

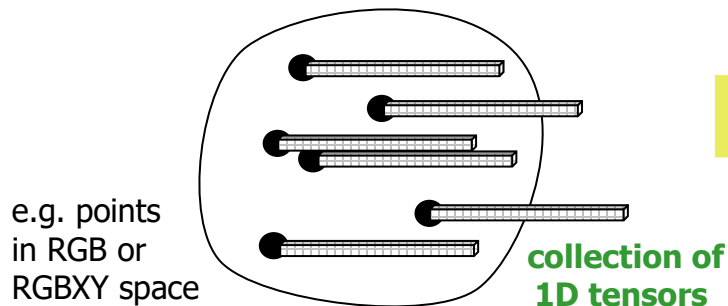
image segmentation objectives

Part II

Spatial Regularization for Image Segmentation

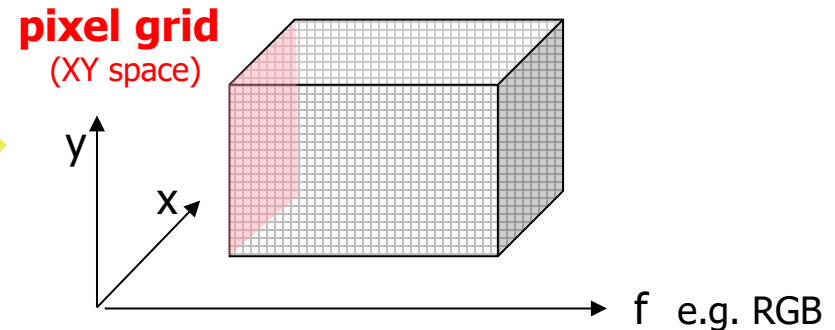
alternative views about data representation

**collection of
feature vectors in R^n**



general features
common in ML

3D tensor



features embedded in a regular 2D grid
common in computer vision

K-means, GMM, general graph clustering, ...

convolution, geometry, shape, spatial regularity, ...

image segmentation objectives

Part II

Spatial Regularization

- ❑ Graphical Models on grids
 - boundary regularity (from shortest path to graph cut)
 - weakly-supervised and unsupervised segmentation
 - 3D shape reconstruction
 - losses: smoothness, edge-alignment, color-consistency, seed/label consistency, NLL
- ❑ Spatial regularization + feature clustering
 - joint shape regularization and color model fitting
 - variance clustering vs entropy clustering

Intelligent Scissors (a.k.a. *live-wire*)

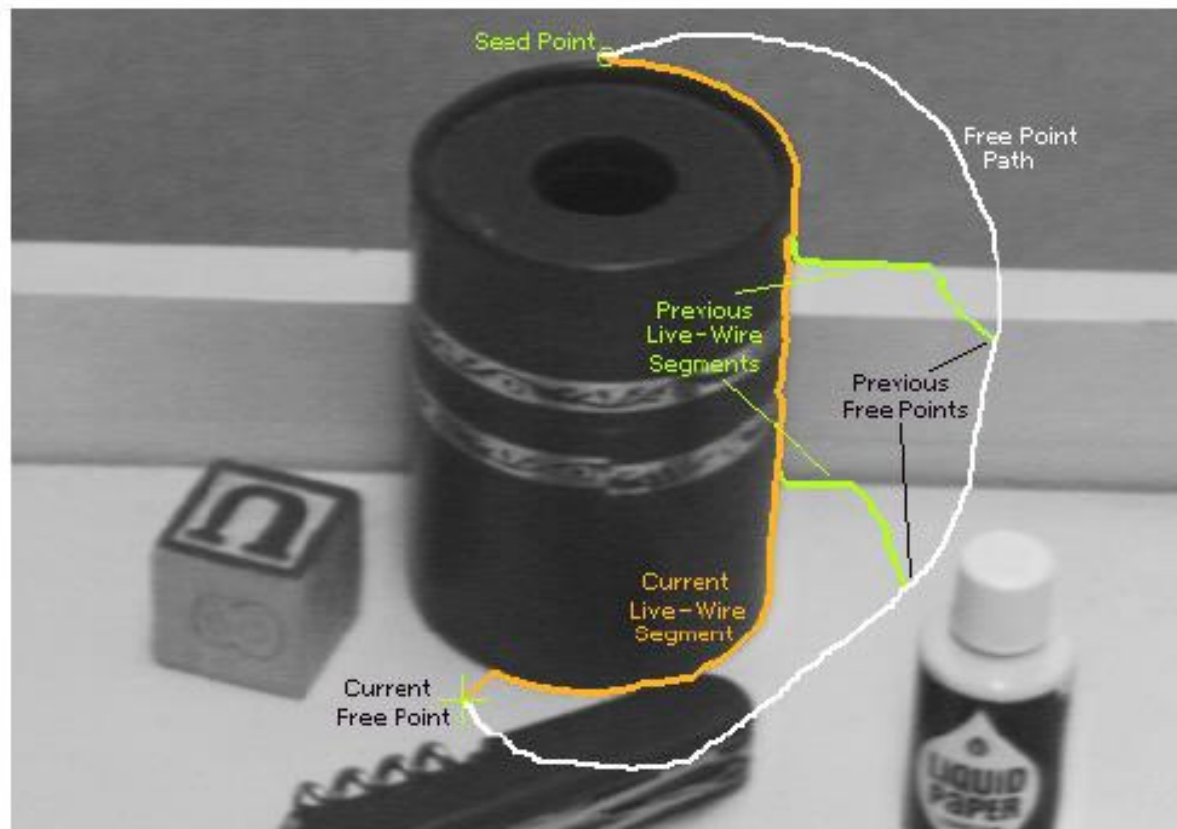


Figure 2: Image demonstrating how the live-wire segment adapts and snaps to an object boundary as the free point moves (via cursor movement). The path of the free point is shown in white. Live-wire segments from previous free point positions (t_0 , t_1 , and t_2) are shown in green.

[Eric Mortensen, William Barrett, 1995]

Intelligent Scissors

- This approach answers a basic question
 - Q: how to find a path from seed to mouse that follows object boundary as closely as possible?
 - A: define a path that stays as close as possible to edges

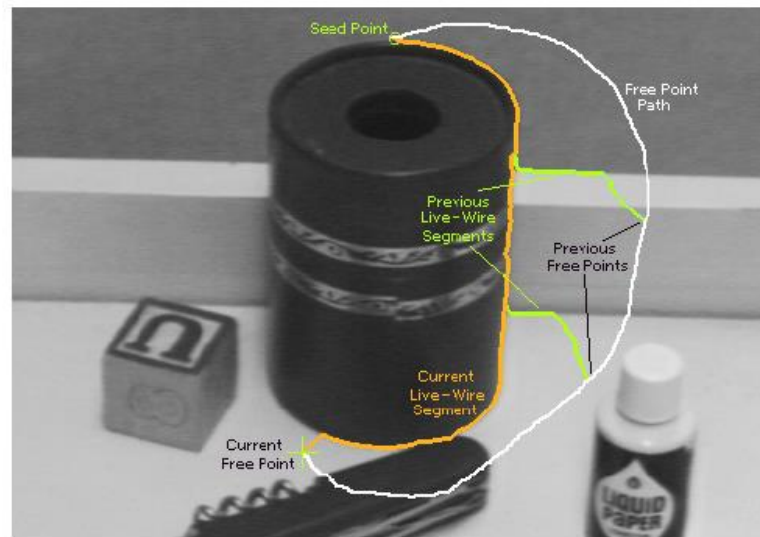


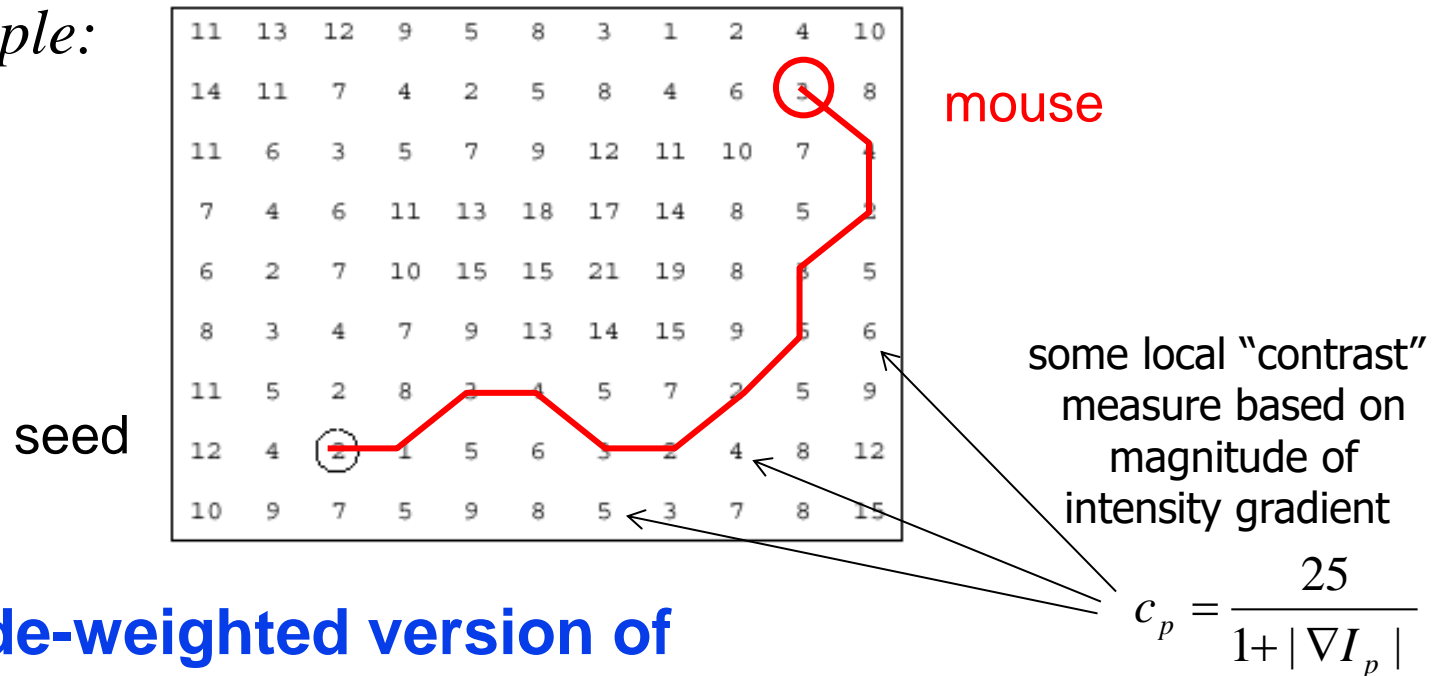
Figure 2: Image demonstrating how the live-wire segment adapts and snaps to an object boundary as the free point moves (via cursor movement). The path of the free point is shown in white. Live-wire segments from previous free point positions (t_0 , t_1 , and t_2) are shown in green.

Intelligent Scissors

□ Basic Idea

- find **lowest cost path** from seed to mouse
on a graph (e.g. N_8 pixel grid) weighted by intensity contrast

simple example:

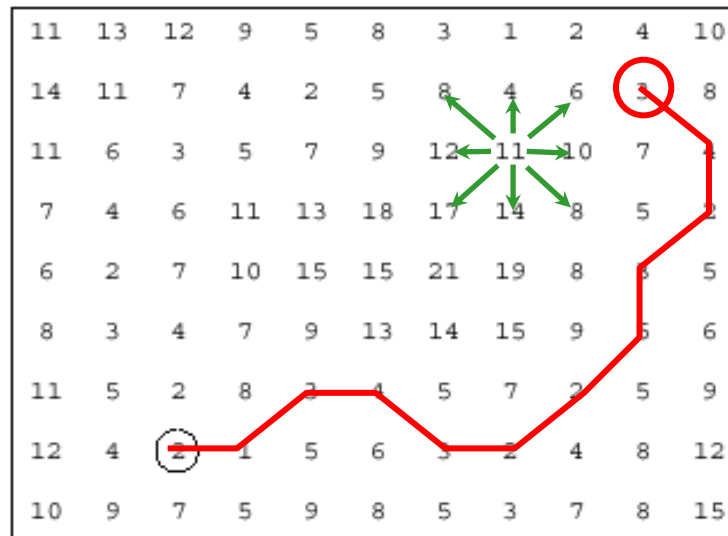


Use node-weighted version of
"shortest paths" (Dijkstra)

Shortest Path Search (Dijkstra)

- Computes minimum cost path from the seed to *all other pixels*
(once all paths are pre-computed, each path can be instantly shown as mouse moves around)

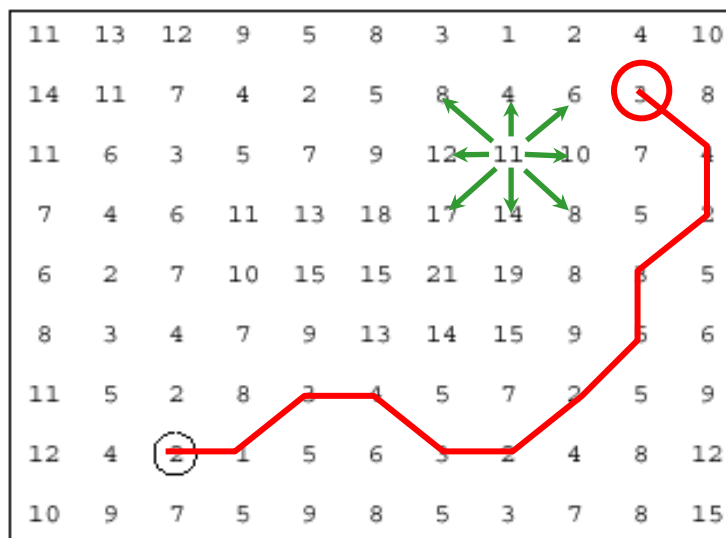
$$w_{pq} = 11 \quad \forall q$$



Same as edge-weighted “shortest paths” (Dijkstra) using
directed edge weights $w_{pq} = c_p$ ($w_{qp} = c_q$)

Shortest Path Search (Dijkstra)

- Computes minimum cost path from the seed to *all other pixels*
(once all paths are pre-computed, each path can be instantly shown as mouse moves around)



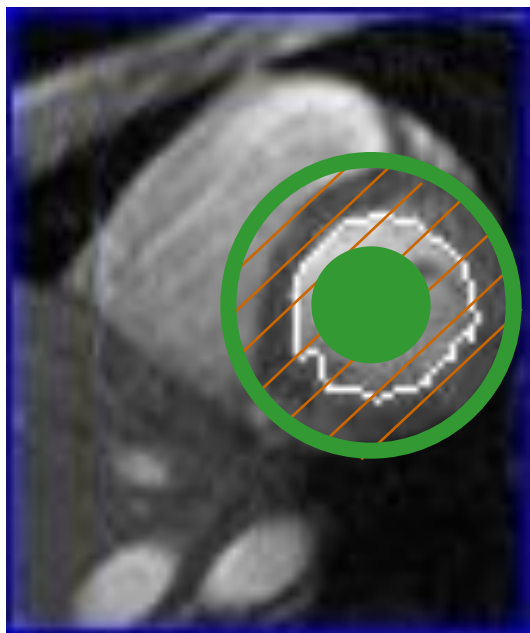
Can also define edge weights w_{pq} directly from

intensity contrast across edge pq , e.g. $w_{pq} = \frac{25}{1 + \|\nabla I \times \bar{pq}\|}$

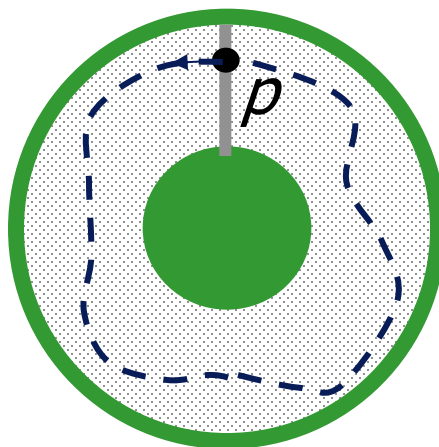
Graph cuts vs Shortest paths for 2D segmentation

Example:

find the shortest
closed contour on a graph
in the shaded domain

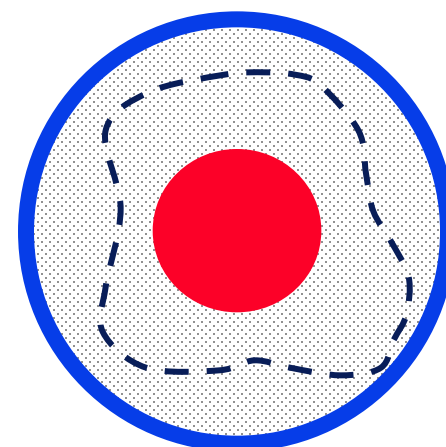


Shortest-path approach



Compute the *shortest path*
 $p \rightarrow p$ for a point p .
Repeat for all points on the
gray line. Then choose the
optimal contour.

Graph-cut approach

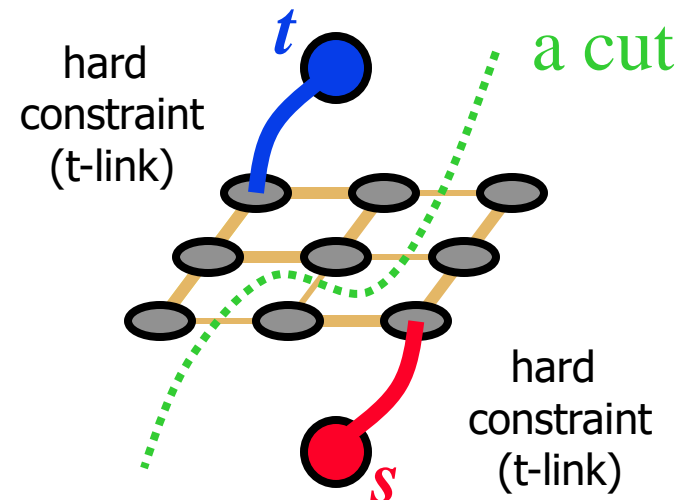
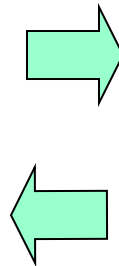
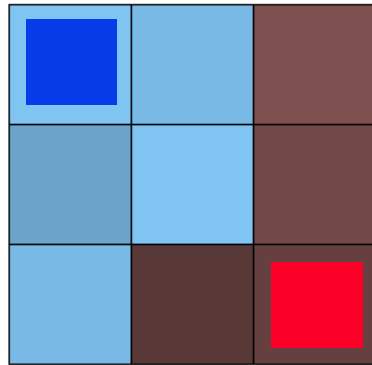


Compute the
minimum cut that
separates red region
from blue region

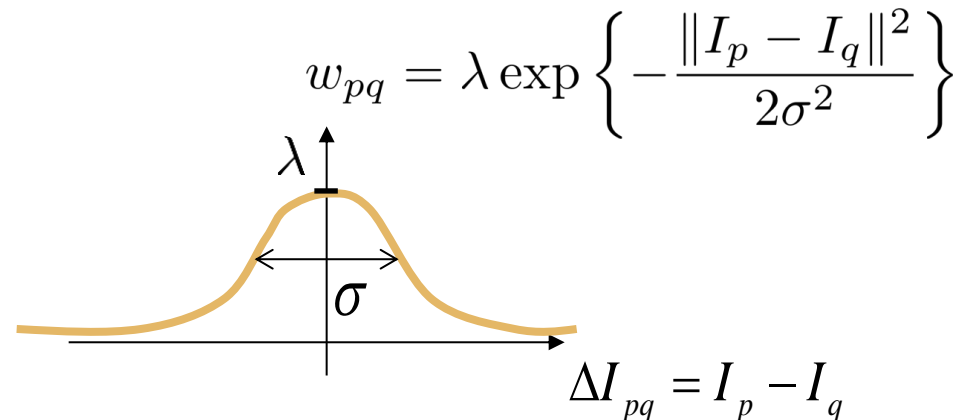
Graph cuts for optimal boundary detection

simple example [*a la* B&J, ICCV'01]

cut's cost = the sum of severed edges weights



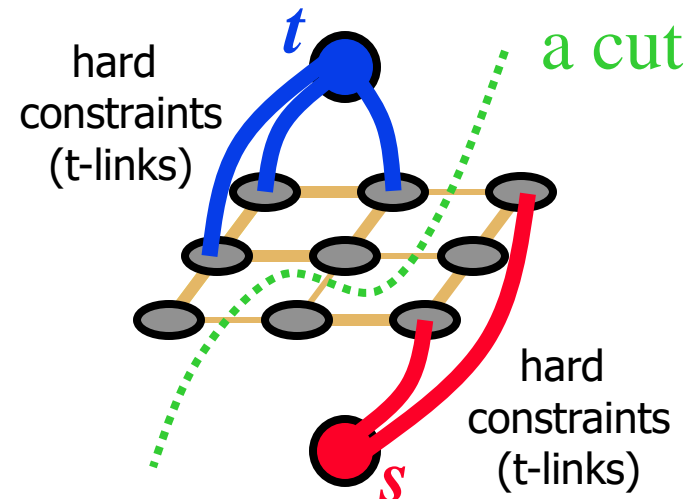
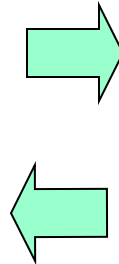
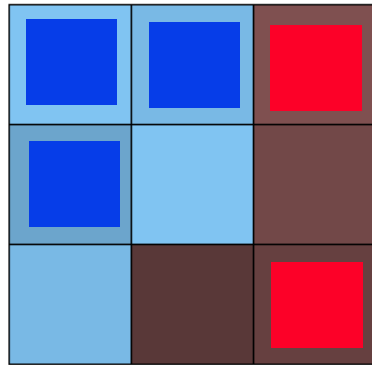
Minimum cost cut can be
computed in polynomial time
(max-flow/min-cut algorithms)



Graph cuts for optimal boundary detection

simple example [*a la* B&J, ICCV'01]

cut's cost = the sum of severed edges weights



The number of seeds (hard constraints) could be arbitrary - graph cut completes user labeling (*a la* **"Intelligent paint"**)

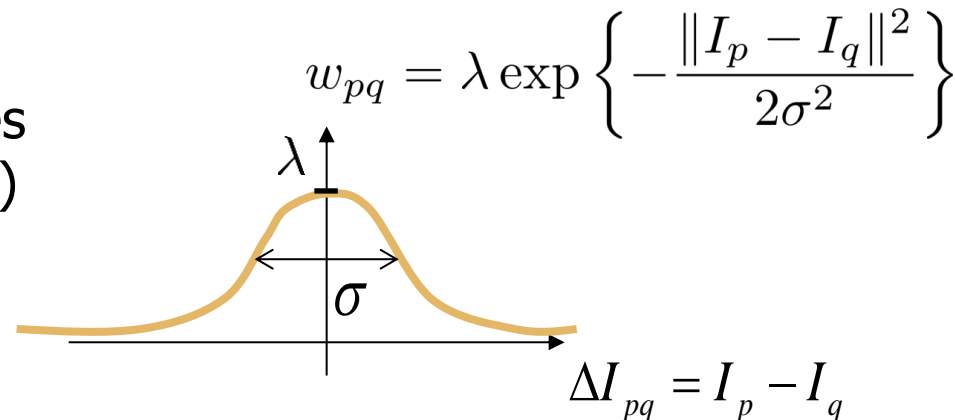
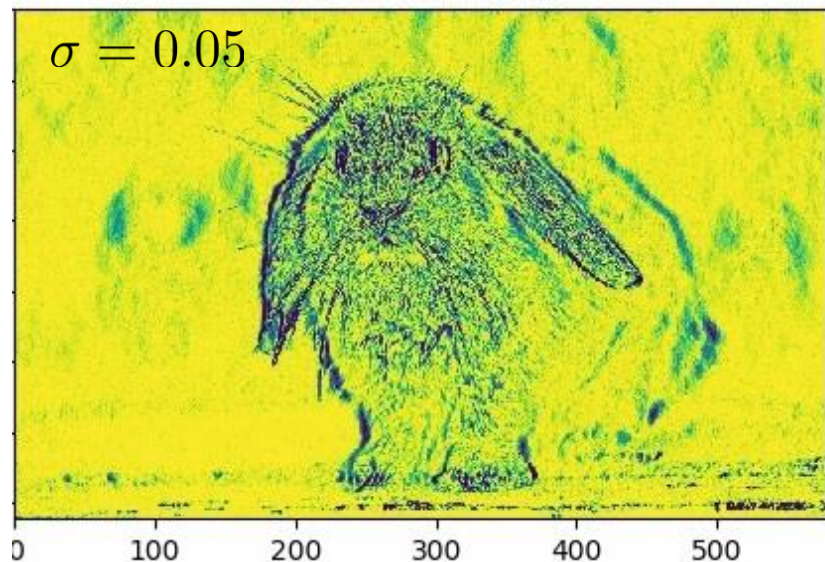
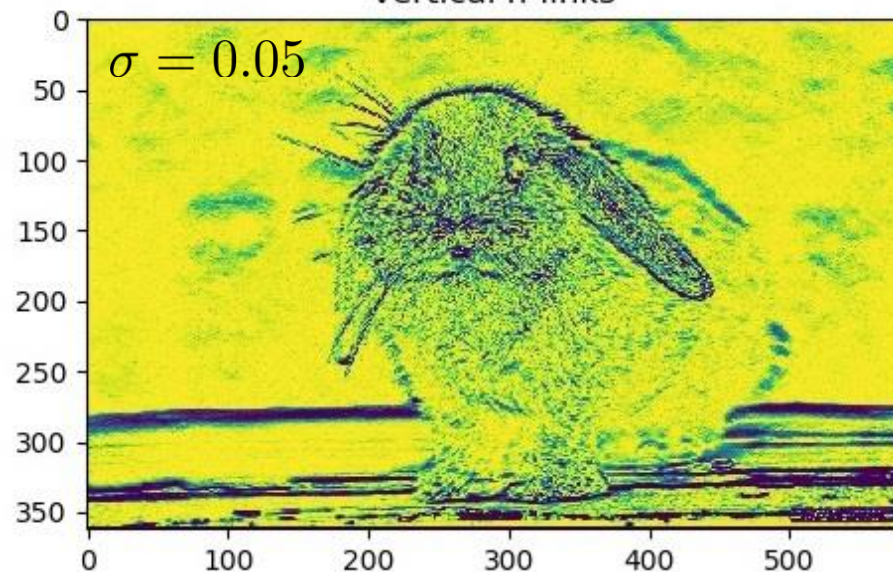


Image contrast weighted n -links

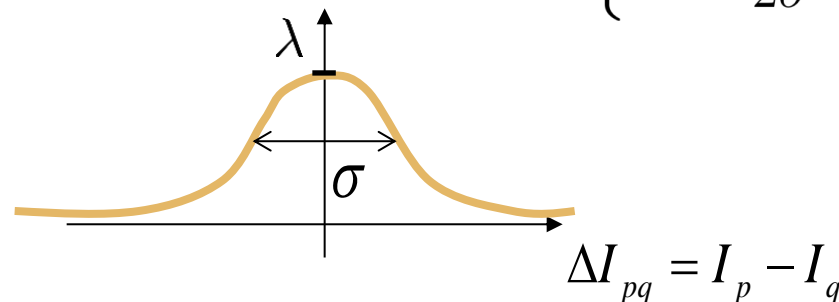
horizontal n-links



vertical n-links



$$w_{pq} = \lambda \exp \left\{ -\frac{\|I_p - I_q\|^2}{2\sigma^2} \right\}$$

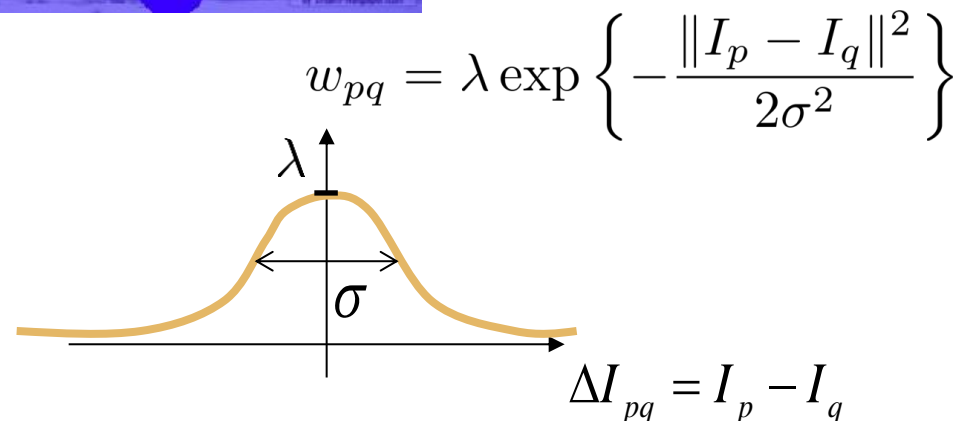


Optimal separation boundary (min cut) in 2D



graph cuts
with hard constraints
and
contrast-weighted n-links

note alignment of
segmentation boundary
with intensity contrast edges
(image edges)

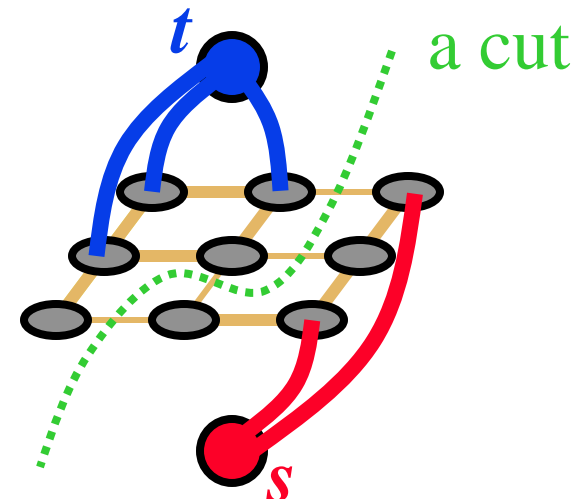
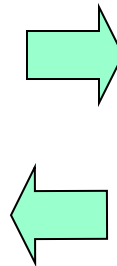
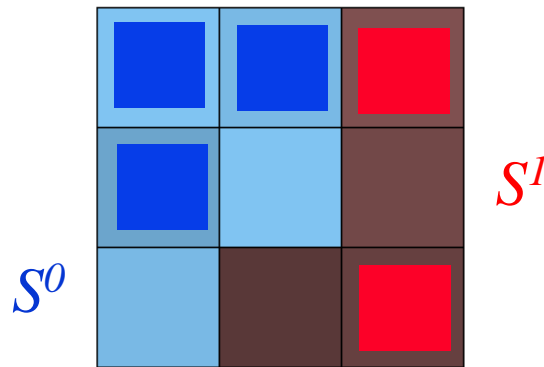


WARNING: "massive" abuse of notation S_p
but most of the time it should be clear from context
if we mean (random) class index or its distribution

s-t graph cut as an example of algorithm for

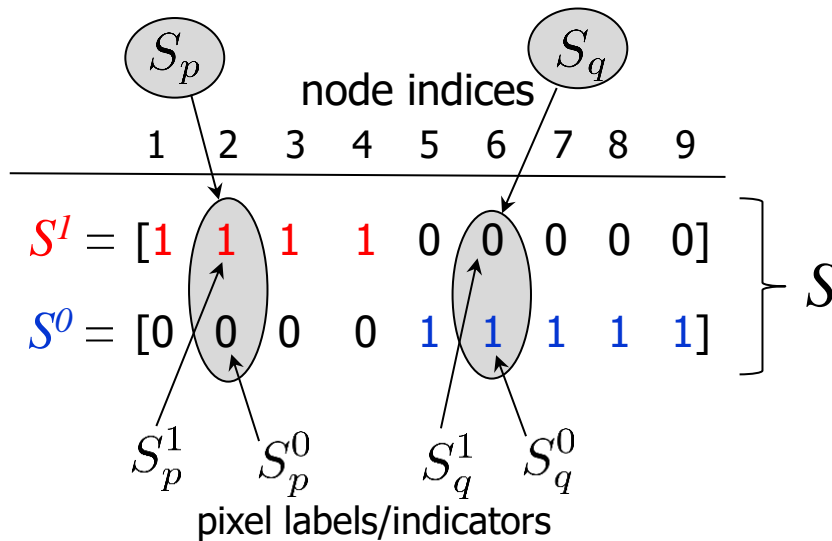
Loss optimization

cut's cost = the sum of severed edges weights



First question:

How can one represent segmentation as variables? (remember K-means)



$$S_p = \begin{pmatrix} S_p^1 \\ S_p^0 \end{pmatrix} \in \Delta^2$$

categorical distribution
(includes *one-hot* case Δ_v^2)

OR

$$S_p \in \{0, 1\}$$

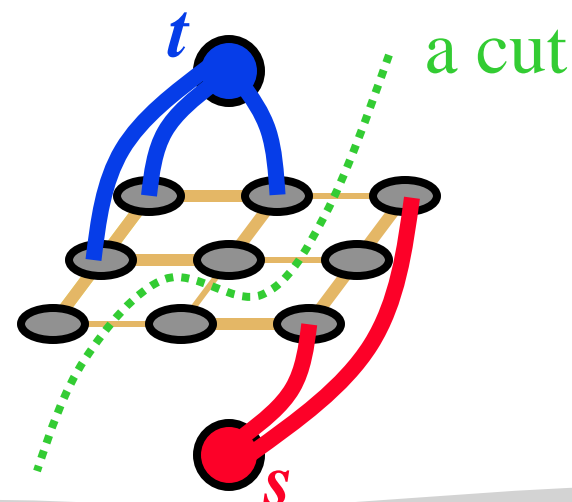
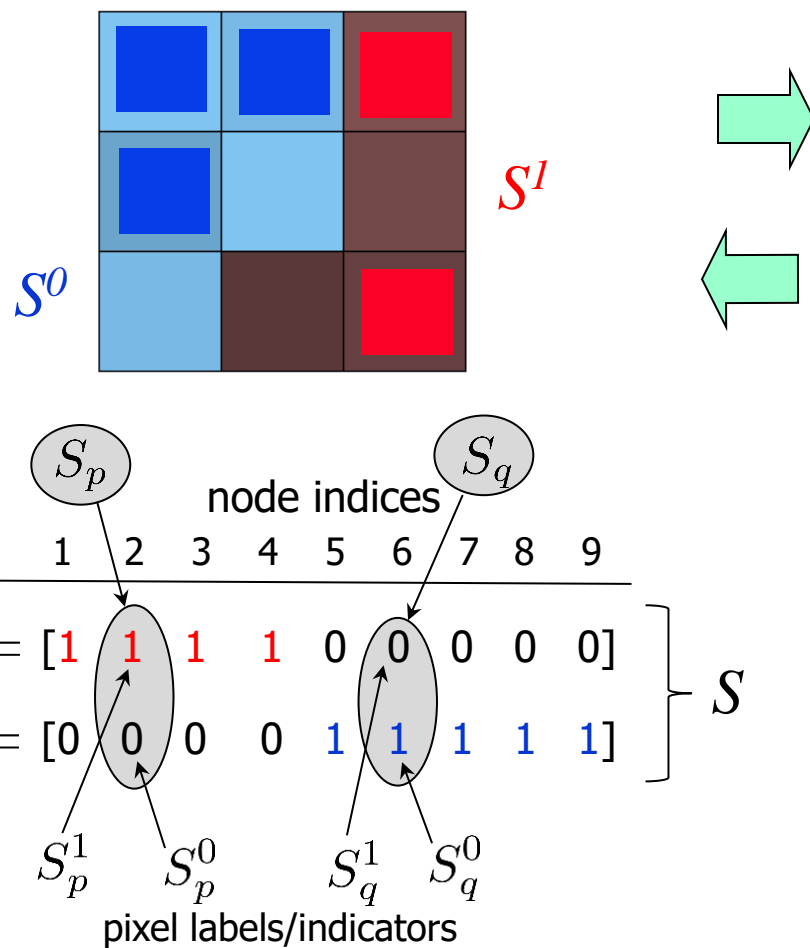
discrete label
(i.e. corresponding
random variable)

binary case, easily generalizes to $K \geq 2$ categories

s-t graph cut as an example of algorithm for

Loss optimization

cut's cost = the sum of severed edges weights



**loss encouraging smooth segmentation
boundary aligned with contrast edges**

$$\sum_{pq \in N} w_{pq} [S_p \neq S_q]$$

cost of severed n-links

$$[x] := \begin{cases} 1 & \text{if } x = \text{True} \\ 0 & \text{if } x = \text{False} \end{cases}$$

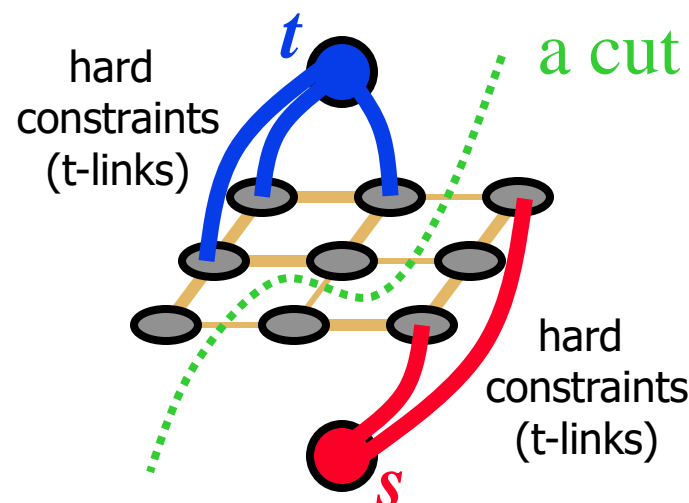
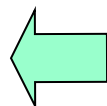
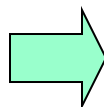
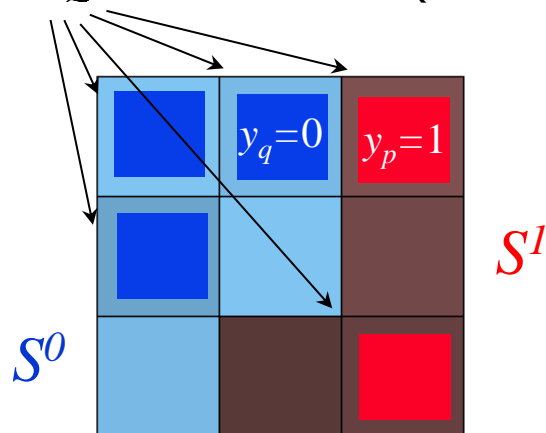
Iverson
brackets

s-t graph cut as an example of algorithm for

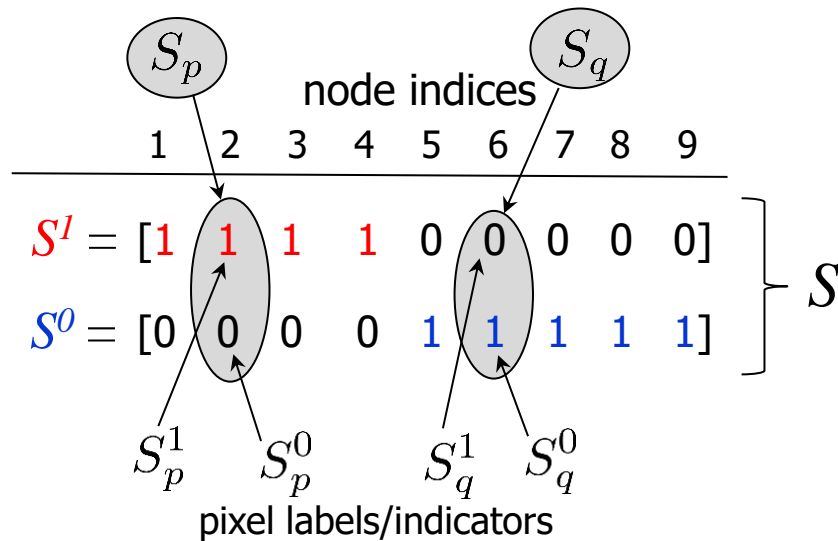
Loss optimization

$\{y_p \mid p \in \Omega_{\mathcal{L}}\}$ - seed labels (ground truth) cut's cost = the sum of severed edges weights

$\Omega_{\mathcal{L}}$ - set of seeded (user-labeled) pixels



Q: What loss function can represent consistency of S with user labels?



$$\sum_{pq \in N} w_{pq} [S_p \neq S_q]$$

cost of severed n-links

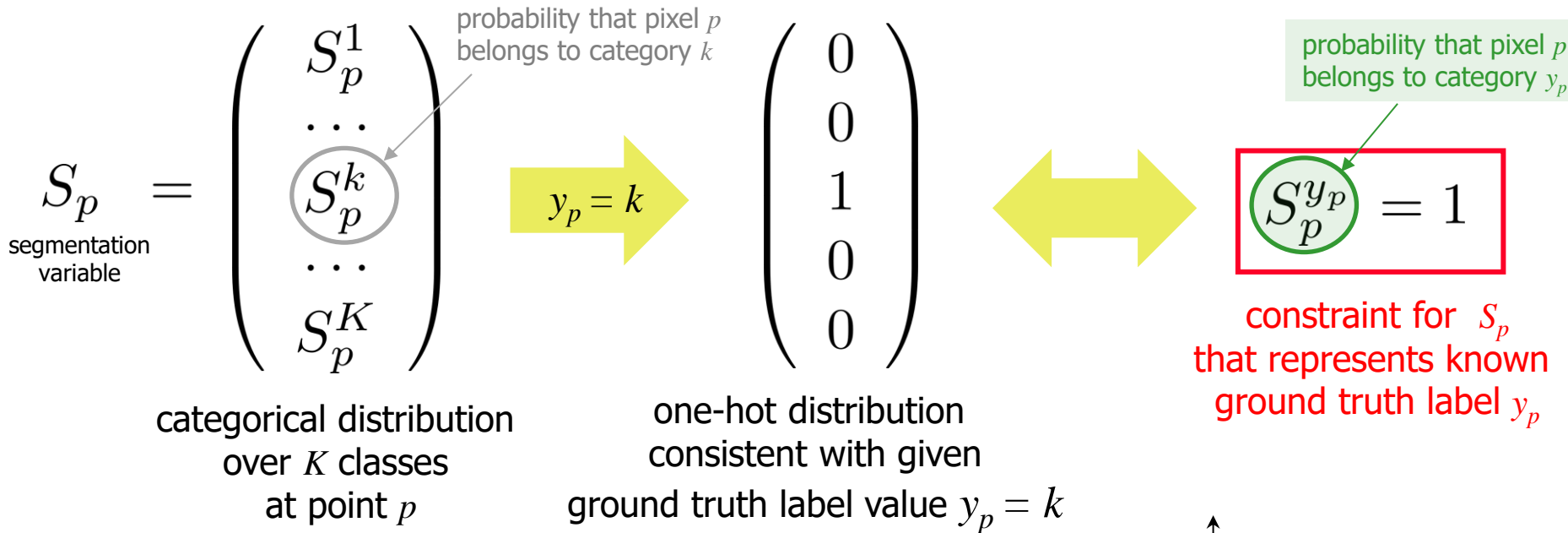
$$[x] := \begin{cases} 1 & \text{if } x = \text{True} \\ 0 & \text{if } x = \text{False} \end{cases}$$

Iverson brackets

Similar "NLL" loss is commonly used for supervised training of neural networks (topics 10,11,12)

Supervision loss: consistency with ground truth labels y_p

For generality, assume K classes and ground truth label $y_p \in \{1, \dots, K\}$



How to enforce supervision constraint $S_p^{y_p} = 1$?

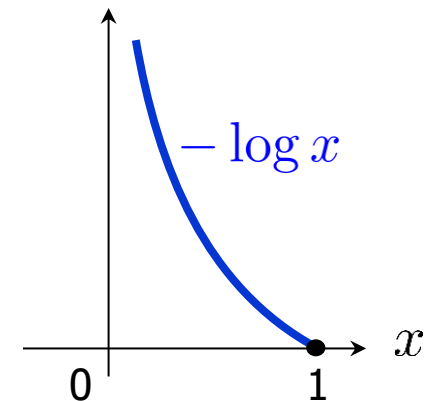
Standard supervision (or seed) loss:

that works for discrete or relaxed segmentation

$$S_p^k \in \{0, 1\} \quad S_p^k \in [0, 1]$$

$$-\log(S_p^{y_p})$$

$\Pr(S_p = y_p)$
here S_p is interpreted
as random variable

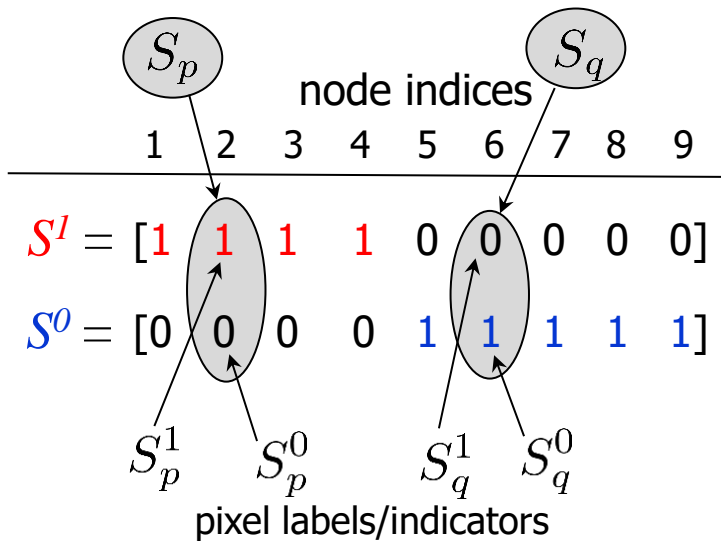
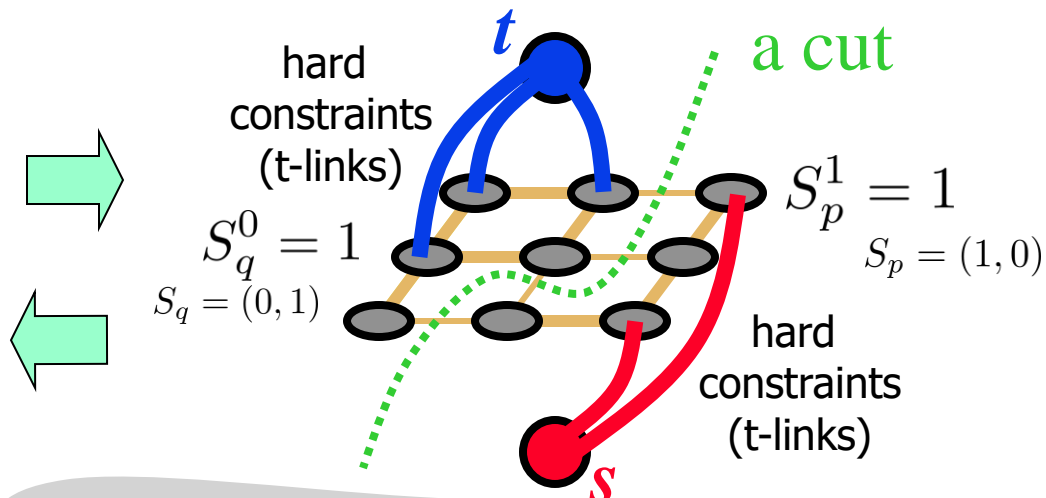
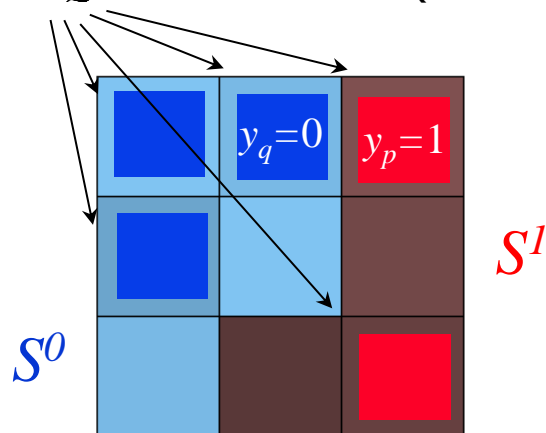


s-t graph cut as an example of algorithm for

Loss optimization

$\{y_p \mid p \in \Omega_{\mathcal{L}}\}$ - seed labels (ground truth) cut's cost = the sum of severed edges weights

$\Omega_{\mathcal{L}}$ - set of seeded (user-labeled) pixels



Seed loss enforcing consistency of S with user labels

$$\sum_{p \in \Omega_{\mathcal{L}}} -\log S_p^{y_p}$$

cost of severed t-links

$$-\log x := \begin{cases} 0 & \text{if } x = 1 \\ \infty & \text{if } x = 0 \end{cases}$$

$$+ \sum_{pq \in N} w_{pq} [S_p \neq S_q]$$

cost of severed n-links

$$[x] := \begin{cases} 1 & \text{if } x = \text{True} \\ 0 & \text{if } x = \text{False} \end{cases}$$

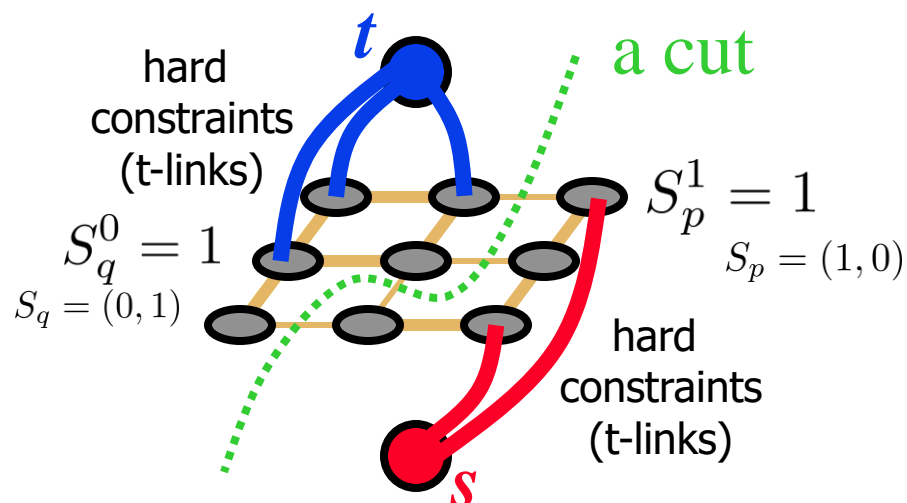
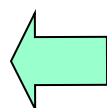
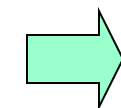
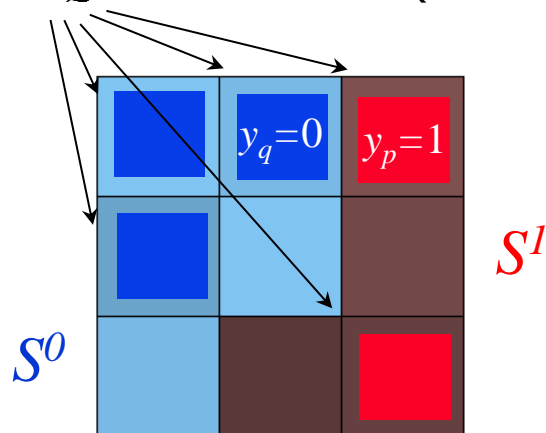
Iverson brackets

s-t graph cut as an example of algorithm for

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$\Omega_{\mathcal{L}}$ - set of seeded (user-labeled) pixels



node indices

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9

$$S^1 = [1 \quad 1 \quad 1 \quad 1 \quad 0 \quad 0 \quad 0 \quad 0 \quad 0]$$

$$S^0 = [0 \quad 0 \quad 0 \quad 0 \quad 1 \quad 1 \quad 1 \quad 1 \quad 1]$$

S_p

S_q

pixel "beliefs" about two classes

cost of any cut $\{S^1, S^0\}$

$$\sum_{p \in \Omega_{\mathcal{L}}} -\log S_p^{y_p}$$

cost of severed t-links

$$-\log x := \begin{cases} 0 & \text{if } x = 1 \\ \infty & \text{if } x = 0 \end{cases}$$

$$+ \sum_{pq \in N} w_{pq} [S_p \neq S_q]$$

cost of severed n-links

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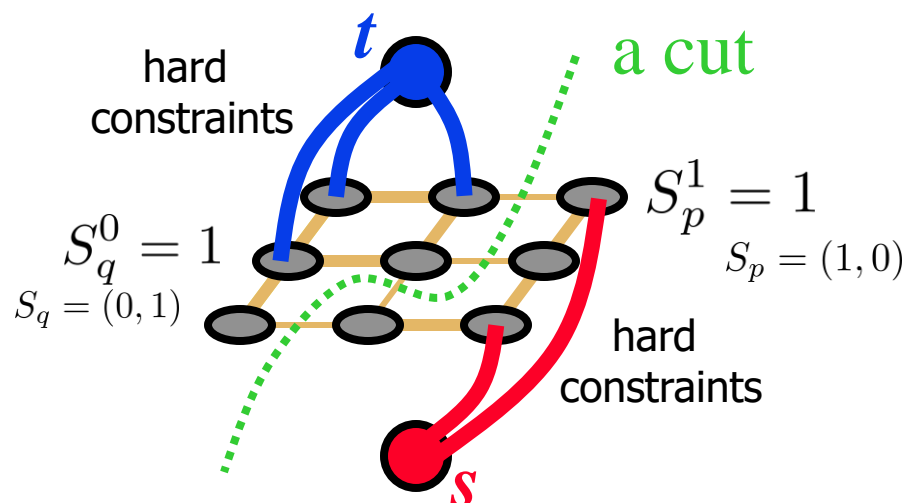
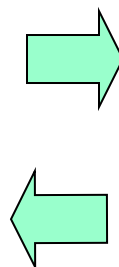
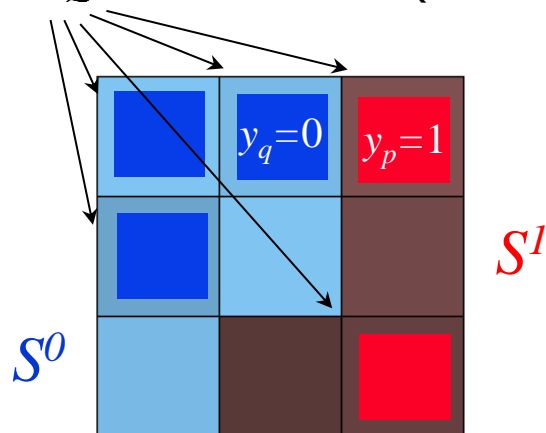
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s-t graph cut as an example of algorithm for

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S_p S_q

pixel "beliefs" about two classes

minimum cut outputs S optimizing total loss $L(S)$

$$\sum_{p \in \Omega_{\mathcal{L}}} -\log S_p^{y_p}$$

**penalty for
inconsistency with seeds**

seed loss - special case of
negative log-likelihood loss (**NLL loss**)

$$+ \sum_{pq \in N} w_{pq} [S_p \neq S_q]$$

**cost of
segmentation boundary**

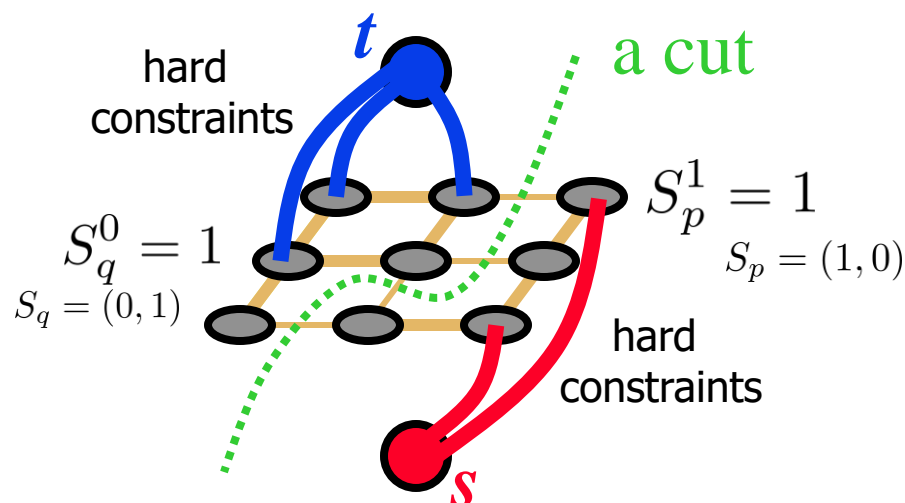
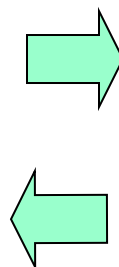
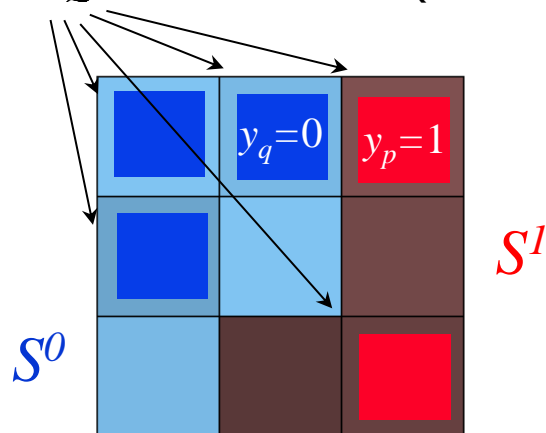
example of **regularization loss**
(shape smoothness, contrast alignment)

s-t graph cut as an example of algorithm for

Loss optimization

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node indices

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9

$$S^1 = [1 \quad 1 \quad 1 \quad 1 \quad 0 \quad 0 \quad 0 \quad 0 \quad 0]$$

$$S^0 = [0 \quad 0 \quad 0 \quad 0 \quad 1 \quad 1 \quad 1 \quad 1 \quad 1]$$

S_p

S_q

pixel "beliefs" about two classes

total loss $L(S)$

$$\sum_{p \in \Omega_{\mathcal{L}}} -\log S_p^{y_p}$$

penalty for inconsistency with seeds

seed loss - special case of negative log-likelihood loss (**NLL loss**)

$$+ \sum_{pq \in N} w_{pq} \|S_p - S_q\|^2$$

cost of segmentation boundary

example of **regularization loss** (shape smoothness, contrast alignment)

relaxations are also used, e.g. weakly-supervised segmentation networks

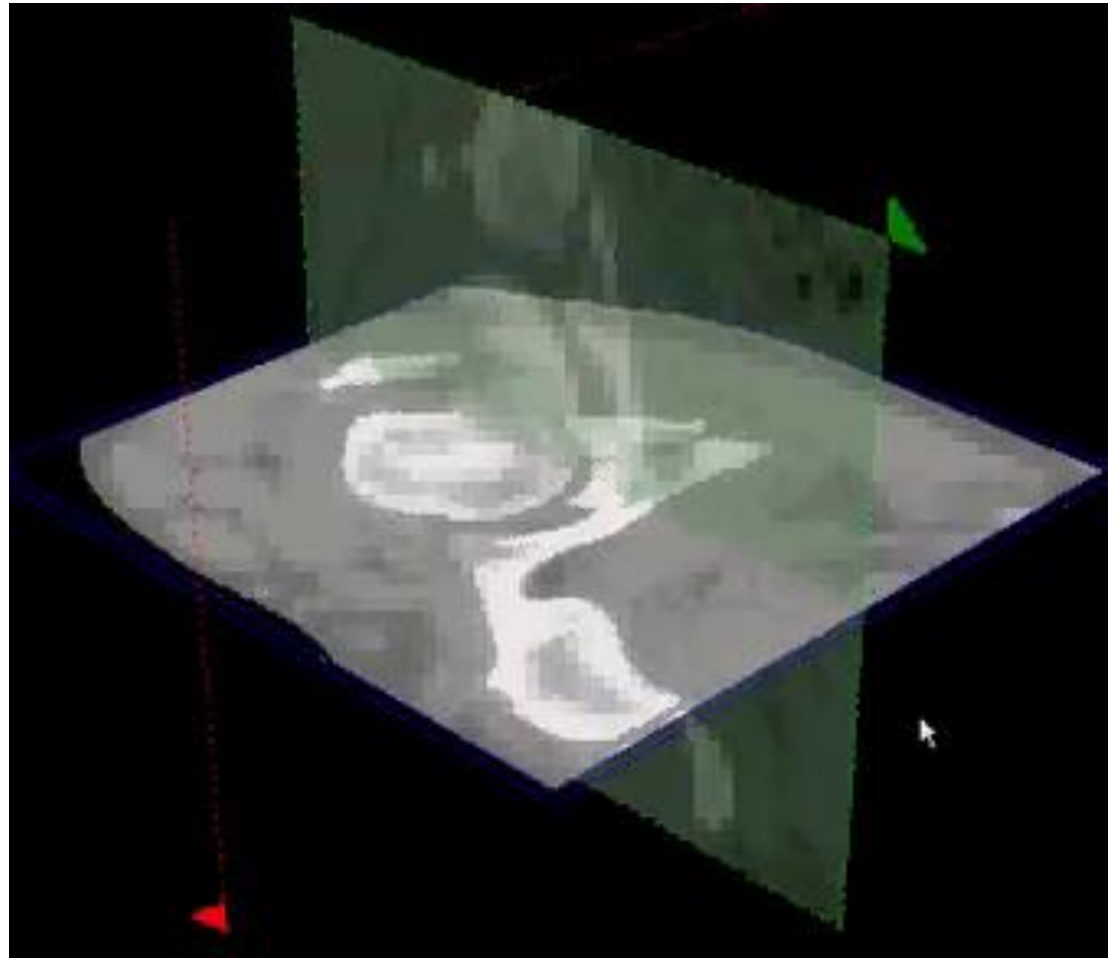
Unlike shortest paths, graph cut works for 3D segmentation:

Optimal separation boundary (min cut) in 3D

Extra correcting seeds
can be added **interactively**
and new optimal cut
will respect them

(new cut respecting extra
constraints is faster due to
hot start in the algorithm)

Example where
minimum cut
representing
minimal surface
(surface regularization)

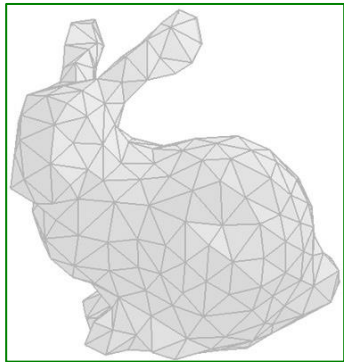


3D bone segmentation
(real time screen capture from early 2000)

Some standard methodologies for

Surface Representation and Regularization

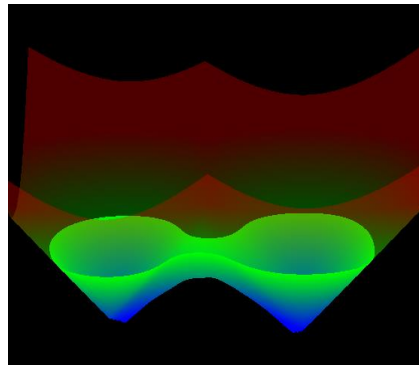
mesh, spline



explicit representation
of surface/boundary

continuous variables S_p
explicitly represent
surface locations

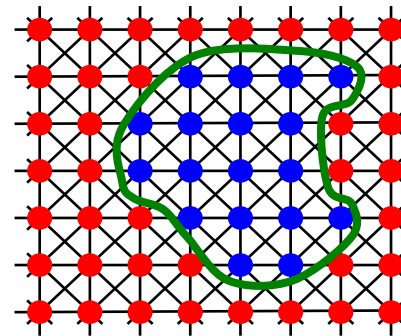
level-set



implicit representation
of surface/boundary

surface is a zero-level set
of continuous function $f(x,y)$
 $S = \{ (x,y) : f(x,y)=0 \}$

grid labeling



implicit representation
of surface/boundary

surface is an implicit interface between
subsets or segments represented by
set/class/object indicators S_p (**discrete** or **relaxed**)

Graph cut is just one
discrete approach to
optimizing labels S_p for
boundary regularization.

Many alternatives also use
relaxed indicator variable S_p

Surface representation dictates specific optimization methodology,
but common **surface regularization objectives** are closely related:
typically, they **minimize surface area and/or curvature**

active contours:
elasticity and bending
(physics)

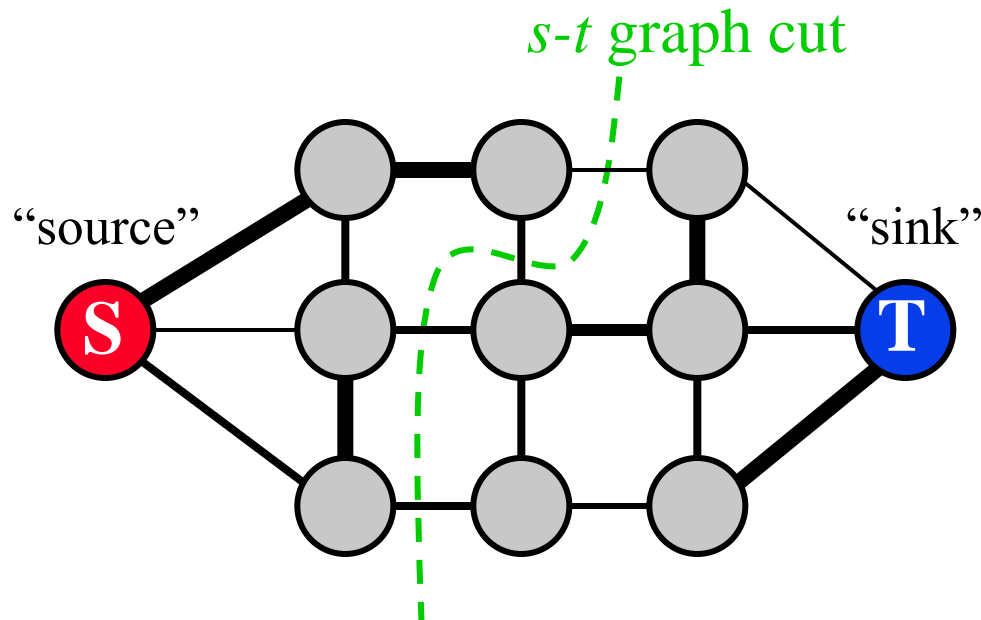
geodesic active contours:
surface area and curvature
(Riemannian geometry)

graphical models, MRF/CRF:
pairwise and higher-order smoothness
(relates to minimal surfaces via *integral geometry*)

Graph Cuts Basics (see Cormen's book)

Simple 2D example

Goal: divide the graph into two parts separating red and blue nodes



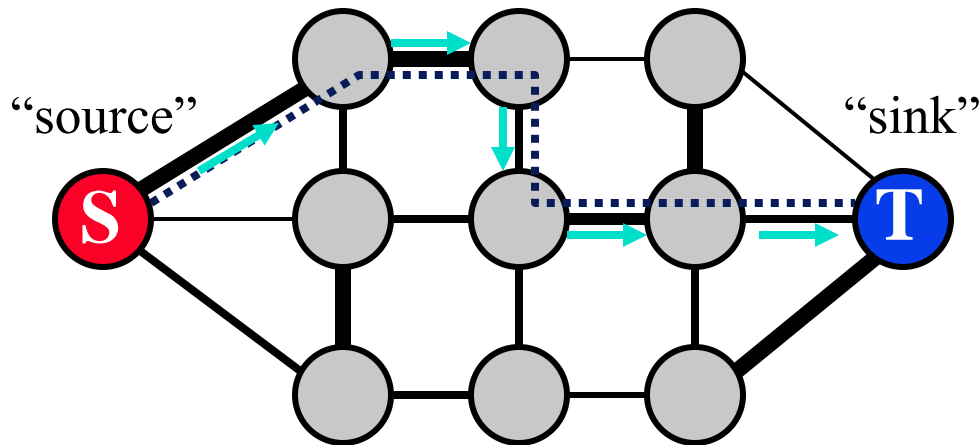
A graph with two terminals S and T

- Cut cost is a sum of severed edge weights
- **Minimum cost s - t cut can be found in polynomial time**

s/t min cut algorithms are widely studied (combinatorial optimization)

- Augmenting paths [Ford & Fulkerson, 1962]
- Push-relabel [Goldberg-Tarjan, 1986]

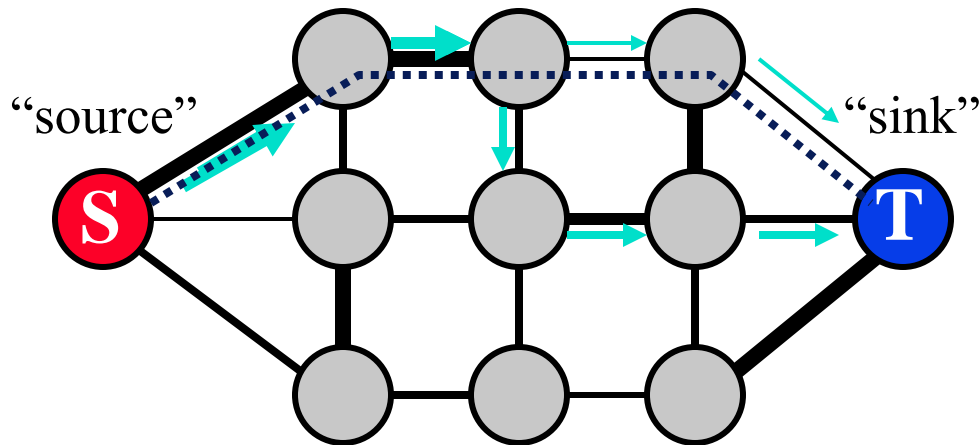
“Augmenting Paths”



A graph with two terminals

- Find a path from S to T along non-saturated edges
- Increase flow along this path until some edge saturates

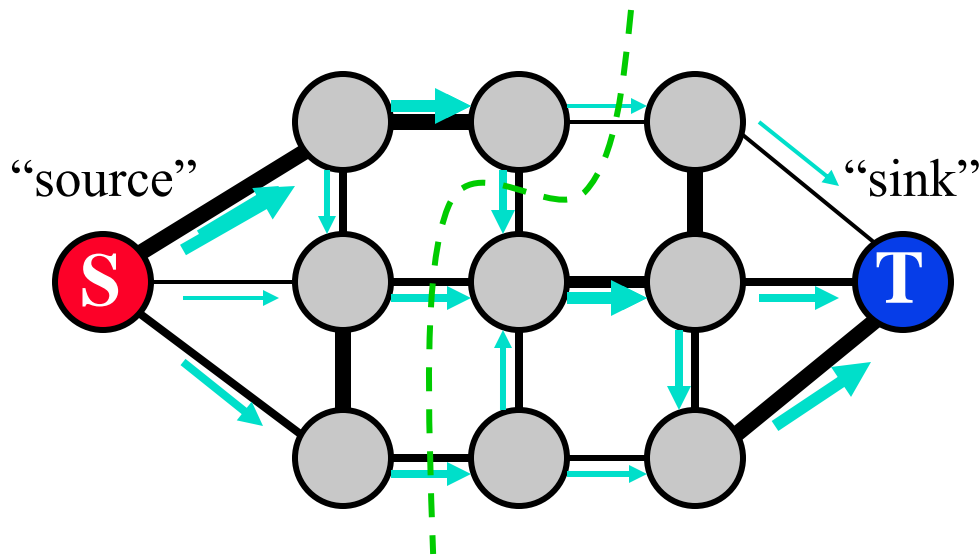
“Augmenting Paths”



A graph with two terminals

- Find a path from S to T along non-saturated edges
- Increase flow along this path until some edge saturates
- Find next path...
- Increase flow...

“Augmenting Paths”



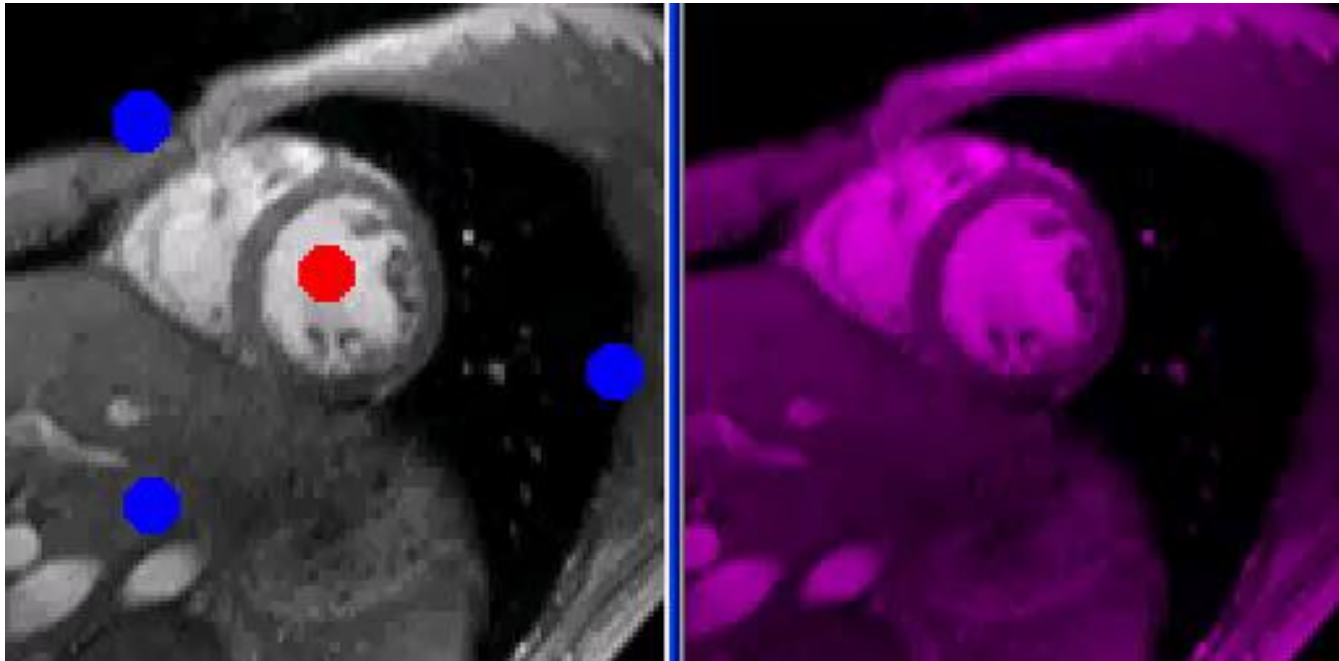
A graph with two terminals

MAX FLOW \Leftrightarrow **MIN CUT**

- Find a path from S to T along non-saturated edges
- Increase flow along this path until some edge saturates

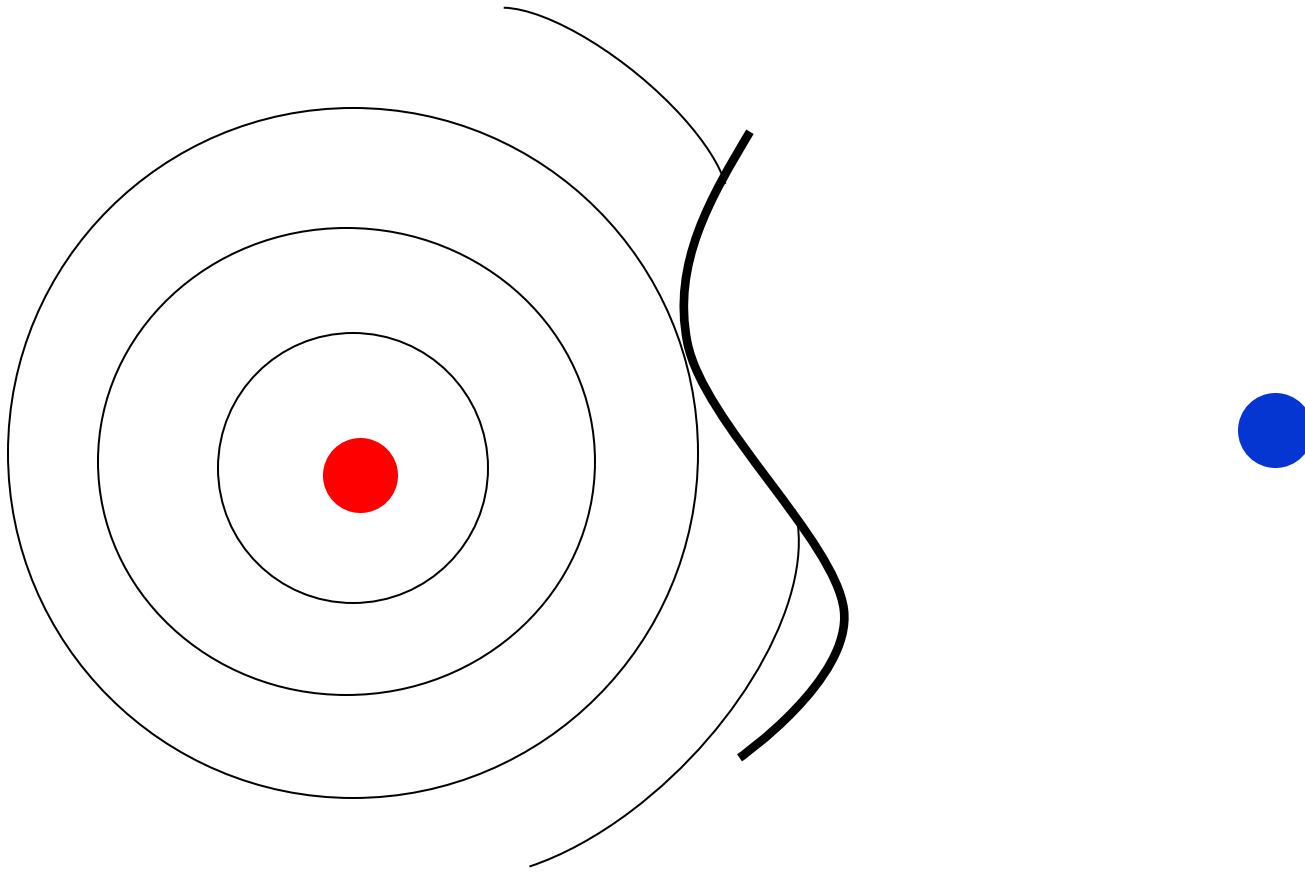
Iterate until ... all
paths from S to T have at
least one saturated edge

Optimal boundary in 2D



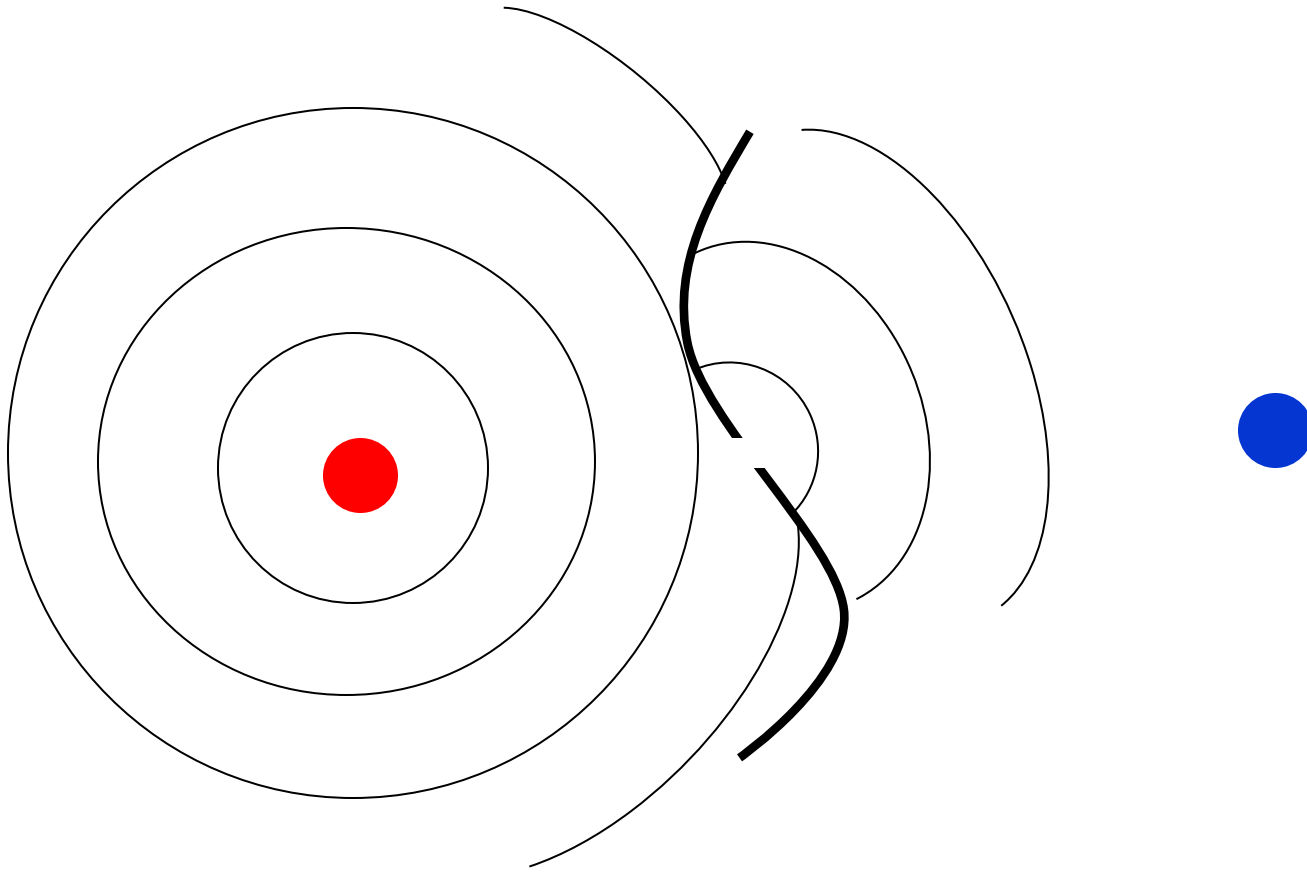
“min-cut = max-flow”

Graph cuts vs Region Growing



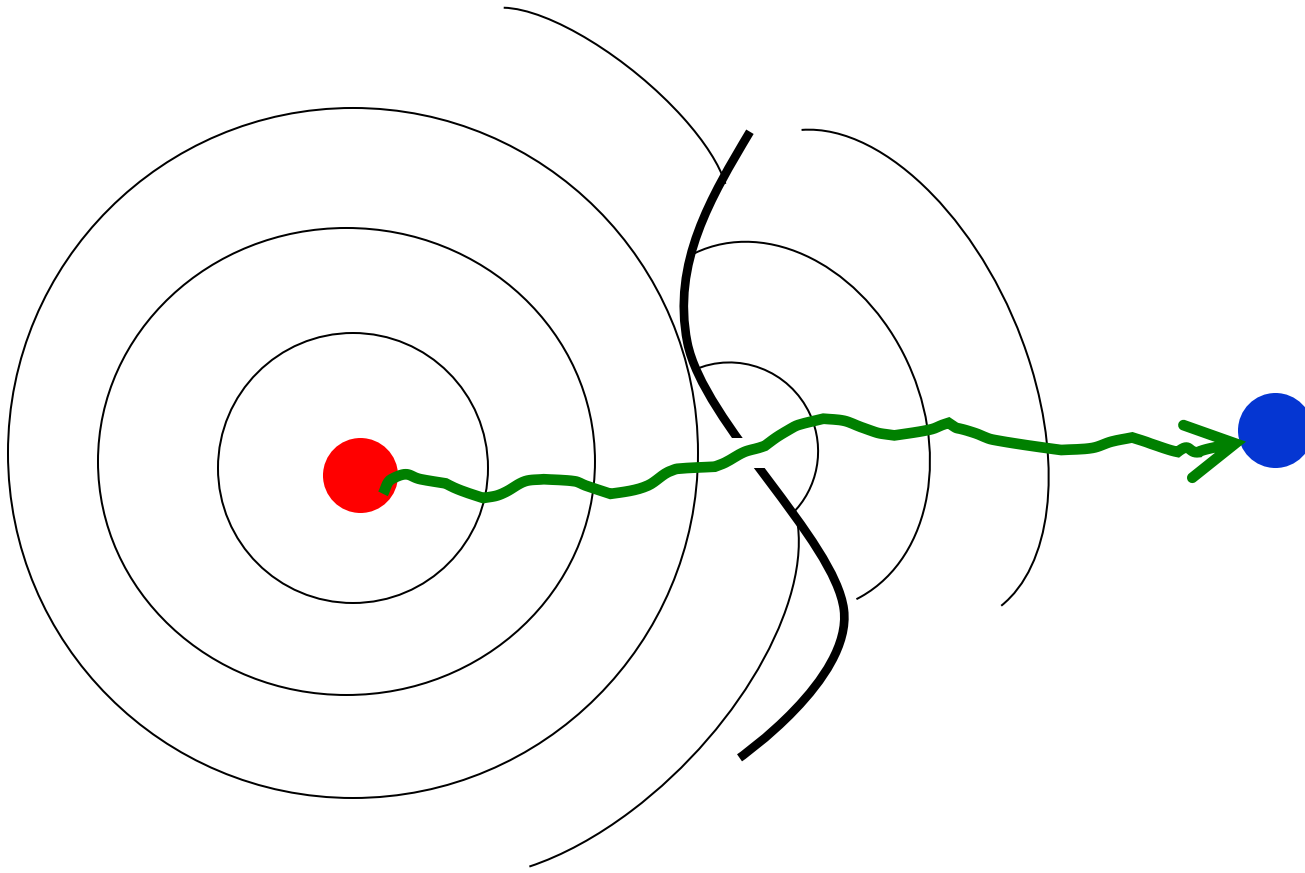
like "region growing"

Graph cuts vs Region Growing



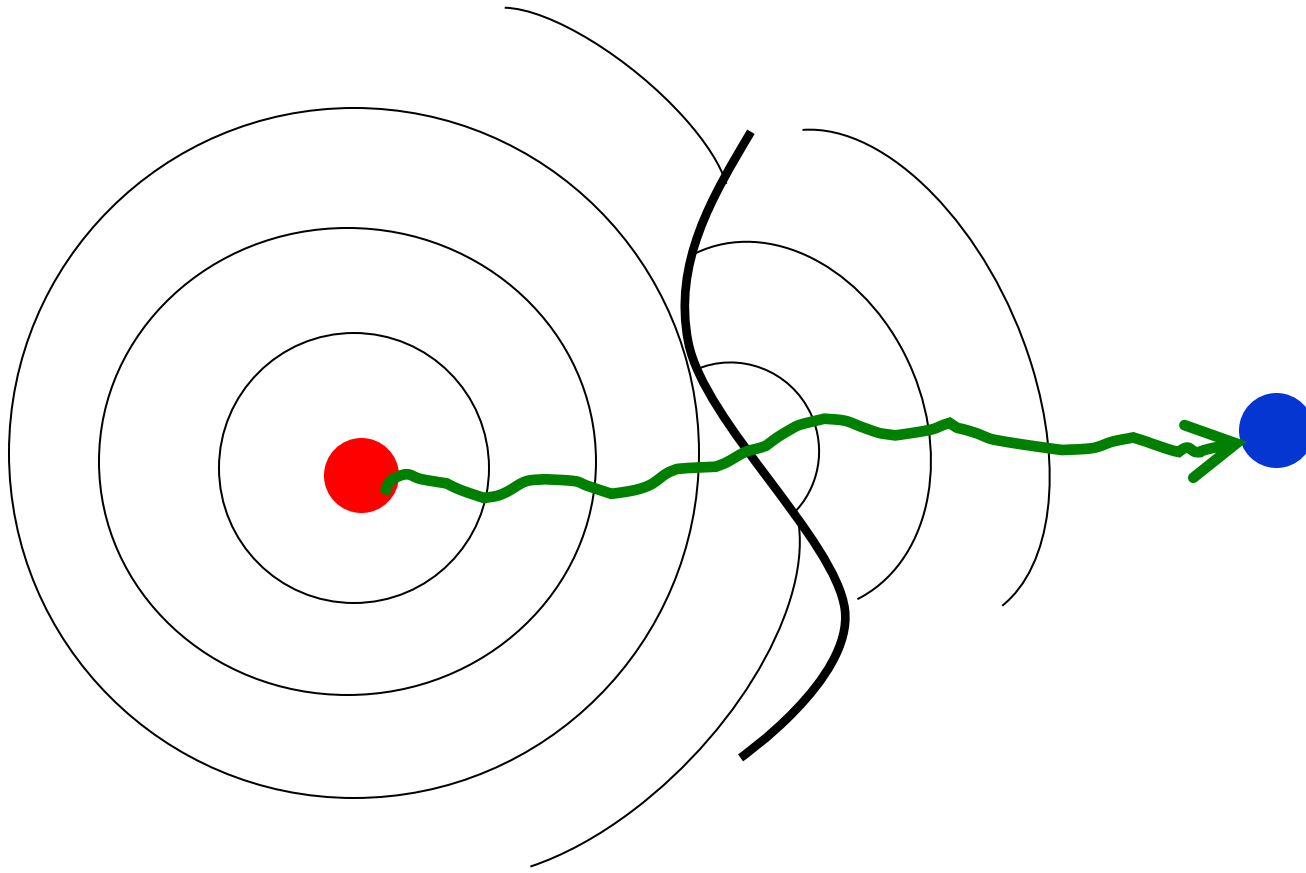
like "region growing"

Graph cuts vs Region Growing



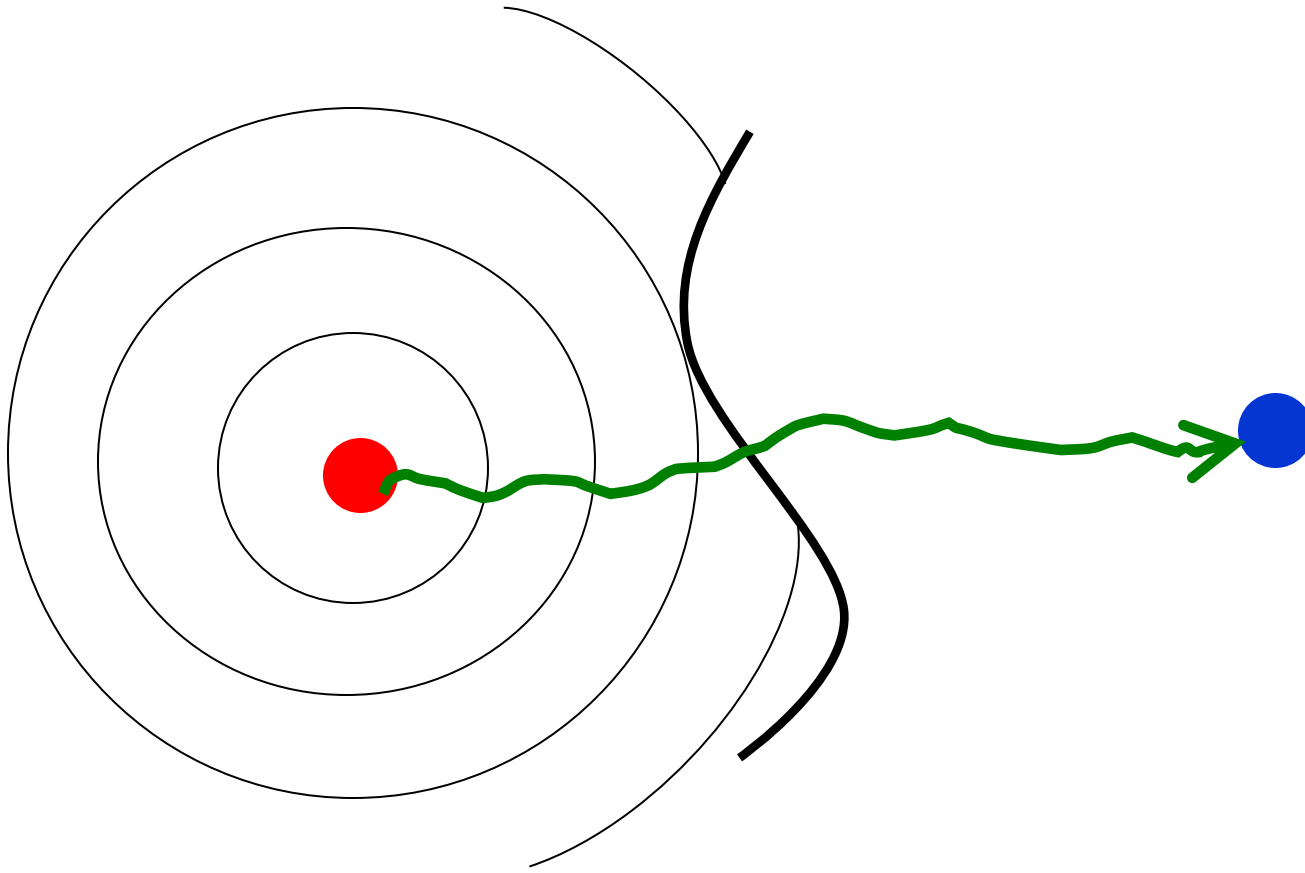
like "region growing"

Graph cuts vs Region Growing



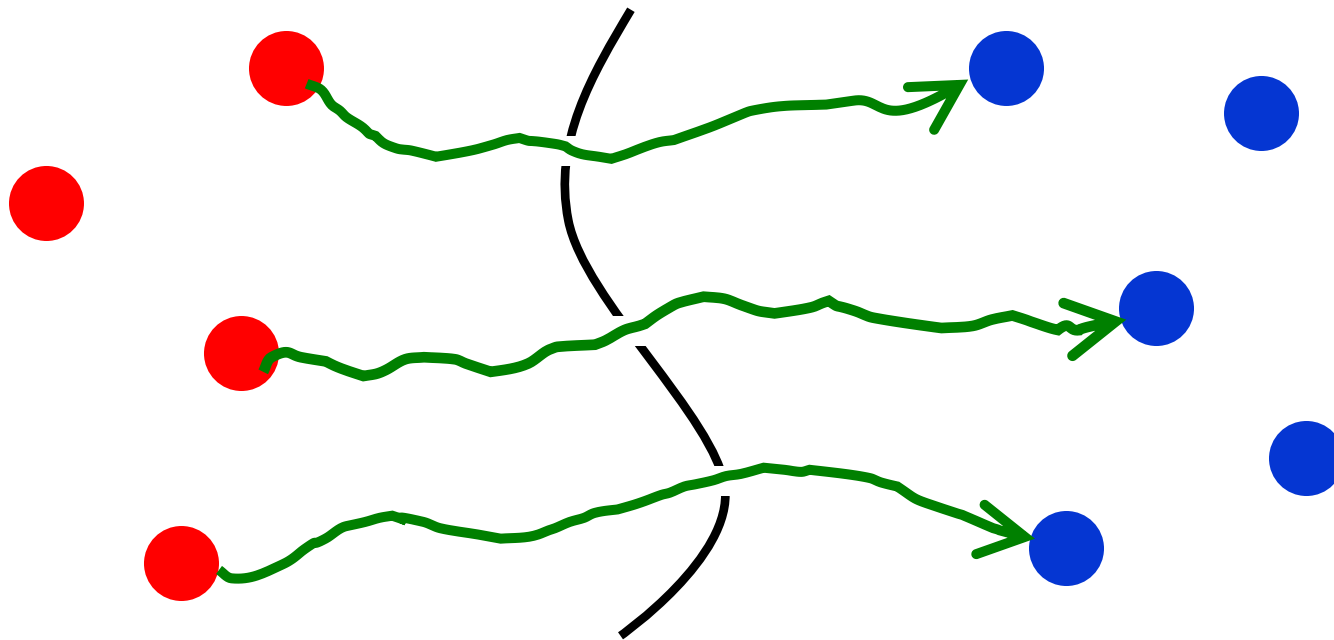
~~like "region growing"~~

Graph cuts

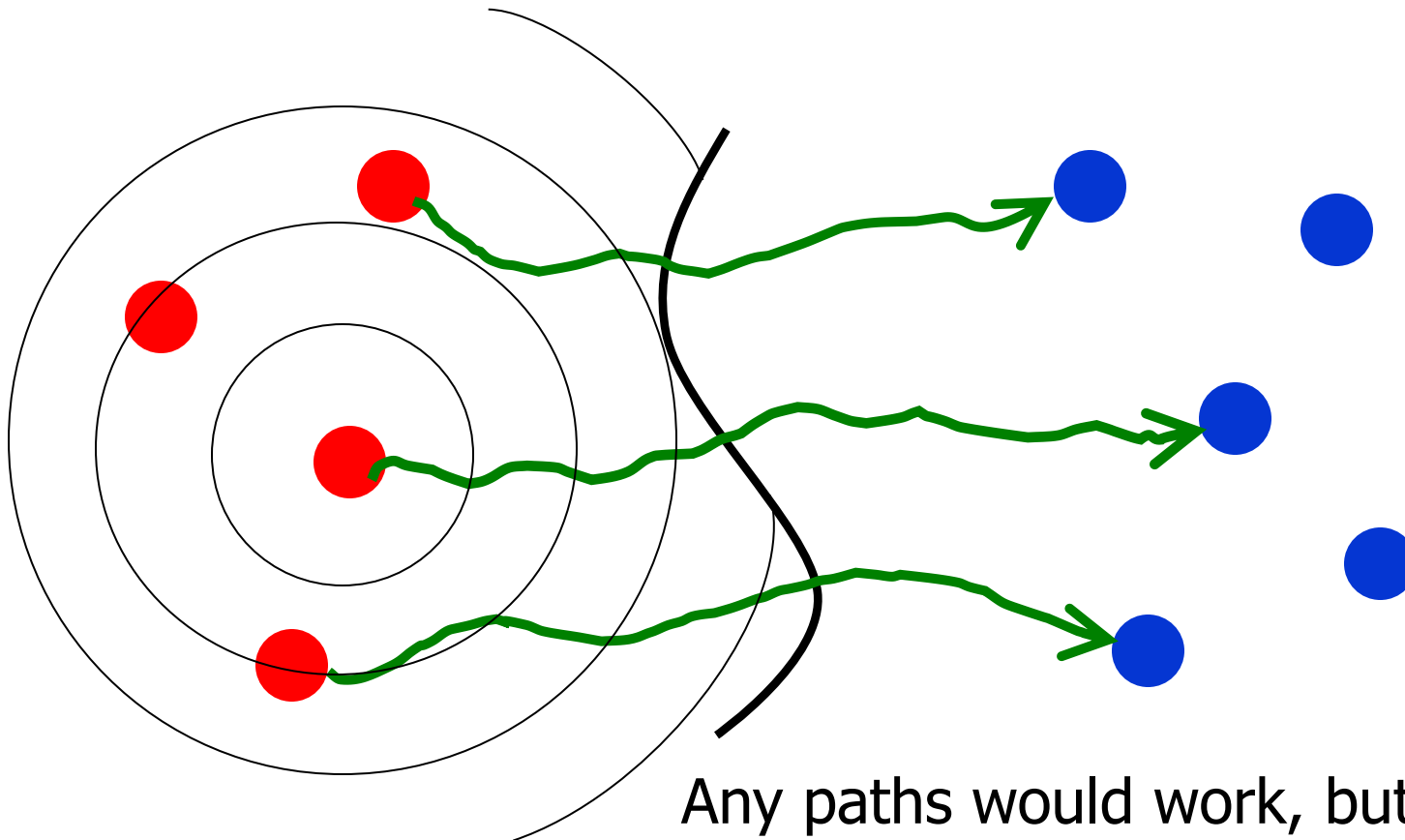


iteration 2

Graph cuts 2

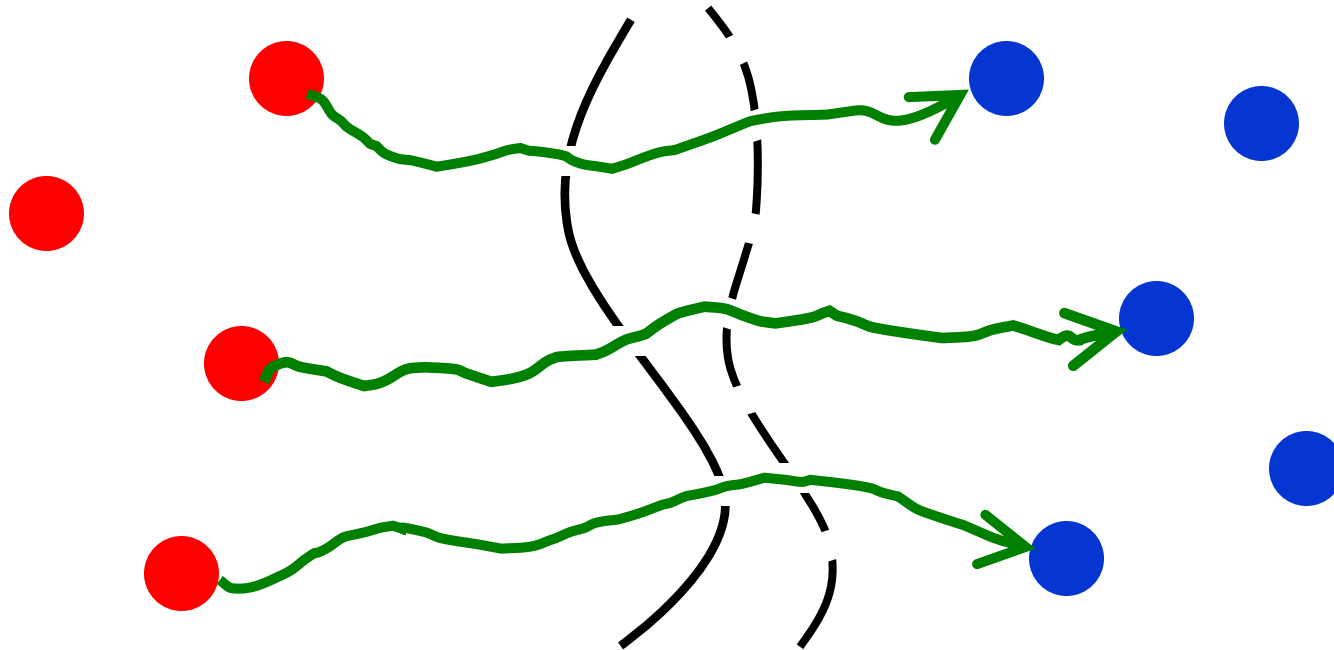


Graph cuts 2

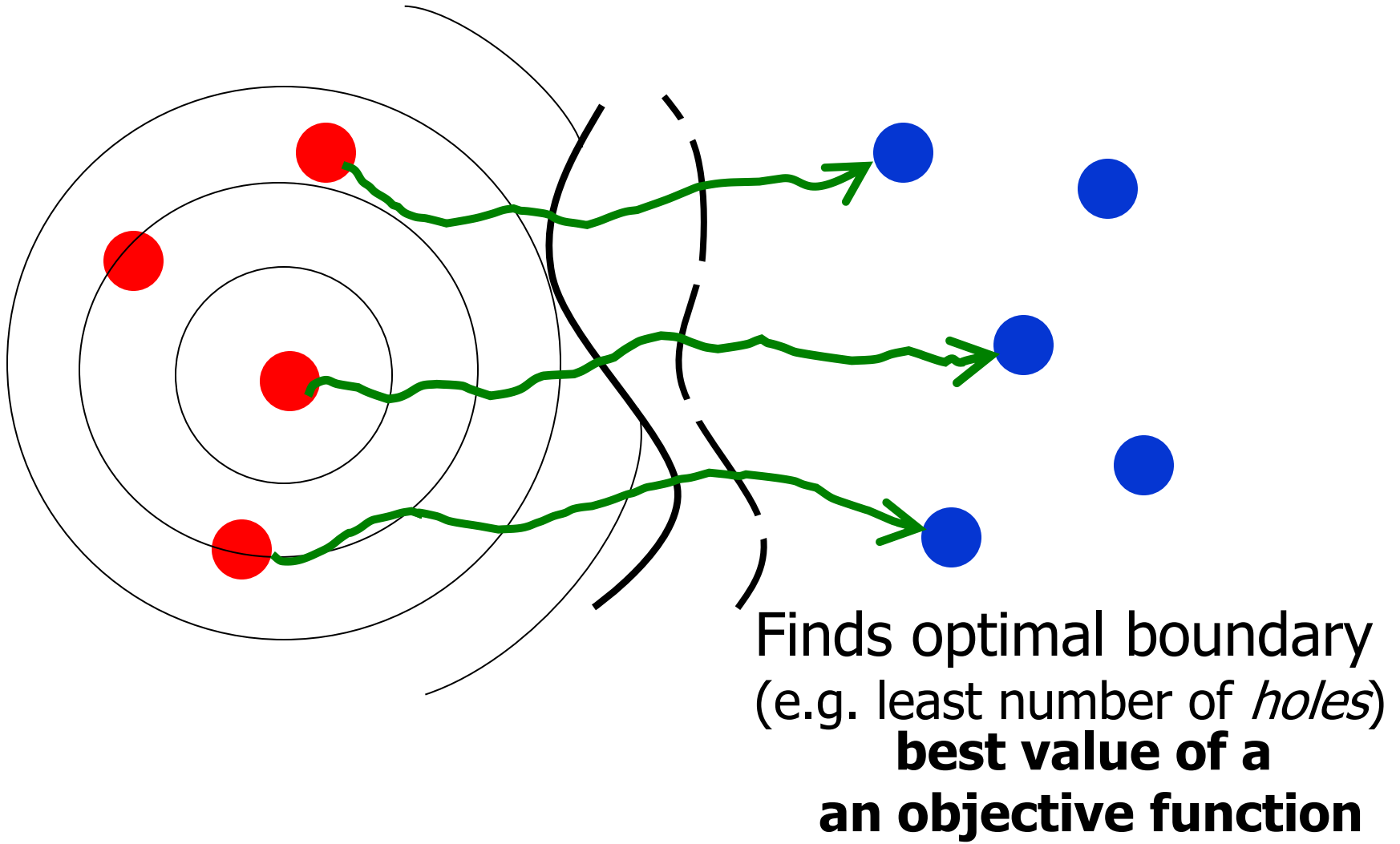


Any paths would work, but
shorter paths give faster algorithms
(in theory and practice)

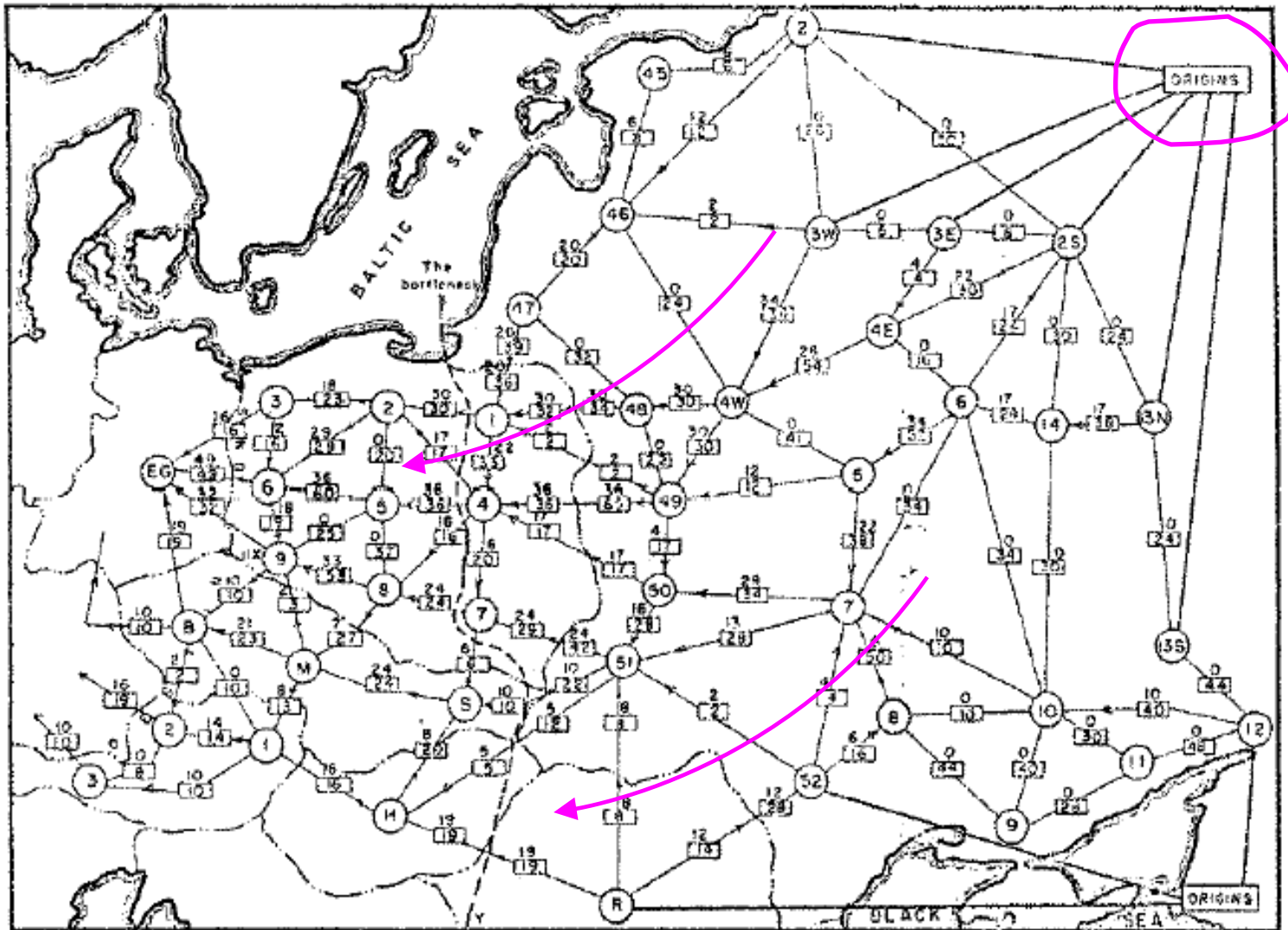
Graph cuts 3



Graph cuts 3



Graph cut is an **old standard problem** with lots of applications outside vision

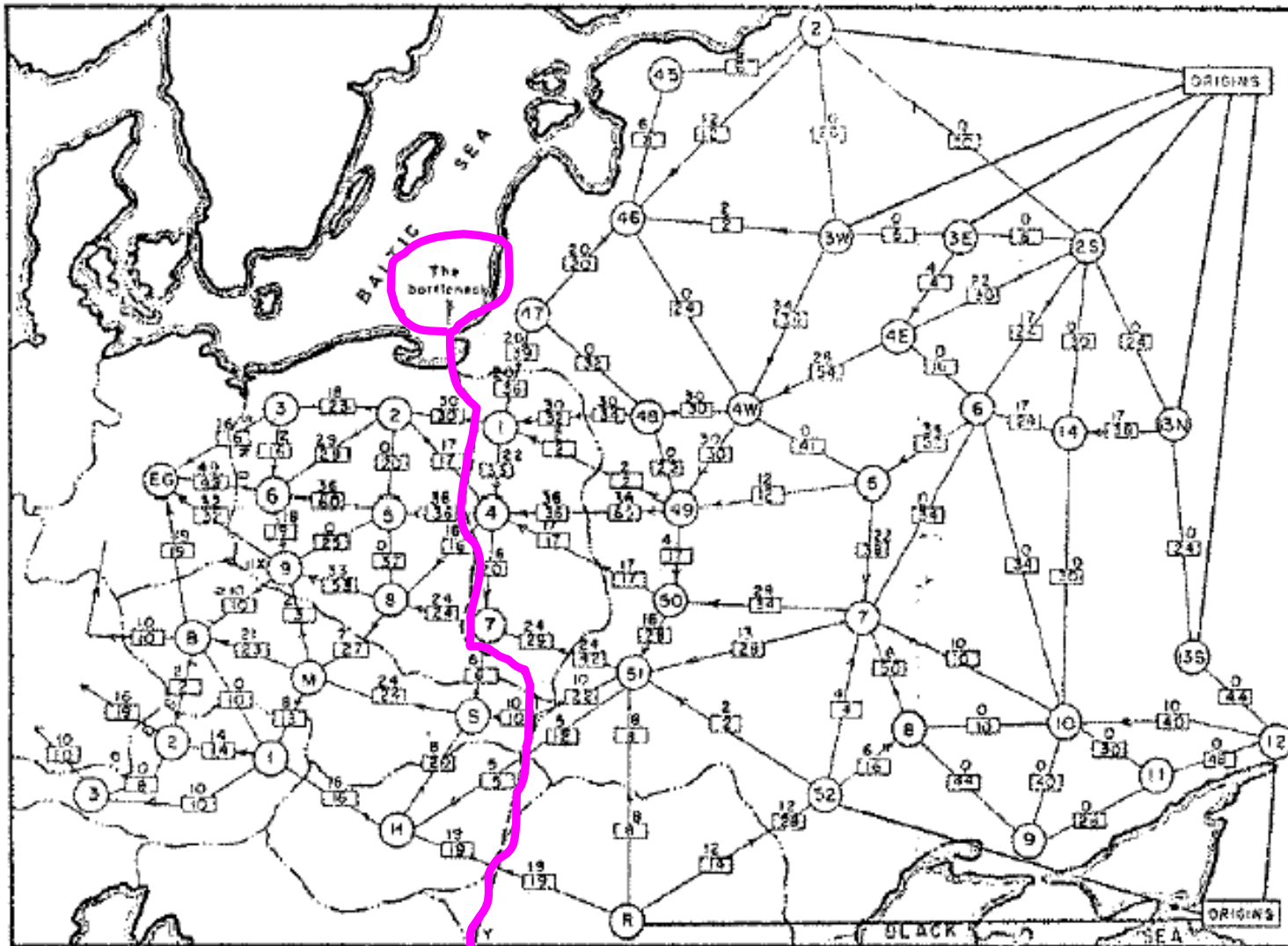


From
Harris &
Ross
[1955]

declassified
RAND
report
that
originally
inspired
Ford and
Fulkerson

Problem: find gas/oil pipelines or railways network bottleneck in Eastern Europe

Graph cut is an **old standard problem** with lots of applications outside vision



From
Harris &
Ross
[1955]

declassified
RAND
report that
originally
inspired
Ford and
Fulkerson

Problem: find gas/oil pipelines or railways network bottleneck in Eastern Europe

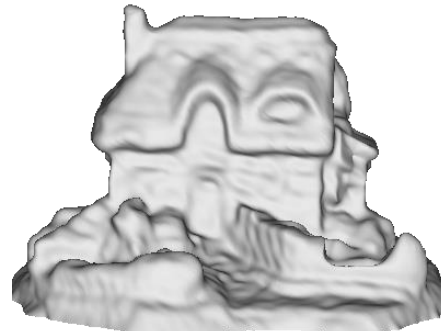
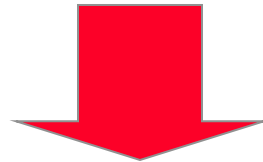
Applications of max-flow (min cut) algorithms

- Matrix rounding
- Perfect matching
- Vertex cover
- Routing (airline scheduling)
- Baseball elimination
- Economics (circulation–demand problem)
- Computer vision

Multi-view volumetric photo-reconstruction



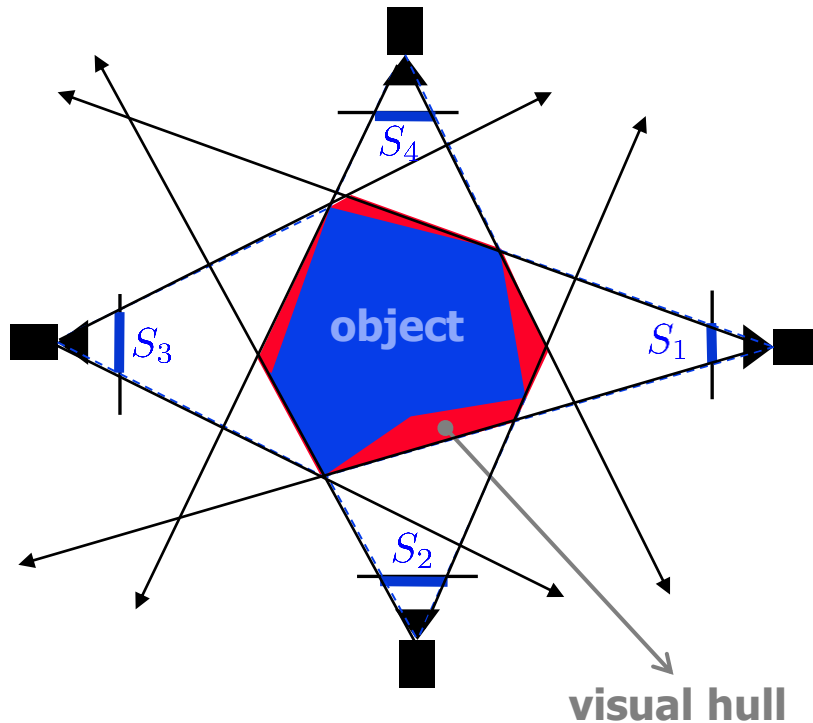
**Calibrated
images of
Lambertian
scene**



**3D model of
scene**

CVPR'05 slides from Vogiatzis, Torr, Cippola

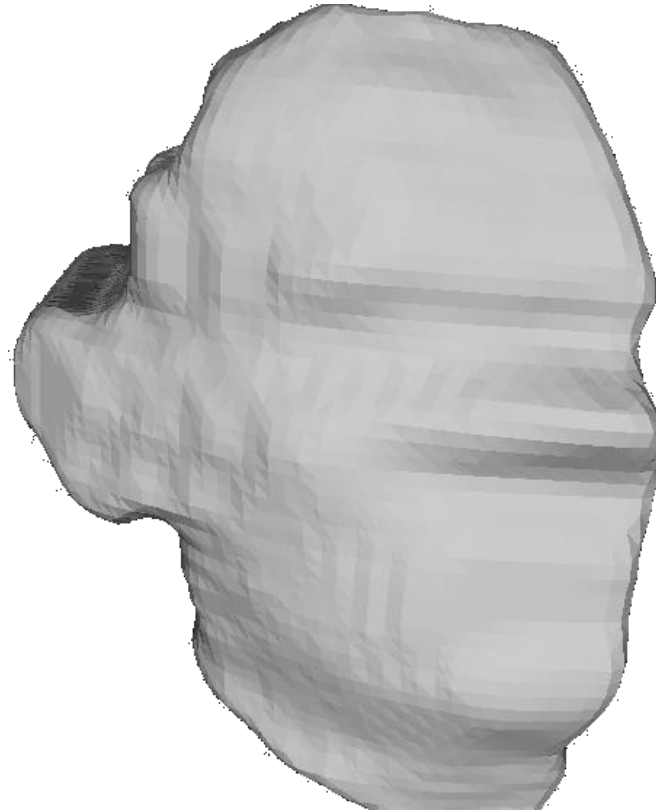
first pass at dense volumetric multi-view reconstruction: use silhouettes \Rightarrow **visual hull**



- Assume known cameras $P_i = K_i [R_i | T_i]$ (including position/orientation)
- Assume that each camera knows object's 2D **silhouette** S_i
 - binary image segmentation problem
 - ideas on how to solve it?
- Project each camera's silhouette into space to obtain a 3D *cone*.
- Intersection of the *cones* generated by silhouettes in each image gives the **visual hull** of the **object**

- visual hull is the smallest 3D shape consistent with all silhouettes.
- **object** is a subset of its **visual hull**

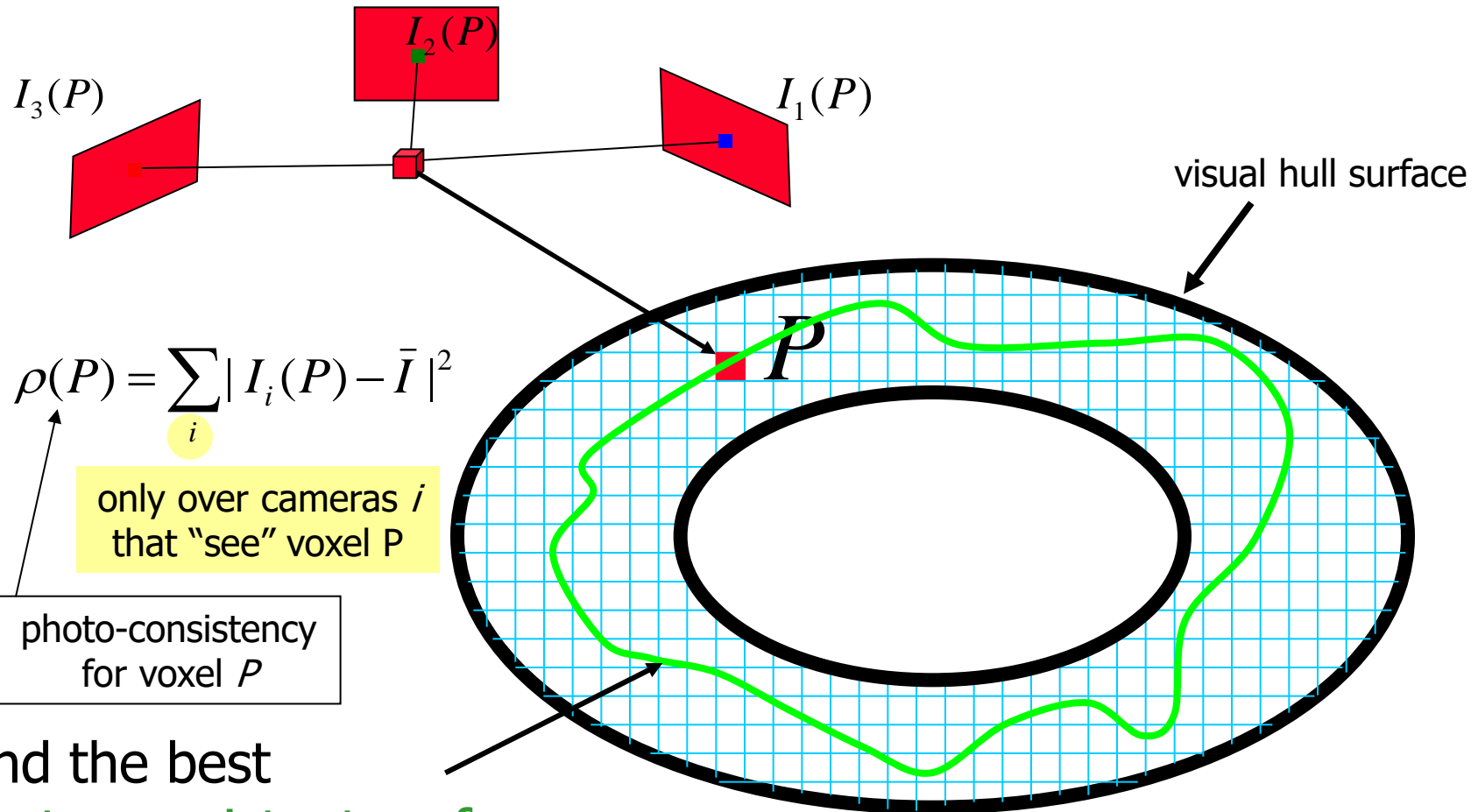
Visual hull of a human face



visual hull
(from silhouettes)

CVPR'05 slides from Vogiatzis, Torr, Cippola

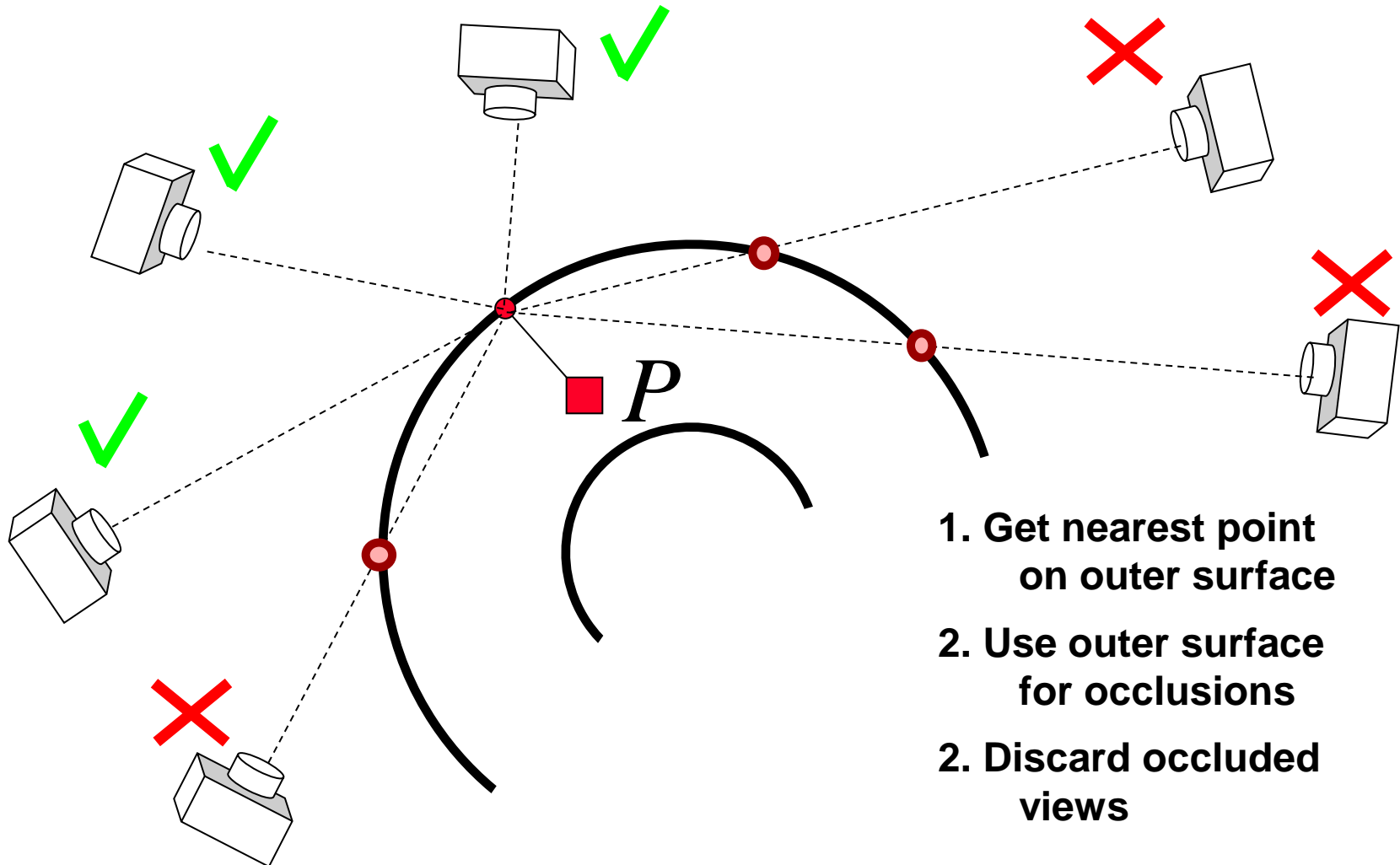
Can refine visual hull using *photoconsistency*



$$\rho(P) = \sum_i |I_i(P) - \bar{I}|^2$$

only over cameras i
that "see" voxel P

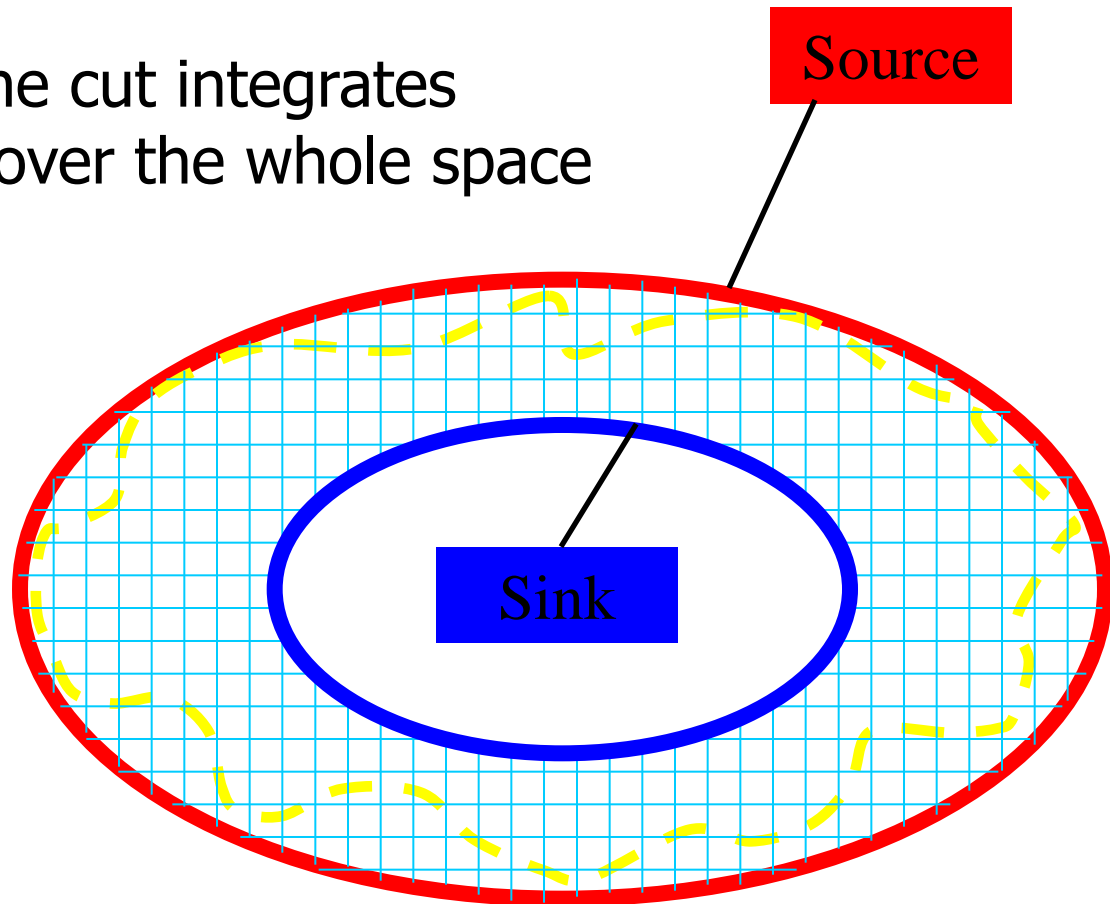
Estimating *visibility*



CVPR'05 slides from Vogiatzis, Torr, Cippola

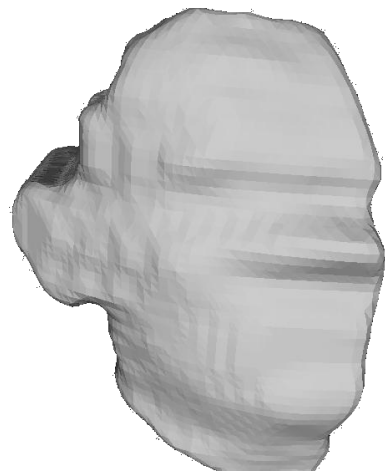
Graph cuts applied to multi-view reconstruction

The cost of the cut integrates photoconsistency over the whole space

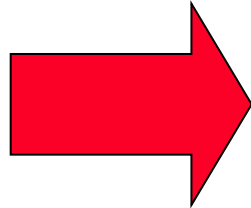


CVPR'05 slides from Vogiatzis, Torr, Cippola

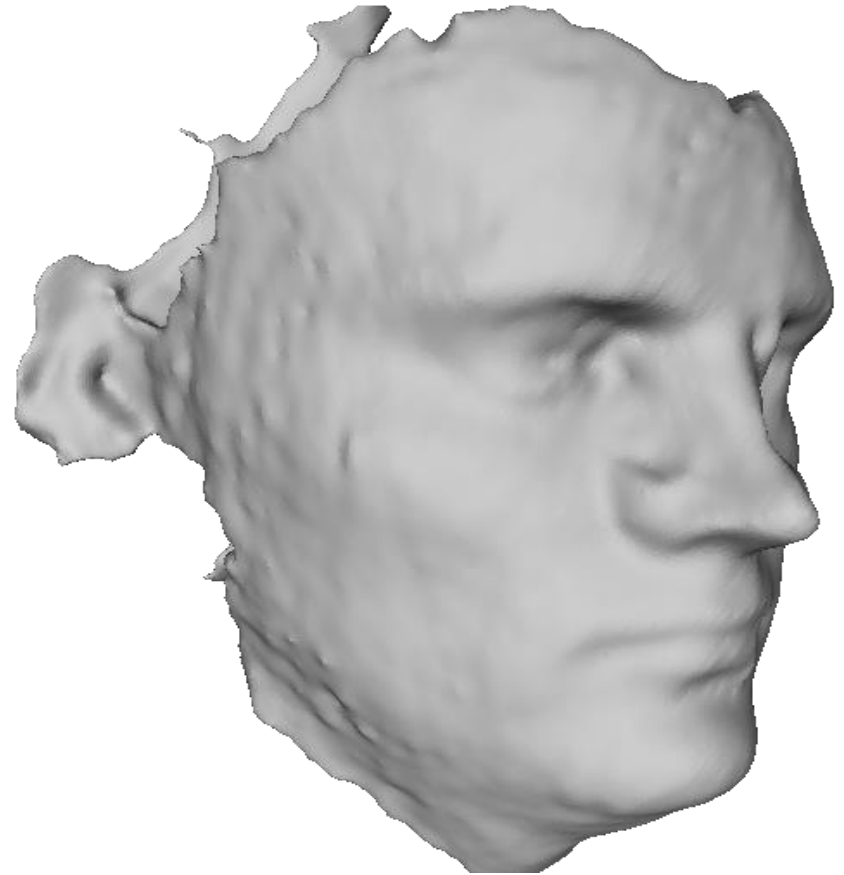
Graph cuts applied to multi-view reconstruction



visual hull
(silhouettes)



surface of good photoconsistency

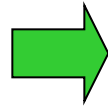


CVPR'05 slides from Vogiatzis, Torr, Cippola

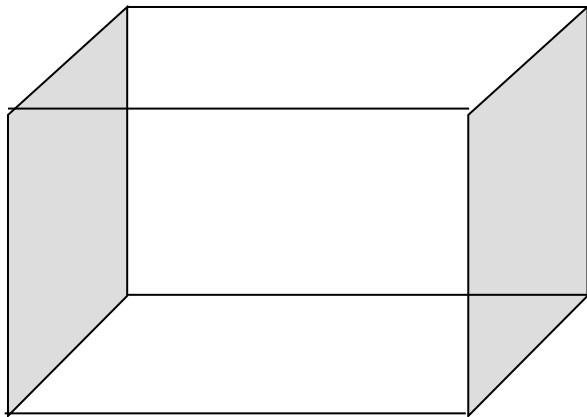
Graph cuts for video textures

Graph-cuts video textures

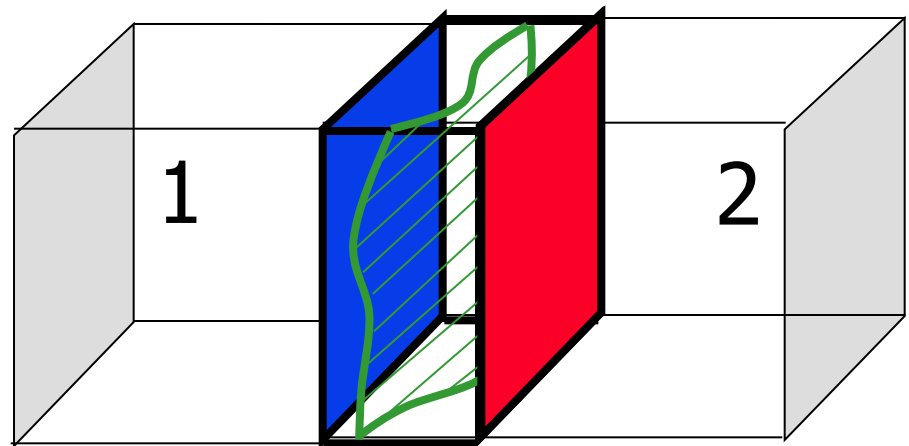
(Kwatra, Schodl, Essa, Bobick 2003)



a cut



Short video clip



Long video clip

What is left to discuss in topic 9:

Combining appearance & boundary in segmentation loss function

- A. known color/appearance + boundary regularization**
- B. color model fitting (K-means) + boundary regularization
- C. kernel clustering objectives + boundary regularization

combining color & boundary objectives

*"agreement" with given color likelihoods model
defines appearance consistency*

**A: combining known color model
and boundary regularization**

or

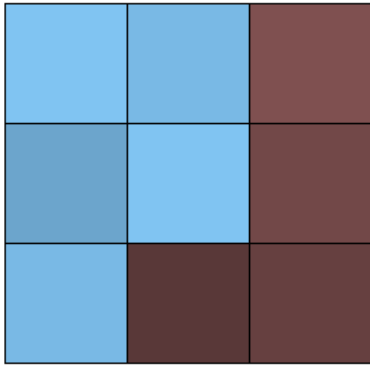
another example of
negative log-likelihood loss (NLL)
for observed (low-level) features, e.g. colors

Adding regional properties

another segmentation example [B&J'01]

"regional" hard constraints (seeds) are replaced
with "regional" **soft constraints**

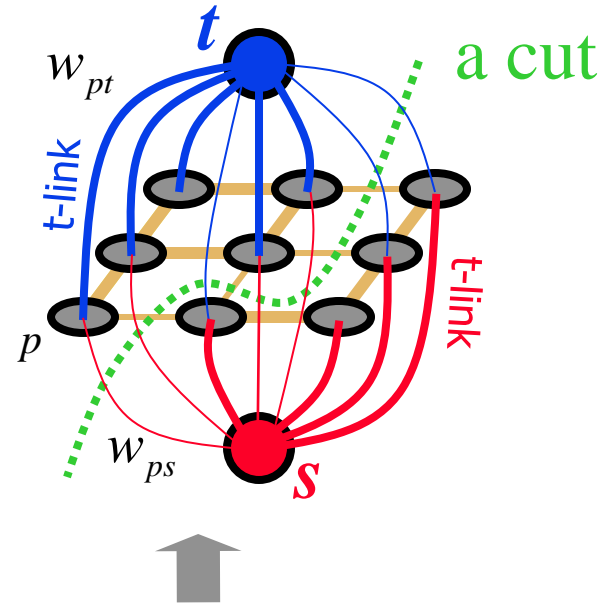
optimal
segmentation
minimizes
a **combination**
of **SSE** &
boundary costs



regional bias example 1

assume **known**
"expected" intensities
for **object** and **background**

e.g. $\theta_1 = 57$ and $\theta_0 = 213$



$$D_p(s) = \|I_p - \theta_1\|^2 = w_{pt}$$

$$D_p(t) = \|I_p - \theta_0\|^2 = w_{ps}$$

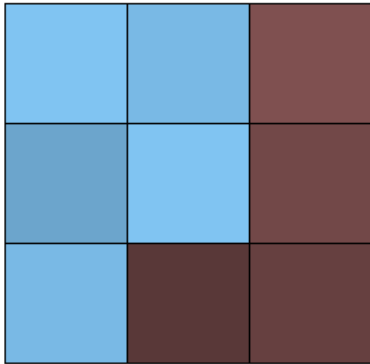
penalties/costs (e.g. *squared errors*)
for assigning labels **s** or **t** to pixel **p**

Adding regional properties

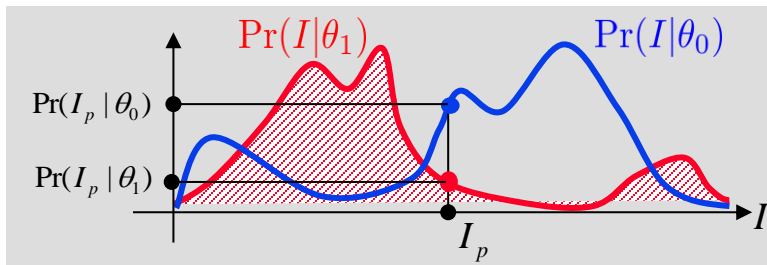
another segmentation example [B&J'01]

"regional" hard constraints (seeds) are replaced with "regional" **soft constraints**

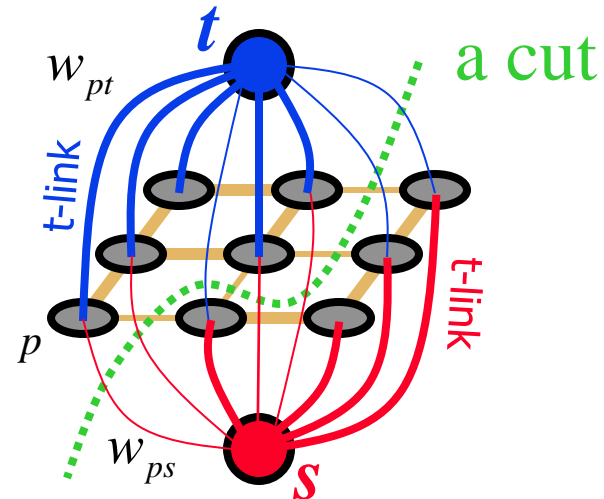
optimal segmentation minimizes a **combination of log-likelihoods & boundary costs**



regional bias example 2



known probability distributions for **object** and **background** colors/intensities



example 1 is a special case for $\|I_p - \theta_k\|^2 \leq$ **Gaussian pdf**

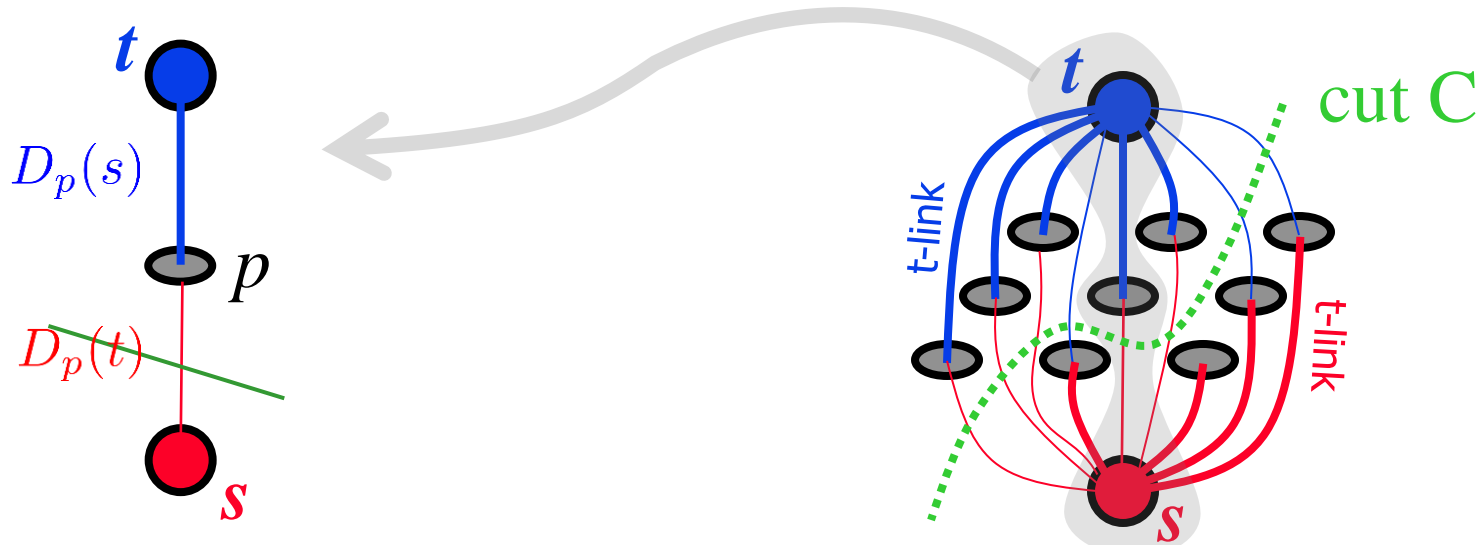
$$D_p(s) = -\ln \Pr(I_p | \theta_1) = w_{pt}$$

$$D_p(t) = -\ln \Pr(I_p | \theta_0) = w_{ps}$$

penalties/costs (*neg. log-likelihoods*) for assigning labels **s** or **t** to pixel **p**

What are *t-links* about?

(for now, assume no *n-links*)



A: sever the cheaper t-link
at every pixel **independently**
trivial problem, no fancy algorithms needed

$$\min_{S_p \in \{s, t\}} D_p(S_p)$$

altogether, we optimize the sum
of unary (pixelwise) terms

$$\min_S \sum_p D_p(S_p)$$

Q: What is the minimum cut on a graph
if there are only *t-links* (no *n-links*) ?

What are *t-links* about?

(for now, assume no *n-links*)

WARNING: below we use both integer-valued indicators or one-hot distributions, as convenient. The exact interpretation should be clear from context.

with discrete (hard) segmentation (as graph cuts)
we can use either class indicator variables (integers)

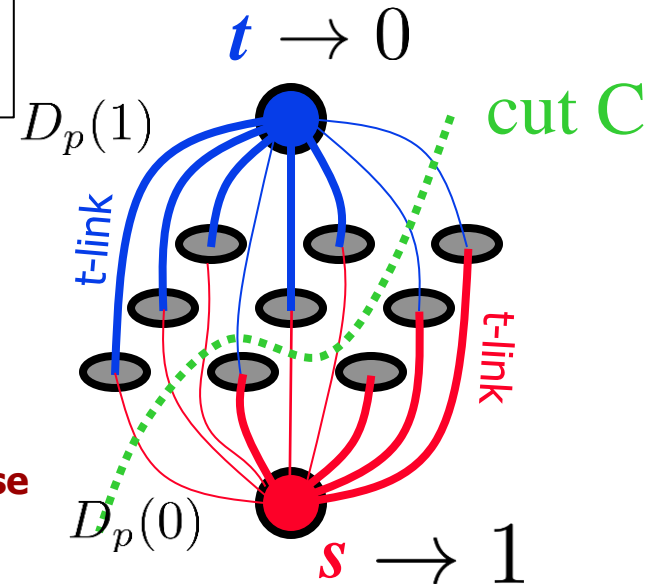
$$S_p \in \{0, 1\} \quad \text{or} \quad S_p \in \{1, \dots, K\}$$

OR (equivalently) one-hot distributions, e.g. (1,0) and (0,1)

$$S_p = (S_p^1, S_p^0) \in \Delta_v^2 \quad \text{or} \quad S_p = (S_p^1, \dots, S_p^K) \in \Delta_v^K$$

For continuous/relaxed segmentation, it is common to use (soft) categorical distributions (as was in fuzzy K-means)

$$S_p = (S_p^1, \dots, S_p^K) \in \Delta^K$$

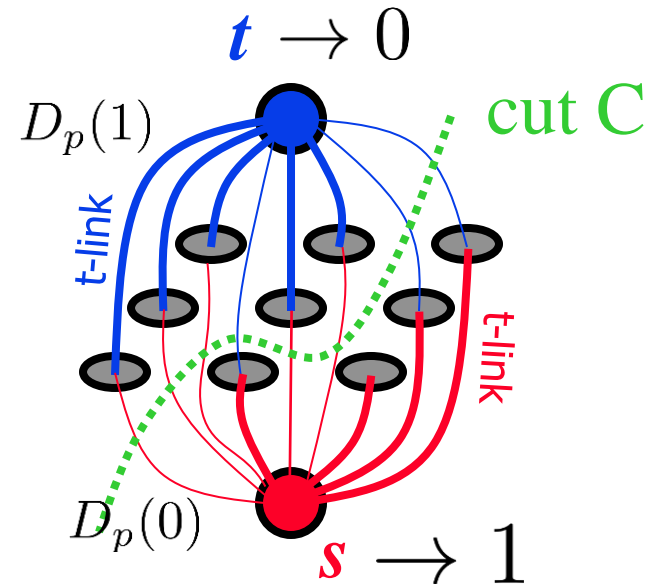


$$\|C(S)\| \equiv \underset{\text{cost of cut } C}{L(S)} = \underset{\text{loss for segmentation } S}{\sum_p \overset{\text{cost of severed t-links}}{D_p(S_p)}}$$

What are *t-links* about?

(for now, assume no *n-links*)

t-links describe
individual pixel preferences or
likelihoods of labels (*s* and *t*)



$$\|C(S)\| \equiv L(S) = \sum_p D_p(S_p)$$

cost of cut C loss for segmentation S cost of severed t-links

What are *t-links* about?

(for now, assume no *n-links*)

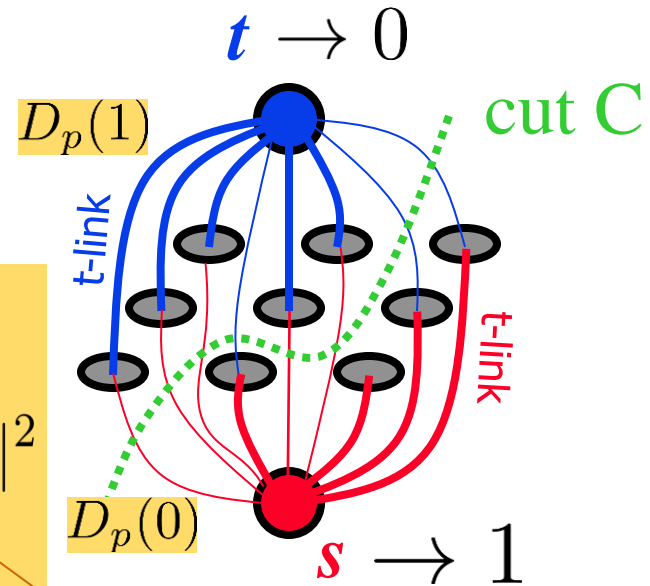
t-links describe
individual pixel preferences or
likelihoods of labels (*s* and *t*)

remember example 1
with **squared errors**

$$D_p(S_p) = \|I_p - \theta_{S_p}\|^2 \equiv \sum_{k=0}^1 S_p^k \|I_p - \theta_k\|^2$$

lower cost label $S_p \in \{0, 1\}$
selects closer "center" θ_k

$S_p \in \Delta_v^2$



NOTE: the second formulation of D
allows relaxed segmentation $S_p \in \Delta^2$
($D(S)$ is **linear** w.r.t. S as in K-means)

$$\|C(S)\| \equiv L(S) = \sum_p D_p(S_p)$$

cost of cut C

loss for
segmentation S

cost of severed t-links

minimizing squared errors

What are *t-links* about?

(for now, assume no *n-links*)

t-links describe
individual pixel preferences or
likelihoods of labels (*s* and *t*)

remember example 2
with **neg. log-likelihoods**

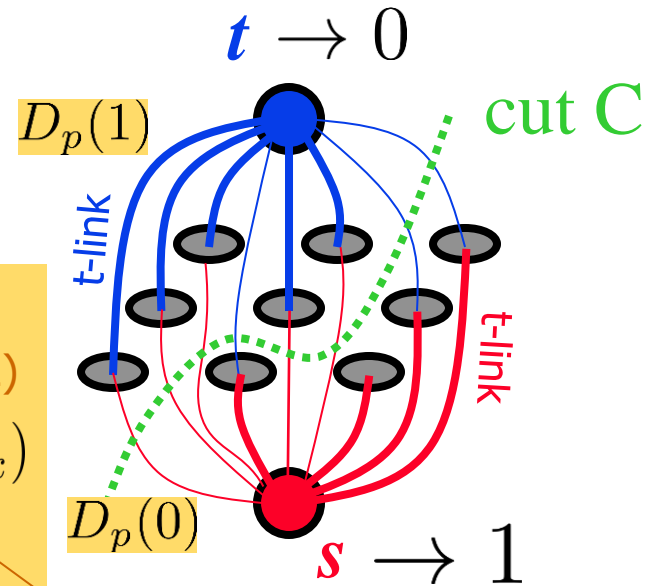
"NLL"

1 example (slide 52)

$$D_p(S_p) = -\ln \Pr(I_p | \theta_{S_p}) \equiv -\sum_{k=0}^1 S_p^k \ln \Pr(I_p | \theta_k)$$

lower cost label $S_p \in \{0, 1\}$
selects higher likelihood model θ_k

$S_p \in \Delta_v^2$



NOTE: the second formulation of D
allows relaxed segmentation $S_p \in \Delta^2$
(**linear** for S as in probabilistic K-means)

$$\|C(S)\| \equiv L(S) = \sum_p D_p(S_p)$$

cost of cut C loss for segmentation S cost of severed t-links

maximizing log-likelihoods (of features/colors)

What are *t-links* about?

(for now, assume no *n-links*)

t-links describe
individual pixel preferences or
likelihoods of labels (*s* and *t*)

remember earlier example with
hard constraints / seed labels y_p

$$D_p(S_p) = \begin{cases} 0 & \text{if } S_p = y_p \\ \infty & \text{if } S_p \neq y_p \end{cases} \equiv -\ln \Pr(S_p = y_p)$$

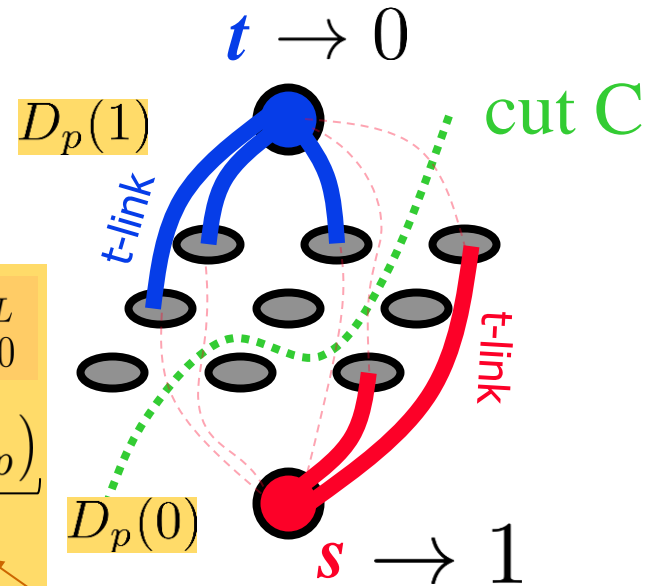
for $p \in \Omega_L$
(seeds)

lower cost label $S_p \in \{0, 1\}$
selects feasible solution

NOTE: for $p \notin \Omega_L$
 $D_p(0) = D_p(1) = 0$

"NLL"
example
(slide 16)

$$S_p^{y_p} \in \Delta_v^2$$



NOTE: the second formulation of D
allows relaxed segmentation $S_p \in \Delta^2$
(**non-linear** function $-\log(S_p^{y_p})$ w.r.t S)

$$\|C(S)\| \equiv L(S) = \sum_p D_p(S_p)$$

cost of cut C loss for segmentation S cost of severed t-links

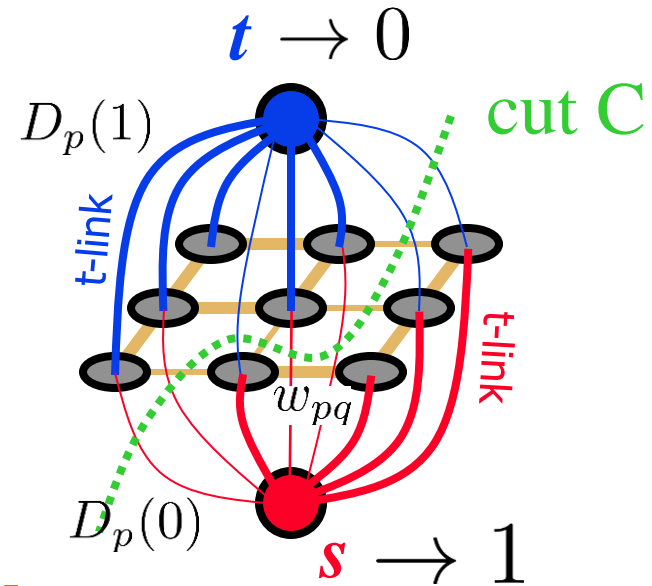
maximizing log-probabilities (of correct labeling)

Summary:

(putting *t-links* and *n-links* back together again)

t-links describe individual pixel preferences or likelihoods of labels (*s* and *t*)

n-links describe pairwise pixel correlations or structural regularization, which can be interpreted as (MRF) **prior**



$$\underbrace{\|C(S)\|}_{\text{cost of cut C}} \equiv \underbrace{L(S)}_{\text{loss for segmentation S}} = \underbrace{\sum_p D_p(S_p)}_{\text{cost of severed t-links}} + \underbrace{\sum_{pq \in N} w_{pq} [S_p \neq S_q]}_{\text{cost of severed n-links}}$$

no longer a trivial optimization problem

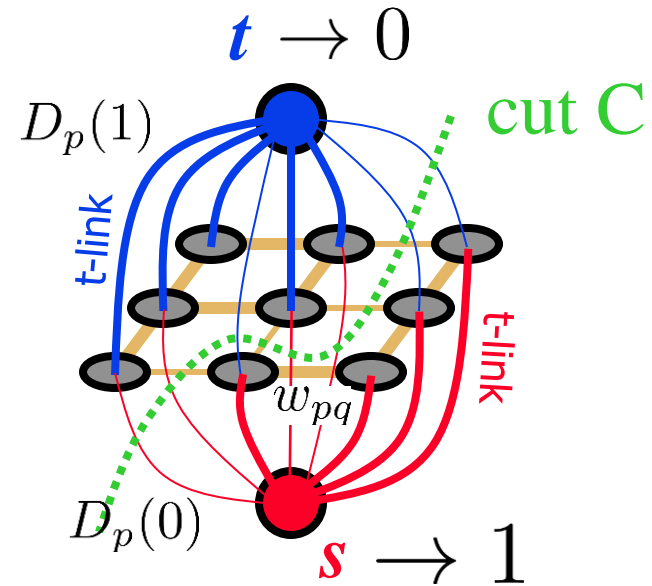
Summary:

(putting *t-links* and *n-links* back together again)

Comment on (so-called)
regularization constant

$$w_{pq} = \lambda \exp \left\{ -\frac{\|I_p - I_q\|^2}{2\sigma^2} \right\}$$

Important **hyper-parameter** of the (joint) energy
since it determines relative weight of the two terms:
regional (unary) vs. **boundary (pairwise)**



$$\|C(S)\| \equiv L(S) = \sum_p D_p(S_p) + \sum_{pq \in N} w_{pq} [S_p \neq S_q]$$

cost of cut C loss for segmentation S cost of severed t-links cost of severed n-links

no longer a trivial optimization problem

Extensions for segmentation energy/loss optimization:

submodular set functions

(discrete/combinatorial optimization)

$$E(S) = \sum_A E_A(S_A) \quad \text{for } S_A = \{S_p / p \in A\}$$

factors (unary, pairwise, high-order)

MRF/CRF
MAP estimation loss
log-likelihoods + log prior

multi-label problems

(e.g. multi-way cuts, relaxation)

$$S_p \in \{1, 2, \dots, K\} \text{ class indices}$$

or

$$S_p \in \Delta^K \text{ categorical distributions}$$

geometric surface functionals

(continuous optimization, PDEs)

minimum surfaces (area, curvature, shape)

$$\text{e.g. } \int_S d(v) dv + \int_{\partial S} w(s) ds$$

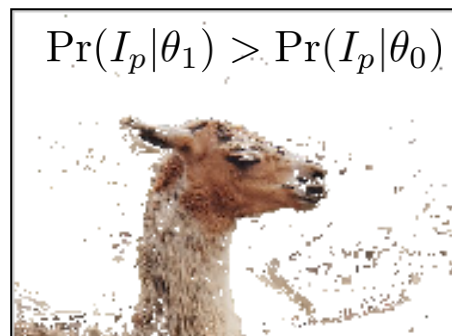
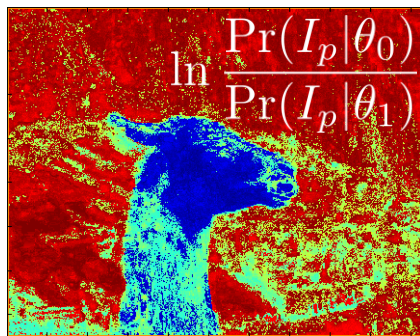
$$\|C(S)\| \equiv L(S) = \sum_p D_p(S_p) + \sum_{pq \in N} w_{pq} [S_p \neq S_q]$$

cost of cut C loss for segmentation S

no longer a trivial optimization problem

Graph cut vs Thresholding

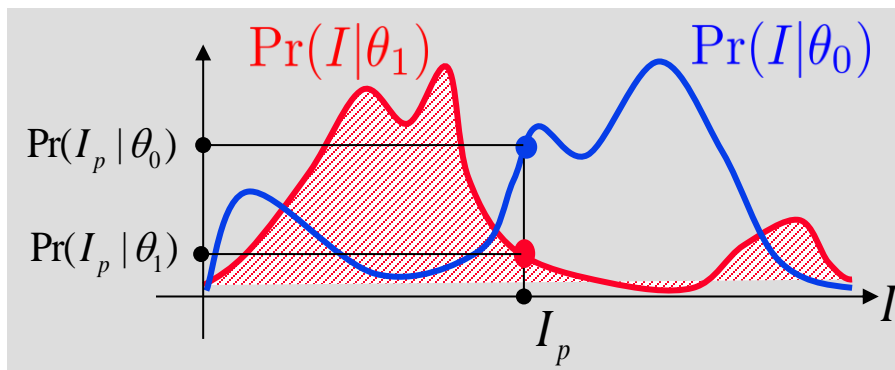
$$E(S) = \underbrace{\sum_p D_p(S_p)}_{\text{unary potentials}} + \underbrace{\sum_{pq \in N} w_{pq} [S_p \neq S_q]}_{\text{quadratic potentials}}$$



thresholding

optimal graph cut

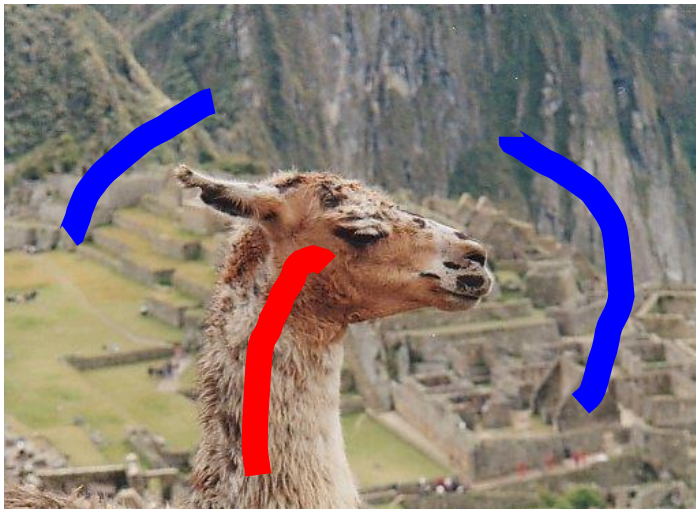
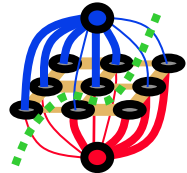
(naïve Bayesian classification, iid pixels) (correlated pixels, MRF/CRF inference)



$$S_p = \begin{cases} 1 & \text{if } \underbrace{-\ln \Pr(I_p | \theta_1)}_{D_p(1)} < \underbrace{-\ln \Pr(I_p | \theta_0)}_{D_p(0)} \\ 0 & \text{O.W.} \end{cases}$$

result of optimizing unary potentials D_p (only)

Given Color Models



Appearance color distributions θ_0 and θ_1 can be estimated from user seeds

e.g. histograms or GMM distributions (as in HW4)
estimated from RGB colors of pixels in the seeded regions

Comparison:



color likelihoods only (thresholding)

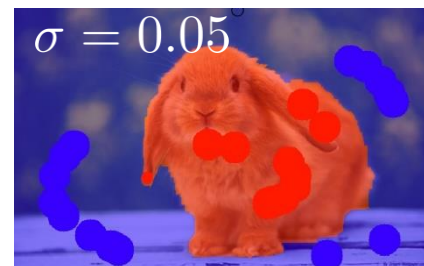


with boundary regularization

Even in examples (as here) where object colors are discriminative, boundary regularization is useful



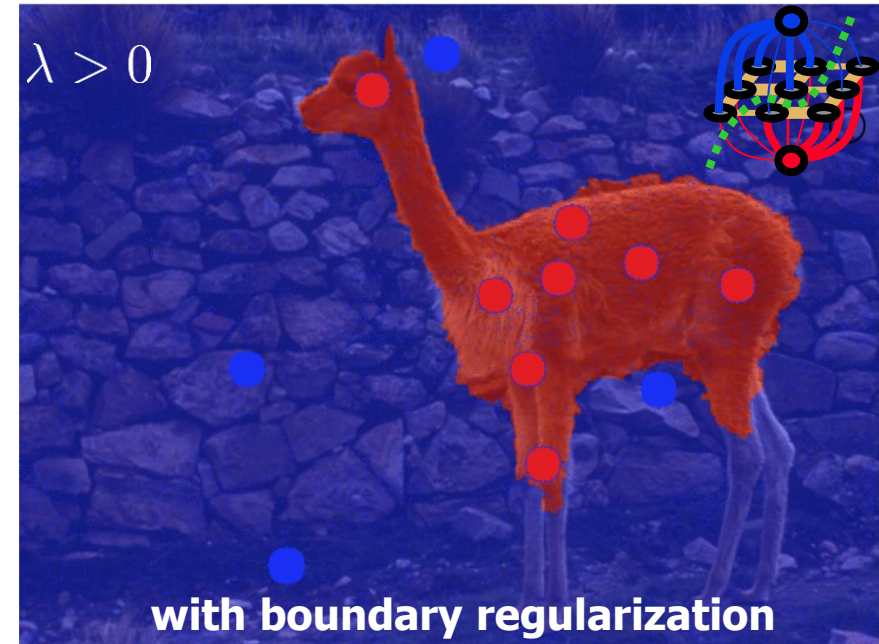
In this image, adding color models helps a lot. Our earlier result ([slide 12](#)) with n-links only required more seeds. It also required n-link weighting function w significantly more sensitive to intensity contrast (significantly smaller σ).



Comparison (less trivial example):



Low-level features (like RGB colors)
are discriminative only in simple cases



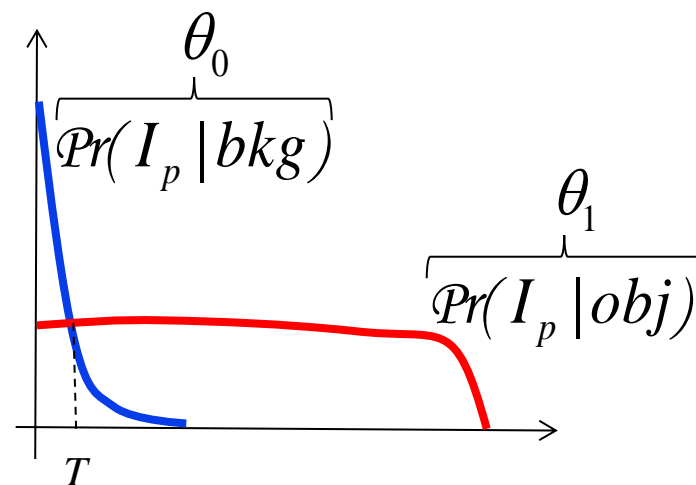
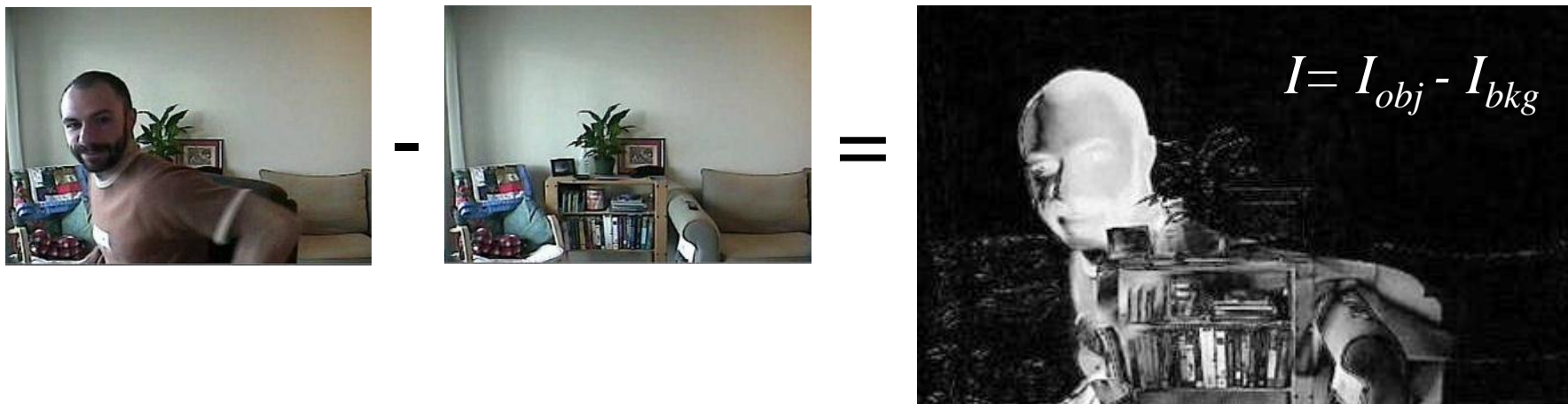
Includes higher-order features
(shape boundary, contrast edges)



In the context of CNN segmentation (topics 11 & 12)
we will discuss methods to automatically learn
discriminative high-level (semantic or deep) features
from **many fully- or weakly-supervised examples**

Adding regional properties

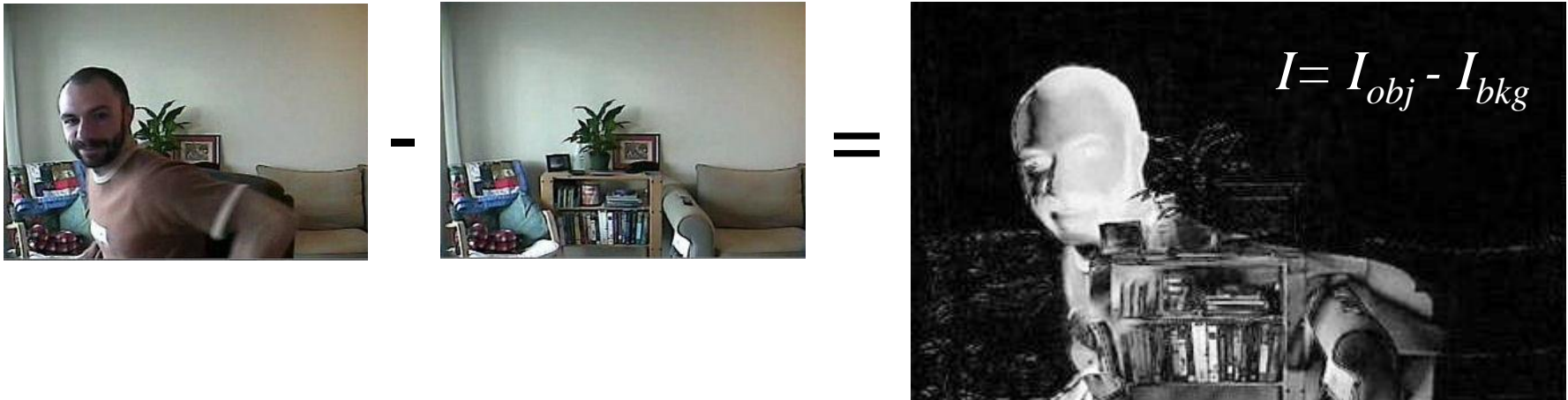
another segmentation example



Threshold intensities $S = \{ p : I_p > T \}$

Adding regional properties

(example: regularized background subtraction)



thresholding



graph cuts



Threshold intensities $S = \{ p : I_p > T \}$



optimal cut

What is left to discuss in topic 9:

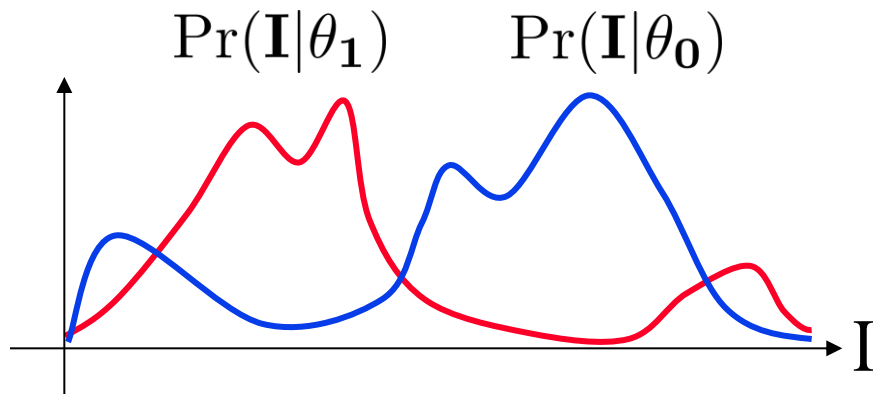
Combining appearance & boundary in segmentation loss function

- A. known color/appearance + boundary regularization
- B. color model fitting (K-means) + boundary regularization**
- C. kernel clustering objectives + boundary regularization

we will do only a quick overview; the detailed slides are left for optional reading

(preview)

What if models $\Pr(\mathbf{I} \mid \theta_i)$ are not known?



(preview)

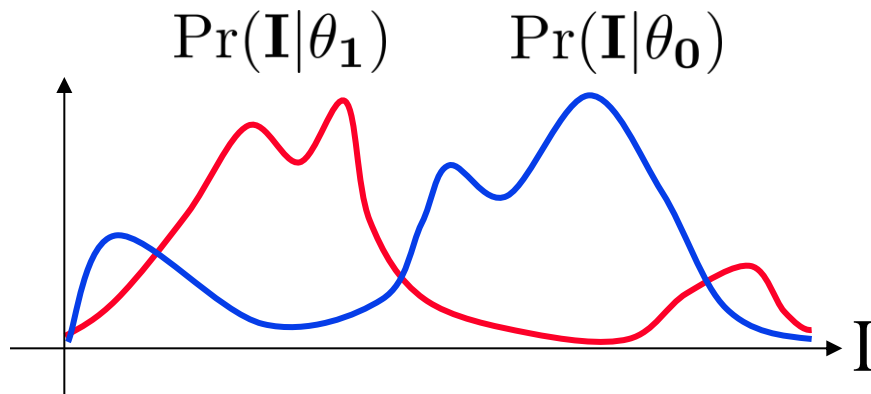
What if models $\Pr(\mathbf{I} | \theta_i)$ are not known?

$$S_p \in \Delta_{\mathbf{V}}^2$$

$$E(S) = \sum_p D_p(S_p) + \sum_{pq \in \mathcal{N}} w_{pq} \cdot [S_p \neq S_q]$$

$$= - \sum_p \sum_k S_p^k \ln \Pr(I_p | \theta_k) + \sum_{pq \in \mathcal{N}} w_{pq} \cdot [S_p \neq S_q]$$

see NLL loss on slides 52,57



(preview)

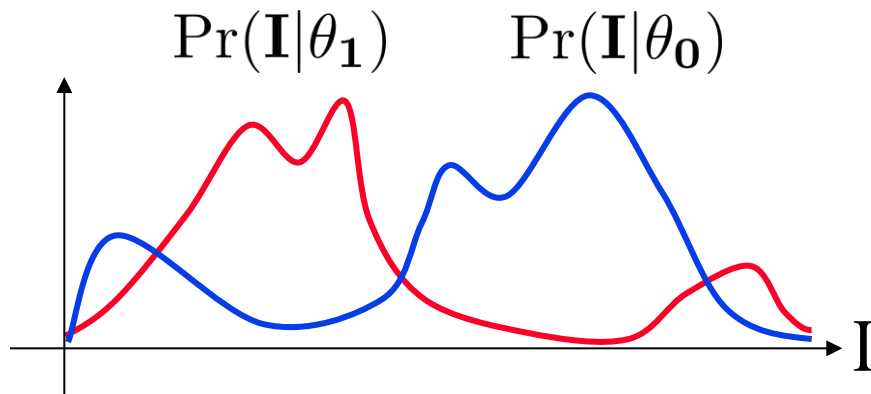
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see NLL loss on slides 52,57



(preview)

What if models $\Pr(\mathbf{I} | \theta_i)$ are not known?

$$S_p \in \Delta_{\mathbf{v}}^K$$

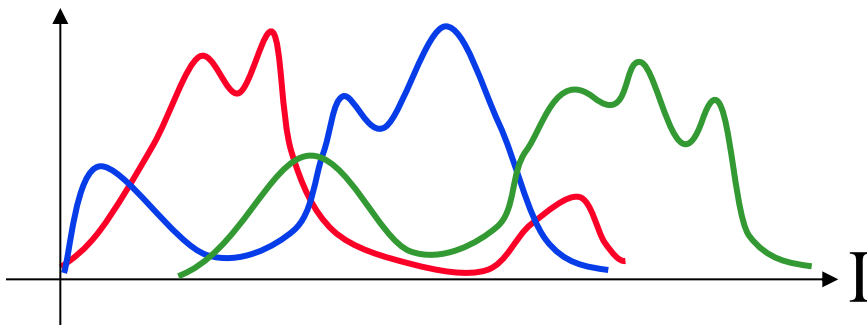
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$$= - \sum_k \sum_p S_p^k \ln \Pr(I_p | \theta_k) + \sum_{pq \in \mathcal{N}} w_{pq} \cdot [S_p \neq S_q]$$

see NLL loss on slides 52,57

Let's switch to K -class segmentation, but optimization w.r.t. segmentation S is more difficult, e.g. no polynomial solver for $K > 2$ even for fixed models θ_k

$\Pr(\mathbf{I} | \theta_k)$



(preview)

What if models $\Pr(\mathbf{I} | \theta_i)$ are not known?

approach

A:

$$E(S, \theta) = \sum_p D_p(S_p) + \sum_{pq \in \mathcal{N}} w_{pq} \cdot [S_p \neq S_q]$$

$$S_p \in \Delta_{\mathbf{v}}^K$$

$$= - \sum_k \sum_p S_p^k \ln \Pr(I_p | \theta_k) + \sum_{pq \in \mathcal{N}} w_{pq} \cdot [S_p \neq S_q]$$

see K-means loss, Topic 9A, slide 55

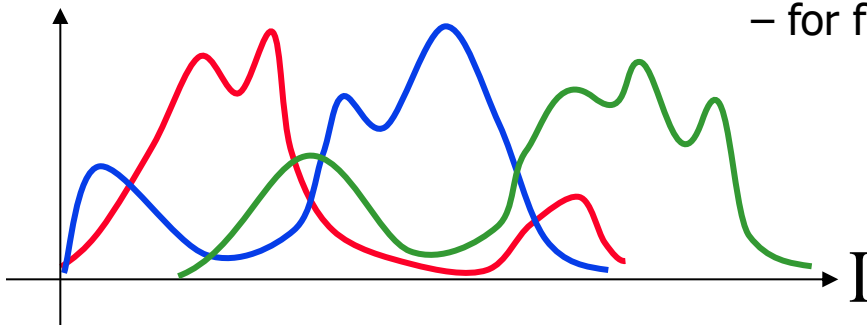
probabilistic K-means over color features I_p
if unknown K distributions θ_k are treated
as additional optimization variables

segmentation boundary regularization

Approximate Optimization Idea (greedy iterations)

- for fixed θ_i (back to “known” models) optimize over $\{S_p\}$
- for fixed $\{S_p\}$ optimize over model parameters θ_i

$\Pr(\mathbf{I} | \theta_k)$



**Segmentation combining
color model fitting
and boundary regularization**

(preview)

What if models $\Pr(\mathbf{I} \mid \theta_i)$ are not known?

approach

B:

$$S_p \in \Delta_{\mathbf{v}}^K$$

k-th segment indicator vector

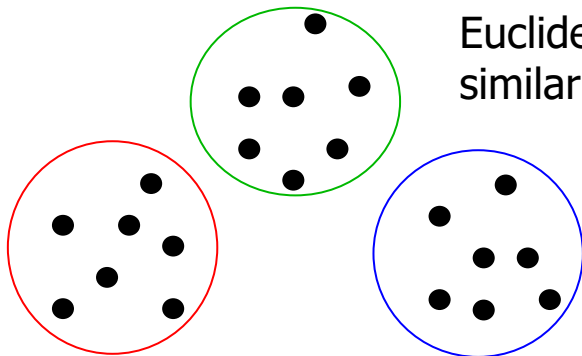
$$S^k = (S_p^k \mid p \in \Omega) = (S_1^k, \dots, S_{|\Omega|}^k)$$

$$E(S) = - \sum_k \frac{S^{k'} A S^k}{|S^k|} + \sum_{pq \in \mathcal{N}} w_{pq} \cdot [S_p \neq S_q]$$

non-parametric clustering (e.g. kernel K-means)
using any pixel features f_p or affinities $[A_{pq}]$

segmentation boundary regularization

Approximate Optimization Idea: use spectral decomposition of A to convert the first term to basic K-means over low-dimensional Euclidean embedding $\{\tilde{\phi}_p\}$ such that $\langle \tilde{\phi}_p, \tilde{\phi}_q \rangle = \tilde{A}_{pq}$. Then, iterate similar two optimization steps (e.g. graph cuts and mean estimation)



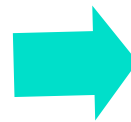
**Segmentation combining
kernel clustering of image features
and boundary regularization**

(preview)

Examples: clustering + spatial regularization

□ Unsupervised segmentation [Zhu&Yuille, 1996]

$$E(\underbrace{S, \theta_1, \dots, \theta_K}_{\text{blue arrows}}) = - \sum_{k=1}^K \sum_p S_p^k \ln \Pr(I_p | \theta_k) + \sum_{pq \in \mathcal{N}} w_{pq} \cdot [S_p \neq S_q] + |labels|$$



initialize models $\theta_0, \theta_1, \theta_2, \dots$
from randomly sampled boxes

iterate segmentation
and model re-estimation
until convergence

(preview)

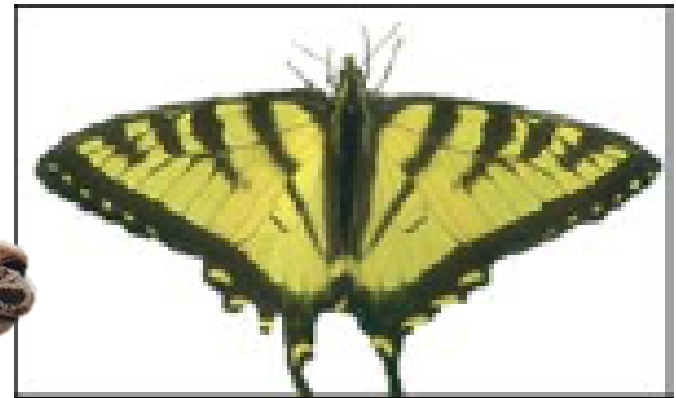
Examples: clustering + spatial regularization

□ Box-supervised segmentation [*GrabCut*, Rother et al SIGGRAPH'04]

$$E(S, \theta_1, \theta_0) = - \sum_{k=0}^1 \sum_p S_p^k \ln \Pr(I_p | \theta_k) + \sum_{pq \in \mathcal{N}} w_{pq} \cdot [S_p \neq S_q]$$



start from models θ_0, θ_1
based on colors
inside and outside some given



iterate graph cut segmentation
and model re-estimation
until convergence

DEMO: “*Remove Background*” tool directly inside “*Picture Format*” tab of MS Power Point software

(preview)

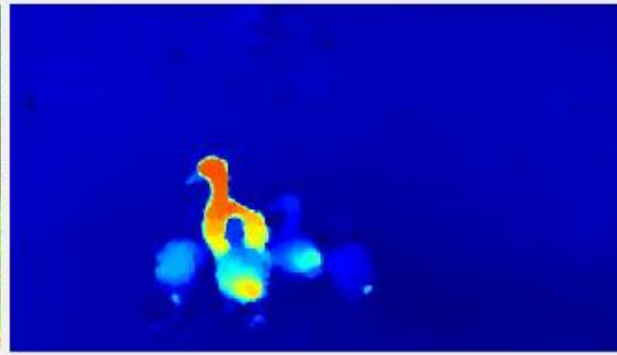
Examples: clustering + spatial regularization

□ Self-supervised segmentation [*KernelCut*, Tang et al ECCV'16]

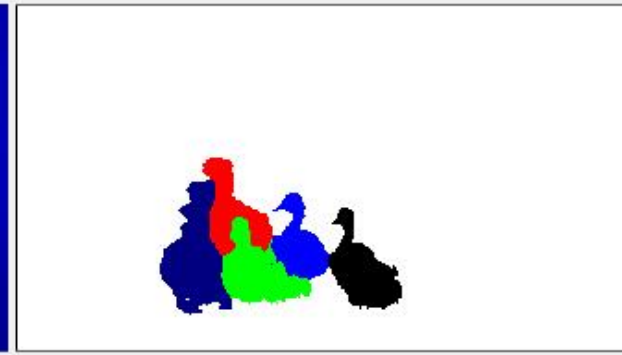
RGBXY



M (motion sensor)



RGBXYM + contrast edges



combining color & boundary objectives

*(probabilistic) K-means defines
appearance/color consistency*



A. Appearance model fitting and boundary regularization

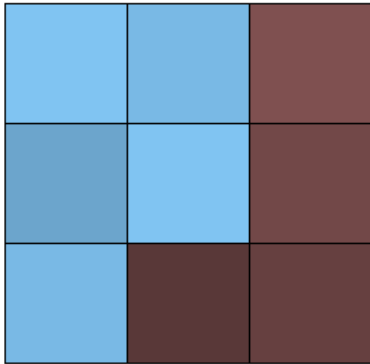
(in the context of image segmentation)

**This last portion of
topic 9 is OPTIONAL**

Remember simple example

(one color appearance)

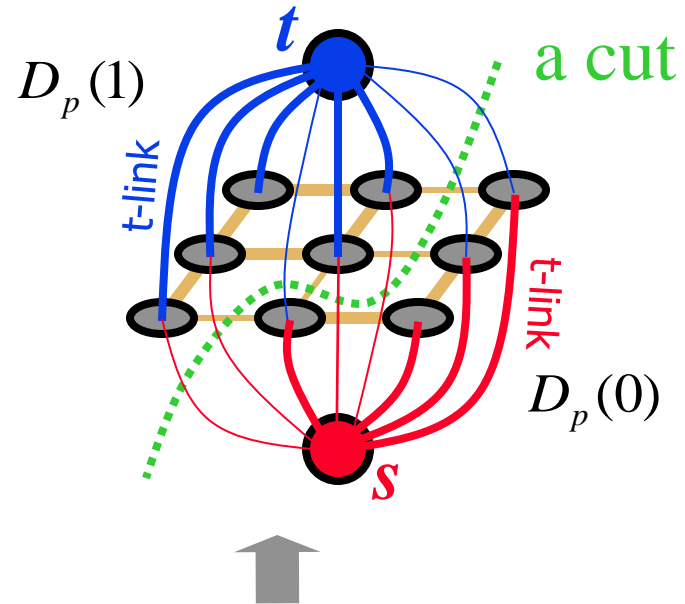
optimal segmentation minimizes a **combination of SSE & boundary costs**



remember

regional bias example 1

assume **known**
"expected" intensities
for **object** and **background**



$$D_p(0) = (I^0 - I_p)^2$$

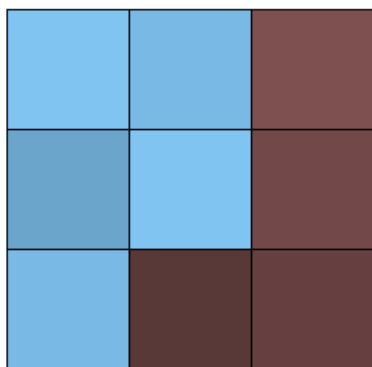
$$D_p(1) = (I^1 - I_p)^2$$

$$E(S|I^0, I^1) = \sum_{p:S_p=1} \text{unary potentials } (I^1 - I_p)^2 + \sum_{p:S_p=0} \text{unary potentials } (I^0 - I_p)^2 + \sum_{\{pq\} \in N} \text{pairwise potentials } w_{pq} \cdot [S_p \neq S_q]$$

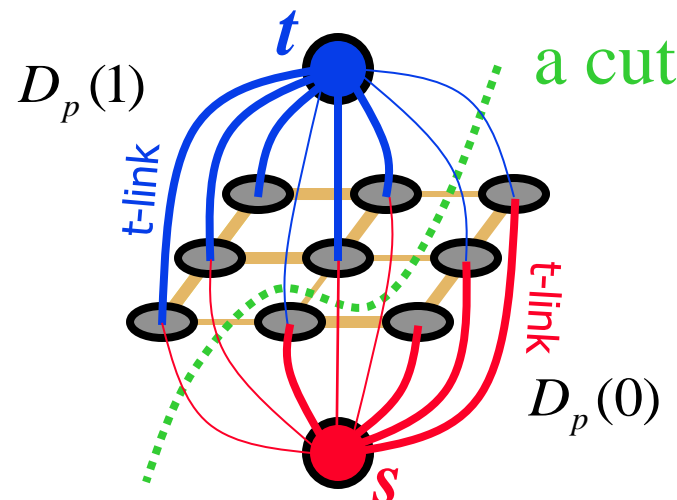
Remember simple example

(one color appearance)

optimal segmentation minimizes a **combination of SSE & boundary costs**



"expected" intensities of **object** and **background**
 I^1 and I^0
can be re-estimated



$$D_p(0) = (I^0 - I_p)^2$$

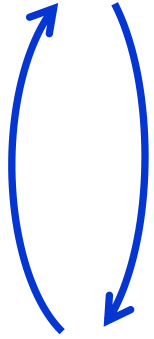
$$D_p(1) = (I^1 - I_p)^2$$

K-means (SSE) loss with boundary regularization

$$E(\underbrace{S, I^0, I^1}_{\text{extra variables}}) = \sum_{p: S_p=1} (I^1 - I_p)^2 + \sum_{p: S_p=0} (I^0 - I_p)^2 + \sum_{\{pq\} \in N} w_{pq} \cdot [S_p \neq S_q]$$

Block-coordinate descent for $E(S, I^0, I^1)$

- Minimize over labeling S for fixed I^0, I^1



$$E(S, \cancel{I^0}, \cancel{I^1}) = \sum_{p:S_p=0} (I^0 - I_p)^2 + \sum_{p:S_p=1} (I^1 - I_p)^2 + \sum_{\{pq\} \in N} w_{pq} \cdot [S_p \neq S_q]$$

optimal S can be computed using graph cuts

- Minimize over I^0, I^1 for fixed labeling S

$$E(\cancel{S}, I^0, I^1) = \sum_{p:S_p=0} (I^0 - I_p)^2 + \sum_{p:S_p=1} (I^1 - I_p)^2 + \sum_{\{pq\} \in N} w_{pq} \cdot [S_p \neq S_q]$$

fixed for $S = \text{const}$

optimal I^1, I^0 can be computed by minimizing squared errors inside object and background segments

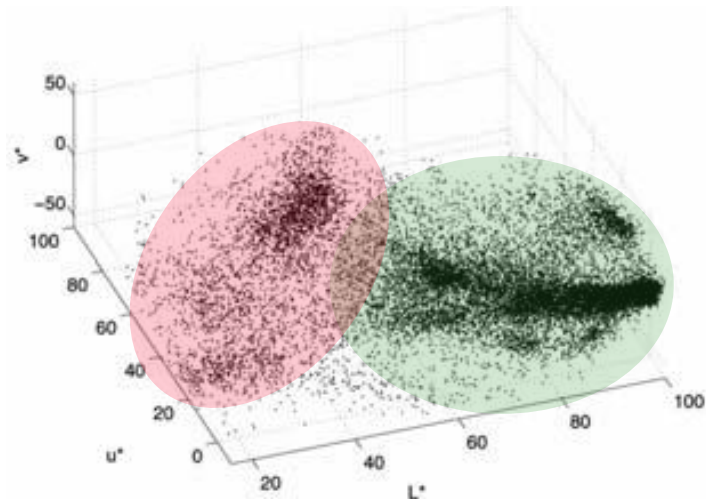
$$\hat{I}^0 = \frac{1}{|S|} \cdot \sum_{p:S_p=0} I_p$$

$$\hat{I}^1 = \frac{1}{|S|} \cdot \sum_{p:S_p=1} I_p$$

mean colors
in two segments

Chan-Vese segmentation

(binary case $S_p \in \{0,1\}$)



K-means in RGB space

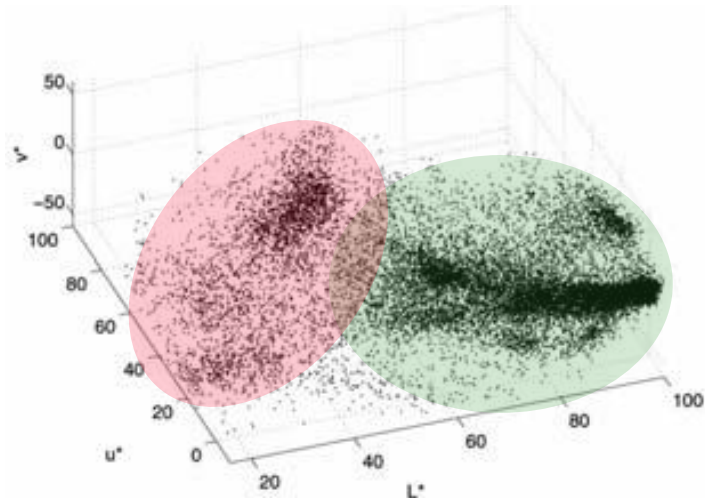


combined with boundary smoothness in XY

$$\begin{aligned} E(S, I^0, I^1) = & \sum_{p:S_p=0} (I_p - I^0)^2 + \sum_{p:S_p=1} (I_p - I^1)^2 \\ & + \sum_{\{pq\} \in N} w_{pq} \cdot [S_p \neq S_q] \end{aligned}$$

Chan-Vese segmentation

(binary case $S_p \in \{0,1\}$)



K-means in RGB space

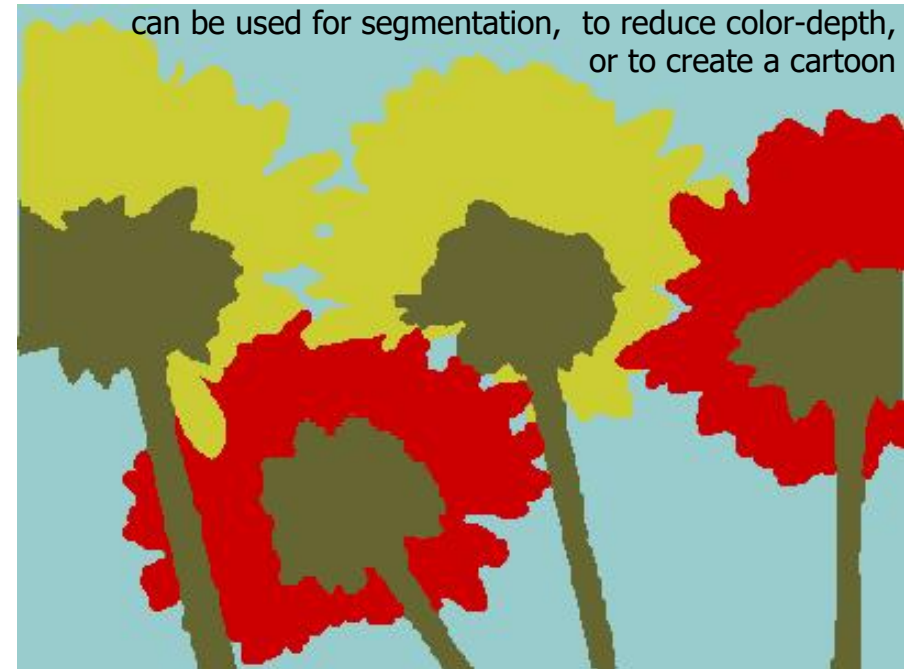


combined with boundary smoothness in XY

$$\begin{aligned} E(S, I^0, I^1) = & \sum_{k=0}^1 \sum_{p: S_p = k} (I_p - I^k)^2 \\ & + \sum_{\{pq\} \in N} w_{pq} \cdot [S_p \neq S_q] \end{aligned}$$

Chan-Vese segmentation

(could be used for more than 2 labels $S_p \in \{0,1,2,\dots\}$)



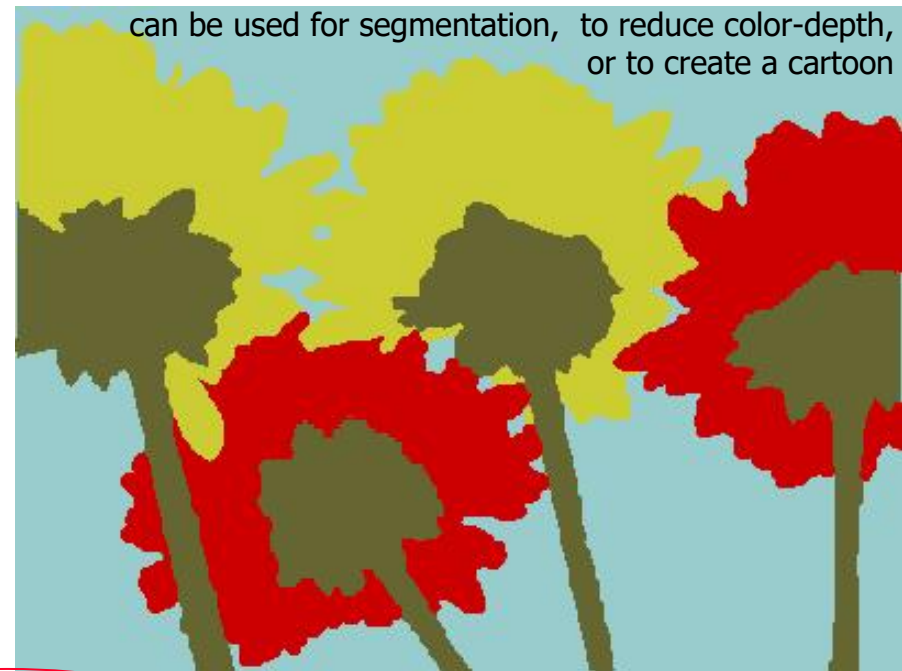
can be used for segmentation, to reduce color-depth,
or to create a cartoon

$$E(S, I^0, I^1, \dots) = \sum_{k=0}^K \sum_{p: S_p = k} (I_p - I^k)^2 \\ + \sum_{\{pq\} \in N} w_{pq} \cdot [S_p \neq S_q]$$

multi-terminal graph cuts are needed
for segmentation step [BVZ, PAMI 2001]

Chan-Vese segmentation

(could be used for more than 2 labels $S_p \in \{0,1,2,\dots\}$)

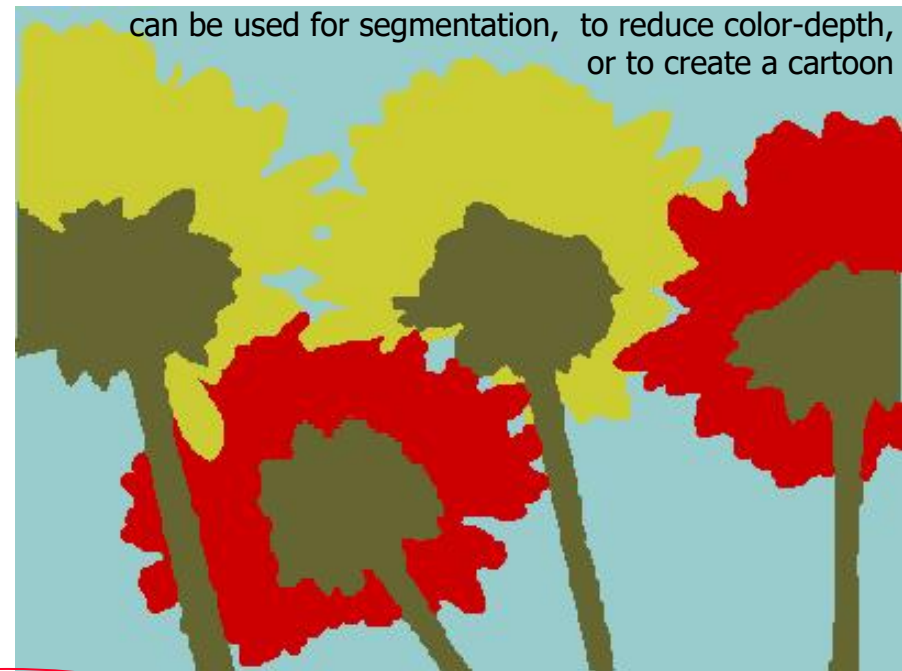


$$E(S, I^0, I^1, \dots) = \sum_{k=0}^K \sum_{p: S_p = k} (I_p - I^k)^2$$

without the smoothing term, this is like
"K-means" clustering in the color space

Chan-Vese segmentation

(could be used for more than 2 labels $S_p \in \{0,1,2,\dots\}$)



$$E(S, I^0, I^1, \dots) = \sum_{k=0}^K \sum_{p: S_p = k} (I_p - I^k)^2$$

Works well mainly for objects with simple appearance
(approximately one color per segment)

General appearance example

(remember fixed color model example)

$$E(S | \theta_0, \theta_1) = \sum_p -\ln \Pr(I_p | \theta_{S_p}) + \sum_{pq \in N} w_{pq} \cdot [S_p \neq S_q] \quad S_p \in \{0,1\}$$

assuming known

general models (e.g. histograms)

**Log-Likelihoods
(region)**

**Spatial smoothness
(boundary)**

$I_p \in RGB$

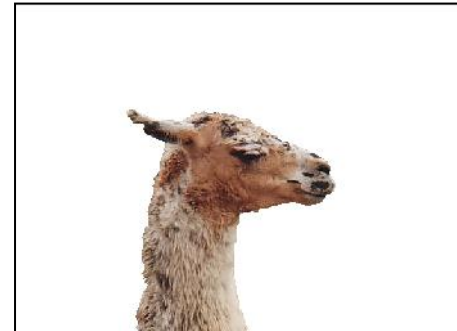
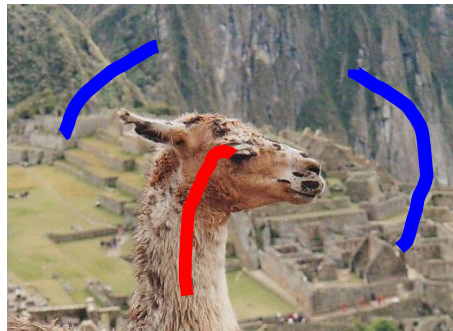
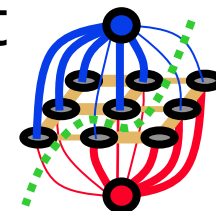


image segmentation, graph cut

[Boykov&Jolly, ICCV2001]



Beyond fixed appearance models

probabilistic K-means loss

with boundary regularization

$$E(S, \theta_0, \theta_1) = \sum_p -\ln \Pr(I_p | \theta_{S_p}) + \sum_{pq \in N} w_{pq} \cdot [S_p \neq S_q] \quad S_p \in \{0,1\}$$

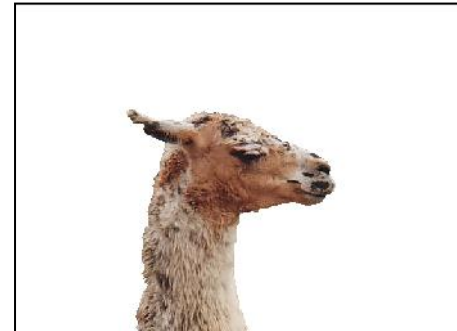
extra variables

general models (e.g. histograms)

**Log-Likelihoods
(region)**

**Spatial smoothness
(boundary)**

$I_p \in RGB$



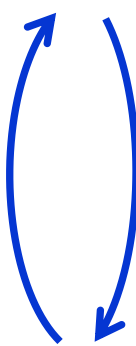
Models θ_0, θ_1
can be iteratively
re-estimated

iterative image segmentation, Grabcut
(block coordinate descent $S \leftrightarrow \theta_0, \theta_1$)

[Rother, et al. SIGGRAPH'2004]

Block-coordinate descent for $E(S, \theta_0, \theta_1)$

- Minimize over segmentation S for fixed θ_0, θ_1



$$E(S, \theta_0, \theta_1) = \sum_p -\ln \Pr(I_p | \theta_{S_p}) + \sum_{pq \in N} w_{pq} \cdot [S_p \neq S_q]$$

optimal S can be computed using graph cuts

- Minimize over θ_0, θ_1 for fixed labeling S

$$E(\cancel{S}, \theta_0, \theta_1) = \sum_{p: S_p=0} -\ln \Pr(I_p | \theta_0) + \sum_{p: S_p=1} -\ln \Pr(I_p | \theta_1) + \sum_{pq \in N} w_{pq} \cdot [S_p \neq S_q]$$

fixed for $S=const$

$$\hat{\theta}_0 = p^{\bar{S}}$$

distribution of intensities in
current bkg. Segment $\bar{S} = \{p: S_p=0\}$

$$\hat{\theta}_1 = p^S$$

distribution of intensities in
current obj. segment $S = \{p: S_p=1\}$

optimal θ_0, θ_1 can be computed by minimizing
the sums of log-likelihoods

not hard to prove
when θ_k are histograms

Iterative learning of color models

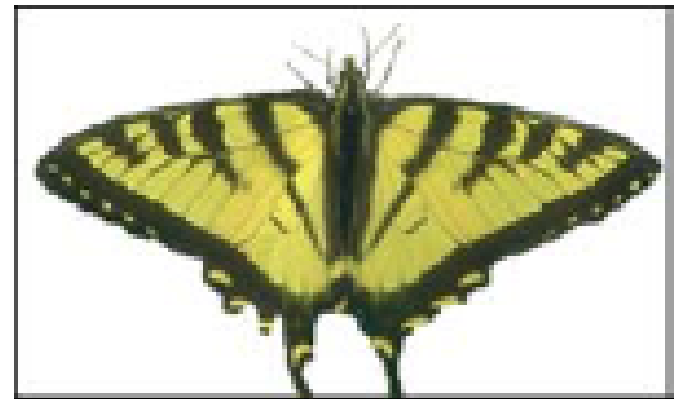
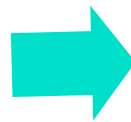
(binary case $S_p \in \{0,1\}$)

- GrabCut: iterated graph cuts [Rother et al., SIGGRAPH 04]

$$E(S, \theta_0, \theta_1) = \sum_p -\ln \Pr(I_p | \theta_{S_p}) + \sum_{pq \in N} w_{pq} \cdot [S_p \neq S_q]$$



start from models θ_0, θ_1
based on colors
inside and outside some given box



iterate graph cut segmentation
and model re-estimation
until convergence

Iterative learning of color models

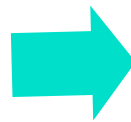
(could be used for more than 2 labels $S_p \in \{0,1,2,\dots\}$)

□ Unsupervised segmentation [Zhu&Yuille, 1996]

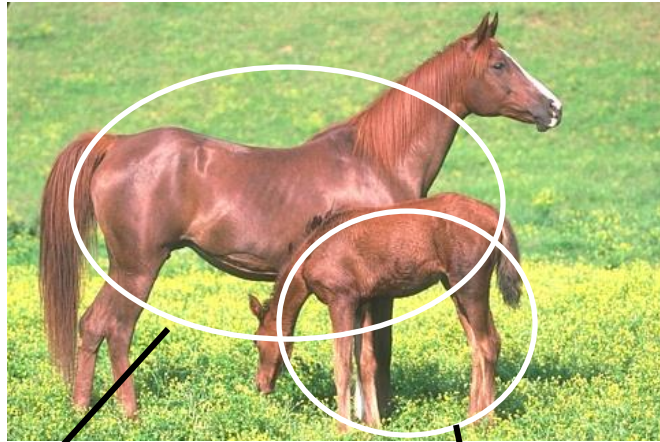
$$E(\underbrace{S, \theta_0, \theta_1, \theta_2 \dots}_{\text{blue arrows}}) = \sum_p -\ln \Pr(I_p | \theta_{S_p}) + \sum_{pq \in N} w_{pq} \cdot [S_p \neq S_q] + |labels|$$



initialize models $\theta_0, \theta_1, \theta_2, \dots$
from randomly sampled boxes



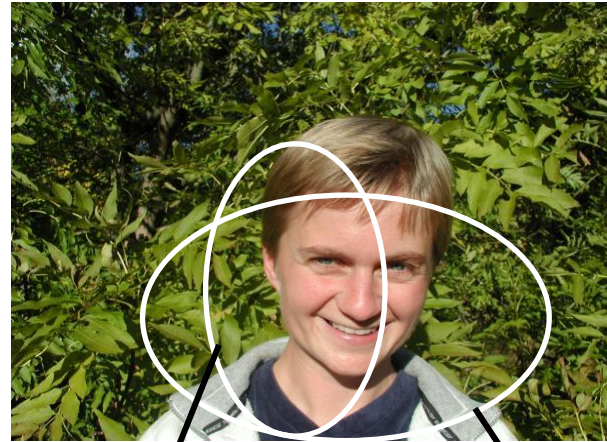
iterate segmentation
and model re-estimation
until convergence



$$E=1.410 \times 10^6$$



$$E=1.39 \times 10^6$$



$$E=2.41 \times 10^6$$



$$E=2.37 \times 10^6$$

BCD minimization of $E(S, \theta_0, \theta_1)$ converges to a local minimum

$$E(S, \theta_0, \theta_1) = \sum_{p: S_p=0} -\ln \Pr(I_p | \theta_0) + \sum_{p: S_p=1} -\ln \Pr(I_p | \theta_1) + \sum_{pq \in N} w_{pq} \cdot [S_p \neq S_q]$$

Q: Interpretation of this segmentation/clustering energy
where θ_i are extra variables?

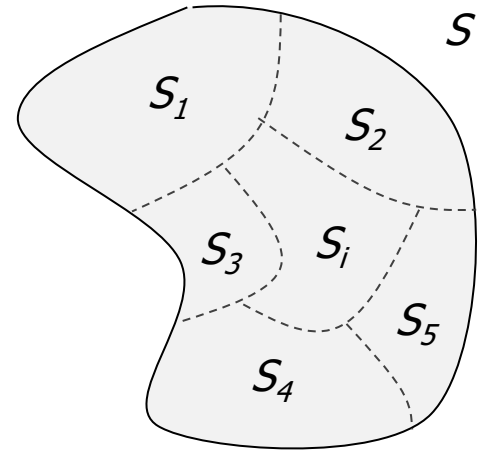
Statistical answer: it gives *maximum likelihood* (ML) estimation of parameters θ_i

Information theoretic answer: *entropy-based* clustering
(...see next slides....)

Interpretation of log-likelihoods: entropy of segment intensities

$$-\sum_{p \in S} \ln \Pr(I_p | \theta) = -|S| \underbrace{\sum_i p_i^S \ln p_i^\theta}_{H(S | \theta)}$$

cross entropy of
distribution p^S
(intensities in S)
w.r.t. distribution θ



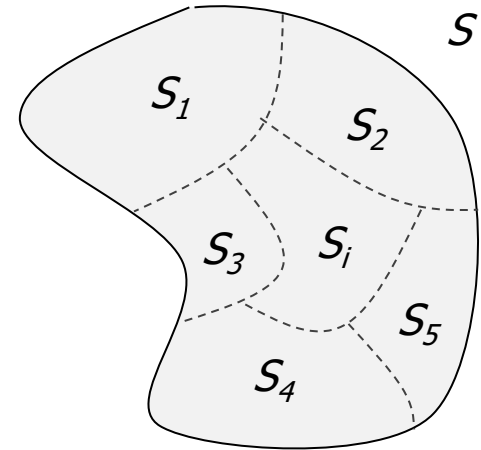
$S_i = \{p \in S \mid I_p = i\}$
pixels of color i in S

$p_i^S = \frac{|S_i|}{|S|}$ probability of
color i in S

Interpretation of log-likelihoods: **entropy** of segment intensities

$$-\sum_{p \in S} \ln \Pr(I_p | \theta) \xrightarrow{\min \theta} -|S| \underbrace{\sum_i p_i^S \ln p_i^S}_{H(S)}$$

entropy of
distribution p^S
(intensities in S)



$S_i = \{p \in S \mid I_p = i\}$
pixels of color i in S

$p_i^S = \frac{|S_i|}{|S|}$ probability of
color i in S

Interpretation of log-likelihoods: entropy of segment intensities

$$\sum_{p:S_p=0} -\ln \Pr(I_p | \theta_0) + \sum_{p:S_p=1} -\ln \Pr(I_p | \theta_1) + \sum_{pq \in N} w_{pq} \cdot [S_p \neq S_q]$$

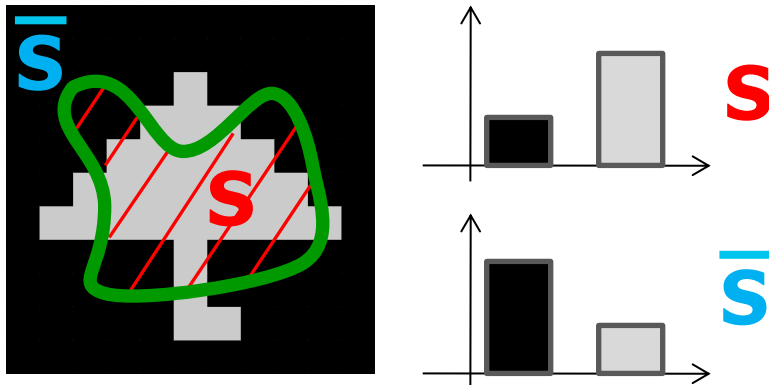
$$E(S) = |\bar{S}| \cdot H(\bar{S}) + |S| \cdot H(S) + \sum_{pq \in N} w_{pq} [S_p \neq S_q]$$

information theoretic energy:
Minimum Description Length
(MDL)

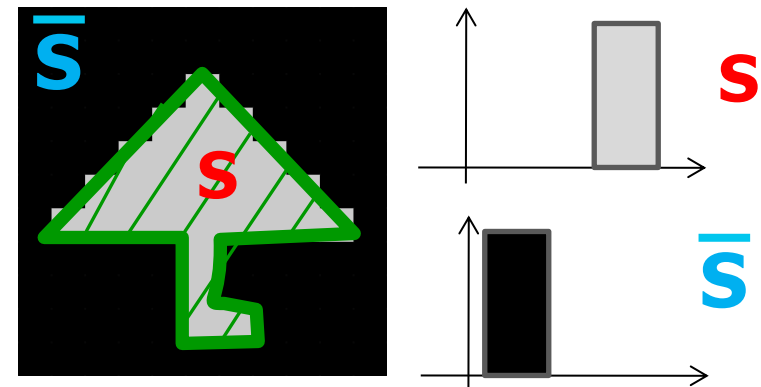
can be interpreted as the number of bits

break image into 2 coherent segments
with low entropy of intensities

high entropy segmentation



low entropy segmentation



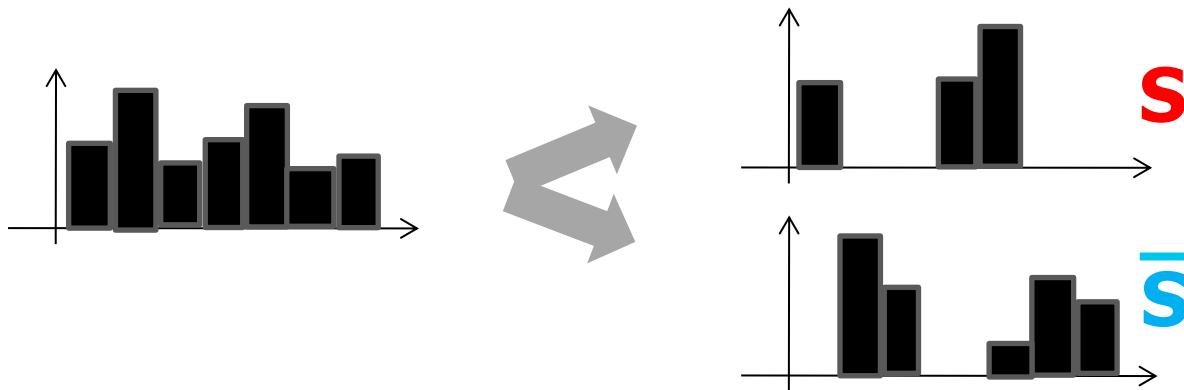
unsupervised image segmentation (like in *Chan-Vese*)

Interpretation of log-likelihoods: **entropy** of segment intensities

$$\sum_{p:S_p=0} -\ln \Pr(I_p | \theta_0) + \sum_{p:S_p=1} -\ln \Pr(I_p | \theta_1) + \sum_{pq \in N} w_{pq} \cdot [S_p \neq S_q]$$

$$E(S) = |\bar{S}| \cdot H(\bar{S}) + |S| \cdot H(S) + \sum_{pq \in N} w_{pq} [S_p \neq S_q]$$

break image into 2 coherent segments
with low entropy of intensities



more general than *Chan-Vese* (colors can vary within each segment)

Model Fitting and Color Clustering: Gaussian models vs Histograms

segments' appearance consistency

edge alignment/regularization

$$\sum_{p:S_p=0} -\ln \Pr(I_p | \theta_0) + \sum_{p:S_p=1} -\ln \Pr(I_p | \theta_1) + \sum_{pq \in N} w_{pq} \cdot [S_p \neq S_q]$$

normal distributions with means μ_k

$$\Pr(I | \theta_k) = N(I | \mu_k)$$

$$\sum_{p:S_p=0} (I_p - \mu_0)^2 + \sum_{p:S_p=1} (I_p - \mu_1)^2$$

arbitrary histograms $\theta_k = [b^k_1, b^k_2, \dots, b^k_n]$

$$\Pr(I | \theta_k) = b^k_I$$

$$\sum_{p:S_p=0} -\ln \Pr(I_p | \theta_0) + \sum_{p:S_p=1} -\ln \Pr(I_p | \theta_1)$$

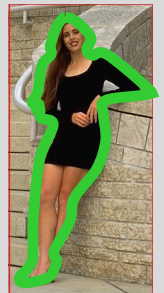
$|S| \cdot \text{var}(S) + |\bar{S}| \cdot \text{var}(\bar{S})$
variance clustering criteria (K-means)



one color
segments

$|S| \cdot H(S) + |\bar{S}| \cdot H(\bar{S})$
entropy clustering criteria

"simpler" appearance
segments



combining color & boundary objectives

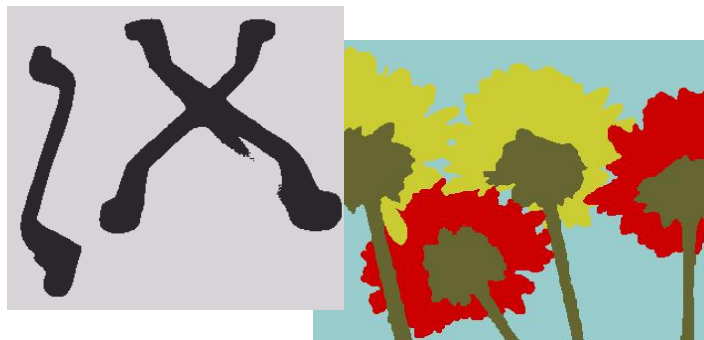
*Kernel/affinity clustering objectives define
(color) appearance consistency*

B. General feature consistency and boundary regularization

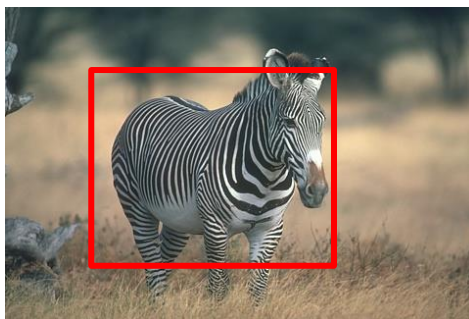
(in the context of image segmentation)

Remember: K-means clustering objective as appearance consistency criterion

- (probabilistic) K-means or model fitting with **simple models** (e.g. Normal/Gaussian) **work fine when data supports such models.**



- for more complex objects, fitting **highly descriptive models** (e.g. histograms) is **prone to overfitting**; it barely works even for RGB features:

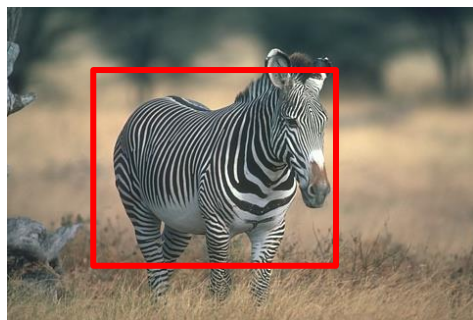


fitting 2 histograms in RGB
(GrabCut without edges)

Particularly for higher dimensional features, non-parametric **kernel clustering objectives** are more robust choice for representing “appearance consistency”

Alternative approach:
can use pairwise/kernel clustering

overfitting

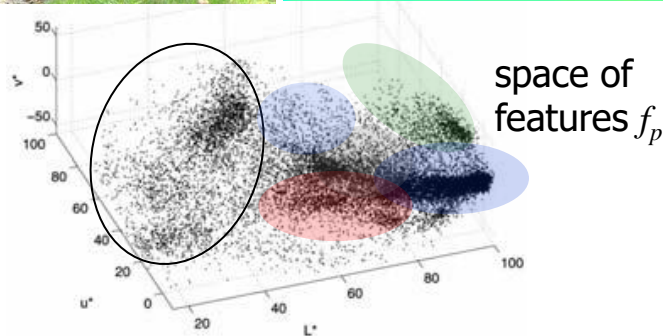
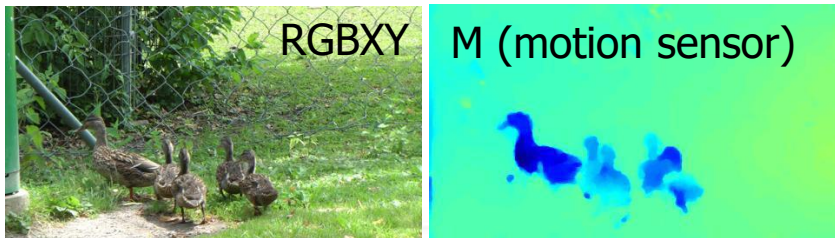


fitting 2 histograms in RGB
(GrabCut without edges)



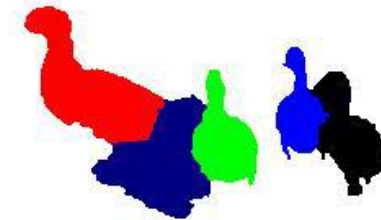
non-parametric clustering
(Normalized Cut in RGB)

Non-parametric kernel clustering with boundary regularization



Kernel Cut
[M.Tang et al. ECCV 2016]

segmentation S optimizing $E(S)$



Normalized cut in RGBXYM space combined with boundary regularization in XY

$$E(S) = - \sum_k \frac{S^k A_f S^k}{d_f S^k} + \sum_{\{pq\} \in N} w_{pq} \cdot [S_p \neq S_q]$$

$A_f[p,q]$ - affinities between all pairs of features f_p in RGBXYM

$d_f[p]$ - a "degree" vector (sum of affinities for each p)

Non-parametric kernel clustering with boundary regularization

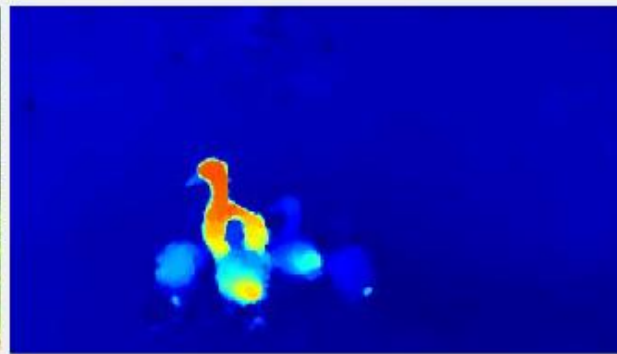
Kernel Cut

[M.Tang et al. ECCV 2016]

RGBXY



M (motion sensor)



RGBXYM + contrast edges

