

The importance of local gain control

Johannes Ballé

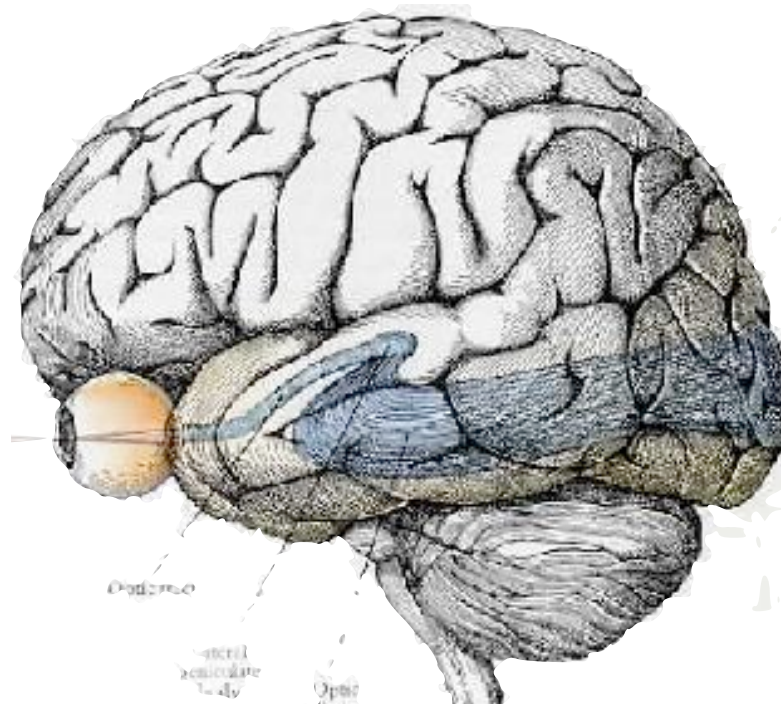
Center for Neural Science, NYU
Howard Hughes Medical Institute
(now with Google Inc.)

joint work with:

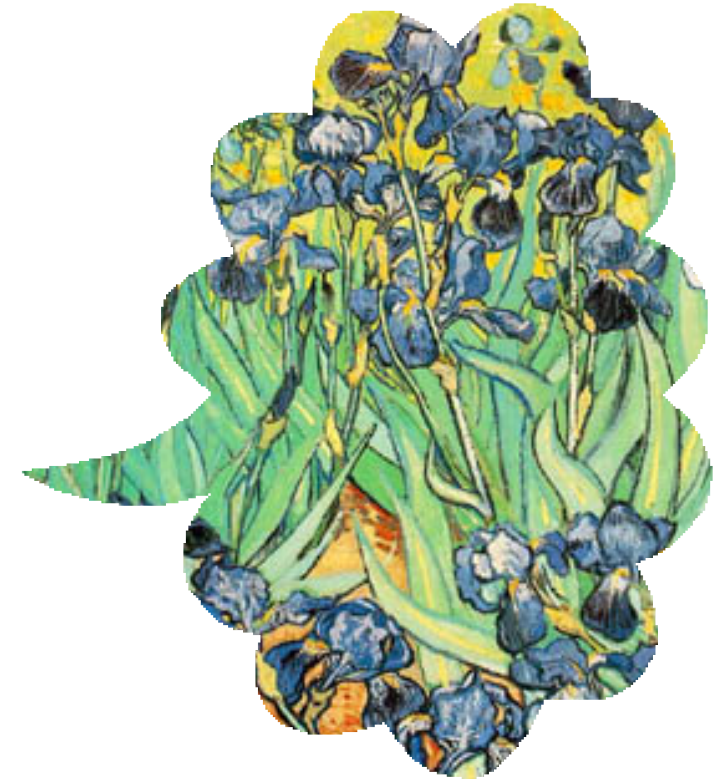
Valero Laparra, Universitat de València
Eero P. Simoncelli, CNS/Courant Institute/HHMI



Environment



Physiology



Perception

- ▶ How do populations of neurons extract/represent visual information?
- ▶ In what ways is this matched to our visual environment?
- ▶ How do these representations enable/limit perception?
- ▶ What new principles may be gleaned from these representations, and applied to engineered imaging or vision systems?

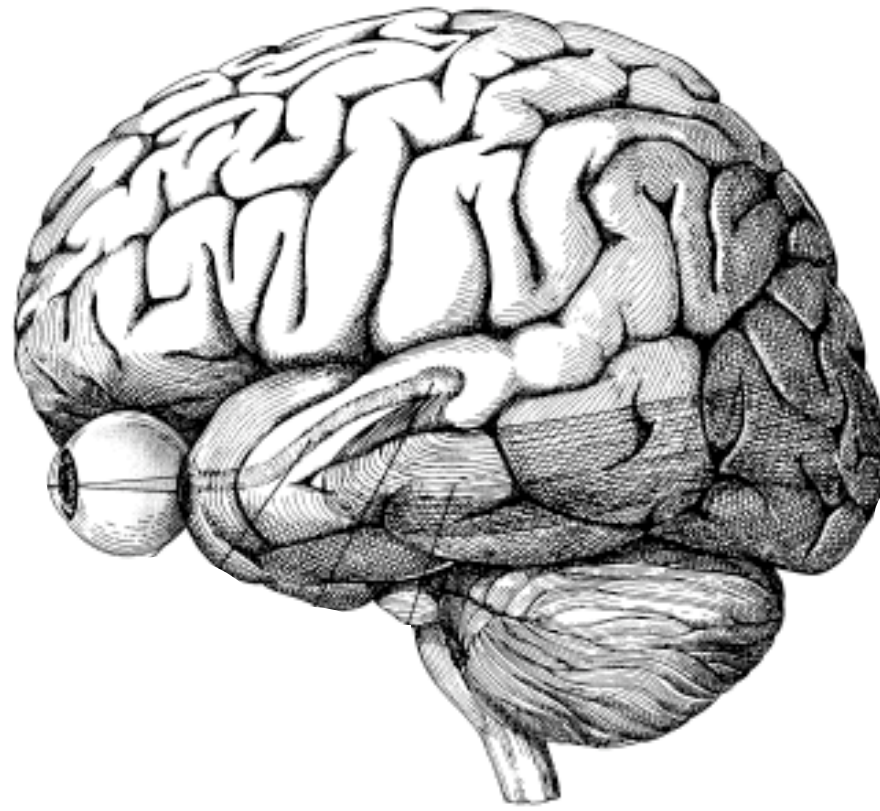
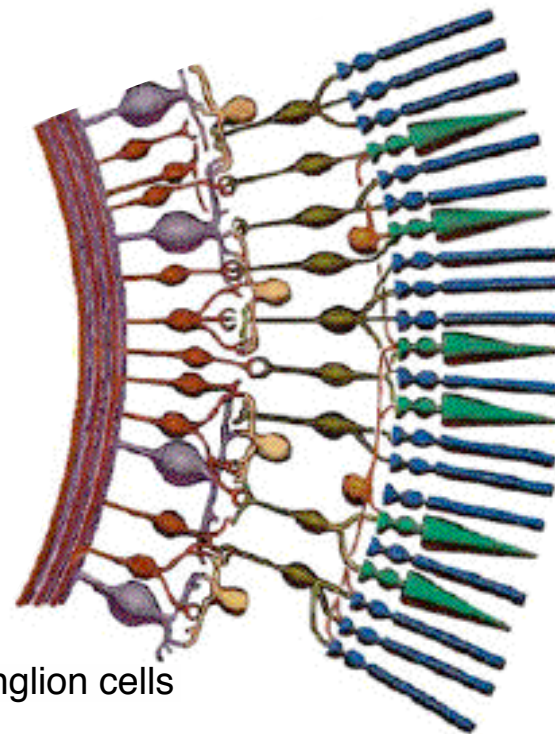
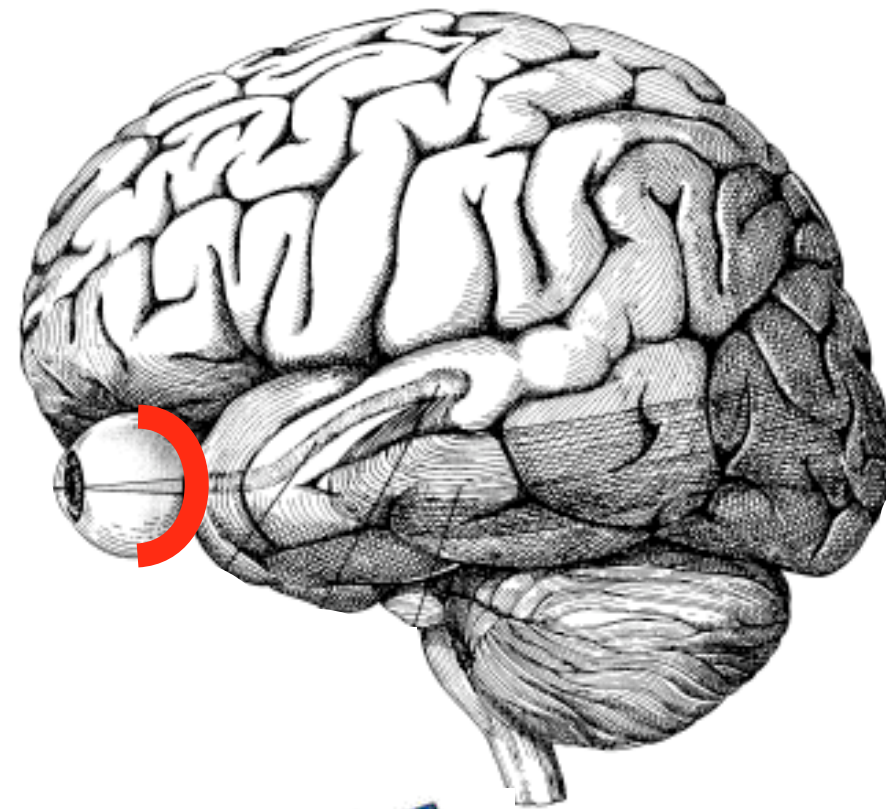


figure: Hubel 1995

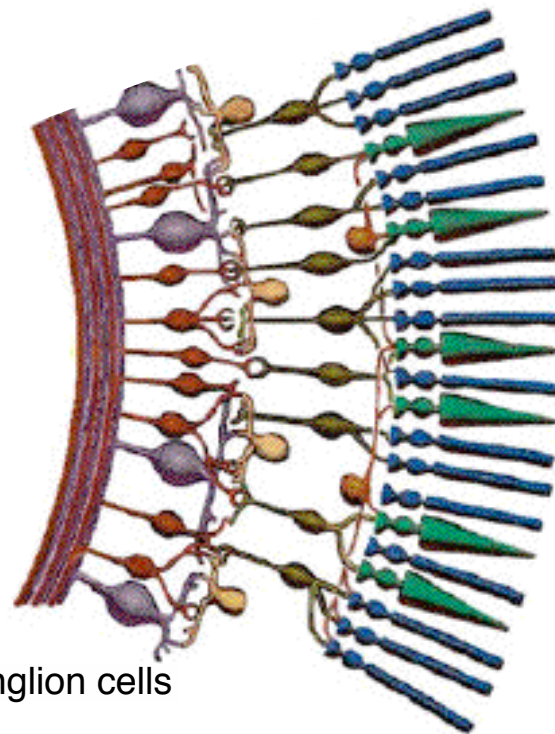
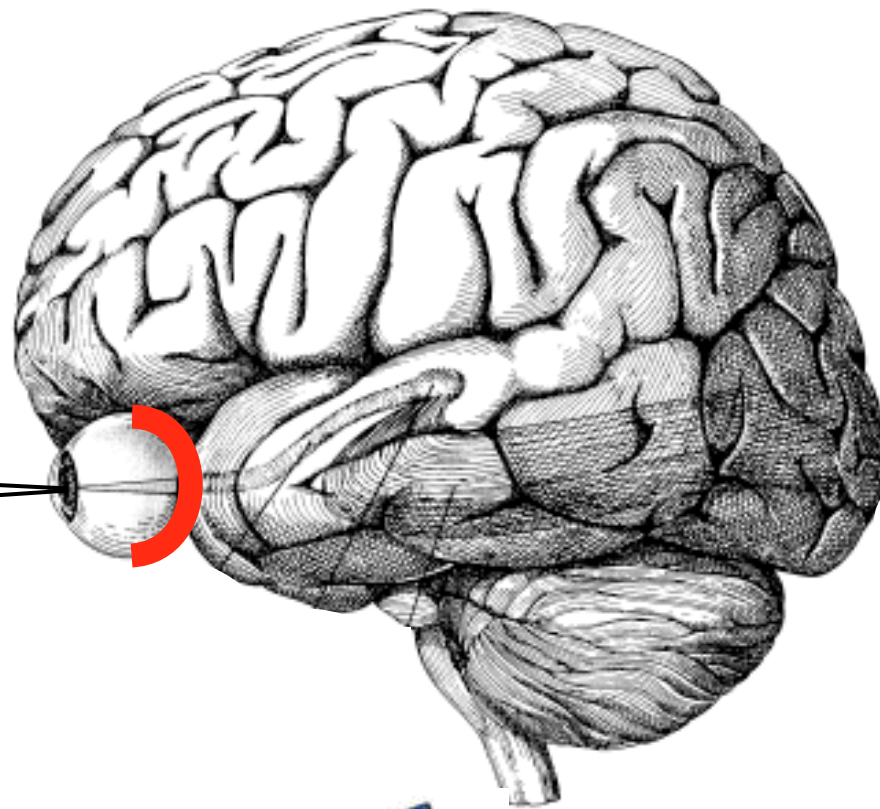


ganglion cells

interneurons

photoreceptors

figure: Hubel 1995



ganglion cells

interneurons

photoreceptors

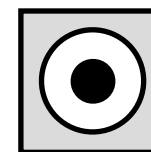
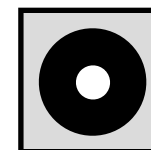
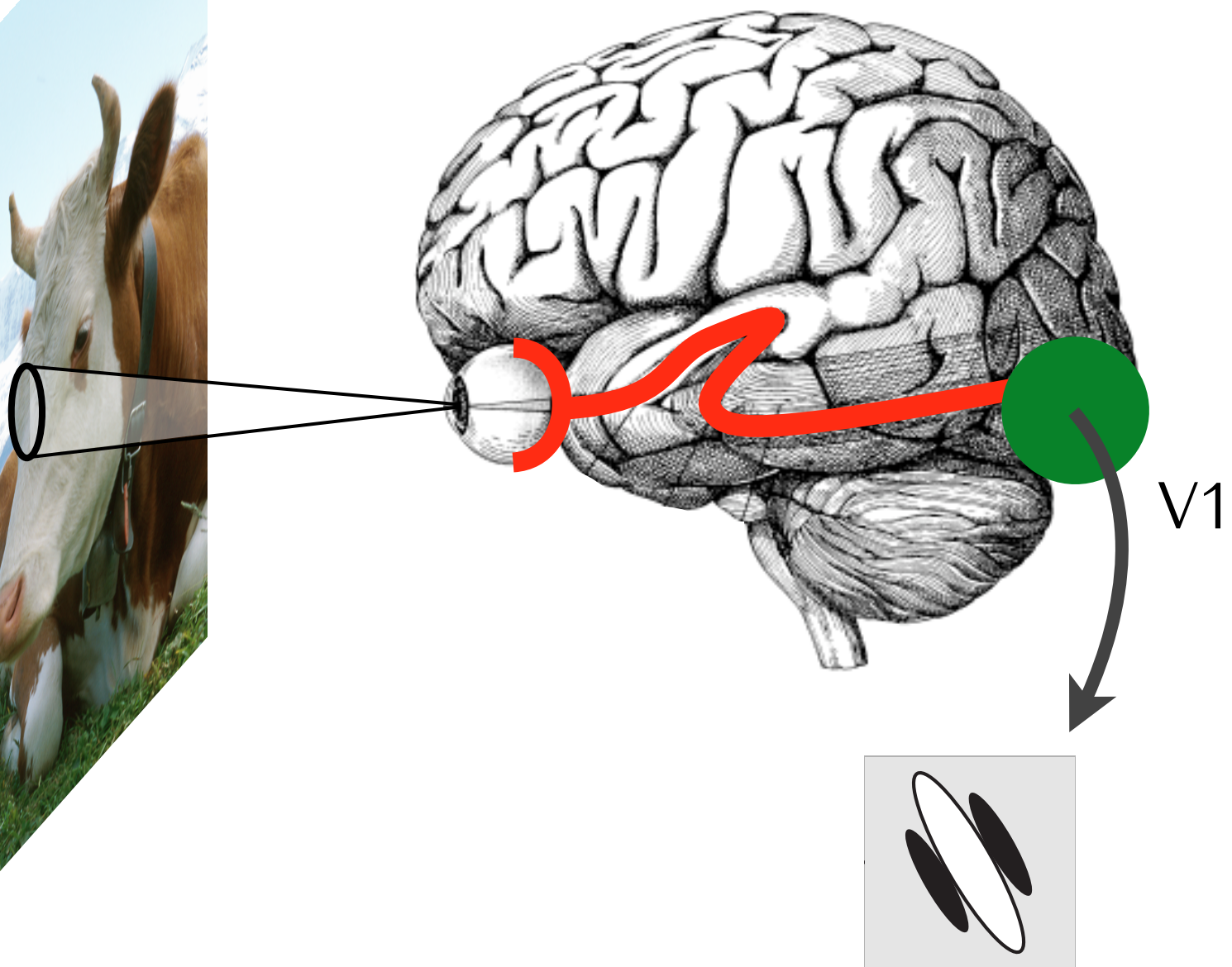
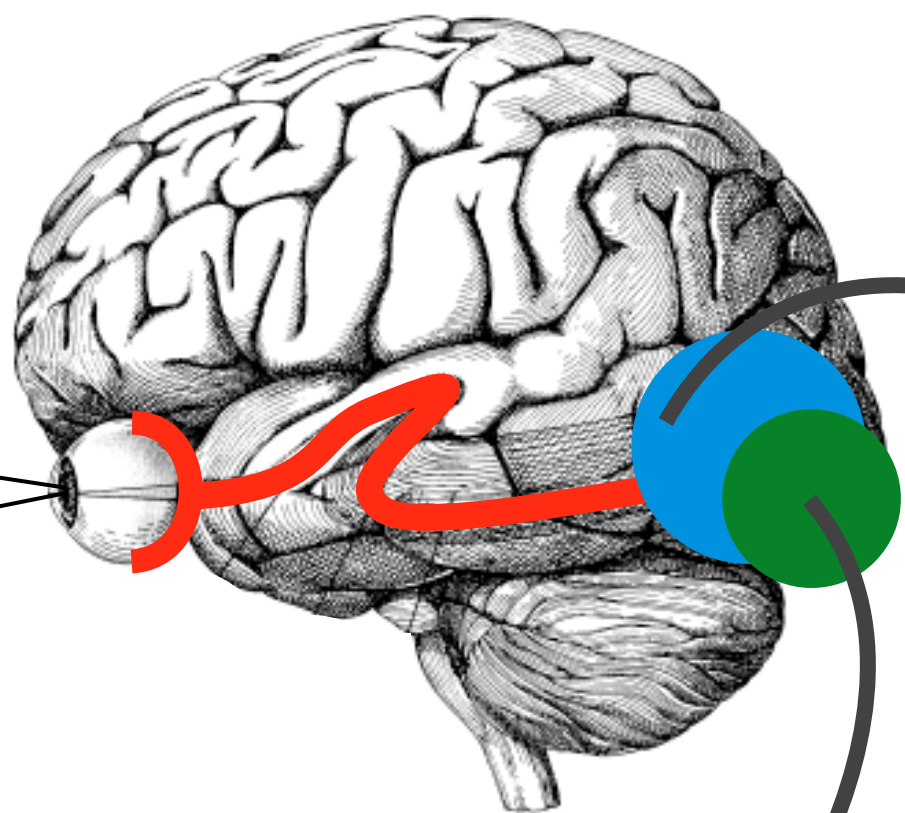


figure: Hubel 1995

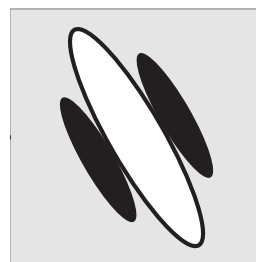
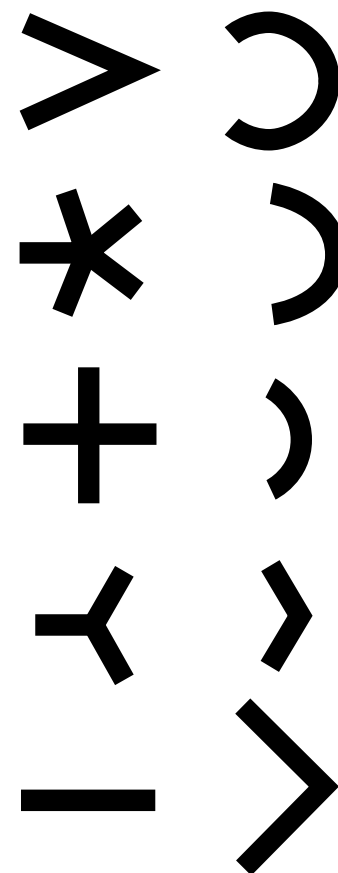




V2

V1

?



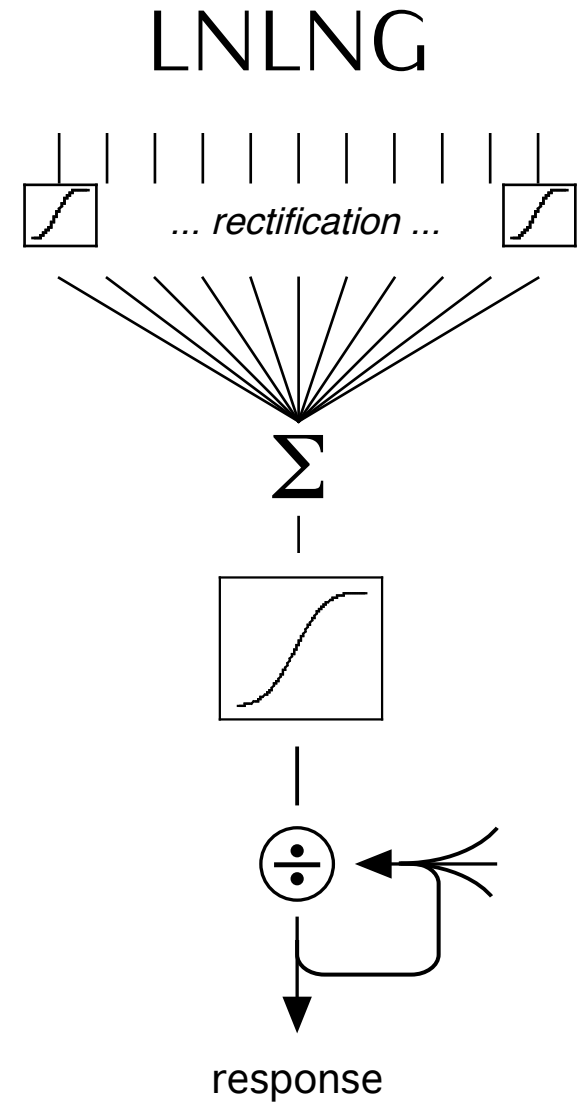
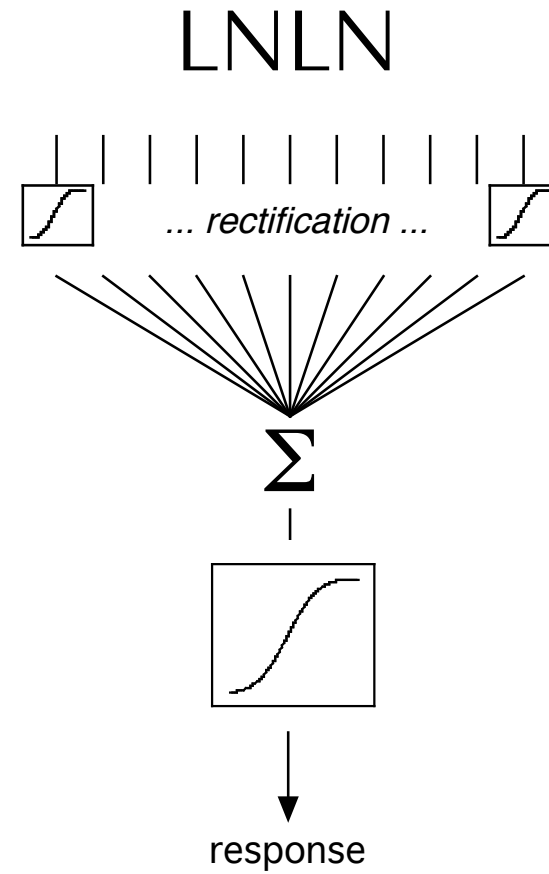
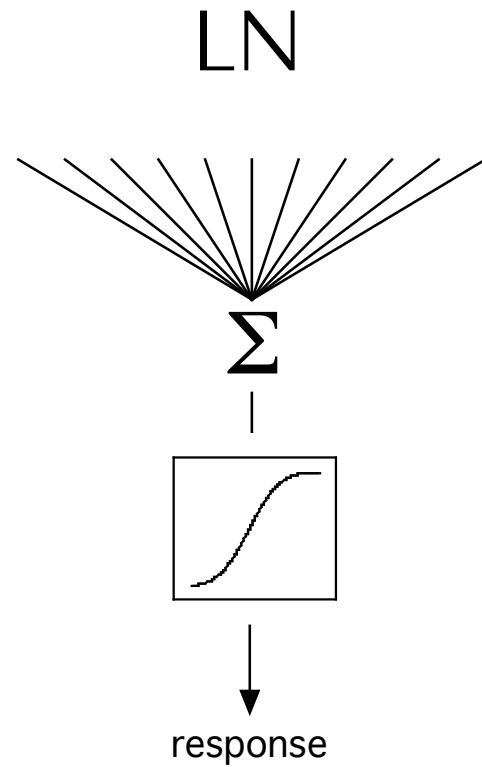
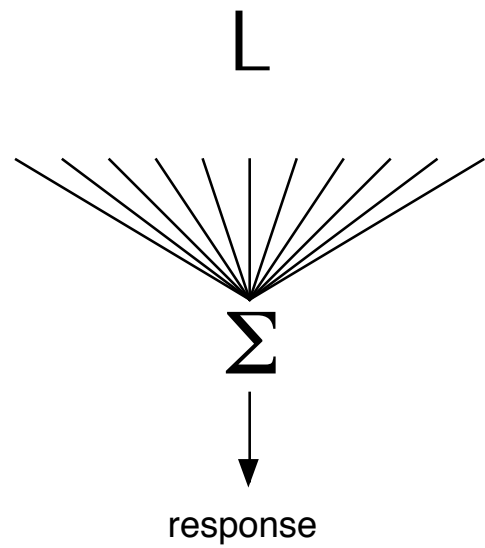
Hegde & van Essen, 2000

Ito & Komatsu, 2004

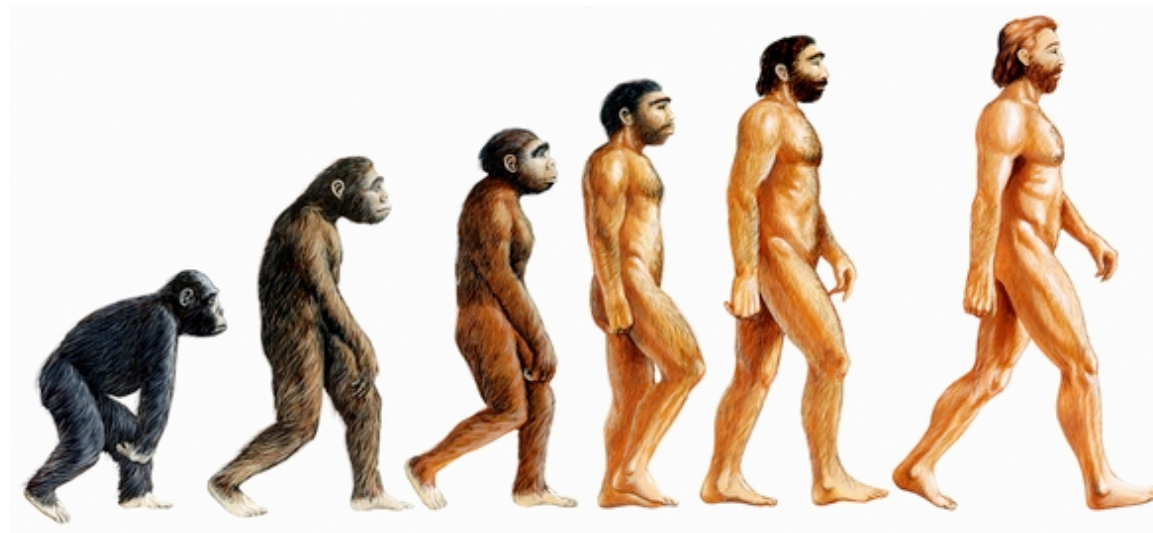
Anzai et al., 2007

etc.

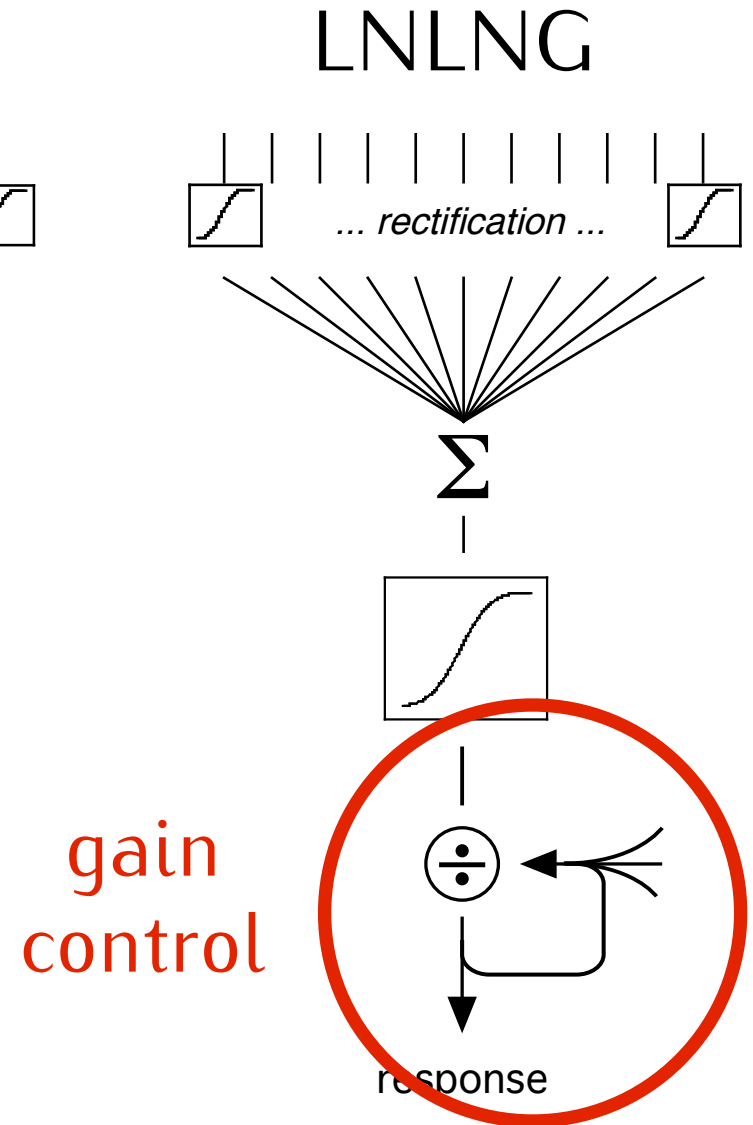
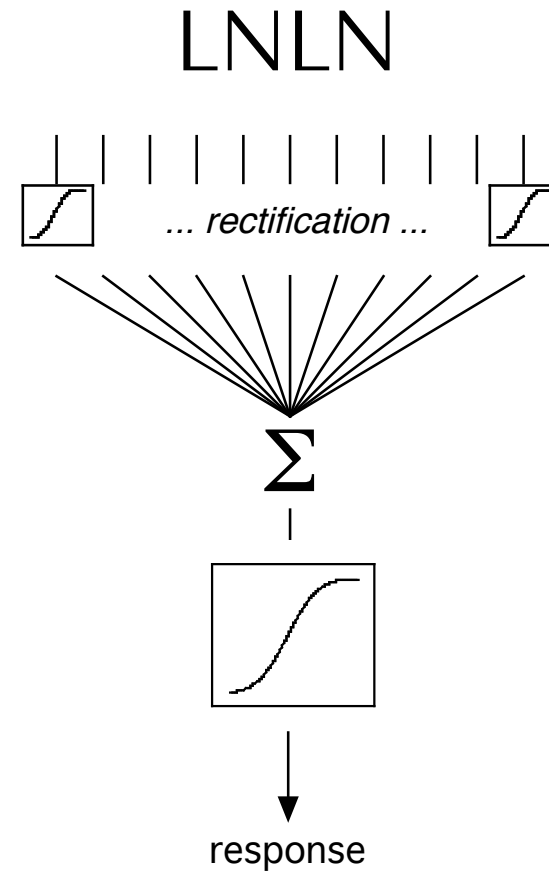
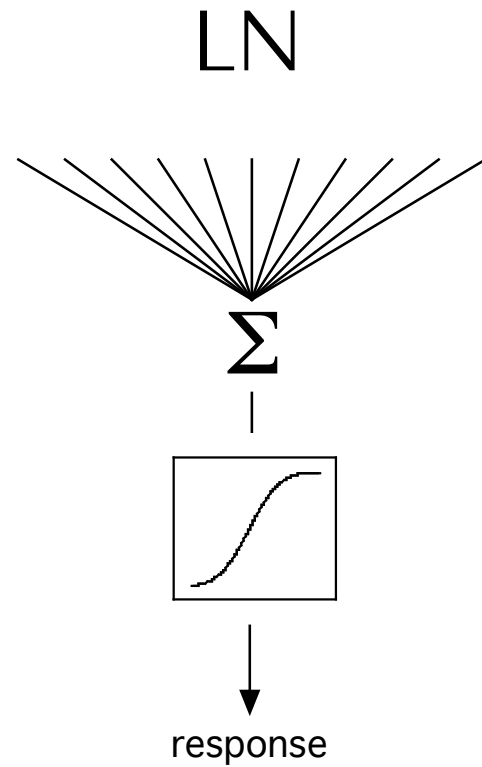
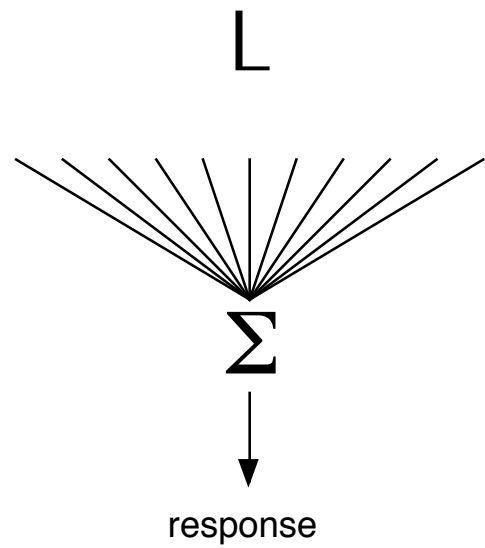
Canonical functional models for sensory neurons



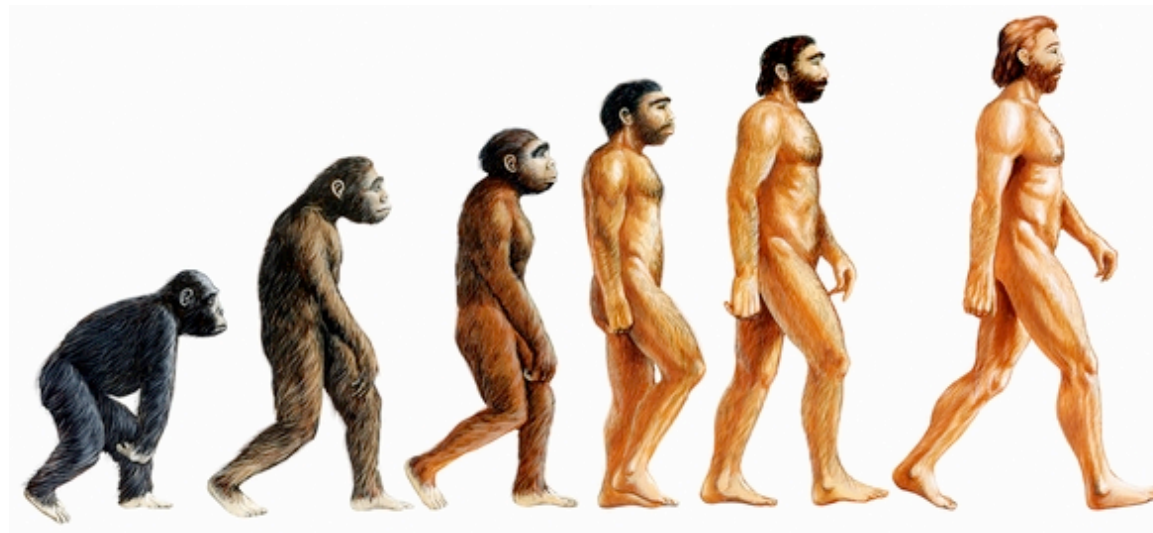
- ▶ “Unreasonably effective” [after Wigner, 1960]
- ▶ Evolving ...



Canonical functional models for sensory neurons

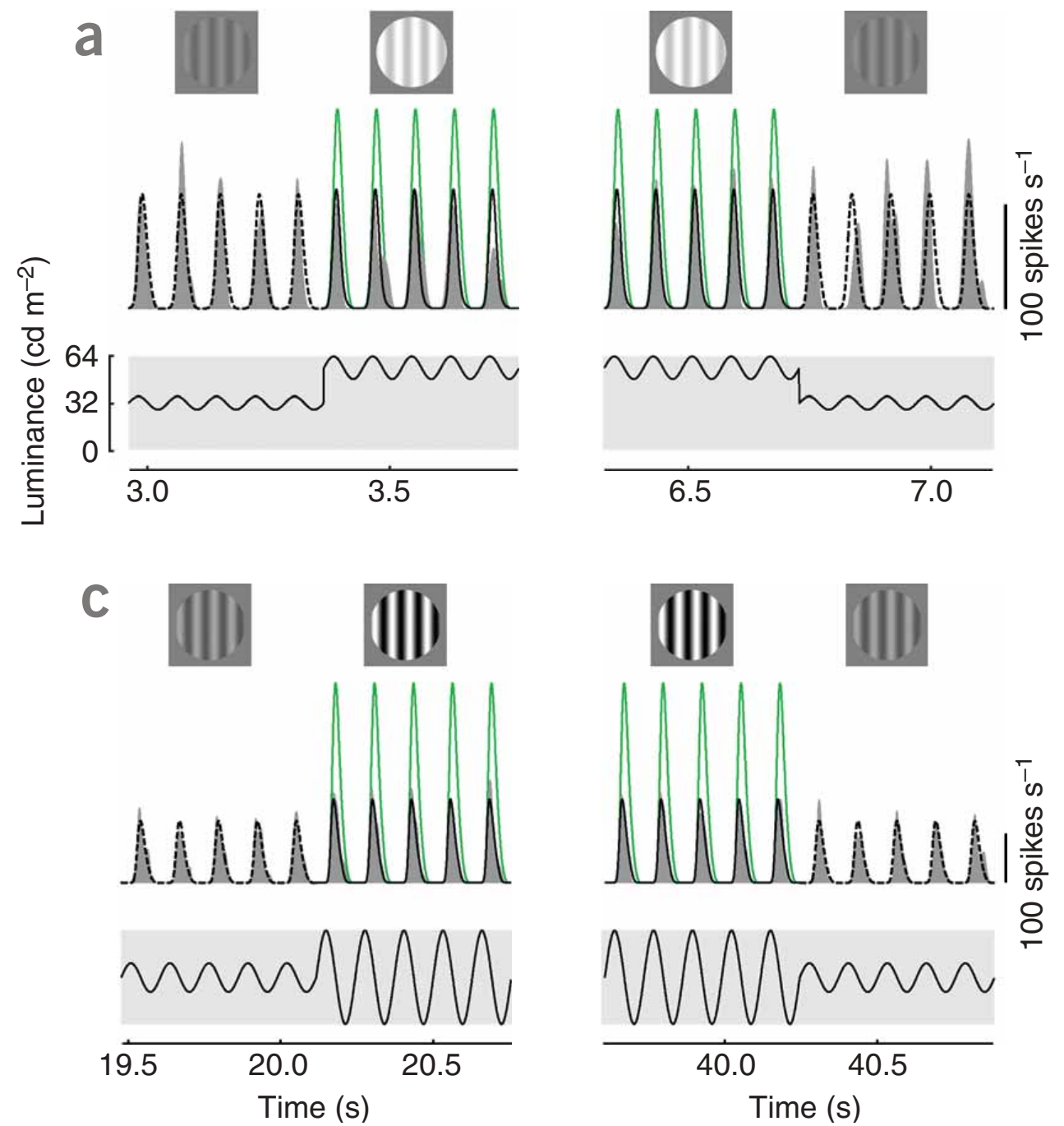


- ▶ “Unreasonably effective” [after Wigner, 1960]
- ▶ Evolving ...



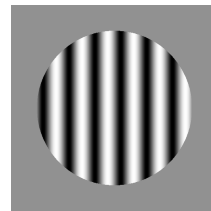
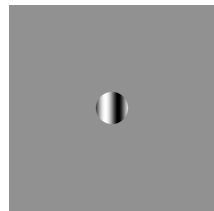
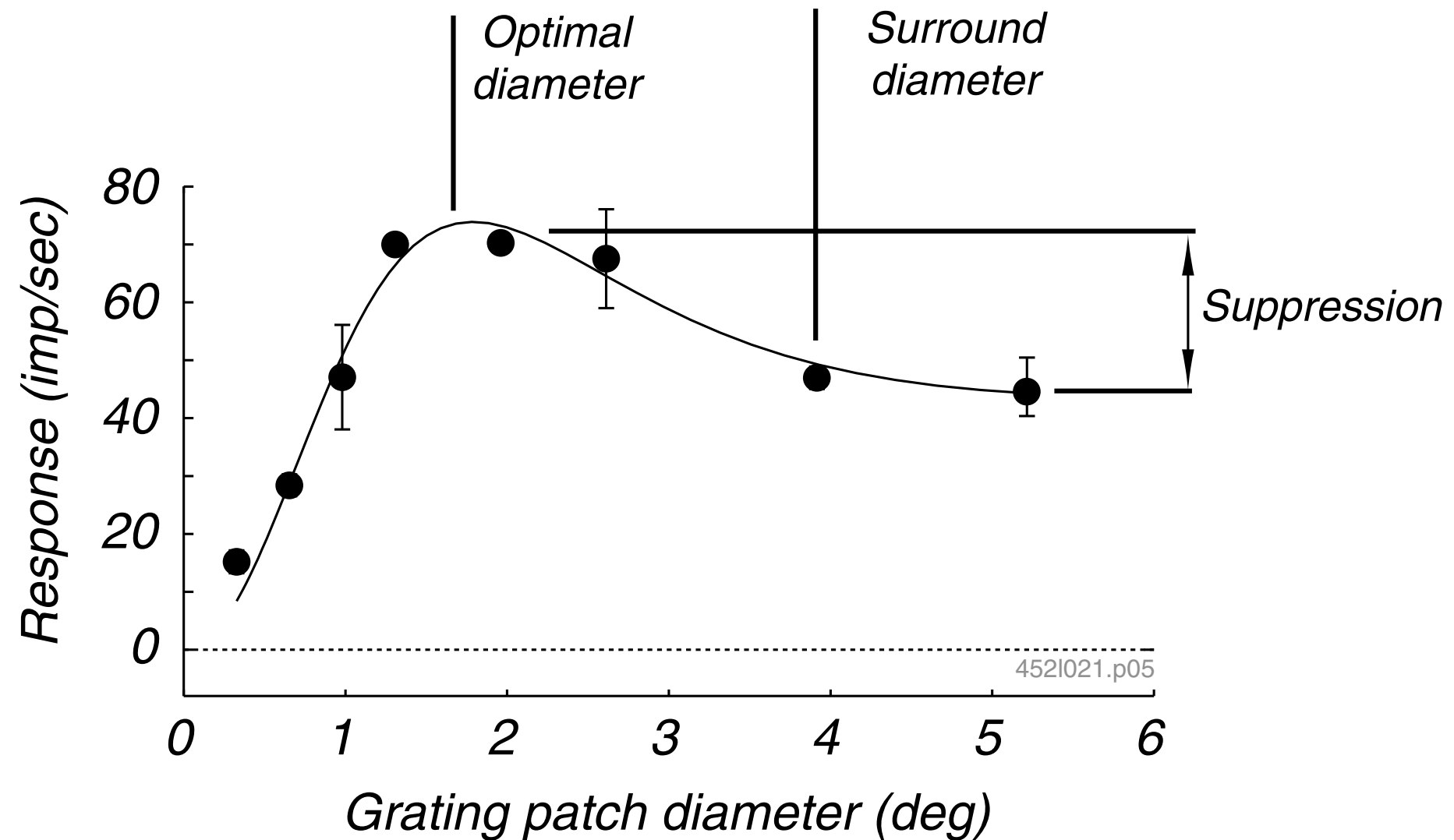


Temporally adaptive gain control



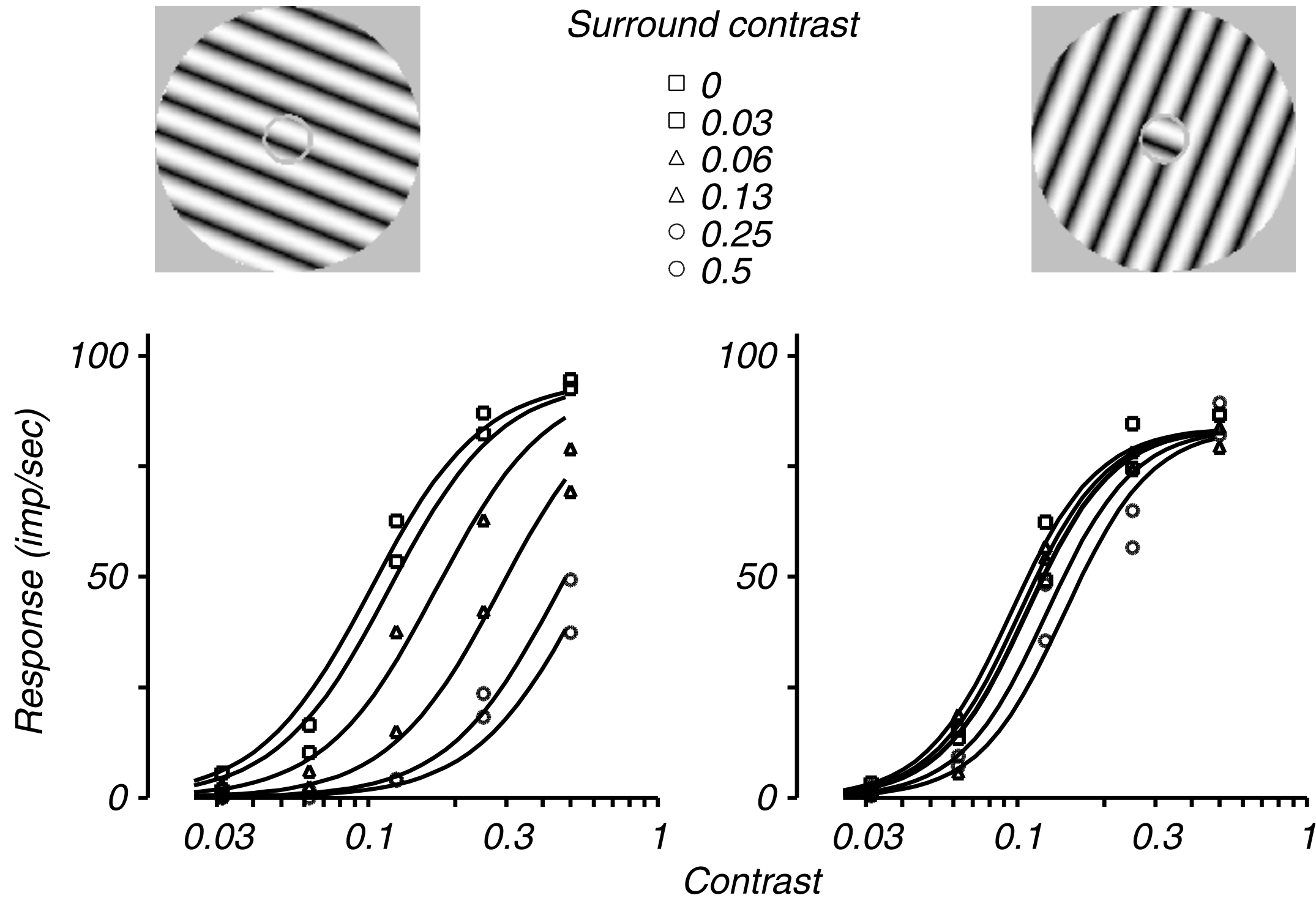
Mante et. al., 2005

V1: Surround suppression



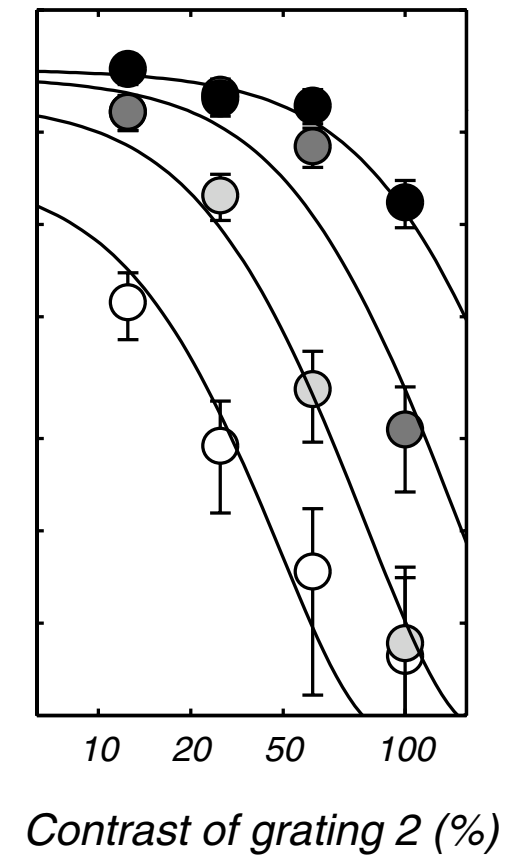
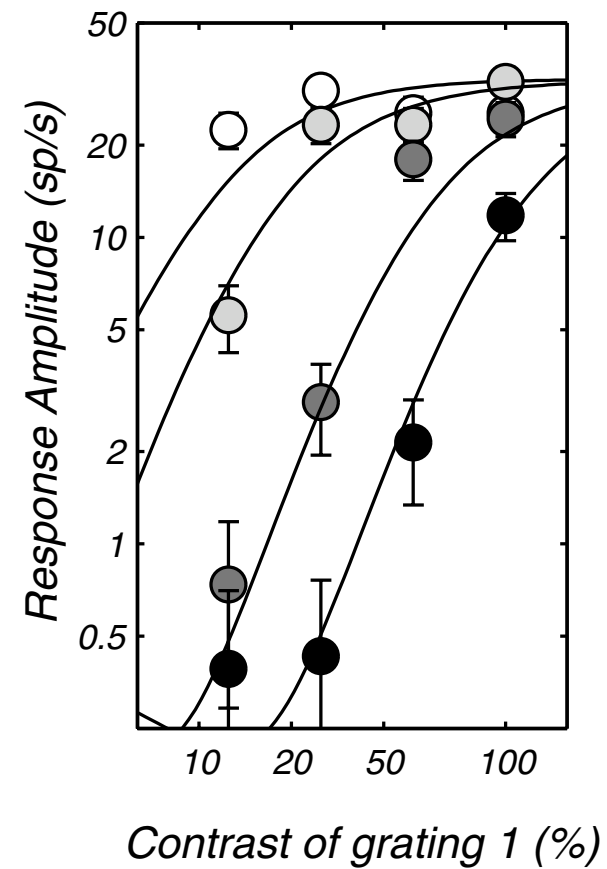
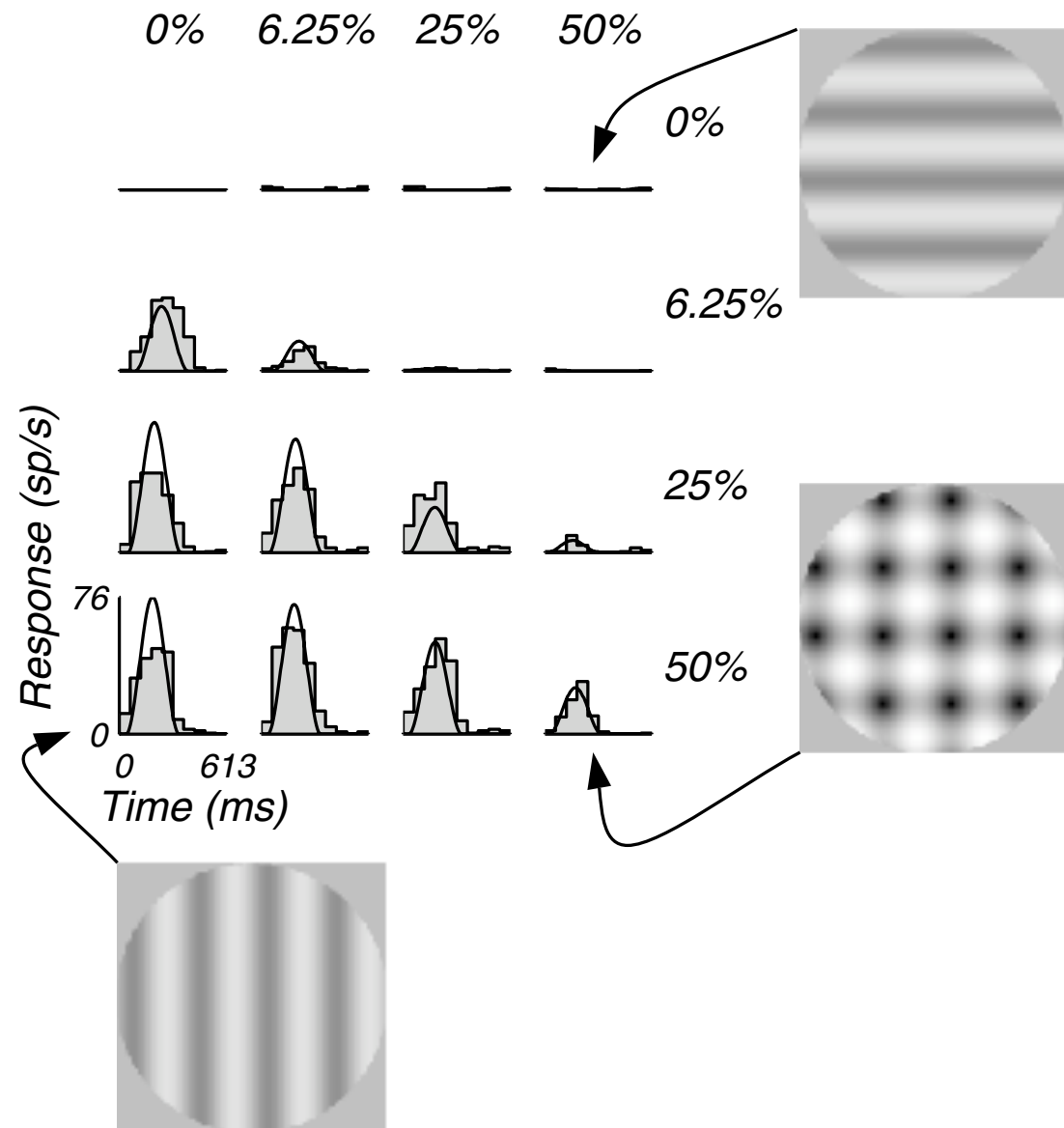
Cavanaugh et. al., 2002

V1: Cross-orientation suppression



Cavanaugh et. al., 2002

V1: Cross-orientation suppression



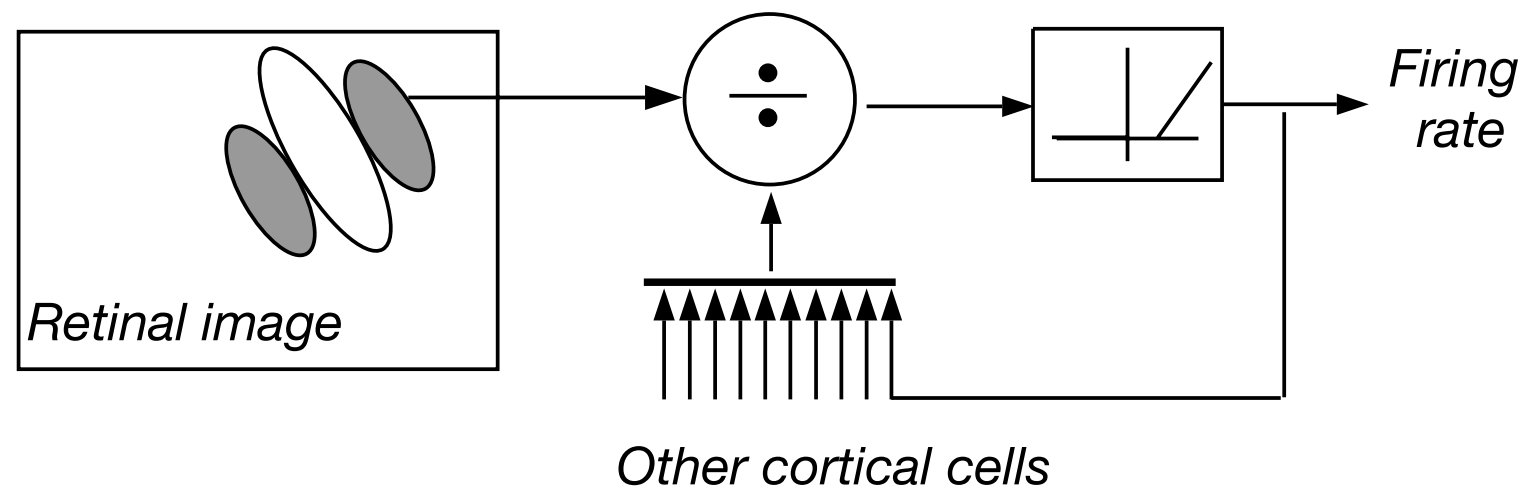
Carandini et. al., 1997

V1 normalization model

The linear model of simple cells

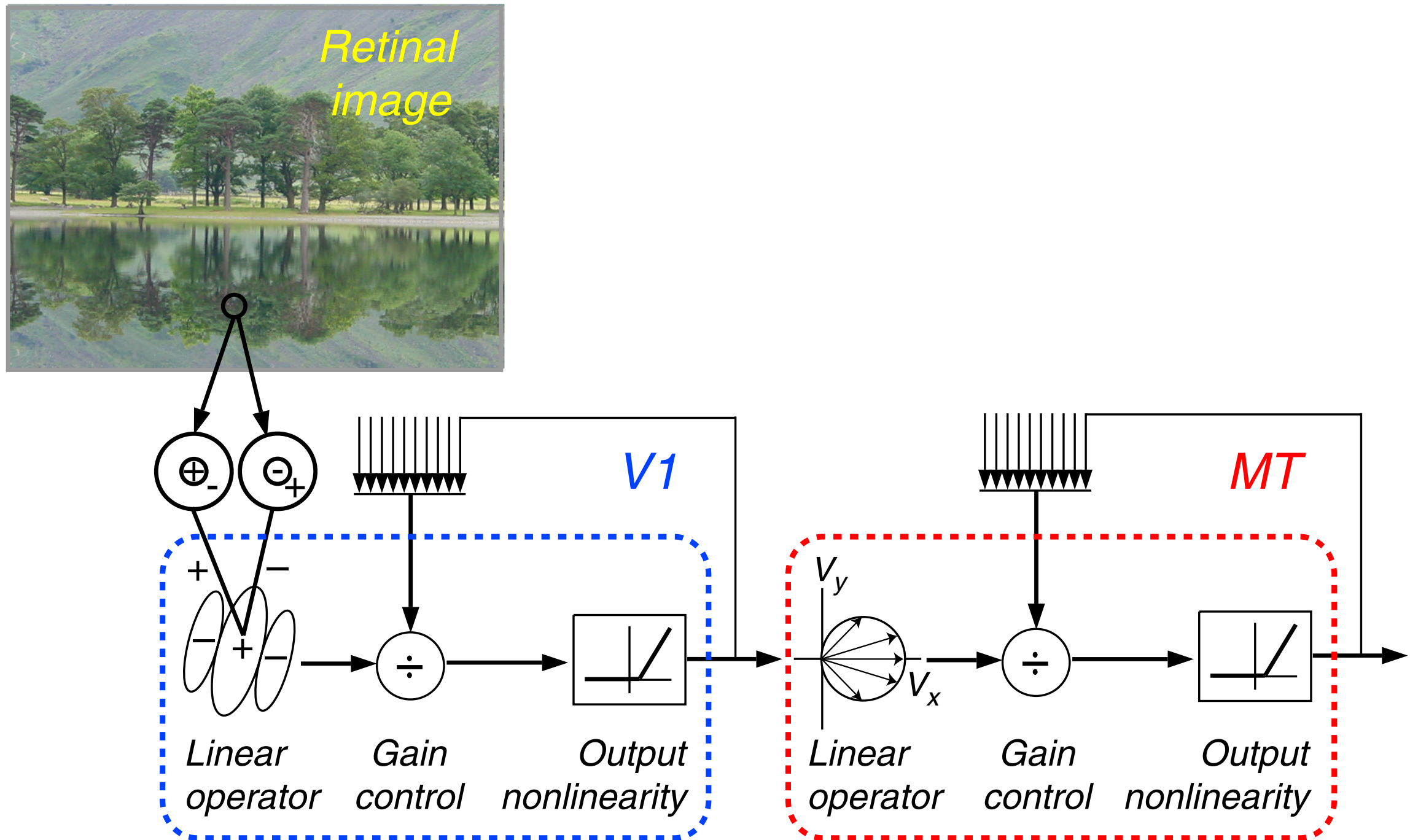


The normalization model of simple cells



Carandini, Heeger, and Movshon, 1996
Carandini & Heeger, 2012

Example: area MT



Simoncelli & Heeger, 1998

Generalized divisive normalization (GDN)



\mathbf{x}

$\mathbf{y} = g_a(\mathbf{x})$ such that:

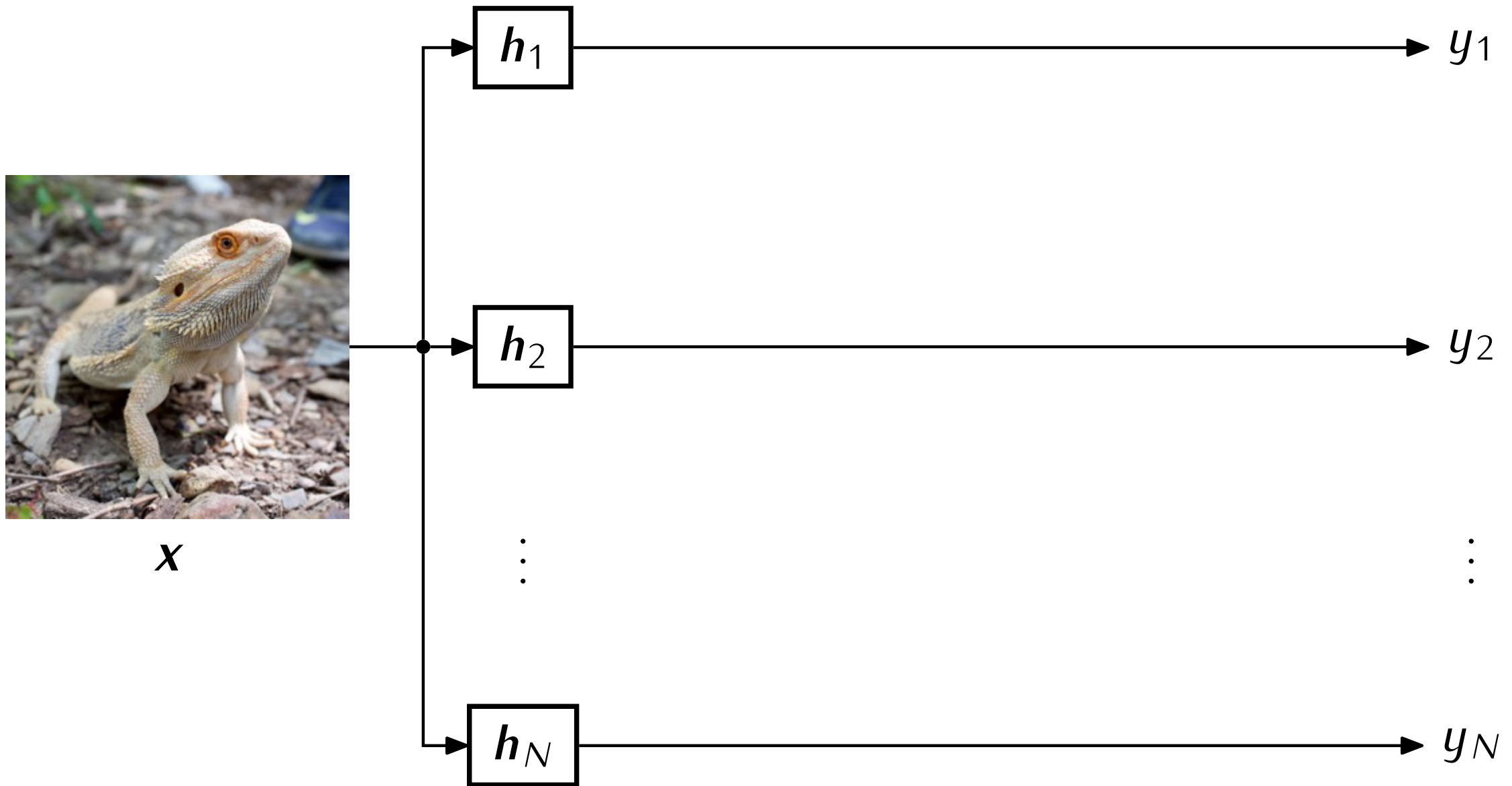
$$\mathbf{z} = \mathbf{H}\mathbf{x}$$

$$y_i = \frac{z_i}{(\beta_i + \sum_j \gamma_{ij} |z_j|^{\alpha_j})^{\varepsilon_i}}$$

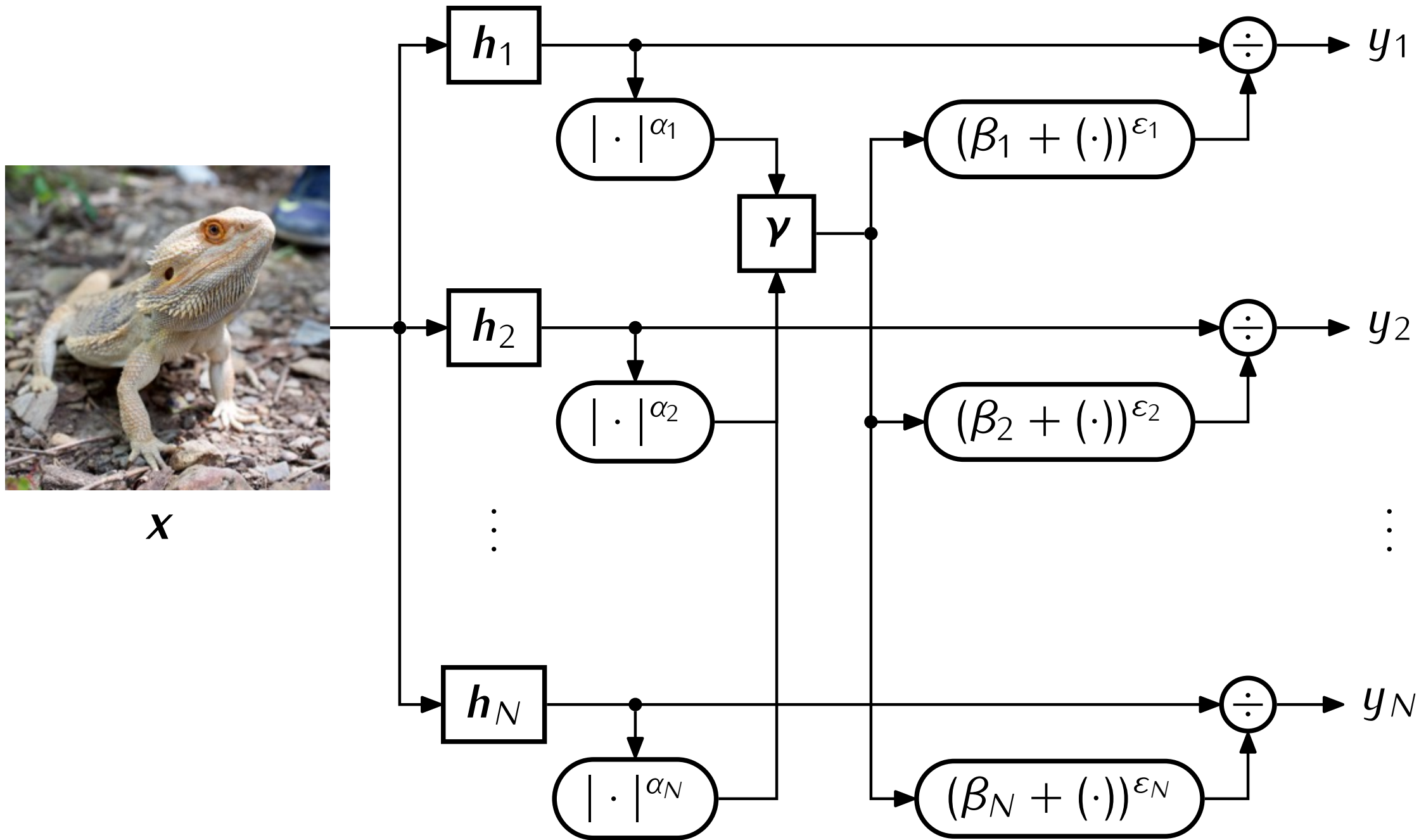
\mathbf{H} linear front-end (set of linear filters, DCT, wavelets ...)

$\alpha, \beta, \gamma, \varepsilon$ parameters of nonlinear transformation

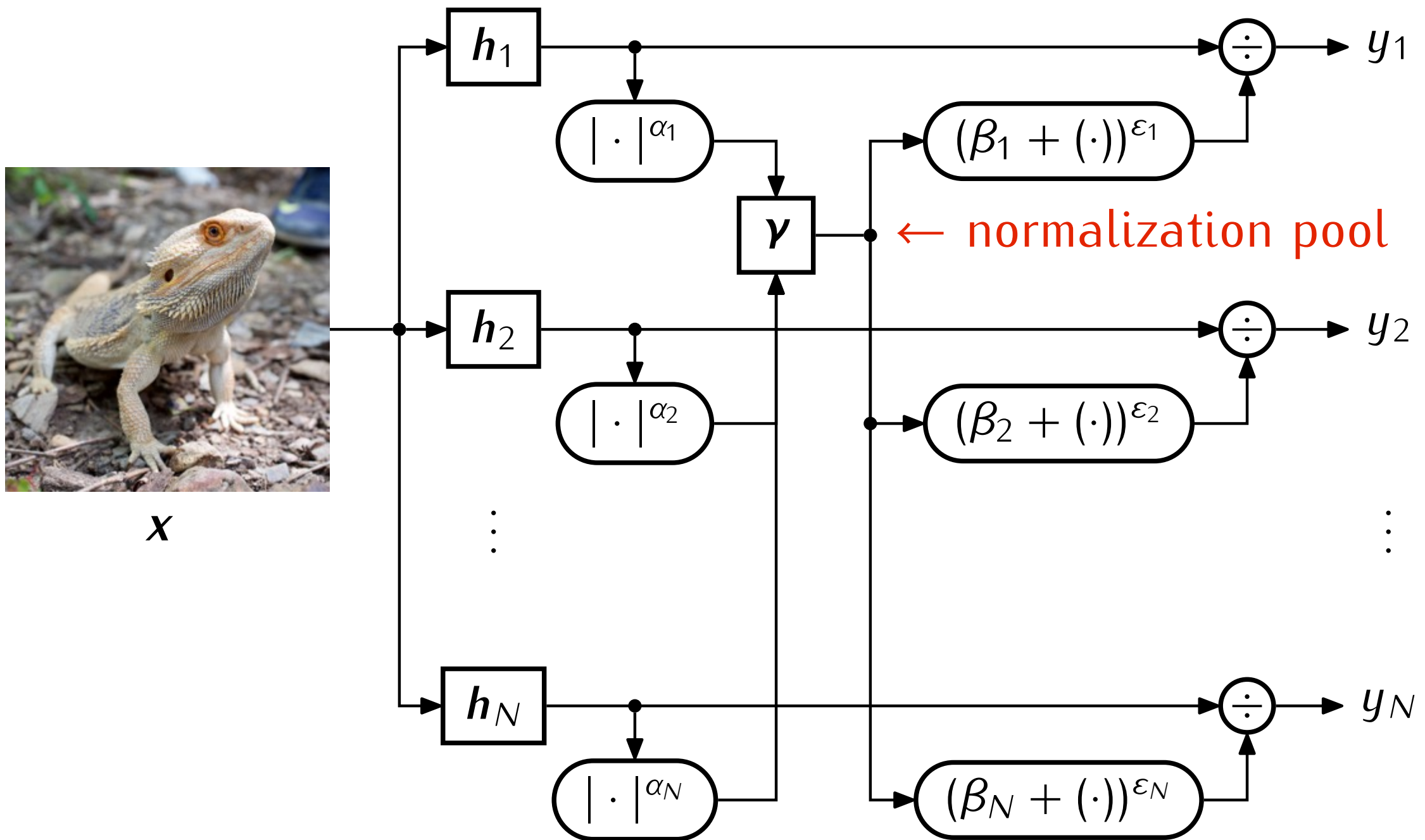
Generalized divisive normalization (GDN)



Generalized divisive normalization (GDN)



Generalized divisive normalization (GDN)



Approximate inverse (IGDN)



$\tilde{\mathbf{x}}$

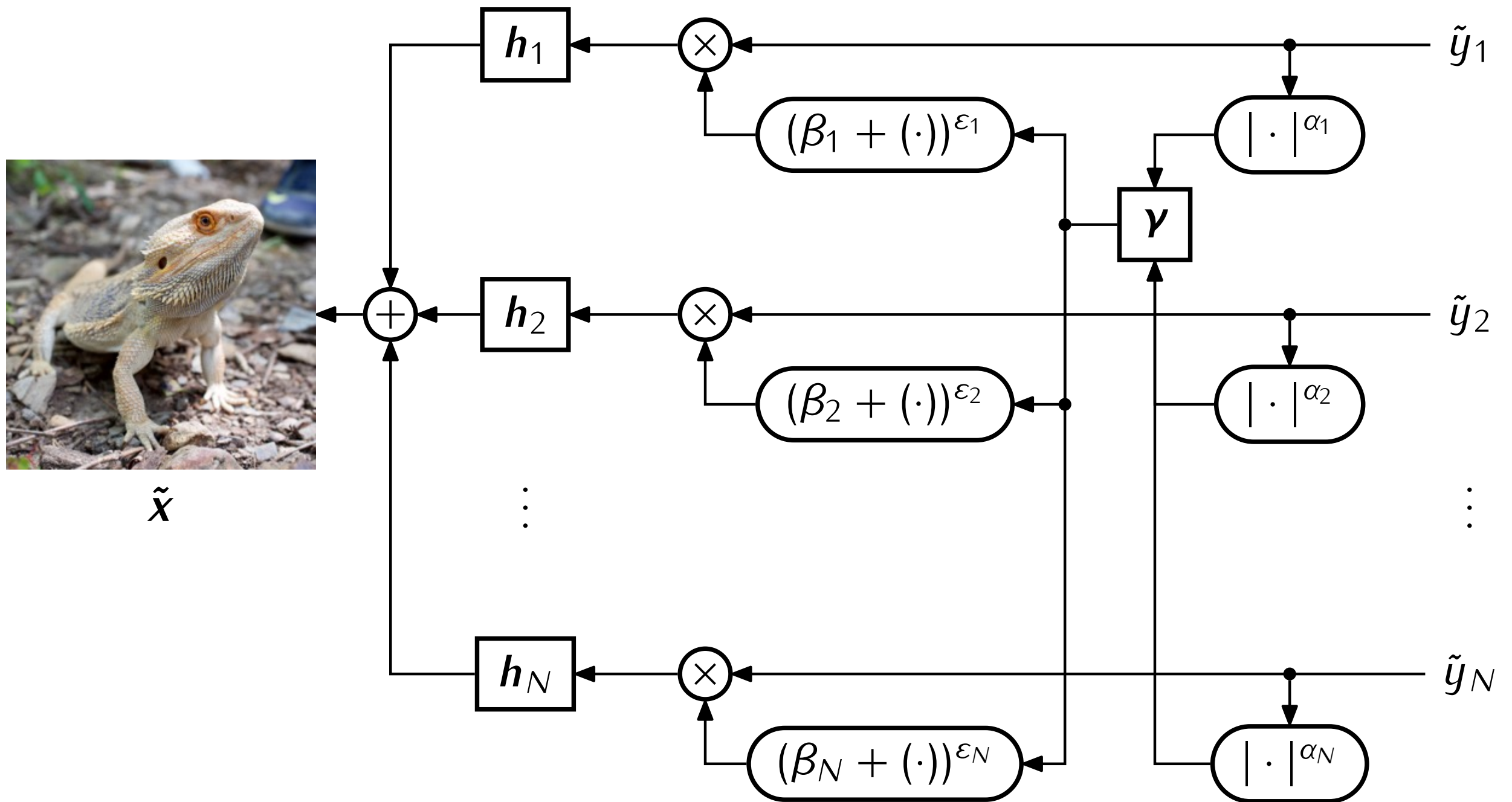
$\tilde{\mathbf{x}} = g_s(\tilde{\mathbf{y}})$ such that:

$$z_i = \tilde{y}_i \cdot (\beta'_i + \sum_j \gamma'_{ij} |\tilde{y}_j|^{\alpha'_j})^{\epsilon'_i}$$

$$\tilde{\mathbf{x}} = \mathbf{H}' \mathbf{z}$$

one step of fixed point iteration
or approximate inverse with distinct parameters

Approximate inverse (IGDN)



one step of fixed point iteration
or approximate inverse with distinct parameters

How to choose the parameters?

We typically place some additional constraints, and then use optimization to find the best parameters for the application.

(not going to talk about details, please ask if you're interested)

Applications:

perceptual metrics
perceptually optimized rendering
density estimation
image compression
denoising

...

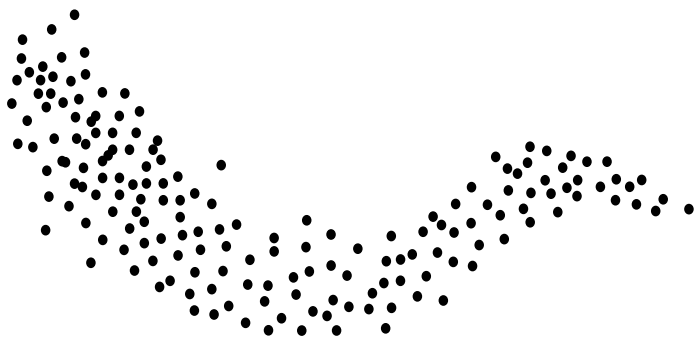
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Measure distance in a perceptual representation

images
in signal domain



images
in perceptual domain

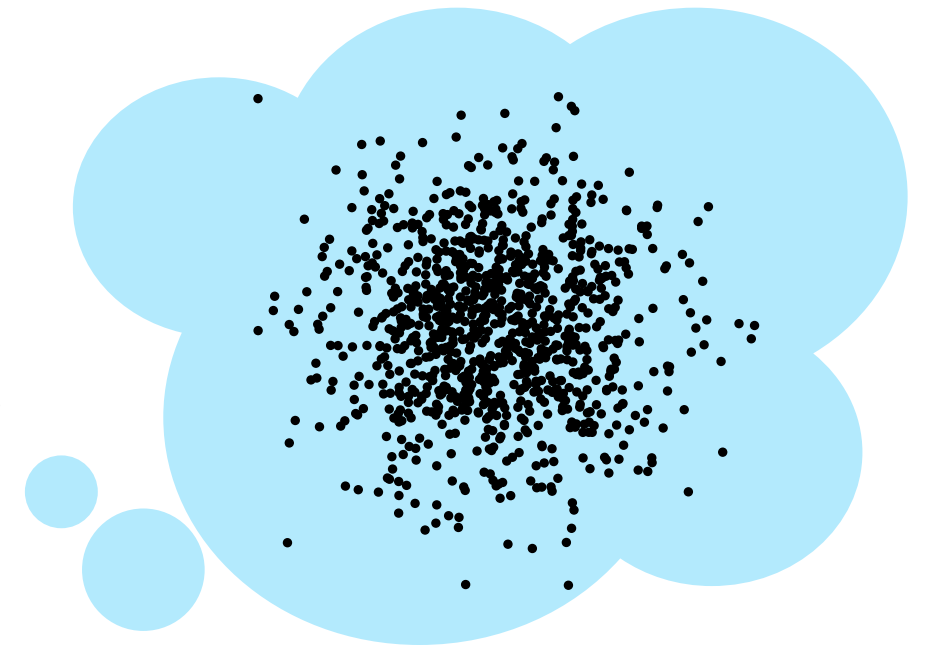
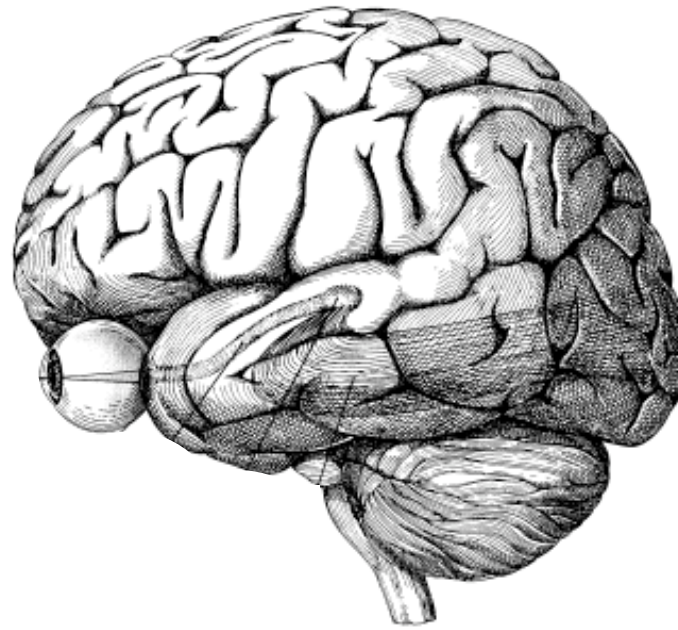
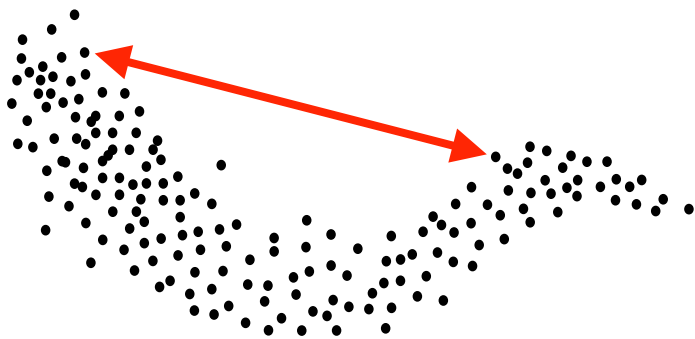


figure: Hubel, 1995

Measure distance in a perceptual representation

images
in signal domain



images
in perceptual domain

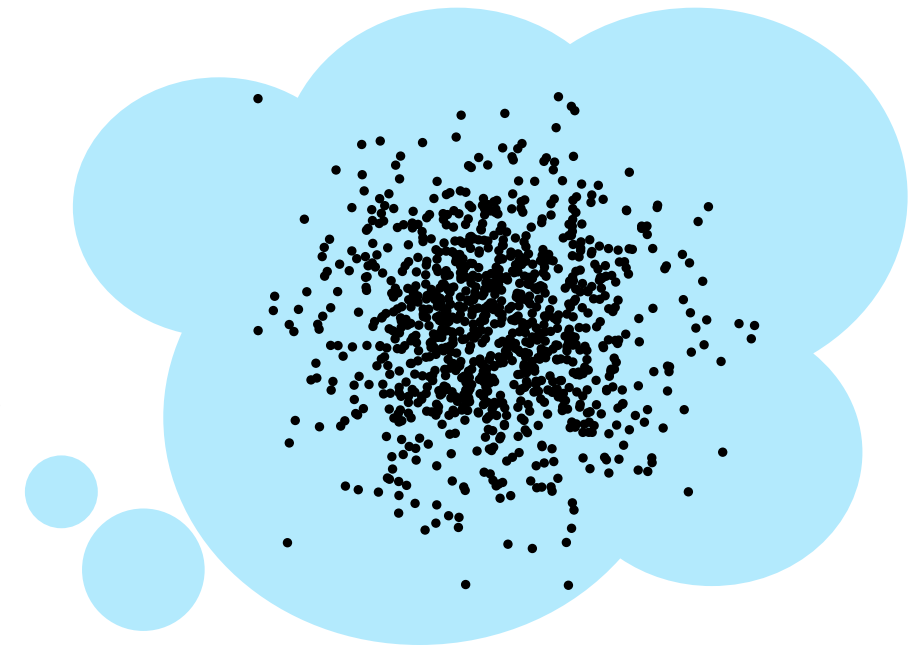
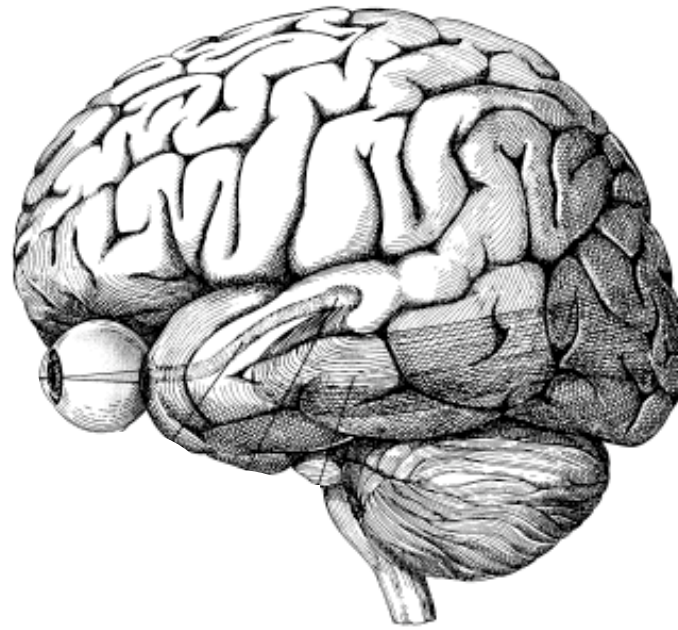
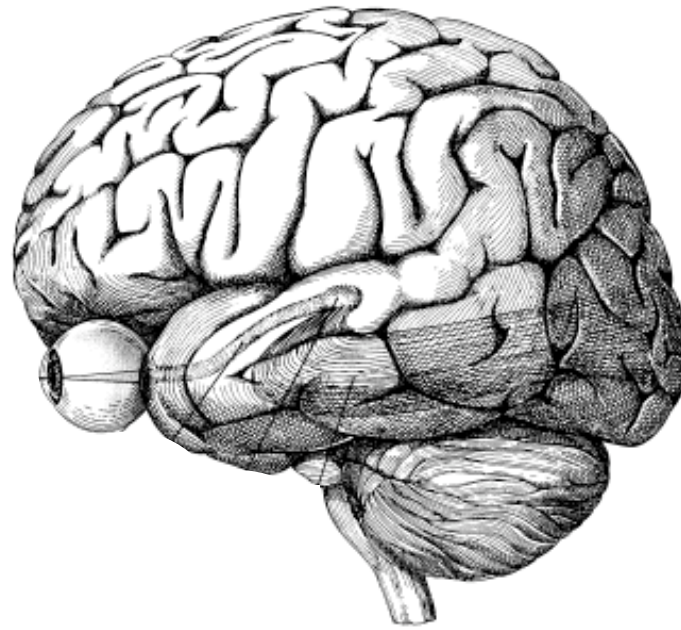
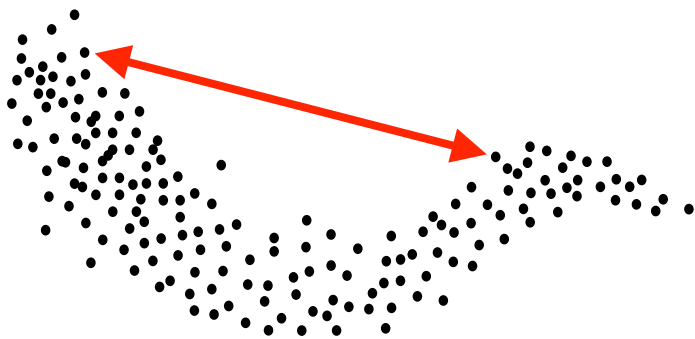


figure: Hubel, 1995

Measure distance in a perceptual representation

images
in signal domain



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in perceptual domain

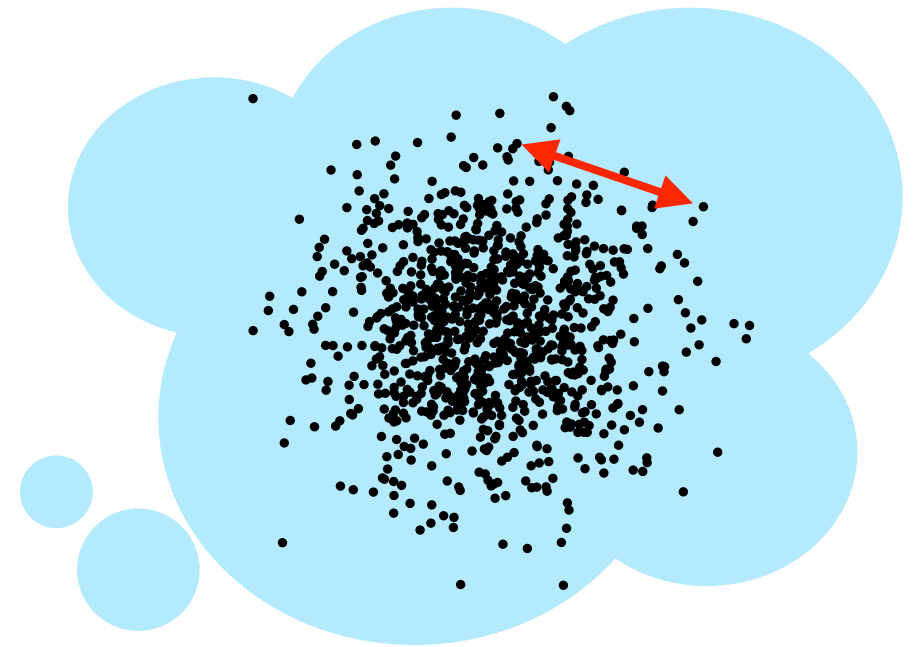
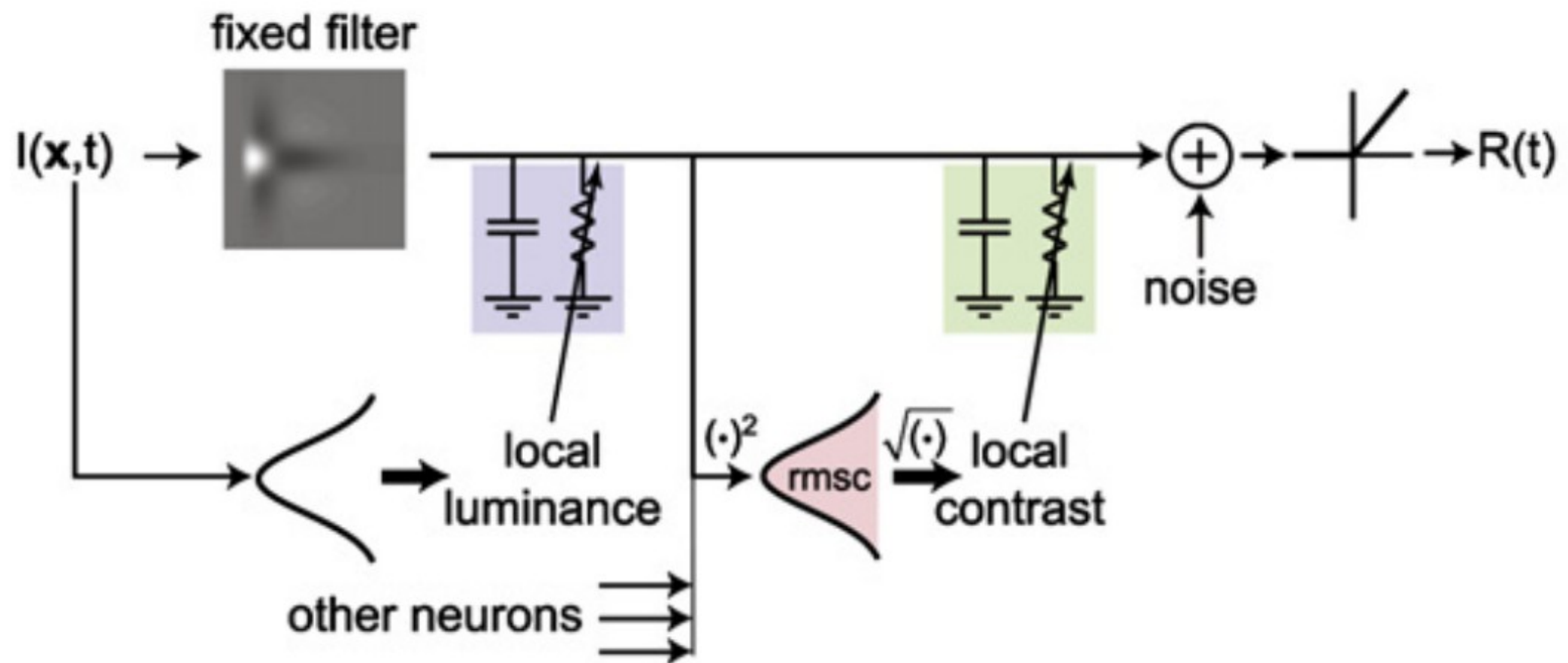


figure: Hubel, 1995

Aim: imitate processing in retina + LGN (pre-cortex)

V. Mante, V. Bonin, and M. Carandini. Neuron 2008

“Functional mechanisms shaping lateral geniculate responses to artificial and natural stimuli”

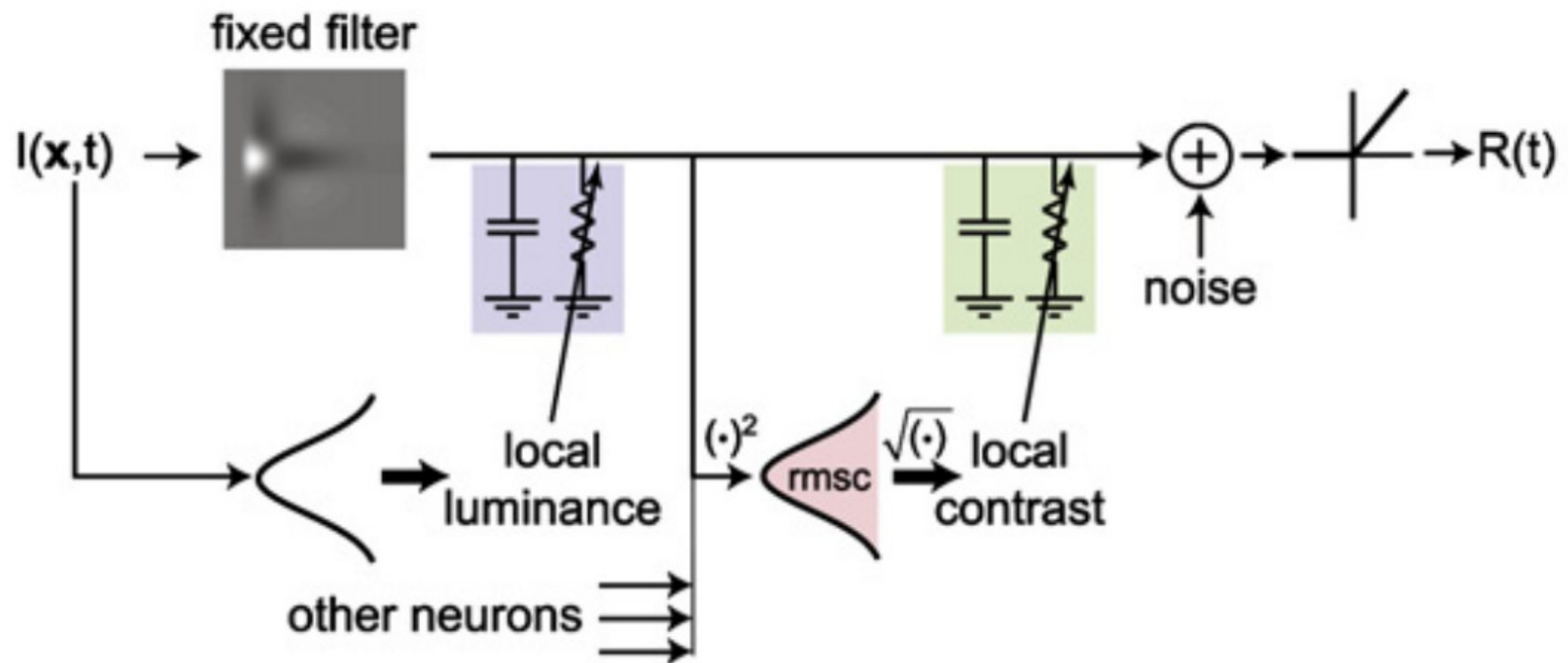


Aim: imitate processing in retina + LGN (pre-cortex)

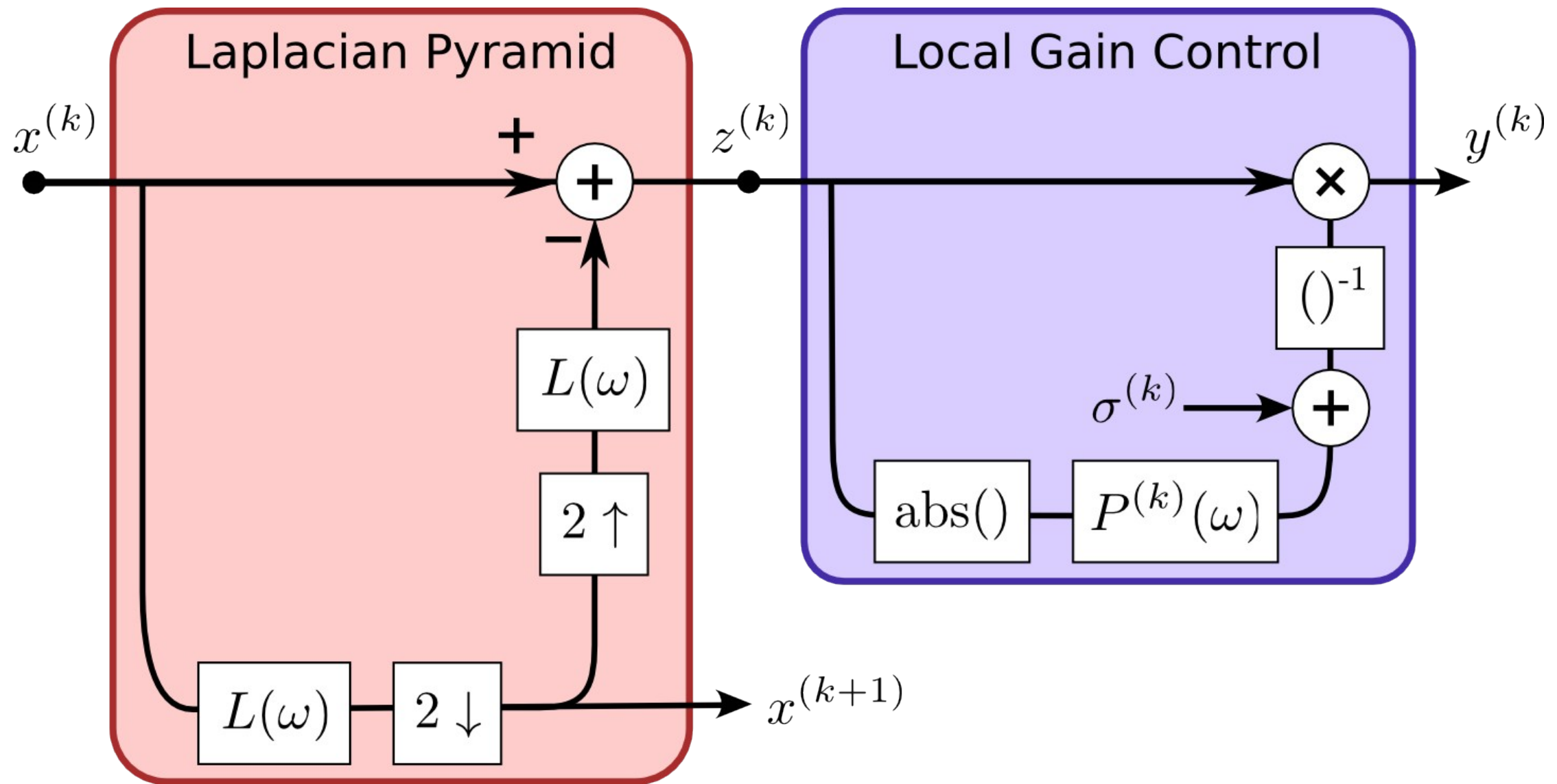
no oriented filters!

V. Mante, V. Bonin, and M. Carandini. Neuron 2008

“Functional mechanisms shaping lateral geniculate responses to artificial and natural stimuli”



Normalized Laplacian pyramid

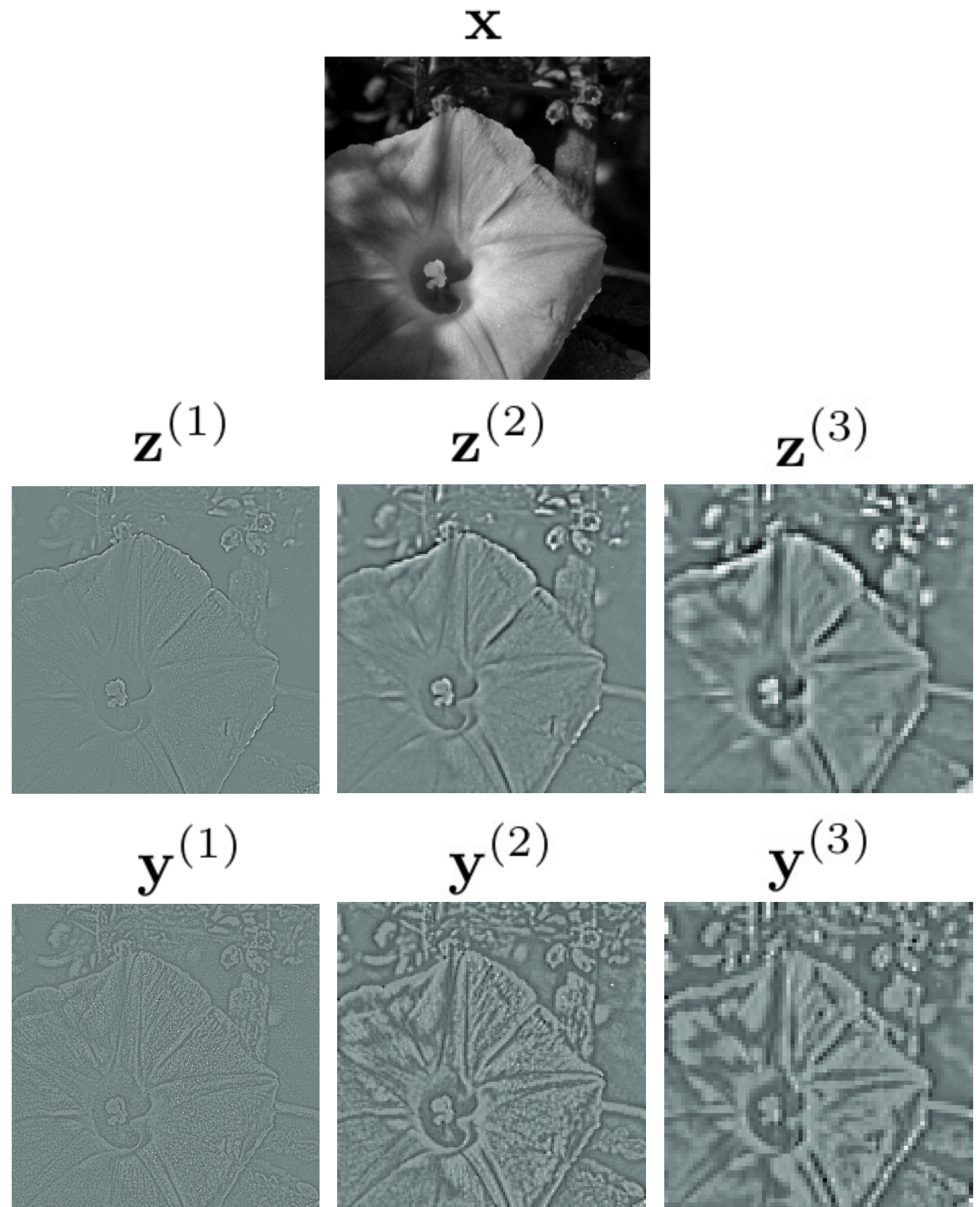


- Local mean subtraction

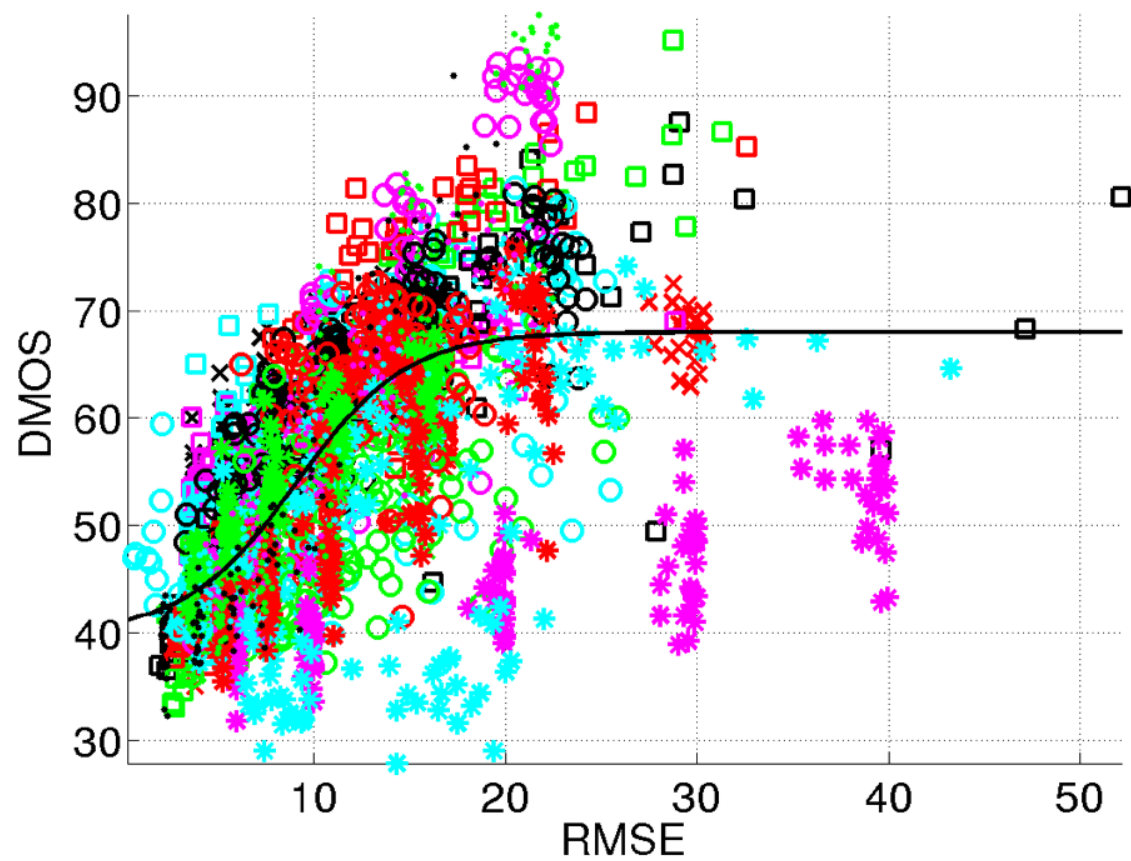
$$z = x - \hat{x}$$

- Local amplitude division
(local Gain Control)

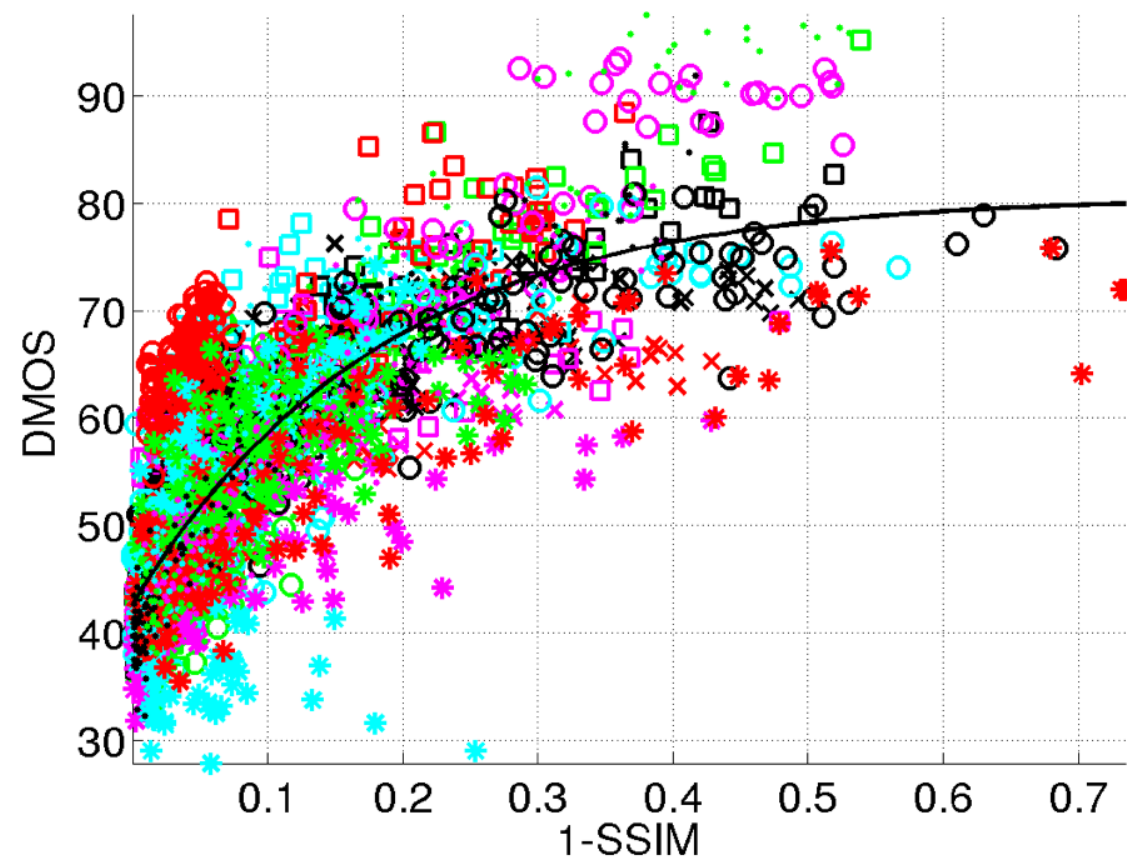
$$y = \frac{z}{|\hat{z}|}$$



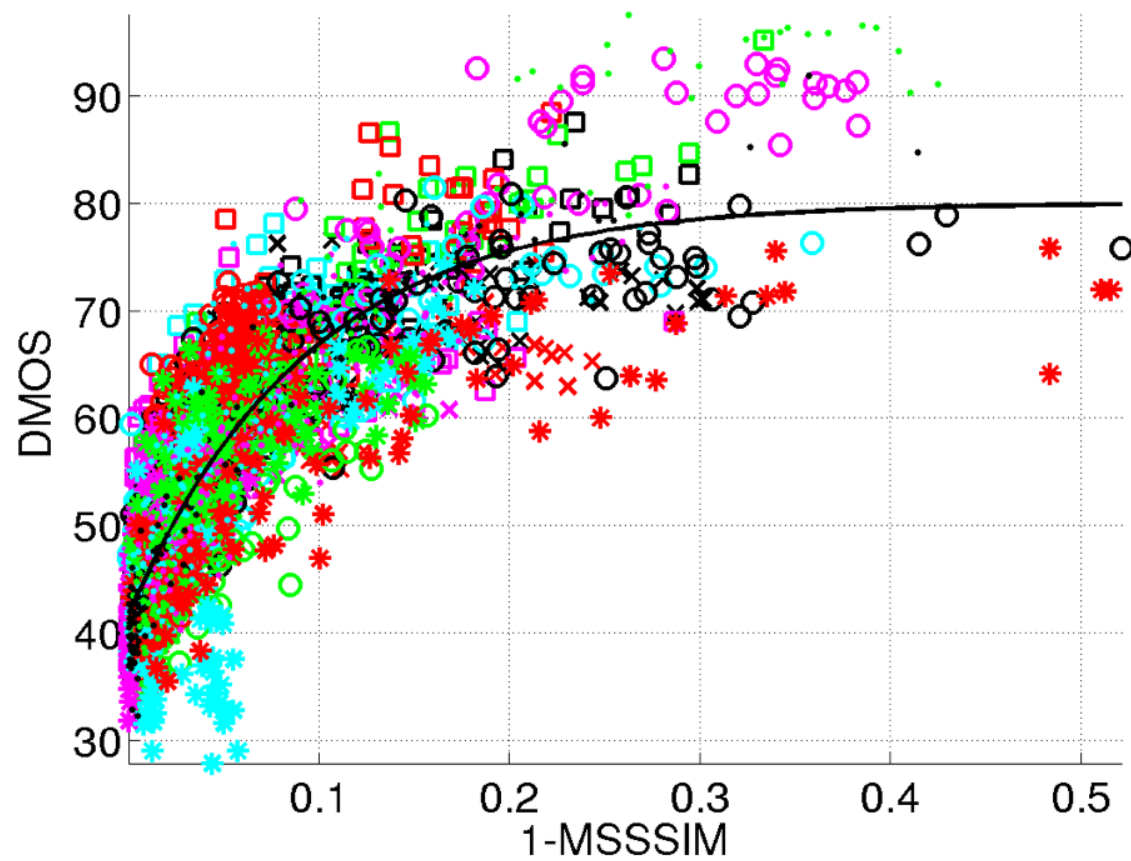
$P_1: 0.59, P_2: 0.7, \text{RMSE}: 9.04$



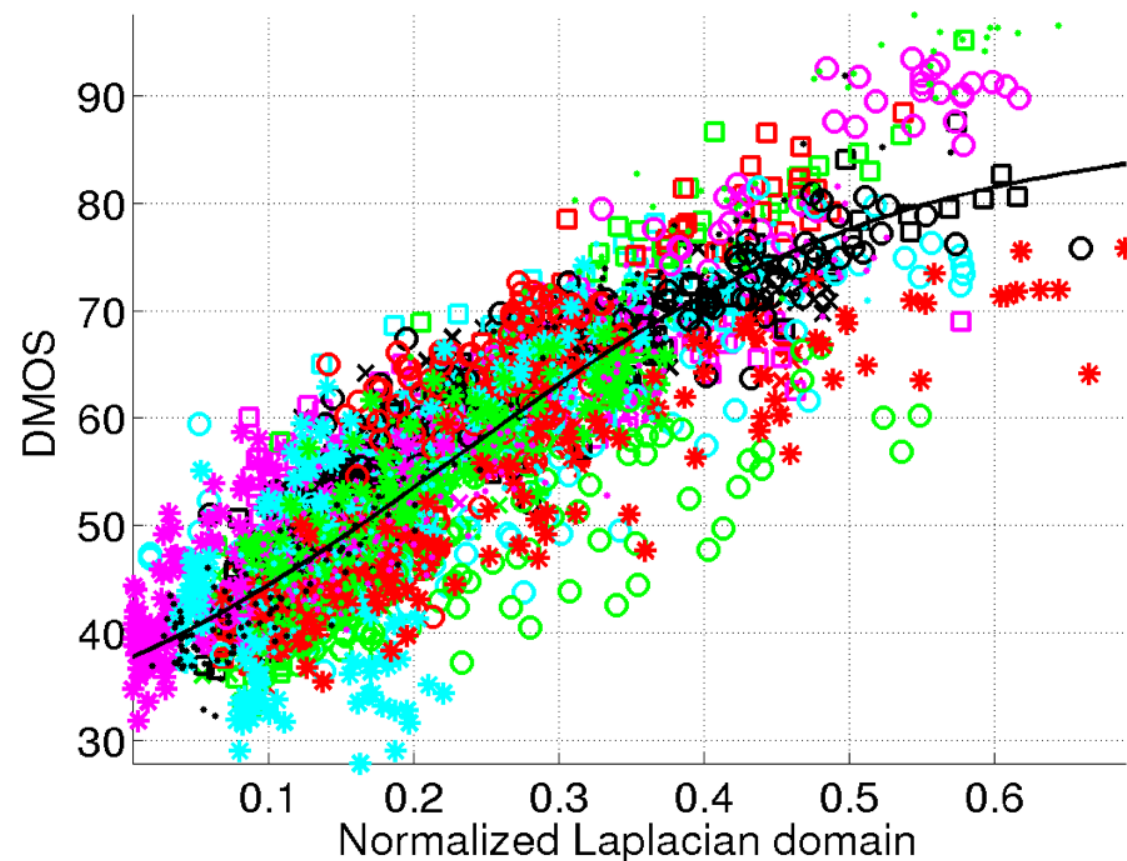
$P_1: 0.78, P_2: 0.82, \text{RMSE}: 7.22$



$P_1: 0.8, P_2: 0.87, \text{RMSE}: 6.33$

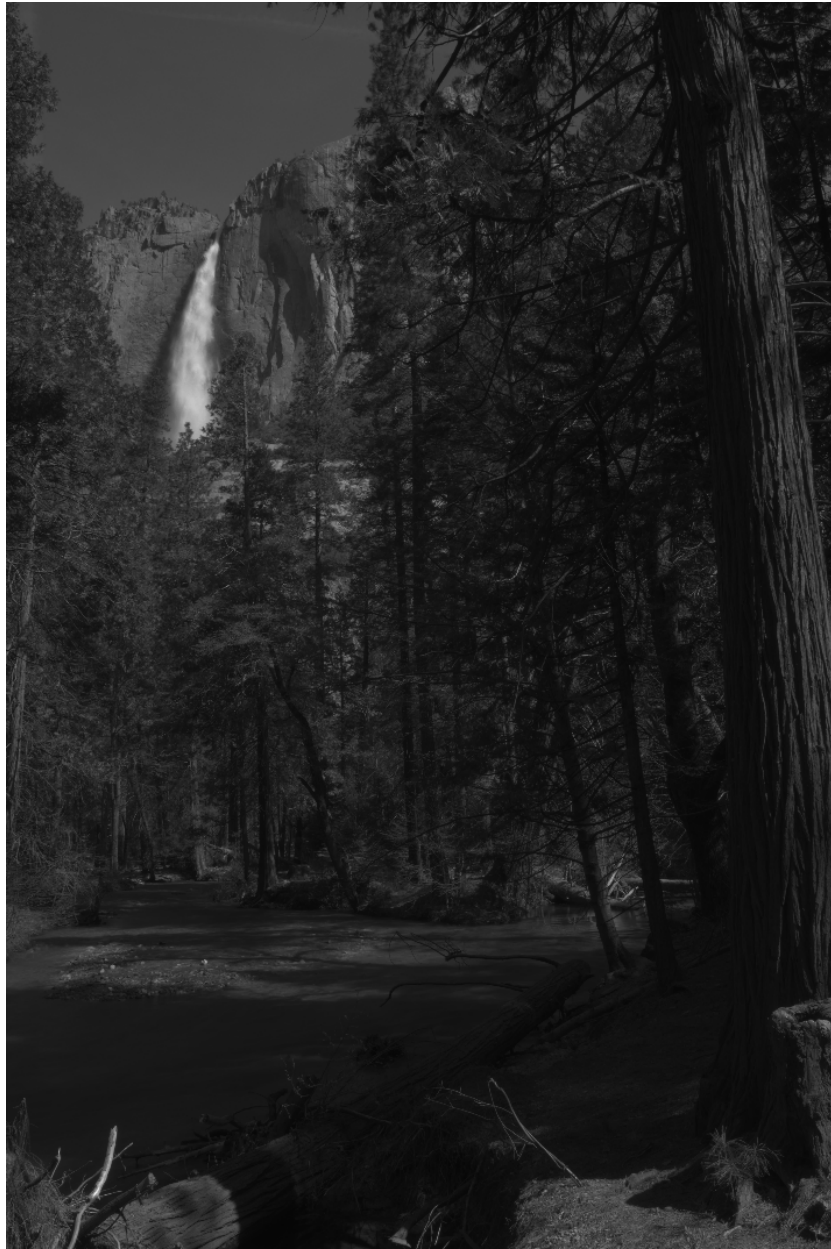


$P_1: 0.88, P_2: 0.88, \text{RMSE}: 6.01$

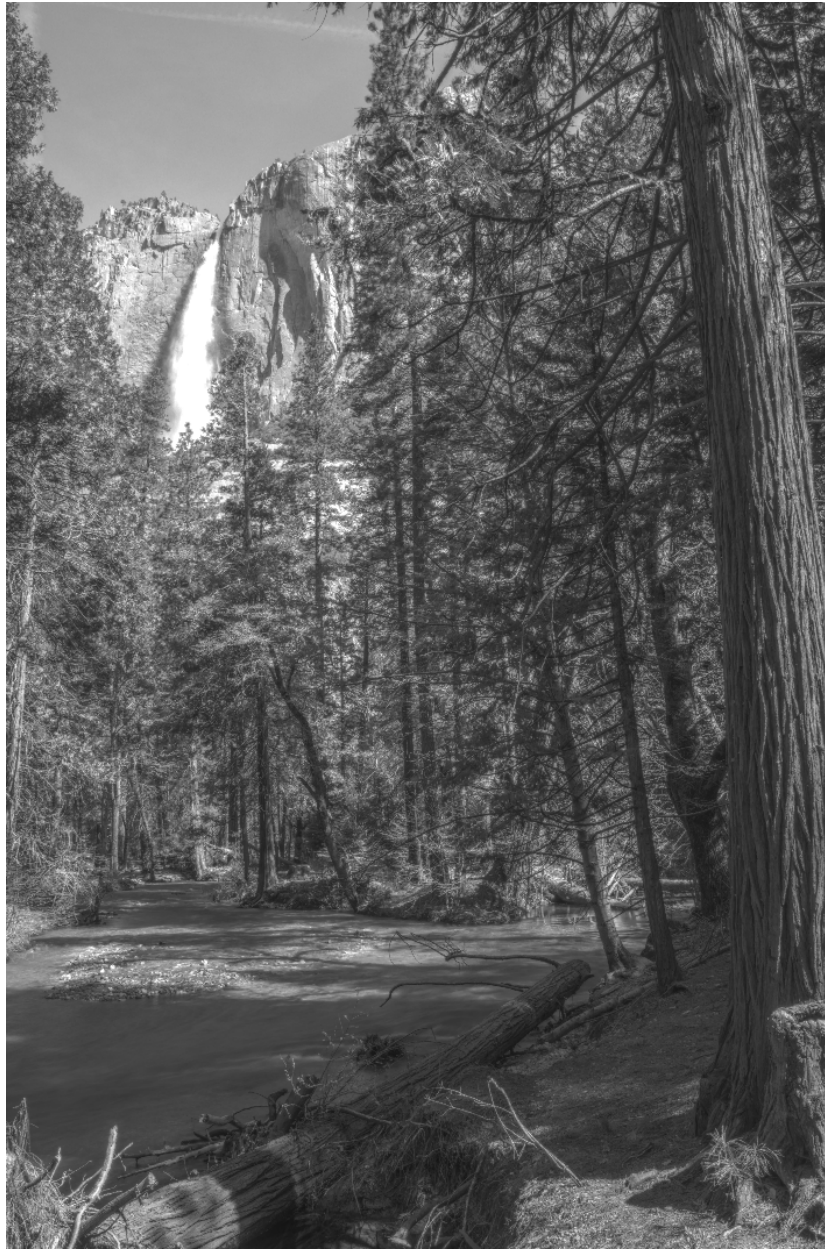


Optimized HDR rendering without “tweaking” parameters

rescaled



Paris et al. [12]



NLP



$$\hat{\mathbf{x}} = \arg \min_{\mathbf{x}} d(\mathbf{x}, \mathbf{x}_{\text{HDR}}) \quad \text{s.t.} \quad \forall i : x_{\min} \leq x_i \leq x_{\max}$$

Applications:

perceptual metrics
perceptually optimized rendering
density estimation
image compression
denoising

...

Applications:

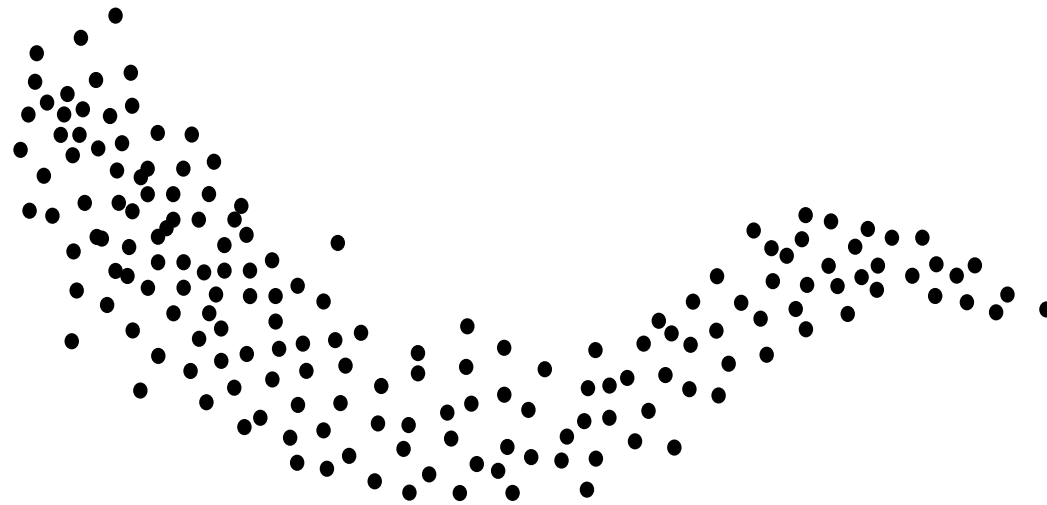
perceptual metrics
perceptually optimized rendering
density estimation
image compression
denoising

...

Has the human visual system
simply adapted to image statistics?

Density estimation (parametric density)

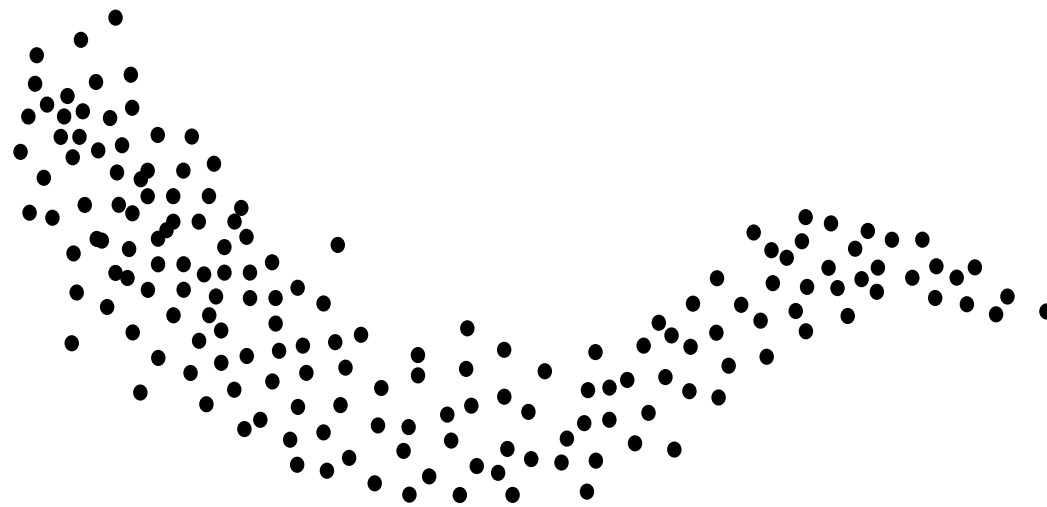
$$p_x(\mathbf{x}) = \frac{1}{Z(\boldsymbol{\theta})} \exp(-f(\mathbf{x}; \boldsymbol{\theta}))$$



Density estimation (parametric density)

$$p_x(\mathbf{x}) = \frac{1}{Z(\boldsymbol{\theta})} \exp(-f(\mathbf{x}; \boldsymbol{\theta}))$$

$$Z(\boldsymbol{\theta}) = \int \exp(-f(\mathbf{x}; \boldsymbol{\theta})) \, d\mathbf{x}$$

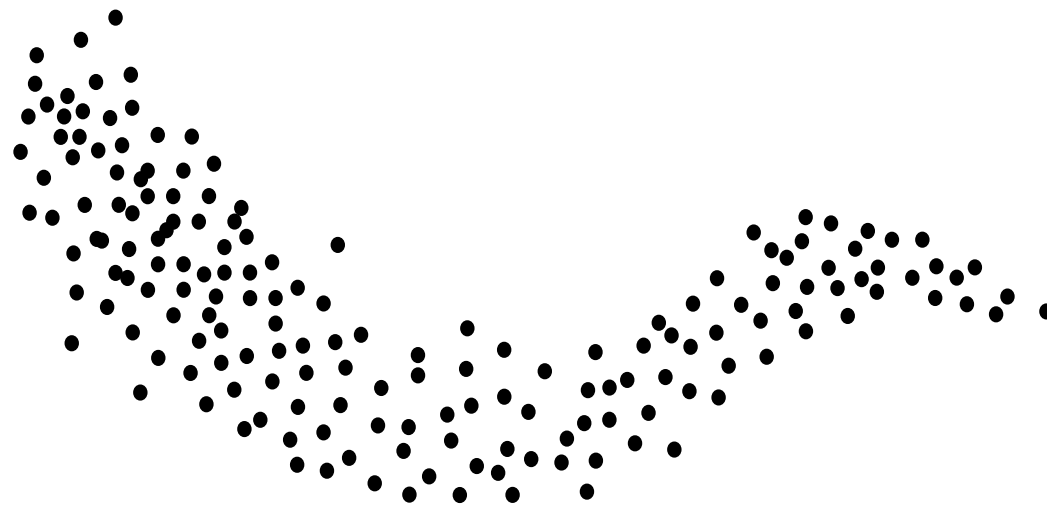


Density estimation (parametric density)

$$p_x(x) = \frac{1}{Z(\theta)} \exp(-f(x; \theta))$$

$$Z(\theta) = \int \exp(-f(x; \theta)) \, dx$$

tractable?



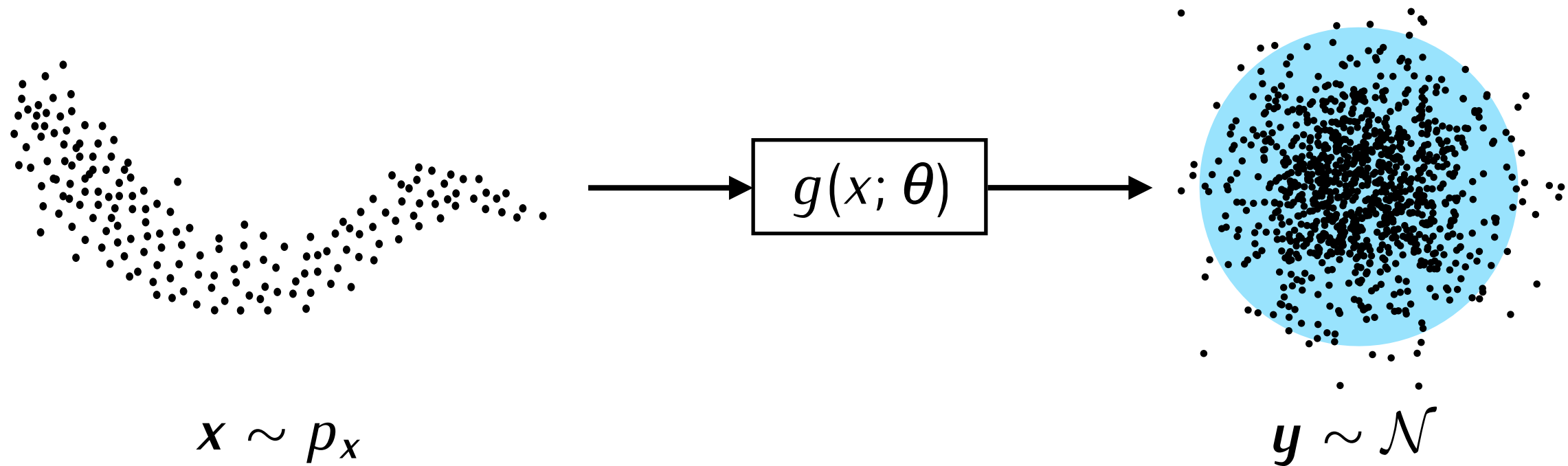
Density estimation (parametric transformation)



$$\mathbf{x} \sim p_{\mathbf{x}}$$

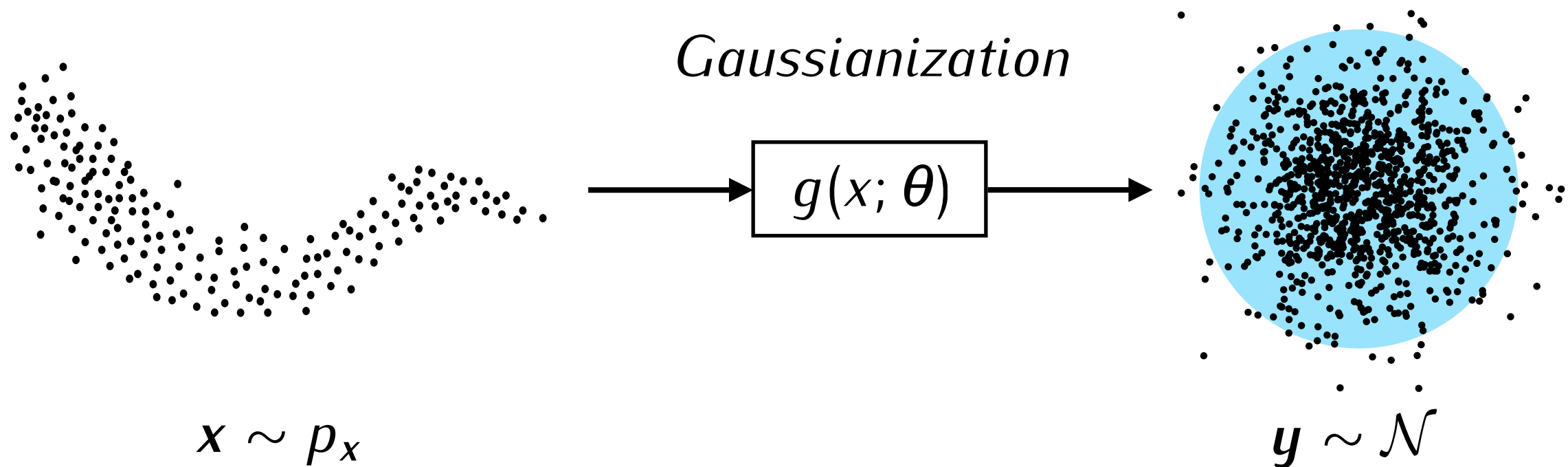
Friedman, 1984
Chen & Gopinath, 2001
Lyu & Simoncelli, 2009
Laparra et al., 2010
Dinh et al., 2015

Density estimation (parametric transformation)



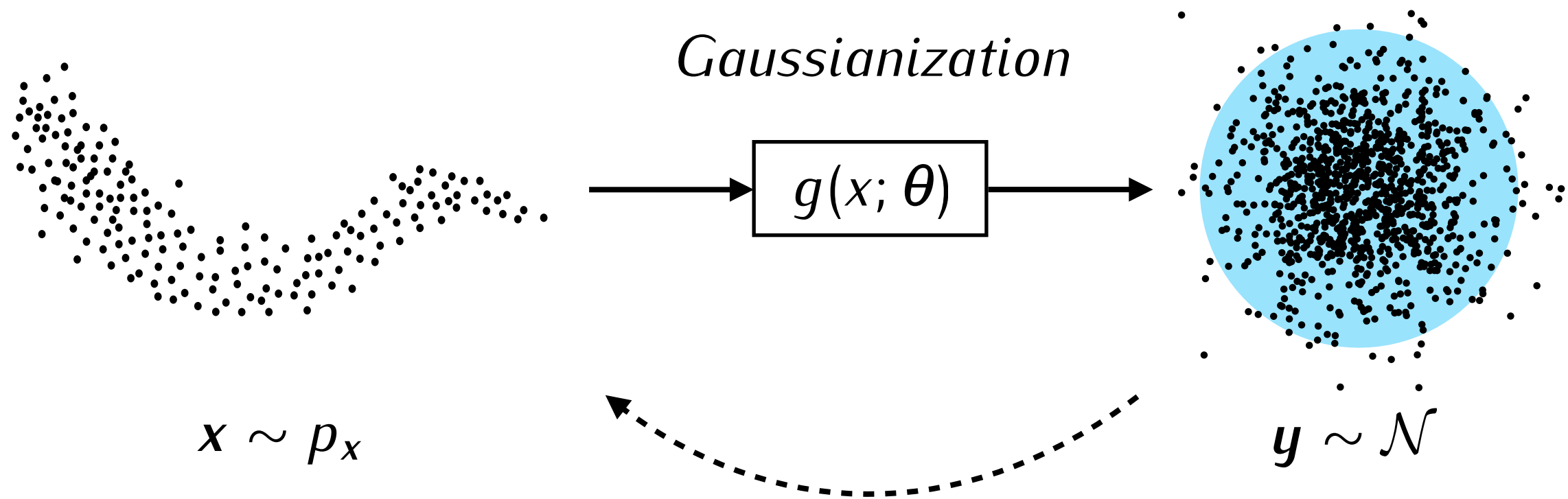
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Density estimation (parametric transformation)



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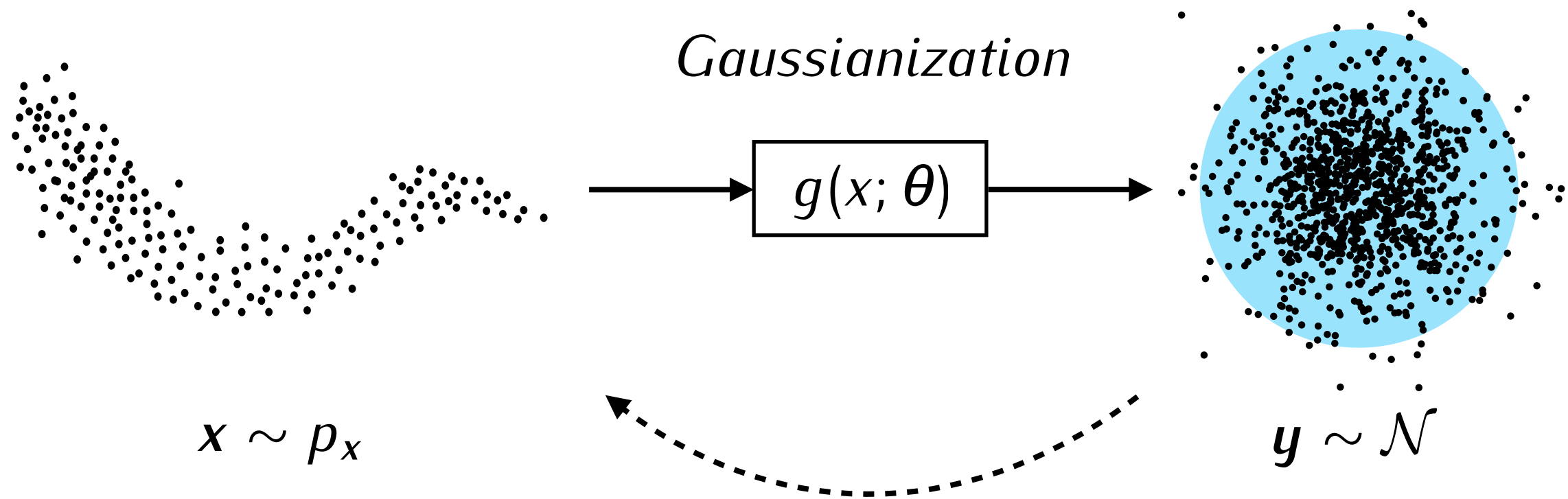


“inferred” density:

$$p_x(x) = \left| \frac{\partial g(x; \theta)}{\partial x} \right| \mathcal{N}(g(x; \theta))$$

Friedman, 1984
Chen & Gopinath, 2001
Lyu & Simoncelli, 2009
Laparra et al., 2010
Dinh et al., 2015

Density estimation (parametric transformation)



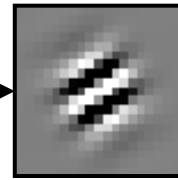
“inferred” density:

$$p_x(x) = \left| \frac{\partial g(x; \theta)}{\partial x} \right| \mathcal{N}(g(x; \theta))$$

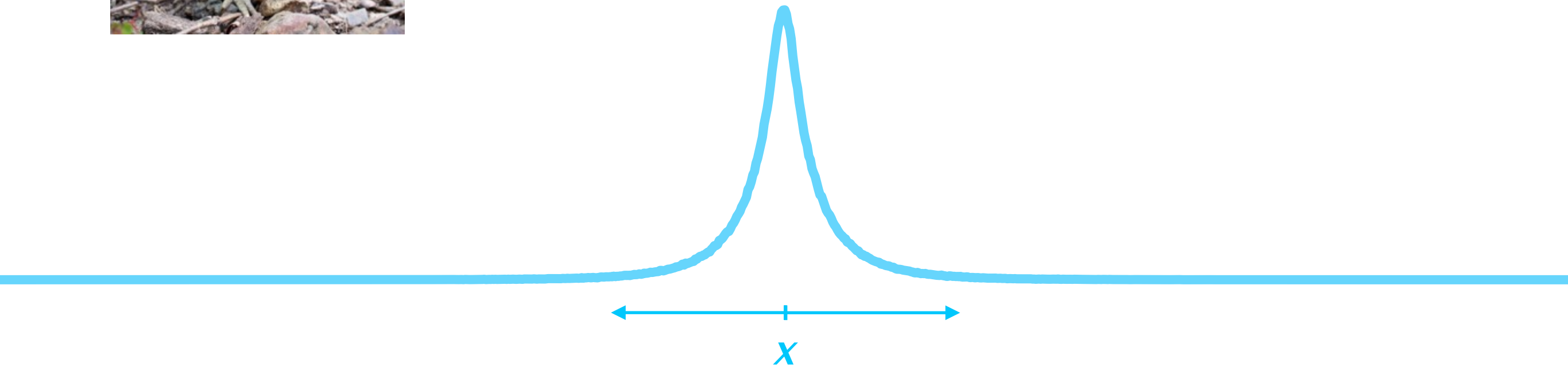
now need to find optimal transform g
no integration required

Friedman, 1984
Chen & Gopinath, 2001
Lyu & Simoncelli, 2009
Laparra et al., 2010
Dinh et al., 2015

Marginal distribution of linear filter responses

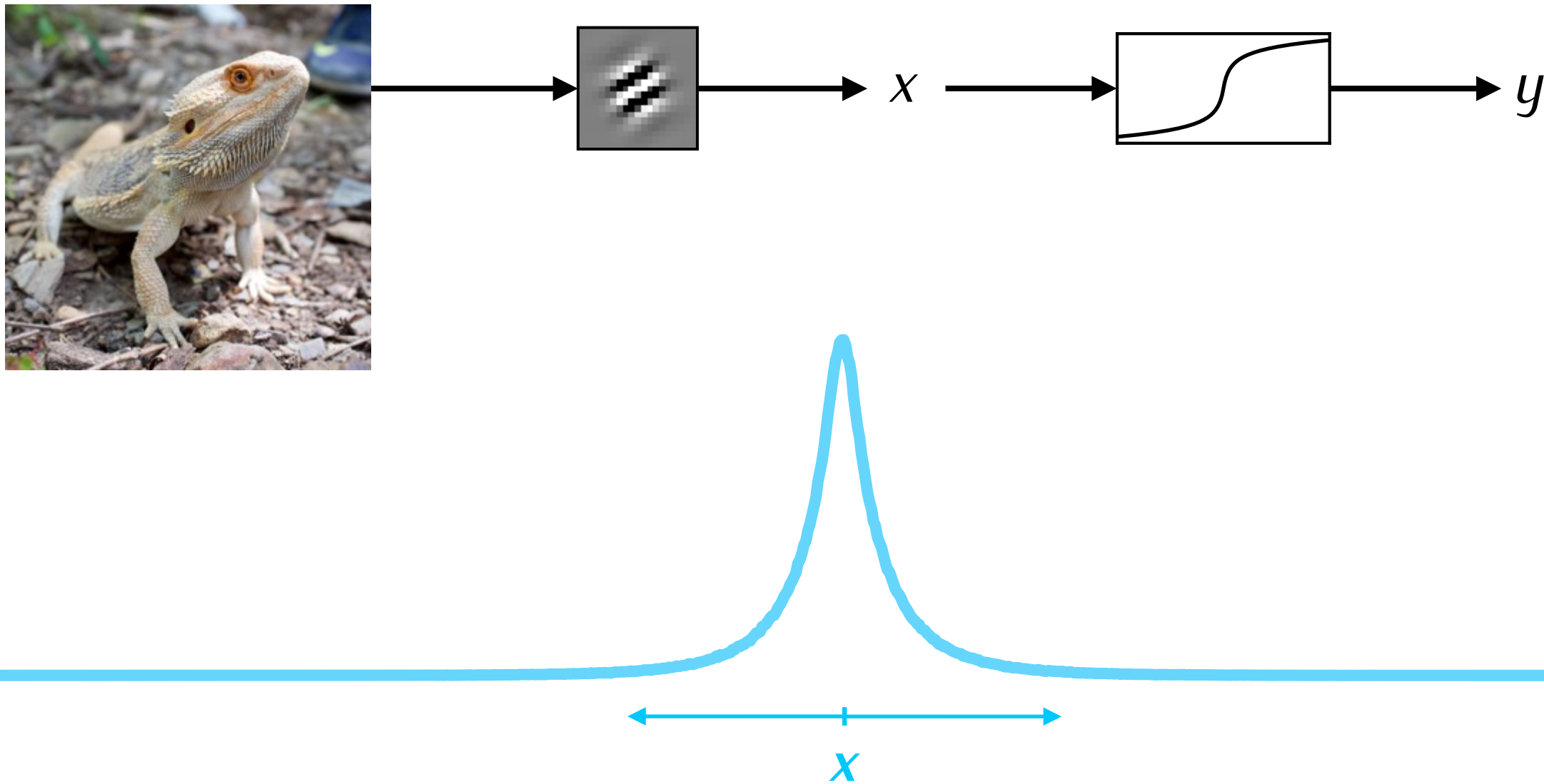


x

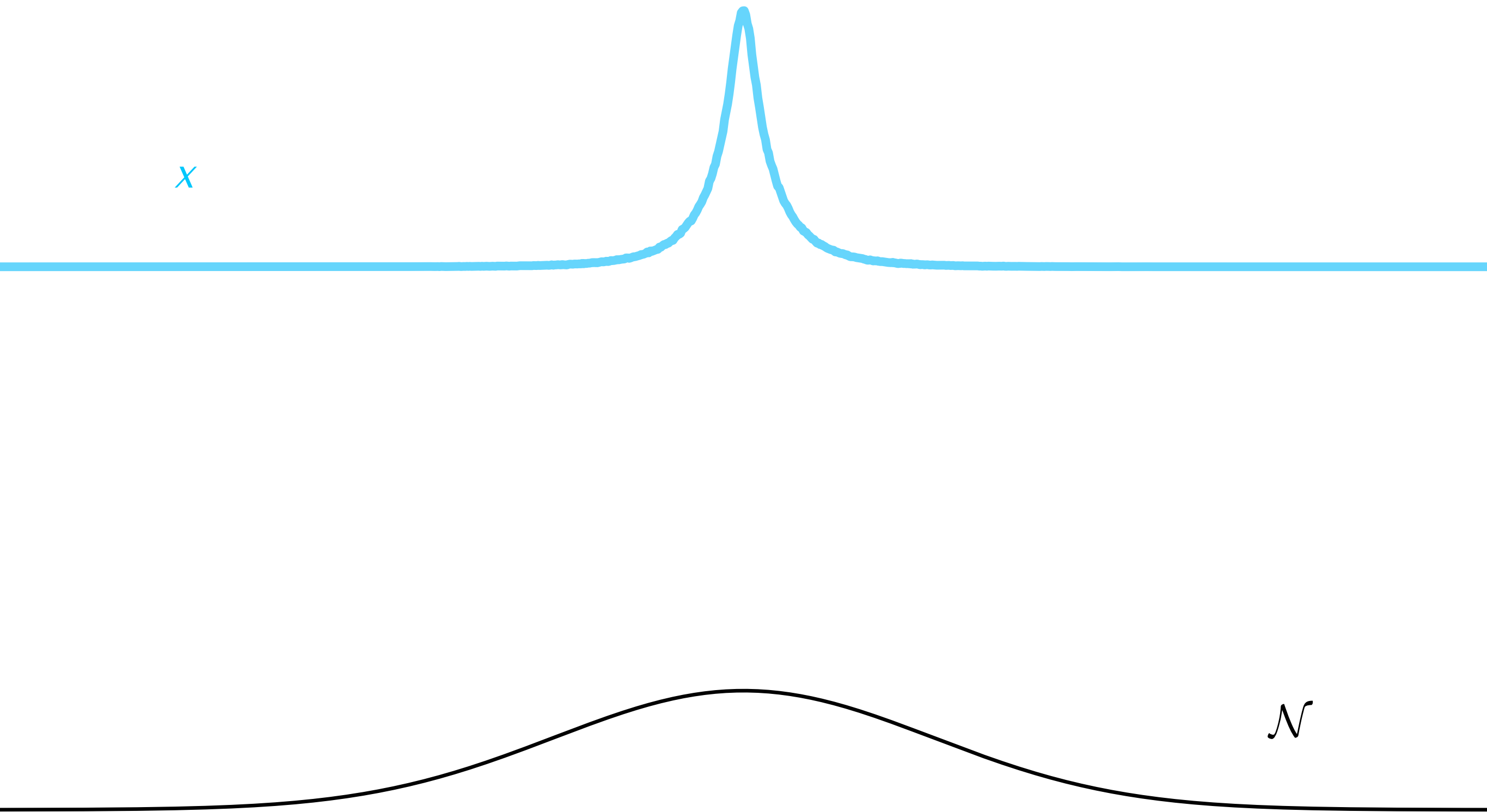


Burt & Adelson, 1981
Field, 1987
Mallat, 1989

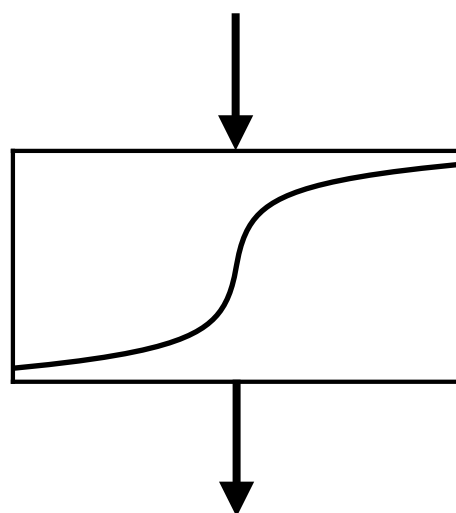
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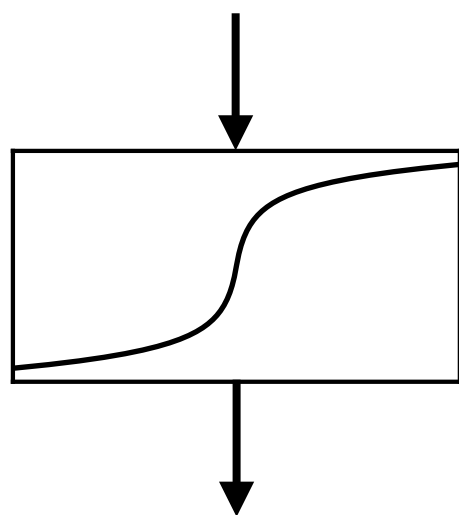
x



$$y = \frac{x}{(\beta + \gamma|x|)^{\epsilon}}$$

\mathcal{N}

x

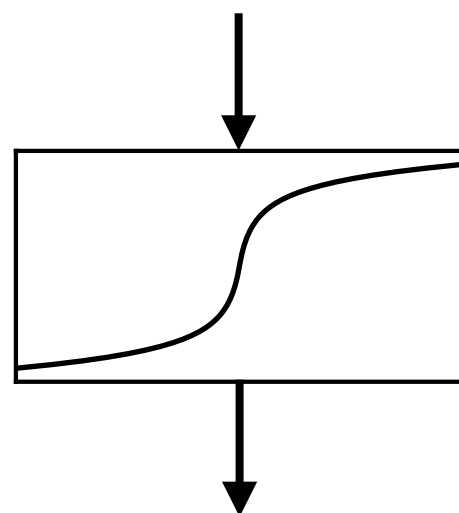


$$y = \frac{x}{(\beta + \gamma|x|)^{\varepsilon}}$$

y

\mathcal{N}

x



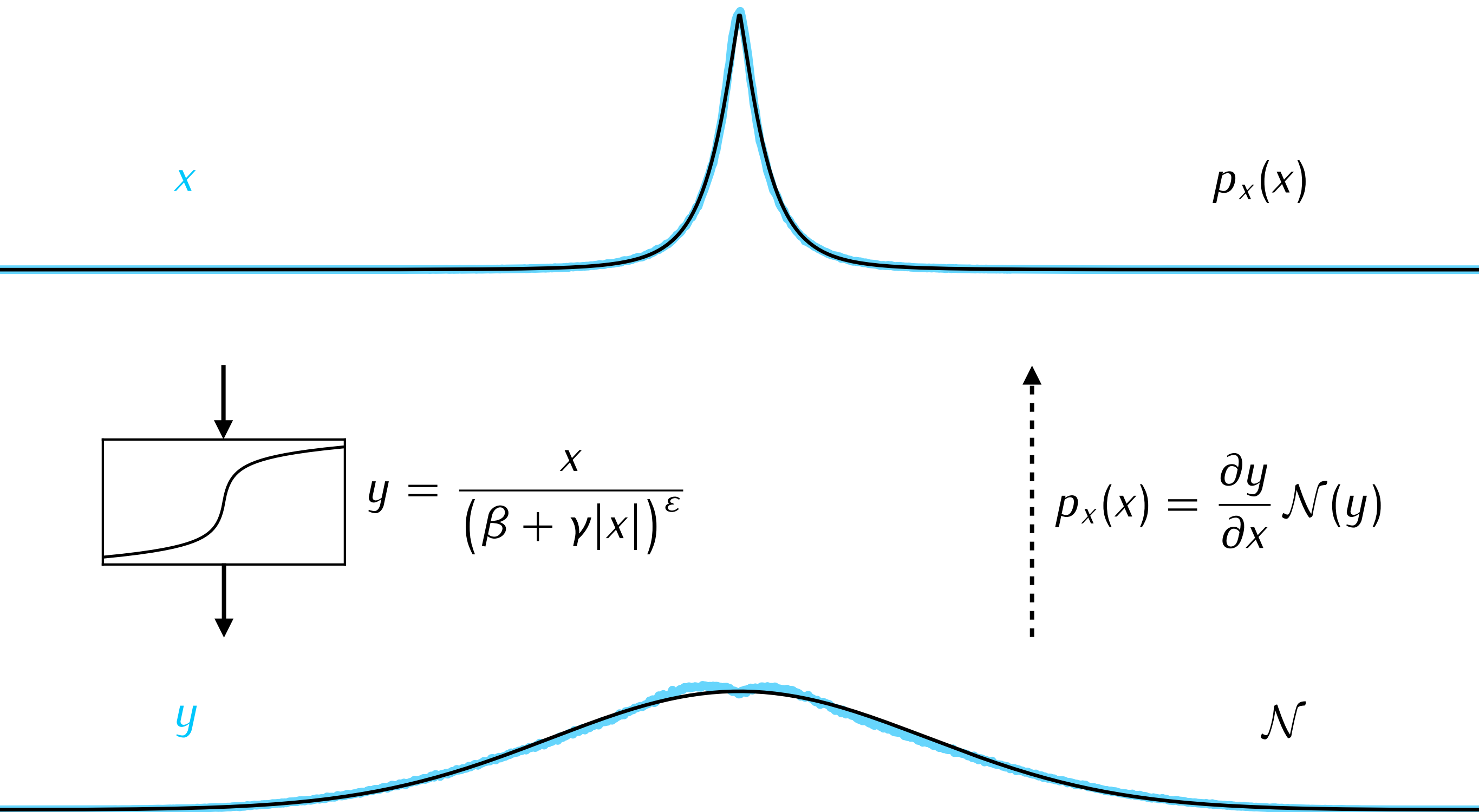
$$y = \frac{x}{(\beta + \gamma|x|)^\varepsilon}$$



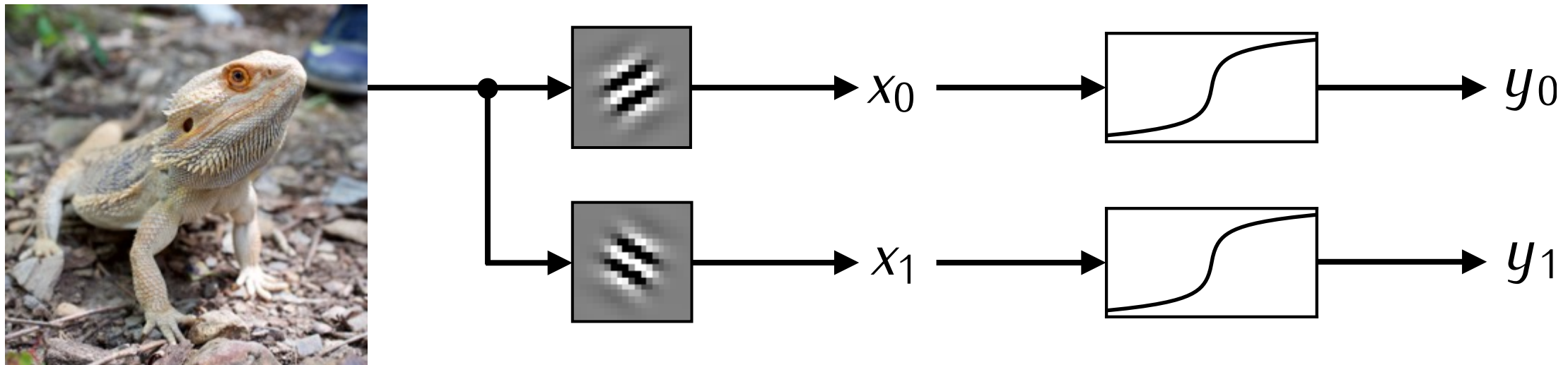
$$p_x(x) = \frac{\partial y}{\partial x} \mathcal{N}(y)$$

y

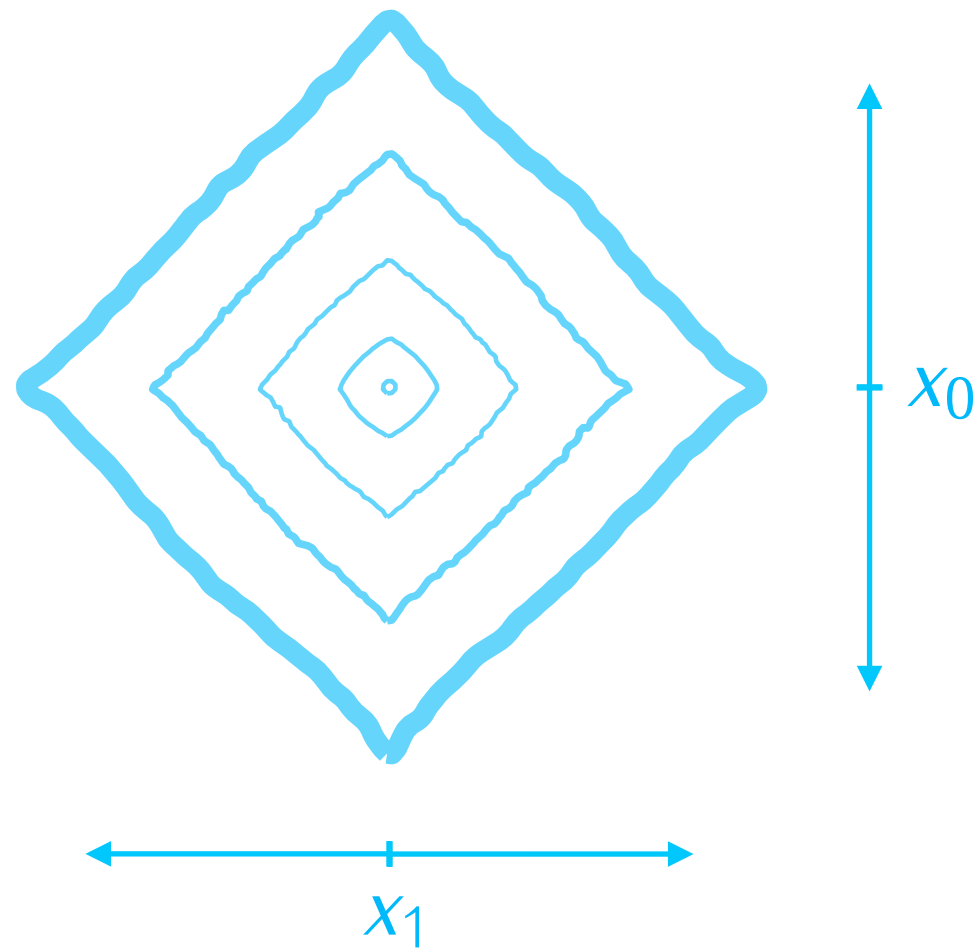
\mathcal{N}

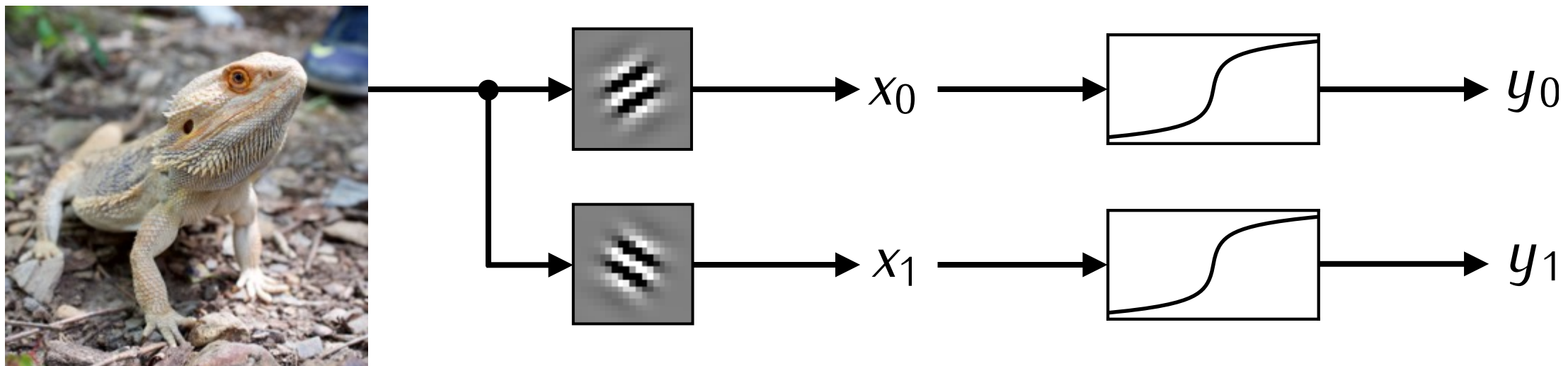


Joint distribution of linear filter responses



contour lines
of joint density

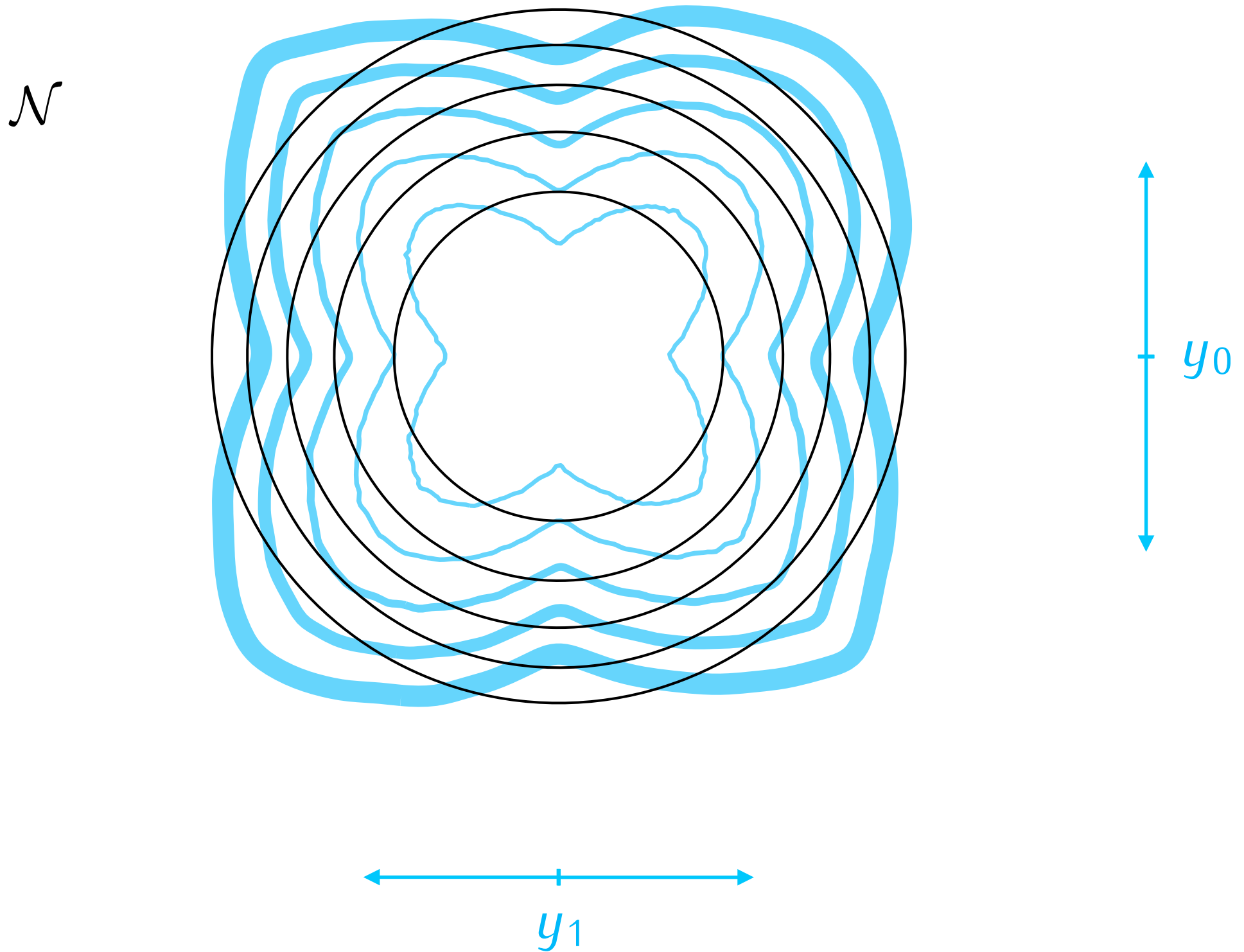




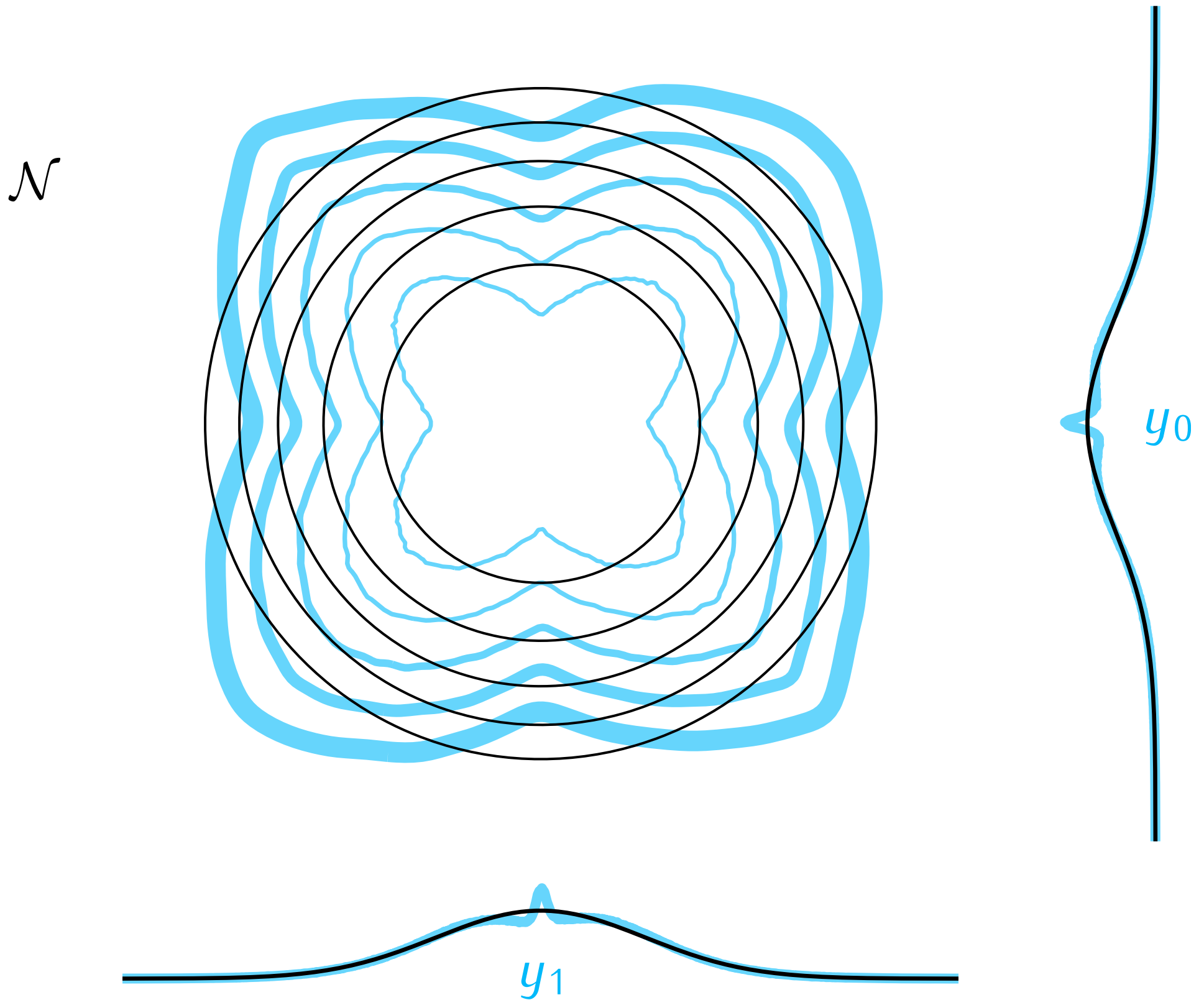
$$y_0 = \frac{x_0}{(\beta_0 + \gamma_0 |x_0|^{\alpha_0})^{\varepsilon_0}}$$

$$y_1 = \frac{x_1}{(\beta_1 + \gamma_1 |x_1|^{\alpha_1})^{\varepsilon_1}}$$

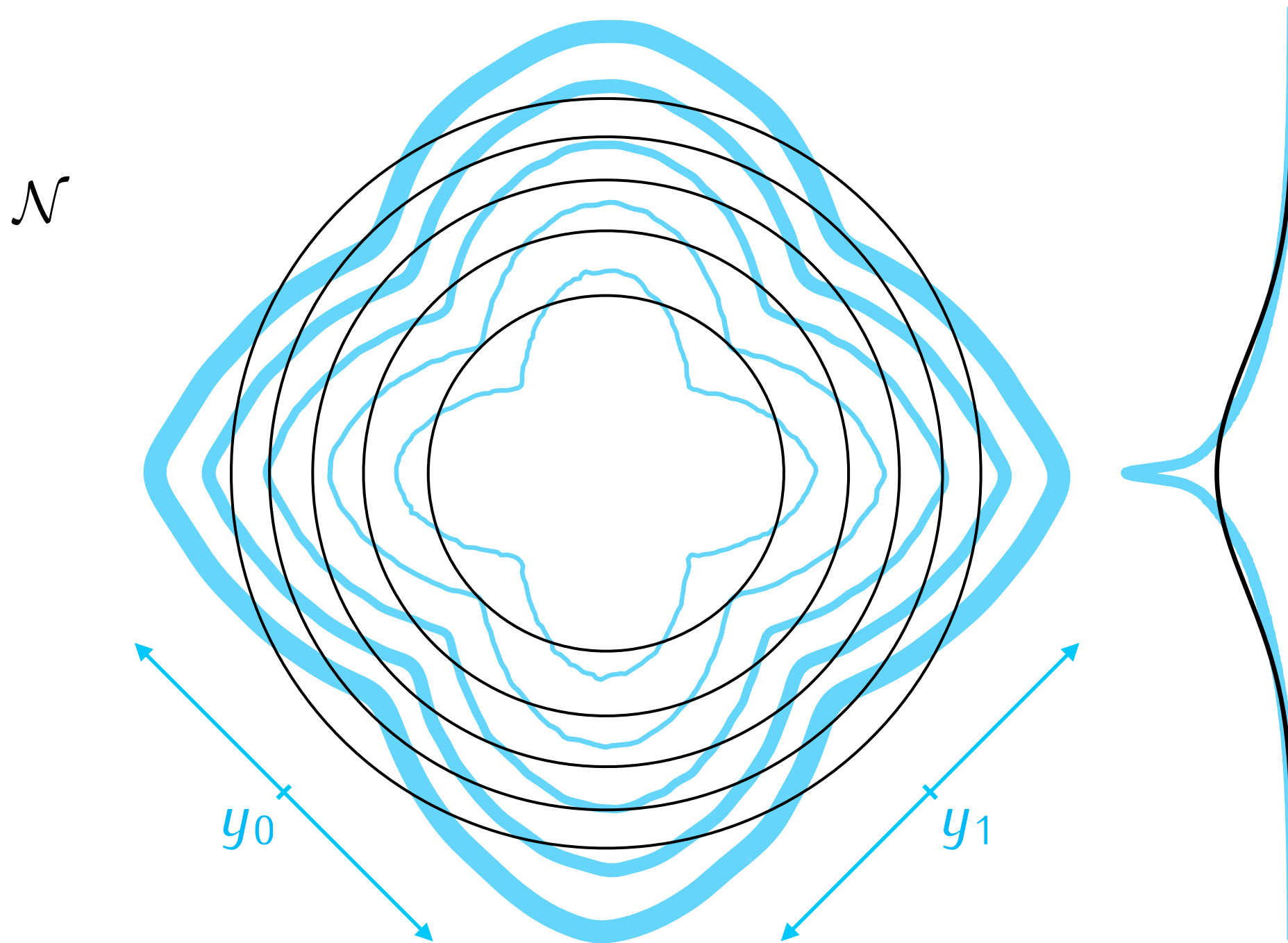
Contour lines, Gaussianized responses

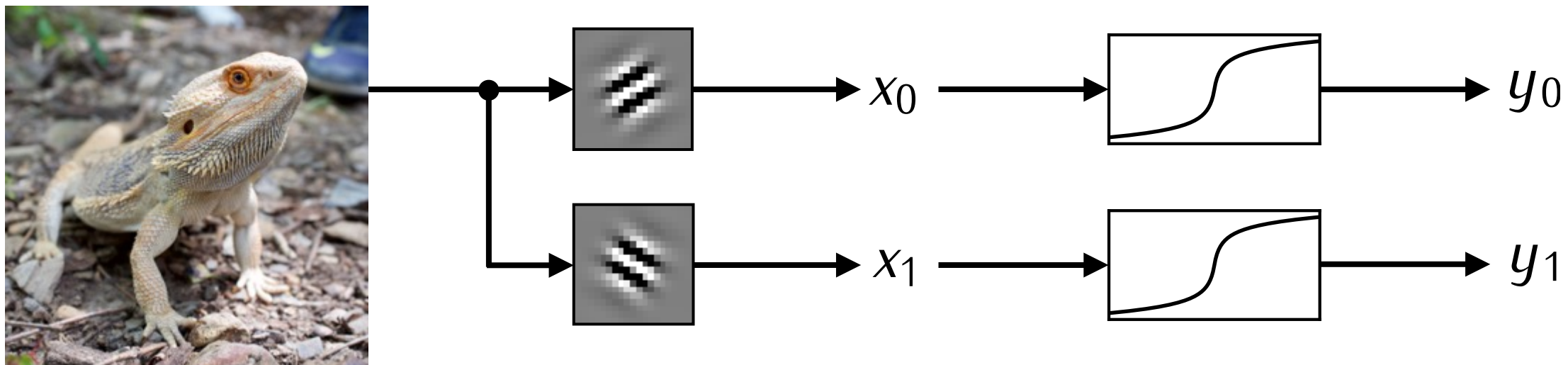


Contour lines, Gaussianized responses



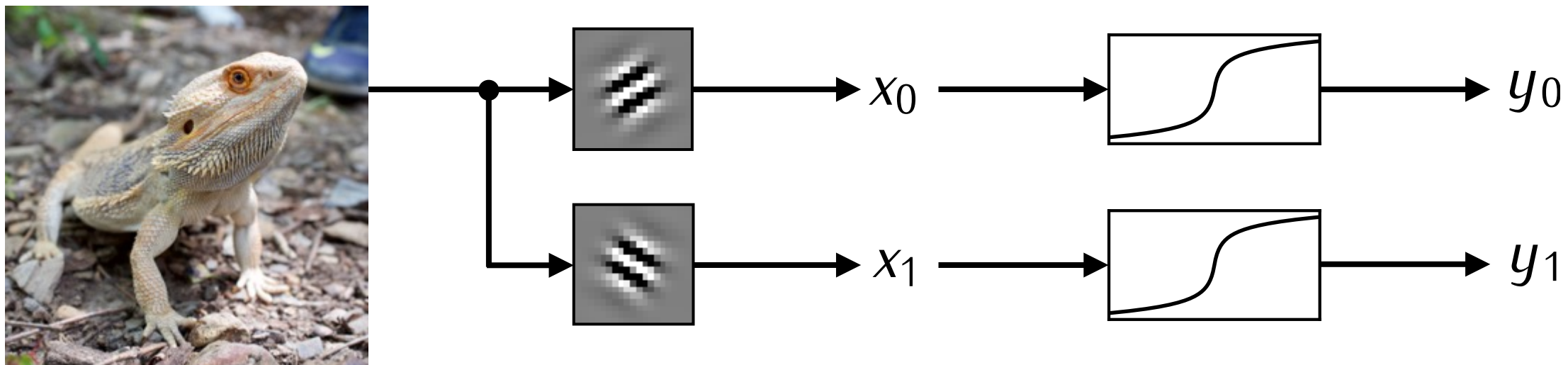
Contour lines, Gaussianized responses





$$y_0 = \frac{x_0}{(\beta_0 + \gamma_0 |x_0|^{\alpha_0})^{\varepsilon_0}}$$

$$y_1 = \frac{x_1}{(\beta_1 + \gamma_1 |x_1|^{\alpha_1})^{\varepsilon_1}}$$

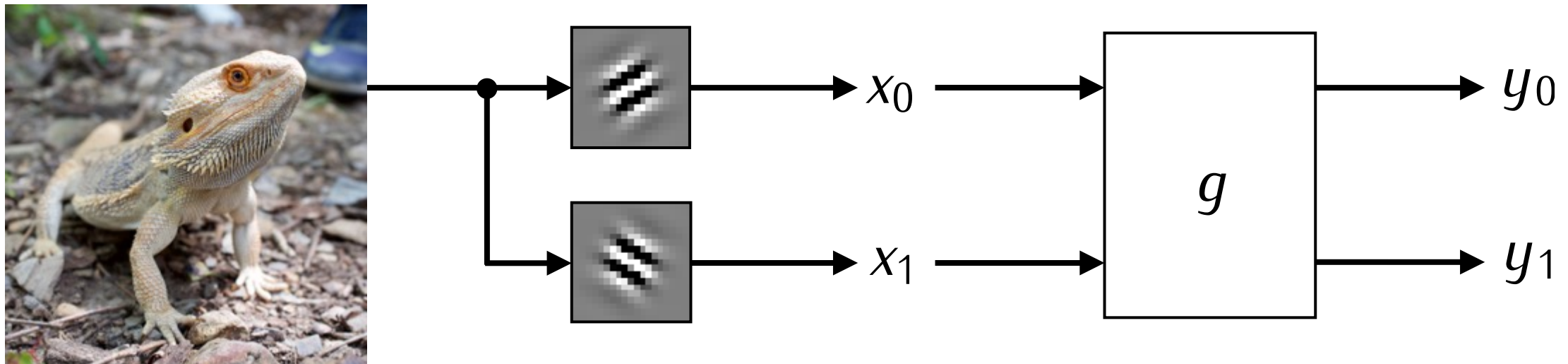


$$y_0 = \frac{x_0}{(\beta_0 + \gamma_0 |x_0|^{\alpha_0})^{\varepsilon_0}}$$

↑

$$y_1 = \frac{x_1}{(\beta_1 + \gamma_1 |x_1|^{\alpha_1})^{\varepsilon_1}}$$

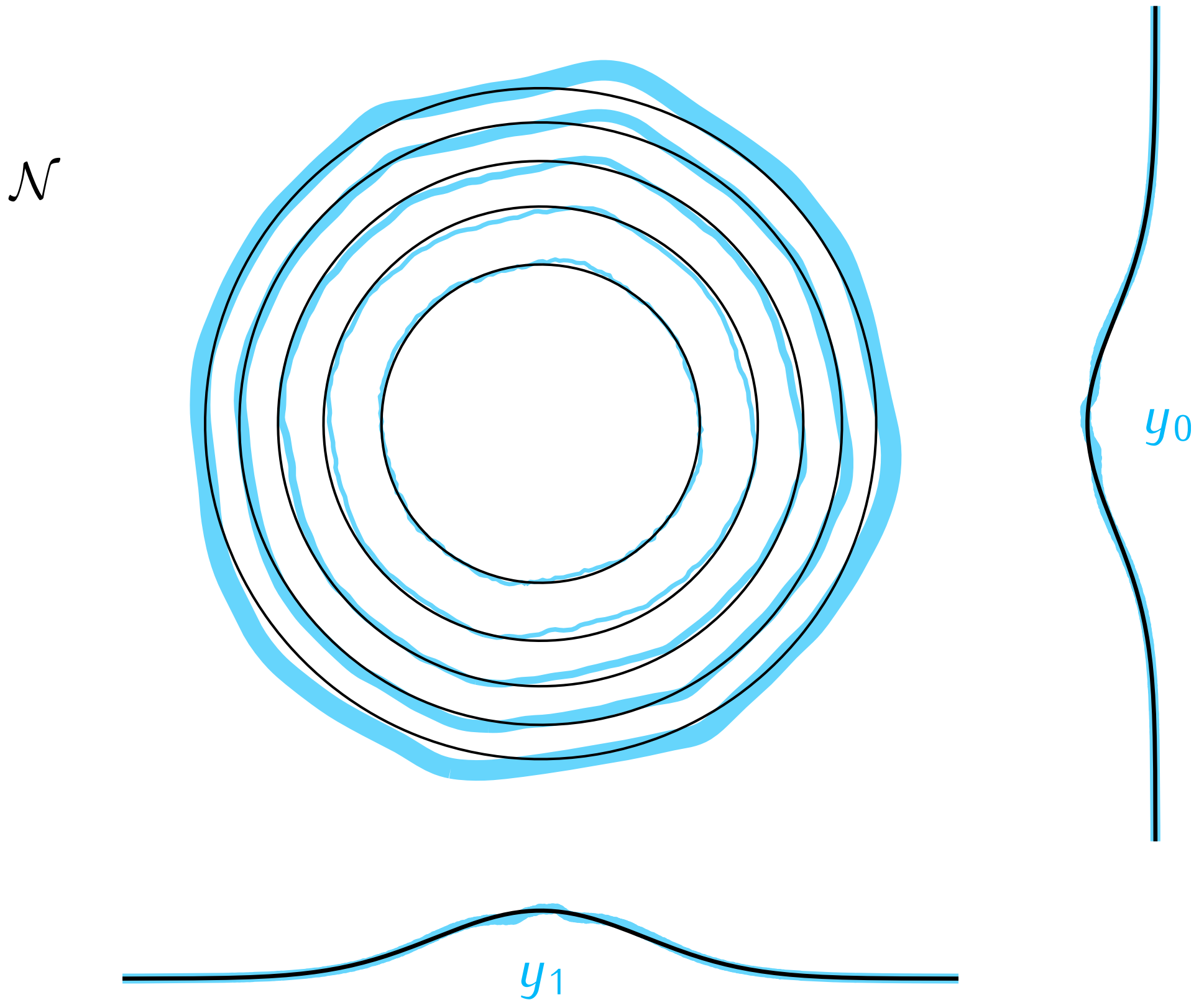
↑



$$y_0 = \frac{x_0}{\left(\beta_0 + \gamma_{01}|x_1|^{\alpha_{01}} + \gamma_{00}|x_0|^{\alpha_{00}}\right)^{\varepsilon_0}}$$

$$y_1 = \frac{x_1}{\left(\beta_1 + \gamma_{10}|x_0|^{\alpha_{10}} + \gamma_{11}|x_1|^{\alpha_{11}}\right)^{\varepsilon_1}}$$

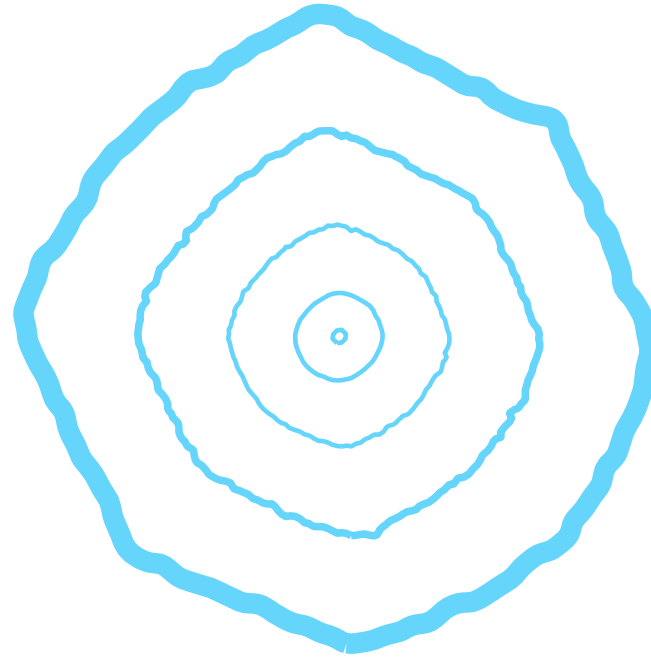
Contour lines, Gaussianized responses



Variety of shapes, joint density of filter responses



elliptical



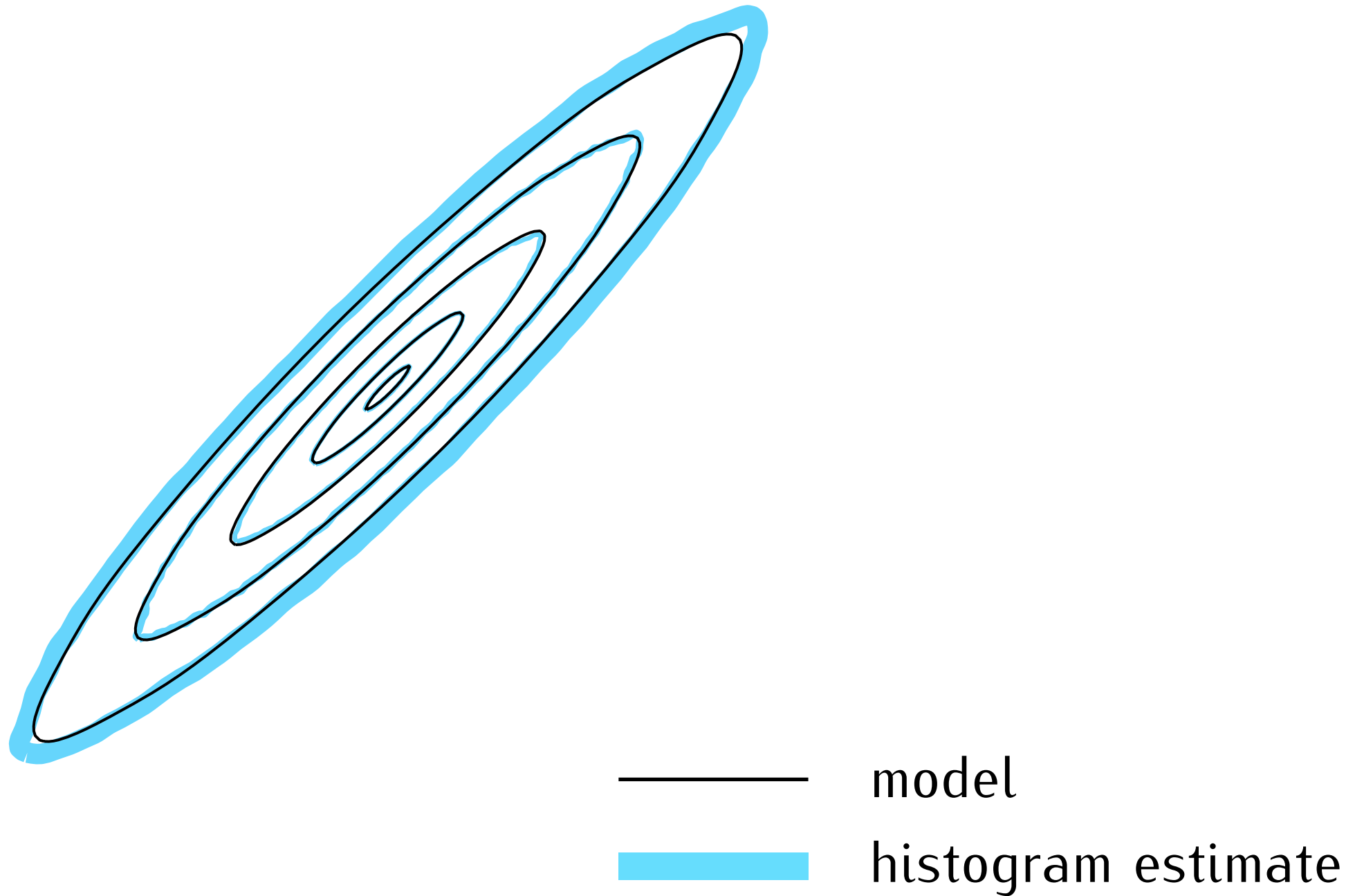
?



marginally
independent

Lyu & Simoncelli, 2009
Sinz et al., 2009

Contour lines, linear filter responses



Special cases/related models

- Independent Component Analysis, Cardoso, 2003
- Independent Subspace Analysis, Hyvärinen & Hoyer, 2000
- Weighted normalization model, Schwartz & Simoncelli, 2001
- Topographic ICA, Hyvärinen et al., 2001
- Radial Gaussianization, Lyu & Simoncelli, 2009
- L_p -nested symmetric distributions, Sinz & Bethge, 2010
- “Two-layer model”, Köster & Hyvärinen, 2010

Applications:

perceptual metrics

perceptually optimized rendering

density estimation

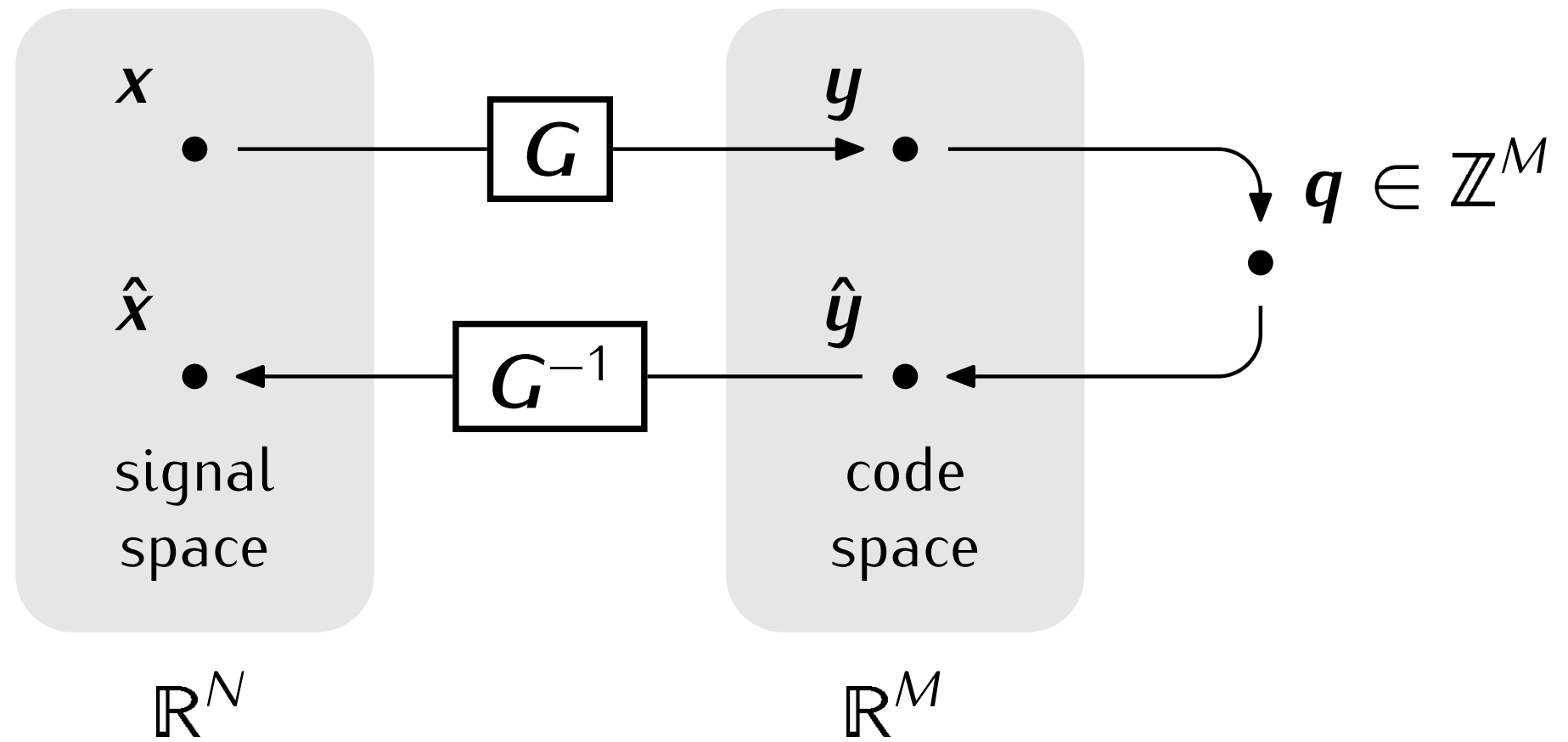
image compression

denoising

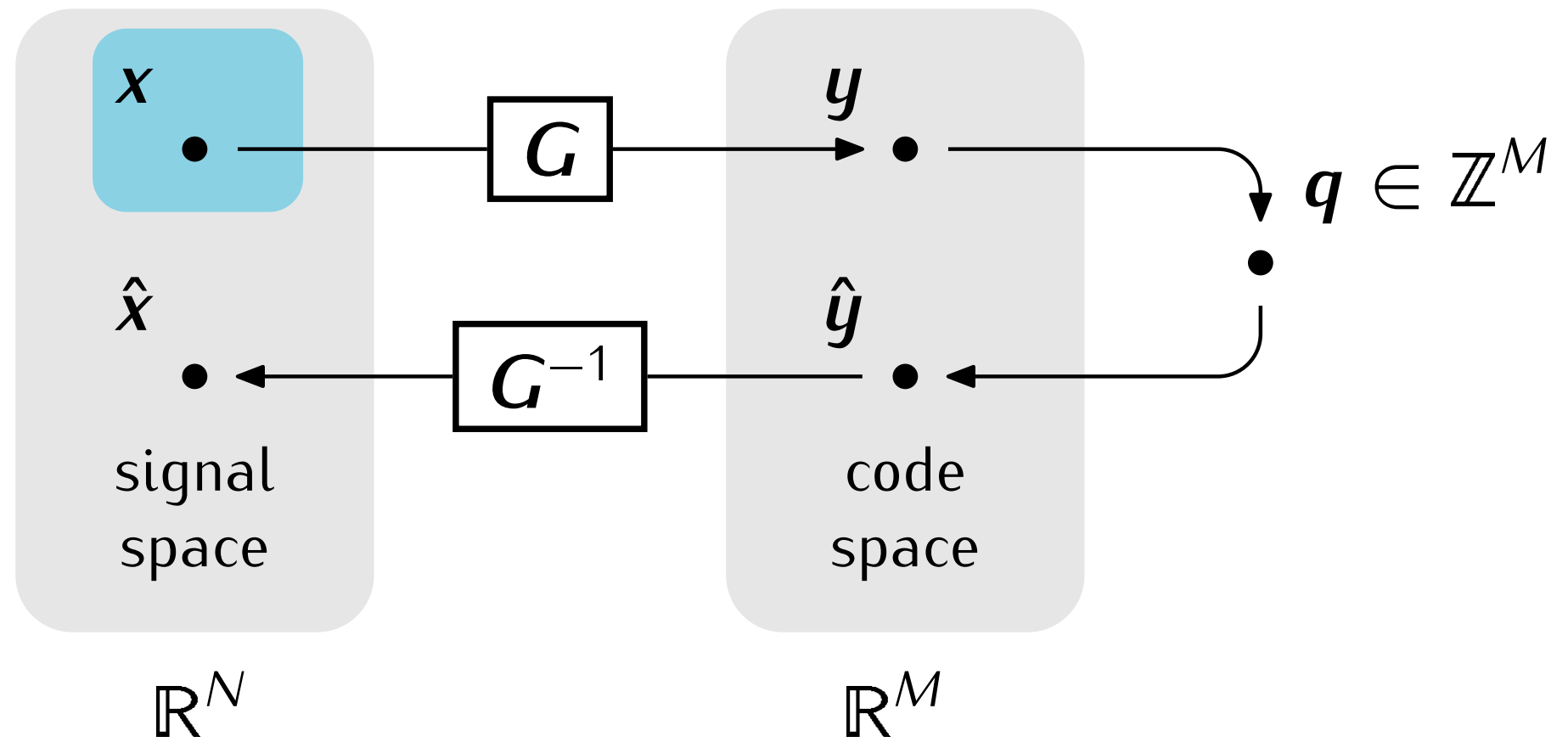
...



Linear transform coding

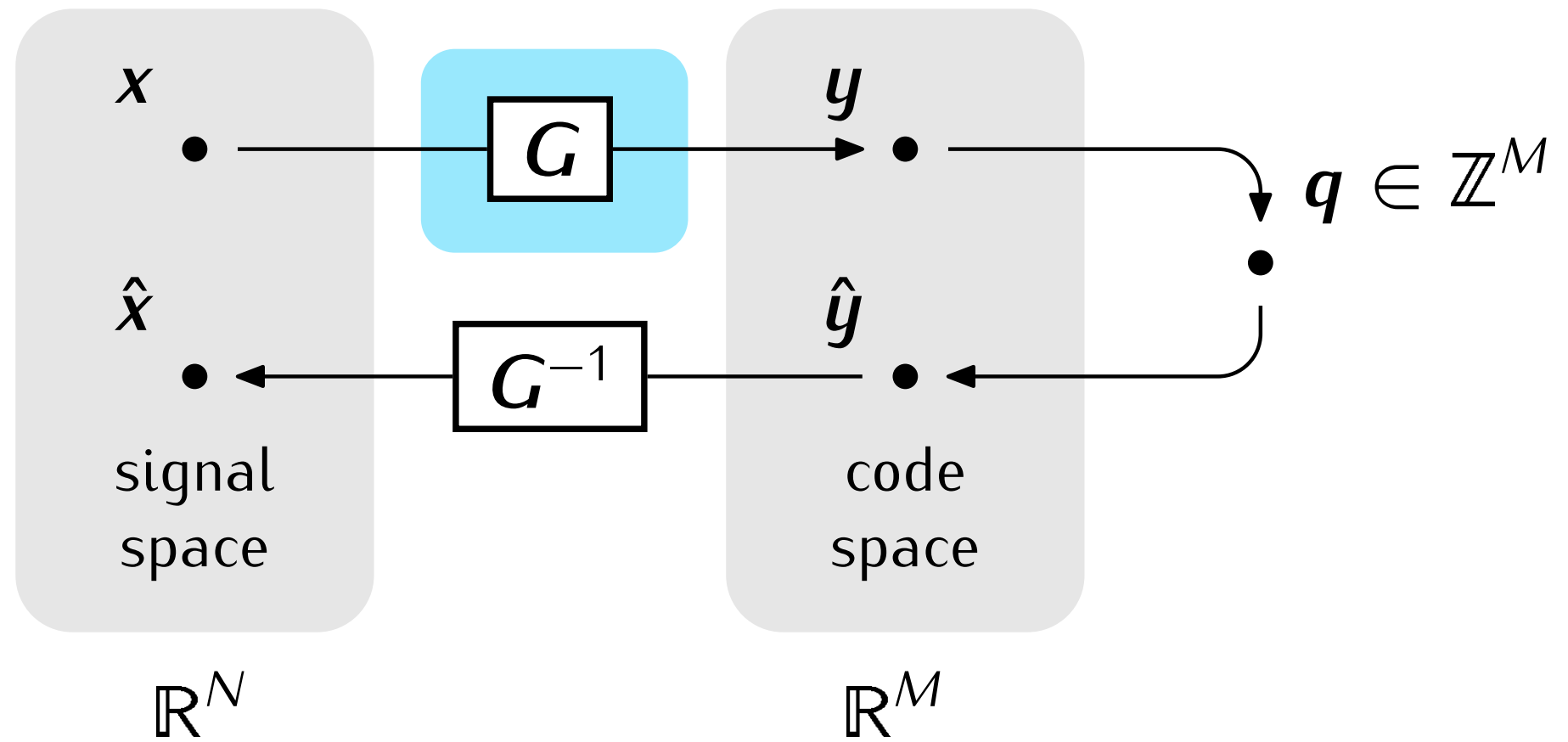


Linear transform coding

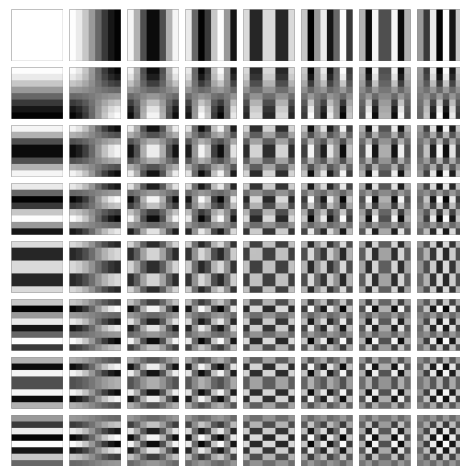


x

Linear transform coding

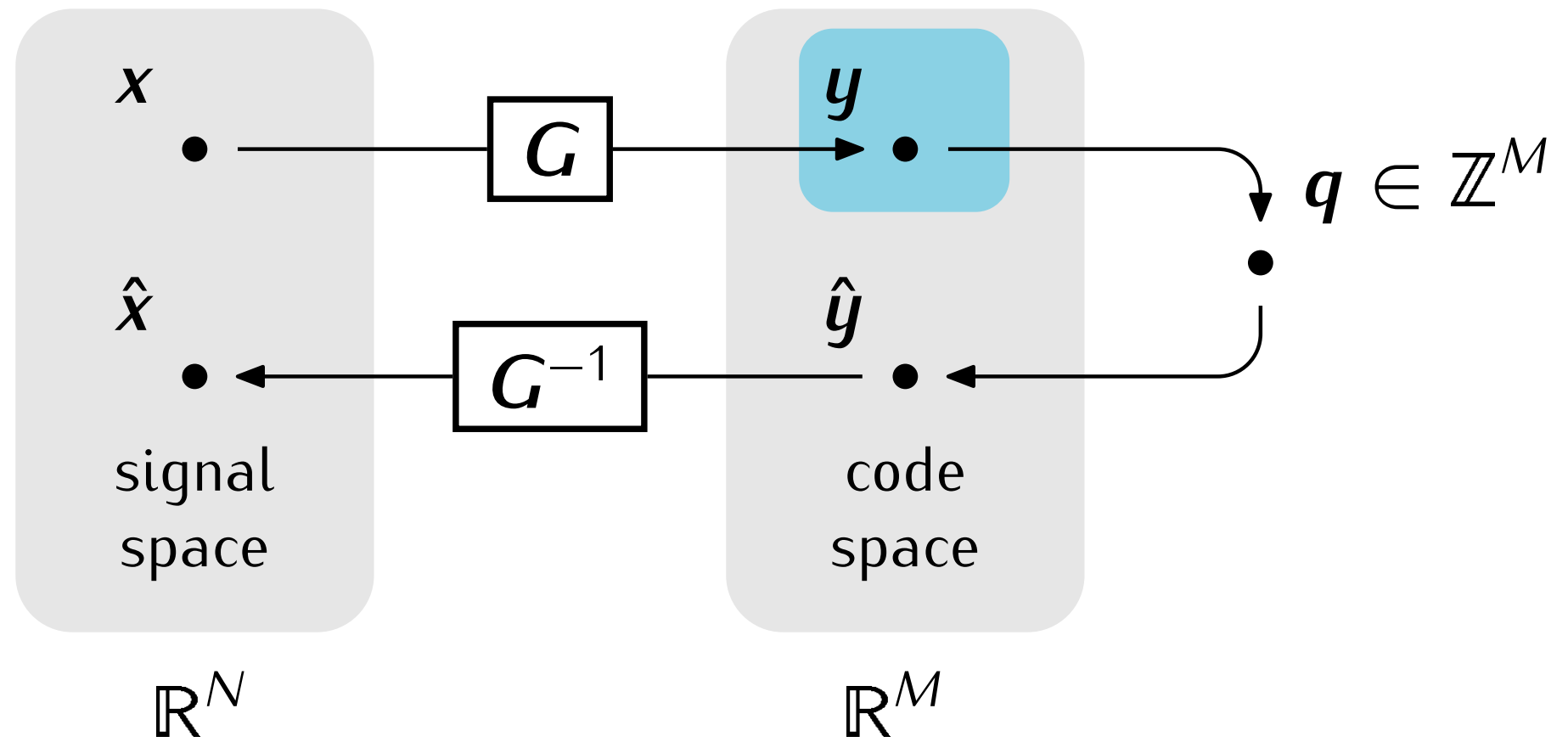


x

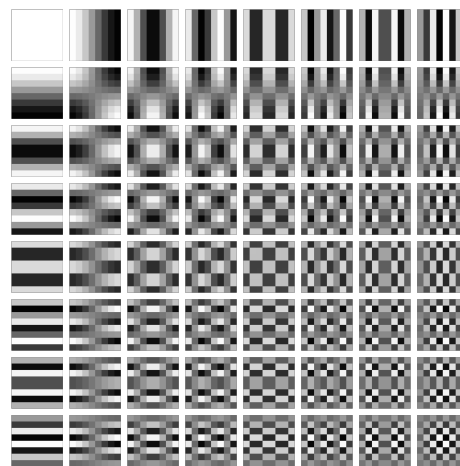


G

Linear transform coding

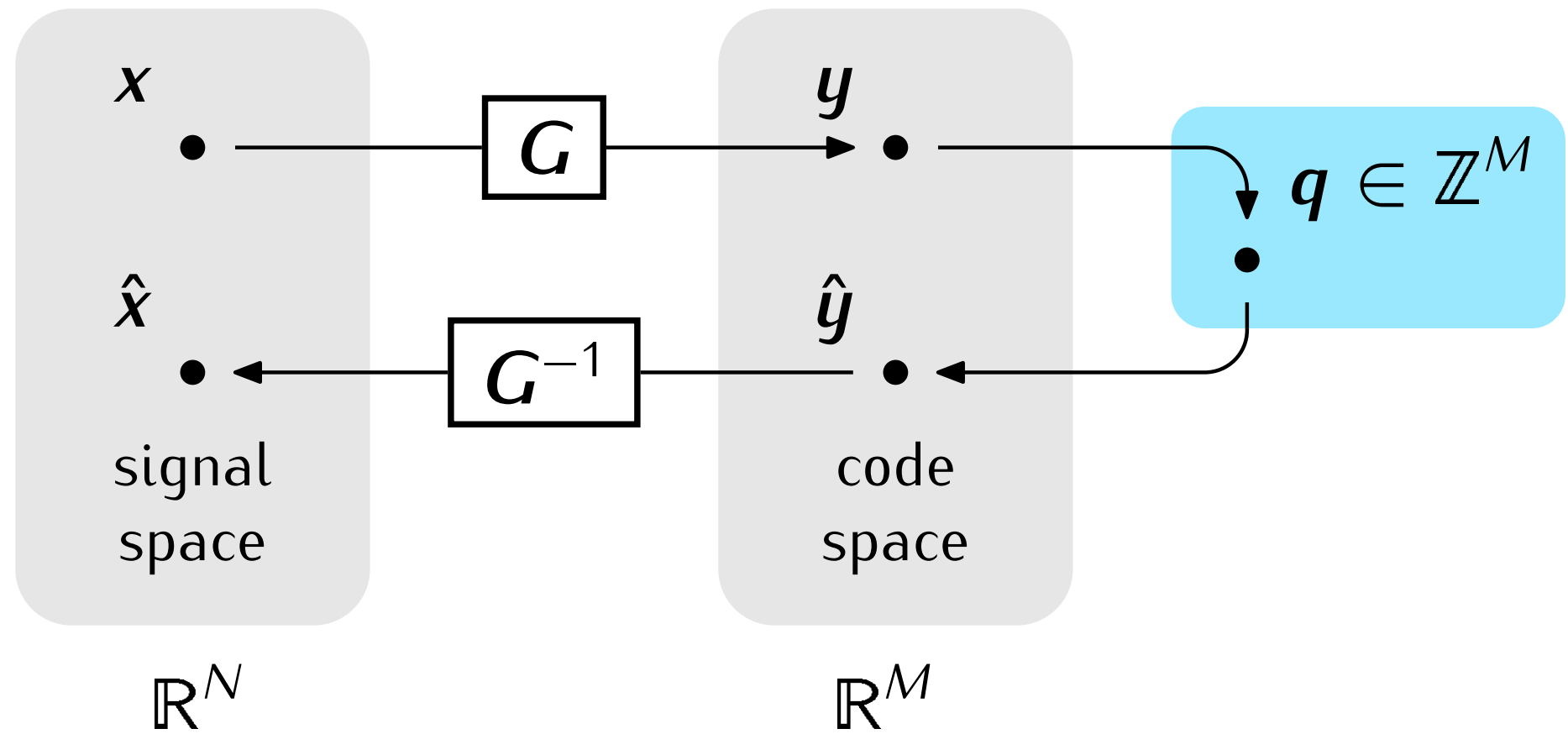


x

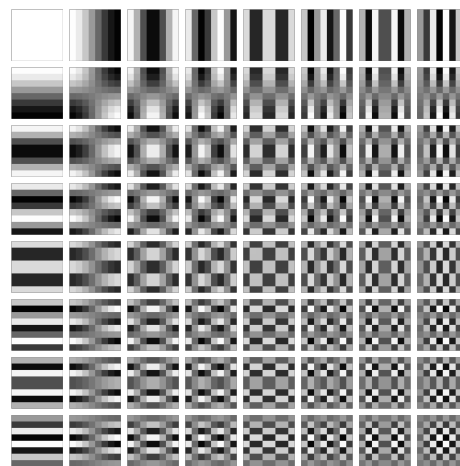


G

Linear transform coding

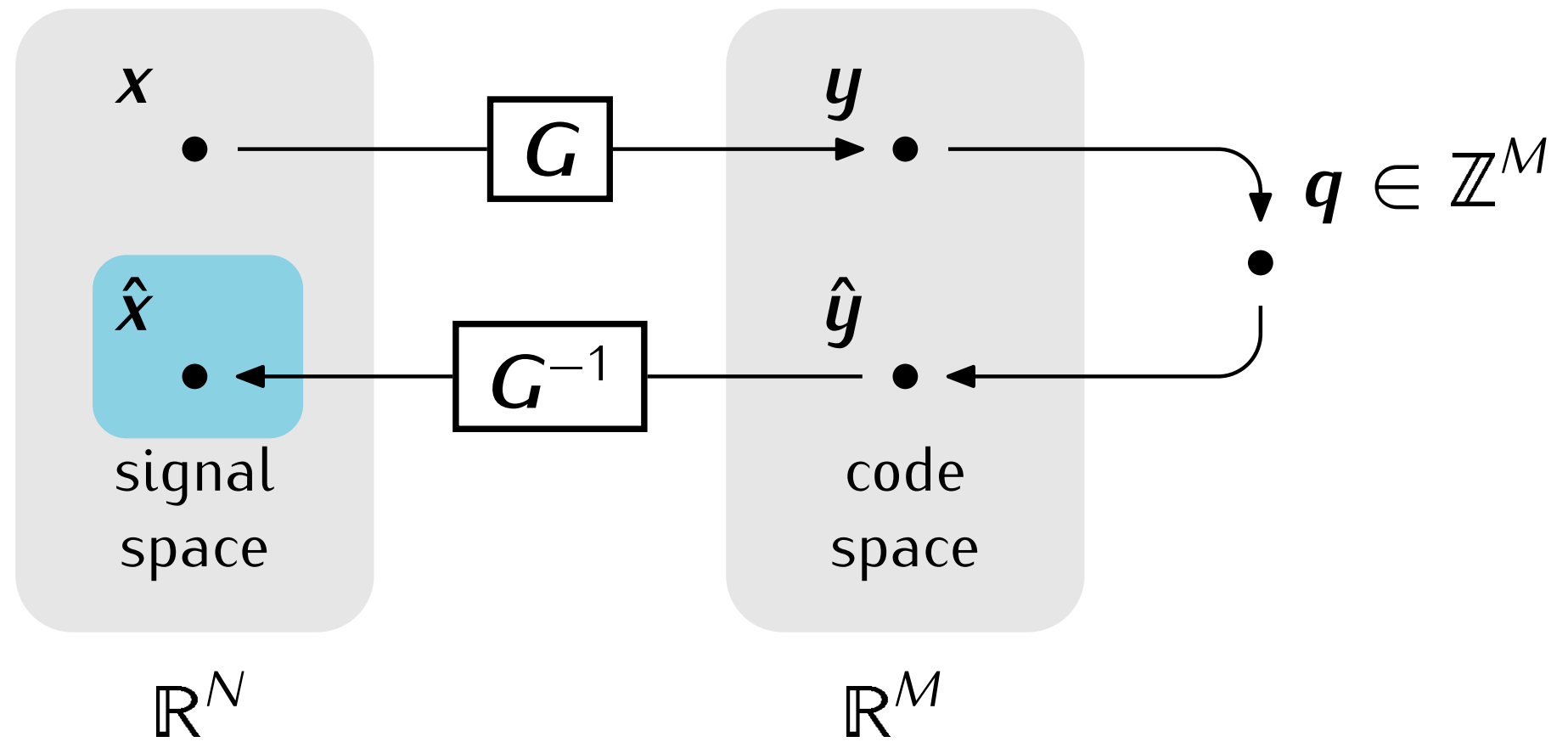


x

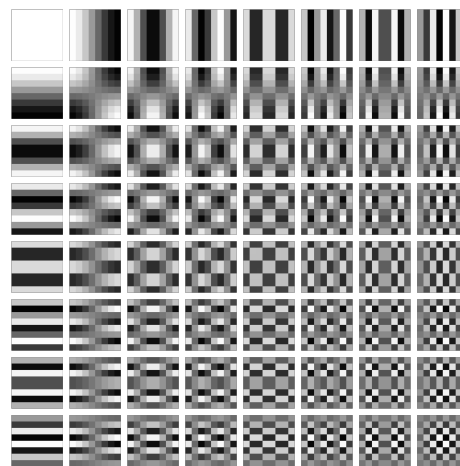


G

Linear transform coding



x

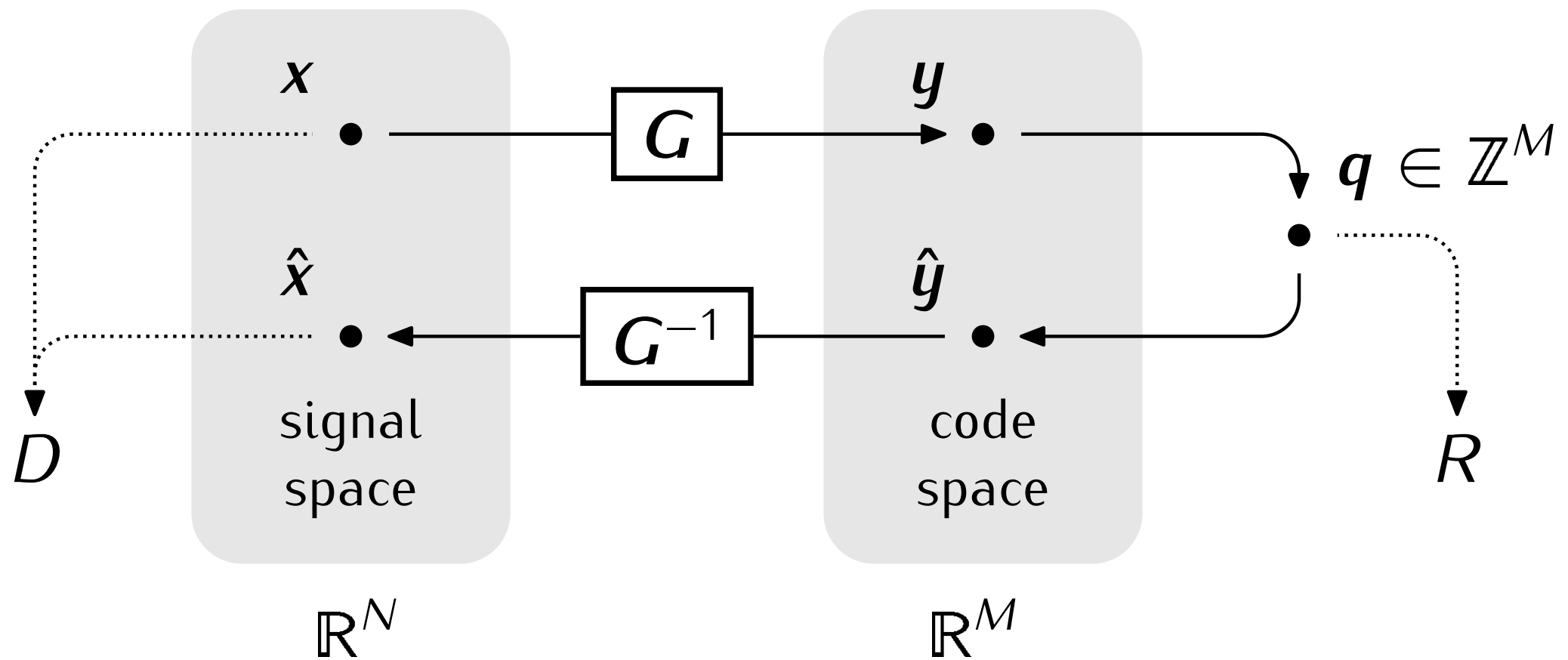


G



\hat{x}

Linear transform coding



D : distortion, e.g. mean squared error

R : rate, ideally close to Shannon entropy of q

rate: 0.17 bits/pixel



rate: 0.12 bits/pixel



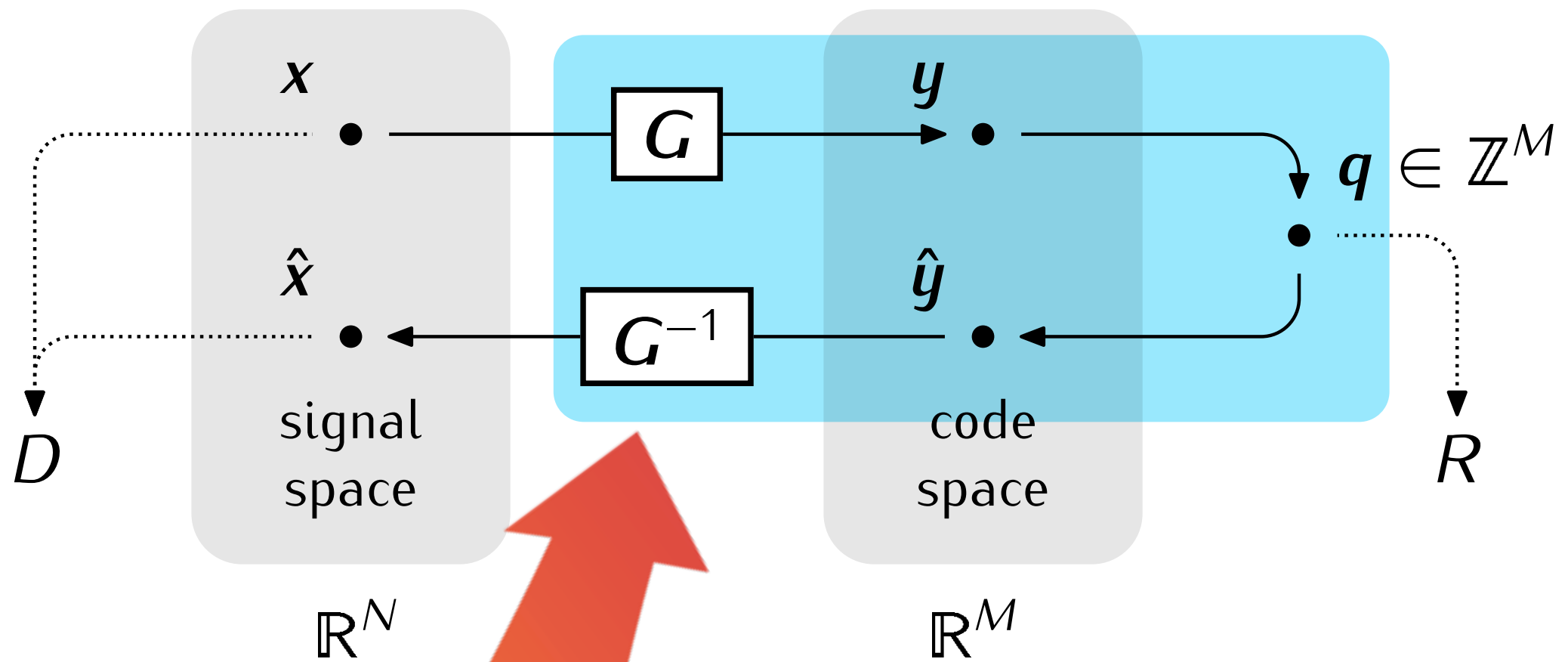
coarser quantization: lower rate, higher distortion

rate: 0.32 bits/pixel



finer quantization: higher rate, lower distortion

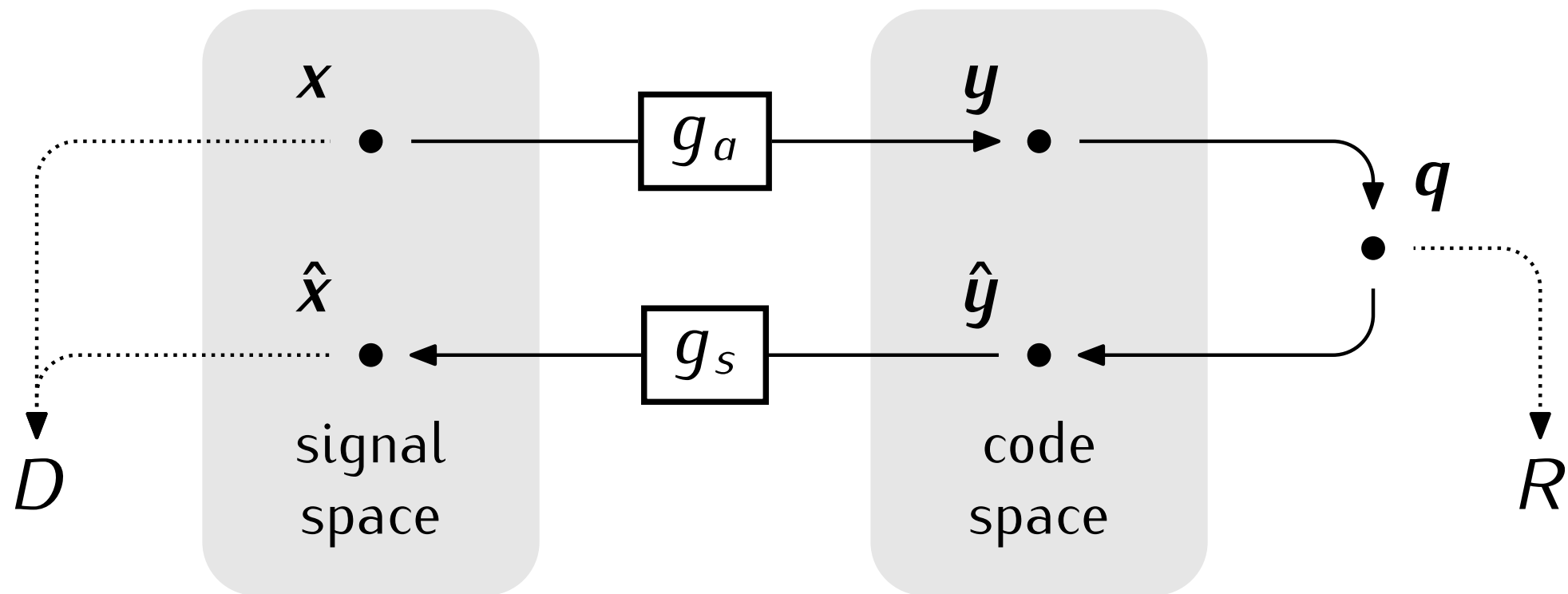
Linear transform coding



decades of engineering:

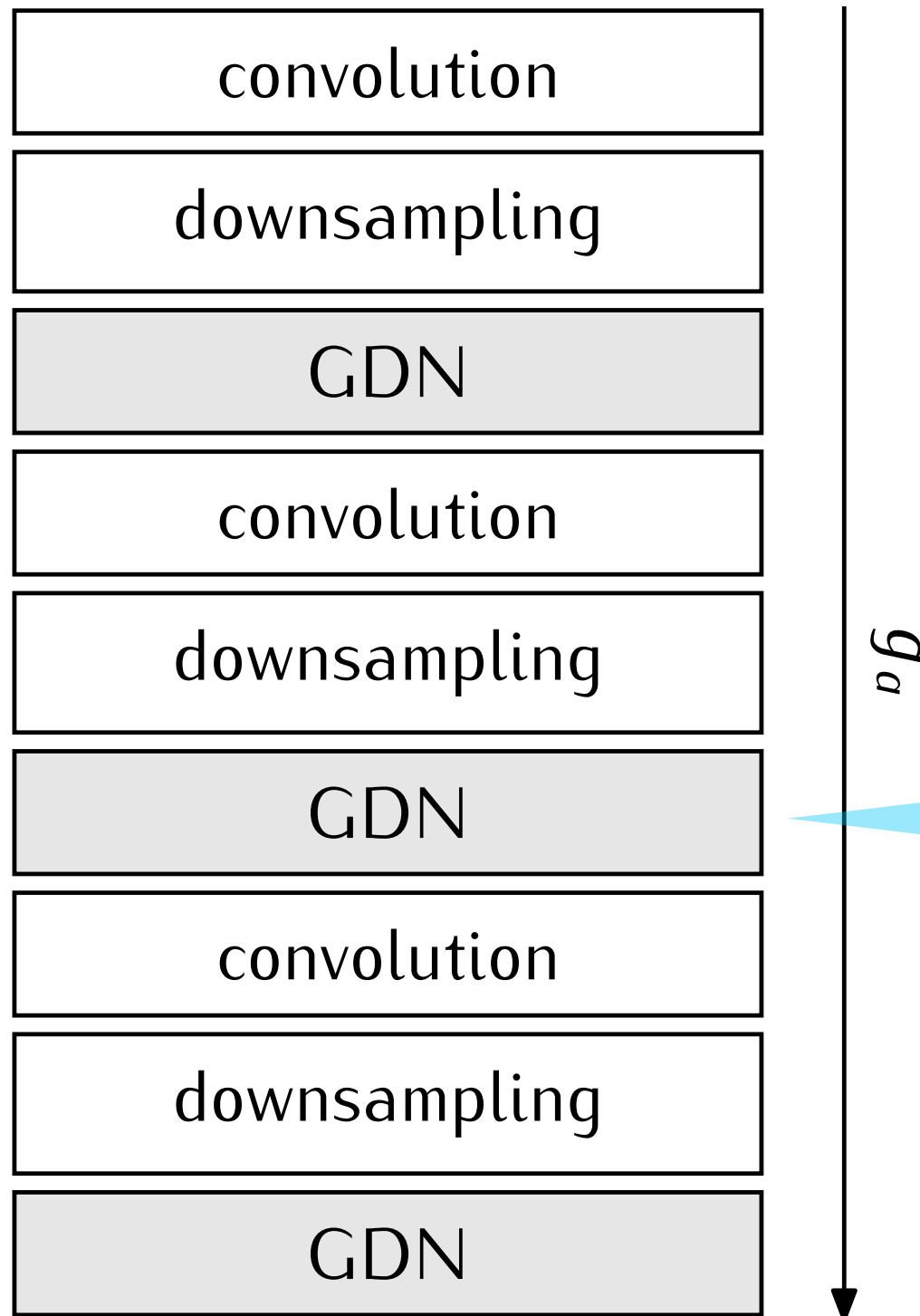
improved transforms, non-uniform quantization, inter/intra prediction, deblocking, adaptive partitioning, etc.

Nonlinear transform coding



g_a, g_s : multivariate, parametric nonlinear functions
(if it helps, think of them as neural networks)

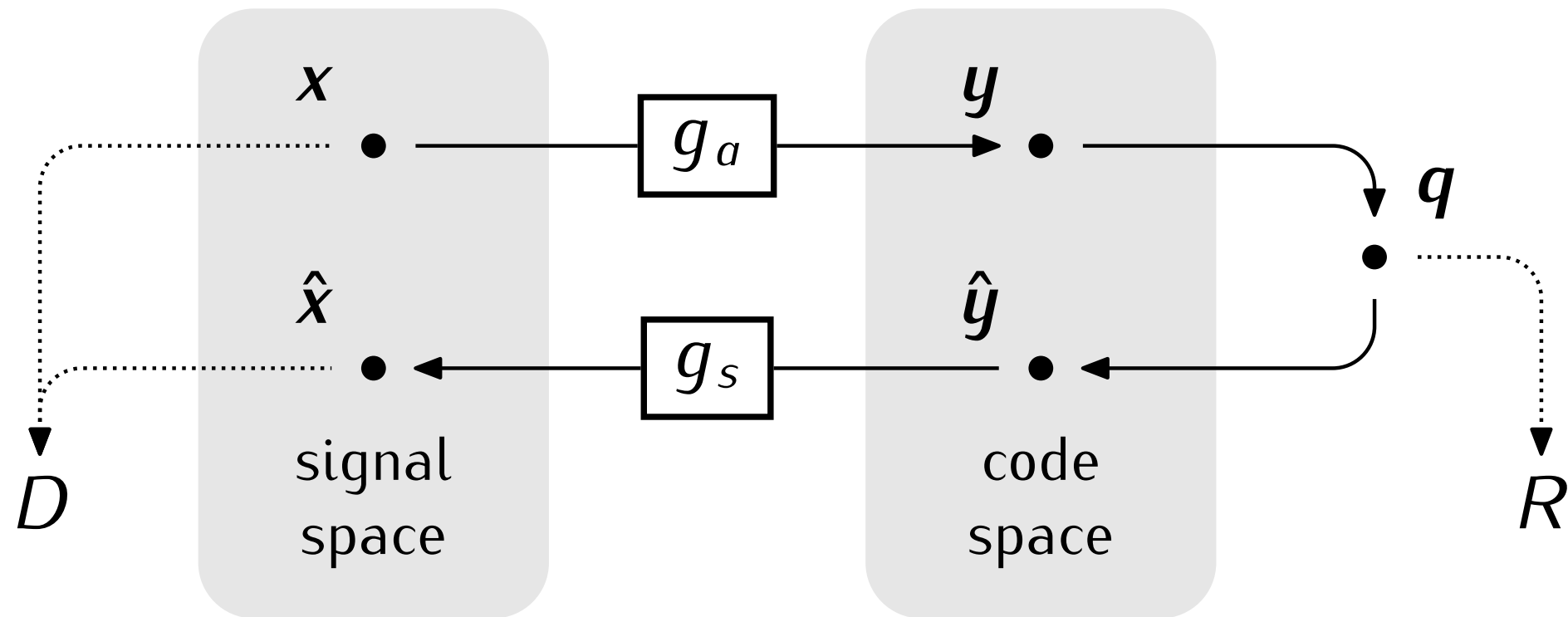
Architecture of transformation



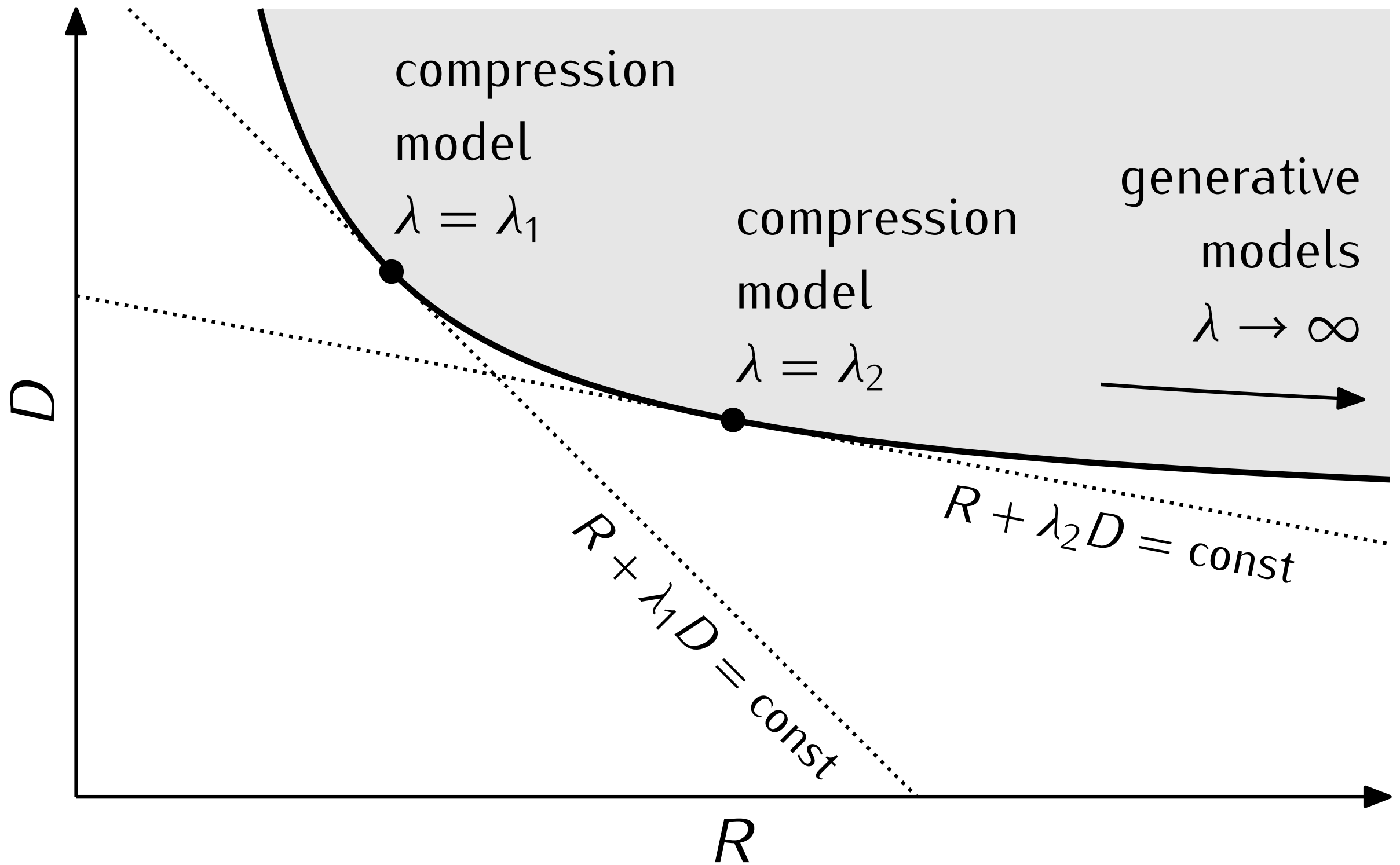
generalized divisive normalization

$$u_i = \frac{w_i}{\sqrt{\beta_i + \sum_j \gamma_{ij} |w_j|^2}}$$

Optimize to find transform parameters for various lambdas



$$L = \mathbb{E} \left[- \sum_i \log_2 P_{q_i}(q_i) + \lambda \|\hat{\mathbf{x}} - \mathbf{x}\|_2^2 \right]$$



JPEG @ 0.119 bits/px



JPEG 2000 @ 0.107 bits/px



proposed @ 0.106 bits/px



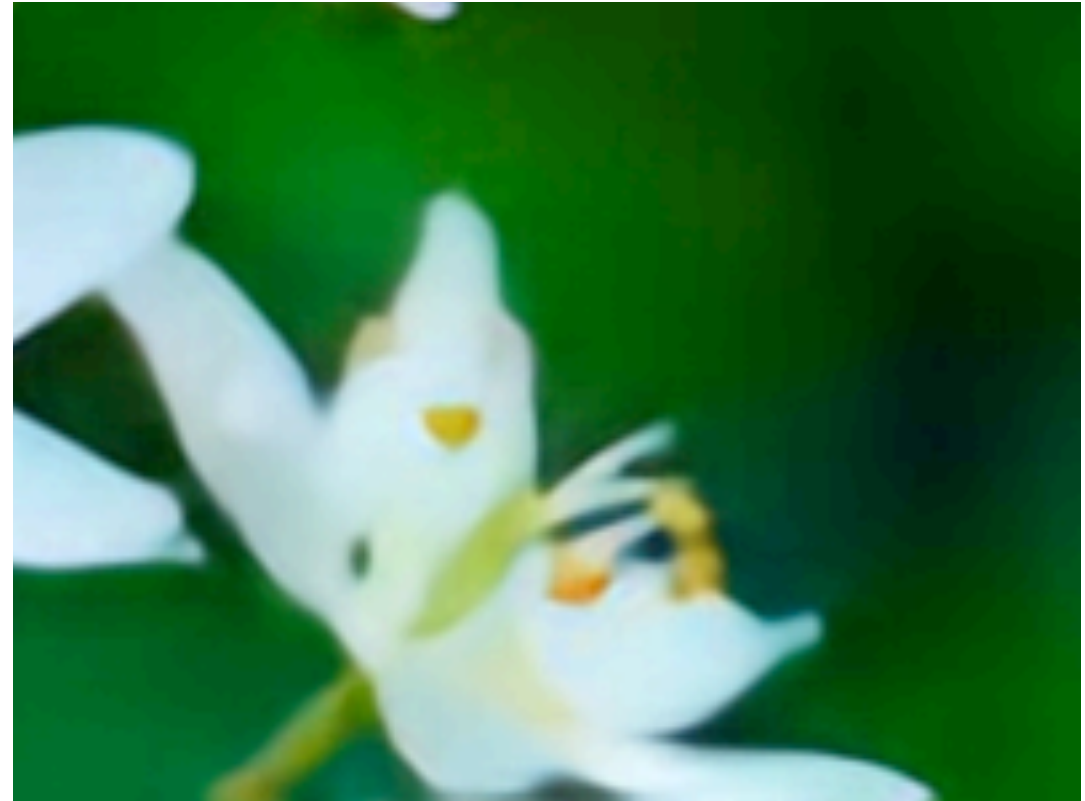
original



original



proposed



JPEG



JPEG 2000

original



proposed



JPEG



JPEG 2000

Thanks!

Perceptual
metric

HV/EI 2016



Density
estimation

ICLR 2016
arXiv: 1511.06281



Nonlinear
transform
coding

ICLR 2017
arXiv: 1611.01704

