



# Extended Path Space Manifolds for Physically Based Differentiable Rendering

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## Connecting STORIES

The 16th ACM SIGGRAPH Conference and Exhibition on  
Computer Graphics and Interactive Techniques in Asia

CONFERENCE 12 - 15 December 2023

EXHIBITION 13 - 15 December 2023

ICC, Sydney, Australia

[ASIA.SIGGRAPH.ORG/2023](https://asia.siggraph.org/2023)

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# Differentiable Rendering



Forward Rendering

$$y = f(x)$$



$$\frac{\partial y}{\partial x} = ?$$

Differentiable  
Rendering

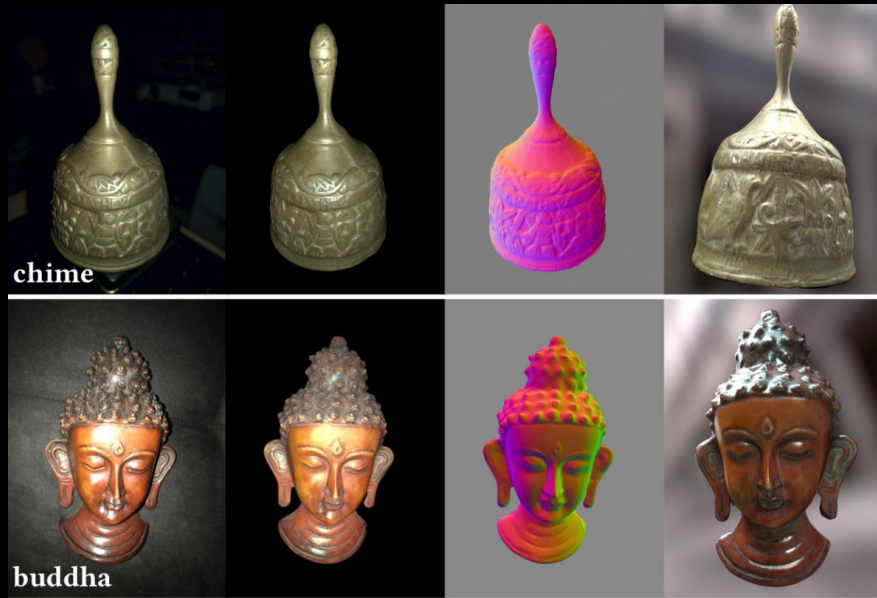


$x$ :      Geometry      Material  
                 Light      Camera

.....

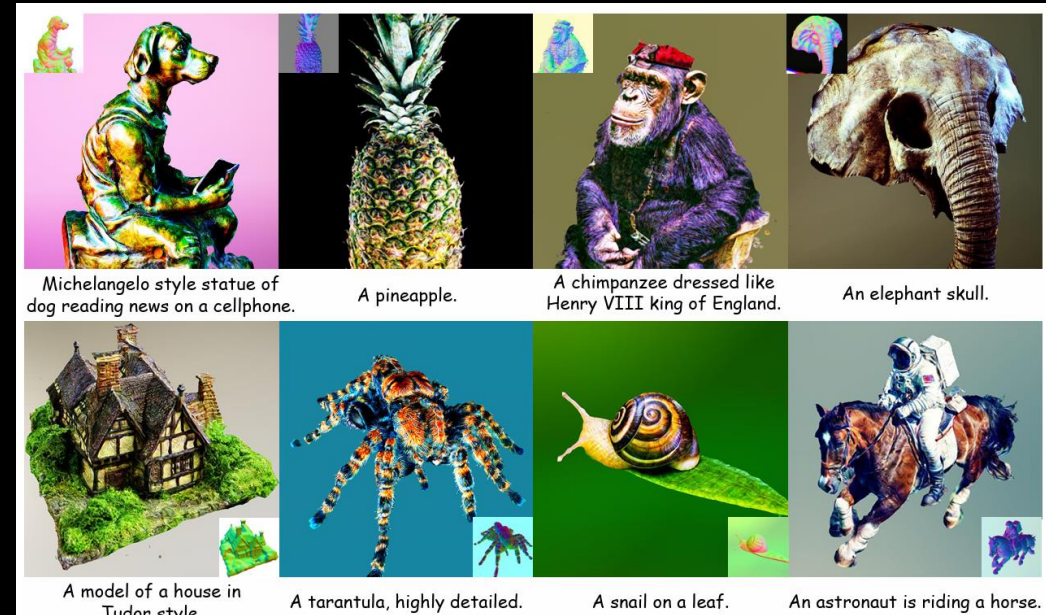
$y$ : Rendered Image

# Application: Inverse Rendering & 3D AIGC



## Inverse Rendering

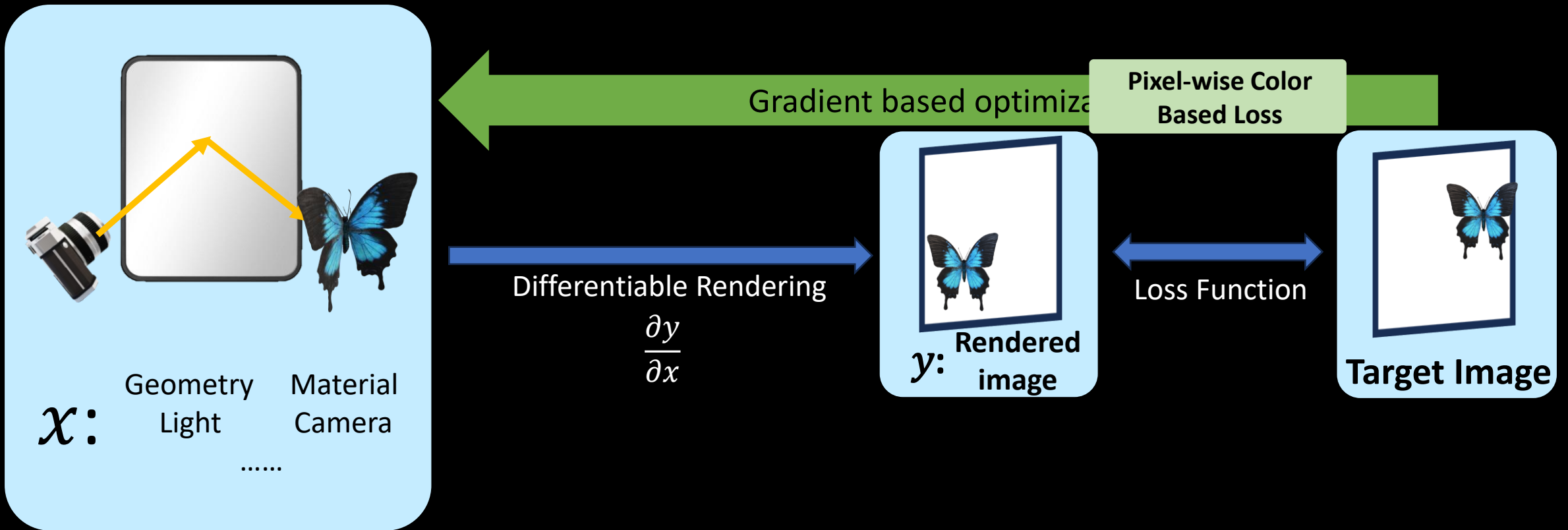
Recover scene representation from images/videos through analysis by synthesis



## 3D AIGC

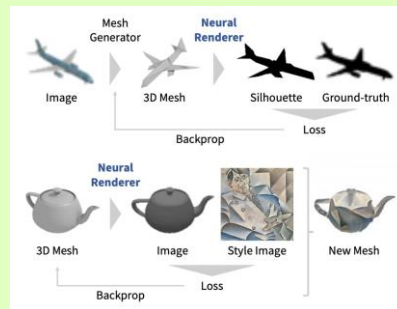
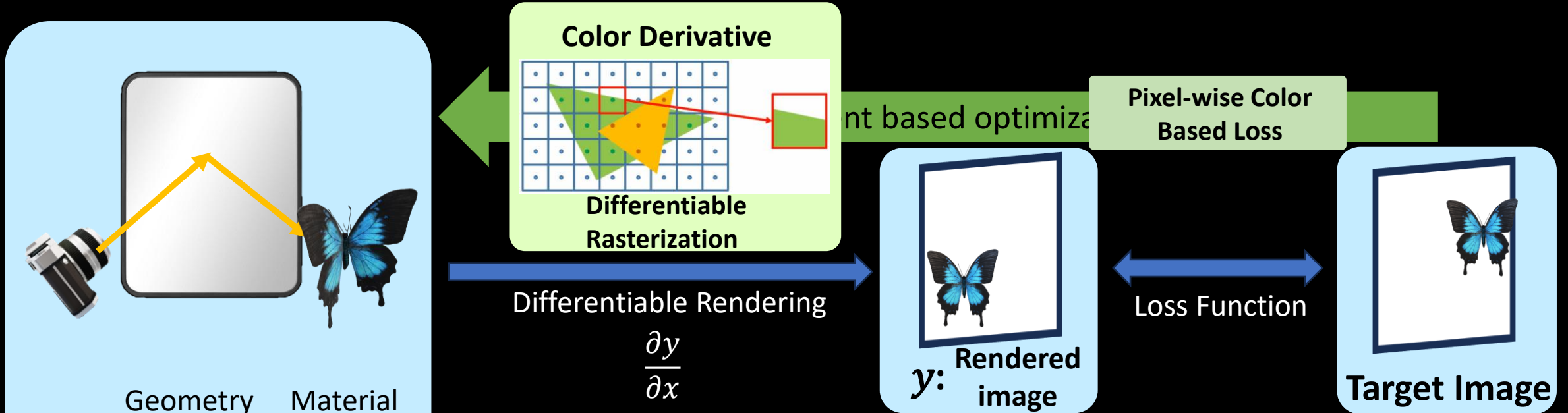
Optimize 3D representation using 2D images priors Through SDS/VSD Loss

# Differentiable Rendering Pipeline

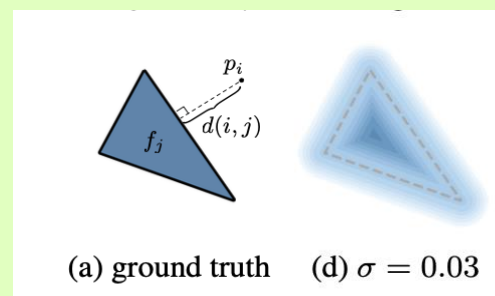




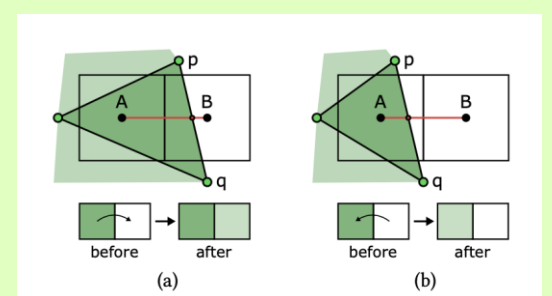
# Differentiable Rendering Pipeline: Rasterization



[Kato 18] N3MR  
Approximate Gradient

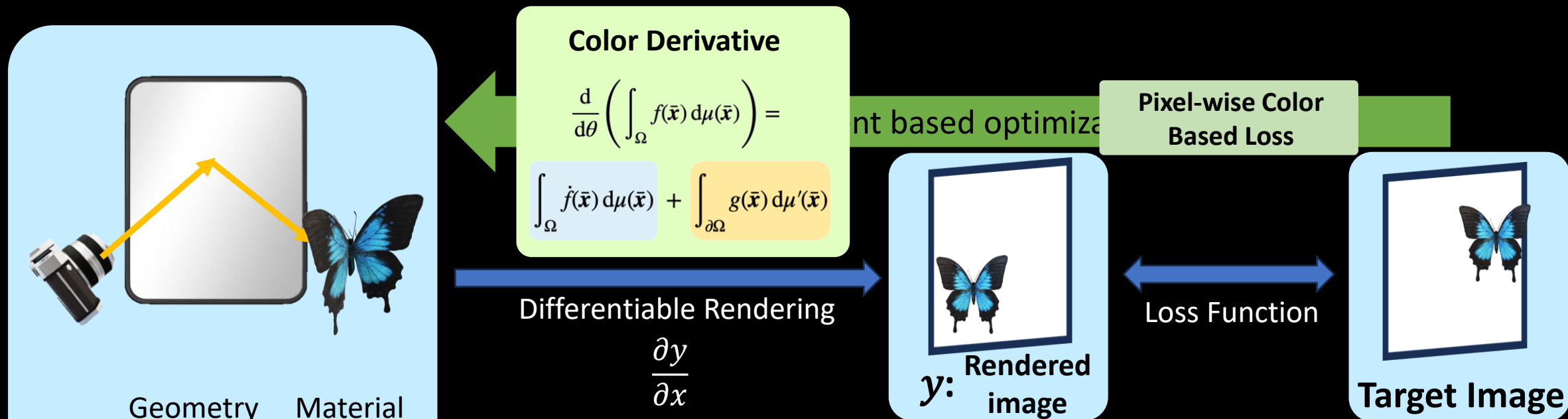


Soft Rasterizer, PyTorch3D  
Approximate Rendering



Nvdiffrastr  
Analytical Antialiasing

# Differentiable Rendering Pipeline: PBR/PT



Three sub-diagrams illustrating advanced rendering techniques:

- Edge Sampling:** A diagram showing a green plane and a red triangle with blue dots along their edges. A green arrow points to the edge sampling process.
 

(b) edge sampling  
Li et al. 2018  
**Edge Sampling**
- PSDR:** A diagram showing a scene with a camera and a light source. Rays are labeled  $x_0^S$ ,  $x_0^D$ ,  $x_1^D$ ,  $x_2^D$ , and  $x_1^S$ .
 

Direct  
Zhang et al. 2020  
**PSDR**
- Reparameterization:** A diagram showing a camera and a light source with a blue plane. A ray is labeled  $\mathbf{x}$  and a point on the plane is labeled  $\mathbf{y}$ . The derivative  $\frac{\partial \theta \mathbf{y}}{|\partial \omega \mathbf{y}|}$  is shown.
 

Bangaru et al. 2020  
**Reparameterization**

# Problems: Loss Locality & Gradient Sparsity

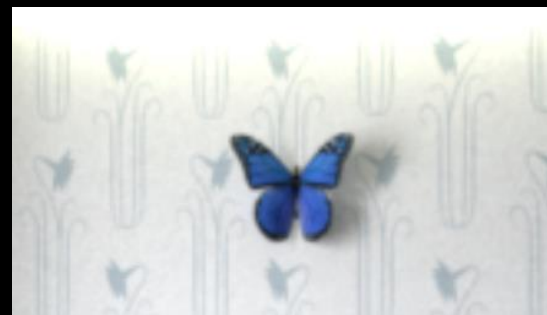


Rendered Image

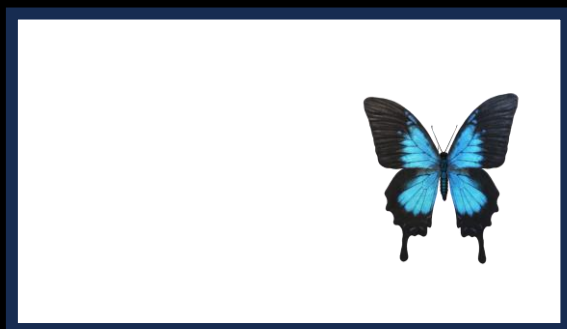
Loss Locality



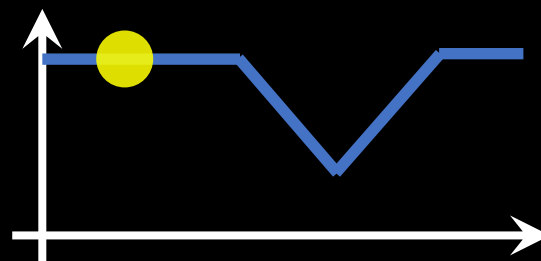
Gradient Sparsity



$\theta: x$  - axis translation



Target Image



Overall L2 Loss with Object Translation



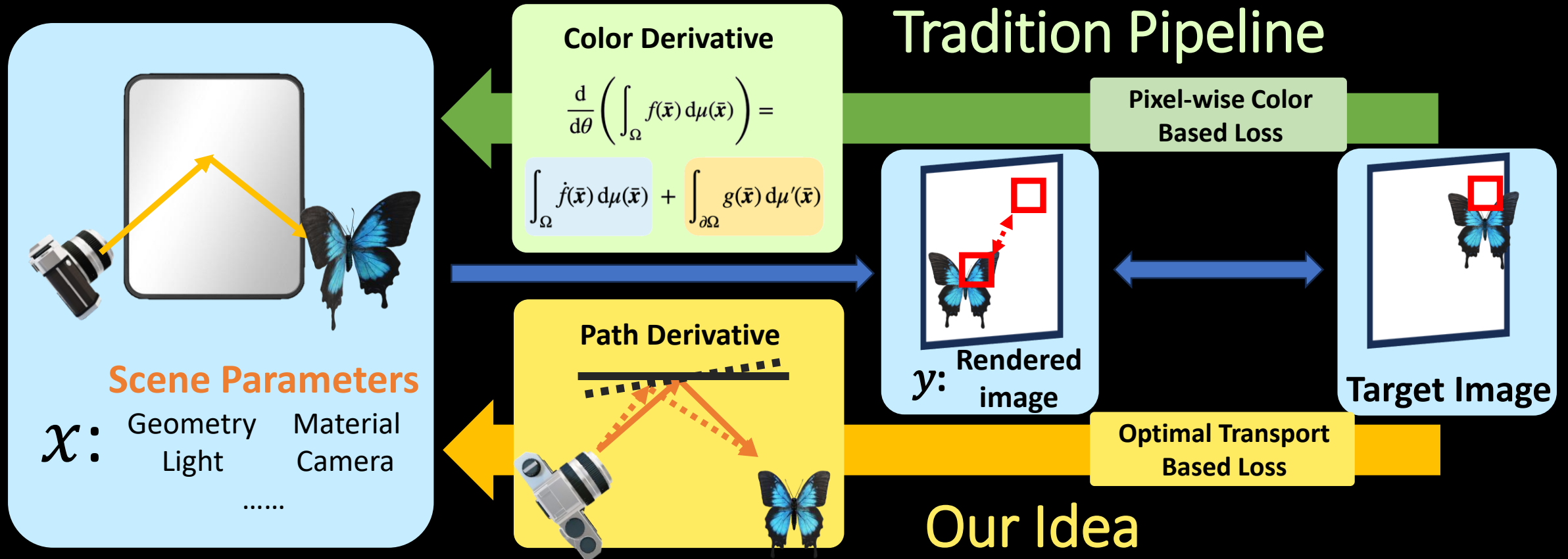
Gradient

Some methods may help

- multi-resolution
- plateau reduced [Fischer 2022]
- large-steps [Nicolet 2021]

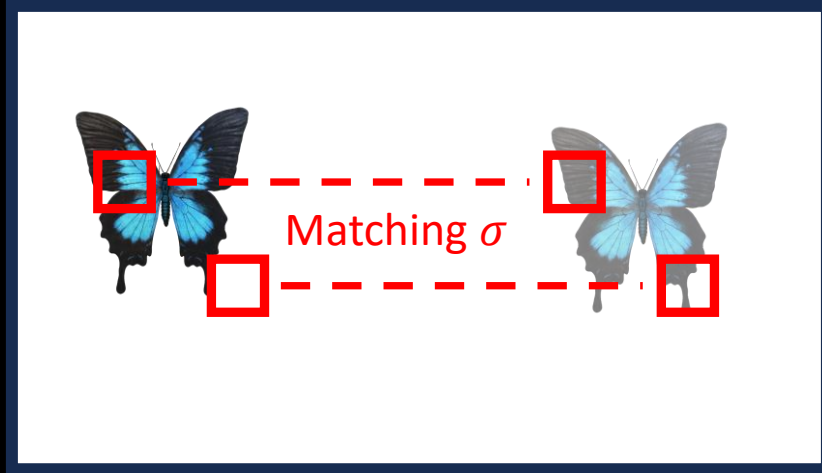
But not enough!

# A Novel Pipeline





# Optimal Transport Based Loss Function [Xing 2022]



Current & Target Image

$$P_i = \begin{bmatrix} r \\ g \\ b \\ x \\ y \end{bmatrix} \begin{array}{l} \text{Color } c \\ \text{Screen Space} \\ \text{Position } p \end{array}$$

$$\min_{\sigma \in \text{Perm}(n)} \frac{1}{n} \sum_i d(P_i^{\text{render}}, P_{\sigma(i)}^{\text{target}})$$
$$d(P_i, P_j) = \|P_i - P_j\|_2^2$$

Solved by optimal transport

$$L_{our} = \frac{1}{n} \sum \left\| P_i^{\text{render}} - P_{\sigma(i)}^{\text{target}} \right\|^2$$

# Traditional Loss vs Our Loss

$$\mathbf{P}_i = \begin{bmatrix} r \\ g \\ b \\ \lambda x \\ \lambda y \end{bmatrix} \begin{array}{l} \text{Color } \mathbf{c} \\ \text{Screen Space} \\ \text{Position } \mathbf{p} \end{array}$$

Traditional Loss

$$L = \frac{1}{n} \sum \left\| \mathbf{I}_i^{\text{render}} - \mathbf{I}_i^{\text{target}} \right\|^2 = \frac{1}{n} \sum \left\| \mathbf{P}_i^{\text{render}} - \mathbf{P}_i^{\text{target}} \right\|^2$$

Our Loss

$$L^{\text{our}} = \frac{1}{n} \sum \left\| \mathbf{P}_i^{\text{render}} - \mathbf{P}_{\sigma(i)}^{\text{target}} \right\|^2 \text{ from a matching}$$

Traditional loss is equivalent to our loss with identity matching

# Backpropagate to Scene Parameter $\theta$

$$P_i = \begin{bmatrix} r \\ g \\ b \\ x \\ y \end{bmatrix}$$

Color  $c$   
Screen Space  
Position  $p$

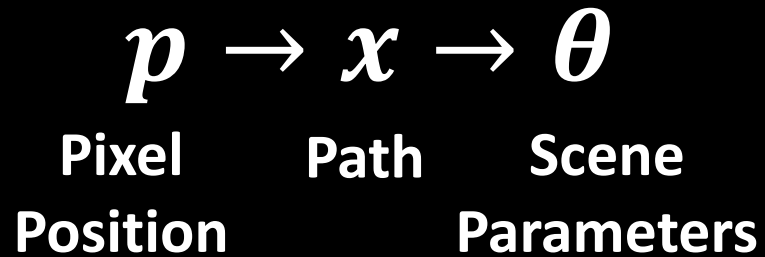
$$L^{our} = \frac{1}{n} \sum \left\| P_i^{\text{render}} - P_{\sigma(i)}^{\text{target}} \right\|^2$$

$$\frac{\partial L^{our}}{\partial \theta} = \frac{\partial L^{our}}{\partial c} \boxed{\frac{\partial c}{\partial \theta}} + \frac{\partial L^{our}}{\partial p} \boxed{\frac{\partial p}{\partial \theta}}$$

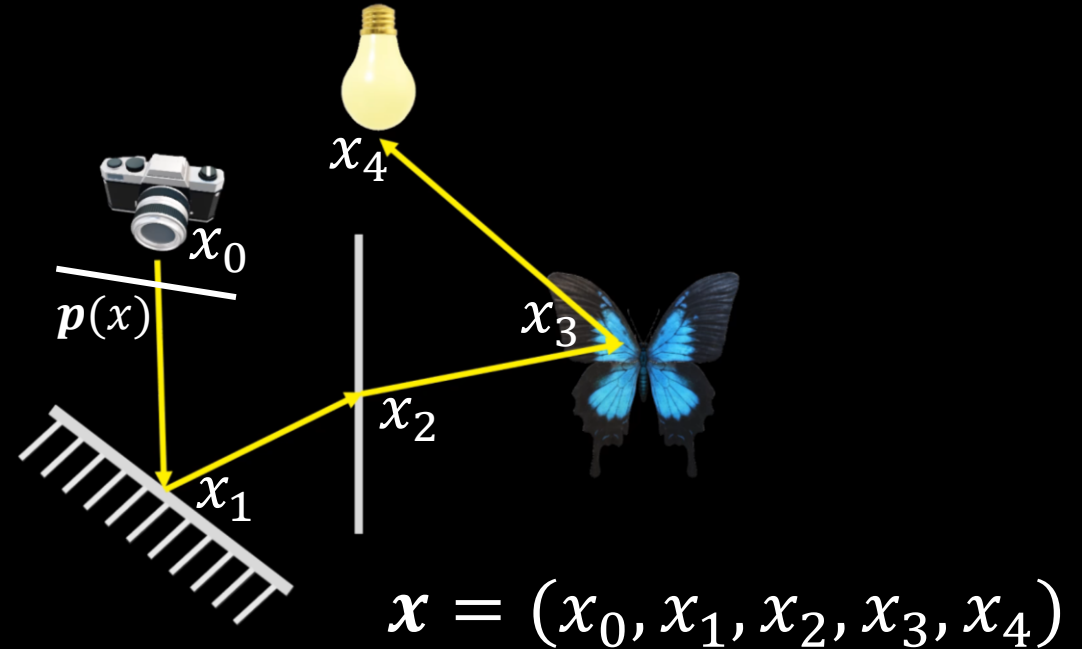
Color Derivatives  
(Follow traditional  
work)

How to compute position derivatives  
with respect to scene parameter  $\theta$ ?

# Path Derivatives



$$\frac{\partial p}{\partial \theta} = \frac{\partial p(x)}{\partial x} \frac{\partial x}{\partial \theta}$$

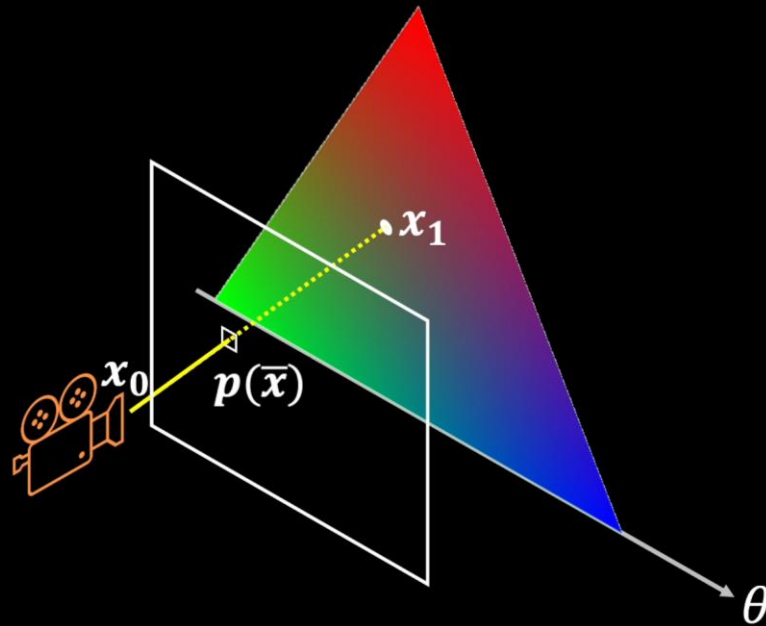


Regard pixel position  $p$  as the path  $\bar{x}$  interaction with image plane

Path Derivatives: When we change scene parameter  $\theta$ , how will the path  $x$  be changed

# Simple Path Derivatives [Xing 2022]

Path  $x = (x_0, x_1)$ , where  $x_1$  is the primary intersection



When changing scene parameter  $\theta$ ,  
Stick  $x_1$  to the underlying geometry

Cannot handle longer light paths involving global illumination effects!

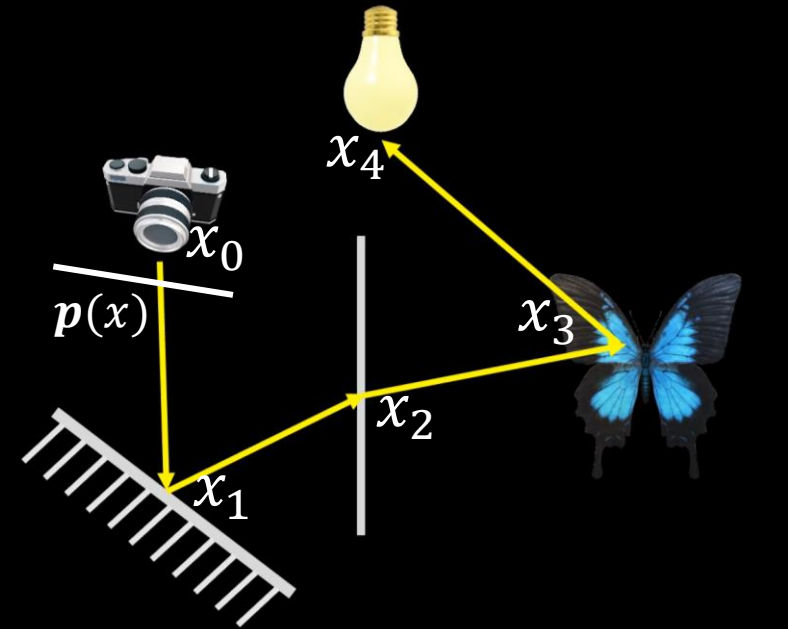


# Complex Path in PT

- In path tracing, paths are composed of multiple vertex and generated by various sampling strategy
- No determined relationship between scene parameters and path
  - Unable to compute derivatives of path with respect to parameters.

## Our Main Task:

Build a determined relationship between scene parameters and complex light path.

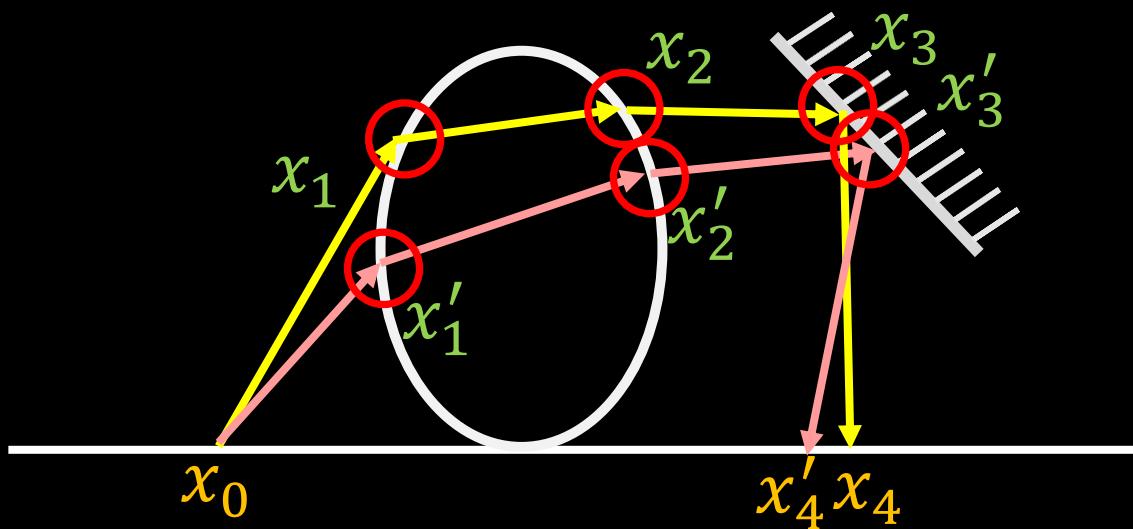


$$x = (x_0, x_1, x_2, x_3, x_4)$$

$\theta$ : mirror rotation

# Inspiration: Path Space Manifold [Jakob 2012]

- Valid paths usually lie in low dimension manifolds.
- The specular middle points can be **uniquely** determined by the diffuse endpoints.



$$\mathbf{x} = (x_0, x_1, x_2, x_3, x_4)$$

$$\text{Constraints } C(\mathbf{x}) = 0$$

Implicit Function Theorem

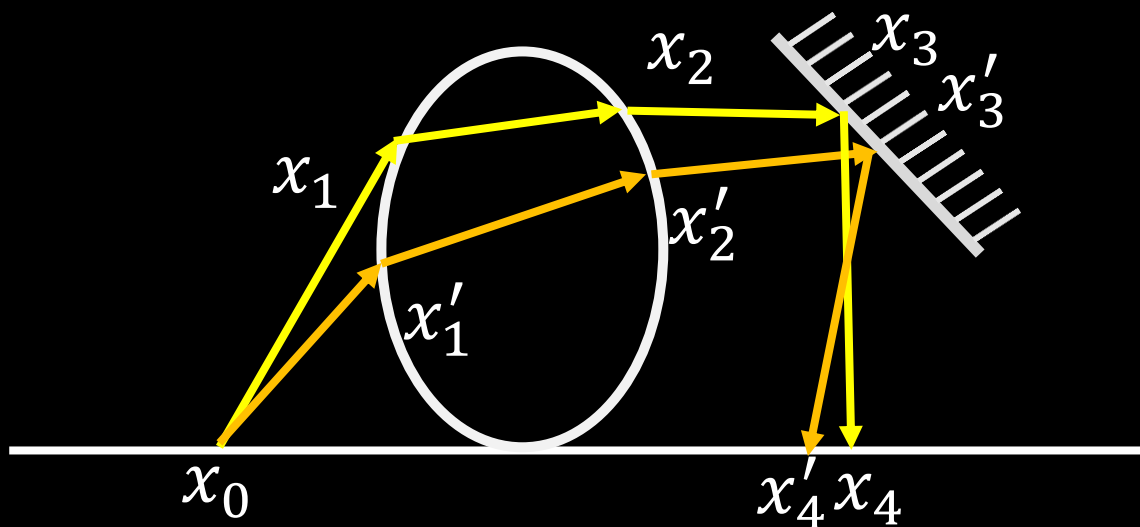
$$\frac{\partial x_i}{\partial x_j}$$

# Extended Path Space Manifold (EPSM)

## Path Space Manifold

$$C(\mathbf{x}) = 0, \frac{\partial x_i}{\partial x_j}$$

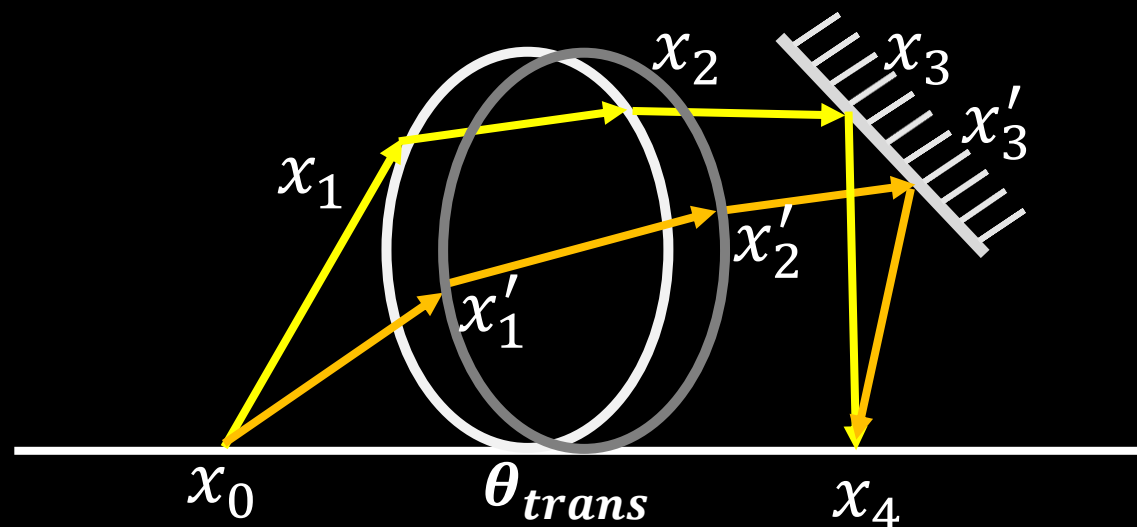
Efficient Sampling  
Forward Rendering



## Extended PSM

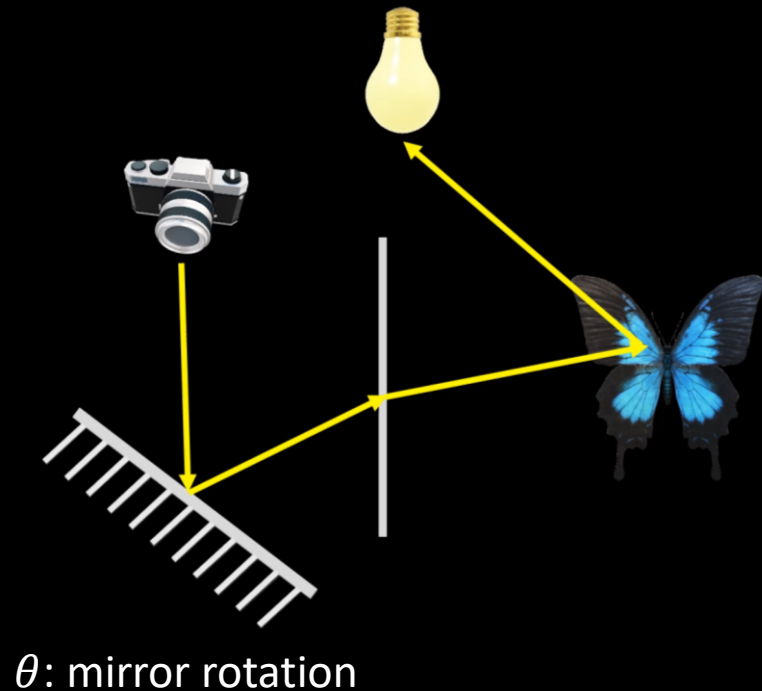
$$C(\mathbf{x}, \theta) = 0, \frac{\partial \mathbf{x}}{\partial \theta}$$

Path Derivatives  
Differentiable Rendering

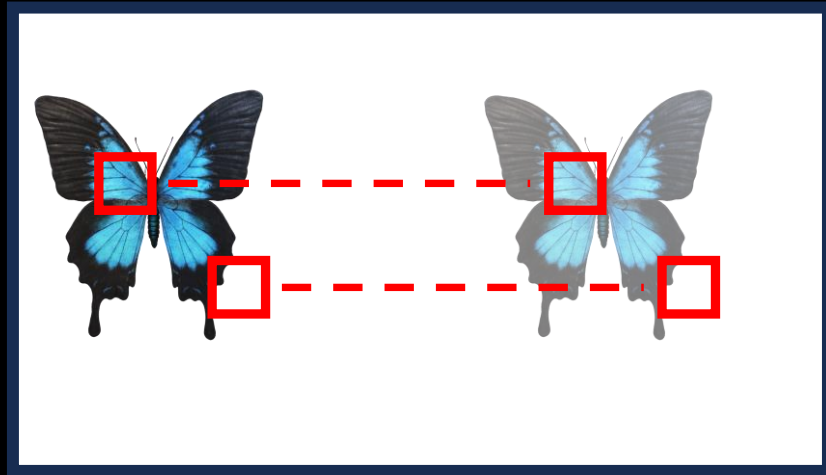


# How to build $C(x, \theta) = 0$

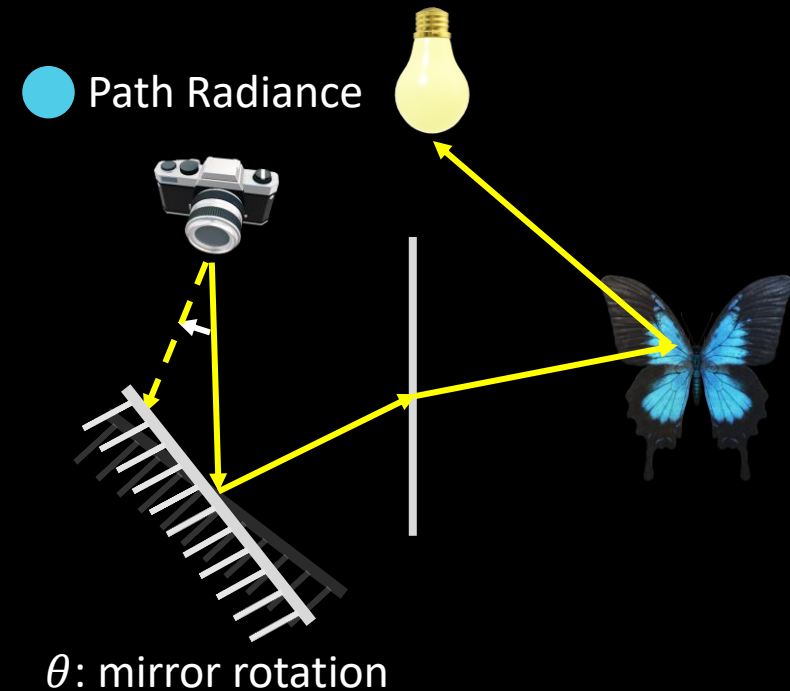
Constraints  $C(x, \theta)$ :  
Represents how we want  
the path to be changed



# Goal of Building Constraint

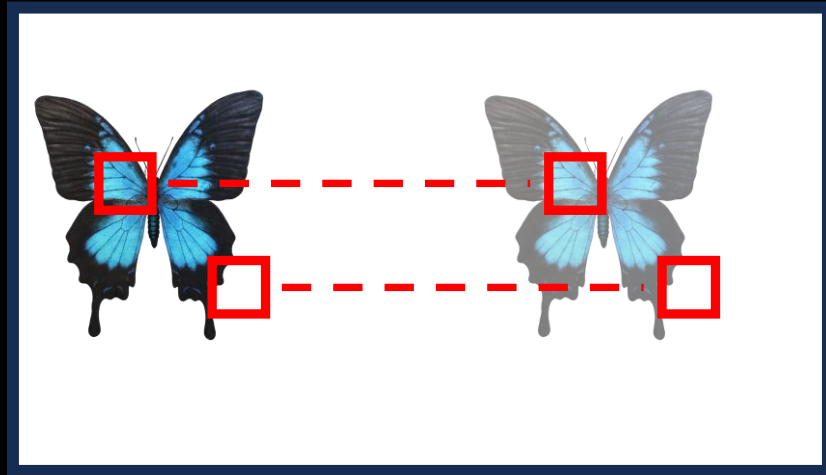


Move path geometry  
Keep radiance

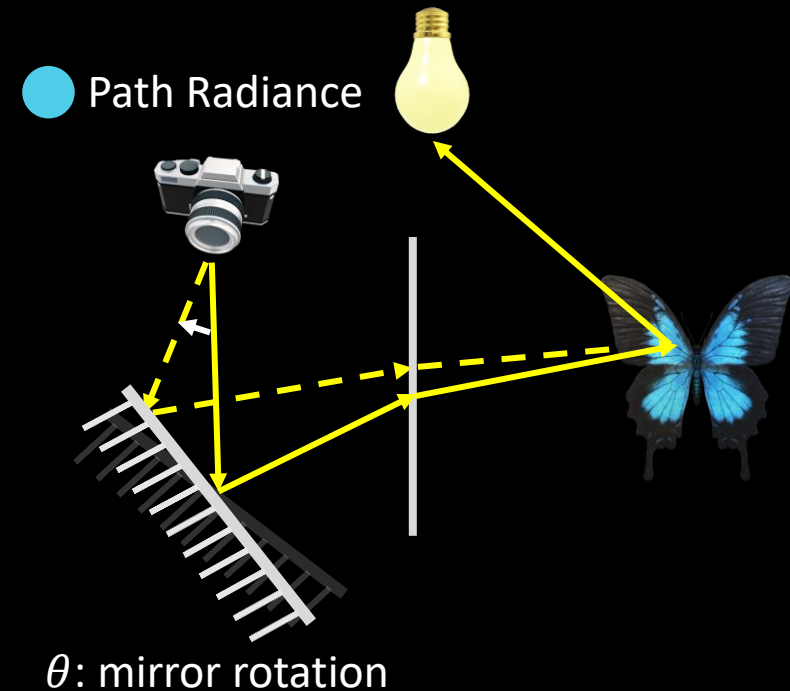




# Goal of Building Constraint



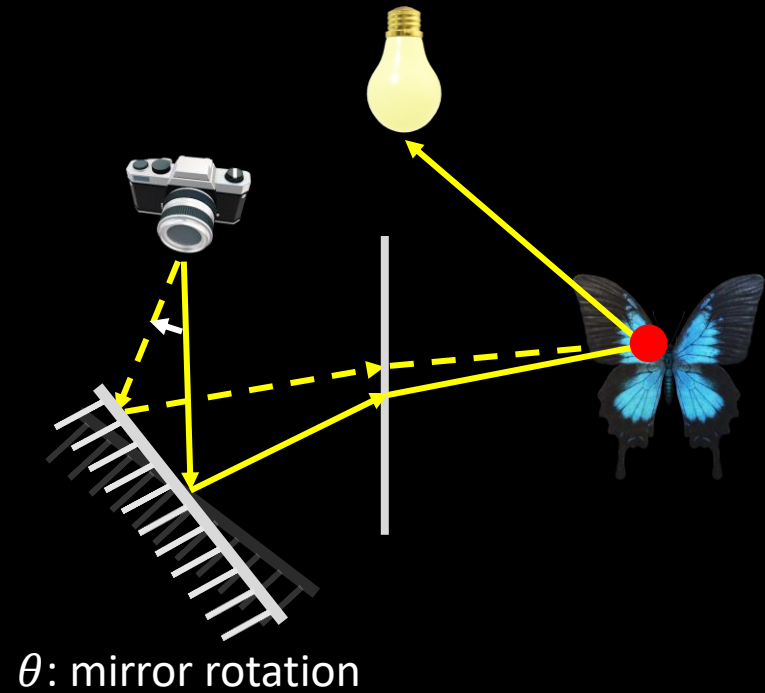
Move path geometry  
Keep path effect



# Example: Keep Path Effect



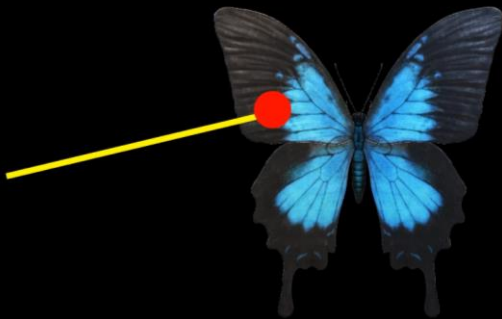
- Path effect decided by the diffuse intersection



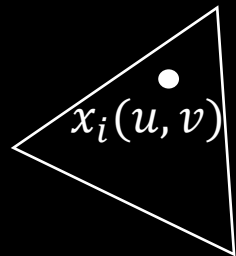
# Fix Position Constraint

● Fix Position Constraint

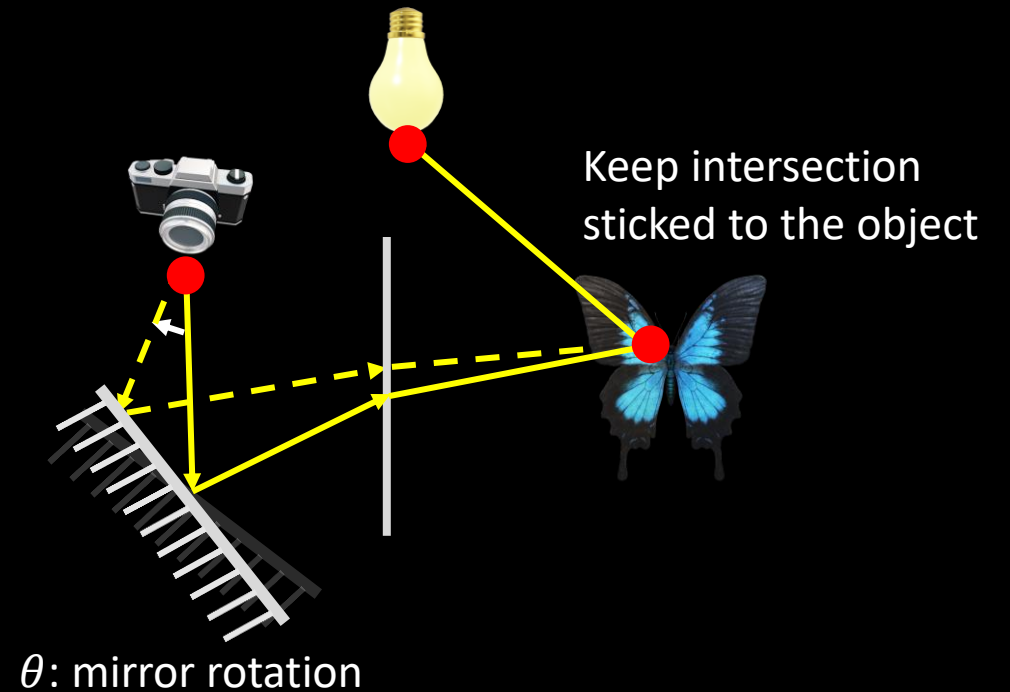
Visualization



Mathematics



$$u = \text{Const}$$
$$v = \text{Const}$$

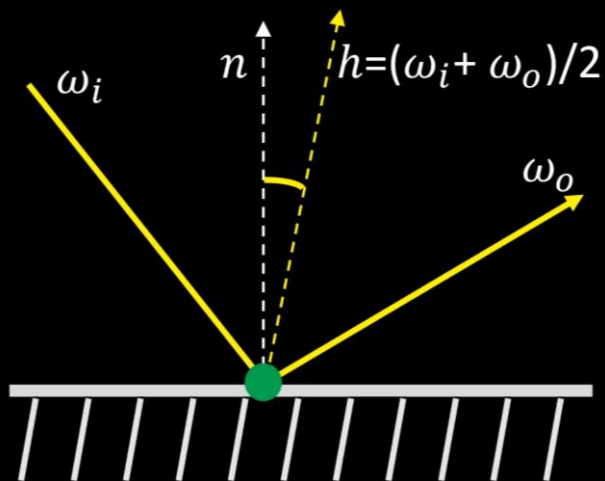


# Half Vector Constraint

● Fix Position Constraint

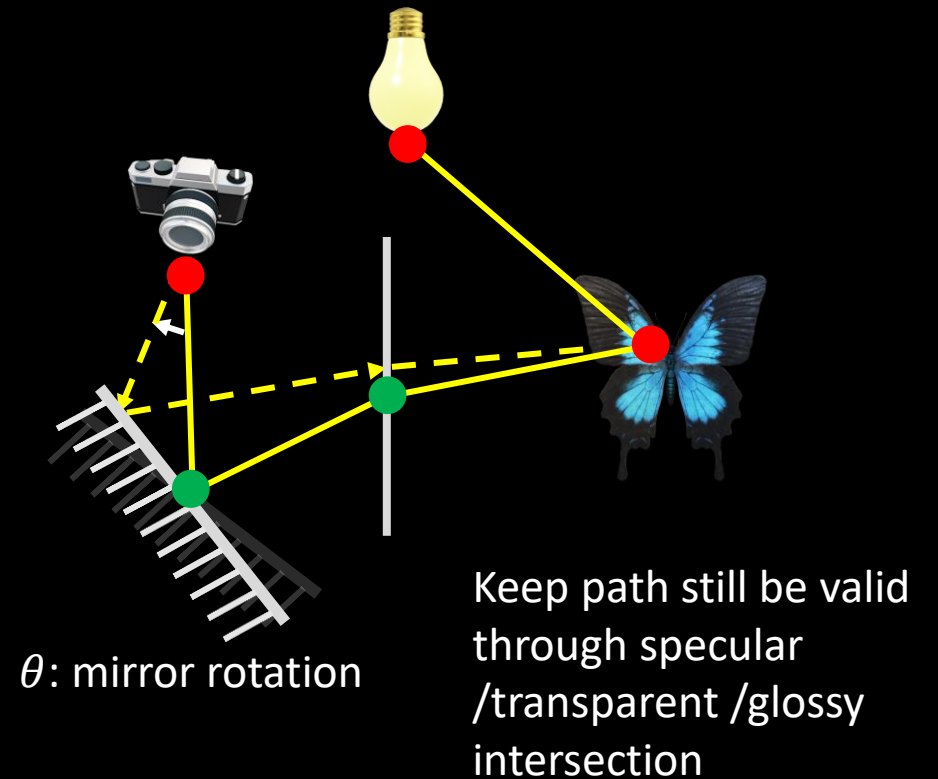
● Half Vector Constraint

Visualization



Mathematics

$$h = (\omega_i + \omega_o) / 2$$
$$\langle n, h \rangle = \text{Const}$$

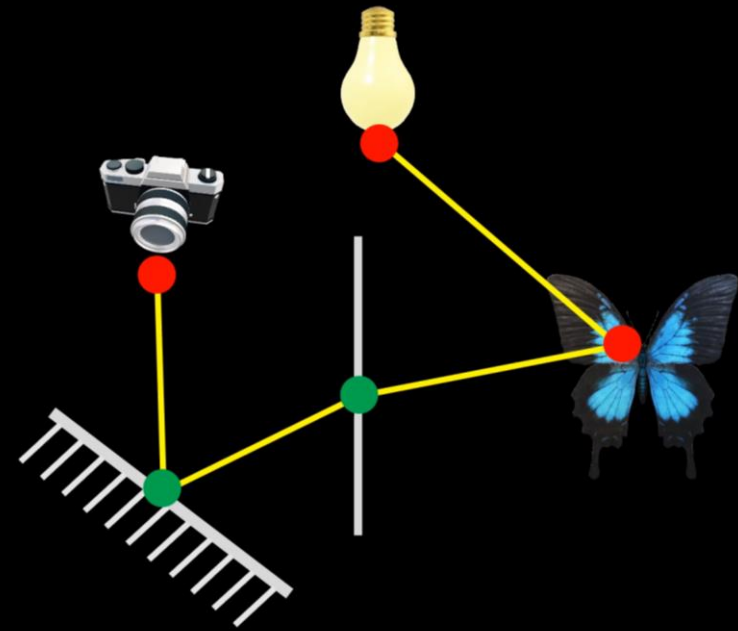


$\theta$ : mirror rotation

Keep path still be valid  
through specular  
/transparent /glossy  
intersection

# Example: Path Moving

- Fix Position Constraint
- Half Vector Constraint



$\theta$ : mirror rotation



# Derivatives Computing

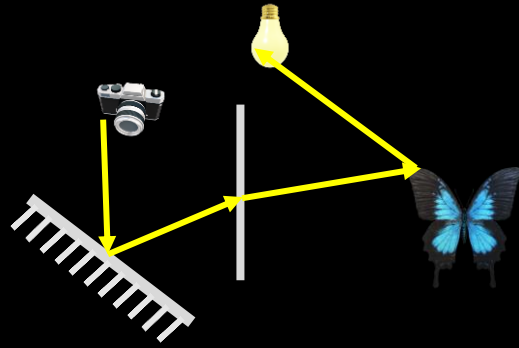
- For length  $n$  path  $\mathbf{x} = (x_1, x_2, \dots, x_n)$  (all surface intersections)
- We enforce  $n$  2D Constraint on it:

$$C(\mathbf{x}, \theta) = \{C_i(\mathbf{x}, \theta) = \mathbf{0} \quad i = 1 \dots n\}$$

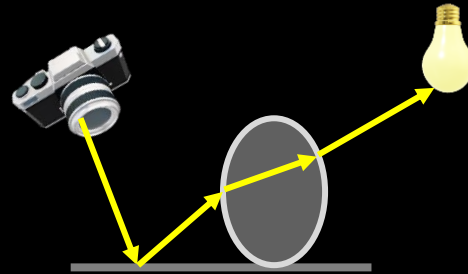
- Given  $\theta$ , we can uniquely determine a path  $\mathbf{x}$
- By implicit function theorem:

$$\frac{\partial \mathbf{x}}{\partial \theta} = - \left( \frac{\partial C}{\partial \mathbf{x}} \right)^{-1} \frac{\partial C}{\partial \theta}$$

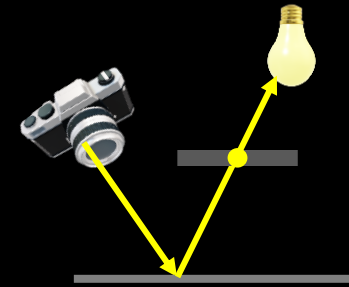
# Path Types and Constraints in EPSM



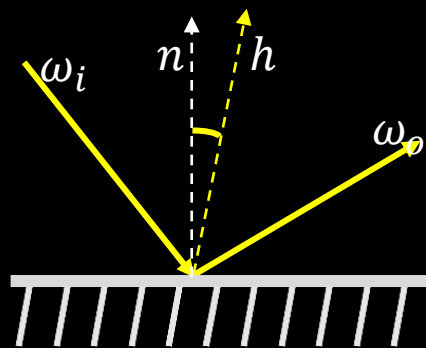
General Path



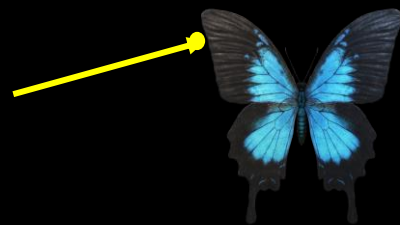
Caustic Path



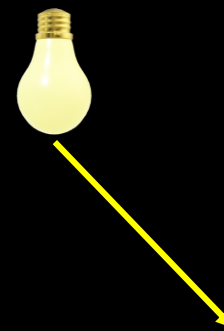
Shadow Path



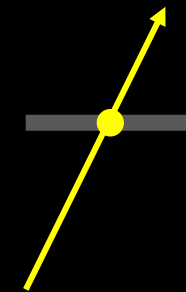
Half Vector Constraint



Fix Position  
Constraint



Fix Direction  
Constraint



Colinear  
Constraint

# *Results*

For complex path

# Bathroom

Path Type: General Path  
Optimize parameter:  
8 Object Translation

Init



Target



PRB[Vicini 2021]



PRDPT[Fischer 2022]



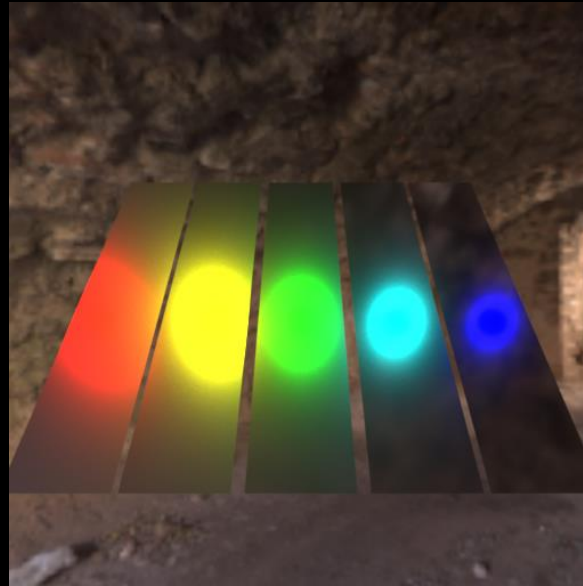
Ours



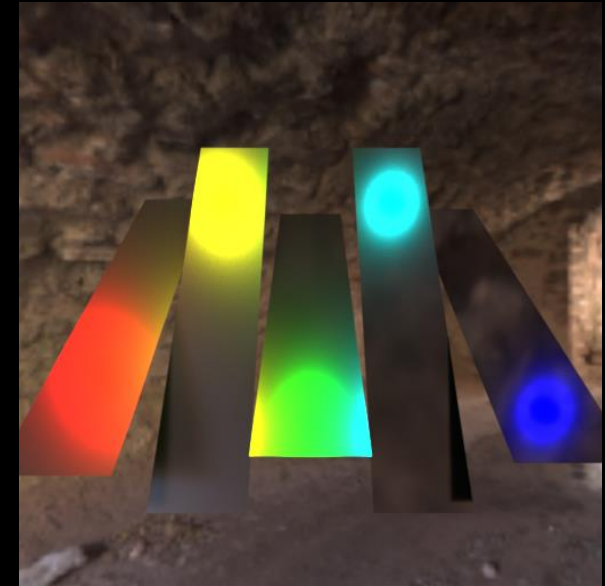
# Highlight

Path Type: General Path  
Optimize parameter:  
Glass Slab Rotation  
Light Translation

Init



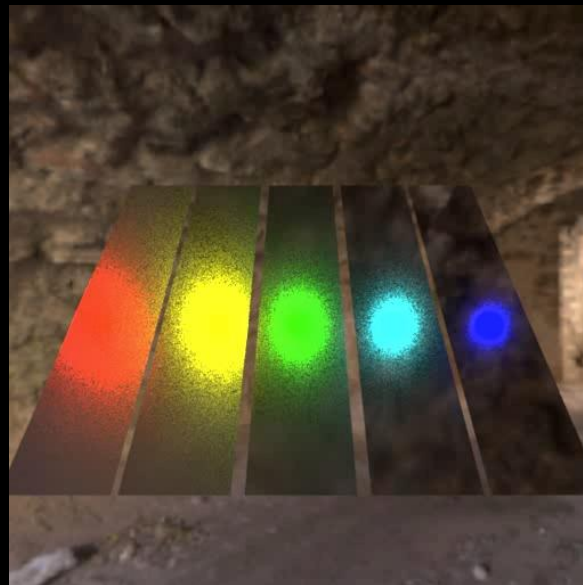
Target



PRB[Vicini 2021]



PRDPT[Fischer 2022]



Ours

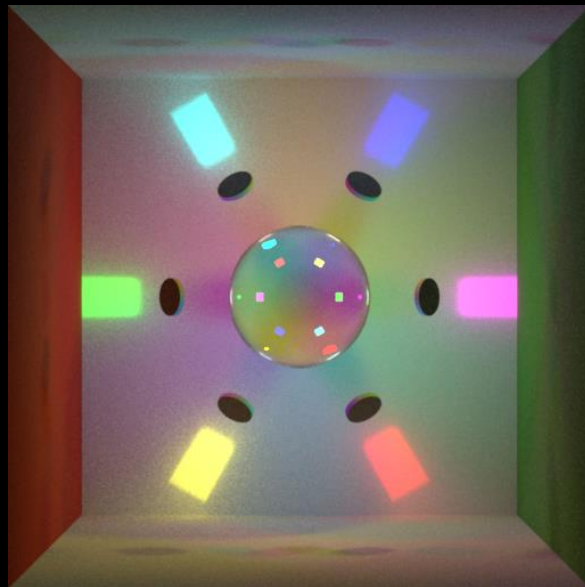




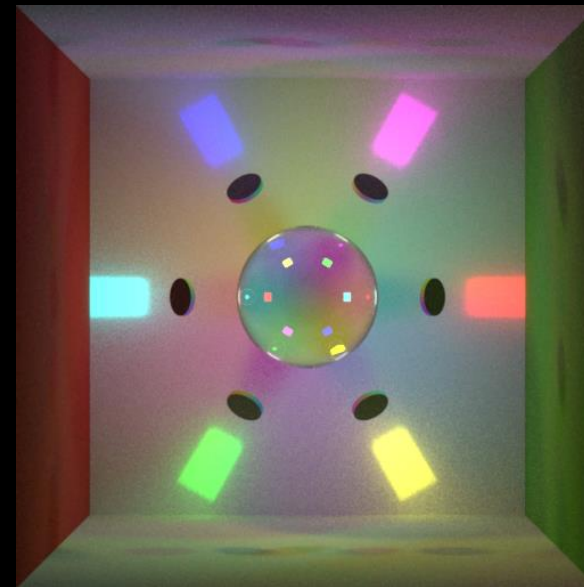
# CornellBox

Path Type: Caustic Path  
Optimize parameter:  
Light Position

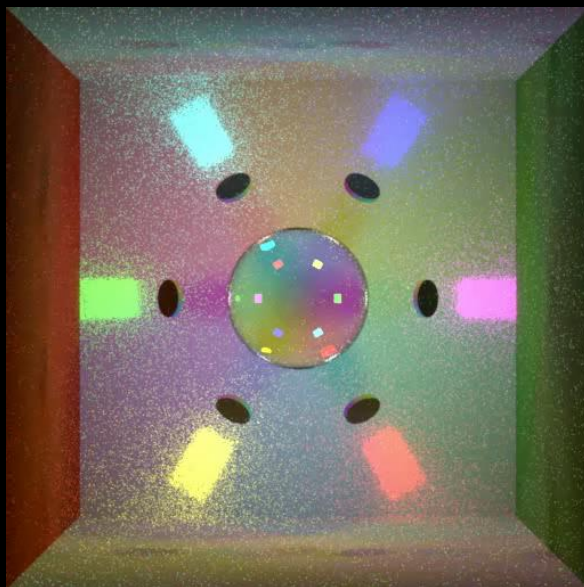
Init



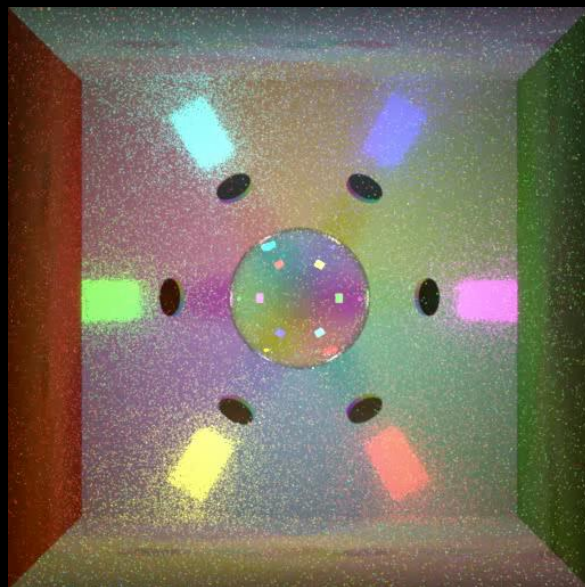
Target



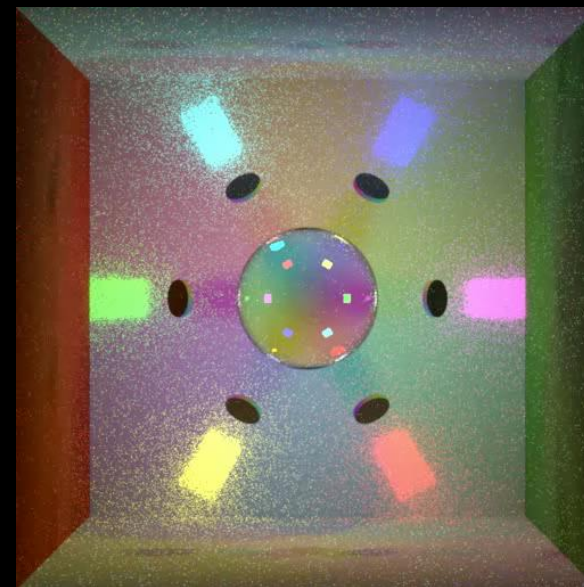
PRB[Vicini 2021]



PRDPT[Fischer 2022]



Ours

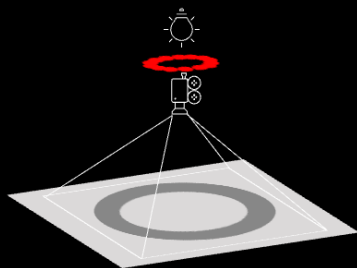


# Shadow

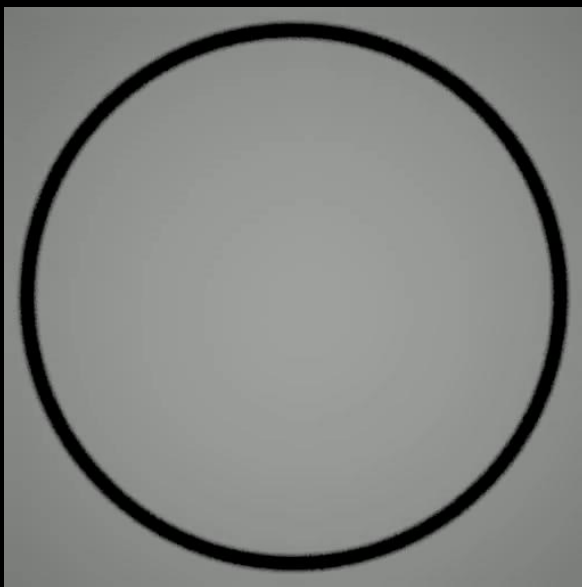
Path Type: Shadow Path

Optimize parameter:

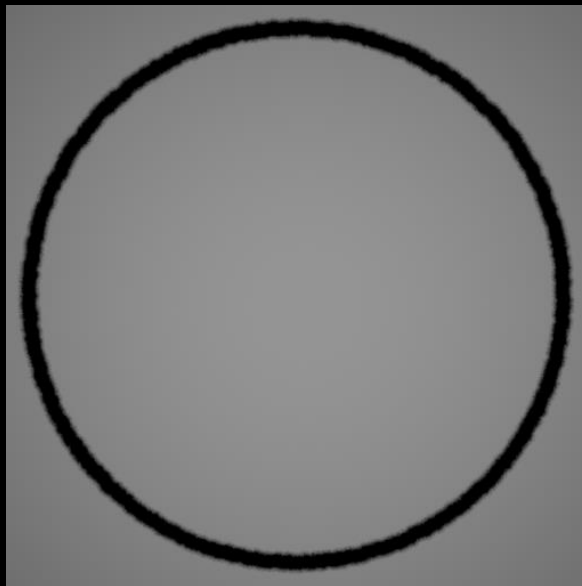
400 Spheres Occluder Translation



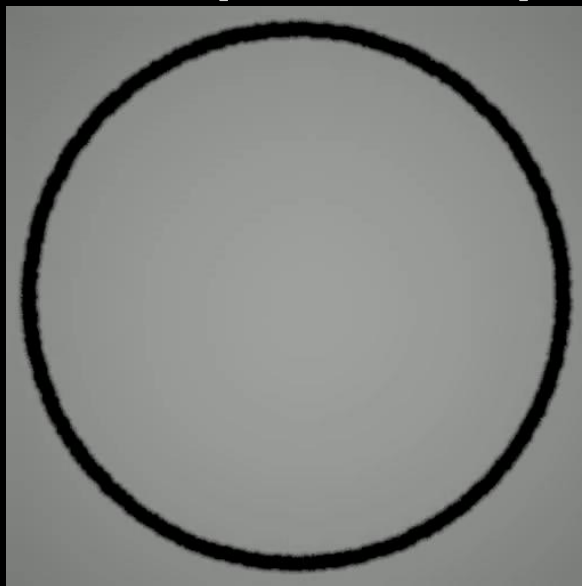
PRB[Vicini 2021]



Init



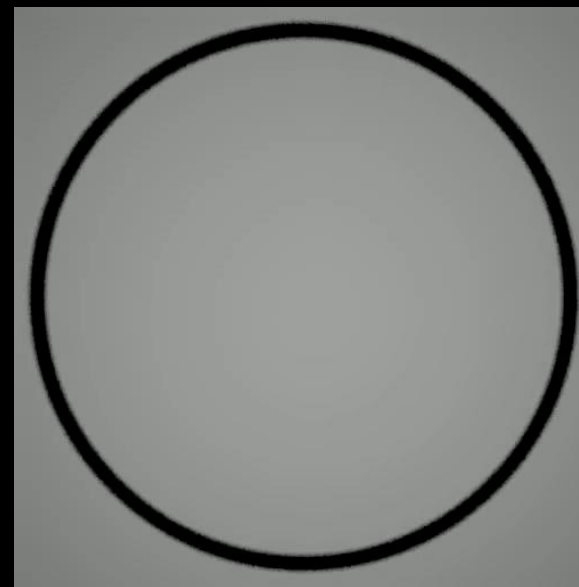
PRDPT[Fischer 2022]



Target



Ours



# *Results*

For simple path



# Gradient Visualization

$\theta$ : X-axis translation

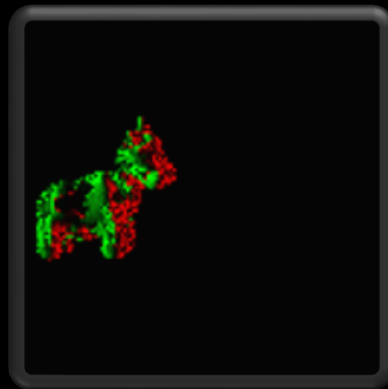


Target Image

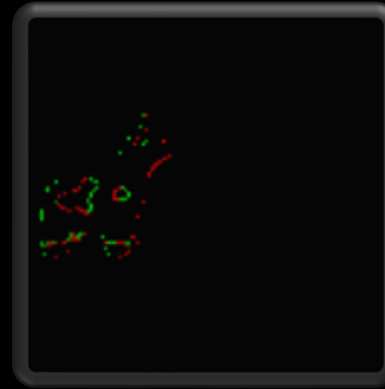


Initial


## Traditional Gradients Local and Sparse




Nvdiffrast  
Gradient



Nvdiffrast  
Gradient  
w/o shading

 : Indicates go right (right)

 : Indicates go left (wrong)

## Our Gradients Global and Dense



# Human Pose Fitting



Initial Pose



Target Pose  
(random)

PyTorch3D



step:0

Ours



step:0

**Human Model: Skinned Multi-Person Linear Model (SMPL)**  
**Optimize Parameter: 24 joints 3D rotation angle**

[sa2022.siggraph.org](http://sa2022.siggraph.org)

# Human Pose Fitting



Initial State



Target State  
(random)

Nvdiffrast



step:0

Ours



step:0

**Human Model: Skinned Multi-Person Linear Model (SMPL)**  
**Optimize Parameter: 24 joints 3D rotation angle**

[sa2022.siggraph.org](http://sa2022.siggraph.org)

# Facial Expression Reconstruction



Initial State



Target State  
(random)

PyTorch3D



step:0

Ours



step:0

**Face Model:** BlendShape with 11 base facial expression  
**Optimized Parameter:** 11 weight parameters for each base expression

[sa2022.siggraph.org](http://sa2022.siggraph.org)

# Facial Expression Reconstruction



Initial State



Target State  
(random)

Nvdiffrast



step:0

Ours



step:0

**Face Model:** BlendShape with 11 base facial expression  
**Optimized Parameter:** 11 weight parameters for each base expression

[sa2022.siggraph.org](http://sa2022.siggraph.org)

# Furniture Layout

PyTorch3D

Ours



Initial State



Target State



**Furniture Model: 3D-Front**

**Optimized Parameter: Furniture XZ-axis translation and Y-axis rotation**

[sa2022.siggraph.org](http://sa2022.siggraph.org)



# Furniture Layout

Nvdiffrast

Ours



Initial State



Target State



step:0



step:0

**Furniture Model: 3D-Front**

**Optimized Parameter: Furniture XZ-axis translation and Y-axis rotation**

[sa2022.siggraph.org](http://sa2022.siggraph.org)

# Summary

- Contribution:
  - A novel pipeline for physically based differentiable rendering
  - A globally optimal transport based loss function
  - Formulation of extended path space manifolds to compute path derivatives
- Limitation & Future work:
  - Adapt EPSM to more types of path and scene representation
  - Derive both path geometry and color derivatives in EPSM formulation
  - Improve matching quality and efficiency



Thanks for Listening!