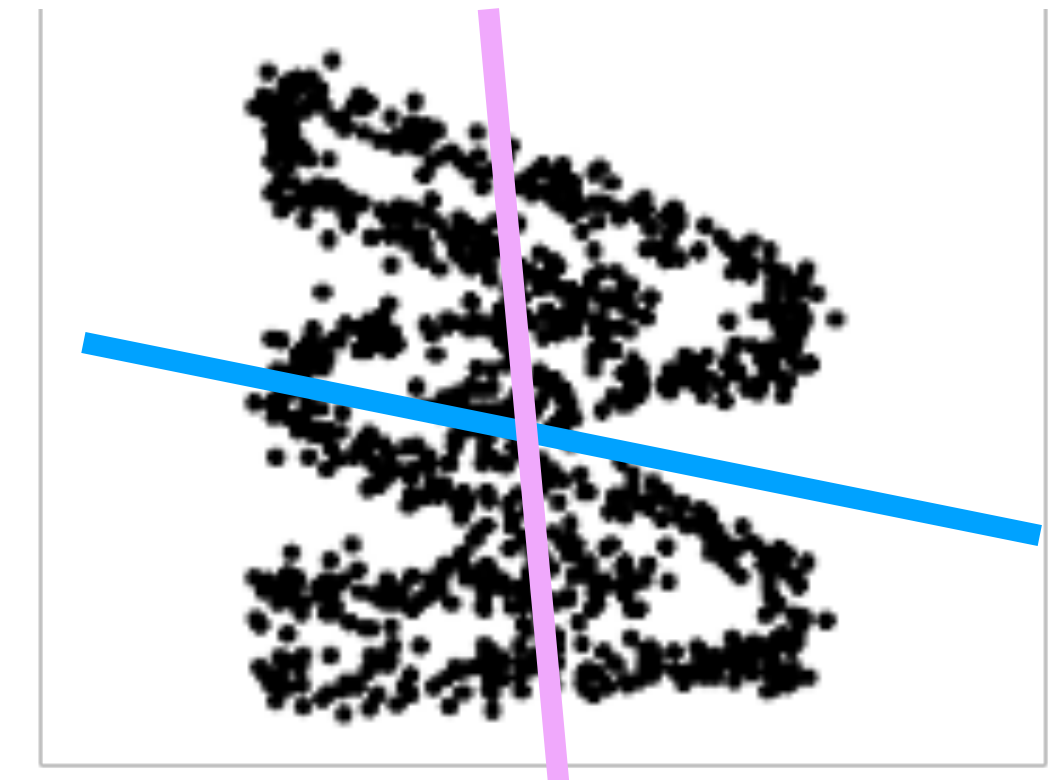
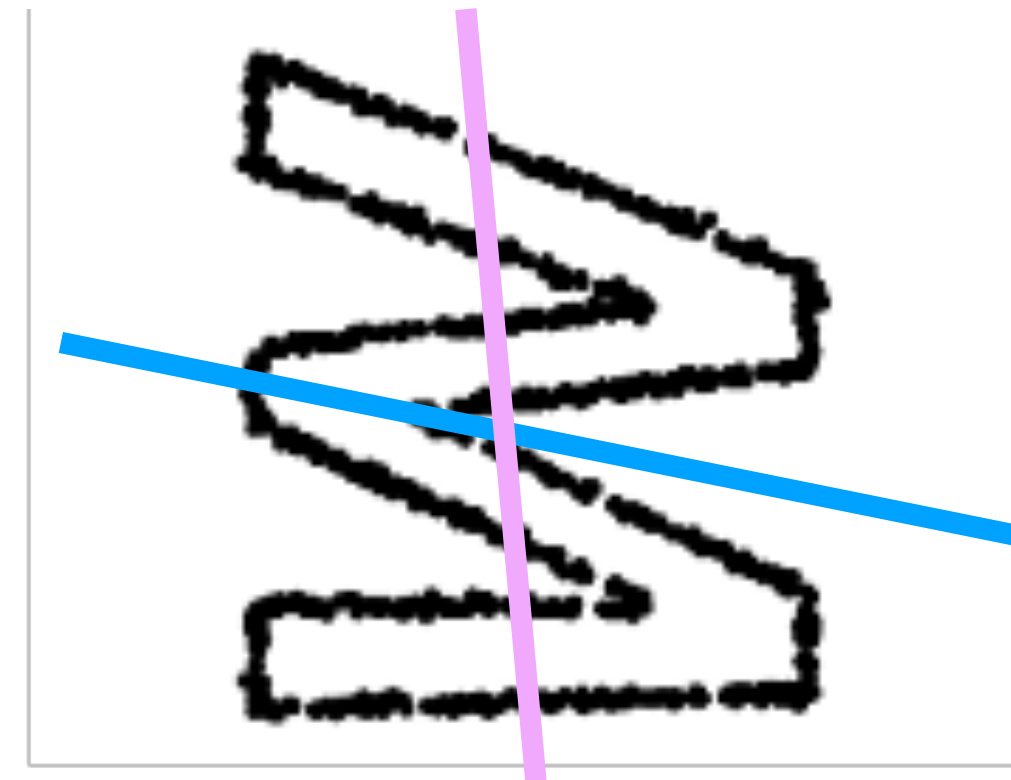
Raw 3D shape



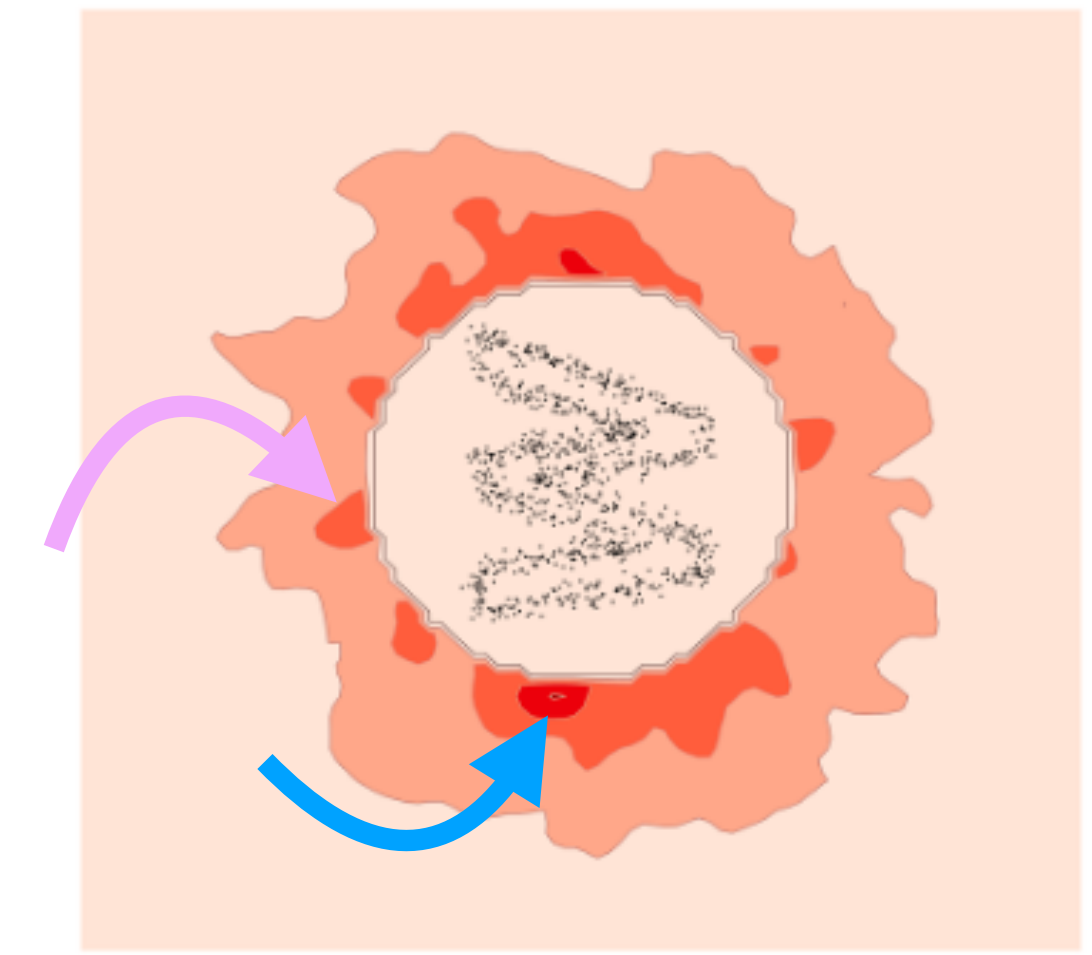
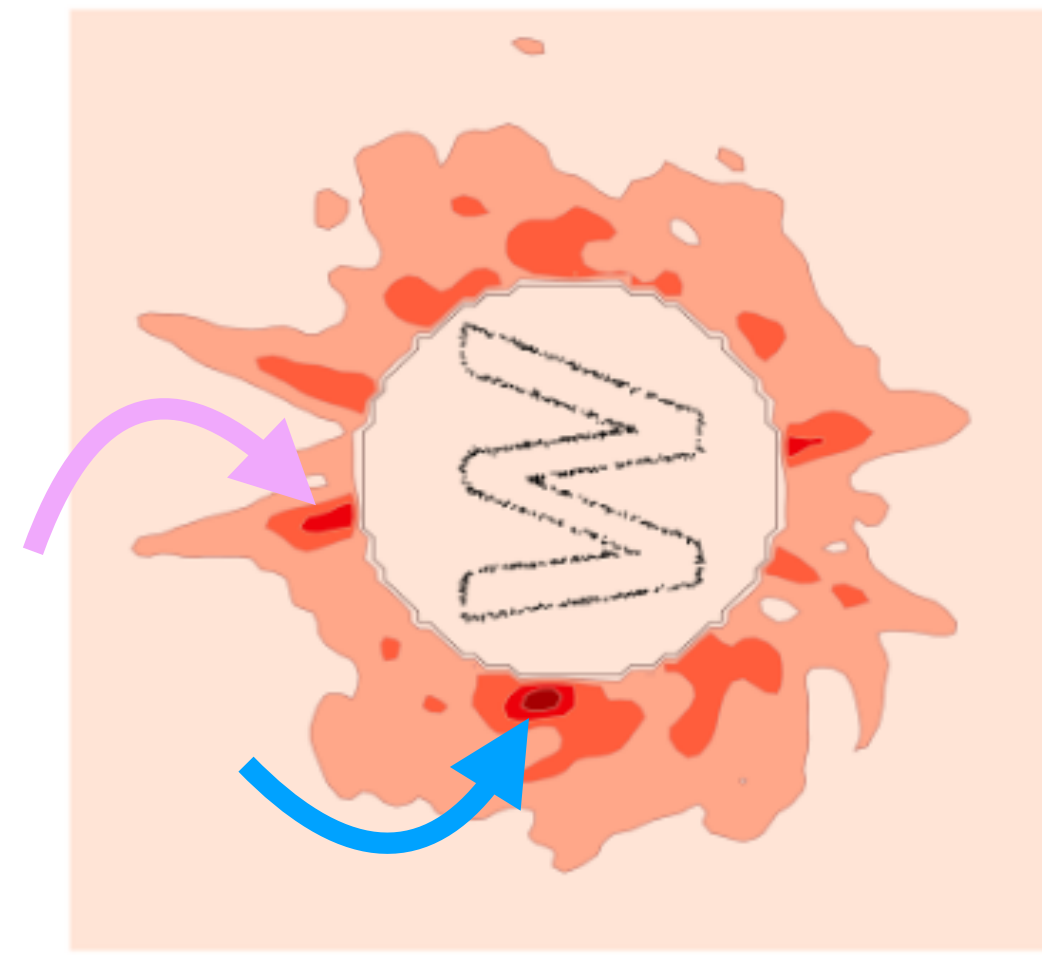
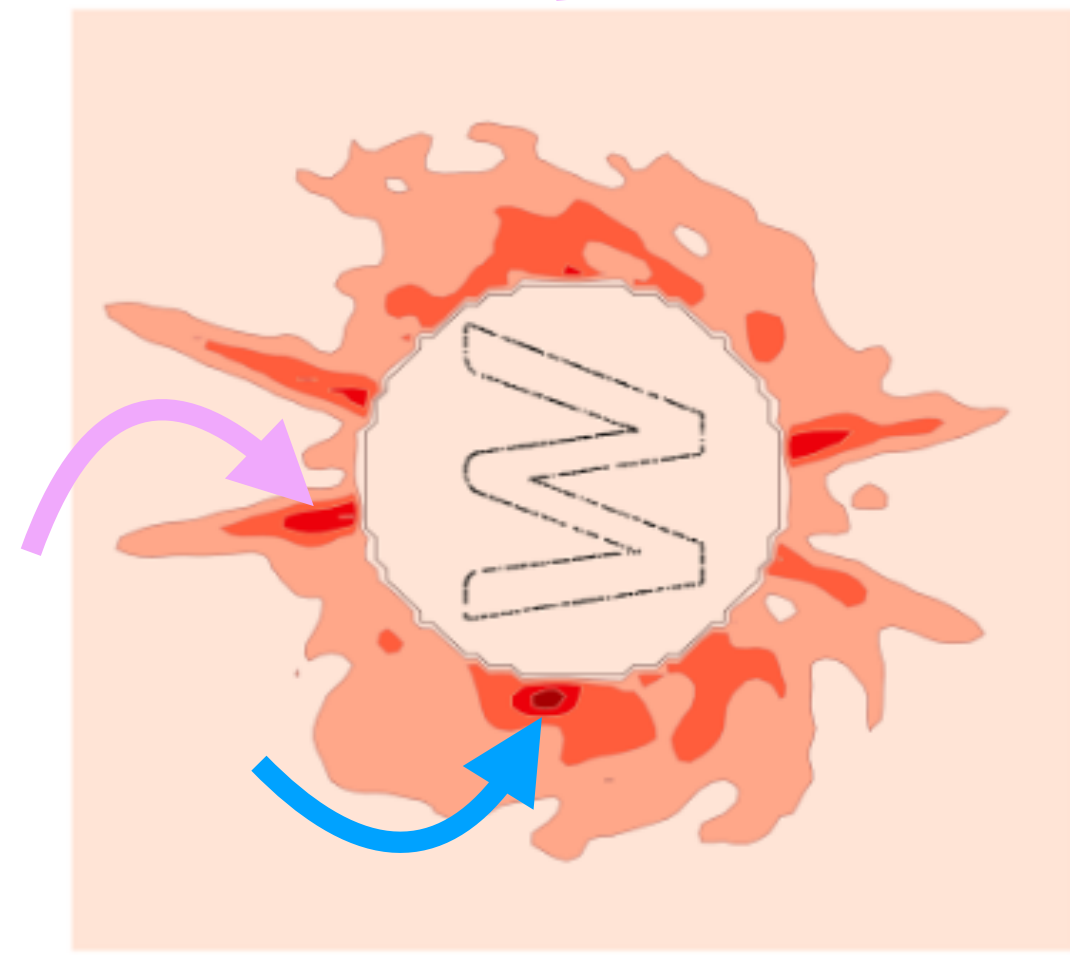
3D transformation space



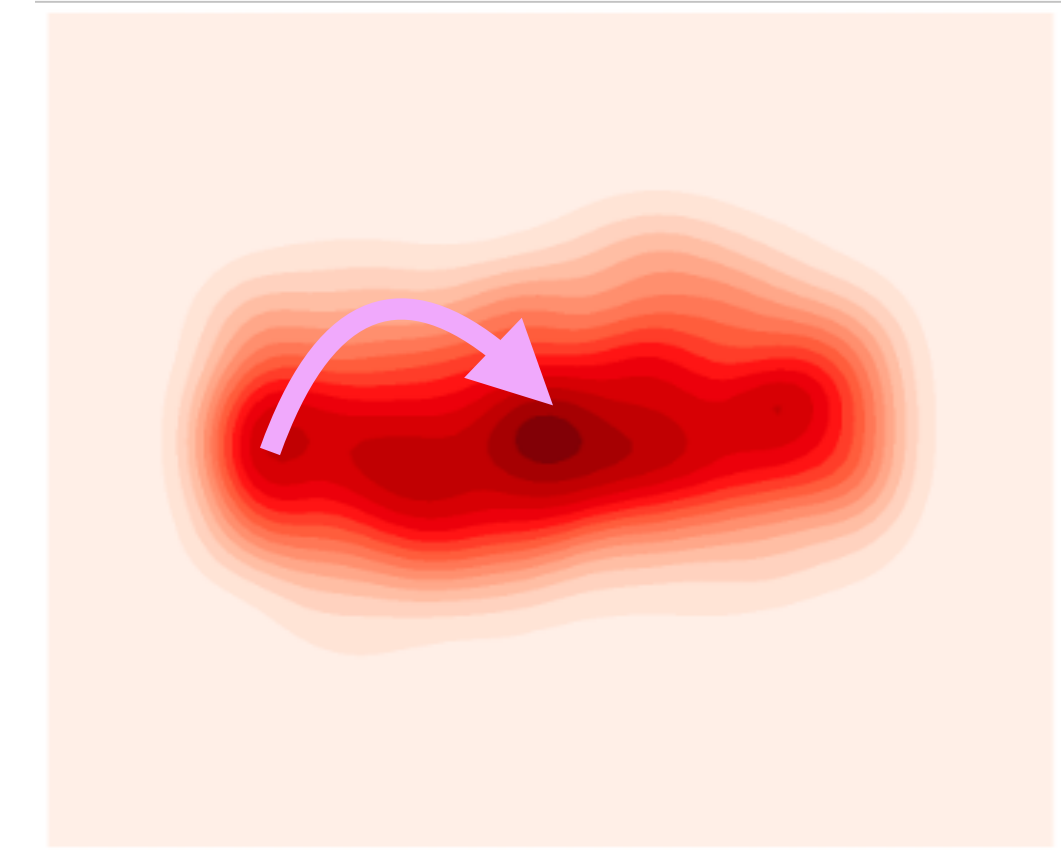
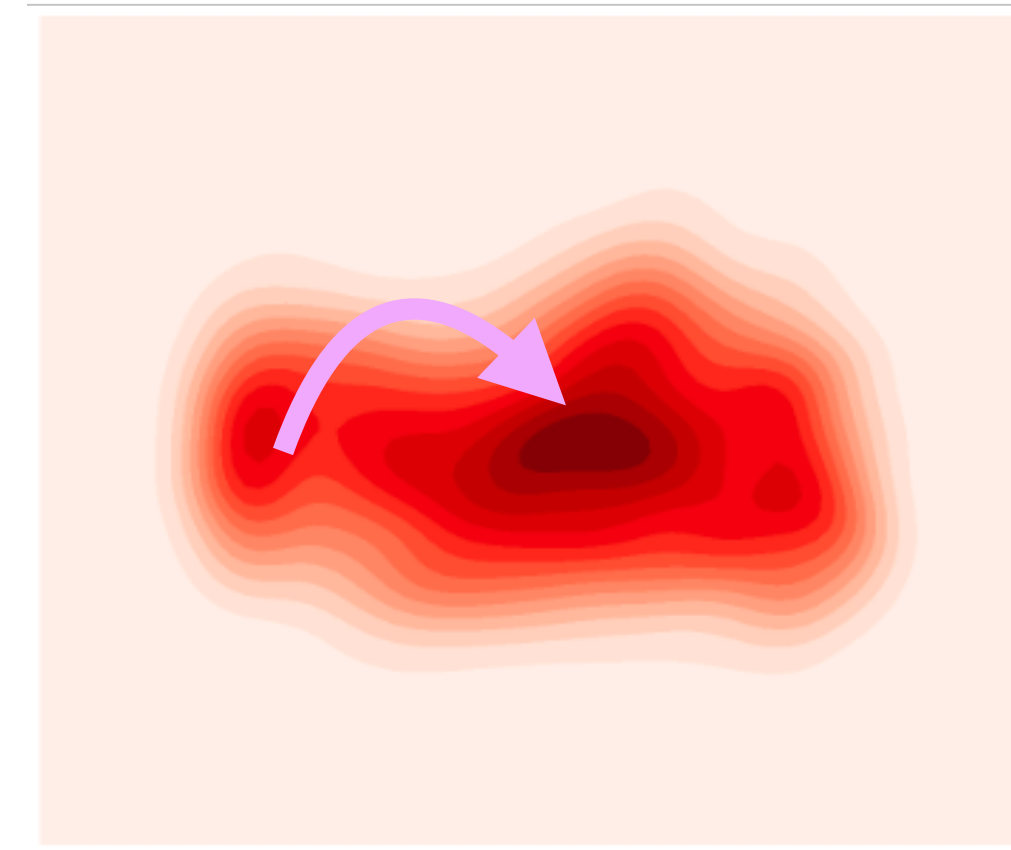
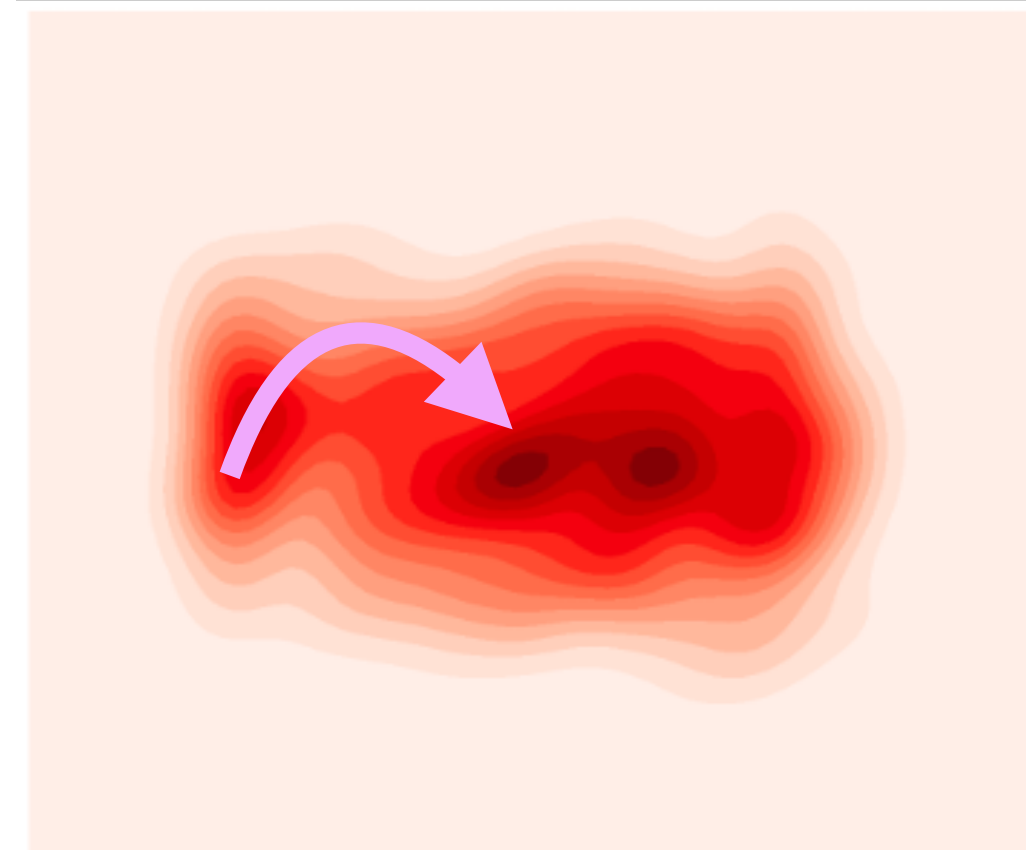
Geometry
Key symmetry



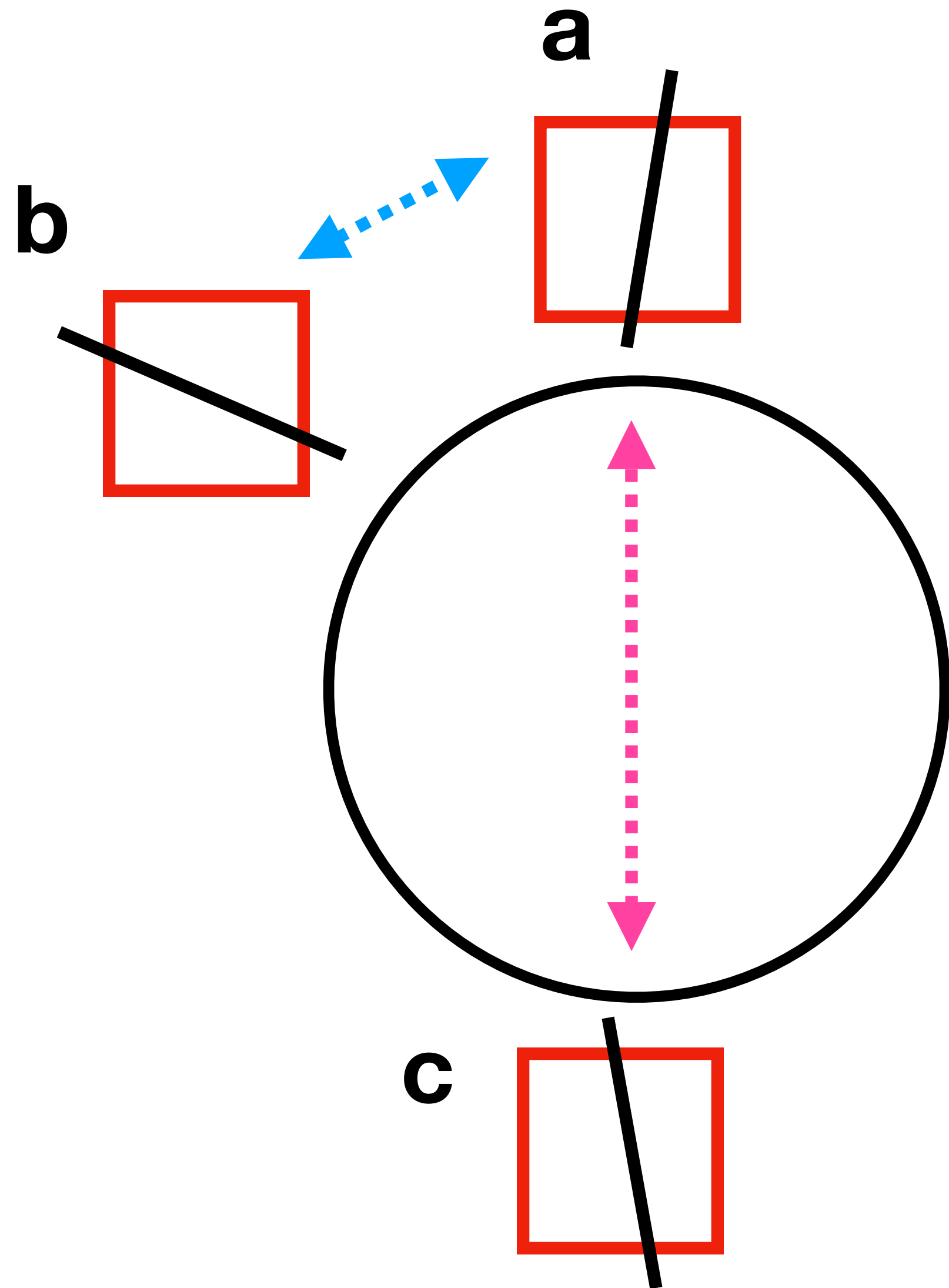
Ours



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Step 2: Define Distance Function

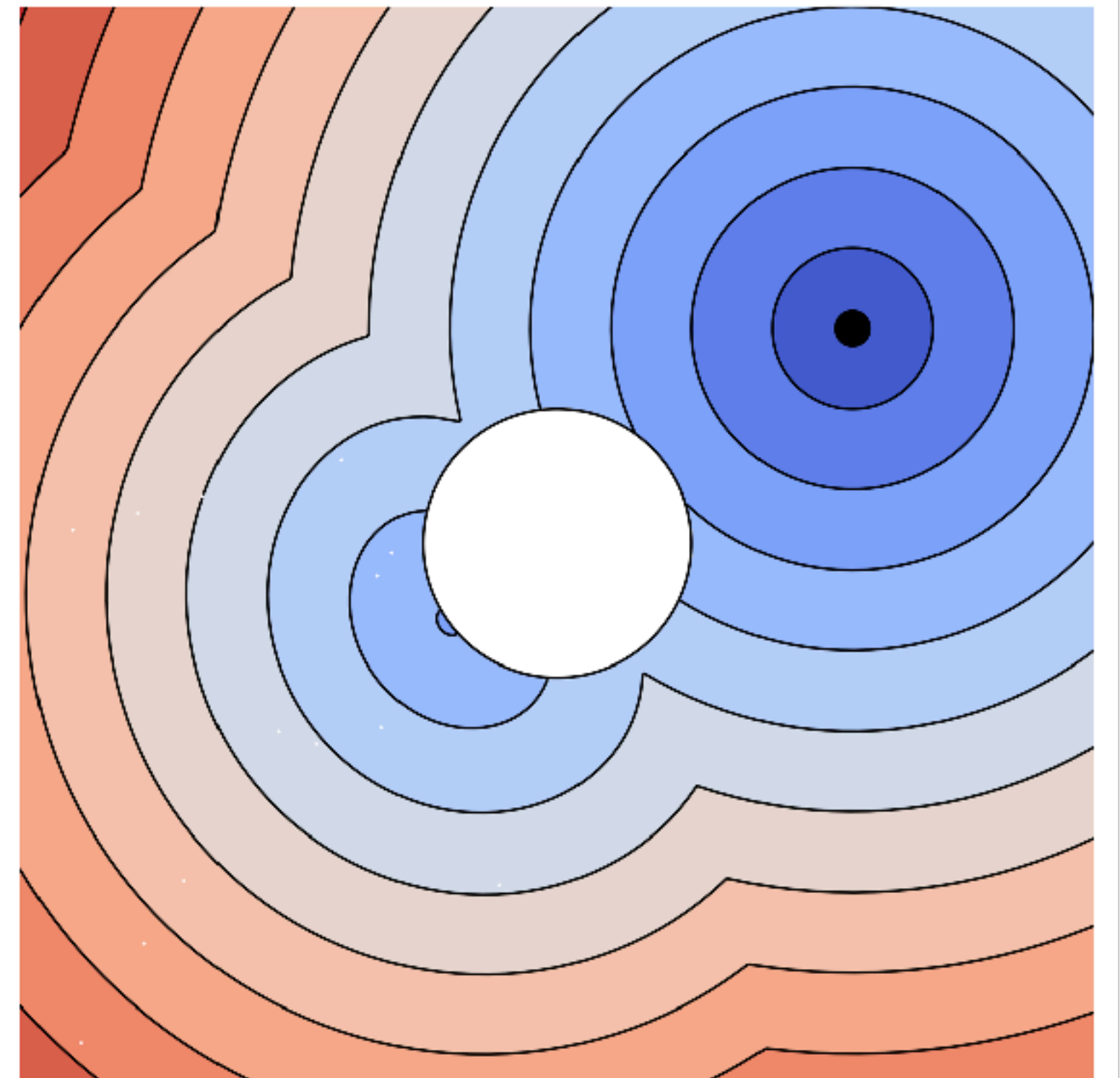
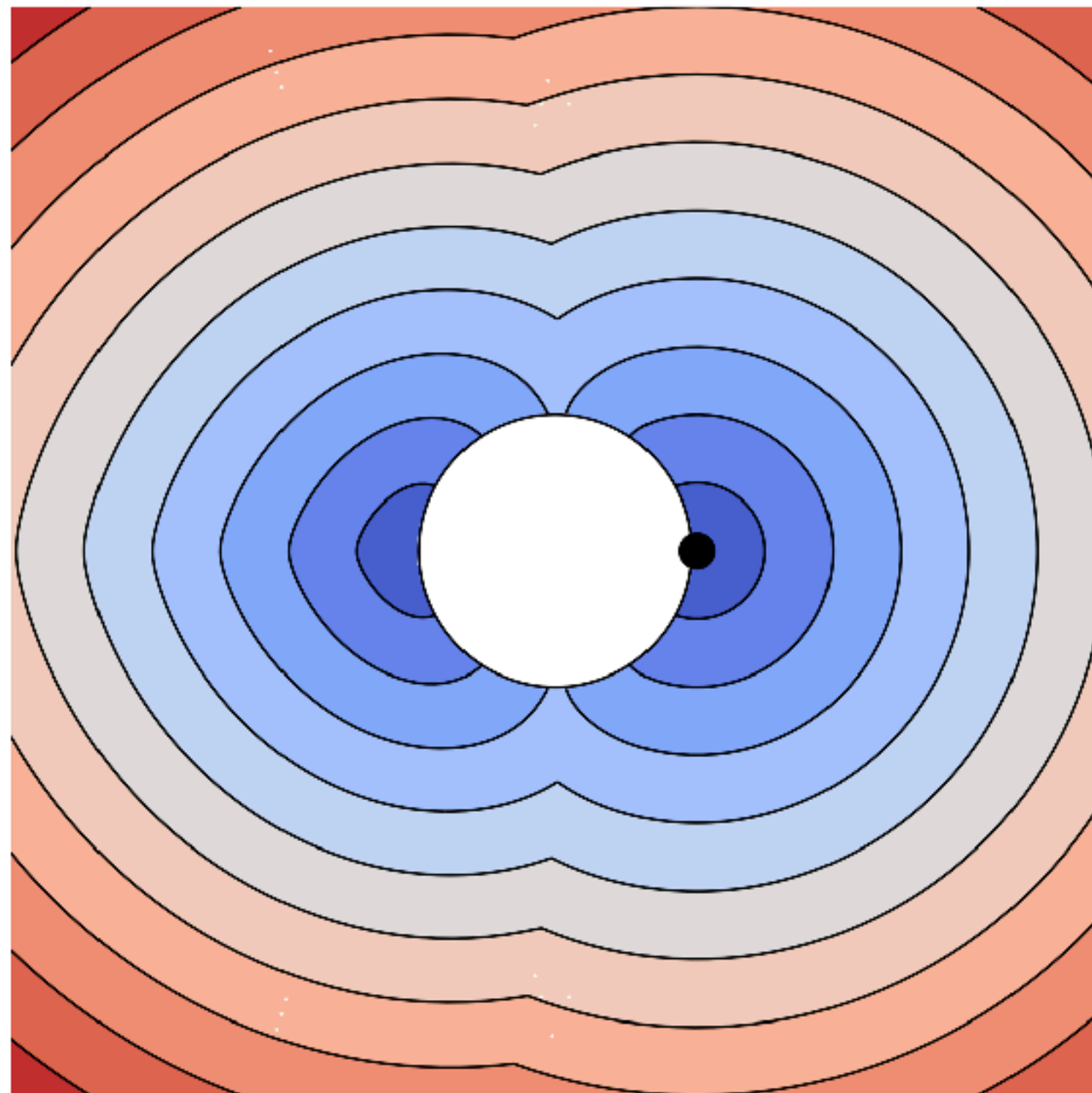
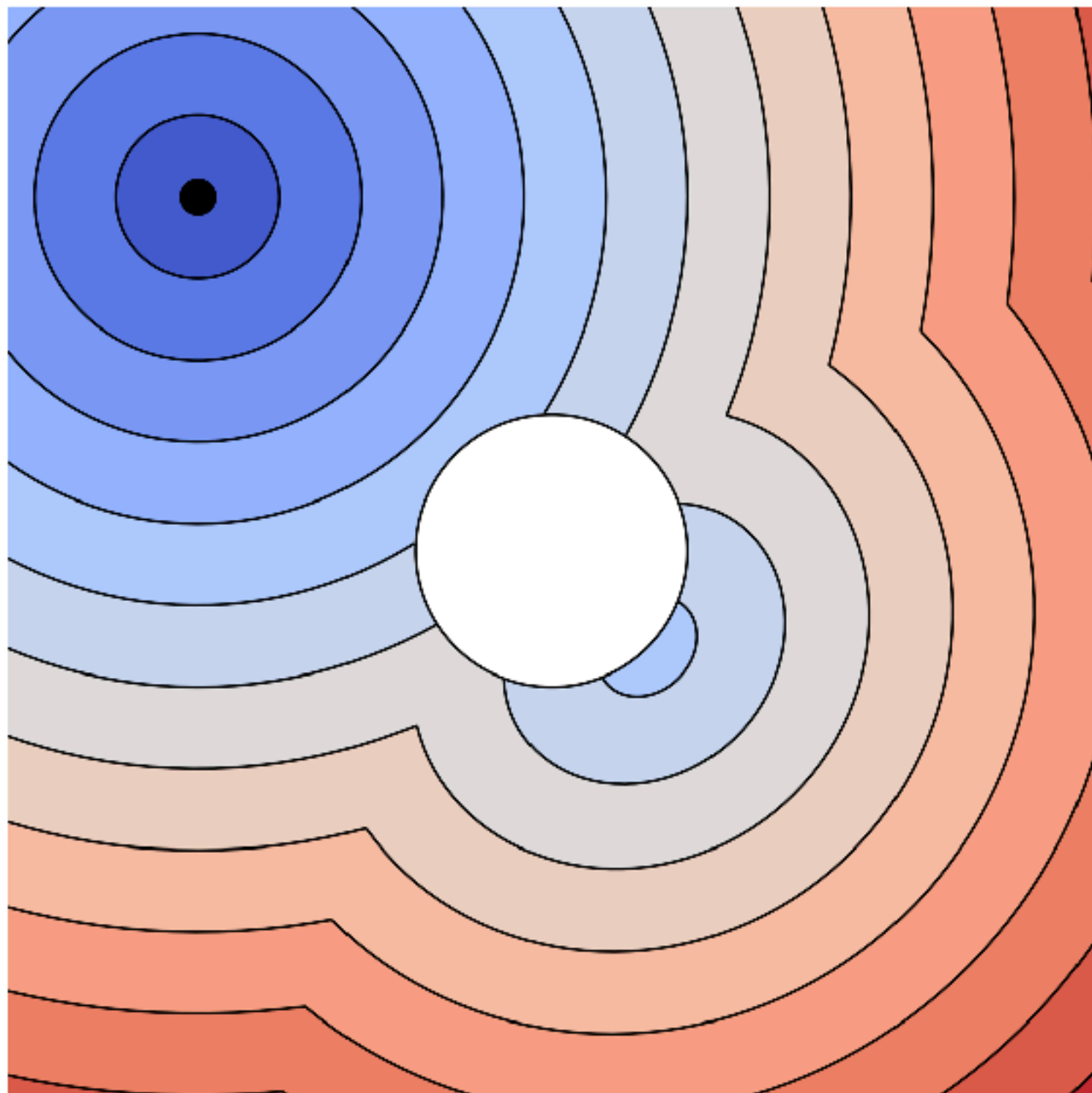


$$\text{dist}(a,b) > \text{dist}(a,c)$$

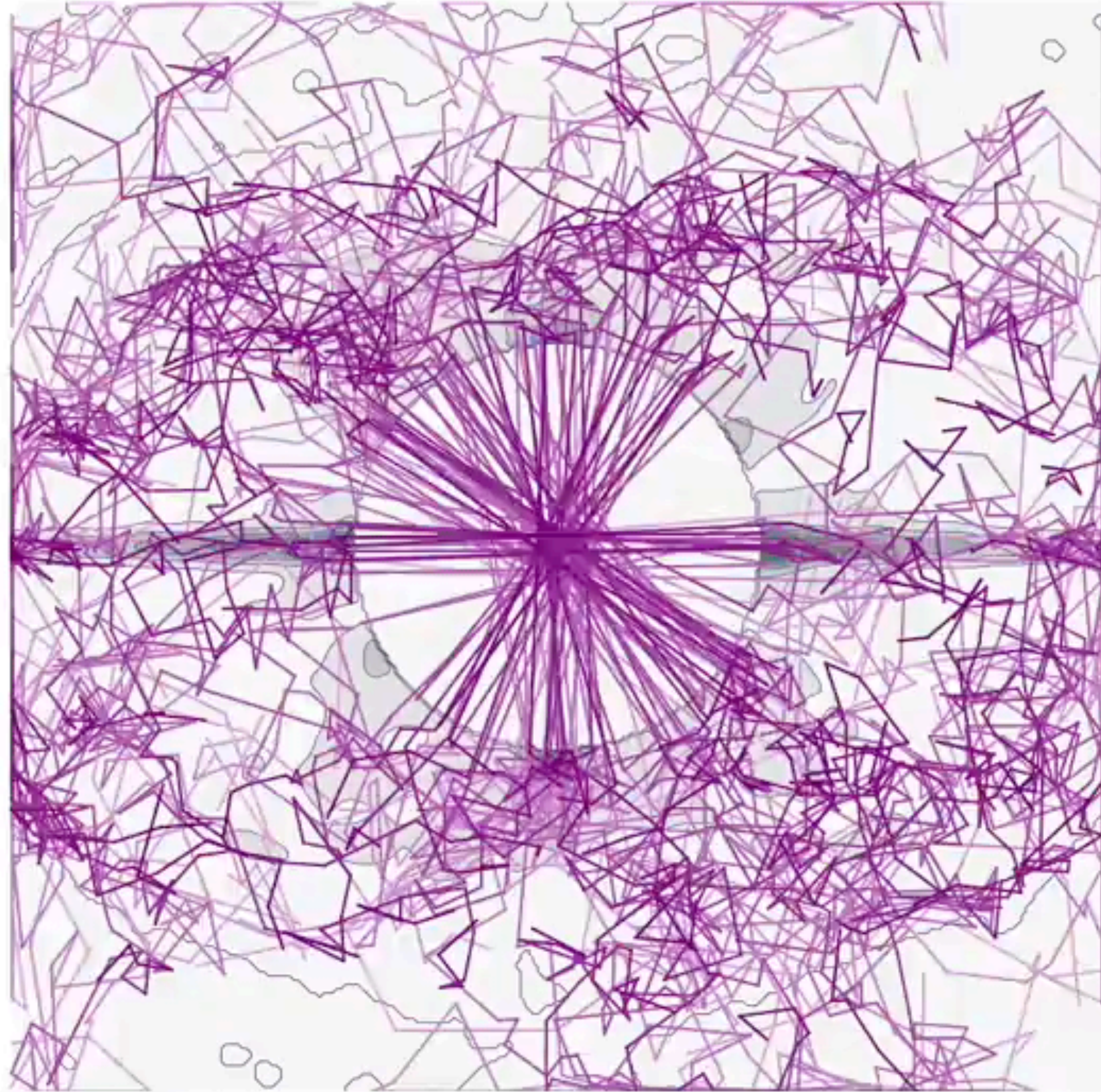
$$d(x, y) = \min \begin{cases} \min_z \|x - z\| + \|y + z\| \\ \min_r \int_0^1 \text{valid}(r(t)) |r'(t)| dt \end{cases}$$

Step 2: Define Distance Function

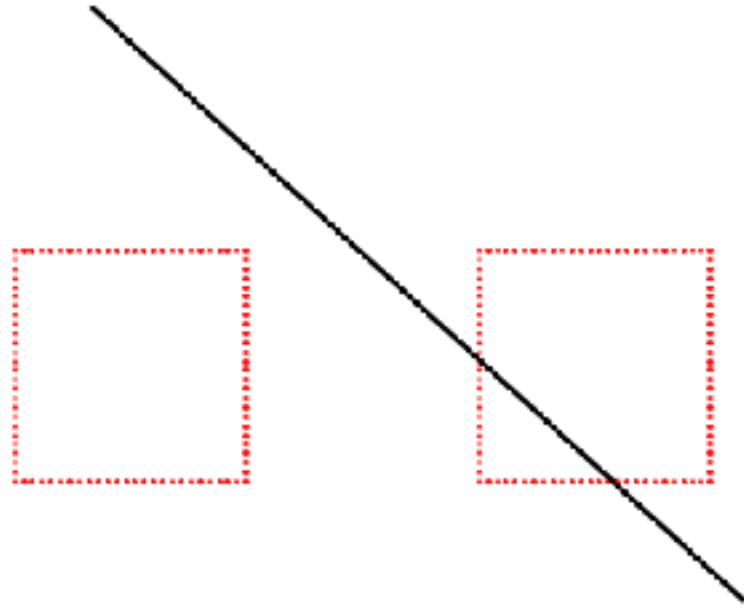
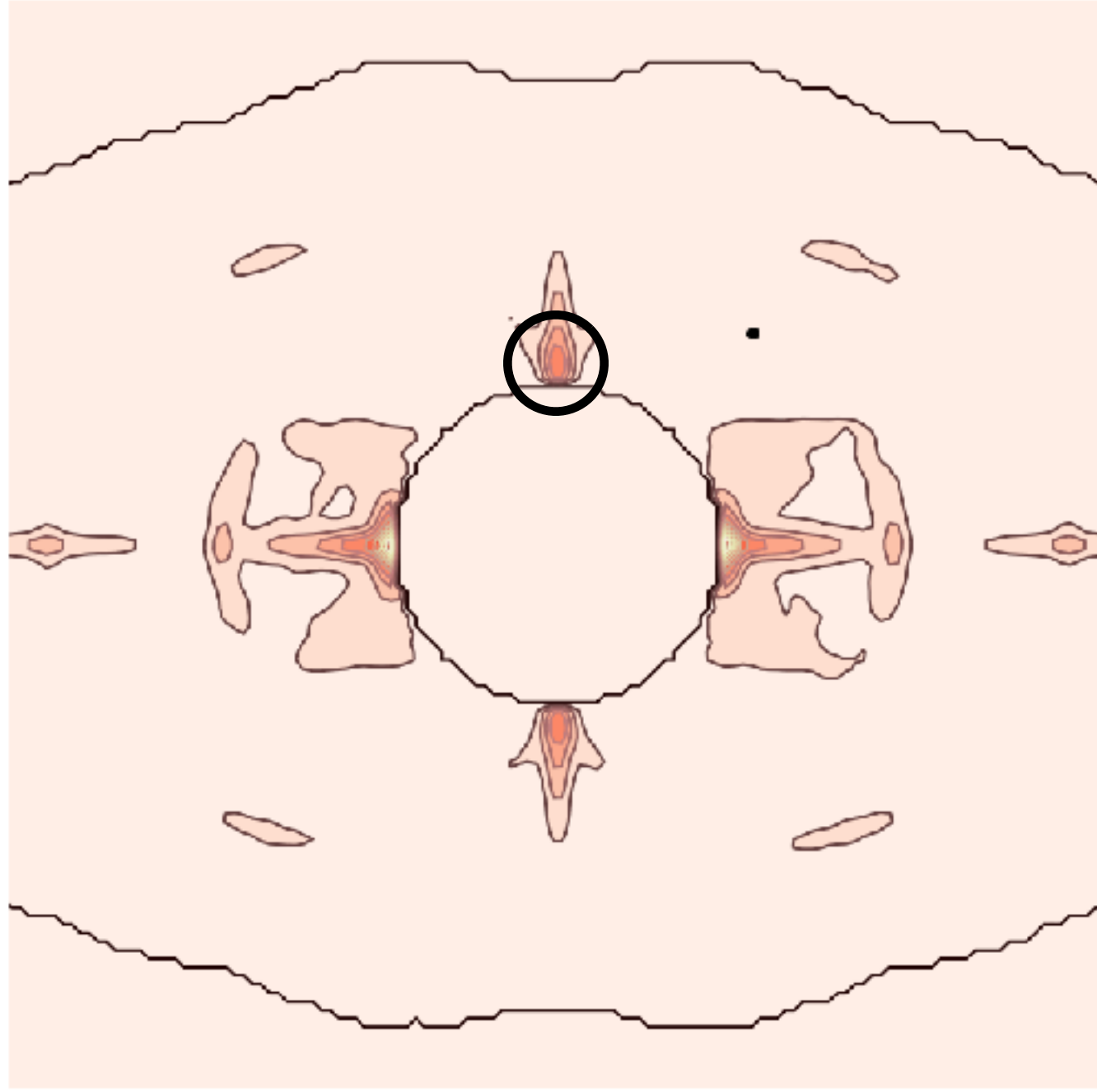
$$d(x, y) = \min \begin{cases} \min_z \|x - z\| + \|y + z\| \\ \min_r \int_0^1 \text{valid}(r(t)) |r'(t)| dt \end{cases}$$



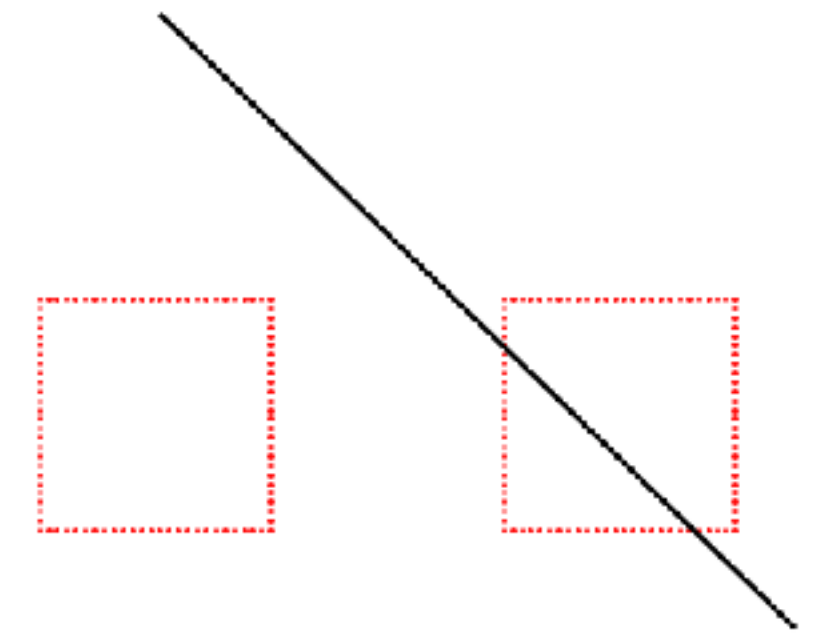
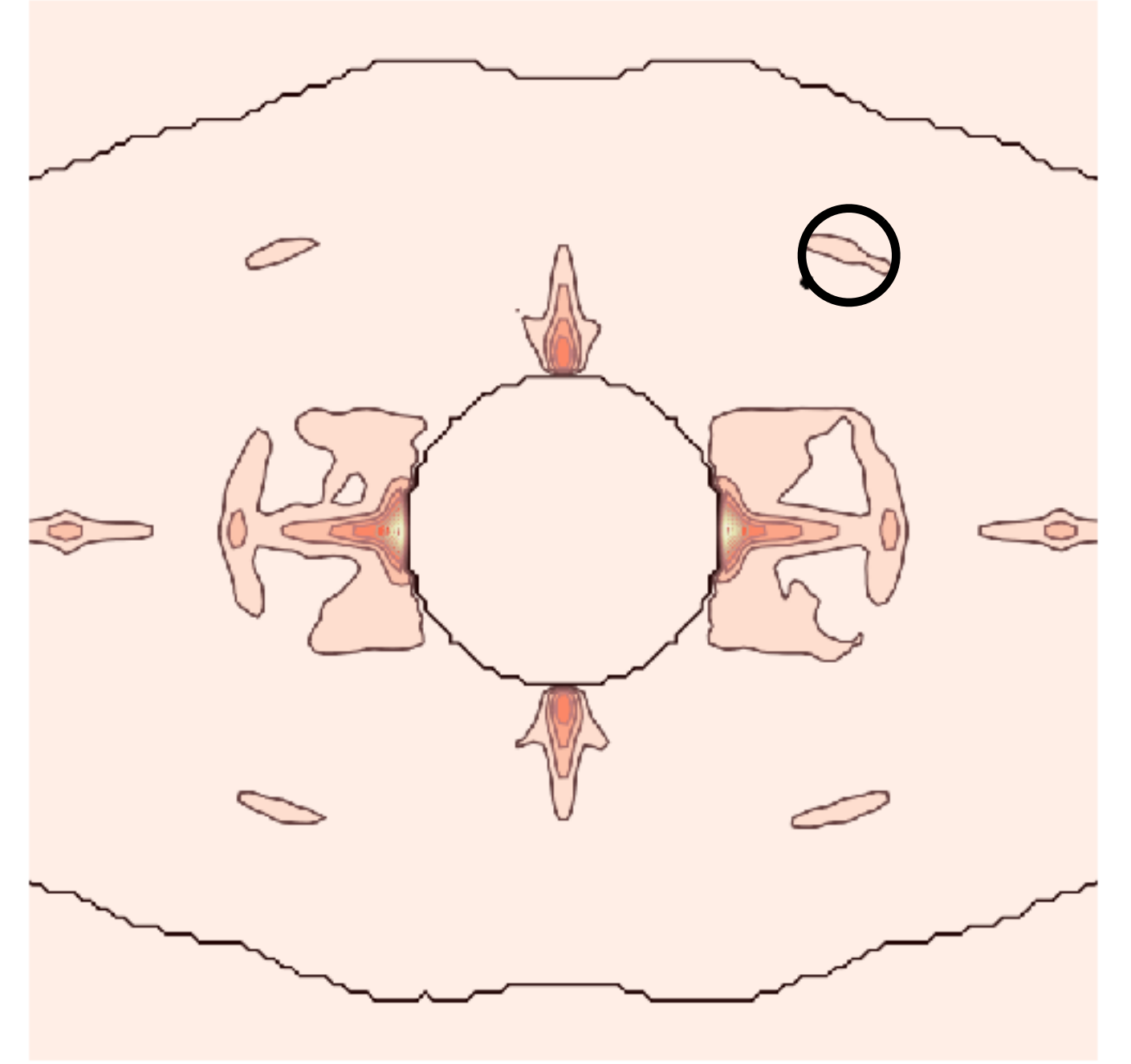
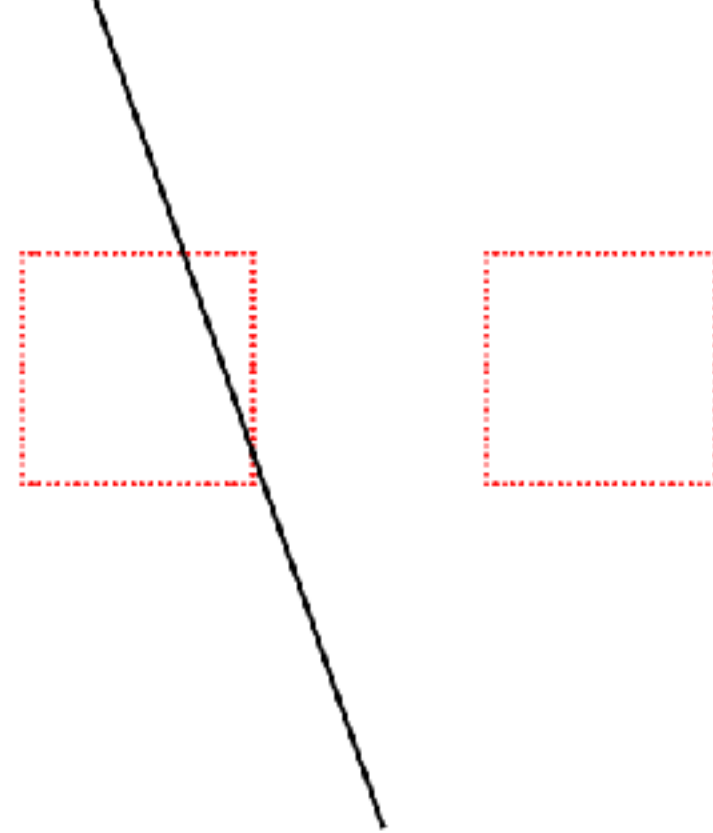
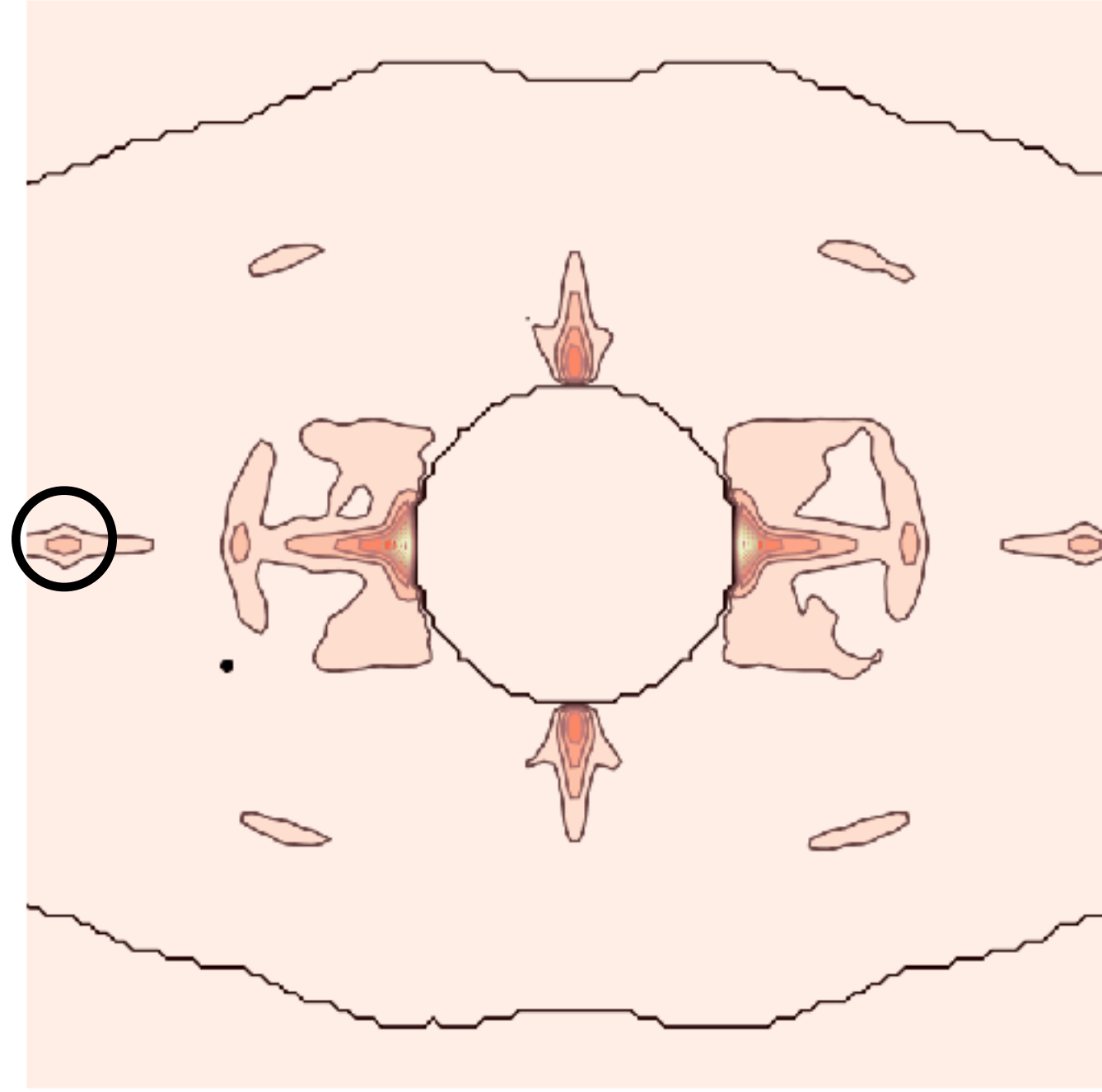
Step 3: Walking in the Transformation Space

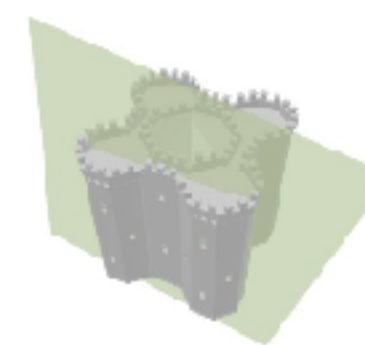
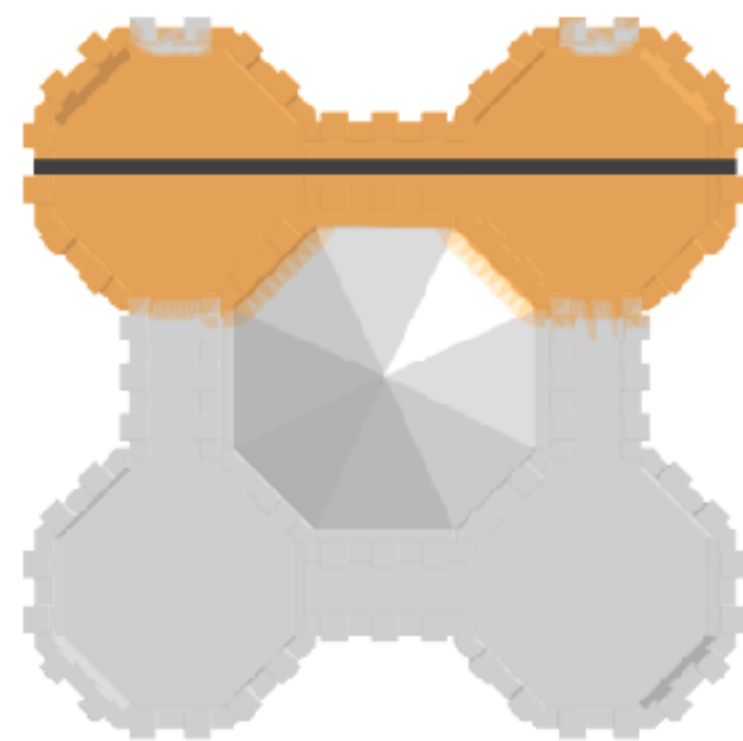
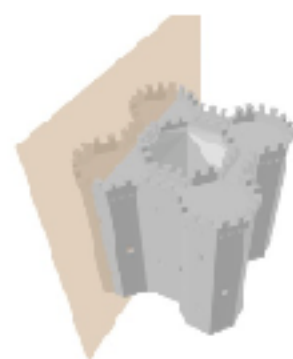
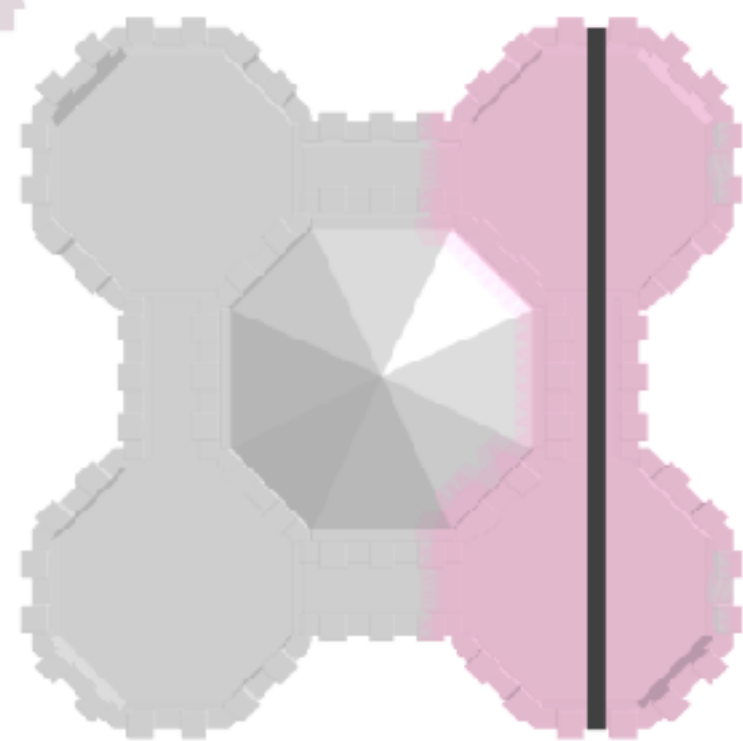
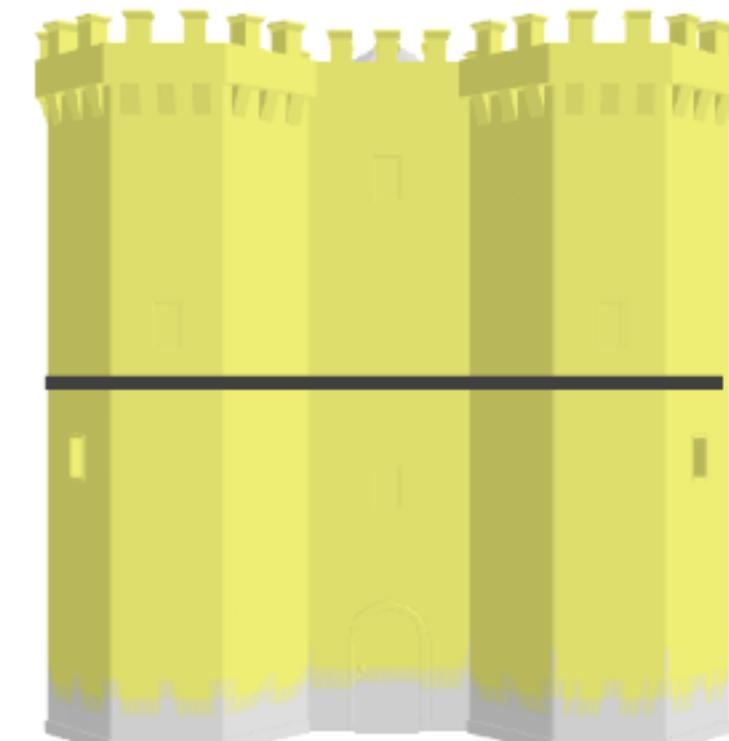
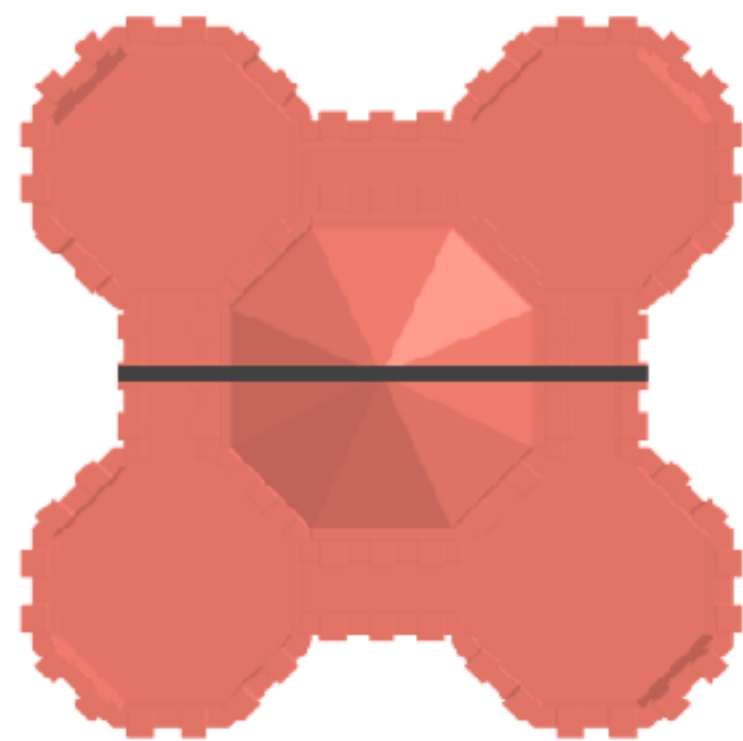
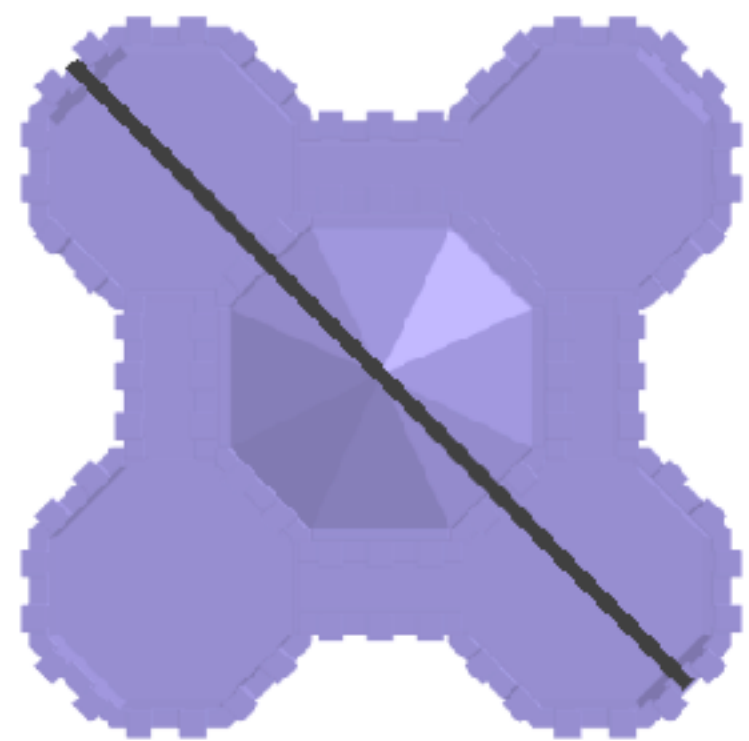
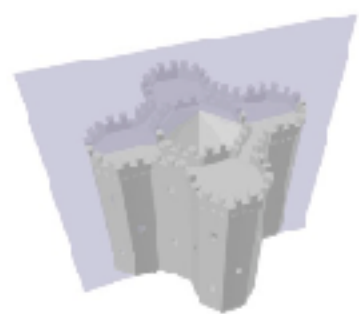


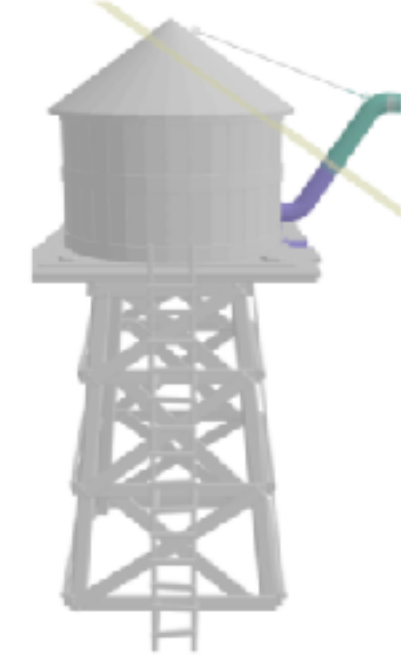
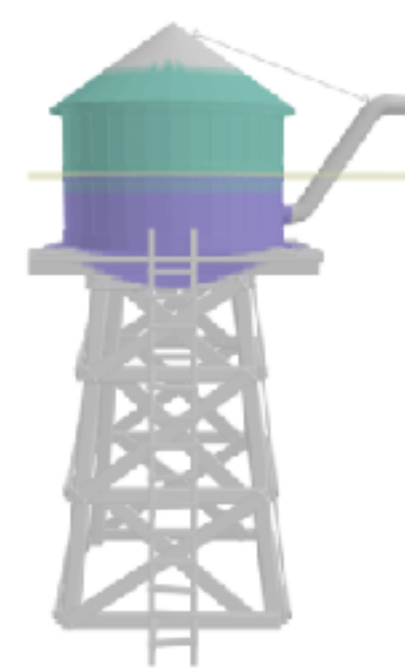
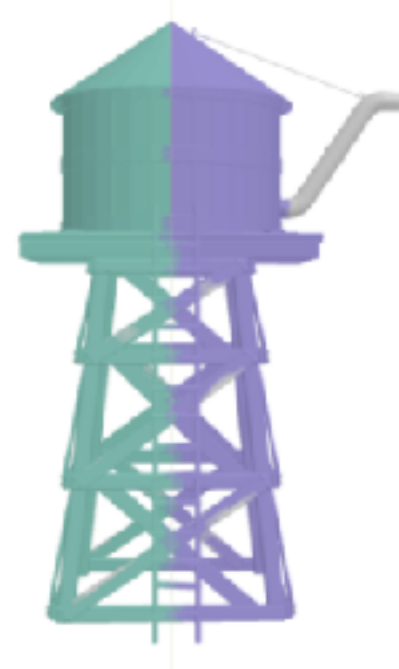
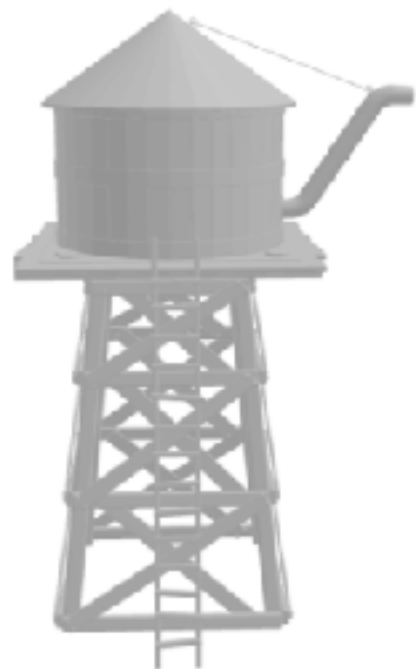
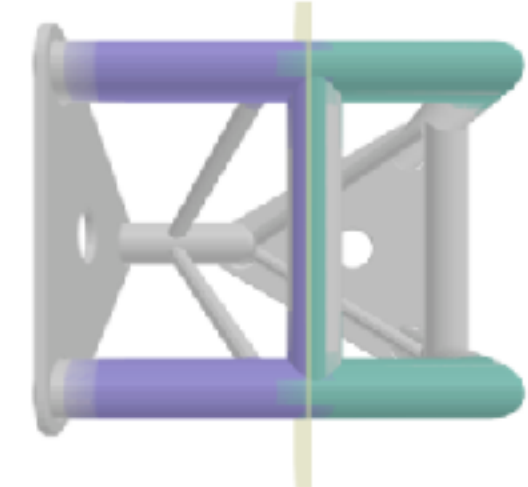
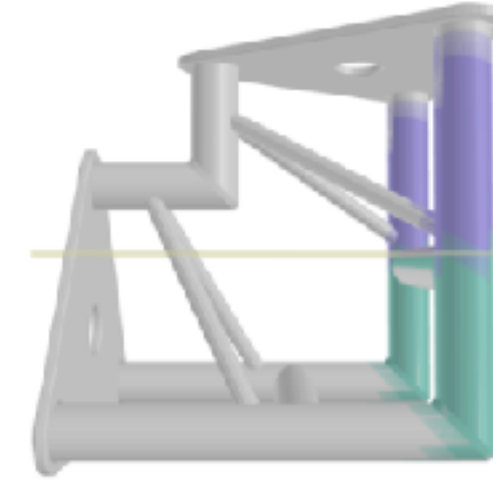
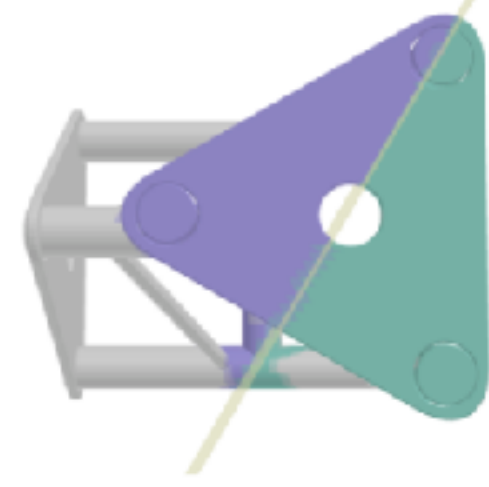
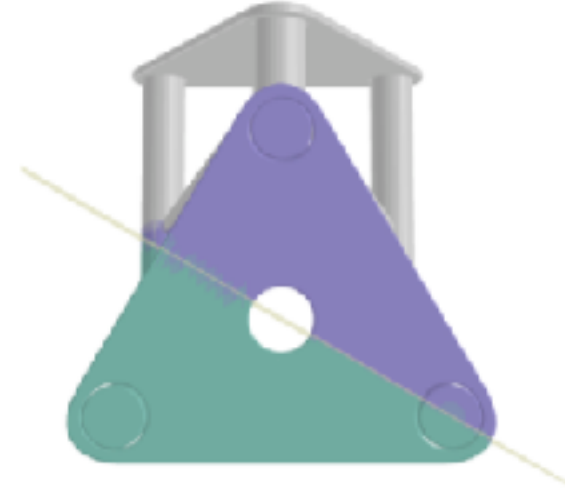
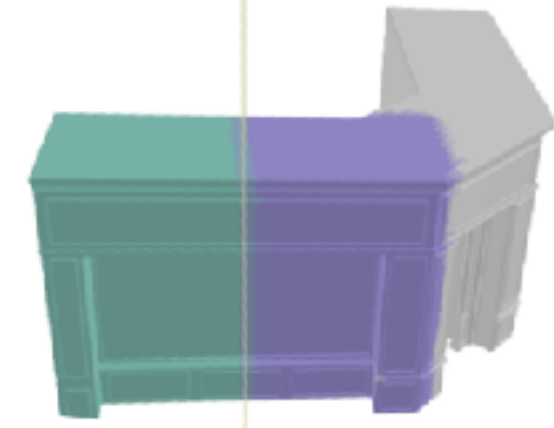
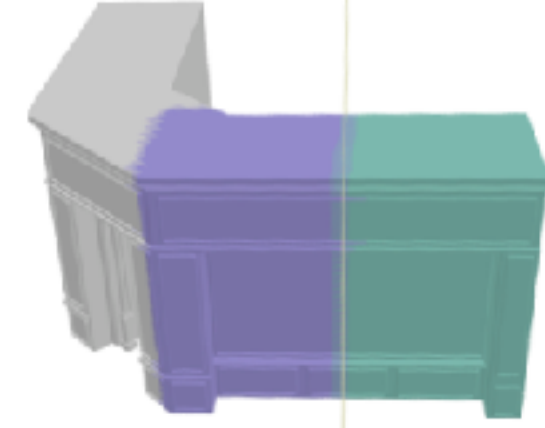
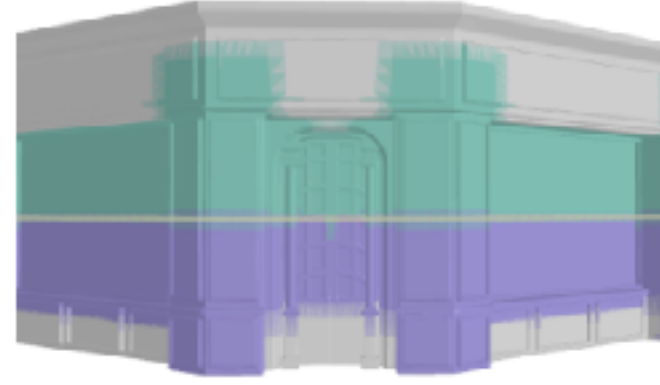
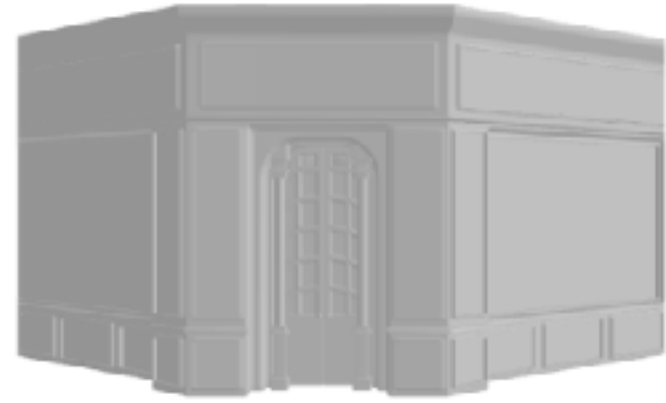
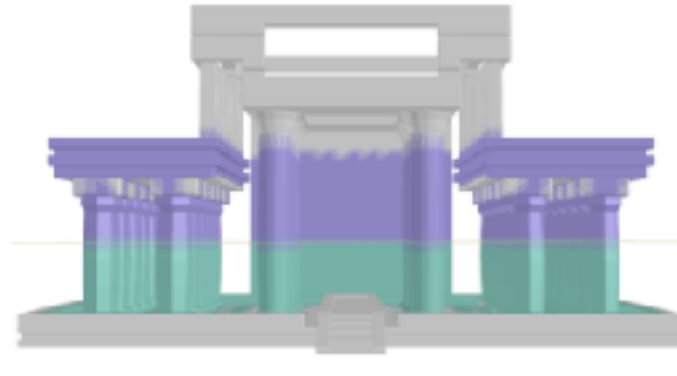
Global symmetries

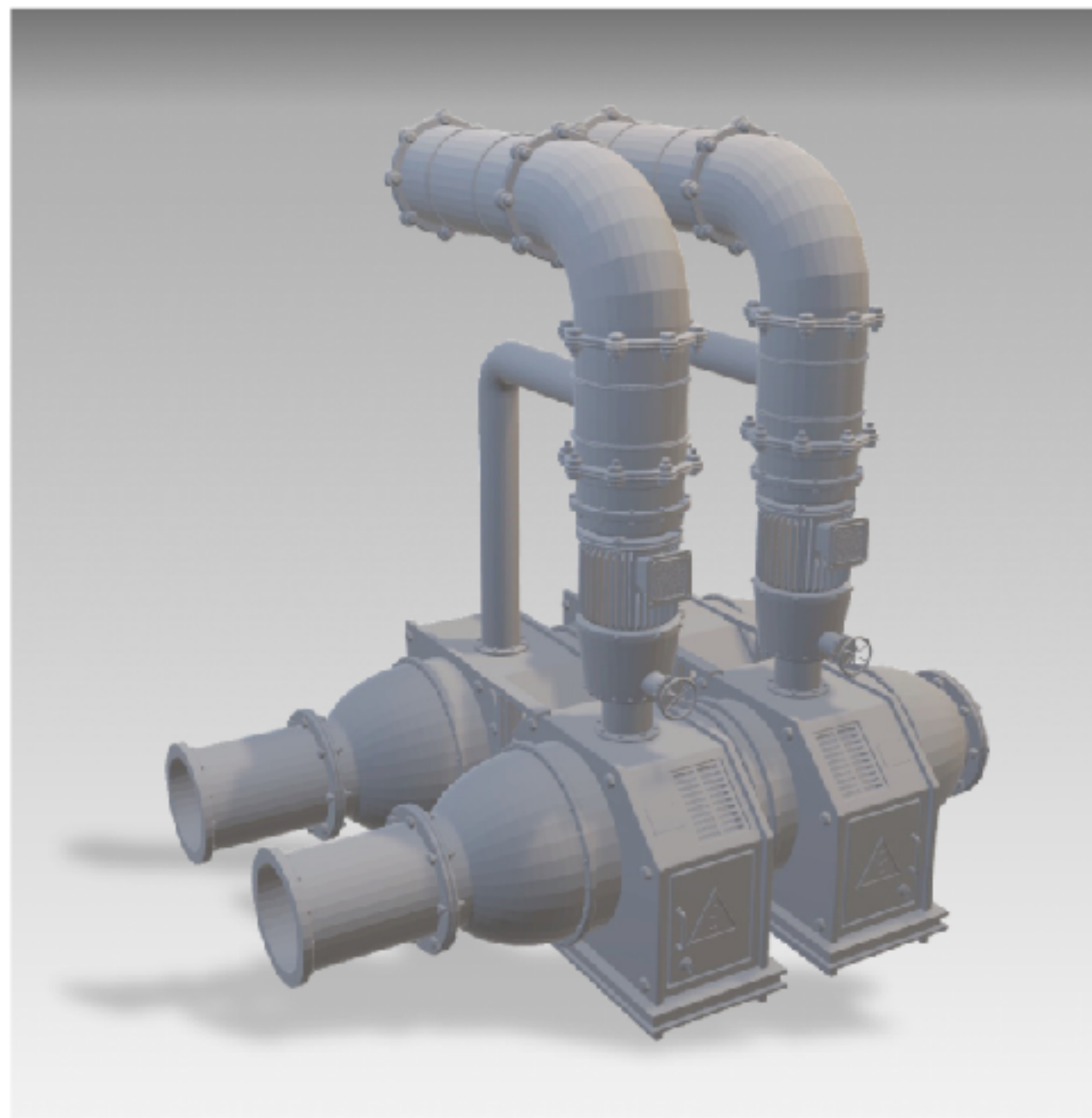


Local symmetries

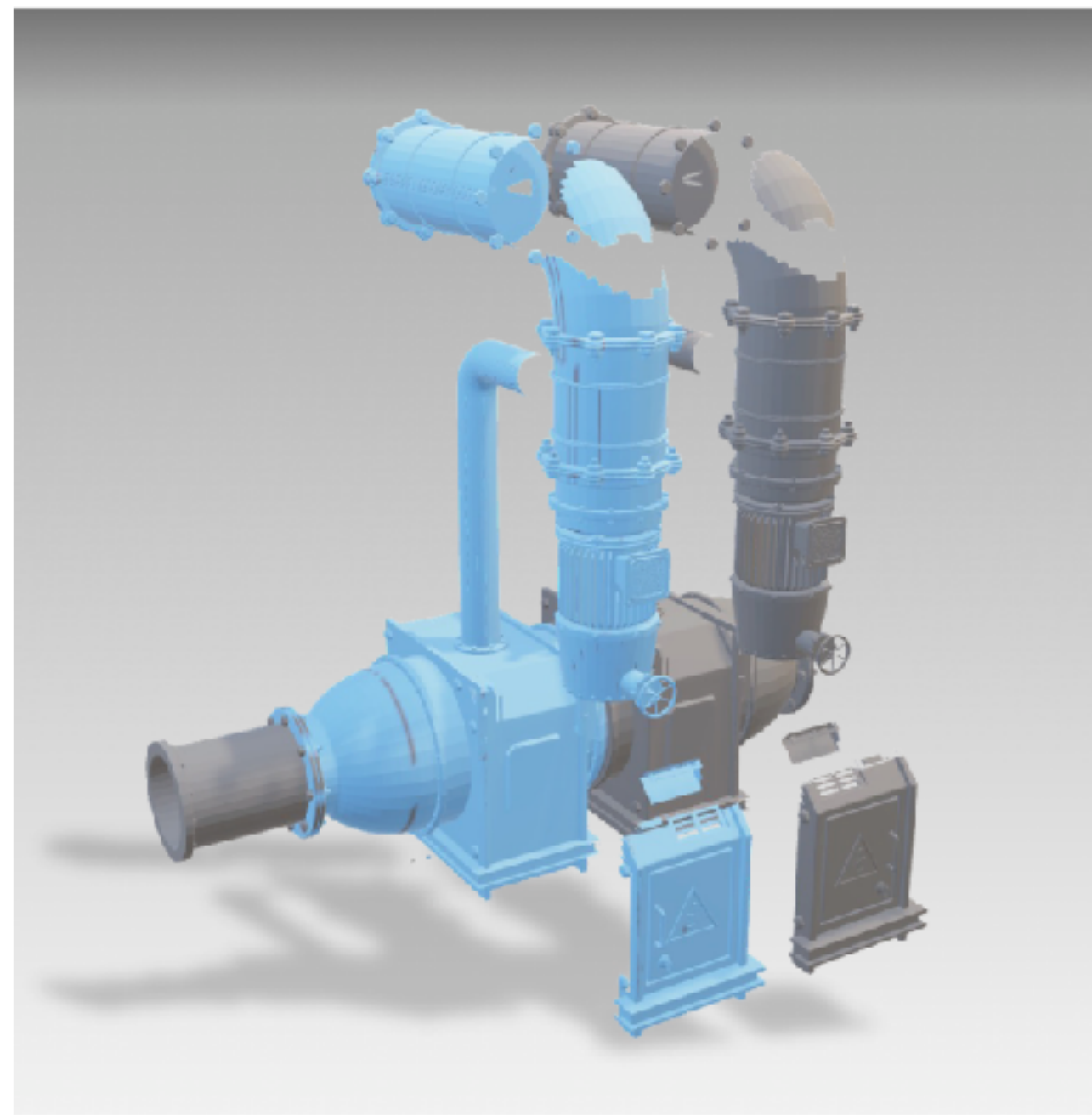




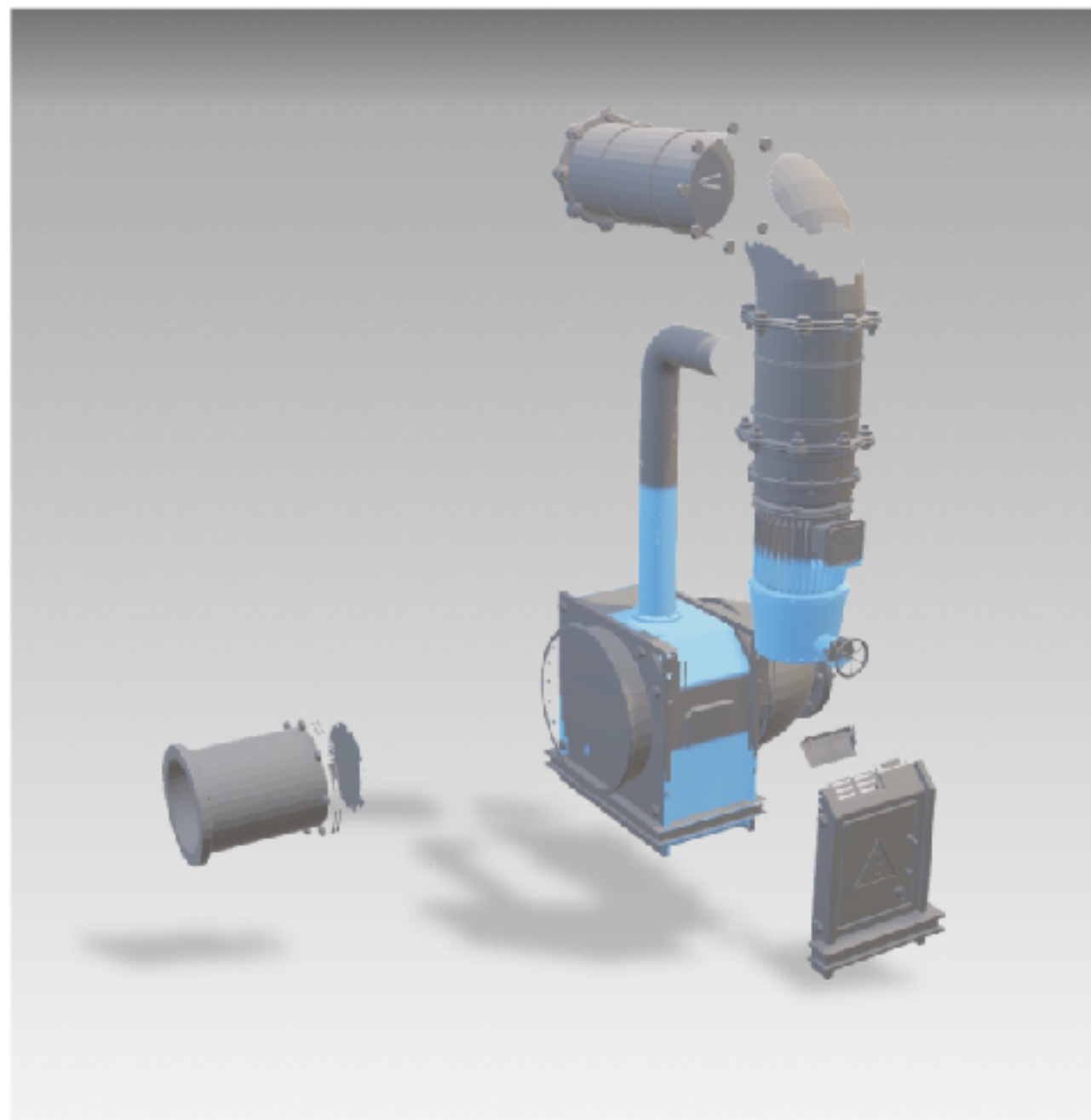




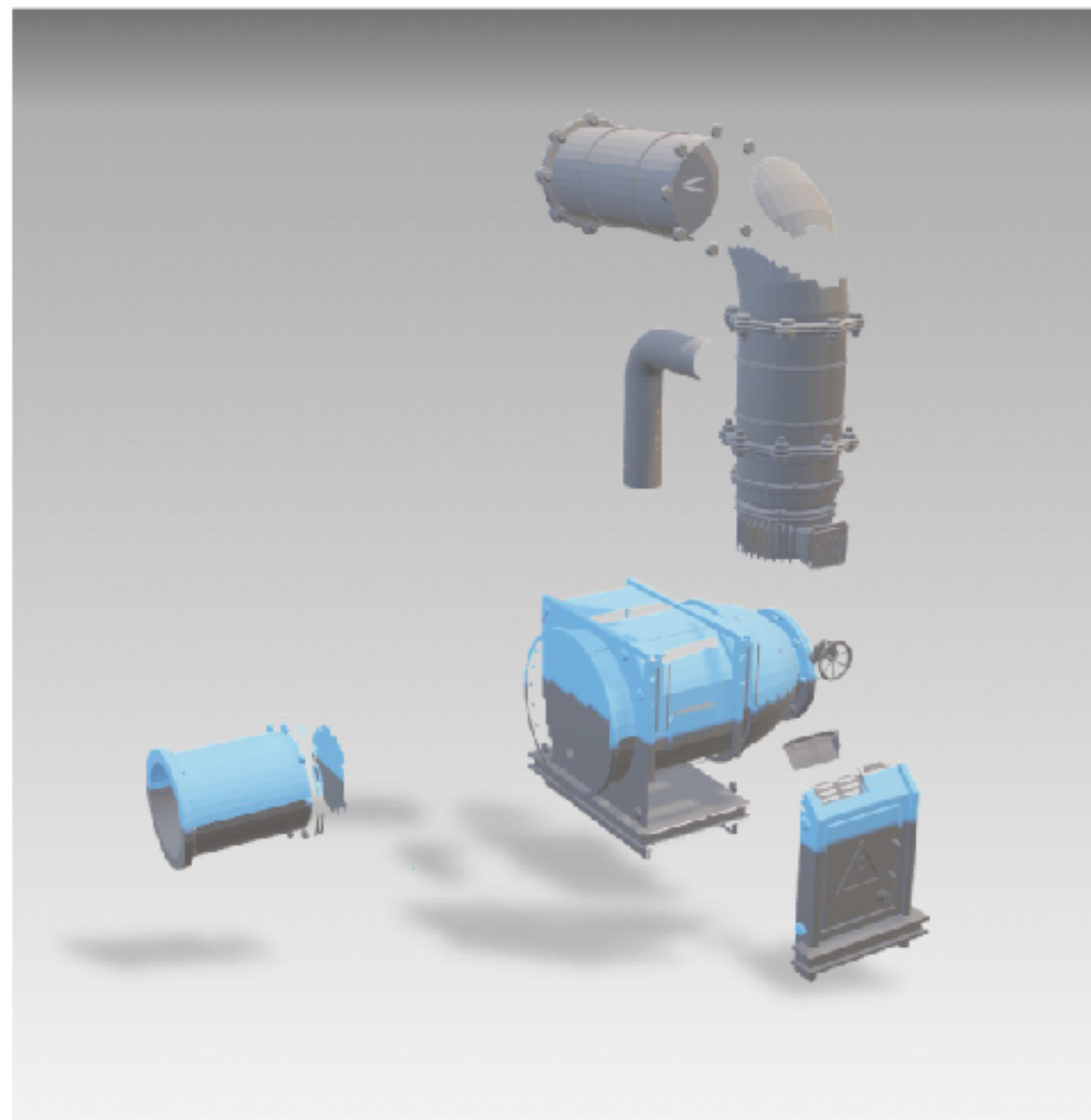
100%



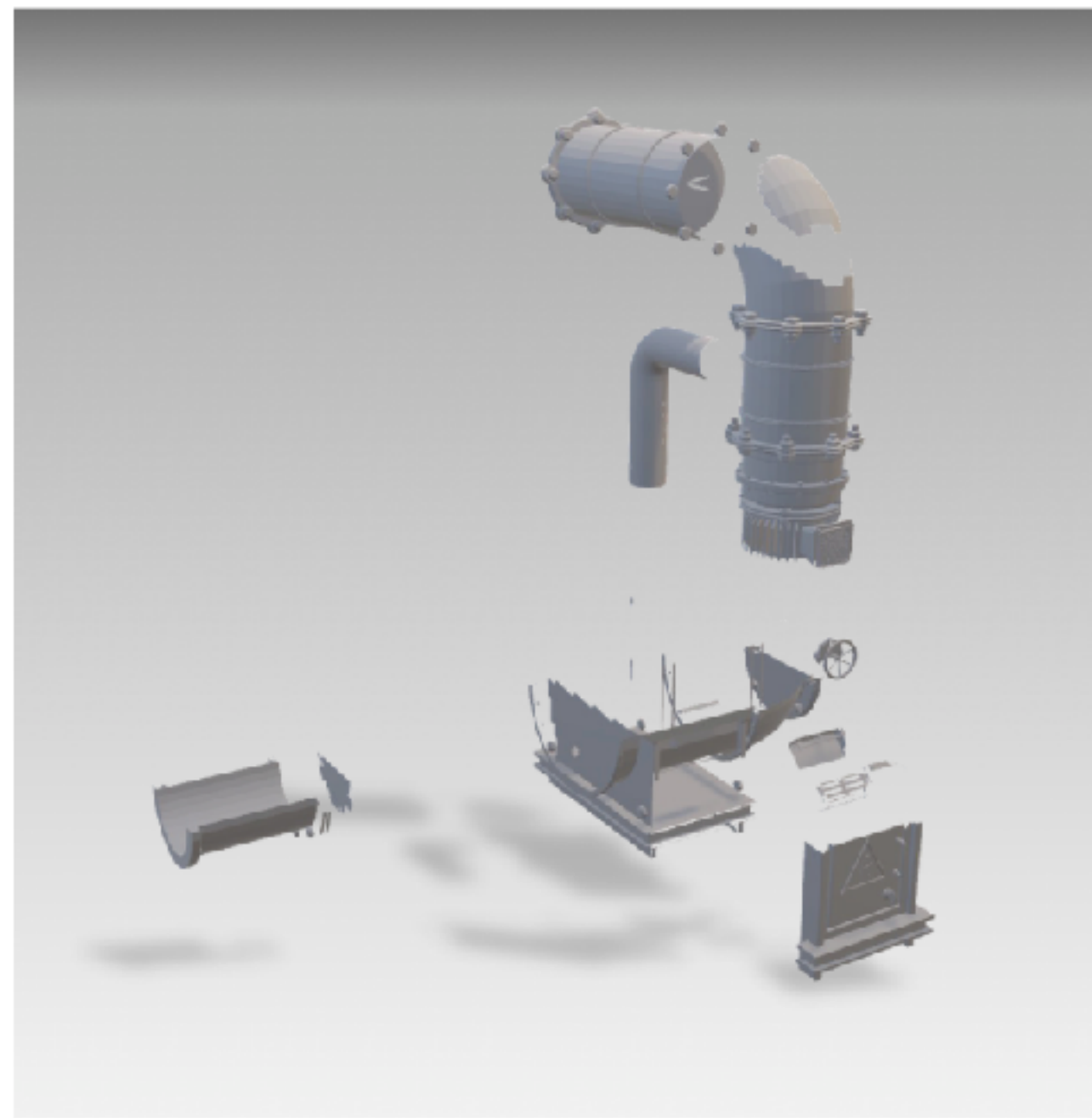
169%



36%

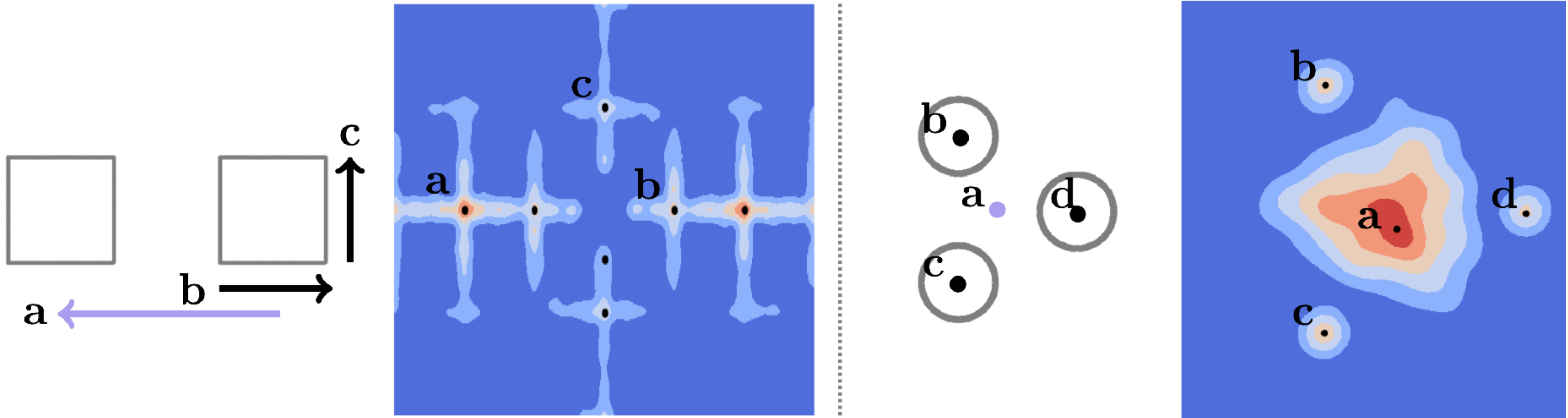


27%



22%

Additional symmetry types



Analysis - Symmetry Detection

Synthesis

Analysis



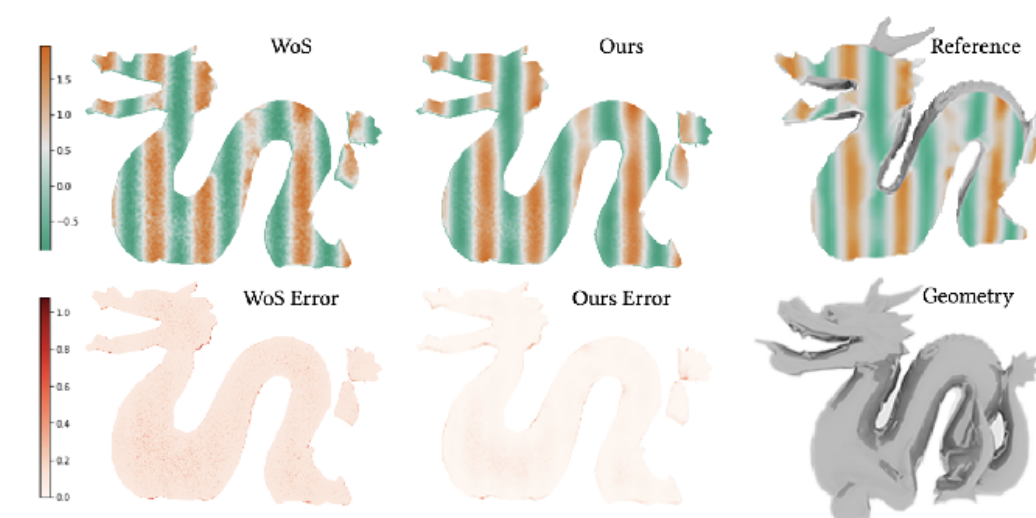
PointFlow (ICCV 2019)



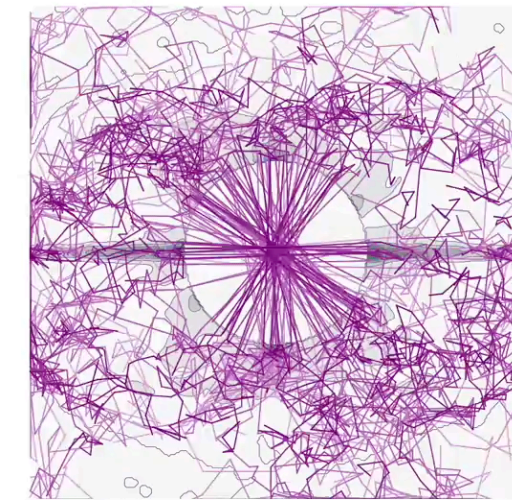
ShapeGF (ECCV 2020)



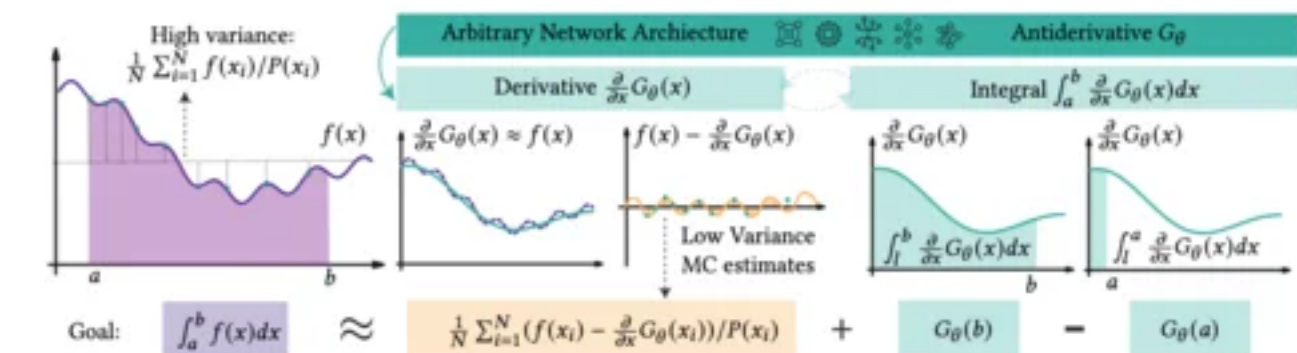
NFGP (NeurIPS 2021)



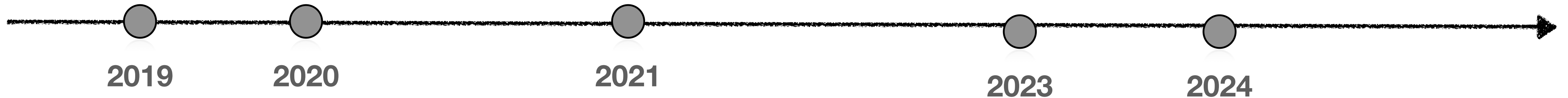
Neural cache (SIG Asia 2023)



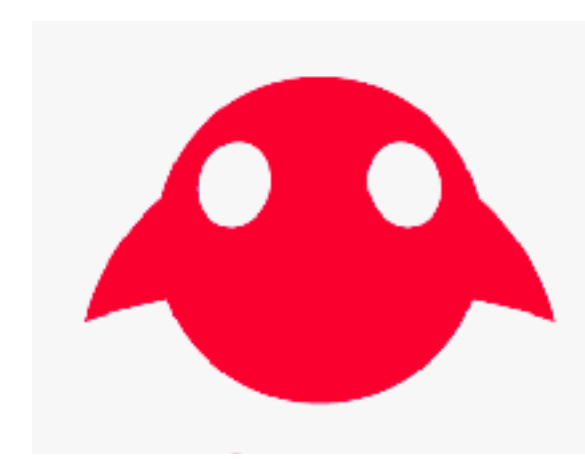
Symmetry (SIG Asia 2024)



NCV (SIGGRAPH 2024)



Thank you all!



Ruojin Cai



Zilu Li



Jihyeon Je



Qingqing Zhao



Xi Deng



Jack Liu



Shengqu Cai



Boyang Deng



Zekun Hao



Xun Huang



Ming-Yu Liu



Hadar
Averbunch-Elor



Or Litany



Chris De Sa



Noah Snavely



Steve Marschner



Vladlen Koltun



Leonidas Guibas



Gordon
Wetzstein



Bharath
Hariharan



Serge Belongie