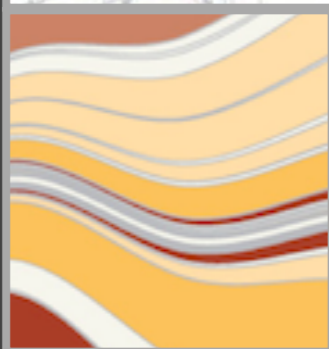
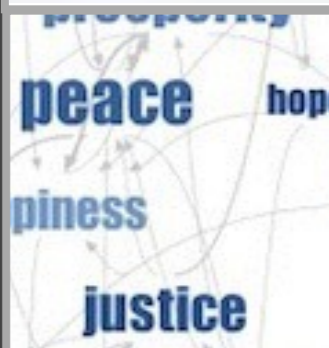
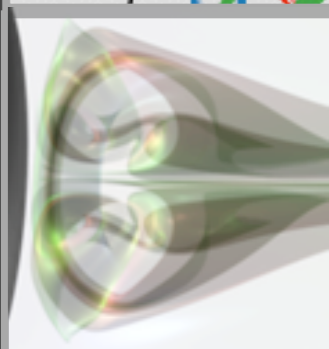
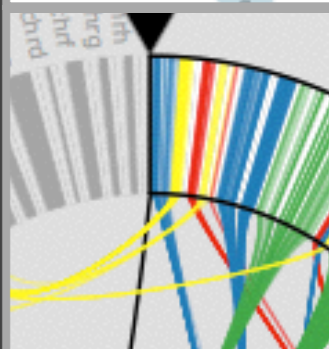
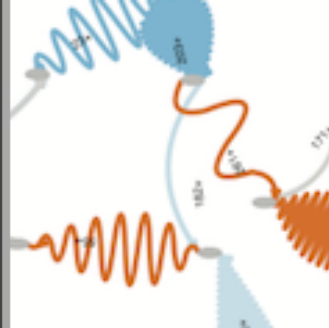


# TRANSFER FUNCTIONS

Alex Bigelow  
*University of Utah*

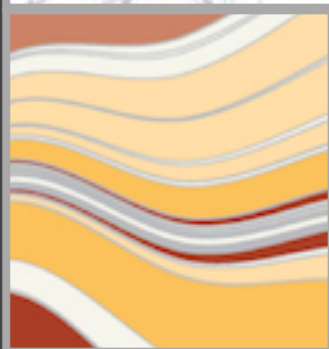
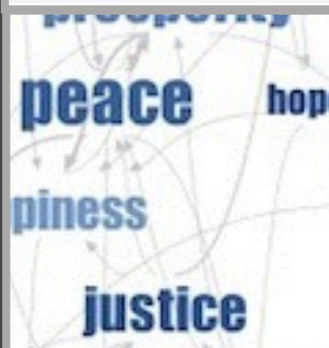
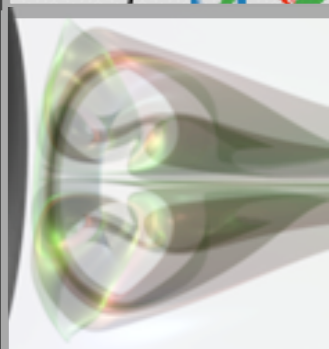
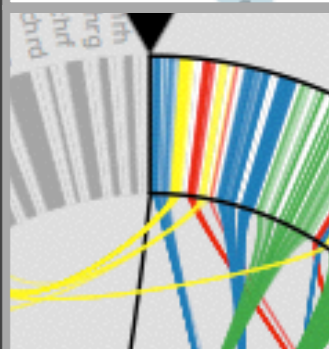
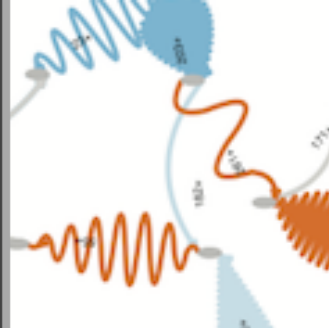


# TRANSFER FUNCTIONS

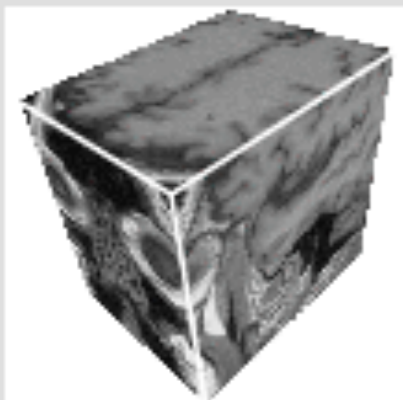
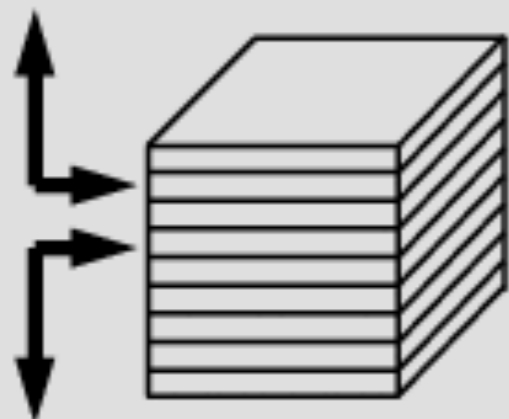
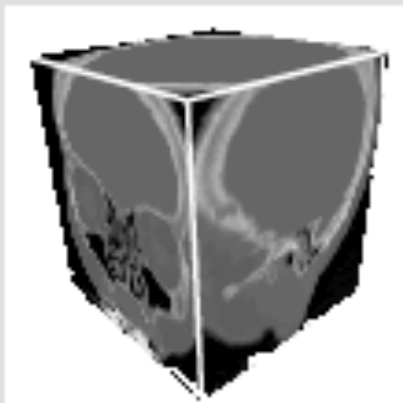
Alex Bigelow  
*University of Utah*

*slide acknowledgements:*

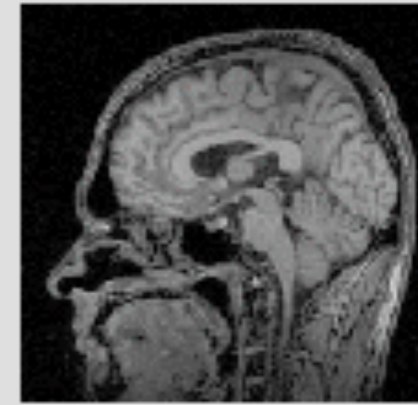
Miriah Meyer, University of Utah  
Torsten Moller, Simon Fraser University  
Josh Levine, Clemson  
Markus Hadwig, KAUST



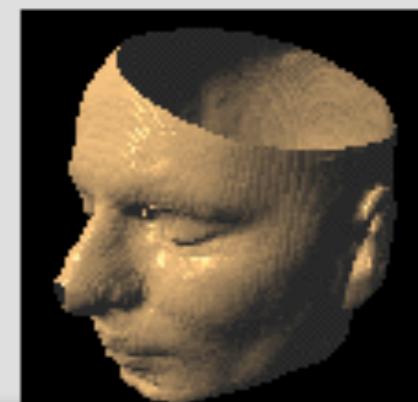
last time . . .



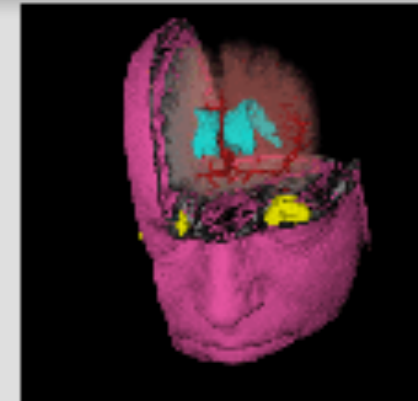
- 2D visualization slice images (or multi-planar reformatting MPR)



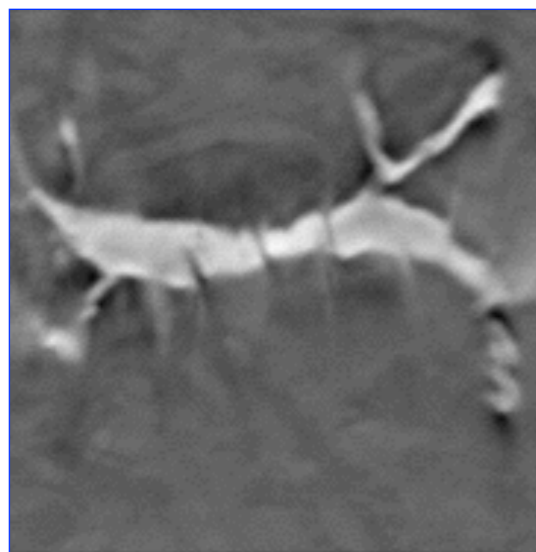
- *Indirect* 3D visualization isosurfaces (or surface-shaded display SSD)



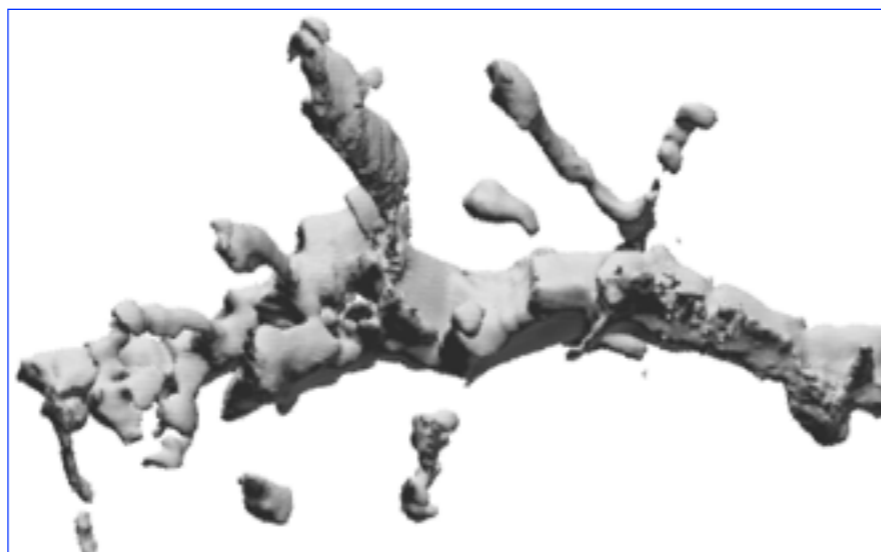
- *Direct* 3D visualization (direct volume rendering DVR)



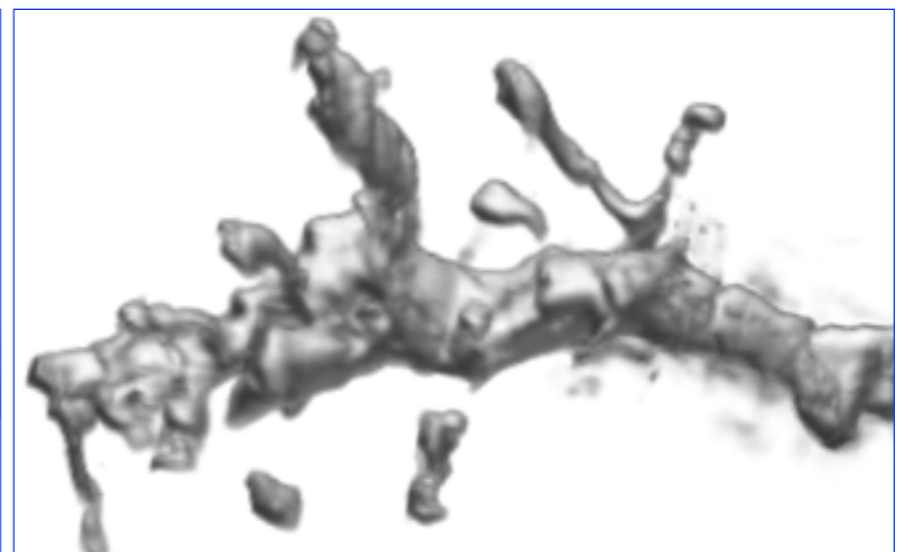
- Isosurfacing is "binary"
  - What about points inside isosurface?
  - How does each voxel contribute to image?
- Is a hard, distinct boundary necessarily appropriate for the visualization task?



Slice

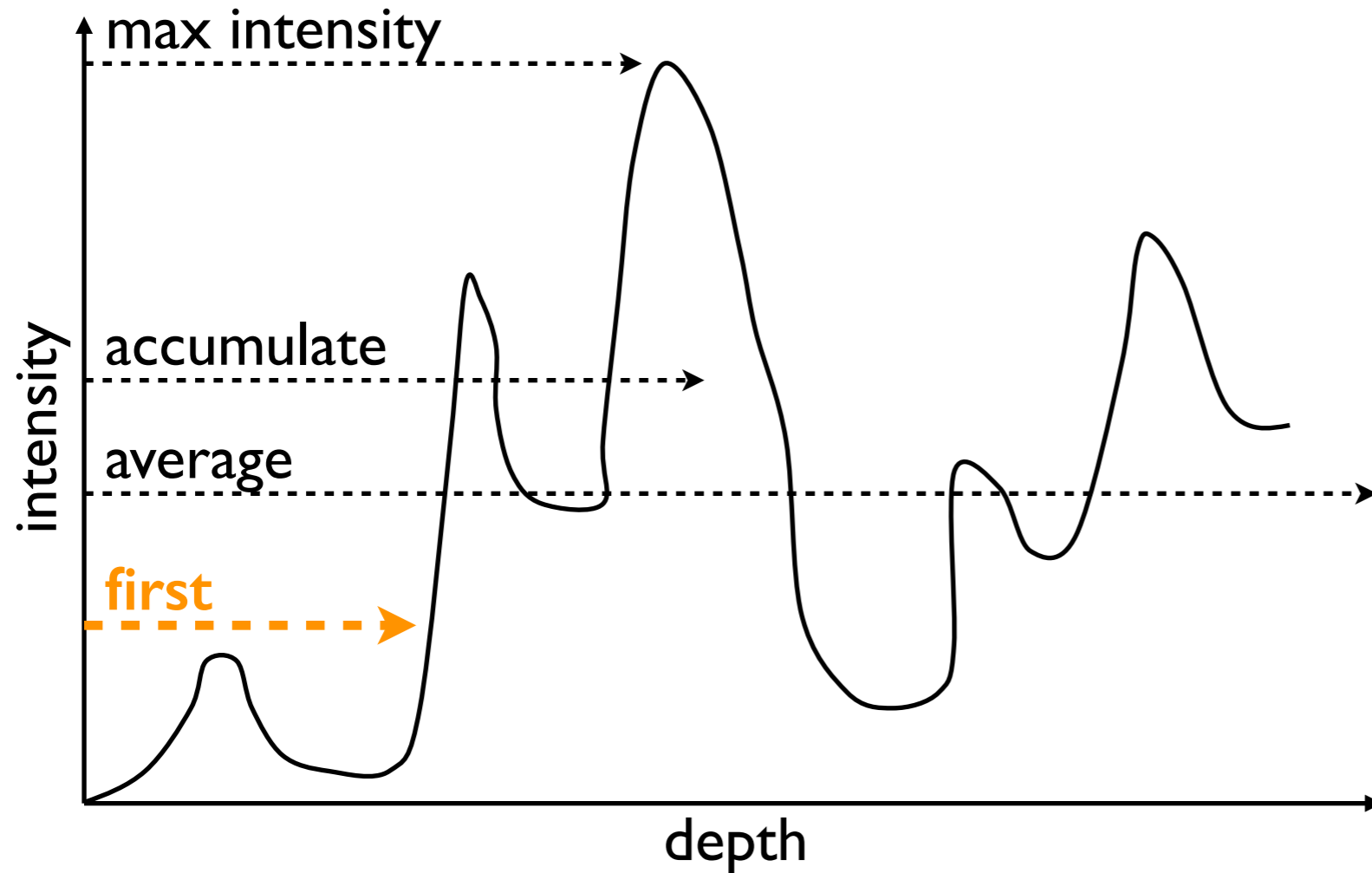


Isosurface

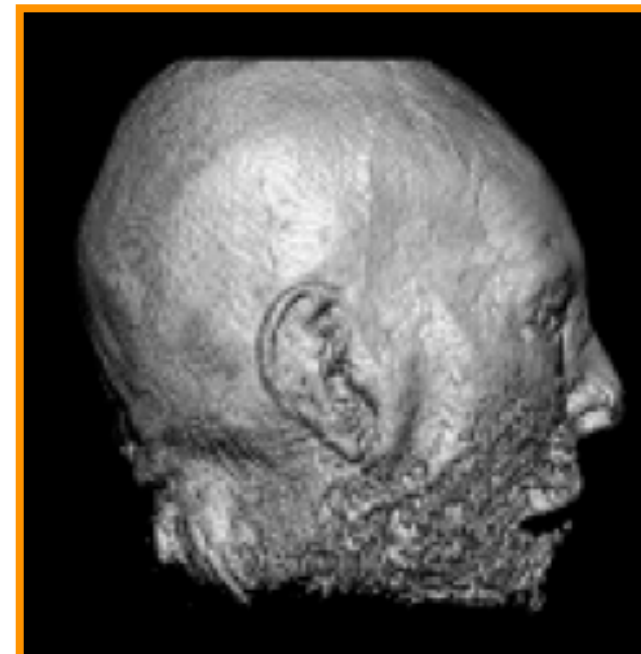


Volume Rendering

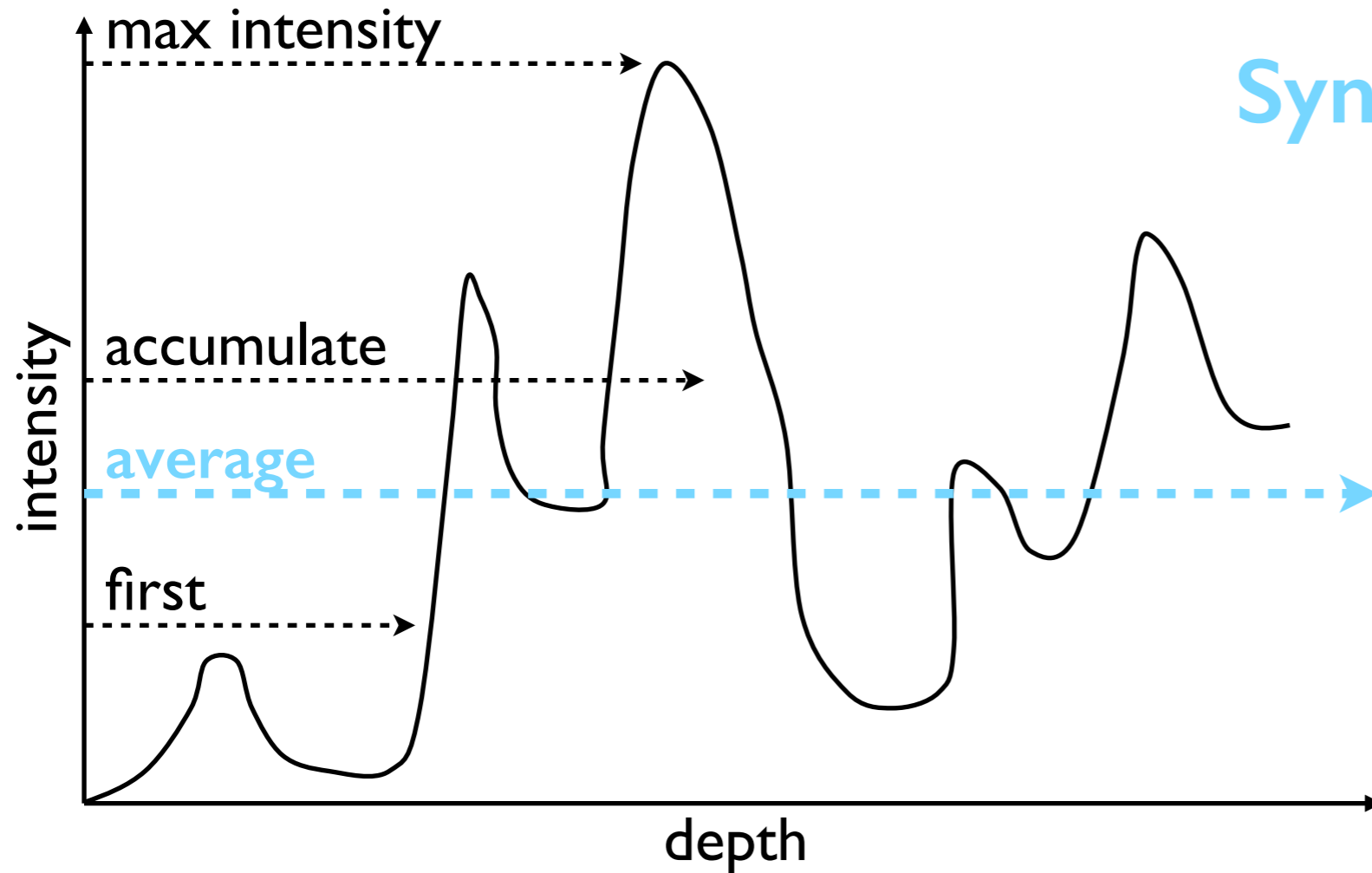
# Pixel Compositing Schemes



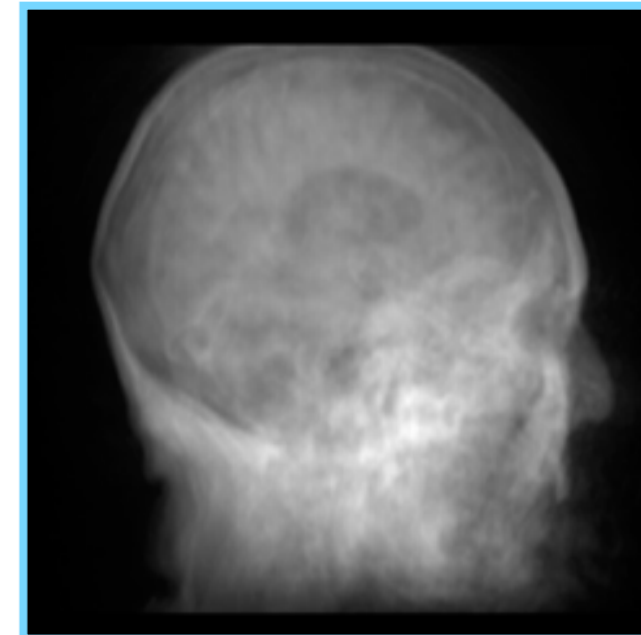
**Exact Isosurface**



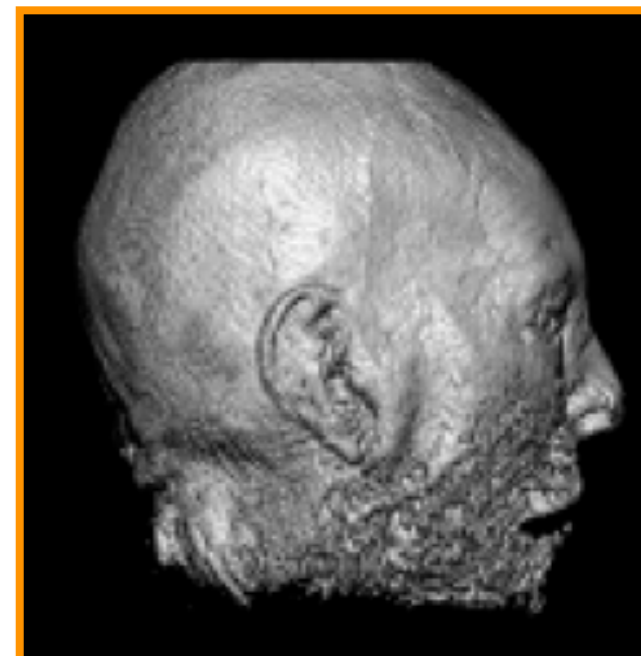
# Pixel Compositing Schemes



Synthetic Reprojection

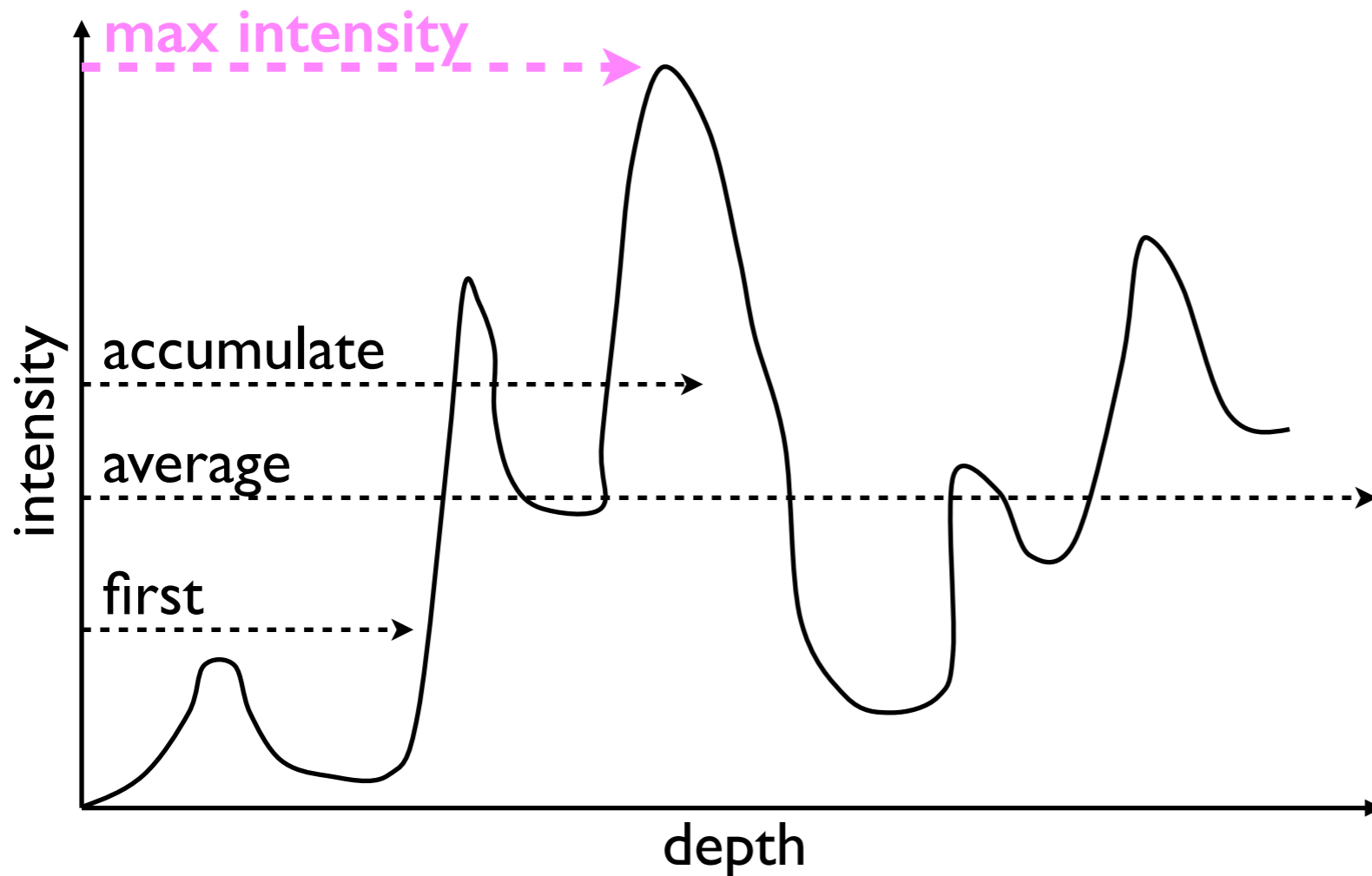


Similar to X-rays

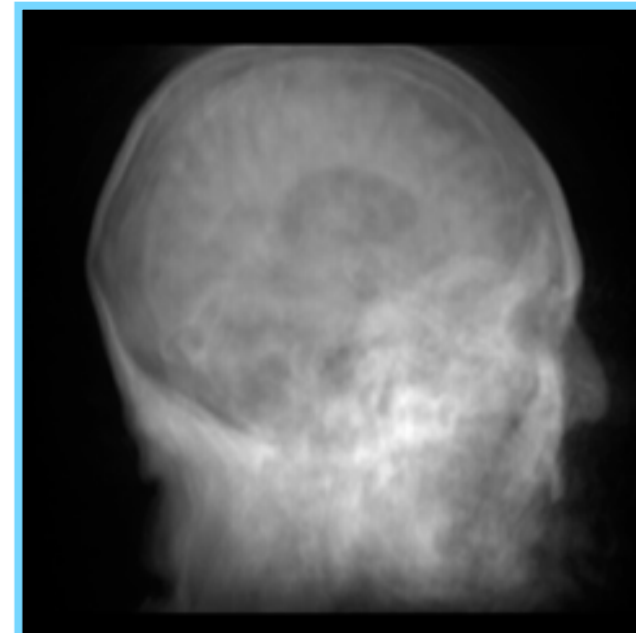
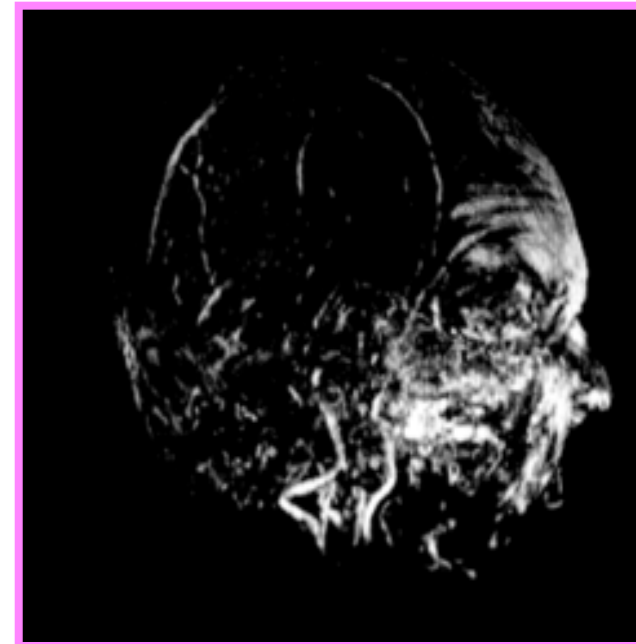


maximum intensity projection (MIP)

# Pixel Compositing Schemes

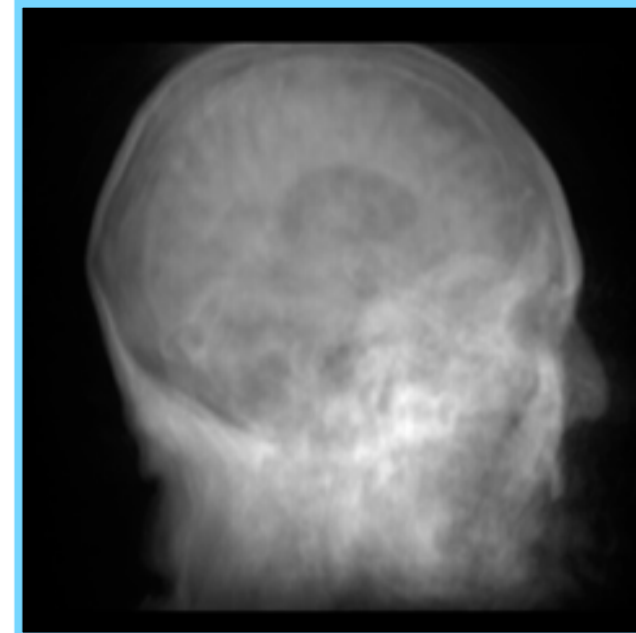
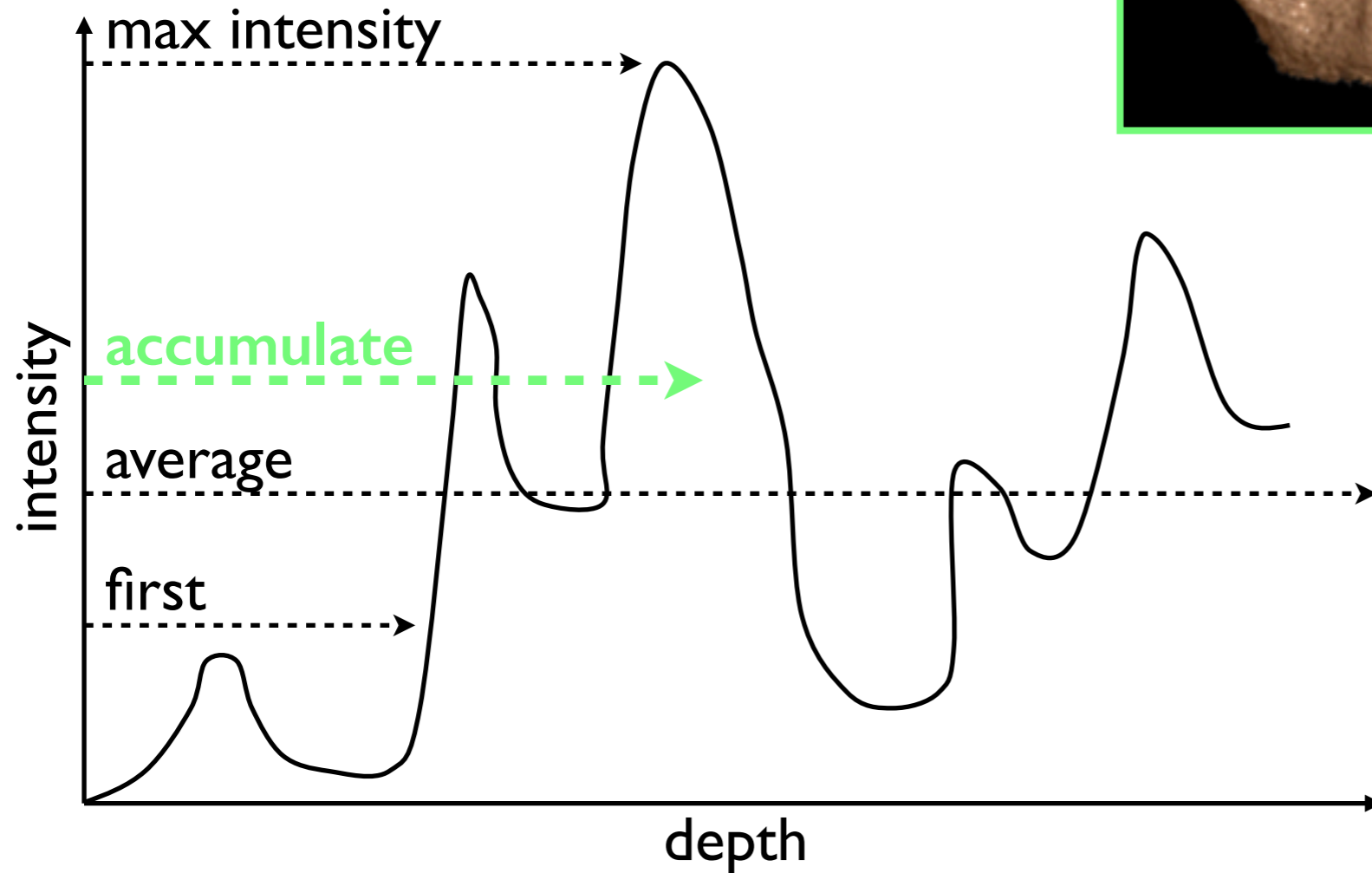
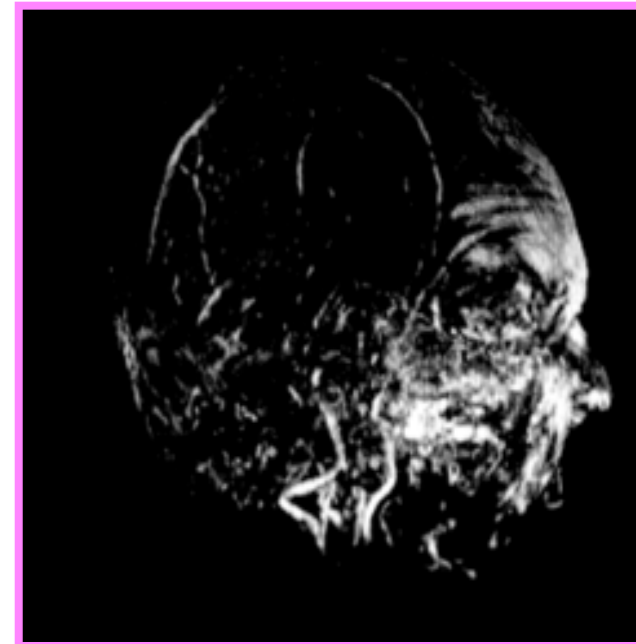
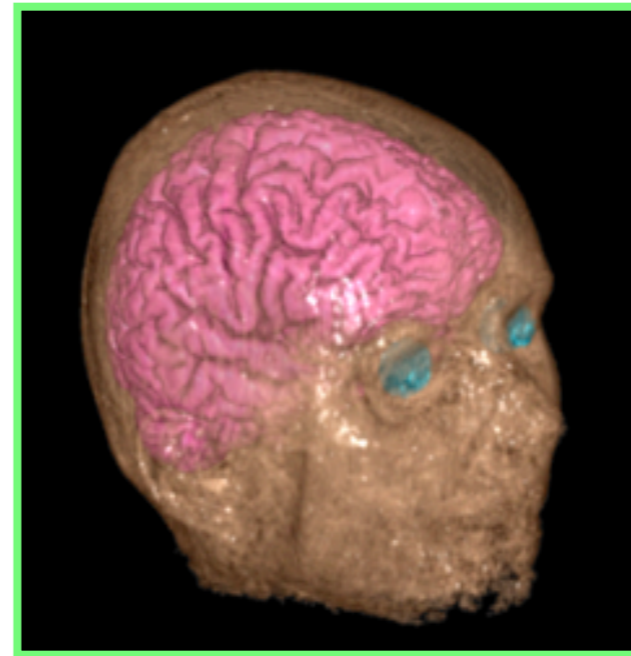


Used in PET and Magnetic Resonance Angiograms





# Pixel Compositing Schemes



color to distinguish structures  
opacity to show inside



# pipelines: isosurface vs. volume rendering

no intermediate geometric structures

Volume Data



**isosurface  
extraction**

Triangles



**surface  
rendering**

Rendered  
Image

Volume Data



**volume  
rendering**

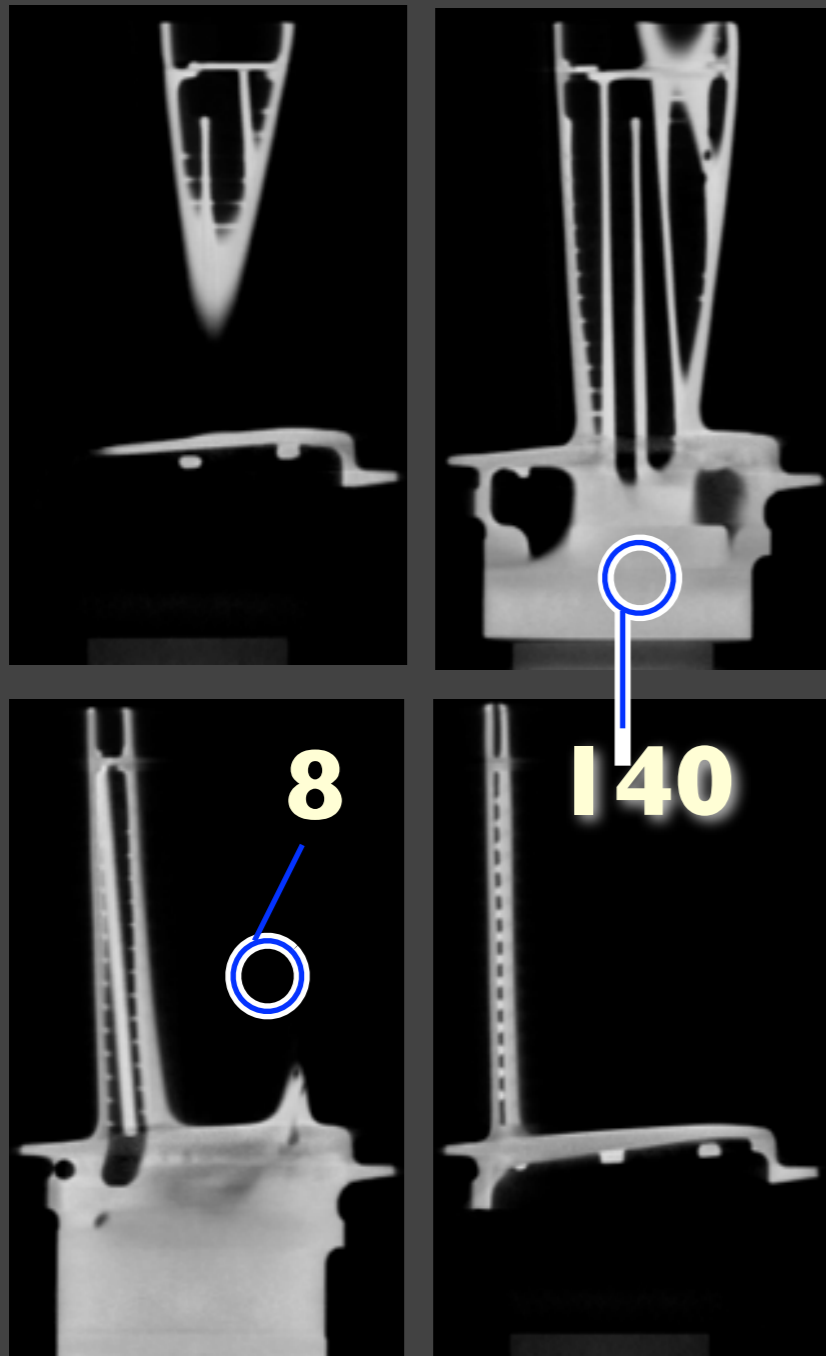
Rendered  
Image

# TRANSFER FUNCTIONS

# Introduction

**Transfer functions make volume data visible by mapping data values to optical properties**

slices:



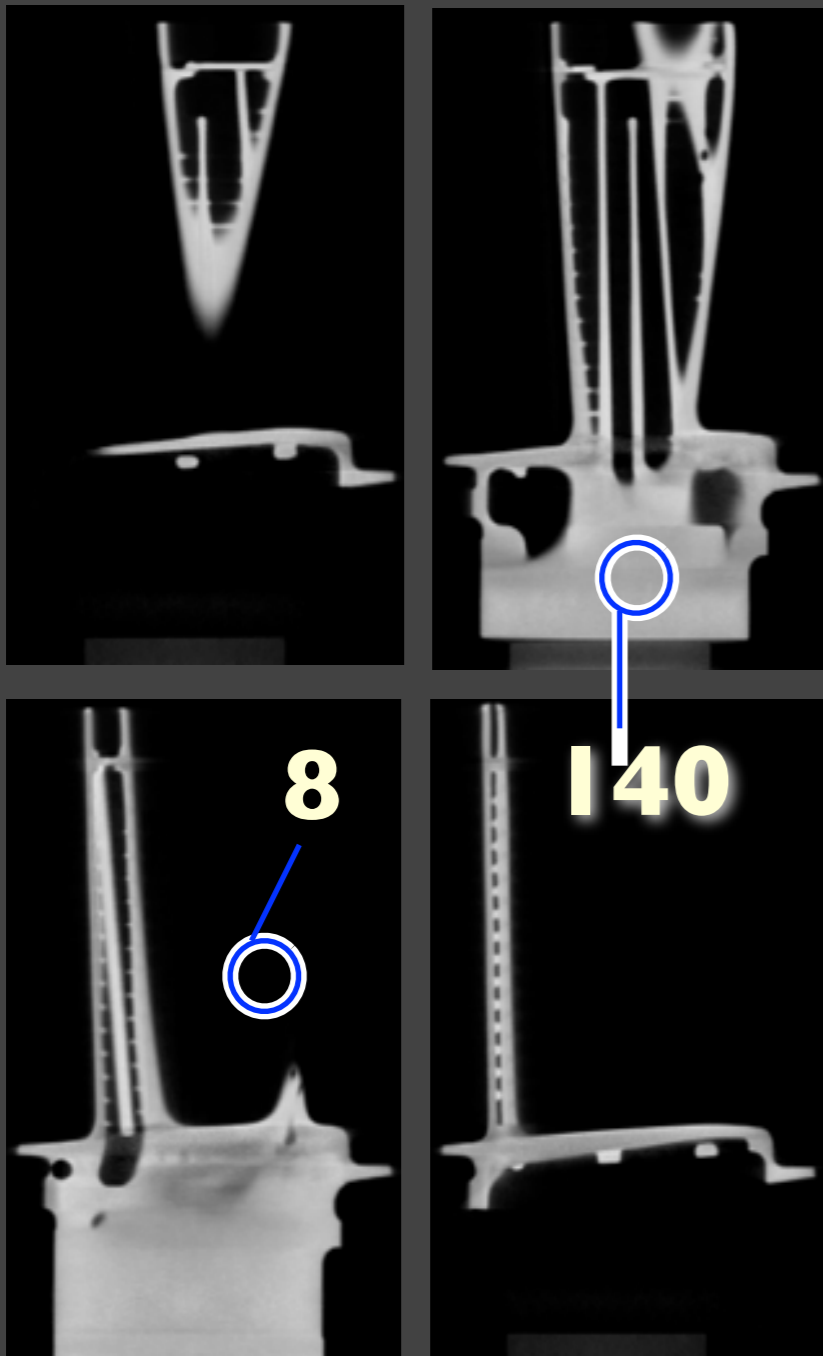
volume data:



# Introduction

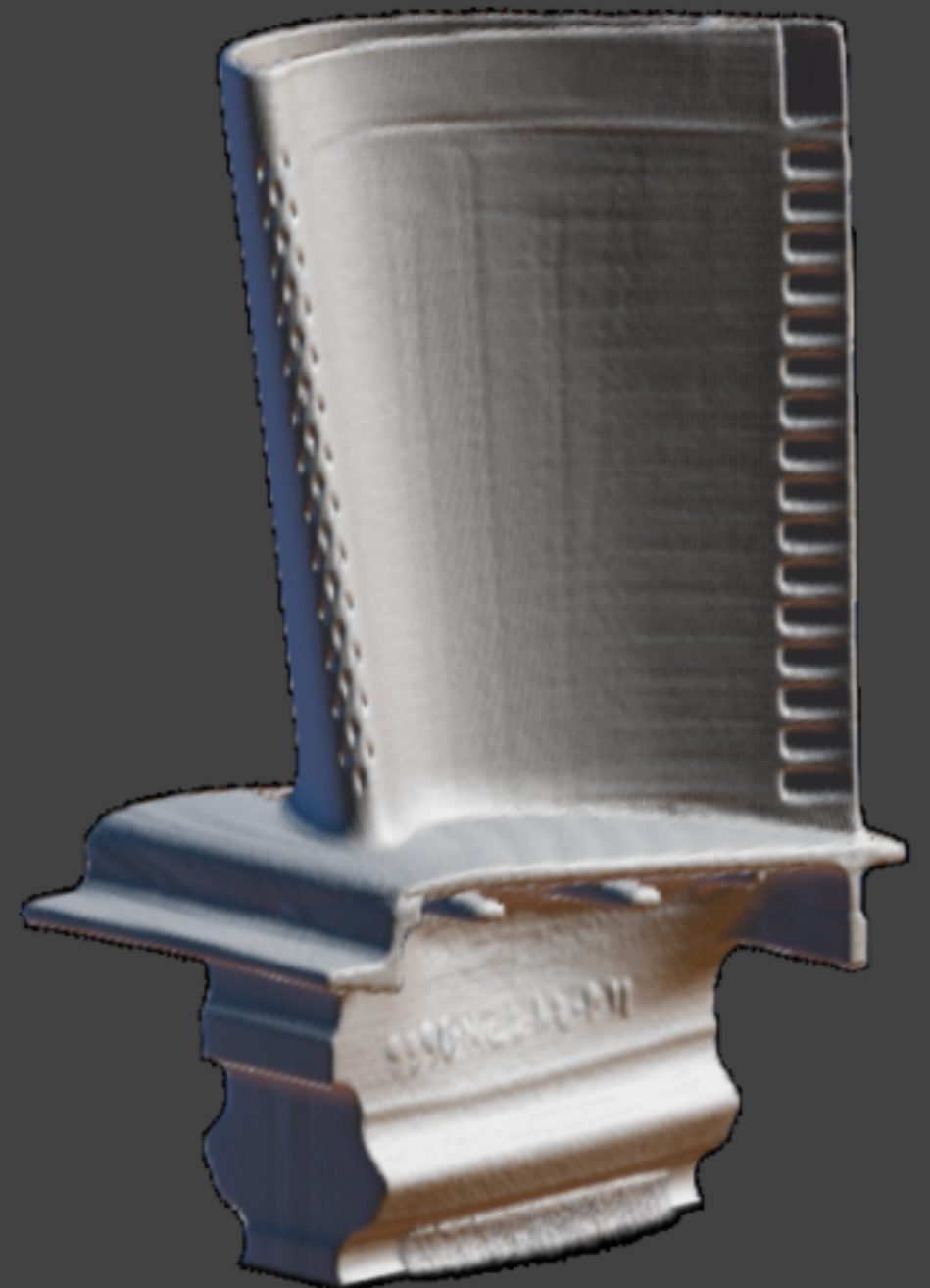
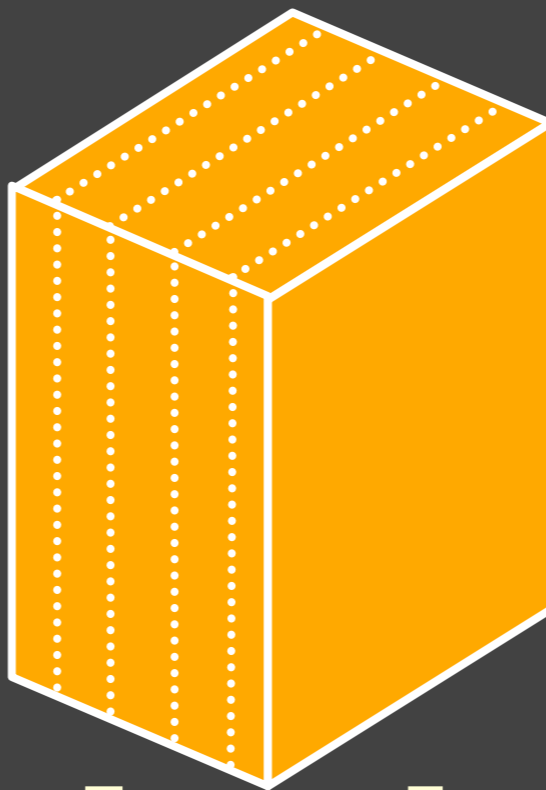
**Transfer functions make volume data visible by mapping data values to optical properties**

slices:



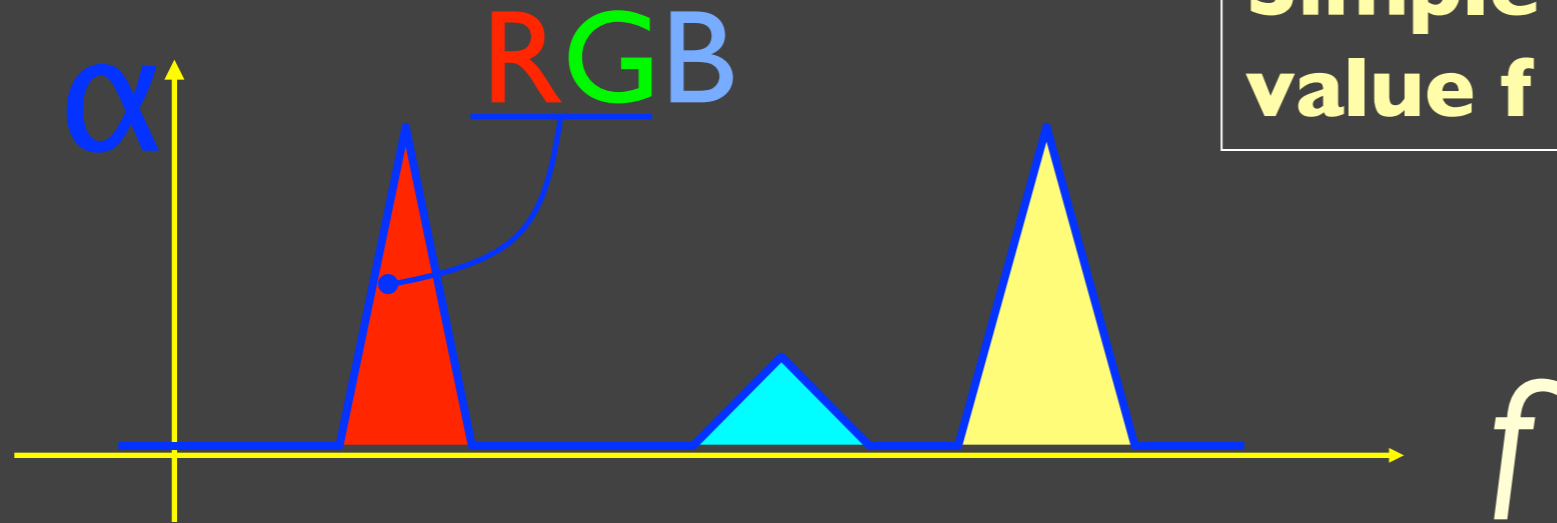
volume rendering:

volume data:



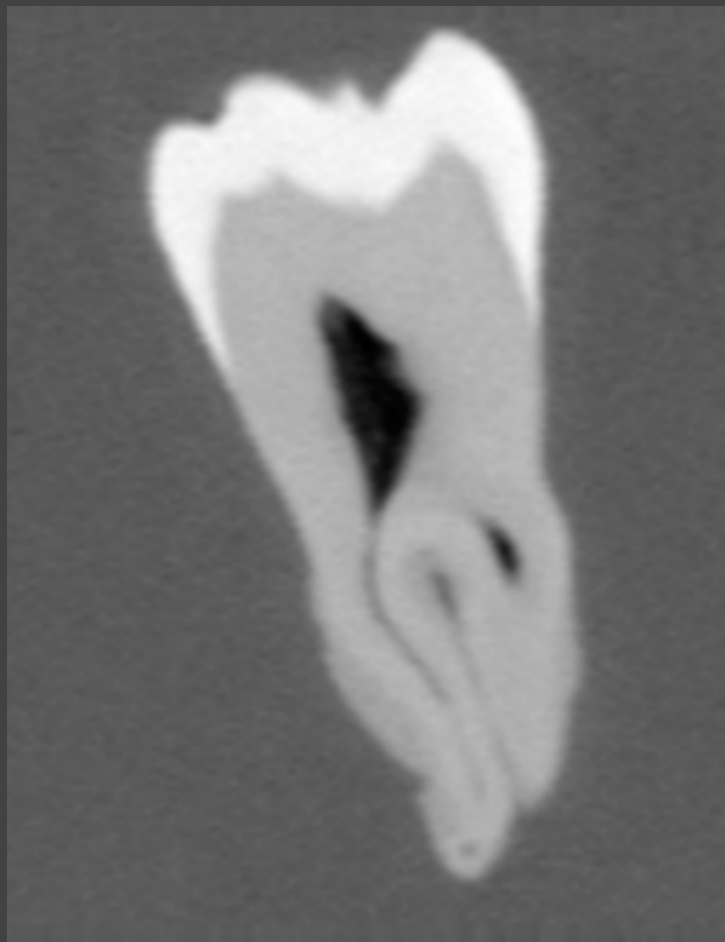
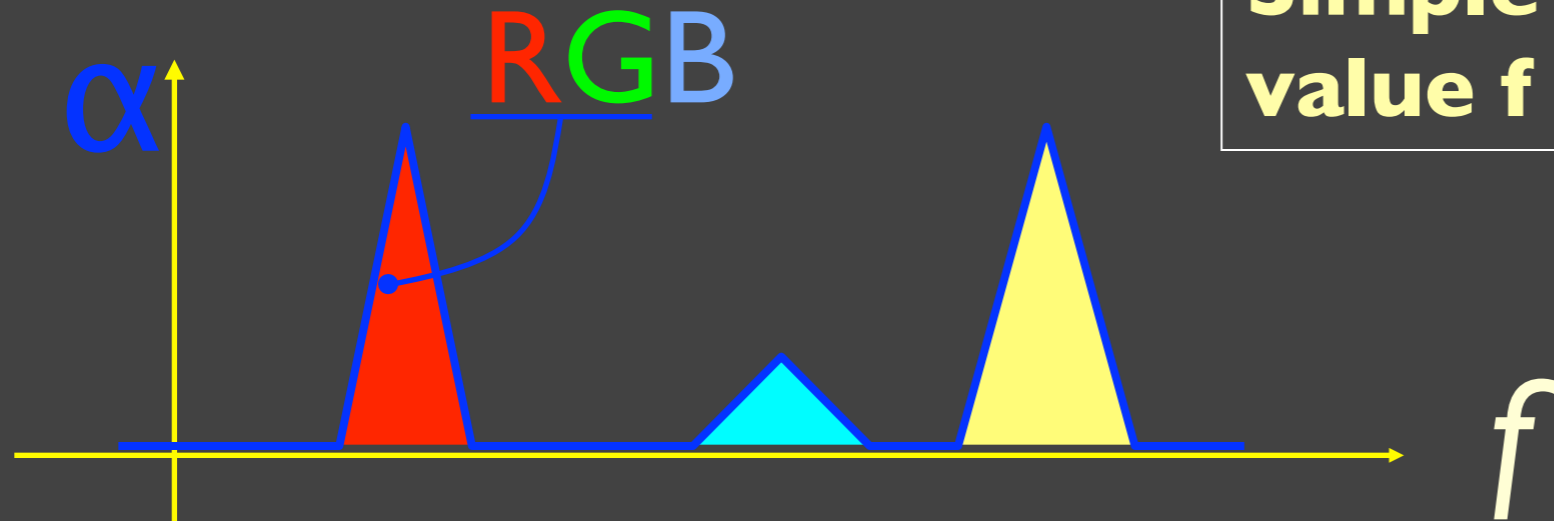
# Transfer Functions (TFs)

**Simple (usual) case: Map data value  $f$  to color and opacity**



# Transfer Functions (TFs)

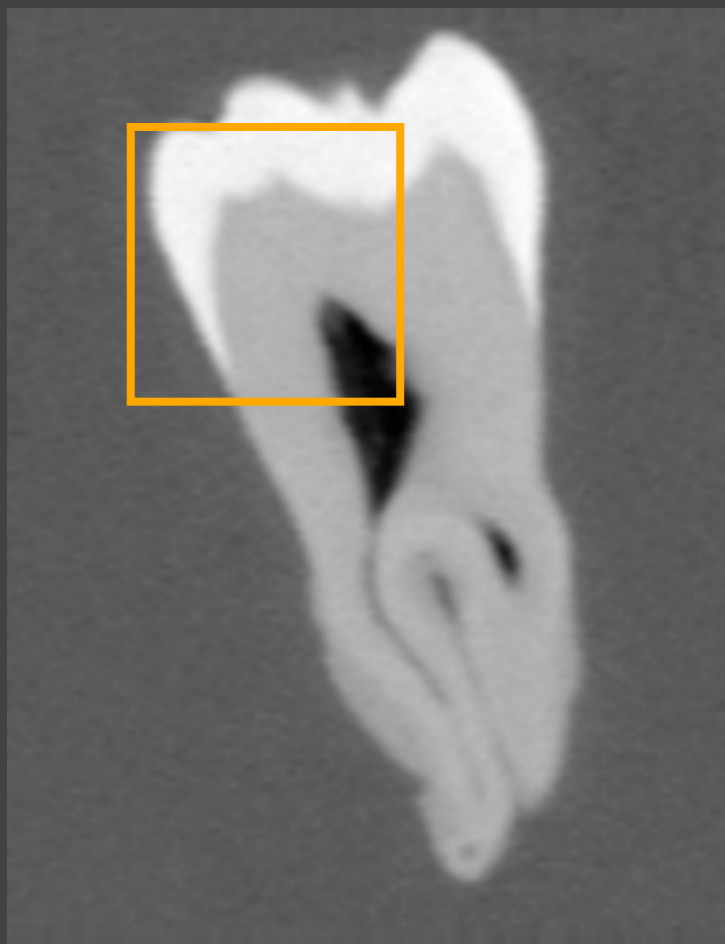
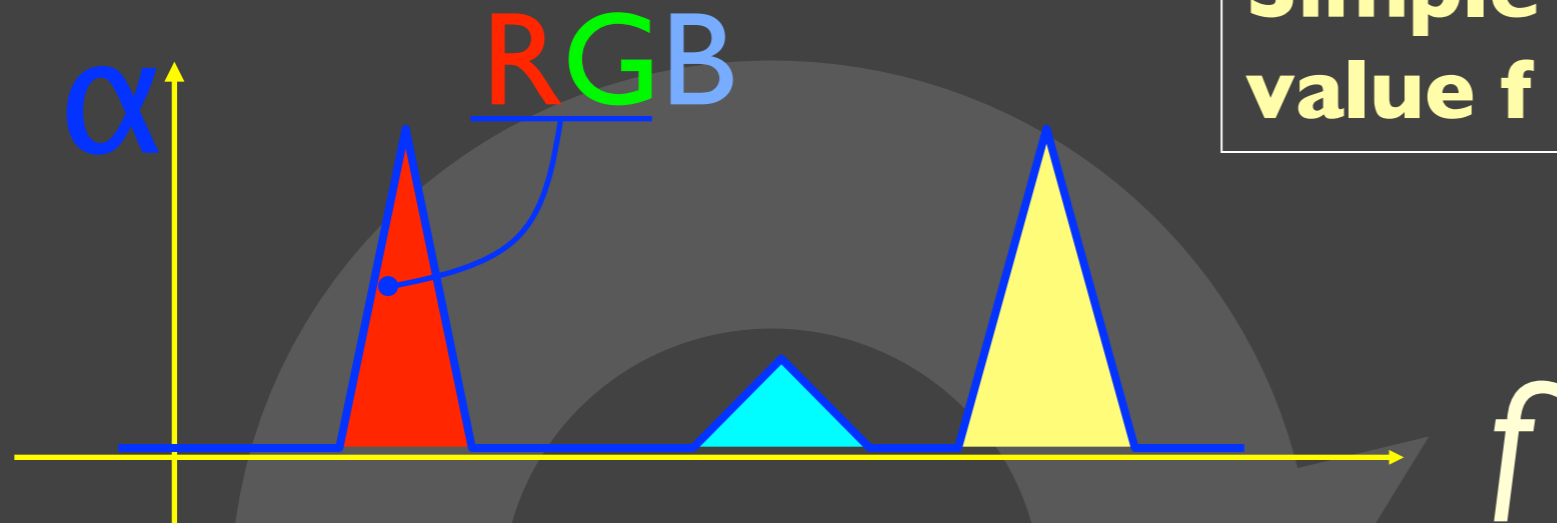
**Simple (usual) case: Map data value  $f$  to color and opacity**



Human Tooth CT

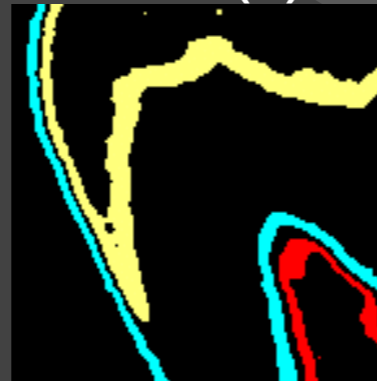
# Transfer Functions (TFs)

Simple (usual) case: Map data value  $f$  to color and opacity



Human Tooth CT

**RGB**( $f$ )



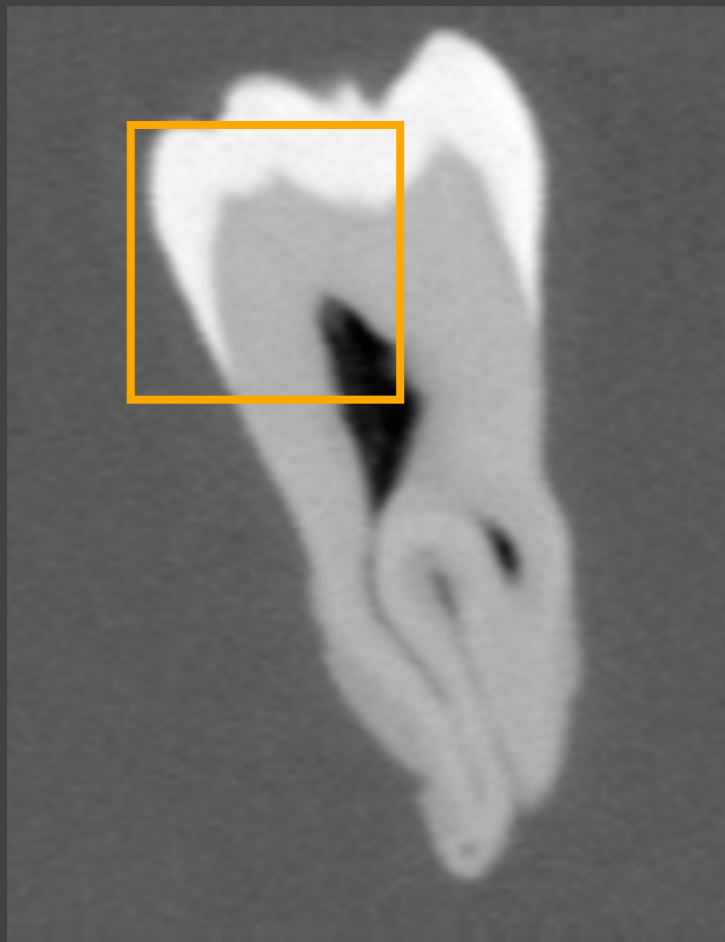
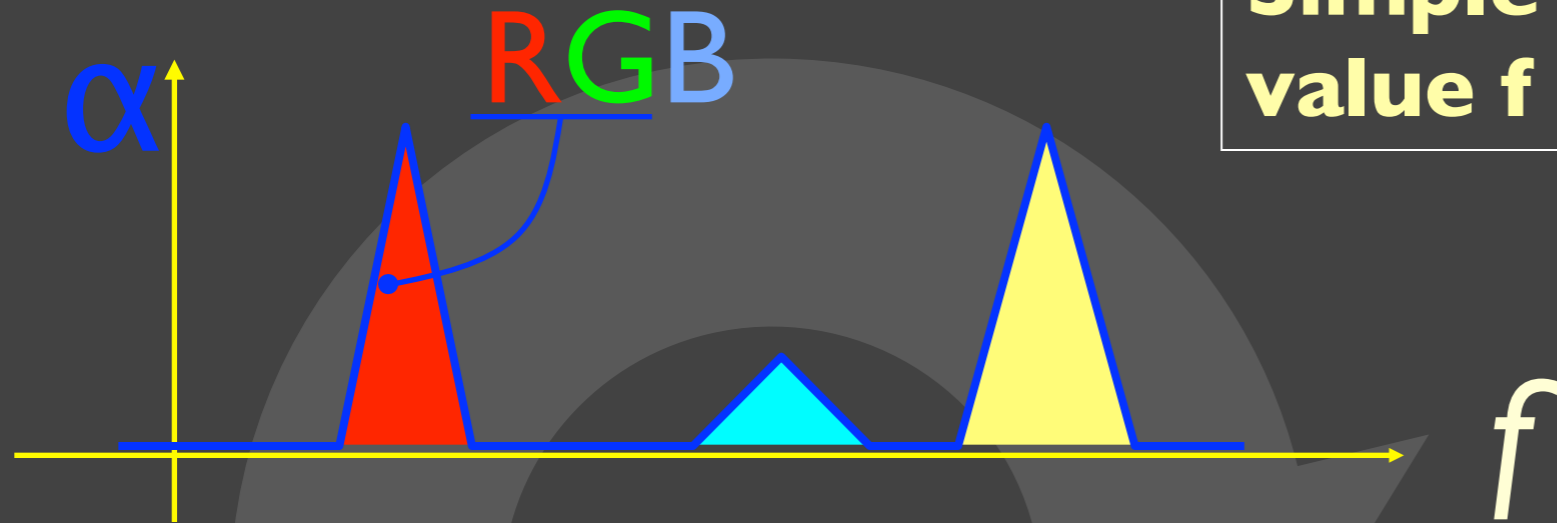
$\alpha$ ( $f$ )



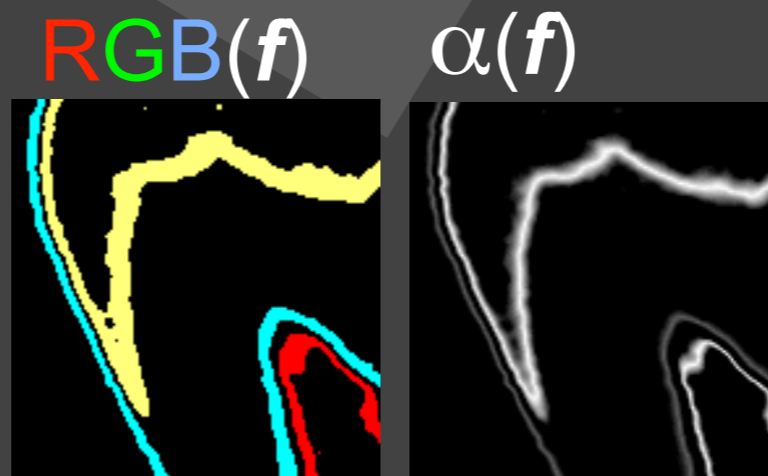


# Transfer Functions (TFs)

Simple (usual) case: Map data value  $f$  to color and opacity



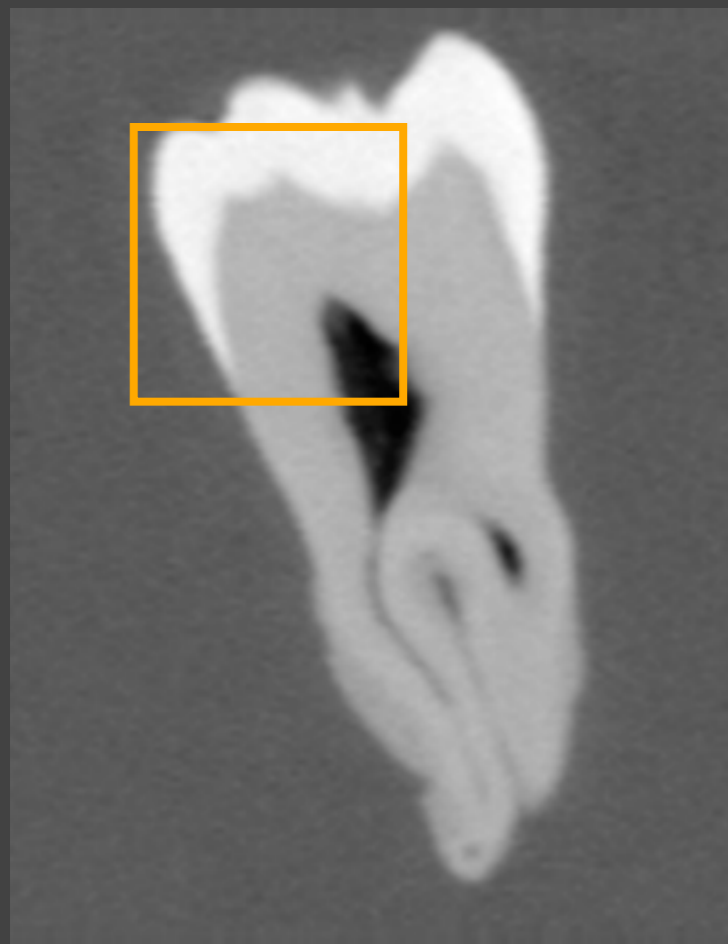
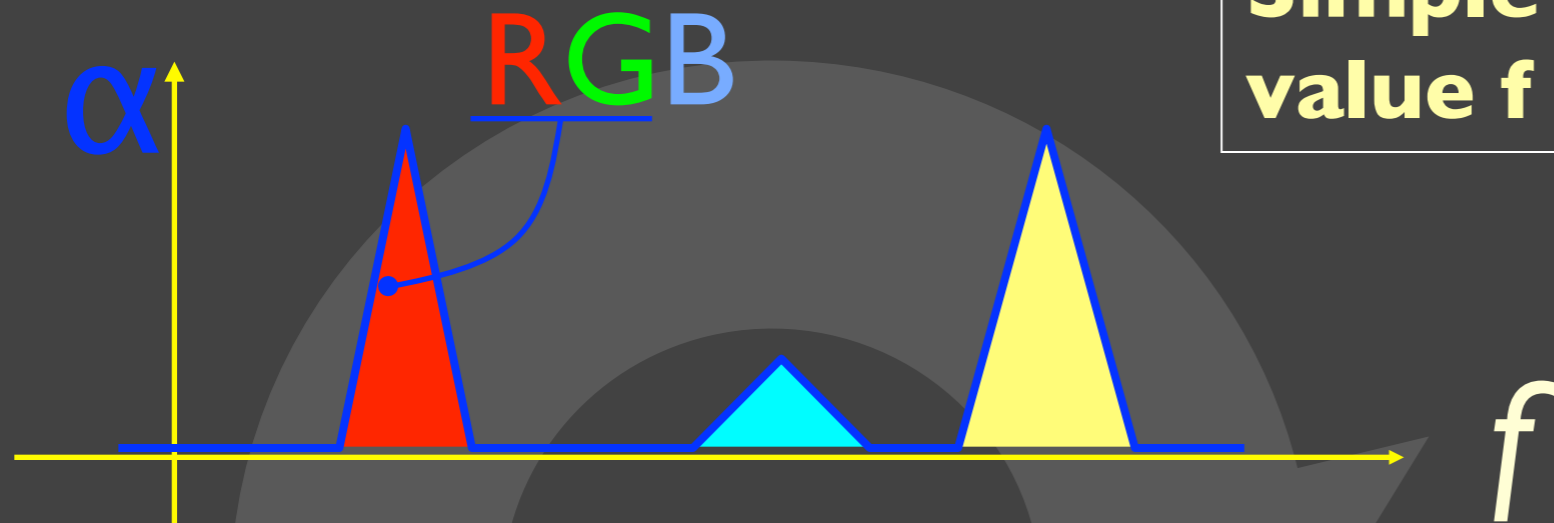
Human Tooth CT



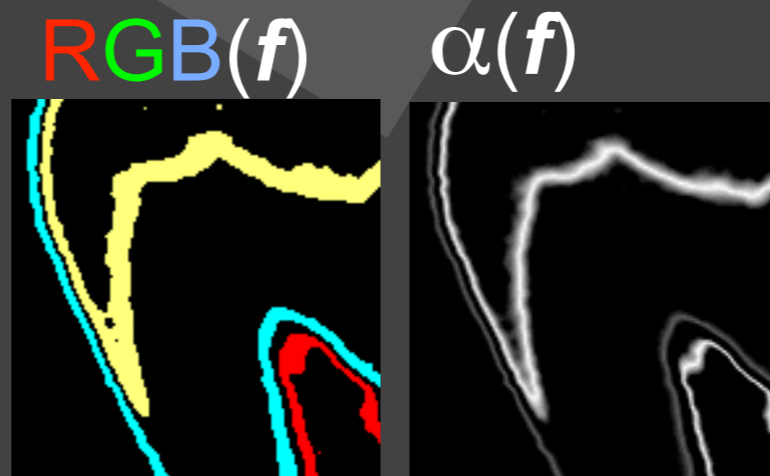
Shading,  
Compositing...

# Transfer Functions (TFs)

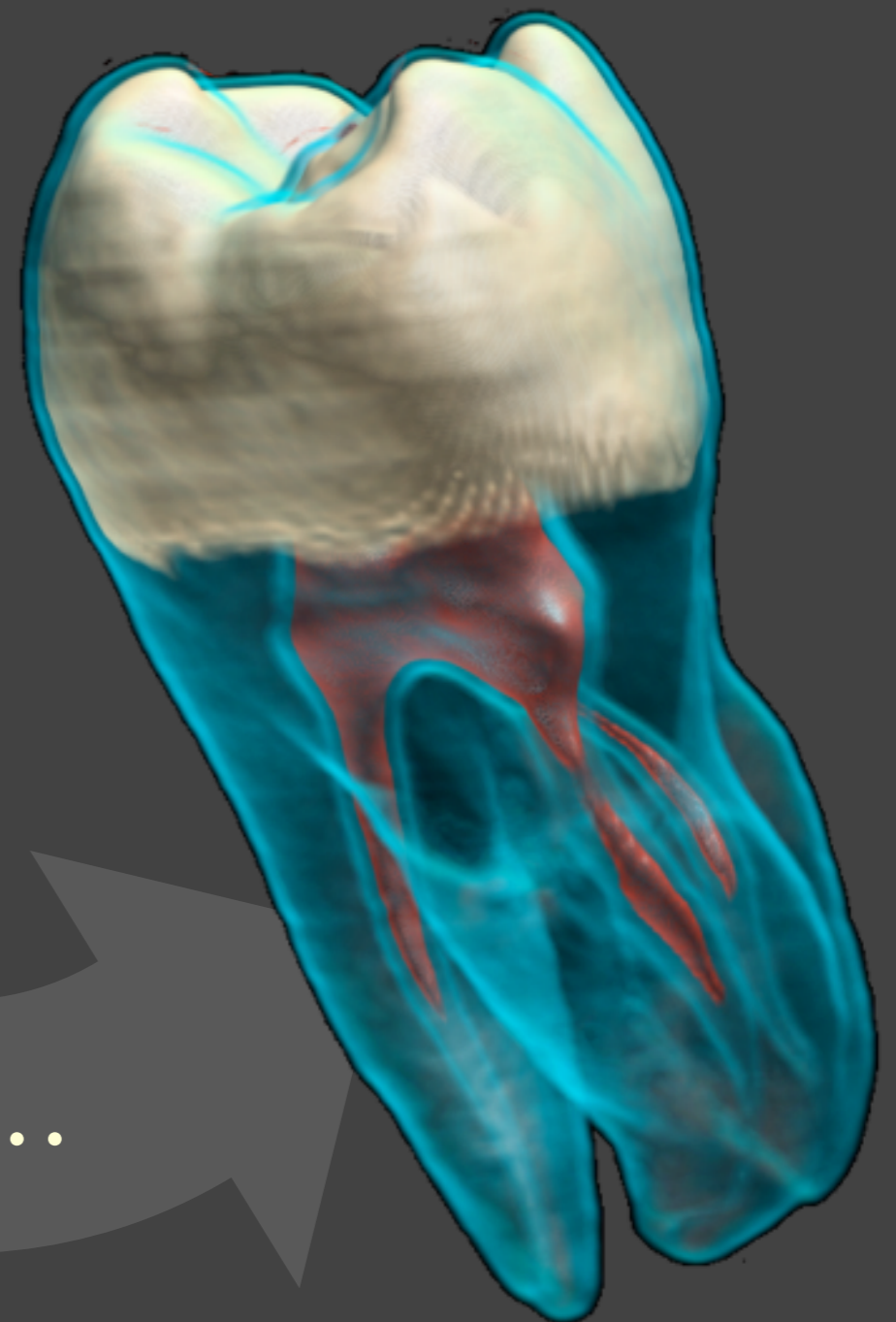
Simple (usual) case: Map data value  $f$  to color and opacity



Human Tooth CT

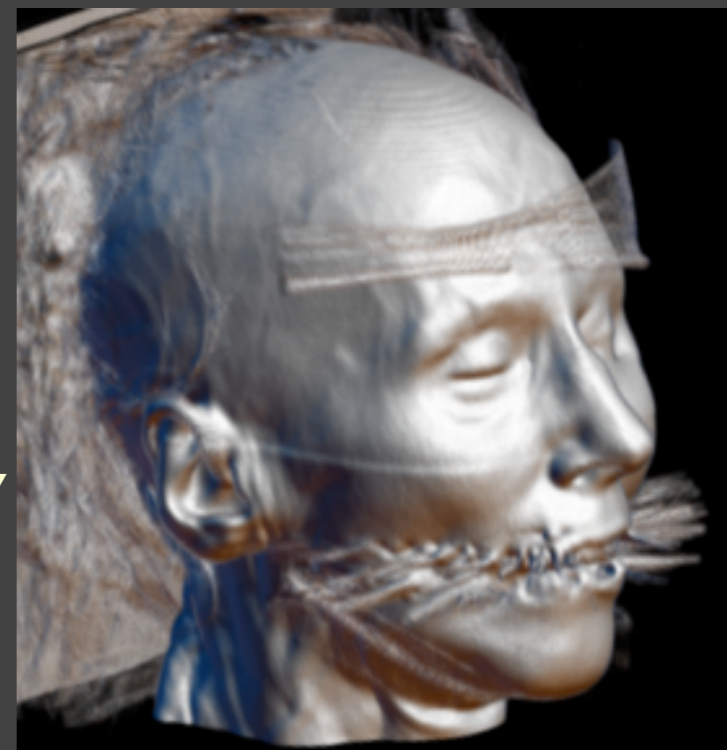
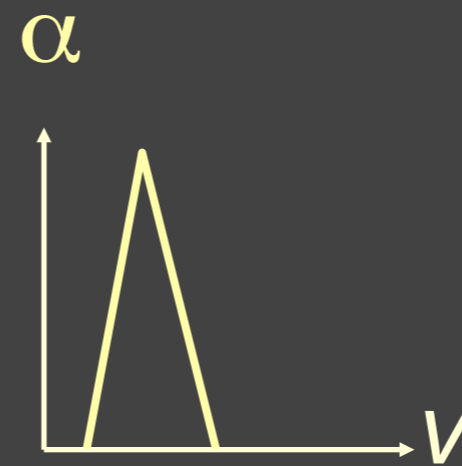
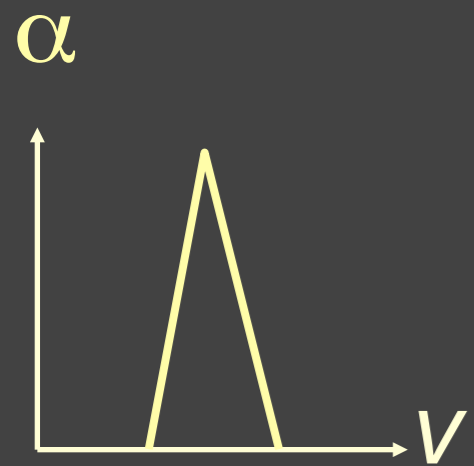
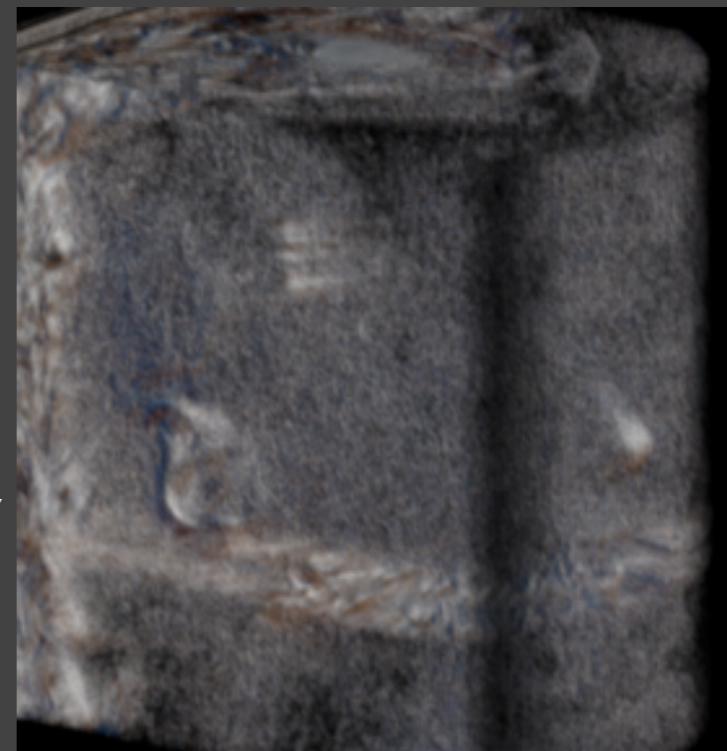
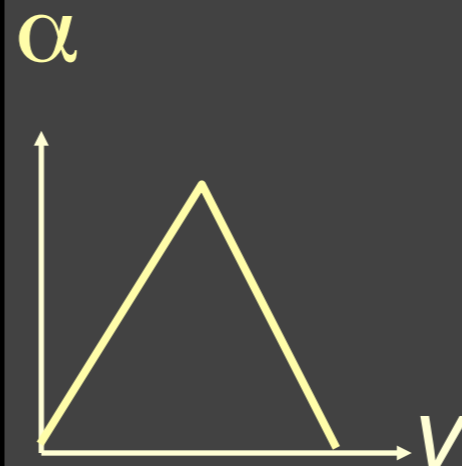
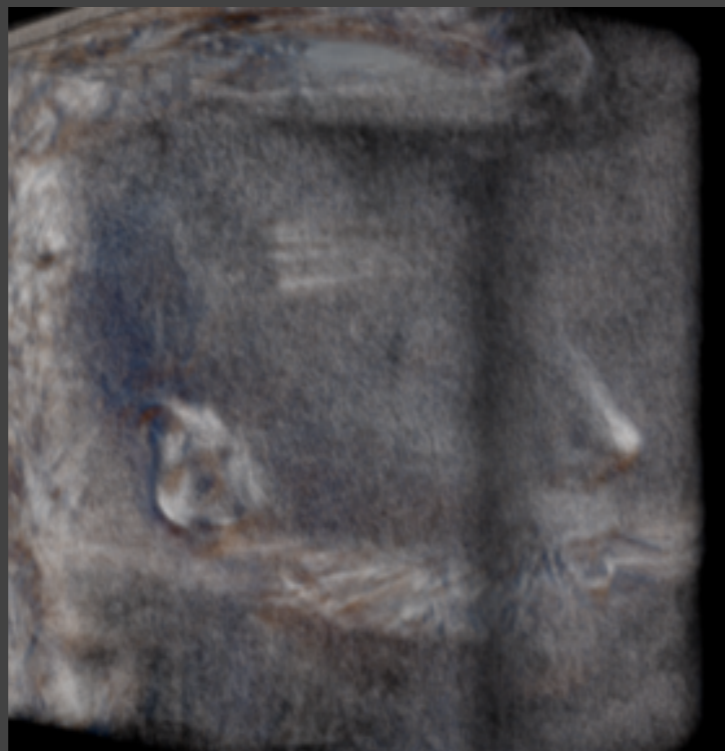
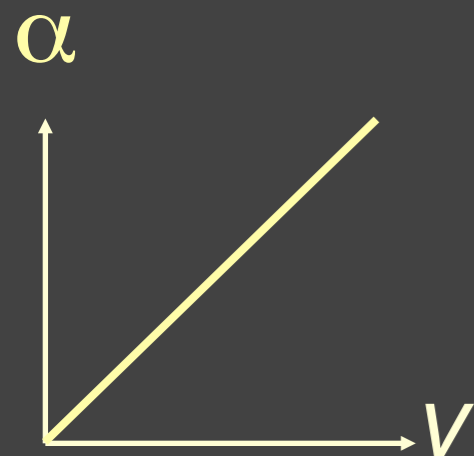


Shading,  
Compositing...



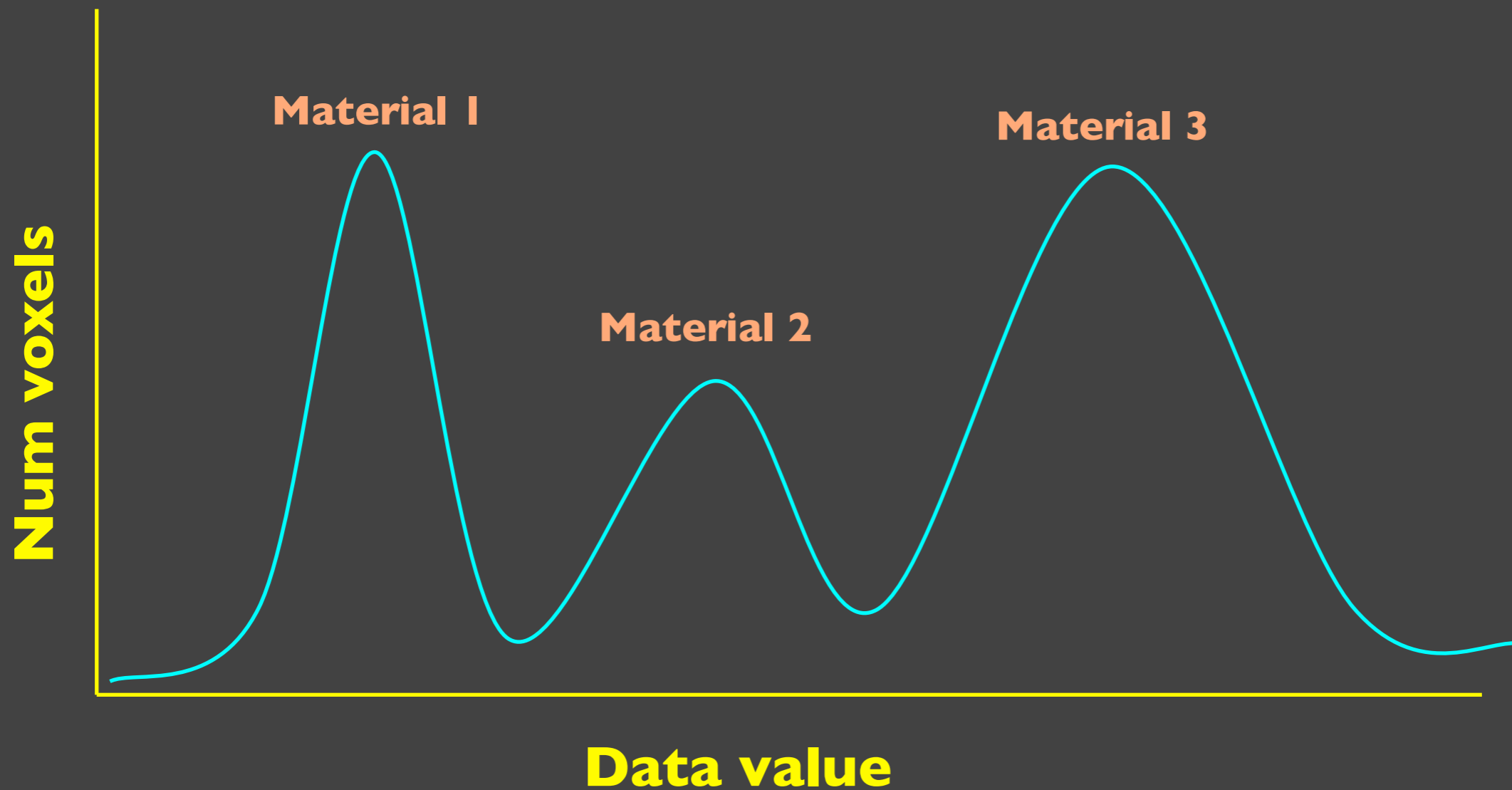
- **“Optical Properties”**: Anything that can be composited with a standard graphics operator (“over”)
  - Opacity: “opacity functions”
    - *Most important*
  - Color
    - *Can help distinguish features*
  - Phong parameters ( $k_a, k_d, k_s$ )
  - Index of refraction

# Setting Transfer Function: Hard



# Volumes as Consisting of Materials

## Grey-Level Histogram



# What Makes TF's Hard?

1. Non-spatial: spatial isolation doesn't imply data value isolation
2. Many degrees of freedom
3. No constraints or guidance
4. Material uniformity assumption

# Goals for TF Design

- Make good renderings easier to come by
- Make space of TFs less confusing
- Remove excess “flexibility”
- Provide one or more of:
  - Information
  - Guidance
  - Semi-automation / Automation

# TF Techniques/Tools

**1. Trial and Error (manual)**

2. Image-Centric Approach

3. Data-Centric Approach



# DEMOS: 1D TRANSFER FUNCTION

# I. Trial and Error

- Manually edit graph of transfer function
- Enforces learning by experience
- Get better with practice
- Can make terrific images



William Schroeder, Lisa Sobierajski Avila, and Ken Martin; Transfer Function Bake-off Vis '00

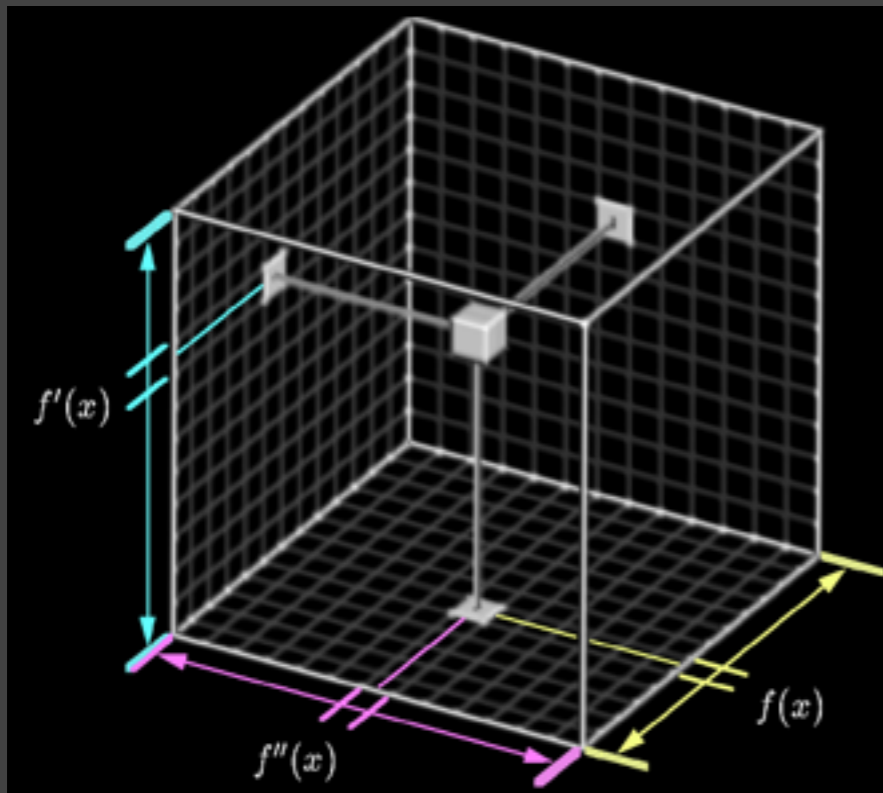
# TF Techniques/Tools

1. Trial and Error (manual)
- 2. Image-Centric Approach**
3. Data-Centric Approach

## 2. Use derivatives

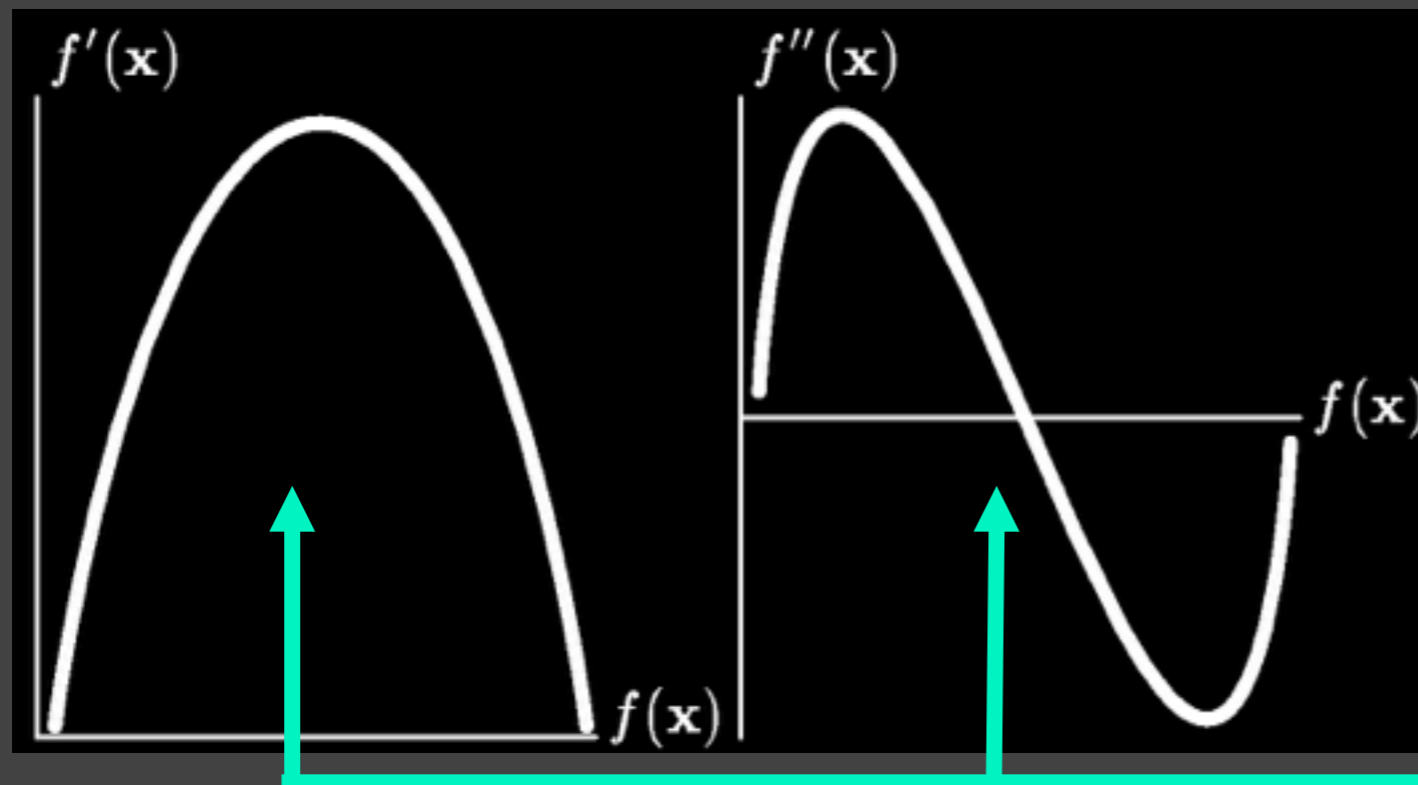
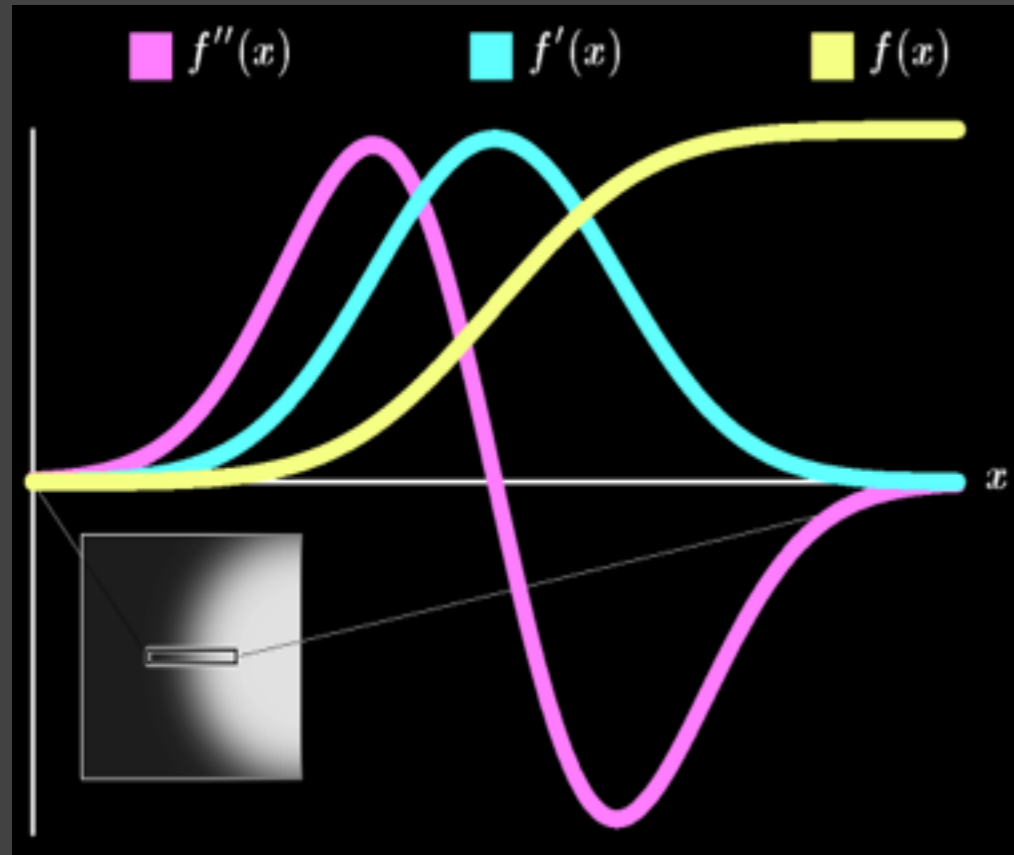
Reasoning:

- TFs are volume-position invariant
  - Histograms “project out” position
  - Interested in boundaries between materials
  - Boundaries characterized by derivatives
- Make 3D histograms of value, 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup> deriv.



By (1) **inspecting** and  
(2) algorithmically **analyzing**  
histogram volume, we can  
create transfer functions

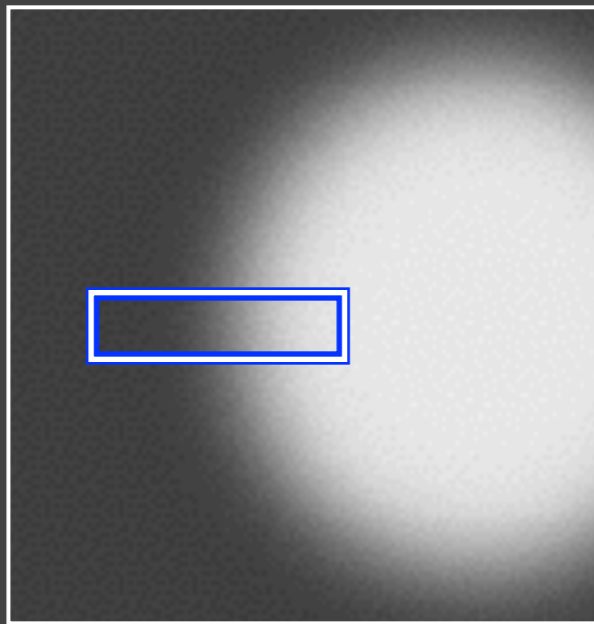
# Derivative relationships



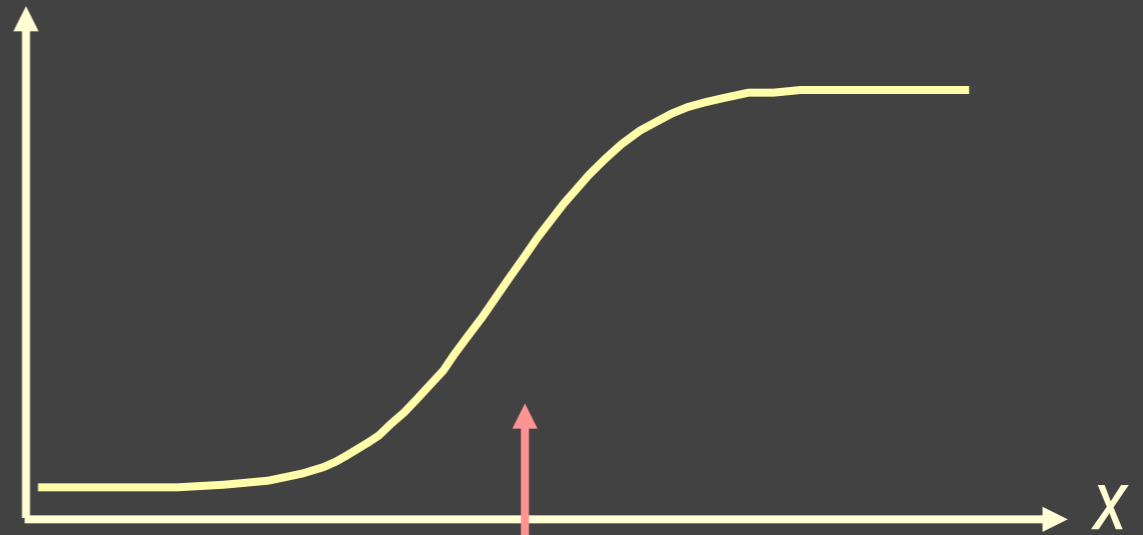
Edges at maximum  
of 1<sup>st</sup> derivative or  
zero-crossing of 2<sup>nd</sup>

# Finding edges: easy

“Where’s the edge?”



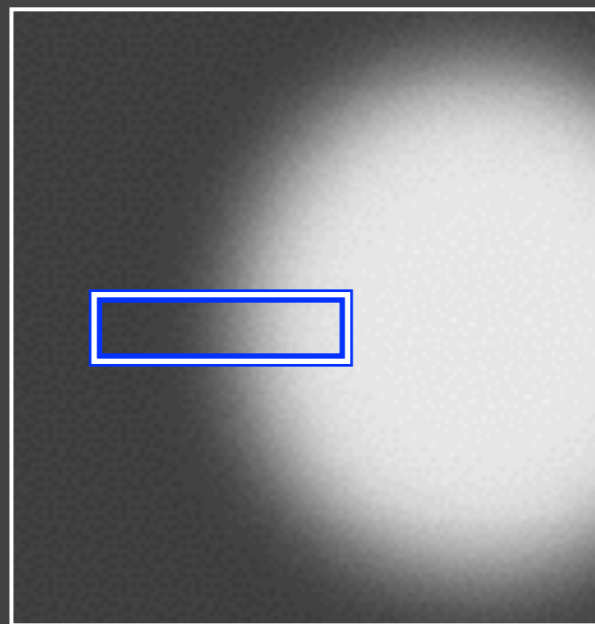
$$v = f(x)$$



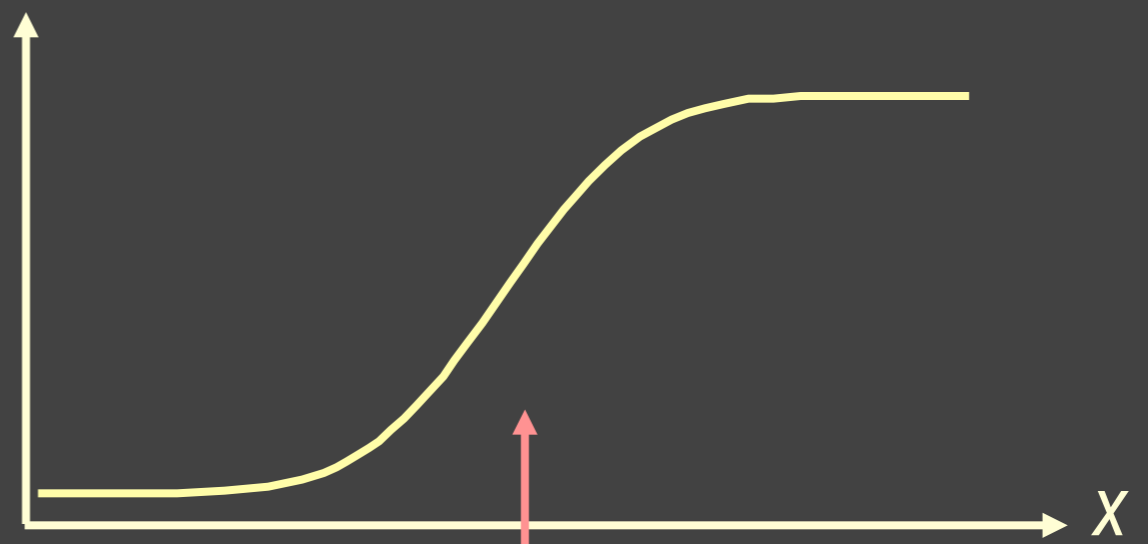
“ here’s the edge ”

# Finding edges: easy

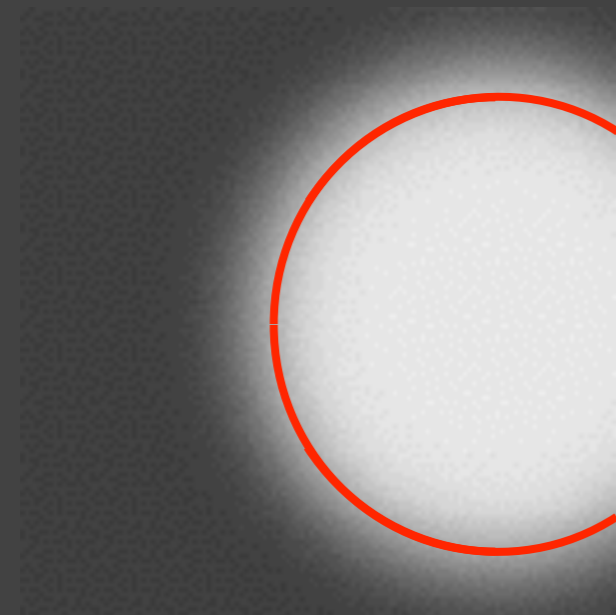
“Where’s the edge?”



$$v = f(x)$$



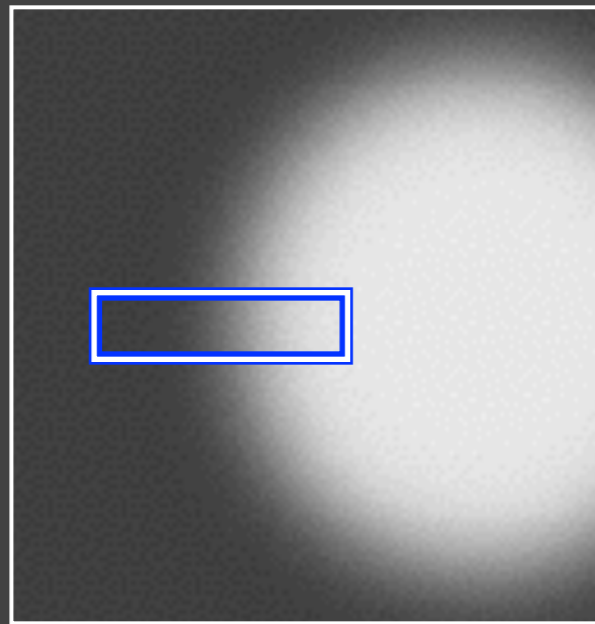
“ here’s the edge ”



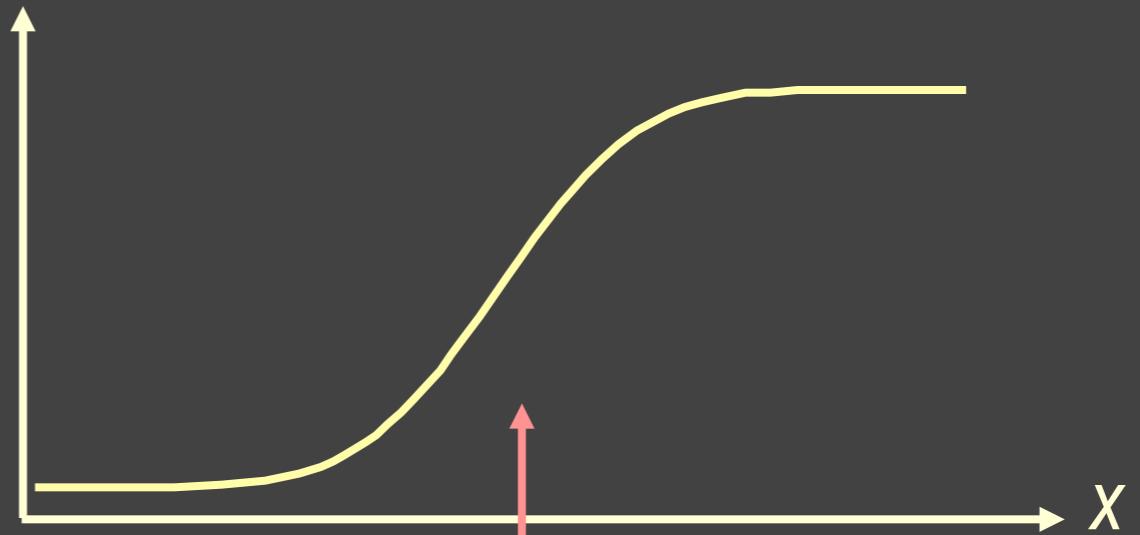
Result: edge pixels

# Finding edges: easy

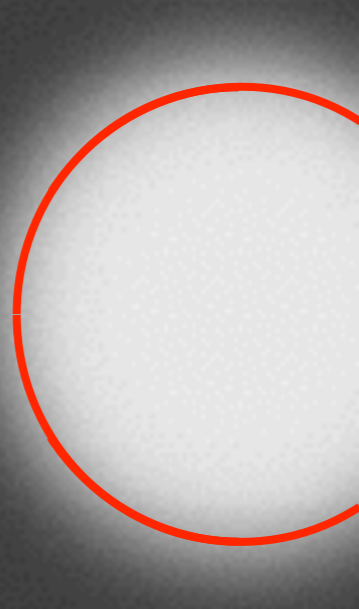
“Where’s the edge?”



$$v = f(x)$$



“ here’s the edge ”

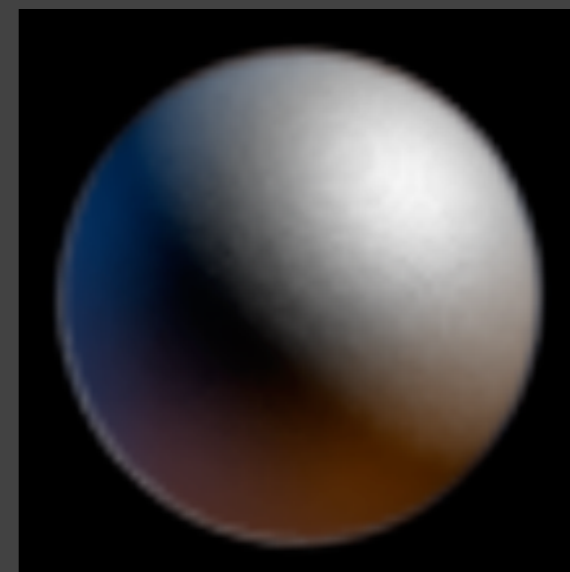
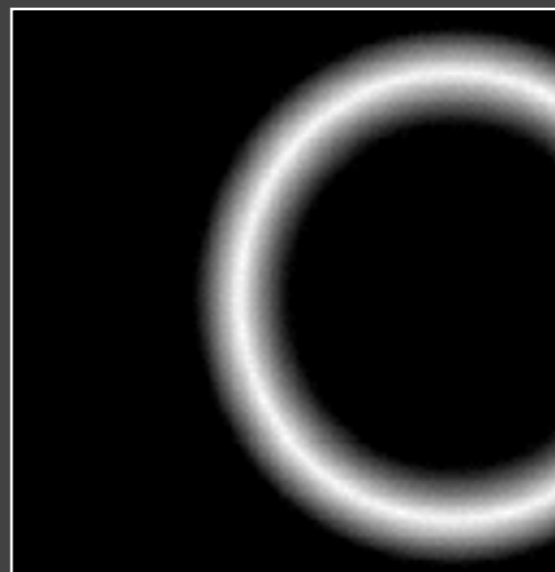
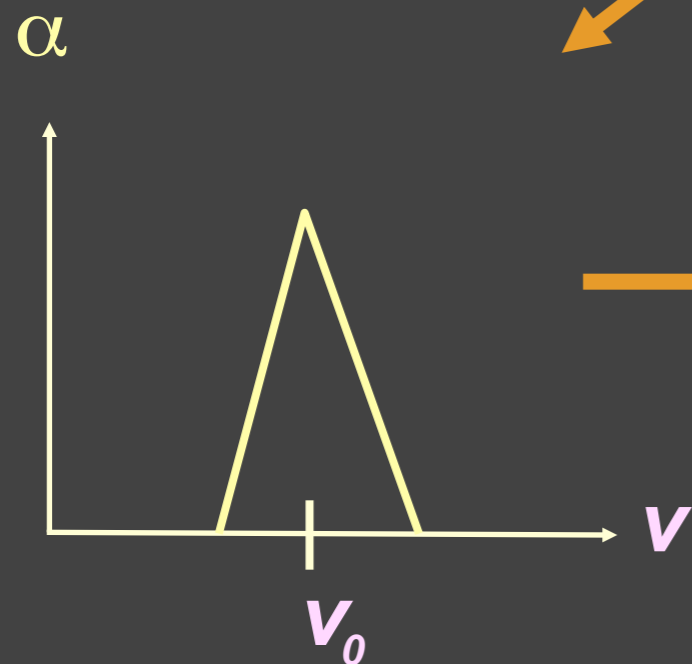
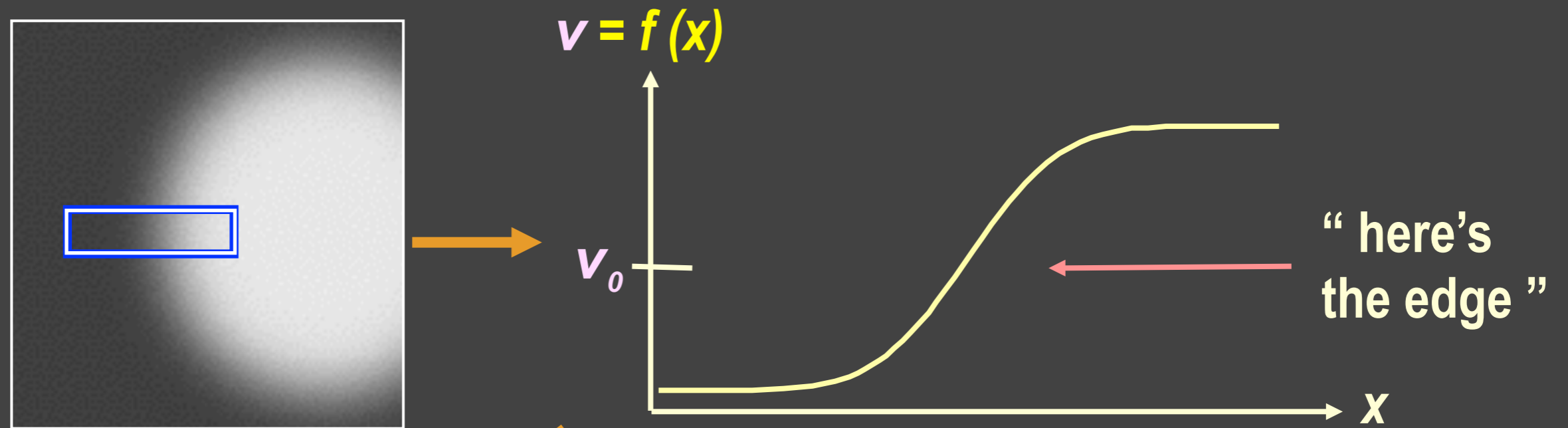


Result: edge pixels





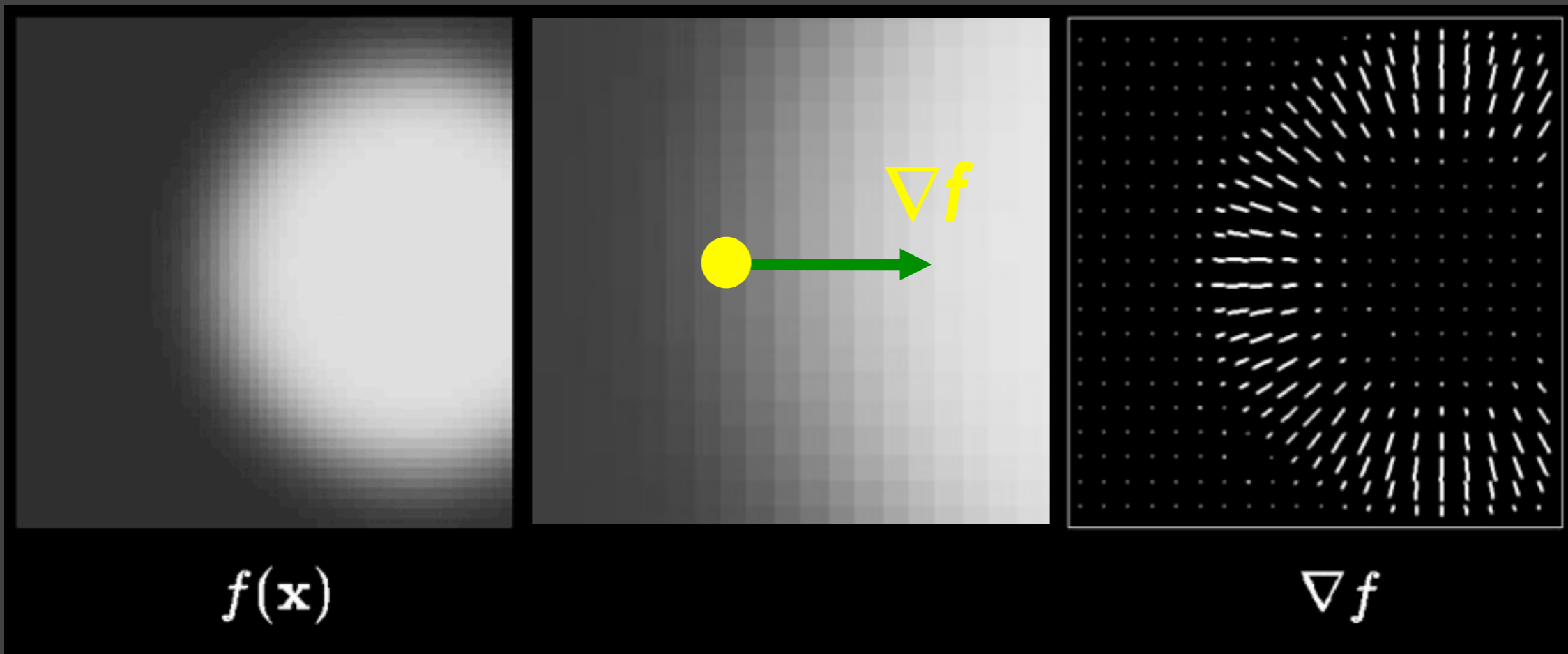
# Transfer function Unintuitive



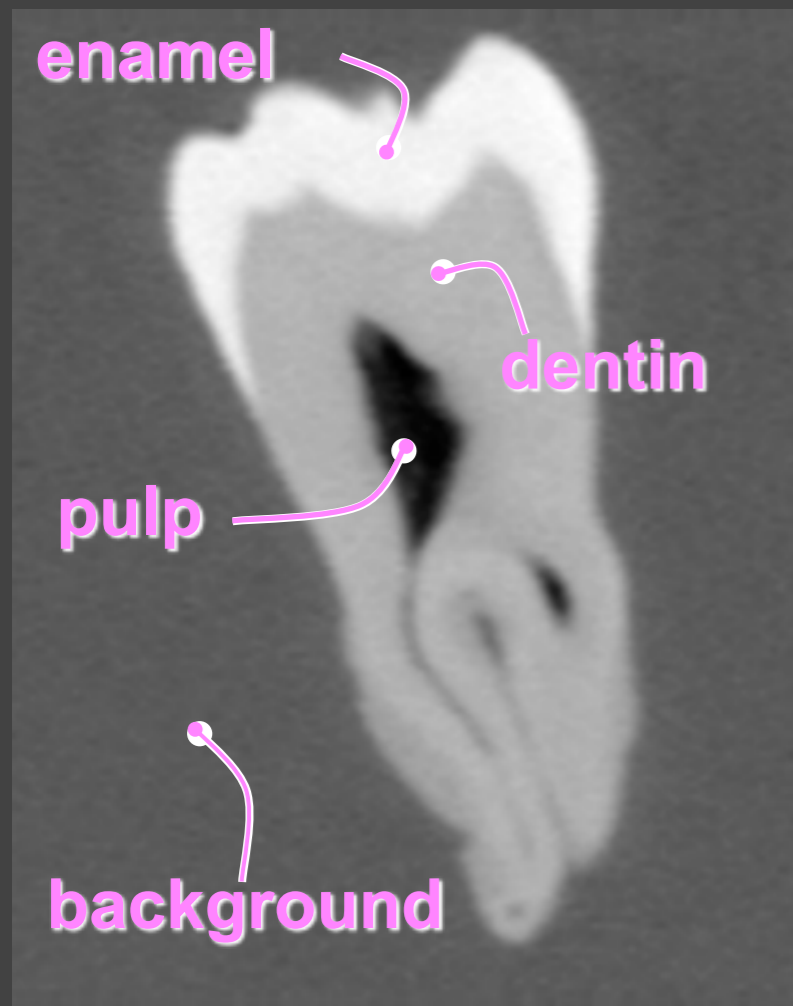
# Gradient

$$\begin{aligned}\nabla f &= (dx, dy, dz) \\ &= \left( \frac{f(1,0,0) - f(-1,0,0)}{2}, \right. \\ &\quad \left. \frac{f(0,1,0) - f(0,-1,0)}{2}, \right. \\ &\quad \left. \frac{f(0,0,1) - f(0,0,-1)}{2} \right)\end{aligned}$$

- Approximates "surface normal" (of isosurface)



# 1D TFs: limitation

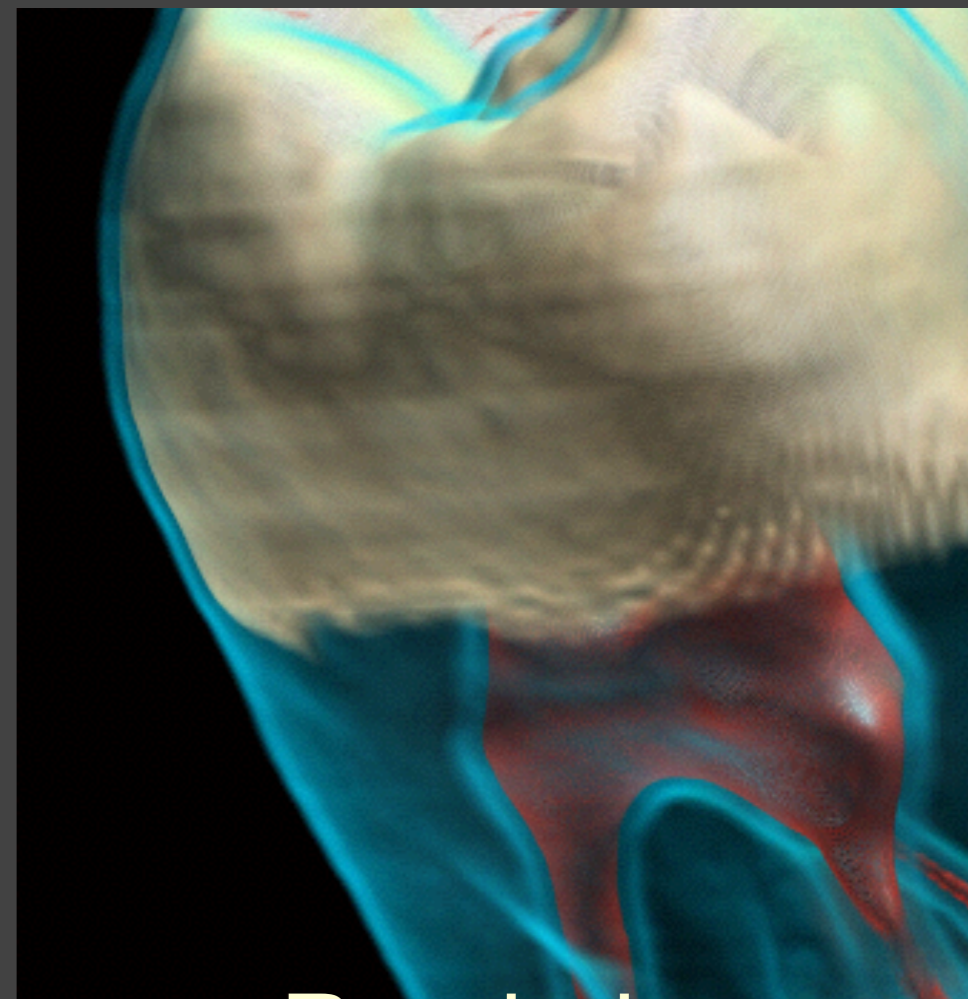


Slice

RGB( $f$ )



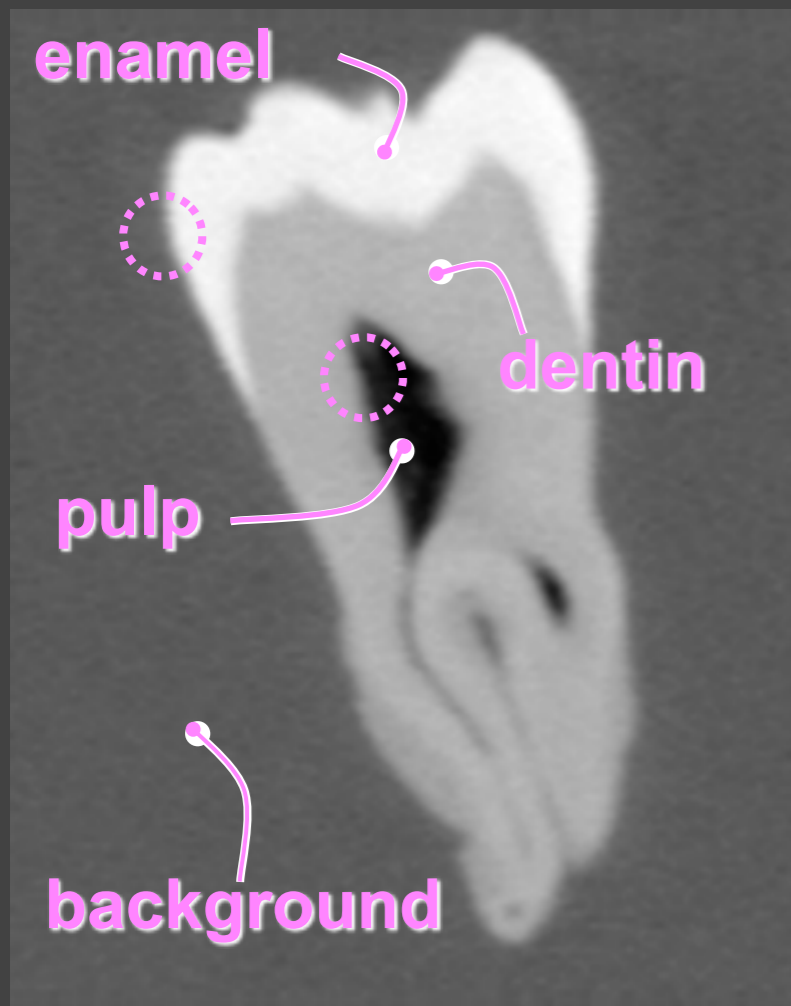
1D TF output



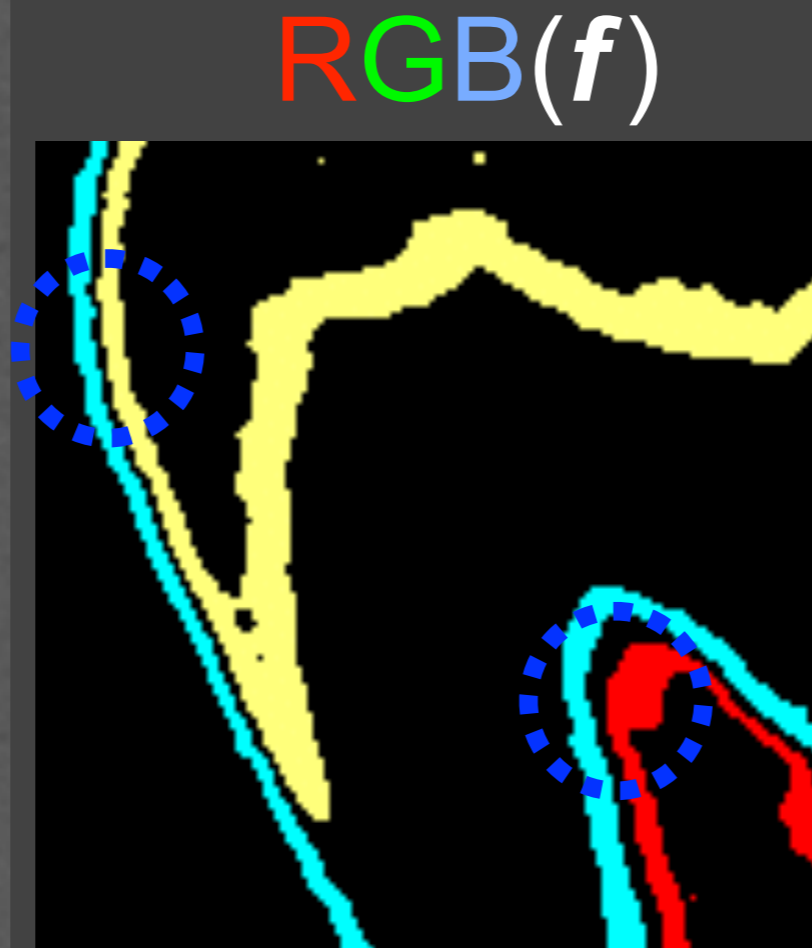
Rendering

**1D transfer functions can not accurately capture all material boundaries**

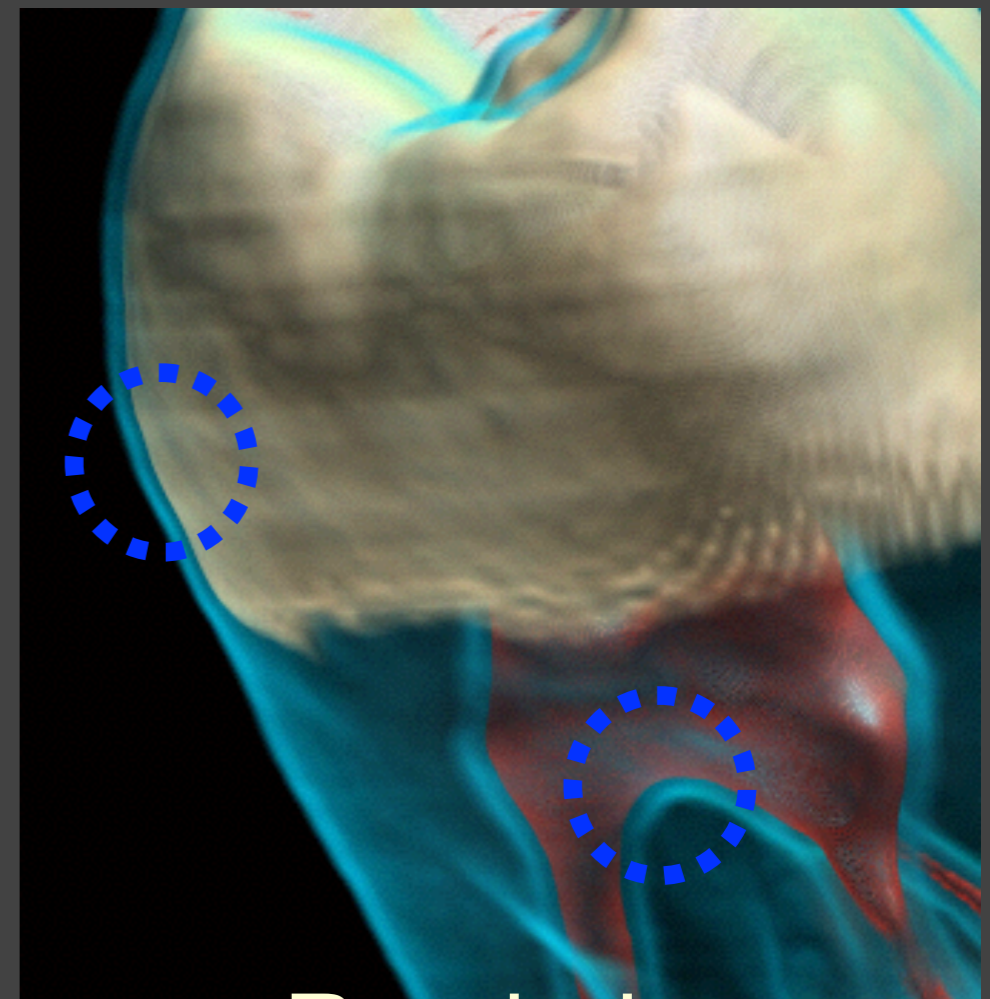
# 1D TFs: limitation



Slice



1D TF output



Rendering

**1D transfer functions can not accurately capture all material boundaries**

# 1D $\rightarrow$ 2D Transfer Function



$\text{RGB}(f)$   
 $\alpha(f)$  } Generalize...



# 1D $\rightarrow$ 2D Transfer Function



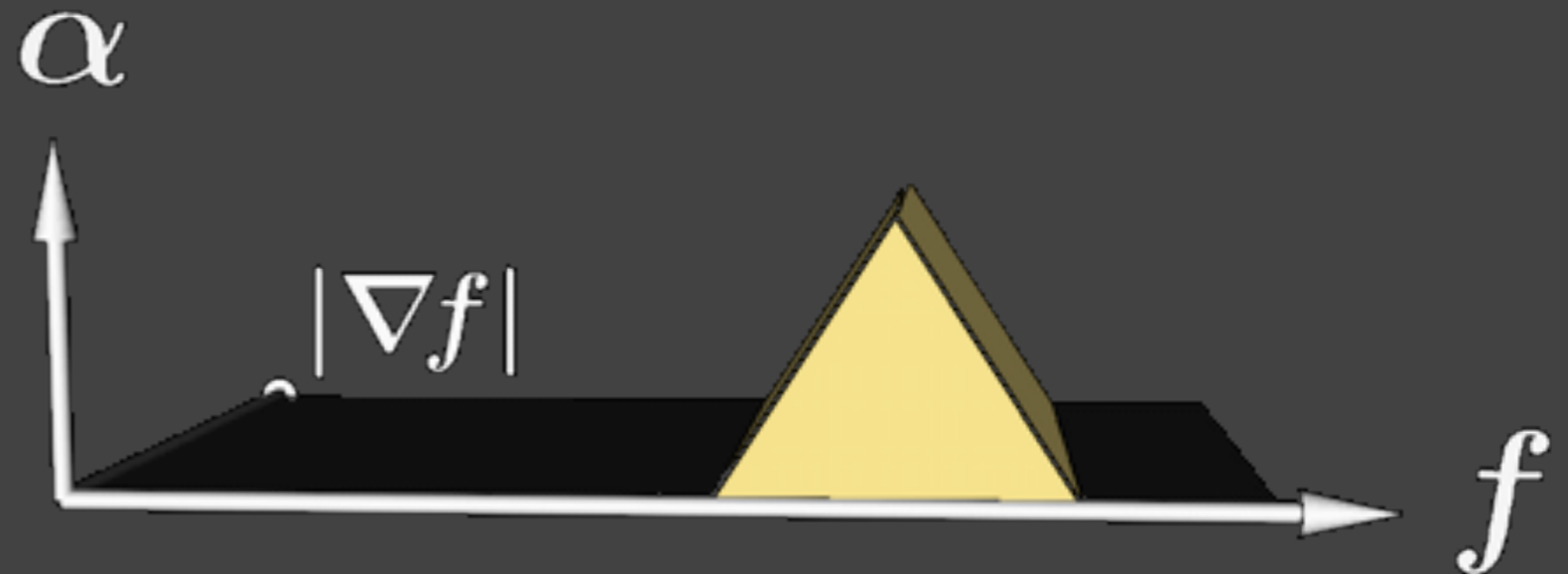
$\text{RGB}(f)$   
 $\alpha(f)$  } Generalize...



# 1D $\rightarrow$ 2D Transfer Function



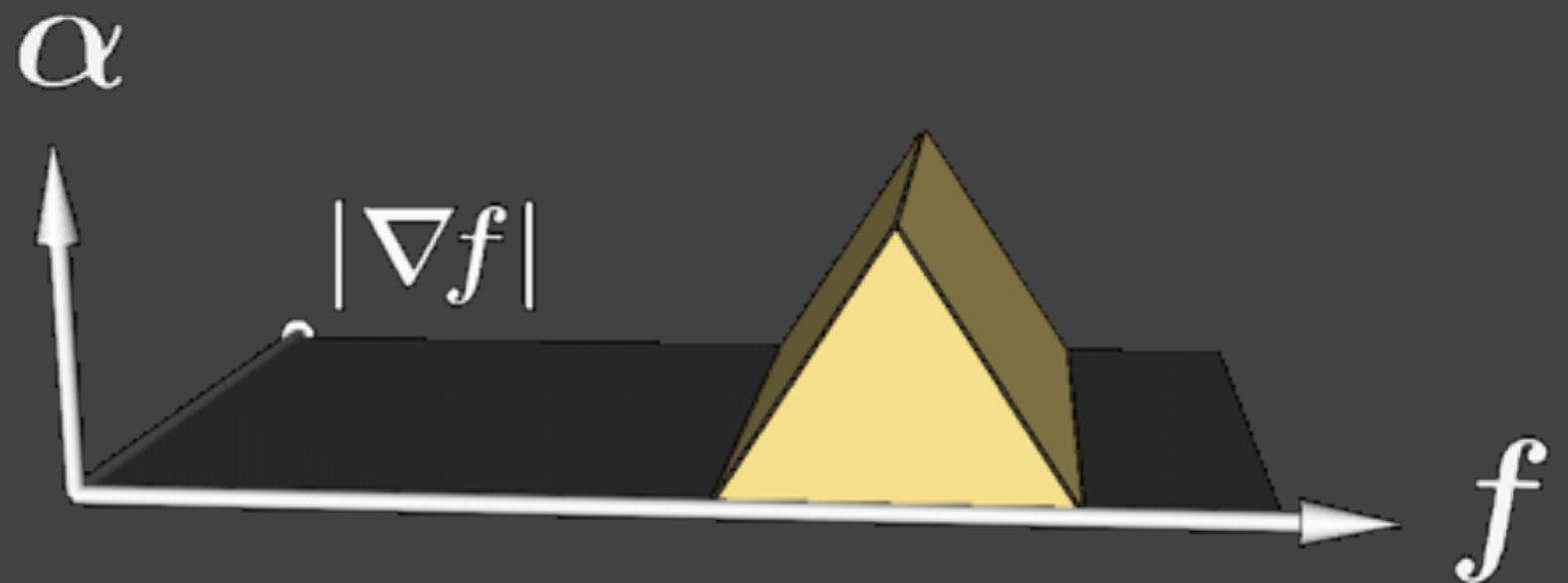
$\text{RGB}(f)$   
 $\alpha(f)$  } Generalize...



# 1D $\rightarrow$ 2D Transfer Function



$\text{RGB}(f)$   
 $\alpha(f)$  } Generalize...

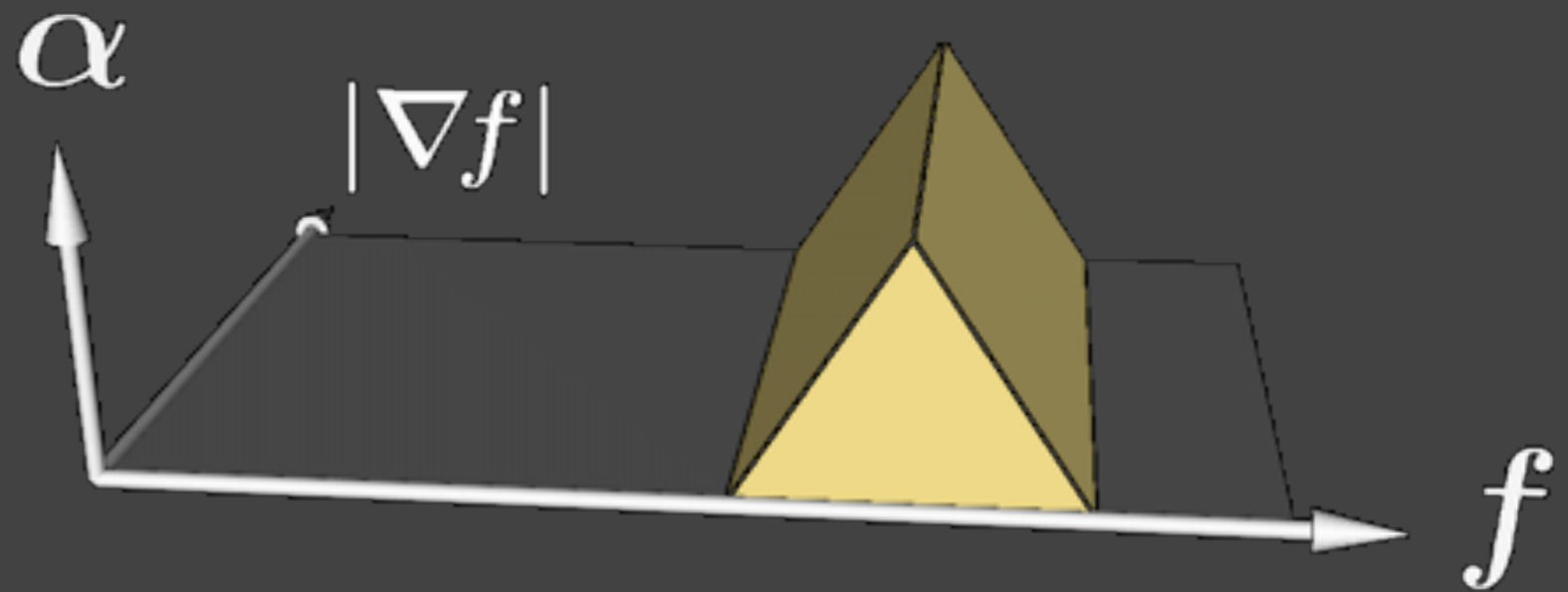




# 1D $\rightarrow$ 2D Transfer Function



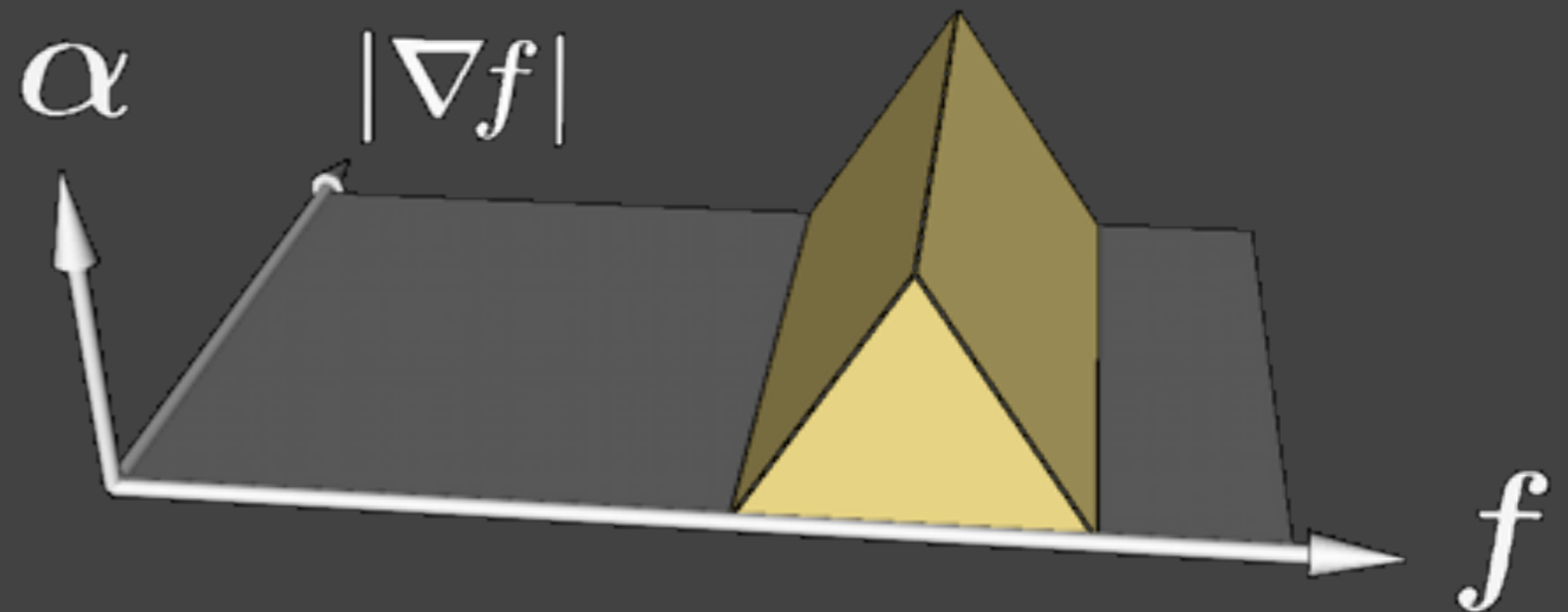
$\text{RGB}(f)$   
 $\alpha(f)$  } Generalize...



# 1D $\rightarrow$ 2D Transfer Function



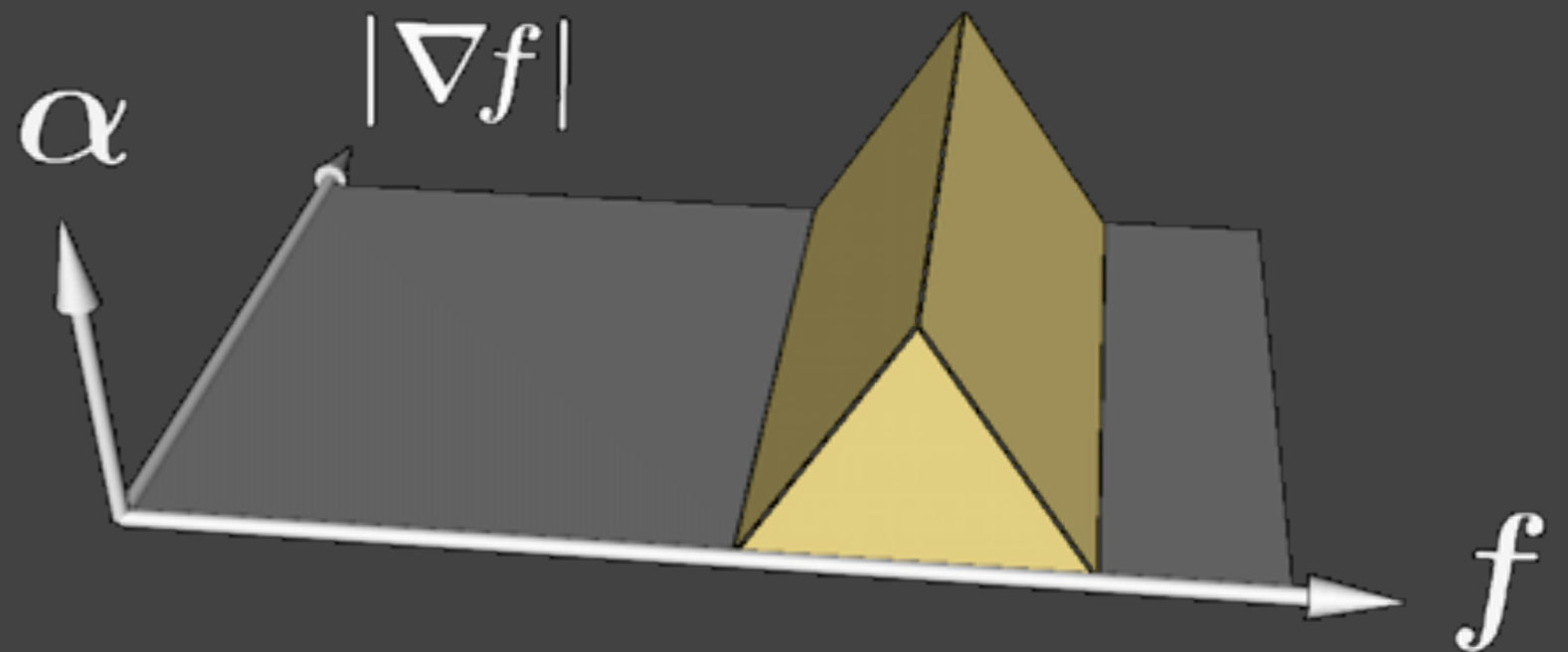
$\text{RGB}(f)$   
 $\alpha(f)$  } Generalize...



# 2D Transfer Function



$RGB(f)$   
 $\alpha(f)$  } Generalize...

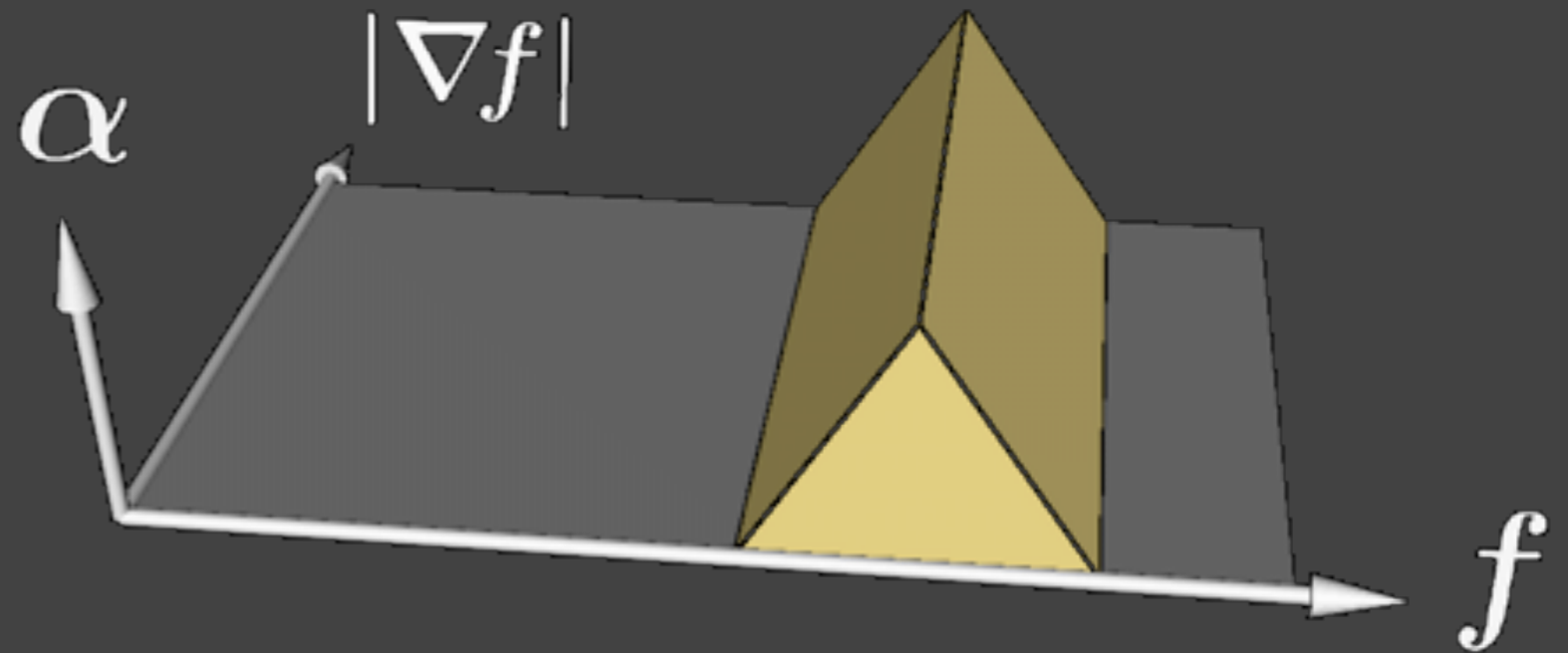


$\Rightarrow RGB(f, |\nabla f|)$   
 $\alpha(f, |\nabla f|)$

# 2D Transfer Function



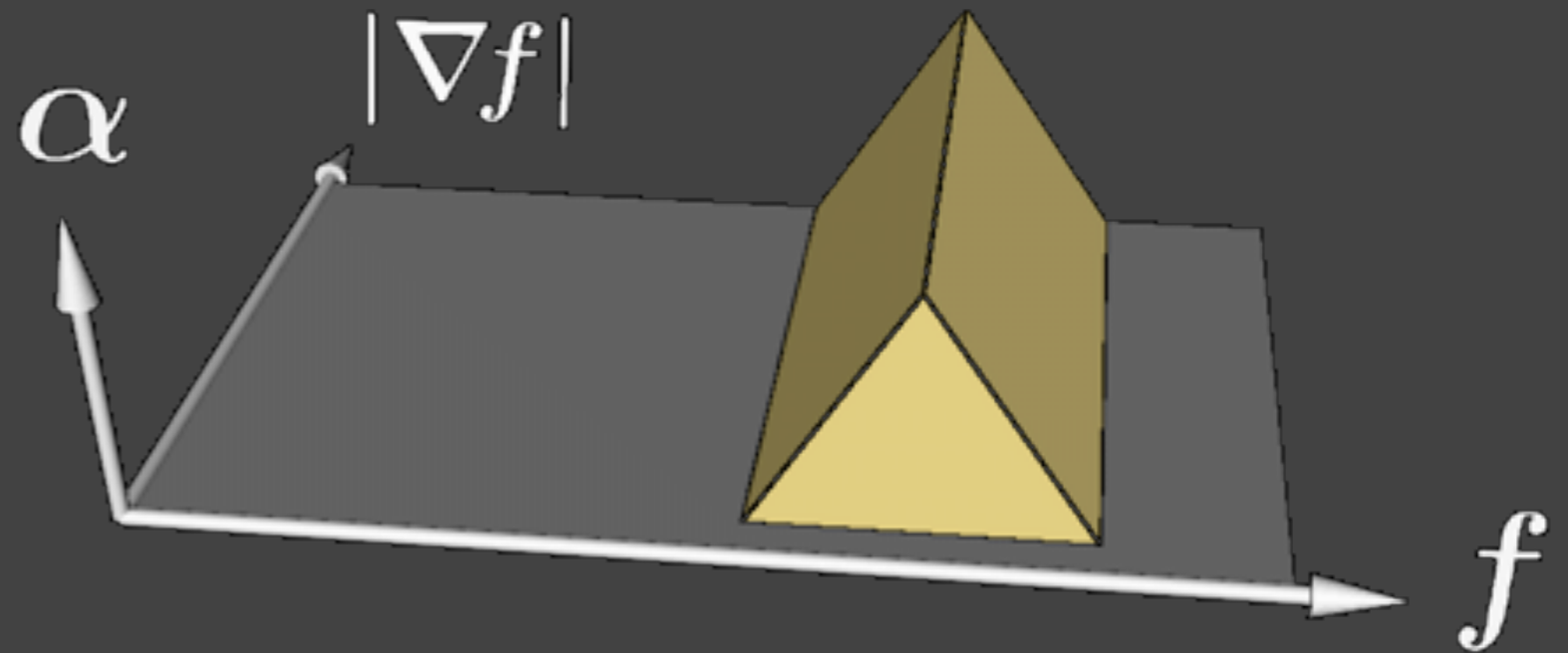
$$\left. \begin{array}{l} \text{RGB}(f, |\nabla f|) \\ \alpha(f, |\nabla f|) \end{array} \right\} \text{Modify...}$$



# 2D Transfer Function



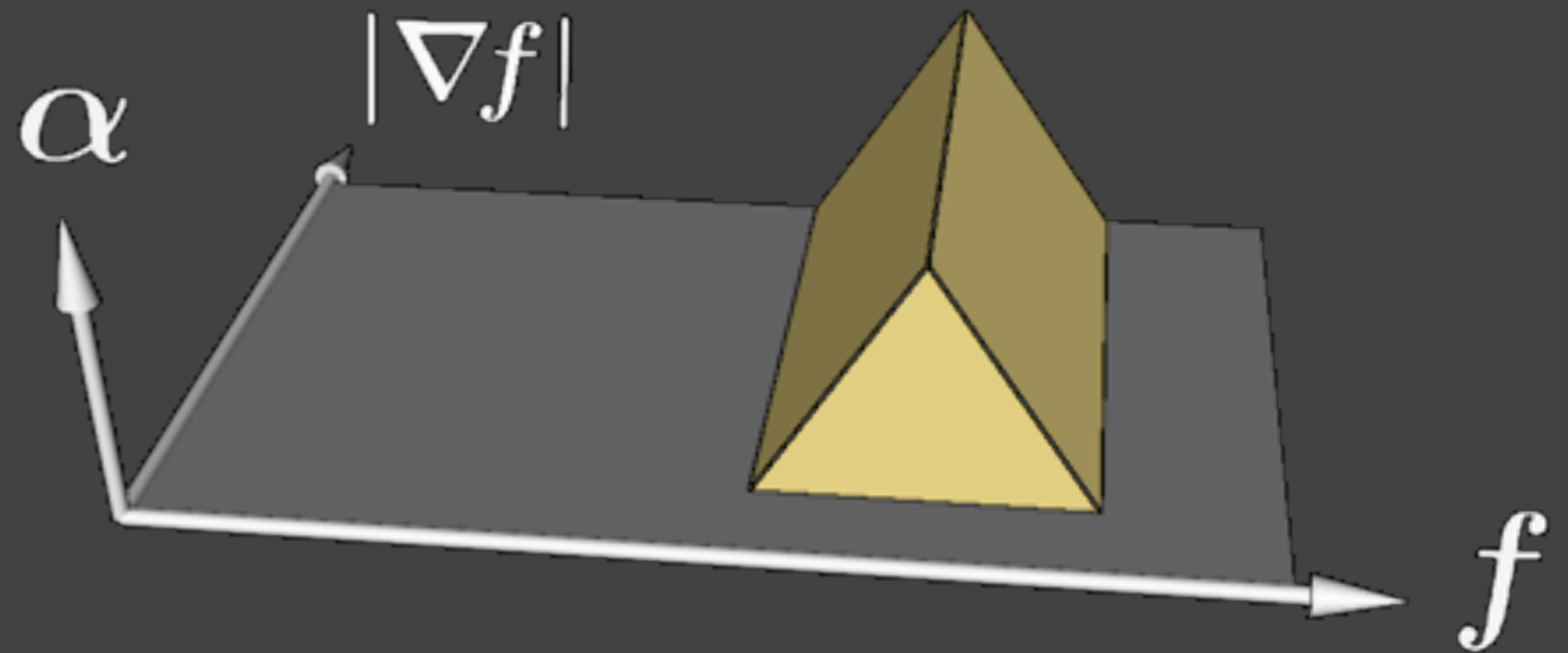
$$\left. \begin{array}{l} \text{RGB}(f, |\nabla f|) \\ \alpha(f, |\nabla f|) \end{array} \right\} \text{Modify...}$$



# 2D Transfer Function



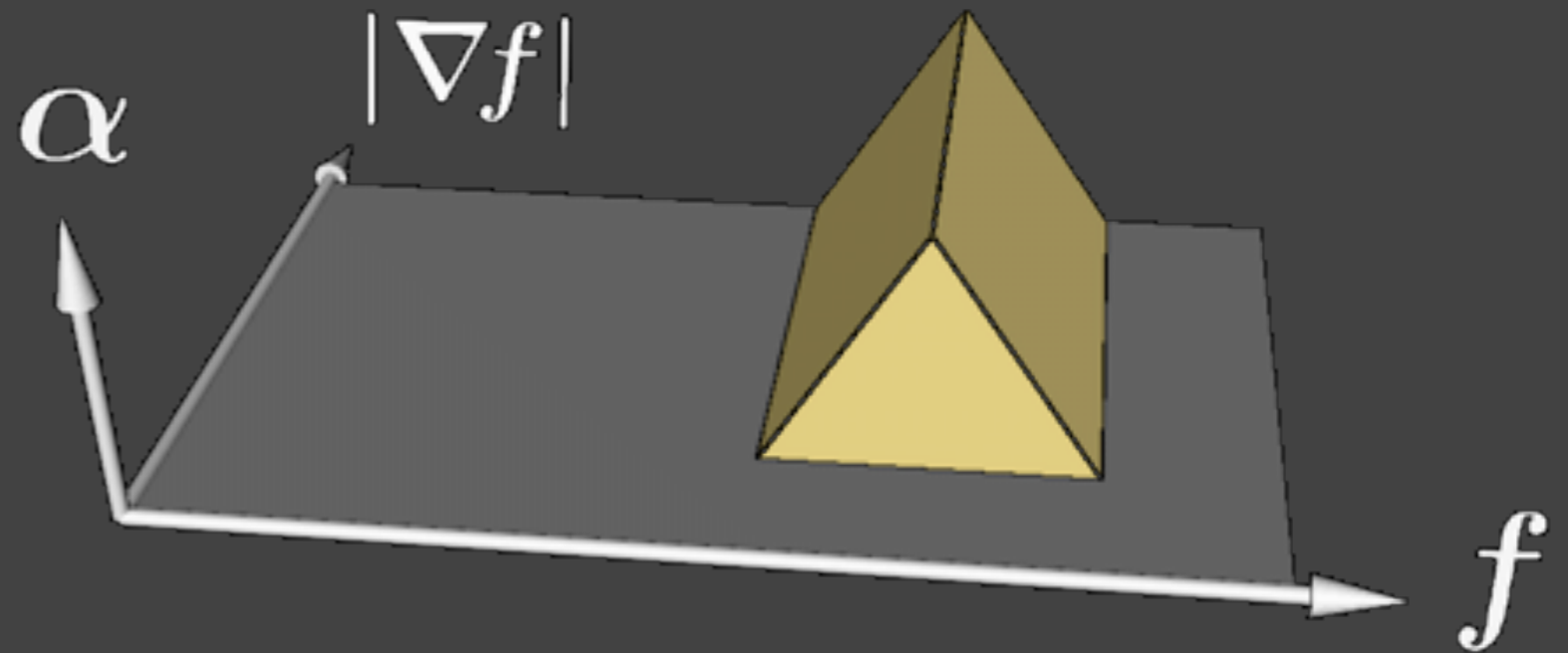
$$\left. \begin{array}{l} \text{RGB}(f, |\nabla f|) \\ \alpha(f, |\nabla f|) \end{array} \right\} \text{Modify...}$$



# 2D Transfer Function



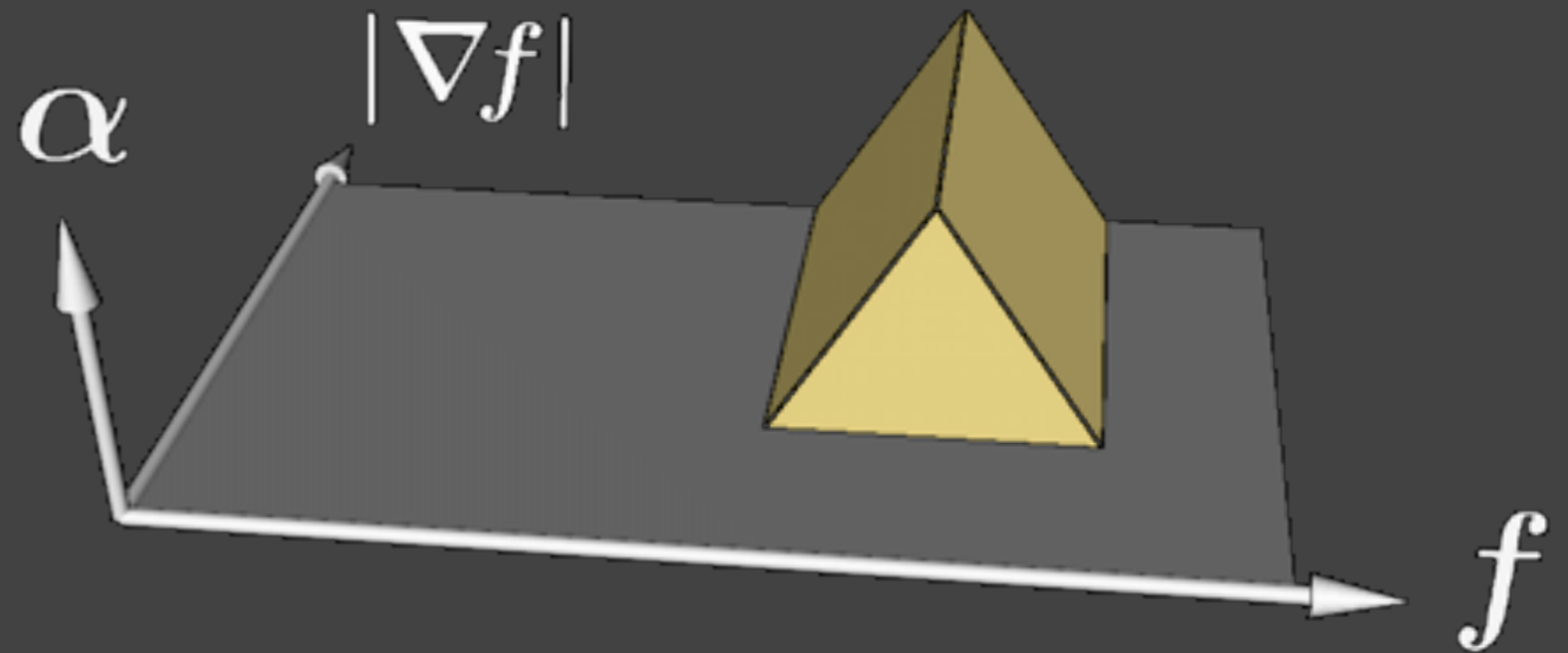
$$\left. \begin{array}{l} \text{RGB}(f, |\nabla f|) \\ \alpha(f, |\nabla f|) \end{array} \right\} \text{Modify...}$$



# 2D Transfer Function



$$\left. \begin{array}{l} \text{RGB}(f, |\nabla f|) \\ \alpha(f, |\nabla f|) \end{array} \right\} \text{Modify...}$$

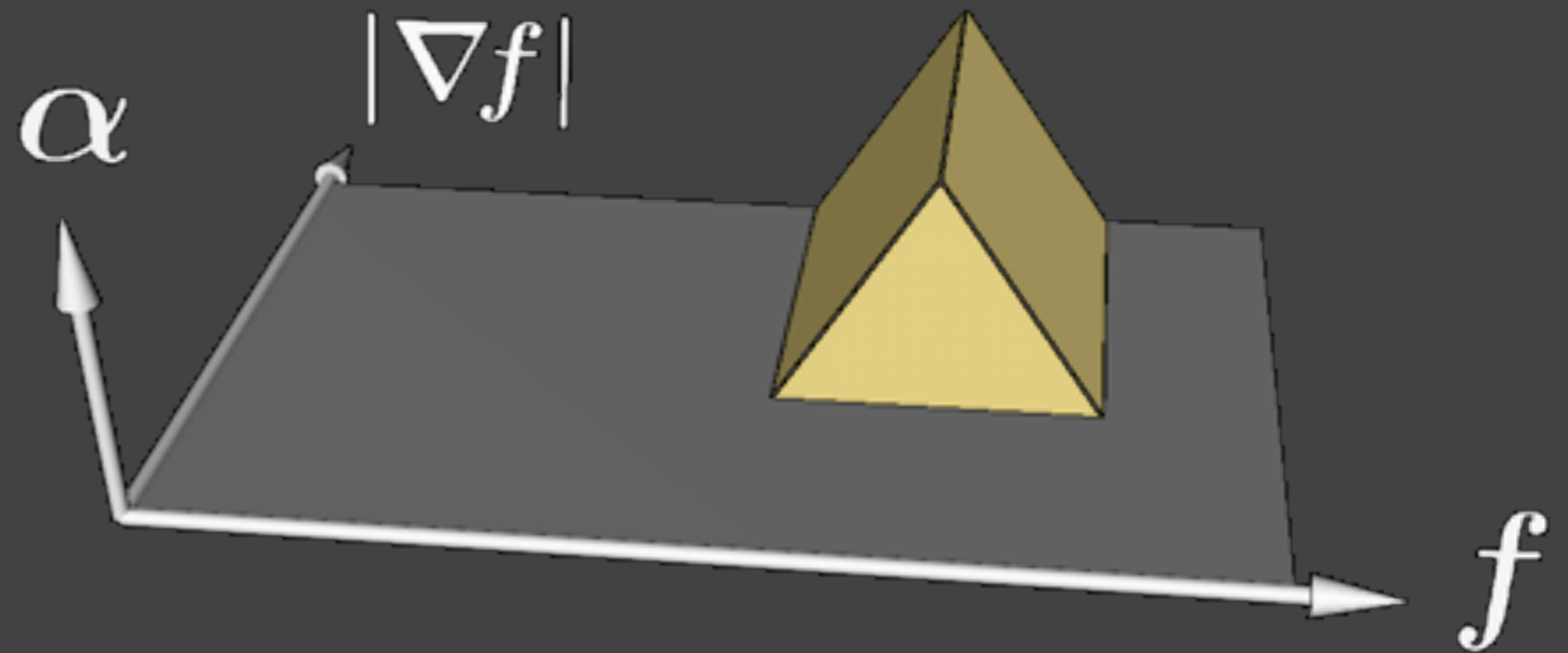




# 2D Transfer Function



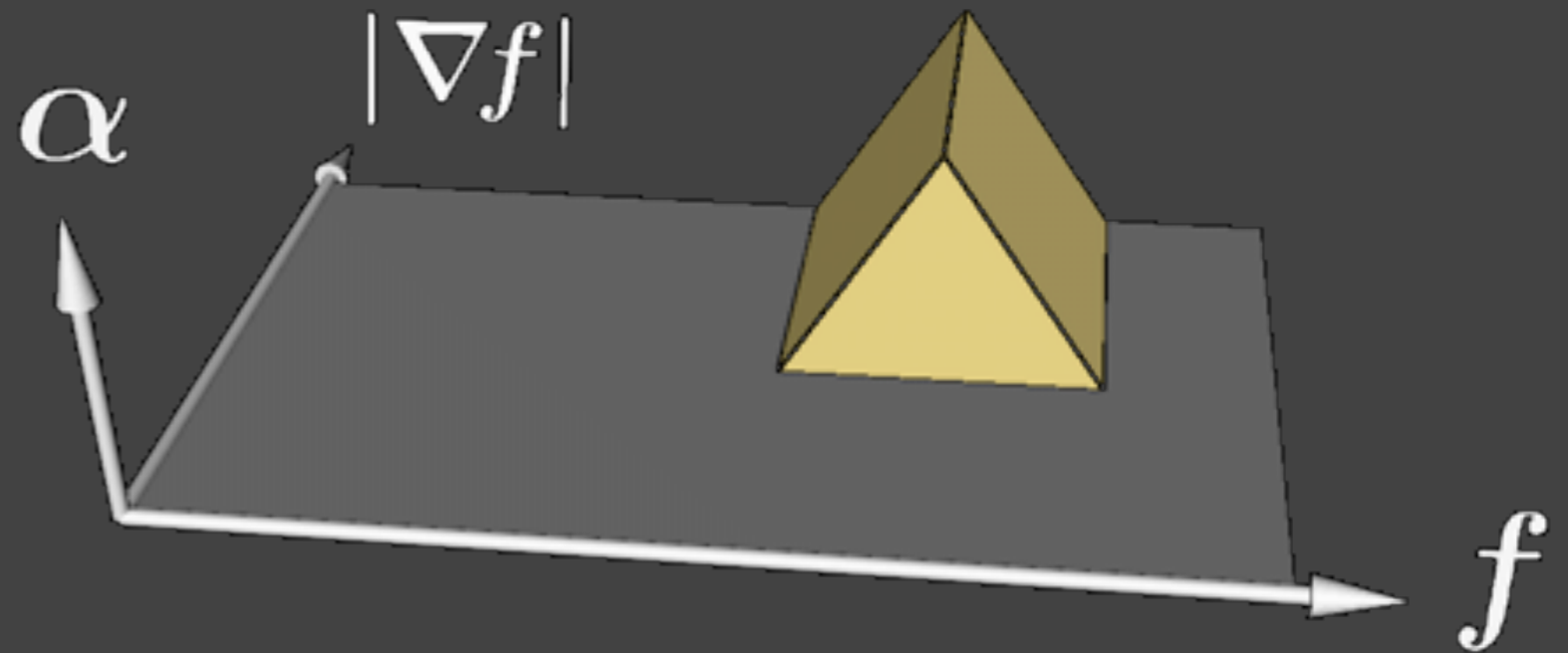
$$\left. \begin{array}{l} \text{RGB}(f, |\nabla f|) \\ \alpha(f, |\nabla f|) \end{array} \right\} \text{Modify...}$$



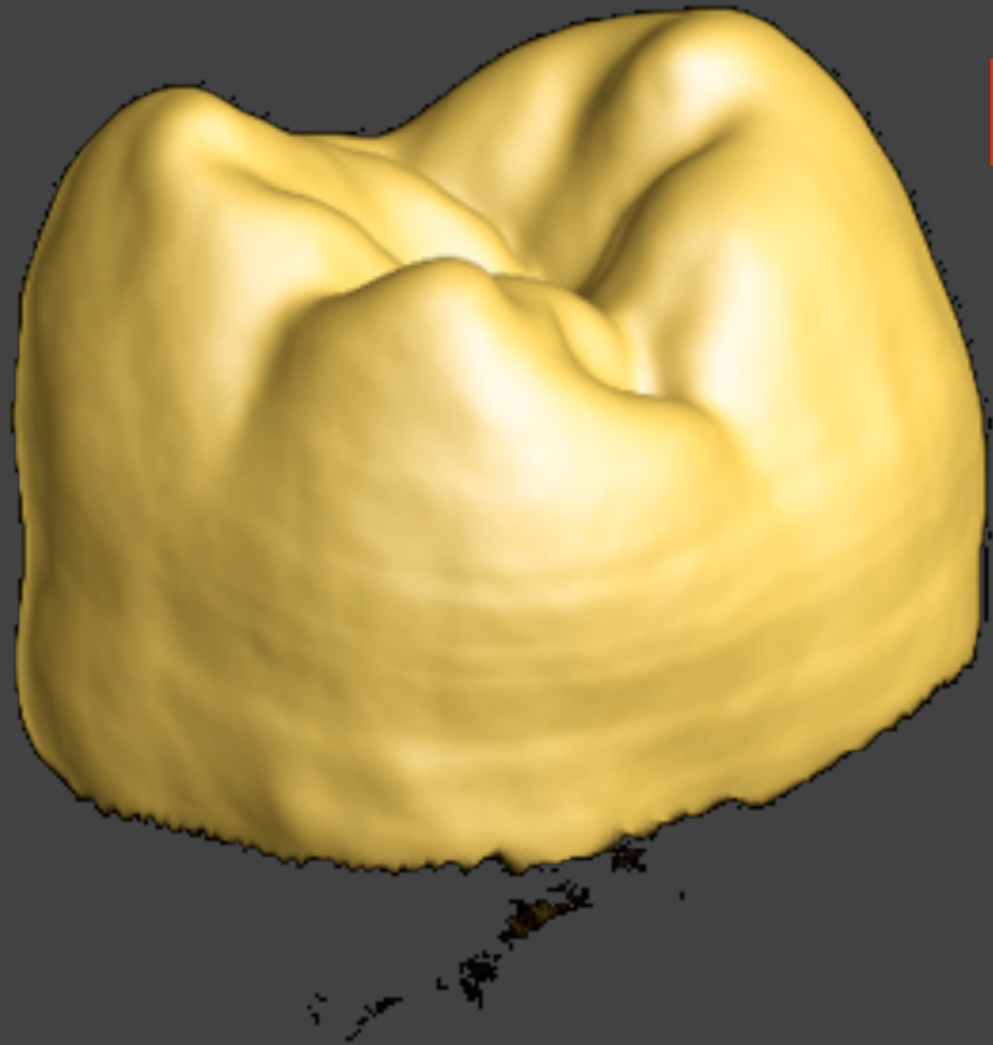
# 2D Transfer Function



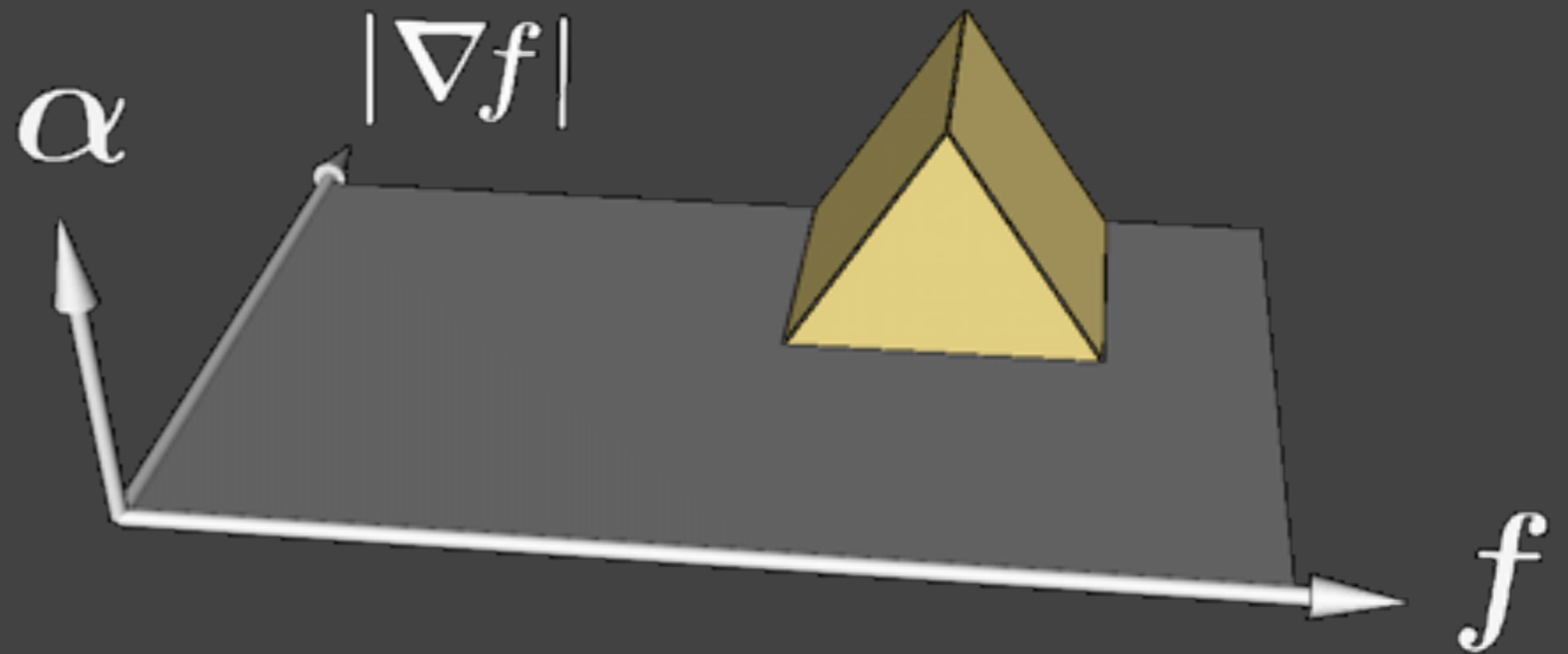
$$\left. \begin{array}{l} \text{RGB}(f, |\nabla f|) \\ \alpha(f, |\nabla f|) \end{array} \right\} \text{Modify...}$$



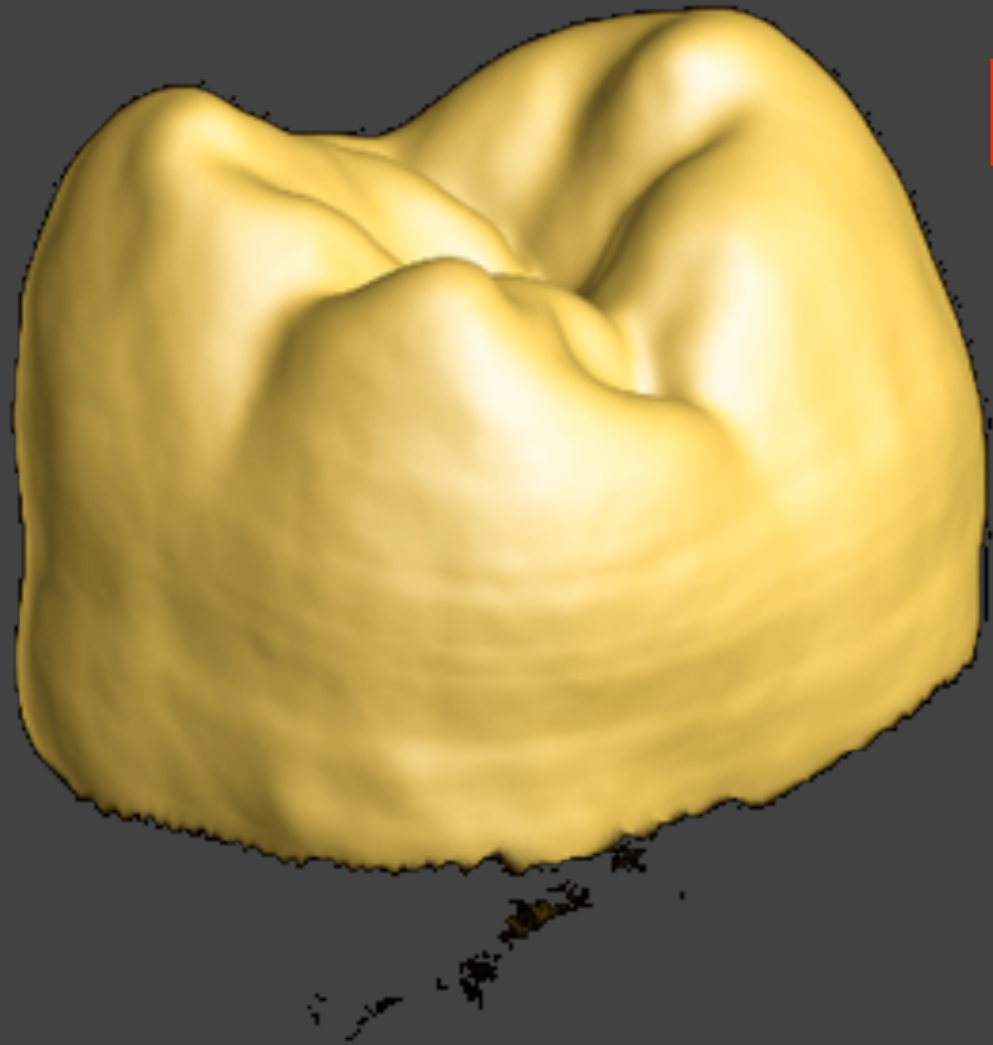
# 2D Transfer Function



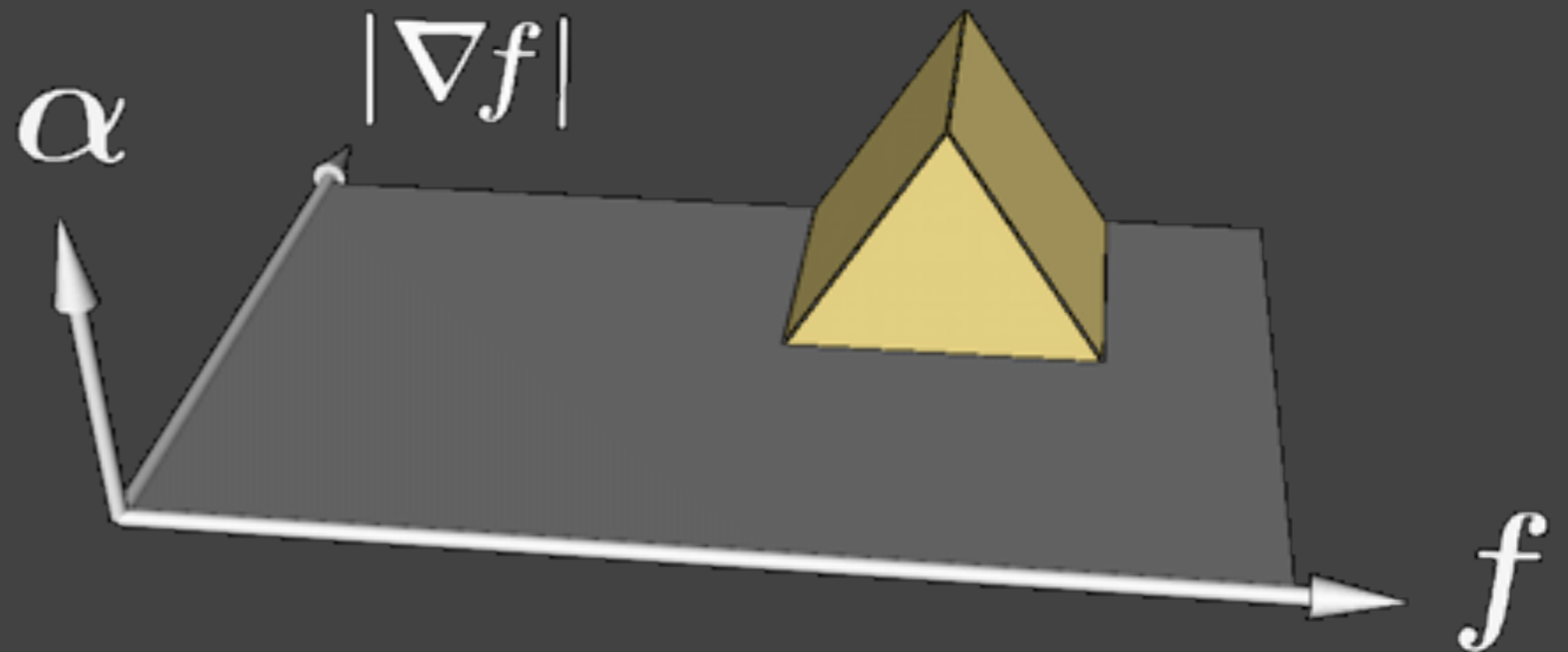
$$\left. \begin{array}{l} \text{RGB}(f, |\nabla f|) \\ \alpha(f, |\nabla f|) \end{array} \right\} \text{Modify...}$$



# 2D Transfer Function

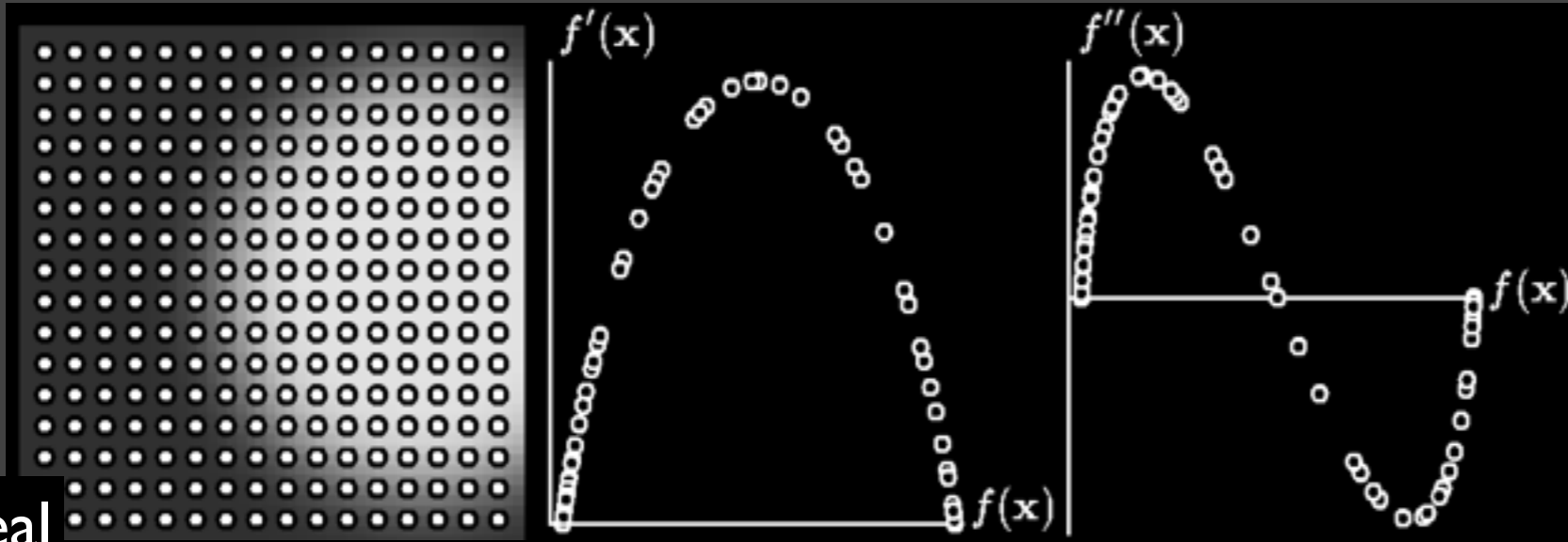


$$\left. \begin{array}{l} \text{RGB}(f, |\nabla f|) \\ \alpha(f, |\nabla f|) \end{array} \right\} \text{Modify...}$$



2D transfer functions give greater **flexibility** in boundary visualization

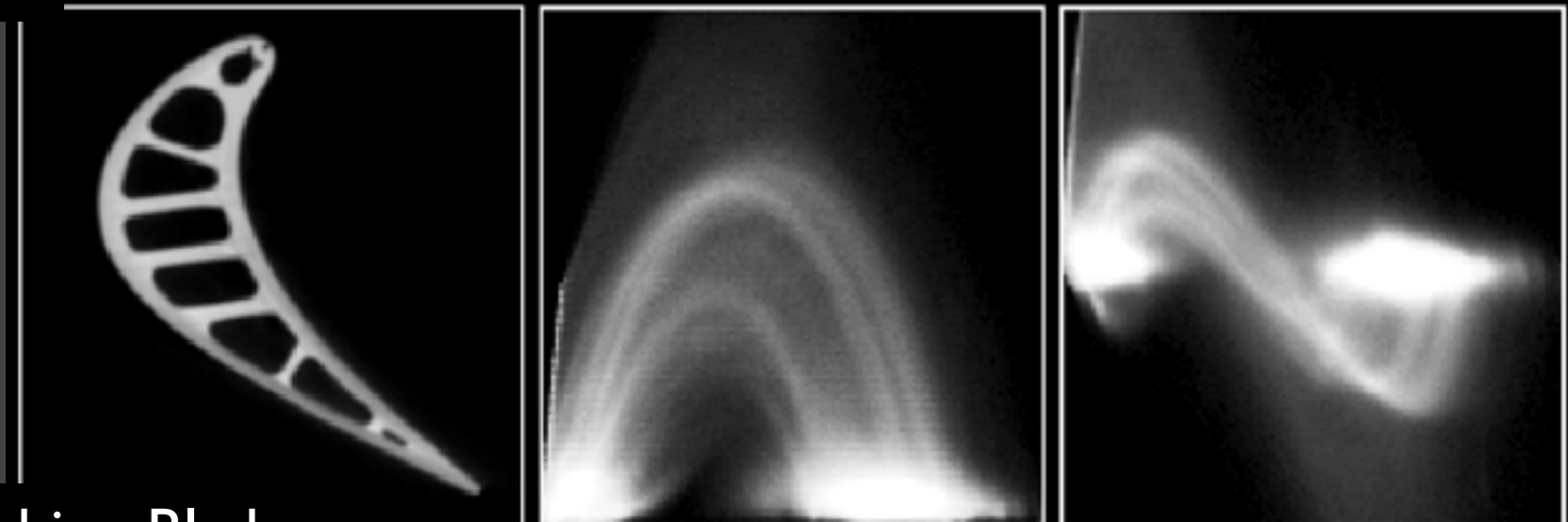
Display of Surfaces from Volume Data, Levoy 1988



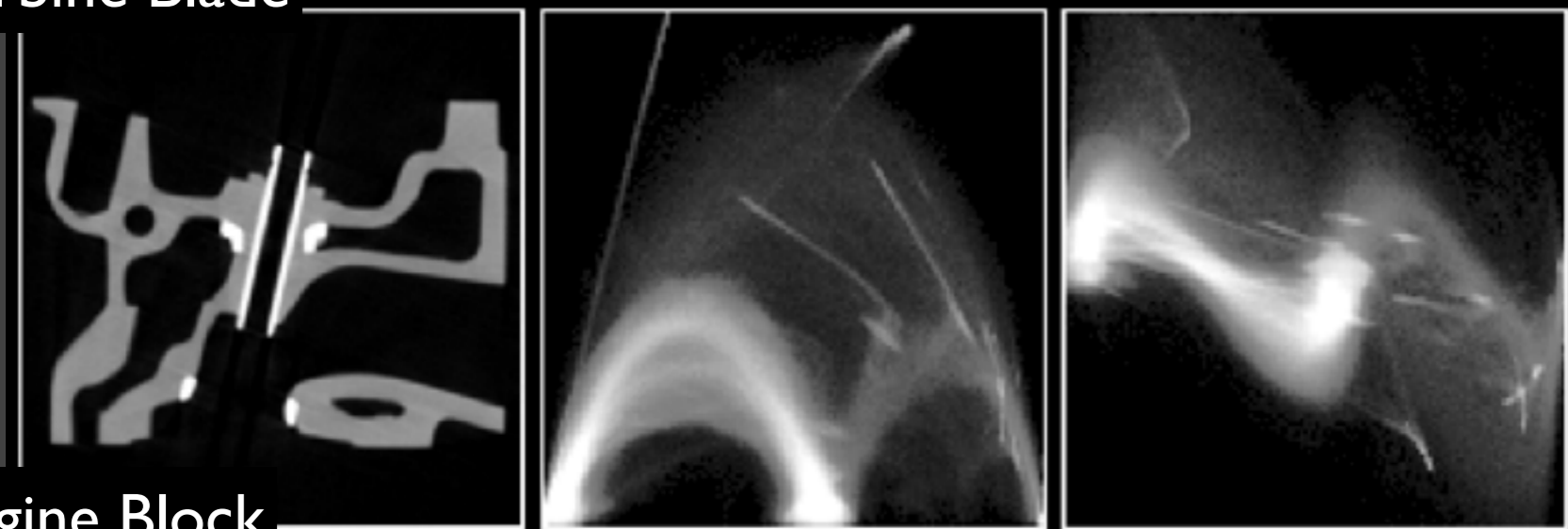
Ideal

Project histogram volume to 2D scatterplots

- Visual summary
- Interpreted for TF guidance
- No reliance on boundary model at this stage



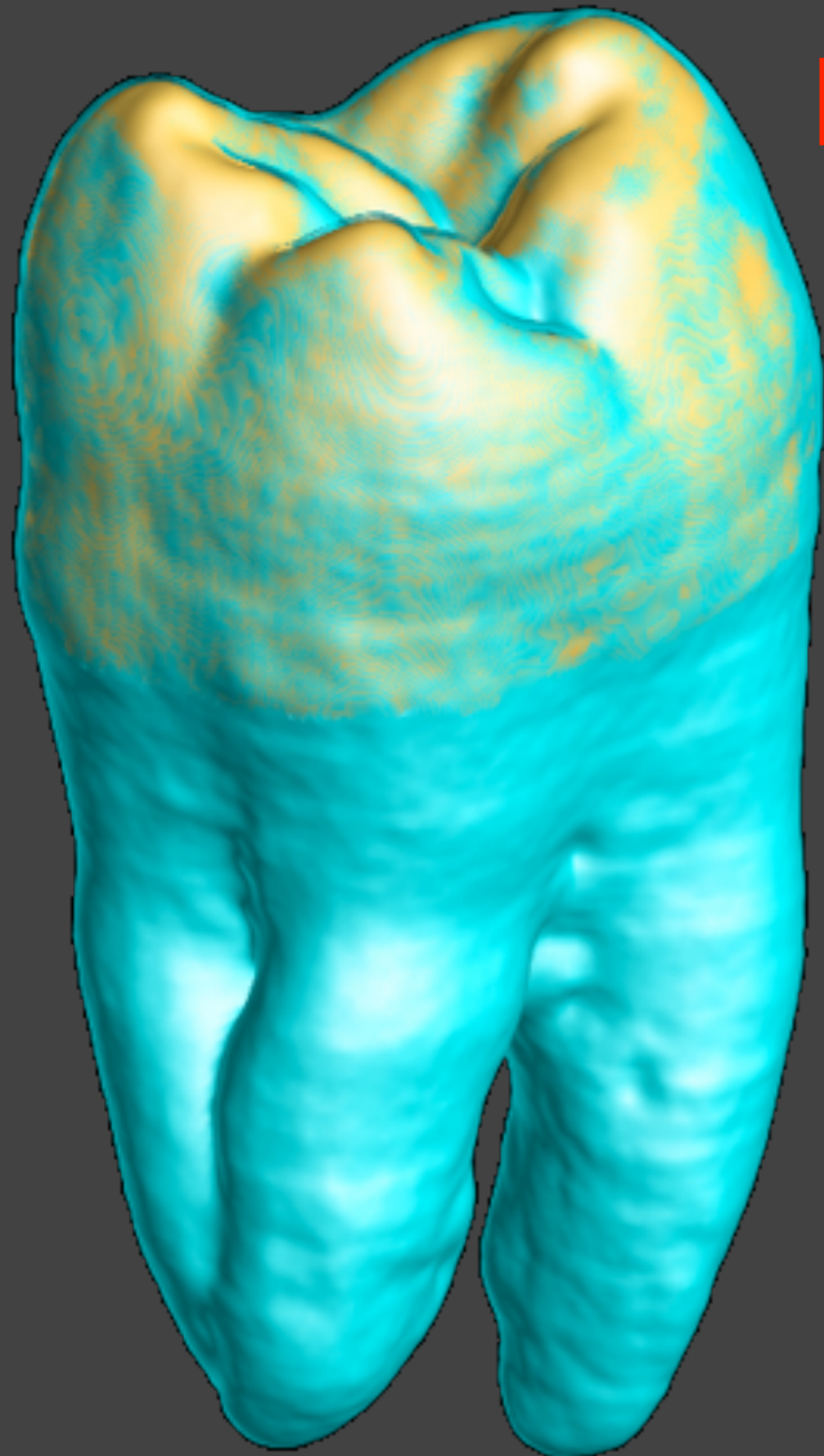
Turbine Blade



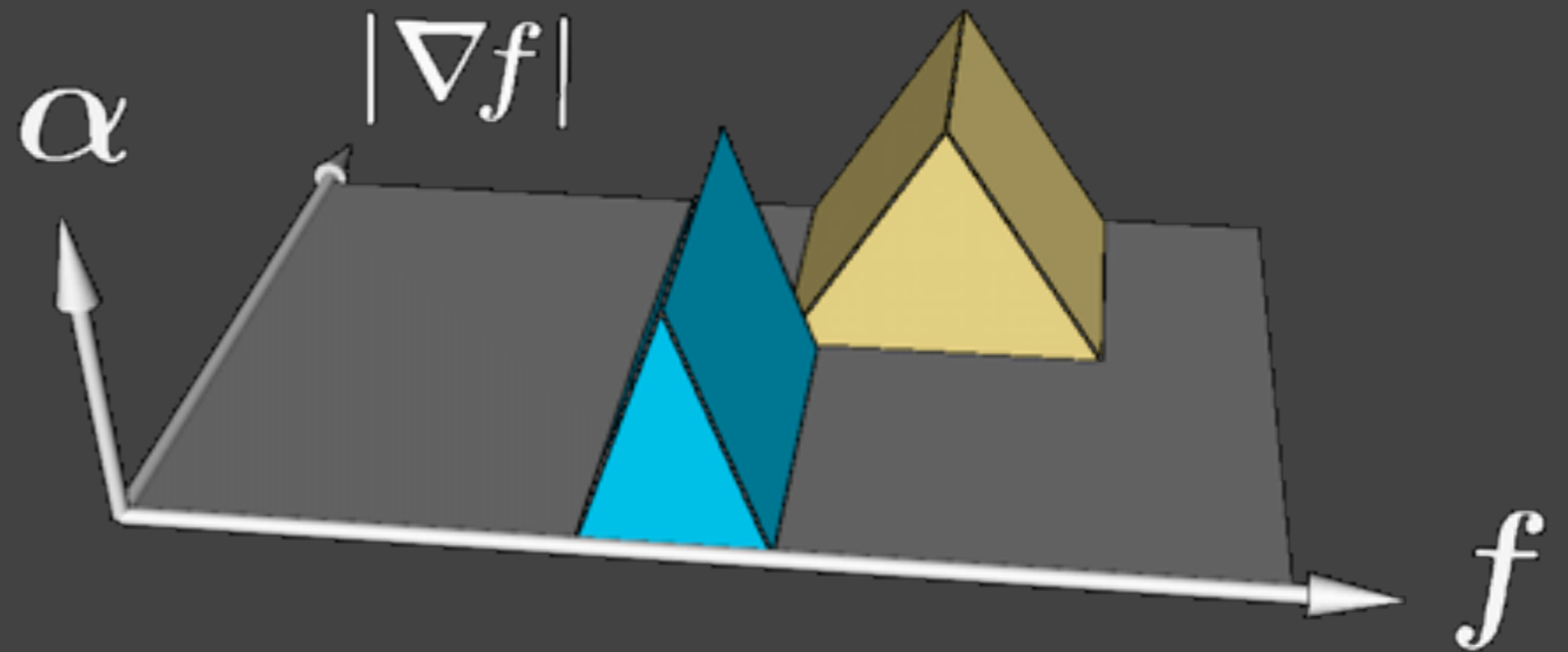
Engine Block

# DEMO: 2D TRANSFER FUNCTION

# 2D Transfer Function

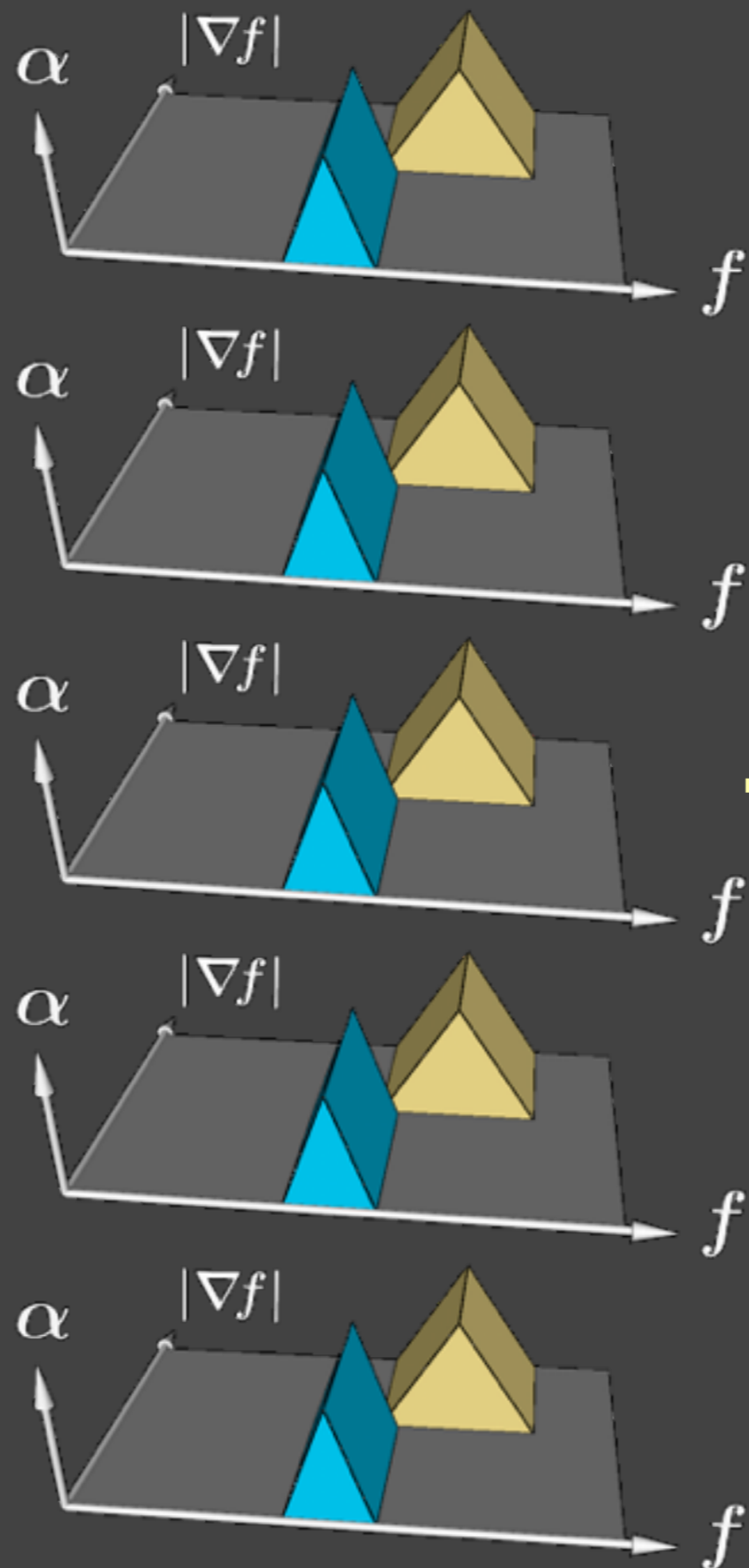
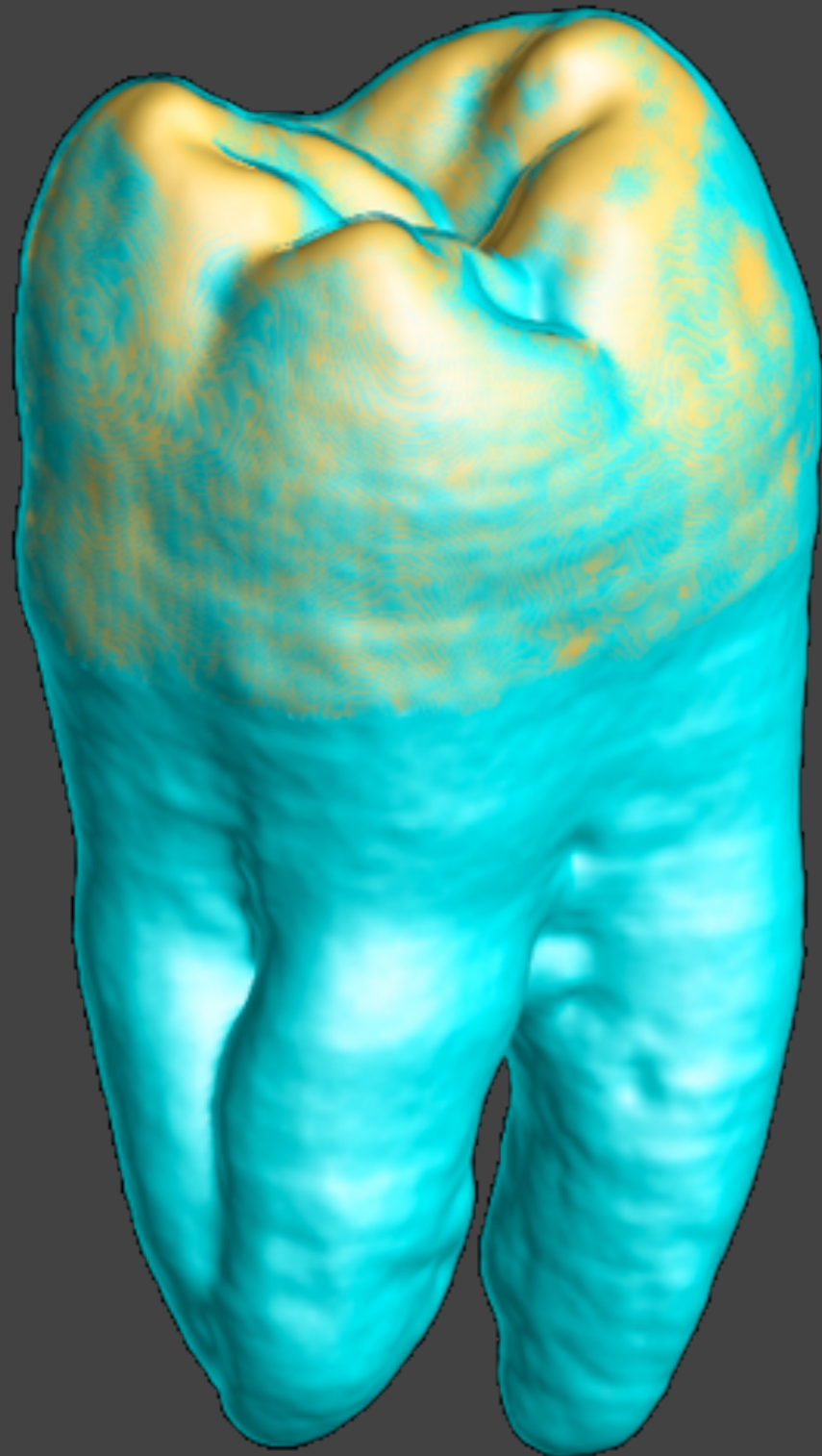


$$\left. \begin{array}{l} \text{RGB}(f, |\nabla f|) \\ \alpha(f, |\nabla f|) \end{array} \right\} \text{Modify...}$$



Trying to reintroduce  
dentin / background  
boundary ...

# 2D $\rightarrow$ 3D Transfer Function



+

RGB  $\alpha(f, |\nabla f|, D^2_{\hat{\nabla}f} f)$

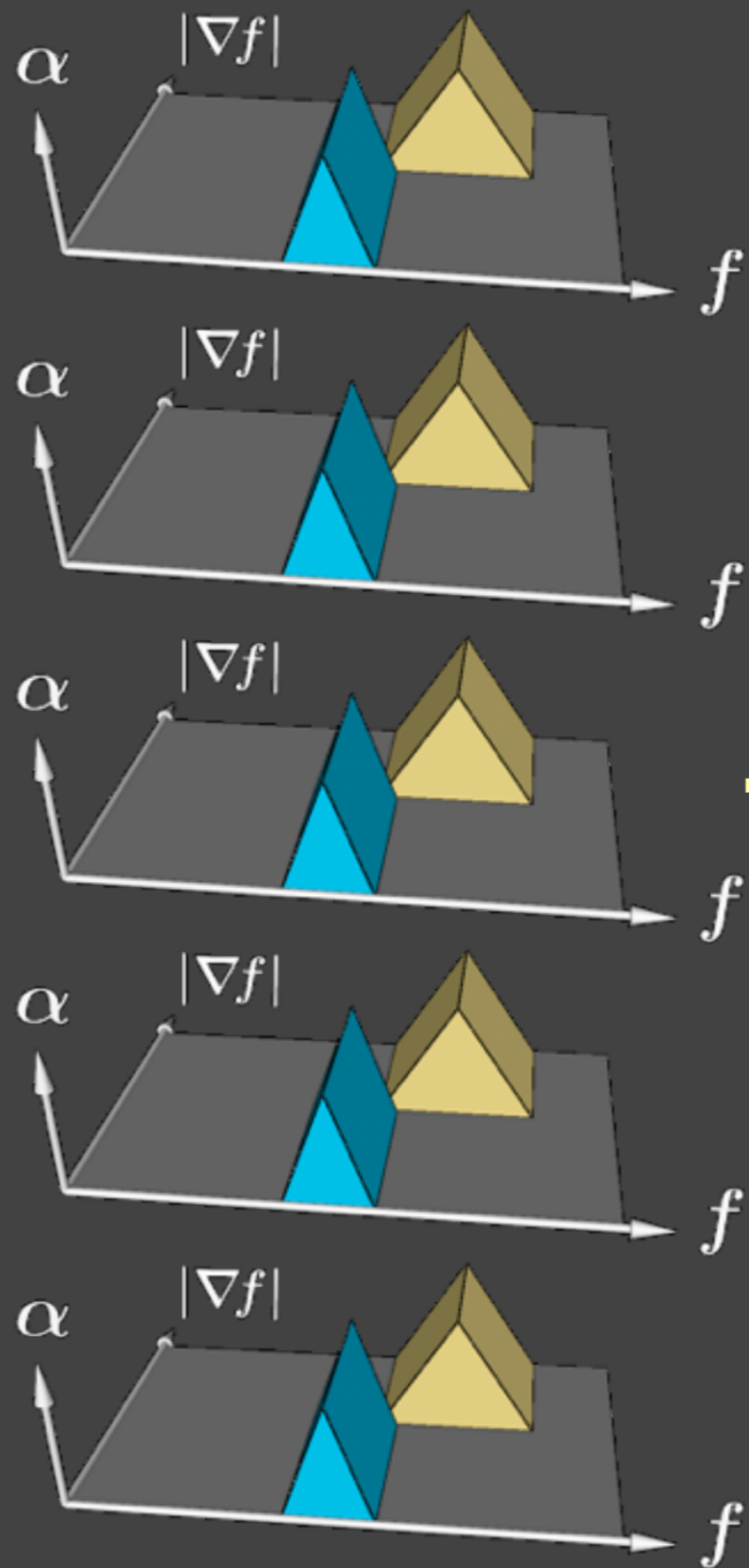
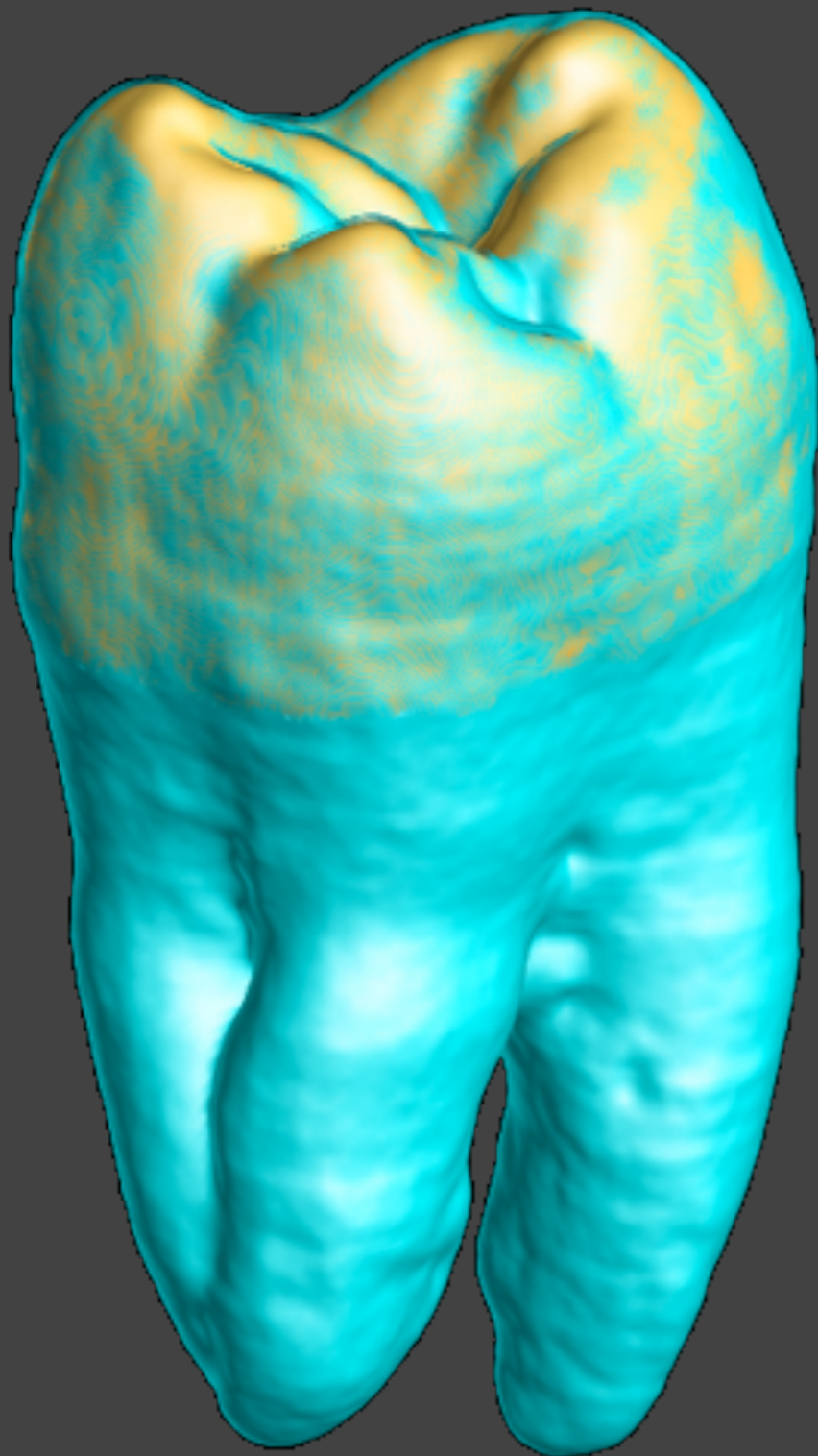
0

Second directional derivative  
 $D^2_{\hat{\nabla}f} f$   
measured with Hessian

-



# 3D Transfer Function



+

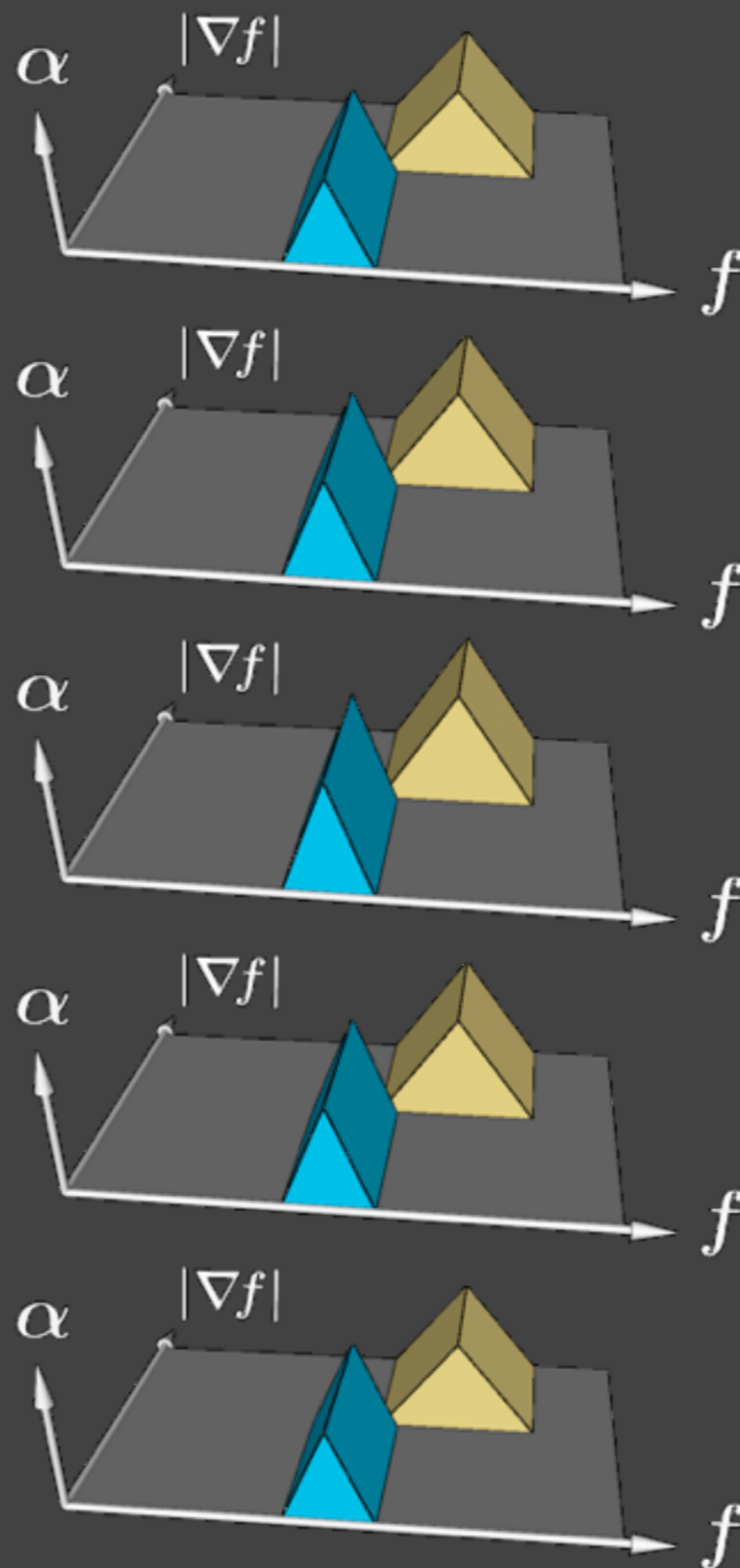
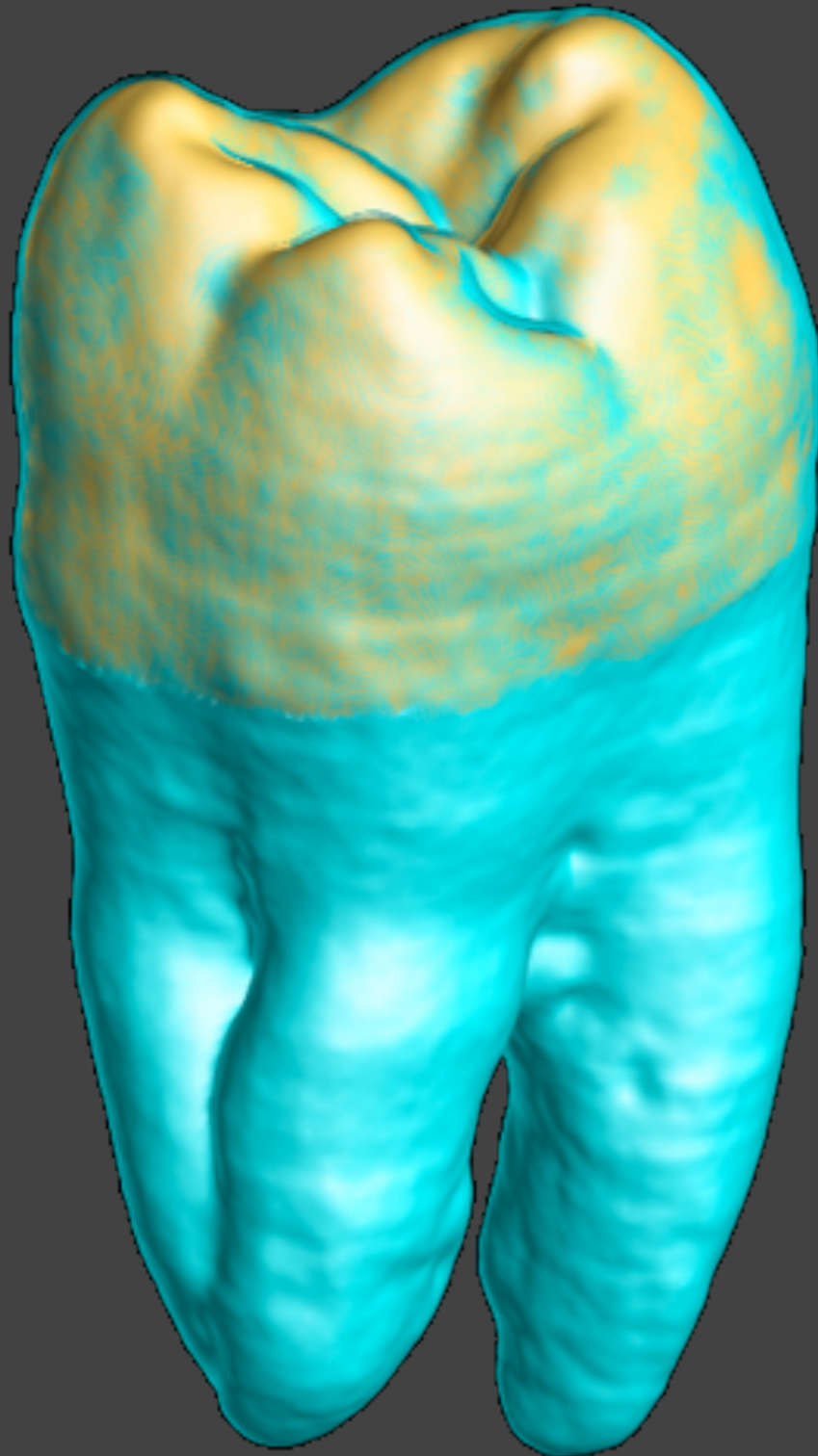
RGB  $\alpha(f, |\nabla f|, D^2_{\hat{\nabla} f} f)$

0

Modify...

-

# 3D Transfer Function



+

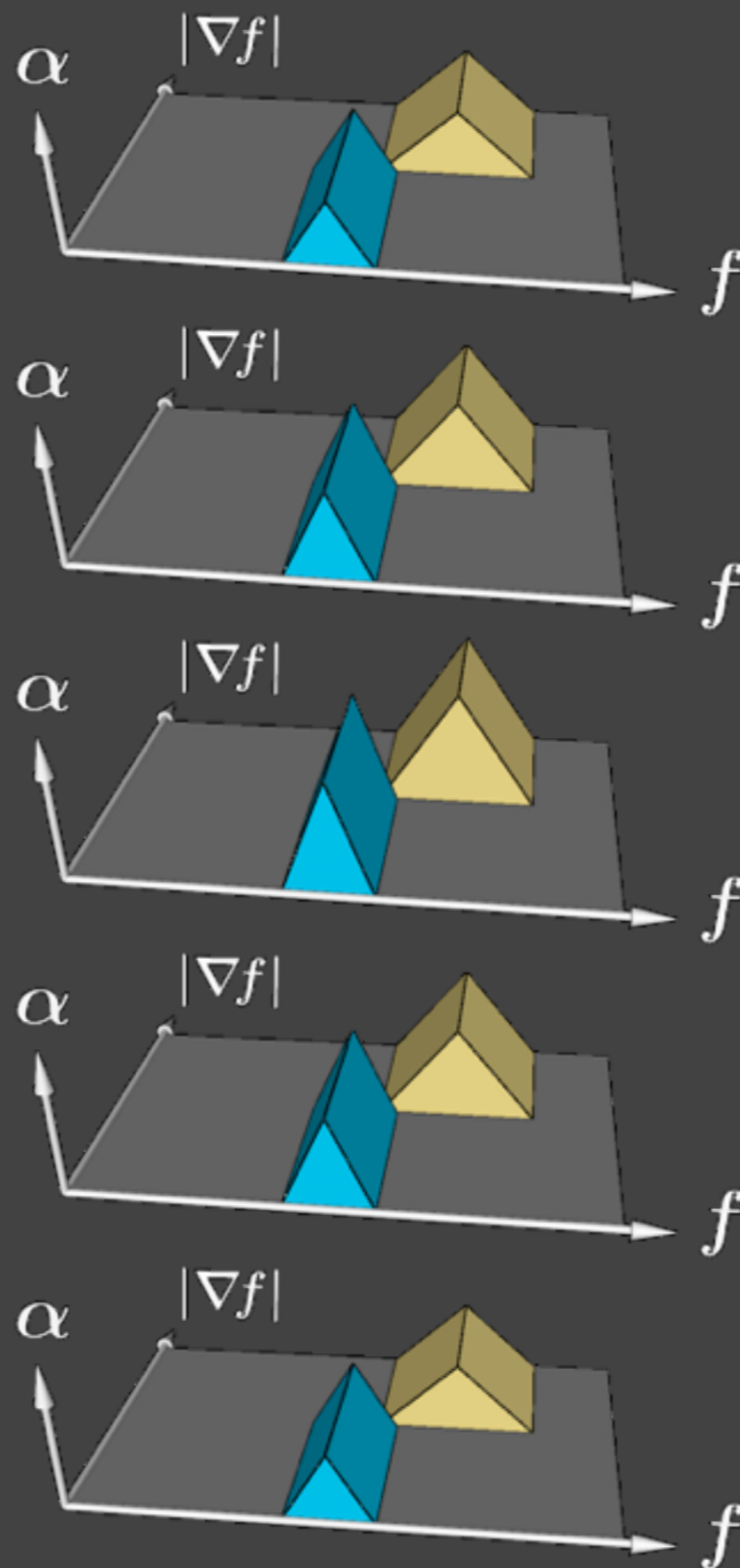
RGB  $\alpha(f, |\nabla f|, D^2_{\hat{\nabla}f} f)$

0

Modify...

-

# 3D Transfer Function



+

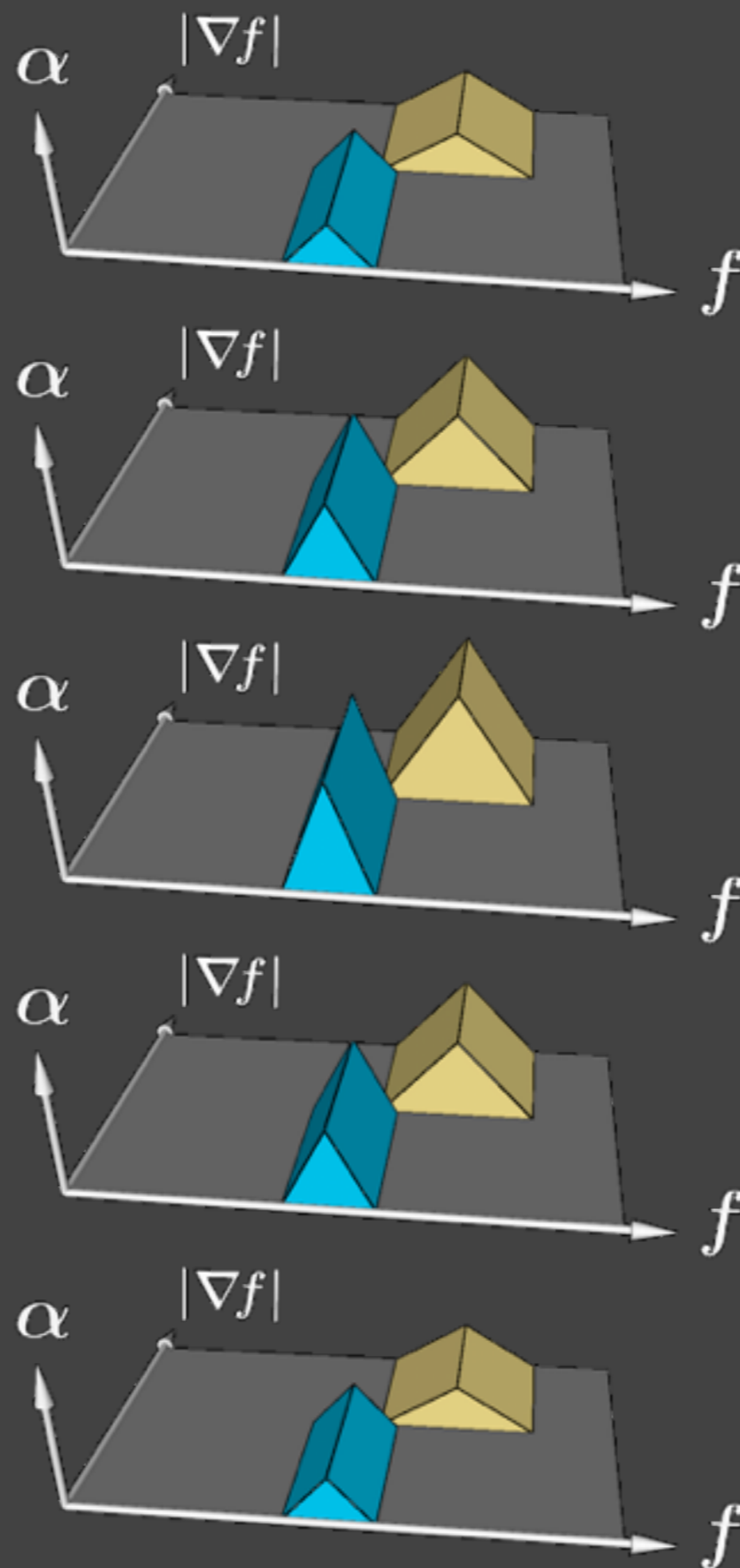
RGB  $\alpha(f, |\nabla f|, D^2_{\hat{\nabla}f} f)$

0

Modify...

-

# 3D Transfer Function



+

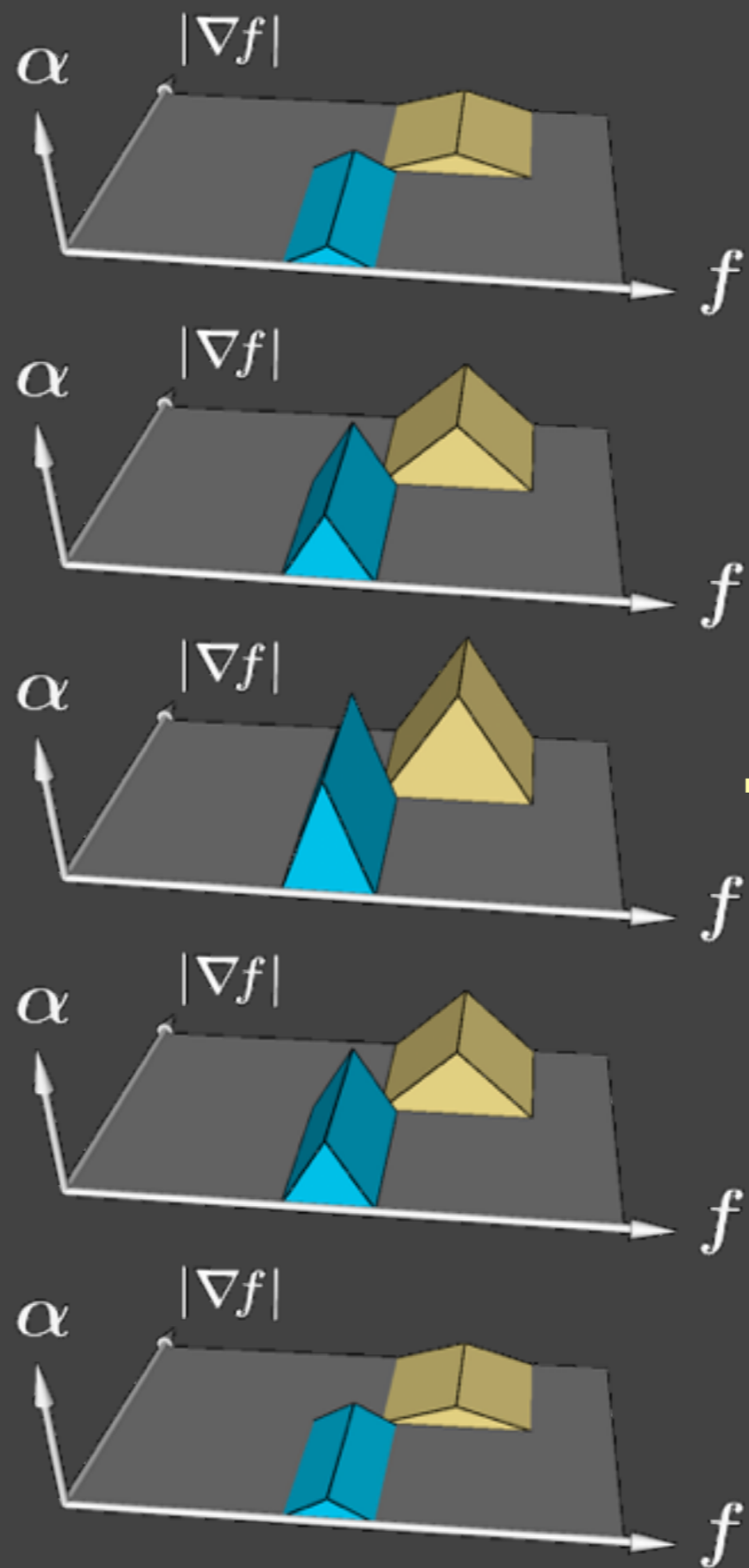
RGB  $\alpha(f, |\nabla f|, D^2_{\hat{\nabla} f} f)$

0

Modify...

-

# 3D Transfer Function



+

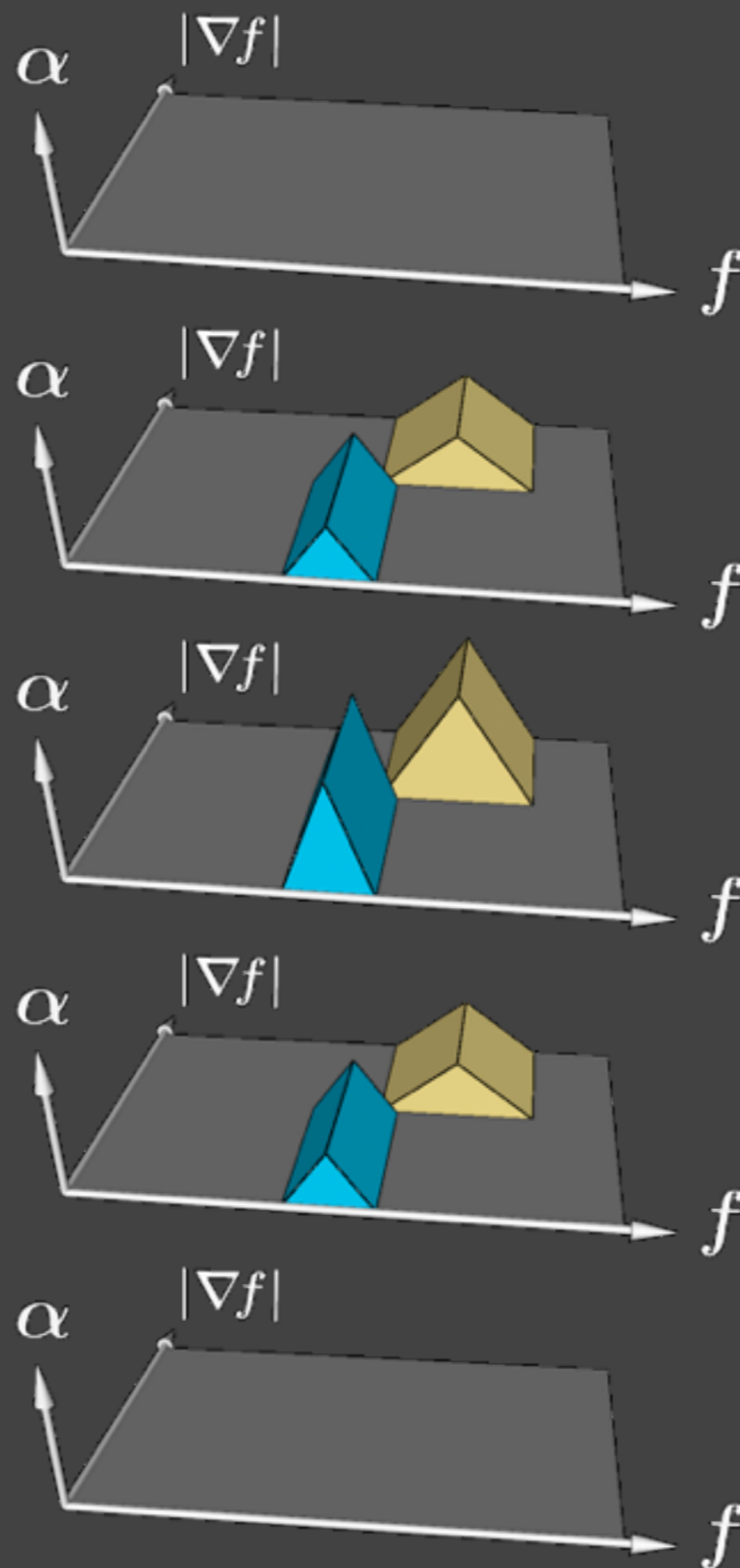
RGB  $\alpha(f, |\nabla f|, D^2_{\hat{\nabla}f} f)$

0

Modify...

-

# 3D Transfer Function

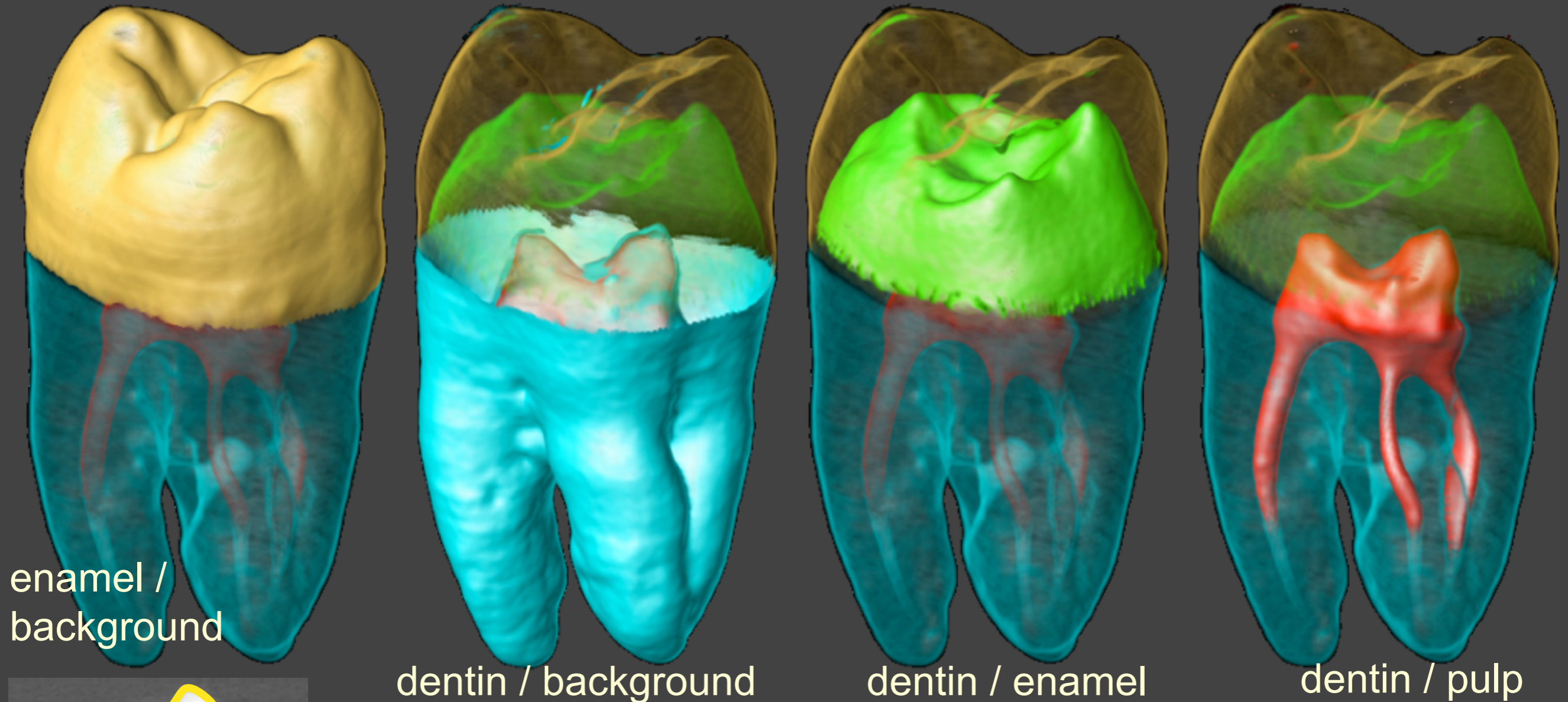


$+$   
**RGB**  $\alpha(f, |\nabla f|,$   
 $D^2_{\widehat{\nabla} f} f)$

$0$  Done



# 3D Transfer Function



**1D: not possible**

**2D: specificity not as good**

# Multi-Dimensional TFs

- Strengths:
  - Better flexibility, specificity
  - Higher quality visualizations
- Weaknesses:
  - Even harder to specify
  - Unintuitive relationship with boundaries
  - Greater demands on user interface

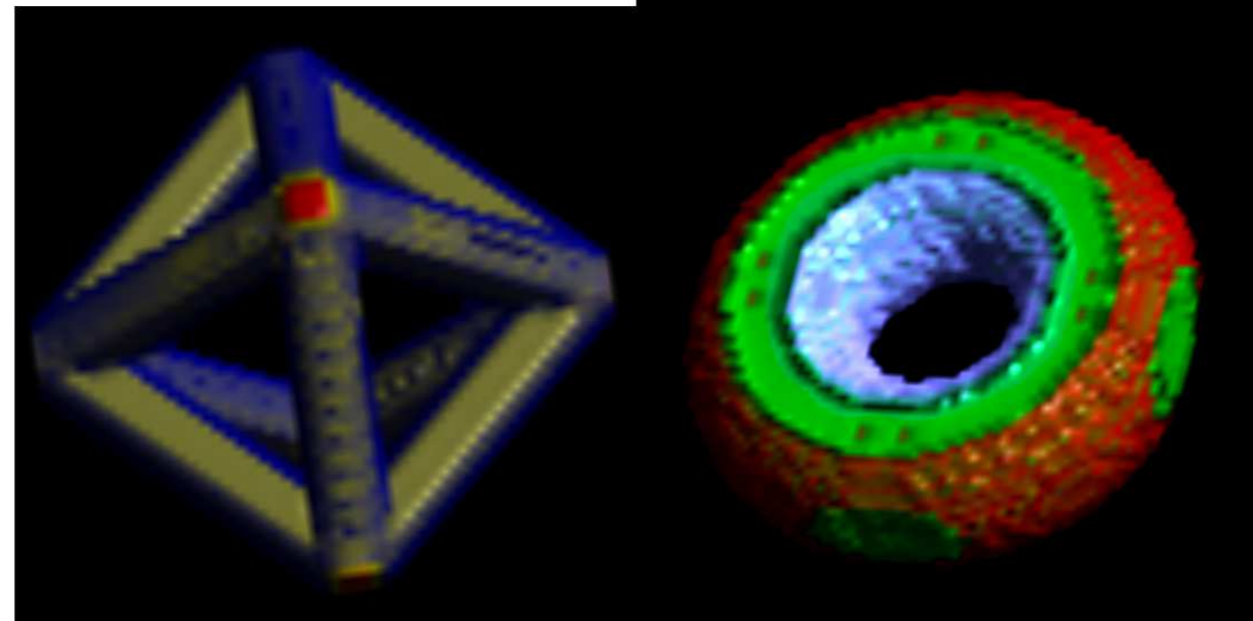
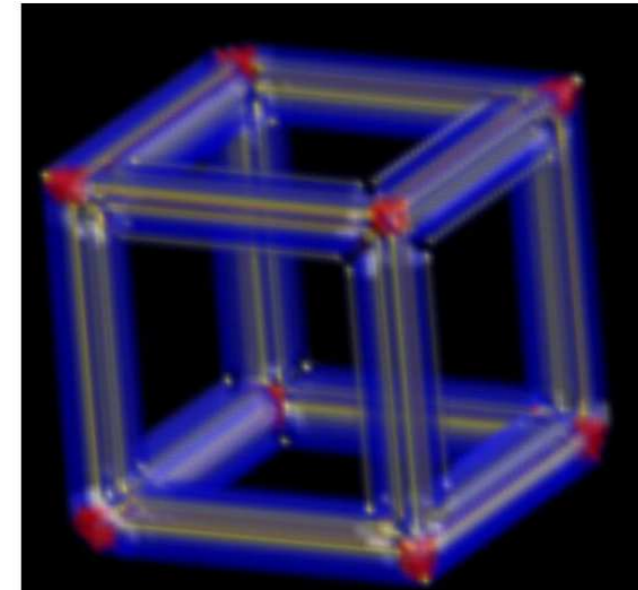
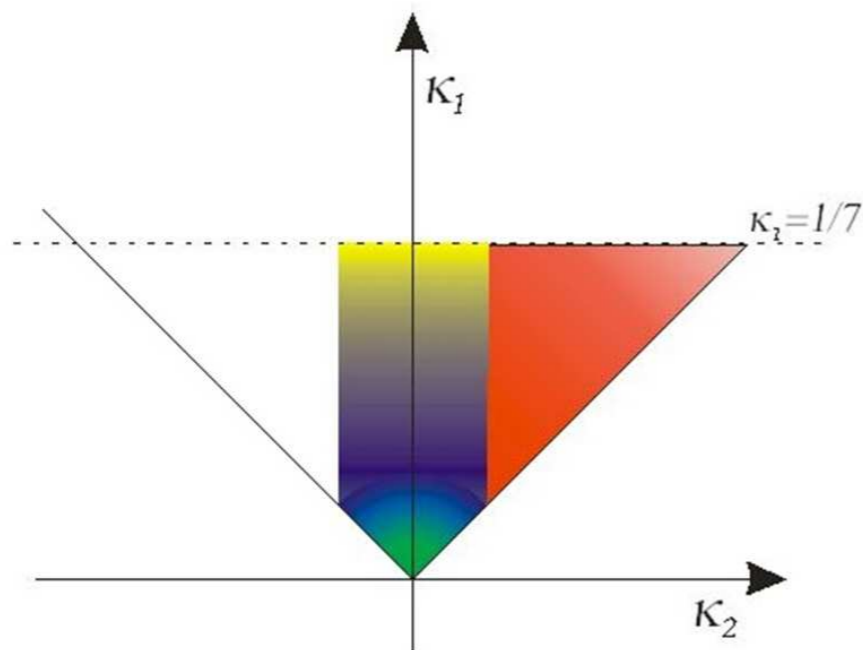


# Some Other Methods

# Curvature

“Curvature-Based Transfer Functions for Direct Volume Rendering”, Hladůvka, König, Gröllner: SCCG '00

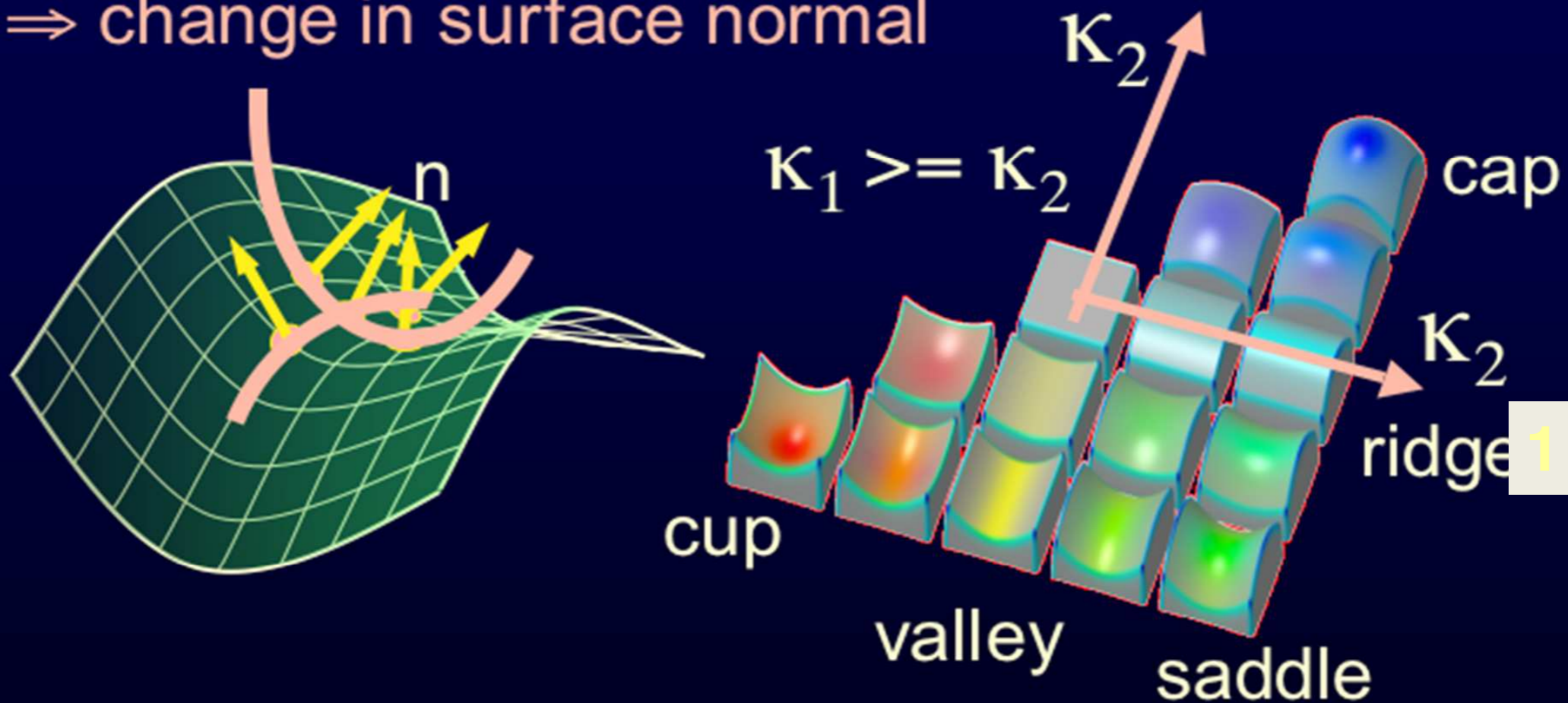
- Uses 2D space of  $\kappa_1$  and  $\kappa_2$ : principal curvatures of isosurface at a given point
- Graphically indicates aspects of local shape
- Specification is simple



# Curvature

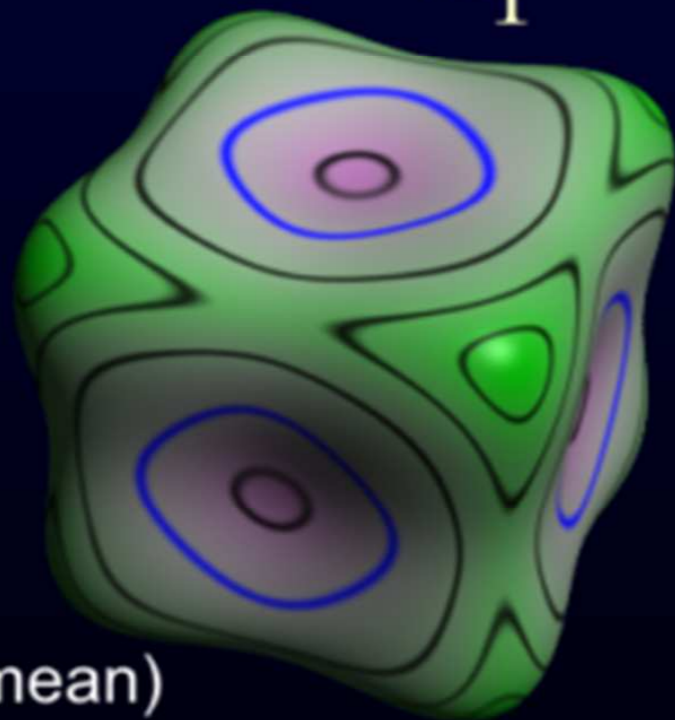
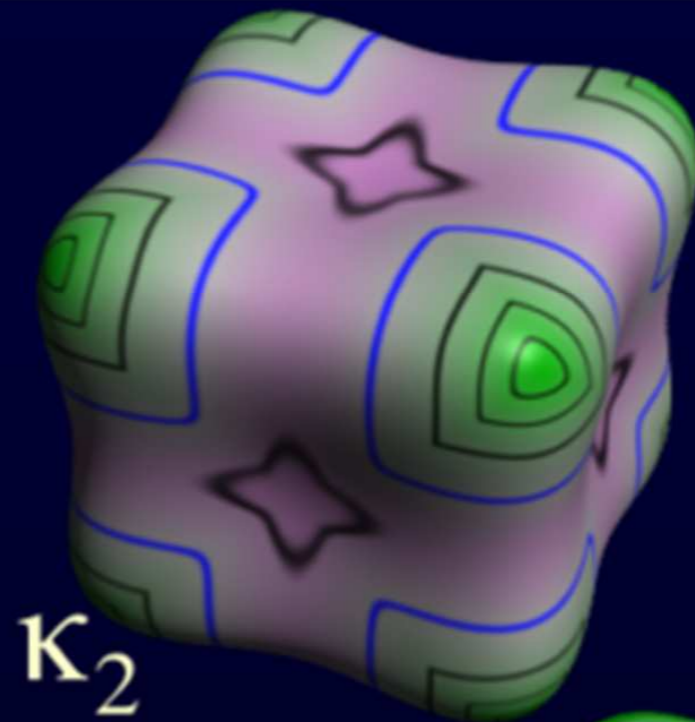
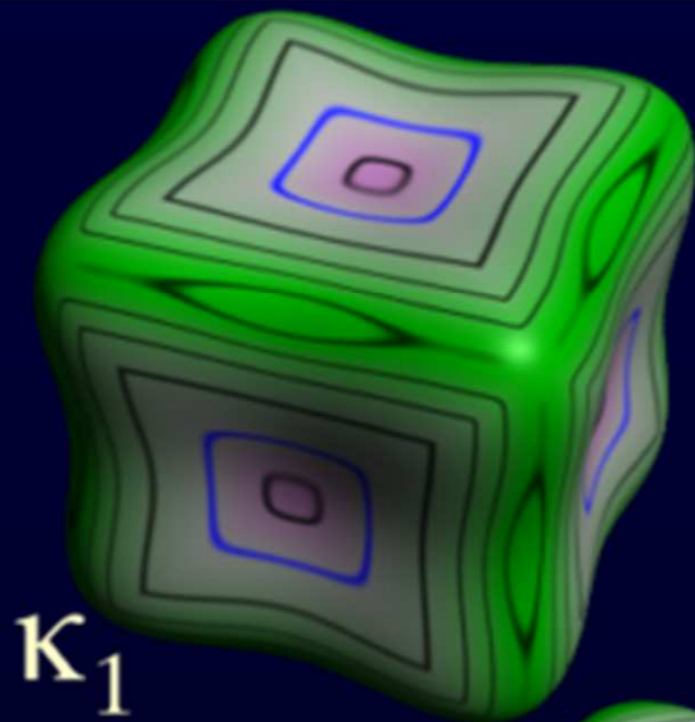
What is curvature

Small movements along the surface  
⇒ change in surface normal

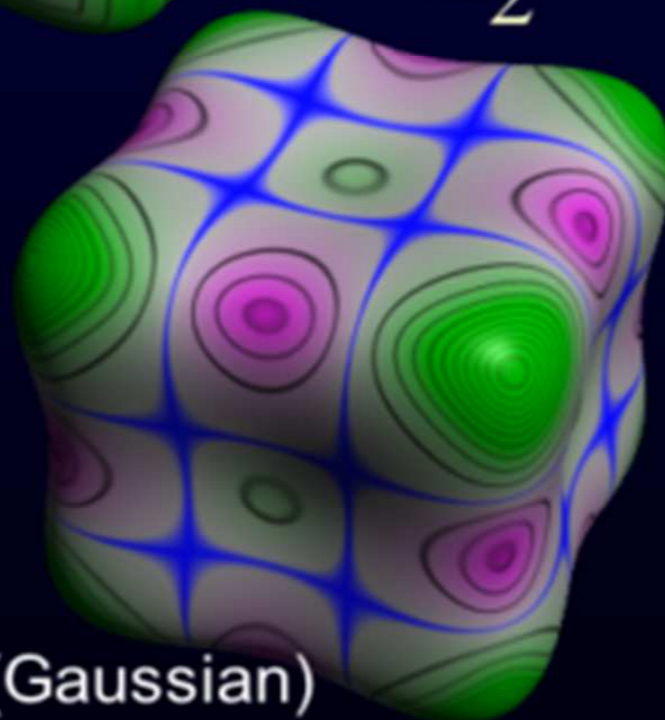


Principal curvature magnitudes  
Principal curvature directions

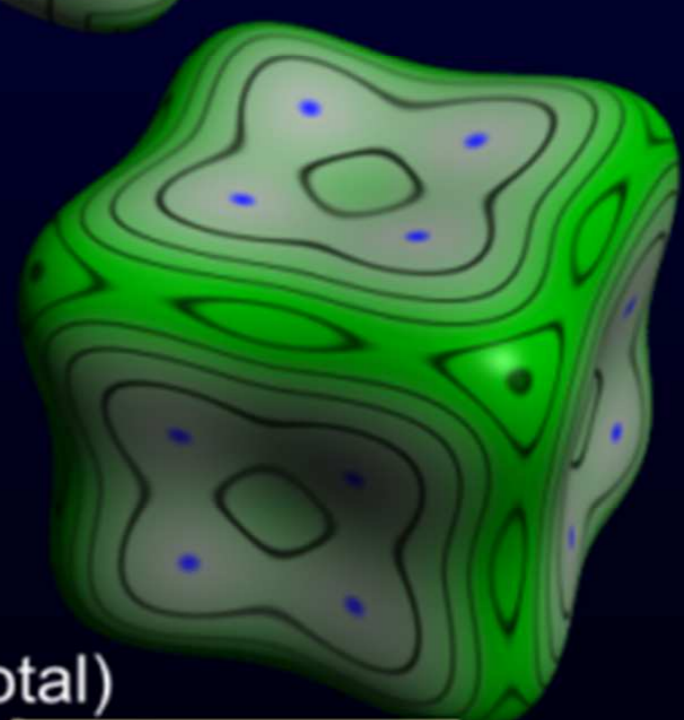
# Curvature measures



(mean)  
 $(\mathbf{K}_1 + \mathbf{K}_2)/2$



(Gaussian)  
 $\mathbf{K}_1\mathbf{K}_2$

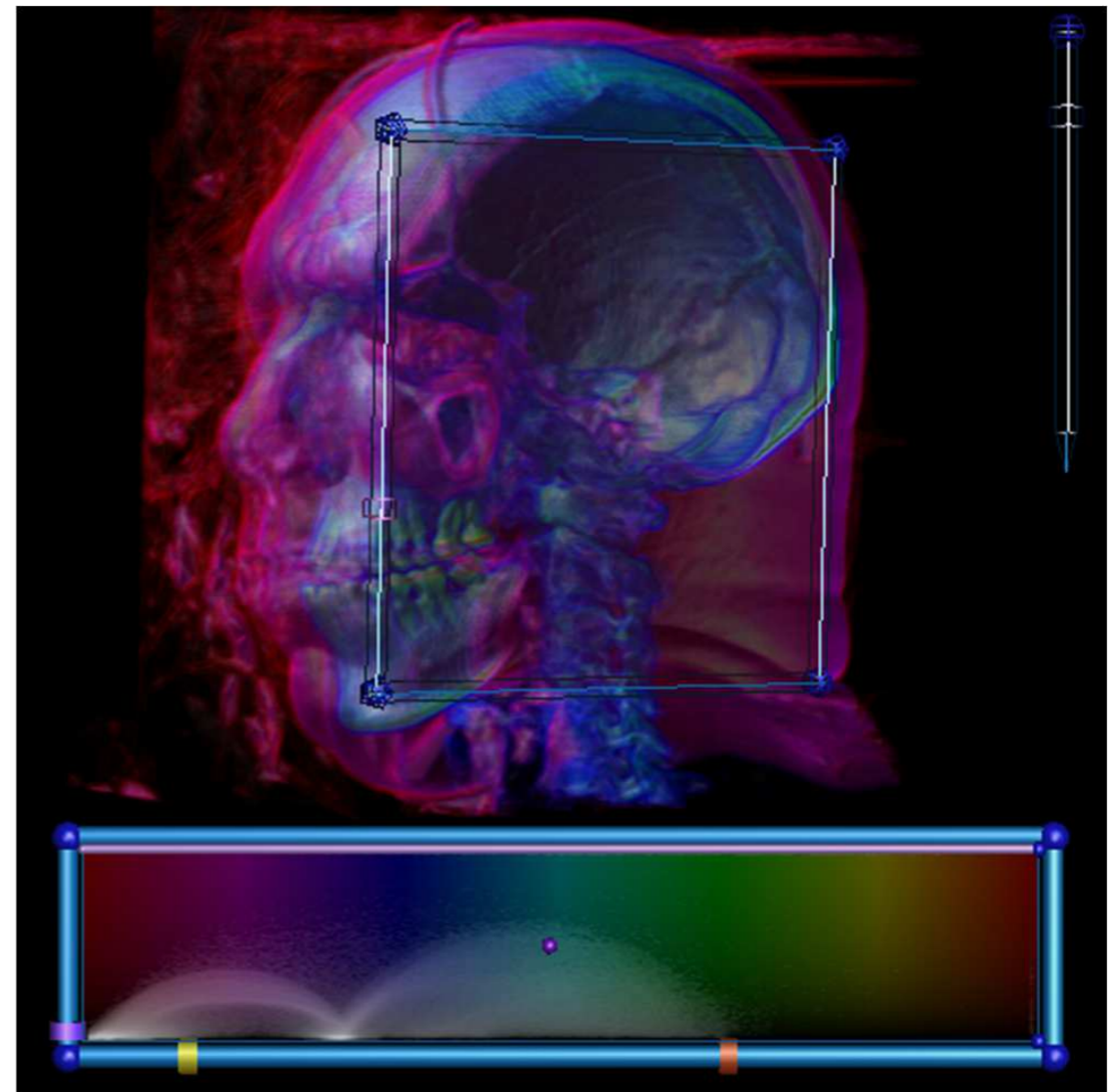
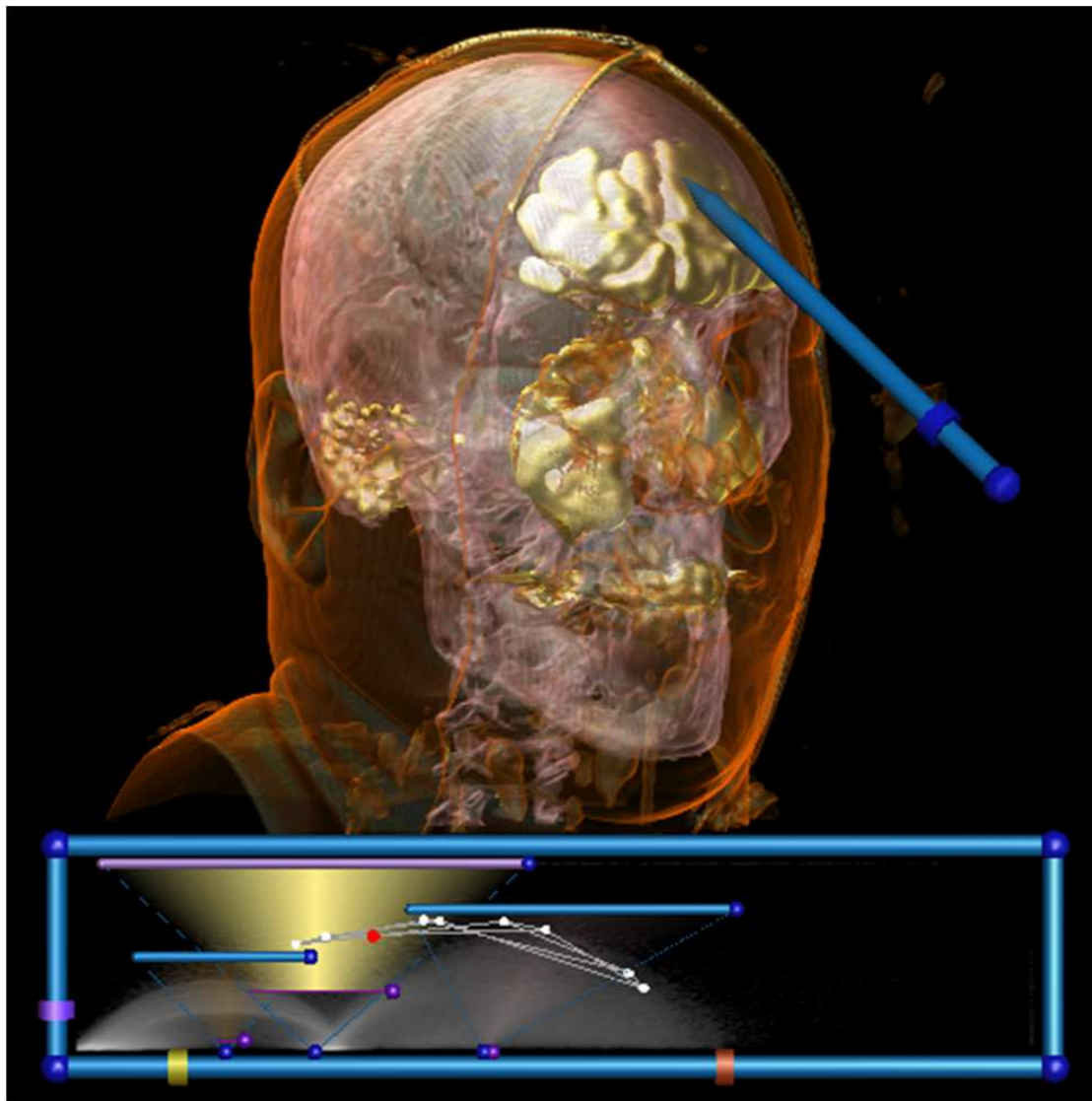


(total)  
 $\sqrt{\mathbf{K}_1^2 + \mathbf{K}_2^2}$

# Different Interaction

“Interactive Volume Rendering Using Multi-Dimensional Transfer Functions and Direct Manipulation Widgets” Kniss, Kindlmann, Hansen: Vis '01

- Make things opaque by pointing at them
- Uses **3D** transfer functions (value, 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup> derivative)
- “Paint” into the transfer function domain



# Image-centric

## Specify TFs via the resulting renderings

- **Genetic Algorithms** (“Generation of Transfer Functions with Stochastic Search Techniques”, He, Hong, *et al.*: Vis ’96)
- **Design Galleries** (Marks, Andalman, Beardsley, *et al.*: SIGGRAPH ’97; Pfister: Transfer Function Bake-off Vis ’00)
- **Thumbnail Graphs + Spreadsheets** (“A Graph Based Interface...”, Patten, Ma: Graphics Interface ’98; “Image Graphs...”, Ma: Vis ’99; Spreadsheets for Vis: Vis ’00, TVCG July ’01)
- **Thumbnail Parameterization** (“Mastering Transfer Function Specification Using VolumePro Technology”, König, Gröller: Spring Conference on Computer Graphics ’01)

# TF Techniques/Tools

1. Trial and Error (manual)
2. Image-Centric Approach
- 3. Data-Centric Approach**

# Data-centric

Specify TF by analyzing volume data itself

## 1. Salient Isovalues:

- **Contour Spectrum** (Bajaj, Pascucci, Schikore: Vis '97)
- **Statistical Signatures** (“Salient Iso-Surface Detection Through Model-Independent Statistical Signatures”, Tenginaki, Lee, Machiraju: Vis '01)
- **Other computational methods** (“Fast Detection of Meaningful Isosurfaces for Volume Data Visualization”, Pekar, Wiemker, Hempel: Vis '01)

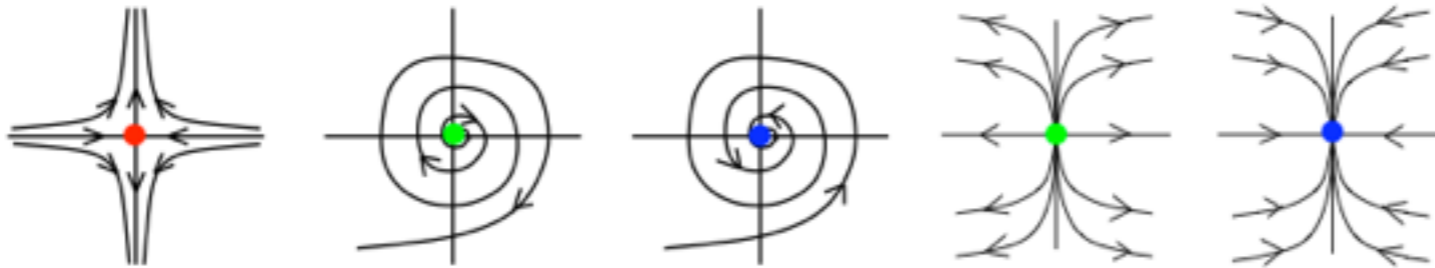
## 2. “Semi-Automatic Generation of Transfer Functions for Direct Volume Rendering” (Kindlmann, Durkin: VolVis '98;



# Data-centric

-If you have more than one value per location...

# L21: Vector Visualization required reading



**Figure 8.7.** The main types of critical points in a flow field: saddle, circulating sinks, circulating sources, noncirculating sinks, and noncirculating sources. From [Tricoche et al. 02, Figure 1].

flow simulations or measurements. Flow vis in particular deals with a specific kind of vector field, a velocity field, that contains information about both direction and magnitude at each cell. The three common cases are purely 2D spatial fields, purely 3D spatial fields, and the intermediate case of flow on a 2D surface embedded within 3D space. Time-varying flow datasets are called **unsteady**, as opposed to **steady** flows where the behavior does not change over time.

One of the features of interest in flows are the **critical points**, the points in a flow field where the velocity vanishes. They are classified by the behavior of the flow in their neighborhoods: the

