



# Combining Close Range UAVs and Gaussian Splatting for High- Speed Tomato Leaf Size Estimation and Counting

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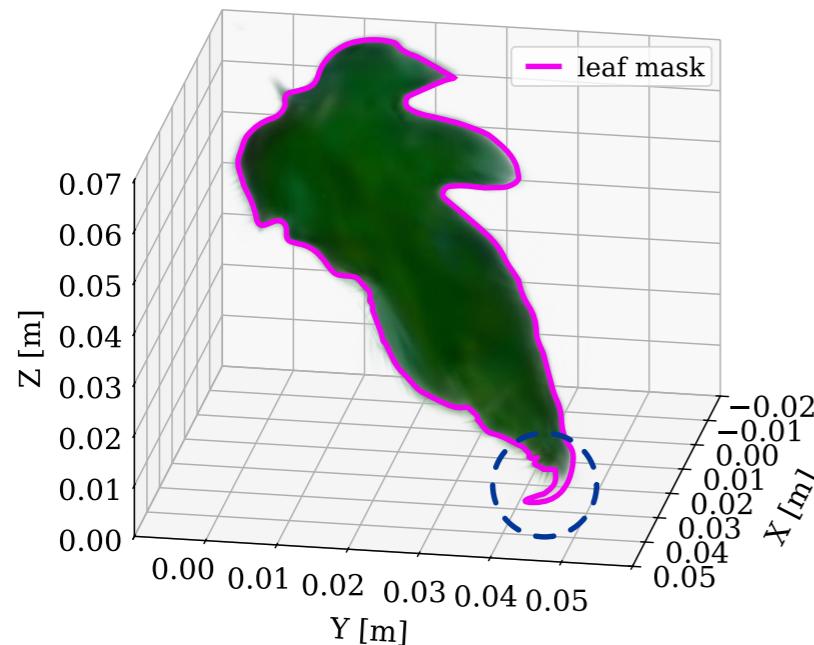
# Research Interests

## Phenotyping - Computer Vision

- Optimize Environment
- Maximize Fruit Yield

### A Leafs GCCE 2024 Today

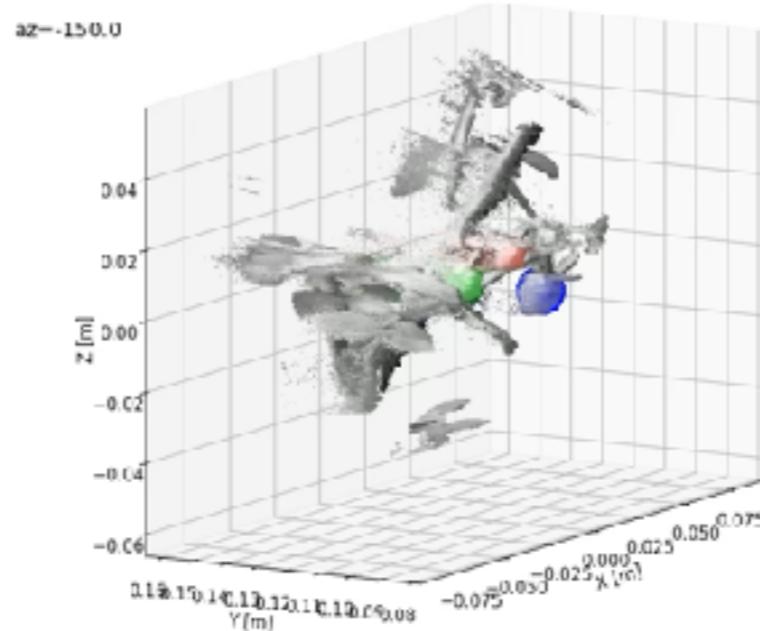
- Leaf number, area and curvature
- Drone based
- RGB only



### B SCIS/ISIS 2024 Fruits

→ 2024/11/11

- Fruit number, size and shape + PREDICTION
- Handheld camera based
- RGB only

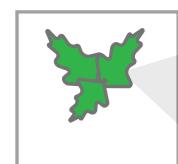
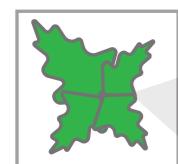
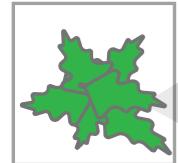


# Motivation - Leaf Area Index

## Definition and Limitations

How to?

投影葉面積



$$\text{Power Law: } L \sim L_0(1 - e^{-A \times LAI})$$

Relationship between:  
Light Absorption (L) and Leaf Area Index (LAI)

$$LAI = \frac{\sum_n^N A_{leaf}(n)}{A_{ref}} \approx \frac{\mu(A_{leaf}) \times N}{A_{ref}}$$

Summed Leaf Area      Mean Leaf Area

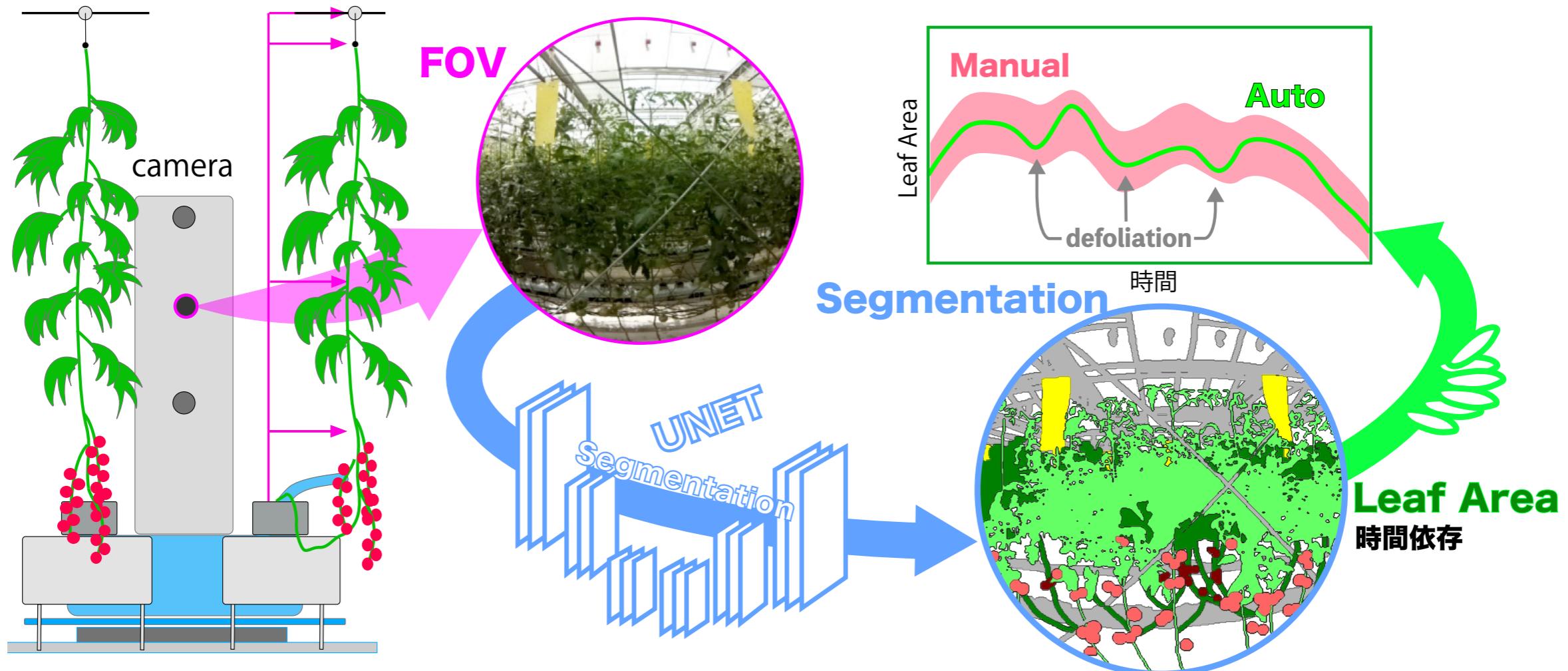
Combined Leaf Area ( $A_{leaf}$ ) per Reference Area ( $A_{ref}$ ).

# Motivation - Leaf Area Index

## Previous Research

Baar 2022

Goal: Approximate Light absorption potential



$$\frac{dG_p}{dt} = \frac{dLAI}{dt}$$

Approximate LAI by eval. projected leaf area!

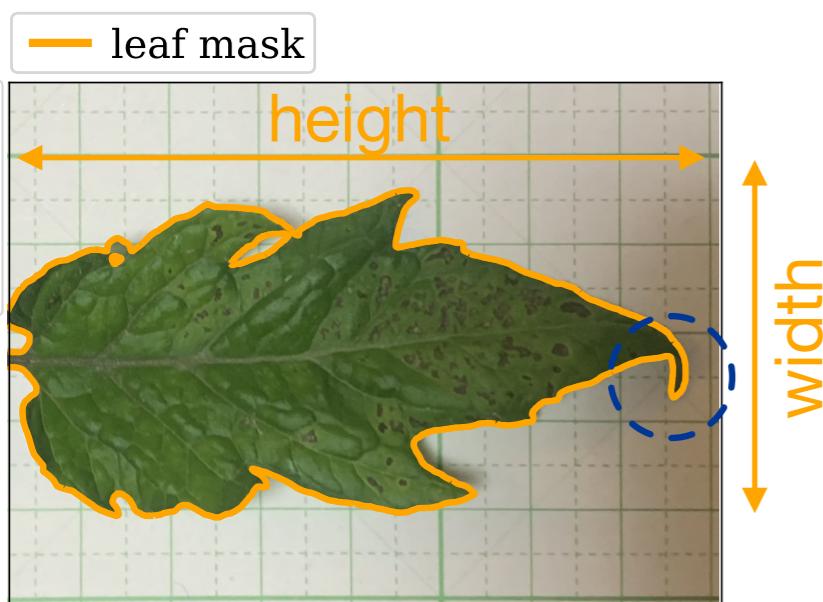
$$\rightarrow LAI = GAIN \times G_p + BIAS$$

**GAIN** and **Bias** have to be calibrated!

# Motivation - Leaf Area Index

## Definition and Limitations

**Goal: Approximate Light absorption potential**



### Methods:

#### Imaging - Masking

Projections -> measure **Extinction**  
—> Incomplete  
(Baar 2022)

#### Manual leaf measurement

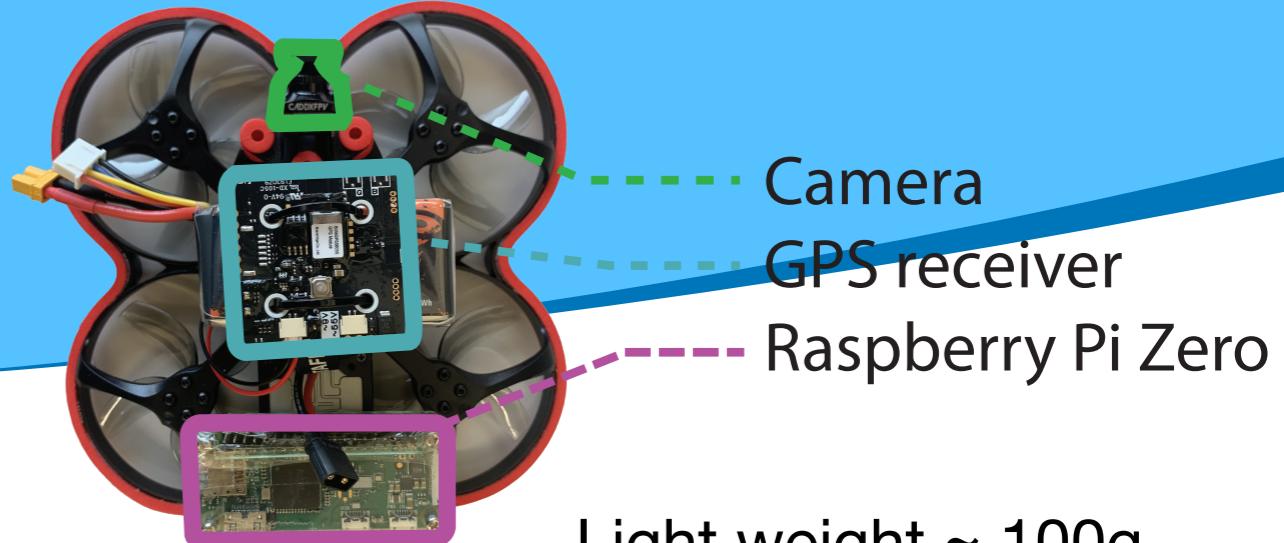
Leaf **No.** and **Area** measurements  
—> low efficiency

### Limitations:

**No Shape and Orientation info**

# Experiment

## Drone and Environment



Light weight ~ 100g  
Area: 6cm x 6cm  
Small Battery: 450mAh

### Goal:

- **Monitor Tomato Plant**
- **Time series observation**
  - **Leaf number**
  - **Leaf area**
  - **Leaf curvature**

Optimize:  
- environment  
- defoliation

- controll via wifi
- - **Drone Bridge :**  
<https://GitHub.com/DroneBridge/DroneBridge>
  - **ez-wifibroadcast :**  
<https://github.com/rodizio1/EZ-WifiBroadcast>
  - **OpenHD :**  
<https://openhd.gitbook.io/open-had>
  - **Ruby FPV :**  
<https://RubyFPV.com>

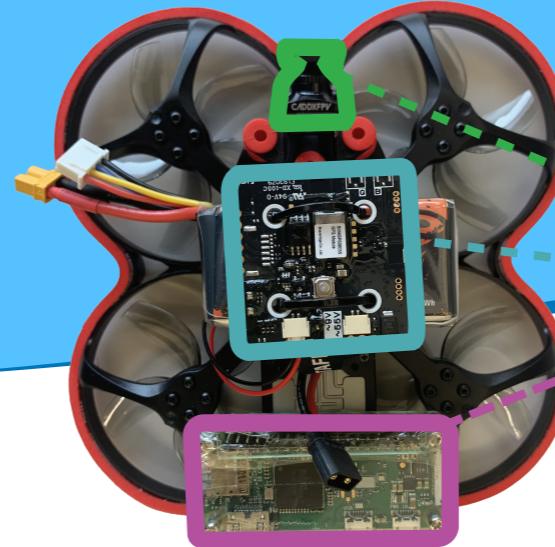
**Guided Flight:** Work in progress!  
**Via Ground pattern Reference**

Not in this talk!

# Experiment

## General Idea

This study:



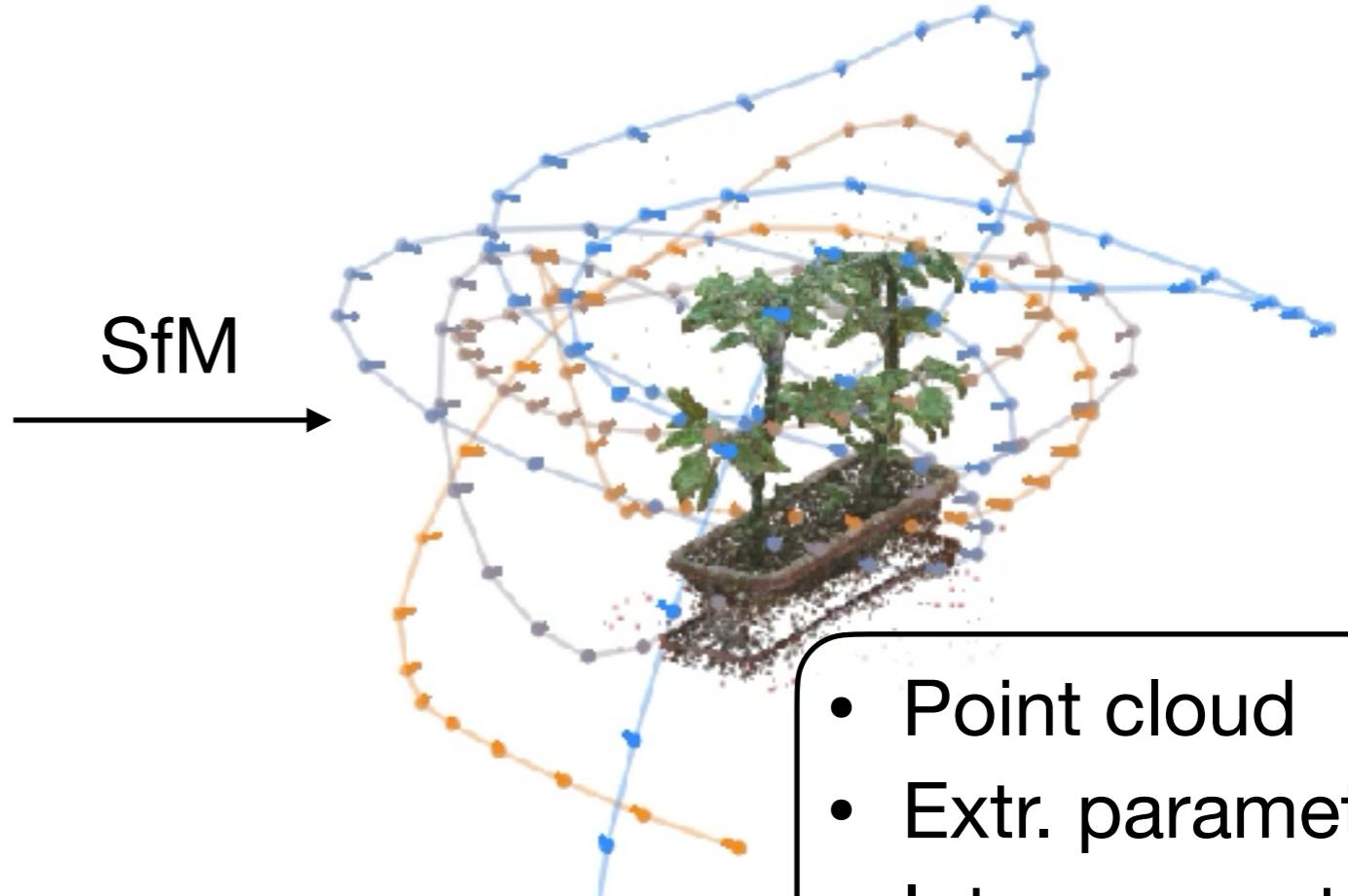
Camera  
GPS receiver  
Raspberry Pi Zero

**Input**  
RGB video

Test Environment



**Output**  
3D model

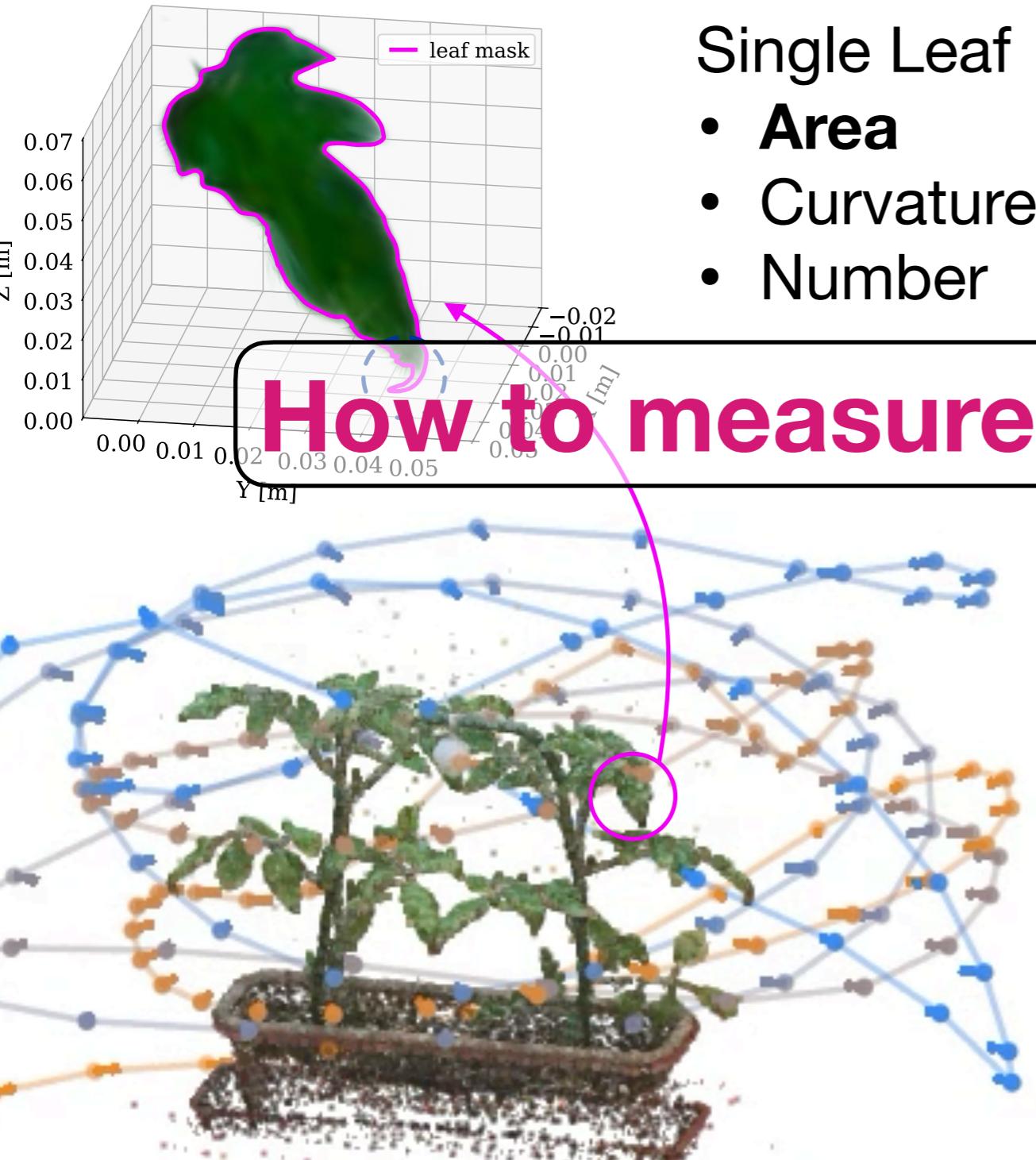


- Point cloud
- Extr. parameter
- Intr. parameter

Greenhouse Environment in later phase

# Data Reduction

## Overview



### 3D Leaf segmentation - Methods

#### A) Frame accumulation

Semi-automated UAV → Spiral Scan

#### B) 3D - Reconstruction

##### 1 Features

hloc-super glue

##### Tasks:

feature extraction  
feature matching  
bundle adjustment

##### 2 SfM model

Gaussian-Splatting

##### Results:

3D Splats  
Camera parameters

##### 3 Metric Calibration

Reference Sphere

#### C) Leaf segmentation

##### 1 color & symmetry

Plant <-> BKG

##### 2 Pointnet++

Leaf <-> Stem

##### 3 Mean Shift

Leaf index

#### D) Leaf Manifold estimation

##### 1 Point-Cloud + Gaussian features

##### 4 - 3D Leaf instances

##### 2 Probability mapping

##### 3 Connected Components

# Metric Calibration

## Motivation - Related research

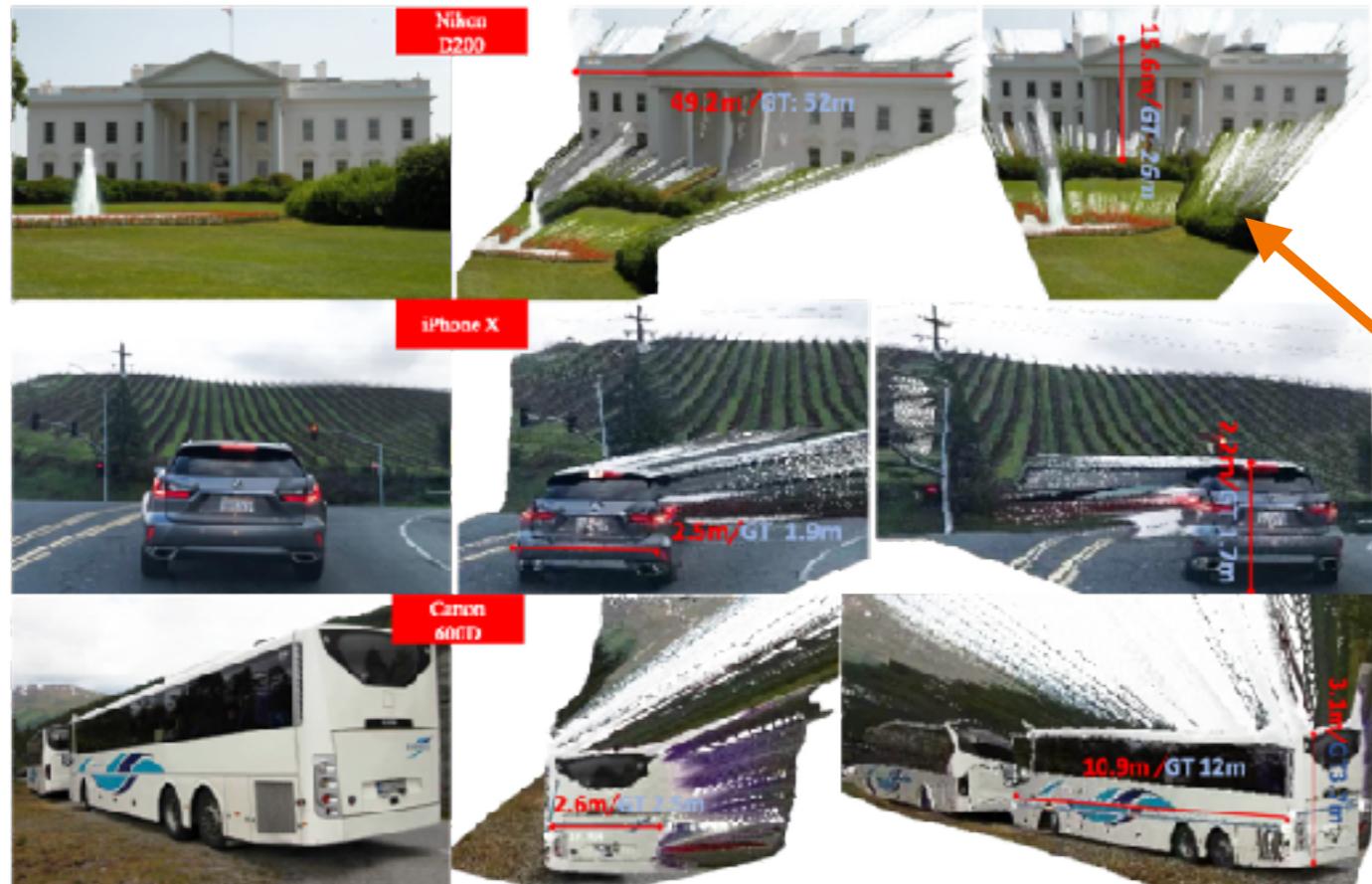


Fig. 14 – **Metrology of in-the-wild scenes.** We collect several Flickr photos, which are captured by various cameras. With photos' metadata, we reconstruct the 3D metric shape and measure structures' sizes. Red and blue marks are ours and ground-truth sizes respectively.

(Hu 2024)

### Size from Single Image

Metric3D v2: A Versatile **Monocular Geometric** Foundation Model for Zero-shot Metric Depth and Surface Normal Estimation

- **Projections not correct**
- **Metric unreliable**

Not possible!



Need Reference

# Metric Calibration

## Motivation

- Image coordinates are in  $\mathbb{R}^2$  (unit pixel)
- Relationship to real world dimensions are unknown.
- Need to find metric  $\mathbf{g}$

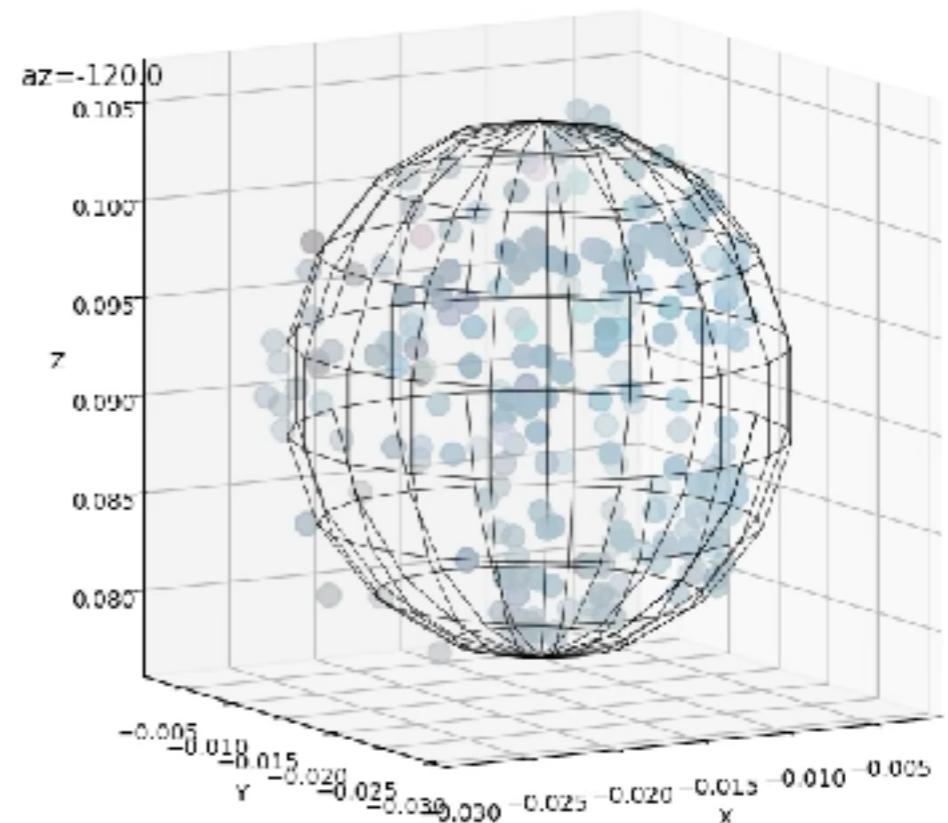
$$\mathbf{S} = \mathbf{g}\mathbf{B}$$

$$\mathbf{B} = (\vec{b}_1, \vec{b}_2, \vec{b}_3) \quad \text{Uncal. Basis}$$

$$\mathbf{S} = (\vec{s}_1, \vec{s}_2, \vec{s}_3) \quad \text{Metric Basis}$$

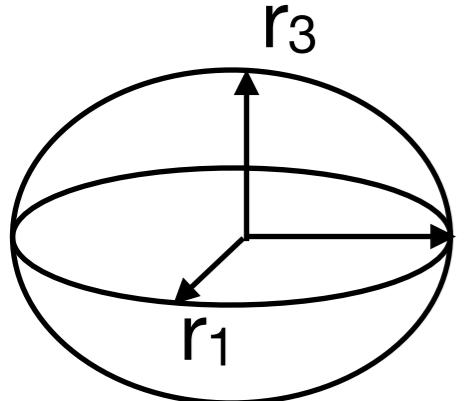


Calibrator (ref. Object)



# Metric Calibration

## Calibrator



$$r_2 \quad (P) : \left\{ \begin{array}{l} \{\mathbf{x}_\mu^\top \mathbf{S} \mathbf{x}_\mu = d\}_{\mu=1}^n, \\ \mathbf{S} \succeq 0, \end{array} \right.$$

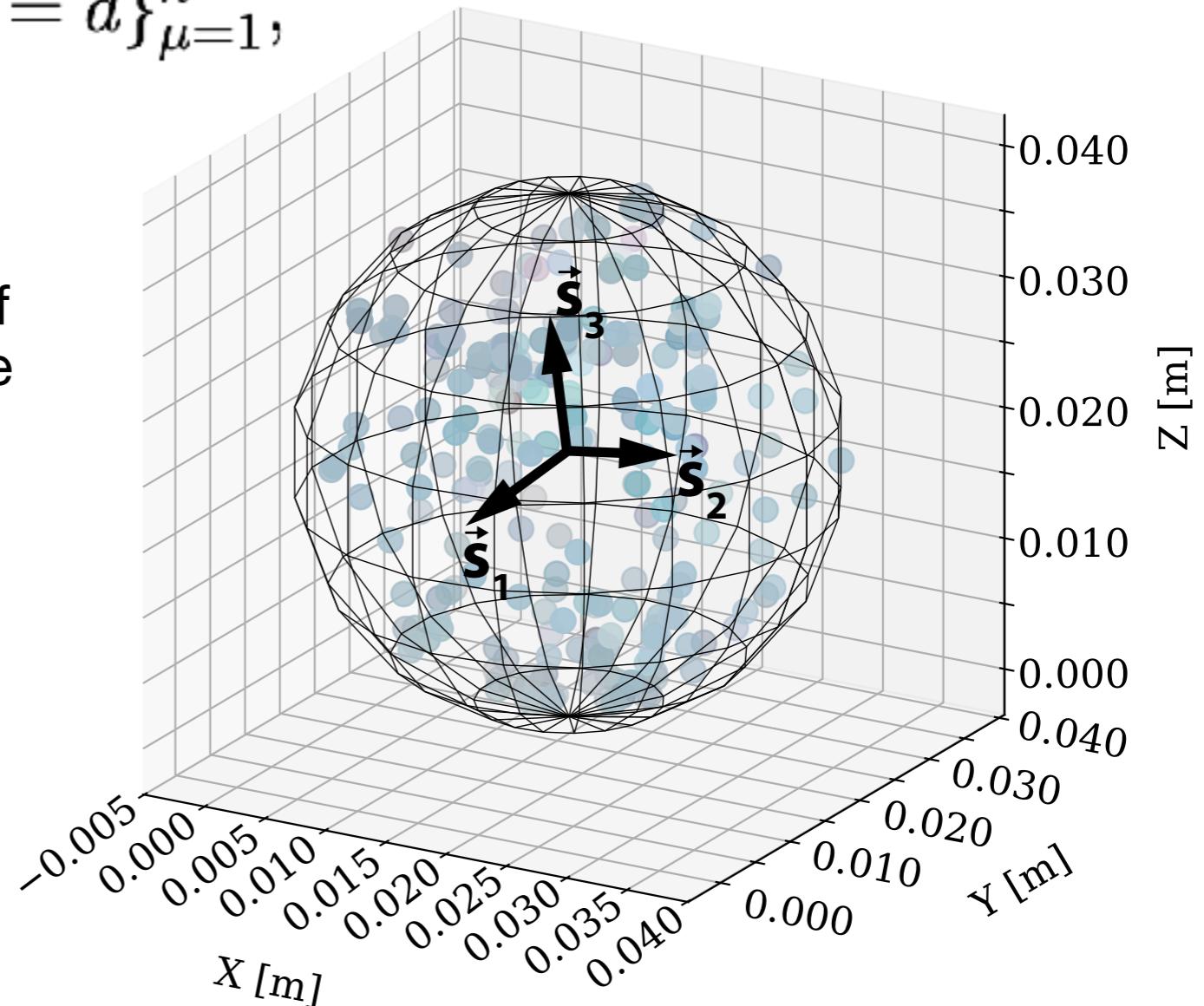
Eigenvectors of  $\mathbf{S}$  give the directions of the principal axes of the ellipsoid, while its eigenvalues ( $\lambda_i$ )<sup>d</sup> are related to the lengths ( $r_i$ ) of its principal (semi-)axes by

$$r = \sqrt{d\lambda^{-1/2}}.$$

Table 2: Metric

method	$g_{11}$	$g_{22}$	$g_{33}$
splatfacto	1.56	1.49	1.45
nerfacto	1.58	1.52	1.44

Calibrator (ref. Object)

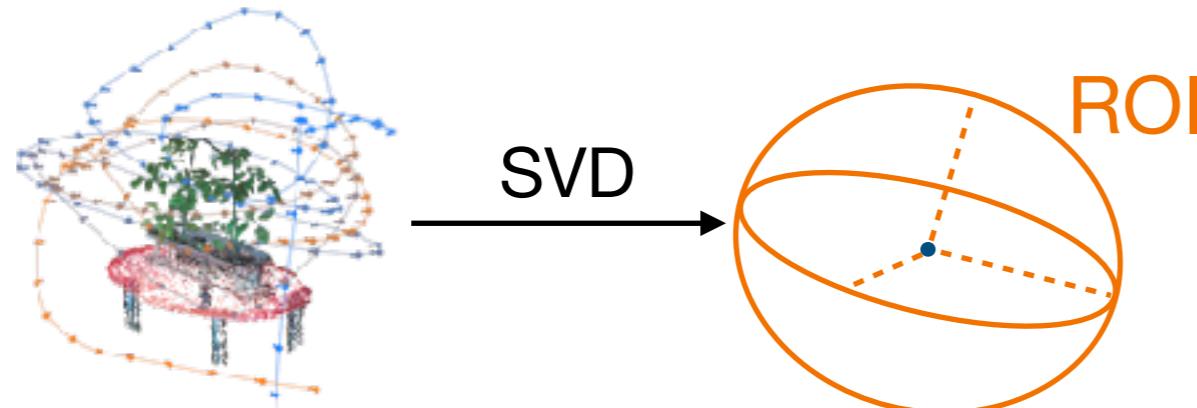


# Leaf Segmentation

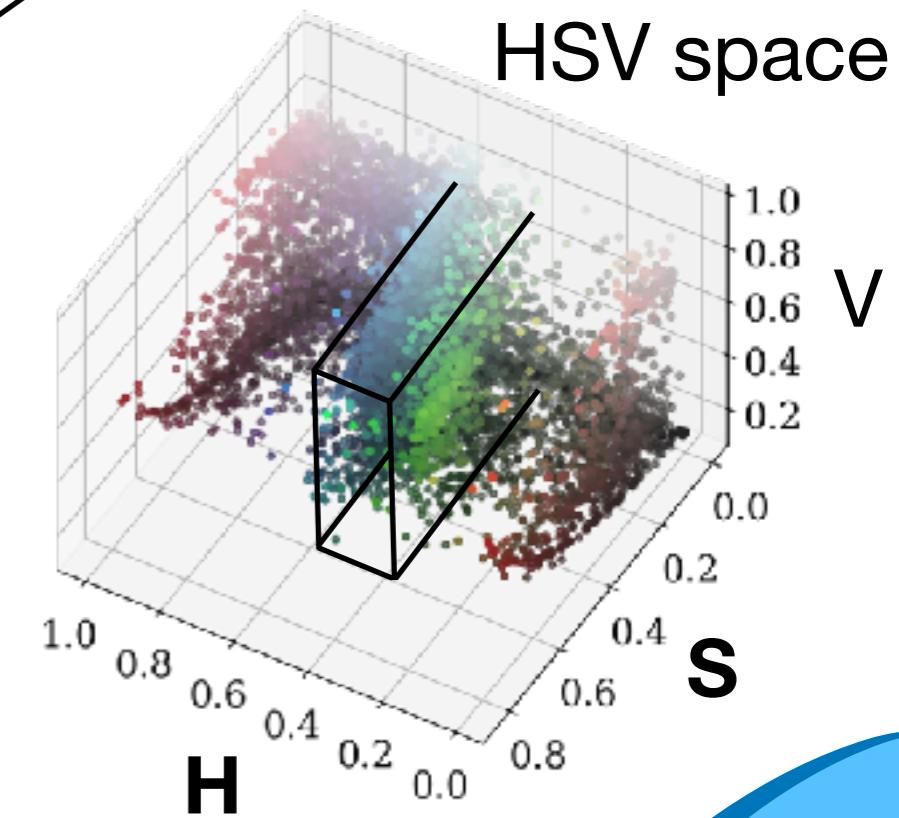
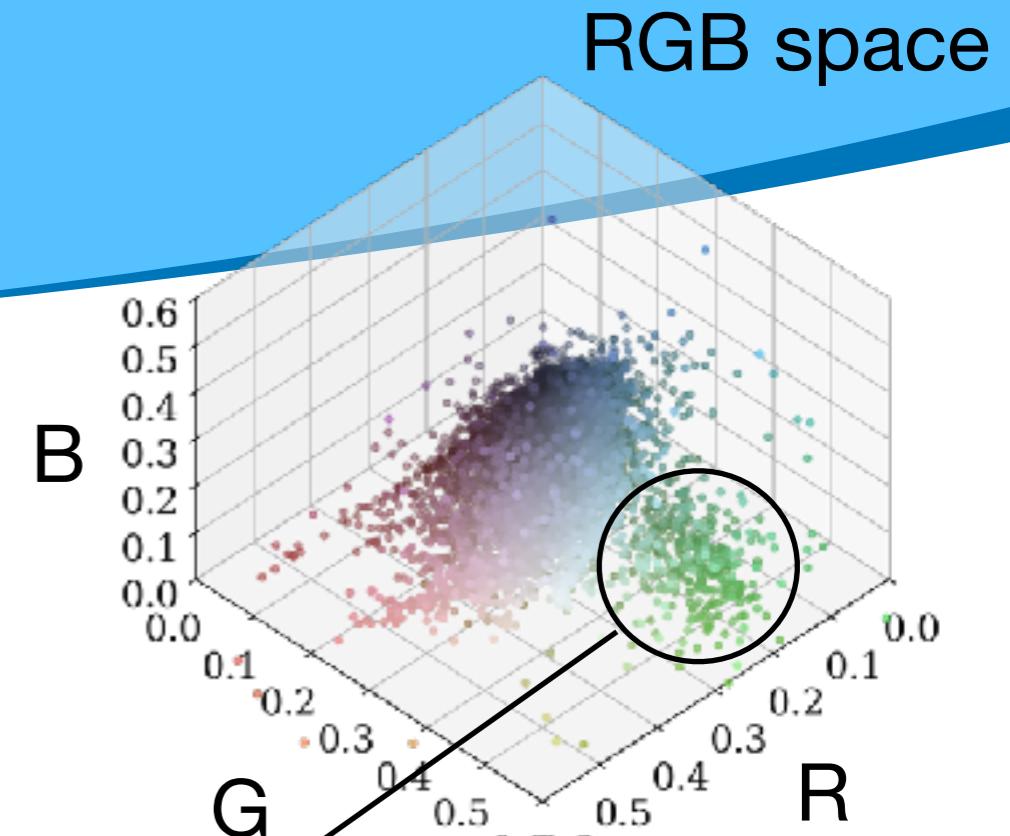
## Background separation

### Symmetry Segmentation

Camera trajectory → centre and major axes



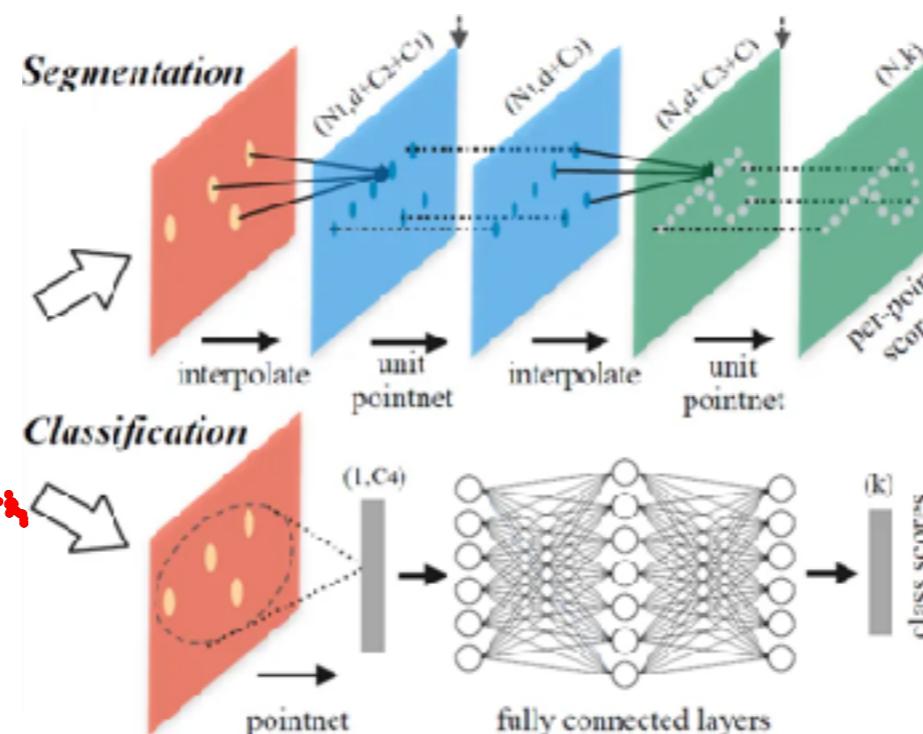
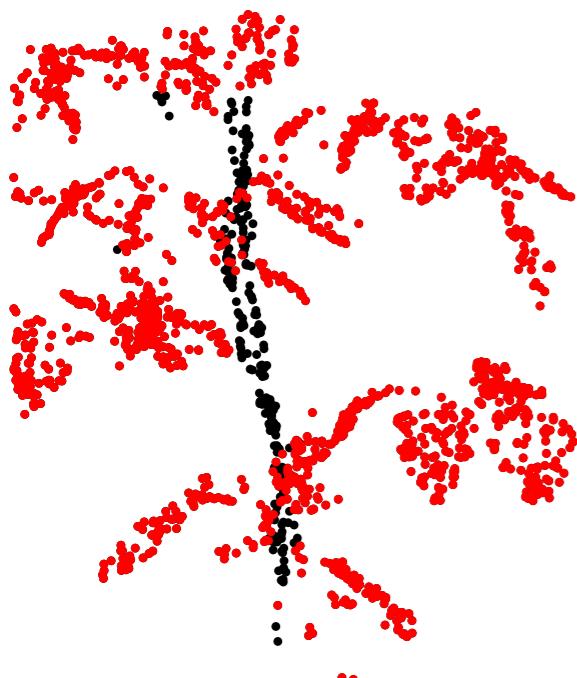
### Color Segmentation



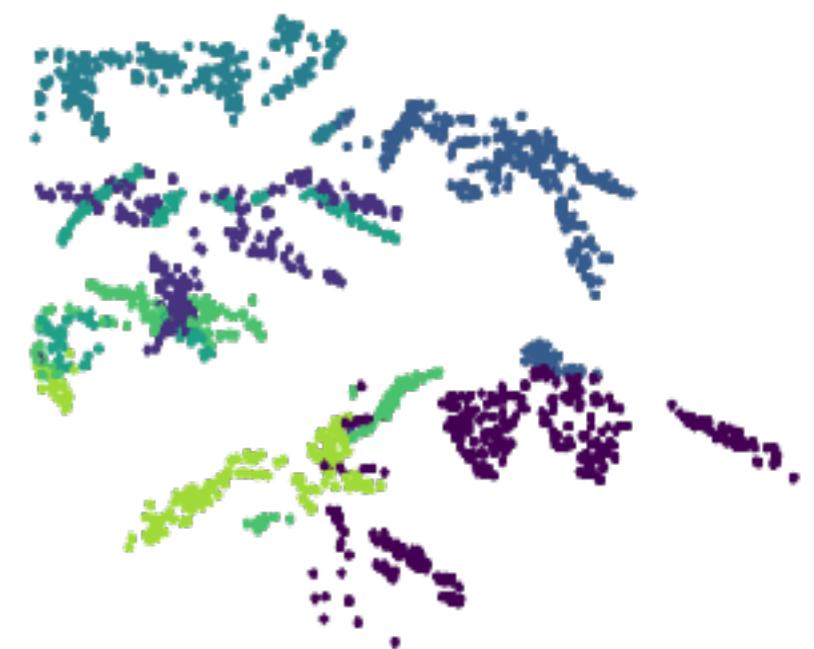
# Leaf Segmentation

## Counting and separation

### Stem - Leaf classification



### Leaf instance segmentation



### Pointnet++ (Pre-trained: Li 2023)

- not scale invariant
- Fixed point No. (1024, 2048, etc)
- scales with memory

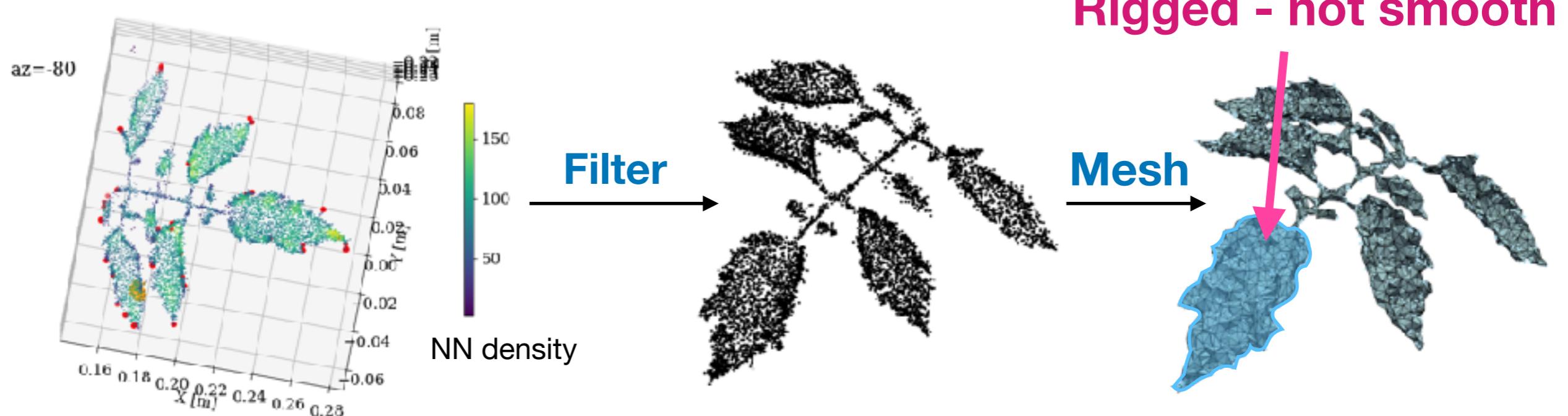
### Mean-Shift (sk-learn)

- Requires **Leaf size** (bandwidth) est.  $\leftarrow$  **Metric**
- Probability density

# Leaf Area Estimation

## Point cloud to Mesh

Area estimation, requires smooth surface reconstructions

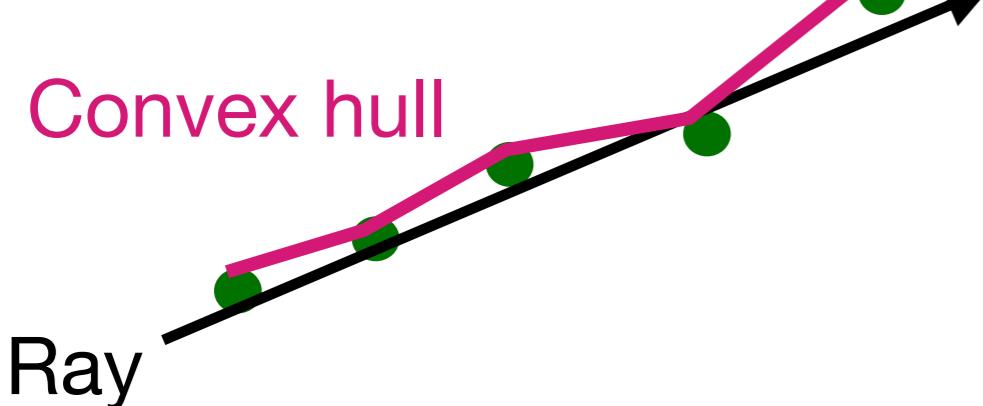


**Methods:**  
(XYZ - Point clouds)

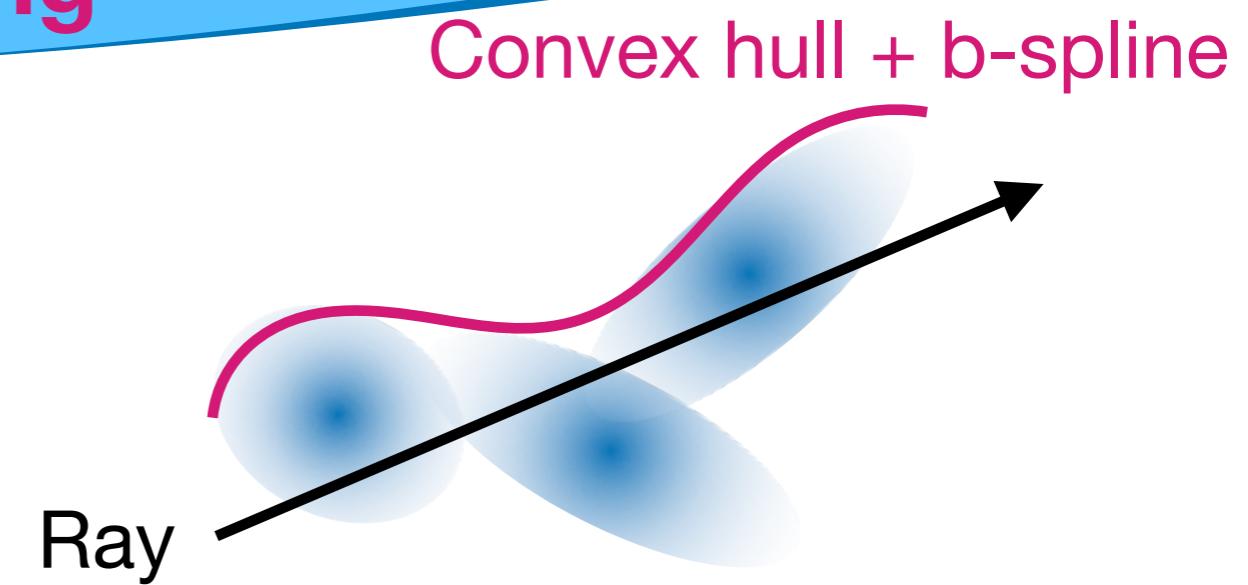
- ShrinkWrapping**
- Point2Mesh (Hanocka 2022)
  - Watertight Manifold (Huang 2018)
  - Shape As Points (SAP) (Peng 2021)

# Model Representation

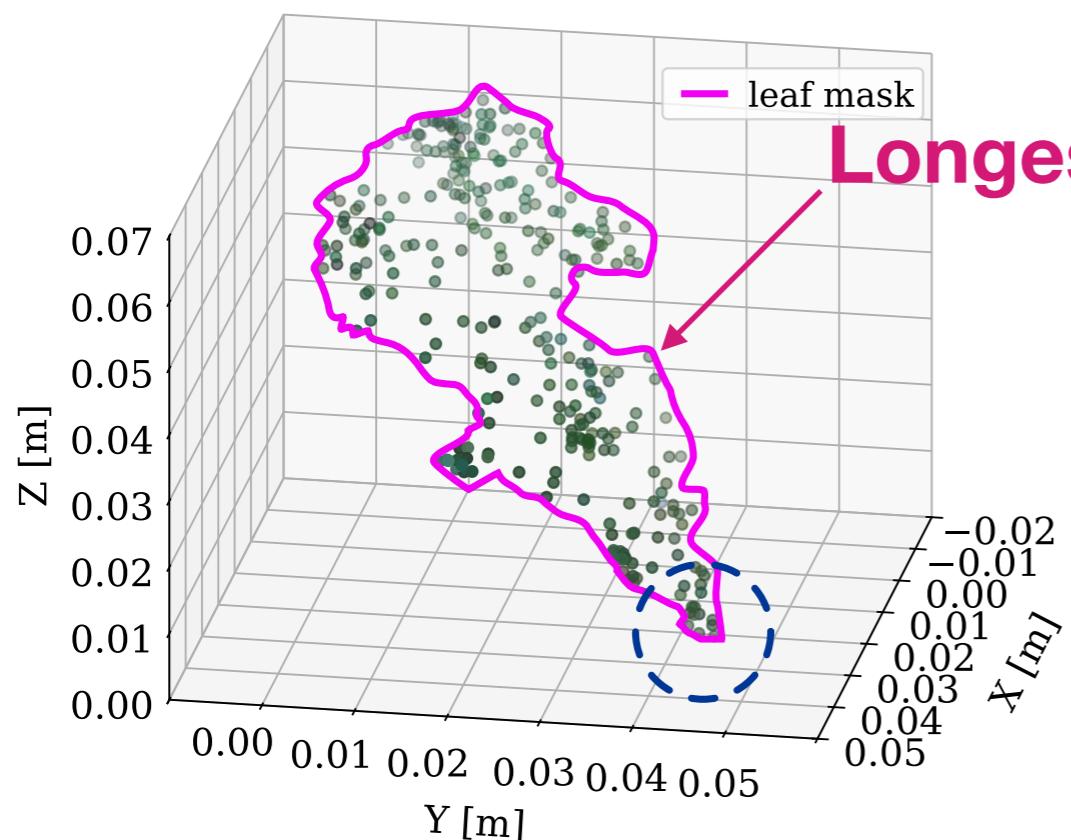
## Nerf vs. Gaussian Splatting



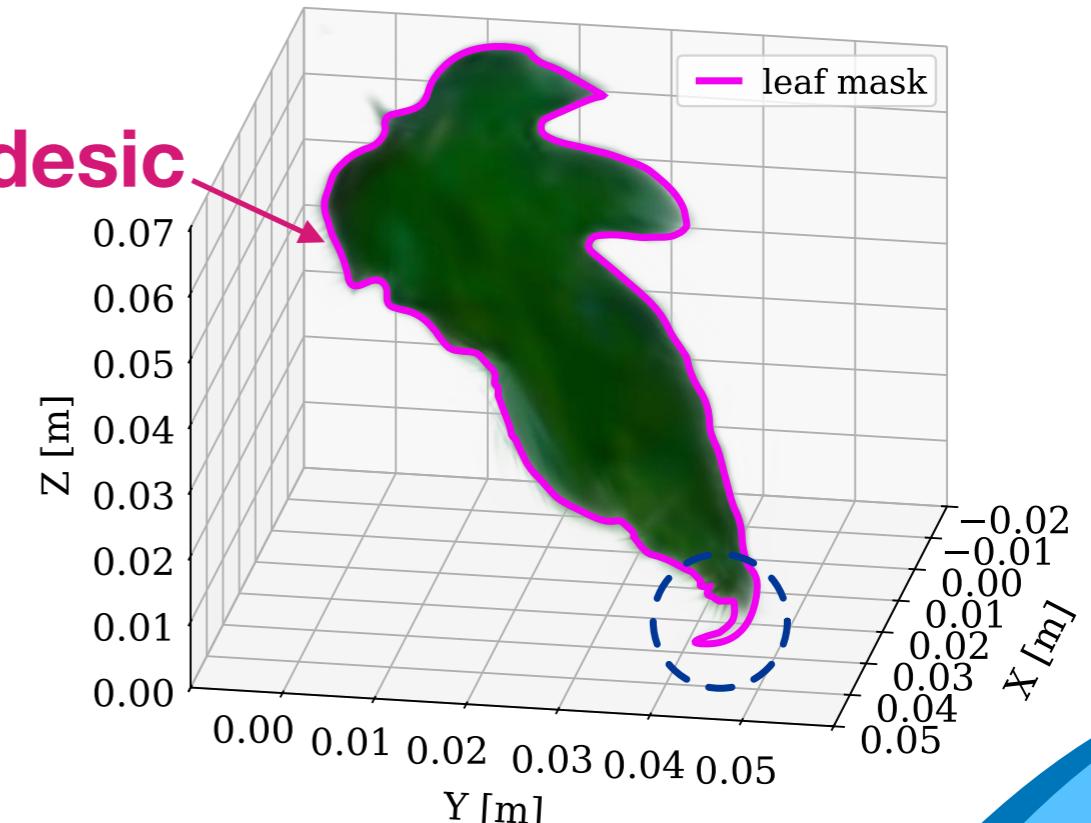
**NERF (Neural Radiance Fields)**



**Gaussian Splatting**



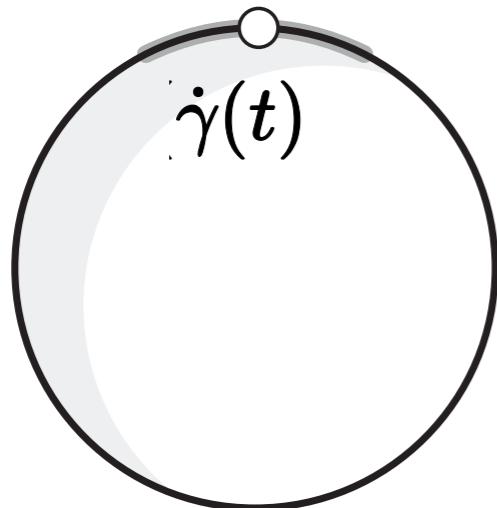
**Longest Geodesic**



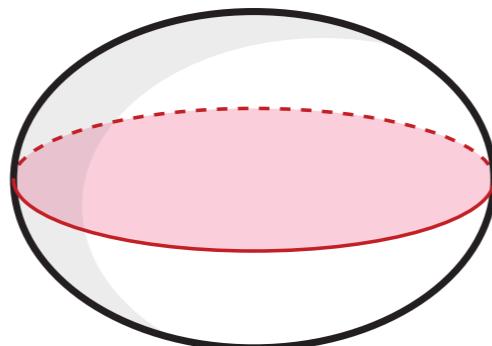
# Curvature Analysis

## Riemannian curvature

Local Curvature



$R^2$  Geodesic (**E**) in  $R^3$



Longest path

In a Riemannian manifold  $M$  with metric tensor  $g$ , the length  $L$  of a continuously differentiable curve  $\gamma : [a,b] \rightarrow M$

$$E(\gamma) = \frac{1}{2} \int_a^b g_{\gamma(t)}(\dot{\gamma}(t), \dot{\gamma}(t)) dt.$$

- Fit wedge ( $R^2$ ) to  $R^3$  surface enclosed by **E** ( $R^2$ )
- Measure Leaf curvature

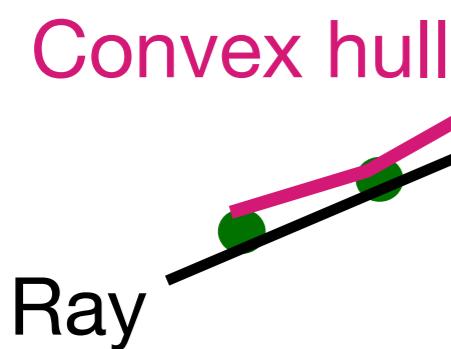
Indicate Leaf stress

# Leaf Area Estimation

## Point cloud to Mesh

Area estimation, requires smooth surface reconstructions

**Nerf**



**Gaussian Splatting**



Methods:

XYZ - Point clouds  
+ spherical harmonics  
+ 12d gaussian

**Estimate NN. Connections from gaussians**

**GS Surface Reconstruction**

- gs2mesh (Wolf 2024)
- SuGar (Guedon 2024)
- Gaussian Opacity Fields (Yu 2024)

# Results

## Experimental Setup

Table 1: Measurement Methods

camera	resolution	FPS	bit rate	method	velocity
A insta360 Go2	2K	50	50 bps	UAV	12m/s
B Caddx vista	720p	30	50 bps	UAV	12m/s
B IPhone X	720p	24	50 bps	hh. video	6 m/s
C IPhone X	4K	1	-	hh. still	-

A UAV video



B Handheld video



C Still image

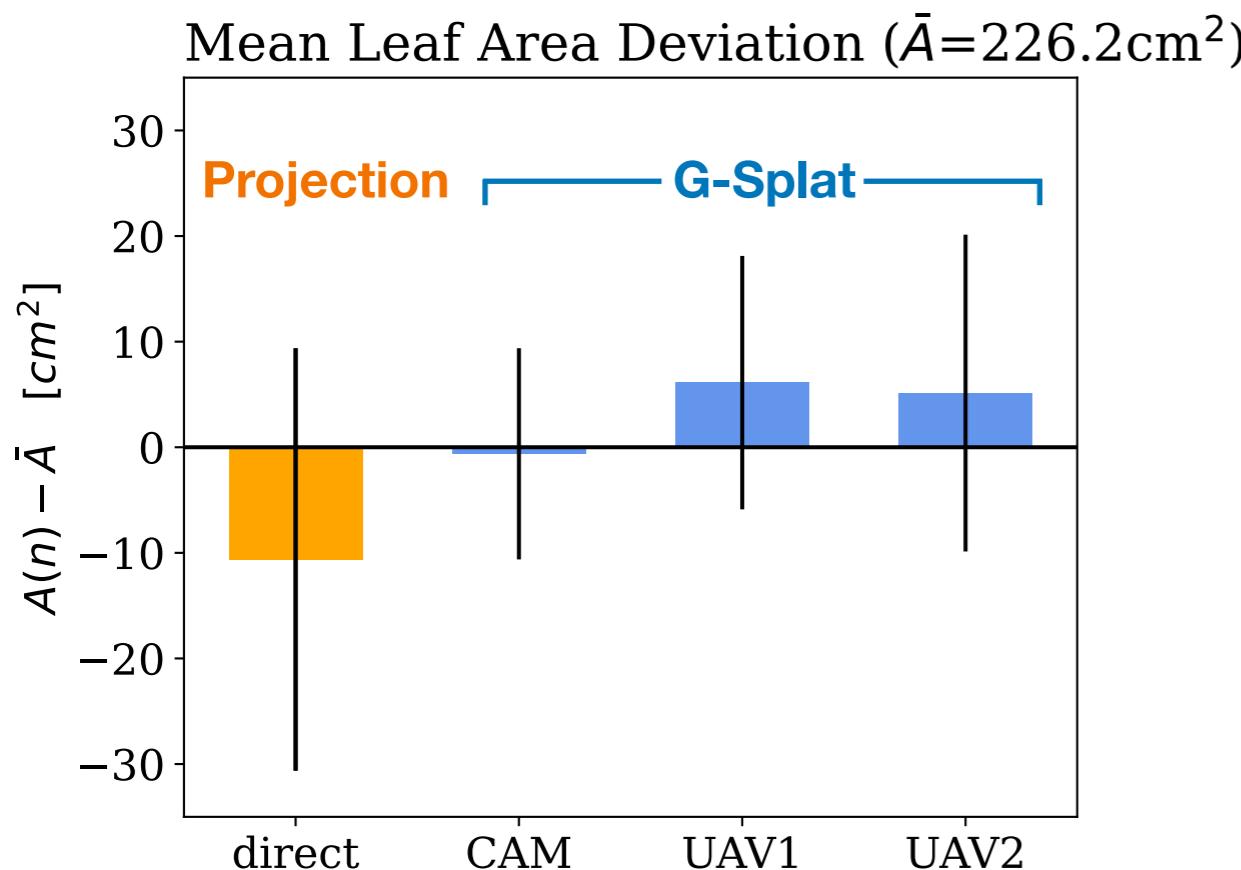


- A-B Varying trajectory (extrinsic parameters)
- Intrinsic parameters

# Results

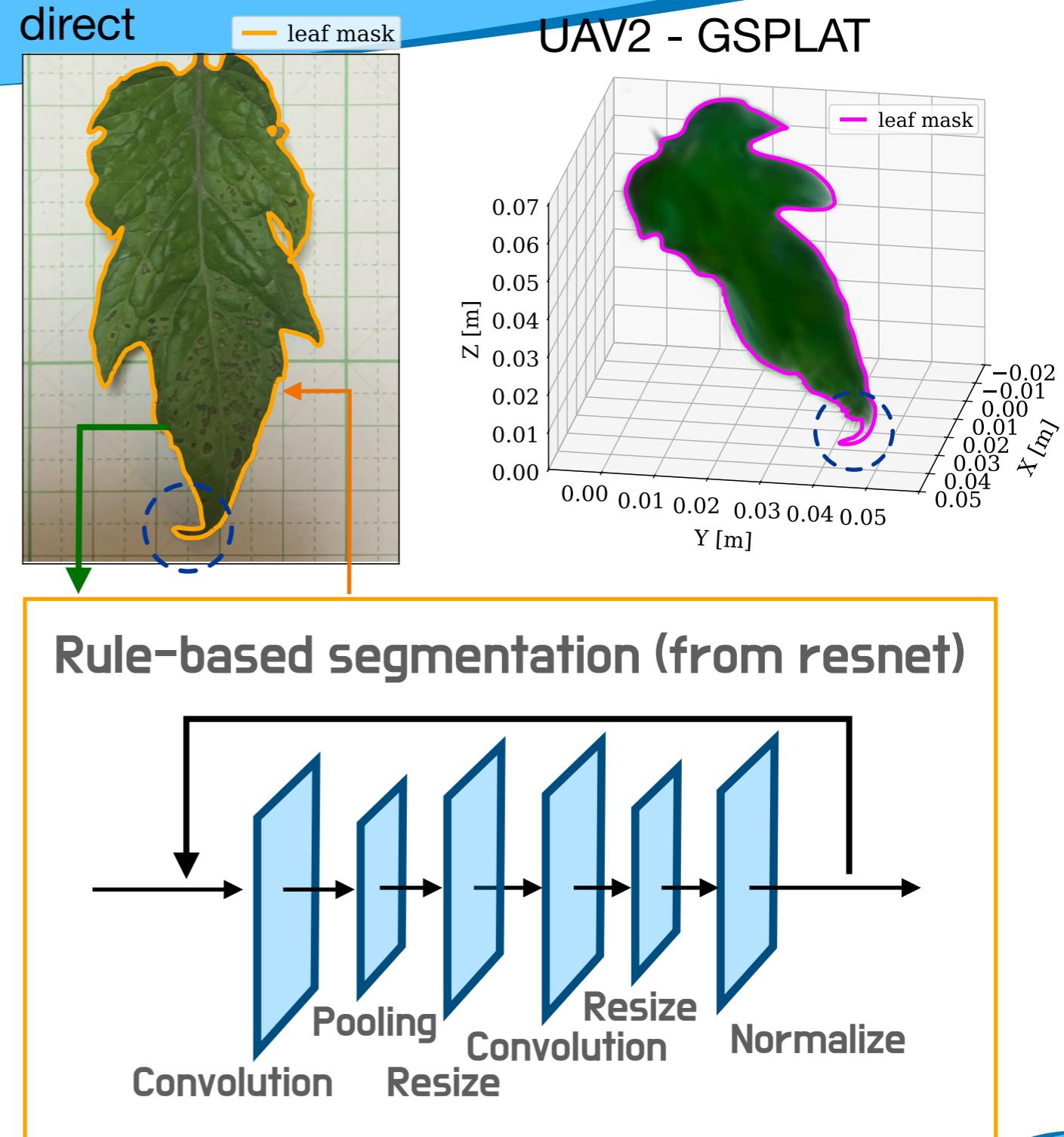
## Single Leaf Area

- High Ground Truth variance
- Results vary by 5~10%



- higher resolution
- Lower noise
- **Larger FOV**
- **Worse intrinsic para.**

→ Higher variance



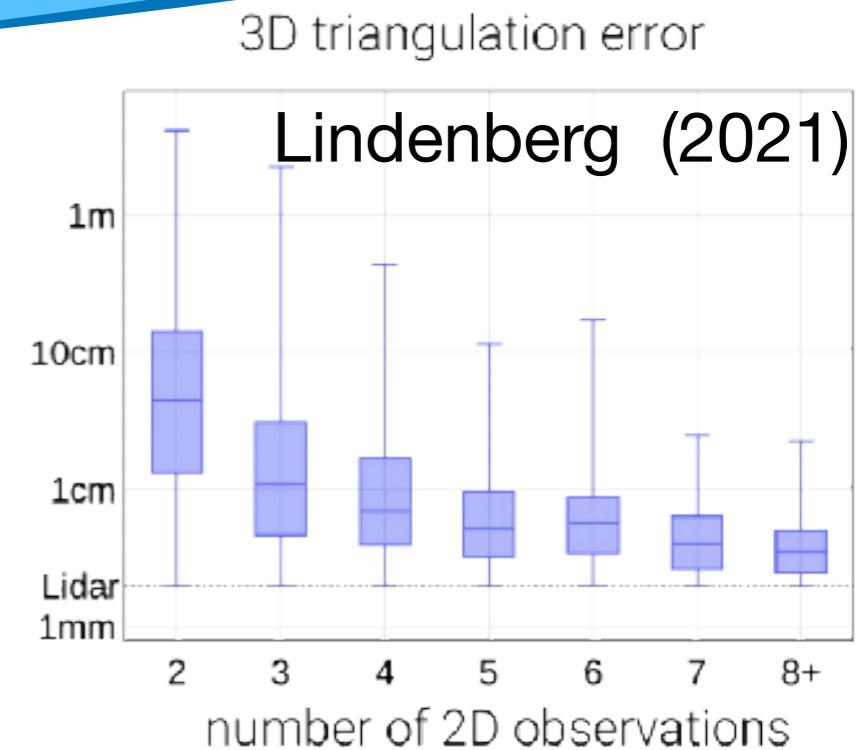
# Discussion

## Fun but not efficient

### What we have learned

Precise 3D structures from videos

- Req. **low brightness contrast**
  - Avoid shadows and highlights
- **high colour contrast**
- Proper white balance



### Problems

- Battery  $\rightarrow$  flammable
- Collisions
- Data transfer
- Maintenance

### Outlook

Initially: Trajectory  $\rightarrow$  radial symmetry  $\rightarrow$  **SfM**

Test Environment

Future: Trajectory  $\rightarrow$  linear  $\rightarrow$  **SLAM** (ROI uncertainty)

Greenhouse Environment

3D model resolution penalty!

# References

- Li 2023:** Automatic Branch-Leaf Segmentation and Leaf Phenotypic Parameter Estimation of Pear Trees Based on Three-Dimensional Point Clouds
- Peng 2022:** Shape As Points: A Differentiable Poisson Solver
- Hu 2022:** Metric3D v2: A Versatile Monocular Geometric Foundation Model for Zero-shot Metric Depth and Surface Normal Estimation
- Hanocka 2022:** Point2Mesh: A Self-Prior for Deformable Meshes
- Huang 2018:** Robust Watertight Manifold Surface Generation Method for ShapeNet Models
- Lindenberg 2018:** Pixel-Perfect Structure-from-Motion with Featuremetric Refinement
- Wolf 2024:** GS2Mesh: Surface Reconstruction from Gaussian Splatting via Novel Stereo Views
- Guedon 2024:** SuGaR: Surface-Aligned Gaussian Splatting for Efficient 3D Mesh Reconstruction and High-Quality Mesh Rendering
- Yu 2024:** Gaussian Opacity Fields: Efficient and Compact Surface Reconstruction in Unbounded Scenes
- Baar 2022:** Non-destructive Leaf Area Index estimation via guided optical imaging for large scale greenhouse environments