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# Geometric Computing for Modeling and Approximation

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# Introduction

- ❖ Ph.D. Texas Tech University (2015-2019).
  - ❖ Advisors: Magdalena Toda, Hung Tran, Eugenio Aulisa.
  - ❖ Thesis: “Curvature Functionals and p-Willmore energy.”
  - ❖ NSF Fellow at Oak Ridge National Lab (2018) in ML/DS.
- ❖ NTT Asst. Prof. at TTU satellite in San Jose, Costa Rica (2019-2020).
  - ❖ Served as Mathematics Program Director.
- ❖ Postdoc at Florida State University (2021-present).
  - ❖ Data-driven sci. comp. and reduced-order modeling.
  - ❖ Advisor: Max Gunzburger.



<https://www.depts.ttu.edu/costarica/Jobs@TTUCR/index.php>



<https://www.lib.fsu.edu/dirac>

# Overview

❖ *Where does modern scientific computing benefit from geometry-informed algorithms?*

❖ Examples:

❖ High-dimensional function approximation.

❖ Joint: M. Gunzburger, L. Ju, Z. Wang, Y. Teng, R. Bridges, M. Verma, C. Felder, G. Zhang.

❖ Meshing for dynamical systems on general domains.

❖ Joint: E. Aulisa.

❖ **Funding:** NSF MSGI; NSF DMS 1912902, 1912705; DE SC0020418, SC0022254, SC0020270.

## • Journal articles

- [A. Gruber](#). "Planar Immersions with Prescribed Curl and Jacobian Determinant are Unique", *Bull. Aust. Math. Soc.*, 1-6 (2021).
- [A. Gruber](#), M. Gunzburger, L. Ju, Y. Teng, Z. Wang. "Nonlinear Level Set Learning for Function Approximation on Sparse Data with Applications to Parametric Differential Equations", *Numer. Math. Theor. Meth. Appl.*, (2021).
- [A. Gruber](#), A. Pámpano, M. Toda. "Regarding the Euler-Plateau Problem with Elastic Modulus", *Ann. Mat. Pura Appl.*, (2021).
- [A. Gruber](#), E. Aulisa. "Computational p-Willmore Flow with Conformal Penalty", *ACM Trans. Graph.* 39, 5, Article 161 (September 2020), 16 pages.
- [A. Gruber](#), M. Toda, H. Tran. "On the variation of curvature functionals in a space form with application to a generalized Willmore energy", *Ann. Glob. Anal. Geom.* 56, 147-165 (2019).

## • Conference papers

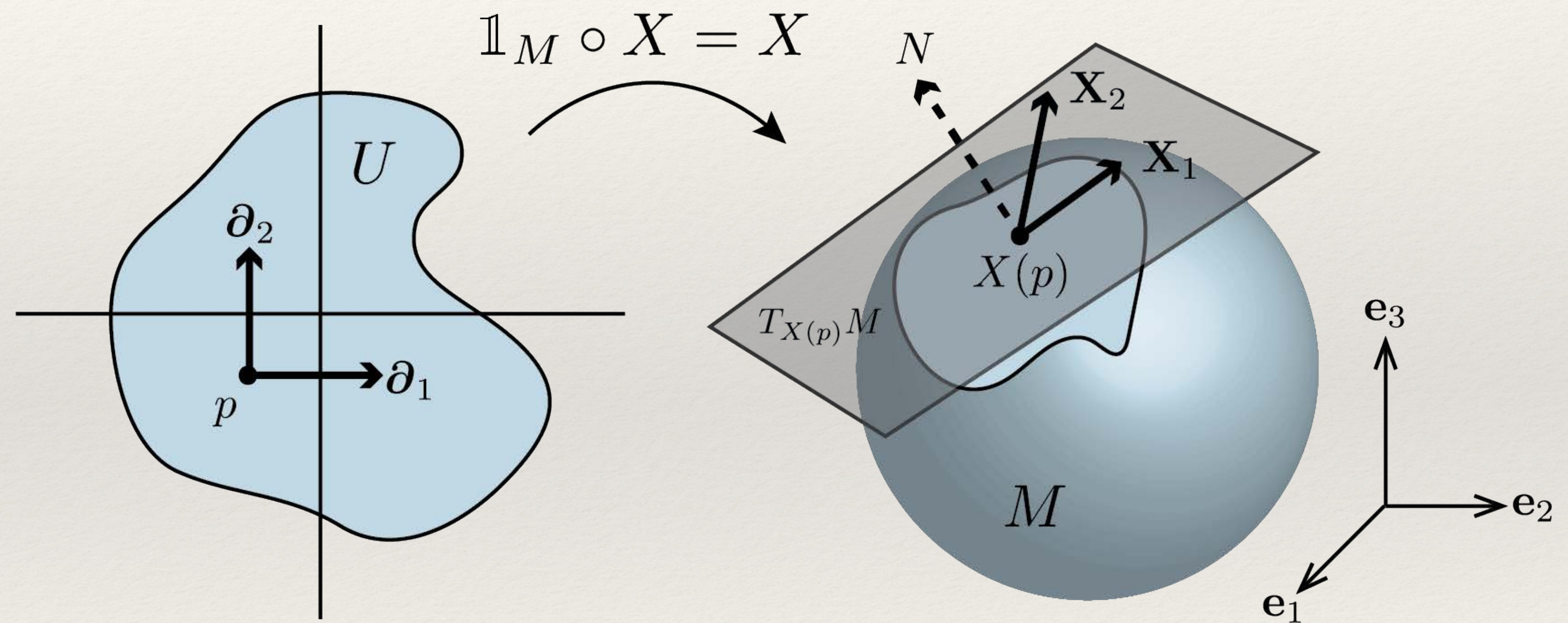
- [A. Gruber](#), E. Aulisa. "Quaternionic remeshing during surface evolution", *Proceedings of the 18th ICNAAM*, Rhodes, Greece, 2020, (in press).
- [A. Gruber](#), M. Toda, H. Tran. "Willmore-stable minimal surfaces", *Proceedings of the 18th ICNAAM*, Rhodes, Greece, 2020, (in press).
- E. Aulisa, [A. Gruber](#), M. Toda, H. Tran. "New Developments on the p-Willmore Energy of Surfaces", *Proceedings of 21st ICGIQ*, Sofia: Avangard Prima, 2020.
- R. Bridges, [A. Gruber](#), C. Felder, M. Verma, C. Hoff. "Active Manifolds: Reducing high dimensional functions to 1-D; A non-linear analogue to Active Subspaces". *Proceedings of ICML*, 9-15 June 2019, Long Beach, California, USA. PMLR 97:764-772.

## • Submitted articles

- Y. Teng, Z. Wang, L. Ju, [A. Gruber](#), G. Zhang. "Learning Level Sets with Pseudo-Reversible Neural Networks for Dimension Reduction in Function Approximation." (under review).
- [A. Gruber](#), M. Gunzburger, L. Ju, Z. Wang. "A Comparison of Neural Network Architectures for Data-Driven Reduced-Order Modeling", (under review).
- [A. Gruber](#), E. Aulisa. "Quasiconformal Mappings for Surface Mesh Optimization", (under review).
- [A. Gruber](#), A. Pámpano, M. Toda. "On p-Willmore Disks with Boundary Energies", (under review).
- [A. Gruber](#). "Parallel Codazzi Tensors with Submanifold Applications", (under review).
- [A. Gruber](#), M. Toda, H. Tran. "Stationary Surfaces with Boundaries", (under review).

# What is a Riemannian geometry?

- ❖ “Smooth” manifold  $M$  equipped with “smooth” metric  $g$ .
- ❖ Metric  $g$  determines **intrinsic** behavior.
  - ❖ Laplacian, conformal structure
- ❖ Change in normal  $N$  determines **extrinsic** behavior.
  - ❖ Shape operator, mean curvature



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# Approximation of Functions

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- ❖ Where does geometry meet sci. comp.?
- ❖ Real problems need measurements which are *expensive* ( $\sim 10^{6+}$  DOFs).
  - ❖ DFT observables.
  - ❖ Disease metrics.
  - ❖ FEM/FVM consequences.
- ❖ Approximation benefits from *dimension reduction*.

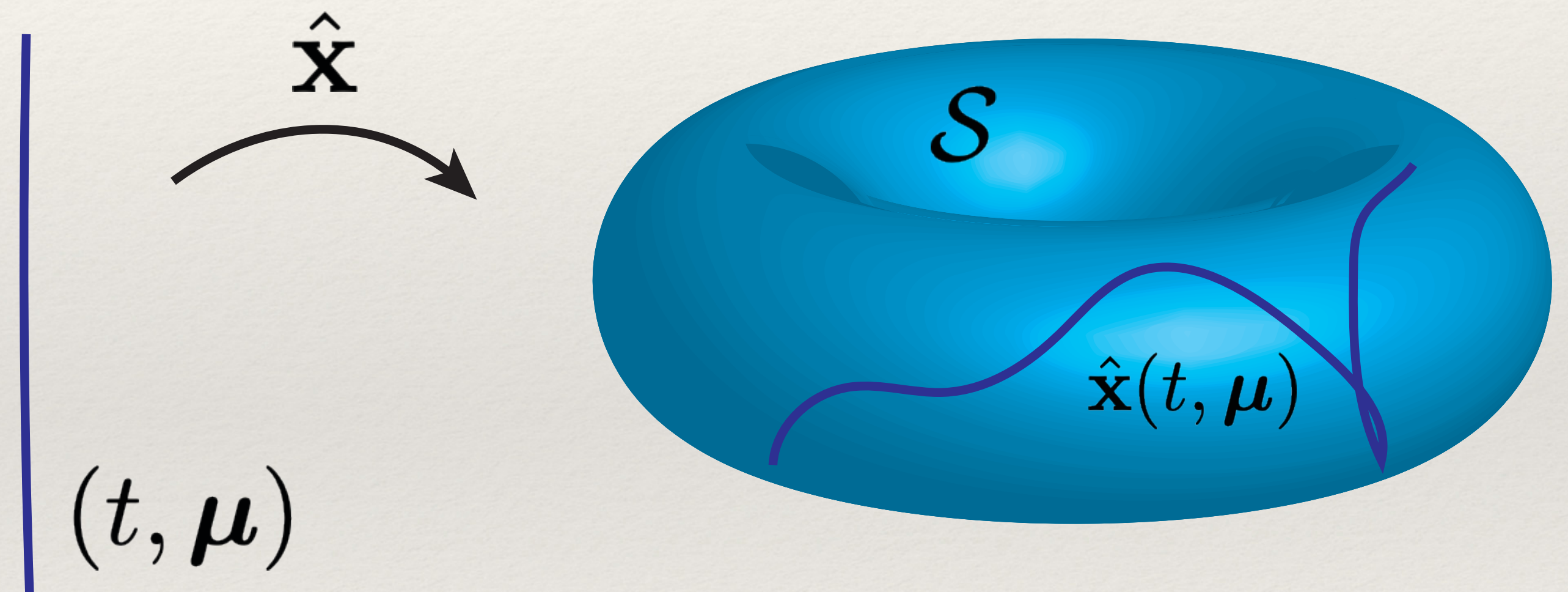


Potential Copyright Issue

Image: <https://mpas-dev.github.io/ocean/ocean.html>

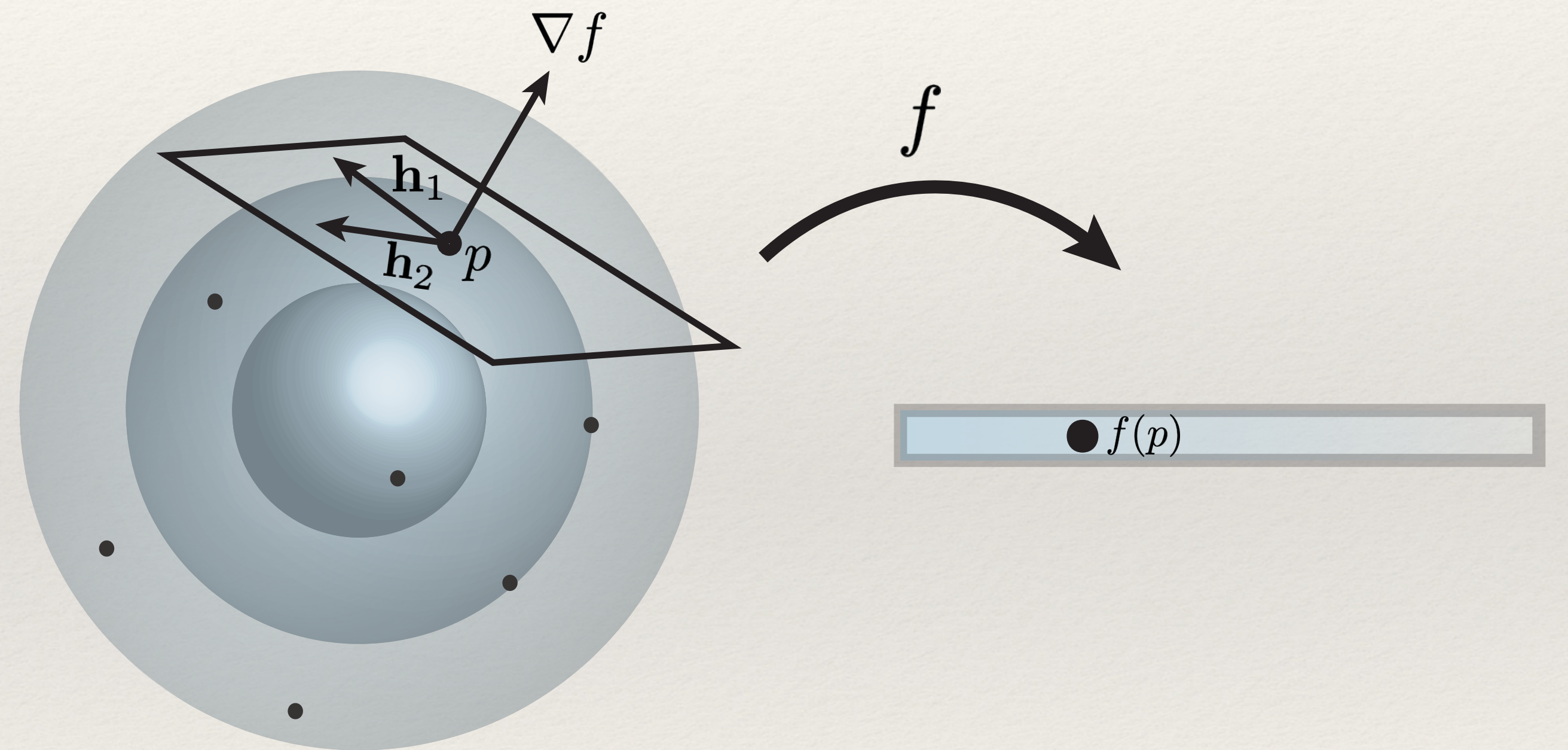
# Two Broad Approaches

- ❖ **Intrinsic:** Data is *intrinsically* low-dimensional.
  - ❖ DR should exploit intrinsic features.
- ❖ Clustering, reduced basis, etc.
- ❖ DR according to local / global data properties.



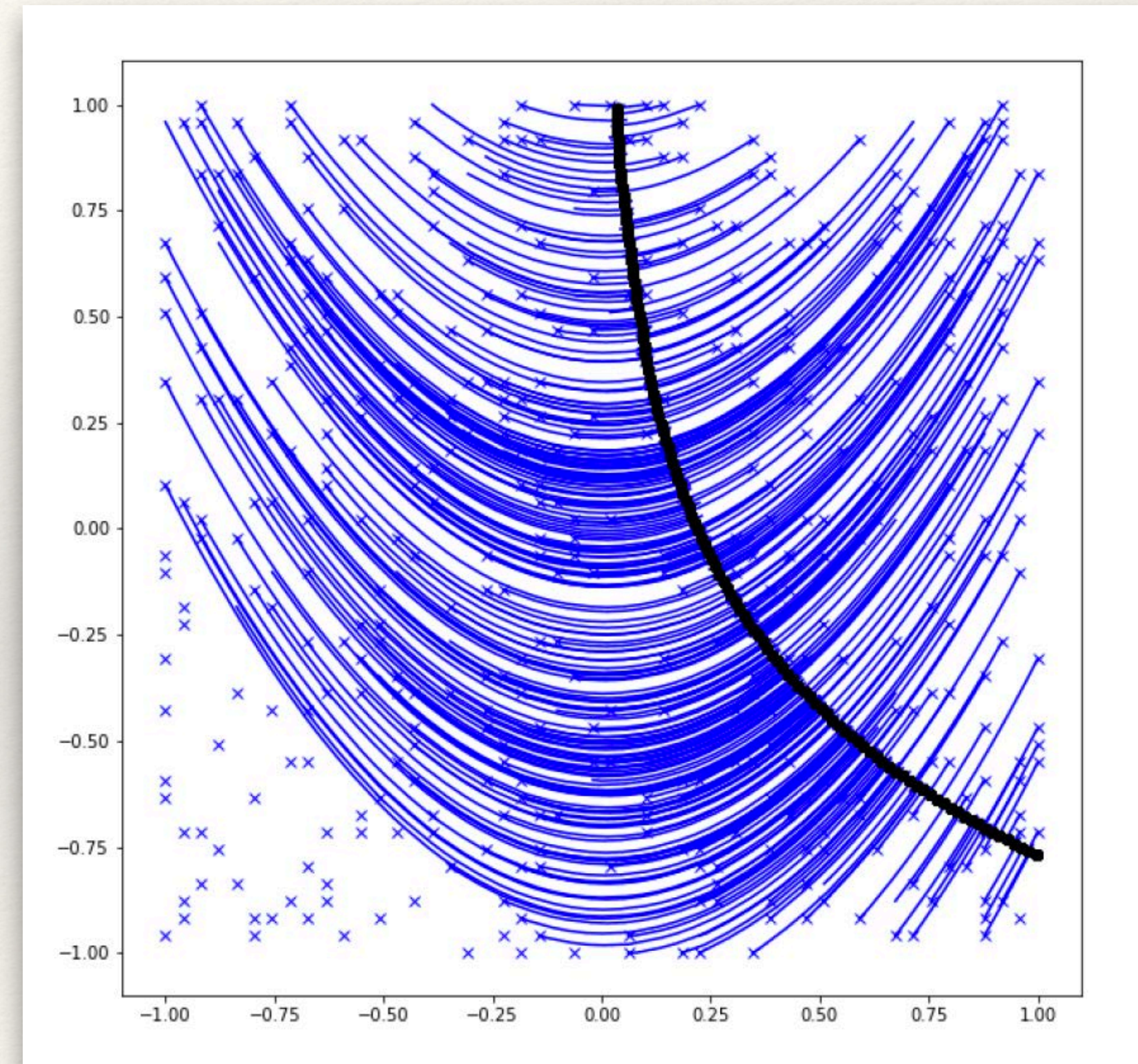
# Two Broad Approaches

- ❖ **Extrinsic:** Low-dim structure is induced by external mapping.
- ❖ Structure on data imposed by objective.
- ❖ Ridge regression
- ❖ Active subspaces / manifolds
- ❖ Nonlinear level set learning



# Active Manifolds

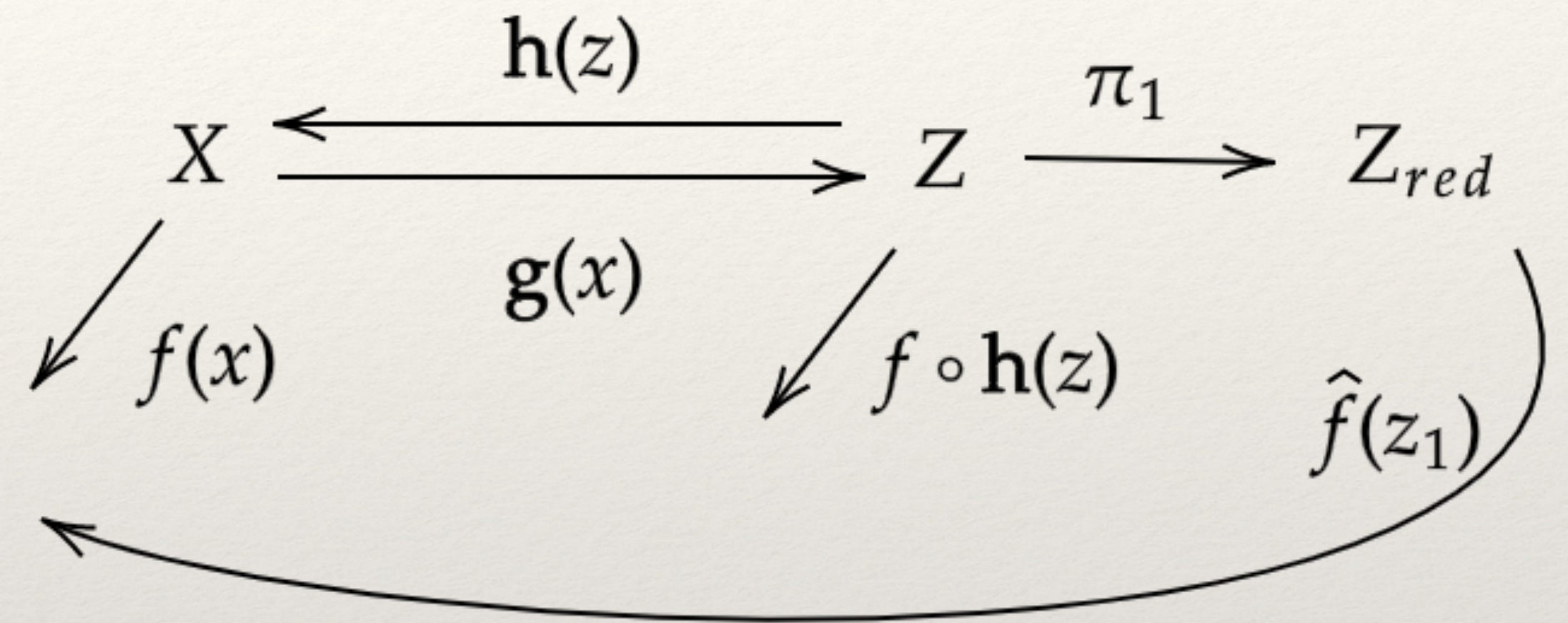
- ❖ Solve  $\dot{\mathbf{x}} = \frac{\nabla f(\mathbf{x})}{|\nabla f(\mathbf{x})|}$  for known  $\mathbf{x}(0) = \mathbf{x}_0$ .
- ❖ Map  $t \mapsto f(\mathbf{x}(t))$  characterizes  $f$  on  $\{f^{-1}(f(\mathbf{x}(t)))\}_{t \in T}$ .
- ❖ If  $\mathbf{y} \notin \{\mathbf{x}(t)\}$ ,  $f(\mathbf{y}) = f(P(\mathbf{y})) = f(\mathbf{x}(t))$ .
  - ❖ Projection  $P(\mathbf{y})$  constructed by “walking level sets”.
- ❖ AM works well:
  - ❖ in low dimensions; when data is available.
  - ❖ Drawback is **online cost**: ODE for each evaluation.





# Nonlinear Level set Learning

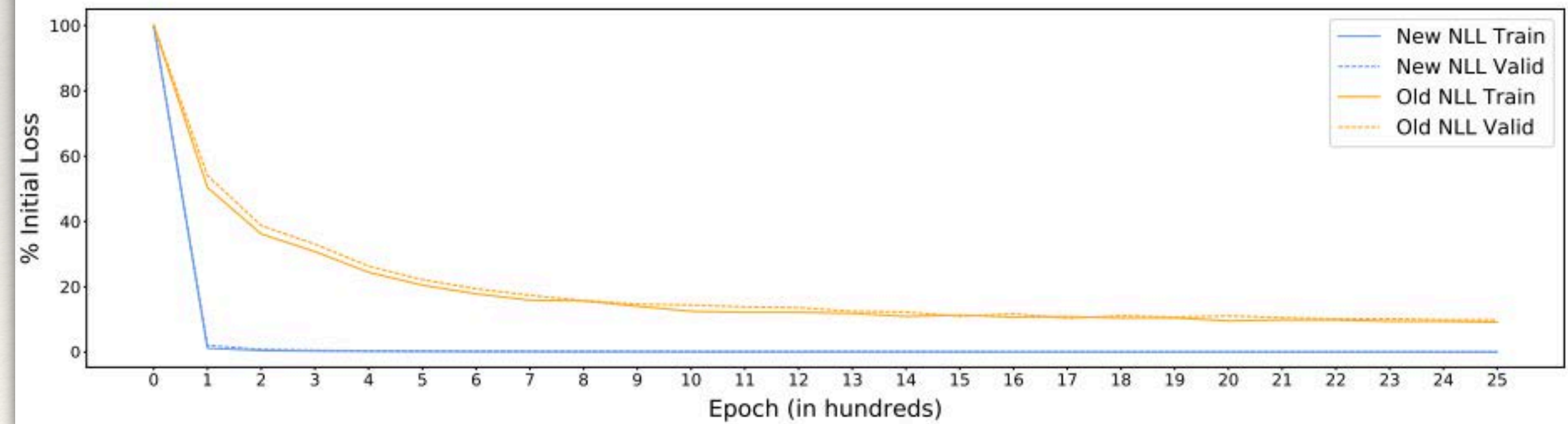
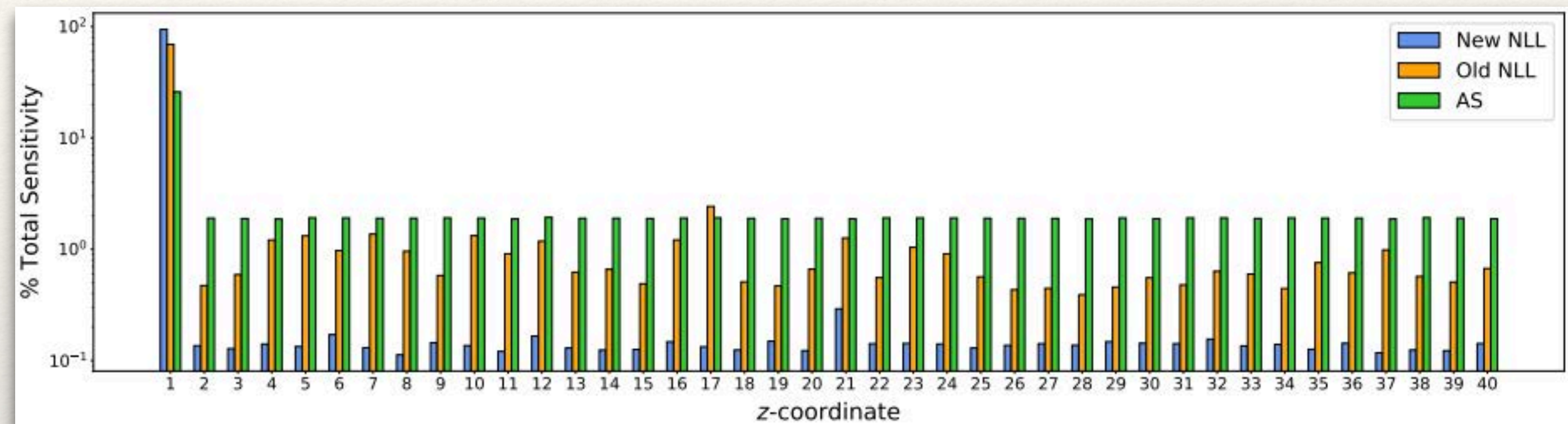
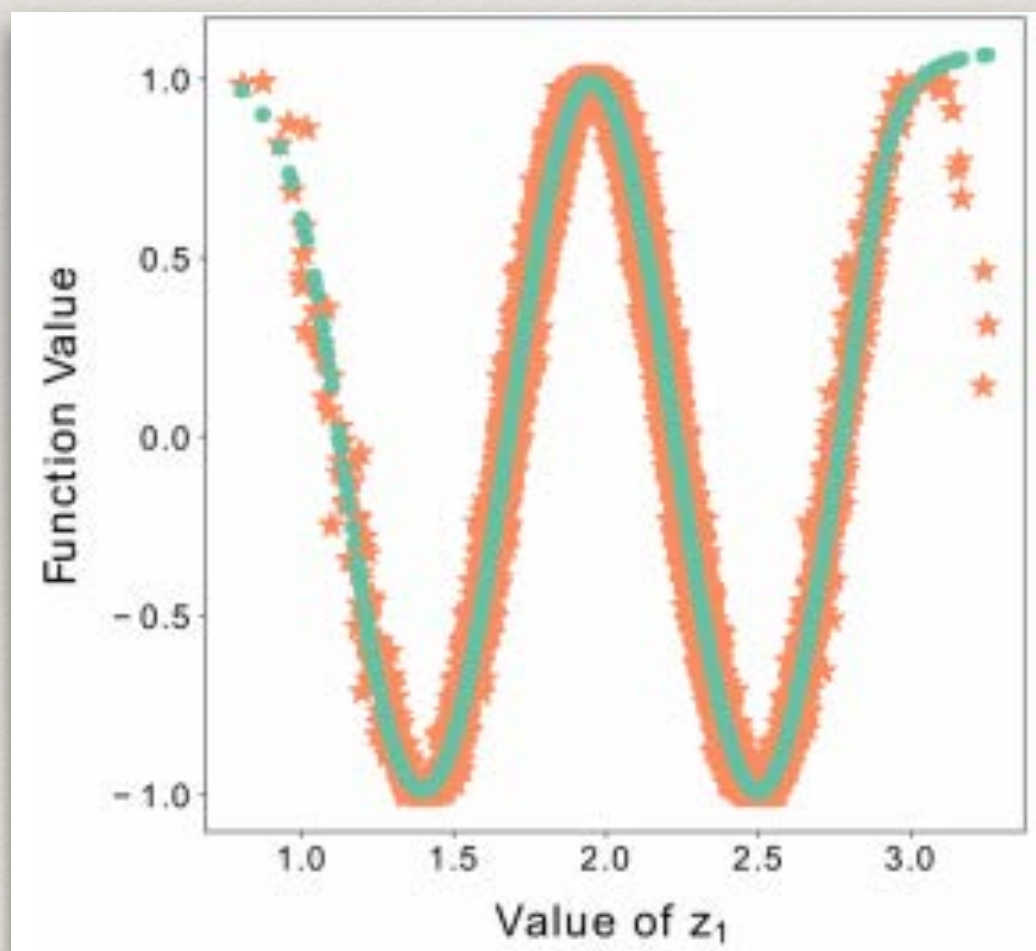
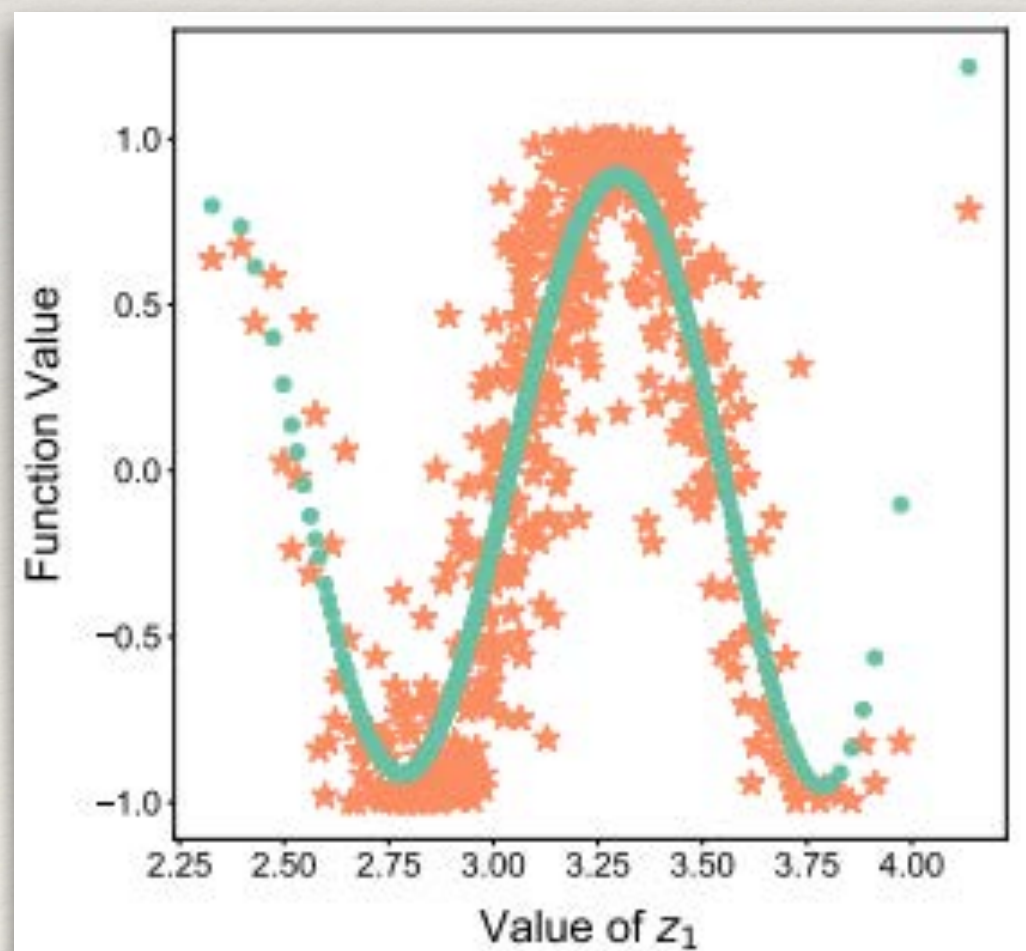
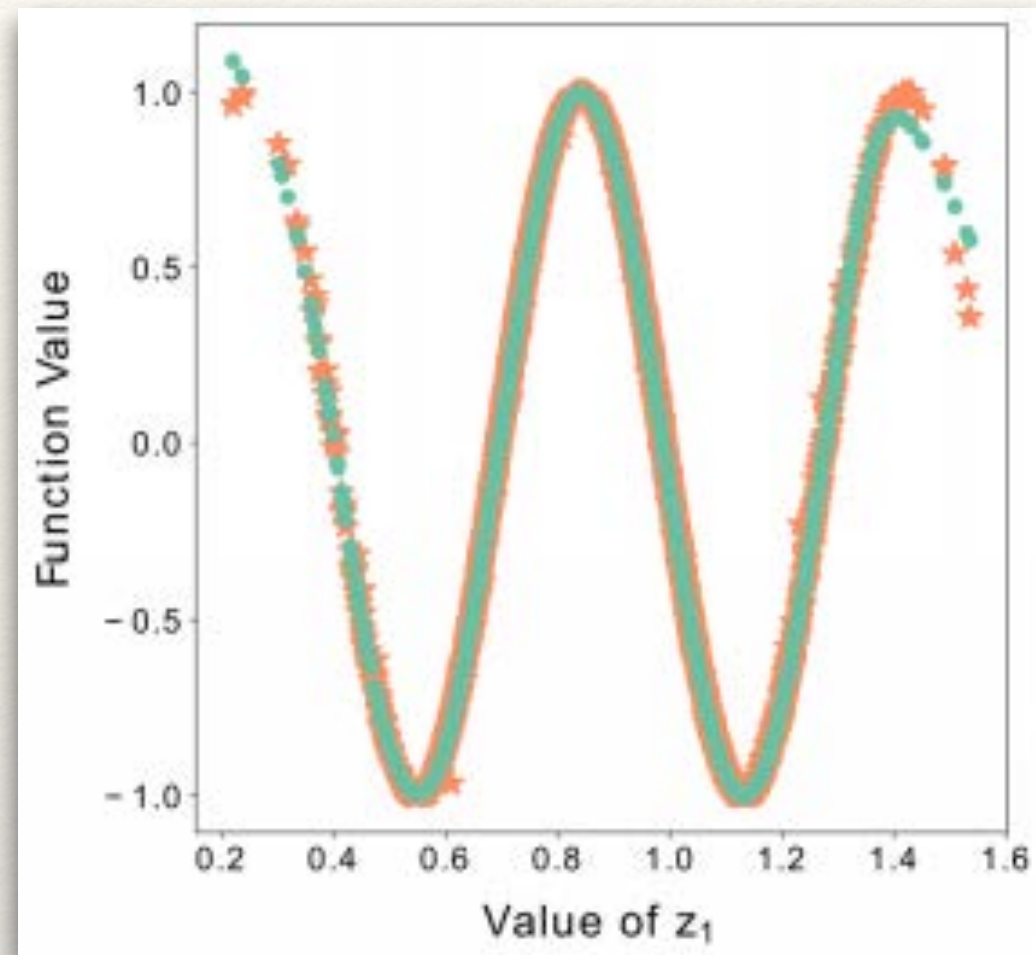
- ❖ ANN-based method for EDR.
  - ❖ Introduced (NIPS 2019) by G. Zhang, J. Zhang, J. Hinkle.
  - ❖ Improved (NMTMA 2021) by our group.
- ❖ Seek invertible transformation (RevNet)  $\mathbf{z} = \mathbf{g}(\mathbf{x})$ ,  $\mathbf{h} \circ \mathbf{g} = \mathbf{I}$ .
  - ❖ Splits domain of  $f \circ \mathbf{h}$  into  $\mathbf{z} = (\mathbf{z}_A, \mathbf{z}_I)$ .
  - ❖  $\mathbf{z}$ -domain truncated by  $\mathbf{z}_A$ .
  - ❖ Ridge regression  $\hat{f}(\mathbf{z}_A) \approx f(\mathbf{x})$ .



$$\int_U |(f \circ \mathbf{h})'|_{\perp}^2 d\mu^n = \sum_{i \in I} \int_U (\nabla f(\mathbf{x}) \cdot \mathbf{h}_i(\mathbf{z}))^2 d\mu^n$$

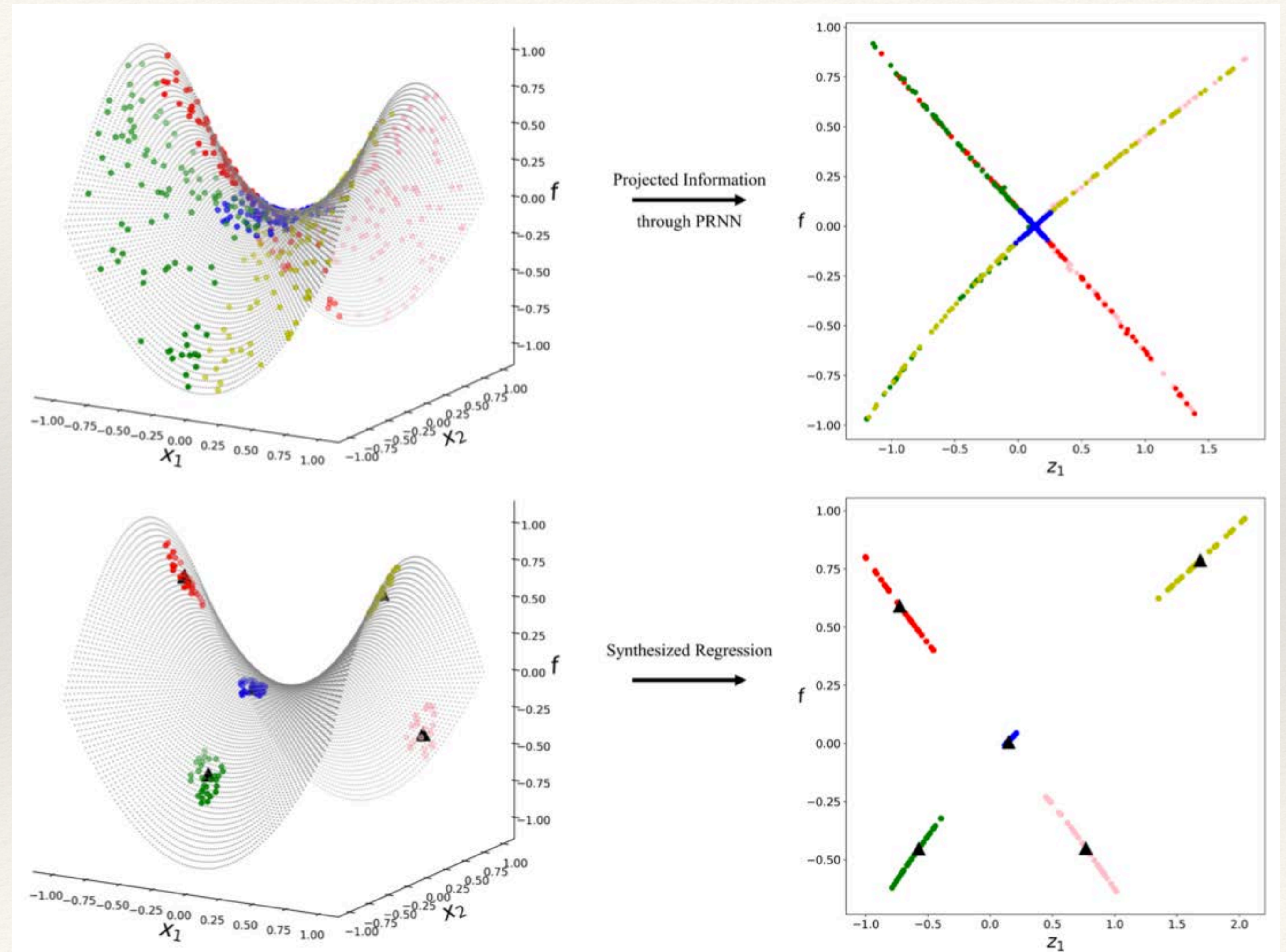
# Results on Toy Examples

- ❖ On 40-dim  $\sin(|\mathbf{x}|^2)$
- ❖ Only 100 data



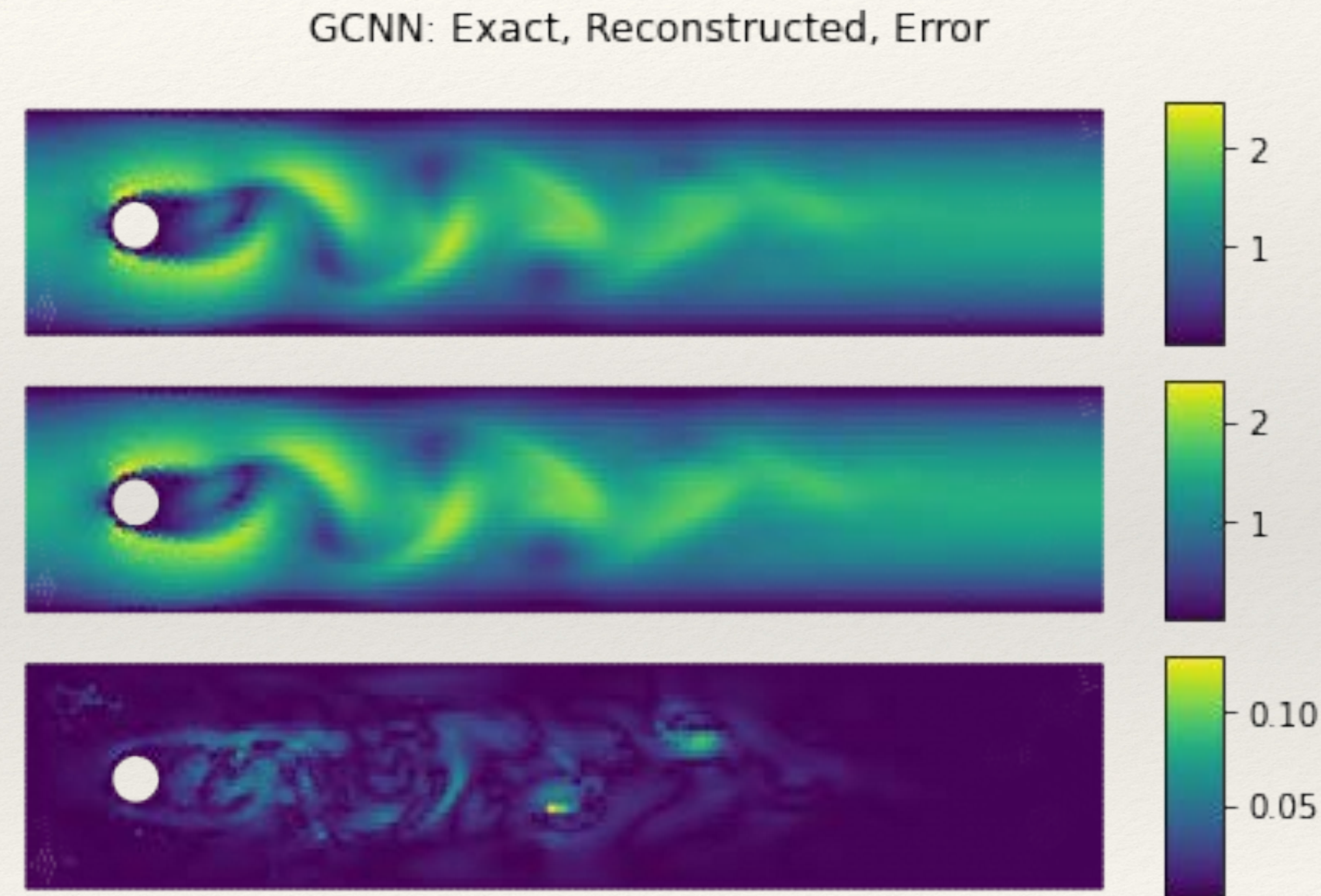
# NLL with Pseudo-Reversible NNs

- ❖ Reversibility of RevNet can create issues.
  - ❖ What if level sets are closed?
- ❖ Can consider **pseudo-reversible** network.
- ❖ Local regression based on **neighbors** in input space.
- ❖ Fixes some issues with NLL.
  - ❖ **BUT:** Needs more data.



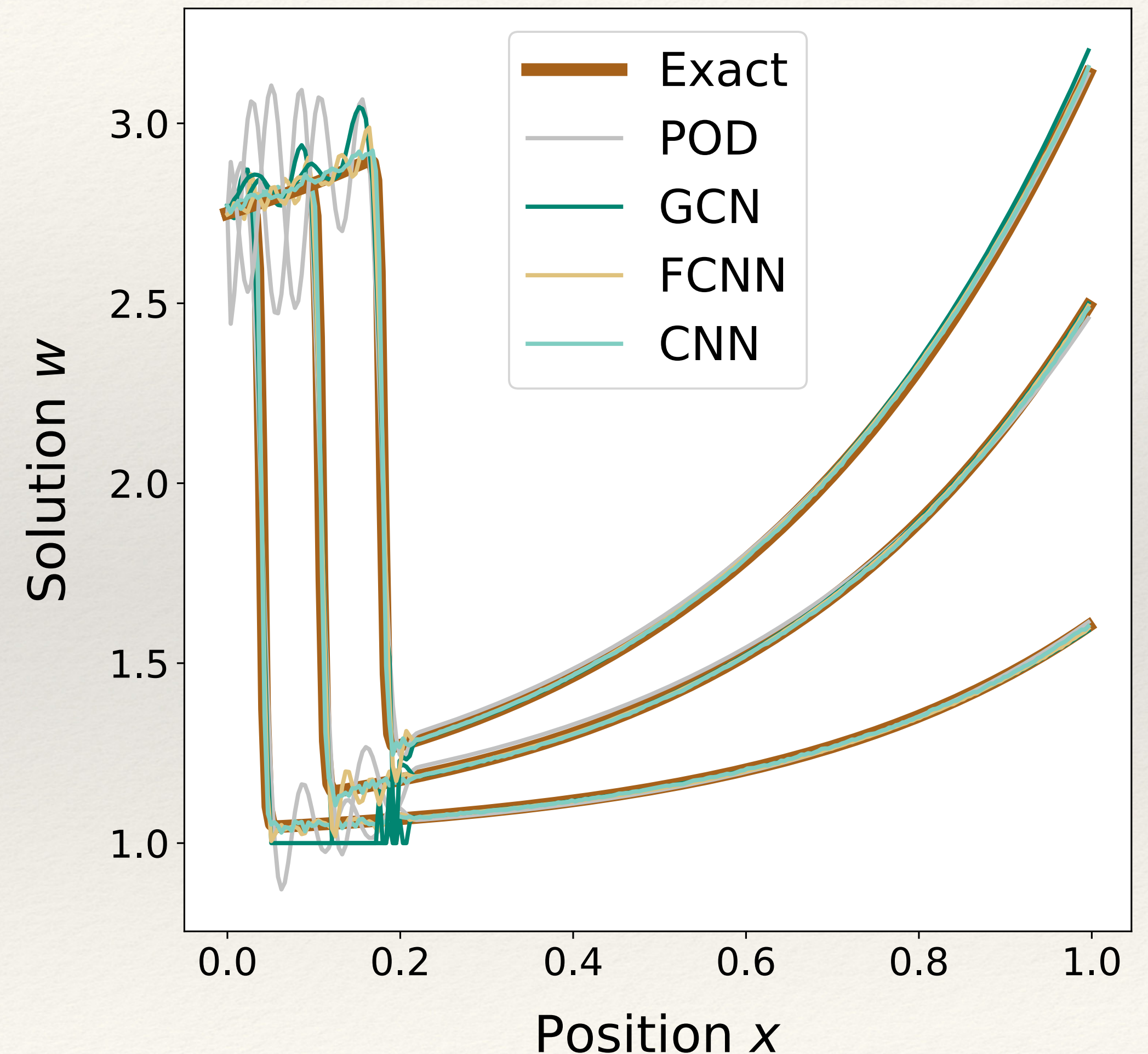
# Intrinsic DR: Reduced-order Modeling

- ❖ Semi-discretization  $u(x, t) =: \mathbf{u}(\mathbf{x}, t)$
- ❖ Creates *a lot* of dimensionality.
- ❖ Can we approximate the solution without solving the full PDE?
- ❖ Standard is to **encode -> solve -> decode**.
- ❖ PDE solving is **low-dimensional**.



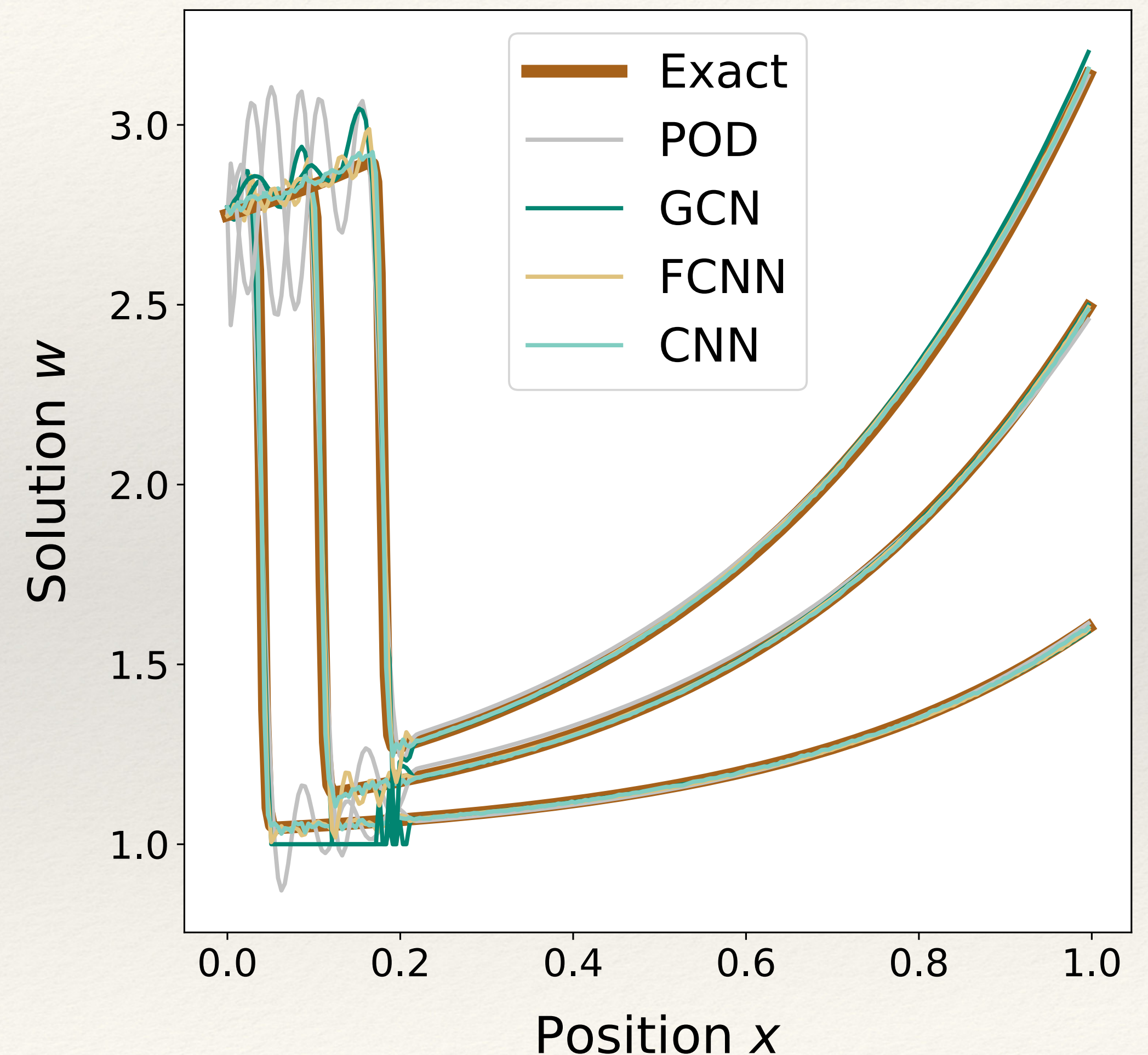
# Common ROM Methods

- ❖ Most popular (until recently):  
proper orthogonal decomposition  
(POD).
- ❖ PCA on solution *snapshots*  
 $\{\mathbf{u}(\mathbf{x}, t_j)\}_{j=1}^N$ , generate  $\mathbf{S}$ .
- ❖ SVD:  $\mathbf{S} = \mathbf{U}\mathbf{\Sigma}\mathbf{V}^T$ .
  - ❖ First  $n$  cols  $\mathbf{U}_n$ : reduced basis.
- ❖  $\mathbf{U}_n \dot{\hat{\mathbf{u}}} = \mathbf{f}(t, \mathbf{U}_n \hat{\mathbf{u}})$  replaces  $\dot{\mathbf{u}} = \mathbf{f}(t, \mathbf{u})$ .



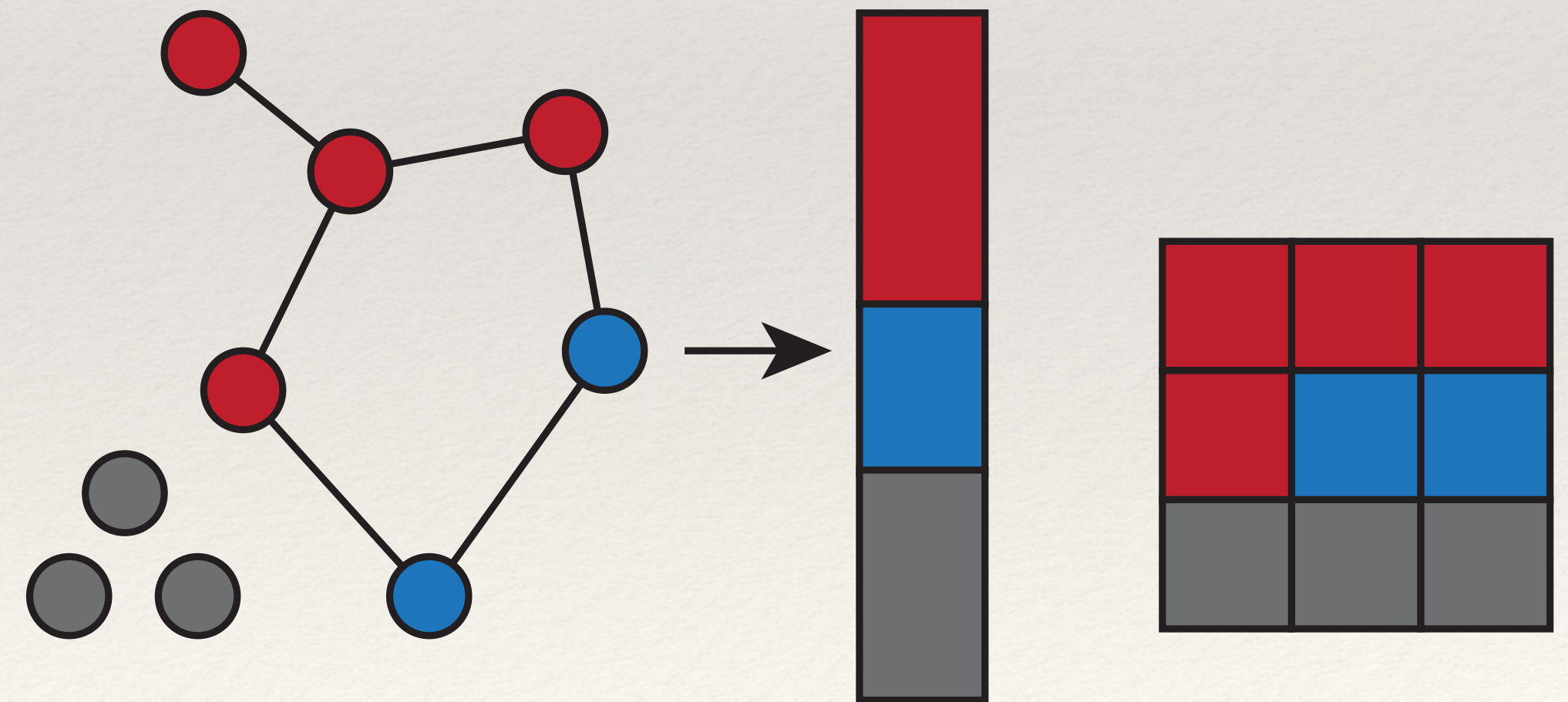
# Common ROM Methods

- ❖ Next most popular: Convolutional neural network (CNN) autoencoder.
- ❖ Improved performance over POD\*\*.
  - ❖ \*\* (In some cases)
- ❖ **BUT** slower and more difficult to train.
- ❖ Also more memory consumptive!
- ❖ Now often used “by default”.



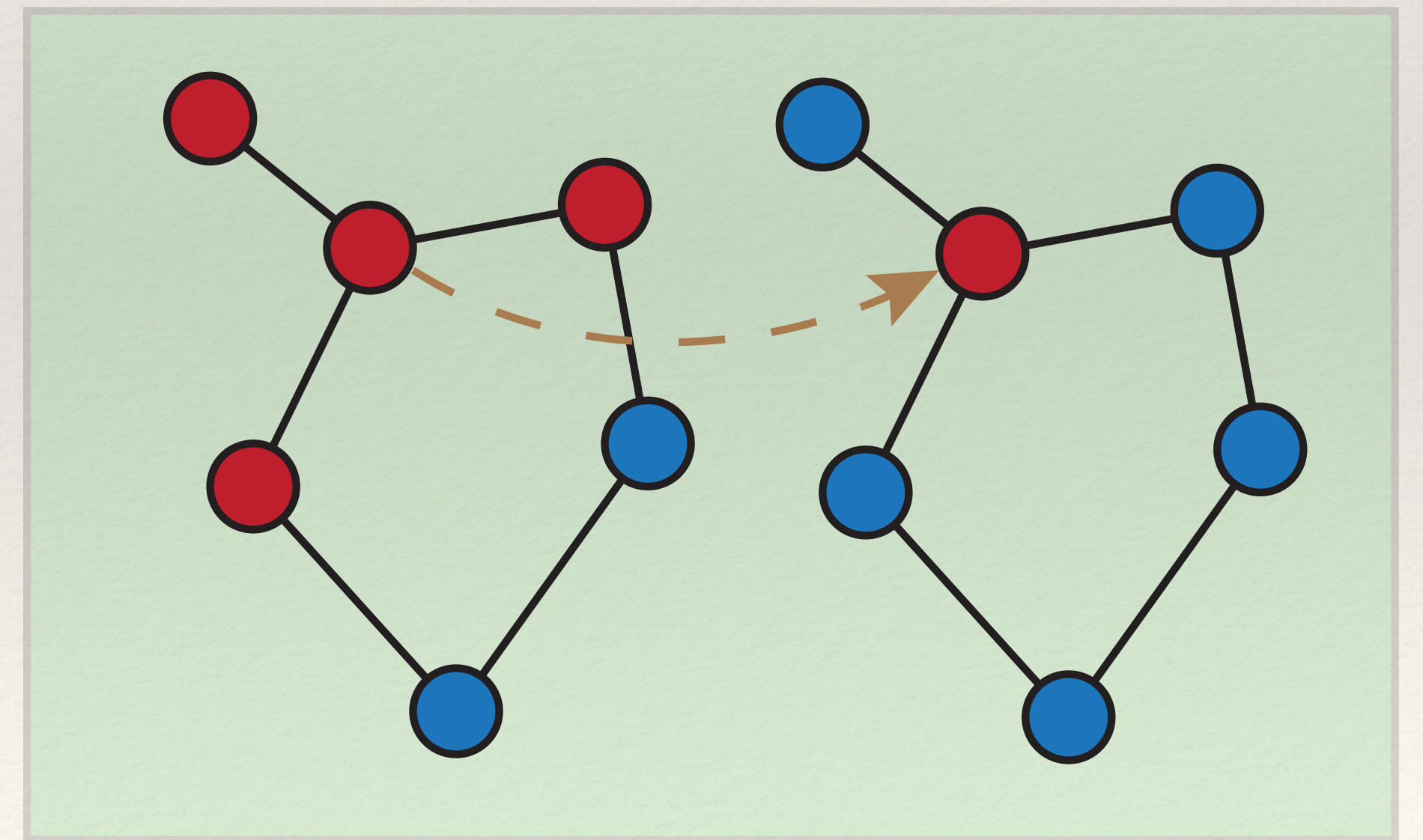
# Disadvantage of CNN ROMs

- ❖ Standard CNN: *not well defined* for irregular data. How to use?
- ❖ **Option 1:** *Ignore the issue!*
  - ❖ Pad inputs with fake nodes until square-able.
  - ❖ Convolve *square-ified* input.
  - ❖ Reassemble at end; fake nodes ignored.
- ❖ Works surprisingly well!
  - ❖ But, not very meaningful.



# Graph Convolutional Networks

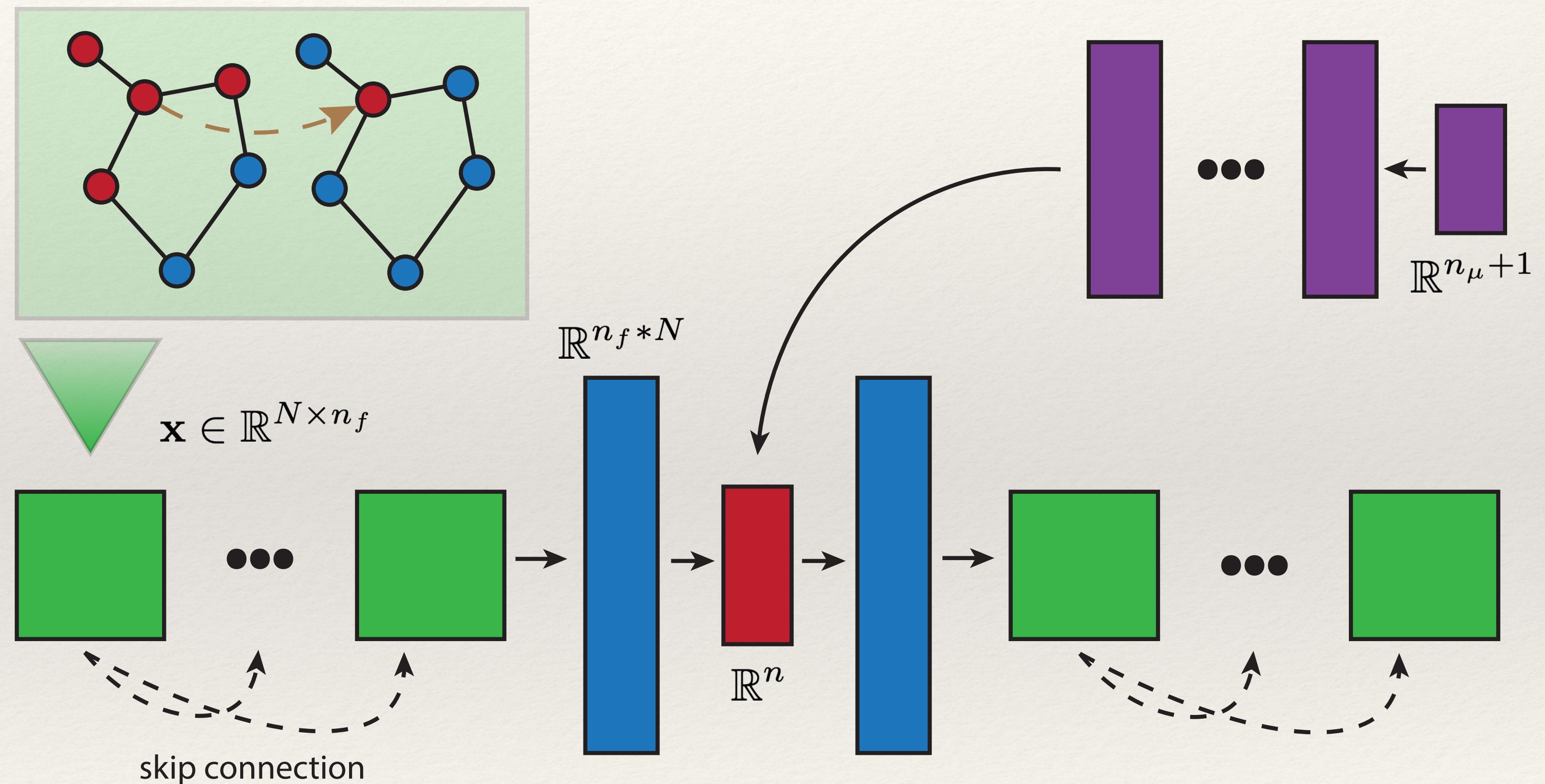
- ❖ **Option 2:** Use a graph convolutional network!
- ❖  $\mathcal{G} = (\mathcal{V}, \mathcal{E})$  undirected graph; adj. matrix  $\mathbf{A} \in \mathbb{R}^{|\mathcal{V}| \times |\mathcal{V}|}$ .
- ❖  $\mathbf{D}$ : degree matrix  $d_{ii} = \sum_j a_{ij}$ .
- ❖ Laplacian of  $\mathcal{G}$ :  $\mathbf{L} = \mathbf{D} - \mathbf{A} = \mathbf{U}\mathbf{\Lambda}\mathbf{U}^\top$ .
- ❖ Columns of  $\mathbf{U}$  are Fourier modes of  $\mathcal{G}$ .
- ❖ Discrete FT/IFT: multiply by  $\mathbf{U}^\top/\mathbf{U}$ .





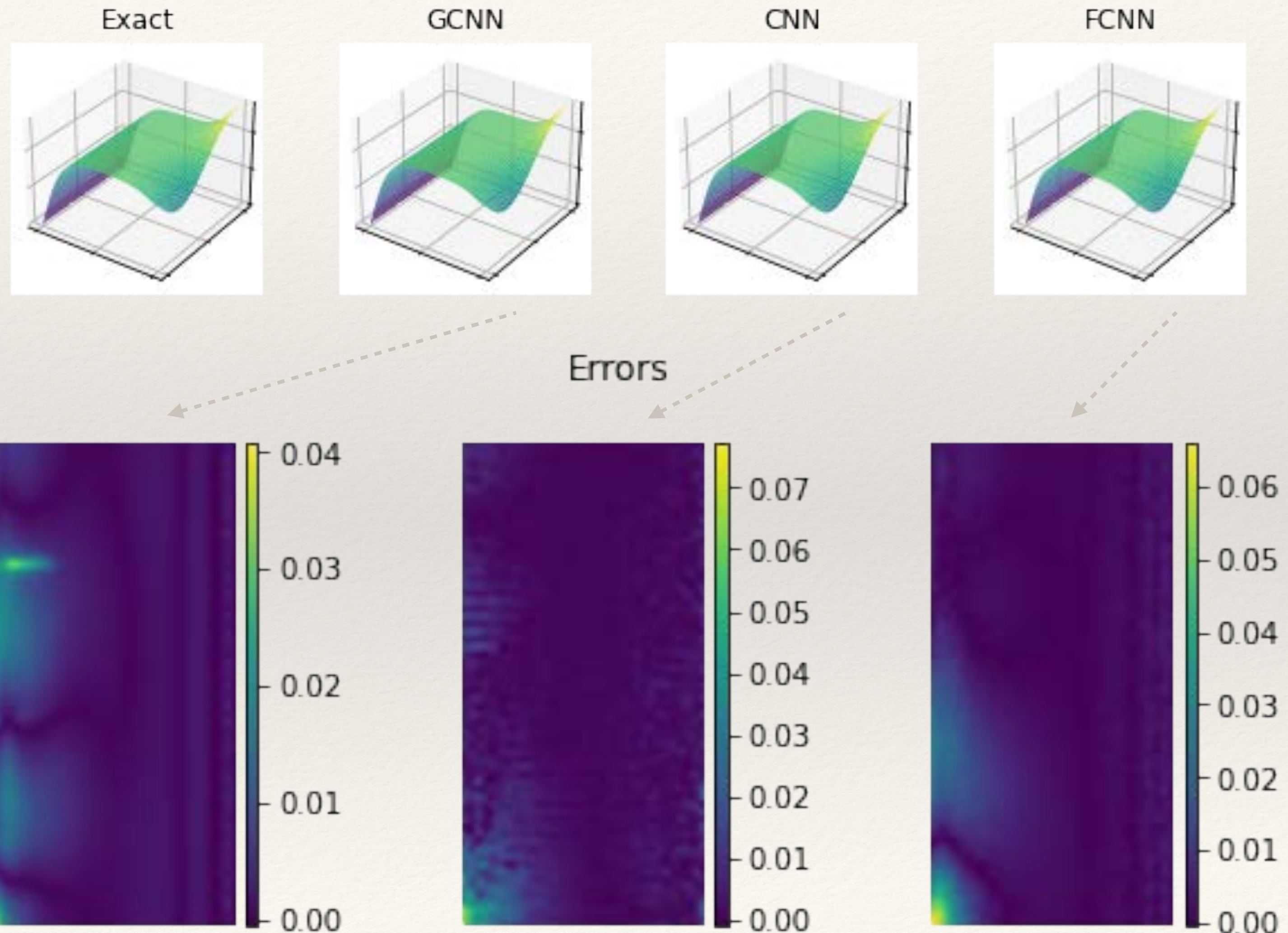
# GC Autoencoder ROM

- ❖ GCN2 layers (Chen et al. 2020) encode-decode.
- ❖ Blue layers are fully connected.
- ❖ For ROM: purple network simulates low-dim dynamics.
- ❖ Split network idea due to (Fresca et al. 2020).



# 2-D Parameterized Heat Equation: Results

- ❖ Results shown for  $N = 4096$ ,  $n = 10$ .
- ❖ GCNN has lowest error and least memory requirement (by >10x!)
- ❖ CNN is worst..
  - ❖ Cheap hacks have a cost!



# Unsteady Navier-Stokes Equations

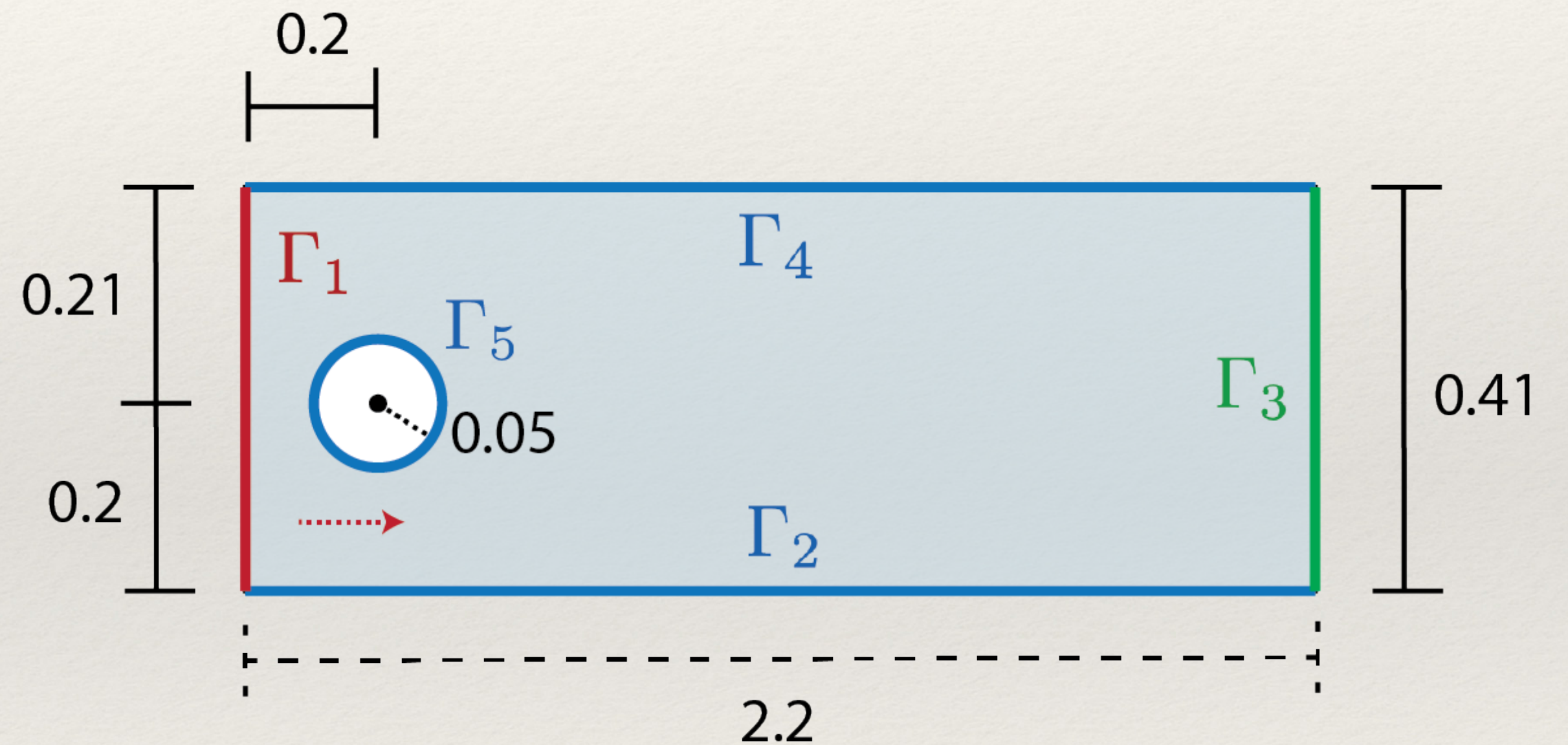
- ❖ Consider the Schafer-Turek benchmark problem:

$$\dot{\mathbf{u}} - \nu \Delta \mathbf{u} + \nabla_{\mathbf{u}} \mathbf{u} + \nabla p = \mathbf{f},$$

$$\nabla \cdot \mathbf{u} = 0,$$

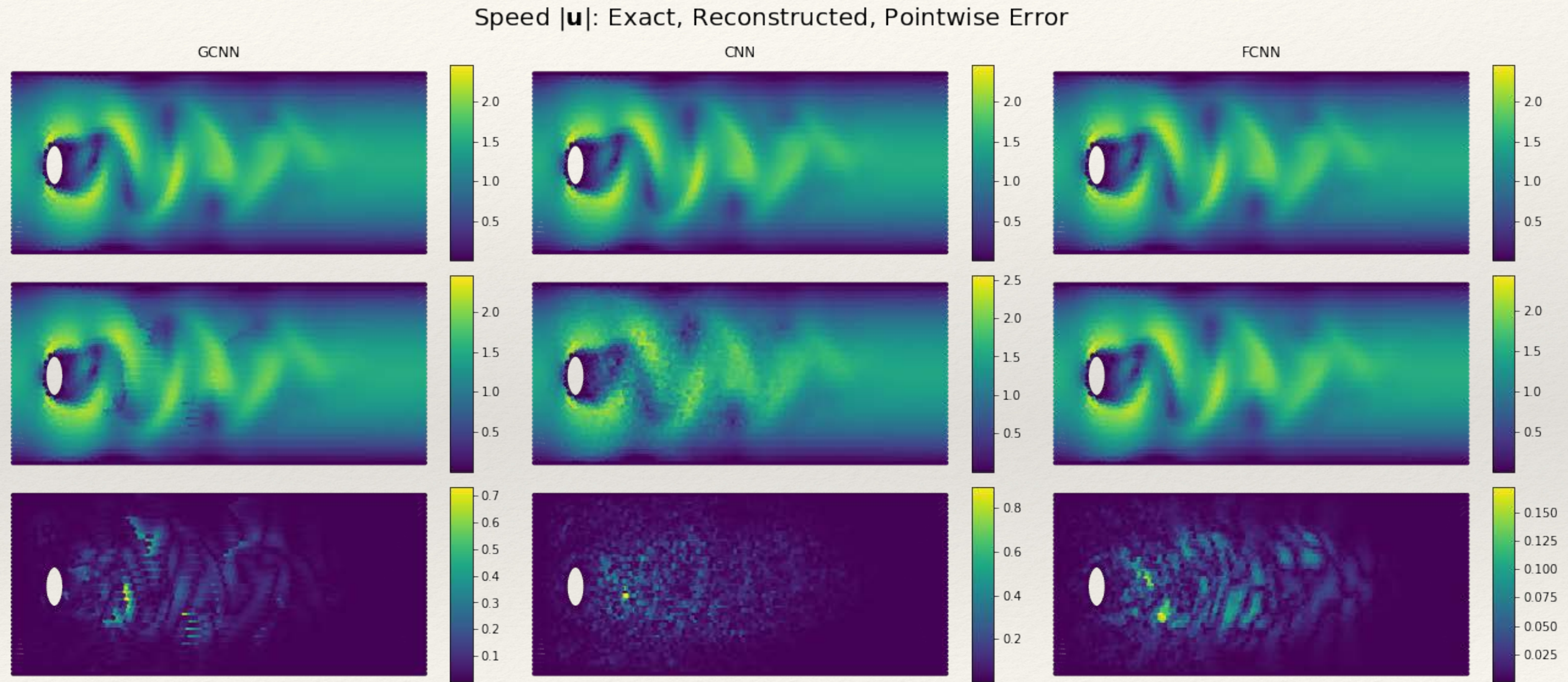
$$\mathbf{u}|_{t=0} = \mathbf{u}_0.$$

- ❖ Impose 0 boundary conditions on  $\Gamma_2, \Gamma_4, \Gamma_5$ . Do nothing on  $\Gamma_3$ . Parabolic inflow on  $\Gamma_1$ .



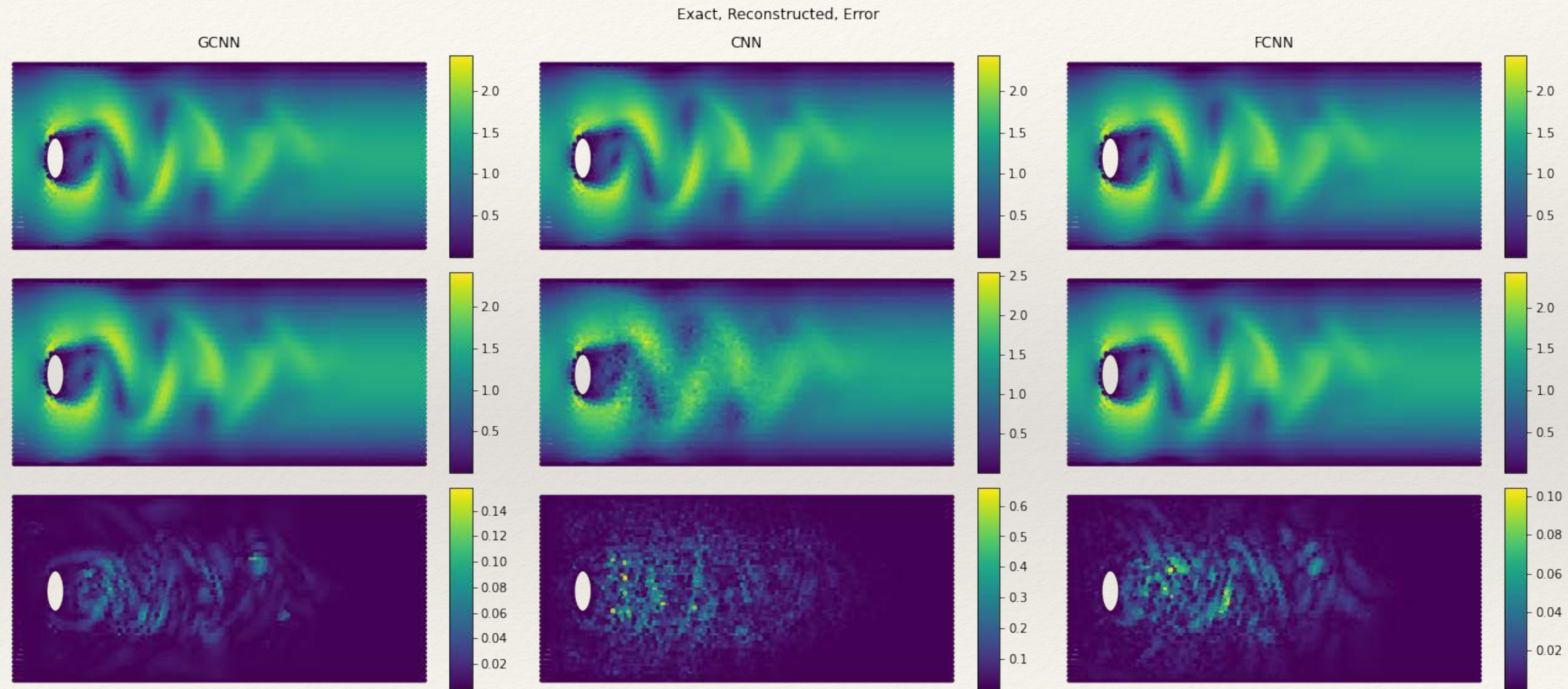
# Navier-Stokes Equations: Full ROM

- ❖  $N = 10104$
- ❖  $n = 32$
- ❖ Reynolds number 185.
- ❖ FCNN best.
- ❖ GCNN still beats CNN.



# Navier-Stokes Equations: Enc/Dec only

- ❖ GCNN matches FCNN in accuracy
- ❖ GCNN memory cost >50x less than FCNN
- ❖ \*\*\* (FCNN best on full ROM)



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# PDE on Moving Domains

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- ❖ Many natural phenomena modeled by conservation laws on **moving surfaces**.
  - ❖ Surface dissolution (pictured).
  - ❖ Motion of surfactant films between media.
- ❖ Various methods of solution:
  - ❖ Level set methods.
    - ❖ Generally implicit, stable, hard to formulate.
  - ❖ Finite difference methods
    - ❖ Implicit or explicit, easy to formulate, poor convergence.
  - ❖ **Evolving surface FEM.**
    - ❖ Implicit or explicit, versatile, can be delicate.

Potential Copyright Issue

# Modeling p-Willmore Flow

❖ p-Willmore energy:  $\mathcal{W}^p(\mathbf{X}) = \int_M |H|^p d\mu_g$ .

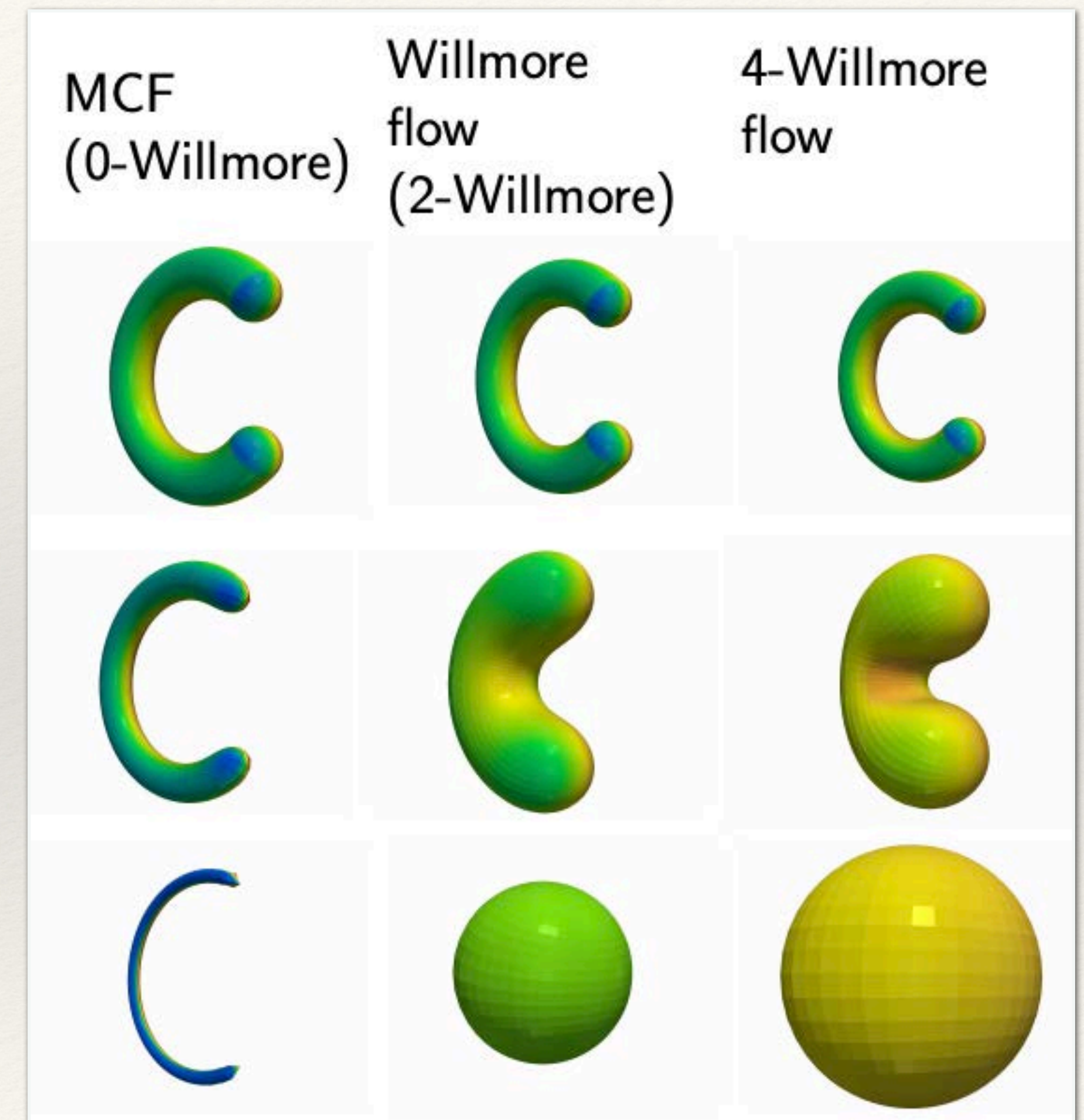
❖ membrane biology, molecular entropy, liquid crystallography

❖ E-L equation 4<sup>th</sup>-order QL degenerate elliptic.

❖ How to model with p.w. linear FEM?

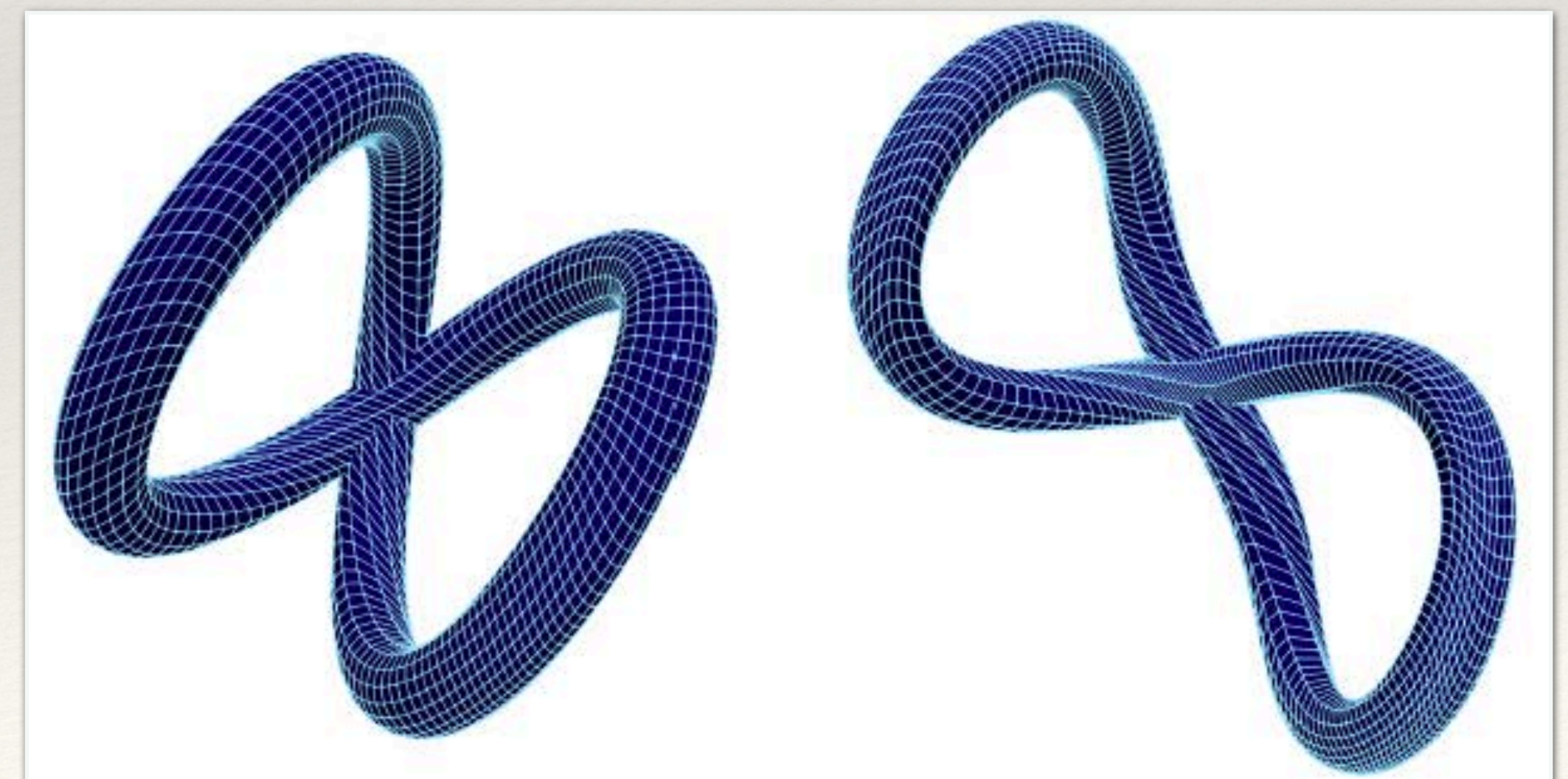
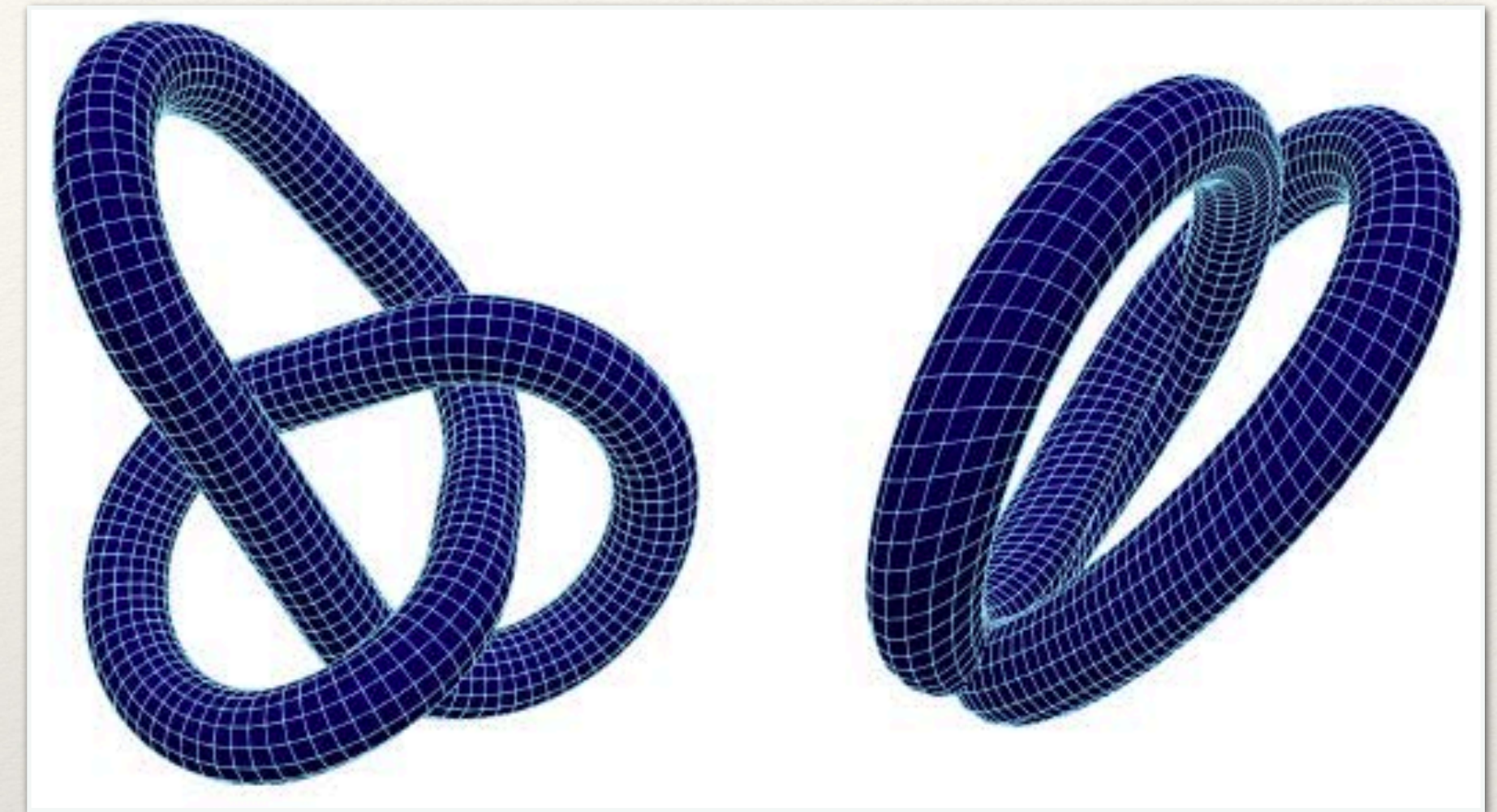
❖ (G. Dziuk 2012)  $\mathbf{Y} := \Delta_g \mathbf{X} = 2HN$ .

❖ Willmore flow becomes coupled pair of 2<sup>nd</sup>-order PDEs for  $X$  (weakly 1<sup>st</sup>-order).



# Modeling p-Willmore Flow

- ❖ Trick works for p-Willmore, too!\*\*
  - ❖ (with some modification)
- ❖ Yields provably dissipative scheme.
  - ❖ Including area / volume constraints.
- ❖ **Bad news:** mesh degenerates with large motion...
  - ❖ Parametrization invariance of  $\mathcal{W}^p$  is a negative here.
- ❖ How can we fix it?





# What about the Mesh?

❖ *Least-squares conformal regularization!*

❖  $f: (M, g) \rightarrow (P, h)$  is conformal if  $f^*h = e^{2\phi}g$ .

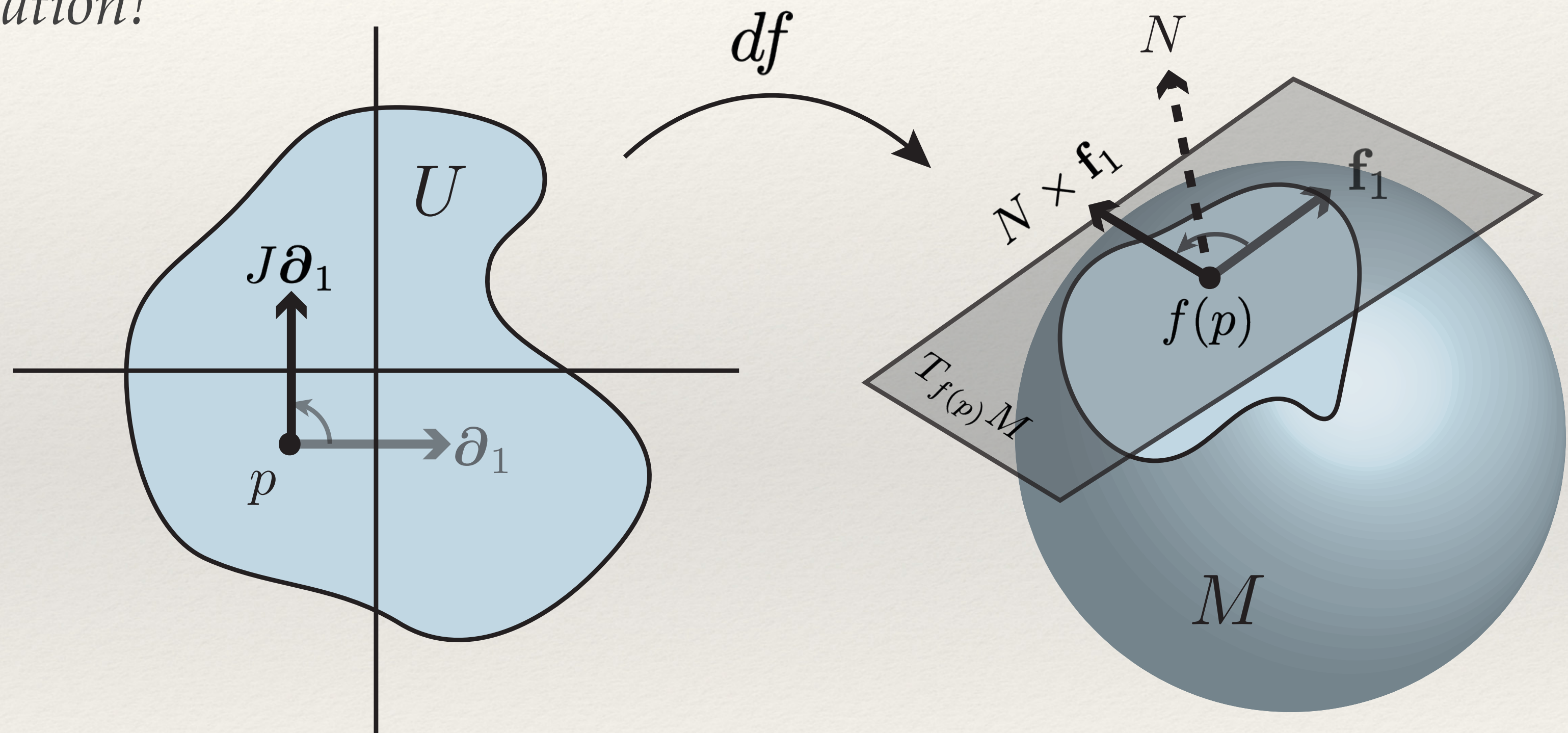
❖ Think  $f: M \rightarrow \text{Im } \mathbb{H}$ .

❖  $\exists N$  s.t.  $\star df = N df$ .

(Kamberov, Pedit, Pinkall 1996).

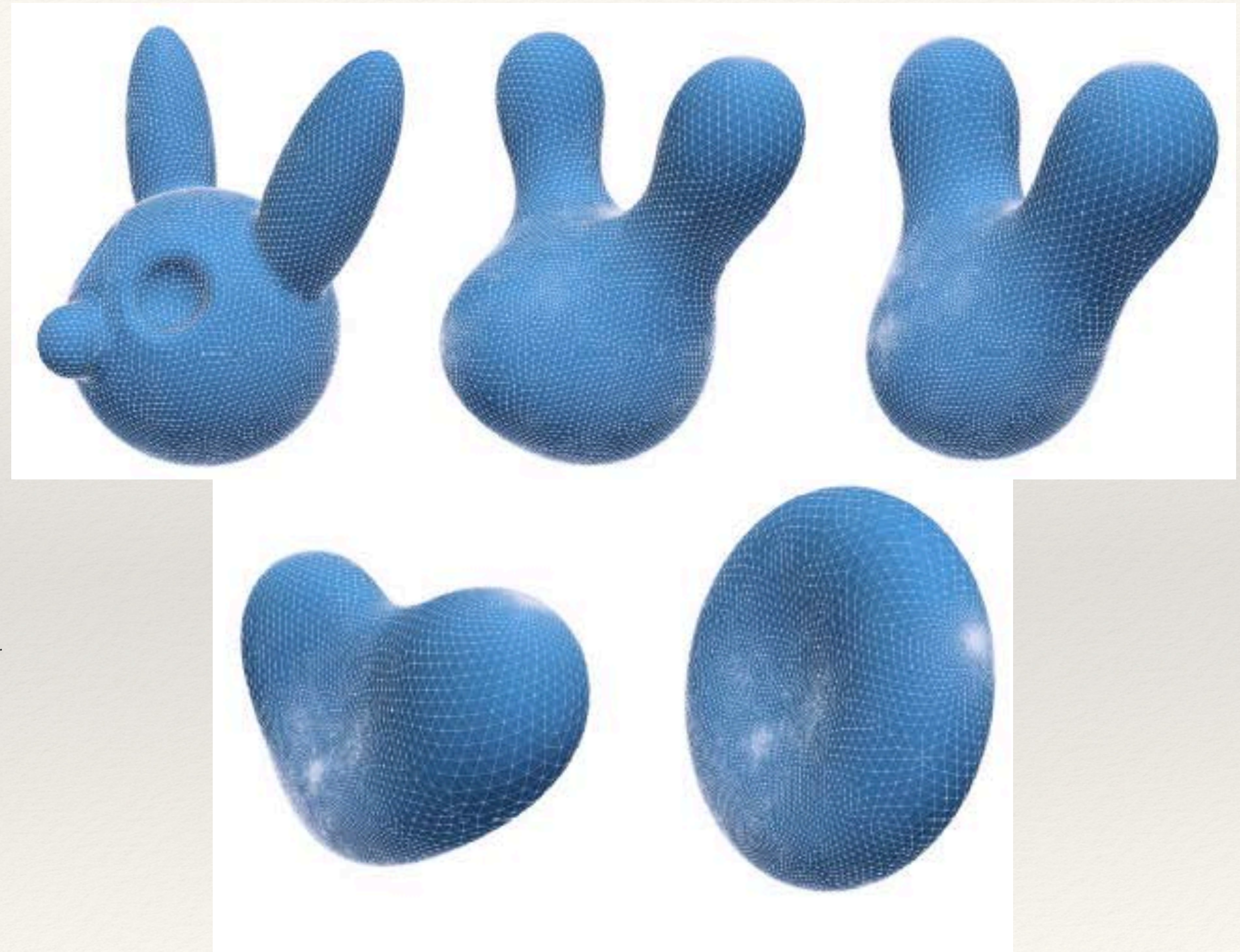
❖ Implementable.

❖ No explicit reference to metric!!  
(wrapped in  $\star$ ).

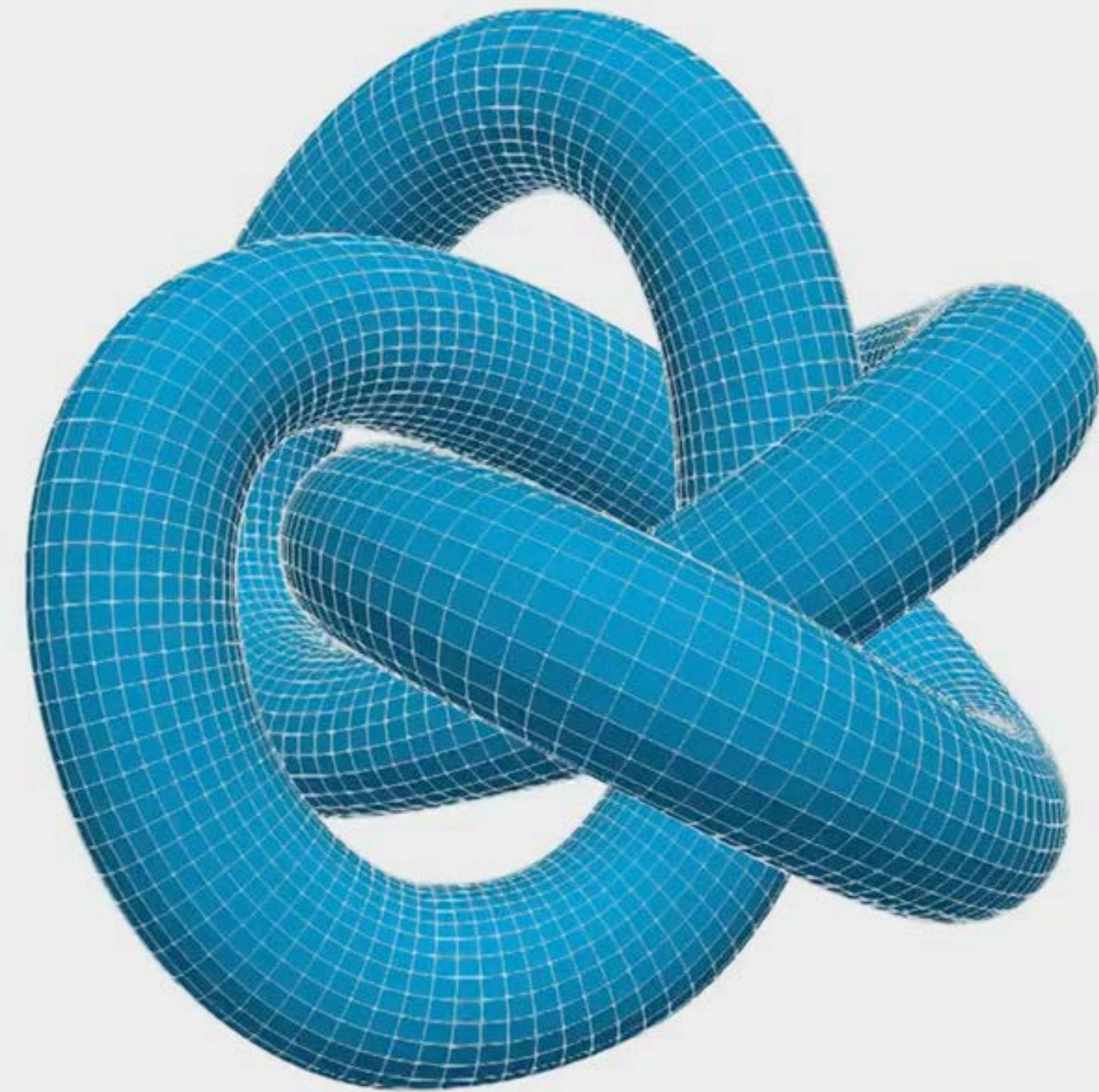
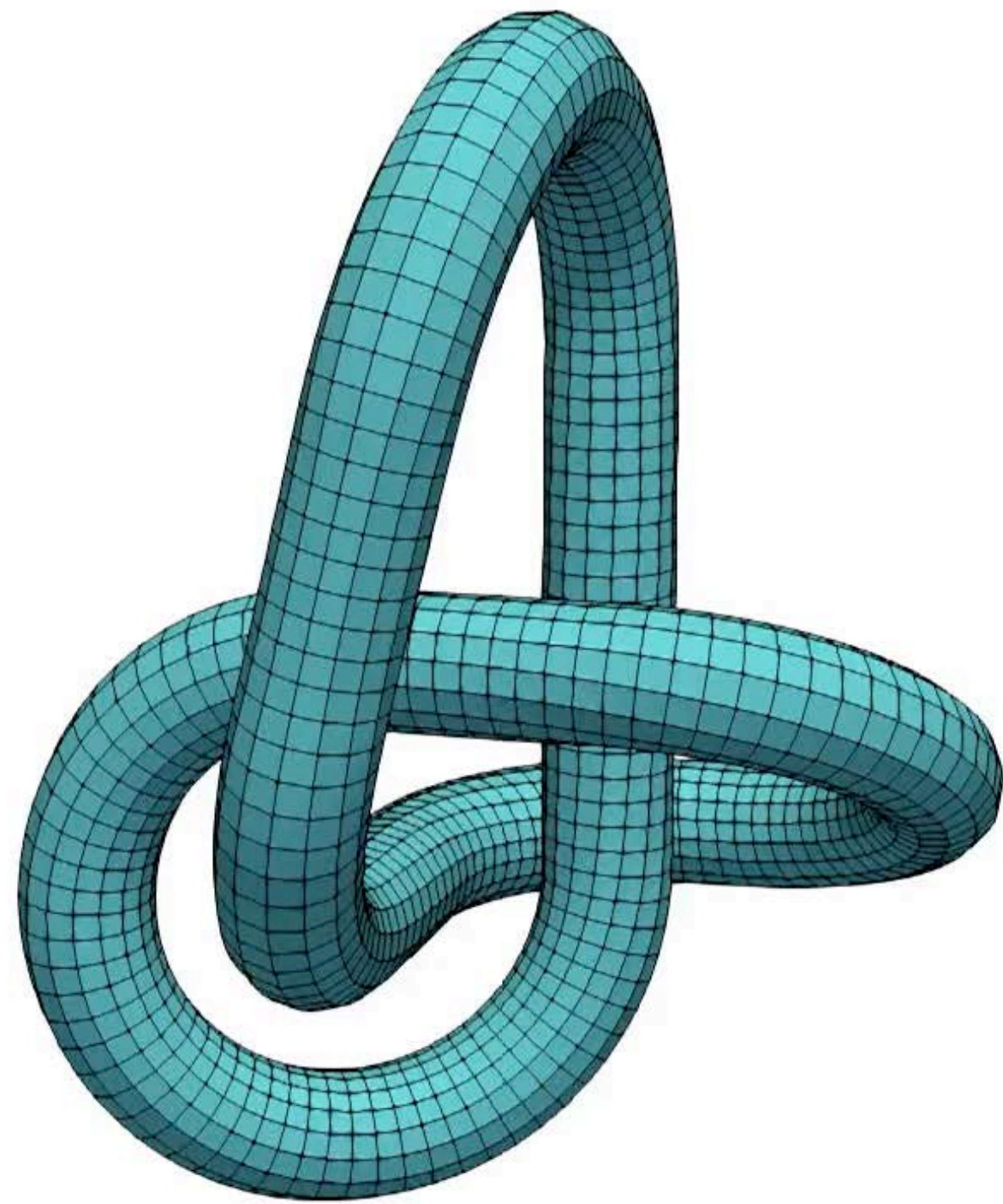


# Modeling p-Willmore Flow

- ❖ Can minimize integral of  $|\star d\mathbf{X} - N d\mathbf{X}|^2$  with constraint.
- ❖ Yields least-squares conformal maps.
- ❖ Applied as subsystem in  $\mathcal{W}^p$ -flow reparametrizes surface.
- ❖ Keeps mesh stable along the evolution.

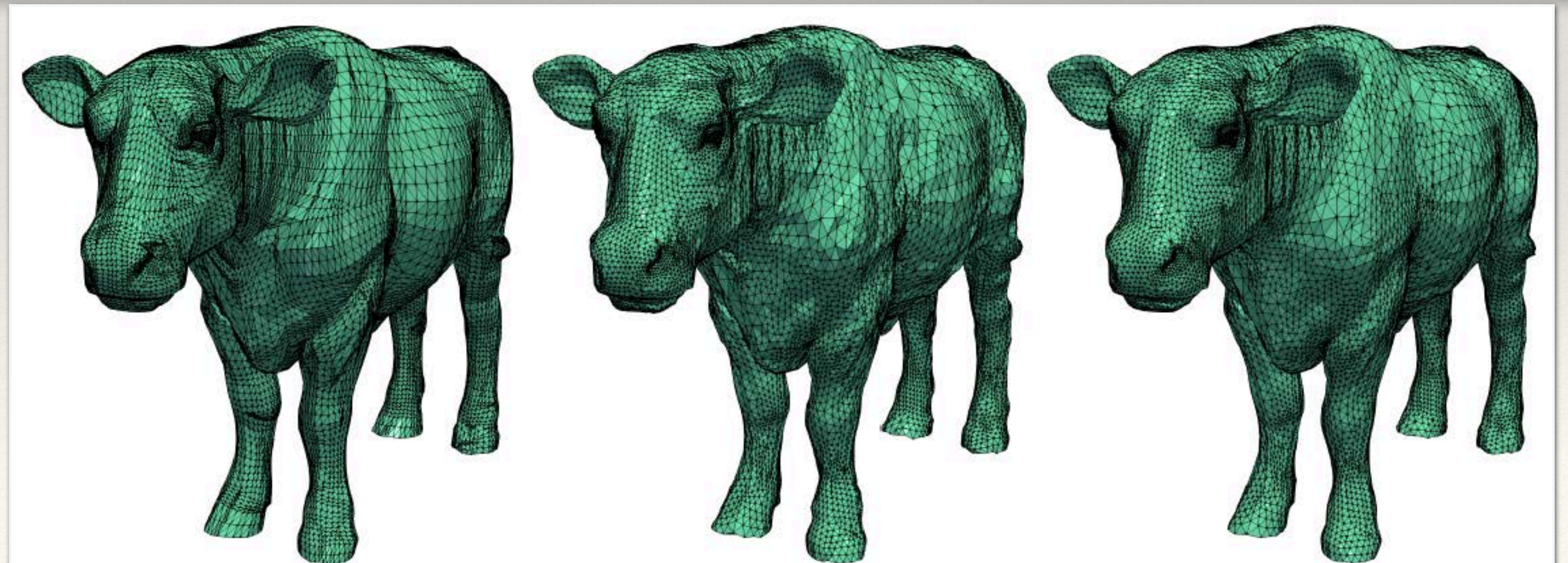
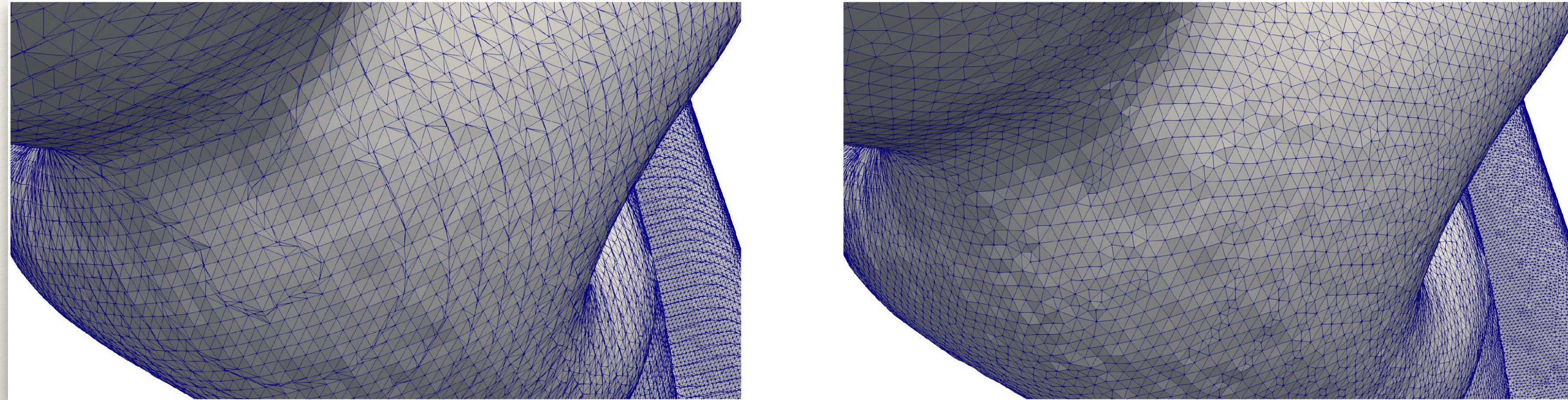


# Torus Knots Unwinding



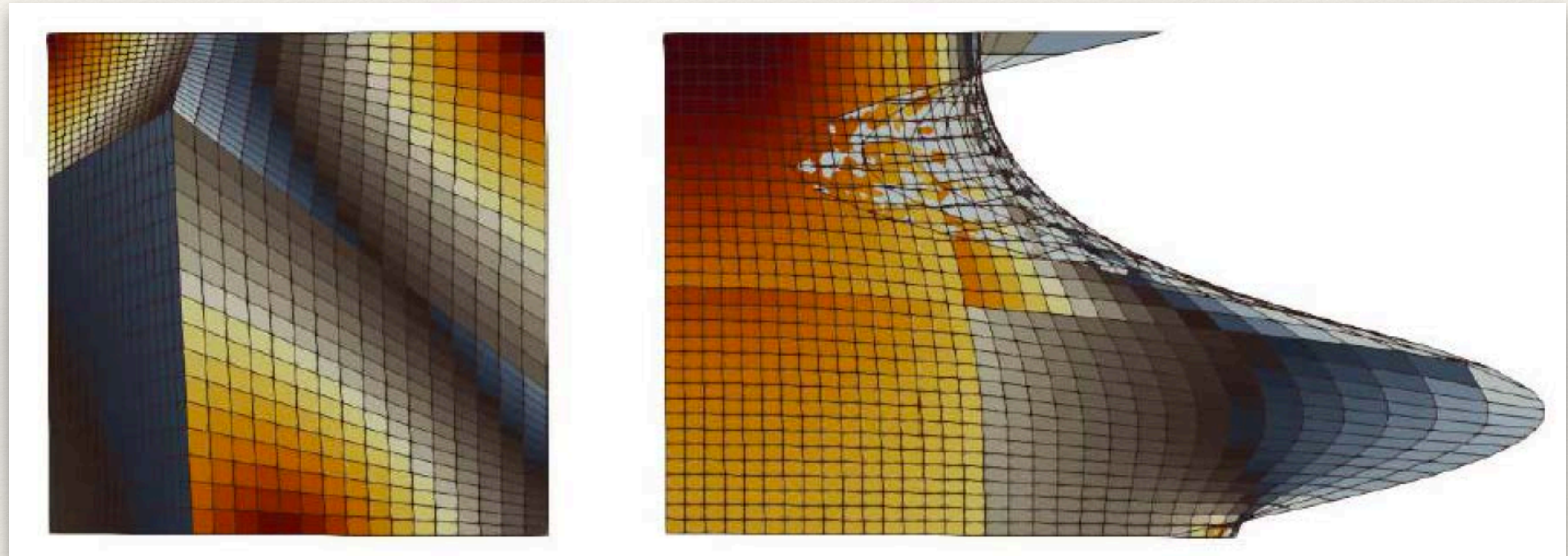
# LSCM Reparametrization: Results

- ❖ Can also run LSC regularization on stationary surfaces.
- ❖ Makes discretizations much nicer.
- ❖ Useful for preprocessing before sci. comp. simulations



# Problems with LSCM

- ❖ Fails for explicit boundary correspondence!
- ❖ Not enough conformal maps available.
- ❖ Need to widen the search space.



# Conformal vs. Quasiconformal

❖ Quasiconformal mappings:  $\bar{\partial}f = \partial f \circ \mu$

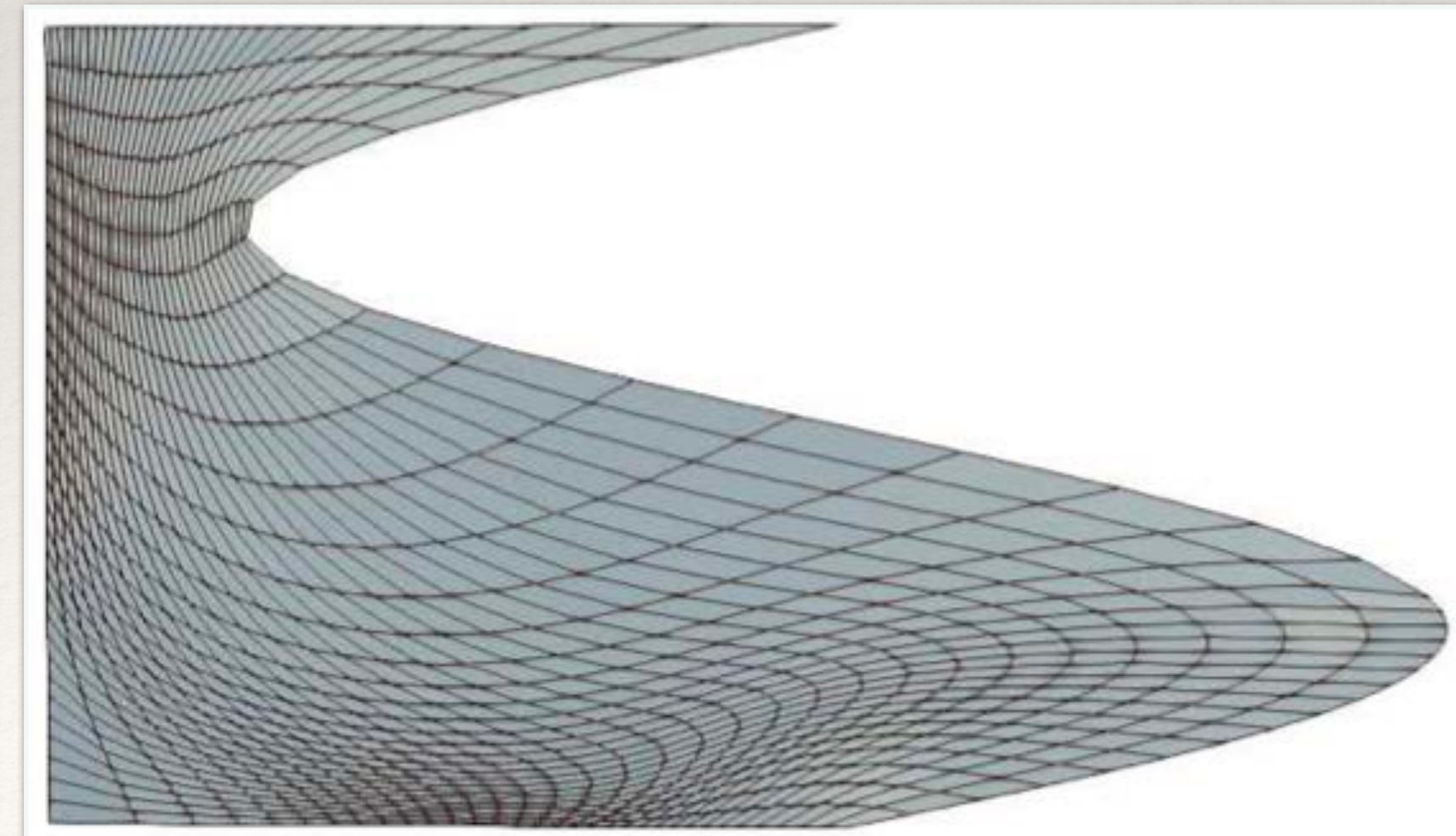
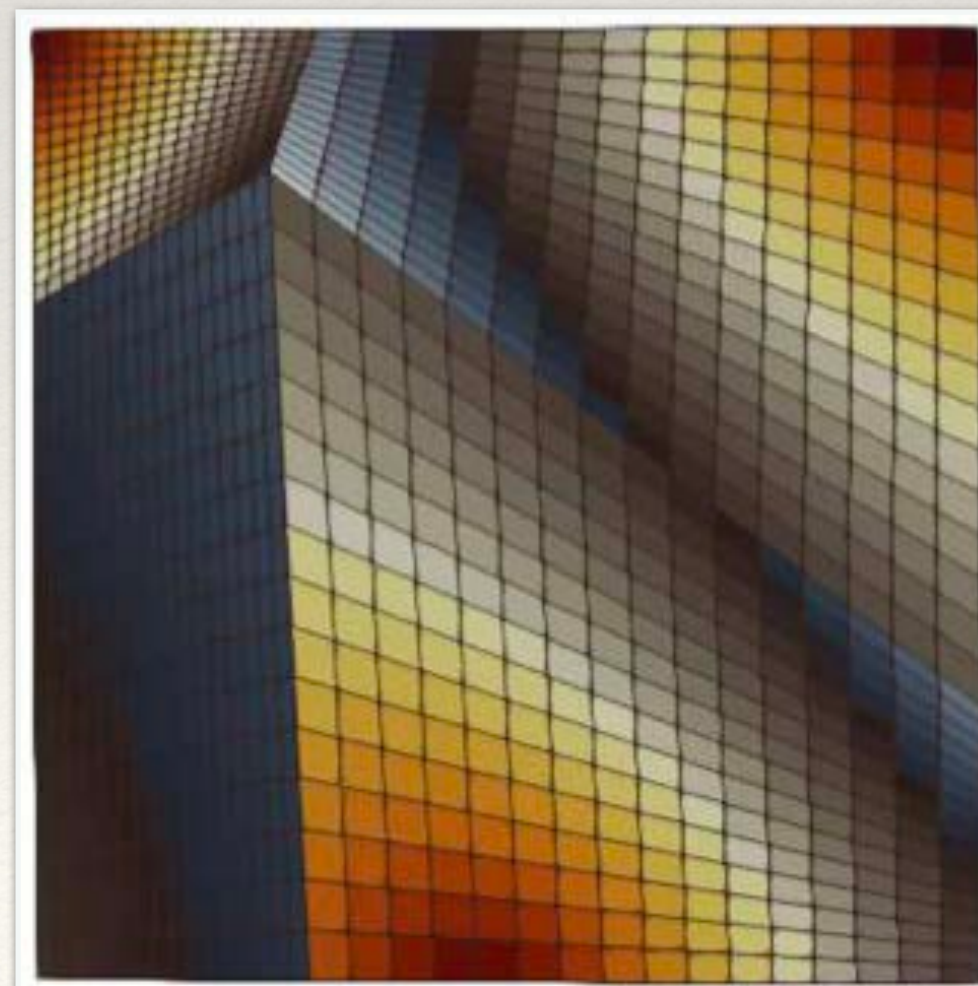
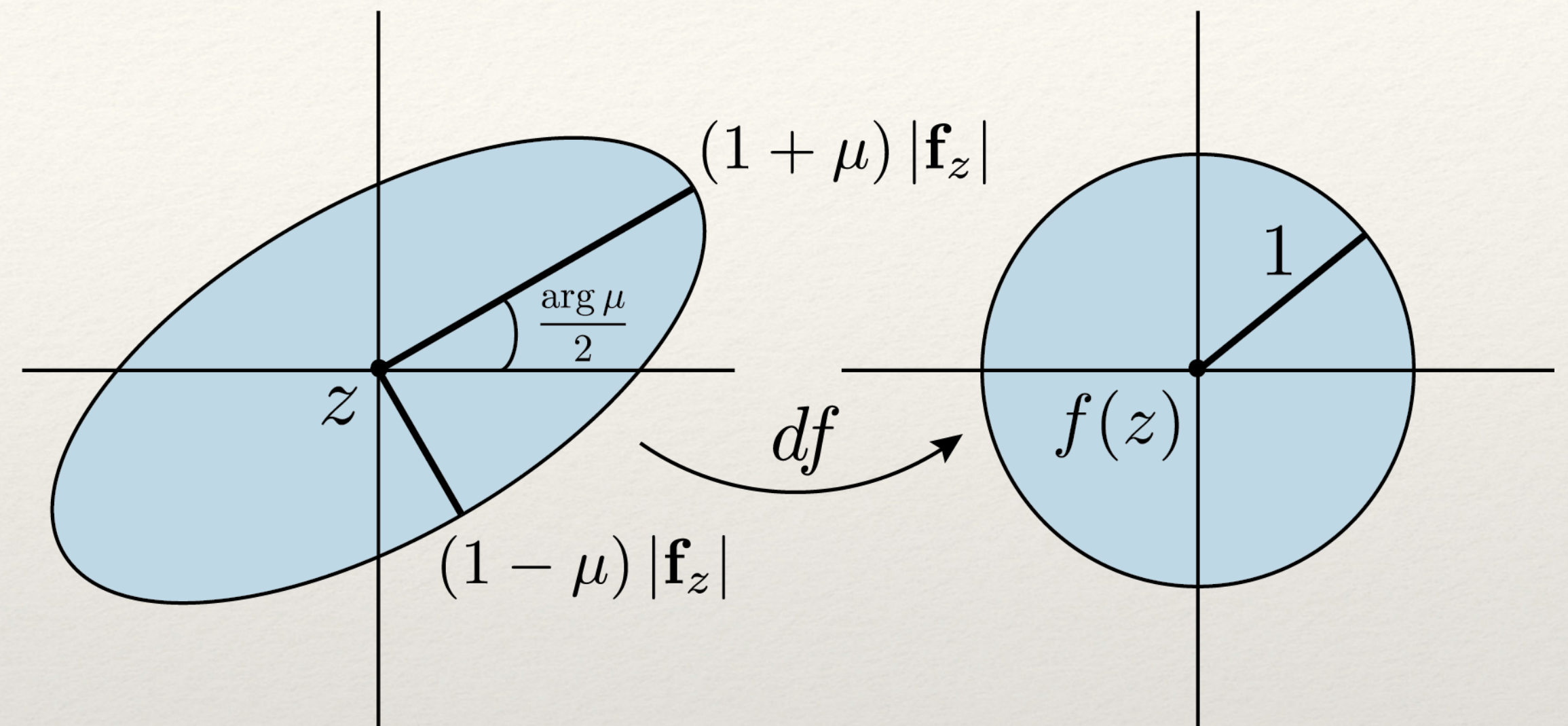
❖  $\mu : TM \rightarrow TM$   $\mathbb{C}$ -antilinear

❖ Small *circles* map to small *ellipses*.

❖ What is the advantage?

❖ QC mappings are always (locally) **invertible!**

$$\begin{aligned} \text{Jac}(f) &= \left| \mathbf{f}_z \right|^2 - \left| \mathbf{f}_{\bar{z}} \right|^2 \\ &= \left| \mathbf{f}_z \right|^2 \left( 1 - |\mu|^2 \right) > 0 \end{aligned}$$



# Immersed Surfaces in $\mathbb{R}^3$

- ❖ Conformal / anticonformal parts  $f : M \rightarrow \text{Im } \mathbb{H}$ :

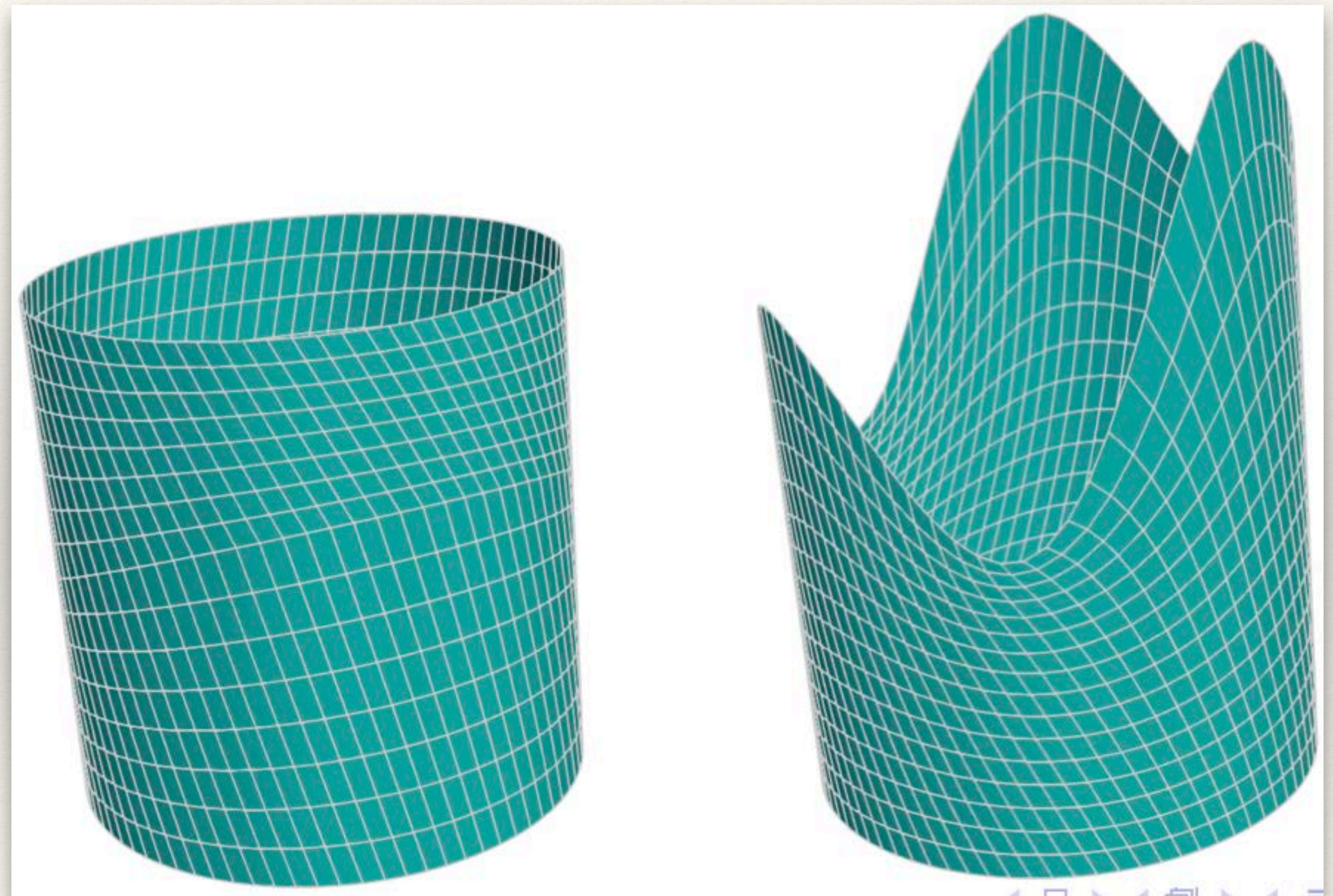
$$df^\pm = \frac{1}{2} (df \mp N \star df)$$

- ❖ Quasiconformal iff

$$df^- = \mu df^+.$$

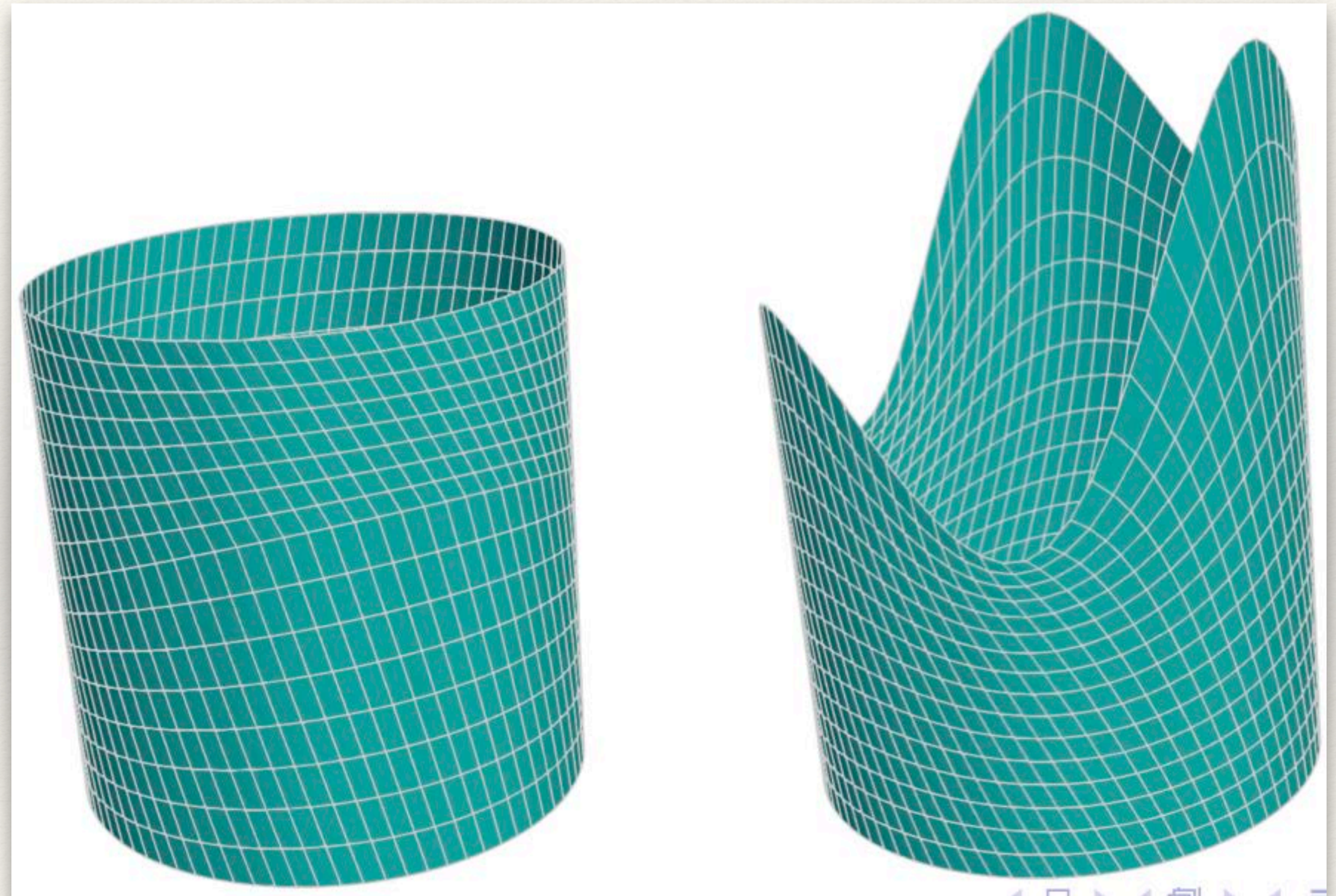
- ❖ BC  $\mu : TM \rightarrow \mathbb{R} \oplus \mathbb{R}N$ .

- ❖ normal-valued “(-1,1)-form”.



# Optimal Teichmüller Mappings

- ❖ What is the “best” QC map in a given homotopy class?
- ❖ Let  $H([f]) = \inf_{h \in [f]} \left\{ \inf_{C \in M} K(h|_{M \setminus C}) \right\}$ ,  
where  $K(f) = \frac{1 + |\mu|_\infty}{1 - |\mu|_\infty}$ .
- ❖ (Strebel 1984) If  $H([f]) < K(f)$  then  $[f]$  contains a unique **Teichmüller** mapping.
- ❖ TM mappings have constant  $|\mu|$  and min-maxed conformality distortion.





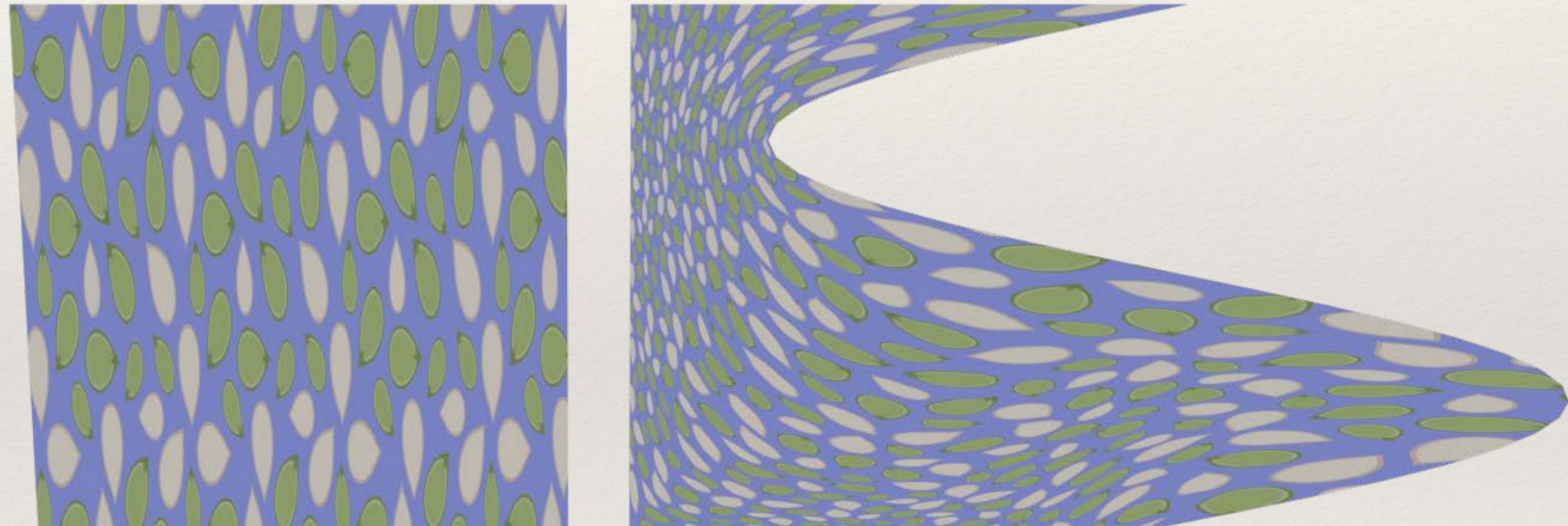
# Computing TM mappings

❖ Minimize

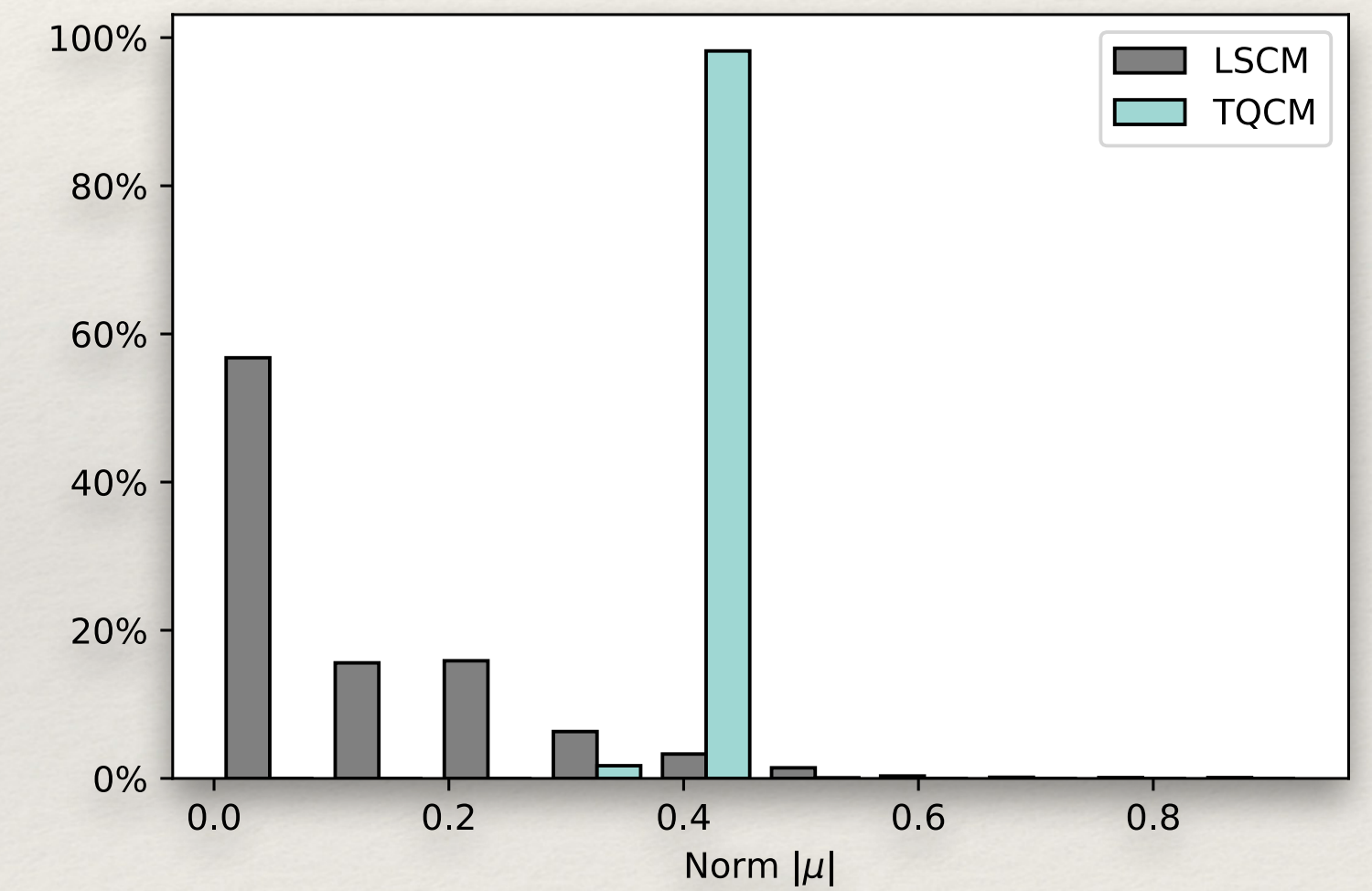
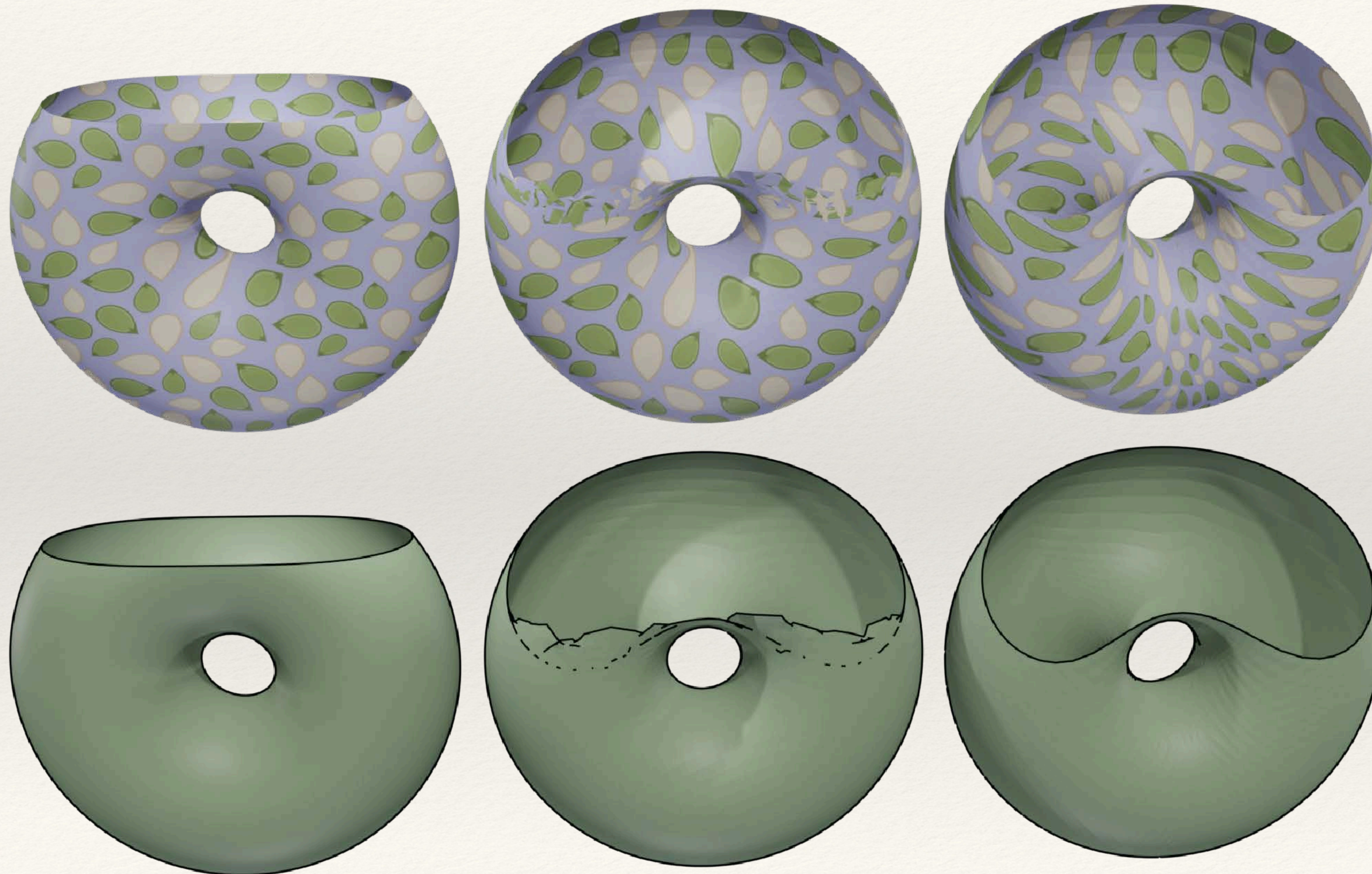
$$\mathcal{QC}(f) = \int_M |df^- - \mu df^+|^2 d\omega_g$$

alternatively over  $f, \mu$ .

- ❖ 1) Minimize for  $f$  given  $\mu$ .
- ❖ 2) Compute  $\mu = df^- (df^+)^{-1}$ .
- ❖ 3) Locally adjust  $\mu$ , moving it toward TM form.
- ❖ Repeat steps 1-3 until convergence.

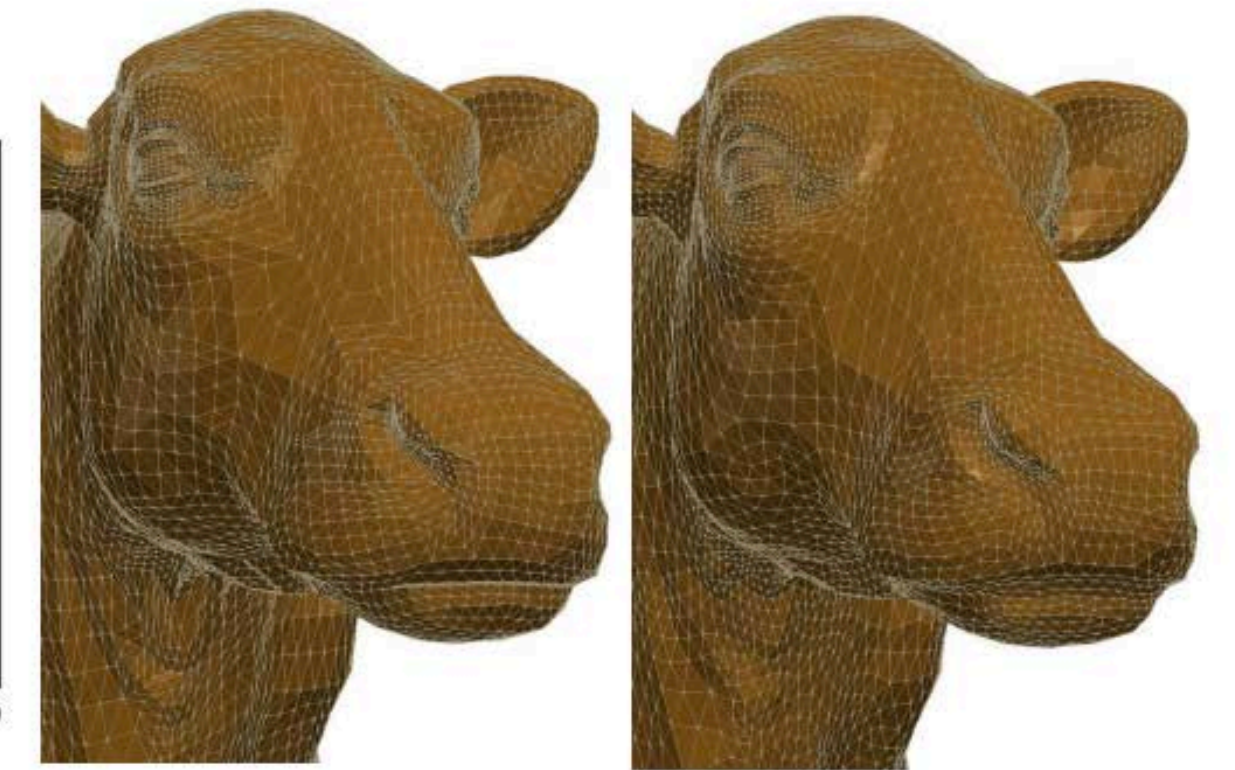
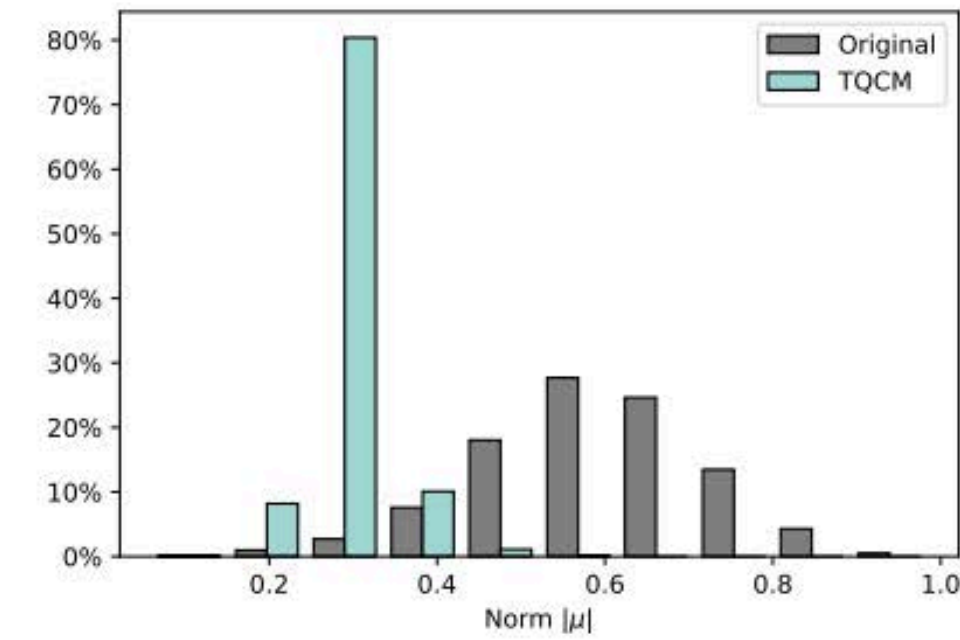
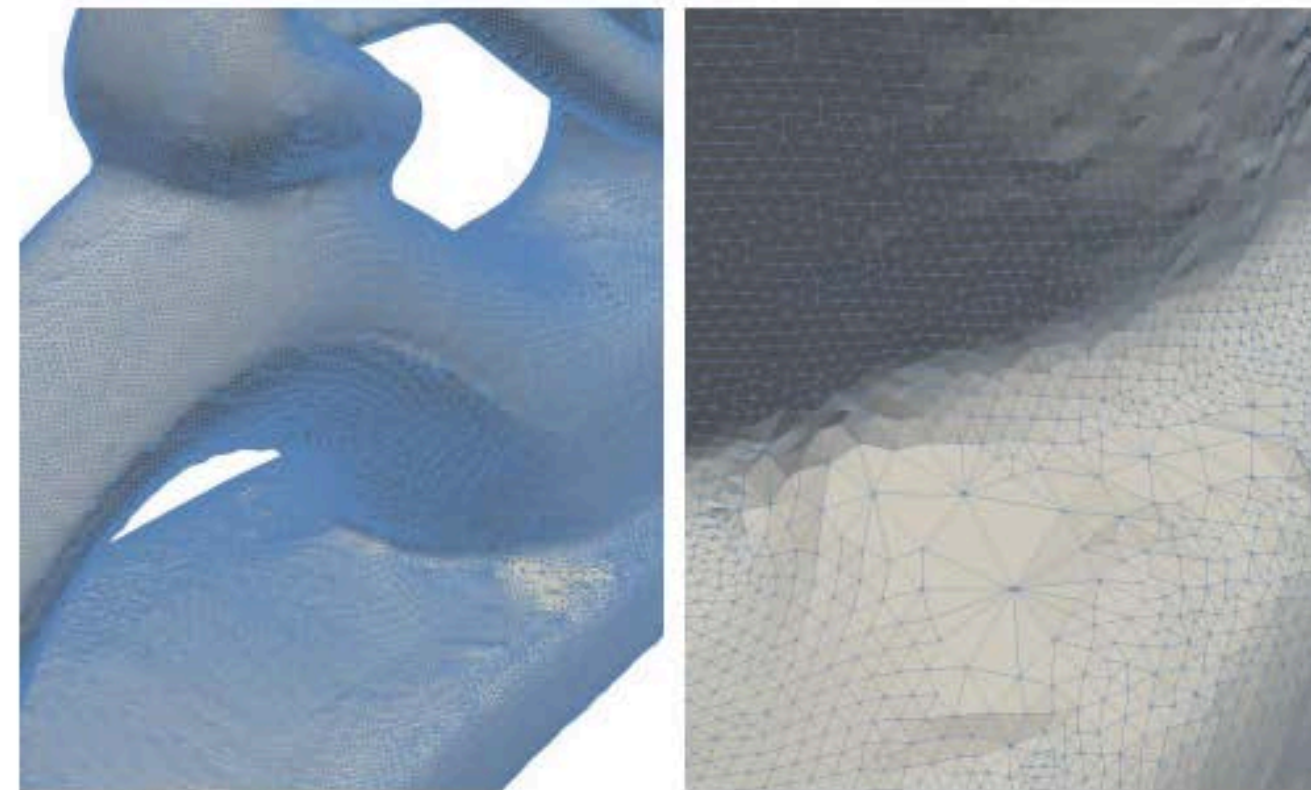
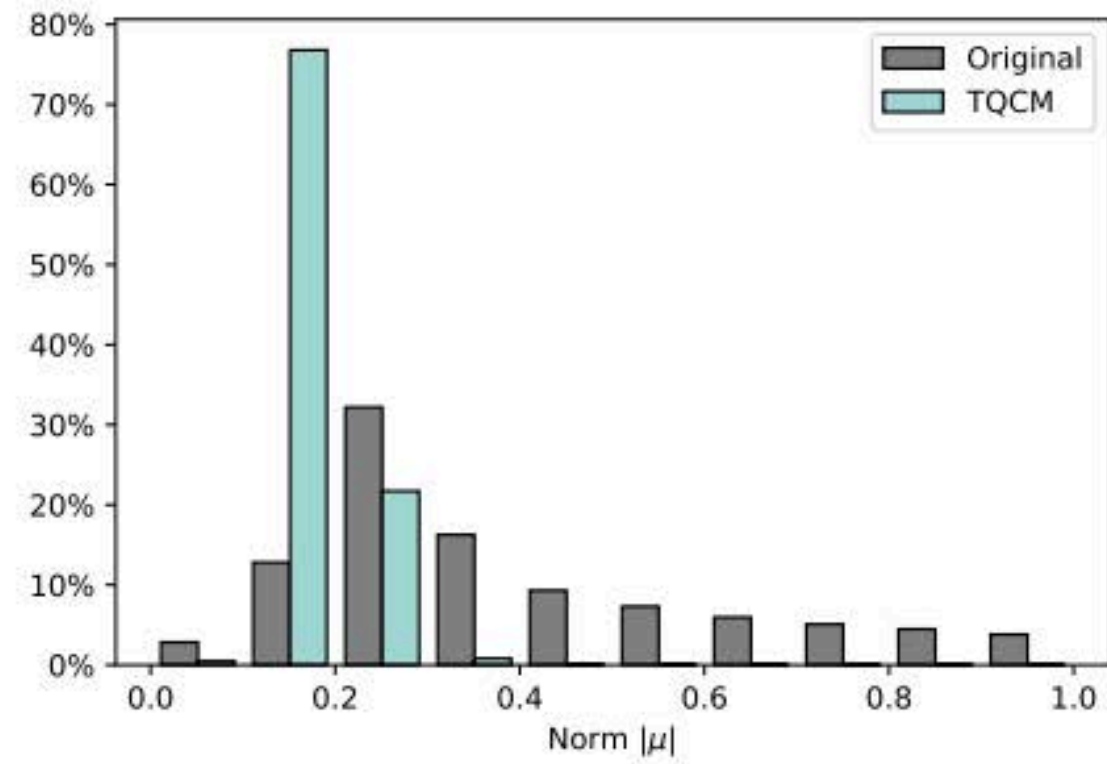
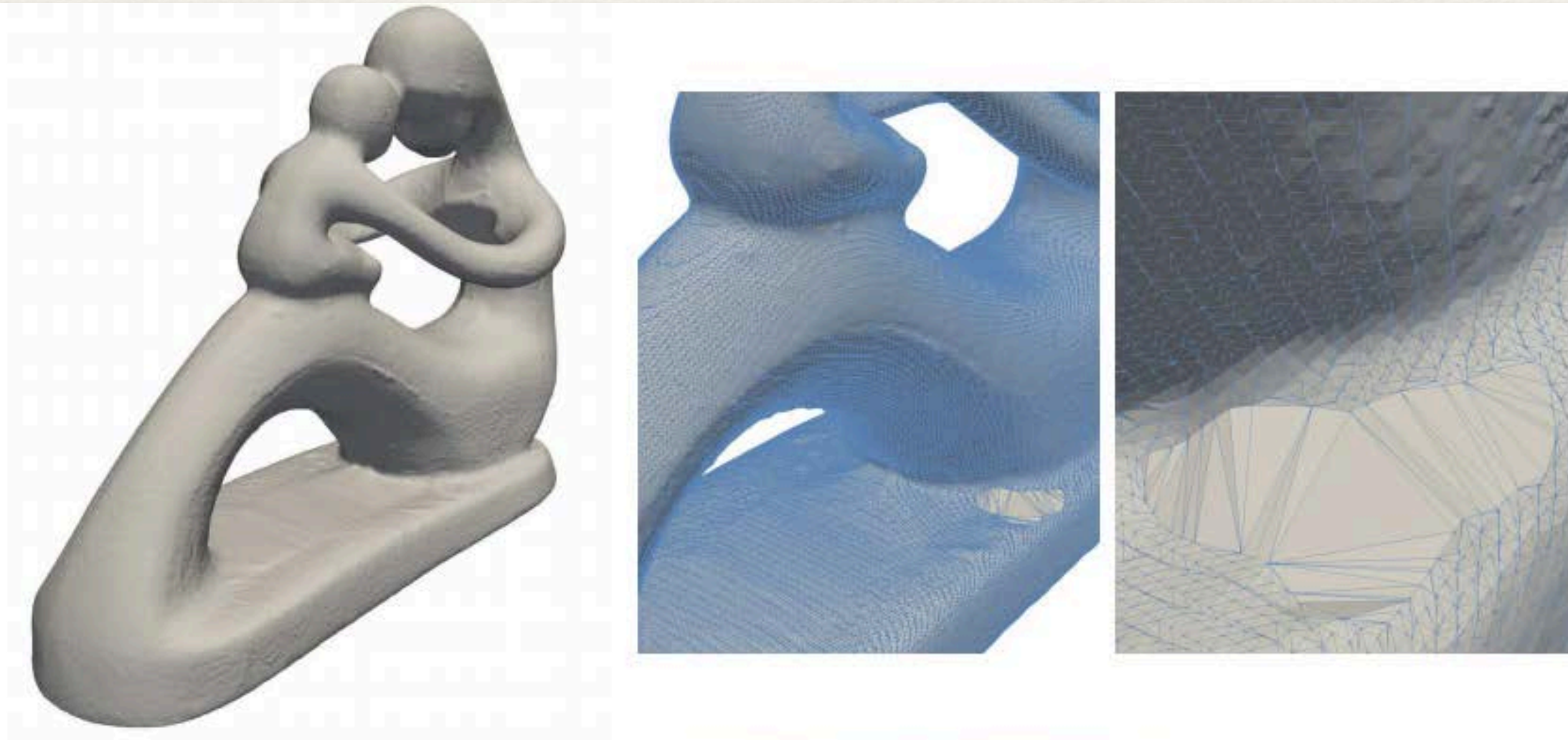


# Comparison: TM vs. LSCM



❖ A. Gruber, E. Aulisa (under review)

# More Examples



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# Conclusions

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- ❖ *Geometric relationships matter* for computation!
- ❖ My work:
  - ❖ Informs *concrete* problems with *abstract* ideas.
  - ❖ Investigates *rigorous solutions/algorithms* validated by simulations.
  - ❖ Benefits from *collaboration* and a *diverse array of expertise*.
- ❖ Projects often receive external funding.
  - ❖ Can be expected to continue.

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Thank You!