

# Differentiable Rendering 3

UCSD CSE 272  
Advanced Image Synthesis

Tzu-Mao Li

# Today: interior derivatives

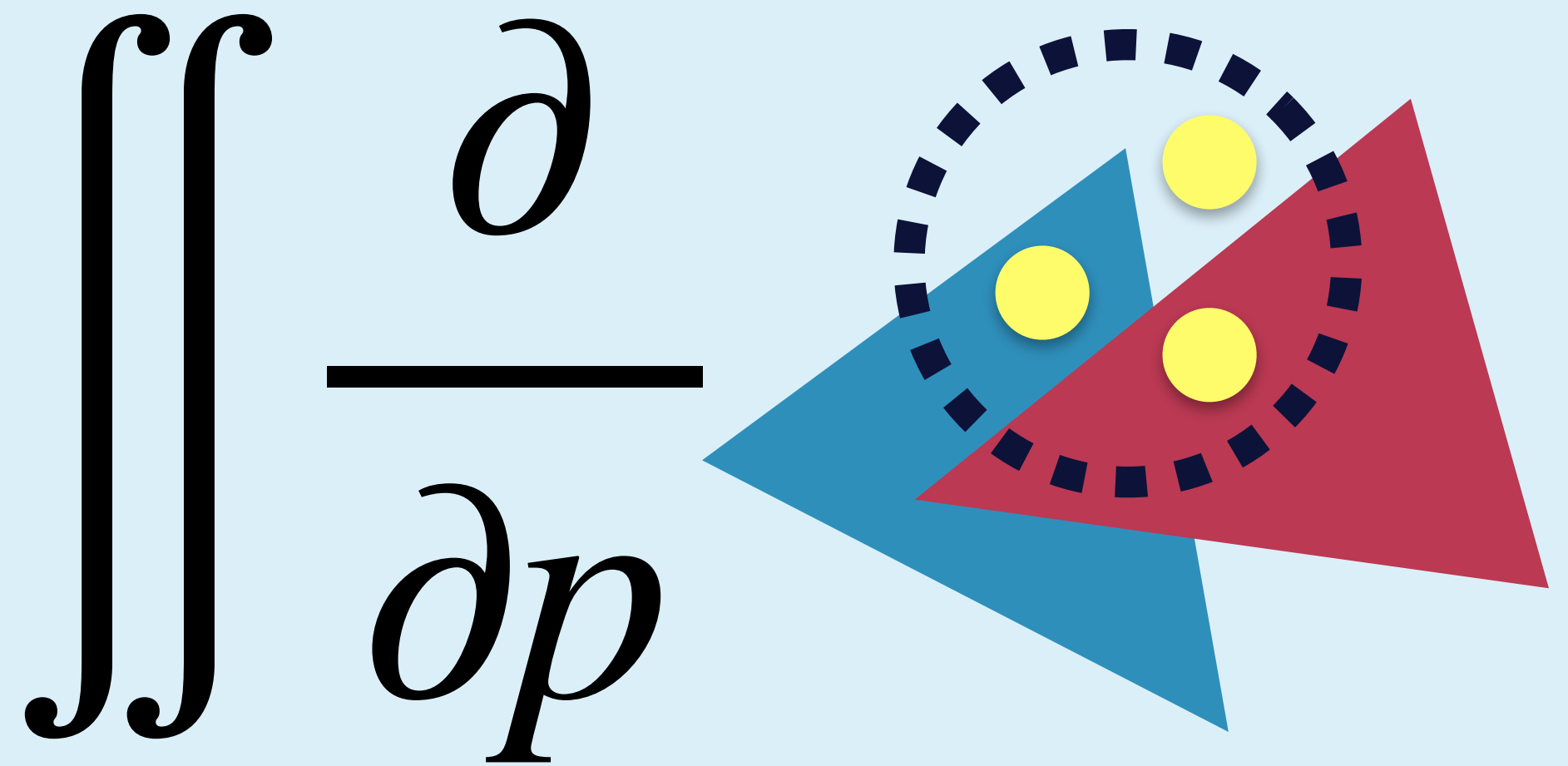
$$\frac{\partial}{\partial p} \iint \text{[diagram]} = \iint \frac{\partial}{\partial p} \text{[diagram]} + \int \text{[diagram]}$$

interior derivative

boundary derivative

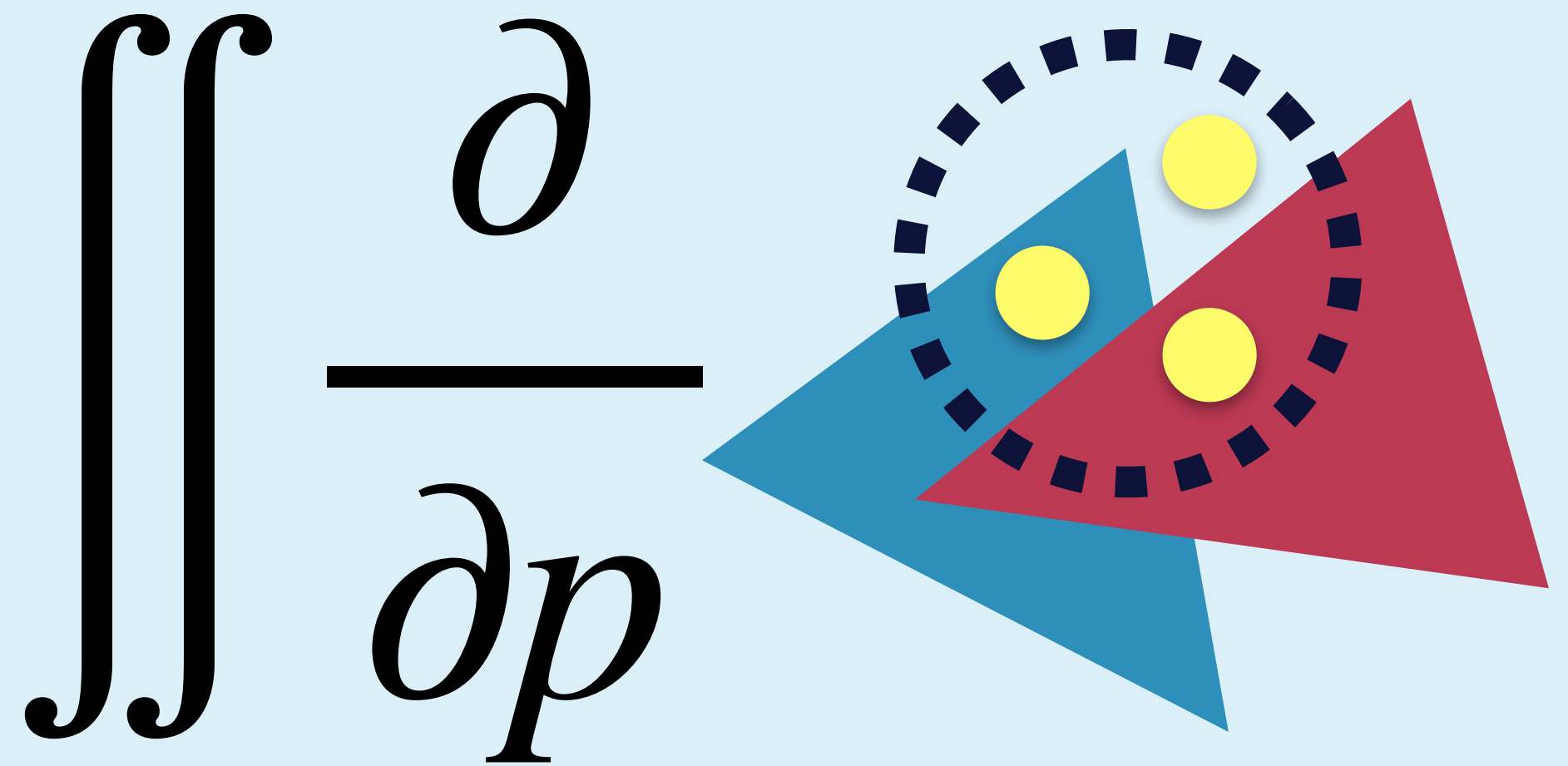
Reynolds transport theorem  
[Reynolds 1903]

# Two challenges of computing the interior derivatives



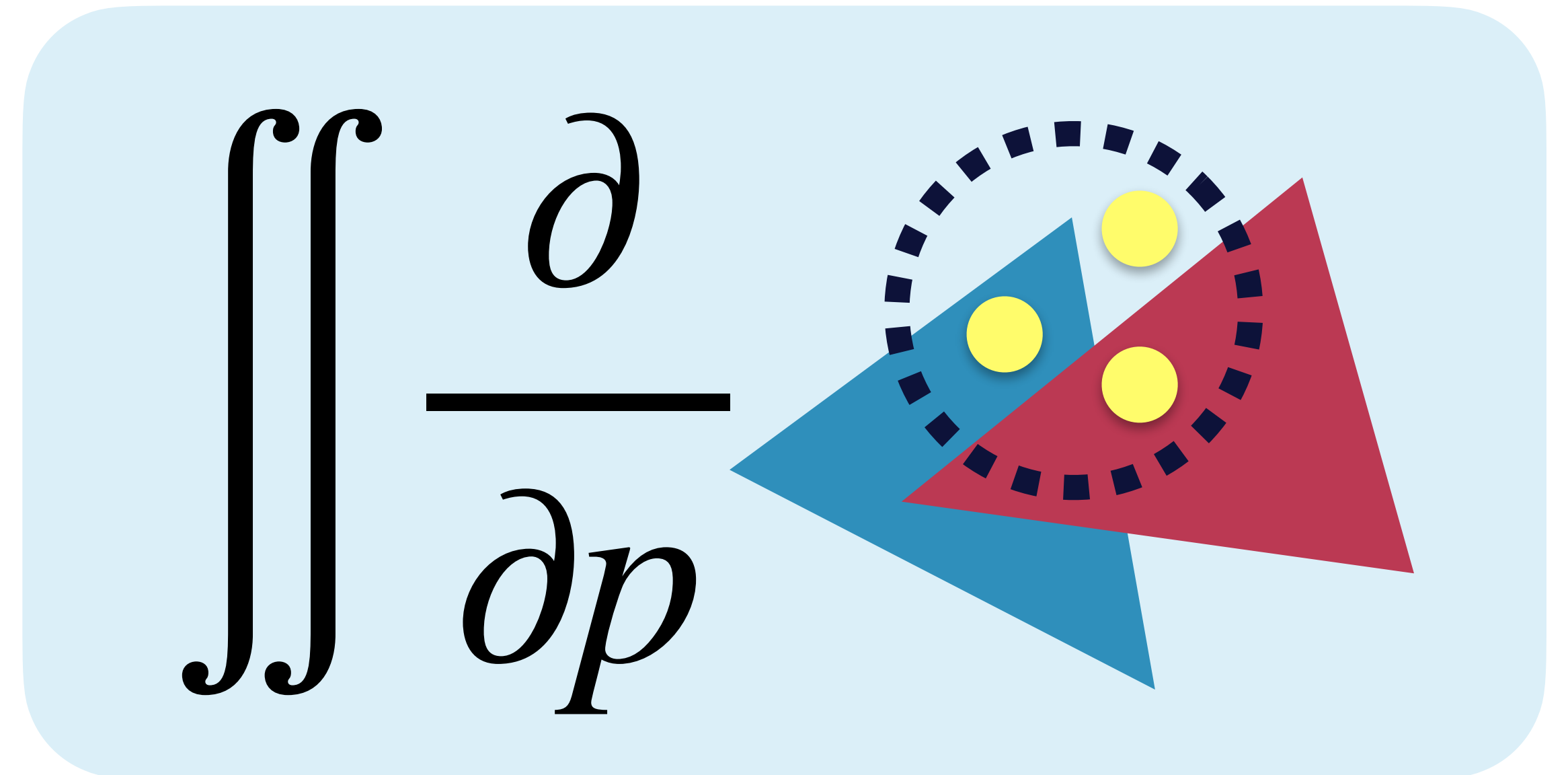
# Two challenges of computing the interior derivatives

- importance sampling of forward rendering  
may not be a good strategy for differentiable rendering



# Two challenges of computing the interior derivatives

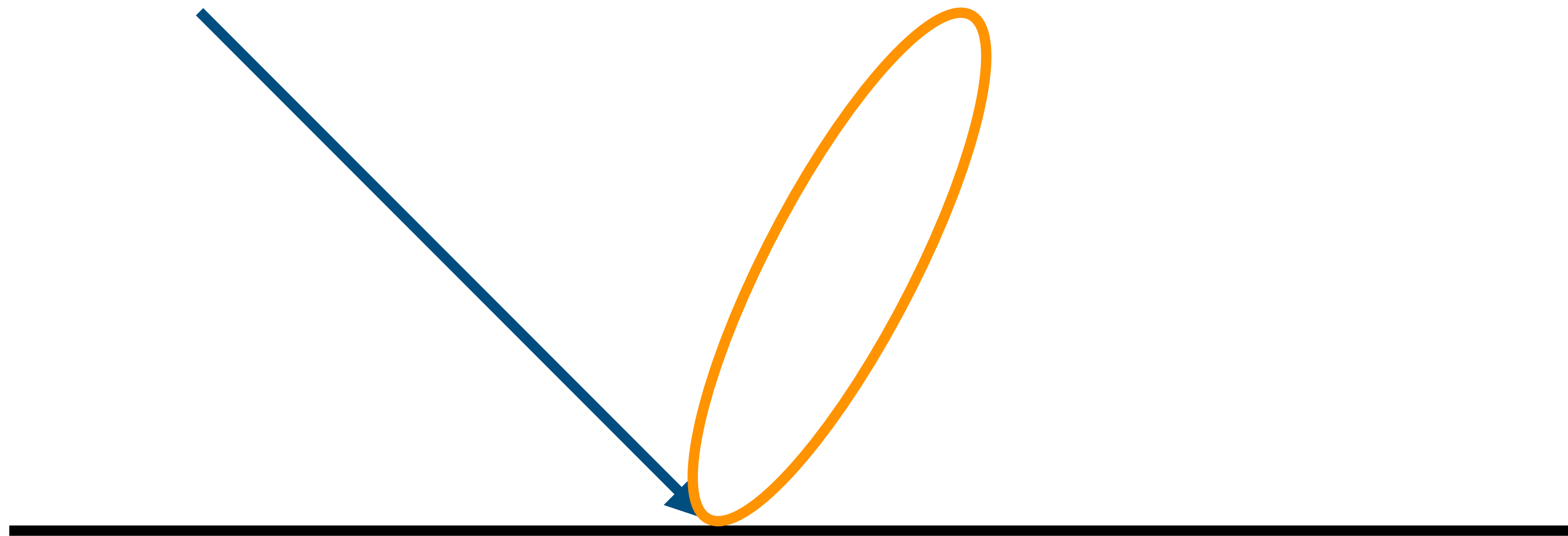
- importance sampling of forward rendering may not be a good strategy for differentiable rendering
- reverse-mode autodiff can lead to high memory consumption



# Importance sampling in differentiable rendering

**quiz:** how did we do it in a forward path tracer? how should we do it in differentiable rendering?

sampling outgoing direction



# Change of variable vs differentiation

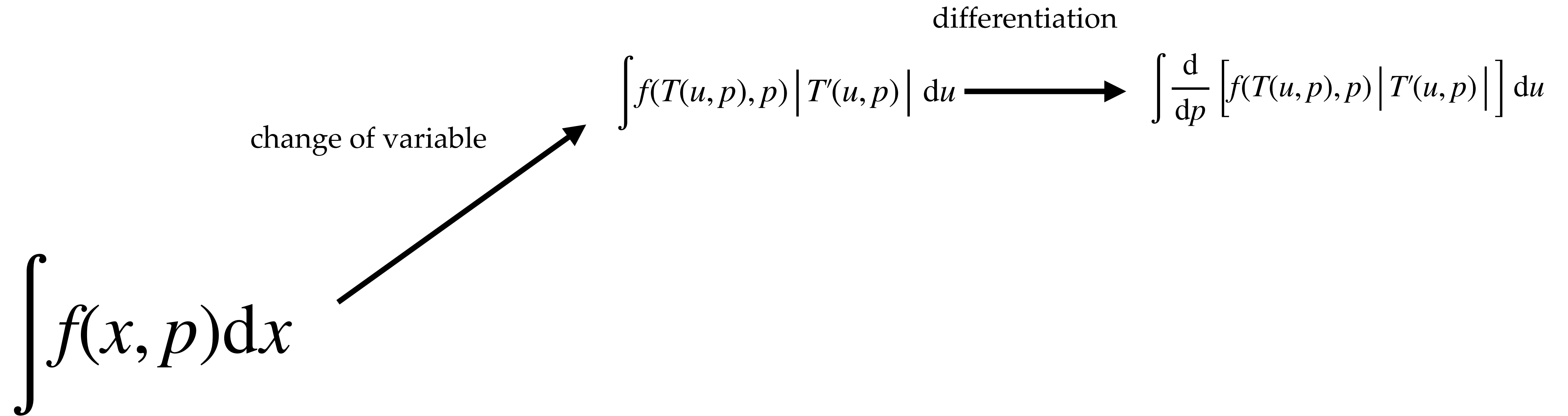
$$\int f(x, p) dx$$

# Change of variable vs differentiation

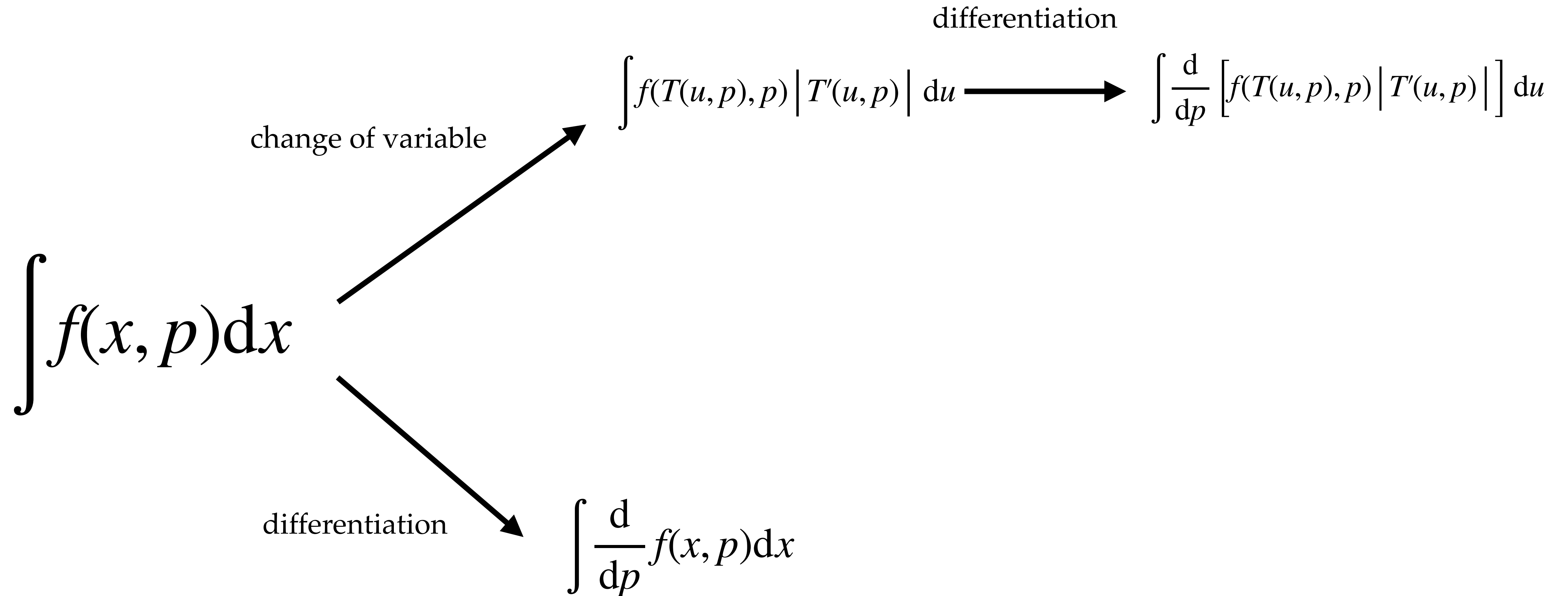
$$\int f(x, p) dx \xrightarrow{\text{change of variable}} \int f(T(u, p), p) |T'(u, p)| du$$



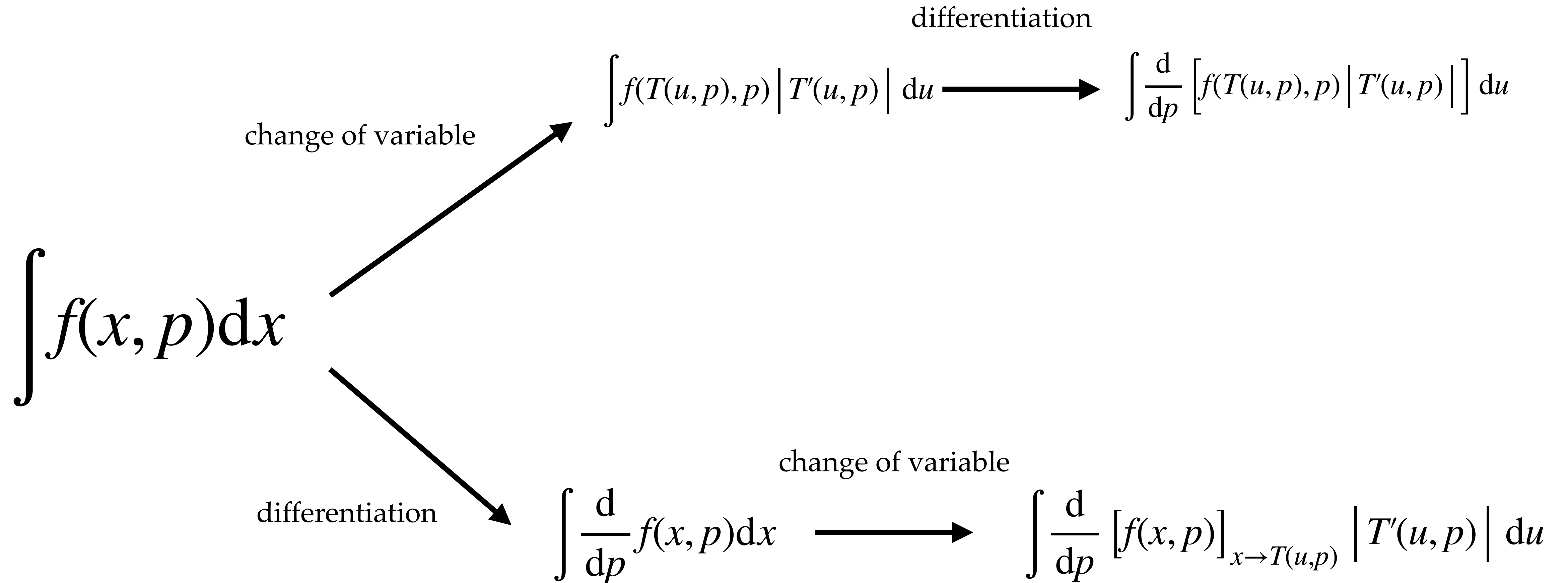
# Change of variable vs differentiation



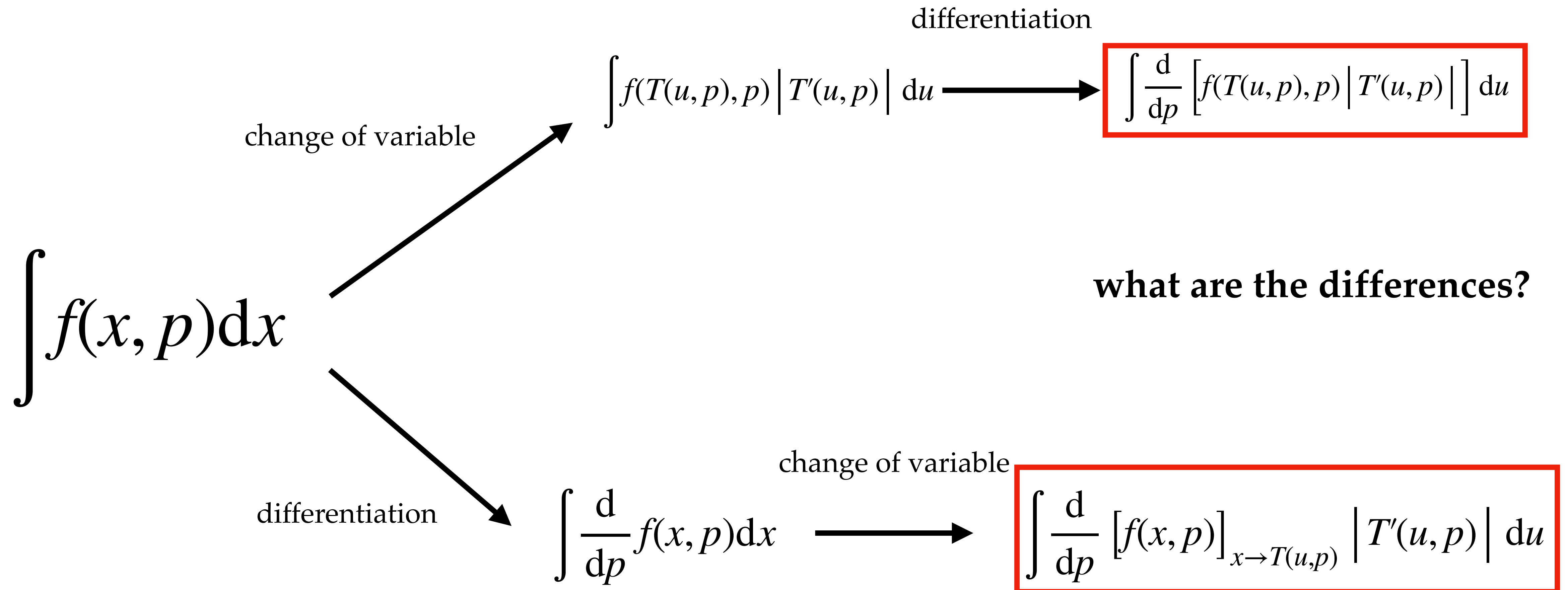
# Change of variable vs differentiation



# Change of variable vs differentiation



# Change of variable vs differentiation



# There are many different ways to evaluate interior derivatives!

- open questions
  - when should we use which one? how do we choose “T”?
  - how to do multiple importance sampling?

$$\int \frac{d}{dp} [f(x, p)]_{x \rightarrow T(u, p)} |T'(u, p)| du$$

differentiate-then-reparametrize  
(aka “detached”)

$$\int \frac{d}{dp} [f(T(u, p), p) |T'(u, p)|] du$$

reparametrize-then-differentiate  
(aka “attached”)

$$\int \left[ \frac{d}{dp} [f(T(u, p), p) |T'(u, p)|] \right]_{u \rightarrow \hat{T}(v, p)} dv$$

(no one has done this yet)

reparametrize-then-differentiate-then-reparametrize

# Differentiate-then-reparametrize: reusing T from forward rendering can be bad

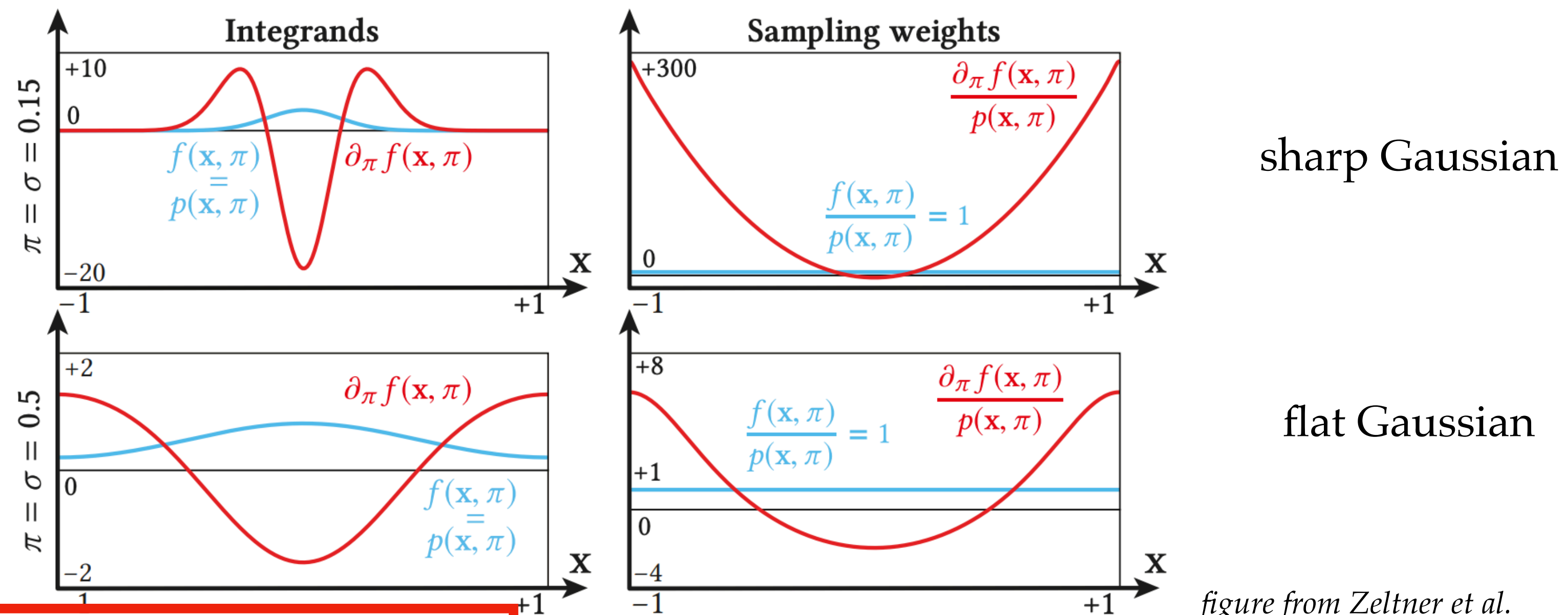


figure from Zeltner et al.

$$\int \frac{d}{dp} [f(x, p)]_{x \rightarrow T(u, p)} |T'(u, p)| du$$

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(aka "detached")

$$\int \frac{d}{dp} [f(T(u, p), p) |T'(u, p)|] du$$

reparametrize-then-differentiate  
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# Reparametrize-then-differentiate: not perfect either

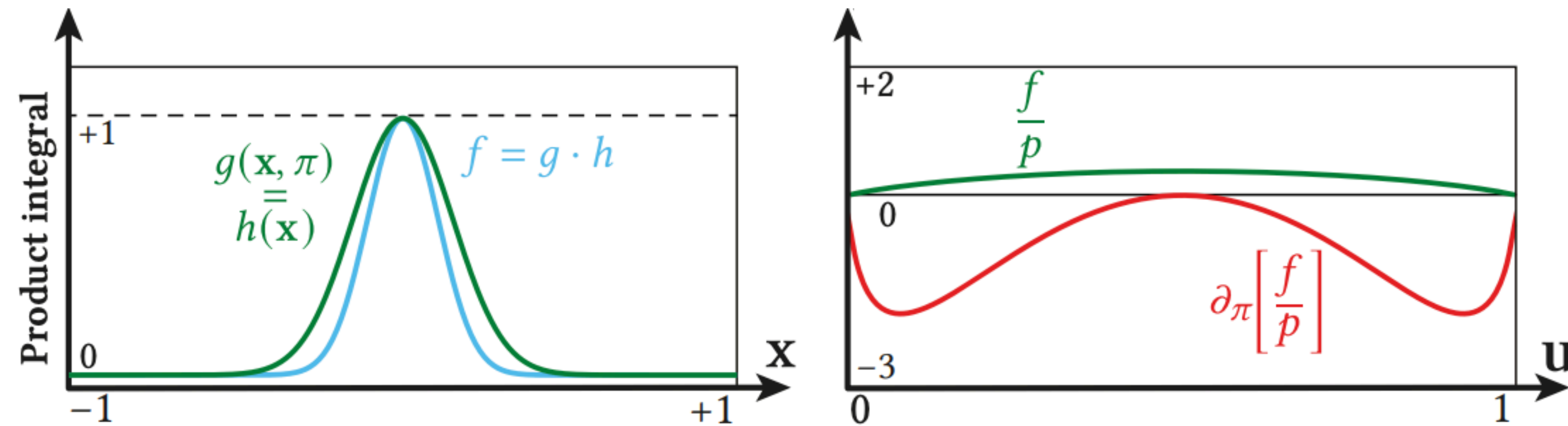


figure from Zeltner et al.

$$\int \frac{d}{dp} [f(x, p)]_{x \rightarrow T(u, p)} |T'(u, p)| du$$

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# Reparametrize-then-differentiate: need to deal with discontinuities!

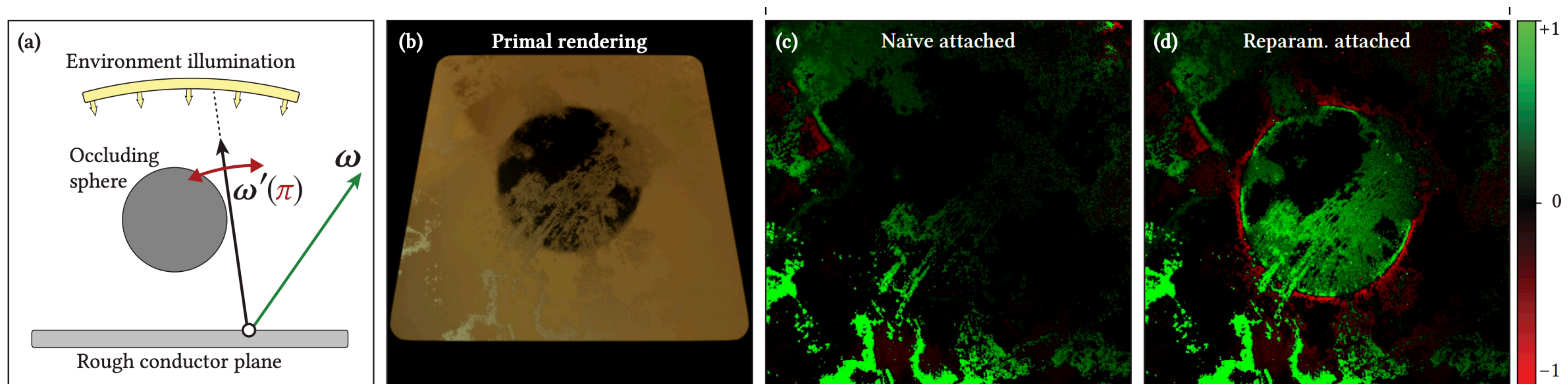


figure from Zeltner et al.

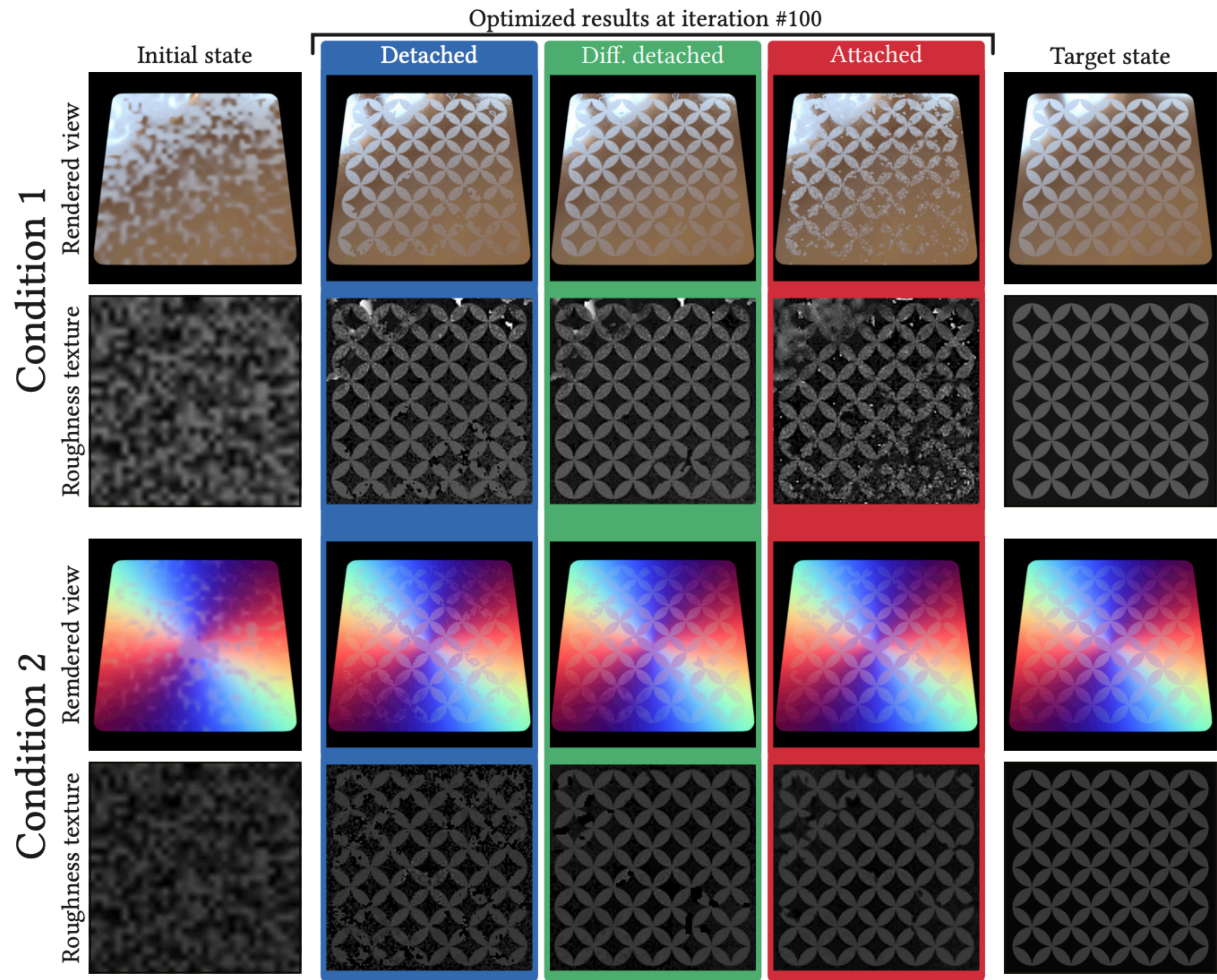
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(aka "detached")

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# Transmittance sampling in differentiable rendering

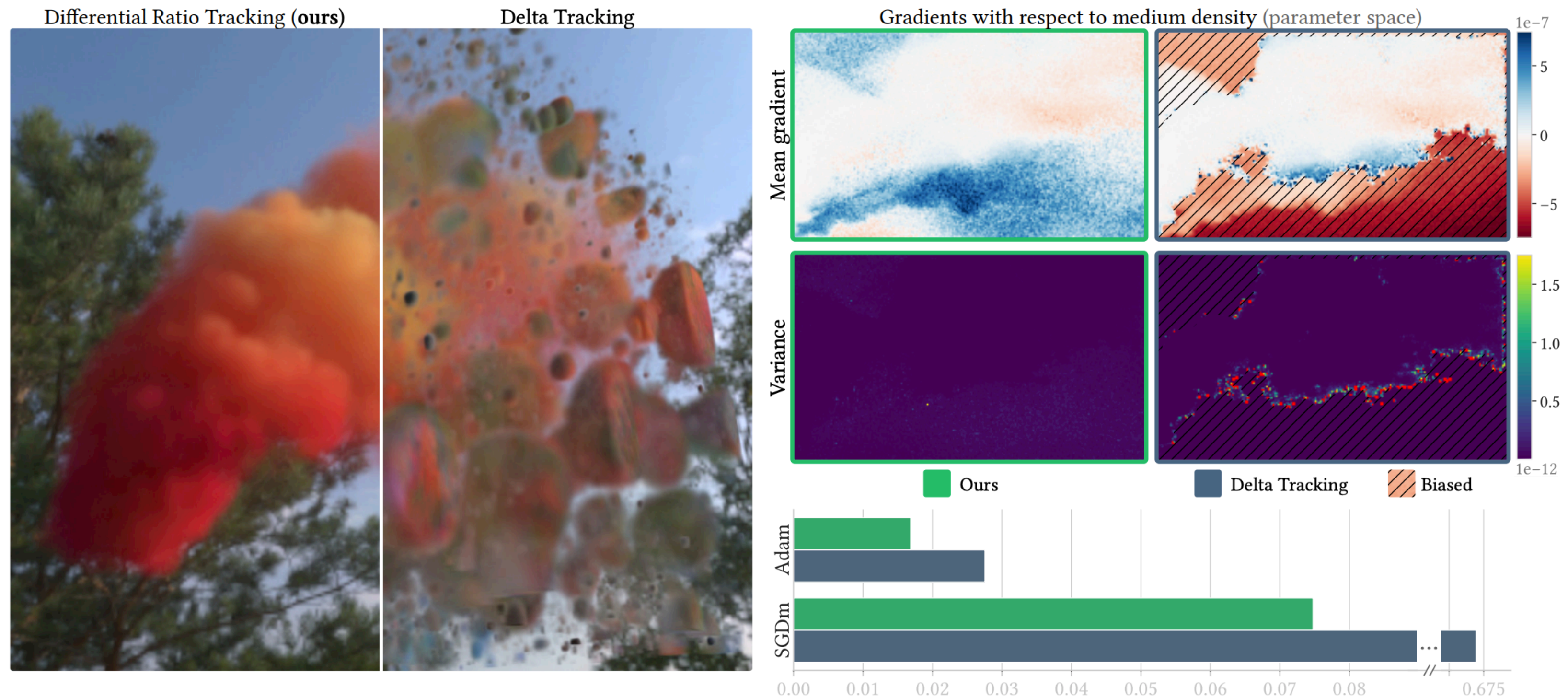
## Unbiased Inverse Volume Rendering with Differential Trackers

MERLIN NIMIER-DAVID, École Polytechnique Fédérale de Lausanne (EPFL), Switzerland

THOMAS MÜLLER, NVIDIA, Switzerland

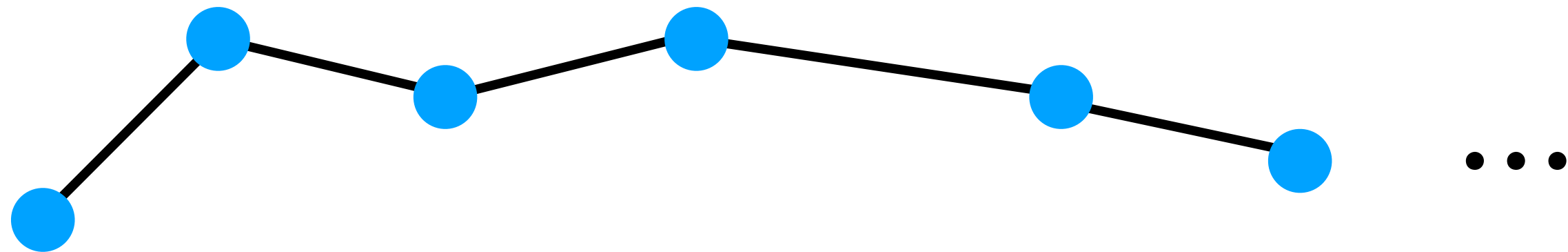
ALEXANDER KELLER, NVIDIA, Germany

WENZEL JAKOB, École Polytechnique Fédérale de Lausanne (EPFL), Switzerland



# Memory consumption

- reverse-mode automatic differentiation requires us to memorize the whole light path
- same reason why training deep networks needs lots of GPU memory!



```
function d_f(x):  
    result = x  
    results = []  
    for i = 1 to 8:  
        results.push(result)  
        result = exp(result)  
  
    for i = 8 to 1:  
        d_results = d_result *  
            exp(results[i])  
    return result
```

# Two solutions for memory consumption

$$\int \frac{d}{dp} [f(x, p)]_{x \rightarrow T(u, p)} |T'(u, p)| du$$

differentiate-then-reparametrize

$$\int \frac{d}{dp} \left[ f(T(u, p), p) |T'(u, p)| \right] du$$

reparametrize-then-differentiate

# Rendering equation: products of BRDFs

$$L = f_0 f_1 f_2 \cdots L_e$$

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product rule

$$\nabla L = \nabla f_0 f_1 f_2 \cdots L_e + f_0 \nabla f_1 f_2 \cdots L_e + f_0 f_1 \nabla f_2 \cdots L_e \cdots$$

naive evaluation:  $O(n^2)$

# Rendering equation: products of BRDFs

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$$\nabla L = \nabla f_0 f_1 f_2 \cdots L_e + f_0 \nabla f_1 f_2 \cdots L_e + f_0 f_1 \nabla f_2 \cdots L_e \cdots$$

reverse-mode = caching shared terms (need to store  $F_0$  to  $F_n$ )

time complexity:  $O(n)$

memory complexity:  $O(n)$

$$F_0 = f_1 f_2 \cdots L_e \quad F_1 = f_0 f_2 \cdots L_e \quad \nabla L = \nabla f_0 F_0 + \nabla f_1 F_1 + \nabla f_2 F_2 \cdots$$

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$$\nabla L = \nabla f_0 f_1 f_2 \cdots L_e + f_0 \nabla f_1 f_2 \cdots L_e + f_0 f_1 \nabla f_2 \cdots L_e \cdots$$

$$= \nabla f_0 \frac{L}{f_0} + \nabla f_1 \frac{L}{f_1} + \nabla f_2 \frac{L}{f_2} \cdots$$

time complexity:  $O(n)$   
memory complexity:  $O(1)$

instead of caching: reconstruct shared terms from L



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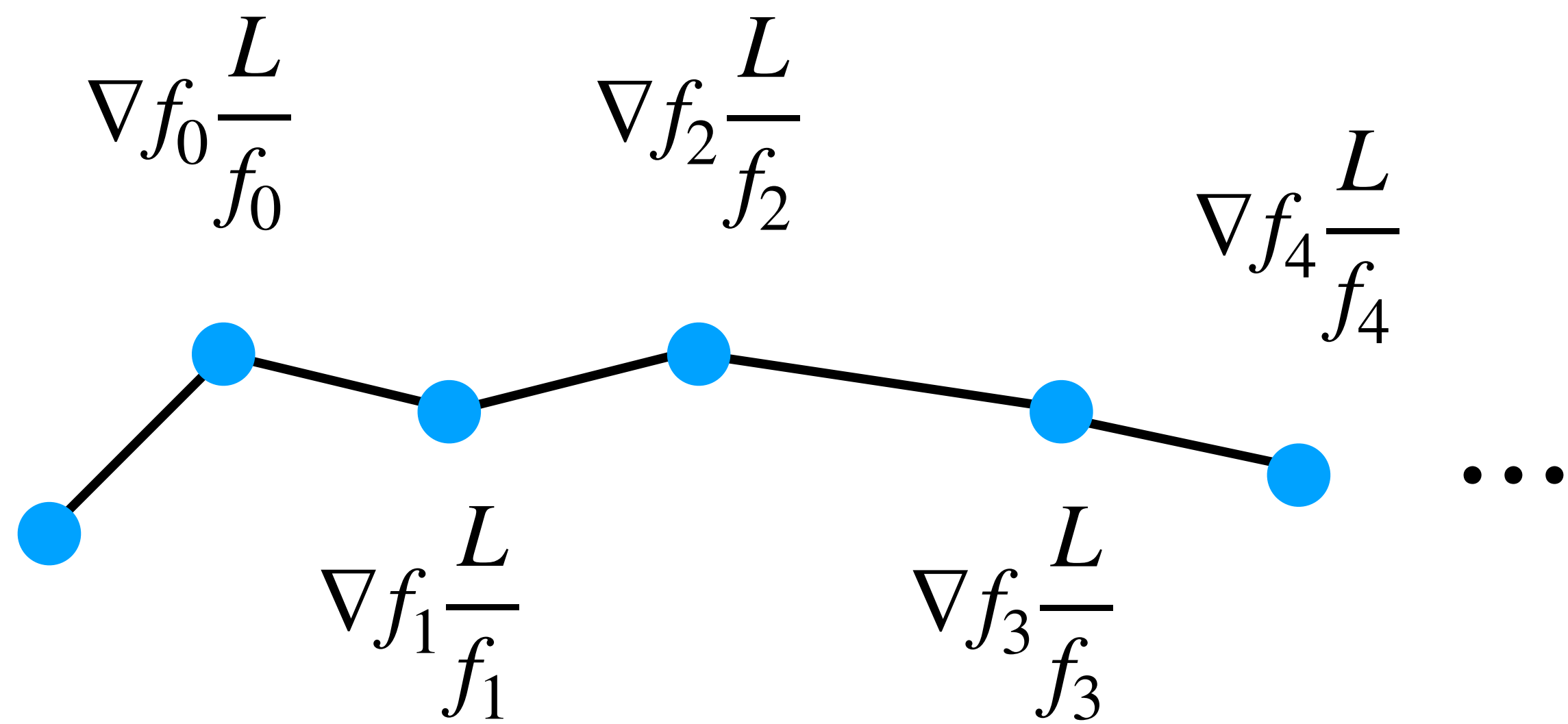
$$\nabla L = \nabla f_0 f_1 f_2 \cdots L_e + f_0 \nabla f_1 f_2 \cdots L_e + f_0 f_1 \nabla f_2 \cdots L_e \cdots$$

$$= \nabla f_0 \frac{L}{f_0} + \nabla f_1 \frac{L}{f_1} + \nabla f_2 \frac{L}{f_2} \cdots$$

time complexity:  $O(n)$   
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instead of caching: reconstruct shared terms from L

# Efficient derivative in constant memory



$$\nabla L = \nabla f_0 \frac{L}{f_0} + \nabla f_1 \frac{L}{f_1} + \nabla f_2 \frac{L}{f_2} \dots$$

# Two solutions for memory consumption

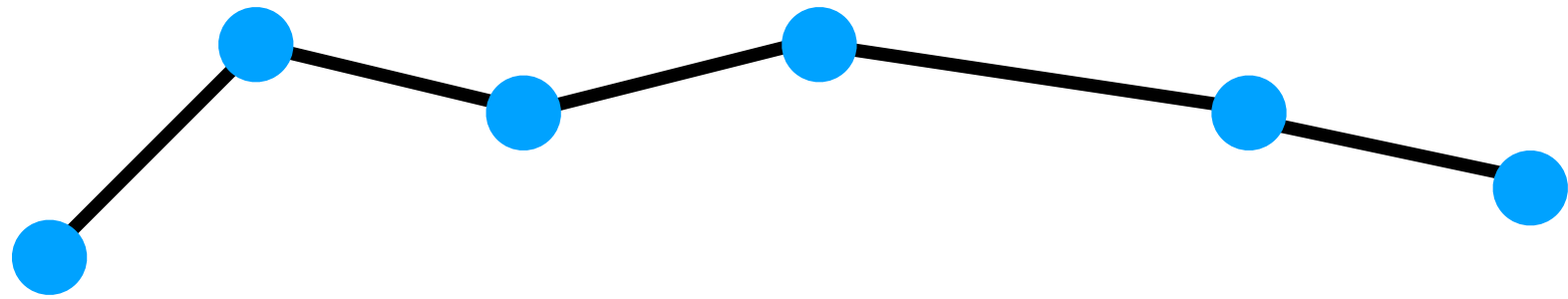
$$\int \frac{d}{dp} [f(x, p)]_{x \rightarrow T(u, p)} |T'(u, p)| du$$

differentiate-then-reparametrize

$$\int \frac{d}{dp} [f(T(u, p), p) |T'(u, p)|] du$$

reparametrize-then-differentiate

Reparametrize-then-differentiate  
requires us to differentiate through sampling



$$\int \frac{d}{dp} \left[ f(T(u, p), p) |T'(u, p)| \right] du$$

$$\omega' = \text{sample\_bsdf}(\omega, u, p)$$

# Review: reverse-mode autodiff

```
f(x, y):  
  a = g(x, y)  
  b = h(a)  
  return b
```

```
Df(x, y,  $\frac{dL}{db}$ ):  
  a = g(x, y)  
  b = h(a)  
   $\frac{dL}{da} = Dh(a, \frac{dL}{db})$   
   $\frac{dL}{dx}, \frac{dL}{dy} = Dg(x, y, \frac{dL}{da})$   
  return b,  $\frac{dL}{dx}, \frac{dL}{dy}$ 
```

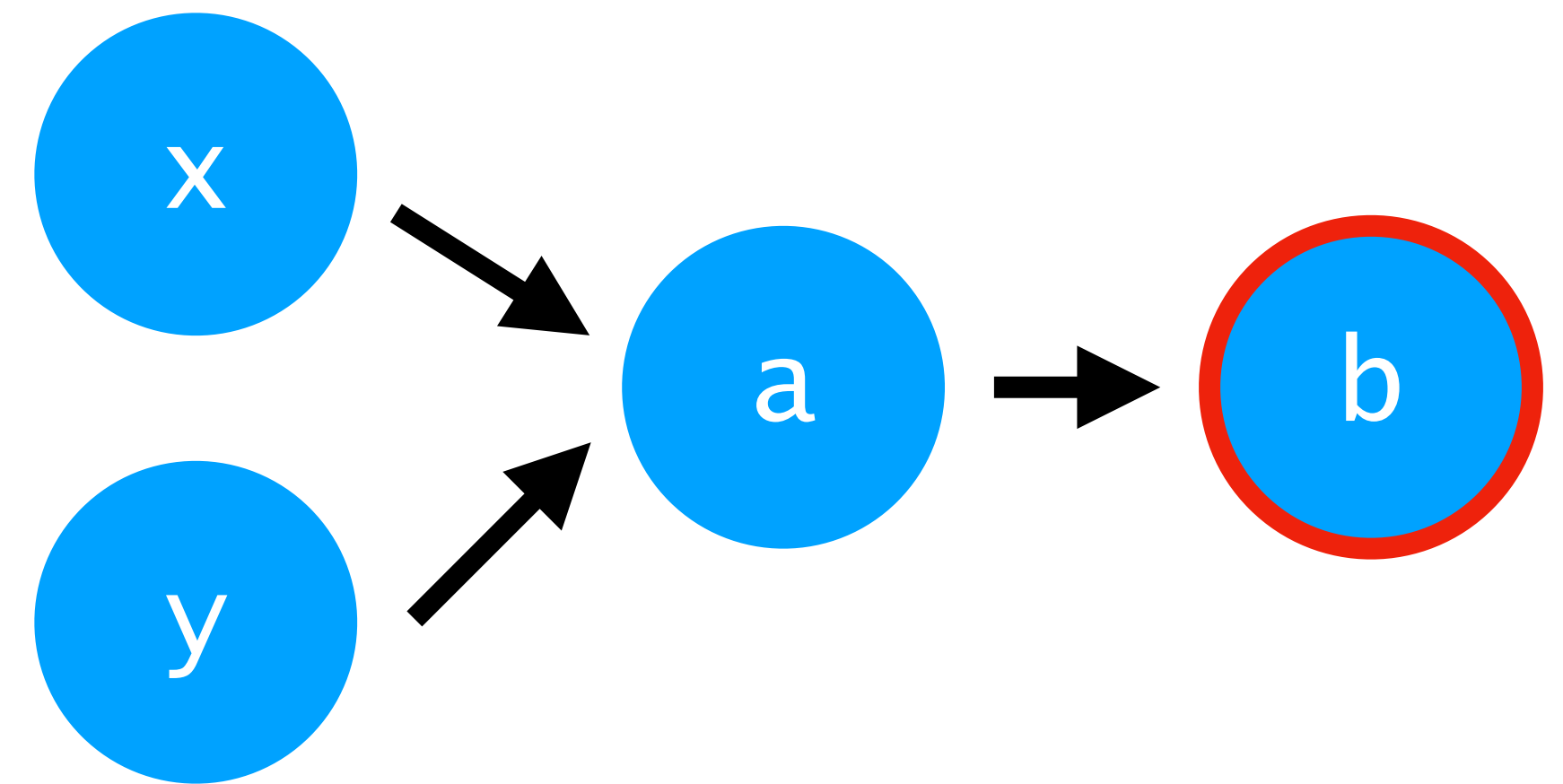
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computes the gradient in one pass

for each node, propagate the differentials



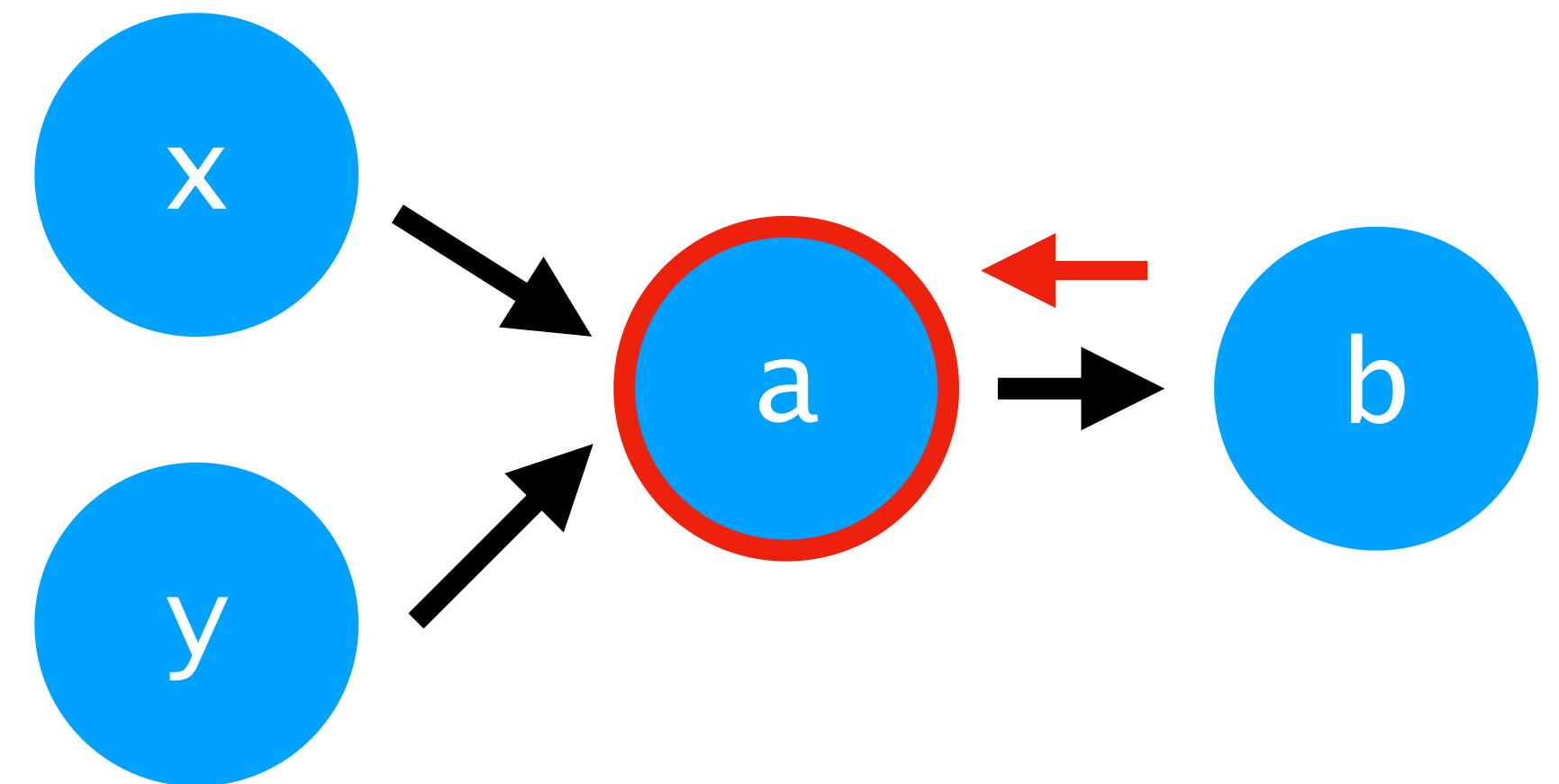
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   $\frac{dL}{da} = Dh(a, \frac{dL}{db})$ 
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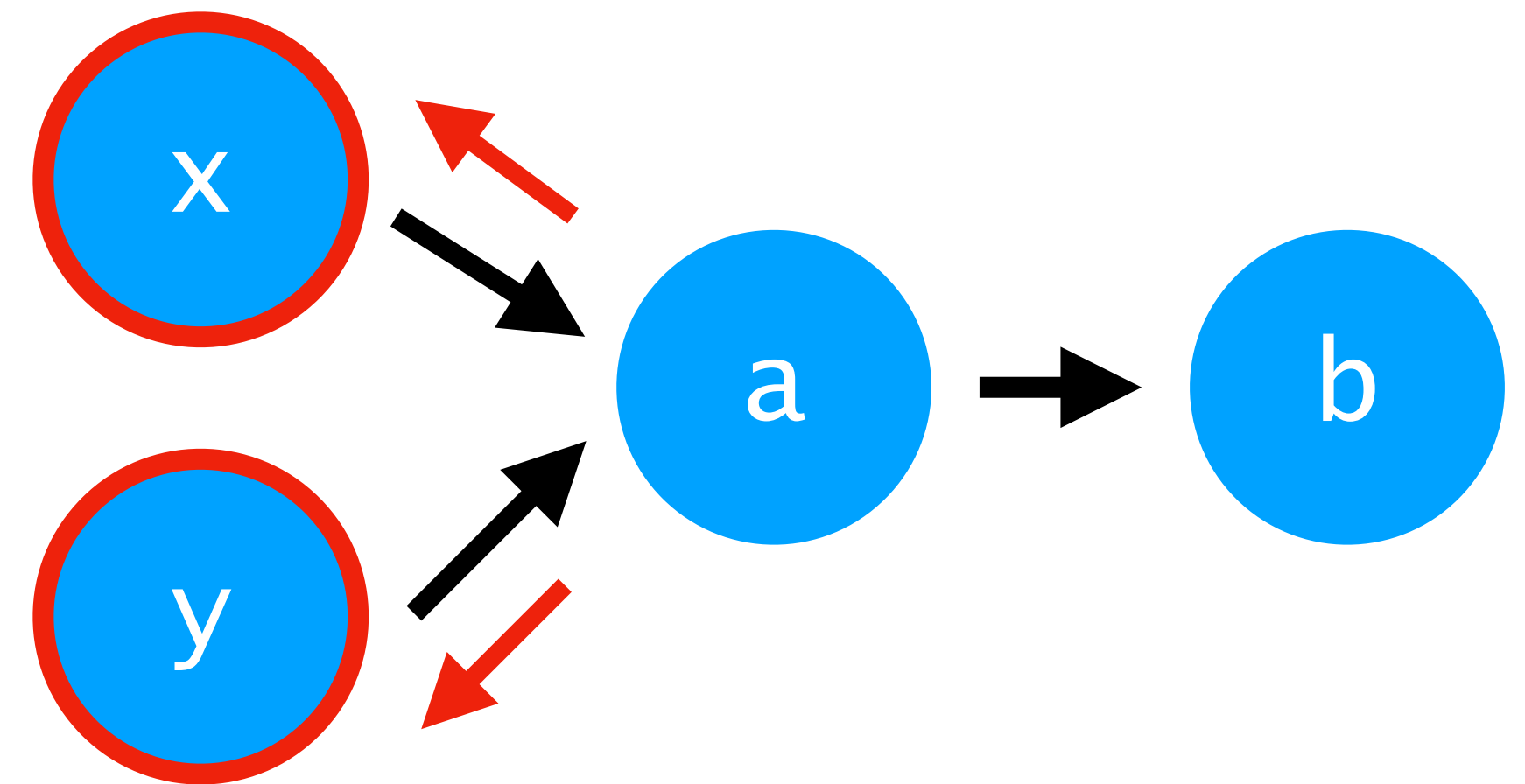
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# We want to apply reverse mode in a forward fashion

- so that we don't need to remember the forward pass

```
L = 0
throughput = 0
 $\omega_0$  = camera_ray
for i in range(1, max_depth):
     $\omega_i$  = sample_bsdf( $\omega_{i-1}$ , u, p)
    throughput *= bsdf( $\omega_i$ ,  $\omega_{i-1}$ , p)
    L += throughput * emission
return L
```

```
for i in range(1, max_depth):
```

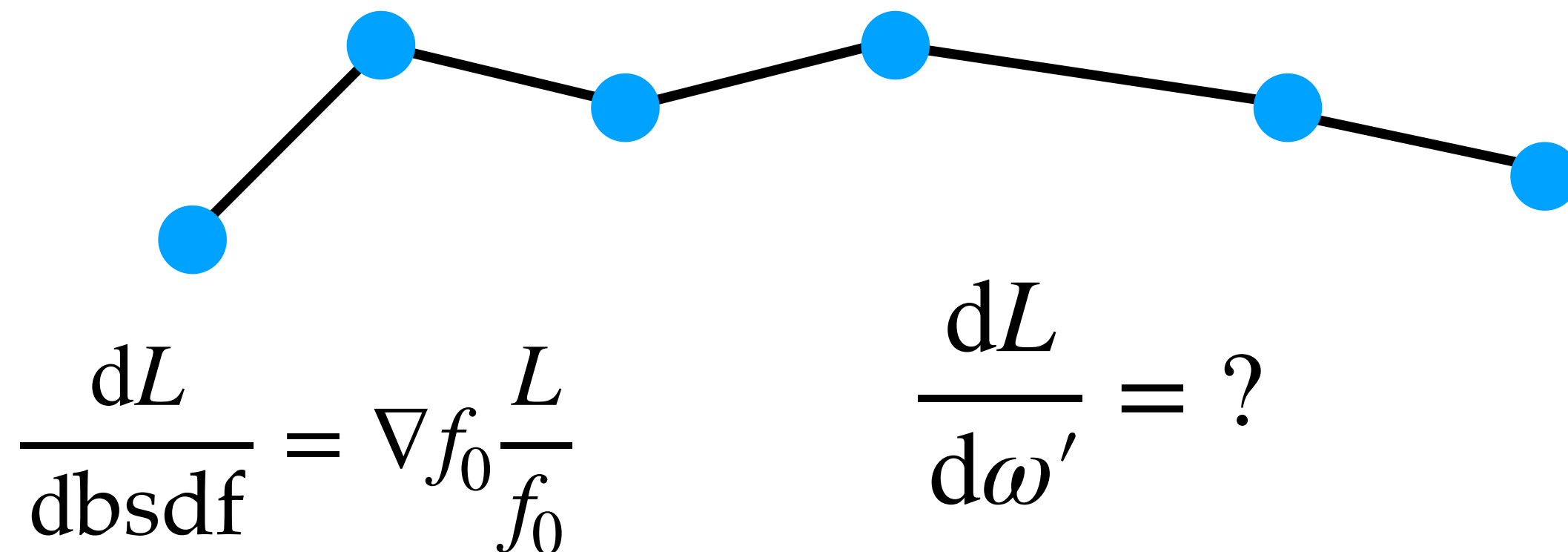
```
    -, -,  $\frac{dL}{dp}$  = Dsample_bsdf( $\omega_{i-1}$ , u, p,  $\frac{dL}{d\omega_i}$ )
```

```
     $\nabla L$  +=  $\frac{dL}{dp}$ 
```

```
     $\frac{dL}{dp}$  = Dbsdf( $\omega_i$ ,  $\omega_{i-1}$ , p,  $\frac{dL}{dbsdf}$ )
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```
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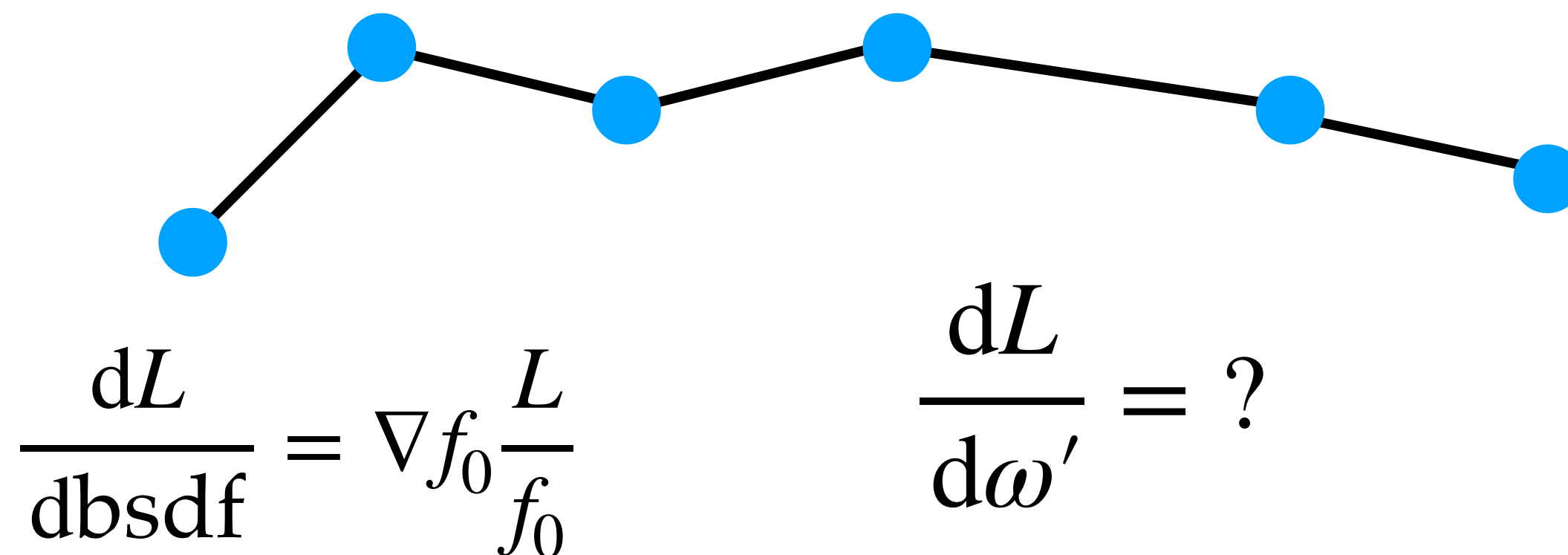
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```

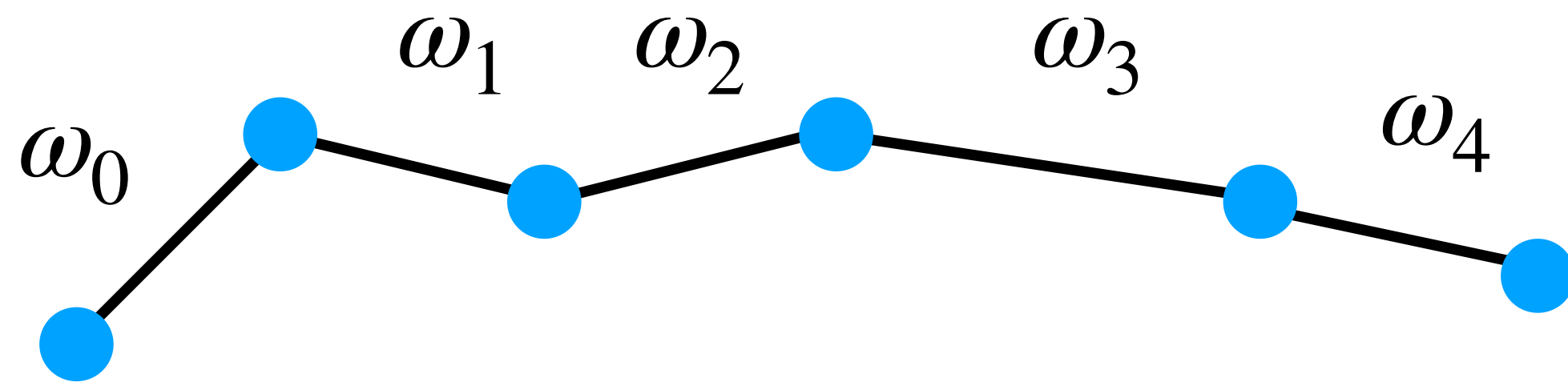
return  $\nabla L$ 
  
```

compute using  
previous solution



First step: compute  $\frac{dL}{d\omega_0}$

using forward mode on the path tracing loop



```
L = 0
```

```
throughput = 0
```

```
 $\omega_0$  = camera_ray
```

```
for i in range(1, max_depth):
```

```
     $\omega_i$  = sample_bsdf( $\omega_{i-1}$ , u, p)
```

```
    throughput *= bsdf( $\omega_i$ ,  $\omega_{i-1}$ , p)
```

```
    L += throughput * emission
```

```
return L
```

```
for i in range(1, max_depth):
```

```
    -, -,  $\frac{dL}{dp}$  = Dsample_bsdf( $\omega_{i-1}$ , u, p,  $\frac{dL}{d\omega_i}$ )
```

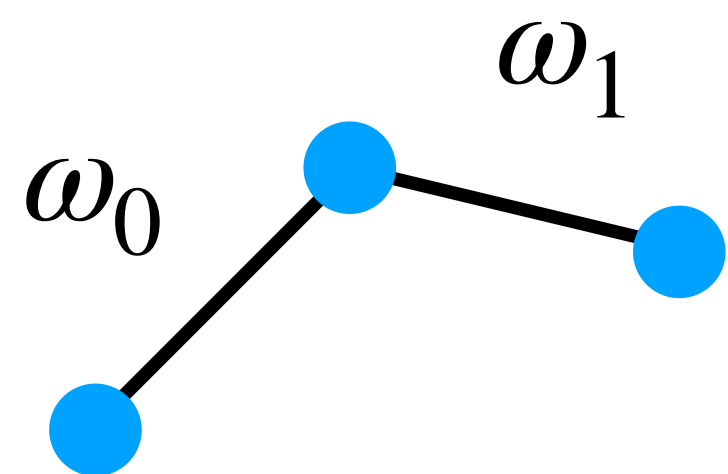
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     $\nabla L$  +=  $\frac{dL}{dp}$ 
```

```
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```

```
     $\nabla L$  +=  $\frac{dL}{dp}$ 
```

```
return  $\nabla L$ 
```

We can compute the subsequent  $\frac{dL}{d\omega_i}$  using chain rule & matrix inversion



```

L = 0
throughput = 0
ω₀ = camera_ray
for i in range(1, max_depth):
    ωᵢ = sample_bsdf(ωᵢ₋₁, u, p)
    throughput *= bsdf(ωᵢ, ωᵢ₋₁, p)
    L += throughput * emission
return L

```

$$\frac{dL}{d\omega_{i-1}} = \frac{d\omega_i}{d\omega_{i-1}} \frac{dL}{d\omega_i}$$

$$\left( \frac{d\omega_i}{d\omega_{i-1}} \right)^{-1} \frac{dL}{d\omega_{i-1}} = \frac{dL}{d\omega_i}$$

get  $\frac{d\omega_i}{d\omega_{i-1}}$  by differentiating `sample_bsdf`

```

for i in range(1, max_depth):
    --, --, dL/dp = Dsample_bsdf(ωᵢ₋₁, u, p, dL/dωᵢ)
    ∇L += dL/dp
    dL/dp = Dbsdf(ωᵢ, ωᵢ₋₁, p, dL/dbsdf)
    ∇L += dL/dp
return ∇L

```

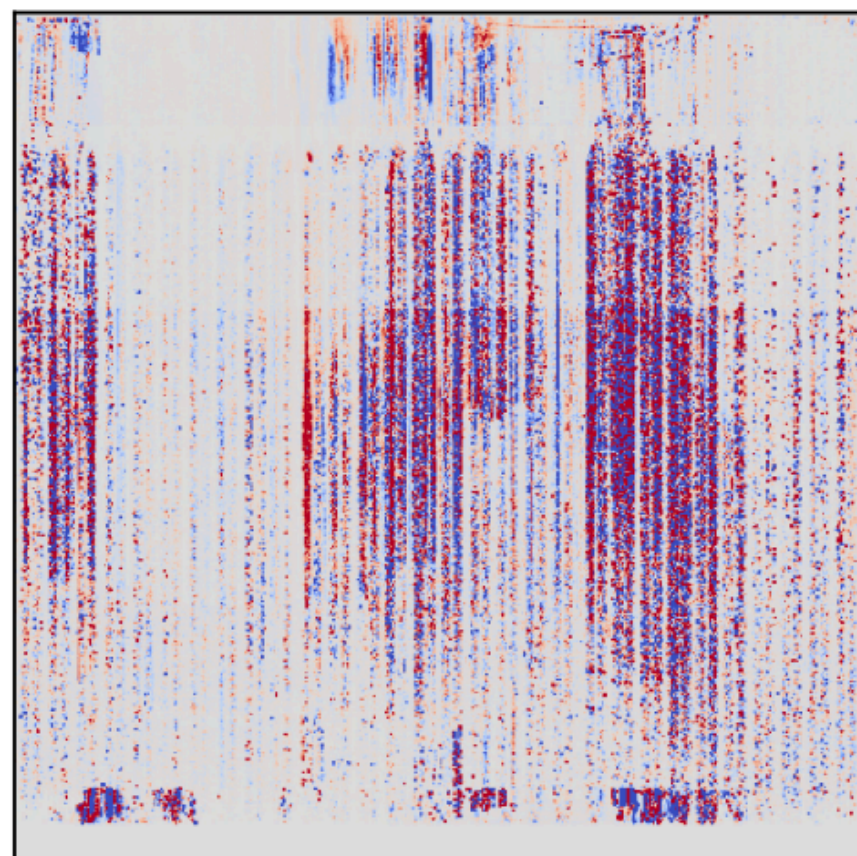
Detail: add noise to  $\frac{d\omega_i}{d\omega_{i-1}}$  to avoid non-invertibility



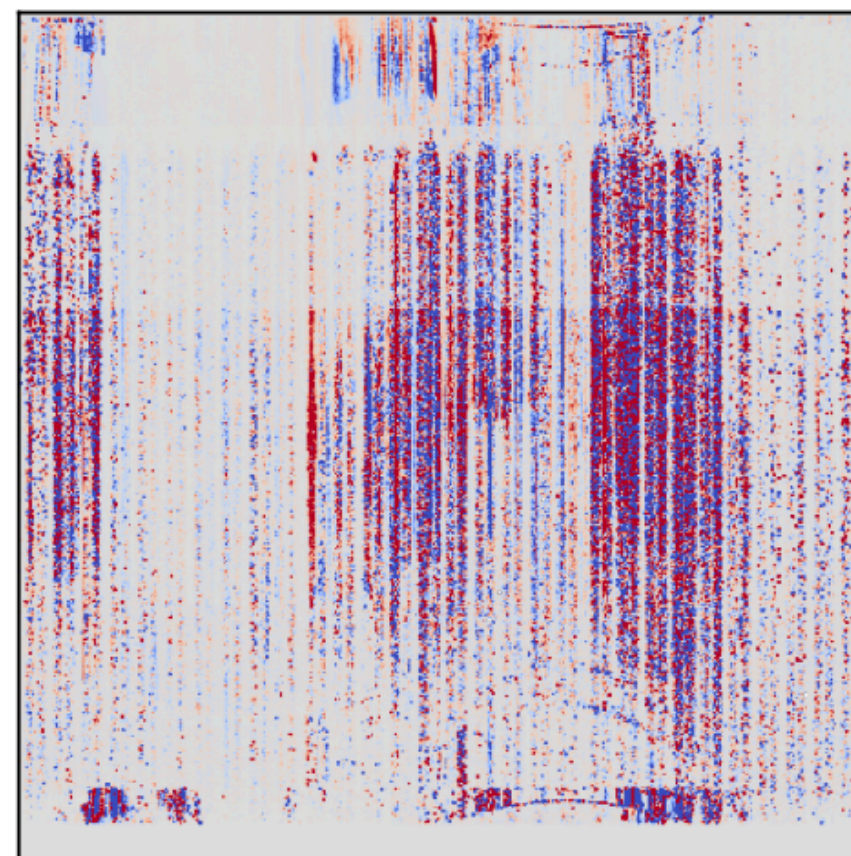
(a) Reference



Vicini et al.  
(b) ~~Ours~~ (w/o regularization)



(c) ~~Ours~~  
Vicini et al.



(d) Conv. AD

Path Replay Backpropagation: Differentiating Light Paths using Constant Memory and Linear Time

DELIO VICINI, École Polytechnique Fédérale de Lausanne (EPFL), Switzerland  
SÉBASTIEN SPEIERER, École Polytechnique Fédérale de Lausanne (EPFL), Switzerland  
WENZEL JAKOB, École Polytechnique Fédérale de Lausanne (EPFL), Switzerland

# Further reading

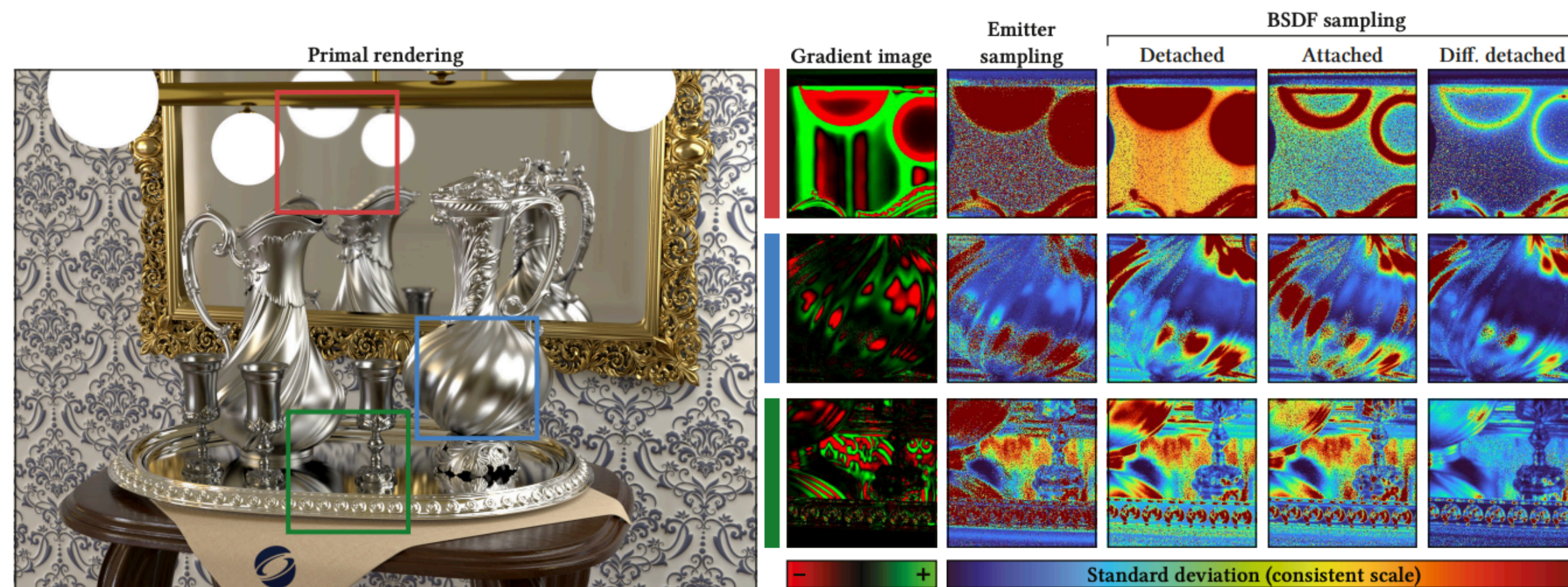
## Monte Carlo Estimators for Differential Light Transport

TIZIAN ZELTNER, École Polytechnique Fédérale de Lausanne (EPFL), Switzerland

SÉBASTIEN SPEIERER, École Polytechnique Fédérale de Lausanne (EPFL), Switzerland

ILIYAN GEORGIEV, Autodesk, United Kingdom

WENZEL JAKOB, École Polytechnique Fédérale de Lausanne (EPFL), Switzerland

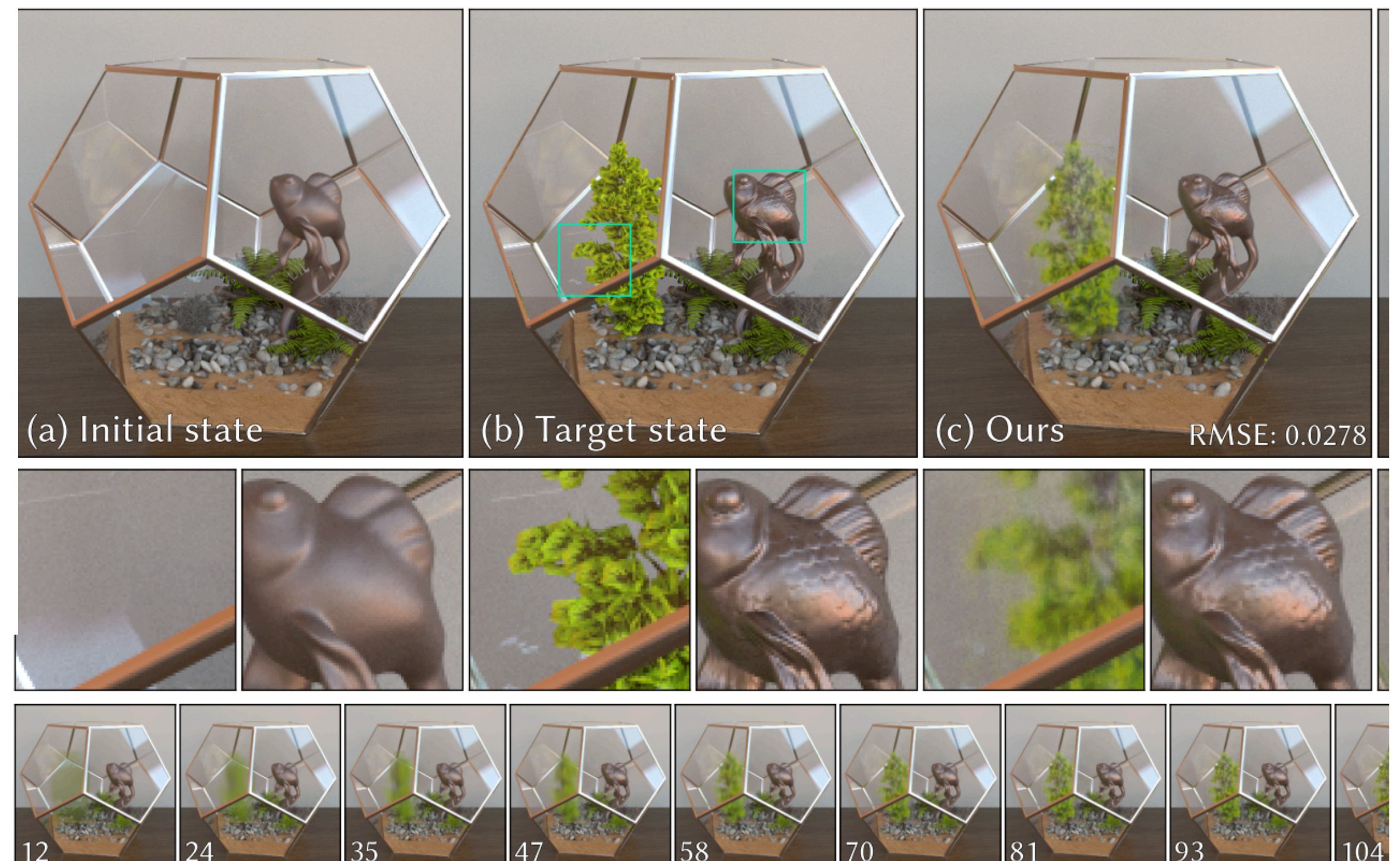


## Path Replay Backpropagation: Differentiating Light Paths using Constant Memory and Linear Time

DELIO VICINI, École Polytechnique Fédérale de Lausanne (EPFL), Switzerland

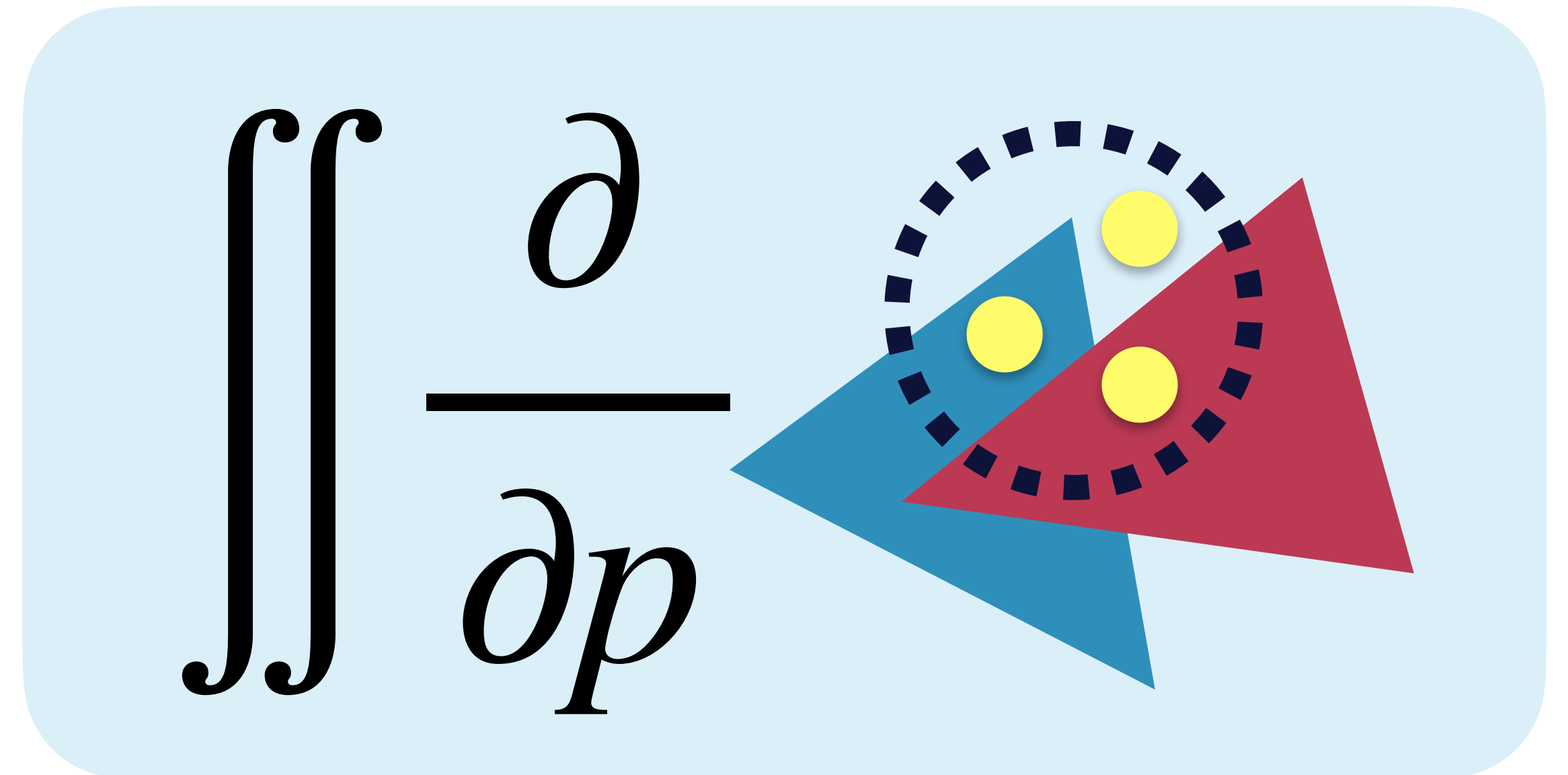
SÉBASTIEN SPEIERER, École Polytechnique Fédérale de Lausanne (EPFL), Switzerland

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# Two challenges of computing the interior derivatives

- importance sampling of forward rendering may not be a good strategy for differentiable rendering
- reverse-mode autodiff can lead to high memory consumption



# Next time: stratification

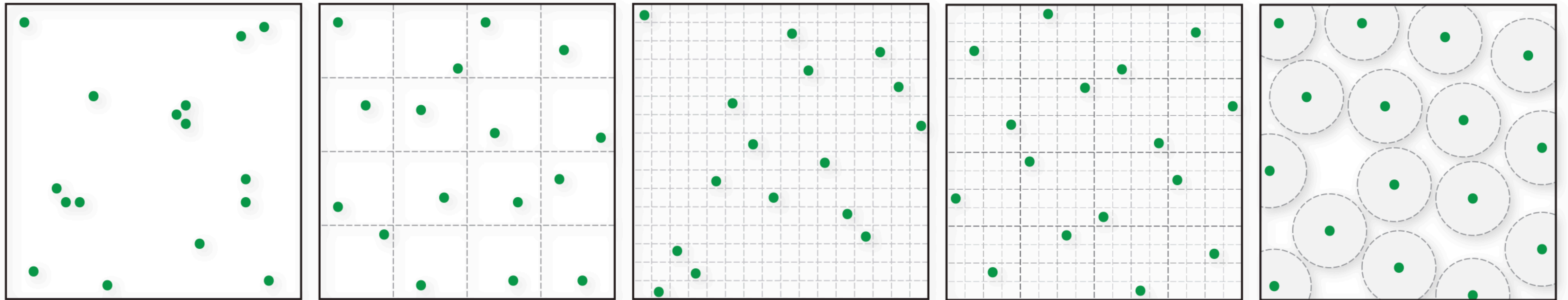


figure courtesy of Wojciech Jarosz

<https://cs.dartmouth.edu/~wjarosz/publications/subr16fourier-slides-2-patterns.pdf>