

Neural Rendering

D.A. Forsyth

Neural vs Differentiable Rendering

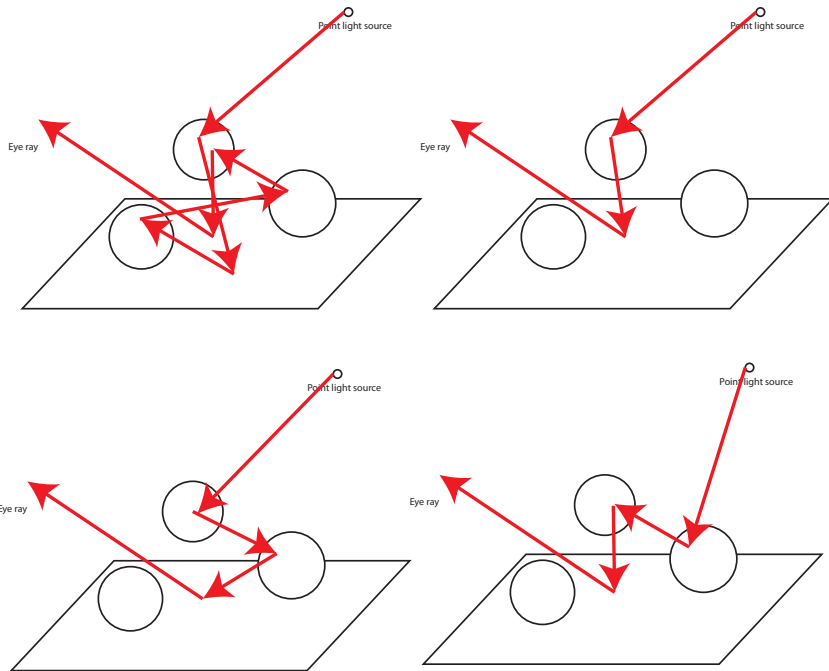
- Differentiable rendering
 - make (relatively conventional) renderer differentiable
 - usually to support inference (shape from single image, etc.)
- Neural rendering
 - use neural networks at various points in the rendering process
 - lots of methods
 - no real consensus on what a neural rendering process looks like

Some topics...

- Reduce rendering noise
 - in MCMC rendering
 - in image based rendering
 - in performance capture
- Realistic images from approximations
- Generate novel views
 - from multiview input
- Exaggerate effects
 - eg motion fields
- Reshade and relight

Reducing noise: MCMC rendering

- Issue:
 - physically accurate rendering requires tracing very large numbers of complex paths; the resulting estimates can have quite high noise
 - Reducing noise by tracing “more paths” is impractical ($1/\sqrt{N}$)



Filter noisy pixels:

$$\hat{\mathbf{c}}_i = \frac{\sum_{j \in \mathcal{N}(i)} d_{i,j} \bar{\mathbf{c}}_j}{\sum_{j \in \mathcal{N}(i)} d_{i,j}},$$

Cross-bilateral filter

$$\hat{\mathbf{c}}_i = \frac{\sum_{j \in \mathcal{N}(i)} d_{i,j} \bar{\mathbf{c}}_j}{\sum_{j \in \mathcal{N}(i)} d_{i,j}},$$

$$d_{i,j} = \exp \left[- \frac{\|\bar{\mathbf{p}}_i - \bar{\mathbf{p}}_j\|^2}{2\alpha_i^2} \right] \times \exp \left[- \frac{D(\bar{\mathbf{c}}_i, \bar{\mathbf{c}}_j)}{2\beta_i^2} \right] \\ \times \prod_{k=1}^K \exp \left[- \frac{D_k(\bar{\mathbf{f}}_{i,k}, \bar{\mathbf{f}}_{j,k})}{2\gamma_{k,i}^2} \right],$$

Location



Pixel color



Features (eg. which surface,
normal, etc.)

Natural attack

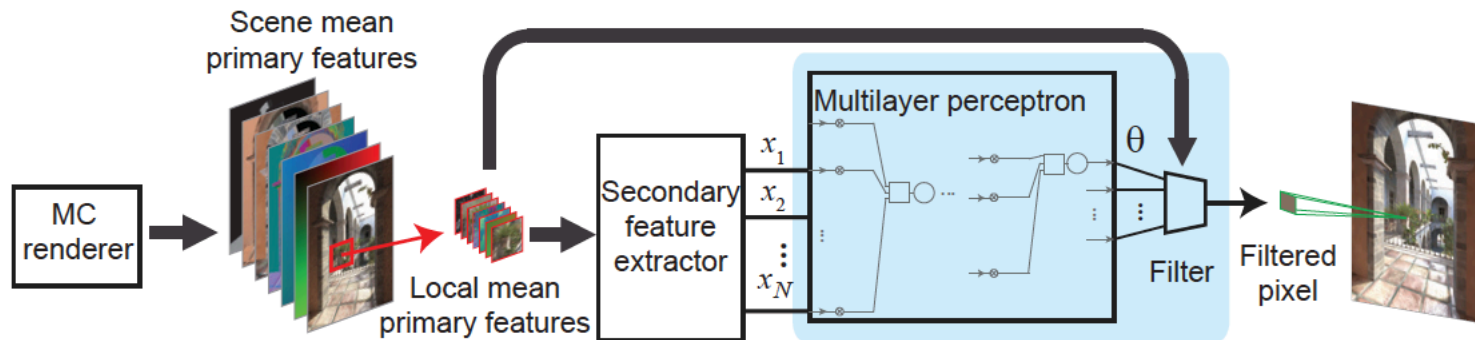


Figure 4: *Our approach combines a standard MLP (Fig. 3) with a matching filter. The local mean primary features (illustrated by a stack of images) contain color, position, and additional features such as world positions, shading normals, etc. A set of secondary features $\{x_1, \dots, x_N\}_i$ (see Sec. 3.3) are extracted from the mean primary features in a local neighborhood of each pixel. The MLP takes the secondary features and outputs the parameters of the filter. The filter then takes the block of mean primary features and outputs a filtered pixel. During training, we minimize the error between the filtered pixel and the ground truth. Once trained, the network can generate appropriate filter parameters for an arbitrary test image.*

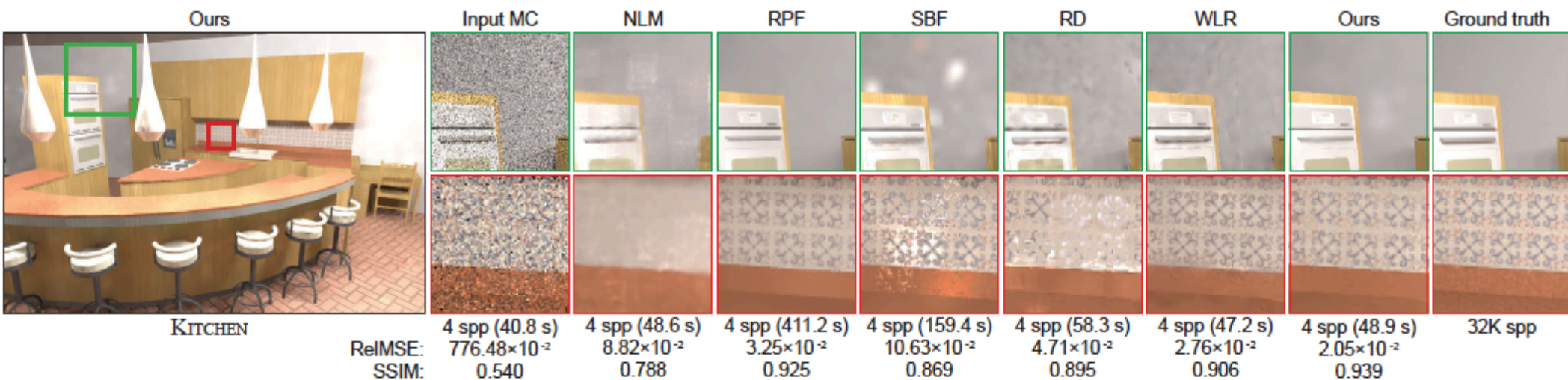


Figure 2: Comparison between our approach and several state-of-the-art algorithms on the KITCHEN scene rendered at 4 spp. Note that the ground truth image is still noisy even at 32K spp. Non-local means filtering (NLM) [Rousselle et al. 2012] is a color-based method which cannot keep geometry or texture detail. Random parameter filtering (RPF) [Sen and Darabi 2012], SURE-based filtering (SBF) [Li et al. 2012], robust denoising (RD) [Rousselle et al. 2013], and weighted local regression (WLR) [Moon et al. 2014] use additional scene features (e.g., world positions) to keep the details. However, they often do not weight the importance of each feature optimally, resulting in under/over blurred regions or splotches in the final result. Our approach preserves scene detail and generates a higher-quality, noise-free result faster than most other methods. The relative mean squared error (RelMSE) and structural similarity (SSIM) index are listed below each image. Larger SSIM values indicate better perceptual quality. Full images are available in the supplementary materials. Scene credit: Jo Ann Elliott.

Spikes...

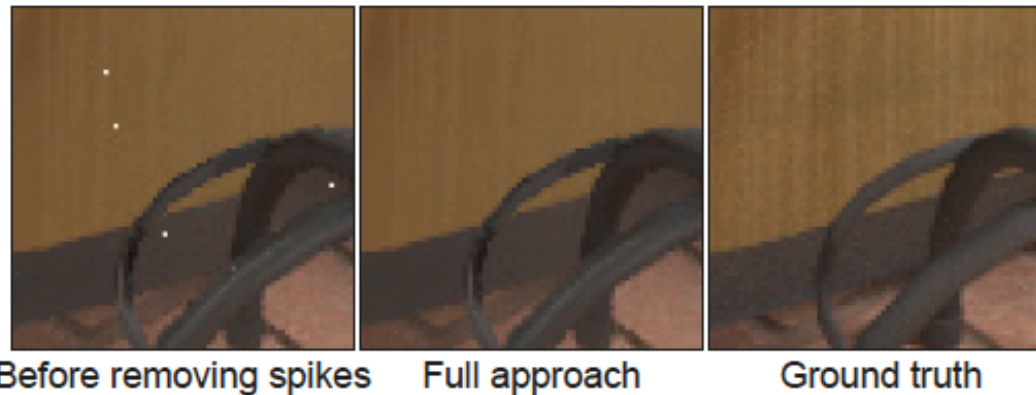


Figure 5: *The image on the left shows the result of our approach before spike removal on an inset of the KITCHEN scene. In our method, we remove high magnitude spikes in the filtered image as a post-process to produce the result shown in the middle. The ground truth image is shown on the right for comparison.*

See also

Alla Chaitanya, 17

(same problem, different architecture)

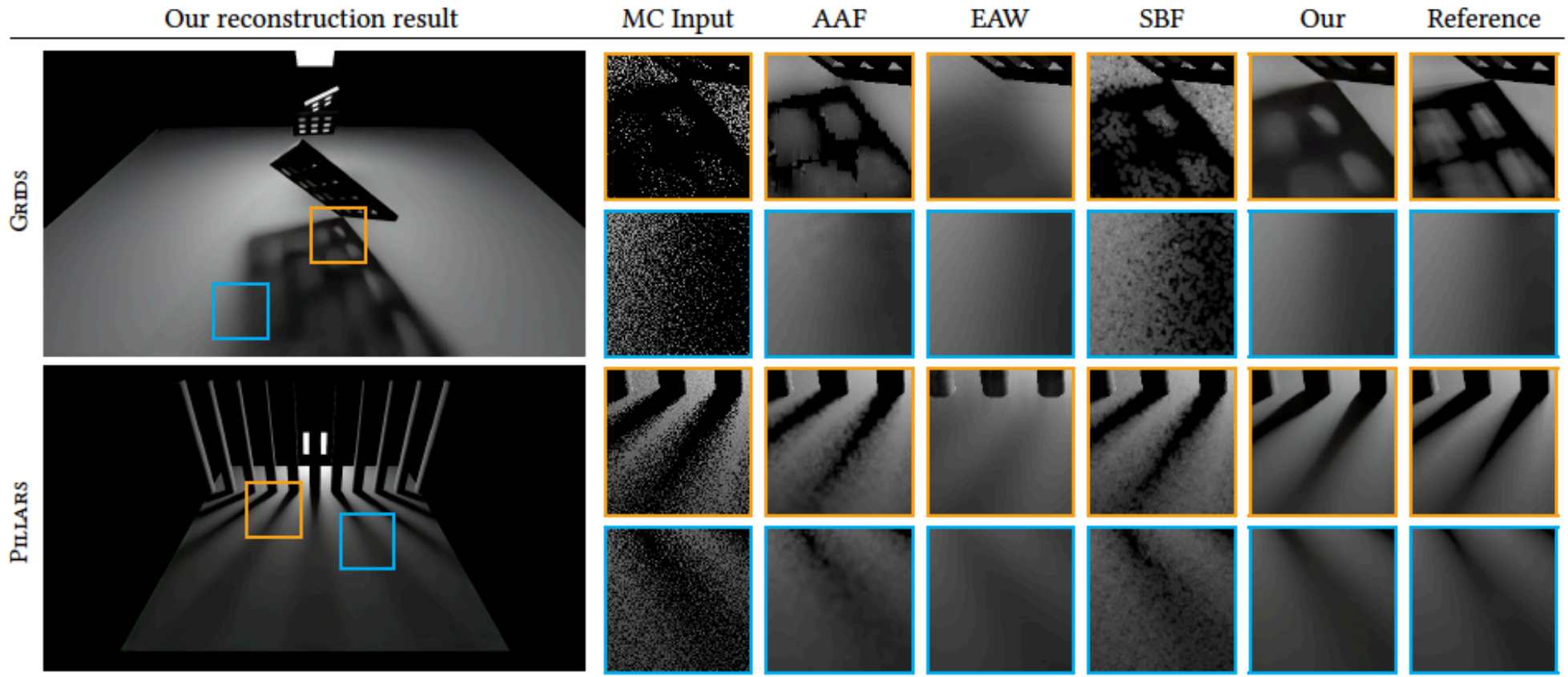


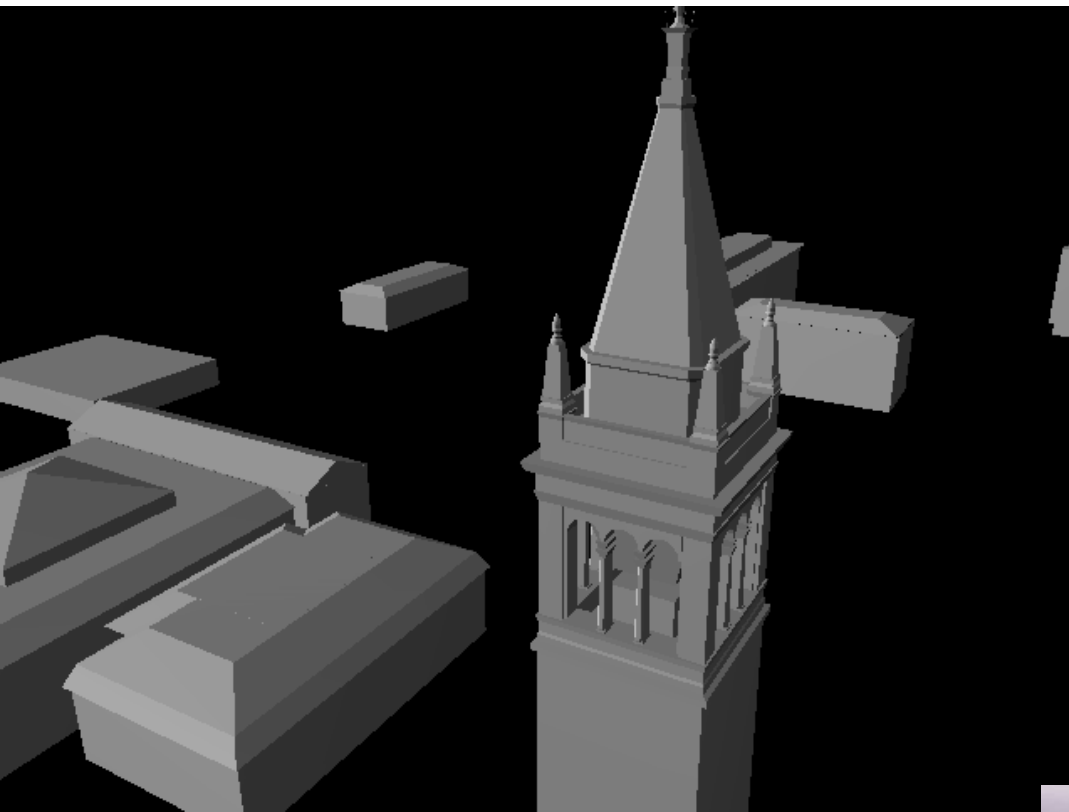
Fig. 10. Closeups for shadow filtering for 1 spp input (MC), axis-aligned filter (AAF), À-Trous wavelet filter (EAW), SURE-based filter (SBF), and our result.

Some topics...

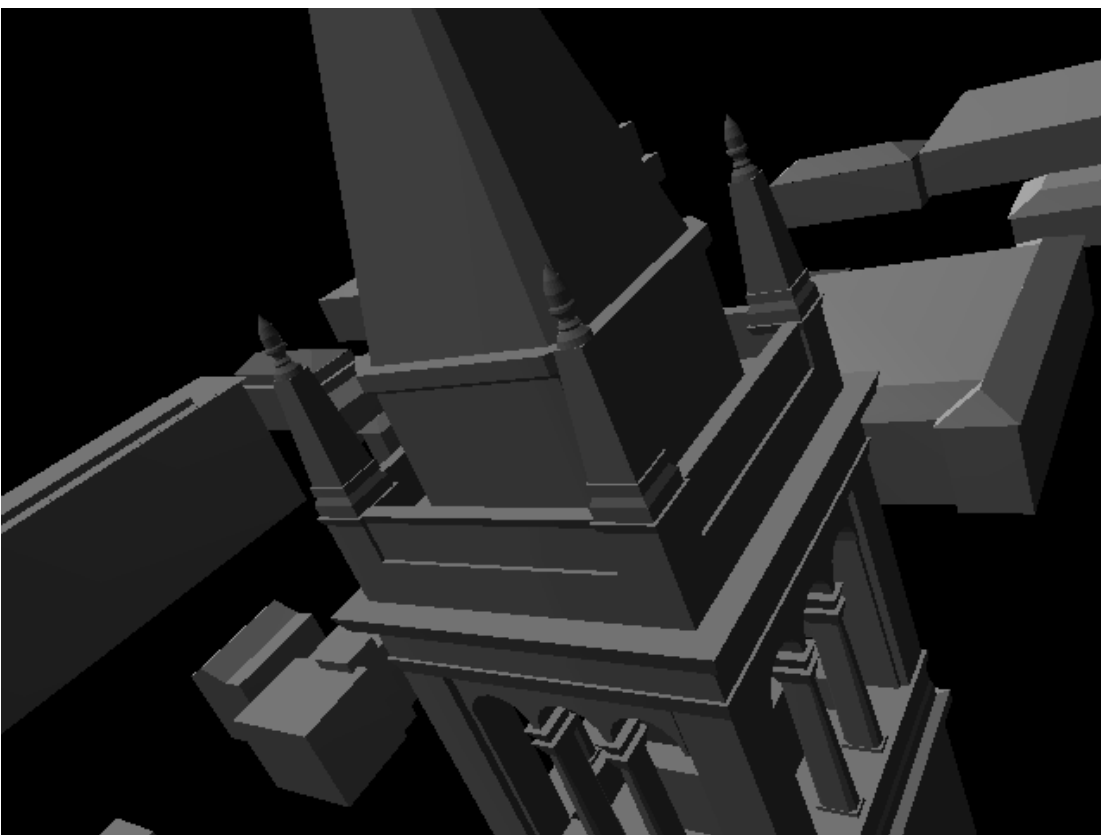
- Reduce rendering noise
 - in MCMC rendering
 - in image based rendering
 - in performance capture
- Realistic images from approximations
- Generate novel views
 - from multiview input
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 - eg motion fields
- Reshade and relight

Noise management in IBR

- (You could see NeRF as an extreme case of this)
- Image based rendering
 - From several images of a scene, produce a rendering at new viewpoint
 - Typically, using some form of approximate geometric representation
 - Simplest cases
 - SFM yields cameras, blend on a common plane (Phototourism, Snavely et al 06)
 - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mTBPGuPLI5Y>
 - blend can look poor, texture slides
 - SFM yields points->parametric model, texture from image, render (Facade, Debevec 1996, 1997)
 - many things remain hard to model
 - errors in recovered model lead to texture problems



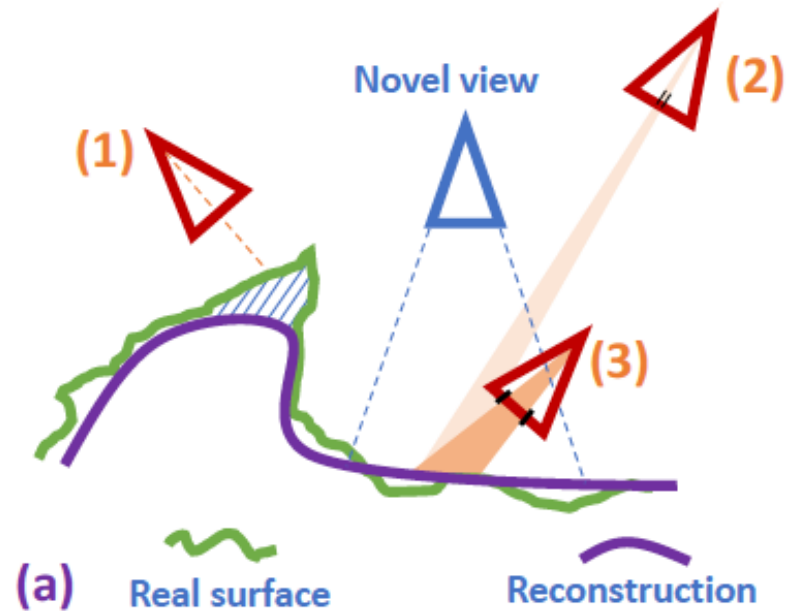
<https://www.pauldebevec.com/Campanile/#movie>



<https://www.pauldebevec.com/Campanile/#movie>

IBR as blending

The novel view is a blend;
blend is driven by relief from reconstruction,
normals, etc. Strategy: build the best blender.



On-line Deep Blending Pipeline

Novel Viewpoint

Voxel Grid



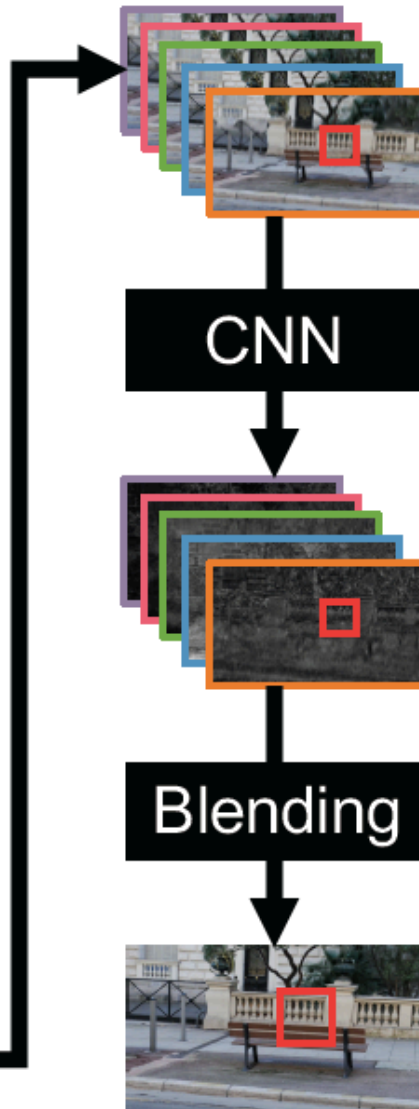
InsideOut Tiled N-View Selection

Per-image Depth Mesh Rendering

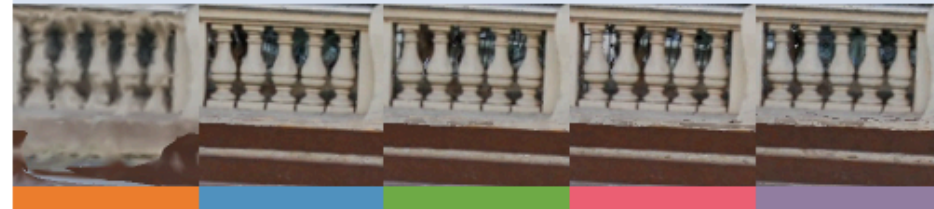
Warped Views

Per-pixel View Prioritization

4 View Mosaics



Global Mesh Render + 4 Mosaics



Blend Weights



Blended RGB Output





Fig. 10. Our network takes as input ranked mosaics generated from a set of warped candidate views. For each pixel, the candidates are ranked based on their expected blending contribution, and 4 color-image mosaics are formed from the top 4 rankings. Example mosaics are shown in the first two rows. The top right halves show the color mosaic, while the bottom left halves show colormaps of the selection, with each input shown in a different color. Weighted blending outputs from our network (bottom right) are trained by minimizing their difference with real images (bottom left). Our network also blends an RGB view of the global mesh (not shown).

Off-line Scene Preprocessing

SfM
Registration



Local Depth
Maps



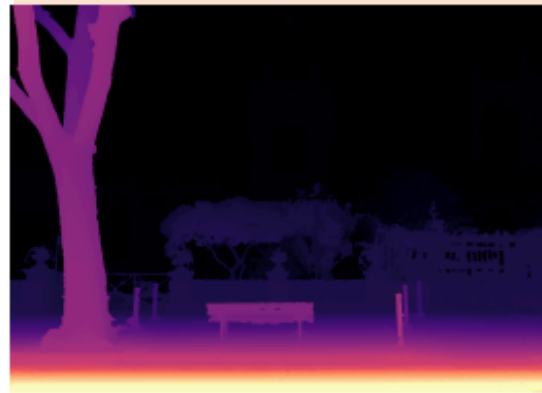
Global
Mesh

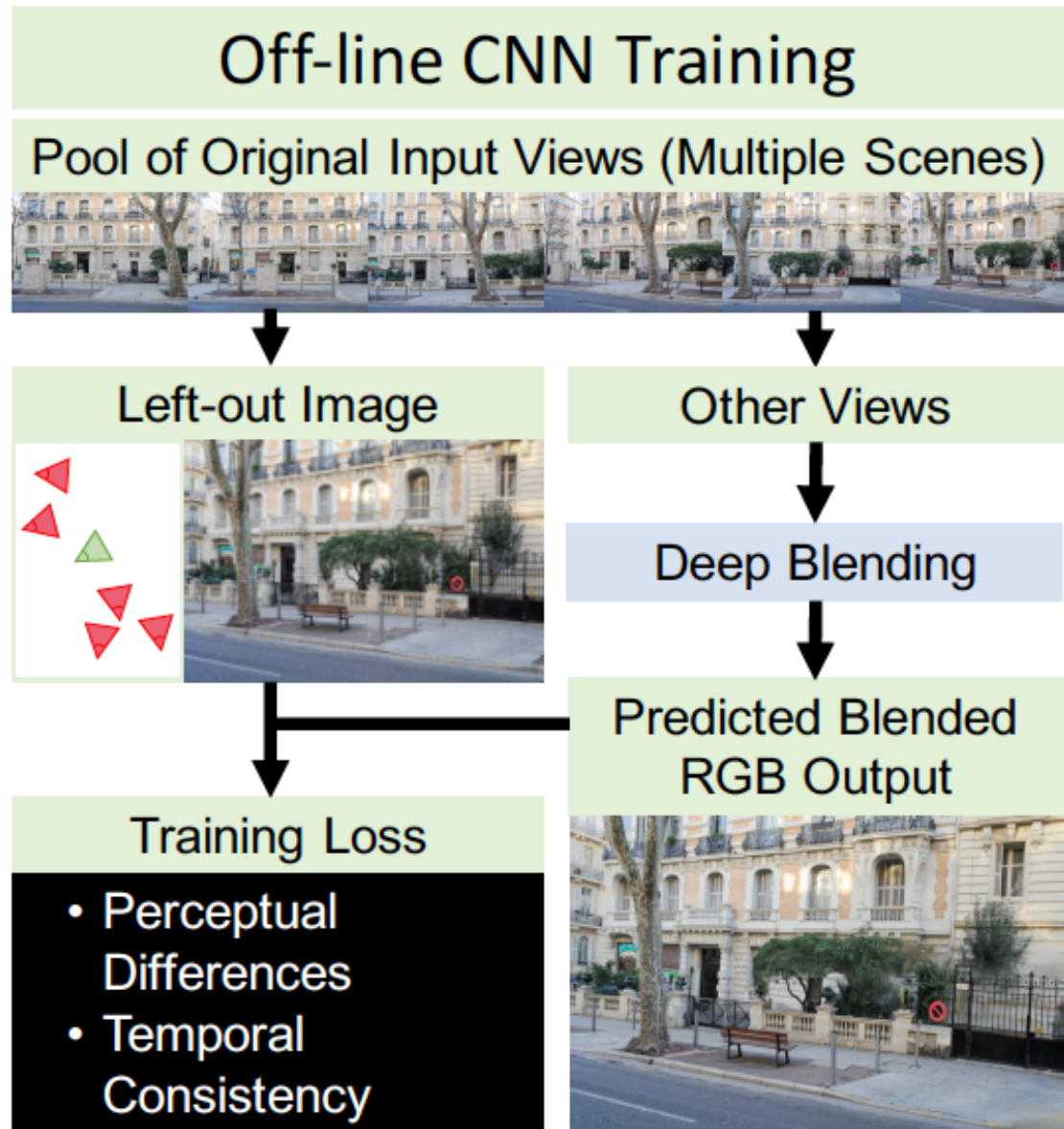


Edge-preserving
Simplification



Per-view Geometry
Refinement





Training

- Losses:
 - per frame perceptual loss

$$\mathcal{L}(I_N, I_R) = |I_N - I_R| + \\ |VGG16_{relu12}(I_N) - VGG16_{relu12}(I_R)| + \\ |VGG16_{relu22}(I_N) - VGG16_{relu22}(I_R)|$$

- two frame temporal consistency
 - helps prevent oscillation, flicker, etc

$$\mathcal{L}_T(I_N, I_R) = \mathcal{L}(I_N^t, I_R) + 0.33 * \mathcal{L}(I_N^{t-1}, \mathcal{W}_f(I_N^t)),$$

Notes and Queries

- This mostly cleans up a very good IBR representation
 - notice how much preprocessing and detail before learning
- You should likely think of IBR repn as latent variables
 - Q: can one learn them? Why?
- There is no adversarial loss
 - Q: Why? (authors say might create temporal coherence problems)

View dependent appearance effects

- Specular effects, gloss, etc. depend on viewing direction
 - Blending multiple views will blur the effect or remove it
 - Strategy:
 - select triangle from image mesh per view (Debevec, 98) rather than blending

View dependent appearance effects

- Specular effects, gloss, etc. depend on viewing direction
 - Blending multiple views will blur the effect or remove it

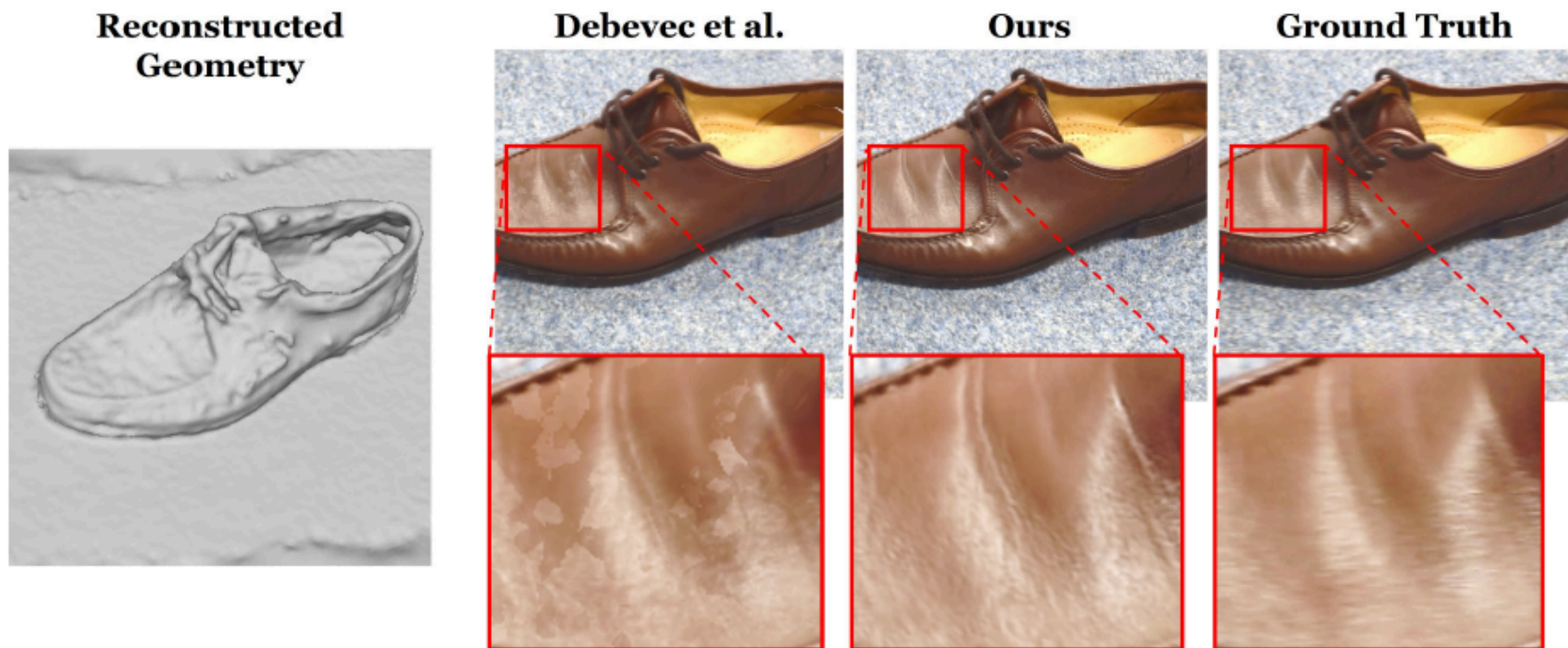


Figure 14: Image synthesis on real data: we show a comparison to the IBR technique of Debevec et al. (1998). From left to right: reconstructed geometry of the object, result of IBR, our result, and the ground truth.

Idea: predict these separately

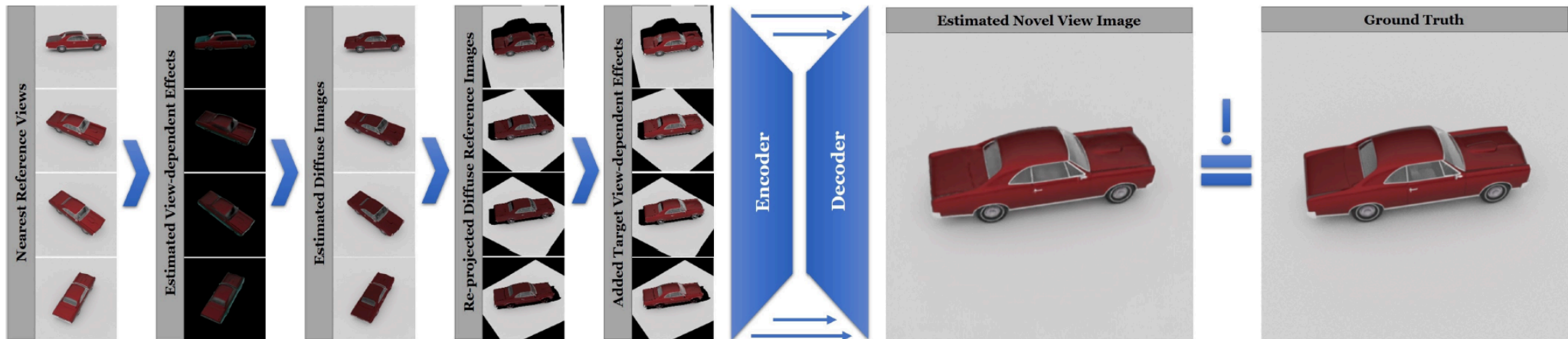


Figure 1: Overview of our image-guided rendering approach: based on the nearest neighbor views, we predict the corresponding view-dependent effects using our *EffectsNet* architecture. The view-dependent effects are subtracted from the original images to get the diffuse images that can be re-projected into the target image space. In the target image space we estimate the new view-dependent effect and add them to the warped images. An encoder-decoder network is used to blend the warped images to obtain the final output image. During training, we enforce that the output image matches the corresponding ground truth image.

We propose a learning-based image-guided rendering approach that enables novel view synthesis for arbitrary objects. Input to our approach is a set of N images $\mathcal{I} = \{\mathcal{I}_k\}_{k=1}^N$ of an object with constant illumination. In a preprocess, we obtain camera pose estimates and a coarse proxy geometry using the *COLMAP* structure-from-motion approach (Schönberger & Frahm (2016); Schönberger et al. (2016)). We use the reconstruction and the camera poses to render synthetic depth maps \mathcal{D}_k for all input images \mathcal{I}_k to obtain the training corpus $\mathcal{T} = \{(\mathcal{I}_k, \mathcal{D}_k)\}_{k=1}^N$, see Fig. 8. Based on this input, our learning-based approach generates novel views based on the stages that are depicted in Fig. 1. First, we employ a coverage-based look-up to select a small number $n \ll N$ of fixed views from a subset of the training corpus. In our experiments, we are using a number of $n = 20$ frames, which we call reference images. Per target view, we select $K = 4$ nearest views from these reference images. Our *EffectsNet* predicts the view-dependent effects for these views and, thus, the corresponding view-independent components can be obtained via subtraction (Sec. 5). The view-independent component is explicitly warped to the target view using geometry-guided cross-projection (Sec. 6). Next, the view-dependent effects of the target view are predicted and added on top of the warped views. Finally, our *CompositionNet* is used to optimally combine all warped views to generate the final output (Sec. 6). In the following, we discuss details, show how our approach can be trained based on our training corpus (Sec. 4), and extensively evaluate our proposed approach (see Sec. 7 and the appendix).

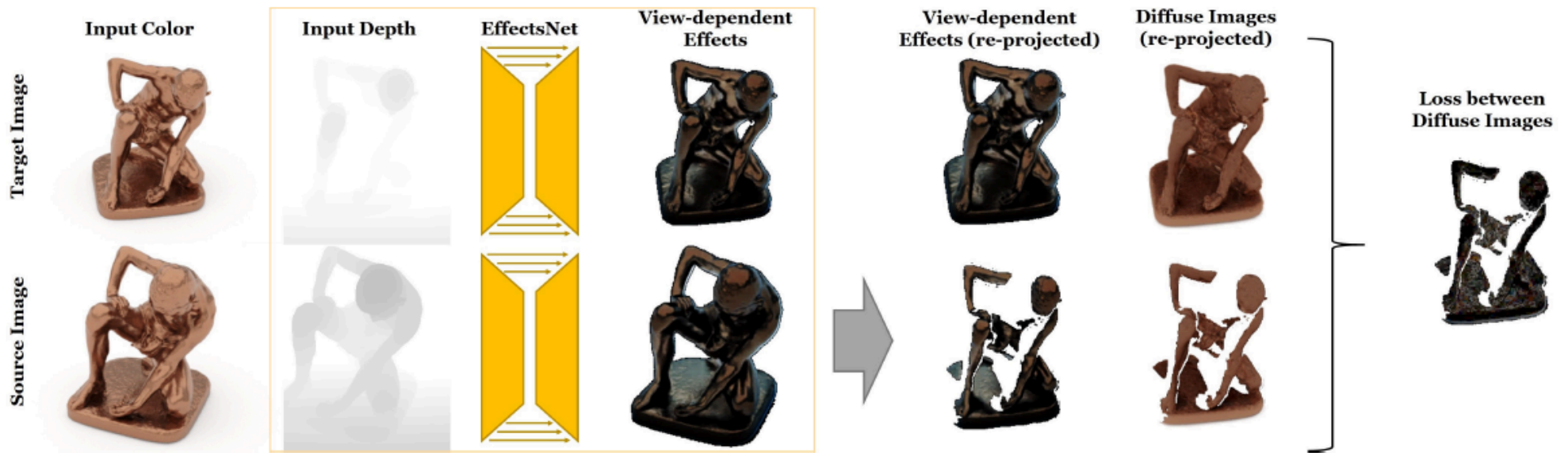


Figure 2: *EffectsNet* is trained in a self-supervised fashion. In a Siamese scheme, two random images from the training set are chosen and fed into the network to predict the view-dependent effects based on the current view and the respective depth map. After re-projecting the source image to the target image space we compute the diffuse color via subtraction. We optimize the network by minimizing the difference between the two diffuse images in the valid region.

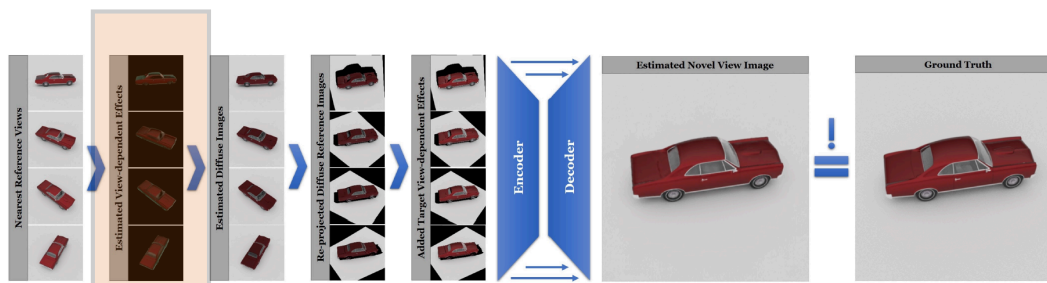


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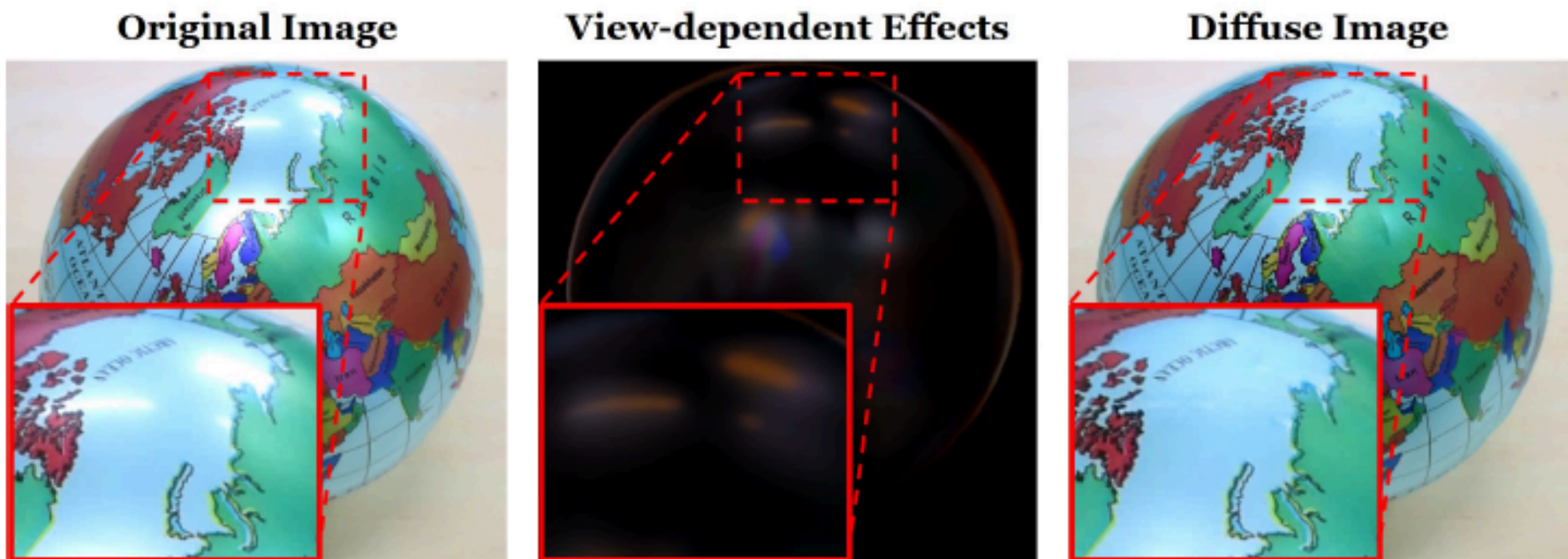


Figure 4: Prediction and removal of view-dependent effects of a highly specular real object.

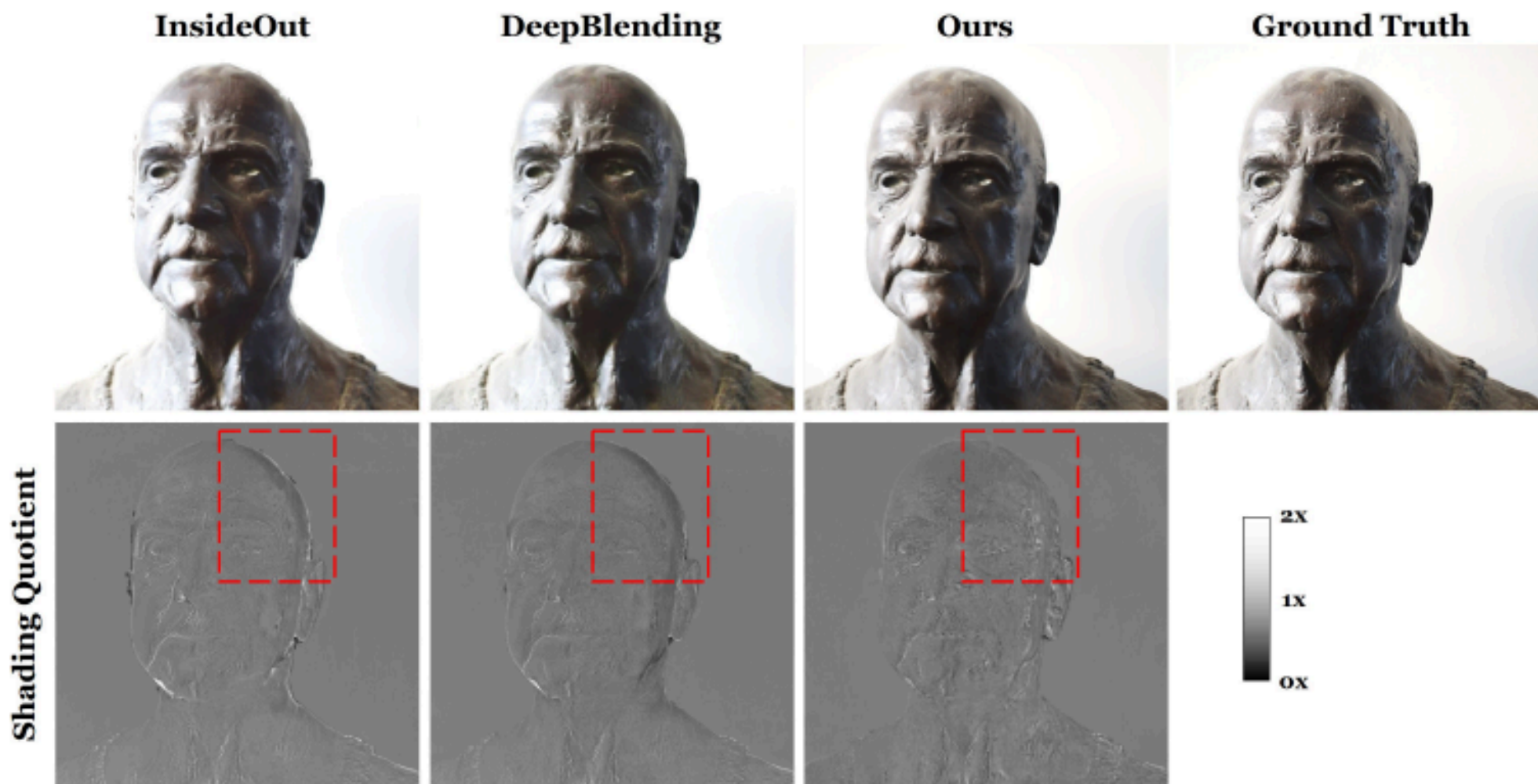


Figure 6: Comparison to the IBR method InsideOut of Hedman et al. (2016) and the learned IBR blending method DeepBlending of Hedman et al. (2018). To better show the difference in shading, we computed the quotient of the resulting image and the ground truth. A perfect reconstruction would result in a quotient of 1. As can be seen our approach leads to a more uniform error, while the methods of Hedman et al. show shading errors due to the view-dependent effects.

Idea: predict these separately

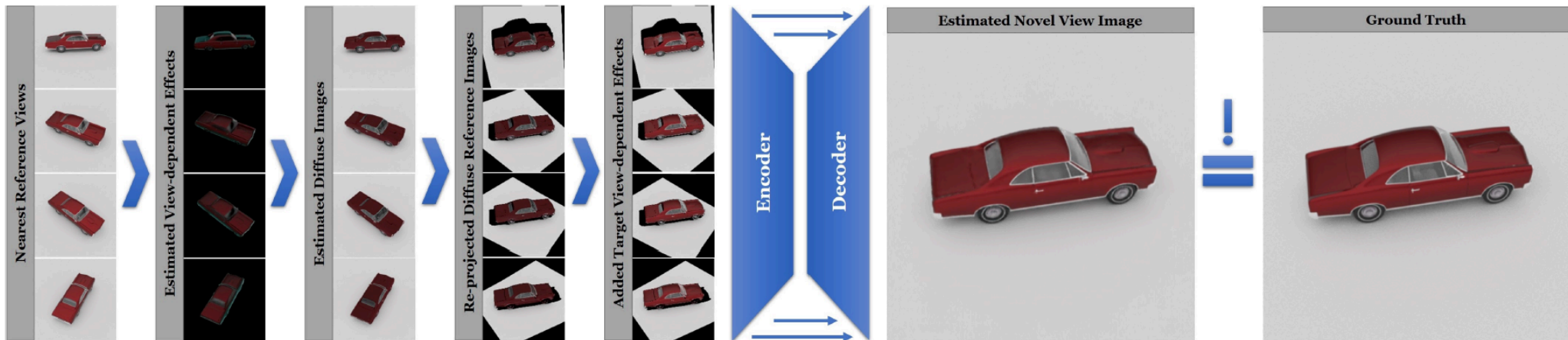


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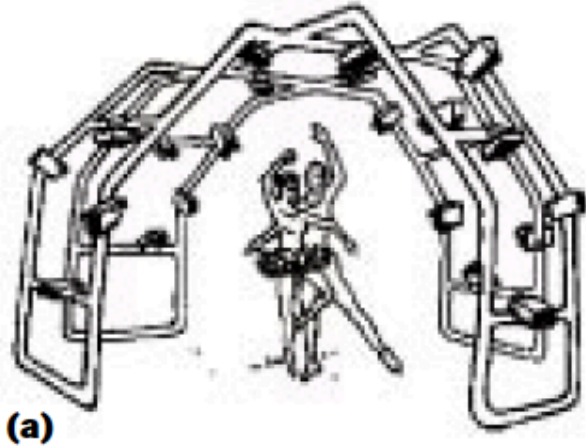
Notes and Queries

- Key idea
 - separate diffuse view prediction and view dependent components
 - notice how much preprocessing and detail before learning
 - multiple registered pix and depth maps
- There is an adversarial loss
 - Local PatchGAN loss
 - from pix2pix (Isola, 16)
 - useful trick

Performance capture (rough summary)

- Use multiple synchronized cameras to
 - come up with a surface like representation of performer(s)
 - that is photorealistic
 - to re-render from different views
 - to augment
- History
 - rough outlines clear since mid 90s
 - details fantastically important
 - quality is hard to get

Performance capture (rough summary)



View

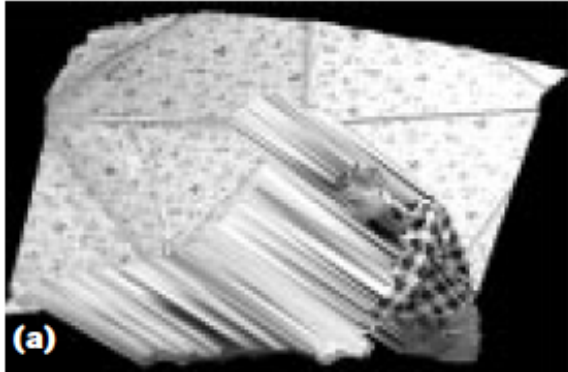


Depth map (stereo, I think)

Kanade et al 97



Performance capture (rough summary)



Depth discontinuities create
meshing problems



Crop at discontinuities



Fill holes with other
viewpoints

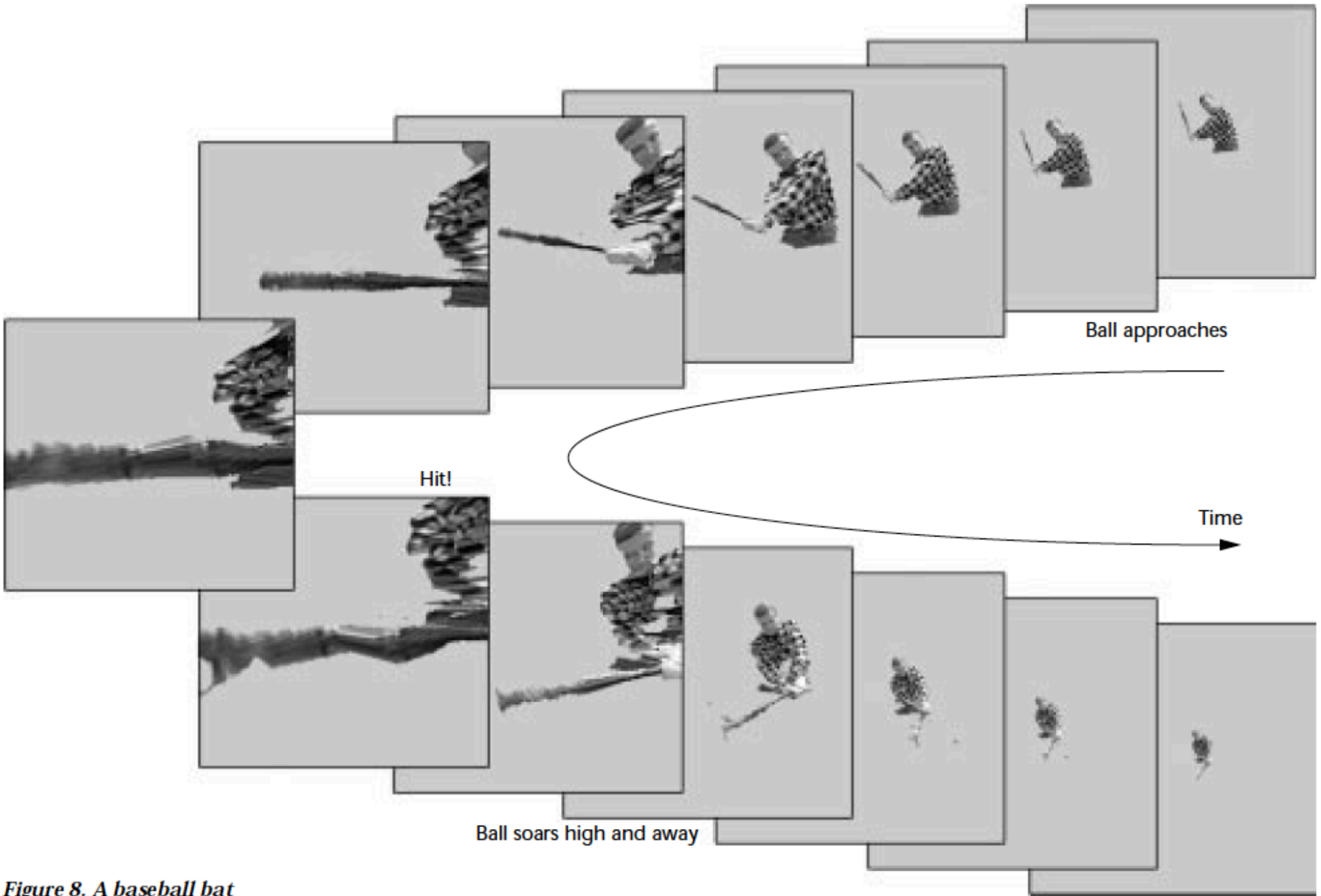


Figure 8. A baseball bat swing from the baseball's point of view.

Quiz: what could go wrong

Quiz: what could go wrong?

- Flicker at boundaries
 - segmentation not coherent over time
- Segmentation errors lead to poor appearance
- Motion blur errors
- Matting errors
- Resolution problems
- Texture at boundaries

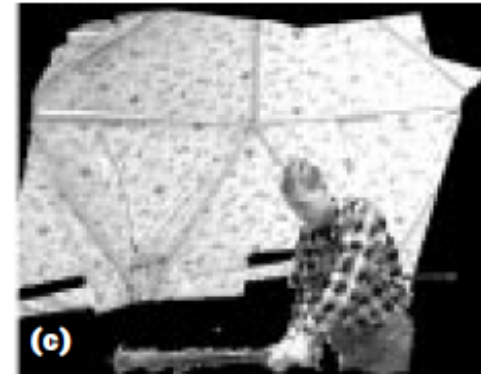
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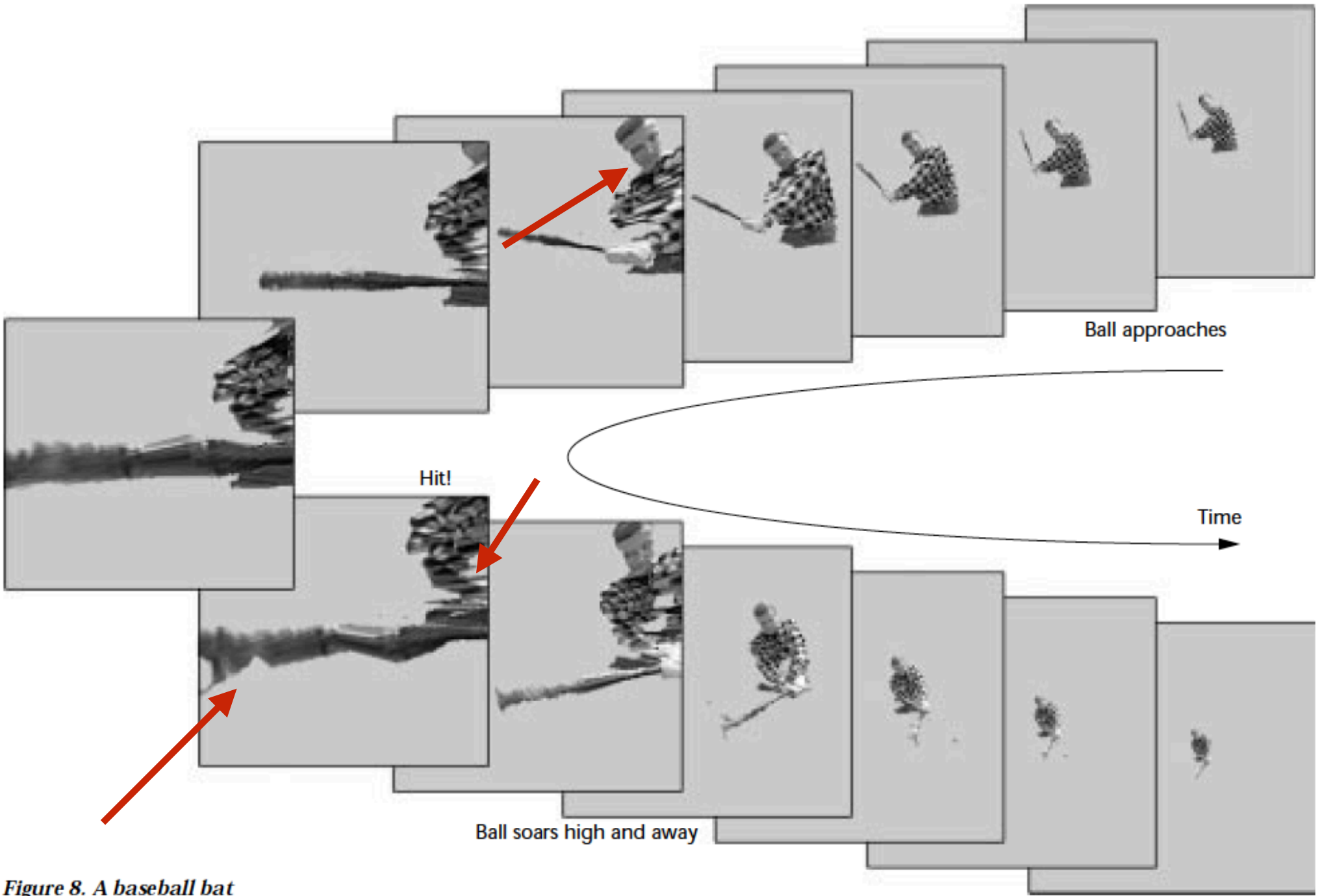
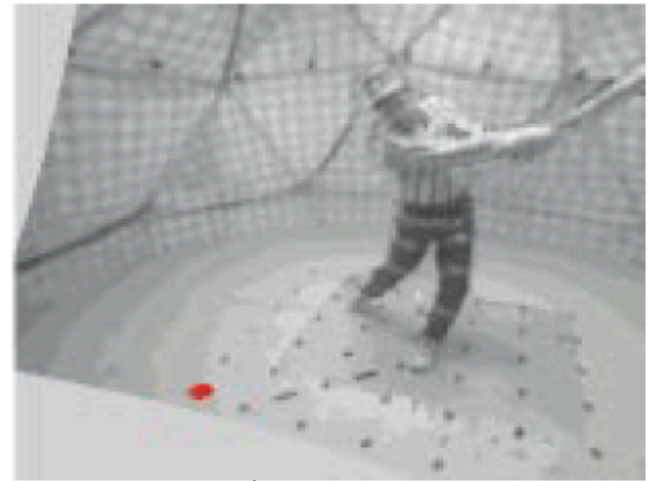
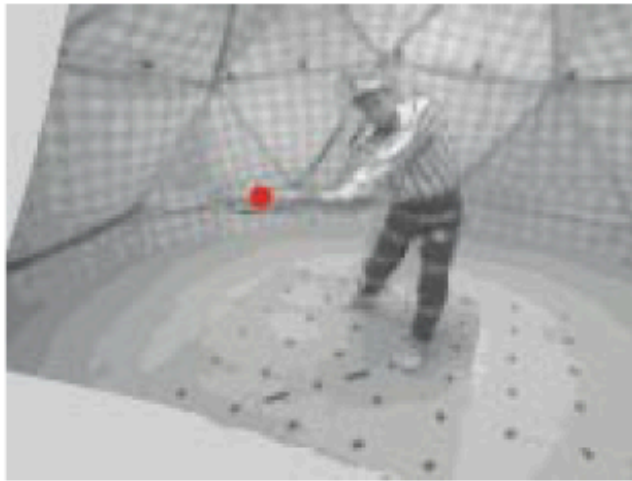
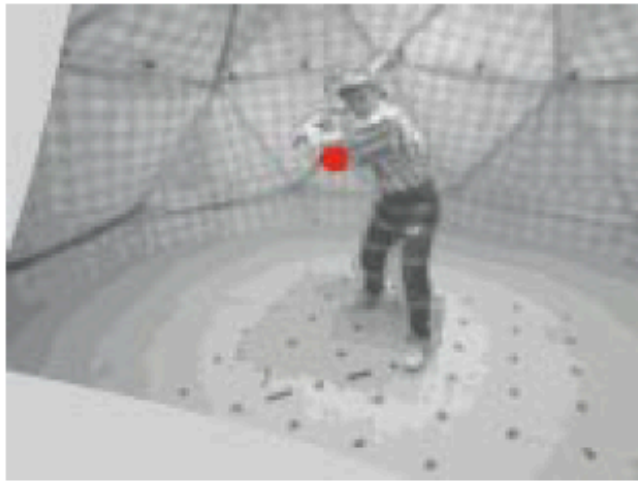


Figure 8. A baseball bat swing from the baseball's point of view.



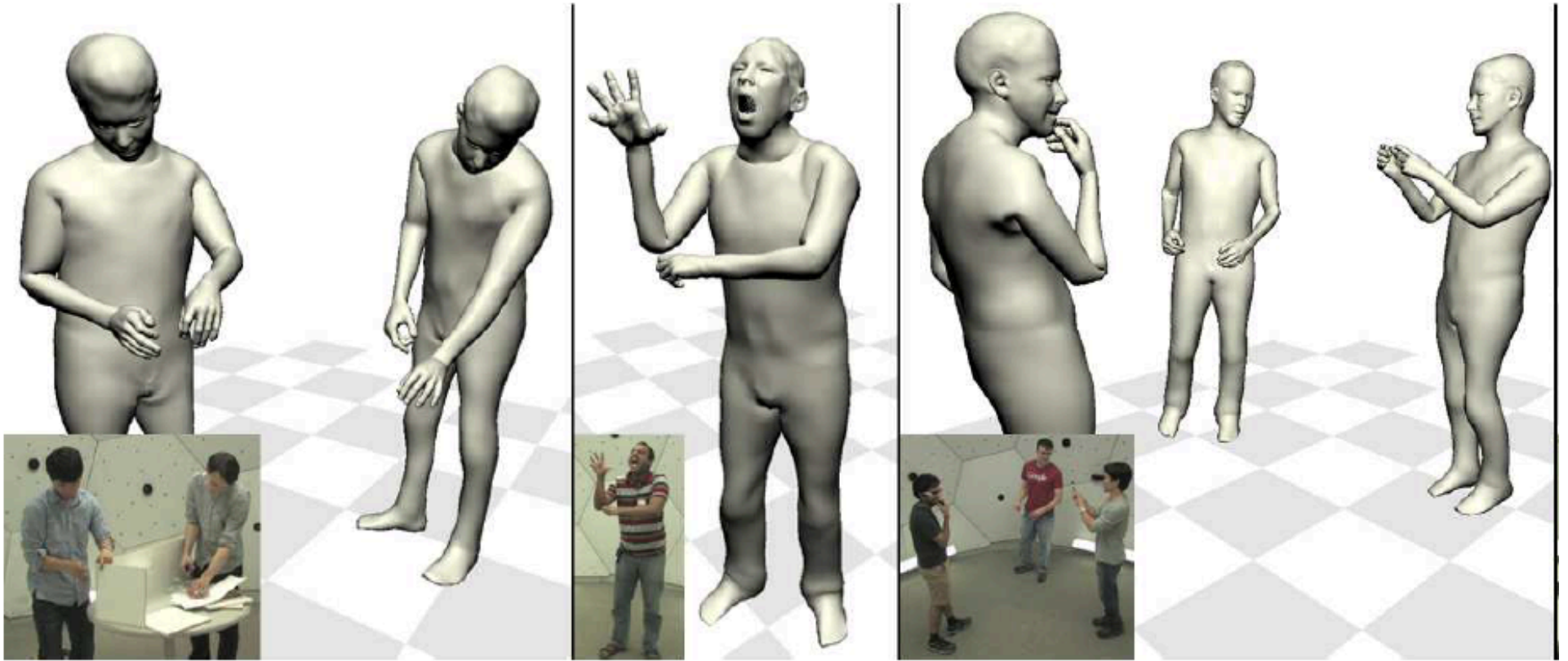
Kanade et al 97



Kanade et al 97

Fixes

- Cameras:
 - more, faster, higher resolution, better synchronized
- Reconstruction algorithms:
 - high resolution multiview stereo reconstructions
- Body models:
 - skinned parametric body/hand/face models



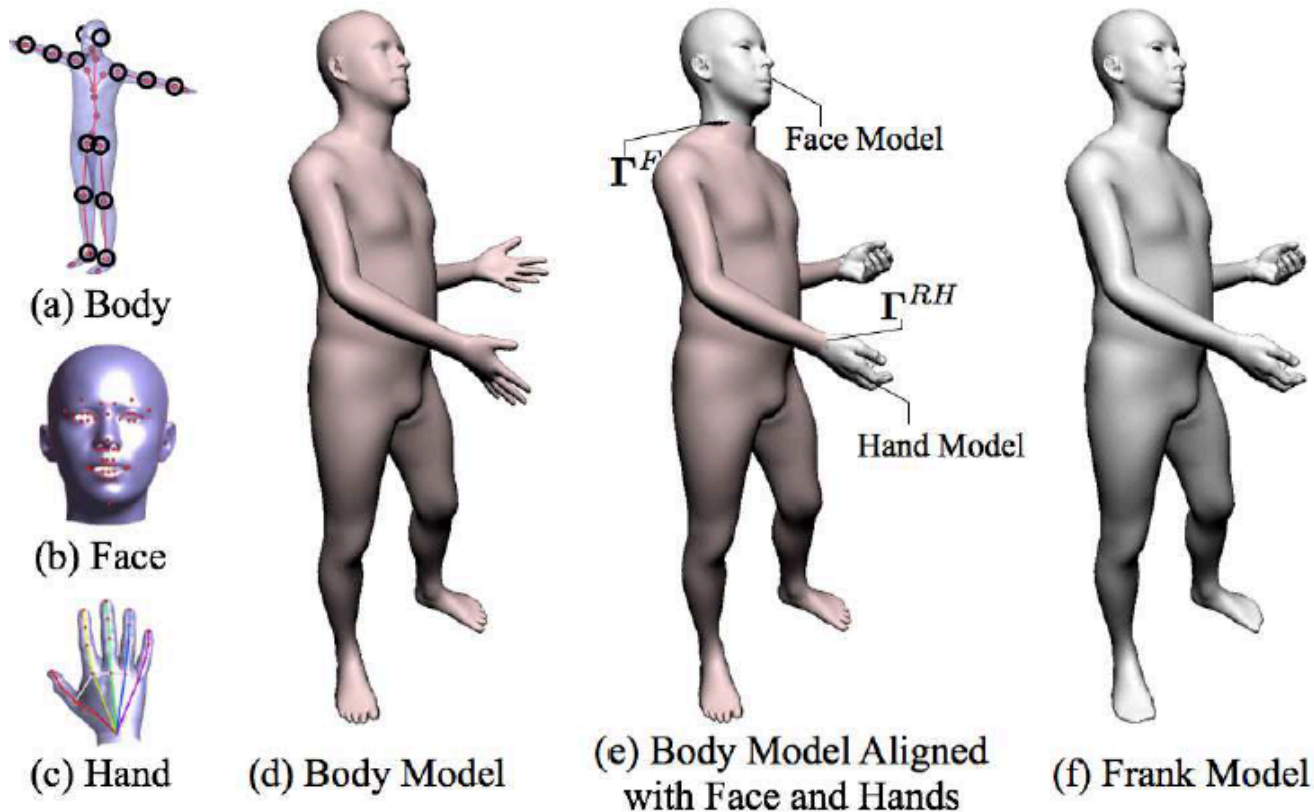


Figure 2: Part models and the Frank model. (a) The body model [34]; (b) the face model [15]; and (c) a hand rig. In (a-c), the red dots have corresponding 3D keypoints reconstructed by detectors; (d) Body only model; (e) Face and hand models substitute the corresponding parts of the body model. Alignments are ensured by Γ s; and (f) The blending matrix \mathbf{C} is applied to produce a seamless mesh.

Issues (later...)

- Construct parametric surface deformation model from data
 - for body, hand, head+face (body - SMPL, widely used)
- Skinning
 - Link joint parameters of model to surface for control
- Blending
 - Attach hand, head+face to body

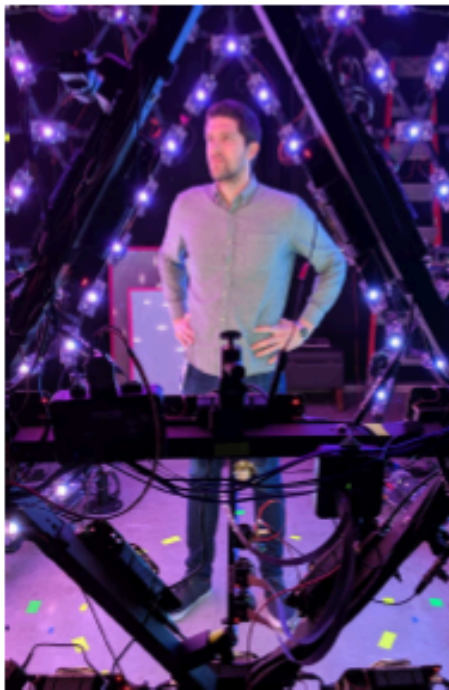
Fitting

- Recover point cloud
- Recover 3D joint (keypoint) positions
 - human pose recovery (qv)
- Fit parametric model to point cloud using
 - keypoint positions
 - ICP for points to surface
 - Minimize seams between hand/body, head/body
 - prior
- Refine parametric model to better encode sequences

Relightables - extreme capture

- Capture with
 - 12MP active IR depth sensors (specialized)
 - Fast HR RGB cameras
 - Controllable relighting during capture

Guo et al, 2019



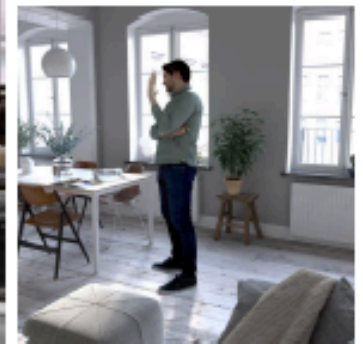
Capture System with Performer



Computed Geometry



Computed Reconstruction
with Texture



Relightable Volumetric Videos

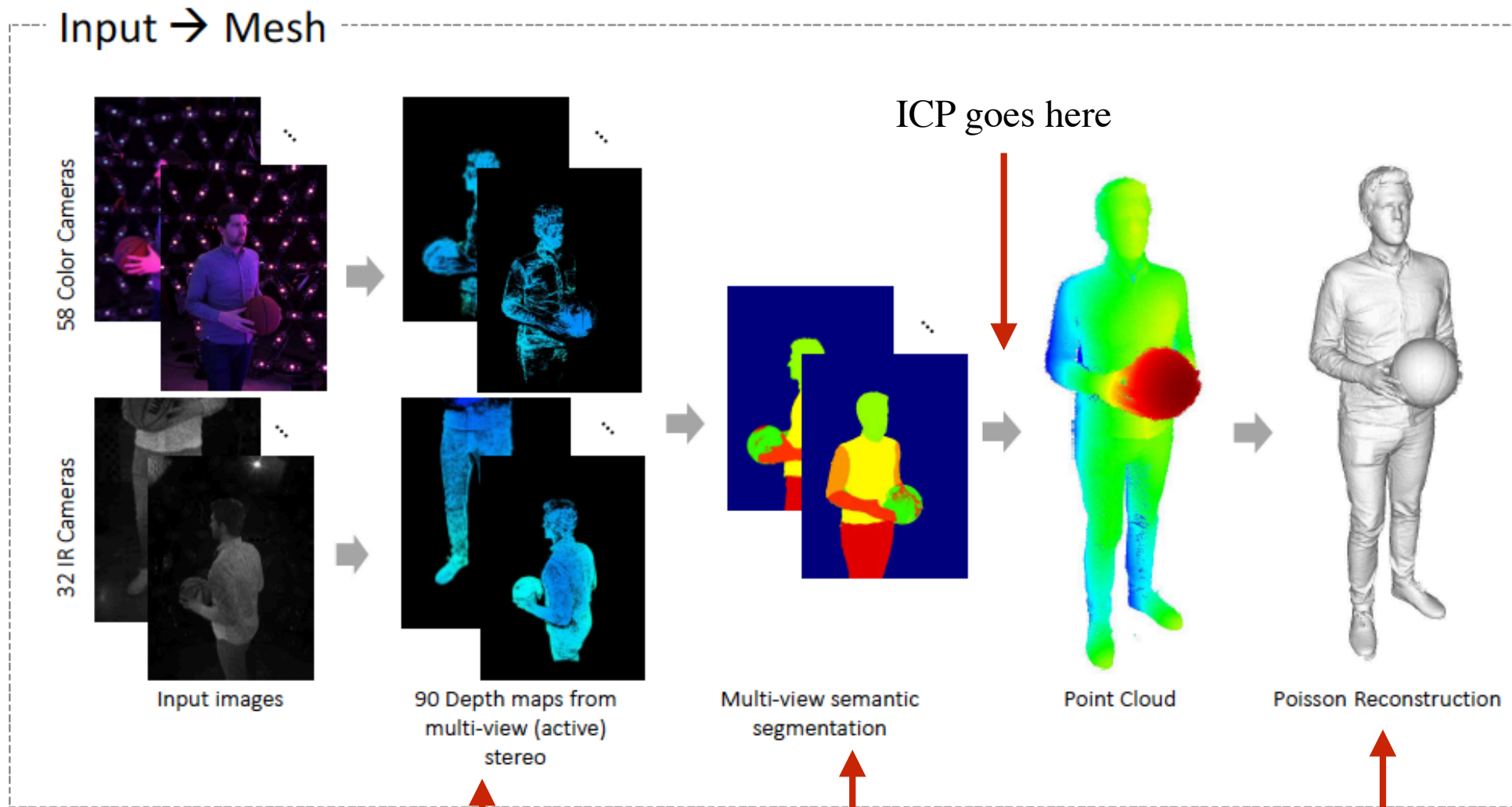


Fig. 8. The Relightables Pipeline (Part 1). First, raw images are used to reconstructed a high quality 3D model.

Depth maps come both from active and from passive sensors

Standard procedure

Essential: can't green-screen because we're actively relighting; CRF here leads to other small but important improvements

Guo et al 19

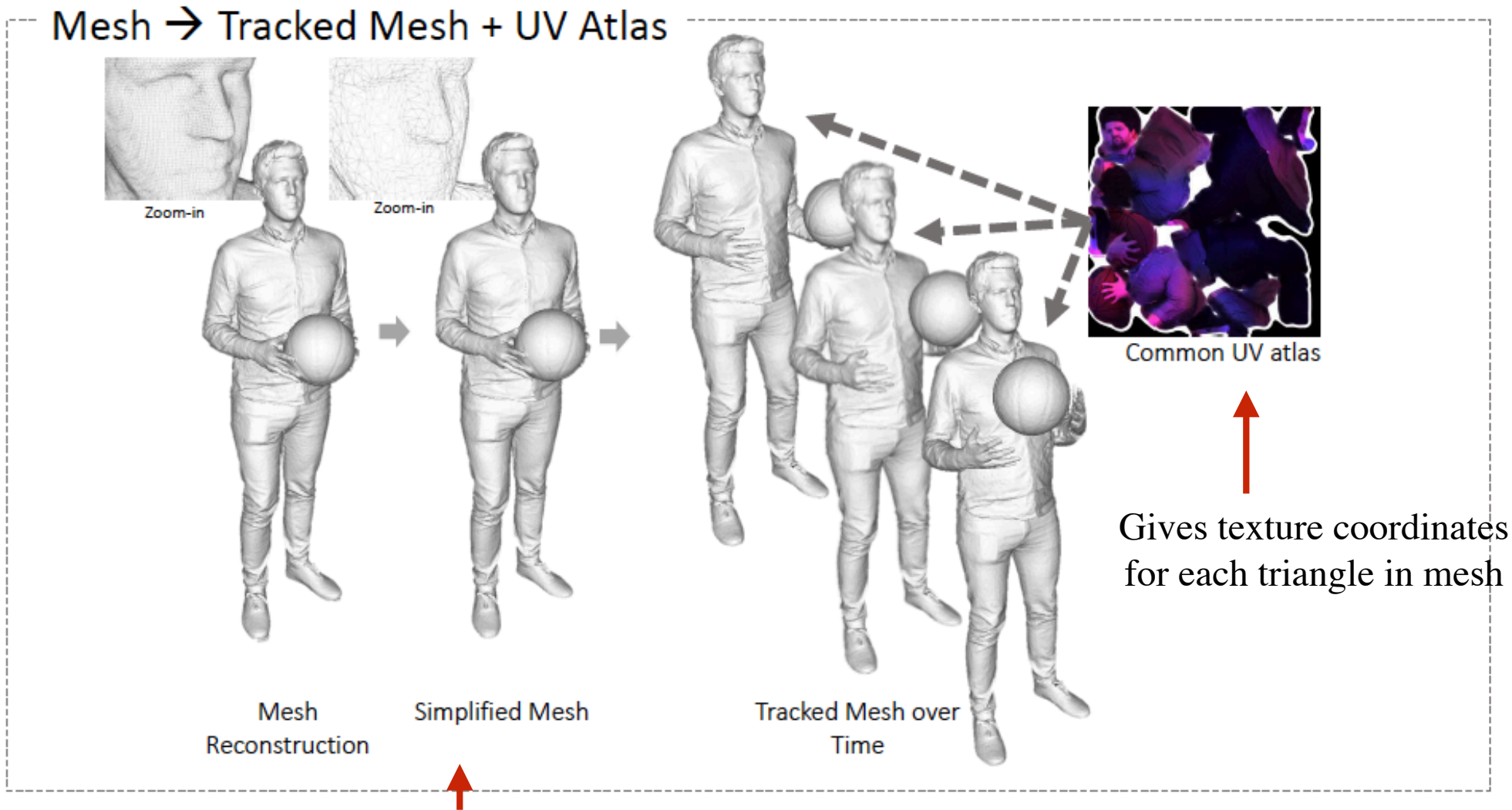


Fig. 9. The Relightables Pipeline (Part 2). This mesh then gets downsampled, tracked over time and parameterized.

Simplified by another standard procedure

Gradient Map \rightarrow Reflectance Field

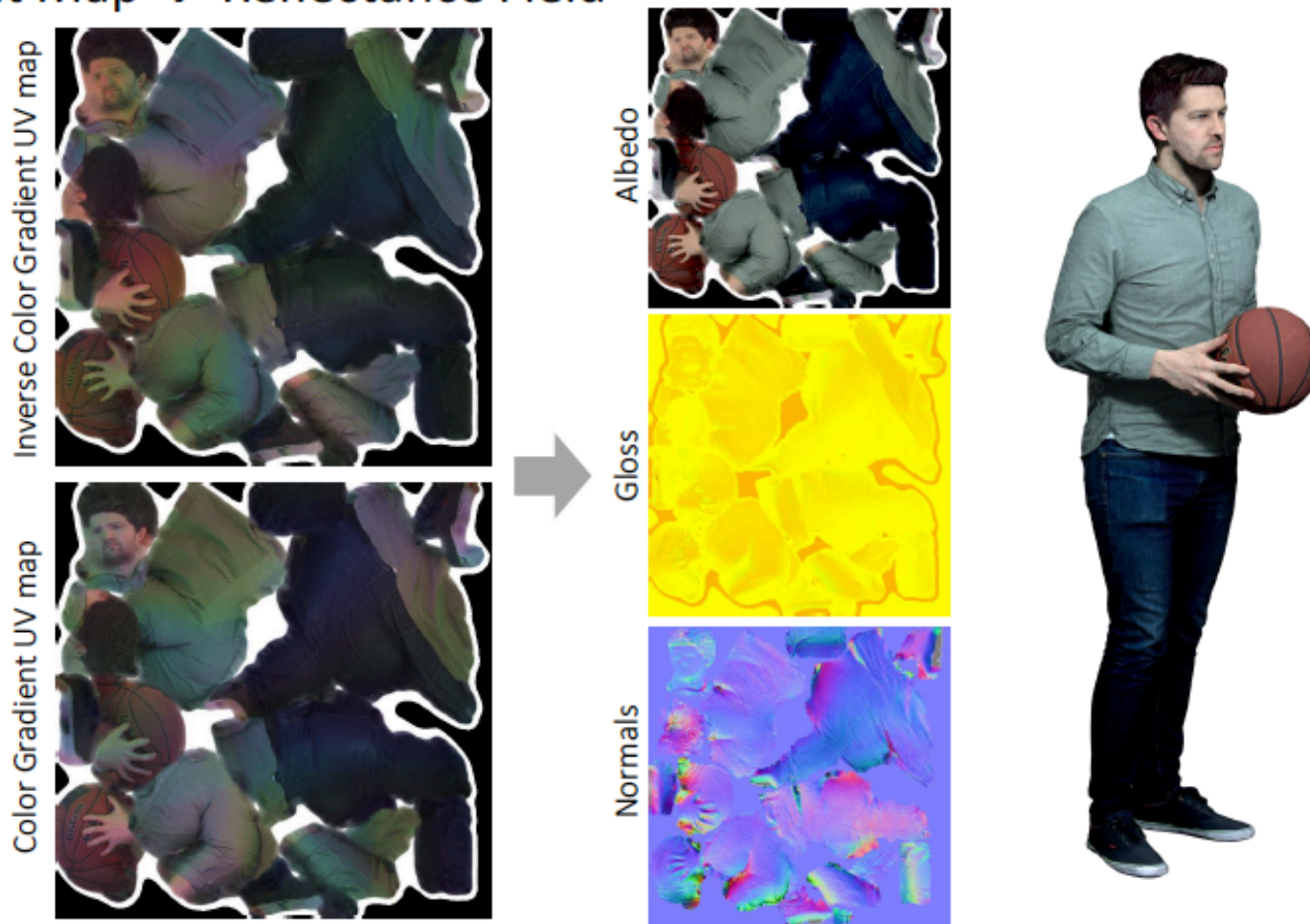


Fig. 10. The Relightables Pipeline (Part 3). Finally reflectance maps are inferred from two gradient illumination conditions.

Because we know triangle normals, and we see under multiple illuminations, can recover (a) albedo and (b) gloss terms.
Q: can we also refine normals, triangles, etc?

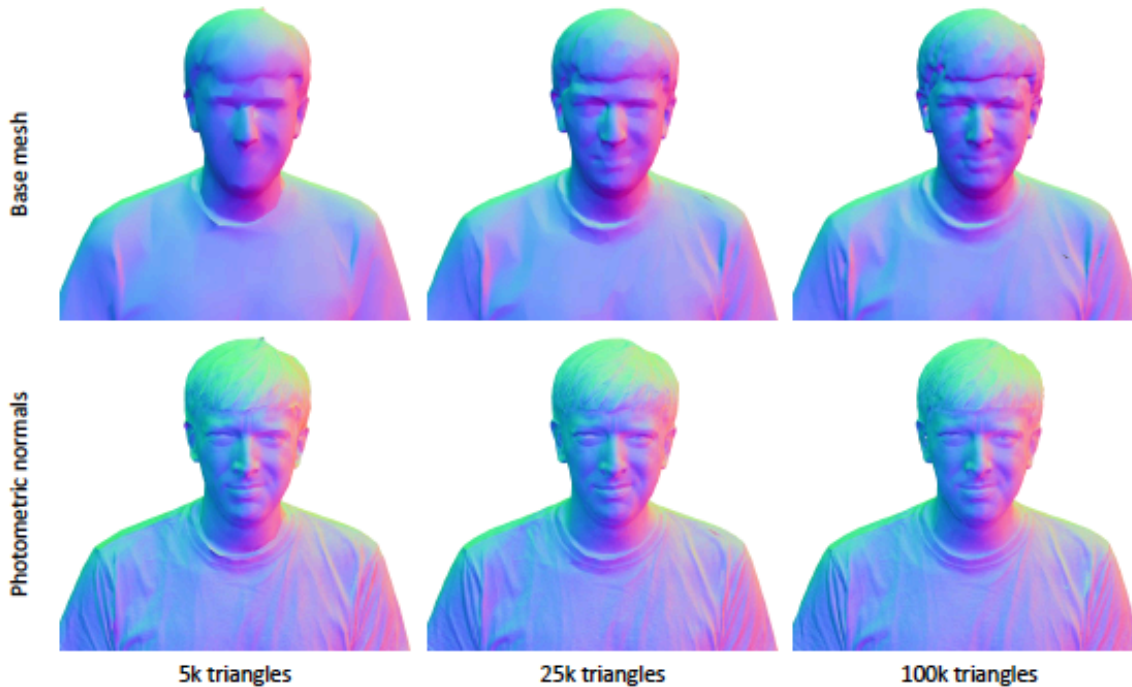


Fig. 17. A comparison of different decimated meshes (base mesh and photometric normals visualization) using 5k, 25k, and 100k triangles respectively.

- General point
 - for rendering purposes, normals do not need to be geometric
 - ie the normal at each mesh vertex
 - does not have to be estimated from the mesh
 - could be estimated photometrically (essentially, photometric stereo)
 - photometric normals are often (usually) better

Collet et al., 2015



Our Result



Our Result with Texture





Fig. 20. Left: HDRI relighting of diffuse color and geometry such as in Collet et al. [2015]. Right: our solution using geometry, albedo, photometric normal, and material maps as input. Note the increased sharpness and amount of details with the proposed system.

There are problems in all systems...

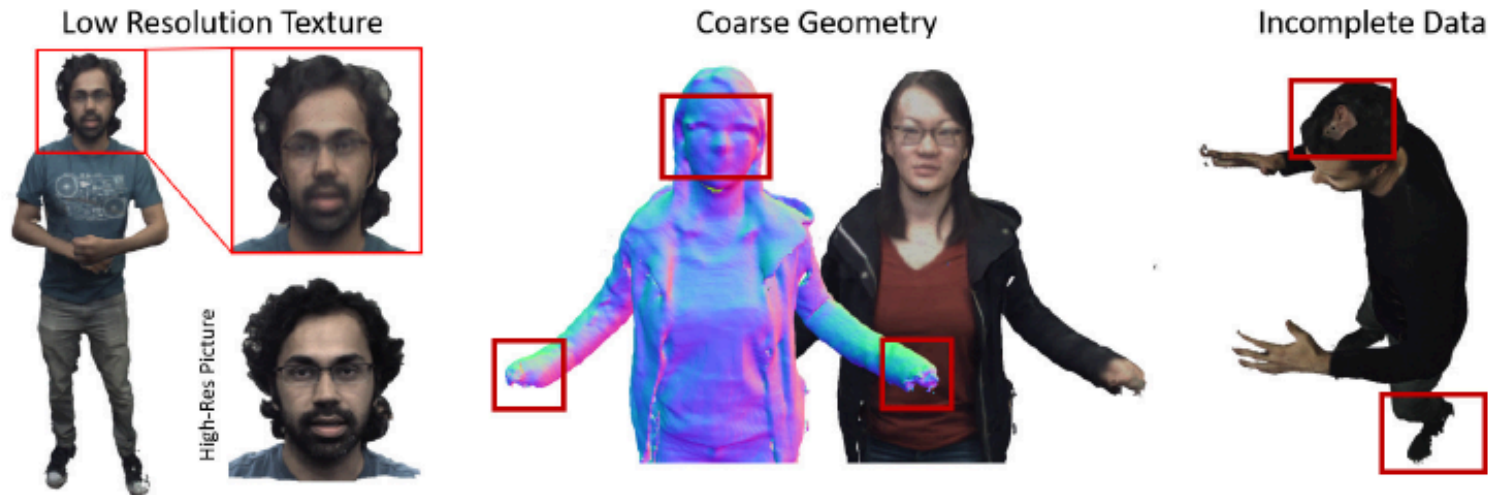


Fig. 2. Limitations of state of the art, real-time performance capture systems. Left: low resolution textures where the final rendering does not resemble a high quality picture of the subject. Middle: coarse geometry leads to overly smooth surfaces where important details such as glasses are lost. This also limits the quality of the final texture. Right: incomplete data in the reconstruction creates holes in the final output.

Idea: learned beauty-renderer

- During capture, have witness cameras
- Train a beauty renderer to
 - accept predicted frames
 - produce good looking frames
 - using witness cameras

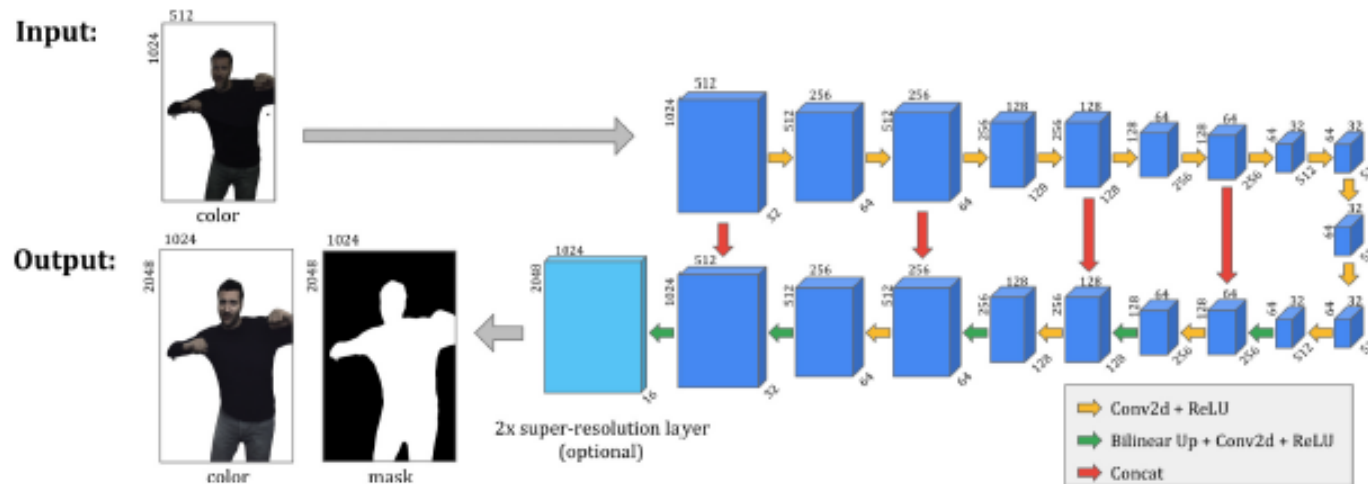


Fig. 5. LookinGood's fully convolutional deep architecture. We train the model for both left and right view that simulate a VR or AR headset. The architecture takes as input a low resolution image and produces a high quality rendering together with a foreground segmentation mask.

Full Body (Multi View)

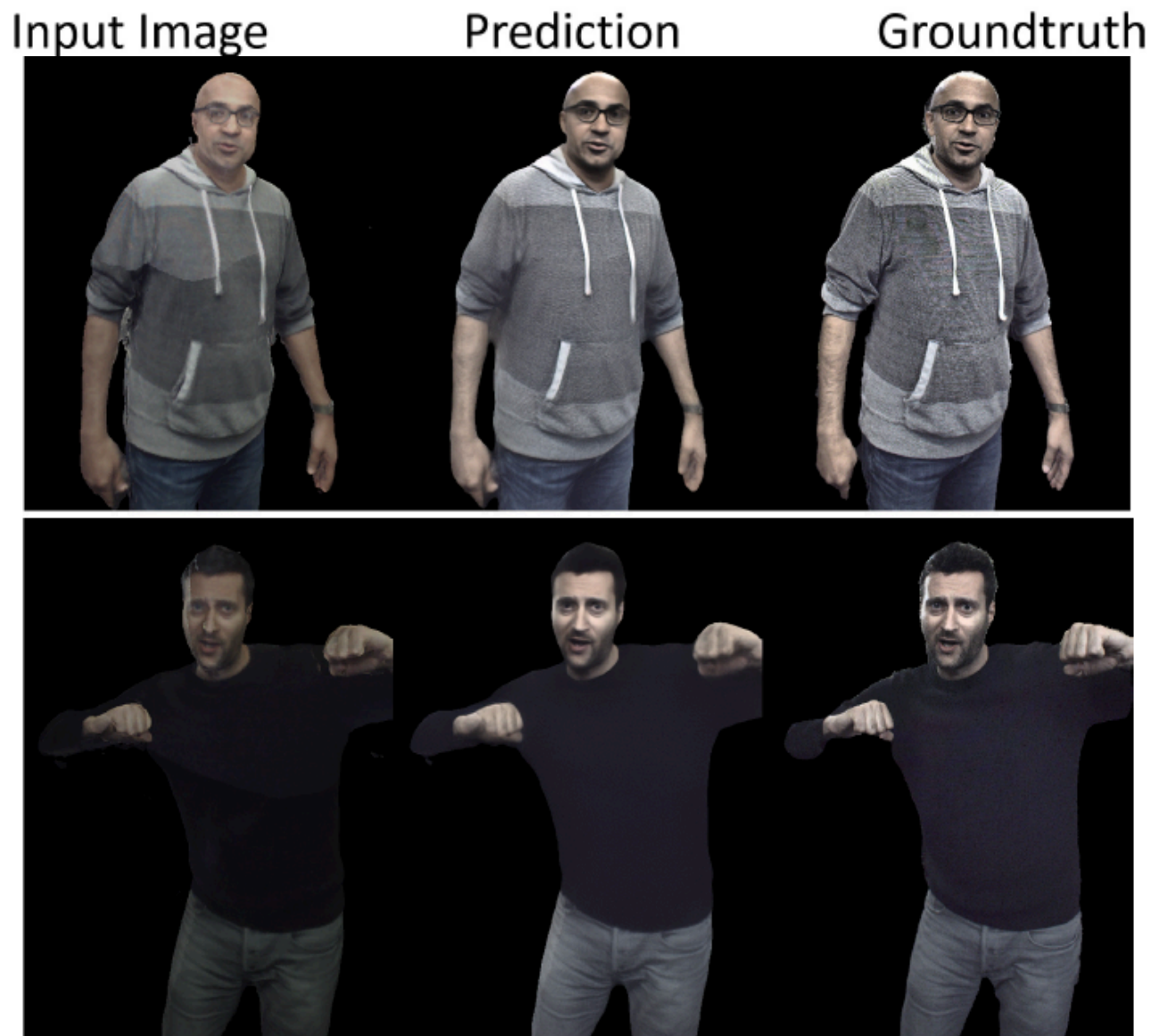


Fig. 7. Generalization on new sequences. We show here some results on known participant but unseen sequences. Notice how the method is able to in-paint missing areas correctly in the single camera case (top rows). Full body results show an improved quality and robustness to imprecision in the groundtruth mask (third row, right). The method also recovers from color and geometry inconsistencies (forth row, left).



Fig. 8. Viewpoint Robustness. Notice how the neural re-rendering generalizes well w.r.t. to viewpoint changes, despite no training data was acquired for those particular views.

Notes and queries

- What are the losses?
 - natural
 - in paper - look them up!
 - adversarial loss is part of this
- General points:
 - Beauty renderers are probably an excellent idea
 - Q: conditioning to get best balance between quality/efficiency?
 - A:?
 - Q: should this be a general part of any future “realistic” rendering system?
 - i.e. learned beauty renderer from rough to final
 - A: likely yes, only issue is pragmatics

Some topics...

- Reduce rendering noise
 - in MCMC rendering
 - in image based rendering
 - in performance capture - TBA!
- Realistic images from approximations
- Generate novel views
 - from multiview input
- Exaggerate effects
 - eg motion fields
- Reshade and relight

Some topics...

- Reduce rendering noise
 - in MCMC rendering
 - in image based rendering
 - in performance capture
- **Realistic images from approximations**
 - *texture synthesis history*
- Generate novel views
 - from multiview input
- Exaggerate effects
 - eg motion fields
- Reshade and relight

Texture

CS 419

Slides by Ali Farhadi



Texture scandals!!



Bush campaign digitally altered TV ad

President Bush's campaign acknowledged Thursday that it had digitally altered a photo that appeared in a national cable television commercial. In the photo, a handful of soldiers were multiplied many times.

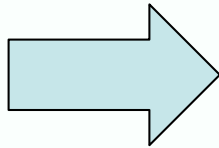
This section shows a sampling of the duplication of soldiers.



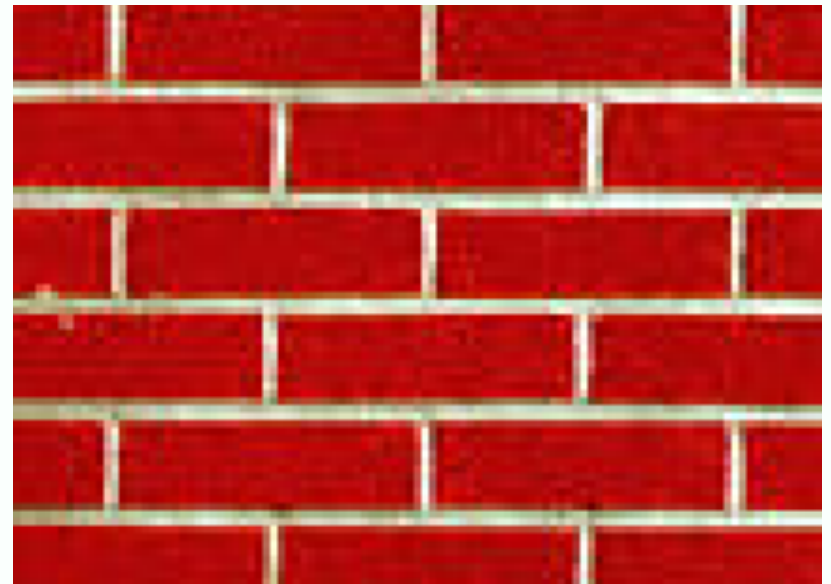
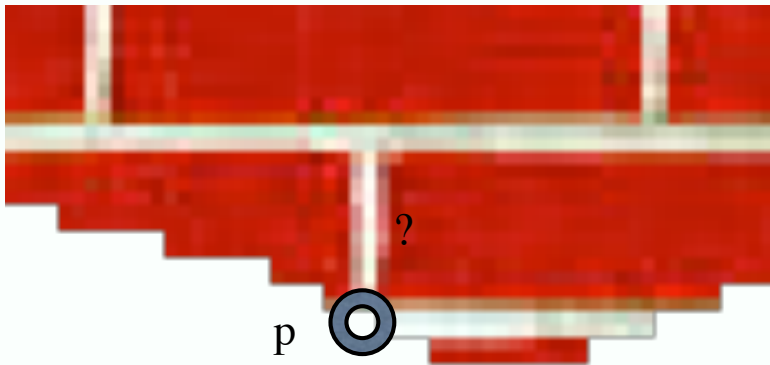
Two crucial algorithmic points

- Nearest neighbors
 - again and again and again
- Dynamic programming
 - likely new; we'll use this again, too

Texture Synthesis

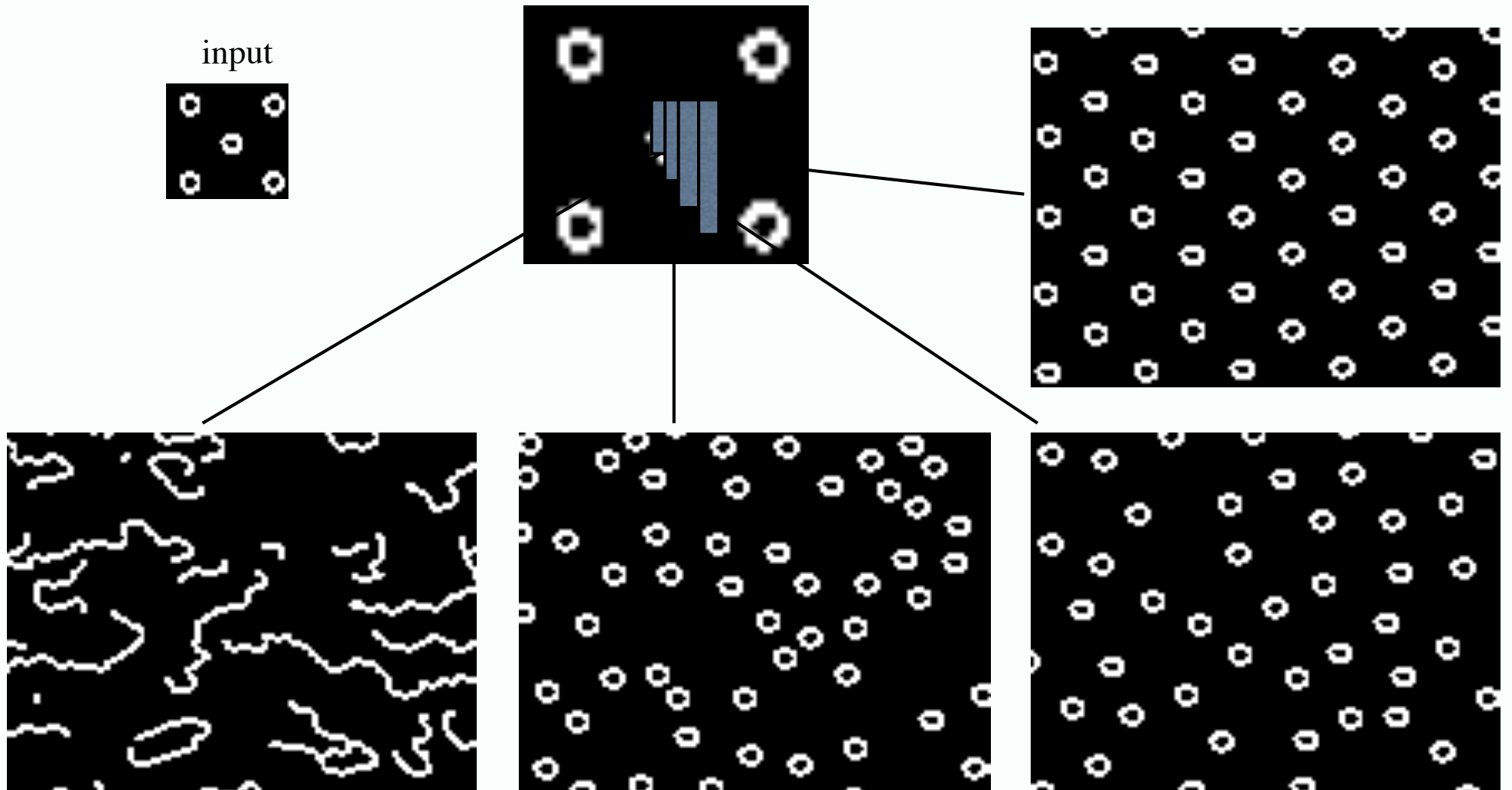


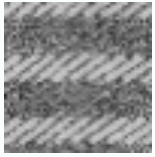
How to paint this pixel?



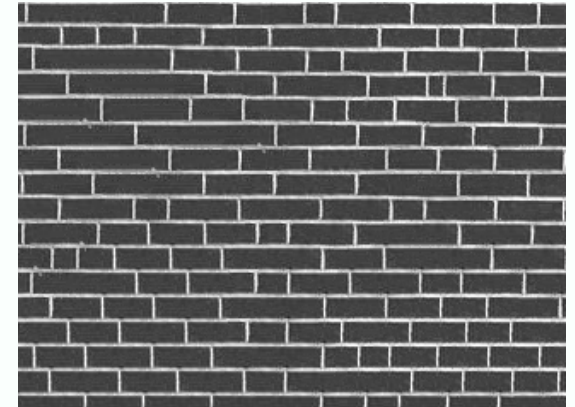
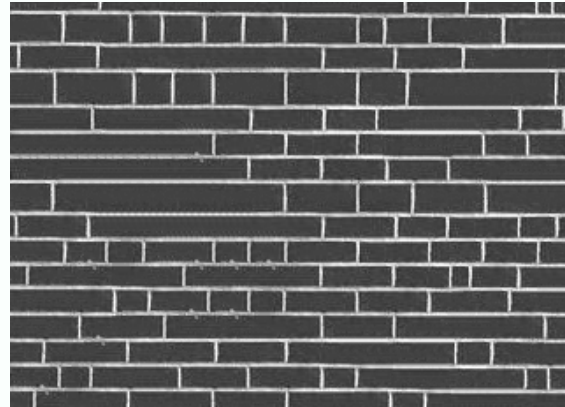
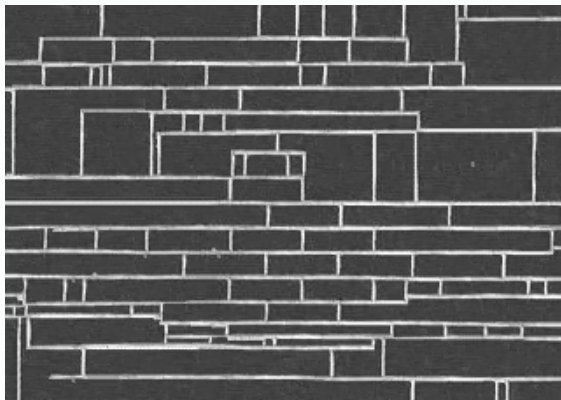
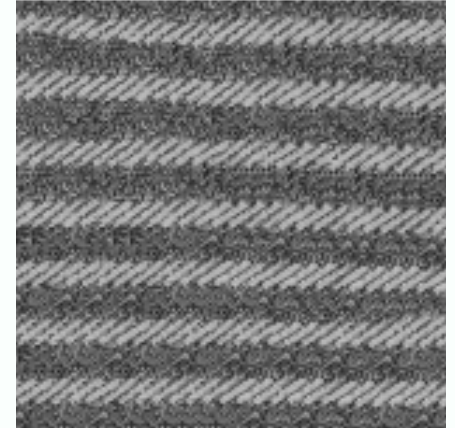
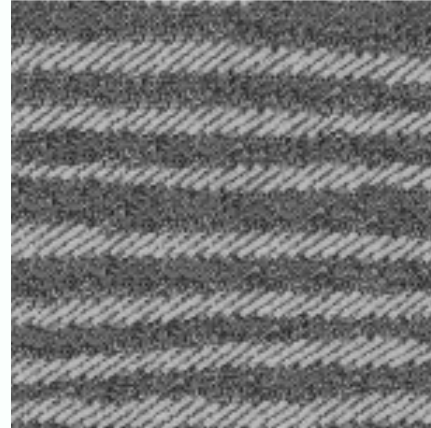
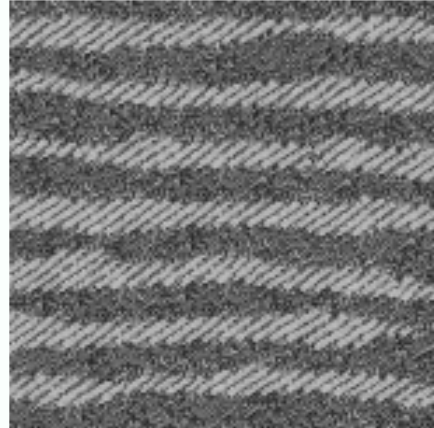
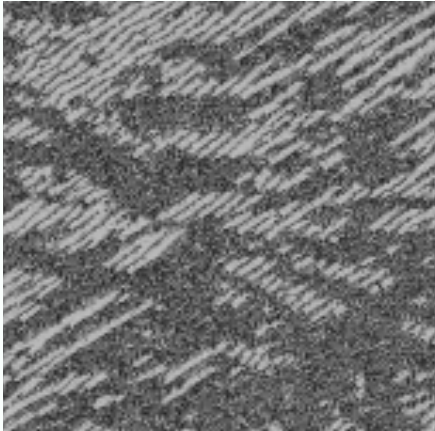
Input texture

Neighborhood size





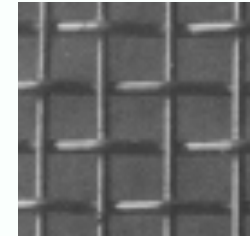
Varying Window Size



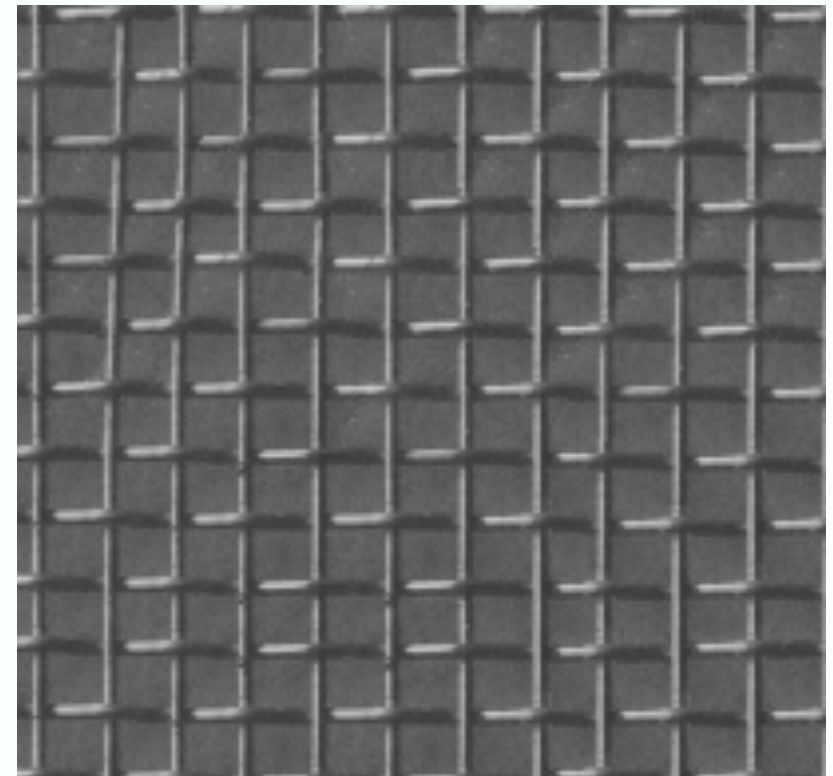
Increasing window size

More Results

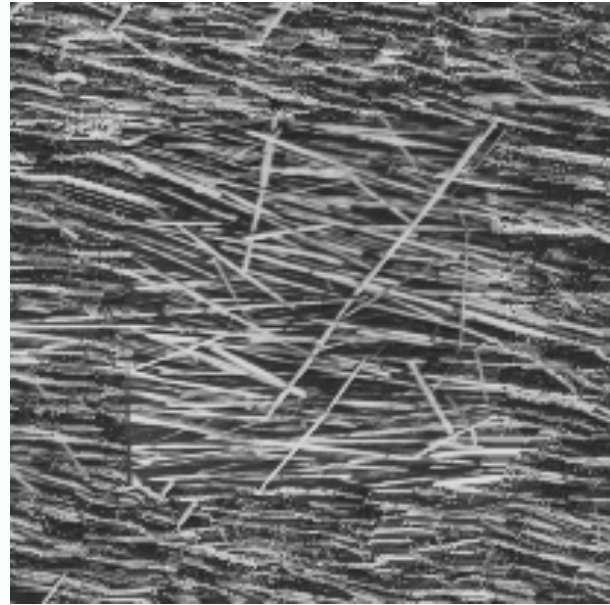
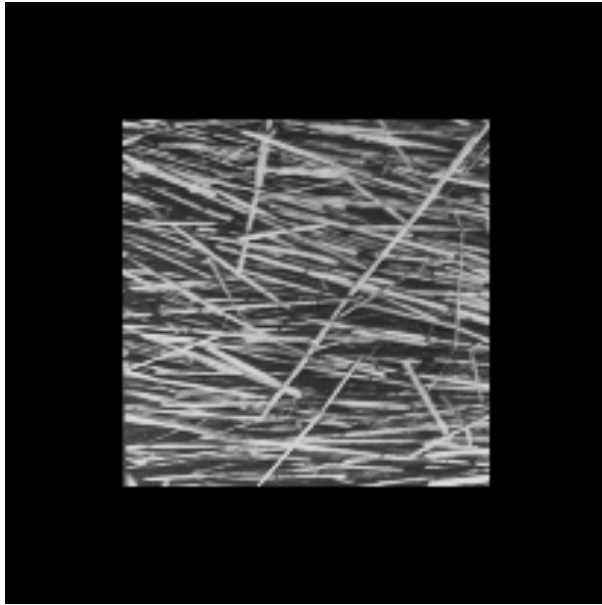
ut it becomes harder to lau
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escribed it last fall. He fai
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ore years of Monica Lewir
inda Tripp?" That now see
Political comedian Al Frar
ext phase of the story will

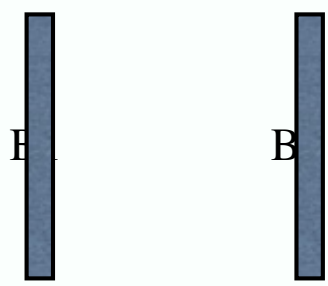
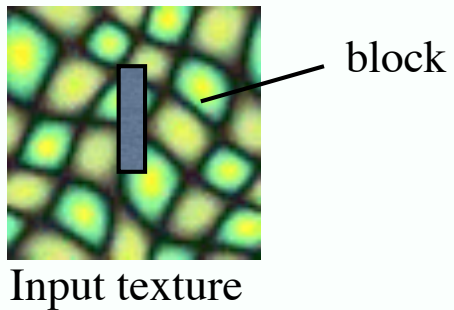


ut it becomes harder to lau
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escribed it last fall. He fai
ut he left a ringing questi
ore years of Monica Lewir
inda Tripp?" That now see
Political comedian Al Frar
ext phase of the story will

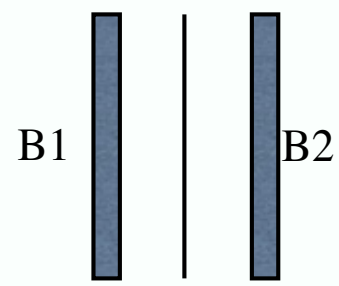


Extrapolation

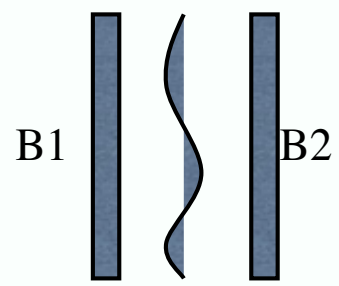




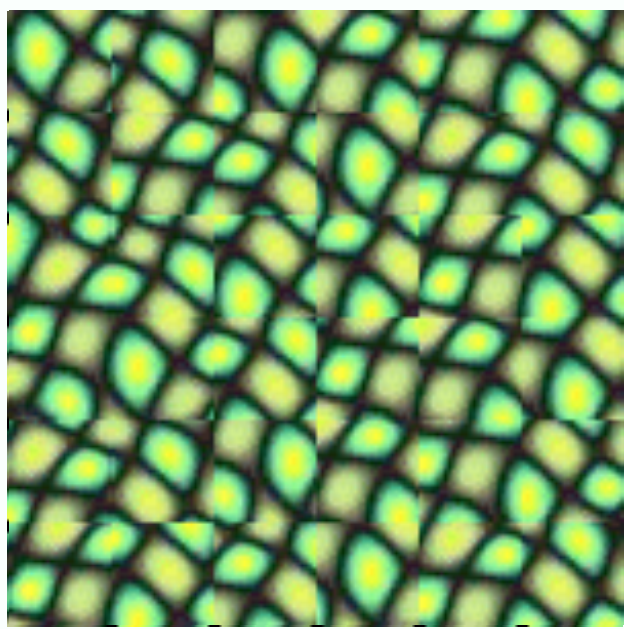
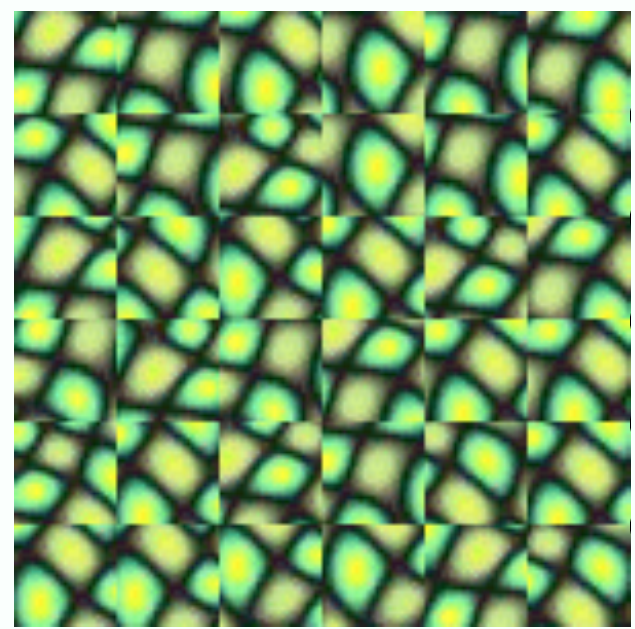
Random placement of blocks



Neighboring blocks constrained by overlap



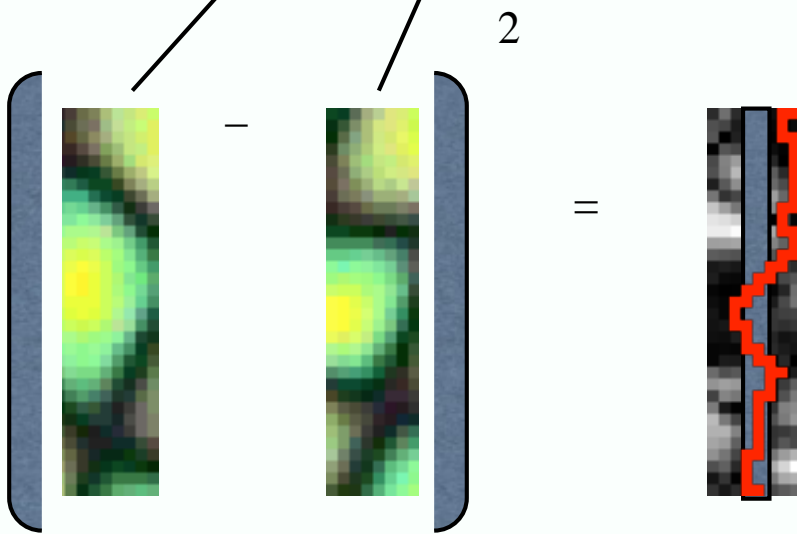
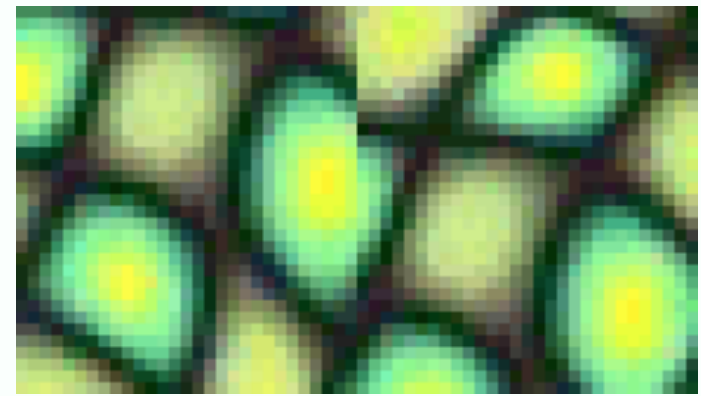
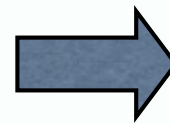
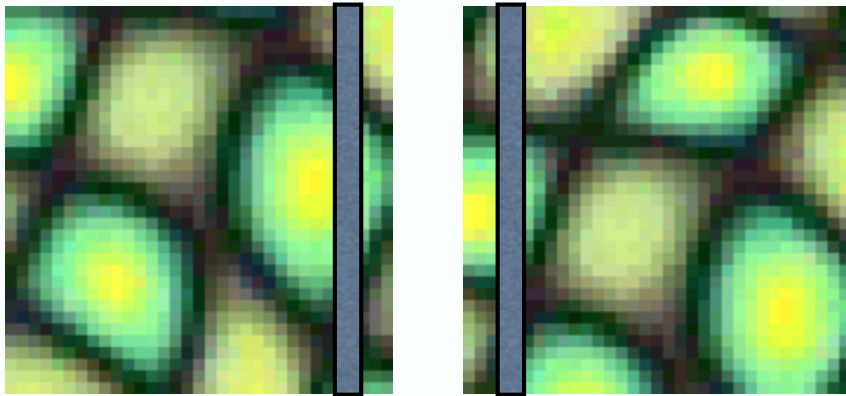
Minimal error boundary cut



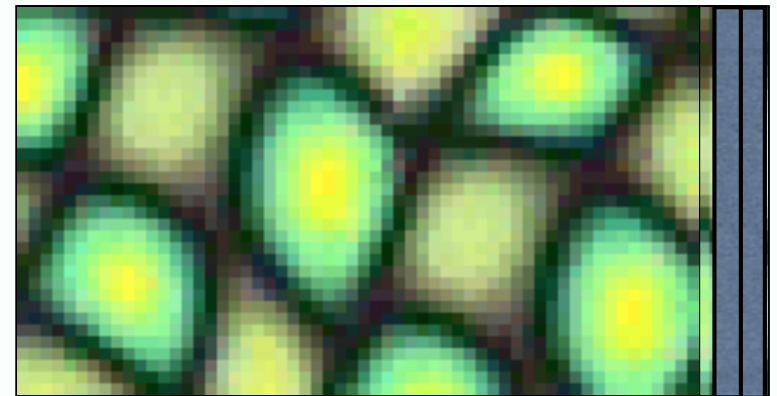
Minimal error boundary

overlapping blocks

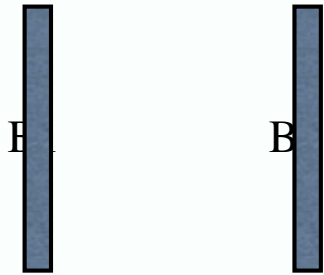
vertical boundary



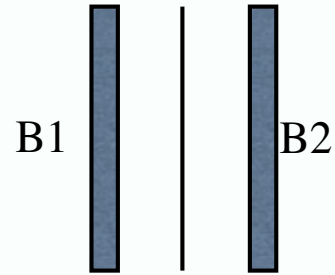
overlap error



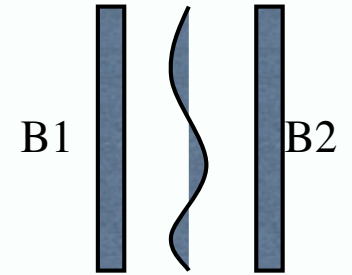
min. error boundary



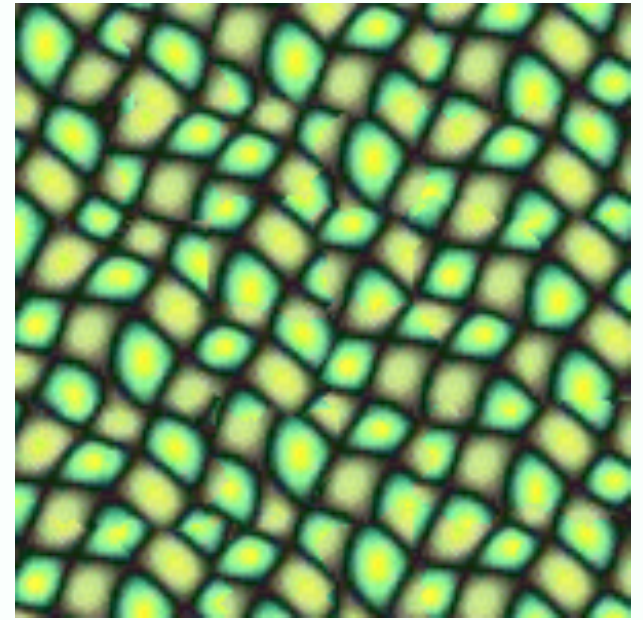
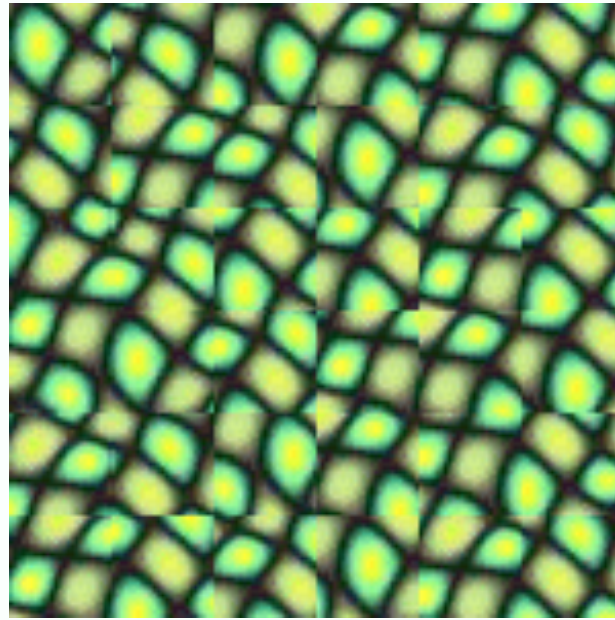
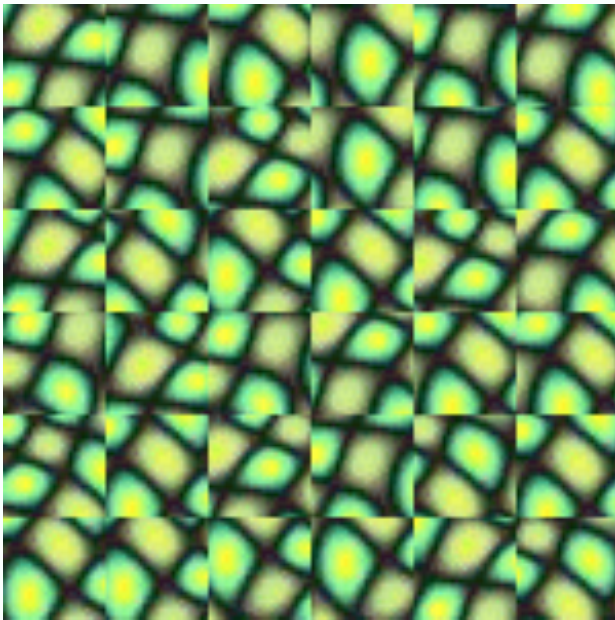
Random placement
of blocks



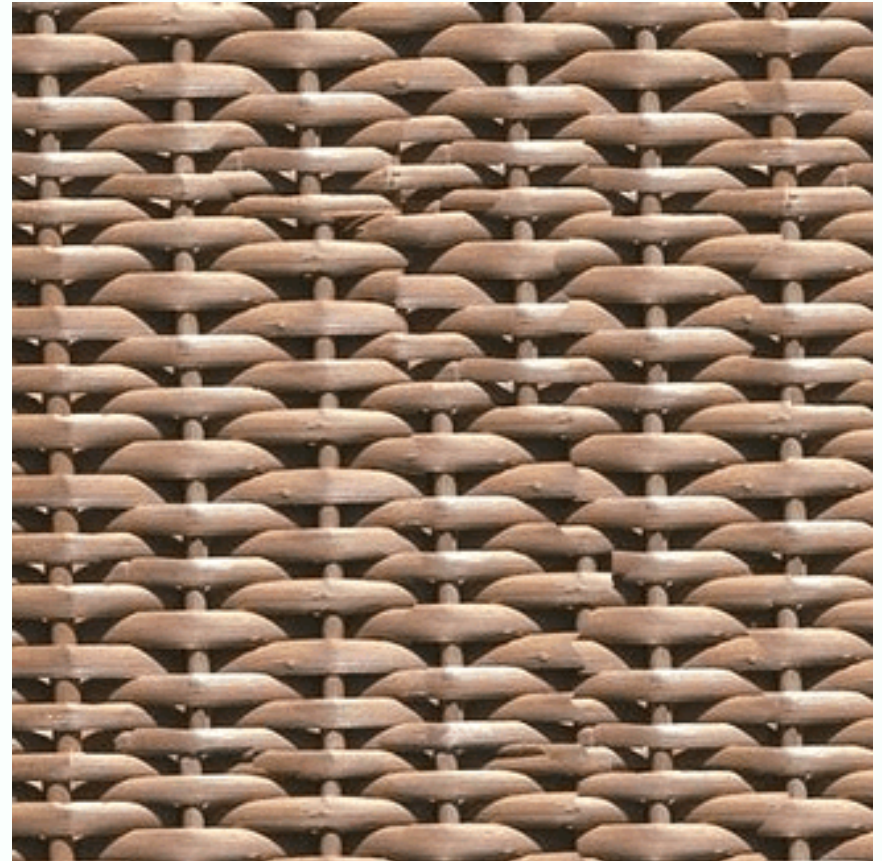
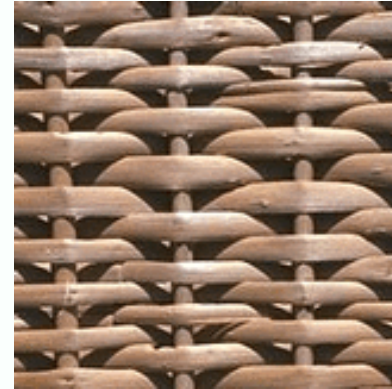
Neighboring blocks
constrained by overlap



Minimal error
boundary cut

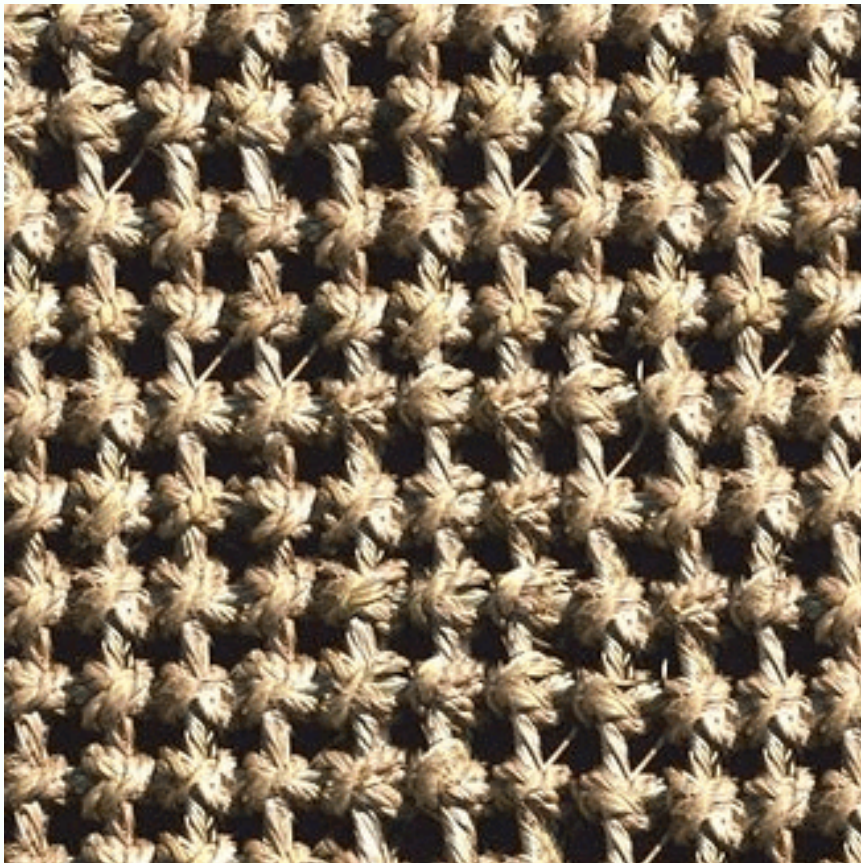


More Results



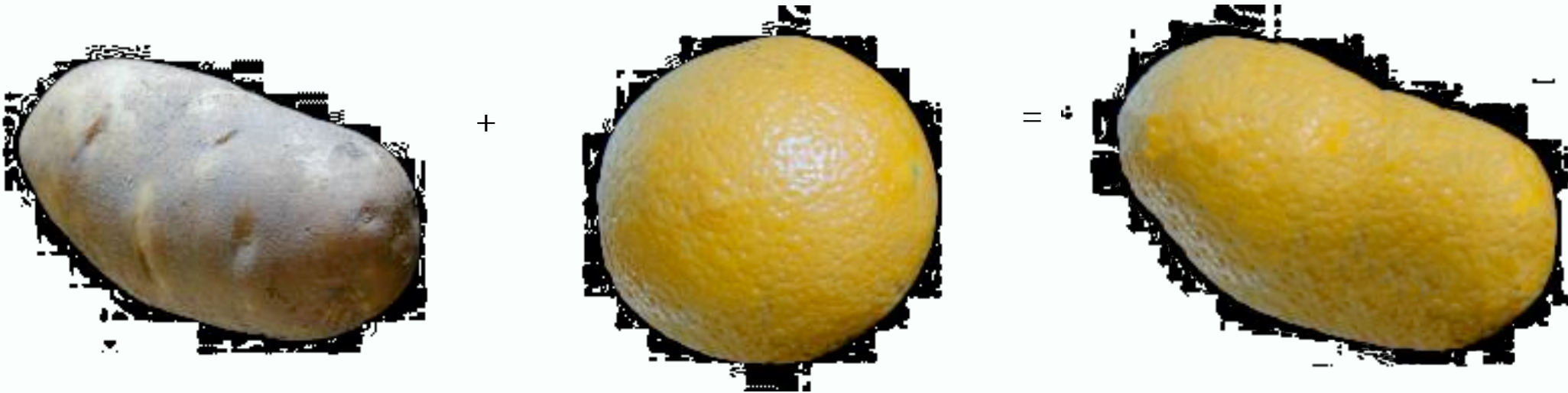


More Results



Texture Transfer

- Take the texture from one object and paint it on another object



Decomposing shape and texture

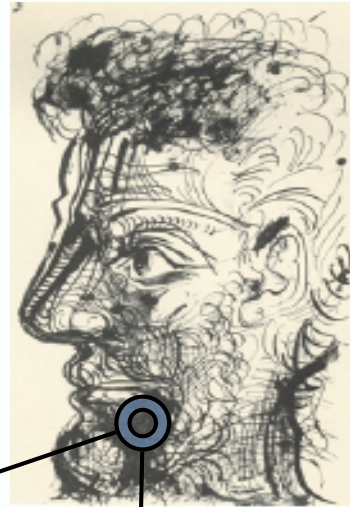
Very challenging

Walk around

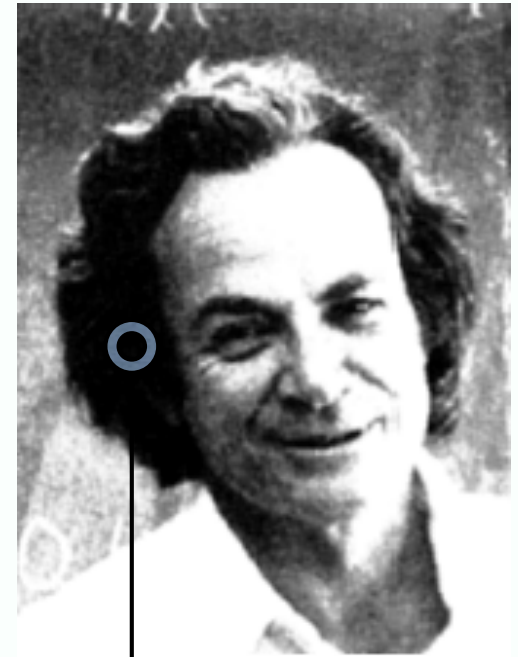
Add some constraint to the search



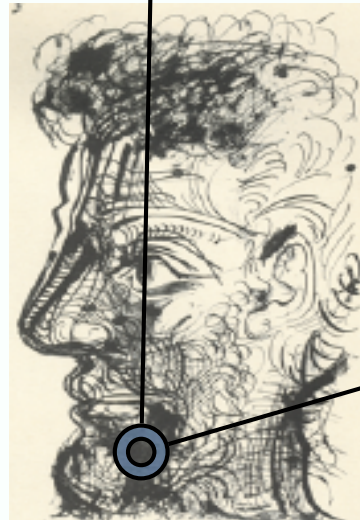
Source Texture



Destination

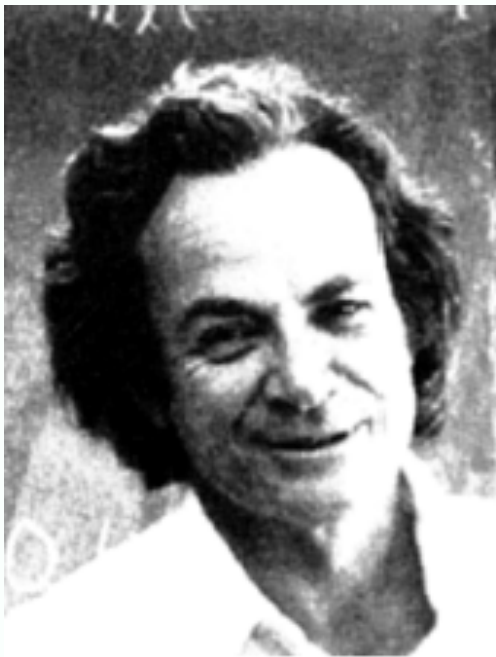


Source Map

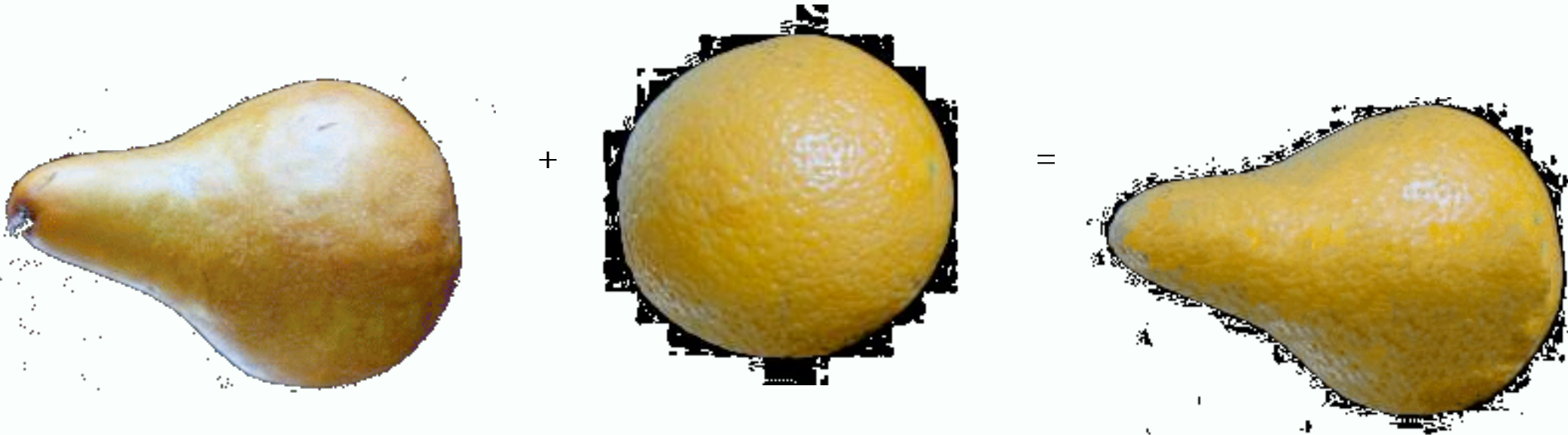


Destination Map





Texture Transfer

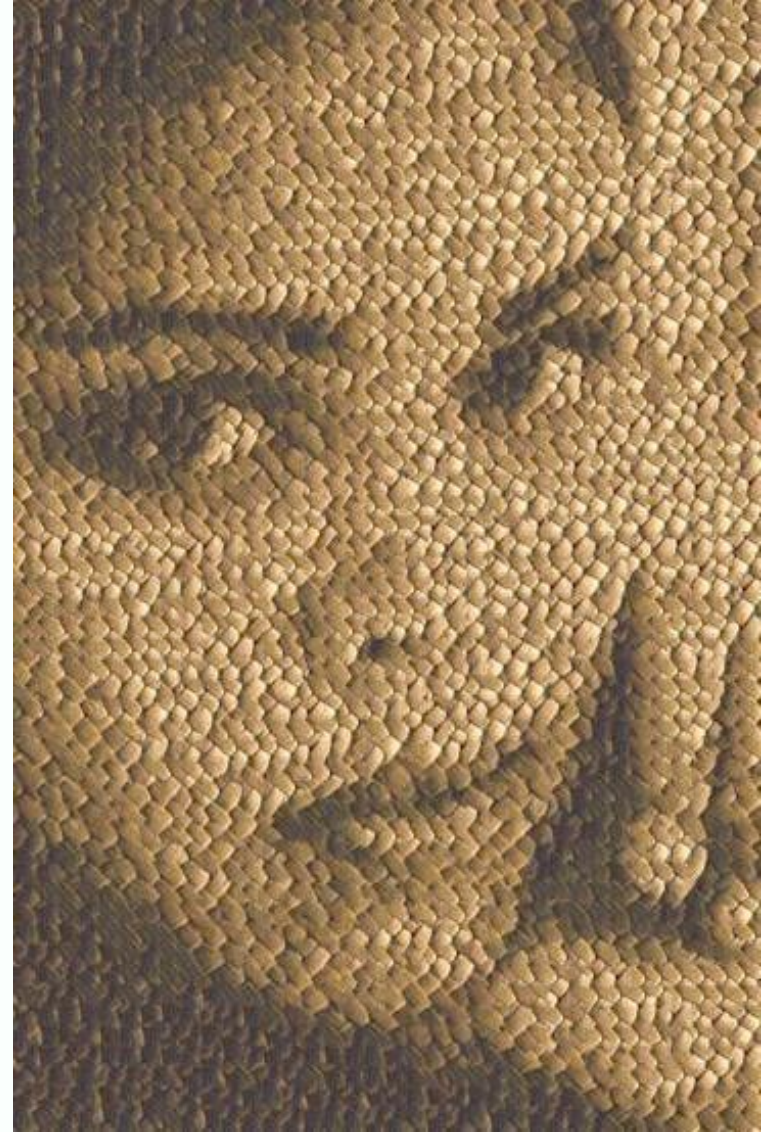




+

=





parmesan



+



=



rice



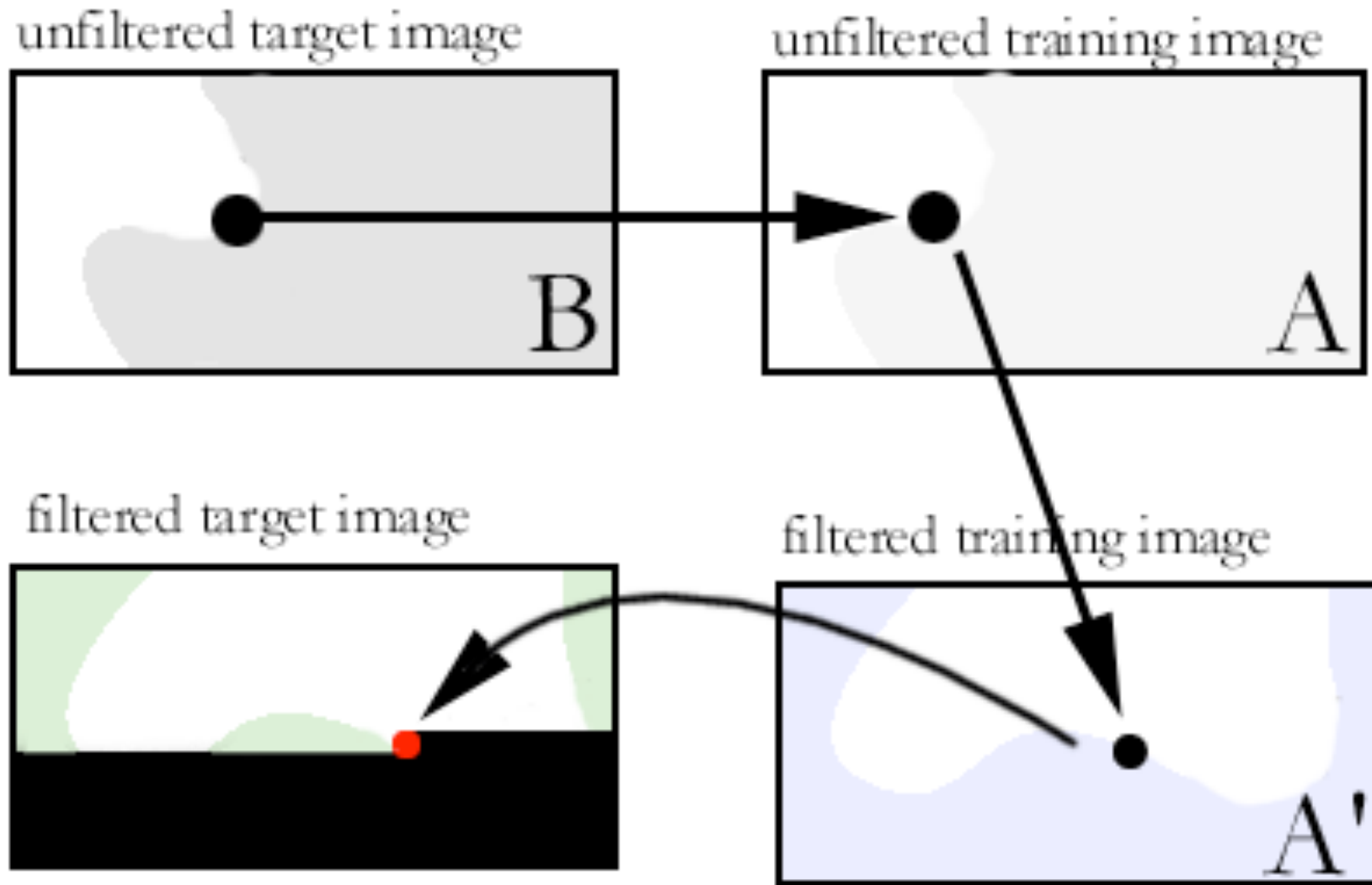
+



=



Image Analogies



Training



Unfiltered source (A)



Filtered source (A')



B



B'



Hertzman. Jacobs. Oliver. Curless. and Salesin. SIGGRAPH01

::



B

:



B'



Hertzman. Jacobs. Oliver. Curless. and Salesin. SIGGRAPH01

Learn to Blur



Unfiltered source (A)



Filtered source (A')



Unfiltered target (B)



Filtered target (B')

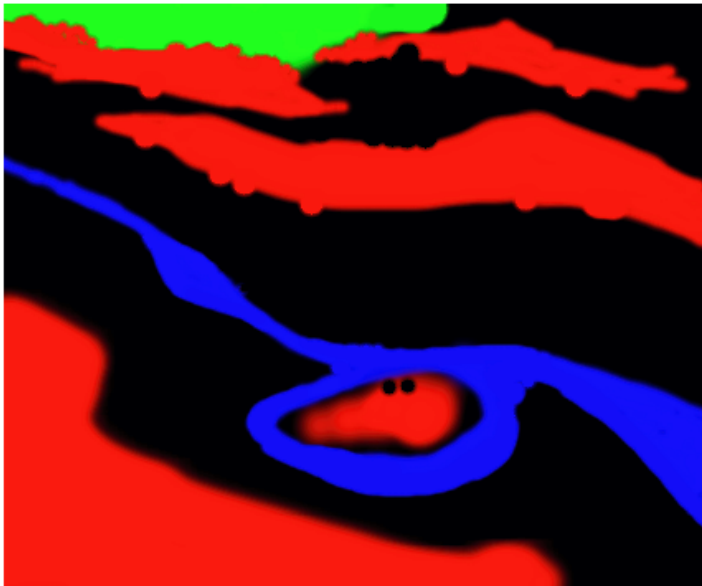
Texture by Numbers



Unfiltered source (A)



Filtered source (A')



Unfiltered (B)



Filtered (B')

Colorization



Unfiltered source (A)

▪
▪



Filtered source (A')

▪ ▪
▪ ▪



Unfiltered target (B)

▪
▪



Filtered target (B')

Super-resolution



A



A'



Super-resolution (result!)



B



B'

Training images



