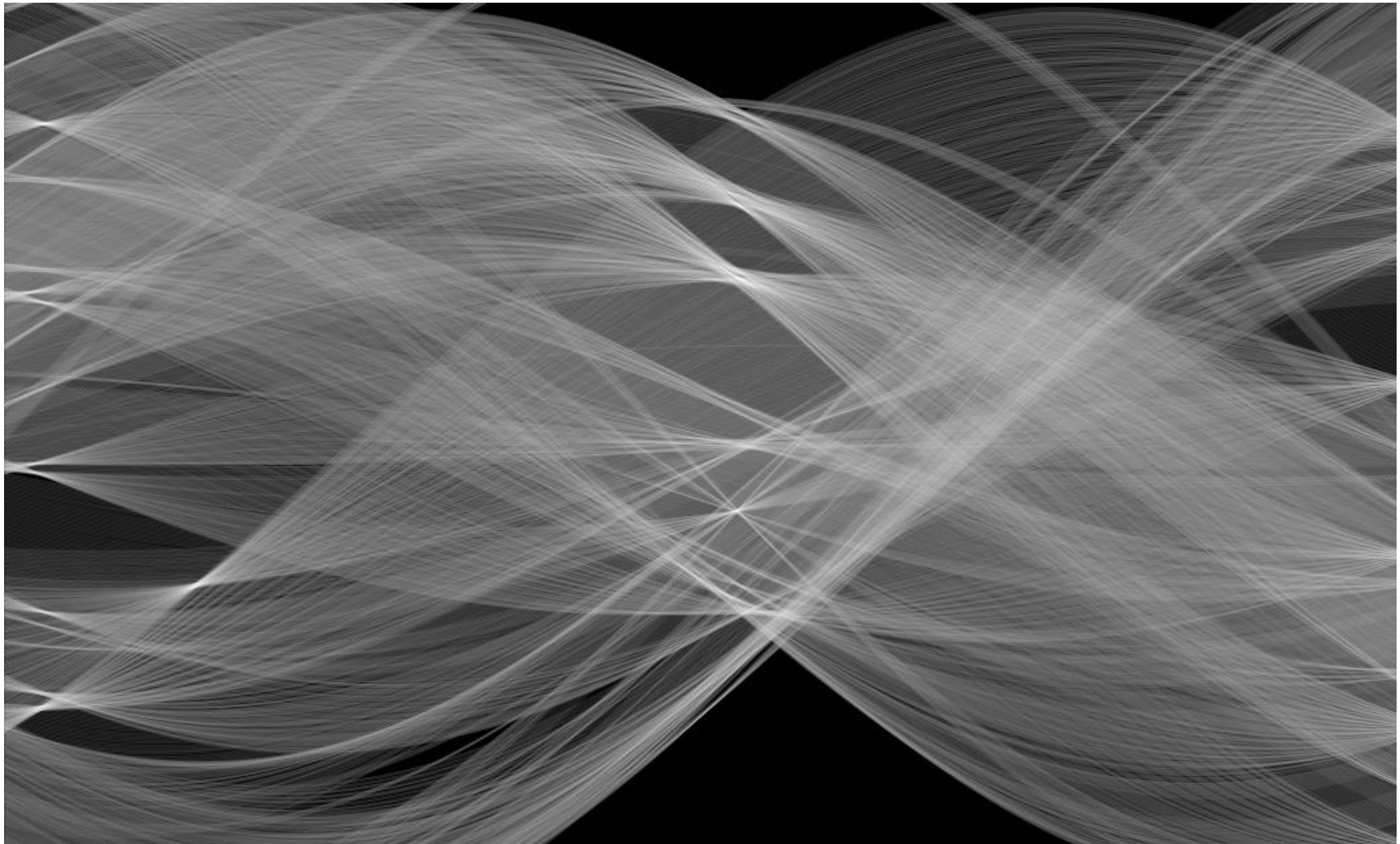


# Hough transform



# Course announcements

- Homework 0 and homework 1 are available on course website.
  - Homework 1 is due on February 7<sup>th</sup>.
  - Any questions about the homeworks?
  - How many of you have looked at/started/finished homework 0?
  - How many of you have looked at/started/finished homework 1?

# Overview of today's lecture

Leftover from Lecture 3:

- Frequency-domain filtering.
- Revisiting sampling.

New in lecture 4:

- Finding boundaries.
- Line fitting.
- Line parameterizations.
- Hough transform.
- Hough circles.
- Some applications.

# Slide credits

Most of these slides were adapted from:

- Kris Kitani (15-463, Fall 2016).

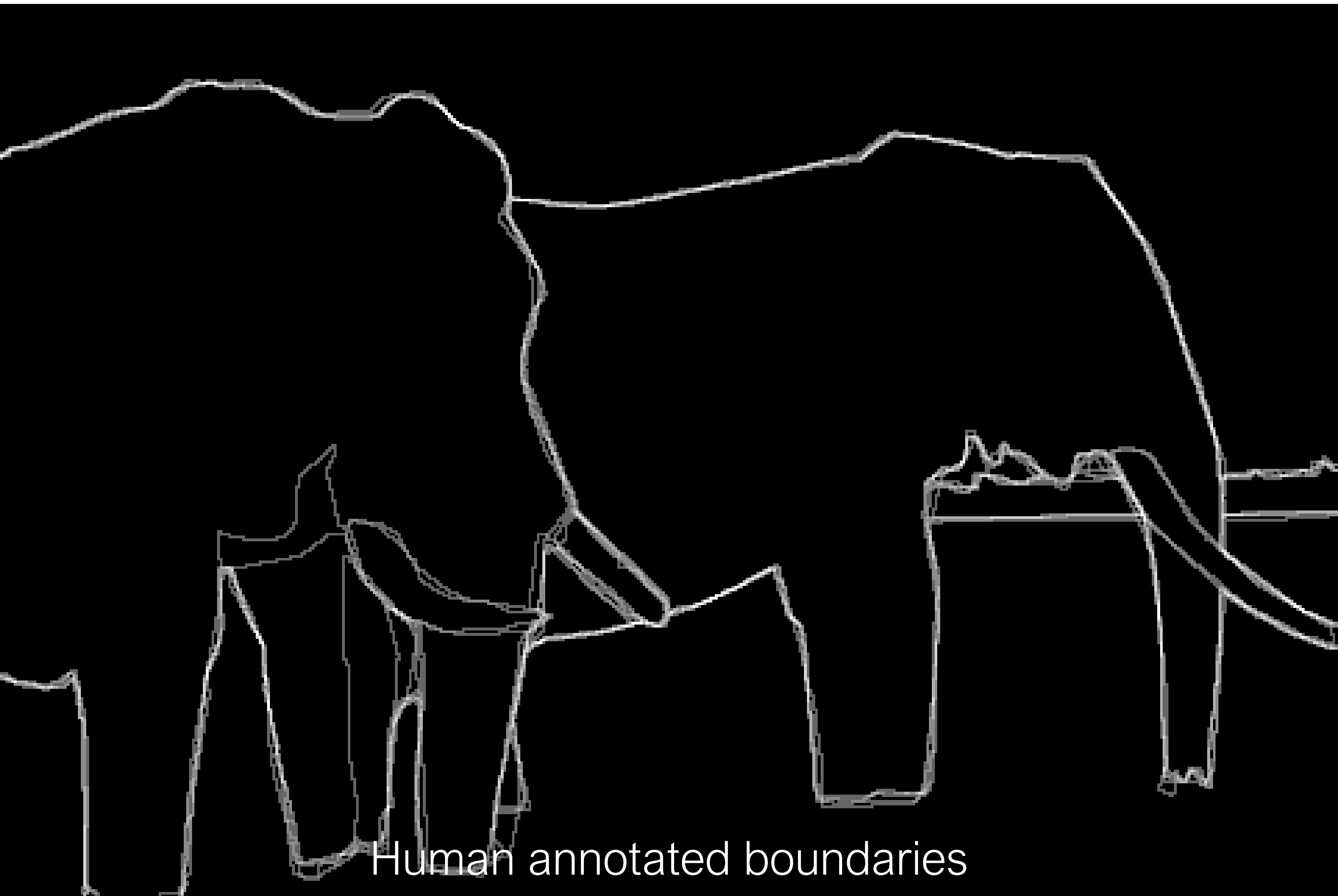
Some slides were inspired or taken from:

- Fredo Durand (MIT).
- James Hays (Georgia Tech).

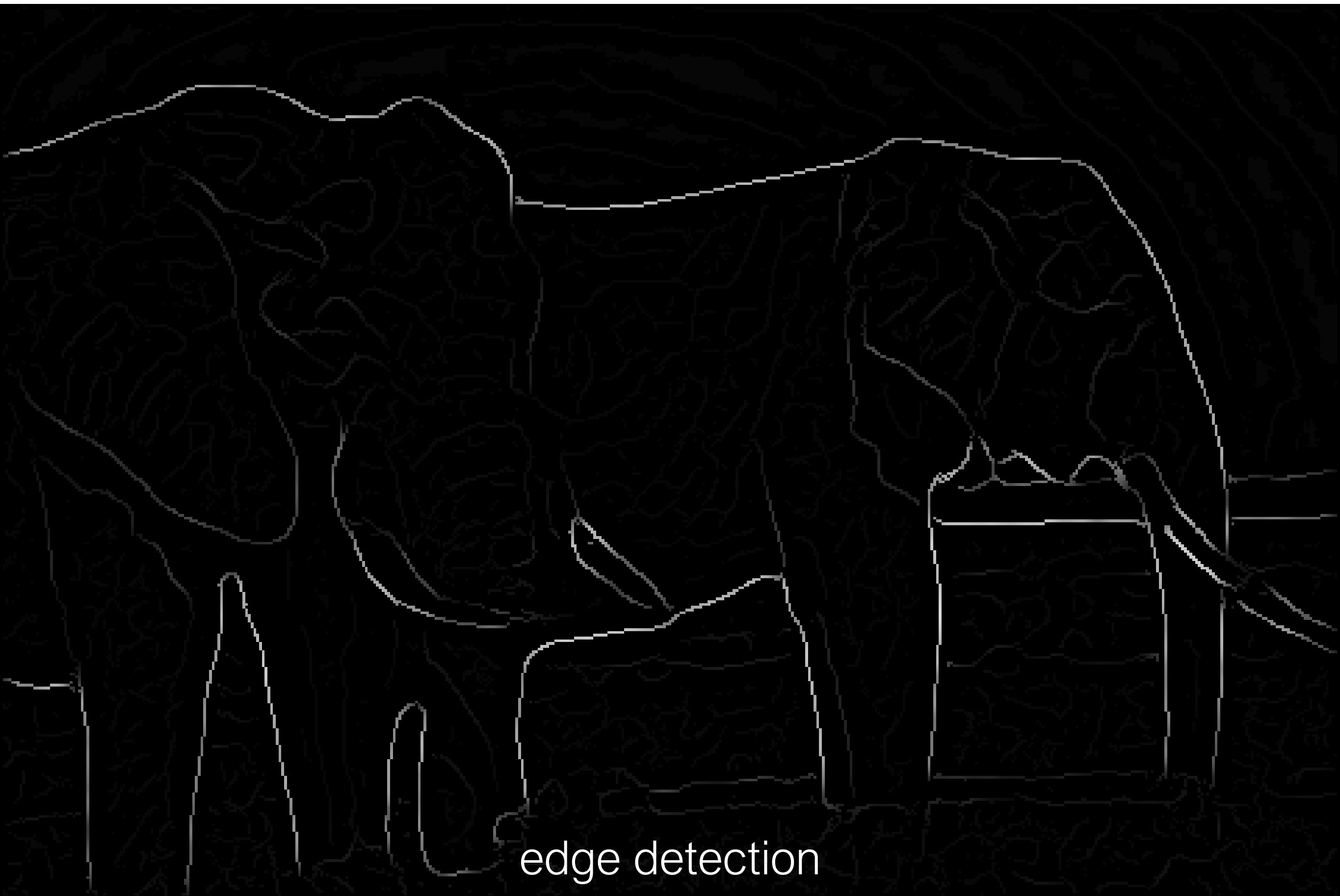
Finding boundaries

Where are the object boundaries?



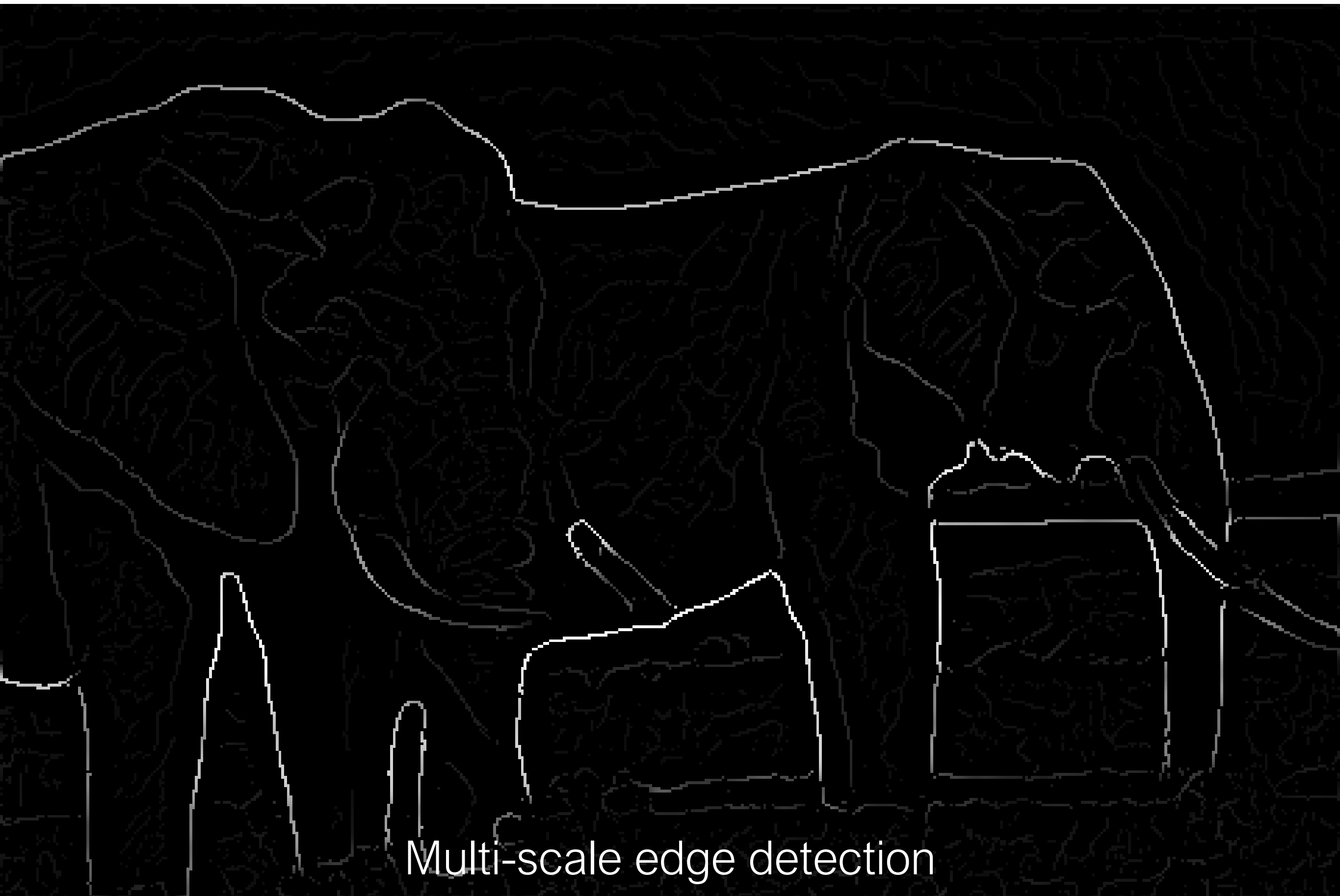


Human annotated boundaries



edge detection





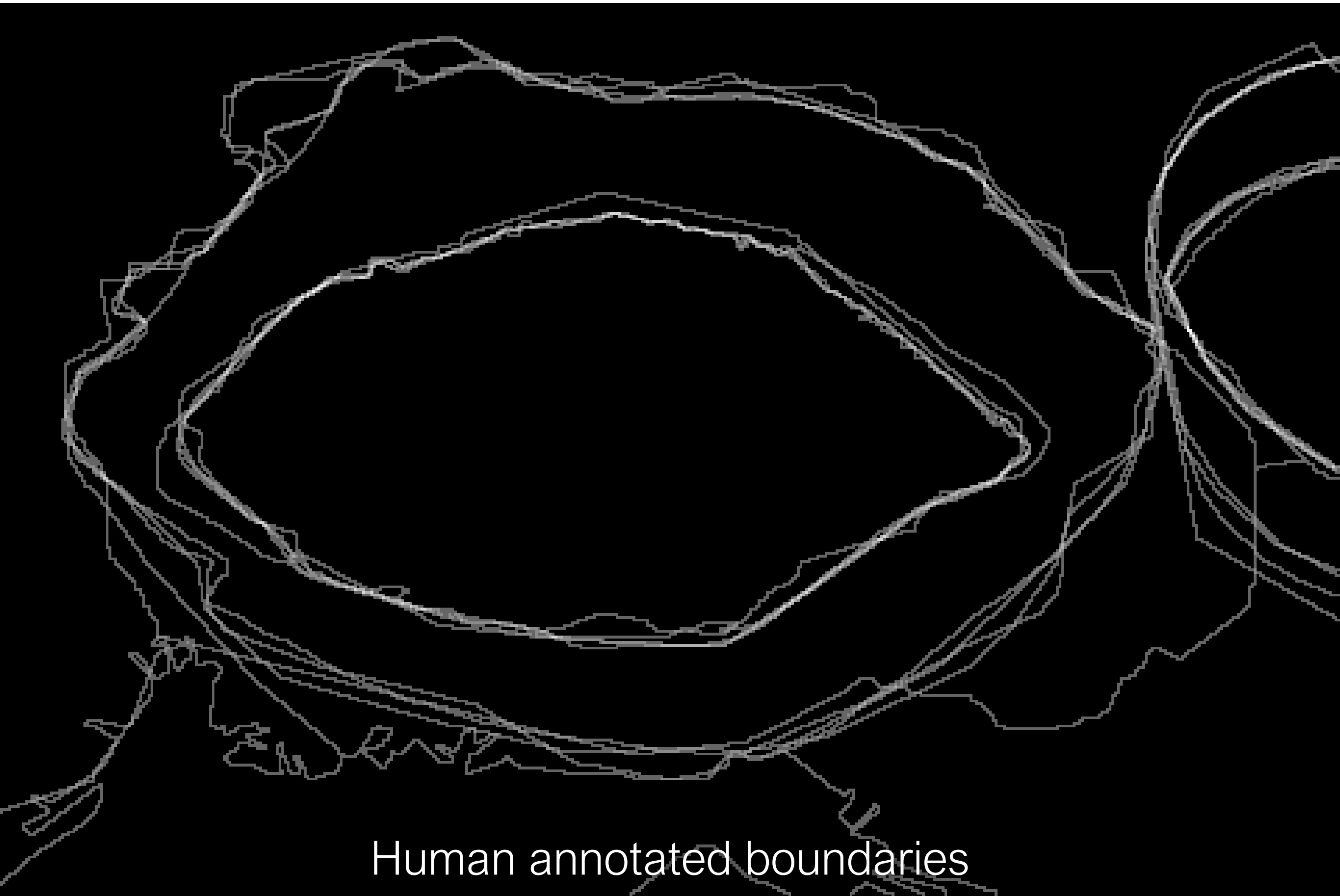
Multi-scale edge detection

The image is a grayscale edge detection of a photograph showing a person sitting at a desk. The person is wearing a light-colored shirt and dark pants. The desk has a laptop and some papers on it. The background is a plain wall. The edges are highlighted in white against a black background. The text "Edge strength does not necessarily correspond to our perception of boundaries" is overlaid in the center of the image.

Edge strength does not necessarily  
correspond to our perception of boundaries

Where are the object boundaries?



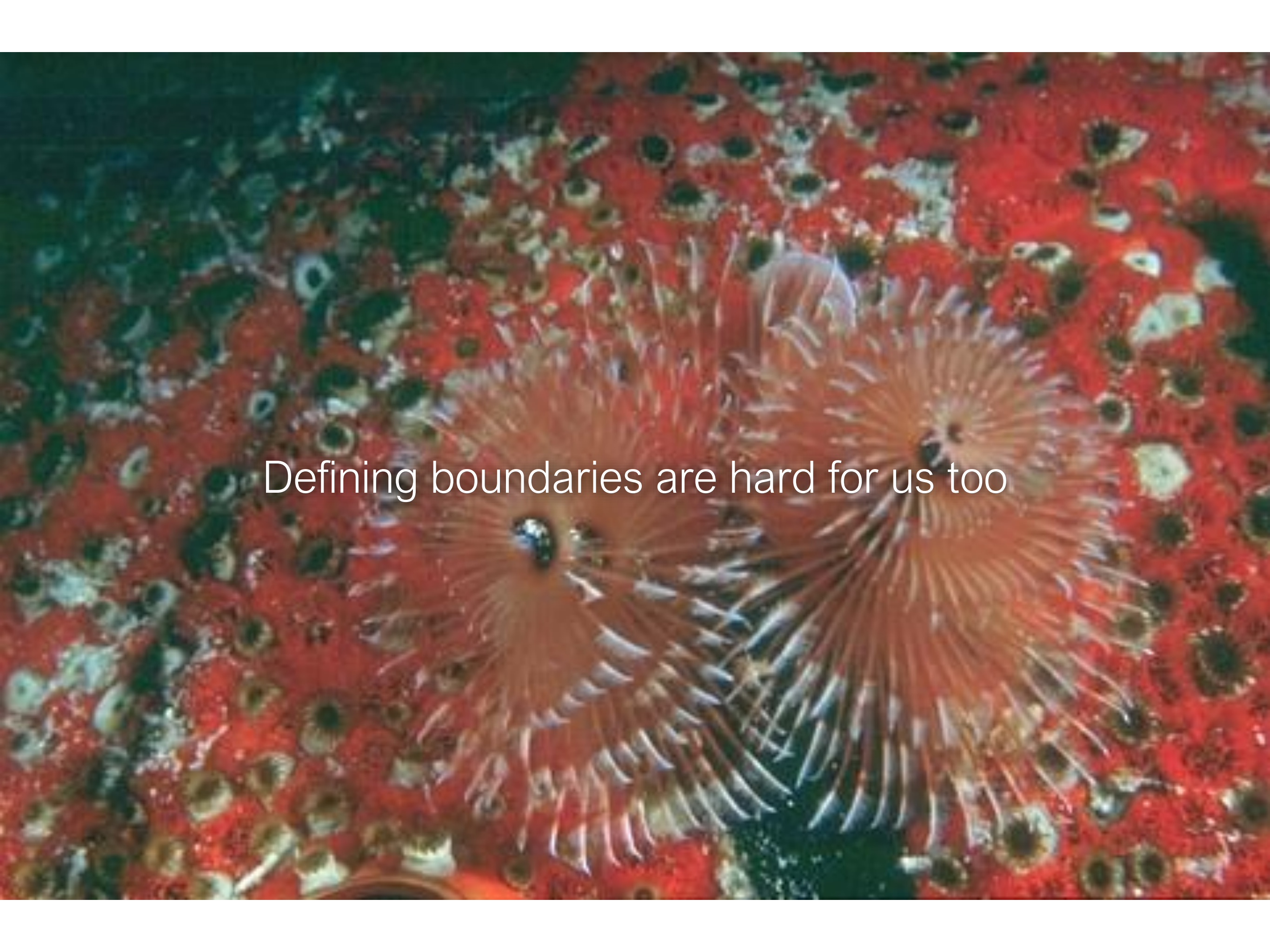


Human annotated boundaries



edge detection

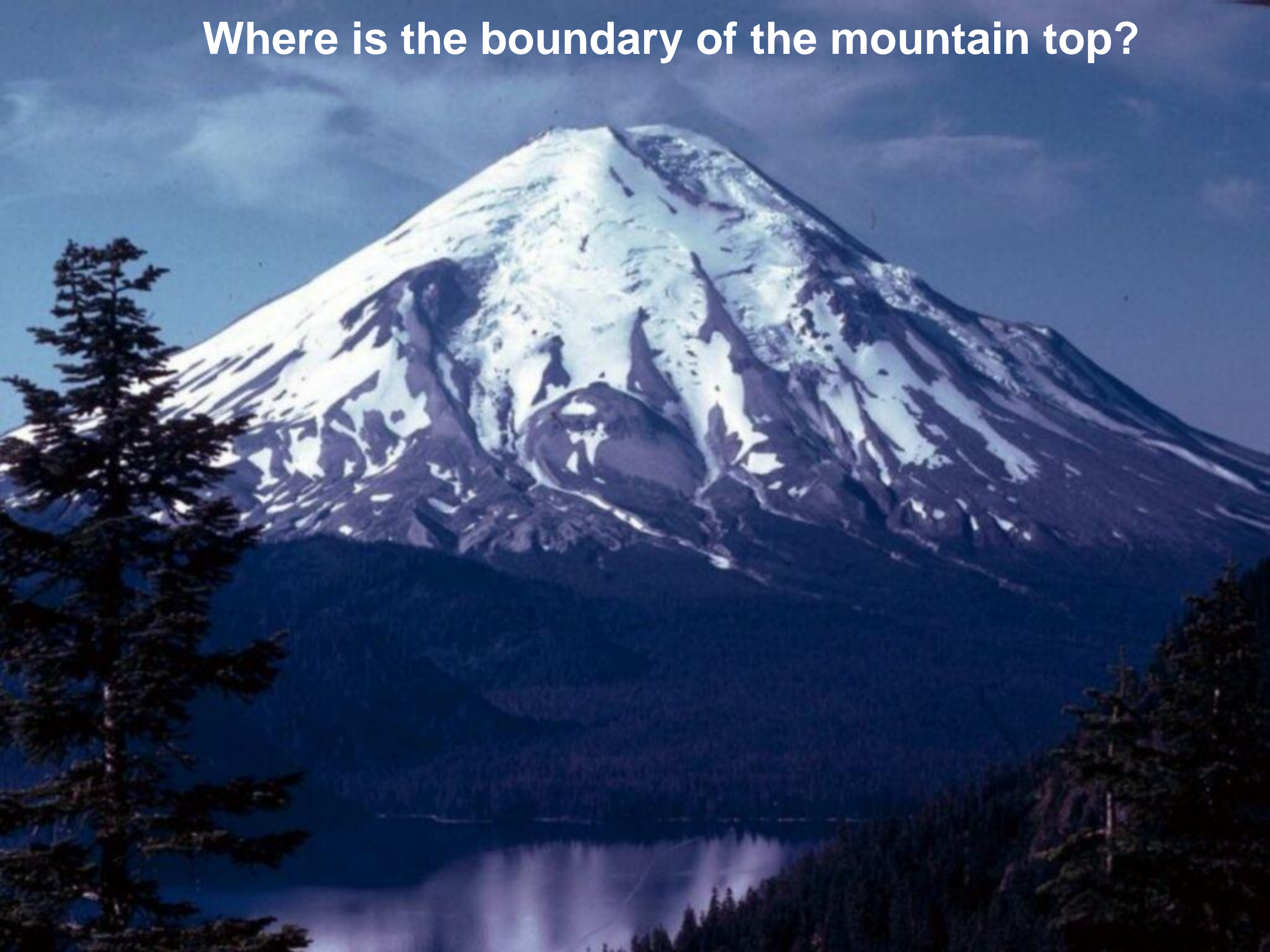


A close-up photograph of two sea anemones on a vibrant red coral reef. The anemones have numerous long, thin, pinkish-white tentacles. The background is a dense, textured surface of red coral with many small, dark, circular openings.

Defining boundaries are hard for us too



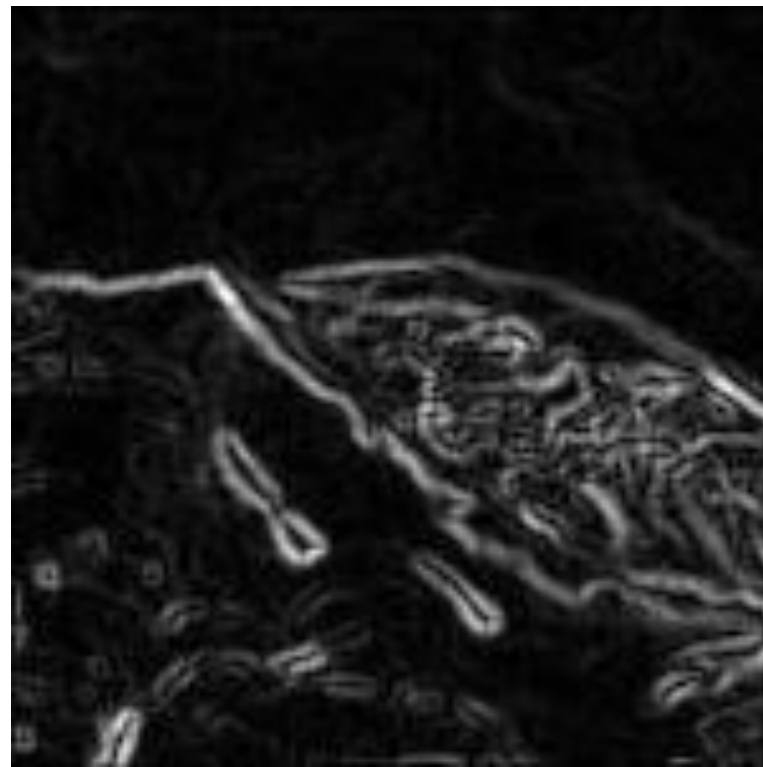
Where is the boundary of the mountain top?



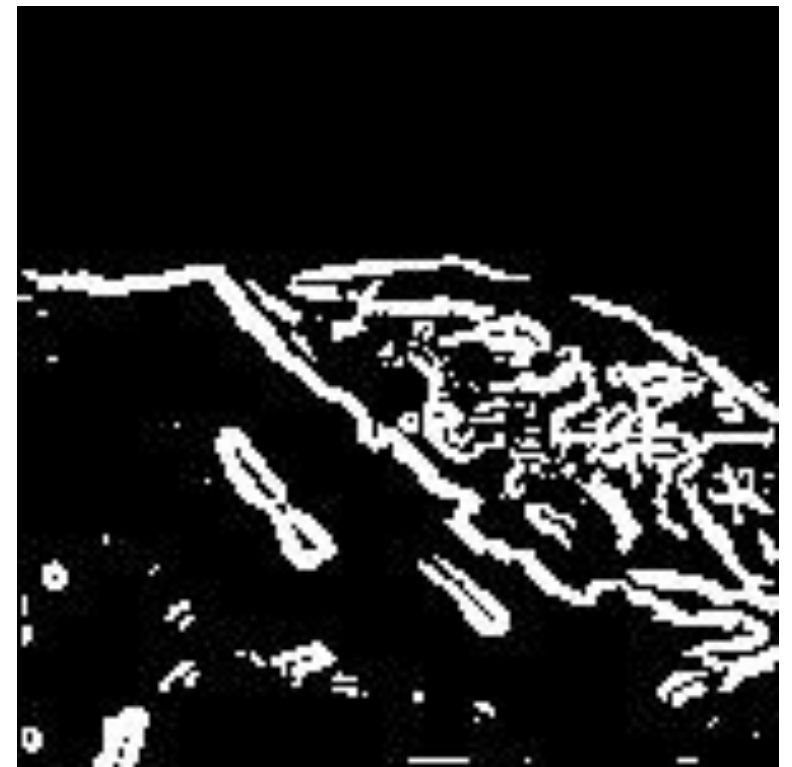
# Lines are hard to find



Original image



Edge detection



Thresholding

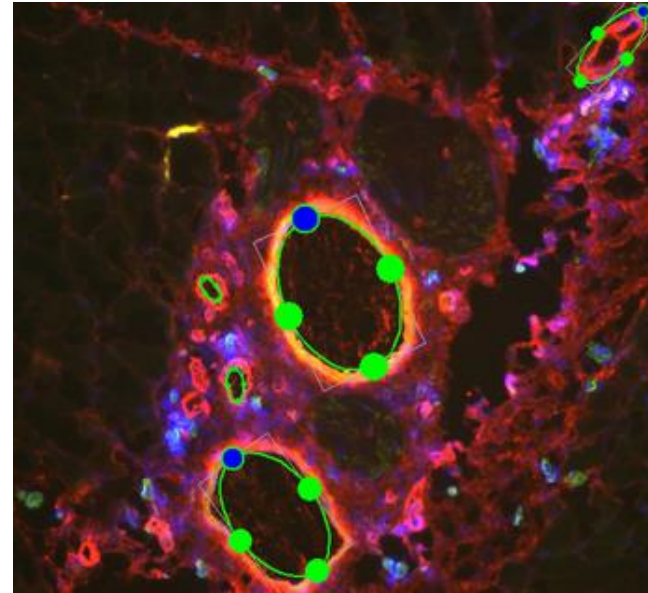
Noisy edge image  
Incomplete boundaries



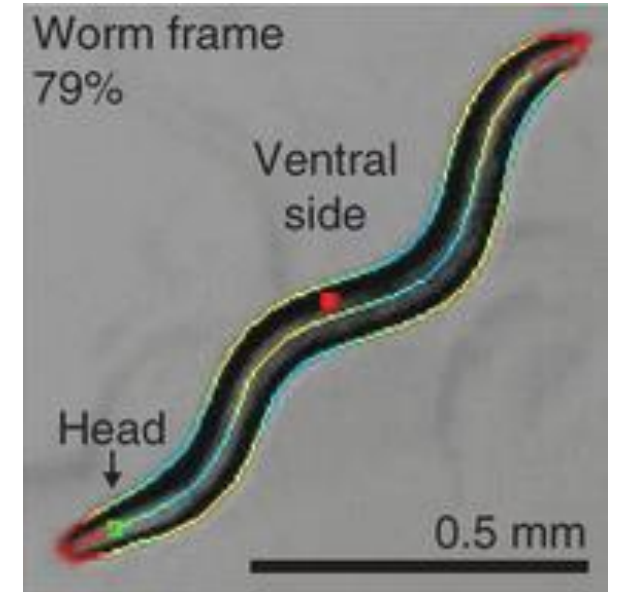
# Applications



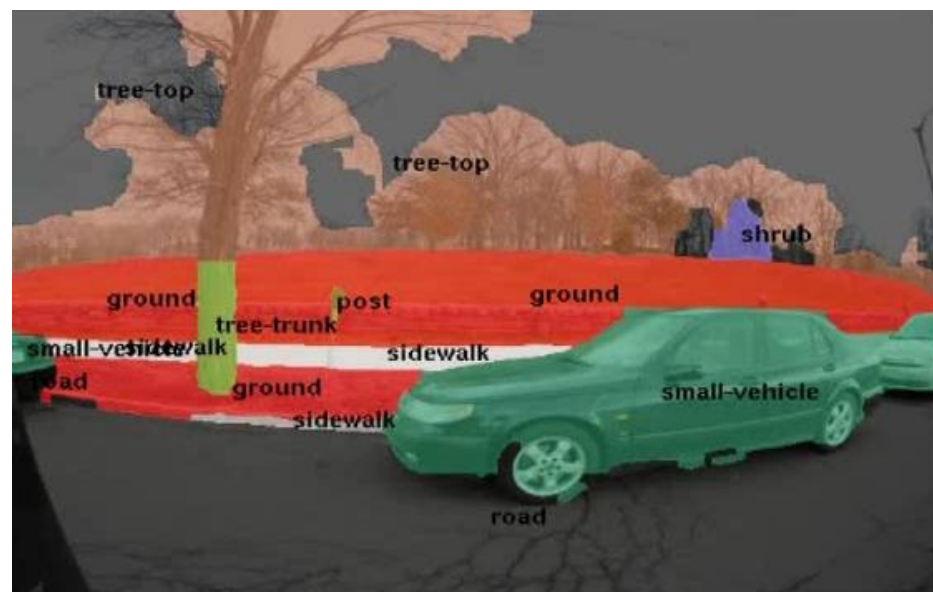
Autonomous Vehicles  
(lane line detection)



tissue engineering  
(blood vessel counting)



behavioral genetics  
(earthworm contours)

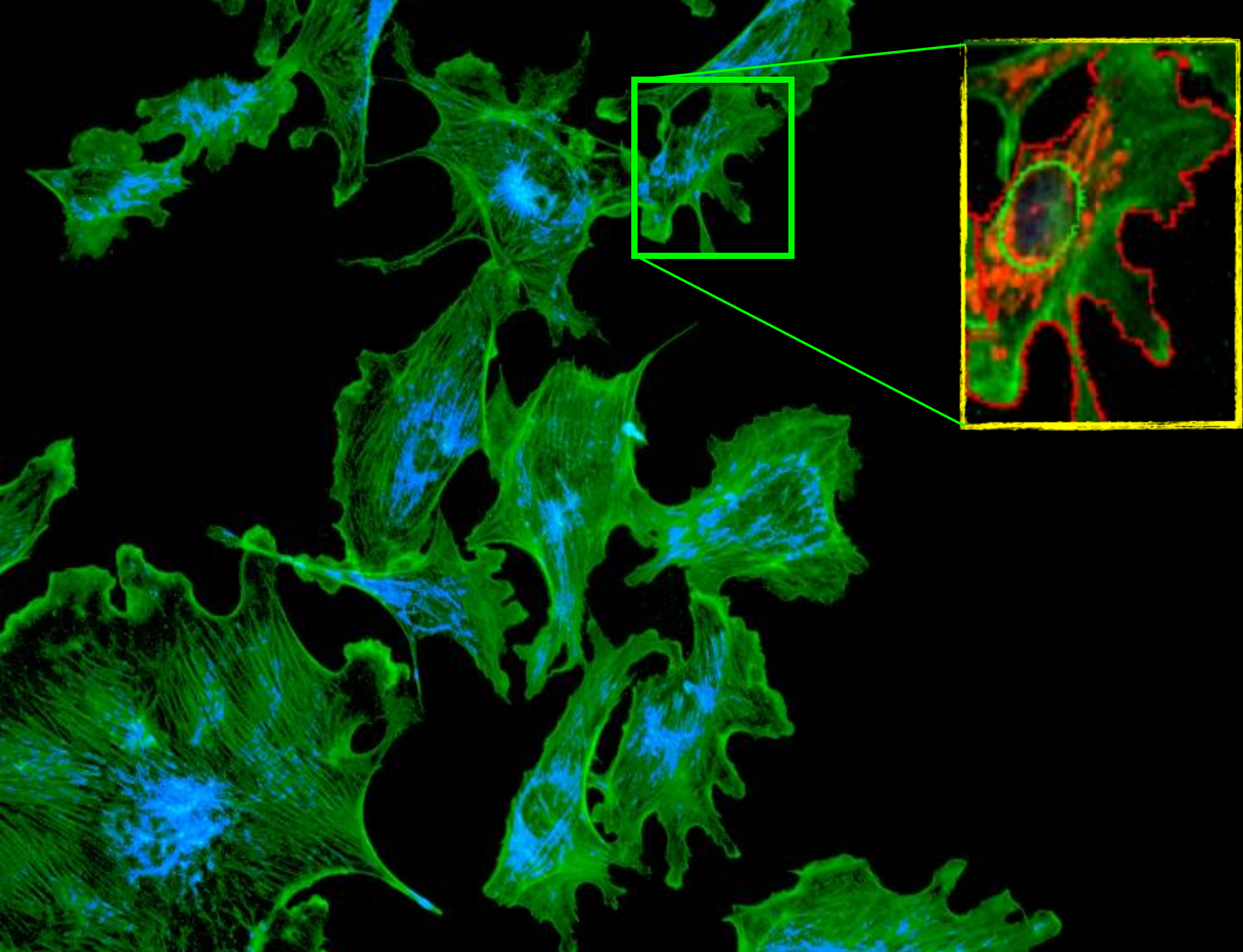


Autonomous Vehicles  
(semantic scene segmentation)



Computational Photography  
(image inpainting)





Line fitting

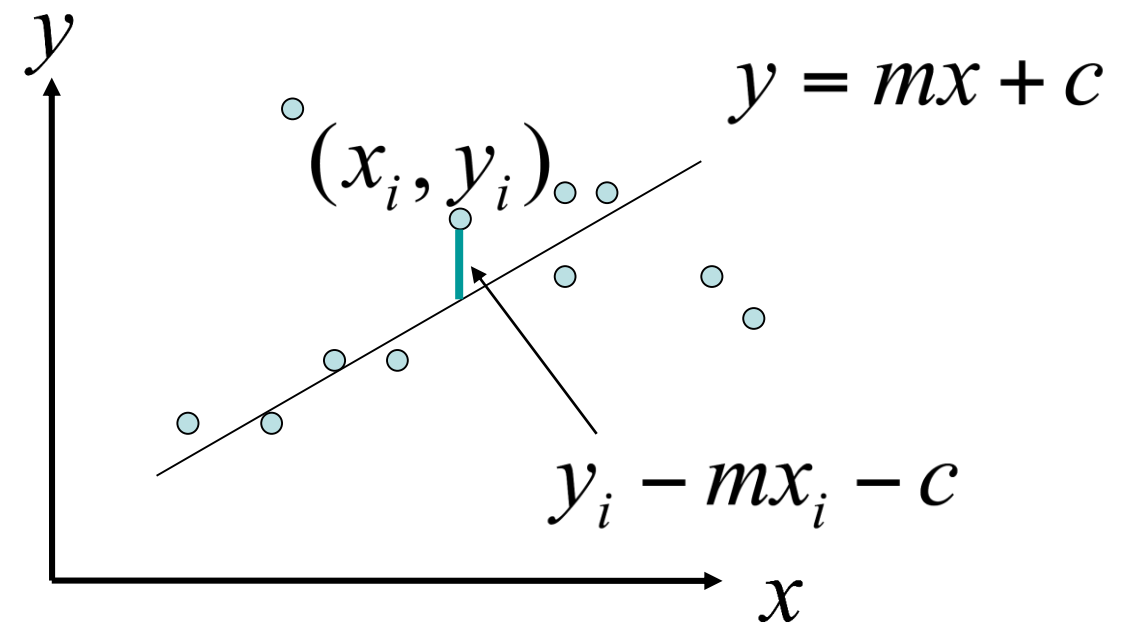
# Line fitting

Given: Many  $(x_i, y_i)$  pairs

Find: Parameters  $(m, c)$

Minimize: Average square distance:

$$E = \sum_i \frac{(y_i - mx_i - c)^2}{N}$$



# Line fitting

Given: Many  $(x_i, y_i)$  pairs

Find: Parameters  $(m, c)$

Minimize: Average square distance:

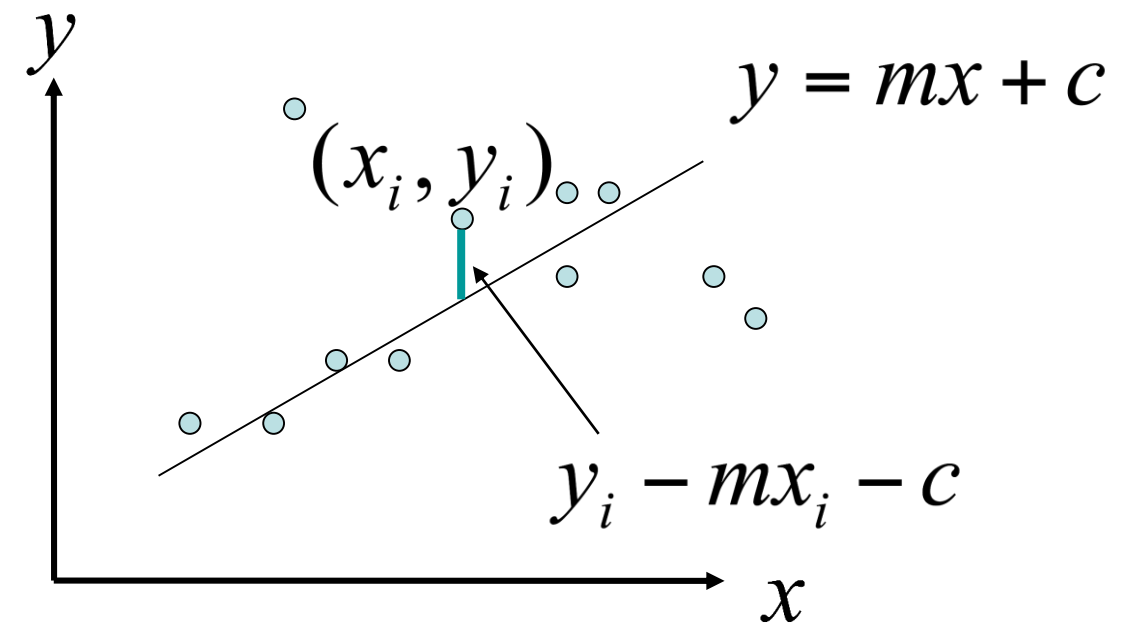
$$E = \sum_i \frac{(y_i - mx_i - c)^2}{N}$$

Using:

$$\frac{\partial E}{\partial m} = 0 \quad \& \quad \frac{\partial E}{\partial c} = 0$$

Note:

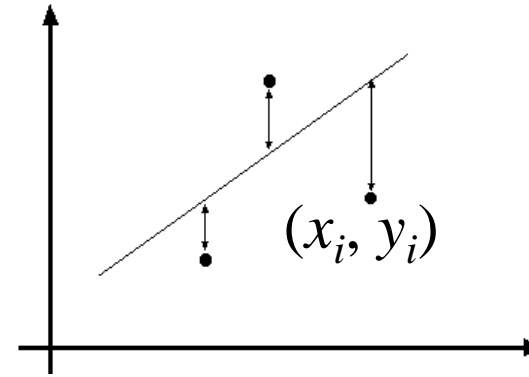
$$\bar{y} = \frac{\sum_i y_i}{N} \quad \bar{x} = \frac{\sum_i x_i}{N}$$



$$c = \bar{y} - m \bar{x}$$
$$m = \frac{\sum_i (x_i - \bar{x})(y_i - \bar{y})}{\sum_i (x_i - \bar{x})^2}$$

*What are some problems with the approach?*

Data:  $(x_1, y_1), \dots, (x_n, y_n)$   
Line equation:  $y_i = m x_i + b$



Find  $(m, b)$  to minimize

$$E = \sum_{i=1}^n (y_i - m x_i - b)^2$$

$$Y = \begin{bmatrix} y_1 \\ \vdots \\ y_n \end{bmatrix} \quad X = \begin{bmatrix} x_1 & 1 \\ \vdots & \vdots \\ x_n & 1 \end{bmatrix} \quad B = \begin{bmatrix} m \\ b \end{bmatrix}$$

$$E = \|Y - XB\|^2 = (Y - XB)^T (Y - XB) = Y^T Y - 2(XB)^T Y + (XB)^T (XB)$$

$$\frac{dE}{dB} = 2X^T XB - 2X^T Y = 0$$

$$X^T XB = X^T Y$$

Normal equations: least squares solution to  $XB=Y$

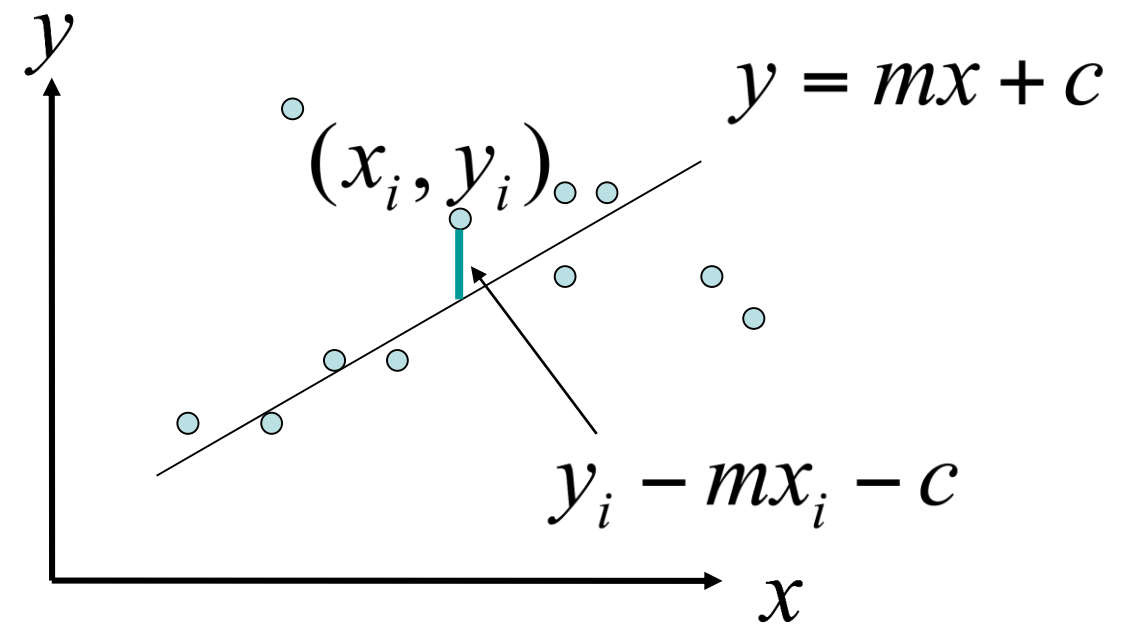
# Line fitting

Given: Many  $(x_i, y_i)$  pairs

Find: Parameters  $(m, c)$

Minimize: Average square distance:

$$E = \sum_i \frac{(y_i - mx_i - c)^2}{N}$$

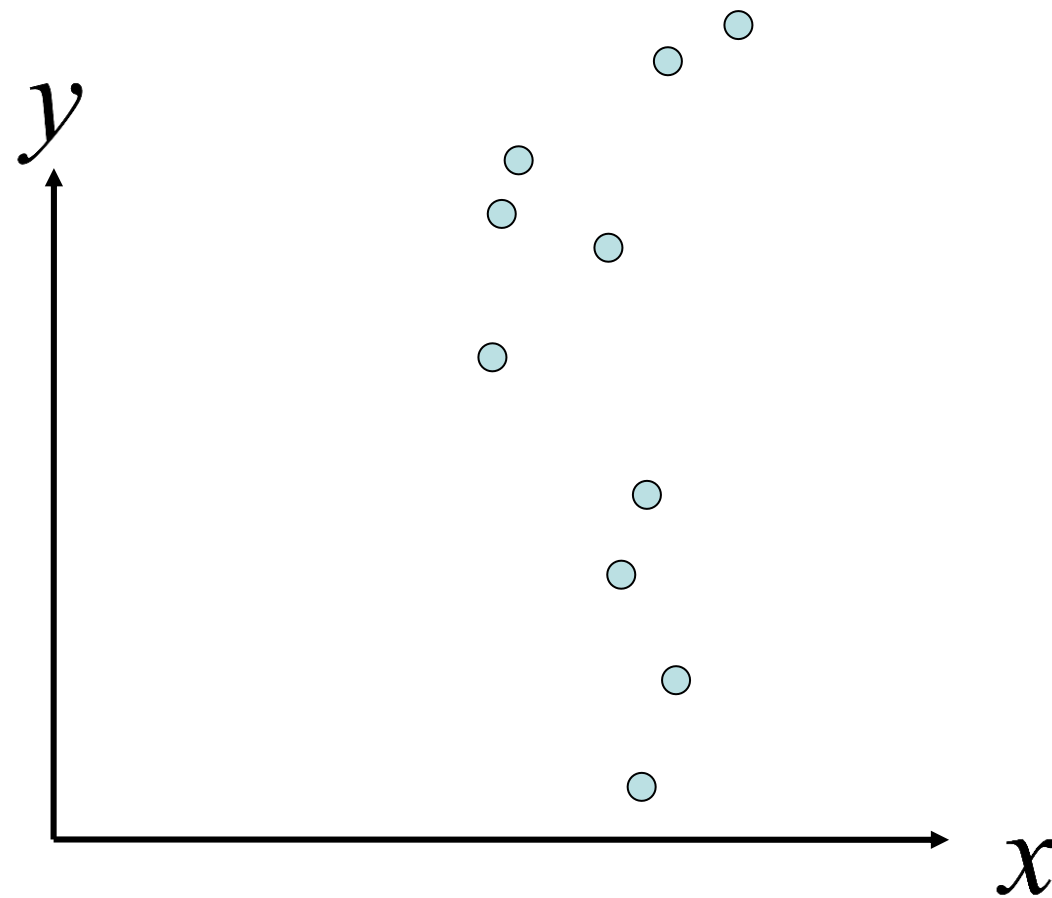


*How can we solve this minimization?*

# Problems with parameterizations

Where is the line that minimizes  $E$ ?

$$E = \sum_{i=1}^n (y_i - mx_i - b)^2$$

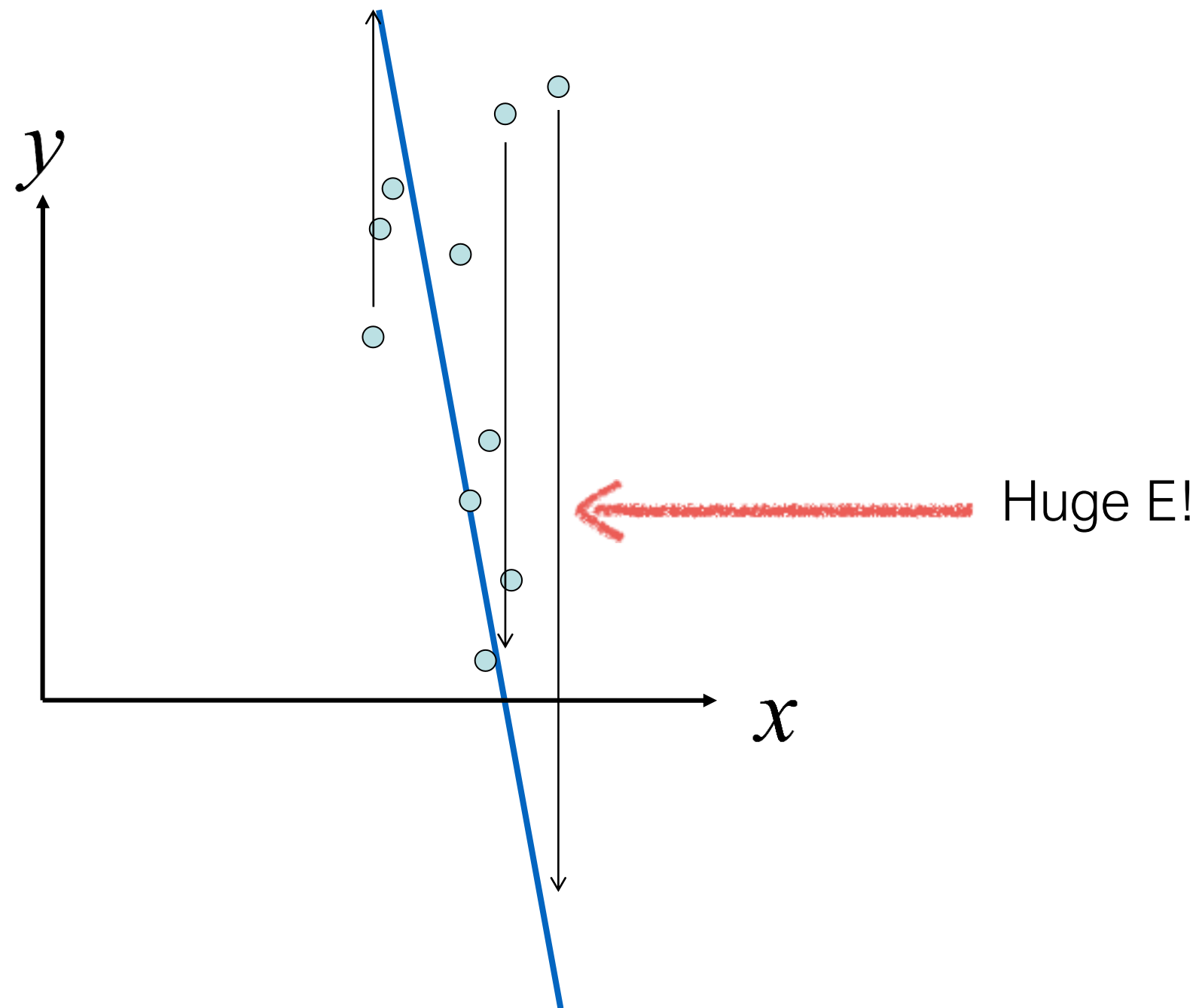




# Problems with parameterizations

Where is the line that minimizes  $E$ ?

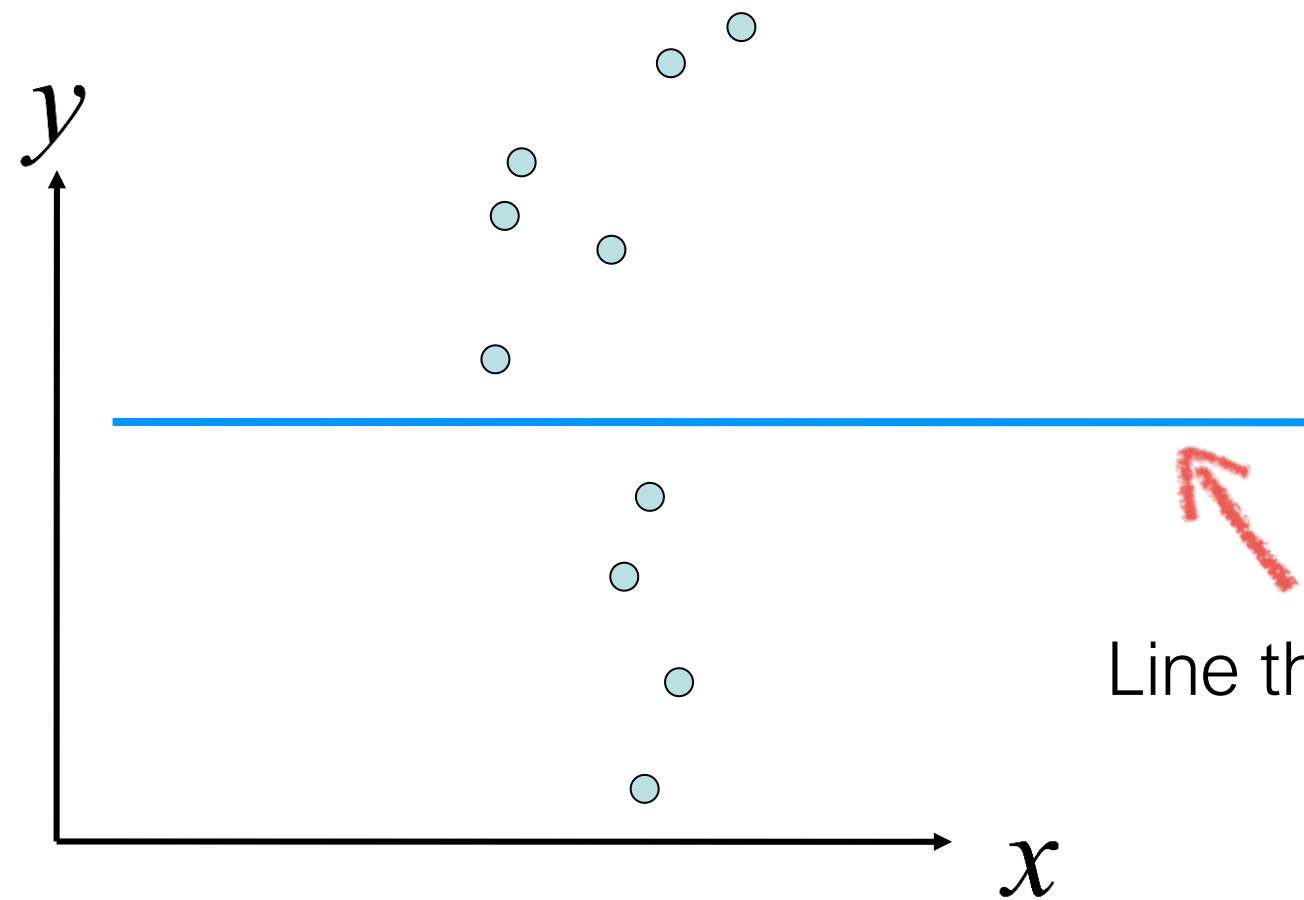
$$E = \sum_{i=1}^n (y_i - mx_i - b)^2$$



# Problems with parameterizations

Where is the line that minimizes  $E$ ?

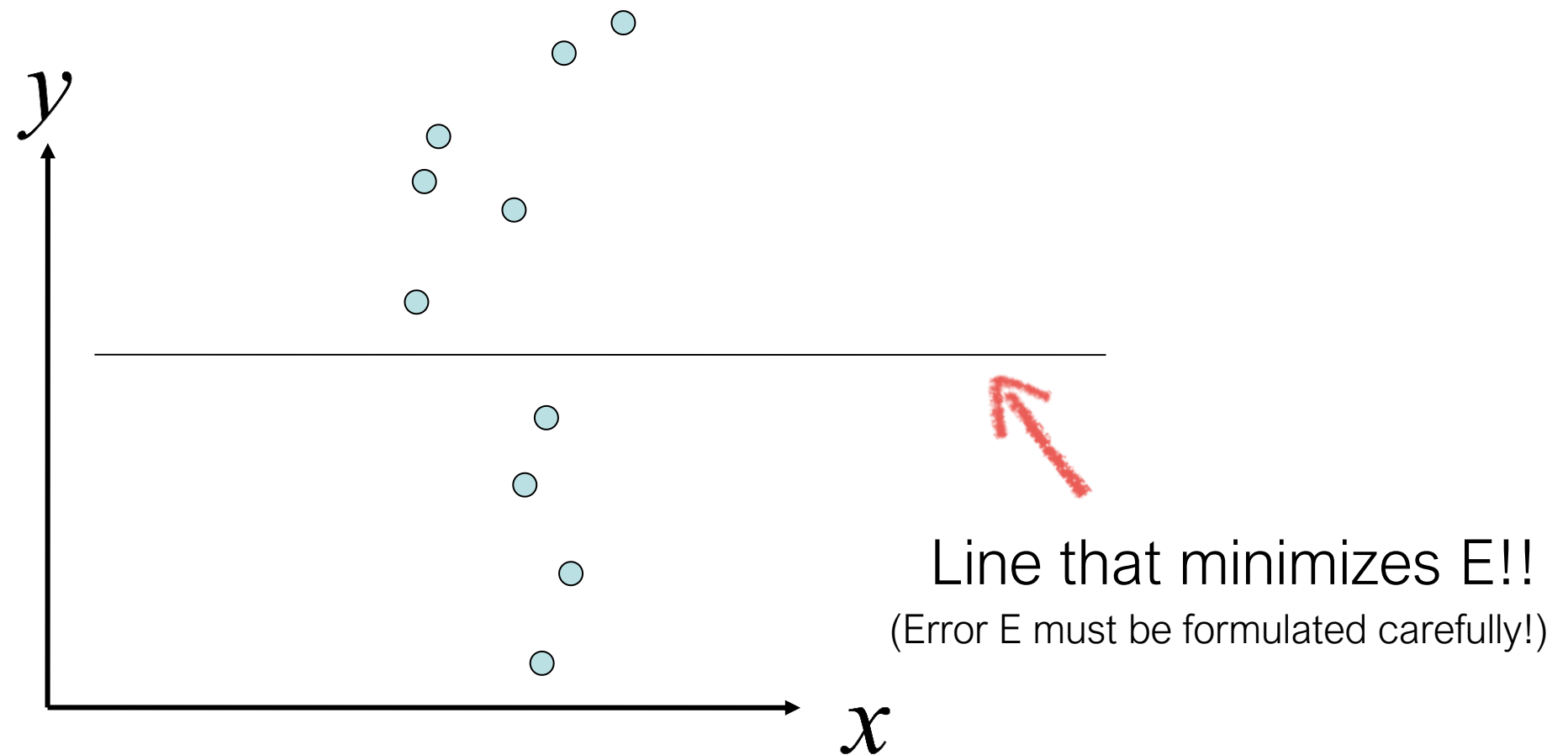
$$E = \sum_{i=1}^n (y_i - mx_i - b)^2$$



Line that minimizes  $E$ !!

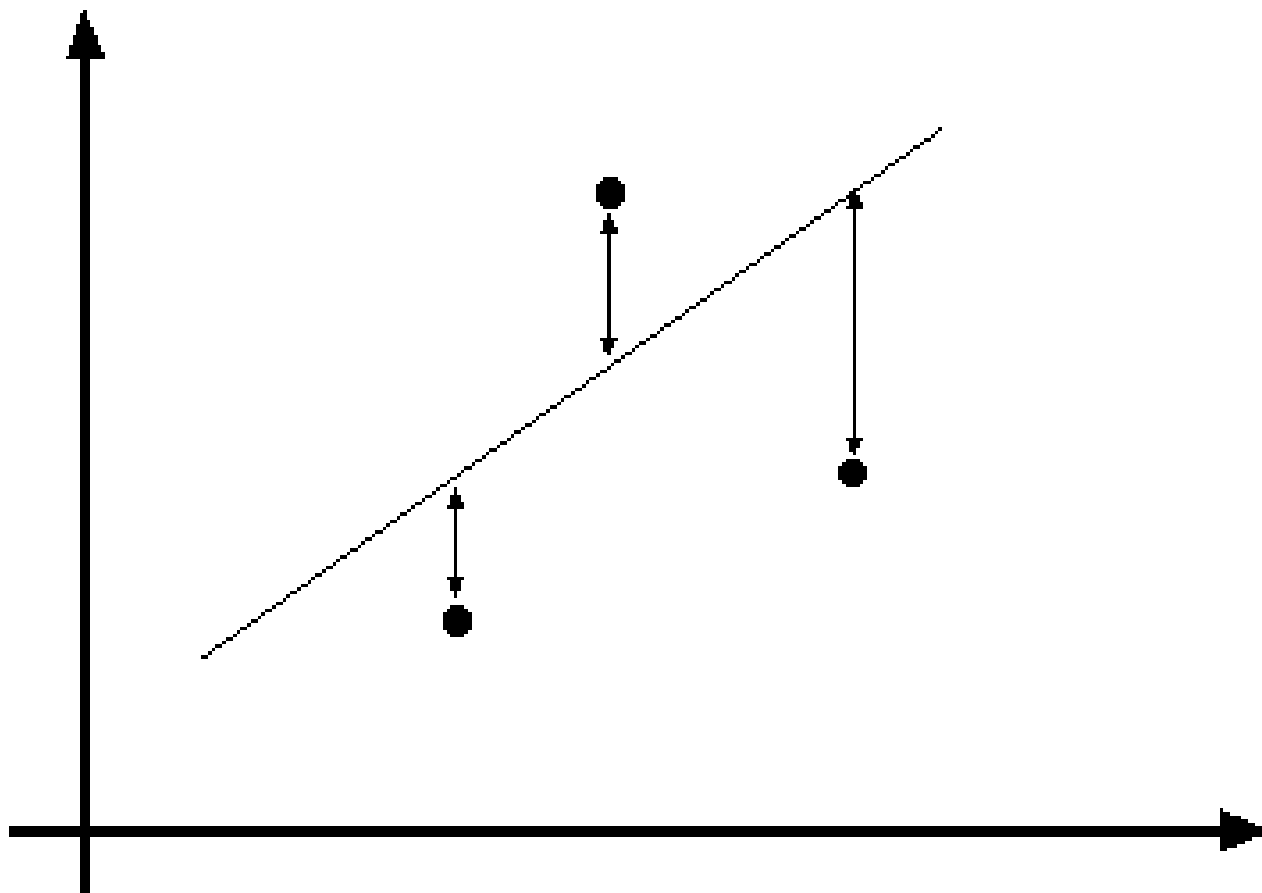
# Problems with parameterizations

Where is the line that minimizes  $E$ ?

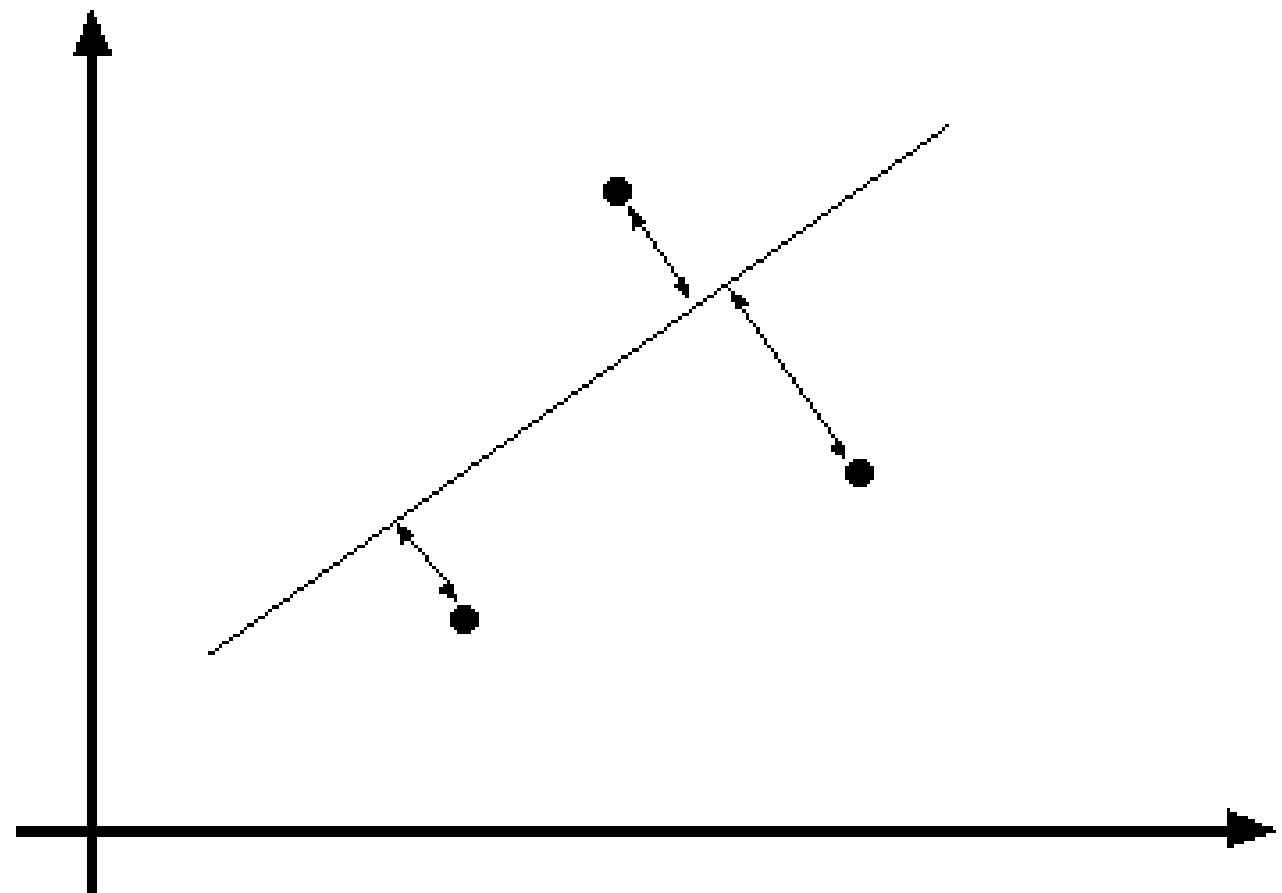


*How can we deal with this?*

Line fitting is easily setup as a maximum likelihood problem  
... but choice of model is important

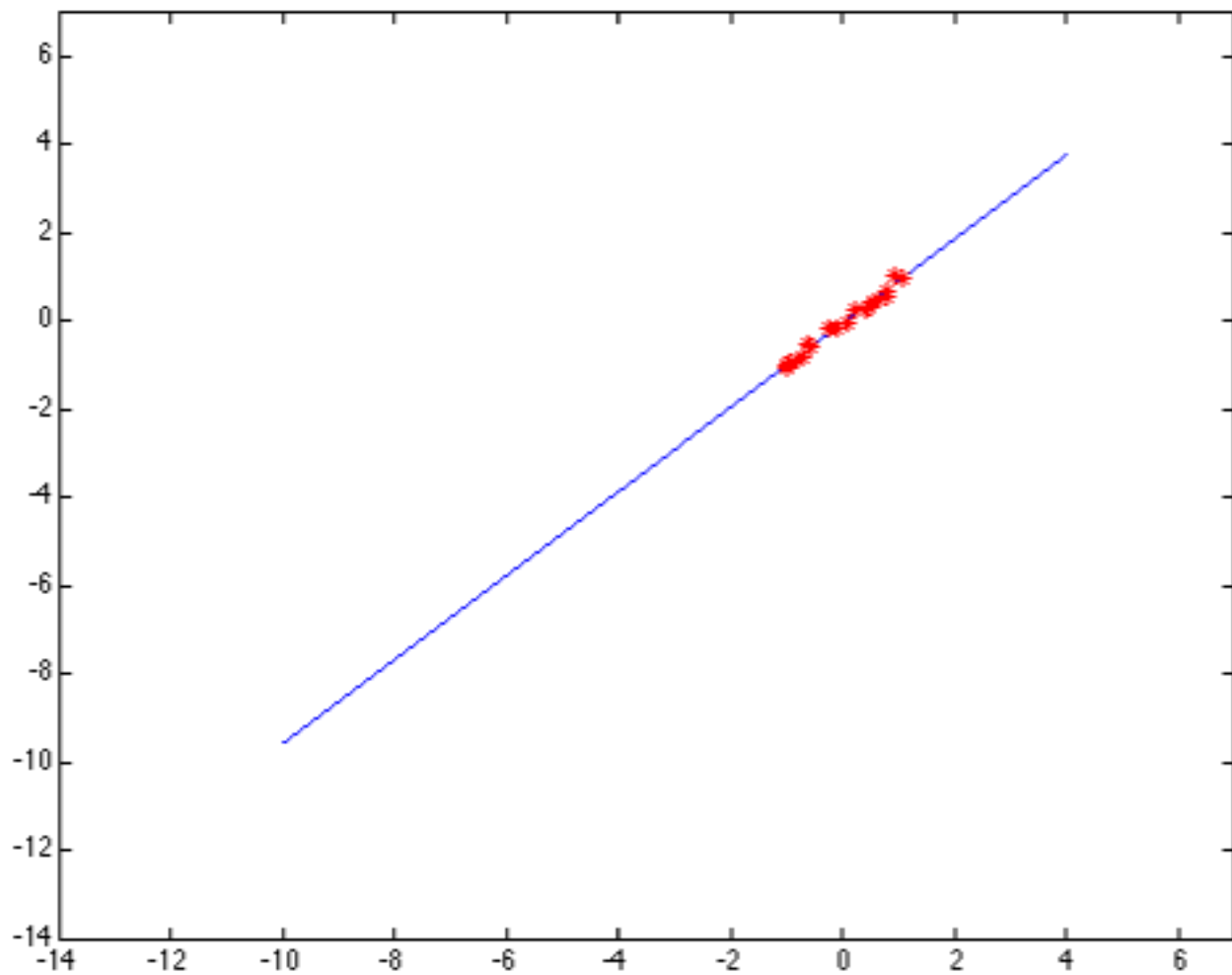


$$E = \sum_{i=1}^n (y_i - mx_i - b)^2$$

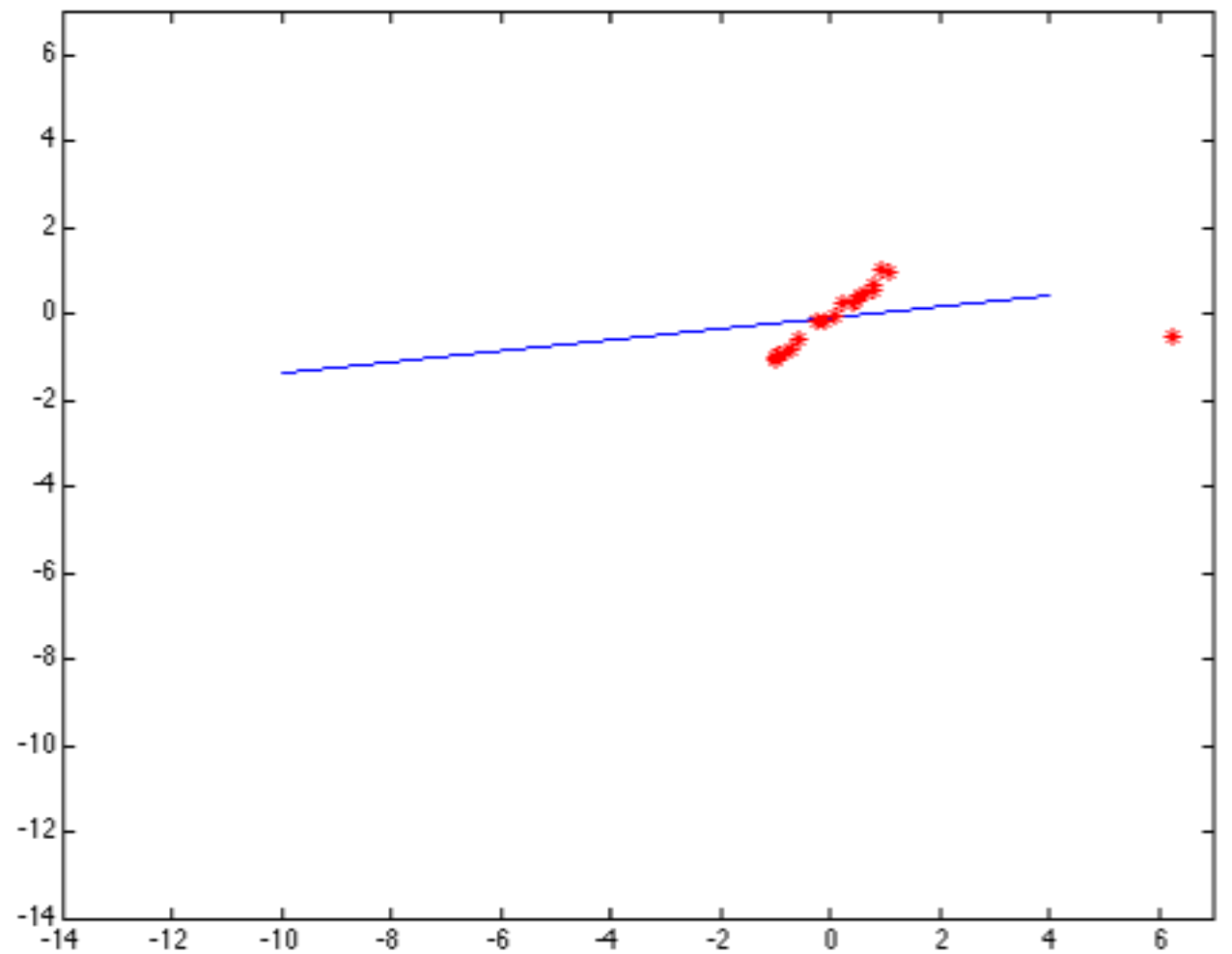


*What optimization are we solving here?*

# Problems with noise



Least-squares error fit



Squared error heavily penalizes outliers

# Model fitting is difficult because...



- **Extraneous data:** clutter or multiple models
  - We do not know what is part of the model?
  - Can we pull out models with a few parts from much larger amounts of background clutter?
- **Missing data:** only some parts of model are present
- **Noise**
- Cost:
  - It is not feasible to check all combinations of features by fitting a model to each possible subset

*So what can we do?*

# Line parameterizations

# Slope intercept form

$$y = mx + b$$



slope      y-intercept

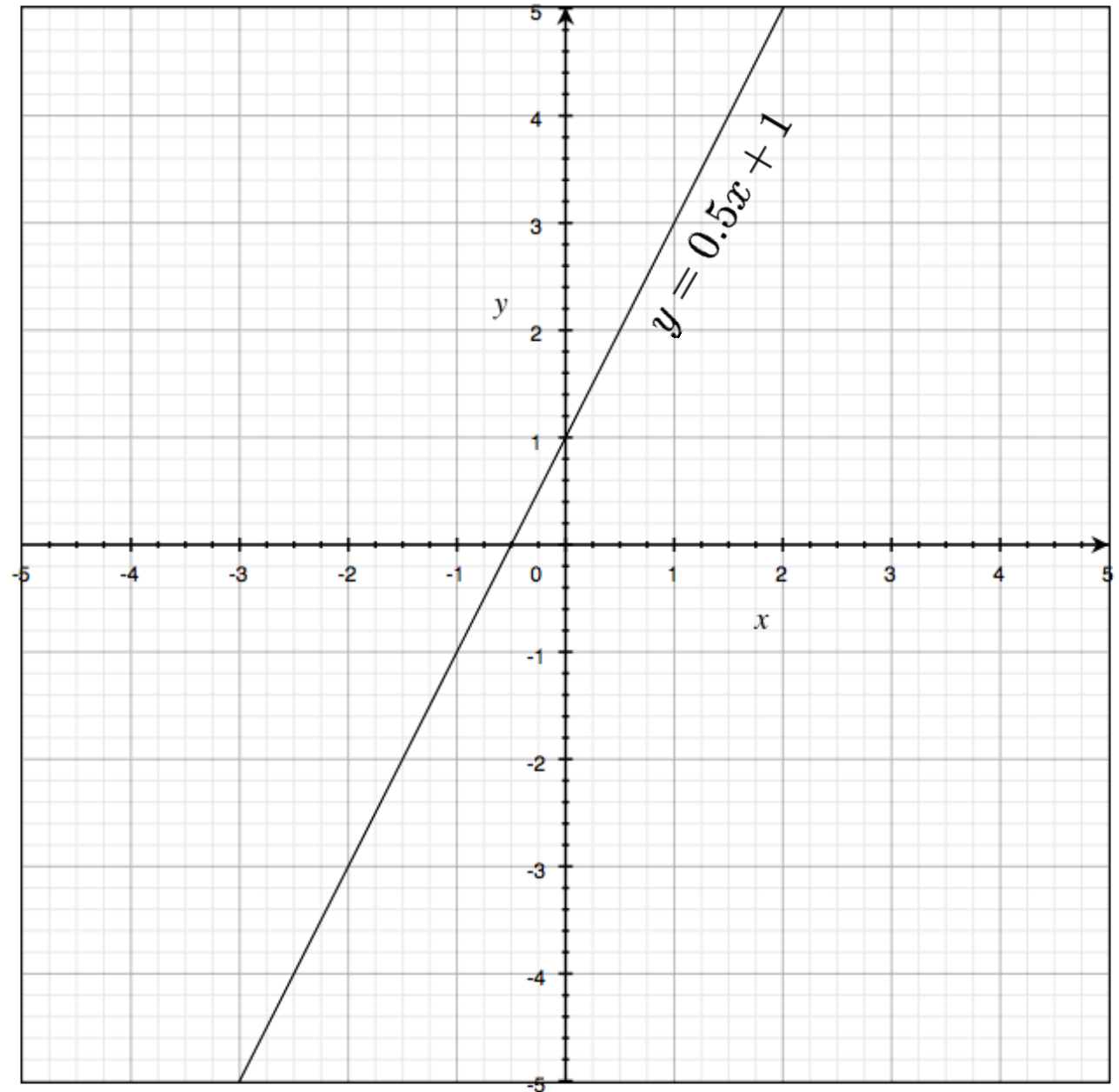
*What are  $m$  and  $b$ ?*



# Slope intercept form

$$y = mx + b$$

 slope       y-intercept



# Double intercept form

$$\frac{x}{a} + \frac{y}{b} = 1$$

x-intercept

y-intercept

*What are x and y?*

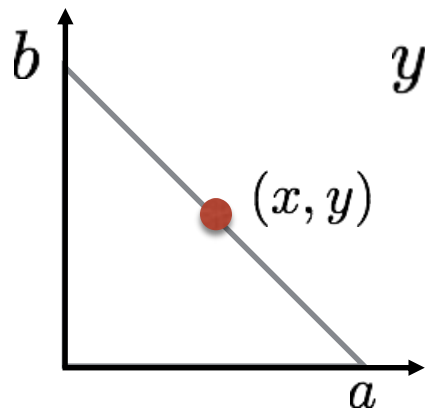
# Double intercept form

$$\frac{x}{a} + \frac{y}{b} = 1$$

x-intercept

y-intercept

Derivation:

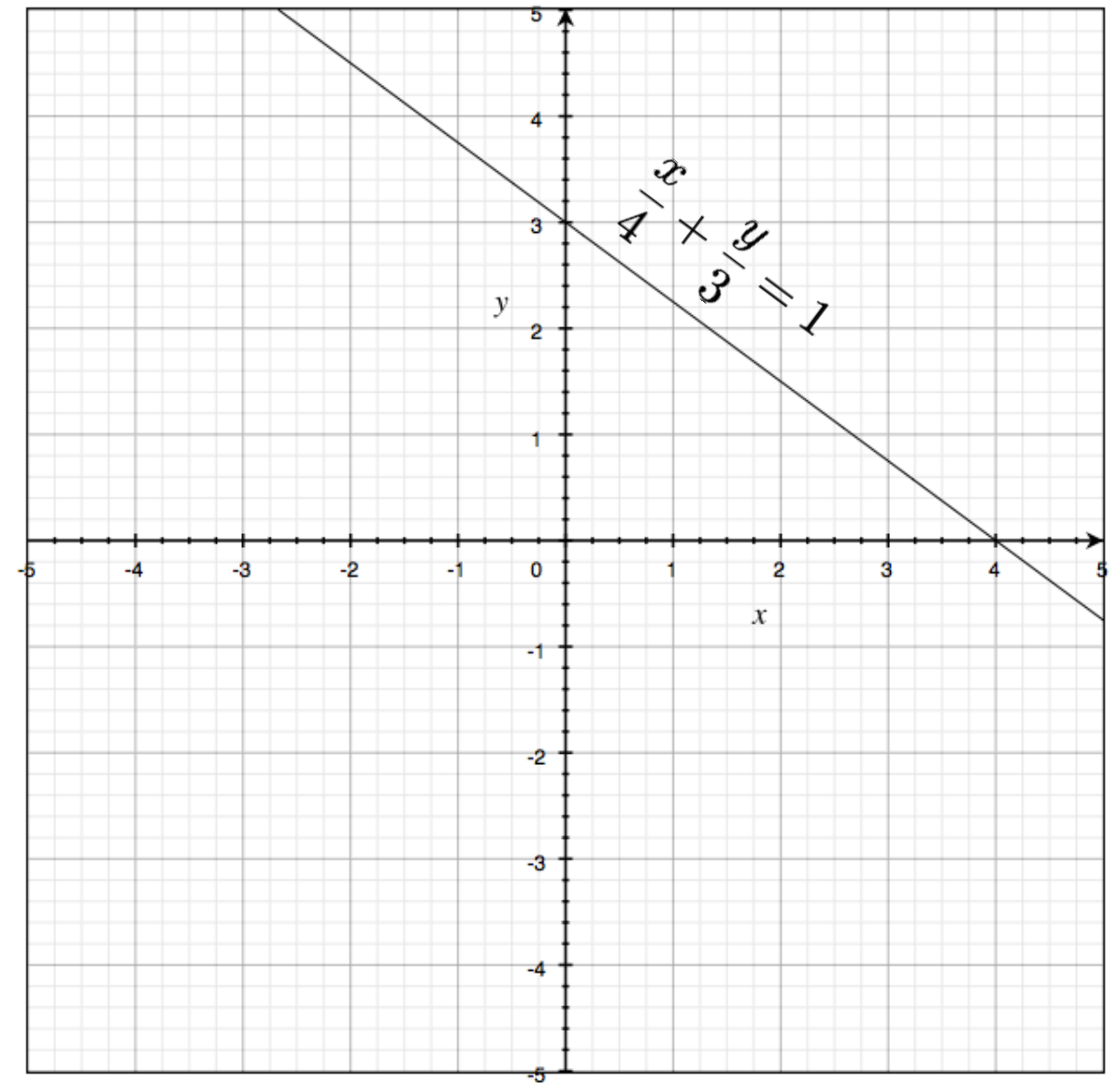


(Similar slope)  $\frac{y - b}{x - 0} = \frac{0 - y}{a - x}$

$$ya + yx - ba + bx = -yx$$

$$ya + bx = ba$$

$$\frac{y}{b} + \frac{x}{a} = 1$$



# Normal Form

$$x \cos \theta + y \sin \theta = \rho$$

*What are rho and theta?*

# Normal Form

$$x \cos \theta + y \sin \theta = \rho$$

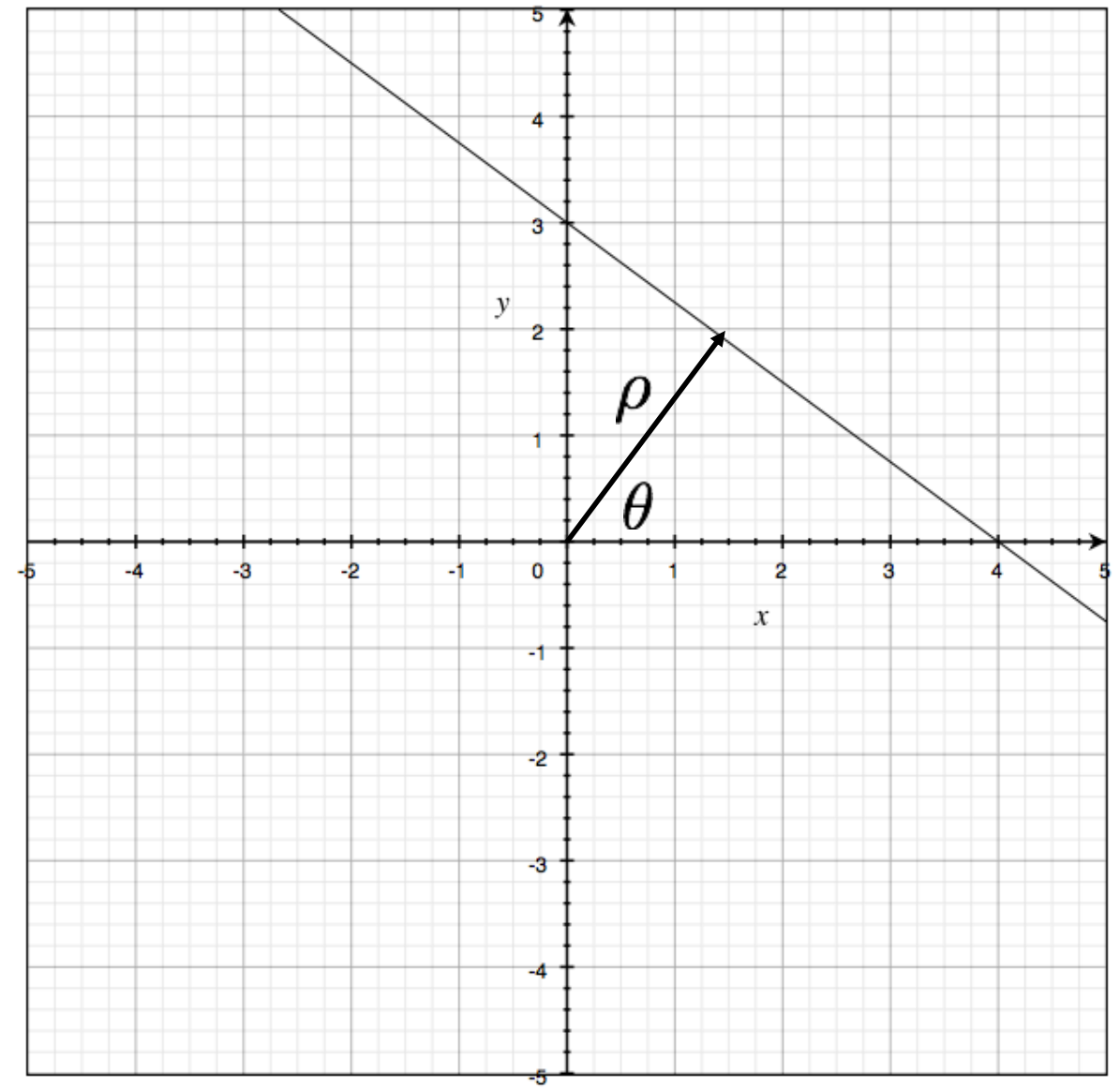
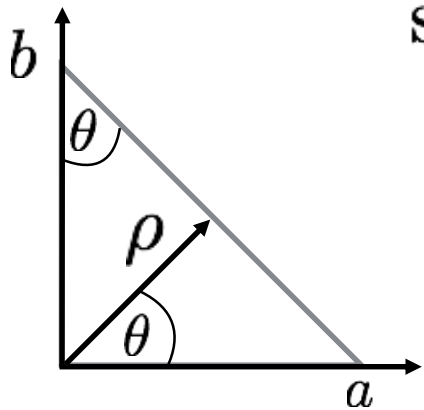
Derivation:

$$\cos \theta = \frac{\rho}{a} \rightarrow a = \frac{\rho}{\cos \theta}$$

$$\sin \theta = \frac{\rho}{b} \rightarrow b = \frac{\rho}{\sin \theta}$$

plug into:  $\frac{x}{a} + \frac{y}{b} = 1$

$$x \cos \theta + y \sin \theta = \rho$$



Hough transform

# Hough transform

- Generic framework for detecting a parametric model
- Edges don't have to be connected
- Lines can be occluded
- Key idea: edges **vote** for the possible models

# Image and parameter space

variables

$$y = mx + b$$

parameters

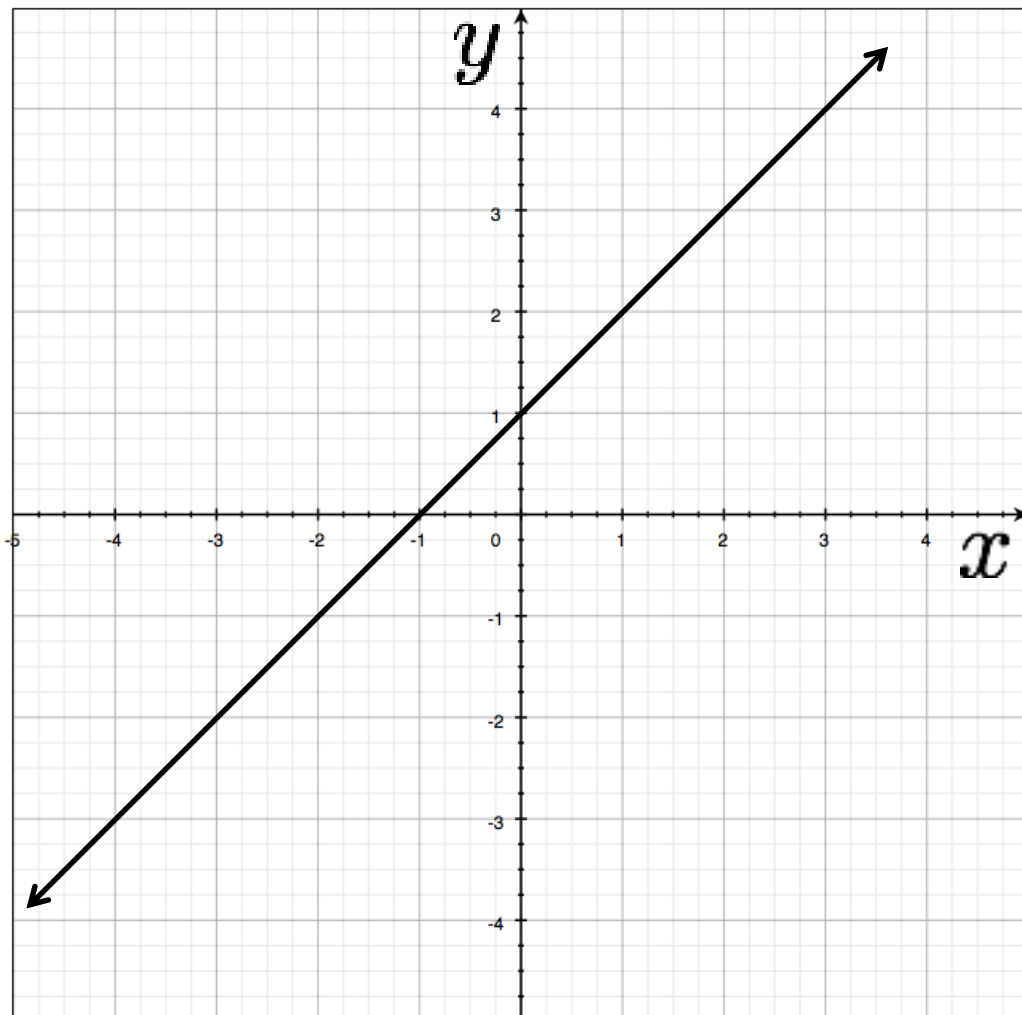


Image space



# Image and parameter space

variables

$$y = mx + b$$

parameters

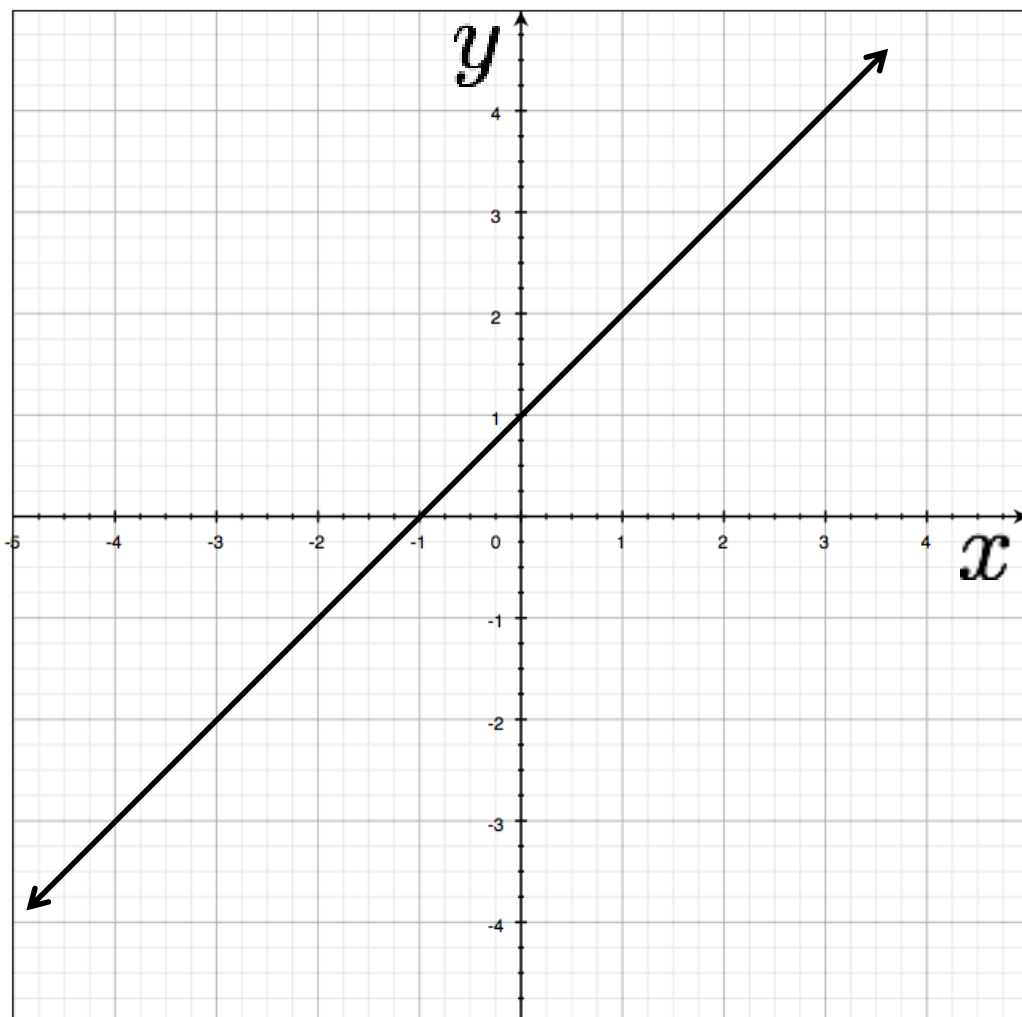
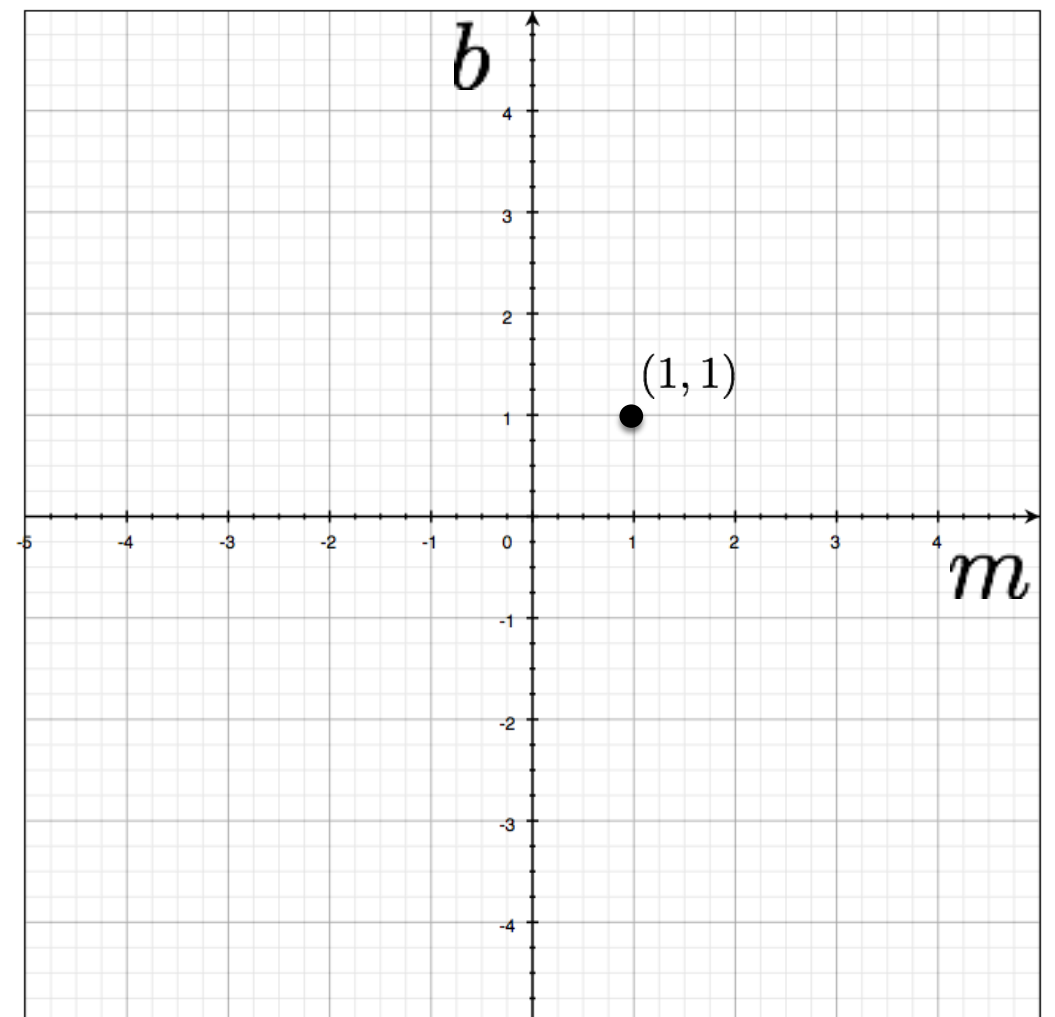


Image space

variables

$$y - mx = b$$

parameters



Parameter space

a line  
becomes a  
point

# Image and parameter space

variables

$$y = mx + b$$

parameters

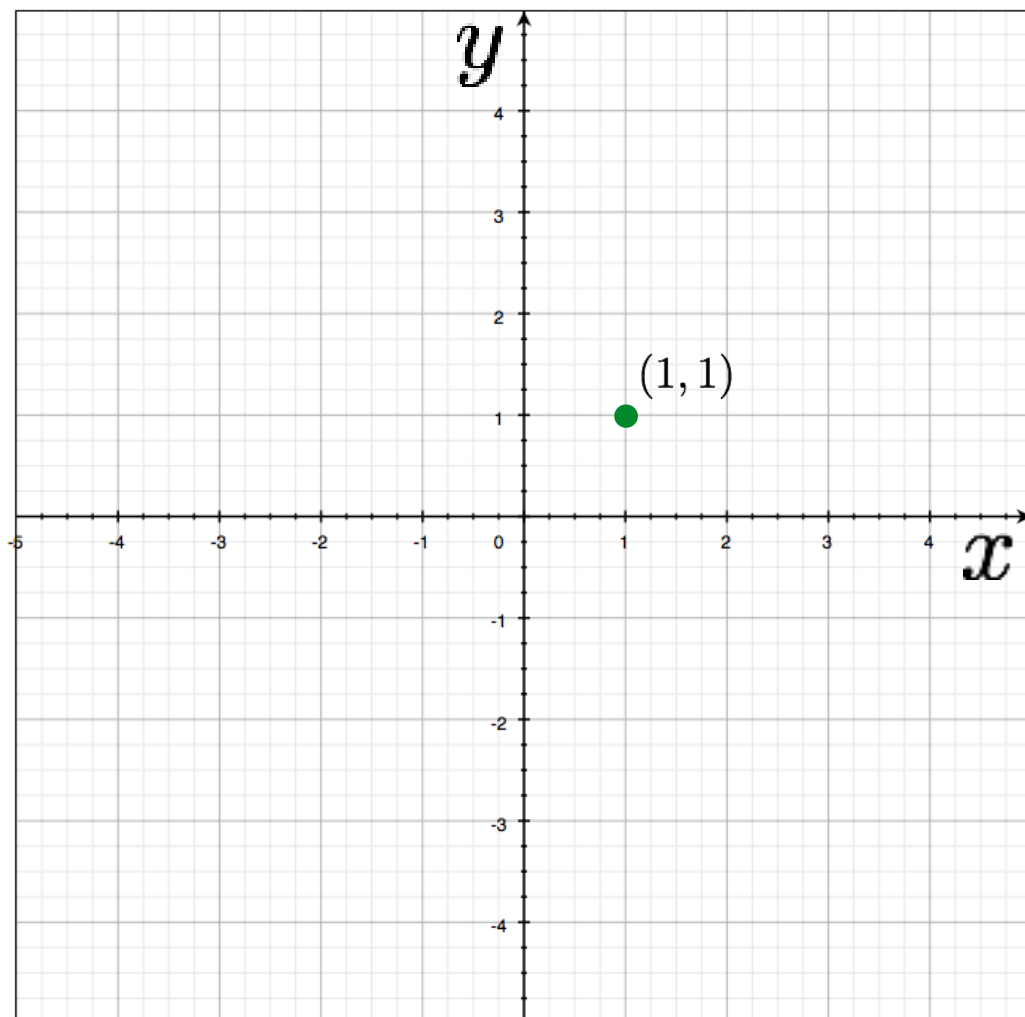


Image space

*What would a point in image space  
become in parameter space?*

# Image and parameter space

variables

$$y = mx + b$$

parameters

variables

$$y - mx = b$$

parameters

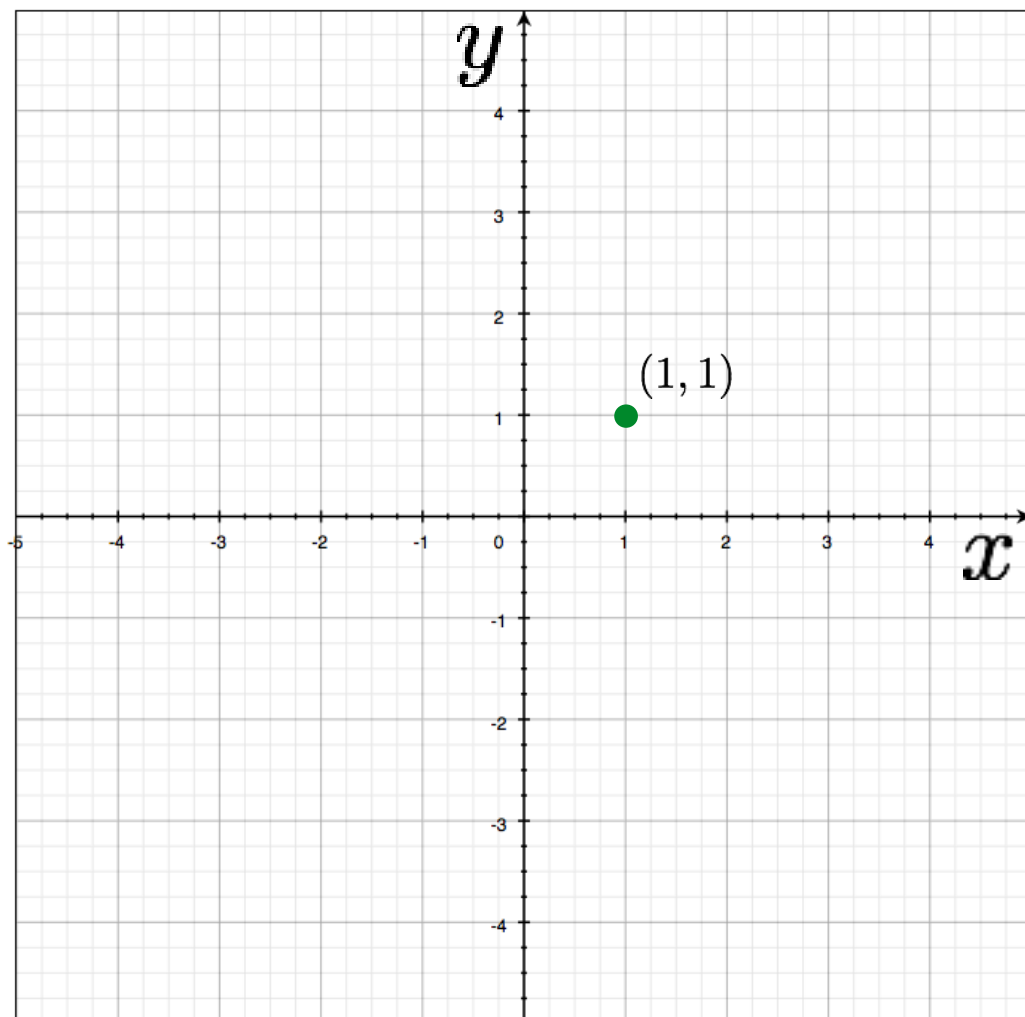
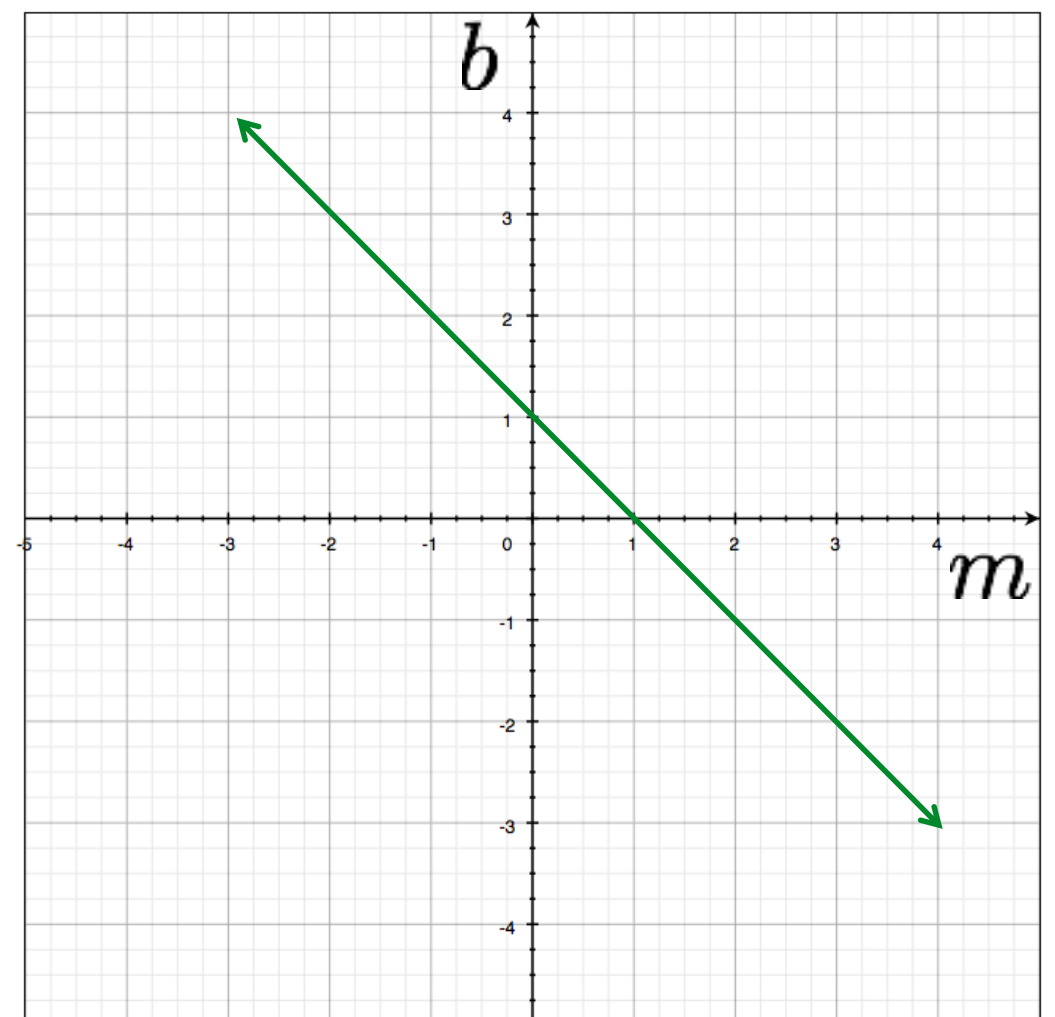


Image space

a point  
becomes a  
line



Parameter space

# Image and parameter space

variables

$$y = mx + b$$

parameters

variables

$$y - mx = b$$

parameters

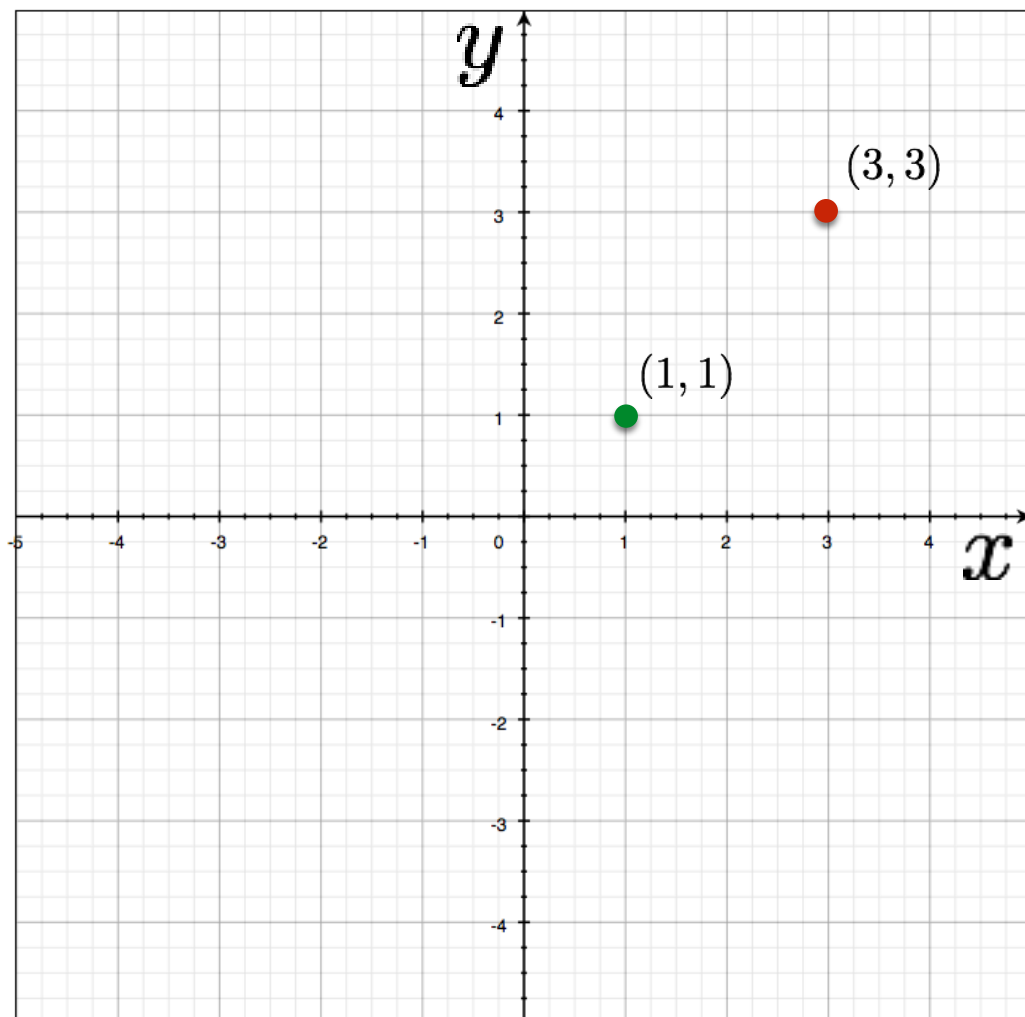
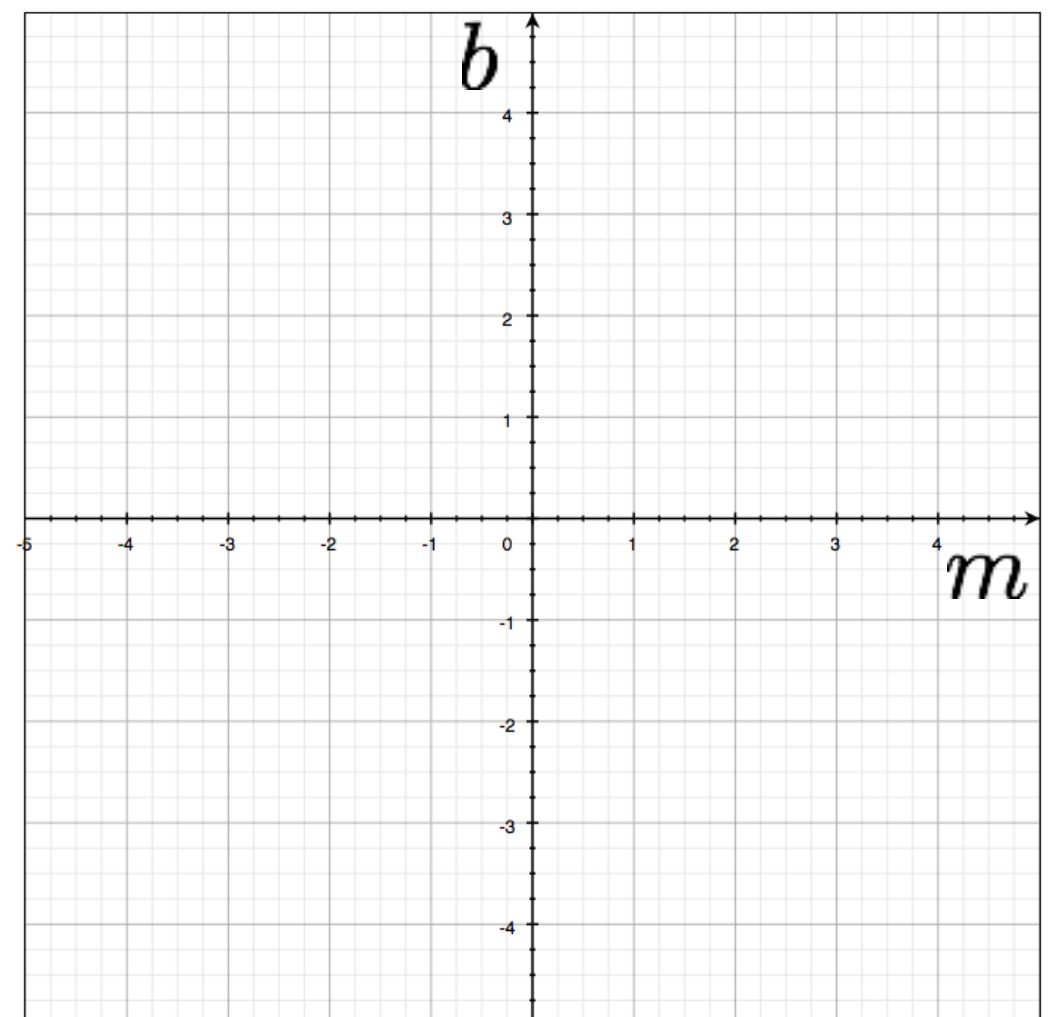


Image space

two points  
become  
?



Parameter space

# Image and parameter space

variables

$$y = mx + b$$

parameters

variables

$$y - mx = b$$

parameters

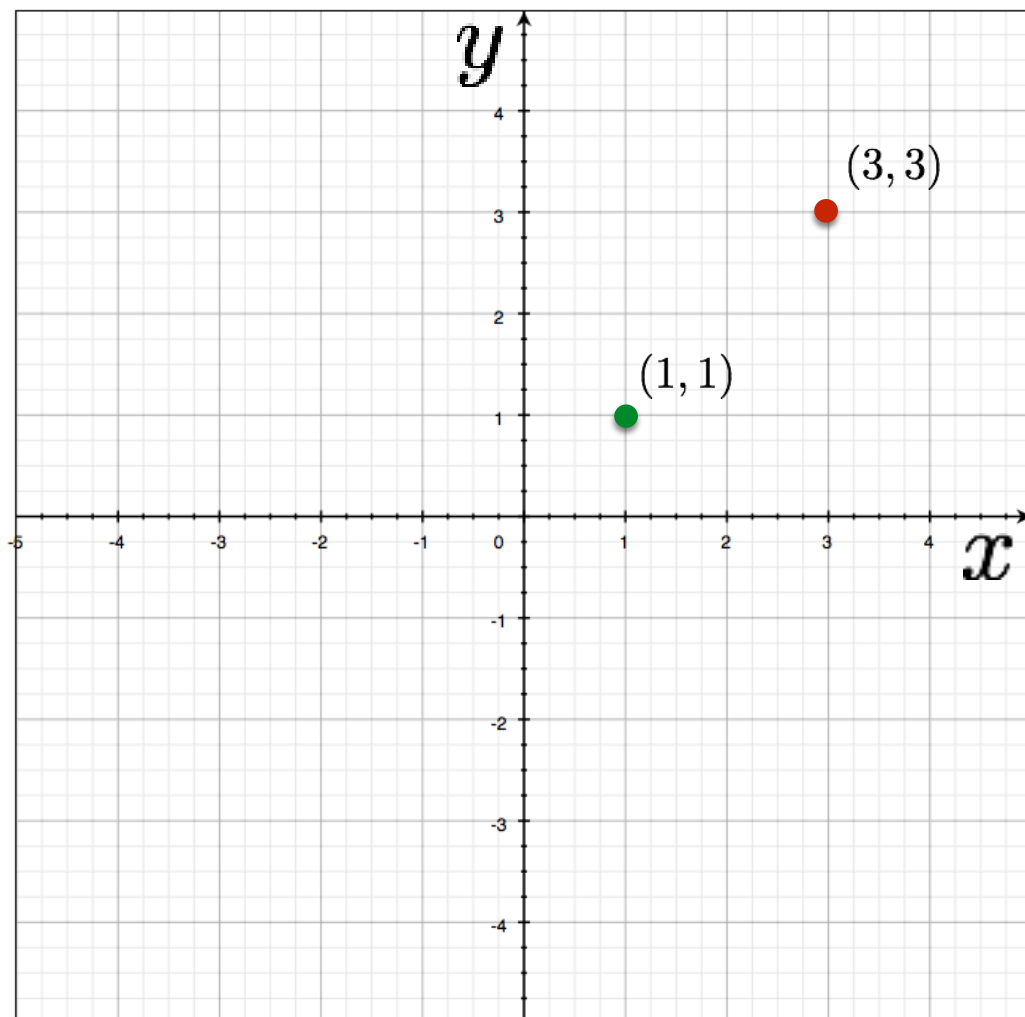
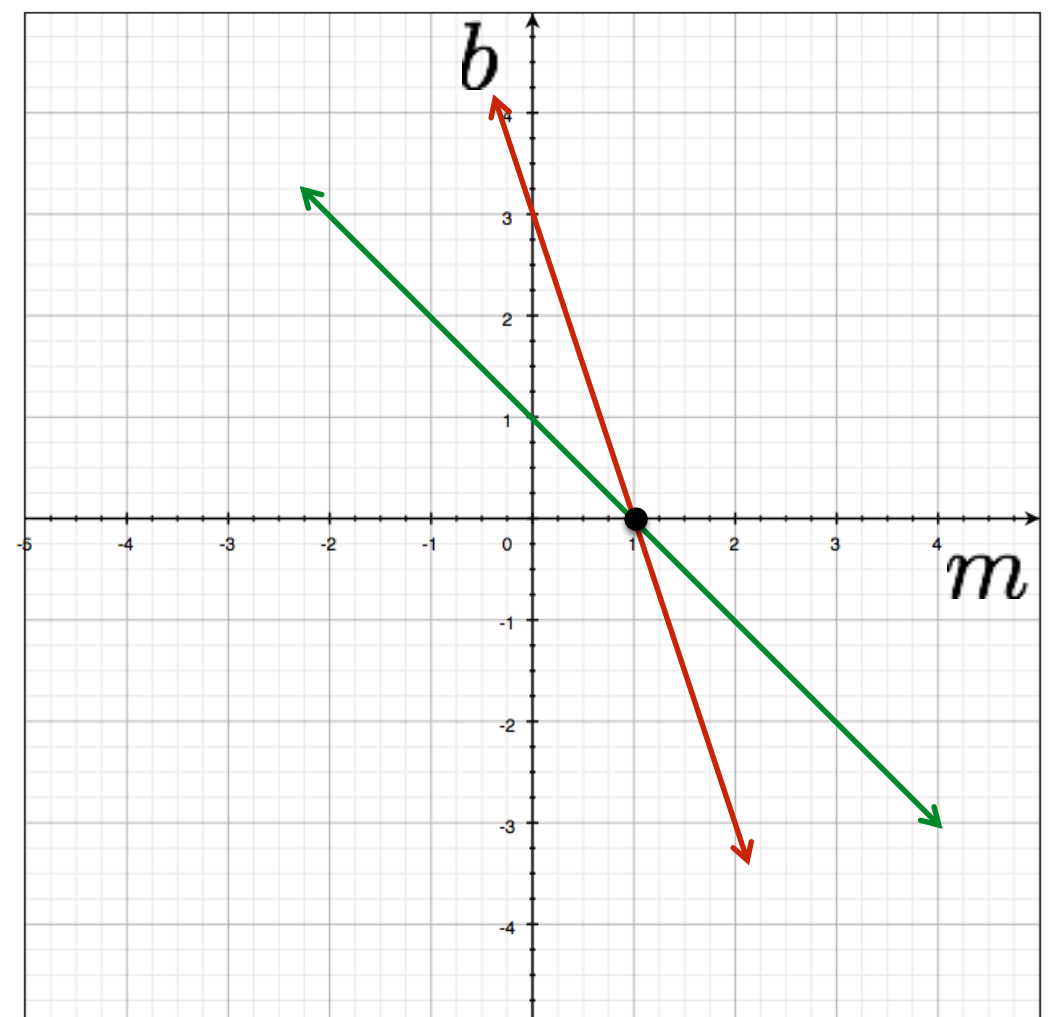


Image space

two points  
become  
?



Parameter space

# Image and parameter space

variables

$$y = mx + b$$

parameters

variables

$$y - mx = b$$

parameters

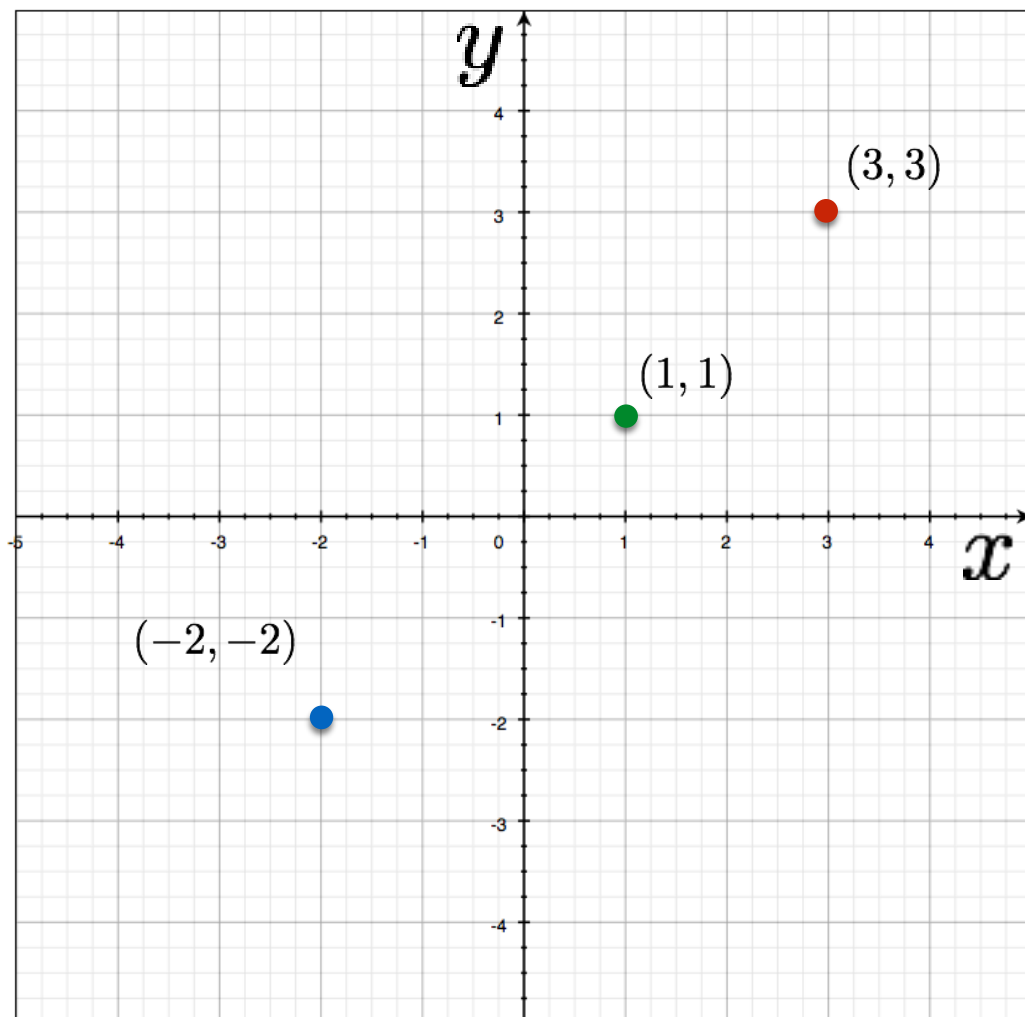
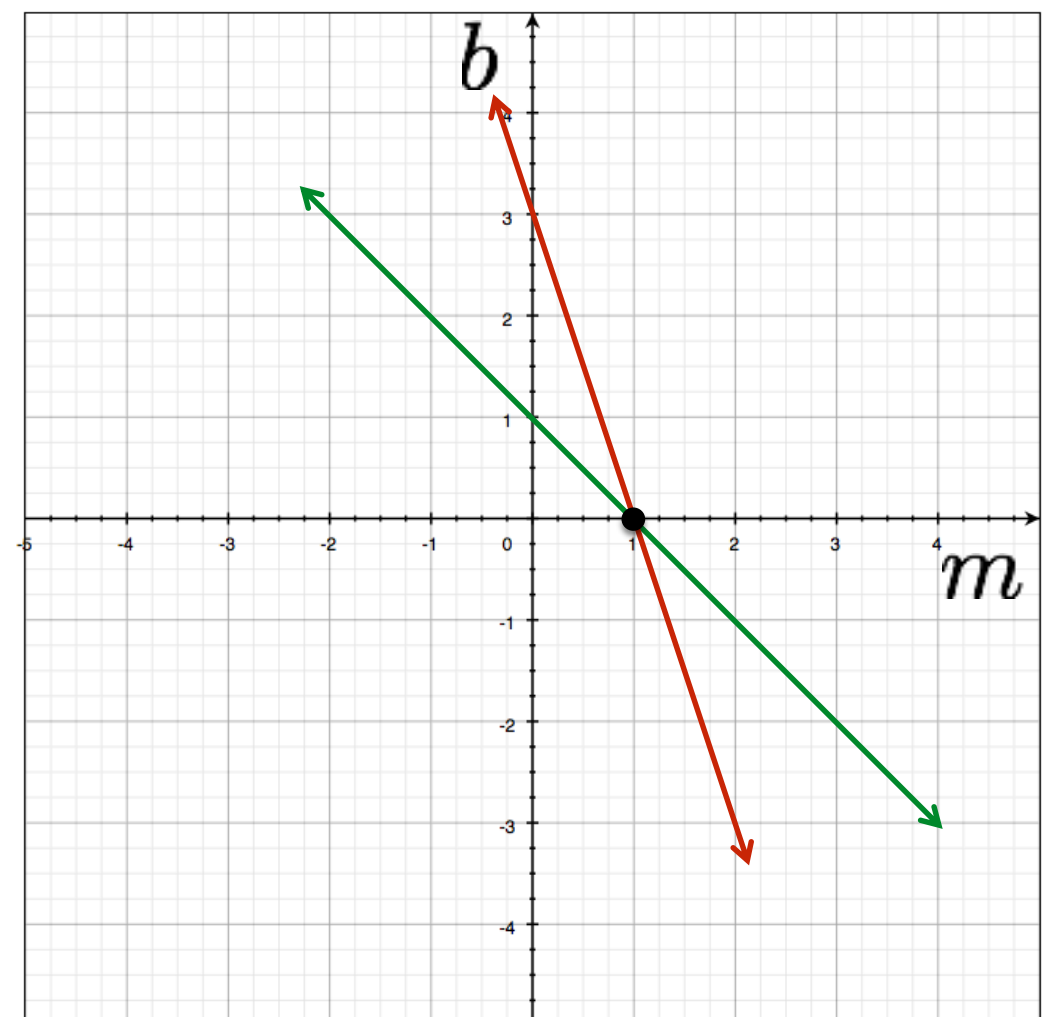


Image space

three points  
become  
?



Parameter space

# Image and parameter space

variables

$$y = mx + b$$

parameters

variables

$$y - mx = b$$

parameters

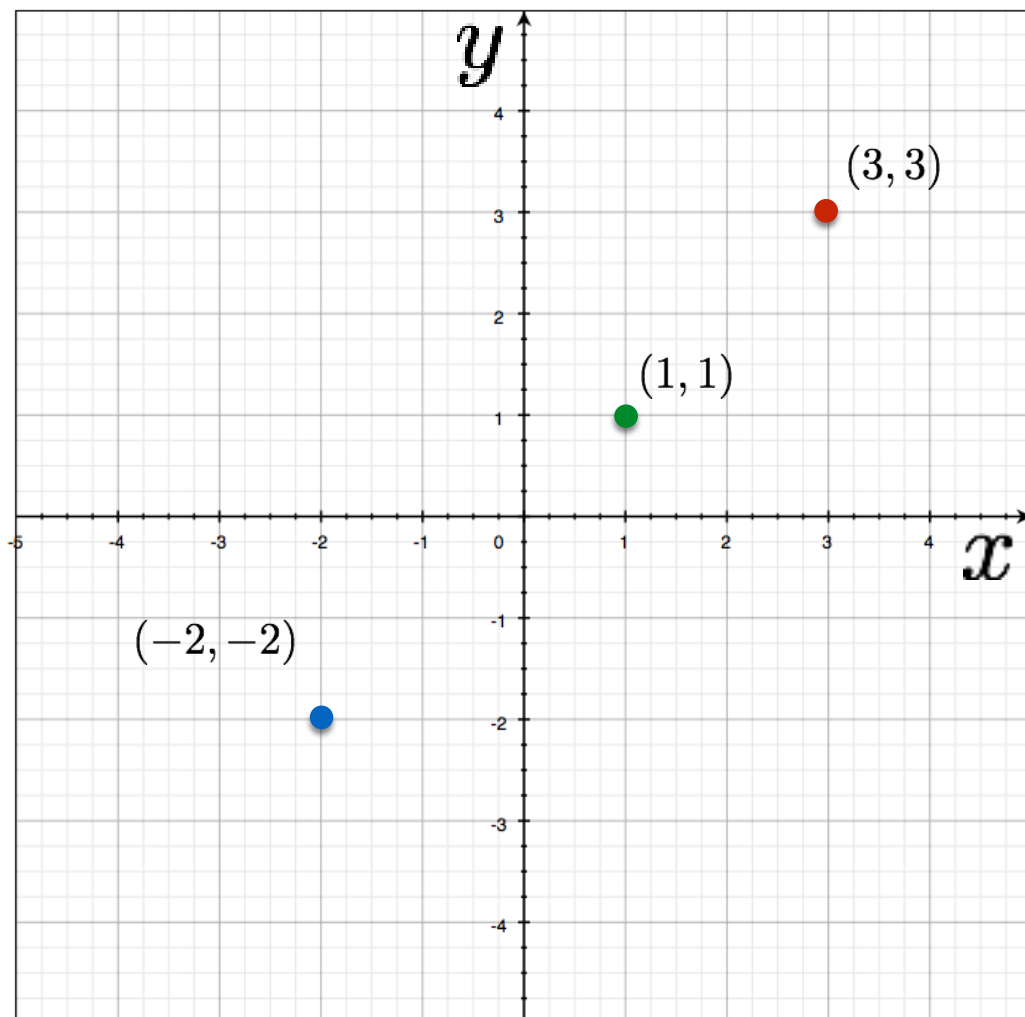
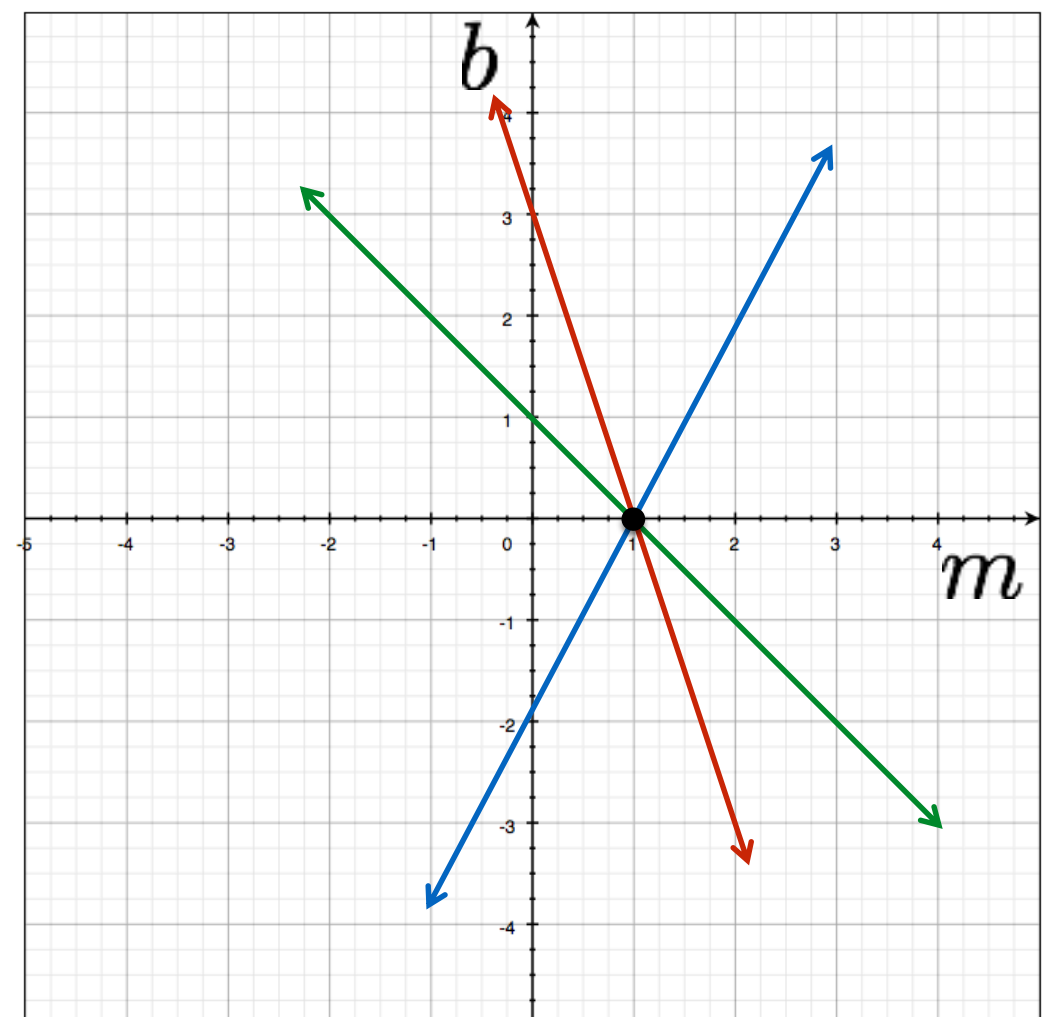


Image space

three points  
become  
?



Parameter space

# Image and parameter space

variables

$$y = mx + b$$

parameters

variables

$$y - mx = b$$

parameters

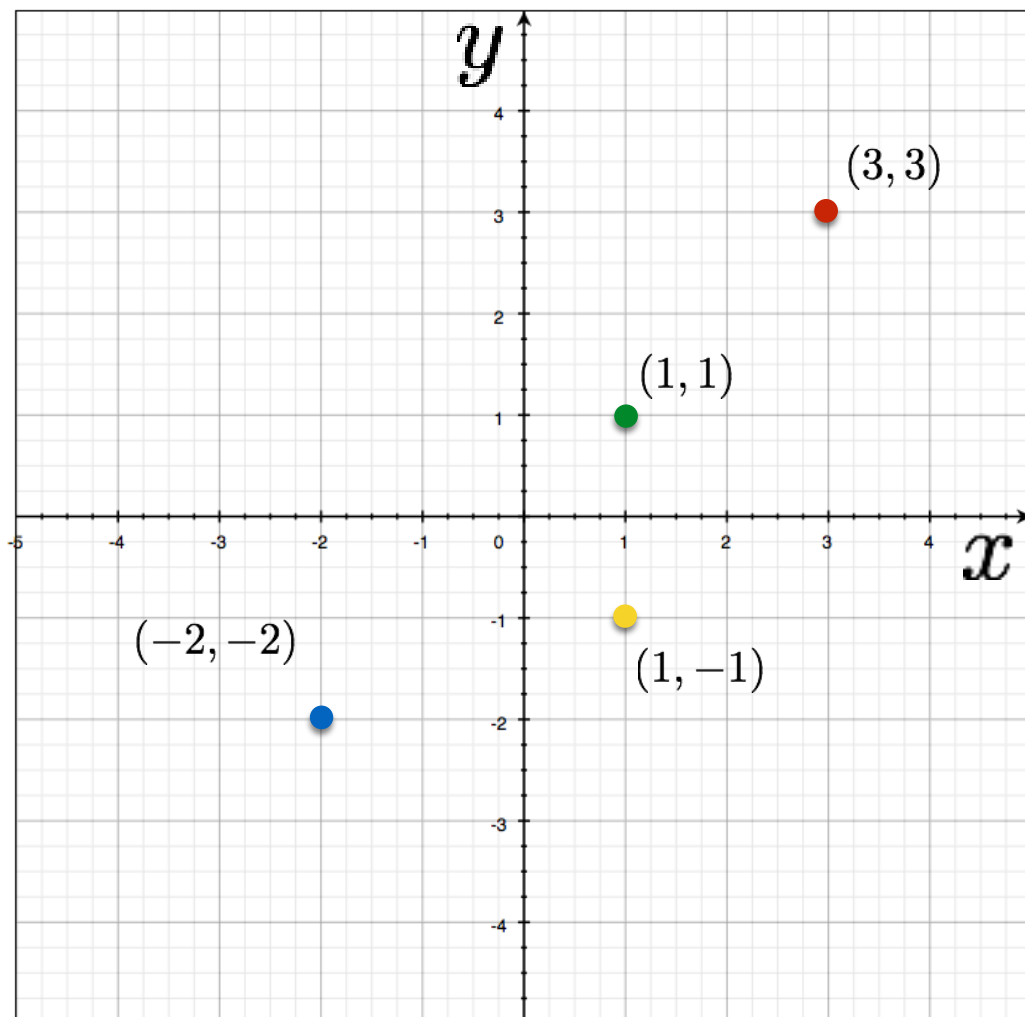
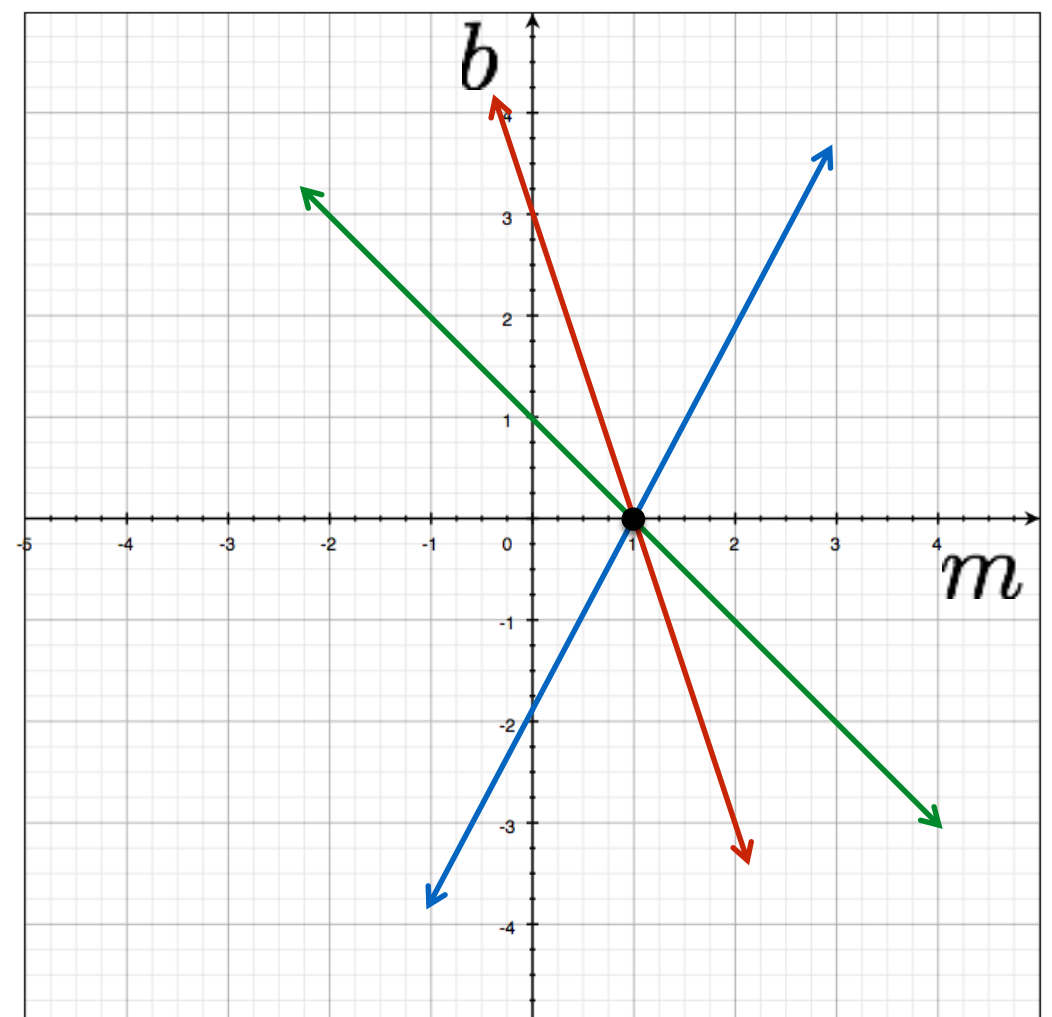


Image space

four points  
become  
?



Parameter space



# Image and parameter space

variables

$$y = mx + b$$

parameters

variables

$$y - mx = b$$

parameters

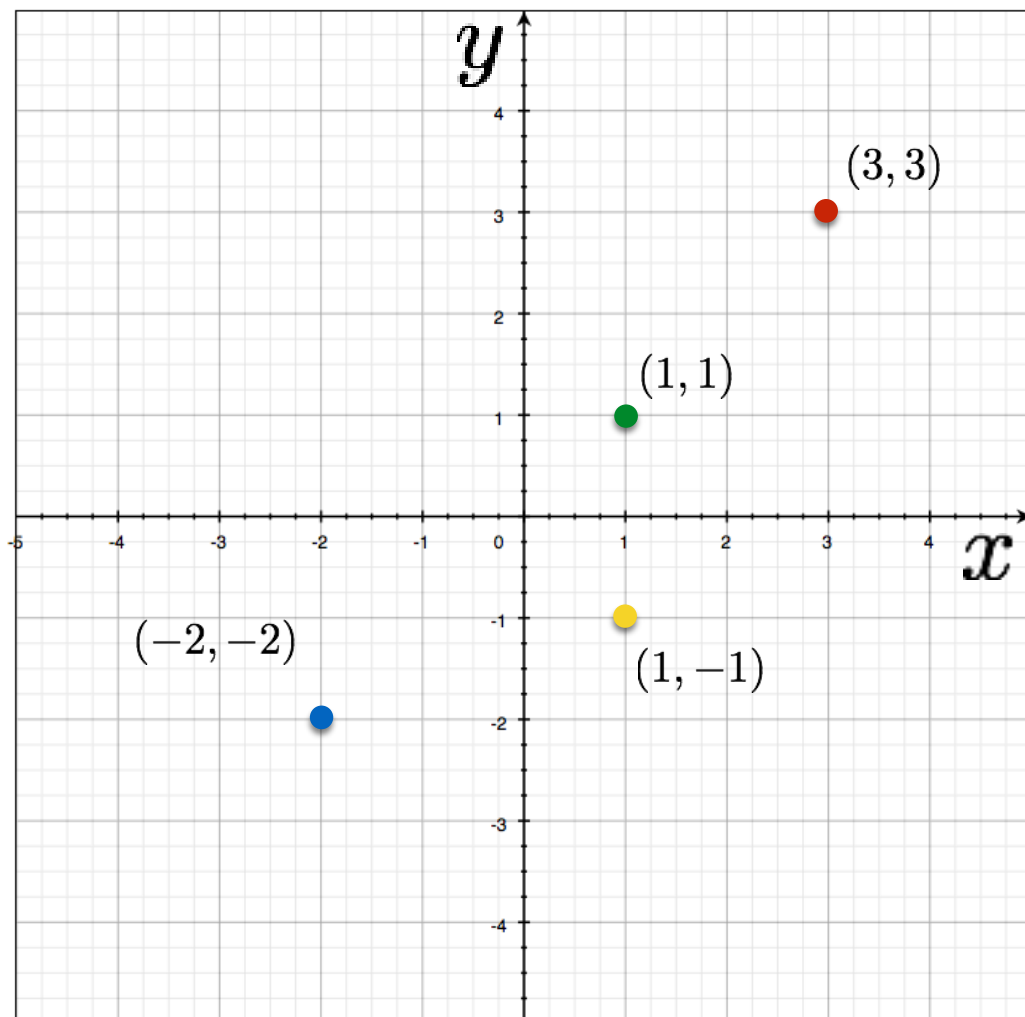
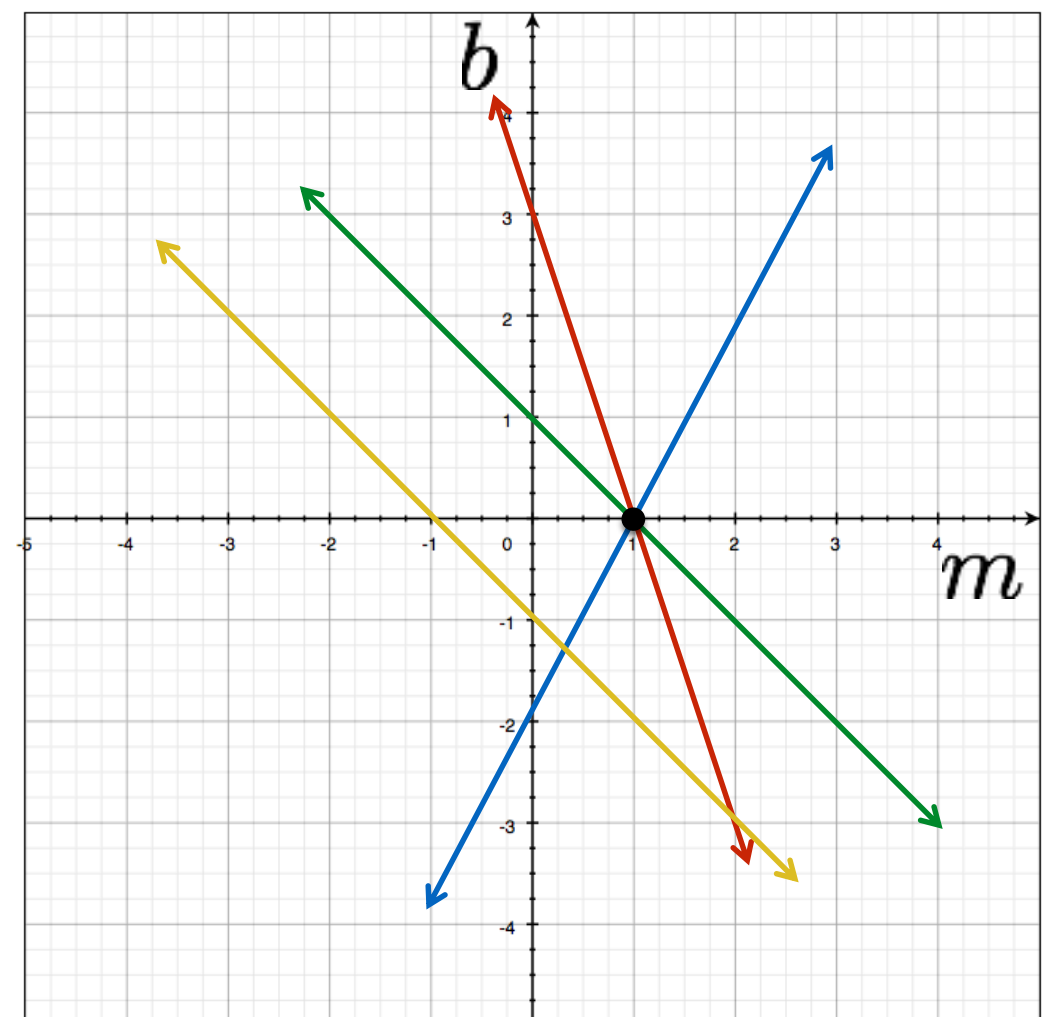


Image space

four points  
become  
?



Parameter space

# How would you find the best fitting line?

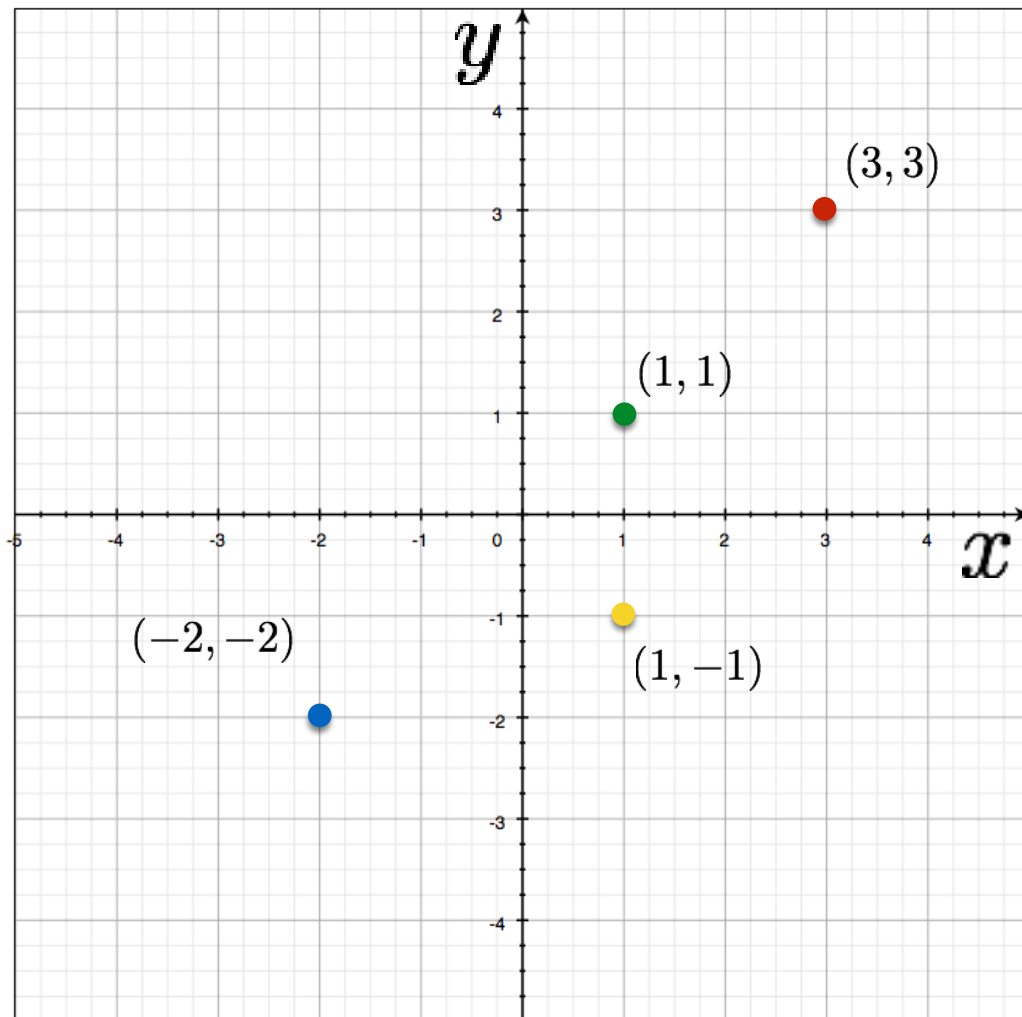
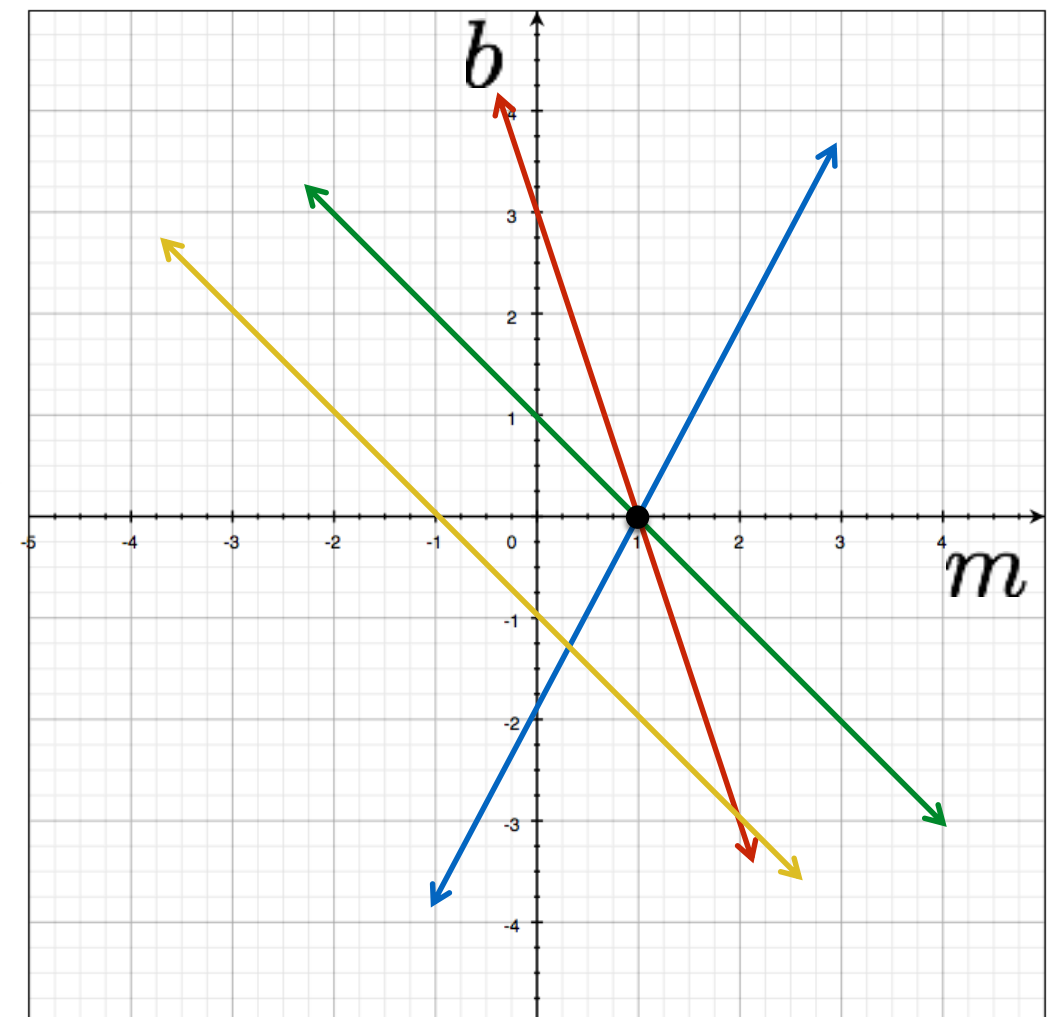


Image space



Parameter space

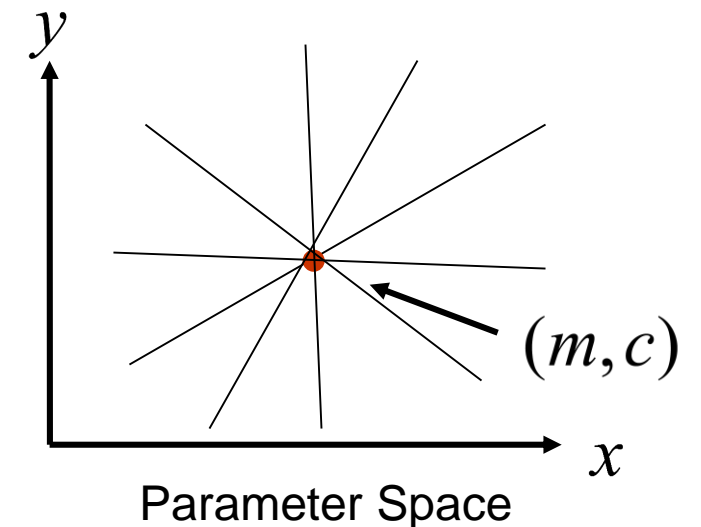
*Is this method robust to measurement noise?*

*Is this method robust to outliers?*

# Line Detection by Hough Transform

## Algorithm:

1. Quantize Parameter Space  $(m, c)$
2. Create Accumulator Array  $A(m, c)$
3. Set  $A(m, c) = 0 \quad \forall m, c$
4. For each image edge  $(x_i, y_i)$   
    For each element in  $A(m, c)$   
    If  $(m, c)$  lies on the line:  $c = -x_i m + y_i$   
        Increment  $A(m, c) = A(m, c) + 1$
5. Find local maxima in  $A(m, c)$



A 10x10 grid representing a 2D array  $A(m, c)$ . The grid contains several '1's and a red '2'. The '1's are located at (row, col) positions: (1,2), (2,3), (3,6), (4,4), (5,4), (6,3), (7,2), (8,1), (8,8). The red '2' is at (4,5).

# Problems with parameterization

*How big does the accumulator need to be for the parameterization  $(m, c)$ ?*

$A(m, c)$

	1					1		
		1				1		
			1		1			
				2				
			1		1			
		1				1		
	1						1	

# Problems with parameterization

*How big does the accumulator need to be for the parameterization  $(m, c)$ ?*

$A(m, c)$

	1						1		
		1				1			
			1		1				
				2					
			1		1				
		1				1			
	1						1		

The space of  $m$  is huge!

The space of  $c$  is huge!

$$-\infty \leq m \leq \infty$$

$$-\infty \leq c \leq \infty$$

# Better Parameterization

Use normal form:

$$x \cos \theta + y \sin \theta = \rho$$

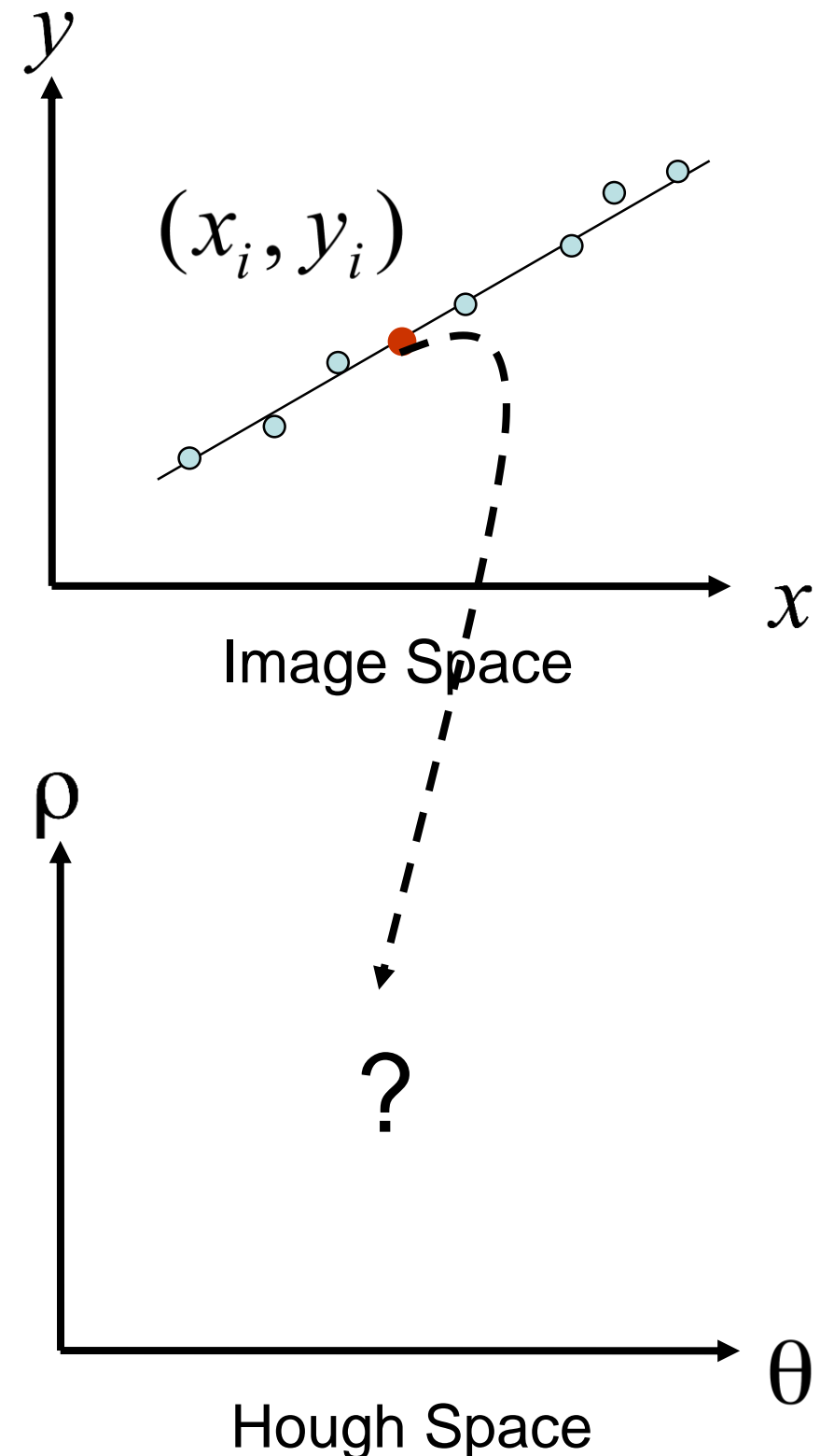
Given points  $(x_i, y_i)$  find  $(\rho, \theta)$

Hough Space Sinusoid

$$0 \leq \theta \leq 2\pi$$

$$0 \leq \rho \leq \rho_{\max}$$

(Finite Accumulator Array Size)



# Image and parameter space

variables

$$y = mx + b$$

parameters

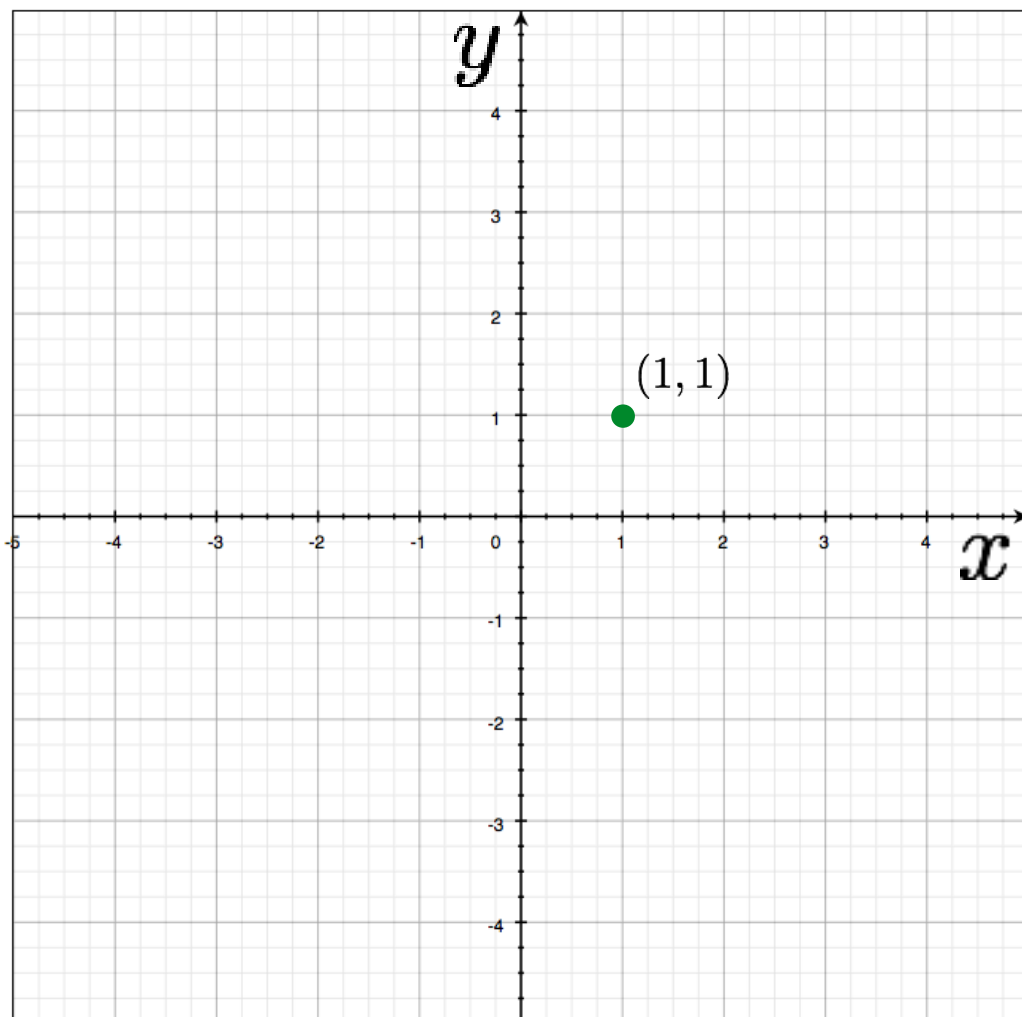


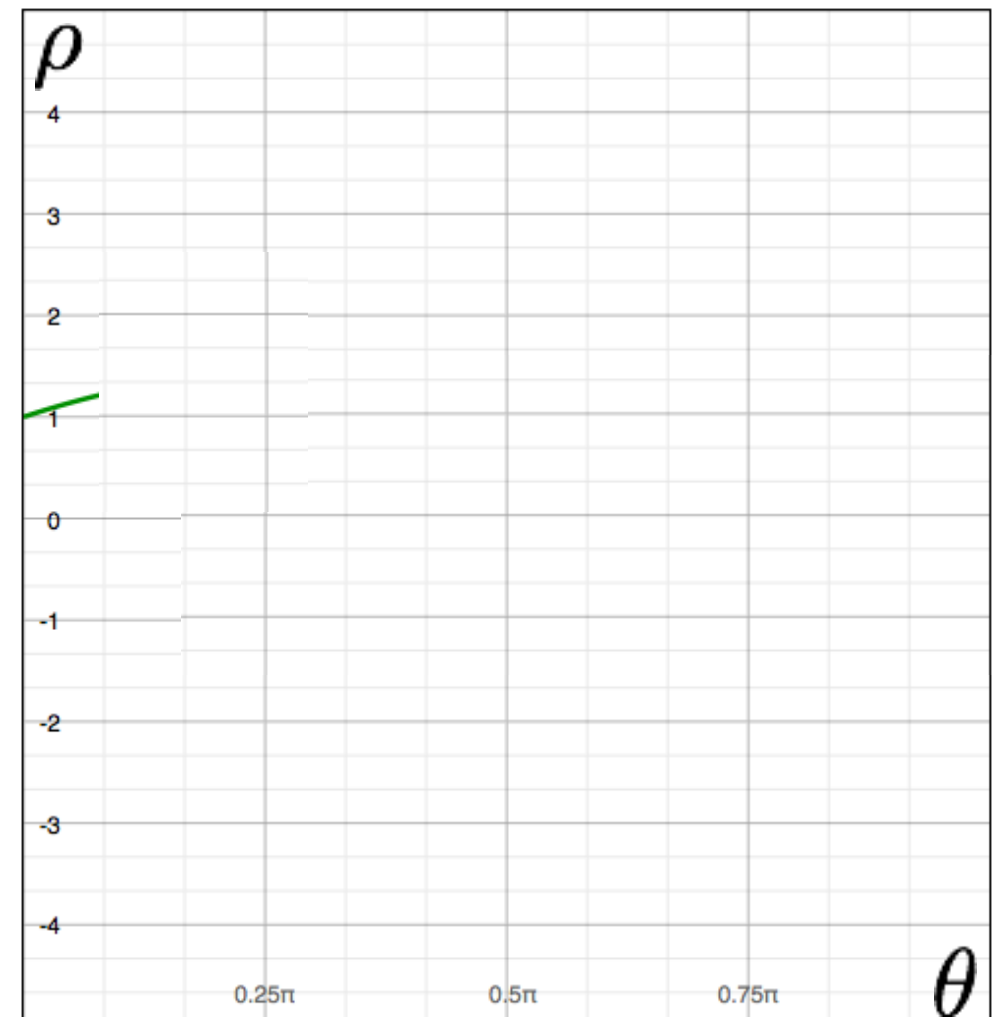
Image space



parameters

$$x \cos \theta + y \sin \theta = \rho$$

variables



Parameter space



# Image and parameter space

variables

$$y = mx + b$$

parameters

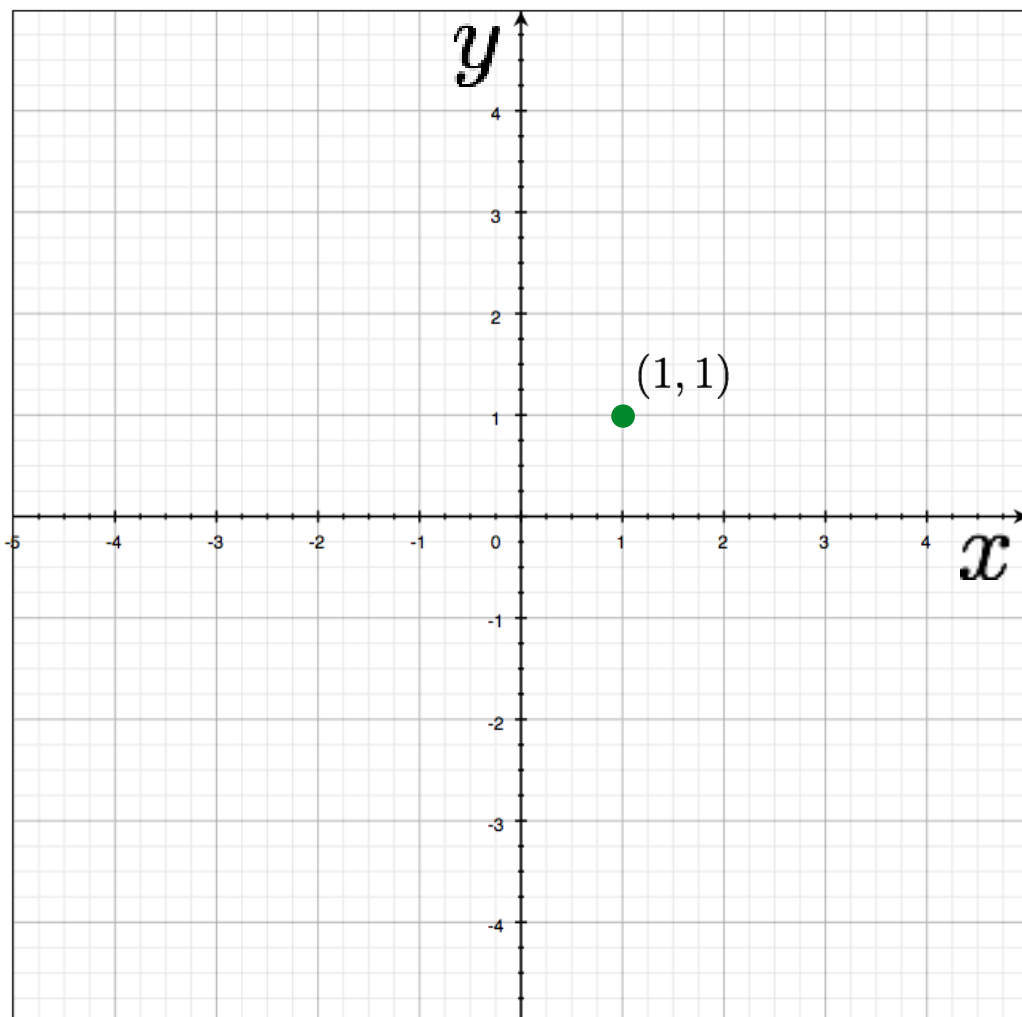


Image space

a point  
becomes a  
wave

parameters

$$x \cos \theta + y \sin \theta = \rho$$

variables



Parameter space

# Image and parameter space

variables

$$y = mx + b$$

parameters

$$x \cos \theta + y \sin \theta = \rho$$

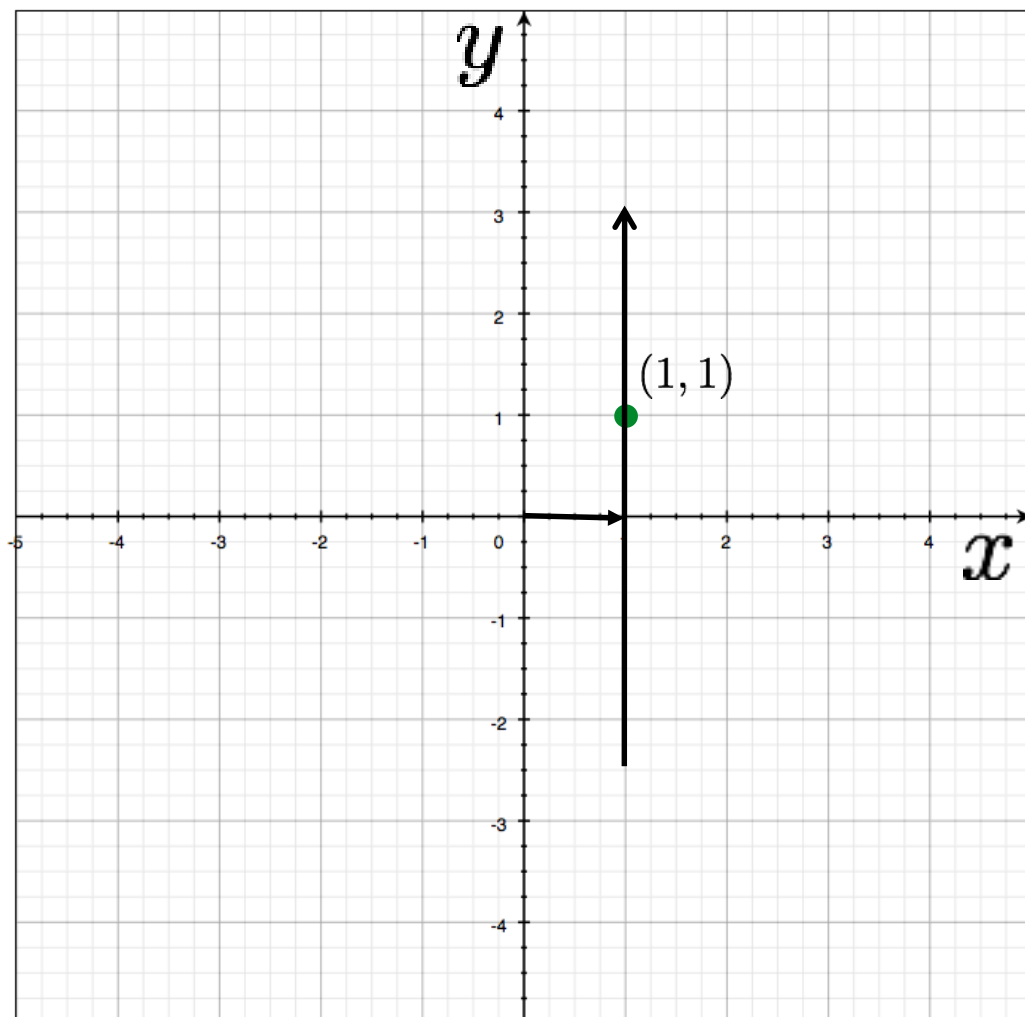
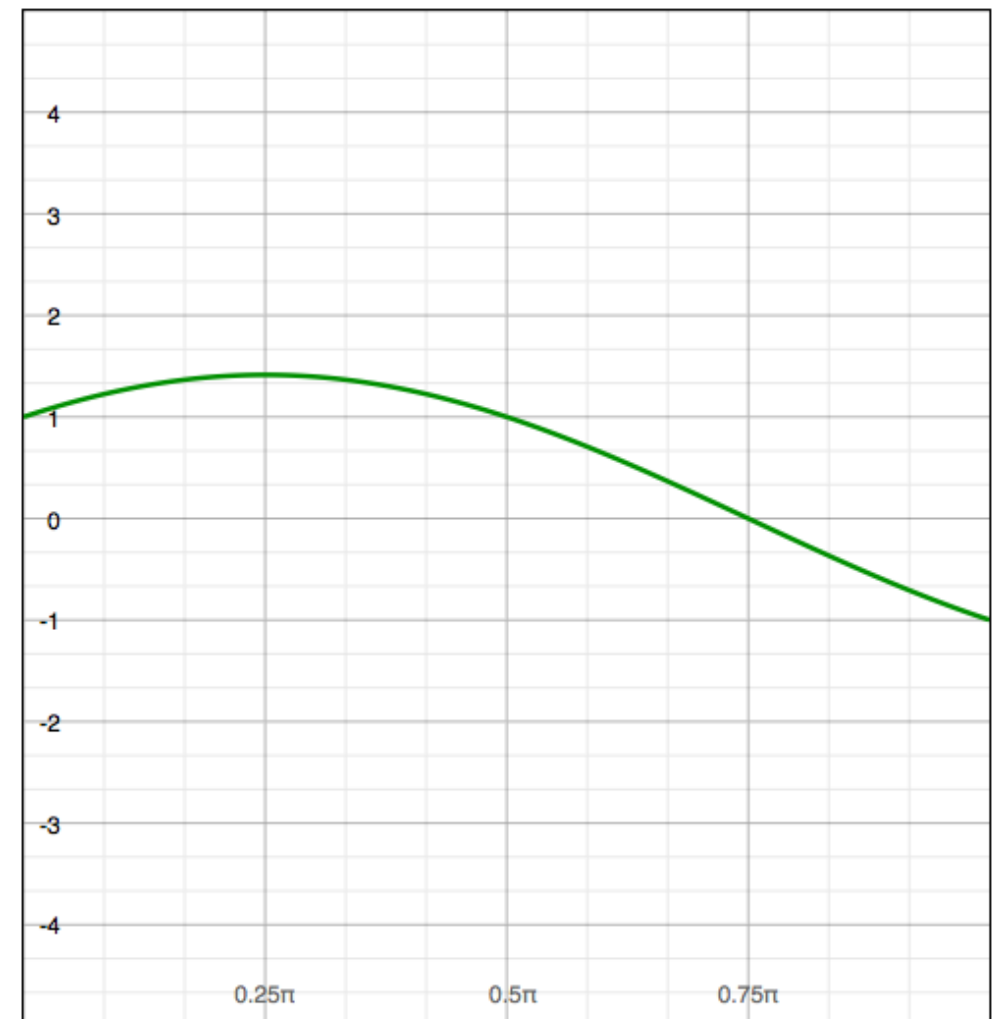


Image space



Parameter space

# Image and parameter space

variables

$$y = mx + b$$

parameters

$$x \cos \theta + y \sin \theta = \rho$$

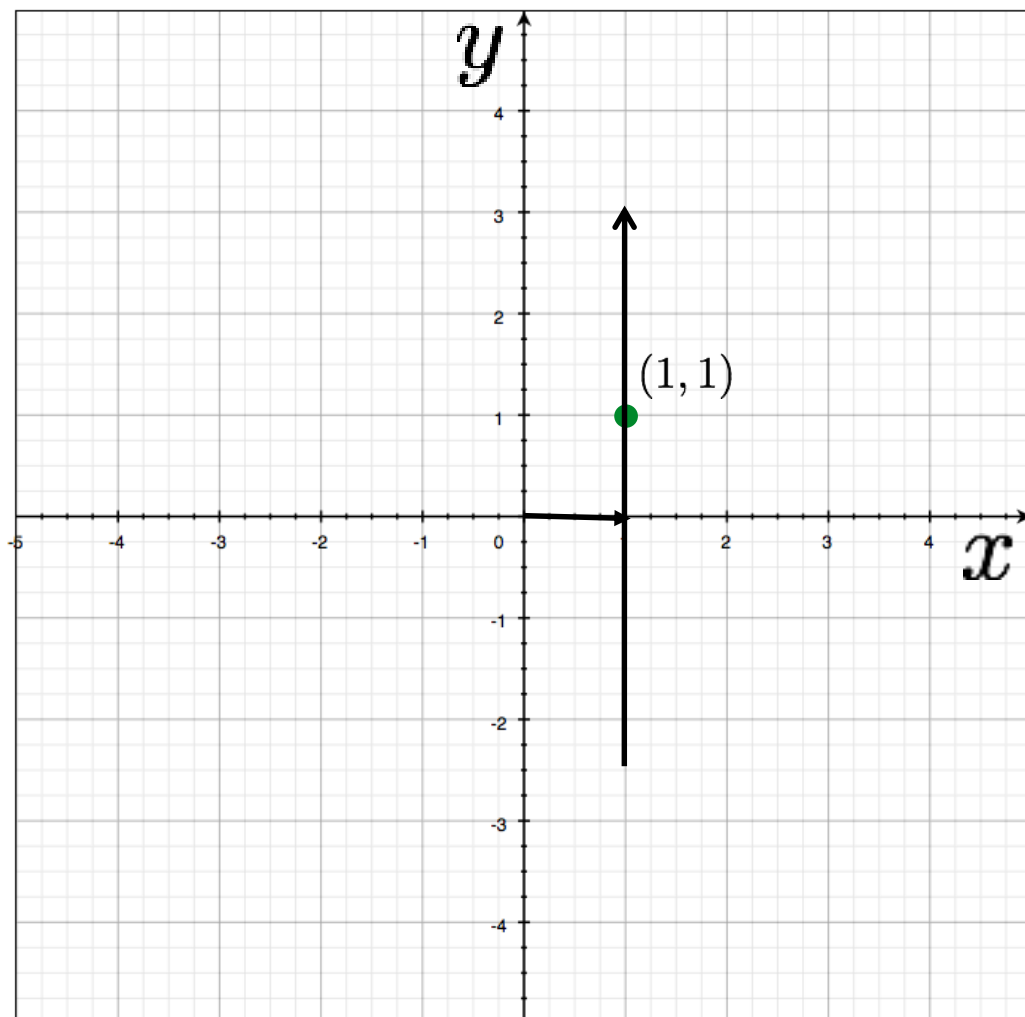
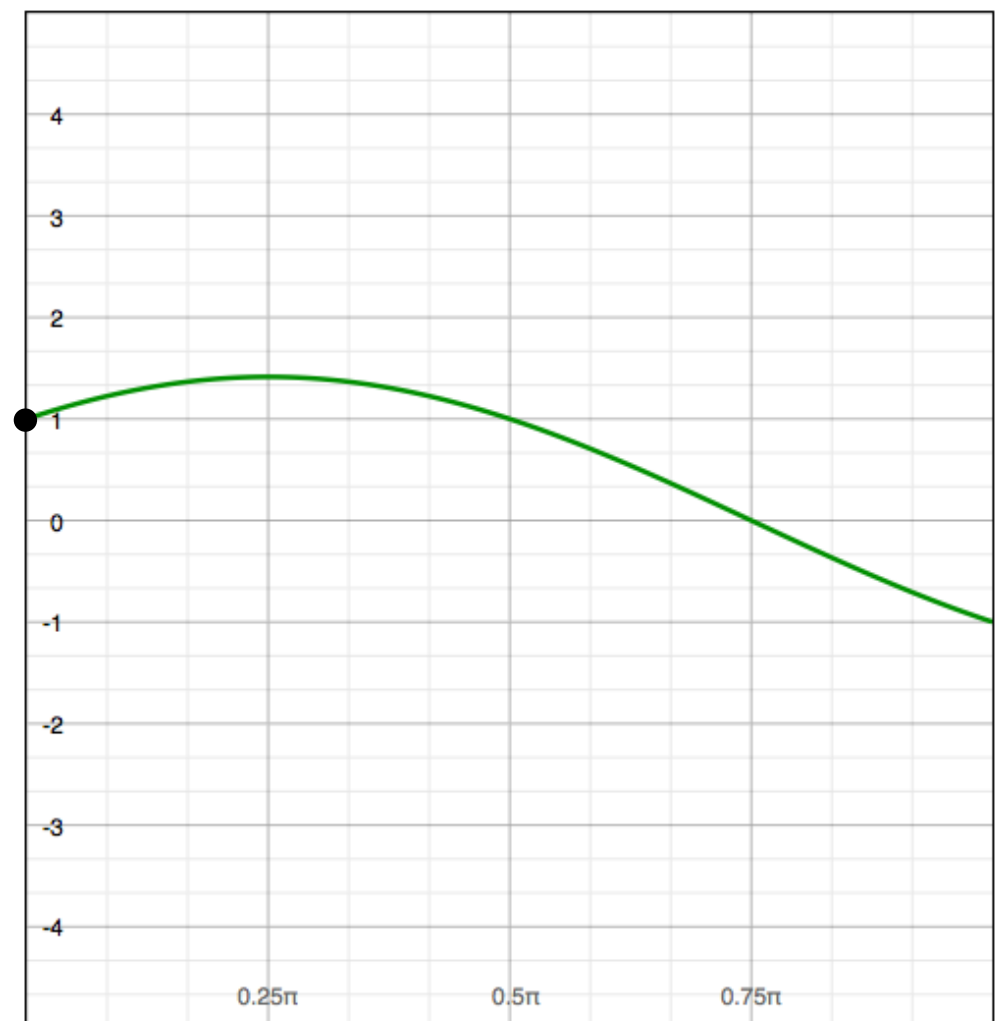


Image space

a line  
becomes a  
point



Parameter space

# Image and parameter space

variables

$$y = mx + b$$

parameters

$$x \cos \theta + y \sin \theta = \rho$$

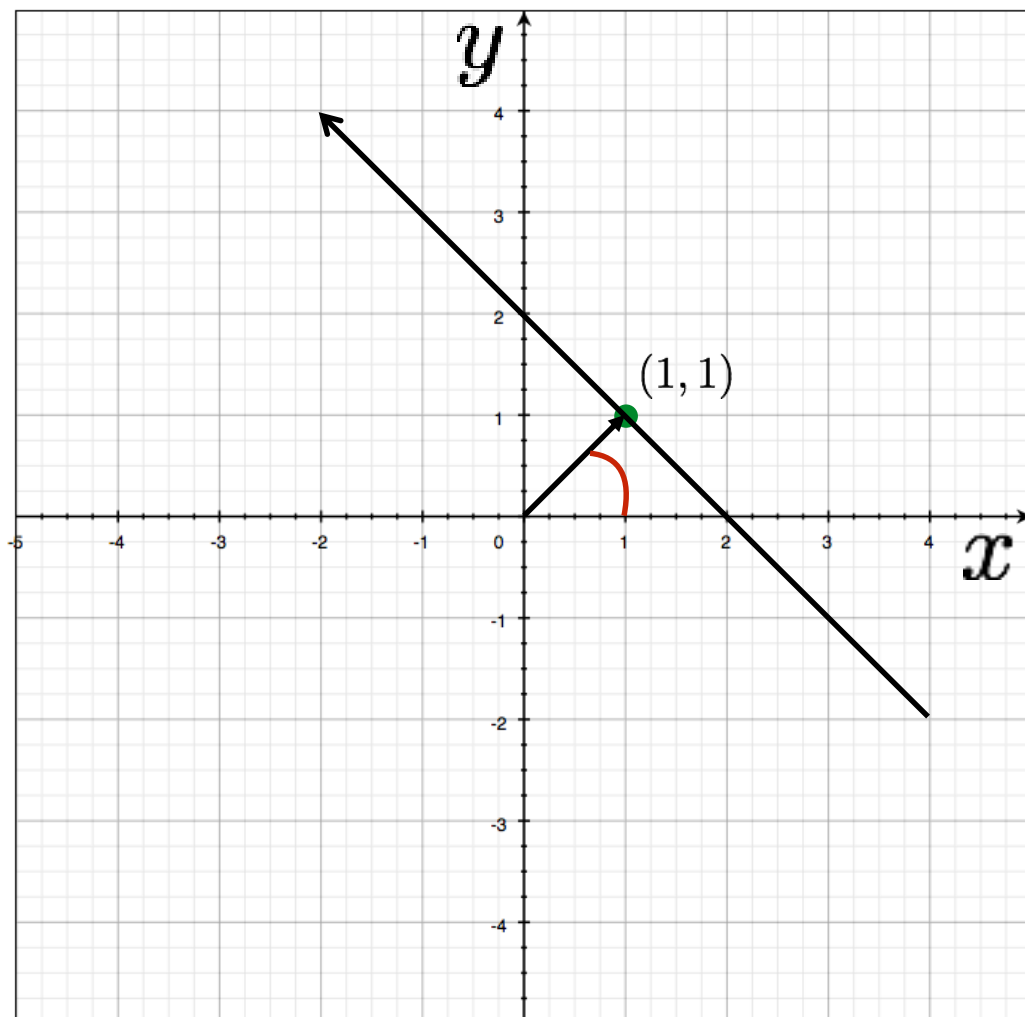
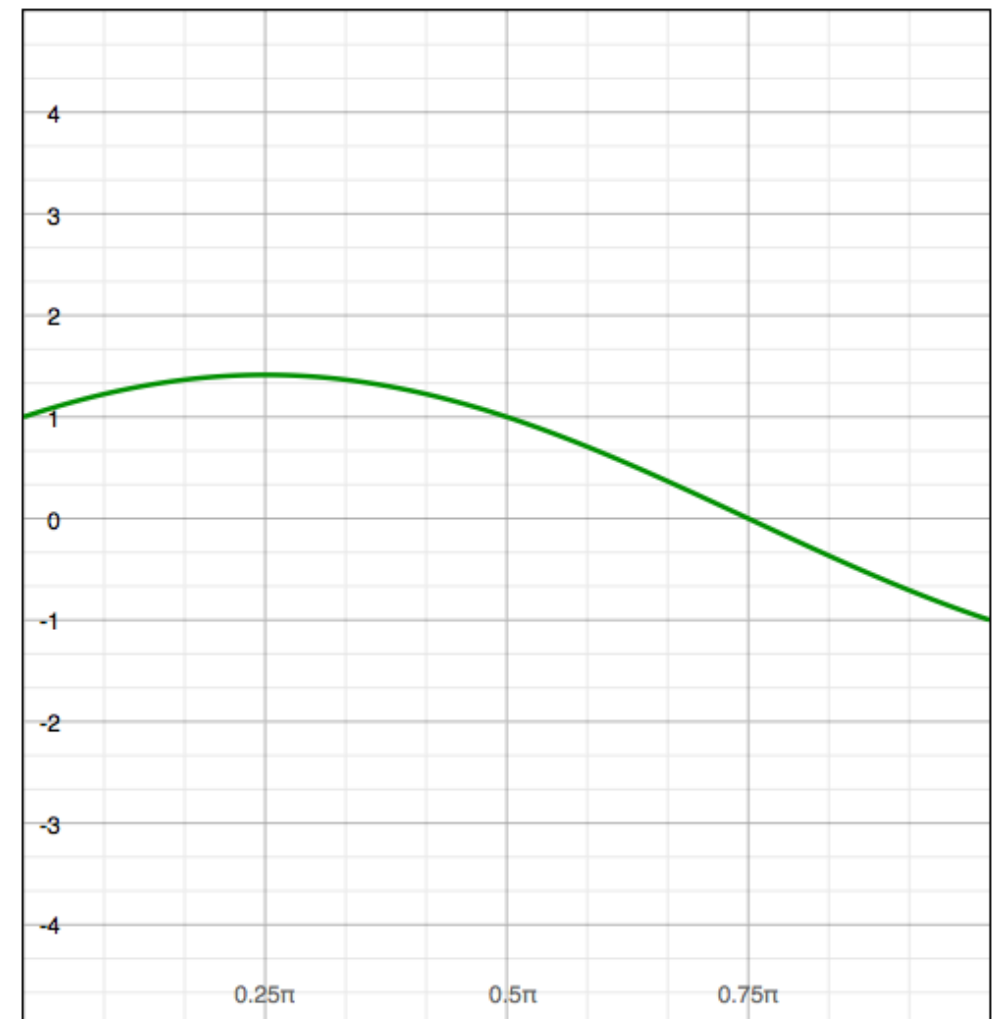


Image space



Parameter space

# Image and parameter space

variables

$$y = mx + b$$

parameters

$$x \cos \theta + y \sin \theta = \rho$$

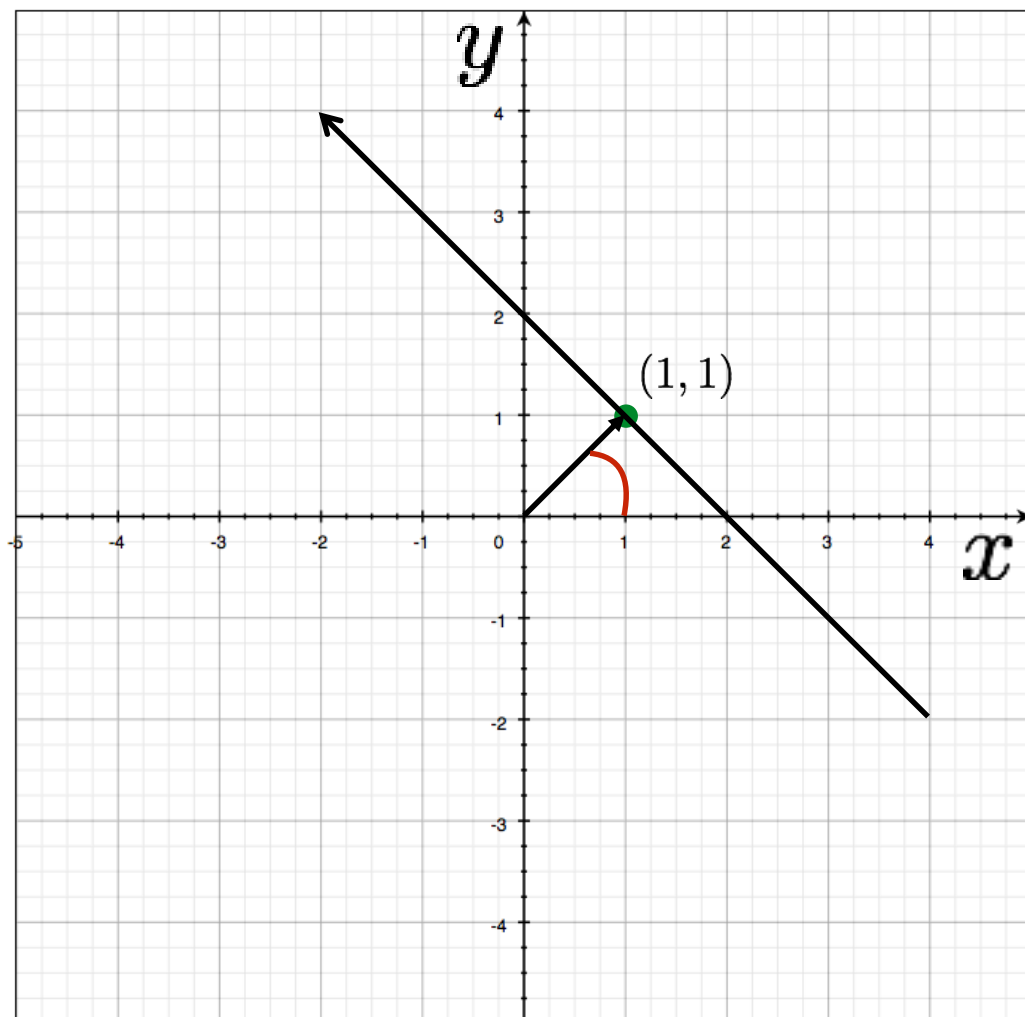
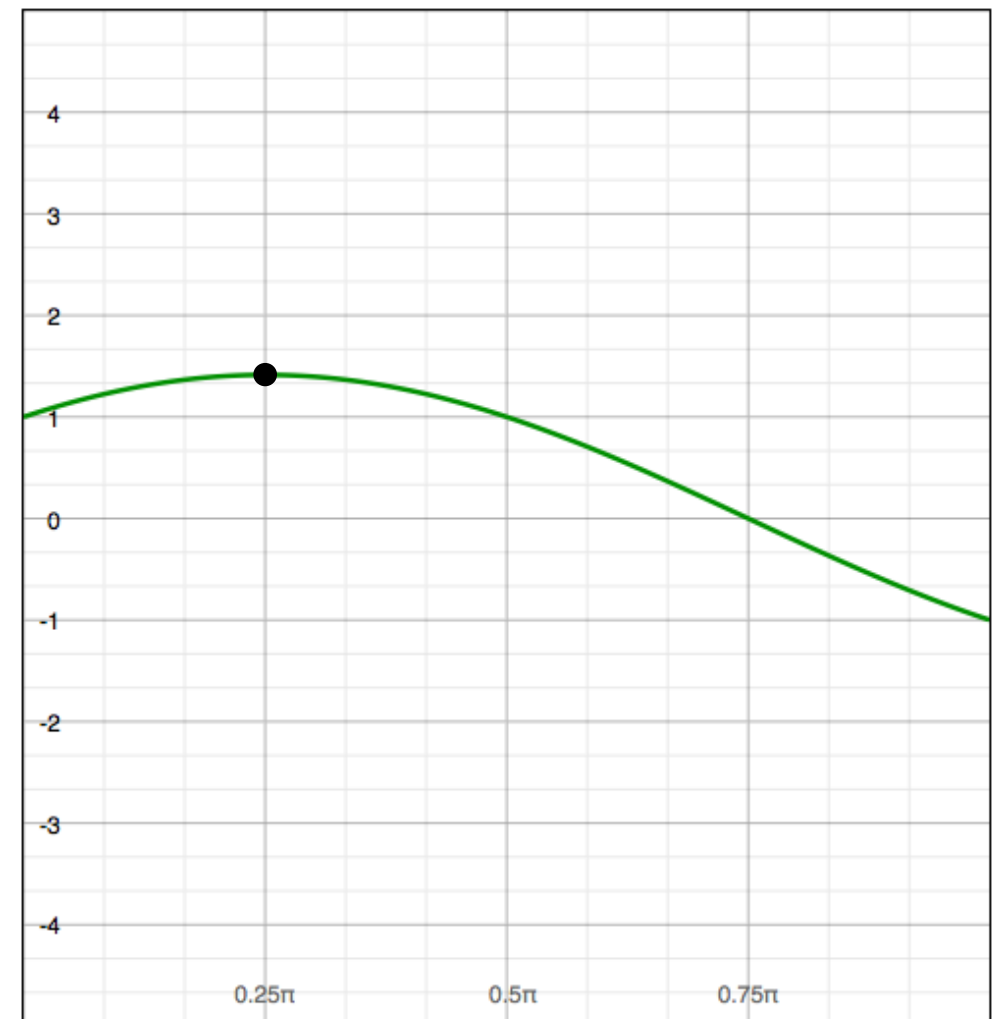


Image space

a line  
becomes a  
point



Parameter space

# Image and parameter space

variables

$$y = mx + b$$

parameters

$$x \cos \theta + y \sin \theta = \rho$$

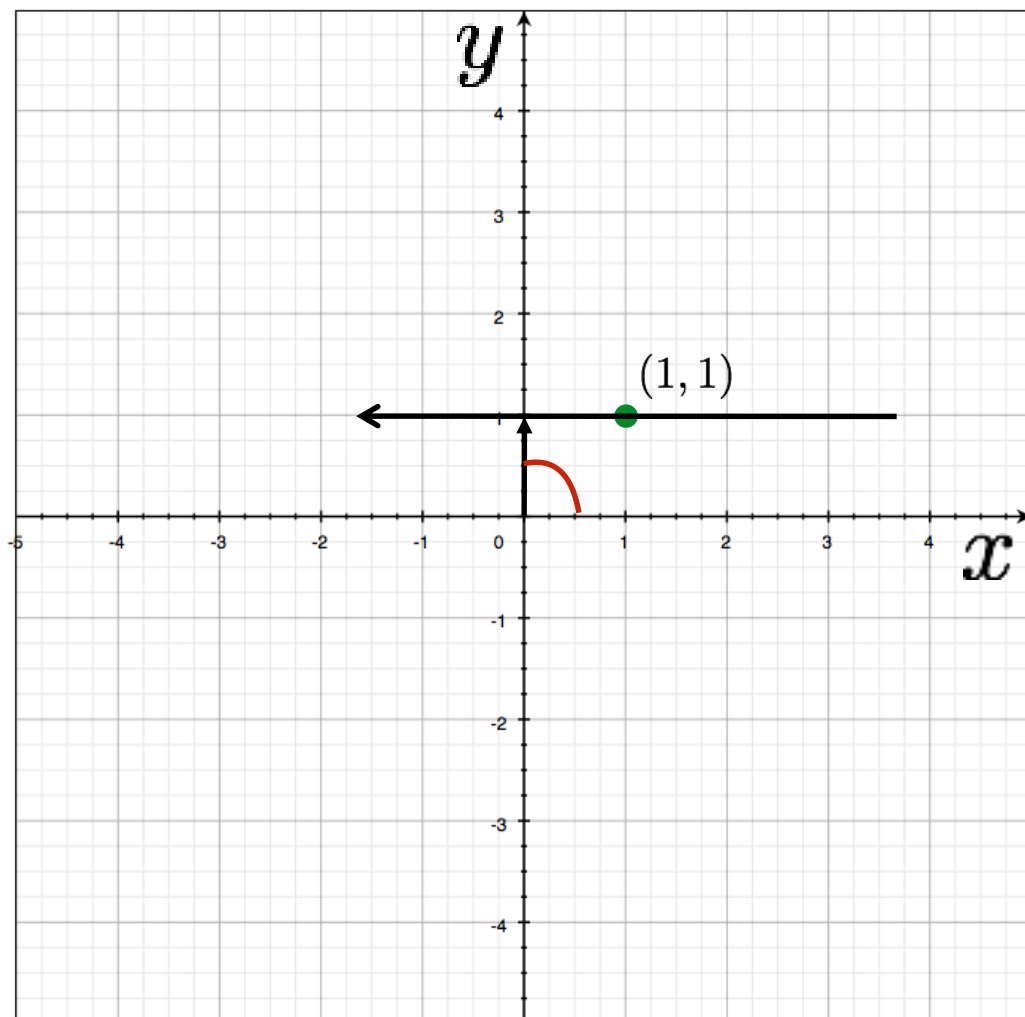
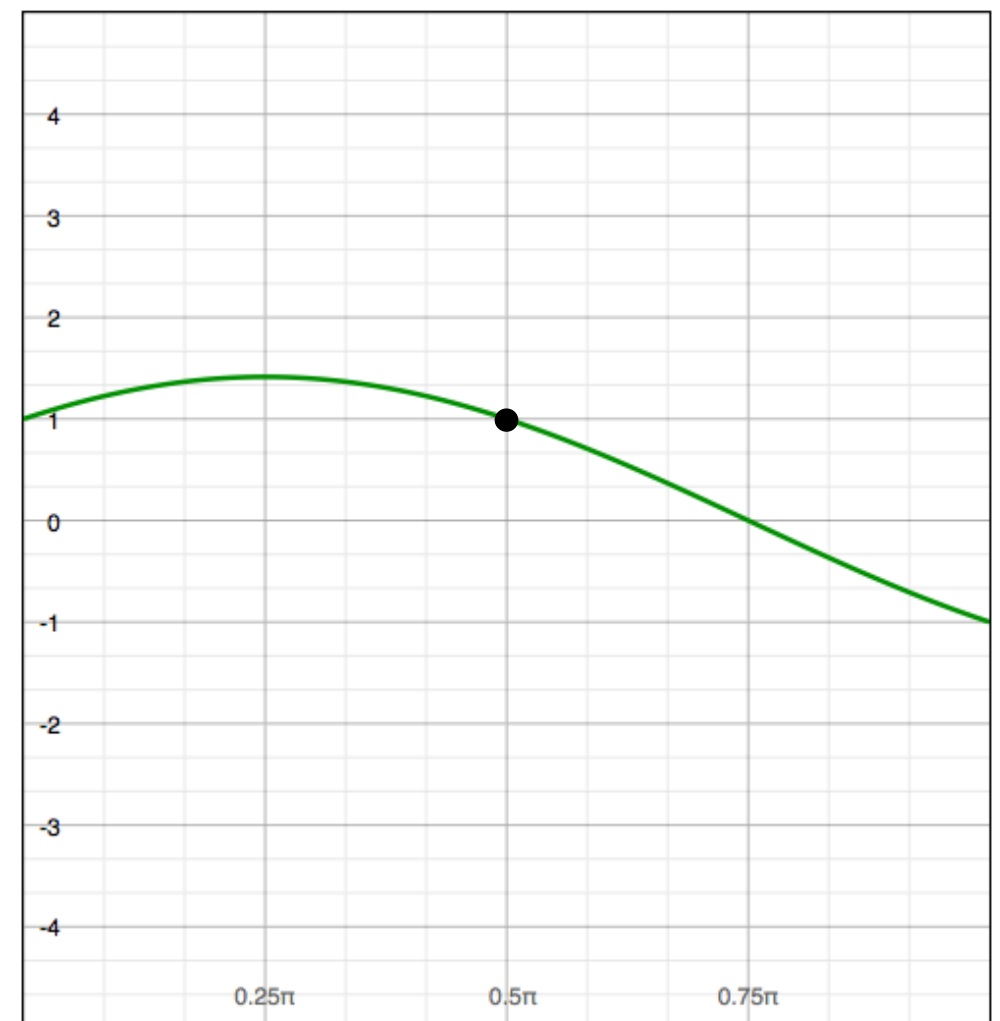


Image space

a line  
becomes a  
point



Parameter space

# Image and parameter space

variables

$$y = mx + b$$

parameters

$$x \cos \theta + y \sin \theta = \rho$$

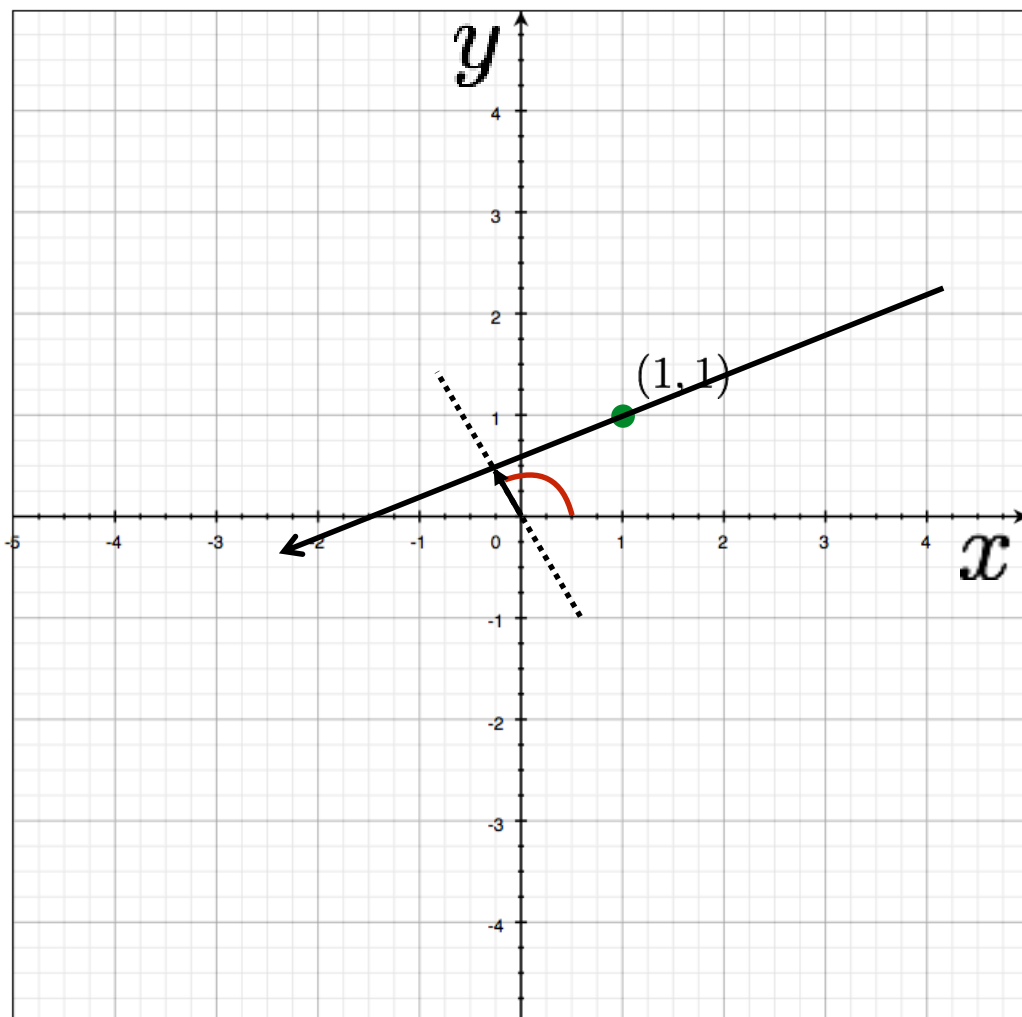
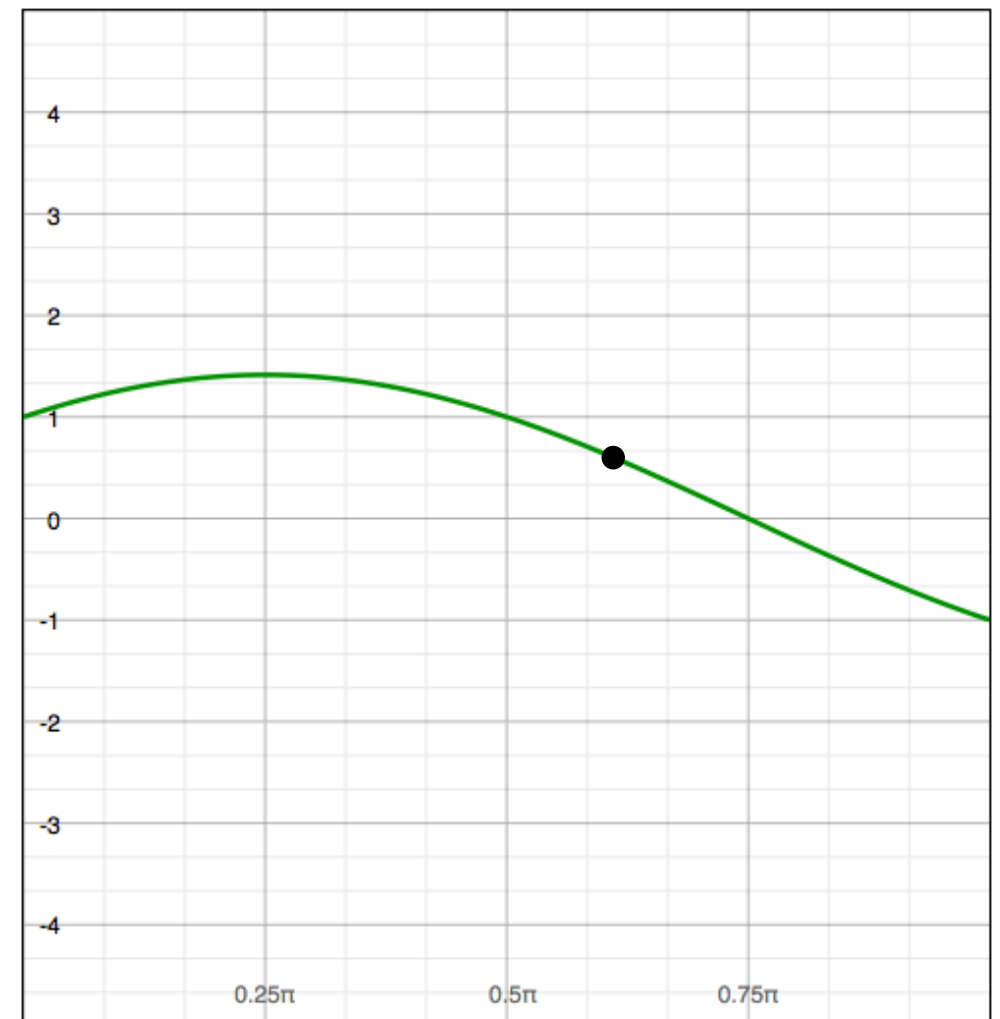


Image space

a line  
becomes a  
point



Parameter space



# Image and parameter space

variables

$$y = mx + b$$

parameters

$$x \cos \theta + y \sin \theta = \rho$$

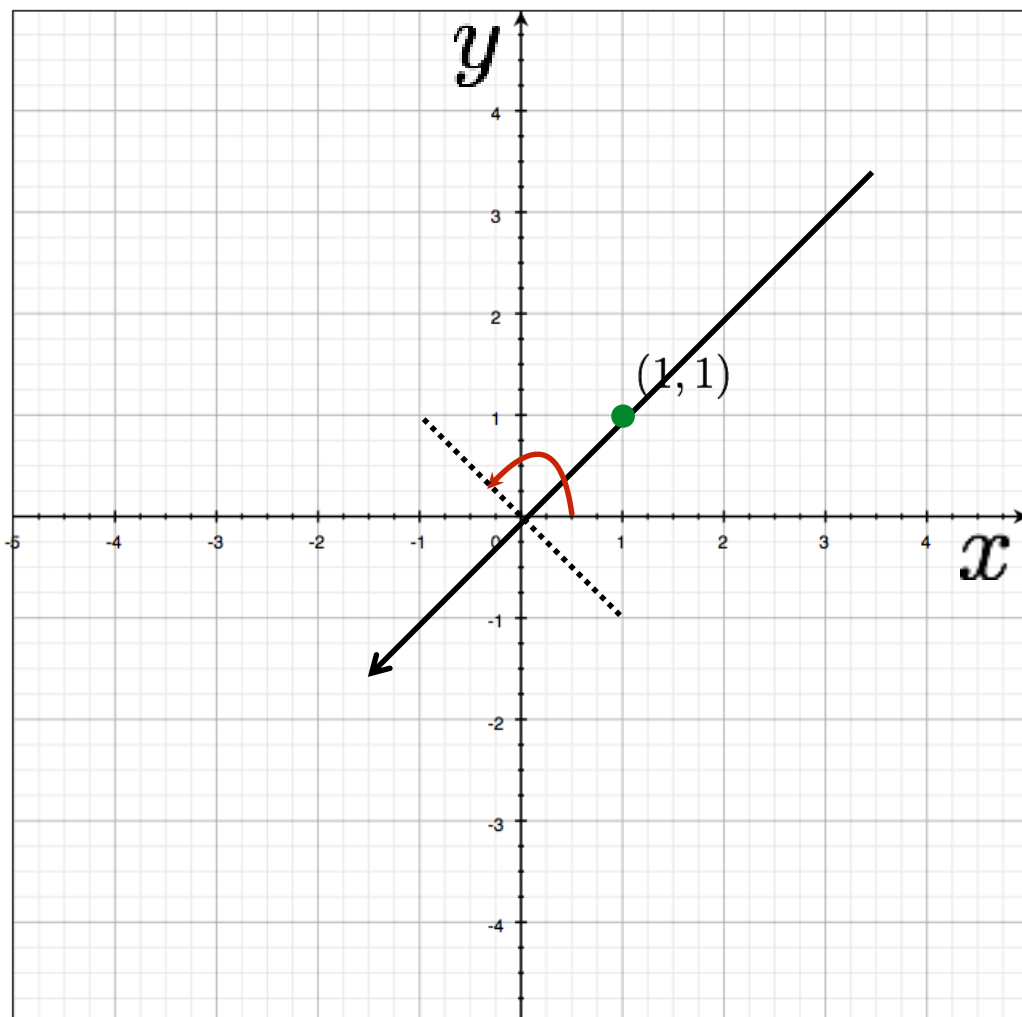
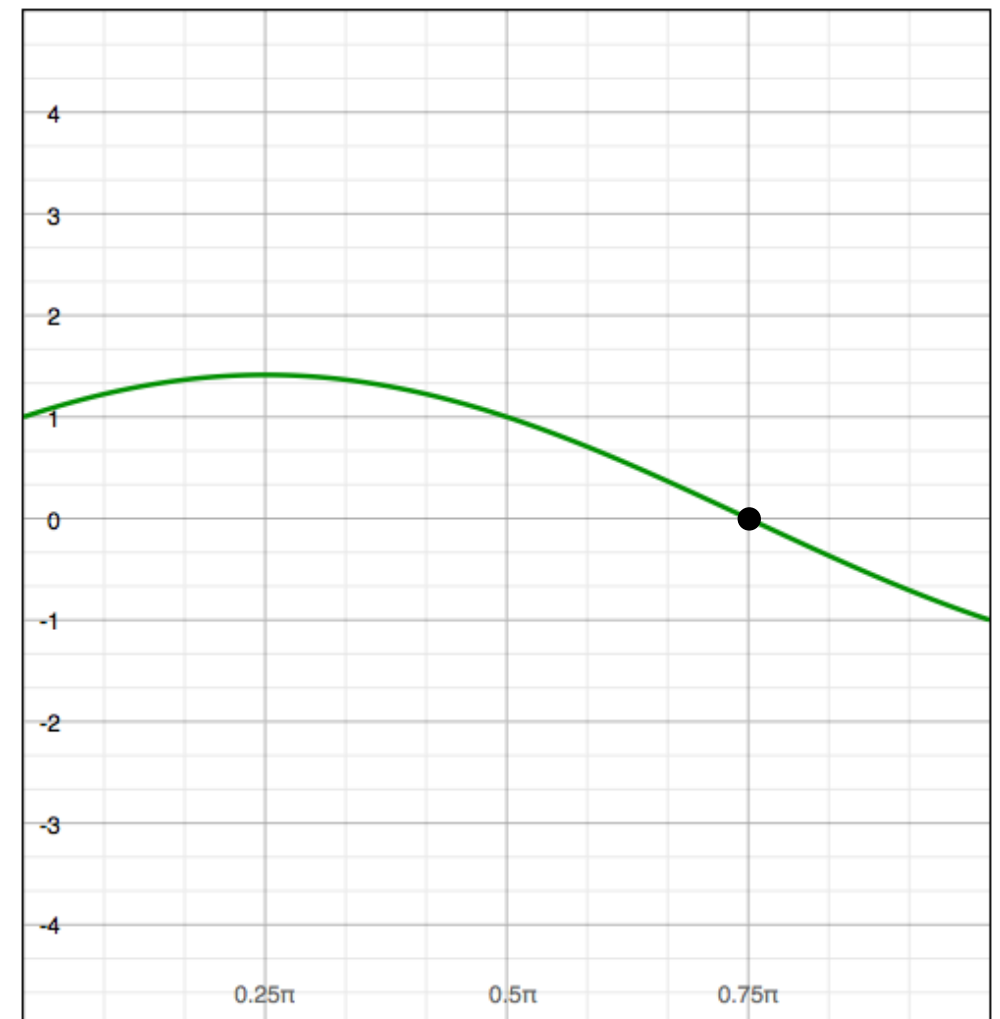


Image space

a line  
becomes a  
point



Parameter space

# Image and parameter space

variables

$$y = mx + b$$

parameters

$$x \cos \theta + y \sin \theta = \rho$$

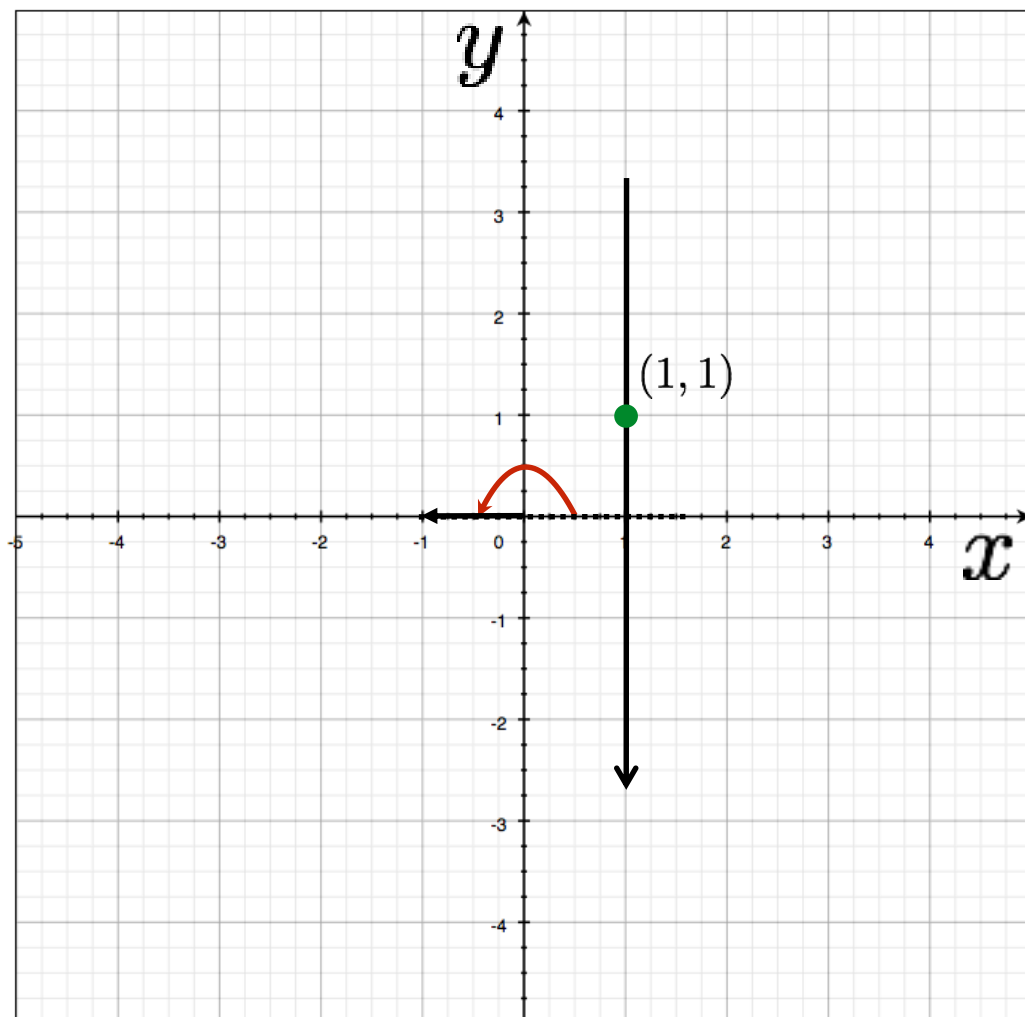
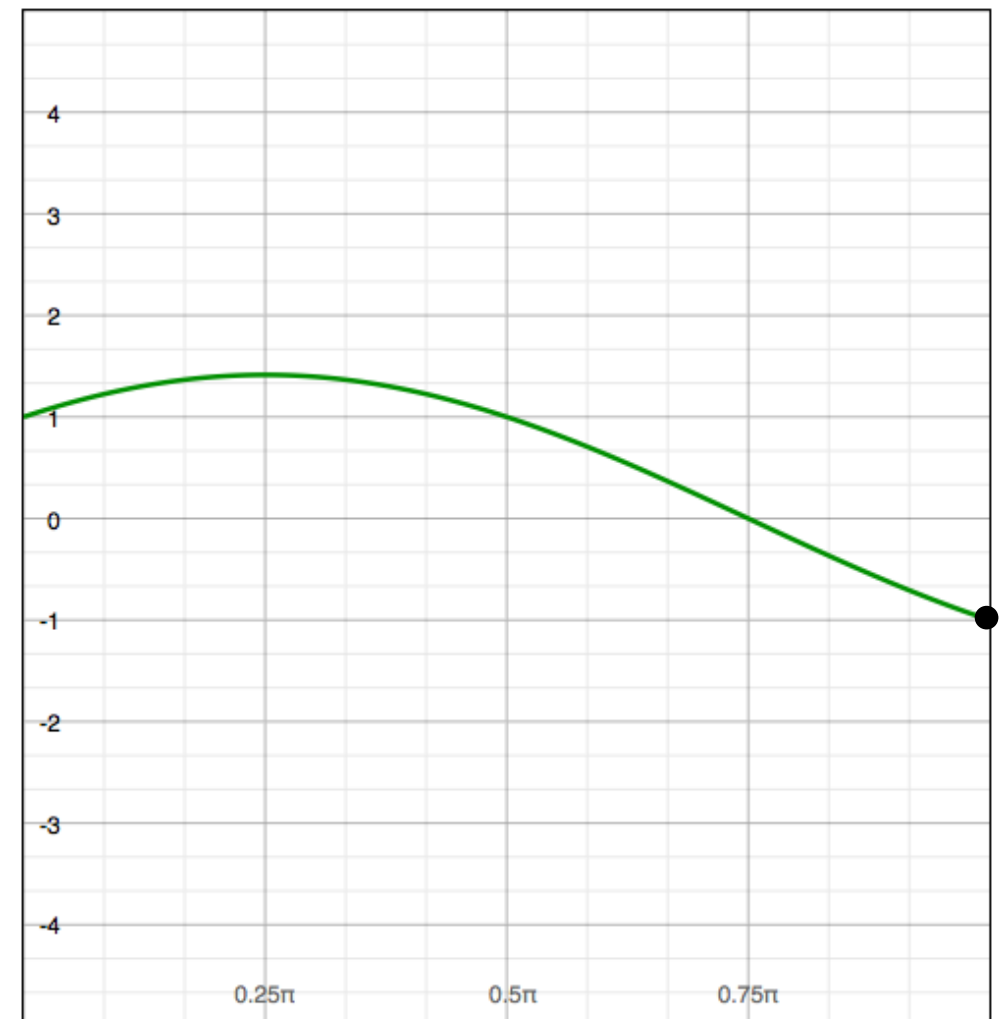


Image space

a line  
becomes a  
point



Parameter space

# Image and parameter space

variables

$$y = mx + b$$

parameters

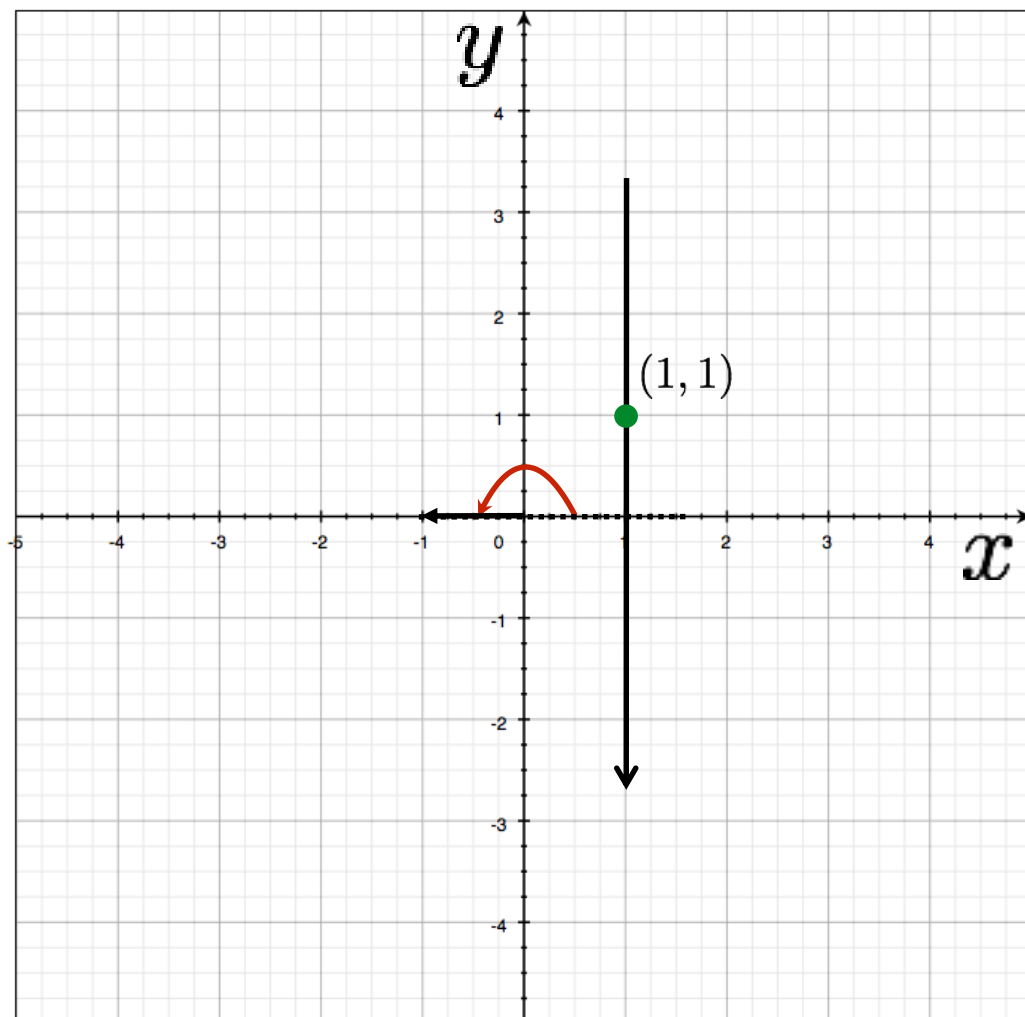
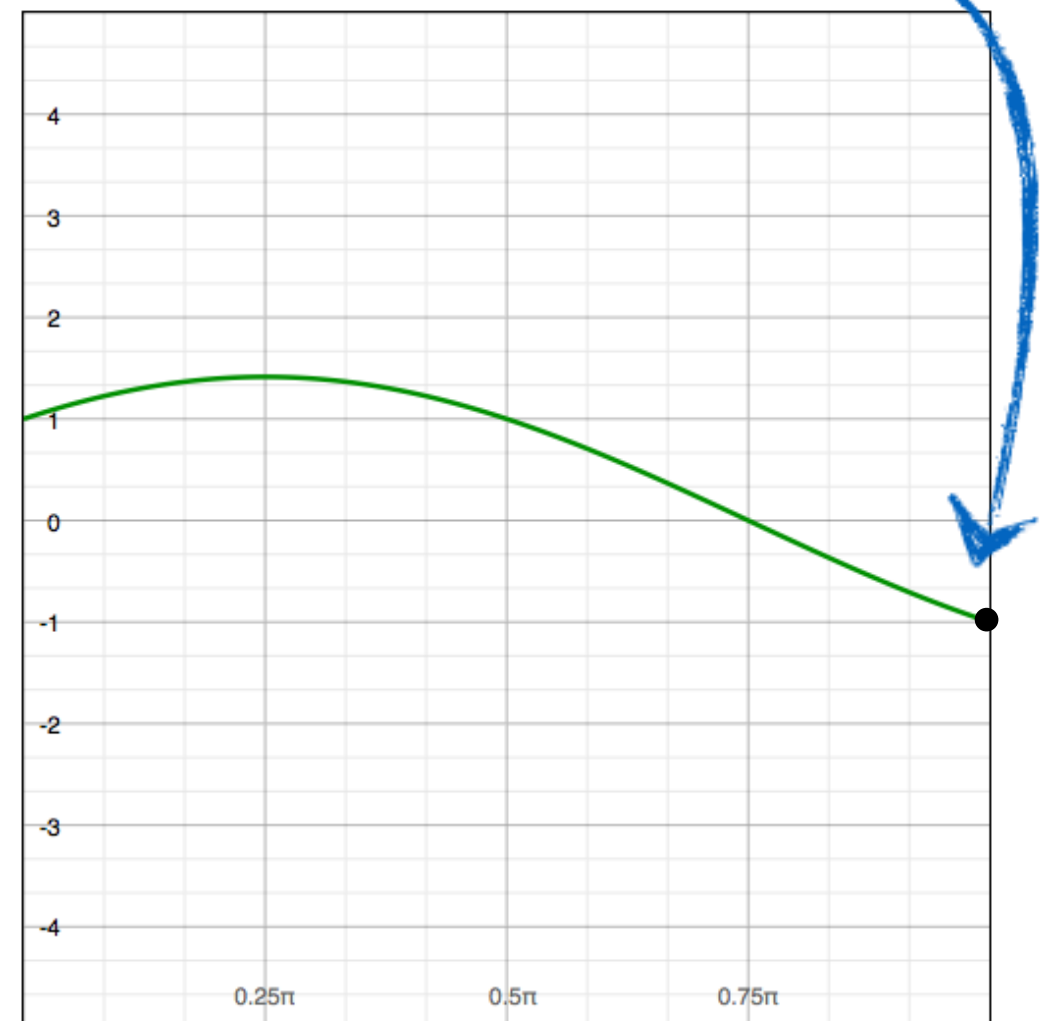


Image space

a line  
becomes a  
point

$$x \cos \theta + y \sin \theta = \rho$$

Wait ...why is rho negative?



Parameter space

# Image and parameter space

variables

$$y = mx + b$$

parameters

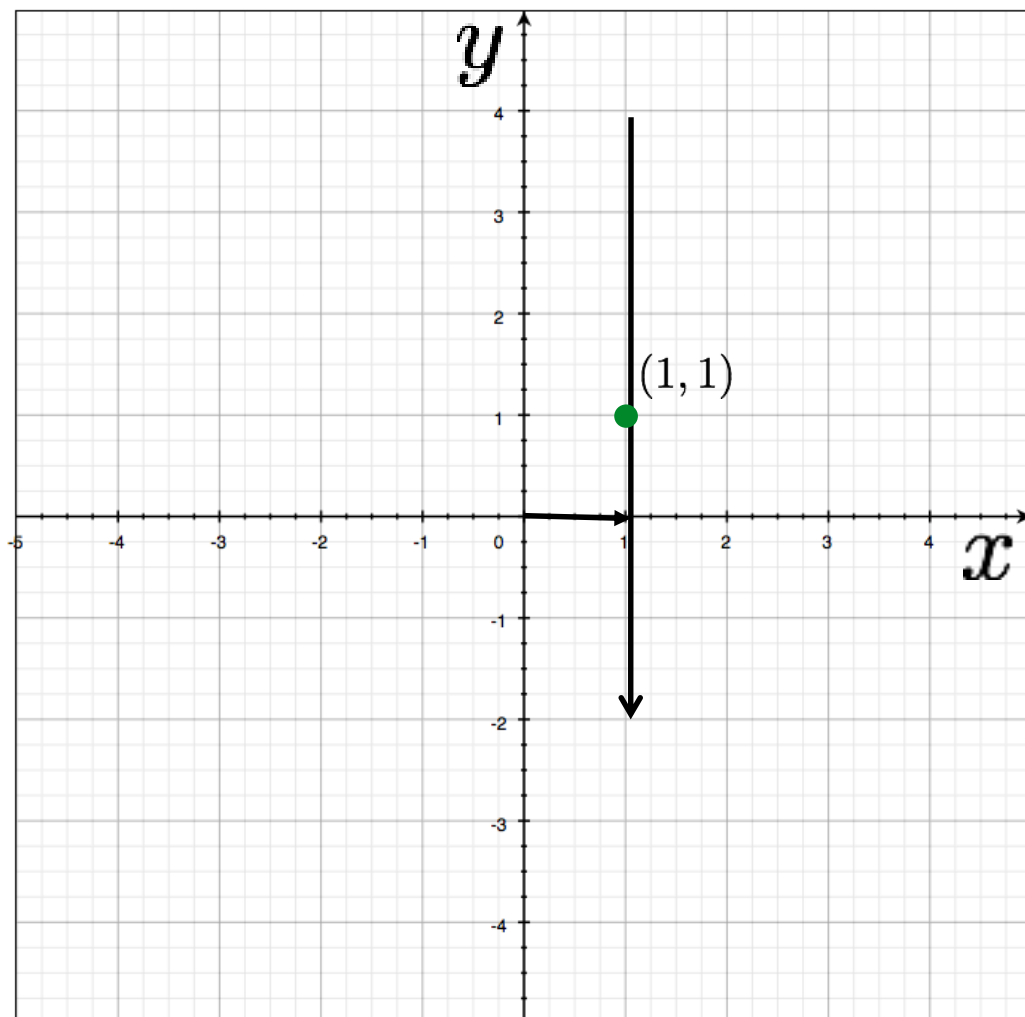
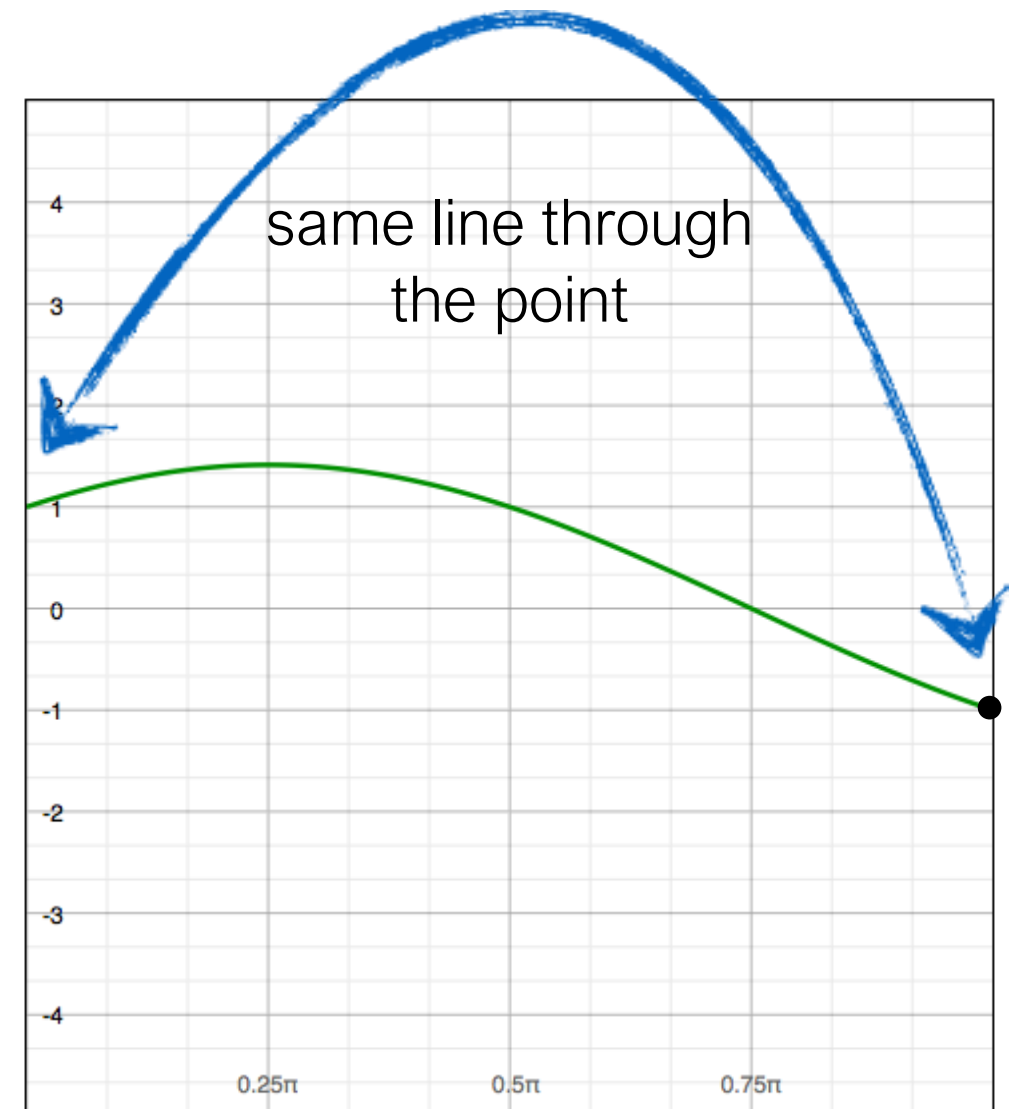


Image space

a line  
becomes a  
point

$$x \cos \theta + y \sin \theta = \rho$$



Parameter space

There are two ways to write the same line:

Positive rho version:

$$x \cos \theta + y \sin \theta = \rho$$

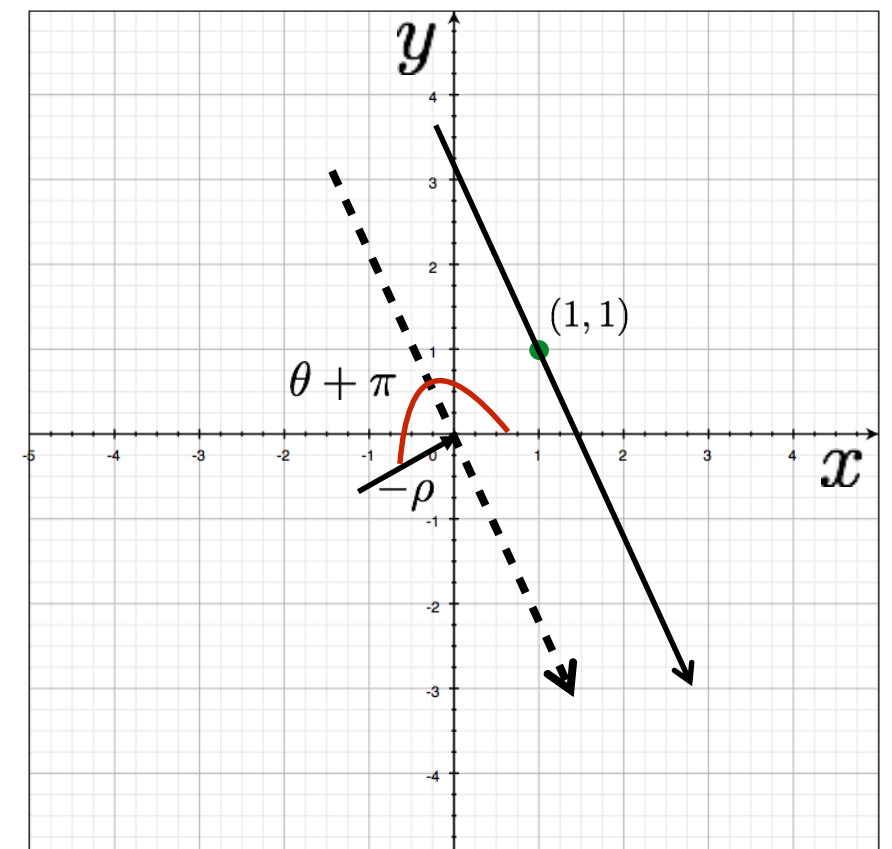
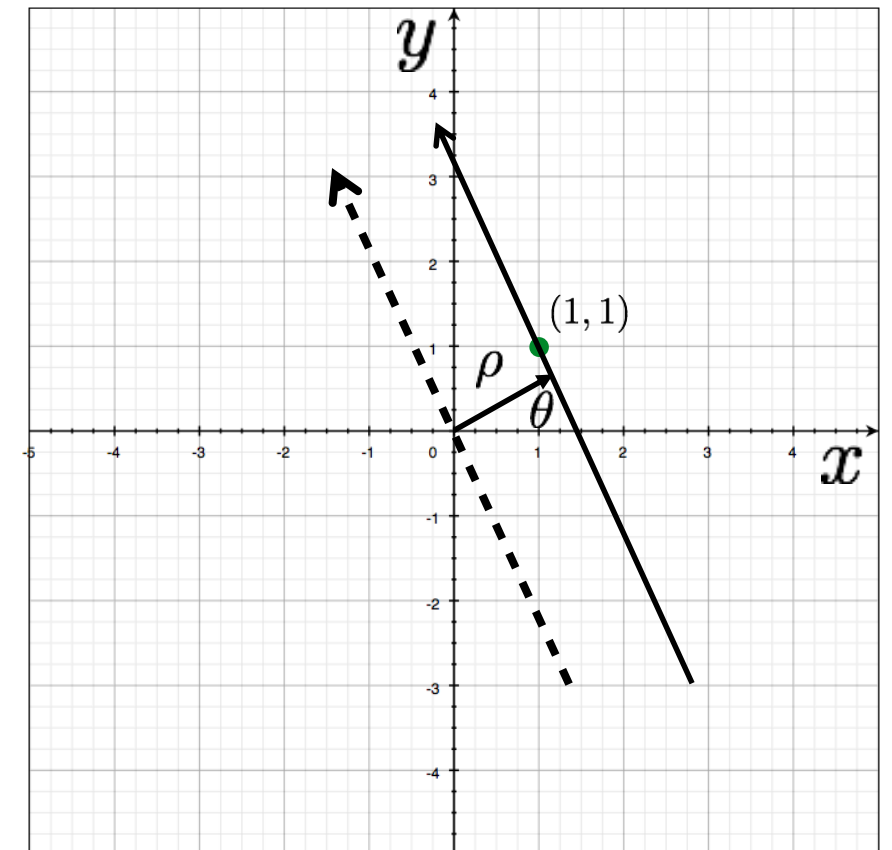
Negative rho version:

$$x \cos(\theta + \pi) + y \sin(\theta + \pi) = -\rho$$

Recall:

$$\sin(\theta) = -\sin(\theta + \pi)$$

$$\cos(\theta) = -\cos(\theta + \pi)$$



# Image and parameter space

variables

$$y = mx + b$$

parameters

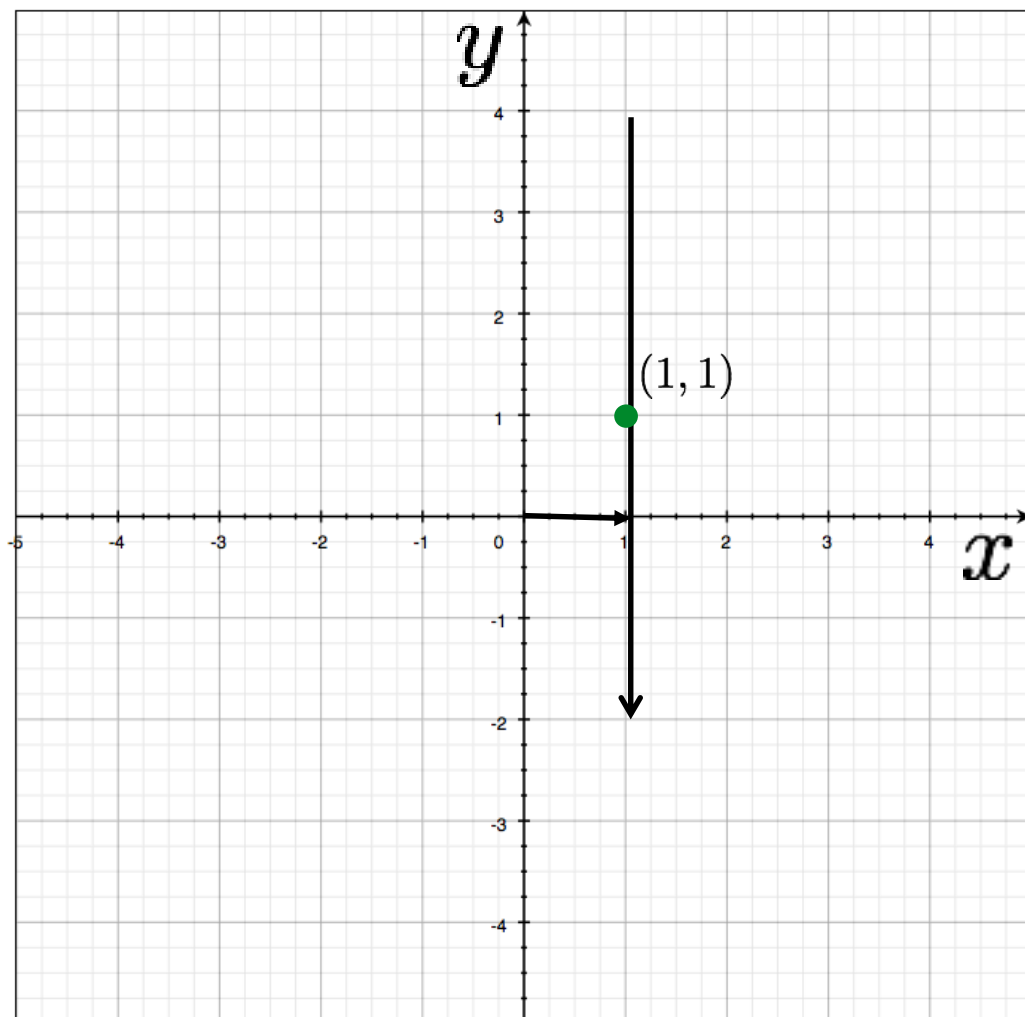
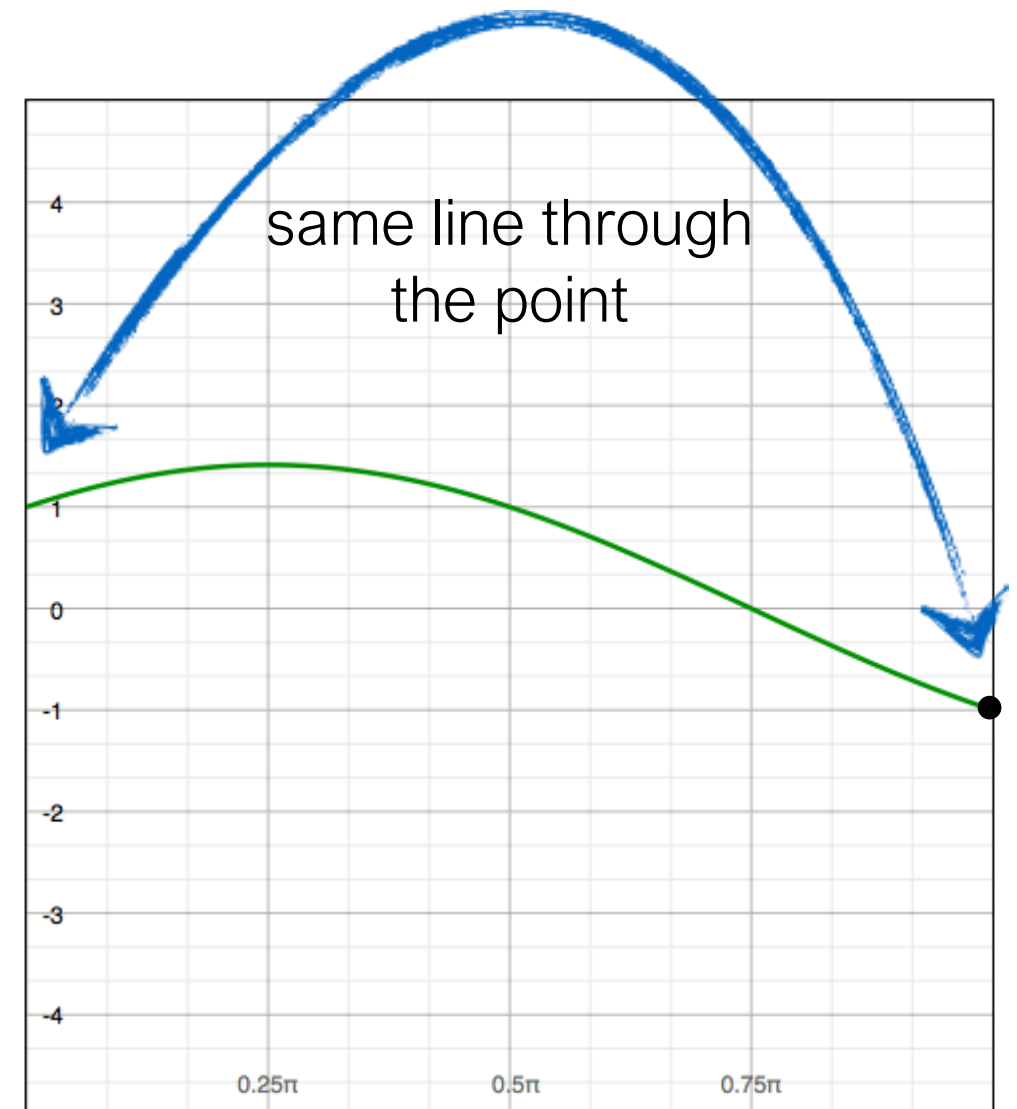


Image space

a line  
becomes a  
point

$$x \cos \theta + y \sin \theta = \rho$$



Parameter space

# Image and parameter space

variables

$$y = mx + b$$

parameters

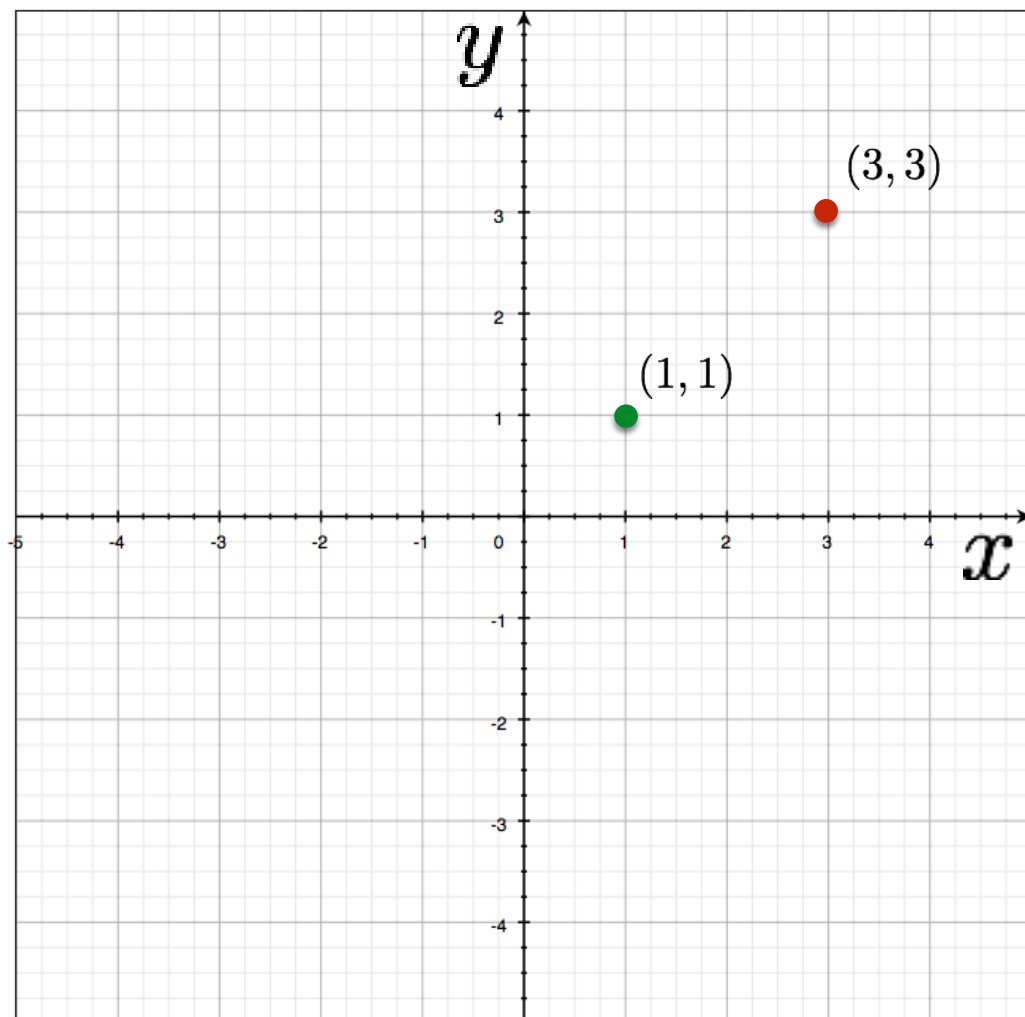
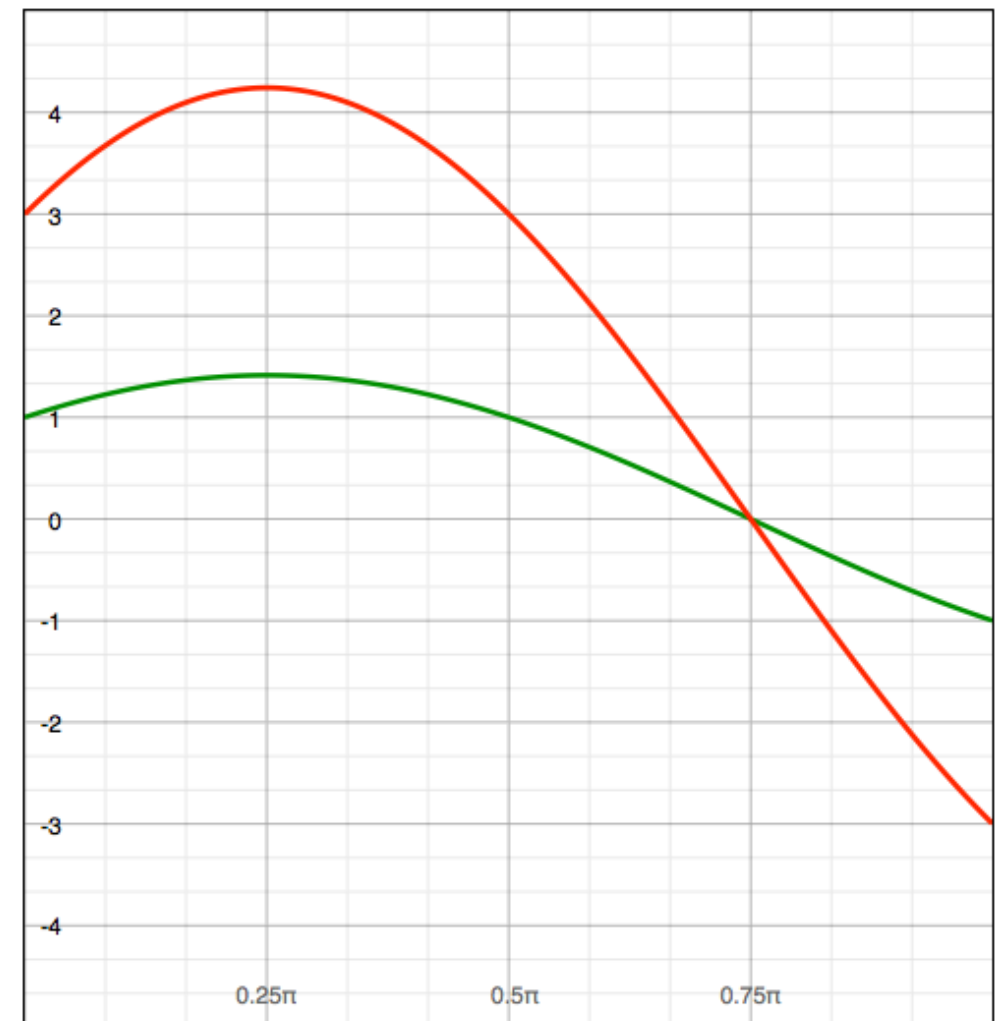


Image space

two points  
become  
?



Parameter space



# Image and parameter space

variables

$$y = mx + b$$

parameters

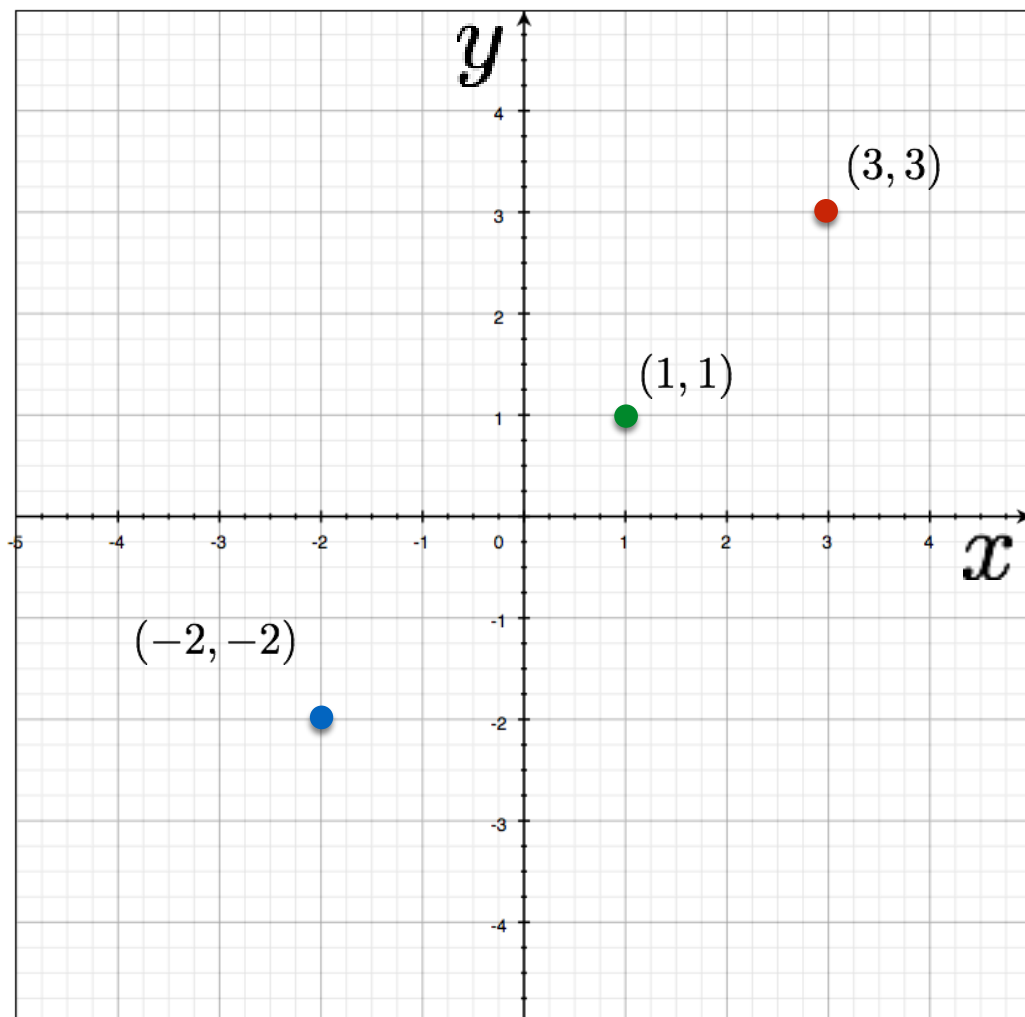
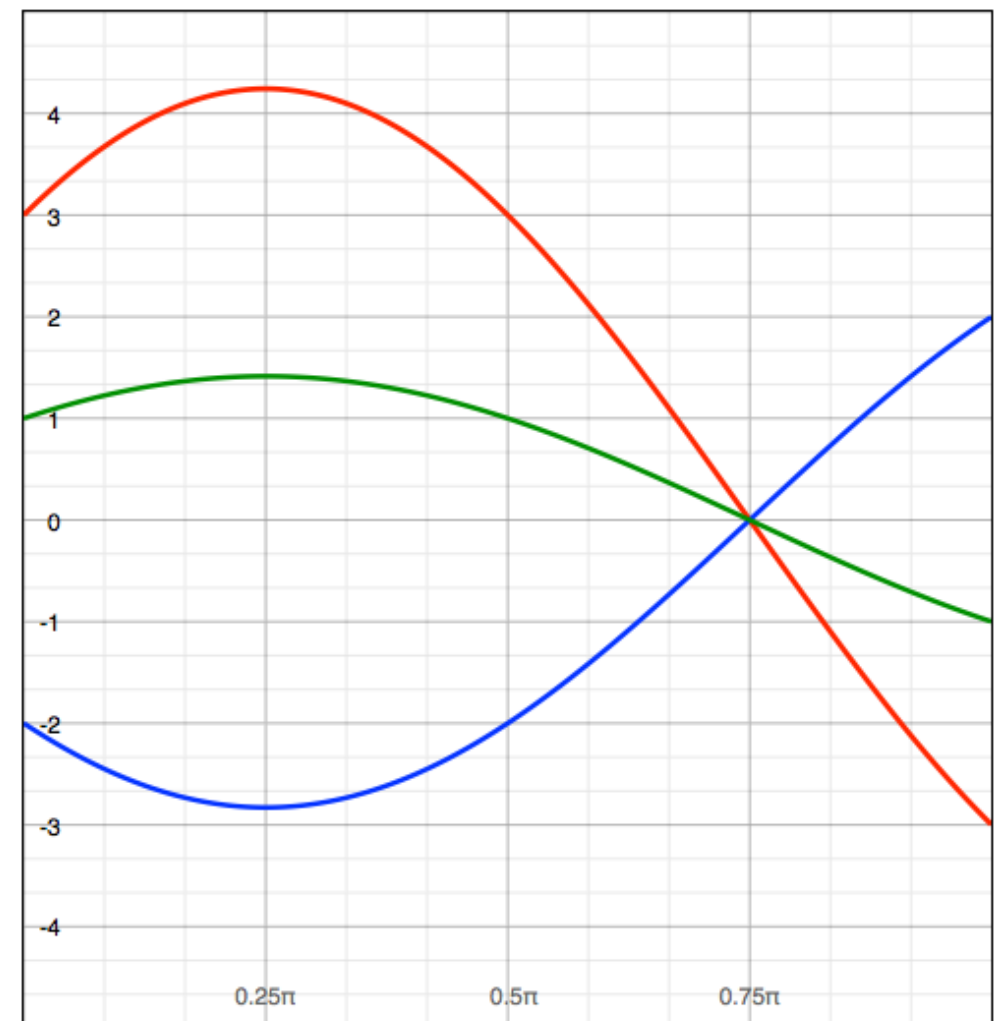


Image space

three points  
become  
?



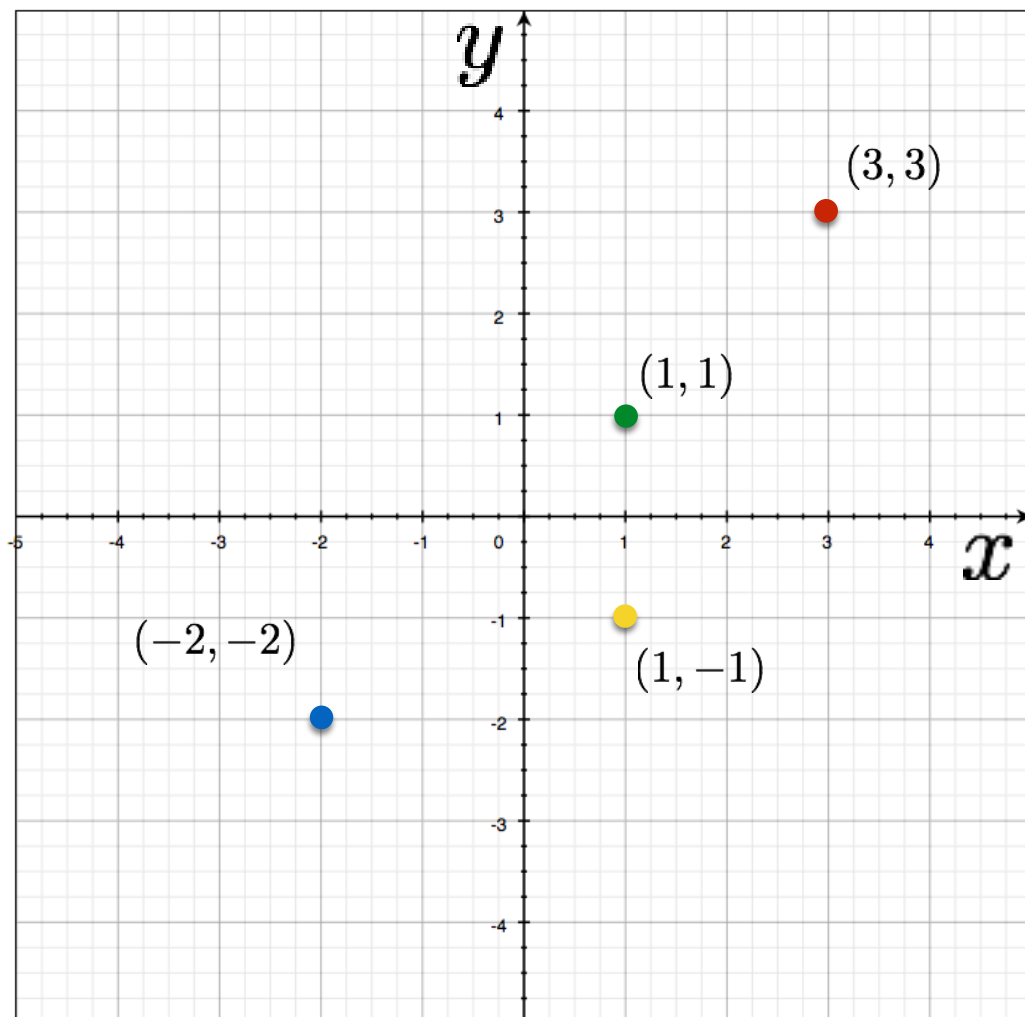
Parameter space

# Image and parameter space

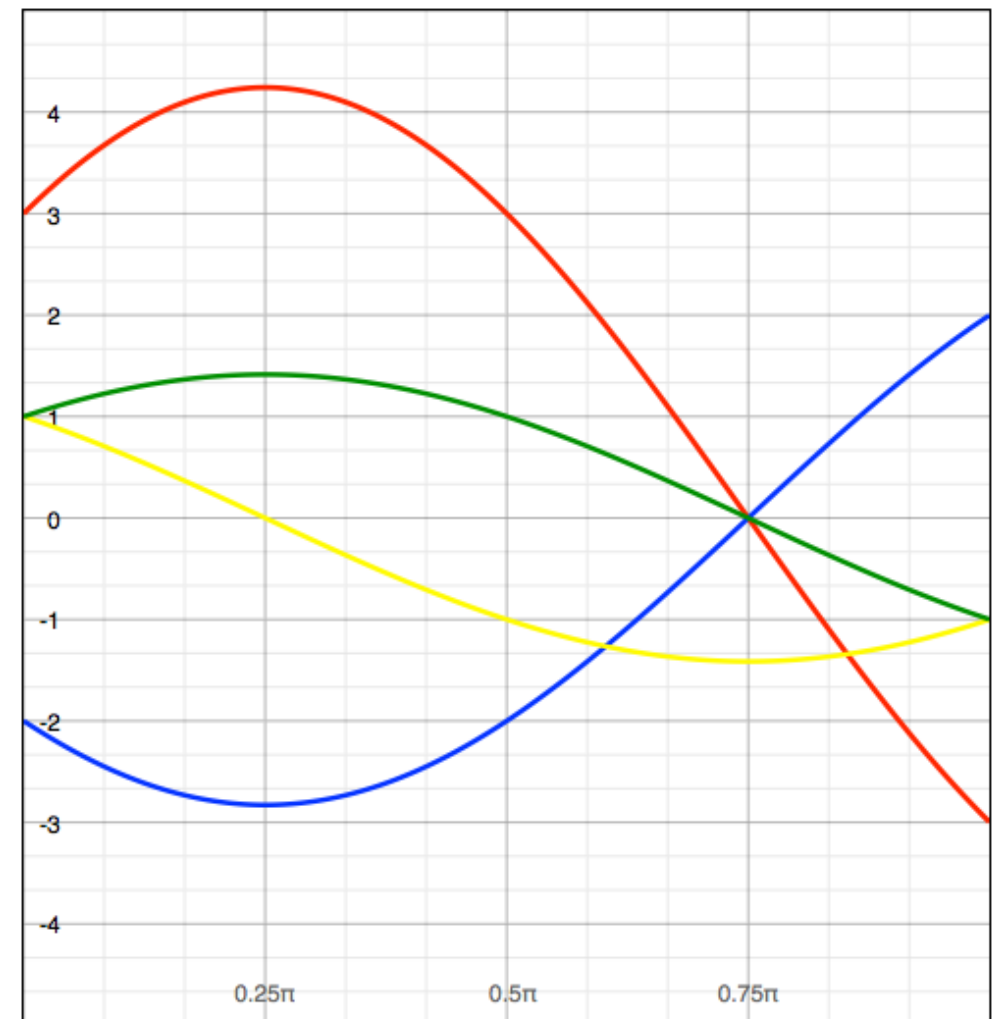
variables

$$y = mx + b$$

parameters



four points  
become  
?



# Implementation

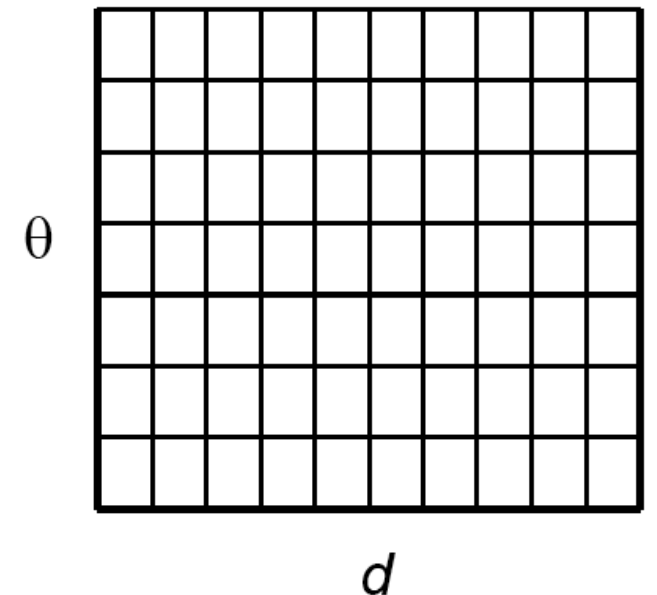
1. Initialize accumulator  $H$  to all zeros

2. For each edge point  $(x, y)$  in the image  
    For  $\theta = 0$  to  $180$   
         $\rho = x \cos \theta + y \sin \theta$   
         $H(\theta, \rho) = H(\theta, \rho) + 1$   
    end  
end

3. Find the value(s) of  $(\theta, \rho)$  where  $H(\theta, \rho)$  is a local maximum

4. The detected line in the image is given by  
     $\rho = x \cos \theta + y \sin \theta$

H: accumulator array (votes)



NOTE: Watch your coordinates. Image origin is top left!

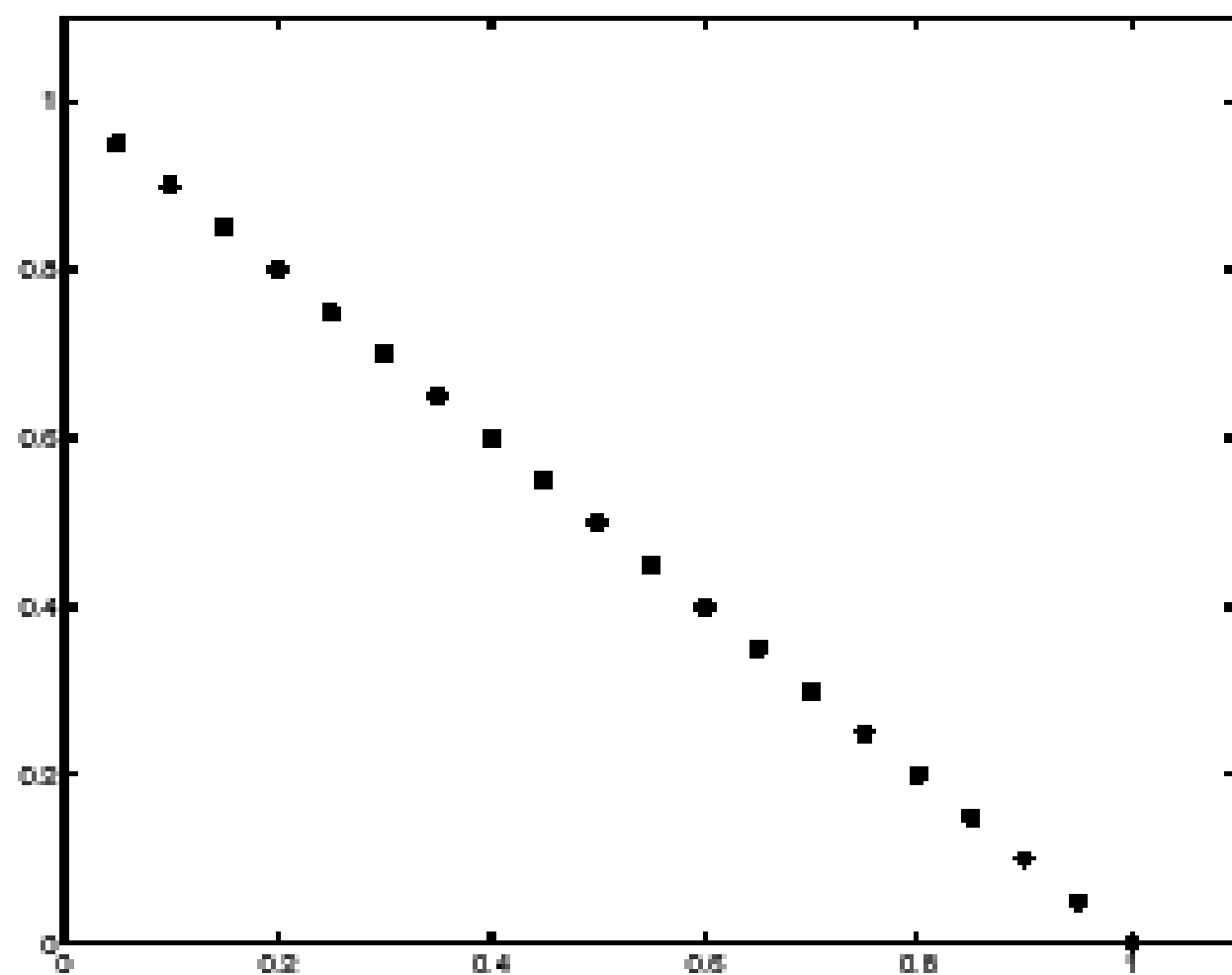
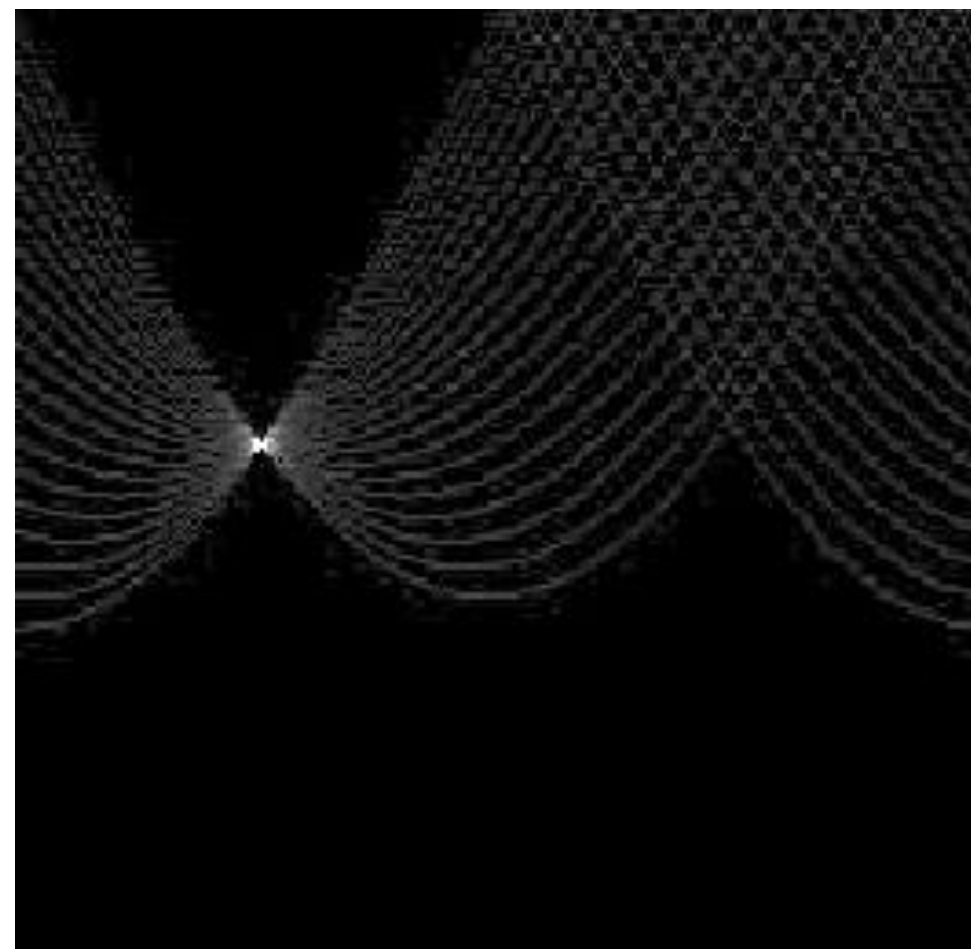


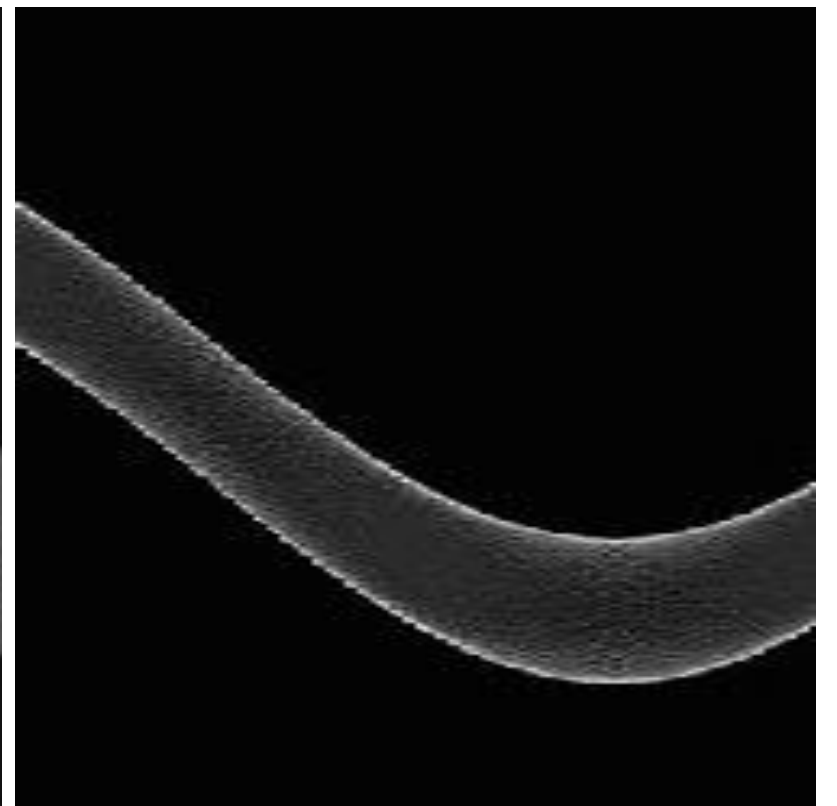
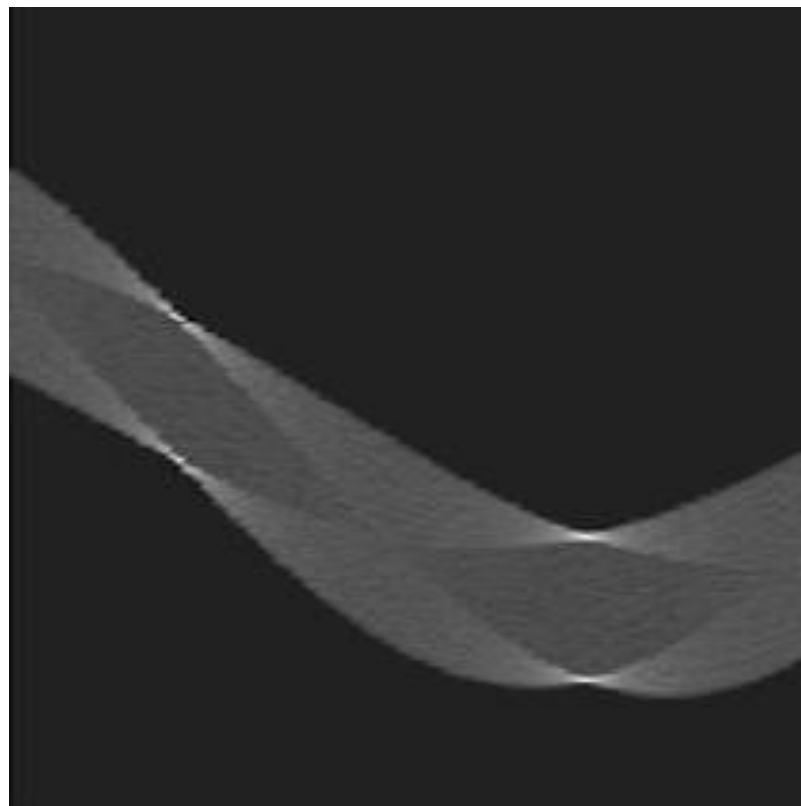
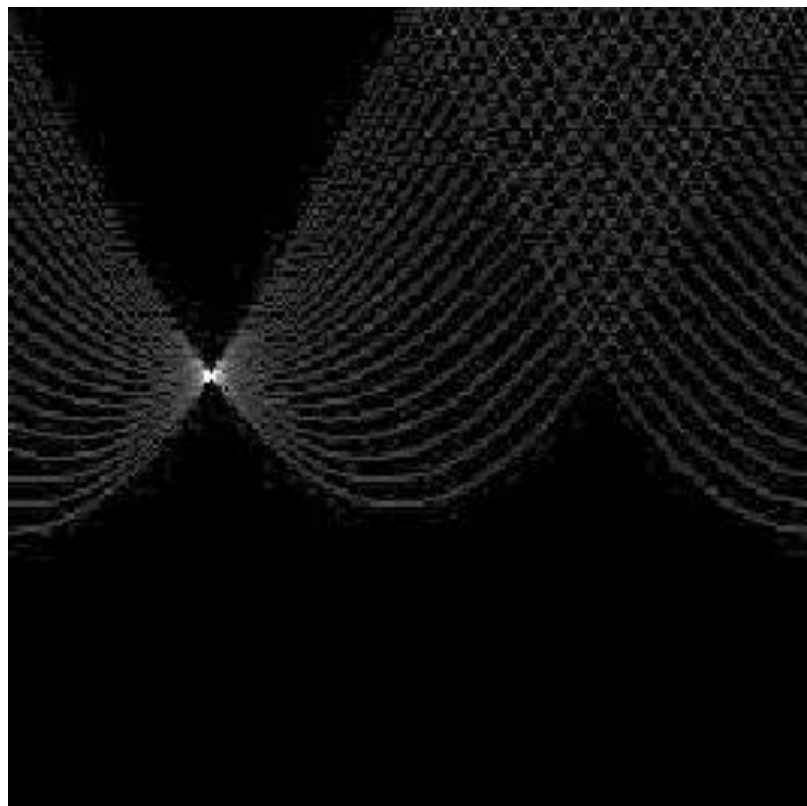
Image space



Votes

# Basic shapes

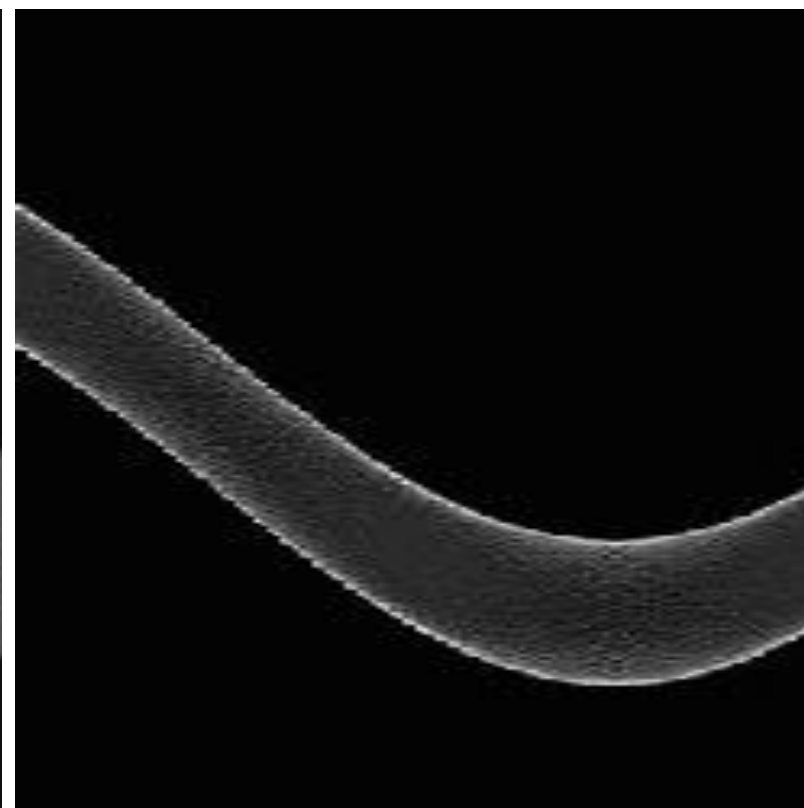
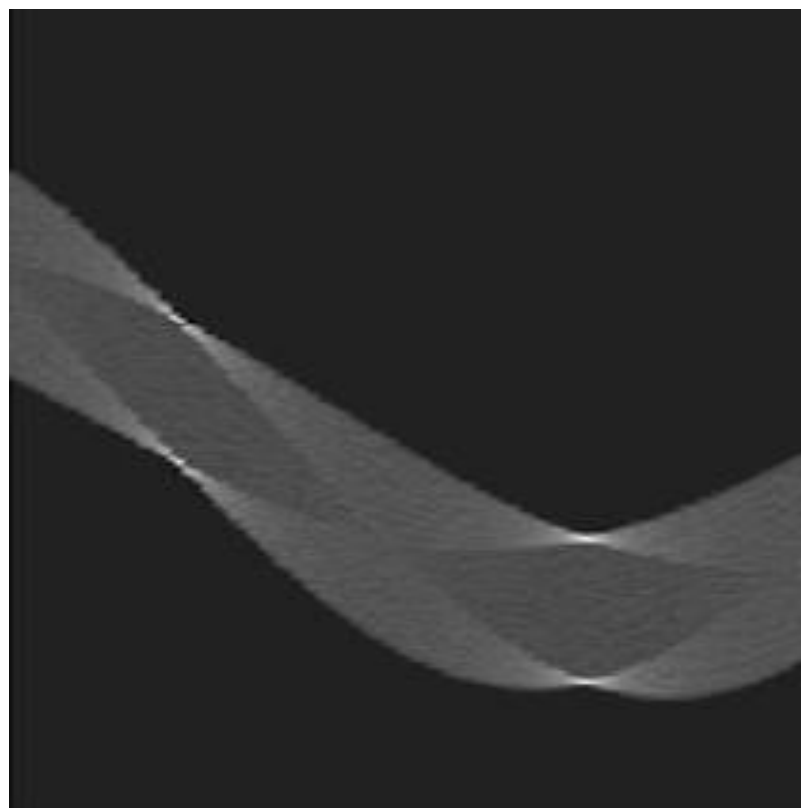
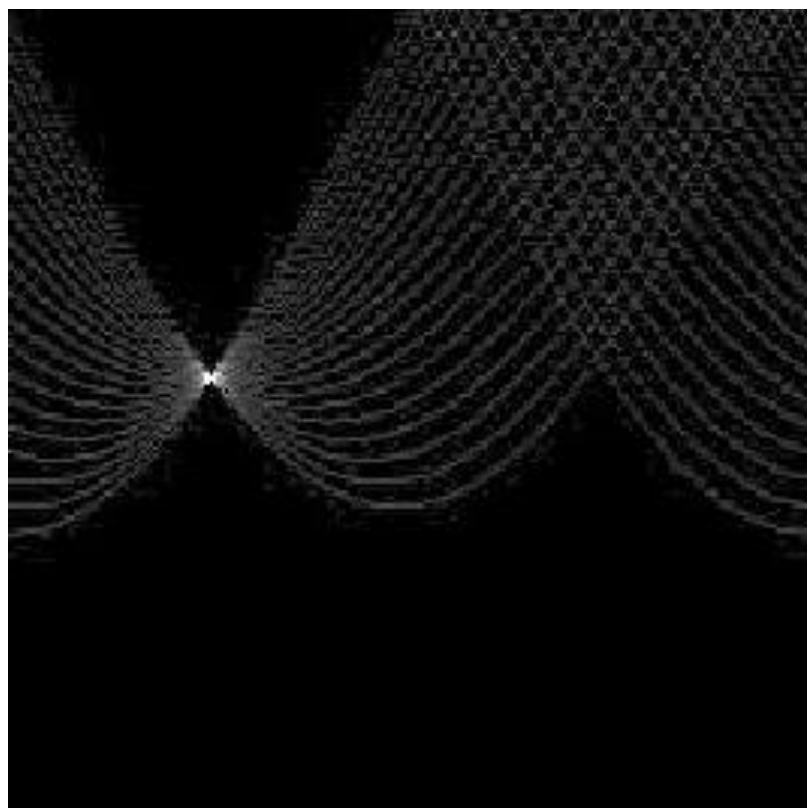
(in parameter space)



*can you guess the shape?*

# Basic shapes

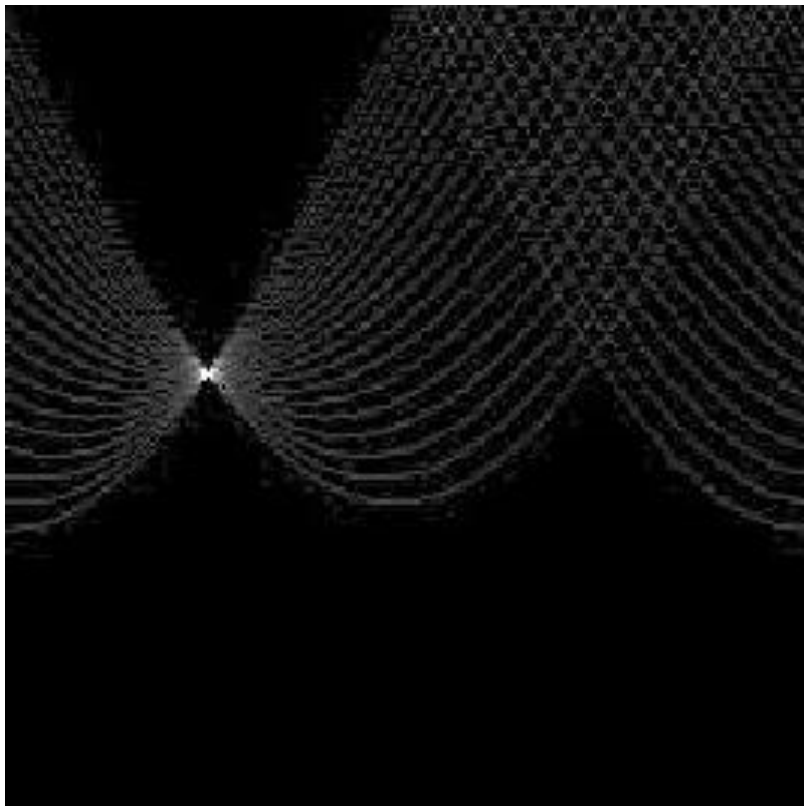
(in parameter space)



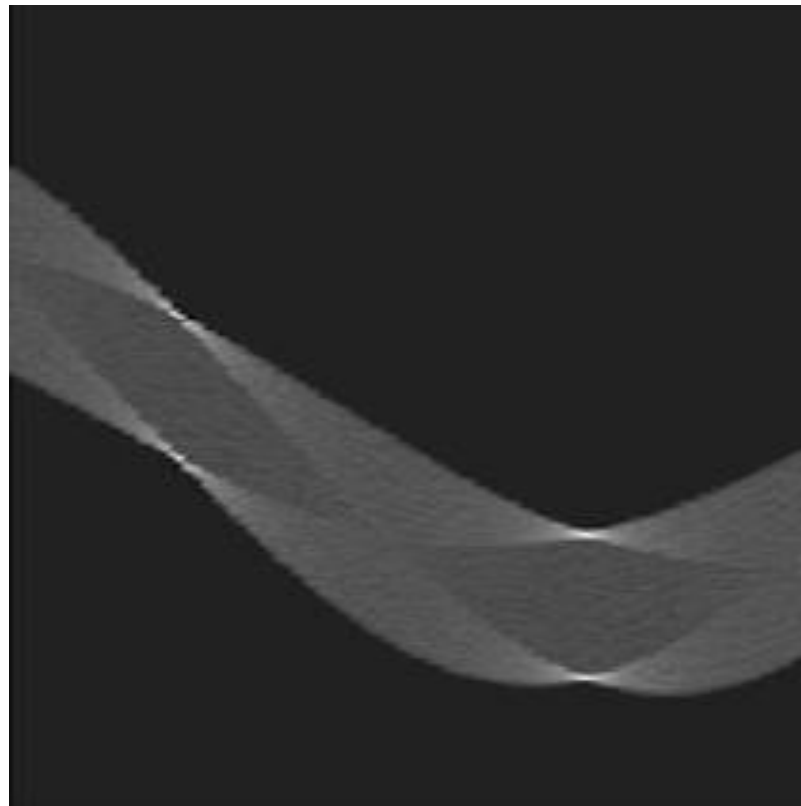
line

# Basic shapes

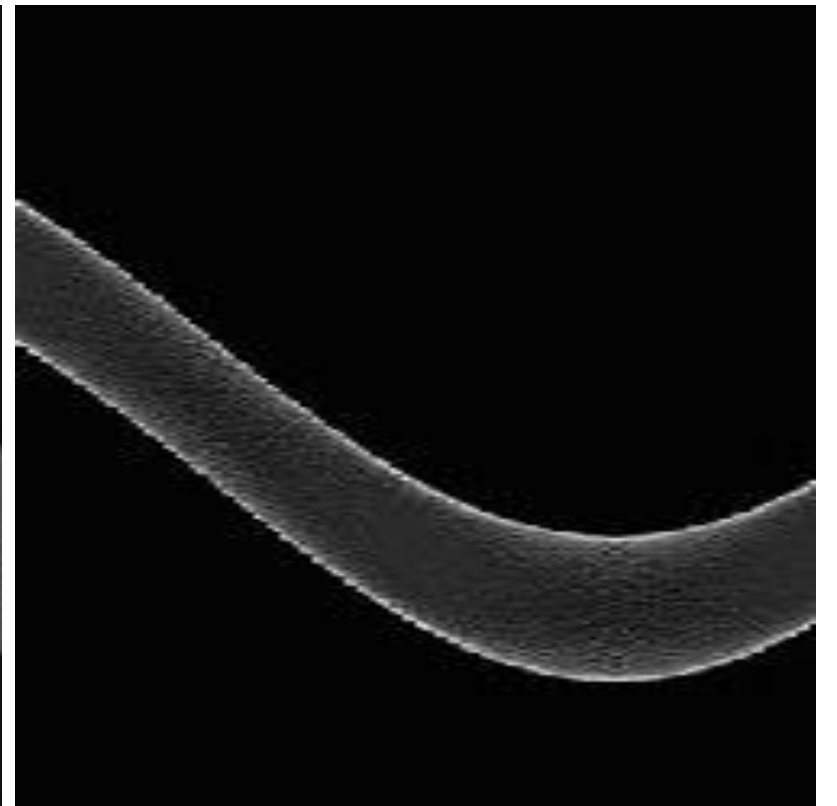
(in parameter space)



line

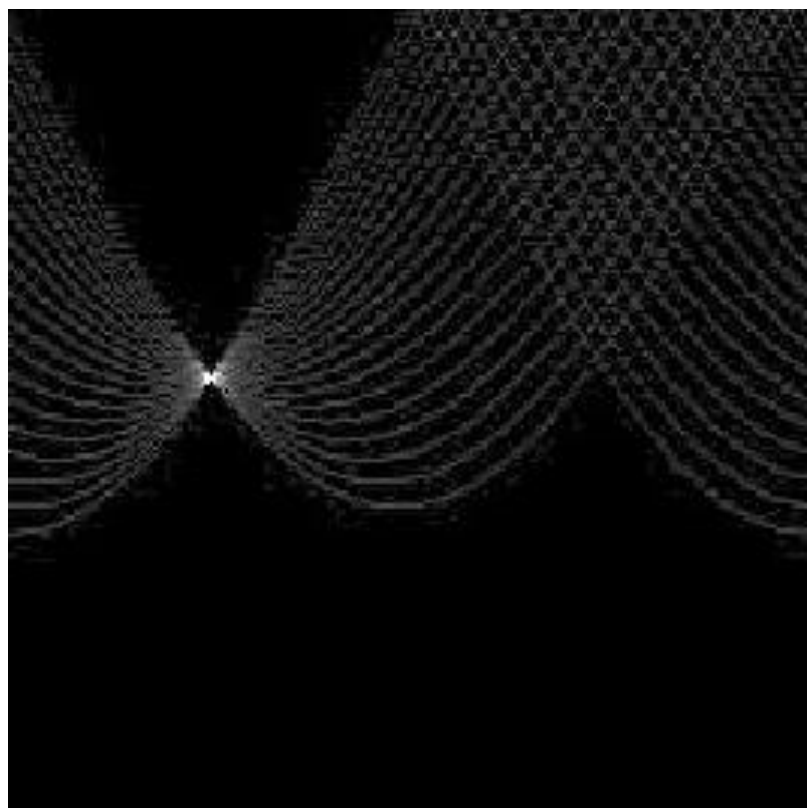


rectangle

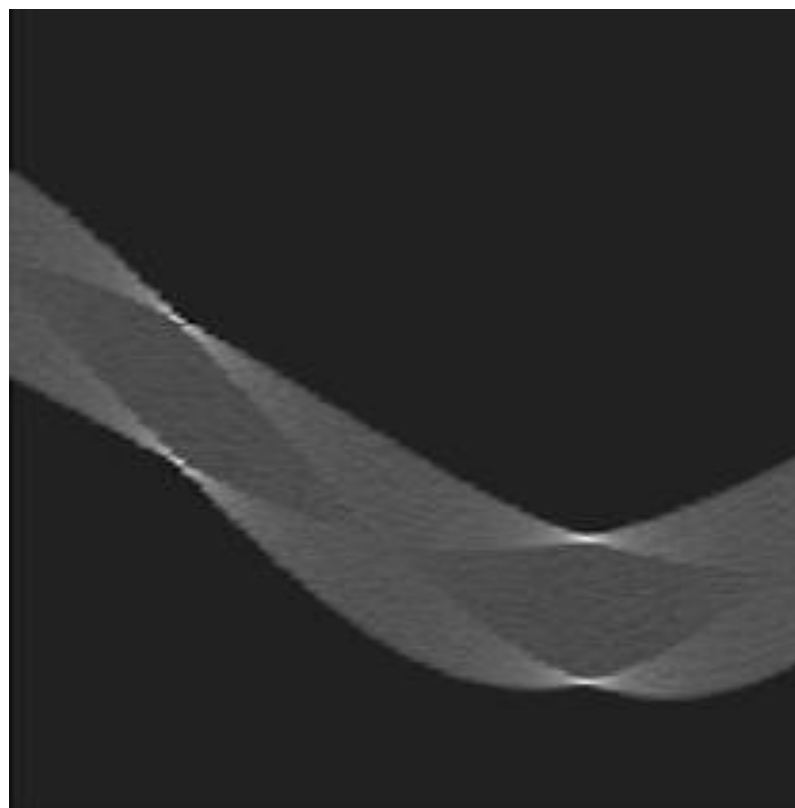


# Basic shapes

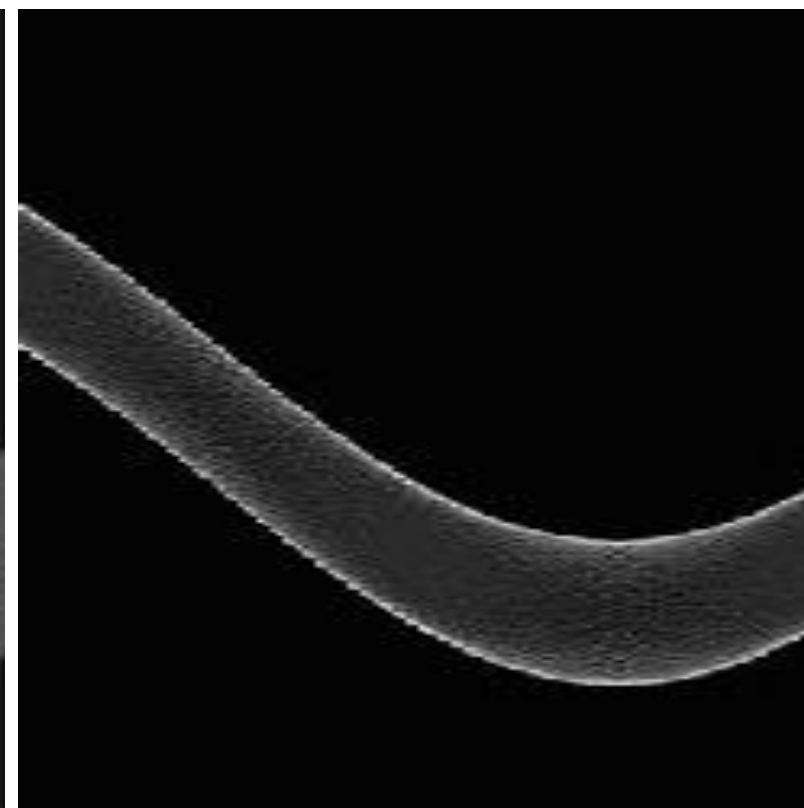
(in parameter space)



line



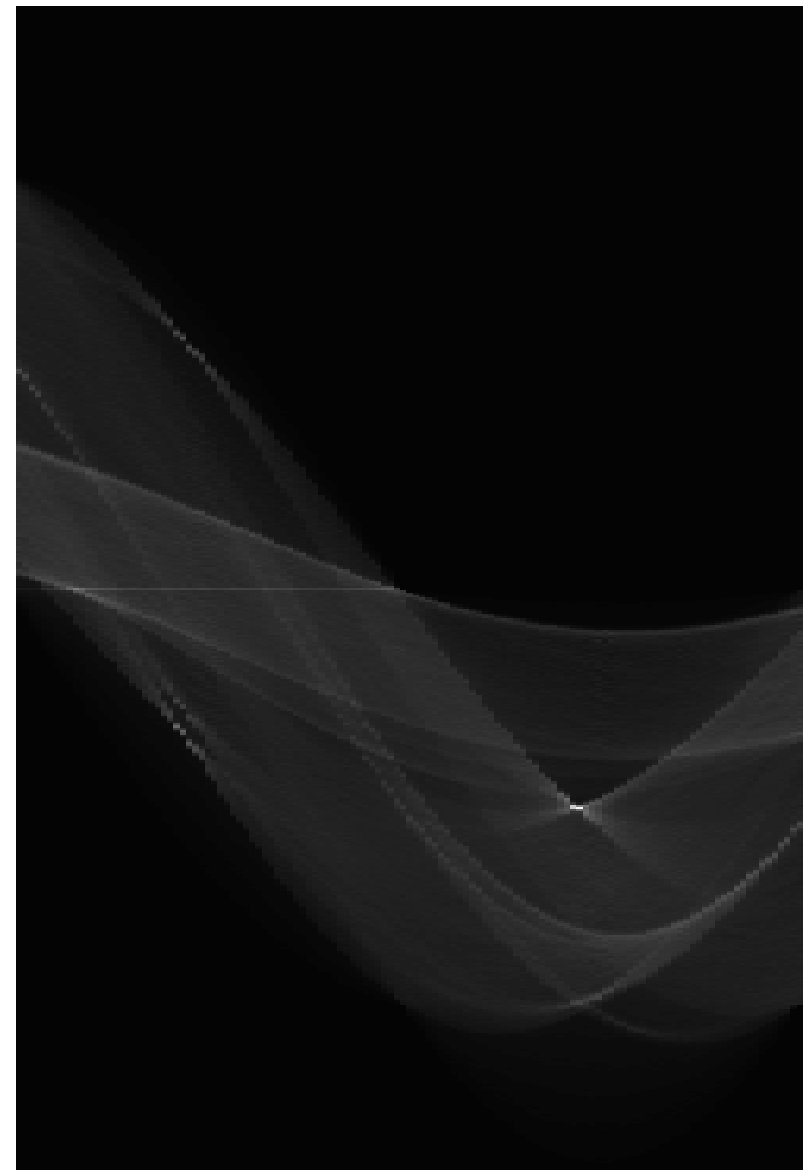
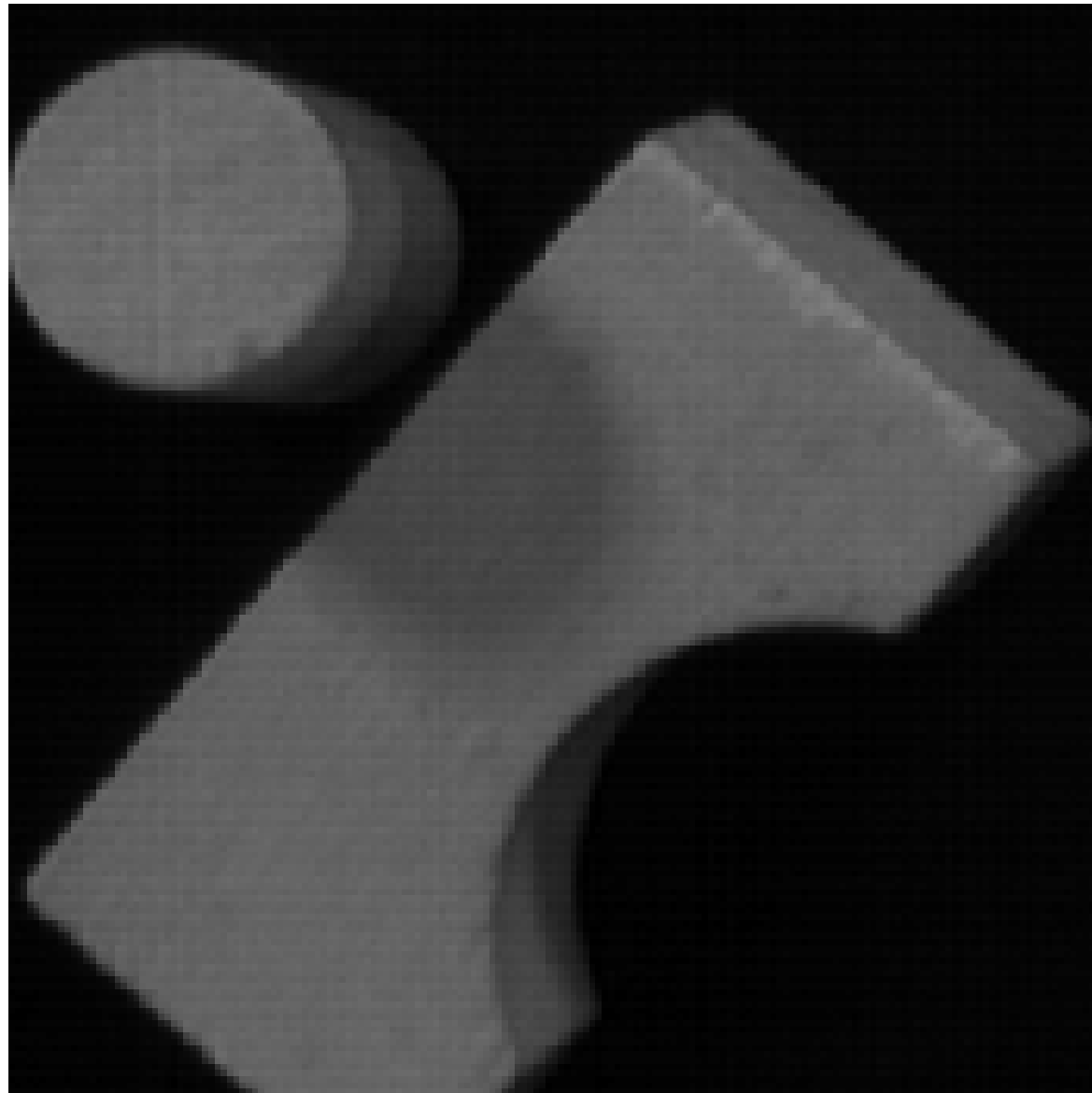
rectangle



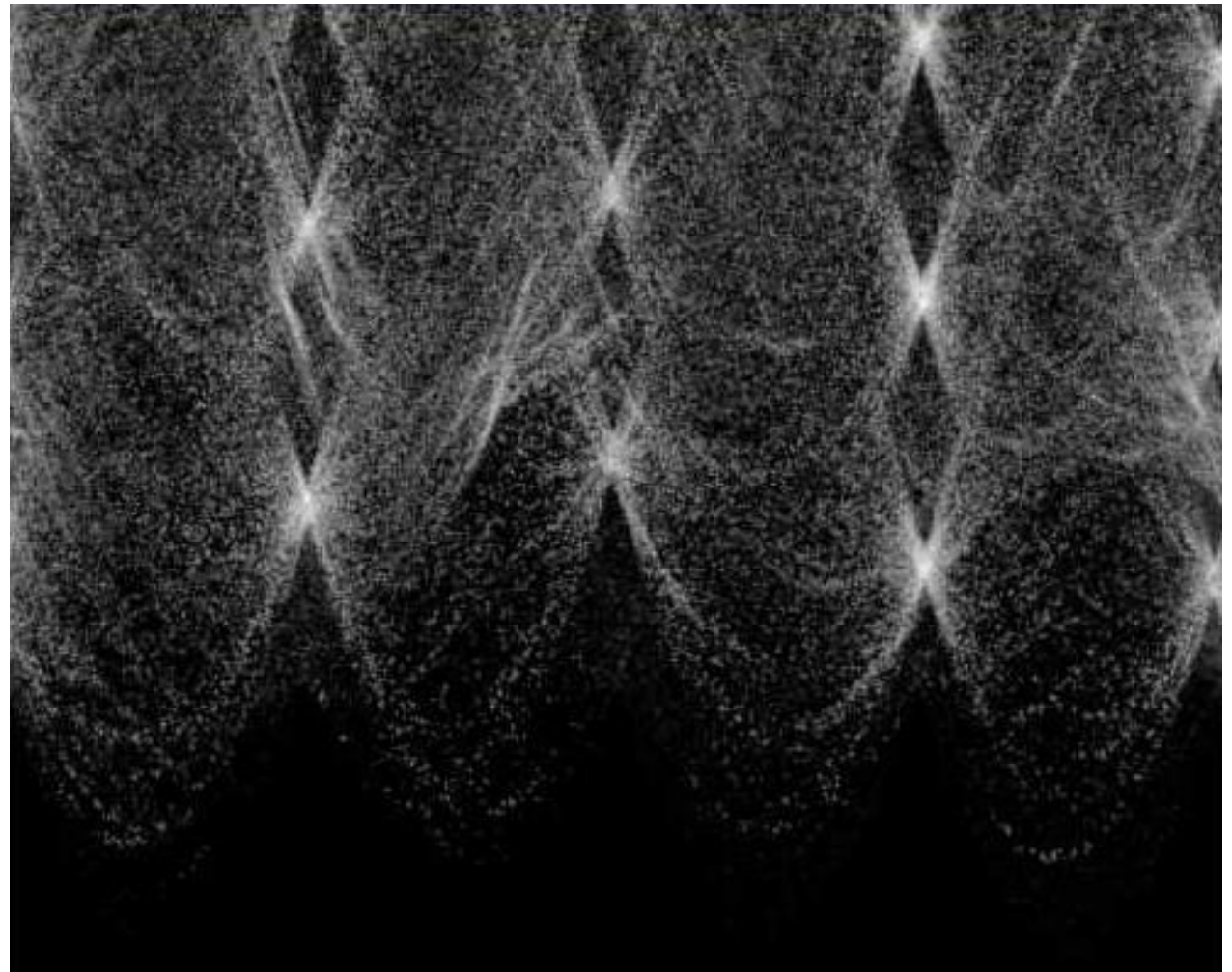
circle



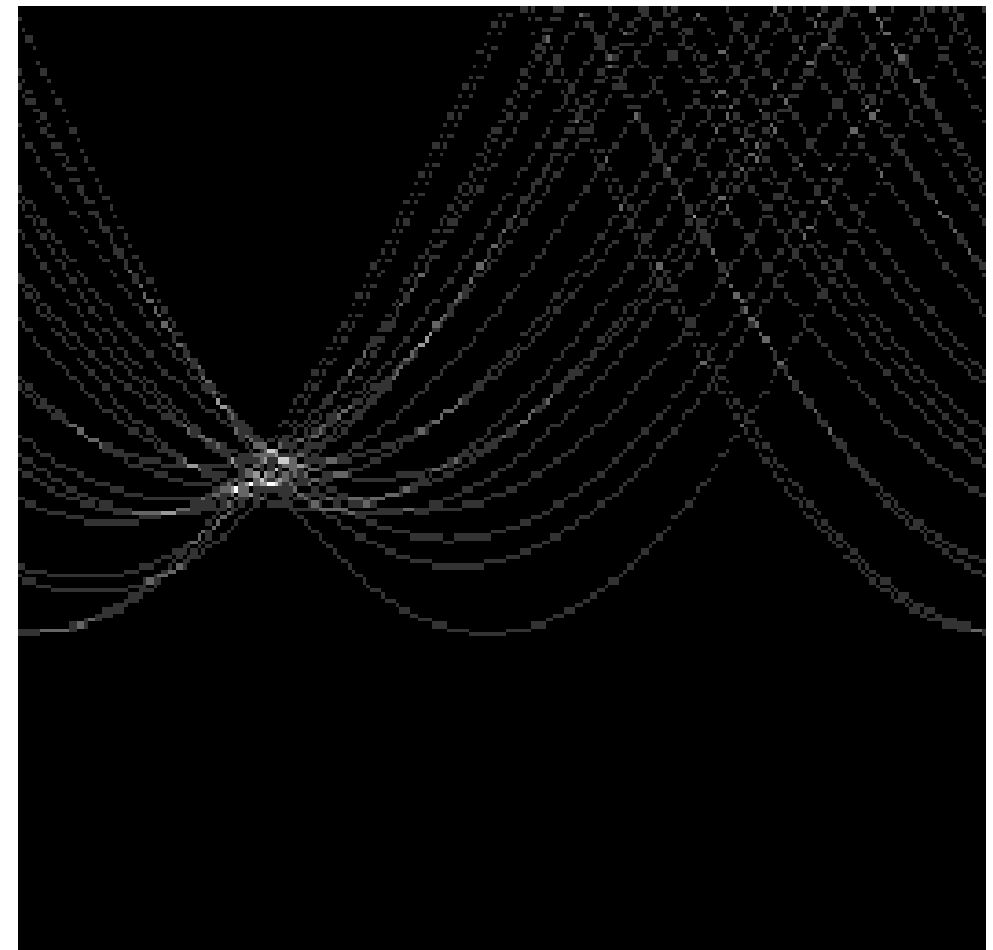
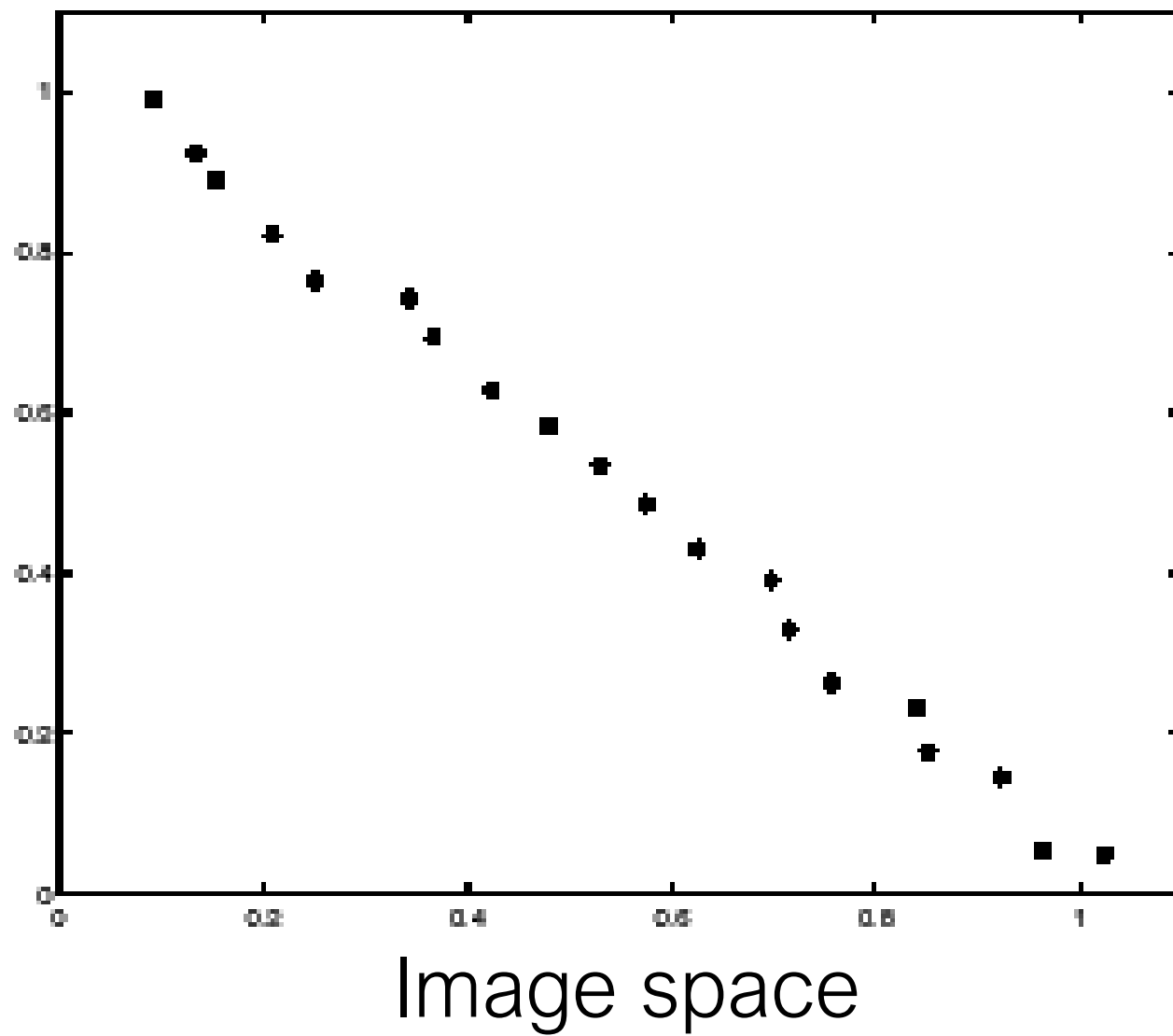
# Basic Shapes



# More complex image



In practice, measurements are noisy...



Votes

Too much noise ...

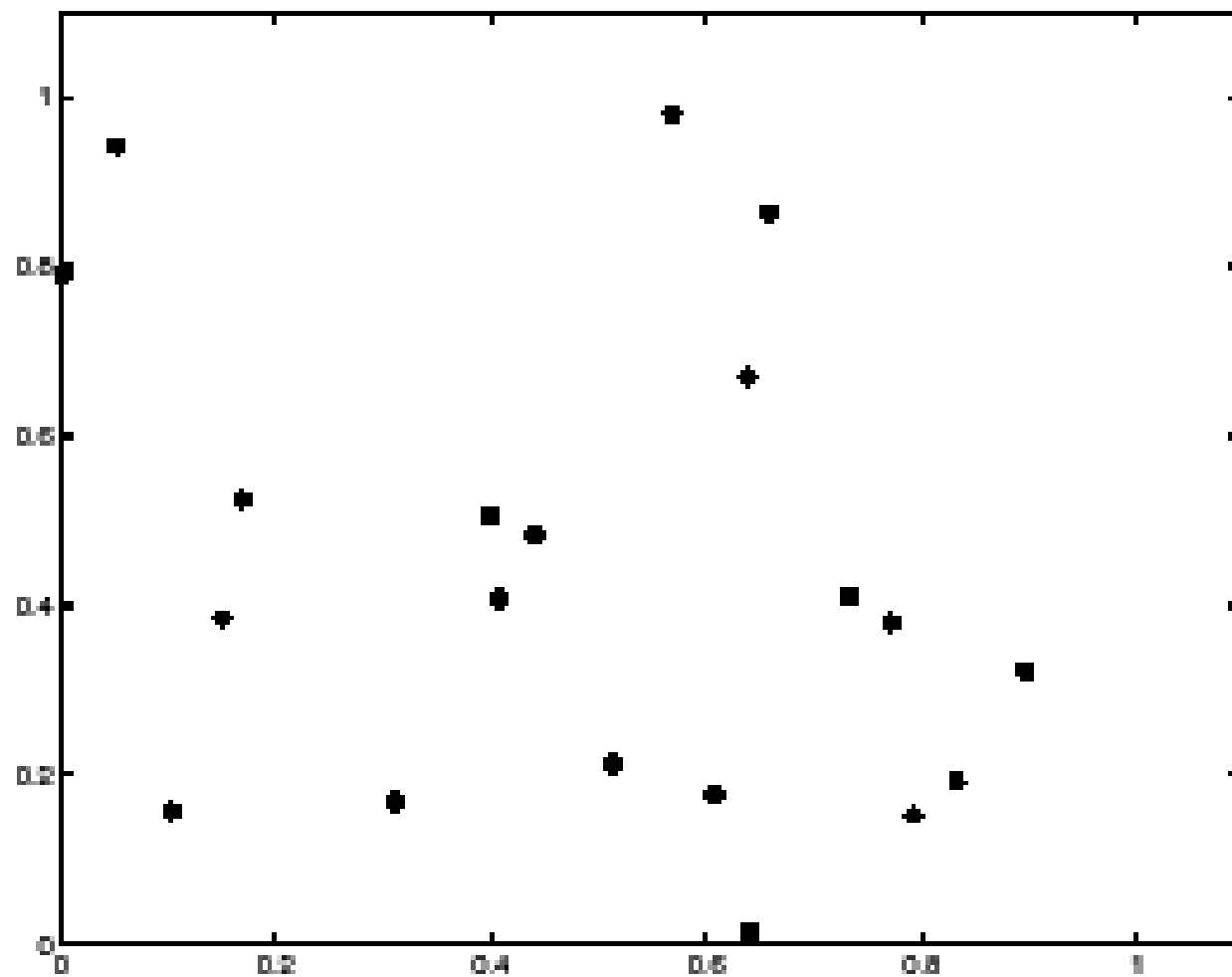
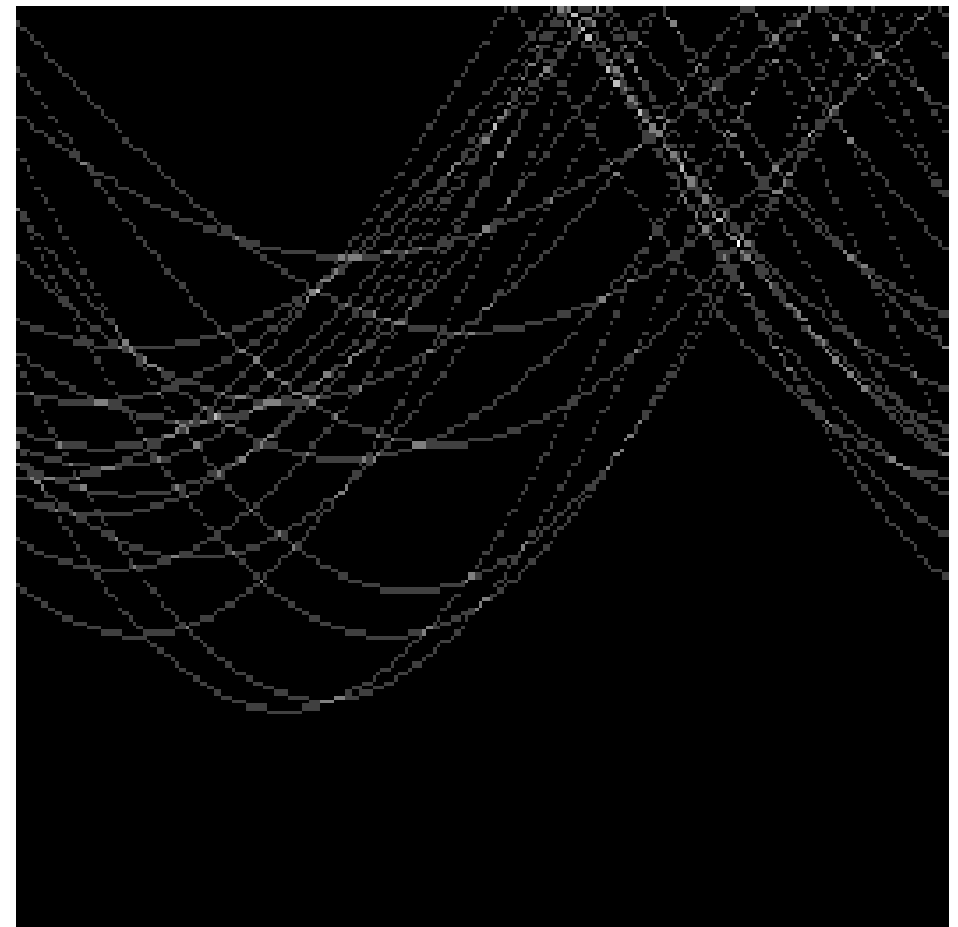


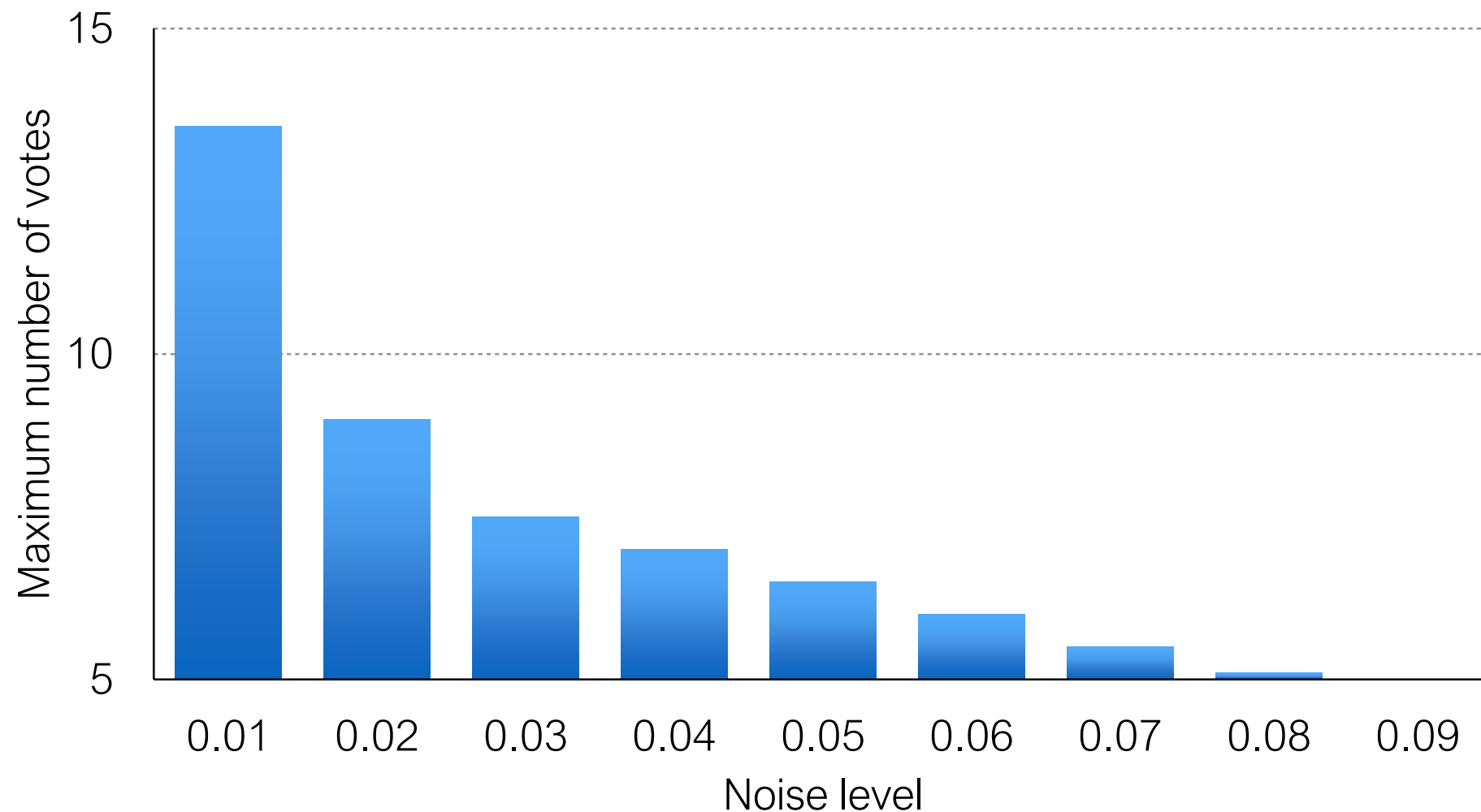
Image space



Votes

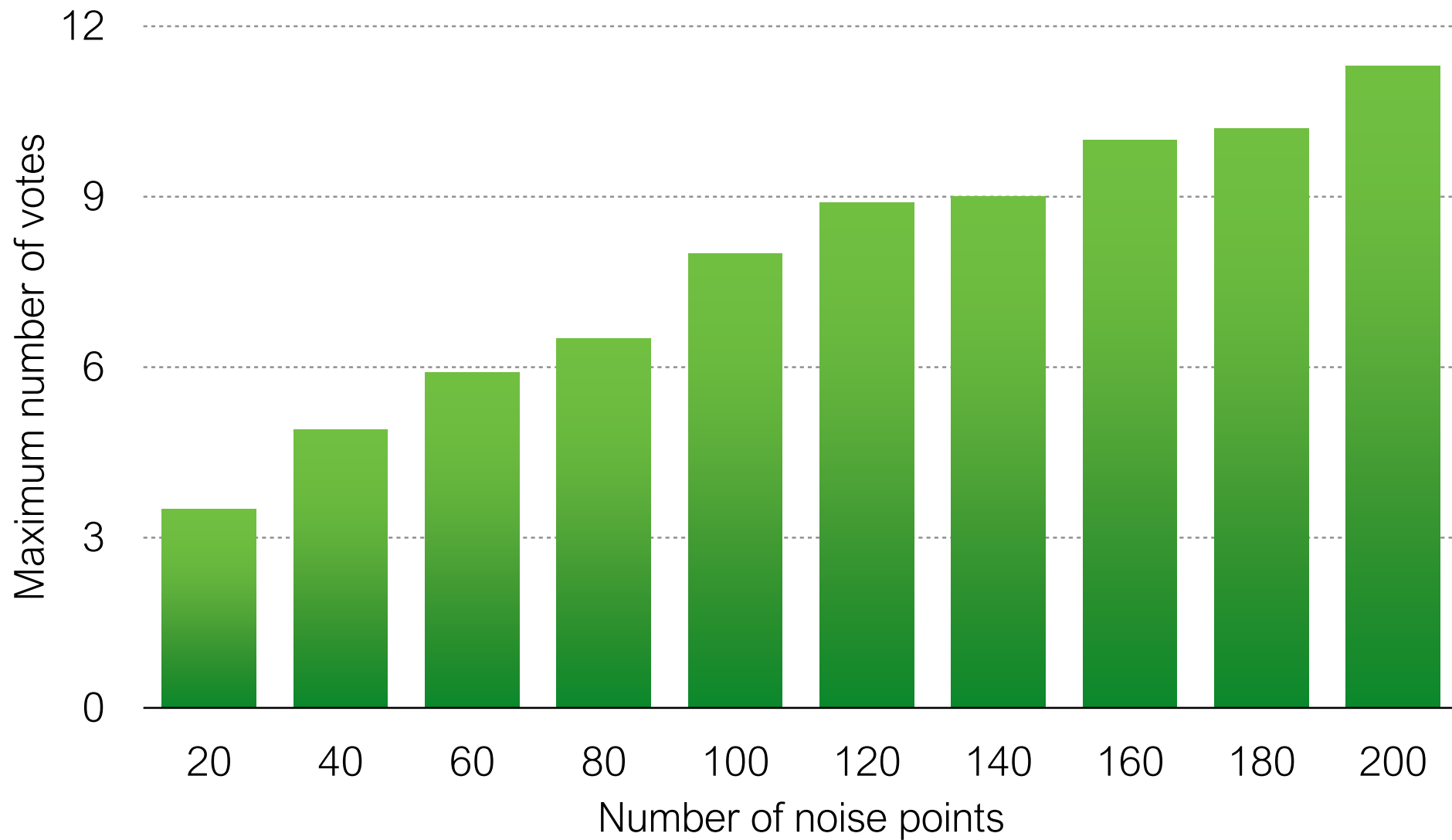
# Effects of noise level

Number of votes for a line of 20 points with increasing noise



More noise, less votes (in the right bin)

# Effect of noise points

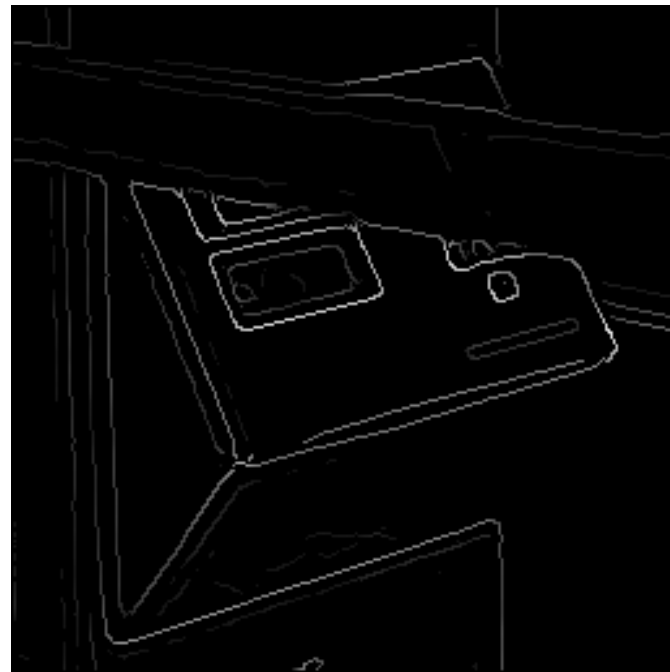


More noise, more votes (in the wrong bin)

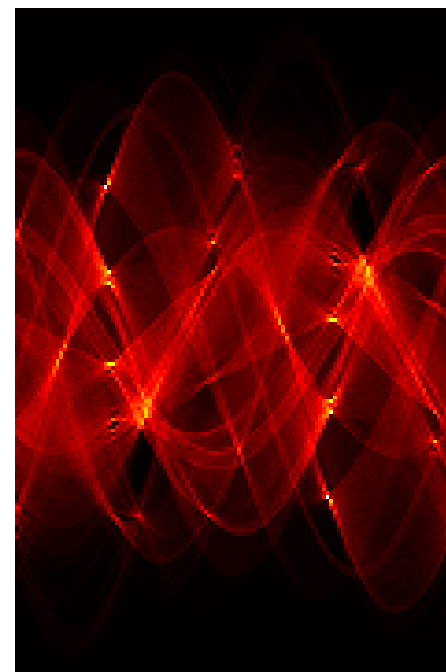
# Real-world example



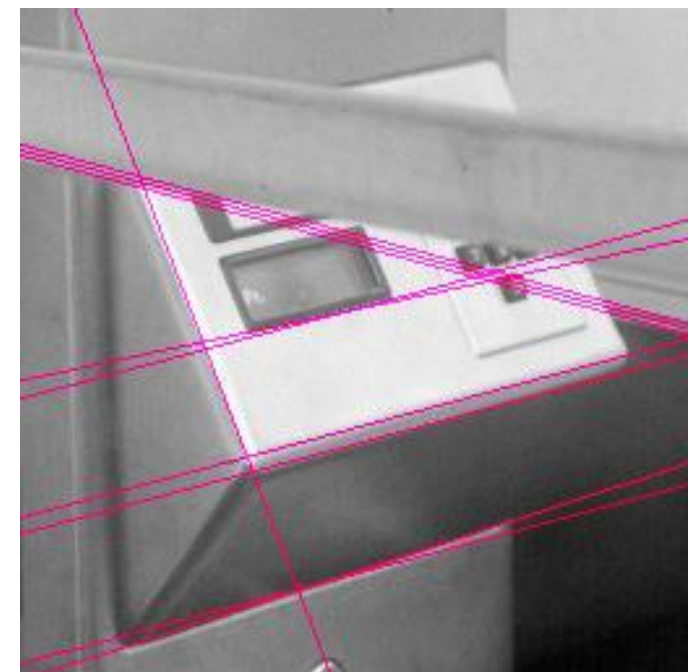
Original



Edges



parameter space



Hough Lines

# Hough Circles

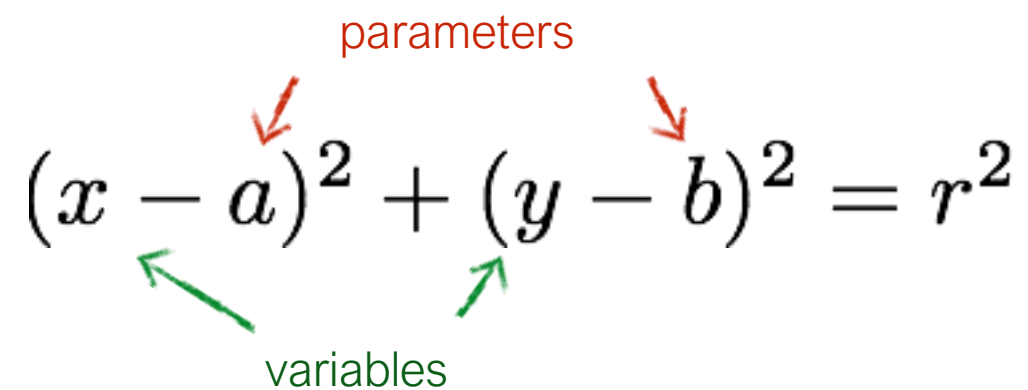


# Let's assume radius known

$$(x - a)^2 + (y - b)^2 = r^2$$

parameters

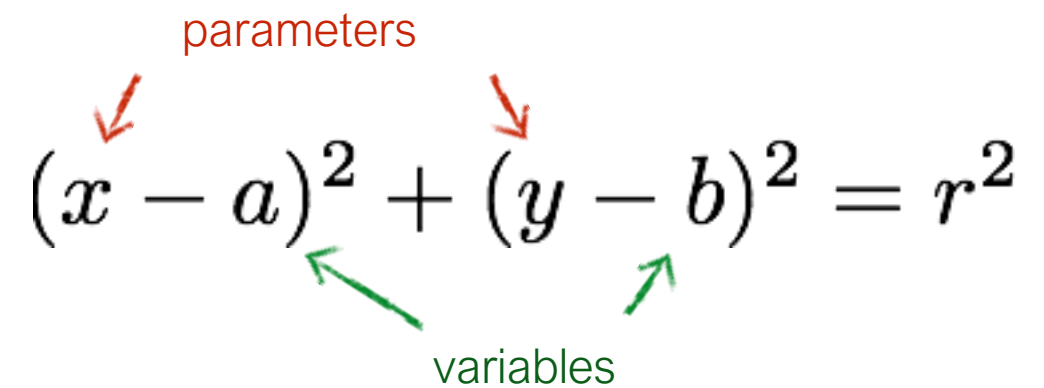
variables

The diagram shows the equation (x - a)^2 + (y - b)^2 = r^2. Two red arrows point from the word 'parameters' to the variables 'a' and 'b'. Two green arrows point from the word 'variables' to the variables 'x' and 'y'.

$$(x - a)^2 + (y - b)^2 = r^2$$

parameters

variables

The diagram shows the equation (x - a)^2 + (y - b)^2 = r^2. Two red arrows point from the word 'parameters' to the variables 'a' and 'b'. Two green arrows point from the word 'variables' to the variables 'x' and 'y'.

*What is the dimension of the parameter space?*

$$(x - a)^2 + (y - b)^2 = r^2$$

parameters

variables

$$(x - a)^2 + (y - b)^2 = r^2$$

parameters

variables

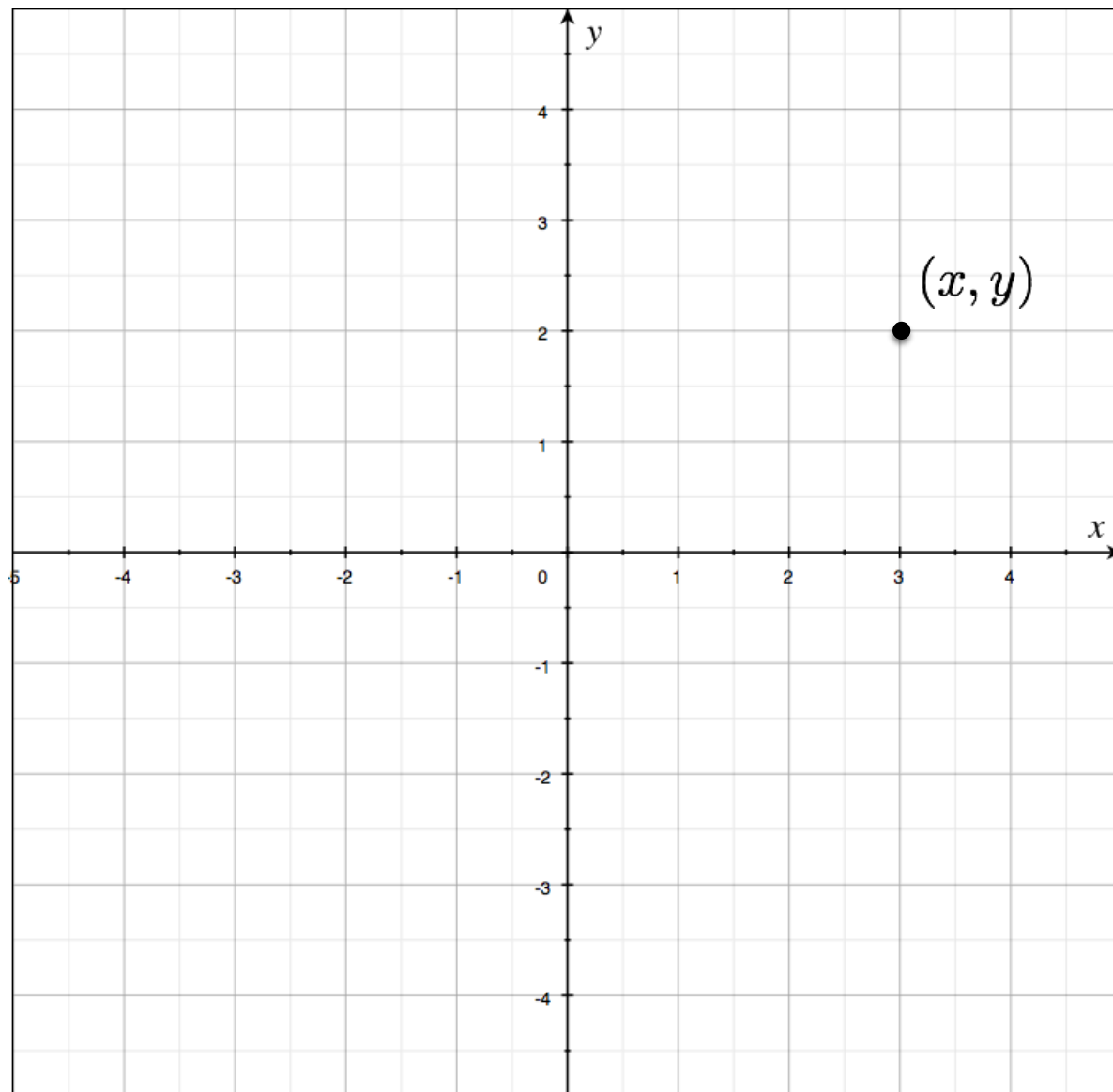
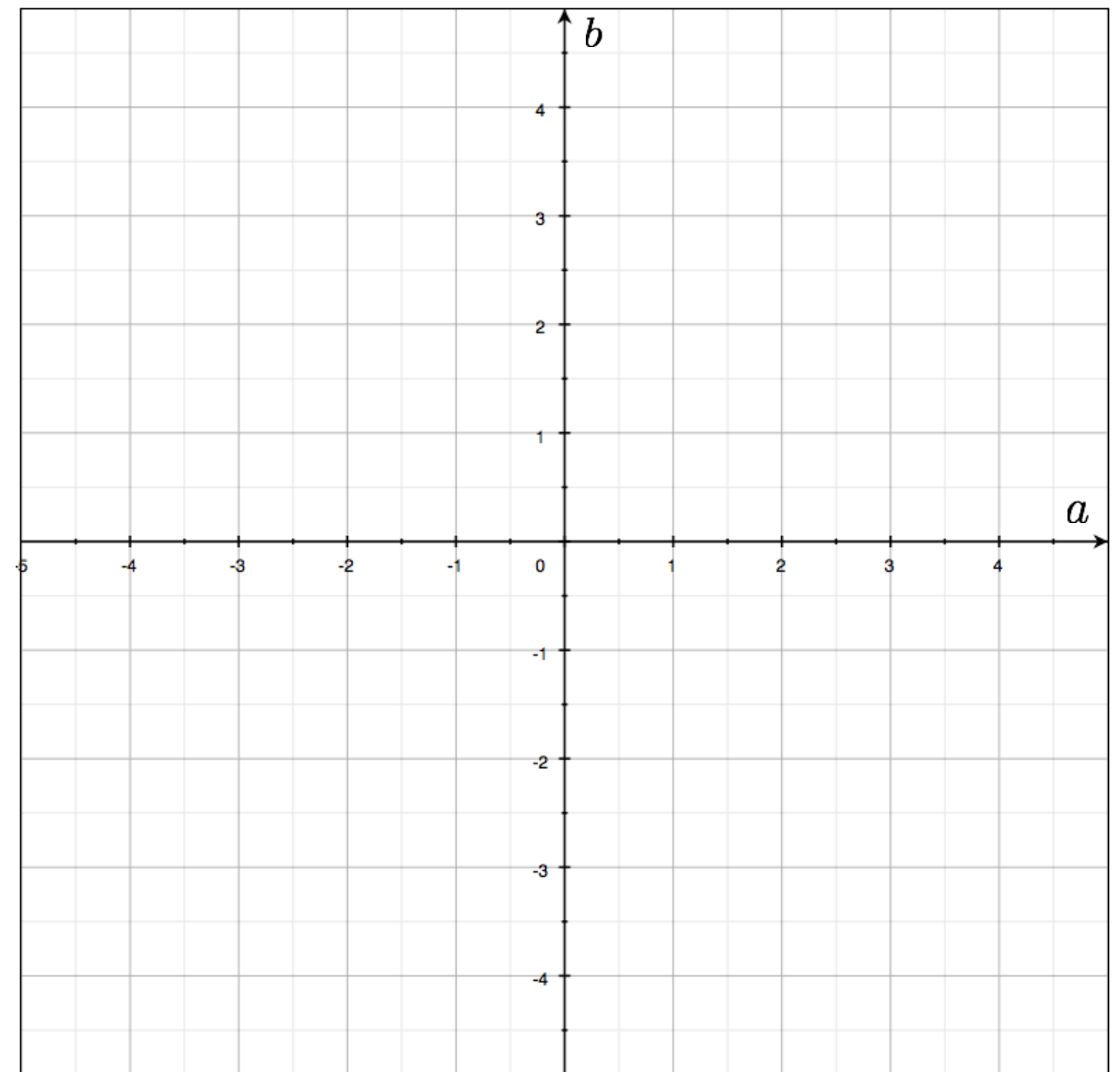


Image space



Parameter space

*What does a point in image space correspond to in parameter space?*

parameters

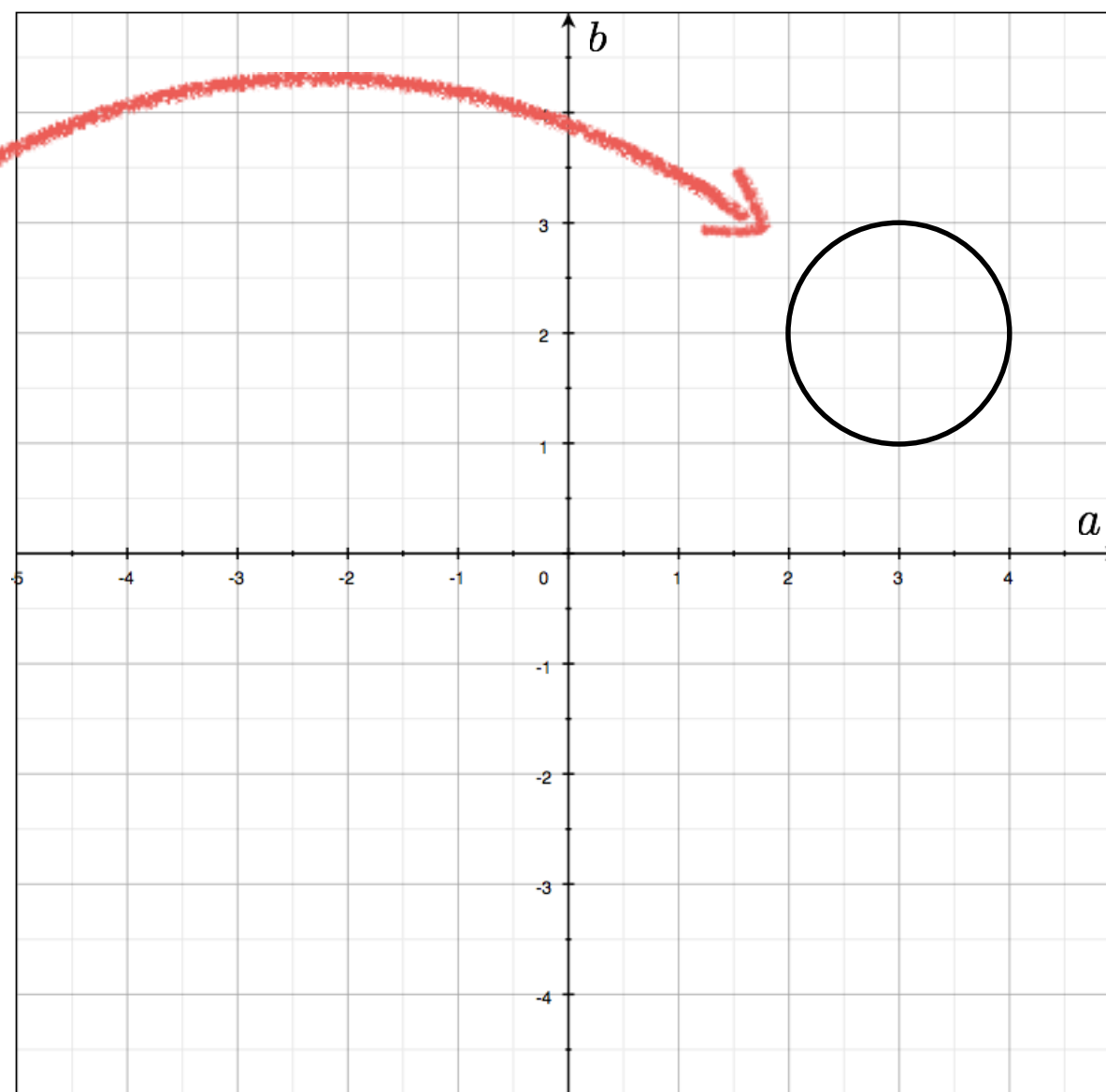
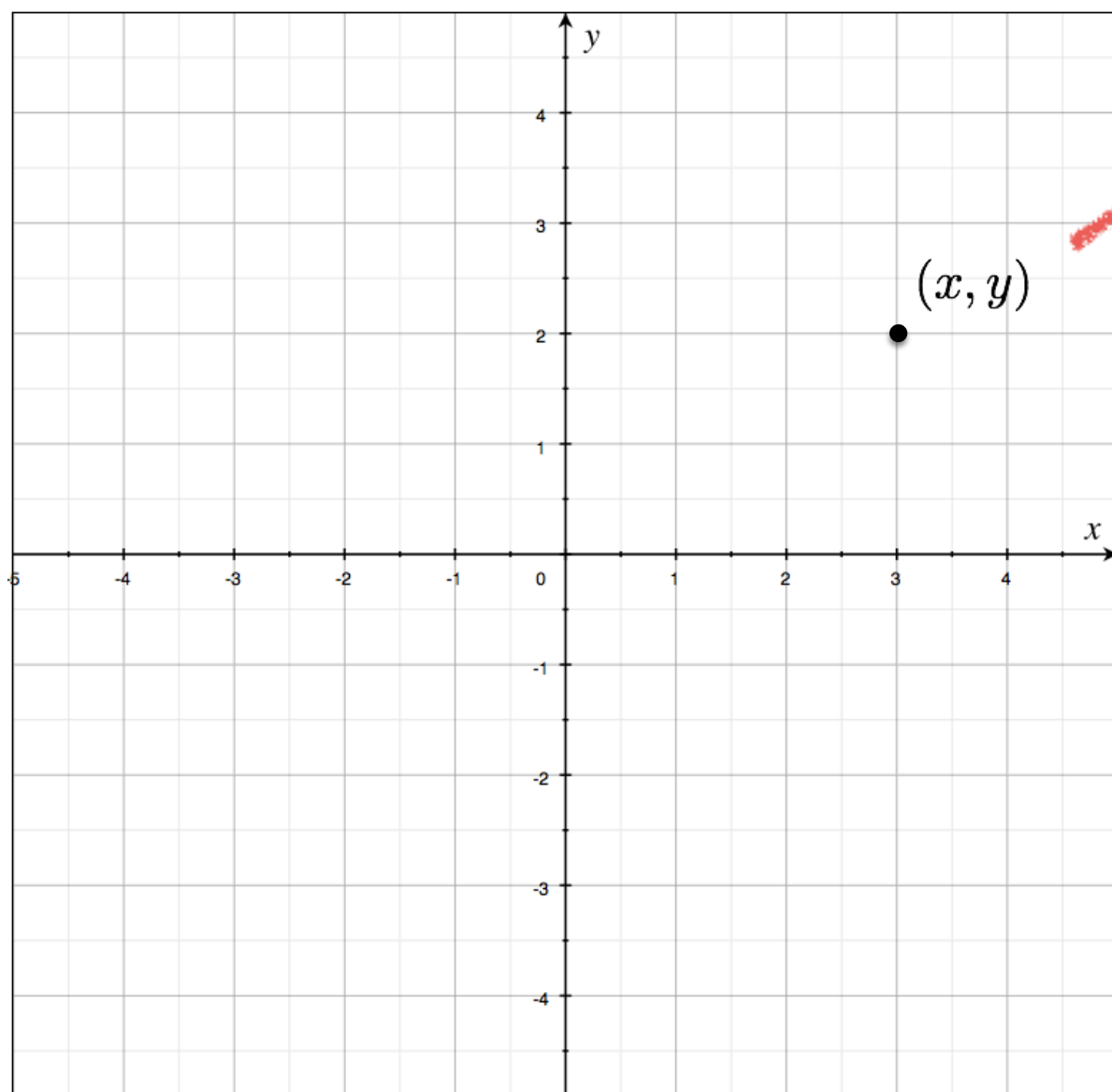
$$(x - a)^2 + (y - b)^2 = r^2$$

variables

parameters

$$(x - a)^2 + (y - b)^2 = r^2$$

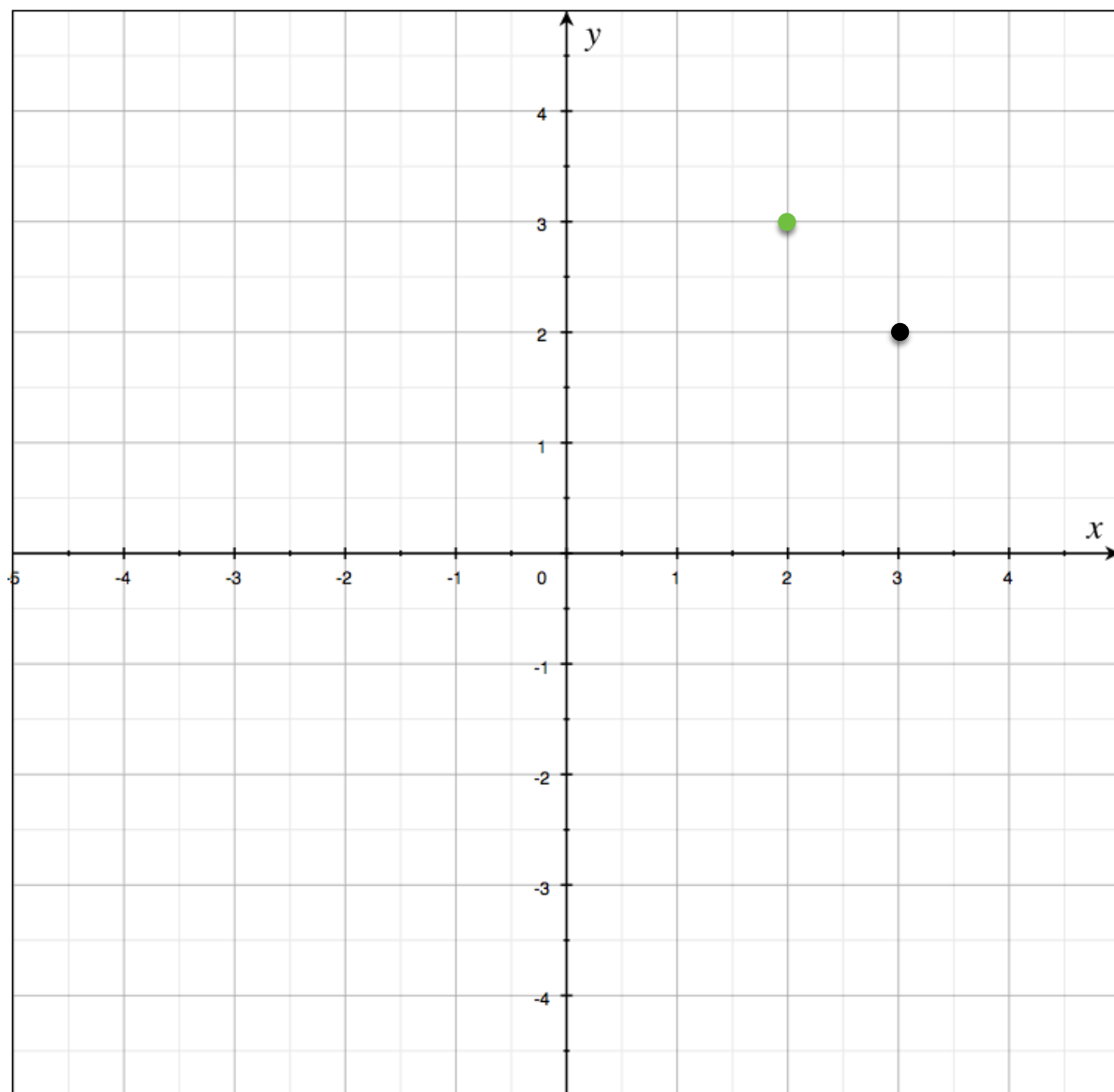
variables



parameters

$$(x - a)^2 + (y - b)^2 = r^2$$

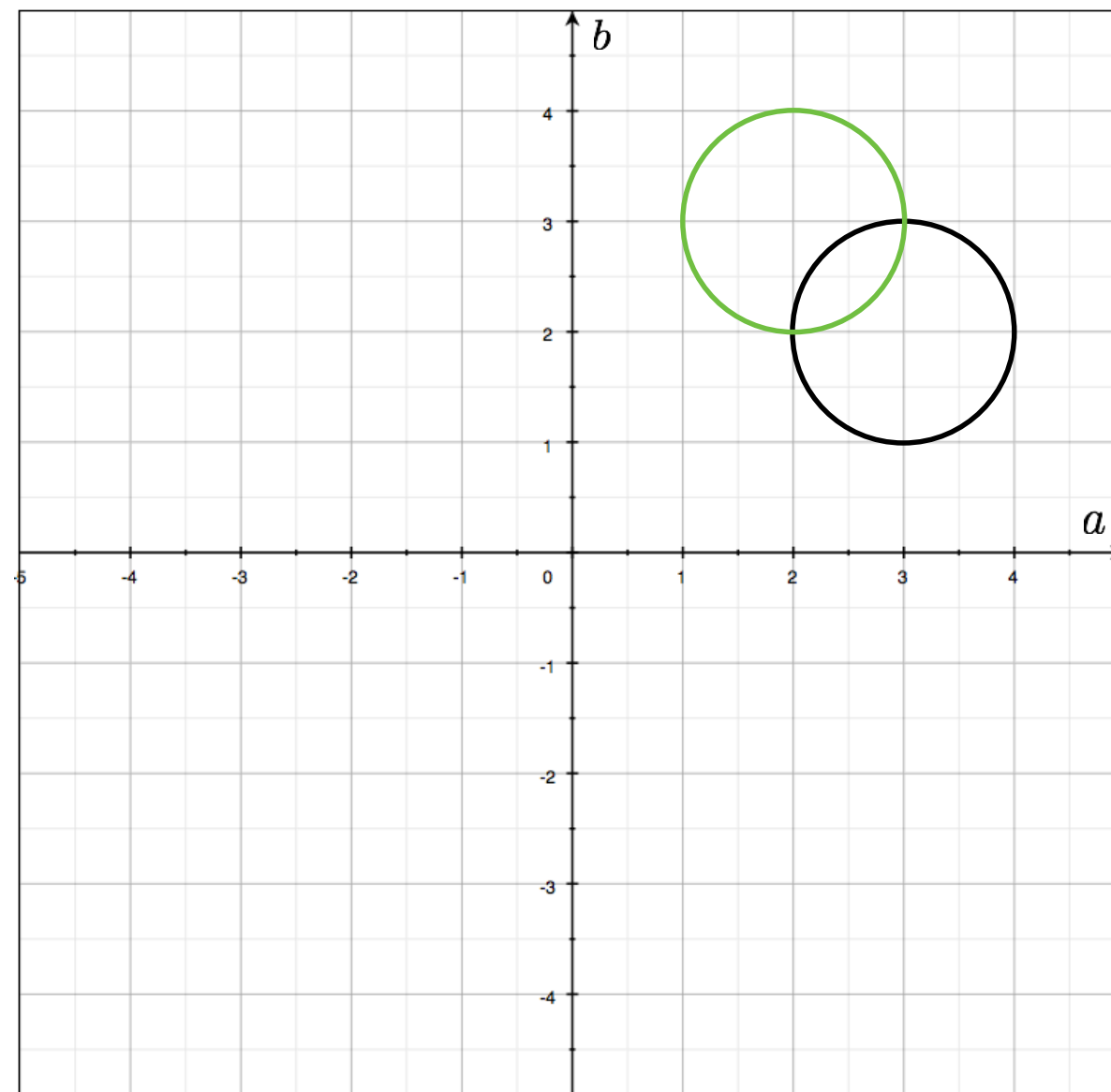
variables



parameters

$$(x - a)^2 + (y - b)^2 = r^2$$

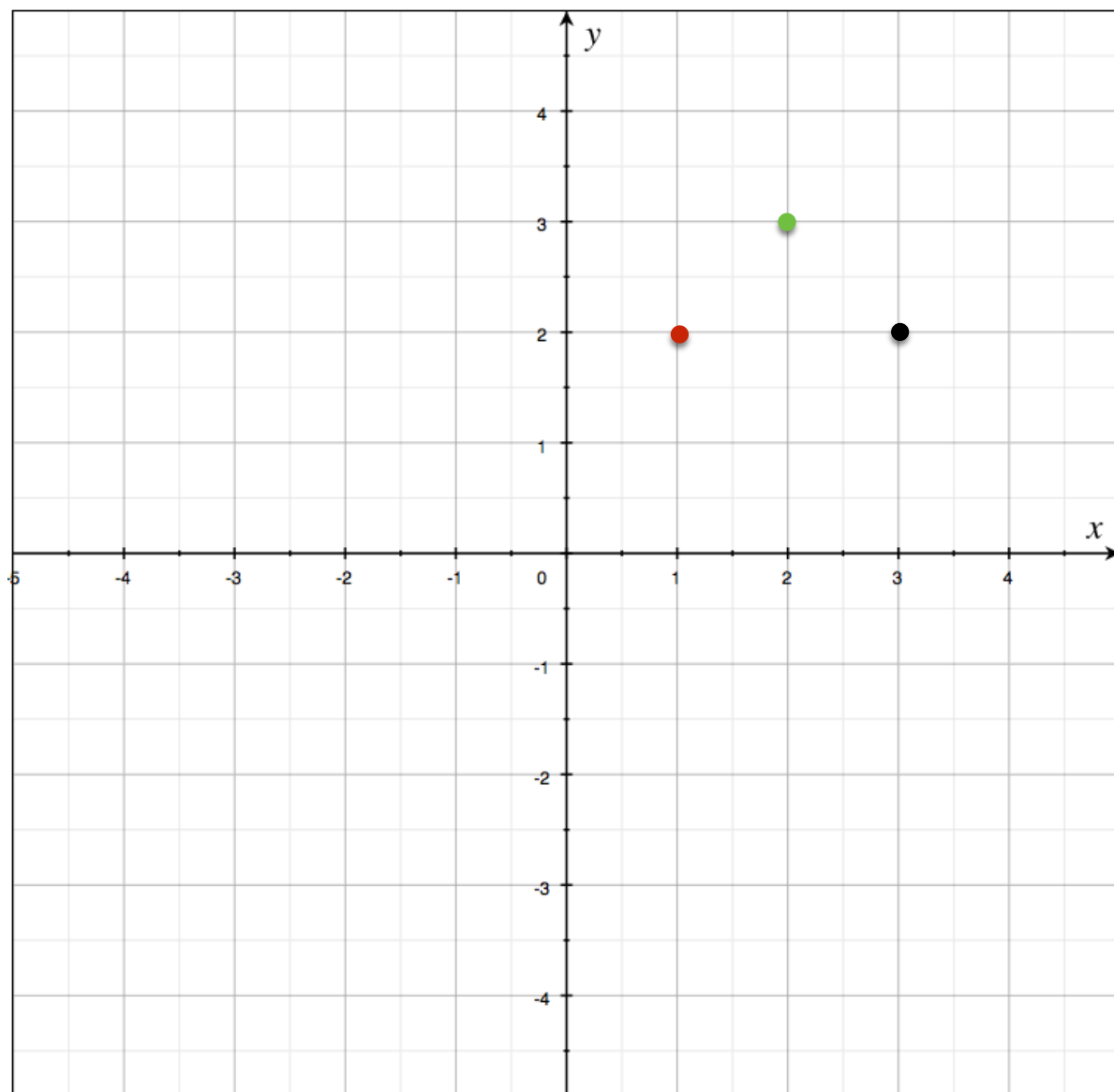
variables



parameters

$$(x - a)^2 + (y - b)^2 = r^2$$

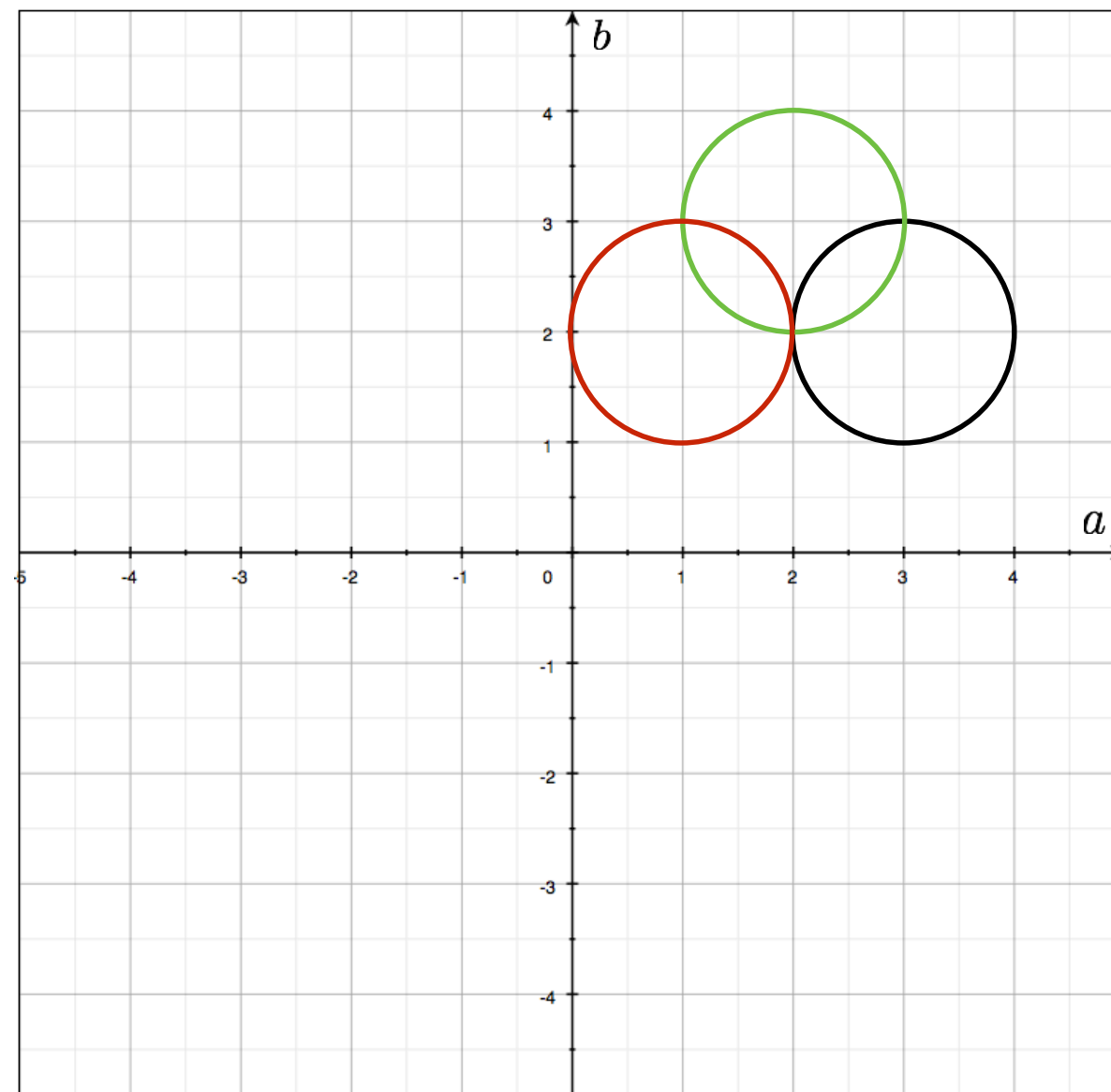
variables



parameters

$$(x - a)^2 + (y - b)^2 = r^2$$

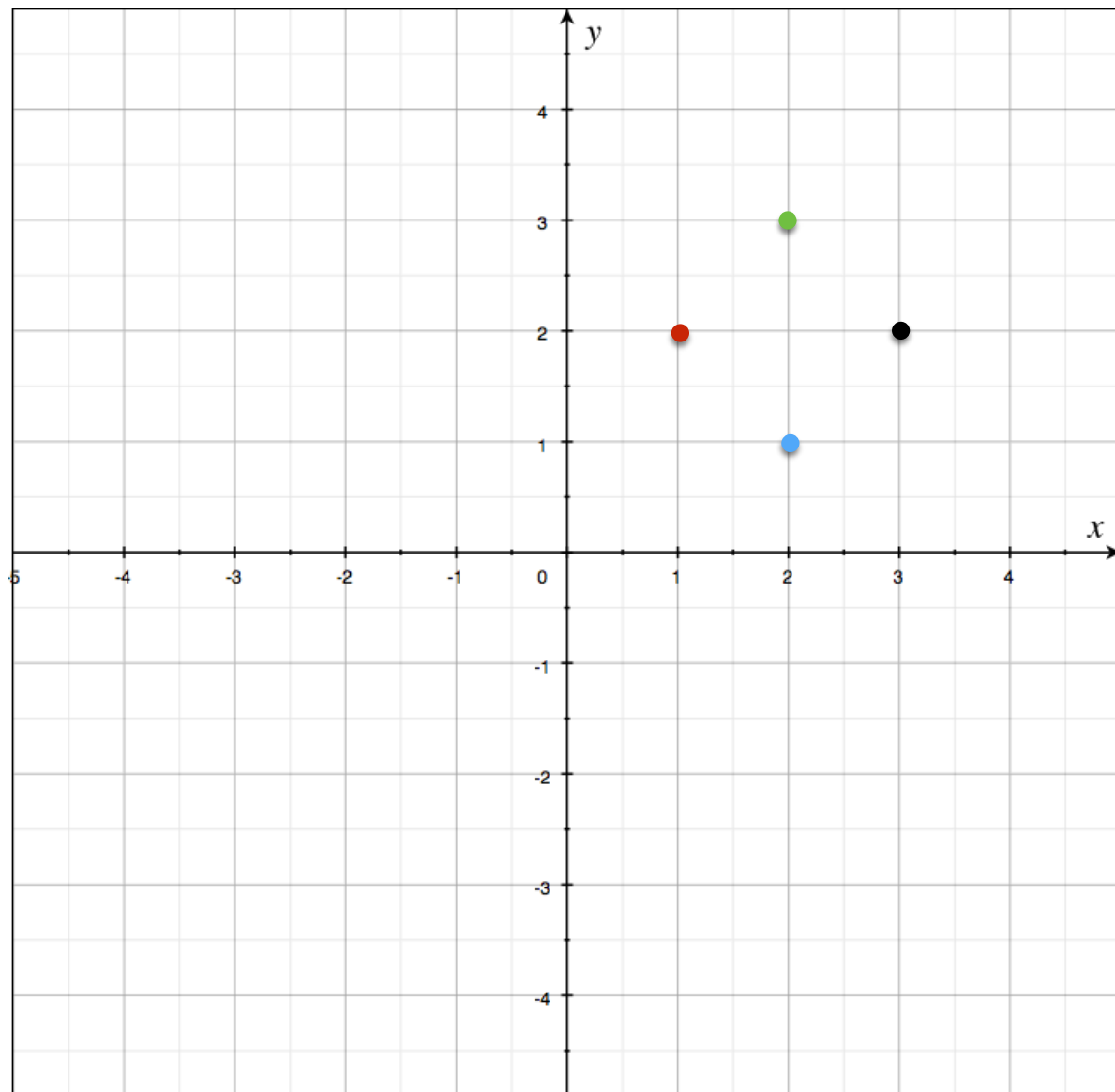
variables



parameters

$$(x - a)^2 + (y - b)^2 = r^2$$

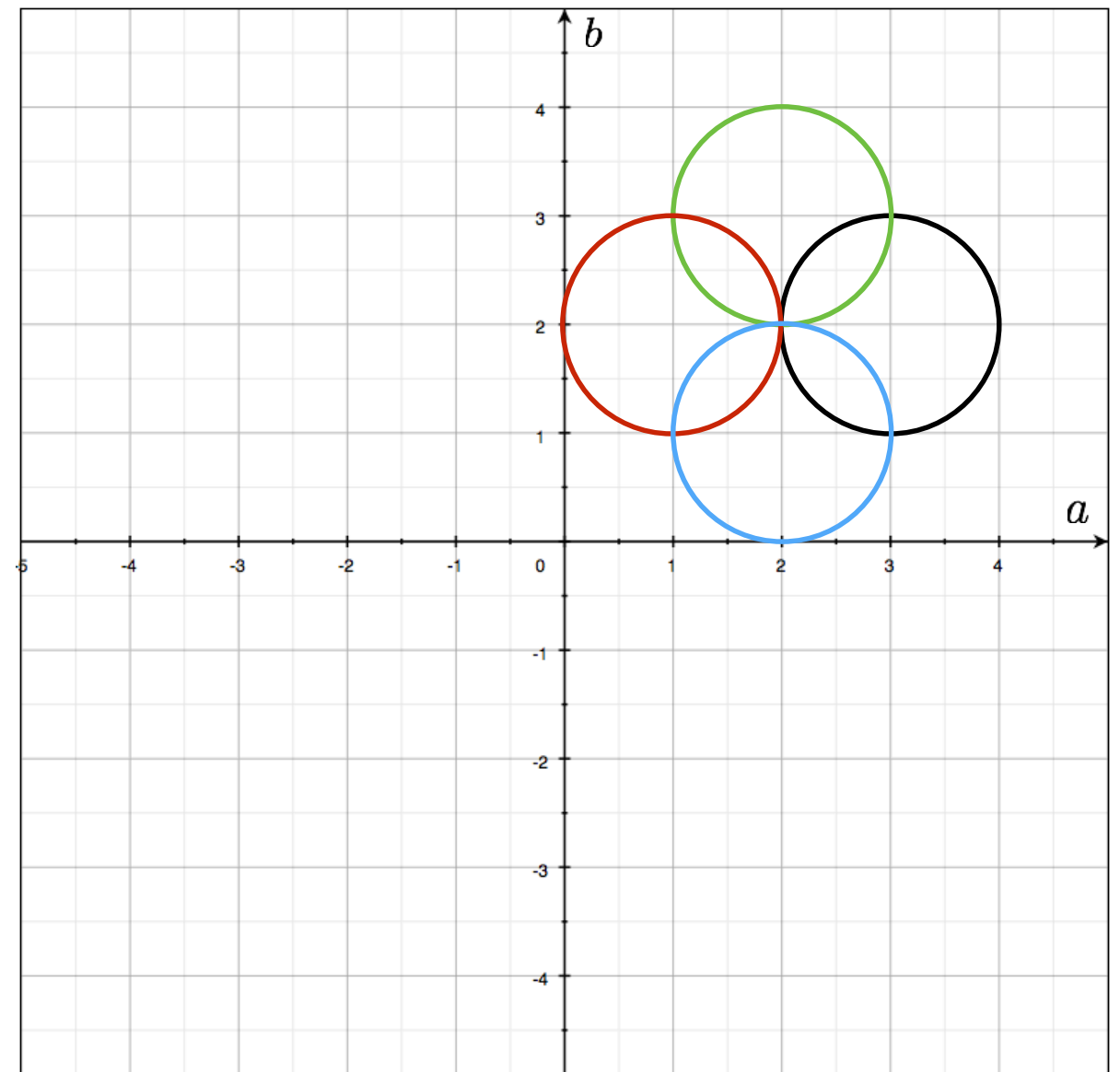
variables



parameters

$$(x - a)^2 + (y - b)^2 = r^2$$

variables

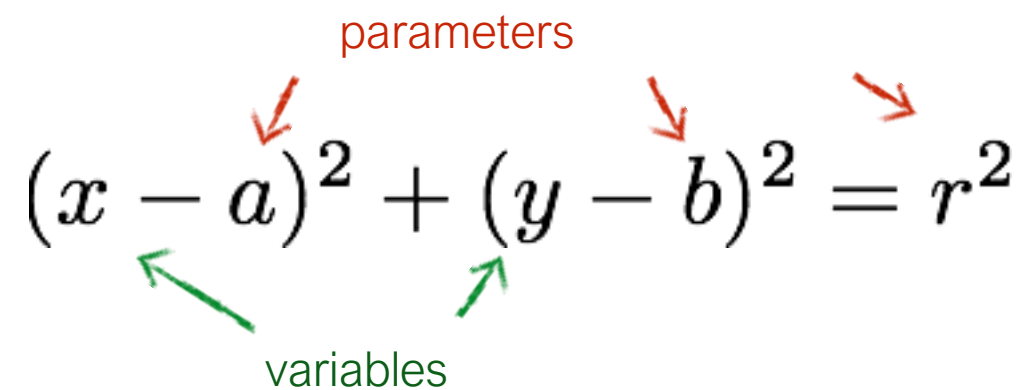


# What if radius is unknown?

$$(x - a)^2 + (y - b)^2 = r^2$$

parameters

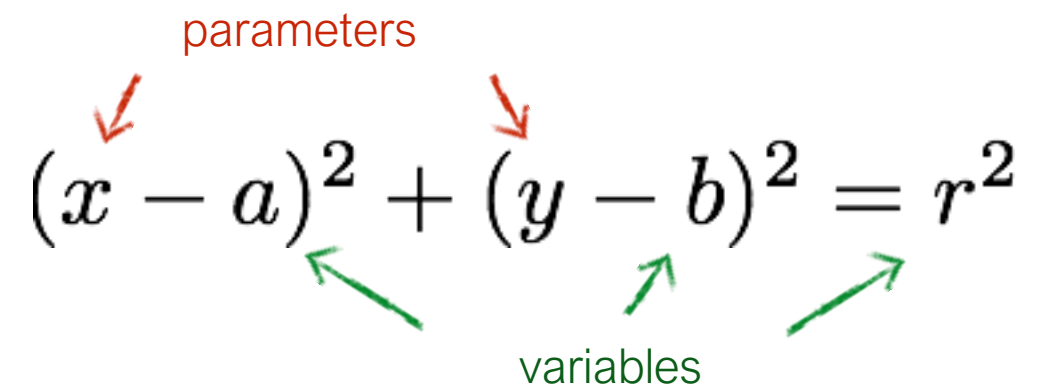
variables

A diagram of the circle equation  $(x - a)^2 + (y - b)^2 = r^2$ . Red arrows point from the word "parameters" to the constants  $a$ ,  $b$ , and  $r$ . Green arrows point from the word "variables" to the variables  $x$  and  $y$ .

$$(x - a)^2 + (y - b)^2 = r^2$$

parameters

variables

A diagram of the circle equation  $(x - a)^2 + (y - b)^2 = r^2$ . Red arrows point from the word "parameters" to the constants  $a$ ,  $b$ , and  $r$ . Green arrows point from the word "variables" to the variables  $x$ ,  $y$ , and  $r$ .

# What if radius is unknown?

$$(x - a)^2 + (y - b)^2 = r^2$$

Diagram illustrating the equation  $(x - a)^2 + (y - b)^2 = r^2$  with annotations:

- Red arrows pointing to  $a$  and  $b$  are labeled "parameters".
- Green arrows pointing to  $x$  and  $y$  are labeled "variables".

$$(x - a)^2 + (y - b)^2 = r^2$$

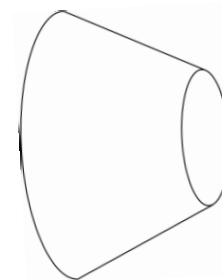
Diagram illustrating the equation  $(x - a)^2 + (y - b)^2 = r^2$  with annotations:

- Red arrows pointing to  $a$  and  $b$  are labeled "parameters".
- Green arrows pointing to  $x$ ,  $y$ , and  $r$  are labeled "variables".

If radius is not known: 3D Hough Space!

Use Accumulator array  $A(a, b, r)$

Surface shape in Hough space is complicated



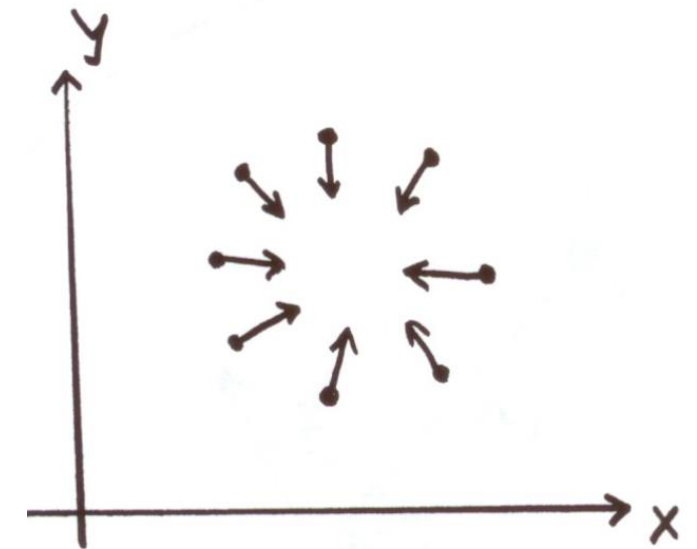


# Using Gradient Information

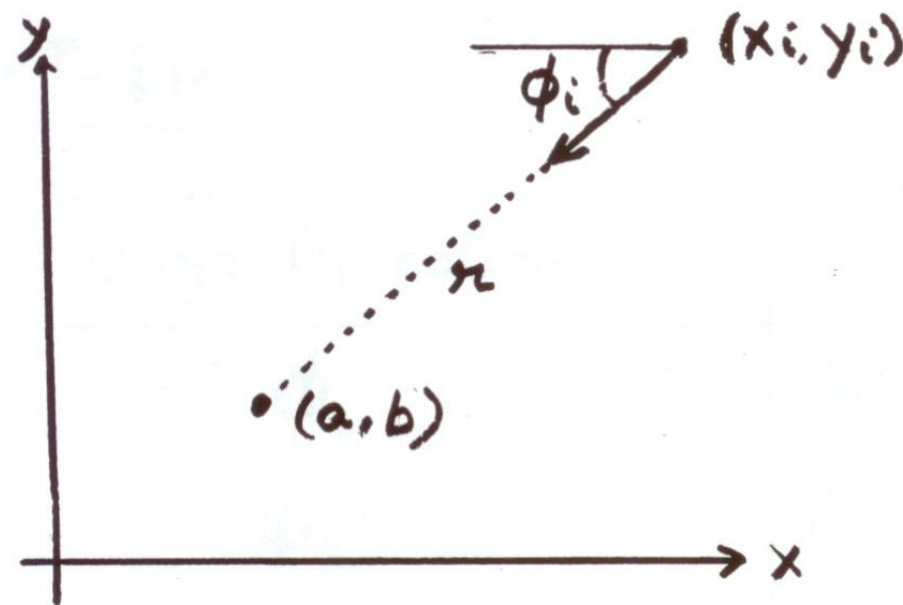
Gradient information can save lot of computation:

Edge Location  $(x_i, y_i)$

Edge Direction  $\phi_i$



Assume radius is known:



$$a = x - r \cos \phi$$

$$b = y - r \sin \phi$$

*Need to increment only one point in accumulator!*

parameters

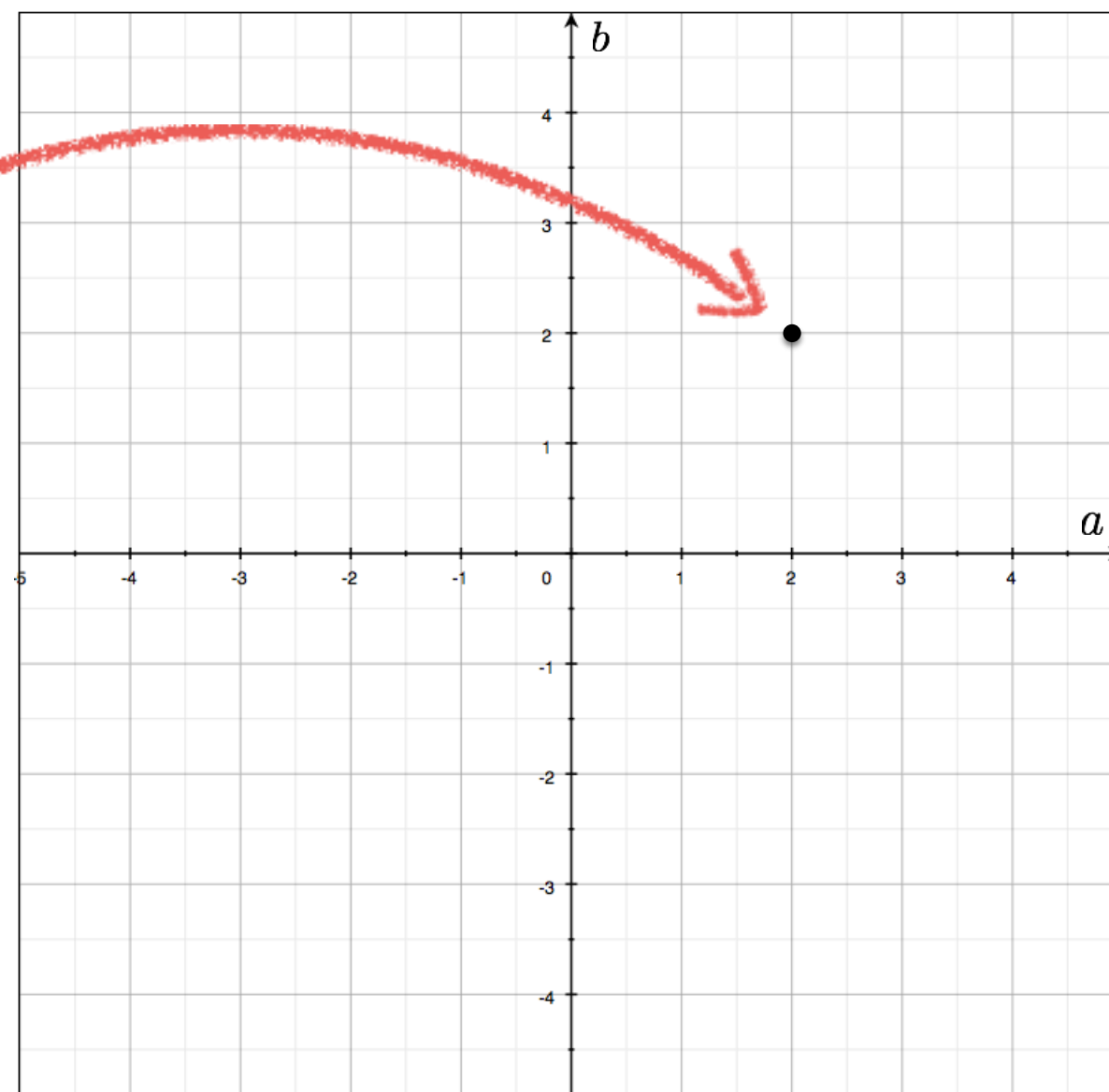
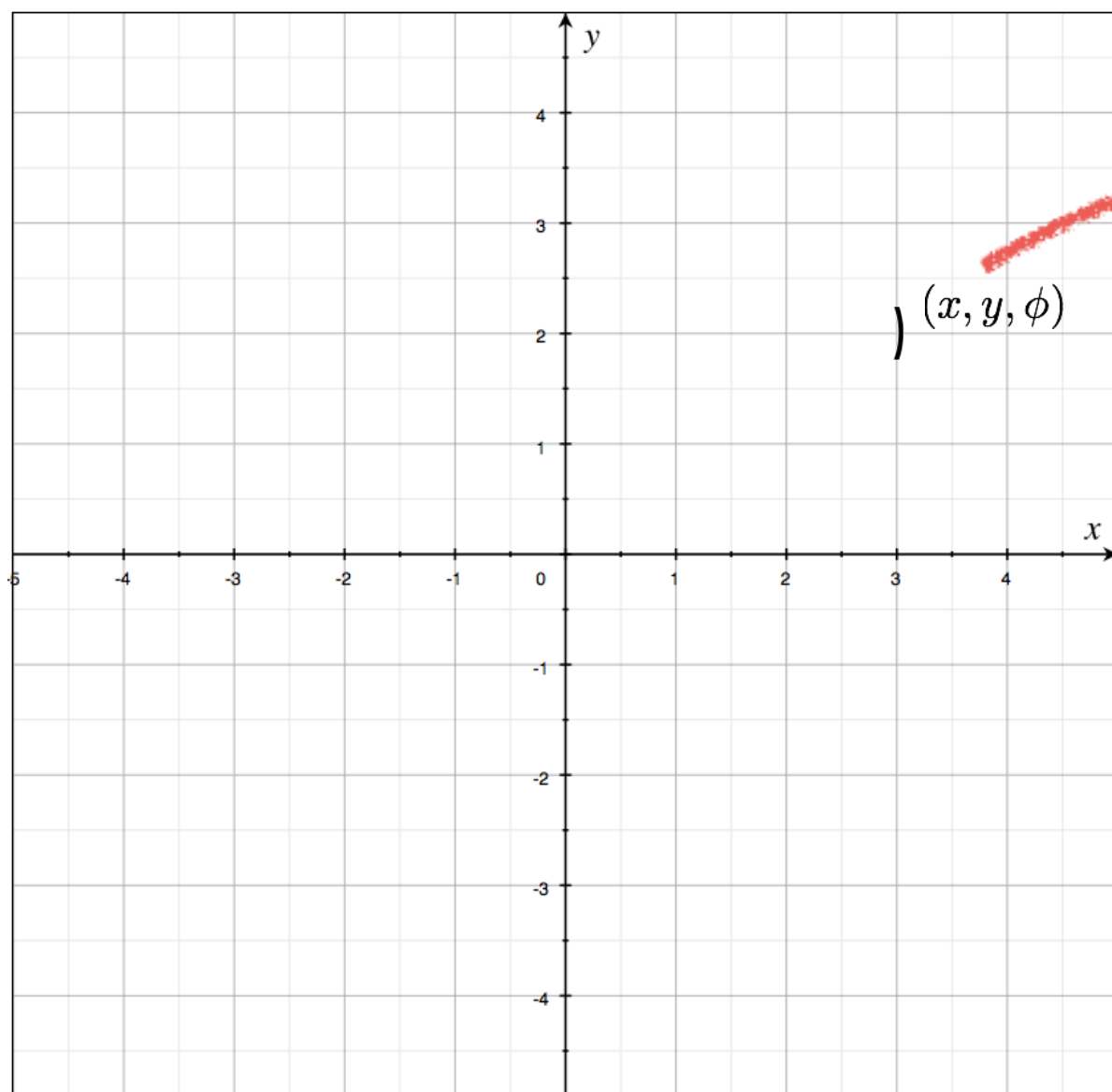
$$(x - a)^2 + (y - b)^2 = r^2$$

variables

parameters

$$(x - a)^2 + (y - b)^2 = r^2$$

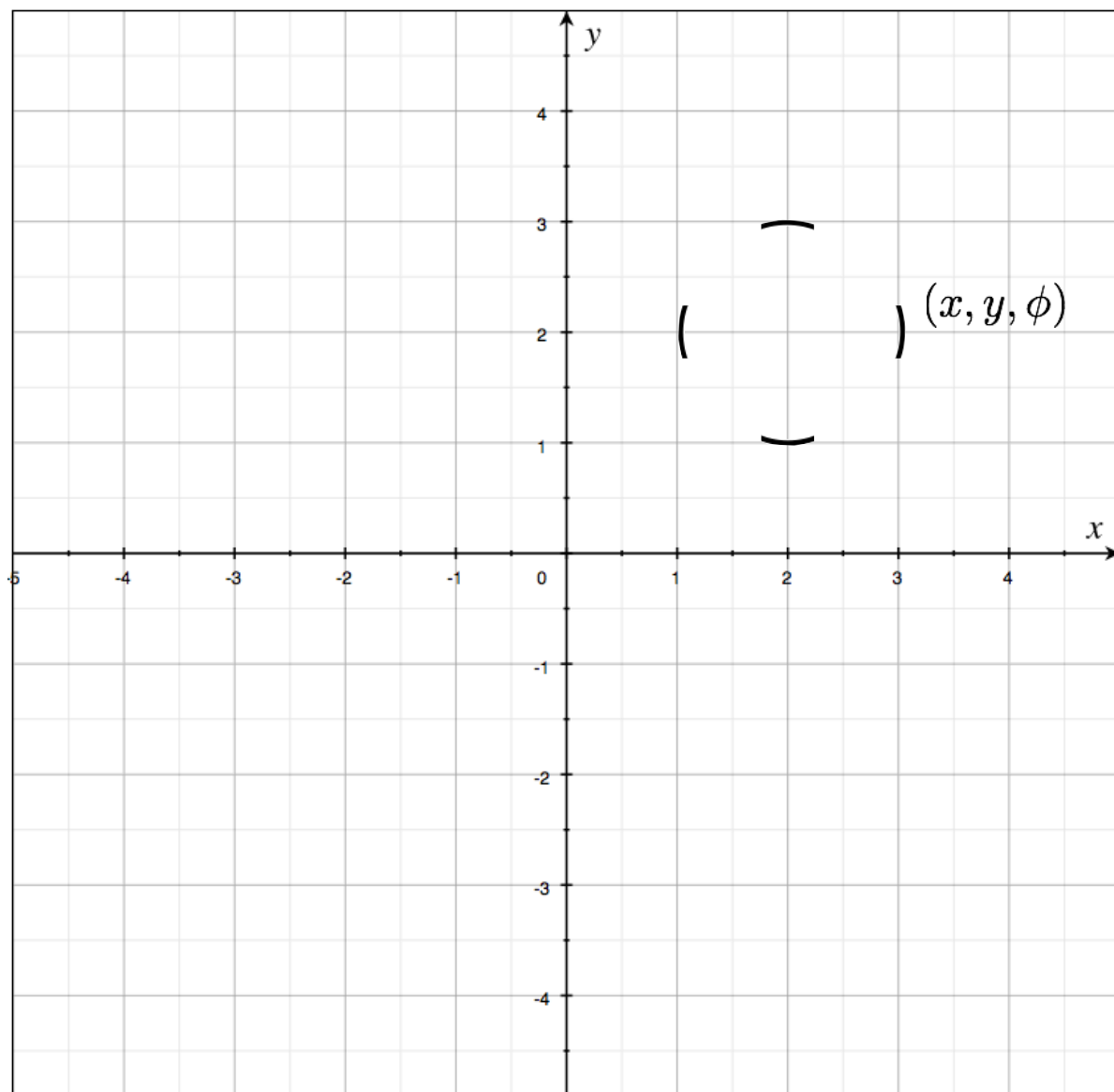
variables



parameters

$$(x - a)^2 + (y - b)^2 = r^2$$

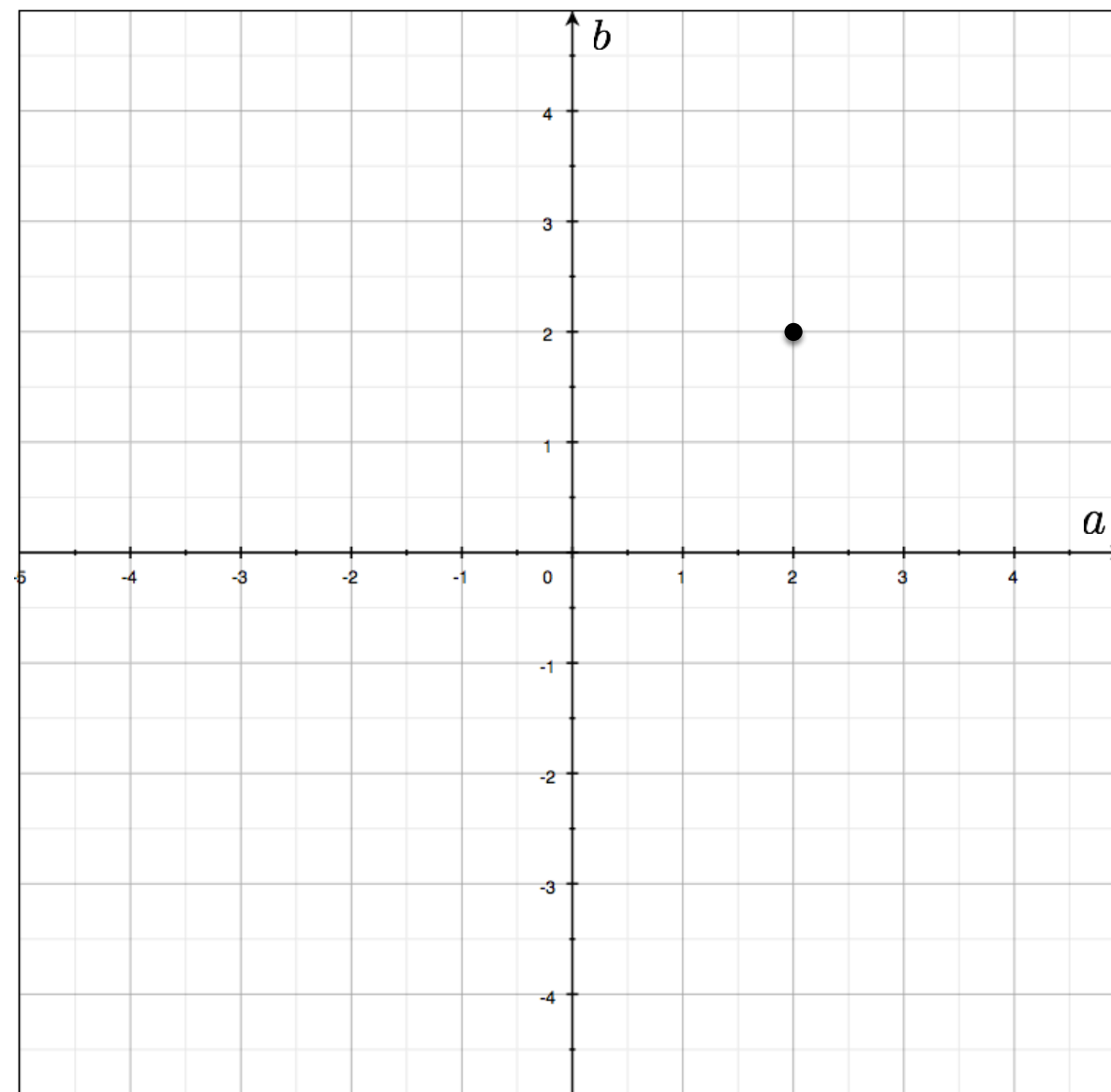
variables

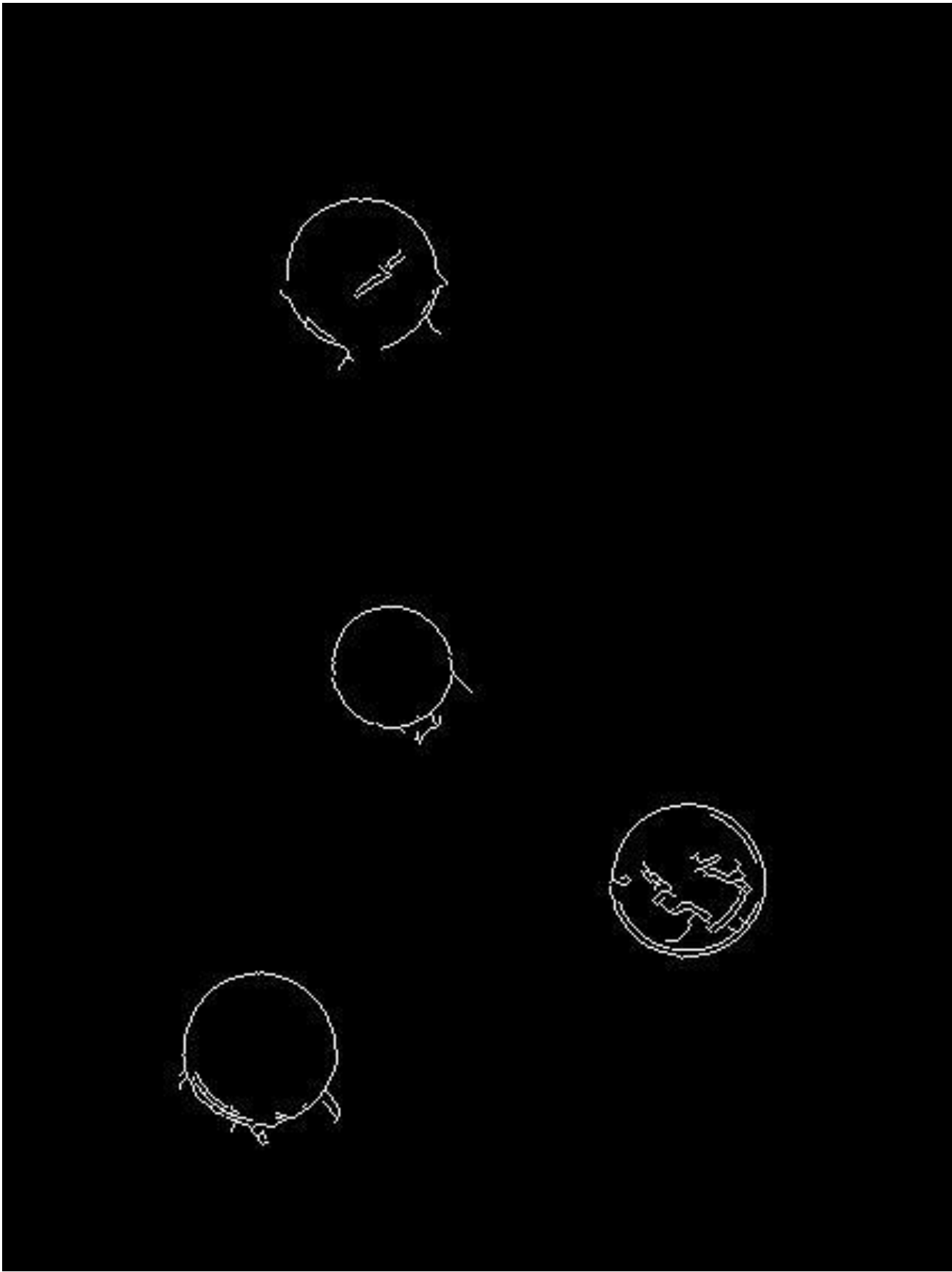
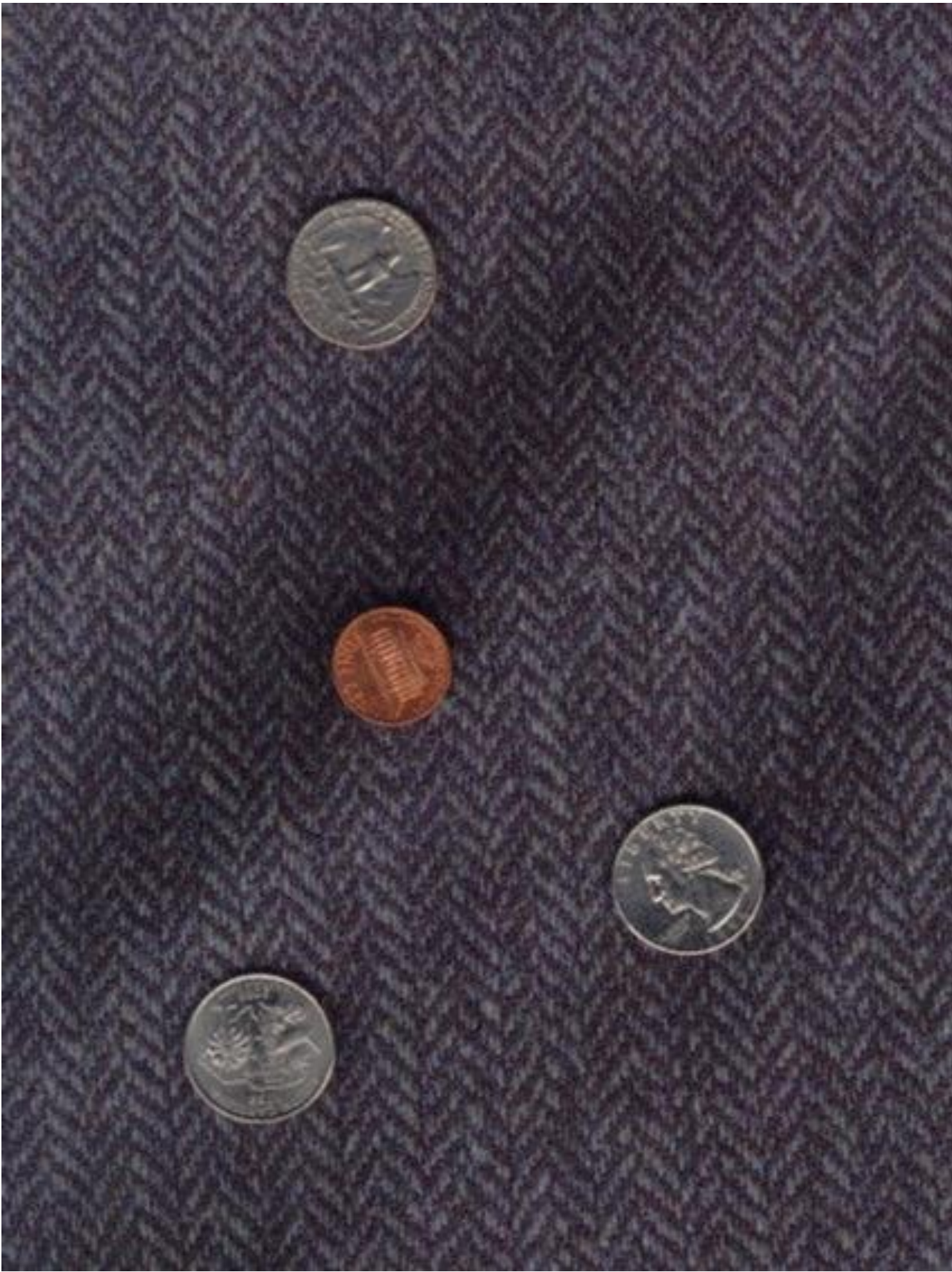


parameters

$$(x - a)^2 + (y - b)^2 = r^2$$

variables







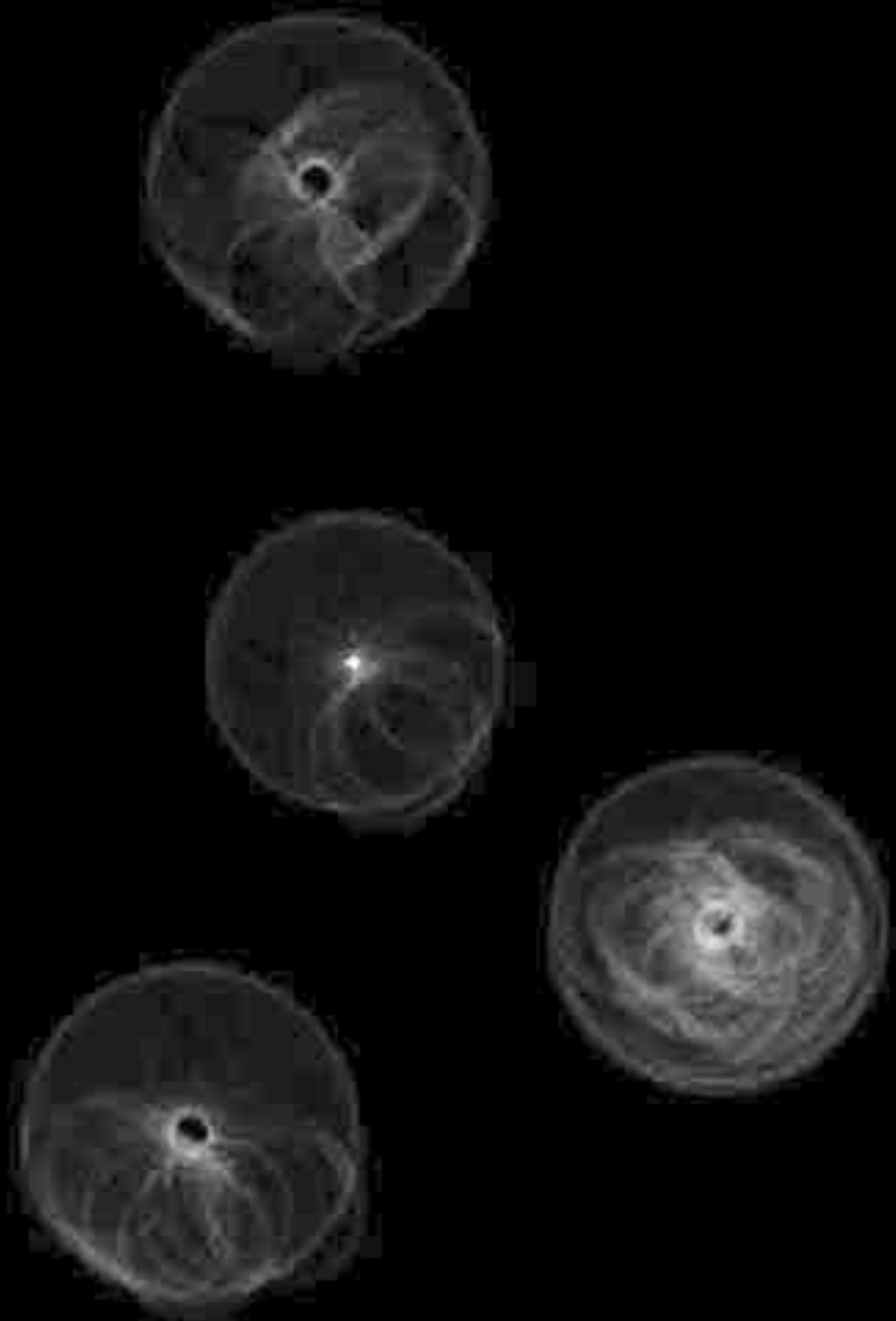
Pennie Hough detector



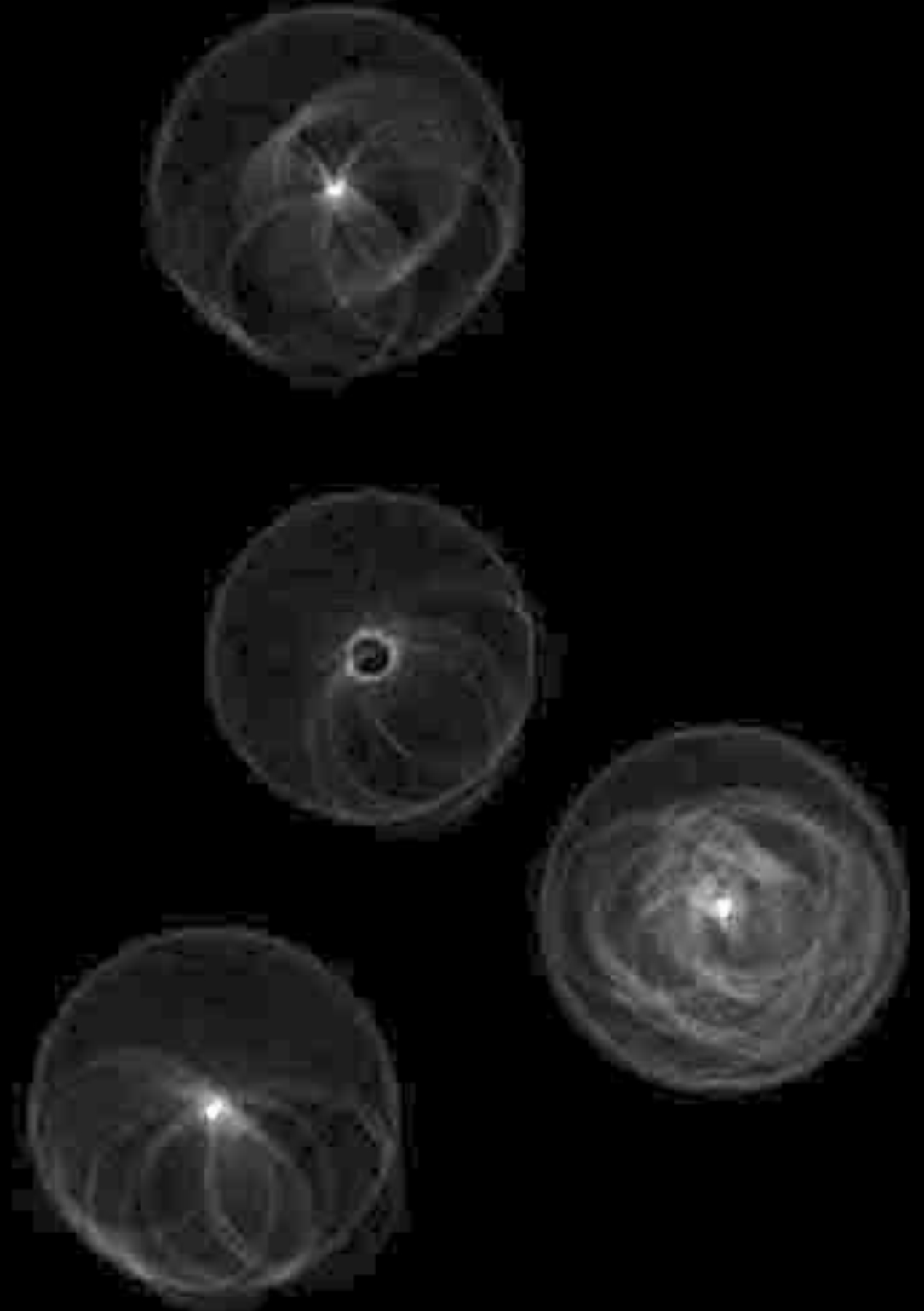
Quarter Hough detector



Pennie Hough detector



Quarter Hough detector



Can you use Hough Transforms for other objects,  
beyond lines and circles?

Do you have to use edge detectors to  
vote in Hough Space?

# The Hough transform ...

Deals with occlusion well?



Detects multiple instances?



Robust to noise?



Good computational complexity?



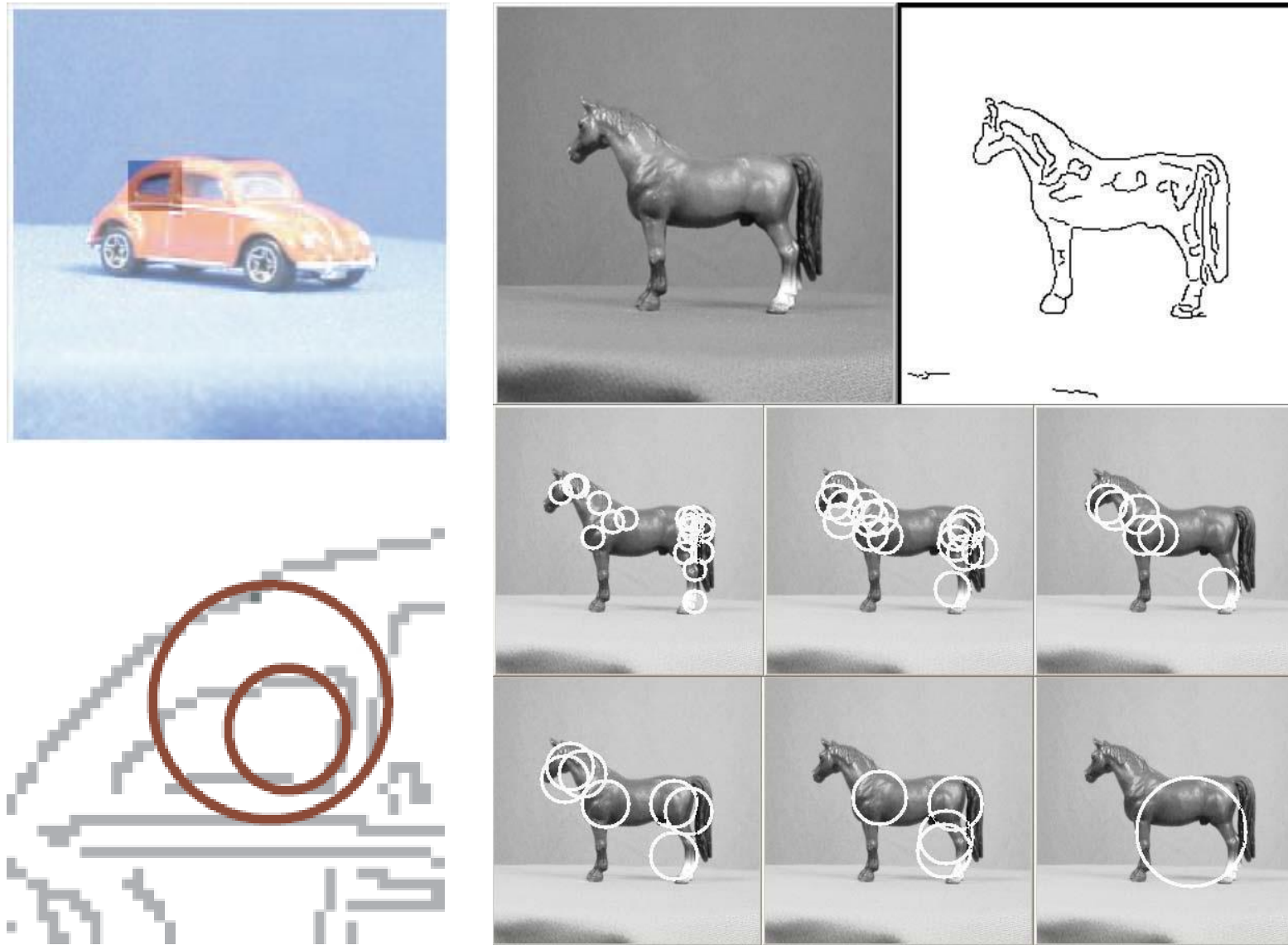
Easy to set parameters?





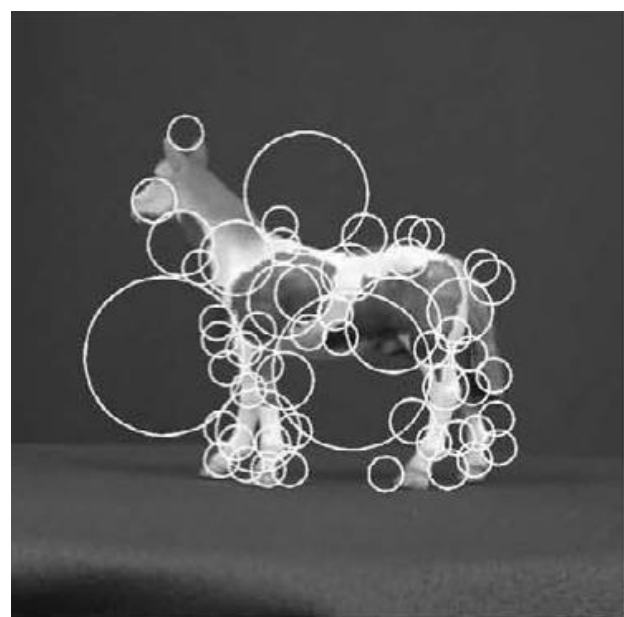
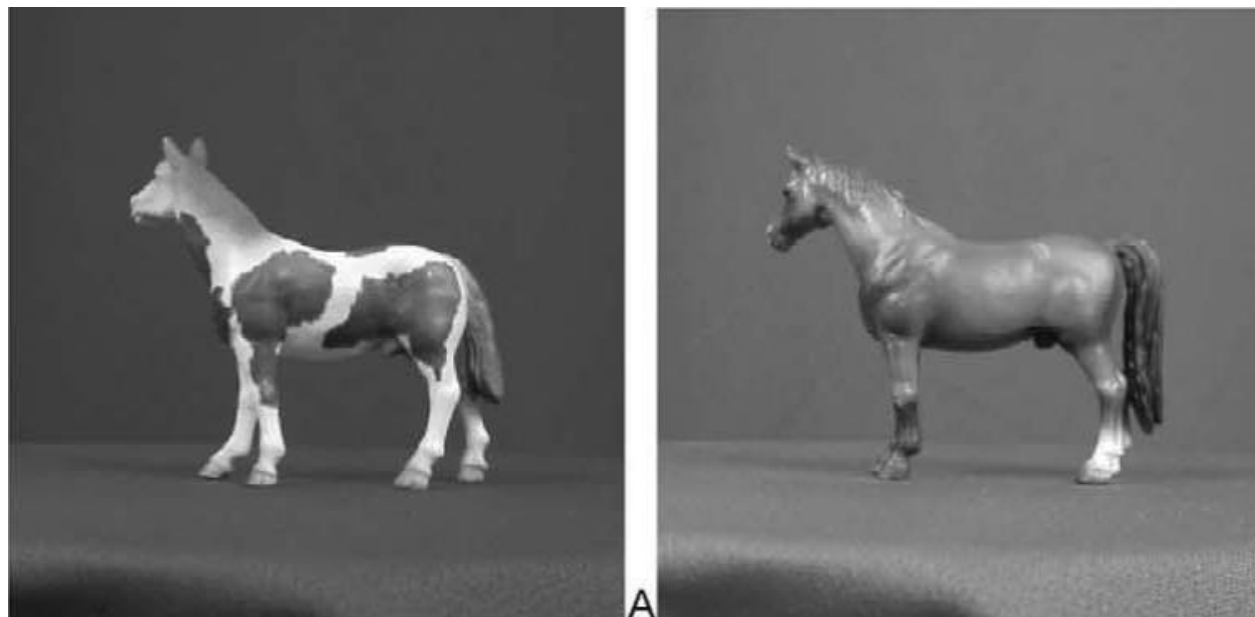
# Application of Hough transforms

# Detecting shape features

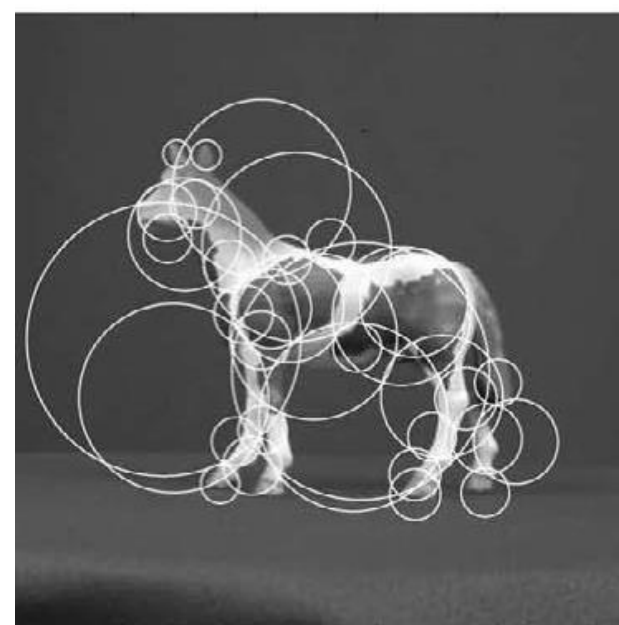
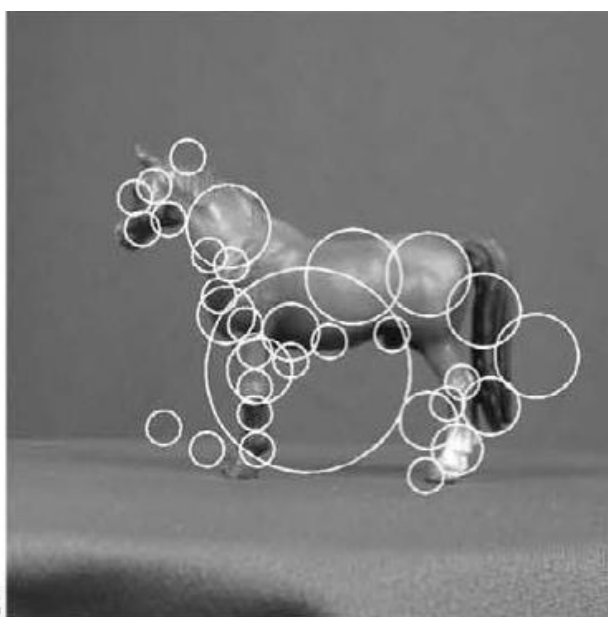


mid, Scale-invariant shape features for recognition of object category

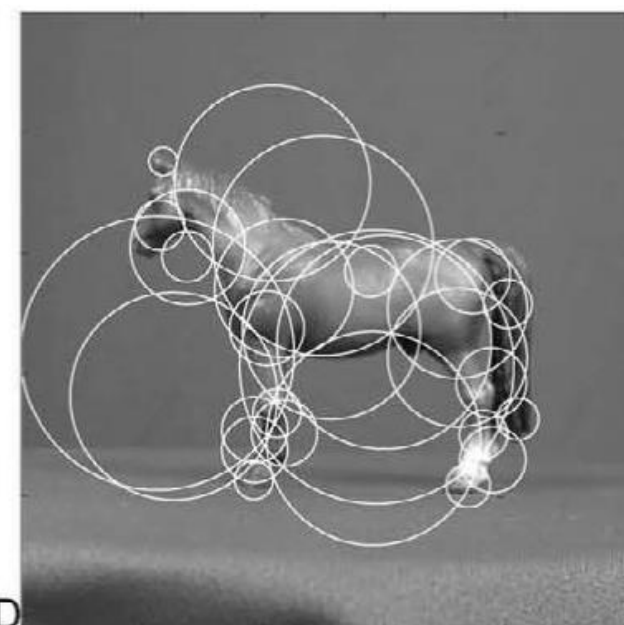
Original  
images



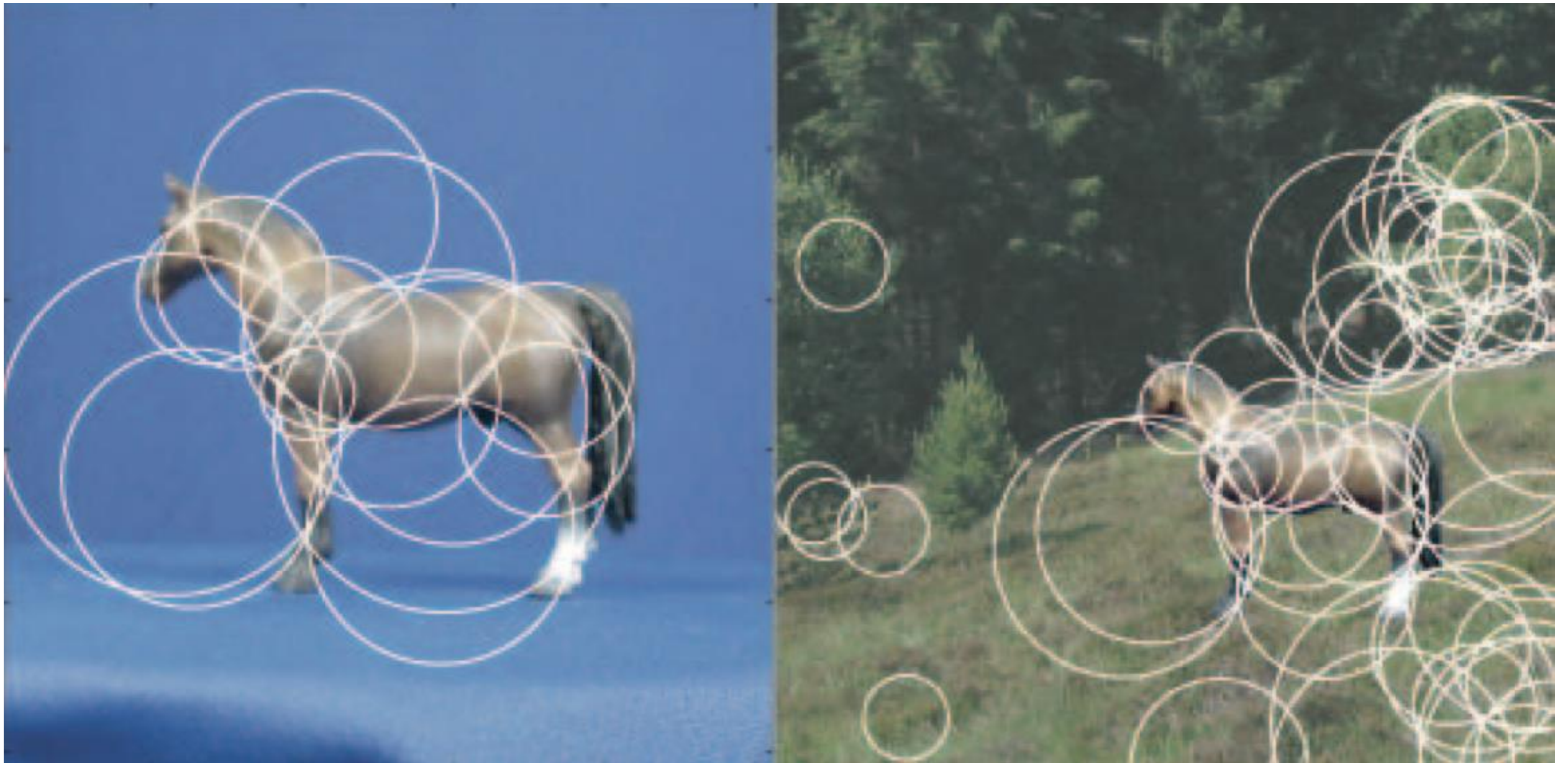
Laplacian circles



Hough-like circles



*Which feature detector is more consistent?*

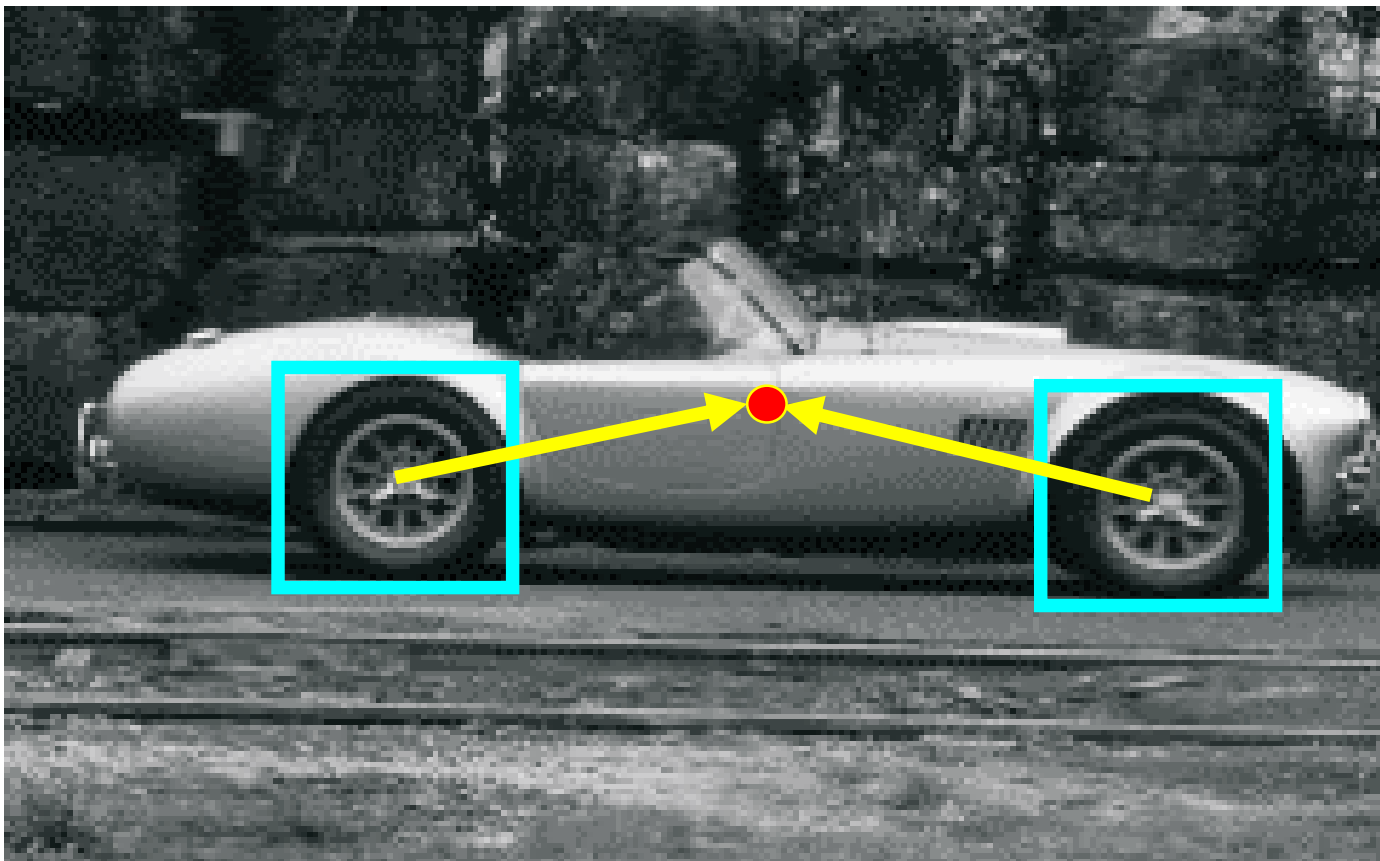


Robustness to scale and clutter

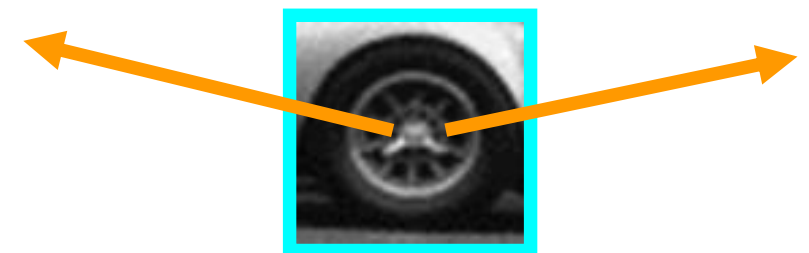


# Object detection

Index displacements by “visual codeword”



training image



visual codeword with  
displacement vectors

B. Leibe, A. Leonardis, and B. Schiele, Combined Object Categorization and Segmentation with an Implicit Shape Model,  
ECCV Workshop on Statistical Learning in Computer Vision 2004



# References

Basic reading:

- Szeliski textbook, Sections 4.2, 4.3.