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# Dynamic skeletonization via variational medial axis sampling

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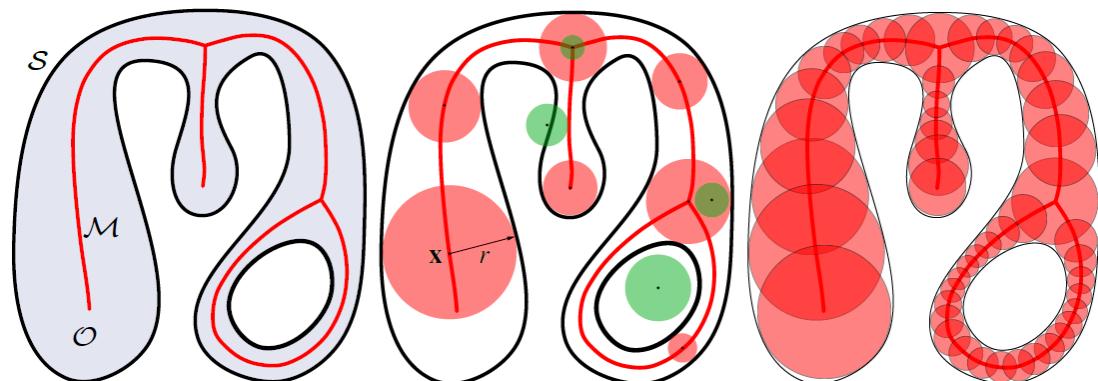
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# Skeleton: Discretized medial axis

- **Medial Axis:** The set of centers of spheres that have at least two closest points on the boundary of the shape. Such a sphere is called a *medial sphere*



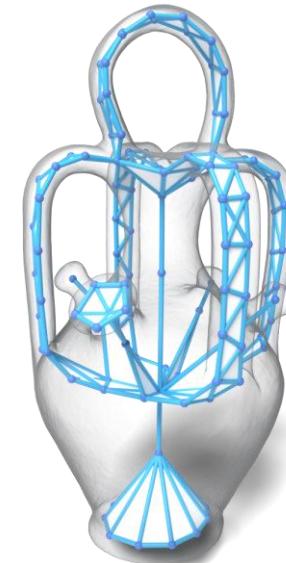
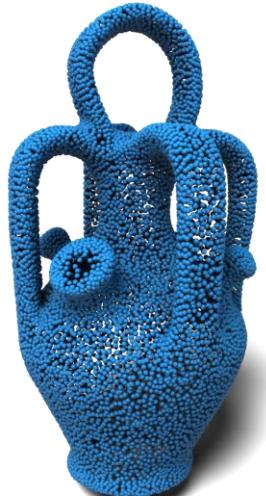
Tagliasacchi et al. 2016

# Objective

Surface



Oriented Point  
cloud

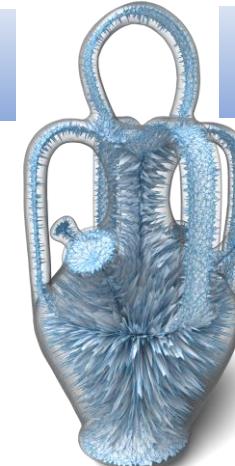


Discretization of Medial Axis

# Medial Axis Approximation

*Impractical for application*

*Simplification  
(Fine to Coarse)*



Voronoi Diagram  
*[Amenta et al. 1998]*

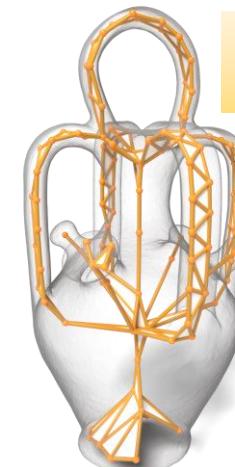


Shrinking balls  
*[Ma et al. 2013]*

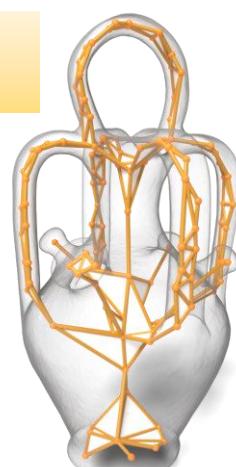


Random sampling  
*[Dou et al. 2022][Wang et al. 2024]*

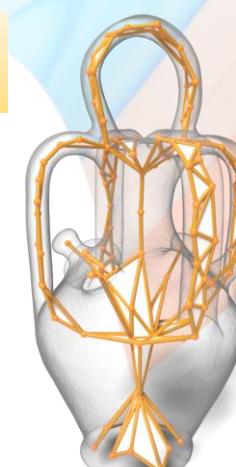
*Refinement ?*



Q-MAT  
*[Li et al. 2015]*



Coverage Axis  
*[Dou et al. 2022]*



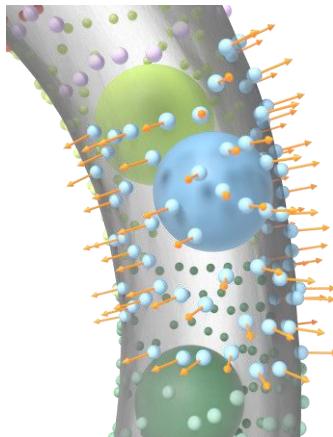
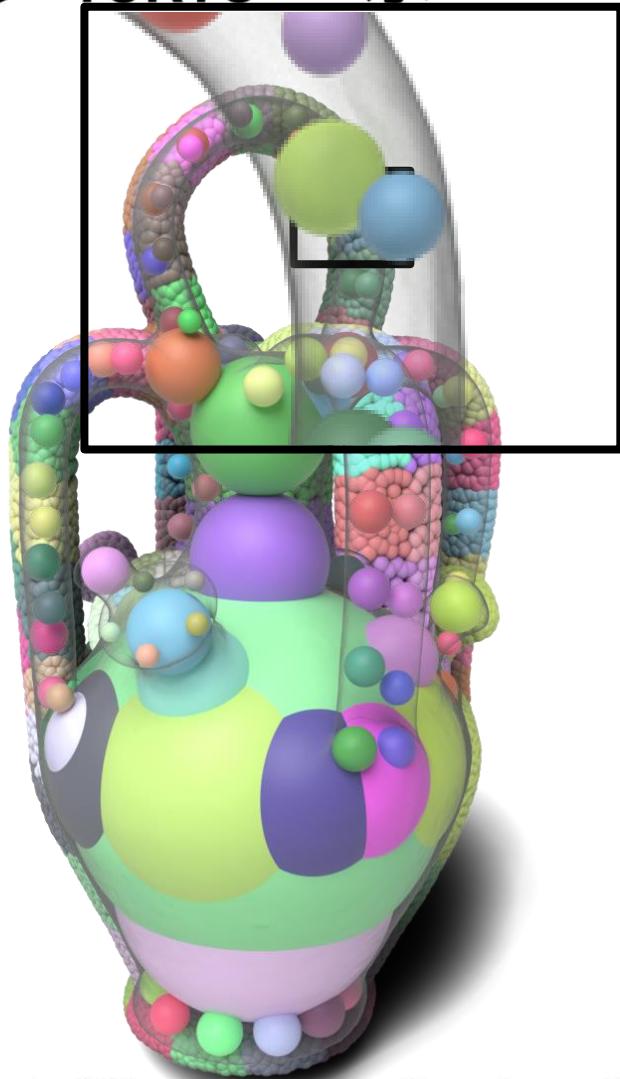
Coverage Axis++  
*[Wang et al. 2024]*

- Feature preservation
- Time consuming
- No control on the result
- Irregularity of the distribution of medial samples

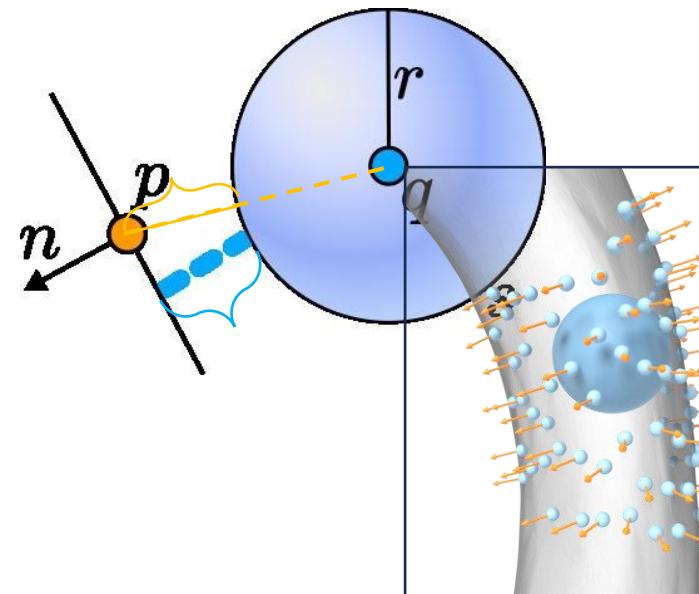


# Method

# Observation: Each medial sphere occupies a segment of surface



# Metric



- Sphere-plane distance:

$$d_{p,n}(s) = n^t \cdot (p - q) - r$$

- Spherical quadric error metric: [Thiery et al. 2013]

$$d_{p,n}(s)^2 = Q_{p,n}(s) = \frac{1}{2} s^t \cdot A \cdot s - b^t \cdot s + c$$

- Diffused quadric:

$$Q_{v_i}(s) = \sum_{t_j \in T(v_i)} \frac{\mathcal{A}(t_j)}{3} Q_{v_i, n_j}$$

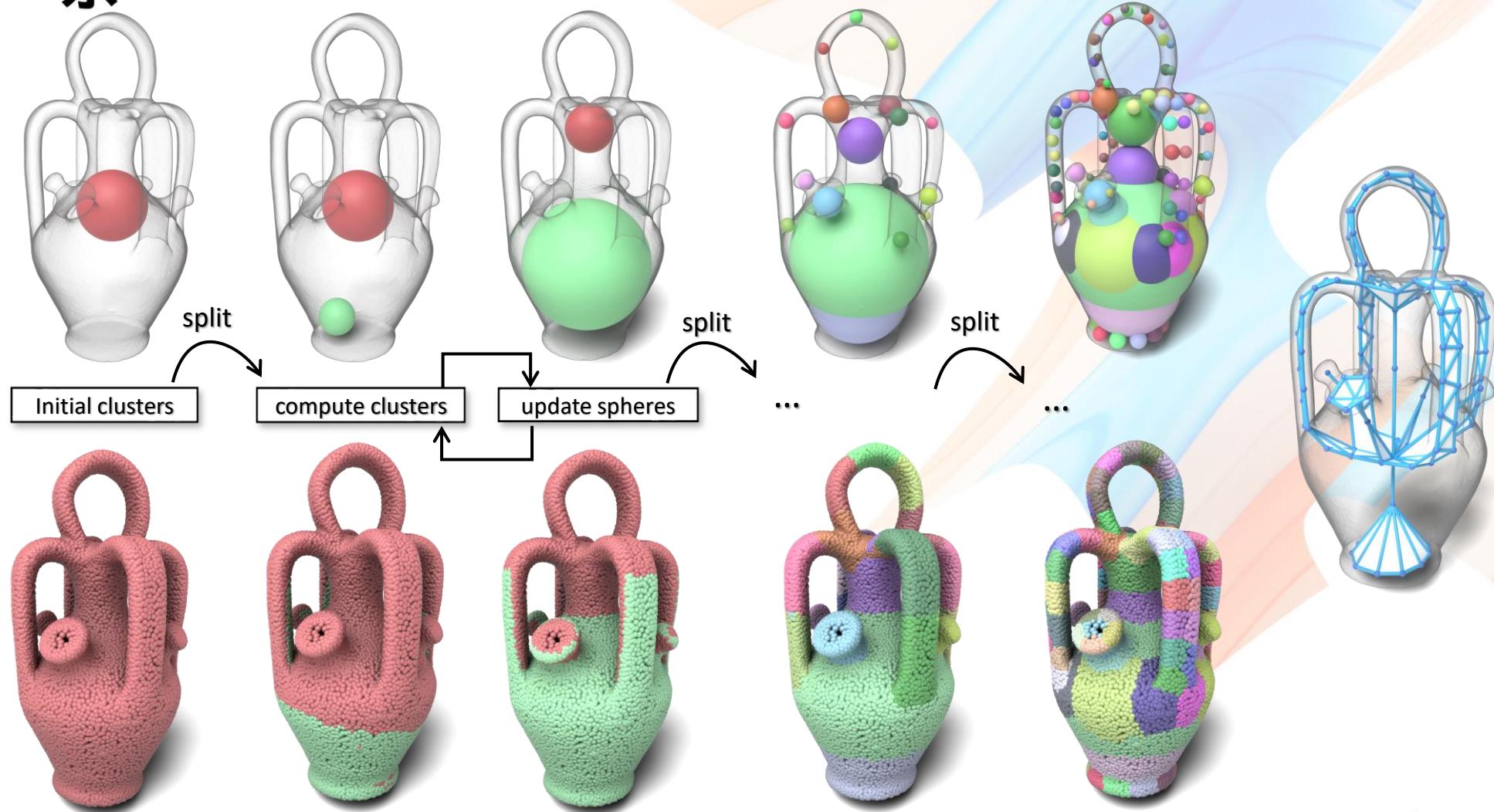
- Sphere-point distance:

$$D_{v_i}(s) = \left( \sum_{t_j \in T(v_i)} \frac{\mathcal{A}(t_j)}{3} \right) (|p - q| - r)^2$$

$\mathcal{A}(t_j)$ : area of triangle (KNN graph for point cloud)



# Pipeline



3–6 December 2024

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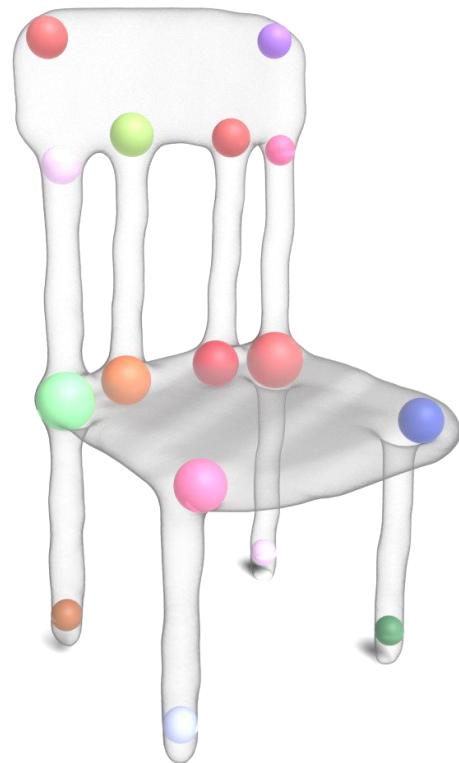
[ASIA.SIGGRAPH.ORG/2024](http://ASIA.SIGGRAPH.ORG/2024)

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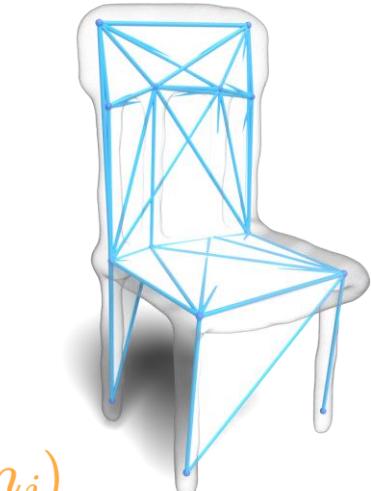
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$$E_{v_i}(m_j) = Q_{v_i}(m_j) + \lambda D_{v_i}(m_j)$$

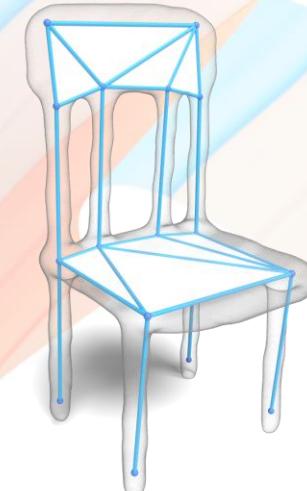
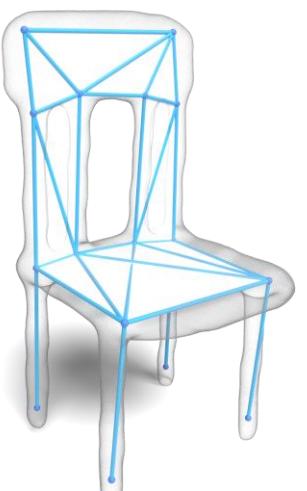
$\lambda = 0$



# Compute clusters



$\lambda = 0.02$



$\lambda = 0.2$

$\lambda = 1$

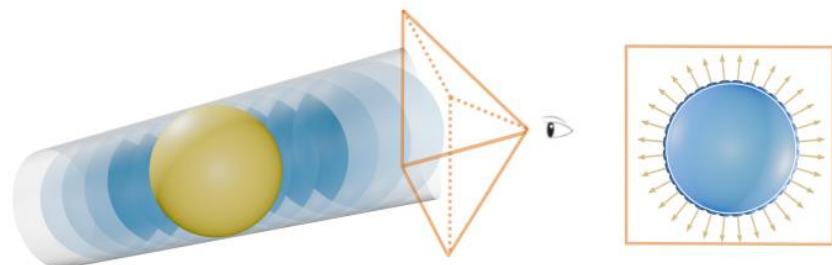
# Update spheres

- For each cluster vertices, fitting a sphere which minimizes the following metric:

$$(q_i^*, r_i^*) = \arg \min_{q_i, r_i} \left( E_{SQEM}(C_i) + \lambda \right)$$

$$E_{SQEM}(C_i) =$$

$$E_{euclidean}(C_i) = \sum_{v_j \in C_i} D_{v_j}(m_i)$$



$$\lambda = 0$$

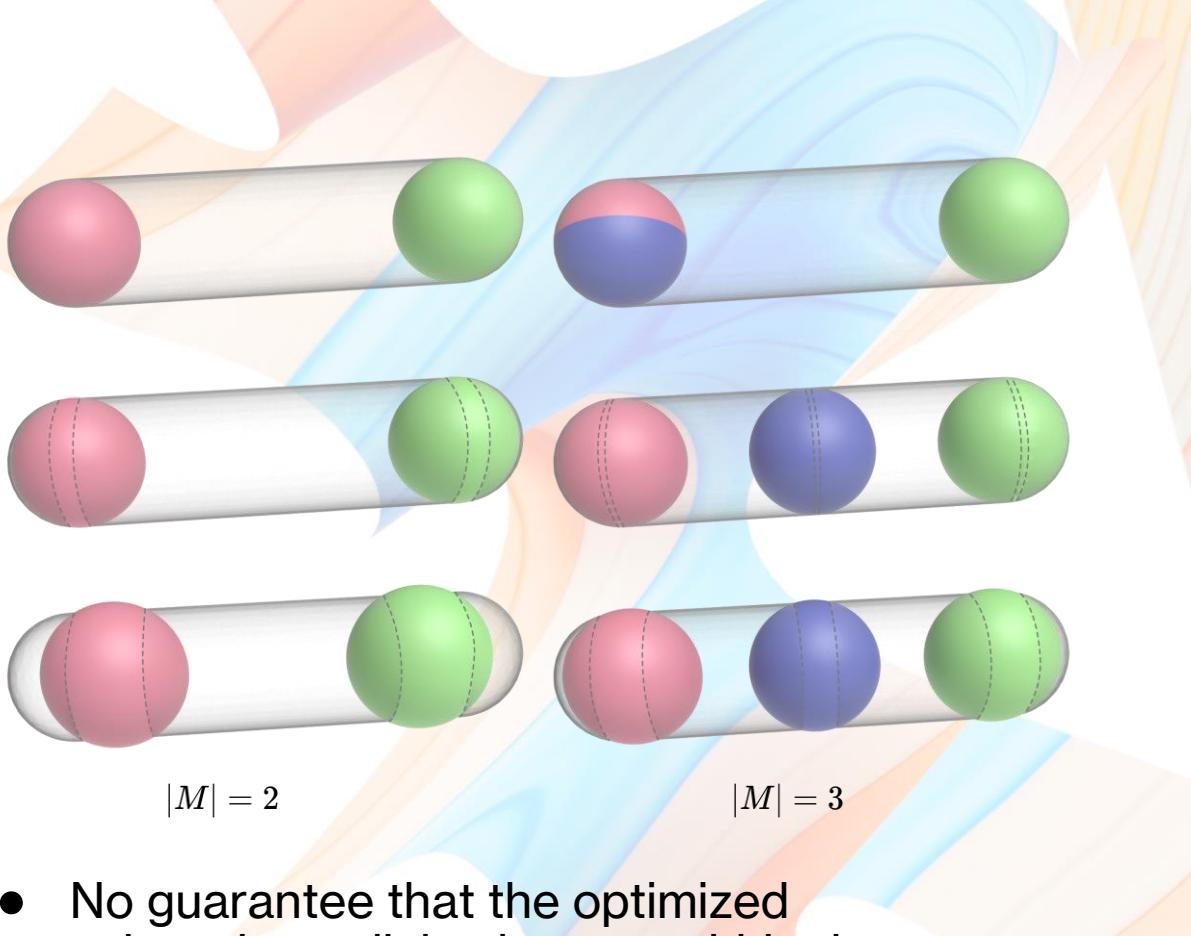
$$\lambda = 0.2$$

$$\lambda = 1$$

$$|M| = 2$$

$$|M| = 3$$

- No guarantee that the optimized sphere is medial sphere or within the shape
- Sphere Projection: Project the sphere center on the medial axis in the direction of the gradient of distance function.



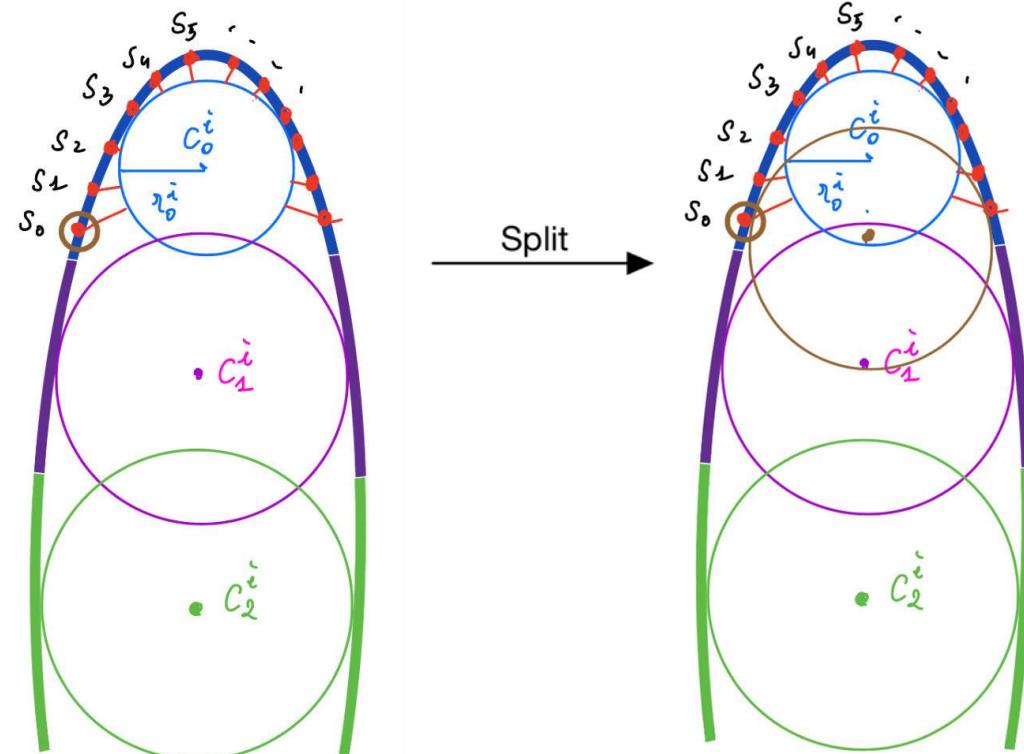
# Sphere splitting

- For each cluster  $C_i$  evaluate the error to determine whether it should be split.

$$E(C_i) = \frac{1}{\mathcal{A}(C_i)} \sum_{v_j \in C_i} E_{v_j}(m_i)$$

- Taking the vertex that has largest error as a seed to create a new sphere

$$v_{max} = \arg \max_{v_i \in C_i} E_{v_j}(m_i)$$



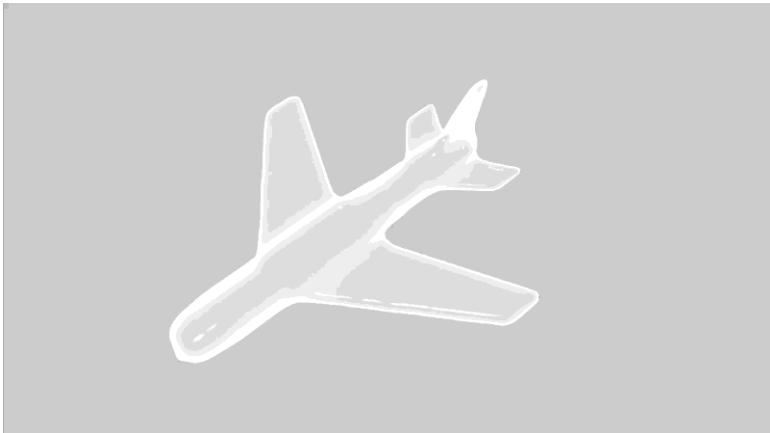
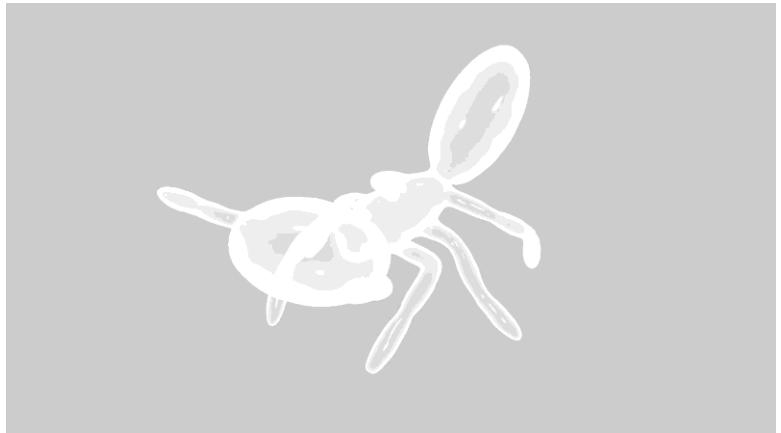
# Connectivity

- Build edge if two clusters are adjacent.
- Build face if three clusters share the same neighbours



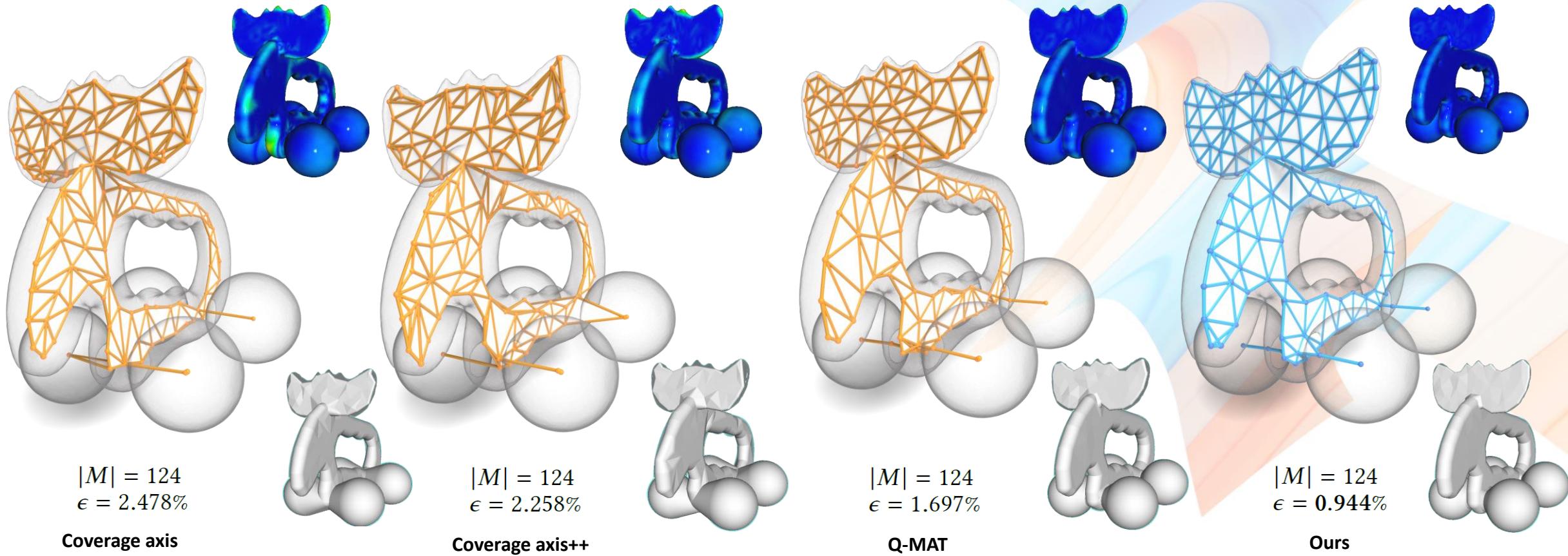


# Result

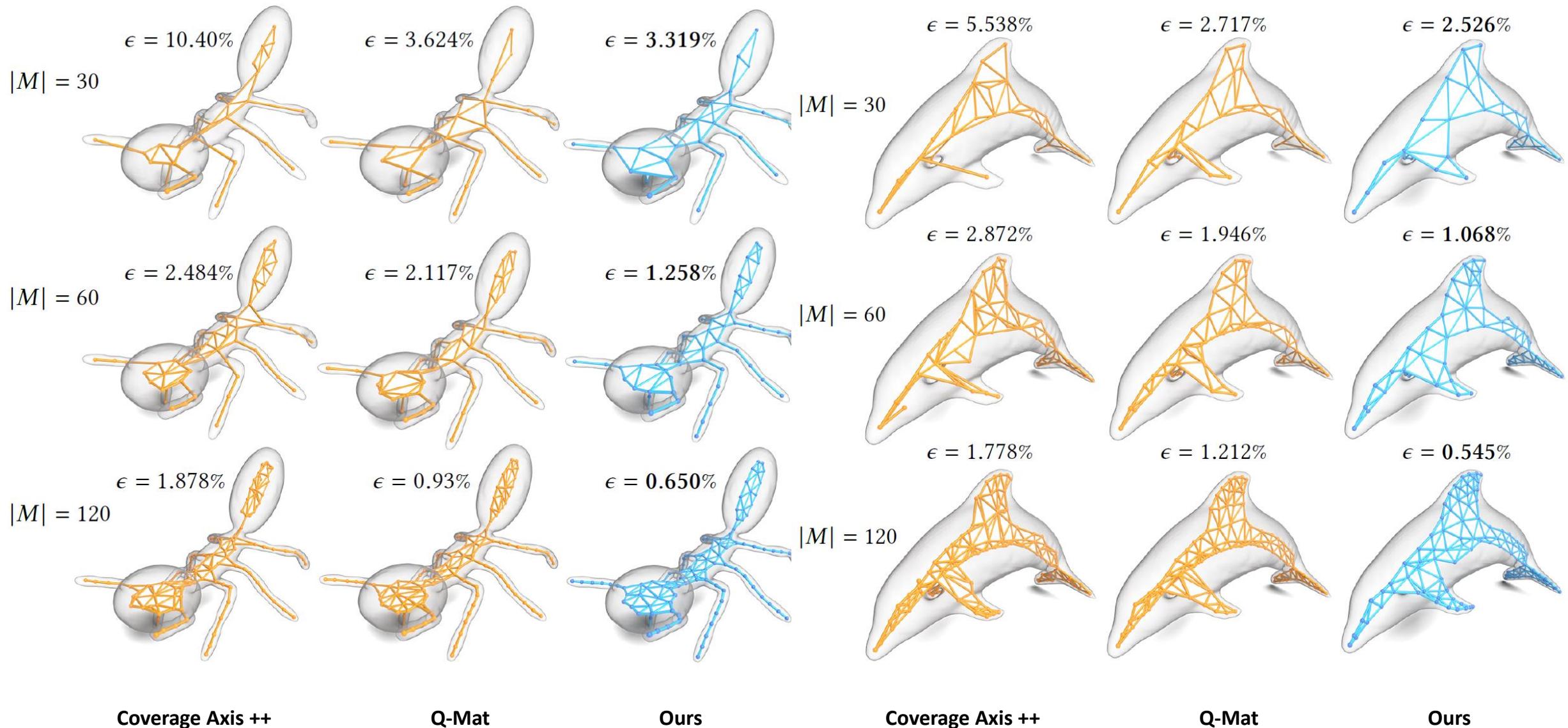




# Visual Comparison

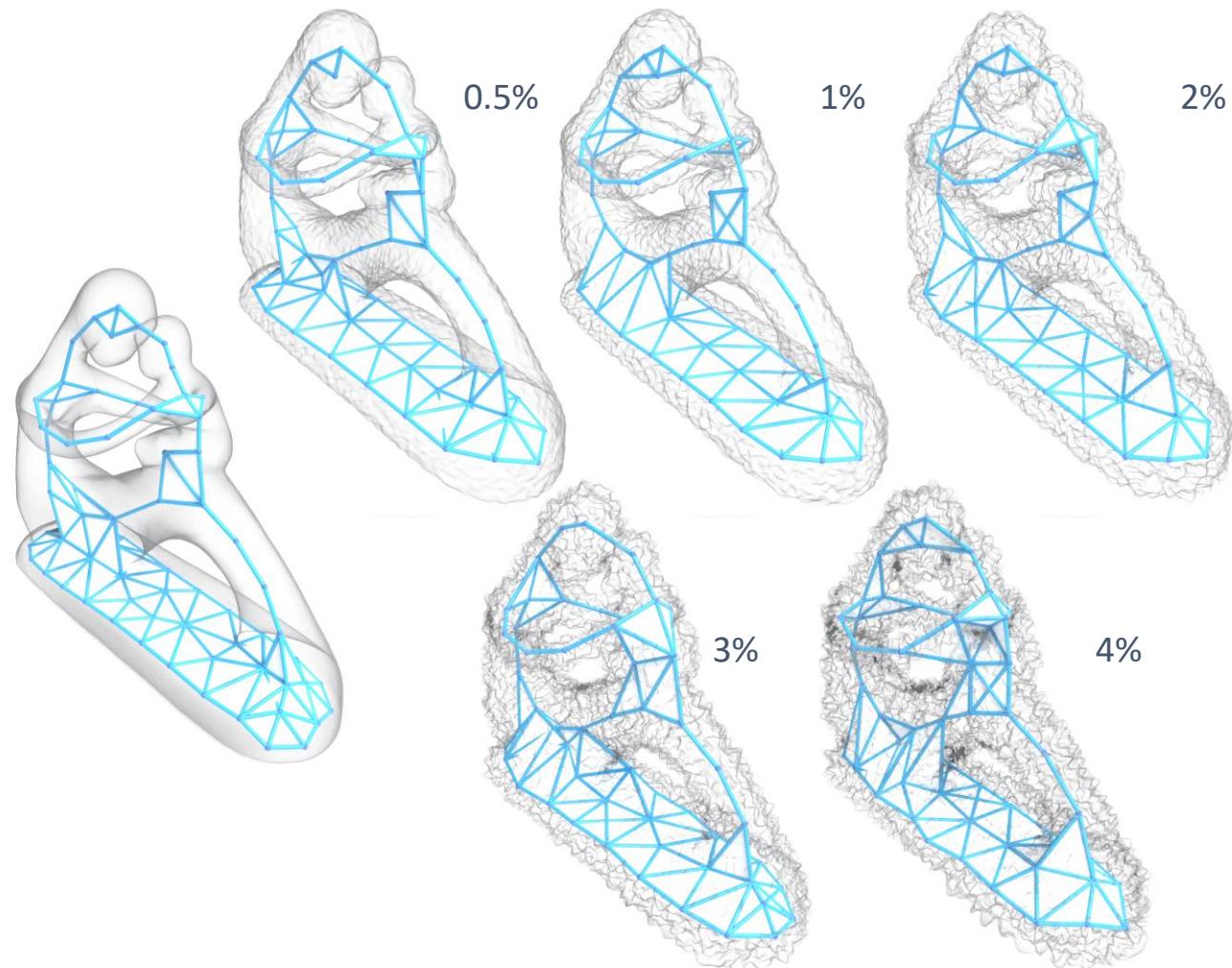


# Comparison: Different resolution

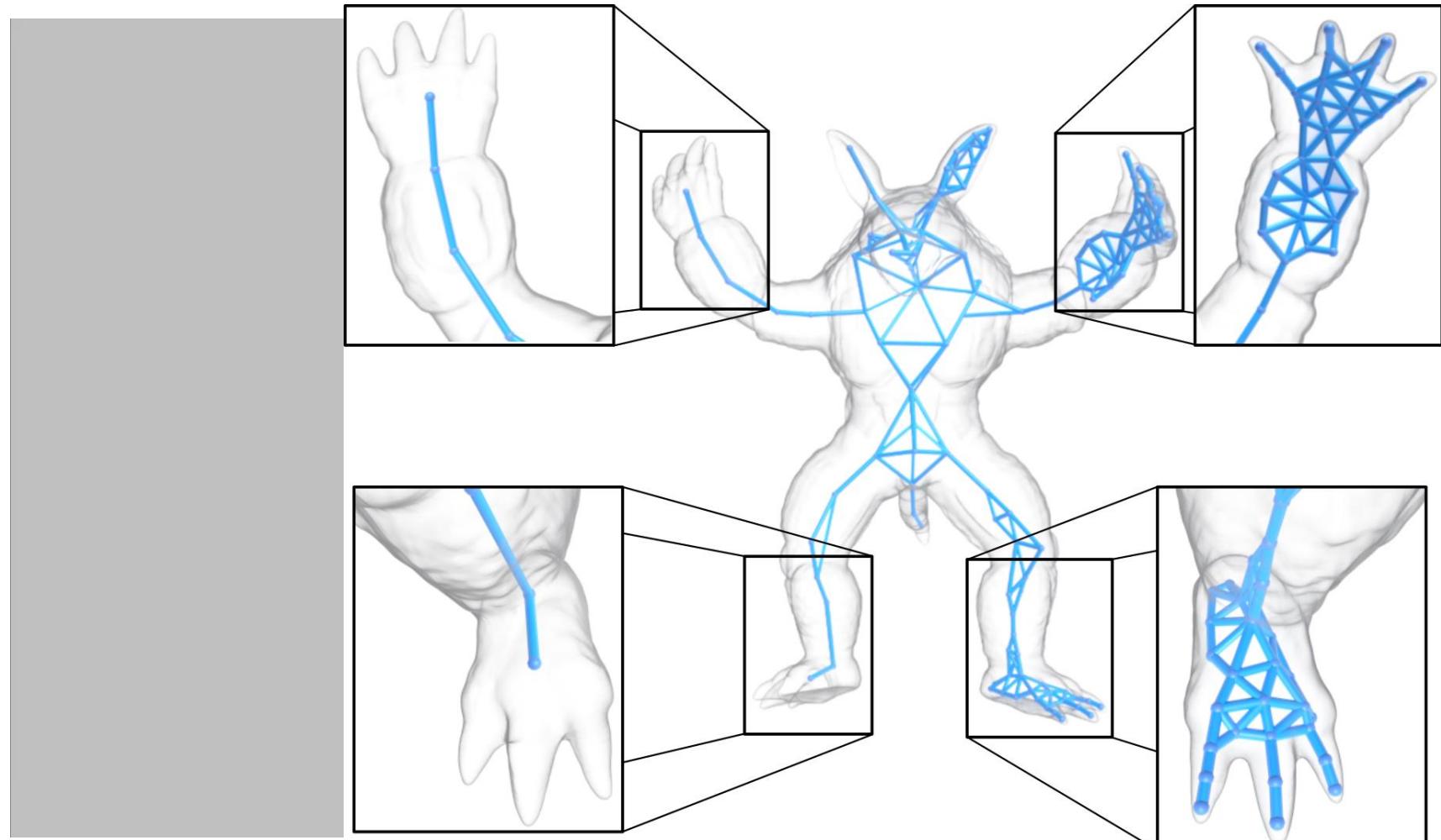




# Robustness to noise



# Interactive edition of skeleton



# Limitation and future work

## ● Limitation:

- **No Global Convergence:** There is potential for oscillations in the positions of medial spheres.
- **Topology Mismatch:** Coarse resolutions may result in a topology that differs from the input shape.
- **Suboptimal connectivity:** Intersecting triangles or closed surfaces may occur.

## ● Future work:

- **Medial Sample Freezing:** Lock samples in place to improve control.
- **Adaptive Density Function:** Enable region-specific refinement.
- **Support Diverse Inputs:** Extend to binary images or incomplete data.



# Gallery



Project page:  
<https://huang46u.github.io/VMAS>  
Code will release soon!

