

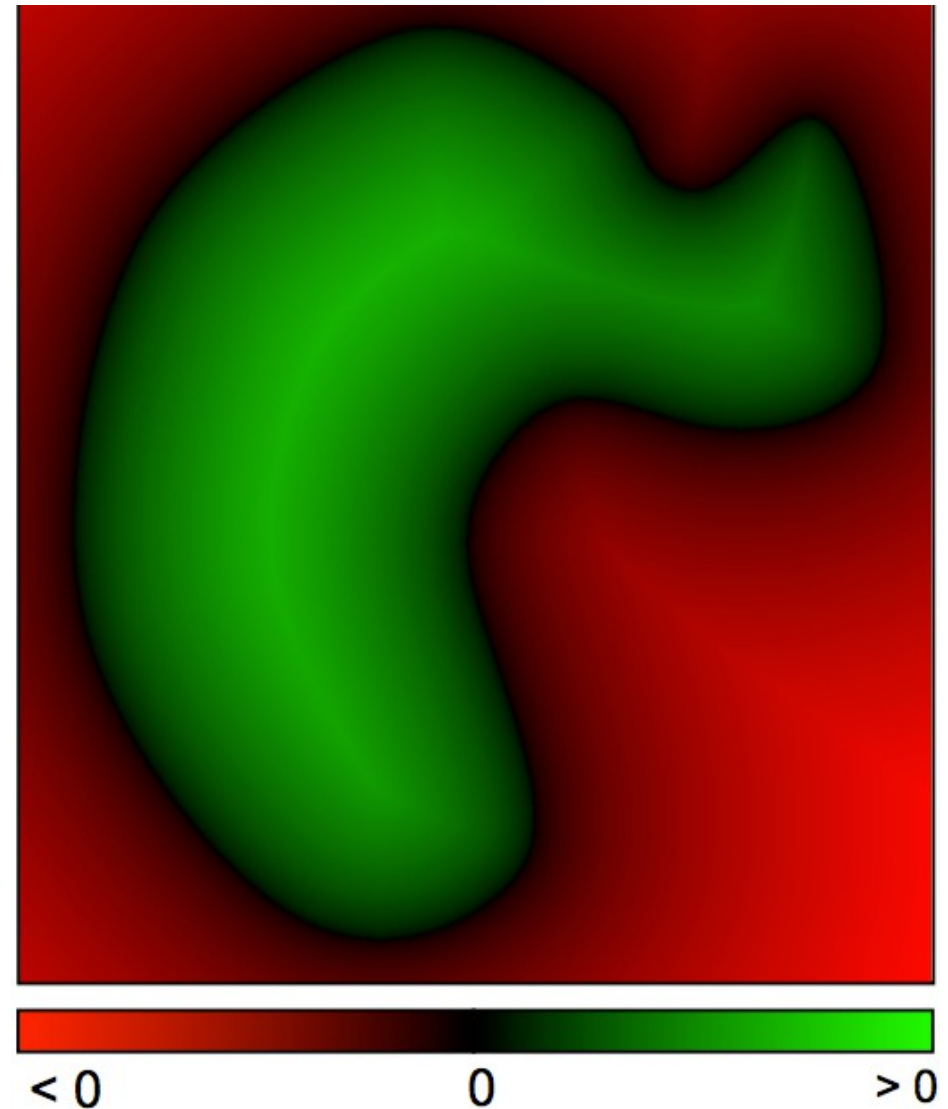
# Poisson Surface Reconstruction - I

Siddhartha Chaudhuri

<http://www.cse.iitb.ac.in/~cs749>

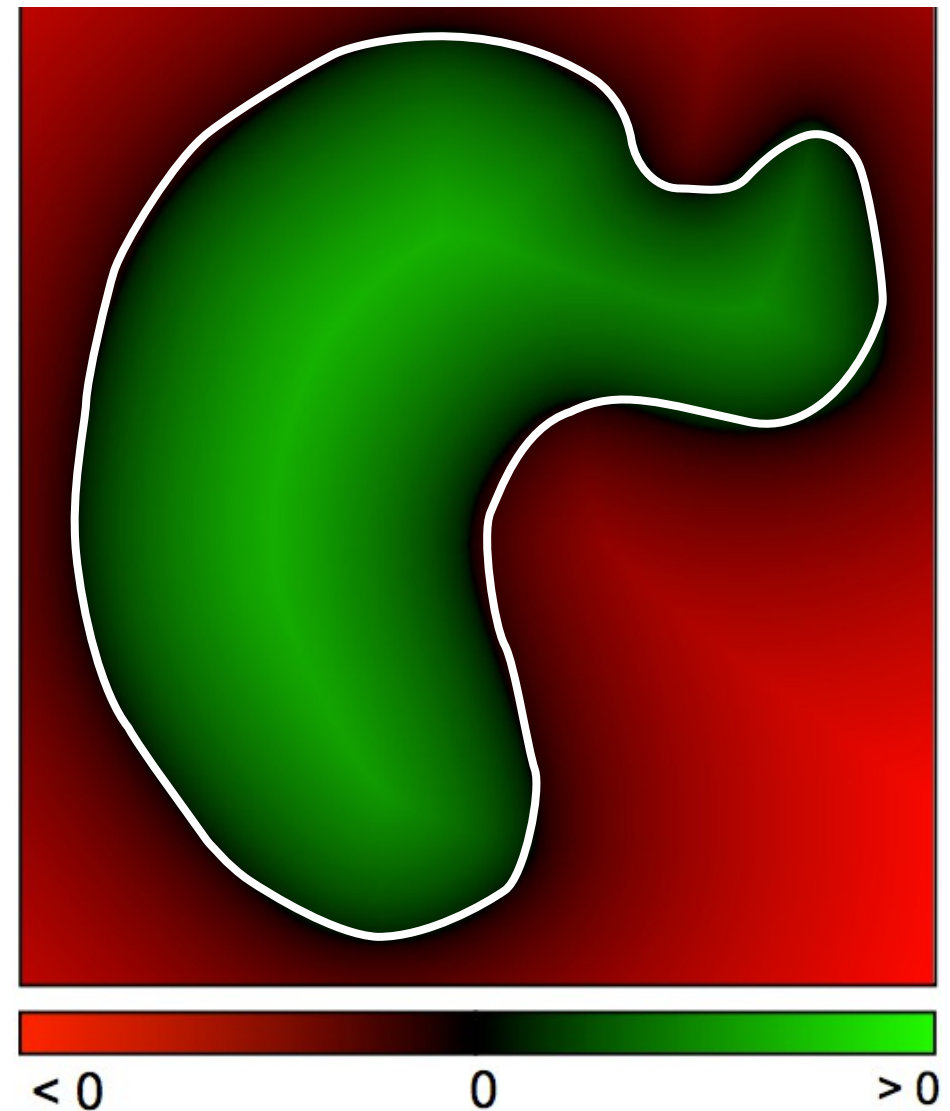
# Recap: Implicit Function Approach

- Define a function with positive values inside the model and negative values outside



# Recap: Implicit Function Approach

- Define a function with positive values inside the model and negative values outside
- Extract the zero-set

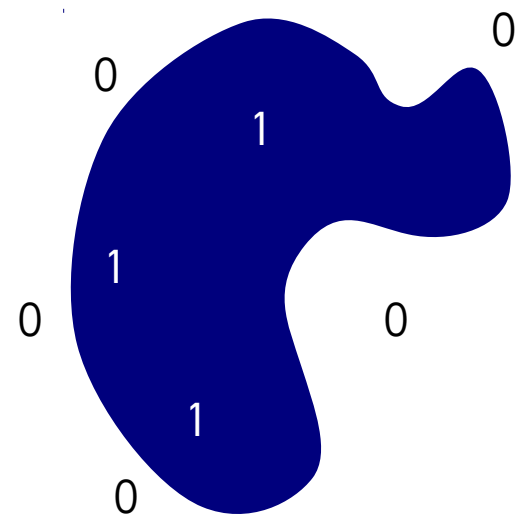


# Recap: Key Idea

- Reconstruct the surface of the model by solving for the indicator function of the shape

$$\chi_M(p) = \begin{cases} 1 & \text{if } p \in M \\ 0 & \text{if } p \notin M \end{cases}$$

In practice, we define the indicator function to be  $-1/2$  outside the shape and  $1/2$  inside, so that the surface is the zero level set. We also smooth the function a little, so that the zero set is well defined.

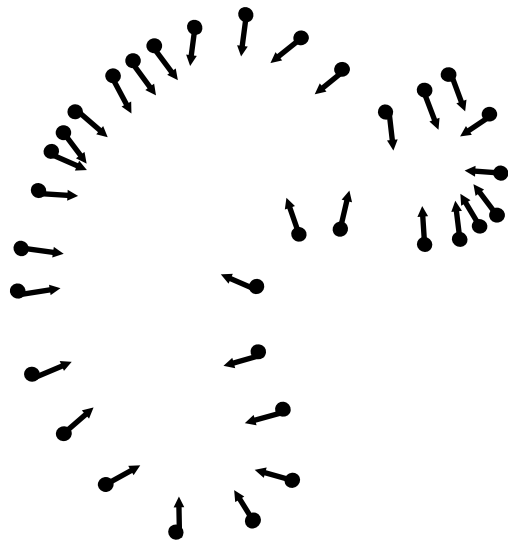


Indicator function

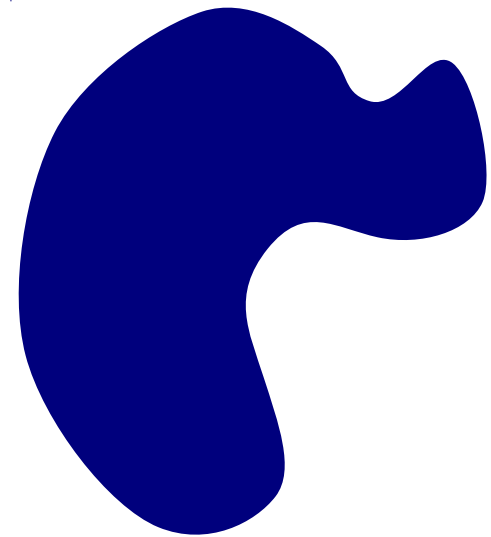
$\chi_M$

# Recap: Challenge

- How to construct the indicator function?



Oriented points

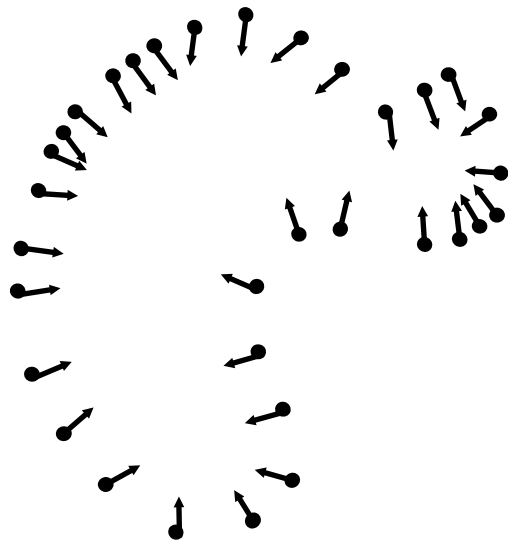


Indicator function

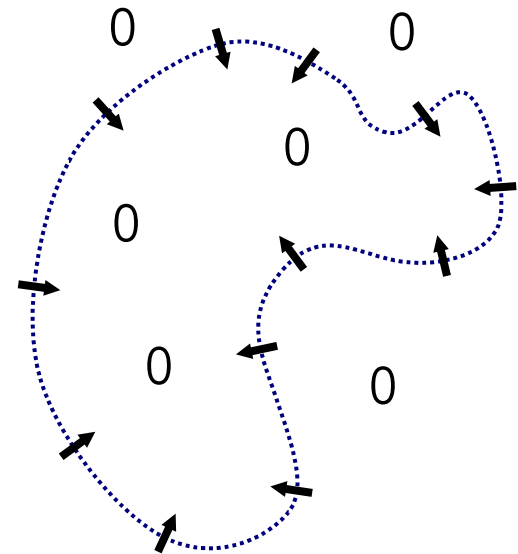
$\chi_M$

# Recap: Gradient Relationship

- There is a relationship between the normal field at the shape boundary, and the gradient of the (smoothed) indicator function



Oriented points



Indicator gradient

$$\nabla \chi_M$$

# Operators

- Let's look at a 1D function  $f: \mathbb{R} \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ 
  - It has a first derivative given by

$$\frac{df}{dx} = \lim_{h \rightarrow 0} \frac{f(x+h) - f(x)}{h}$$

- ... a second derivative, and a third...

$$\frac{d^2 f}{dx^2} = \frac{d}{dx} \frac{d}{dx} f$$

$$\frac{d^3 f}{dx^3} = \frac{d}{dx} \frac{d}{dx} \frac{d}{dx} f$$

- $\frac{d}{dx}$  is a general operation mapping functions to functions: it's called an **operator**
  - In fact, it's a **linear operator**:  $\frac{d}{dx}(f+g) = \frac{d}{dx}f + \frac{d}{dx}g$

# Variational Calculus

- Imagine we didn't know  $f$ , but we did know its derivative  $g = \frac{df}{dx}$

- Solving for  $f$  is, obviously, integration

$$f = \int \frac{df}{dx} dx = \int g dx$$

- But what if  $g$  is not analytically integrable?
  - Then we can look for approximate solutions, drawn from some parametrized family of candidate functions




# Variational Calculus

- Assume we have a family of functions  $F$
- Let's minimize the mean squared approximation error over some interval  $\Omega$  and functions  $f \in F$

$$\text{minimize } \int_{\Omega} \left| \frac{df}{dx} - g \right|^2 dx$$

# Euler-Lagrange Formulation

- **Euler-Lagrange equation:** Stationary points (minima, maxima etc) of a functional of the form

$$\int_{\Omega} L(x, f(x), f'(x)) dx$$

$$f'(x) = \frac{df}{dx}$$

are obtained as solutions  $f$  to the PDE

$$\frac{\partial L}{\partial f} - \frac{d}{dx} \frac{\partial L}{\partial f'} = 0$$

# Euler-Lagrange Formulation

- **Euler-Lagrange equation:**  $\frac{\partial L}{\partial f} - \frac{d}{dx} \frac{\partial L}{\partial f'} = 0$

- In our case,  $L = (f'(x) - g(x))^2$ , so

$$\frac{\partial L}{\partial f} = 0 \qquad \frac{\partial L}{\partial f'} = 2(f'(x) - g(x))$$

$$\frac{d}{dx} \frac{\partial L}{\partial f'} = 2(f''(x) - g'(x))$$

- Substituting, we get (a case of) the 1D **Poisson equation:**

$$f'' = g' \qquad \text{or} \qquad \frac{d^2 f}{dx^2} = \frac{dg}{dx}$$

# Link to Linear Least Squares

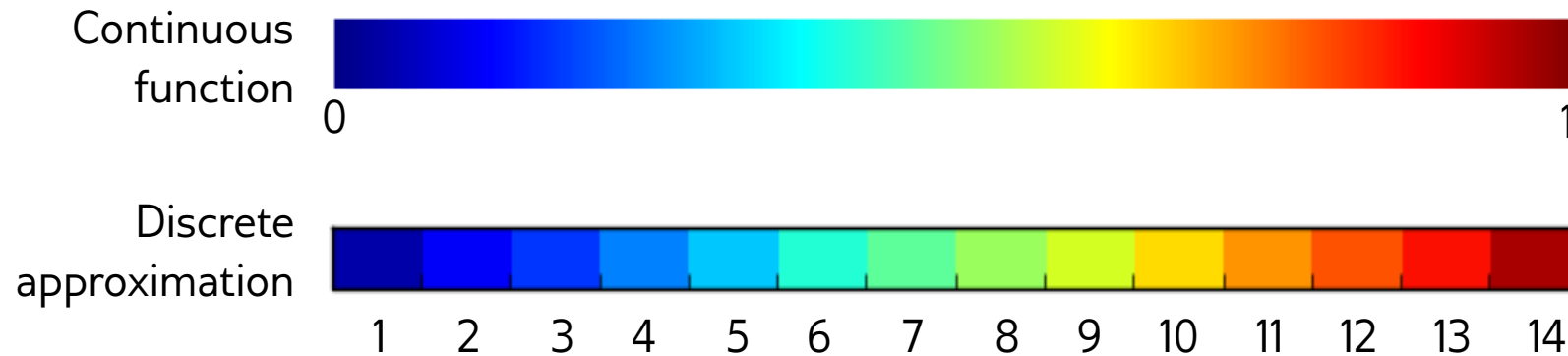
- Here, we want to minimize  $\int_{\Omega} (f'(x) - g(x))^2 dx$  and end up having to solve

$$\frac{d}{dx} \frac{d}{dx} f = \frac{d}{dx} g$$

i.e. the two sides are equal at all points  $x$

- Let's try to discretize this!
  - Sample  $n$  consecutive points  $\{x_i\}$  from  $\Omega$ 
    - Assume (for simplicity) they're evenly spaced, so  $x_{i+1} - x_i = h$
  - We want to minimize  $\sum_i (f'(x_i) - g(x_i))^2$

# Link to Linear Least Squares



- The derivative at  $x_i$  can be approximated as

$$f'(x_i) \approx \frac{f_{i+1} - f_i}{h} = \frac{1}{h} \begin{bmatrix} -1 & 1 \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} f_i \\ f_{i+1} \end{bmatrix}$$

where  $f_i$  is shorthand for  $f(x_i)$

# Link to Linear Least Squares

- ... and all the derivatives can be listed in one big matrix multiplication:  $A \mathbf{f} = \mathbf{g}$ , where

$$A = \frac{1}{h} \begin{bmatrix} -1 & 1 & 0 & \cdots & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & -1 & 1 & \cdots & 0 & 0 \\ & 0 & -1 & \cdots & 0 & 0 \\ \vdots & & & \ddots & & \vdots \\ 0 & 0 & & & -1 & 1 \\ 0 & 0 & \cdots & & 0 & -1 \end{bmatrix} \quad \mathbf{f} = \begin{bmatrix} f_1 \\ f_2 \\ f_3 \\ \vdots \\ f_n \end{bmatrix} \quad \mathbf{g} = \begin{bmatrix} g_1 \\ g_2 \\ g_3 \\ \vdots \\ g_n \end{bmatrix}$$

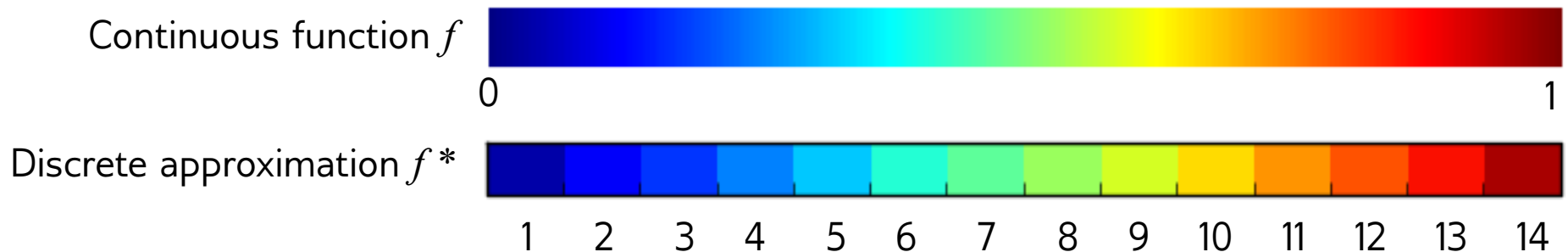
- $\mathbf{f}$  and  $\mathbf{g}$  are discrete approximations of continuous functions  $f$  and  $g$ , and  $A$  is a discrete approximation for the continuous derivative operator  $\frac{d}{dx}$  !

# Functions as vectors

- Functions from  $A$  to  $B$  form a vector space: we can think of functions as “vectors”
  - E.g. we can commutatively add two functions:
$$f + g = g + f$$
  - Or distribute multiplication with a scalar:
$$s(f + g) = sf + sg$$
  - If we want, we can also associate a **norm** (“vector length”) with a function: e.g.  $\|f\| = \left(\int f^2(x) \, dx\right)^{1/2}$

# A function can be discretized

- Characterize a function  $f$  by its values at a finite set of  $n$  sample points
  - This results in a discrete function, let's call it  $f^*$
  - The discrete function is perfectly defined by its values at the  $n$  points
  - In other words,  $f^*$  is represented by a finite-dimensional vector  $[f(x_1), f(x_2), \dots, f(x_n)]$





# Linear operators, more formally

- An **operator**  $T$  is a mapping from a vector space  $U$  to another vector space  $V$ 
  - $T$  is a **linear operator** if  $T(a + b) = T(a) + T(b)$
- The set of functions  $F$  from domain  $A$  to codomain  $B$  is a vector space
  - So we can have operators  $T$  that map from one function space  $F$  to another function space  $G$
  - Note that  $T$  maps functions to functions!
- The differentials  $\frac{d}{dx}$ ,  $\frac{d^2}{dx^2}$ ,  $\frac{d^3}{dx^3}$  etc are linear operators
  - They map functions to their derivatives

# Discrete Linear Operators

- **Theorem:** Any linear operator between finite-dimensional vector spaces can be represented by a matrix
  - Let's say we have a set of functions  $F$  from  $A$  to  $B$
  - The discrete versions of the functions form a finite-dimensional vector space  $F^*$  equivalent to  $\mathbb{R}^n$ 
    - Each function is sampled at the same finite set of points
  - Let  $T$  be a linear operator from  $F$  to itself
  - ... and  $T^*$  be a “discrete version” of  $T$  acting on  $F^*$
  - Then  $T^*$  can be represented by a  $n \times n$  matrix (cf. theorem)

# Example: Discrete Derivative

## Continuous

- Function:  $f$
- Operator:  $\frac{d}{dx}$
- Applying operator:  
$$\frac{df}{dx} = f'$$

## Discrete

- Vector:  $\mathbf{f} = [f(x_1), f(x_2) \dots f(x_n)]$
- Matrix:

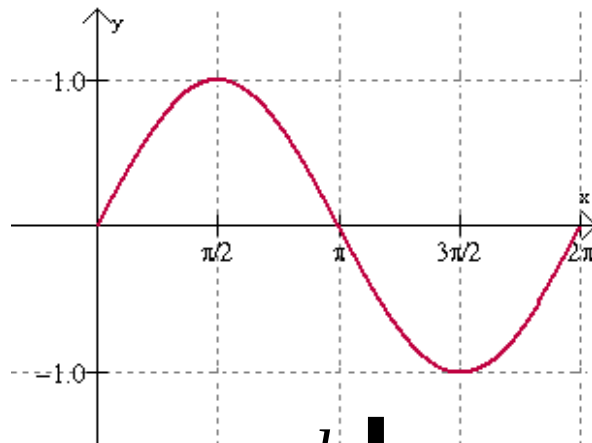
$$A = \frac{1}{h} \begin{bmatrix} -1 & 1 & 0 & \dots & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & -1 & 1 & \dots & 0 & 0 \\ & 0 & -1 & \dots & 0 & 0 \\ \vdots & & & \ddots & & \vdots \\ 0 & 0 & & & -1 & 1 \\ 0 & 0 & \dots & & 0 & -1 \end{bmatrix}$$

- Applying matrix:

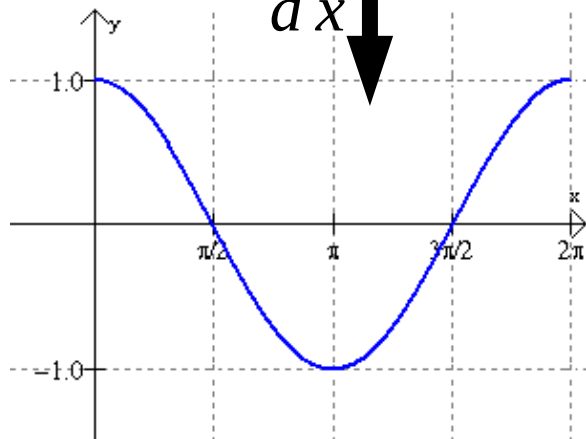
$$A\mathbf{f} = \mathbf{f}'$$

# Example: Discrete Derivative

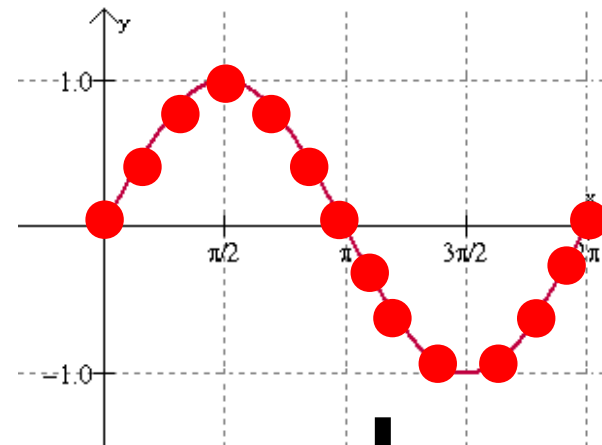
Continuous



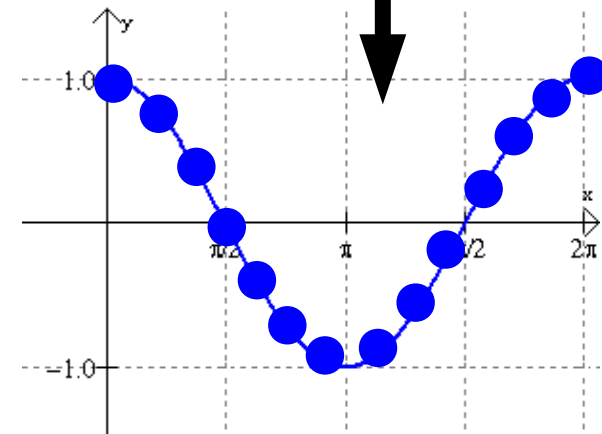
$\frac{d}{dx}$  ↓



Discrete



$A$  ↓



# Example: Discrete 2<sup>nd</sup> Derivative

## Continuous

- Function:  $f$
- Operator:  $\frac{d^2}{dx^2}$
- Applying operator:

$$\frac{d^2 f}{dx^2} = f''$$

## Discrete

- Vector:  $\mathbf{f} = [f(x_1), f(x_2) \dots f(x_n)]$
- Matrix:

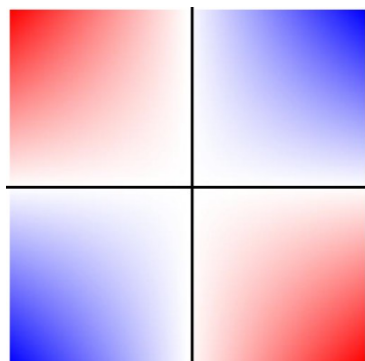
$$L = \frac{1}{h^2} \begin{bmatrix} -2 & 1 & 0 & \dots & 0 & 0 \\ 1 & -2 & 1 & \dots & 0 & 0 \\ & 1 & -2 & \dots & 0 & 0 \\ \vdots & & & \ddots & & \vdots \\ 0 & 0 & & & -2 & 1 \\ 0 & 0 & \dots & & 1 & -2 \end{bmatrix}$$

- Applying matrix:

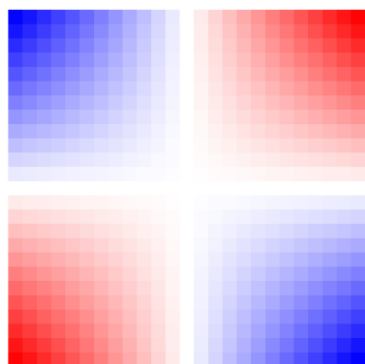
$$L\mathbf{f} = \mathbf{f}''$$

# Operators in higher dimensions

- The underlying function space can have a higher-dimensional domain



Continuous function



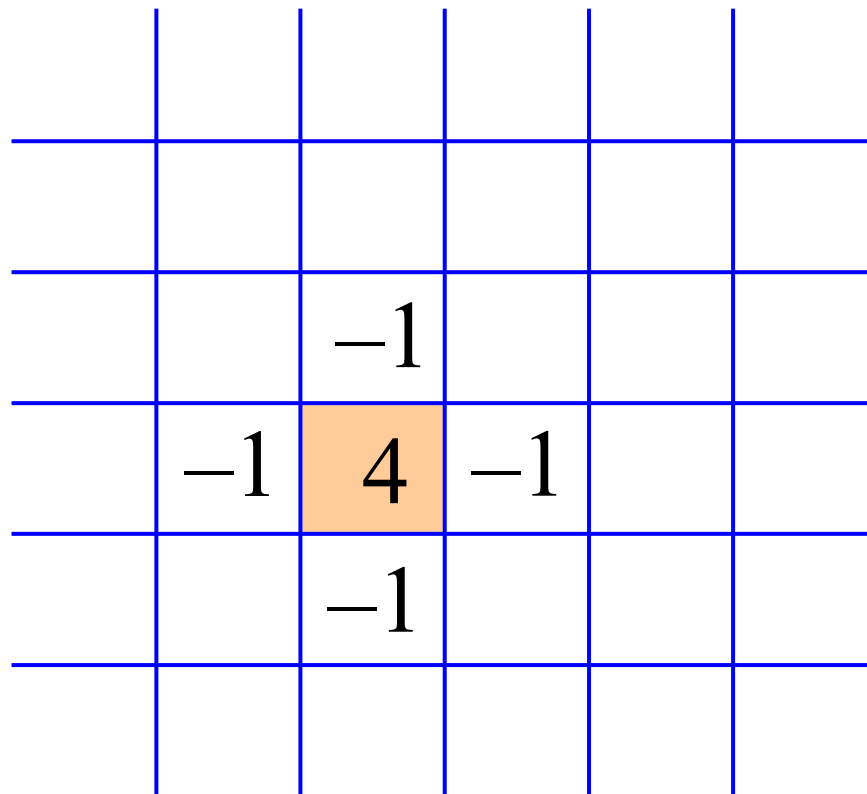
Discrete approximation

$$\begin{bmatrix} -4 & 1 & \cdot & 1 & \cdot & \cdot & \cdot & \cdot & \cdot \\ 1 & -4 & 1 & \cdot & 1 & \cdot & \cdot & \cdot & \cdot \\ \cdot & 1 & -4 & \cdot & \cdot & 1 & \cdot & \cdot & \cdot \\ 1 & \cdot & \cdot & -4 & 1 & \cdot & 1 & \cdot & \cdot \\ \cdot & 1 & \cdot & 1 & -4 & 1 & \cdot & 1 & \cdot \\ \cdot & \cdot & 1 & \cdot & 1 & -4 & \cdot & \cdot & 1 \\ \cdot & \cdot & \cdot & 1 & \cdot & \cdot & -4 & 1 & \cdot \\ \cdot & \cdot & \cdot & \cdot & 1 & \cdot & 1 & -4 & 1 \\ \cdot & \cdot & \cdot & \cdot & \cdot & 1 & \cdot & 1 & -4 \end{bmatrix}$$

2D discrete Laplace operator

# Discrete 2D Laplacian

- The Laplacian is computed via differences of a cell from its neighbors



# Flashback

- Need to solve set of equations  $A\mathbf{f} = \mathbf{g}$  in a least squares sense

$$\text{minimize } \|\mathbf{r}\|^2 = \|\mathbf{g} - A\mathbf{f}\|^2$$

- The directional derivative in direction  $\delta\mathbf{f}$  is

$$\nabla\|\mathbf{r}\|^2 \cdot \delta\mathbf{f} = 2\delta\mathbf{f}^T(A^T\mathbf{g} - A^TA\mathbf{f})$$

- The minimum is achieved when all directional derivatives are zero, giving the **normal equations**

$$A^TA\mathbf{f} = A^T\mathbf{g}$$

- **Thought for the (Previous) Day:** Compare this equation to the Poisson equation



# Link to Linear Least Squares

- **Linear Least Squares:** The  $\mathbf{f}$  that minimizes  $\|A\mathbf{f} - \mathbf{g}\|^2$  is the solution of  $A^T A \mathbf{f} = A^T \mathbf{g}$
- **Euler-Lagrange:** The  $f$  that minimizes  $\int_{\Omega} \left( \frac{df}{dx}(x) - g(x) \right)^2 dx$  is a solution of  $\frac{d}{dx} \frac{d}{dx} f = \frac{d}{dx} g$
- Knowing that  $A$  is the discrete version of  $\frac{d}{dx}$ , everything lines up *except* for the transpose bit
  - How do we reconcile this?

# Link to Linear Least Squares

- The derivative at  $x_i$  can *also* be approximated as

$$f'(x_i) \approx \frac{f_i - f_{i-1}}{h} = \frac{1}{h} \begin{bmatrix} -1 & 1 \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} f_{i-1} \\ f_i \end{bmatrix}$$

... and derivatives at all  $x_i$  as  $B \mathbf{f}$ , where

$$B = \frac{1}{h} \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 & 0 & \cdots & 0 & 0 \\ -1 & 1 & 0 & \cdots & 0 & 0 \\ & -1 & 1 & \cdots & 0 & 0 \\ \vdots & & & \ddots & & \vdots \\ 0 & 0 & & & 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & \cdots & & -1 & 1 \end{bmatrix}$$

... which is just  $-A^T$  !

- Can rewrite normal equations as  $(-A^T)A\mathbf{f} = (-A^T)\mathbf{g}$

# Uniqueness of Solutions

- The discrete operator  $A$  we constructed is full-rank (invertible), and gives a unique solution  $A^{-1}\mathbf{g}$  for  $\mathbf{f}$
- But the corresponding continuous problem has multiple solutions (e.g. if  $f$  is a solution,  $(f + \text{constant})$  is also a solution)
- **Explanation:**  $A\mathbf{f} = \mathbf{g}$  implicitly imposes the boundary condition  $f_n = -g_n$  (see the last row of the matrix)
  - In higher dimensions, the operator matrix  $A$  is non-square (maps scalar field to vector field) and not invertible. The system is overdetermined and we seek least-squares solutions

# Discrete Second Derivative

- Multiplying the matrices, we get the discrete second derivative operator (the **1D Laplacian**)

If you actually do the multiplication, this term is -1 and not -2. This is because our discretization does not correctly model the derivative at the end of the range. If you swap the matrices, the discrepancy occurs in the *last* element of the product instead.

$$\frac{d^2}{dx^2} = \frac{d}{dx} \frac{d}{dx} \quad \text{discretized to} \quad (-A^T) A = \frac{1}{h^2} \begin{bmatrix} -2 & 1 & 0 & \dots & 0 & 0 \\ 1 & -2 & 1 & \dots & 0 & 0 \\ & 1 & -2 & \dots & 0 & 0 \\ \vdots & & & \ddots & & \vdots \\ 0 & 0 & & & -2 & 1 \\ 0 & 0 & \dots & & 1 & -2 \end{bmatrix}$$

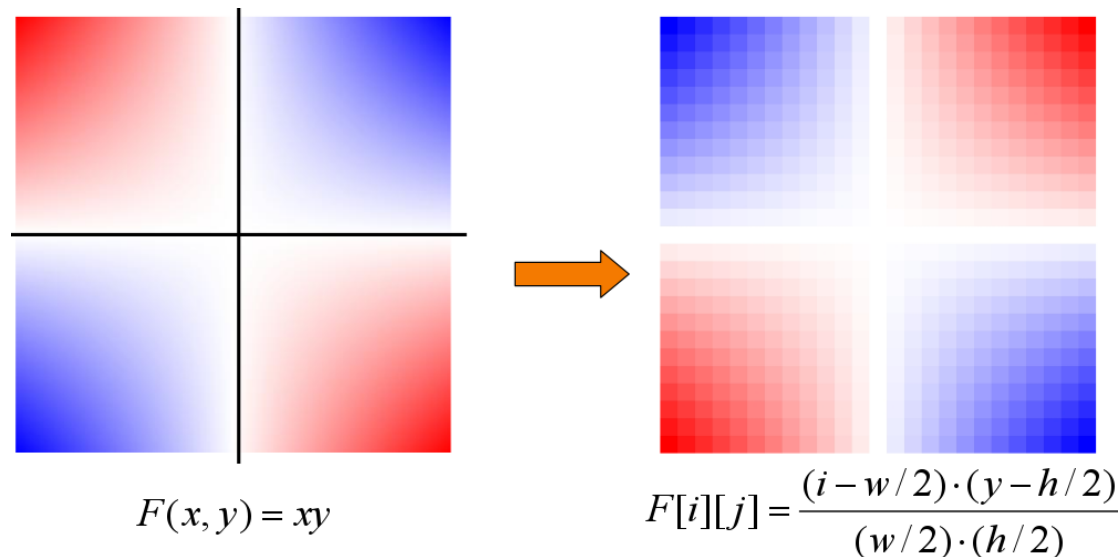
... which is the same as the Taylor series approximation for the second derivative

# In higher dimensions

- We have a function  $f: \mathbb{R}^p \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^q$
- Differential operators (in 3D):
  - **Gradient** (of scalar-valued function):  $\nabla f = \left( \frac{\partial f}{\partial x}, \frac{\partial f}{\partial y}, \frac{\partial f}{\partial z} \right)$
  - **Divergence** (of vector-valued function):  $\nabla \cdot V = \frac{\partial V_x}{\partial x} + \frac{\partial V_y}{\partial y} + \frac{\partial V_z}{\partial z}$
  - **Laplacian** (of scalar-valued function):  $\Delta f = \nabla \cdot \nabla f = \frac{\partial^2 f}{\partial x^2} + \frac{\partial^2 f}{\partial y^2} + \frac{\partial^2 f}{\partial z^2}$

# In higher dimensions

- We have a function  $f: \mathbb{R}^p \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^q$ 
  - We can discretize the domain as before, and obtain discrete analogues of the gradient  $\nabla (A)$ , divergence  $\nabla \cdot (-A^T)$  and Laplacian  $\Delta = (\nabla \cdot) \nabla (-A^T A)$
  - Note that the gradient and divergence matrices are no longer square (more on this next class)



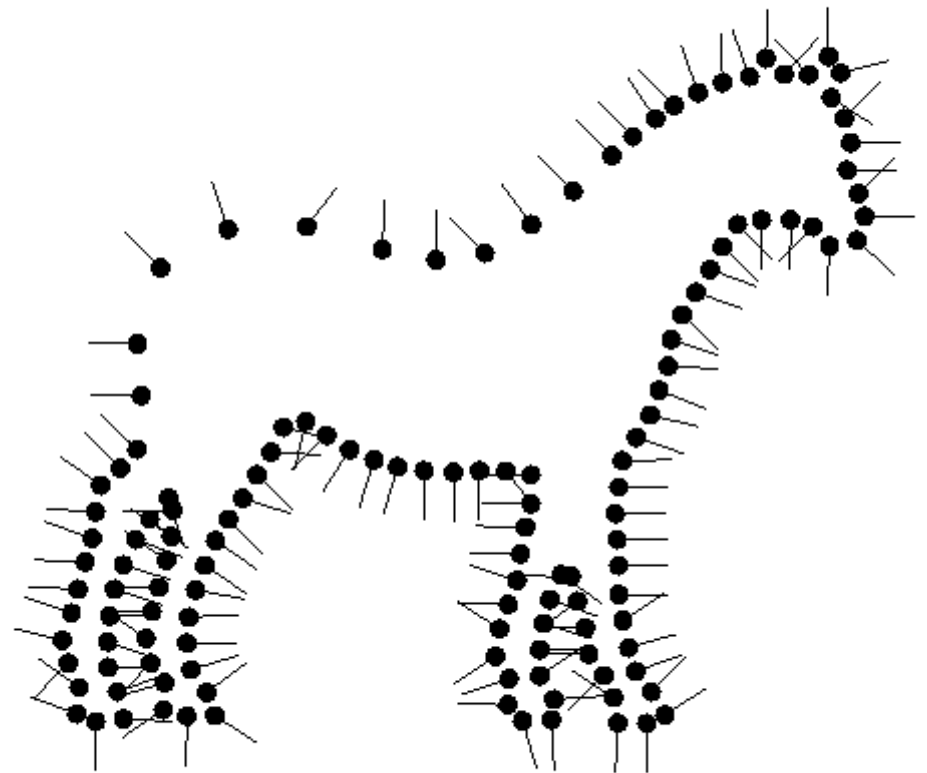
# Takeaway

- A continuous variational problem can be approximated by a discrete one
  - Continuous **function** → Discrete **vector** of values
  - Continuous **operator** → Discrete **matrix**
  - Function **composition** → Matrix **multiplication**
  - **Euler-Lagrange** solution → **Linear Least Squares**
- **Rest of this class:** Overview of the pipeline of Poisson surface reconstruction
- **Next class:** The Galerkin approximation for recovering a continuous function from the discrete setup

# Implementation

Given the Points:

- Set octree
- Compute vector field
- Compute indicator function
- Extract iso-surface

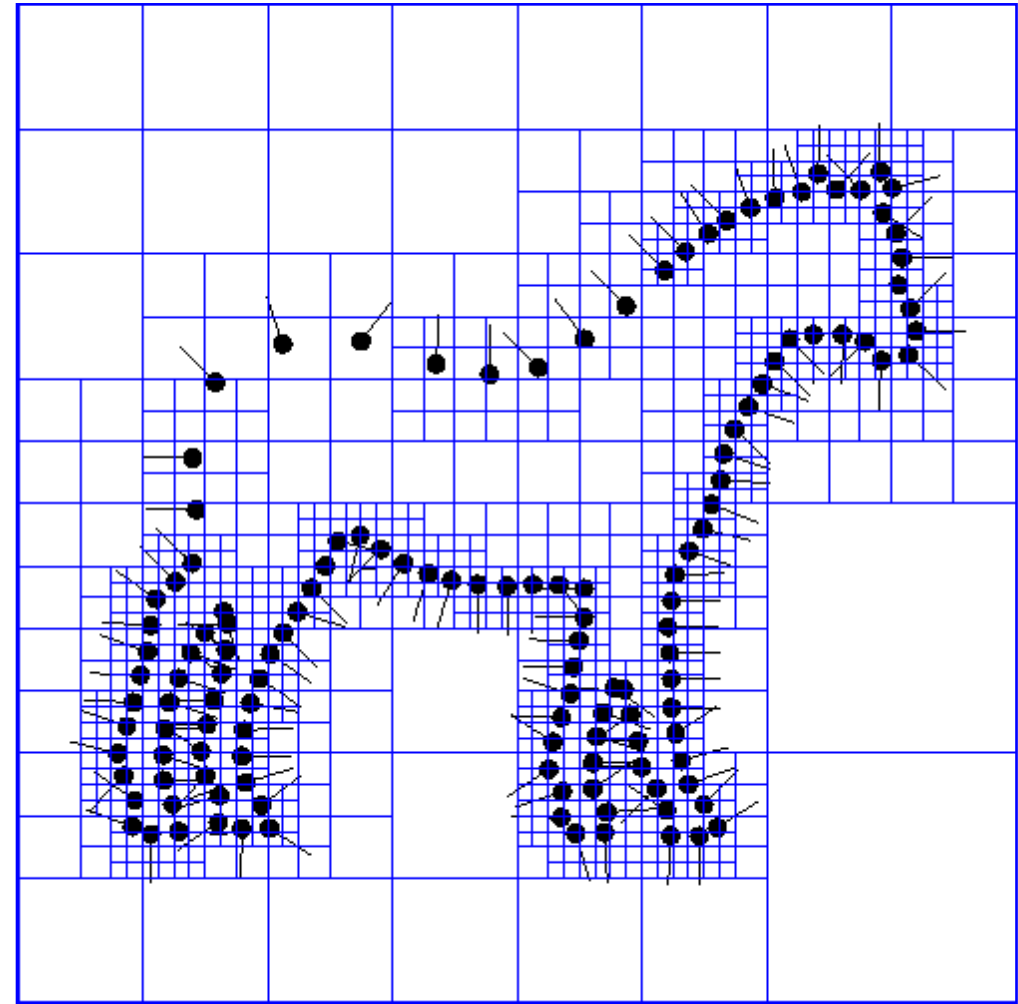




# Implementation: Adaptive Octree

Given the Points:

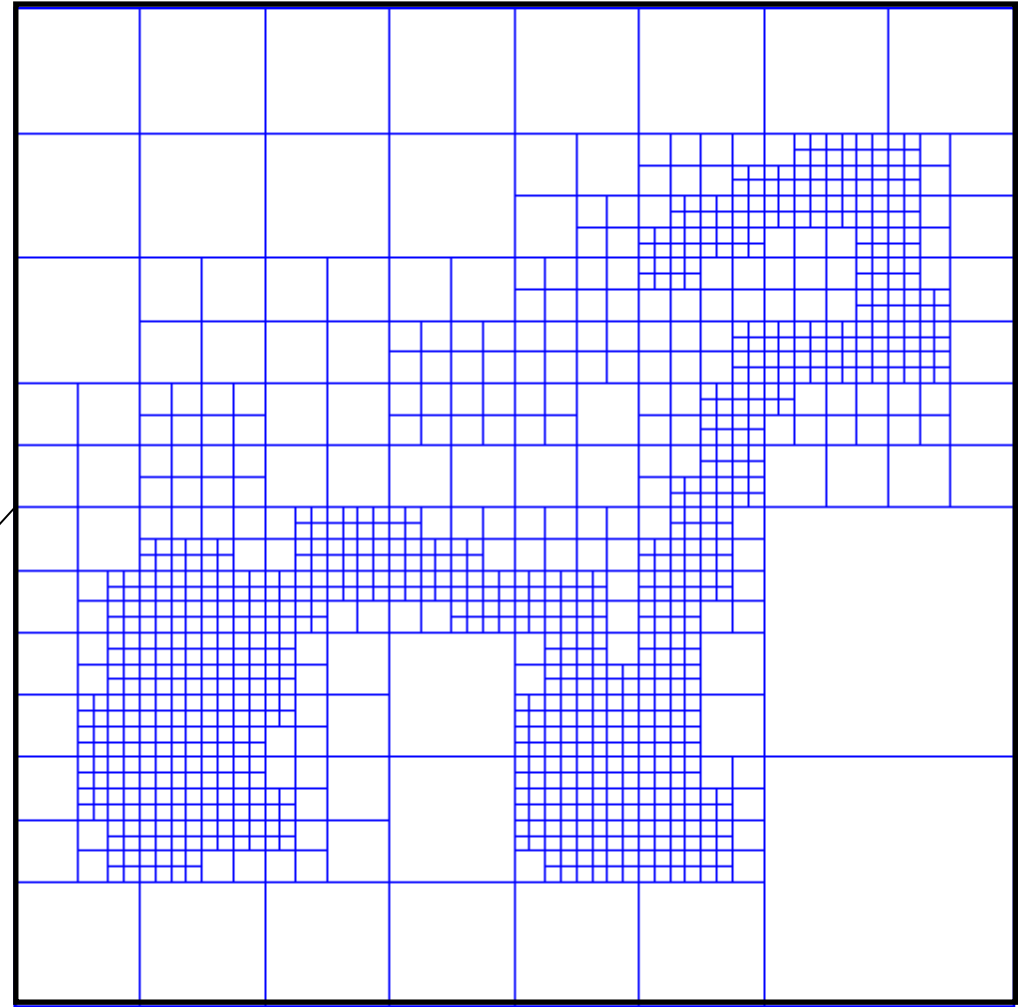
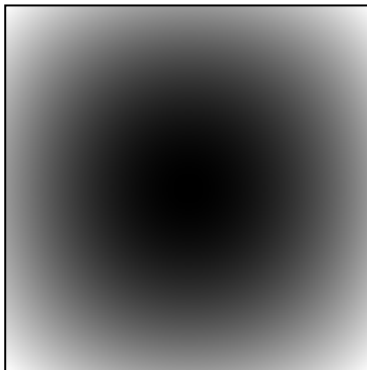
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# Implementation: Vector Field

Given the Points:

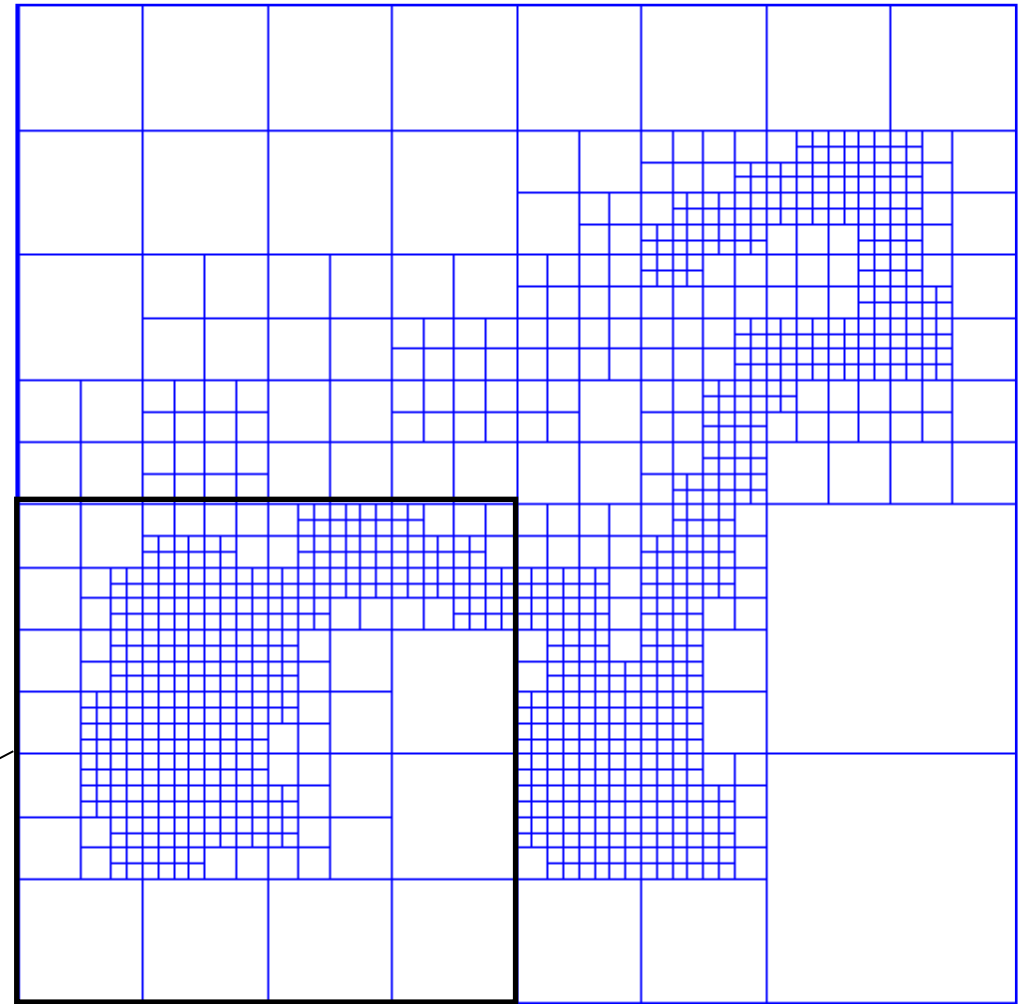
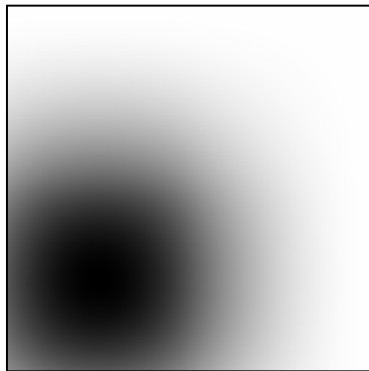
- Set octree
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- Extract iso-surface



# Implementation: Vector Field

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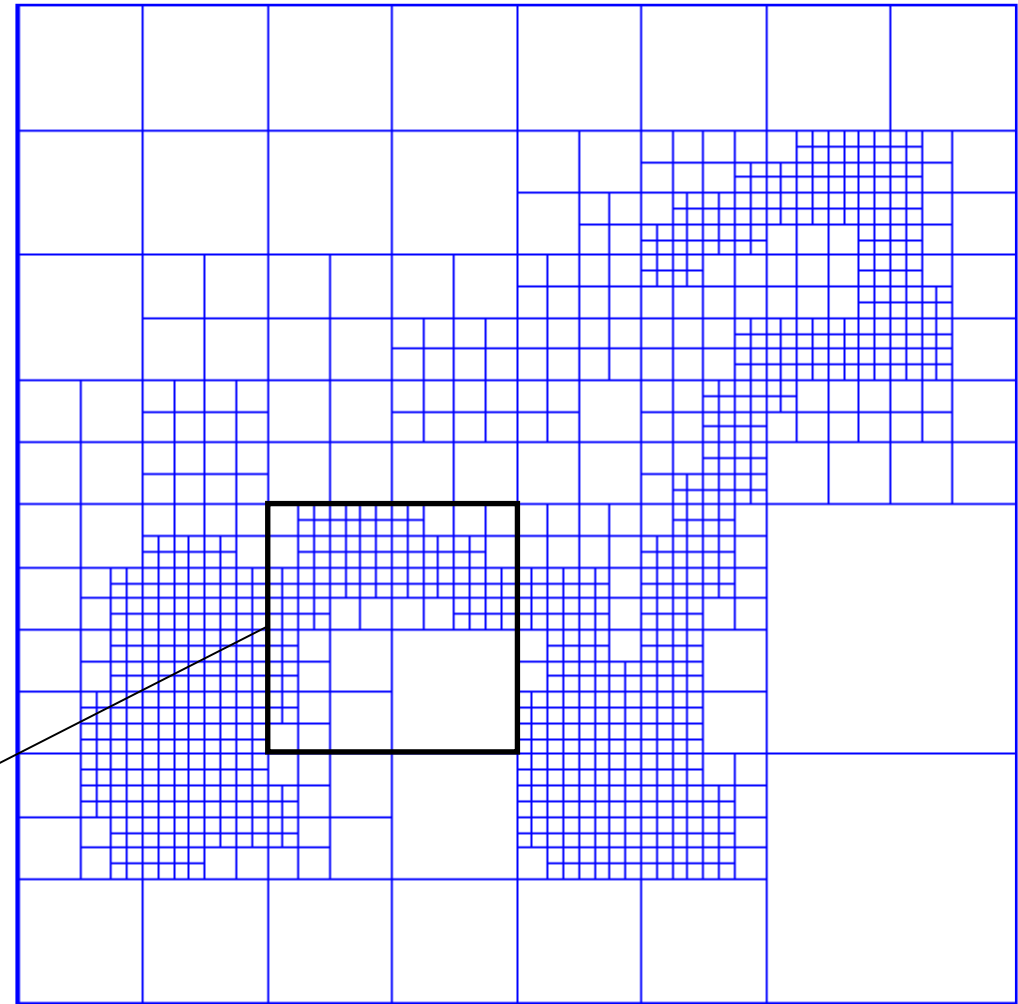
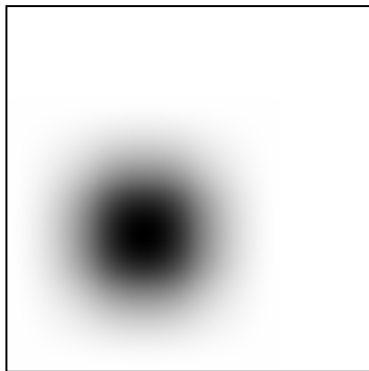
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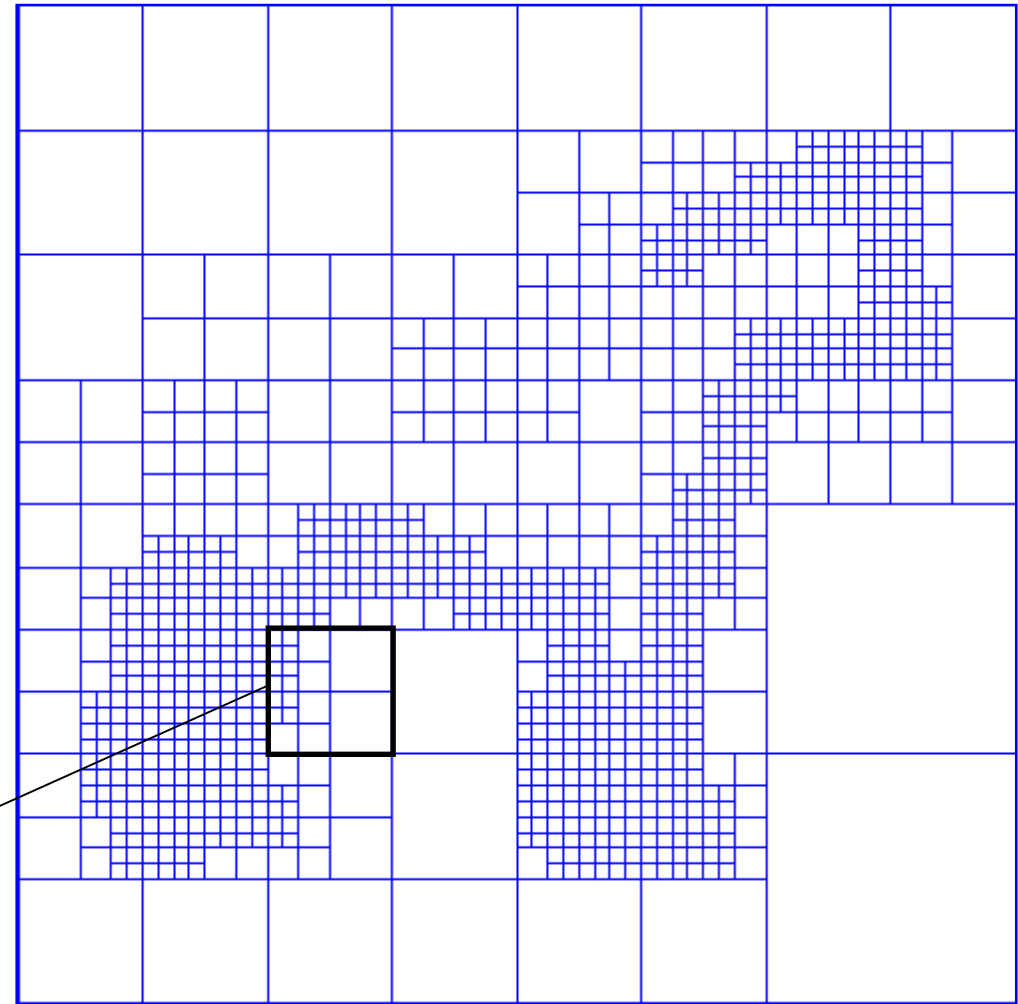
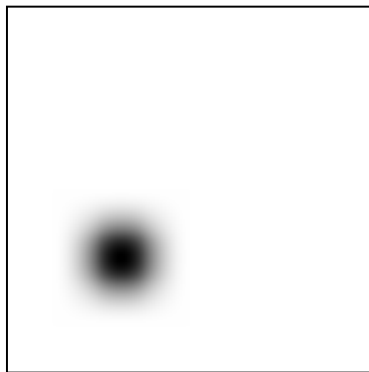
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Given the Points:

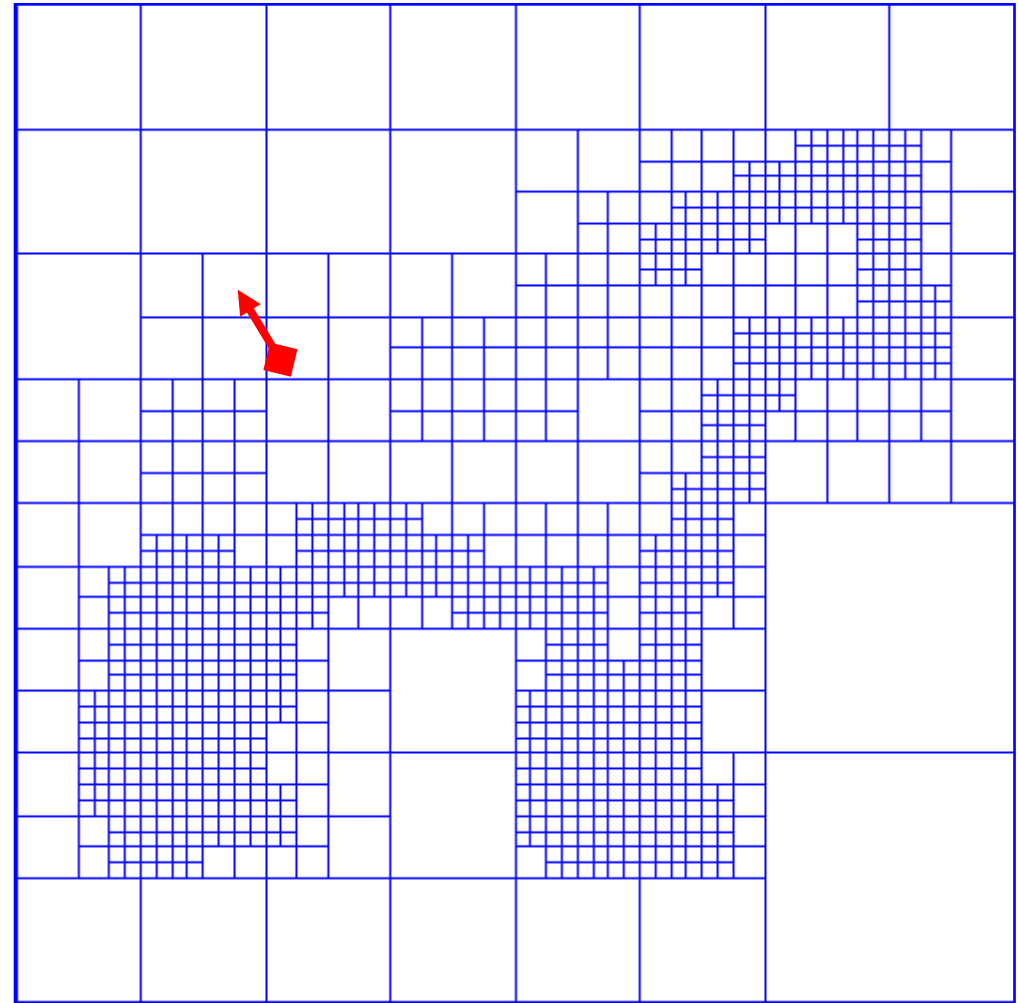
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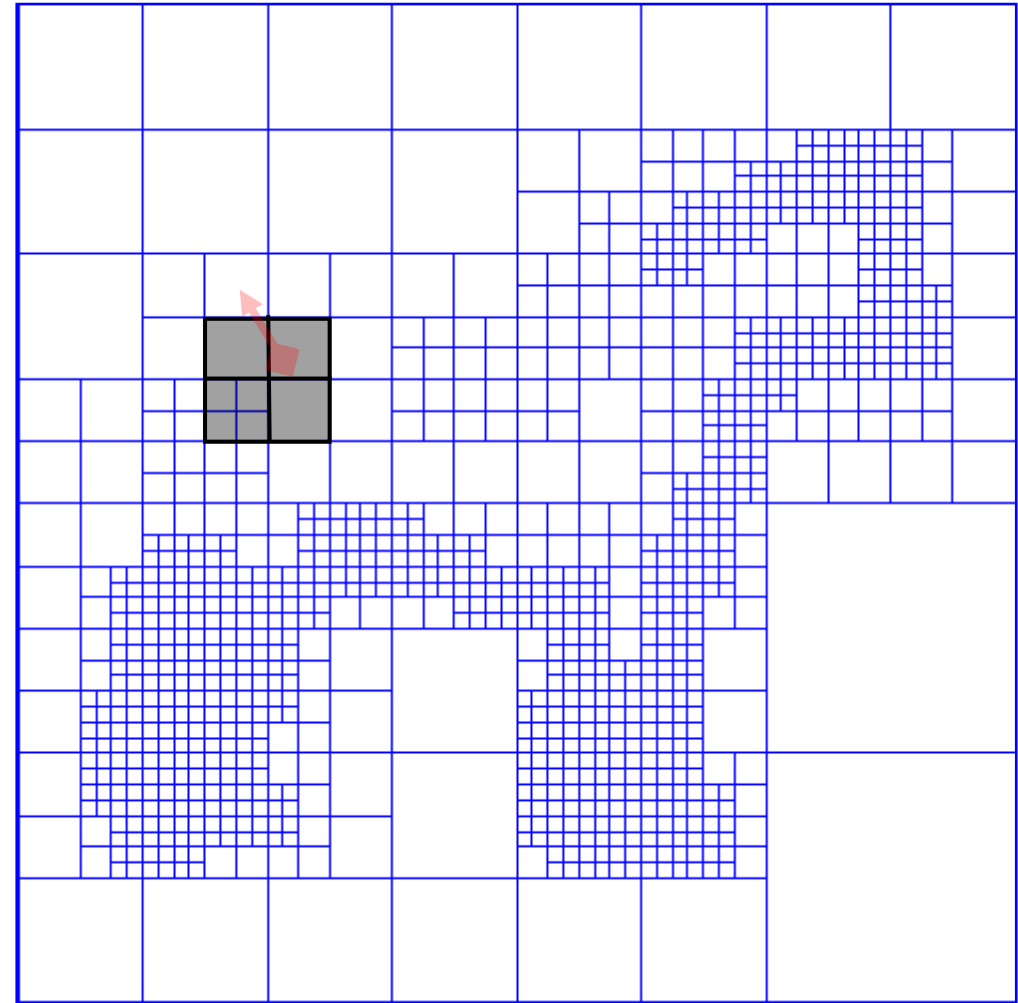
- Set octree
- Compute vector field
  - Define a function basis
  - Splat the samples
- Compute indicator function
- Extract iso-surface



# Implementation: Vector Field

Given the Points:

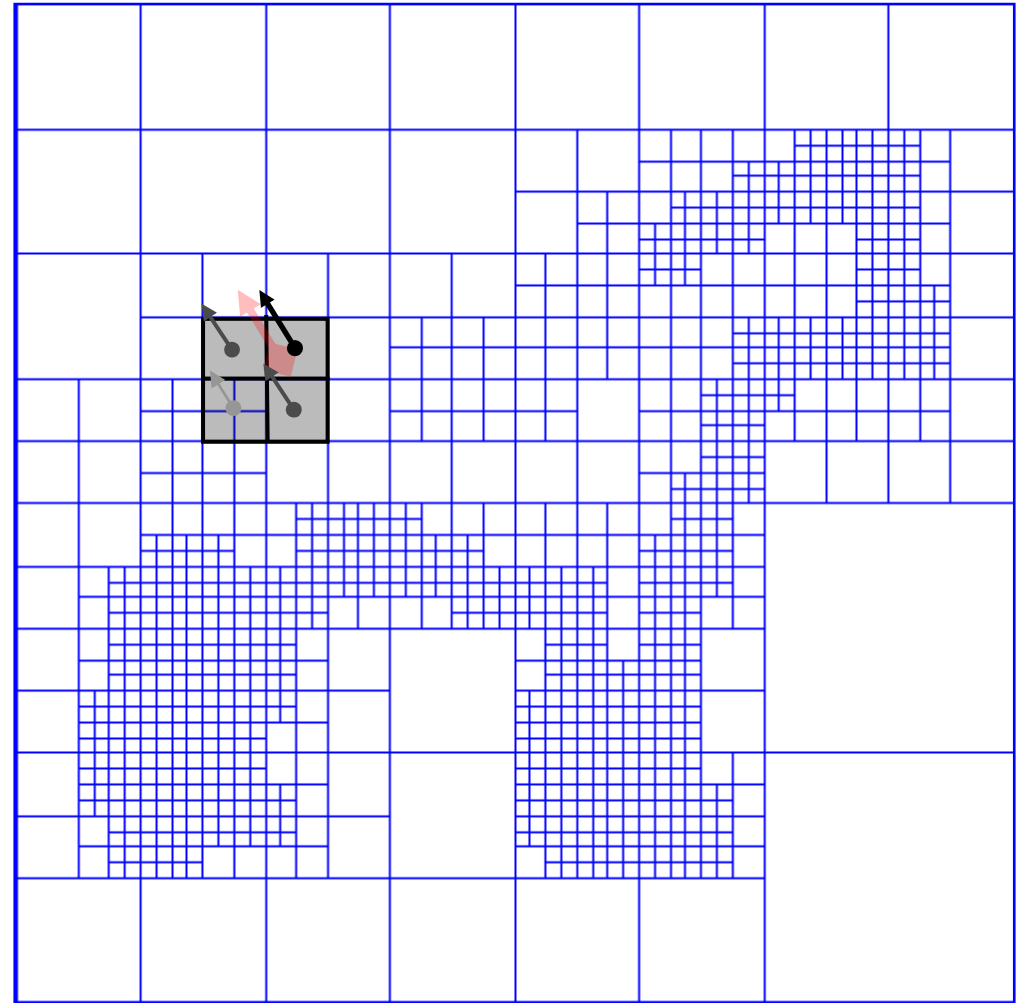
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# Implementation: Vector Field

Given the Points:

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- Compute vector field
  - Define a function basis
  - Splat the samples
- Compute indicator function
- Extract iso-surface

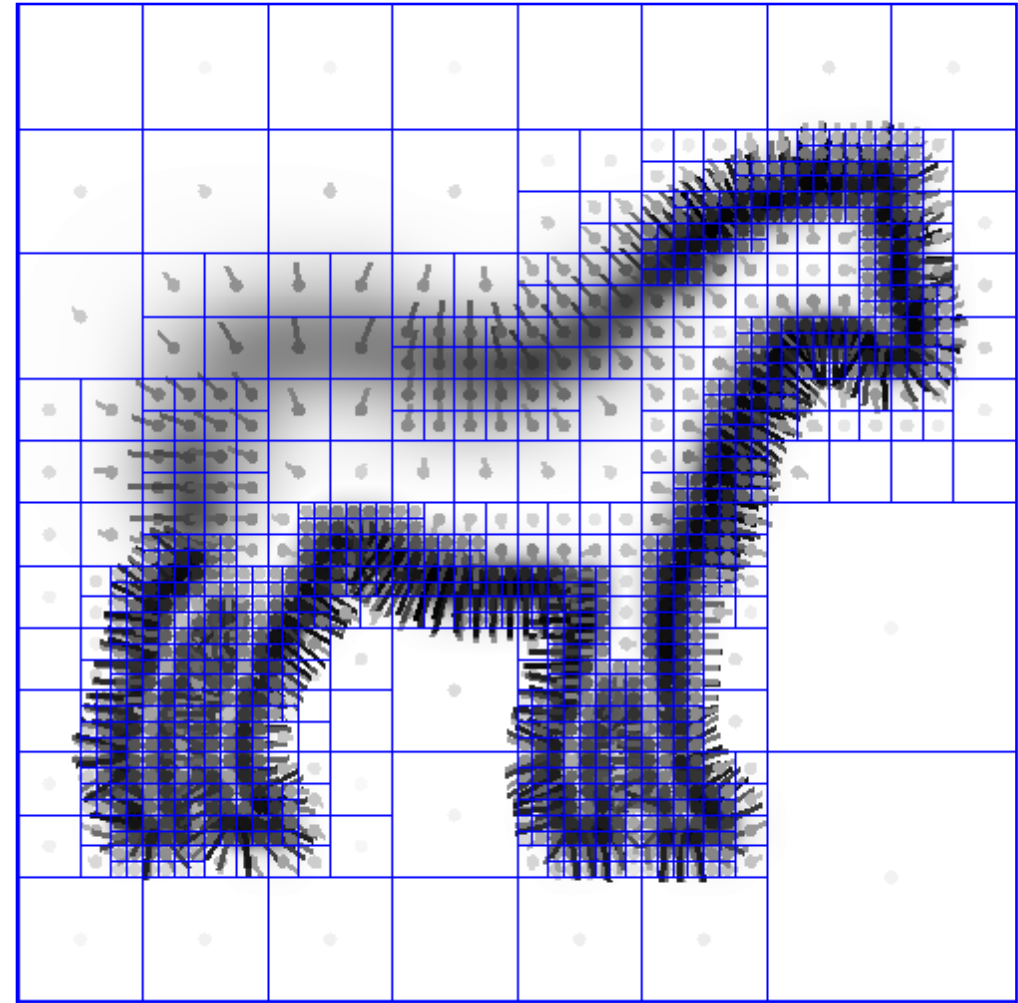




# Implementation: Vector Field

Given the Points:

- Set octree
- Compute vector field
  - Define a function space
  - Splat the samples
- Compute indicator function
- Extract iso-surface



# Implementation: Indicator Function

Given the Points:

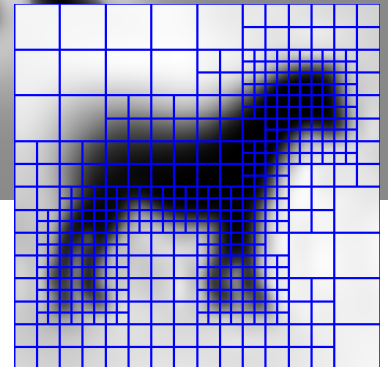
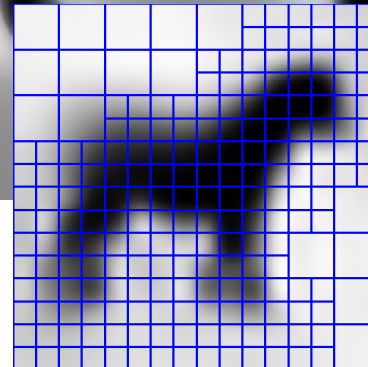
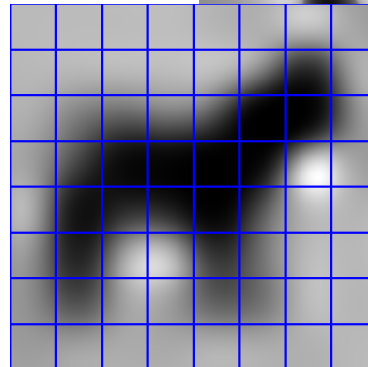
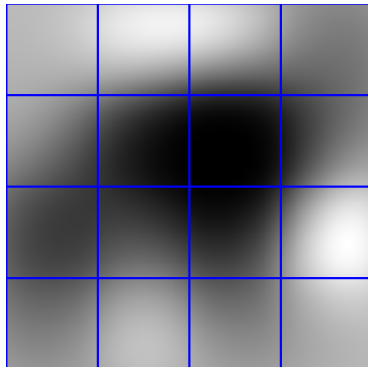
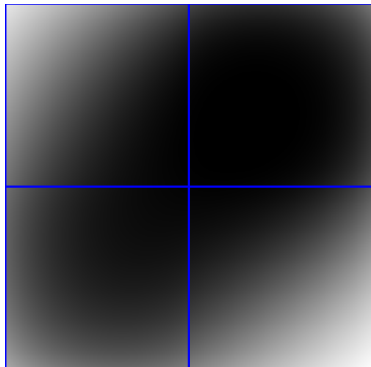
- Set octree
- Compute vector field
- Compute indicator function
  - Compute divergence
  - Solve Poisson equation
- Extract iso-surface



# Implementation: Indicator Function

Given the Points:

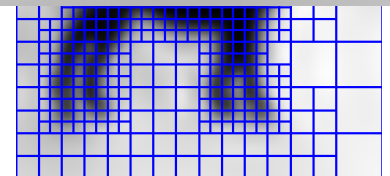
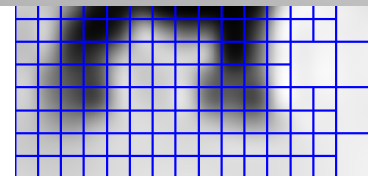
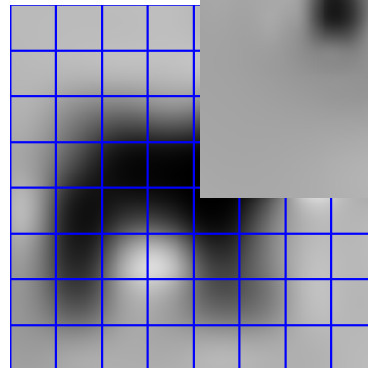
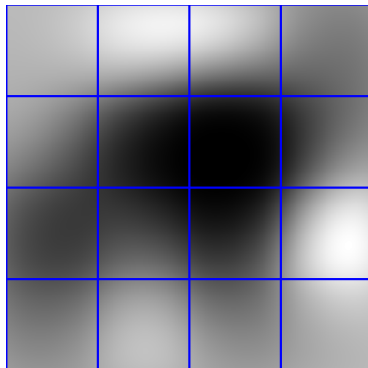
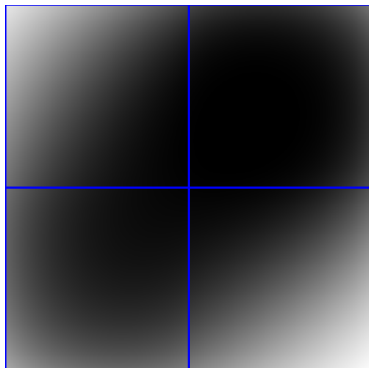
- Set octree
- Compute vector field
- Compute indicator function
  - Compute divergence
  - Solve Poisson equation
- Extract iso-surface



# Implementation: Indicator Function

Given the Points:

- Set octree
- Compute vector field
- Compute indicator function
  - Compute divergence
  - Solve Poisson equation
- Extract iso-surface



# Implementation: Surface Extraction

Given the Points:

- Set octree
- Compute vector field
- Compute indicator function
- Extract iso-surface

