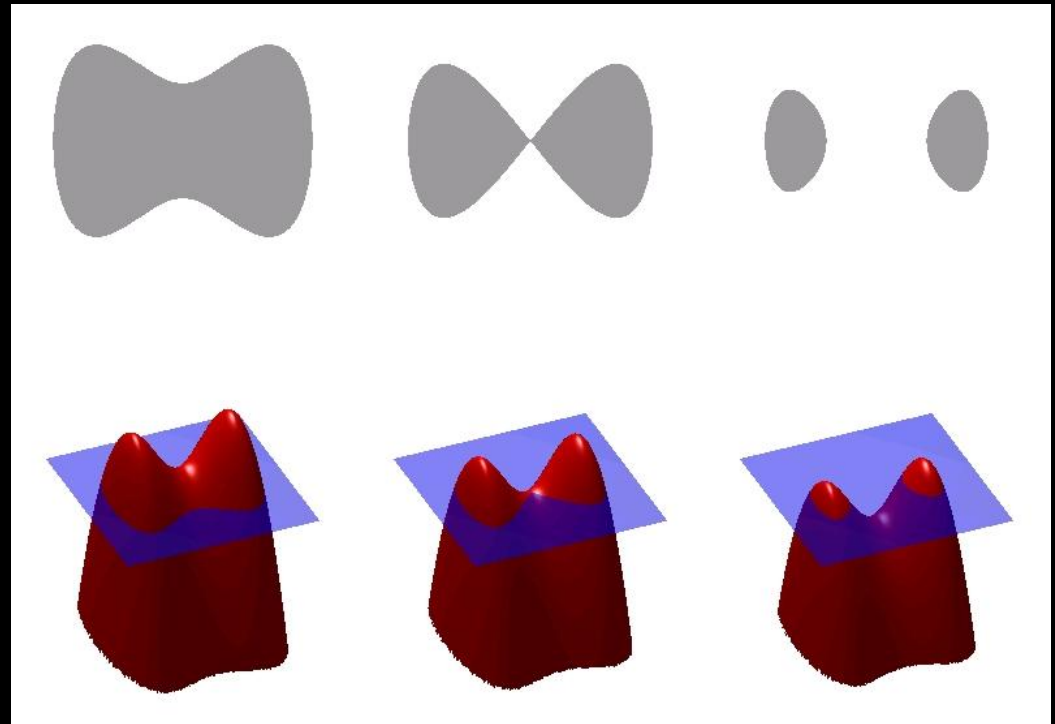




## Dynamic Implicit Surfaces / Level Sets

Jorge Jara W.

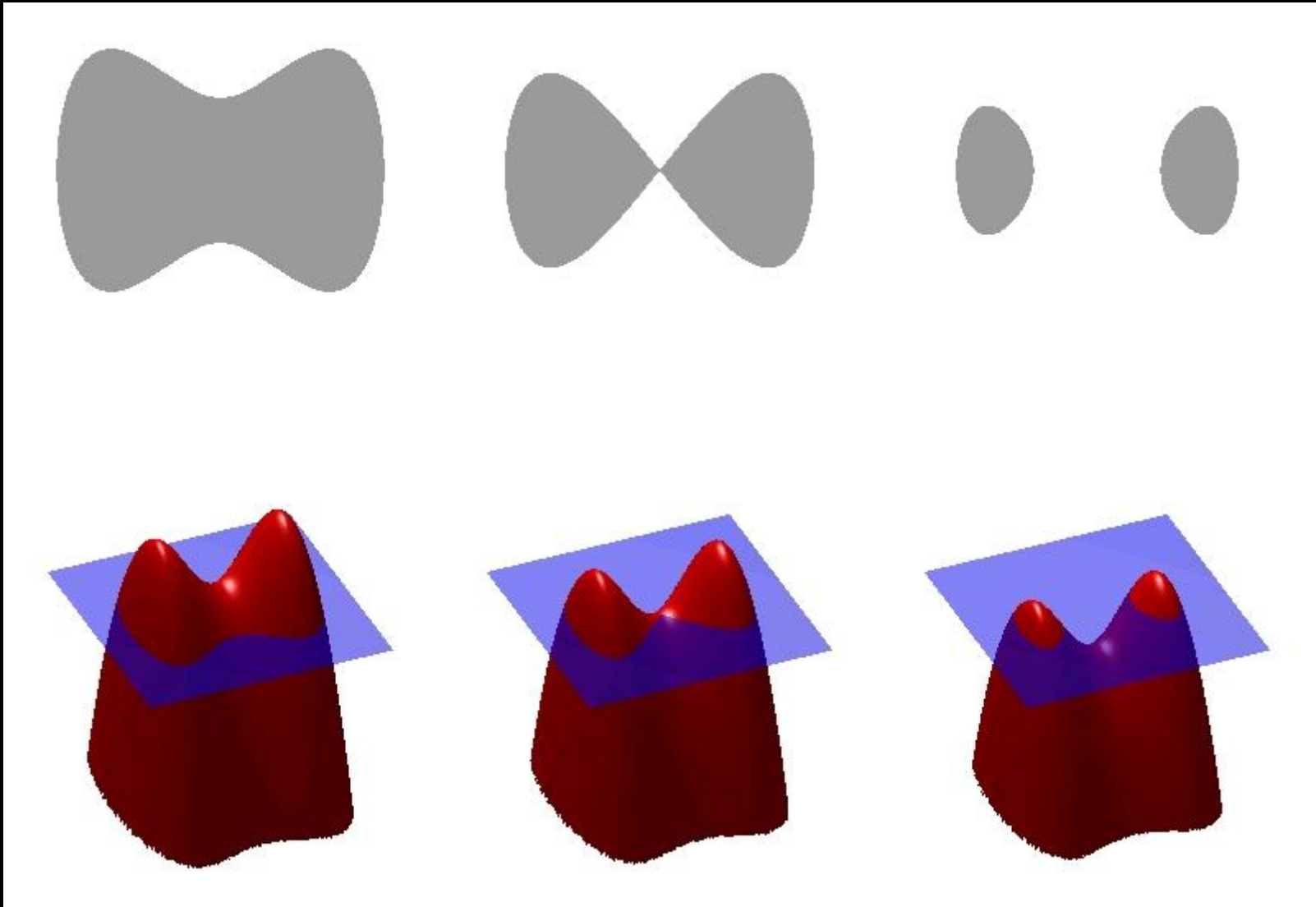
Jarno Ralli





1. Introduction: Essential Math
2. Level Sets
3. Dynamic Implicit Surfaces
4. Algorithm

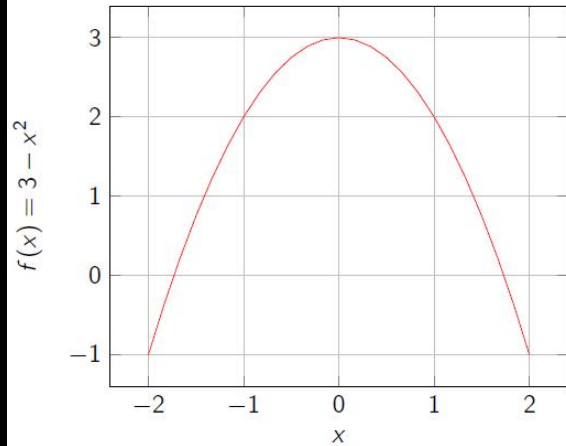
# 1. Introduction



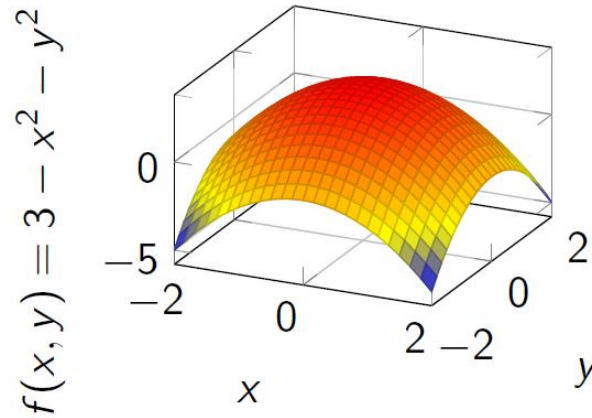
[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Level\\_set\\_method](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Level_set_method)

# 1. Introduction

- Images as functions  
 Functions...



(a)  $\Omega \in [-2 \dots 2]$

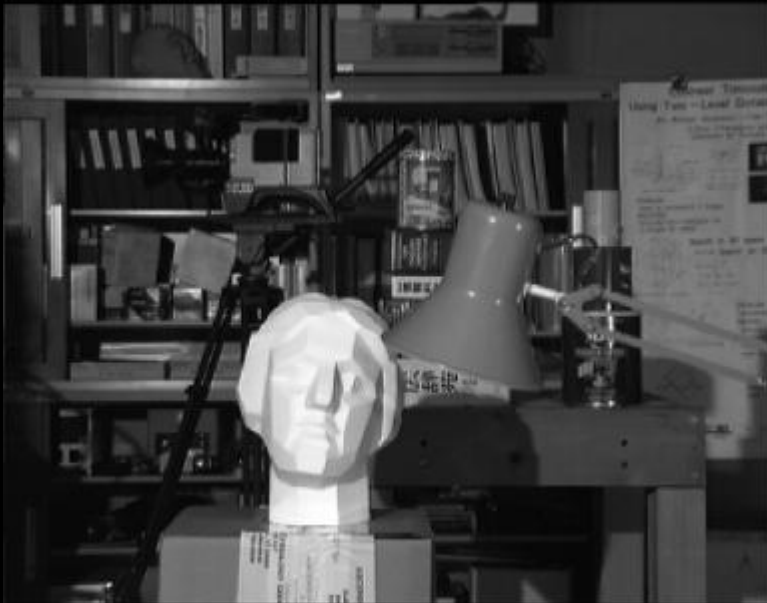


(b)  $\Omega \in [-2 \dots 2] \times [-2 \dots 2]$

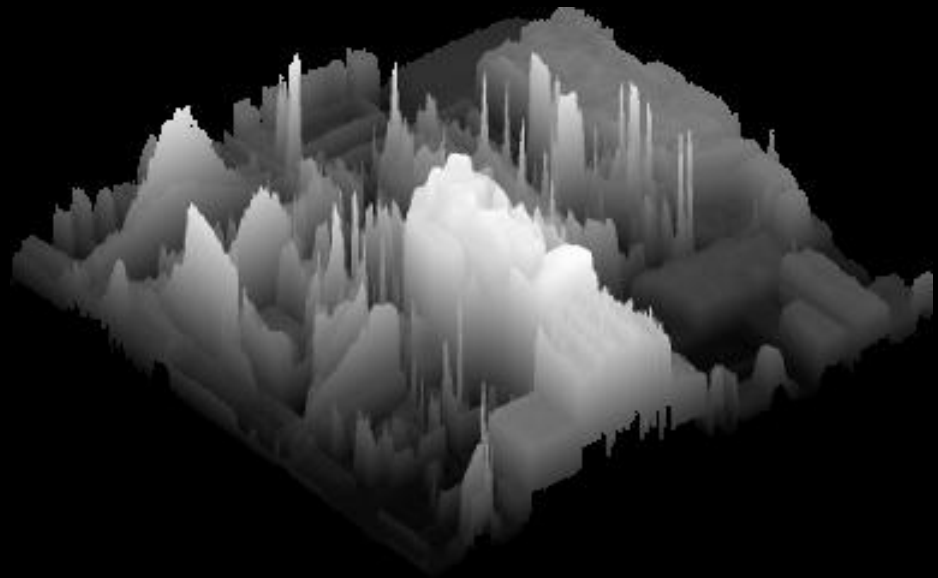


(c)  $\Omega \in [1 \dots m] \times [1 \dots n]$

- Images as functions  
Images...



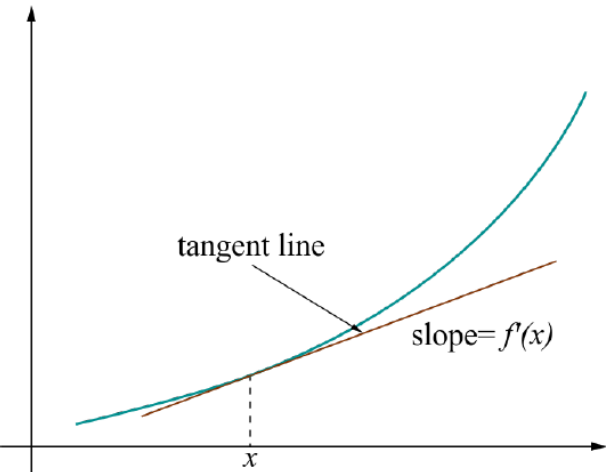
(a) Tsukuba



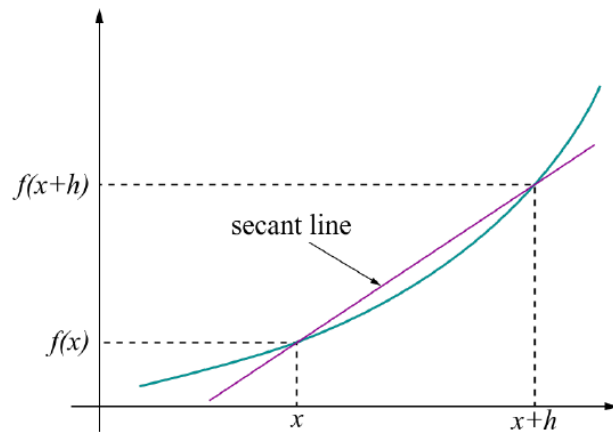
(b) Tsukuba

- Derivatives

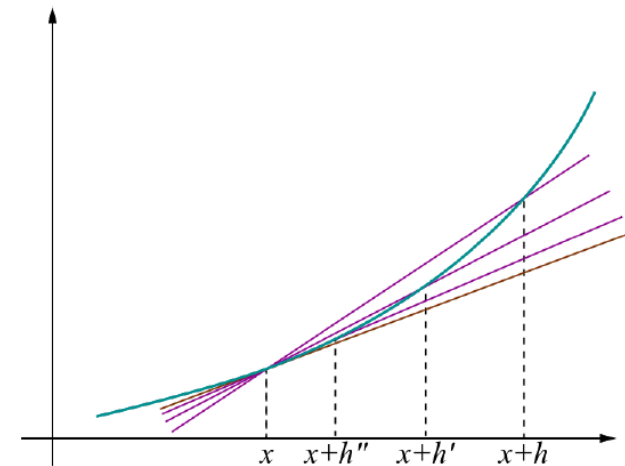
$$f(x)' = \lim_{h \rightarrow 0} \frac{f(x+h) - f(x)}{h}$$



(a) Tangent



(b) Secant

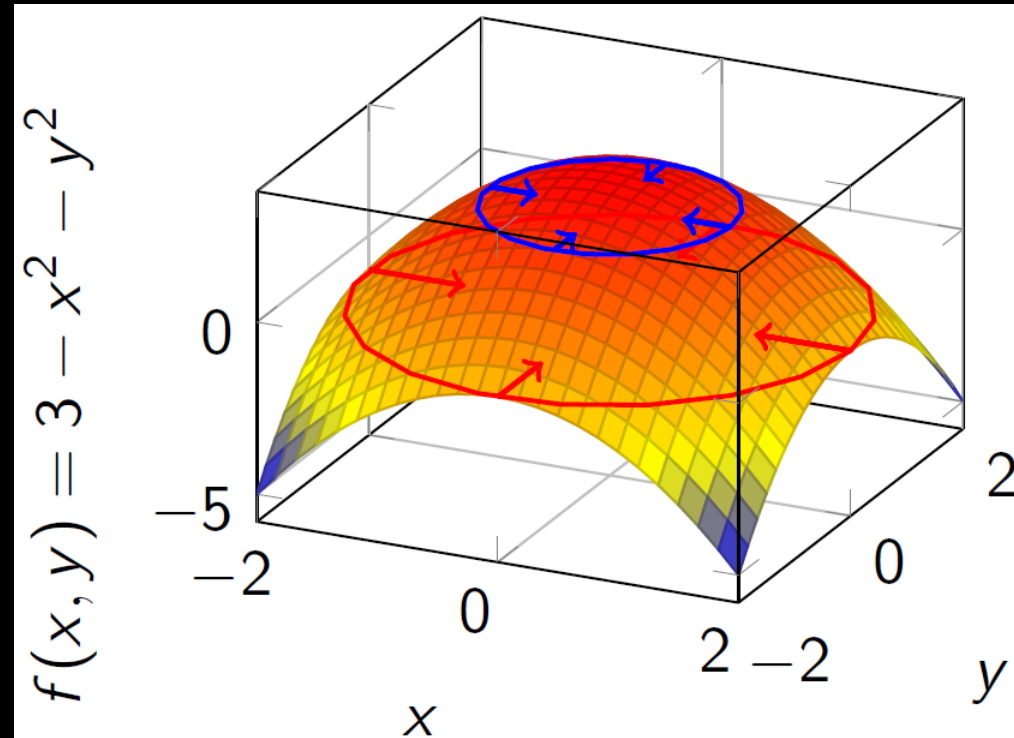


(c) Limit of secant

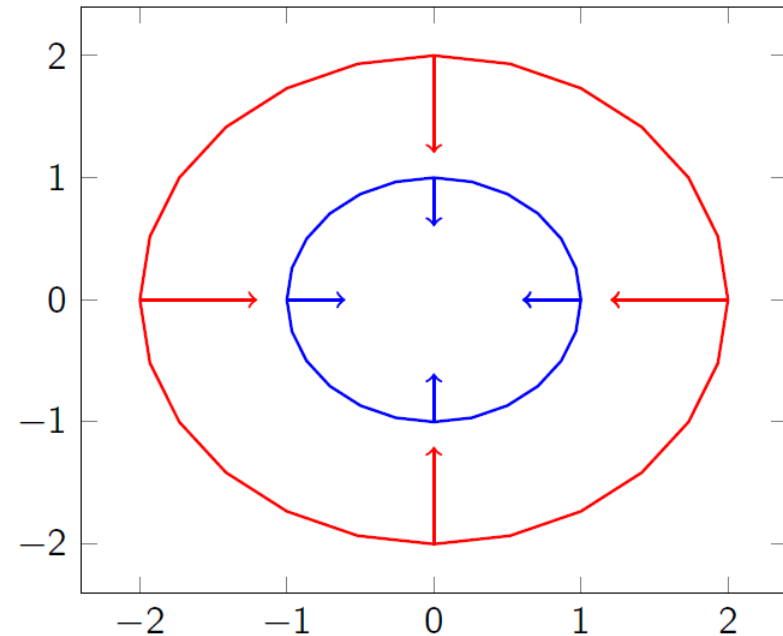
# 1. Introduction



- The gradient is a vector,  $\nabla f$ , pointing in the direction of the greatest increase.
- In 2D cartesian coordinates, with  $f = f(x,y)$   
 $\nabla f = [\partial f/\partial x, \partial f/\partial y]$



(a) 3D plot of  $\nabla f$



(b) Seen from above

- Diffusion – A model for a function that evolves in time...

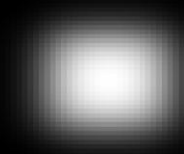
$$I_t = \text{DIV} (\nabla I)$$

...temporal change in the image is due to “movement” of particles due to diffusion. If  $\nabla I$  is a continuously differentiable vector field, then

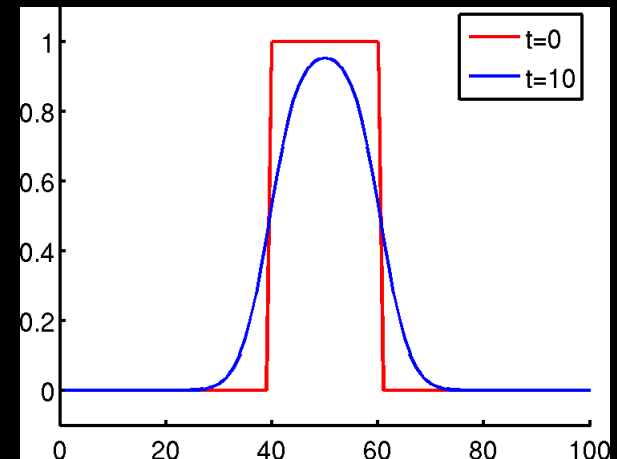
$$\text{DIV} (\nabla I) = \nabla \cdot (\nabla I) = (\nabla I)_x + (\nabla I)_y$$



(a) Time  $t = 0$



(b) Time  $t = 1$

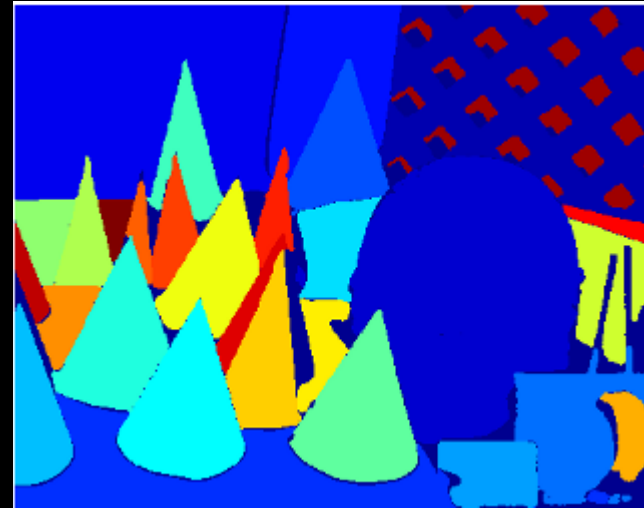


(c) Graphs



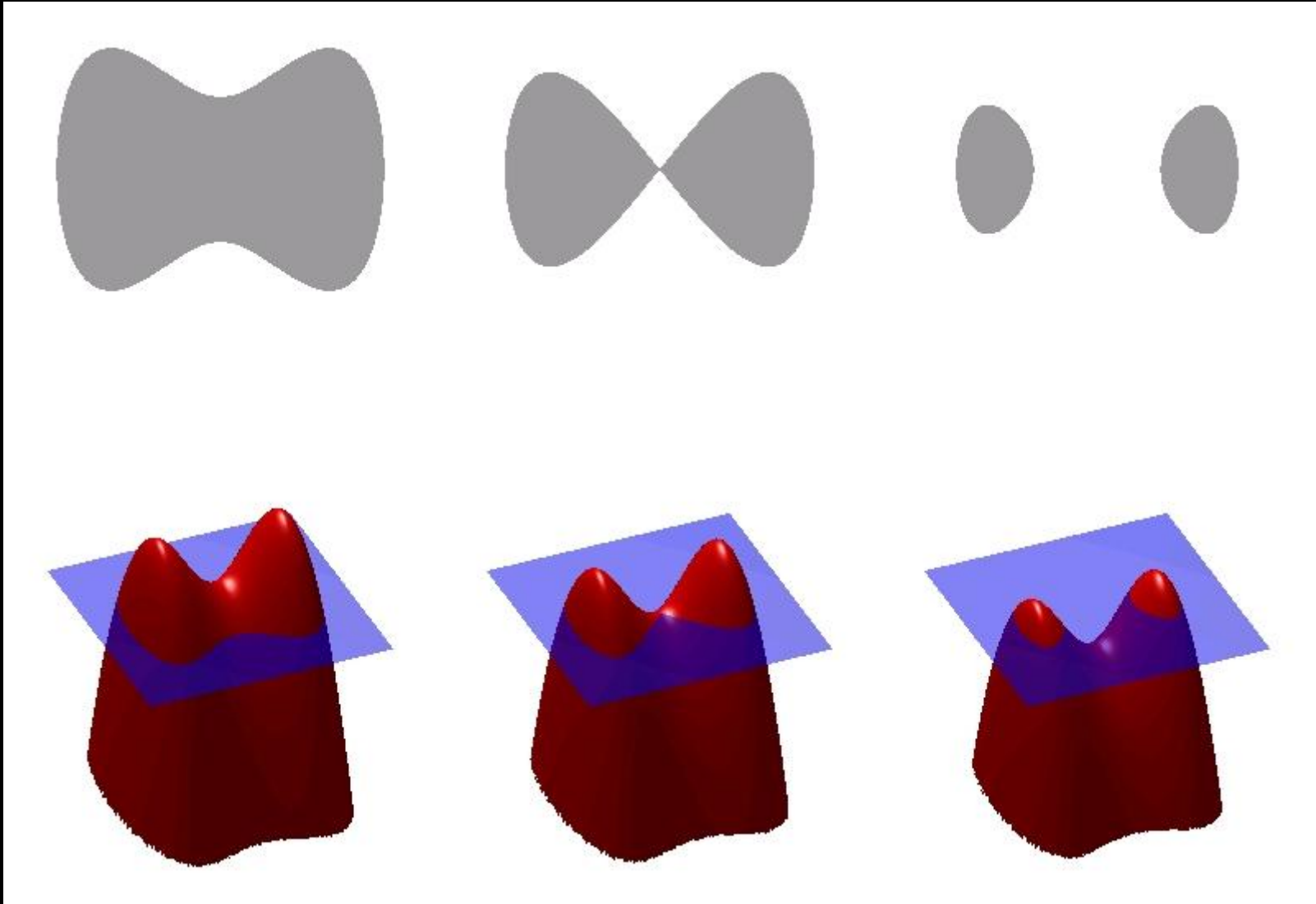
## 2. Level Sets

- Segmentation: joining individual pixels into meaningful groups.



- Here each group is assigned a different number, and each pixel belonging to a particular group is displayed using the group's number (mapped to a lookup color table).

## 2. Level Sets



- A set can be defined by enclosing its members in curly brackets, e.g.  $C = \{2, 4, 51\}$ . Alternatively, we can identify the set members by a logical statement such as

$$\{ x \mid P(x) \},$$

which means the set of all  $x$  for which  $P(x)$  is true. We can use the sets for the image segments (regions of interest), where  $\{ x \mid P(x) \}$  describes the set of points belonging to a given region.

## 2. Level Sets

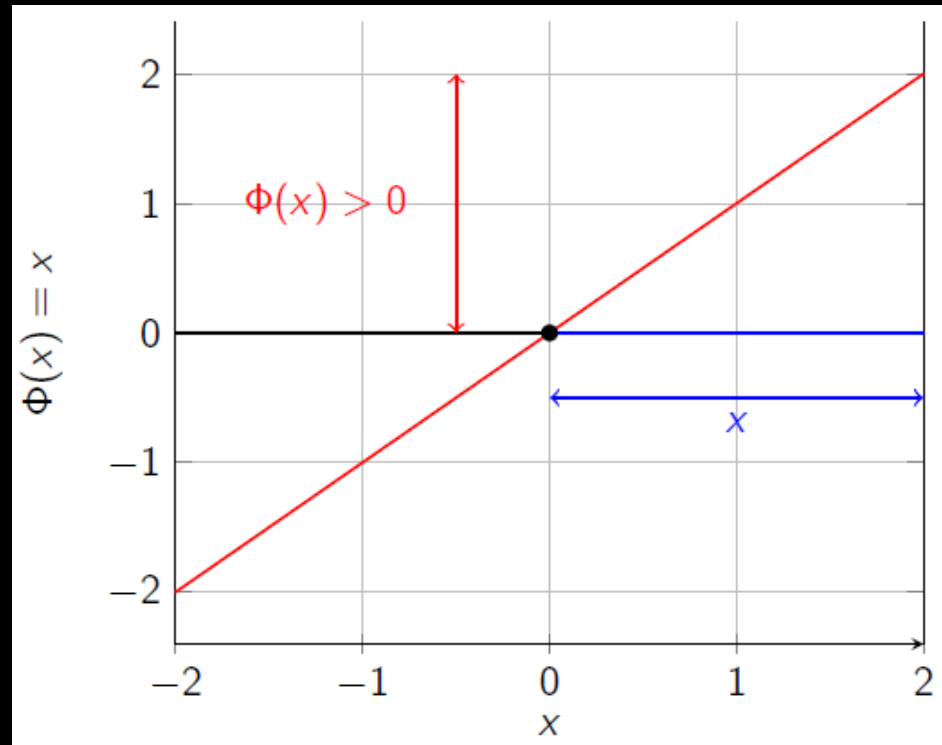
- Using the set notation and a function  $\Phi(x)$ , we can define the set as  $\{x \mid \Phi(x) > 0\}$ .
- Now we can define the following sets:

$$\text{outside}(\Phi) = \{x \mid \Phi(x) < 0\}$$

$$\text{inside}(\Phi) = \{x \mid \Phi(x) > 0\}$$

$$\text{contour}(\Phi) = \{x \mid \Phi(x) = 0\}$$

(also called interface)



## 2. Level Sets



- $\Phi(x) = 0$  is the zero level-set (contour) of the function  $\Phi(x)$ . This representation is said to be **implicit**.

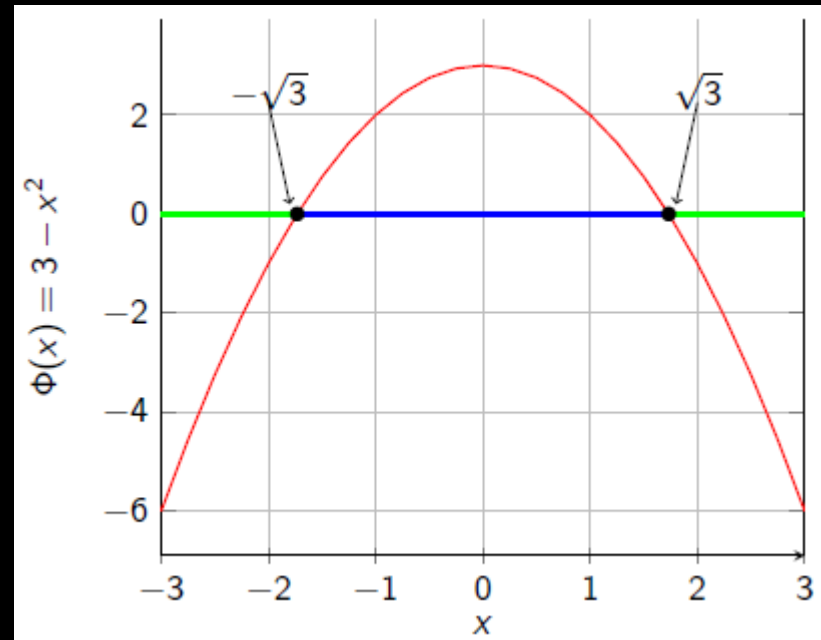
- An example (1D):

- $\Phi(x) = 3 - x^2$

- Outside( $\Phi$ ):  $\{x \mid 3 - x^2 < 0\}$

- inside( $\Phi$ ):  $\{x \mid 3 - x^2 > 0\}$

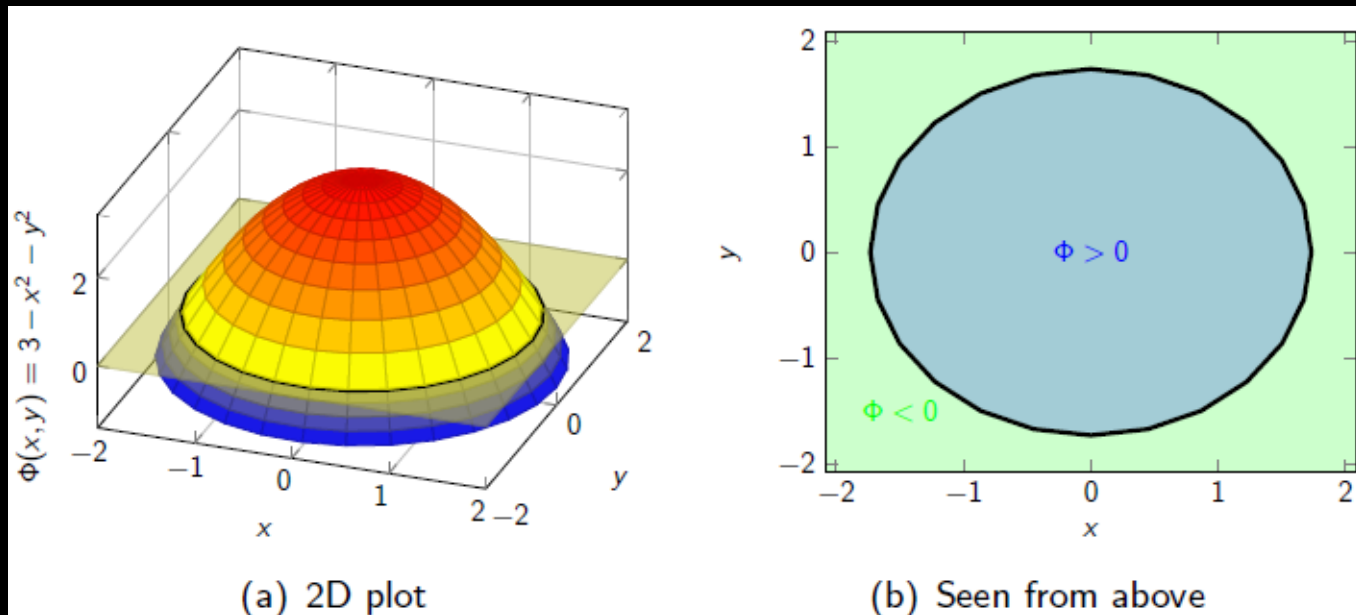
- Interface( $\Phi$ ):  $\{x \mid 3 - x^2 = 0\}$





- Example (2D):
  - $\Phi(x) = 3 - x^2 - y^2$
  - $\text{Outside}(\Phi): \{ x \mid 3 - x^2 - y^2 < 0 \}$
  - $\text{inside}(\Phi): \{ x \mid 3 - x^2 - y^2 > 0 \}$
  - $\text{Interface}(\Phi): \{ x \mid 3 - x^2 - y^2 = 0 \}$

the contour is a line... while  $\Phi$  can be seen as a surface



### Segmentation Example:

- A level-set segmentation for the image at the right is started with two individual “seeds” ( $t = 0$ ) with no connectivity.
- Around  $t = 13$  the seeds “fused” together and, therefore, the topology changed.



$t = 0$



$t = 12$



$t = 14$



$t = 199$



### EXPLICIT models (e.g. “snakes”)

- Contours directly available
- Inside of segment:
  - ...searching complicated
- One segment per contour
- Handling of topological changes
  - ...via ad-hoc methods
- Numerical stability:
  - ...depends on the curve
- Implementation:
  - ...depends on dimensionality
- Numerically (computation) efficient

### IMPLICIT models (e.g. “level sets”)

- Contours have to be “reconstructed”
- Inside of segment:
  - ...searching trivial
- Several segments per contour
- Handling of topological changes
  - ...implicit
- Numerical stability:
  - ...depends on derivatives
- Implementation:
  - ...extensible up to n-dimensions
- Numerically (computation) more complex



### 3. Dynamic Implicit Interfaces

- Similar to the diffusion model...
- Motion along the normal direction
- Mean curvature motion (MCM)

$$\Phi_t + \underline{v} \cdot \nabla \Phi = 0$$

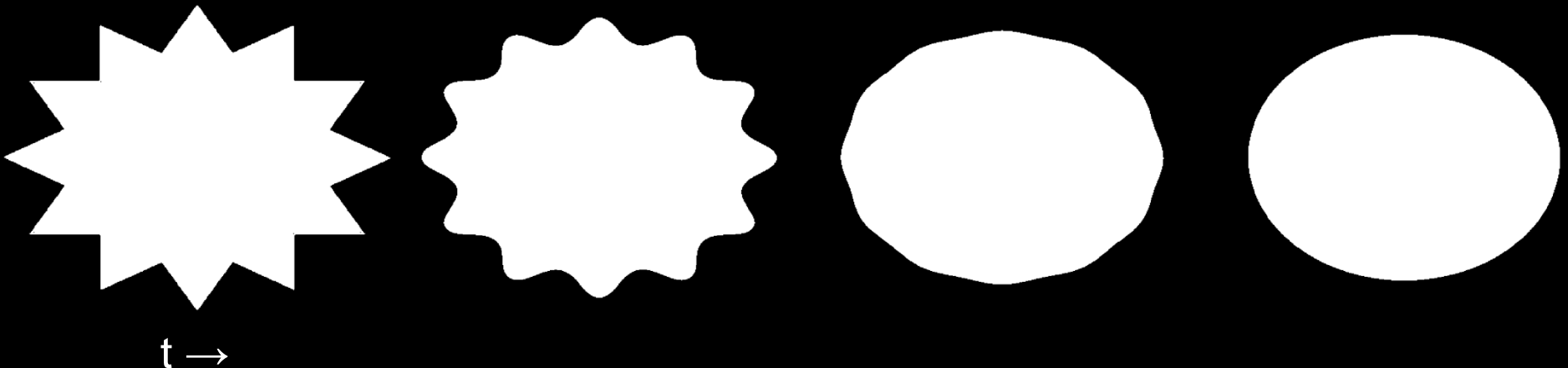
$$\Phi_t + u \Phi_x + v \Phi_y = 0$$

$$\Phi_t + v_n |\nabla \Phi| = 0$$

$$v_n = -\alpha \text{DIV} \left( \underbrace{\nabla \Phi / |\nabla \Phi|}_{\text{Normal direction}} \right)$$

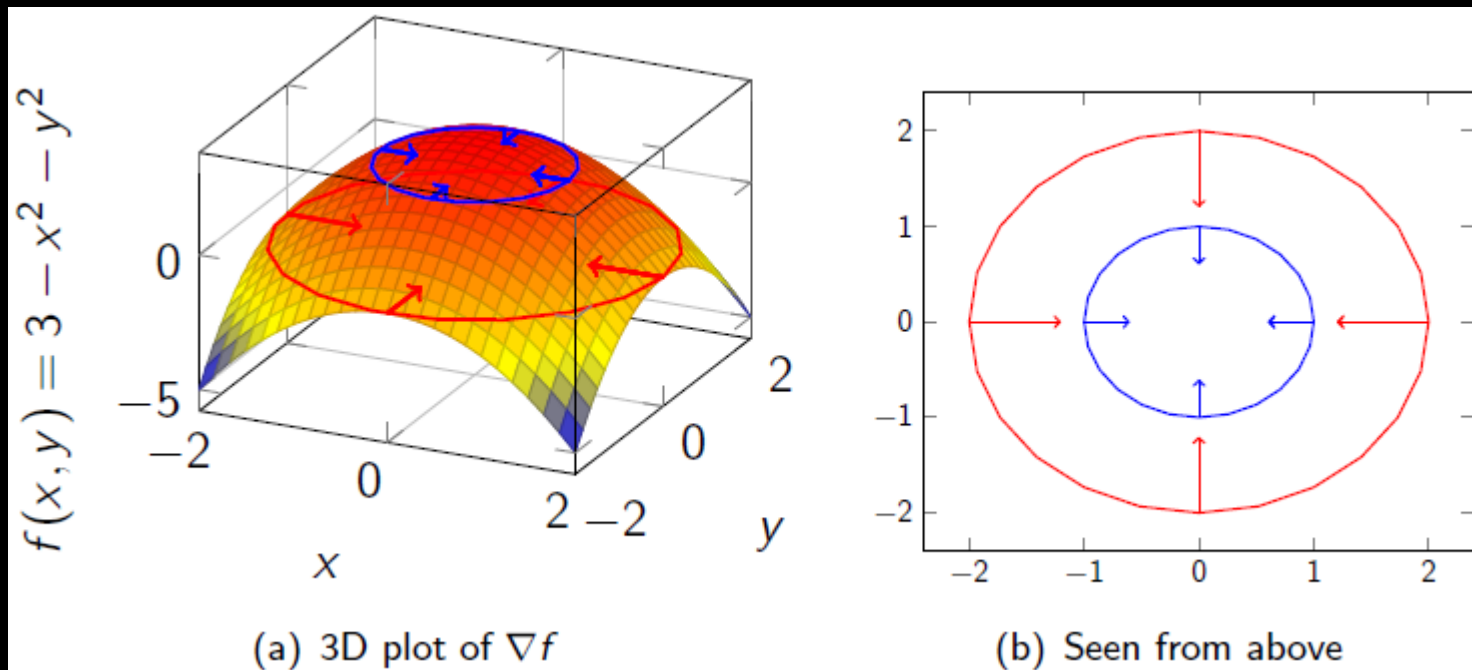
**Normal direction**

- $\Phi_t - \alpha \text{DIV} (\nabla \Phi / |\nabla \Phi|) = 0$   
 $\Phi_t = \alpha \text{DIV} (\nabla \Phi / |\nabla \Phi|)$



### 3. Dynamic Implicit Interfaces

- The normal vectors are perpendicular to the surface tangent plane (for a given point).



### 1. V. Caselles et al., 1993 “A Geometric Model for Active Contours in Image Processing”

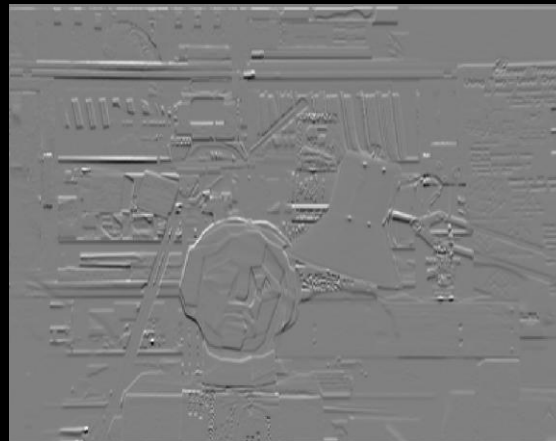
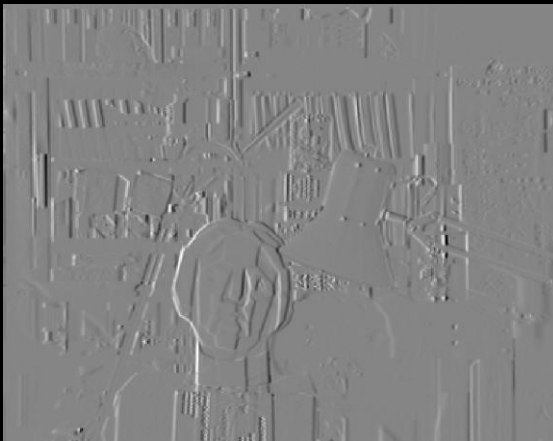
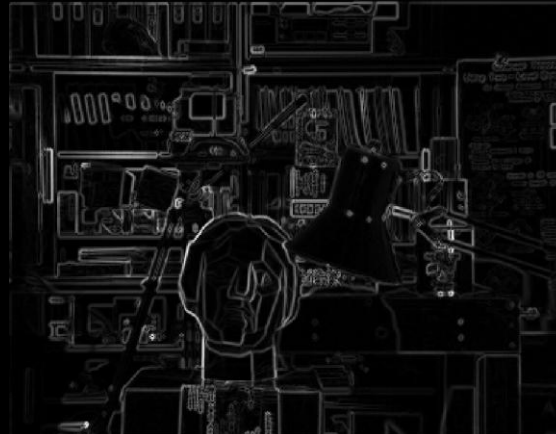
$$\Phi_t = \underbrace{g(|\nabla I|) \operatorname{DIV} \left( \frac{\nabla \Phi}{|\nabla \Phi|} \right) |\nabla \Phi|}_{\text{minimises local curvature}} + \underbrace{g(|\nabla I|) c |\nabla \Phi|}_{\text{balloon force}}$$

$$\Phi_t = \underbrace{\left( g(|\nabla I|) \operatorname{DIV} \left( \frac{\nabla \Phi}{|\nabla \Phi|} \right) + g(|\nabla I|) c \right) |\nabla \Phi|}_{\text{normal velocity}}$$

- $g$ : monotonically descending function
- $I$ : input image
- $c$ : “balloon” force weight...  $c > 0 \rightarrow$ inflation,  $c < 0 \rightarrow$ contraction

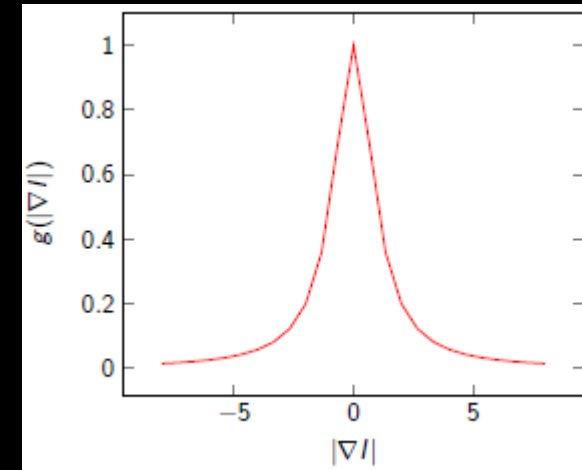
## 4. Algorithms

- $g(|\nabla I|)$  acts as a stopping function for the moving contour when it reaches ROI edges (i.e. when  $|\nabla I|$  is “big”)



$$g(|\nabla I|) = \frac{1}{1 + \left(\frac{|\nabla I|}{\lambda}\right)^2}$$

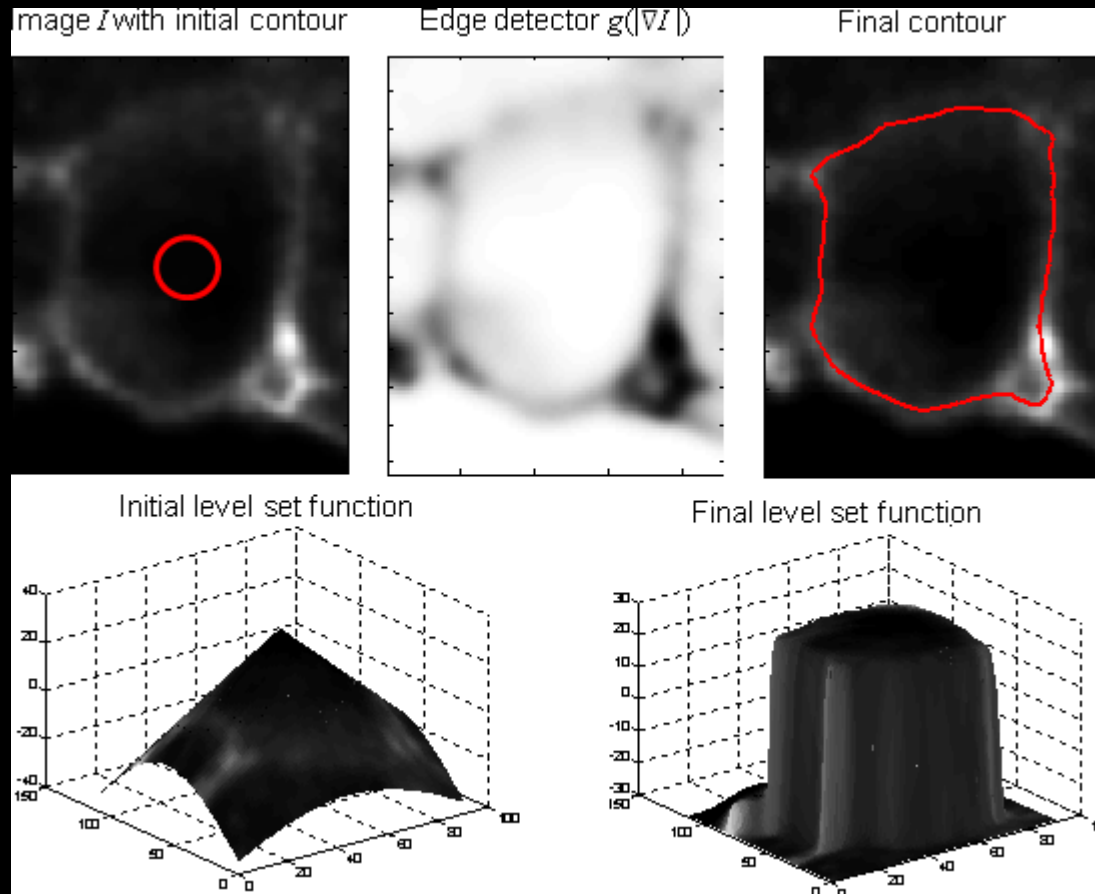
$\lambda$ : weight factor





## 2. Subjective Contours

(Sarti & Sethian, PNAS 2002; Zanella et al. 2010 TIP)



- *Level set Methods and Dynamic Implicit Surfaces*  
S. Osher, R. Fedkiw
- A. Sarti, J.A. Sethian
- [www.math.ucla.edu/~sjo/](http://www.math.ucla.edu/~sjo/)