

Discussion on



# Implicit Geometric Regularization for Learning Shapes

and more

Presented by Yintong Shang  
2021.11

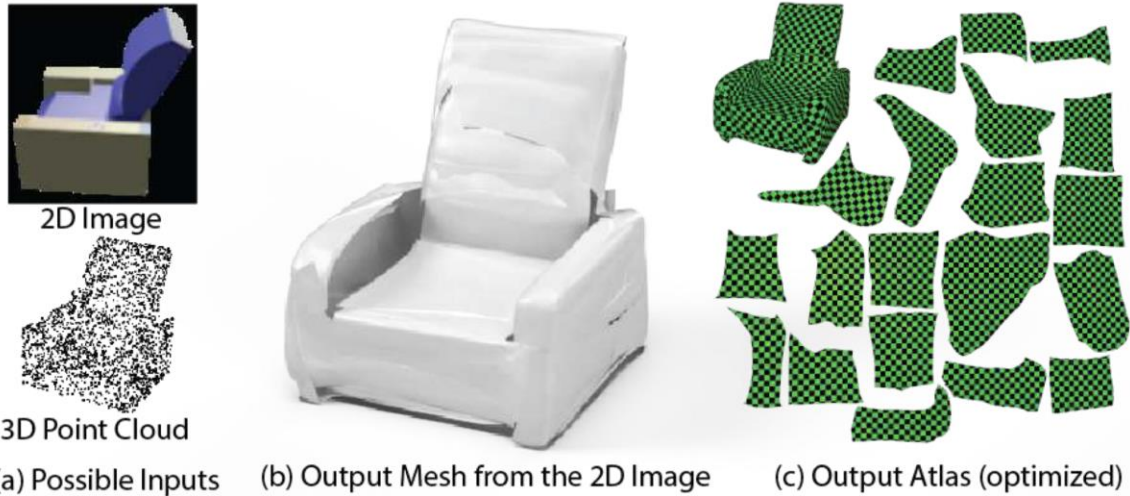
# Background: Neural Shape Representation

- explicit: a set of charts in an atlas
- implicit: level sets

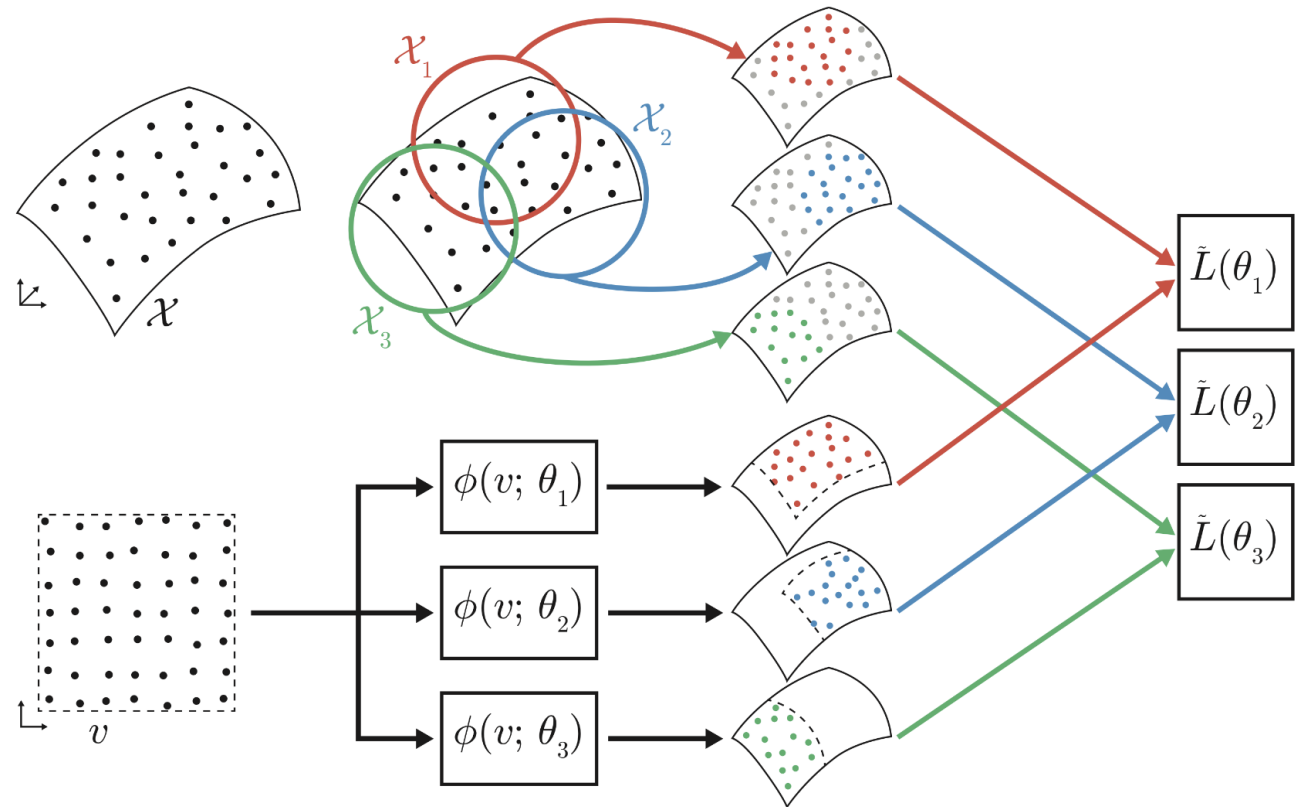
# Background: Neural Shape Representation

- explicit: a set of charts in an atlas  
(chart: a local parametric surface)

Groueix et al. 2018 AtlasNet



Williams et al. 2019 DGP



# Background: Neural Shape Representation

- explicit: a set of charts in an atlas  
(chart: a local parametric surface)

- > provide a useful global parameterization
- > hard to find a consistent atlas
- > hard to produce perfectly overlapping charts

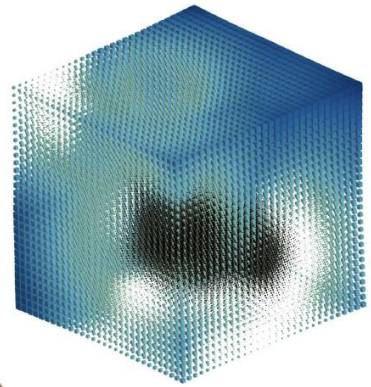
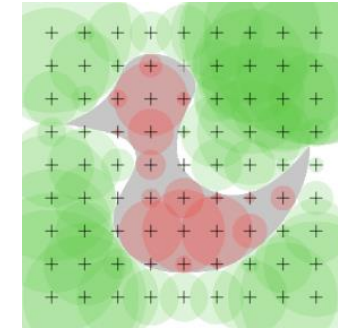
- implicit: level sets

- RGVF (regular grid volumetric function)

- > most popular
- > memory intensive
- > require interpolation

- implicit neural representation

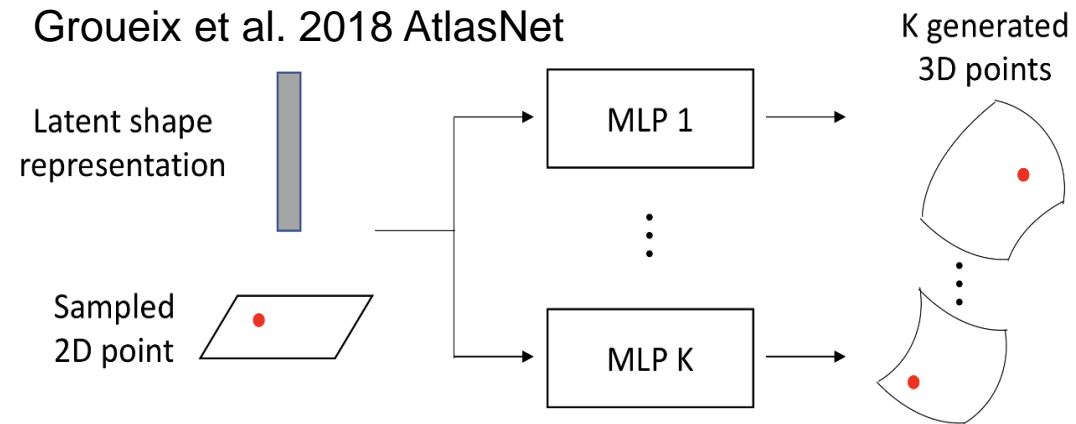
- > continuous and smooth
- > differentiable
- > infinite resolution



# Background: Neural Shape Representation

- explicit: a set of charts in an atlas  
(chart: a local parametric surface)

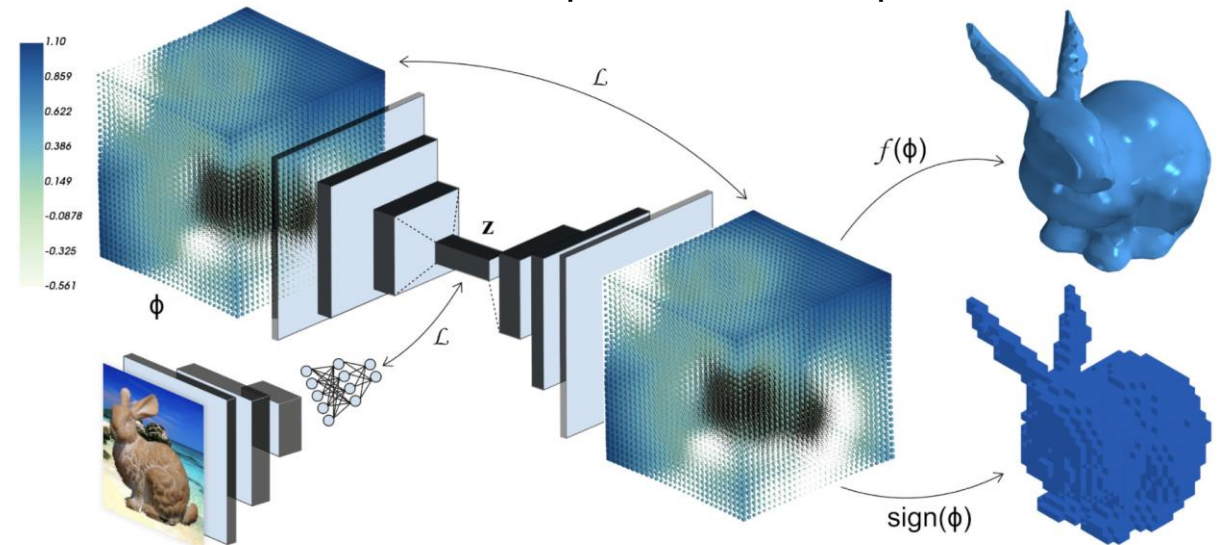
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- implicit: level sets

- RGVF (regular grid volumetric function)

Michalkiewicz et al. 2019 Implicit Surface Representation

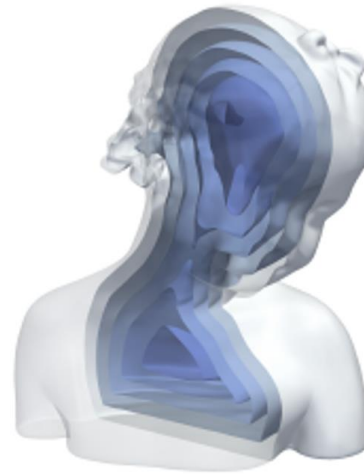


- implicit neural representation

# Introduction

- Problem 1:

input point cloud  $X = \{\mathbf{x}_i\}_{i \in I}$  ----(**directly**)---> signed distance function  $f(\mathbf{x}; \theta)$



for convenience, **cloud**  $X$  and **SDF**  $f(\mathbf{x}; \theta)$



# Introduction

• Problem 1: cloud  $X = \{x_i\}_{i \in I}$  ----(**directly**)---> SDF  $f(x; \theta)$  to shape  $M$

• Previous:

1. **not directly**, requiring to precompute a shape

Mescheder et al. 2019 Occupancy Networks (680 cites)

Uniformly **sample**  $|B|$  batches, each has  $K$  points  $\{p_{ij}\}$ .

**mini-batch** loss:

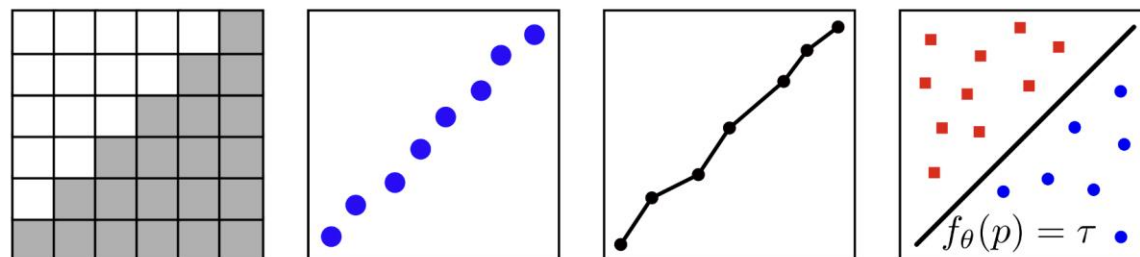
$$\mathcal{L}_B(\theta) = \frac{1}{|B|} \sum_{i=1}^{|B|} \sum_{j=1}^K \mathcal{L}(f_\theta(p_{ij}, x_i), o_{ij})$$

$o_{ij} \in \{0, 1\}$  is **true occupancy** at point  $p_{ij}$

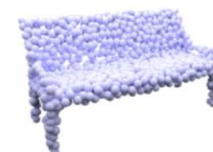
$f_\theta: \mathbb{R}^3 \times X \rightarrow [0, 1]$  is a binary **classification** network

$x_i$  is the observation point

$L$  is cross-entropy loss



(a) Voxel



(b) Point



(c) Mesh



(d) Ours

# Introduction

- Problem 1: cloud  $X = \{x_i\}_{i \in I}$  ----(**directly**)---> SDF  $f(x; \theta)$  to shape  $M$

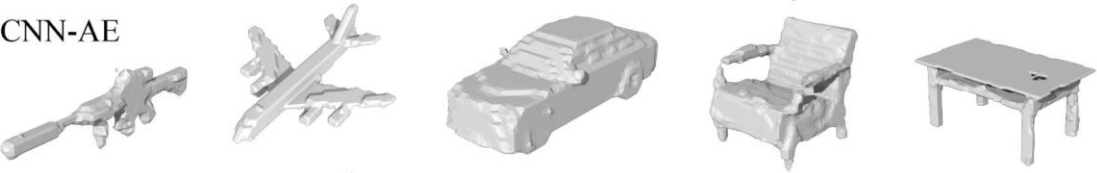
- Previous:

1. **not directly**, requiring to precompute a shape

(a) Ground truth



(b) CNN-AE



(c) IM-AE64



(d) IM-AE256



Chen & Zhang 2019 IM-NET (402 cites)

**Sample** on different resolutions ( $32^3, 64^3, 128^3, 256^3$ ).  
Sample more near the surface (with smaller weight  $w_p$ ).

$$\mathcal{L}(\theta) = \frac{\sum_{p \in S} |f_{\theta}(p) - \mathcal{F}(p)|^2 \cdot w_p}{\sum_{p \in S} w_p}$$

$F(p) \in \{1, 0\}$  is **inside/outside** field at point  $p$   
 $f_{\theta}: p \rightarrow [0, 1]$  is a binary **classification** network



# Introduction

- Problem 1: cloud  $X = \{x_i\}_{i \in I}$  ----(**directly**)---> SDF  $f(x; \theta)$  to shape  $M$

- Previous:

1. not directly, requiring to precompute a shape

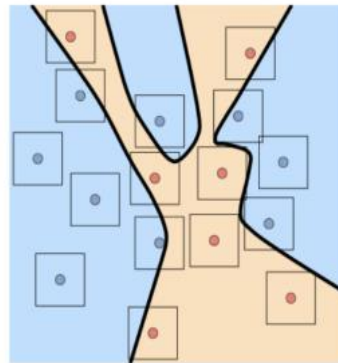
2. **directly**, but **explicitly** enforce **regularizations**

Atzmon et al. 2019

Controlling Neural Level Sets

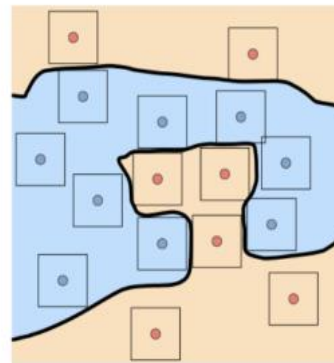
- Sample the level set.
- Use different loss to regularize the decision boundary

cross-entropy



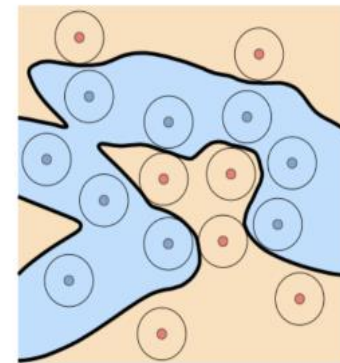
(a)

$\epsilon$  from  $L^\infty$



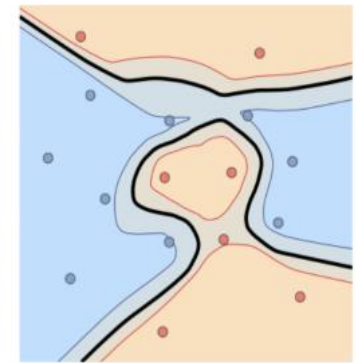
(b)

$\epsilon$  from  $L_2$



(c)

SVM



(d)

# Introduction

- Problem 1: cloud  $X = \{\mathbf{x}_i\}_{i \in I}$  ----(directly)---> SDF  $f(\mathbf{x}; \theta)$  to shape  $M$

- Previous:

1. not directly, requiring to precompute a shape

2. **directly**, but **explicitly** enforce **regularizations**

Atzmon & Lipman 2020 SAL

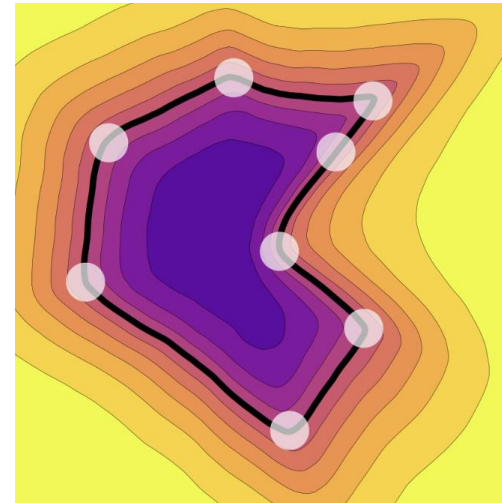
Sign Agnostic Learning

$$\text{loss}(\theta) = \mathbb{E}_{\mathbf{x} \sim D_{\mathcal{X}}} \tau\left(f(\mathbf{x}; \theta), h_{\mathcal{X}}(\mathbf{x})\right)$$

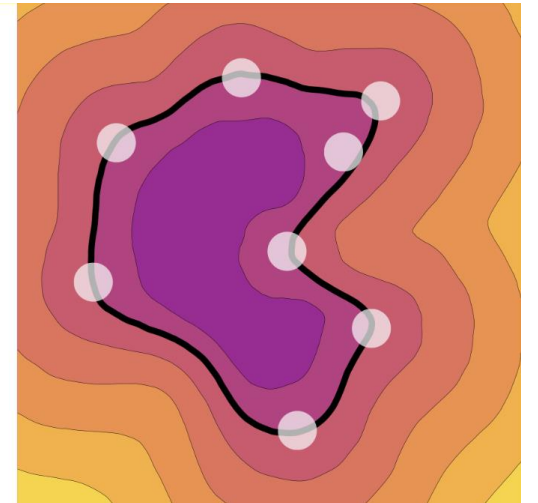
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(ii) *Monotonic*:  $\frac{\partial \tau}{\partial a}(a, b) = \rho(a - b), \forall a, b \in \mathbb{R}_+$ ,

An example is  $\tau(a, b) = ||a| - b|$ .



$$h_0(\mathbf{z}) = \begin{cases} 0 & \mathbf{z} \in \mathcal{X} \\ 1 & \mathbf{z} \notin \mathcal{X} \end{cases}$$



$$h_2(\mathbf{z}) = \min_{\mathbf{x} \in \mathcal{X}} \|\mathbf{z} - \mathbf{x}\|_2^2$$

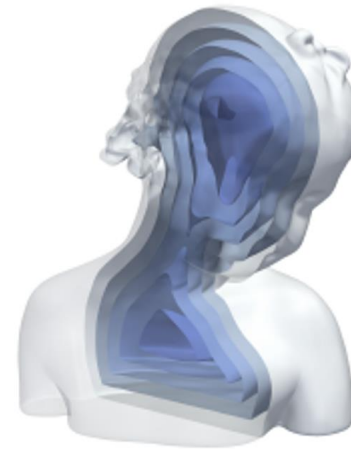
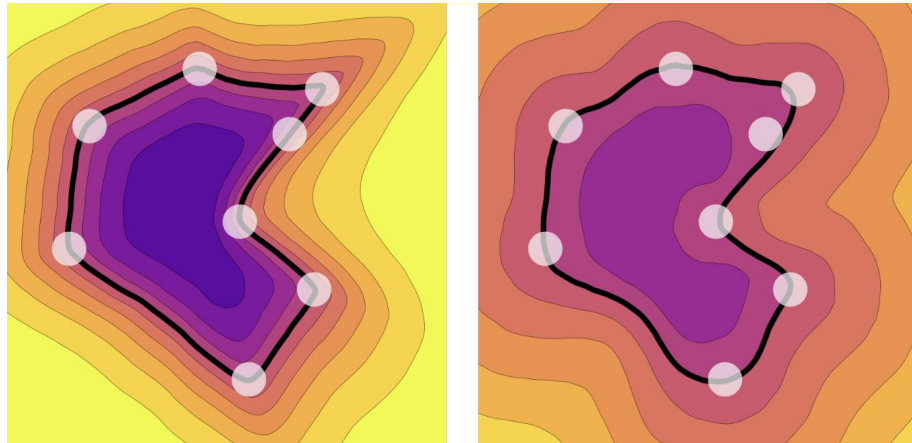
# Introduction

- Problem 2: how to get **SDFs**? how to get **the best SDF**?

(why **SDFs**?) --> **SDF** is the best among Level Set Functions (LSF) whose **regularized distance** is desirable.

(Li et al. 2010 Distance Regularized Level Set Evolution)

$$\|\nabla_x f\| - 1 = 0$$



# Introduction

- Problem 2: how to get **SDFs**? how to get **the best SDF**?

- Previous:

## 3. **explicit regularization** + normalization (as **Eikonal implicit regularization**)

Michalkiewicz et al. 2019 Implicit Surface Representation

$$\begin{aligned}
 L(\theta) = & \sum_{j \in \mathcal{D}} E_{\mathcal{X}^j}(\tilde{\Gamma}(I^j; \theta)) + \alpha_1 \sum_{j \in \mathcal{D}} E_{\mathcal{N}^j}(\tilde{\Gamma}(I^j; \theta)) \\
 & + \alpha_2 \sum_{j \in \mathcal{D}} E_{sdf}(\tilde{\phi}(I^j; \theta)) + \alpha_3 \sum_{j \in \mathcal{D}} E_{area}(\tilde{\Gamma}(I^j; \theta)) \\
 & + \alpha_4 \sum_{j \in \mathcal{D}} E_{vol}(\tilde{\Gamma}(I^j; \theta)). \tag{12}
 \end{aligned}$$

$$\sum_{j \in \mathcal{D}} E_{sdf}(\tilde{\phi}(I^j; \theta)) = \sum_{j \in \mathcal{D}} \int_{\mathbb{R}^3} (\|\nabla \tilde{\phi}(x, I^j; \theta)\| - 1)^2 dx,$$

$$\begin{aligned}
 L_\epsilon(\theta) = & \sum_{j \in \mathcal{D}} \left( \sum_{x \in \Omega} \delta_\epsilon(\tilde{\phi}^j(x)) d^j(x)^p \right)^{1/p} \\
 & + \alpha_1 \sum_{j \in \mathcal{D}} \left( \sum_{x \in \Omega} \delta_\epsilon(\tilde{\phi}^j(x)) \left( 1 - \left| N^j(x) \cdot \frac{\nabla \tilde{\phi}^j(x)}{\|\nabla \tilde{\phi}^j(x)\|} \right| \right)^p \right)^{1/p} \\
 & + \alpha_2 \sum_{j \in \mathcal{D}} \sum_{x \in \Omega} (\|\nabla \tilde{\phi}^j(x)\| - 1)^2 + \alpha_3 \sum_{j \in \mathcal{D}} \sum_{x \in \Omega} \delta_\epsilon(\tilde{\phi}^j(x)) \\
 & + \alpha_4 \sum_{j \in \mathcal{D}} \sum_{x \in \Omega} H_\epsilon(\tilde{\phi}^j(x)). \tag{20}
 \end{aligned}$$

# Introduction

- Problem 2: how to get **SDFs**? how to get **the best SDF**?
- Previous:
  3. explicit regularization + normalization (as Eikonal implicit regularization)
  4. **implicit regularization** phenomenon in n.n. optimization

Neyshabur et al. 2014 Implicit Regularization

- Gradient Descent prefers less complex solutions, which generalize well.

# Introduction

- Problems: how to get **SDFs** ?
  - > solve Eikonal equation
- ...**directly** from point cloud?
  - > add Eikonal regularization into loss
- how to get **the best SDF**?
  - > plane reproduction property

Previous:

1. not directly: requiring to precompute shape
2. directly, but enforce explicit regularizations
3. explicit regularization + normalization (as Eikonal implicit regularization)
4. implicit regularization phenomenon in n.n. optimization

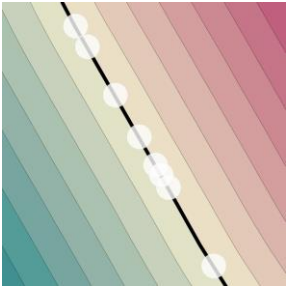
- Answer: **implicit geometric regularization**



# Method

Given cloud  $X = \{\mathbf{x}_i\}_{i \in I} \subset \mathbb{R}^3$ , with or without normal  $N = \{\mathbf{n}_i\}_{i \in I} \subset \mathbb{R}^3$ ,  
 compute parameters  $\theta$  of an MLP\*  $f(\mathbf{x}; \theta): \mathbb{R}^3 \times \mathbb{R}^m \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$   
 so that it approximates a SDF to a plausible surface  $M$

Consider a loss  $l(\theta) = \lambda E_x(\|\nabla_x f\| - 1)^2 + \frac{1}{|I|} \sum_{i \in I} (|f(\mathbf{x}_i; \theta)| + \tau \|\nabla_x f(\mathbf{x}_i; \theta) - \mathbf{n}_i\|)$



Eikonal regularization term

(making  $f$  an SDF)

boundary term

boundary normal term

Optimizing the loss is solving Eikonal equation  
 with insufficient boundary condition.

$$\begin{cases} \|\nabla_x f\| - 1 = 0 \\ |f(\mathbf{x}_i; \theta)| = 0 \\ \|\nabla_x f(\mathbf{x}_i; \theta) - \mathbf{n}_i\| = 0 \end{cases}$$

# Method

$$l(\theta) = \lambda E_x(\|\nabla_x f\| - 1)^2 + \frac{1}{|I|} \sum_{i \in I} (|f(\mathbf{x}_i; \theta)| + \tau \|\nabla_x f(\mathbf{x}_i; \theta) - \mathbf{n}_i\|)$$

$$\begin{cases} \|\nabla_x f\| - 1 = 0 \\ |f(\mathbf{x}_i; \theta)| = 0 \\ \|\nabla_x f(\mathbf{x}_i; \theta) - \mathbf{n}_i\| = 0 \end{cases}$$

for simplicity, let  $\tau = 0$  (omit boundary normal)

# Method

$$l(\theta) = \lambda E_x(\|\nabla_x f\| - 1)^2 + \frac{1}{|I|} \sum_{i \in I} (|f(\mathbf{x}_i; \theta)|)$$

$$\begin{cases} \|\nabla_x f\| - 1 = 0 \\ |f(\mathbf{x}_i; \theta)| = 0 \end{cases}$$

Analysis of linear case:

$$f(\mathbf{x}; \boldsymbol{\omega}) = \boldsymbol{\omega}^T \mathbf{x}$$

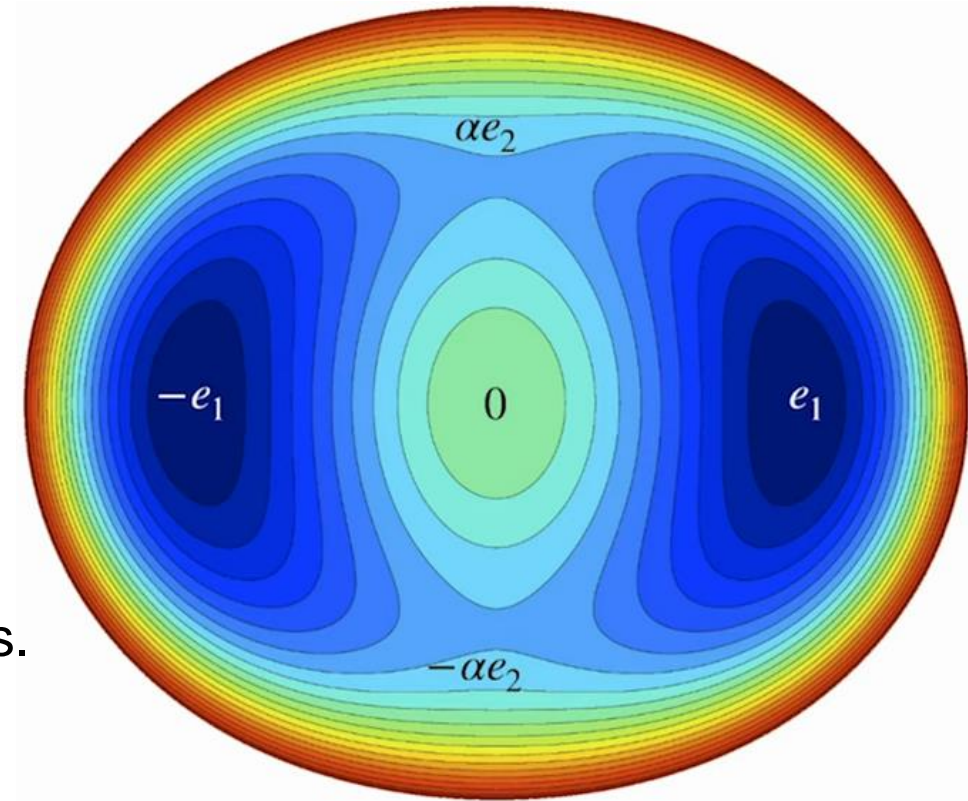
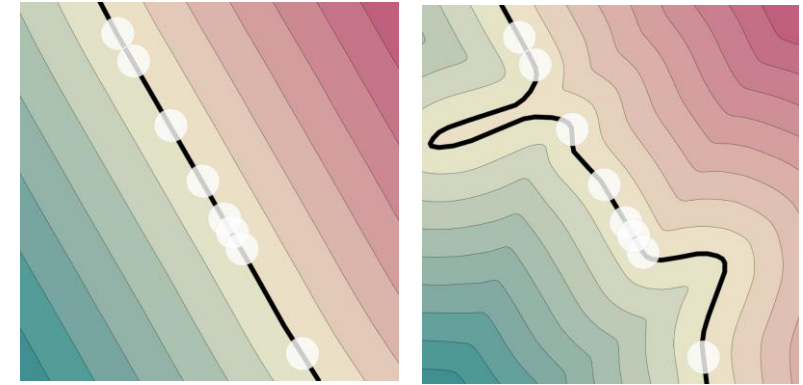
$$\begin{aligned} l(\boldsymbol{\omega}) &= \lambda(\|\boldsymbol{\omega}\|^2 - 1)^2 + \sum_{i \in I} (\boldsymbol{\omega}^T \mathbf{x}_i)^2 \\ &= \lambda(\|\mathbf{q}\|^2 - 1)^2 + \sum_{i \in I} \mathbf{q}^T D \mathbf{q} \end{aligned} \quad \begin{matrix} \xrightarrow{\mathbf{x}_i \mathbf{x}_i^T = U D U^T} \\ \xleftarrow{\mathbf{q} = U^T \boldsymbol{\omega}} \end{matrix}$$

.....(see section 4)

Theorems:

1. At least 3 critical points: maxima  $\boldsymbol{\omega} = \mathbf{0}$  and two SDF solutions.
2. Other critical points are maxima or strict saddle points, which GD will evade (proven by Lee et al. 2016).

two of assumably possible solutions  $\rightarrow$



# Method

$$l(\theta) = \lambda E_x(\|\nabla_x f\| - 1)^2 + \frac{1}{|I|} \sum_{i \in I} (|f(\mathbf{x}_i; \theta)|)$$

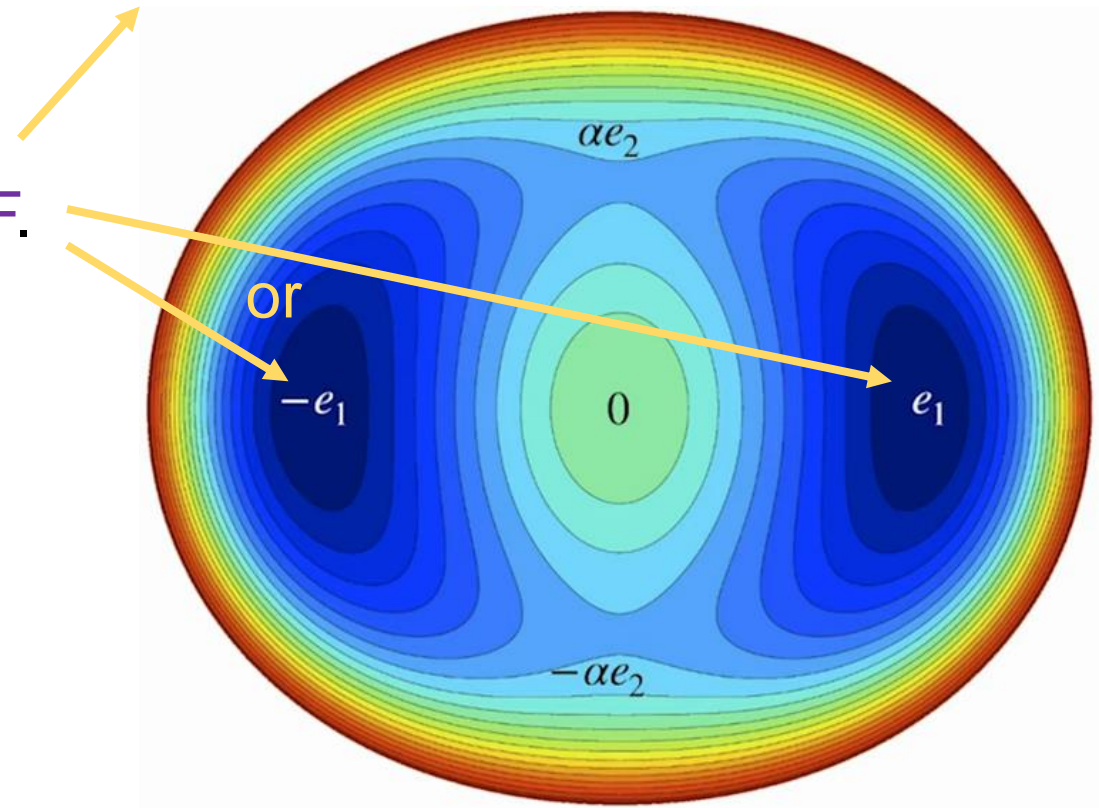
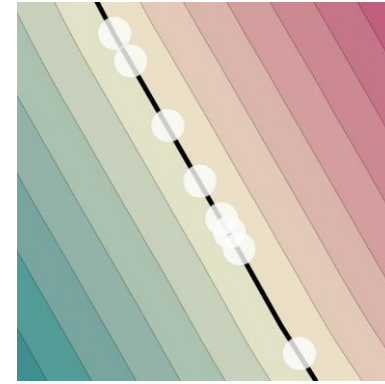
$$\begin{cases} \|\nabla_x f\| - 1 = 0 \\ |f(\mathbf{x}_i; \theta)| = 0 \end{cases}$$

conclusion:

In linear case, this loss can produce **the best SDF**.

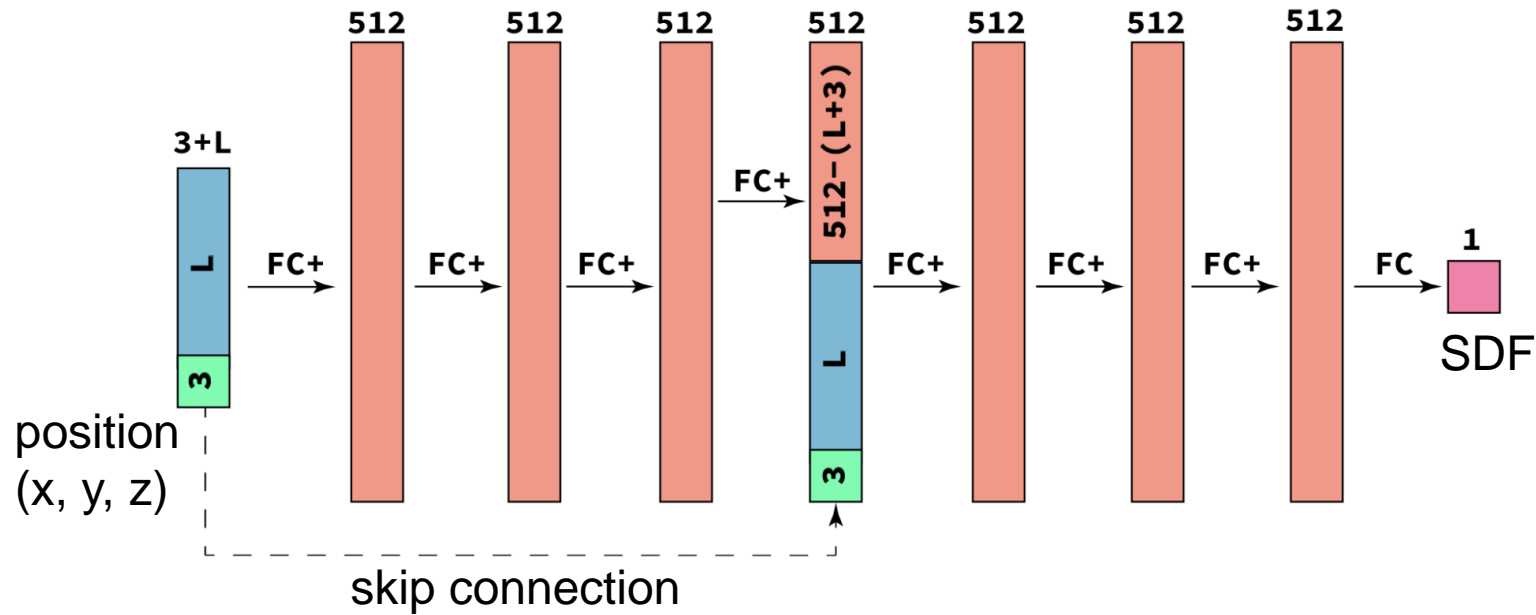
And it is called the **plane reproduction** property.

explanation: (by Atzmon et al. 2020 SAL)



# Method

- network: auto-decoder (Park et al. 2019 DeepSDF)



- activation: softplus
- optimizer: Adam
- $L = 0$  for shape reconstruction,  $L = 256$  for shape space learning

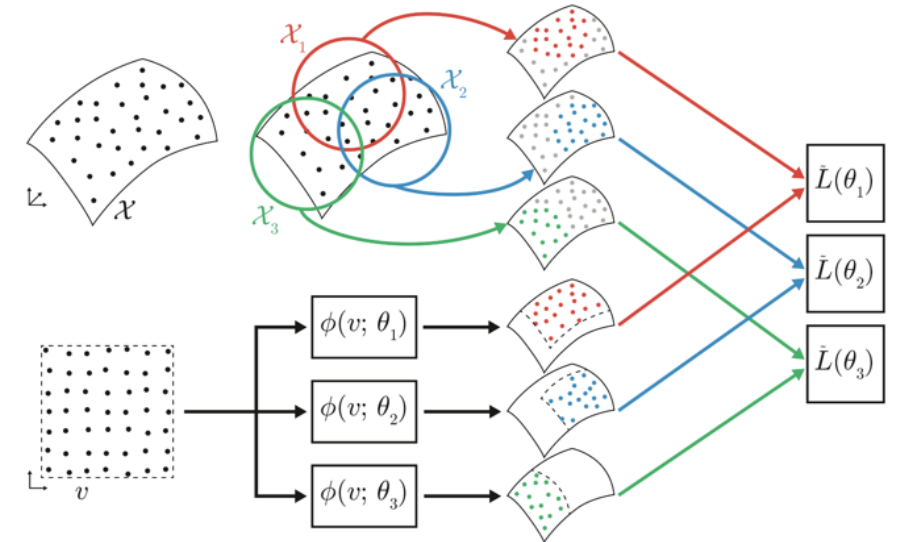
# Result

surface **reconstruction** from point cloud

- better than DGP

- explicit representation
- another treatment of IGR
- no training data
- no explicit regularization

Williams et al. 2019 DGP



space **learning**

- better than SAL

2. **directly**, but **explicitly** enforce **regularizations**

Atzmon & Lipman 2020 SAL

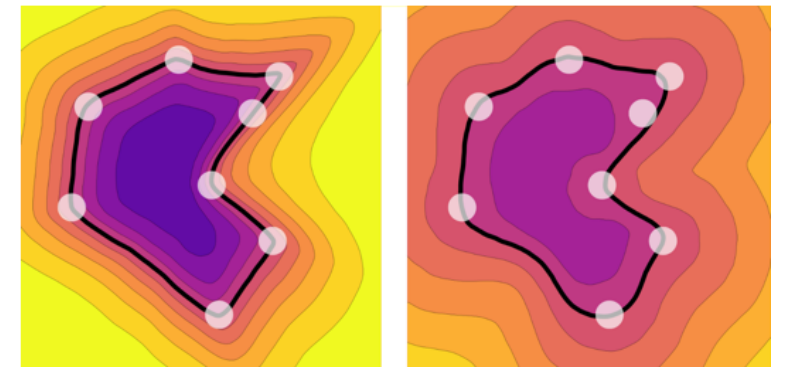
Sign Agnostic Learning

$$\text{loss}(\theta) = \mathbb{E}_{\mathbf{x} \sim D_{\mathcal{X}}} \tau(f(\mathbf{x}; \theta), h_{\mathcal{X}}(\mathbf{x}))$$

(i) *Sign agnostic*:  $\tau(-a, b) = \tau(a, b), \forall a \in \mathbb{R}, b \in \mathbb{R}_+$ .

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An example is  $\tau(a, b) = ||a| - b|$ .



$$h_0(\mathbf{z}) = \begin{cases} 0 & \mathbf{z} \in \mathcal{X} \\ 1 & \mathbf{z} \notin \mathcal{X} \end{cases}$$

$$h_2(\mathbf{z}) = \min_{\mathbf{x} \in \mathcal{X}} \|\mathbf{z} - \mathbf{x}\|_2$$

Implicit Geometric Regularization for Learning Shapes



# Contribution

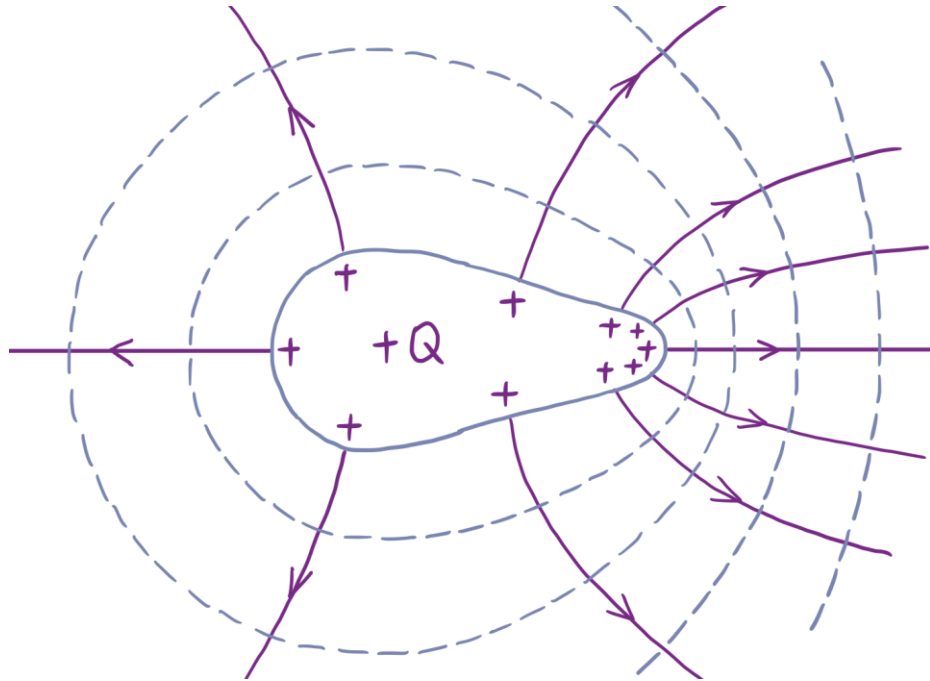
- find out the most **simple** loss function
- $l(\theta) = \lambda E_x(\|\nabla_x f\| - 1)^2 + \frac{1}{|I|} \sum_{i \in I} (|f(\mathbf{x}_i; \theta)| + \tau \|\nabla_x f(\mathbf{x}_i; \theta) - \mathbf{n}_i\|)$
- **directly** get SDF from raw data without explicit regularization?
- yes
- prove convergence to the best SDF?
- yes, but limited to the linear case (future work: nonlinear analysis)
- state-of-the-art

# Comment: thoughts on Eikonal equation

- Eikonal equation  $\|\nabla_x f\| - 1/g = 0$ , special case:  $\|\nabla_x f\| - 1 = 0$
- Poisson equation  $\nabla_x^2 f - 1/g = 0$ , Laplace equation  $\nabla_x^2 f - 1 = 0$

$f$  is electric potential,

$E = -\nabla f$  is electric field (constrained by normals  $n$  on surface)



$$l(\theta) = \lambda E_x (\|\nabla_x f\| - 1)^2 + \frac{1}{|I|} \sum_{i \in I} |f(x_i; \theta)|$$

A more natural contour map:

- dense near surface, and sparse far away.
  - dense when sharp, and sparse when flat.
- ...possibly better details?

# Comment: more 'SDFs'

- SDF: signed version of  $L^2$  norm.
- $L^2$  norm (Euclidean distance, also the solution to Eikonal)
- $L^0$  norm (in/out indicator)
- $L^1$  norm (Manhattan Norm)
- $L^3$  norm (?)

- definition:  $\|x\|_p = (\sum_{i=1}^n |x_i|^p)^{\frac{1}{p}}$



$p = \infty$



$p = 2$



$p = 1$

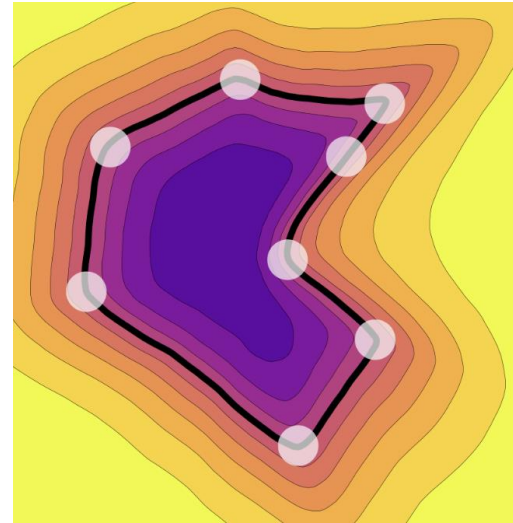


$0 < p < 1$

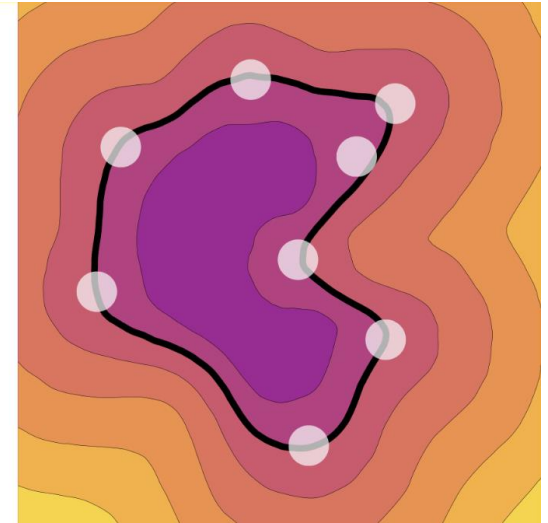


$p = 0$

Atzmon & Lipman 2020 SAL



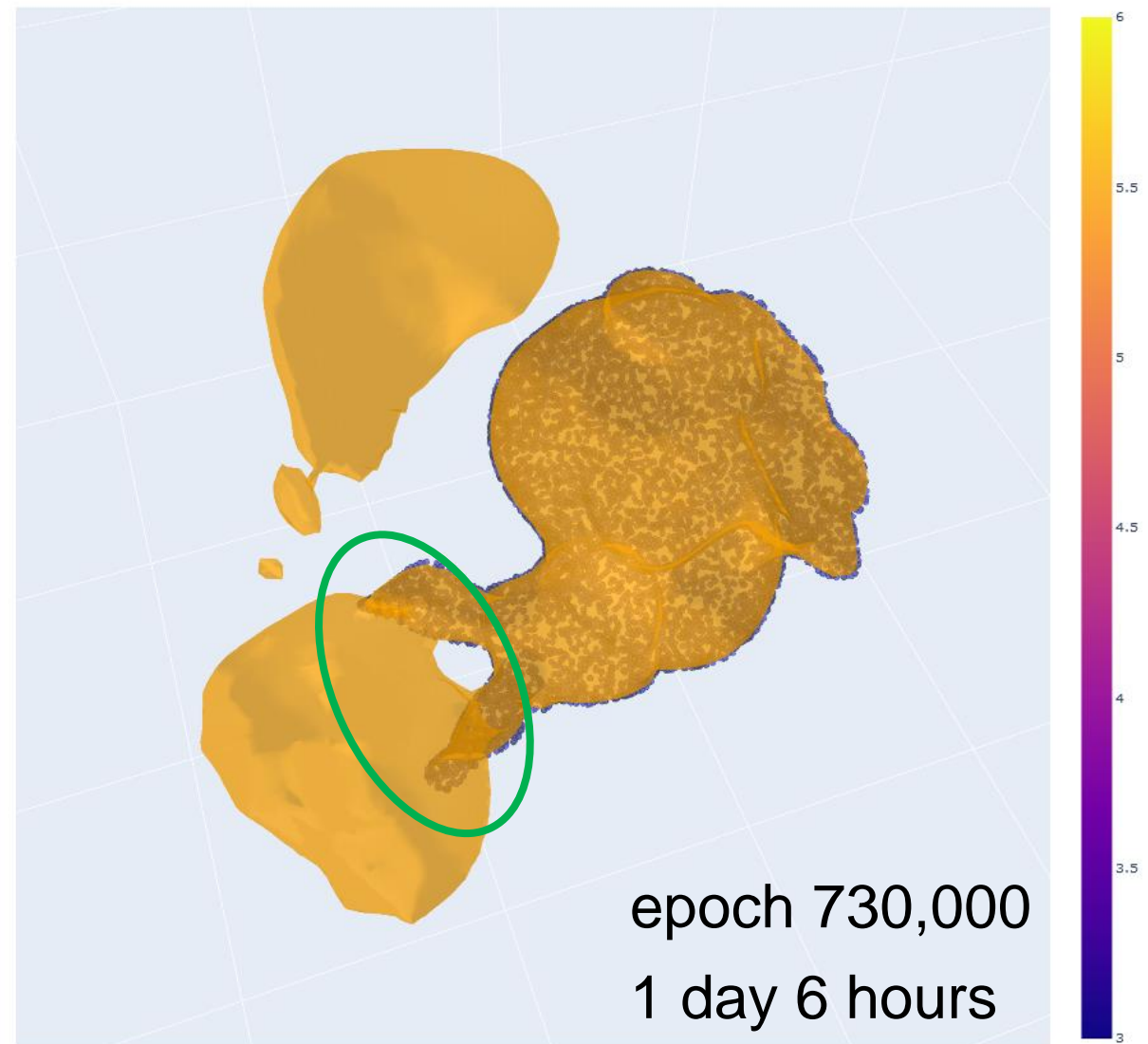
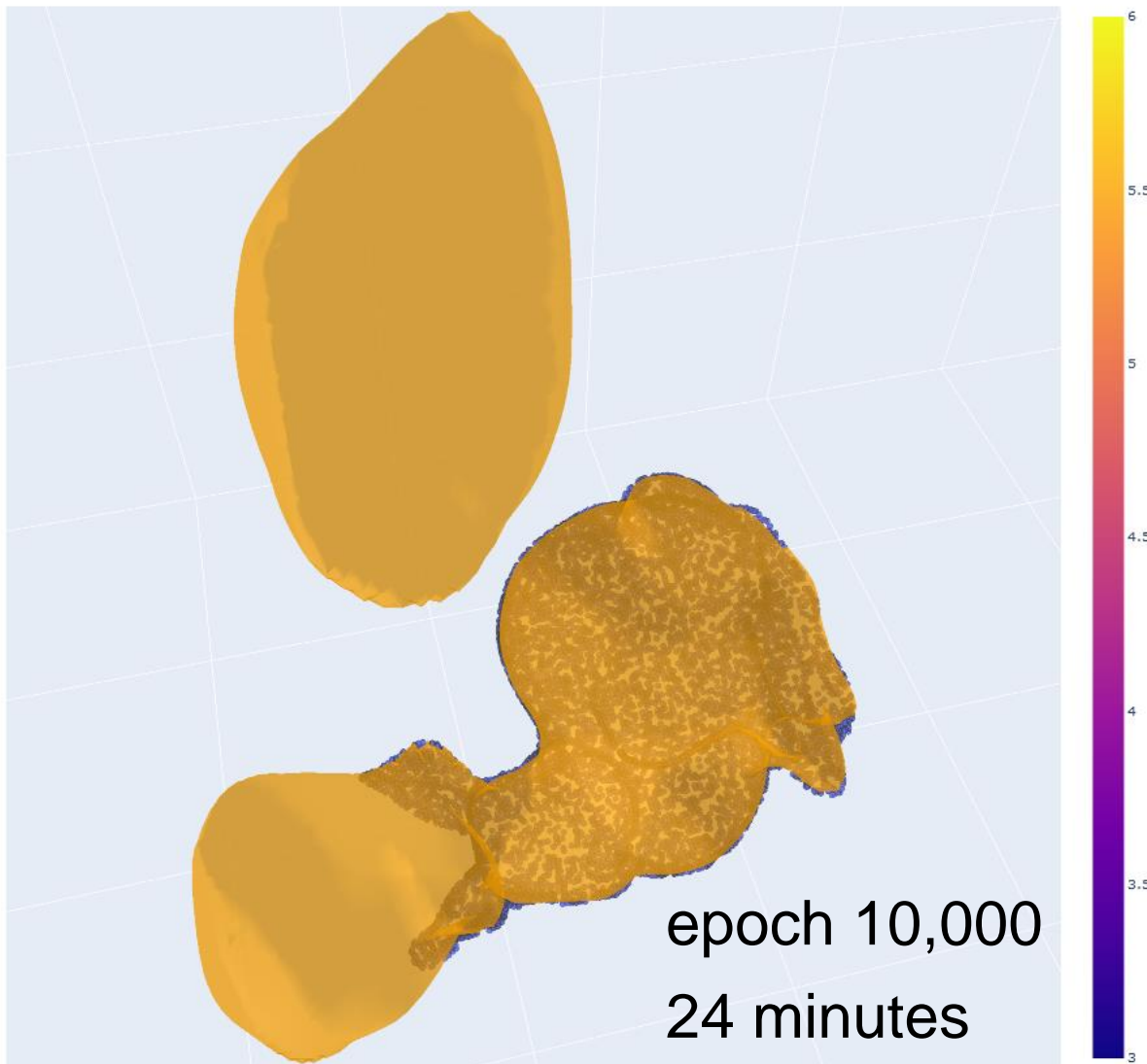
$$h_0(z) = \begin{cases} 0 & z \in \mathcal{X} \\ 1 & z \notin \mathcal{X} \end{cases}$$

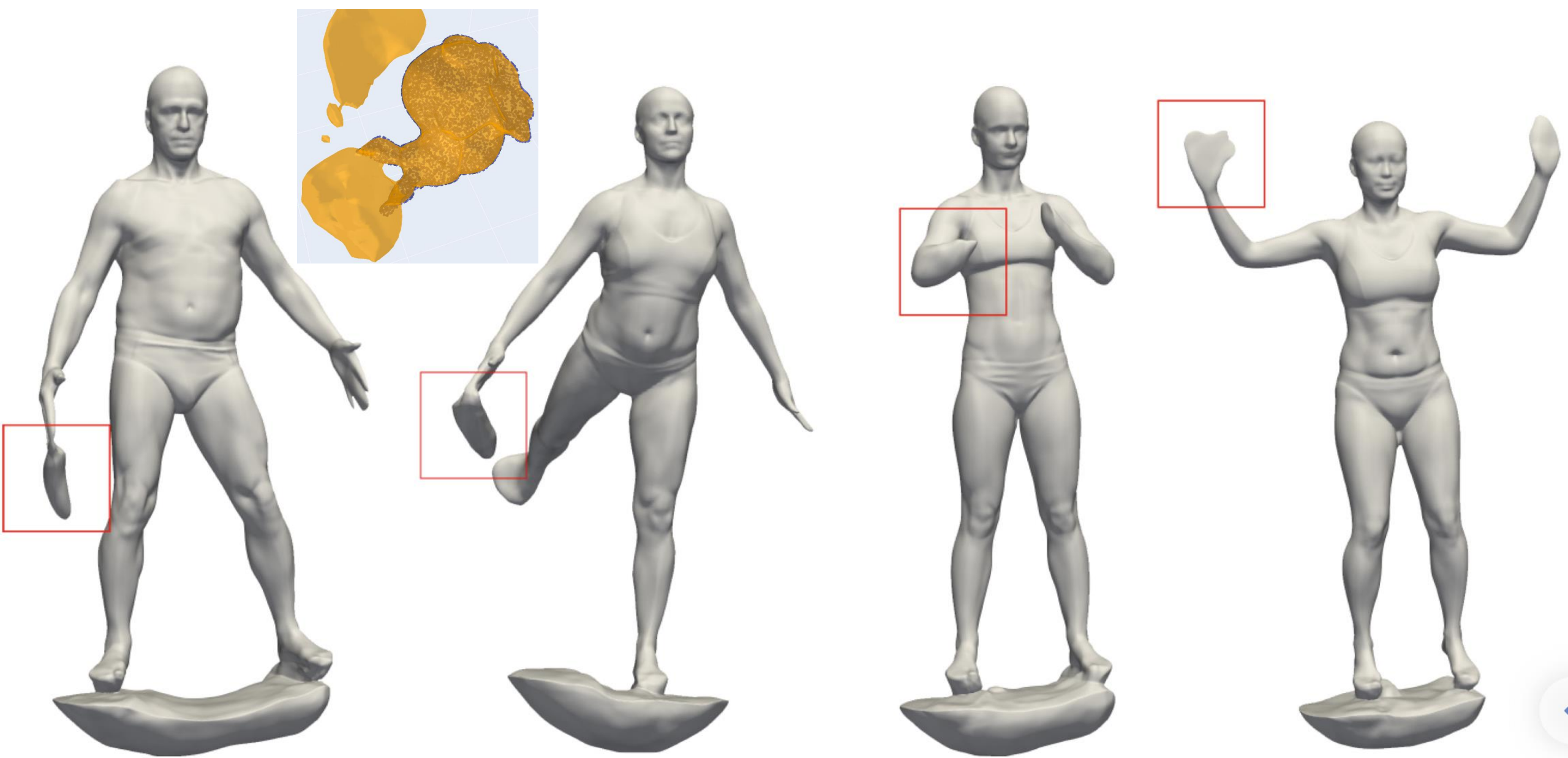


$$h_2(z) = \min_{x \in \mathcal{X}} \|z - x\|_2$$

# Comment:

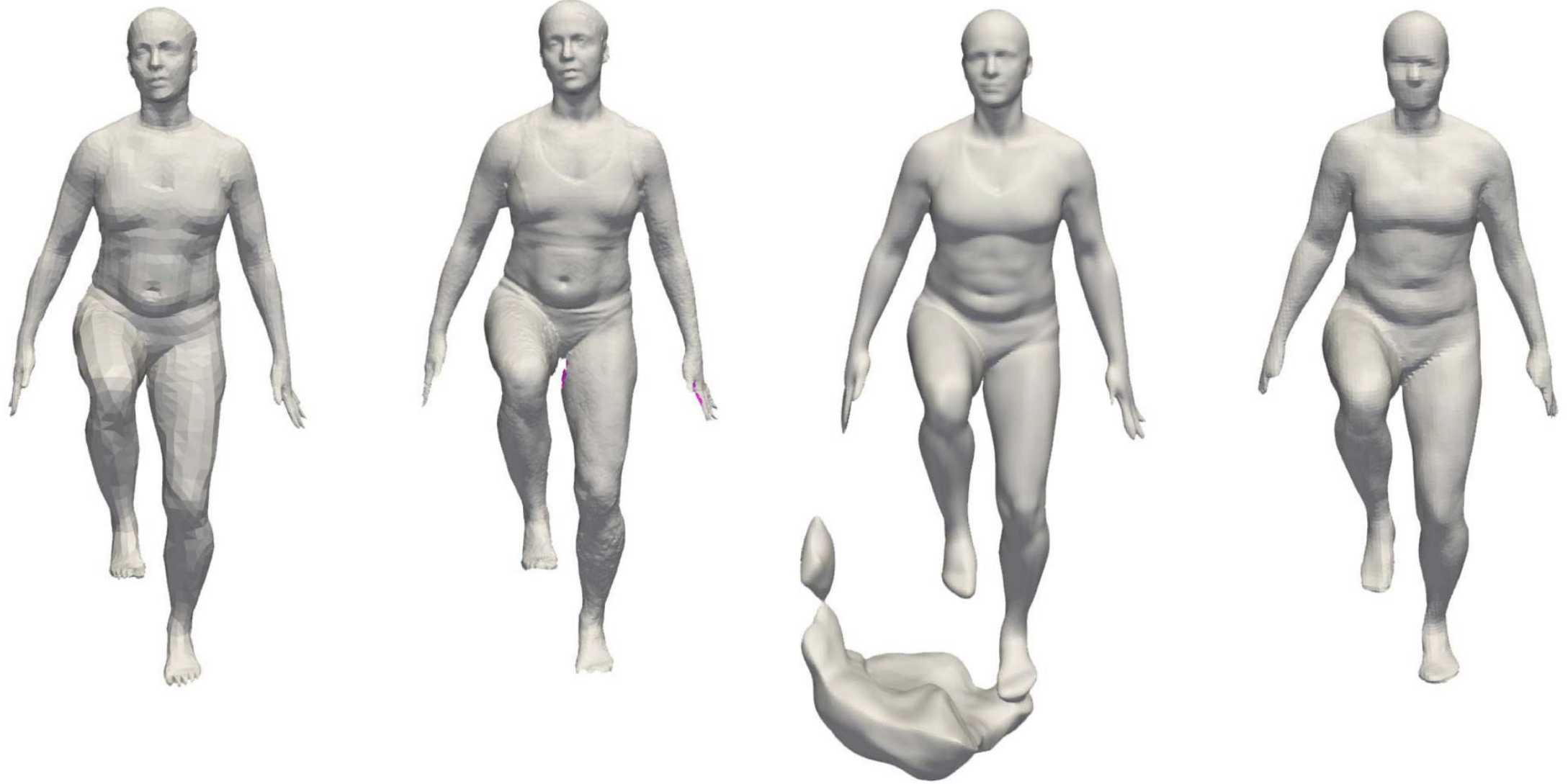
- slow change
- difficulties at sharp surfaces





*Figure 9. Failures of our method on D-Faust.*





*Figure 11.* A test result on D-Faust with unseen humans split. Left to right: registrations, scans, our results, SAL.



# Future Directions

- High frequency details

- NeRF [Mildenhall et al. 2020]

- Fourier features [Tancik et al. 2020] <https://arxiv.org/abs/2006.10739>

- Sinus activation functions (SIREN) [Sitzmann et al. 2020] <https://arxiv.org/abs/2006.09661>

$$\text{generalization: } F(\mathbf{x}, \Phi, \nabla_{\mathbf{x}}\Phi, \nabla_{\mathbf{x}}^2\Phi, \dots) = 0, \quad \Phi : \mathbf{x} \mapsto \Phi(\mathbf{x}).$$

- Robustness to noisy inputs

- Incorporate IGR in other 3D geometry learning methods

- Implicit Differentiable Rendering [Yariv et al. 2020] <https://arxiv.org/abs/2003.09852>

- 3D Generative Models

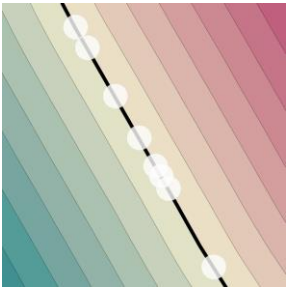
# Comment: Future Directions

- SDF actually provides more than surface (non-zero level sets?)
- accelerating rendering using SDF?
- solution to  $\|\nabla_x f\| - 1 = 0$  : regular, but lack physical meanings?
- Poisson equation  $\nabla_x^2 f - 1/g = 0$  ?  $L^p$  norm?
- volume rendering?
  - xyz  $\rightarrow$  SDF
  - xyz,  $\theta\phi$   $\rightarrow$   $\sigma, \text{RGB}$  (NeRF-Mildenhall-2020)
  - SDF  $\leftarrow$  RGB (NeuS-Wang-2021)

# Reminder

Given cloud  $X = \{\mathbf{x}_i\}_{i \in I} \subset \mathbb{R}^3$ , with or without normal  $N = \{\mathbf{n}_i\}_{i \in I} \subset \mathbb{R}^3$ ,  
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Eikonal regularization term  
(making  $f$  an SDF)

boundary term    boundary normal term

Optimizing the loss is solving Eikonal equation  
with insufficient boundary condition  
+ implicit geometric regularization

$$\begin{cases} \|\nabla_x f\| - 1 = 0 \\ |f(\mathbf{x}_i; \theta)| = 0 \\ \|\nabla_x f(\mathbf{x}_i; \theta) - \mathbf{n}_i\| = 0 \end{cases}$$