

# Tutorial on Optimal Mass Transport for Computer Vision

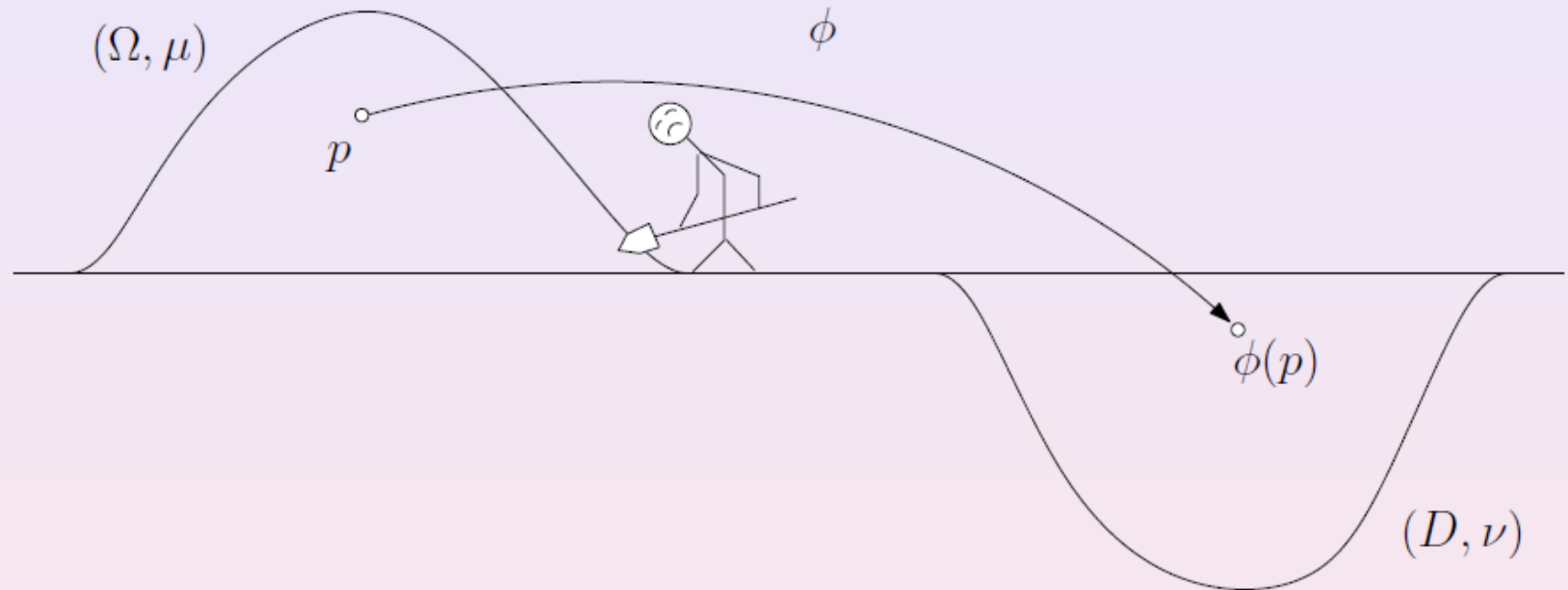
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UCLA July 31, 2013

Joint work with Shing-Tung Yau,  
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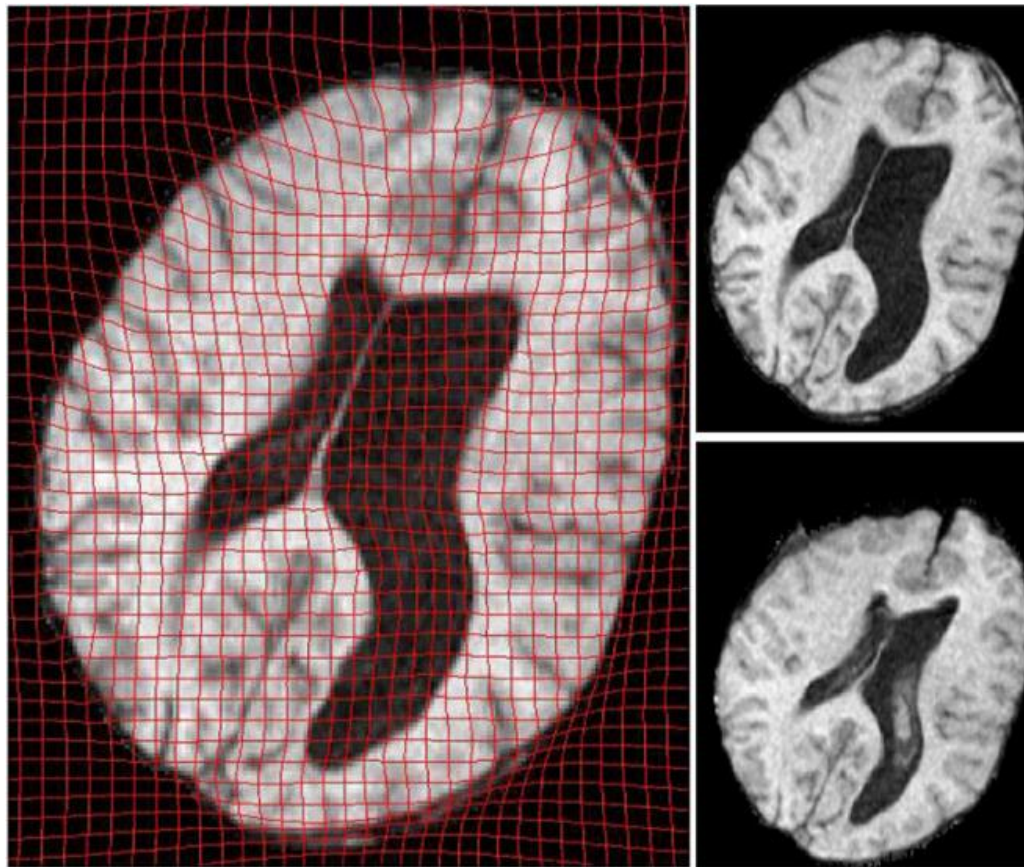
# Optimal Mass Transportation Problem



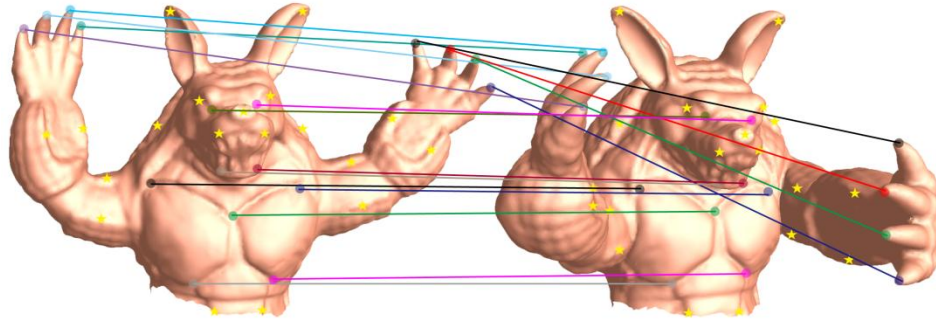
Earth movement cost.

# Motivation

- Tannenbaum: Medical image registration



# Motivation: Surface registration



(a) Armadillo #1

(b) Armadillo #2



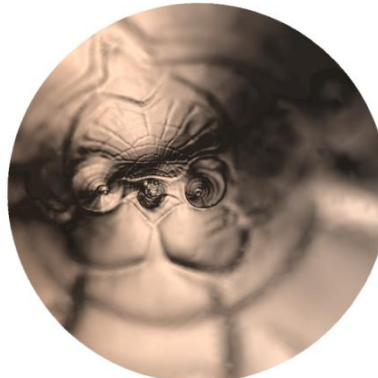
(c) APP map #1



(d) APP map #2



(e) Conformal map #1



(f) Conformal map #2

# Optimal Mass Transportation Problem

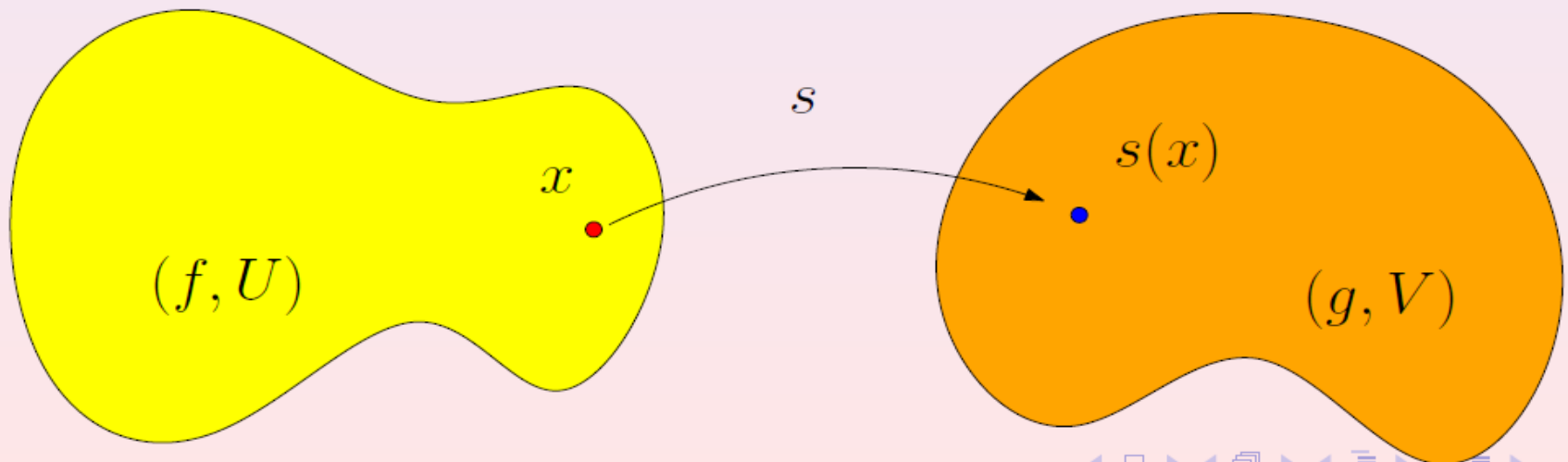
Find a best scheme of transporting one mass distribution  $(f, U)$  to another one  $(g, V)$  such that the total cost is minimized,

$U, V$  : two bounded domains in  $\mathbb{R}^n$

$$0 \leq f \in L^1(U)$$

$$0 \leq g \in L^1(V)$$

$$\int_U f = \int_V g.$$



# Optimal Mass Transportation Problem

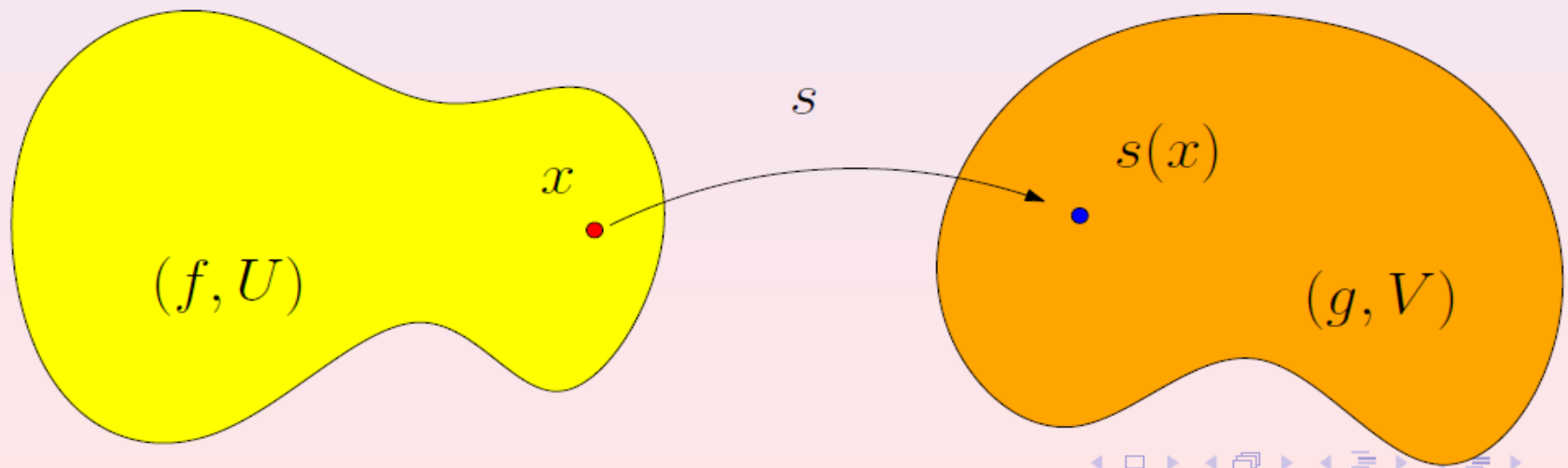
For a transport scheme  $s$  (a mapping from  $U$  to  $V$ )

$$s : x \in U \rightarrow y = s(x) \in V$$

The *total cost* is

$$\mathcal{C}(s) = \int_U f(x) c(x, s(x)) dx$$

where  $c(x, y)$  is the cost function.



# Cost Functions

The cost of moving a unit mass from point  $x$  to point  $y$ .

$$\text{Monge}(1781) : c(x, y) = |x - y|.$$

This is the natural cost function. Other cost functions include

$$c(x, y) = |x - y|^p, p \neq 0$$

$$c(x, y) = -\log |x - y|$$

$$c(x, y) = \sqrt{\varepsilon + |x - y|^2}, \varepsilon > 0$$

Any function can be cost function. It can be negative.



# Optimal Mass Transportation Problem

## Problem

Is there an **optima mapping**  $T : U \rightarrow V$  such that the **total cost**  $\mathcal{C}$  is minimized,

$$\mathcal{C}(T) = \inf\{\mathcal{C}(s) : s \in \mathcal{S}\}$$

where  $\mathcal{S}$  is the set of all measure preserving mappings, namely  $s : U \rightarrow V$  satisfies

$$\int_{s^{-1}(E)} f(x) dx = \int_E g(y) dy, \forall \text{ Borel set } E \subset V$$

# Applications

- Economy: producer-consumer problem, gas station with capacity constraint,
- Probability: Wasserstein distance
- Image processing: image registration
- Digital geometry processing: surface registration

# Duality and potential functions

A breakthrough in the study of optimal transportation is the introduction of the duality.

- Kantorovich introduced the dual functional

$$I(\varphi, \psi) = \int_U \varphi(x)f(x) + \int_V \psi(y)g(y), (\varphi, \psi) \in K$$

$$K = \{(\varphi, \psi) : \varphi(x) + \psi(y) \leq c(x, y)\}$$

- Duality:

$$\inf\{\mathcal{C}(s) : s \in \mathcal{S}\} = \sup\{I(\varphi, \psi) : (\varphi, \psi) \in K\}.$$

- Kantorovich won Nobel Prize for this work.

## Duality and potential functions

- The dual functional  $I$  is linear, the set of  $K$  is convex.
- $\exists$  a maximizer  $(u, v)$ :

$$I(u, v) = \sup\{I(\varphi, \psi) : (\varphi, \psi) \in K\}$$

- The maximizer is unique in the sense

$$I(u + a, v - a) = I(u, v)$$

for any constant  $a$ .

- The maximizer  $(u, v)$  is called **potential functions**.

# Brenier's Approach

## Theorem (Brenier)

*If  $f, g > 0$  and  $U$  is convex, and the cost function is quadratic distance,*

$$c(x, y) = |x - y|^2$$

*then there exists a convex function  $u : U \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$  unique upto a constant, such that the unique optimal transportation map is given by the gradient map*

$$T : x \rightarrow \nabla u(x).$$

## Brenier's Approach

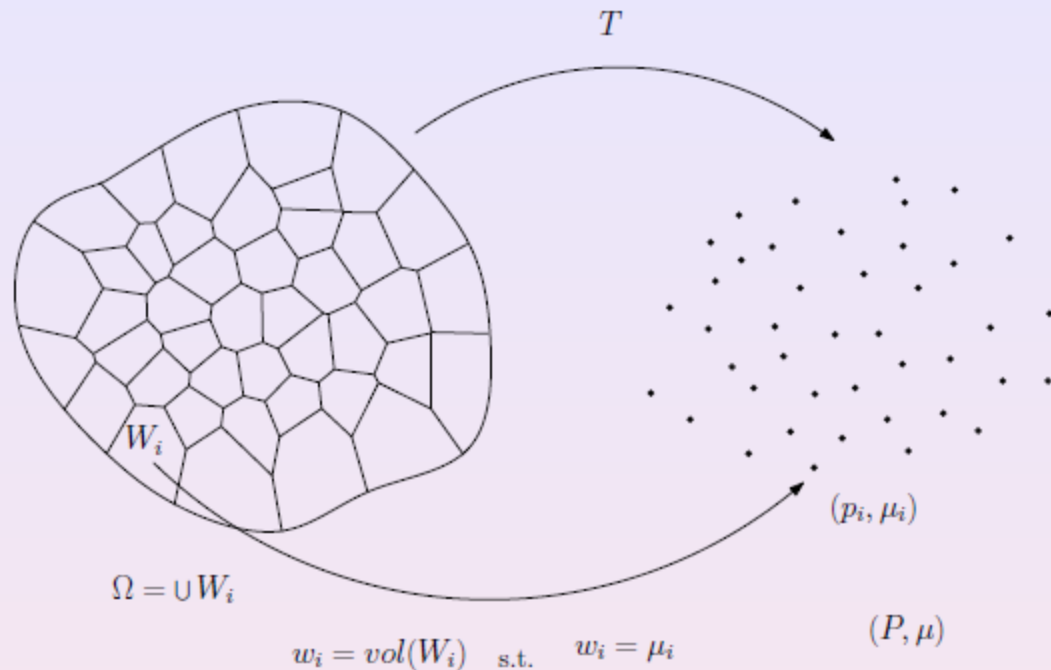
In smooth case, the Brenier potential  $u : \Omega \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$  satisfies the Monge-Ampere equation

$$\det \left( \frac{\partial^2 u}{\partial x_i \partial x_j} \right) = \frac{g(\nabla u(x))}{f(x)},$$

and  $\nabla u : \Omega \rightarrow D$  minimizes the quadratic cost

$$\min_u \int_{\Omega} |x - \nabla u(x)|^2 dx.$$

# Brenier's Approach

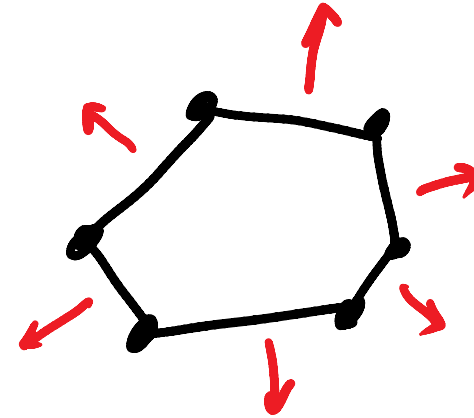


Discretize the target  $D$  to  $P = \{(p_1, w_1), (p_2, w_2), \dots, (p_n, w_n)\}$ ,  
Decompose  $\Omega$  to cells  $\{C_1, C_2, \dots, C_n\}$ , such that  $T(C_k) = p_k$ ,  
 $\text{vol}(C_k) = w_k$ , and the mapping minimizes the quadratic cost

$$\sum_k \int_{C_k} |p - p_k|^2 dx.$$

## Minkowski problem and several related problems

Eg. A convex polygon  $P$  in  $\mathbb{R}^2$  is determined by its edge lengths  $A_i$  and unit normal vectors  $n_i$ .



Take any  $\mathbf{u} \in \mathbb{R}^2$  and project  $P$  to  $\mathbf{u}$ ,

$$\sum A_i n_i \cdot \mathbf{u} = 0,$$

$$\sum A_i n_i = 0.$$



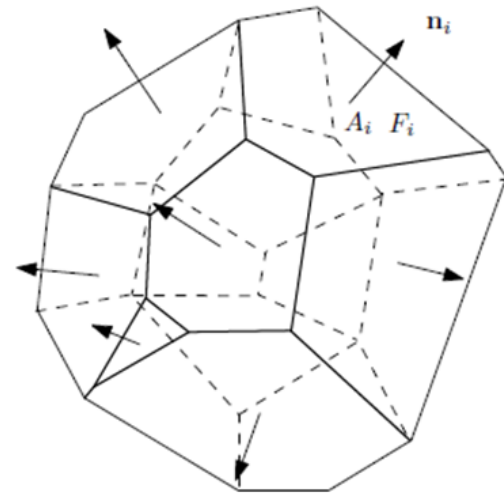
**Minkowski Problem.** Given  $k$  unit vectors  $n_1, \dots, n_k$  not contained in a half-space in  $\mathbb{R}^N$  and  $A_1, \dots, A_k > 0$  s.t.,

$$\sum_i A_i n_i = 0,$$

find a cpt convex polytope  $P$  with exactly  $k$  codim-1 faces  $F_1, \dots, F_k$  s.t.,  
 (a)  $\text{area}(F_i) = A_i$  and  
 (b)  $n_i \perp F_i$ .

THM (Minkowski)  $P$  exists and is unique up to translations.

Minkowski's proof is variational and constructs  $P$ .



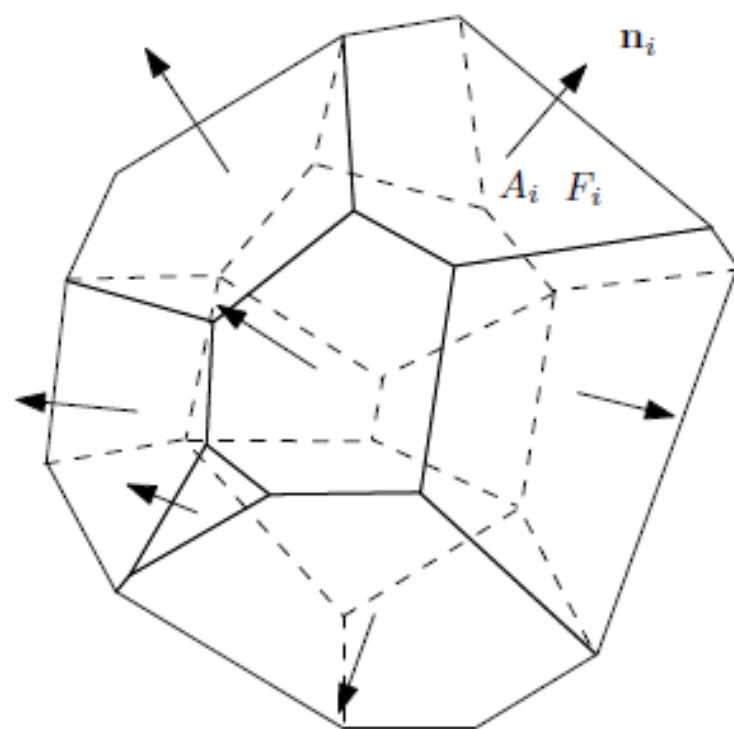
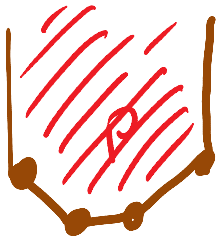


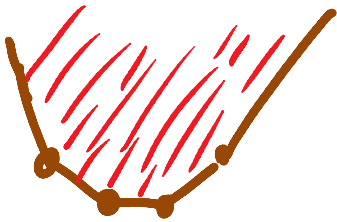
Figure 1: Minkowski problem

# Q1. What is Minkowski problem for non-compact polyhedra?

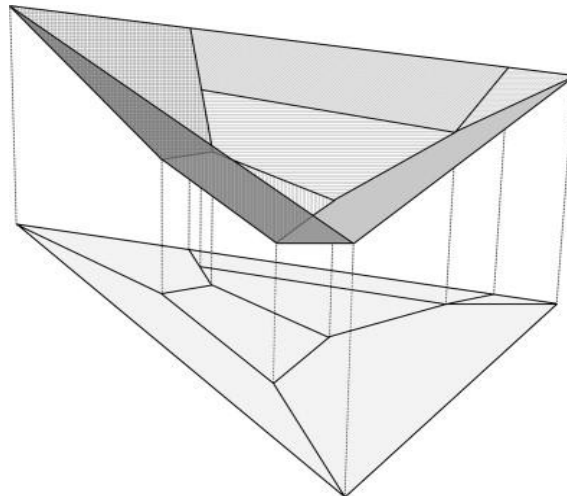
P.S. Alexandrov:



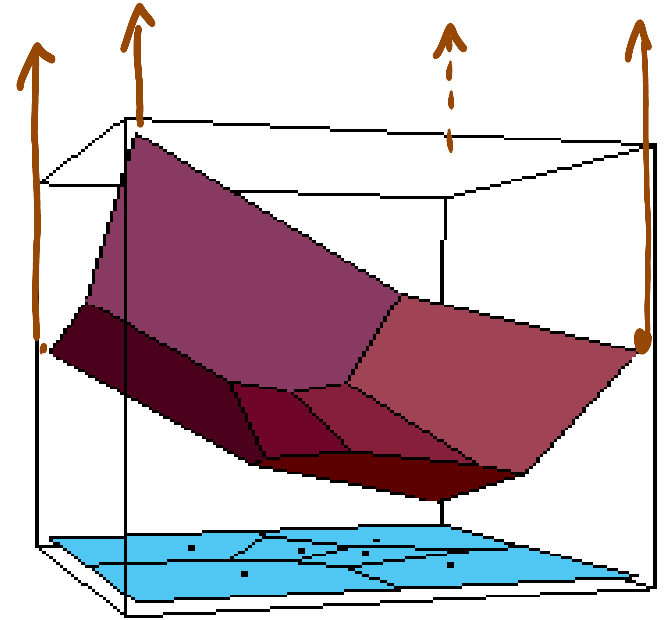
Polyhedron P



Pogorelov:

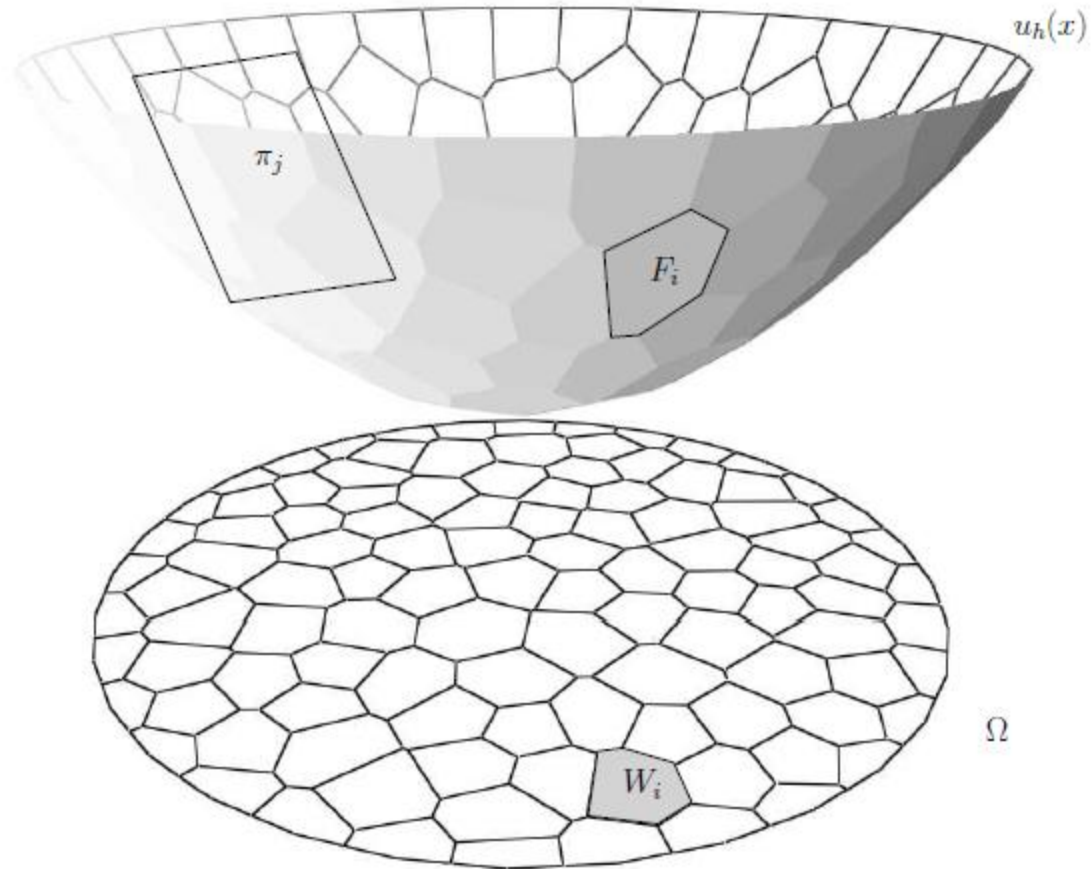


Discrete Monge-Ampere equation



Discrete optimal transport

Their results: MP solvable  
for bound faces with  
unbounded faces fixed.



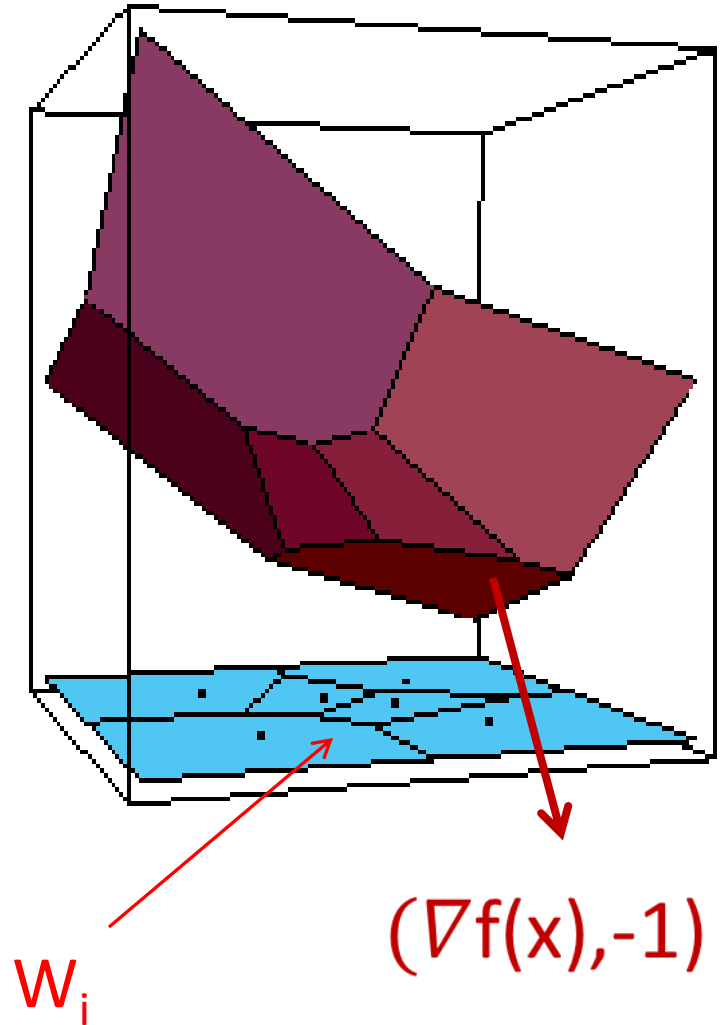
PL-convex function and its induced convex subdivision.

# PL convex function

$$f(x) = \max\{x \cdot p_i + h_i \mid i=1, \dots, k\}$$

produces a convex cell decomposition  $W_i$  of  $\mathbb{R}^N$ :

$$\begin{aligned} W_i &= \{x \mid x \cdot p_i + h_i \geq x \cdot p_j + h_j, \text{ all } j\} \\ &= \{x \mid \nabla f(x) = p_i\} \end{aligned}$$



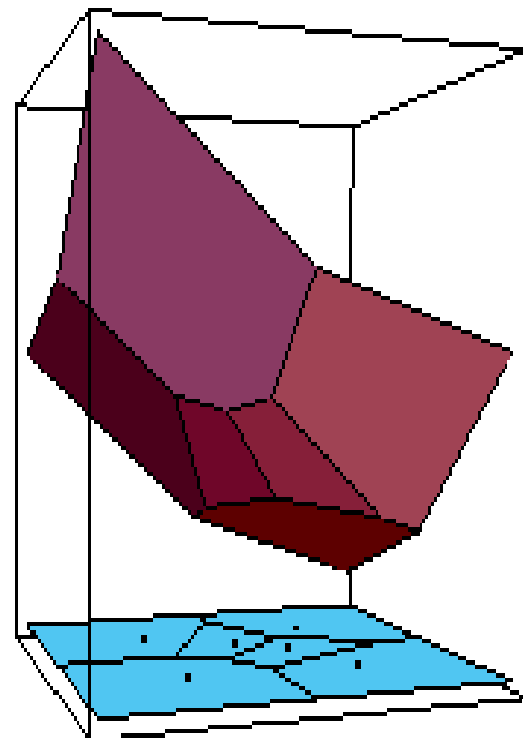
**Alexandrov (1950):** Given  $X$  cpt convex domain in  $\mathbb{R}^N$ ,  $p_1, \dots, p_k$  distinct in  $\mathbb{R}^N$ ,  $A_1, \dots, A_k > 0$ , s.t.  $\sum A_i = \text{vol}(X)$ ,  
 $\exists$  PL convex function

$$f(x) = \max_i \{ x \cdot p_i + h_i \},$$

unique up to translation s.t.,

$$\text{Vol}(\{x \in X \mid \nabla f(x) = p_i\}) = A_i.$$

*We call  $\nabla f$  the Alexandrov map.*



**Alexandrov's** proof is not variational and is topological.

On page 321 of his book “**Convex polyhedra**”, he asked if there exists a variational proof of his thm. He said such a proof “is of prime importance by itself”.

# Pogorelov theorem

Suppose  $v_1, \dots, v_m$  in  $\mathbb{R}^N$ , s.t.

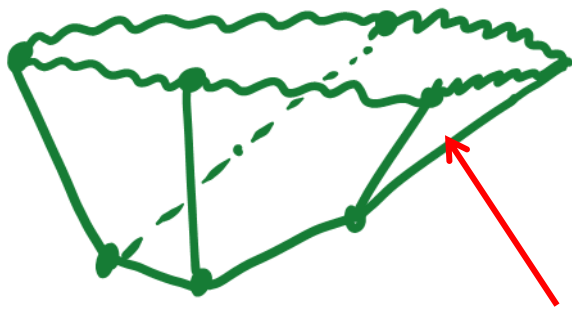
$v_i$  not in  $\text{con}\{v_1, \dots, v_{i-1}, v_{i+1}, \dots, v_m\}$ , and  $g_1, \dots, g_m$  in  $\mathbb{R}$ .

$\forall \{p_1, \dots, p_k\} \subset \text{int}(\text{conv}\{v_1, \dots, v_m\})$  and  $A_1, \dots, A_k > 0$ ,

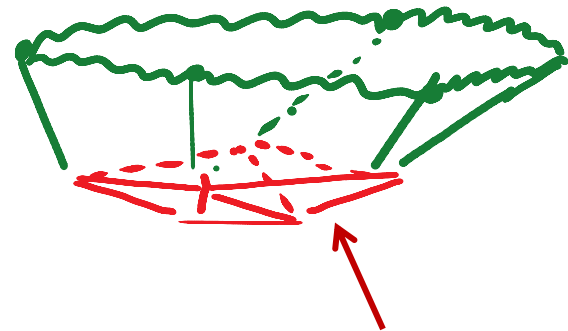
$\exists ! h_1, \dots, h_k$ , s.t. the PL convex function

$$f(x) = \max\{\max\{x \cdot p_i + h_i\}, \max\{x \cdot v_j + g_j\}\}$$

satisfies,  $\text{vol}\{x \mid \nabla f = p_i\} = A_i$ .



$\max\{x \cdot v_j + g_j\}$  unbounded faces



$\max\{x \cdot p_i + h_i\}$ , bounded faces

Our main result: there exist variational proofs of Alexandrov's and Pogorelov's theorems.

Basically the same as Minkowski's original proof.

Thus, there exists an algorithm to compute the Alexandrov map  $\nabla f$ .

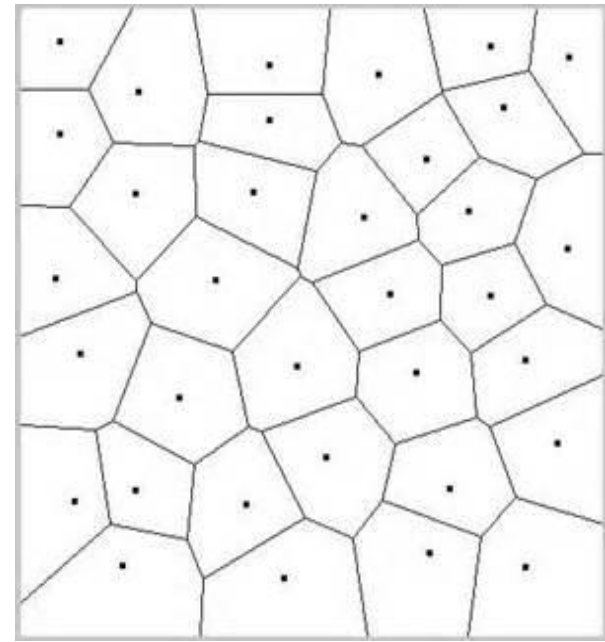
We are motivated by computational problems from computer graphics, discrete optimal transportation and discrete Monge-Ampere equation.



## Voronoi decomposition and power diagrams

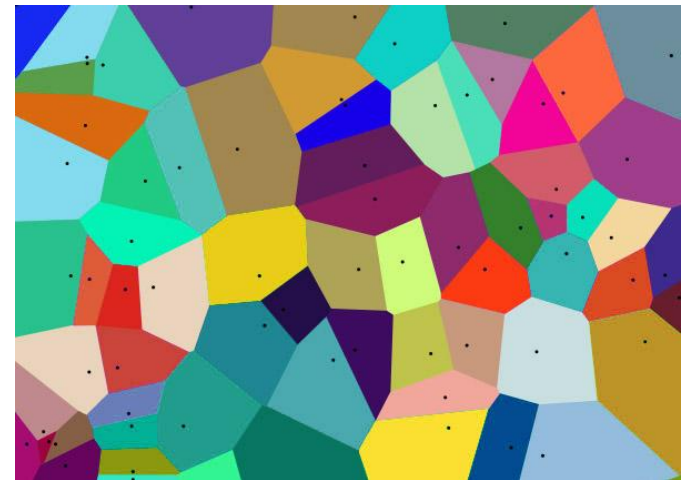
Given  $p_1, \dots, p_k$  in  $\mathbb{R}^N$ , the **Voronoi cell**  $V_i$  at  $p_i$  is:

$$V_i = \{x \mid |x - p_i|^2 \leq |x - p_j|^2, \text{ all } j\}$$



A generalization: **power diagram**, given  $p_1, \dots, p_k$  in  $\mathbb{R}^N$  and weights  $a_1, \dots, a_k$  in  $\mathbb{R}$ , the power diagram at  $p_i$  is

$$W_i = \{x \mid |x - p_i|^2 + a_i \leq |x - p_j|^2 + a_j, \text{ all } j\}$$



PL convex function  $f(x) = \max\{x \cdot p_i + h_i\}$  and power diagram

**Lemma 1.** If  $f(x) = \max\{x \cdot p_i + h_i\}$ , then  $W_i = \{x \mid \nabla f = p_i\}$  is a power diagram.

Proof. By definition  $\{x \mid \nabla f = p_i\} = \{x \mid x \cdot p_i + h_i \geq x \cdot p_j + h_j, \text{ all } j\}$

$x \cdot p_i + h_i \geq x \cdot p_j + h_j$  is the same as

$$x \cdot x - 2x \cdot p_i + p_i \cdot p_i - 2h_i - p_i \cdot p_i \leq x \cdot x - 2x \cdot p_j + p_j \cdot p_j - 2h_j - p_j \cdot p_j,$$

i.e.,  $|x - p_i|^2 - 2h_i - p_i \cdot p_i \leq |x - p_j|^2 - 2h_j - p_j \cdot p_j$  for all  $j$

**Lemma 2.** If  $b_1, \dots, b_k : X \rightarrow [0, \infty)$ , let  $W_i = \{x \mid b_i(x) \geq b_j(x), \text{ all } j\}$ ,  
Then for any partition  $\{X_1, \dots, X_k\}$  of  $X$ ,

$$\sum_i b_i(x) \chi_{X_i}(x) \leq \sum_i b_i(x) \chi_{W_i}(x)$$

Proof. Take  $x$  in  $X$ , say  $x$  in  $X_j$  and also in  $W_i$ .  
Then

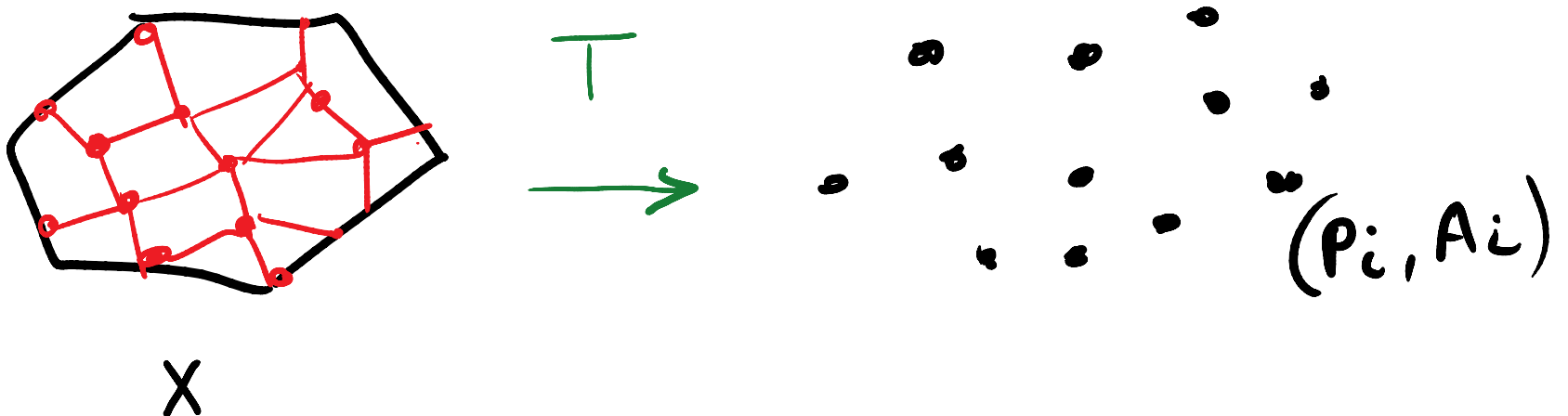
$$\text{LHS} = b_j(x)$$

$$\text{RHS} \geq b_i(x) \geq b_j(x) = \text{LHS}.$$

# Discrete optimal transport problem (Monge)

Given a compact convex domain  $X$  in  $\mathbb{R}^N$  and  $p_1, \dots, p_k$  in  $\mathbb{R}^N$  and  $A_1, \dots, A_k > 0$ ,

find a **transport map**  $T: X \rightarrow \{p_1, \dots, p_k\}$  with  $\text{vol}(T^{-1}(p_i)) = A_i$  so that  $T$  minimizes the **cost**  $\int_X |x - T(x)|^2 dx$ . (Y. Brenier)



# Recall

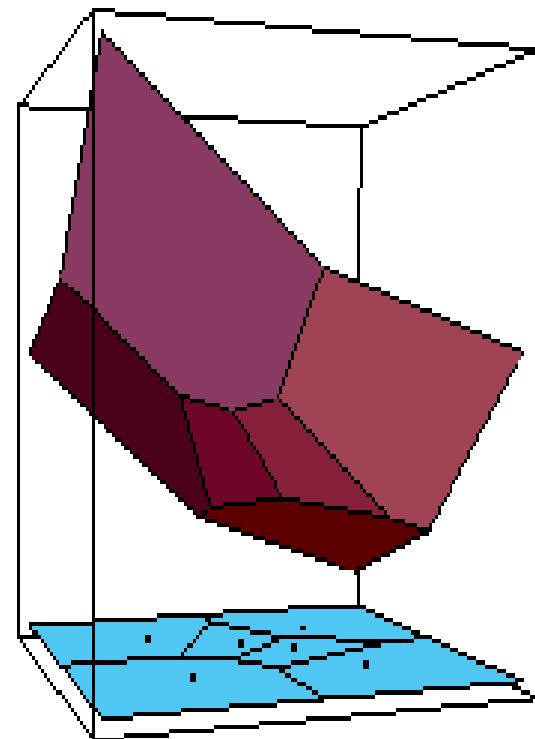
**Alexandrov thm:** Given  $X$  cpt convex domain in  $\mathbb{R}^N$ ,  $p_1, \dots, p_k$  distinct in  $\mathbb{R}^N$ ,  $A_1, \dots, A_k > 0$  s.t.  $\sum A_i = \text{vol}(X)$ .

Then  $\exists$  PL convex function

$$f(x) = \max_i \{ x \cdot p_i + h_i \},$$

unique up to translation s.t.,

$$\text{Vol}(\{x \in X \mid \nabla f(x) = p_i\}) = A_i.$$



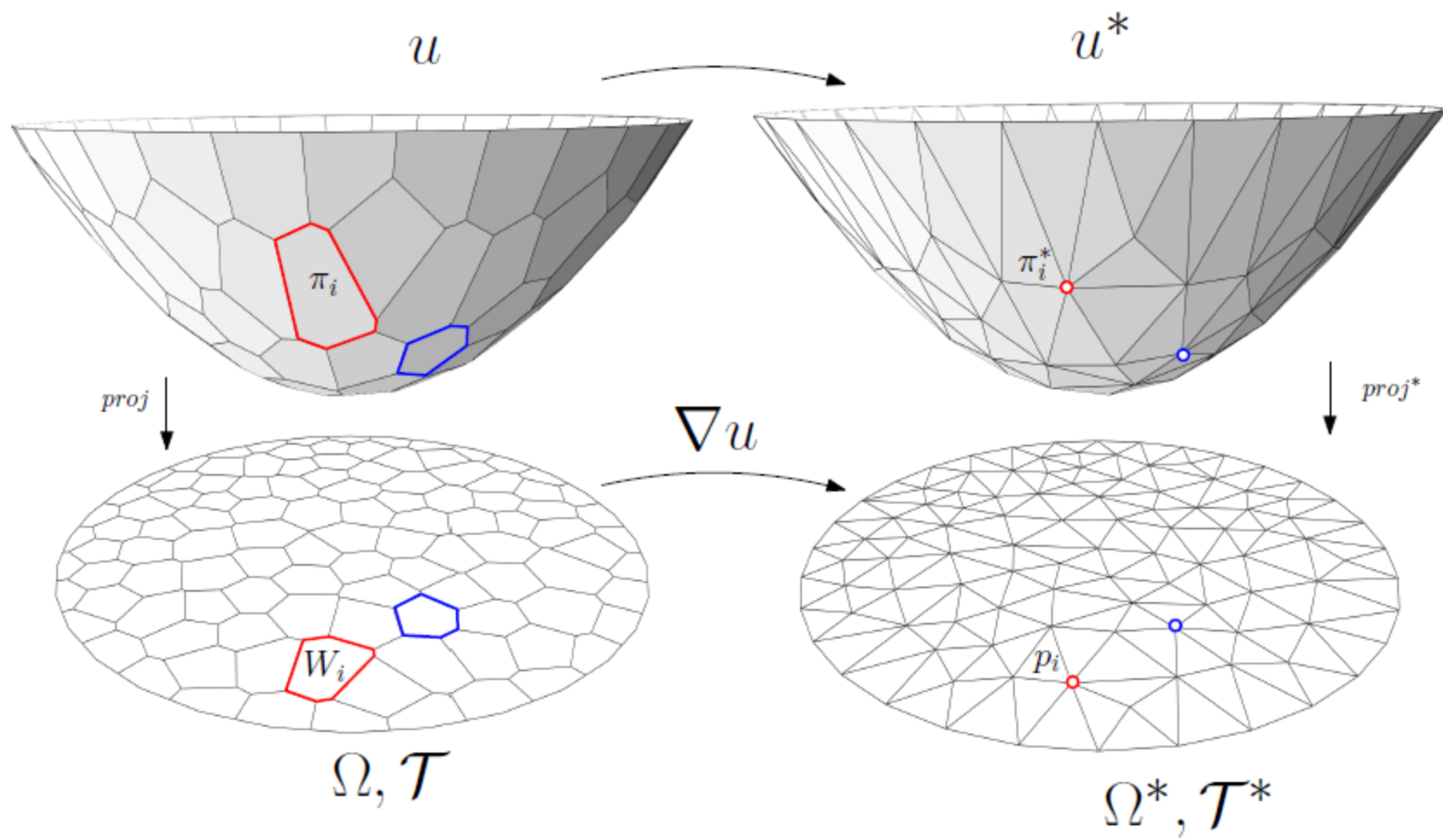
**Theorem**(Aurenhammer- Hoffmann- Aronov, (1998))

Alexandrov map  $\nabla f$  is the optimal transport map.

Proof . Let  $W_i = \{x \mid x \cdot p_i + h_i \geq x \cdot p_j + h_j, \text{ all } j\}$

Suppose  $X_1, \dots, X_n$  is a partition of  $X$  s.t.,  $\text{vol}(X_i) = A_i$  and  $T(X_i) = p_i$ . Then

$$\begin{aligned} \text{cost}(T) &= \int_X |x - T(x)|^2 dx \\ &= \sum \int_{X_i} |x - p_i|^2 dx \\ &= \sum \int_{X_i} (|x - p_i|^2 + w_i) dx - \sum w_i A_i && (\text{vol}(X_i) = A_i) \\ &\geq \sum \int_{W_i} (|x - p_i|^2 + w_i) dx - \sum w_i A_i && (\text{lemma2, vol}(W_i) = \text{vol}(X_i) = A_i) \\ &= \sum \int_{W_i} |x - p_i|^2 dx \\ &= \int_X |x - \nabla f(x)|^2 dx \\ &= \text{cost}(\nabla f). \end{aligned}$$



# Recall

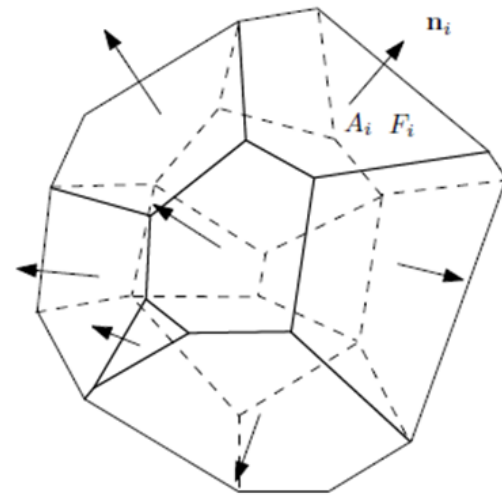
**Minkowski thm.** Given  $k$  unit vectors  $n_1, \dots, n_k$  not contained in a half-space in  $\mathbb{R}^N$  and  $A_1, \dots, A_k > 0$  s.t.,

$$\sum_i A_i n_i = 0,$$

$\exists$ , unique up to translation, cpt convex polytope  $P$  with exactly  $k$  codim-1 faces  $F_1, \dots, F_k$  s.t.,

(a)  $\text{area}(F_i) = A_i$  and

(b)  $n_i \perp F_i$ .





## Mikowski's proof of his thm

Given  $h=(h_1, \dots, h_k)$ ,  $h_i>0$ , define  
cpt convex polytope

$$P(h)=\{x \mid x \cdot n_i \leq h_i, \text{ all } i\}.$$

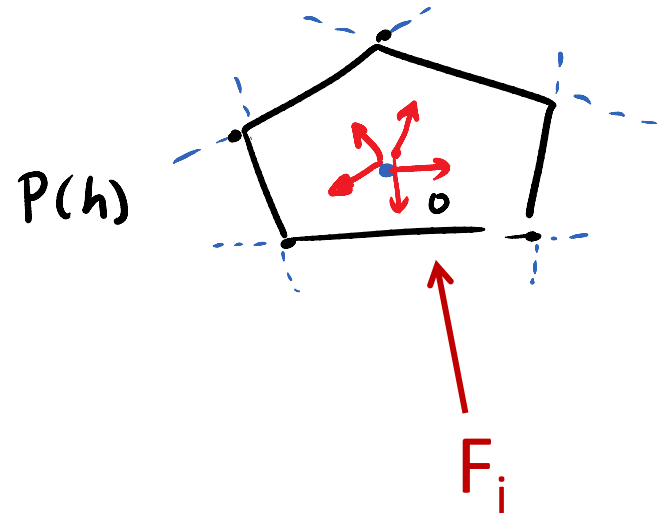
Let  $\text{Vol}: \mathbb{R}_+^k \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$  be  $\text{vol}(h)=\text{vol}(P(h))$ .

$$\text{Then, } \frac{\partial \text{Vol}(h)}{\partial h_i} = \text{area}(F_i)$$

The solution  $h$  (up to scaling) to MP is the critical point of  $\text{Vol}$  on  
 $\{h \mid h_i \geq 0, \sum h_i A_i = 1\}$ , using Lagrangian multiplier.

Uniqueness part is proved using Brunn-Minkowski inequality  
which implies  $(\text{Vol}(h))^{1/N}$  is concave in  $h$ .

So far, this is the **ONLY** proof of uniqueness.



**Alexandrov thm:** Given  $X$  cpt convex domain in  $\mathbb{R}^N$ ,  $p_1, \dots, p_k$  distinct in  $\mathbb{R}^N$ ,  $A_1, \dots, A_k > 0$  s.t.,  $\sum A_i = \text{vol}(X)$ ,  $\exists$  a PL convex function

$$f(x) = \max_i \{ x \cdot p_i + h_i \},$$

unique up to translation s.t.,

$$\text{Vol}(\{x \in X \mid \nabla f(x) = p_i\}) = A_i.$$

**Our Proof.** For  $h = (h_1, \dots, h_k)$  in  $\mathbb{R}^k$ , define  $f$  as above and let

$$W_i(h) = \{x \mid x \cdot p_i + h_i \geq x \cdot p_j + h_j, \text{ all } j\} \text{ and } w_i(h) = \text{vol}(W_i(h)).$$

Step 1.  $H = \{h \in \mathbb{R}^k \mid w_i(h) > 0, \text{ all } i\}$  is non-empty open convex set in  $\mathbb{R}^k$ .

Step 2. (Key step)  $\frac{\partial w_i(h)}{\partial h_j} = \frac{\partial w_j(h)}{\partial h_i} \leq 0$ , for  $i \neq j$ .

Thus the differential 1-form  $\sum_i w_i(h) dh_i$  is closed in  $H$ .

Therefore,  $\exists$  a smooth  $F: H \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$  so that  $\frac{\partial F}{\partial h_i} = w_i(h)$

Step 3.  $\sum_i \frac{\partial w_i(h)}{\partial h_j} = 0$ , due to  $\sum_i w_i(h) = \text{vol}(X)$ .

This shows  $F(h)$  is convex in  $H$  (since the Hessian of  $F$  is **diagonally dominated**)

Step 4.  $F$  is strictly convex in  $H_0 = \{h \in H \mid \sum h_i = 0\}$  so that  $\nabla F = (w_1, \dots, w_k)$ .

**Lemma 3.** If  $F$  strictly convex on an open convex set  $\Omega$  in  $\mathbb{R}^m$  then  $\nabla F: \Omega \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^m$  is 1 – 1.

This shows the uniqueness part of Alexandrov's thm.

We show that the concave function

$$G(h) = F(h) - \sum h_i A_i$$

has a minimum point in  $H_0$ . The min point  $h$  is the solution to Alexandrov's thm.

Exactly the same proof works for Pogorelov's thm.

**Thm(Gu-L-Sun-Yau).**  $X$  cpt convex domain in  $\mathbb{R}^N$ ,  $p_1, \dots, p_k$  distinct in  $\mathbb{R}^N$ ,  $s: X \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$  positive continuous.

For any  $A_1, \dots, A_k > 0$  with  $\sum A_i = \int_X s(x) dx$ ,  $\exists$  a vector  $(h_1, \dots, h_k)$  so that

$$f(x) = \max\{x \cdot p_i + h_i\}$$

satisfies  $\int_{W_i \cap X} s(x) dx = A_i$  where  $W_i = \{x \mid \nabla f = p_i\}$ . Furthermore,  $h$  is the minimum point of the convex function

$$E(y) = \int_a^y \sum_i \int_{W_i \cap X} s(x) dx dy_i - \sum_i A_i y_i.$$

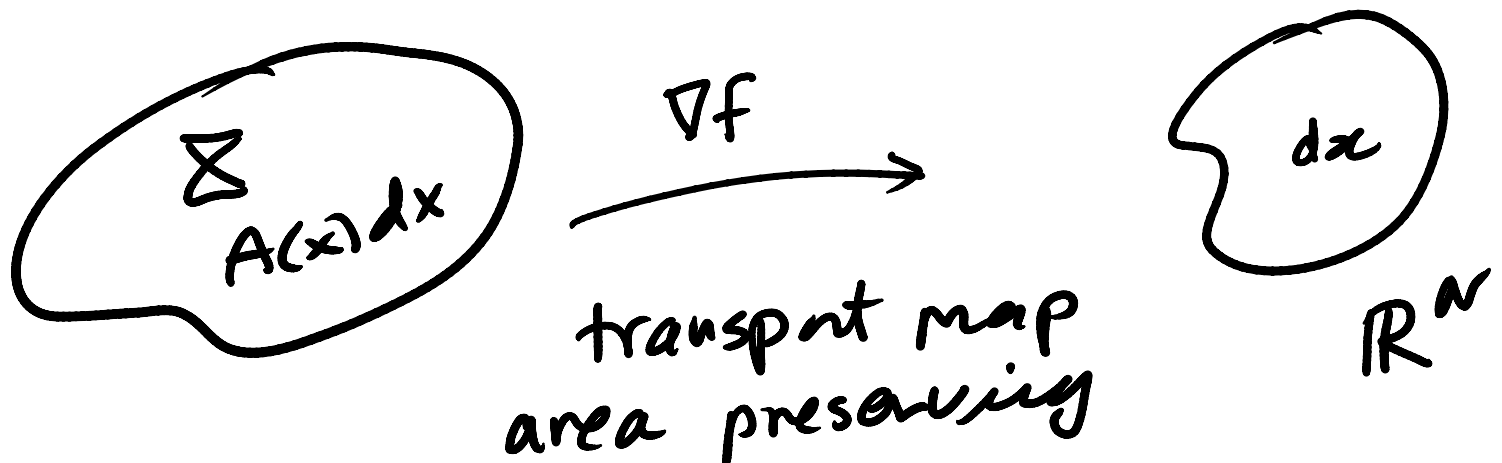
Alexandrov thm corresponds to  $s(x)=1$ . Y. Brenier proved a more general form.

# Discrete Monge-Ampere Eq (DMAE)

Simplest version:  $X$  domain in  $\mathbb{R}^N$ ,  $A: X \rightarrow \mathbb{R}_{>0}$  find  $f: X \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ , s.t.,

$$\begin{cases} \det(\text{Hess}(f)) = A, \\ f|_{\partial X} = g \end{cases}$$

This is related to Monge's optimal transport problem:

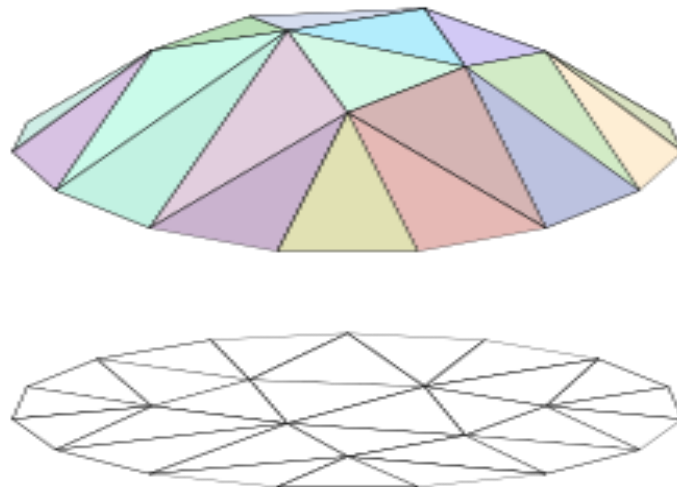


Q2: Given  $A, g$  how to compute  $f$ ?

Q3. What is the discrete  $\det(\text{Hess}(f))$ ?

Let  $X = \text{conv}\{v_1, \dots, v_k\}$  a domain in  $\mathbb{R}^N$ ,

$u : X \rightarrow \mathbf{R}$  is PL convex function w.r.t a convex cell decomposition  $\mathcal{T}$ . Then the **discrete Hessian det** of  $u$  sends  $v \in \mathcal{T}^{(0)}$  to the volume of the convex hull of the gradients of  $u$  at top-dim cells adjacent to  $v$ .



**Thm(Pogorelov).** Suppose  $X = \text{conv}\{v_1, \dots, v_m\}$  convex domain in  $\mathbb{R}^N$ , s.t.  $v_i$  not in  $\text{con}\{v_1, \dots, v_{i-1}, v_{i+1}, \dots, v_m\}$ , and  $g_1, \dots, g_m$  in  $\mathbb{R}$ .

$\forall p_1, \dots, p_k$  in  $\text{int}(X)$  and  $A_1, \dots, A_k > 0$ , then

$\exists !$  PL convex function  $w: X \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$  having vertices exactly at  $p_i$ , s.t.

- (a) the discrete Hessian det of  $w$  at  $p_i$  is  $A_i$ ,
- (b)  $w(v_j) = g_j$  all  $j$ .

Indeed,  $w(y) = \sup\{x \cdot y - f(x) \mid x\}$  is the Fenchel-Legendre dual of the solution to Pogorelov's thm:

$$f(x) = \max\{\max\{x \cdot p_i + h_i\}, \max\{x \cdot v_j + g_j\}\}.$$

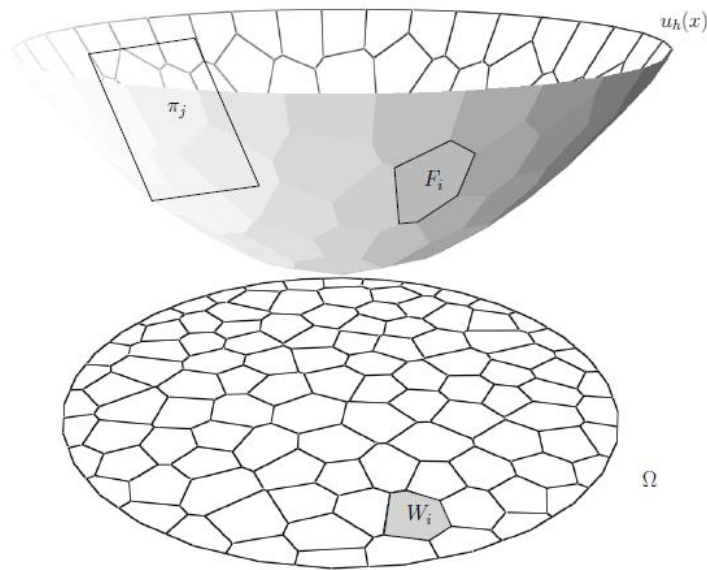
Our result shows that  $w$  can be constructed by a finite dim variational principle since dual of PK convex function is computable using linear programming.

# Algorithm

- Convex Hull
- Delaunay Triangulation
- Vornoi diagram
- Power Diagram – upper envelope
- Optimal Transportation Map



# Computational Algorithm

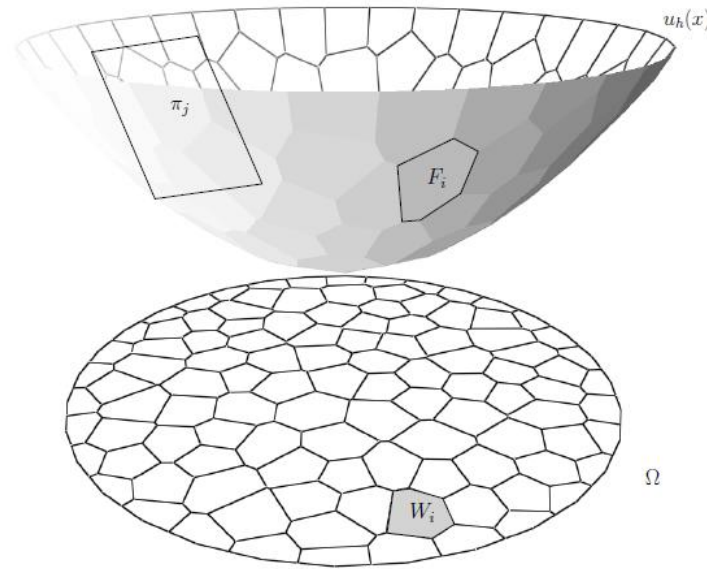


The convex energy is

$$E(h_1, h_2, \dots, h_k) = \sum_{i=1}^k A_i h_i - \int_0^h \sum_{j=1}^k W_j dh_j,$$

Geometrically, the energy is the volume beneath the parabola.

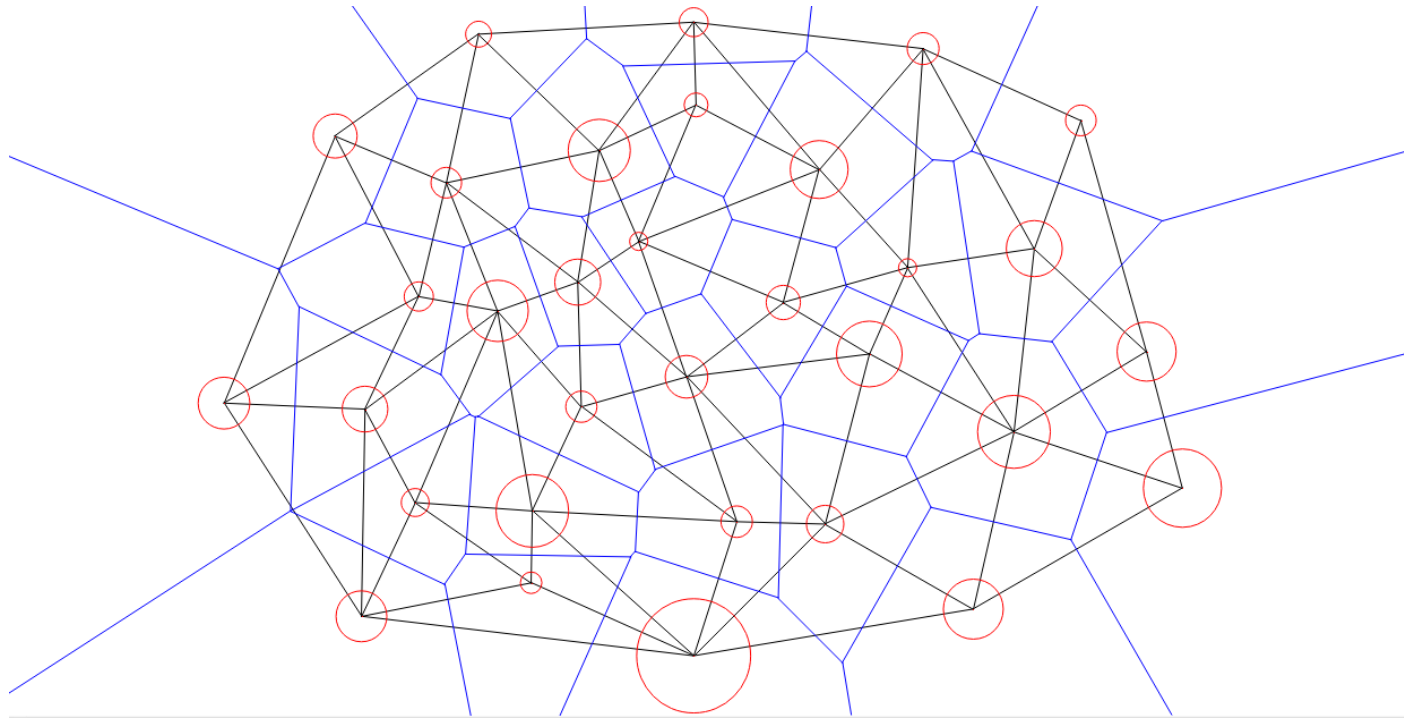
# Computational Algorithm



The gradient of the energy is the areas of the cells

$$\nabla E(h_1, h_2, \dots, h_k) = (A_1 - w_1, A_2 - w_2, \dots, A_k - w_k)$$

# Computational Algorithm



The Hessian of the energy is the length ratios of edge and dual edges,

$$\frac{\partial w_i}{\partial h_j} = \frac{|e_{ij}|}{|\bar{e}_{ij}|}$$

# Computational Algorithm

- 1 Initialize  $\mathbf{h} = \mathbf{0}$
- 2 Compute the Power Voronoi diagram, and the dual Power Delaunay Triangulation
- 3 Compute the cell areas, which gives the gradient  $\nabla E$
- 4 Compute the edge lengths and the dual edge lengths, which gives the Hessian matrix of  $E$ ,  $Hess(E)$
- 5 Solve linear system

$$\nabla E = Hess(E)d\mathbf{h}$$

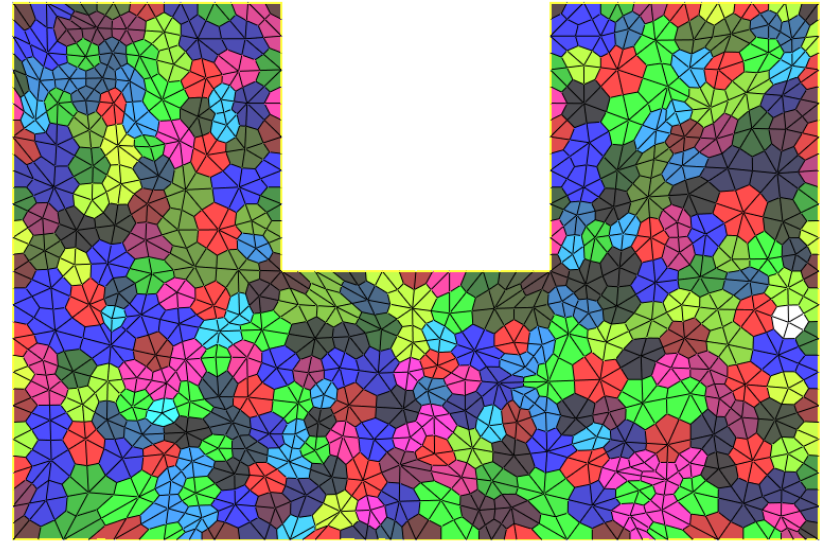
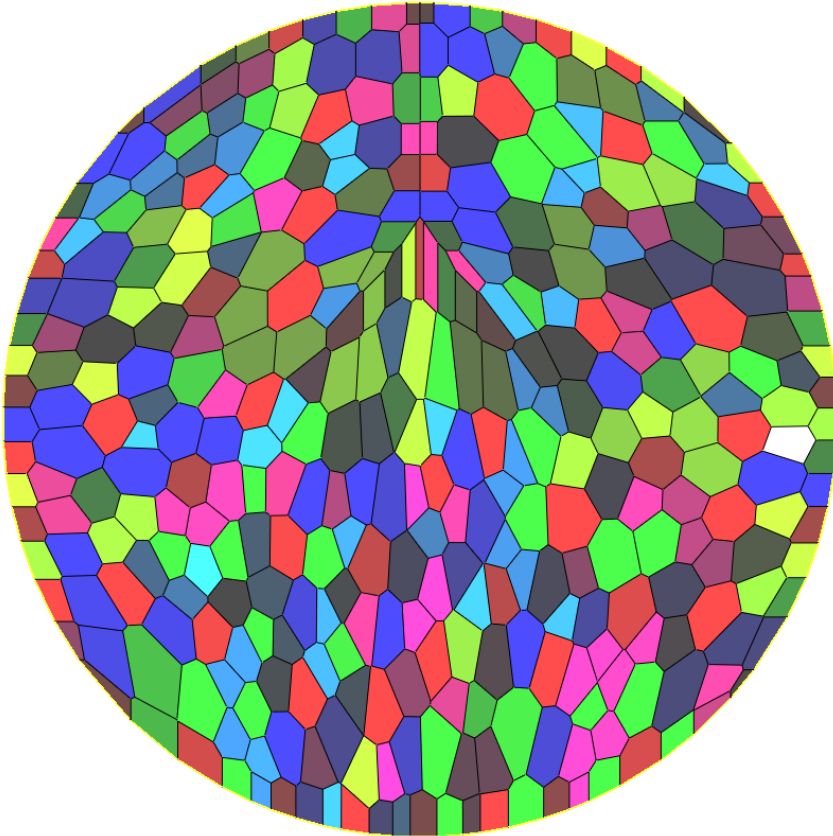
- 6 Update the height vector

$$(h) \leftarrow \mathbf{h} - \lambda d\mathbf{h},$$

where  $\lambda$  is a constant to ensure that no cell disappears

- 7 Repeat step 2 through 6, until  $\|d\mathbf{h}\| < \varepsilon$ .

# Examples

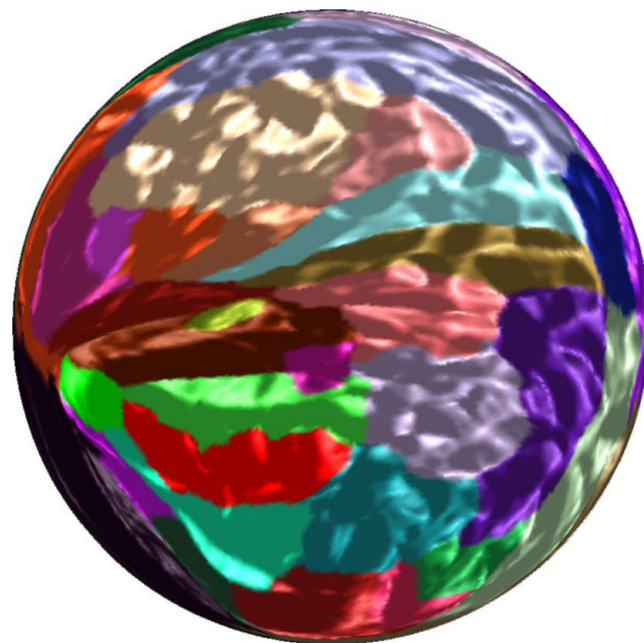
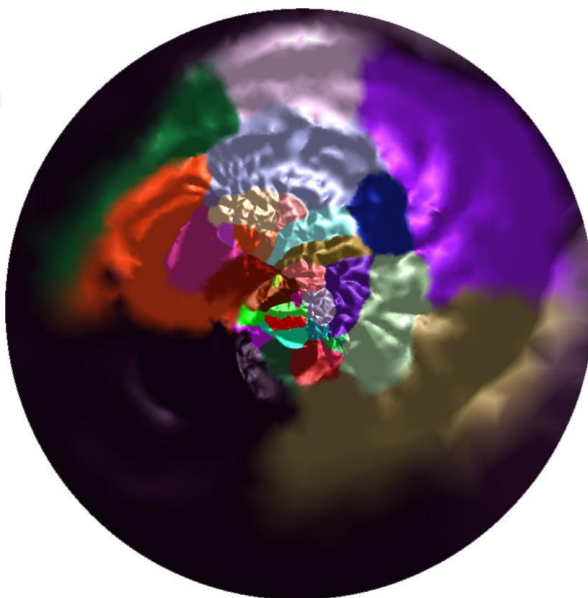
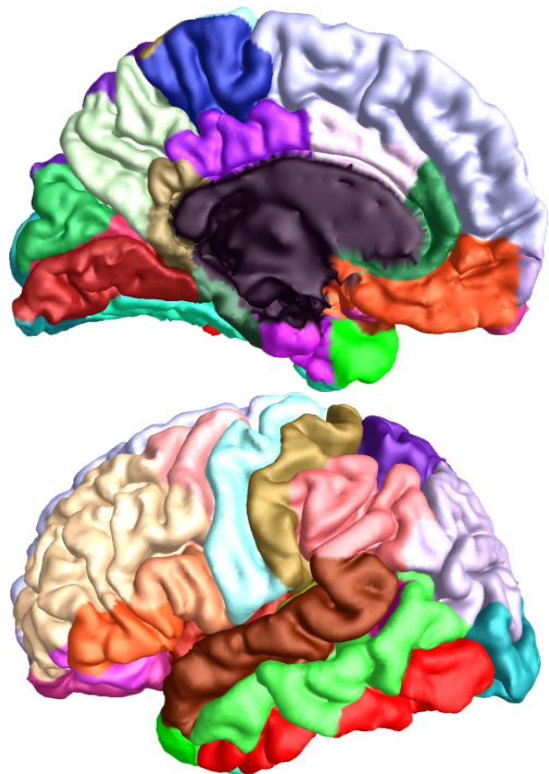




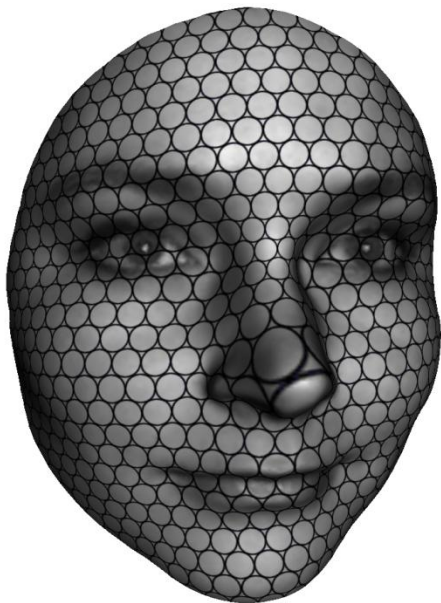
# Examples



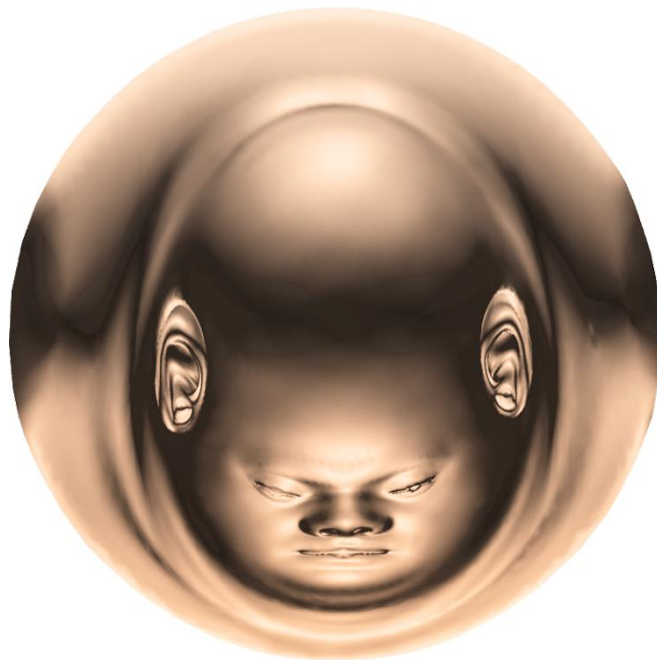
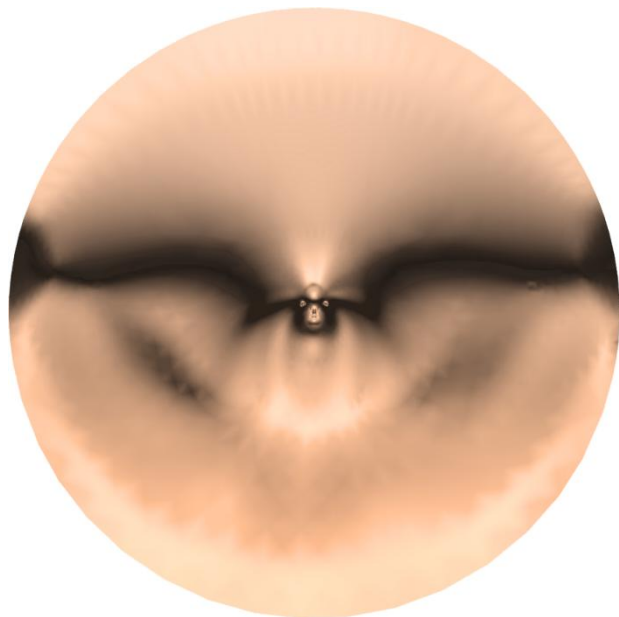
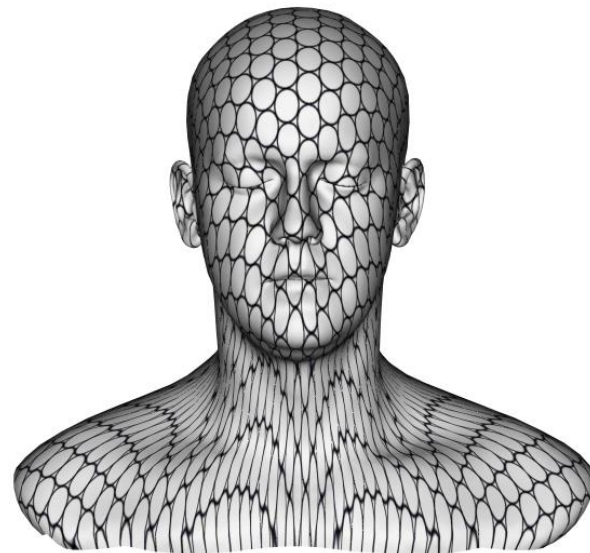
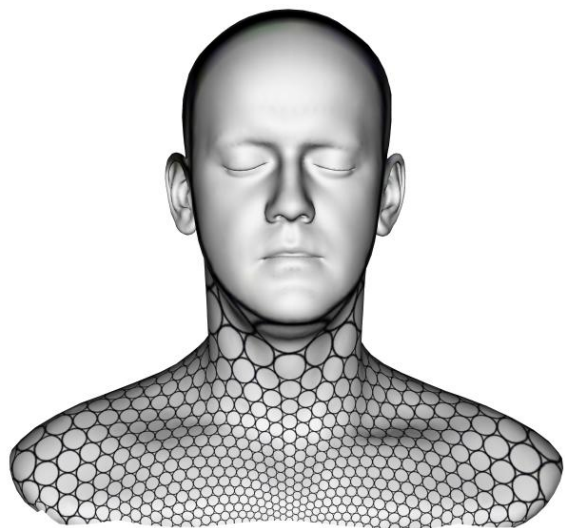
# Examples

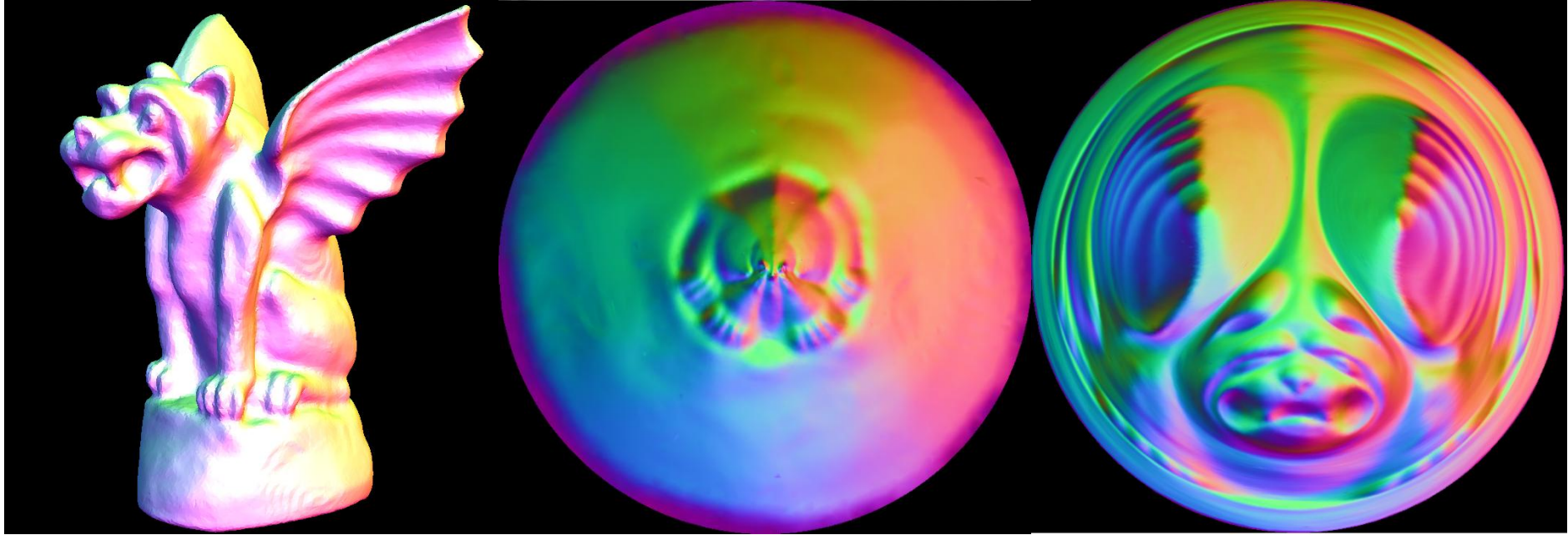


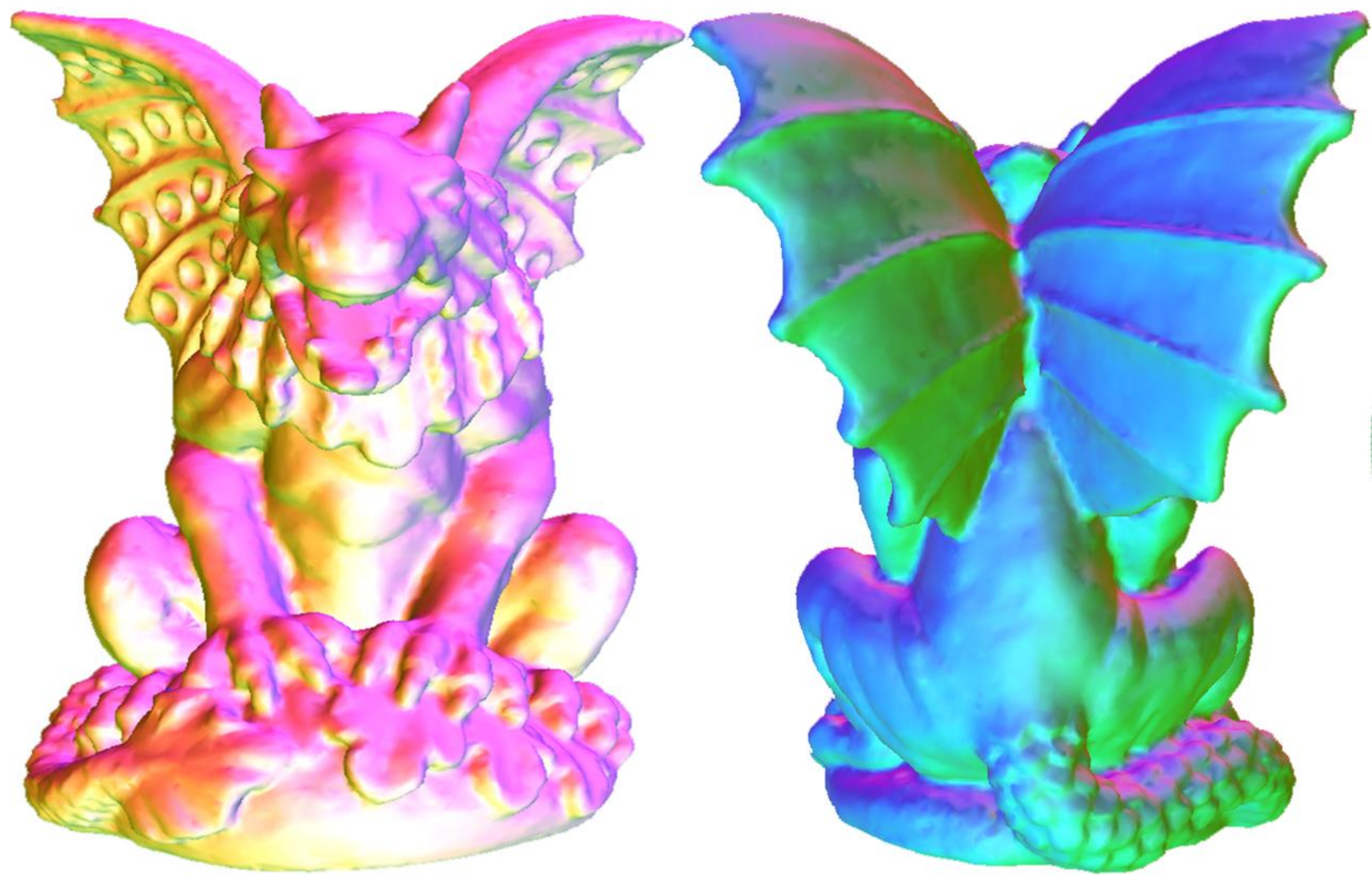






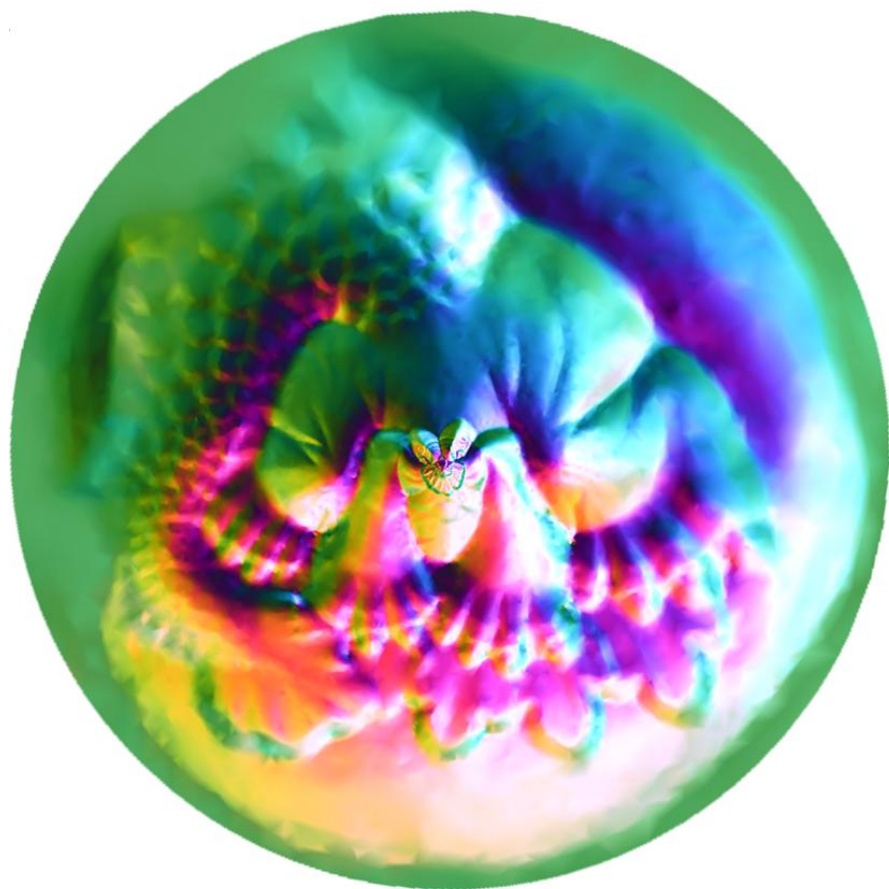






(a)





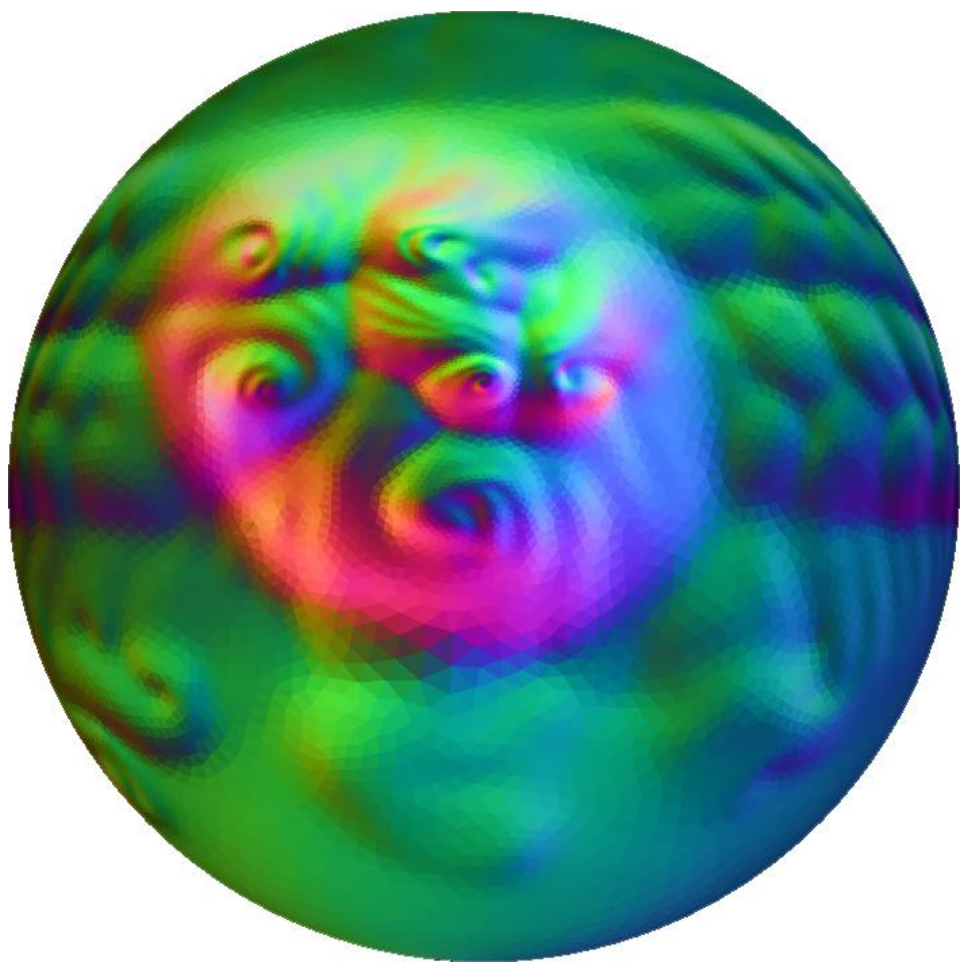
(b)

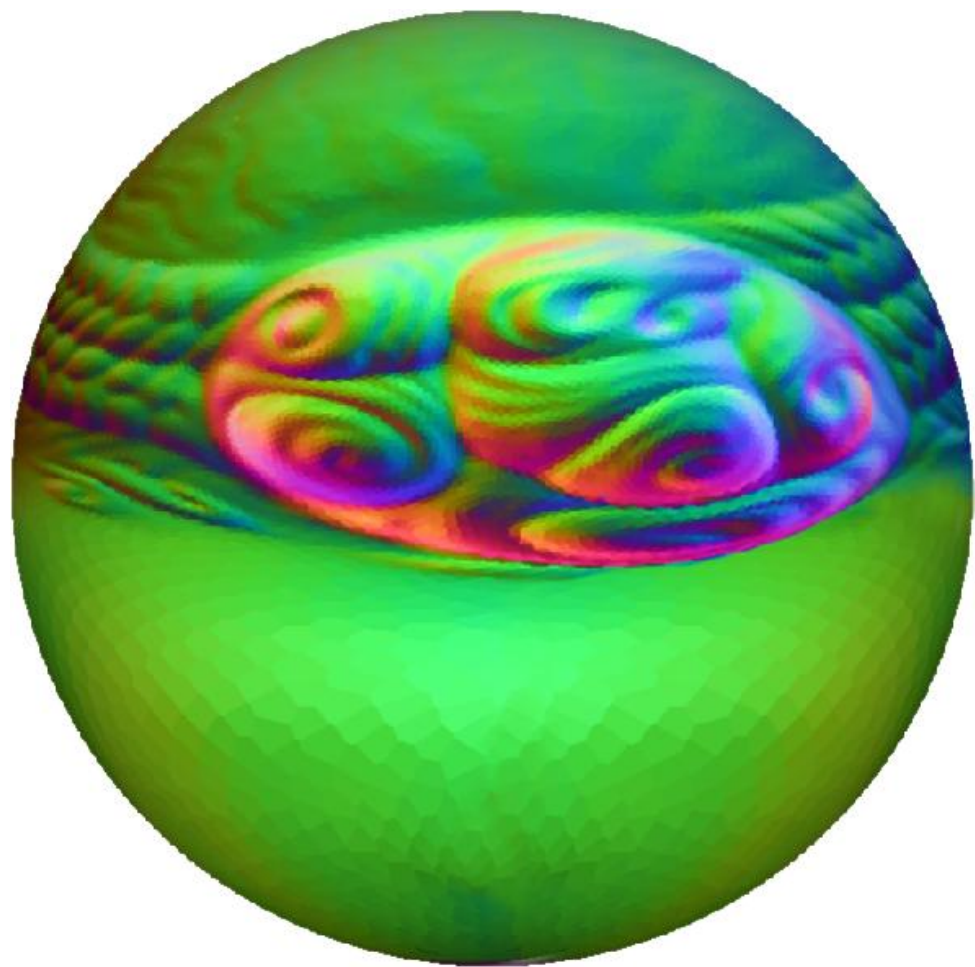


(c)













**Thank you.**