CSE 332
Introduction to Visualization

Visualizing Volumetric Data

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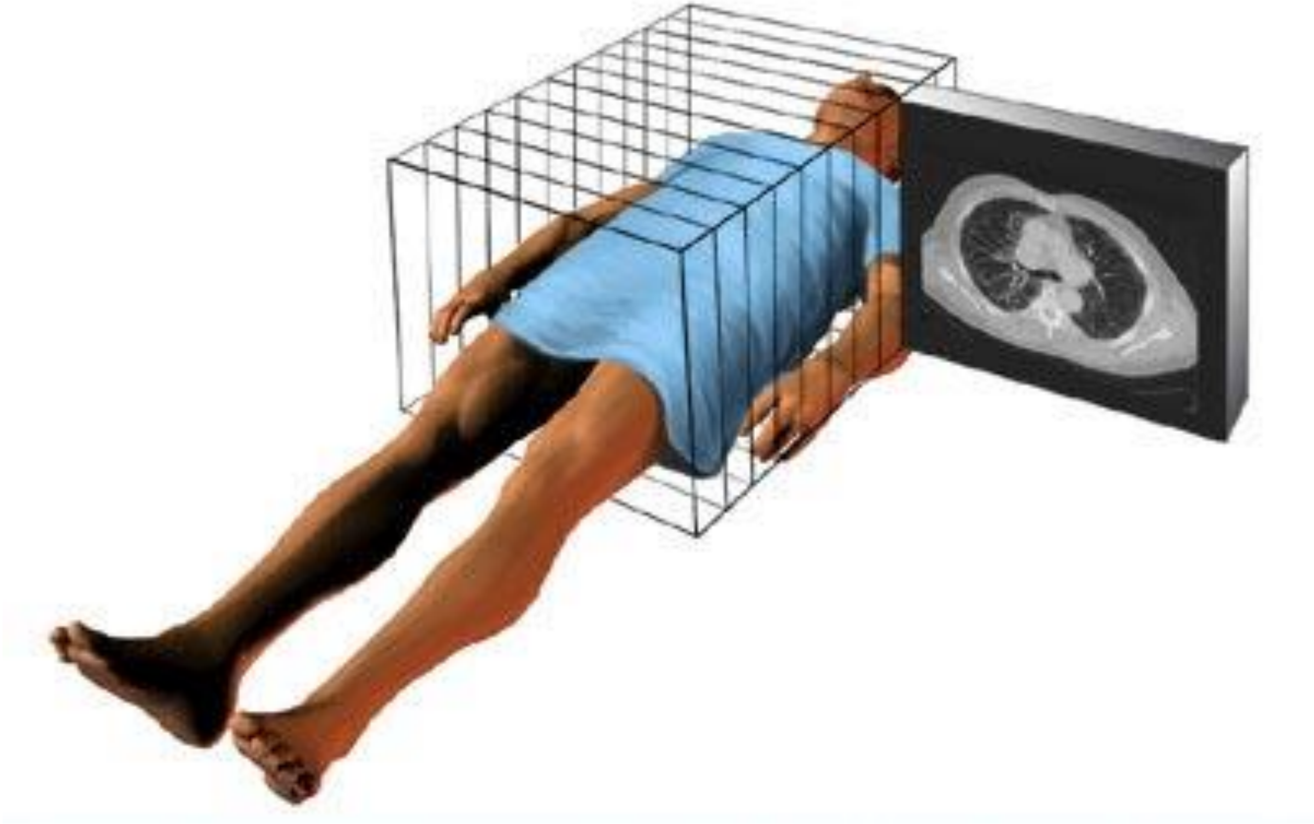
Lecture	Topic	Projects
1	Intro, schedule, and logistics	
2	Basic tasks and data types	
3	Data sources and preparation	Project 1 out
4	Notion of similarity and distance	
5	Data and dimension reduction	
6	Visual bias	
7	Introduction to D3	Project 2 out
8	Visual perception and cognition	
9	Visual design and aesthetic	
10	Cluster analysis	
11	High-dimensional data – projective methods	
12	High-dimensional data – scatterplot displays	
13	High-dimensional data – optimizing methods	Project 3 out
14	Visualization of spatial data: volume visualization intro	
15	Visualization of spatial data: raycasting, transfer functions	
16	Illumination and isosurface rendering	
17	Midterm	
18	Scientific visualization	
19	Non-photorealistic and illustrative rendering	Project 4 out
20	Midterm discussion	
21	Principles of interaction	
22	Visual analytics and the visual sense making process	
23	Visualization of graphs and hierarchies	
24	Visualization of time-varying and streaming data	Project 5 out
25	Maps	
26	Memorable visualizations, visual embellishments	
27	Evaluation and user studies	
28	Narrative visualization, storytelling, data journalism, XAI	

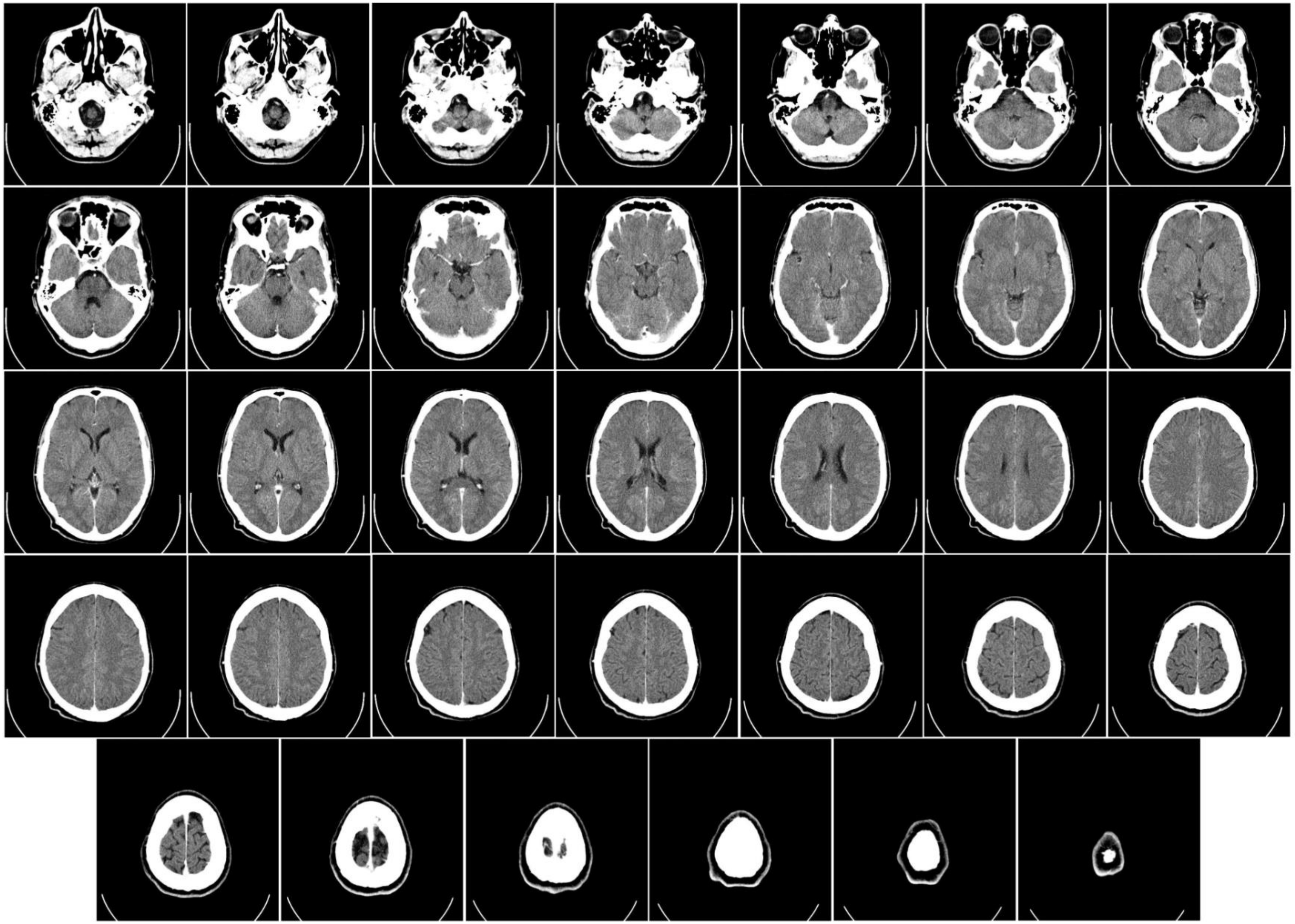
Volume Data Generation

Often obtained by scanning

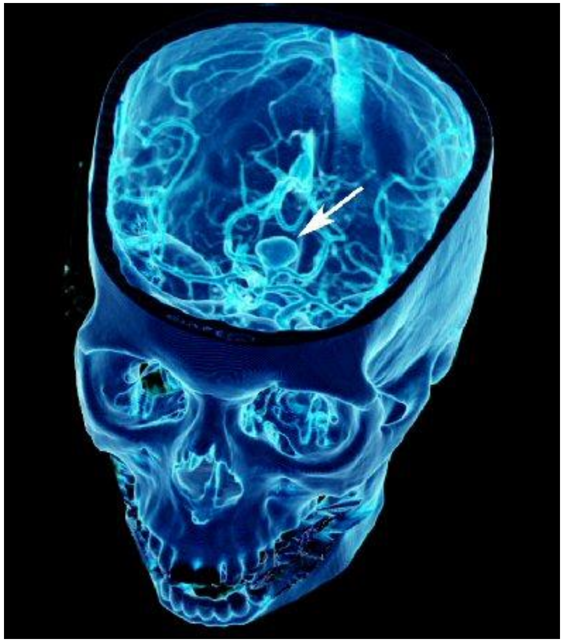
- for example, X-ray CT



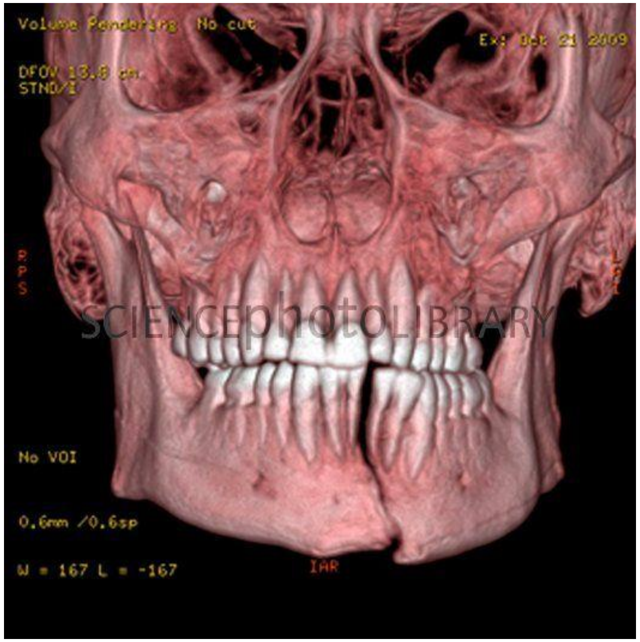
Volume Data – 2D Slice View



Volume Data – 3D Rendered View



aneurism

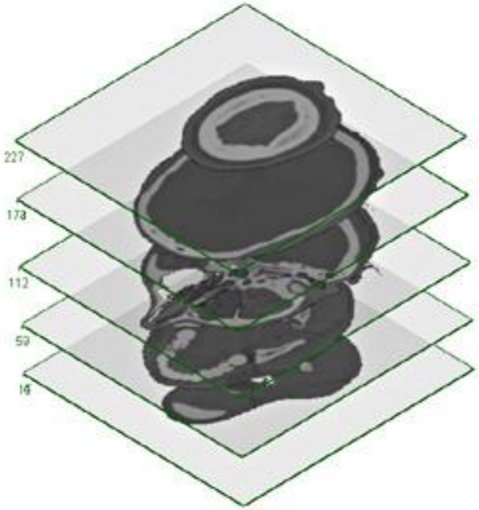


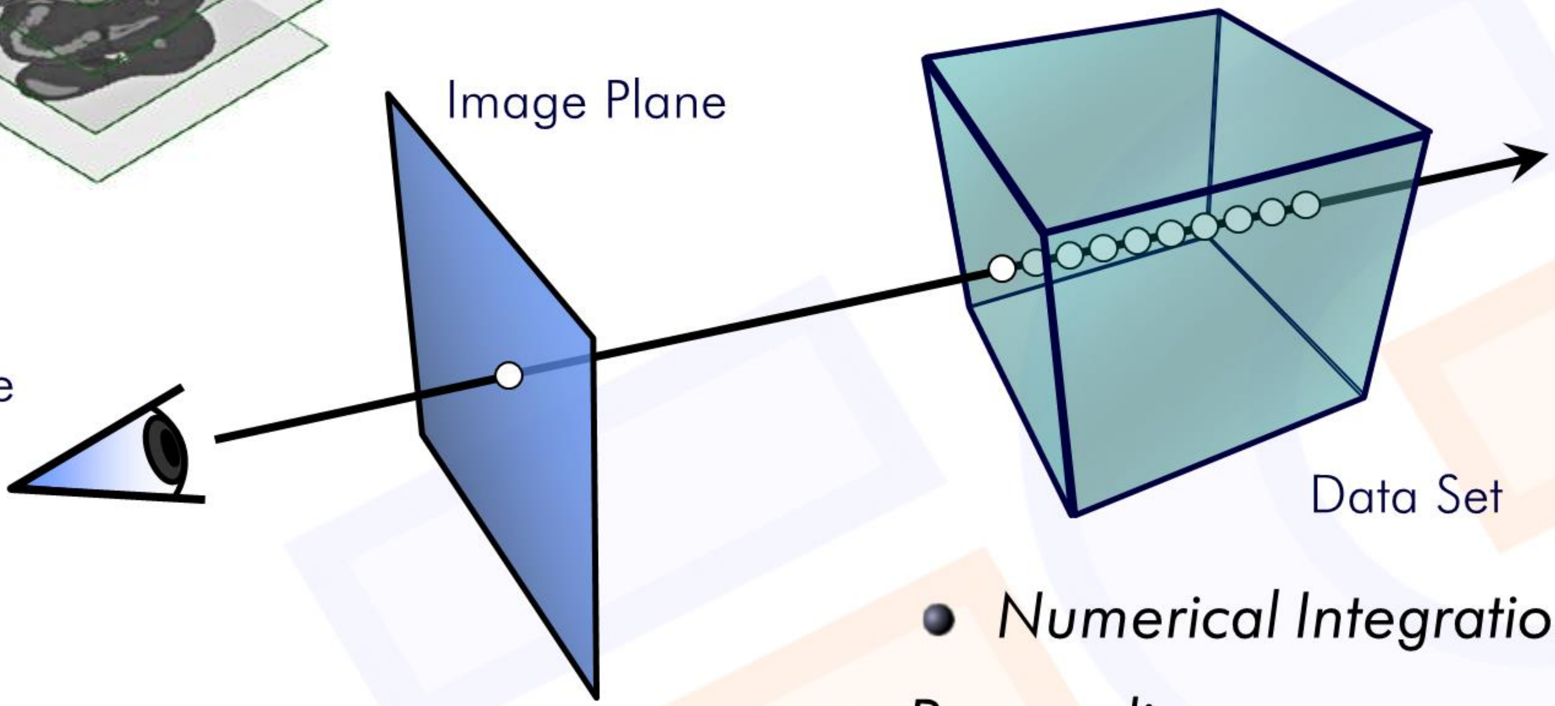
broken jaw

carotid arteries

Which do you prefer: 2D or 3D

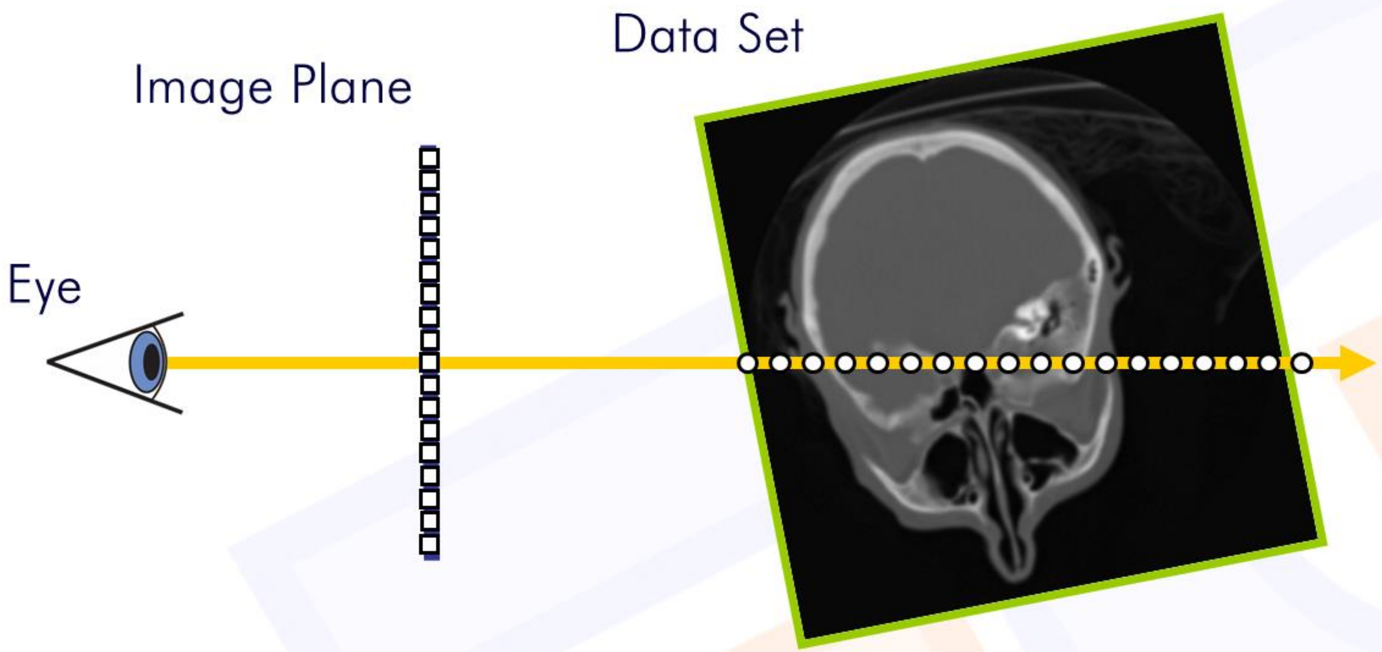
Raycasting Concept





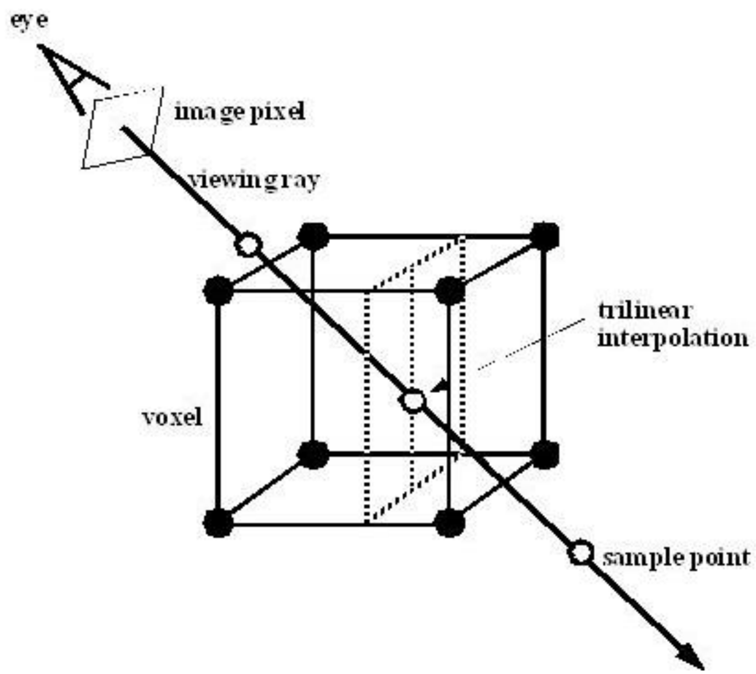
- *Numerical Integration*
- *Resampling*

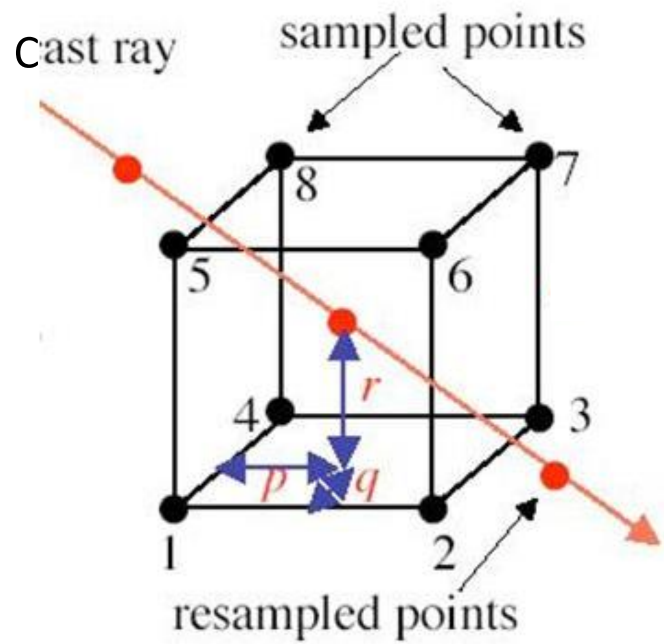
Sampling Along the Ray



Estimate sample values via *interpolation*

Sampling via Trilinear Interpolation

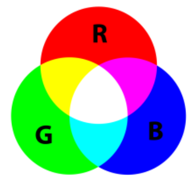




$$f_v = f_1(1-p)(1-q)(1-r) + f_2(p)(1-q)(1-r) + f_3(p)(q)(1-r) + f_4(1-p)(q)(1-r) + f_5(1-p)(1-q)(r) + f_6(p)(1-q)(r) + f_7(p)(q)(r) + f_8(1-p)(q)(r)$$

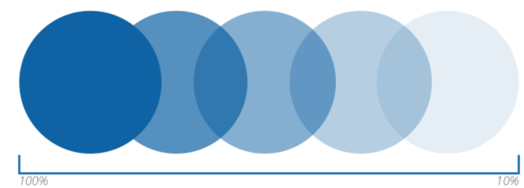
Transparency and Opacity

We learned about RGB

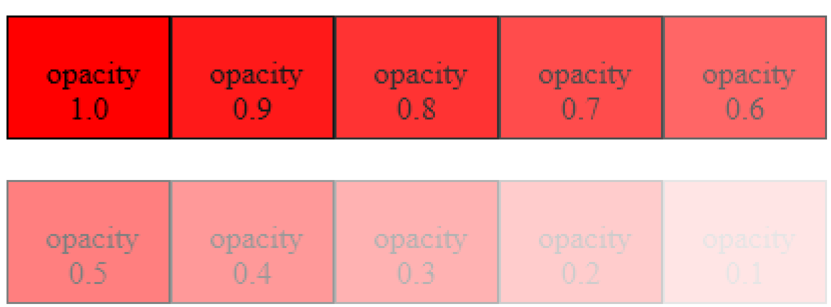


There is one more channel – opacity (A)

- gives RGBA color
- opacity (A) = 1 – transparency (T)
- range [0.0 … 1.0]



RGB multiplied by Opacity (A) creates a weighting effect



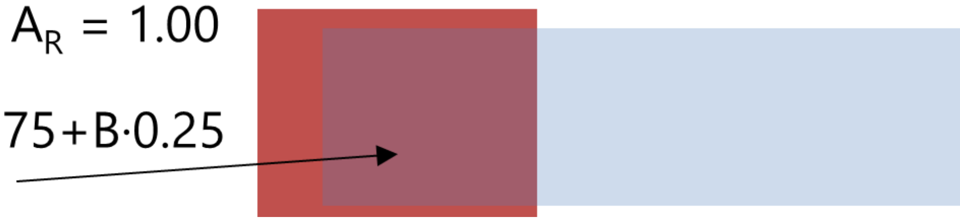
Opacity and Color Blending

$$C_{mix} = C_{front} A_{front} + (1 - A_{front}) C_{back} A_{back}$$

$$C_{mix} = C_B A_B + (1 - A_B) C_R A_R$$

$T_R = 0.00$, $A_R = 1.00$

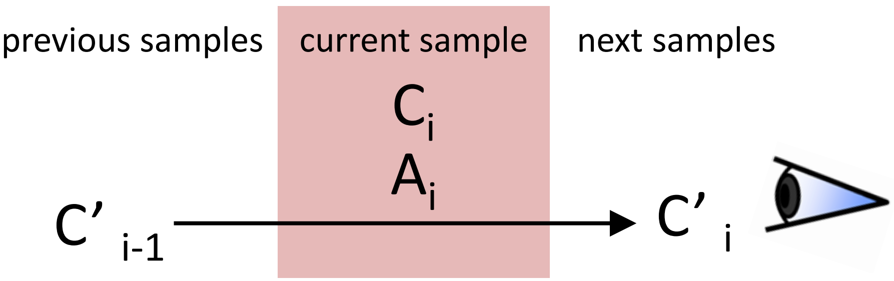
$C = R \cdot 0.75 + B \cdot 0.25$



$T_B = 0.75$
$A_B = 0.25$

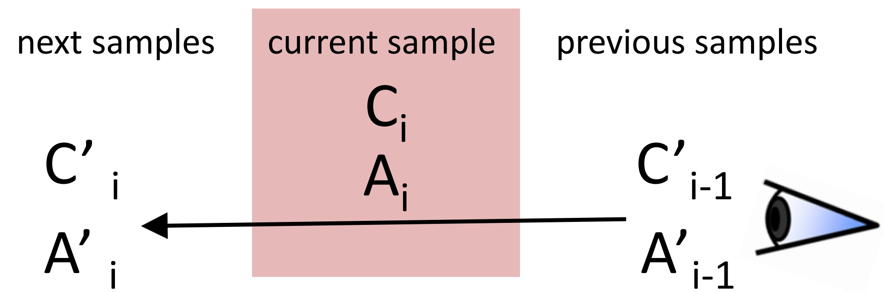
Compositing – Merging the Samples

Back-to-front rendering



$$C'_i = C_i A_i + (1 - A_i) C'_{i-1}$$

Front-to-back rendering



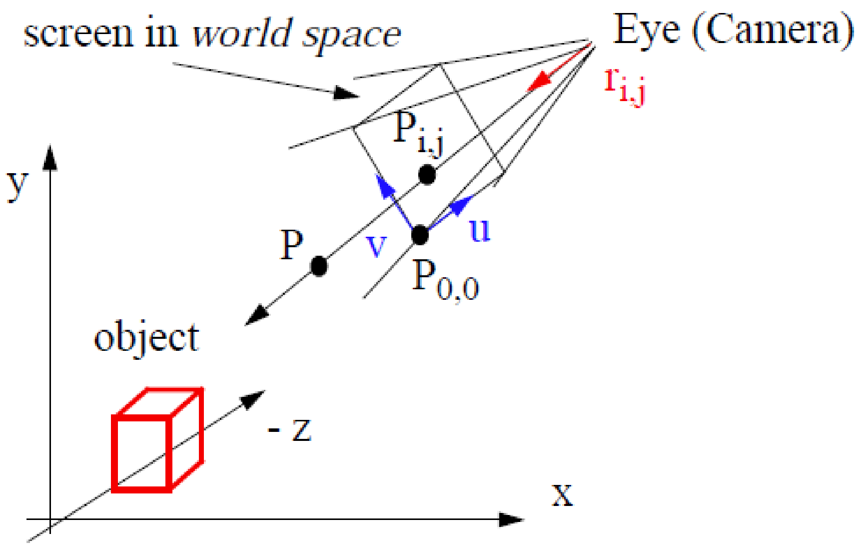
$$C'_i = C'_{i-1} + (1 - A'_{i-1}) C_i A_i$$

$$A'_i = A'_{i-1} + (1 - A'_{i-1}) A_i$$

A: Opacity = 1- Transparency = 1 - T

C: Color

Raycasting Specifics



A ray is specified by:

- eye position (Eye)
- screen pixel location $P_{i,j}$

→ ray direction vector ($r_{i,j}$) of unit length

$$r_{i,j} = \frac{P_{i,j} - Eye}{|P_{i,j} - Eye|}$$

A point P on a ray is given by:

$$P = Eye + t \cdot r_{i,j}$$

t: parametric variable

Spacing of pixels on image plane:

$$\Delta i = \frac{W}{Ni - 1} \qquad \Delta j = \frac{H}{Nj - 1}$$

Ni, Nj: image dims. in pixels

Image-order projection:

- scan the image row by row, column by column:

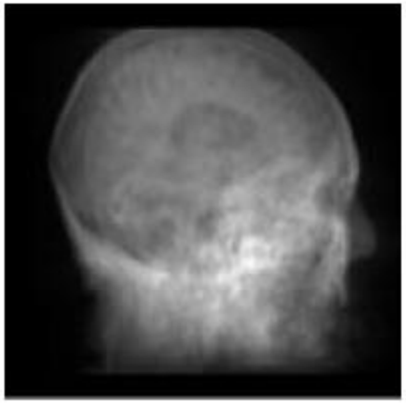
$$P_{i,j} = P_{0,0} + i \cdot v \cdot \Delta j + j \cdot u \cdot \Delta i$$

- $P_{i,j}$: Location of image pixel (i, j) in world space

  $0 \le i < Ni \quad 0 \le j < Nj$

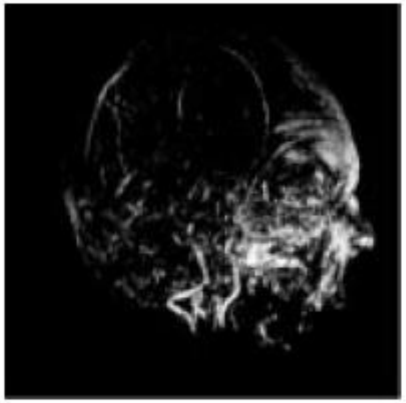
- $P_{0,0}$: image (=screen) origin in world space
- u, v, n: orthonormal image plane vectors ($n = v \times u$)

Volume Rendering Modes

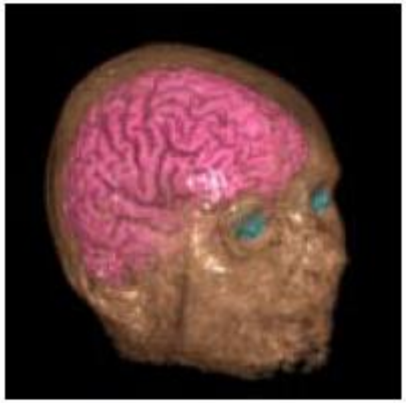


X-ray:
rays sum volume con
tributions along their
linear paths

Iso-surface:
rays look for the object
surfaces, defined by a cer-
tain volume value



Maximum Intensity Pro
jection (MIP):
a pixel value stores th
largest volume value
along its ray



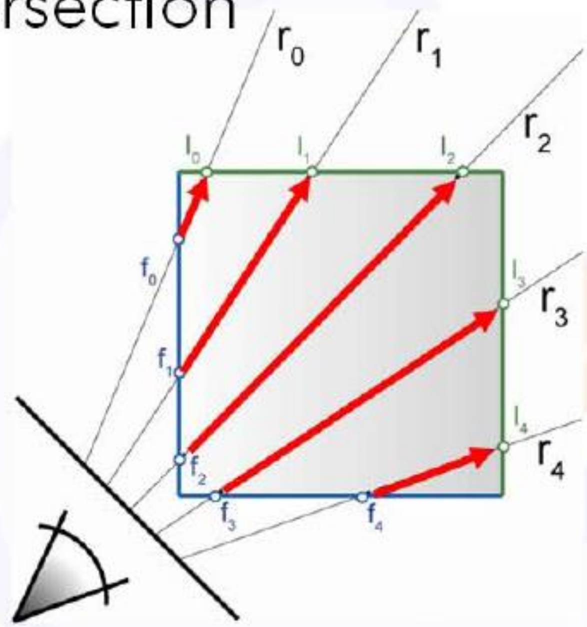
Full volume rendering:
rays *composite* volume
contributions along their
linear paths

Practical Implementation

- Everything handled in the fragment shader
- Procedural ray / bounding box intersection

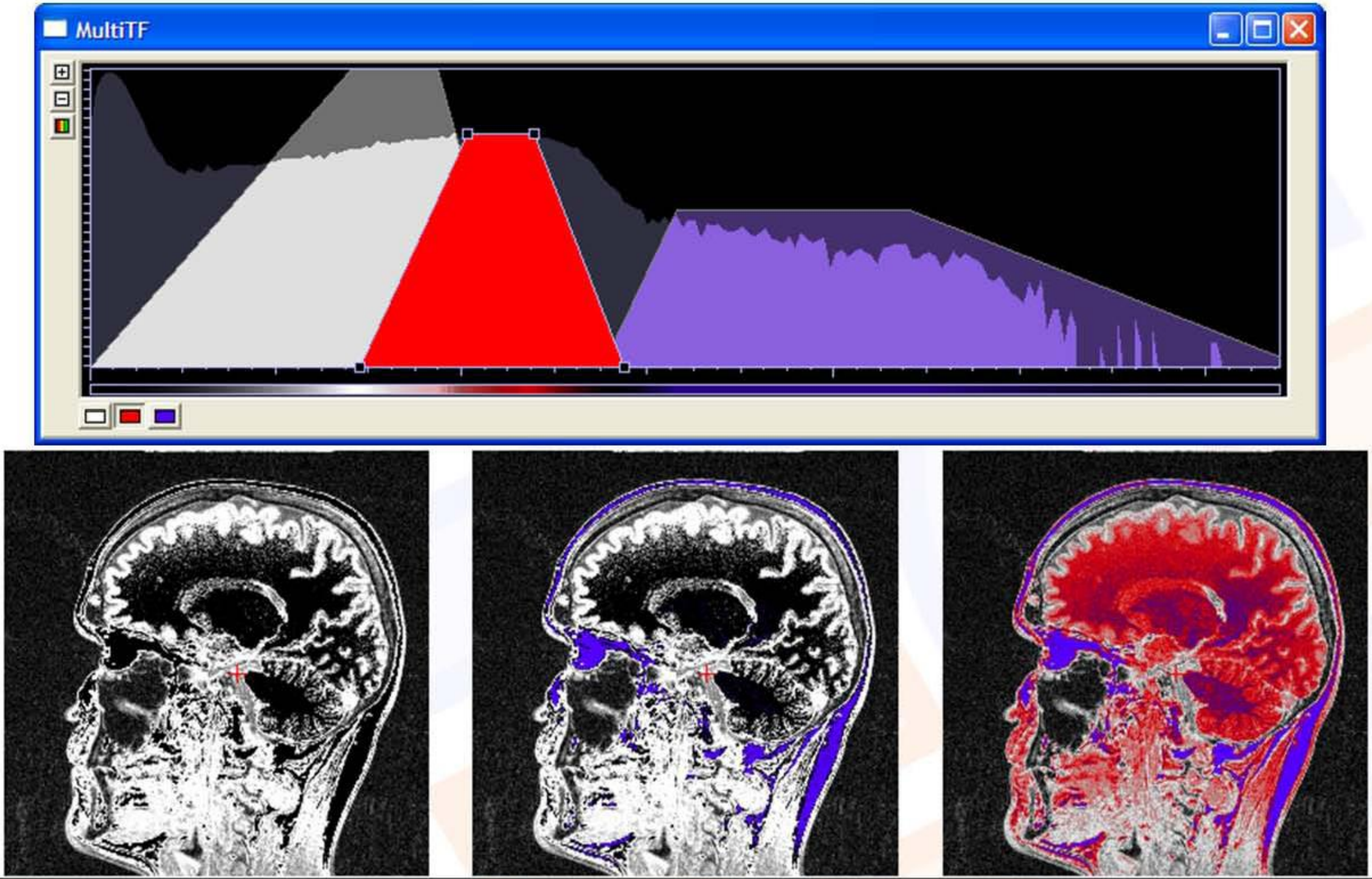
- Ray is given by camera position and volume entry position
- Exit criterion needed

- Pro: simple and self-contained
- Con: full load on the fragment shader



Transfer Function

Maps sampled densities to RGBA color



GPU Program

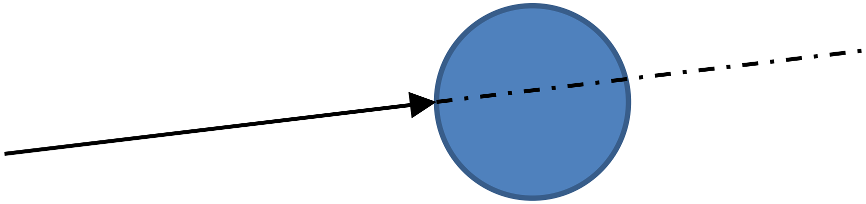
- Rasterize front faces of volume bounding box
- Texcoords are volume position in [0,1]
- Subtract camera position
- Repeatedly check for exit of bounding box

```
// Cg fragment shader code for single-pass ray casting
float4 main(VS_OUTPUT IN, float4 TexCoord0 : TEXCOORD0,
            uniform sampler3D SamplerDataVolume,
            uniform sampler1D SamplerTransferFunction,
            uniform float3 camera,
            uniform float stepsize,
            uniform float3 volExtentMin,
            uniform float3 volExtentMax
            ) : COLOR
{
    float4 value;
    float scalar;
    // Initialize accumulated color and opacity
    float4 dst = float4(0,0,0,0);
    // Determine volume entry position
    float3 position = TexCoord0.xyz;
    // Compute ray direction
    float3 direction = TexCoord0.xyz - camera;
    direction = normalize(direction);
    // Loop for ray traversal
    for (int i = 0; i < 200; i++)   // Some large number
    {
        // Data access to scalar value in 3D volume texture
        value = tex3D(SamplerDataVolume, position);
        scalar = value.a;
        // Apply transfer function
        float4 src = tex1D(SamplerTransferFunction, scalar);
        // Front-to-back compositing
        dst = (1.0-dst.a) * src + dst;
        // Advance ray position along ray direction
        position = position + direction * stepsize;
        // Ray termination: Test if outside volume ...
        float3 temp1 = sign(position - volExtentMin);
        float3 temp2 = sign(volExtentMax - position);
        float inside = dot(temp1, temp2);
        // ... and exit loop
        if (inside < 3.0)
            break;
    }
    return dst;
}
```

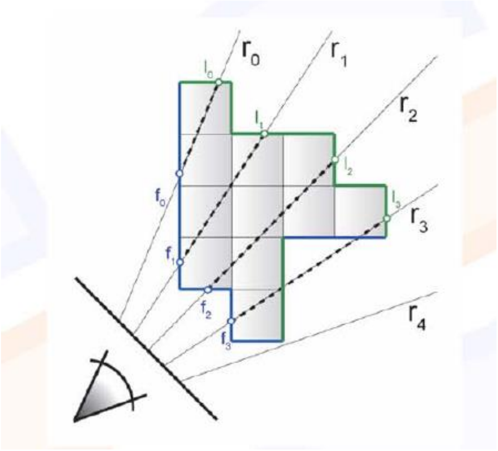
Questions

Why is front-to-back rendering better?

- early ray termination – terminate a ray when A>0.90

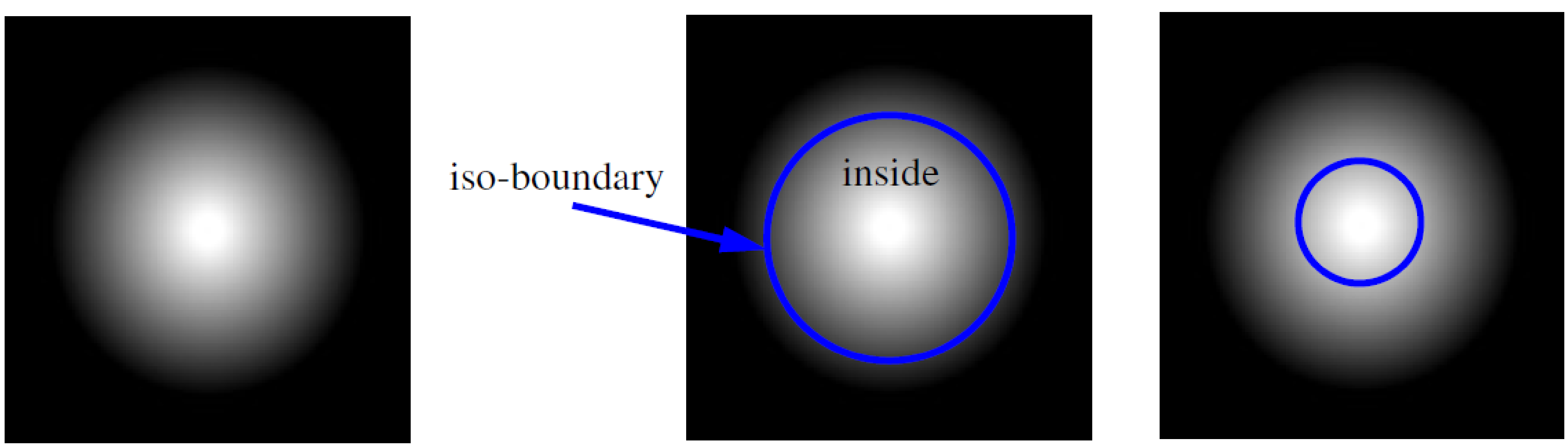


- empty-space skipping – jump across empty space quickly



Iso-Surface Rendering

- A closed surface separates ‘outside’ from ‘inside’ (Jordan theorem)
- In iso-surface rendering we say that all voxels with values > some threshold are ‘inside’, and the others are ‘outside’
- The boundary between ‘outside’ and ‘inside’ is the *iso-surface*
- All voxels near the iso-surface have a value close to the *iso-threshold* or *iso-value*
- Example:

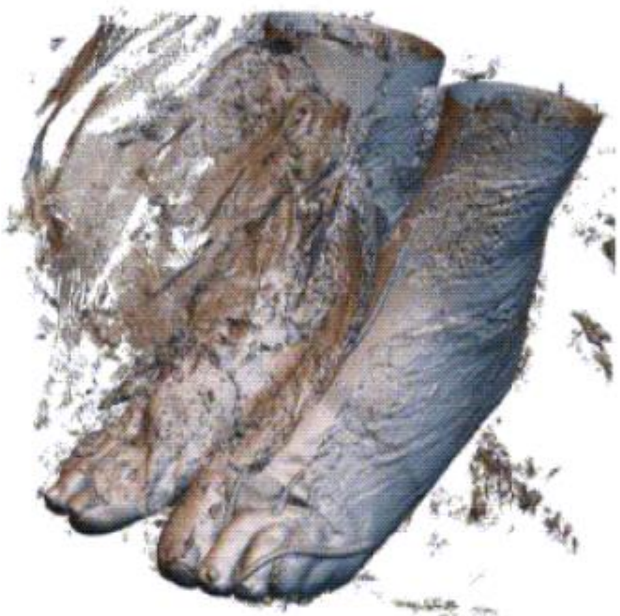


cross-section of a smooth sphere

iso-value = 50
will render a large sphere

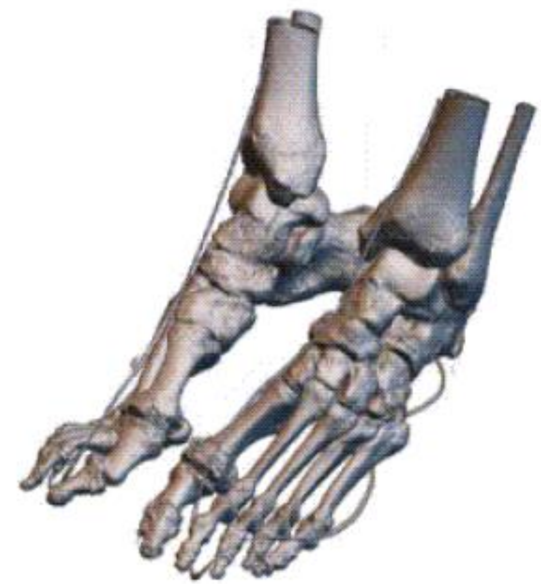
iso-value = 200
will render a small sphere

Iso-Surface Rendering



iso-value = 30

iso-value = 80

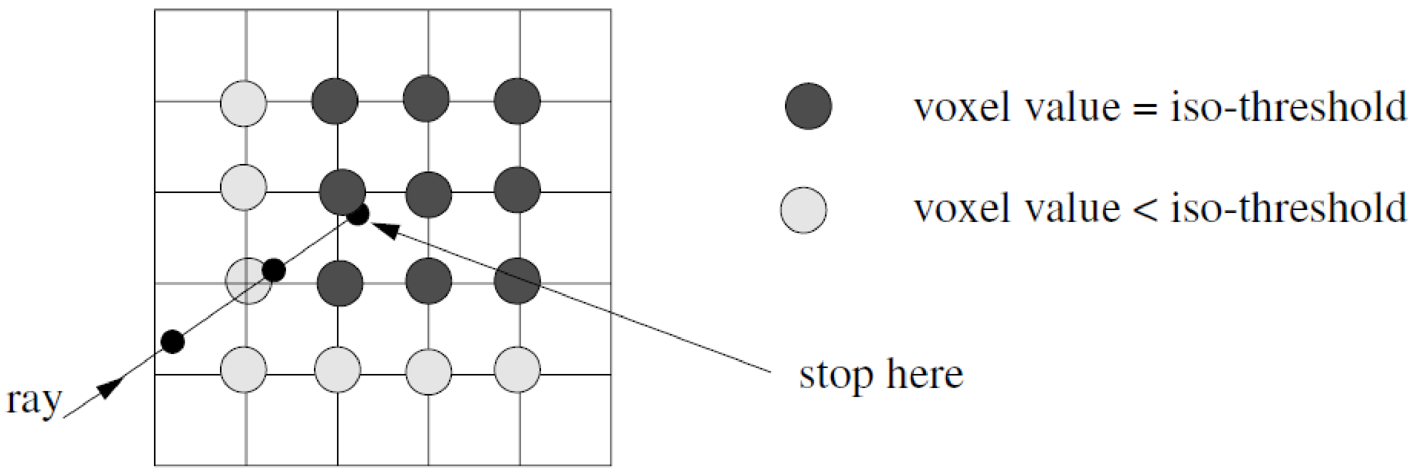


iso-value = 200

Iso-Surface Rendering – Details

- To render an iso-surface we cast the rays as usual...

  but we stop, once we have interpolated a value   iso-threshold

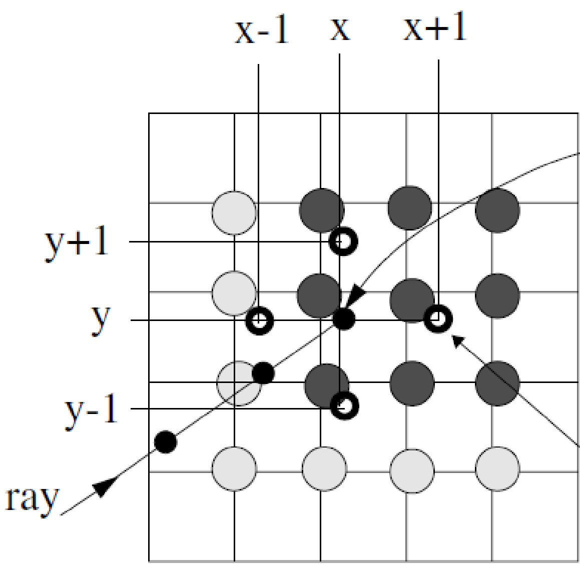


- We would like to illuminate (shade) the iso-surface based on its orientation to the light source
- Recall that we need a normal vector for shading
- The normal vector N is the local gradient, normalized

The Gradient Vector

- The gradient vector **g**=(g_x, g_y, g_z)^T at the sample position (x, y, z) is usually computed via central-differencing (for example, g_x is the volume density gradient in the x-direction):

$$g_x = \frac{f(x-1, y, z) - f(x+1, y, z)}{2} \qquad g_y = \frac{f(x, y-1, z) - f(x, y+1, z)}{2} \qquad g_z = \frac{f(x, y, z-1) - f(x, y, z+1)}{2}$$



0	0.5	0
-0.5	0	0.5
0	-0.5	0

2D central difference mask

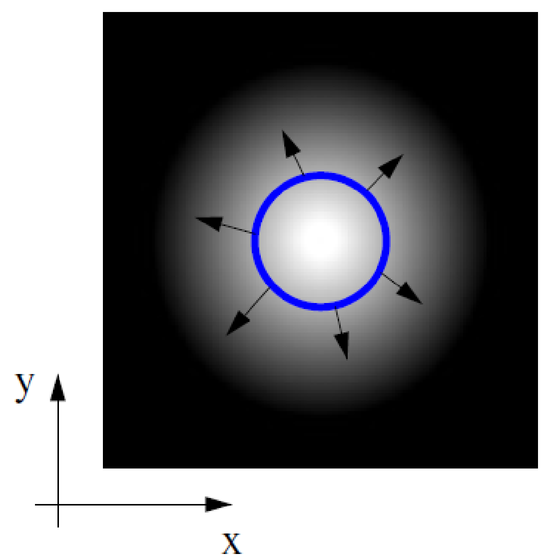
interpolated volume density f(x+1, y, z)

voxel value = iso-threshold

voxel value < iso-threshold

extra sample points interpolated to estimate gradient

the x and y component of the gradient vector for the smooth sphere

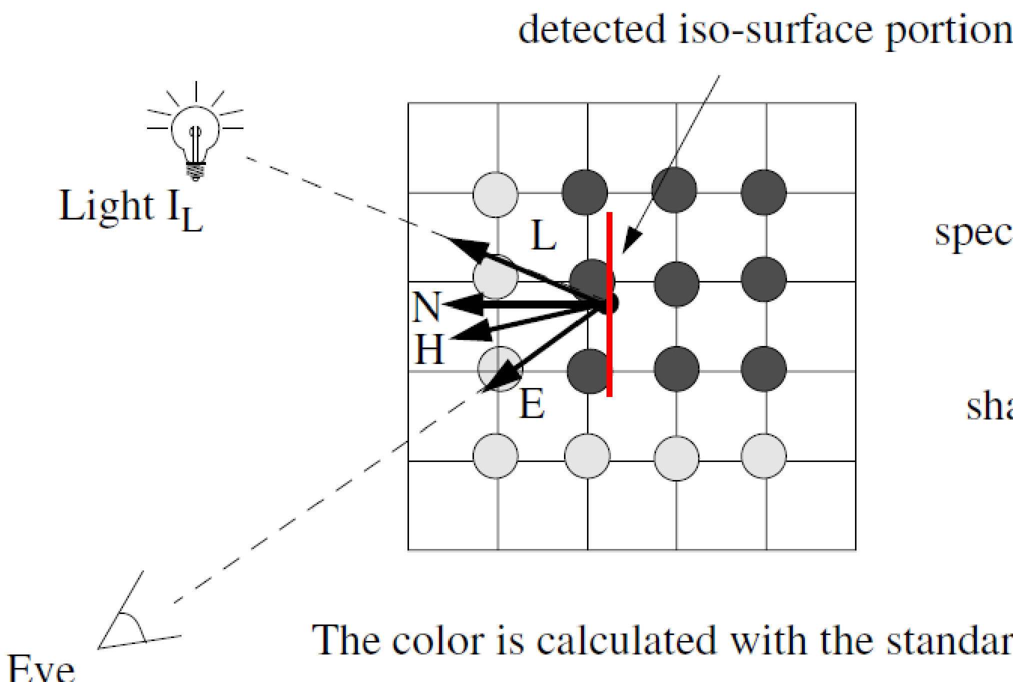


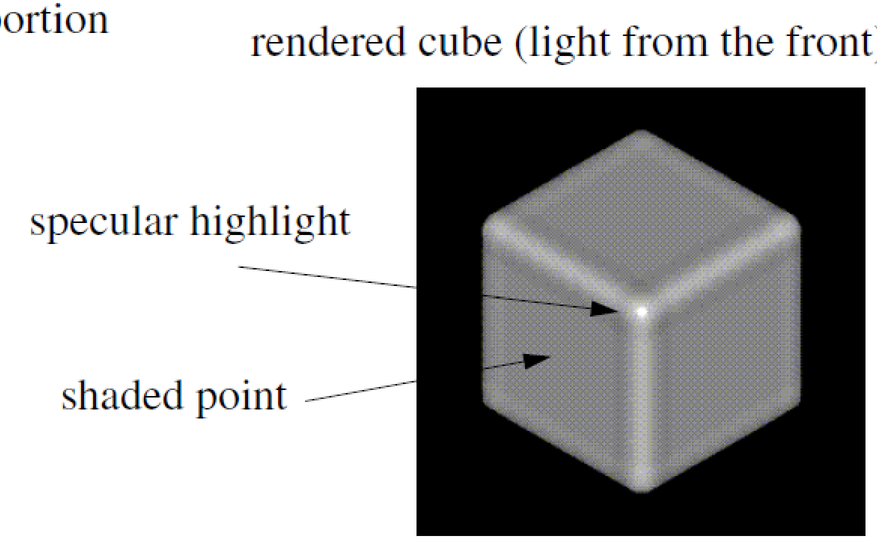
Shading the Iso-Surface

- The normal vector is the *normalized* gradient vector g

  N = g / |g| (normal vector always has unit length)

- Once the normal vector has been calculated we shade the iso-surface at the sample point
- The color so obtained is then written to the pixel that is due to the ray





The color is calculated with the standard shading equation:

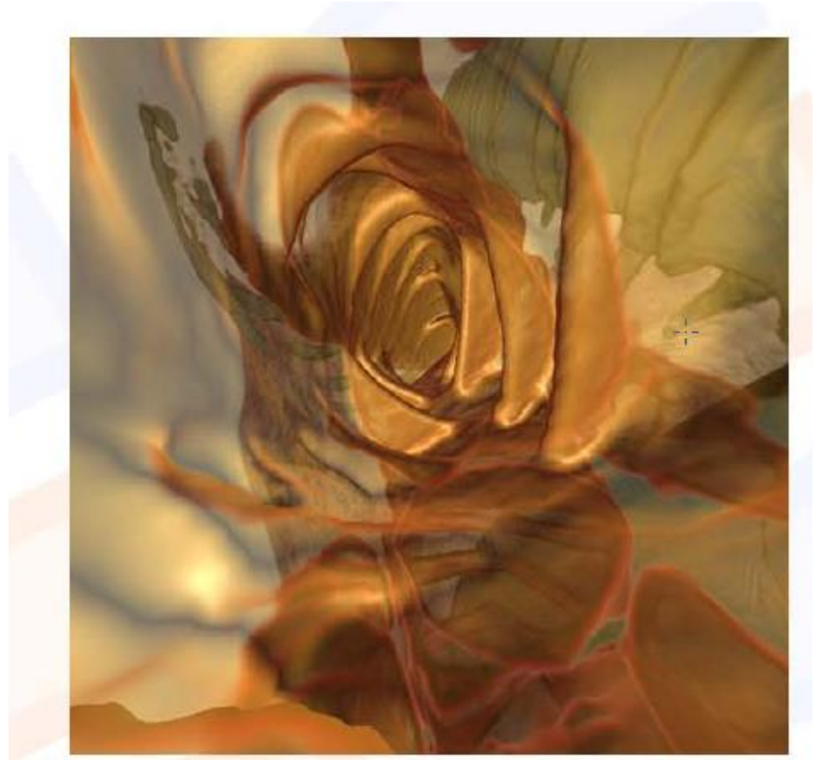
$$C = C_{obj}\,(k_a\, I_A + k_d\, I_L\, N \cdot L) + k_s\, I_L\, (H \cdot N)^{ns}$$

C_{obj} is obtained by indexing the color transfer function with the interpolated sample value

Full Volume Rendering

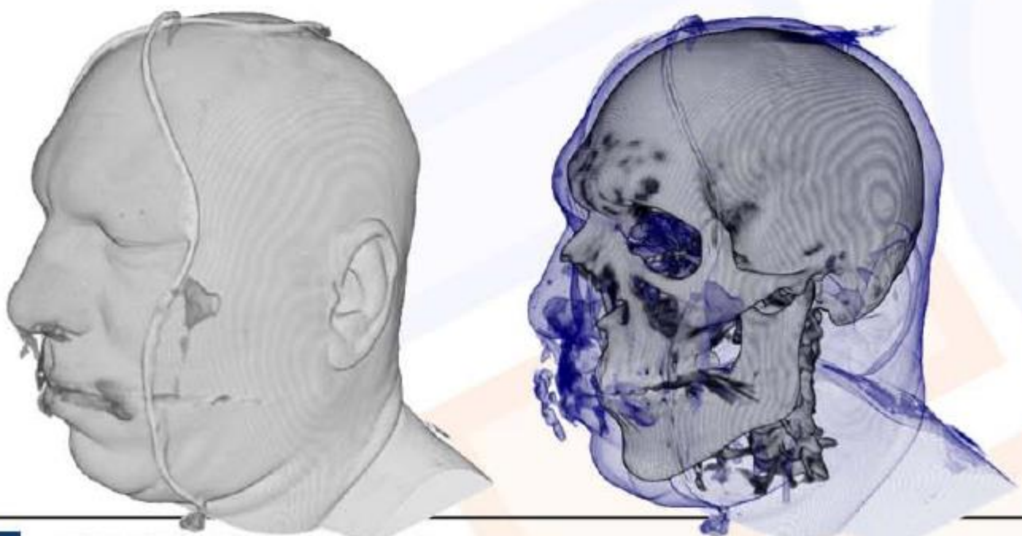
When hitting a surface set A< 1.0

- ray marches on
- inner structures can be seen



Classification

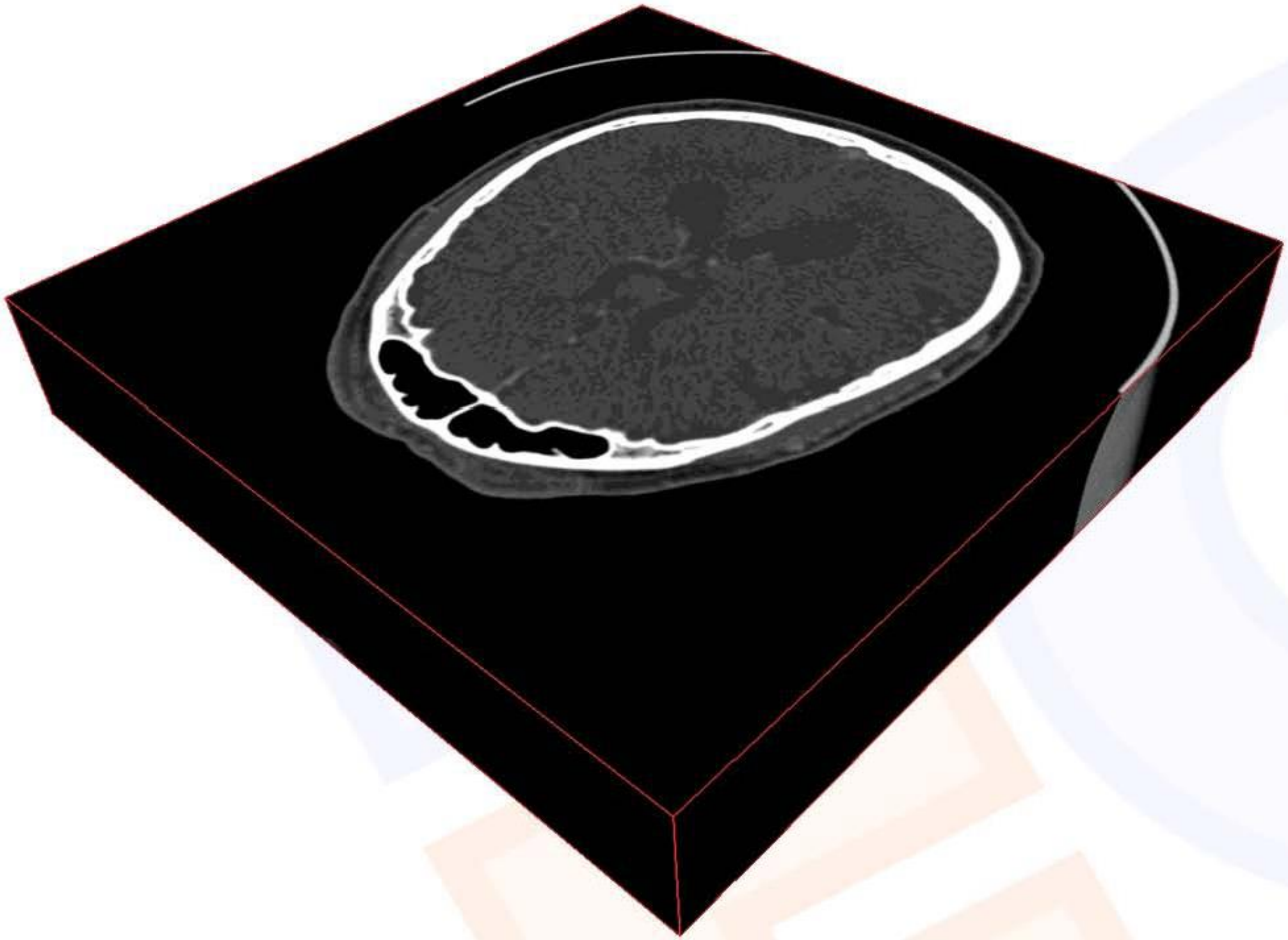
- During Classification the user defines the *„Look"* of the data.
  - Which parts are transparent?
  - Which parts have which color?



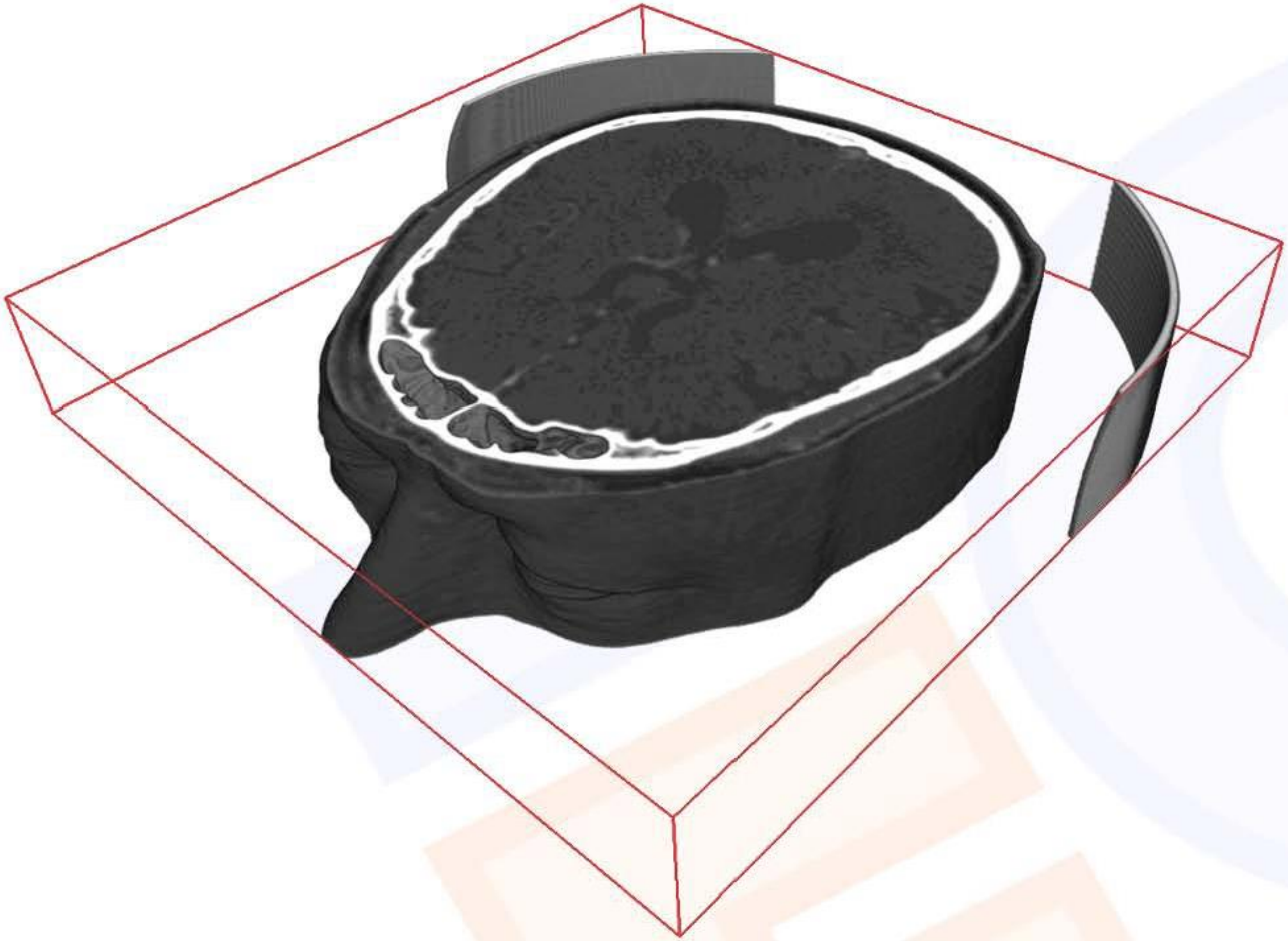
Classification

- During Classification the user defines the *„Look"* of the data.
  - Which parts are transparent?
  - Which parts have which color?
- The user defines a ***Transferfunction***.

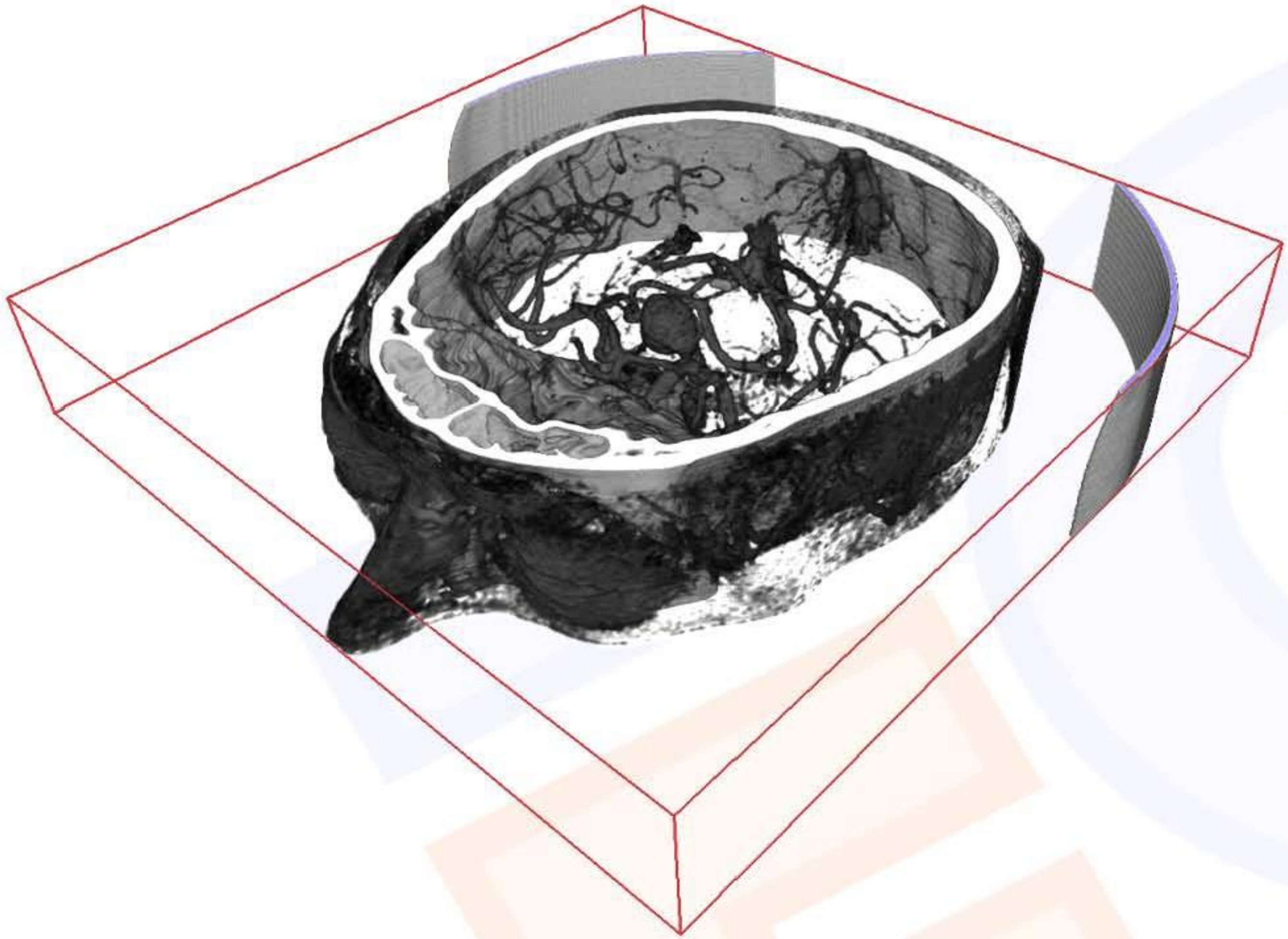
Classification



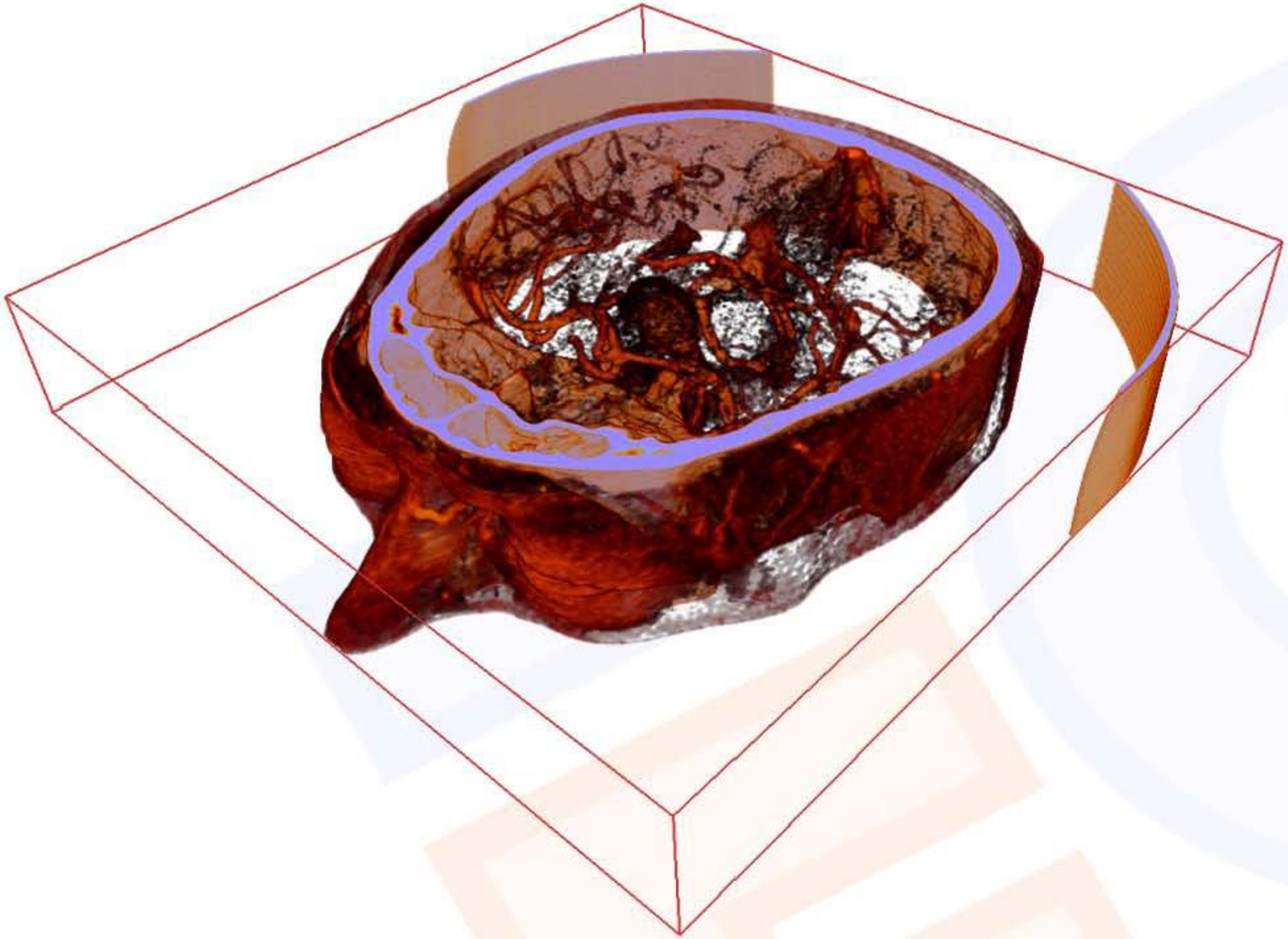
Classification



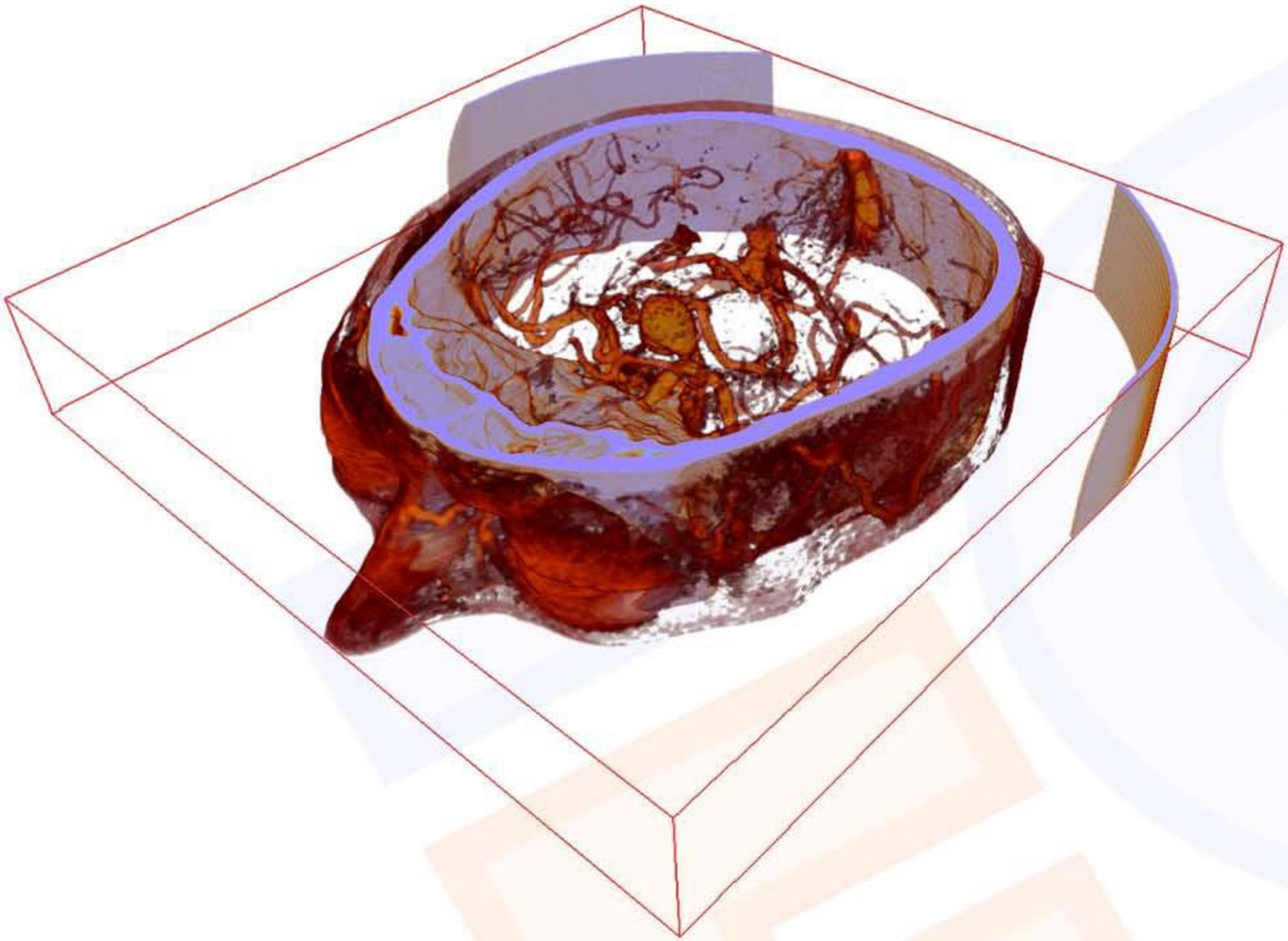
Classification



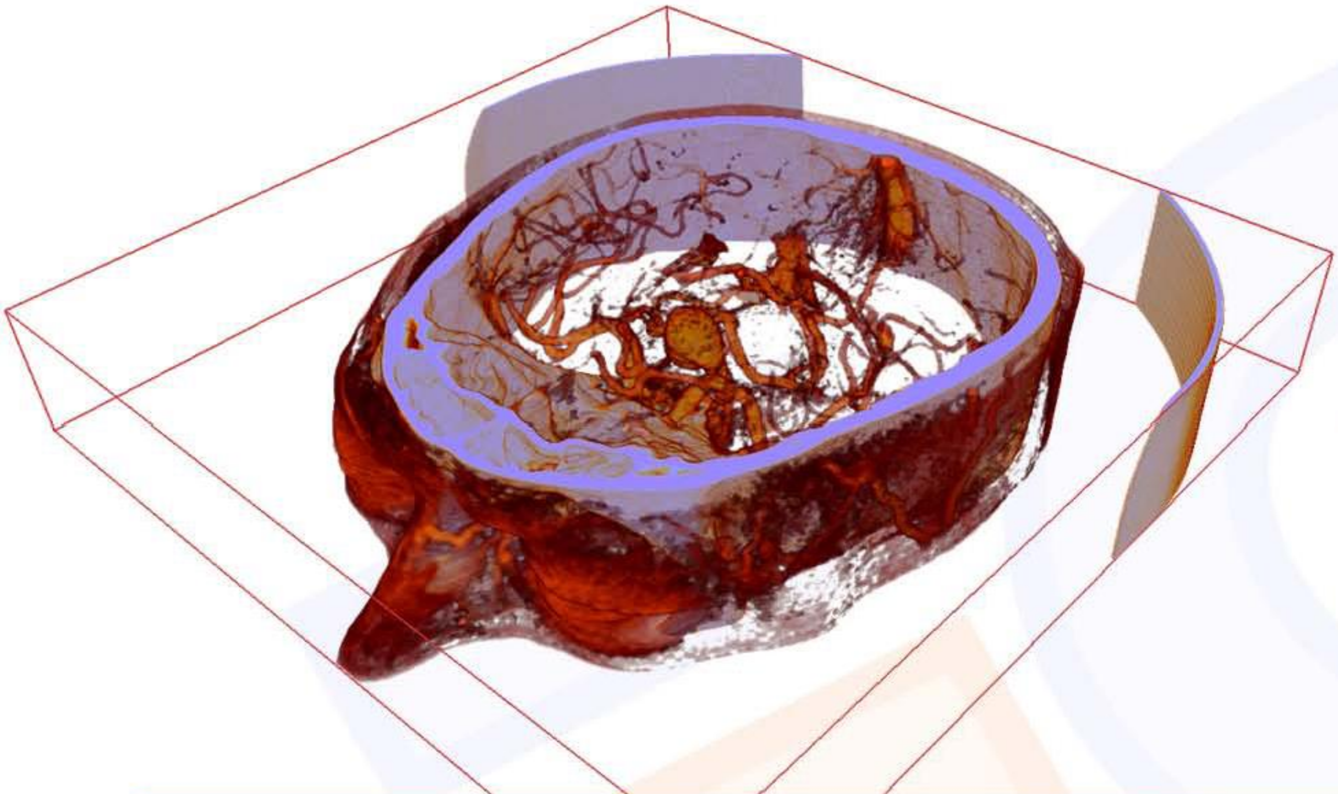
Classification



Classification

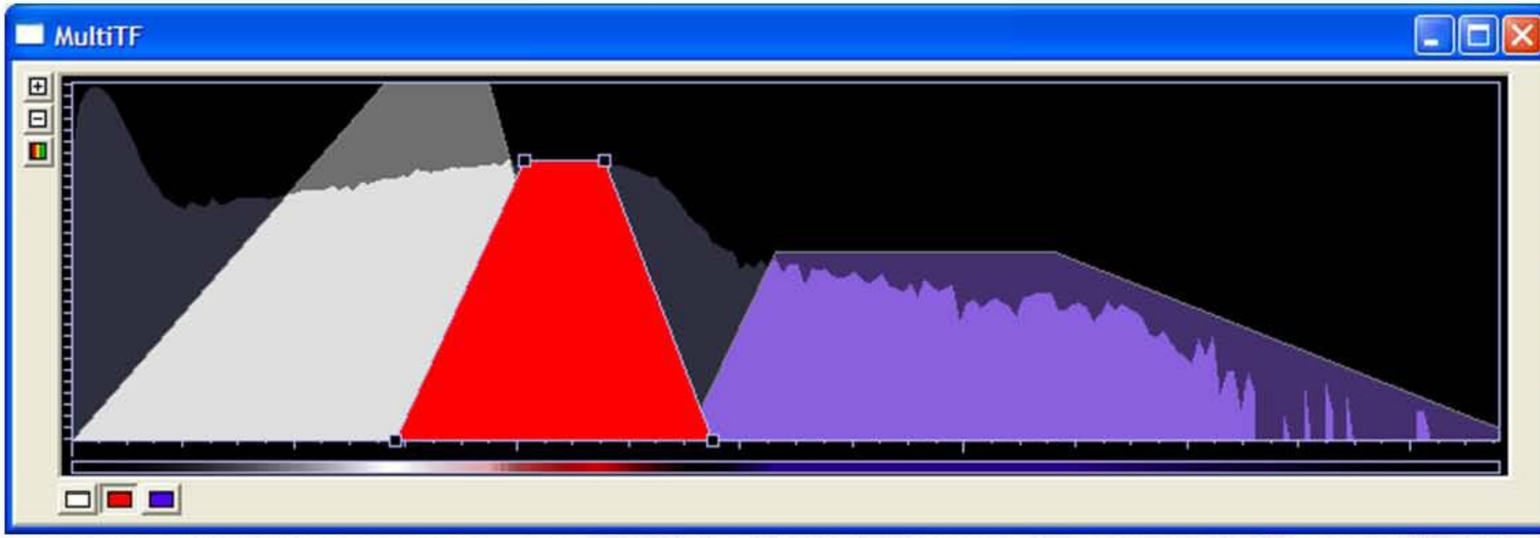


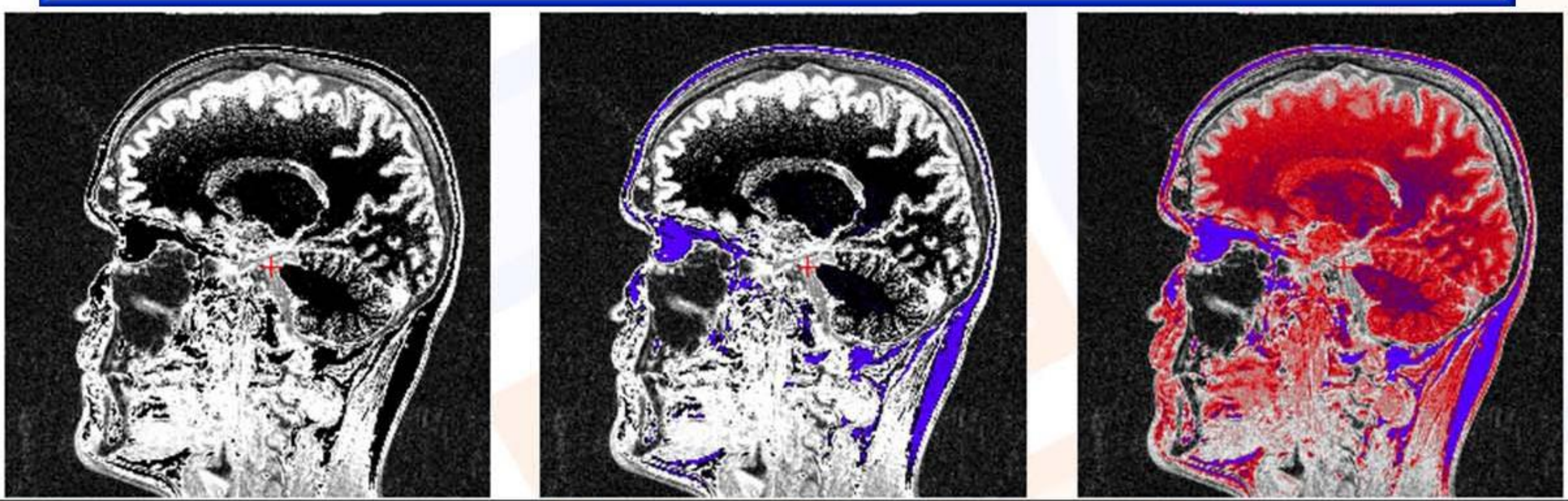
Classification



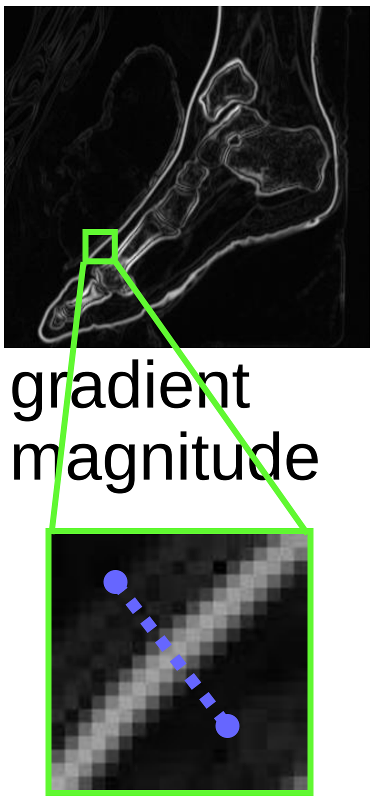
Real-Time update of the transfer function necessary!!!

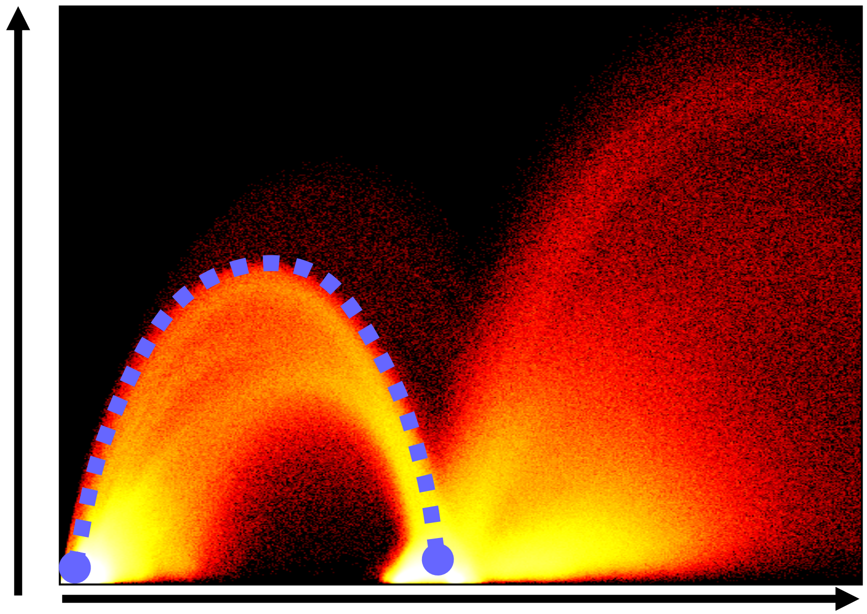
Classification

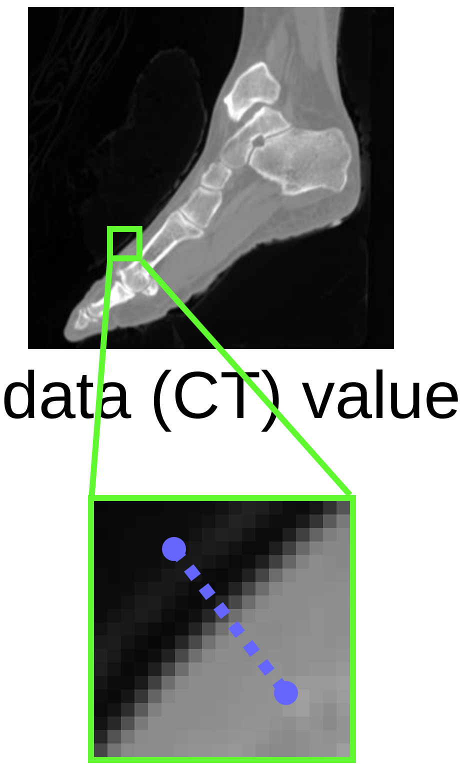




Transfer Functions: Multi-Dimensional



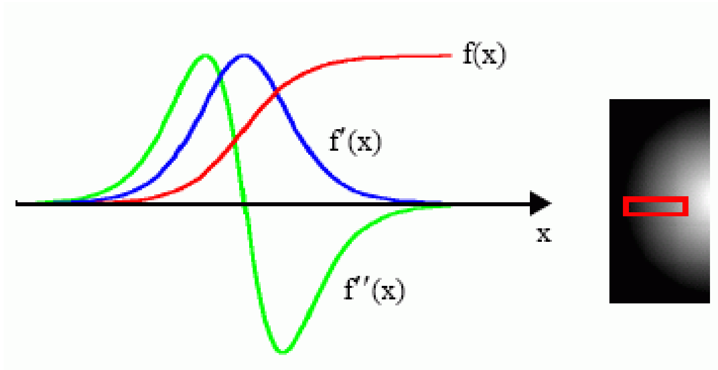




Boundaries in volume create **arches** in (value,gradient) domain [Kindlmann 98]

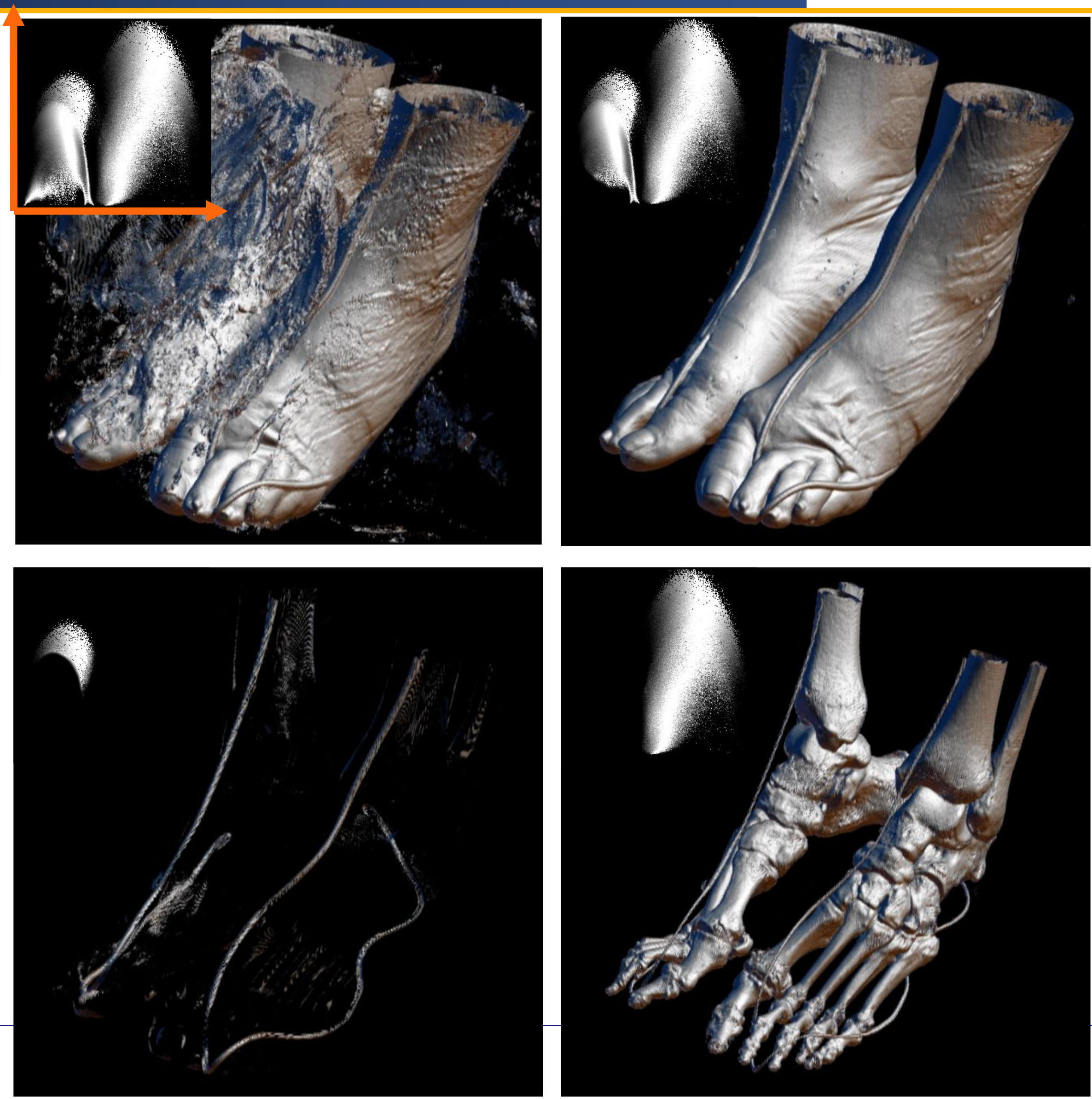
Arches guide placement of opacity to emphasize material interfaces [Kniss 01]

Transfer Functions: Multi-Dimensional



• Boundaries can be described in terms of:
– maximum in 1st derivative
– zero-crossing in 2nd derivative

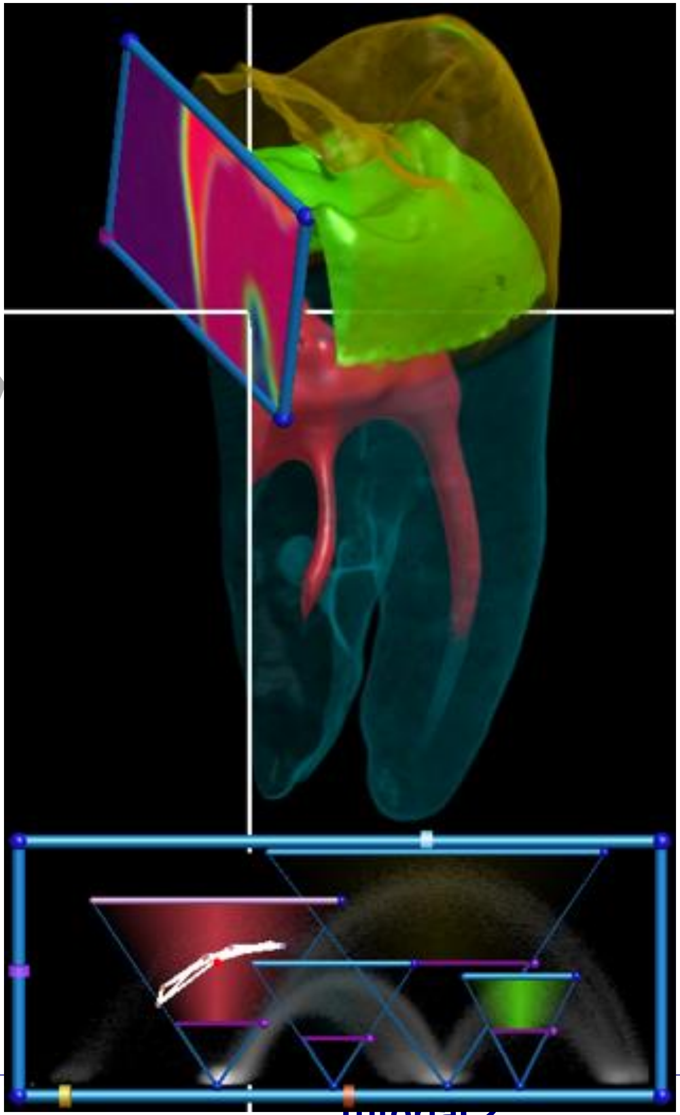
• Semi-automatic classification possible in clean data



Transfer Functions: Multi-Dimensional

Dual-domain interaction:

[Kniss 01]



Make features opaque by pointing at them

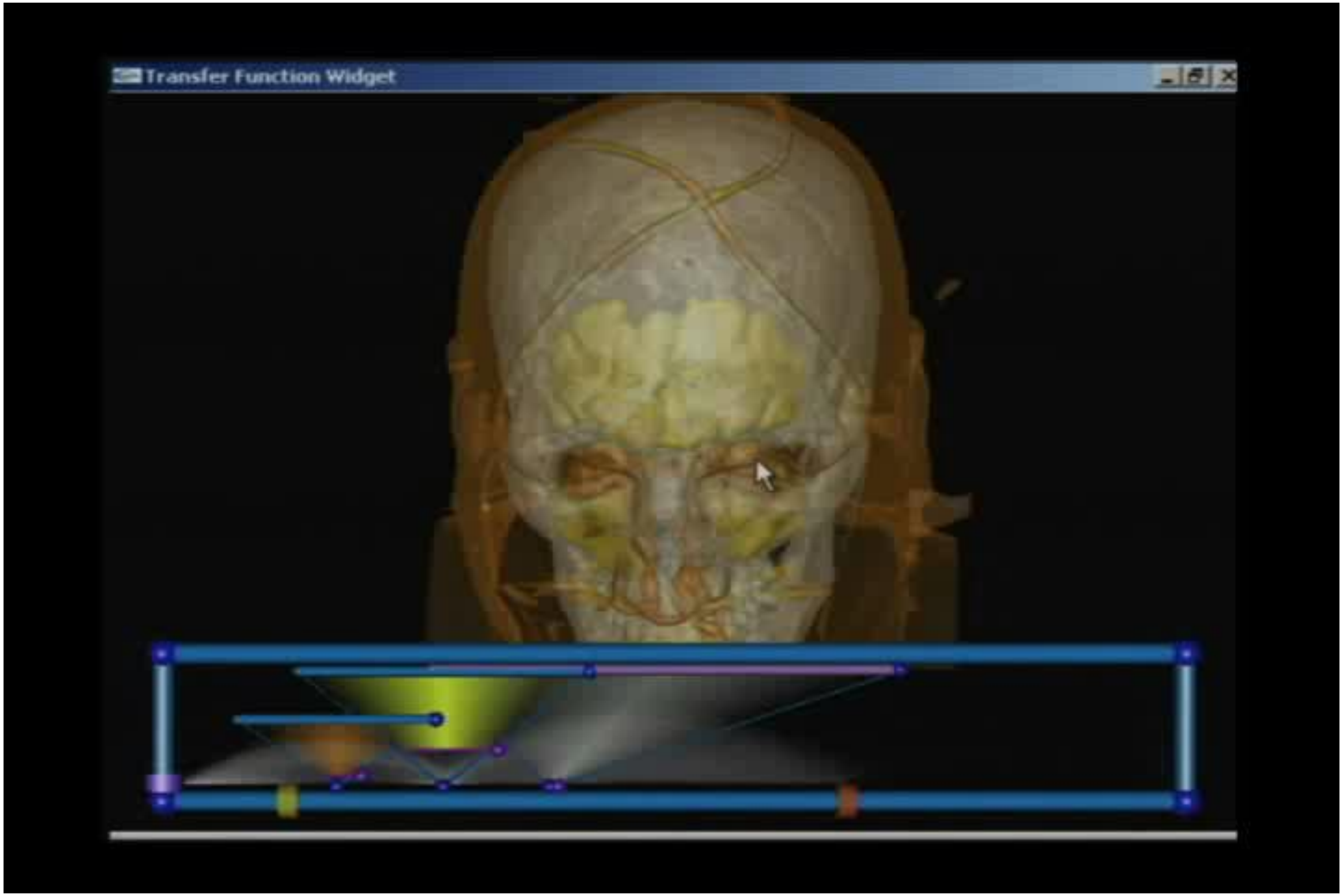
Actions in spatial domain

New transfer function

Changes to transfer function

New Rendering

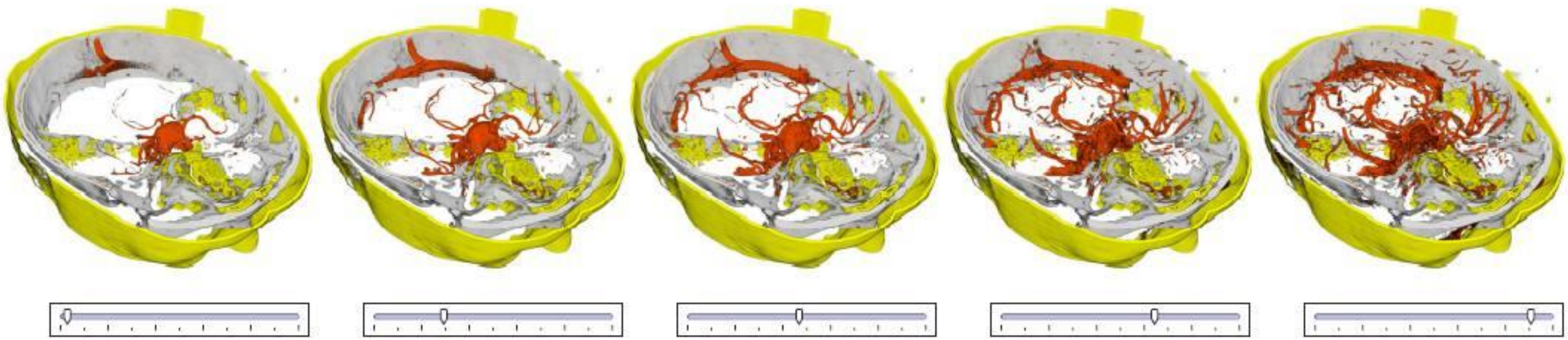
Multi-Dimensional Transfer Functions



Multi-Dimensional Transfer Functions

Transfer Functions: Clinical Practice

A single slider bar is most appreciated [Rezk-Salama Vis06]

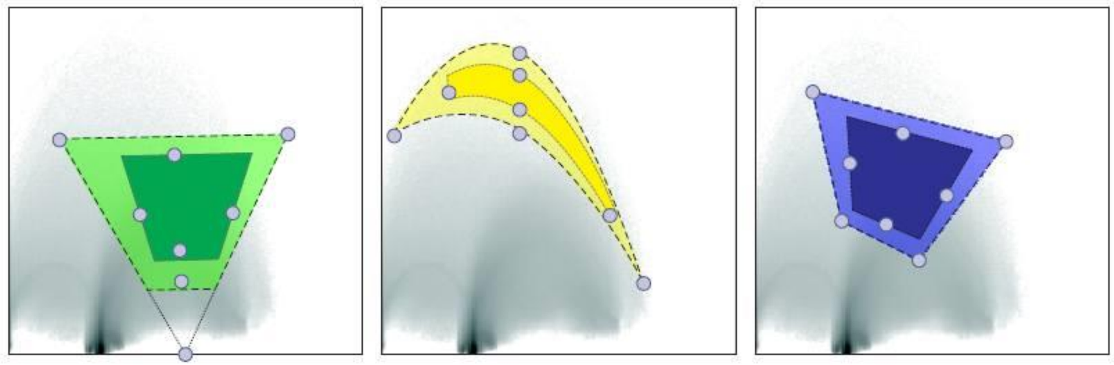


Enables doctors to quickly fine-tune the transfer function for specific objects

- works since in CT usually only small deviations exist
- but these require complex interactions in the transfer function domain

Parameter Mapping Approach (1)

Typical transfer function parameterization:



Datasets typically only deviate modestly from this

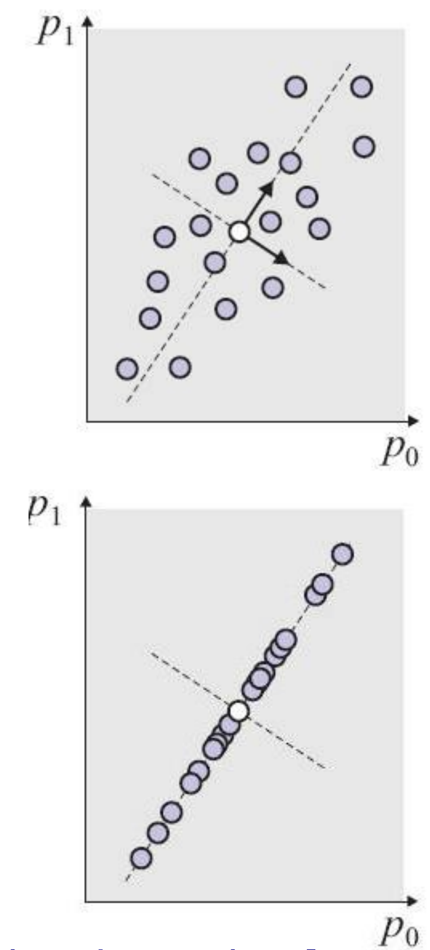
- but in complex ways
- meaning, lots of tweaking is required

[Rezk-Salama Vis06]

Parameter Mapping Approach (2)

We can learn these deviations by observing a few datasets

- encode the parameters into an N-D vector
- find the principal component of the vectors (the main Eigenvector)
- project all other vectors onto this Eigenvector
- the min and max then represent the min and max of the slider



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