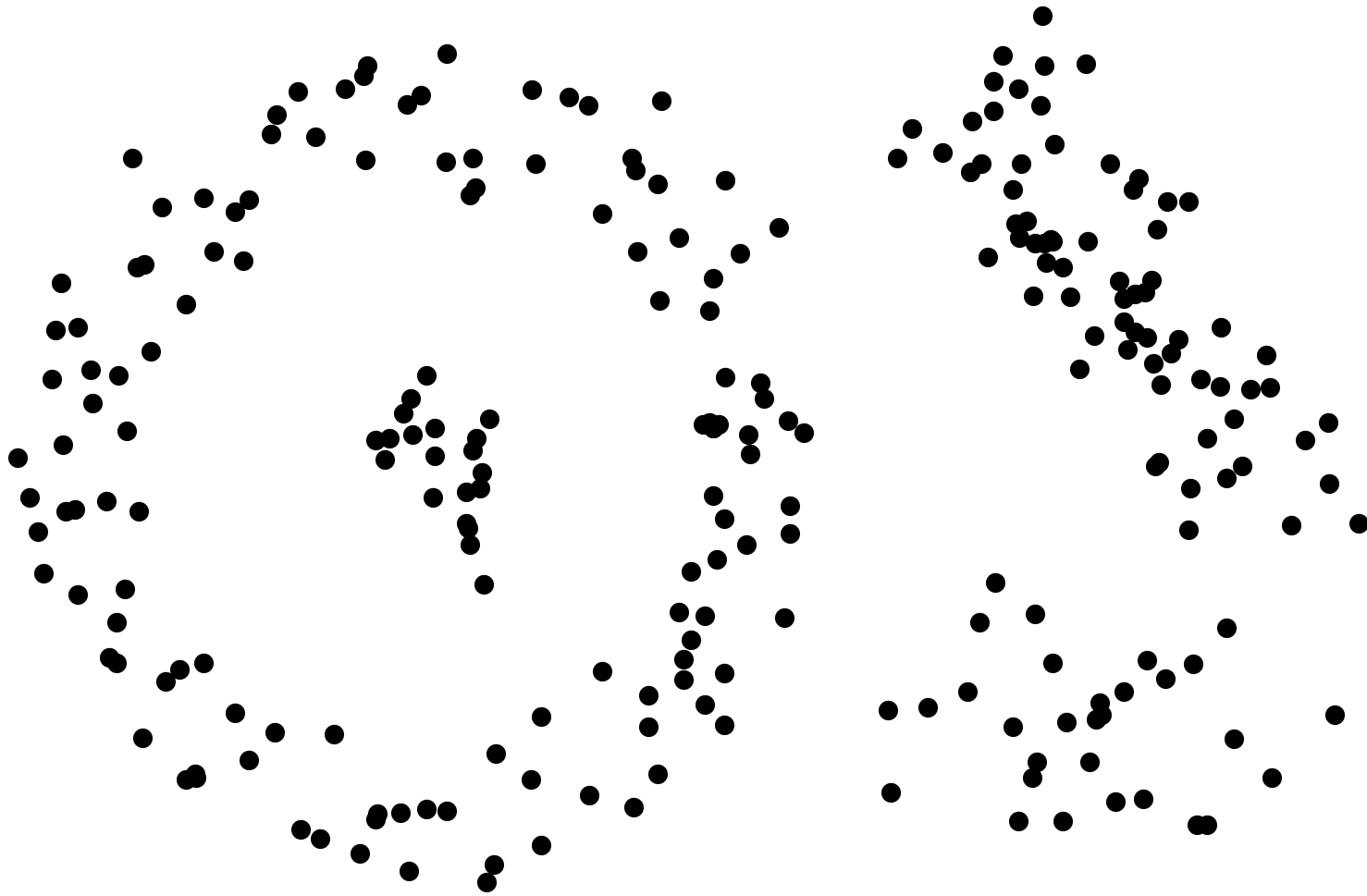


# Computational Models of Perceptual Organization

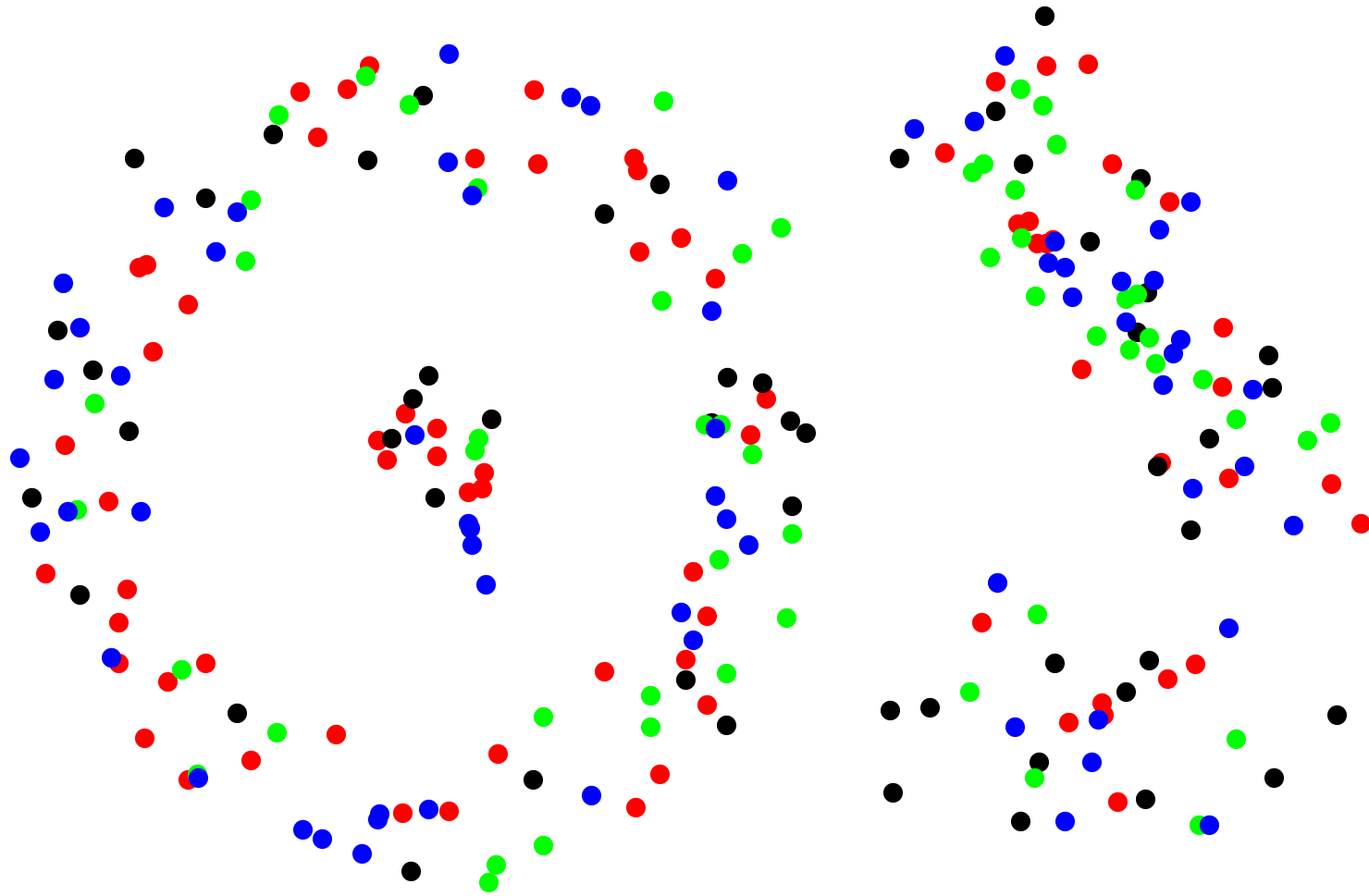
*Stella X. Yu*

Robotics Institute  
Carnegie Mellon University  
Center for the Neural Basis of Cognition

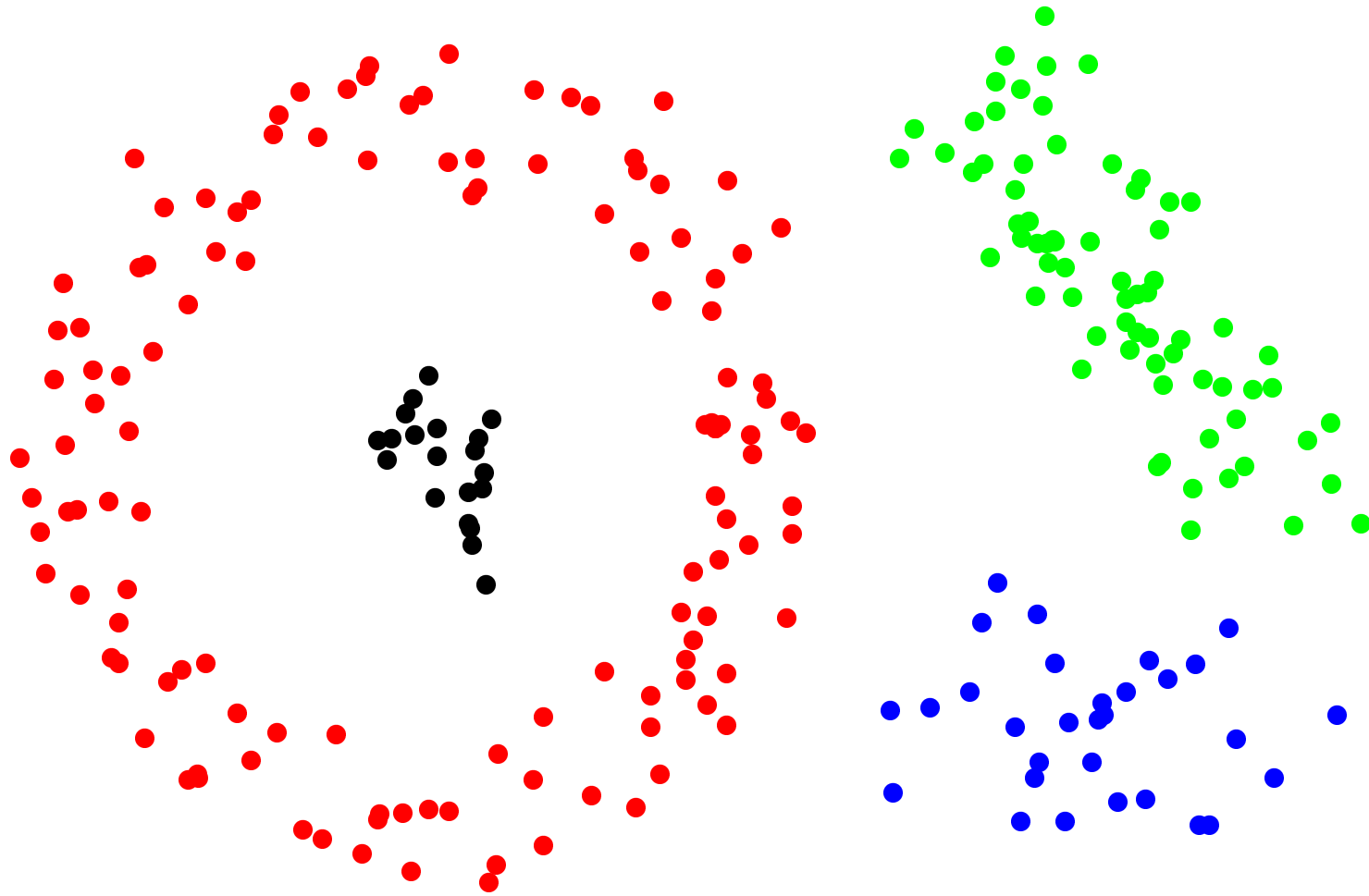
# What Is Perceptual Organization



# What Is Perceptual Organization



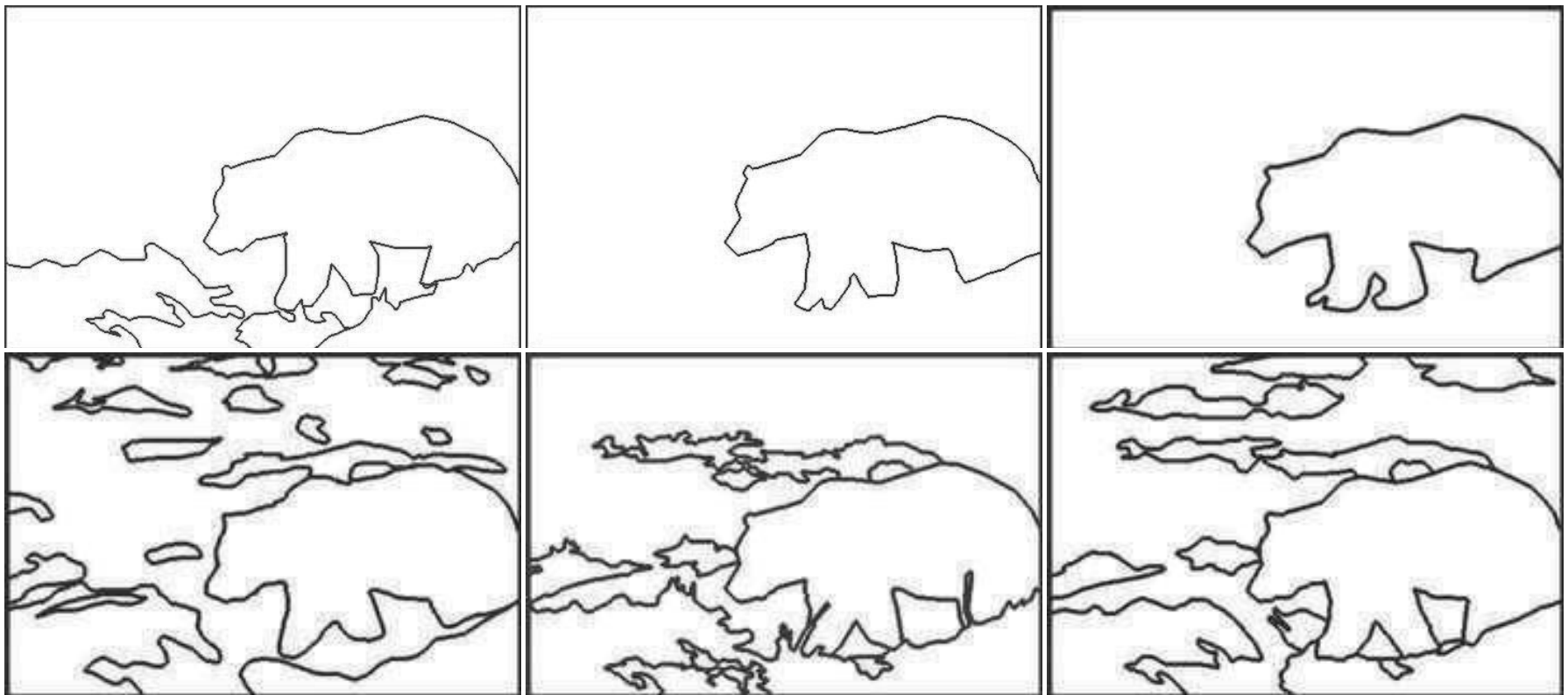
# What Is Perceptual Organization



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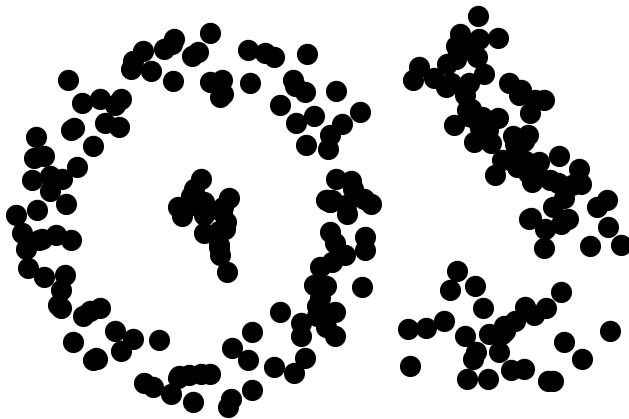
(Martin et al)



# What Is Perceptual Organization



- multiple choices
- a variety of features
- content-dependent



- one choice
- single feature
- content-free

# Why Perceptual Organization

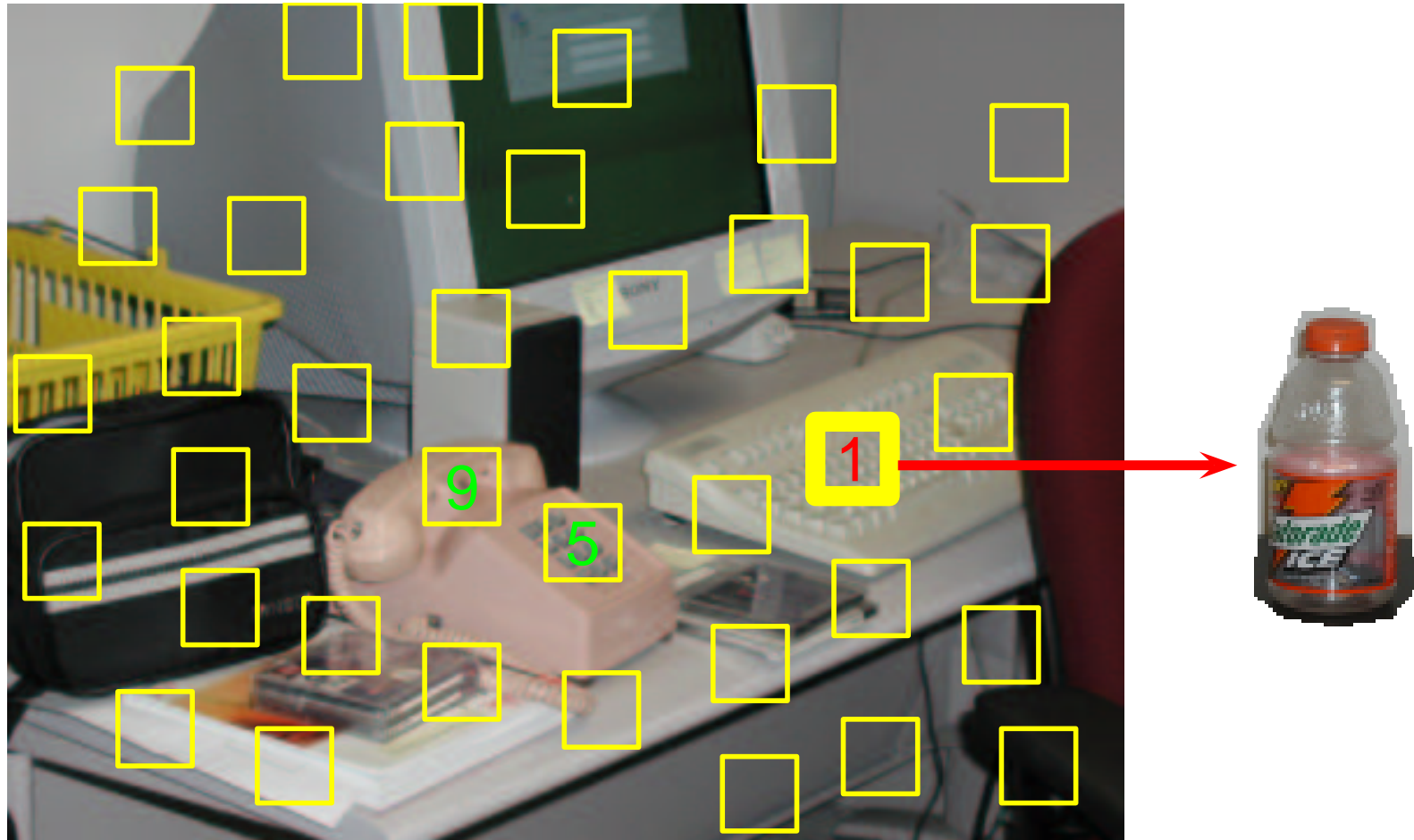
recognition



image



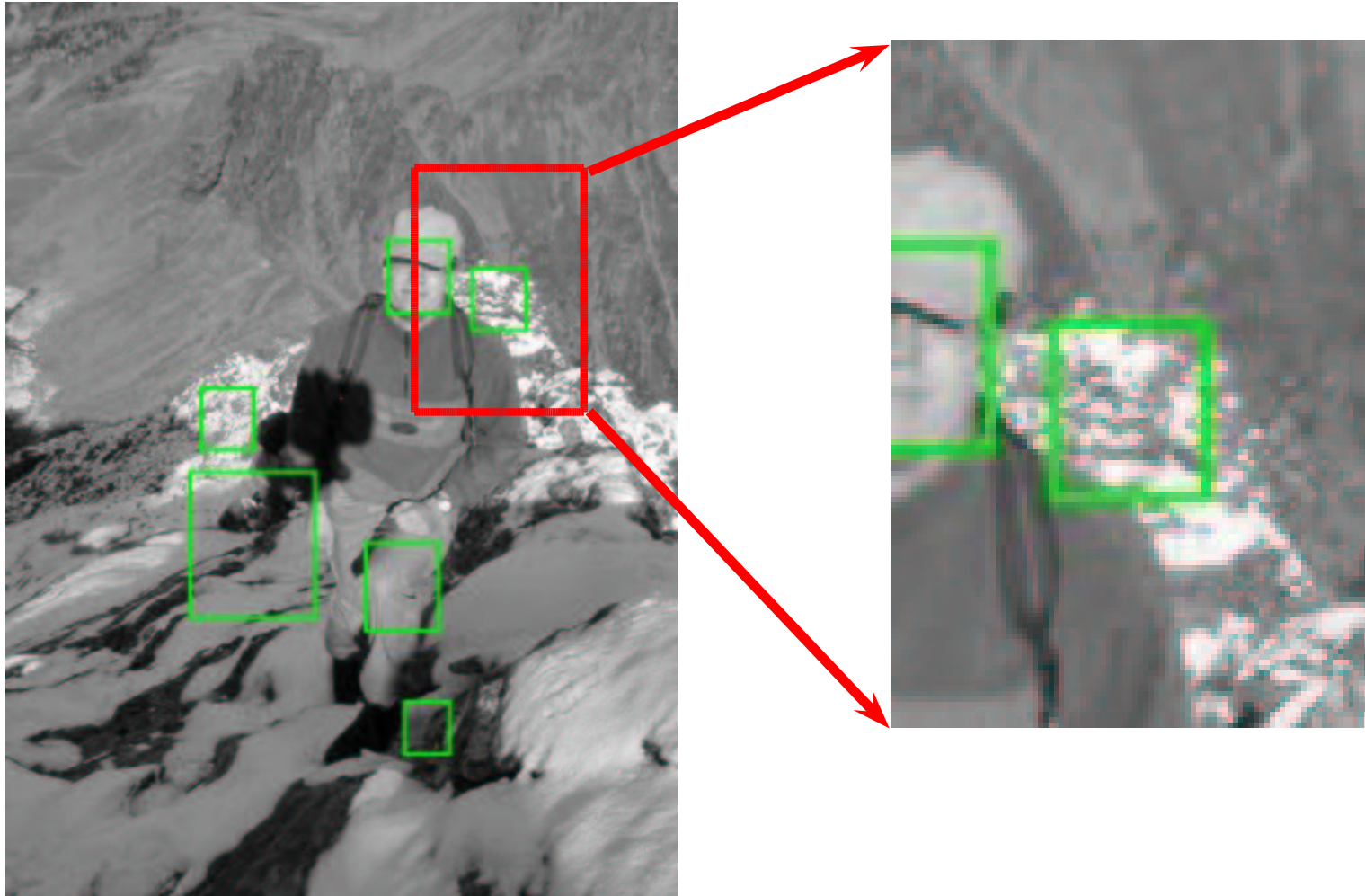
# Why Perceptual Organization



Mahamud multi-object detector

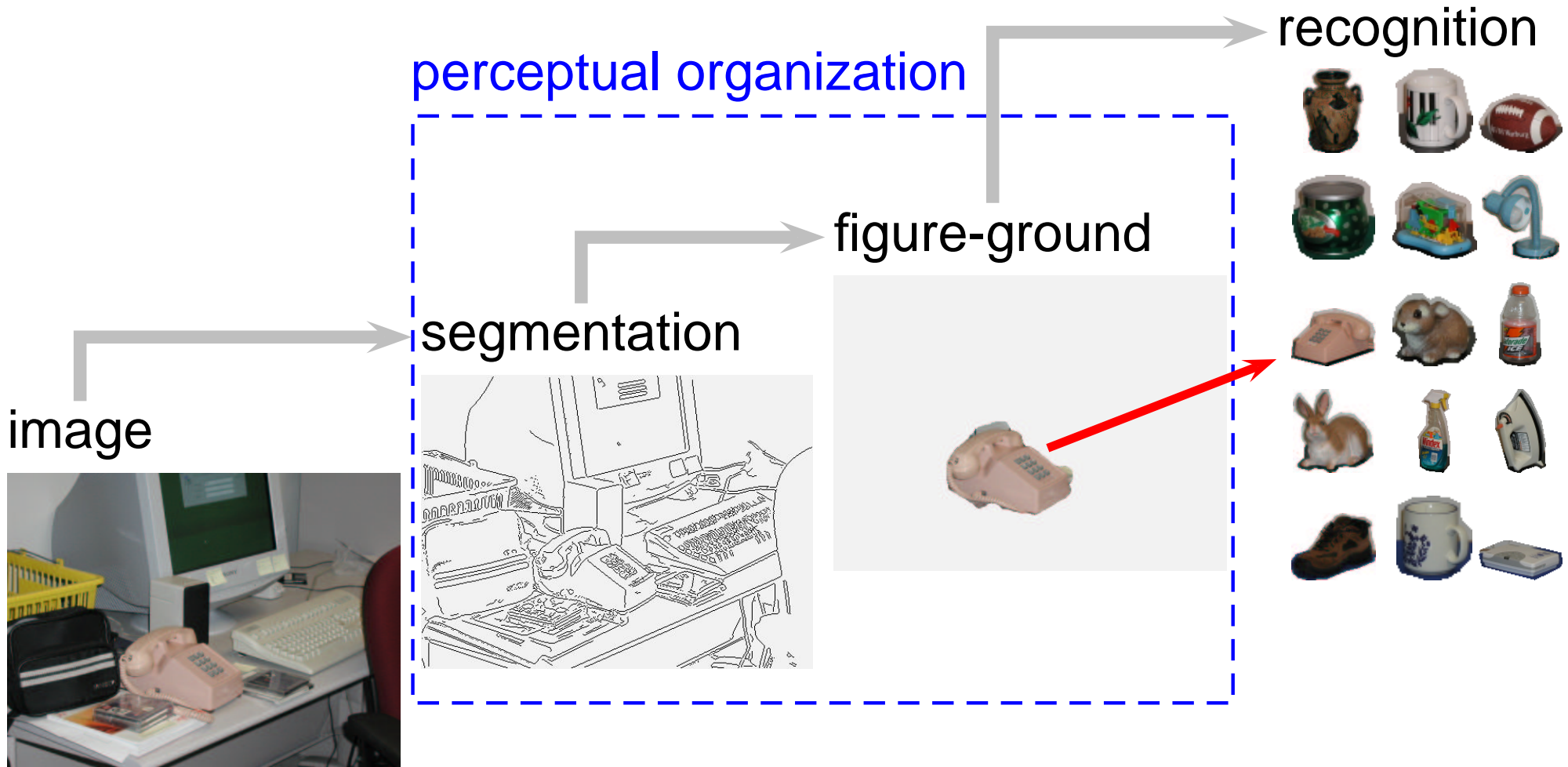


# Why Perceptual Organization



Schneiderman face detector

# Traditional Use of Perceptual Organization



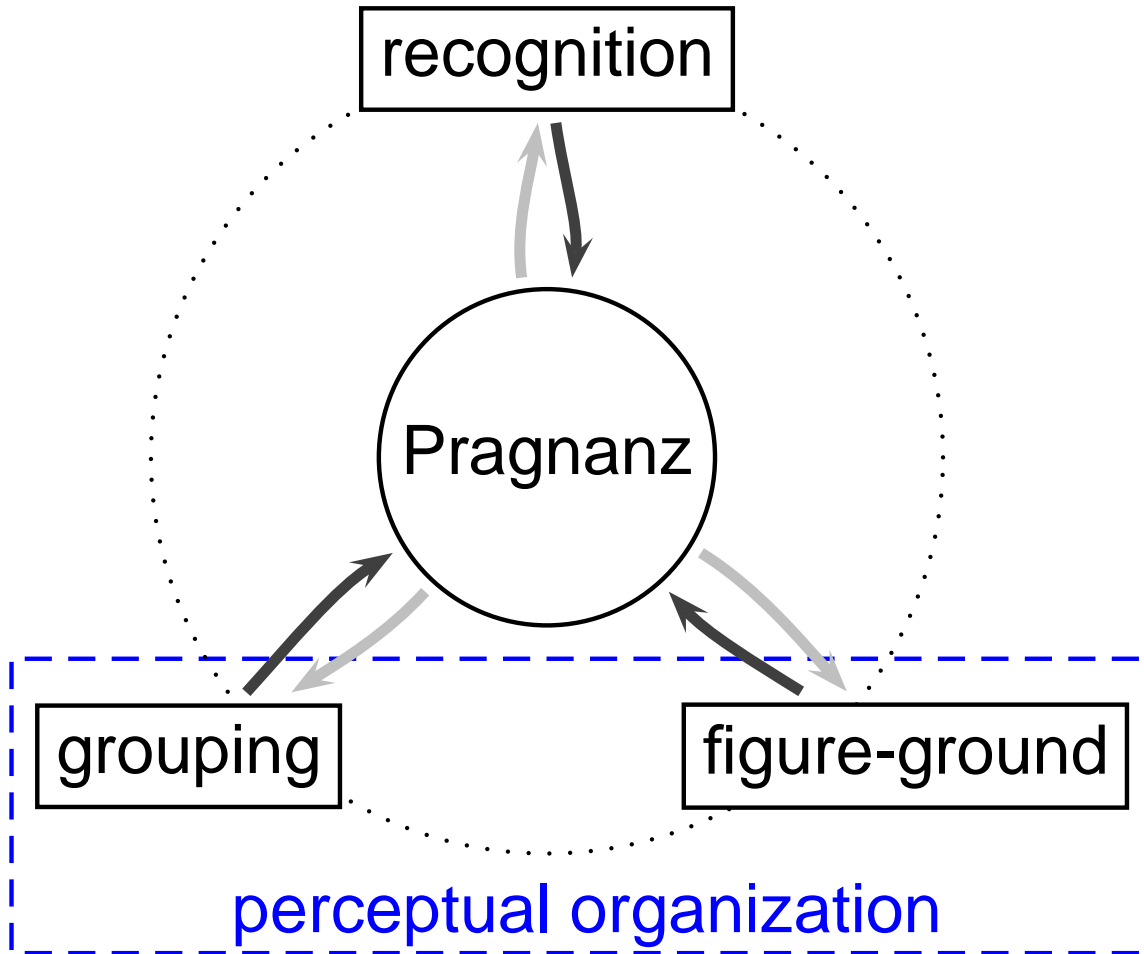
# Perceptual Organization without Object Knowledge



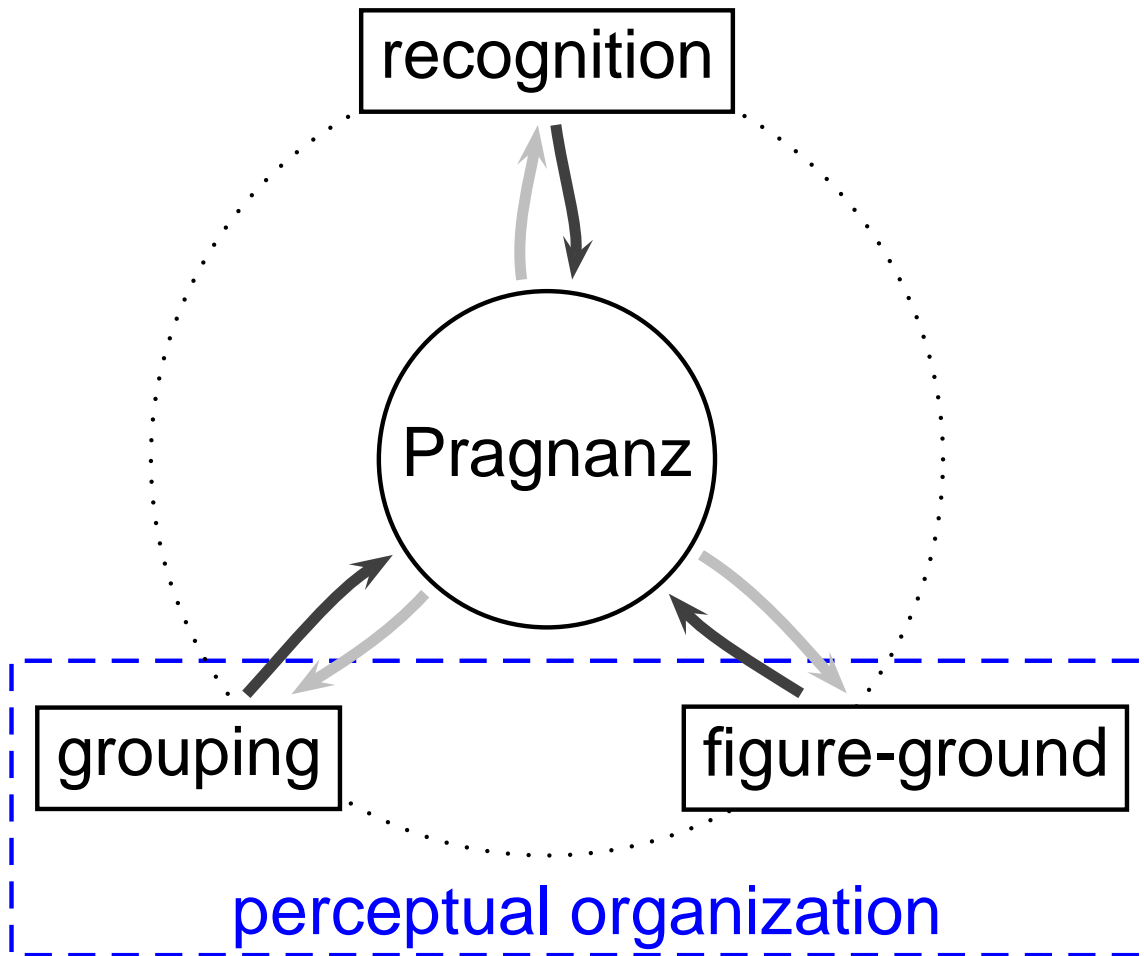
difficult and brittle

(Canny, Geman & Geman, Shah & Mumford, Witkin, Jacobs, ...)

# Our Overall Approach

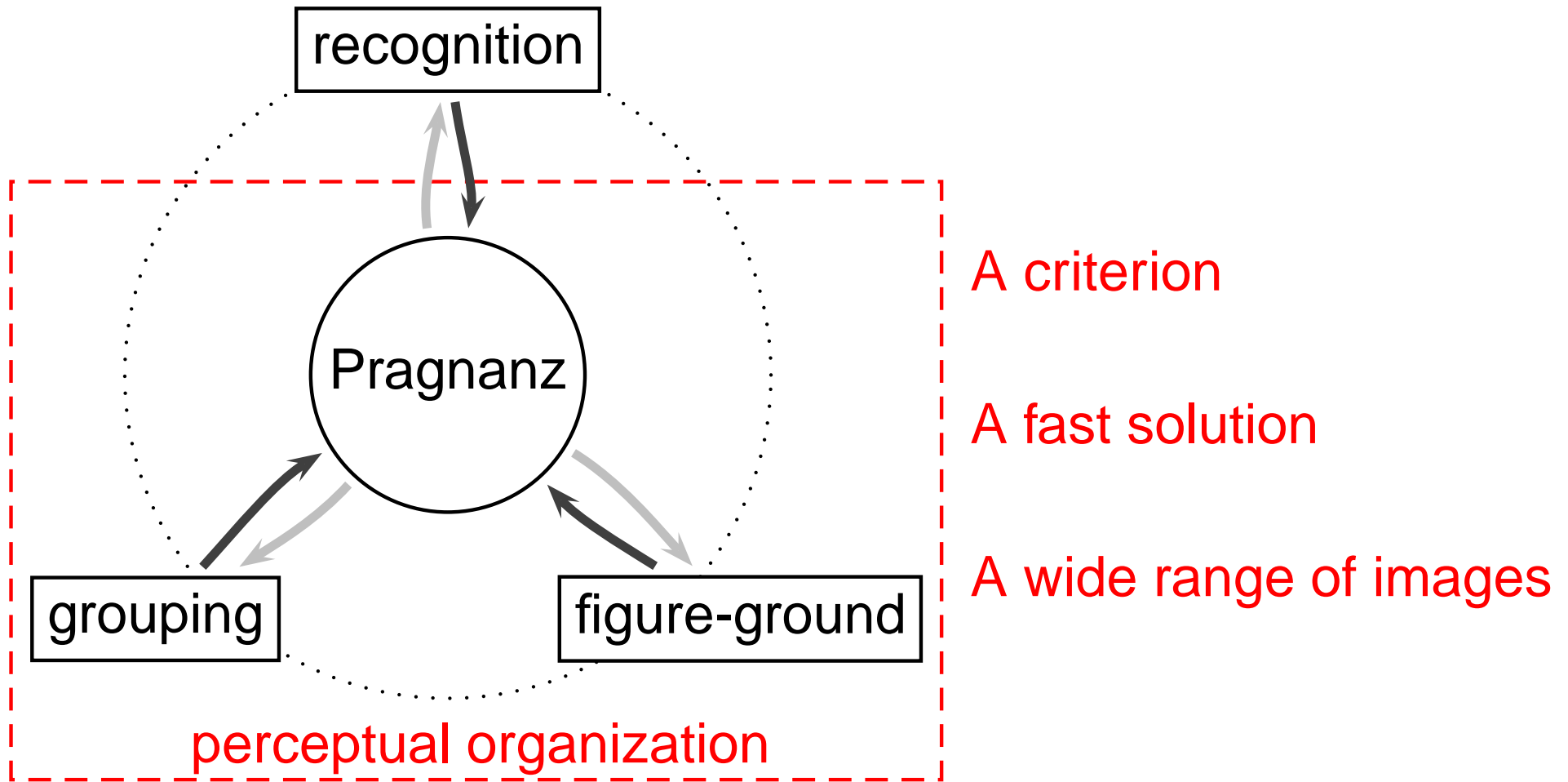


# Our Overall Approach



interactive processing (Grossberg, McClelland, Grenandar, Mumford, Lee,...)

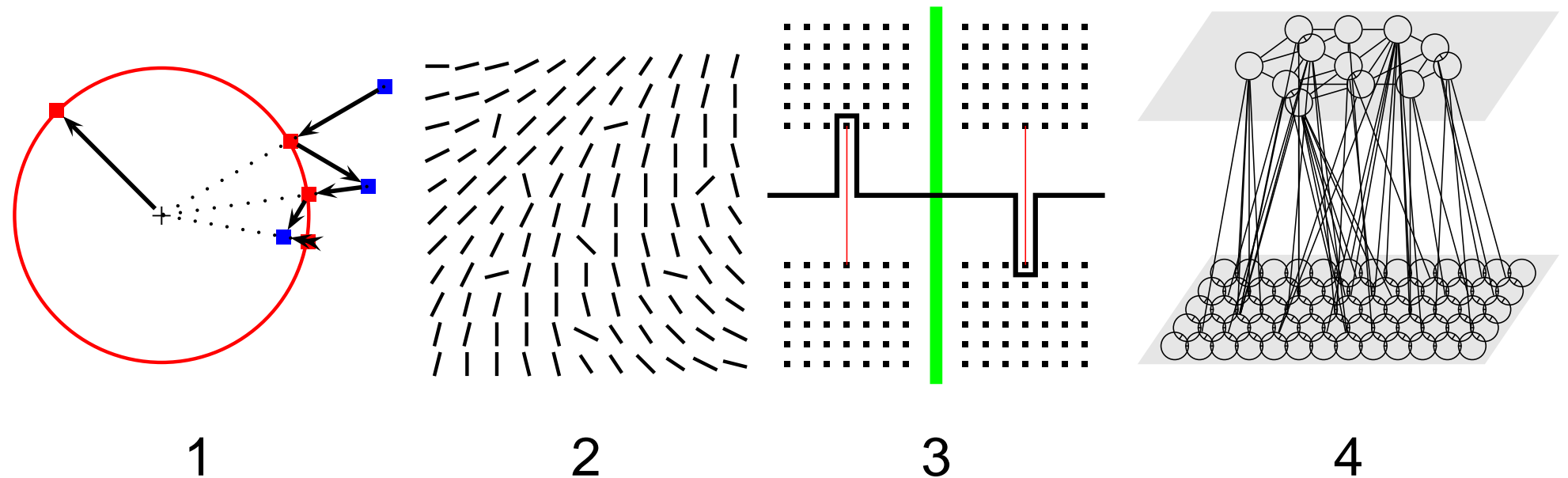
# Our Overall Approach



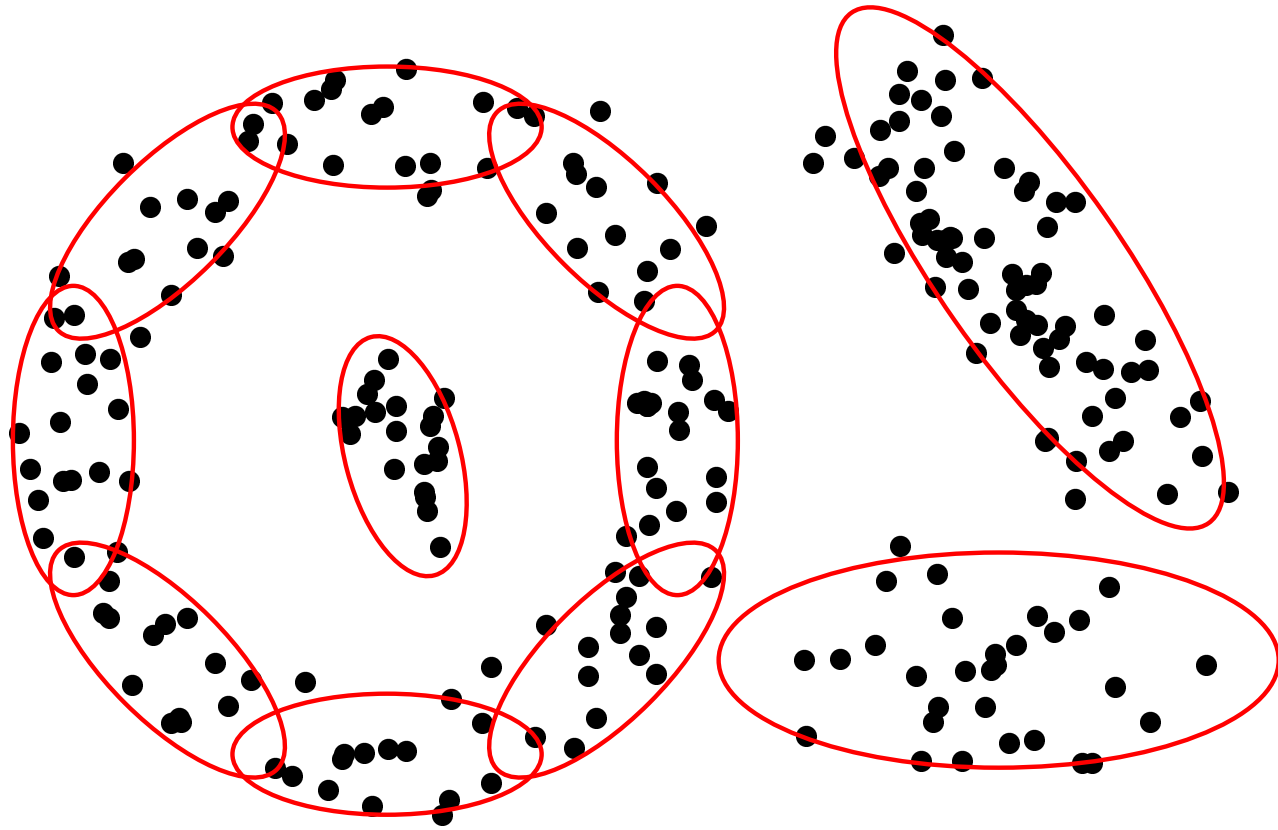
interactive processing (Grossberg, McClelland, Grenandar, Mumford, Lee,...)

# Outline

1. Computational framework: spectral clustering
2. Expand the repertoire of grouping cues: dissimilarity
3. Guide grouping with partial cues
4. Guide grouping with object knowledge
5. Summary and future work



# Generative Approach for Data Clustering



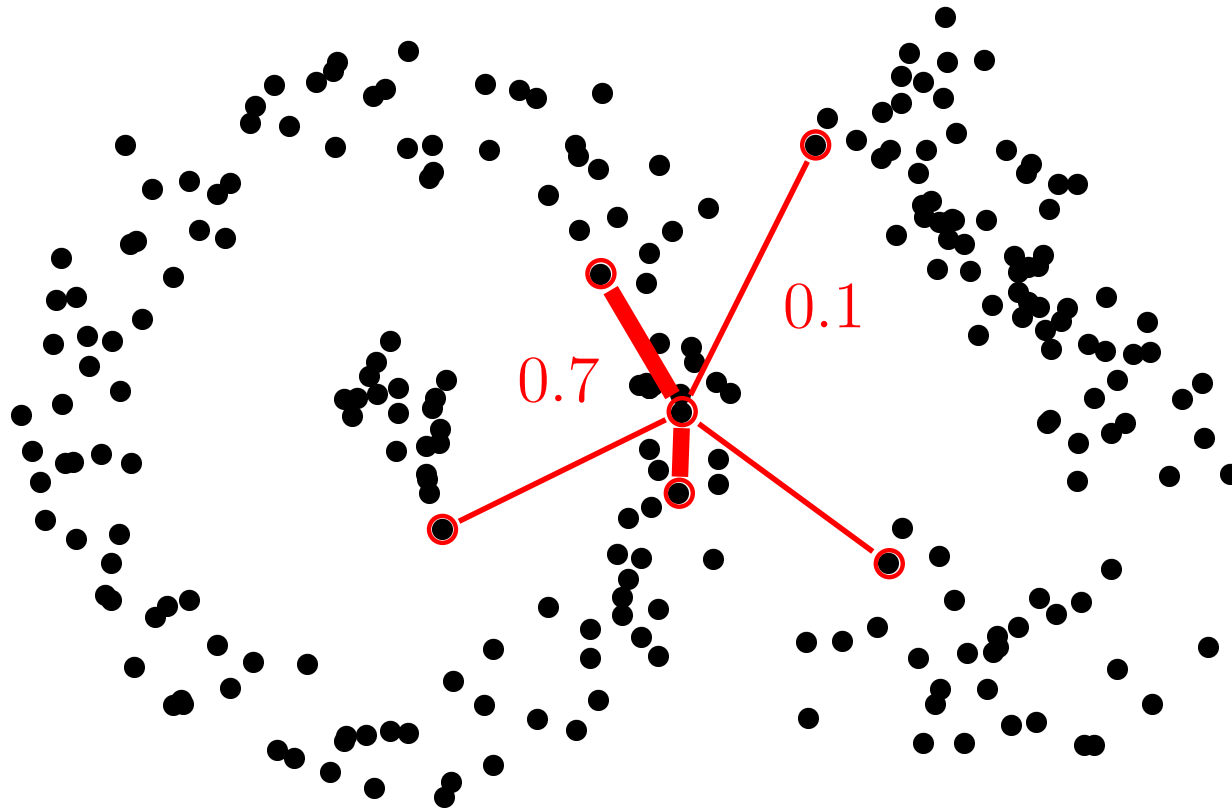
Key: Assumptions on the global structure of the data

Pros: Intuitive interpretation; analysis = synthesis

Cons: Model inadequacy and computational intractability



# Discriminative Approach for Clustering

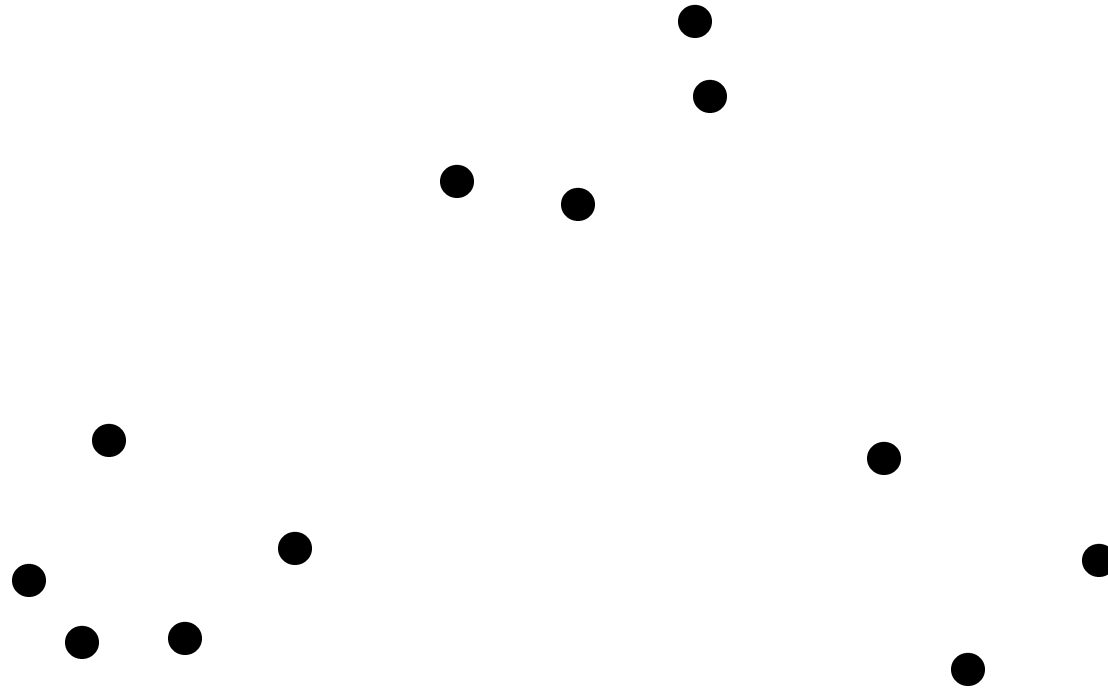


Key: Same group or not

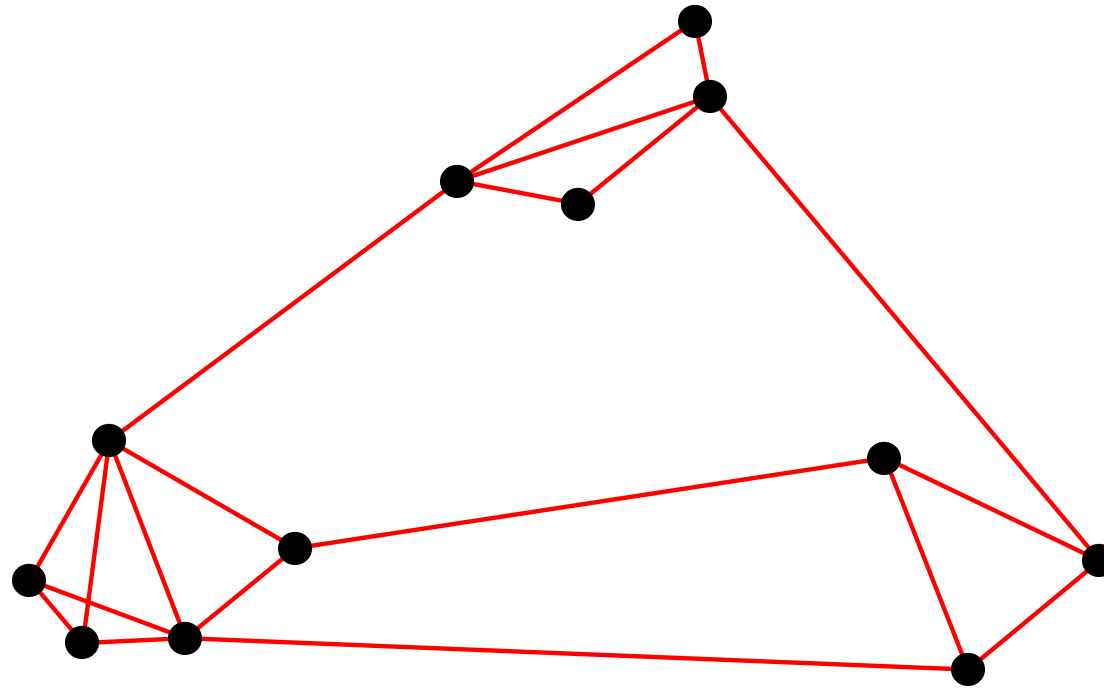
Pros: Adaptable to all data structures; tractable computation

Cons: No interpretation of the groups

# Grouping in a Graph-Theoretic Framework

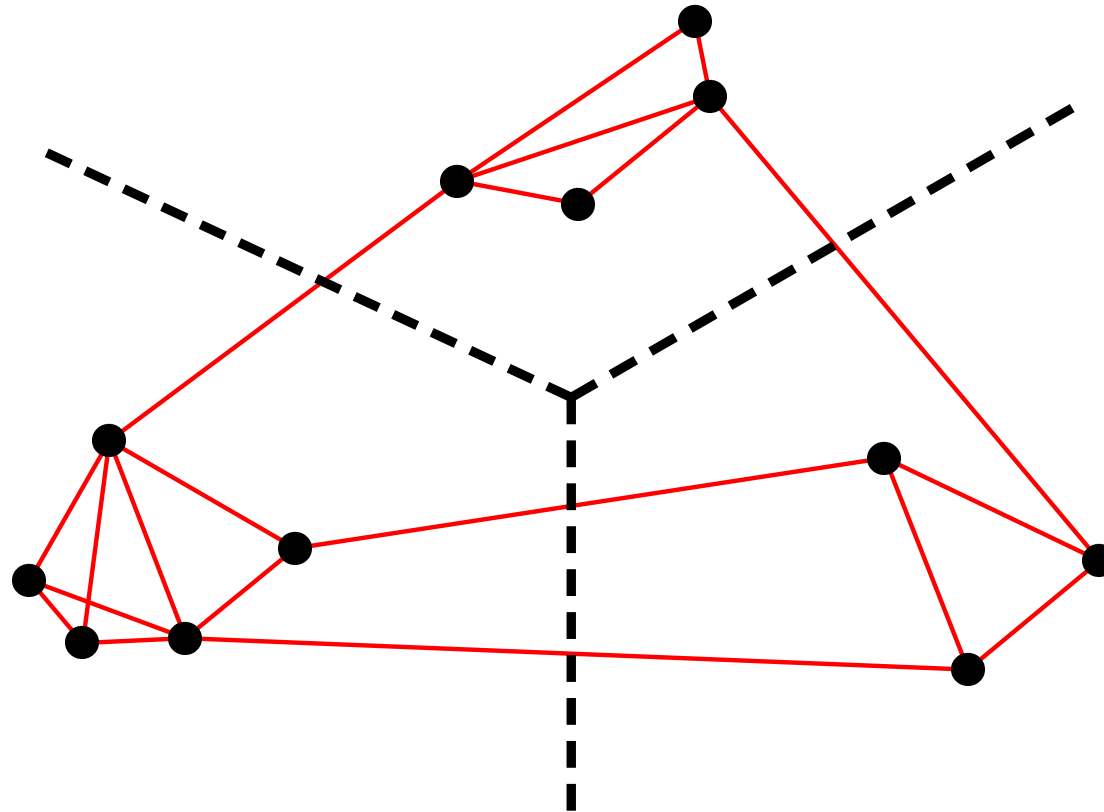


# Grouping in a Graph-Theoretic Framework



Representation:  $G = \{V, E, W\} = \{ \text{nodes, edges, weights} \}$

# Grouping in a Graph-Theoretic Framework

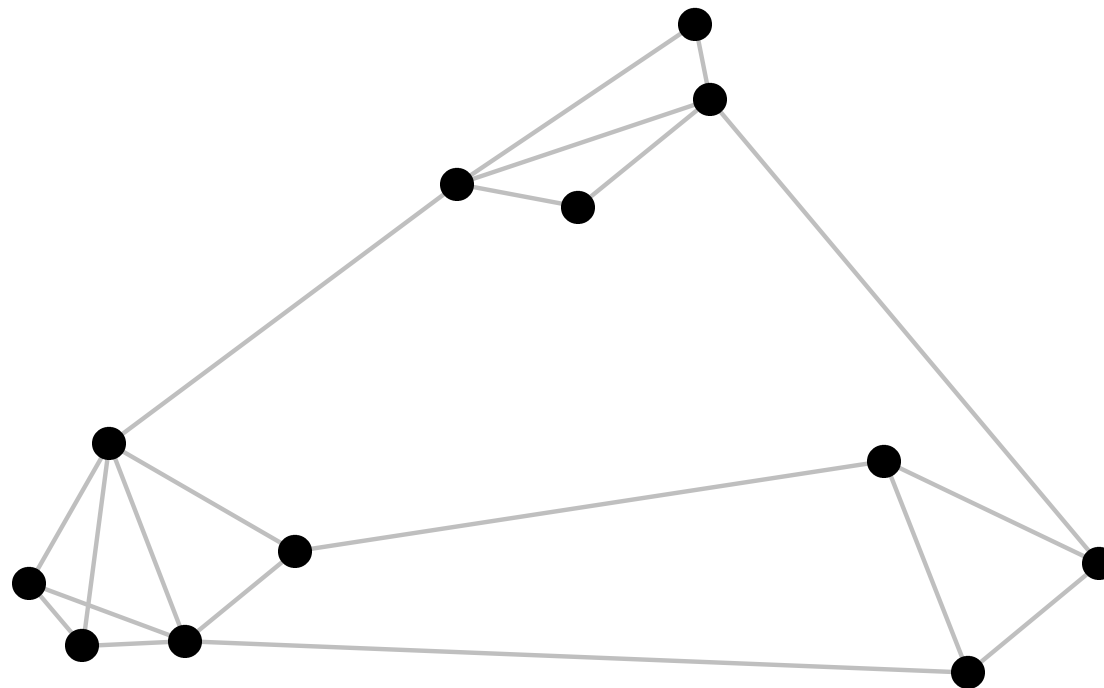


Representation:  $\mathbb{G} = \{\mathbb{V}, \mathbb{E}, \mathbb{W}\} = \{ \text{nodes, edges, weights} \}$

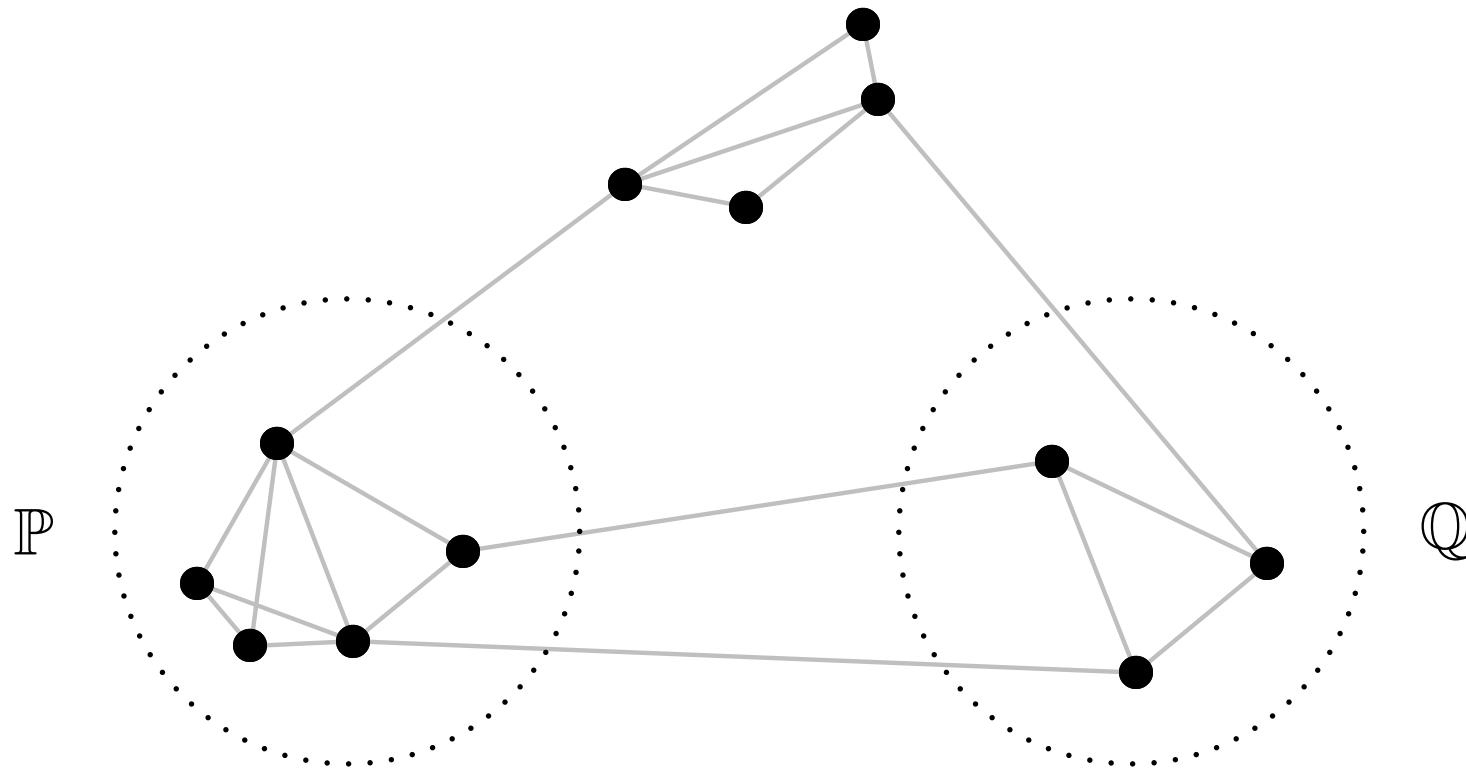
Clustering:  $\Gamma_{\mathbb{V}}^K = \{\mathbb{V}_1, \dots, \mathbb{V}_K\} = K\text{-way node partitioning}$

(Shi & Malik, Zabih, Boykov, Veksler, Kolmogorov,...)

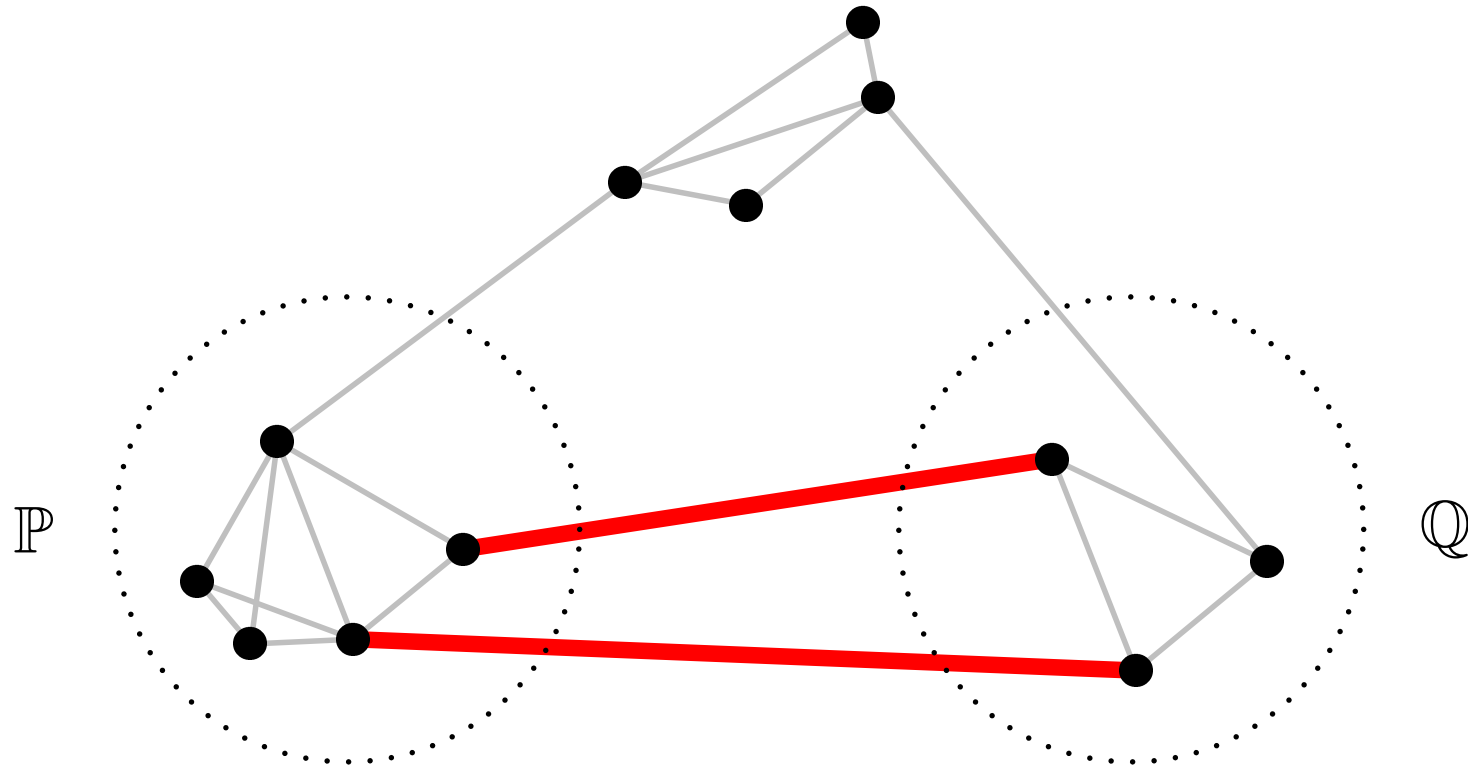
# Links in Graph Cuts



# Links in Graph Cuts

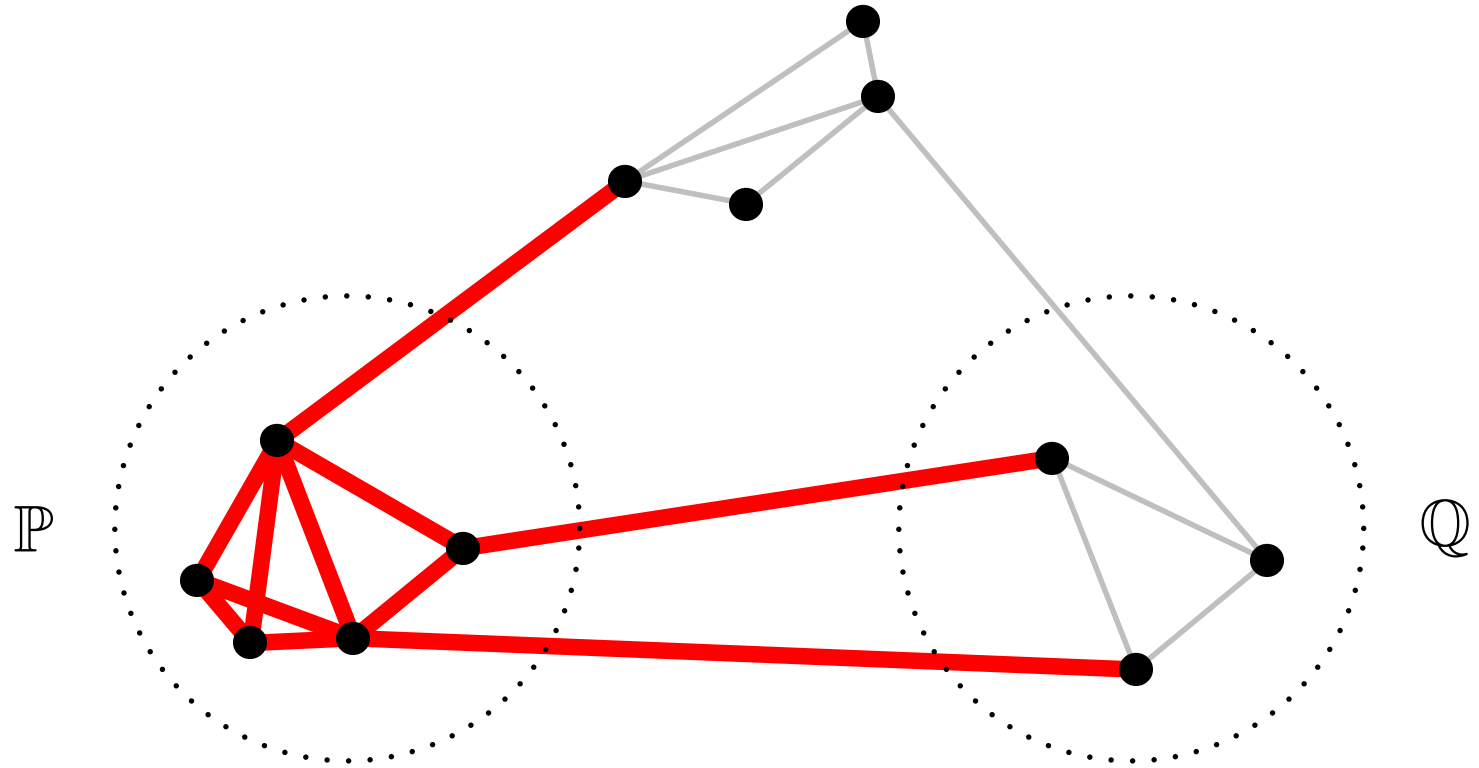


# Links in Graph Cuts



$$\text{links}(\mathbb{P}, \mathbb{Q}) = \sum_{p \in \mathbb{P}, q \in \mathbb{Q}} W(p, q)$$

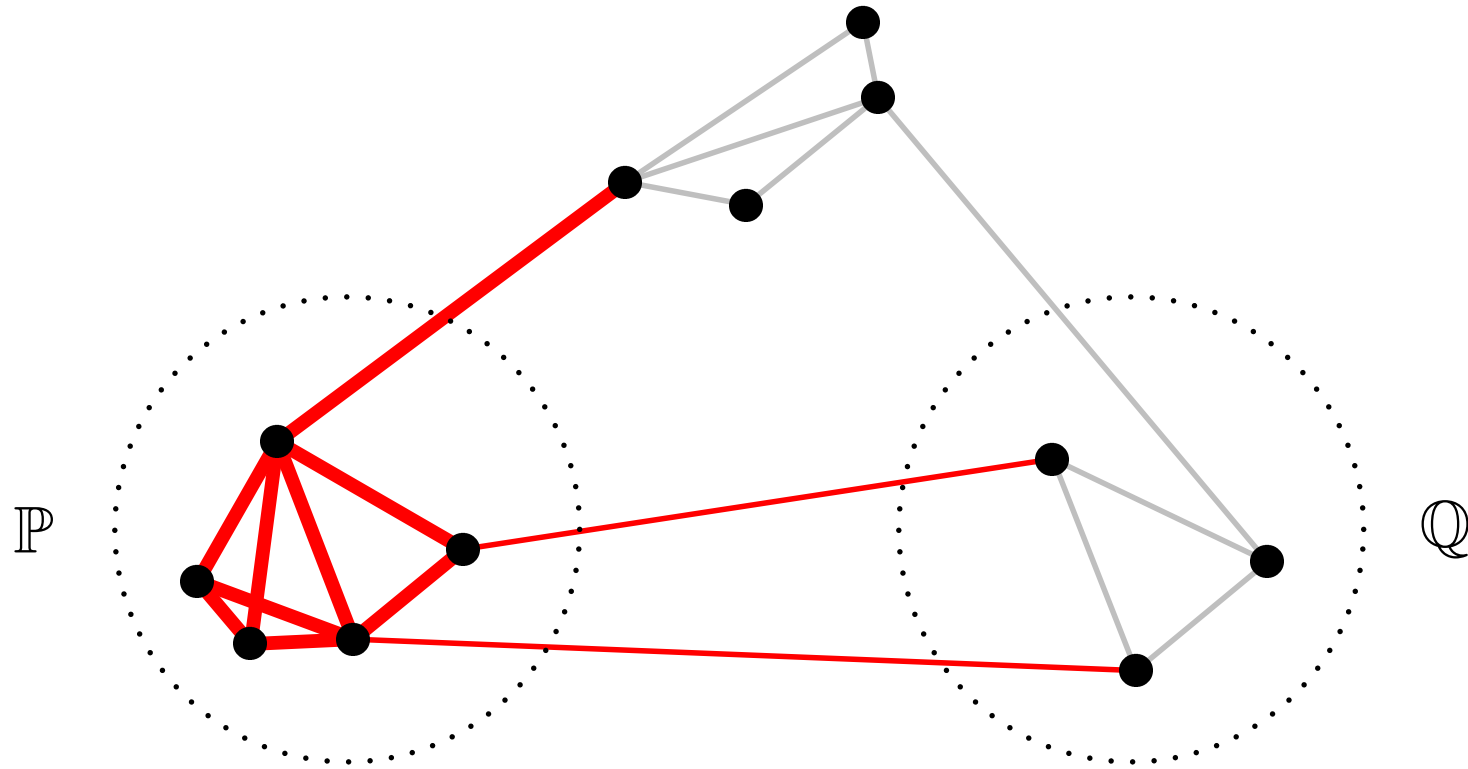
# Degree in Graph Cuts



$$\text{degree}(\mathbb{P}) = \text{links}(\mathbb{P}, \mathbb{V})$$

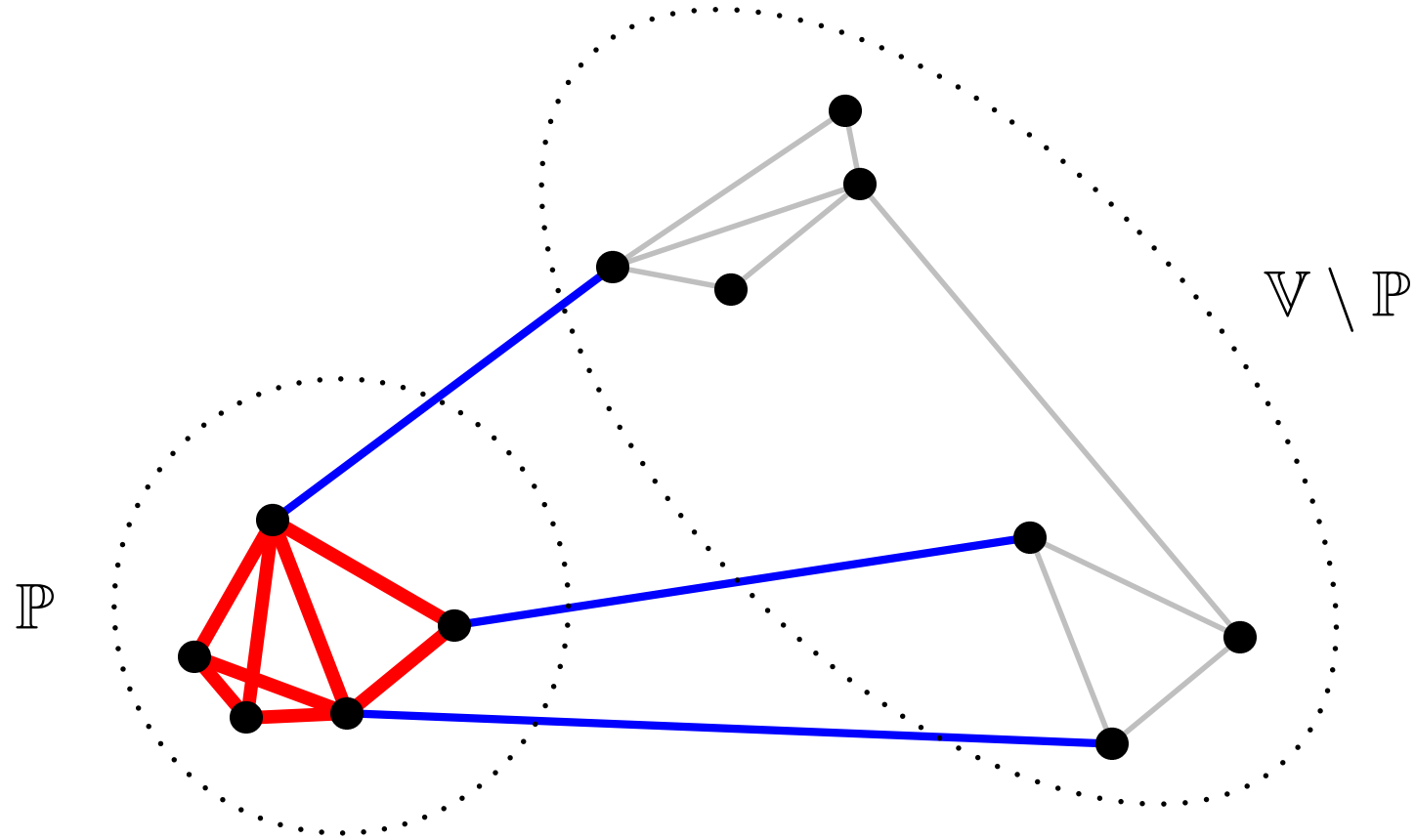


# Linkratio in Graph Cuts



$$\text{linkratio}(\mathbb{P}, \mathbb{Q}) = \frac{\text{links}(\mathbb{P}, \mathbb{Q})}{\text{degree}(\mathbb{P})}$$

# Goodness of Grouping in Graph Cuts

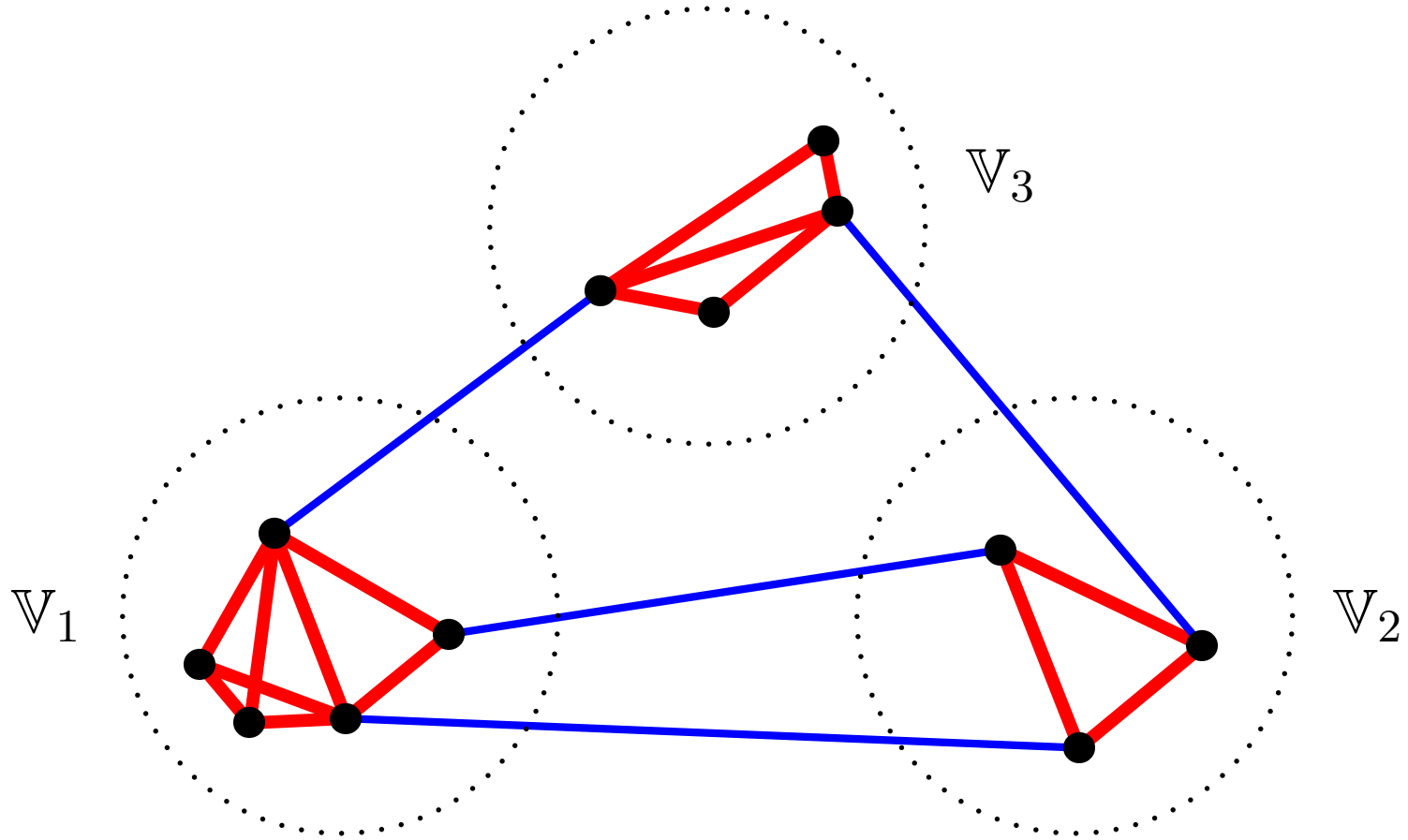


**Maximize** within-group connections:  $\text{linkratio}(\mathbb{P}, \mathbb{P})$

**Minimize** between-group connections:  $\text{linkratio}(\mathbb{P}, \mathbb{V} \setminus \mathbb{P})$

Equivalent:  $\text{linkratio}(\mathbb{P}, \mathbb{P}) + \text{linkratio}(\mathbb{P}, \mathbb{V} \setminus \mathbb{P}) = 1$

# $K$ -Way Normalized Cuts



$$\max \quad \text{knassoc}(\Gamma_{\mathbb{V}}^K) = \frac{1}{K} \sum_{l=1}^K \text{linkratio}(\mathbb{V}_l, \mathbb{V}_l)$$

$$\min \quad \text{kncuts}(\Gamma_{\mathbb{V}}^K) = \frac{1}{K} \sum_{l=1}^K \text{linkratio}(\mathbb{V}_l, \mathbb{V} \setminus \mathbb{V}_l)$$

# A Principled Solution to Normalized Cuts

$$\max \quad \text{knassoc}(\Gamma_{\mathbb{V}}^K) = \frac{1}{K} \sum_{l=1}^K \text{linkratio}(\mathbb{V}_l, \mathbb{V}_l)$$

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NP complete even for  $K = 2$  and planar graphs

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Fast solution to find near-global optima:

# A Principled Solution to Normalized Cuts

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Fast solution to find near-global optima:

1. Find global optima in the relaxed continuous domain  
optima = eigenvectors of  $(W, D) \times$  rotations

# A Principled Solution to Normalized Cuts

$$\max \quad \text{knassoc}(\Gamma_{\mathbb{V}}^K) = \frac{1}{K} \sum_{l=1}^K \text{linkratio}(\mathbb{V}_l, \mathbb{V}_l)$$

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Fast solution to find near-global optima:

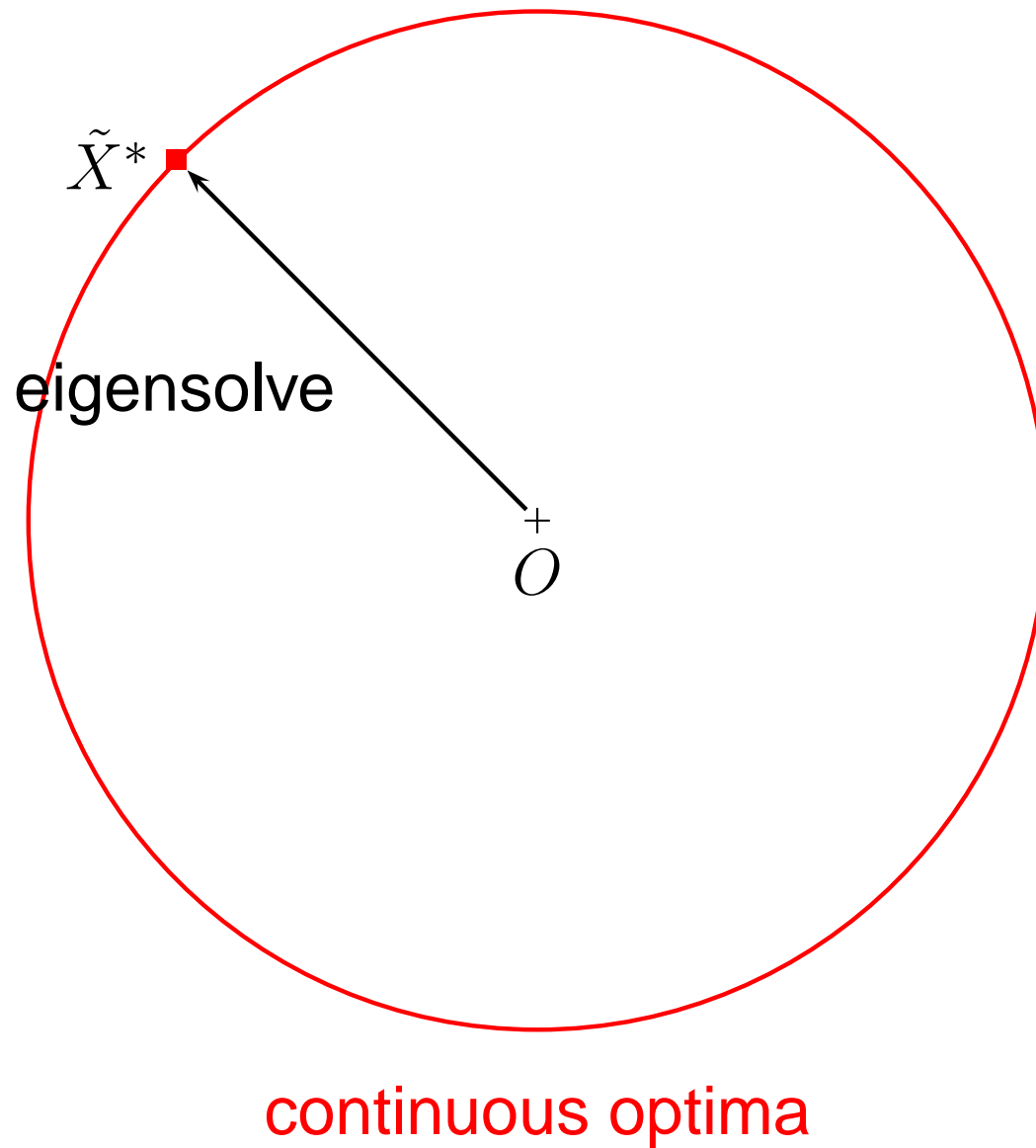
1. Find global optima in the relaxed continuous domain  
optima = eigenvectors of  $(W, D) \times$  rotations
2. Find a discrete solution closest to continuous optima  
closeness = measured in  $L_2$  norm between solutions



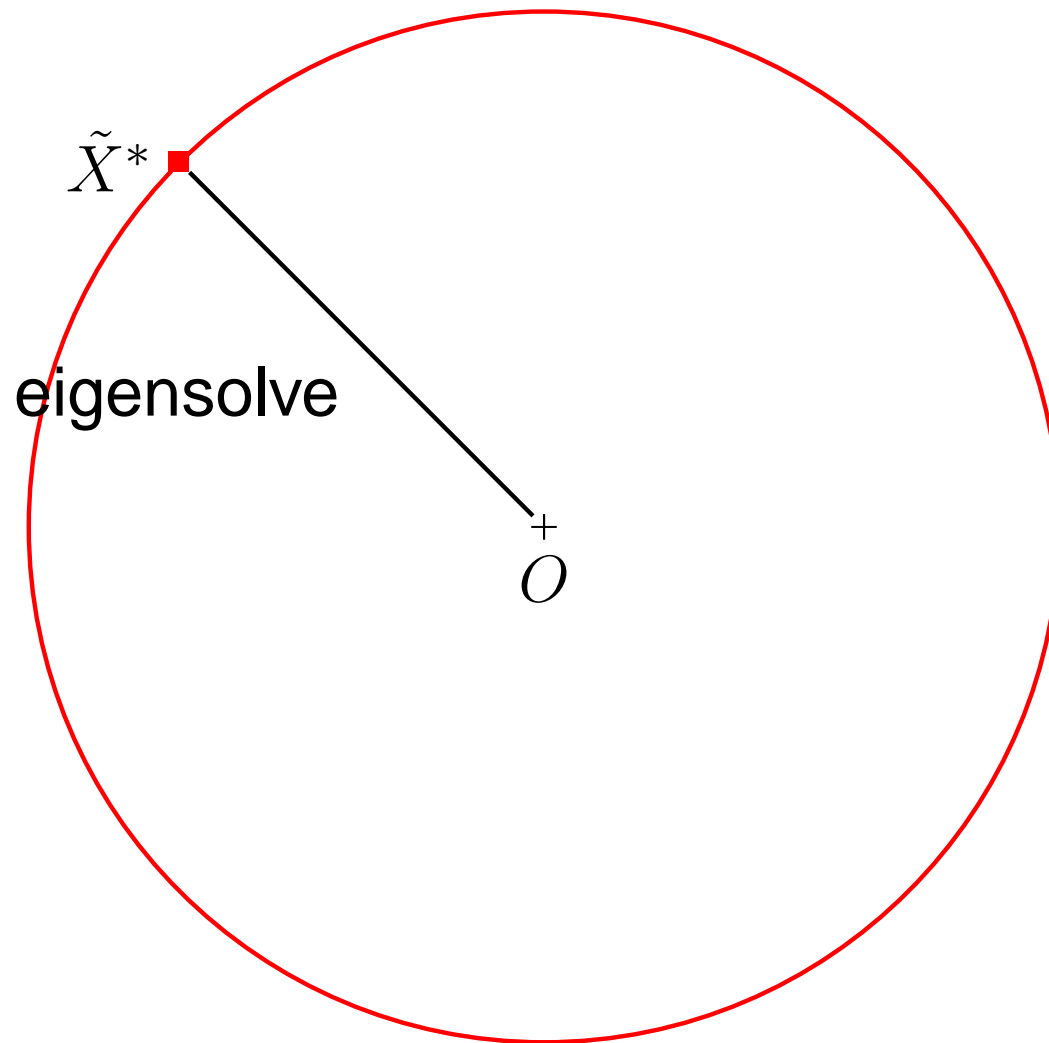
# Step 1: Find Continuous Global Optima

$+$   
 $O$

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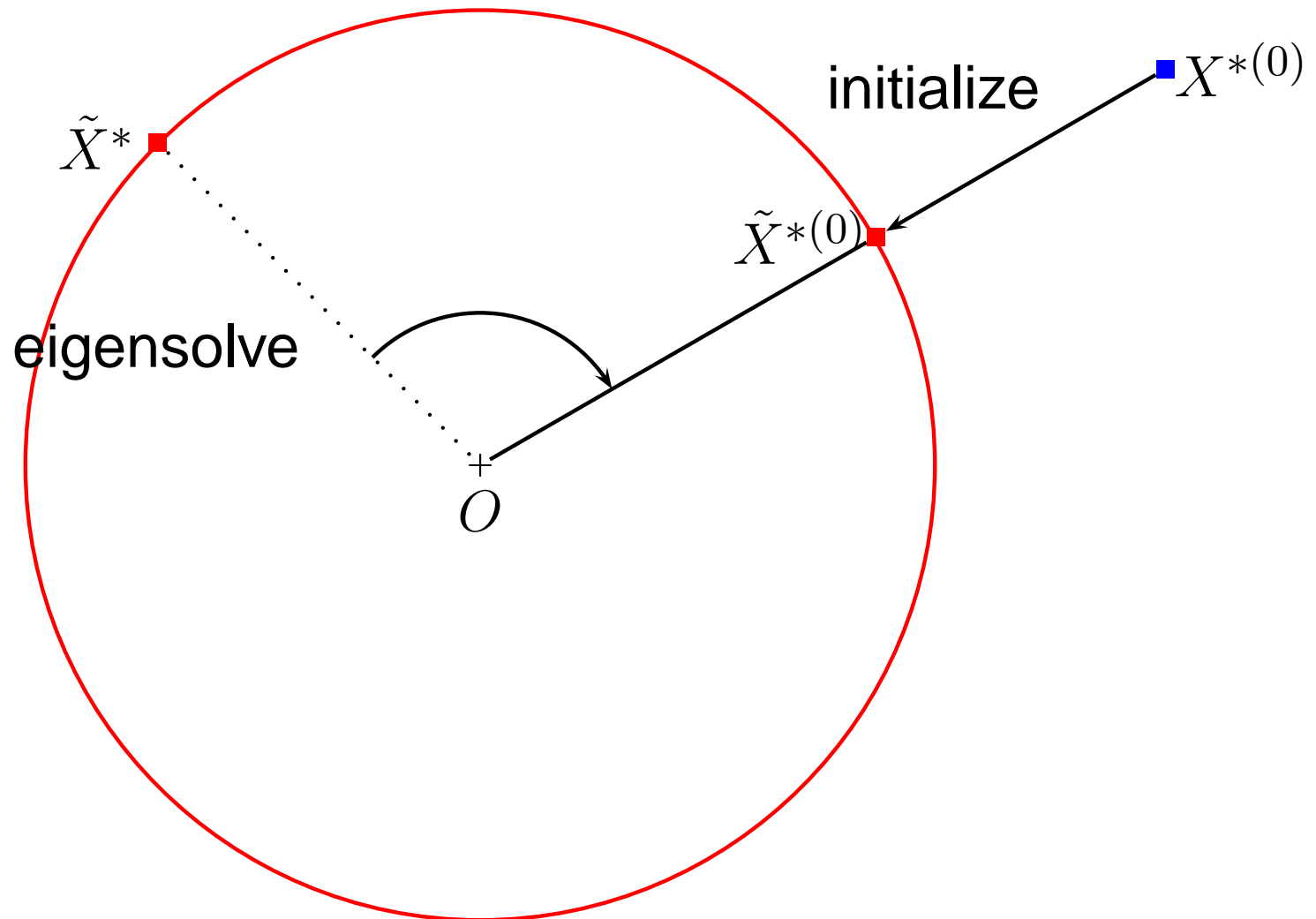


# Step 2: Discretize Continuous Optima

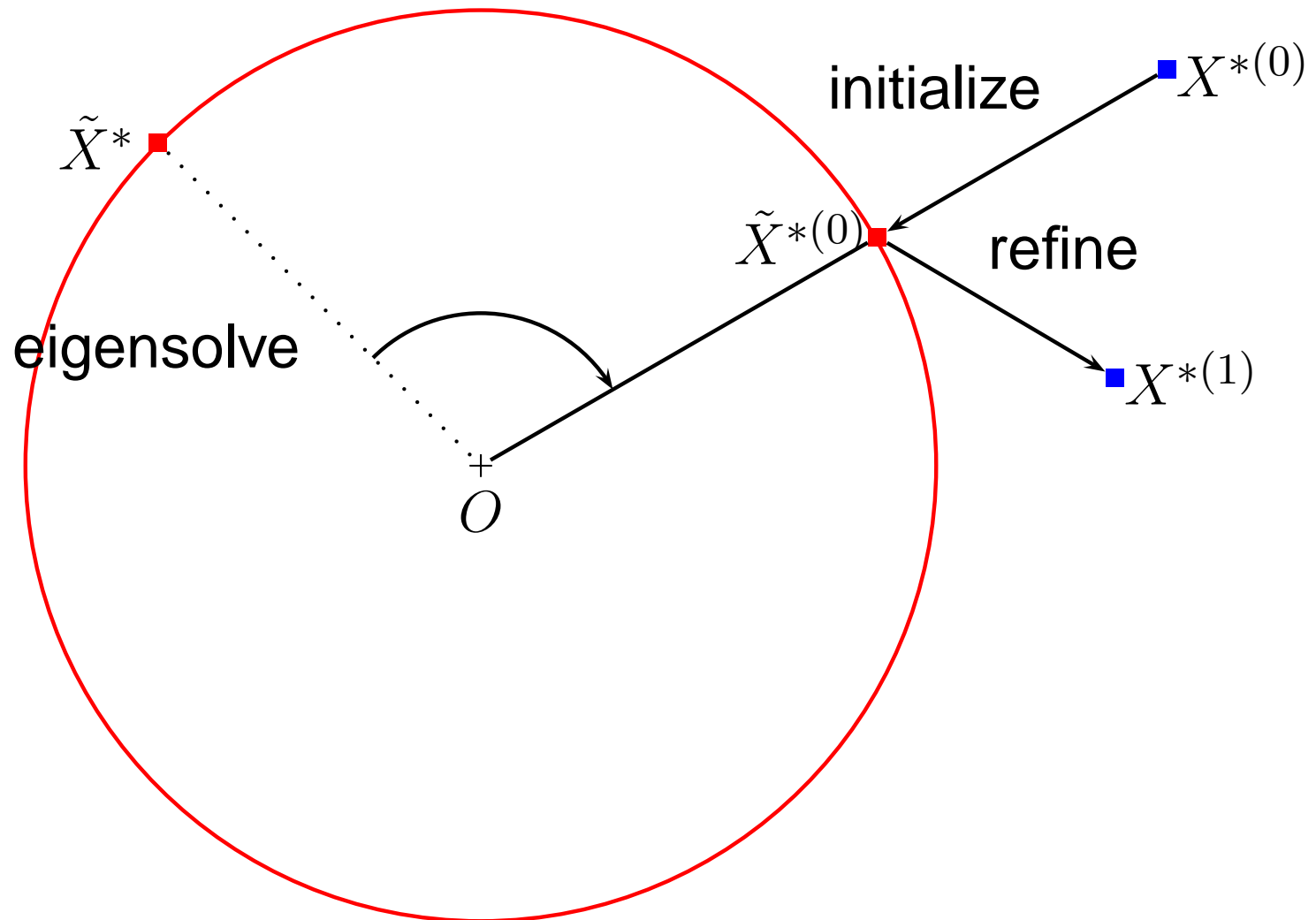


■  $X^{*(0)}$

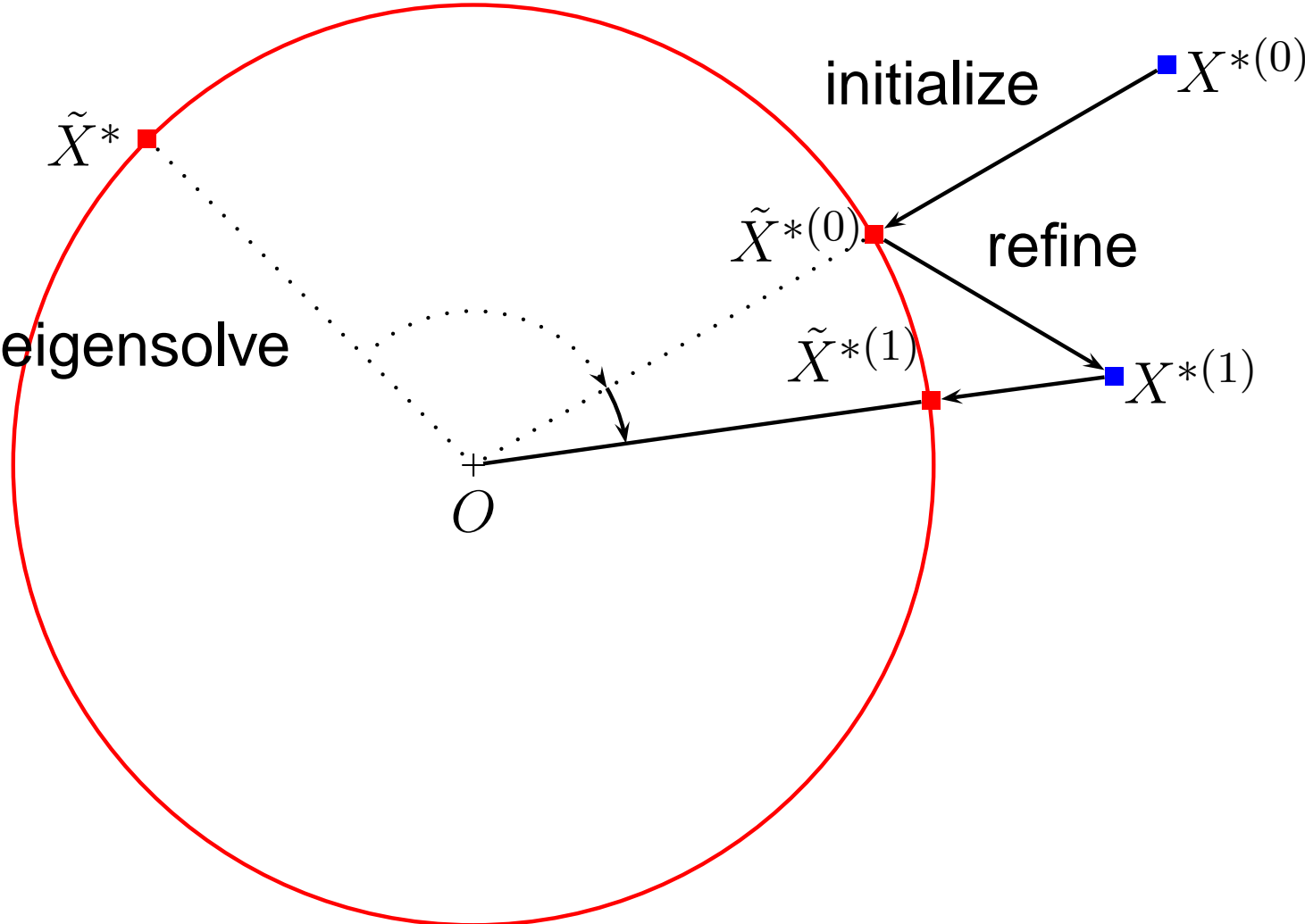
# Step 2: Discretize Continuous Optima



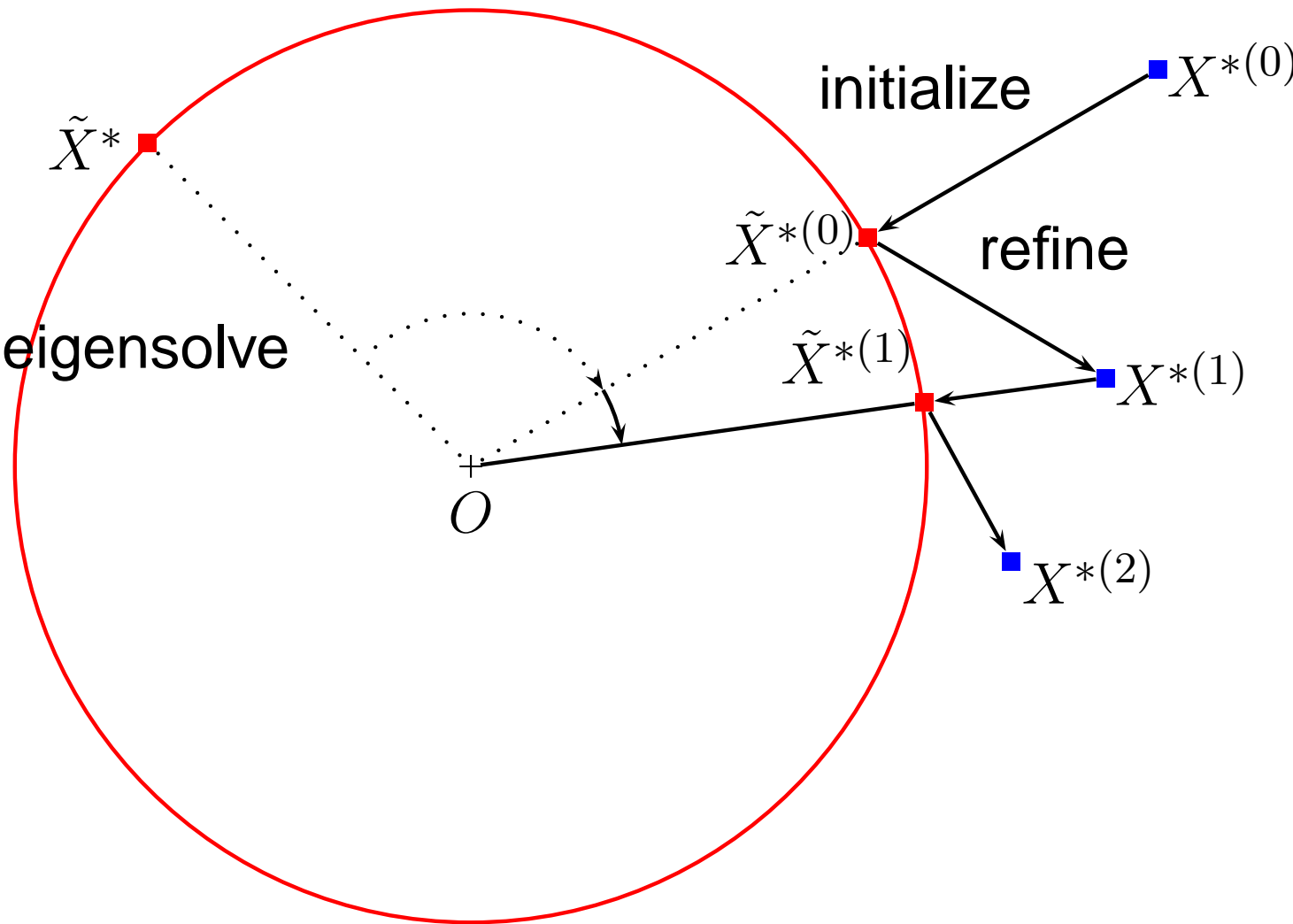
# Step 2: Discretize Continuous Optima



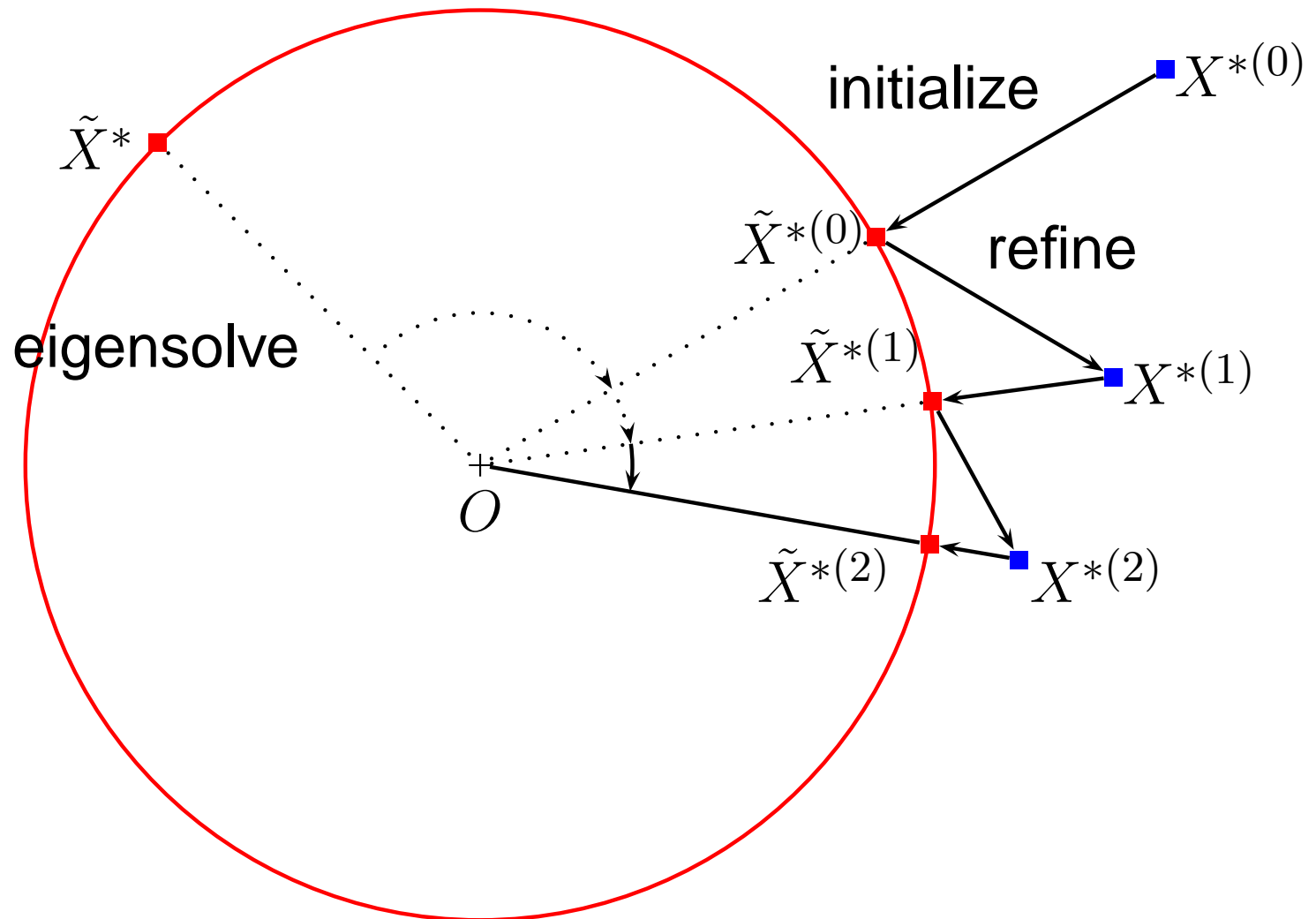
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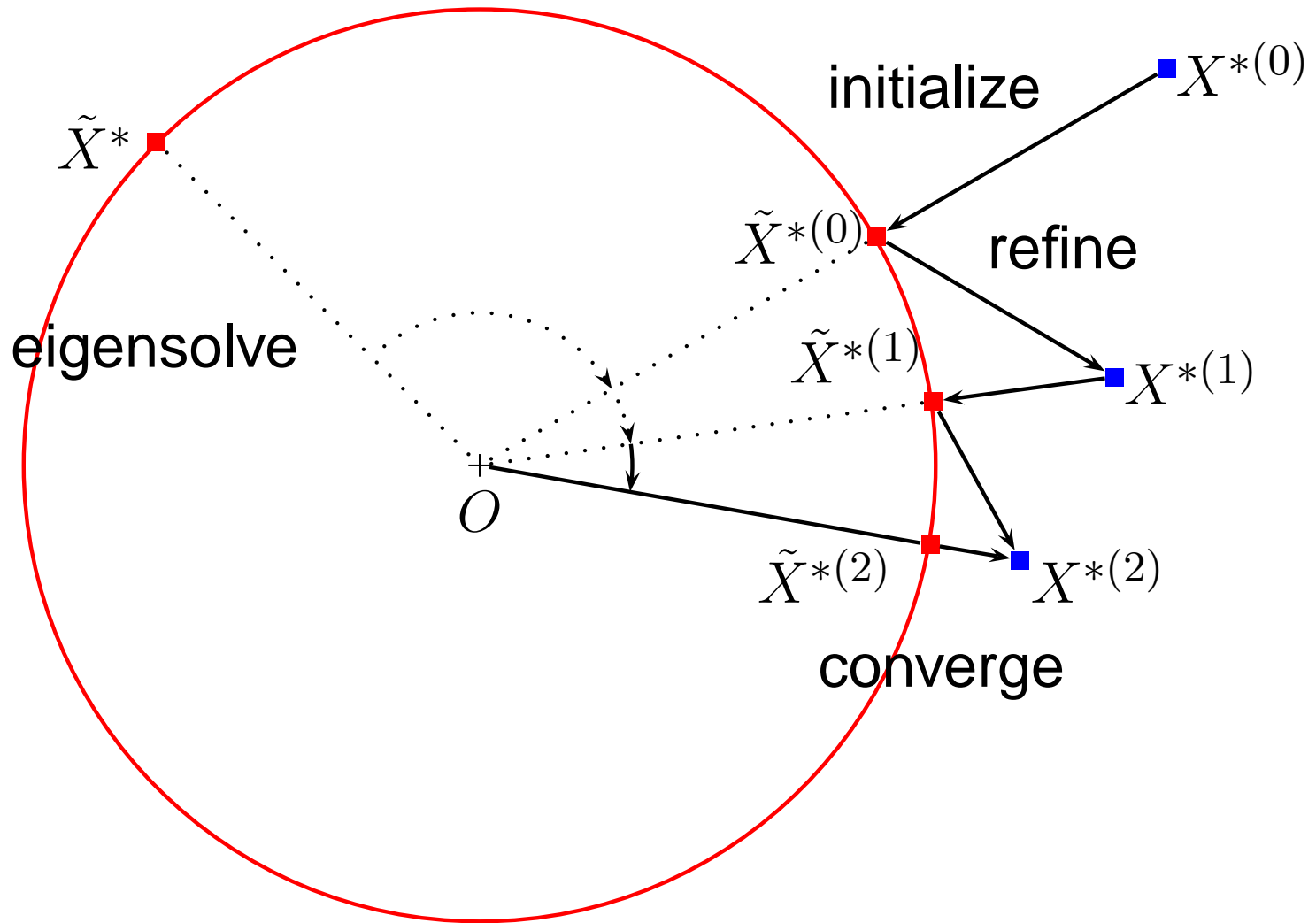


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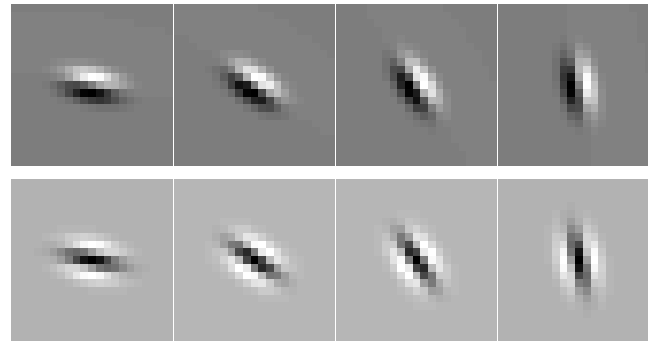


Final solution:  $(X^{*(2)}, \tilde{X}^{*(2)})$

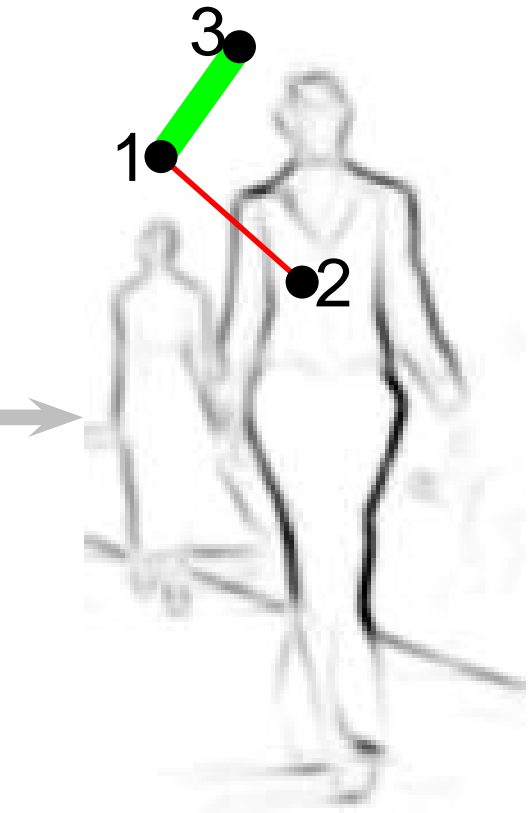
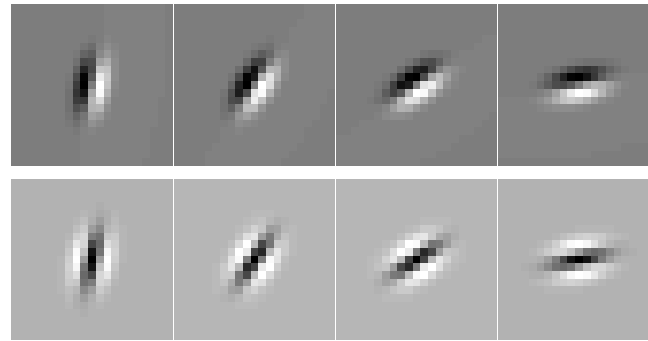
# Pixel Similarity based on Intensity Edges



image



oriented filter pairs



edge magnitudes

# Discrete Optima Generated by Eigenvectors



# Discrete Optima Generated by Eigenvectors

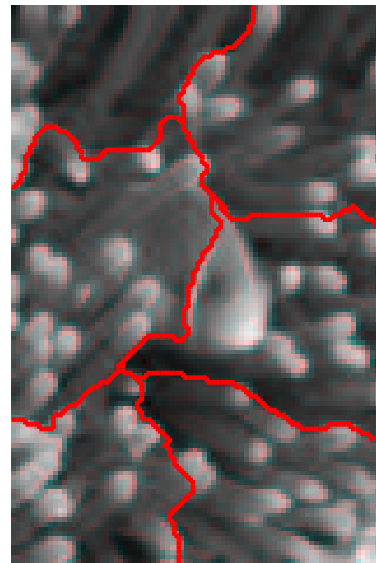
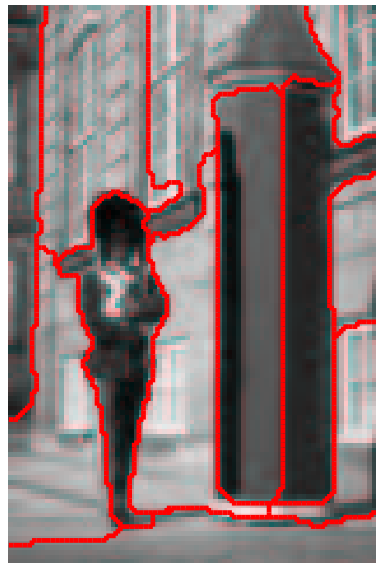
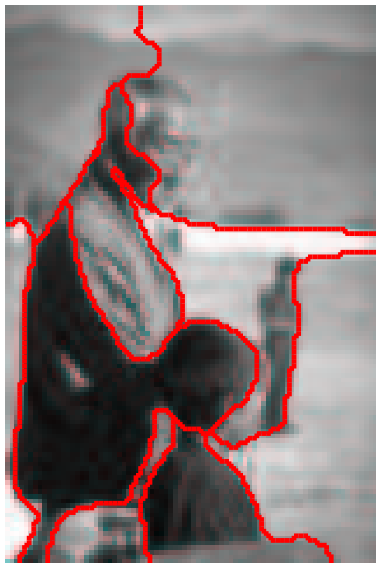
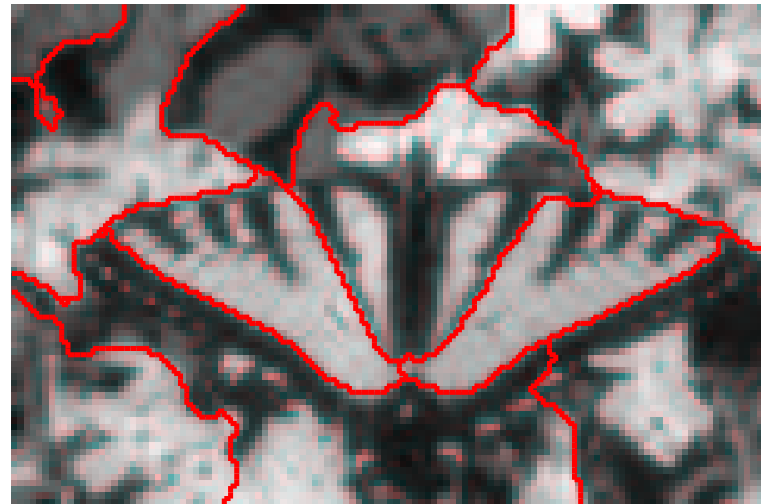
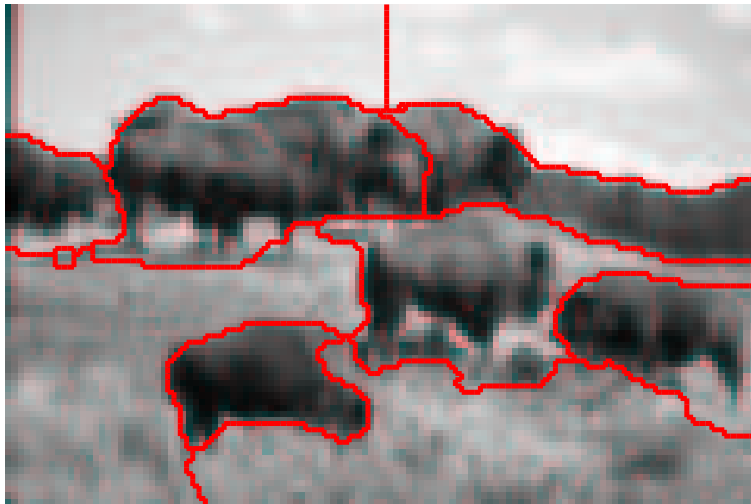


$K = 4$  :    0.9901        0.9899        0.9881



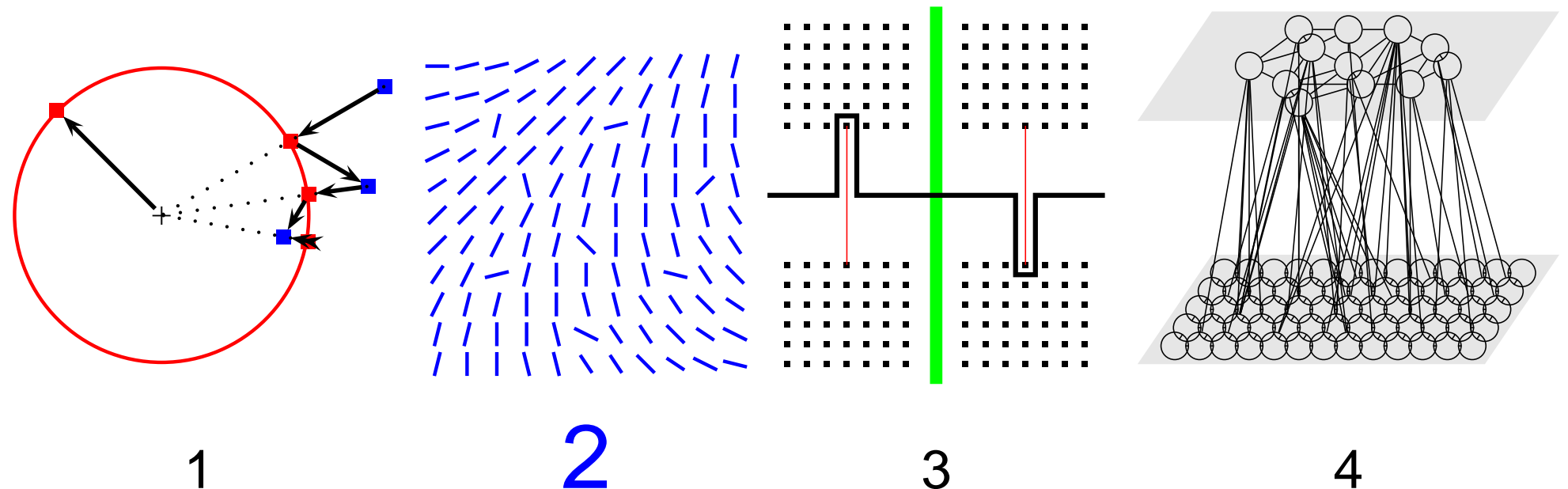
Not many local discrete optima, all good quality

# Multiclass Real Image Segmentation

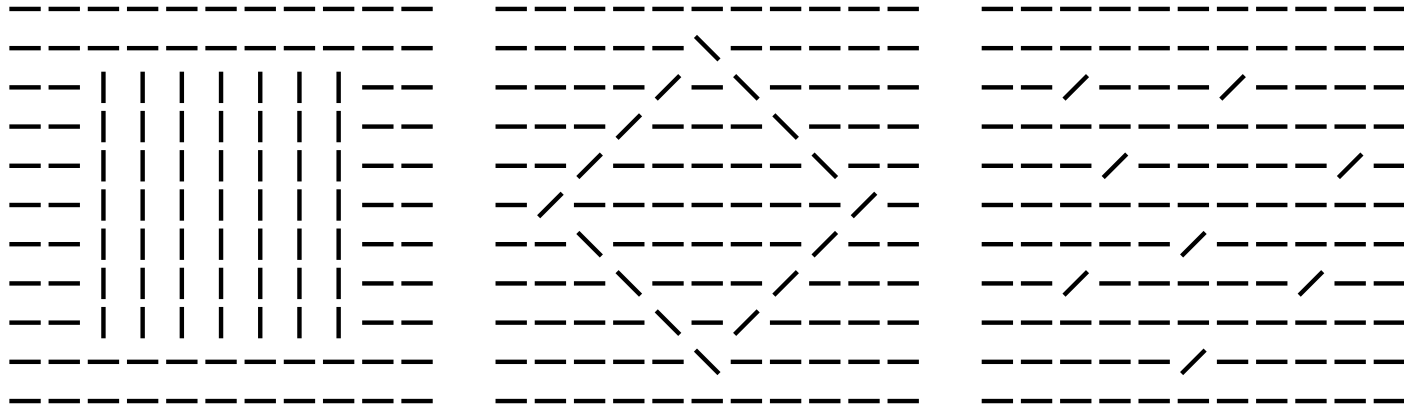


# Outline

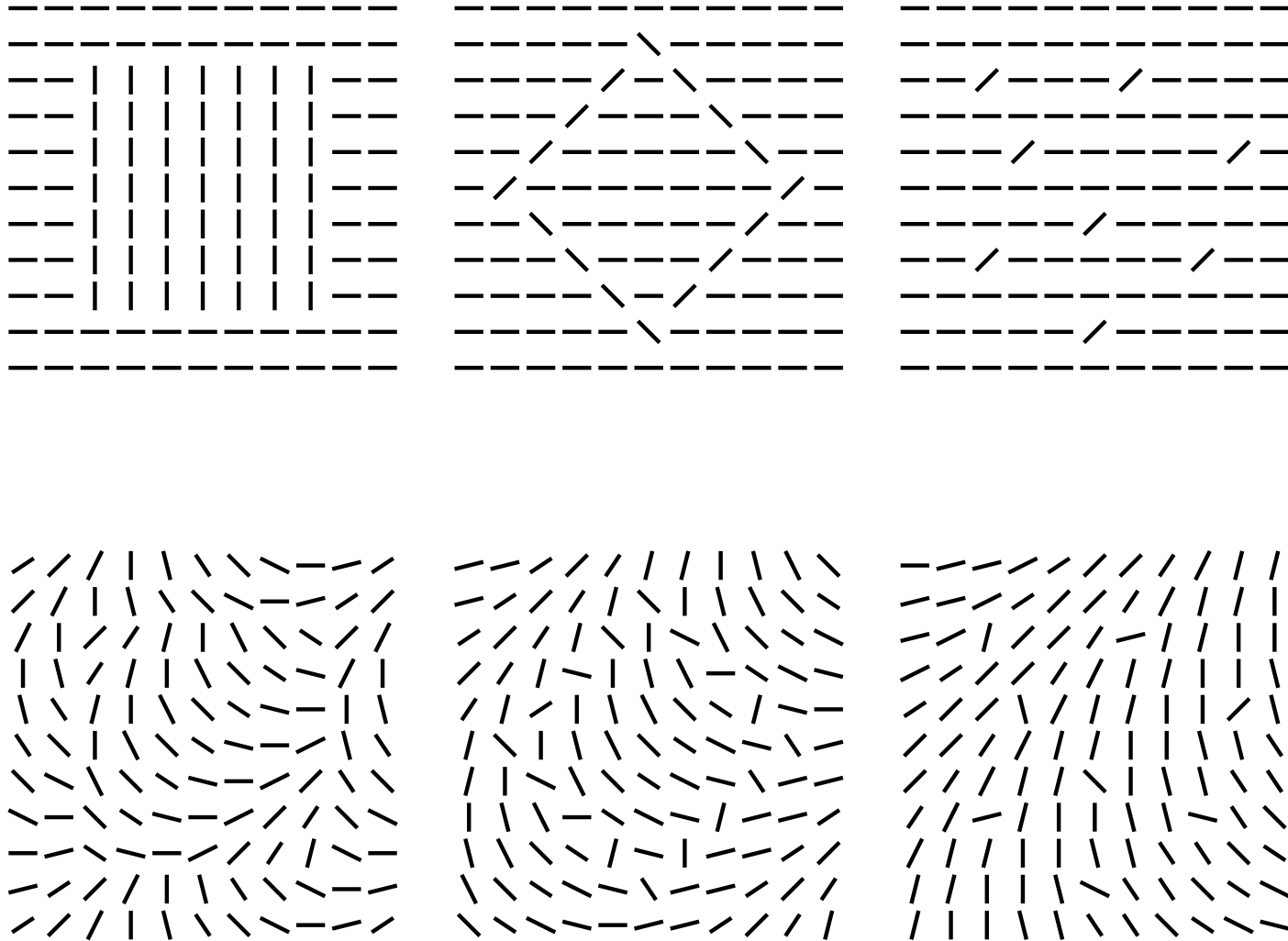
1. Computational framework: spectral clustering
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# Perceptual Popout

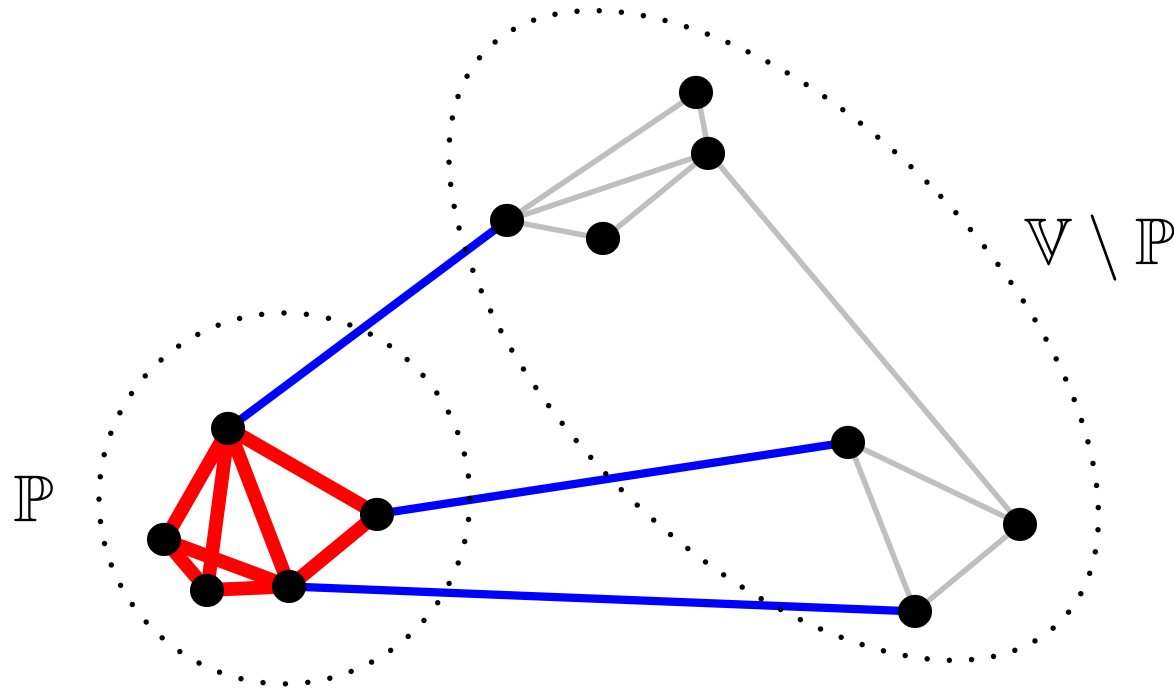


# Perceptual Popout





# Goodness of Grouping: Attraction and Repulsion

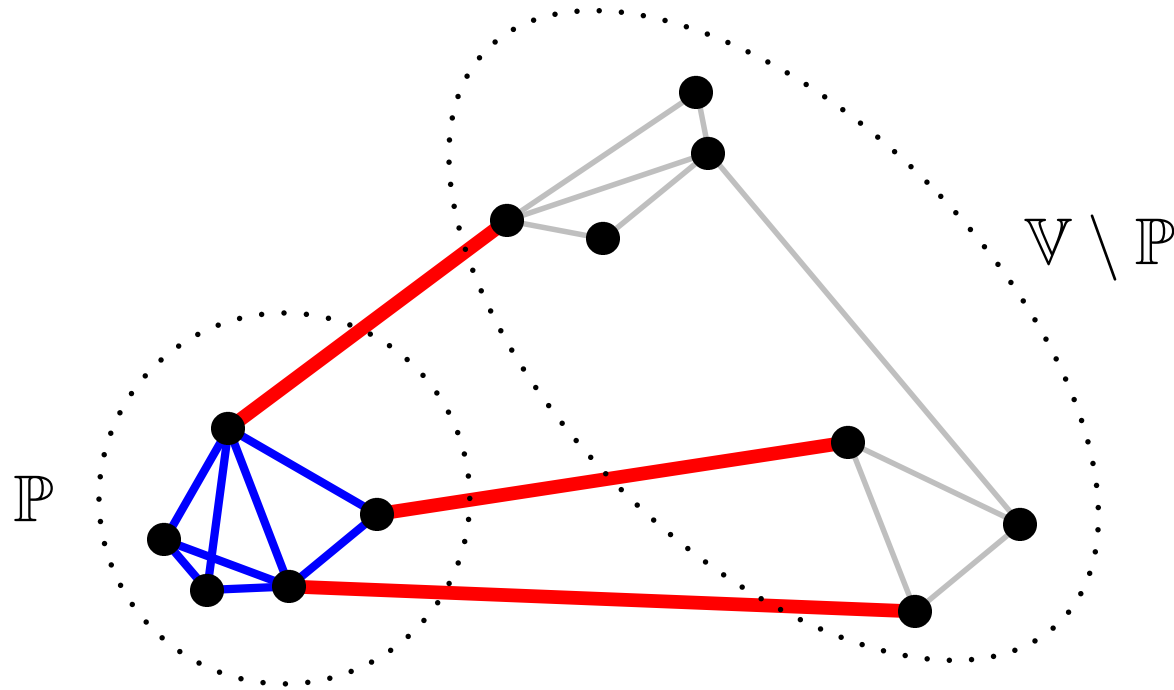


**Maximize** within-group attraction:  $\text{linkratio}(\mathbb{P}, \mathbb{P}; A)$

**Minimize** between-group attraction:  $\text{linkratio}(\mathbb{P}, \mathbb{V} \setminus \mathbb{P}; A)$

**Equivalent:**  $\text{linkratio}(\mathbb{P}, \mathbb{P}; A) + \text{linkratio}(\mathbb{P}, \mathbb{V} \setminus \mathbb{P}; A) = 1$

# Goodness of Grouping: Attraction and Repulsion



**Maximize** between-group repulsion:  $\text{linkratio}(\mathbb{P}, \mathbb{V} \setminus \mathbb{P}; R)$

**Minimize** within-group repulsion:  $\text{linkratio}(\mathbb{P}, \mathbb{P}; R)$

**Equivalent:**  $\text{linkratio}(\mathbb{P}, \mathbb{P}; R) + \text{linkratio}(\mathbb{P}, \mathbb{V} \setminus \mathbb{P}; R) = 1$

# Normalized Cuts with Attraction and Repulsion

- Criteria

$$\text{knassoc}(\Gamma_{\mathbb{V}}^K) = \frac{1}{K} \sum_{l=1}^K \frac{\text{links}(\mathbb{V}_l, \mathbb{V}_l; A) + \text{links}(\mathbb{V}_l, \mathbb{V} \setminus \mathbb{V}_l; R)}{\text{degree}(\mathbb{V}_l; A) + \text{degree}(\mathbb{V}_l; R)}$$

$$\text{kncuts}(\Gamma_{\mathbb{V}}^K) = \frac{1}{K} \sum_{l=1}^K \frac{\text{links}(\mathbb{V}_l, \mathbb{V} \setminus \mathbb{V}_l; A) + \text{links}(\mathbb{V}_l, \mathbb{V}_l; R)}{\text{degree}(\mathbb{V}_l; A) + \text{degree}(\mathbb{V}_l; R)}$$

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- Equivalent weight matrix and degree matrix

$$\hat{W} = A - R + D_R$$

$$\hat{D} = D_A + D_R$$

# Negative Weights and Regularization

- Negative weights:

$$W = A - R$$

$$= (\text{positive entries} + \text{offset}) - (\text{negative entries} + \text{offset})$$

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- Negative weights:

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$$= (\text{positive entries} + \text{offset}) - (\text{negative entries} + \text{offset})$$

- Equivalent matrices:  $(\hat{W} + D_{\text{offset}}, \hat{D} + 2D_{\text{offset}})$
- Regularization: increase the degrees of nodes without changing the sizes of weights between two nodes.

# Negative Weights and Regularization

- Negative weights:

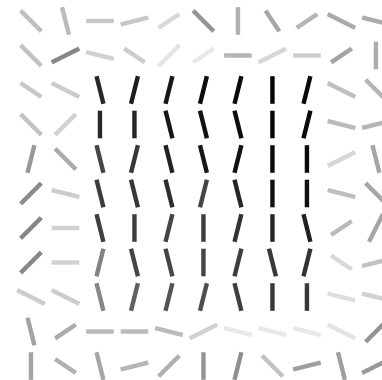
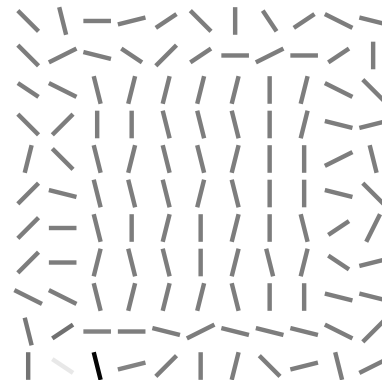
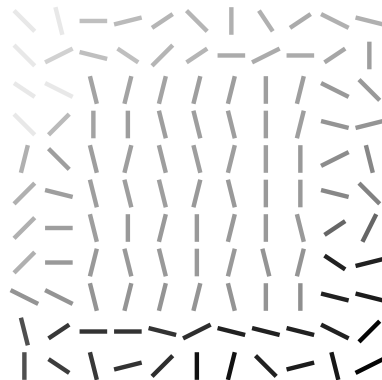
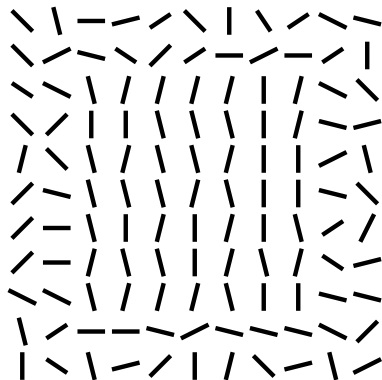
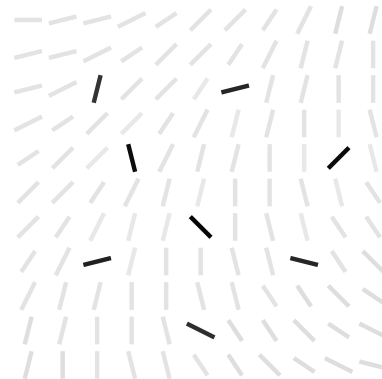
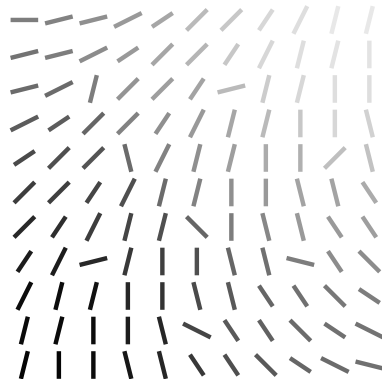
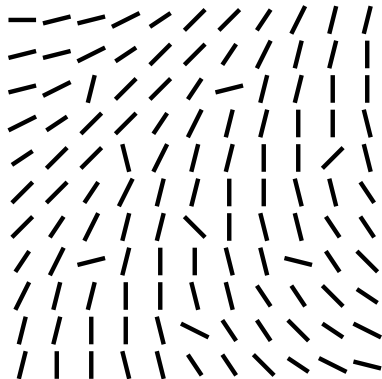
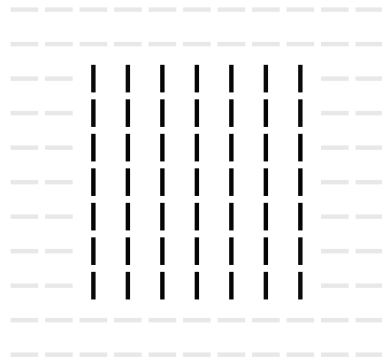
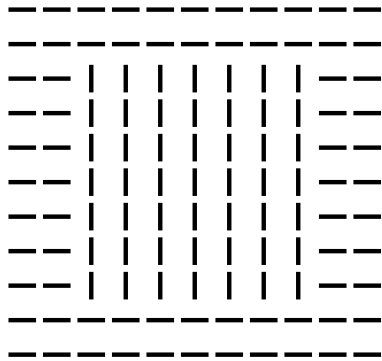
$$W = A - R$$

$$= (\text{positive entries} + \text{offset}) - (\text{negative entries} + \text{offset})$$

- Equivalent matrices:  $(\hat{W} + D_{\text{offset}}, \hat{D} + 2D_{\text{offset}})$
- Regularization: increase the degrees of nodes without changing the sizes of weights between two nodes.
- Decrease the sensitivity of linkratio for nodes with little connections.



# Roles of Attraction, Repulsion, Regularization



attraction

+ repulsion

+ regularization

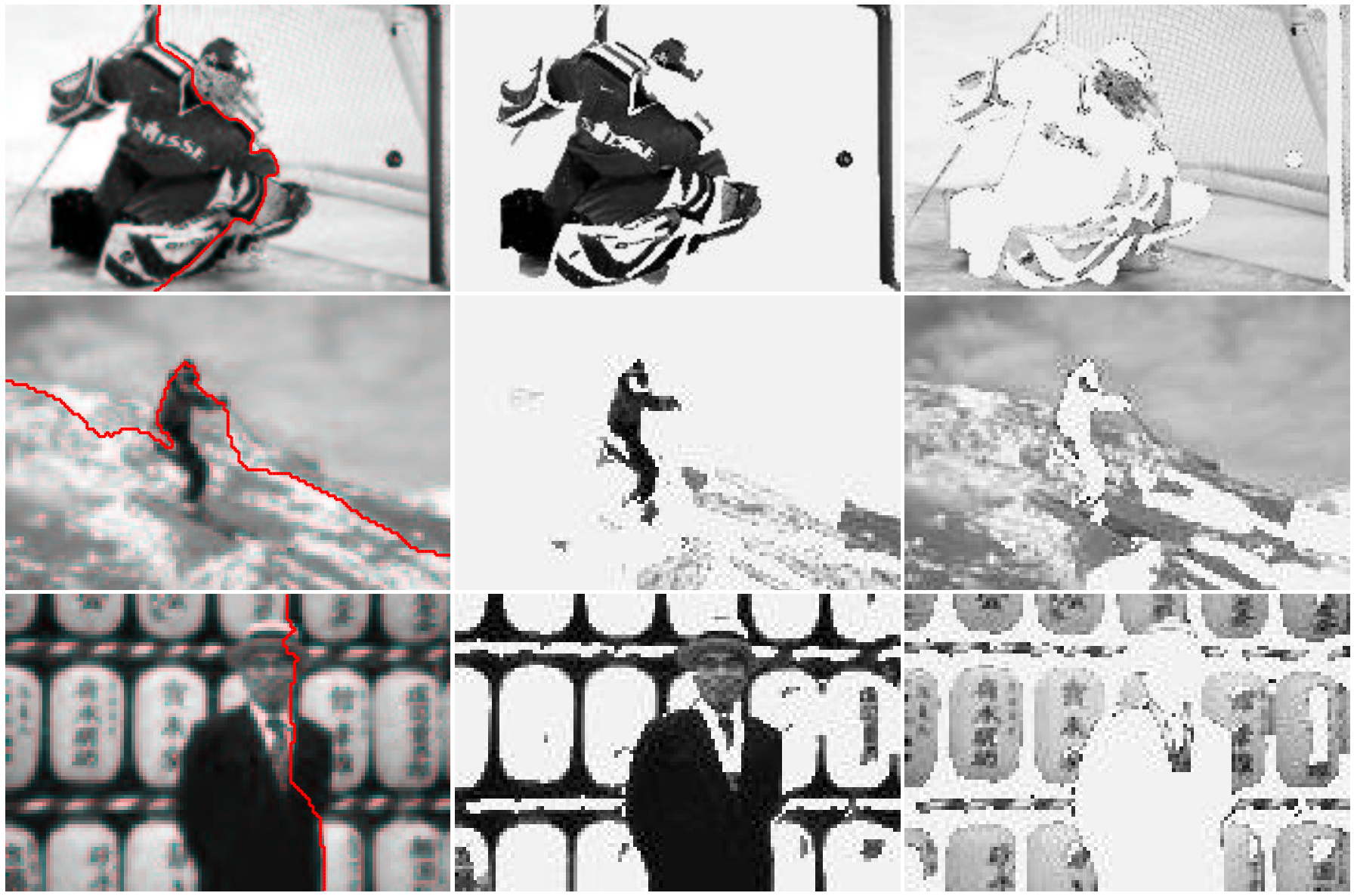
# Segmentation with Repulsion and Regularization



attraction

attraction, repulsion and regularization

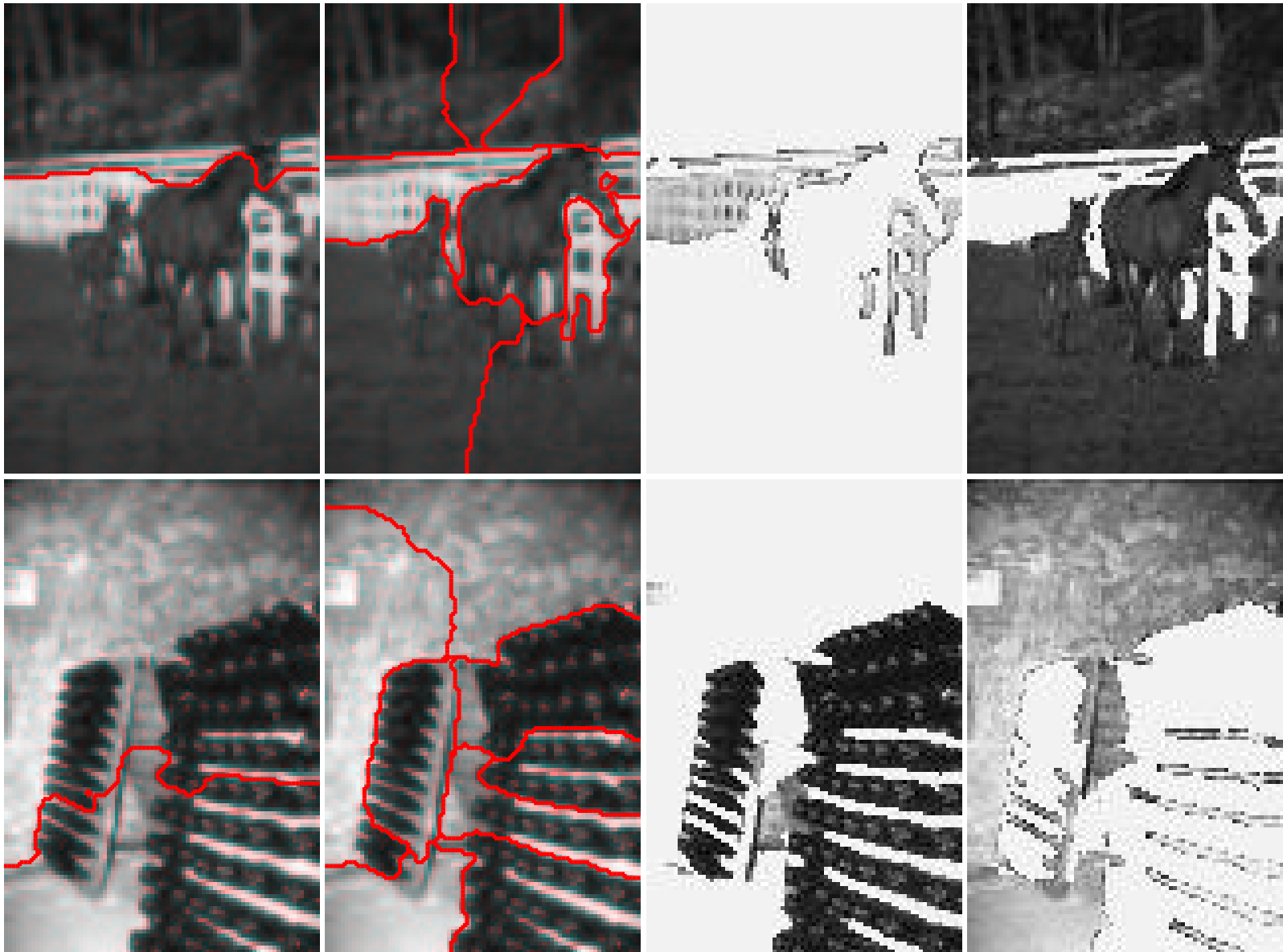
# Segmentation with Repulsion and Regularization



attraction

attraction, repulsion and regularization

# Segmentation with Repulsion and Regularization

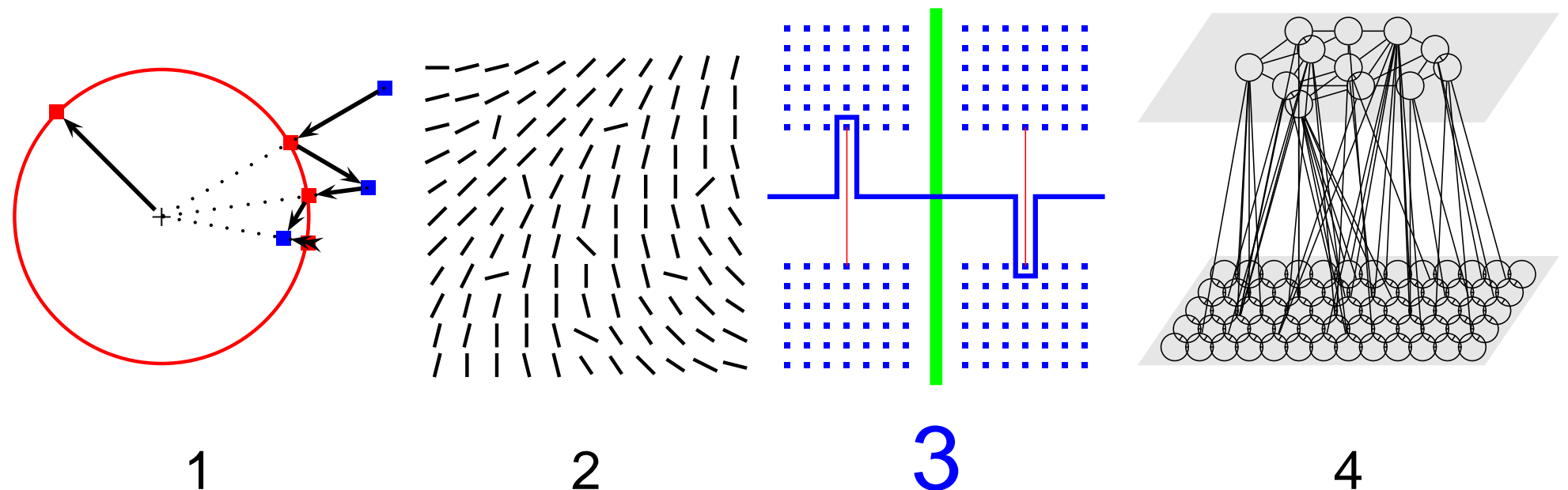


attraction

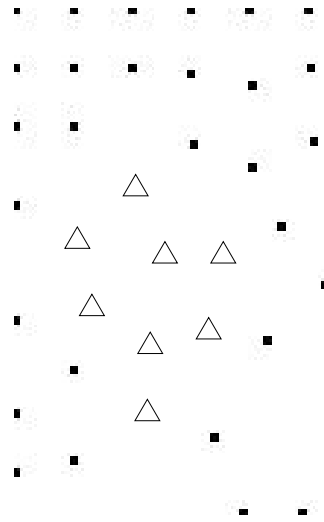
attraction, repulsion and regularization

# Outline

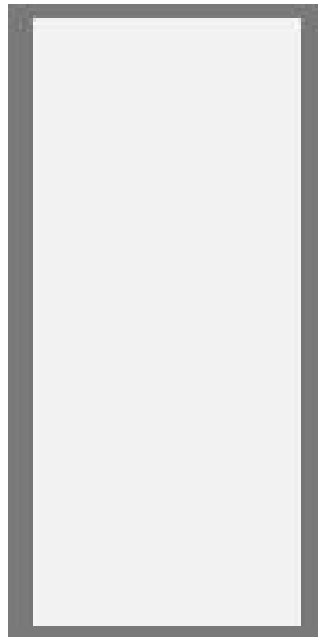
1. Computational framework: spectral clustering
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5. Summary and future work



# Grouping with Partial Cues



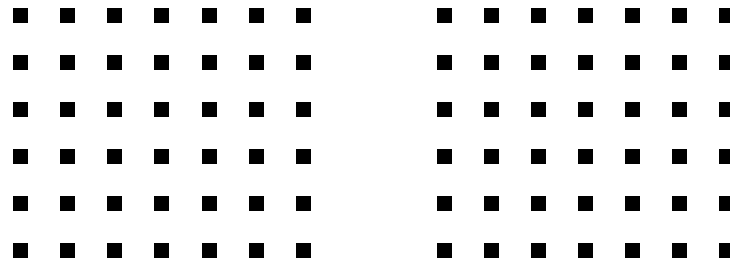
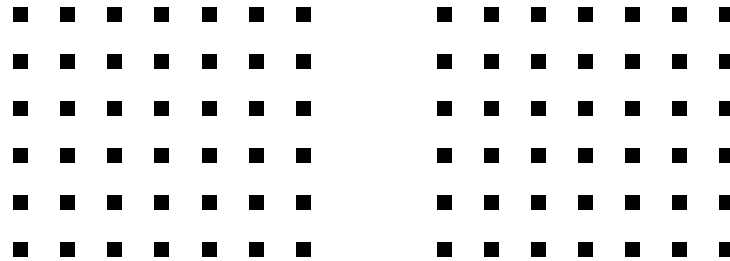
+



⇒

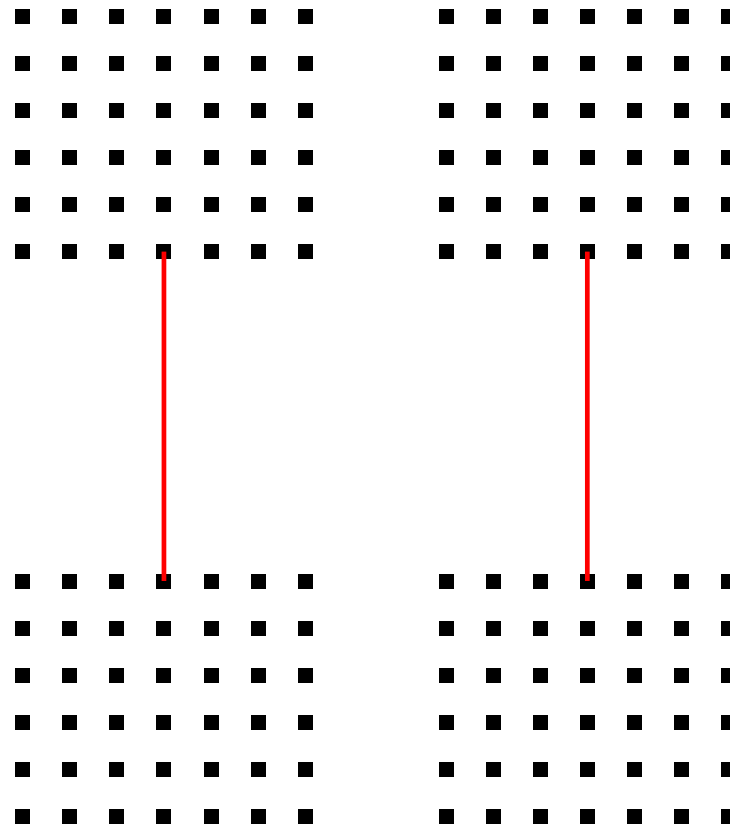


# Basic Formulation: Grouping with Constraints



$$\text{maximize } \varepsilon(\Gamma_{\mathbb{V}}^K)$$

# Basic Formulation: Grouping with Constraints



maximize  $\varepsilon(\Gamma_{\mathbb{V}}^K)$

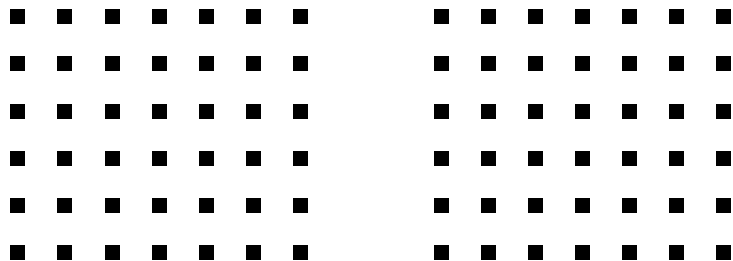
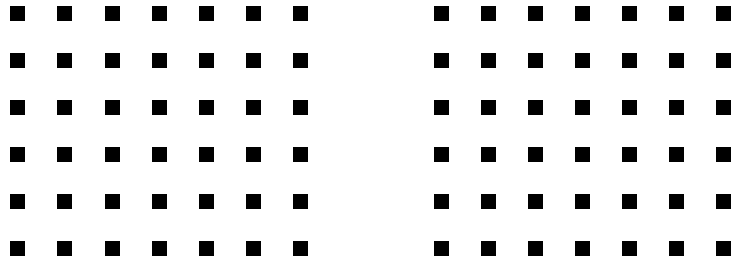
subject to  $X(i, l) = X(j, l)$



# Computing Constrained Normalized Cuts

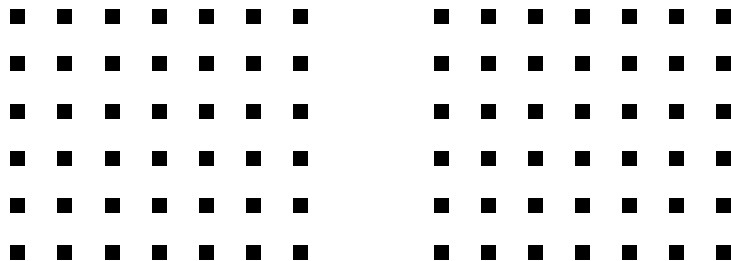
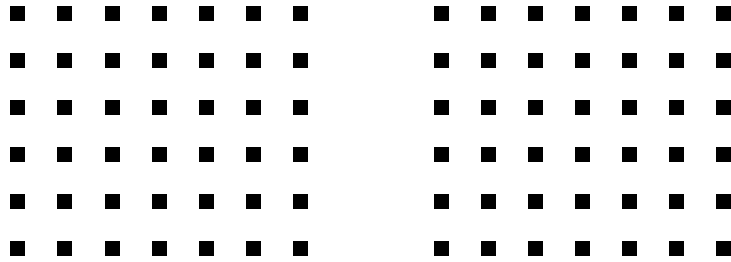
- Constrained eigenvalue problem
- Efficient solution using a projector onto the feasible space
- Generalize Rayleigh-Ritz theorem to projected matrices

# Why Simple Constraints Are Insufficient



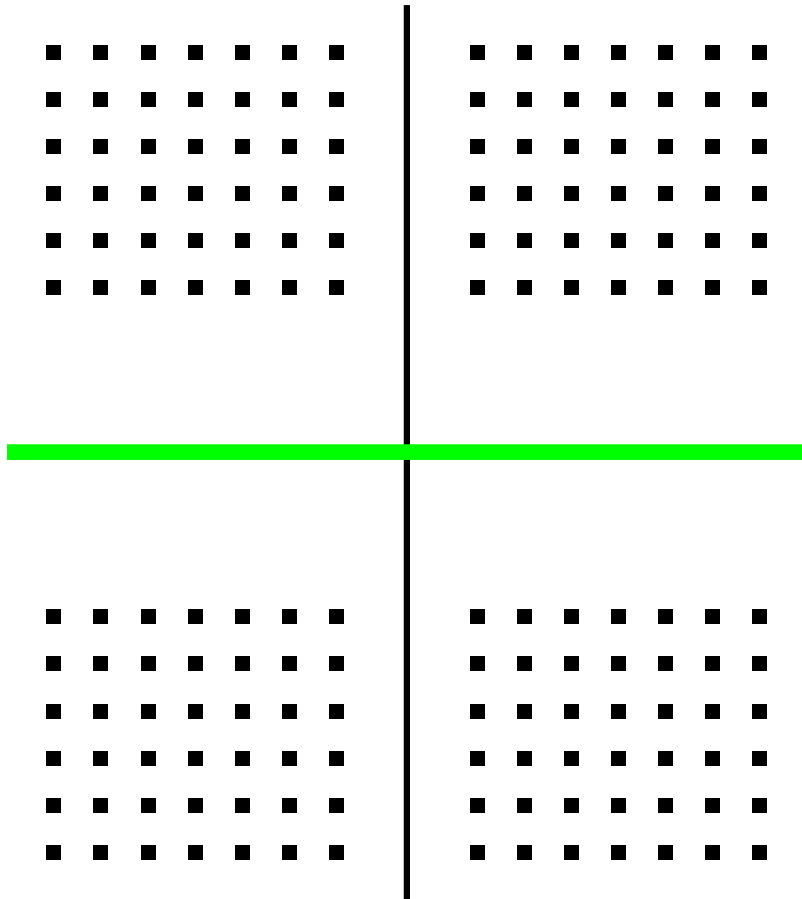
natural grouping

# Why Simple Constraints Are Insufficient



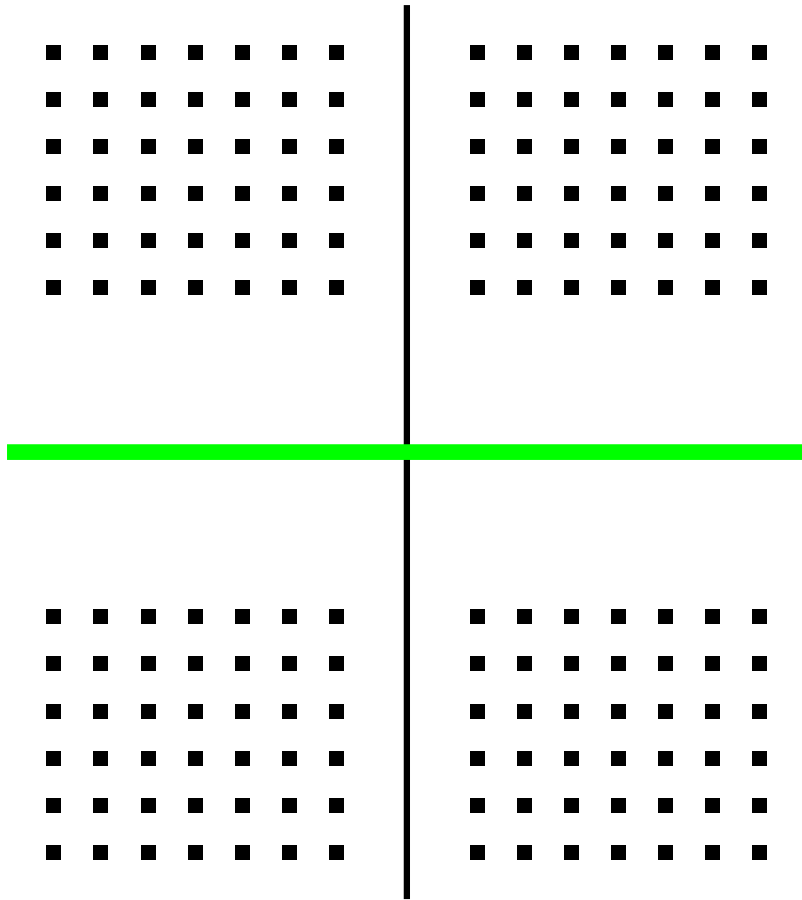
natural grouping

# Why Simple Constraints Are Insufficient

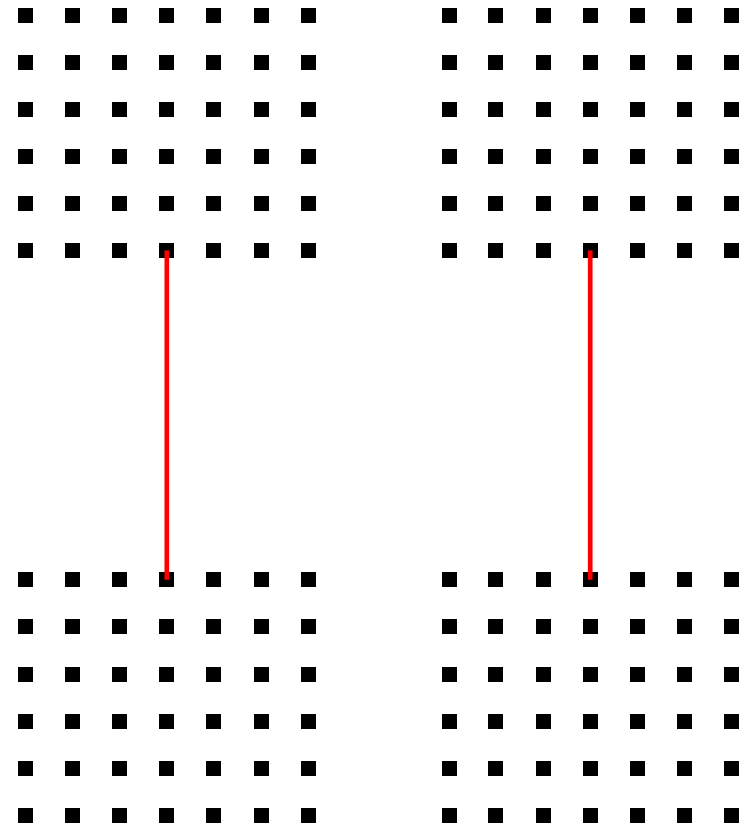


natural grouping

# Why Simple Constraints Are Insufficient

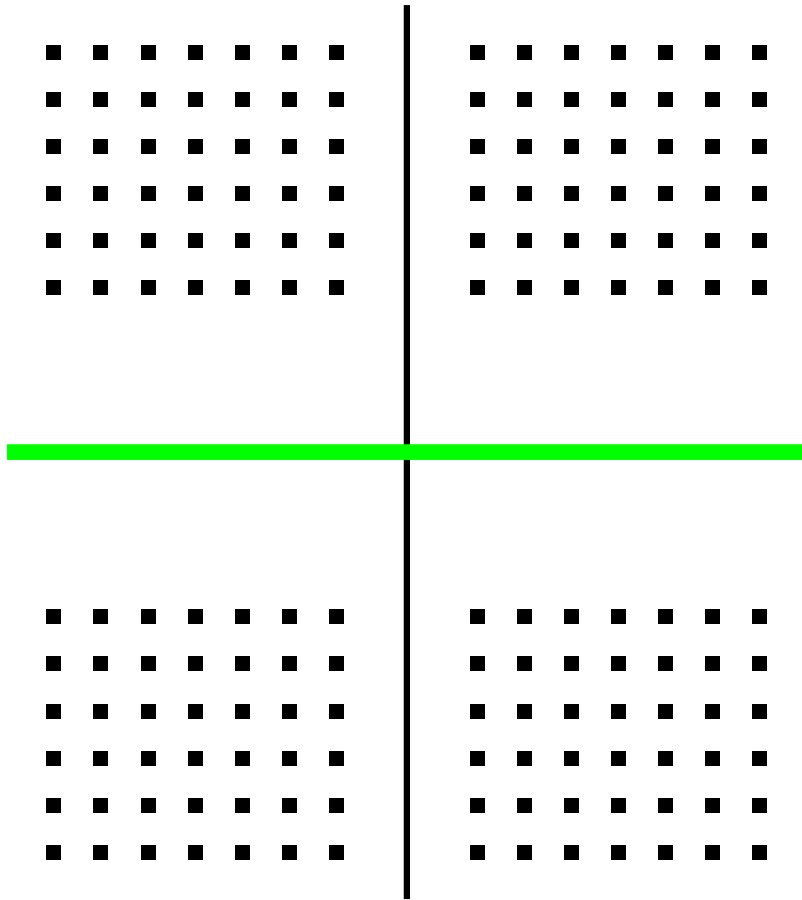


natural grouping

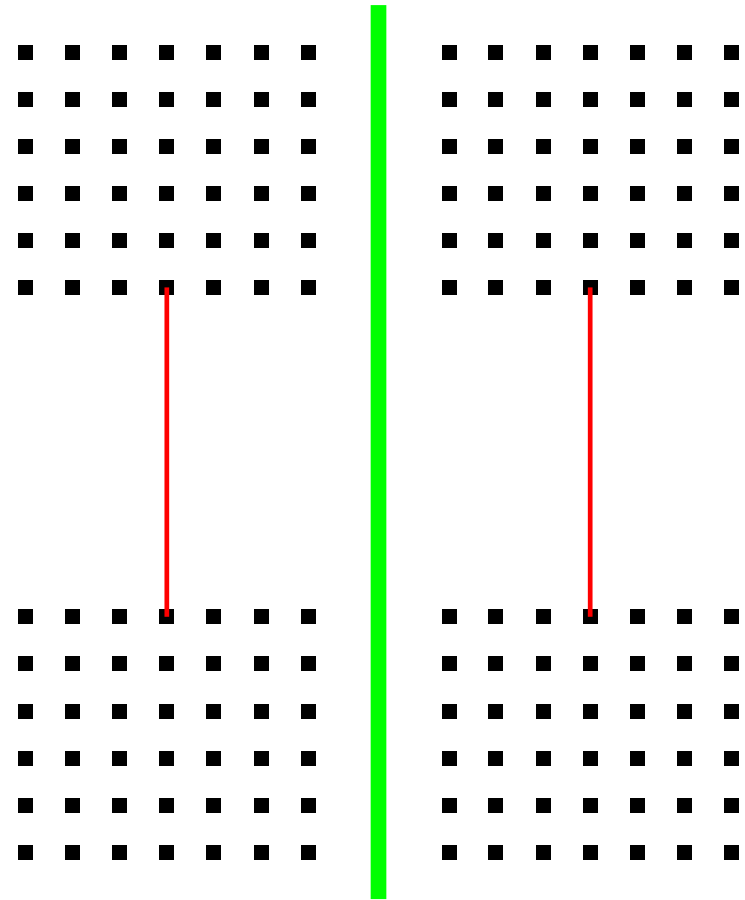


constrained grouping

# Why Simple Constraints Are Insufficient

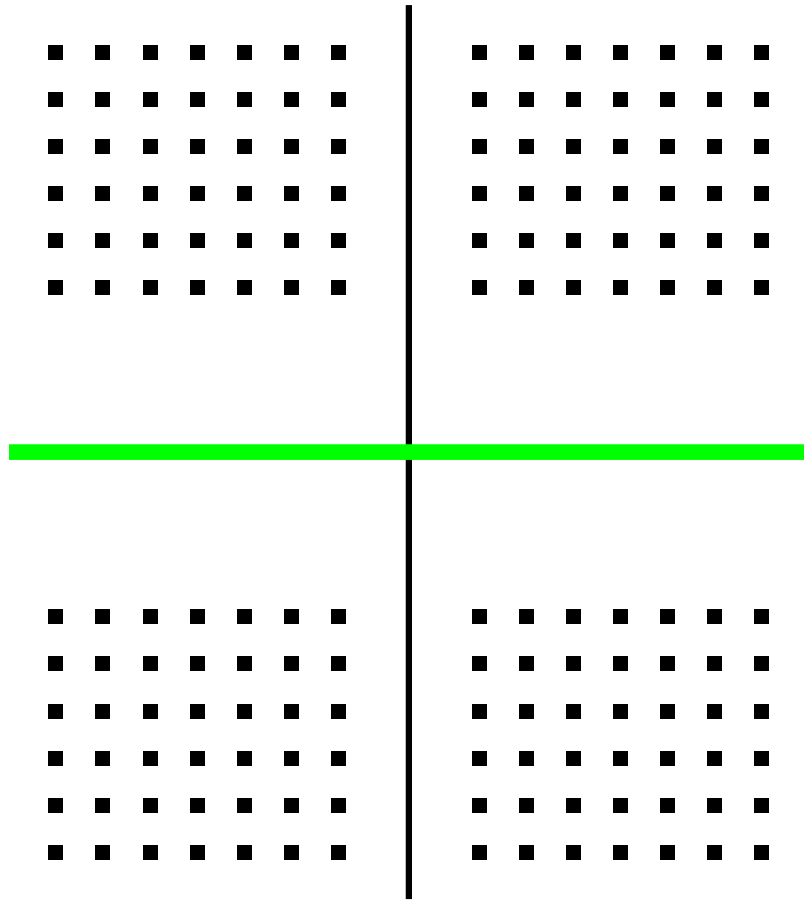


natural grouping

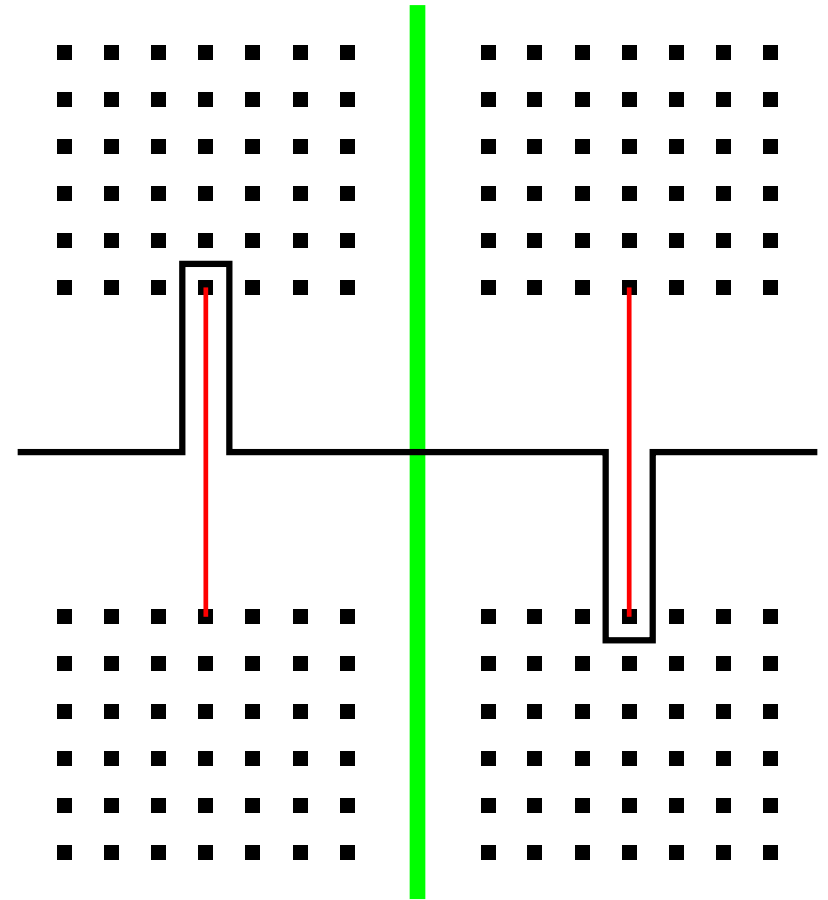


constrained grouping

# Why Simple Constraints Are Insufficient



natural grouping



constrained grouping

# Remedy: Propagate Constraints

- General formulation:

maximize  $\varepsilon(\Gamma_{\mathbb{V}}^K)$

subject to  $S \cdot X(i, l) = S \cdot X(j, l)$



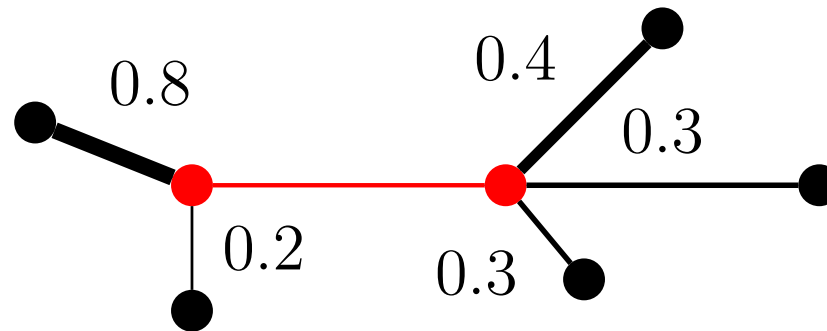
# Remedy: Propagate Constraints

- General formulation:

$$\text{maximize } \varepsilon(\Gamma_{\mathbb{V}}^K)$$

$$\text{subject to } S \cdot X(i, l) = S \cdot X(j, l)$$

- Normalized cuts:



$$S = P, \quad \text{or}$$

$$\sum_k P_{ik} X(k, l) = \sum_k P_{jk} X(k, l), \quad \text{or } (P^T U)^T X = 0$$

# Clustering Points with Sparse Grouping Cues



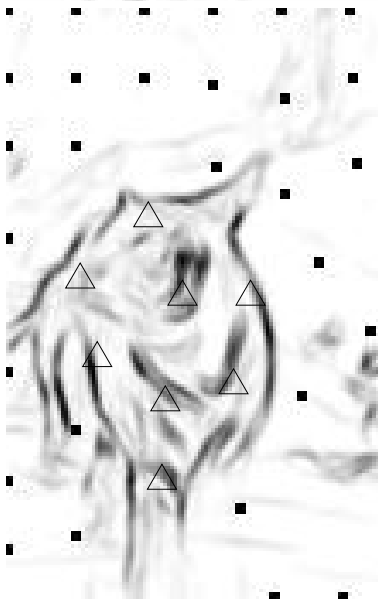
simple bias

smoothed bias

# Image Segmentation with Biased Grouping

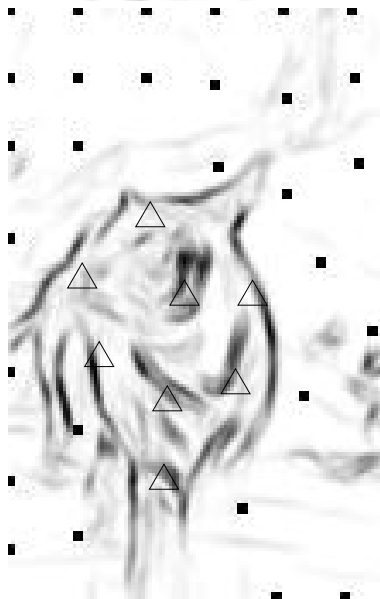


# Image Segmentation with Biased Grouping



no bias

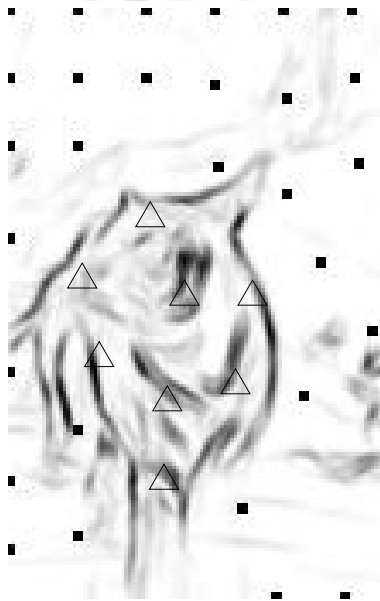
# Image Segmentation with Biased Grouping



no bias

simple bias

# Image Segmentation with Biased Grouping



no bias

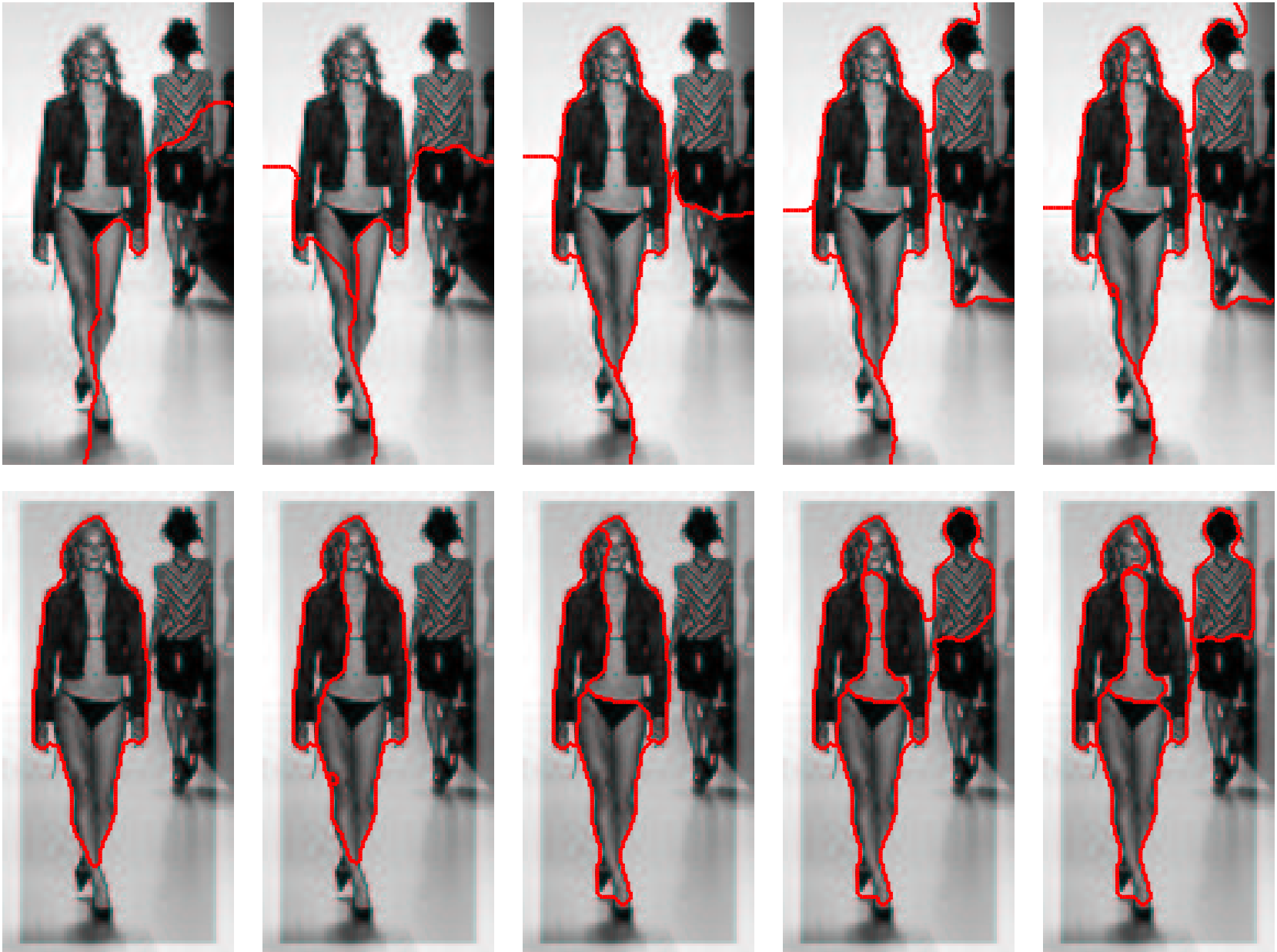
simple bias

smoothed bias

# Image Segmentation with Biased Grouping



# Image Segmentation with Biased Grouping

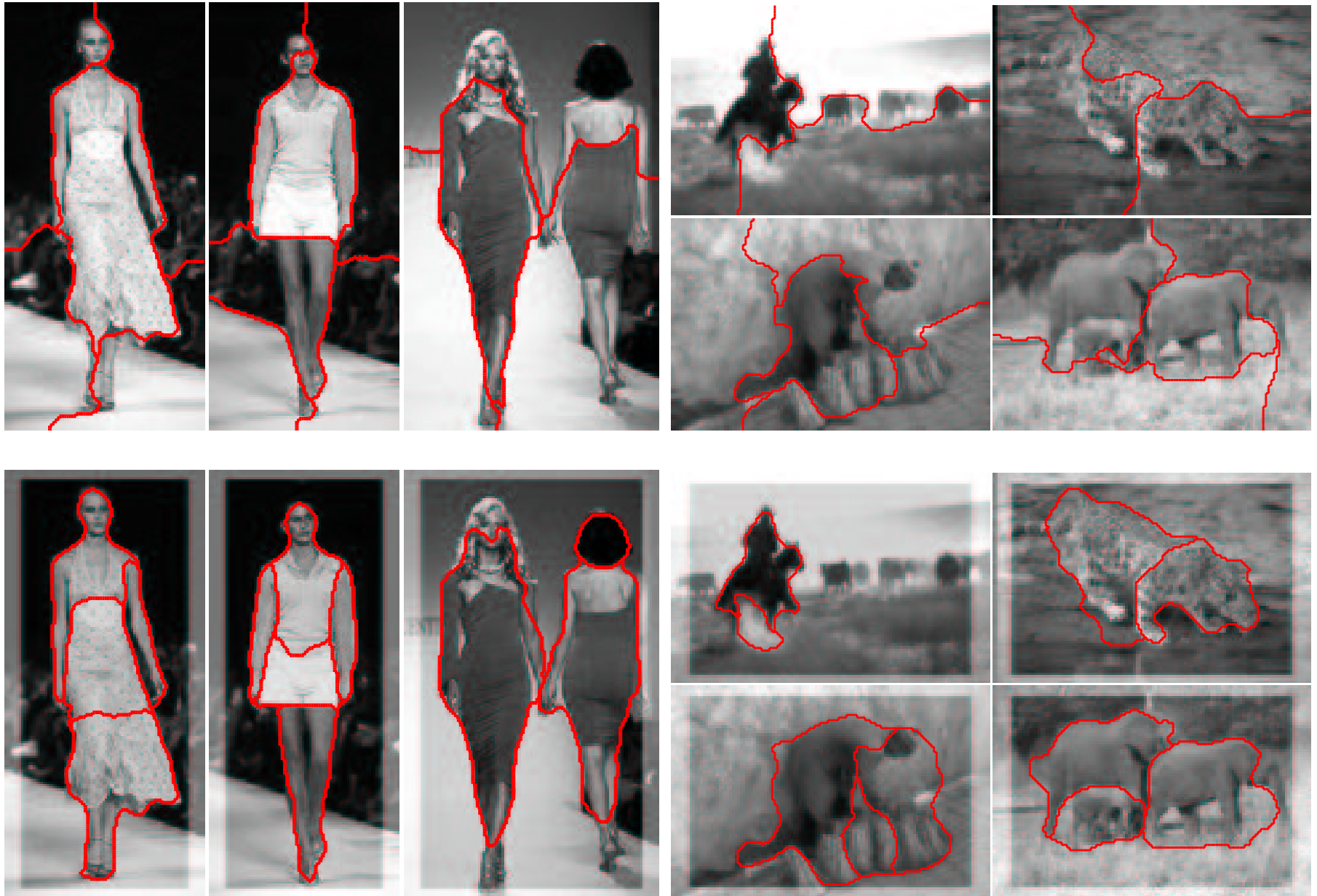




# Image Segmentation with Spatial Attention

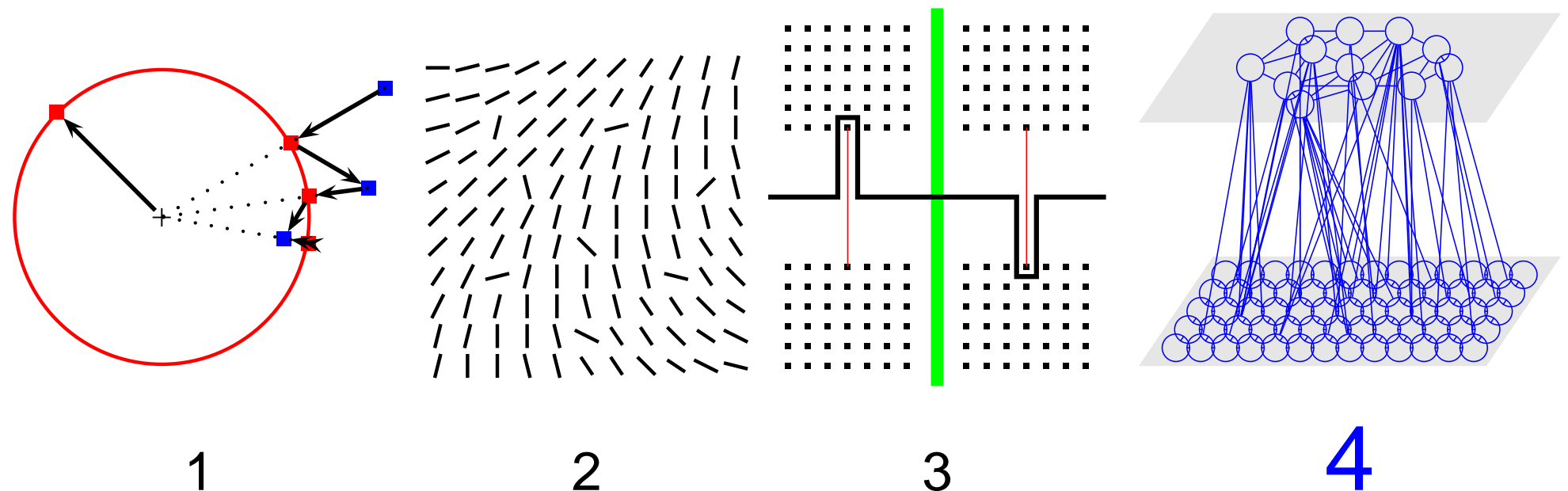


# Image Segmentation with Spatial Attention

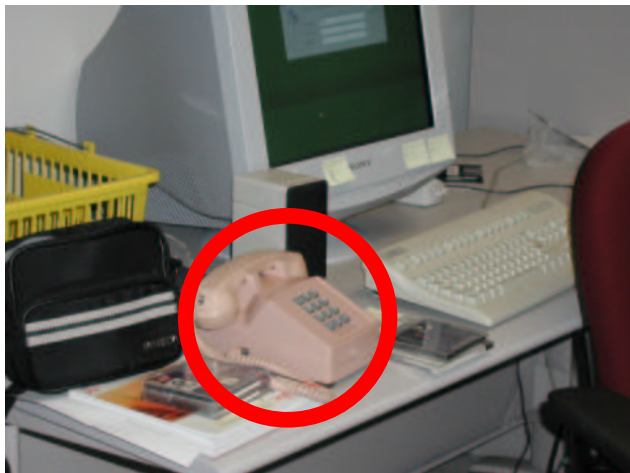
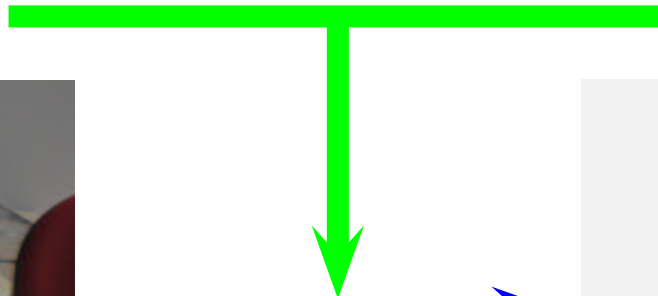


# Outline

1. Computational framework: spectral clustering
2. Expand the repertoire of grouping cues: dissimilarity
3. Guide grouping with partial cues
4. Guide grouping with object knowledge
5. Summary and future work



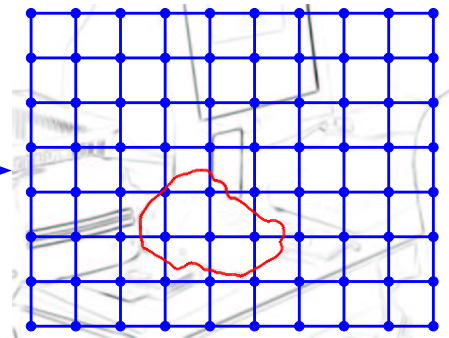
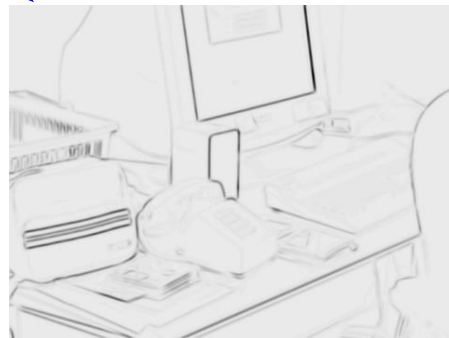
# Object Segmentation



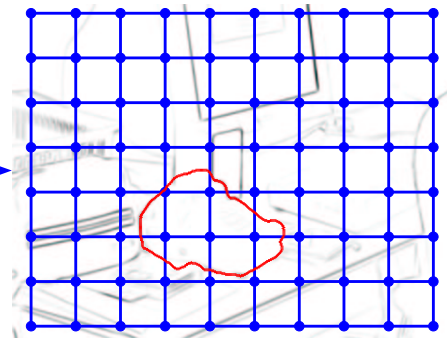
# Our Approach to Object Segmentation



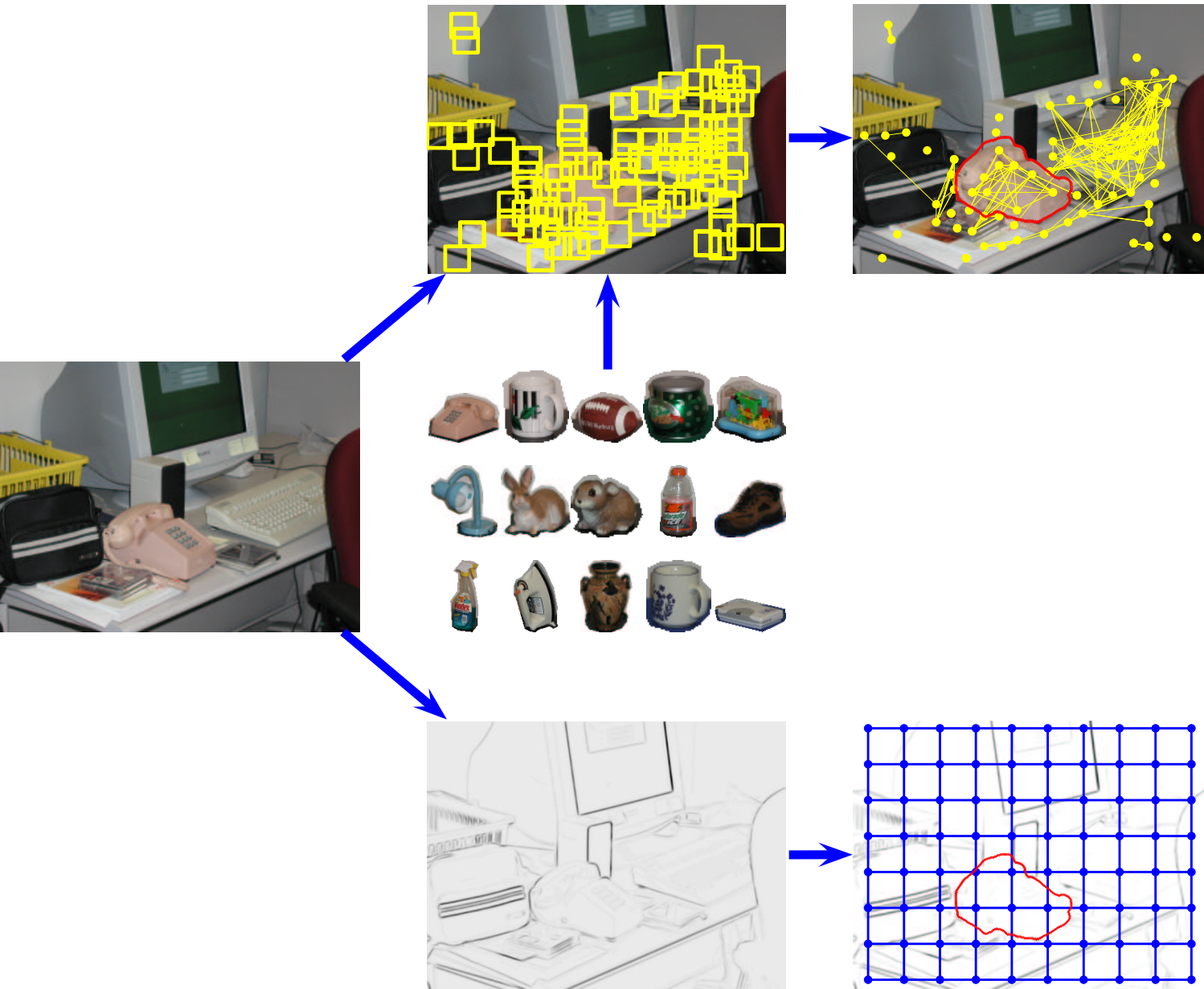
# Our Approach to Object Segmentation



# Our Approach to Object Segmentation

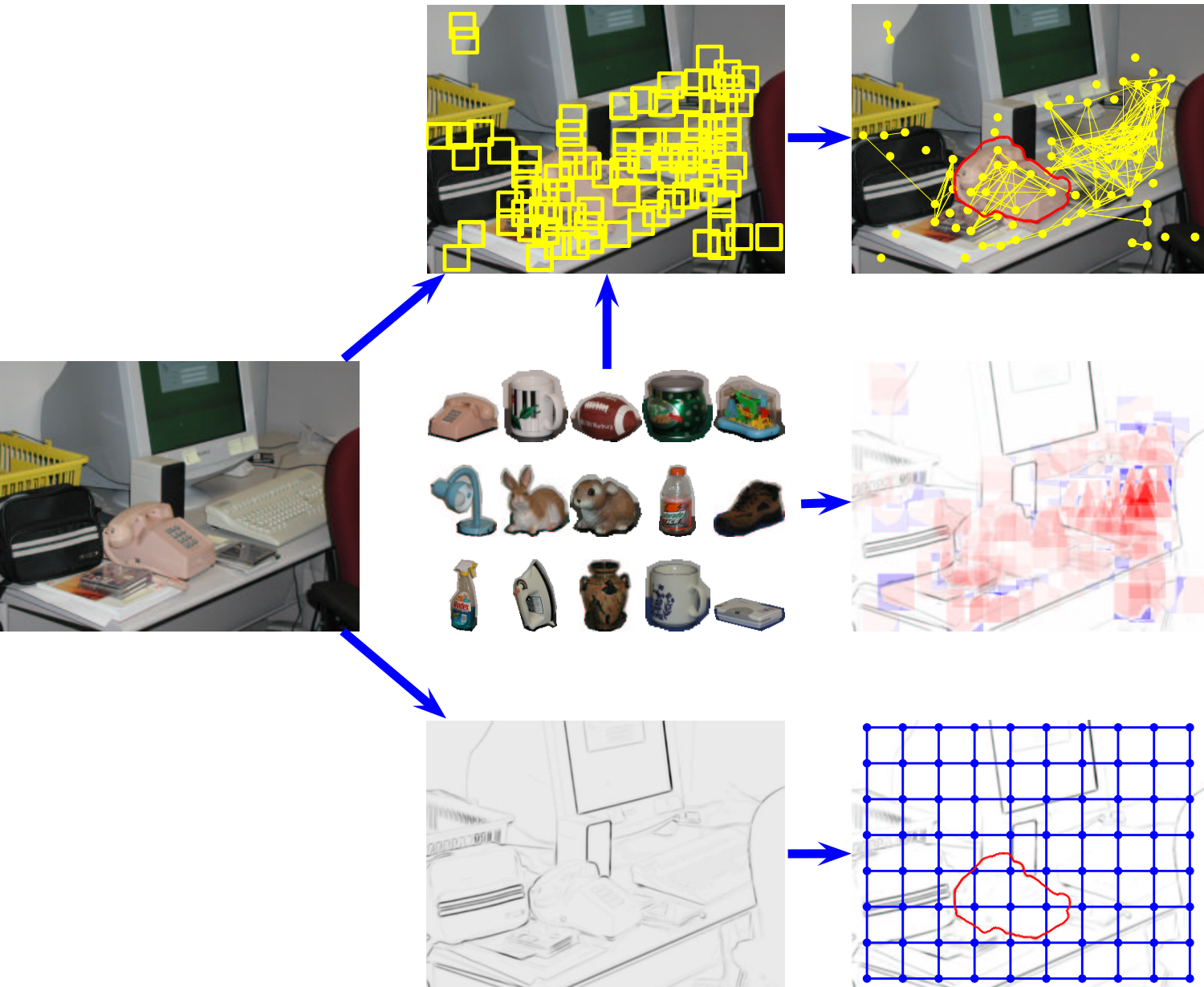


# Our Approach to Object Segmentation

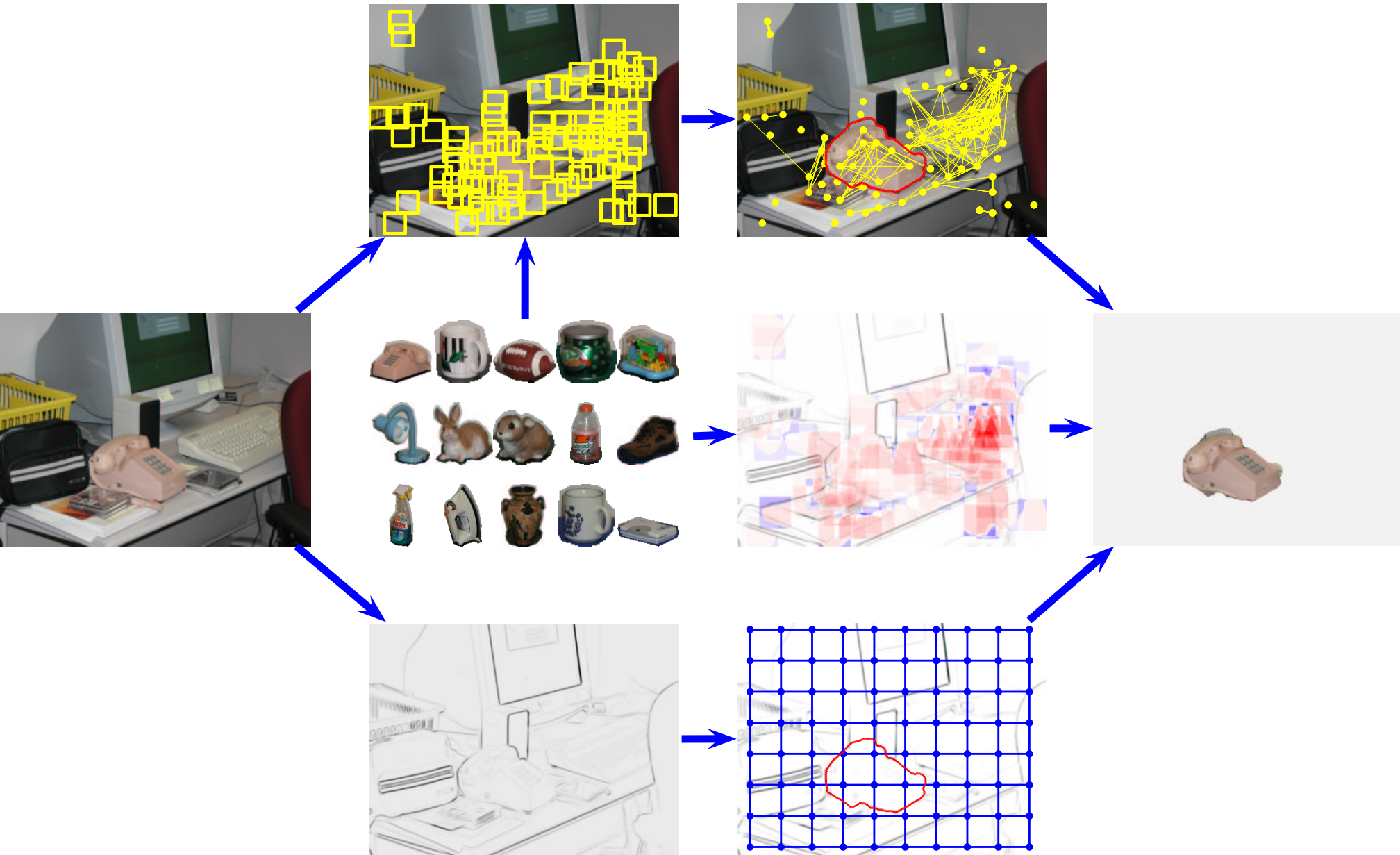




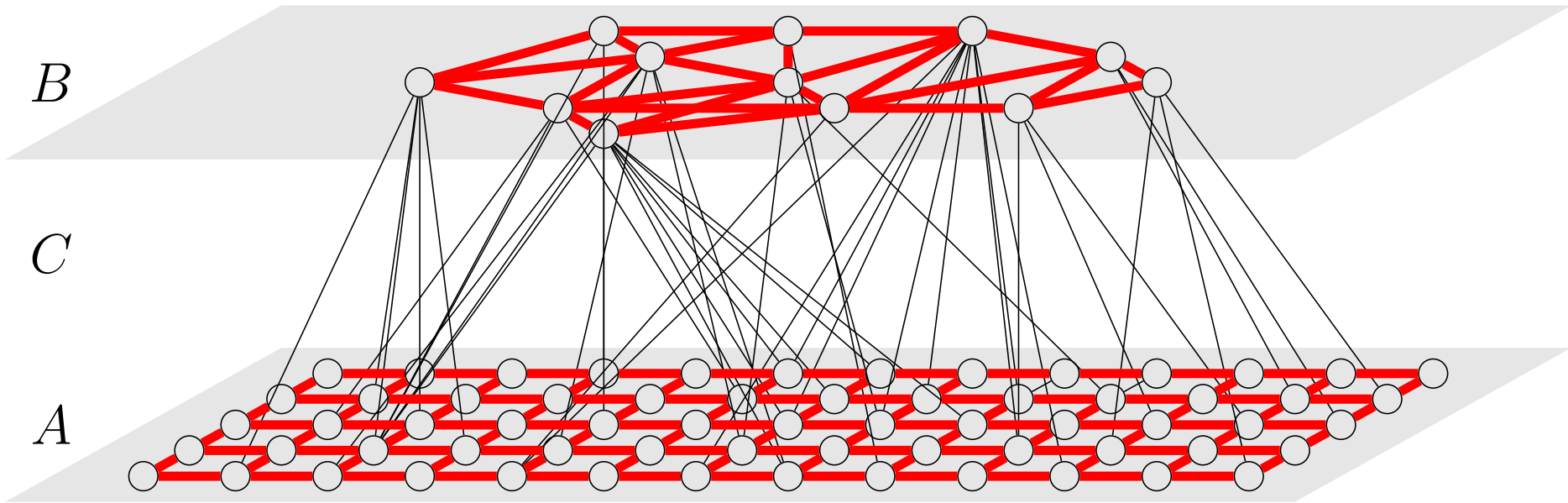
# Our Approach to Object Segmentation



# Our Approach to Object Segmentation

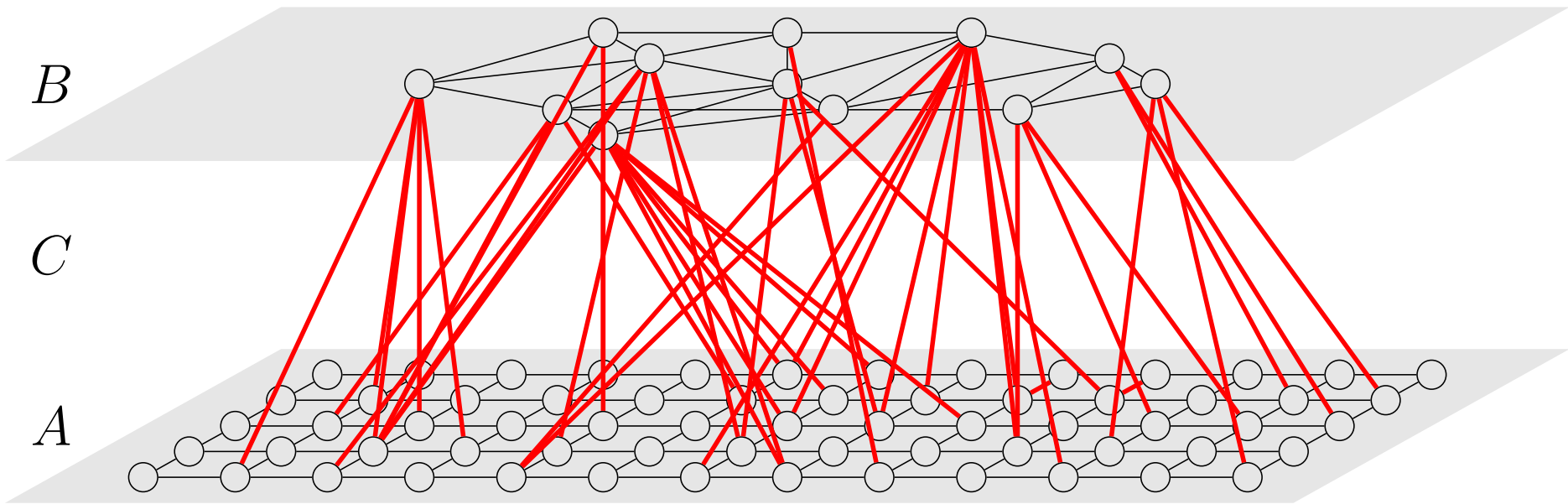


# Joint Pixel-Patch Grouping: Criterion



$$\bar{\varepsilon}(\Gamma_{\mathbb{V}}^K, \Gamma_{\mathbb{U}}^K; A, B) = \frac{1}{K} \sum_{l=1}^K \frac{\text{linkratio}(\mathbb{U}_l, \mathbb{U}_l; B) \cdot \text{degree}(\mathbb{U}_l; B)}{\text{degree}(\mathbb{V}_l; A) + \text{degree}(\mathbb{U}_l; B)} + \frac{1}{K} \sum_{l=1}^K \frac{\text{linkratio}(\mathbb{V}_l, \mathbb{V}_l; A) \cdot \text{degree}(\mathbb{V}_l; A)}{\text{degree}(\mathbb{V}_l; A) + \text{degree}(\mathbb{U}_l; B)}$$

# Joint Pixel-Patch Grouping: Consistency



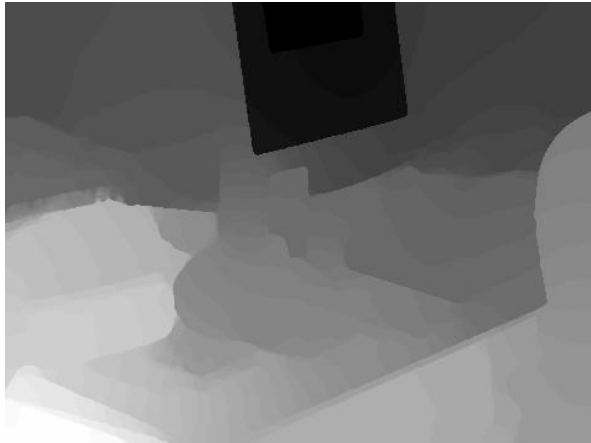
$$\Gamma_{\mathbf{U}}^K = \{\mathbf{U}_1, \dots, \mathbf{U}_K\}, \quad \Gamma_{\mathbf{V}}^K = \{\mathbf{V}_1, \dots, \mathbf{V}_K\}$$

Red arrows indicate the relationship between the sets: one arrow points from the right set to the left set, and another points from the left set to the right set.

Bias linking patches with their pixels

# How Object Knowledge Helps Segmentation

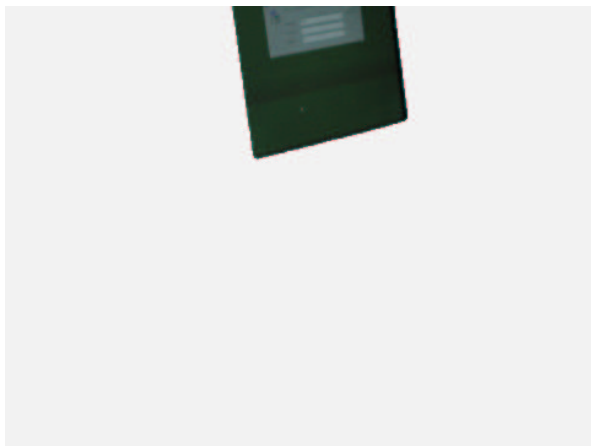
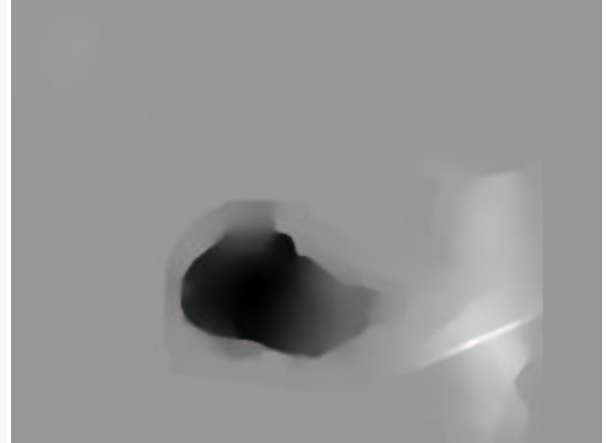
pixel only



pixel w/ ROI



pixel-patch



541s

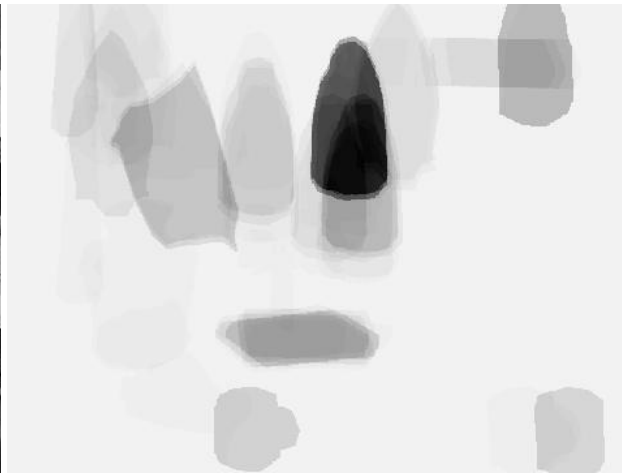
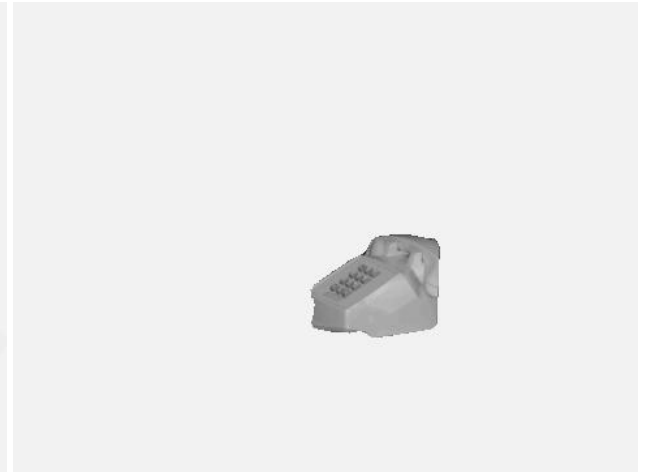
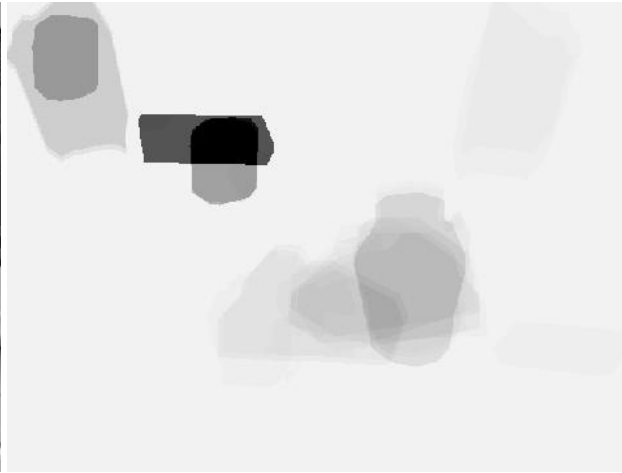


150s



110s

# How Segmentation Helps Object Detection

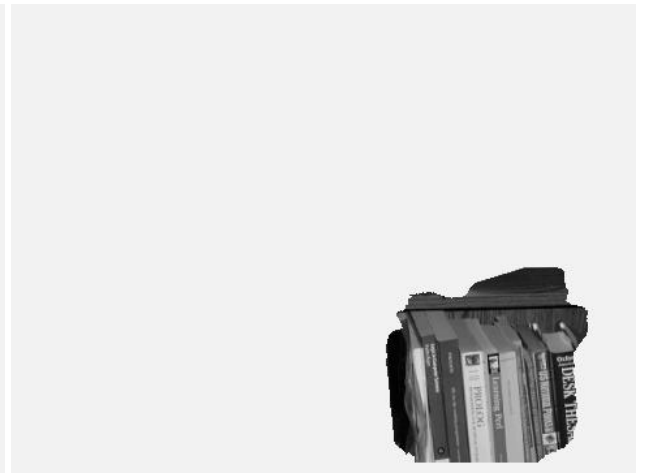
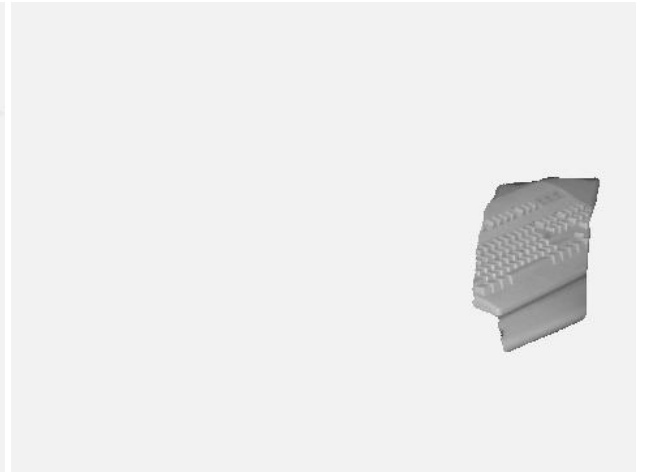
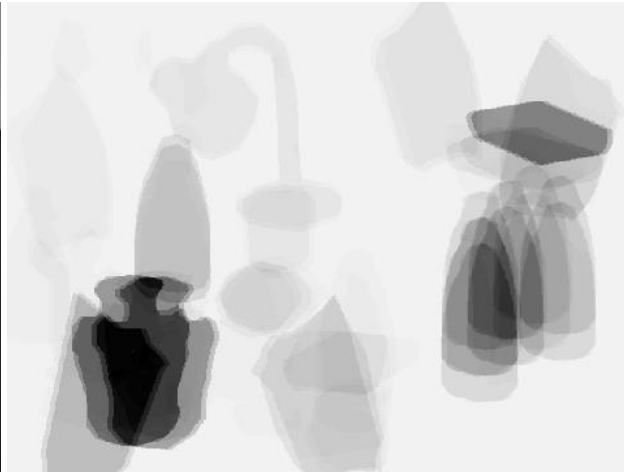


image

patch density

segmentation

# When Does Our Method Fail



image

patch density

segmentation

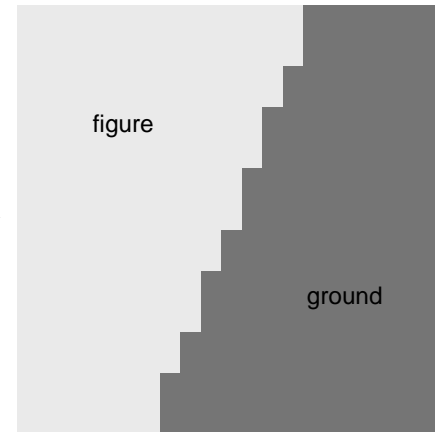
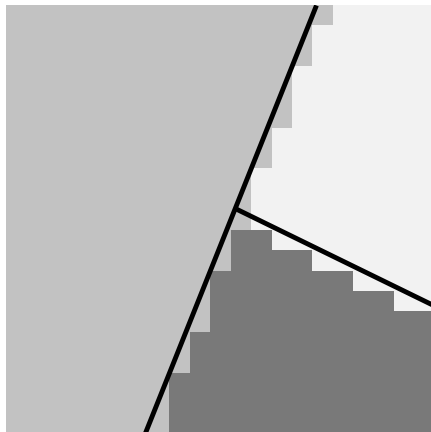
# Equally Applicable to Multiple Objects





# Contributions to Perceptual Organization

## 1. grouping and figure-ground in one framework



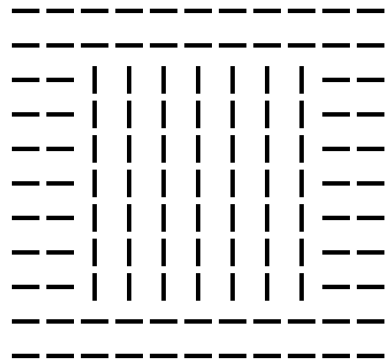
# Contributions to Perceptual Organization

## 2. grouping integrated with spatial and object attention

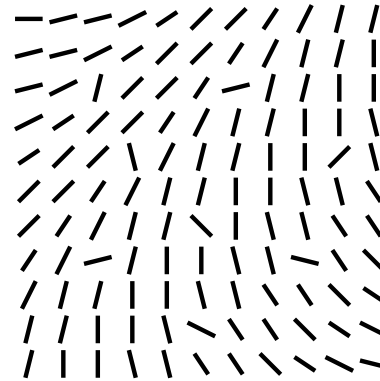


# Contributions to Graph Theory

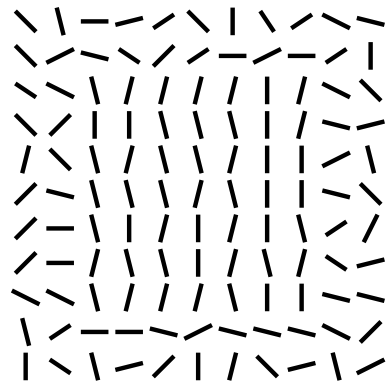
## 1. new grouping cues



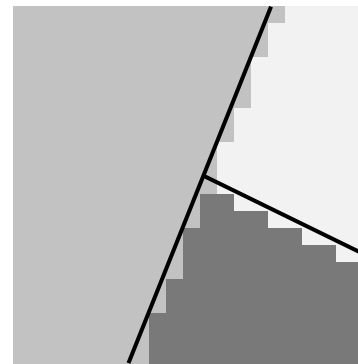
attraction



repulsion



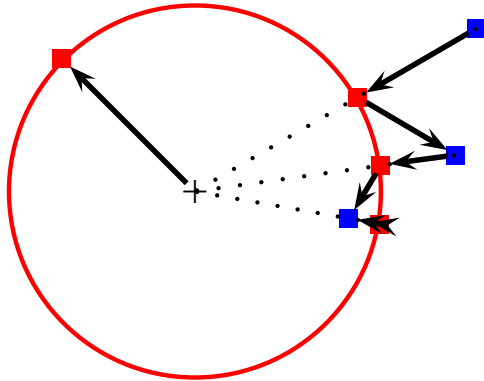
regularization



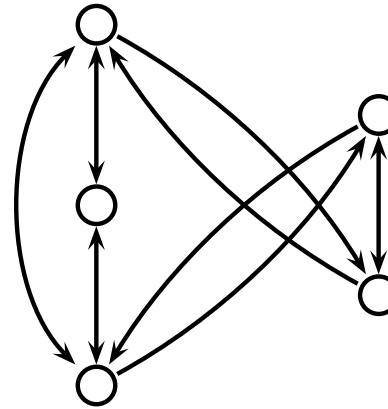
depth

# Contributions to Graph Theory

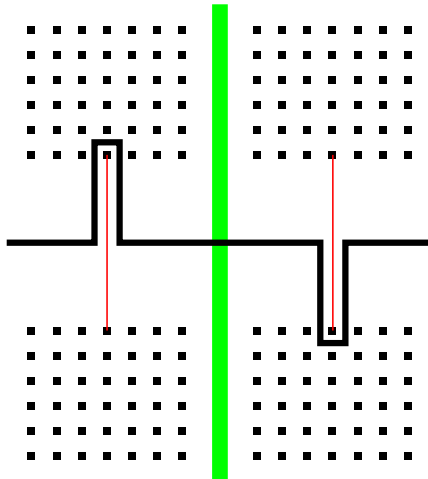
## 2. new graph partitioning techniques



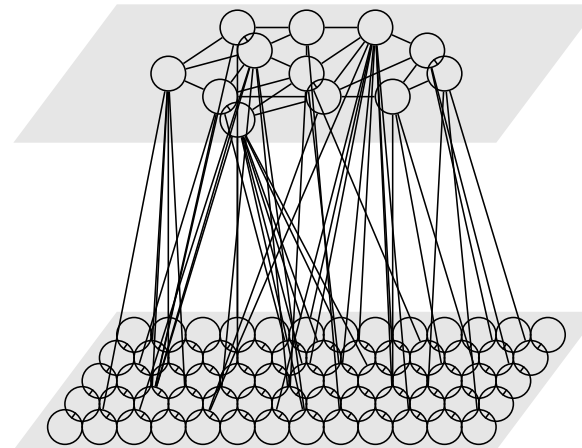
$K$ -way cuts



directed cuts



biased cuts



joint cuts

# Future Work

1. Automatic selection of the number of classes.
2. A model-based view on spectral clustering.
3. A criterion for comparing two segmentations.
4. Closing a feedback loop.
5. Object representation.
6. Scaling up.

# Acknowledgements

- Jianbo Shi, Tai Sing Lee, Takeo Kanade  
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NSF LIS 9720350  
NSF CAREER 9984706  
NIH EY 08098