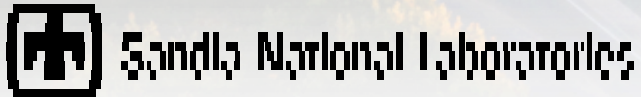


# Deterministic Linear Time for Maximal Poisson-Disk Sampling using Chocks without Rejection or Approximation

SGP 6 July 2022

20 minutes

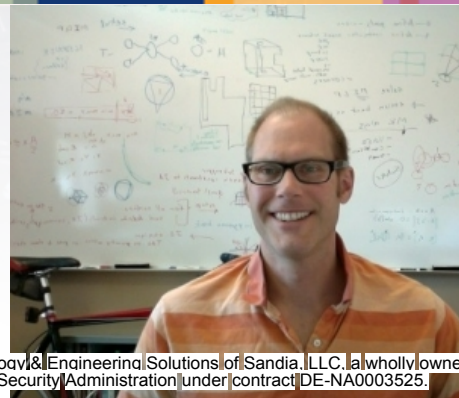


U.S. DEPARTMENT OF  
**ENERGY**

Office of  
Sandia National Laboratories

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# Deterministic Linear Time for Maximal Poisson-Disk Sampling using Chocks without Rejection

What's new?

- Chock geometry

$$\text{Area } A(\phi) = (\tan \phi - \phi)/2$$

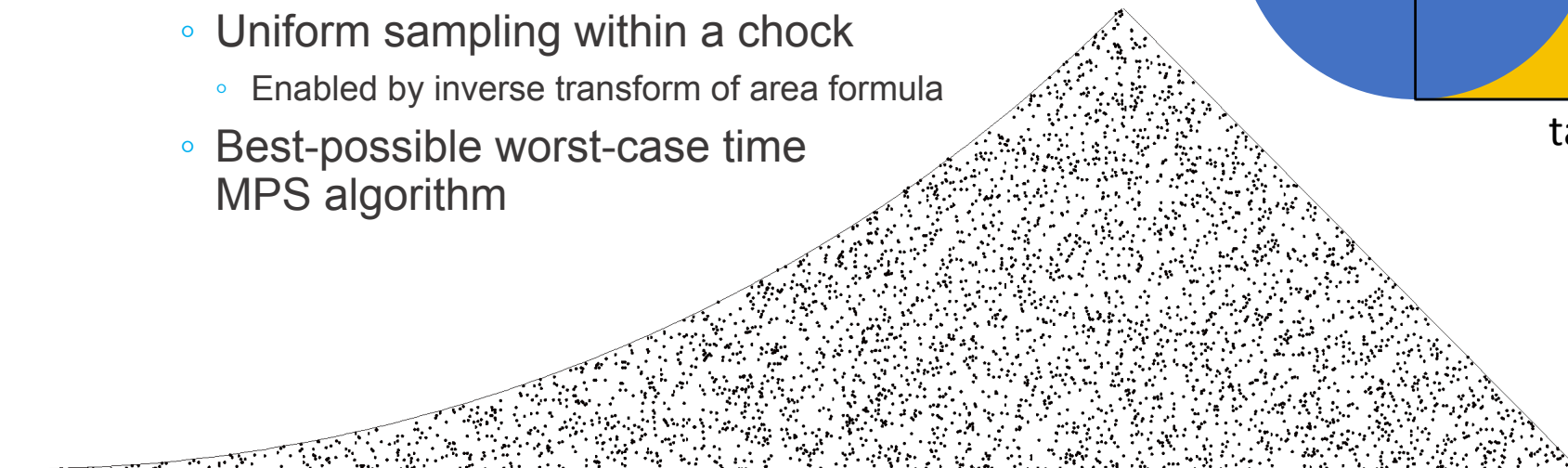
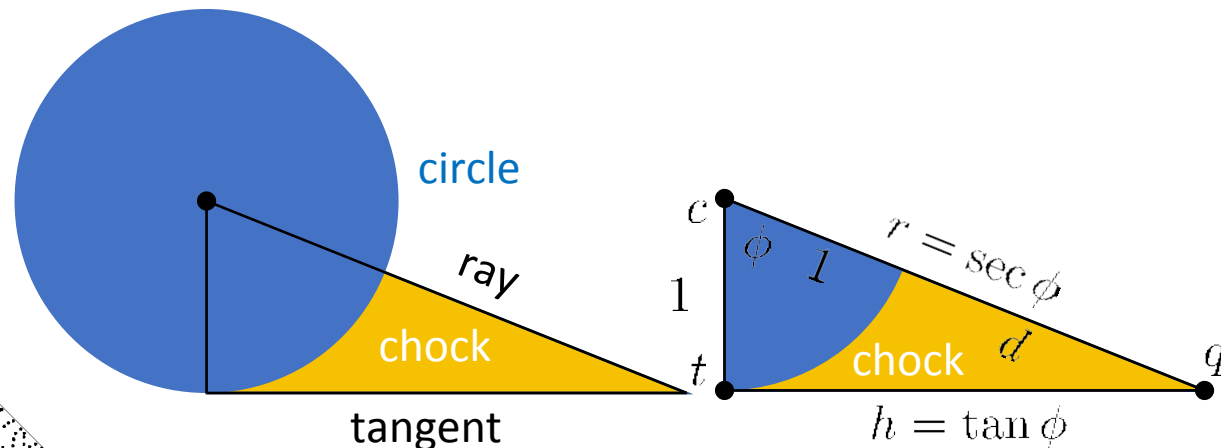
$$A^{-1}(uA) = 5 \text{ Newton's iterations}$$

$$\phi_0 = \sqrt[3]{6uA}$$

$$\phi_{i+1} = \phi_i - \frac{\tan \phi_i - \phi_i - 2uA}{\tan^2 \phi_i}$$

$$r_s = \sqrt{v \tan^2 \phi_s + 1}$$

- Uniform sampling within a chock
  - Enabled by inverse transform of area formula
- Best-possible worst-case time MPS algorithm



# Poisson-disk Sampling $\Rightarrow$ Dart Throwing Algorithm

time of arrival

order of arrival

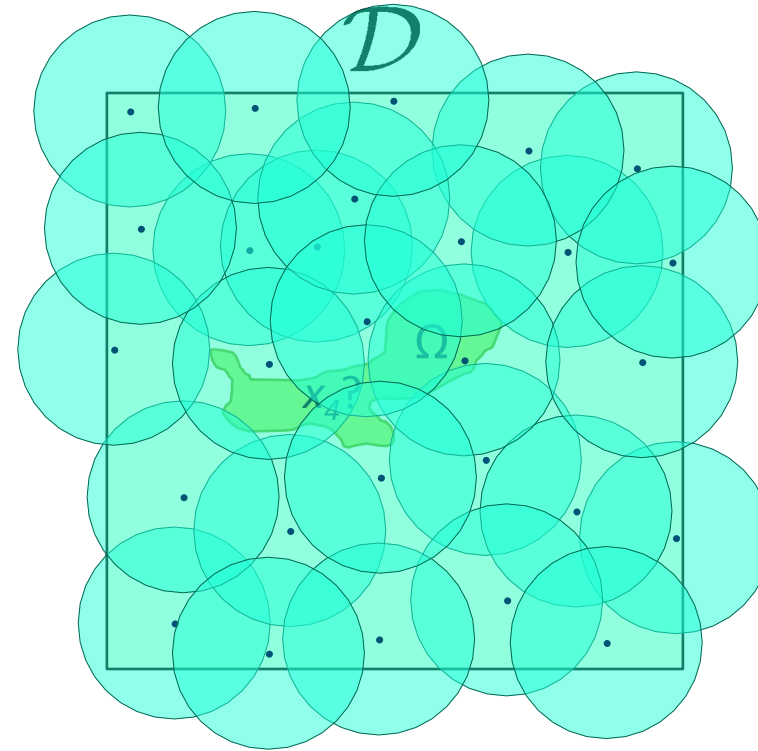
Poisson: points arrive at constant mean rate

- Defined by process
- Insert random disks, build set  $X$
- Disks don't contain another sample
- Poisson: points arrive at constant mean rate
  - Dart throwing equivalent output: unbiased order or arrival

Empty disk:  $\forall x_i, x_j \in X, x_i \neq x_j : \|x_i - x_j\| \geq r$

$\forall \Omega \in \mathcal{D}$  :  
Poisson-process time:  $PDF(t; \Omega) = \text{Area}(\Omega)e^{-t\text{Area}(\Omega)}$   
Dart order of arrival:  $P(x_i \in \Omega) = \text{Area}(\Omega)/\text{Area}(D)$

Maximal:  $\forall x \in \mathcal{D}, \exists x_i \in X : \|x - x_i\| < r$



# Definition or Process?

Which would you rather have?

Definition of desired output

- Sorted order
  - So you can discover quicksort

Process to obtain it (e.g. algorithm)

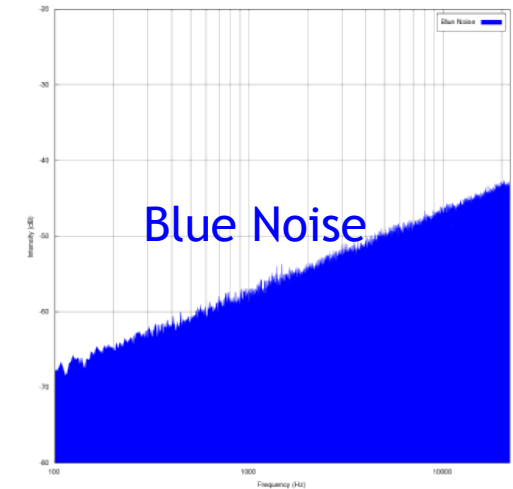
- Bubblesort algorithm  $O(n^2)$

Another example:

- $Ax=b$
- Gaussian Elimination  $O(n^3)$

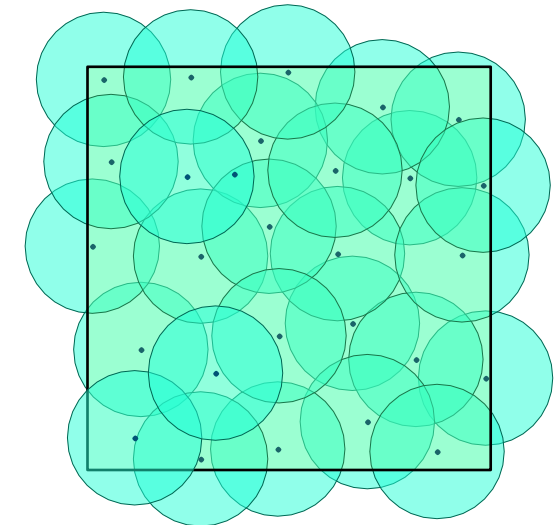
Blue-noise **is a desired output**  
Fourier transform of a distribution

- Def.** power density increases 3.01 dB per octave (density proportional to  $f$ ) over a finite frequency range.
- In computer graphics, "blue noise" is **loosely any noise** with minimal low frequency components and no concentrated spikes in energy. [Wikipedia]

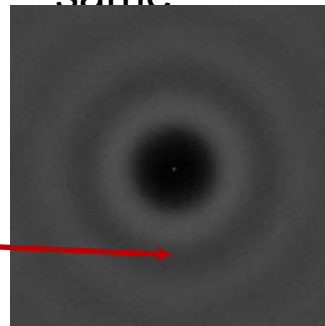


Poisson-disk Sampling **is a process** for generating a distribution

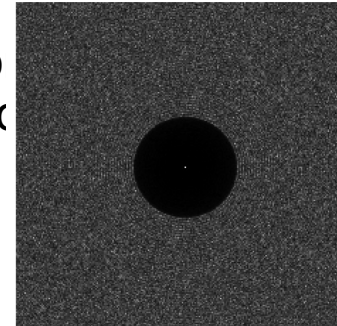
- Output resembles blue-noise, but is not same



Oscillating rings



Poisson-disk  
[DH06a]



Blue Noise  
[HSD13]



# Poisson-disk Sampling vs. Blue Noise

## Graphics community history

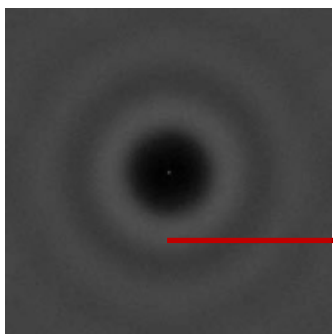
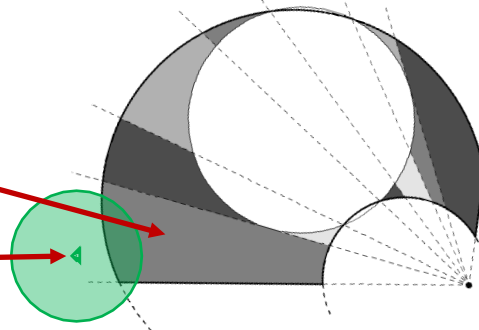
- Early claim that distribution of human retina receptors was Poisson-disk
- When looking at images (e.g. stippling), Blue-noise
  - Randomness avoids aliasing artifacts
  - Separation provides efficiency, no redundant samples
- Dart throwing process produces the same points as the Poisson-disk process
  - Simple algorithm
  - Output close-enough to blue-noise
  - **Not** saturation in finite runtime.
    - **Fix:** only generate samples from the uncovered subdomain

# Scalloped Sectors

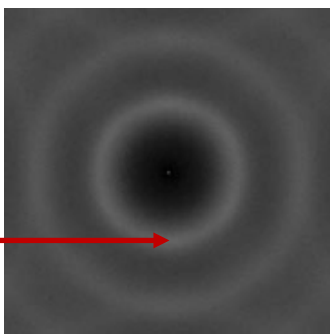
ScallopMDS, "Using Scalloped Sectors to Generate Poisson-disk Sampling Patterns" SIGGRAPH 2006.

## Advancing front

- Next disk distance  $[r, 2r]$  from a prior disk
- Never here,  
so not Poisson-disk process



Poisson-disk



Scallop-disk

not Poisson-disk output

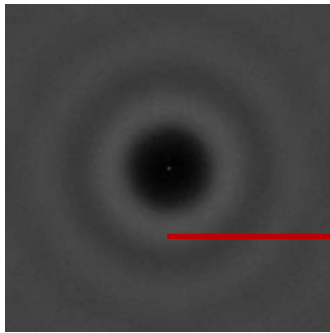
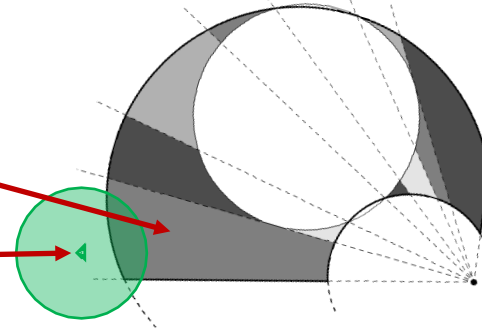
Brighter rings  
Figures from their paper

# Scalloped Sectors

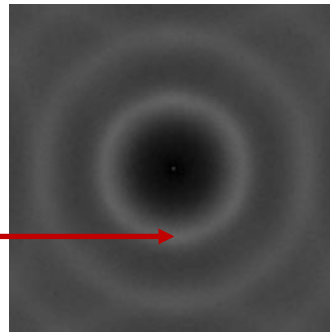
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Advancing front

- Next disk distance  $[r, 2r]$  from a prior disk
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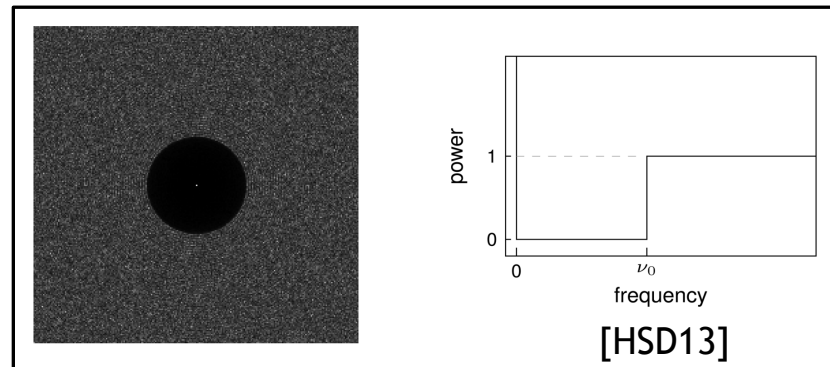


Poisson-disk



Scallop-disk  
not Poisson-disk output

Brighter rings  
Figures from their paper



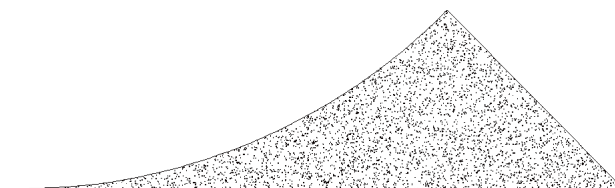
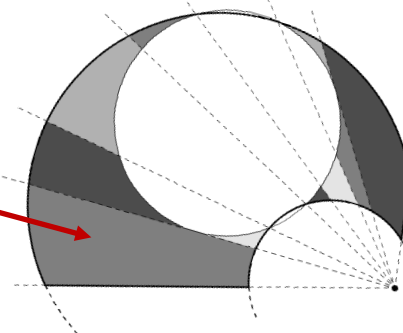
“Step Blue Noise” = real blue noise

# Scalloped Sectors

ScallopMDS, "Using Scalloped Sectors to Generate ~~Poisson~~-disk Sampling Patterns" SIGGRAPH 2006.

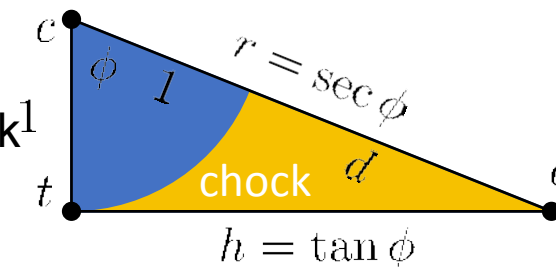
## Advancing front

- Next disk distance  $[r, 2r]$  from a prior disk
- Inverse transform sampling
  - Given an area formula for a shape
  - Invert it to generate samples uniformly by area



## DeterministicMPS

- True Poisson-disk pattern
- Uniform-random by area from a sector
  - Area formula
    - Integral over 6 trig and 2 inverse trig functions
    - And 2 variations
  - Inverse area transform
    - Binary search over area integral
  - $O(M(b)(b + \log b)) \times \text{time for integral}$   
 $M(b) = \text{time for } b\text{-bit multiplication}$
- Uniform-random by area of a chock<sup>1</sup>
  - Area formula
    - 1 trig function
  - Inverse area transform
    - 5 Newton's iterations for 15 digits of accuracy
      - For higher precision, double precision each iteration
    - $O(M(b) \log b)$



$$A^{-1}(uA) = \text{5 Newton's iterations}$$

$$\phi_0 = \sqrt{6uA}$$

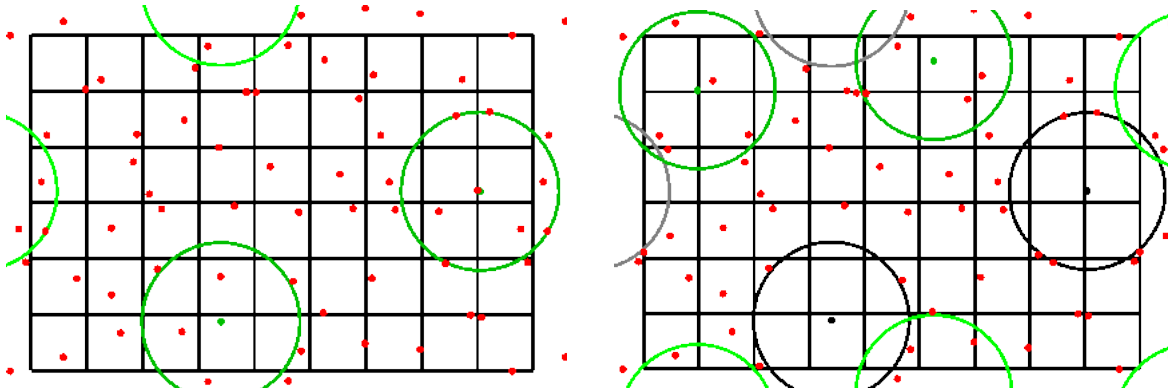
$$\phi_{i+1} = \phi_i - \frac{\tan \phi_i - \phi_i - 2uA}{\tan^2 \phi_i}$$

$$r_s = \sqrt{v \tan^2 \phi_s + 1}$$



## GridInner Algorithm

- Background grid
- Each square gets candidate sample
  - Random expovariate time
- Candidates earlier than neighbors **accepted**
  - In any order, congruent to Poisson-disk process
  - Covered neighbors are **resampled**
    - Uncovered scooped-square
    - Time += expovariate in remaining grid-square area  
 $\text{time}(x \in \Omega) = -\ln(v)/\text{Area}(\Omega)$  random  $v \in [0, 1]$
  - Repeat until domain is covered
- Congruent to Poisson-disk process



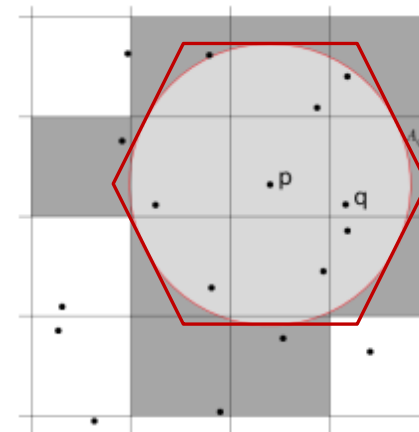
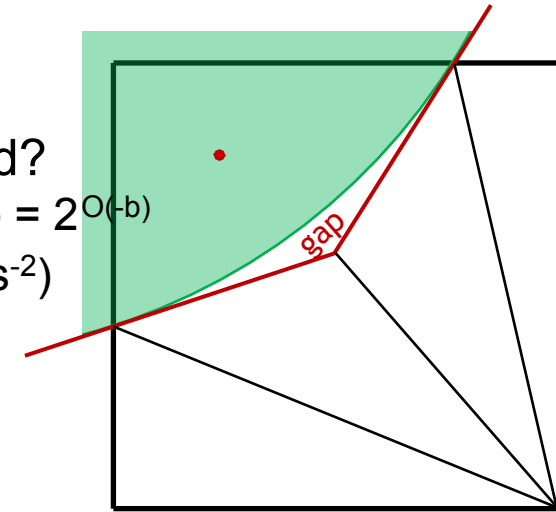
## What's not to love?

### Resampling implementation

- Disks approximated by s-sided polygons
- Subtract polygon from square
- Triangulate
- Pick a triangle
- Pick sample in triangle

### How many sides do we need?

- b-bits of accuracy, need  $\text{gap} = 2^{O(-b)}$
- gap** =  $1 - \cos(\pi/s) = O(\text{sides}^{-2})$
- sides =  $2^{O(b)}$



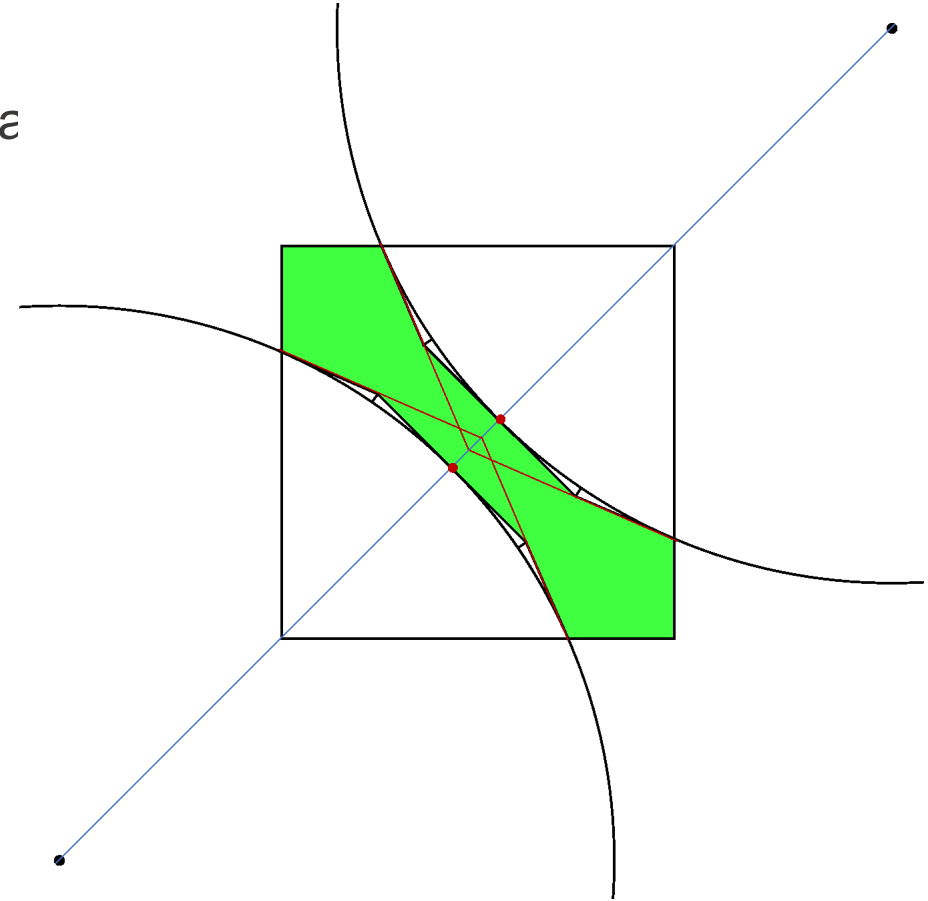
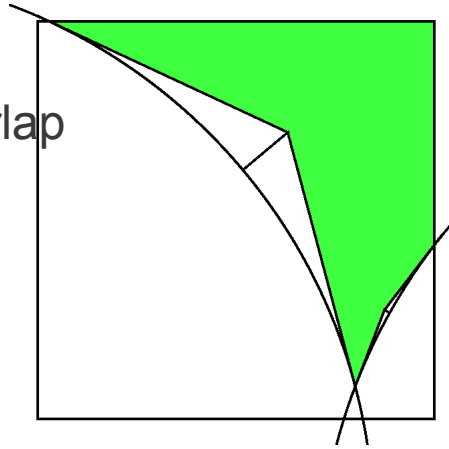
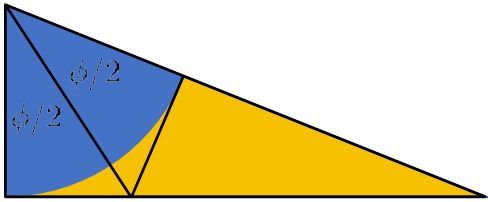
# DeterministicMPS (this paper)

Fix: use chocks to exactly represent uncovered area

- Not polygonal approximation

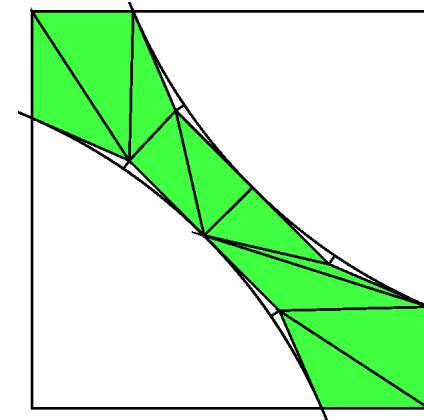
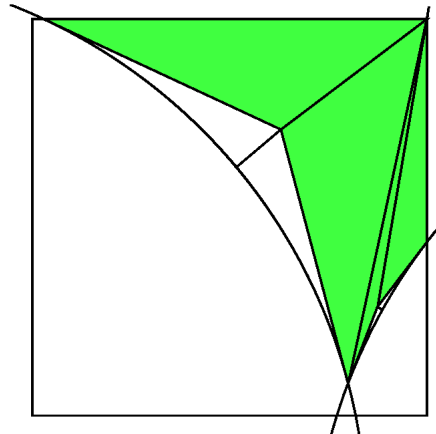
Trim chocks

- Split to ensure they don't overlap

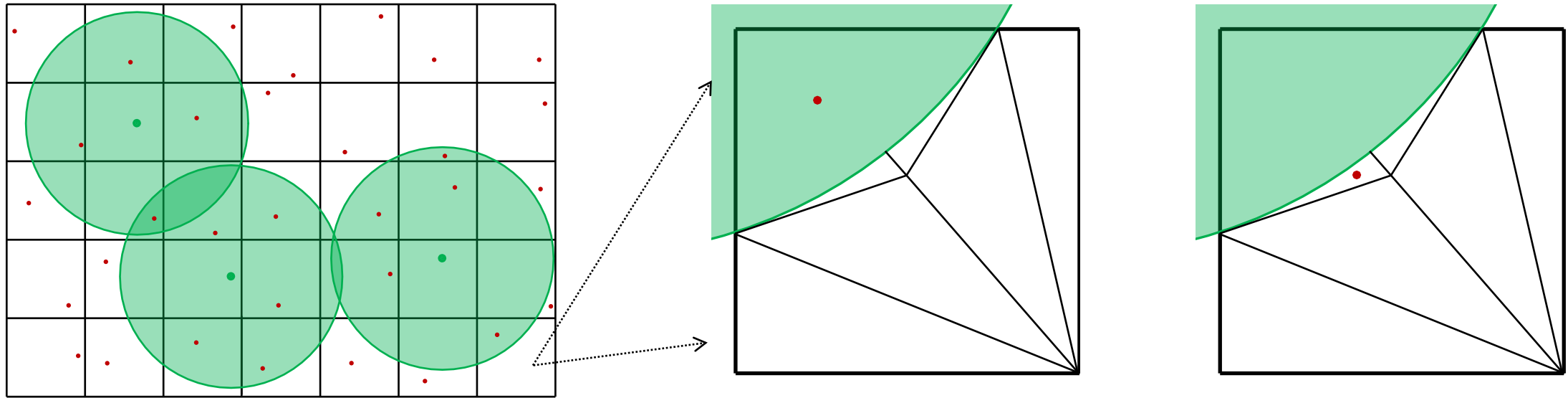


Triangulate remainder

- Ear clipping



Resampling in constant time, exact up to numerical precision

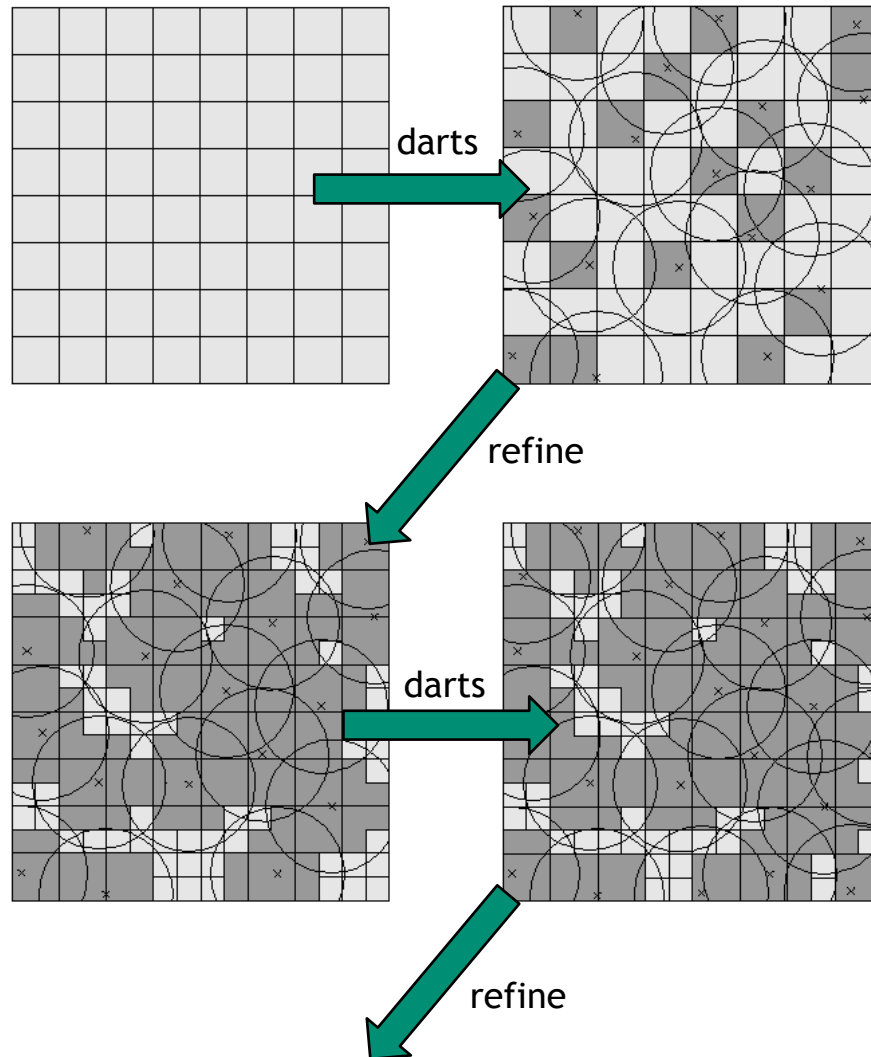


# Simple Maximal Poisson-Disk Sampling

Equivalent to dart-throwing process, identical output Other extreme from DeterministicMPS

- Guarantees saturation
- Runtime & memory, **empirically**  $\mathcal{O}(n)$

- Approximate uncovered regions by squares
- Geometric computations as coarse (and fast!) as possible
- Rejections occur



## SimpleMPS Algorithm

divide domain into cubes

while  $\exists$  cubes, and diagonal > machine precision

do ( $k \times \# \text{cubes}$ ) times:

pick a cube

pick sample from cube

if distance(sample, prior samples) >  $r$

accept sample

discard cube

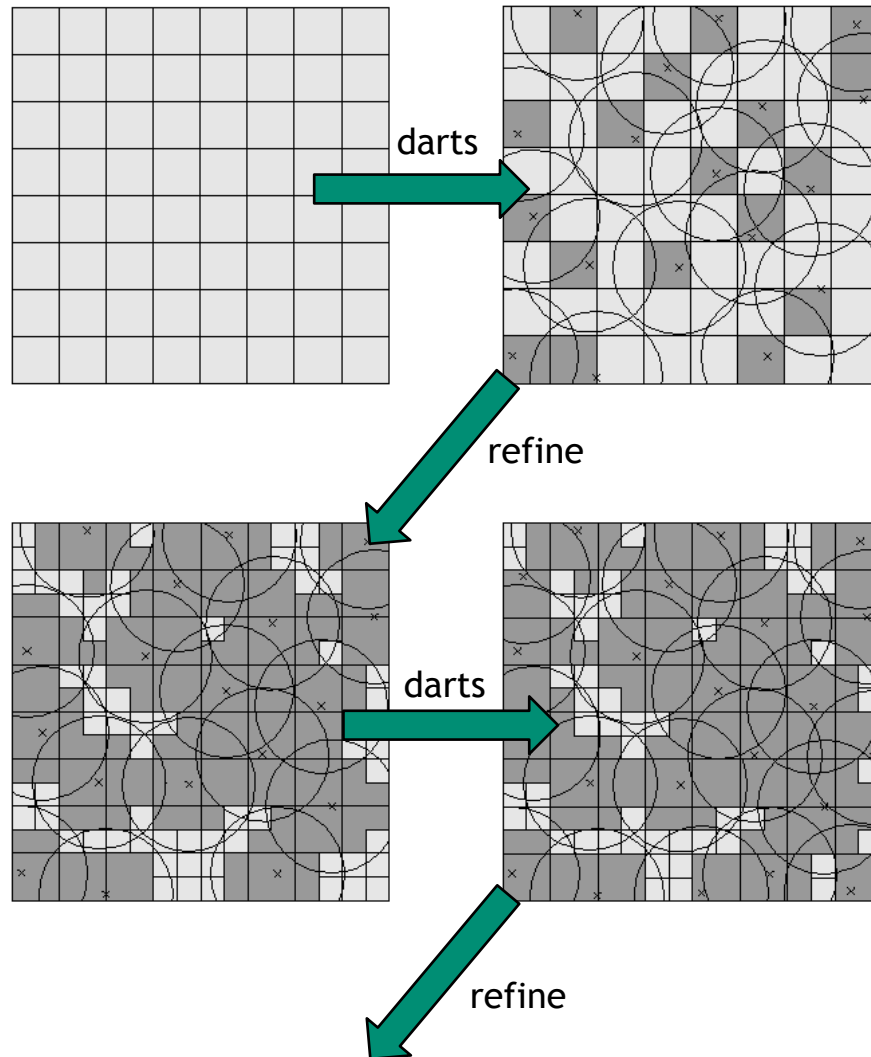
refine cubes

discard covered cubes

# Simple Maximal Poisson-Disk Sampling

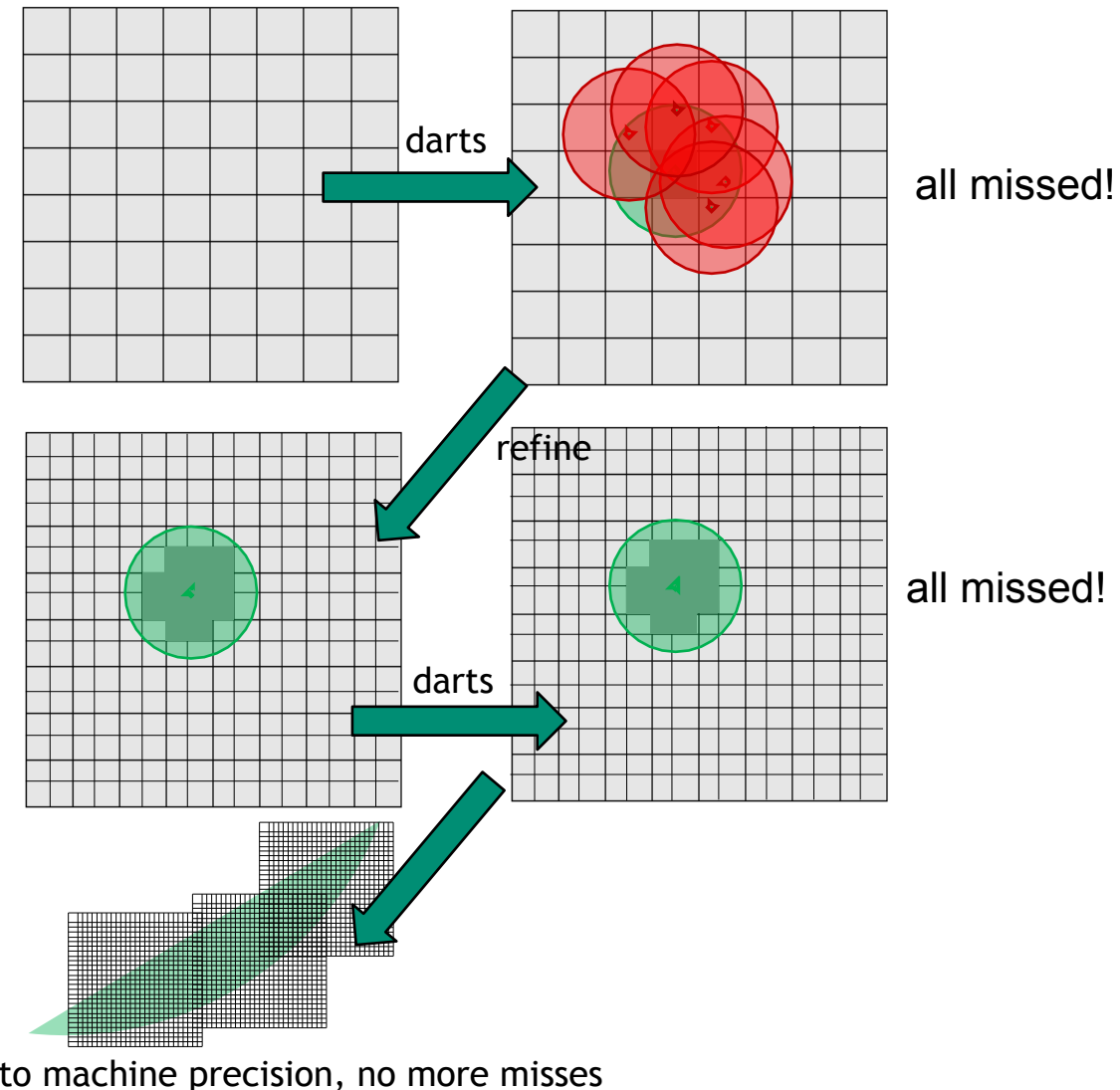
Equivalent to dart-throwing process, identical output

- Guarantees saturation
- Runtime & memory, **empirically**  $\mathbb{E}(n)$



Worst case

$$O(n2^b)$$



# DeterministicMPS relationship summary



method	approx.	Poisson-disks	maximal	expected time	deterministic time	precision complexity
Dart-throwing [DW85]	outer	Y	-	1	-	1
Scallop-MDS [DH06a]	in	-	Y	-	$n \log n$	$b + \log b$
Voronoi-MPS [Jon06]	outer	Y	Y	$n \log n$	-	1
GridOuter-MPS [EPM <sup>11</sup> ]	outer	Y	Y	$n \log n$	-	1
Sequential-MPS [ours]	-	Y	Y	-	$n \log n$	$\log b$
Simple-MPS [EMP <sup>12</sup> ]	outer	Y	Y	$n^t$	-	$2^b$
GridInner-MPS [JK11]	in	$Y^\#$	$Y^\#$	-	$n$	$2^b$
ChockSubdivision-MPS [ours]	-	Y	Y	-	$n$	$b + \log b$
Deterministic-MPS [ours]	-	Y	Y	-	$n$	$\log b$

## GridInner

- Samples from subset of uncovered
  - Disk-square geometry construction
  - Triangulate
- No rejections
- Exponential complexity in accuracy of subset matching true domain and true Poisson-disk sampling

## DeterministicMPS

- No rejections
- Samples exactly from uncovered
- Log complexity in numerical accuracy

## ScallopMDS

- Samples from subset of uncovered
  - Subset never matches true domain
  - Not Poisson-disk sampling
- No rejections
- Inverse area transform
  - Linear complexity in numerical accuracy

## SimpleMPS

- Samples from superset of uncovered
- Rejections occur
- Exponential worst-case

Read paper, Background other MPS

It's excellent, but don't take my word for it  
take the reviewers ☺



# Practical Matters

## Efficiency in practice

- 100k samples / second
  - Order of magnitude faster than all other maximal Poisson-disk methods compared
  - except SimpleMPS is 2-3× faster!

## Open source

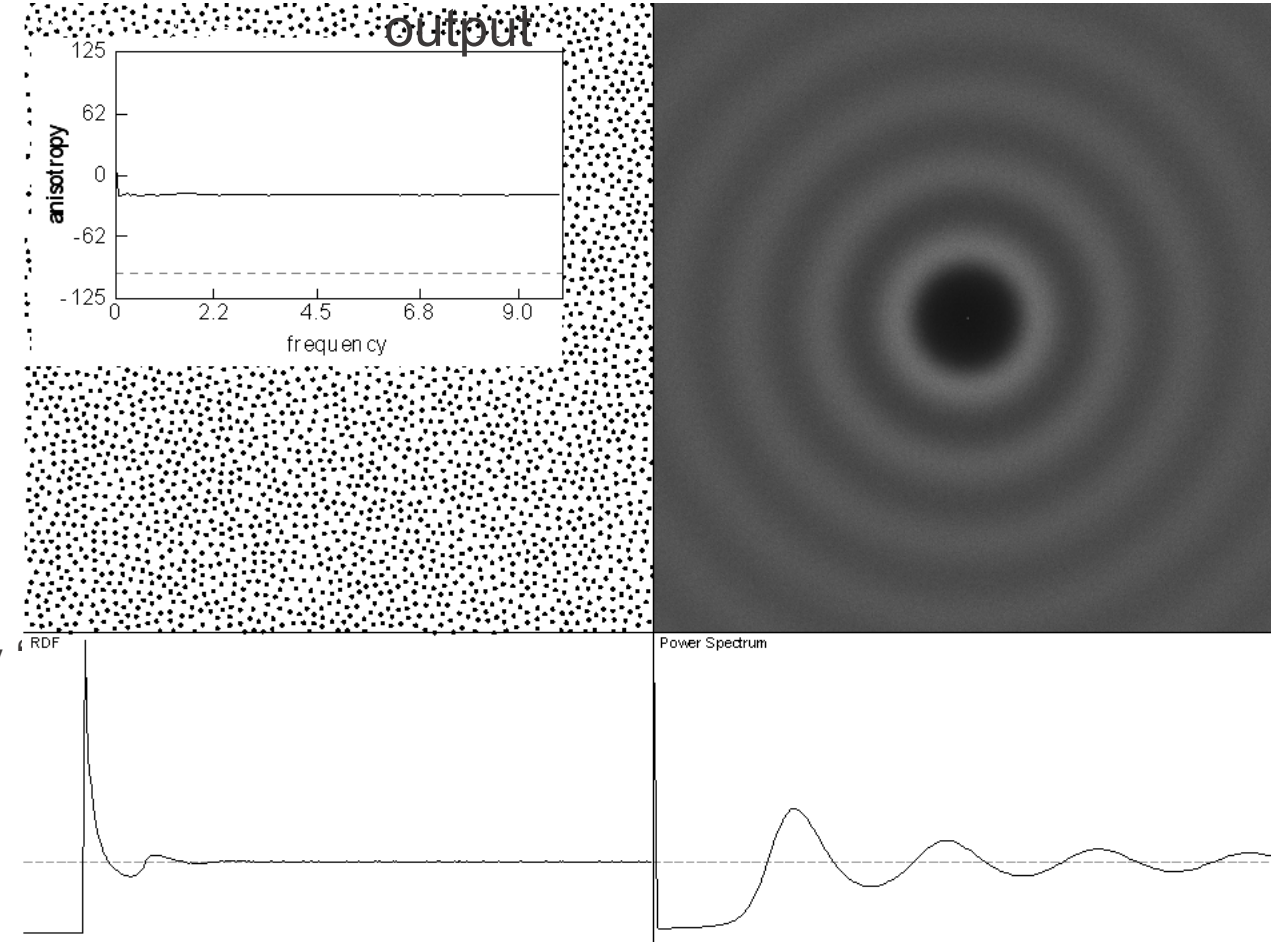
- <https://github.com/samitch/DeterministicMPS>
- Free for any use
- No dependencies. No libraries. Nothing. Just say
- Replicates paper figures

## Code size

- Relatively large due to geometric computations
- Chock sampling itself small, few dozen lines.

Verified true MPS

output



# Open Problems



## Deterministic MPS

- Embedded surfaces
- 3D
- Need new inverse area transforms

## Can you prove

- Throw darts into a domain, then constant fraction accepted?
- Serial: SimpleMPS provable expected runtime
- Parallel: PixelPie provable expected constant

## Step blue-noise and non-uniform distributions

- Currently
  - Posteriori optimization, slow
  - Priori placement
    - Use chocks to avoid rejections and approximations
    - Complexity?
      - Quickly varying distribution = increased #neighbors

# Thank you!

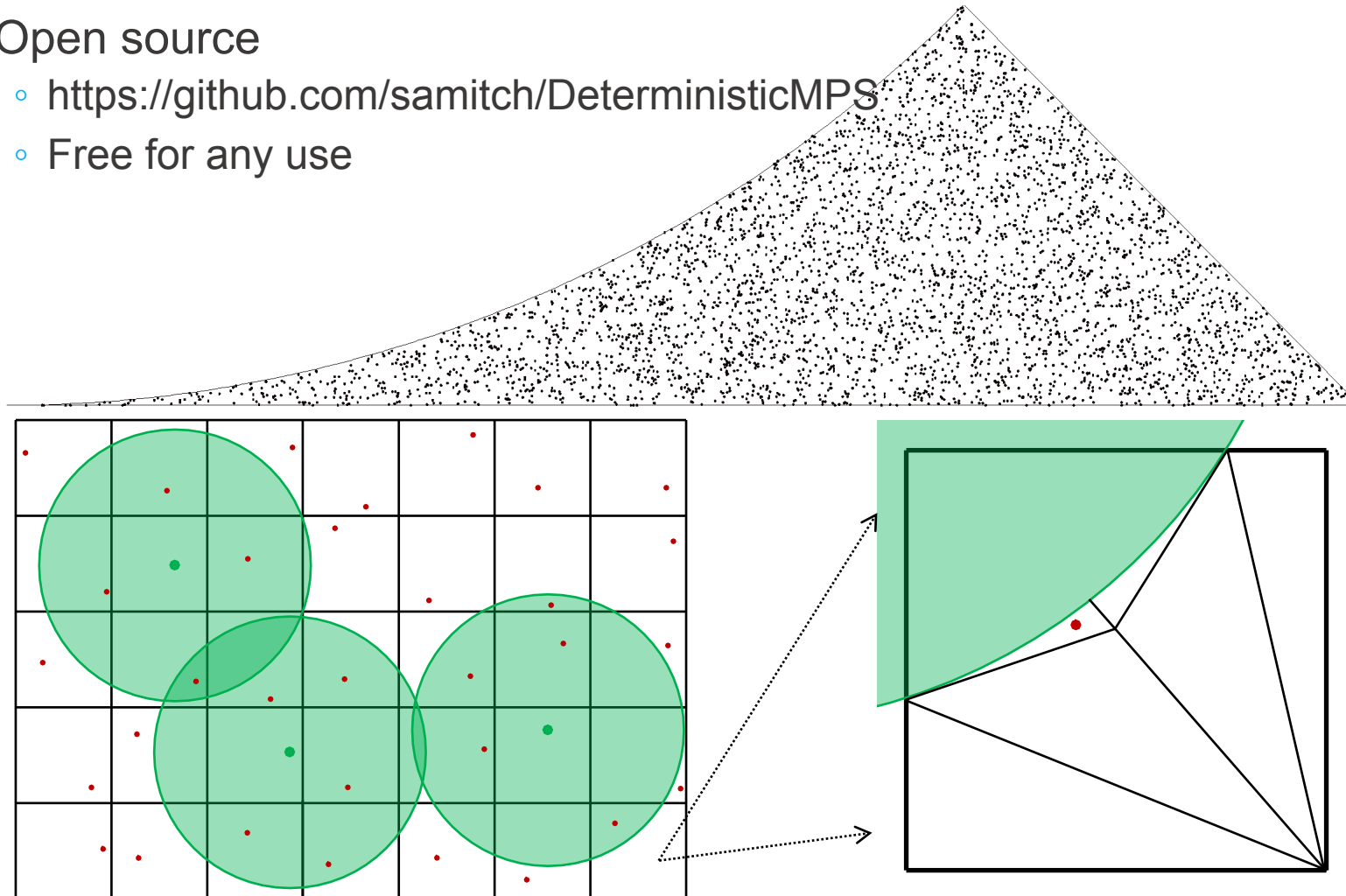


“Il semble que la perfection soit atteinte non quand il n'y a plus rien à ajouter, mais quand il n'y a plus rien à retrancher.”  
“Perfection is achieved, not when there is nothing more to add, but when there is nothing left to take away.”

– Antoine de Saint-Exupéry, [Airman's Odyssey](#)

## Open source

- <https://github.com/samitch/DeterministicMPS>
- Free for any use



chock

