

Decomposing Images into Layers via RGB-space Geometry

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George Mason University

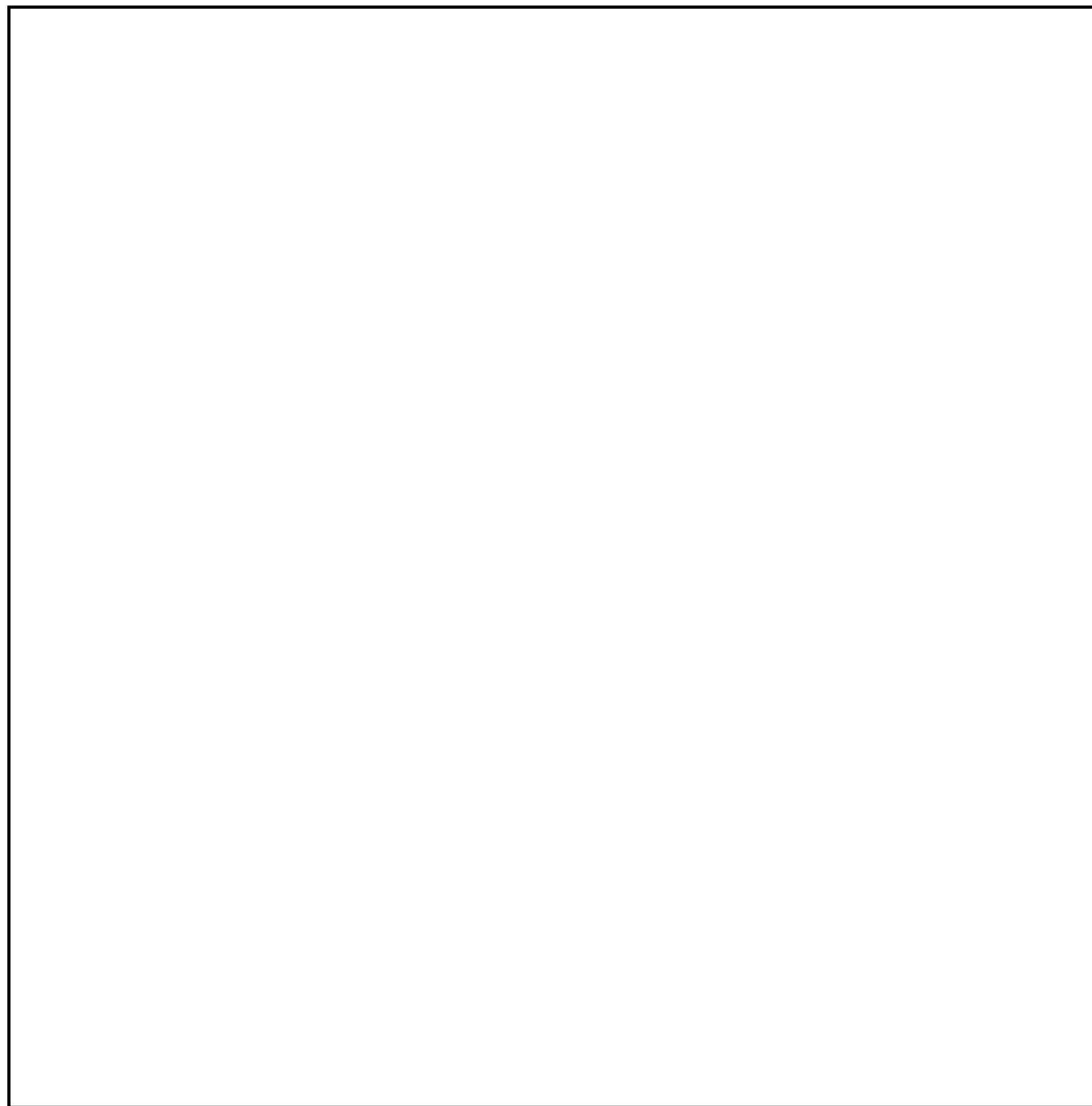
CraGL
Creativity and Graphics Lab

**GEORGE
MASON**
UNIVERSITY

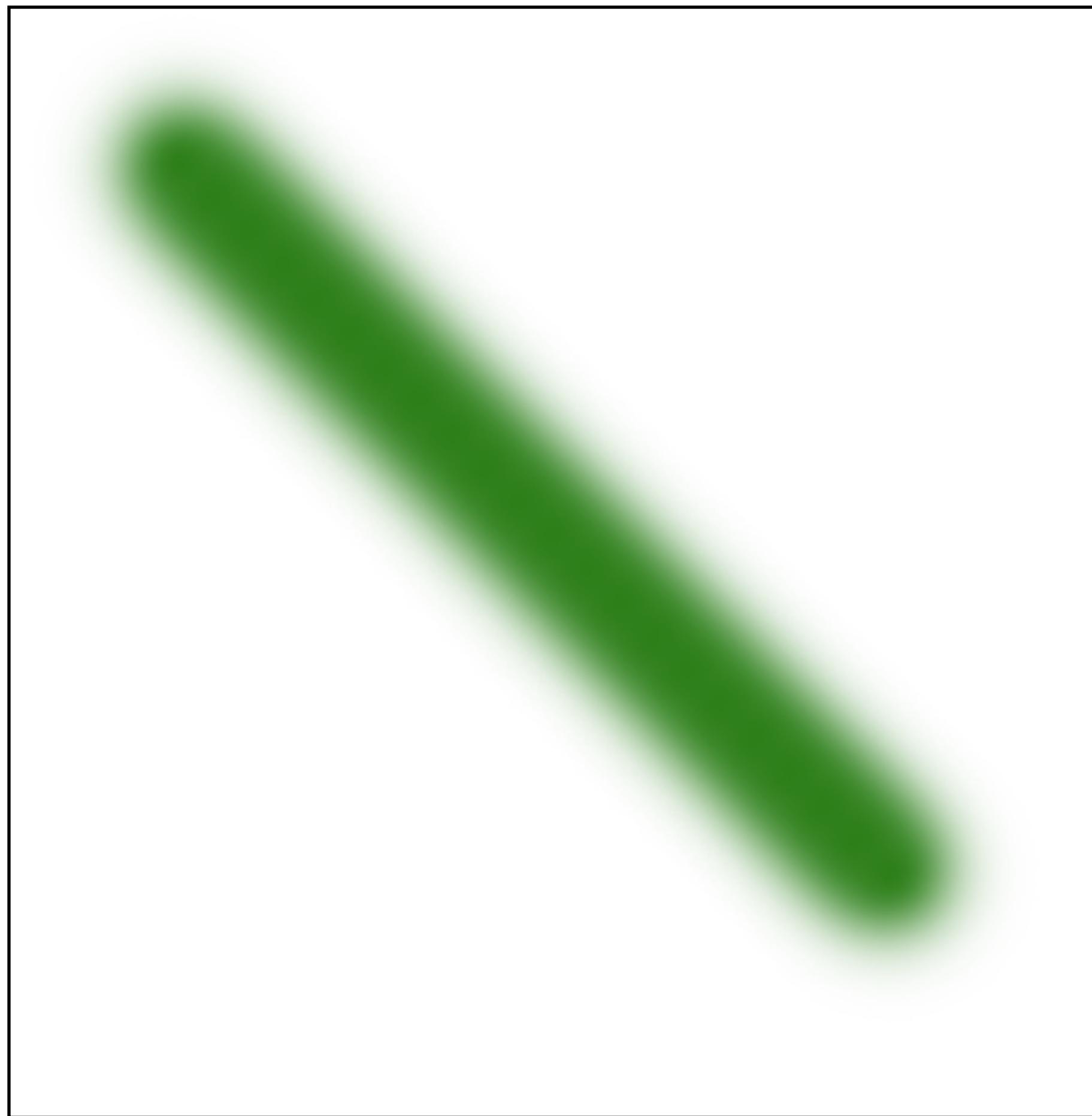
MASC
Motion and Shape Computing



Background: Digital Painting



Background: Digital Painting



Background: Digital Painting



Background: Digital Painting

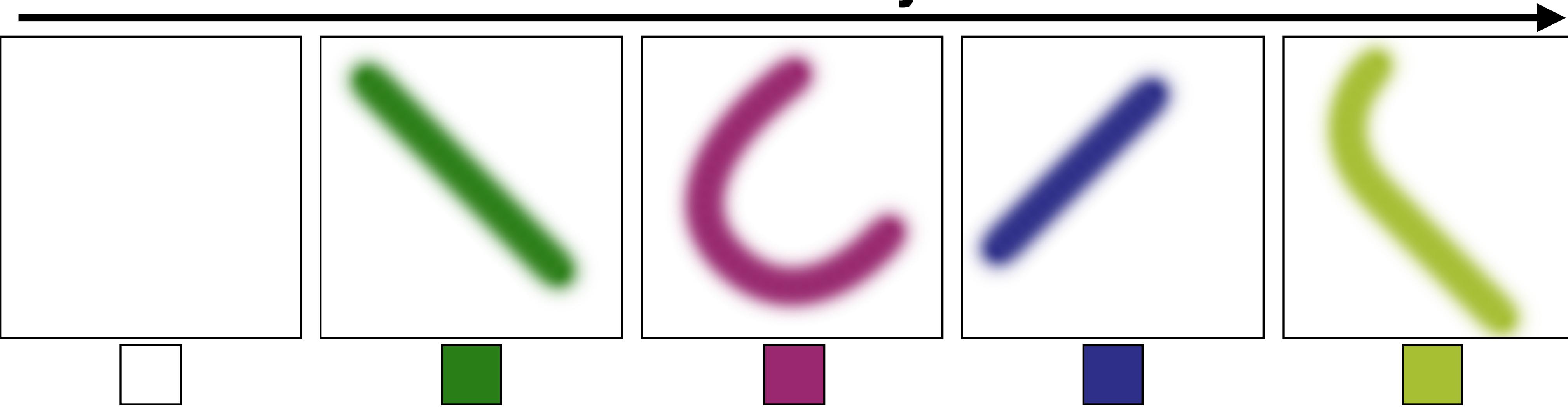


Background: Digital Painting



Background: Digital Painting

Ordered Layers



Background: Digital Painting



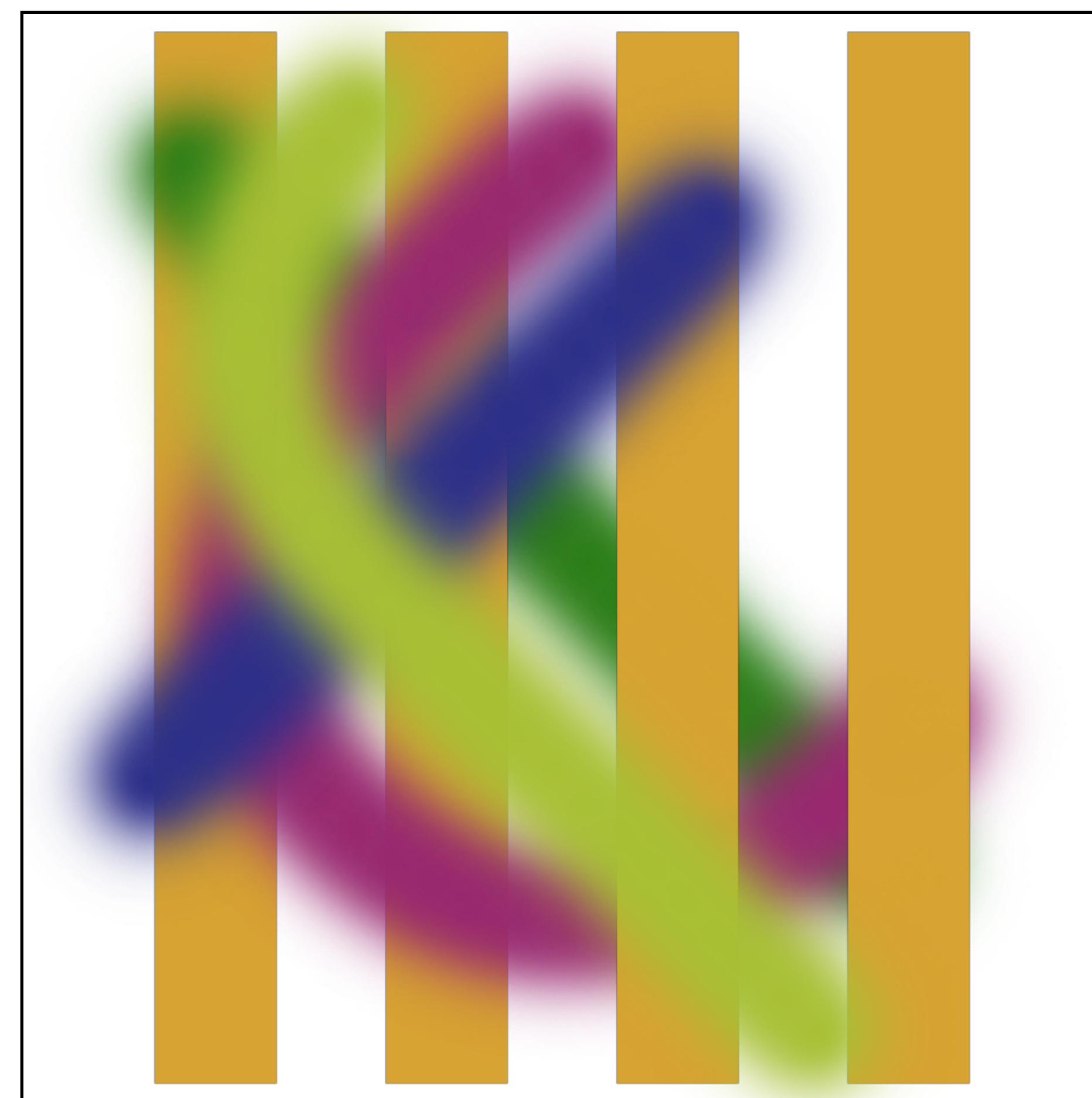
Motivation: Layers Organize Images



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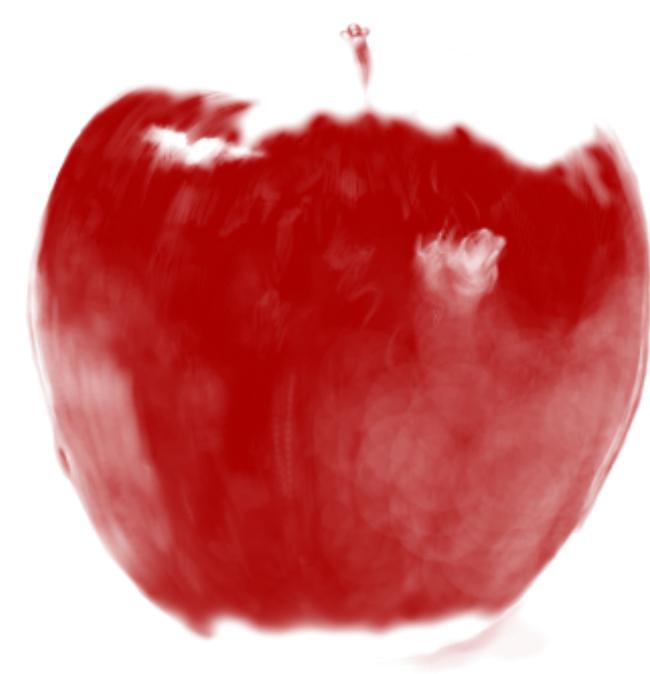
Motivation: Layers Organize Images



Images in the wild don't have layers



Can we decompose them into layers?



That reproduce the original image?



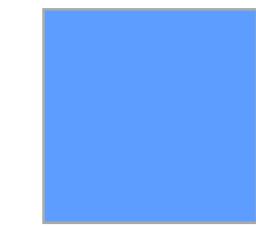
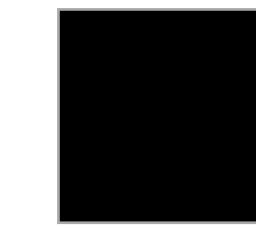
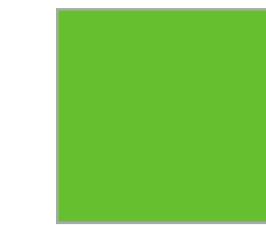
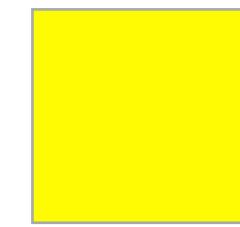
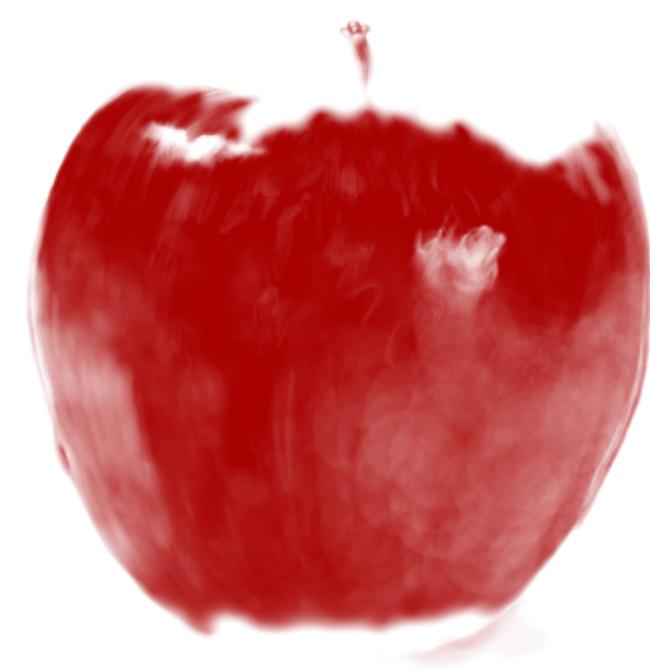
Two Subproblems



Layer Colors (Coats of Paint)

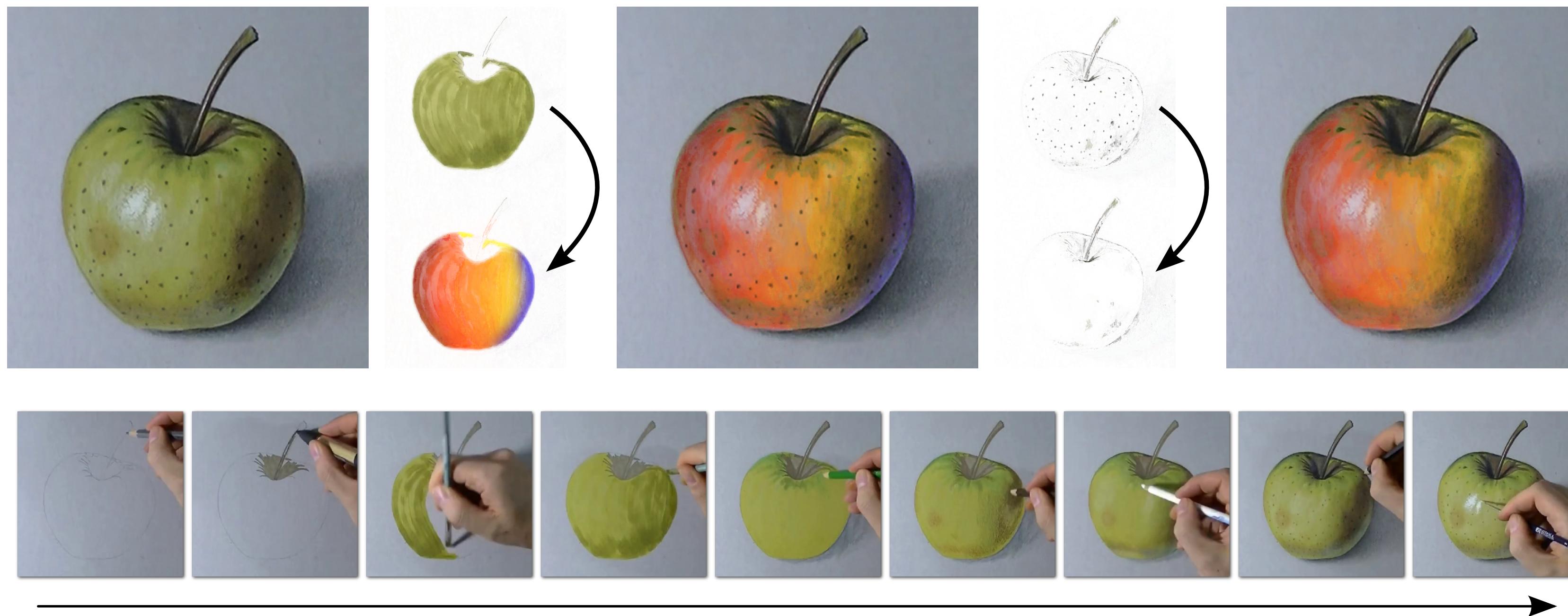


Layer Opacity



Related Work

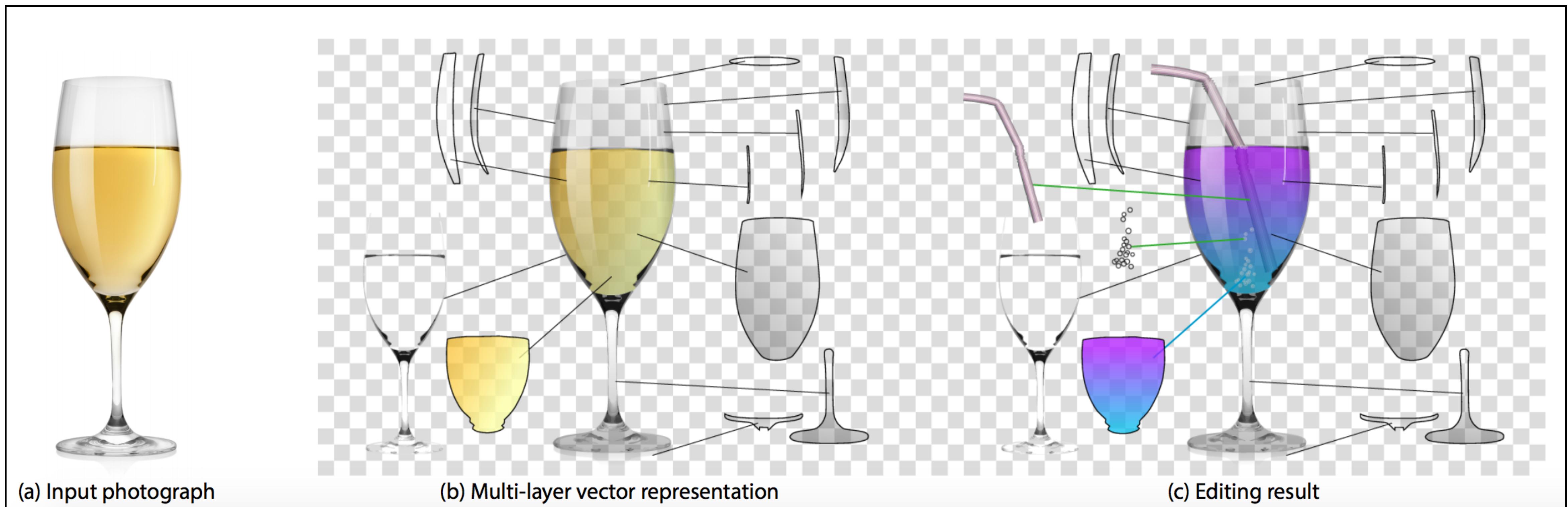
- Interacting with editing history
 - Su et al. [2009], VisTrails [2009], McCann and Pollard [2009; 2012], Grossman et al. [2010], Noris et al. [2012], Denning and Pellacini [2013] , Chen et al. [2014], Matzen and Snavely [2014], Karsch et al. [2014]. Amati and Brostow [2010], Hu et al. [2013]. Tan et al. [2015].



Decomposing time-lapse paintings into layers [Tan et al. 2015]

Related Work

- Decomposing edits
 - Xu et al. [2006], Amati and Brostow [2010], Fu et al. [2011], Hu et al. [2013], Richardt et al. [2014].



Vectorising bitmaps into semi-transparent gradient layers [Richardt et al. 2014]

Related Work

- Image matting
 - Smith and Blinn [1996], Zongker et al. [1999], Farid and Adelson [1999], Szeliski et al. [2000], Levin et al. [2006; 2008] and so on.



Blue screen matting [Smith and Blinn 1996]

Related Work

- Palette Selection
 - Shapira et al. [2009], O'Donovan et al. [2011], Lin et al. [2013], Gerstner et al. [2013], Chang et al. [2015].

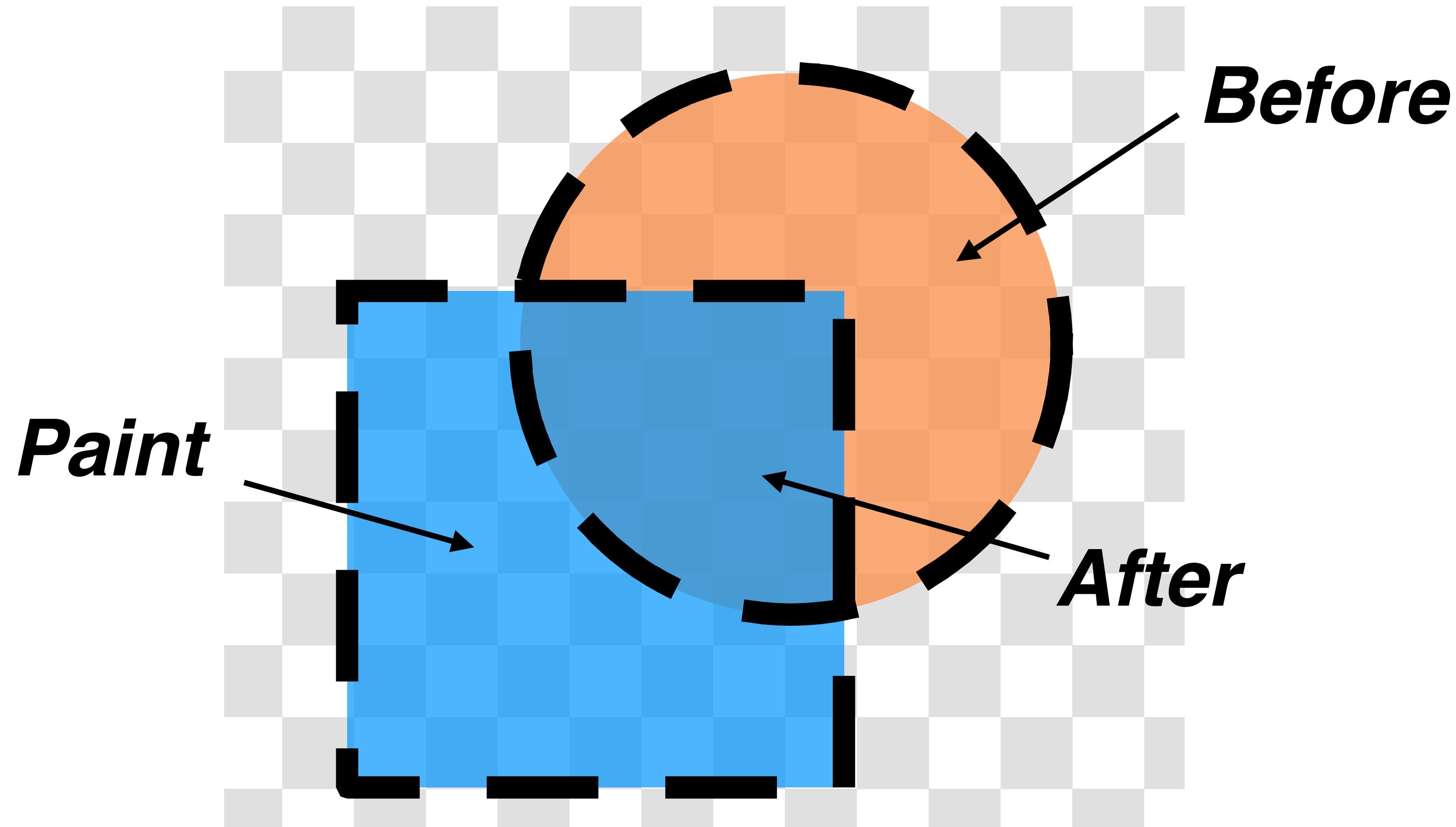


Palette based photo recoloring [Chang et al. 2015]

Geometry of Compositing

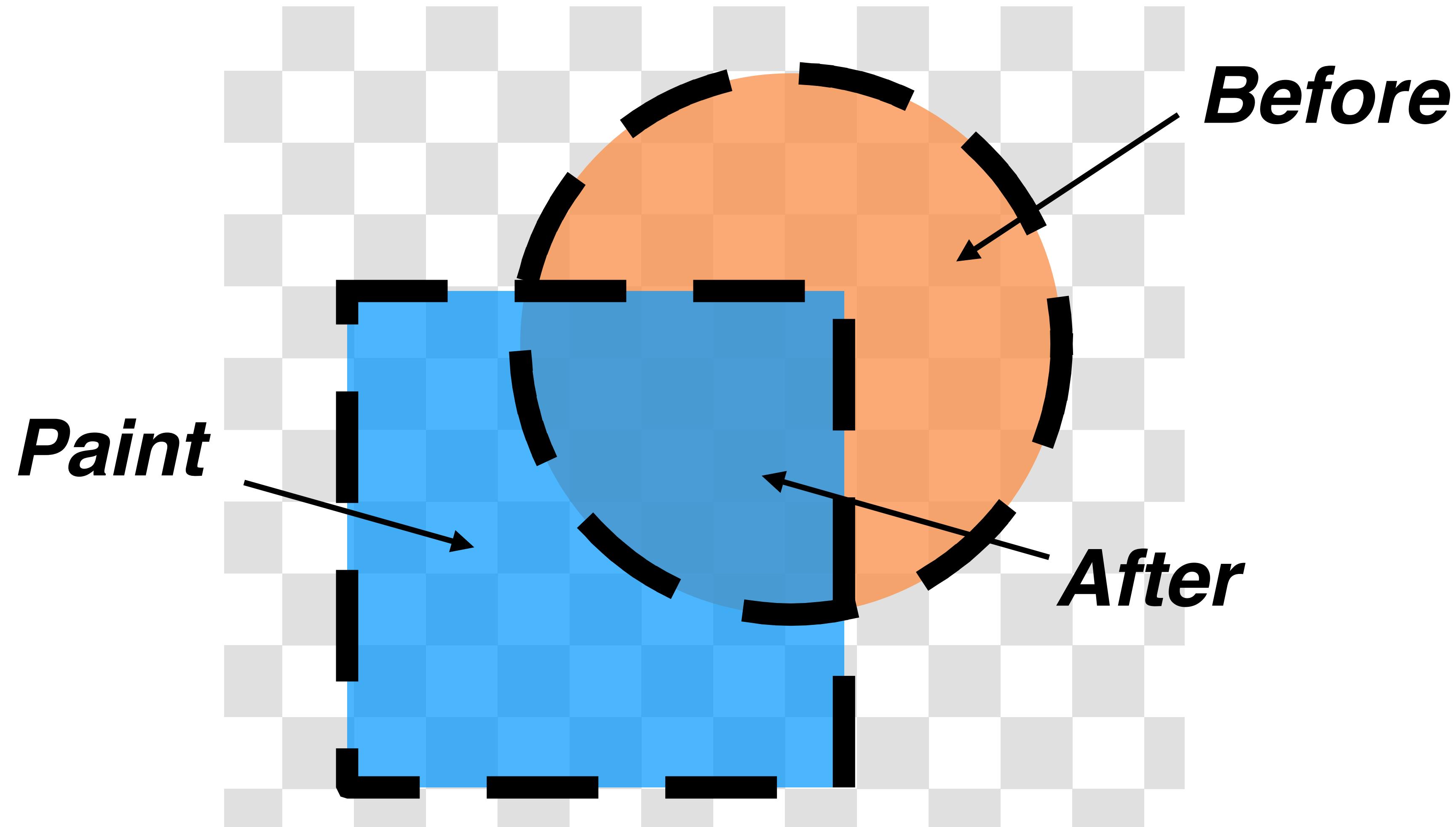
Porter-Duff “Over” Color Compositing

$$After = Before \cdot (1 - \alpha) + Paint \cdot \alpha$$

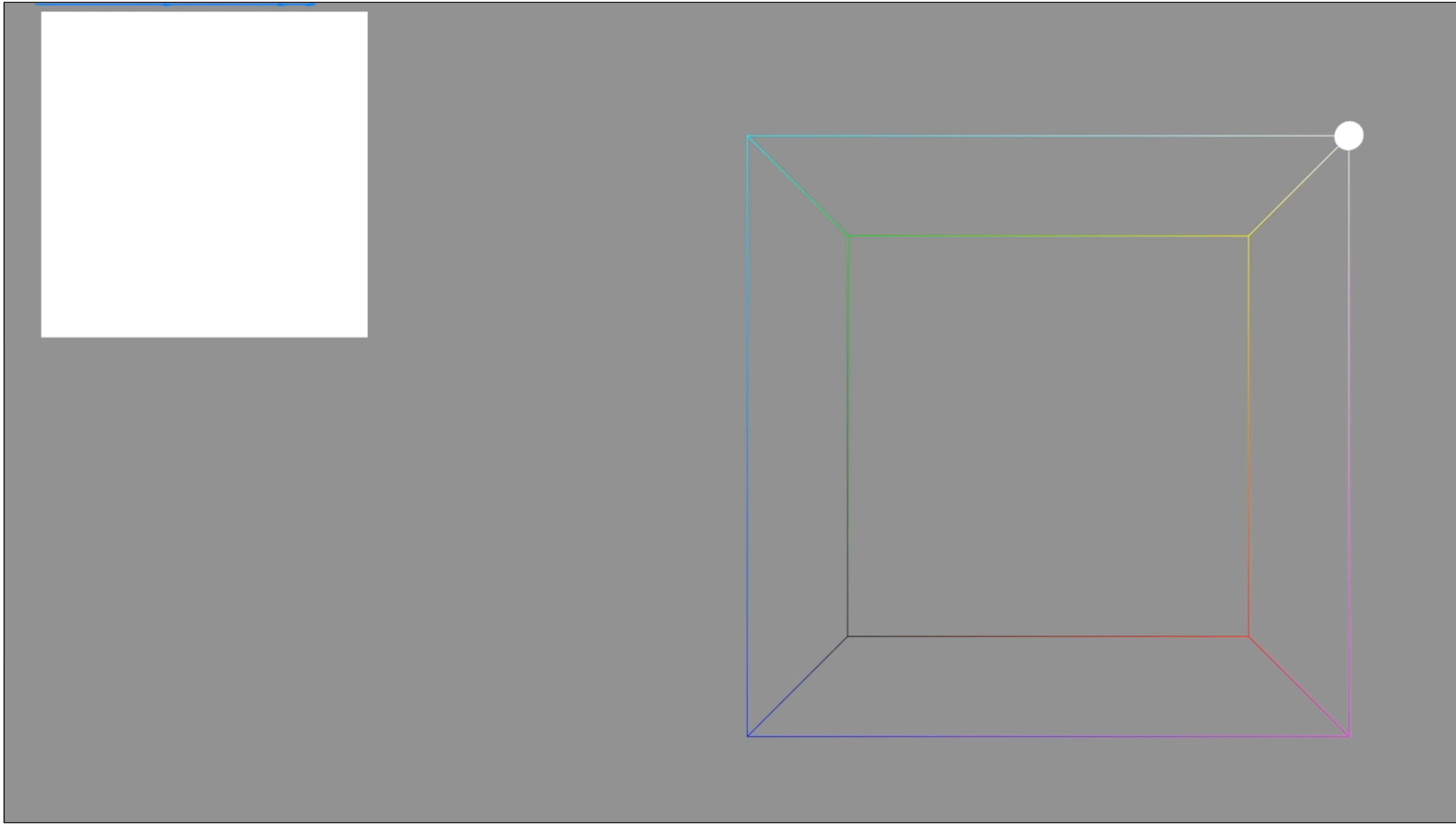


Porter-Duff “Over” Color Compositing

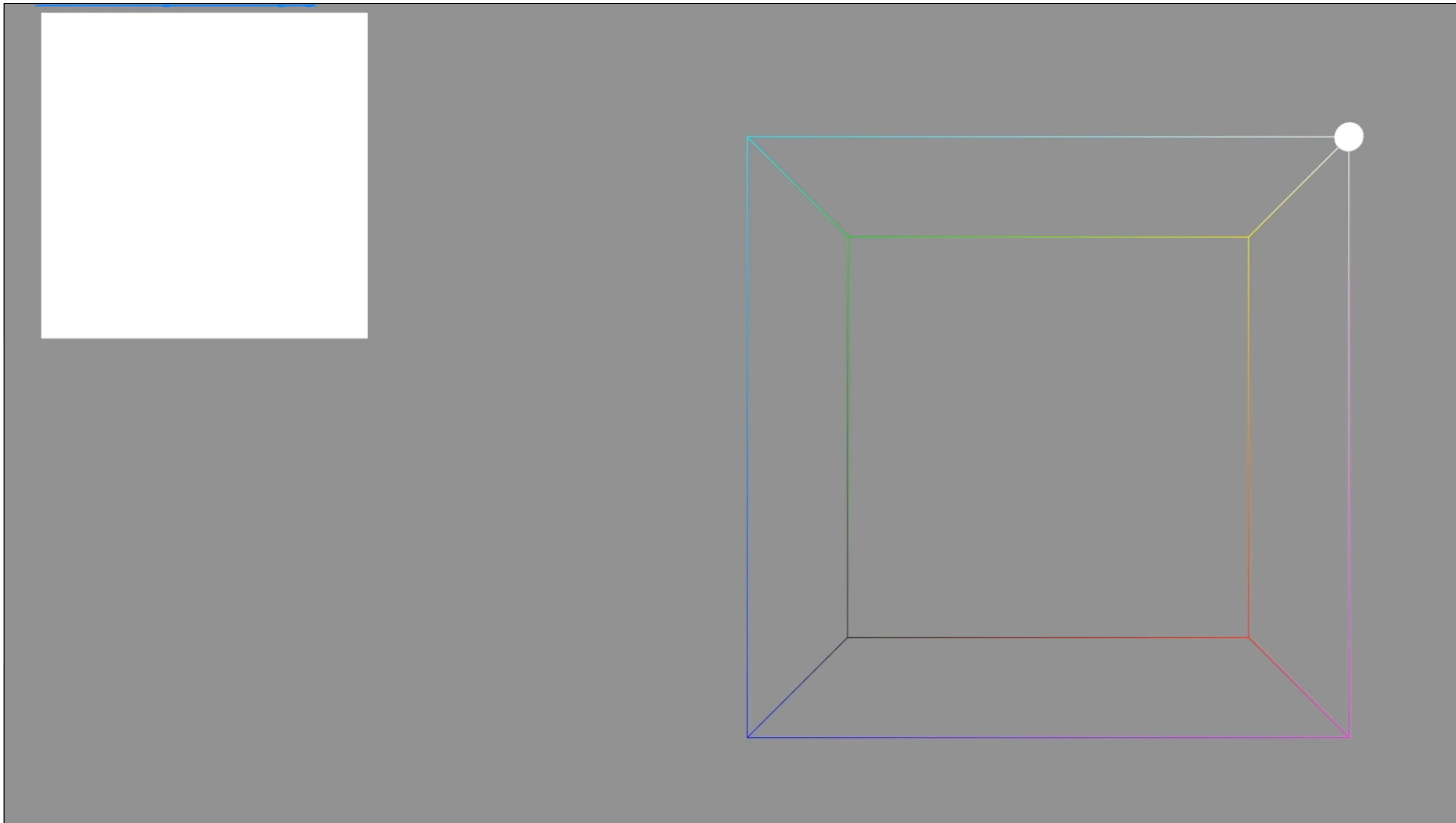
$$After = Before \cdot (1 - \boxed{\alpha}) + Paint \cdot \boxed{\alpha}$$



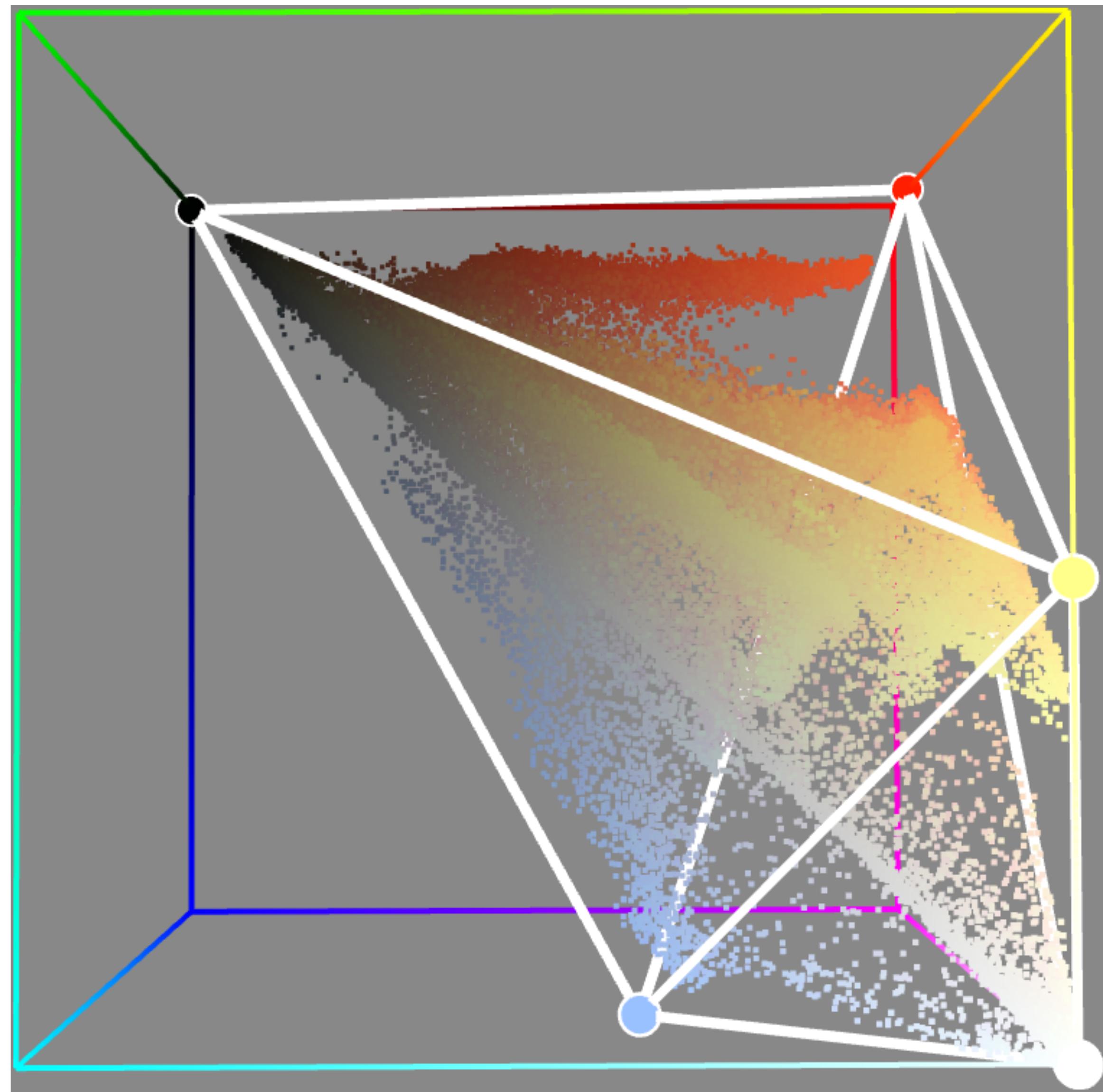
Coats of Paint follow a convex structure in RGB space



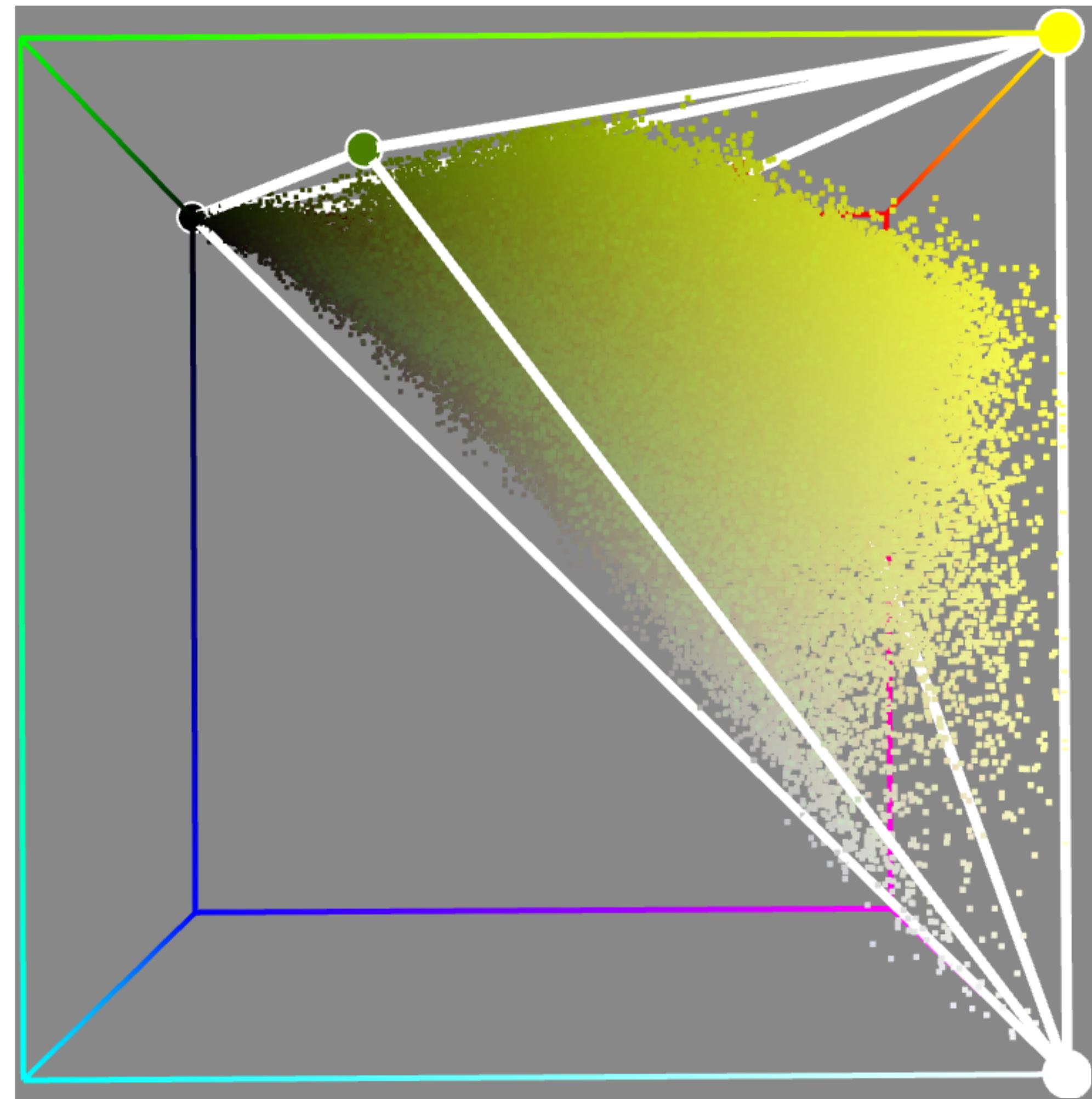
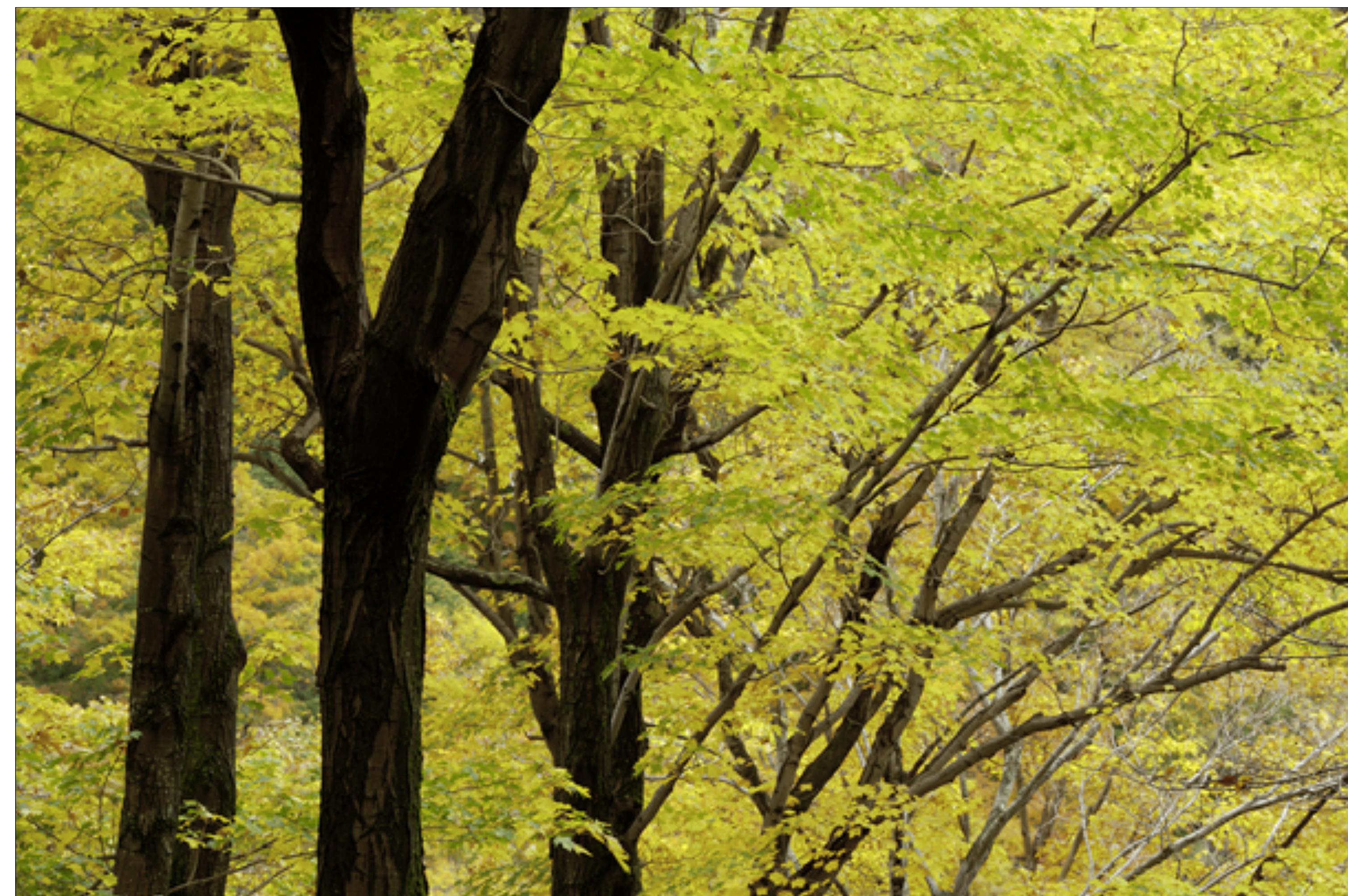
Coats of Paint follow a convex structure in RGB space



More examples

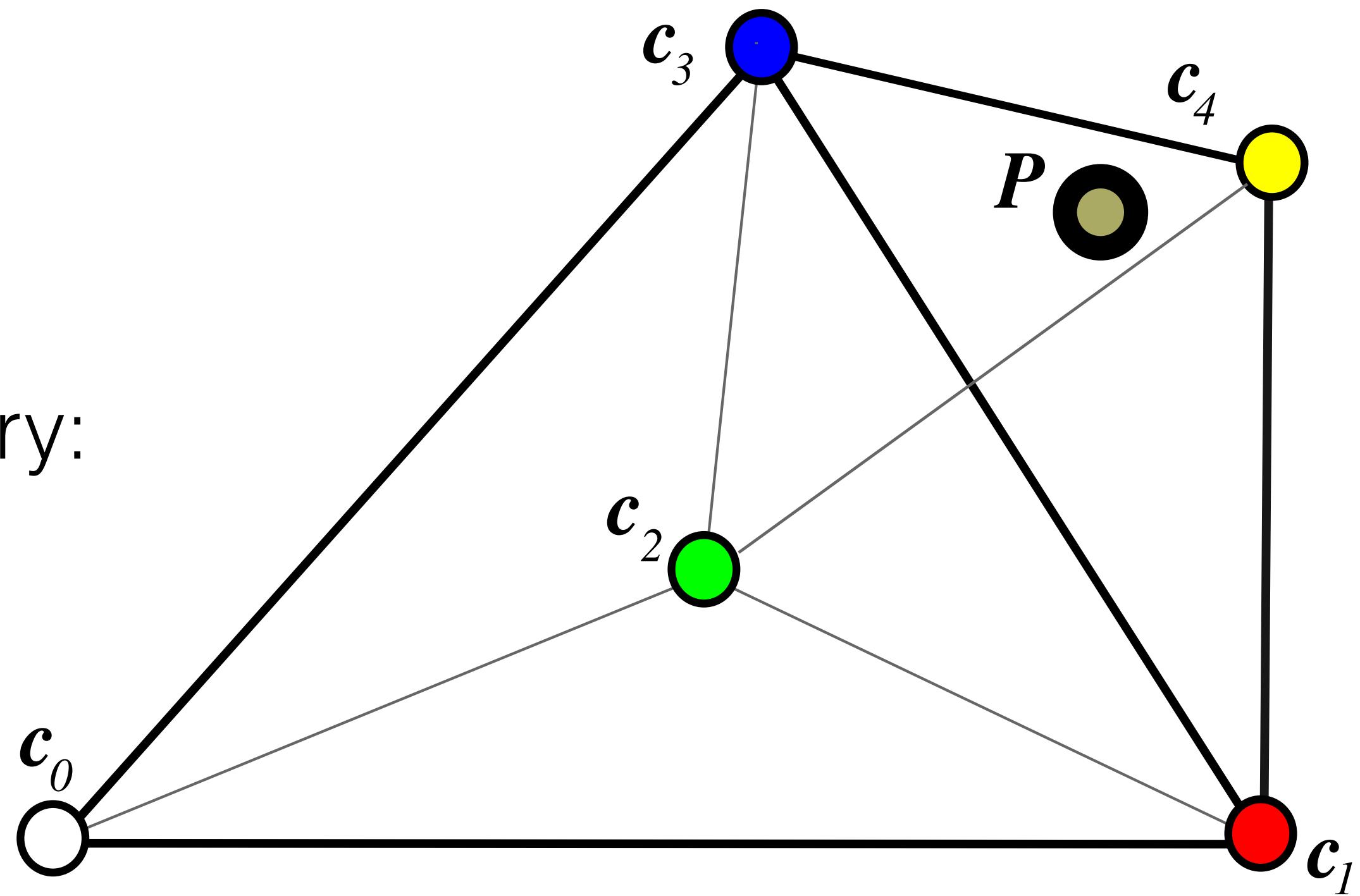


More examples



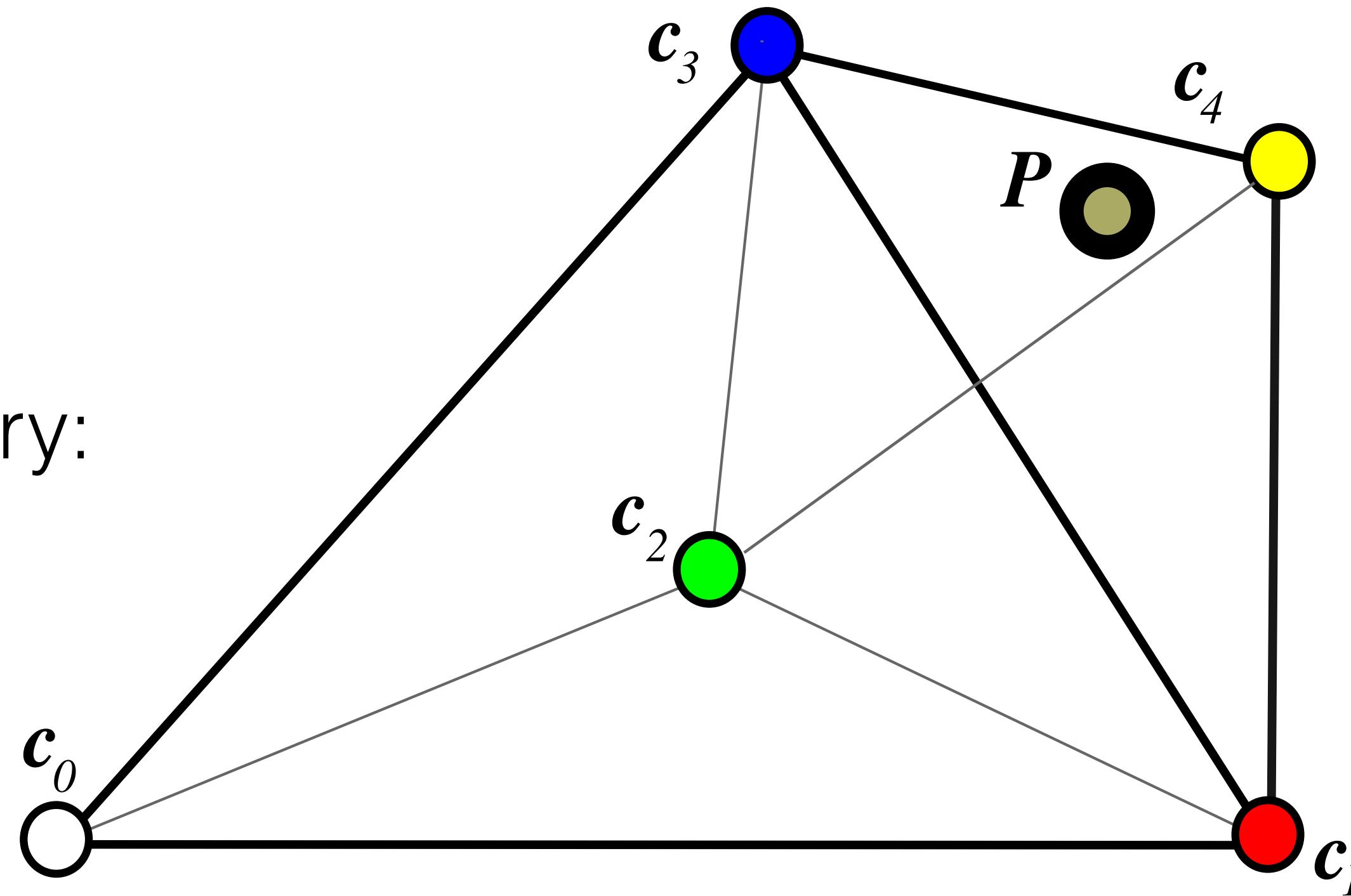
Geometric interpretation of ‘over’ compositing equation

Geometry:



Geometric interpretation of ‘over’ compositing equation

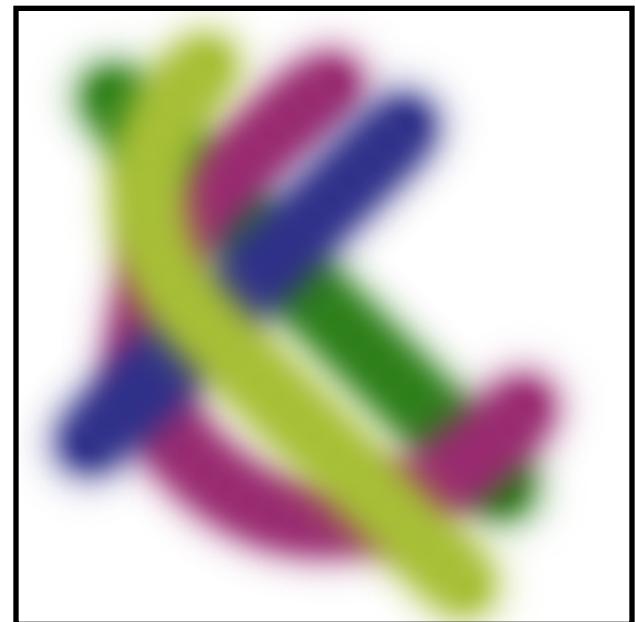
Geometry:



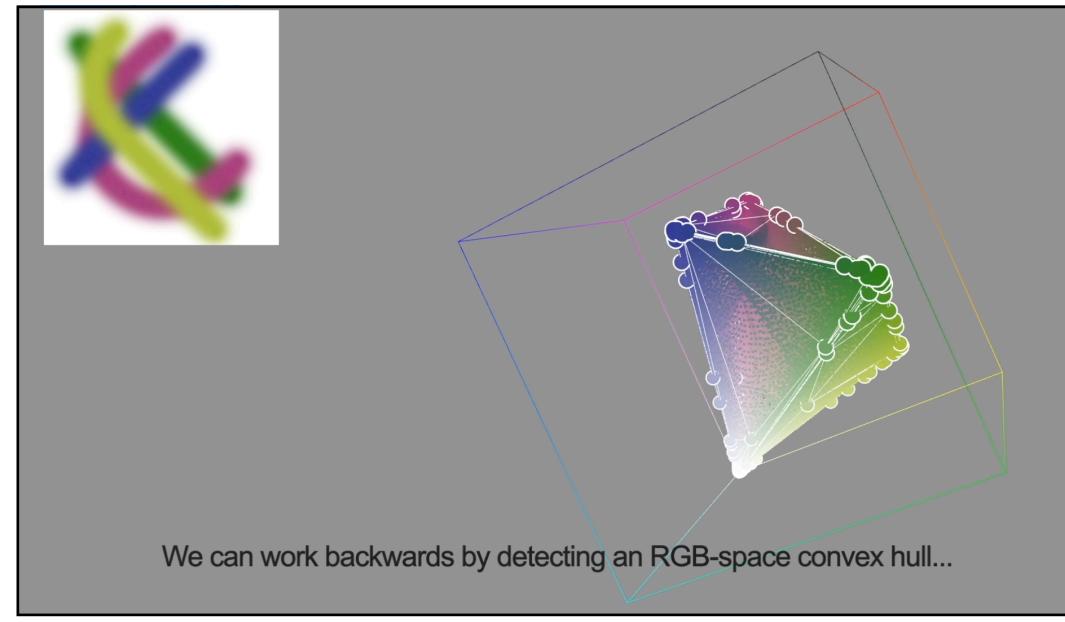
Algebra:

$$\mathbf{p} = \mathbf{c}_n + \sum_{i=1}^n \left[(\mathbf{c}_{i-1} - \mathbf{c}_i) \prod_{j=i}^n (1 - \alpha_j) \right]$$

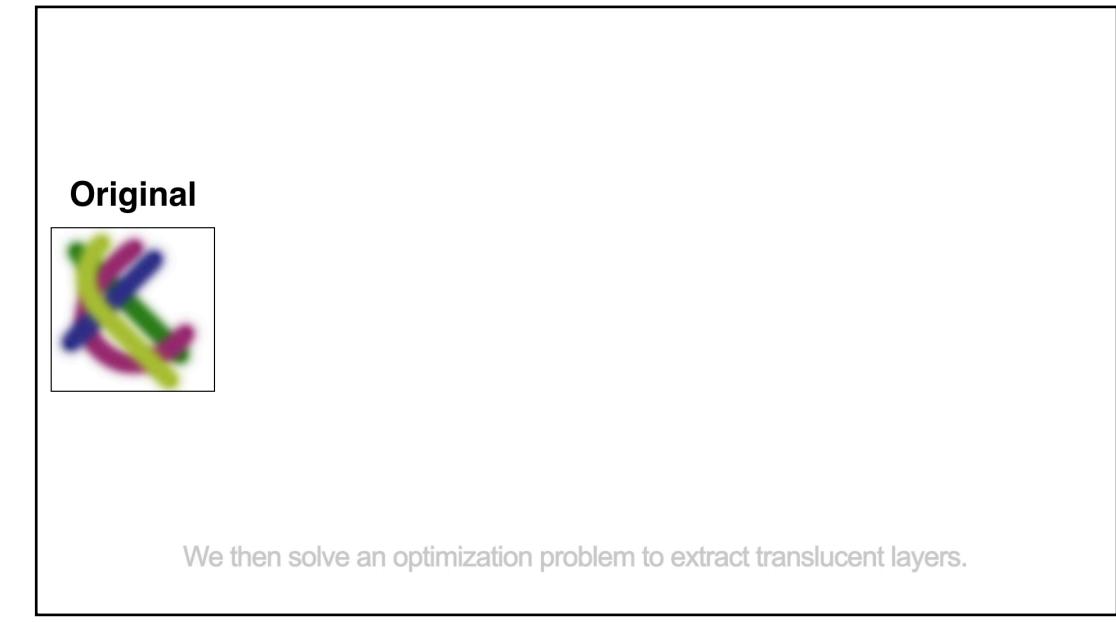
Our Pipeline



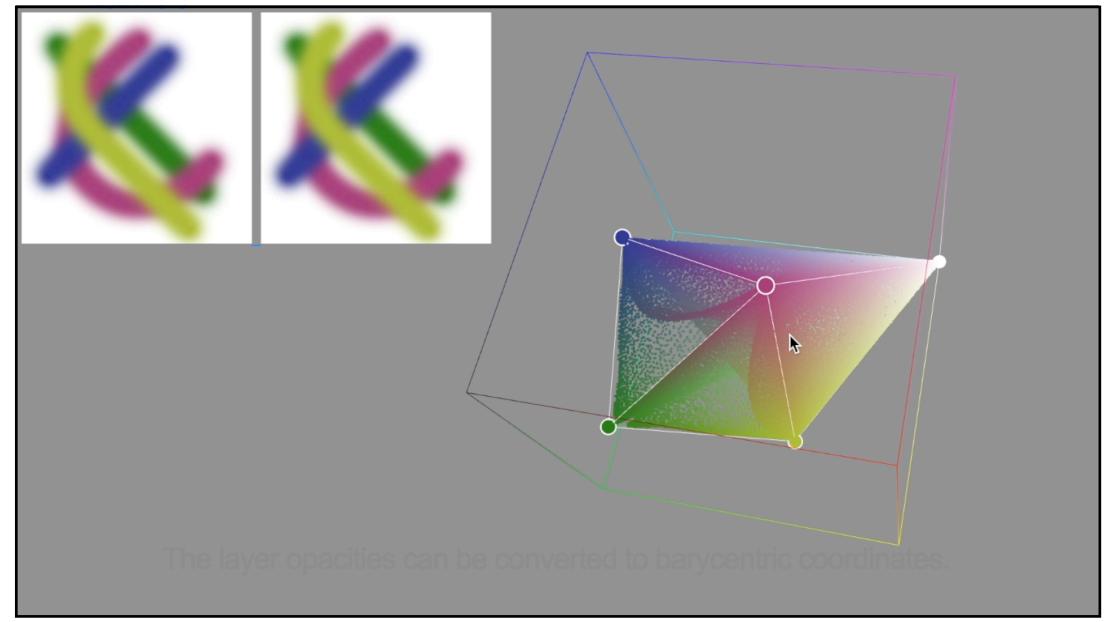
Input



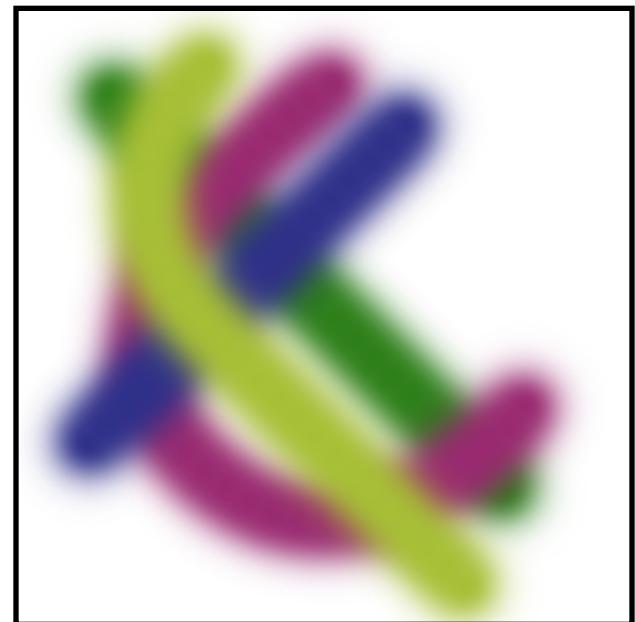
Palette selection



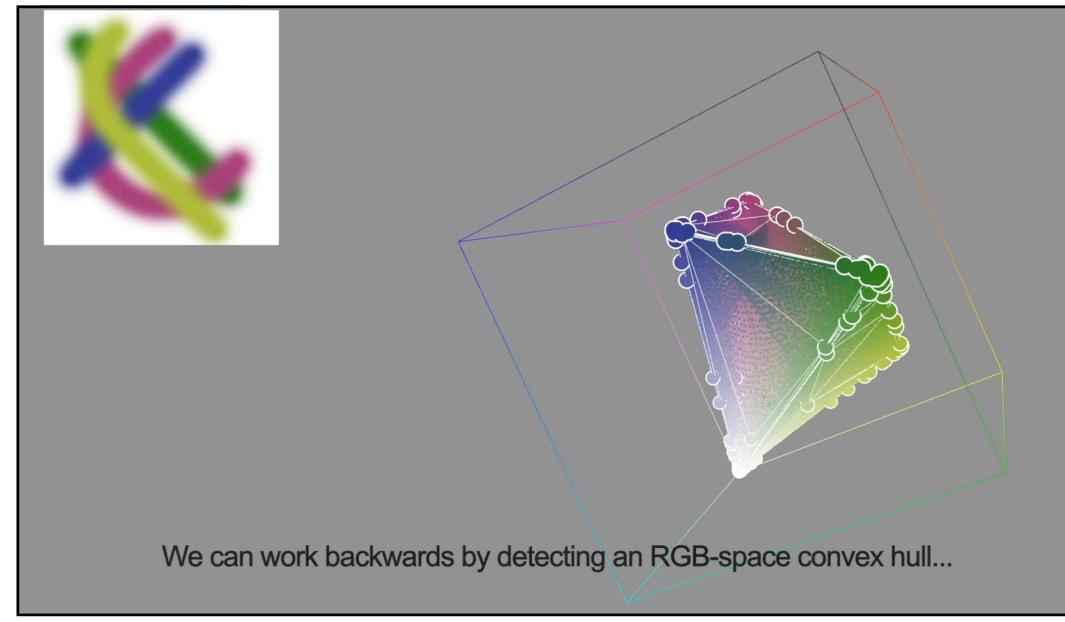
Layer opacity



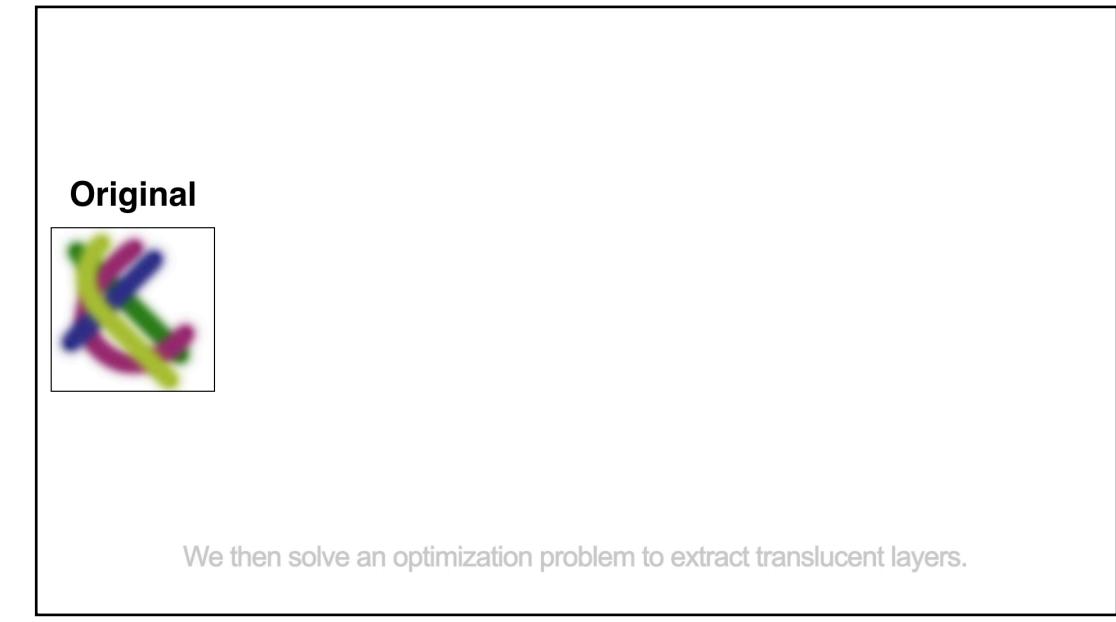
Edit



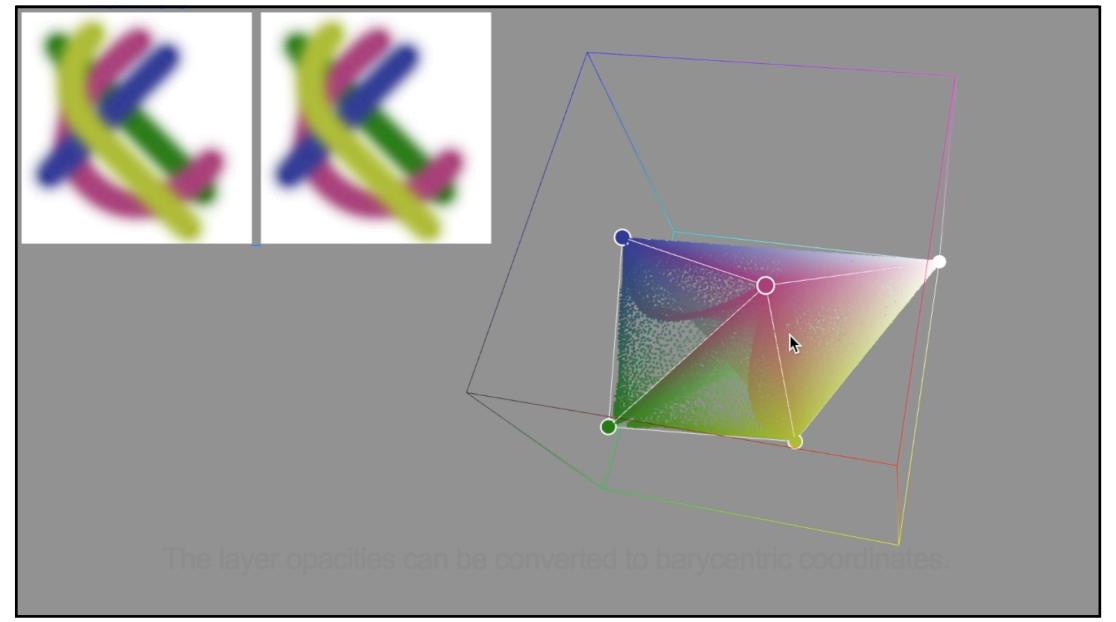
Input



Palette selection



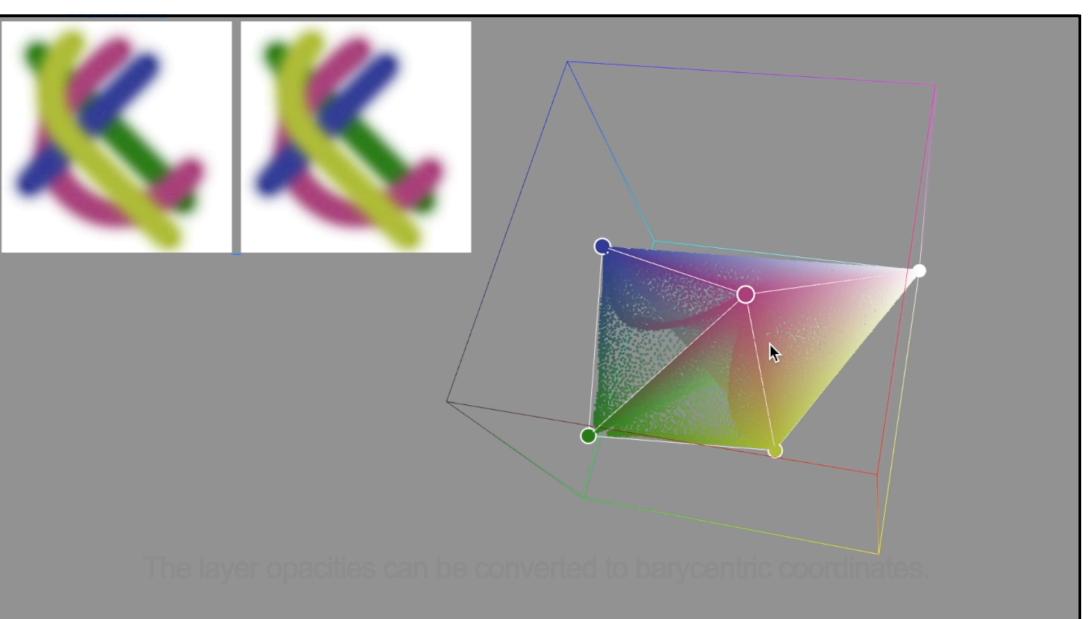
Layer opacity



Edit



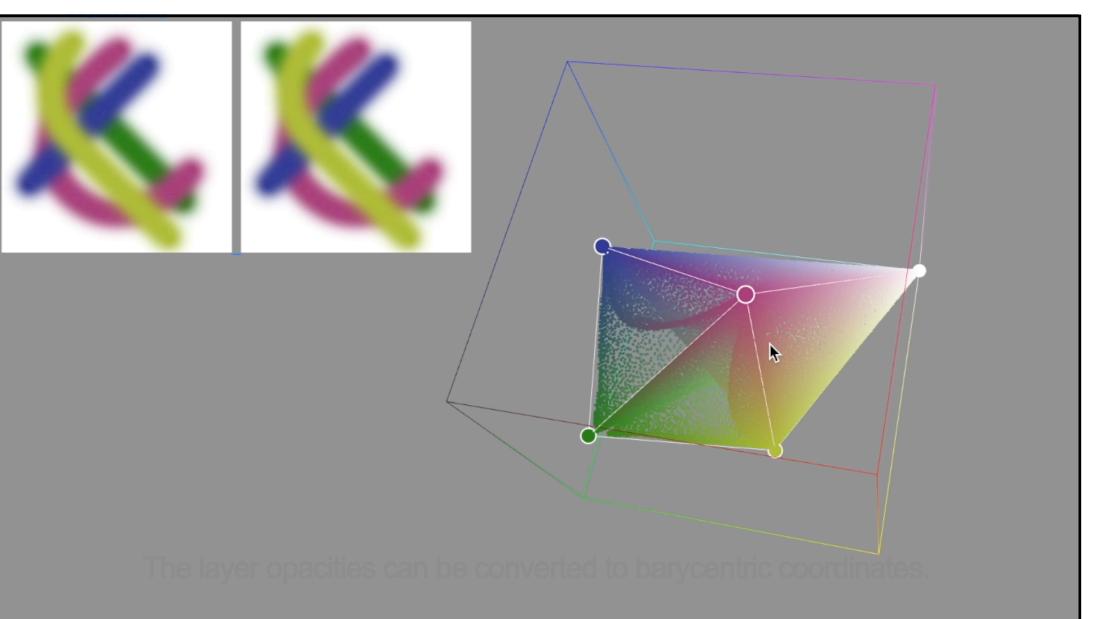
Input



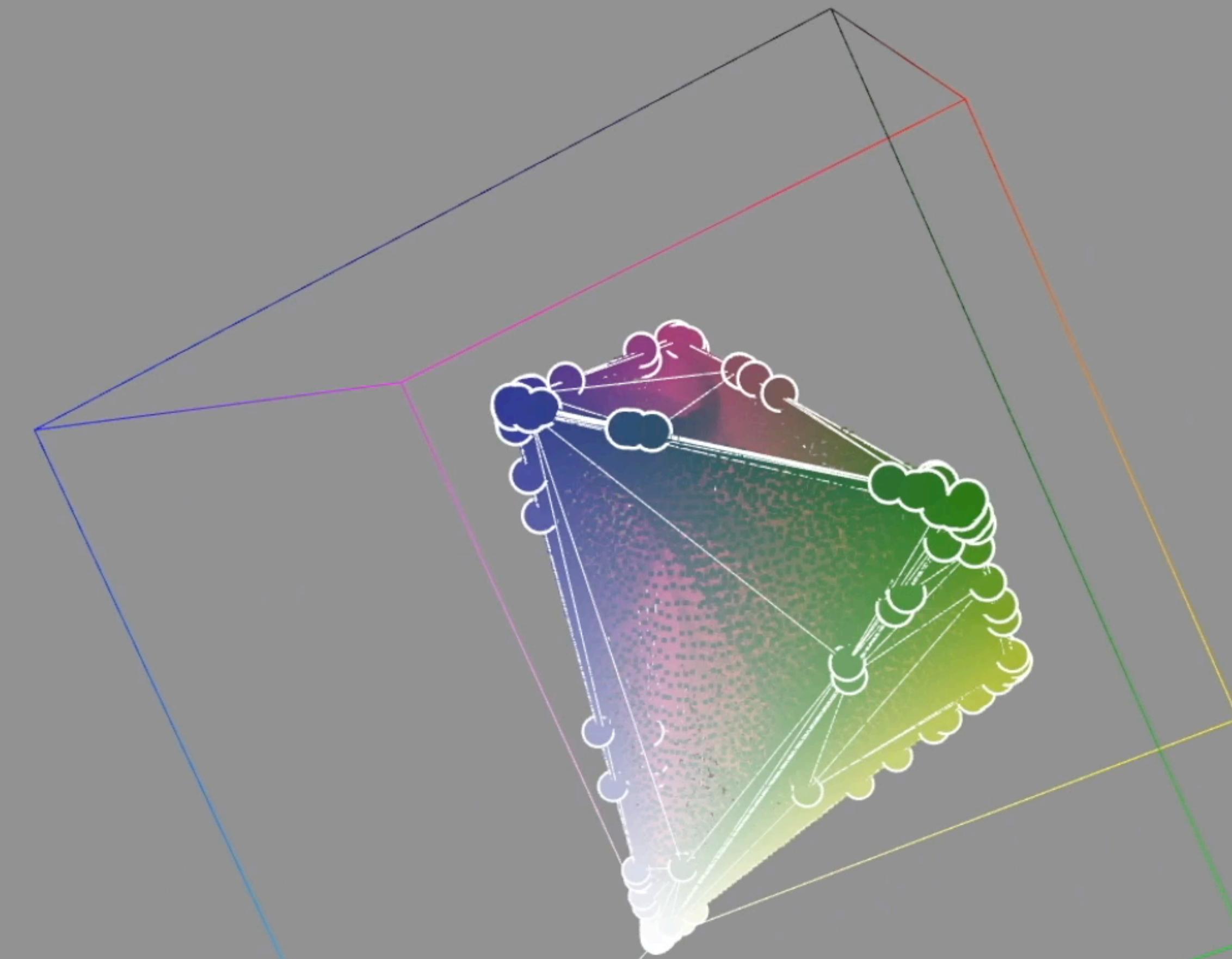
Edit



Input

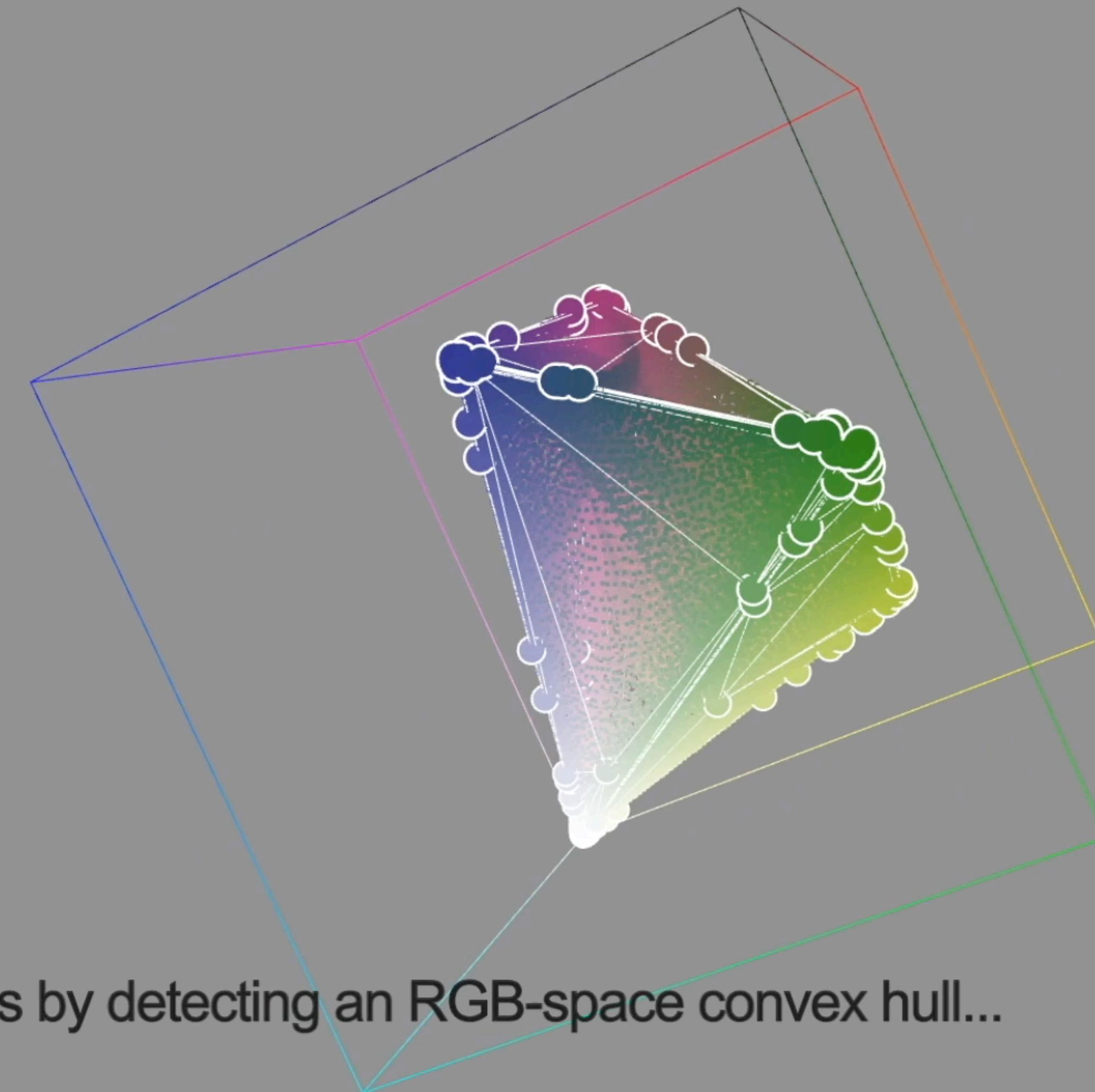


Edit



We can work backwards by detecting an RGB-space convex hull...

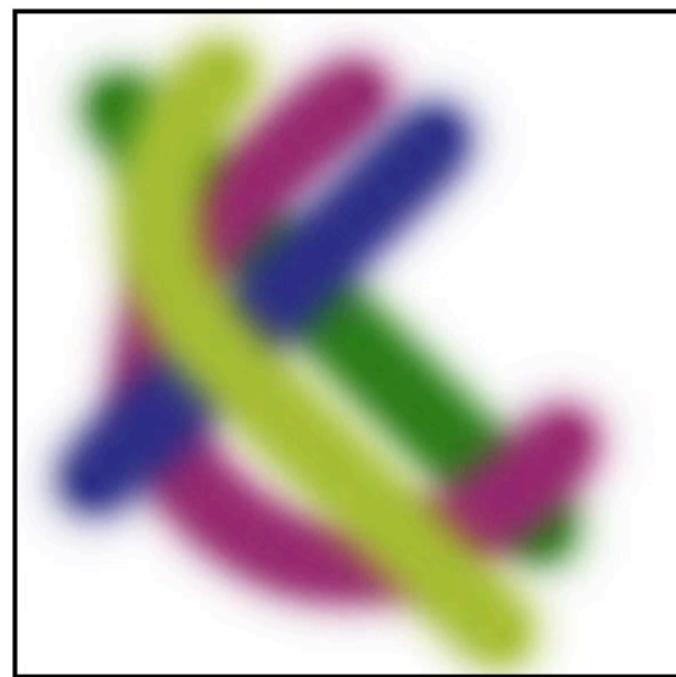
Palette selection



We can work backwards by detecting an RGB-space convex hull...

Palette selection

Original



We then solve an optimization problem to extract translucent layers.

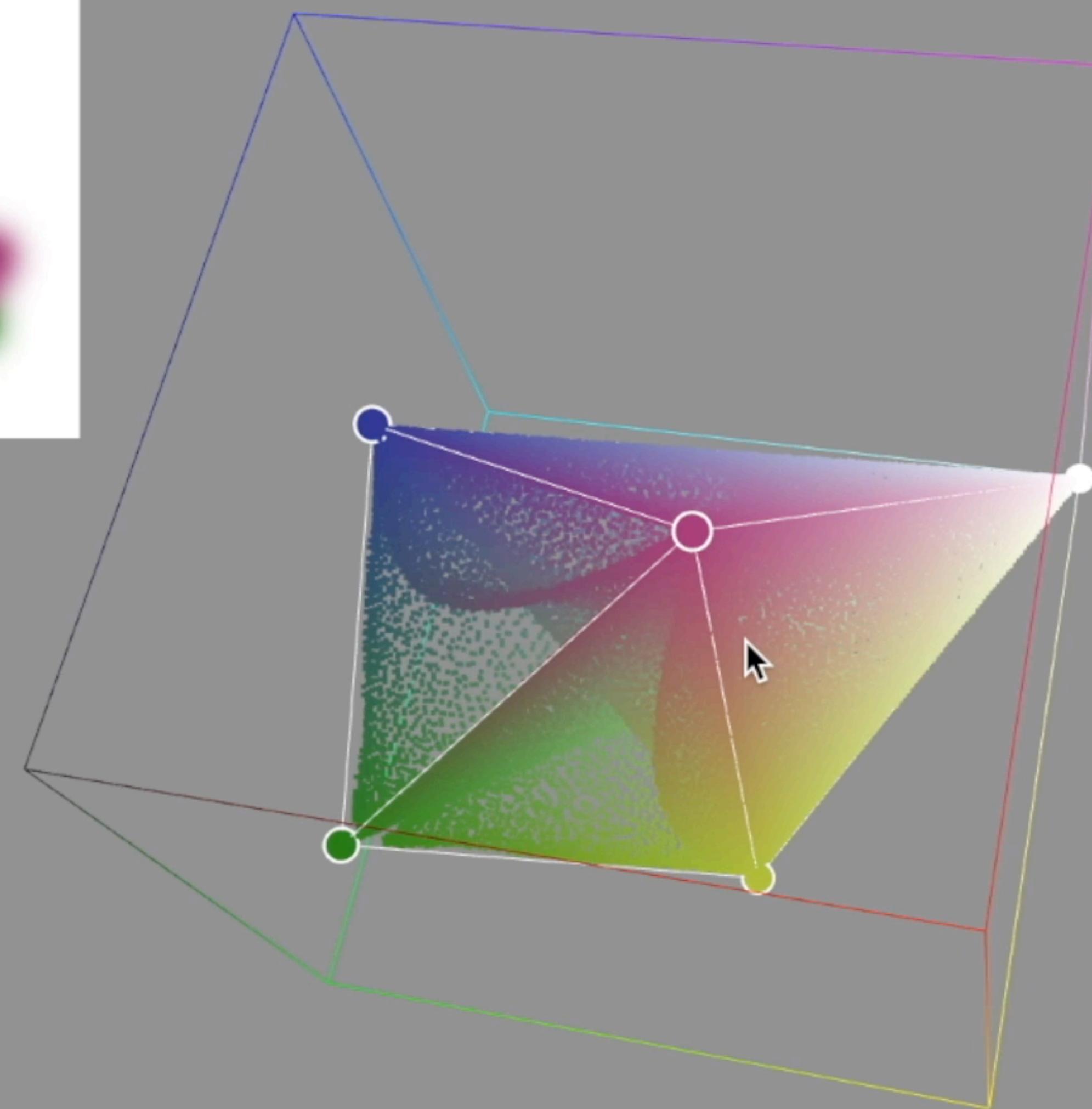
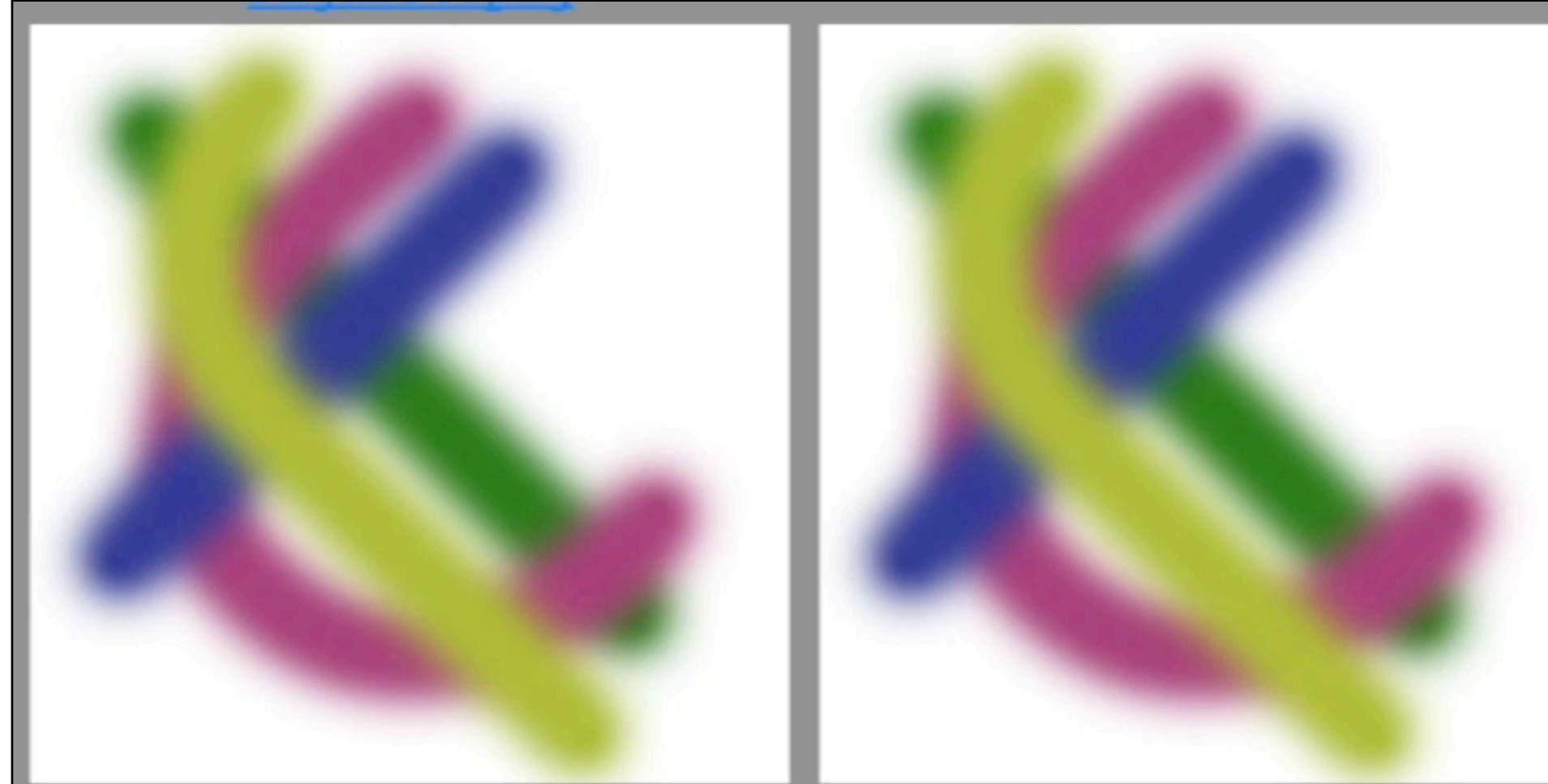
Layer opacity

Original



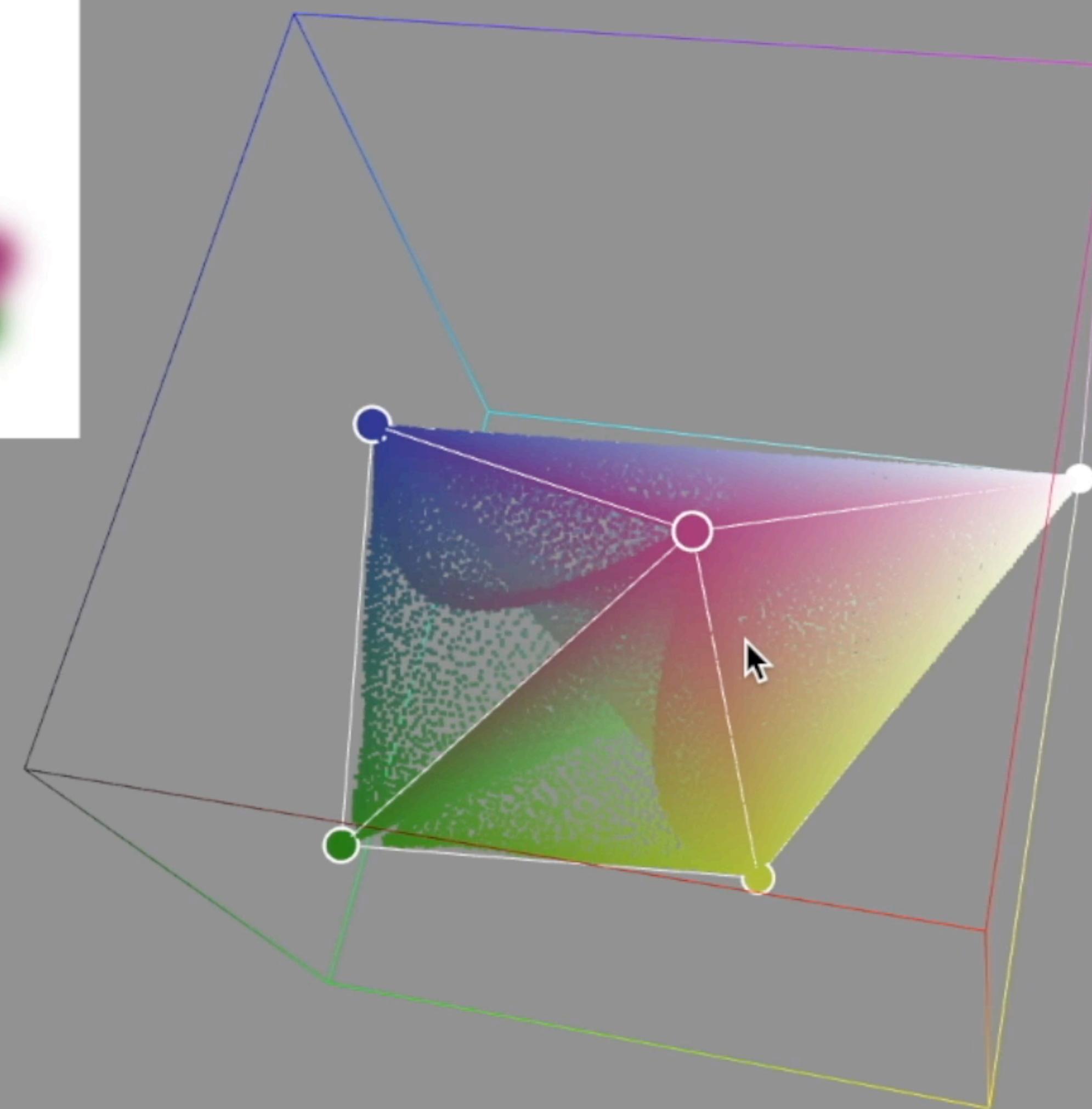
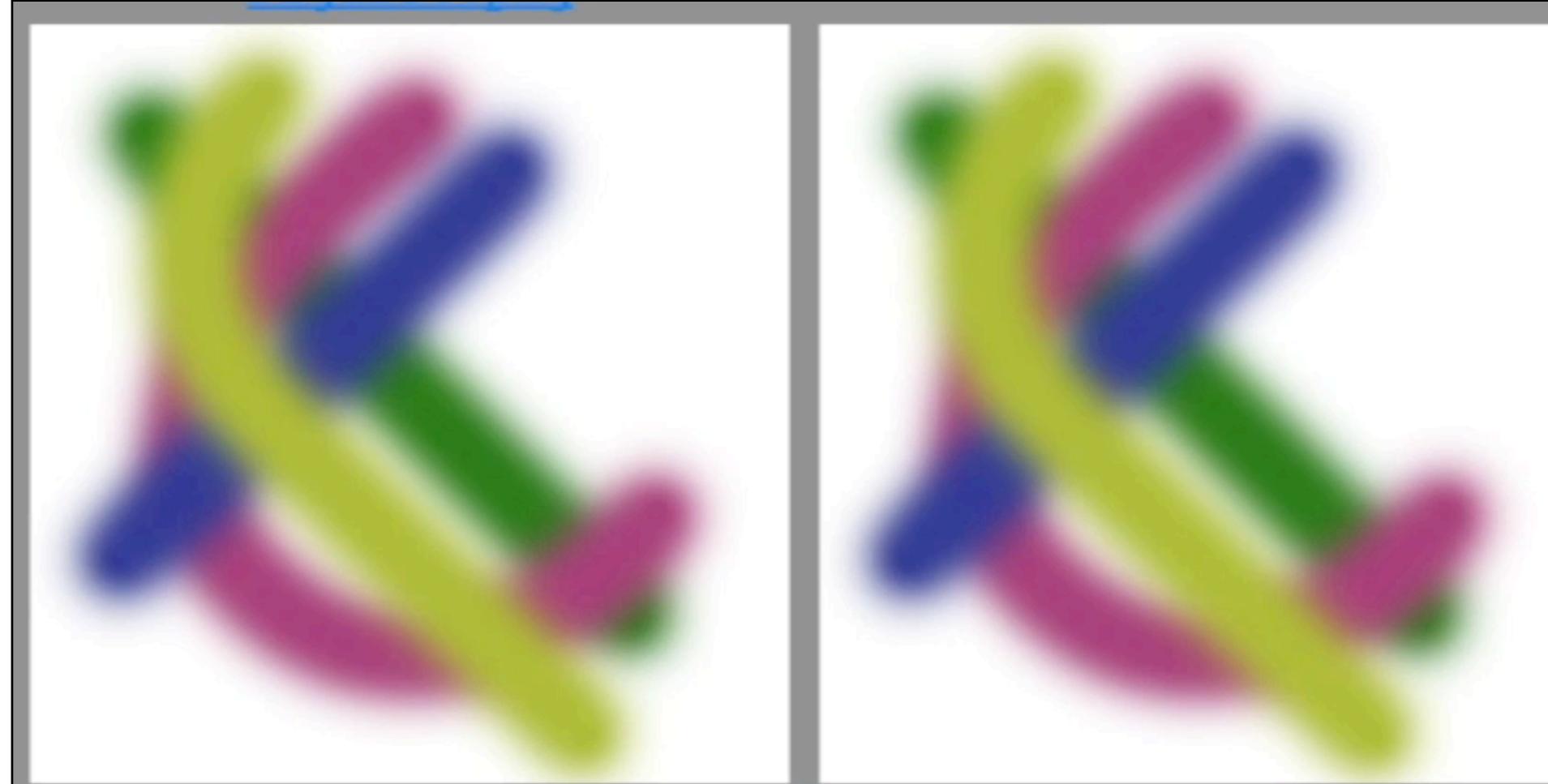
We then solve an optimization problem to extract translucent layers.

Layer opacity



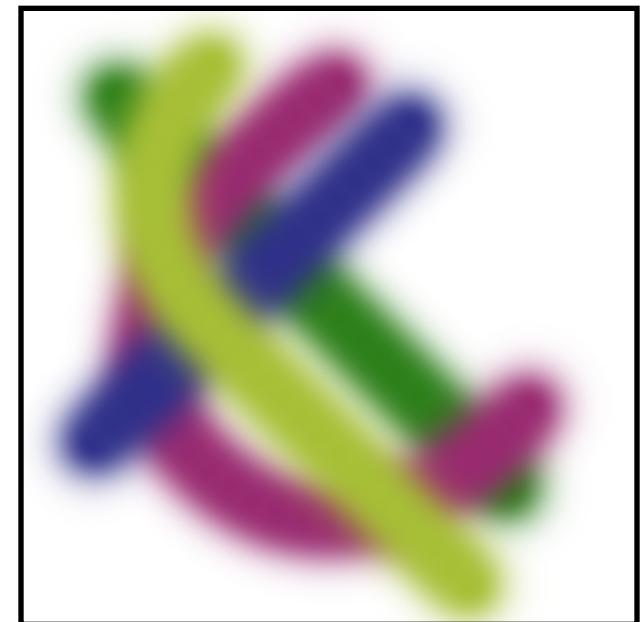
The layer opacities can be converted to barycentric coordinates.

Edit

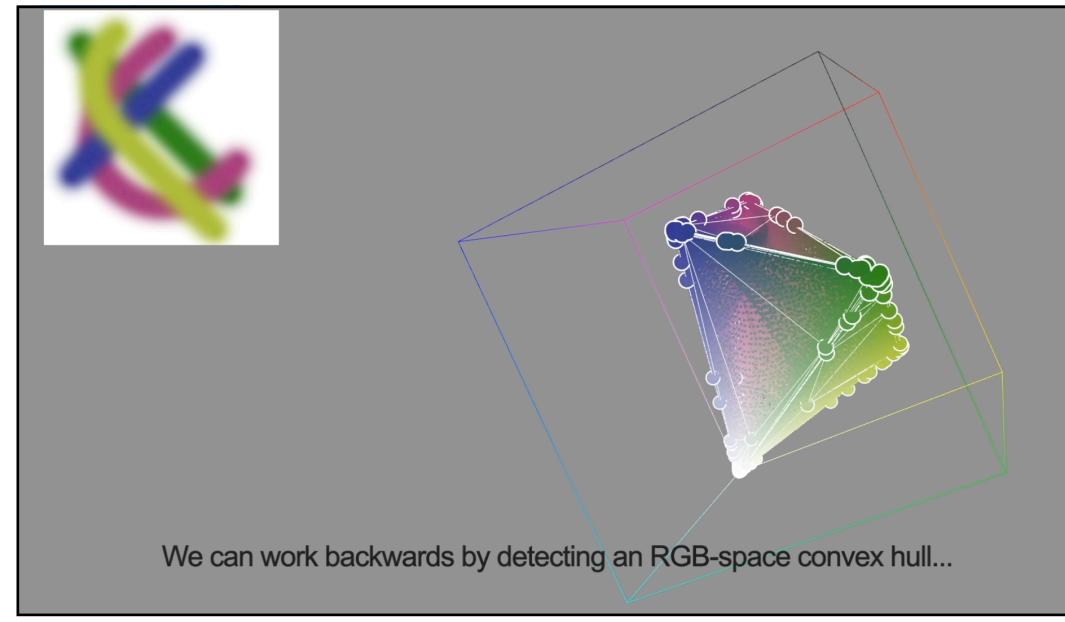


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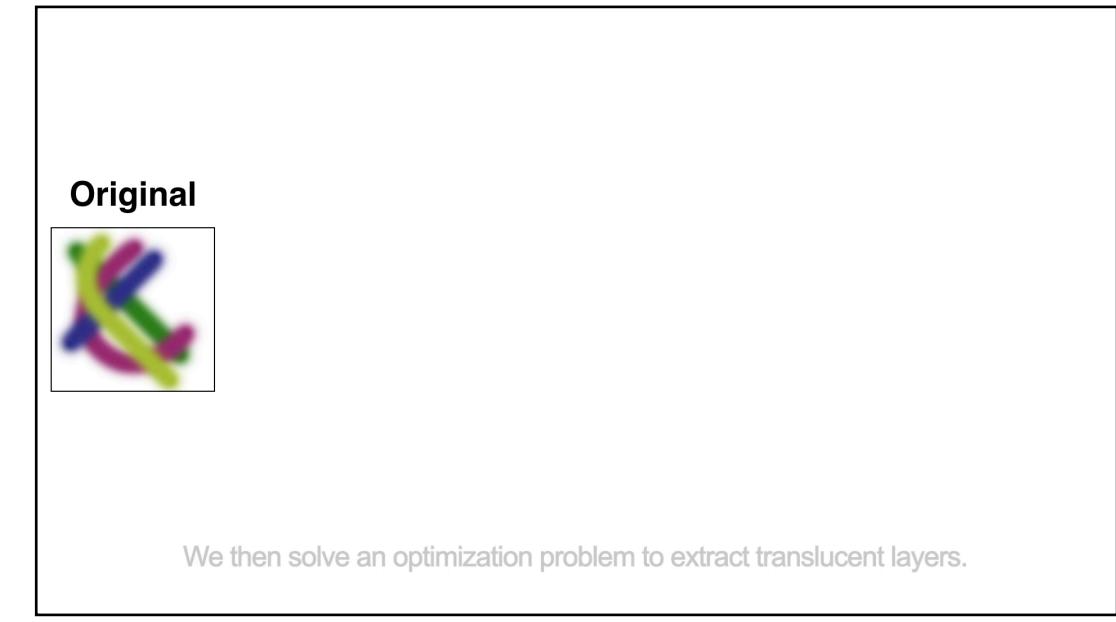
Edit



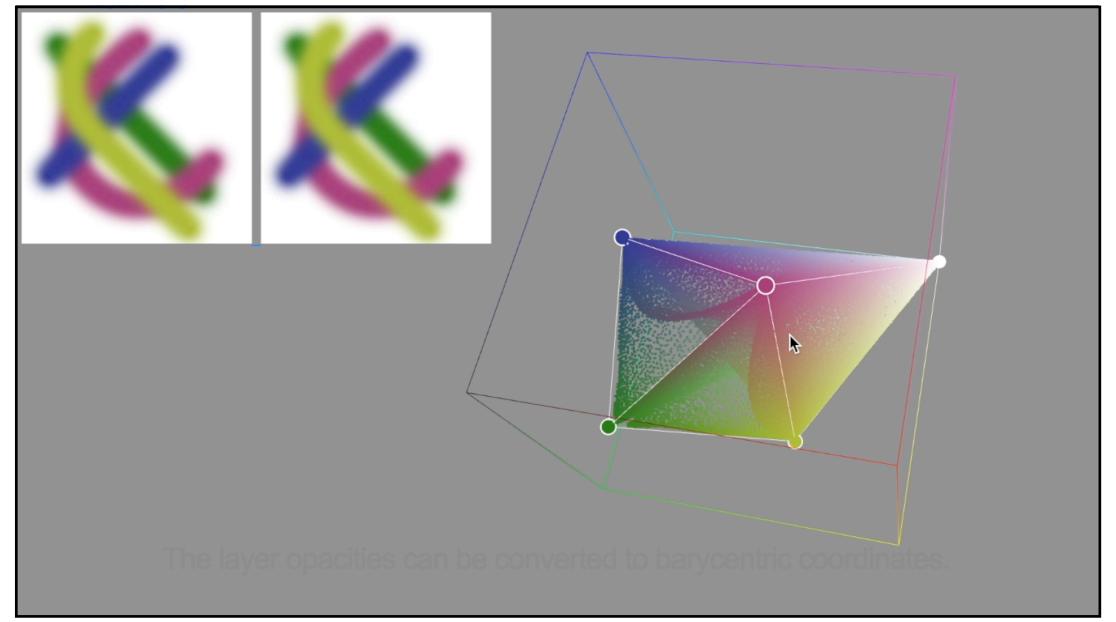
Input



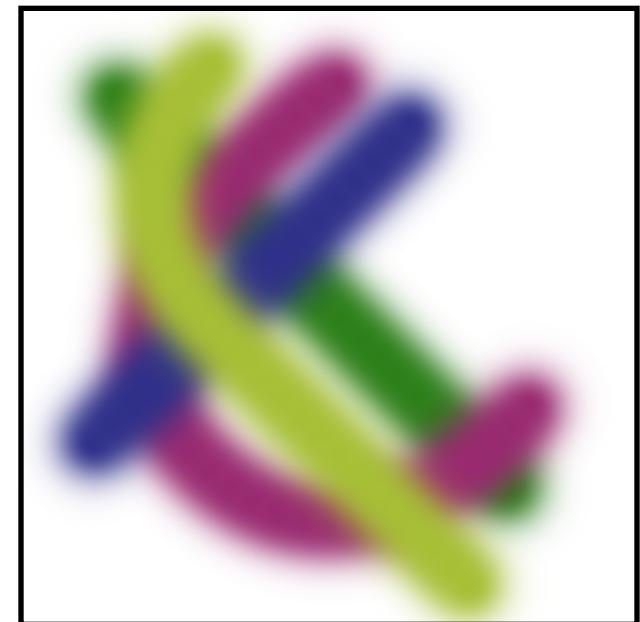
Palette selection



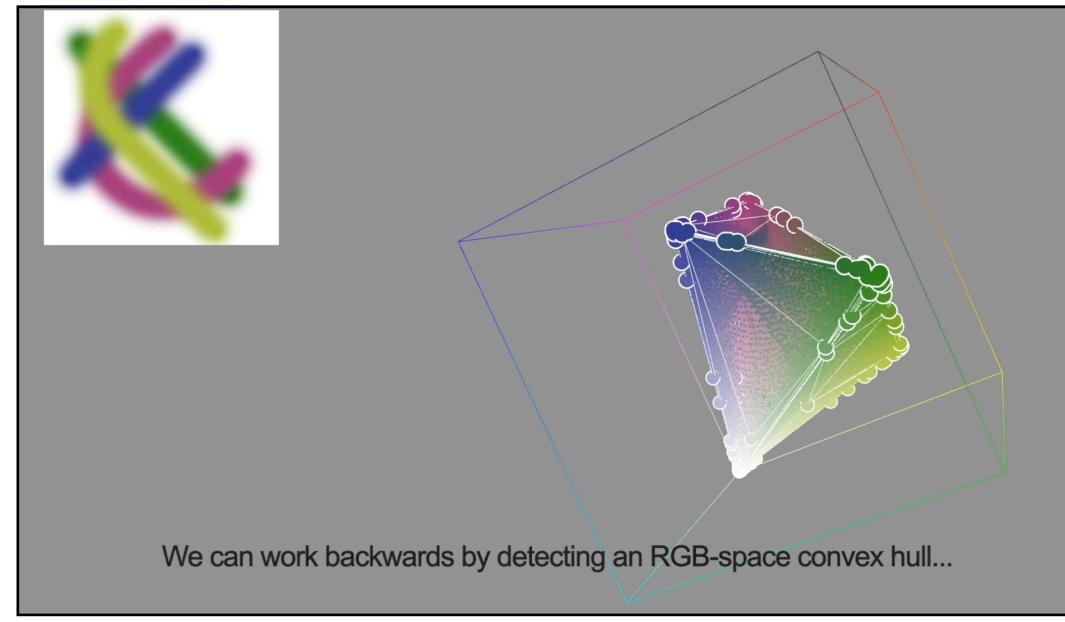
Layer opacity



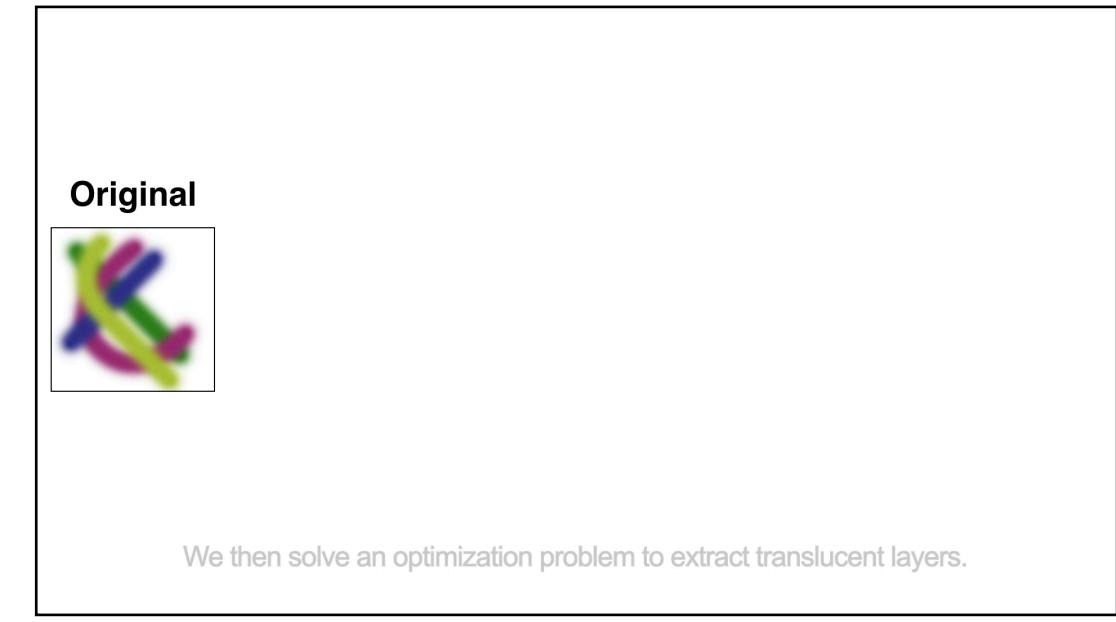
Edit



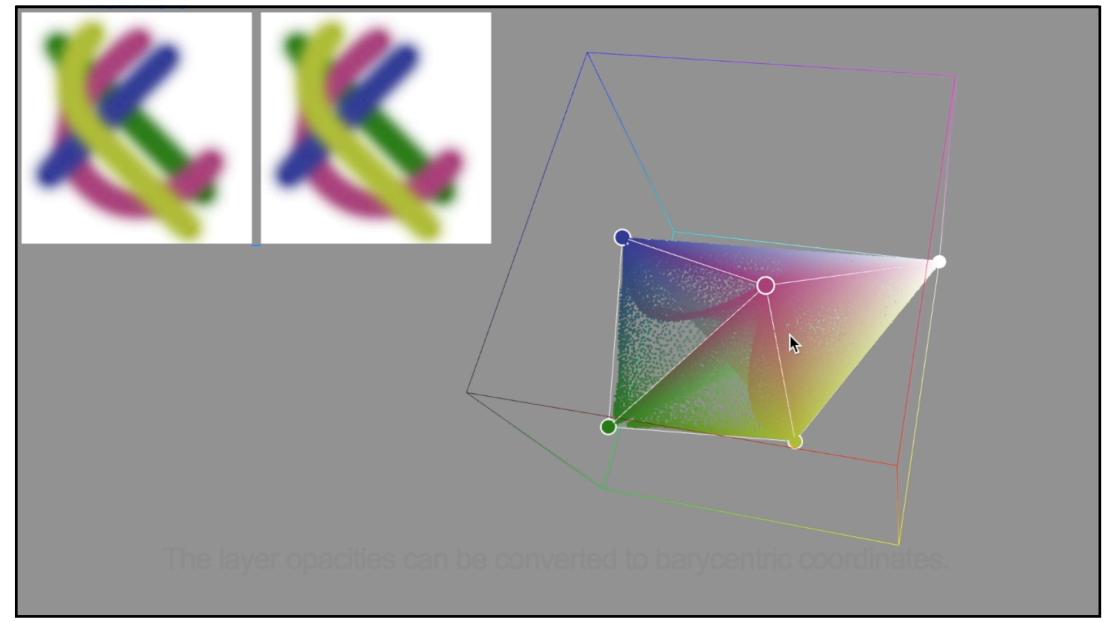
Input



Palette selection



Layer opacity



Edit

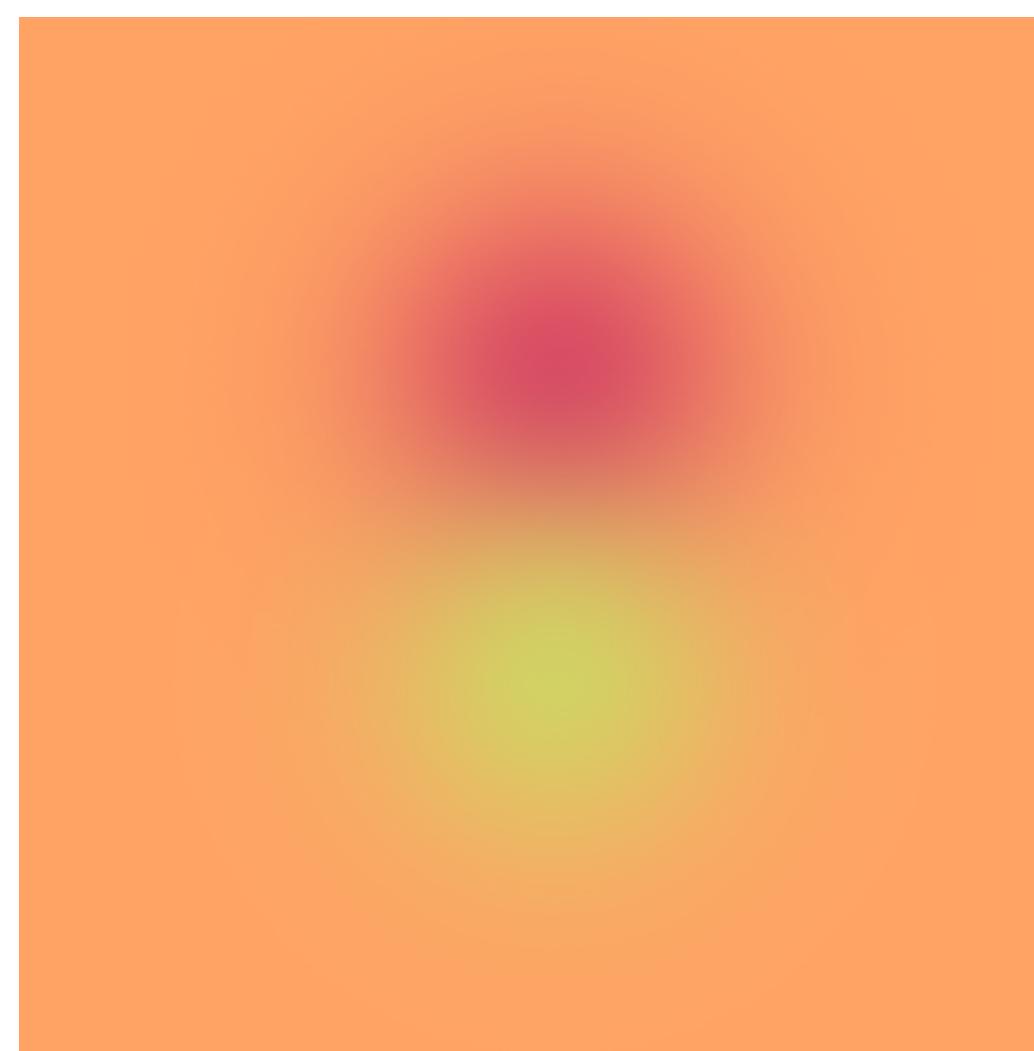
Palette Selection

Here is an image

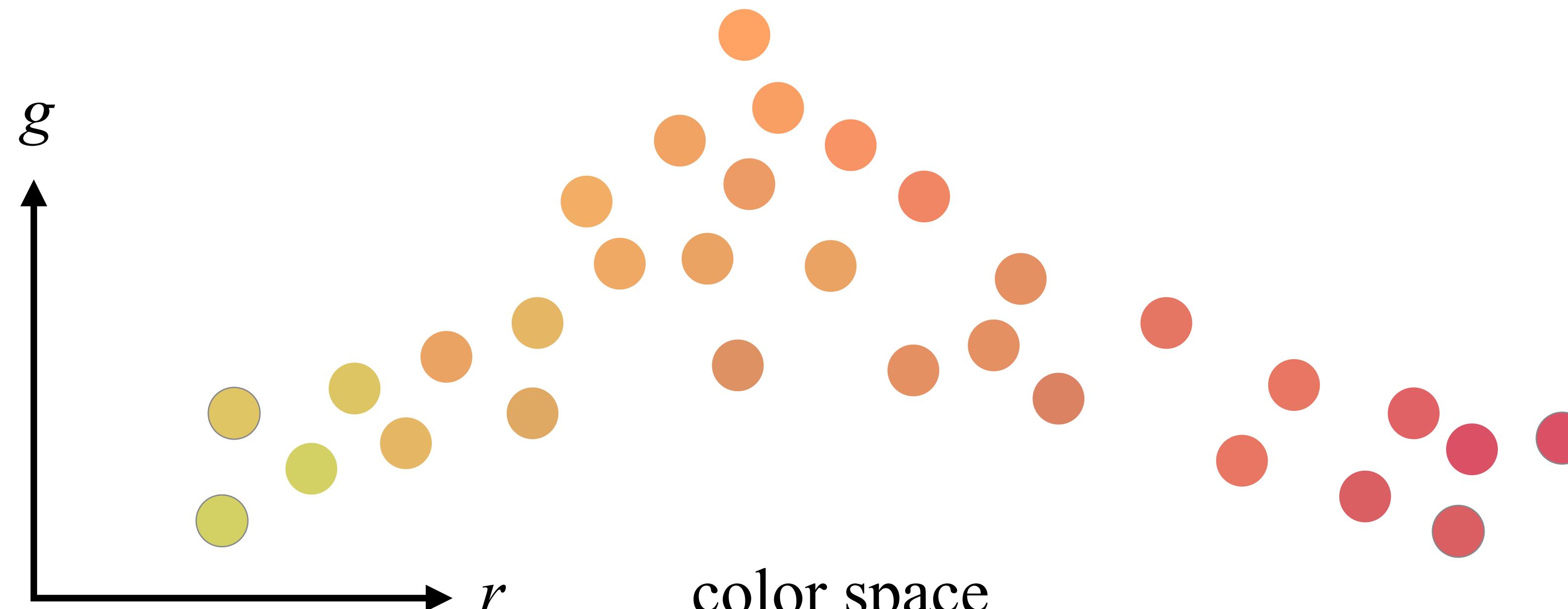


image

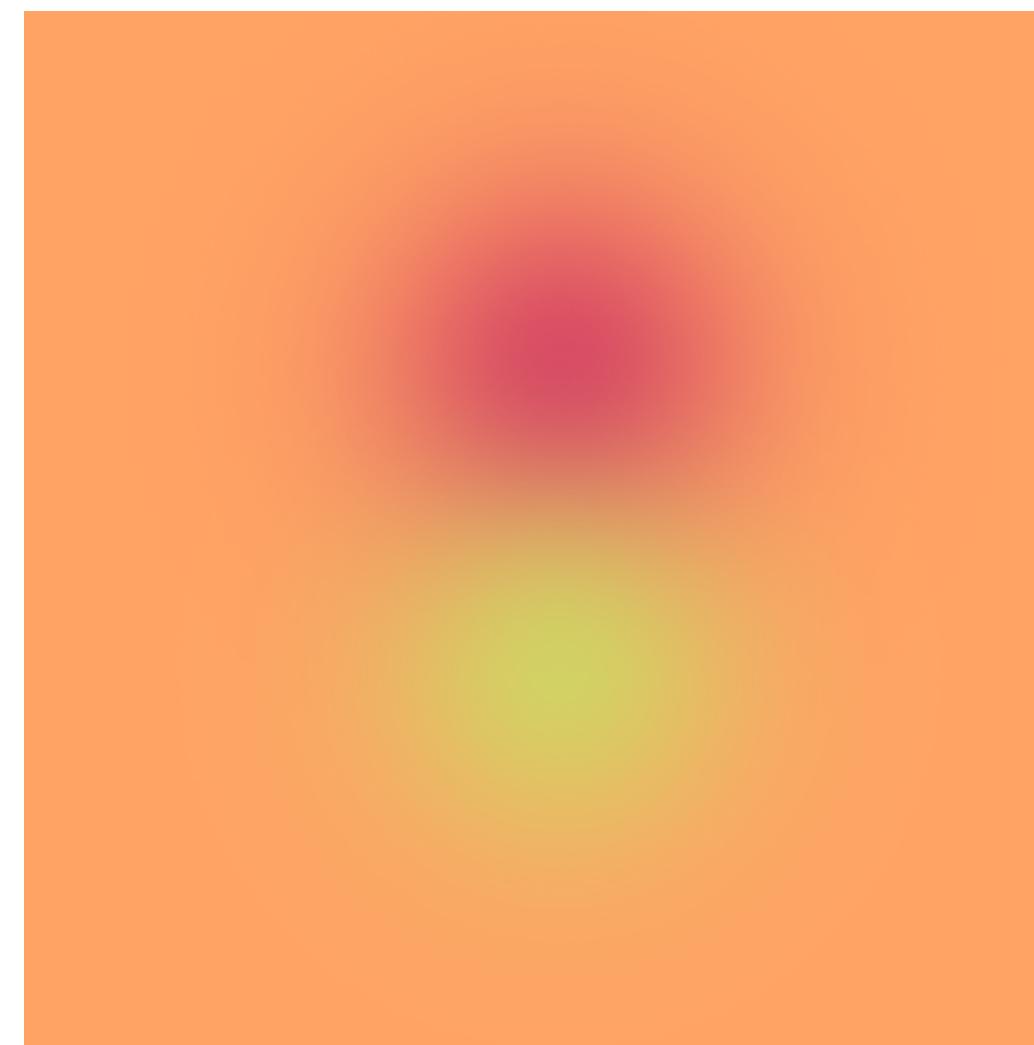
and its pixels in Red-Green space



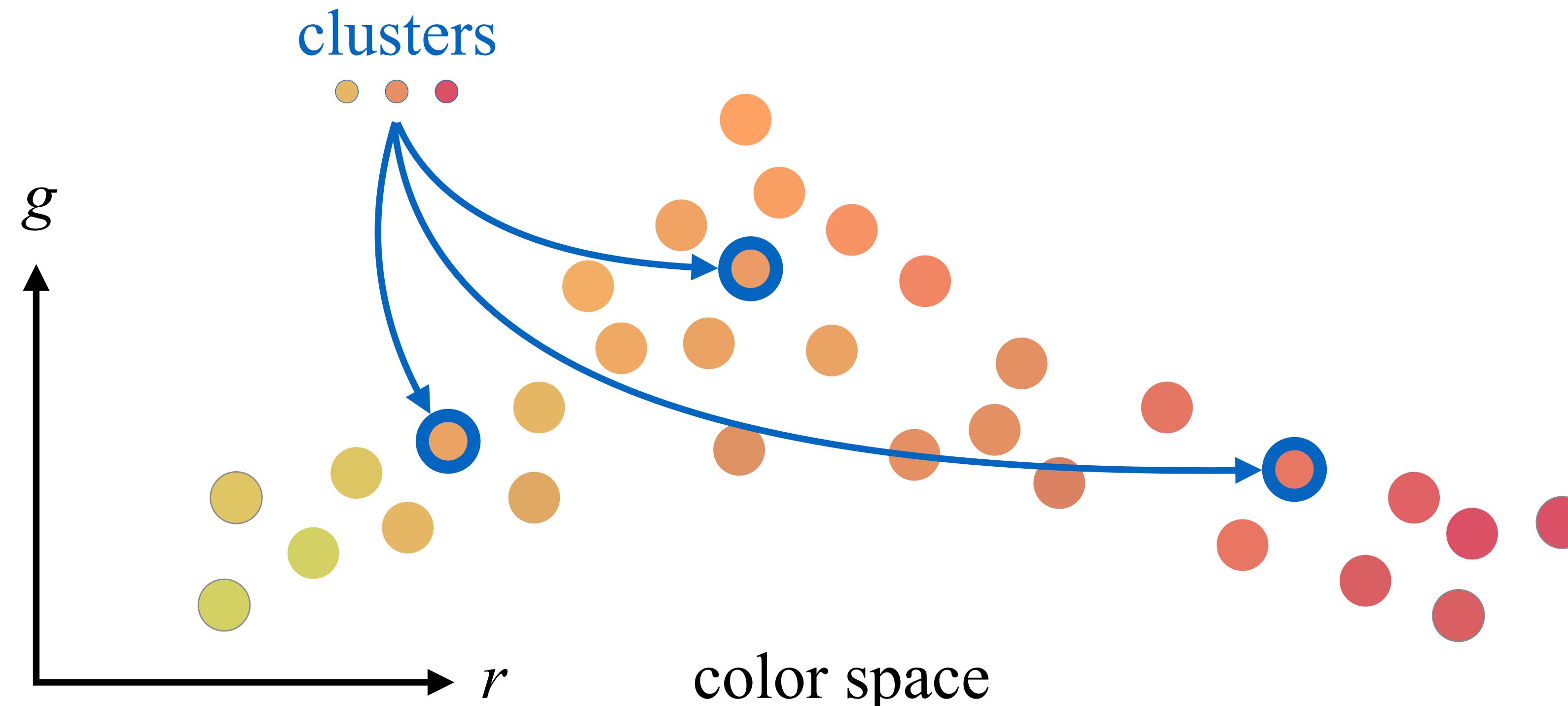
image



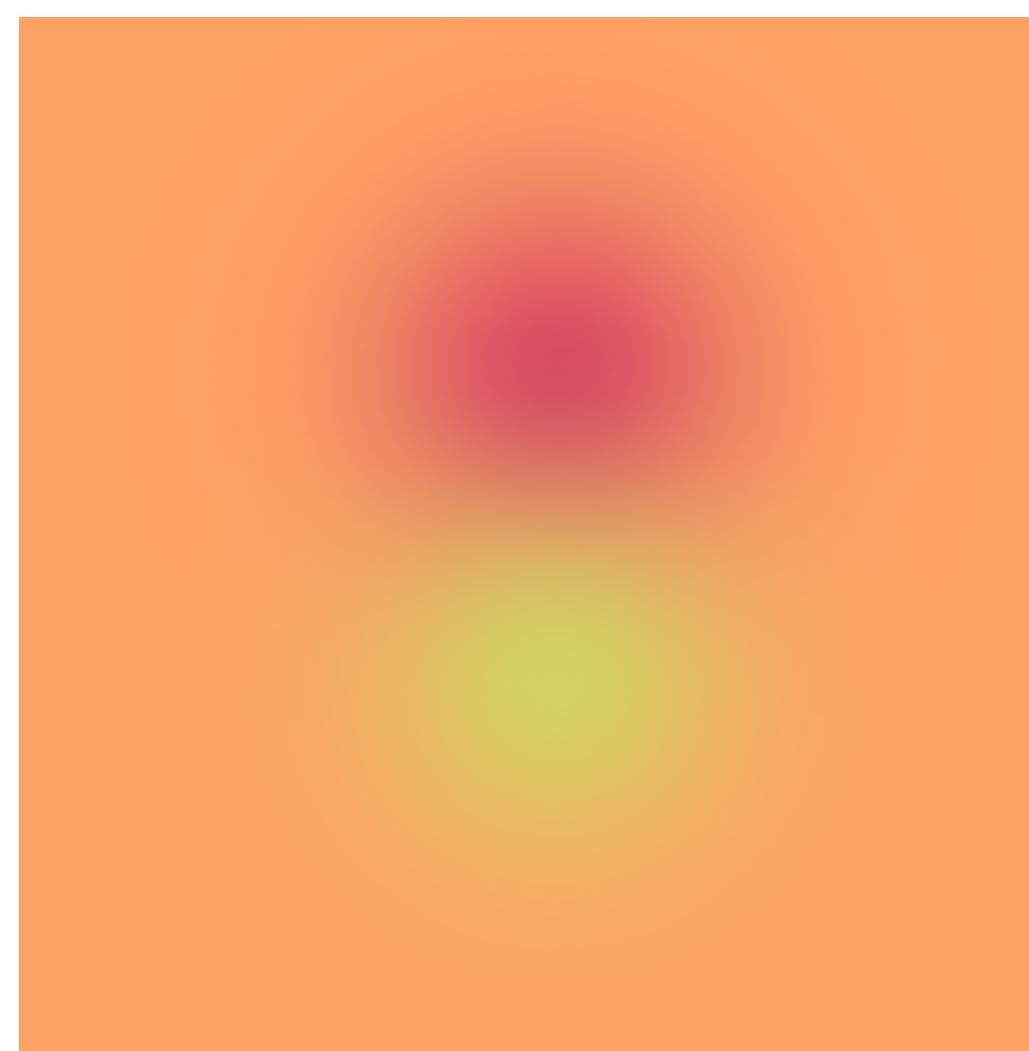
Clustering finds these interior colors



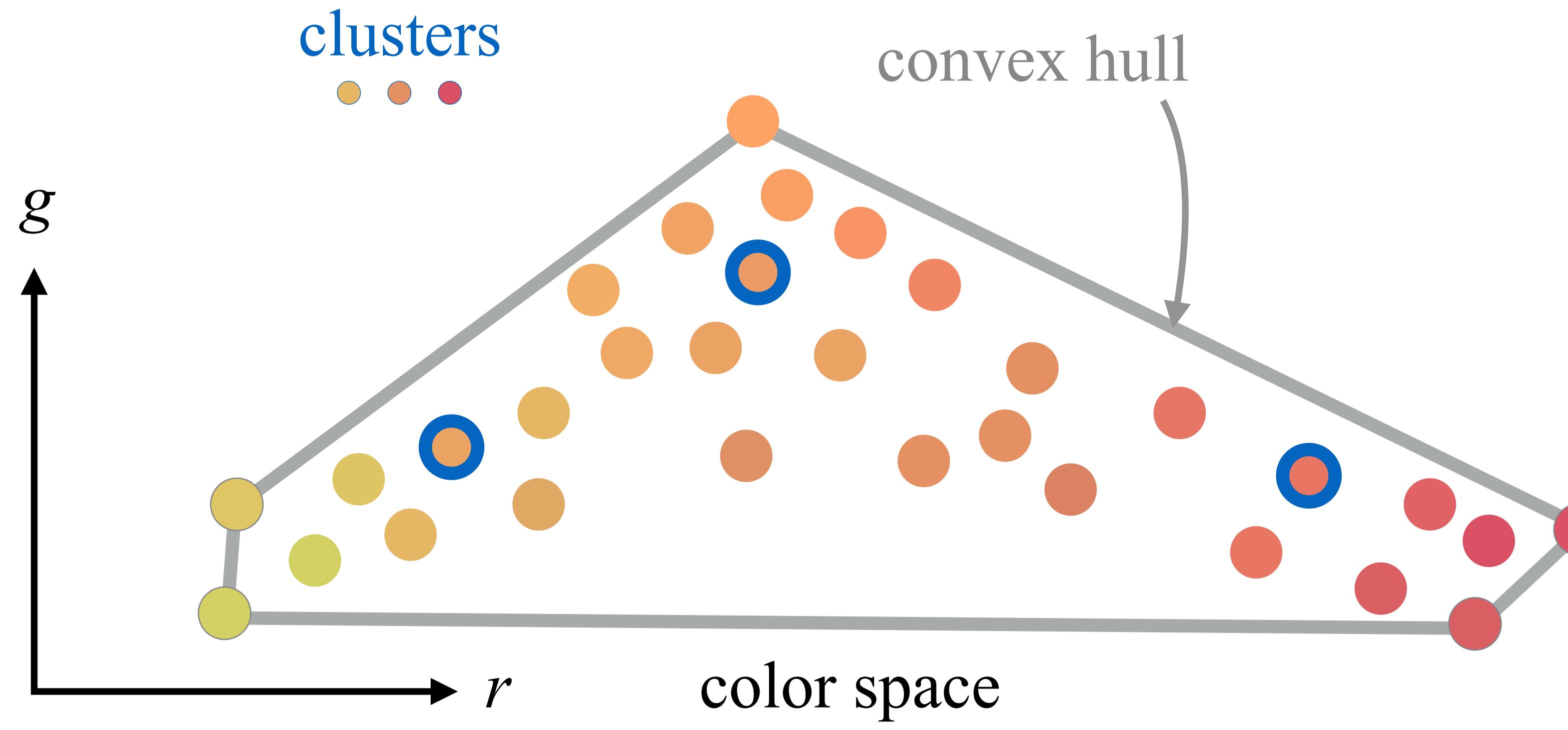
image



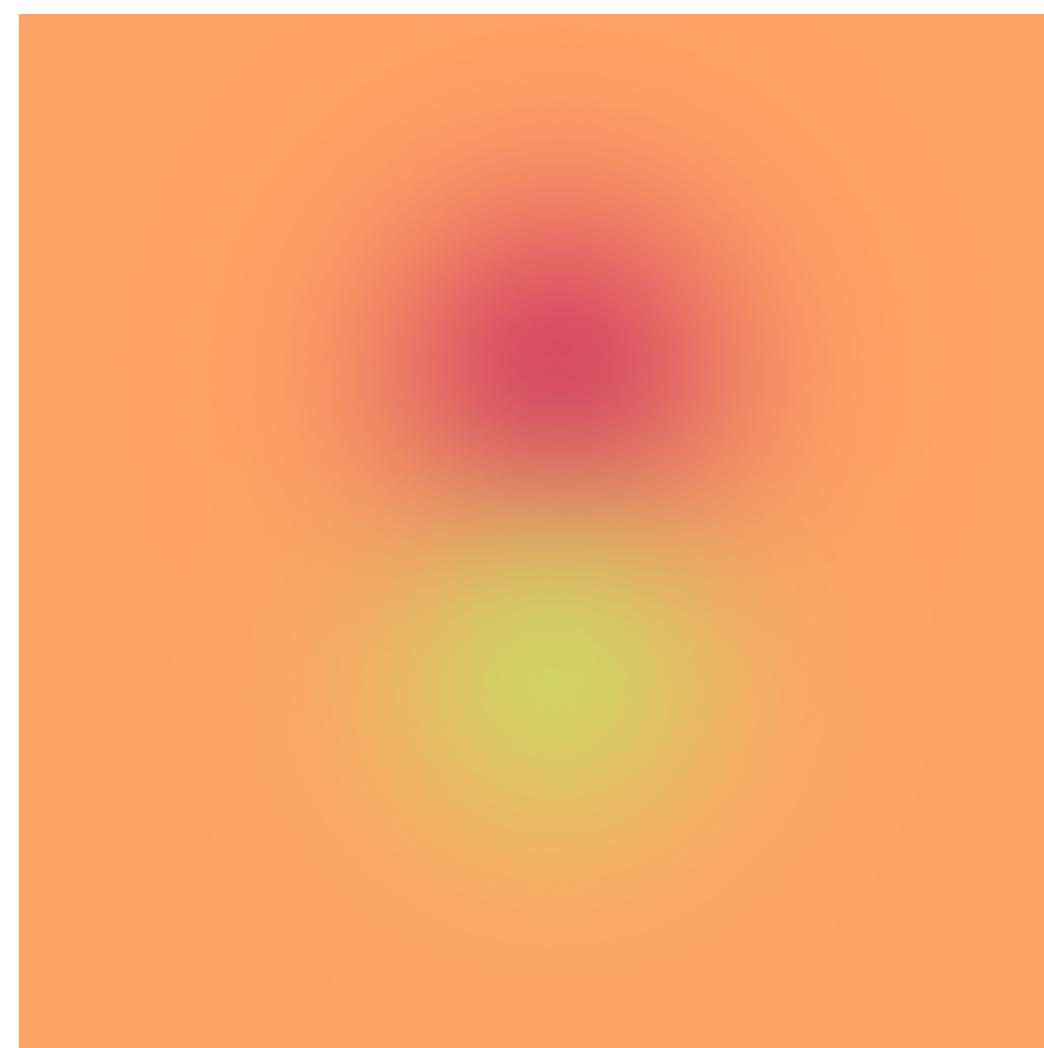
The convex hull is complex



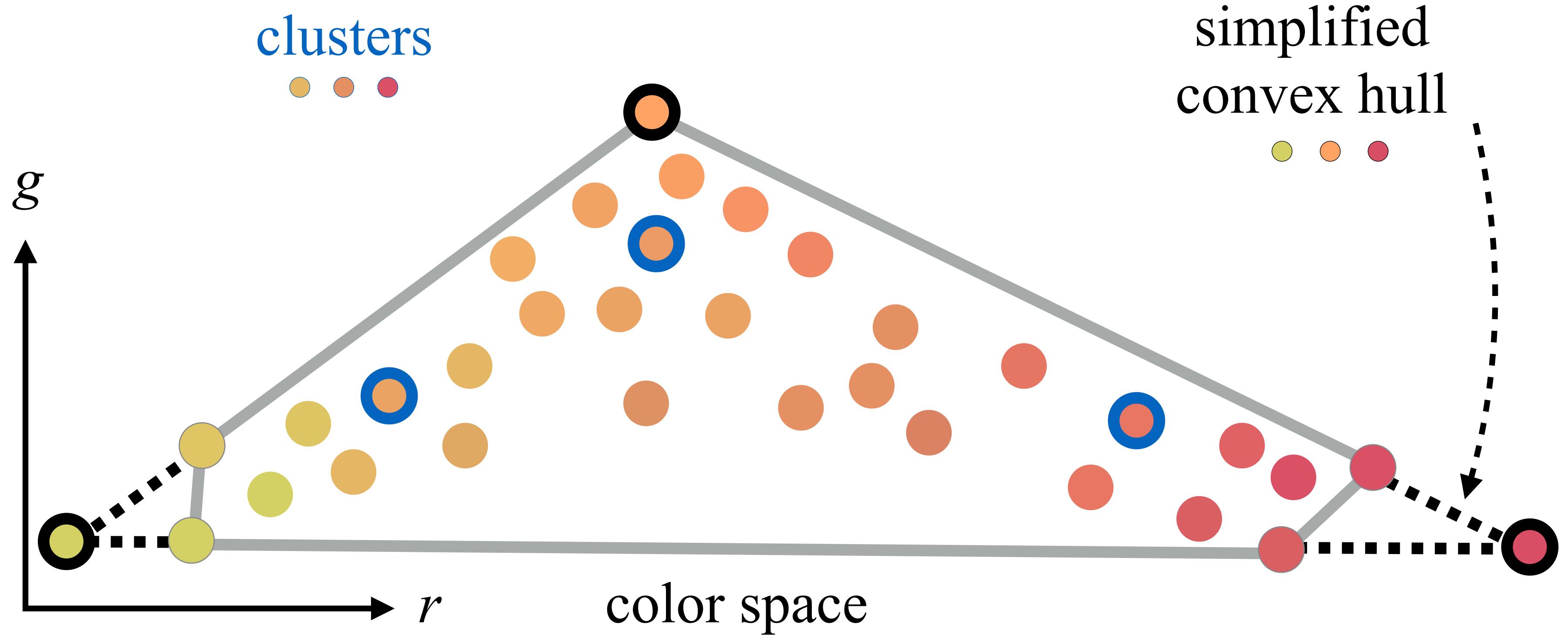
image



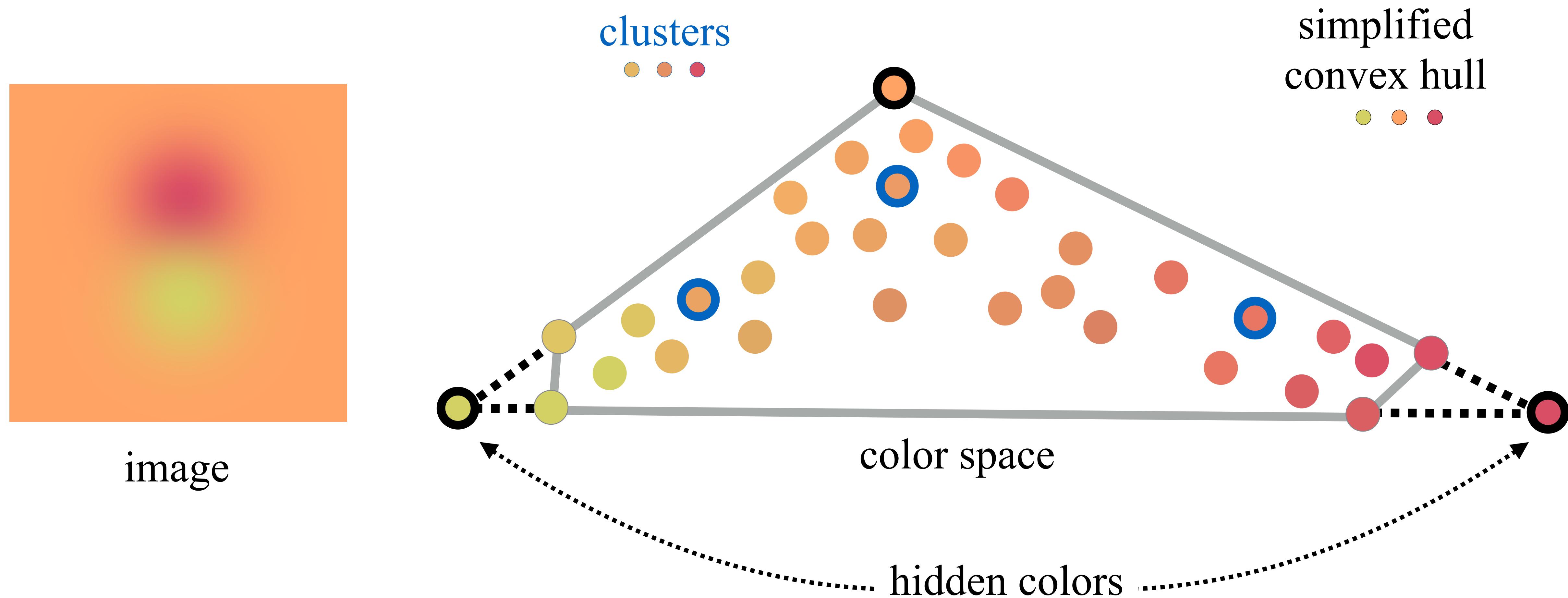
If we could simplify it...



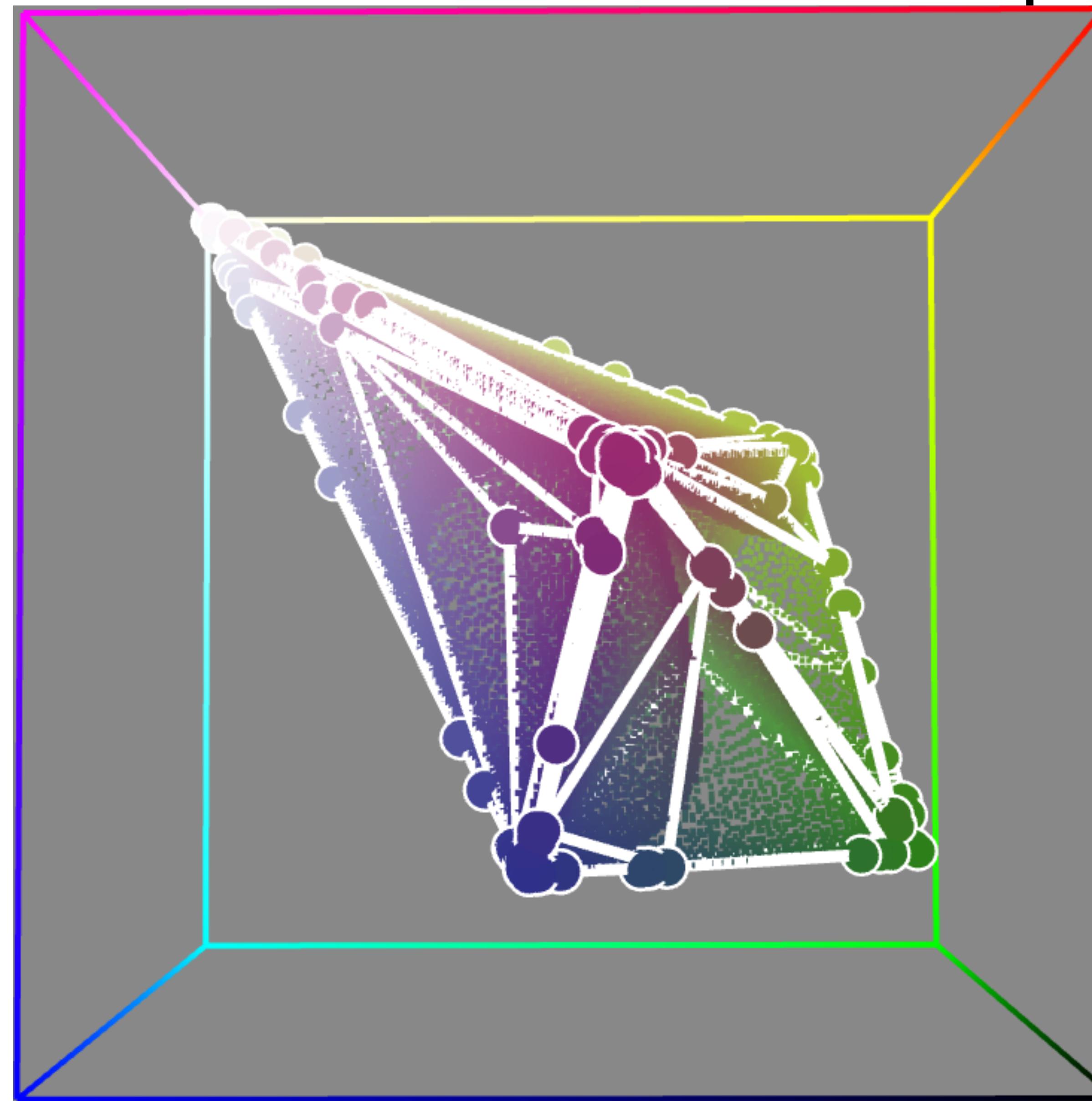
image



We would find the original, hidden palette



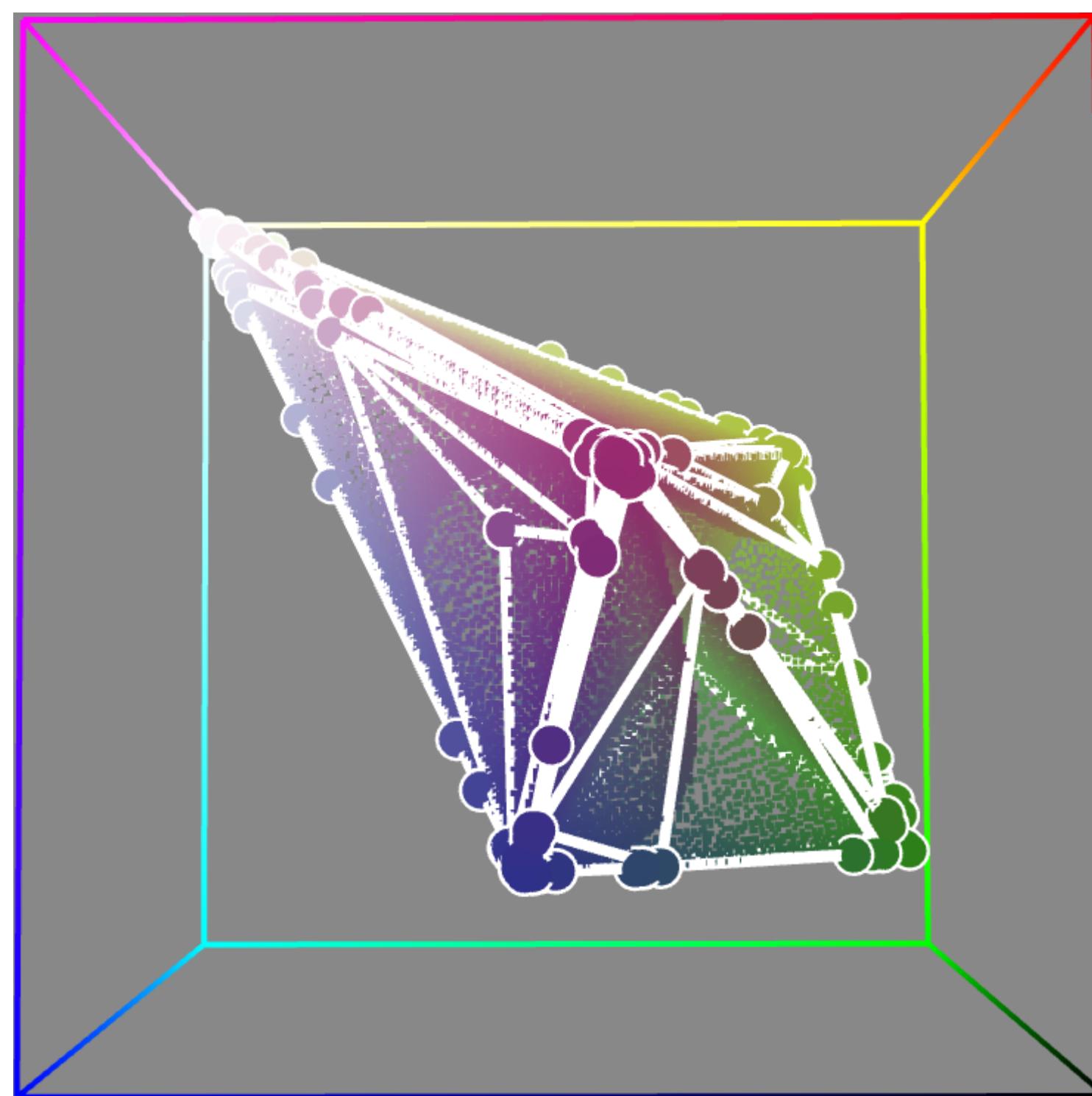
Convex Hull in RGB-space



Convex Hull simplification

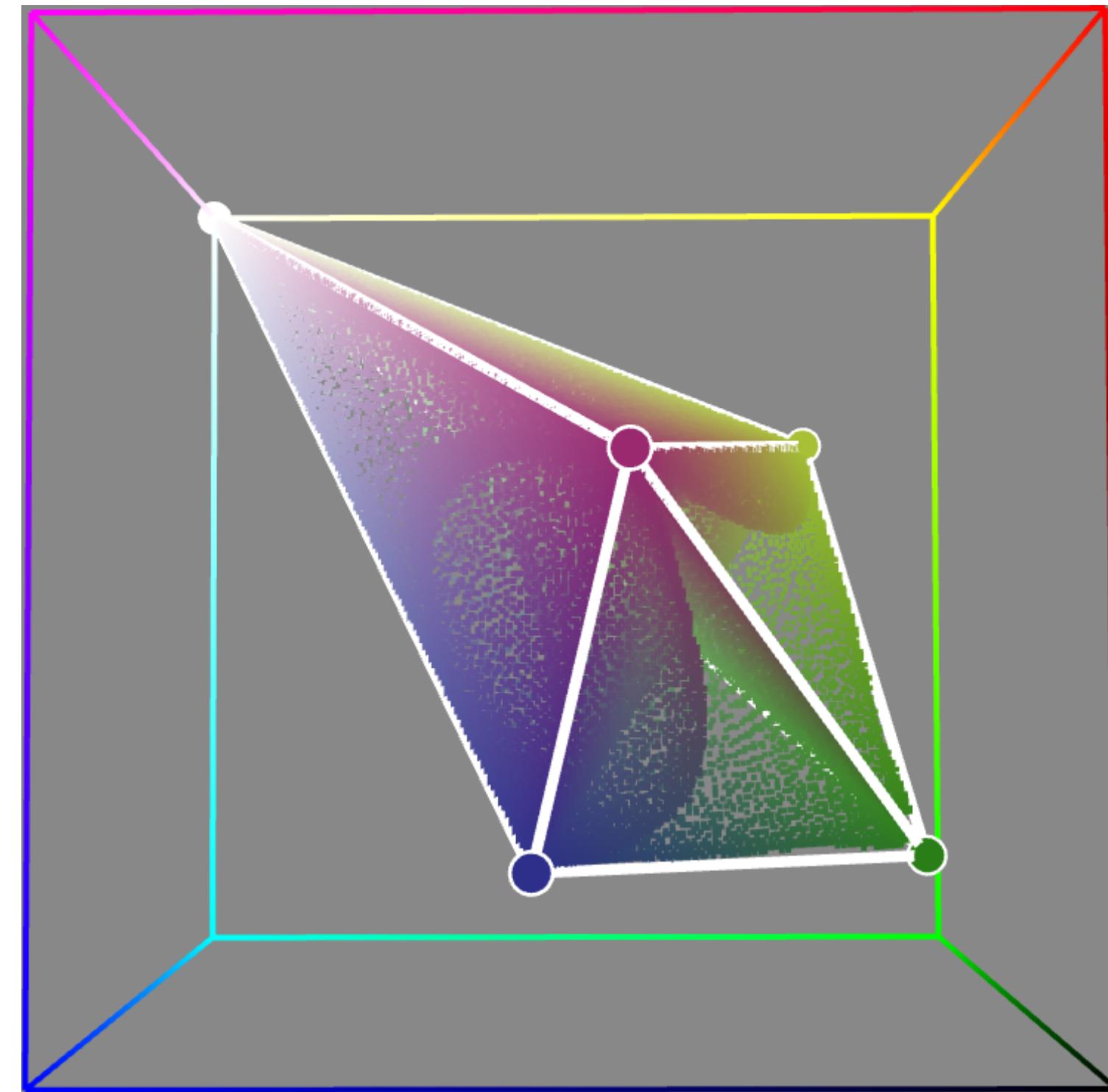


Convex Hull simplification



convex hull

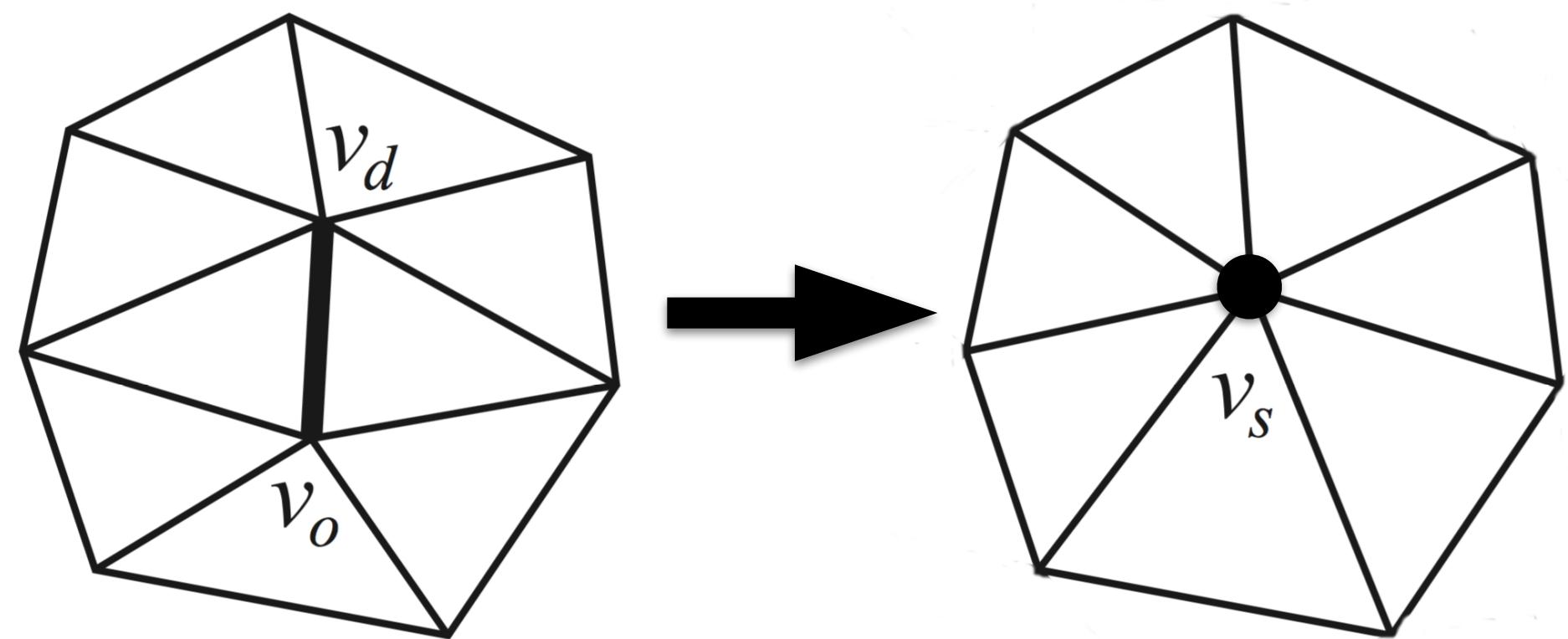
Iteratively collapse edges with a
modified Progressive Hull method



simplified convex hull

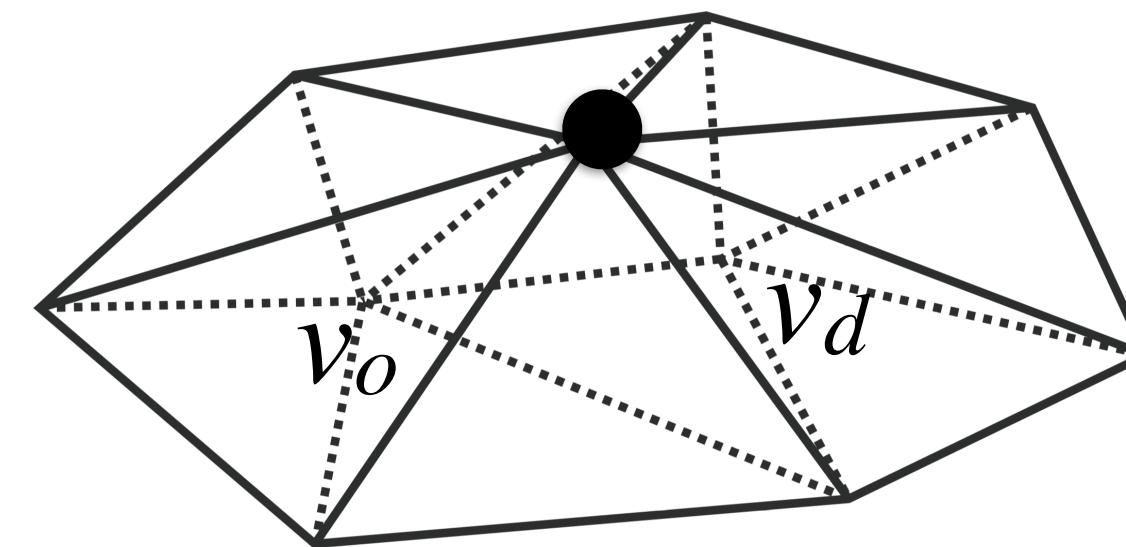
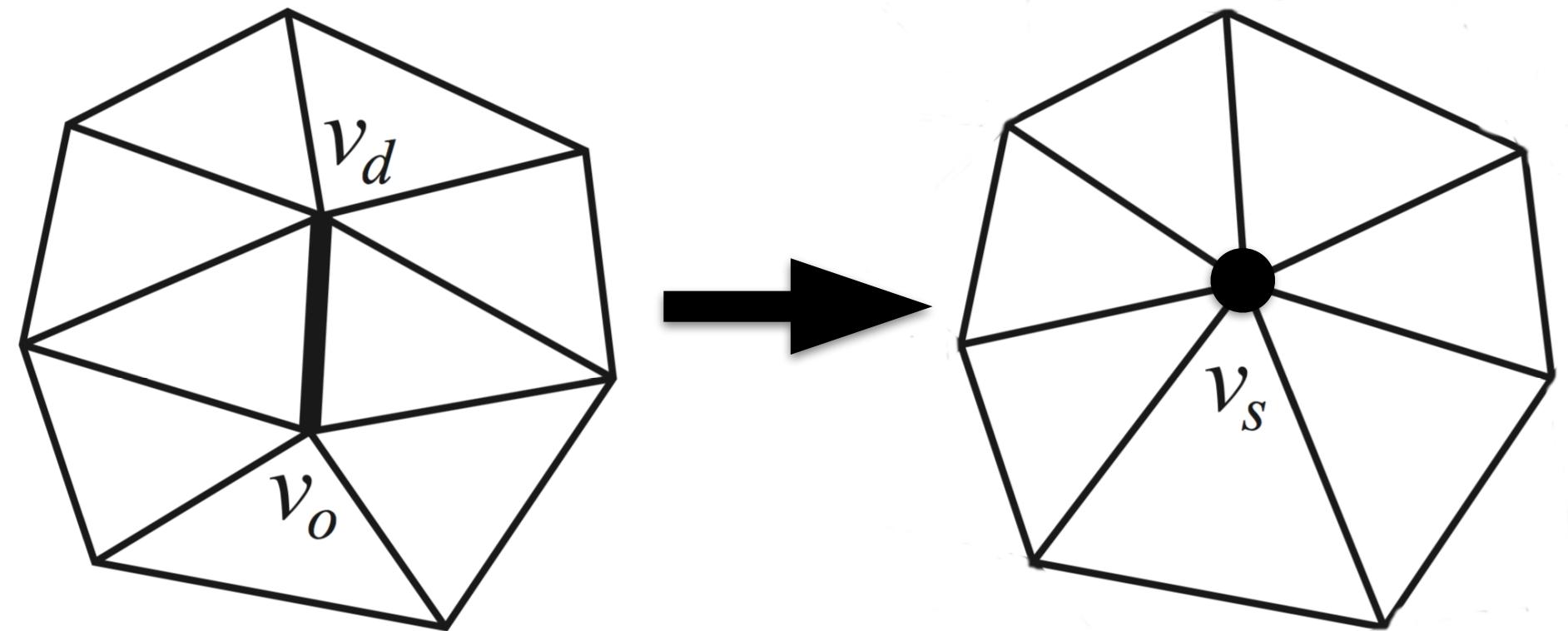
Progressive Hull [Sander et al. 2000]

- Greedily collapse edges whose new vertex position adds the smallest additional volume.



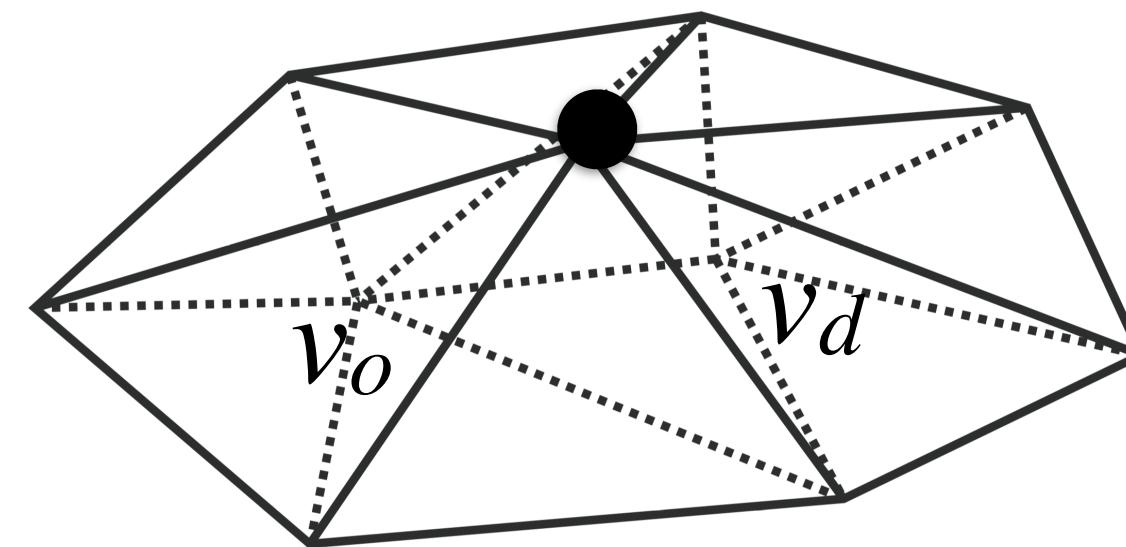
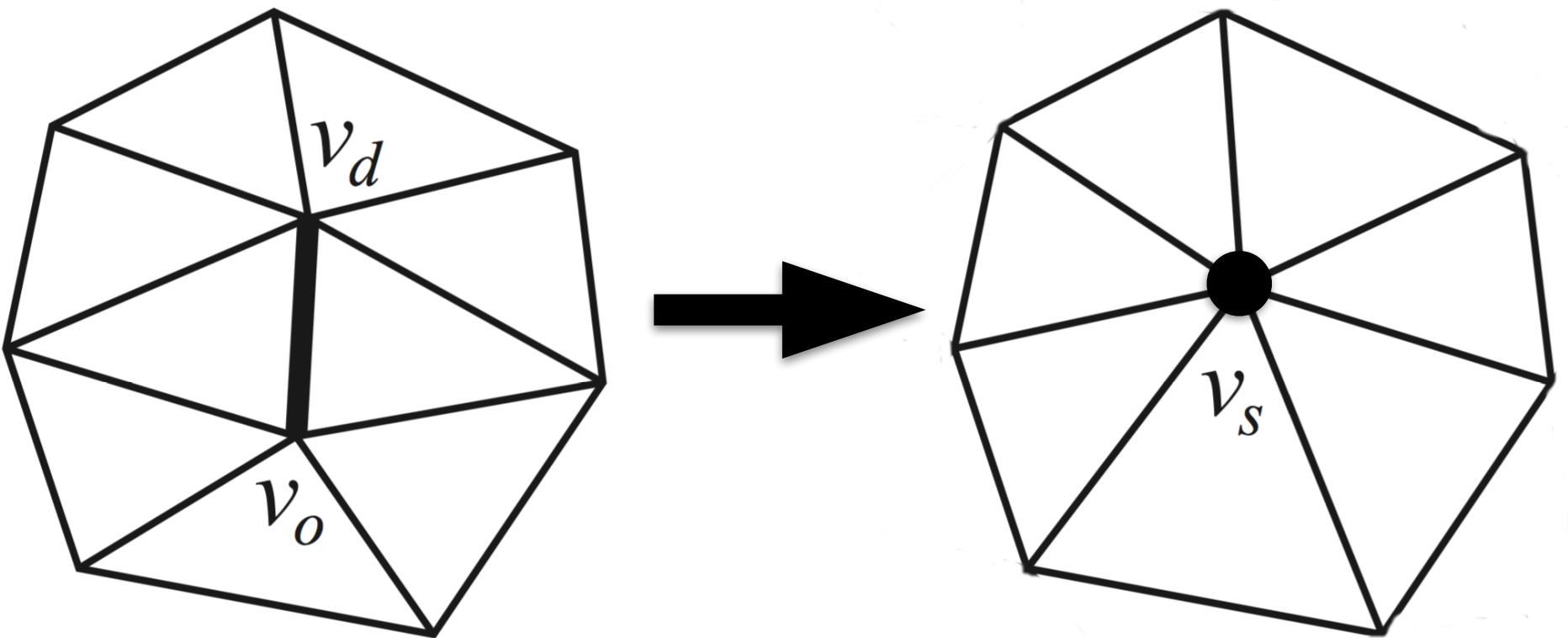
Progressive Hull [Sander et al. 2000]

- Greedily collapse edges whose new vertex position adds the smallest additional volume.
- New vertex position guarantees that volume expands (linear constraint)



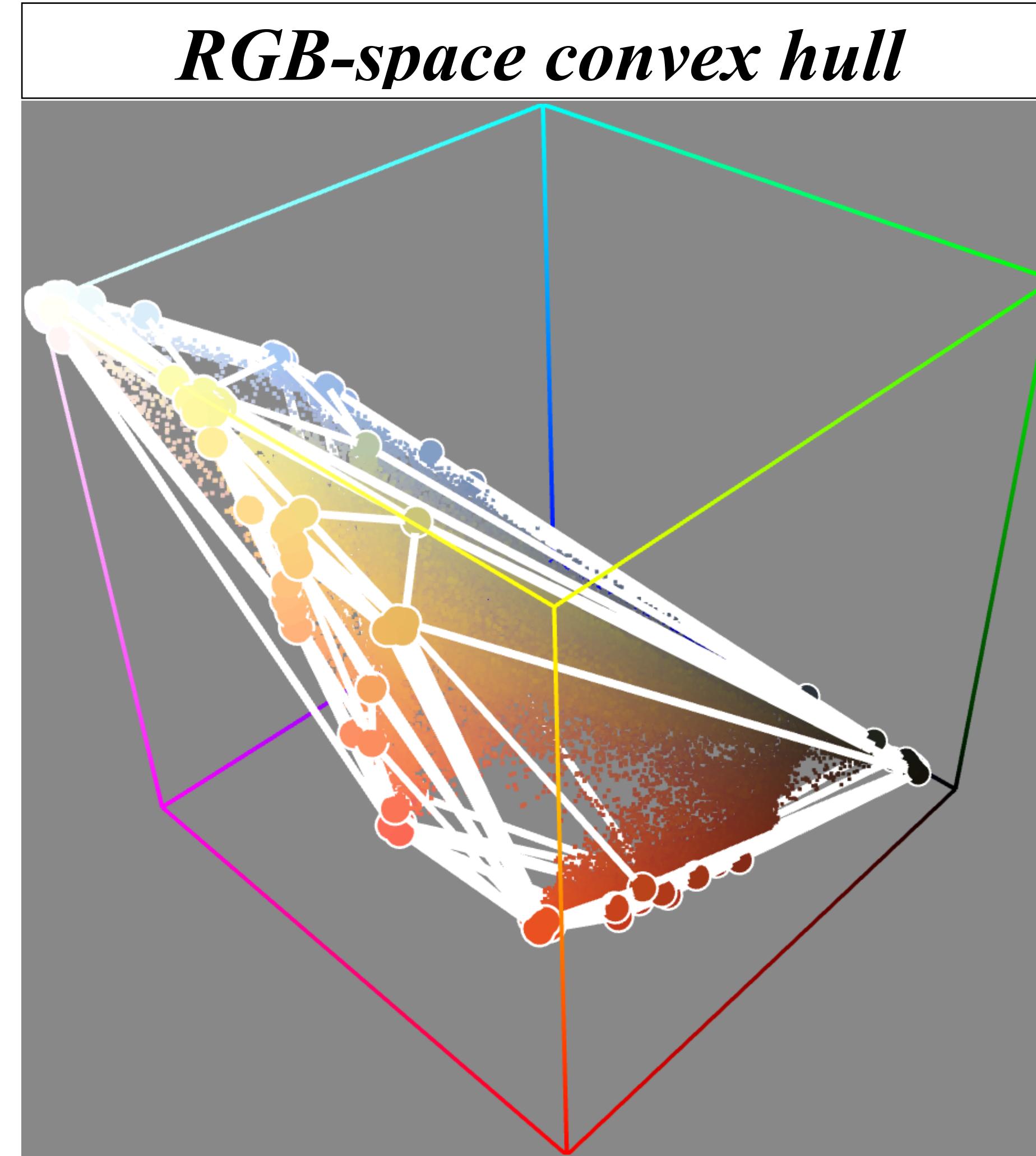
Progressive Hull [Sander et al. 2000]

- Greedily collapse edges whose new vertex position adds the smallest additional volume.
- New vertex position guarantees that volume expands (linear constraint)
- We modify the algorithm: choose the new vertex that minimizes the distance to incident faces of the collapsing edge.



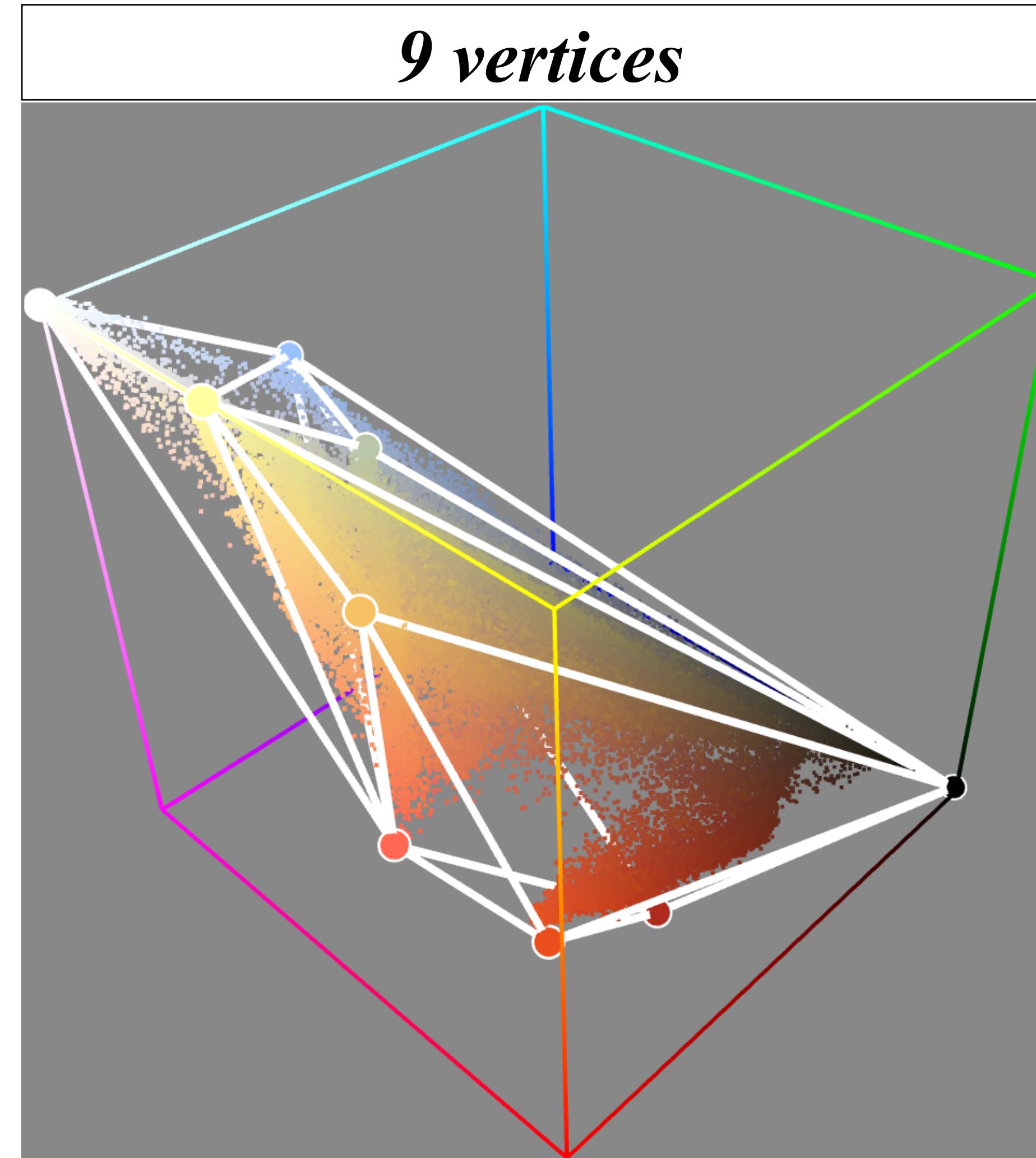
Palette Size

- The convex hull can be simplified to any complexity level.



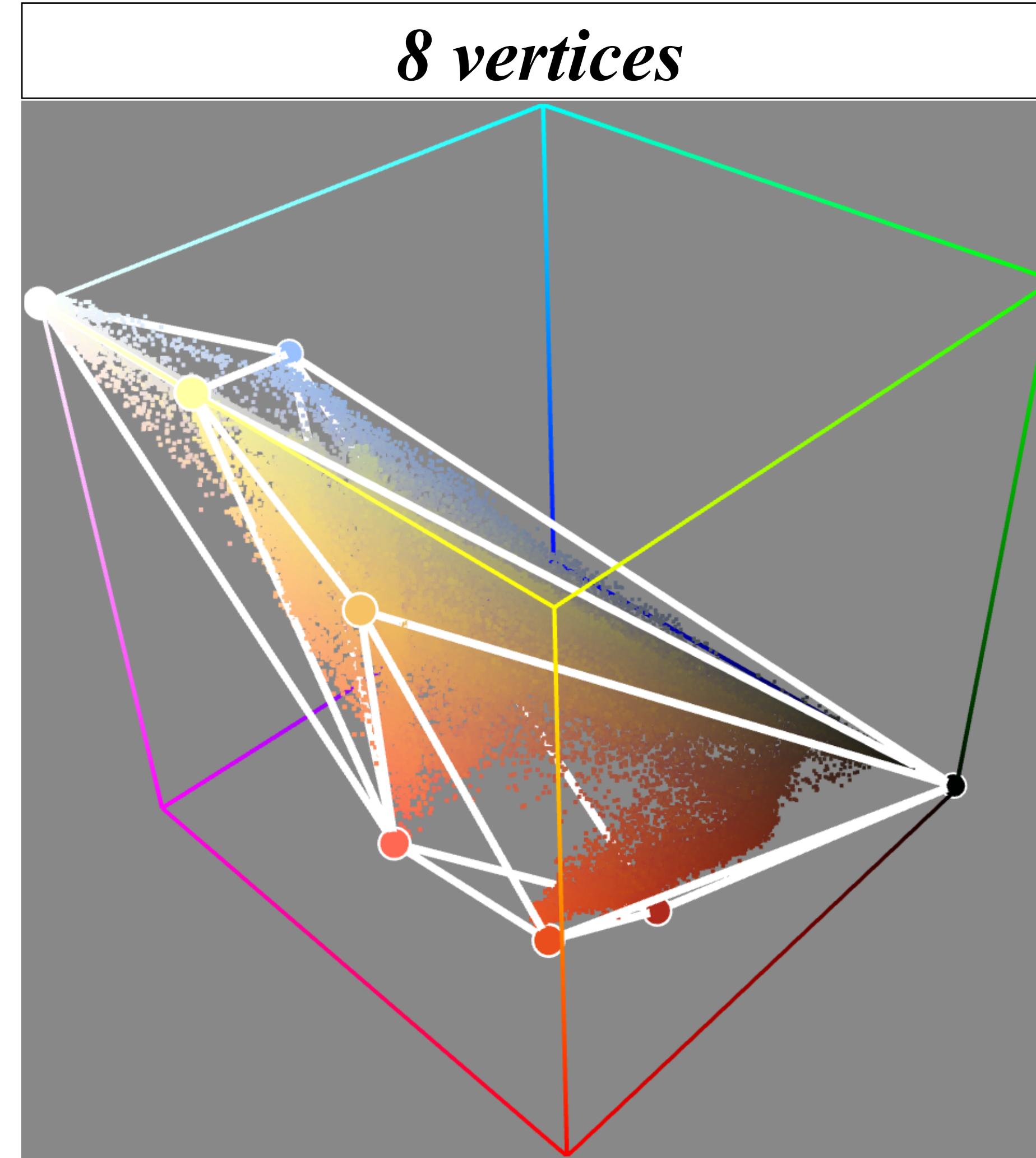
Palette Size

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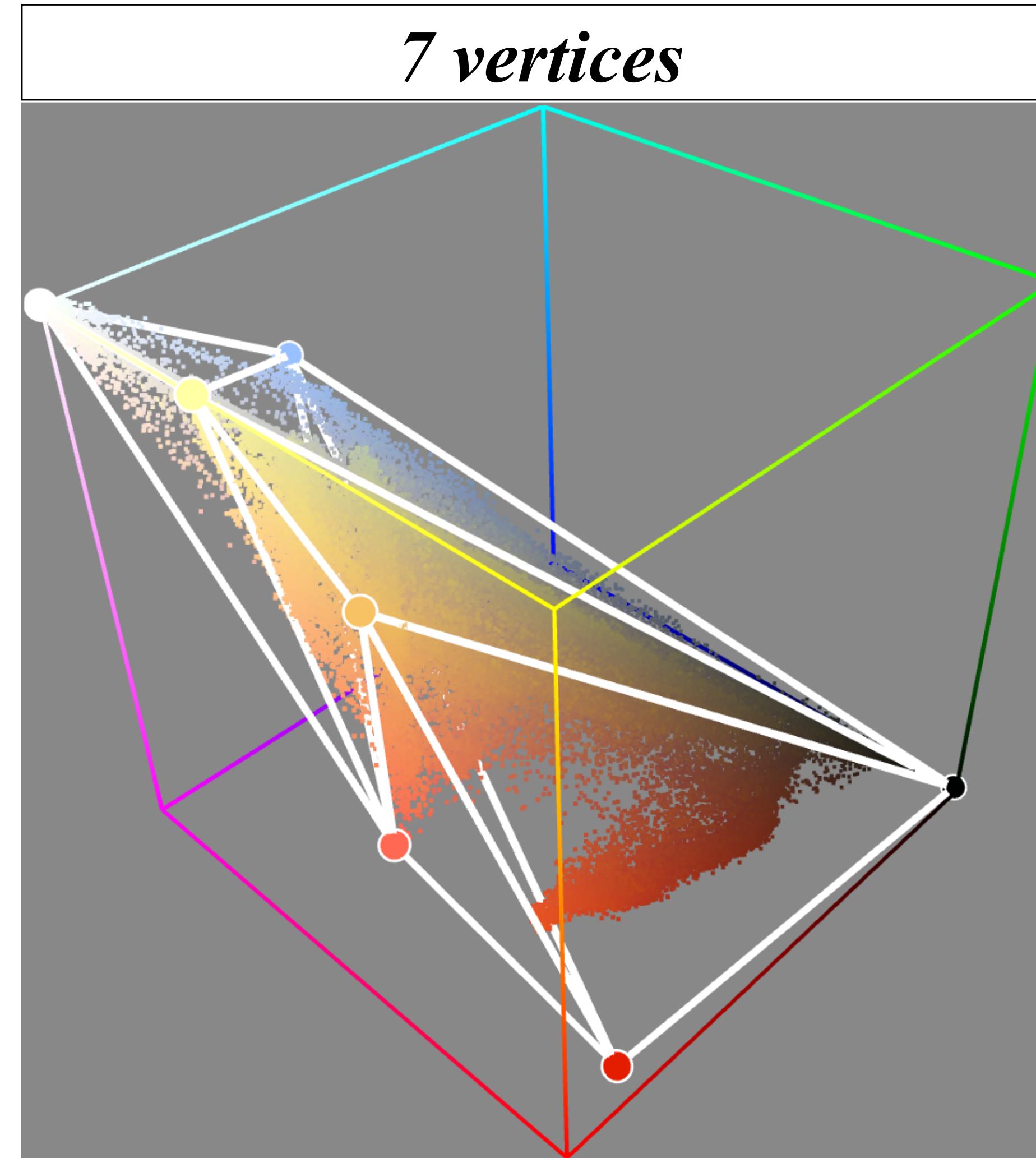
Palette Size

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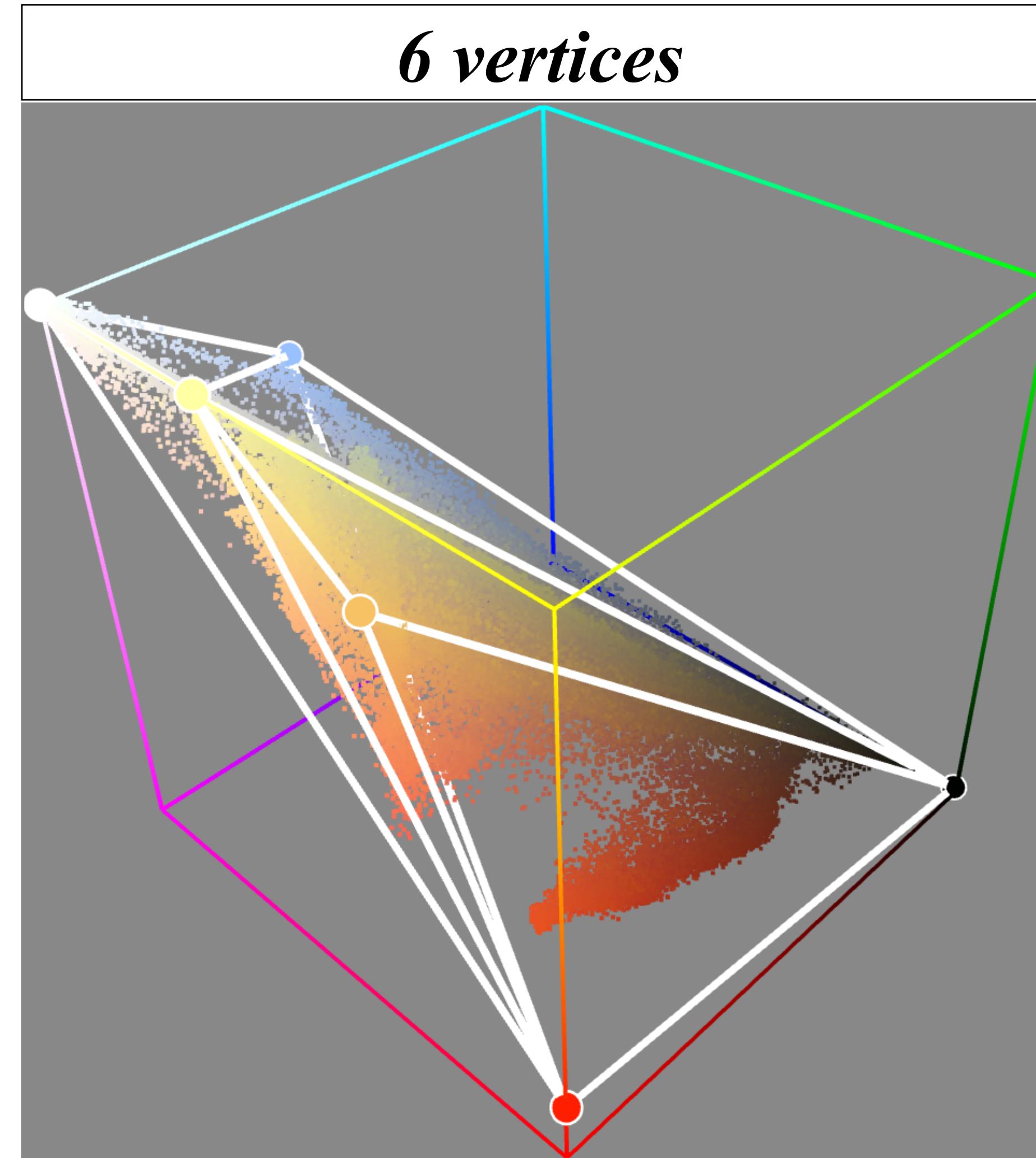
Palette Size

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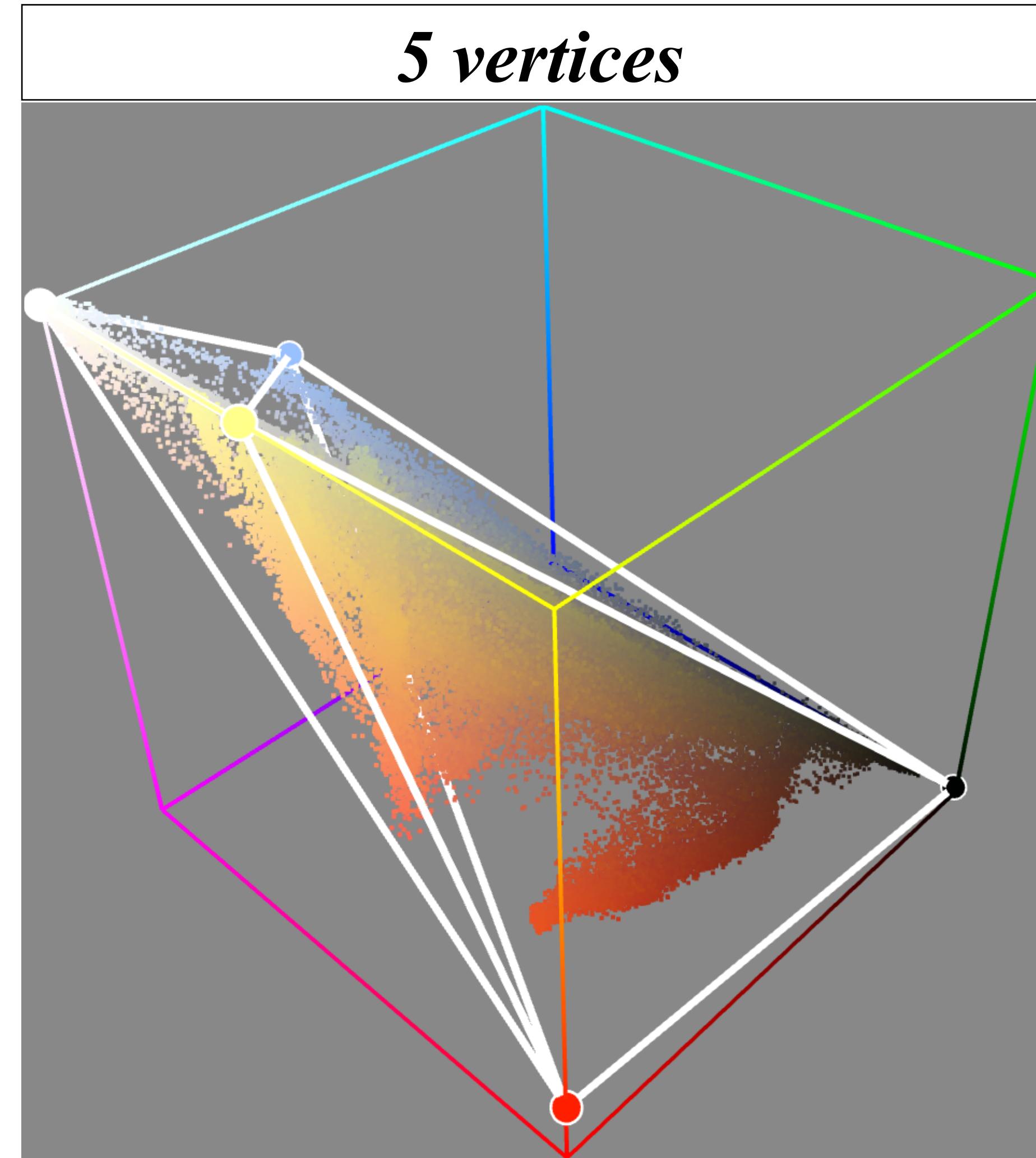
Palette Size

- The convex hull can be simplified to any complexity level.



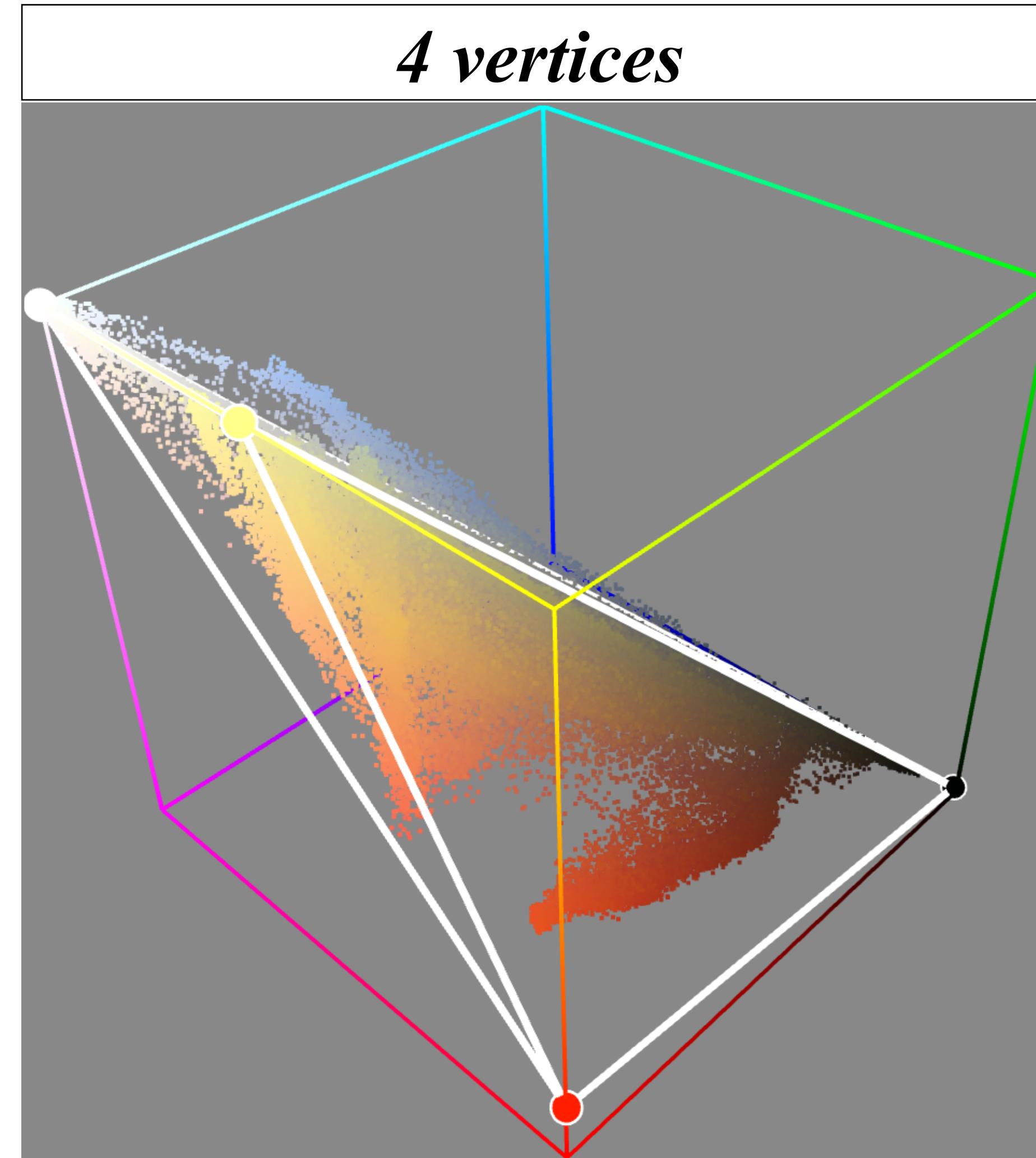
Palette Size

- The convex hull can be simplified to any complexity level.



Palette Size

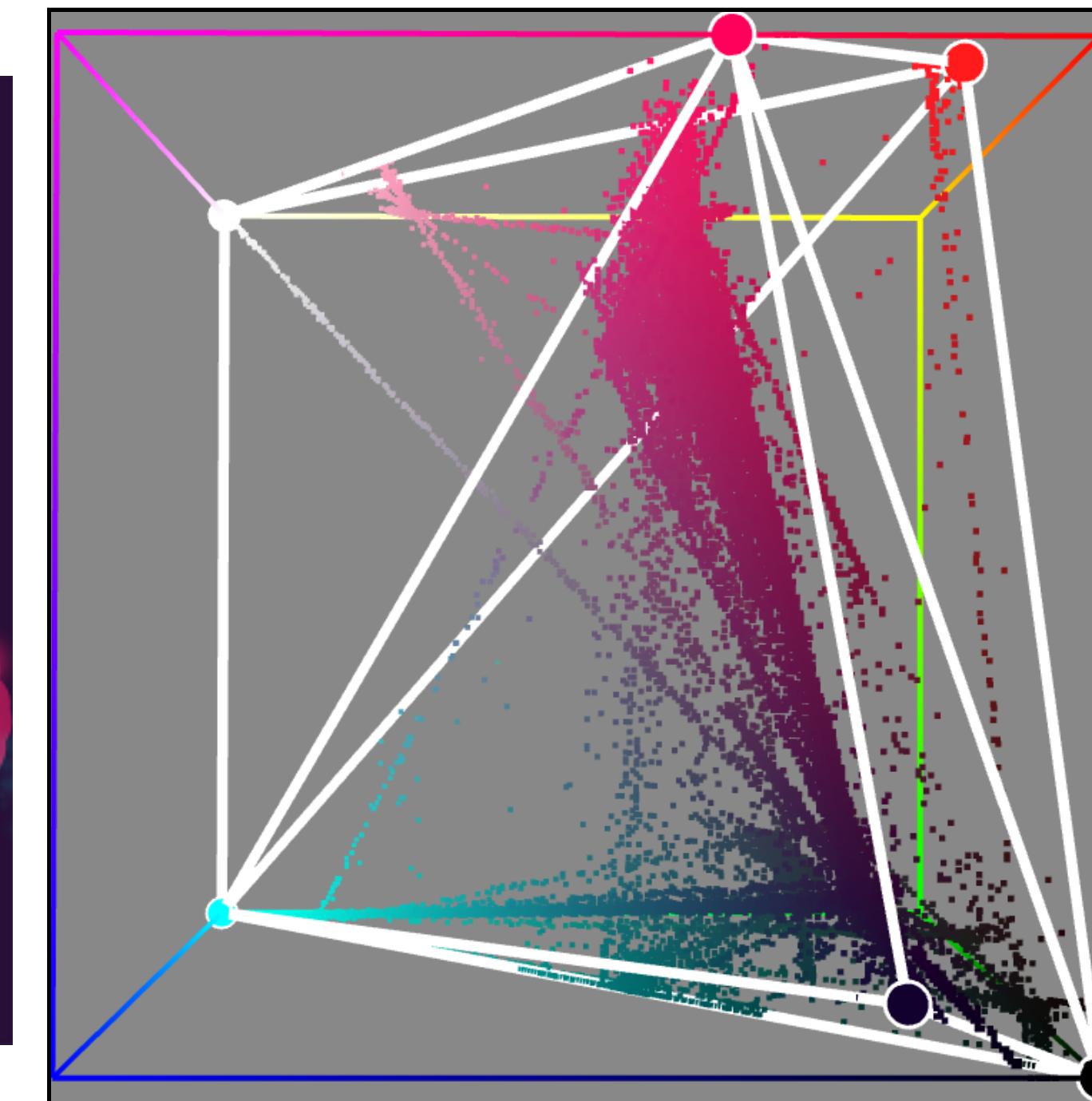
- The convex hull can be simplified to any complexity level.



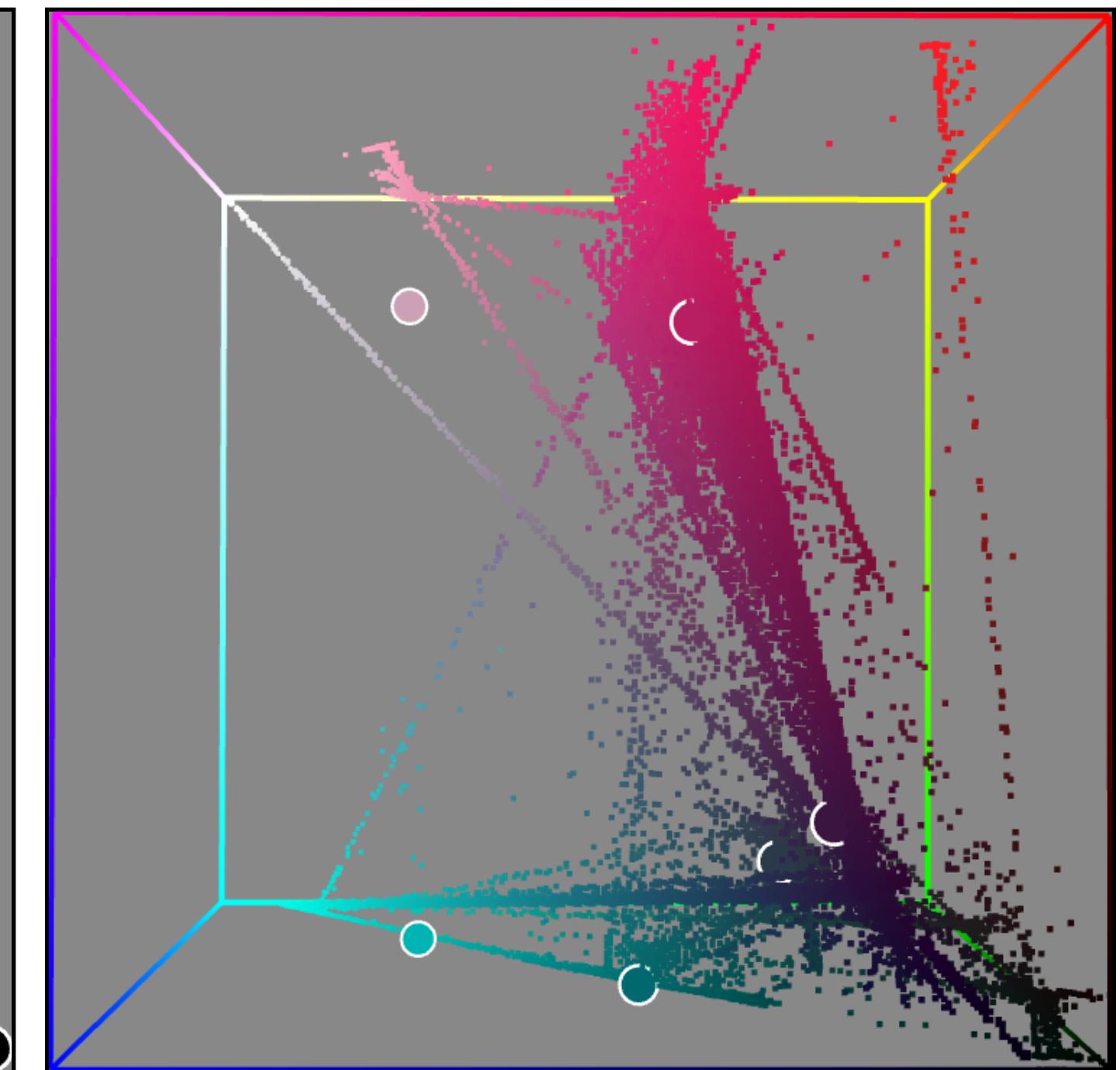
Compared to Clustering



Input



Ours

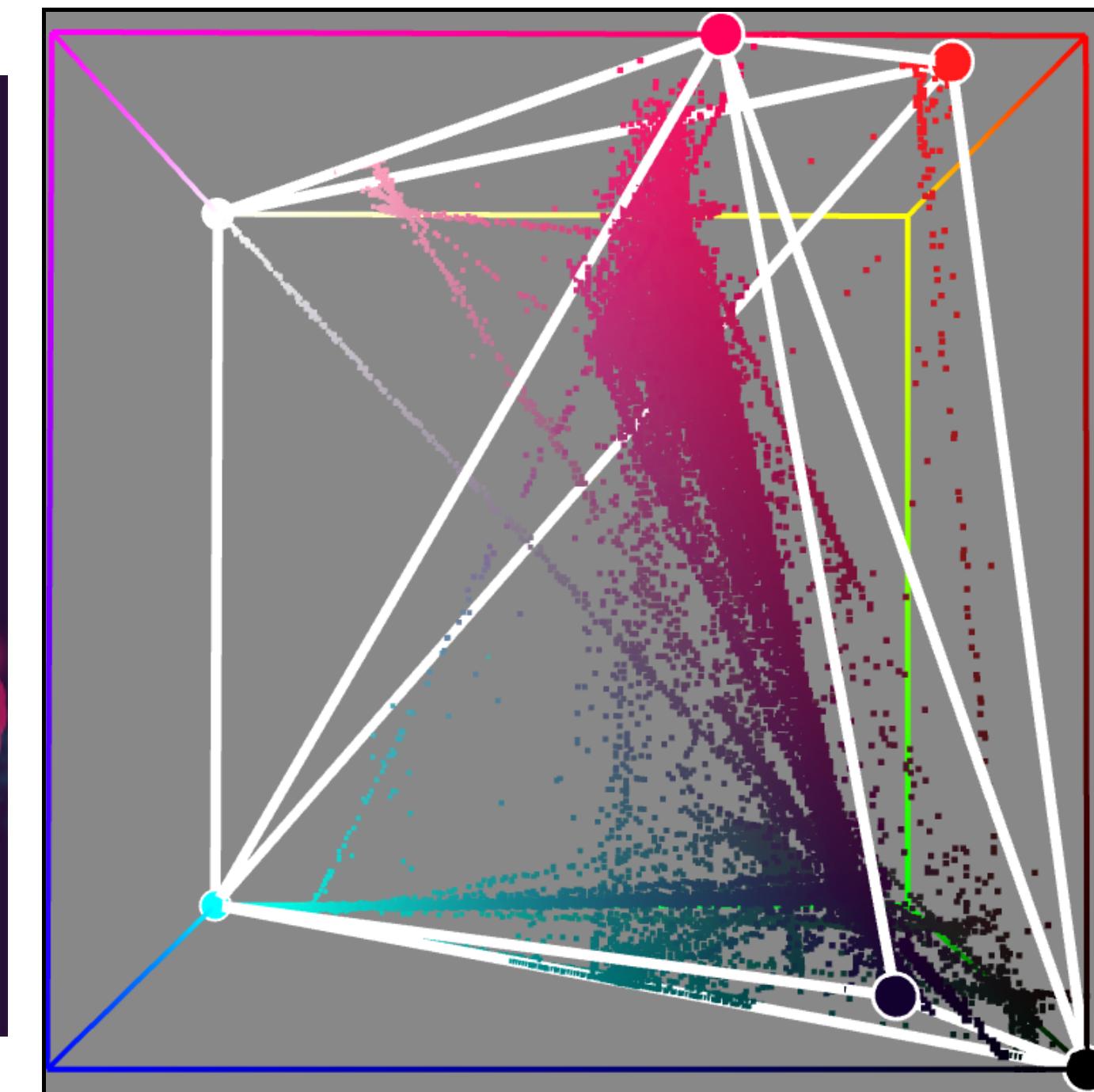


Chang et al. 2015

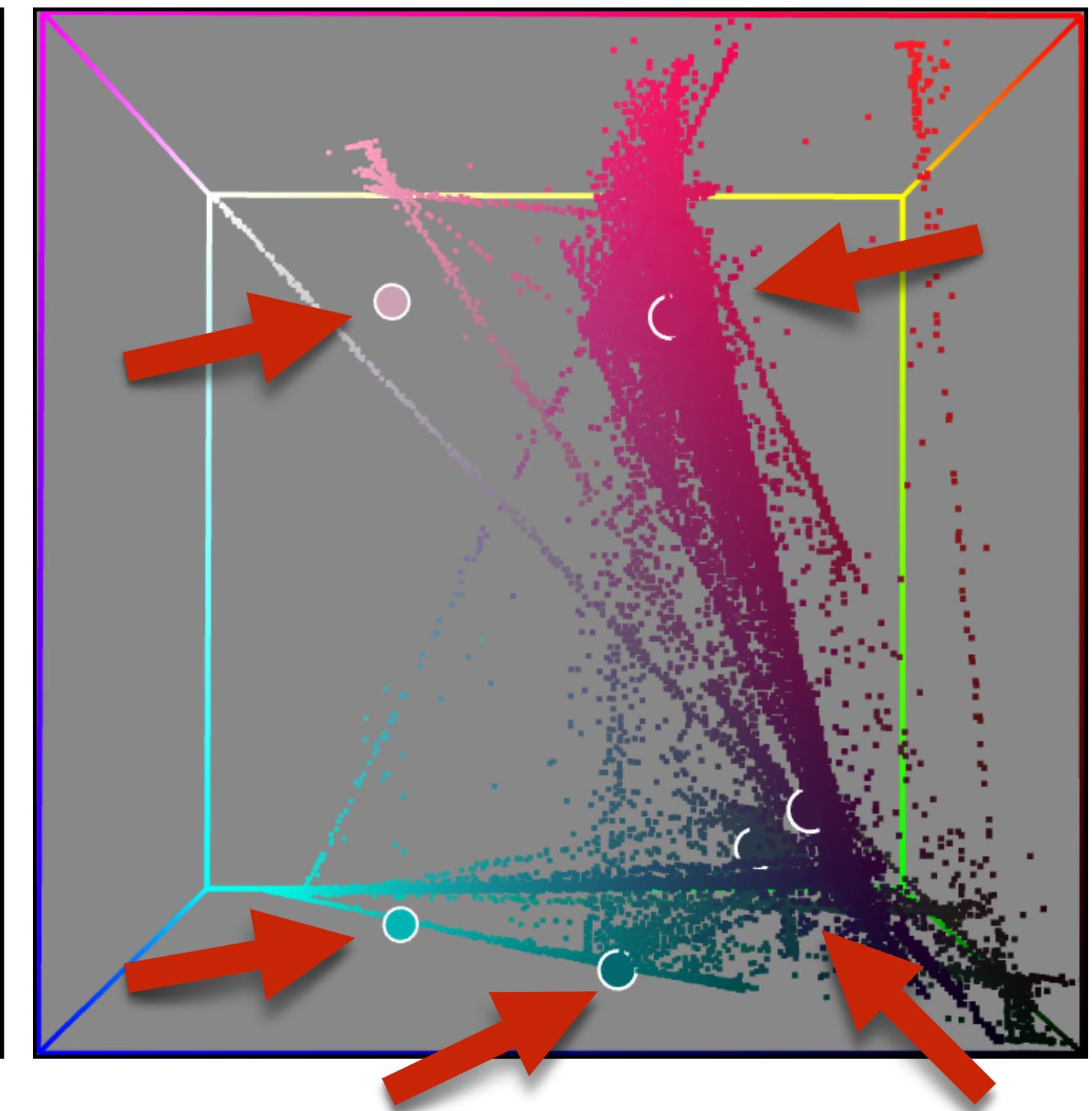
Compared to Clustering



Input



Ours



Chang et al. 2015

Layer Opacity

Layer Order

input

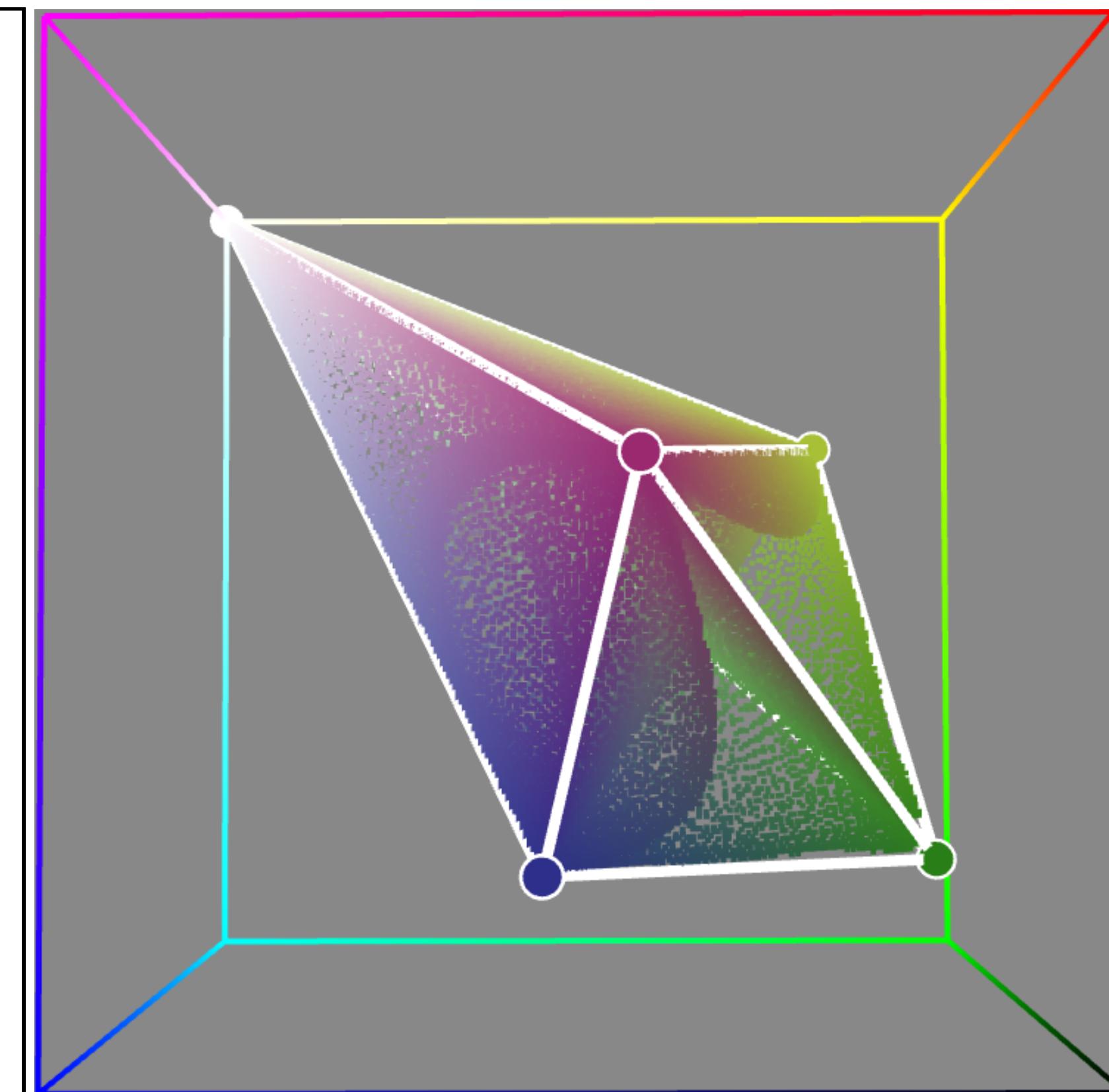


Layer Order

input



palette selection

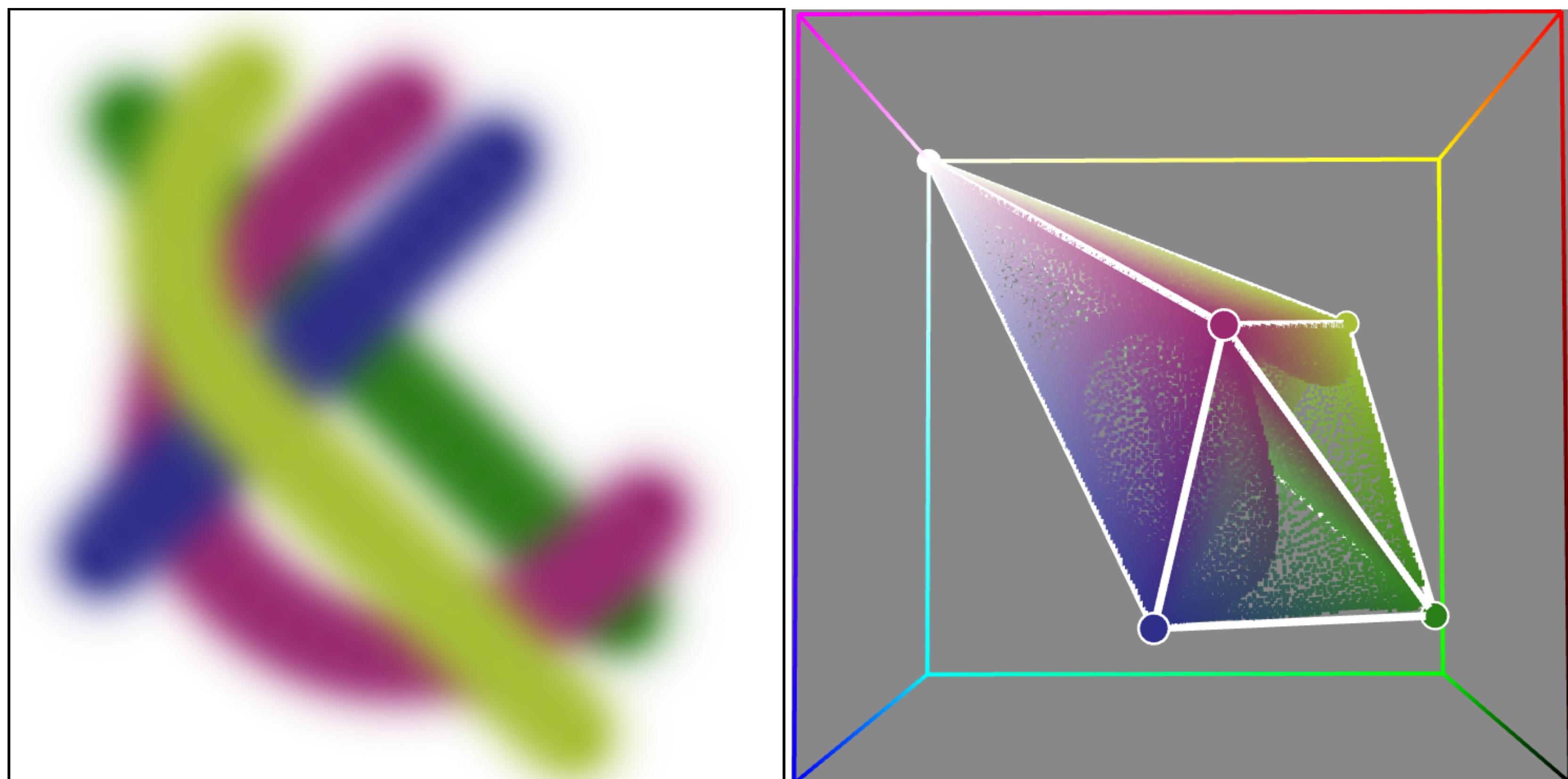


Layer Order

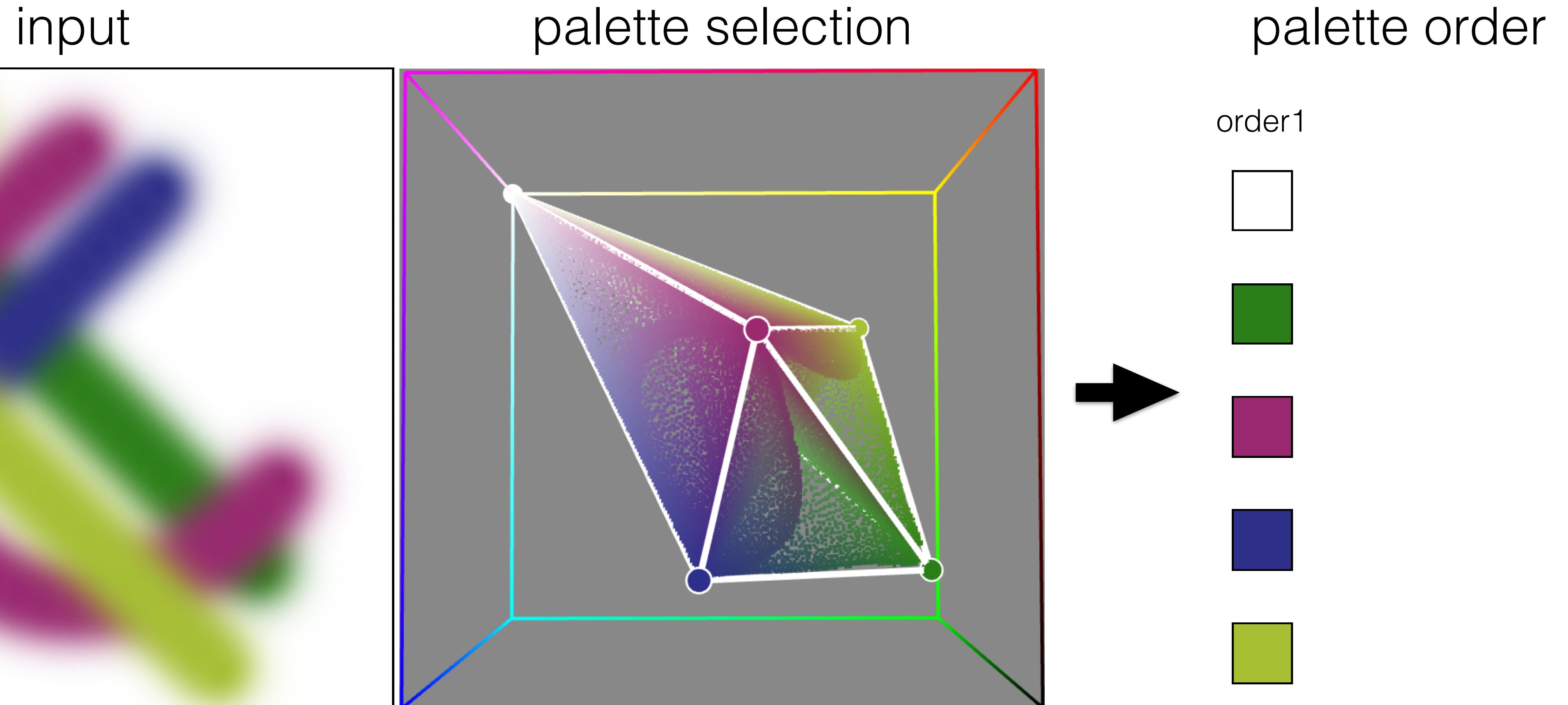
input

palette selection

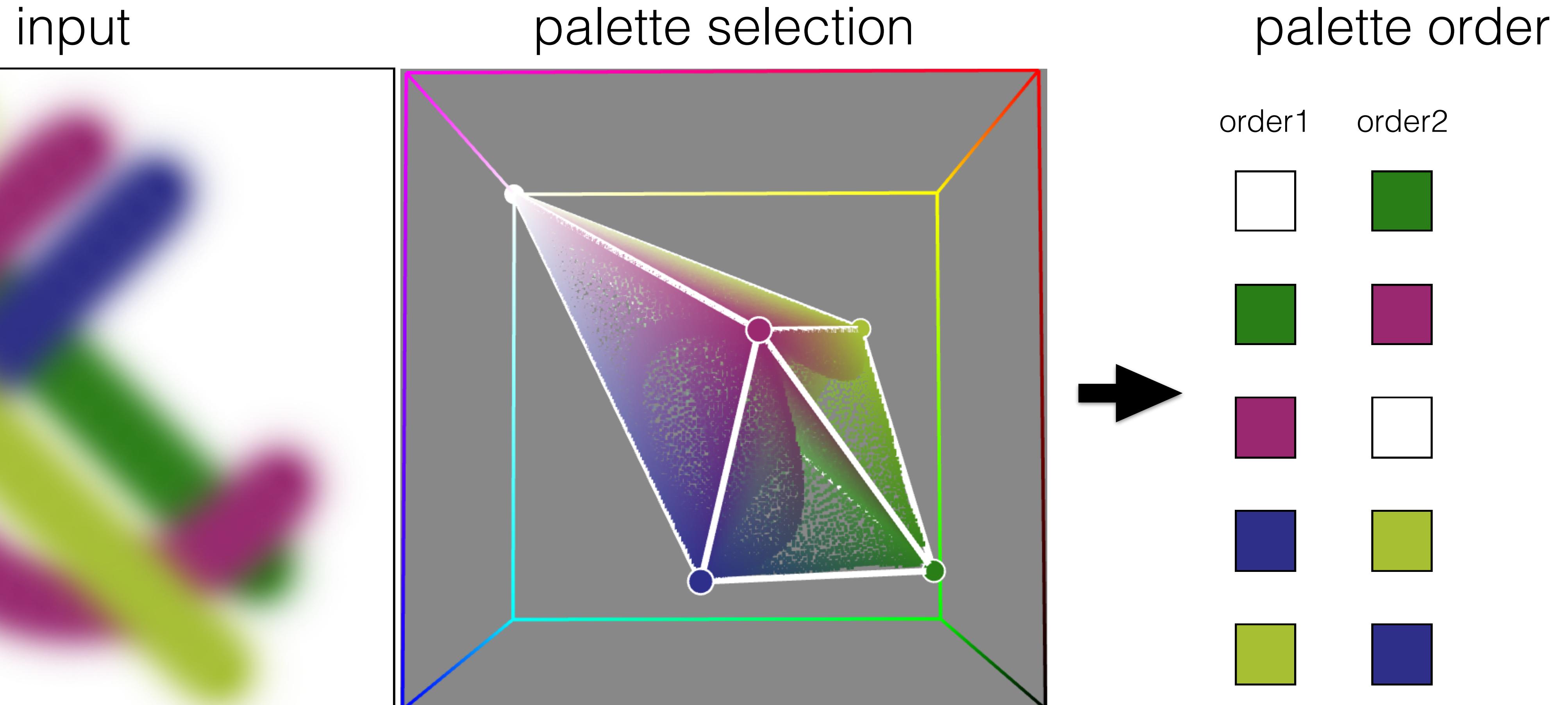
palette order



Layer Order



Layer Order

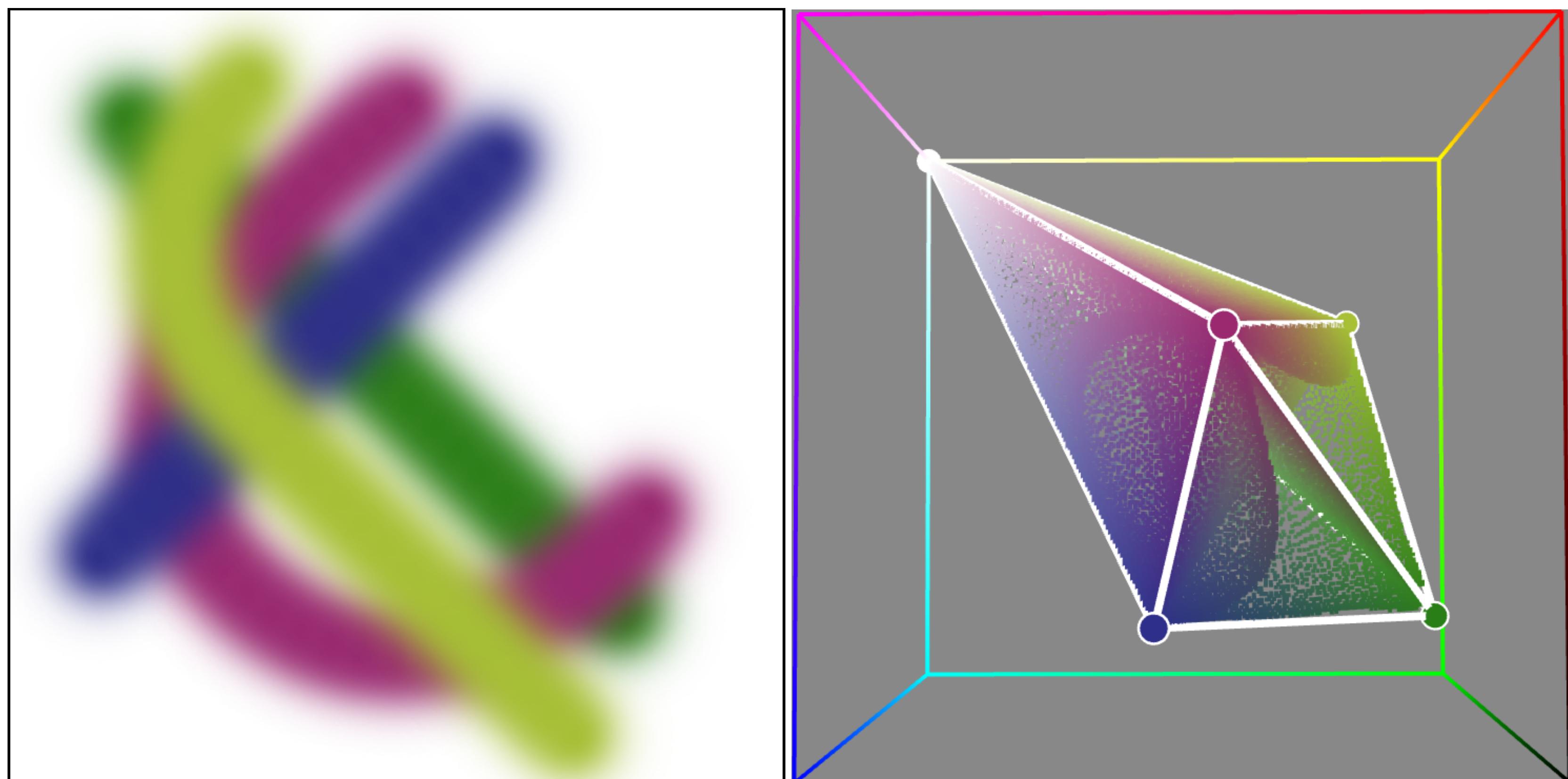


Layer Order

input

palette selection

palette order



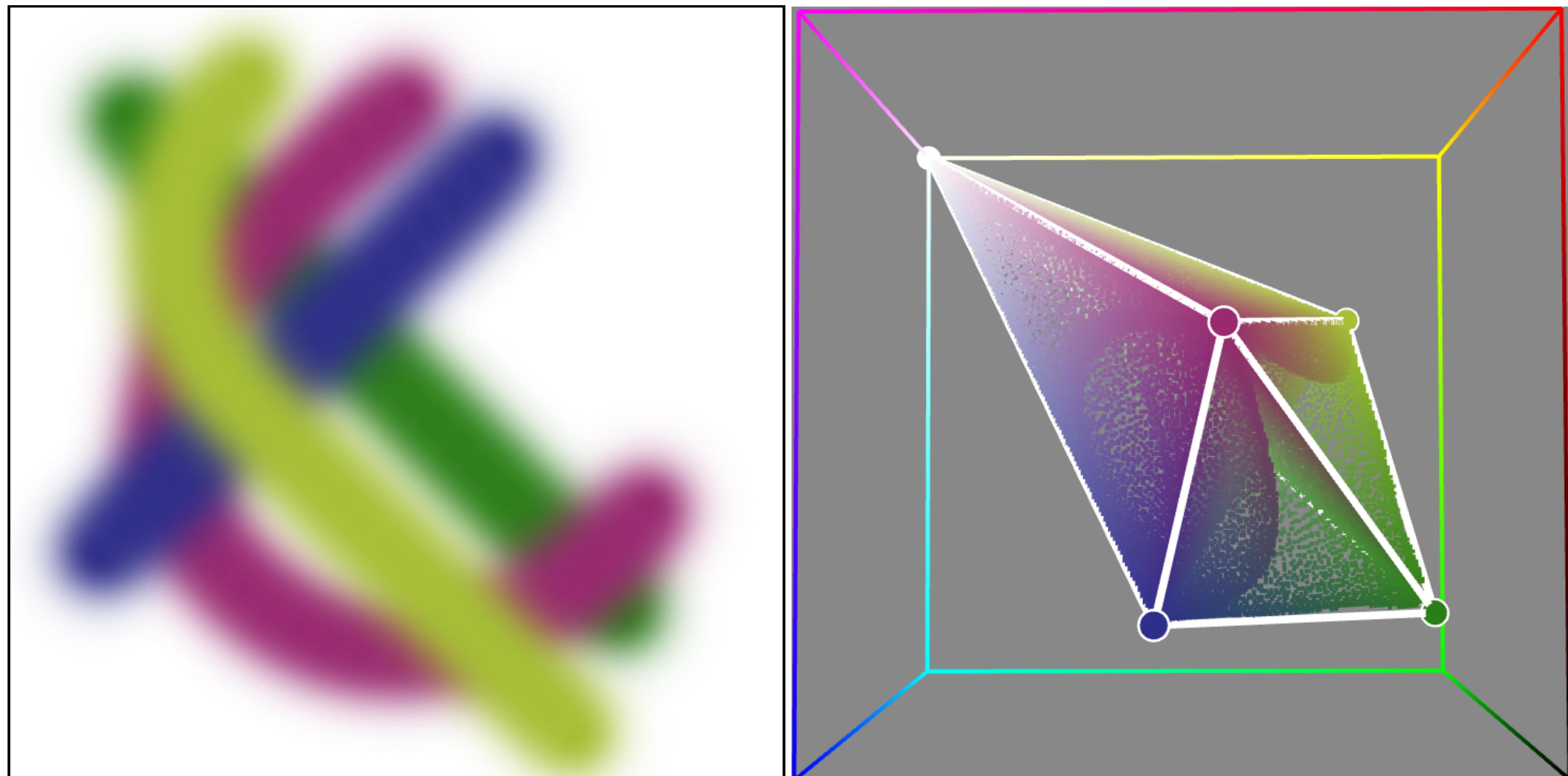
order1 order2 order3

Layer Order

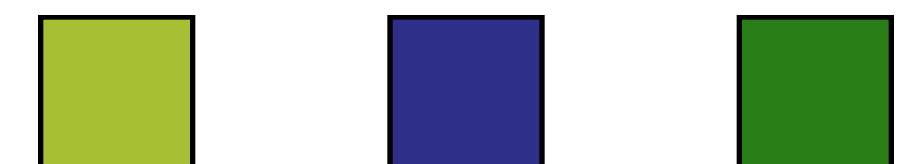
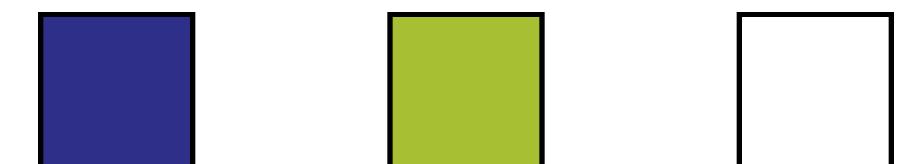
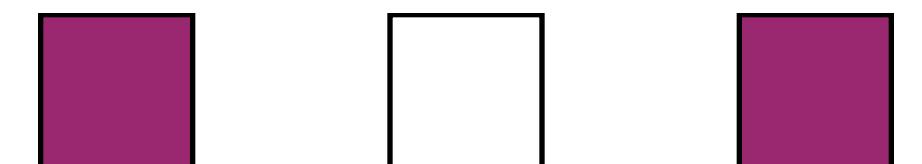
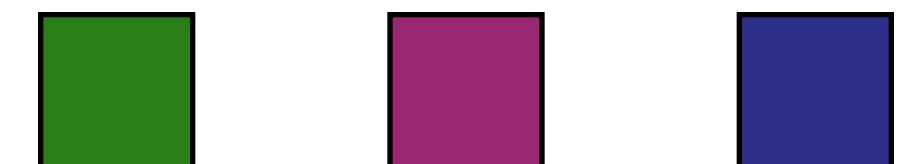
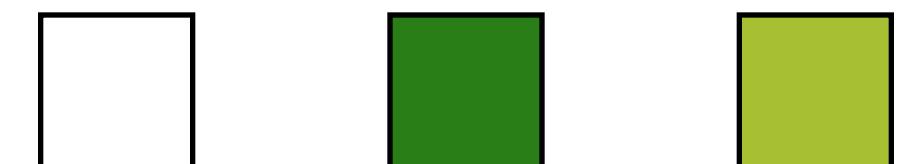
input

palette selection

palette order



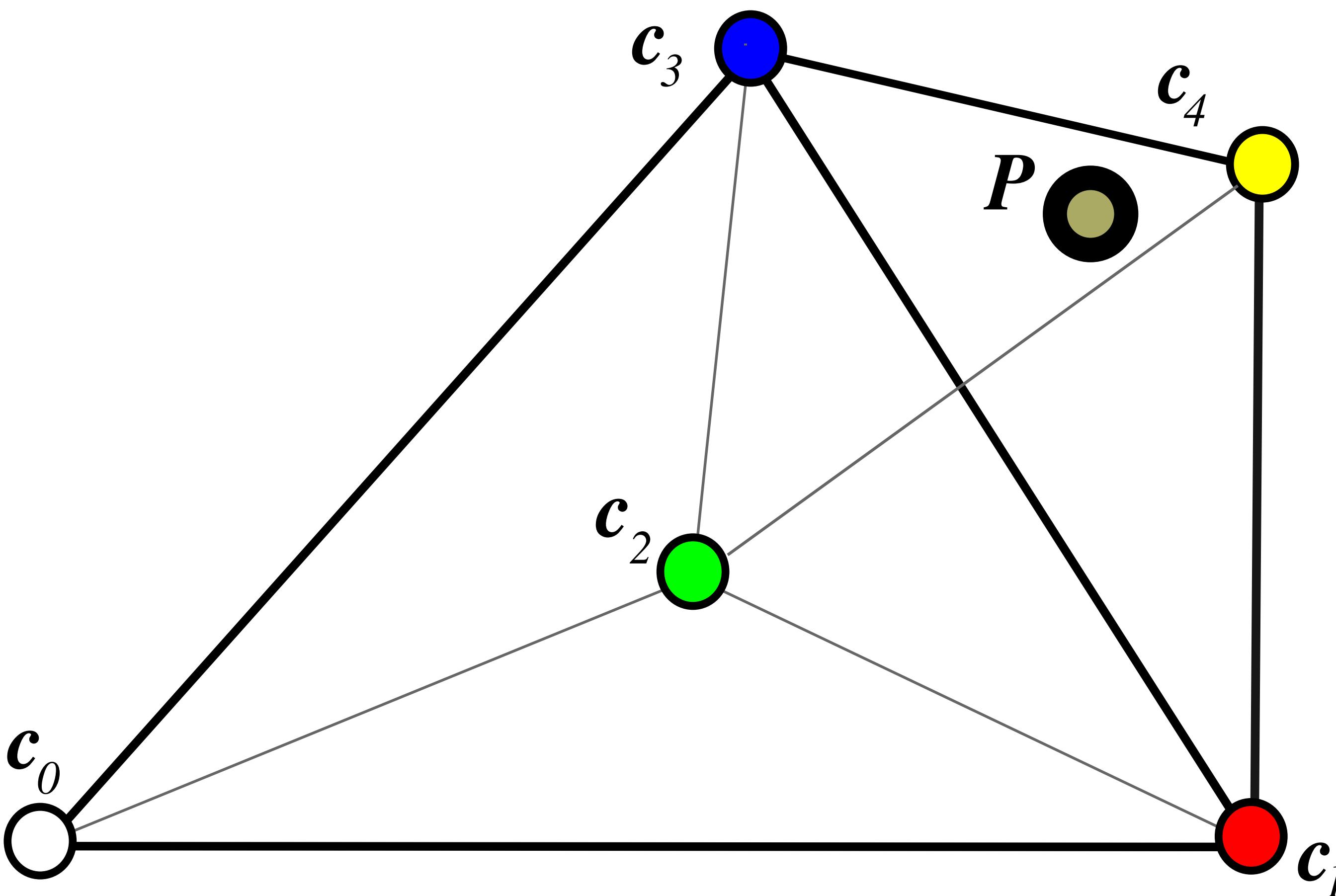
order1 order2 order3



...

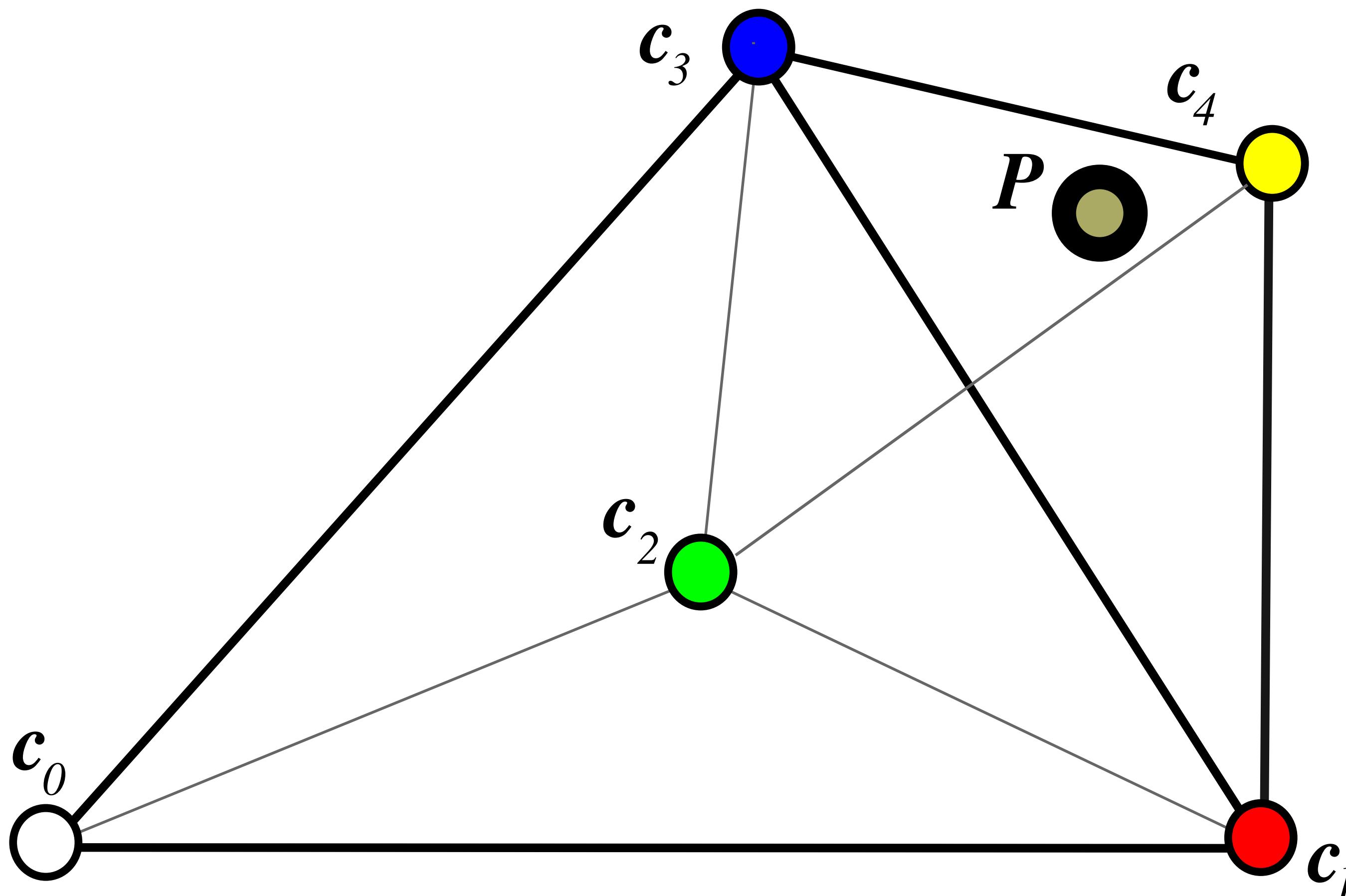
Layer Order

- Alpha compositing is not commutative



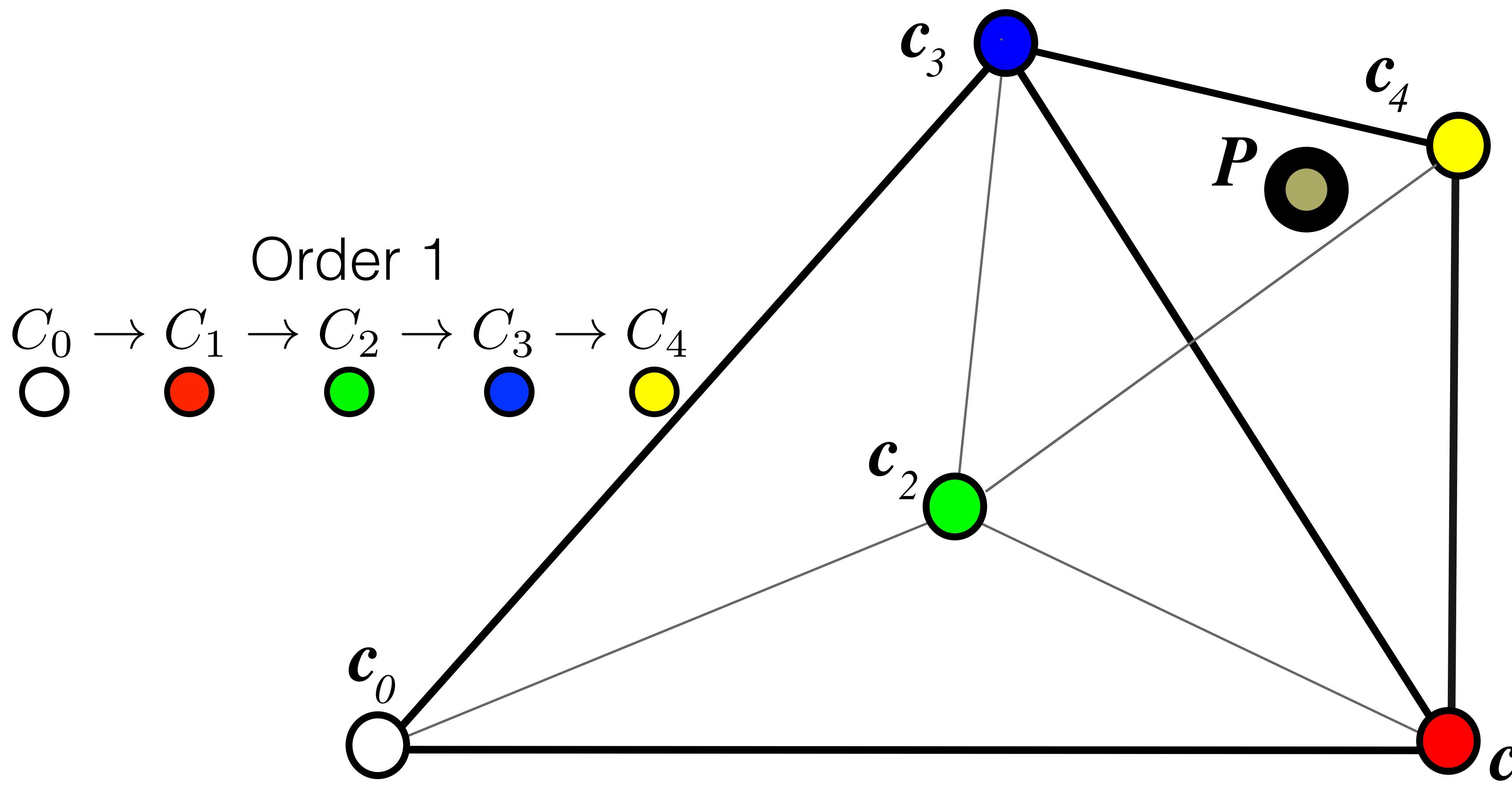
Layer Order

- Alpha compositing is not commutative
- For **n** layers, there are **n!** orderings



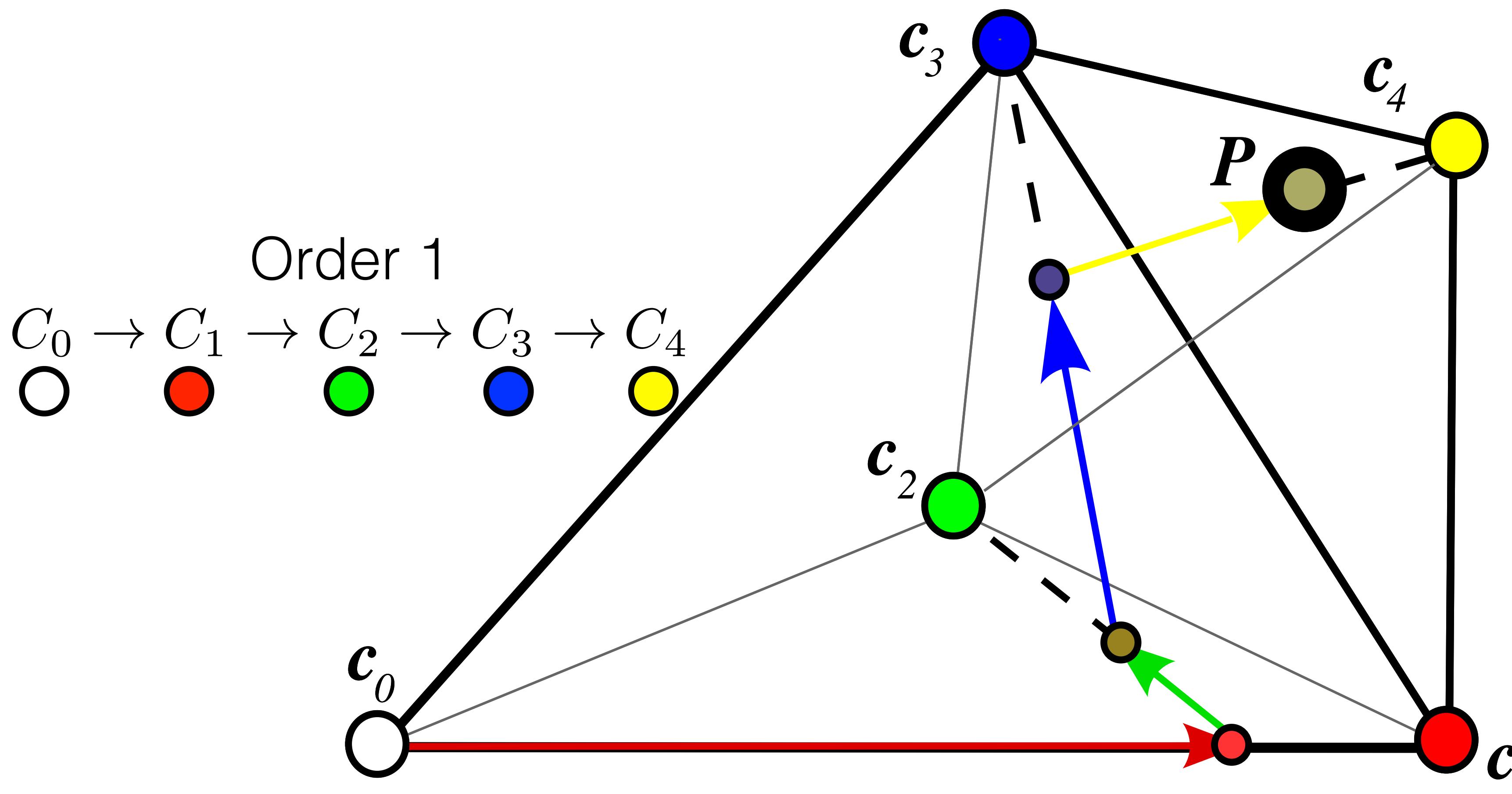
Layer Order

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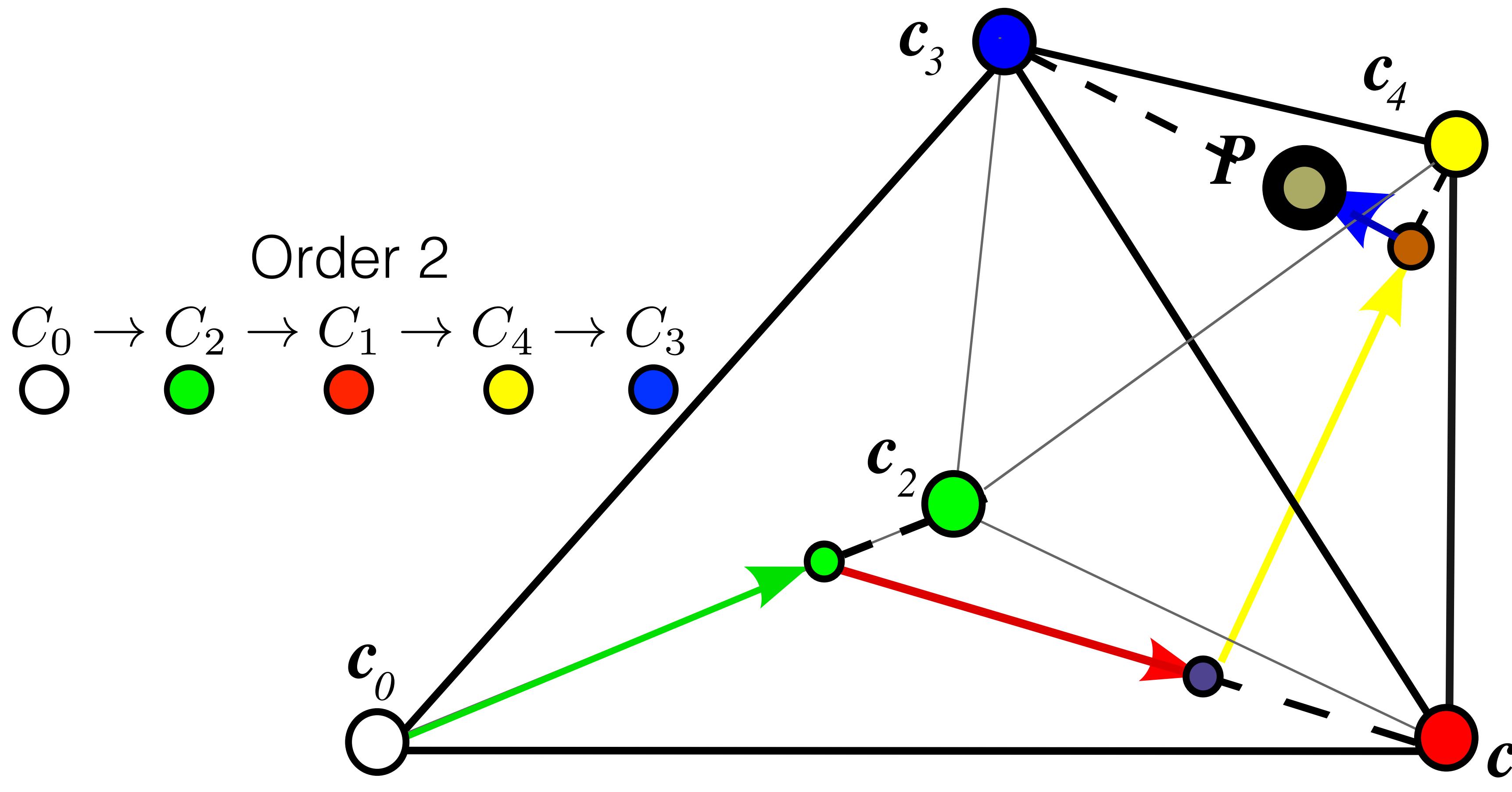
Layer Order

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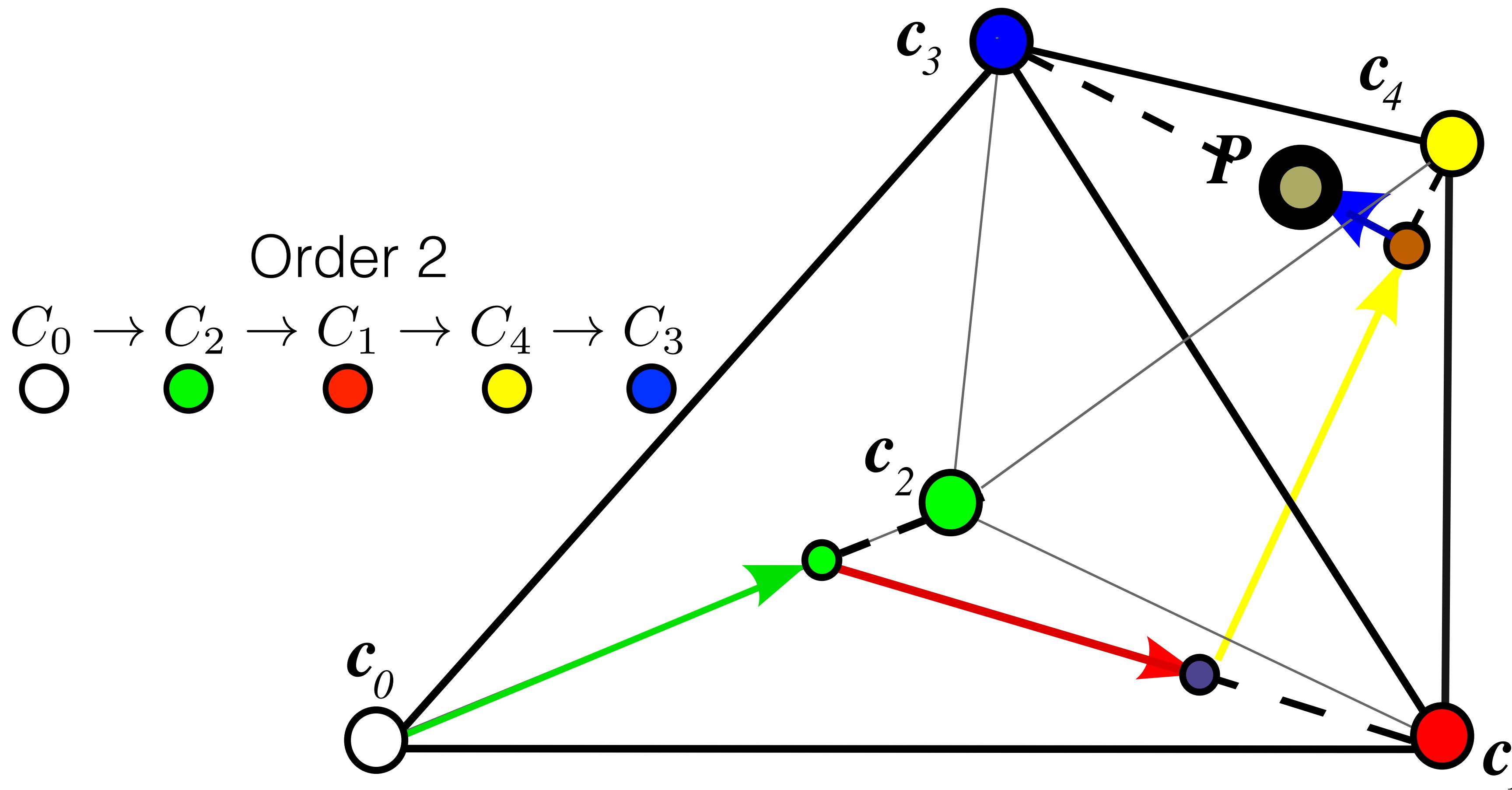
Layer Order

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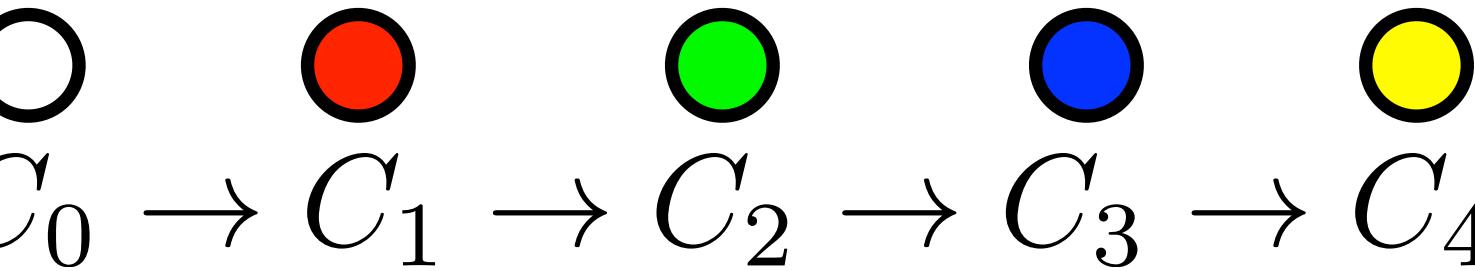
Layer Order

- Alpha compositing is not commutative
- For n layers, there are $n!$ orderings
- **Hard to find good metric.**
- **User manually chooses.**



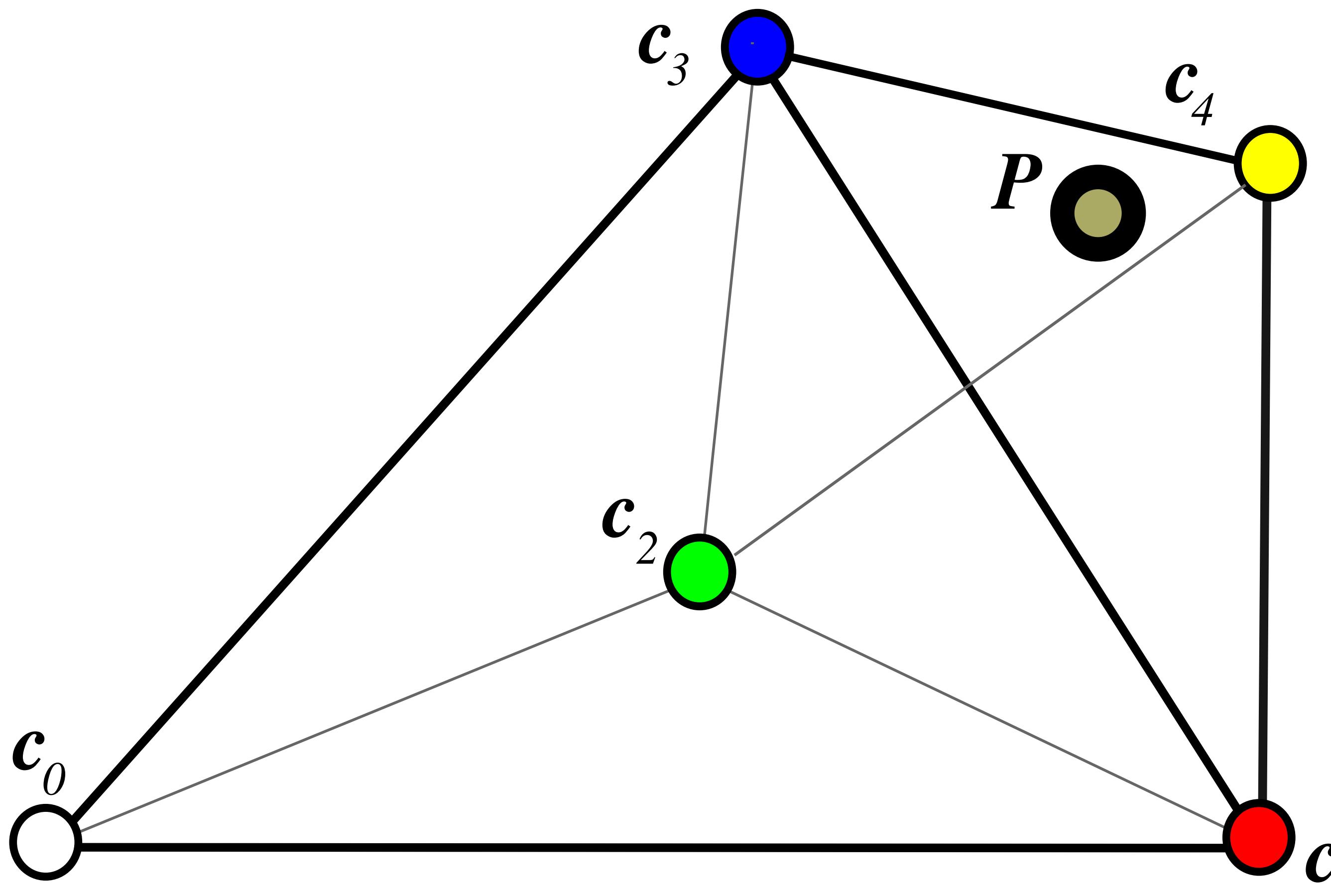
Color Compositing Path

- After user chooses a layer order: $C_0 \rightarrow C_1 \rightarrow C_2 \rightarrow C_3 \rightarrow C_4$
- Still have **infinite** paths from C_0 to P



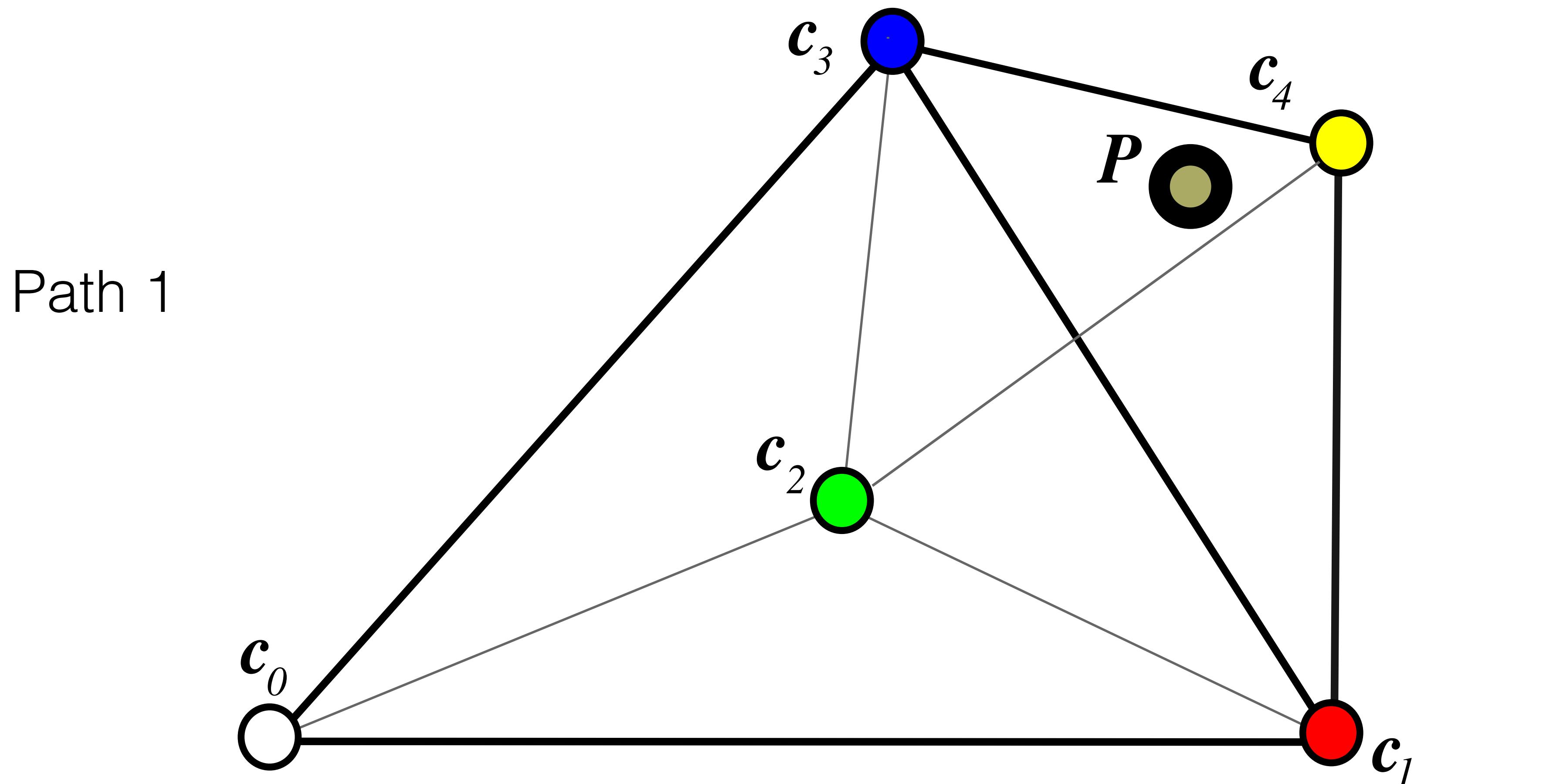
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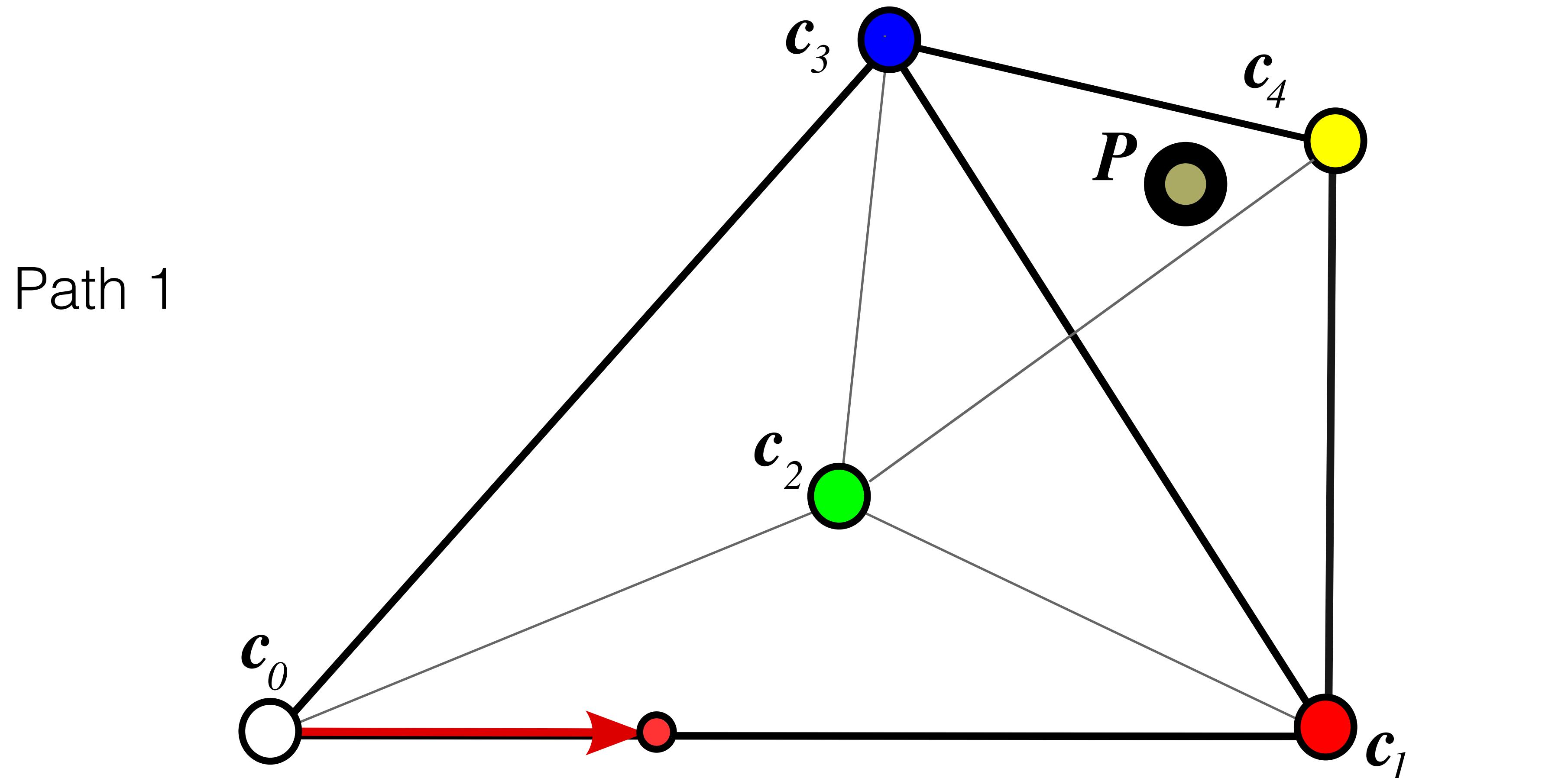
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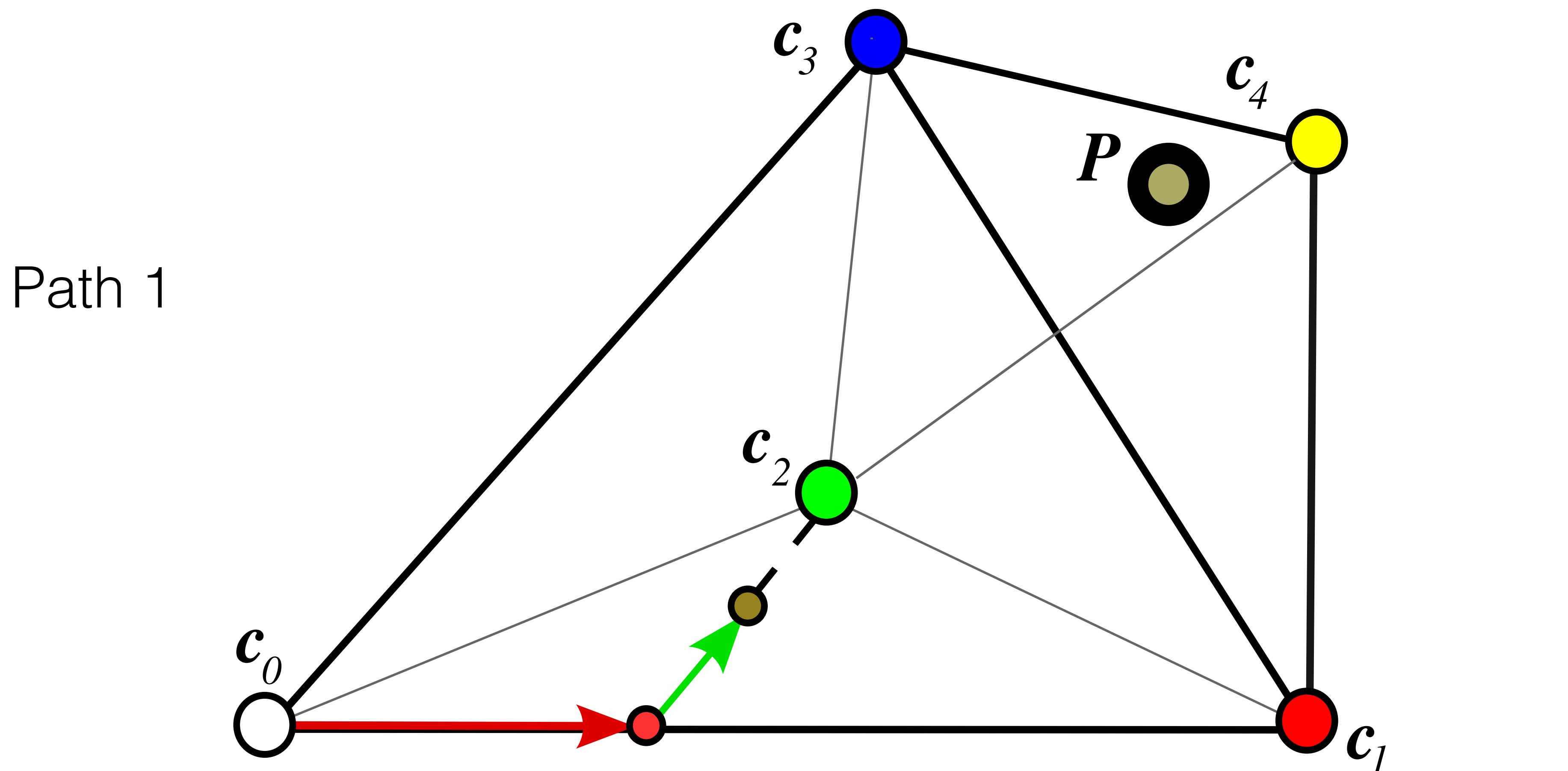
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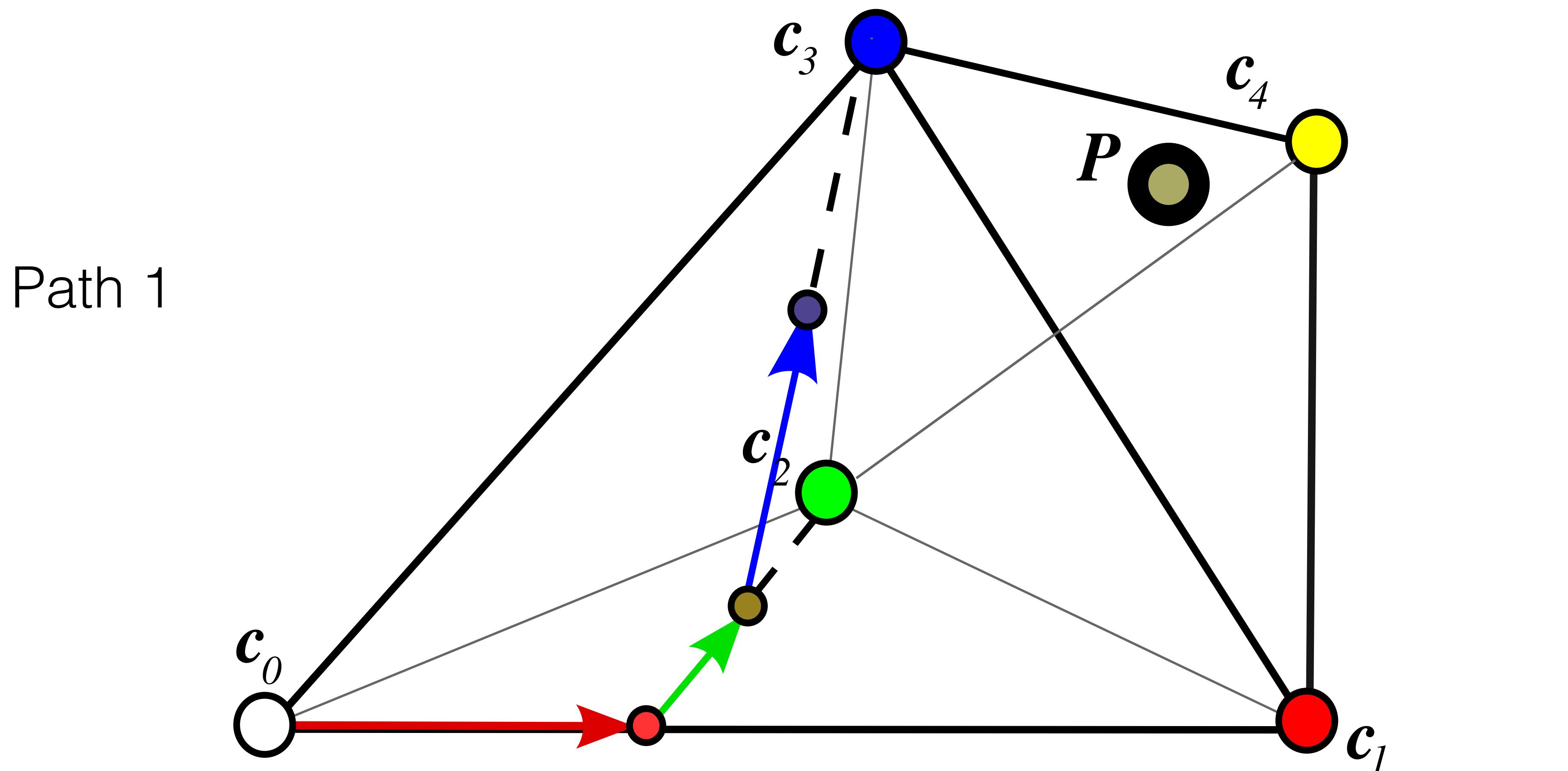
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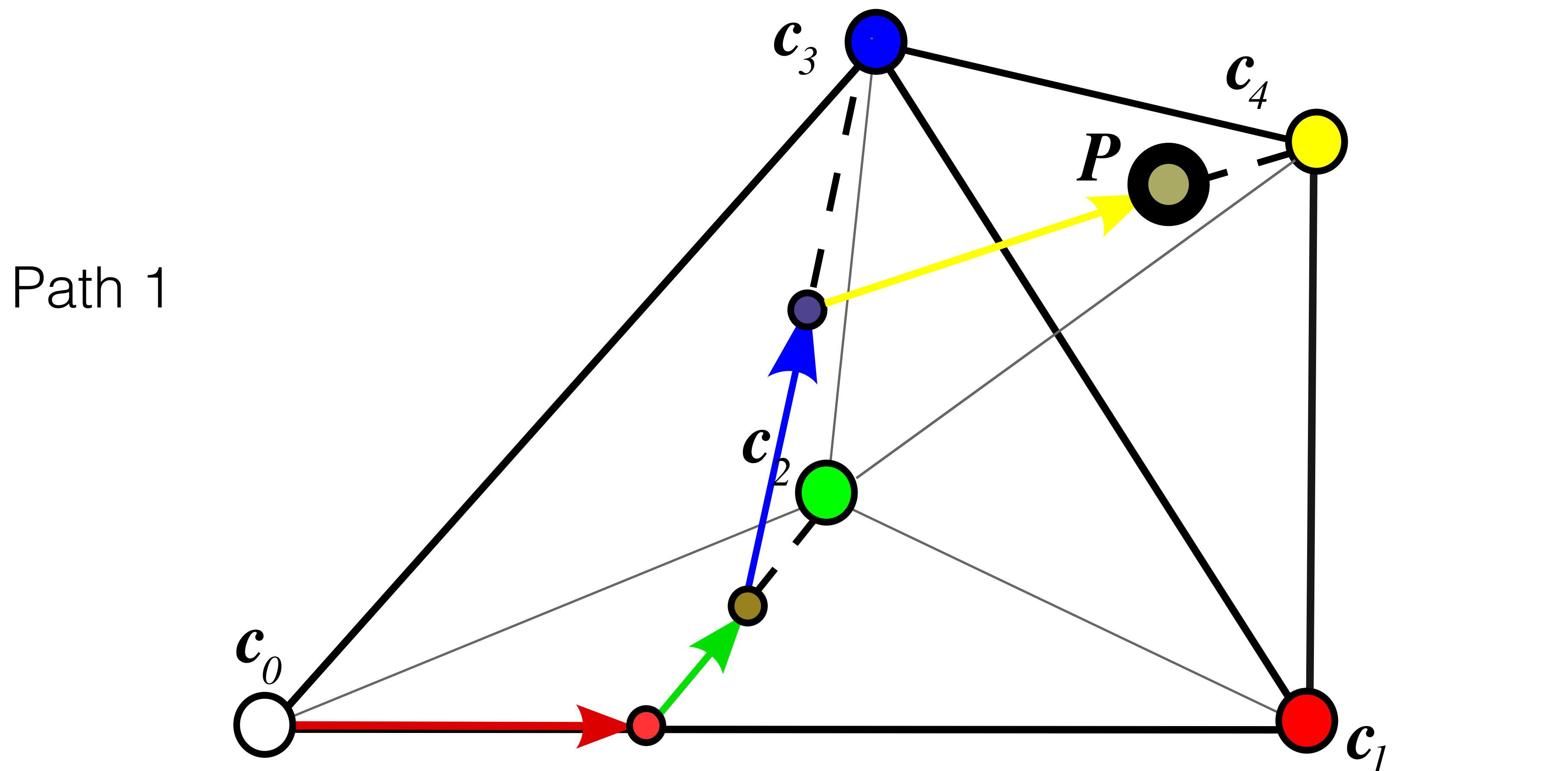
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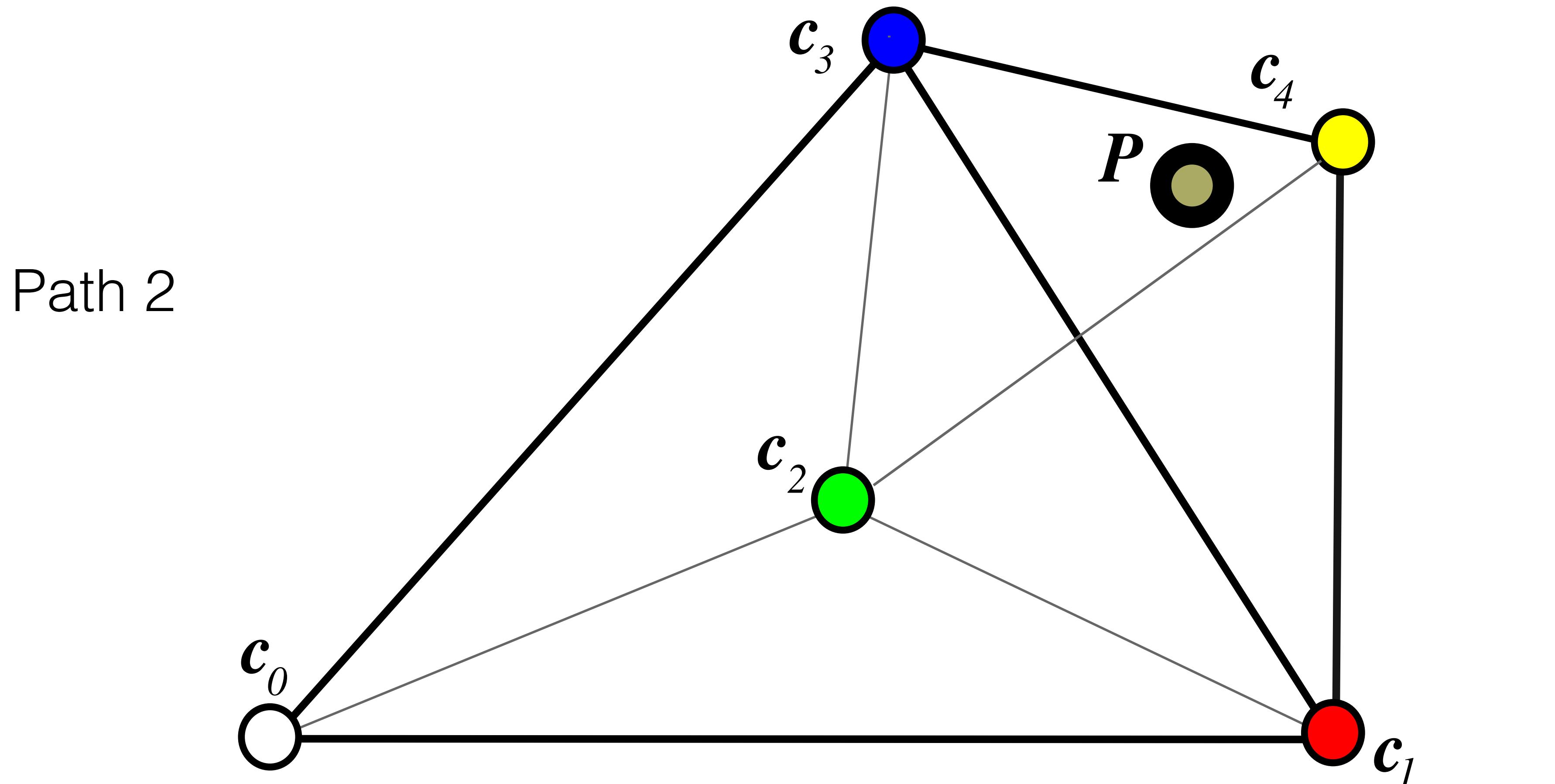
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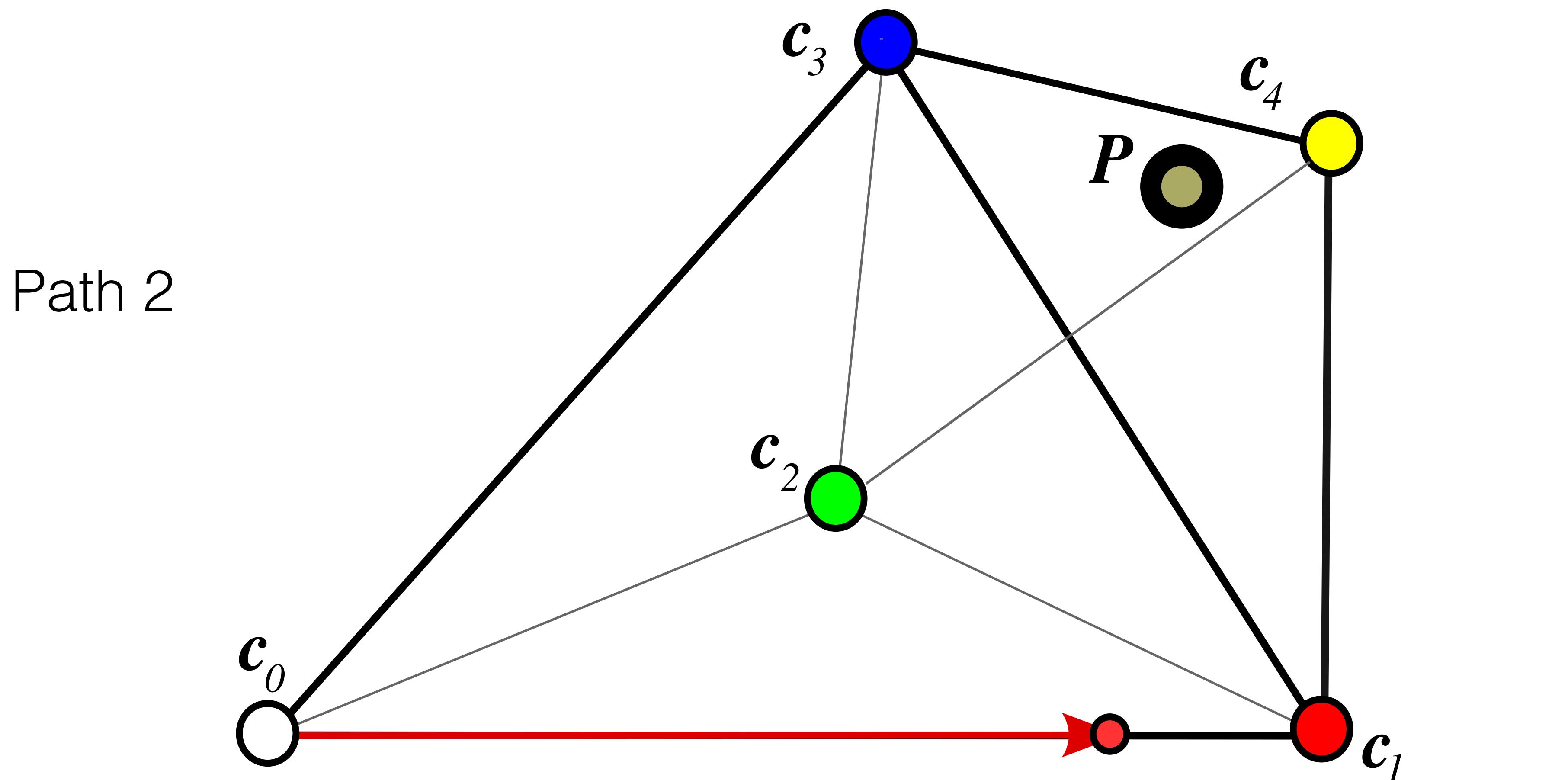
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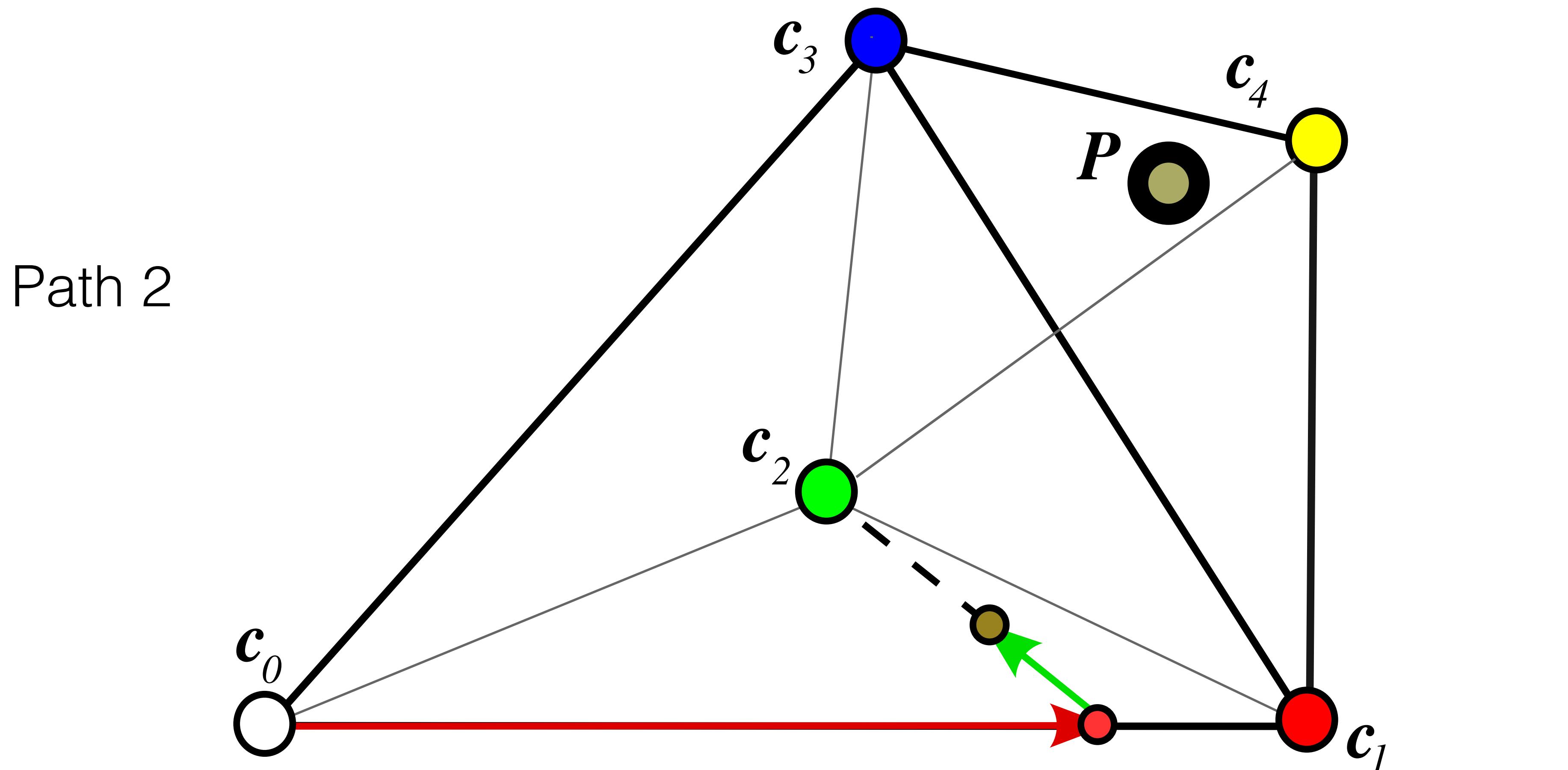
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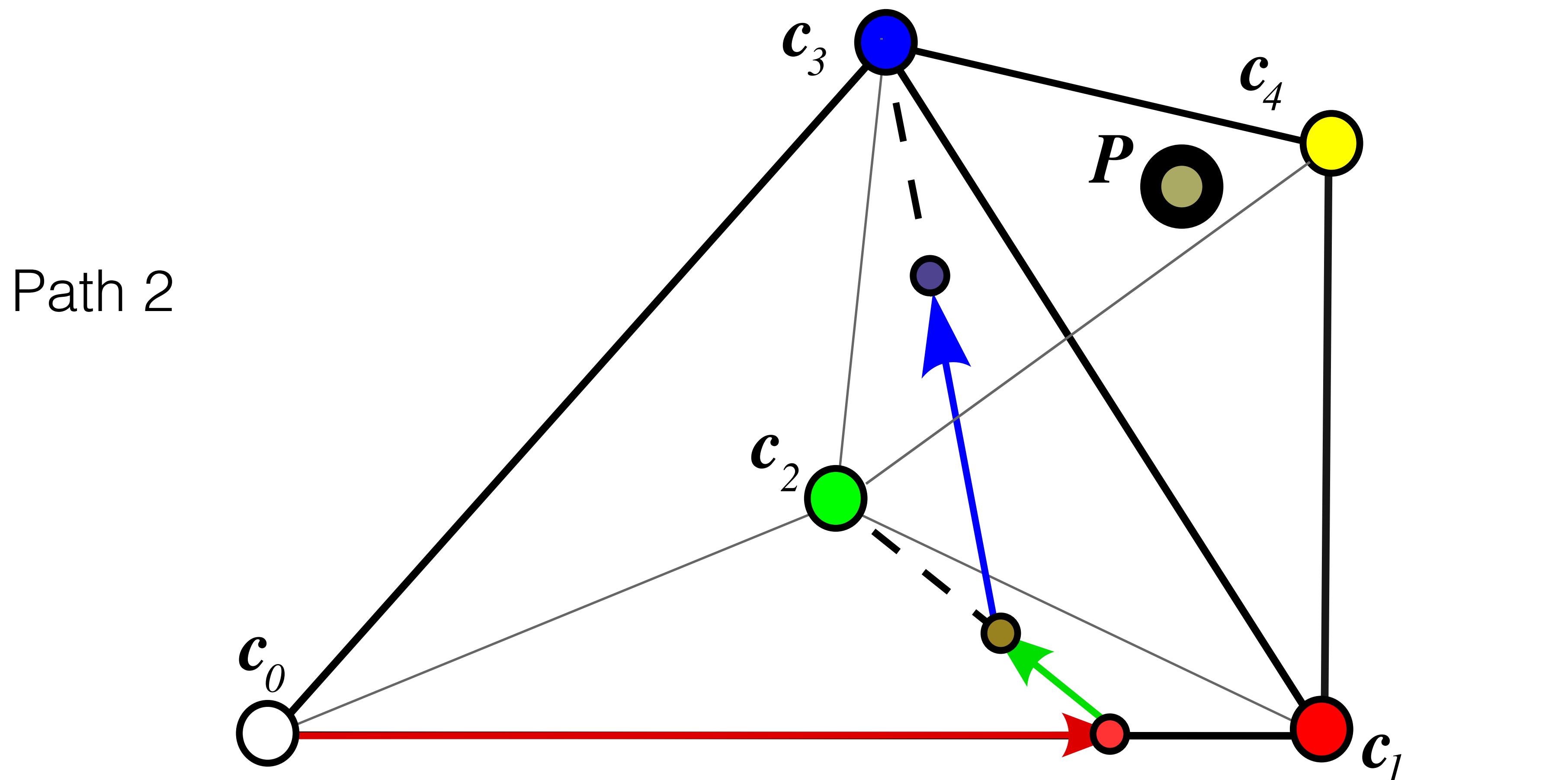
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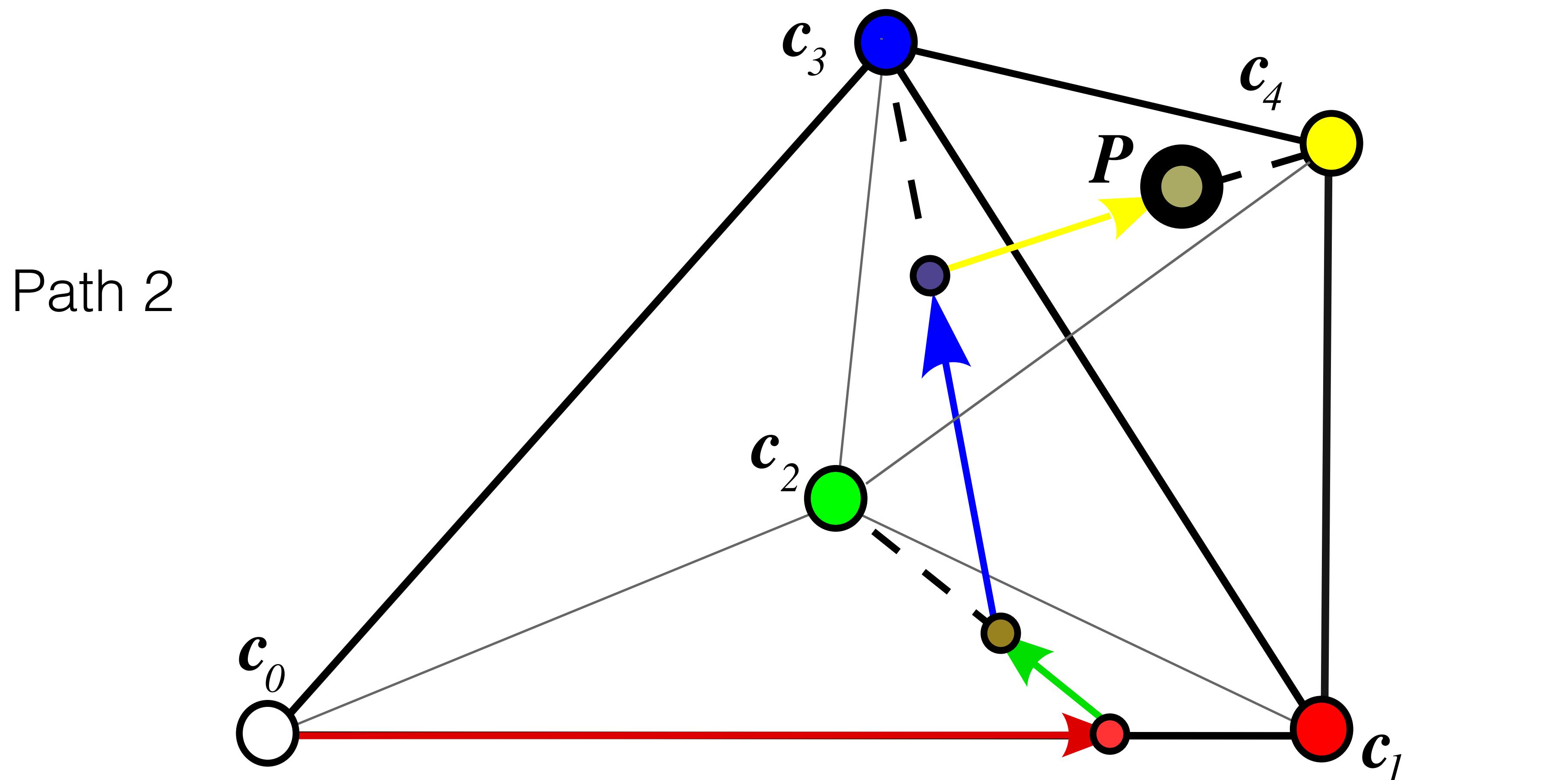
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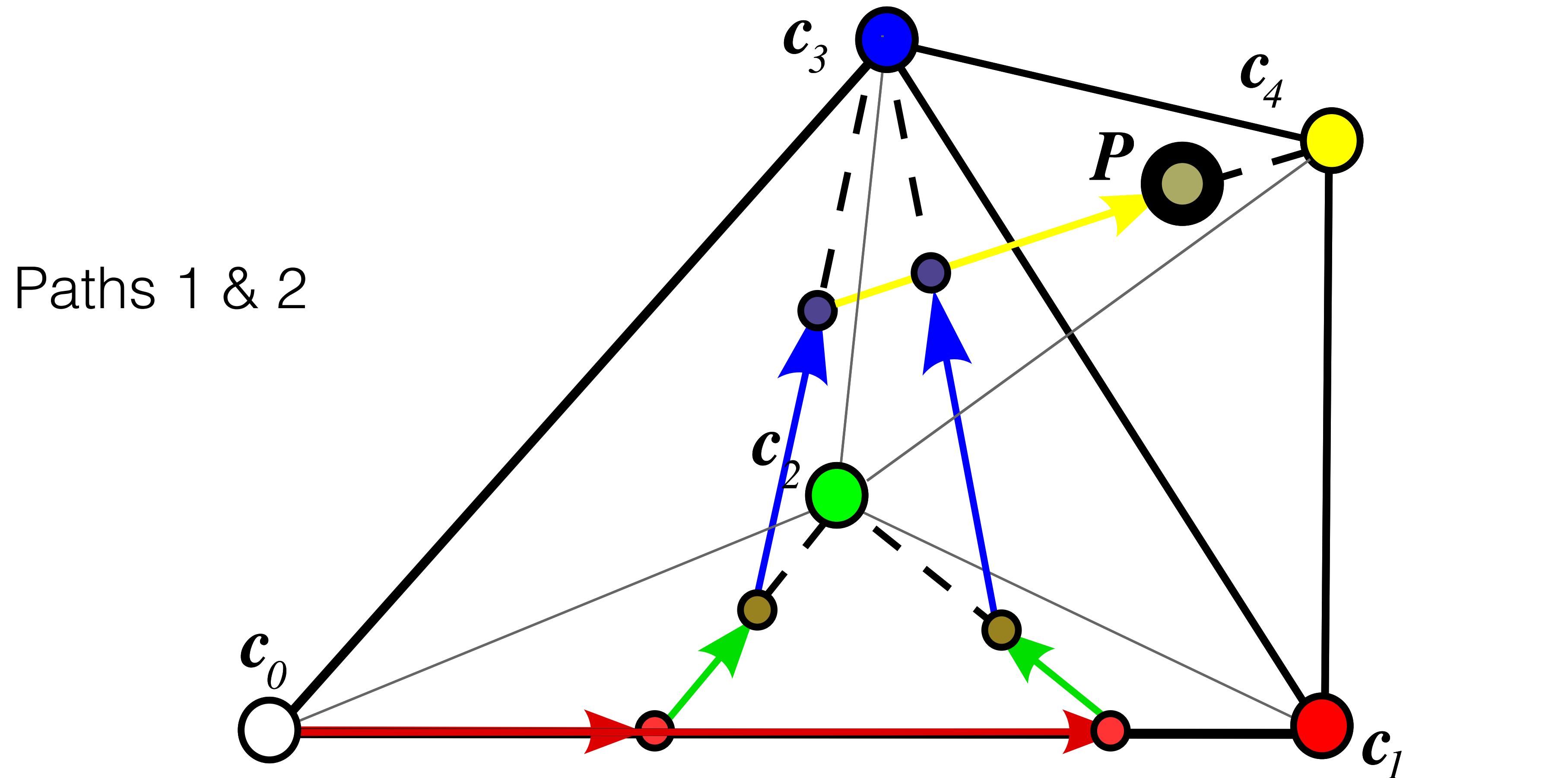
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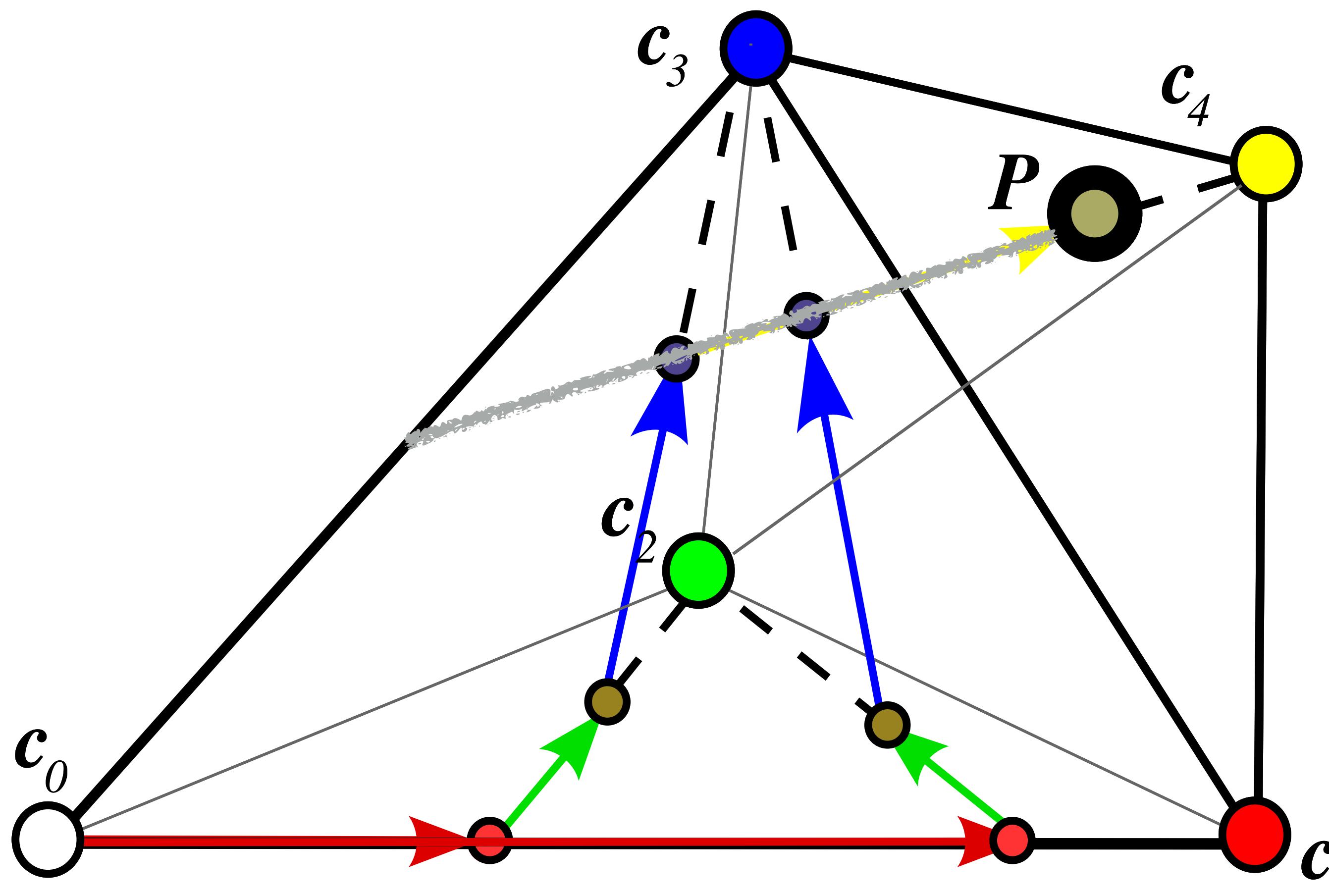
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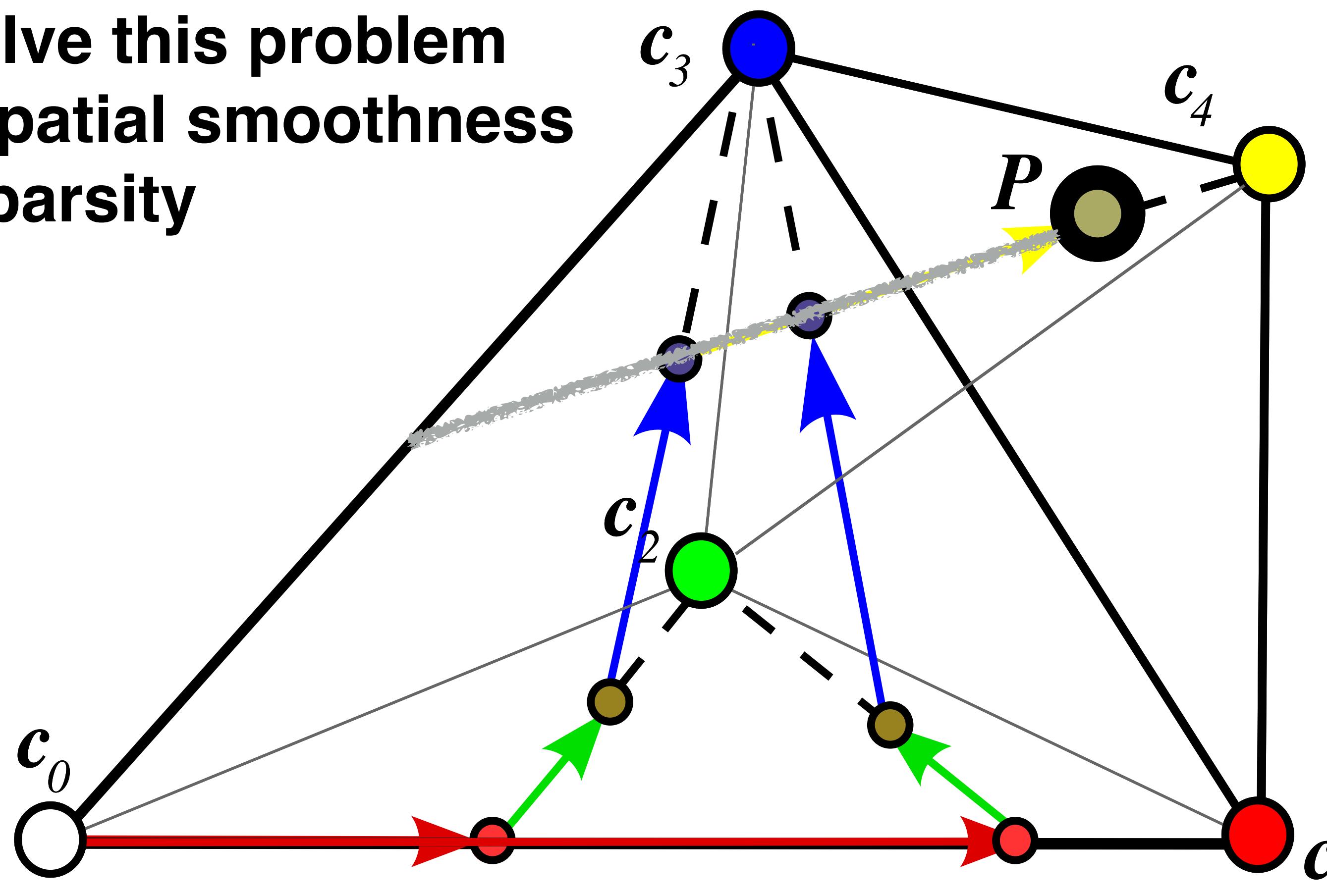
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Color Compositing Path

- After user chooses a layer order: $C_0 \rightarrow C_1 \rightarrow C_2 \rightarrow C_3 \rightarrow C_4$
- Still have **infinite** paths from C_0 to P
- **We solve this problem with spatial smoothness and sparsity**



Layer Opacity Optimization

- Both **palette** and **palette order** are fixed now.
- We solve for layers' opacity values (**find a unique compositing path**)

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Opacity spatial smoothness (**Laplacian**)

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$\|\text{original} - \text{reconstructed image}\|^2$ (**polynomial**)

+

Per pixel opacity sparsity $\sum -(1 - \alpha_i)^2$

+

Opacity spatial smoothness (**Laplacian**)



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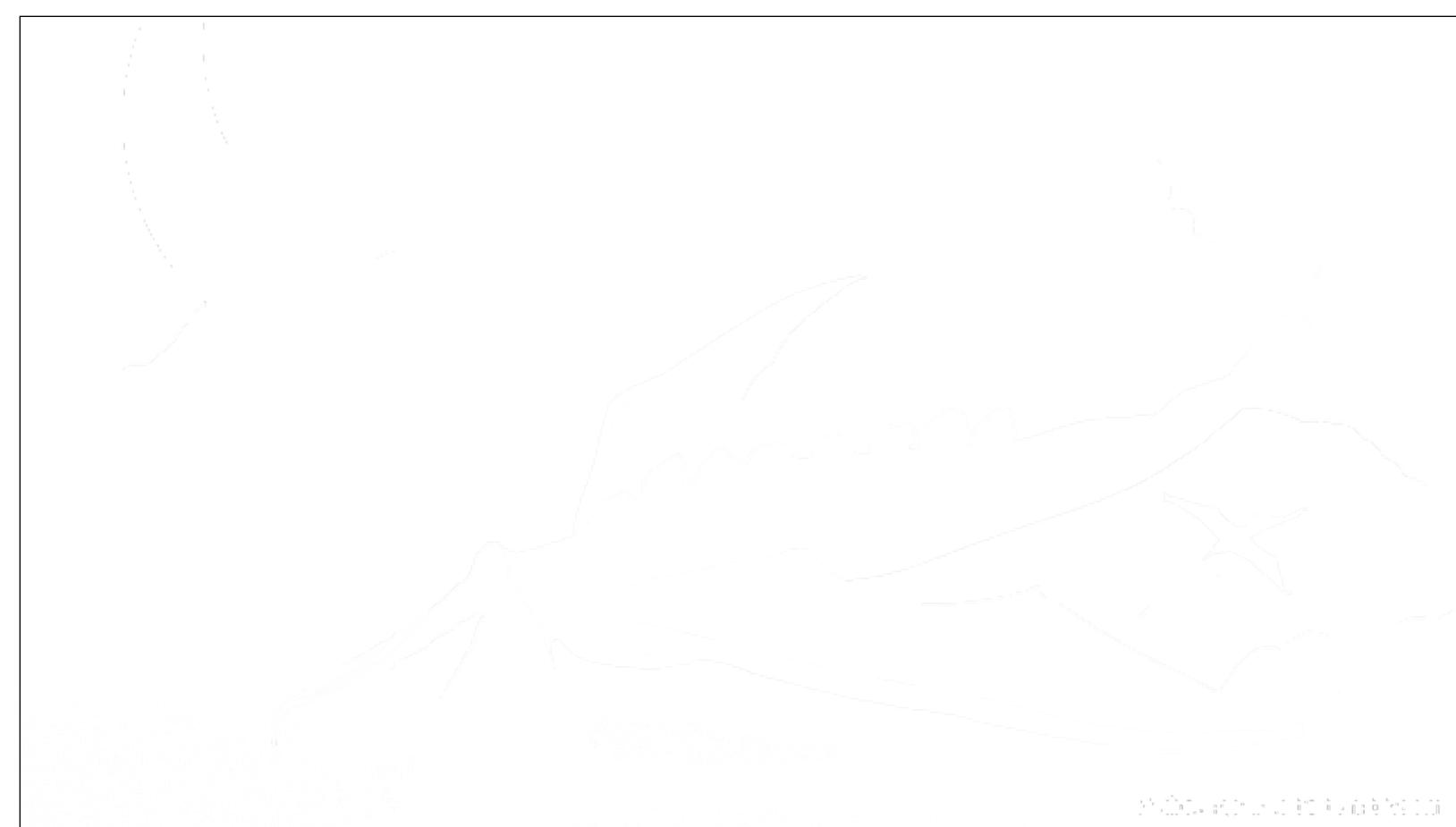
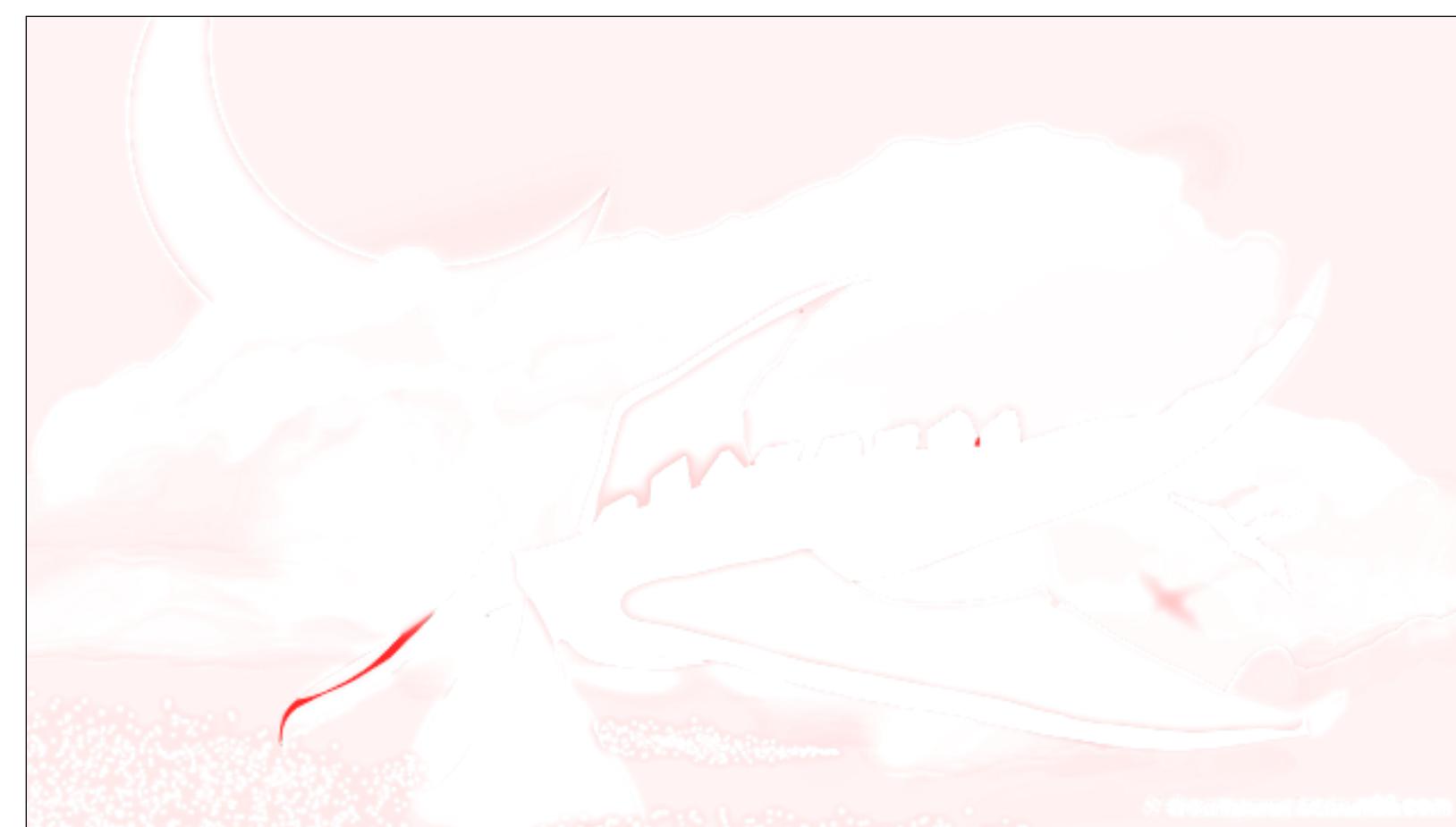
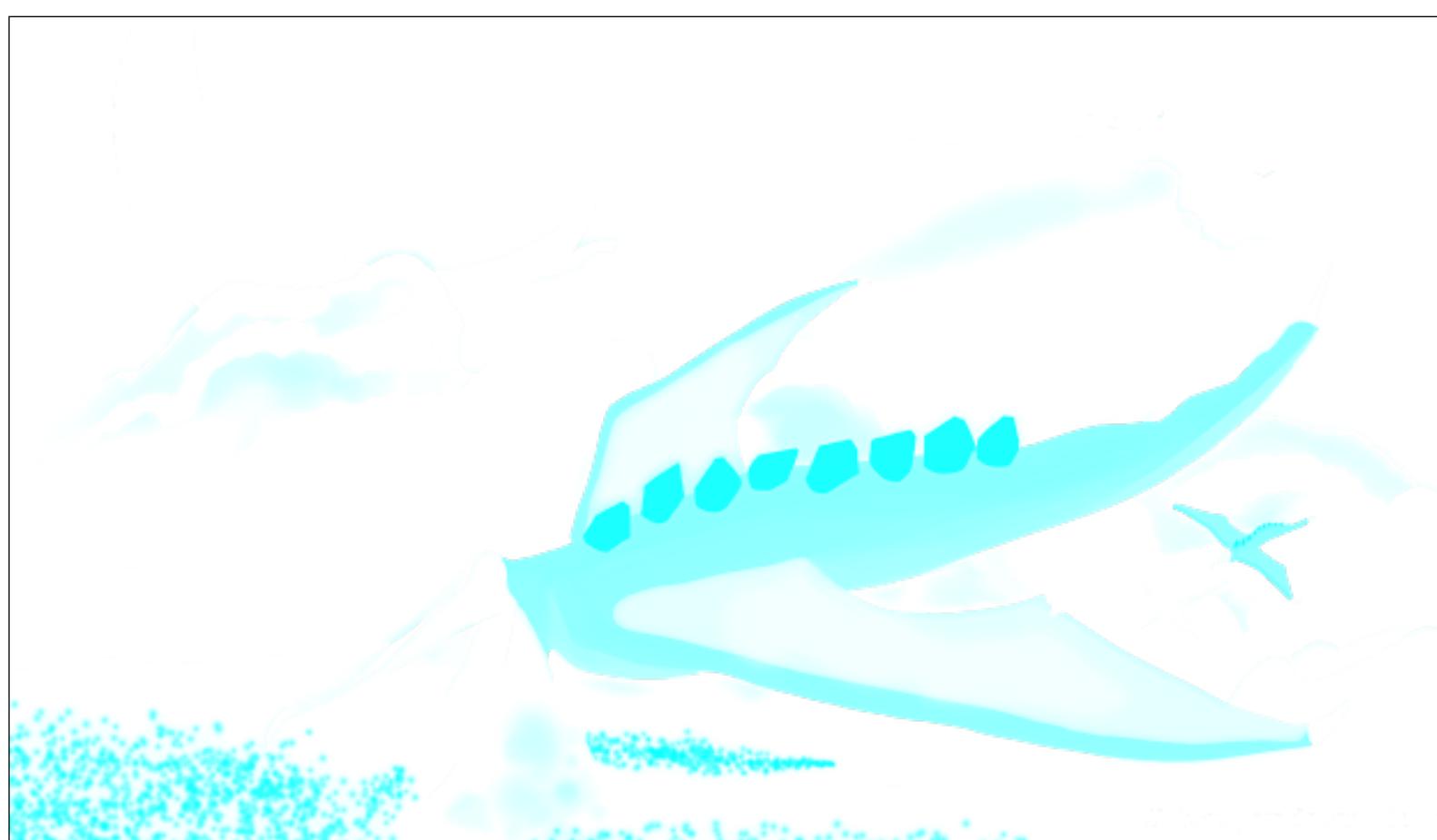
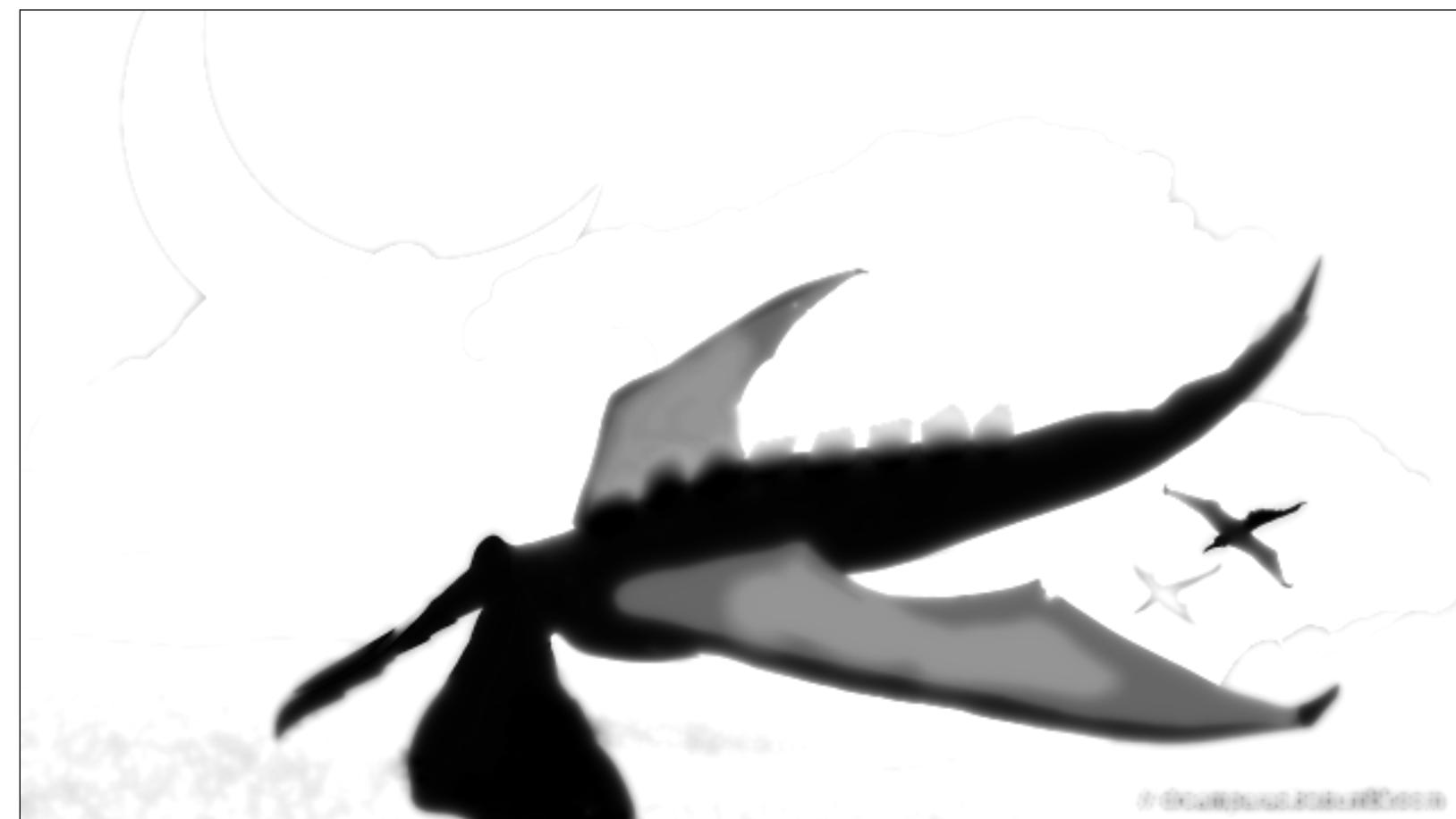
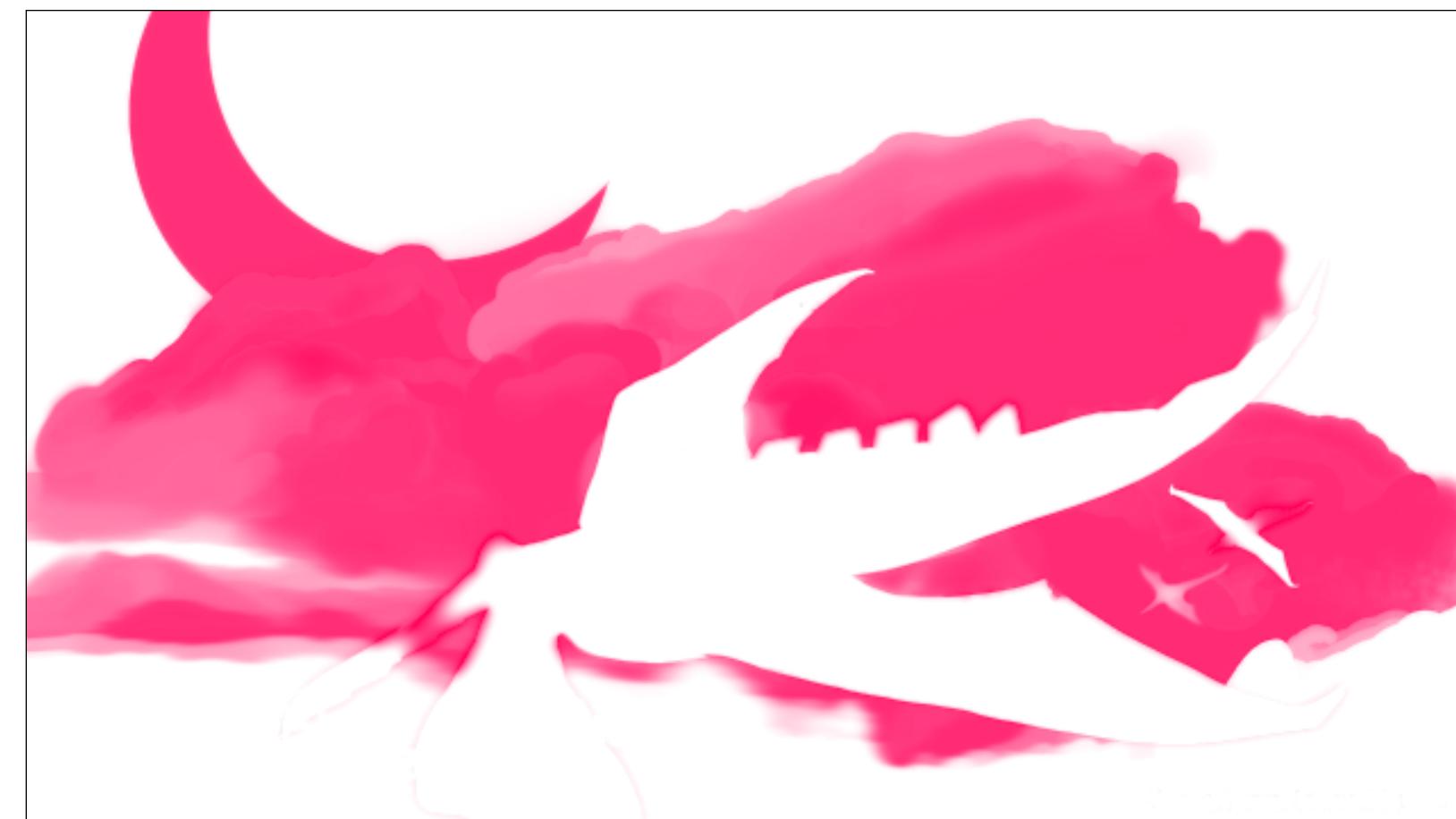
$$\begin{aligned} & \|\text{original} - \text{reconstructed image}\|^2 \text{ (polynomial)} \\ & + \\ & \text{Per pixel opacity sparsity } \sum -(1 - \alpha_i)^2 \\ & + \\ & \text{Opacity spatial smoothness (Laplacian)} \end{aligned}$$

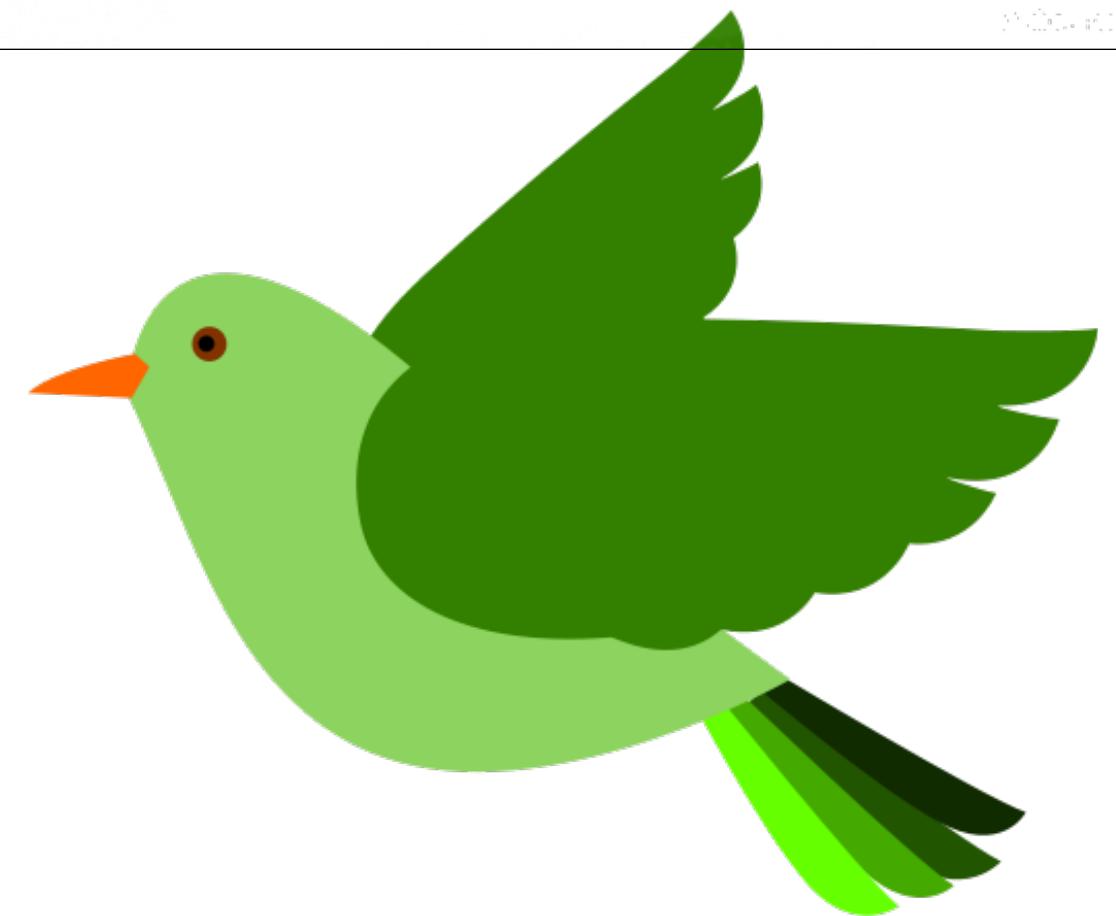
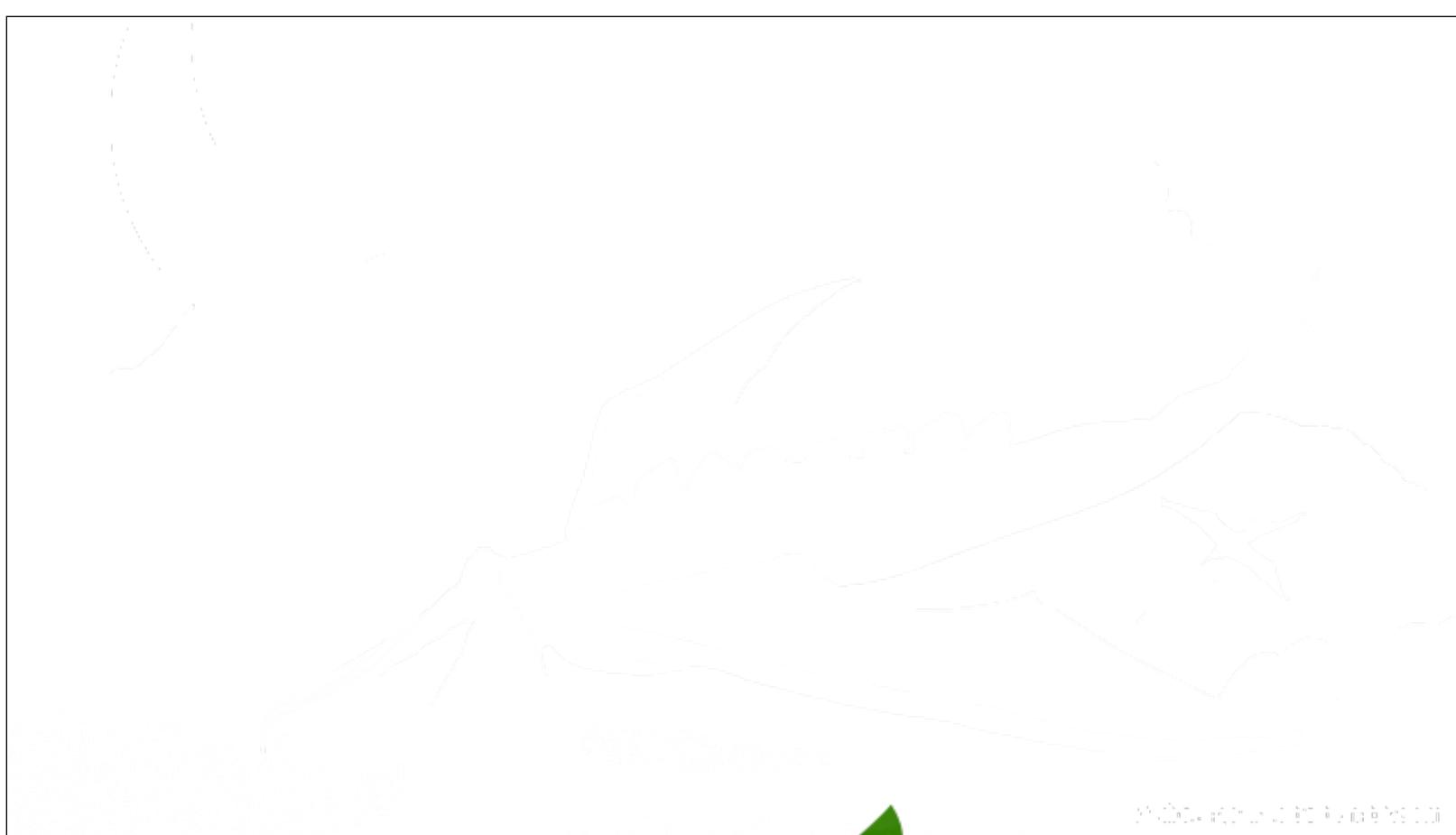
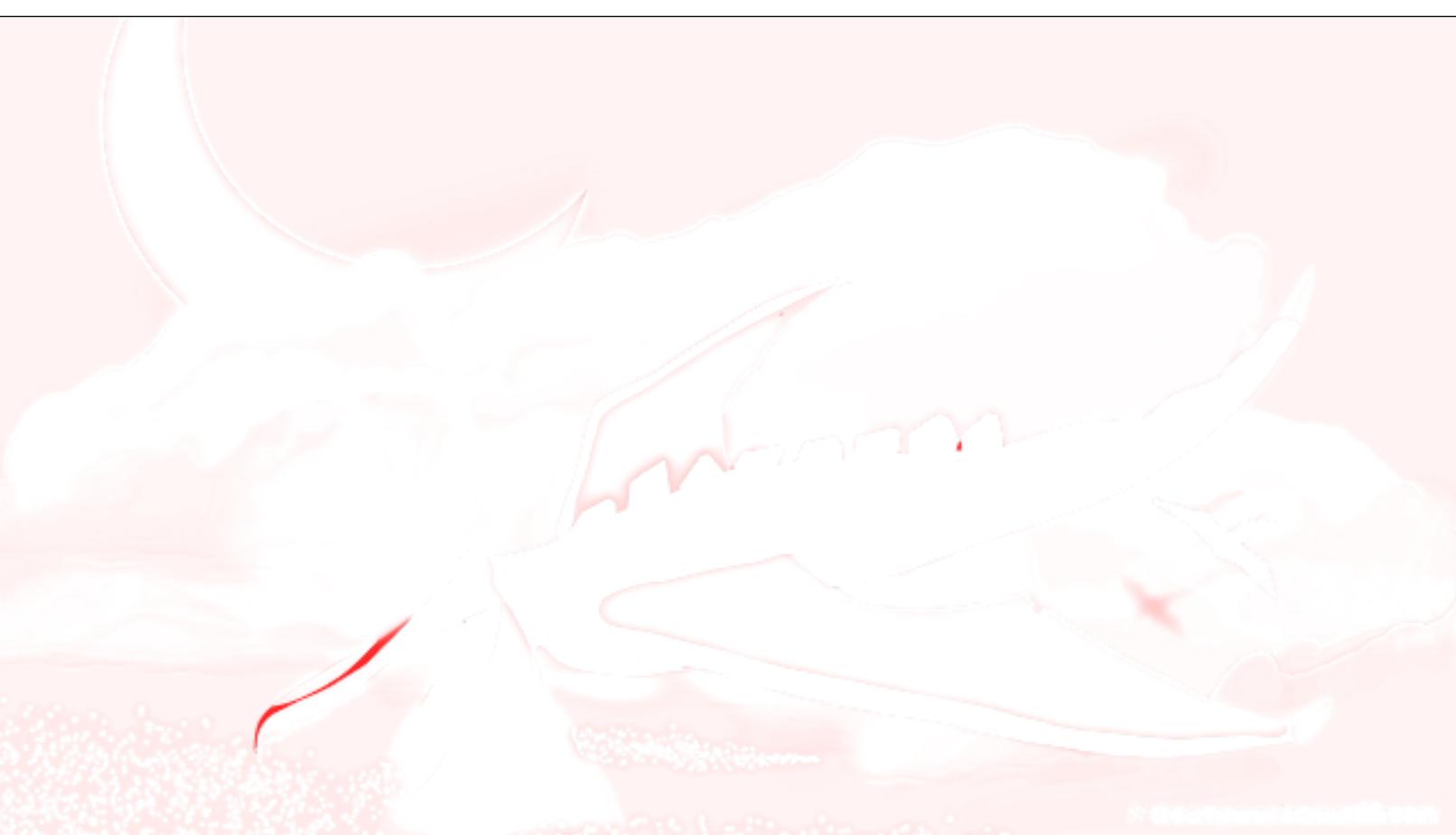
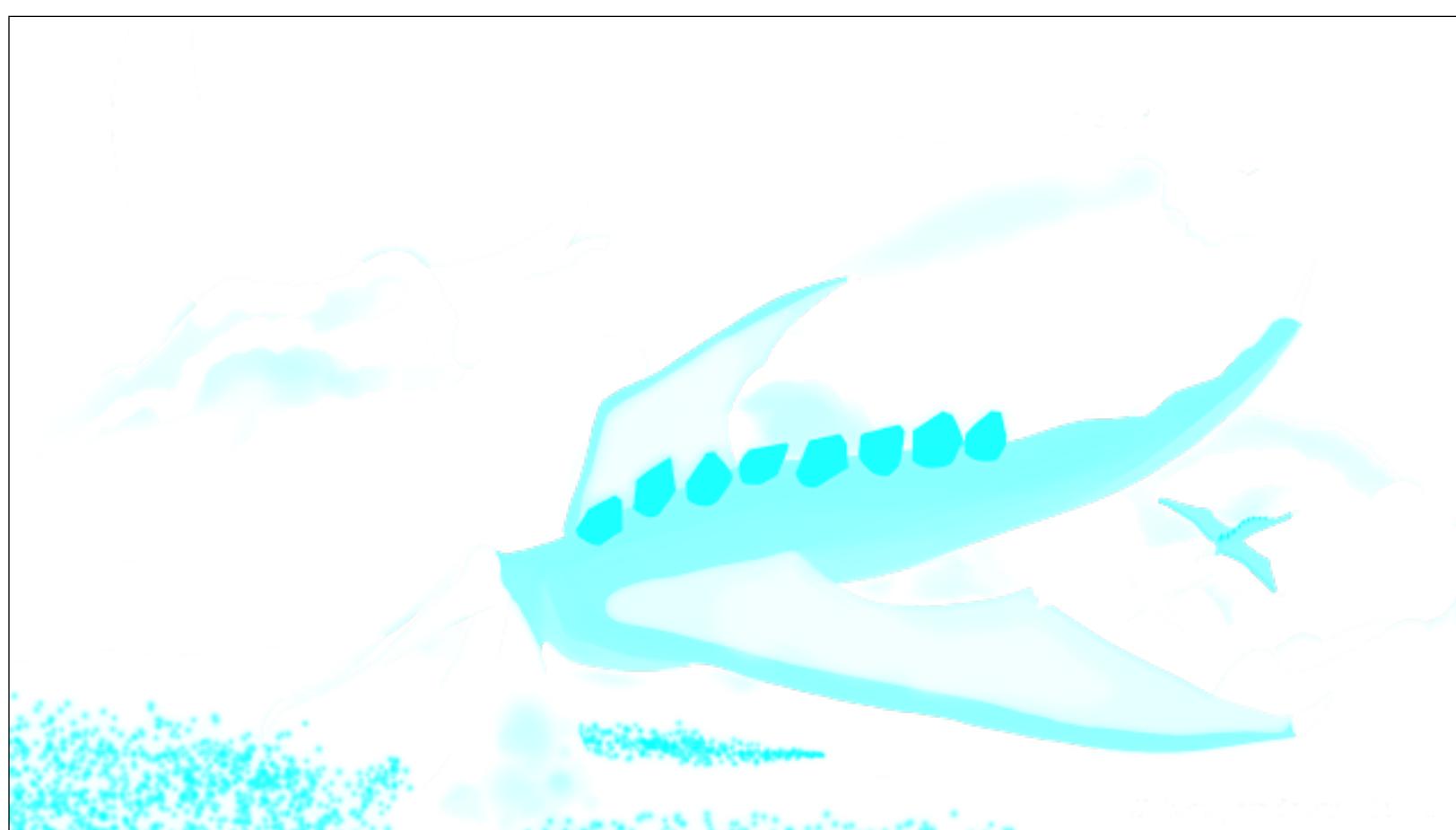
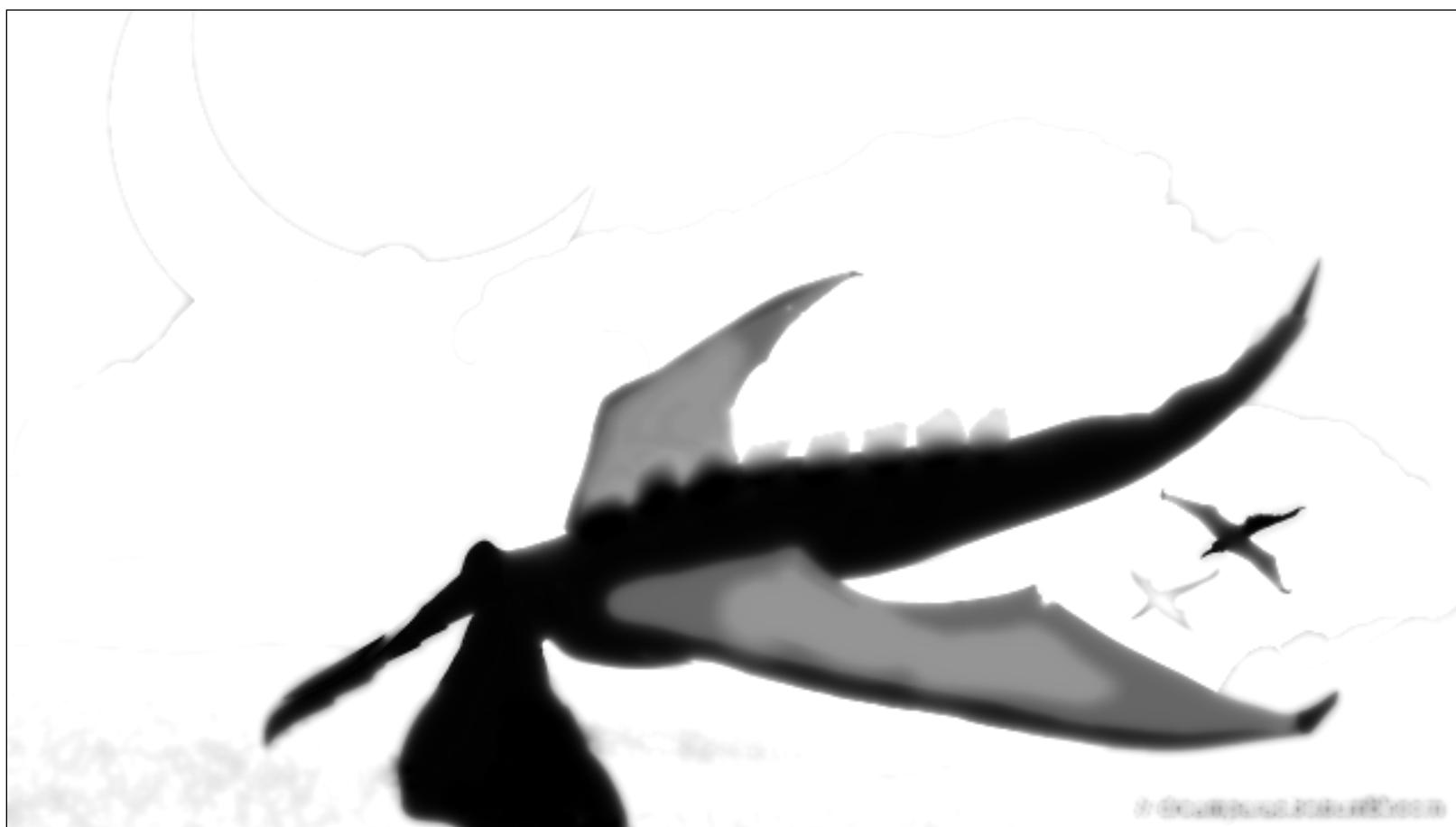
We also have a closed form expression for an “**As-Sparse-As-Possible**” solution if you don’t care about spatial smoothness. See our paper for details.

Results



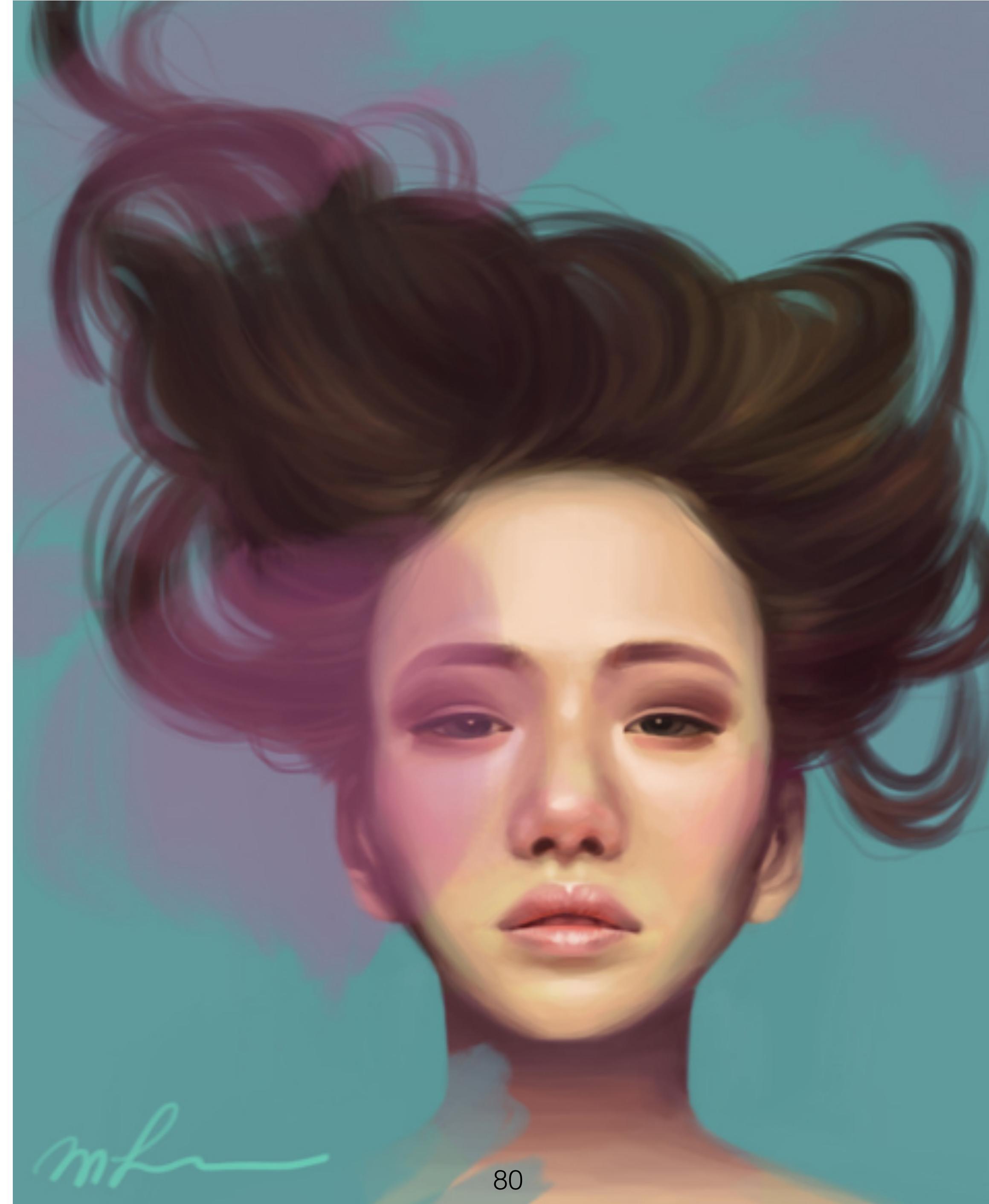
// dreamparasite.tumblr.com

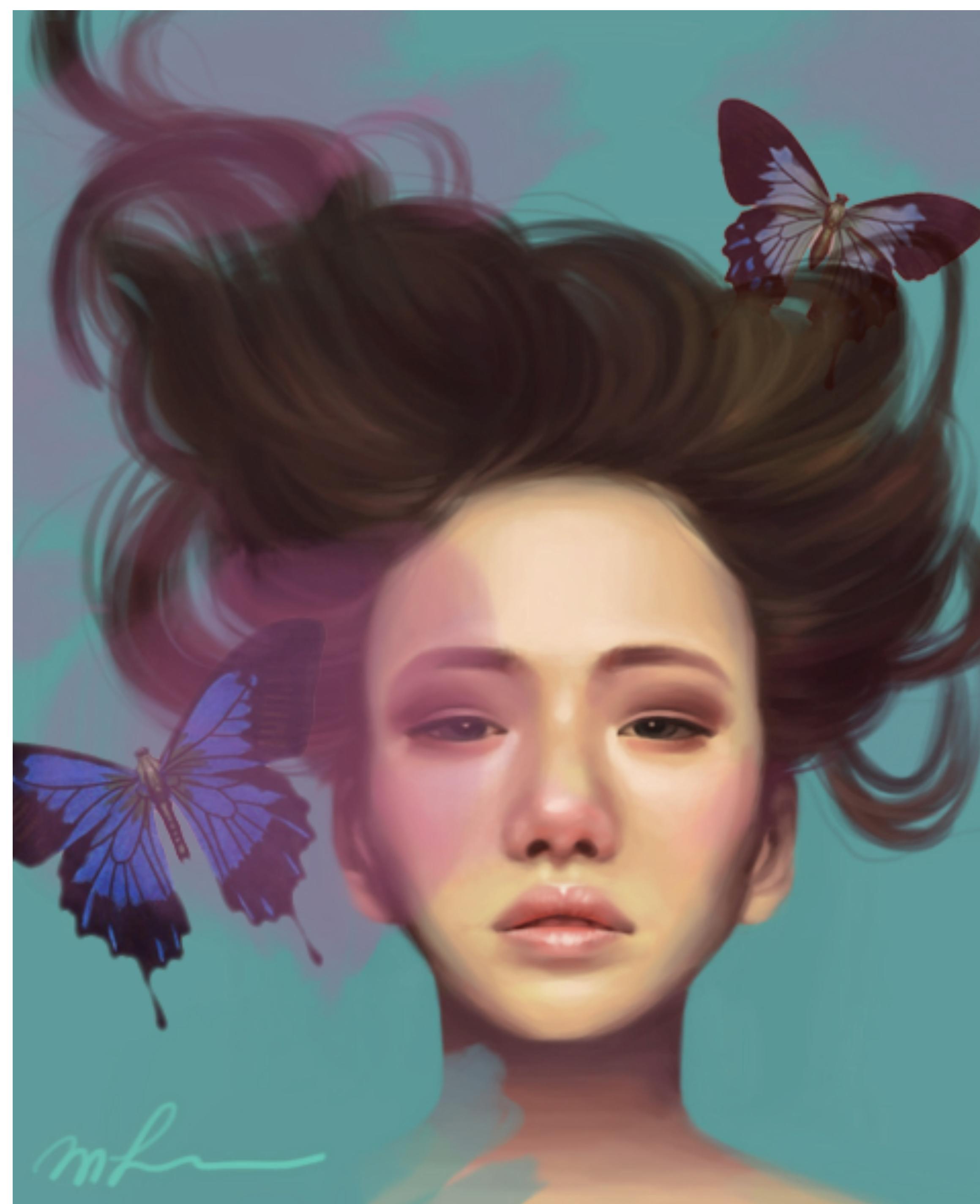






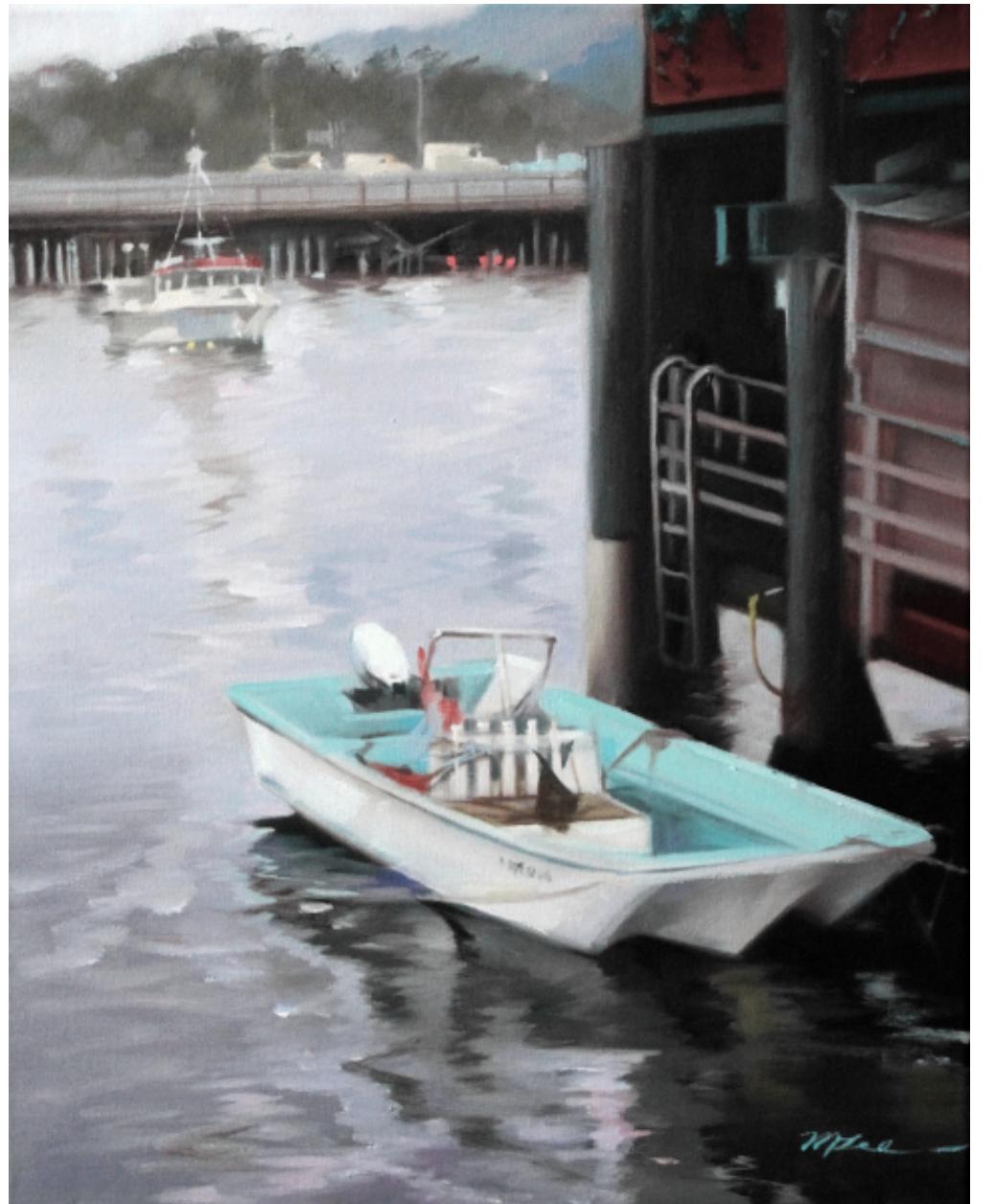
// dreamparasite.tumblr.com





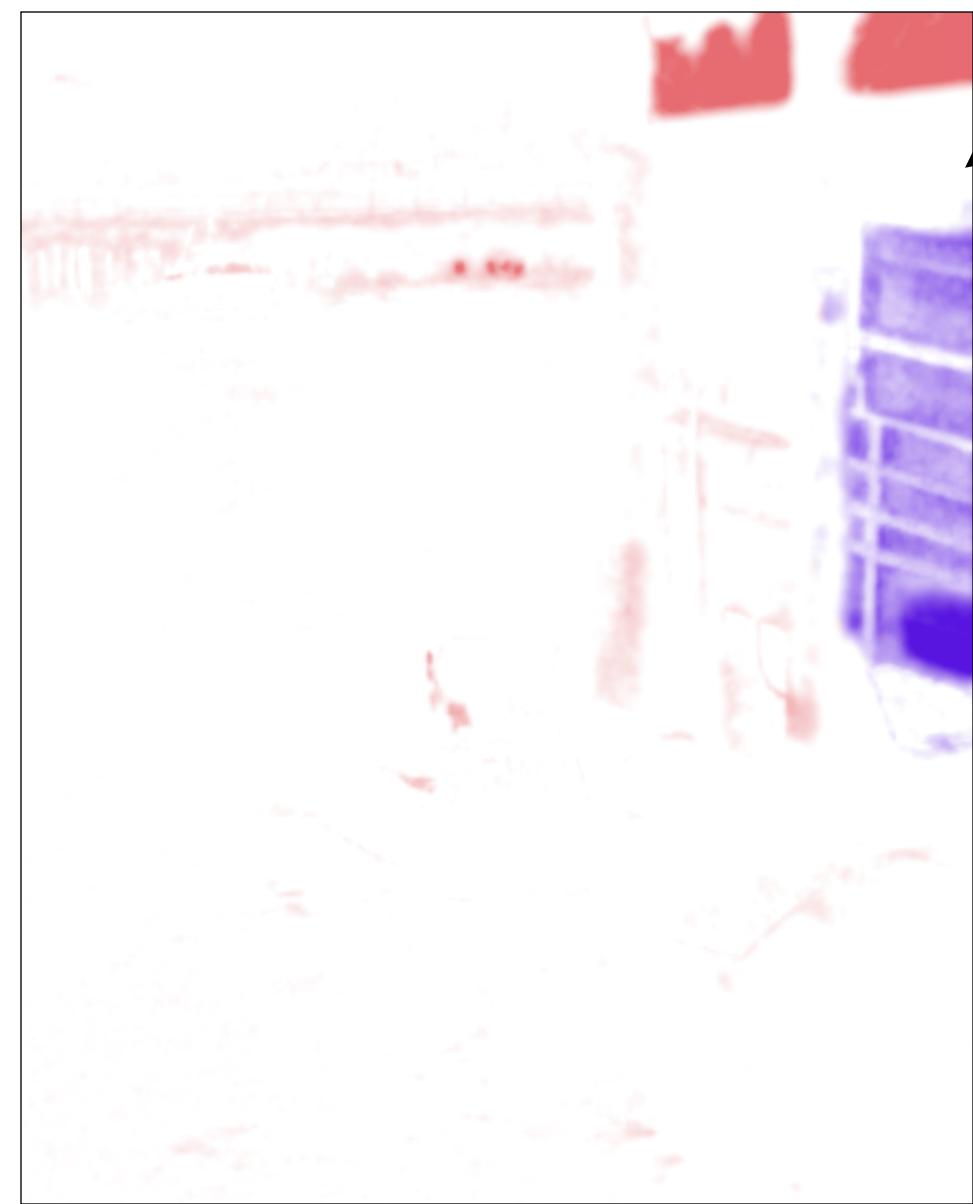
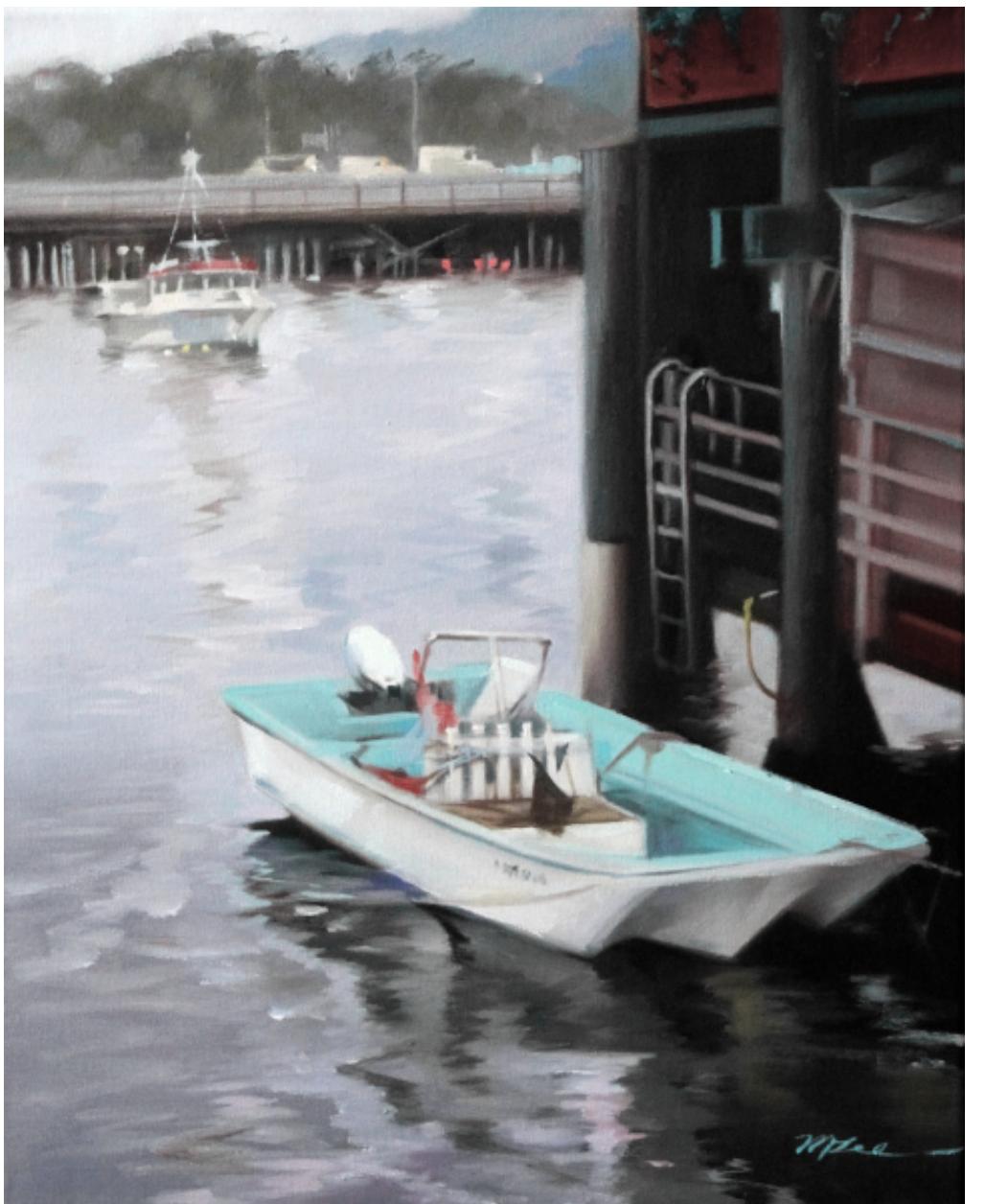
Local Recoloring

Original



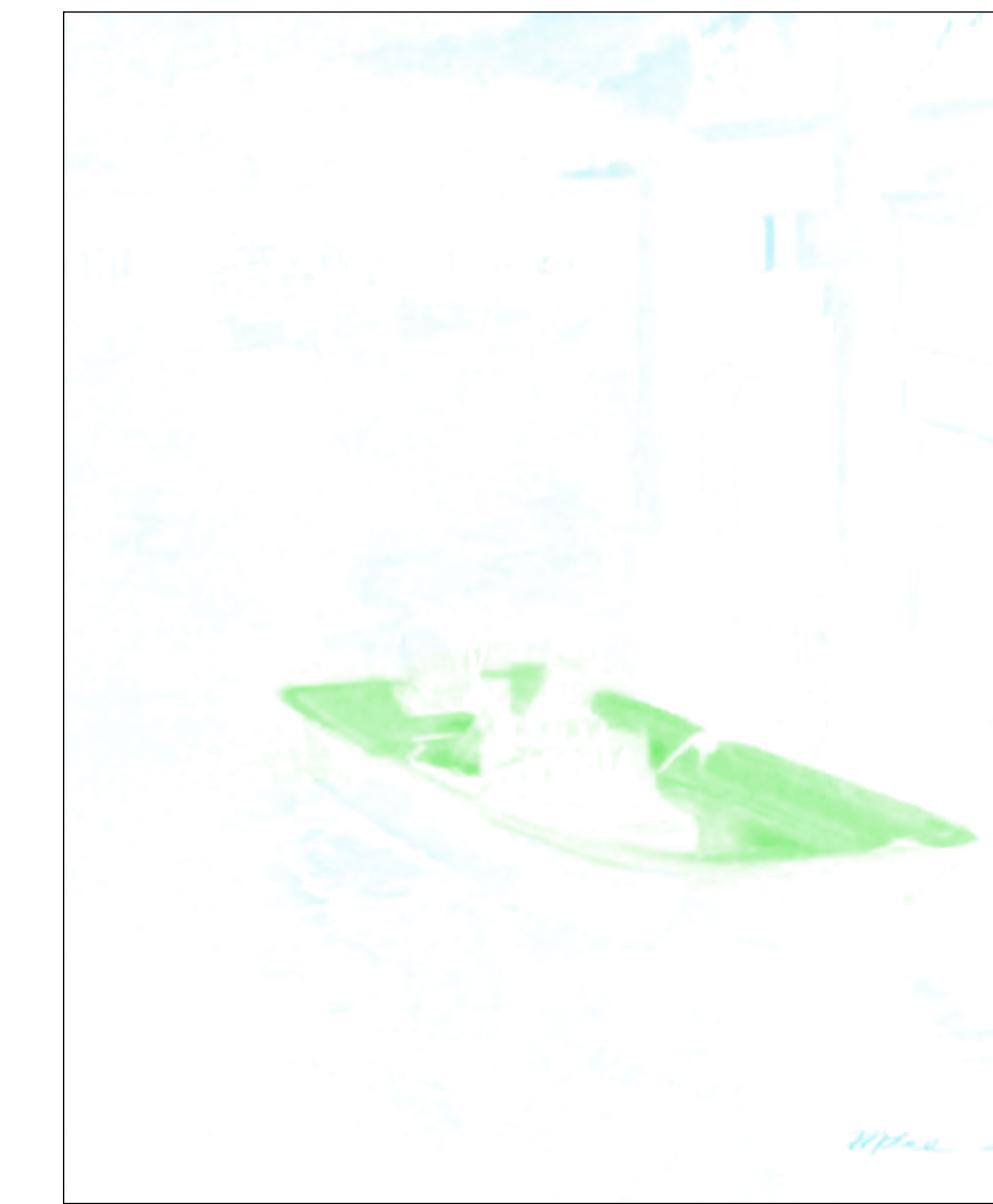
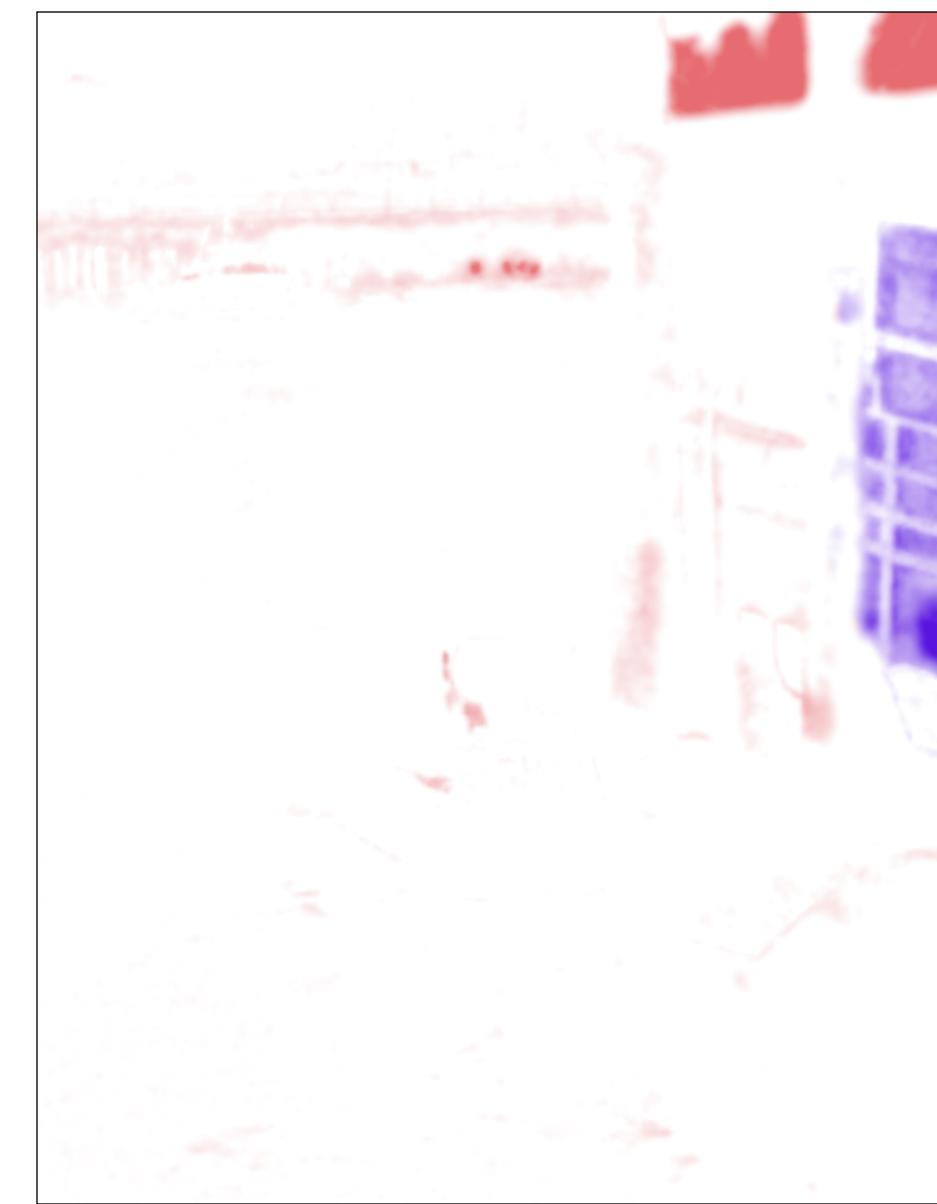
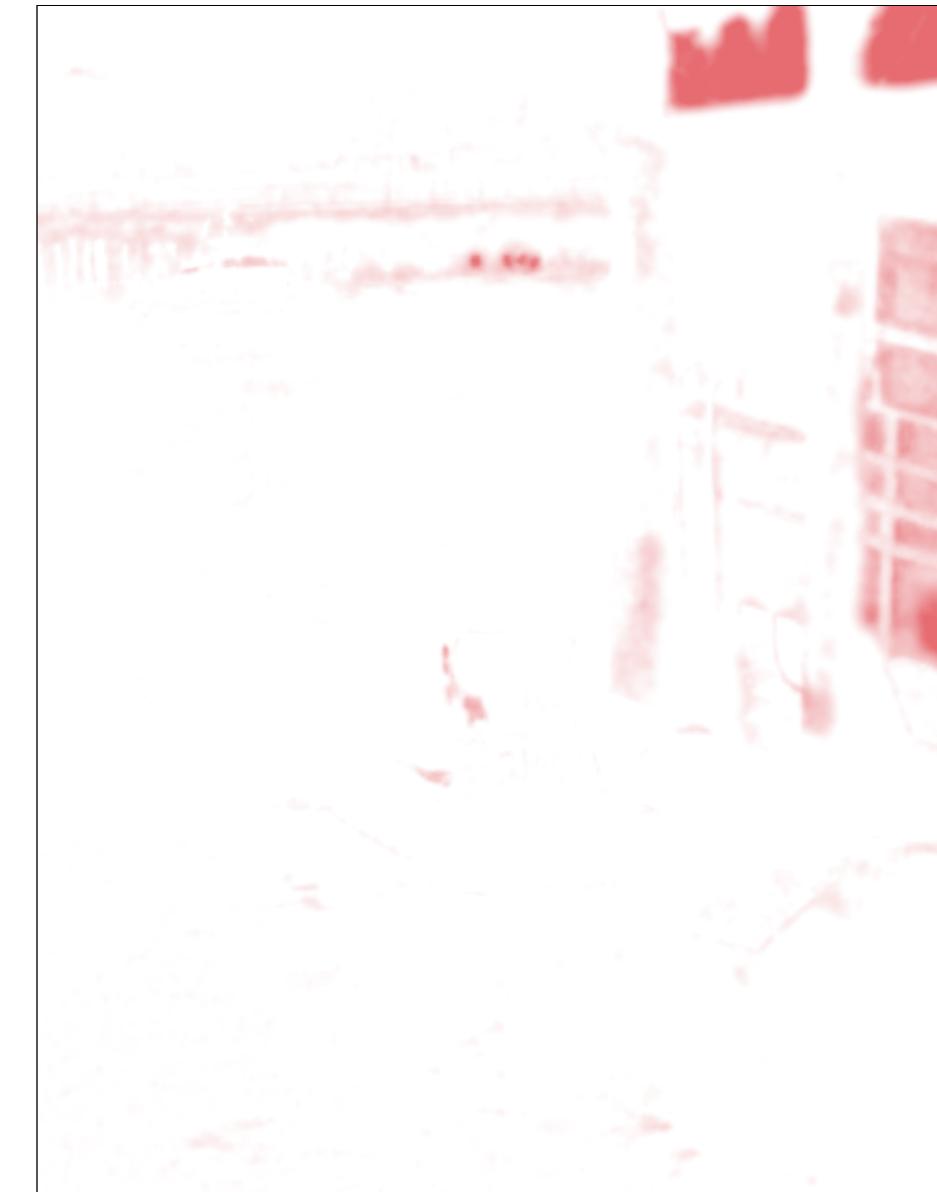
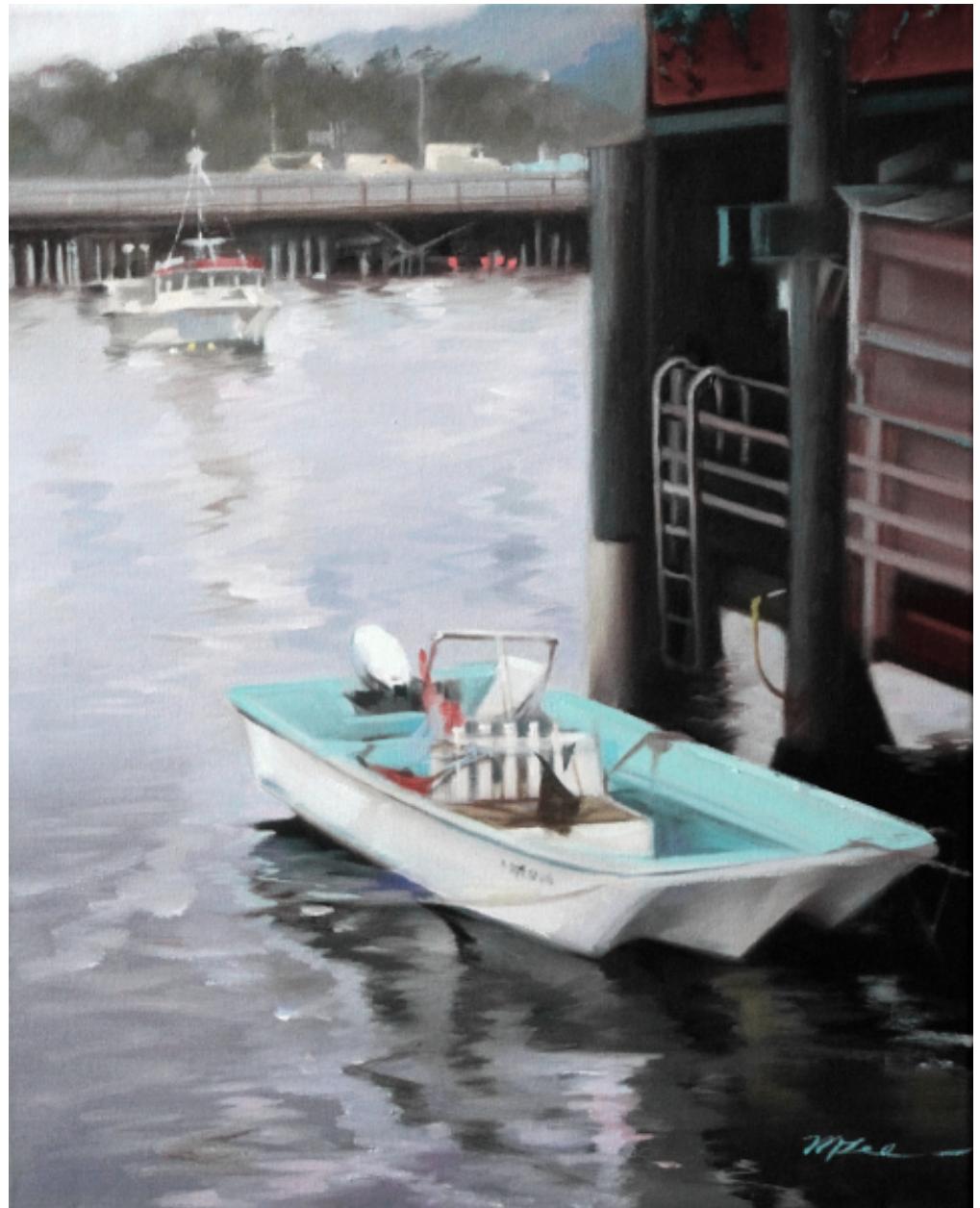
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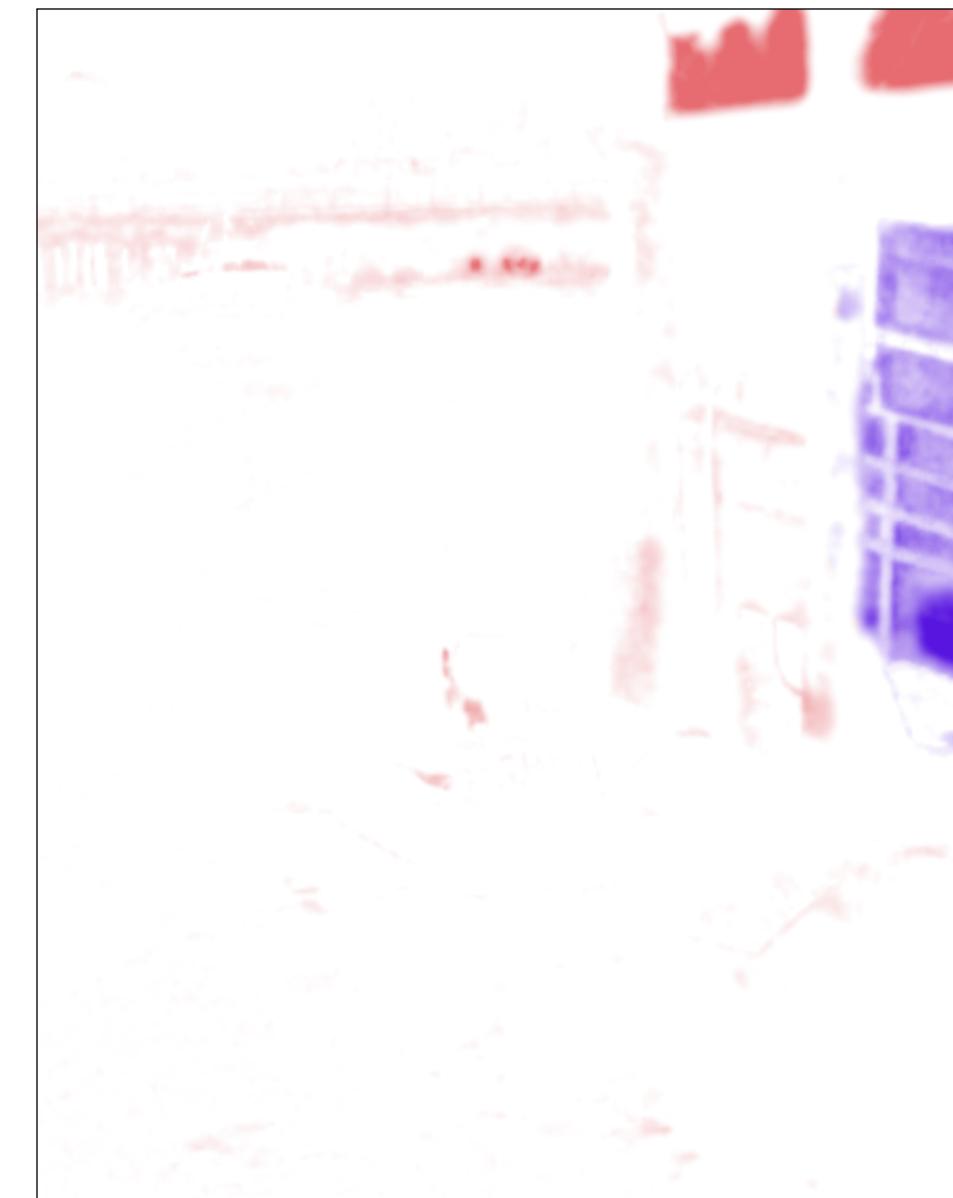
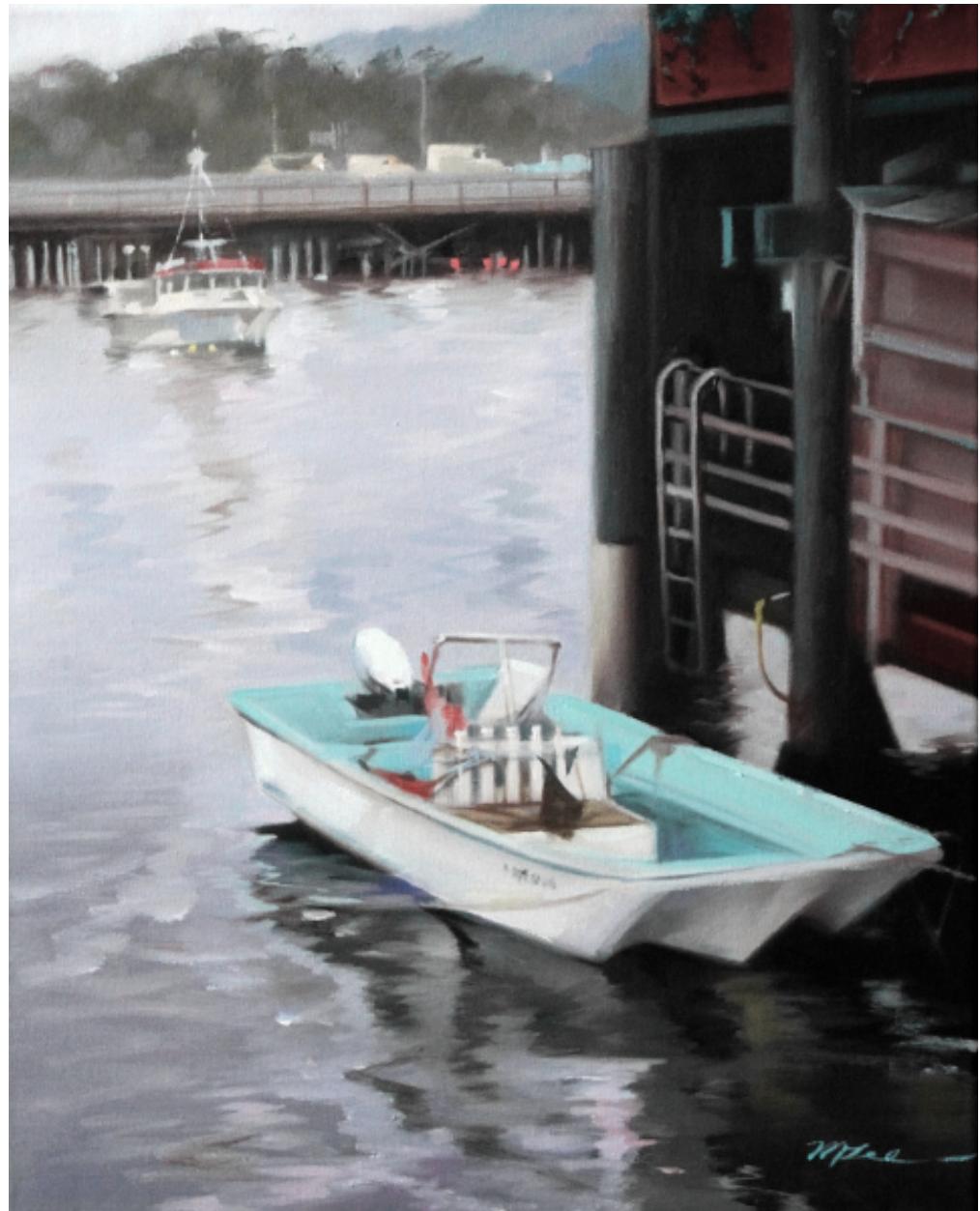
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Original

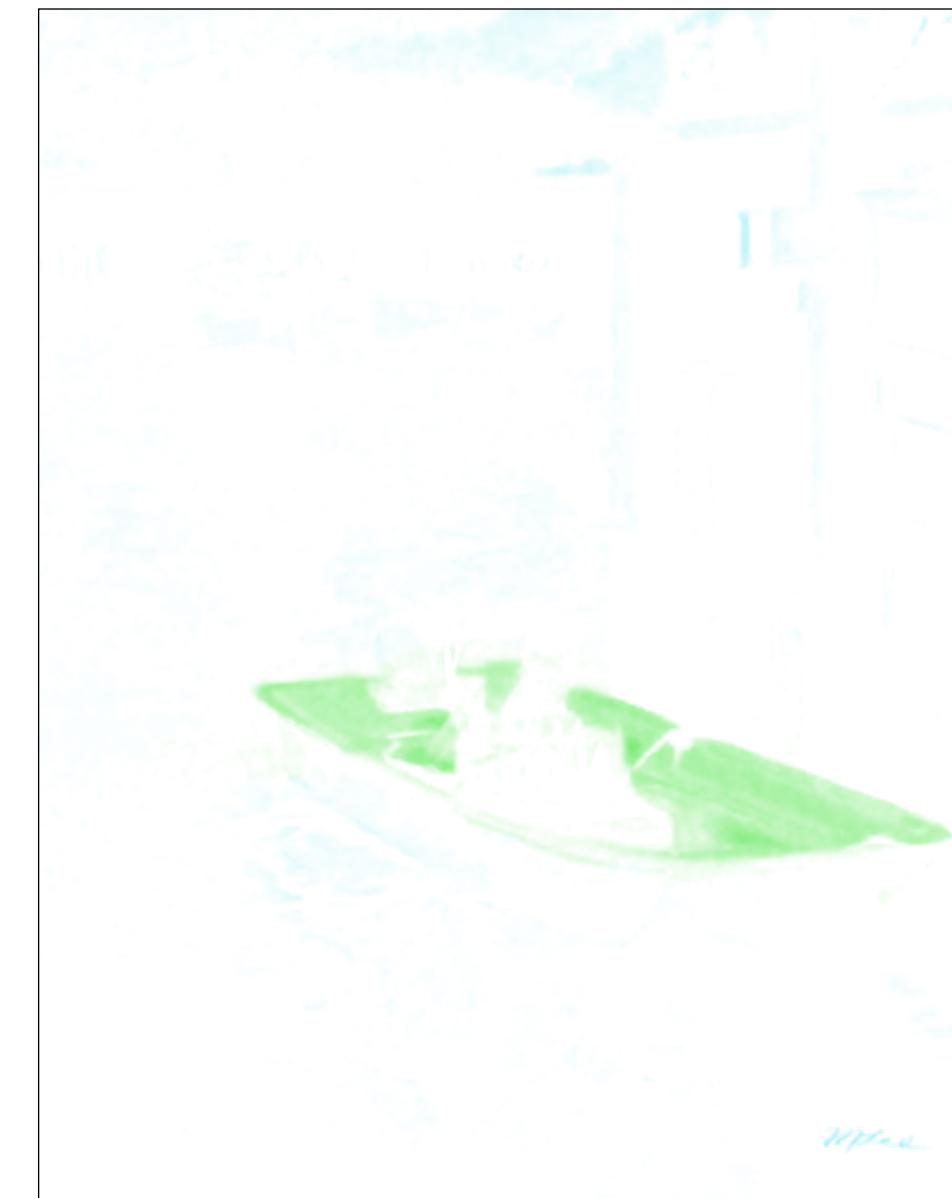
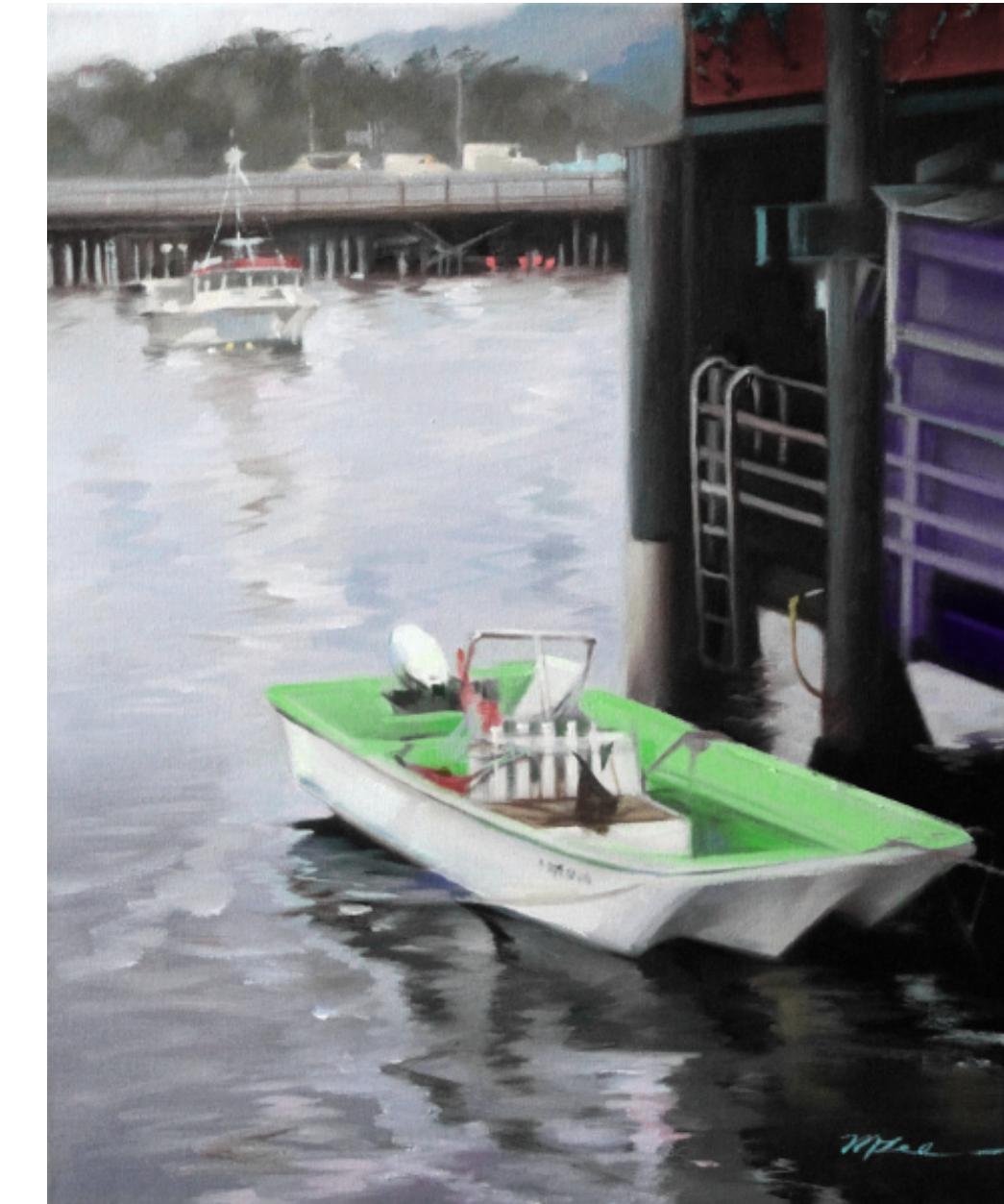


Local Recoloring

Original



Modified



Generalized Barycentric Coordinates

$$p = \sum w_i c_i$$

Generalized Barycentric Coordinates

$$p = \sum w_i c_i \quad \text{linear mixing weights}$$

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$$p = c_n + \sum_{i=1}^n \left[(c_{i-1} - c_i) \prod_{j=i}^n (1 - \alpha_j) \right]$$

Alpha Compositing

Generalized Barycentric Coordinates

$$p = \sum w_i c_i \quad \text{linear mixing weights}$$

$$p = c_n + \sum_{i=1}^n \left[(c_{i-1} - c_i) \prod_{j=i}^n (1 - \alpha_j) \right] \quad \text{layer opacities}$$

Alpha Compositing

Generalized Barycentric Coordinates

$$p = \sum w_i c_i \quad \text{linear mixing weights}$$

Unique

$$p = c_n + \sum_{i=1}^n \left[(c_{i-1} - c_i) \prod_{j=i}^n (1 - \alpha_j) \right] \quad \text{layer opacities}$$

Alpha Compositing

Generalized Barycentric Coordinates

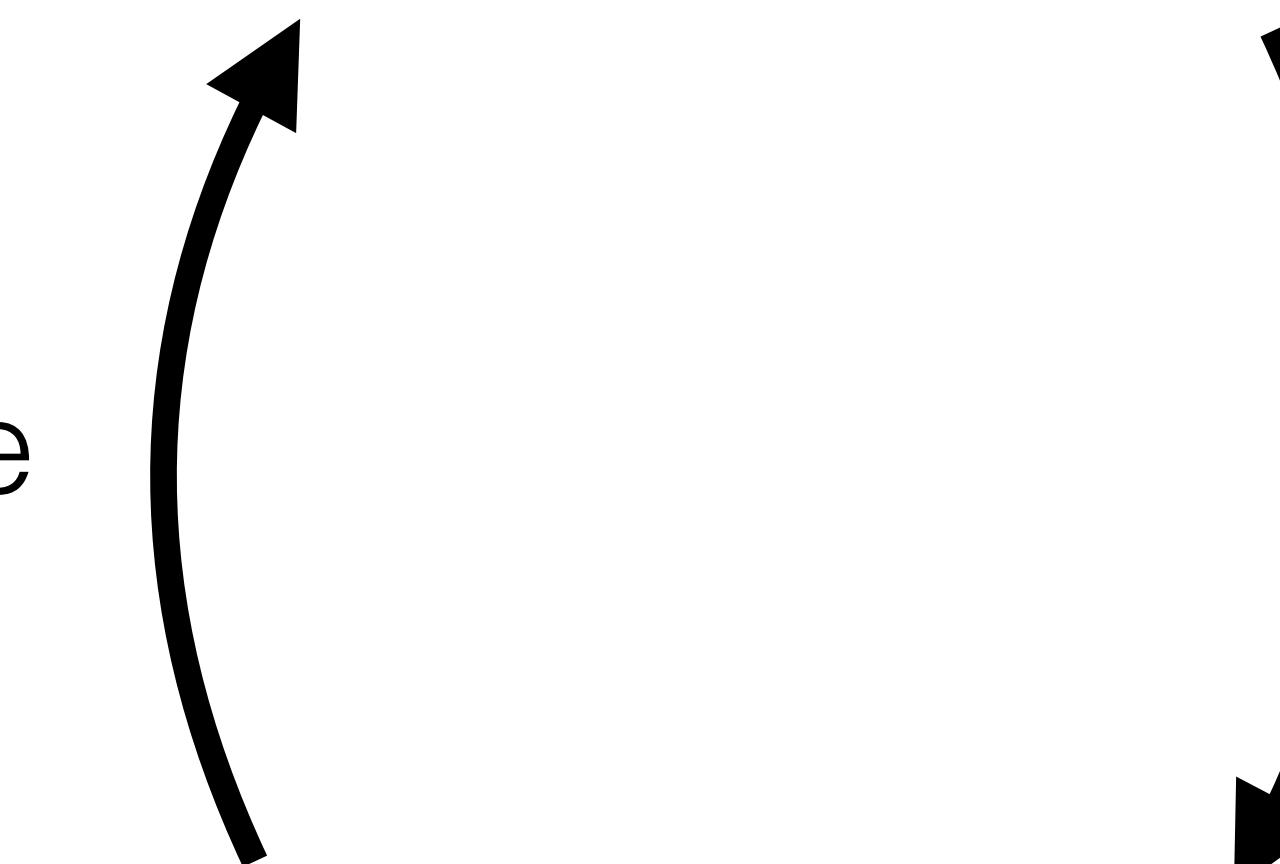
$$p = \sum w_i c_i$$

linear mixing weights

Unique Ambiguous

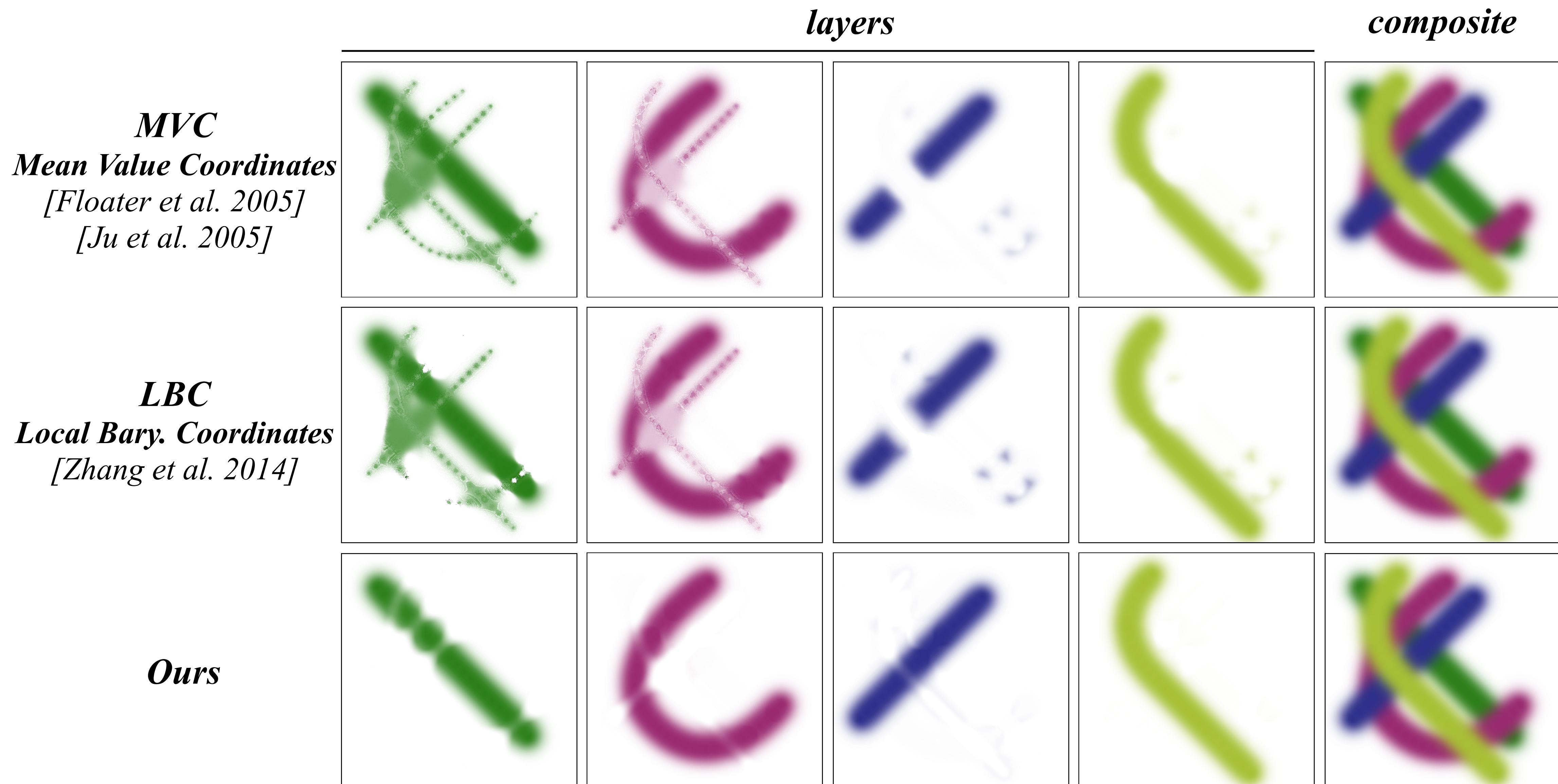
$$p = c_n + \sum_{i=1}^n \left[(c_{i-1} - c_i) \prod_{j=i}^n (1 - \alpha_j) \right]$$

layer opacities



Alpha Compositing

Generalized Barycentric Coordinates



Demo

Our layer opacities can also be uniquely converted into Generalized Barycentric Coordinates.

Actually, we now get additive mixing layers, which is layer order independent.

Global Recoloring

Visualize the colors of an image as a 3D RGB point cloud.

[apple.png](#)



width: 500, height: 453

total pixels: 226500

unique pixels: 226500

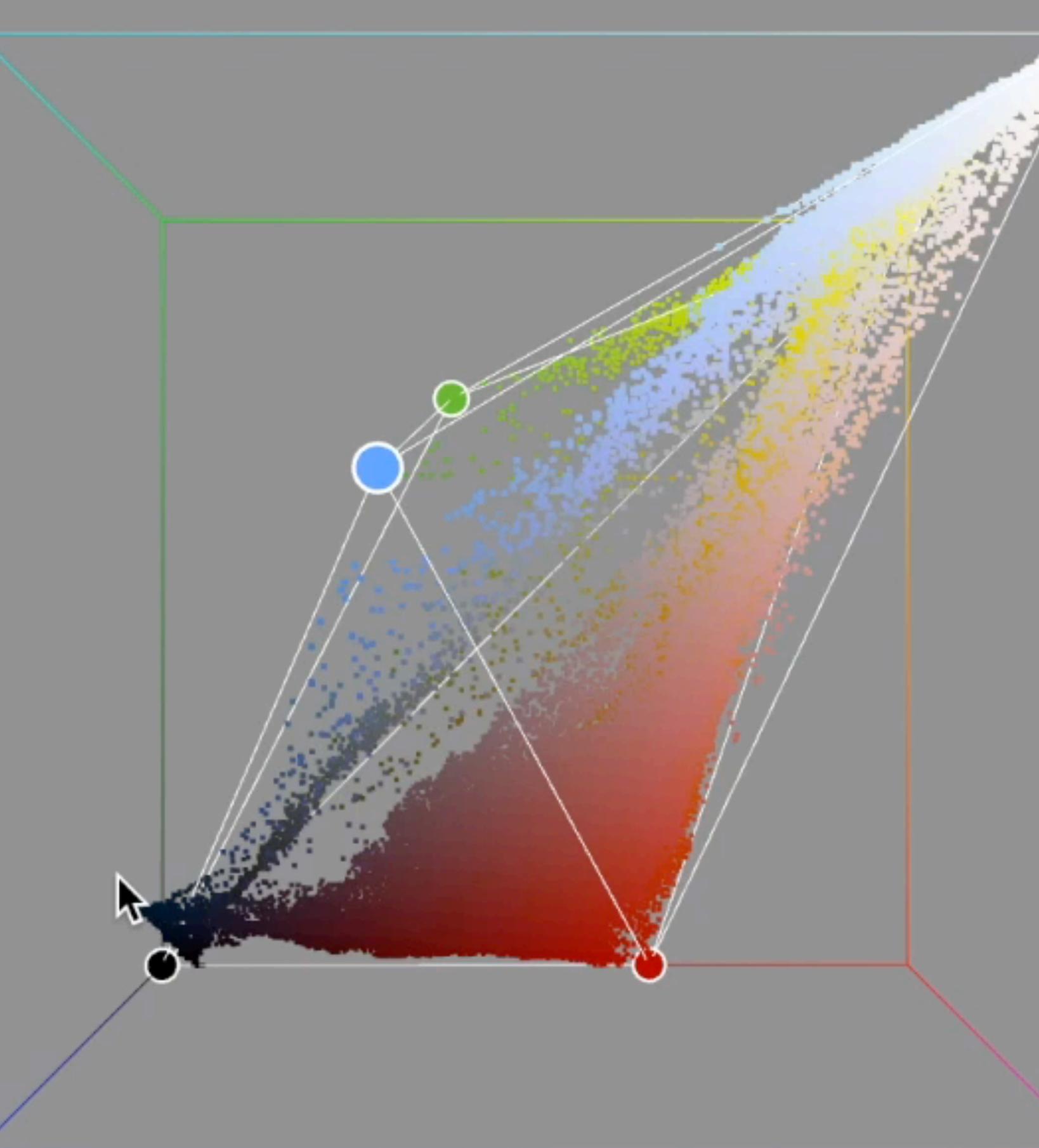
Choose File No file chosen

Rotation has inertia:

[Look from white](#)

[Save Everything](#)

[Save Camera Only](#)



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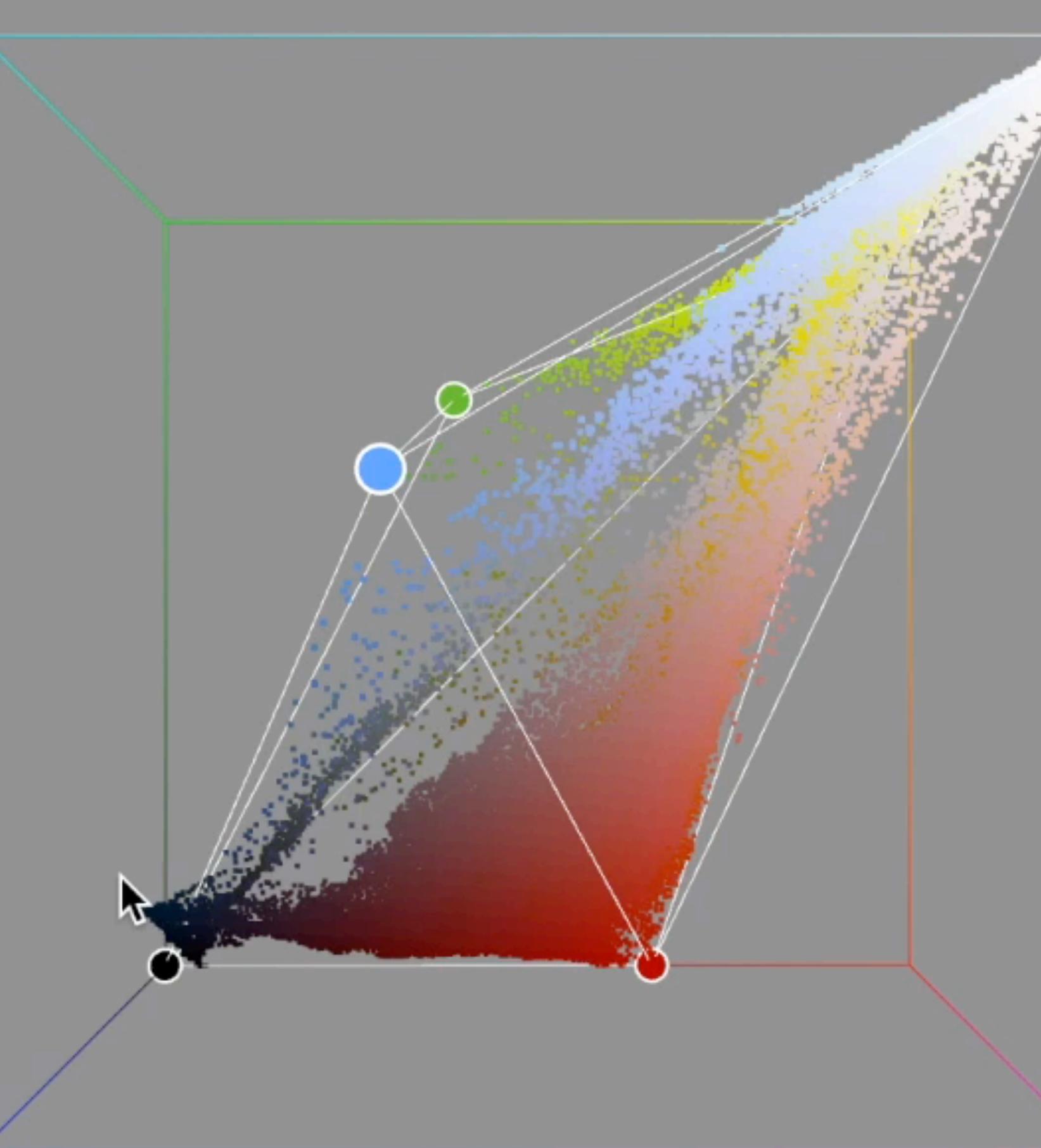
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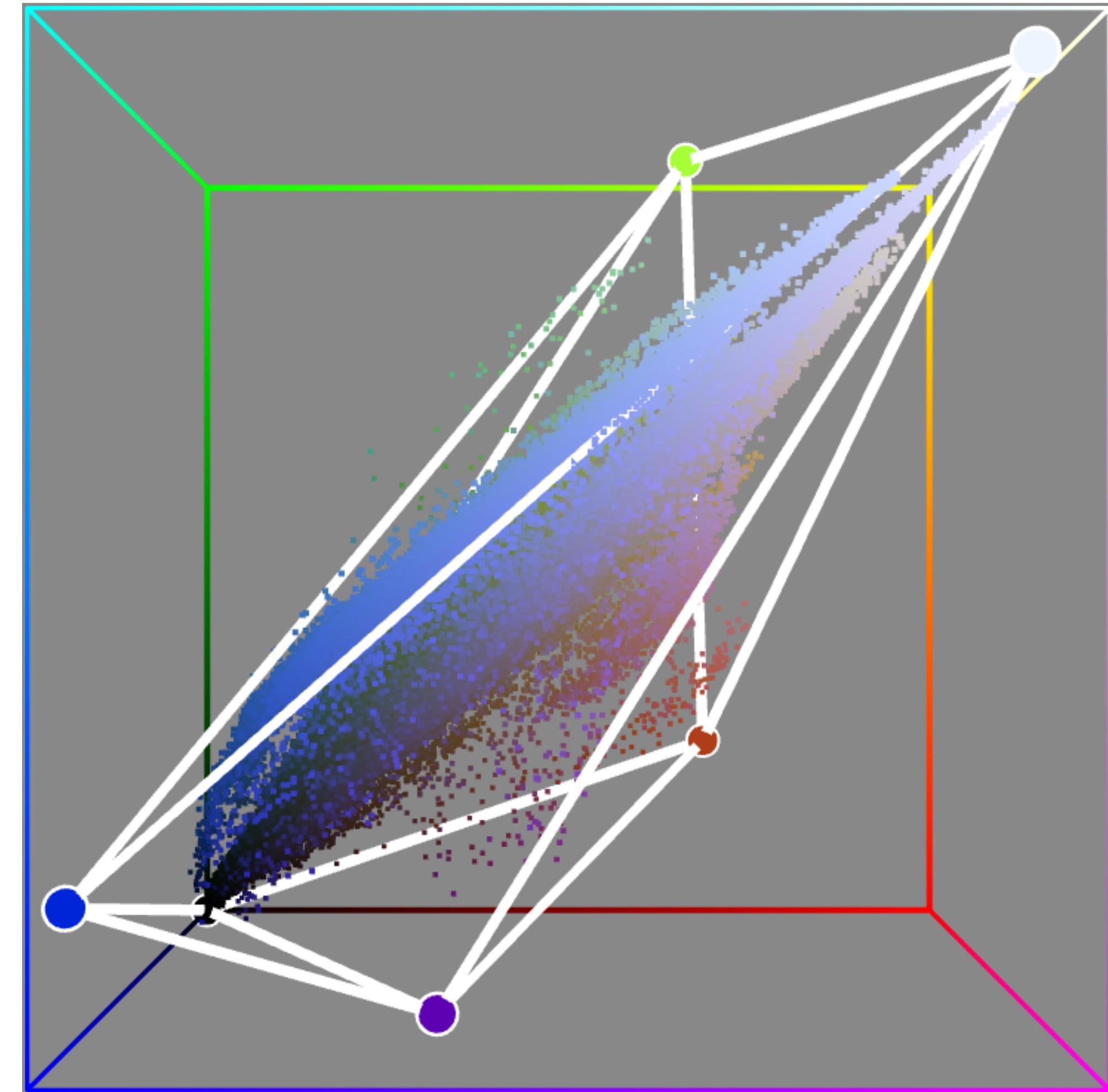


Natural Images

Original

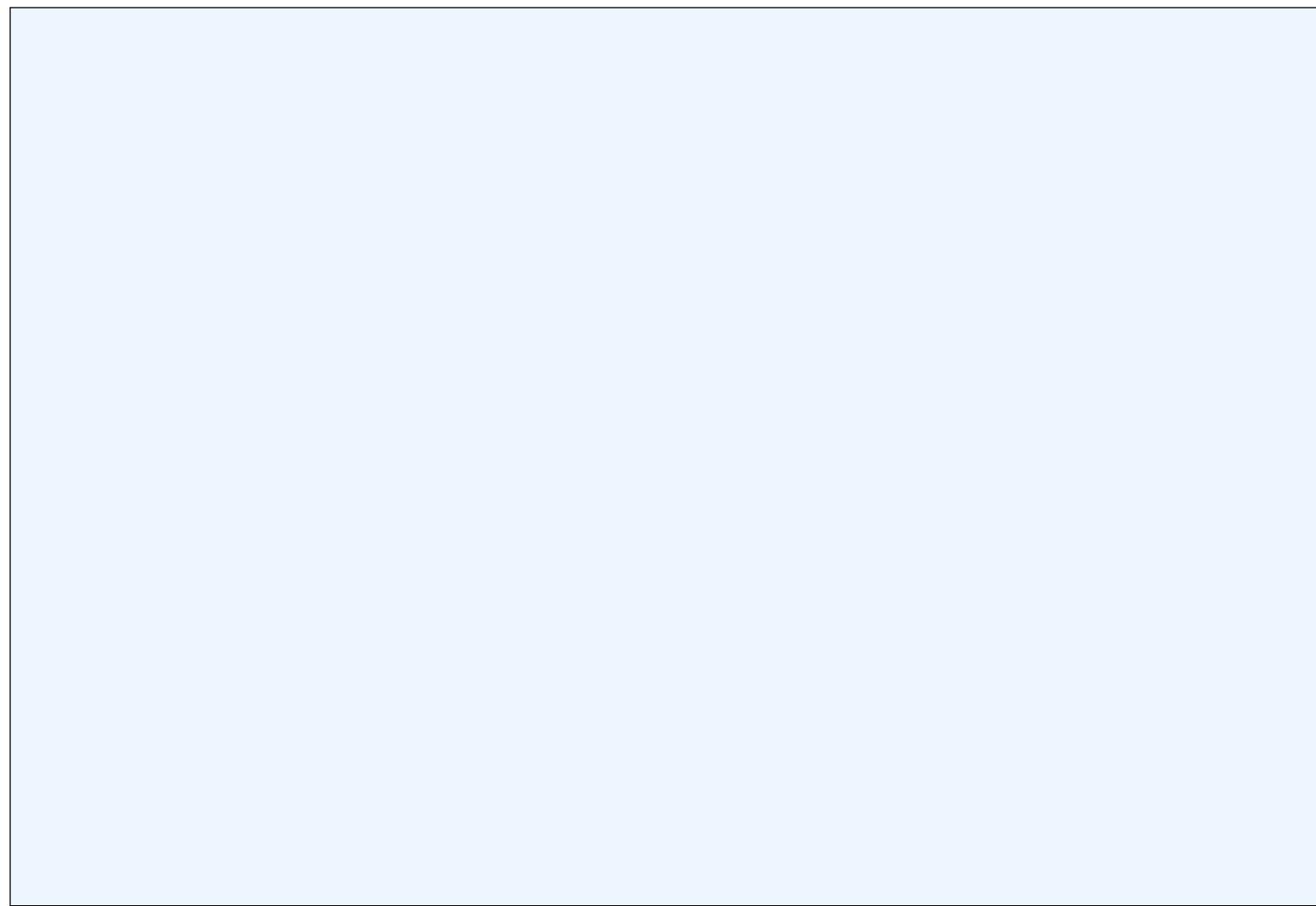


Simplified hull





layers

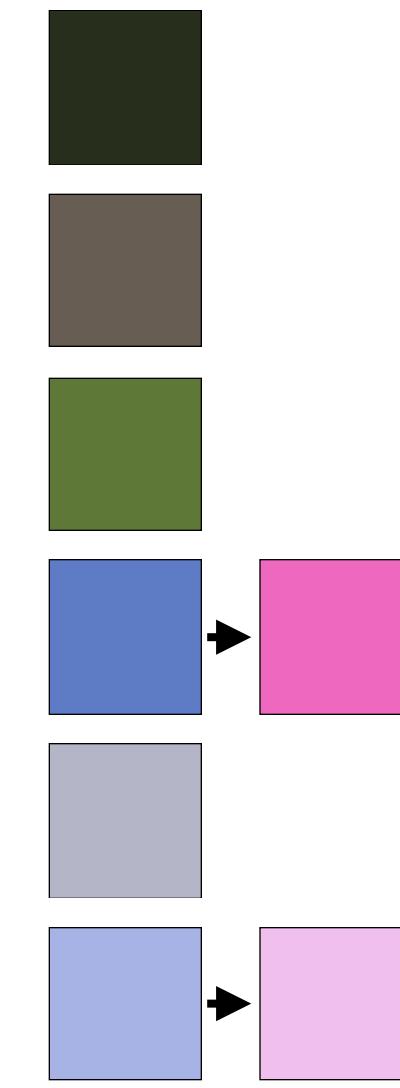




Global Recoloring Comparison



Original



Chang et al. 2015



Ours



MVC

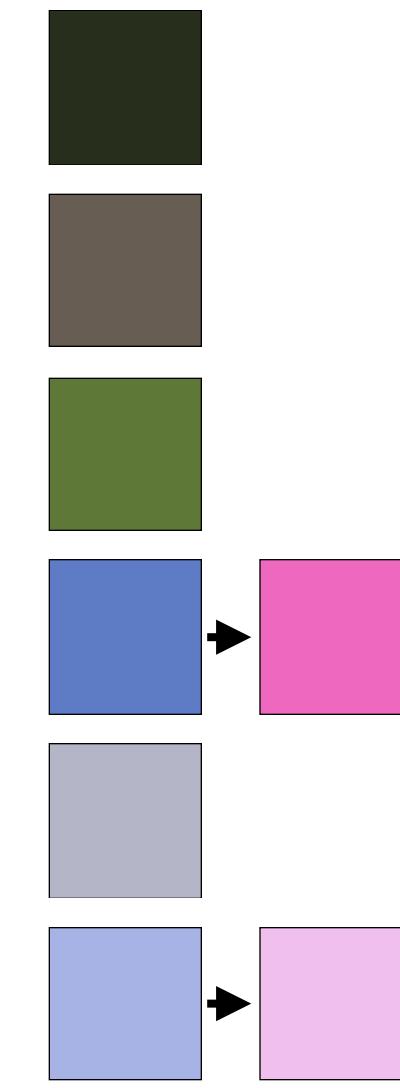


LBC

Global Recoloring Comparison



Original



Chang et al. 2015



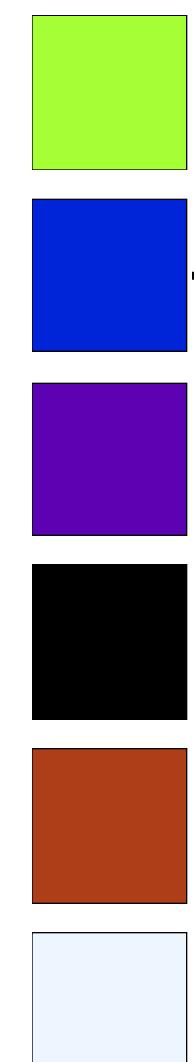
Ours



MVC



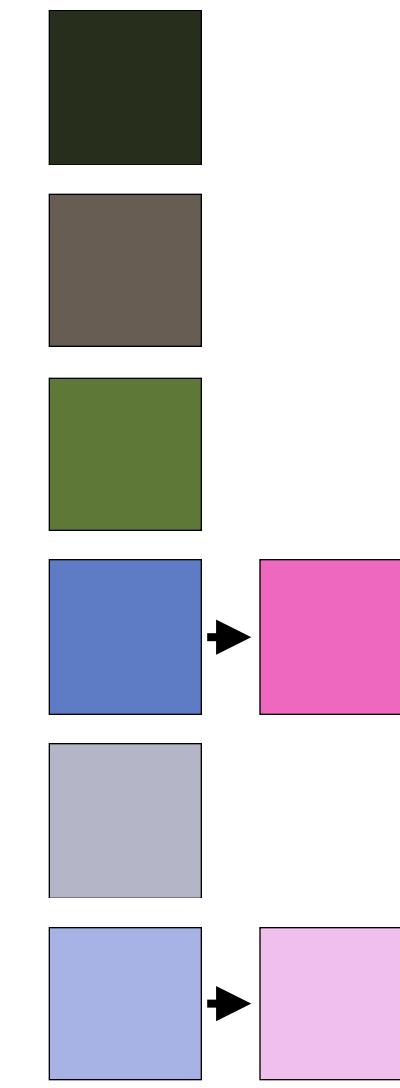
LBC



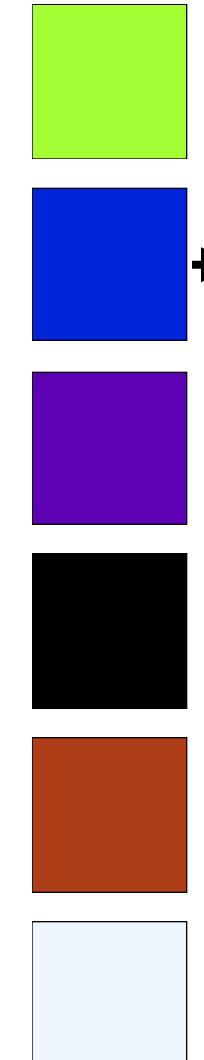
Global Recoloring Comparison



Original



Chang et al. 2015



Ours



MVC



LBC

Global Recoloring Comparison

Original



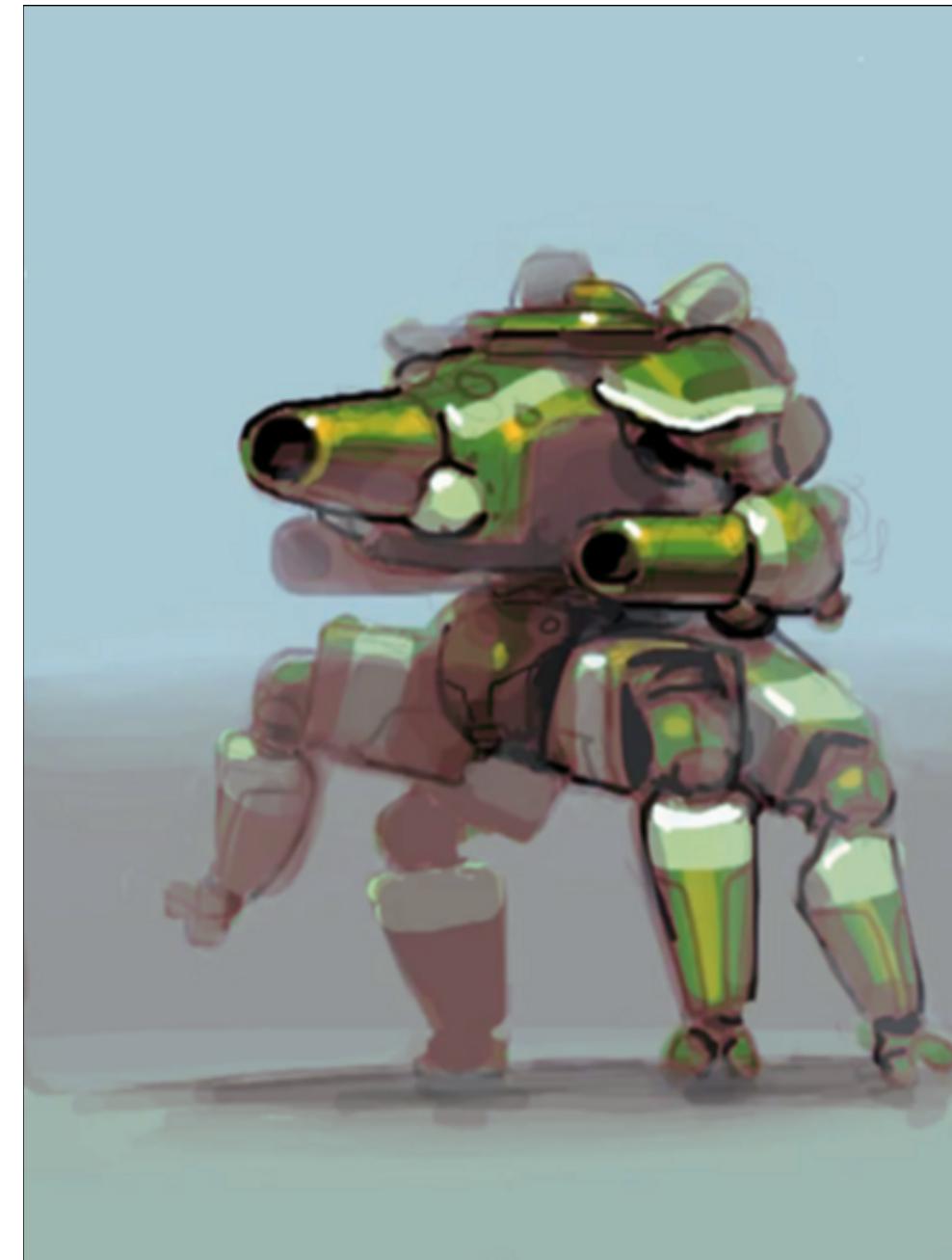
Ours



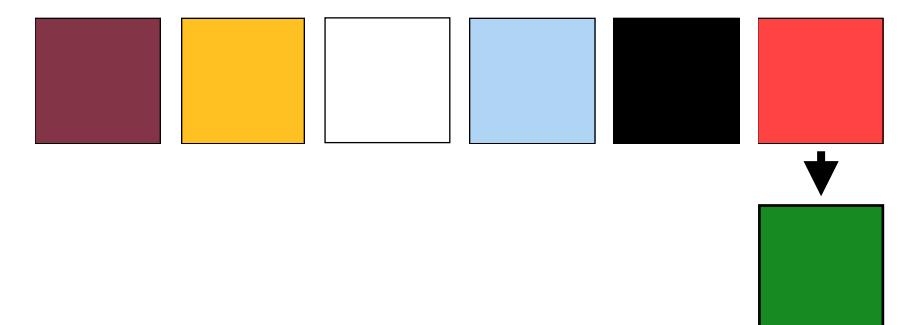
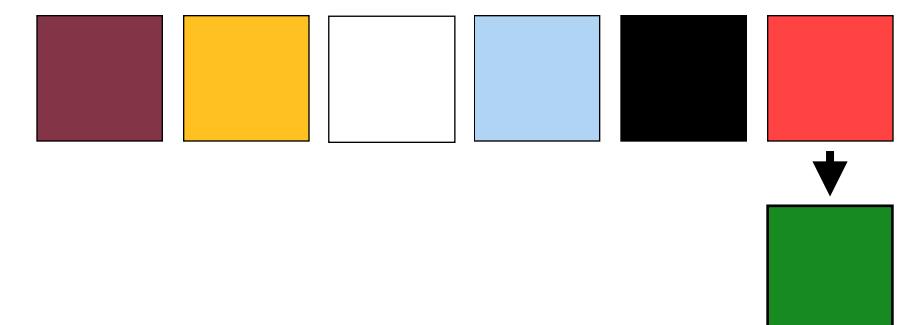
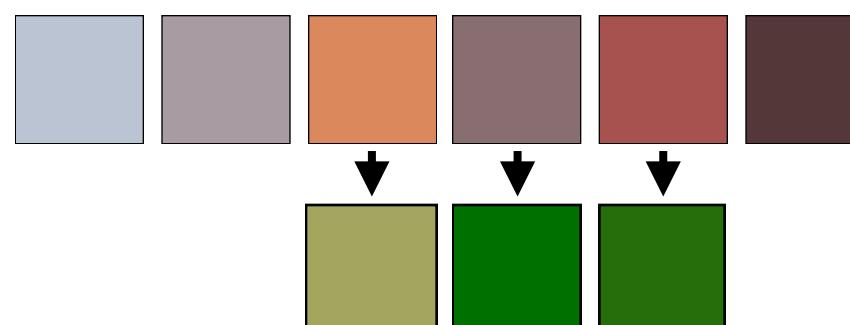
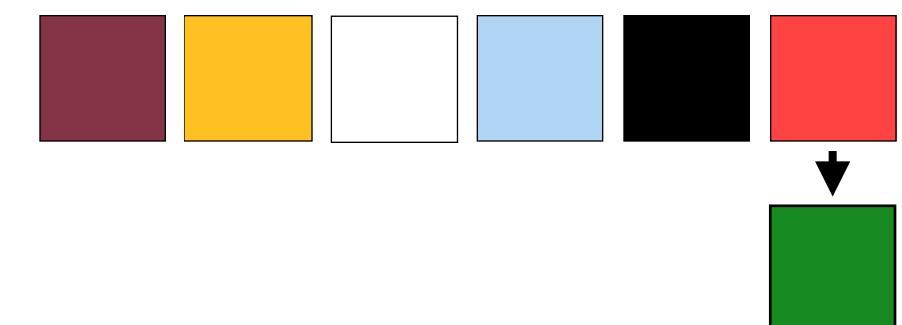
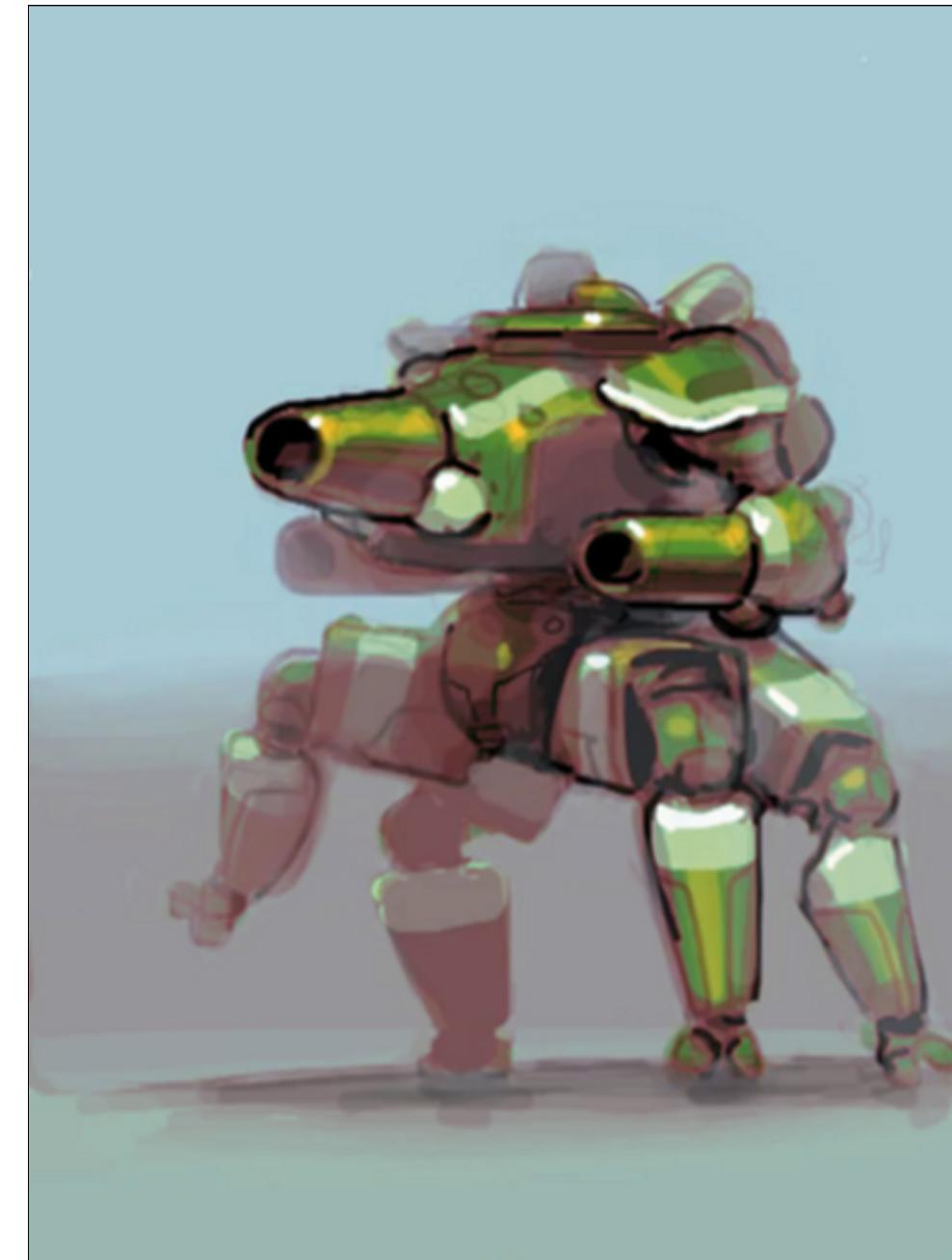
Chang et al. 2015



MVC



LBC



Global Recoloring Comparison

Original



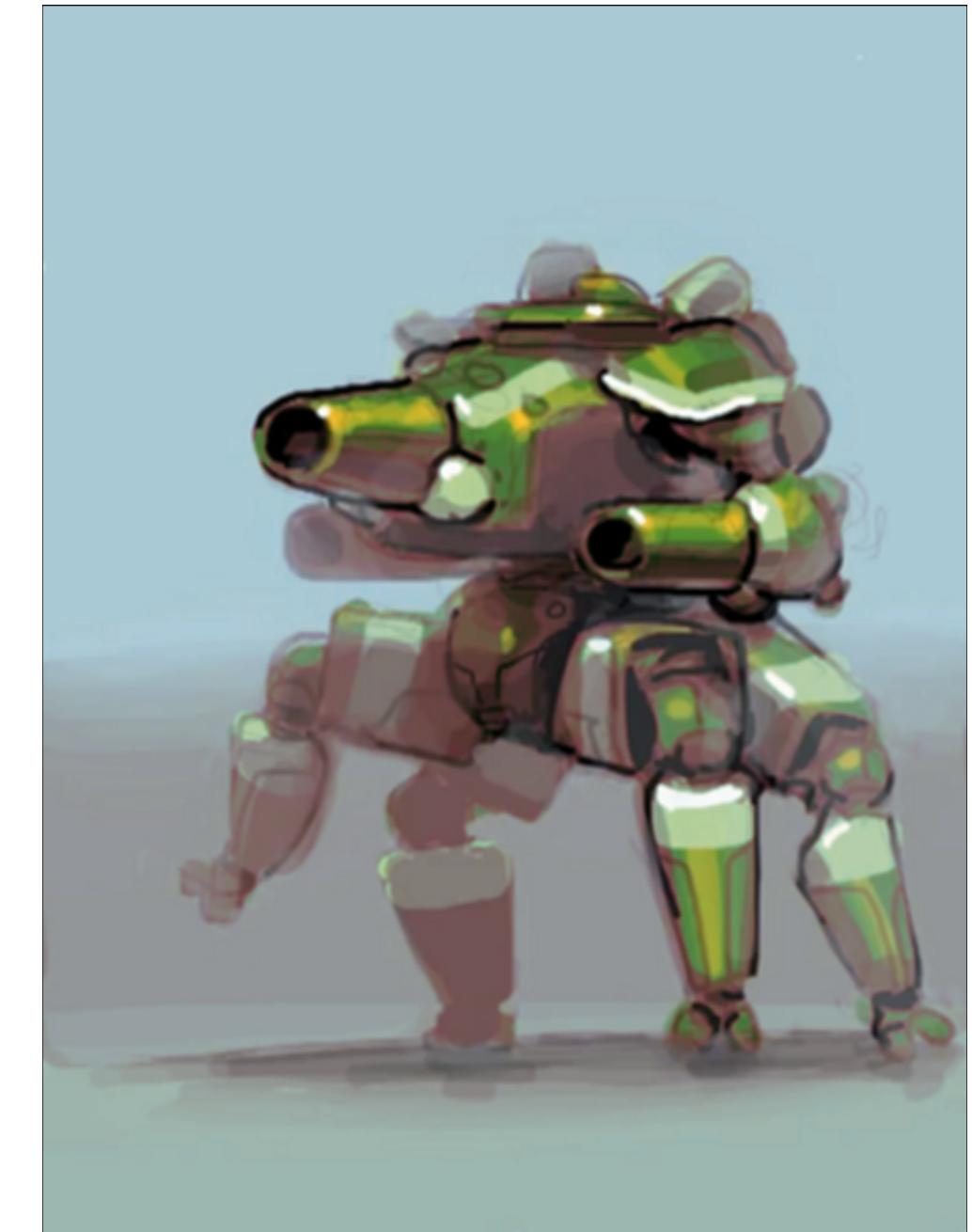
Ours



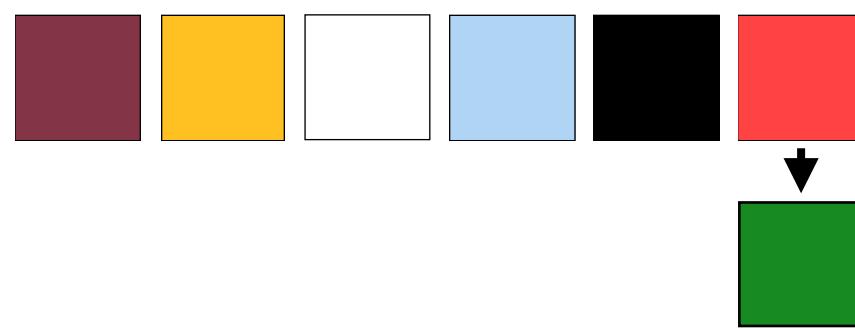
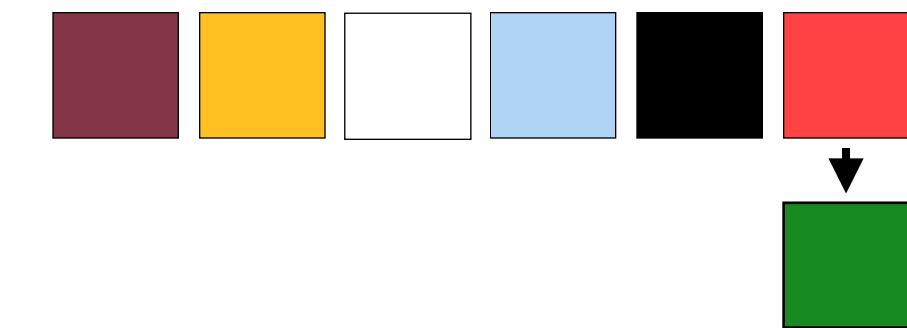
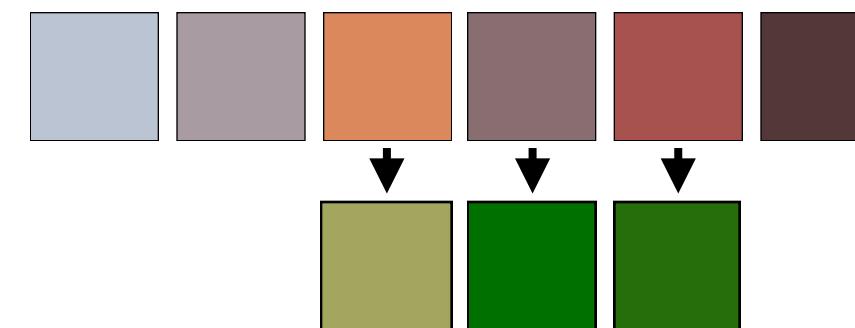
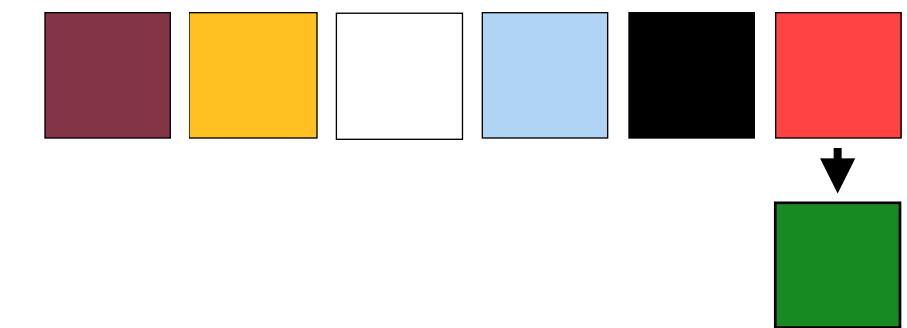
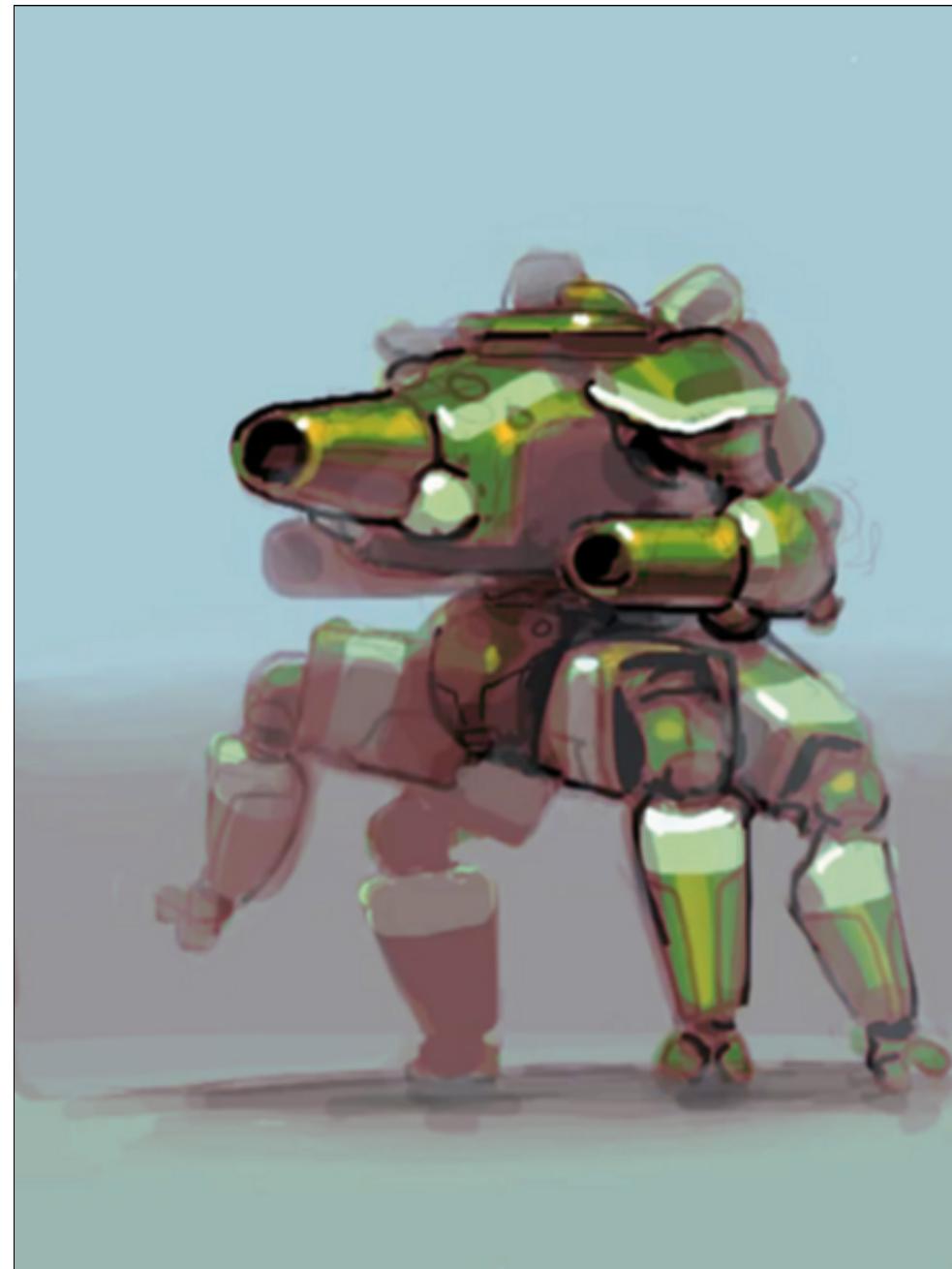
Chang et al. 2015



MVC

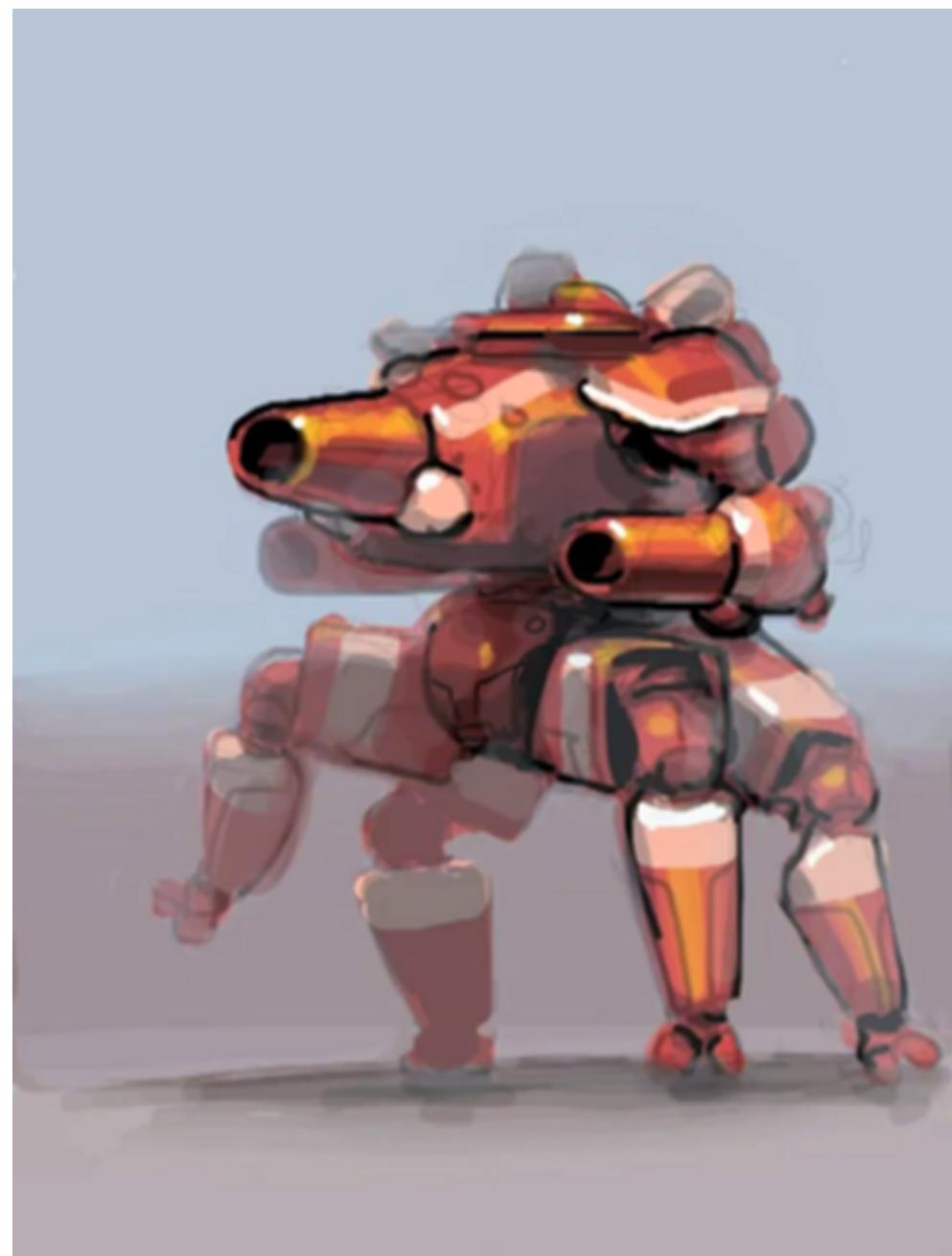


LBC



Global Recoloring Comparison

Original



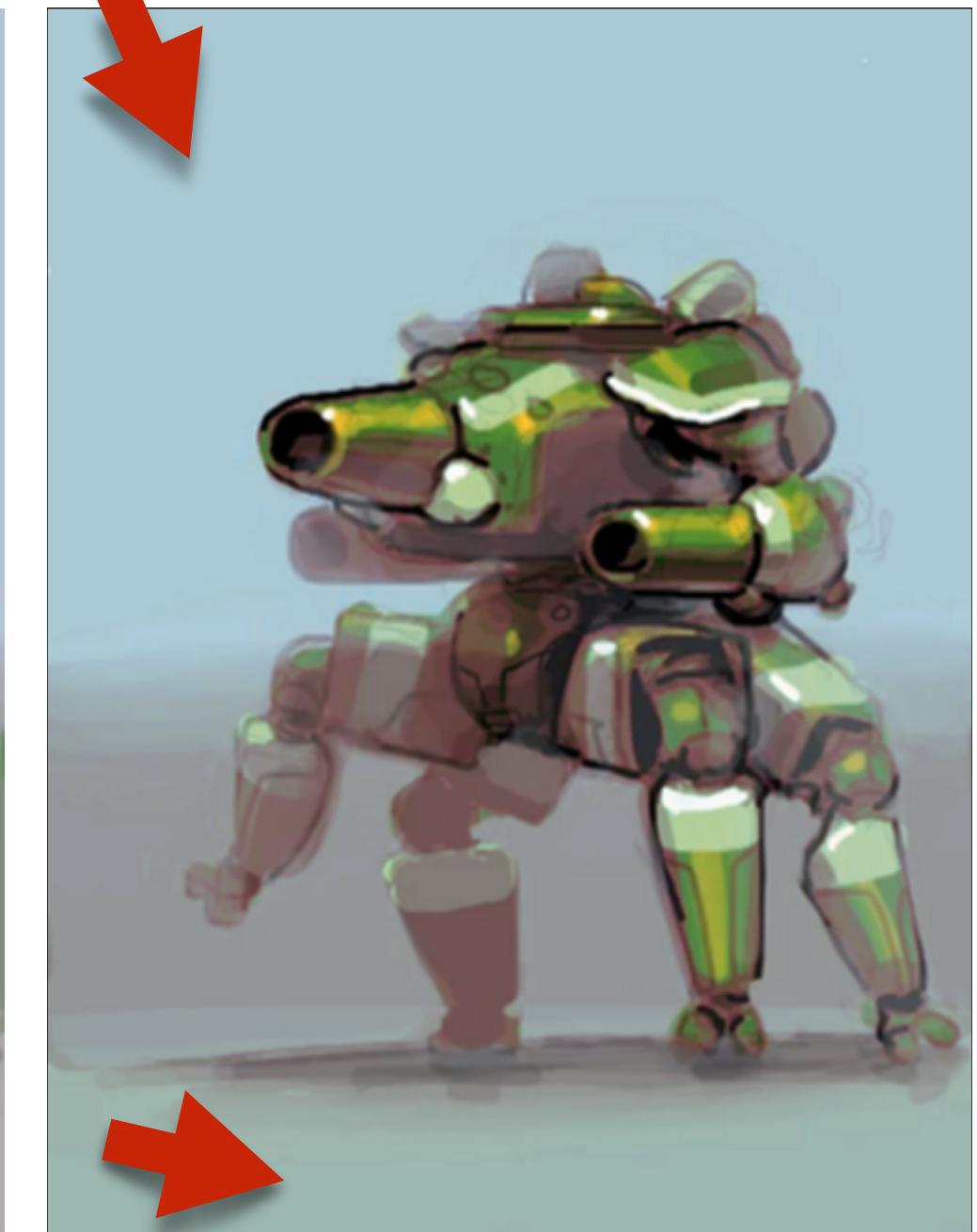
Ours



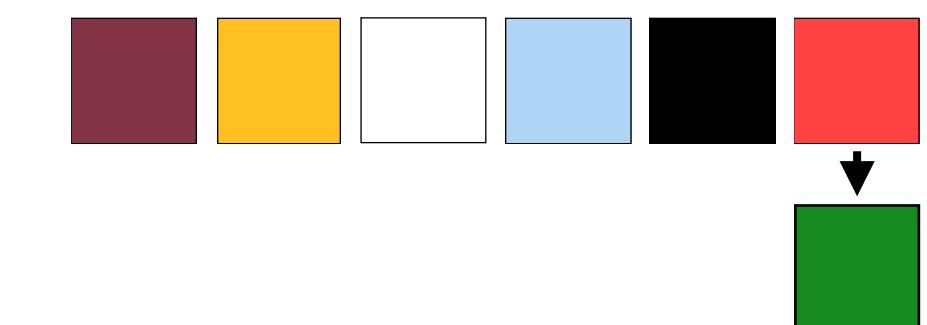
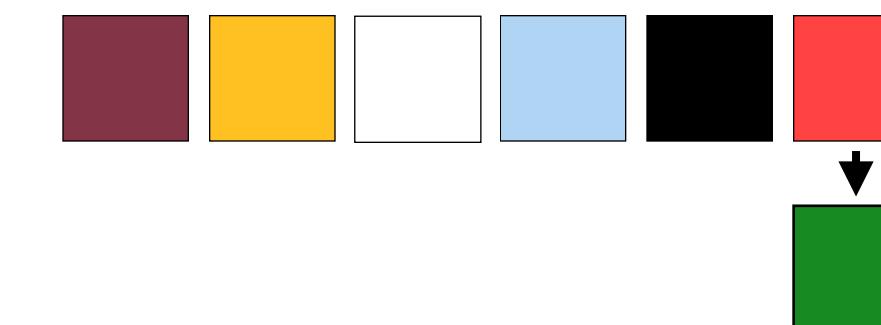
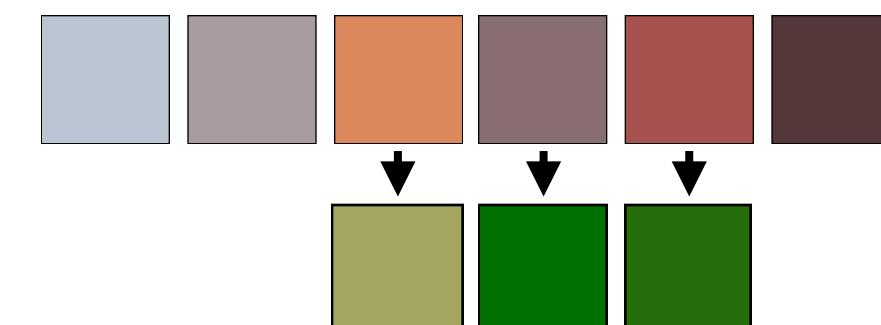
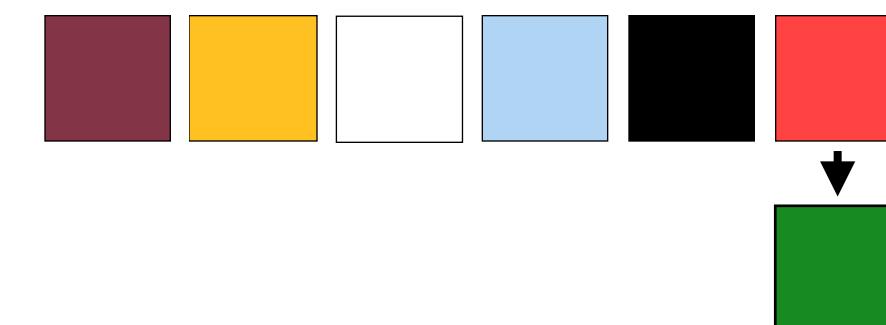
Chang et al. 2015



MVC

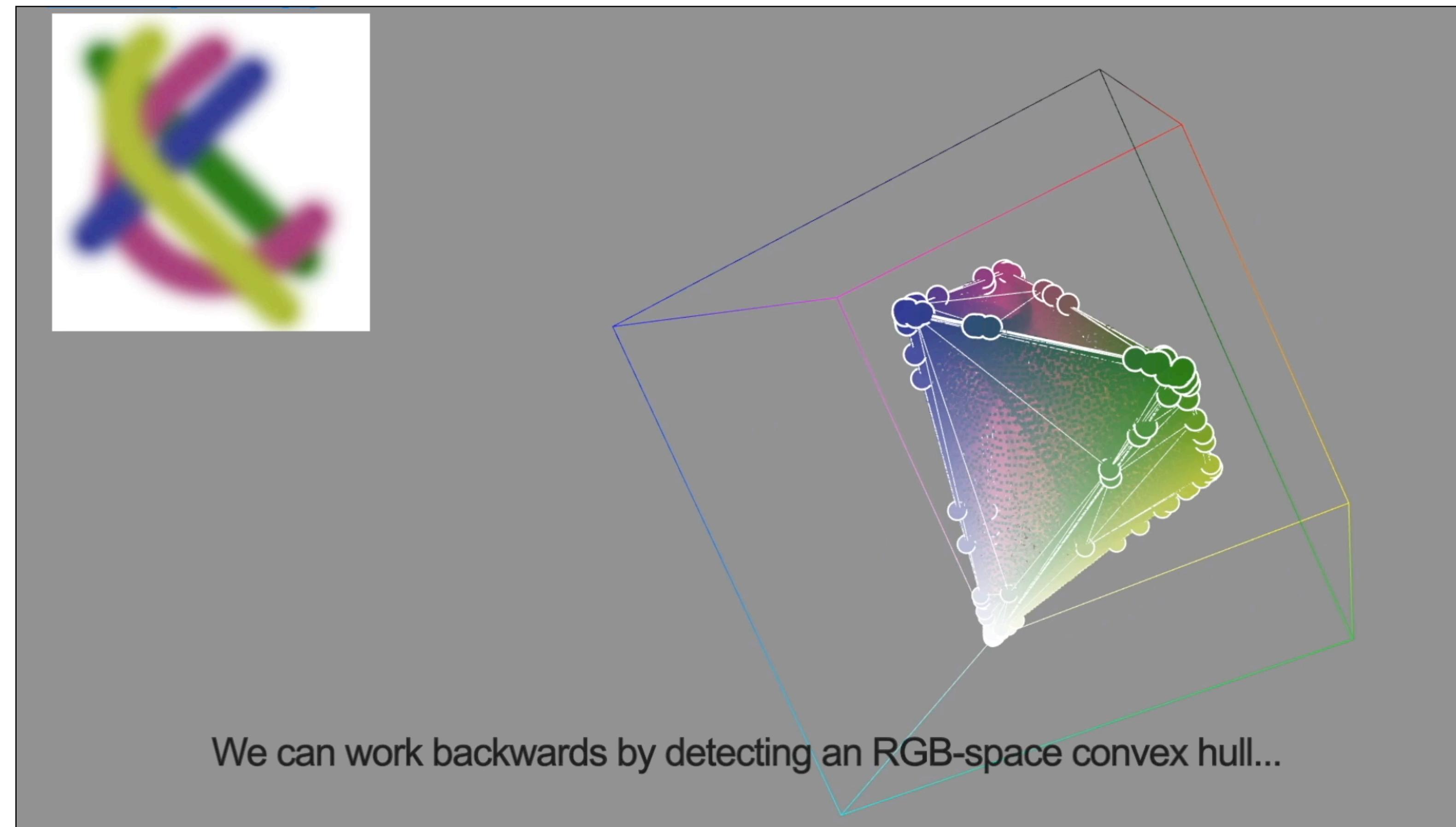


LBC



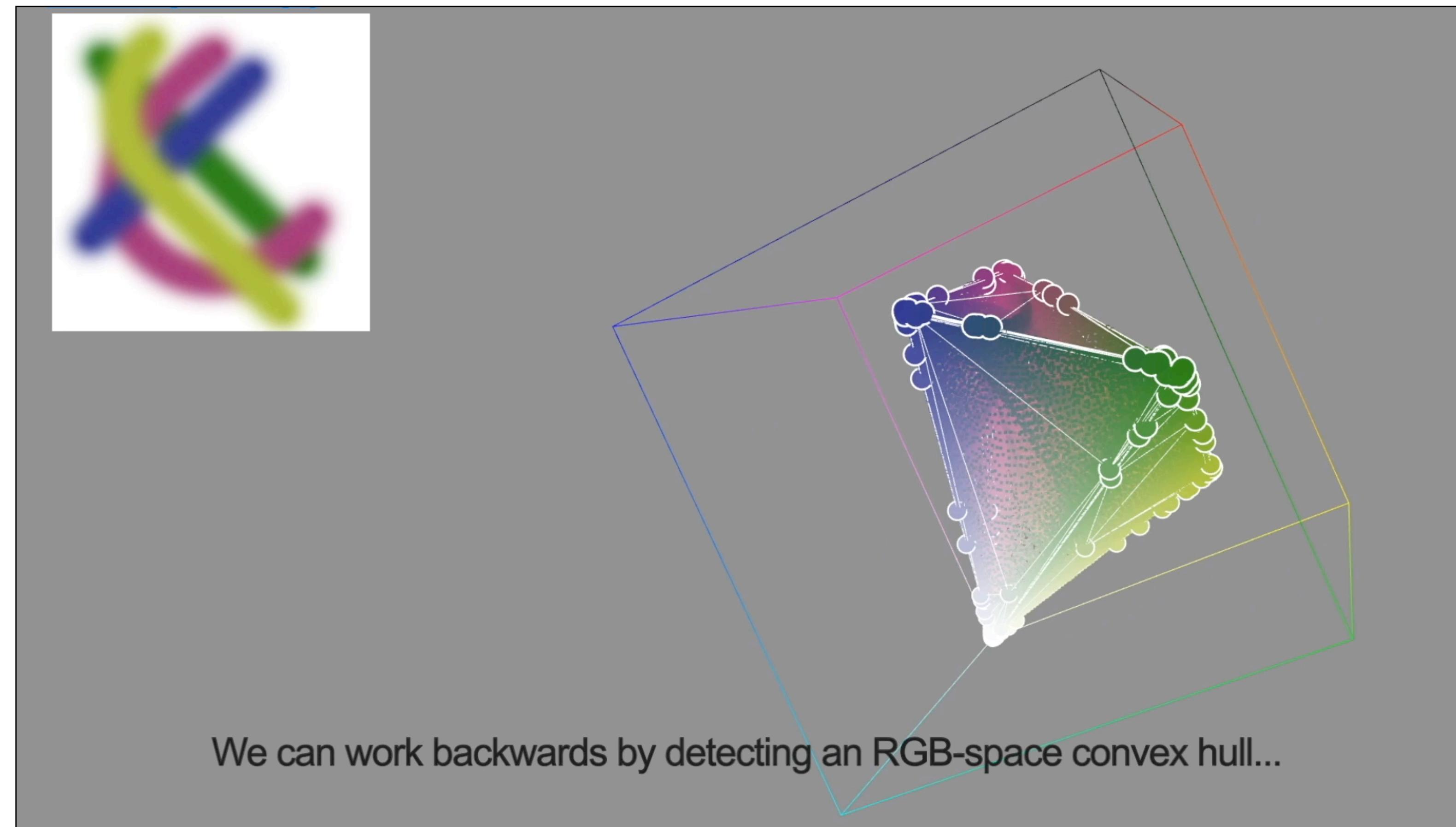
Summary

- The RGB-space geometry of an image contains a hidden geometric structure.



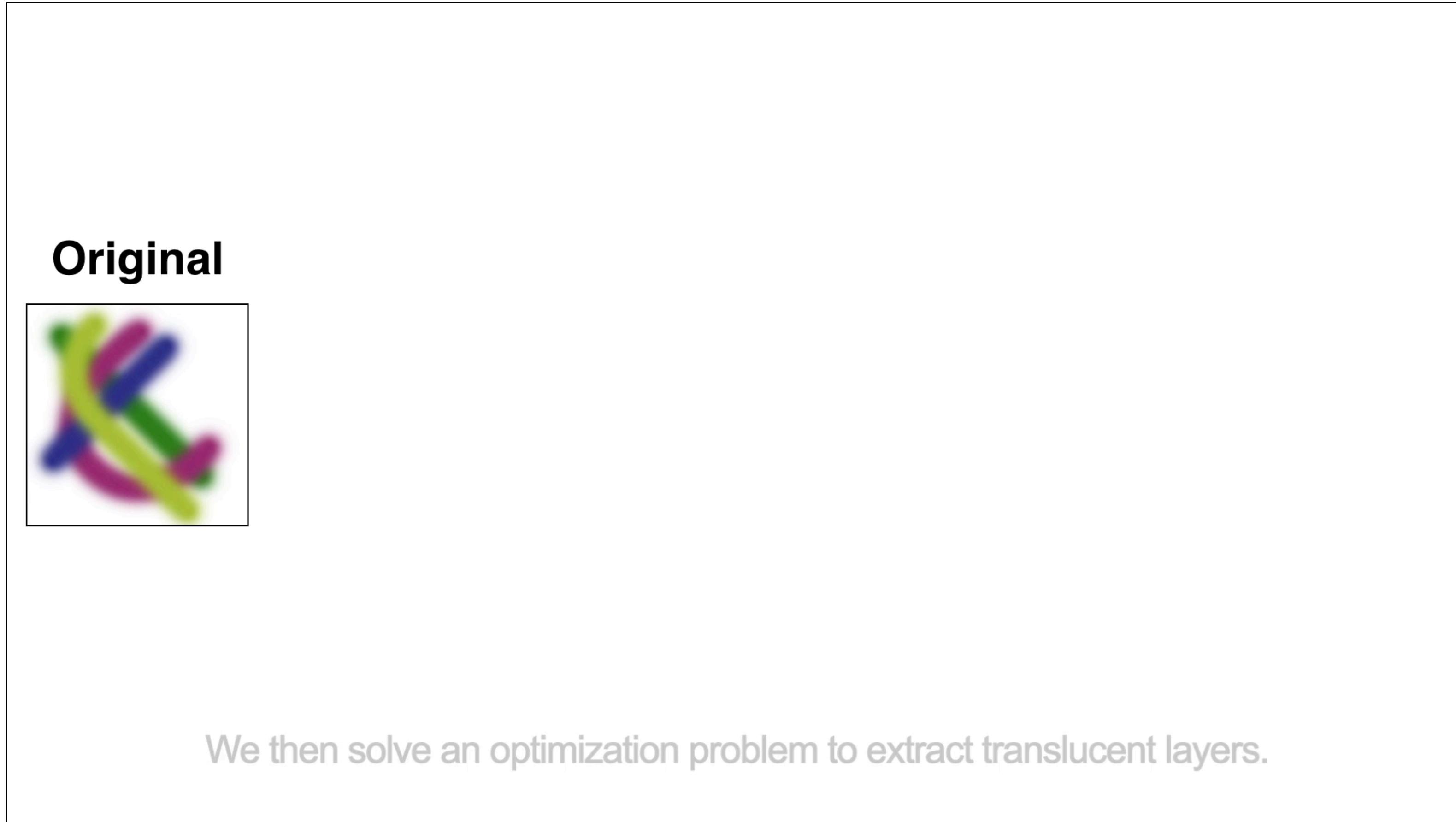
Summary

- The RGB-space geometry of an image contains a hidden geometric structure.



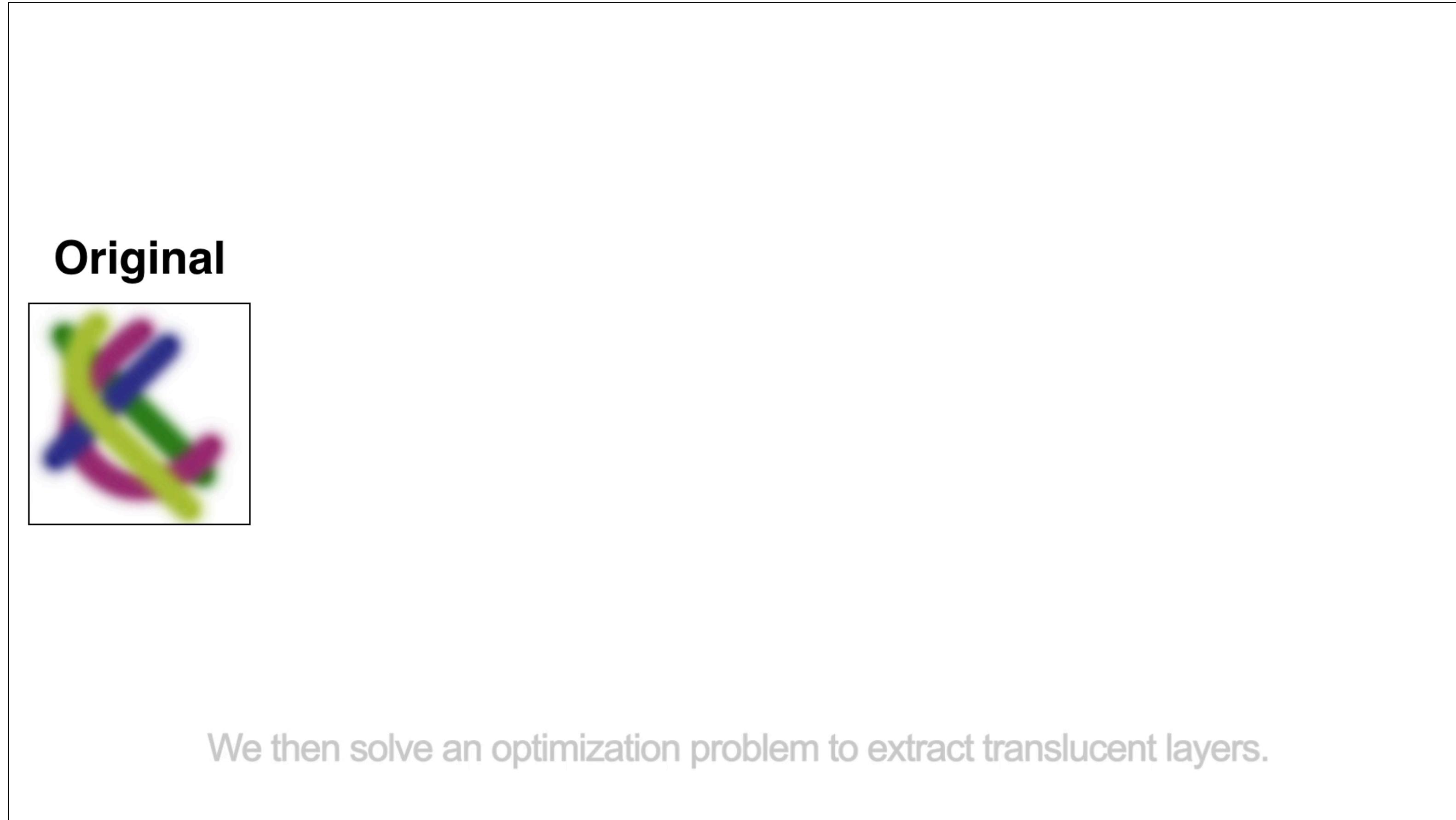
Summary

- We regularize the under-constrained layer opacity problem by balancing sparsity and smoothness.



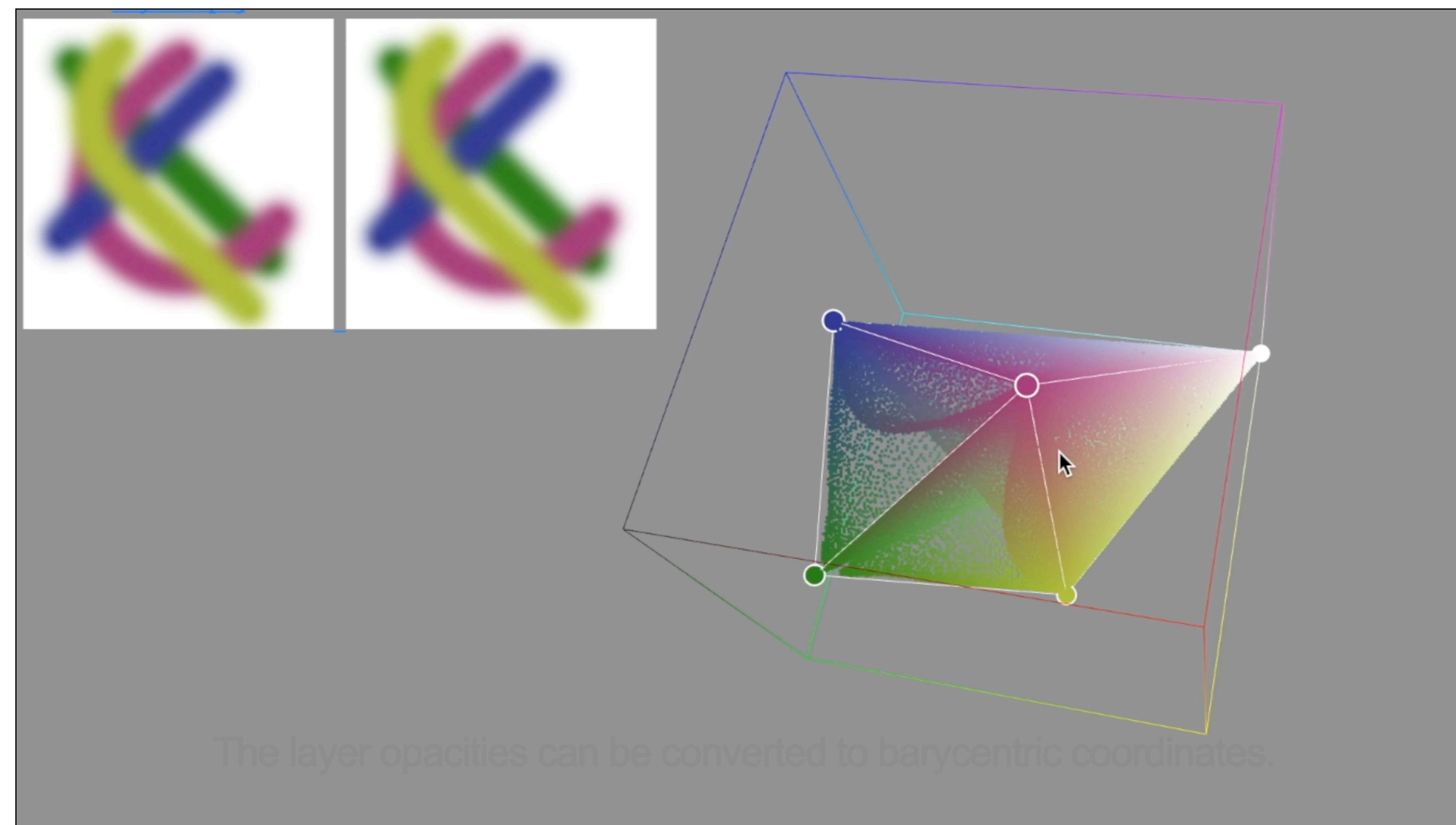
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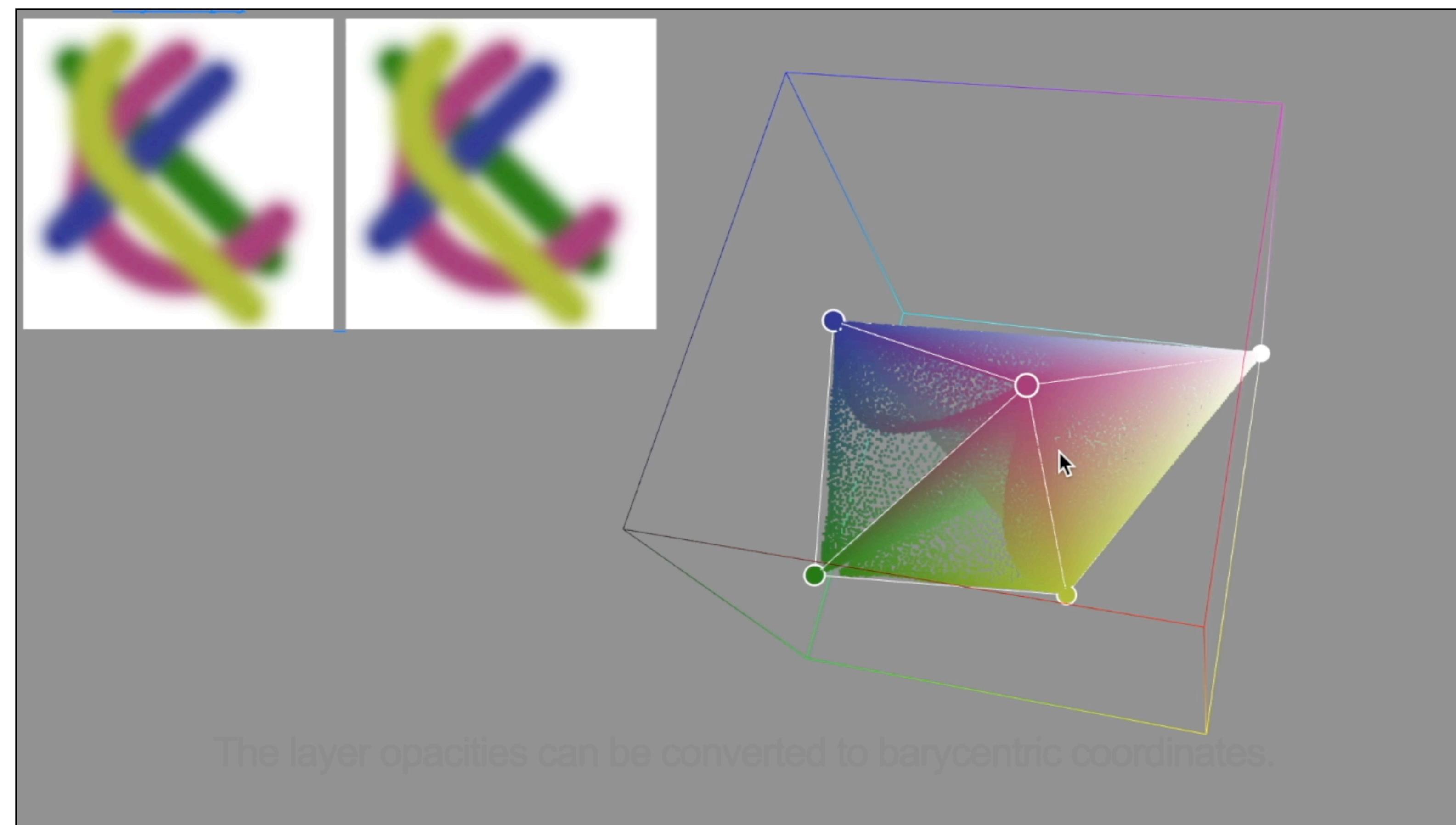
Summary

- The layers can be edited or converted to generalized barycentric coordinates



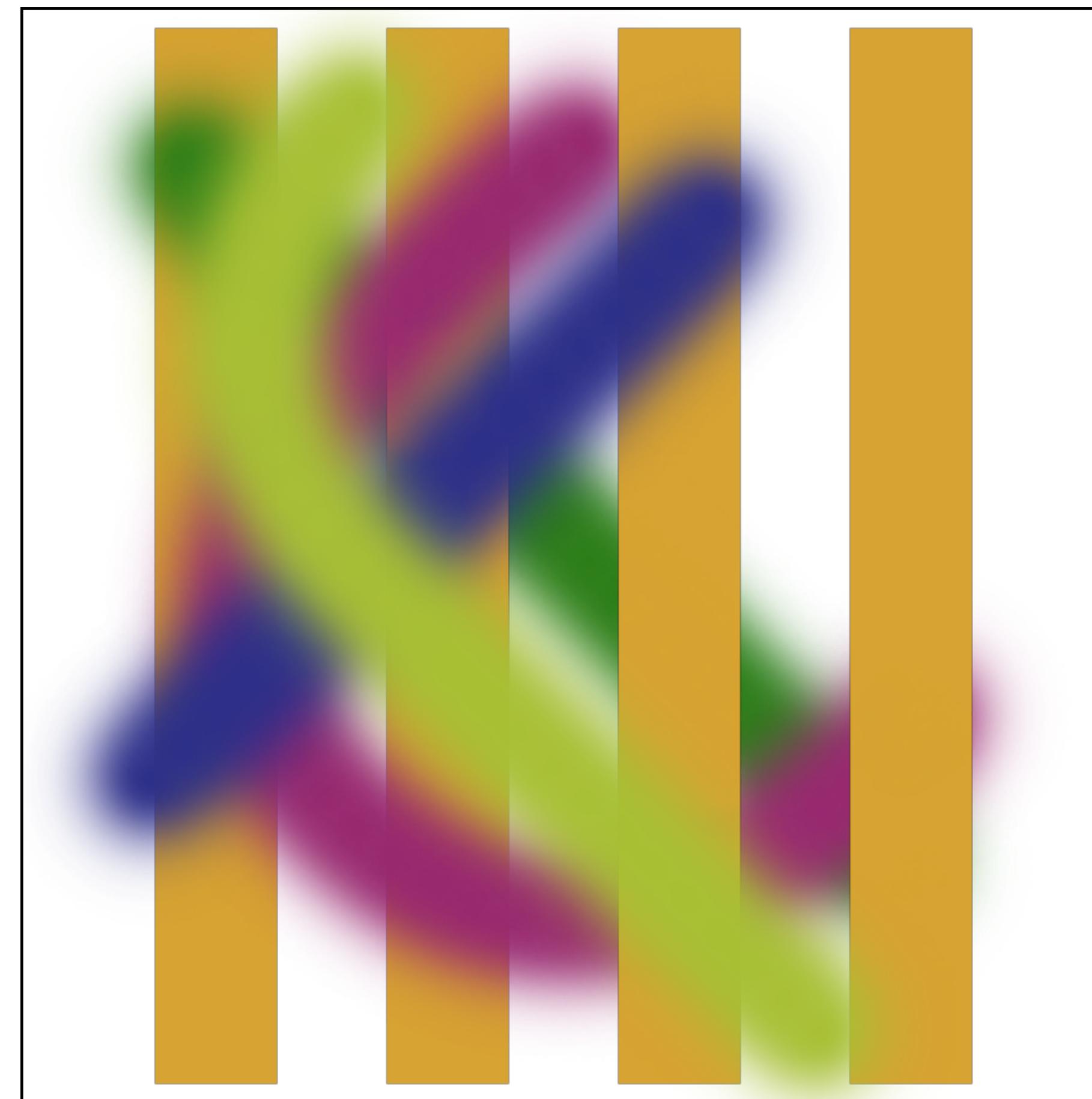
Summary

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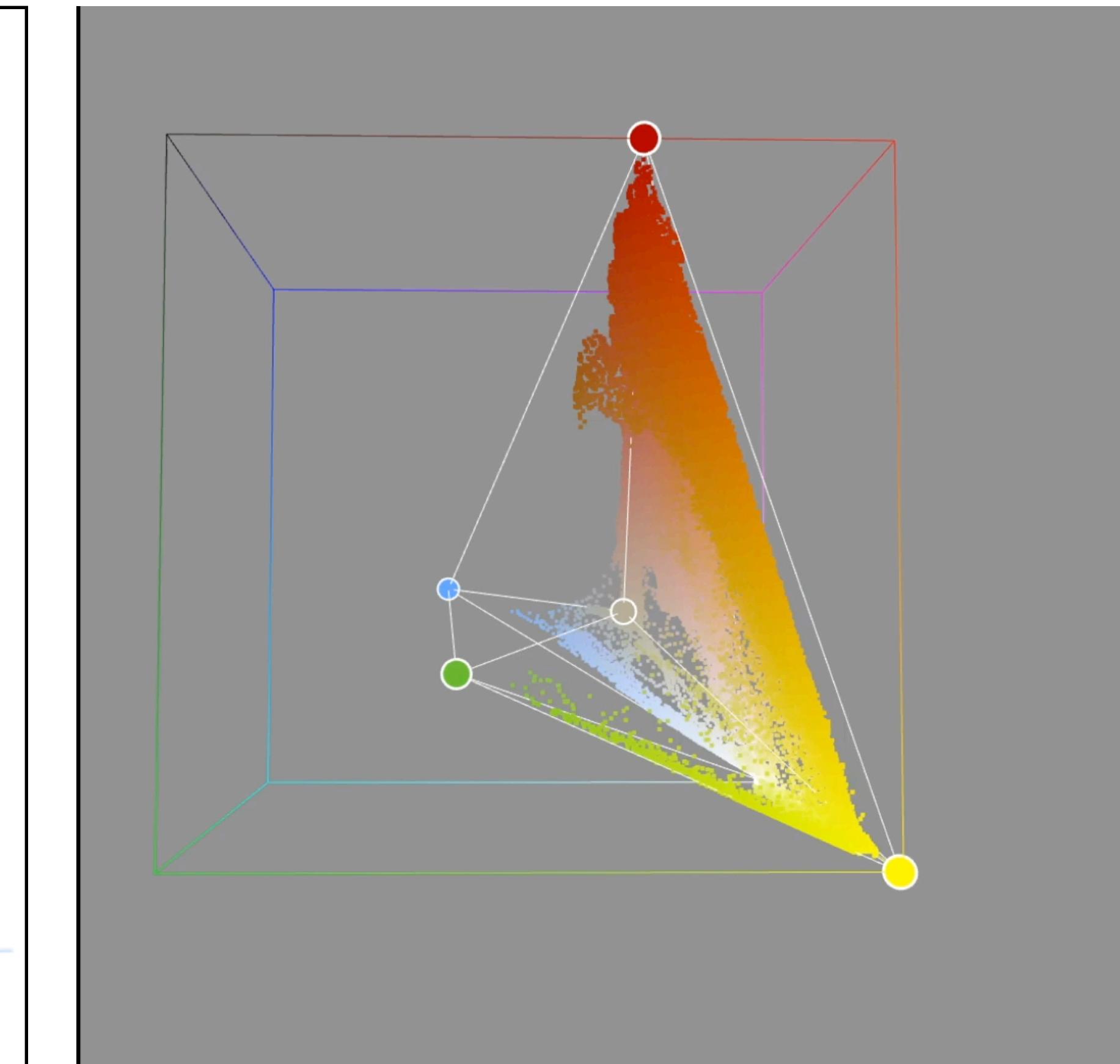
Limitation

- We use a global order for layers, which may not match true editing history.



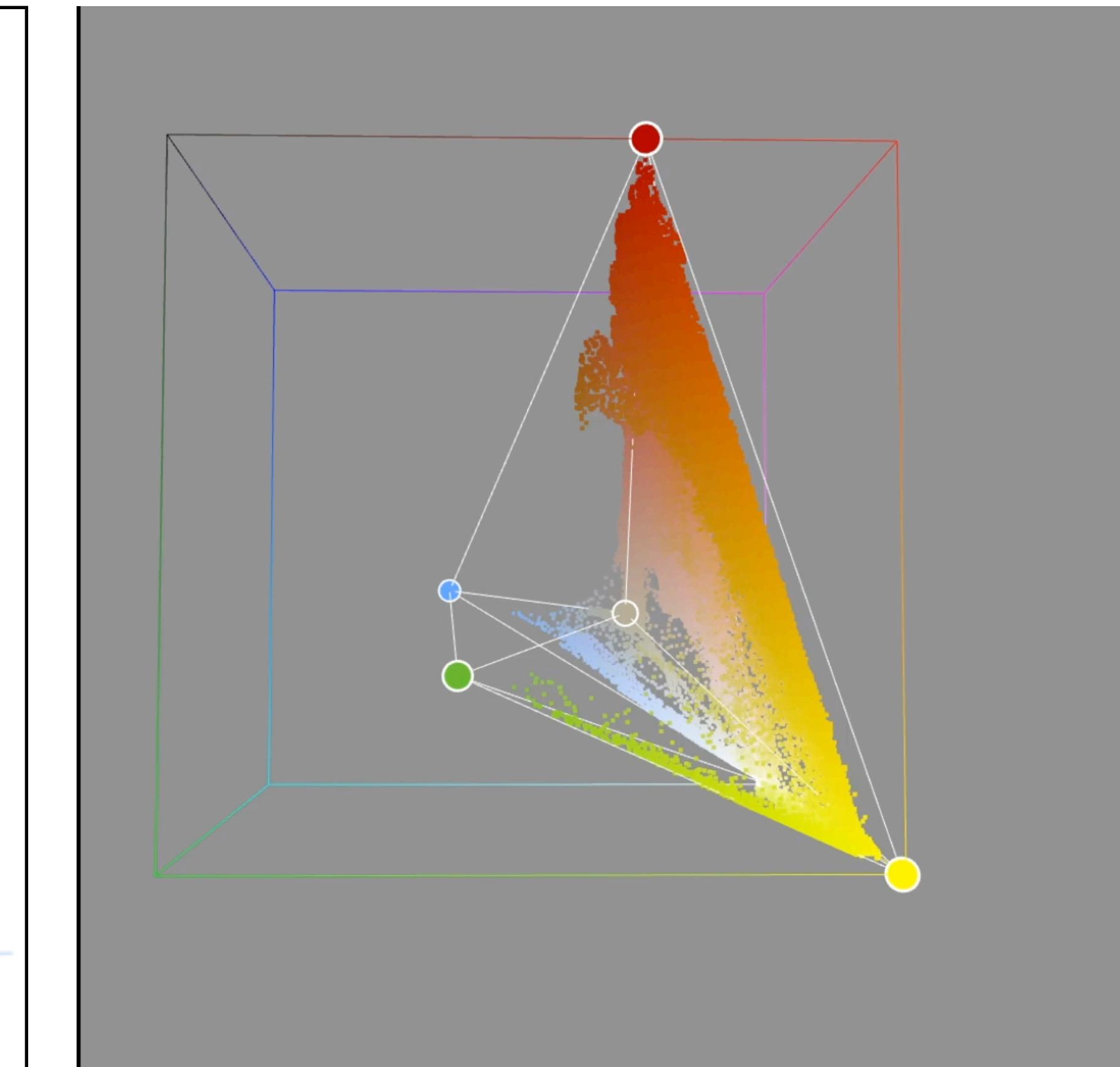
Limitation

- Pigment colors that lie within the convex hull cannot be detected.



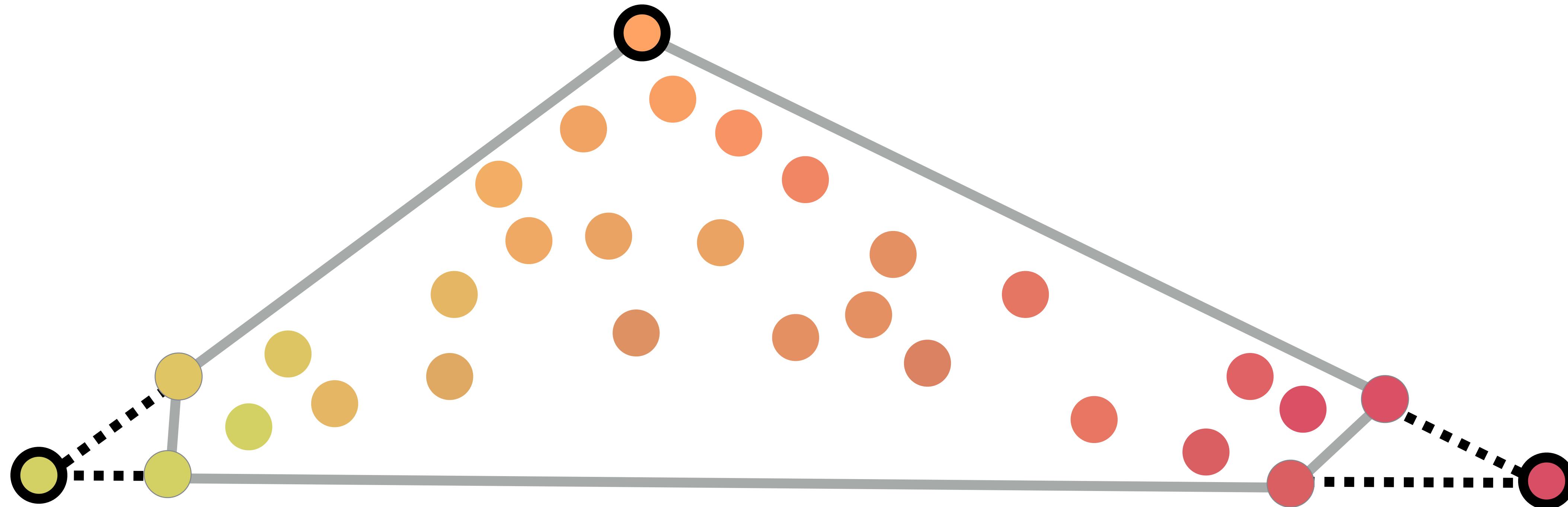
Limitation

- Pigment colors that lie within the convex hull cannot be detected.



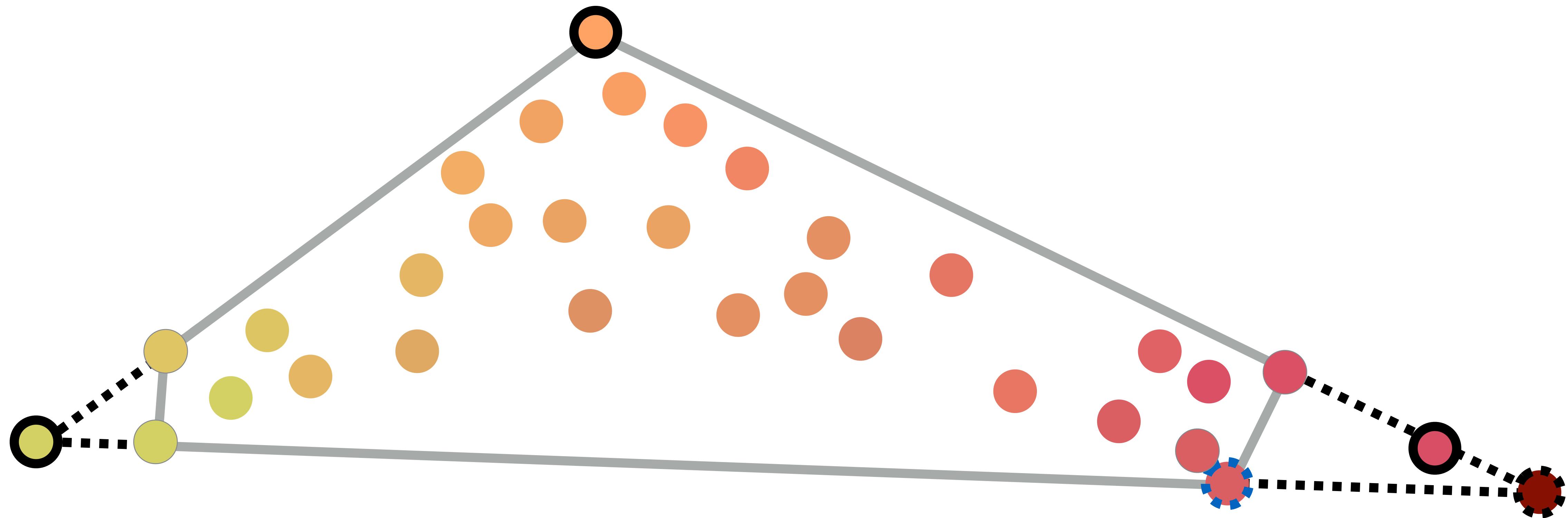
Limitation

- Outlier colors can influence the convex hull used in palette selection.



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Future Work

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- Automatically determine palette size and layer order.

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- More semantic palette extraction.
- Physically-inspired blending models (e.g. Kubelka-Munk).
- Additive mixing layers (works well, similar optimization but quadratic).

Thank You!

- Contact Information
 - Jianchao Tan: jtan8@gmu.edu
 - Jyh-Ming Lien jmlien@gmu.edu
 - Yotam Gingold: ygingold@gmu.edu
- Project Website (GUI, code, data): <https://cragl.cs.gmu.edu/singleimage/>
- Artists: Adelle Chudleigh; Dani Jones; Karl Northfell; Michelle Lee; Adam Saltsman; Yotam Gingold.
- Sponsors:
 - United States National Science Foundation, Google.

Extra Slides

opacity optimization

image	width × height	runtime (seconds)	RMSE	median error	max error
apple	500 × 453	330.3	1.8	0.0	32.3
bird	640 × 360	500.4	3.7	2.2	60.1
rowboat	589 × 393	981.4	3.3	2.4	19.2
buildings	589 × 393	317.9	2.3	1.4	32.2
cup	400 × 400	40.9	3.0	0.0	34.3
fruit	650 × 414	212.1	1.9	0.0	22.6
girls	589 × 393	152.7	2.4	1.4	29.1
hoover	500 × 500	47.1	3.9	1.0	39.2
light	504 × 538	101.6	2.4	1.0	25.5
robot	450 × 600	519.8	3.5	2.8	14.5
scrooge	410 × 542	97.6	2.6	1.4	15.7
Figure 4	500 × 500	434.3	0.7	0.0	3.3
trees	606 × 404	80.2	5.9	4.2	35.0
turtle	525 × 250	19.5	2.8	1.0	45.4
boat	480 × 600	520.0	4.2	2.2	40.2
castle	747 × 344	280.0	3.7	2.2	45.6
turquoise	480 × 585	498.7	2.0	1.4	17.8
moth	650 × 390	675.1	3.1	1.7	25.7

image	width × height	opacity optimization				Runtime	RMSE
		runtime (seconds)	RMSE	median error	max error		
apple	500 × 453	330.3	1.8	0.0	32.3	39	1.9
bird	640 × 360	500.4	3.7	2.2	60.1	68	3.8
rowboat	589 × 393	981.4	3.3	2.4	19.2	140	4.2
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cup	400 × 400	40.9	3.0	0.0	34.3	21	2.8
fruit	650 × 414	212.1	1.9	0.0	22.6	38	2.0
girls	589 × 393	152.7	2.4	1.4	29.1	49	2.7
hoover	500 × 500	47.1	3.9	1.0	39.2	29	3.9
light	504 × 538	101.6	2.4	1.0	25.5	46	2.3
robot	450 × 600	519.8	3.5	2.8	14.5	50	3.7
scrooge	410 × 542	97.6	2.6	1.4	15.7	38	2.6
Figure 4	500 × 500	434.3	0.7	0.0	3.3	37	1.5
trees	606 × 404	80.2	5.9	4.2	35.0	53	5.8
turtle	525 × 250	19.5	2.8	1.0	45.4	15	2.8
boat	480 × 600	520.0	4.2	2.2	40.2	105	2.2
castle	747 × 344	280.0	3.7	2.2	45.6	66	3.6
turquoise	480 × 585	498.7	2.0	1.4	17.8	129	2.7
moth	650 × 390	675.1	3.1	1.7	25.7	67	3.3

Increase solver's tolerance values

image	width × height	opacity optimization				Increase solver's tolerance values	
		runtime (seconds)	RMSE	median error	max error	Runtime	RMSE
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turquoise	480 × 585	498.7	2.0	1.4	17.8	129	2.7
moth	650 × 390	675.1	3.1	1.7	25.7	67	3.3

Much faster!

Decompose Image into layers

Solve an optimization problem, with some regularization terms

Decompose Image into layers

Solve an optimization problem, with some regularization terms

$$E = w_{\text{polynomial}} E_{\text{polynomial}} + w_{\text{opaque}} E_{\text{opaque}} + w_{\text{spatial}} E_{\text{spatial}}$$

Decompose Image into layers

Solve an optimization problem, with some regularization terms

$$E = w_{\text{polynomial}} E_{\text{polynomial}} + w_{\text{opaque}} E_{\text{opaque}} + w_{\text{spatial}} E_{\text{spatial}}$$

$$E_{\text{polynomial}} = \left\| \mathbf{c}_n - \mathbf{p} + \sum_{i=1}^n \left[(\mathbf{c}_{i-1} - \mathbf{c}_i) \prod_{j=i}^n (1 - \alpha_j) \right] \right\|^2$$

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Solve an optimization problem, with some regularization terms

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$$E_{\text{opaque}} = \frac{1}{n} \sum_{i=1}^n -(1 - \alpha_i)^2$$

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$$E_{\text{spatial}} = \frac{1}{n} \sum_{i=1}^n (\nabla \alpha_i)^2$$

Decompose Image into layers

Solve an optimization problem, with some regularization terms

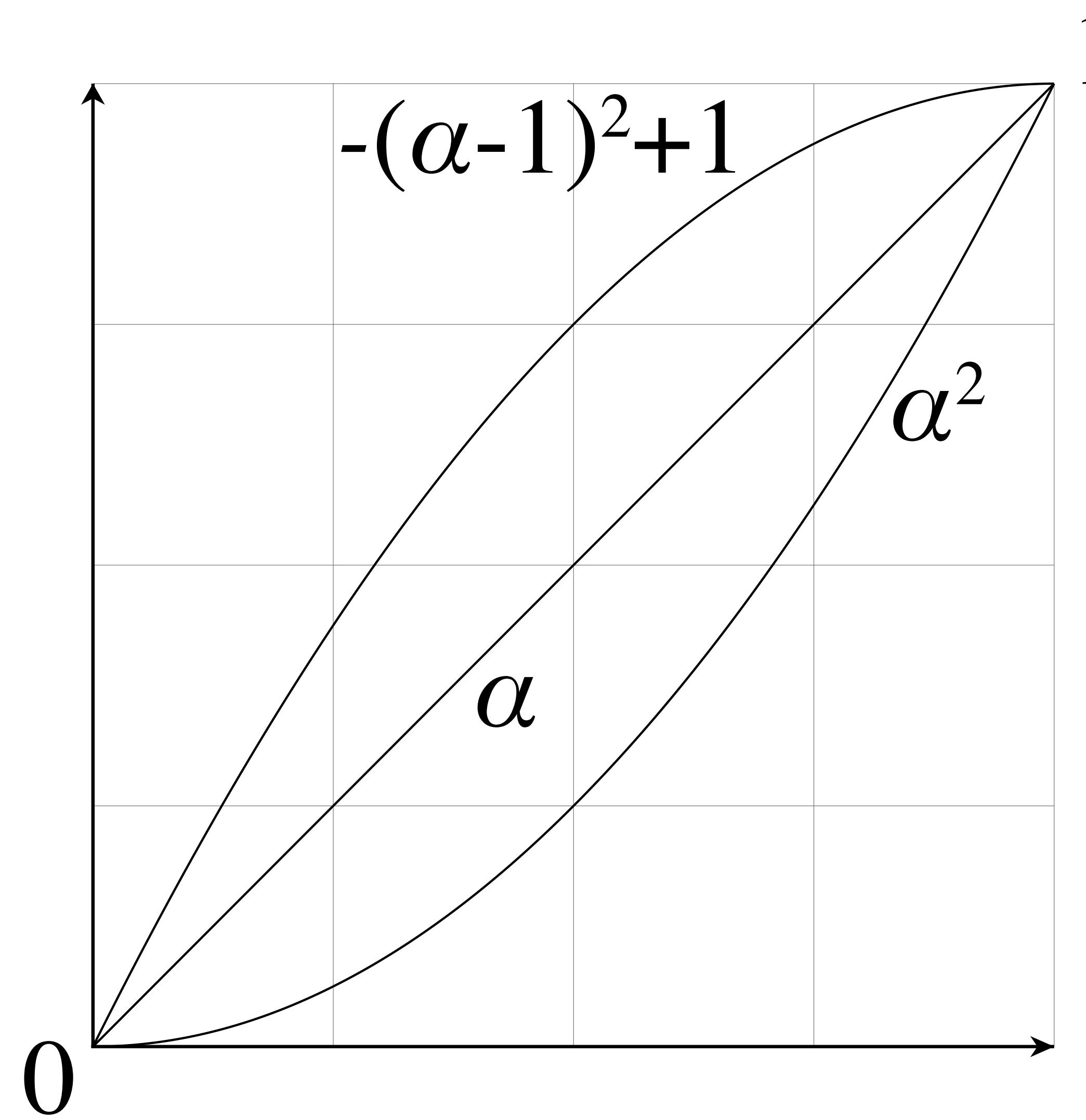
$$E = w_{\text{polynomial}} E_{\text{polynomial}} + w_{\text{opaque}} E_{\text{opaque}} + w_{\text{spatial}} E_{\text{spatial}}$$

$$E_{\text{polynomial}} = \left\| \mathbf{c}_n - \mathbf{p} + \sum_{i=1}^n \left[(\mathbf{c}_{i-1} - \mathbf{c}_i) \prod_{j=i}^n (1 - \alpha_j) \right] \right\|^2$$

$$E_{\text{opaque}} = \frac{1}{n} \sum_{i=1}^n -(1 - \alpha_i)^2$$

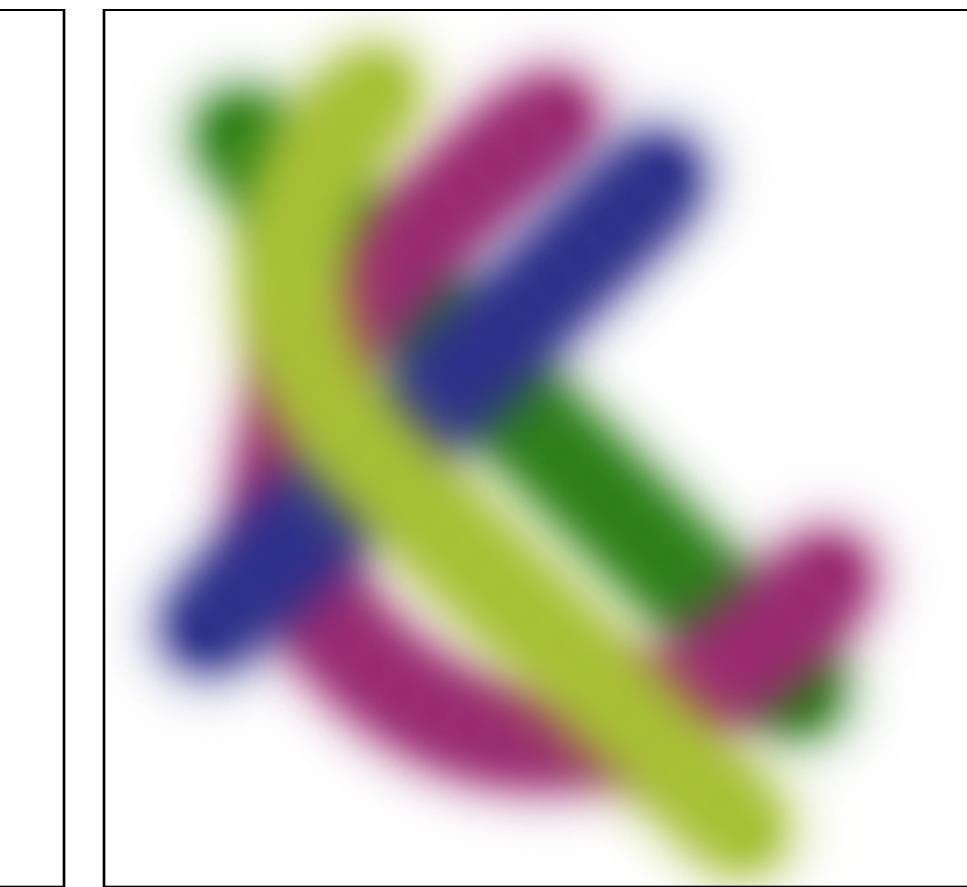
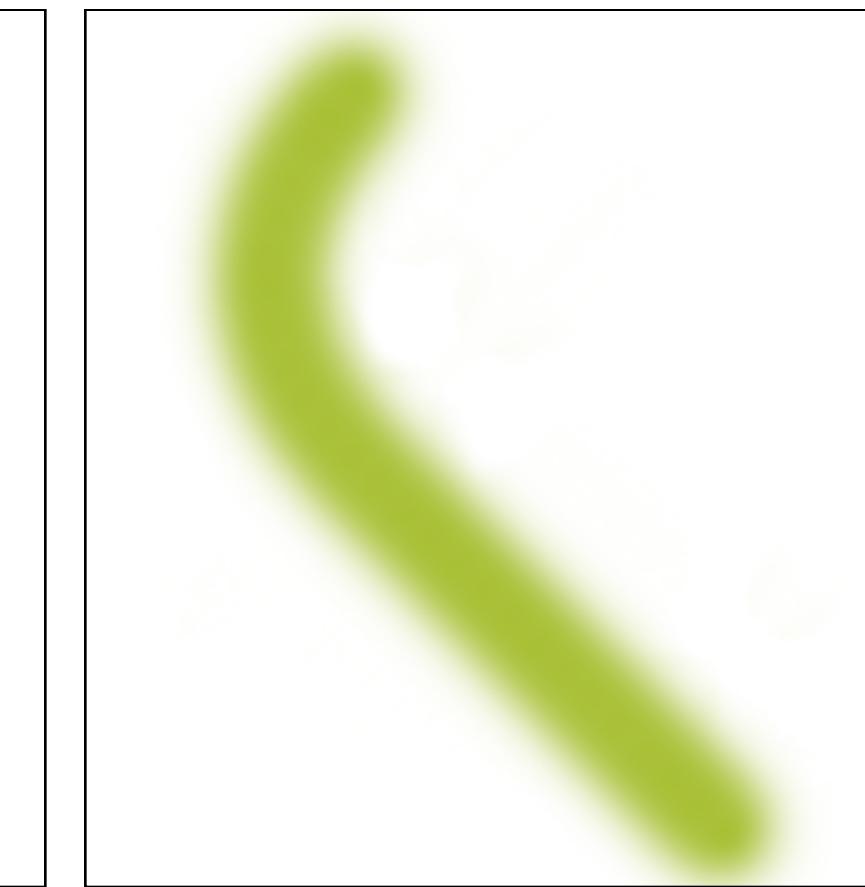
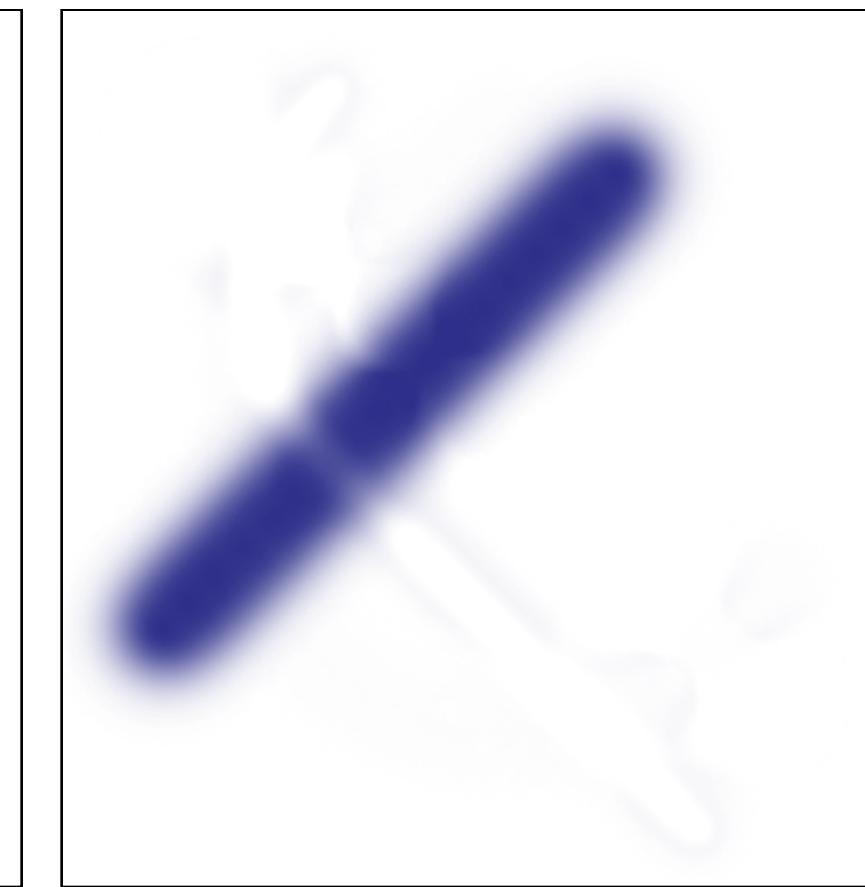
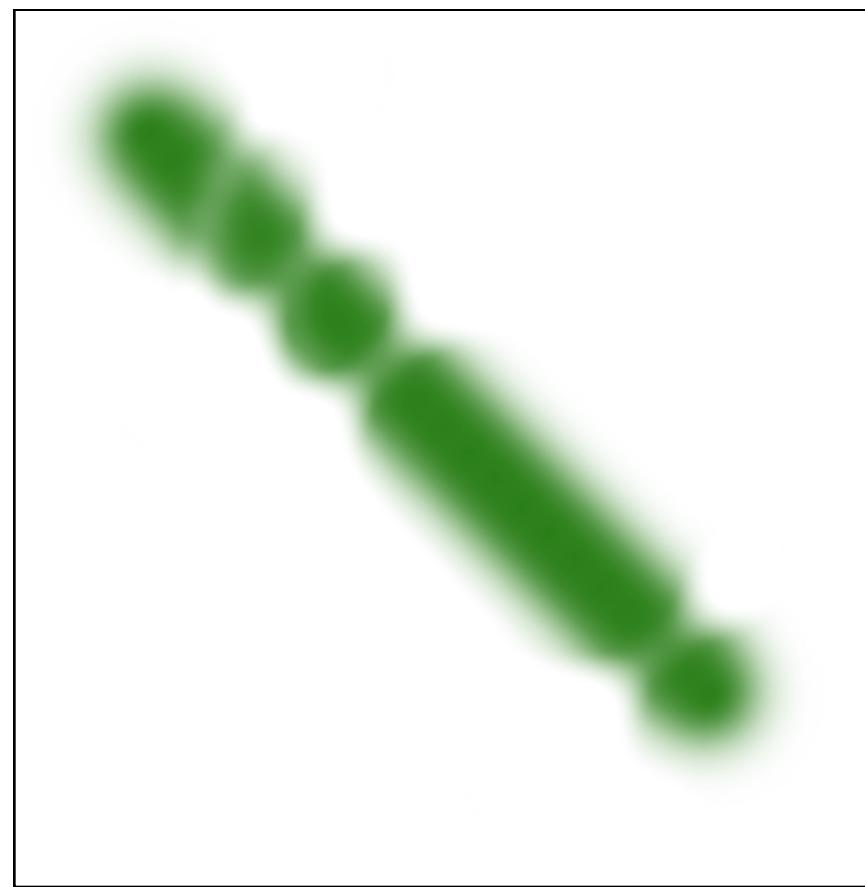
$$E_{\text{spatial}} = \frac{1}{n} \sum_{i=1}^n (\nabla \alpha_i)^2 \quad w_{\text{polynomial}} = 375, w_{\text{opaque}} = 1, w_{\text{spatial}} = 100.$$

Our sparse regularization term

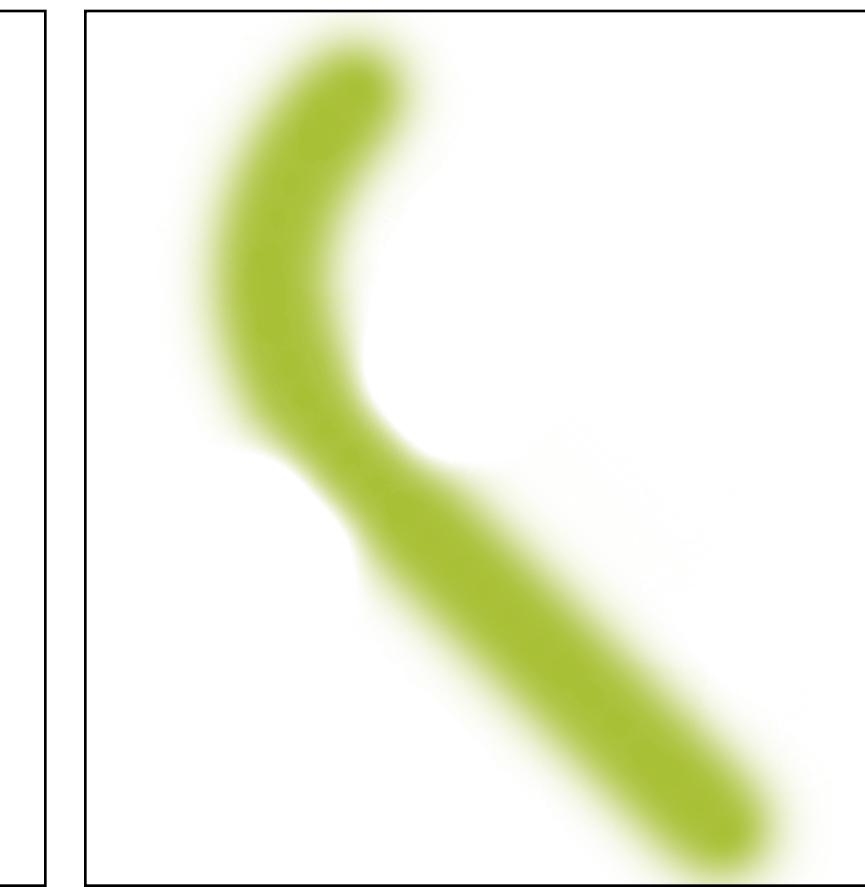
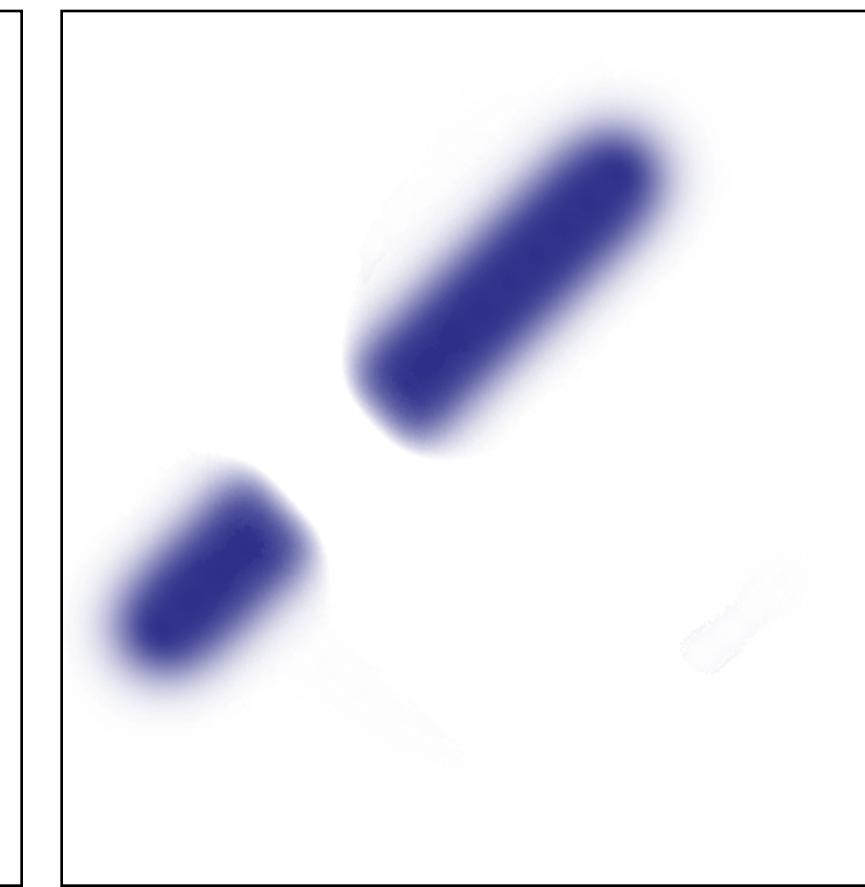
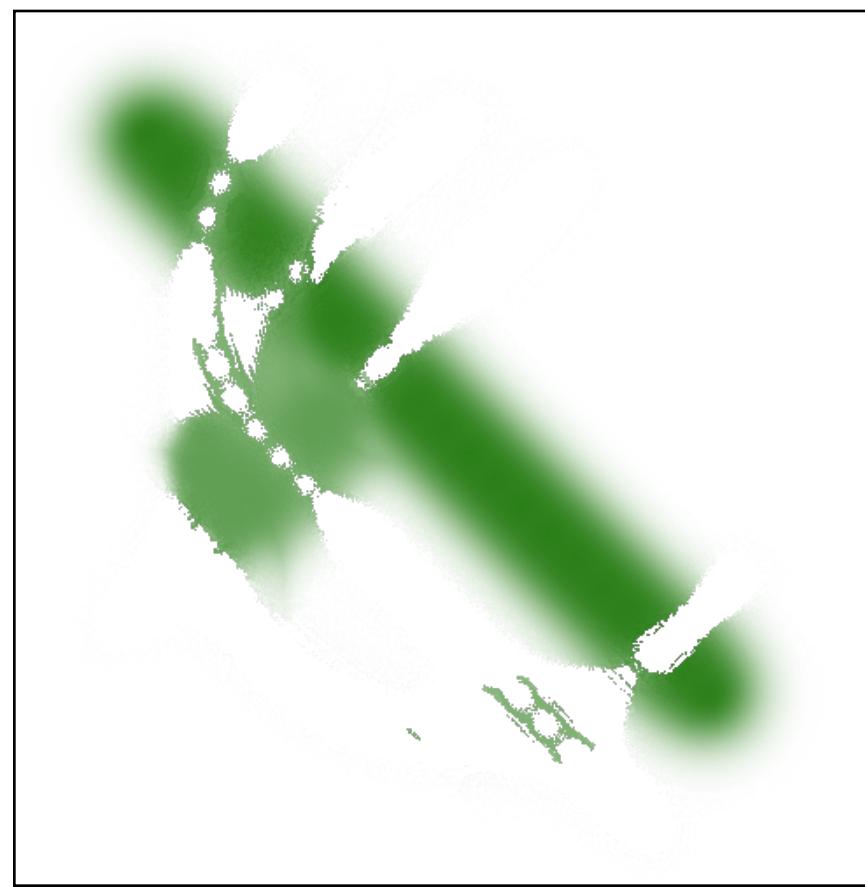


As-sparse-as-possible(ASAP)

Ours

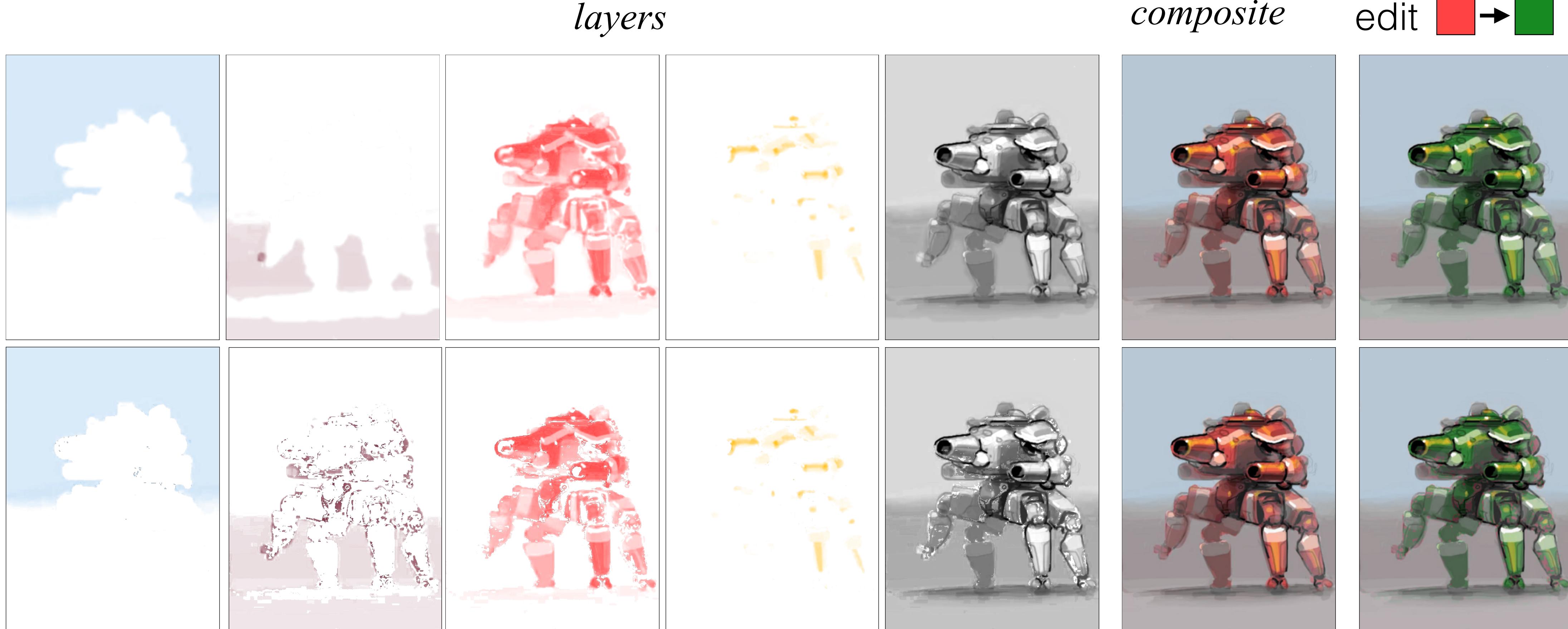


ASAP



As-sparse-as-possible(ASAP)

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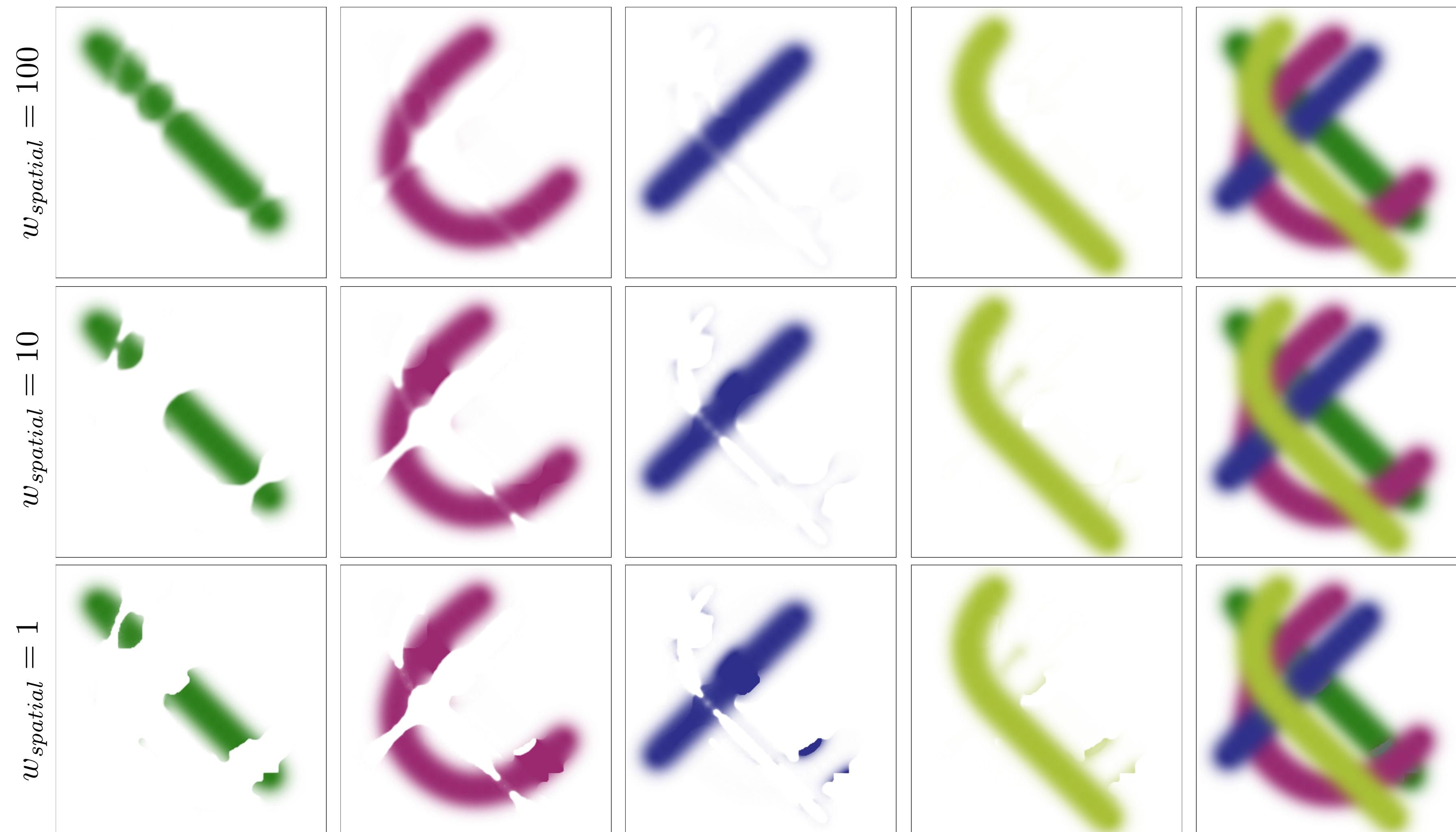
optimization parameters influence

adjusting w_{opaque}

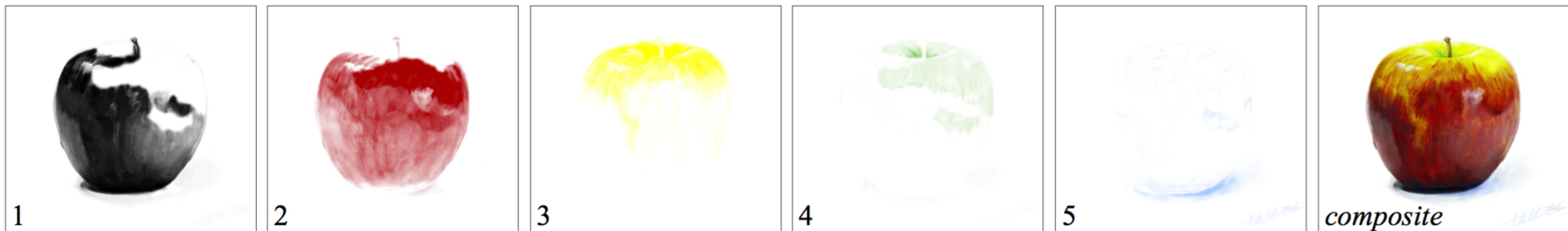


optimization parameters influence

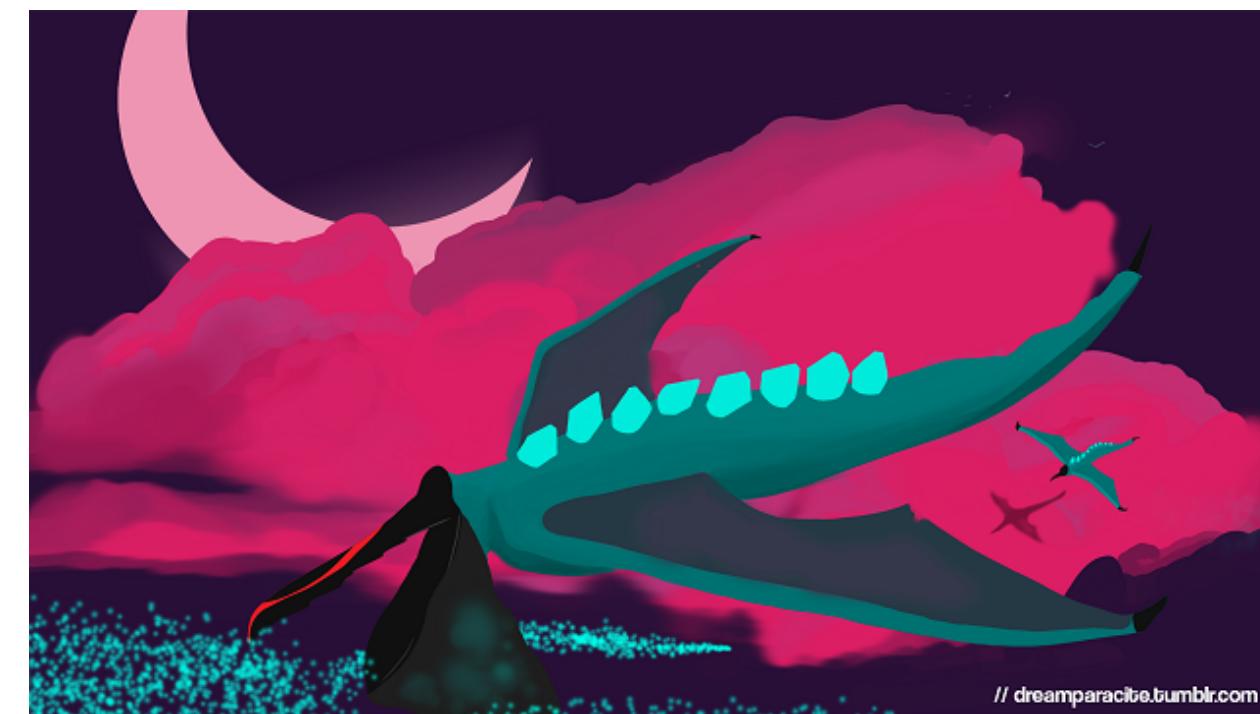
adjusting $w_{spatial}$



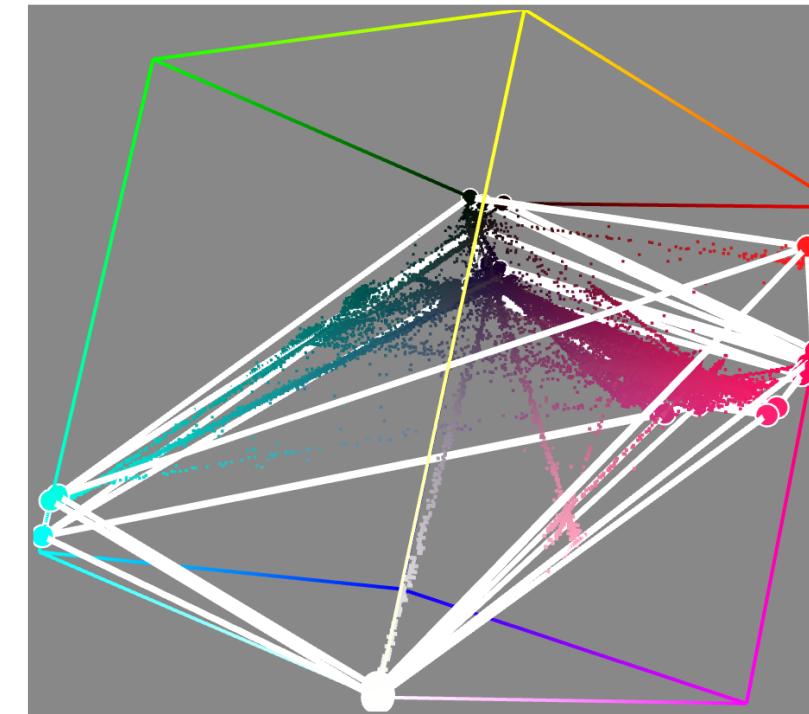
Layer order influence



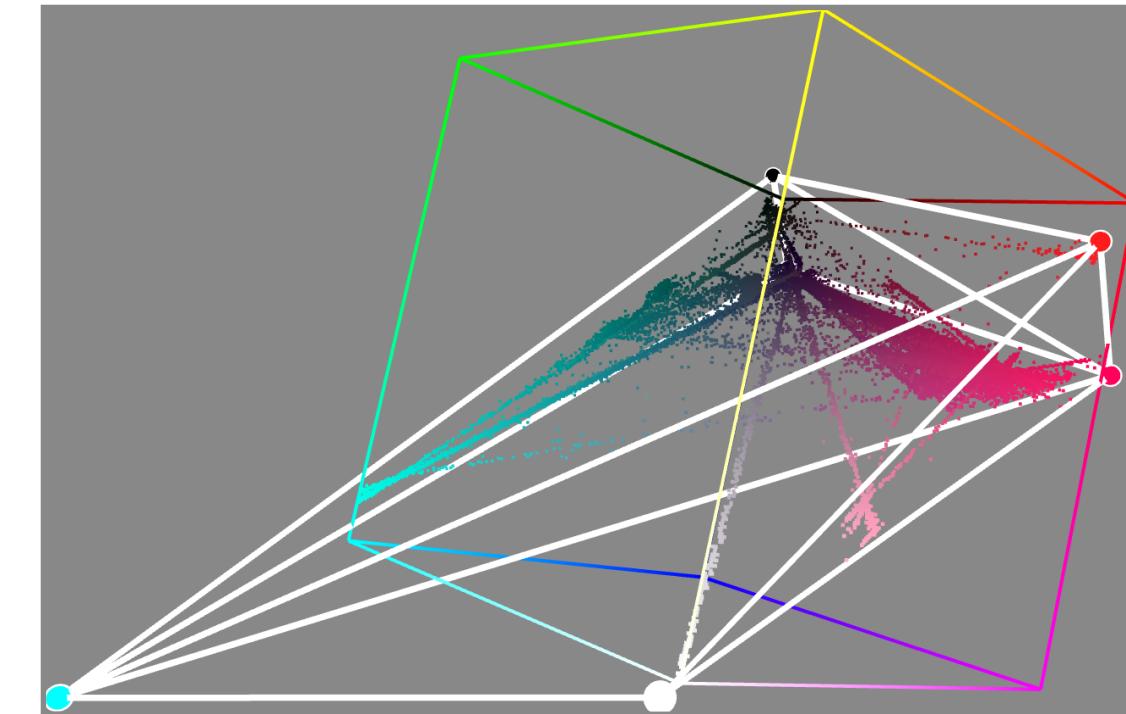
Post vertex brute force optimization led to an improvement in vertex positions.



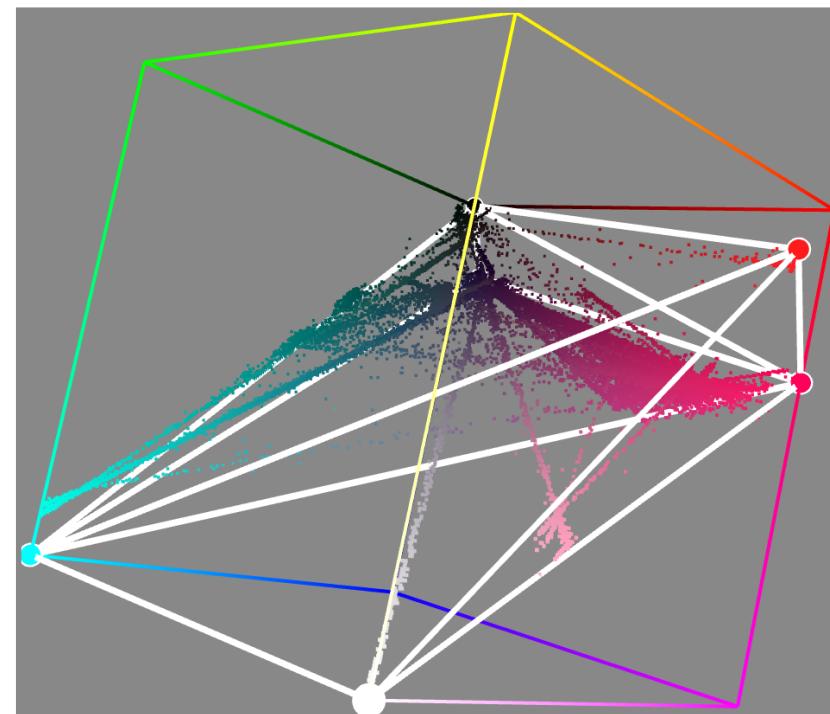
input image



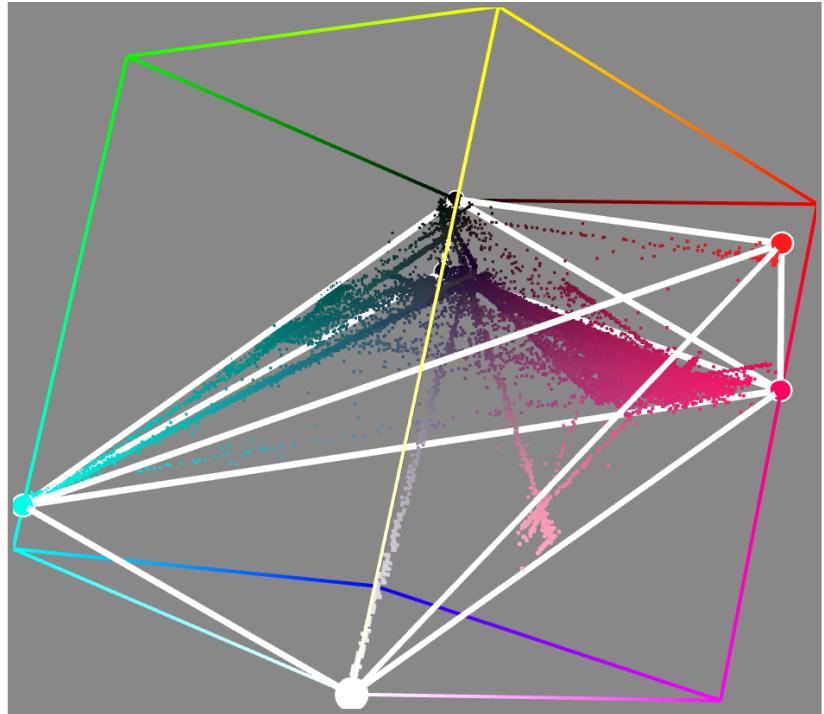
convex hull



*simplified hull with
invalid colors*



projected hull



optimized hull

Extract additive mixing layers using our
optimization

Extract additive mixing layers using our optimization

$$\mathbf{E} = \frac{\|\text{original} - \text{reconstructed image}\|^2}{\sum -(1 - w_{ij})^2} + \frac{\text{Per pixel mixing weights sparsity}}{\sum ||P_i - w_{ij}C_j||^2} + \frac{\text{Mixing weights spatial smoothness (Laplacian)}}{\sum ||P_i - w_{ij}C_j||^2}$$

Spectral Matting [Levin et al. 2008]

input



1



2



3



4



5



best alpha matte



6



7



8



9



k-means