CSCI 480 Computer Graphics
Lecture 26

# Visualization

Height Fields and Contours
Scalar Fields
Volume Rendering
Vector Fields
[Angel Ch. 2.11]

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http://www-bcf.usc.edu/~jbarbic/cs480-s13/

# Scientific Visualization

- Generally do not start with a 3D triangle model
- Must deal with very large data sets
  - MRI, e.g. 512 x 512 x 200 = 50MB points
  - Visible Human 512 x 512 x 1734 = 433 MB points
- Visualize both real-world and simulation data
- User interaction
- Automatic search for relevant data

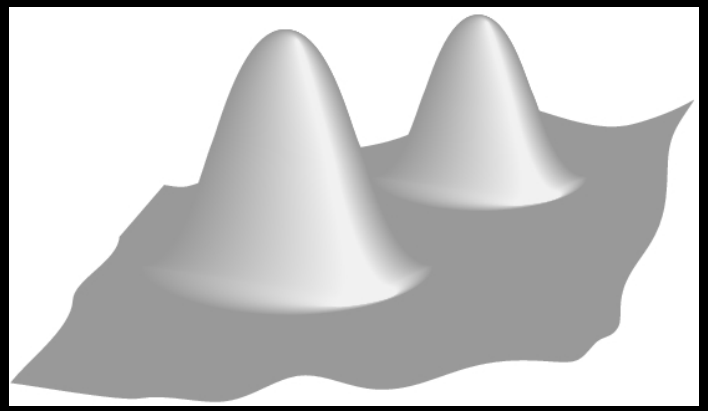
# Types of Data

- Scalar fields (3D volume of scalars)
  - E.g., x-ray densities (MRI, CT scan)
- Vector fields (3D volume of vectors)
  - E.g., velocities in a wind tunnel
- Tensor fields (3D volume of tensors [matrices])
  - E.g., stresses in a mechanical part
- Static or dynamic through time

# Height Field

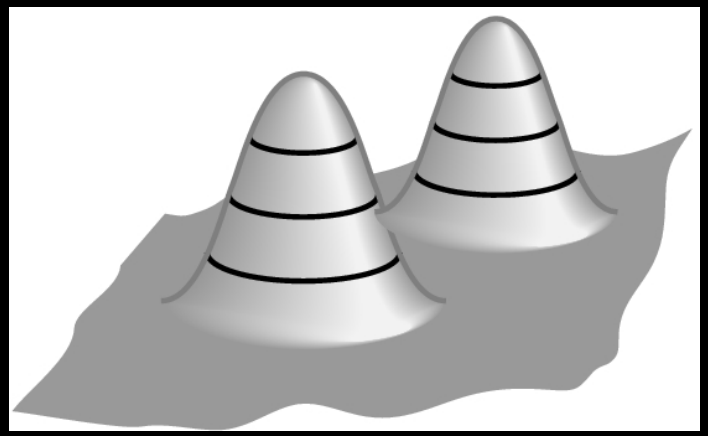
- Visualizing an explicit function

$$z = f(x,y)$$



- Adding contour curves

$$g(x,y) = c$$



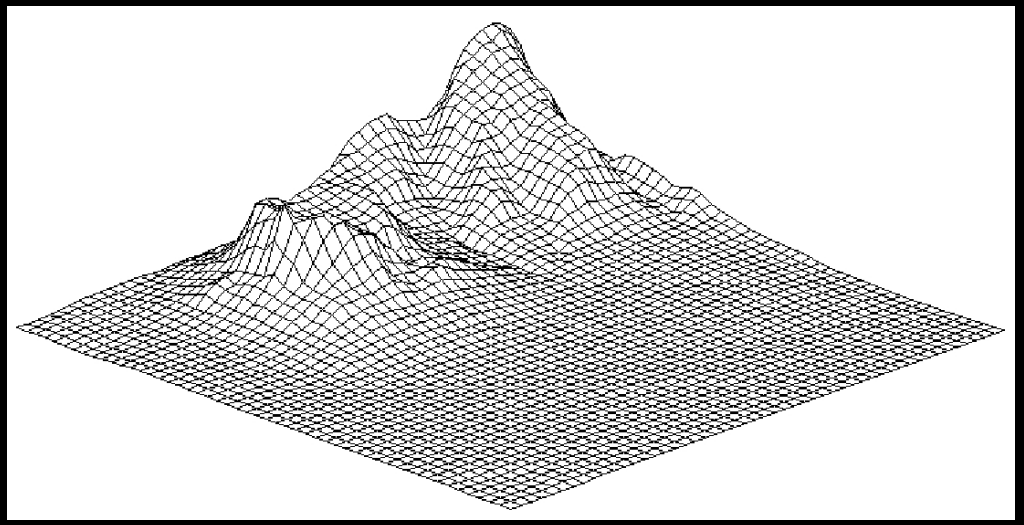
# Meshes

- Function is sampled (given) at $x_i$, $y_i$, $0 \le i, j \le n$
- Assume equally spaced

$$x_i = x_0 + i\Delta x$$
$$y_j = y_0 + j\Delta y$$

$$z_{ij} = f(x_i, y_j)$$

- Generate quadrilateral or triangular mesh
- [Assignment 1]



# Contour Curves

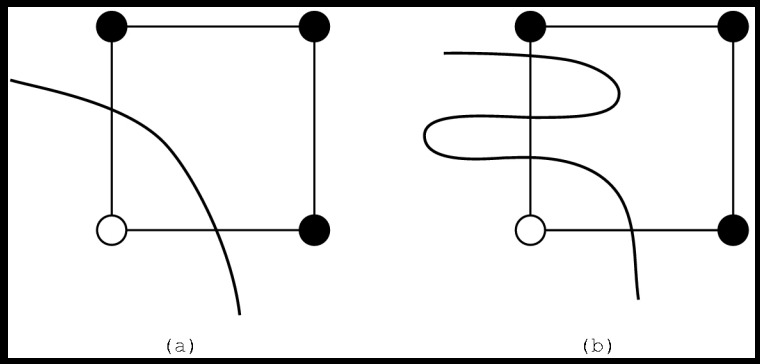
- Recall: implicit curve f(x,y) = 0
- f(x,y) < 0 inside, f(x,y) > 0 outside
- Here: contour curve at f(x,y) = c
- Implicit function f sampled at regular intervals for x,y

$$x_i = x_0 + i\Delta x$$
$$y_j = y_0 + j\Delta y$$

- How can we draw the curve?

# Marching Squares

- Sample function f at every grid point $x_i$, $y_j$
- For every point $f_{i\,j} = f(x_i, y_j)$ either $f_{i\,j} \leq c$ or $f_{i\,j} > c$
- Distinguish those cases for each corner x
  - White: $f_{i\,j} \leq c$
  - Black: $f_{i\,j} > c$
- Now consider cases for curve
- Assume “smooth”

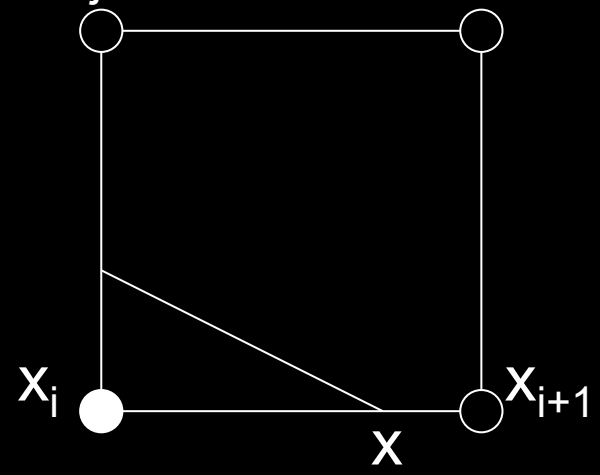


# Interpolating Intersections

- Approximate intersection
  - Midpoint between $x_i$, $x_{i+1}$ and $y_j$, $y_{j+1}$
  - Better: interpolate
- If $f_{i\,j} = a$ is closer to c than $b = f_{i+1\,j}$ then intersection is closer to $(x_i, y_j)$:

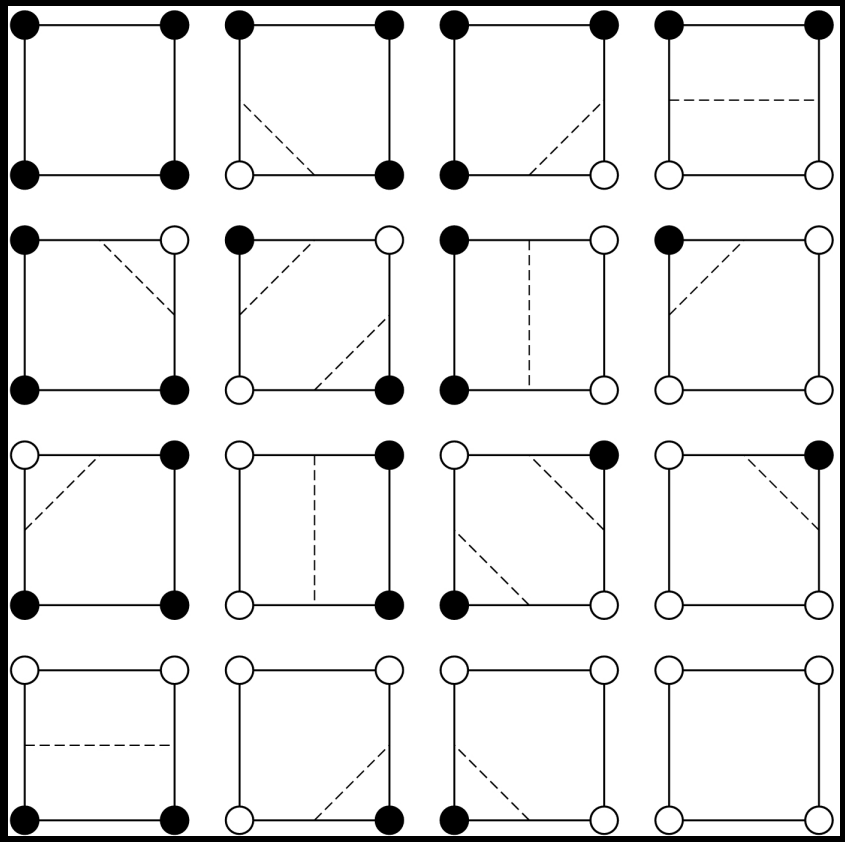
$$\frac{x - x_i}{x_{i+1} - x} = \frac{c - a}{b - c}$$

- Analogous calculation for y direction

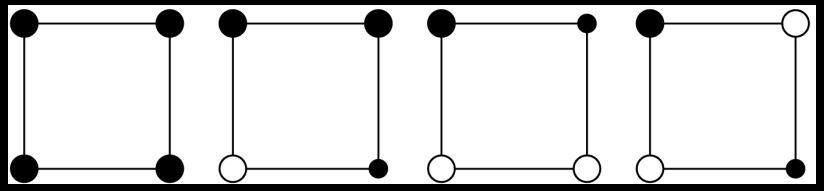


# Cases for Vertex Labels

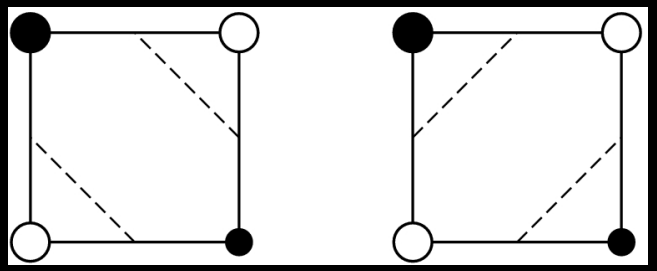
16 cases for vertex labels



4 unique cases
modulo symmetries

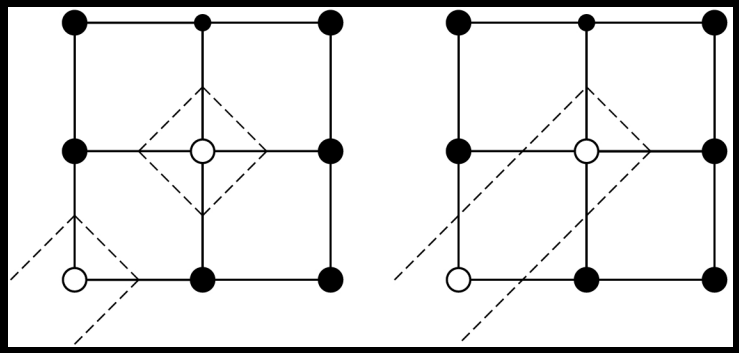


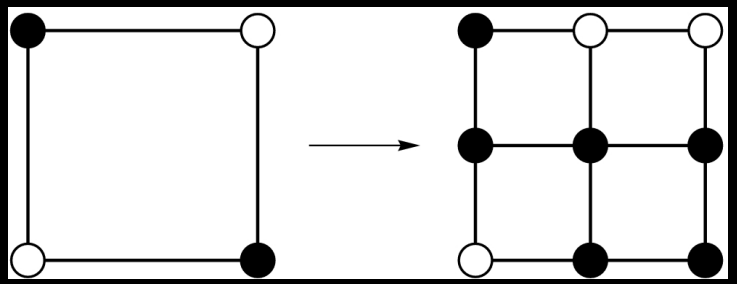
# Ambiguities of Labelings



Ambiguous labels

Different resulting contours



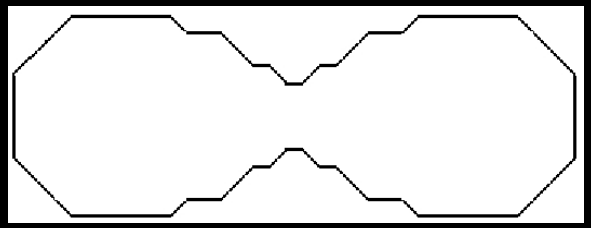


Resolution by subdivision (if such higher resolution available / possible)

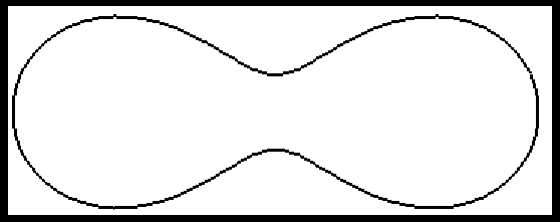
# Marching Squares Examples

- Ovals of Cassini, 50 x 50 grid

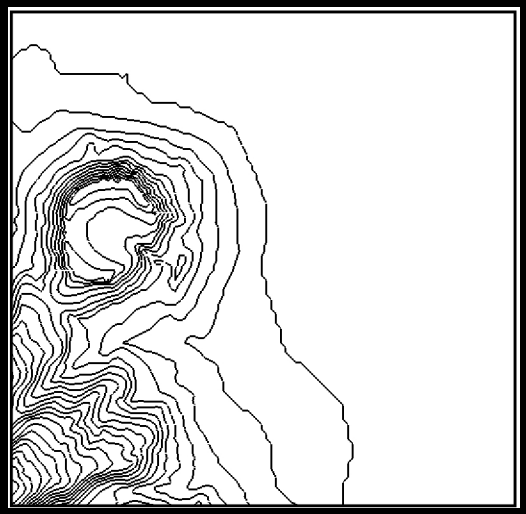
$$f(x,y) = (x^2 + y^2 + a^2)^2 - 4a^2x^2 - b^4$$
$$a = 0.49, b = 0.5$$



Midpoint



Interpolation



Contour plot of Honolulu data

# Outline

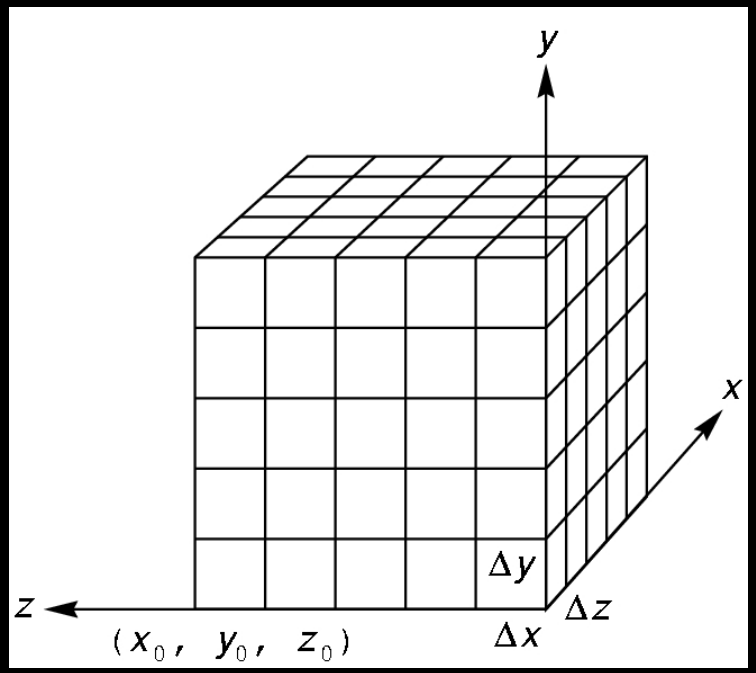
- Height Fields and Contours
- Scalar Fields
- Volume Rendering
- Vector Fields

# Scalar Fields

- Volumetric data sets
- Example: tissue density
- Assume again regularly sampled

$$x_i = x_0 + i\Delta x$$
$$y_j = y_0 + j\Delta y$$
$$z_k = z_0 + k\Delta z$$

- Represent as voxels

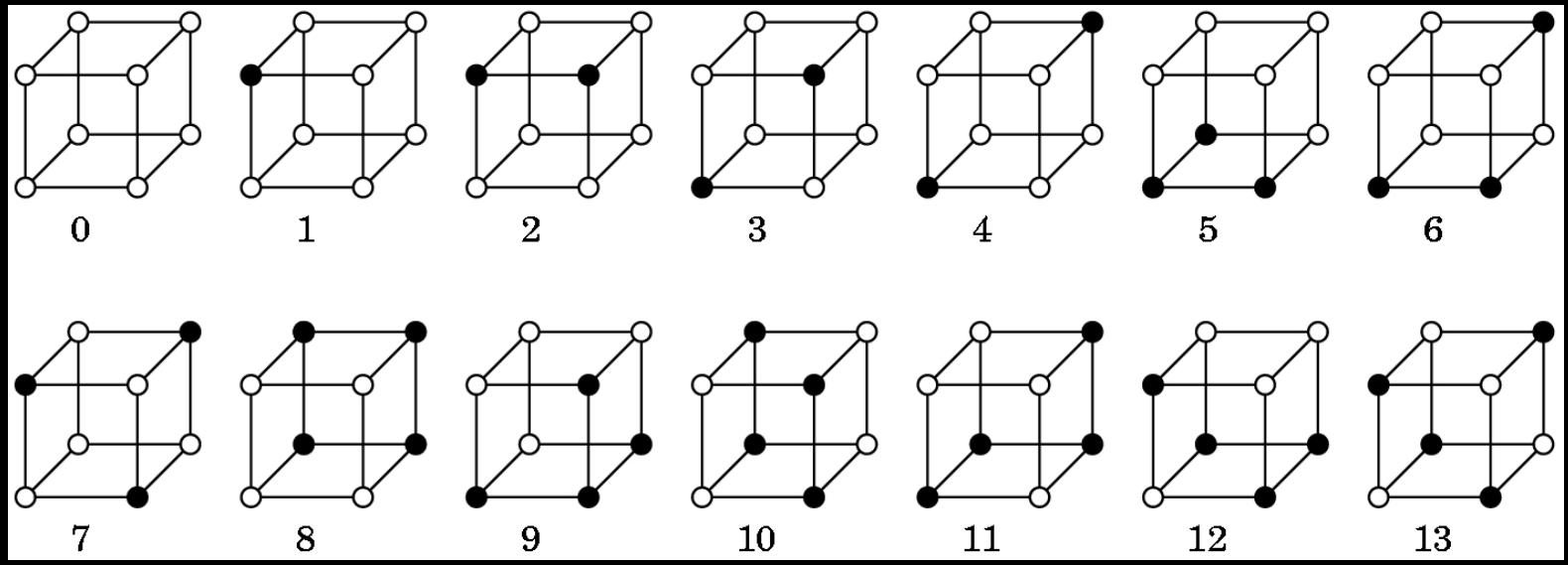


# Isosurfaces

- f(x,y,z) represents volumetric data set
- Two rendering methods
  - Isosurface rendering
  - Direct volume rendering (use all values [next])
- Isosurface given by f(x,y,z) = c
- Recall implicit surface g(x, y, z):
  - g(x, y, z) < 0  inside
  - g(x, y, z) = 0  surface
  - g(x, y, z) > 0  outside
- Generalize right-hand side from 0 to c

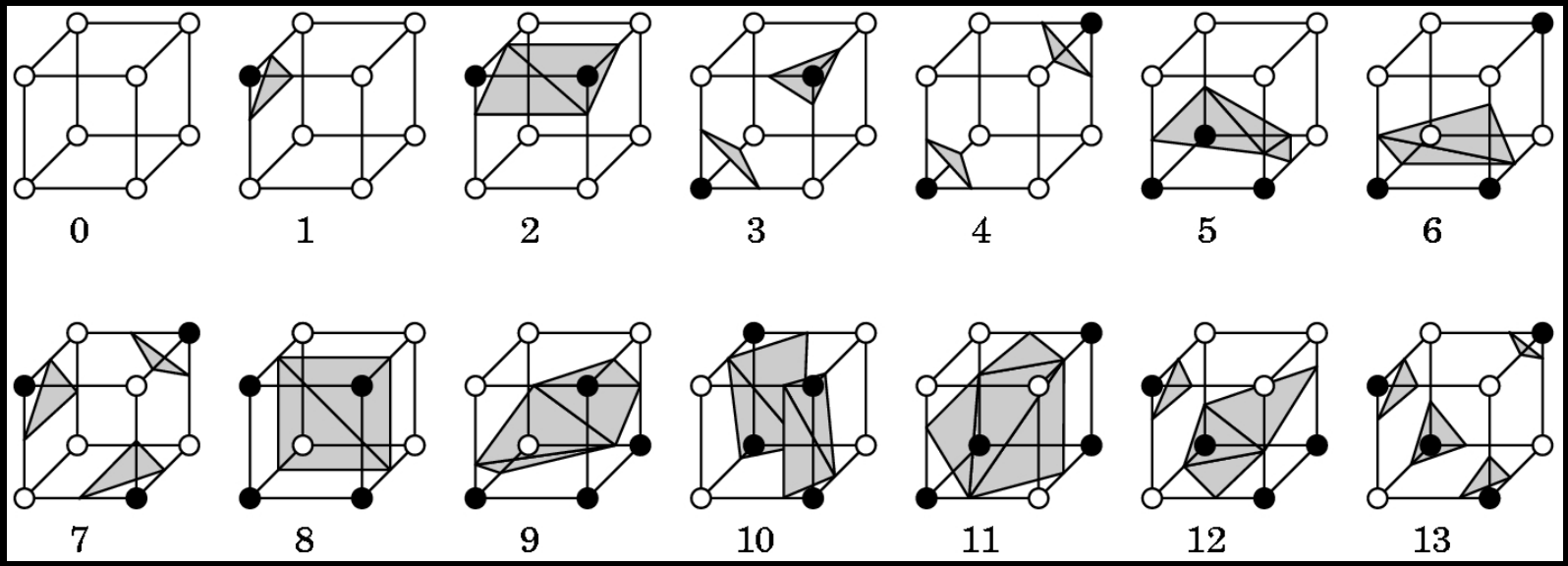
# Marching Cubes

- Display technique for isosurfaces
- 3D version of marching squares
- 14 cube labelings (after elimination of symmetries)



# Marching Cube Tessellations

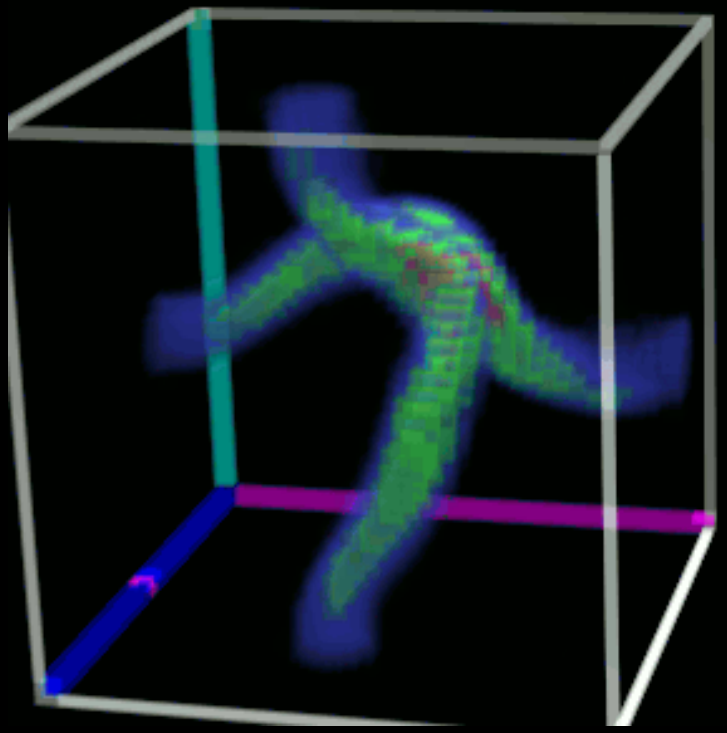
- Generalize marching squares, just more cases
- Interpolate as in 2D
- Ambiguities similar to 2D



# Volume Rendering

- Sometimes isosurfaces are unnatural or do not give sufficient information
- Use all voxels and transparency ($\alpha$-values)

Ray-traced isosurface



Volume rendering

# Surface vs. Volume Rendering

- 3D model of surfaces
- Convert to triangles
- Draw primitives
- Lose or disguise data
- Good for opaque objects

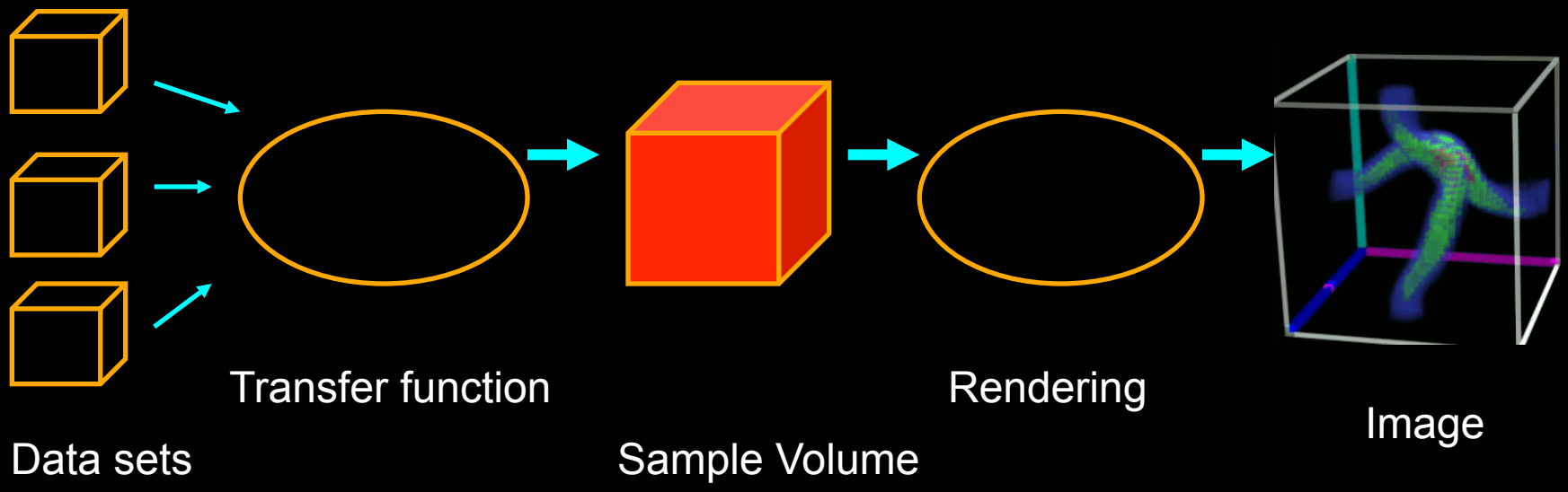
- Scalar field in 3D
- Convert it to RGBA values
- Render volume “directly”
- See data as given
- Good for complex objects

# Sample Applications

- Medical
  - Computed Tomography (CT)
  - Magnetic Resonance Imaging (MRI)
  - Ultrasound
- Engineering and Science
  - Computational Fluid Dynamic (CFD)
  - Aerodynamic simulations
  - Meteorology
  - Astrophysics

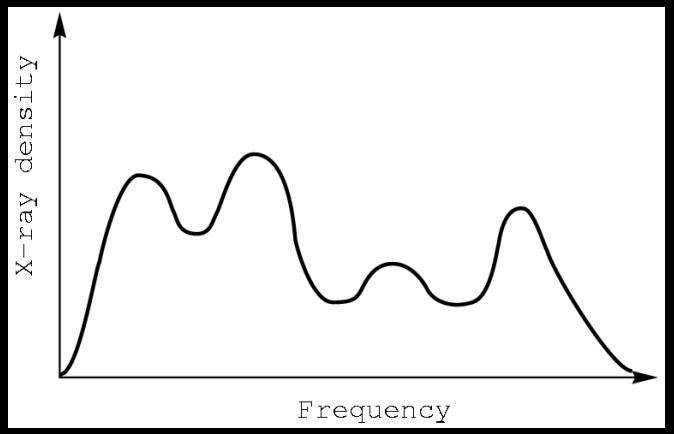
# Volume Rendering Pipeline

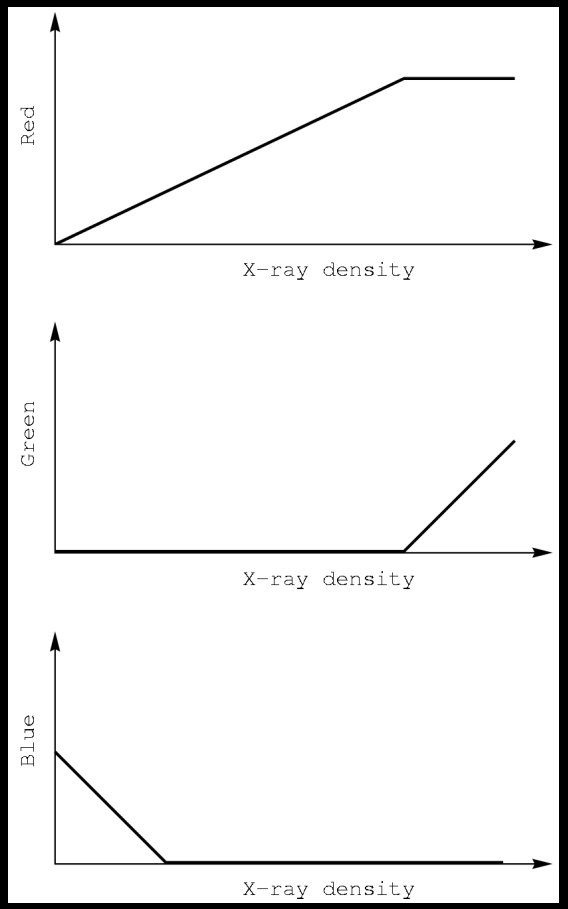
- Transfer function: converts input data set to colors and opacities
  - Example input: 256 x 256 x 256 x 8 bytes = 128 MB
  - Convert to 24 bit color, 8 bit opacity



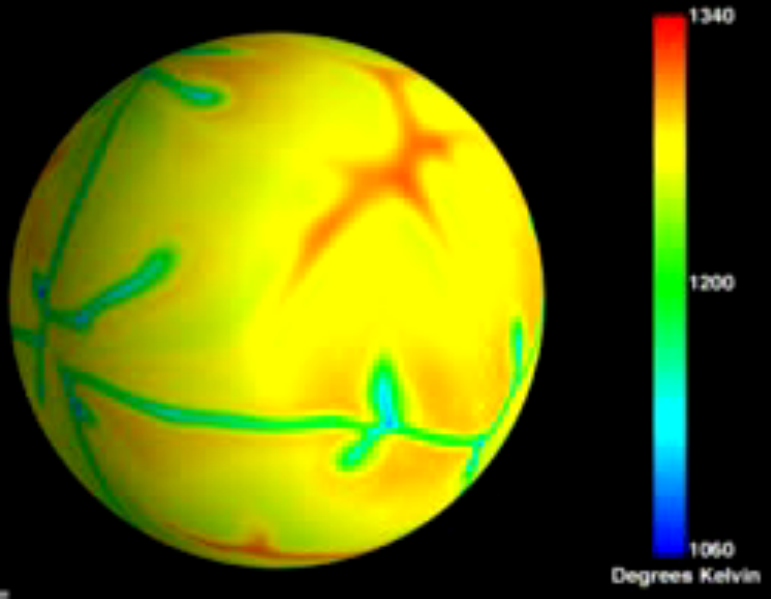
# Transfer Functions

- Transform scalar data values to RGBA values
- Apply to every voxel in volume
- Highly application dependent
- Start from data histogram
- Opacity for emphasis

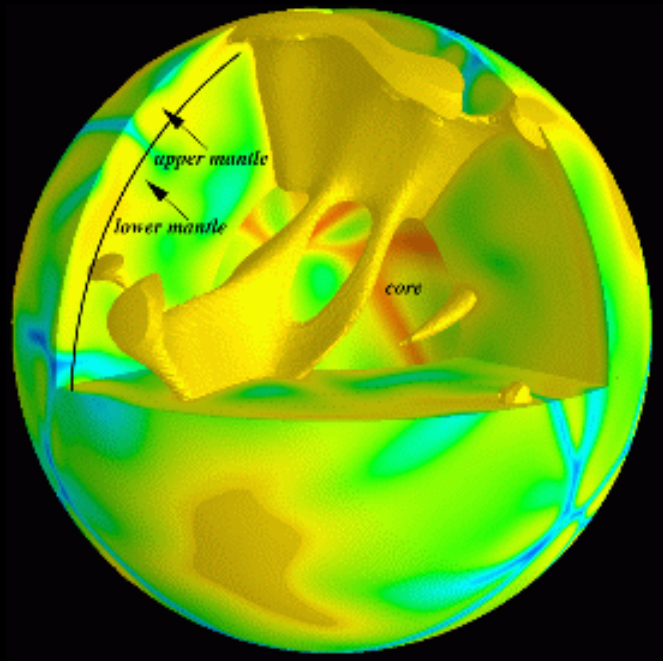


# Transfer Function Example




Mantle Heat Convection

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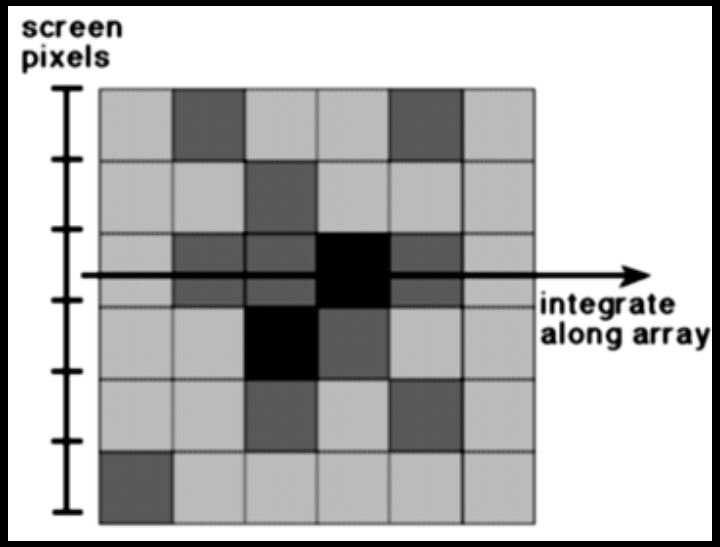
University of Utah

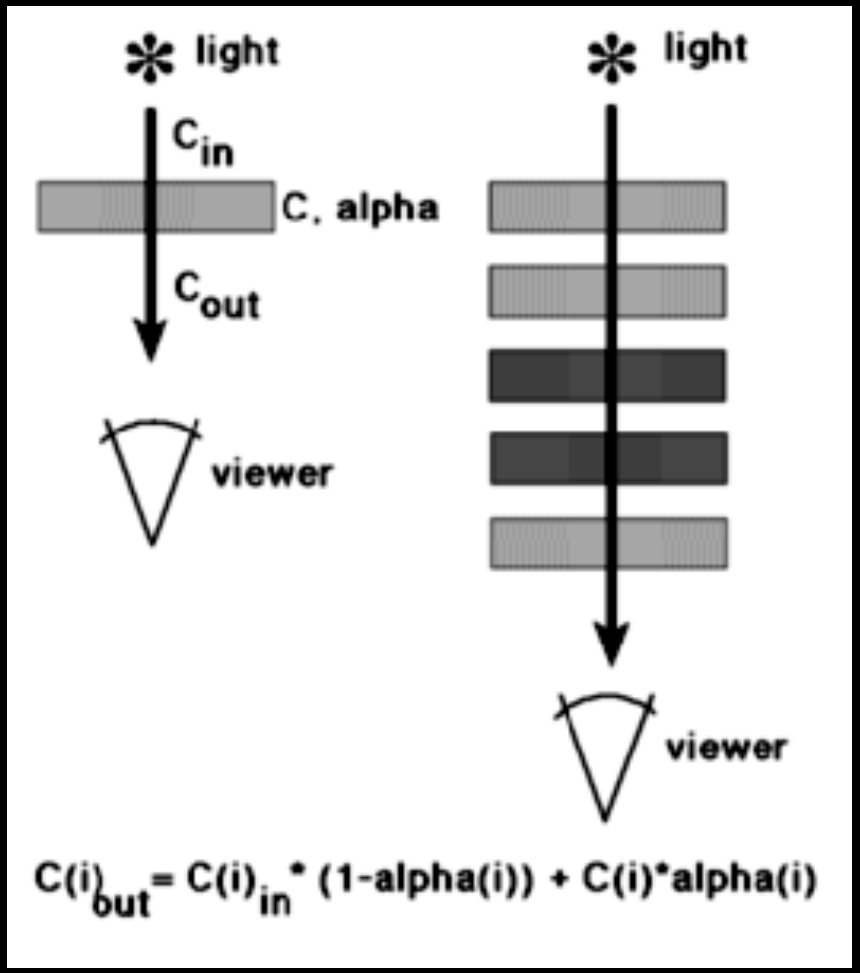
# Volume Ray Casting

- Three volume rendering techniques
  - Volume ray casting
  - Splatting
  - 3D texture mapping
- Ray Casting
  - Integrate color through volume
  - Consider lighting (surfaces?)
  - Use regular x,y,z data grid when possible
  - Finite elements when necessary (e.g., ultrasound)
  - 3D-rasterize geometrical primitives

# Accumulating Opacity

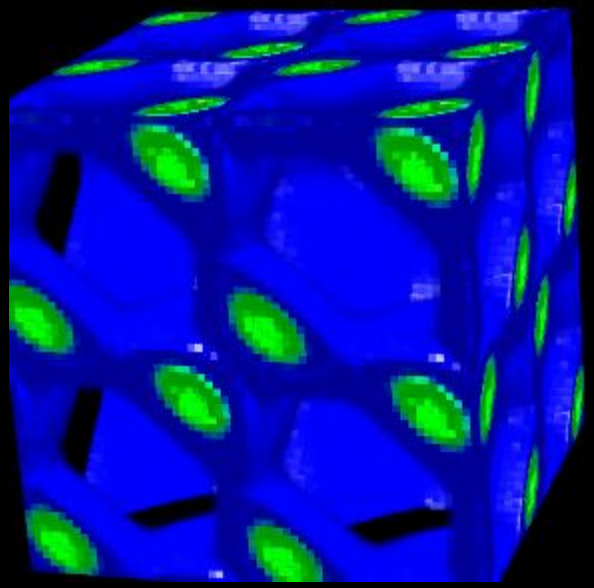
- $\alpha$ = 1.0 is opaque
- Composite multiple layers according to opacity
- Use local gradient of opacity for enhanced display of boundaries



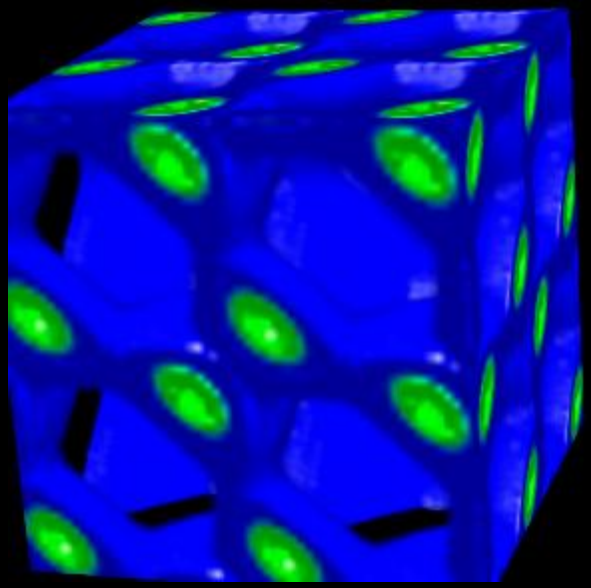



# Trilinear Interpolation

- Interpolate to compute RGBA away from grid
- Nearest neighbor yields blocky images
- Use trilinear interpolation
- 3D generalization of bilinear interpolation



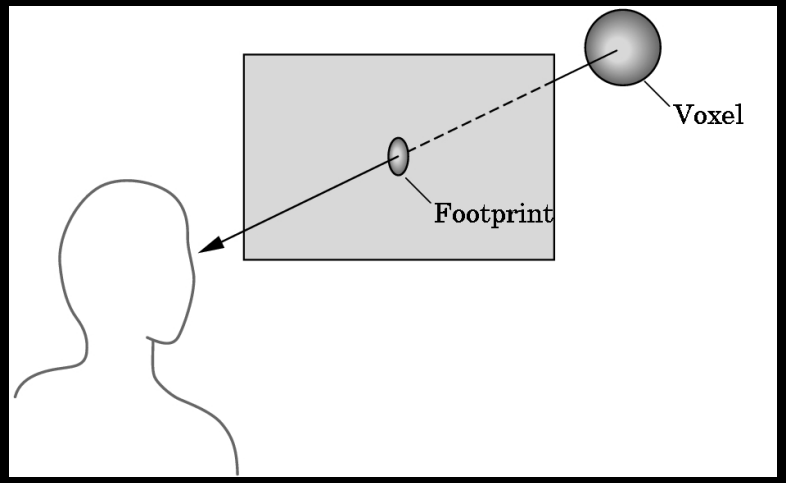
Nearest neighbor

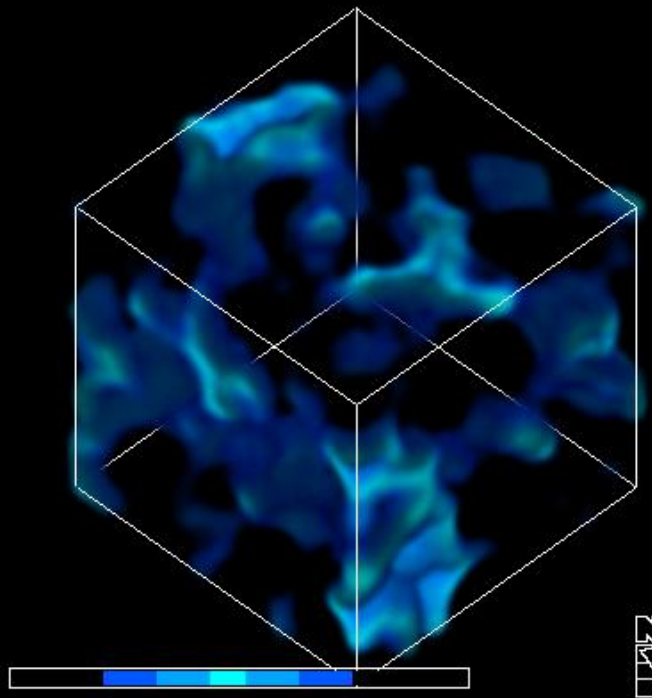


Trilinear interpolation

# Splatting

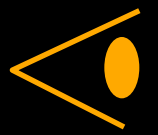
- Alternative to ray tracing
- Assign shape to each voxel (e.g., Gaussian)
- Project onto image plane (splat)
- Draw voxels back-to-front
- Composite ($\alpha$-blend)



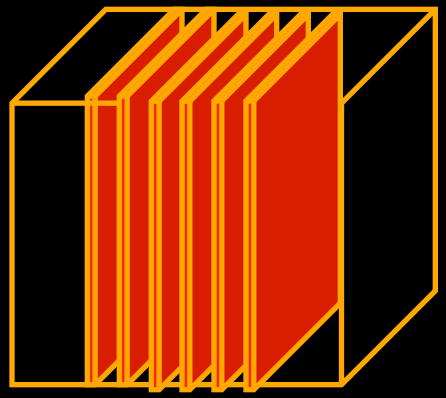



# 3D Textures

- Alternative to ray tracing, splatting
- Build a 3D texture (including opacity)
- Draw a stack of polygons, back-to-front
- Efficient if supported in graphics hardware
- Few polygons, much texture memory



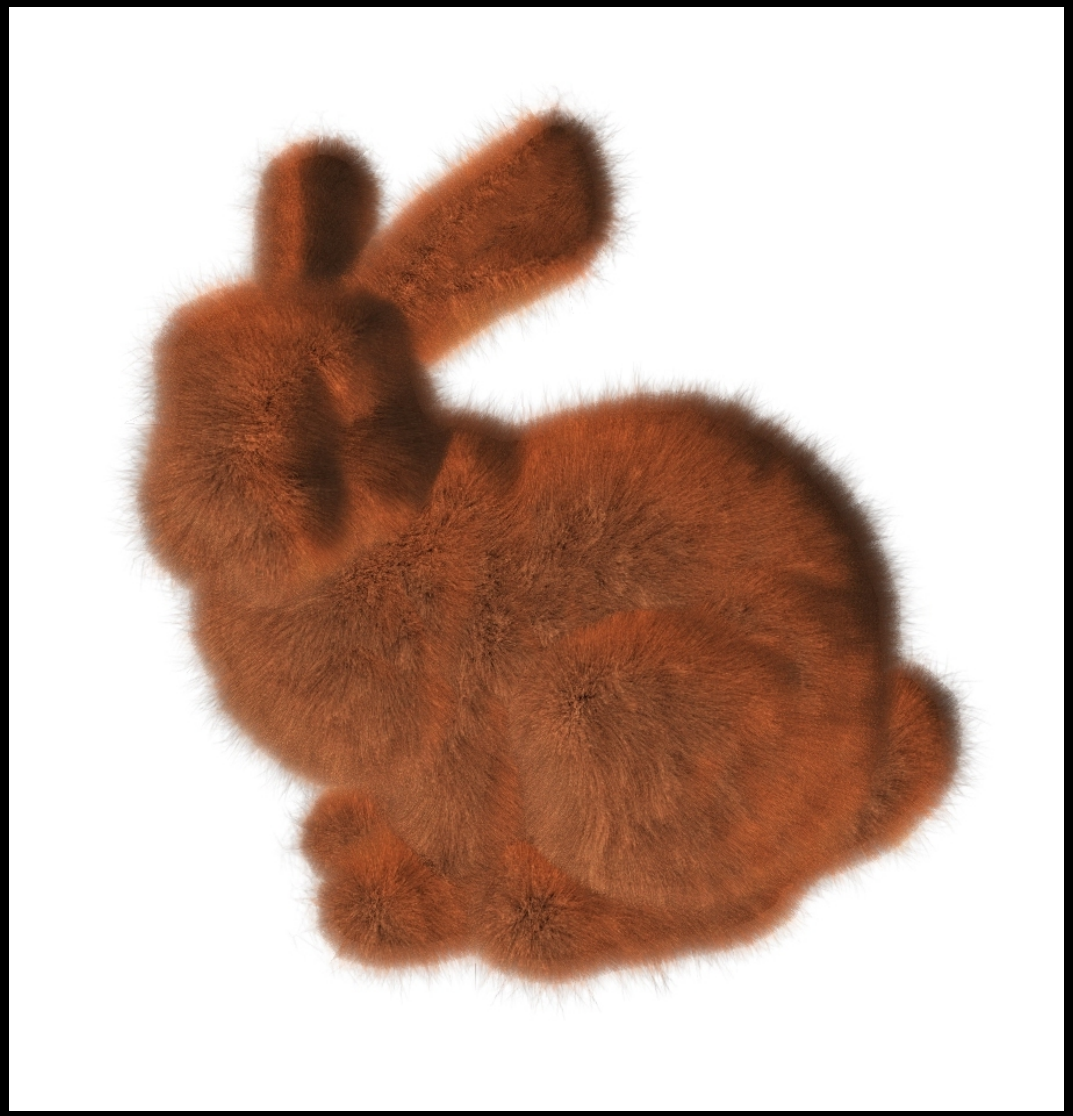
Viewpoint



3D RGBA texture

Draw back to front

# Example: 3D Textures



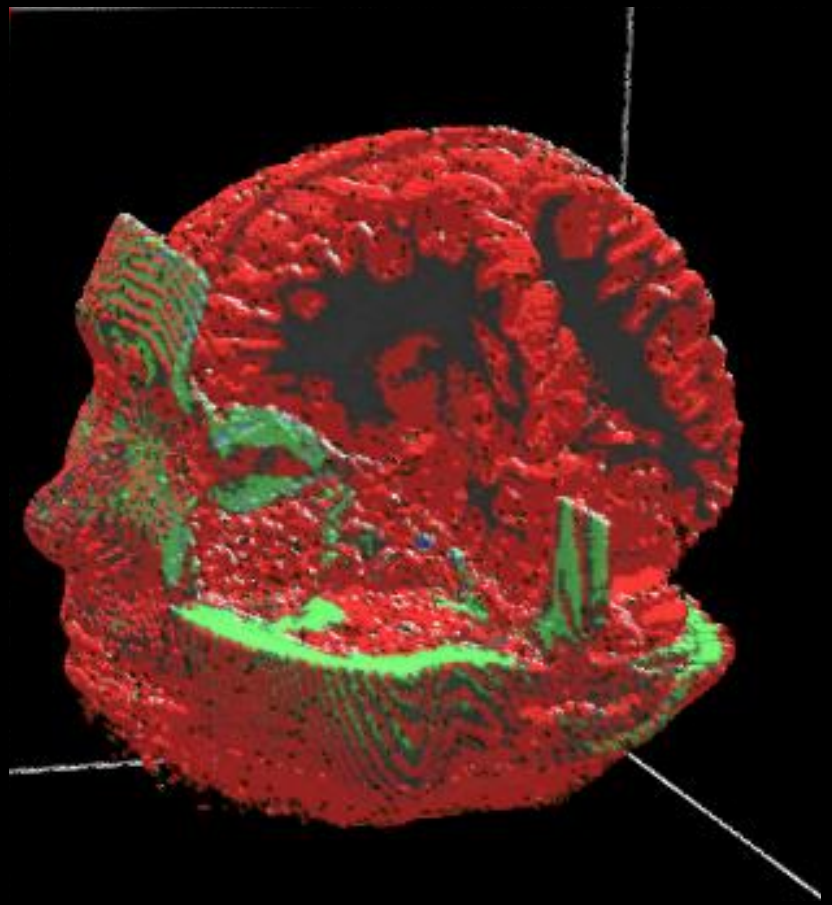
Emil Praun' 01

# Example: 3D Textures

Emil Praun' 01

# Other Techniques

- Use CSG for cut-aways



# Acceleration of Volume Rendering

- Basic problem: Huge data sets
- Must program for locality (cache)
- Divide into multiple blocks if necessary
  - Example: marching cubes
- Use error measures to stop iteration
- Exploit parallelism

# Outline

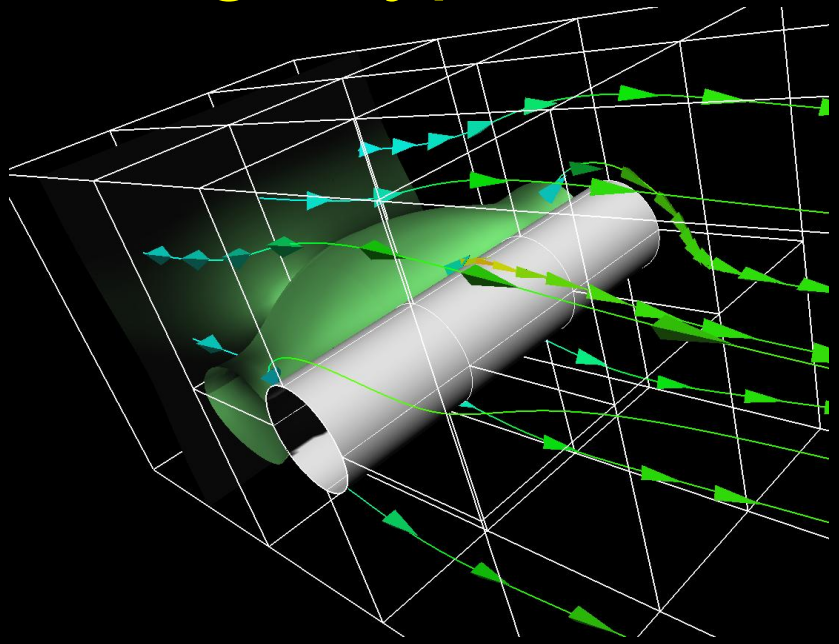
- Height Fields and Contours
- Scalar Fields
- Volume Rendering
- Vector Fields

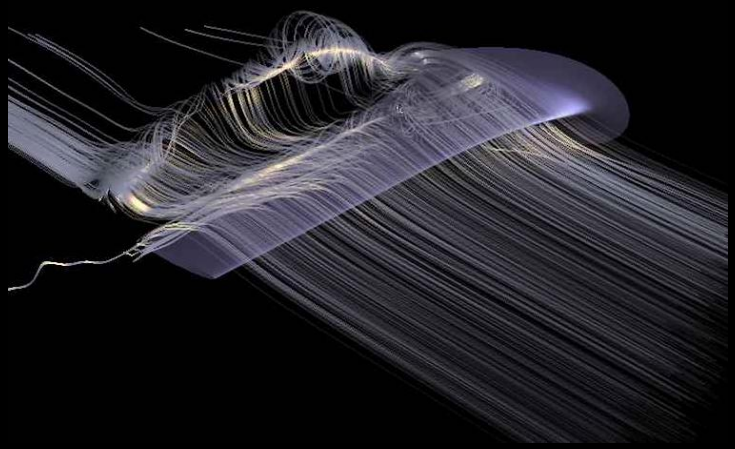
# Vector Fields

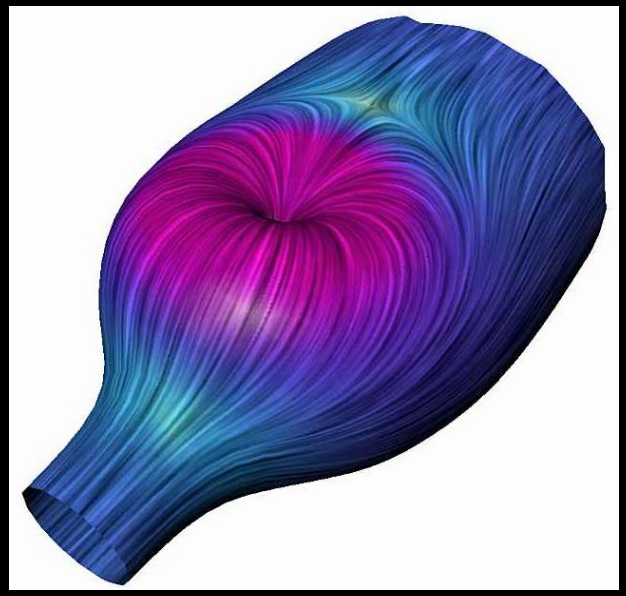
- Visualize vector at each (x,y,z) point
  - Example: velocity field
  - Example: hair
- Hedgehogs
  - Use 3D directed line segments (sample field)
  - Orientation and magnitude determined by vector
- Animation
  - Use for still image
  - Particle systems

Blood flow in
human carotid artery

# Using Glyphs and Streaklines





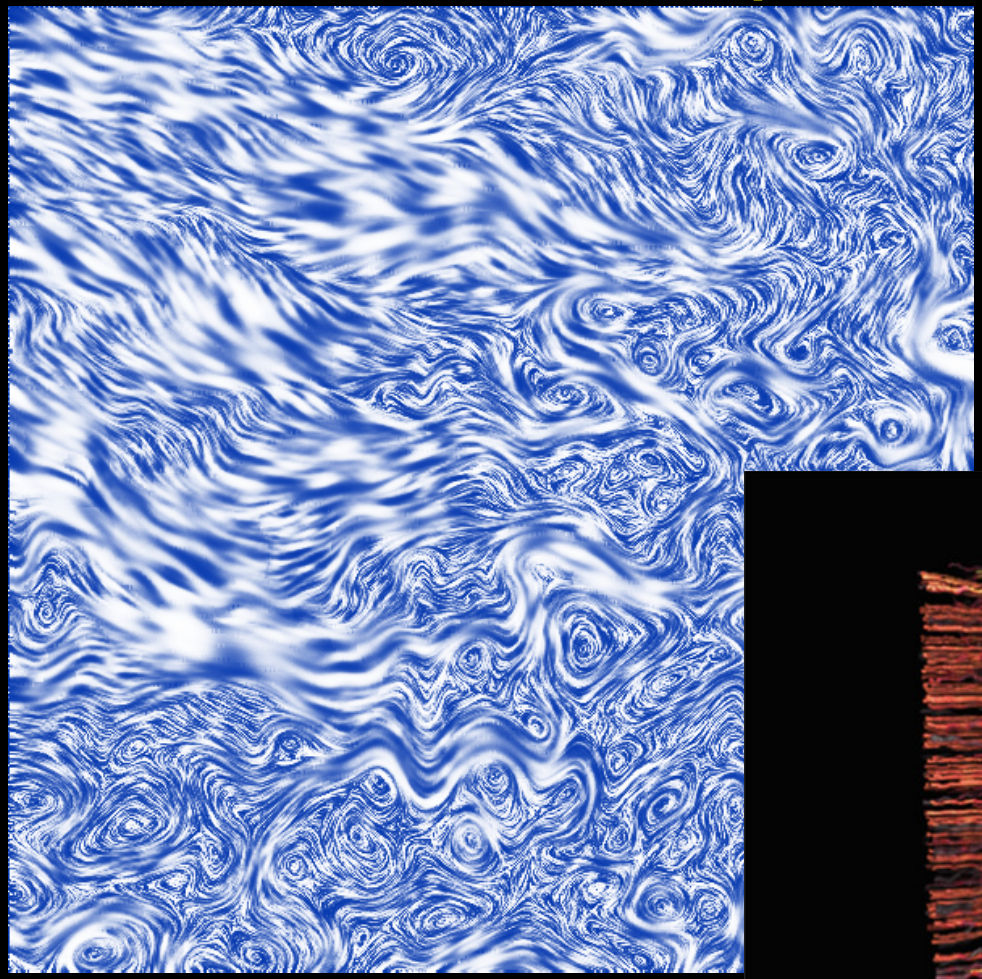


Glyphs for air flow

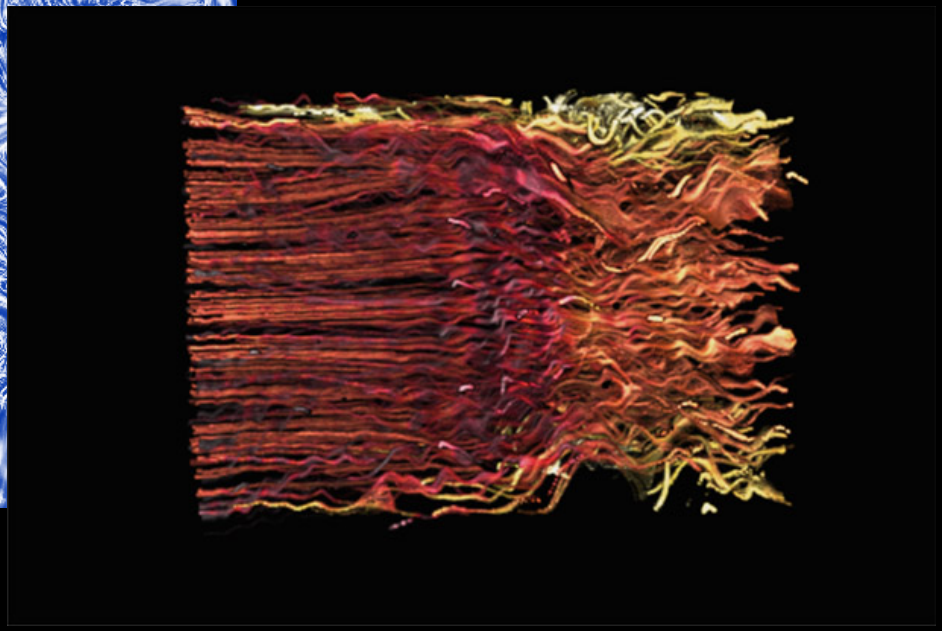
University of Utah

Glyph = marker (for example, an arrow) used for data visualization

# More Flow Examples



Banks and Interrante



# Example: Jet Shockwave

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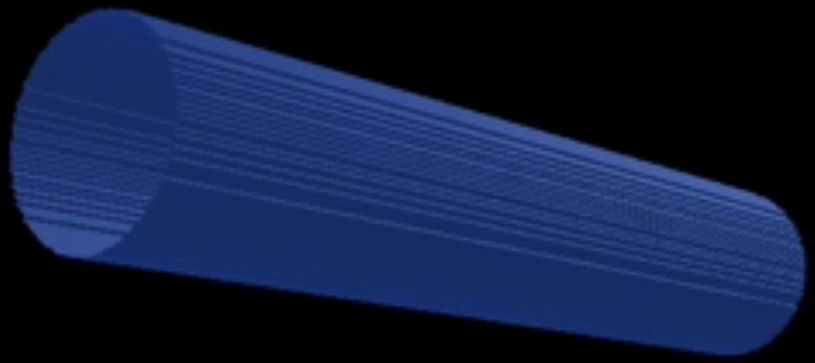

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# Summary

- Height Fields and Contours
- Scalar Fields
  - Isosurfaces
  - Marching cubes
- Volume Rendering
  - Volume ray tracing
  - Splatting
  - 3D Textures
- Vector Fields
  - Hedgehogs
  - Animated and interactive visualization