

Lecture 2:

Drawing a Triangle

(+ the basics of sampling and anti-aliasing)

Interactive Computer Graphics
Stanford CS248, Winter 2020

Tunes

Alabama Shakes “Sound & Color” (Sound & Color)

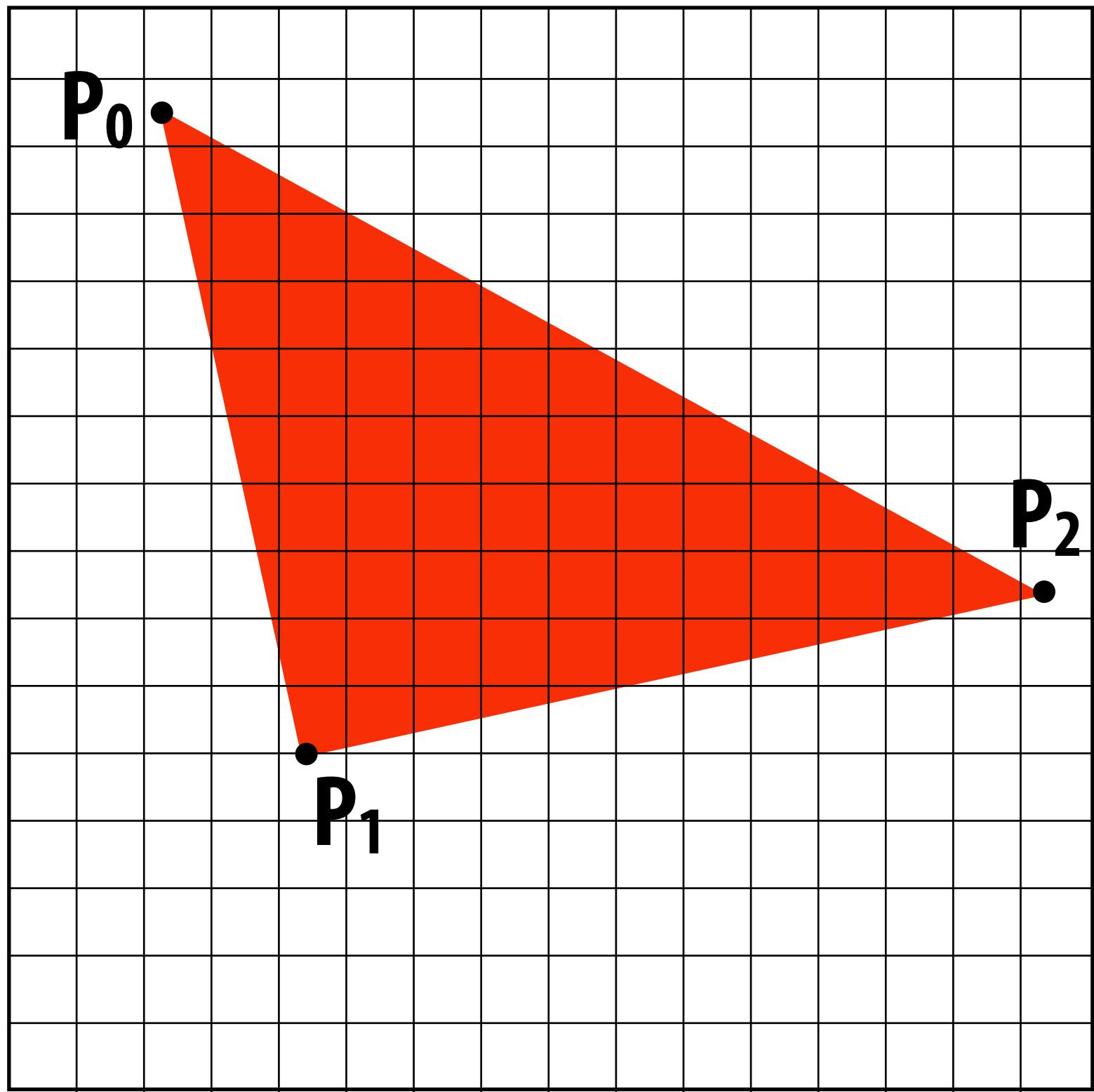
“Sometimes it’s helpful to think about sound when you’re trying to understand the artifacts in a 2D image.”

- Brittany Howard

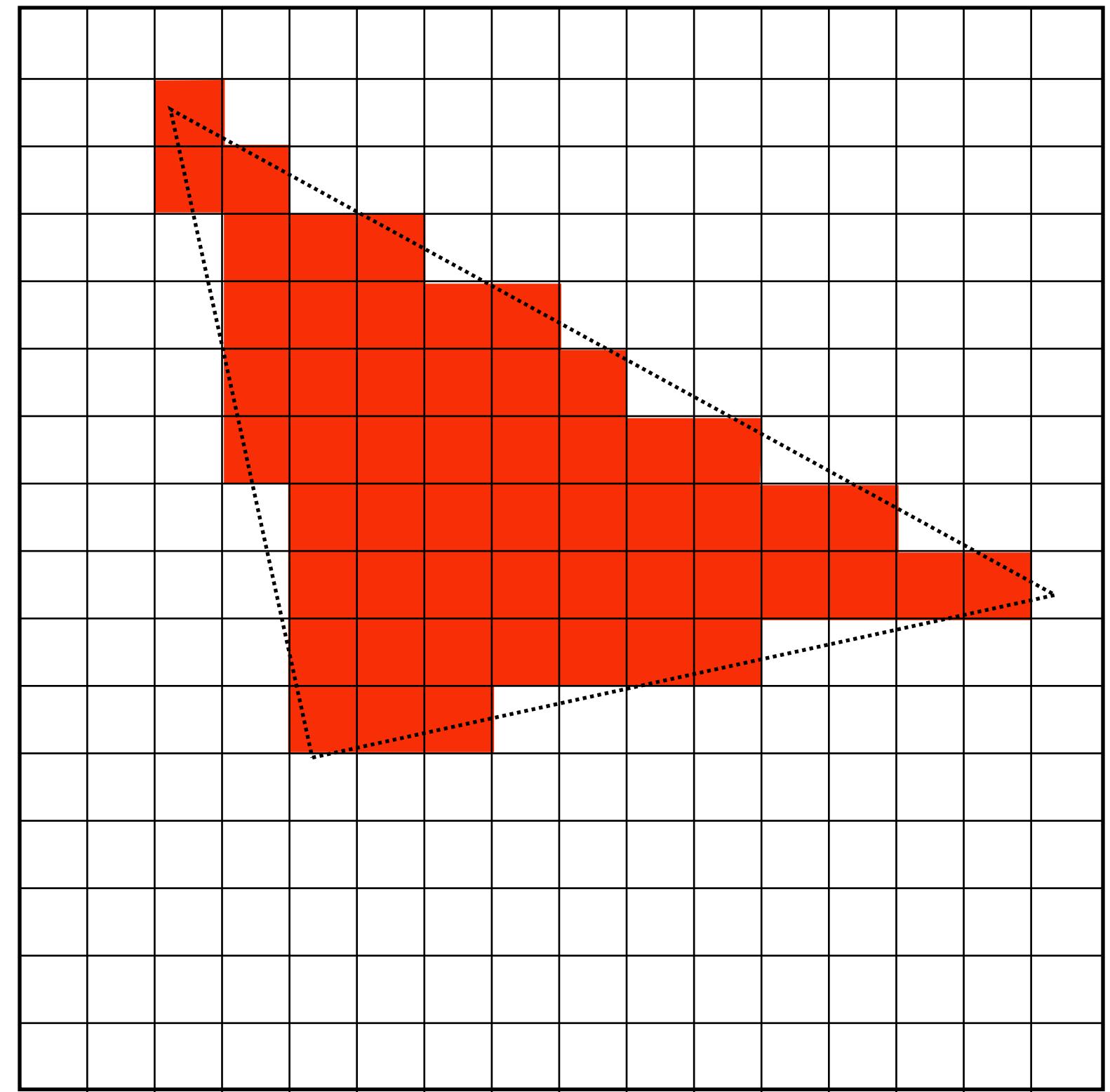
Today: drawing a triangle to a frame buffer

"Triangle Rasterization"

Input:
projected position of triangle vertices: P_0, P_1, P_2

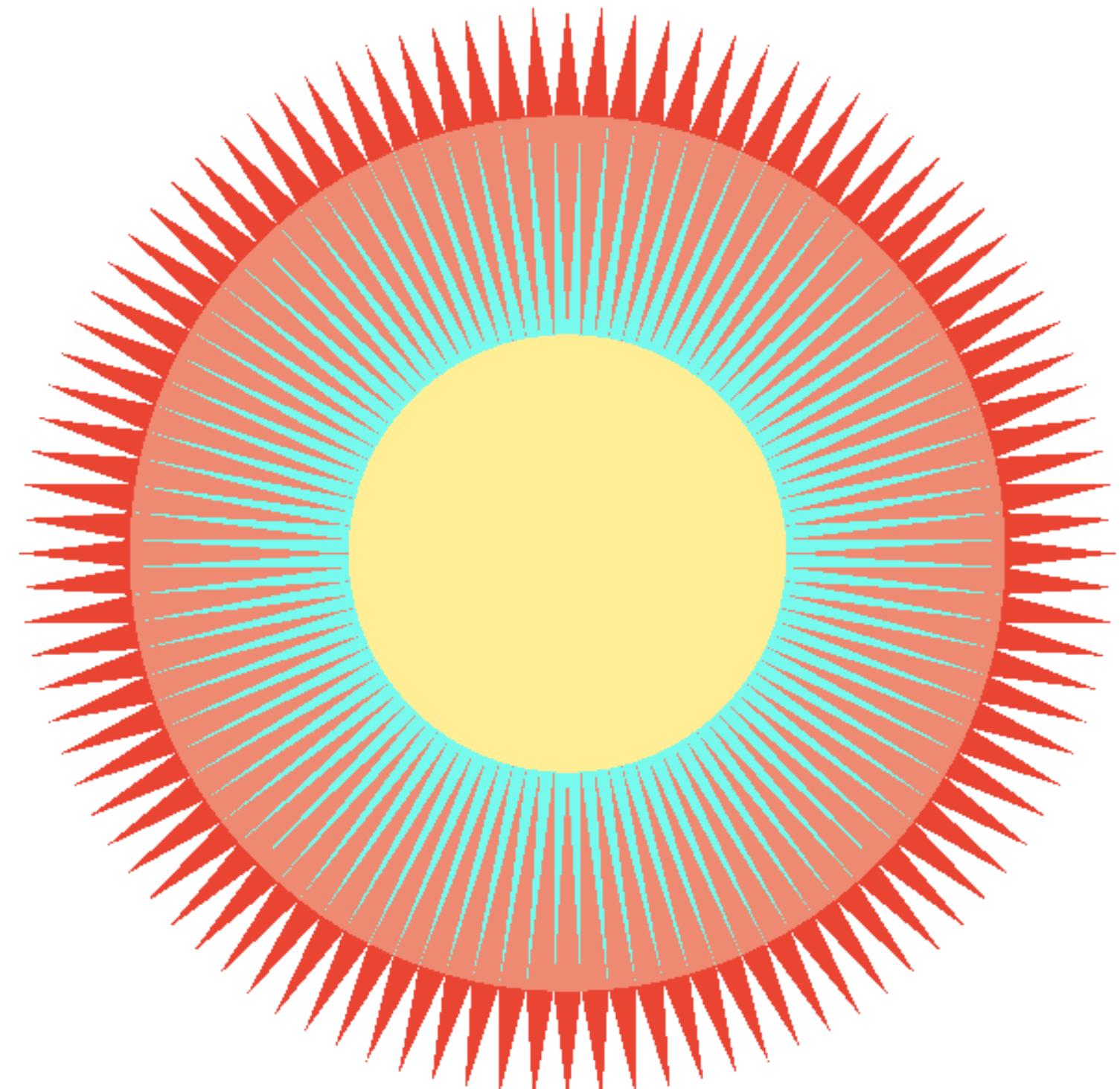
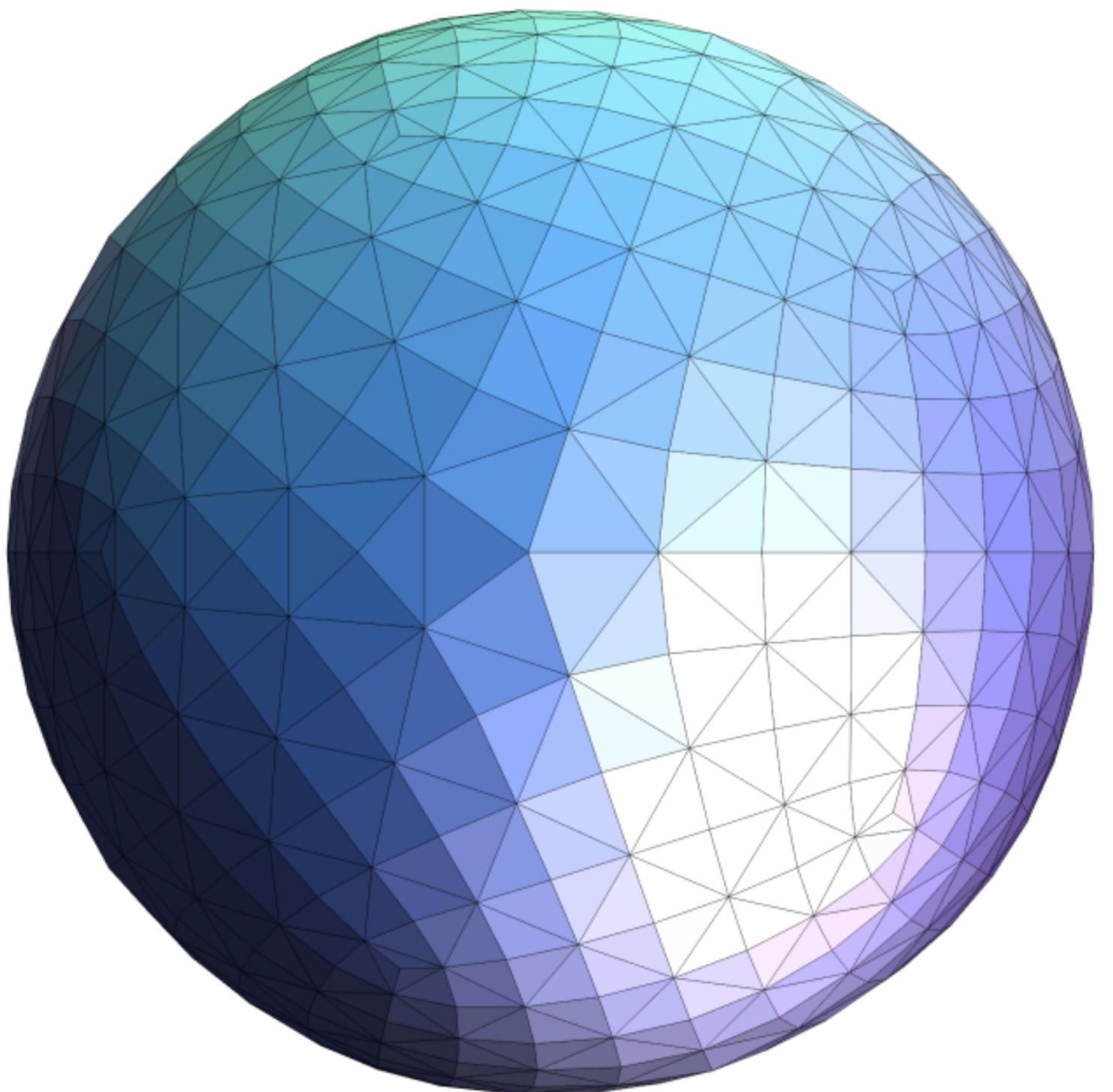


Output:
set of pixels "covered" by the triangle



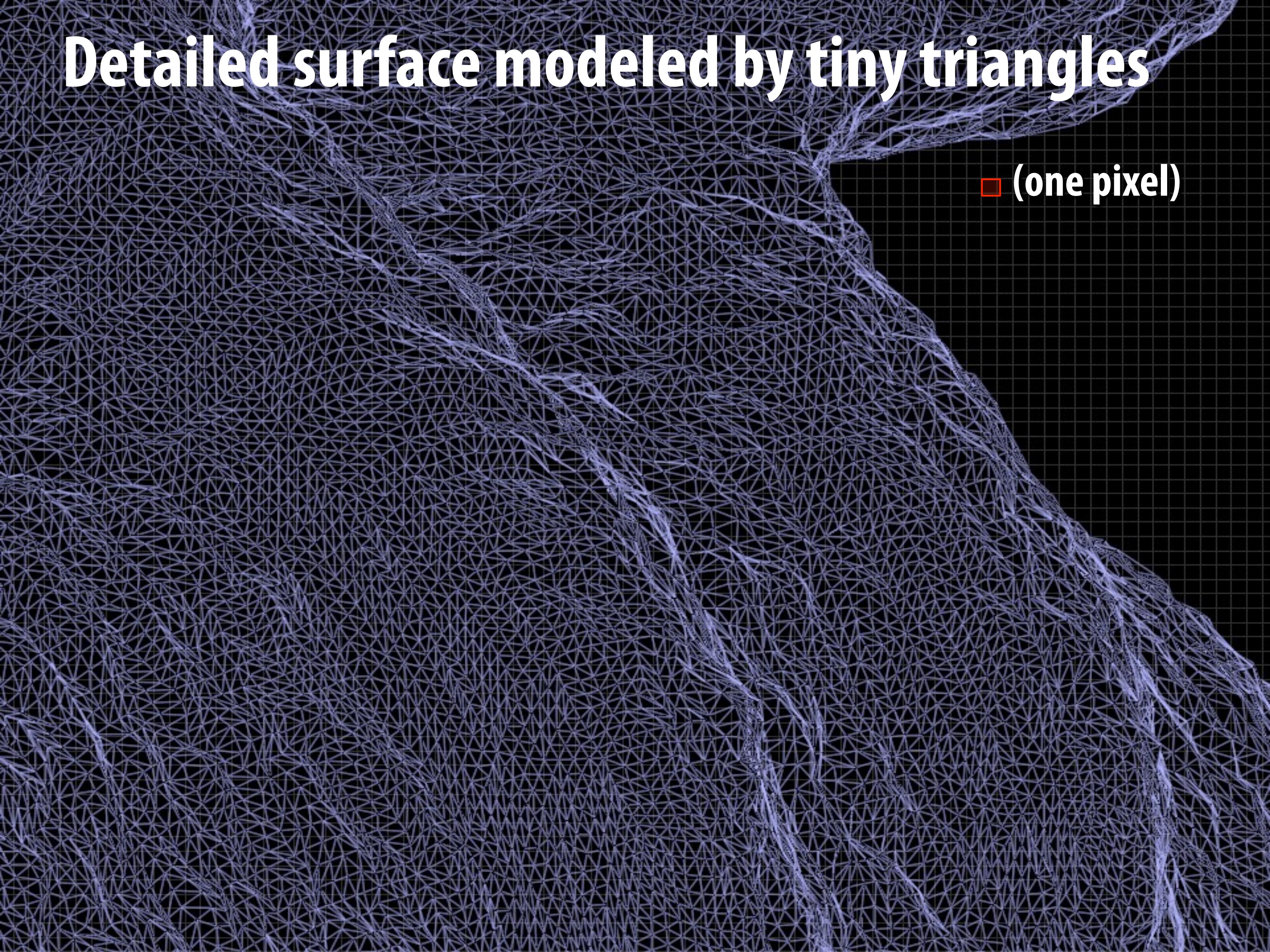
Why triangles?

**Triangles are a basic block for creating
more complex shapes and surfaces**



Detailed surface modeled by tiny triangles

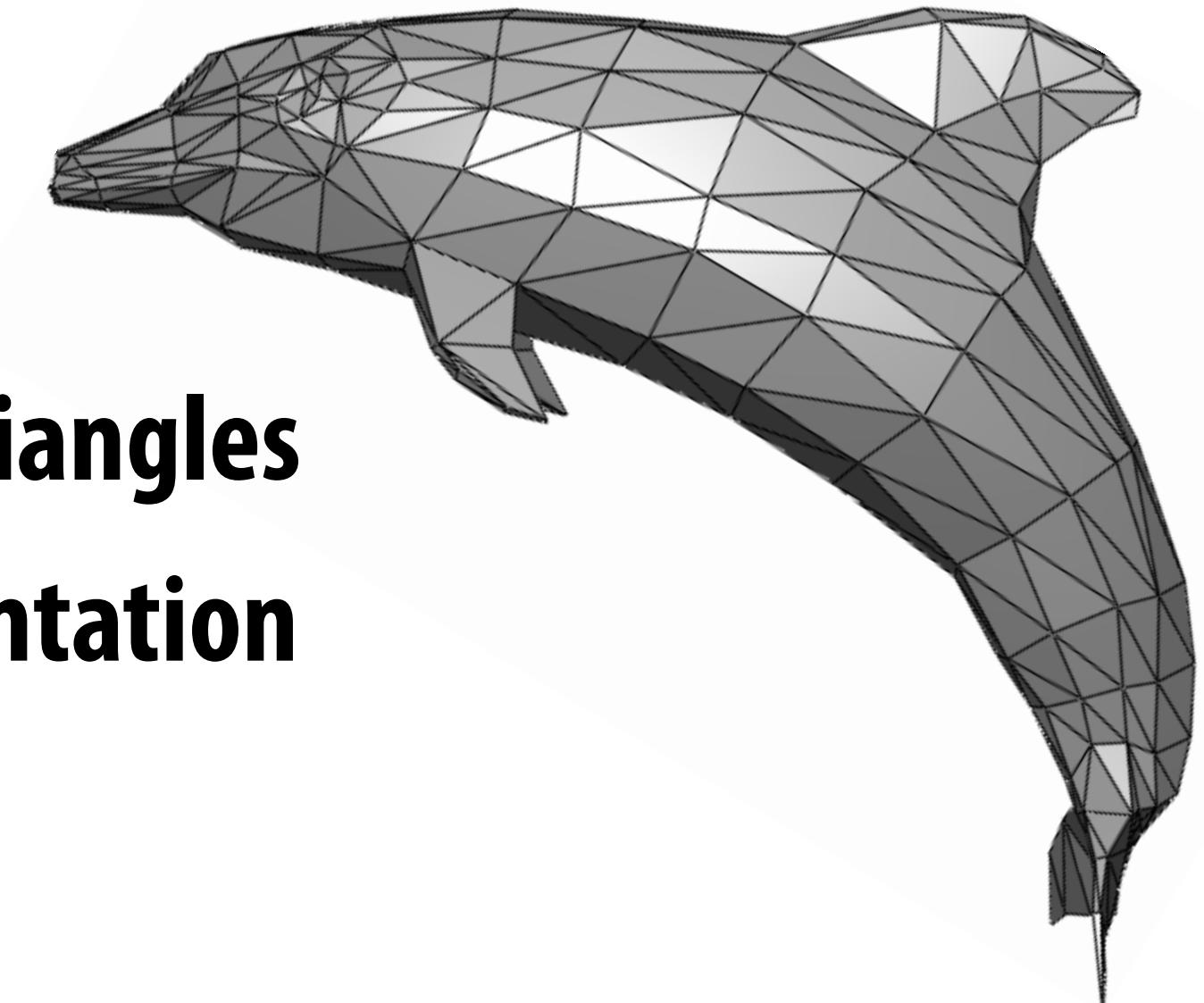
■ (one pixel)



Triangles - fundamental primitive

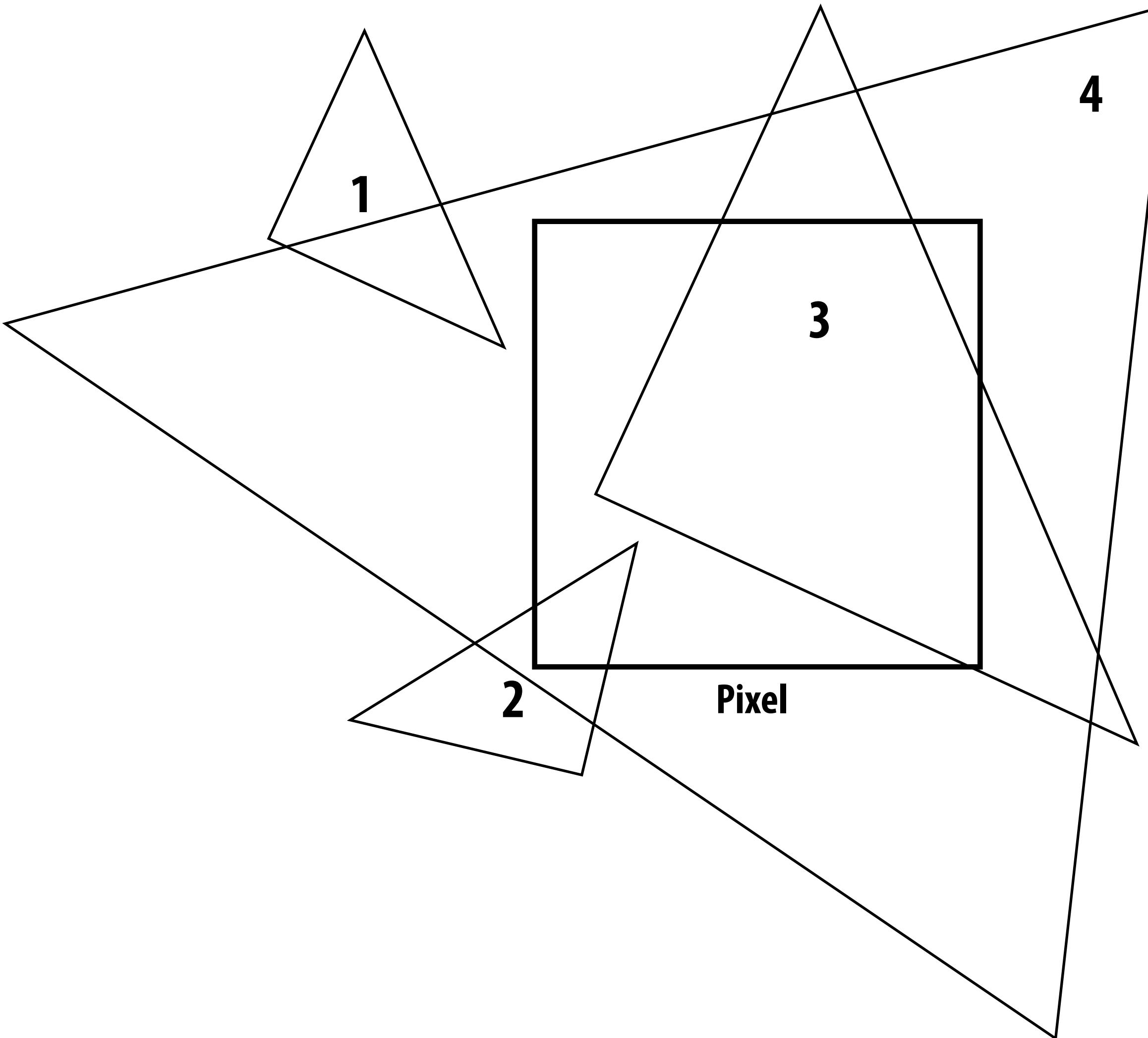
■ Why triangles?

- **Most basic polygon**
 - **Can break up other polygons into triangles**
 - **Allows for optimizing one implementation**
- **Triangles have unique properties**
 - **Guaranteed to be planar**
 - **Well-defined interior**
 - **Well-defined method for interpolating values at vertices over triangle (a topic of a future lecture)**

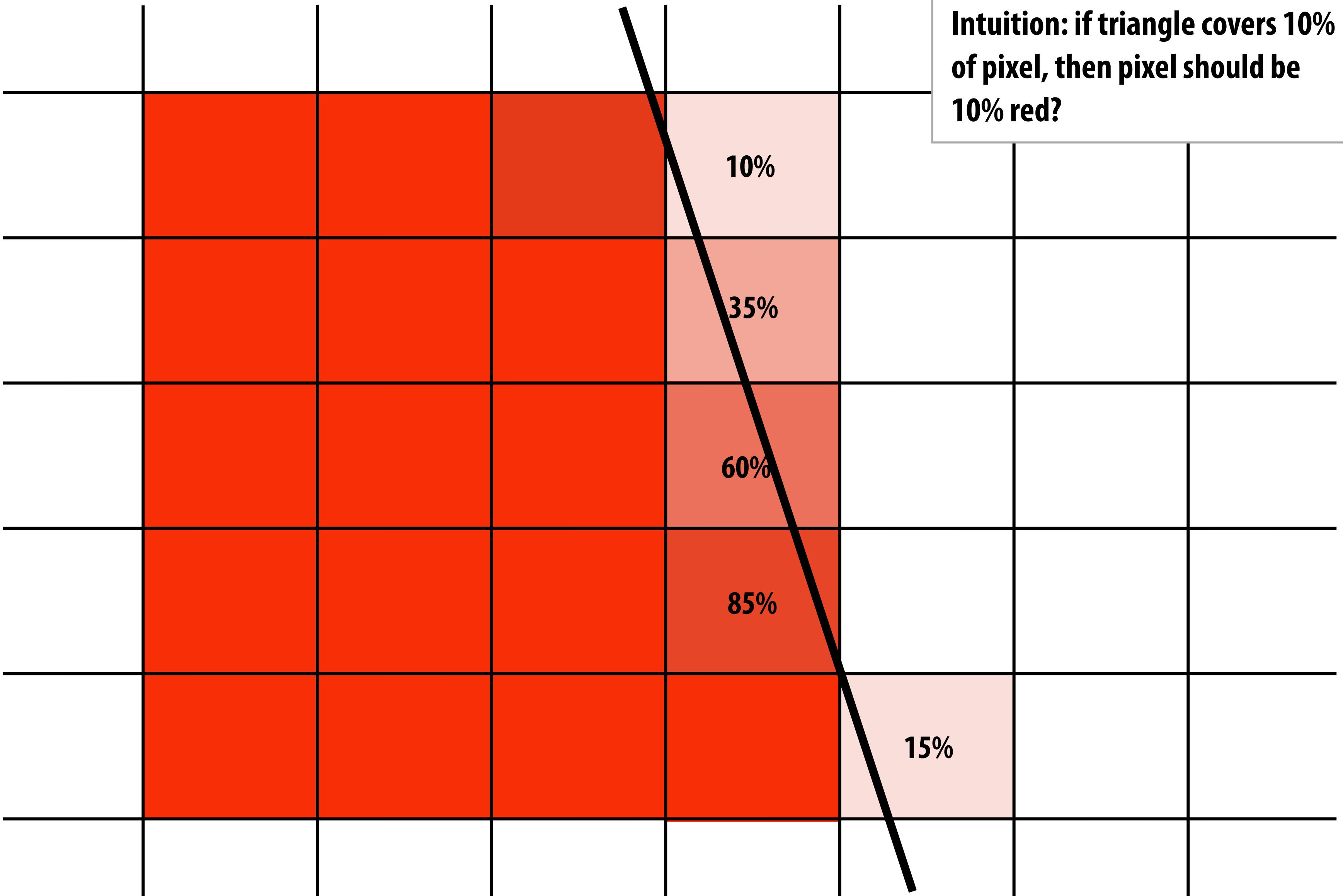


What does it mean for a pixel to be covered by a triangle?

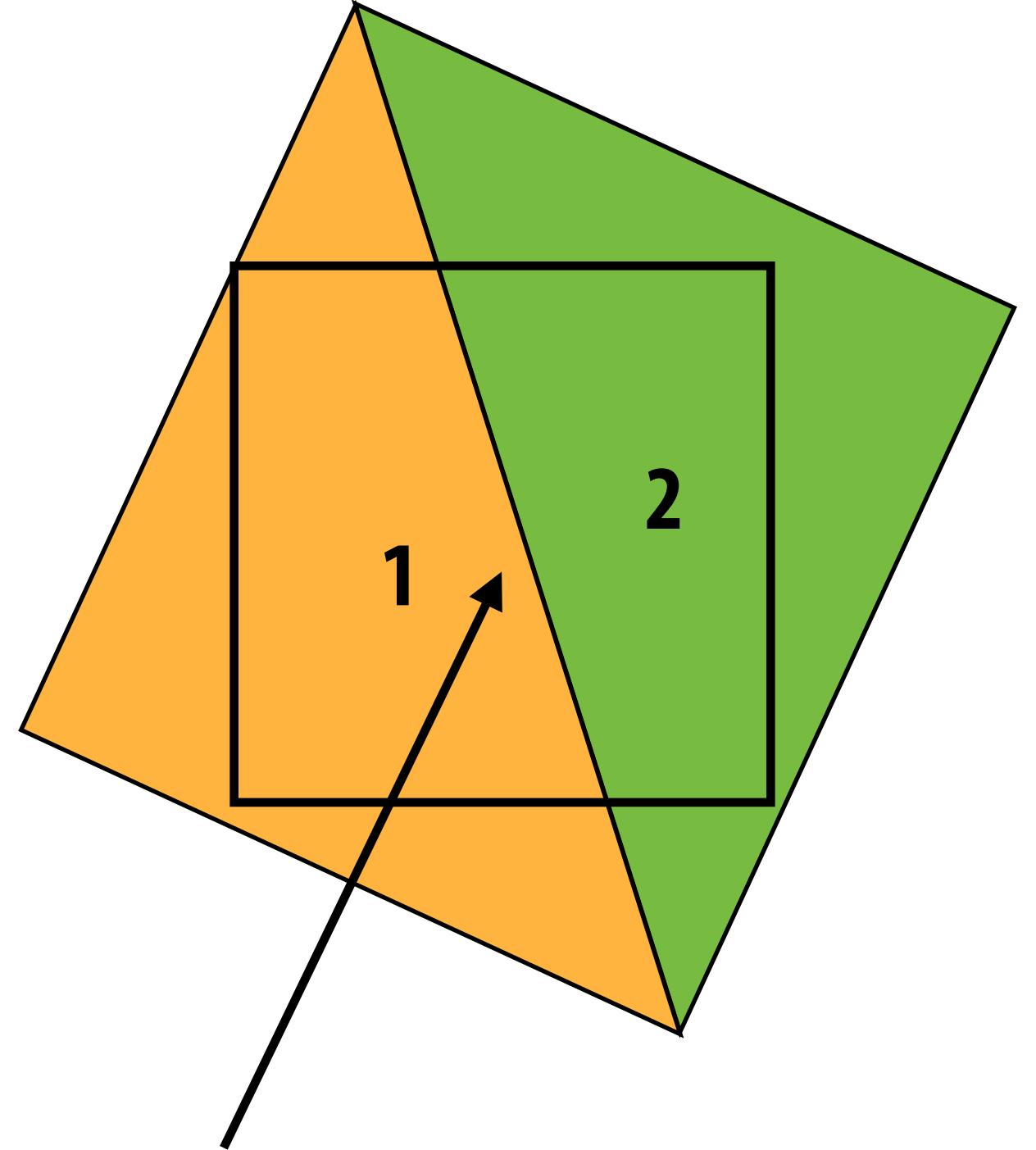
Question: which triangles “cover” this pixel?



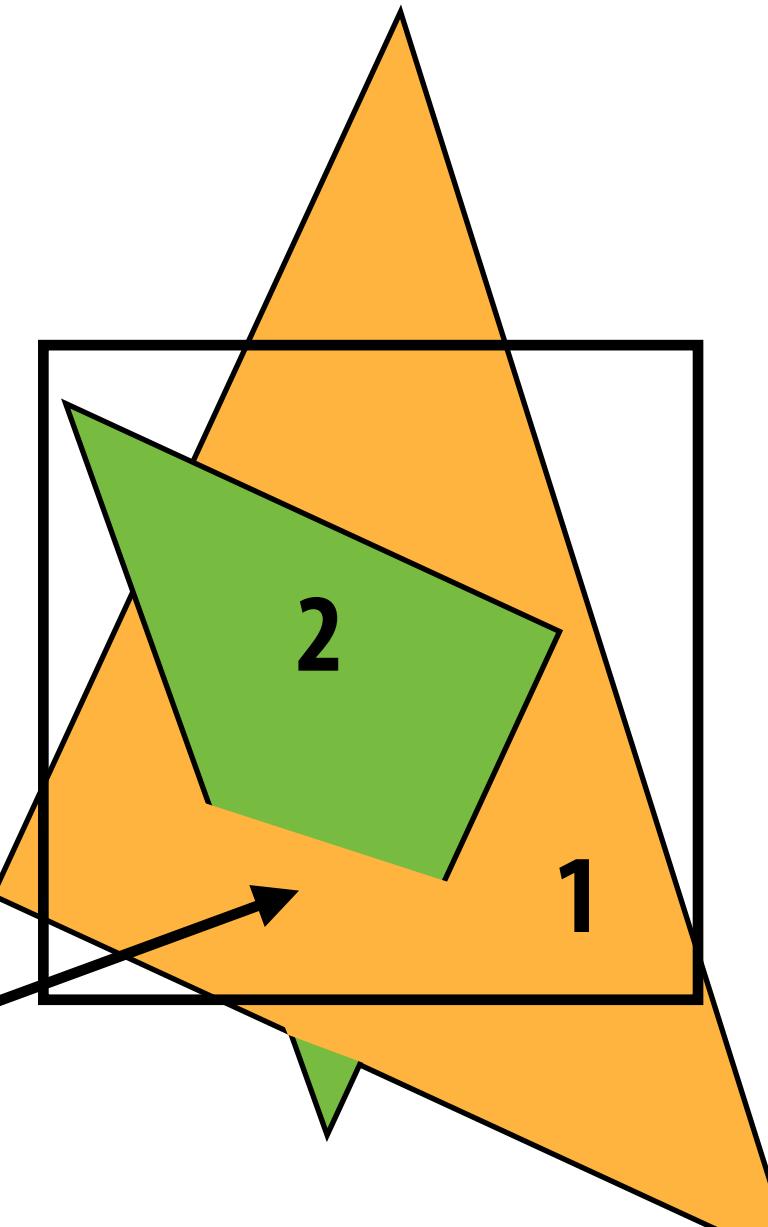
One option: compute fraction of pixel area covered by triangle, then color pixel according to this fraction.



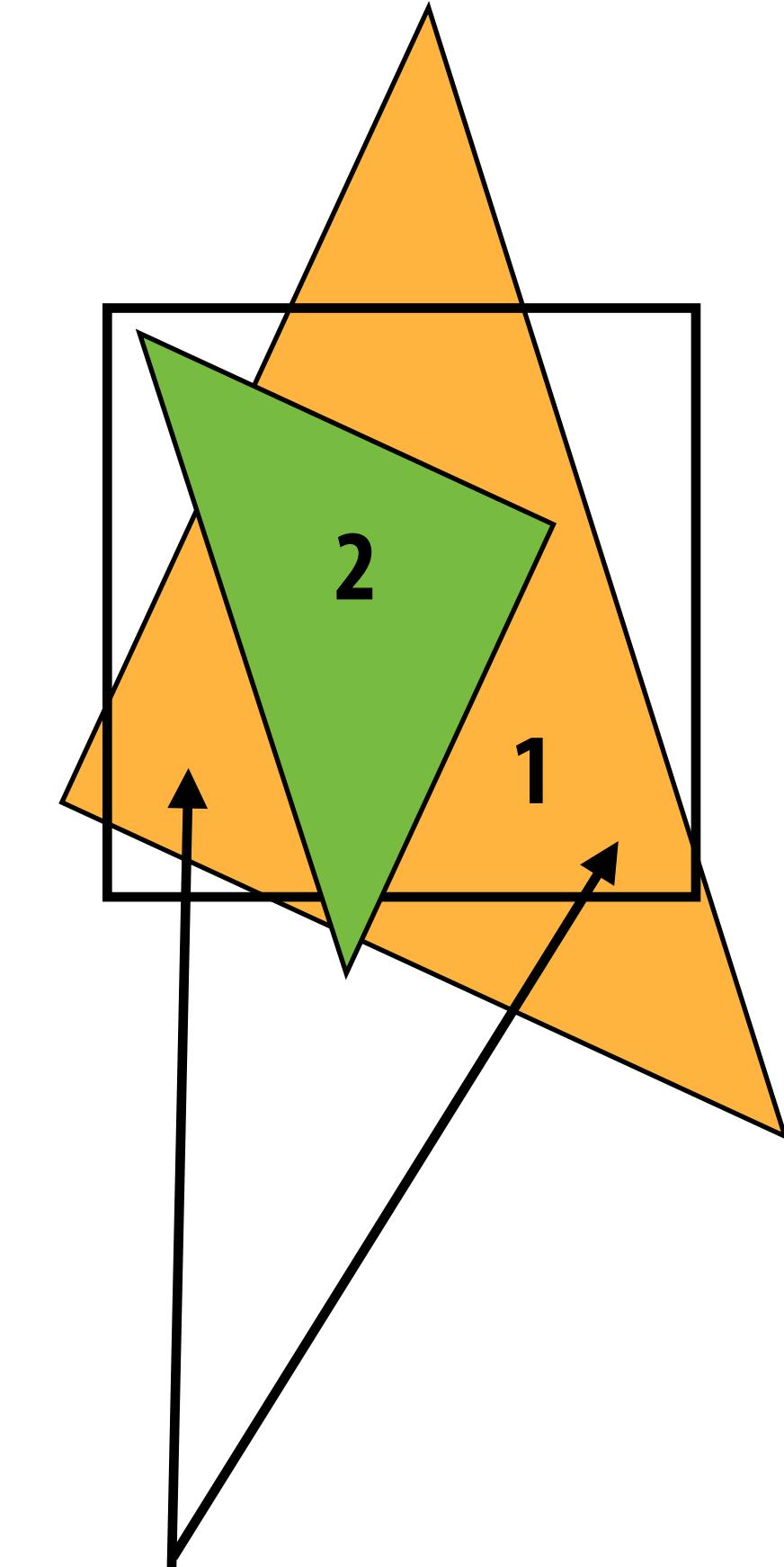
Analytical coverage schemes get tricky when considering occlusion of one triangle by another



Pixel covered by triangle 1, other half covered by triangle 2



Interpenetration of triangles: even trickier

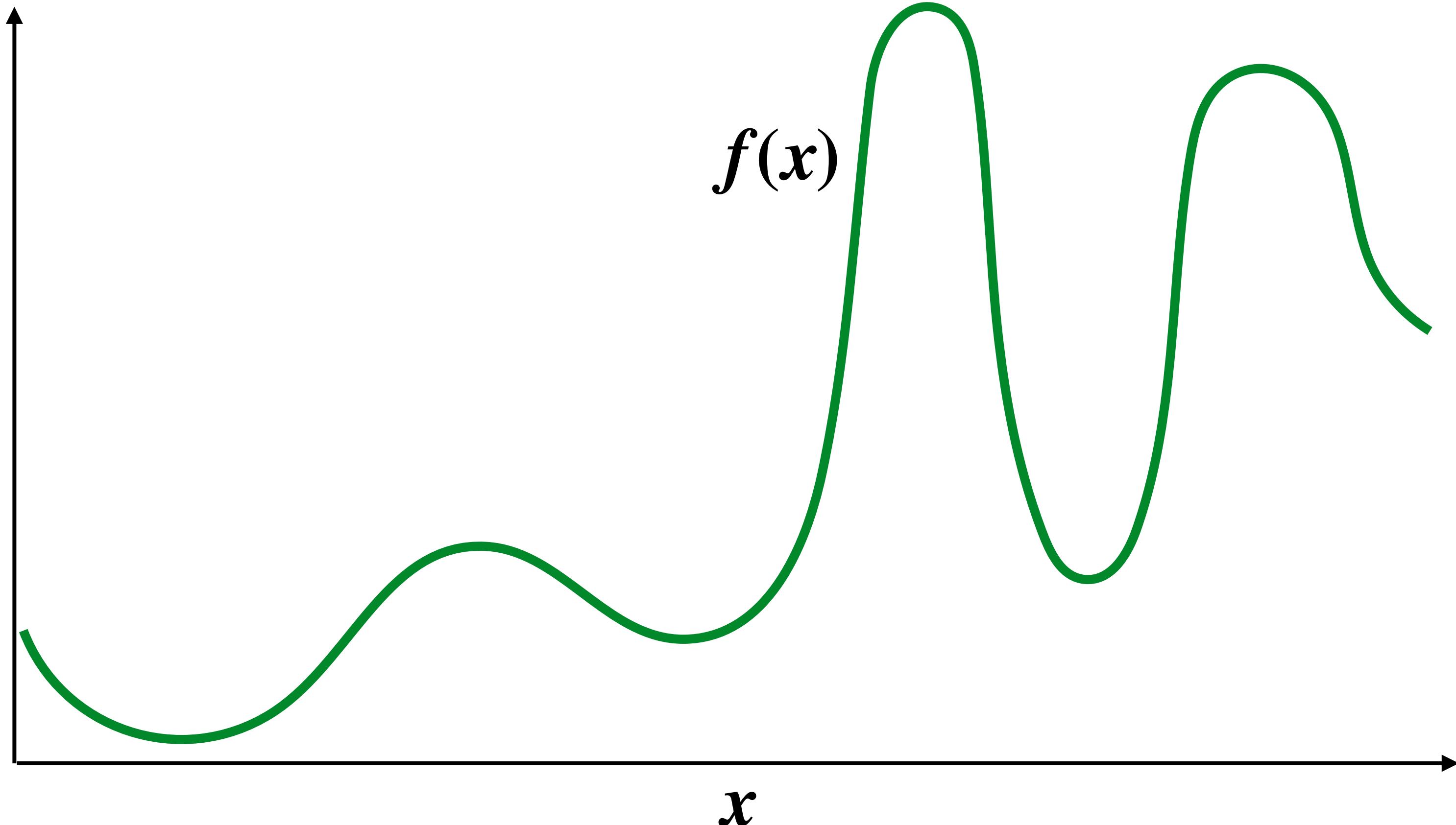


Two regions of triangle 1 contribute to pixel.
One of these regions is not even convex.

**Today we will draw triangles using a
simple method: point sampling**

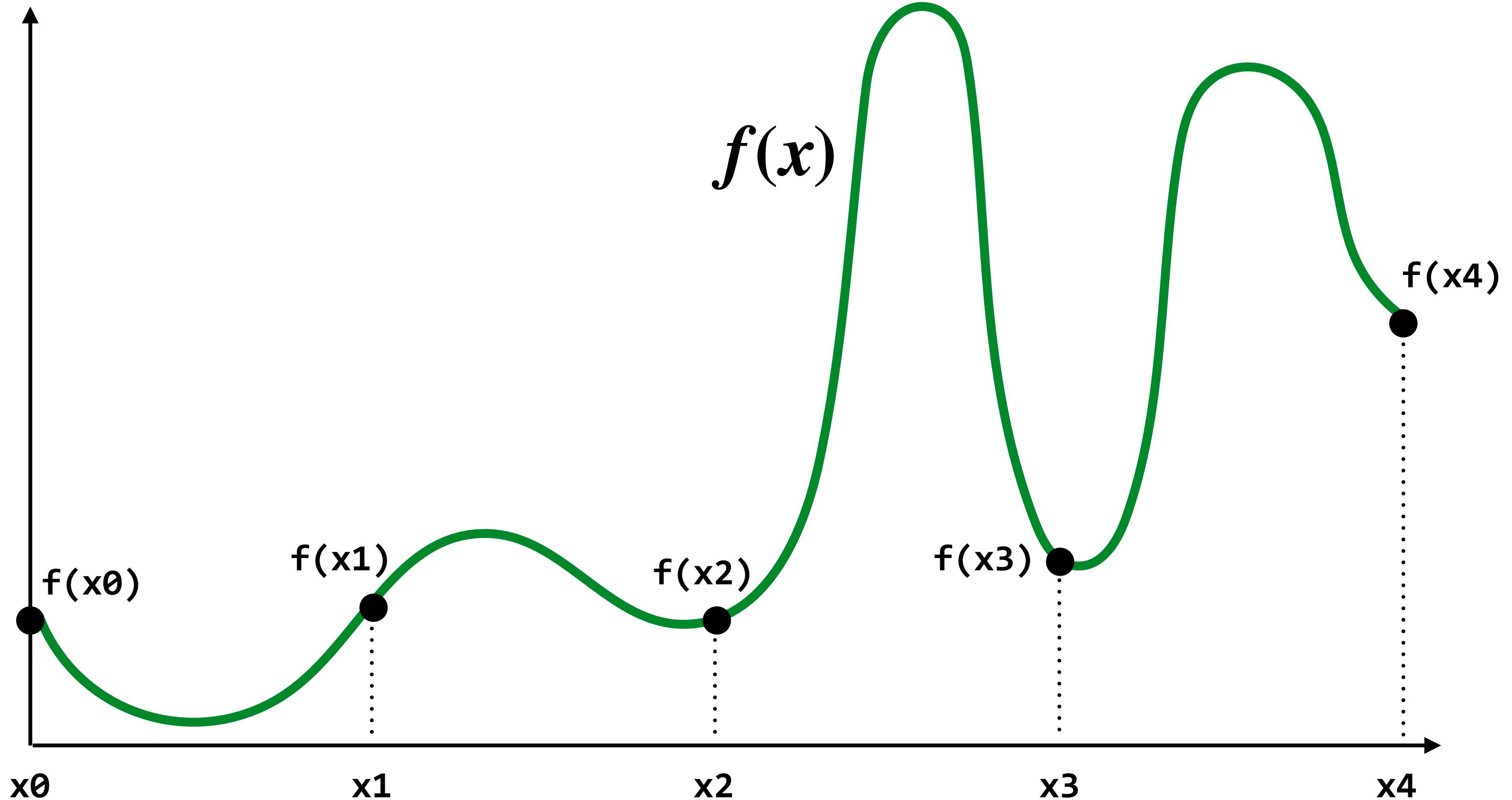
(let's consider sampling in 1D first)

Consider a 1D signal: $f(x)$



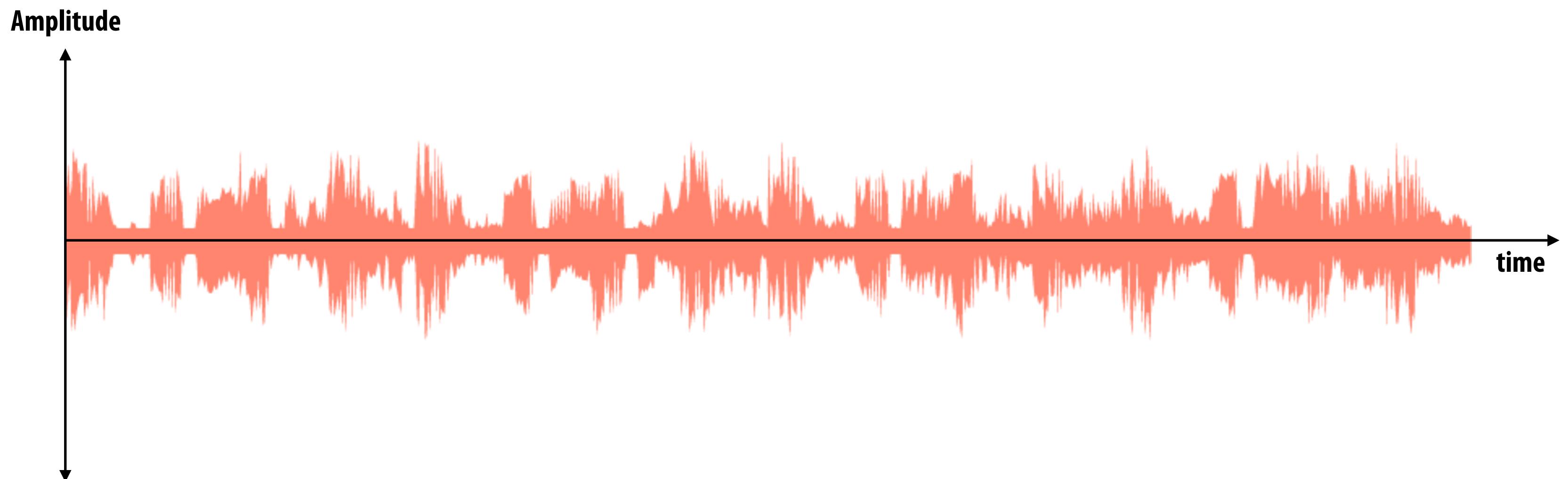
Sampling: taking measurements of a signal

Below: five measurements ("samples") of $f(x)$



Audio file: stores samples of a 1D signal

Audio is often sampled at 44.1 KHz



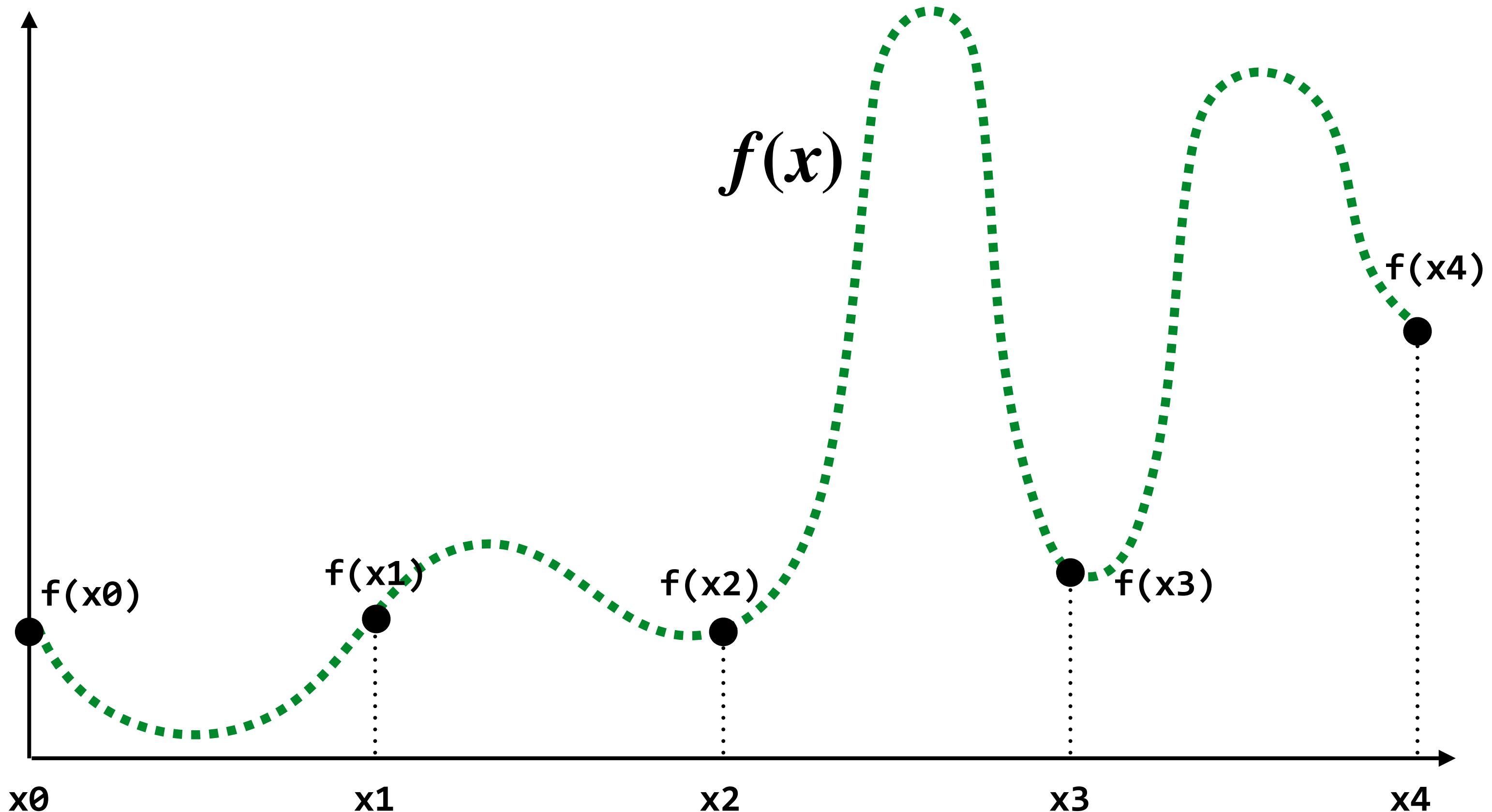
Sampling a function

- Evaluating a function at a point is sampling the function's value
- We can discretize a function by periodic sampling

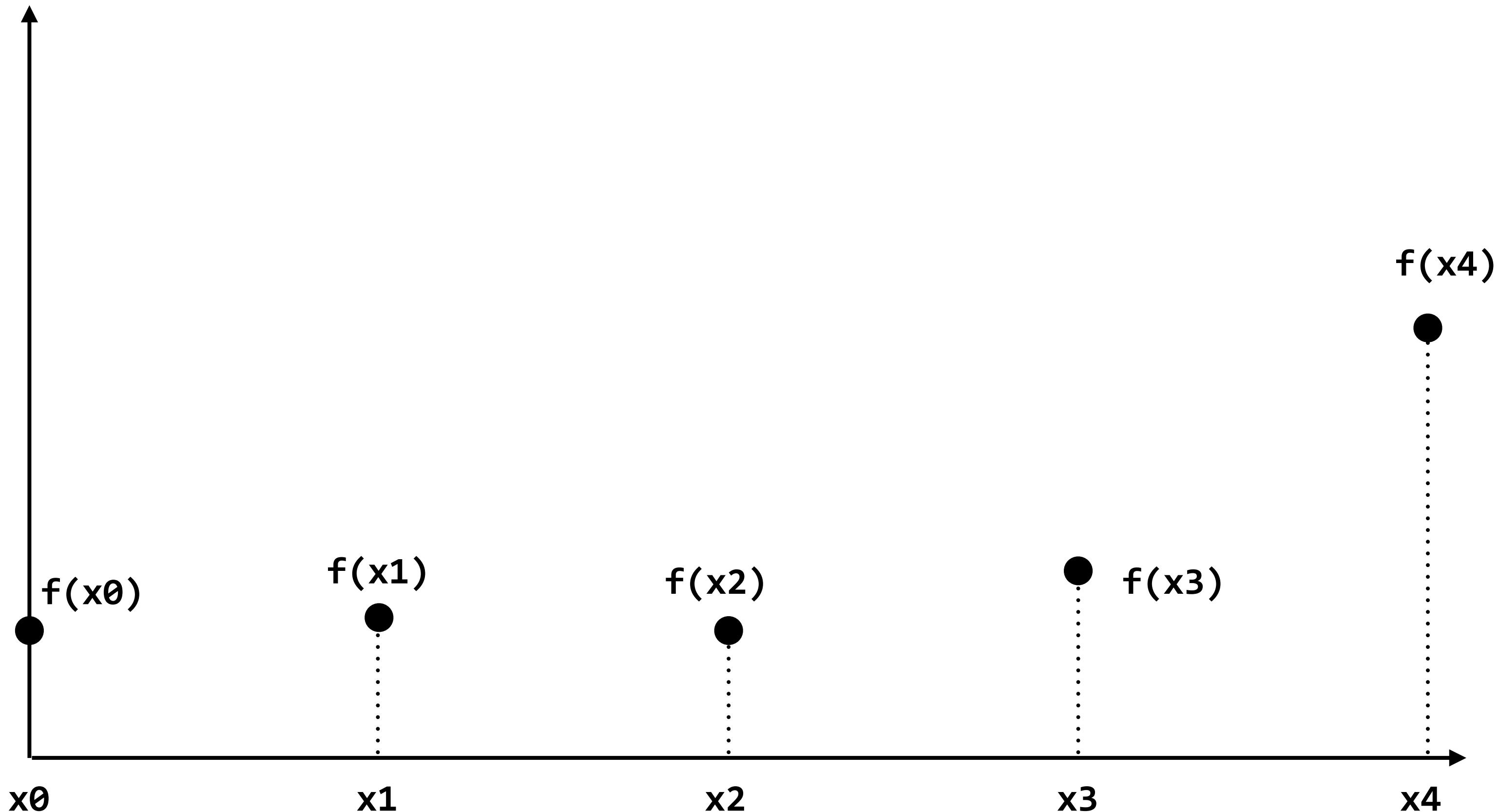
```
for( int x = 0; x < xmax; x++ )  
    output[ x ] = f( x );
```

- Sampling is a core idea in graphics. In this class we'll sample time (1D), area (2D), angle (2D), volume (3D), etc ...

Reconstruction: given a set of samples, how might we attempt to reconstruct the original signal $f(x)$?



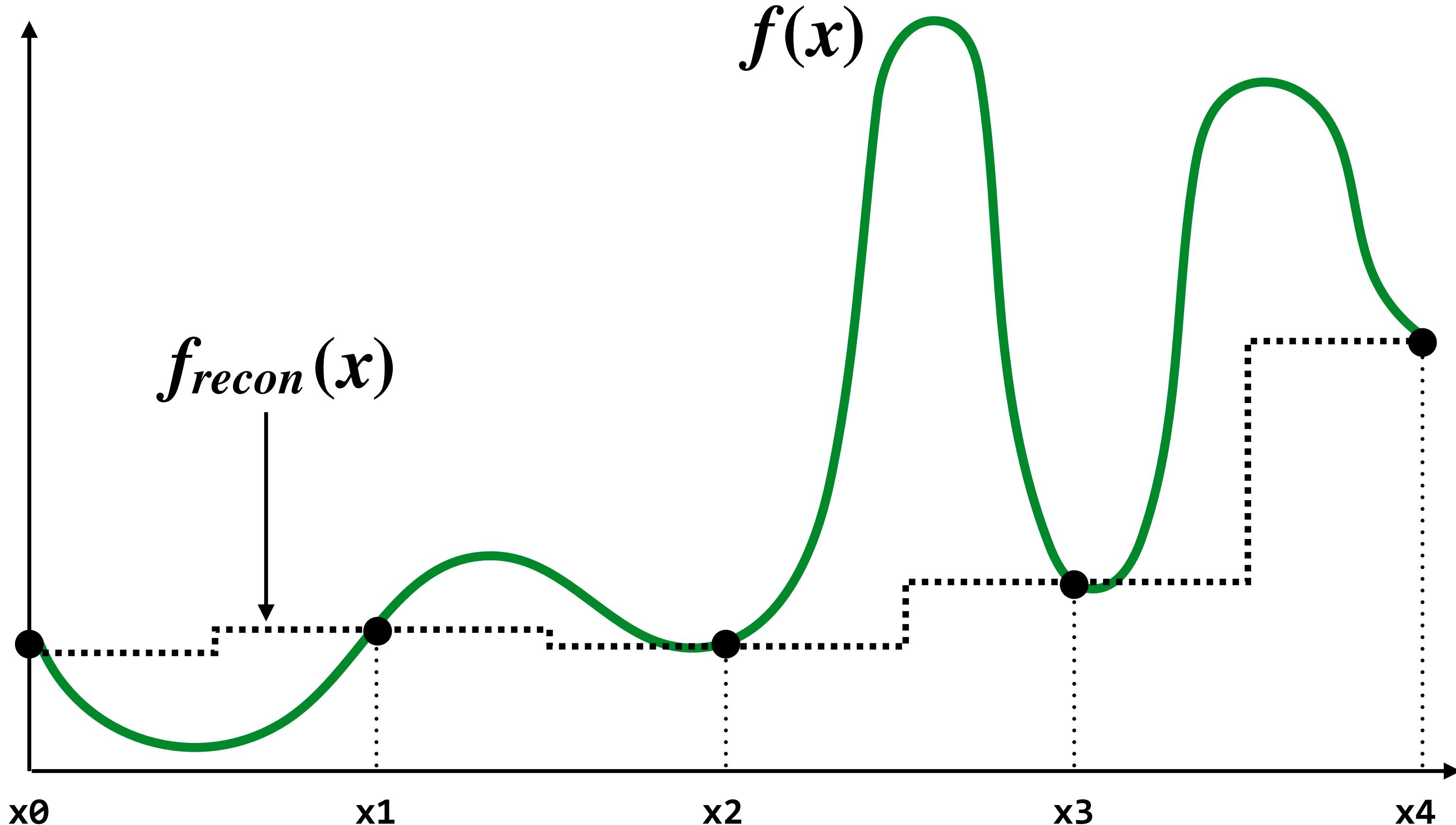
Reconstruction: given a set of samples, how might we attempt to reconstruct the original signal $f(x)$?



Piecewise constant approximation

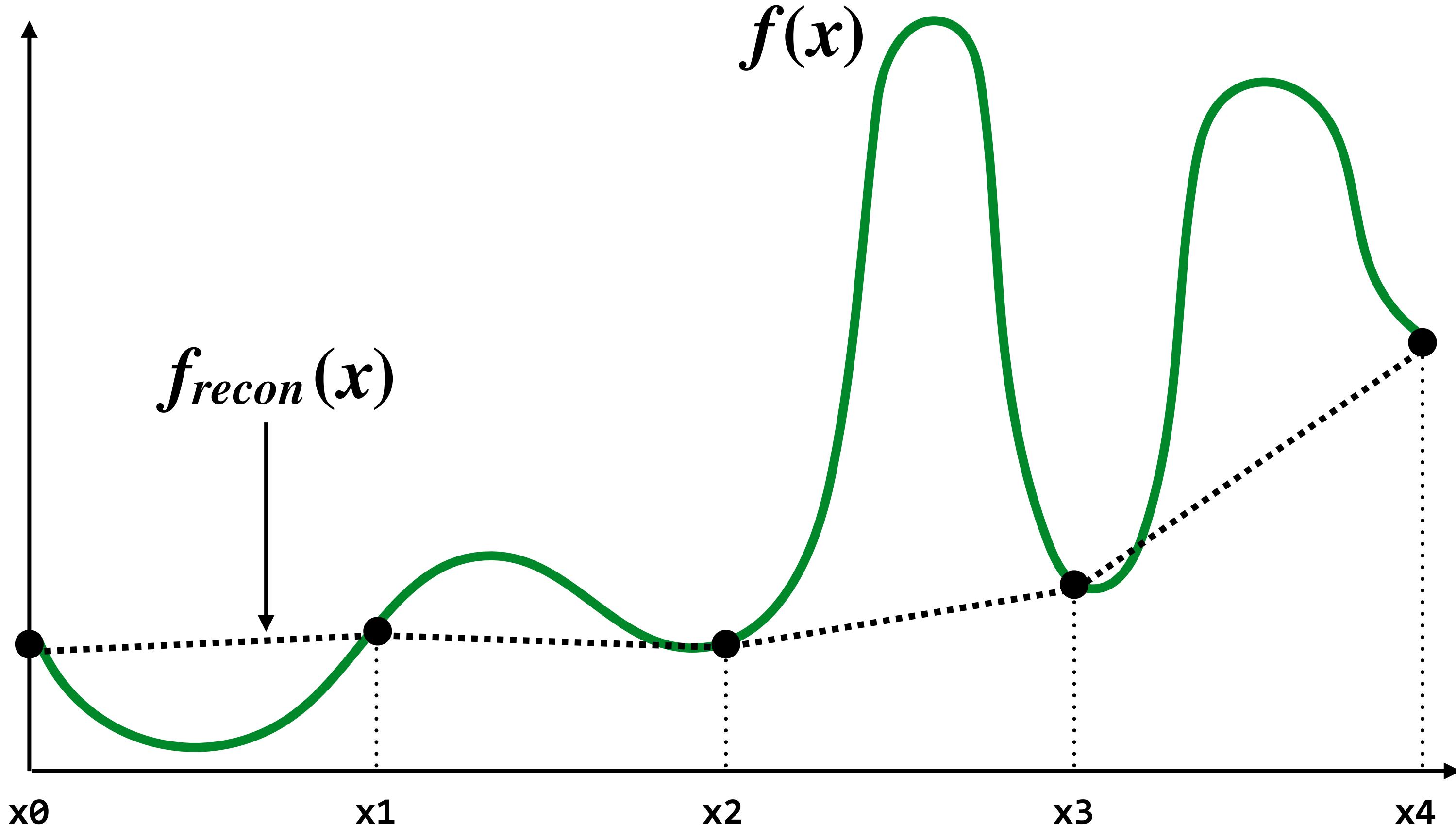
$f_{recon}(x)$ = value of sample closest to x

$f_{recon}(x)$ approximates $f(x)$

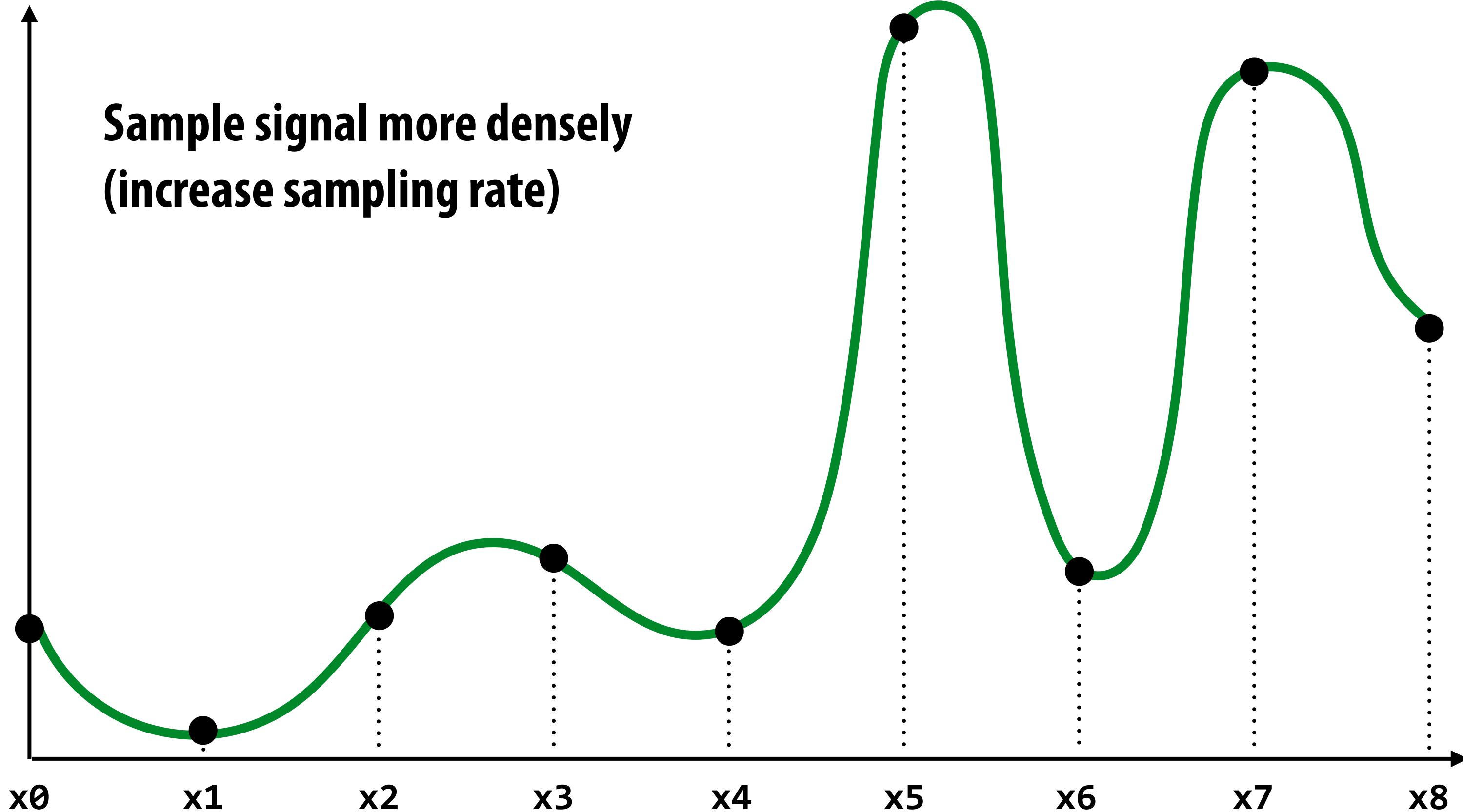


Piecewise linear approximation

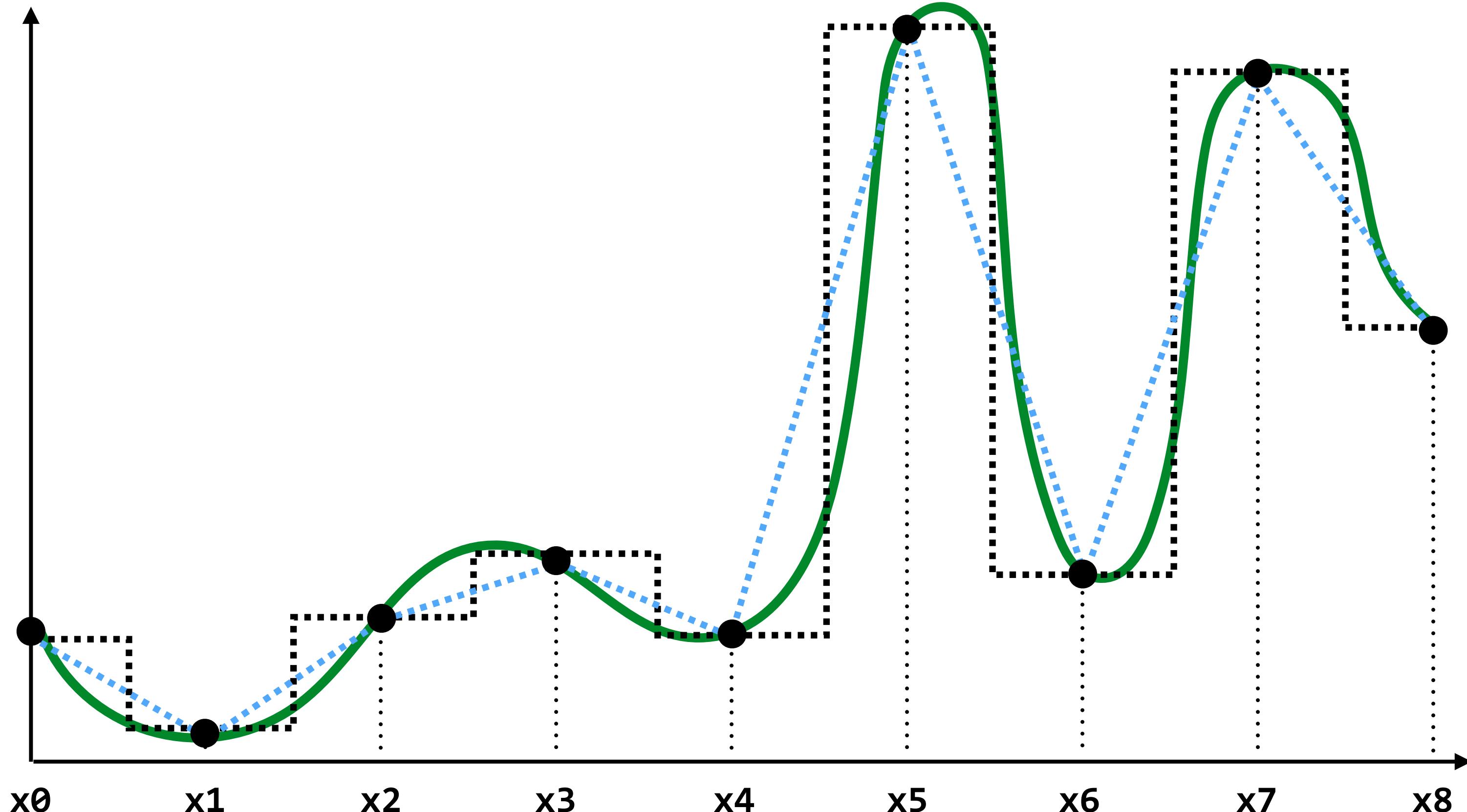
$f_{recon}(x)$ = linear interpolation between values of two closest samples to x



How can we represent the signal more accurately?



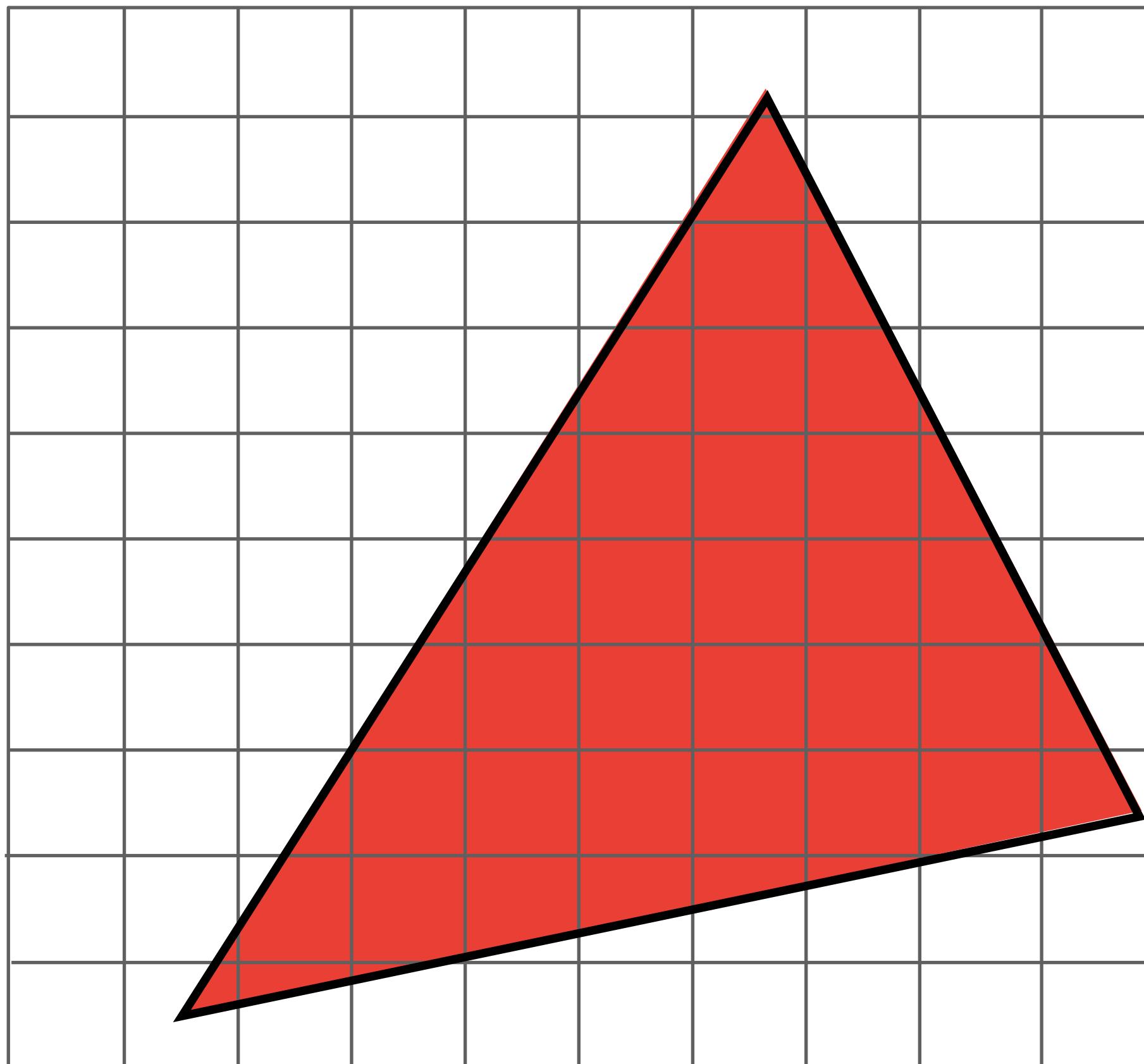
More accurate reconstructions result from denser sampling



..... = reconstruction via nearest neighbor

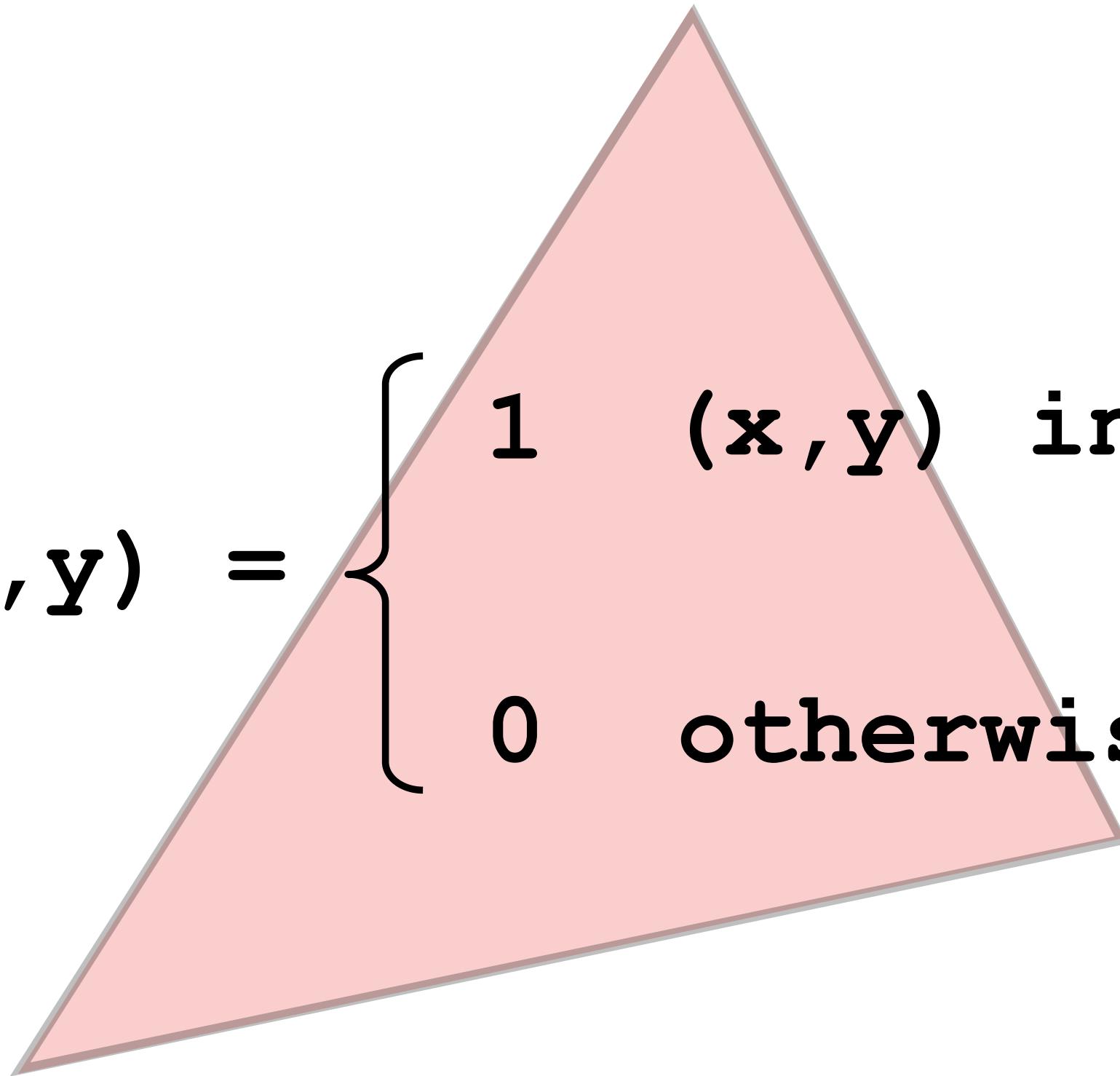
----- = reconstruction via linear interpolation

Drawing a triangle by 2D sampling

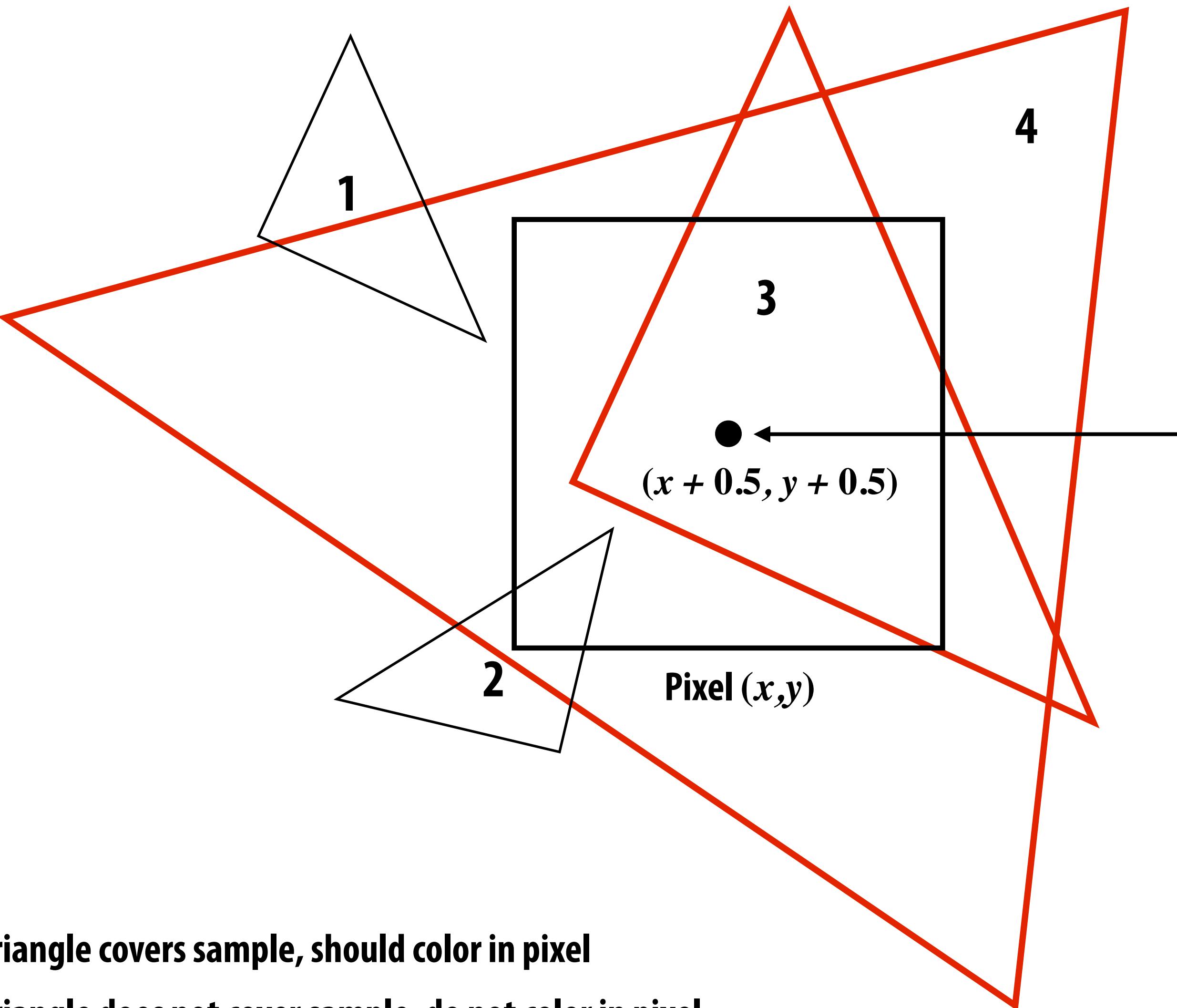


Define binary function: `inside(tri, x, y)`

`inside(t, x, y) =` $\begin{cases} 1 & (\mathbf{x}, \mathbf{y}) \text{ in triangle } t \\ 0 & \text{otherwise} \end{cases}$

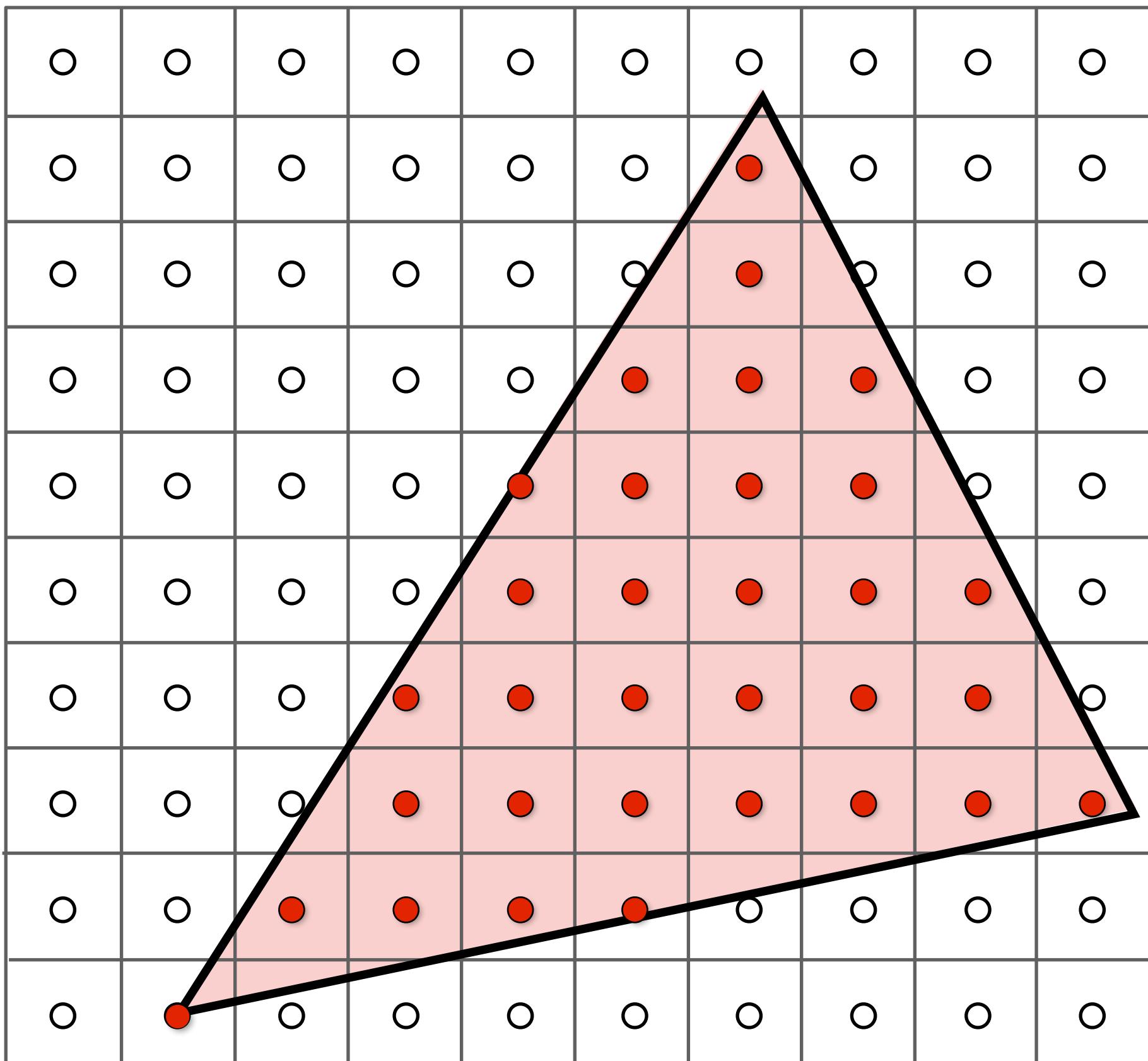


Sampling the binary function: `inside(tri, x, y)`

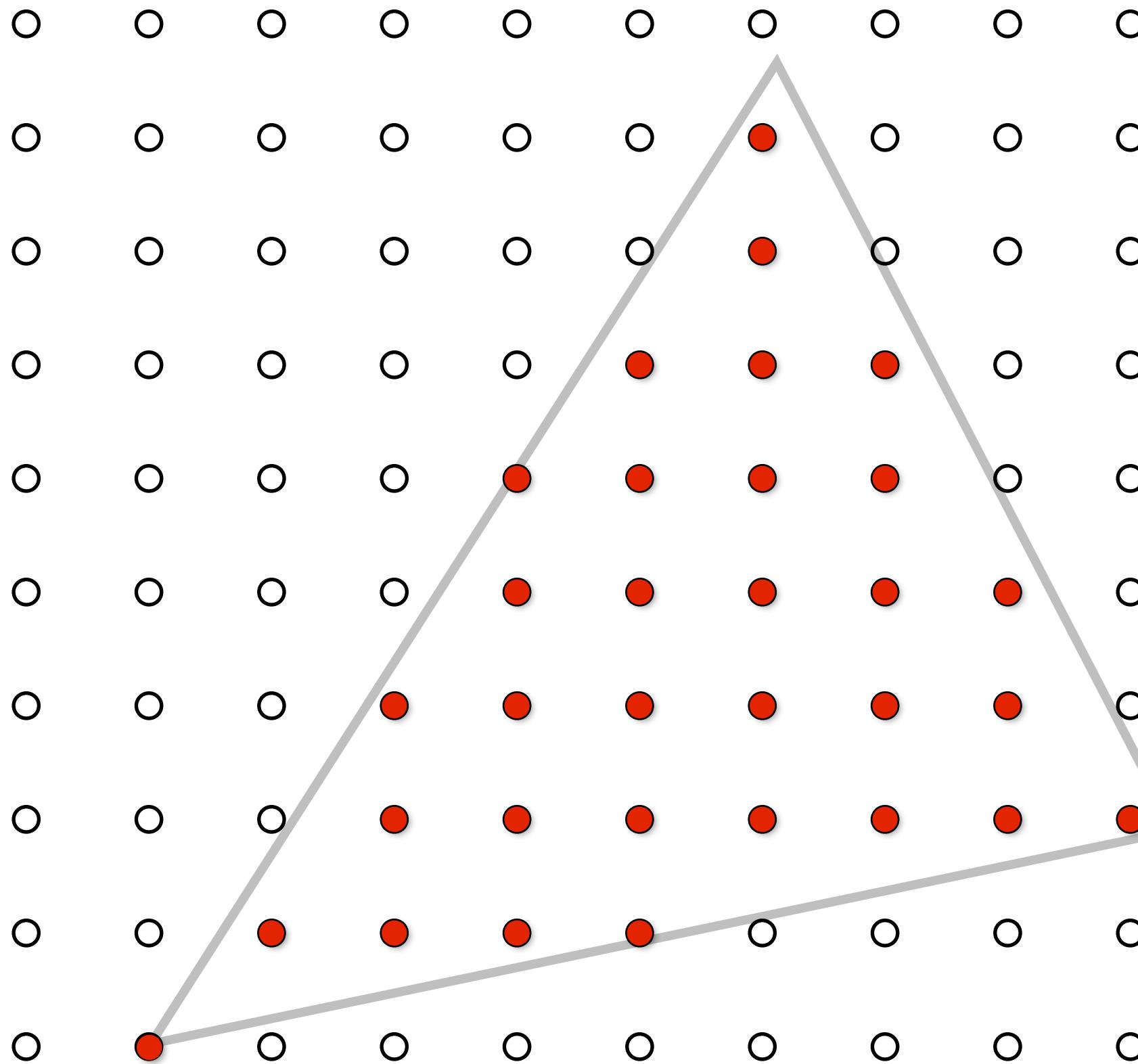


Example:
Here I chose the sample position to be at the pixel center.

Sample coverage at pixel centers



Sample coverage at pixel centers

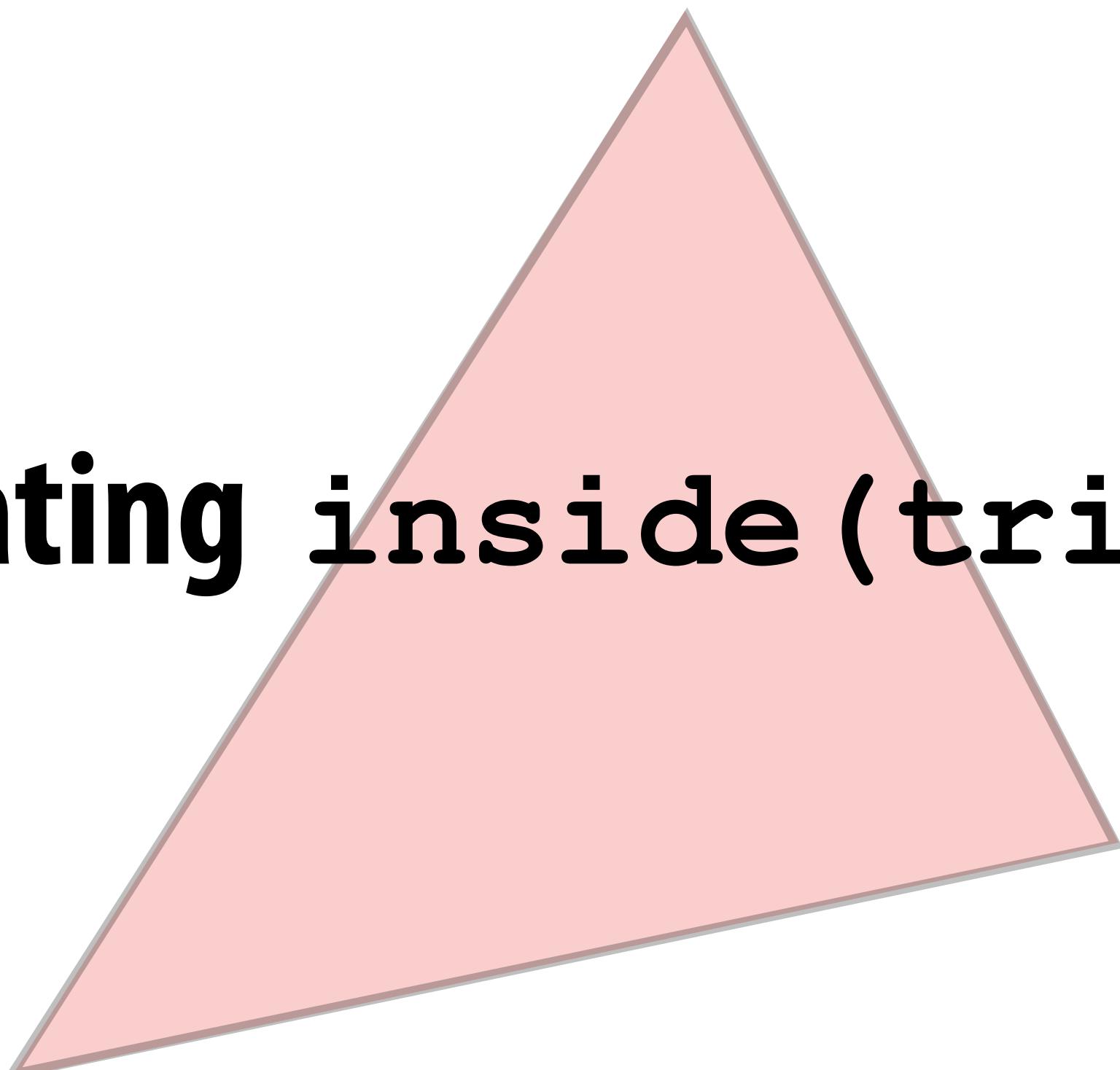


Rasterization = sampling a 2D indicator function

```
for (int x = 0; x < xmax; x++)
    for (int y = 0; y < ymax; y++)
        image[x][y] = f(x + 0.5, y + 0.5);
```

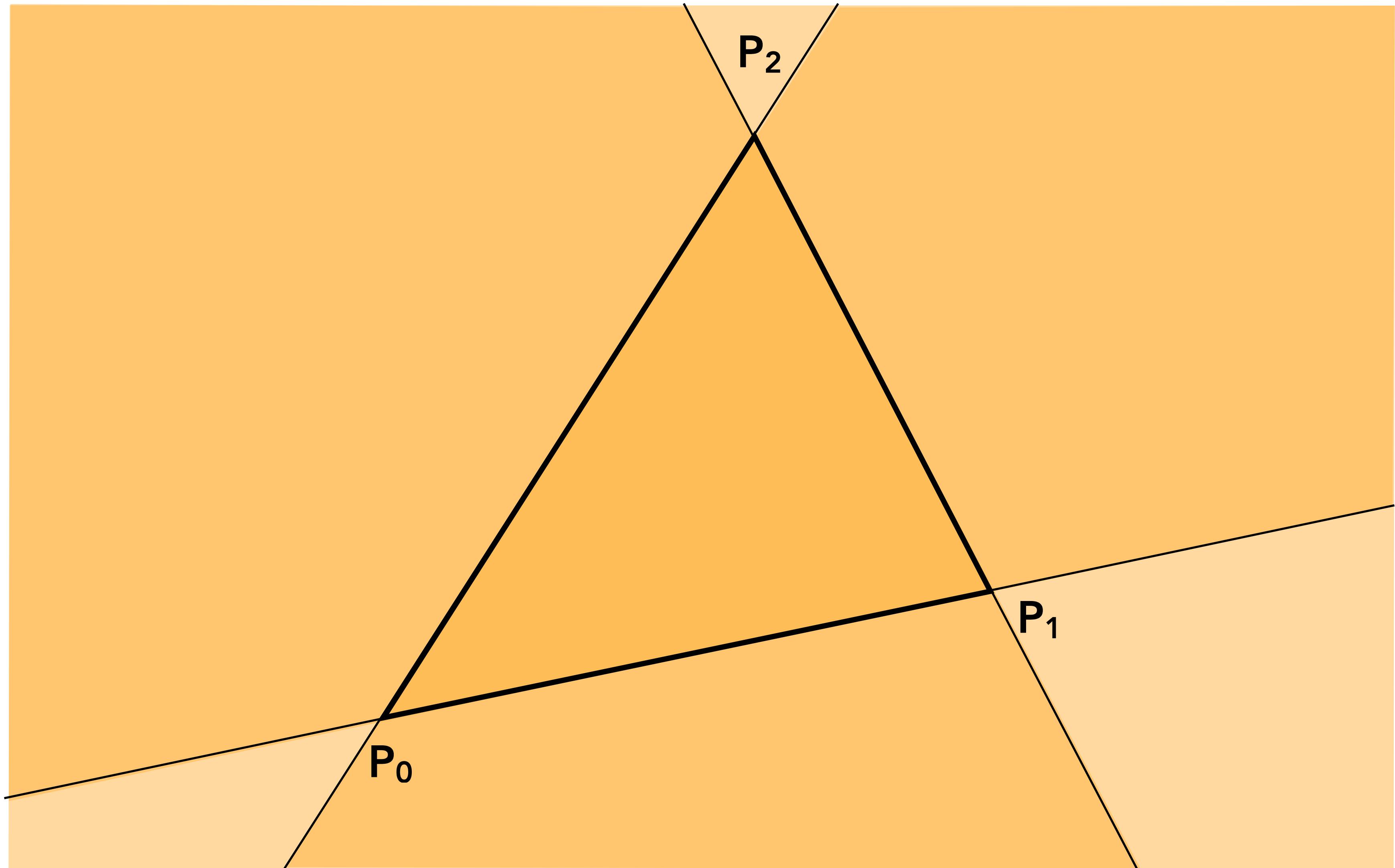
- Rasterize triangle `tri` by sampling the function

$$f(x, y) = \text{inside}(\text{tri}, x, y)$$



Evaluating `inside(tri, x, y)`

Triangle = intersection of three half planes

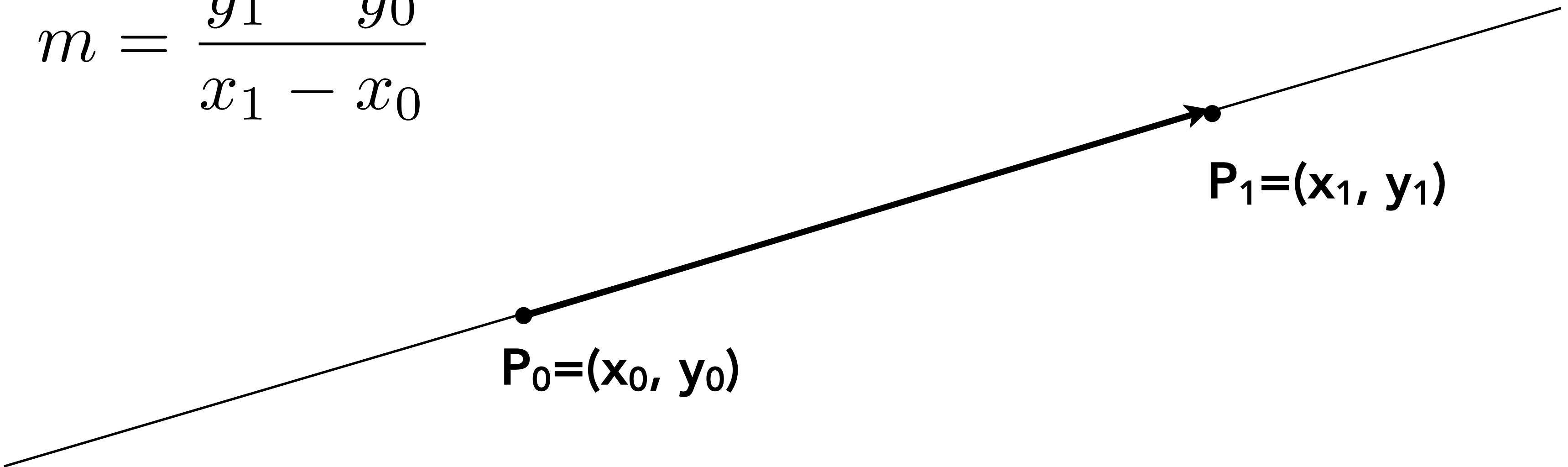


Point slope form of a line

(You might have seen this in high school)

$$y - y_0 = m(x - x_0)$$

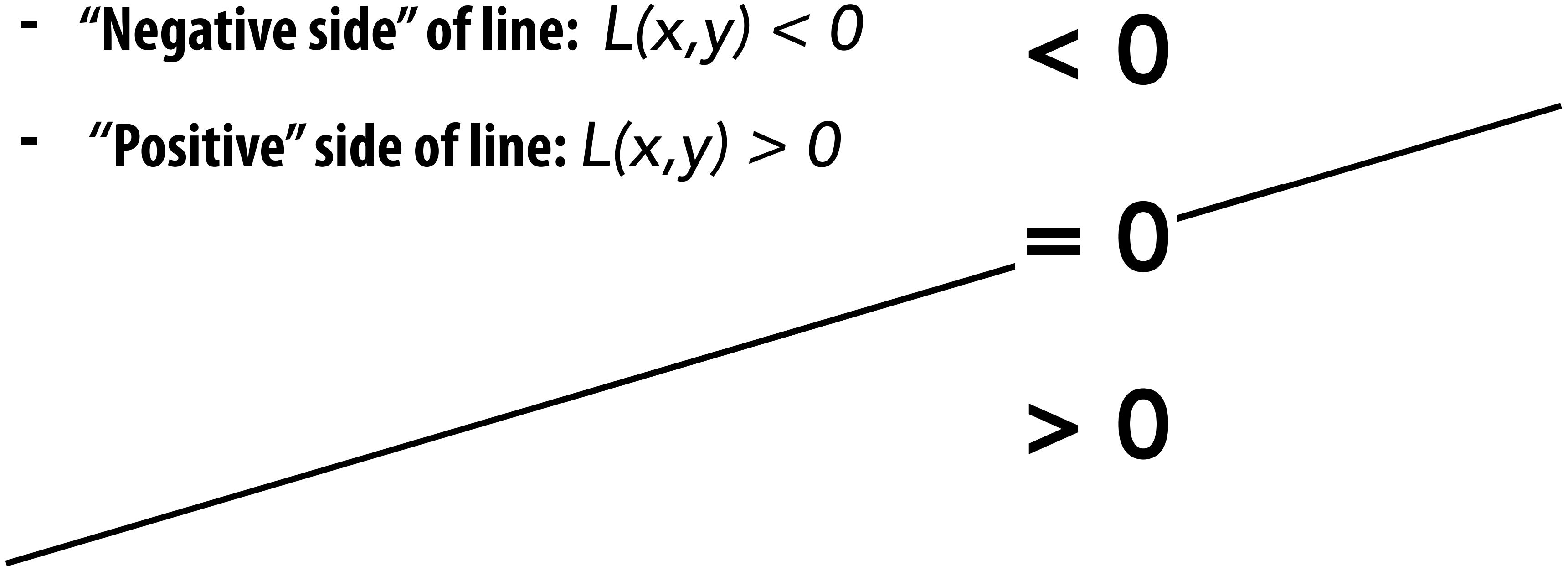
$$m = \frac{y_1 - y_0}{x_1 - x_0}$$



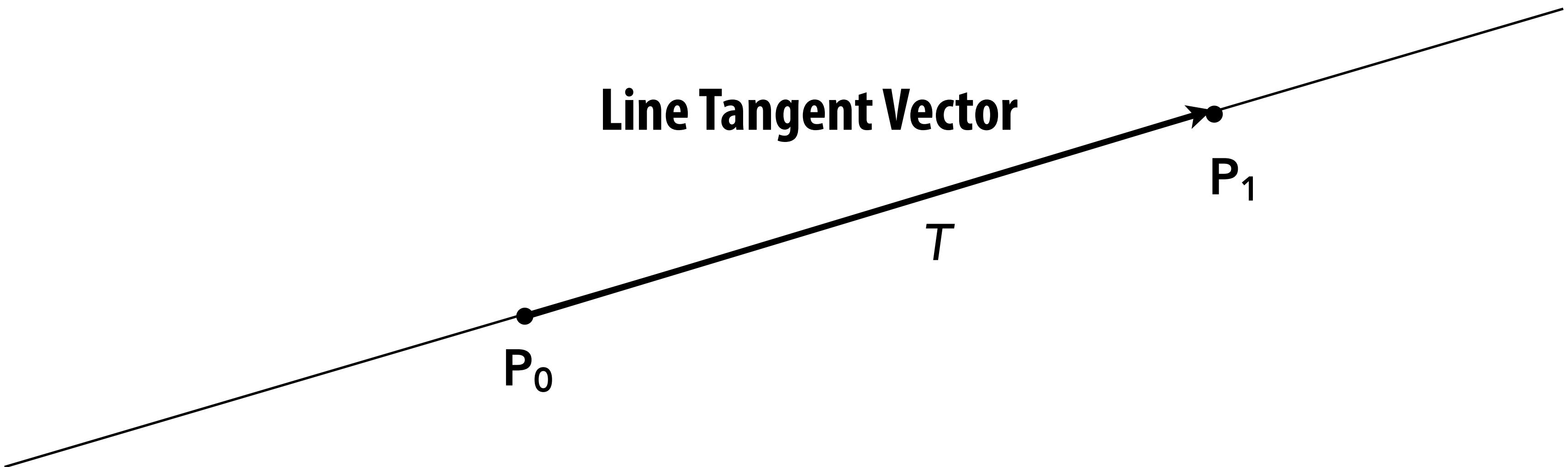
Each line defines two half-planes

■ Implicit line equation

- $L(x,y) = Ax + By + C$
- On the line: $L(x,y) = 0$
- “Negative side” of line: $L(x,y) < 0$
- “Positive” side of line: $L(x,y) > 0$

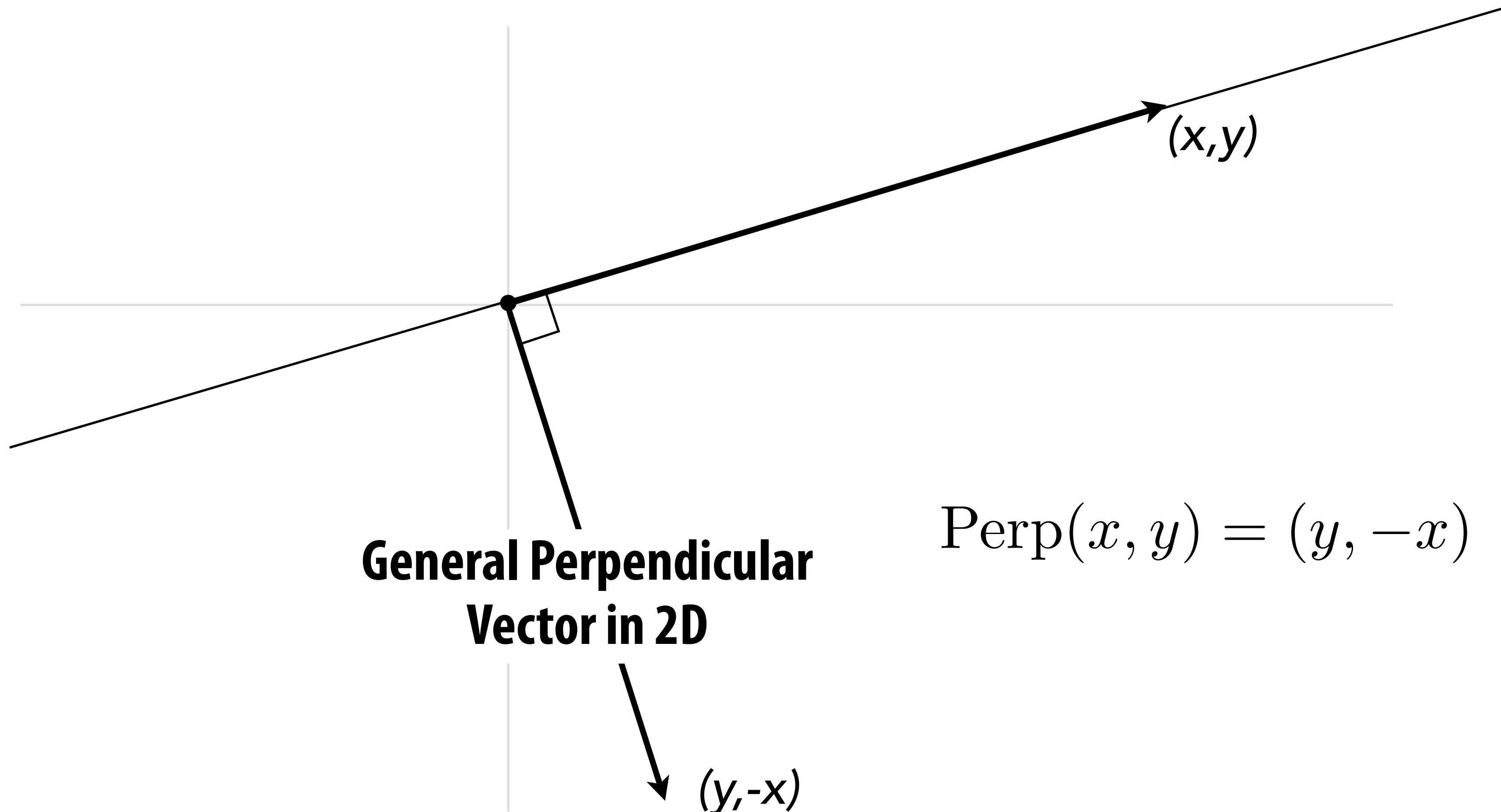


Line equation derivation



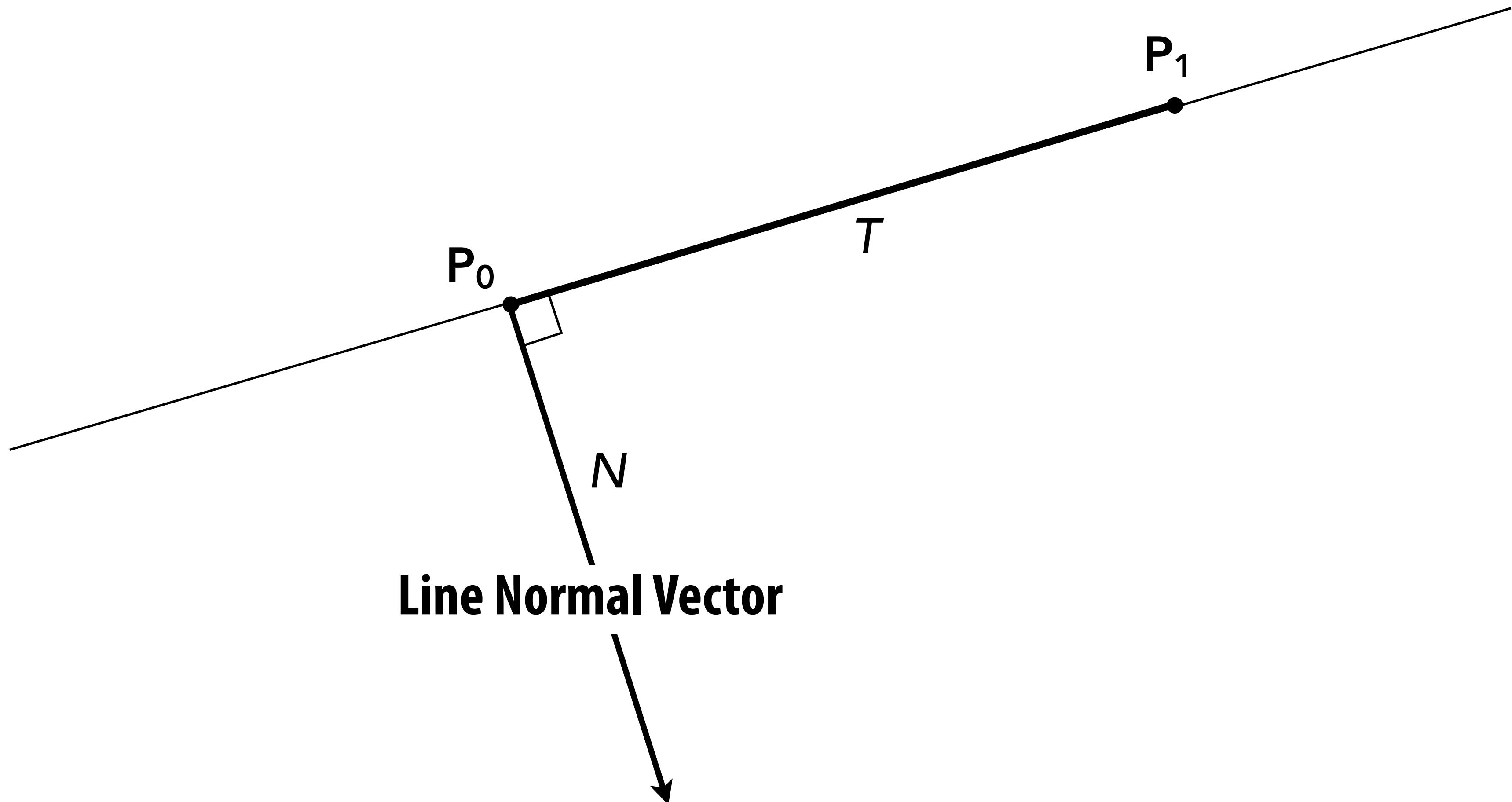
$$T = P_1 - P_0 = (x_1 - x_0, y_1 - y_0)$$

Line equation derivation



Line equation derivation

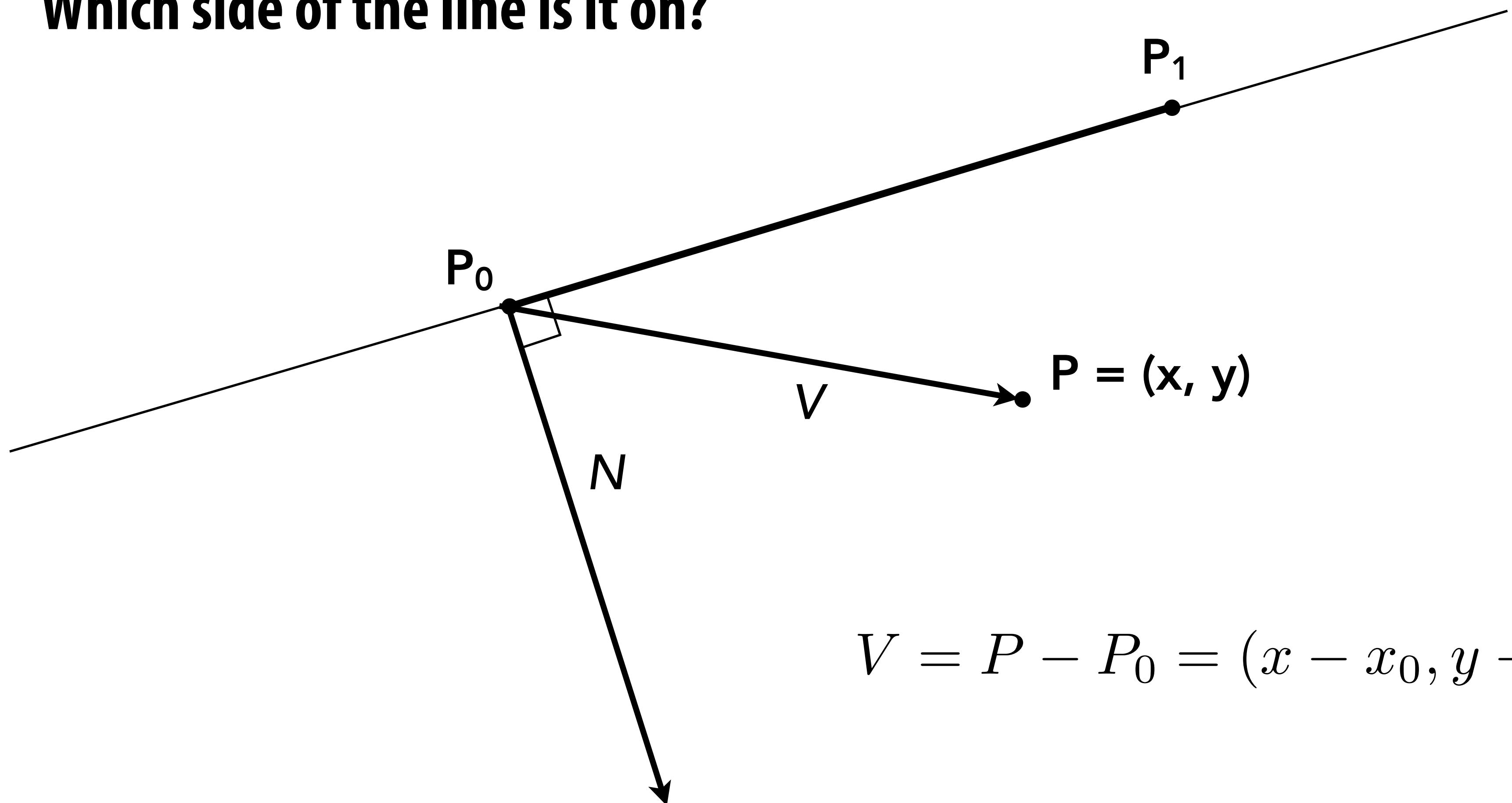
$$N = \text{Perp}(T) = (y_1 - y_0, -(x_1 - x_0))$$



Line equation derivation

Now consider a point $P=(x,y)$.

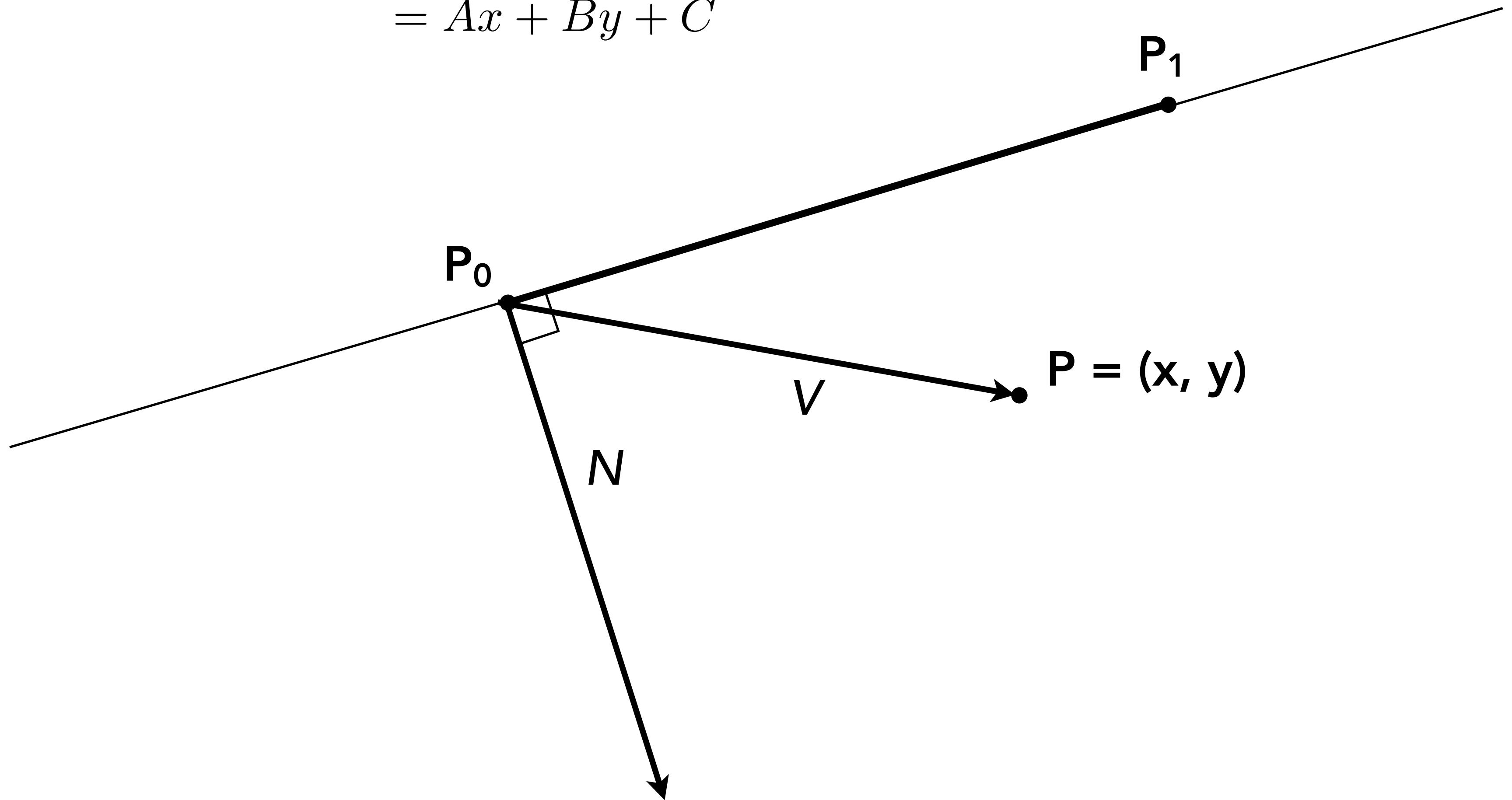
Which side of the line is it on?



$$V = P - P_0 = (x - x_0, y - y_0)$$

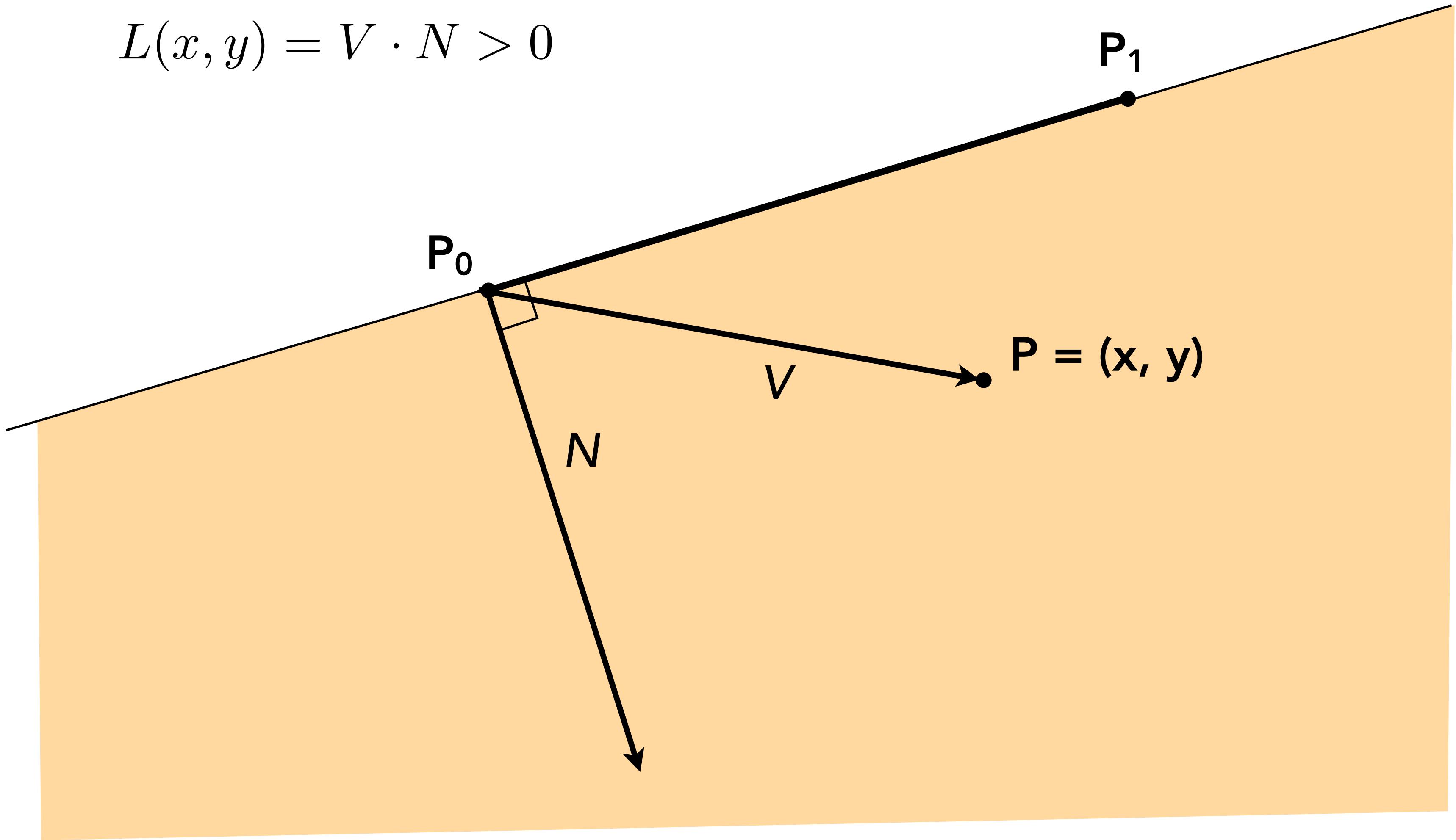
Line equation derivation

$$\begin{aligned}L(x, y) &= V \cdot N = -(y - y_0)(x_1 - x_0) + (x - x_0)(y_1 - y_0) \\&= (y_1 - y_0)x - (x_1 - x_0)y + y_0(x_1 - x_0) - x_0(y_1 - y_0) \\&= Ax + By + C\end{aligned}$$



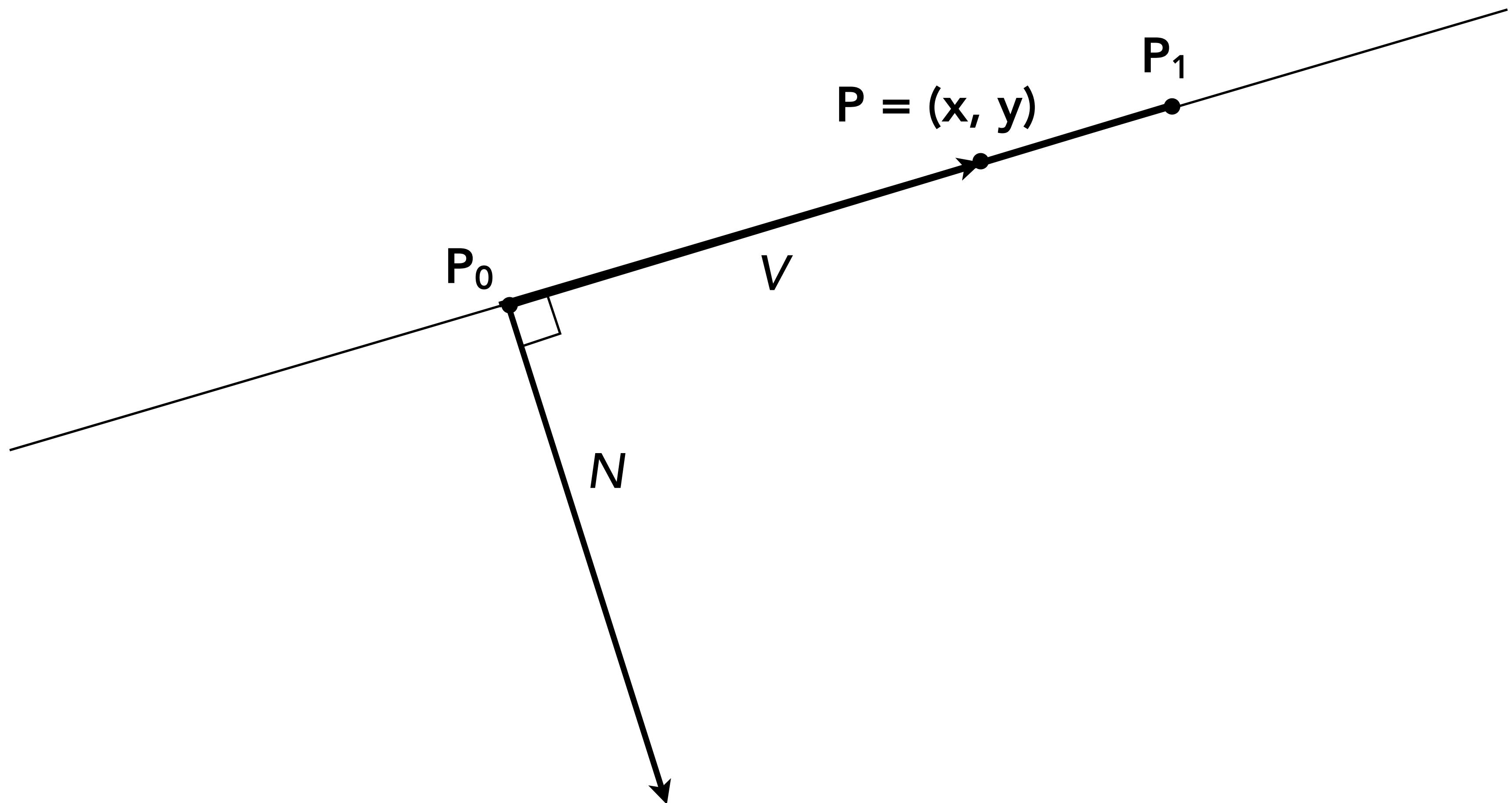
Line equation tests

$$L(x, y) = V \cdot N > 0$$



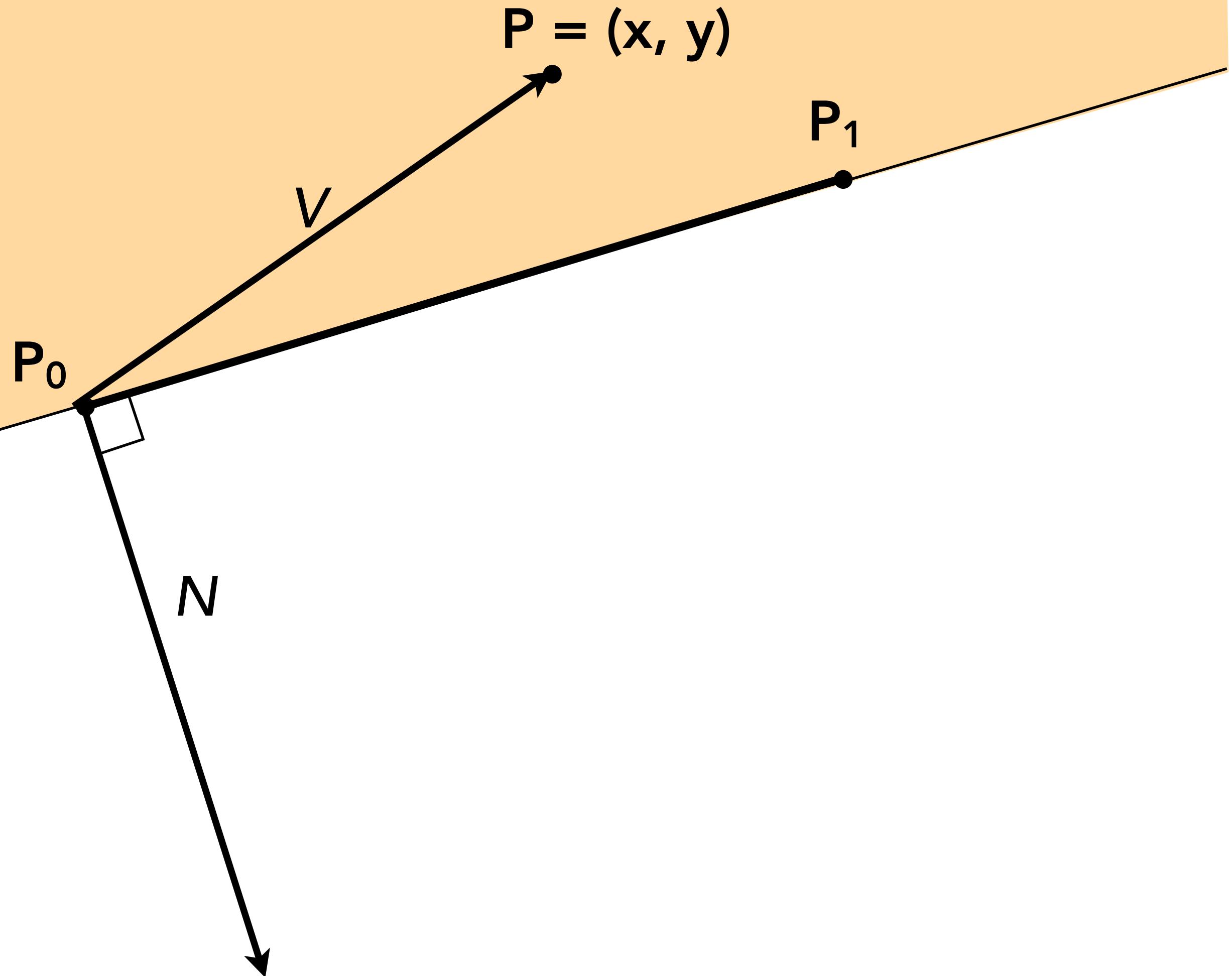
Line equation tests

$$L(x, y) = V \cdot N = 0$$



Line equation tests

$$L(x, y) = V \cdot N < 0$$



Point-in-triangle test

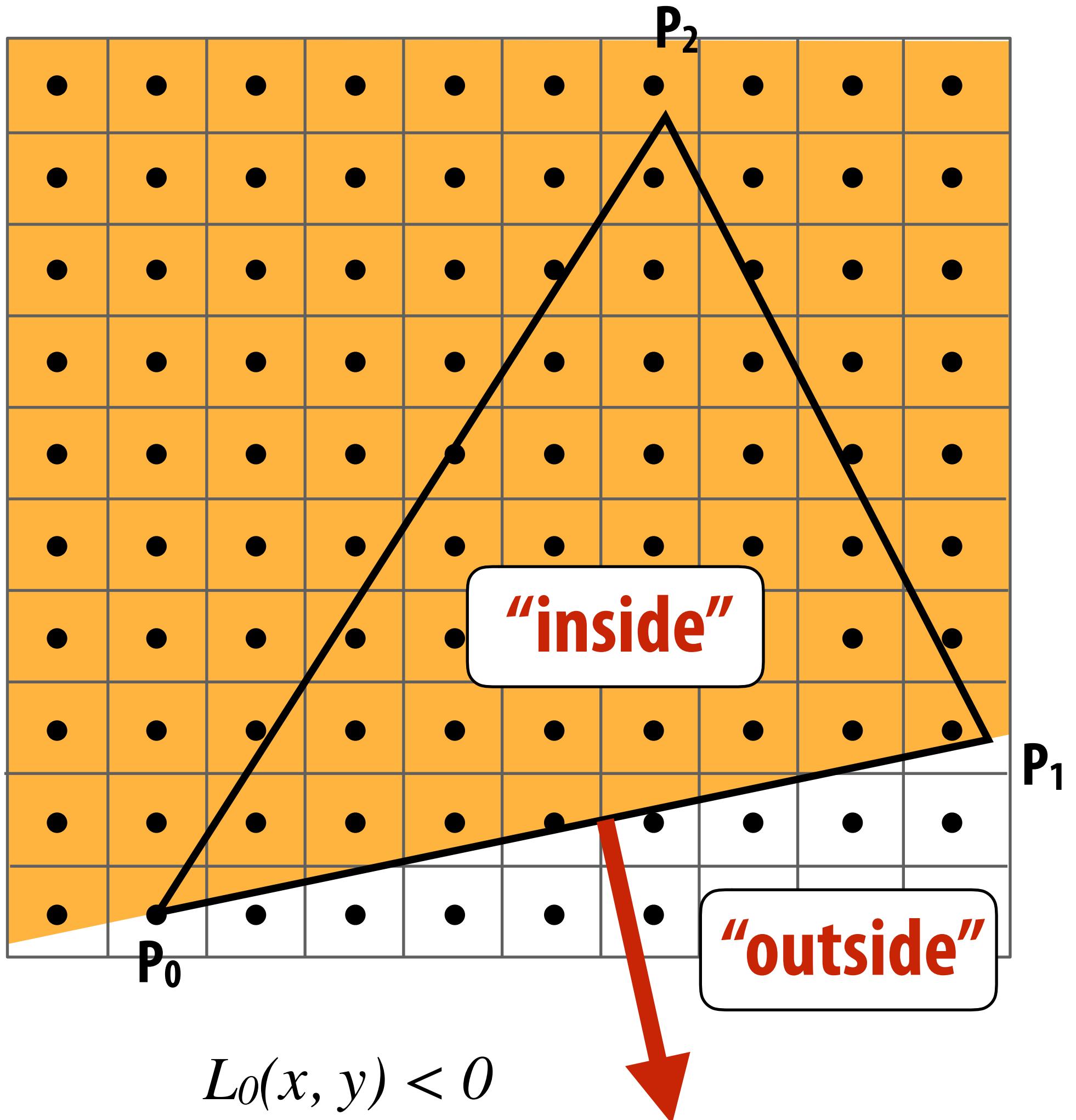
$$P_i = (X_i, Y_i)$$

$$dX_i = X_{i+1} - X_i$$

$$dY_i = Y_{i+1} - Y_i$$

$$\begin{aligned} L_i(x, y) &= (x - X_i) dY_i - (y - Y_i) dX_i \\ &= A_i x + B_i y + C_i \end{aligned}$$

$L_i(x, y) = 0$: point on edge
 > 0 : outside edge
 < 0 : inside edge



Point-in-triangle test

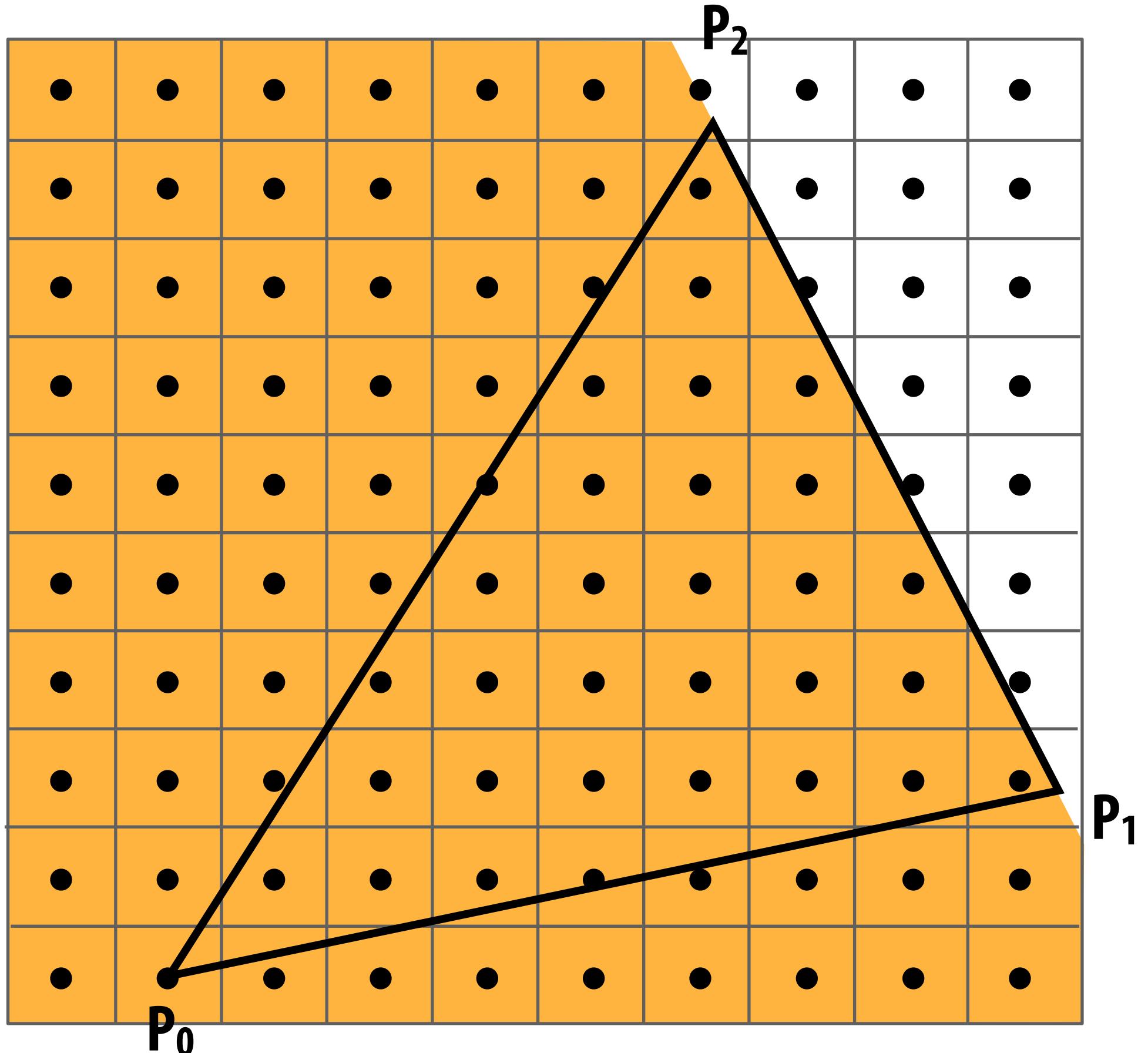
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$$\begin{aligned} L_i(x, y) &= (x - X_i) dY_i - (y - Y_i) dX_i \\ &= A_i x + B_i y + C_i \end{aligned}$$

$L_i(x, y) = 0$: point on edge
 > 0 : outside edge
 < 0 : inside edge



$$L_i(x, y) < 0$$

Point-in-triangle test

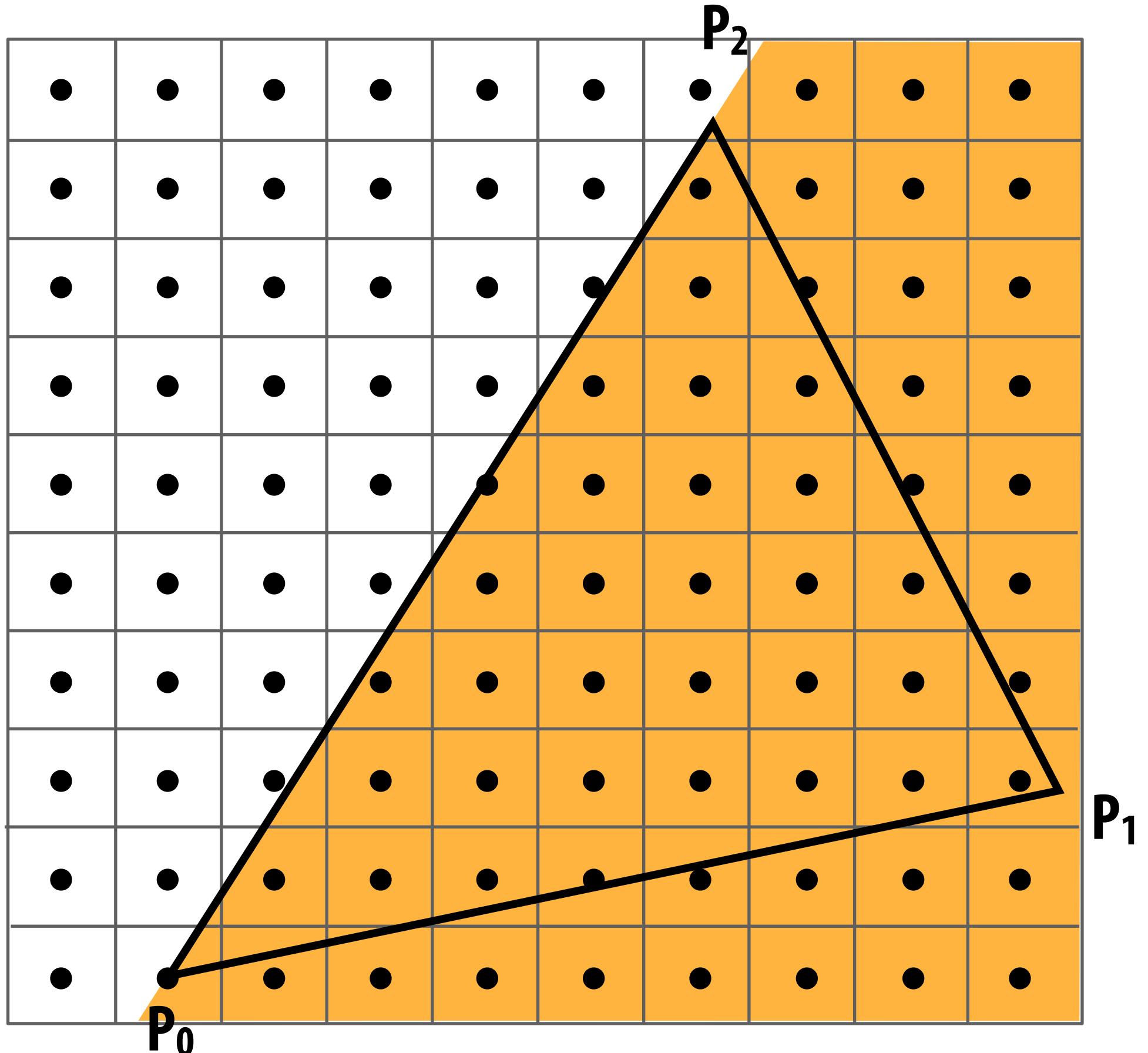
$$P_i = (X_i, Y_i)$$

$$dX_i = X_{i+1} - X_i$$

$$dY_i = Y_{i+1} - Y_i$$

$$\begin{aligned} L_i(x, y) &= (x - X_i) dY_i - (y - Y_i) dX_i \\ &= A_i x + B_i y + C_i \end{aligned}$$

$L_i(x, y) = 0$: point on edge
 > 0 : outside edge
 < 0 : inside edge



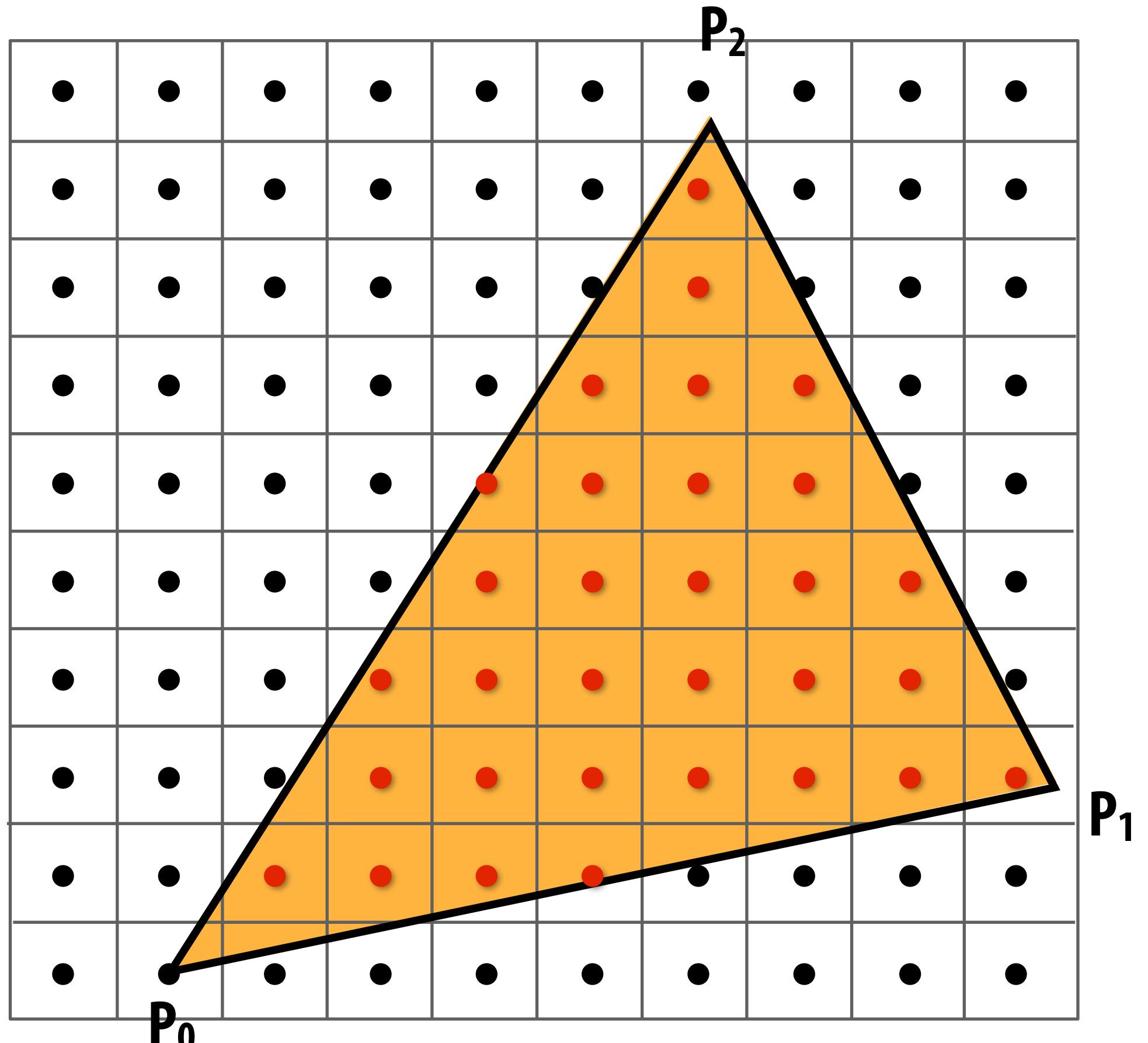
$$L_2(x, y) < 0$$

Point-in-triangle test

Sample point $s = (sx, sy)$ is inside the triangle if it is inside all three edges.

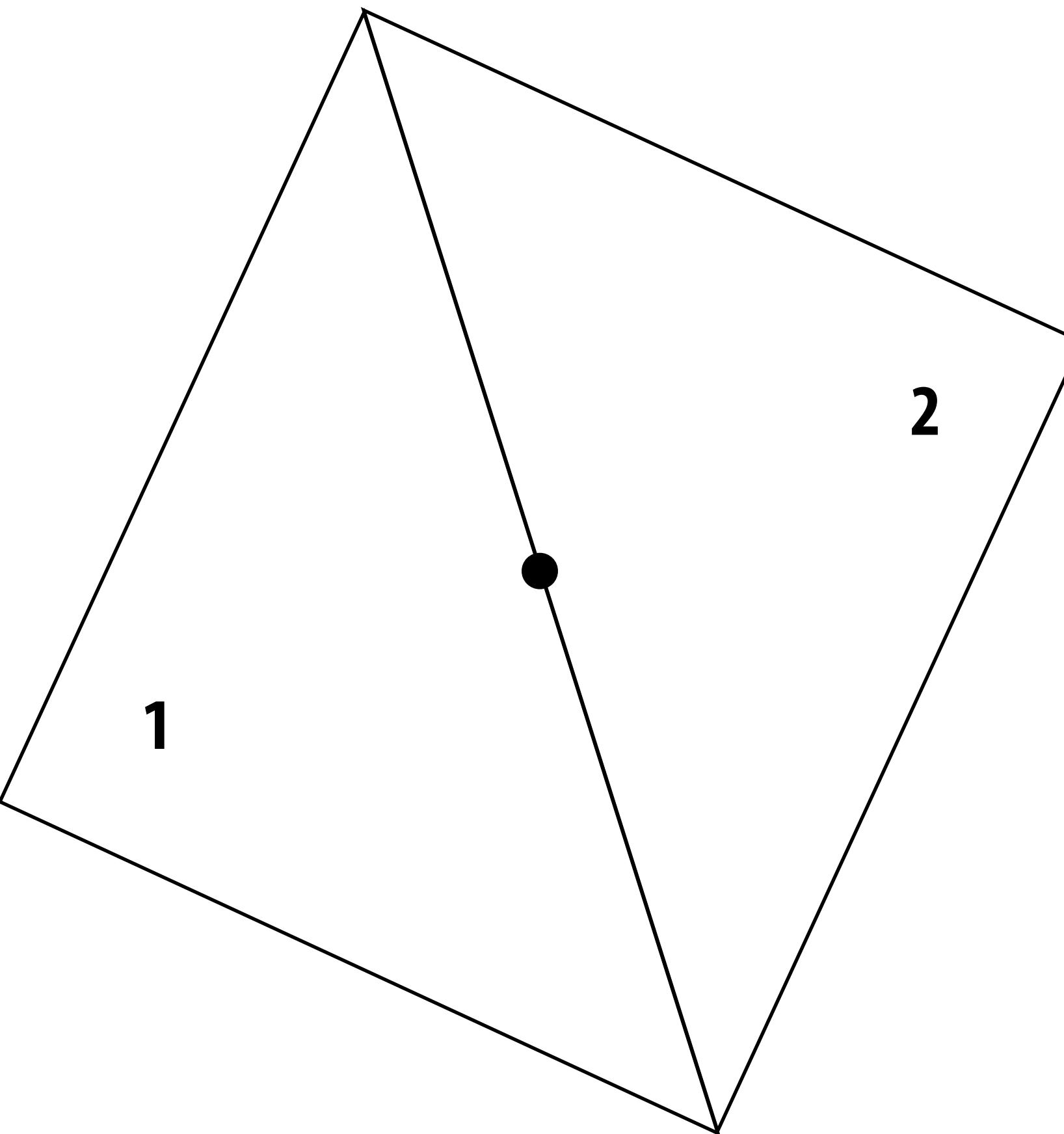
$inside(sx, sy) =$
 $L_0(sx, sy) < 0 \ \&\&$
 $L_1(sx, sy) < 0 \ \&\&$
 $L_2(sx, sy) < 0;$

Note: actual implementation of $inside(sx, sy)$ involves \leq checks based on the triangle coverage edge rules (see next slides)



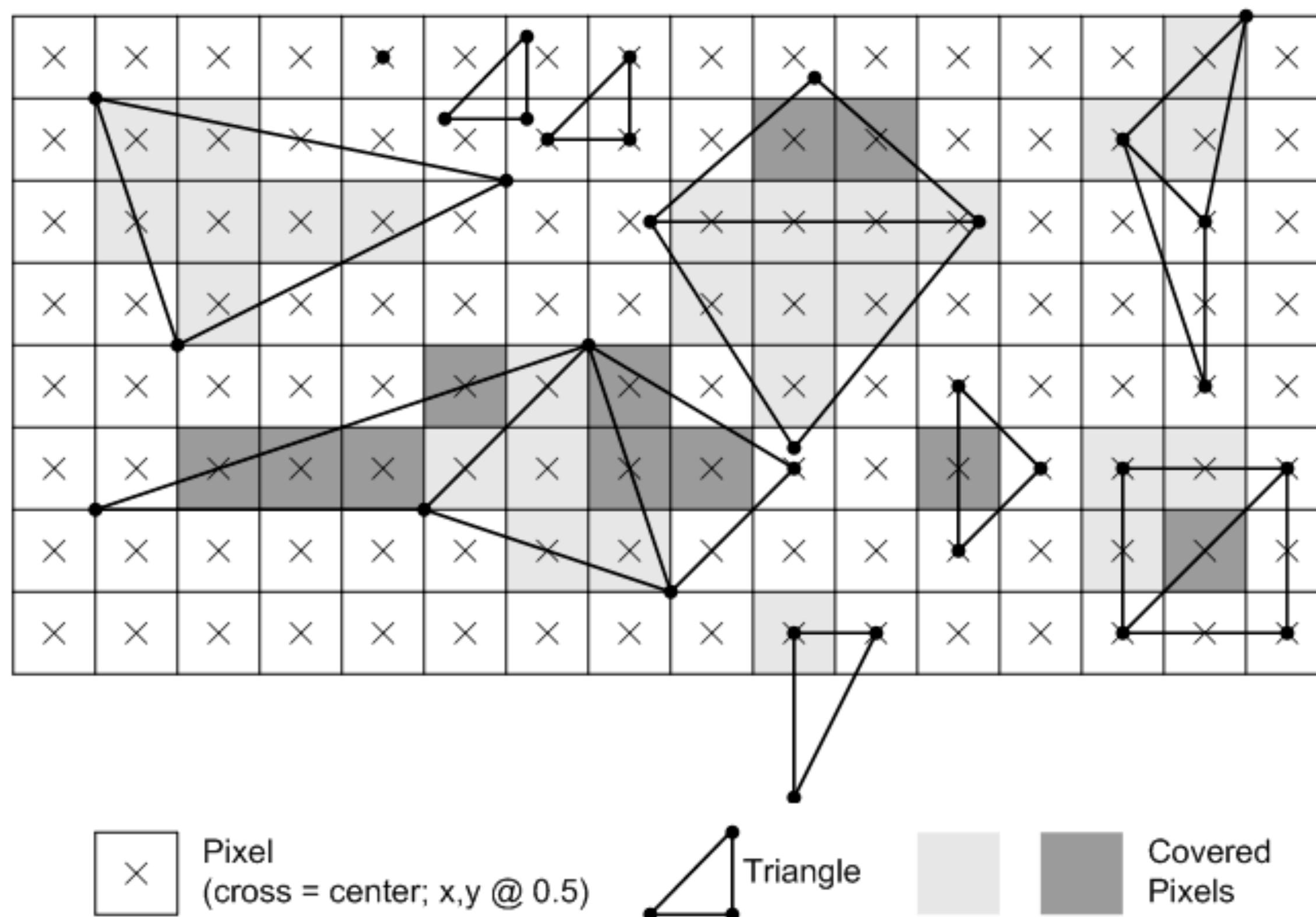
Edge cases (literally)

Is this sample point covered by triangle 1? or triangle 2? or both?



OpenGL/Direct3D edge rules

- When edge falls directly on a screen sample point, the sample is classified as within triangle if the edge is a “top edge” or “left edge”
 - Top edge: horizontal edge that is above all other edges
 - Left edge: an edge that is not exactly horizontal and is on the left side of the triangle. (triangle can have one or two left edges)



Finding covered samples: incremental triangle traversal

$$P_i = (X_i, Y_i)$$

$$dX_i = X_{i+1} - X_i$$

$$dY_i = Y_{i+1} - Y_i$$

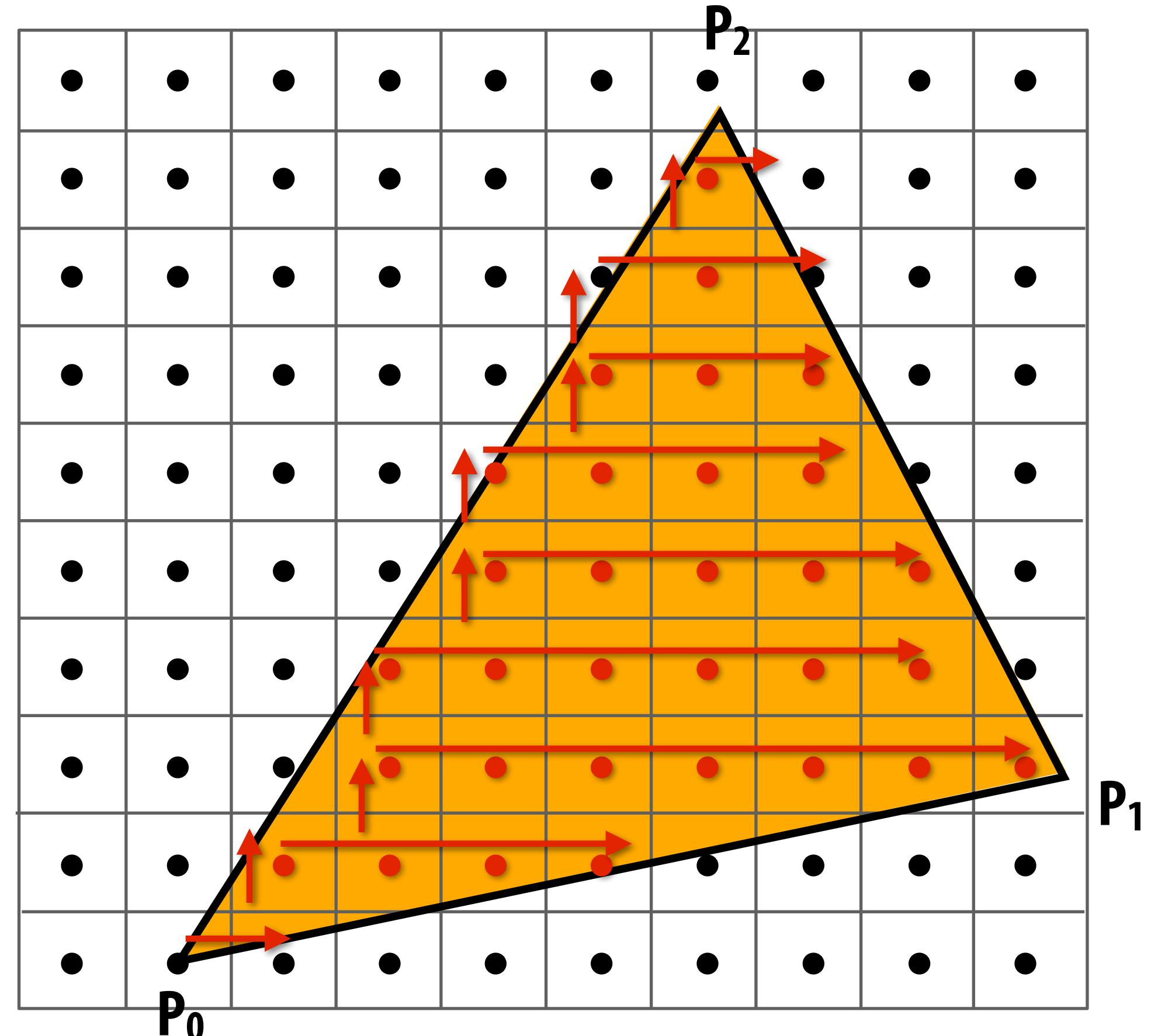
$$\begin{aligned}L_i(x, y) &= (x - X_i) dY_i - (y - Y_i) dX_i \\&= A_i x + B_i y + C_i\end{aligned}$$

$L_i(x, y) = 0$: point on edge
 > 0 : outside edge
 < 0 : inside edge

Efficient incremental update:

$$L_i(x+1, y) = L_i(x, y) + dY_i = L_i(x, y) + A_i$$

$$L_i(x, y+1) = L_i(x, y) - dX_i = L_i(x, y) + B_i$$



Incremental update saves computation:

Only one addition per edge, per sample test

Many traversal orders are possible: backtrack, zig-zag, Hilbert/Morton curves

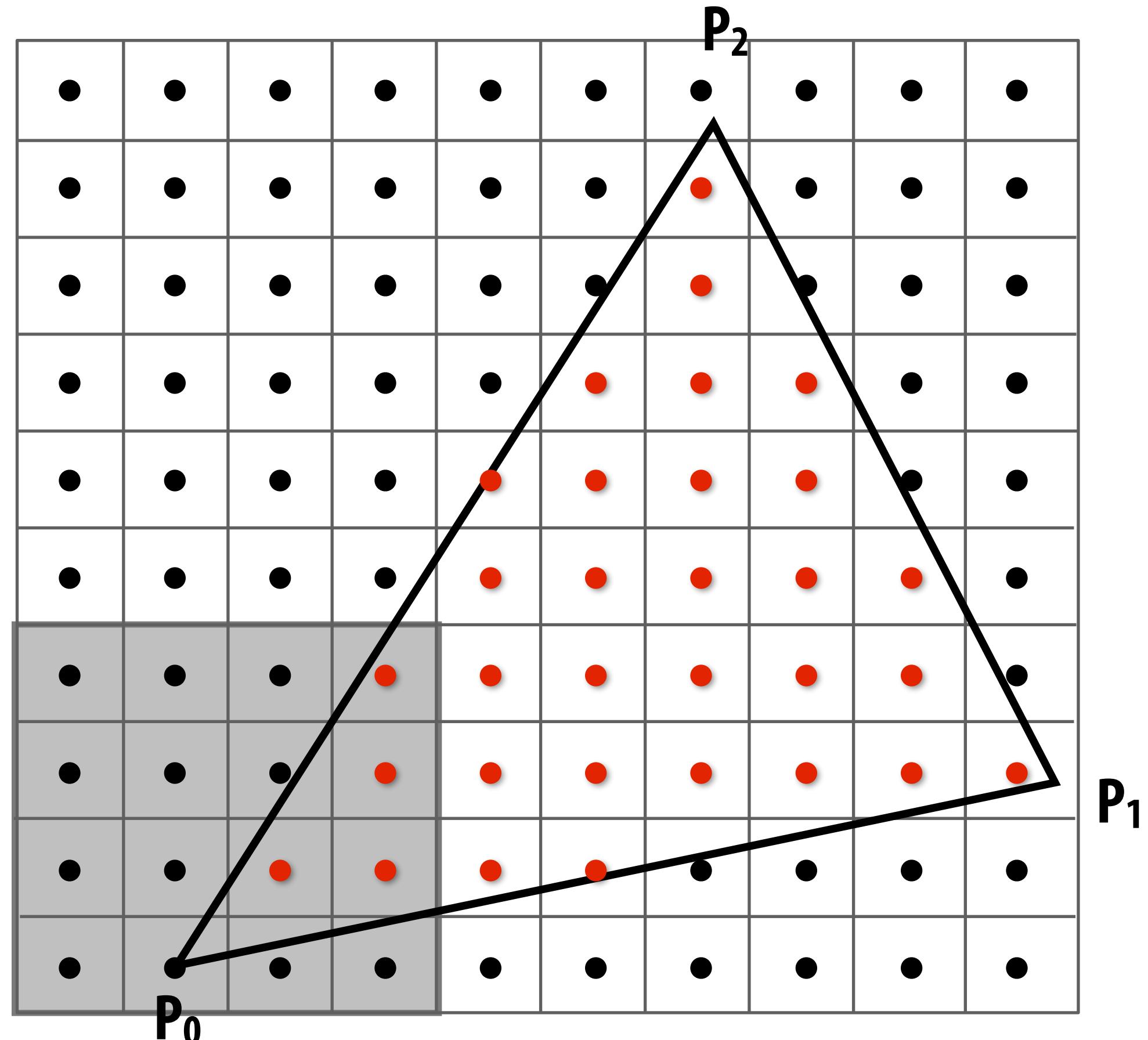
Modern approach: tiled triangle traversal

Traverse triangle in blocks

Test all samples in block against triangle in parallel

Advantages:

- Simplicity of parallel execution overcomes cost of extra point-in-triangle tests (most triangles cover many samples)
- Can skip sample testing work: entire block not in triangle (“early out”), entire block entirely within triangle (“early in”)
- Additional advantages related to accelerating occlusion computations (not discussed today)

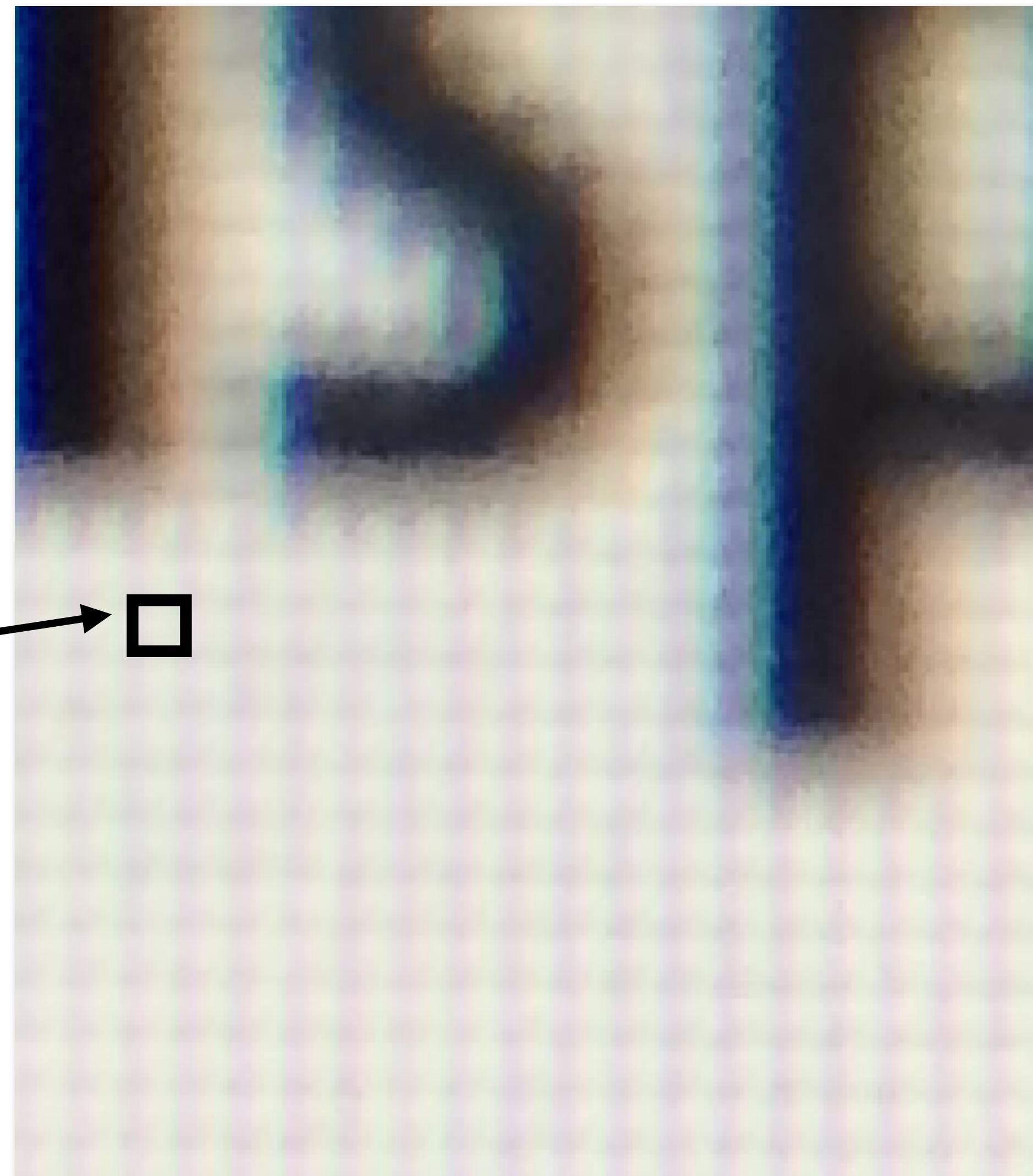
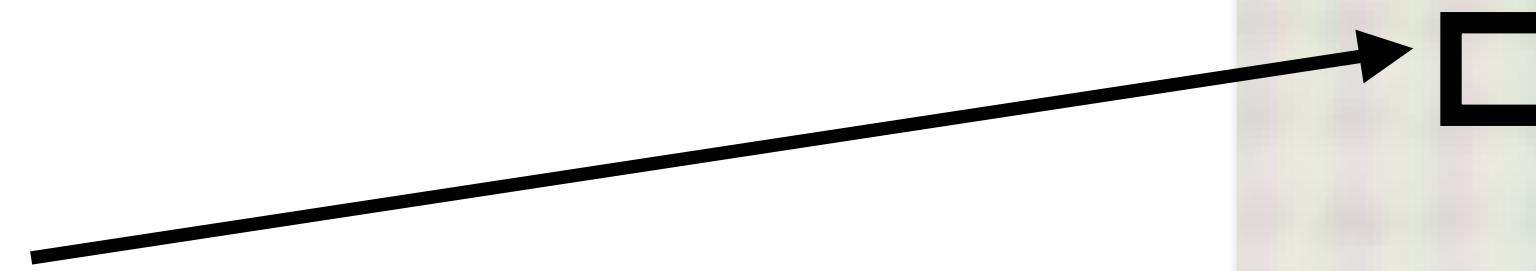


All modern graphics processors (GPUs) have special-purpose hardware for efficiently performing point-in-triangle tests

Recall: pixels on a screen

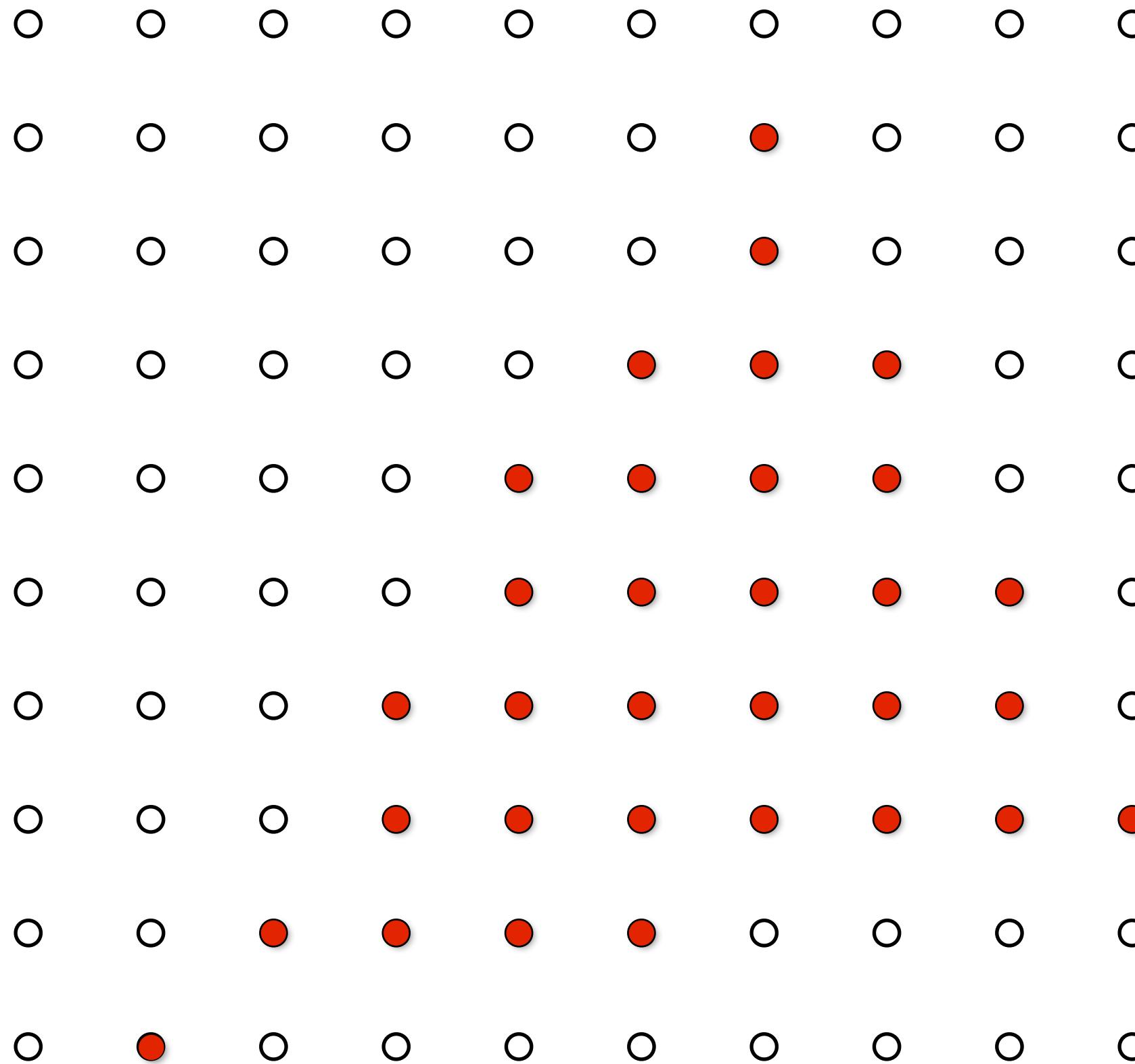
**Each image sample sent to the display is converted into a little square of light of the appropriate color:
(a pixel = picture element)**

**LCD display
pixel on my
laptop**

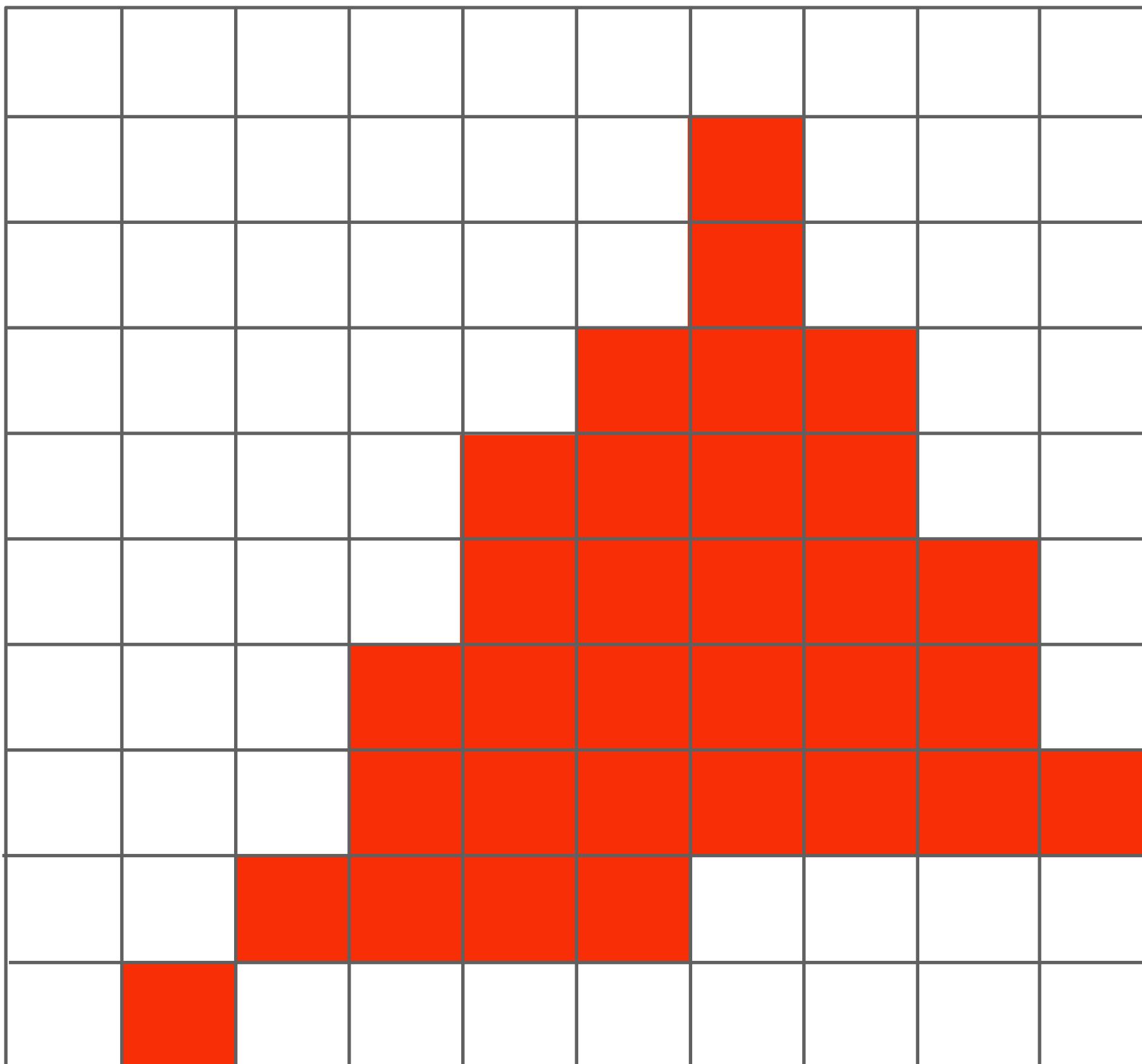


* Thinking of each LCD pixel as emitting a square of uniform intensity light of a single color is a bit of an approximation to how real displays work, but it will do for now.

So, if we send the display this sampled signal

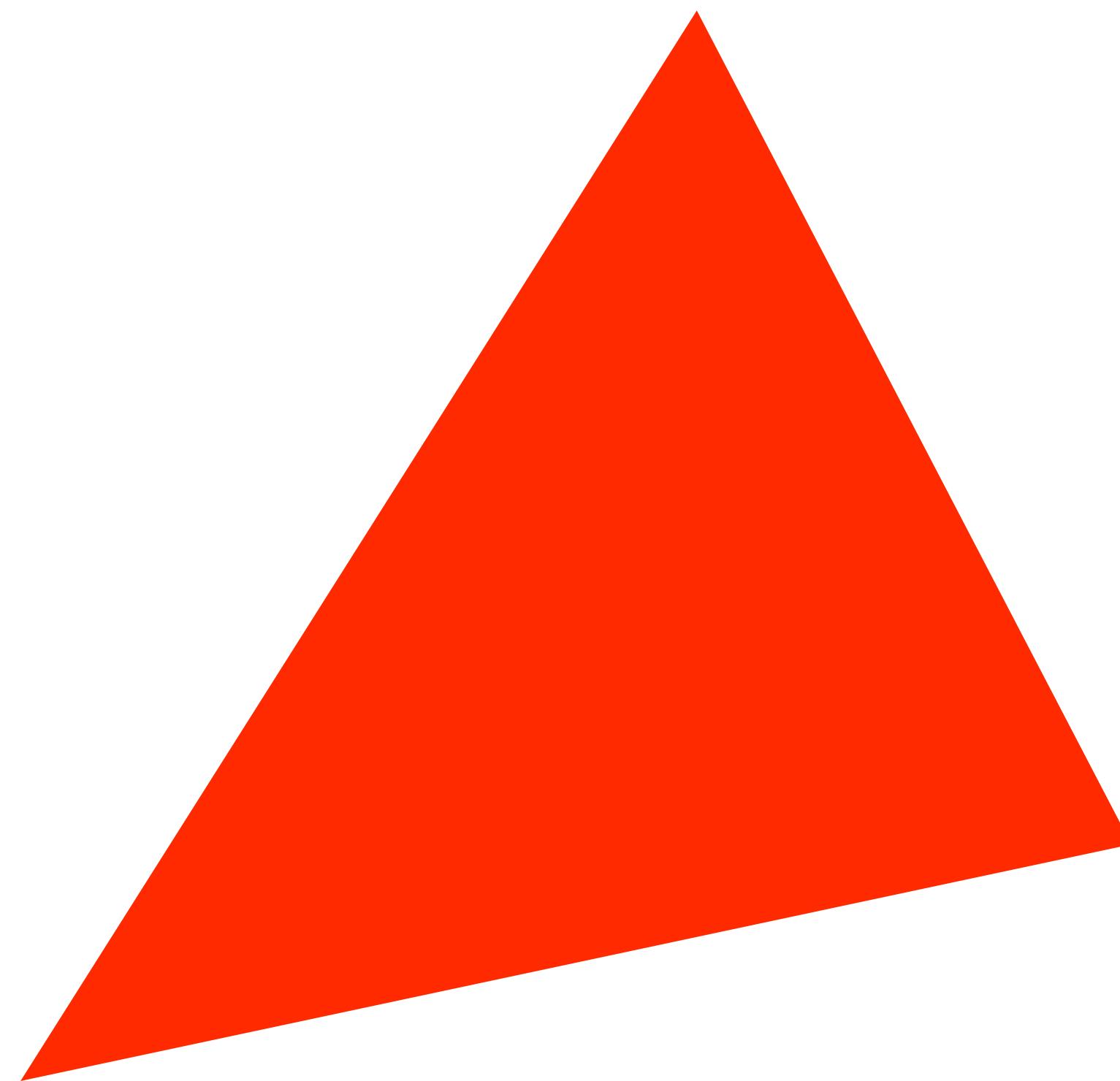


The display physically emits this signal

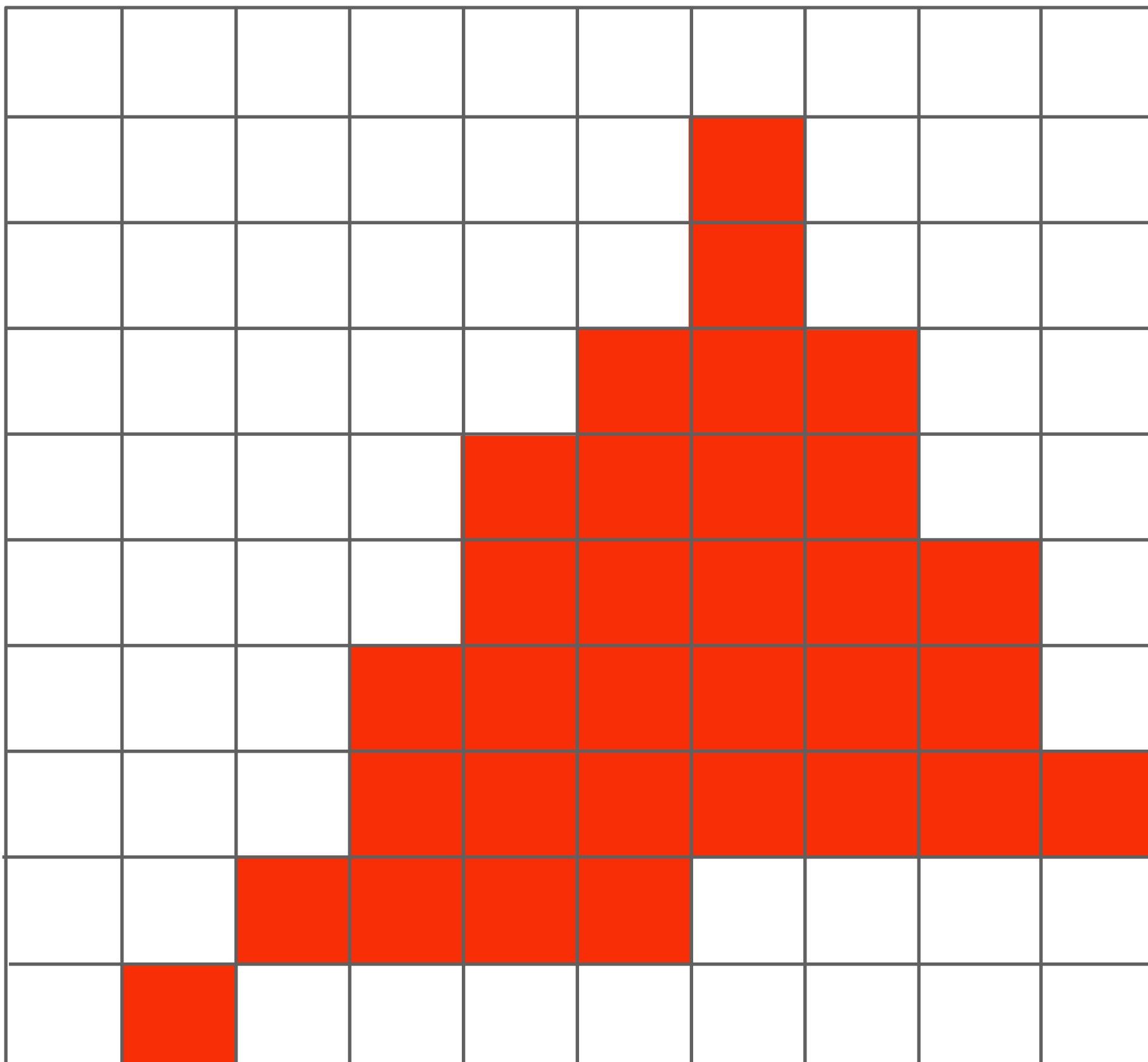


Given our simplified “square pixel” display assumption, we’ve effectively performed a piecewise constant reconstruction

Compare: the continuous triangle function

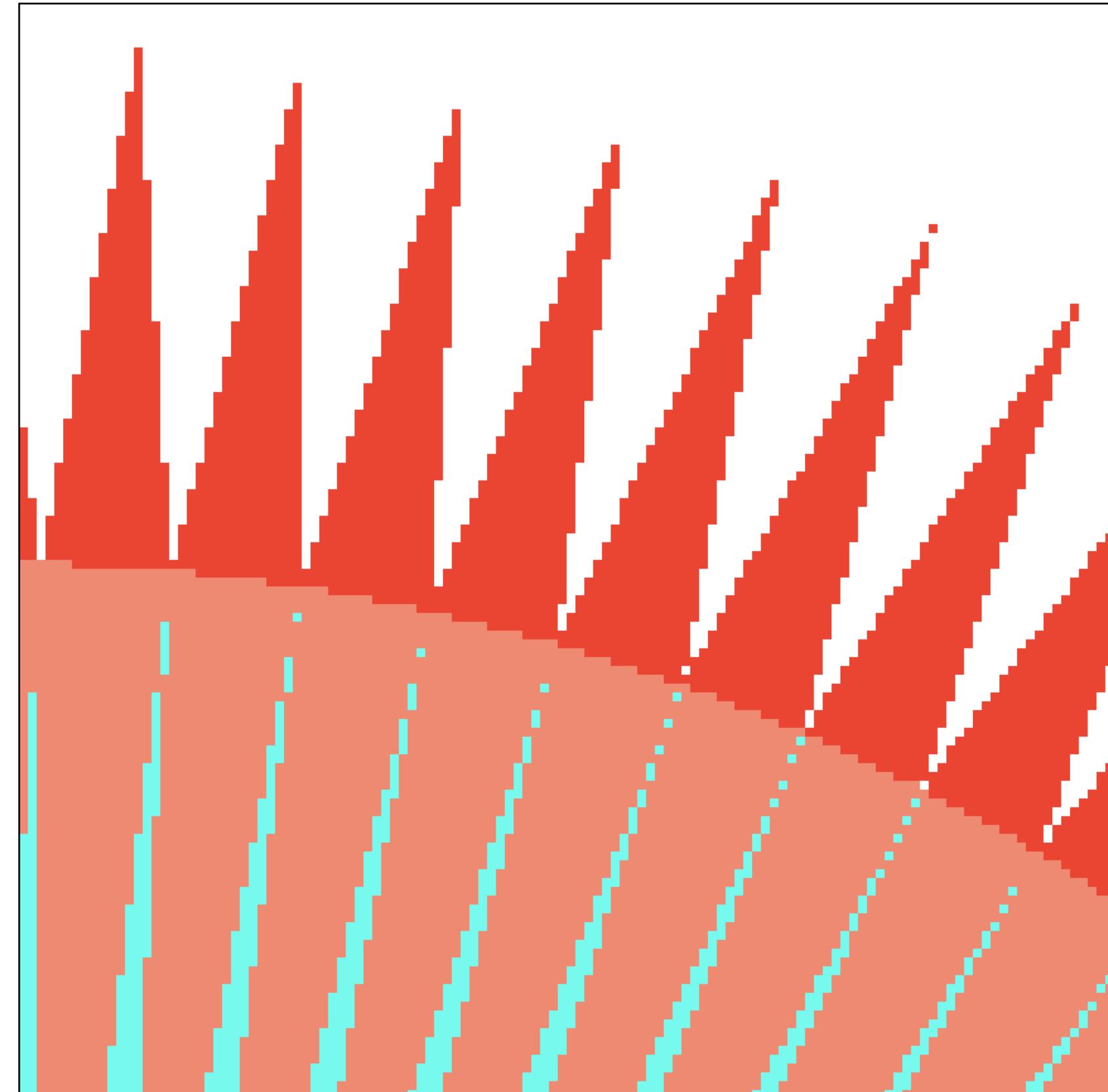
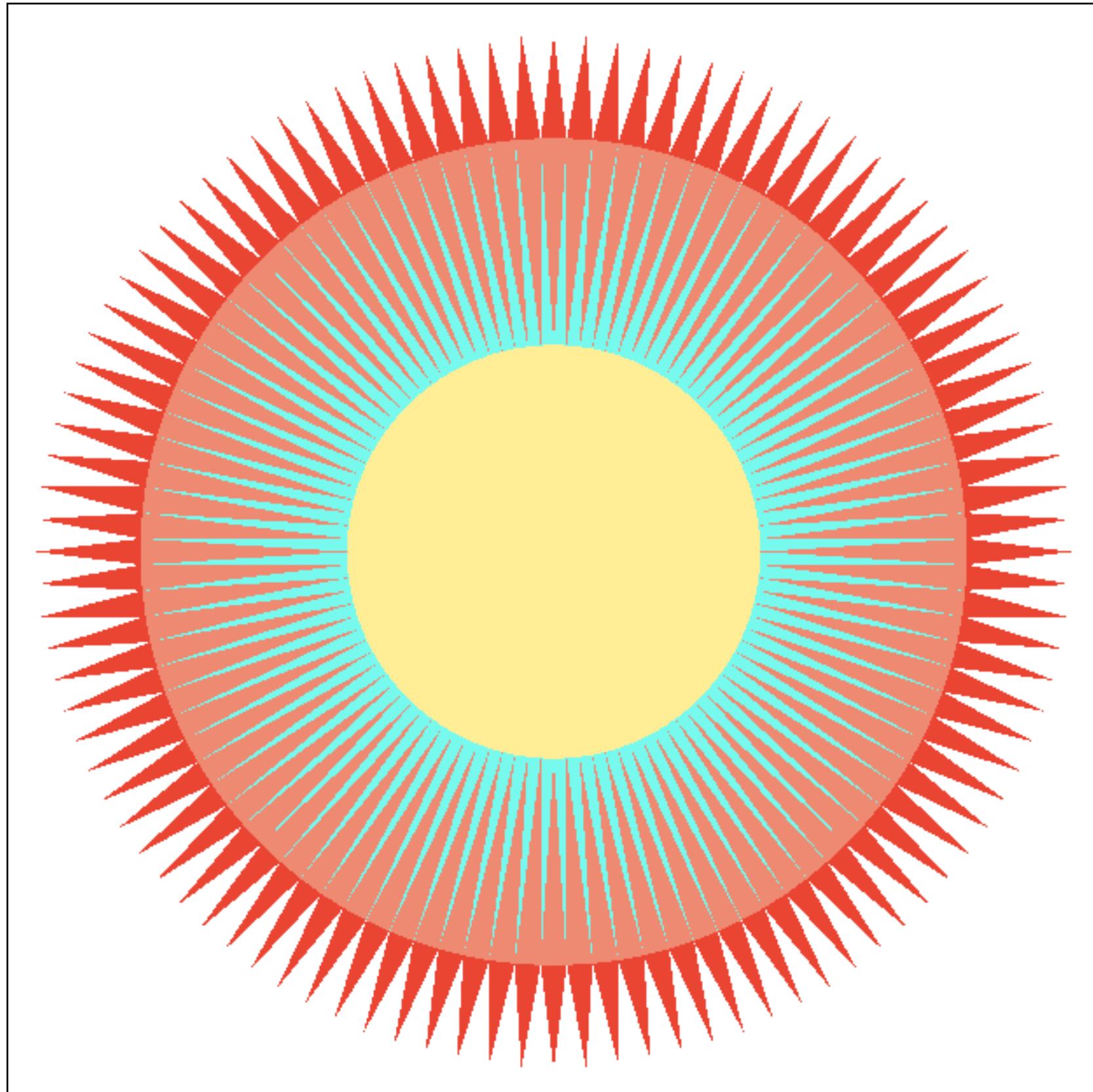


What's wrong with this picture?



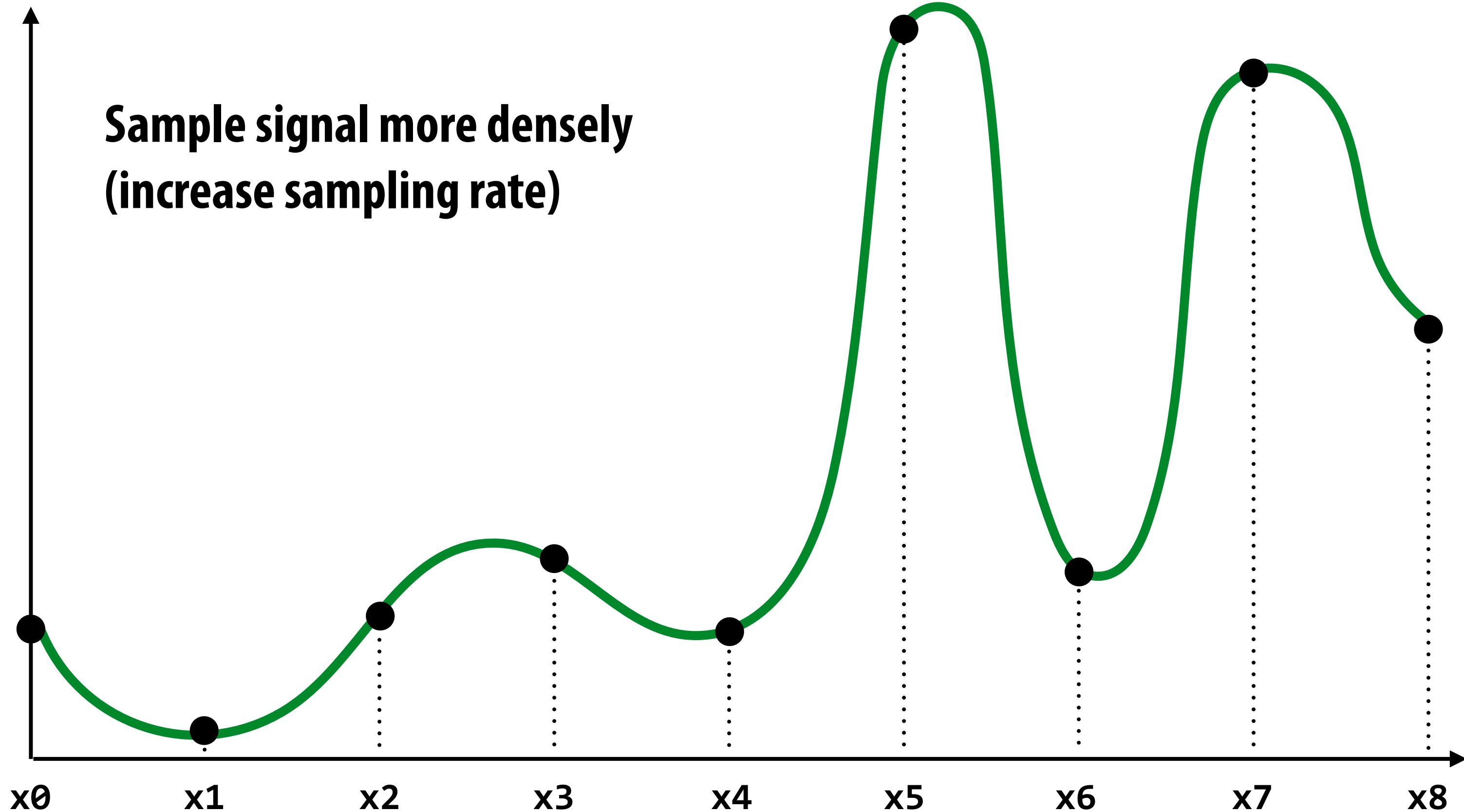
Jaggies!

Jaggies (staircase pattern)

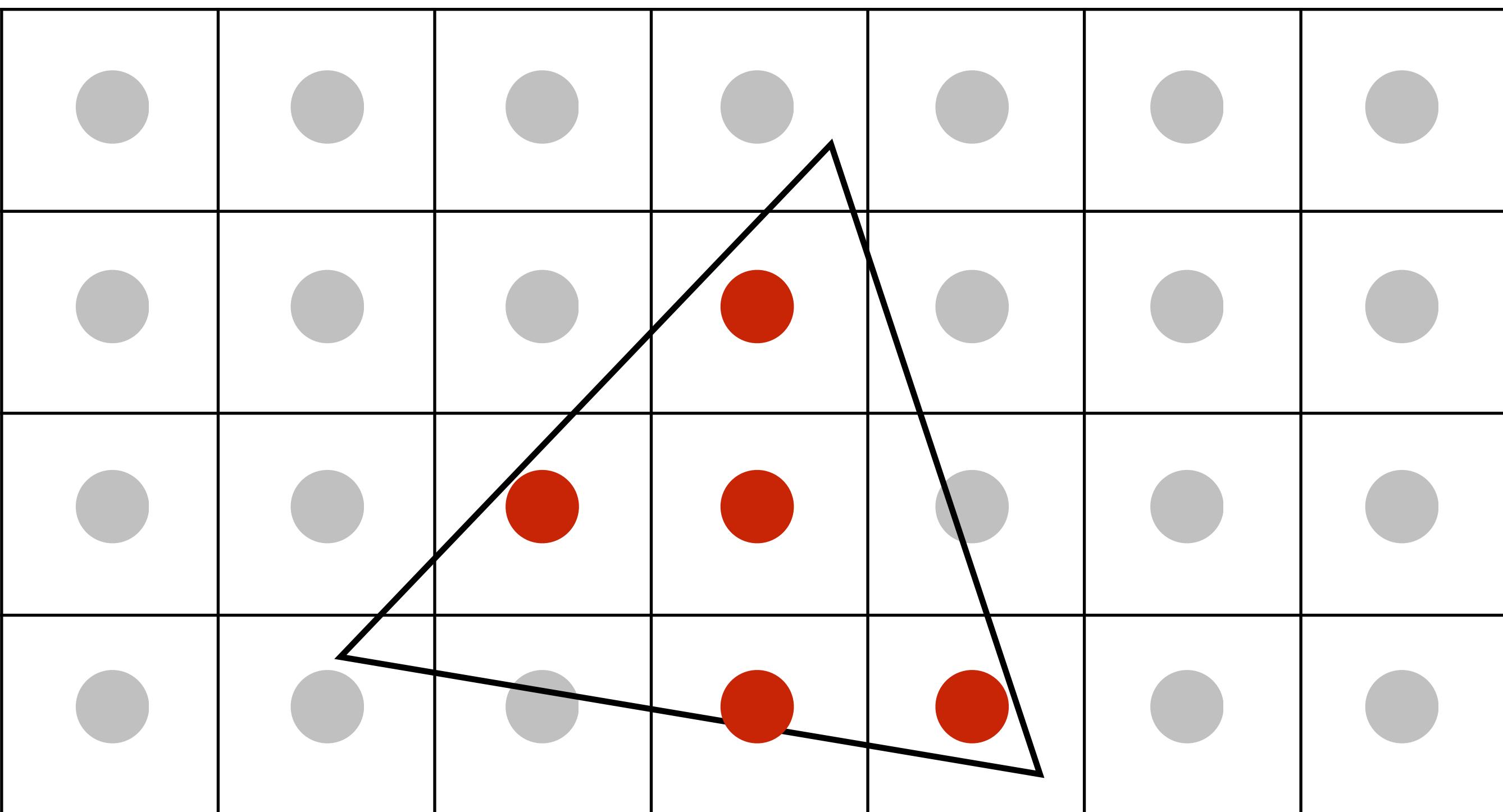


Is this the best we can do?

Reminder: how can we represent a sampled signal more accurately?



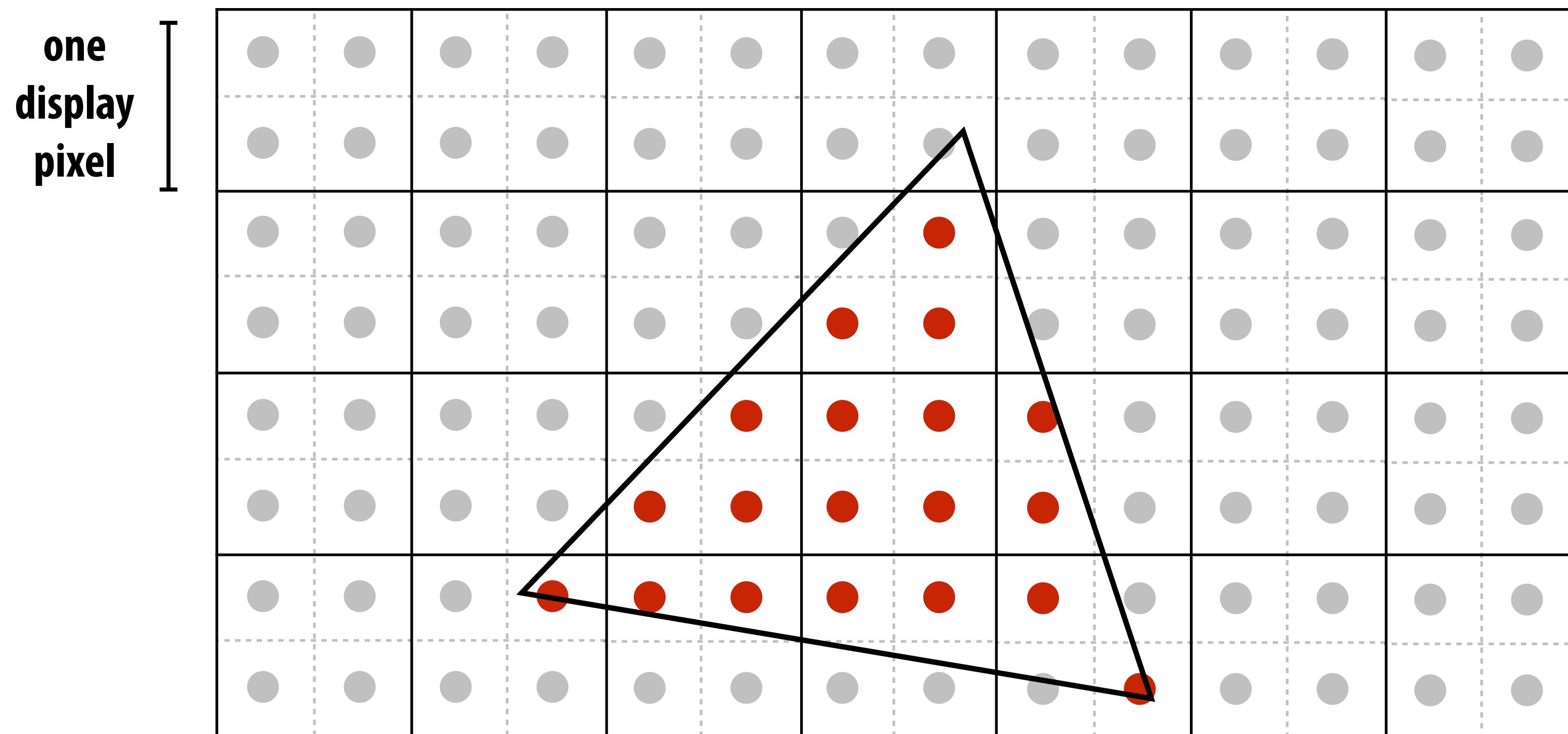
Point sampling: one sample per pixel



Supersampling: step 1

Take NxN samples in each pixel

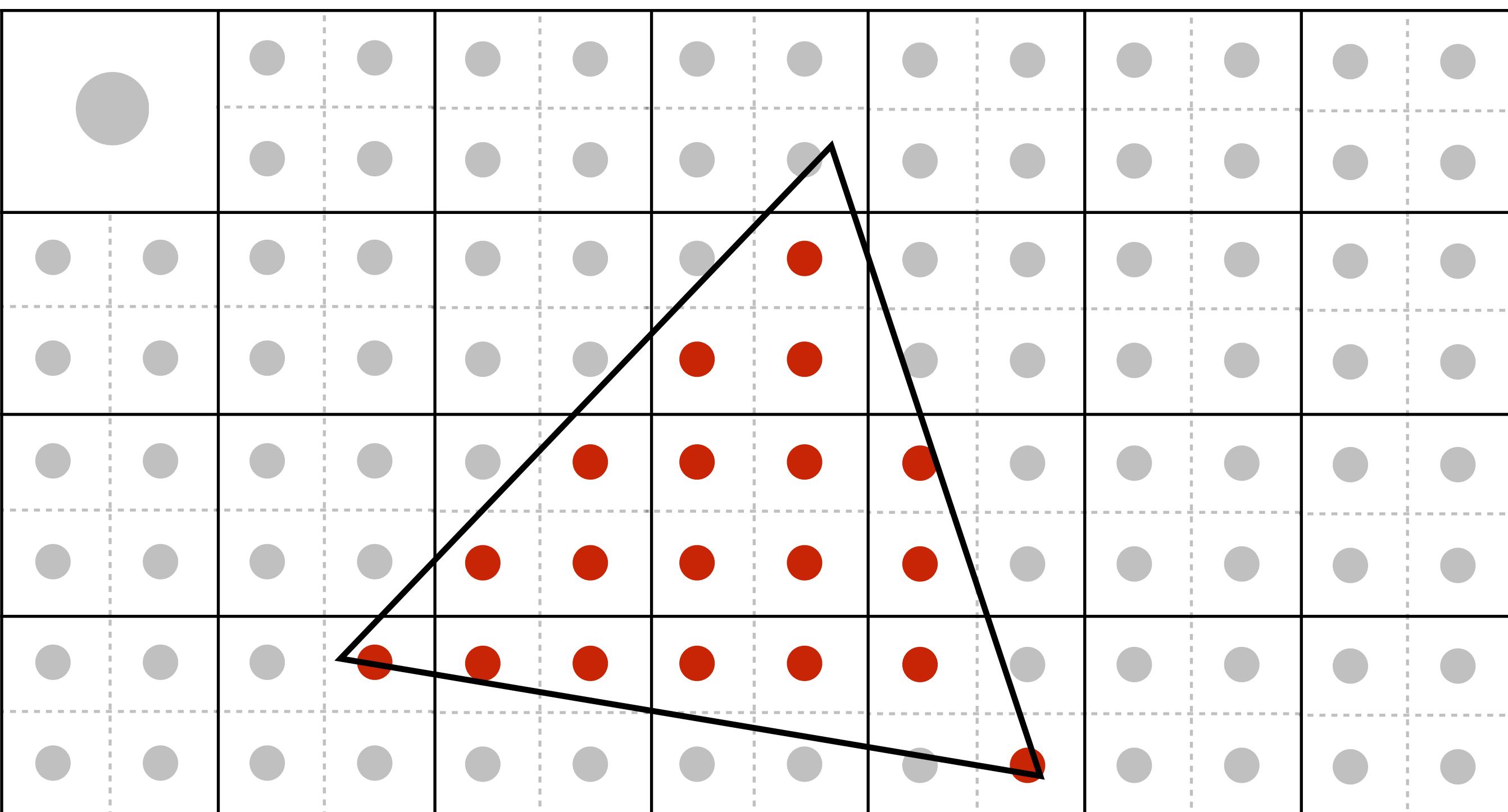
(but... how do we use these samples to drive a display, since there are four times more samples than display pixels!)



2x2 supersampling

Supersampling: step 2

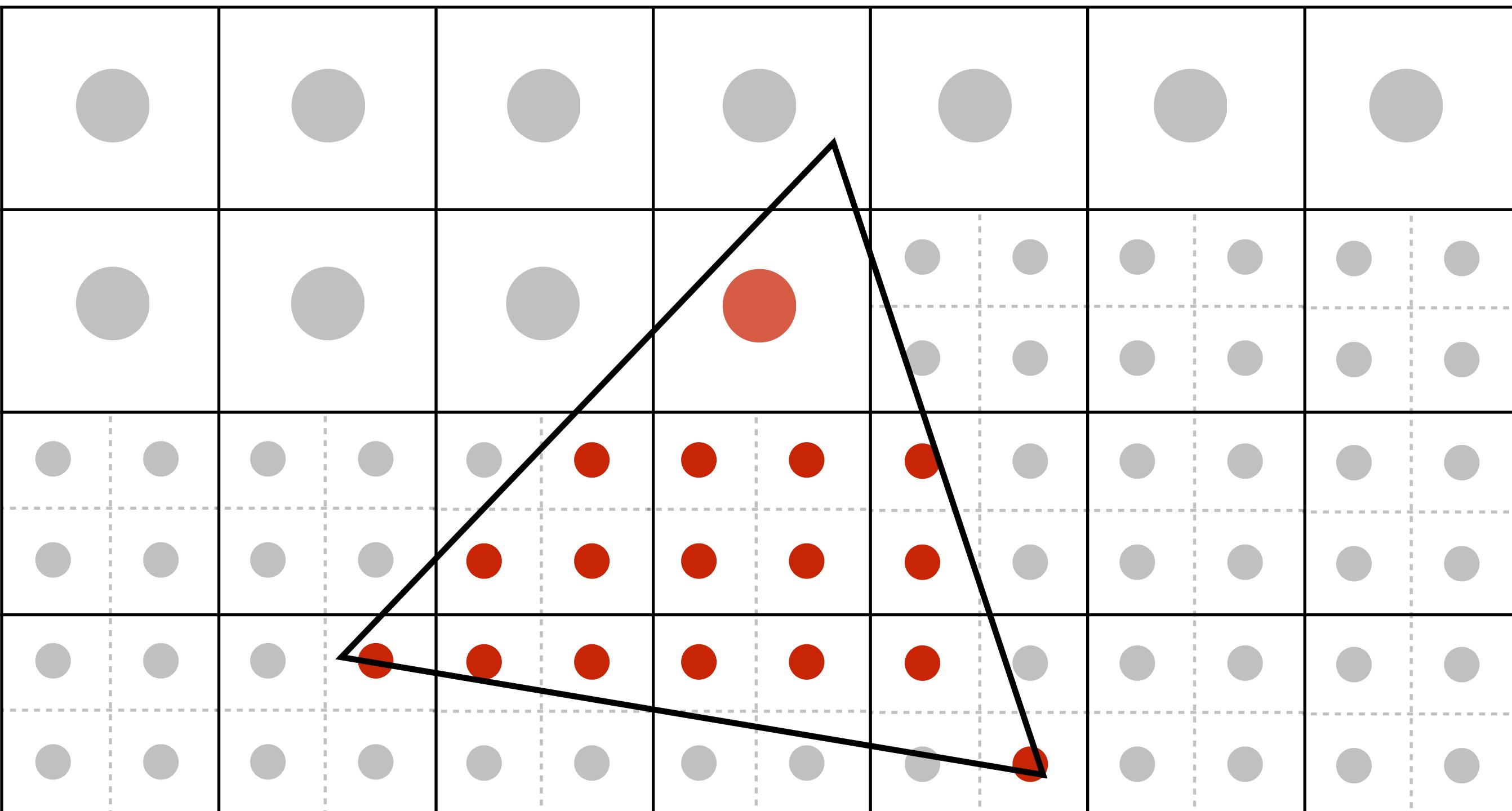
Average the NxN samples “inside” each pixel



Averaging down

Supersampling: step 2

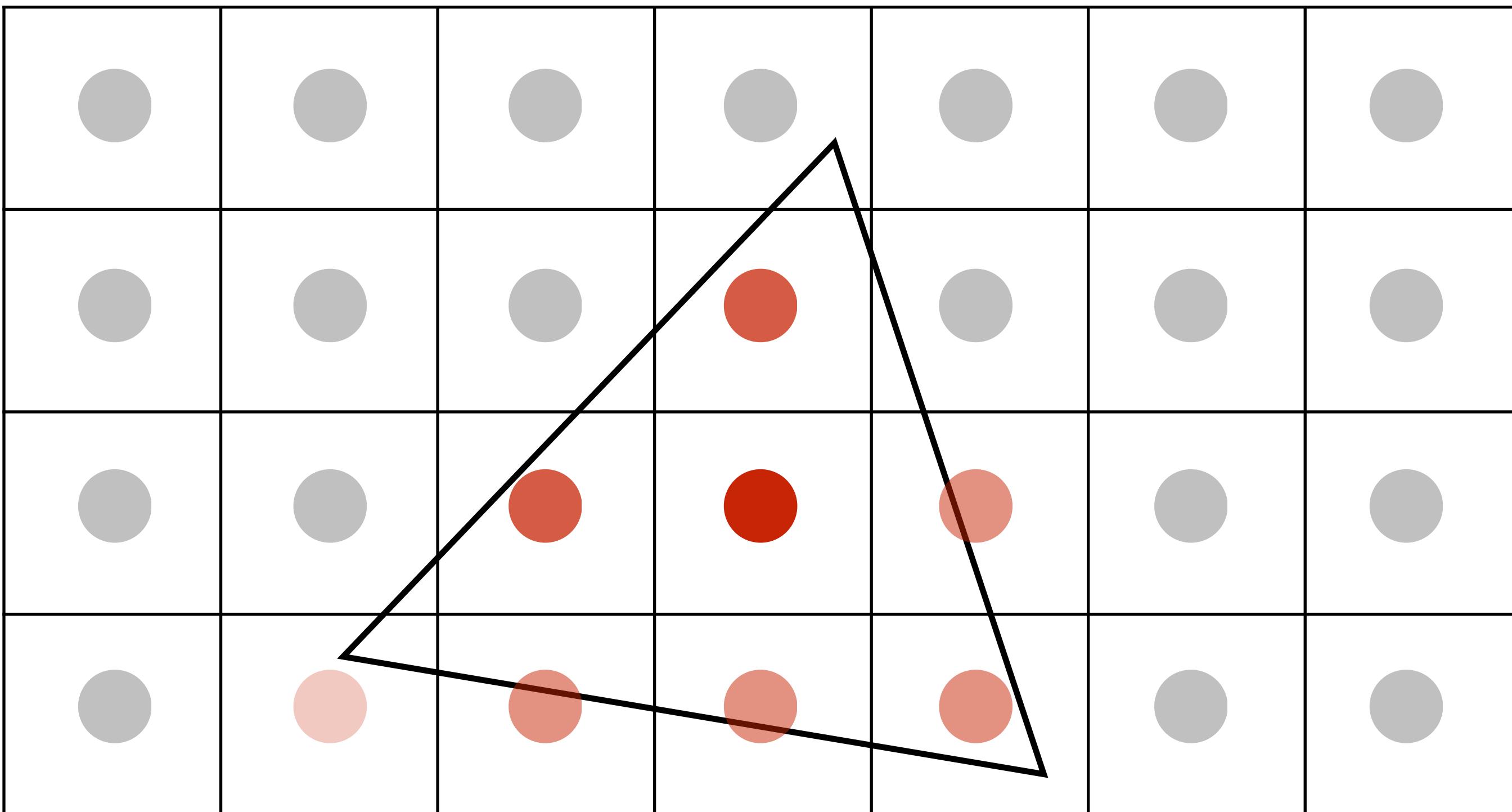
Average the NxN samples “inside” each pixel



Averaging down

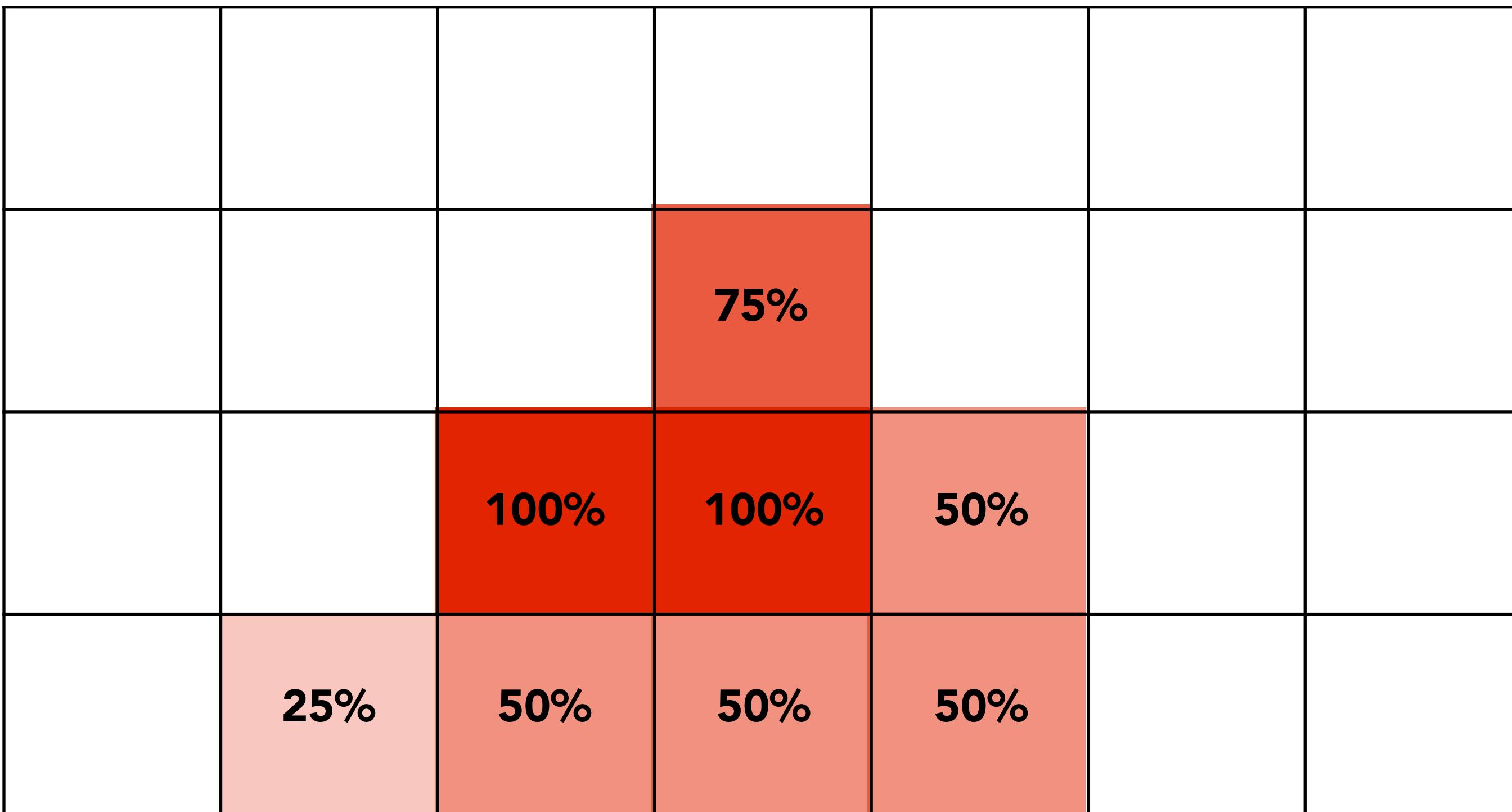
Supersampling: step 2

Average the NxN samples “inside” each pixel

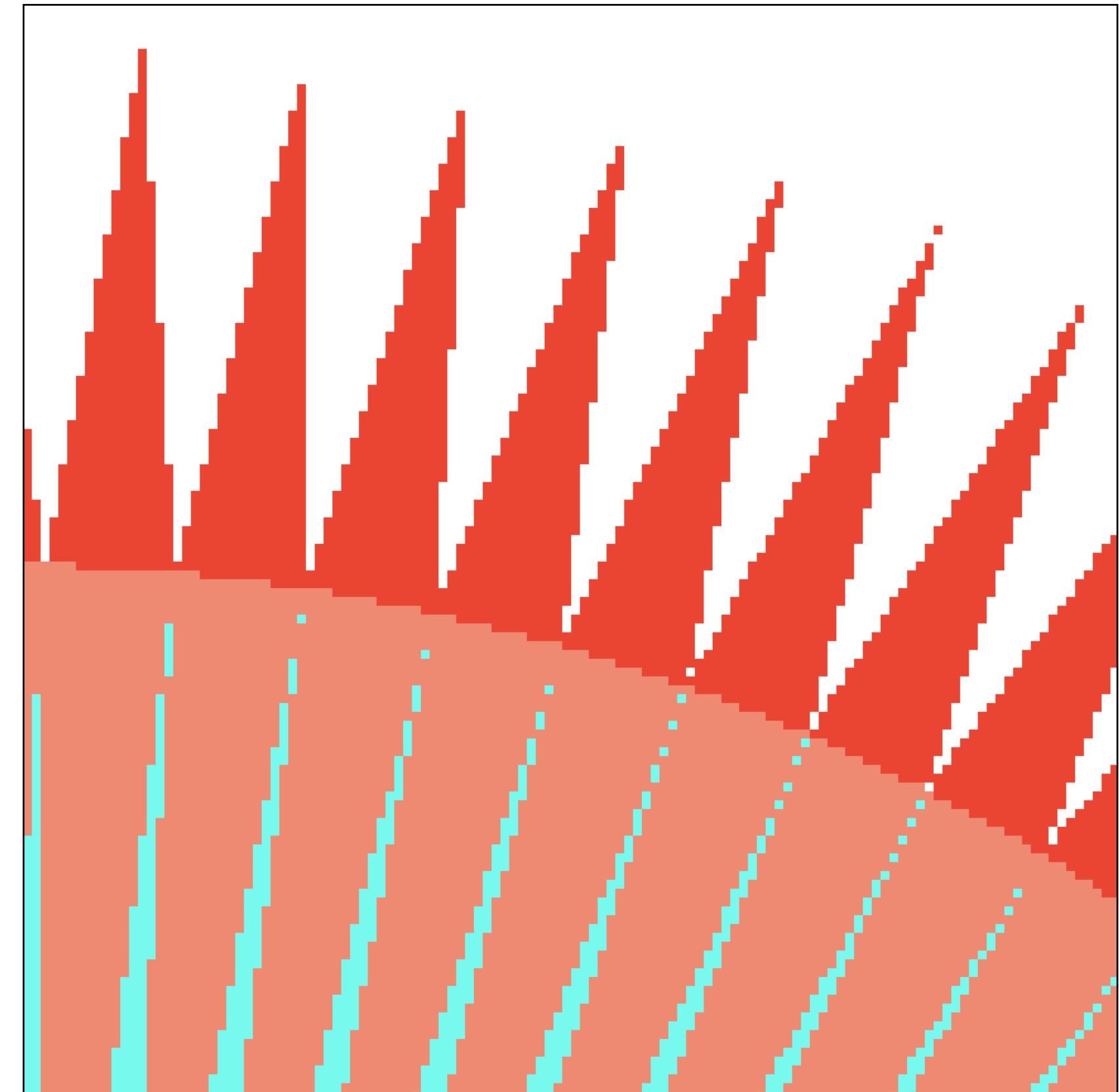
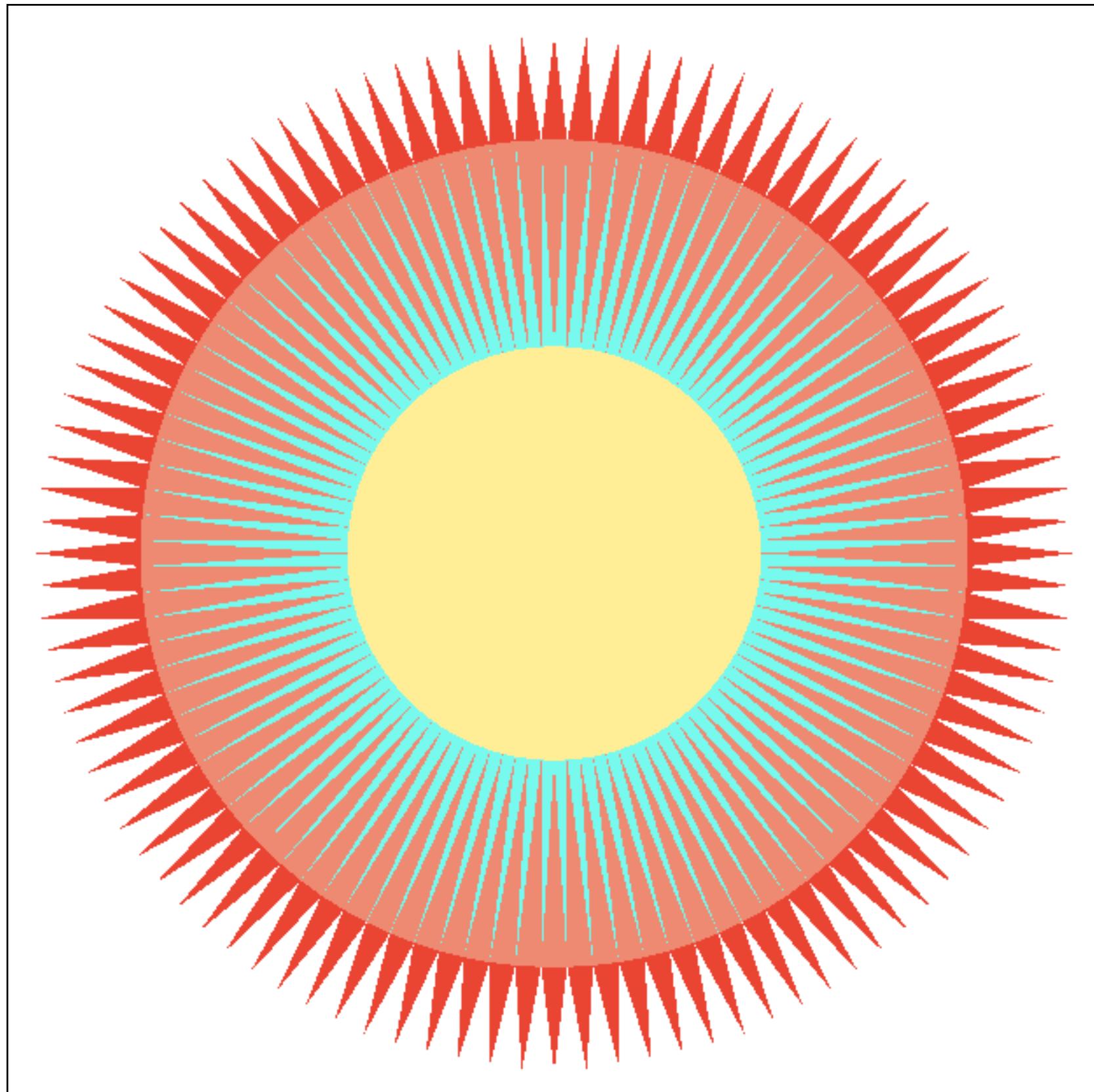


Supersampling: result

This is the corresponding signal emitted by the display

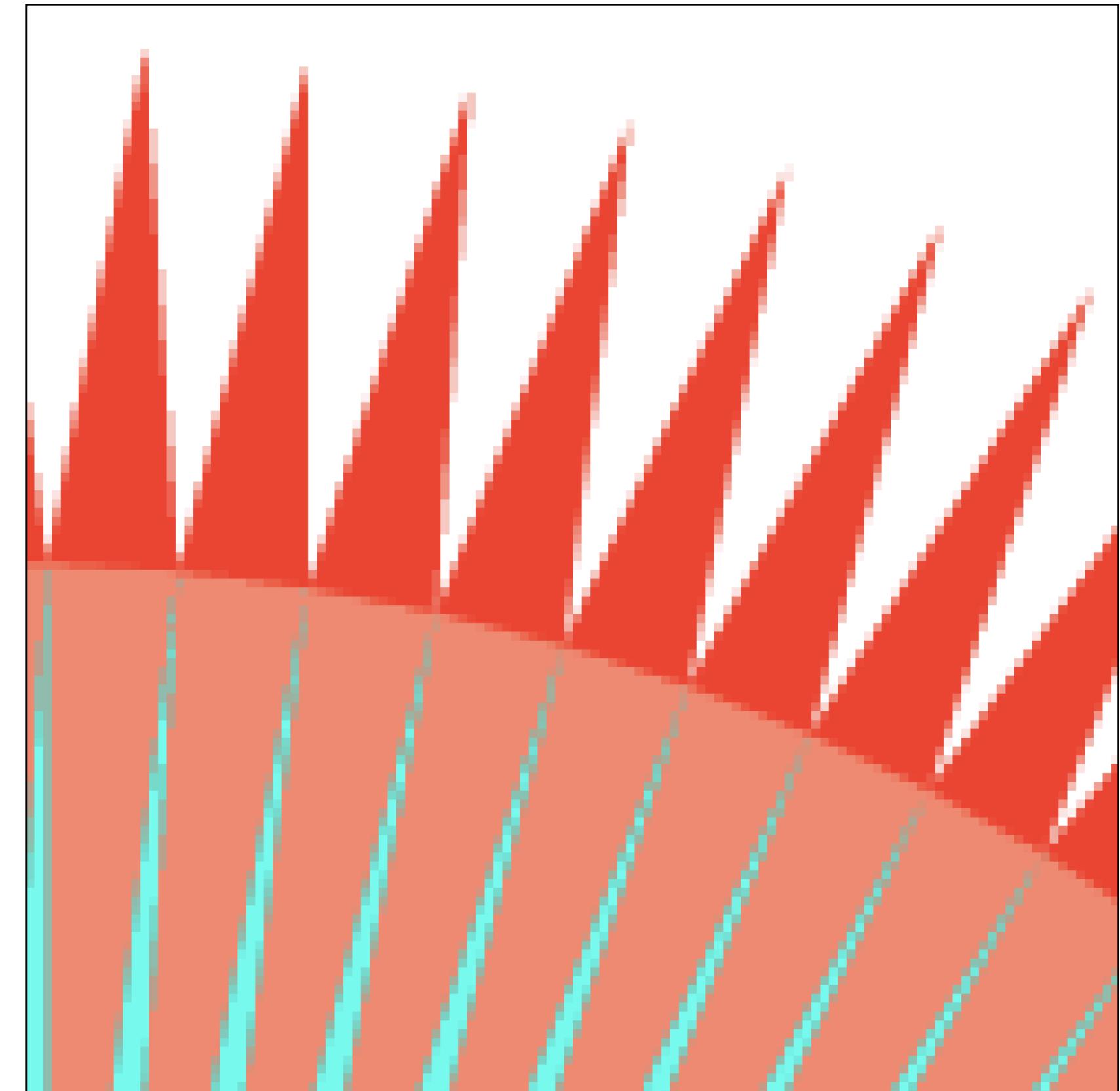
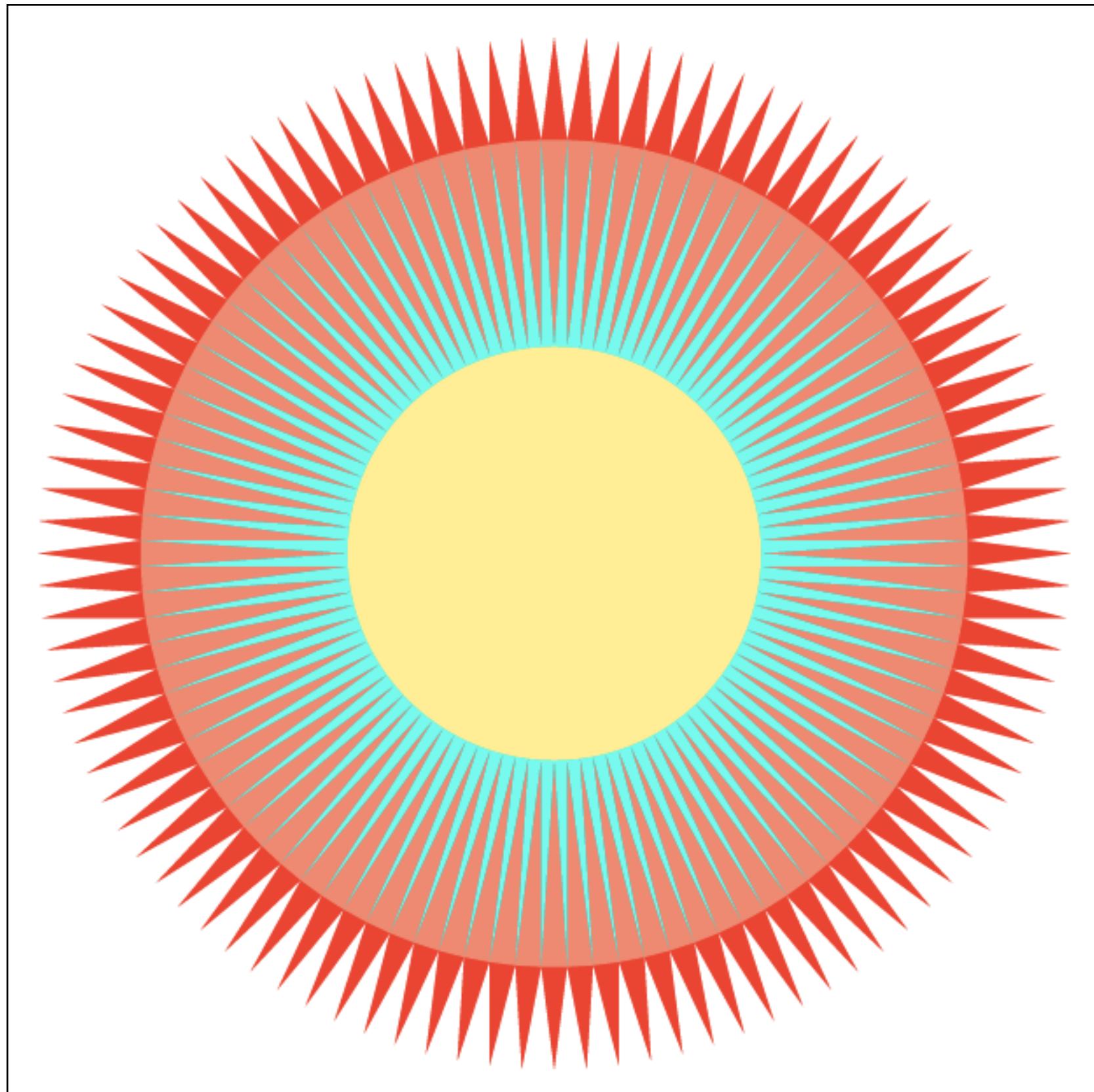


Point sampling



One sample per pixel

4x4 supersampling + downsampling

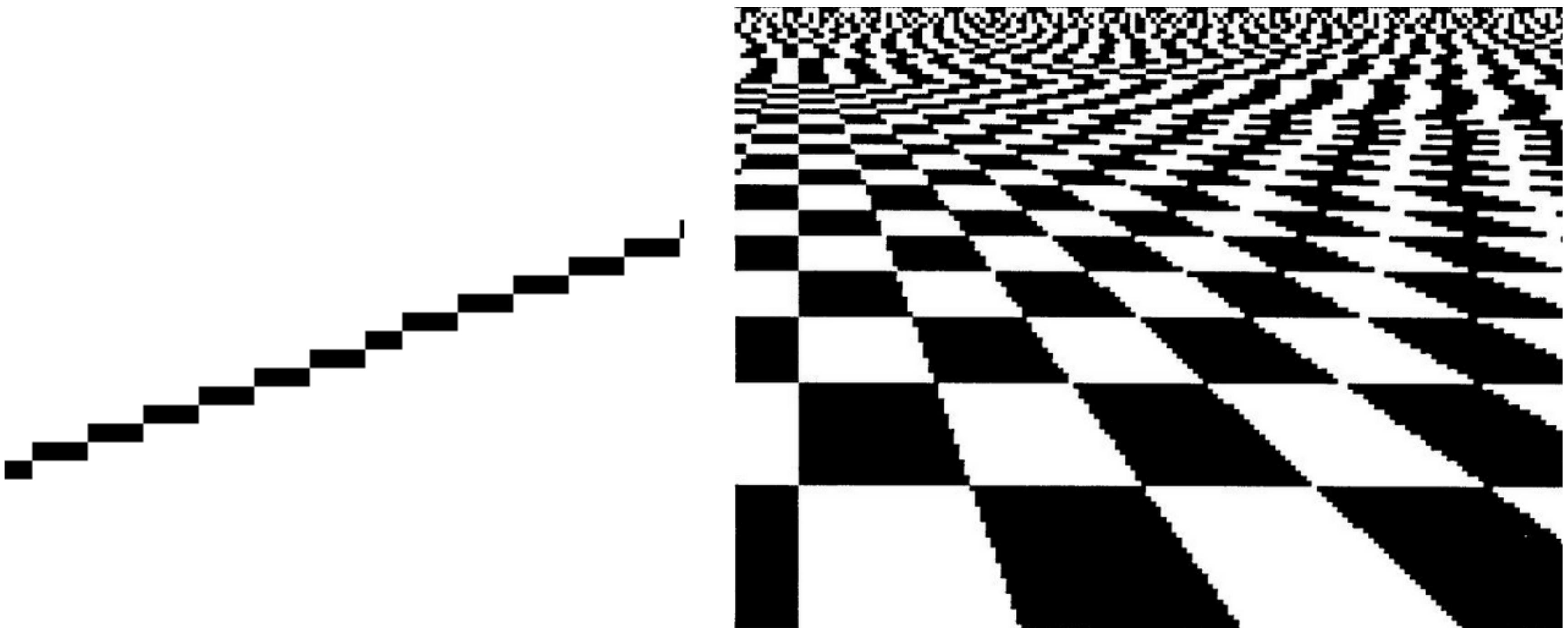


Pixel value is average of 4x4 samples per pixel

**Let's understand what just
happened in a more principled way**

More examples of sampling artifacts in computer graphics

Jaggies (staircase pattern)



Moiré patterns in imaging



Full resolution image



**1/2 resolution image:
skip pixel odd rows and columns**

lyst.it.com

Wagon wheel illusion (false motion)



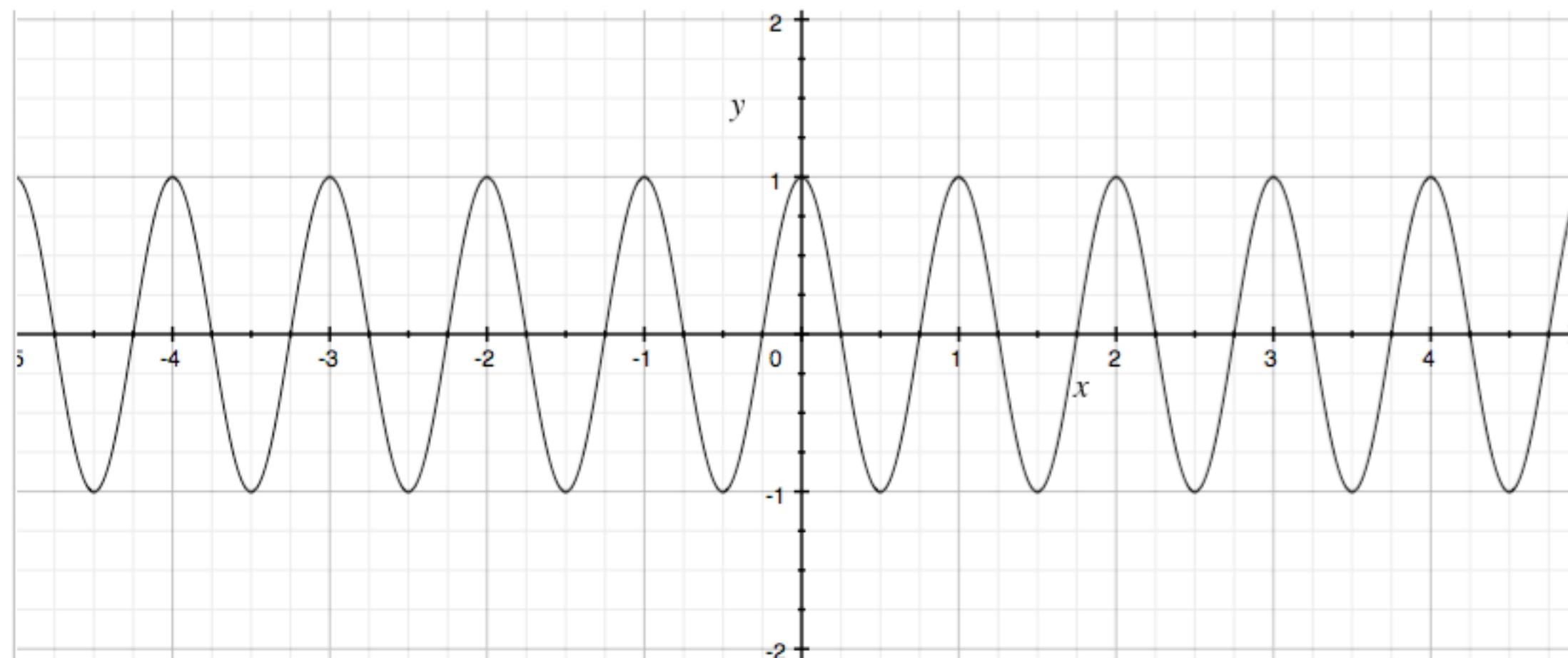
Camera's frame rate (temporal sampling rate) is too low for rapidly spinning wheel.

Created by Jesse Mason, https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Q0wzkND_ooU

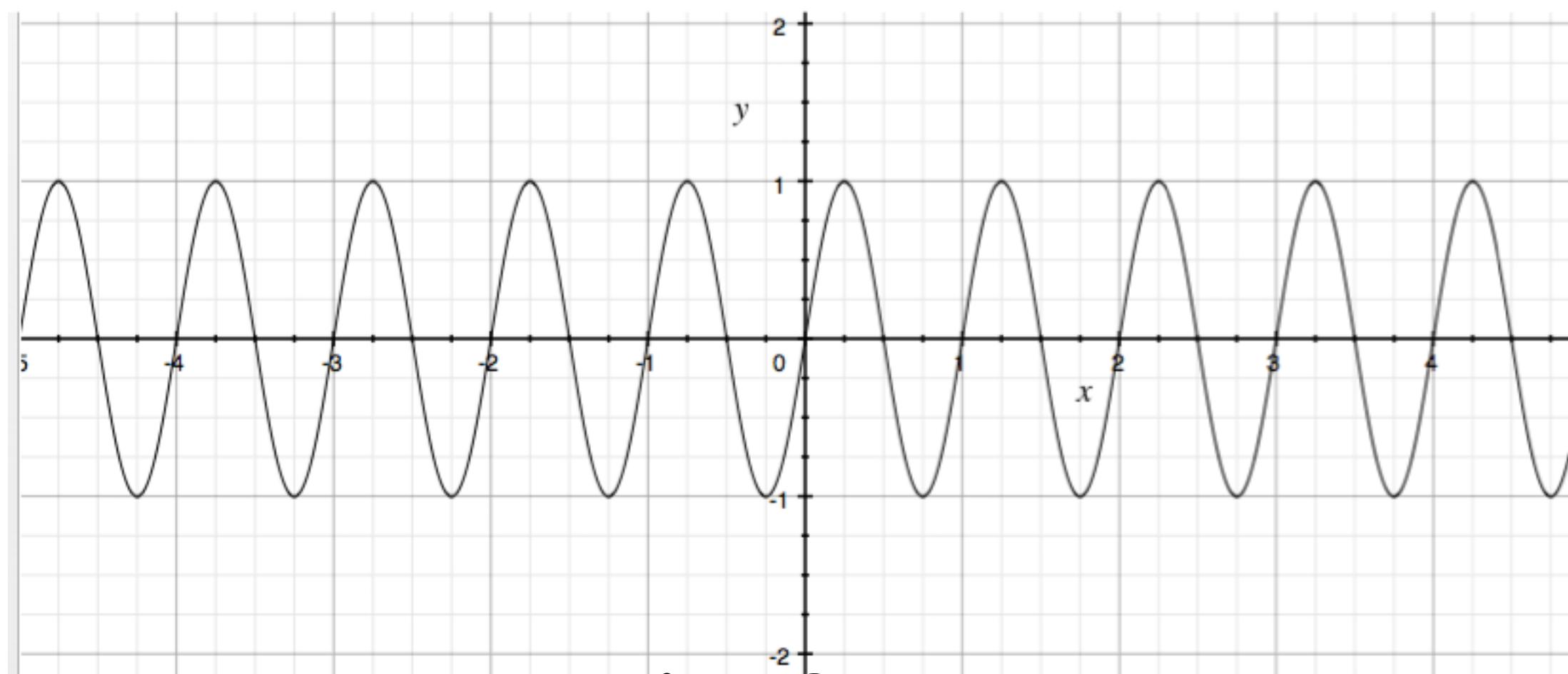
Sampling artifacts in computer graphics

- **Artifacts due to sampling - “Aliasing”**
 - **Jaggies – sampling in space**
 - **Wagon wheel effect – sampling in time**
 - **Moire – undersampling images (and texture maps)**
 - **[Many more] ...**
- **We notice this in fast-changing signals, when we sample the signal too sparsely**

Sines and cosines



$$\cos 2\pi x$$

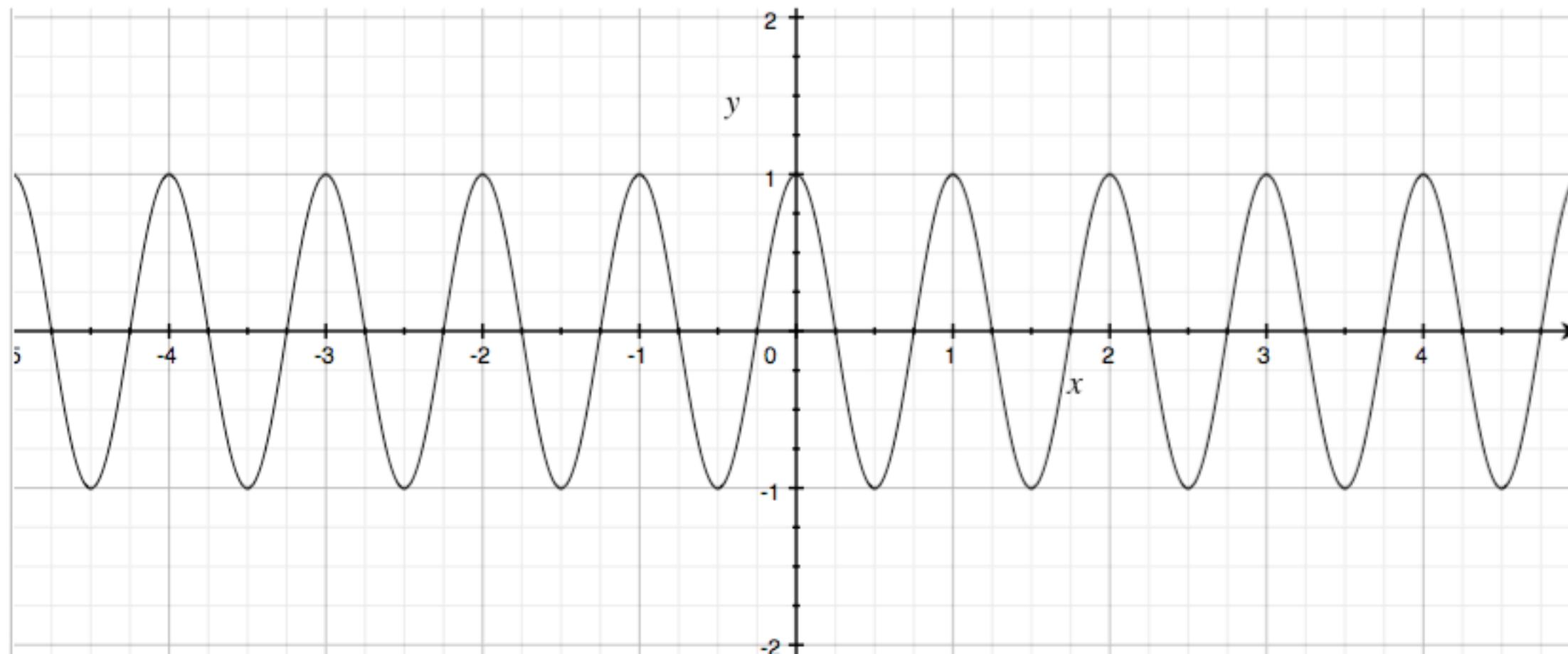


$$\sin 2\pi x$$

Frequencies

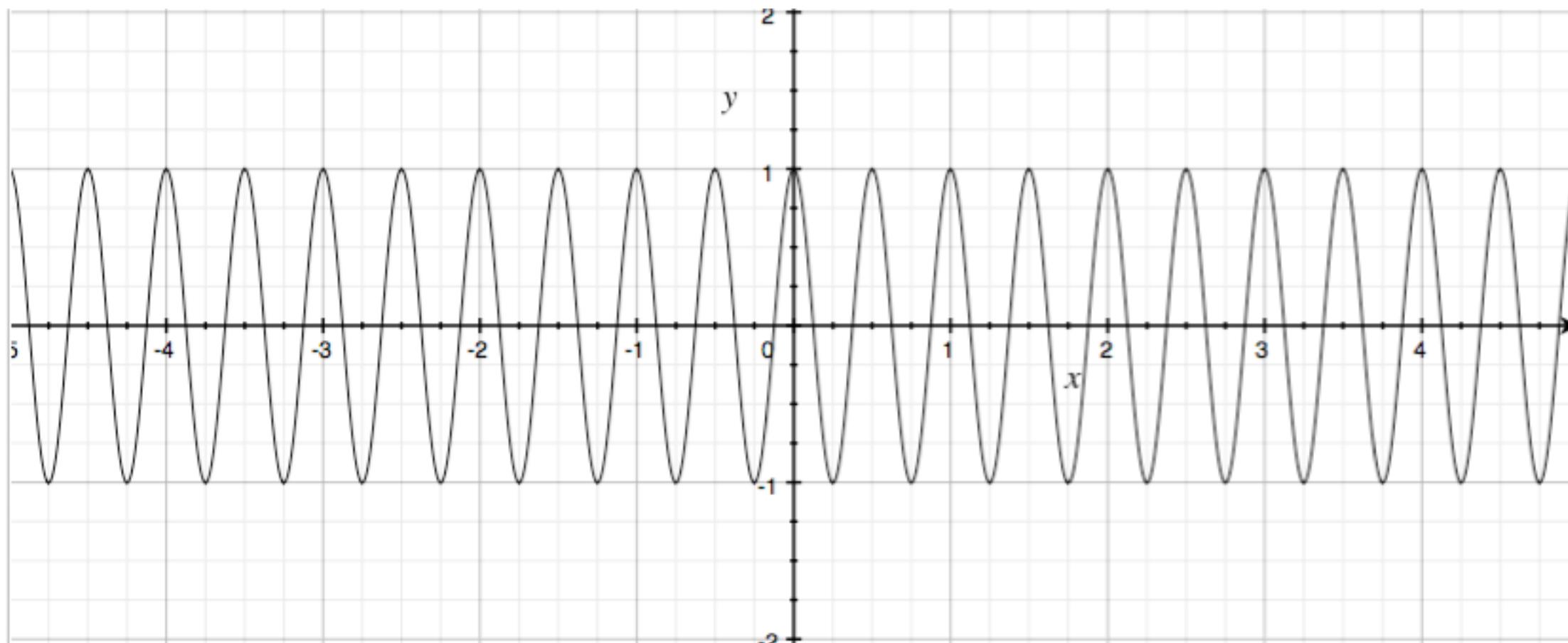
$$\cos 2\pi f x$$

$$f = \frac{1}{T}$$



$$f = 1$$

$$\cos 2\pi x$$

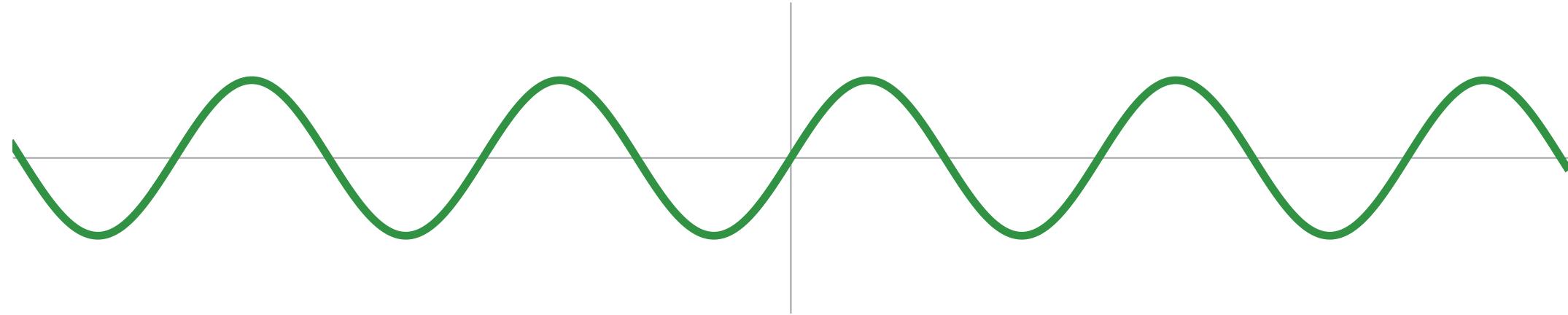


$$f = 2$$

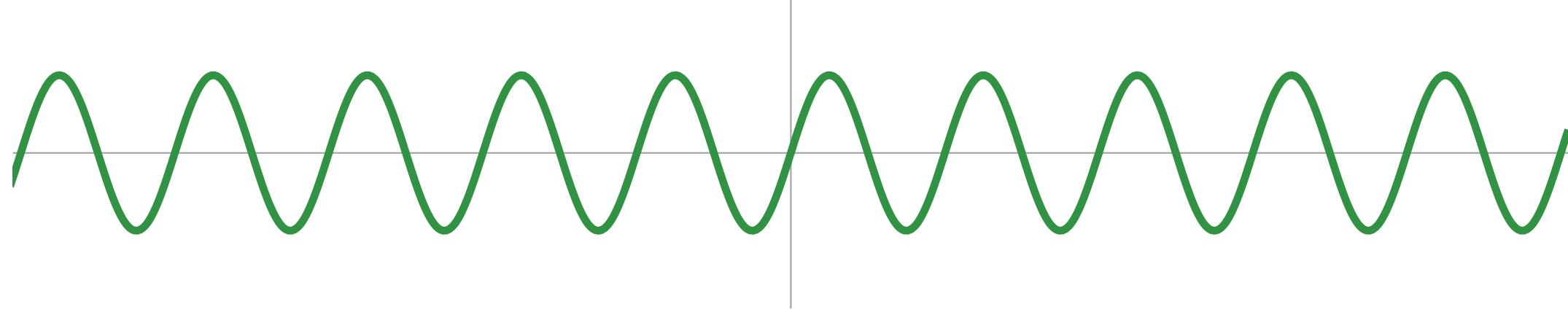
$$\cos 4\pi x$$

Representing sound wave as a superposition of frequencies

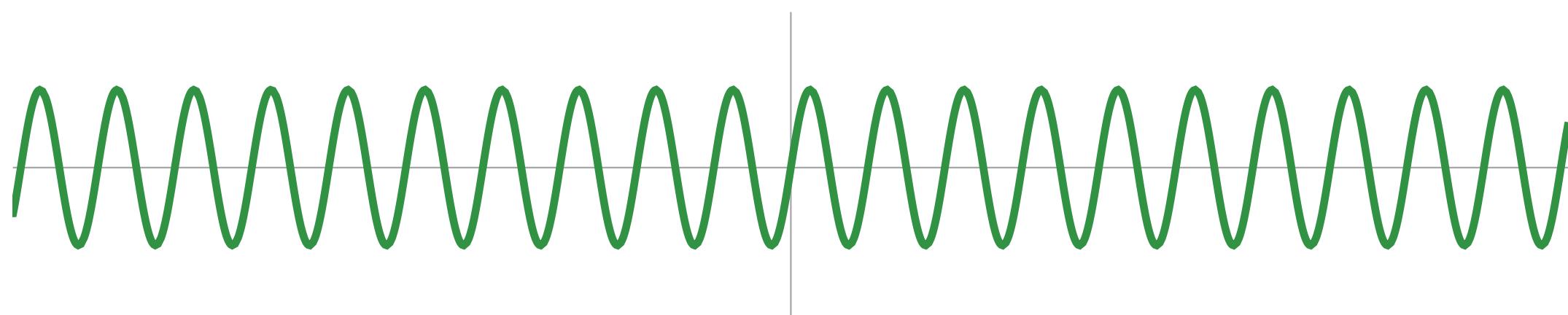
$$f_1(x) = \sin(\pi x)$$



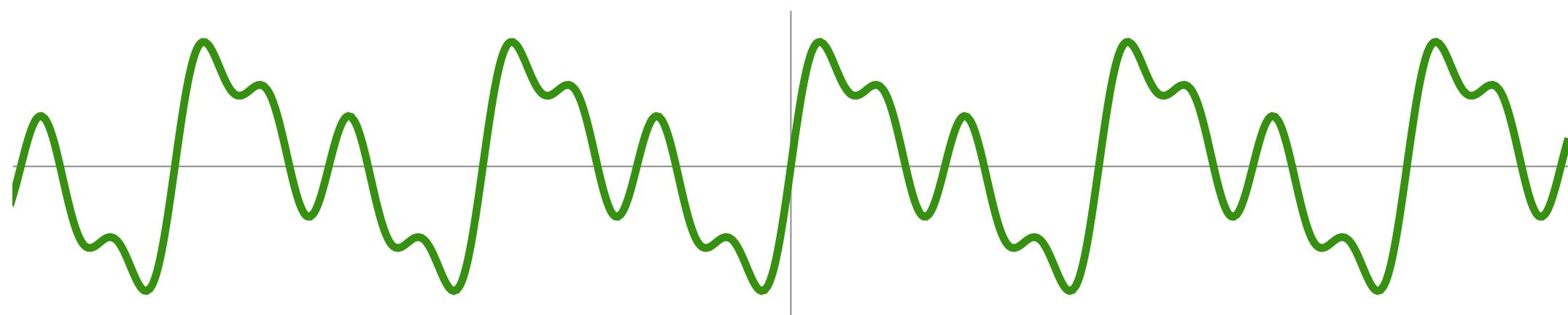
$$f_2(x) = \sin(2\pi x)$$



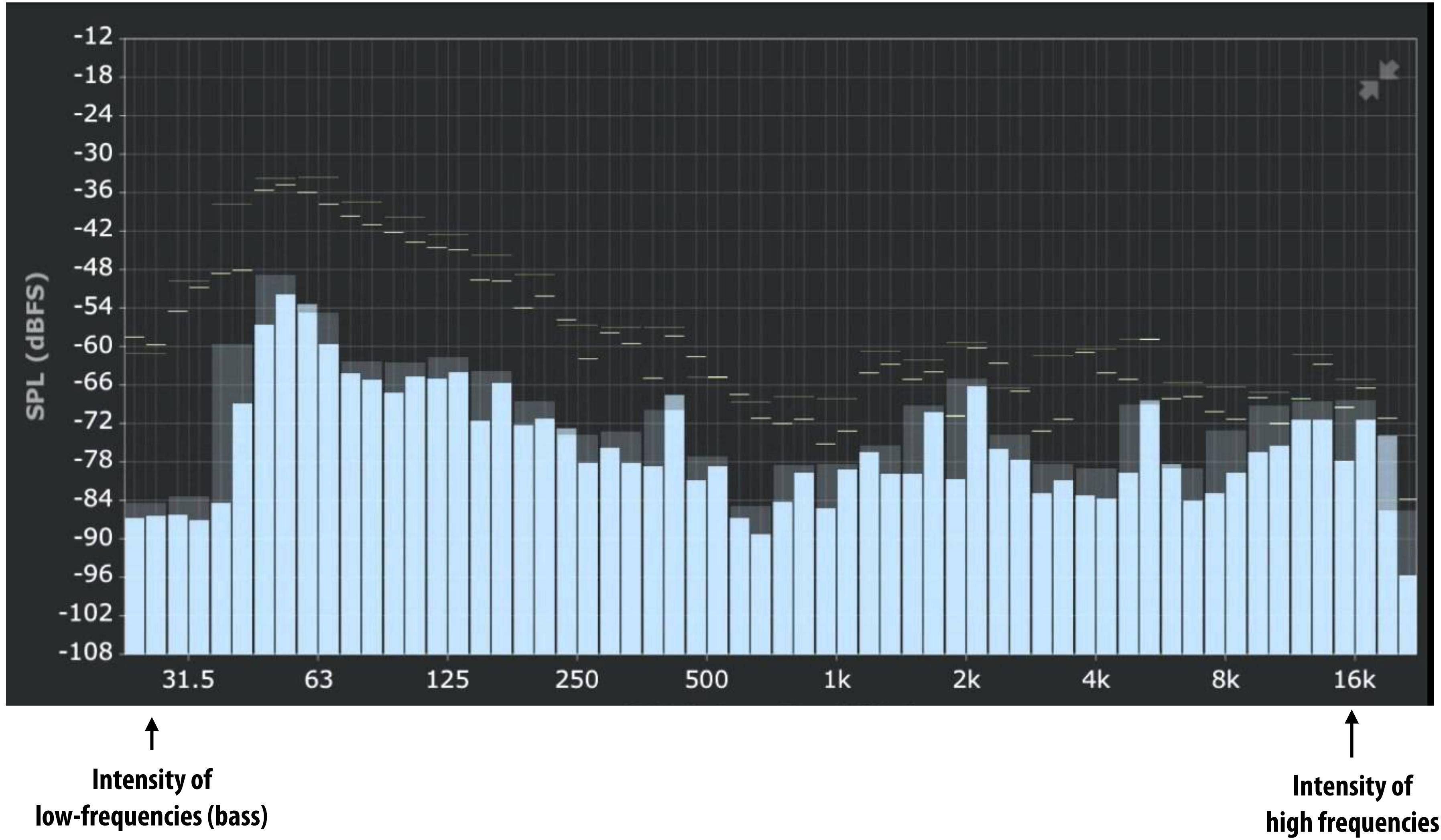
$$f_4(x) = \sin(4\pi x)$$



$$f(x) = 1.0 f_1(x) + 0.75 f_2(x) + 0.5 f_4(x)$$



Audio spectrum analyzer: representing sound as a sum of its constituent frequencies



**How to compute frequency-domain
representation of a signal?**

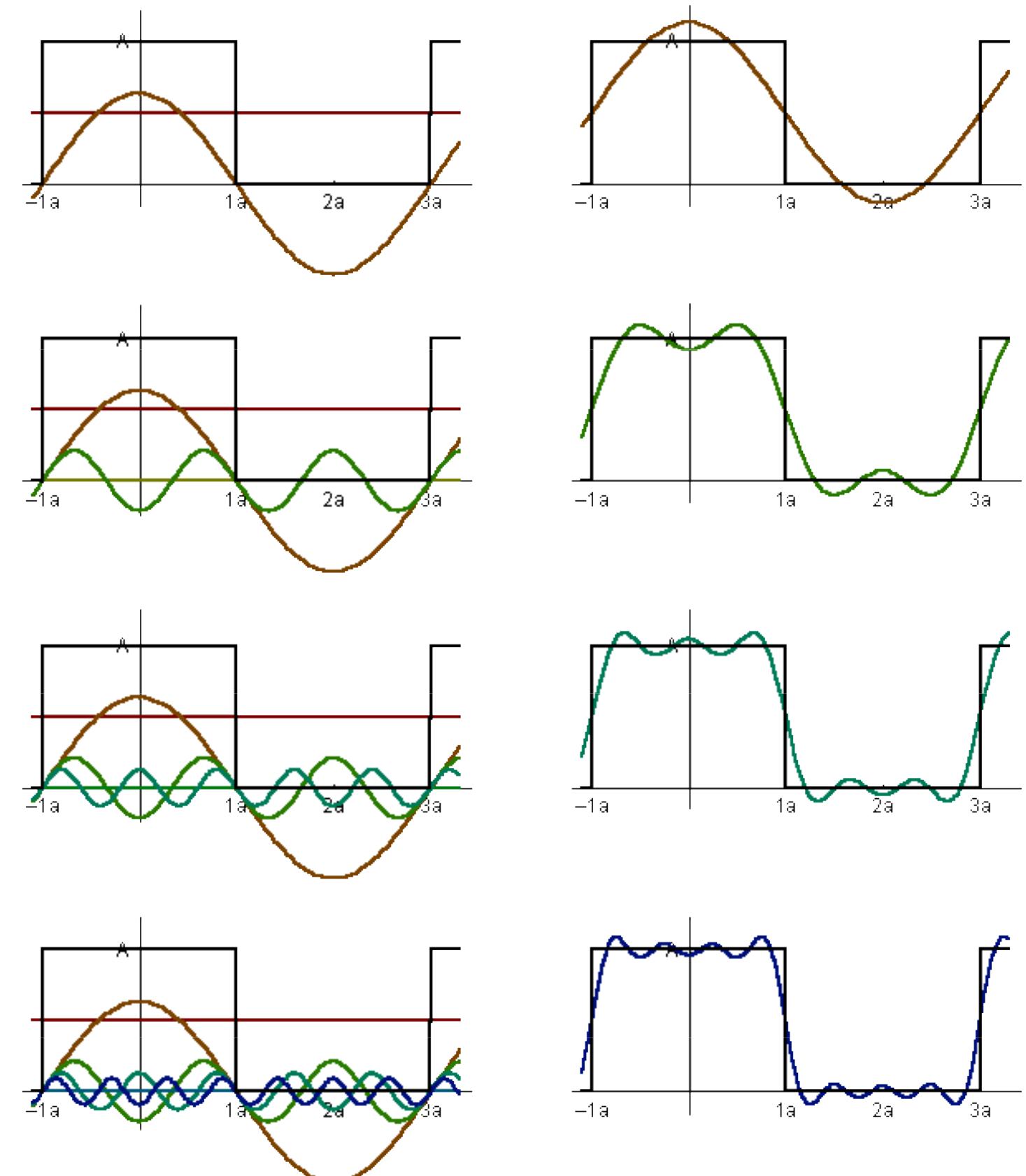
Fourier transform

Represent a function as a weighted sum of sines and cosines



Joseph Fourier 1768 - 1830

$$f(x) = \frac{A}{2} + \frac{2A \cos(t\omega)}{\pi} - \frac{2A \cos(3t\omega)}{3\pi} + \frac{2A \cos(5t\omega)}{5\pi} - \frac{2A \cos(7t\omega)}{7\pi} + \dots$$



Fourier transform

- Convert representation of signal from primal domain (spatial/temporal) to frequency domain by projecting signal into its component frequencies

$$\begin{aligned} F(\omega) &= \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} f(x)e^{-2\pi ix\omega} dx \\ &= \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} f(x)(\cos(2\pi\omega x) - i\sin(2\pi\omega x))dx \end{aligned}$$

Recall:

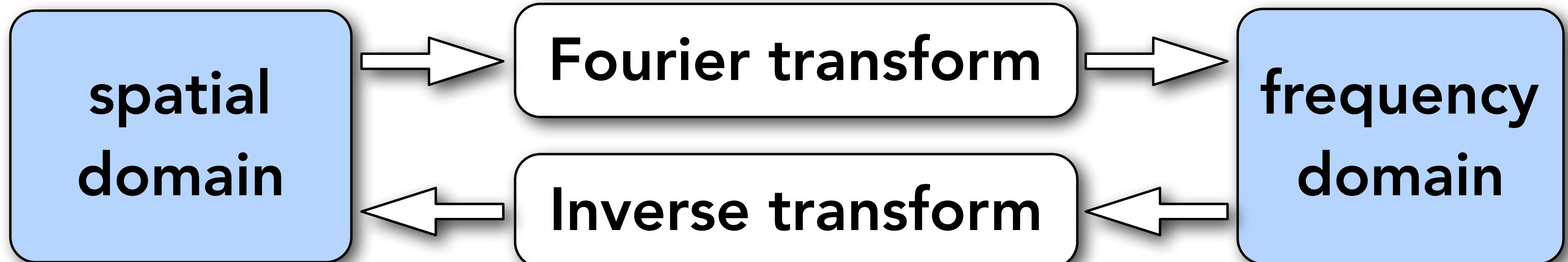
$$e^{ix} = \cos x + i \sin x$$

- 2D form:

$$F(u, v) = \iint f(x, y)e^{-2\pi i(ux+vy)} dx dy$$

Fourier transform decomposes a signal into its constituent frequencies

$$f(x) \quad F(\omega) = \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} f(x) e^{-2\pi i \omega x} dx \quad F(\omega)$$



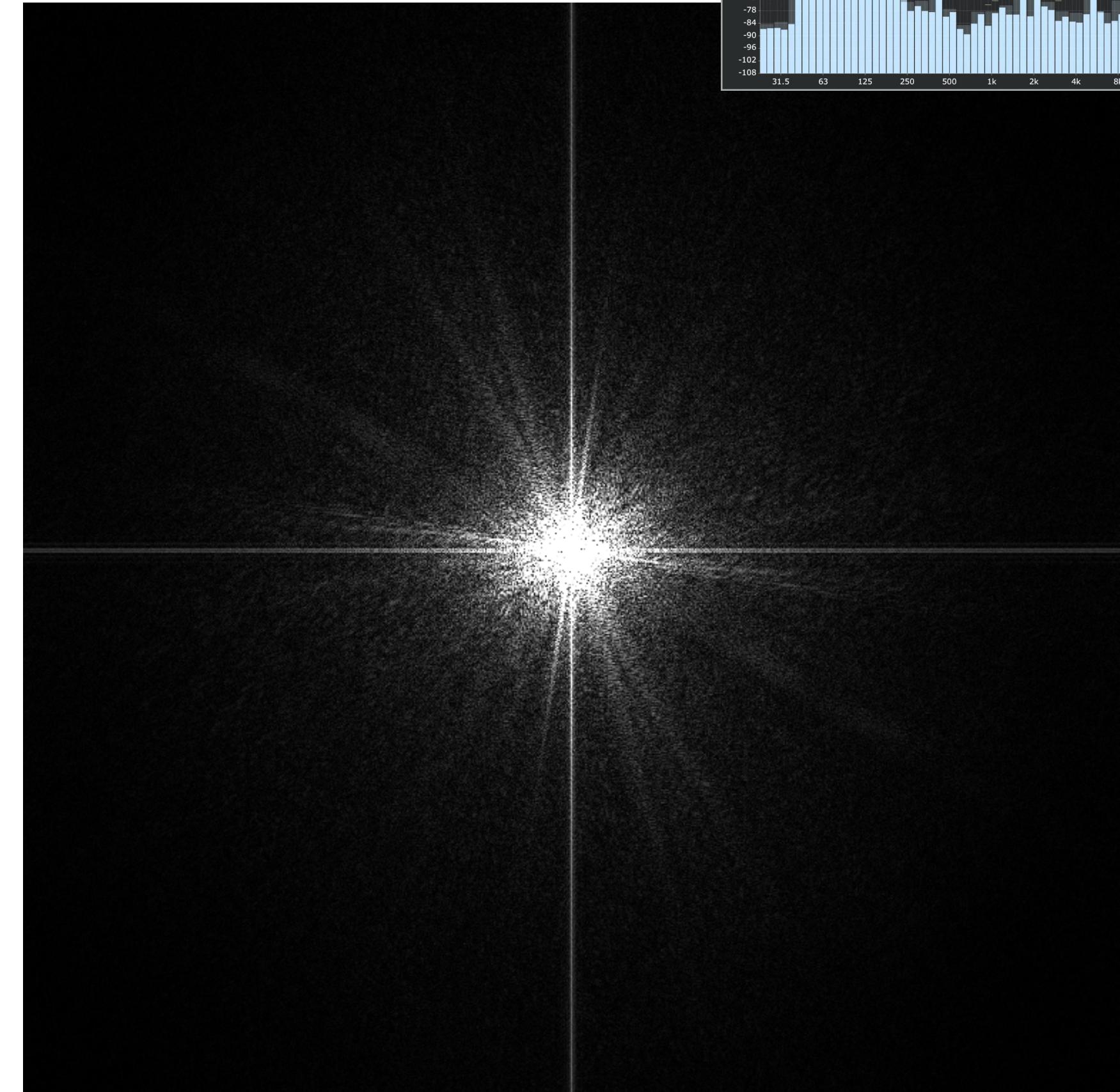
$$f(x) = \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} F(\omega) e^{2\pi i \omega x} d\omega$$

Visualizing the frequency content of images

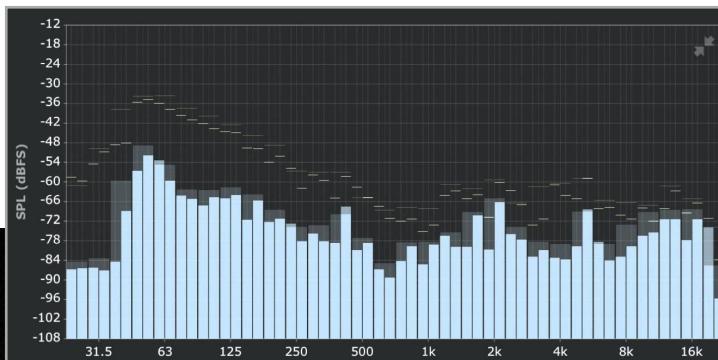
Visualization below is the 2D frequency domain equivalent of the 1D audio spectrum I showed you earlier *



Spatial domain result



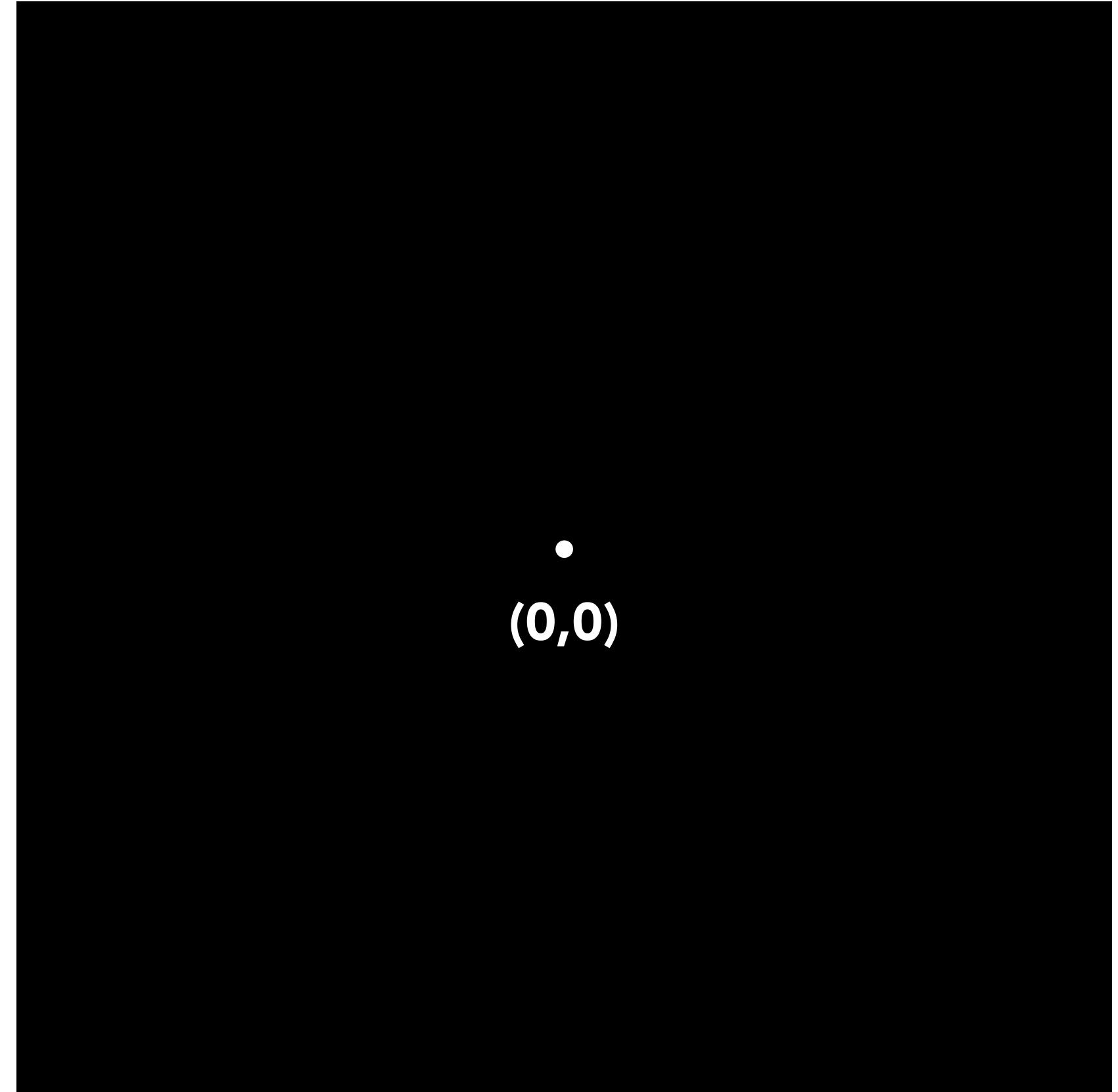
Spectrum



Constant signal (in primal domain)

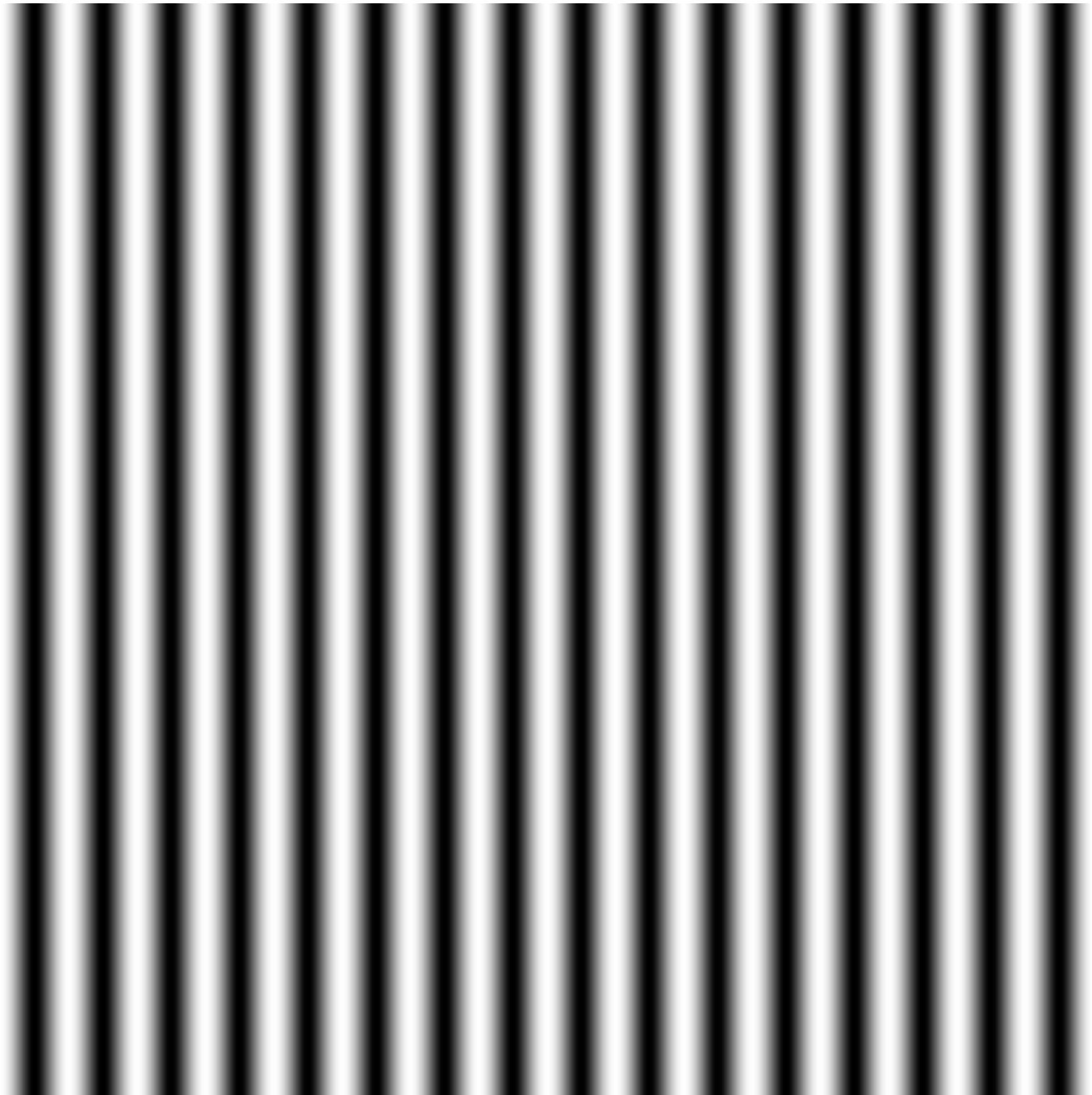


Spatial domain

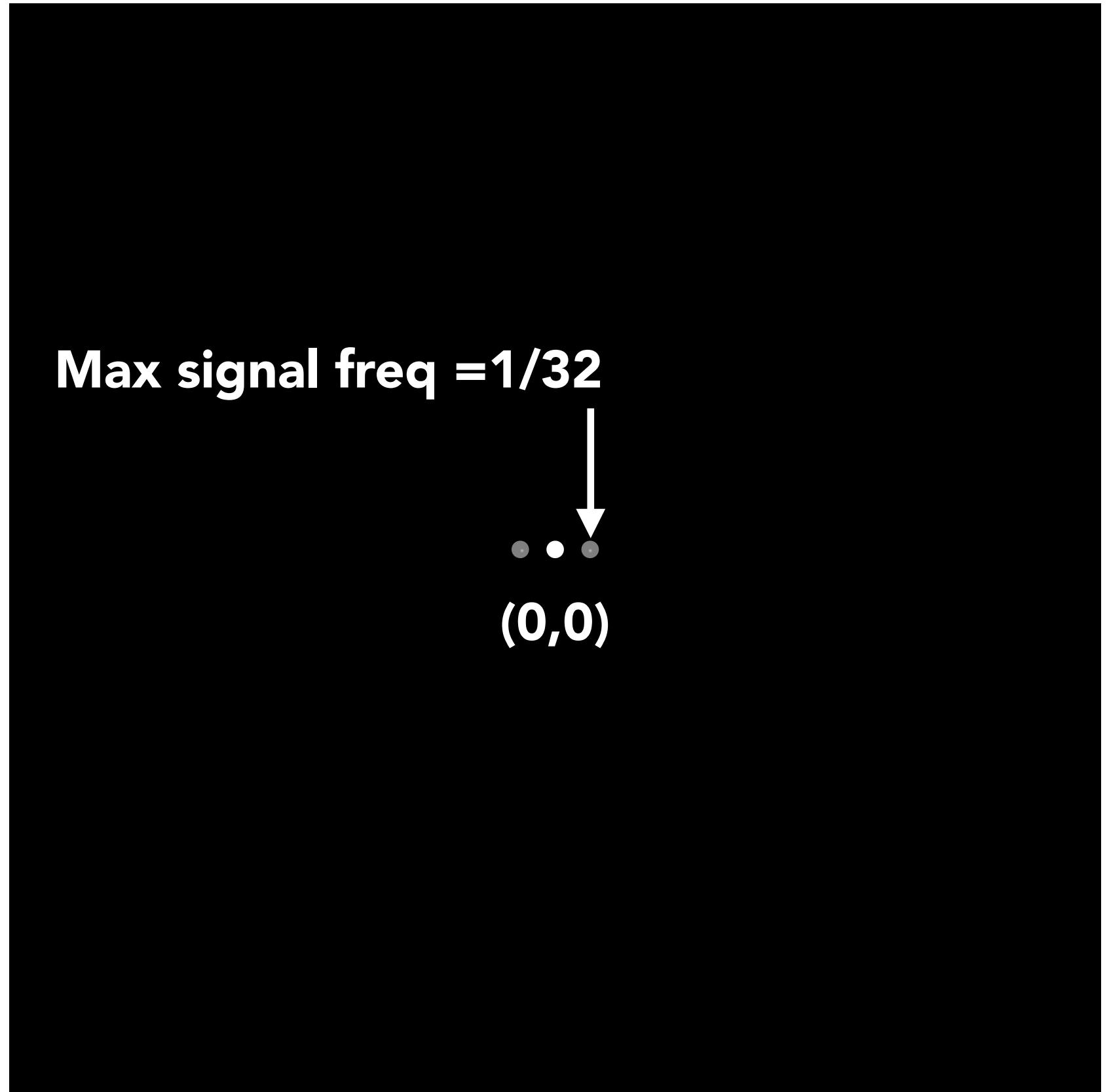


Frequency domain

$\sin(2\pi/32)x$ — frequency 1/32; 32 pixels per cycle

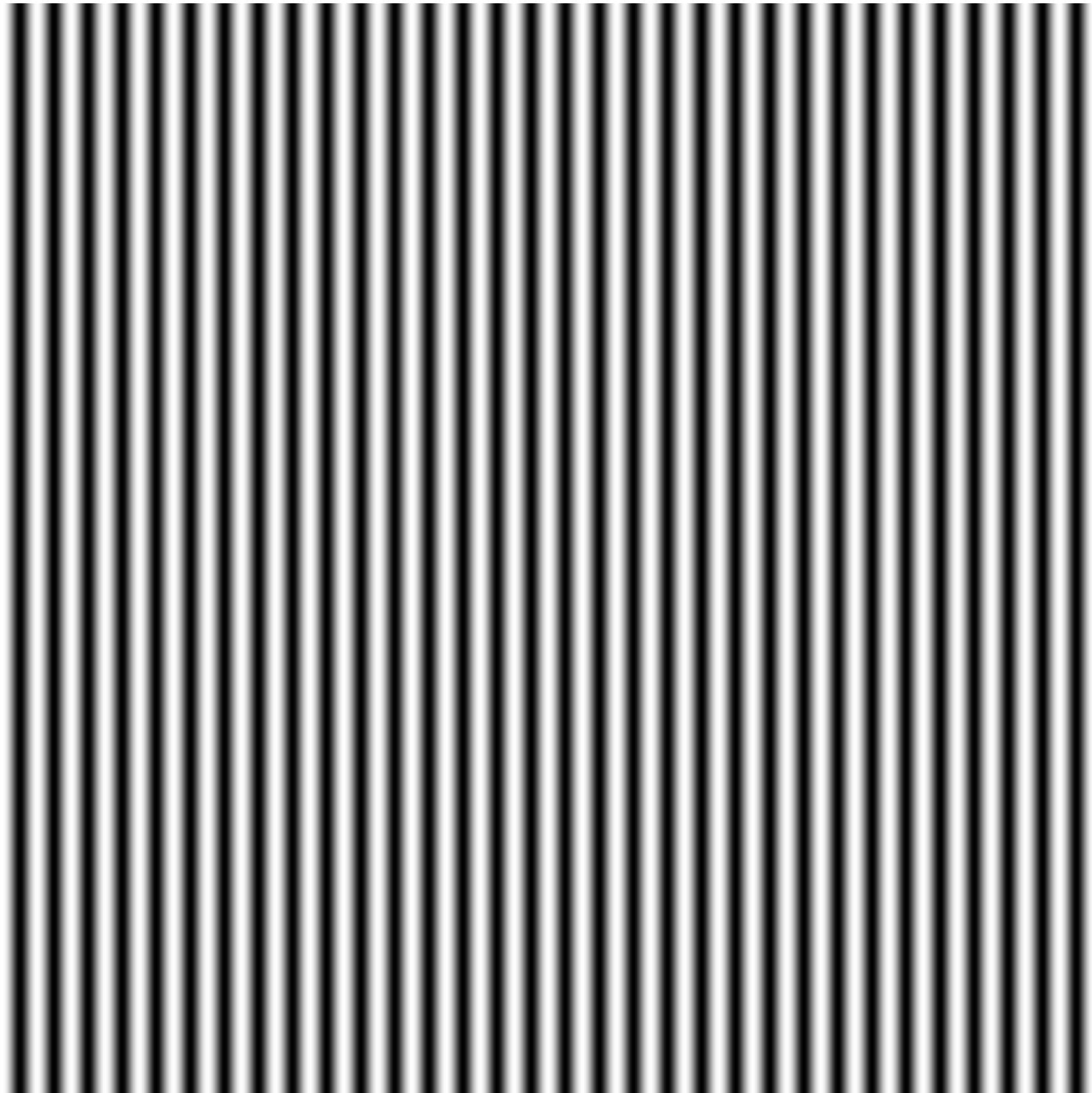


Spatial domain

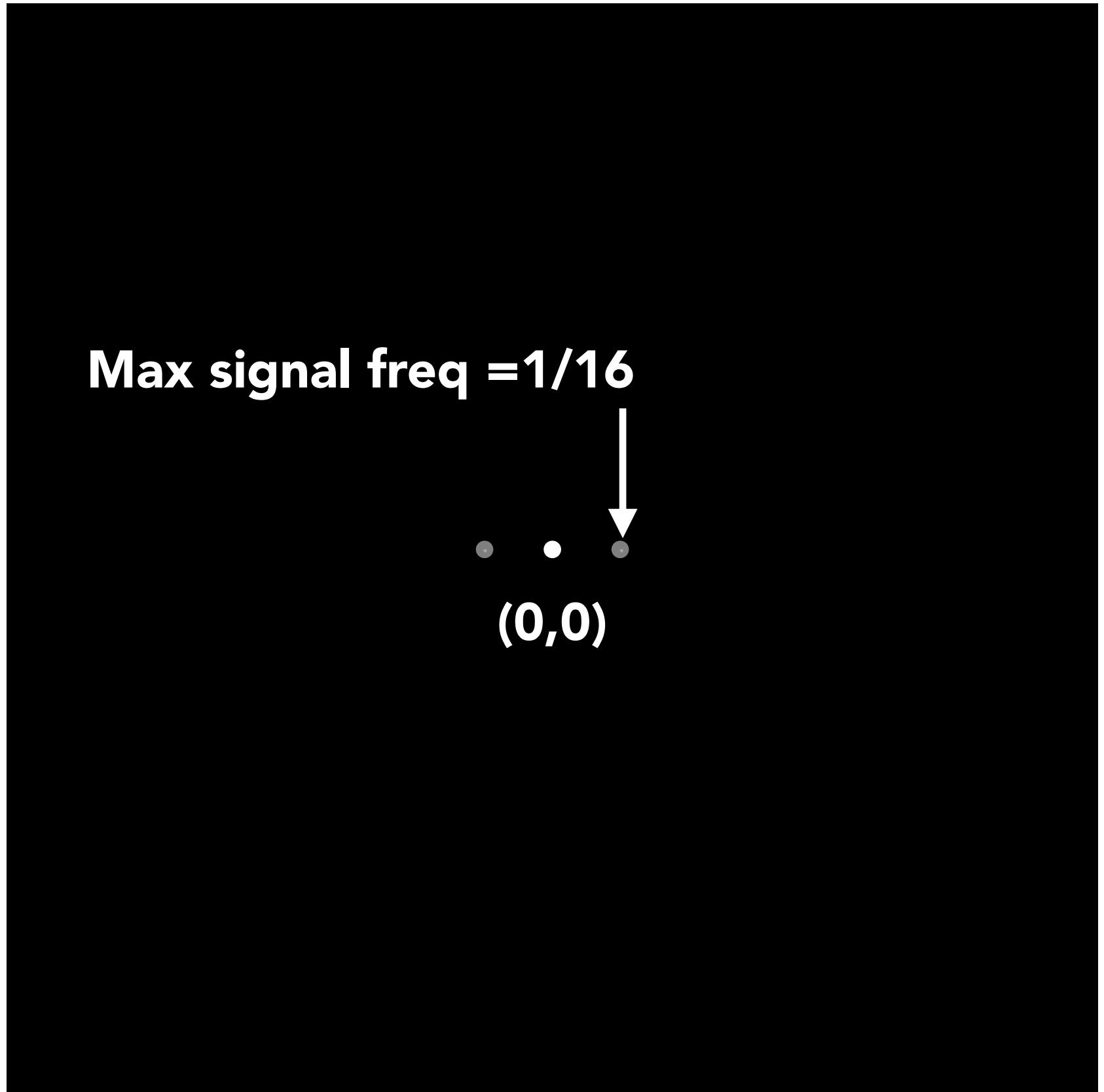


Frequency domain

$\sin(2\pi/16)x$ — frequency 1/16; 16 pixels per cycle



Spatial domain

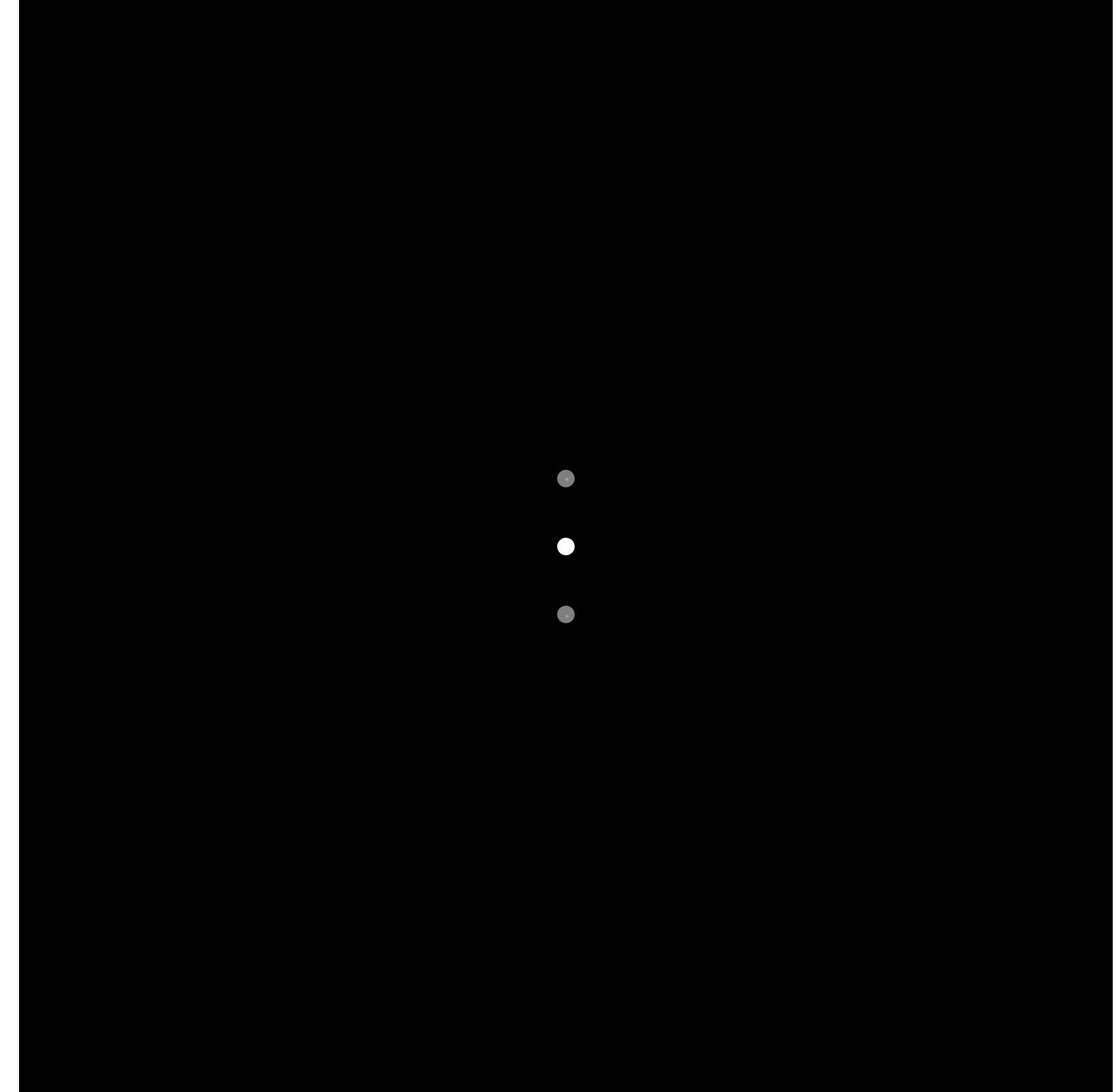


Frequency domain

$$\sin(2\pi/16)y$$

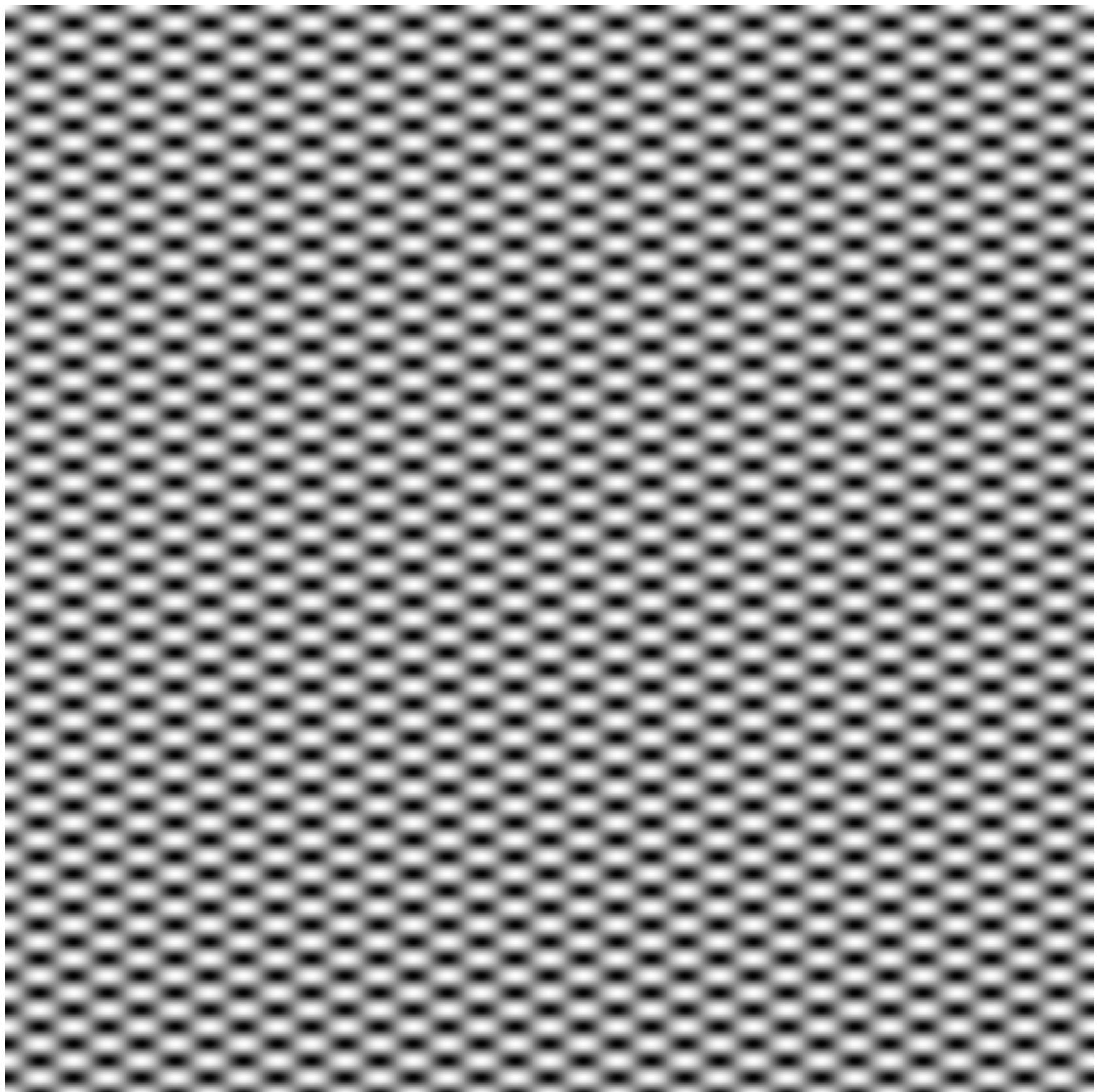


Spatial domain

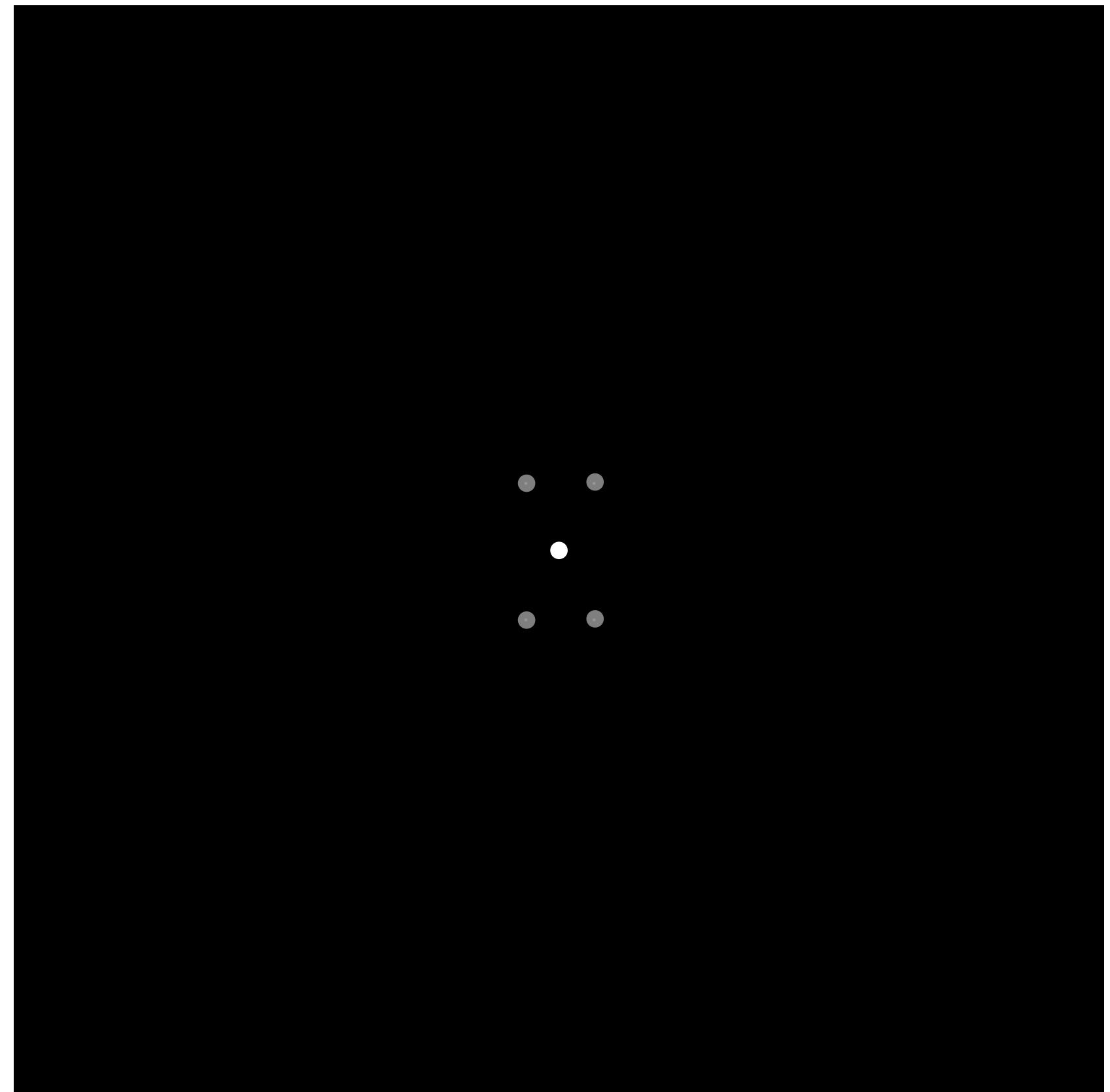


Frequency domain

$$\sin(2\pi/32)x \times \sin(2\pi/16)y$$

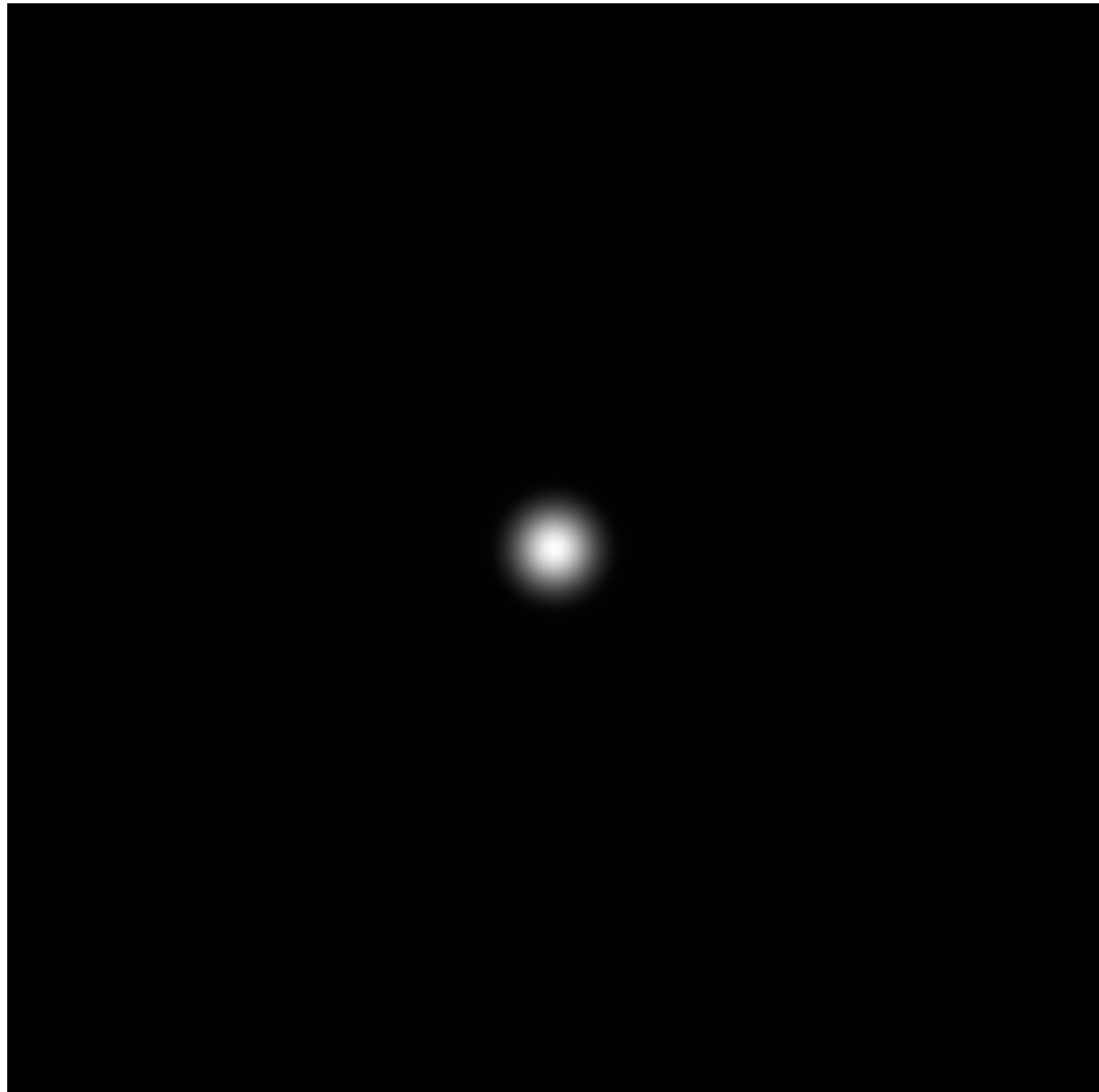


Spatial domain



Frequency domain

$$\exp(-r^2/16^2)$$

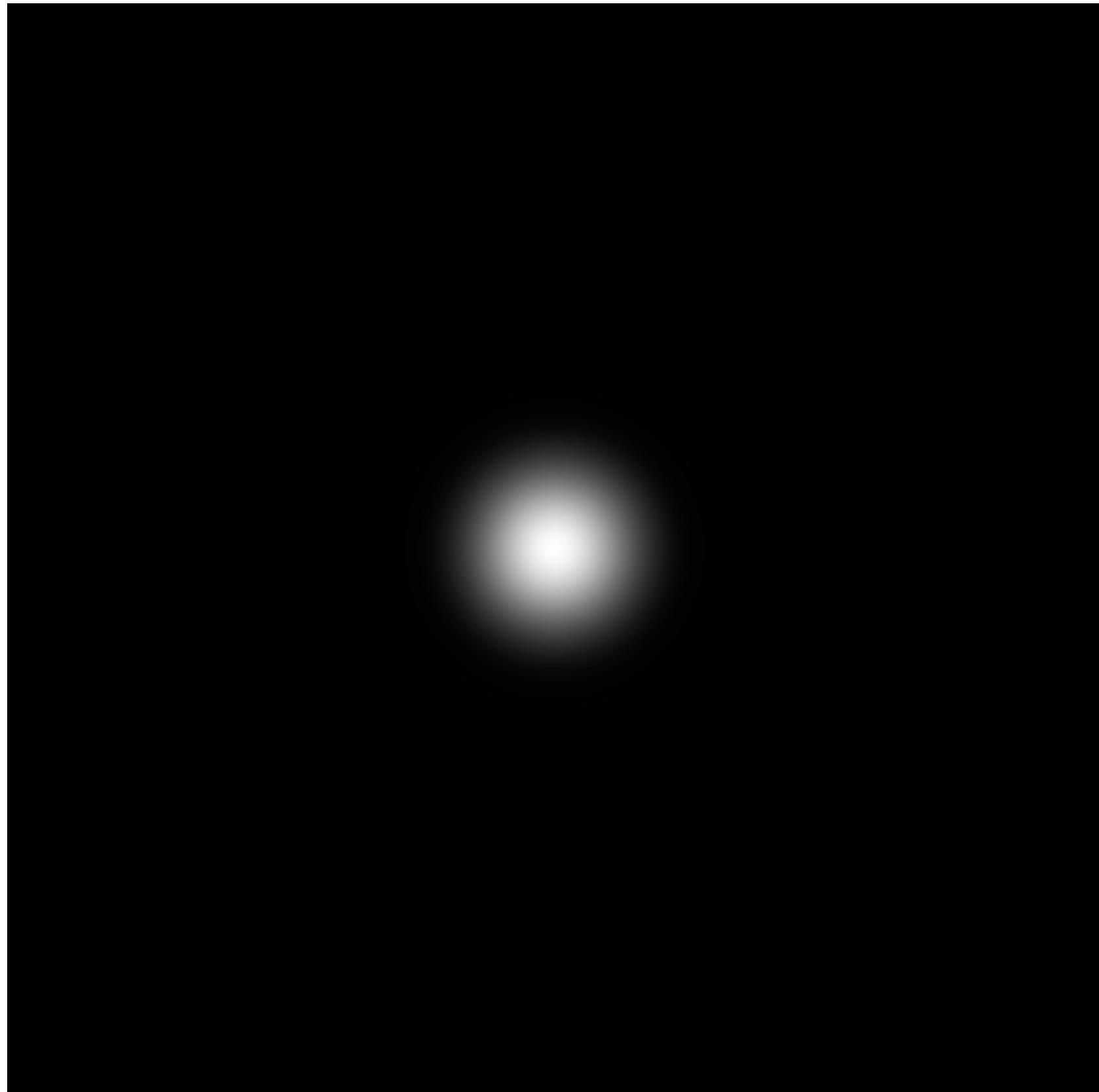


Spatial domain

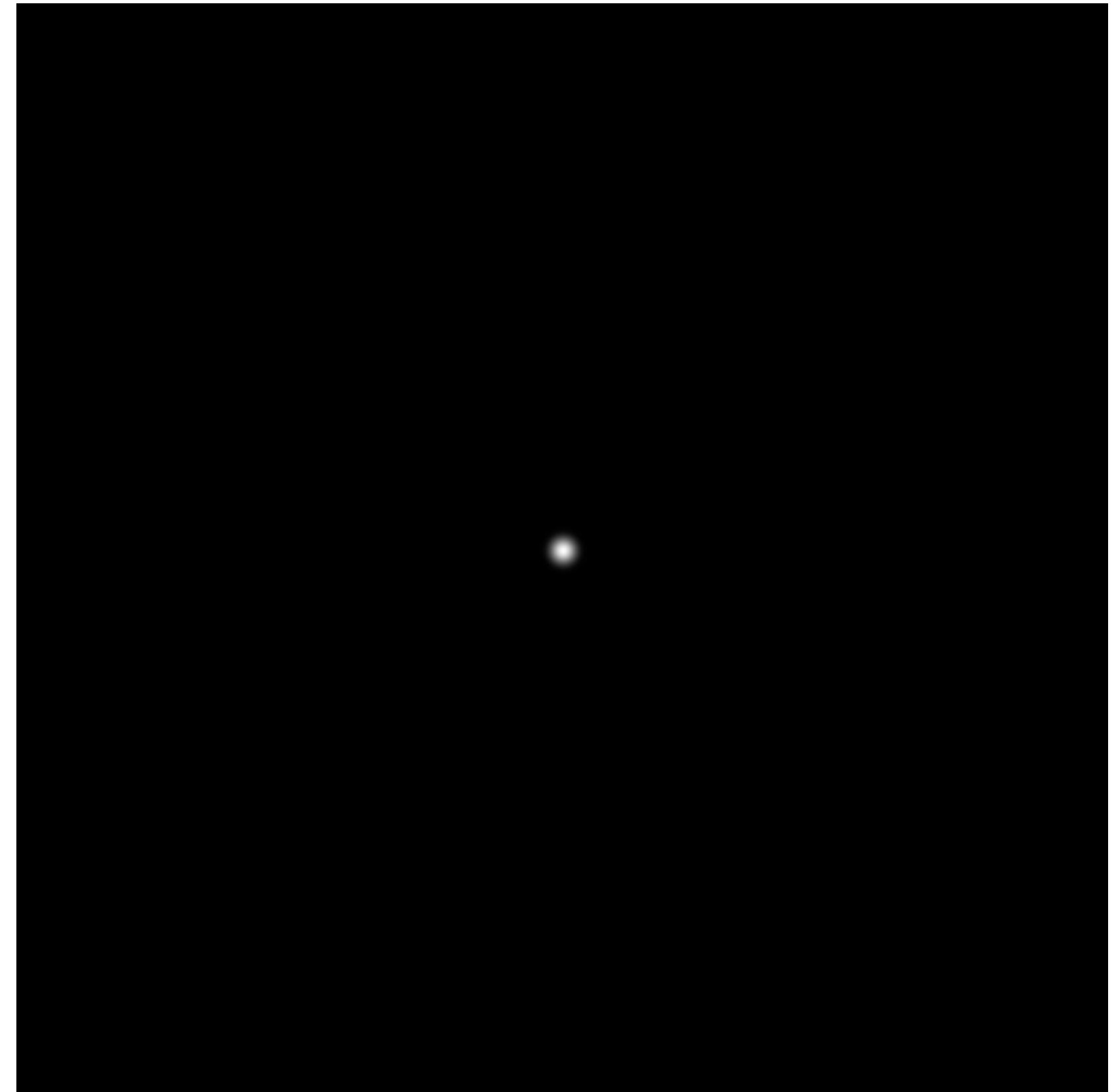


Frequency domain

$$\exp(-r^2/32^2)$$

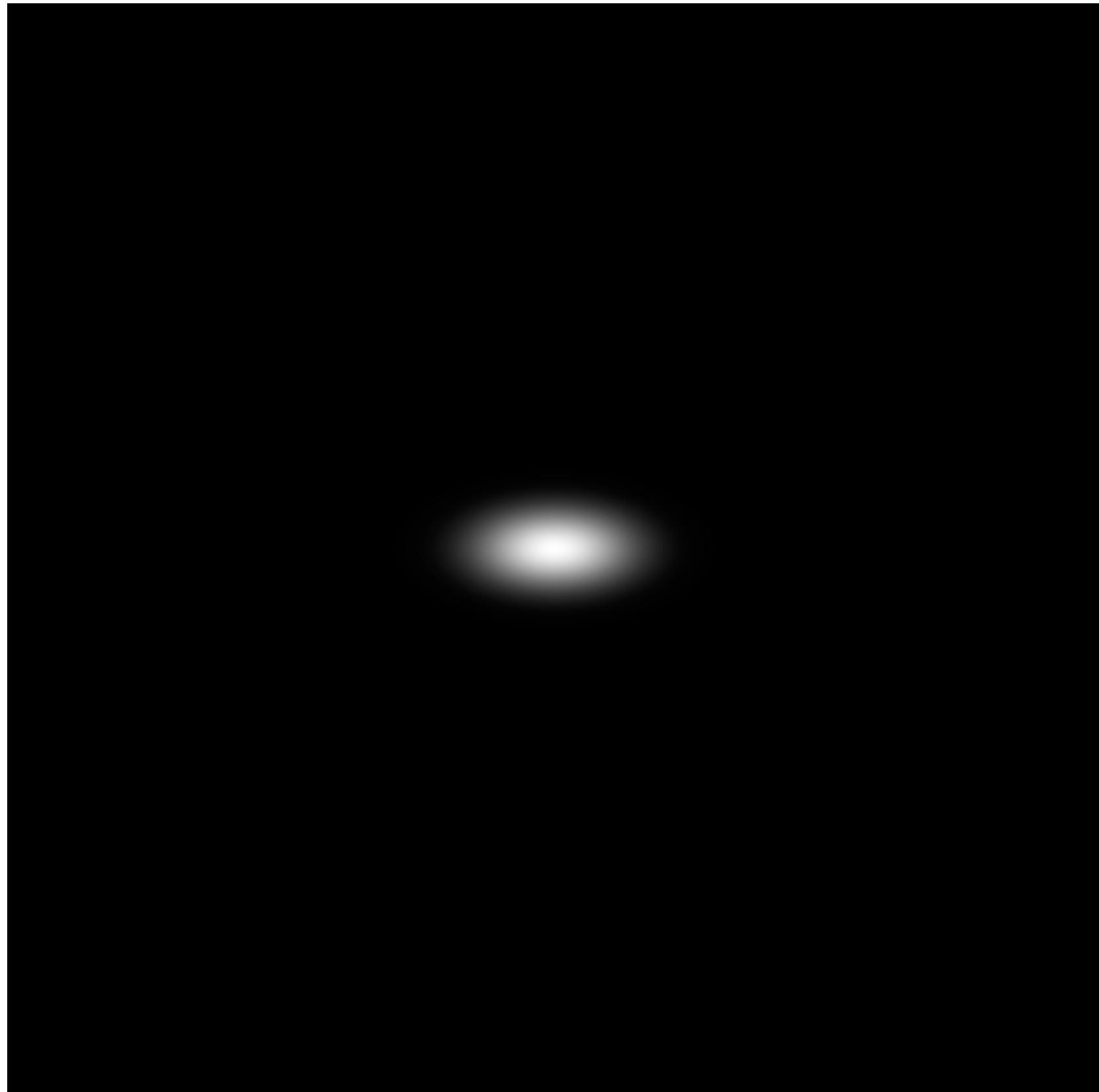


Spatial domain

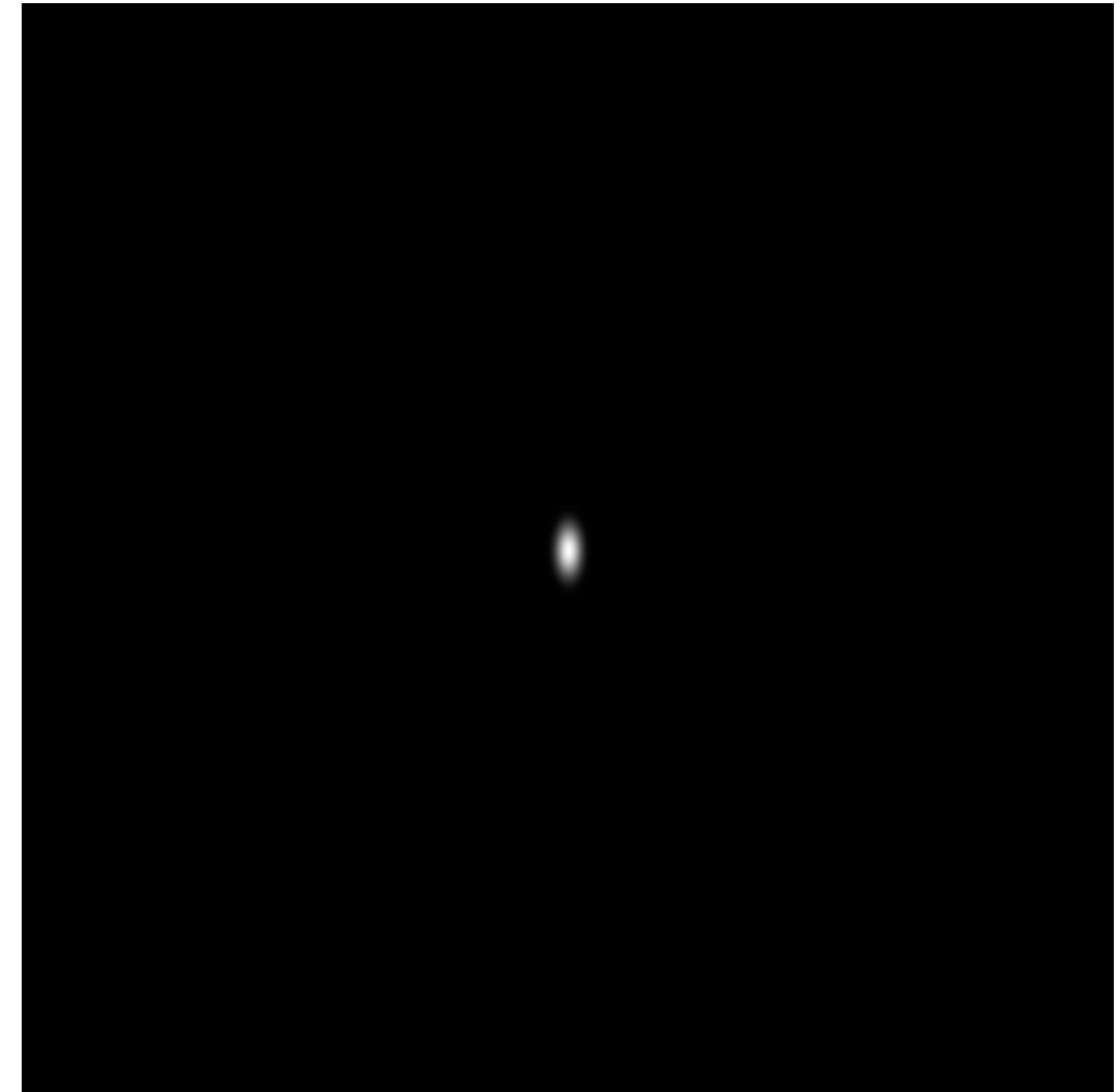


Frequency domain

$$\exp(-x^2/32^2) \times \exp(-y^2/16^2)$$



Spatial domain



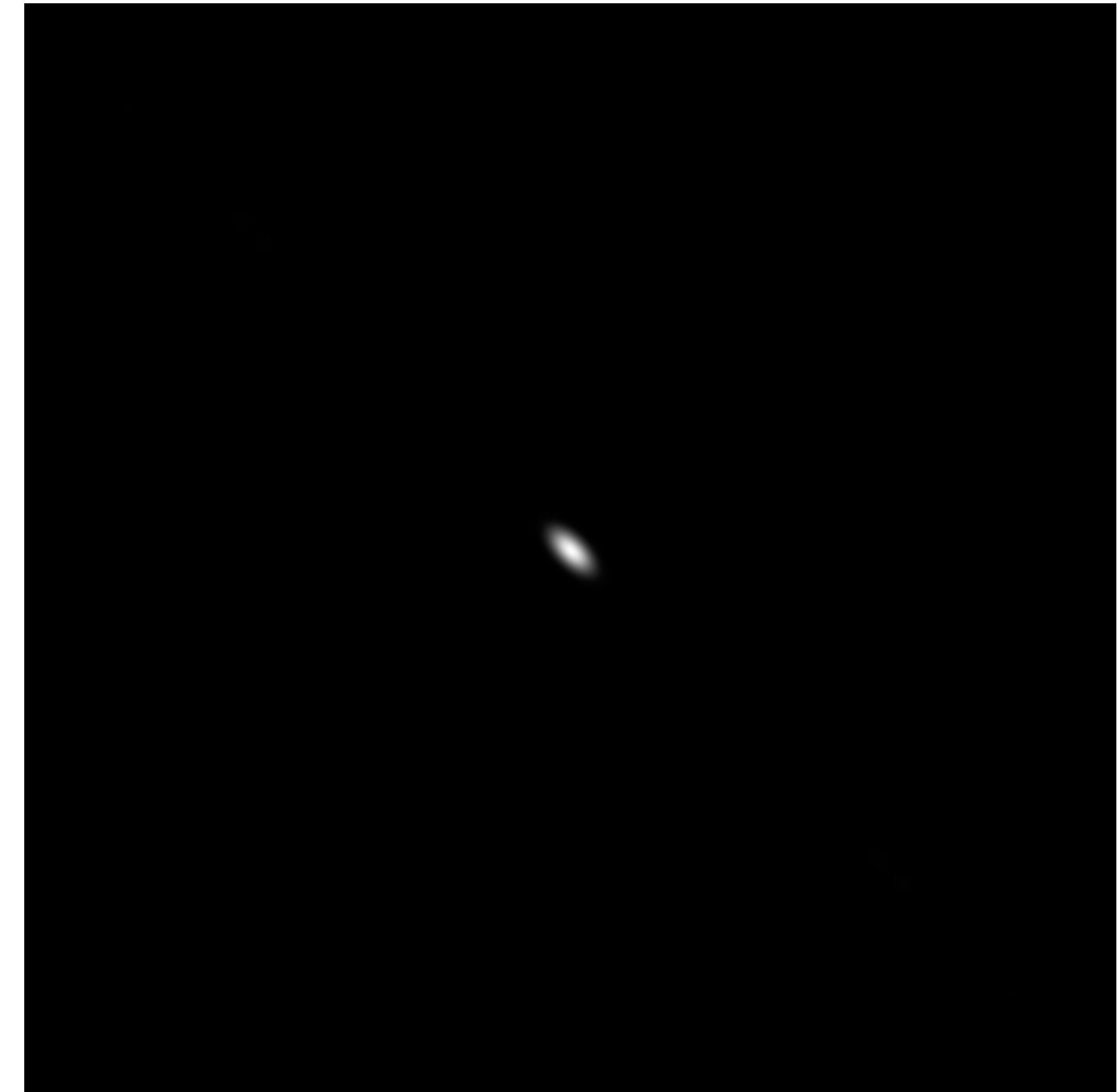
Frequency domain

Rotate 45

$$\exp(-x^2/32^2) \times \exp(-y^2/16^2)$$



Spatial domain



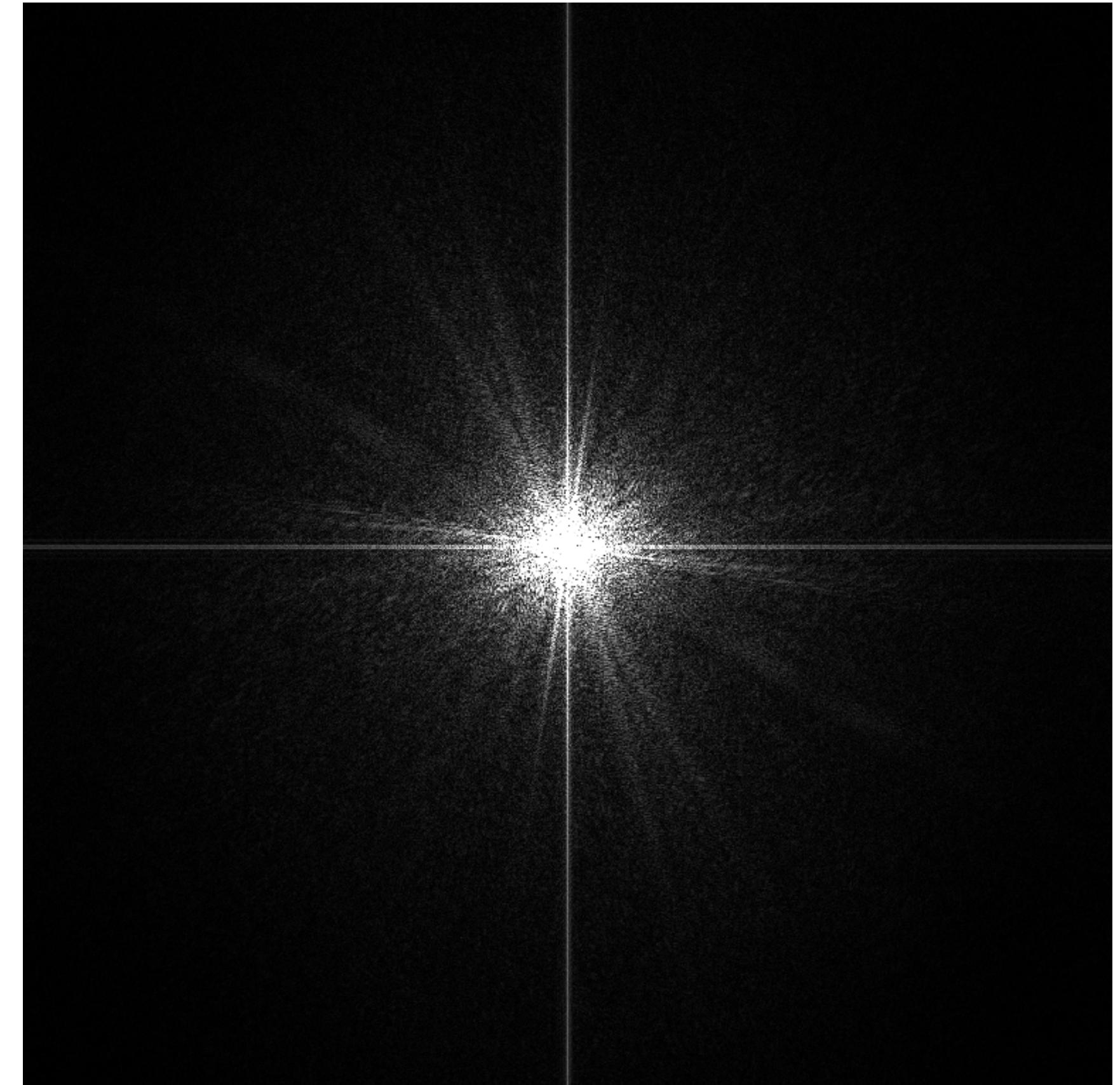
Frequency domain

Image filtering (in the frequency domain)

Manipulating the frequency content of images



Spatial domain

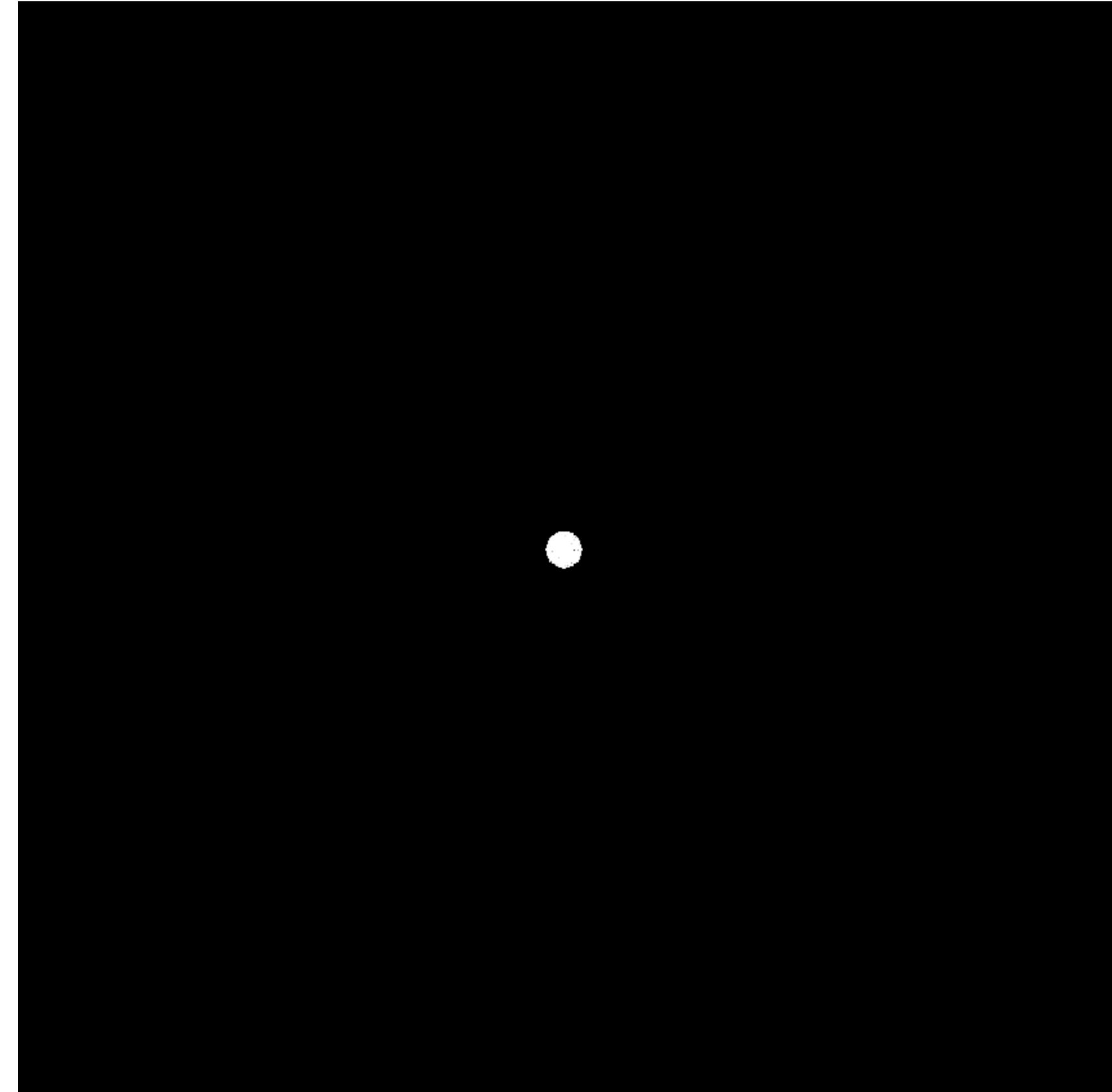


Frequency domain

Low frequencies only (smooth gradients)

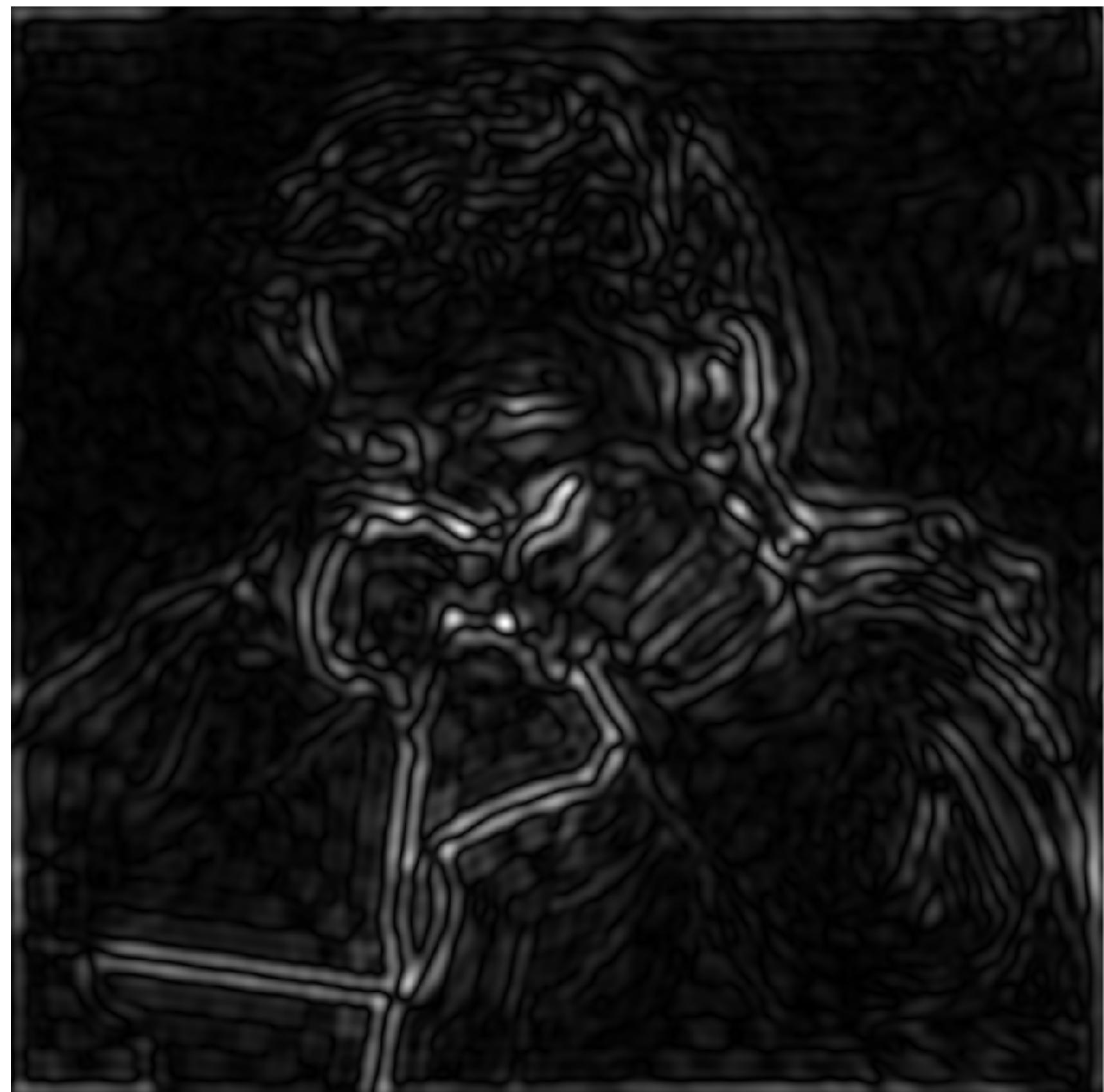


Spatial domain

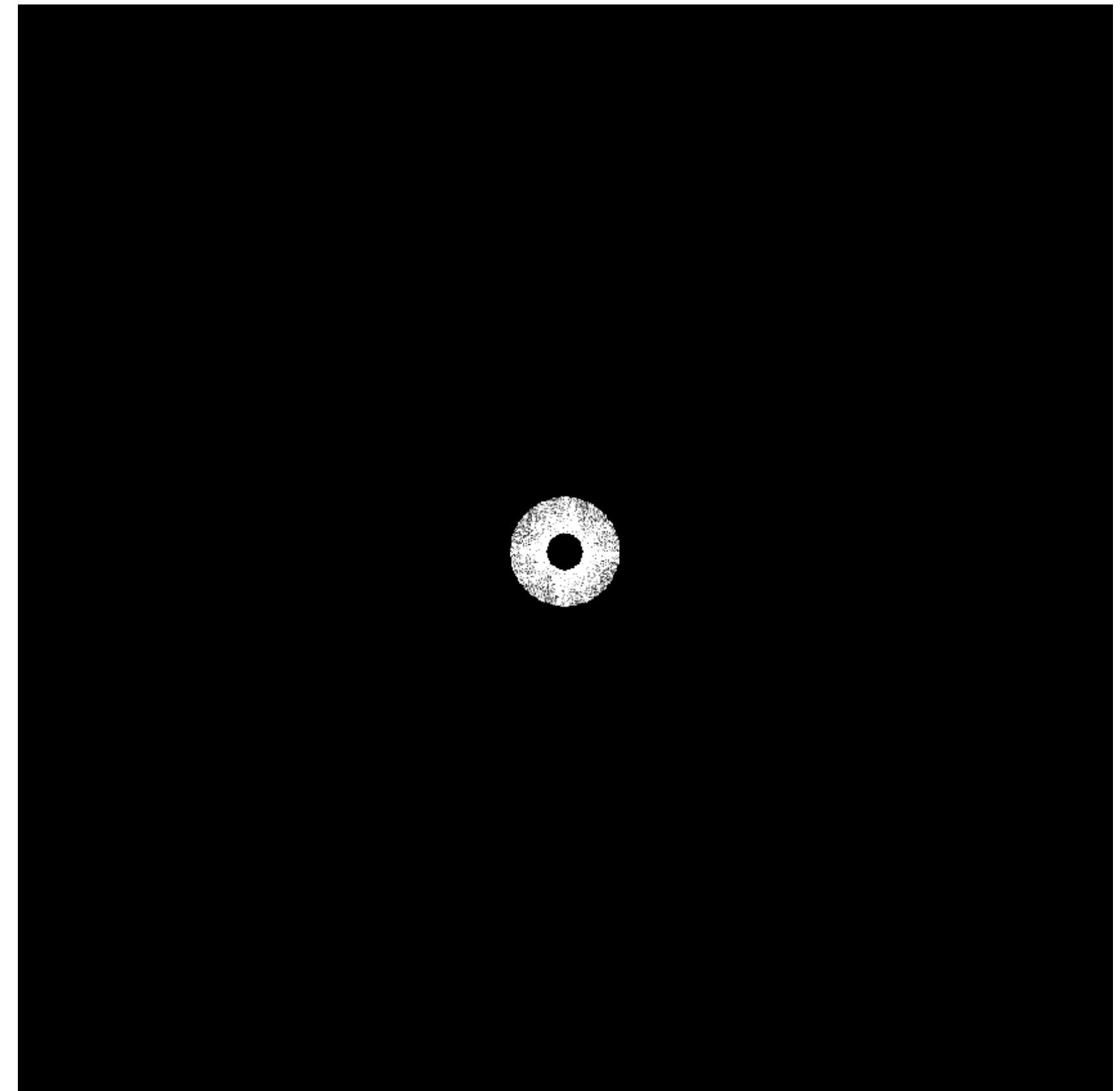


Frequency domain
(after low-pass filter)
All frequencies above cutoff have 0 magnitude

Mid-range frequencies



Spatial domain

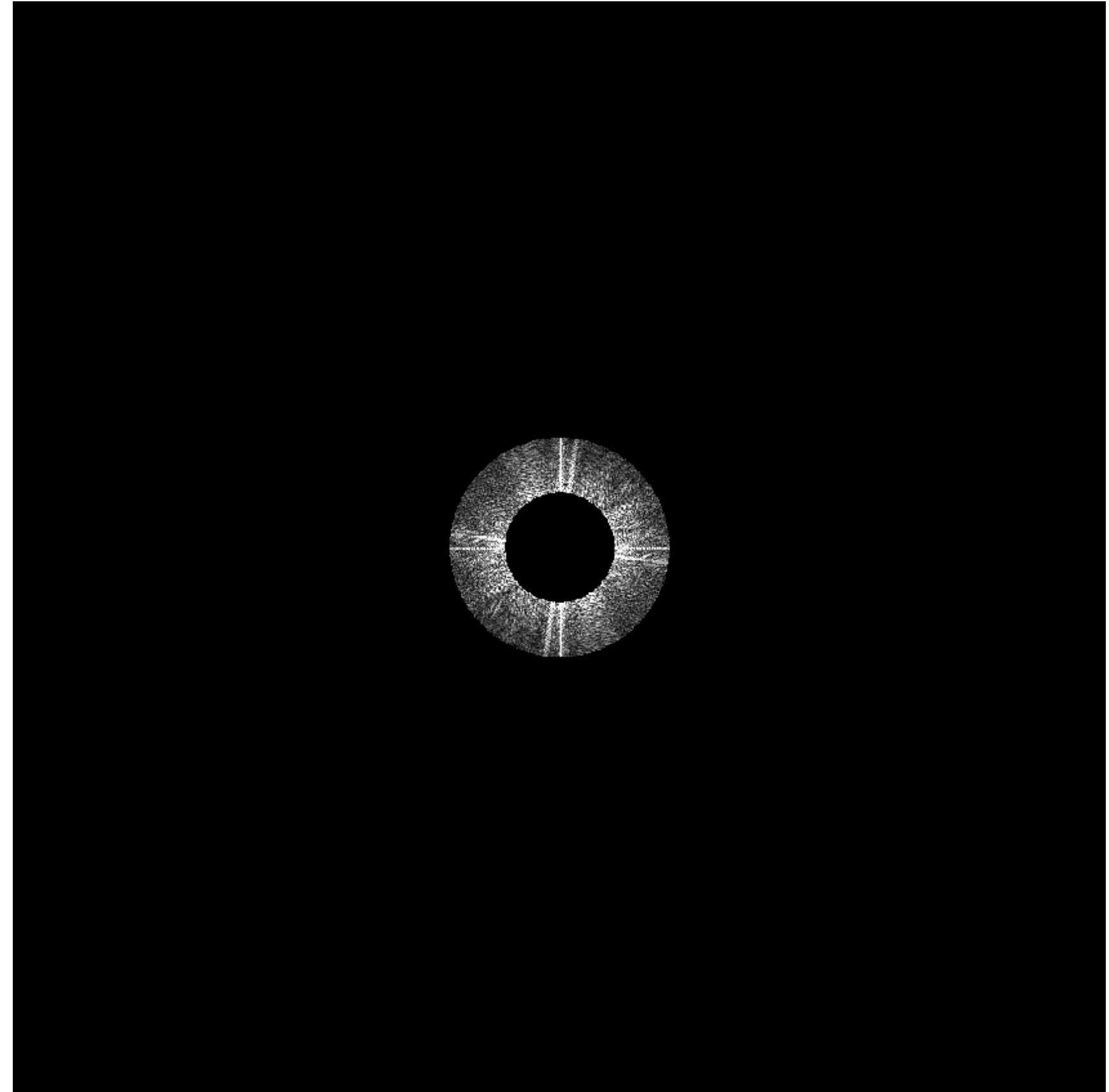


**Frequency domain
(after band-pass filter)**

Mid-range frequencies

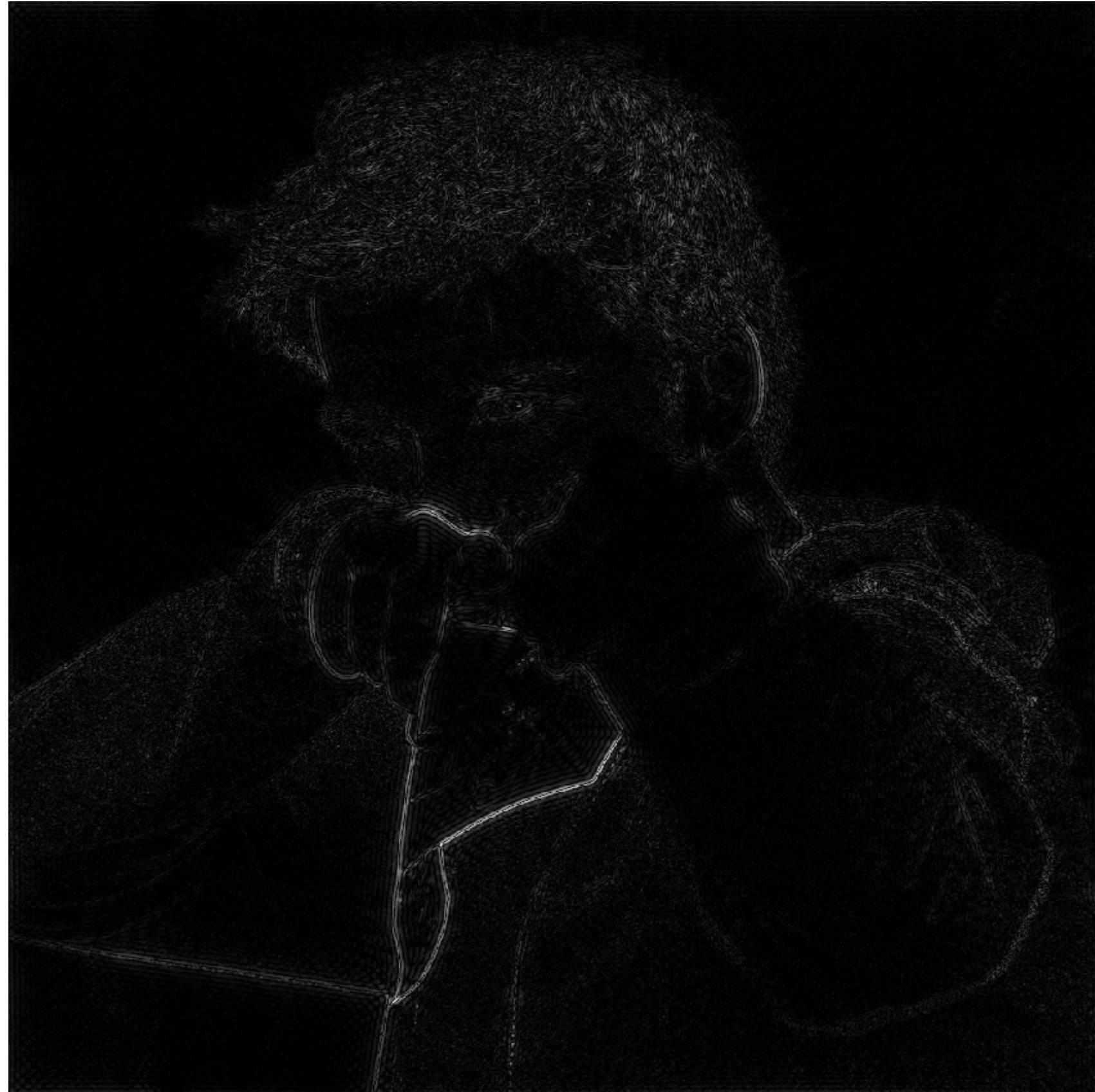


Spatial domain

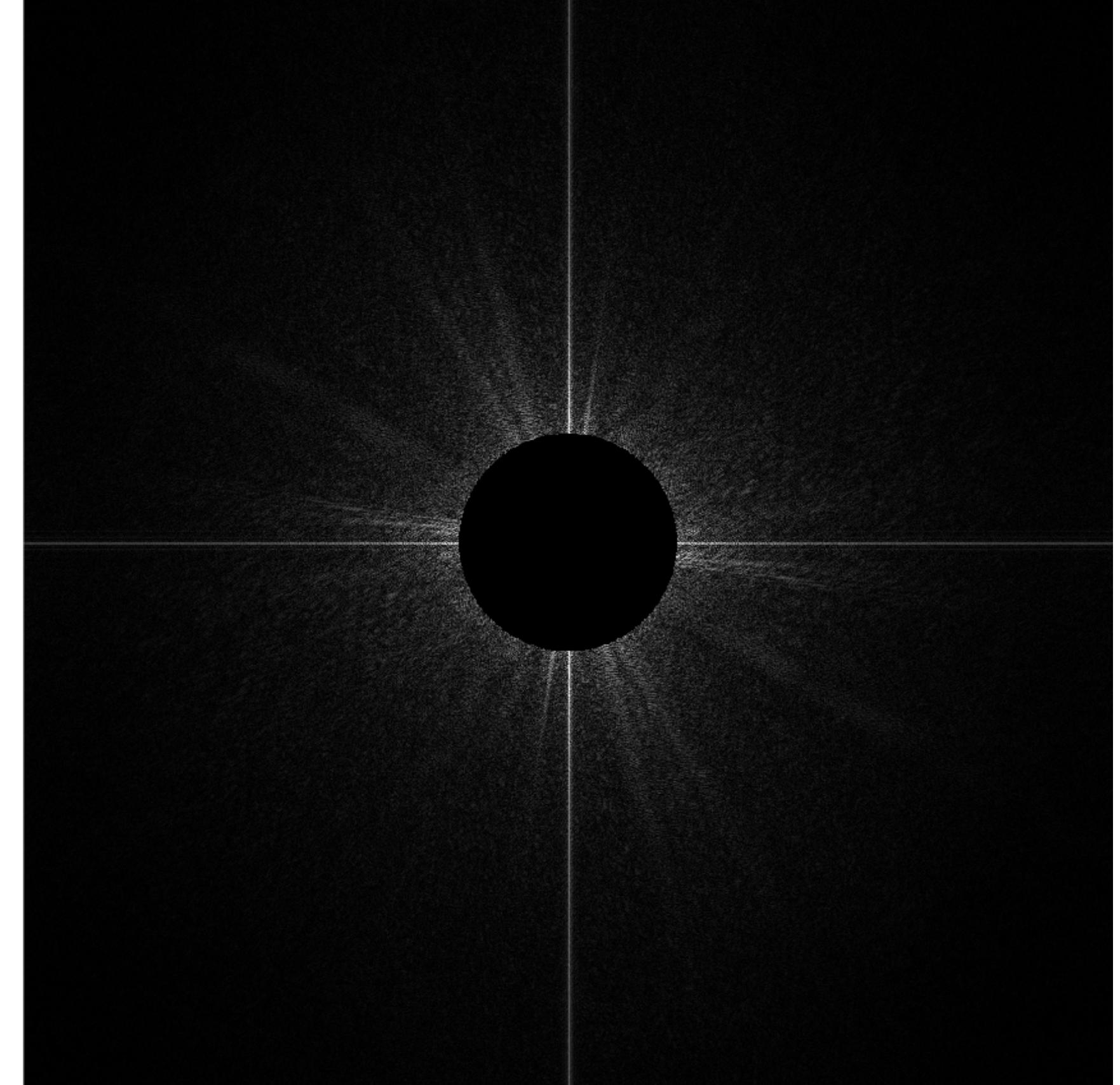


Frequency domain
(after band-pass filter)

High frequencies (edges)



Spatial domain
(strongest edges)

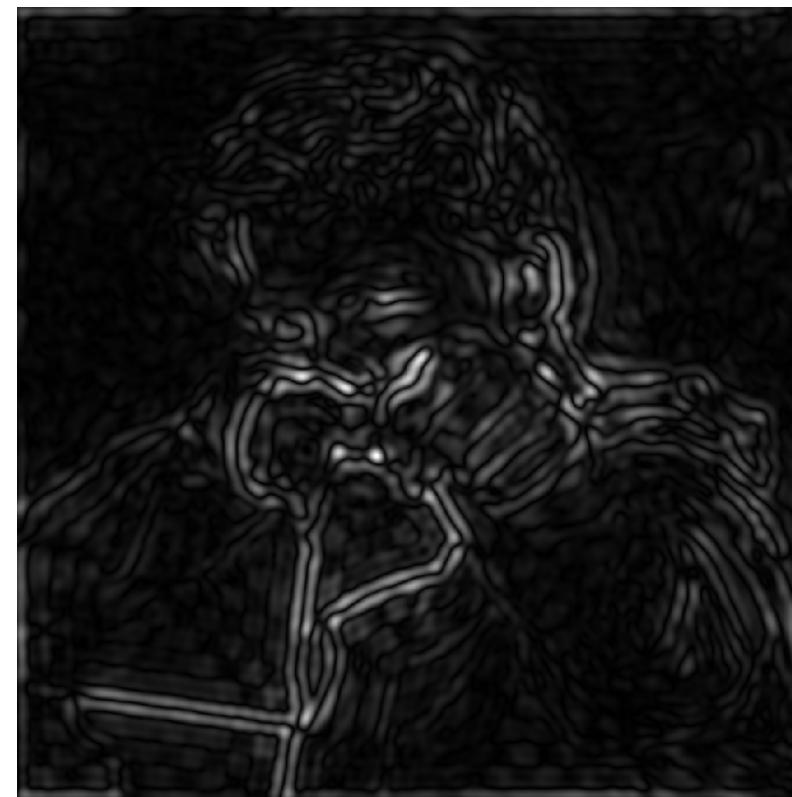


Frequency domain
(after high-pass filter)
All frequencies below threshold have 0
magnitude

An image as a sum of its frequency components



+



+



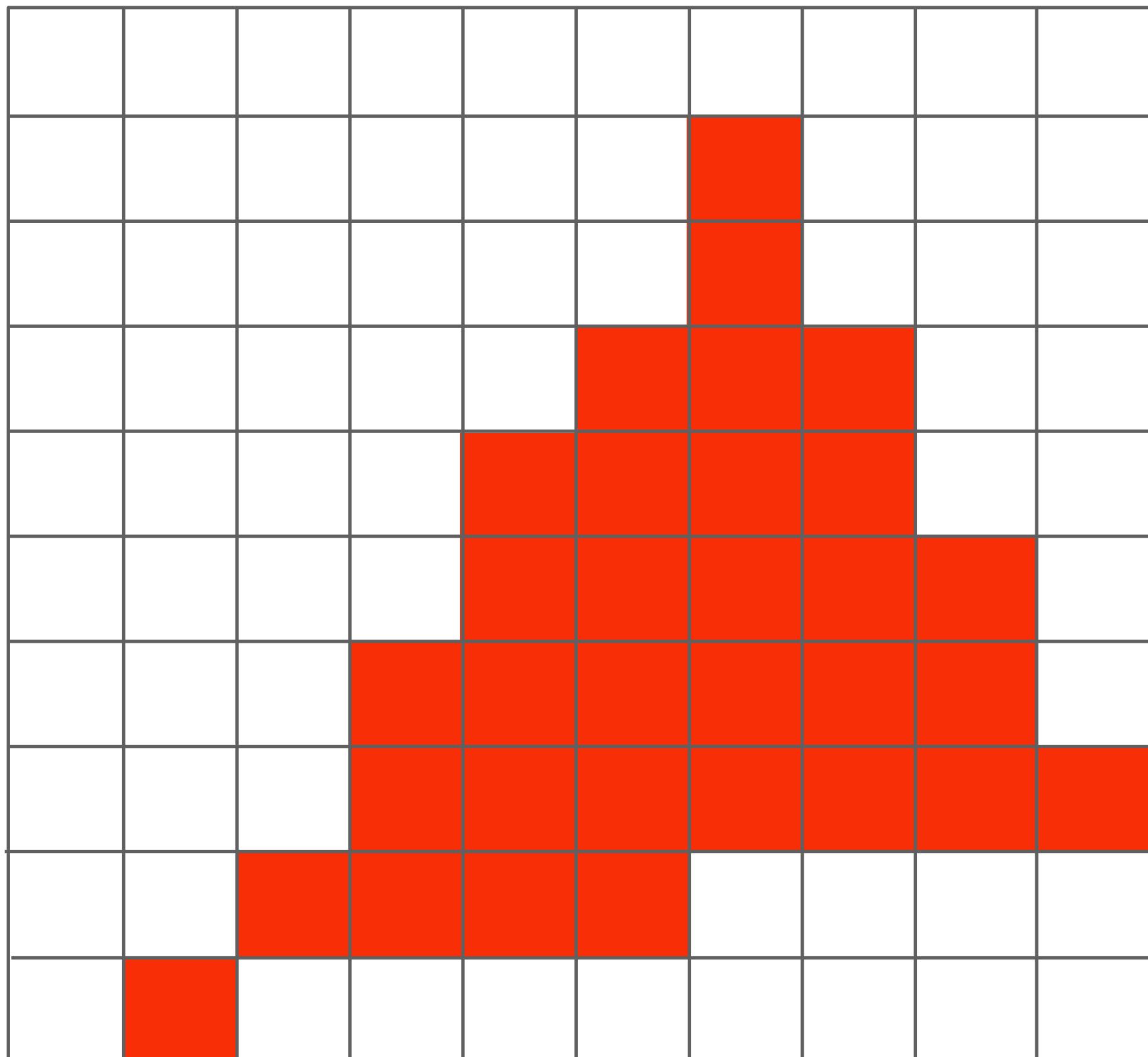
+



=

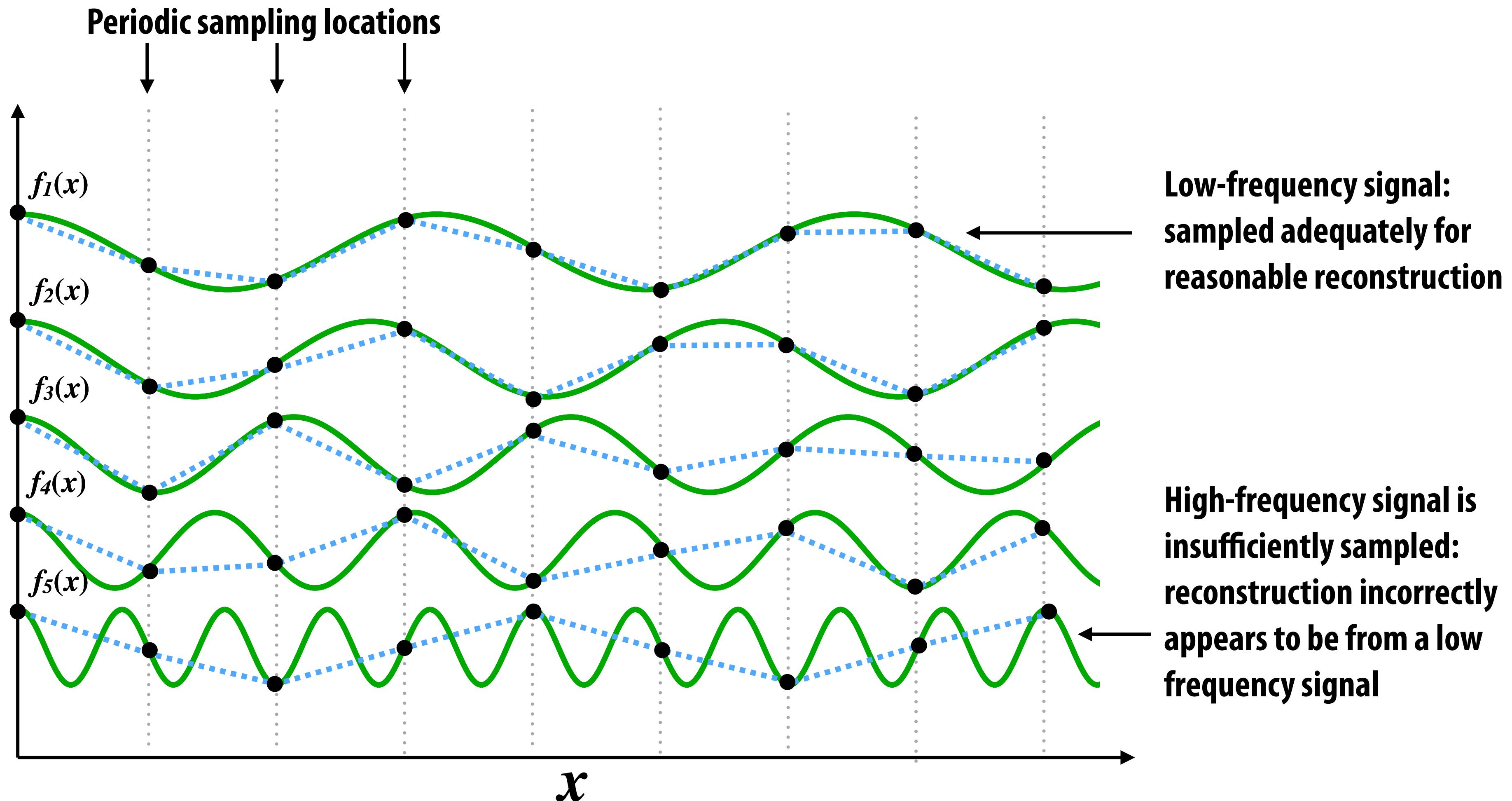


Back to our problem of artifacts in images

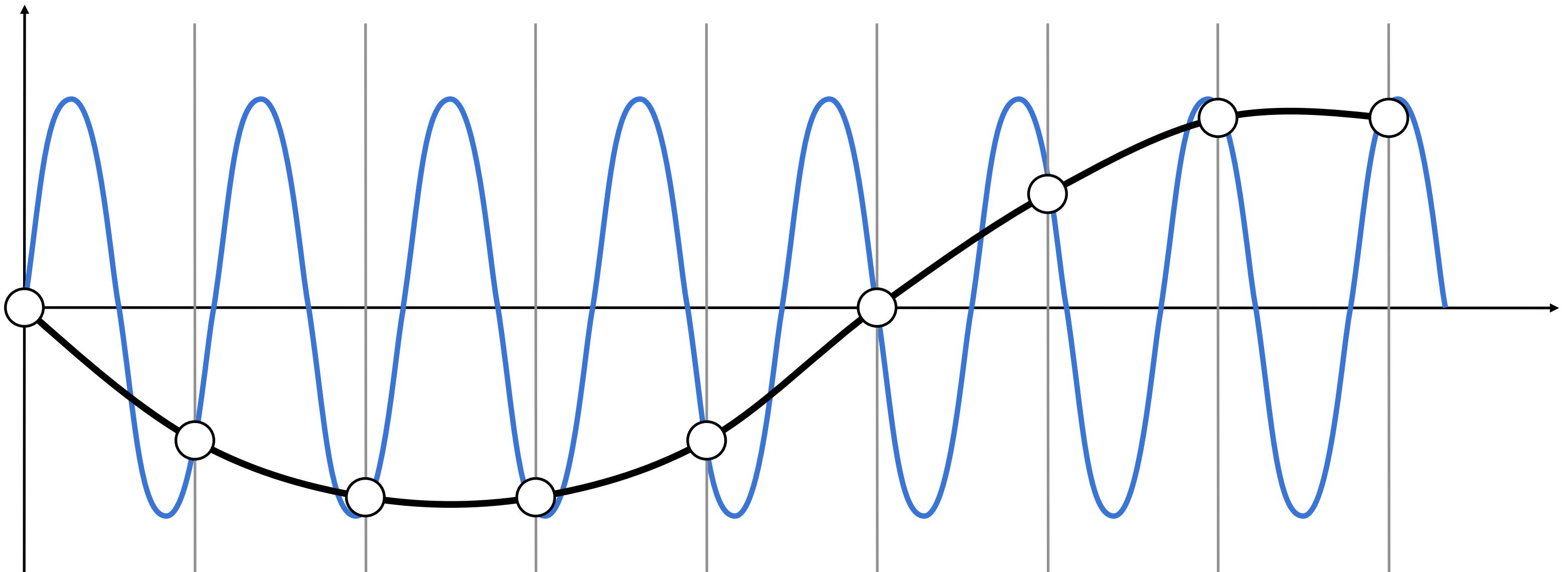


Jaggies!

Higher frequencies need denser sampling



Undersampling creates frequency “aliases”



High-frequency signal is insufficiently sampled: samples erroneously appear to be from a low-frequency signal

Two frequencies that are indistinguishable at a given sampling rate are called “aliases”

Anti-aliasing idea: filter out high frequencies before sampling

Video: point vs antialiased sampling



Point in time



Motion blurred

Video: point sampling in time



30 fps video. 1/800 second exposure is sharp in time, causes time aliasing.

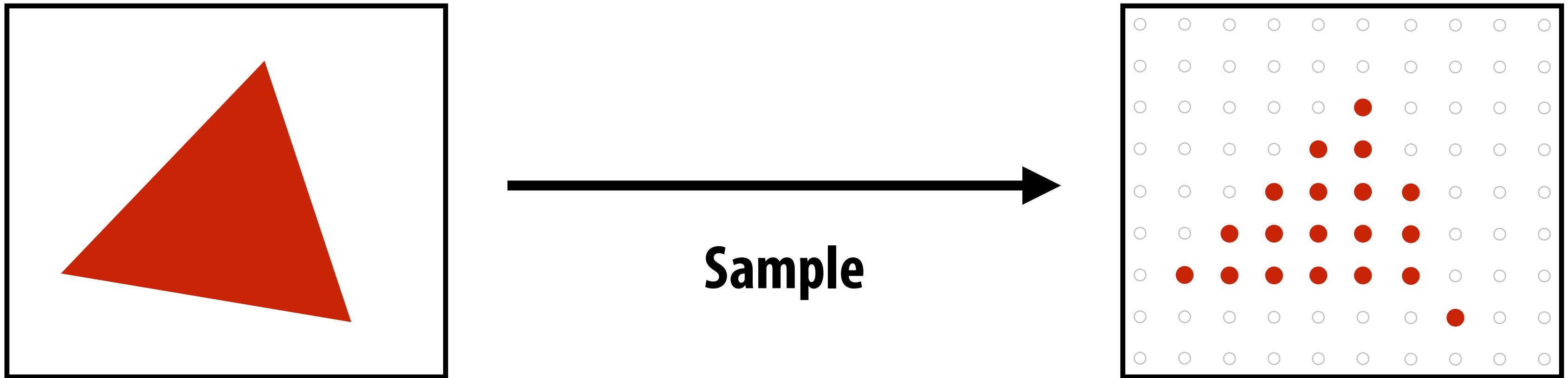
Credit: Aris & cams youtube, <https://youtu.be/NowwxTktoFs>

Video: motion-blurred sampling



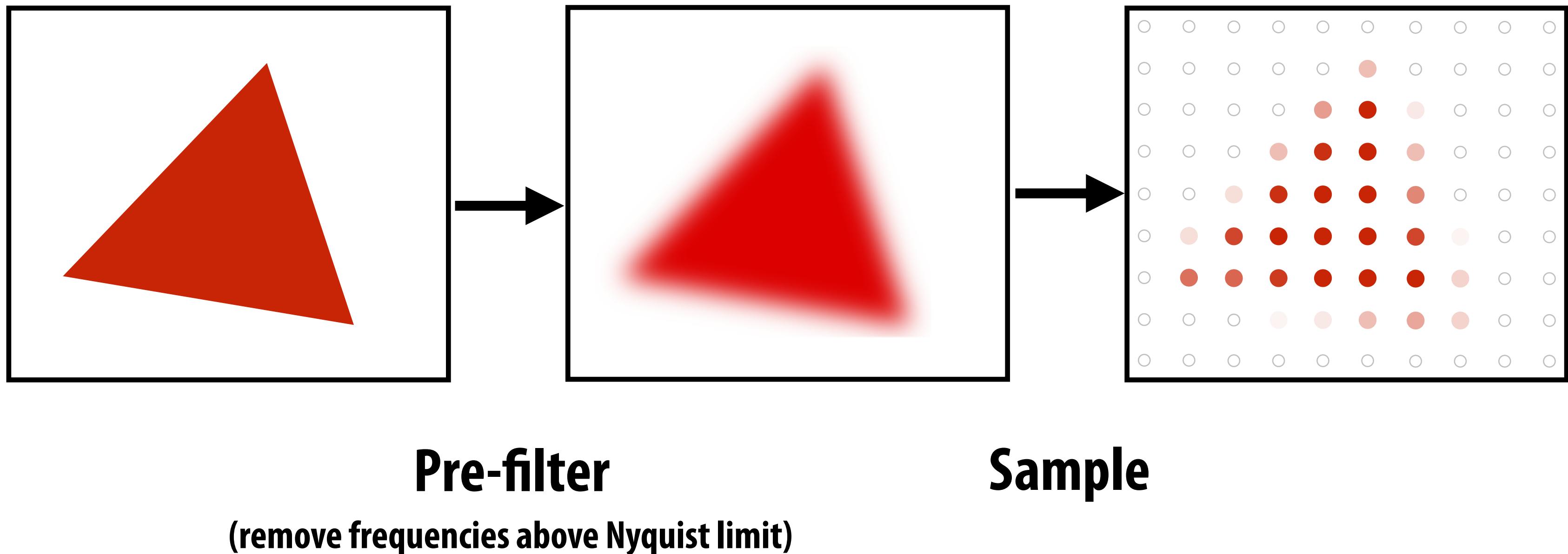
30 fps video. 1/30 second exposure is motion-blurred in time, reduces aliasing.

Rasterization: point sampling in 2D space



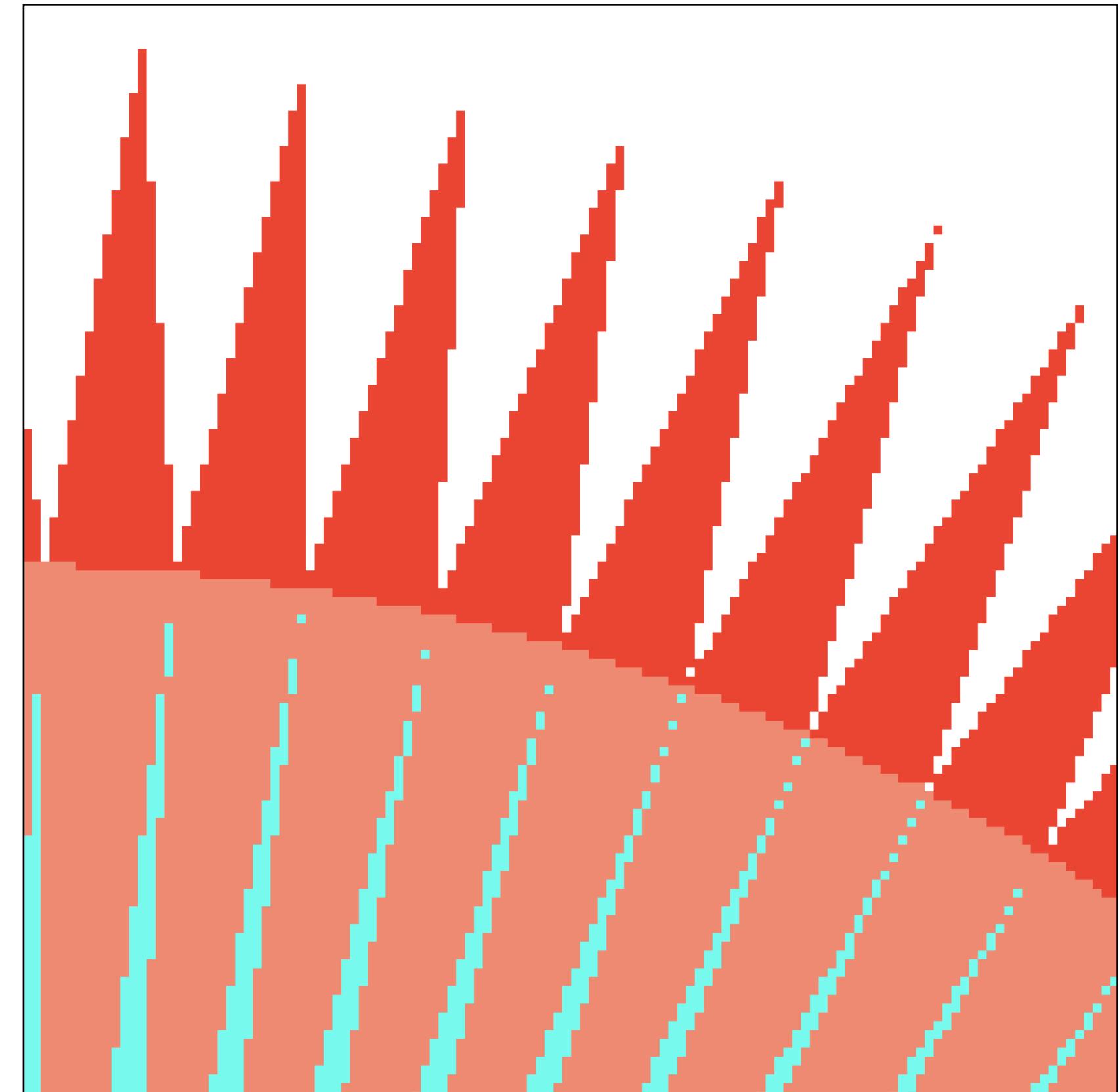
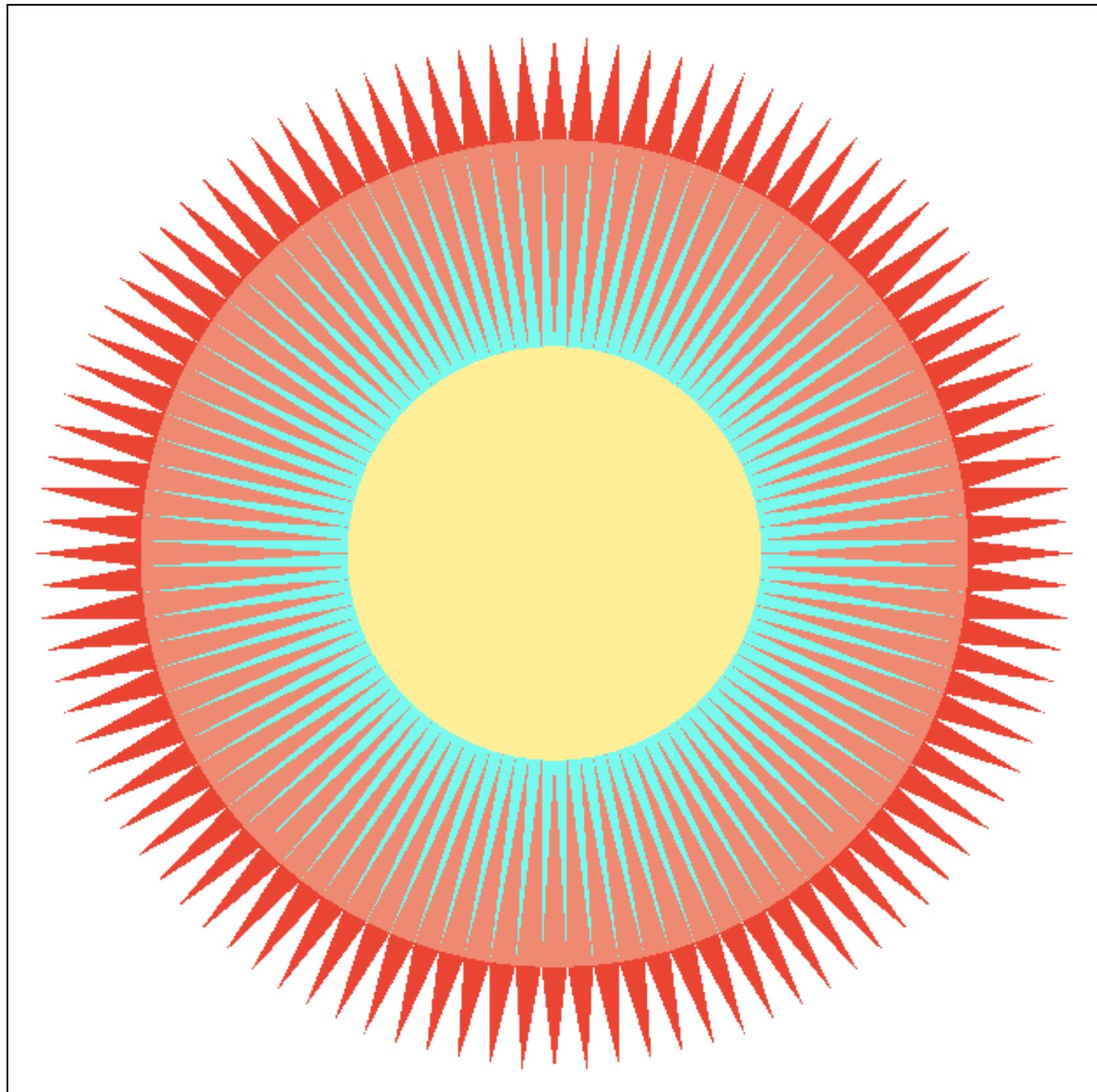
**Note jaggies in rasterized triangle
(pixel values are either red or white: sample is in or out of triangle)**

Rasterization: anti-aliased sampling



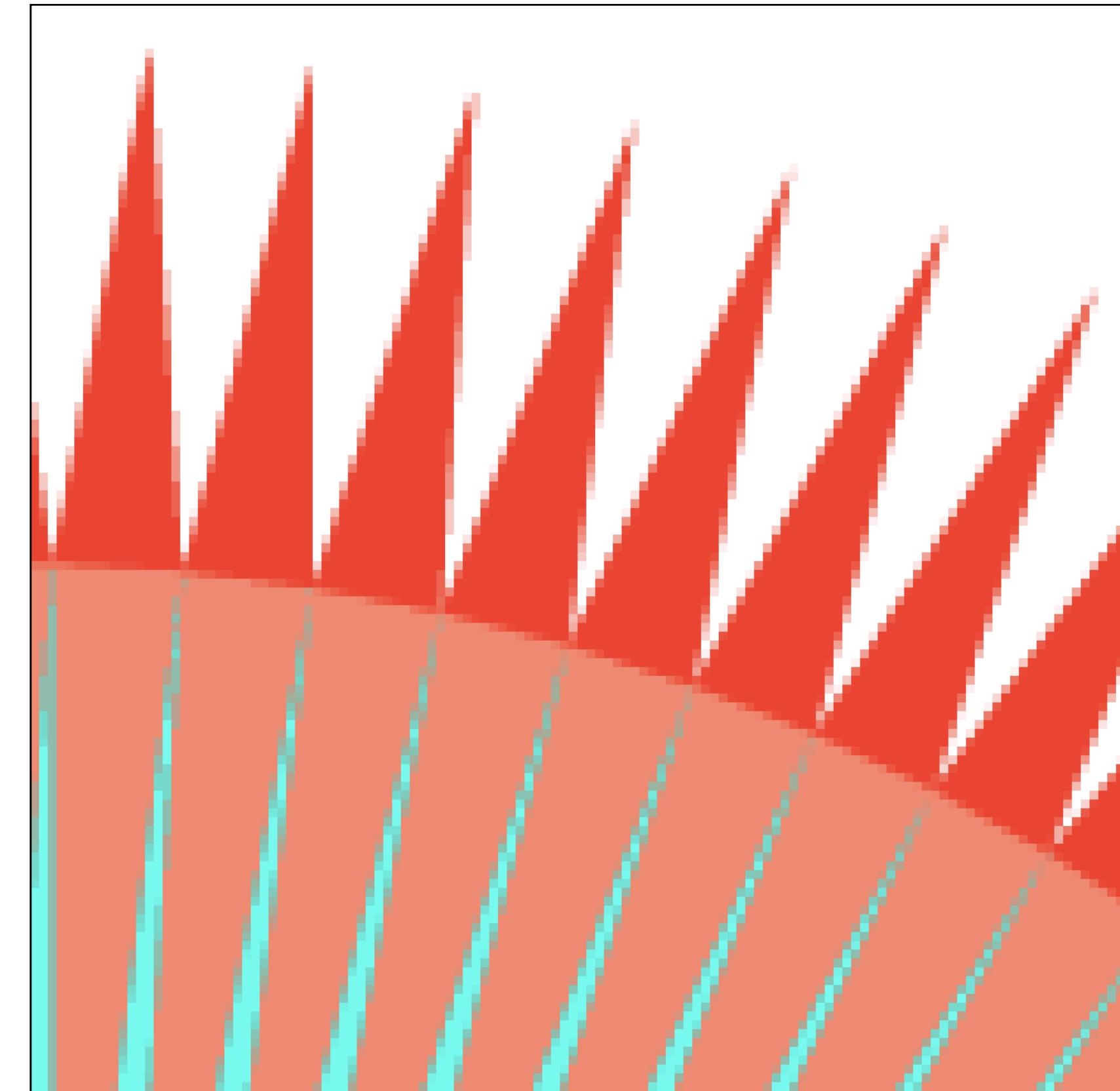
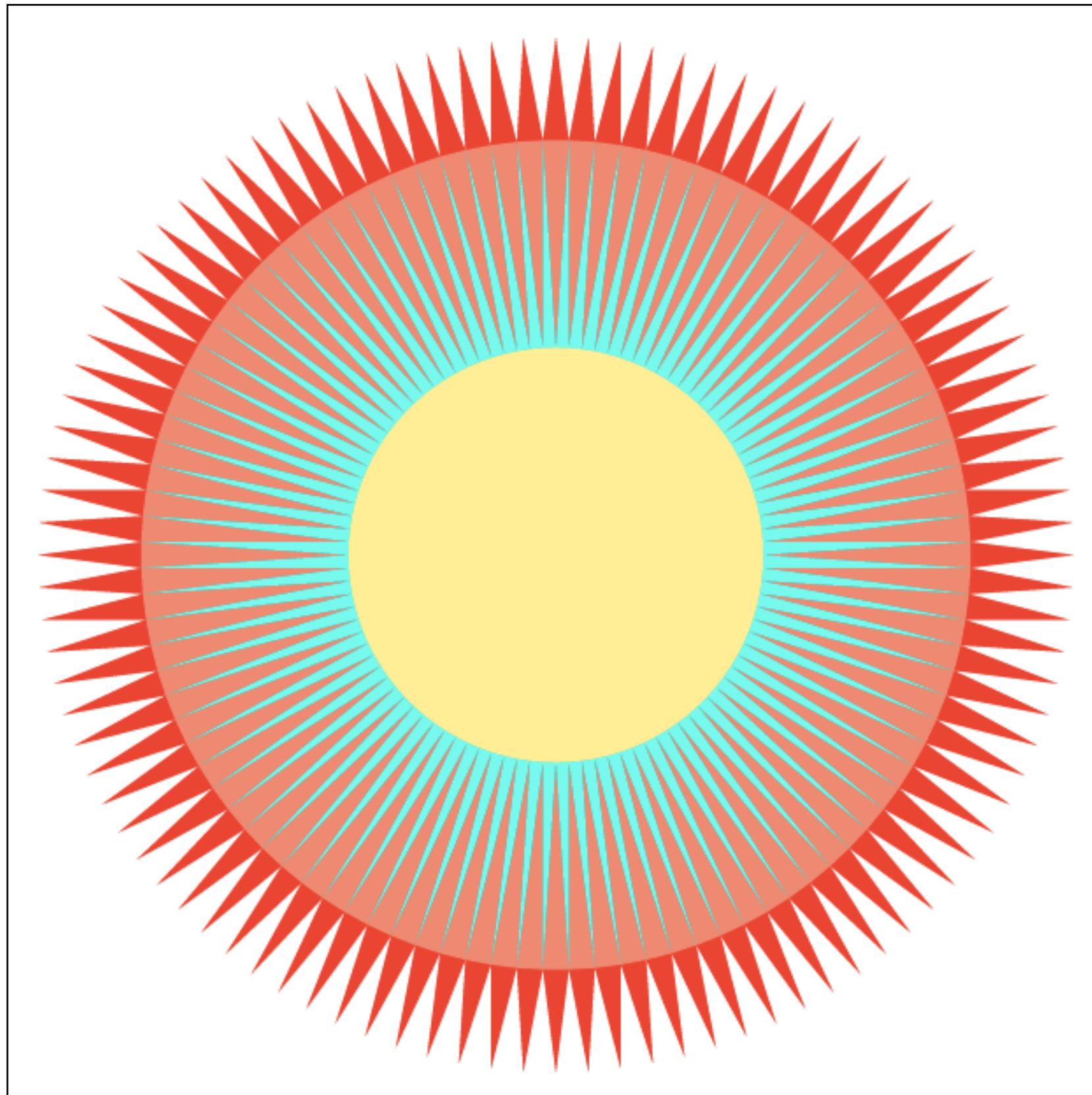
**Note anti-aliased edges of rasterized triangle:
where pixel values take intermediate values**

Point sampling

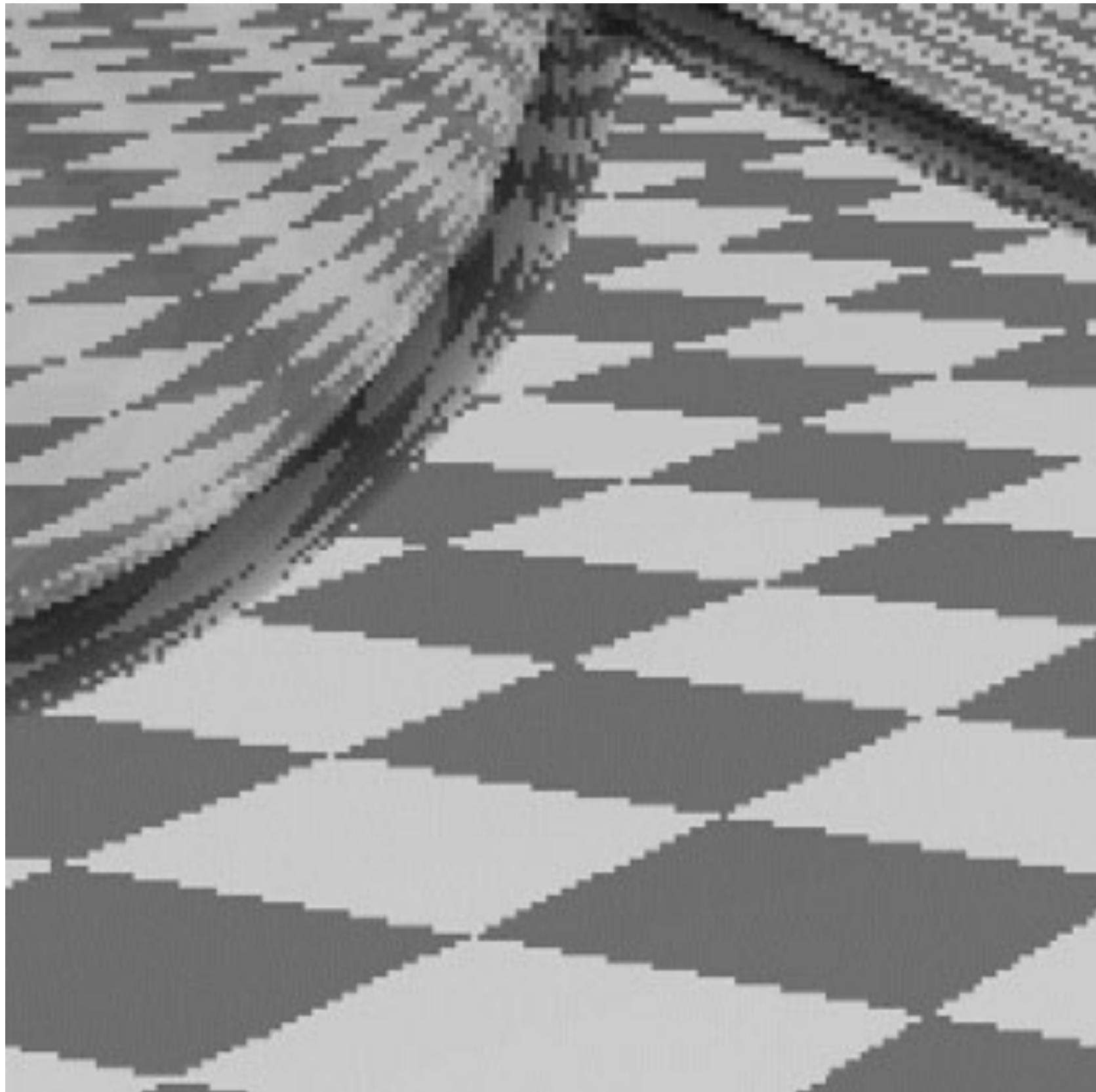


One sample per pixel

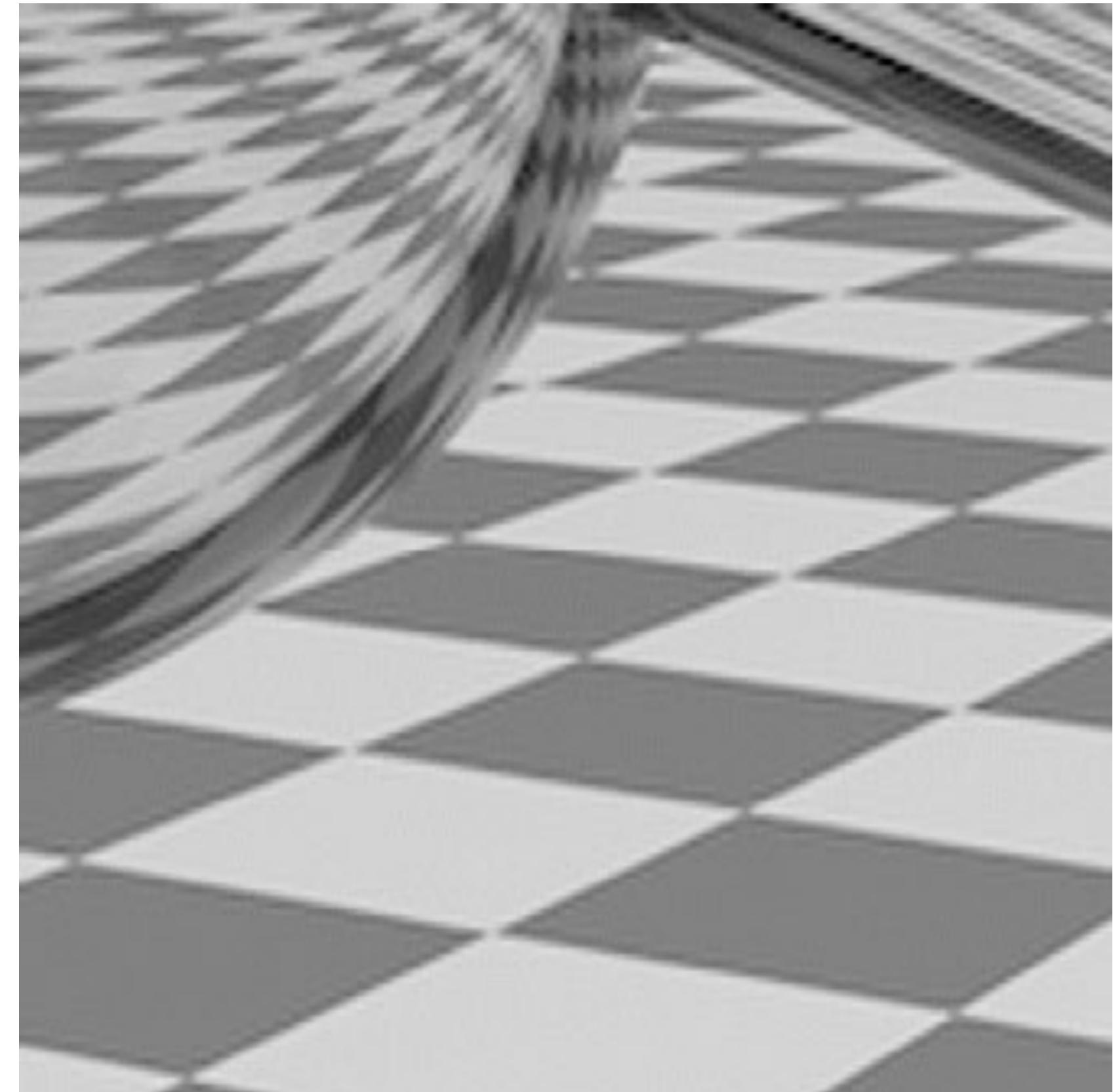
Anti-aliasing



Point sampling vs anti-aliasing

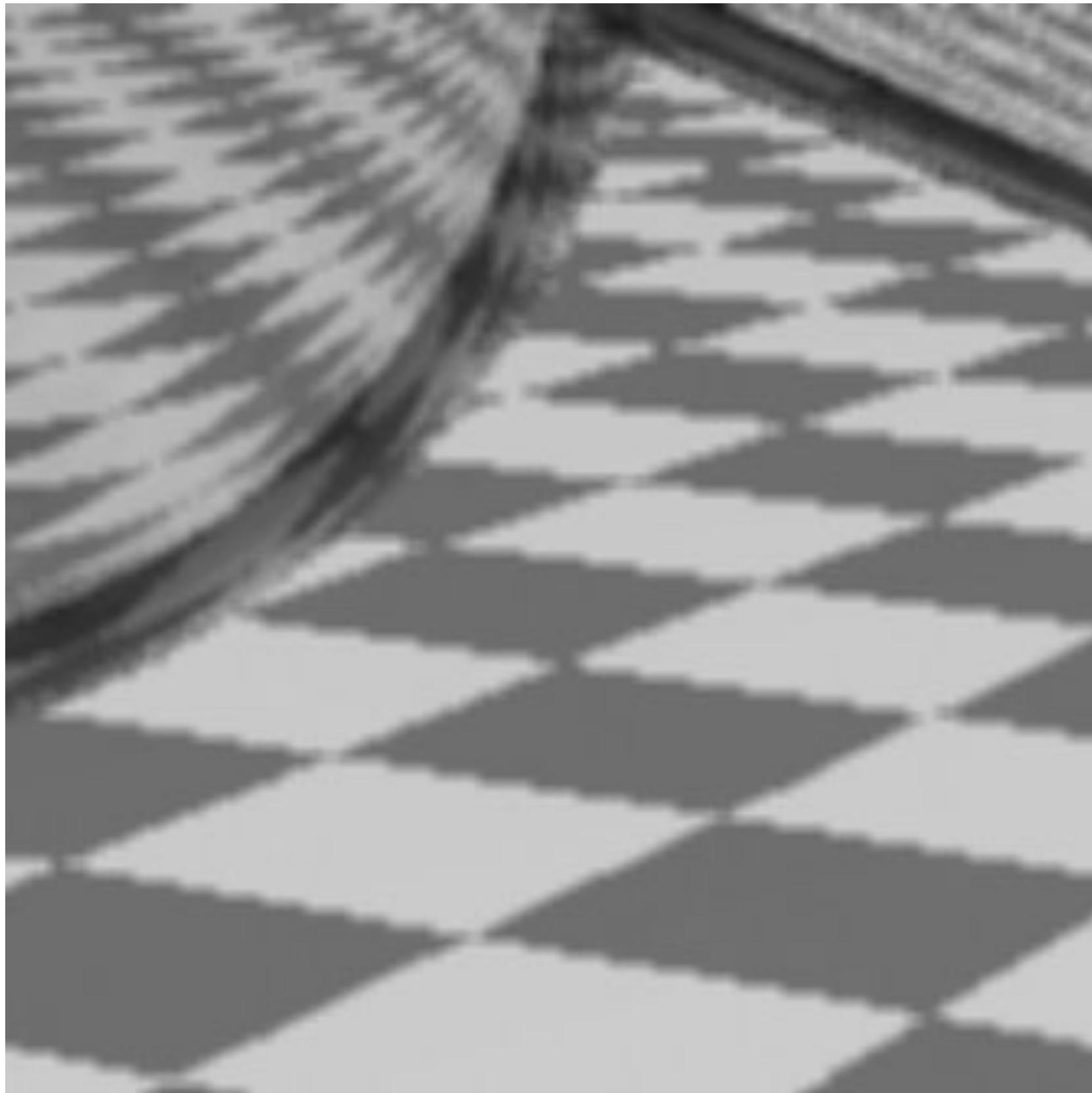


Jaggies

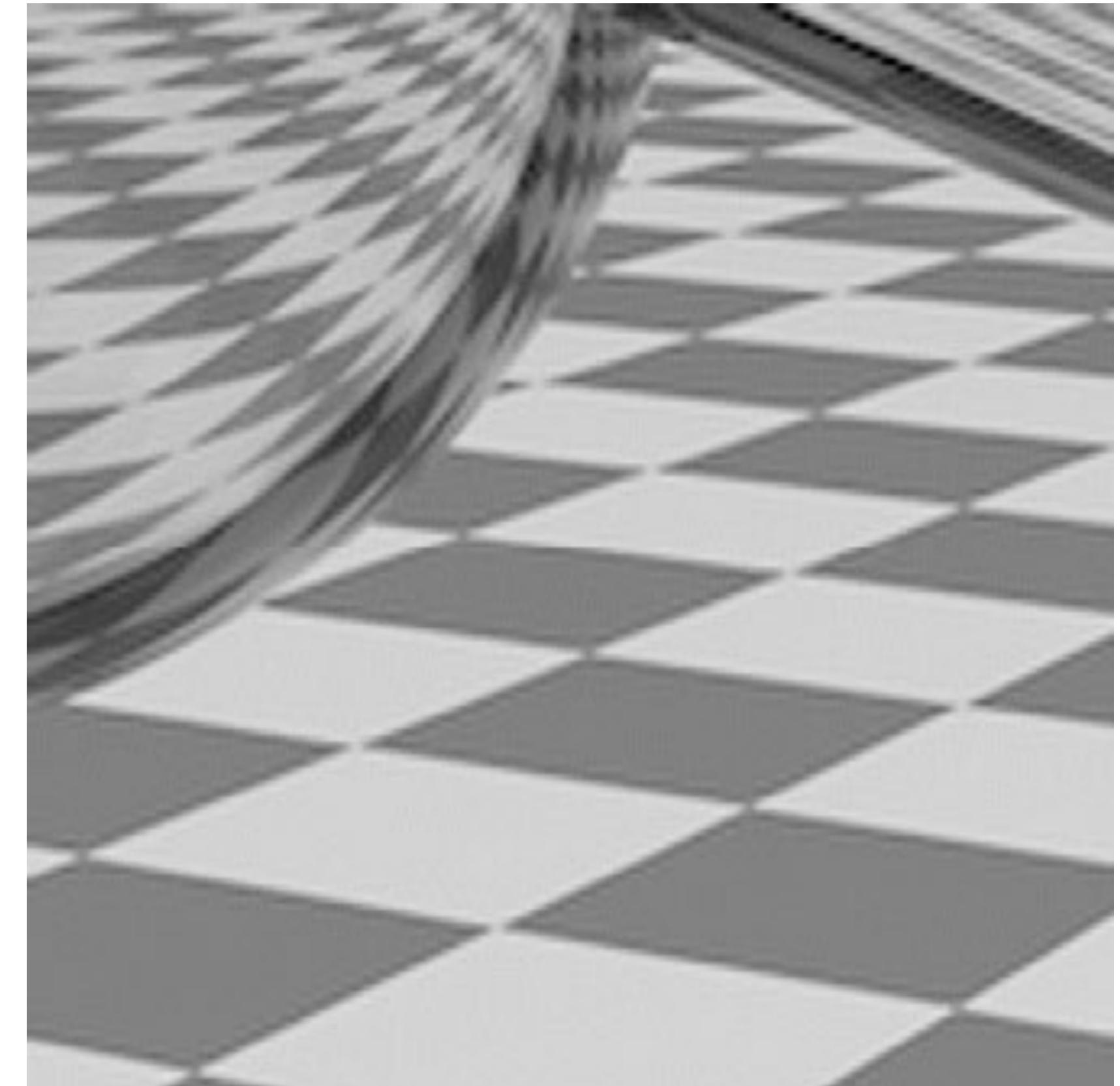


Pre-filtered

Anti-aliasing vs blurring an aliased result



Blurred Jaggies
(Sample then filter)

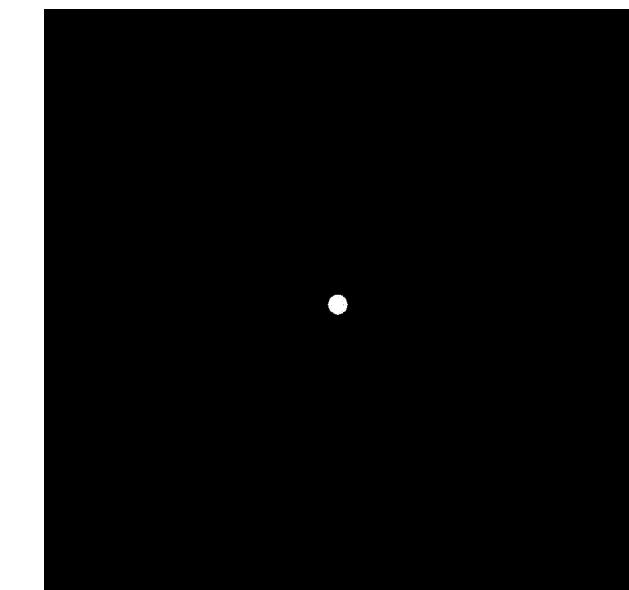
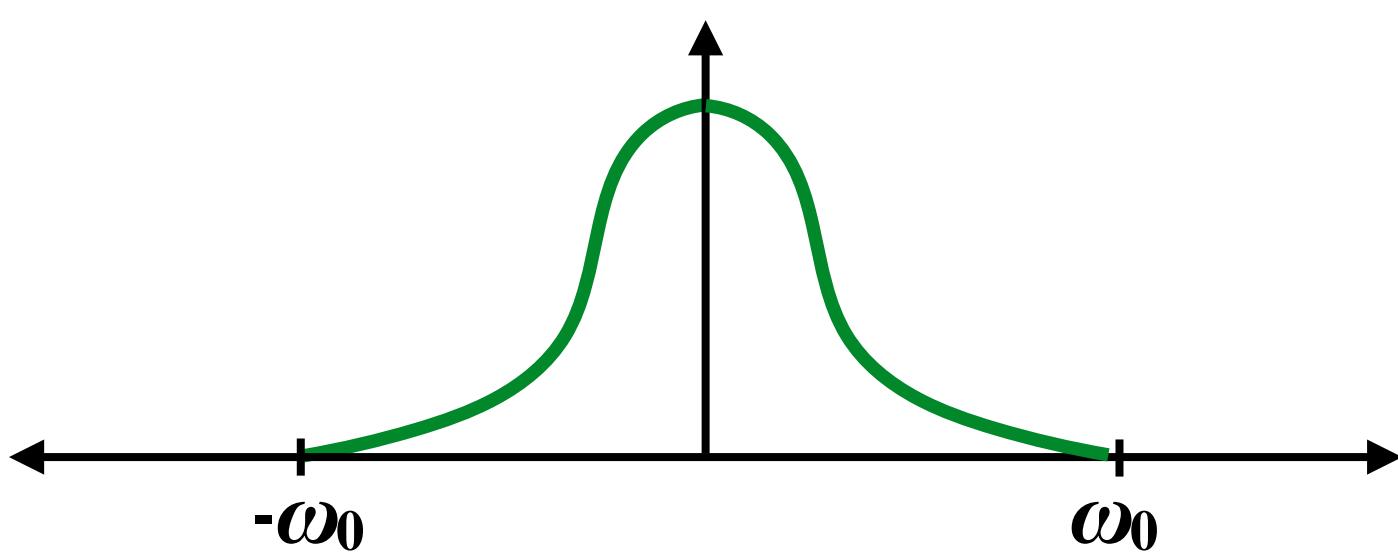


Pre-Filtered
(Filter then sample)

**How much pre-filtering do we need to
avoid aliasing?**

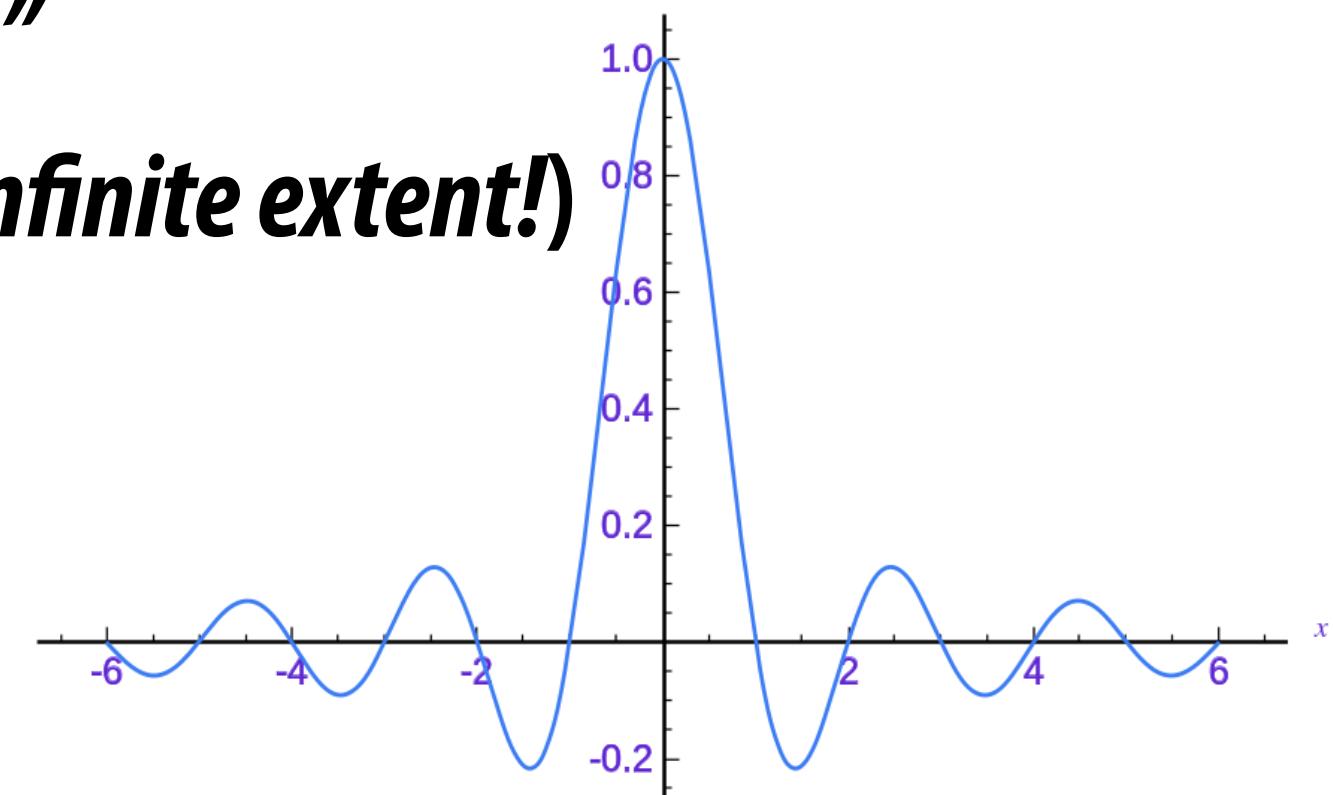
Nyquist-Shannon theorem

- Consider a band-limited signal: has no frequencies above ω_0
 - 1D: consider low-pass filtered audio signal
 - 2D: recall the blurred image example from a few slides ago



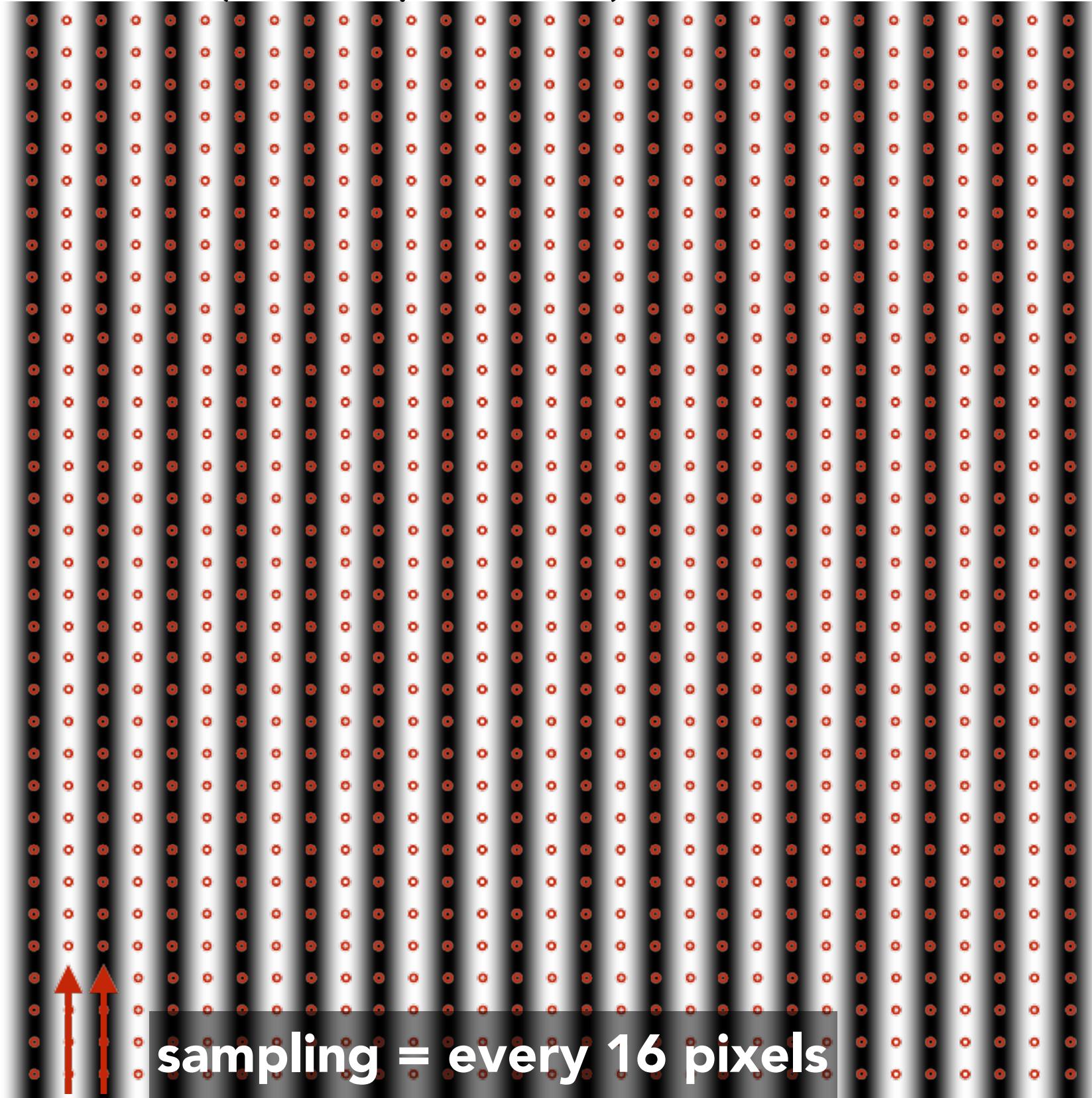
- The signal can be perfectly reconstructed if sampled with period $T = 1 / 2\omega_0$
- And reconstruction is performed using a “*sinc filter*”
 - Ideal filter with no frequencies above cutoff (*infinite extent!*)

$$\text{sinc}(x) = \frac{\sin(\pi x))}{\pi x}$$



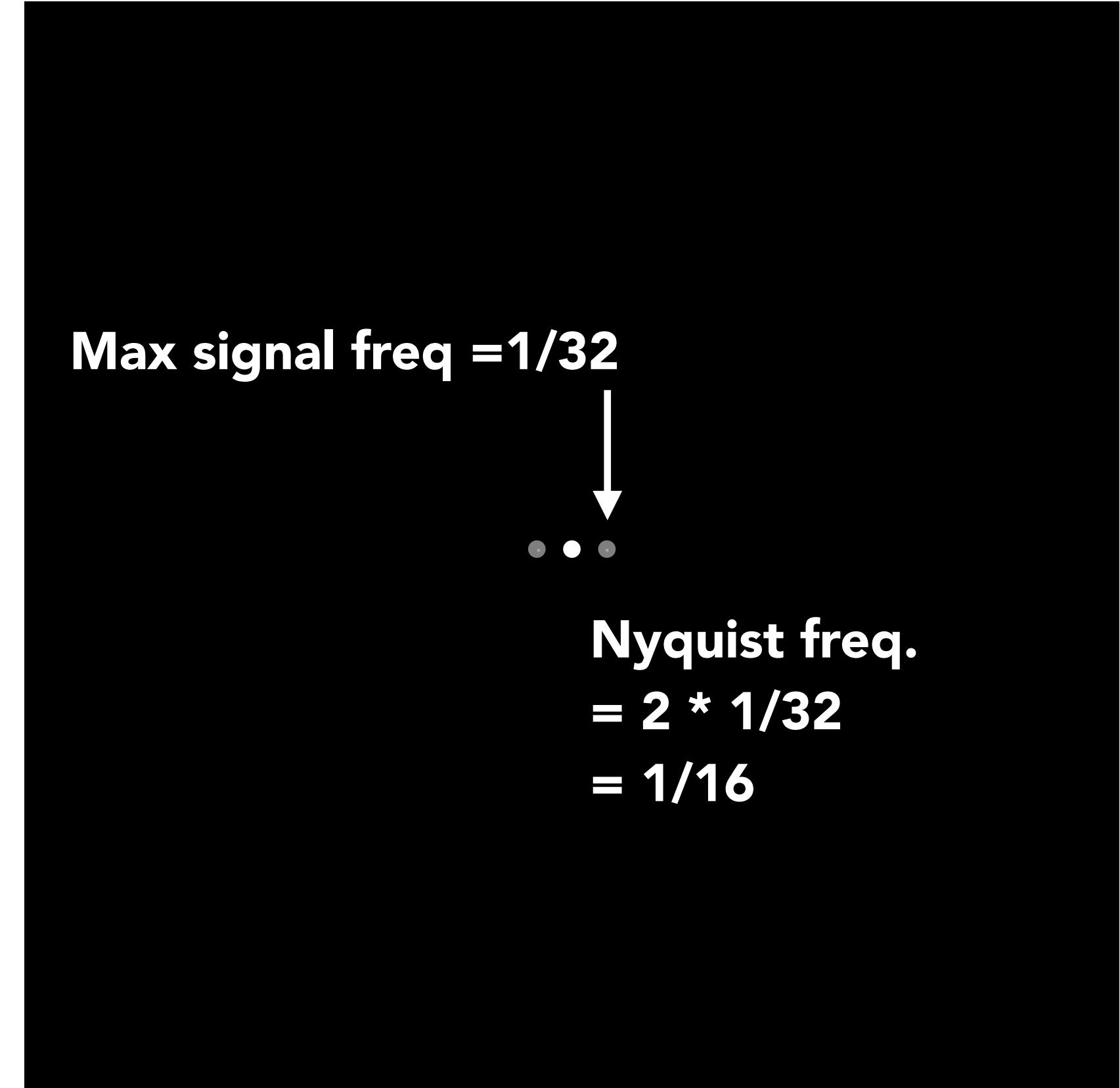
Signal vs Nyquist frequency: example

$\sin(2\pi/32)x$ — frequency 1/32; 32 pixels per cycle



Spatial domain

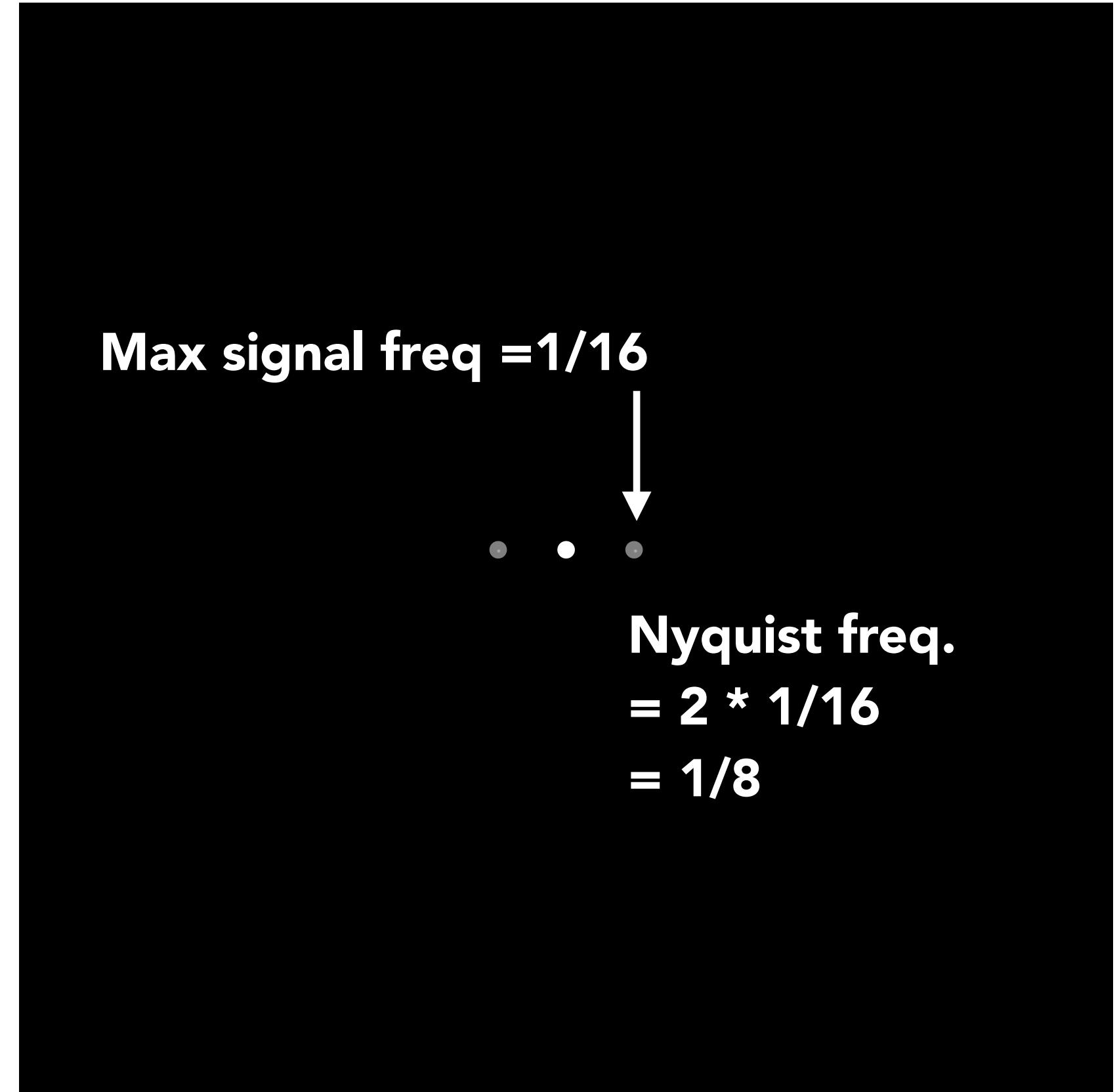
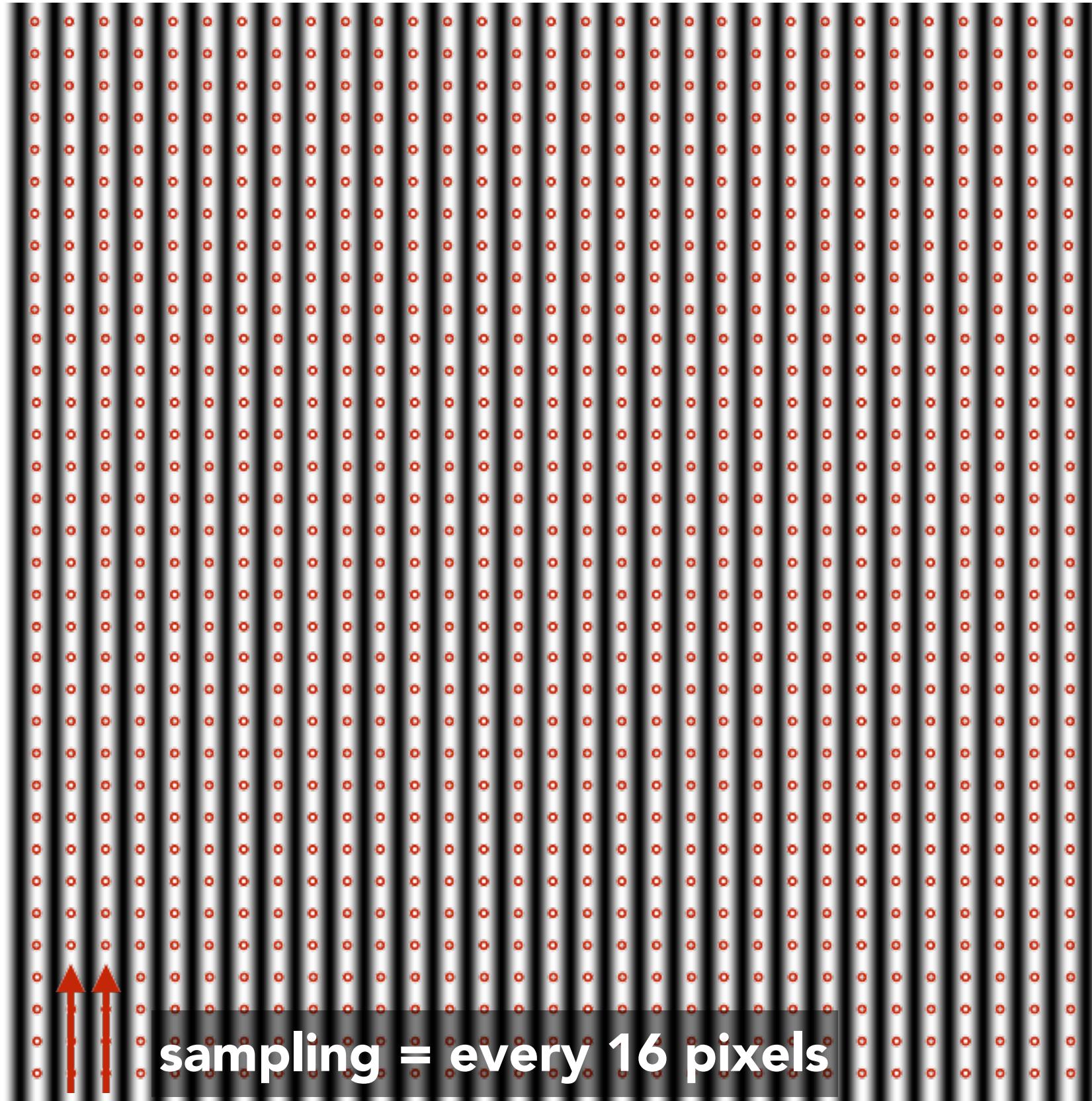
No Aliasing!



Frequency domain

Signal vs Nyquist frequency: example

$\sin(2\pi/16)x$ — frequency 1/16; 16 pixels per cycle



Aliasing! (due to undersampling)

Reminder: Nyquist theorem

Theorem: We get no aliasing from frequencies in the signal that are less than the Nyquist frequency (which is defined as half the sampling frequency)

Consequence: sampling at twice the highest frequency in the signal will eliminate aliasing

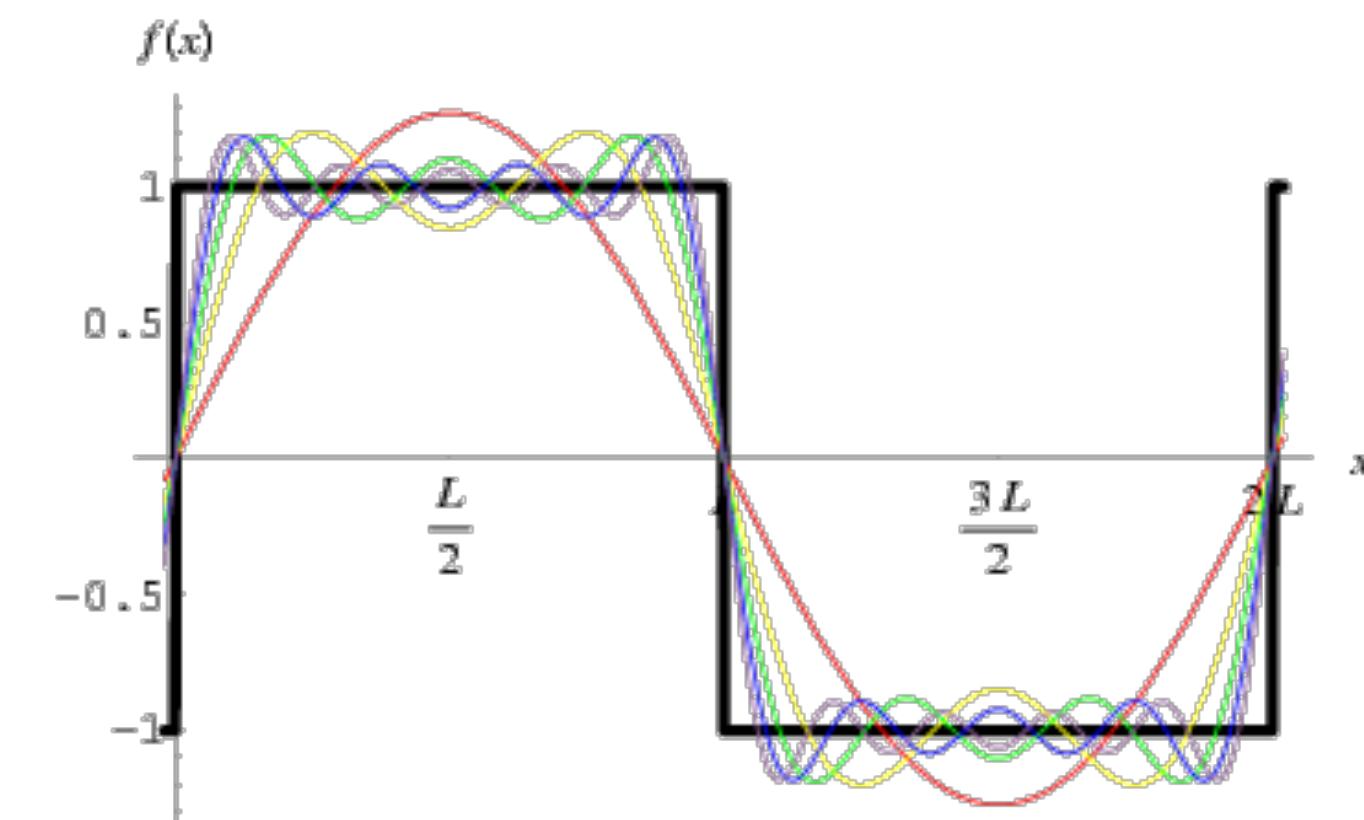
Challenges of sampling-based approaches in graphics

- Our signals are not always band-limited in computer graphics.

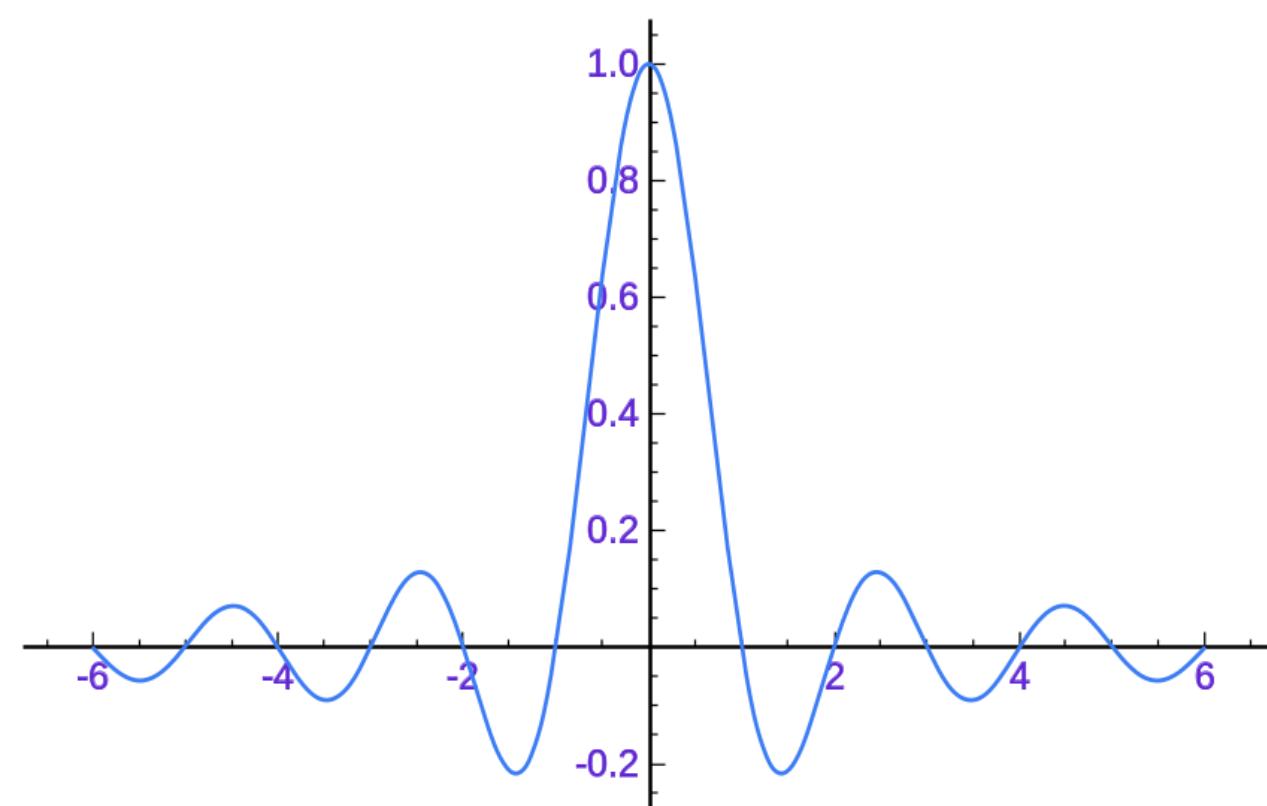
Why?



Hint:



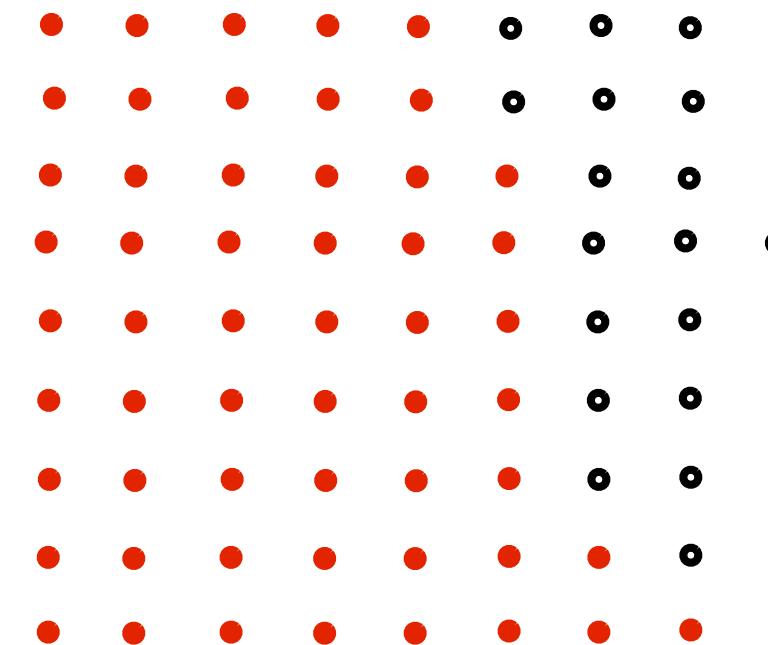
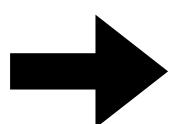
- Also, infinite extent of “ideal” reconstruction filter (sinc) is impractical for efficient implementations. Why?



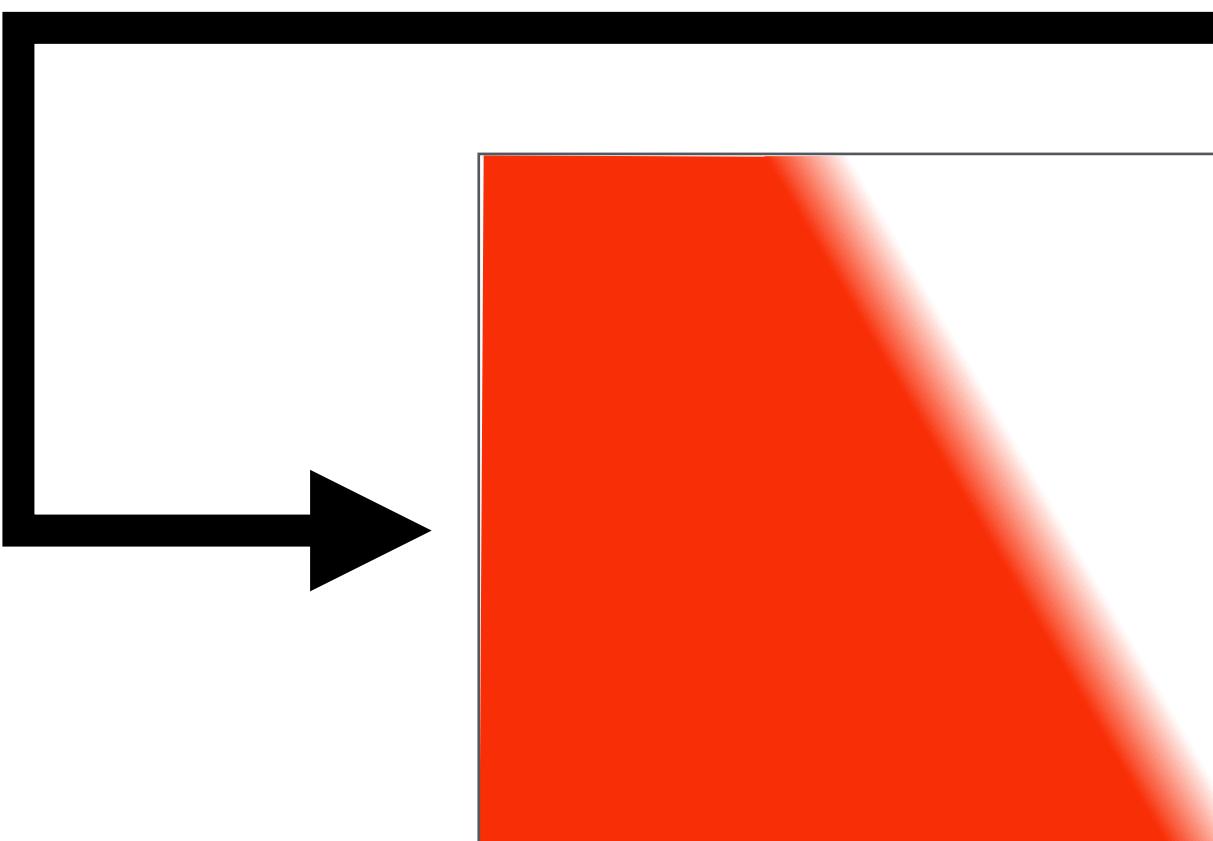
Recall our anti-aliasing technique in the first half of lecture



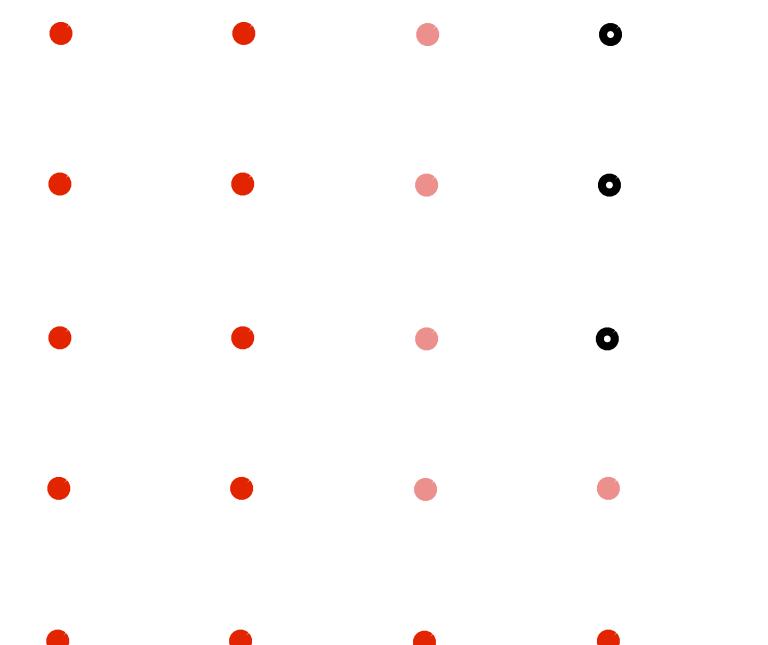
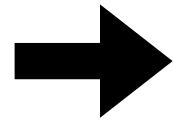
Original signal
(high frequency edge)



Dense sampling of signal



Reconstructed signal
(after averaging over pixel)

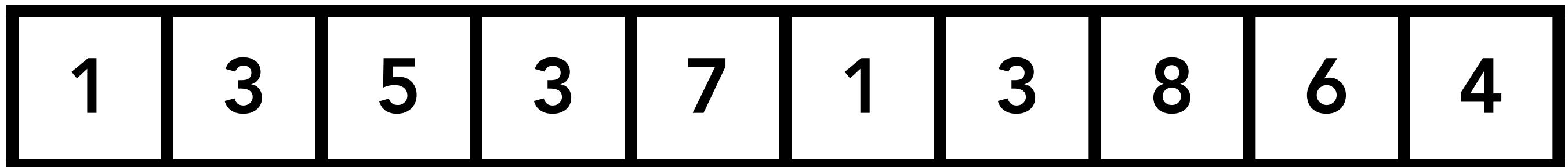


Coarsely sampled signal

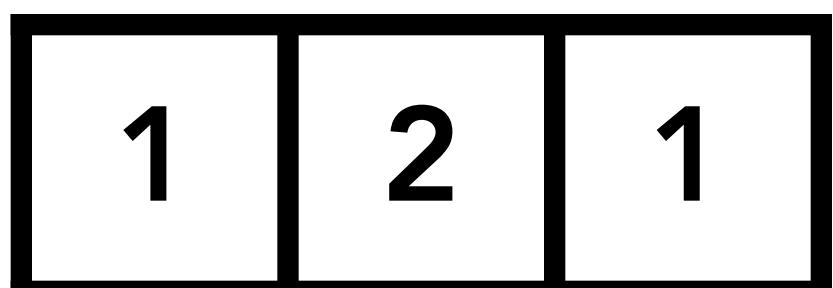
Filtering = convolution

Convolution

Signal

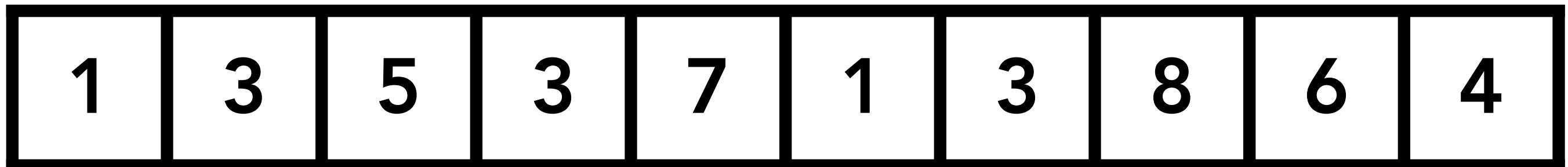


Filter

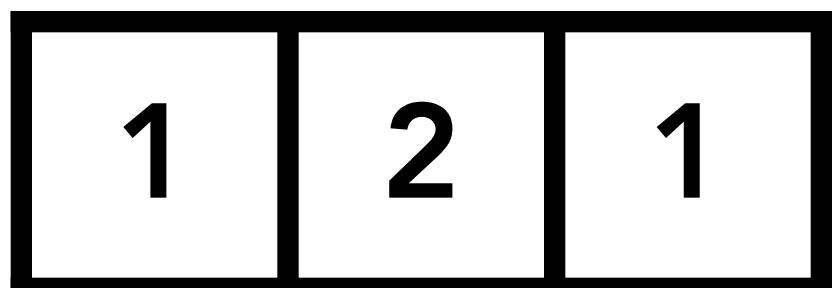


Convolution

Signal

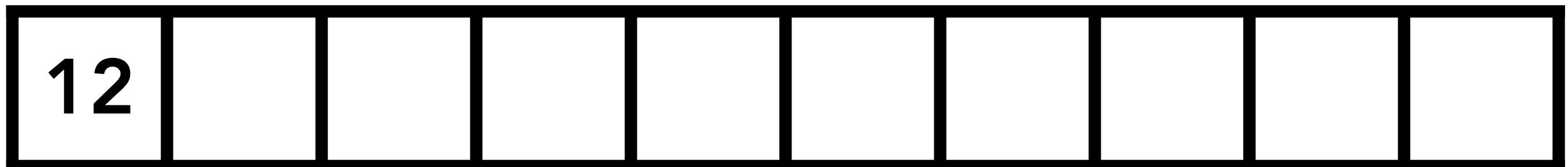


Filter



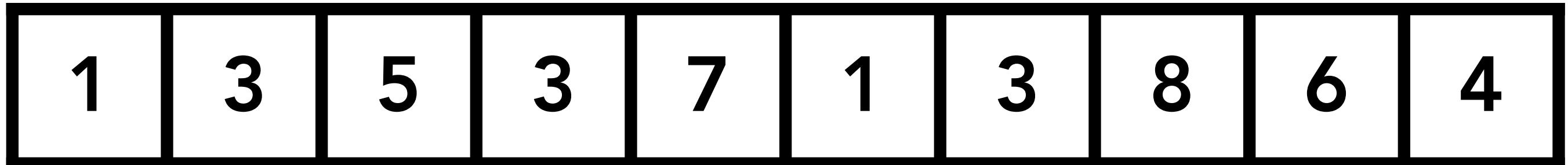
$$1 \times 1 + 3 \times 2 + 5 \times 1 = 12$$

Result

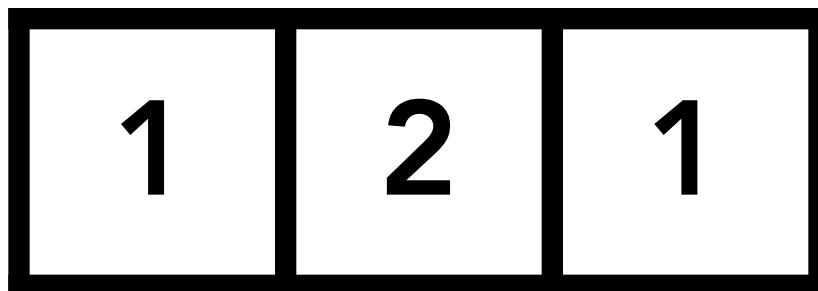


Convolution

Signal

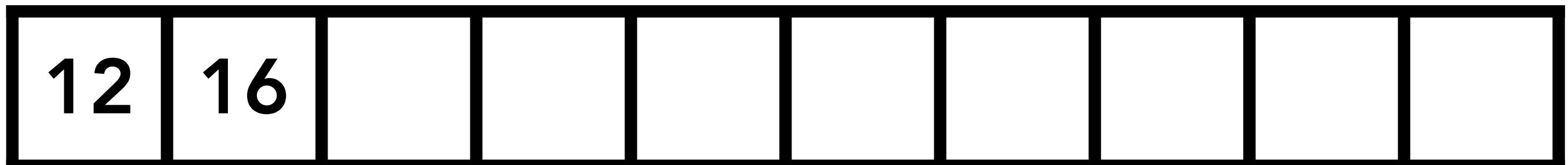


Filter



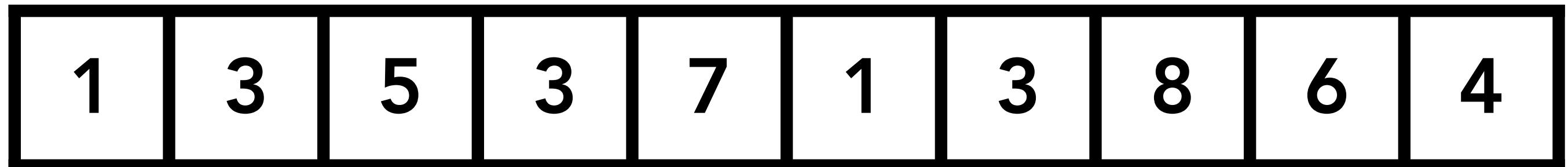
$$3 \times 1 + 5 \times 2 + 3 \times 1 = 16$$

Result

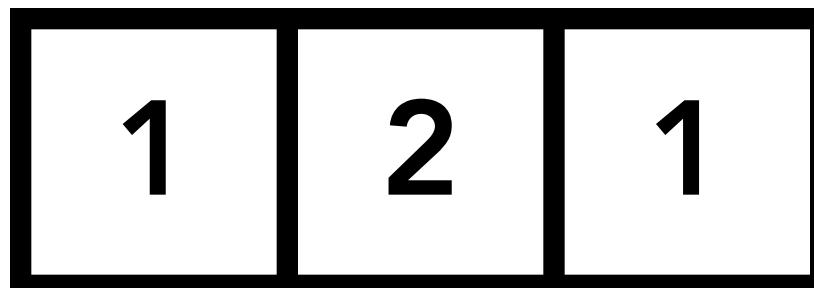


Convolution

Signal

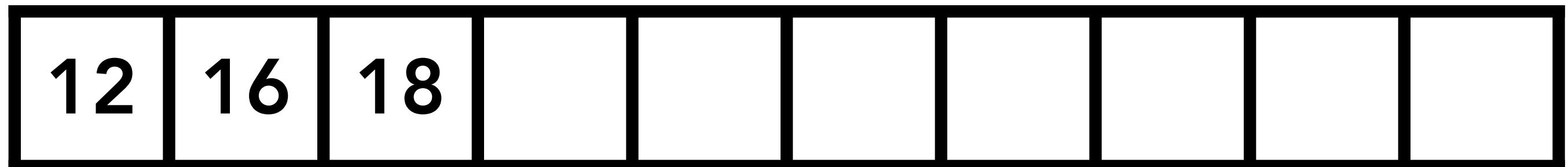


Filter



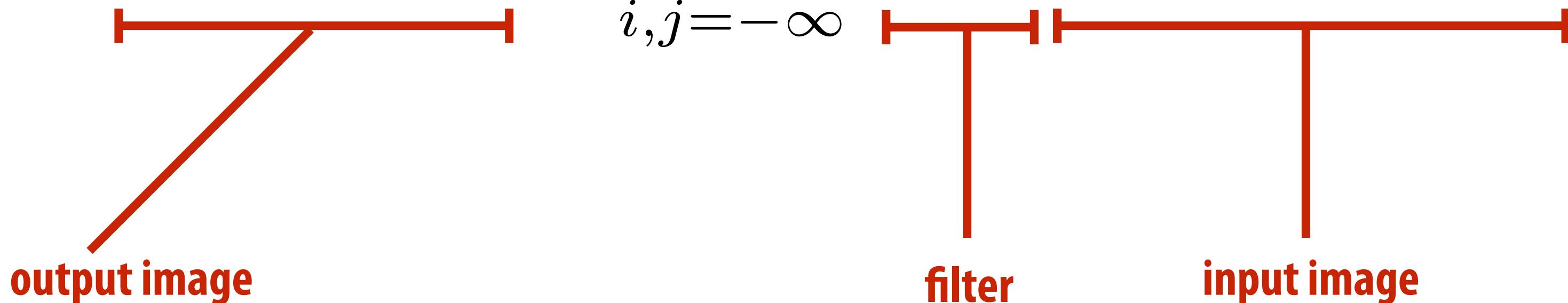
$$5 \times 1 + 3 \times 2 + 7 \times 1 = 18$$

Result



Discrete 2D convolution

$$(f * g)(x, y) = \sum_{i=0}^{\infty} f(i, j) I(x - i, y - j)$$



Consider $f(i, j)$ that is nonzero only when: $-1 \leq i, j \leq 1$

Then:

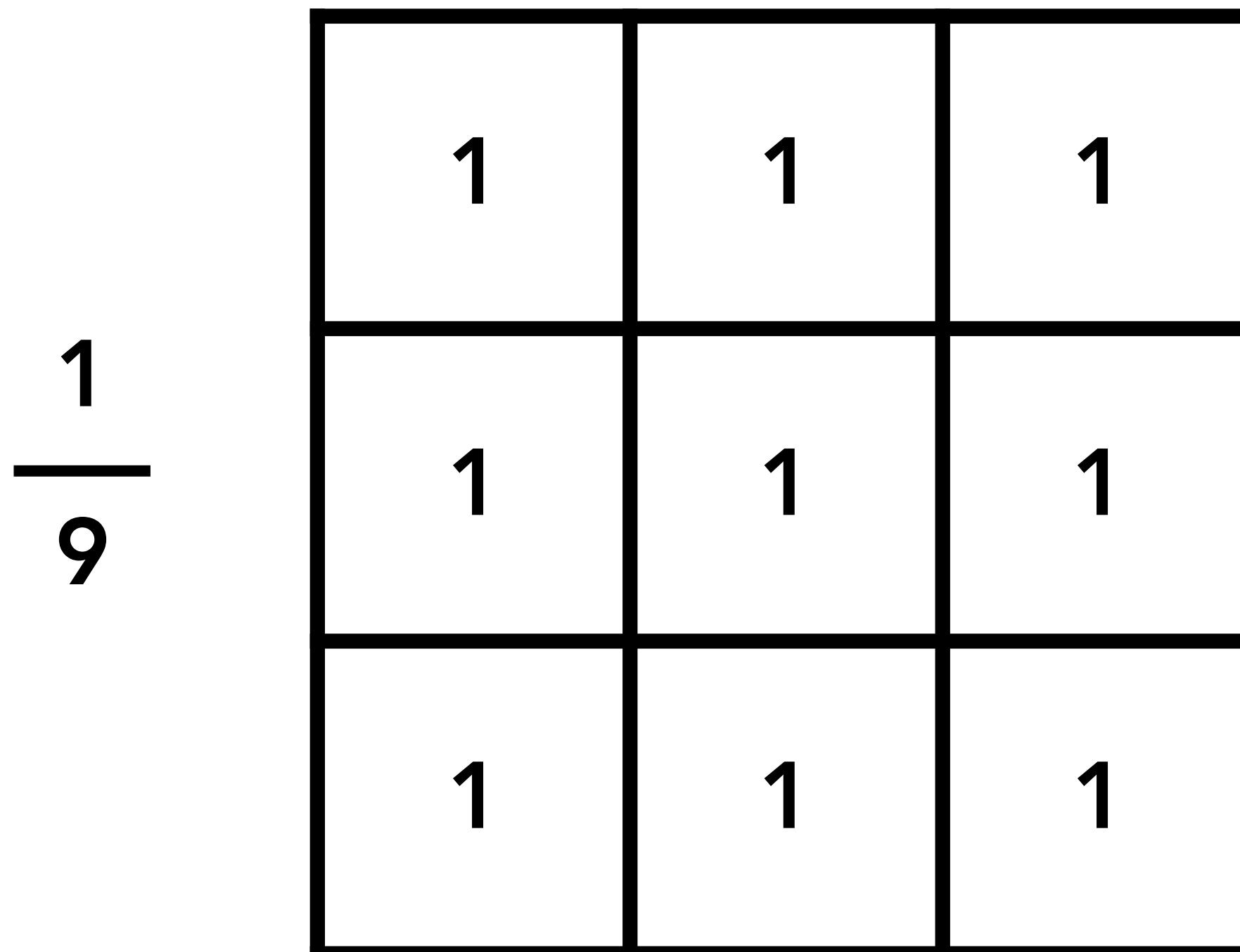
$$(f * g)(x, y) = \sum_{i,j=-1}^1 f(i, j) I(x - i, y - j)$$

And we can represent $f(i,j)$ as a 3x3 matrix of values where:

$$f(i,j) = \mathbf{F}_{i,j}$$

(often called: “filter weights”, “filter kernel”)

Box filter (used in a 2D convolution)



Example: 3x3 box filter

2D convolution with box filter blurs the image



Original image

Blurred
(convolve with box filter)

Hmm... this reminds me of a low-pass filter...

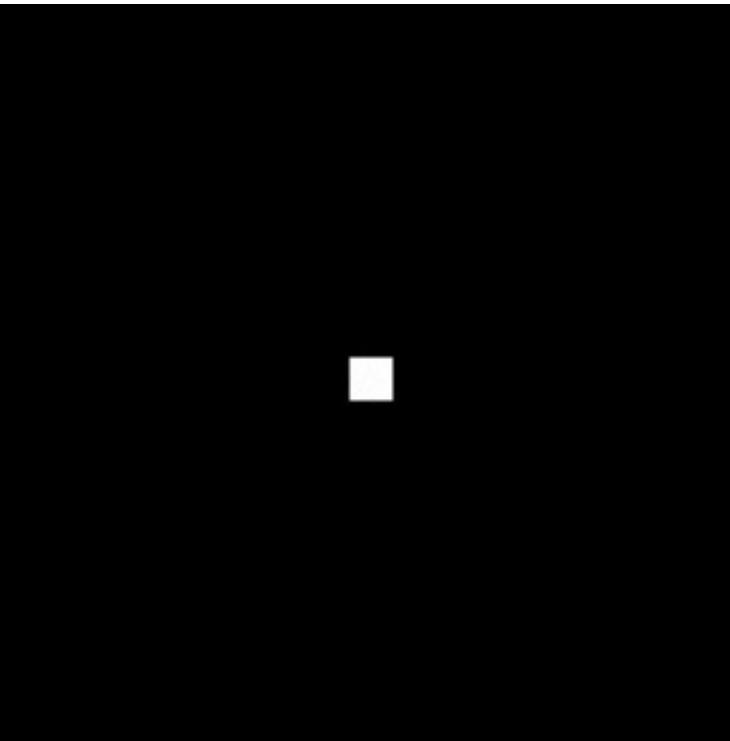
Convolution theorem

Convolution in the spatial domain is equal to multiplication in the frequency domain, and vice versa

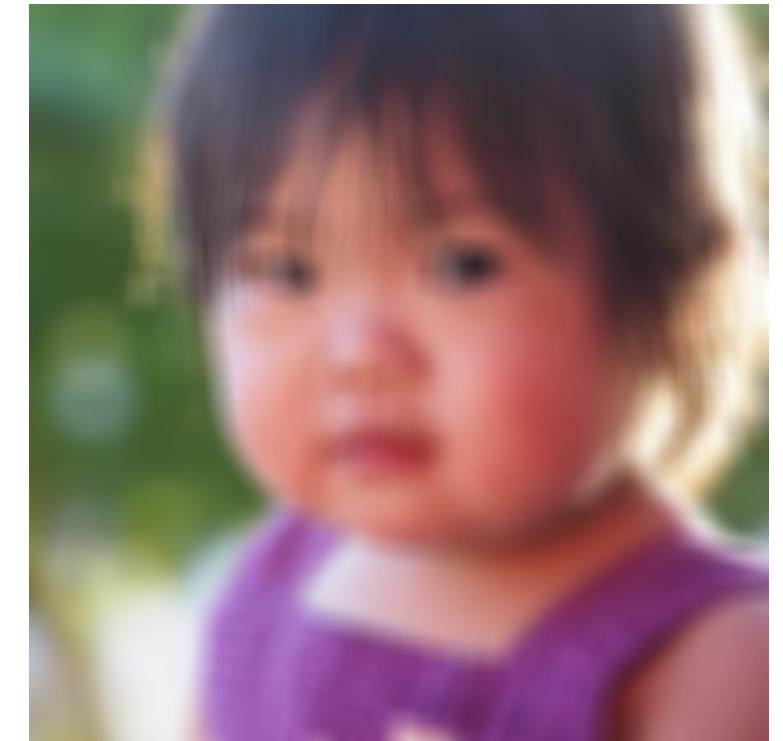
Spatial
Domain



$*$
convolve



=



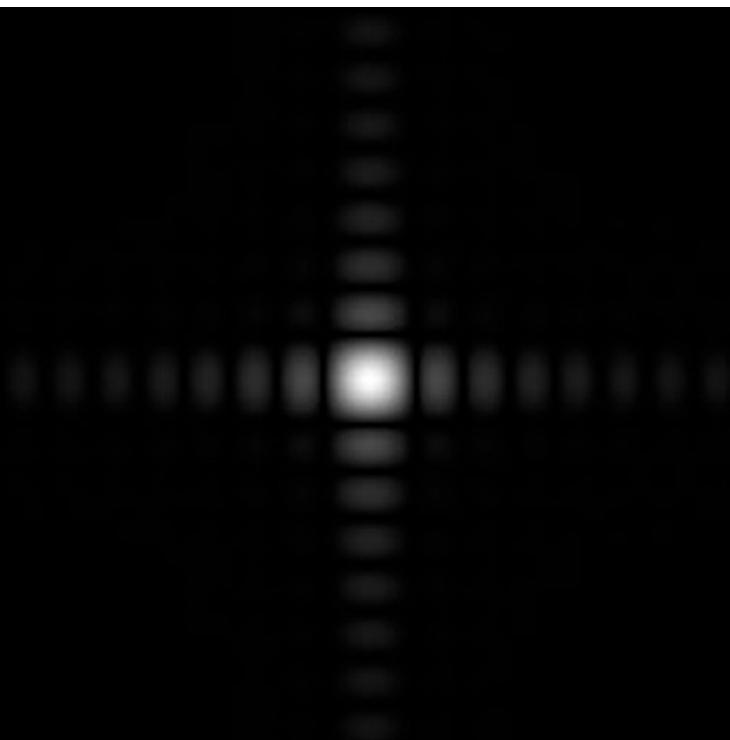
Fourier
Transform



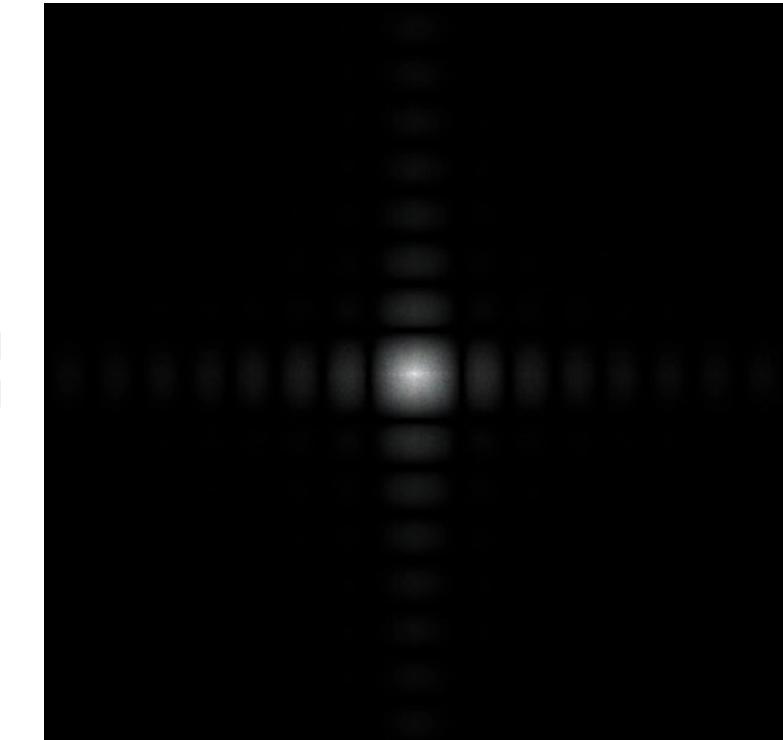
Frequency
Domain



x



=



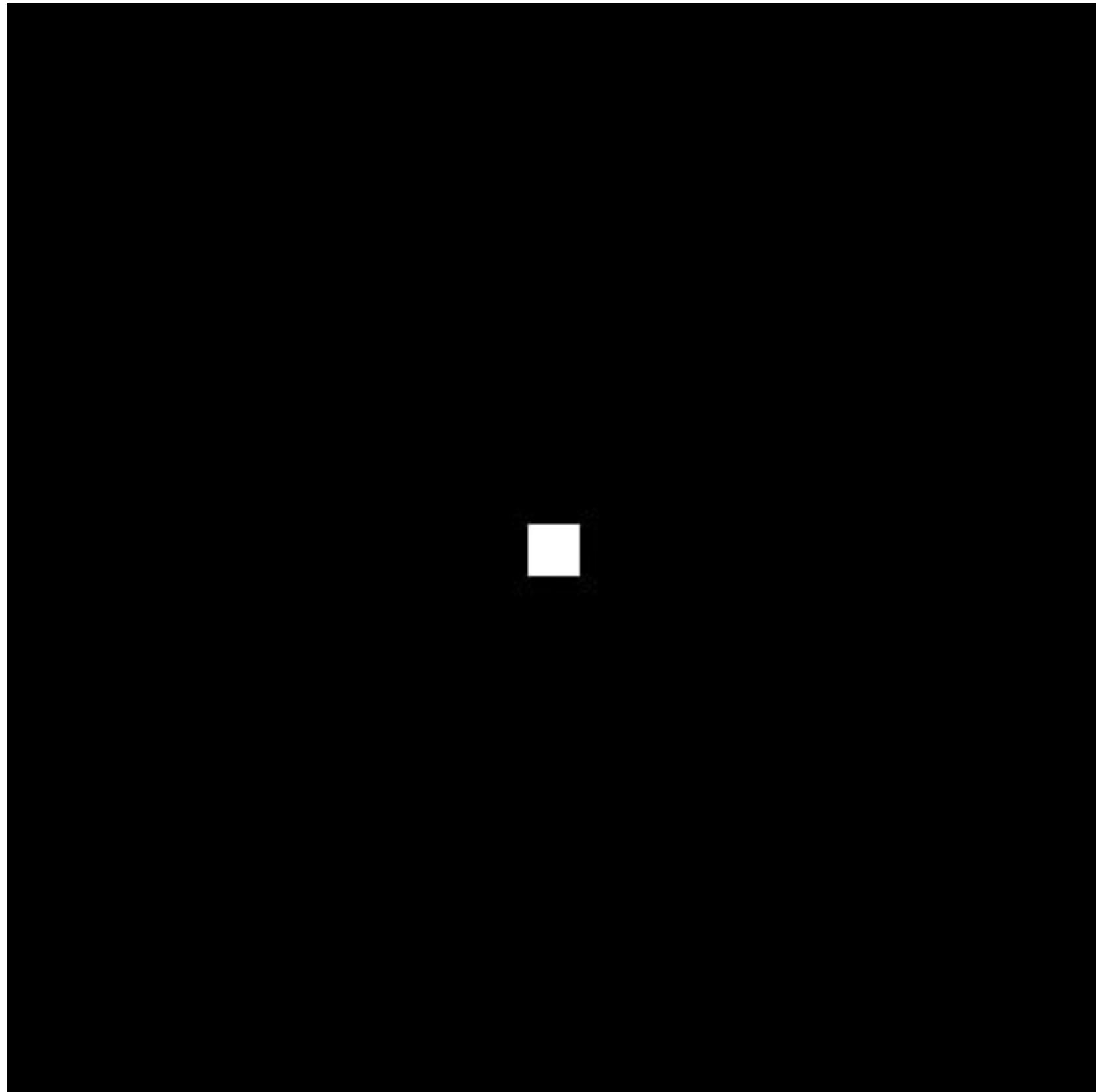
Inv. Fourier
Transform



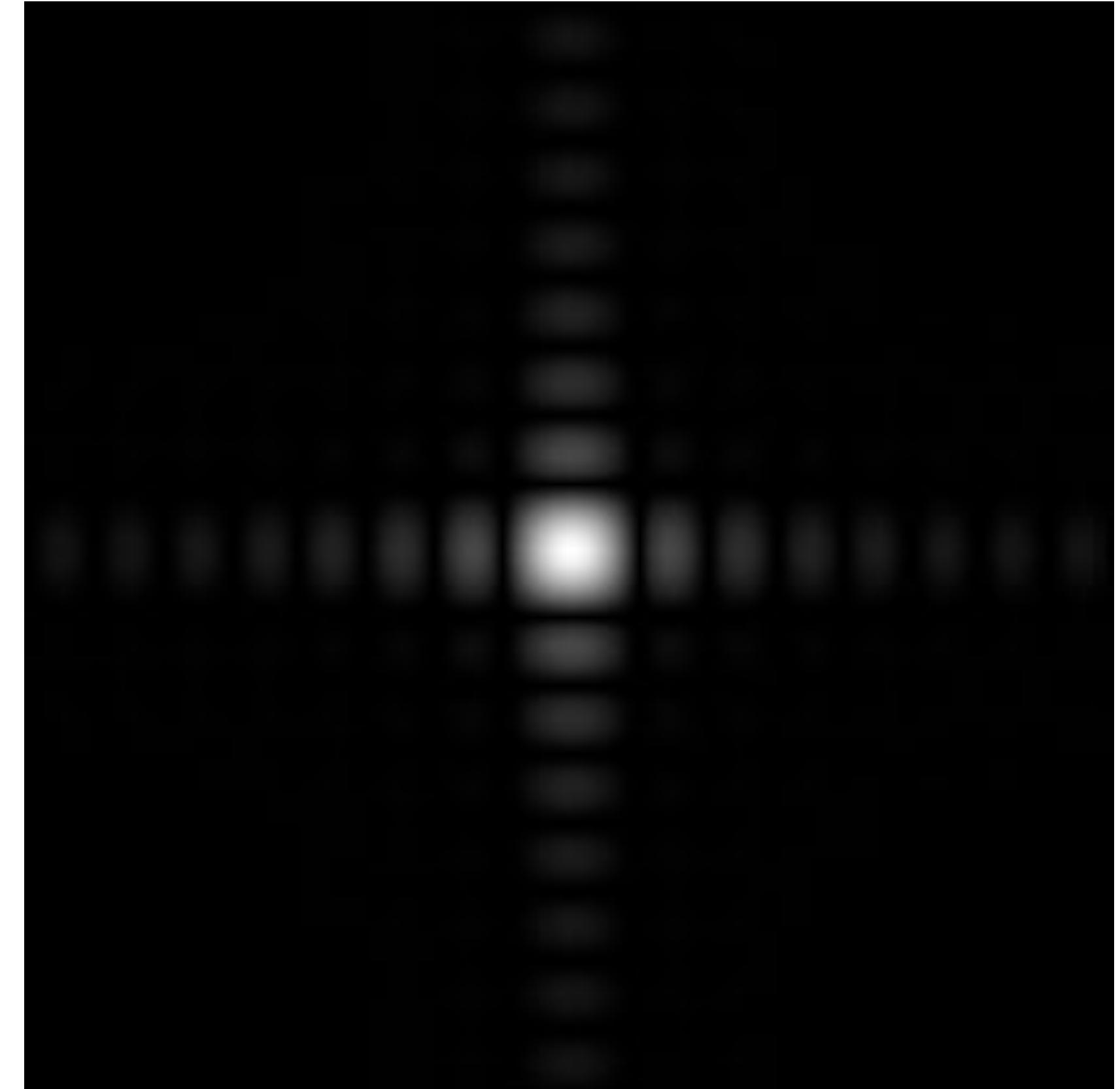
Convolution theorem

- Convolution in the spatial domain is equal to multiplication in the frequency domain, and vice versa
- Pre-filtering option 1:
 - Filter by convolution in the spatial domain
- Pre-filtering option 2:
 - Transform to frequency domain (Fourier transform)
 - Multiply by Fourier transform of convolution kernel
 - Transform back to spatial domain (inverse Fourier)

Box function = “low pass” filter

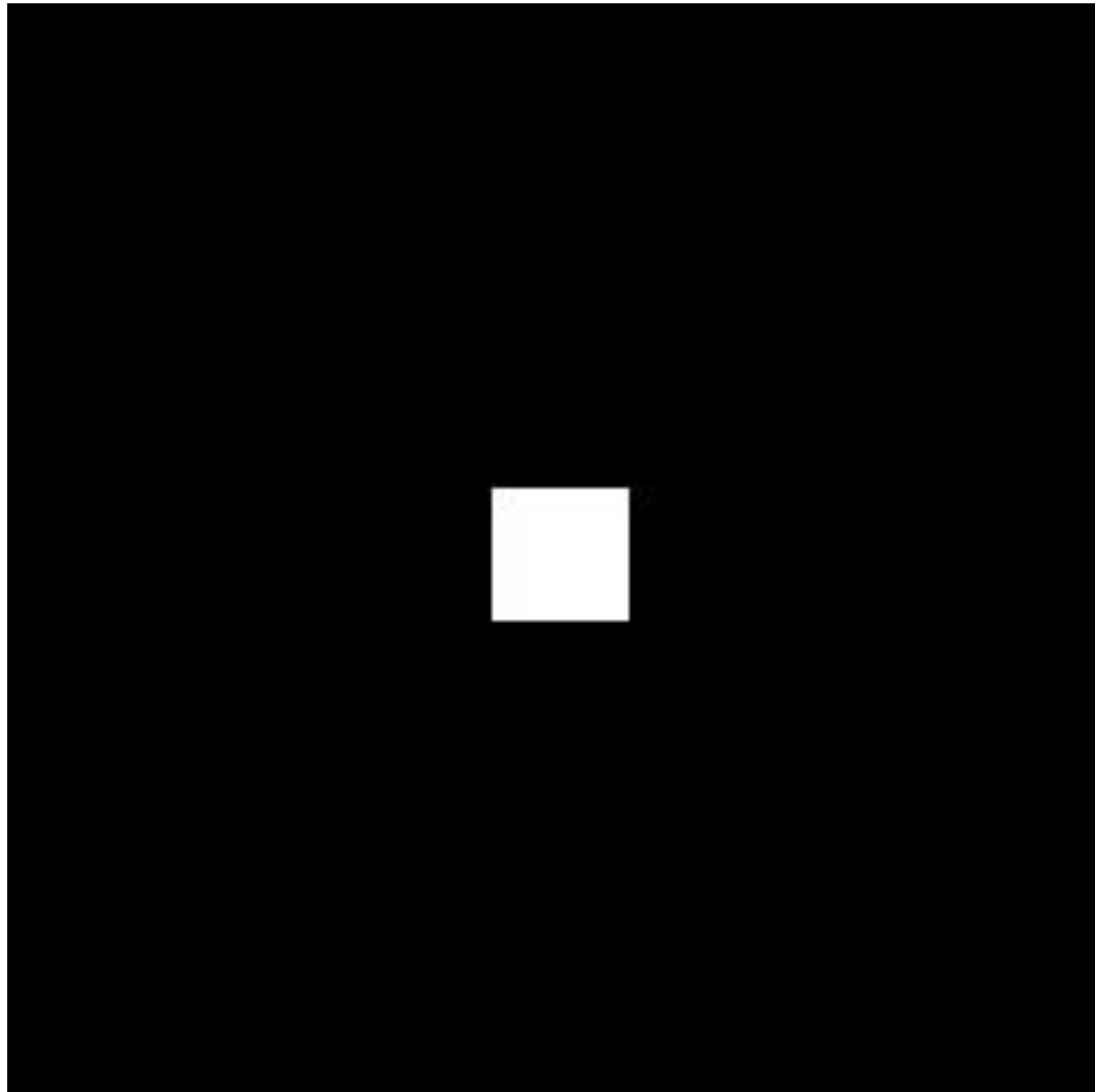


Spatial domain

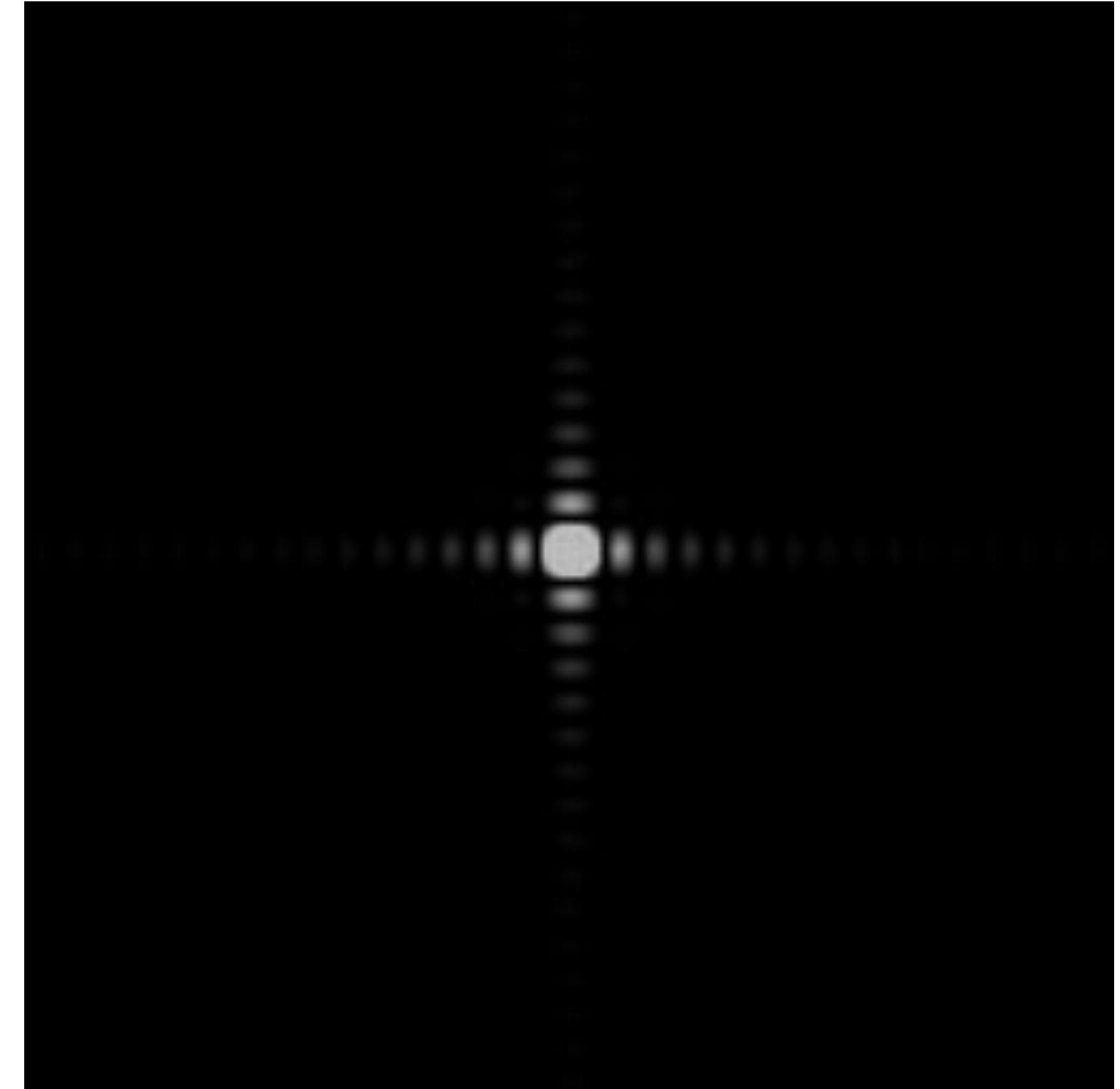


Frequency domain

Wider filter kernel = lower frequencies



Spatial domain



Frequency domain

Wider filter kernel = lower frequencies

- As a filter is localized in the spatial domain, it spreads out in frequency domain
- Conversely, as a filter is localized in frequency domain, it spreads out in the spatial domain

How can we reduce aliasing error?

- Increase sampling rate (increase Nyquist frequency)
 - Higher resolution displays, sensors, framebuffers...
 - But: costly and may need very high resolution to sufficiently reduce aliasing
- Anti-aliasing
 - Simple idea: remove (or reduce) signal frequencies above the Nyquist frequency before sampling
 - How to filter out high frequencies before sampling?

Anti-aliasing by averaging values in pixel area

- Convince yourself the following are the same:
- Option 1:
 - Convolve $f(x,y)$ by a 1-pixel box-blur
 - Then sample at every pixel
- Option 2:
 - Compute the average value of $f(x,y)$ in the pixel

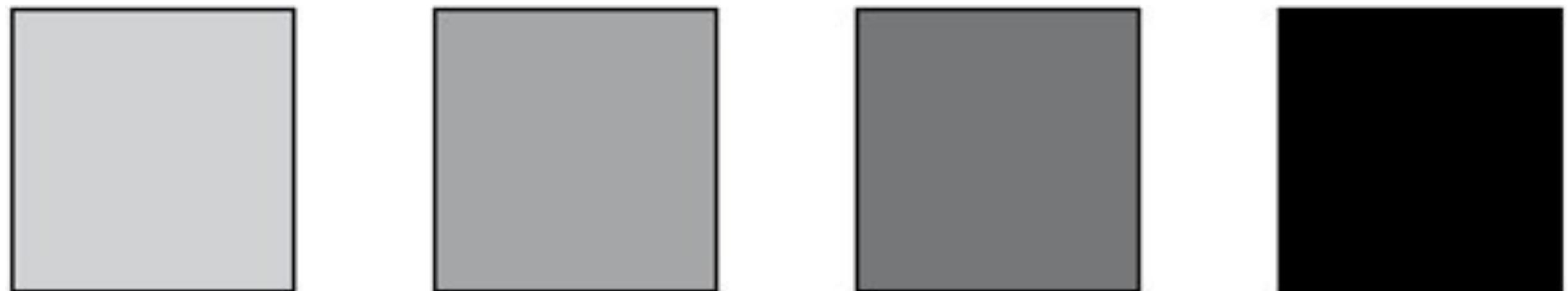
Anti-aliasing by computing average pixel value

In rasterizing one triangle, the average value inside a pixel area of $f(x,y) = \text{inside}(\text{tri},x,y)$ is equal to the area of the pixel covered by the triangle.

Original

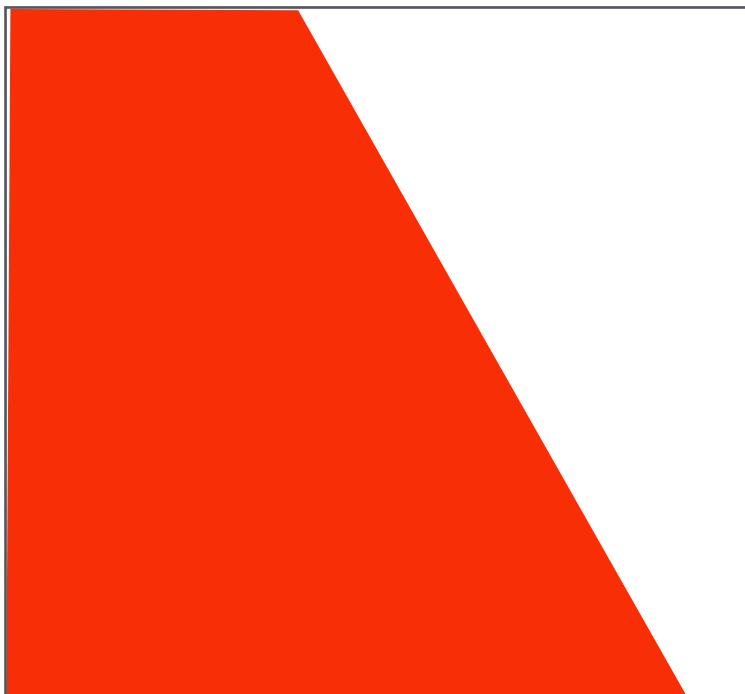


Filtered

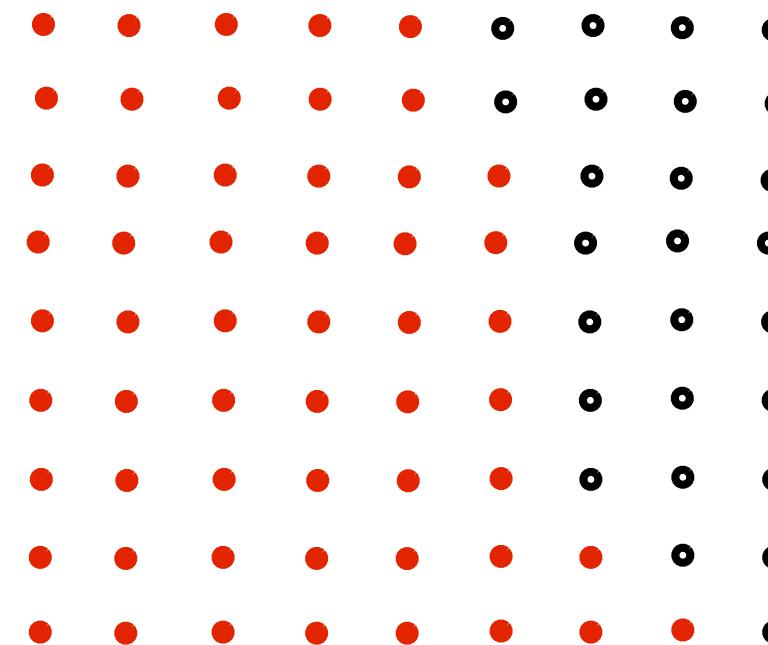
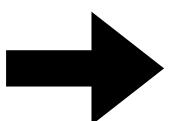


↔
1 pixel width

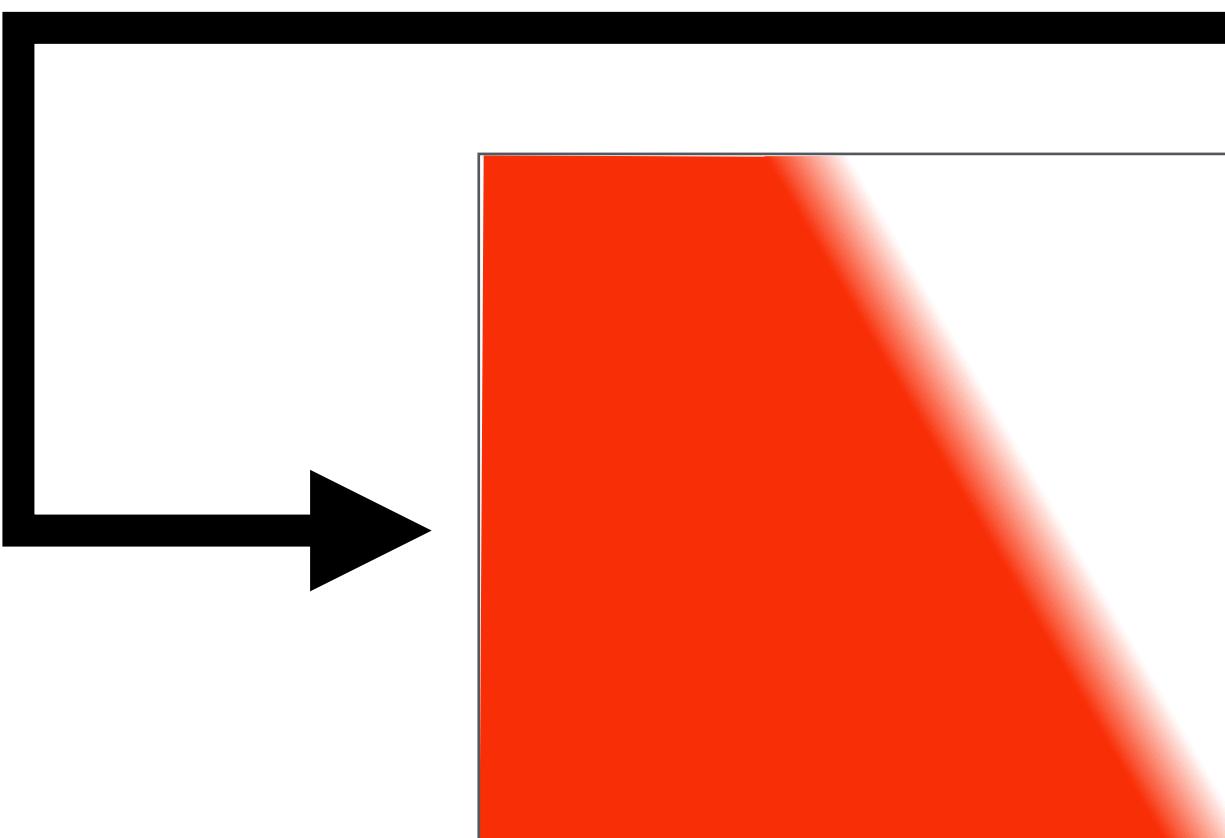
Putting it all together: anti-aliasing via supersampling



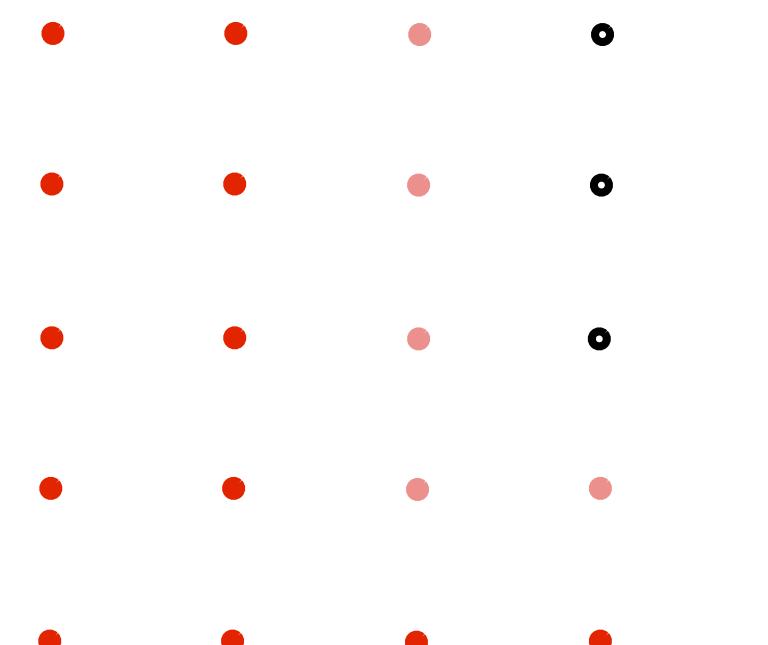
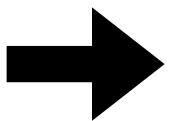
Original signal
(with high frequency edge)



Dense sampling of signal
(supersampling)



Reconstructed signal
(averaging over pixel (via convolution) yields
new signal with high frequencies removed)



Coarse sampling of
reconstructed signal exhibits
less aliasing

Today's summary

- Drawing a triangle = sampling triangle/screen coverage
- Pitfall of sampling: aliasing
- Reduce aliasing by prefiltering signal
 - Supersample
 - Reconstruct via convolution (average coverage over pixel)
 - Higher frequencies removed
 - Sample reconstructed signal once per pixel
- There is much, much more to sampling theory and practice...

Acknowledgements

- **Thanks to Ren Ng, Pat Hanrahan, Keenan Crane for slide materials**