

Moving agents in geosimulation

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Animating behavioral geography through movement



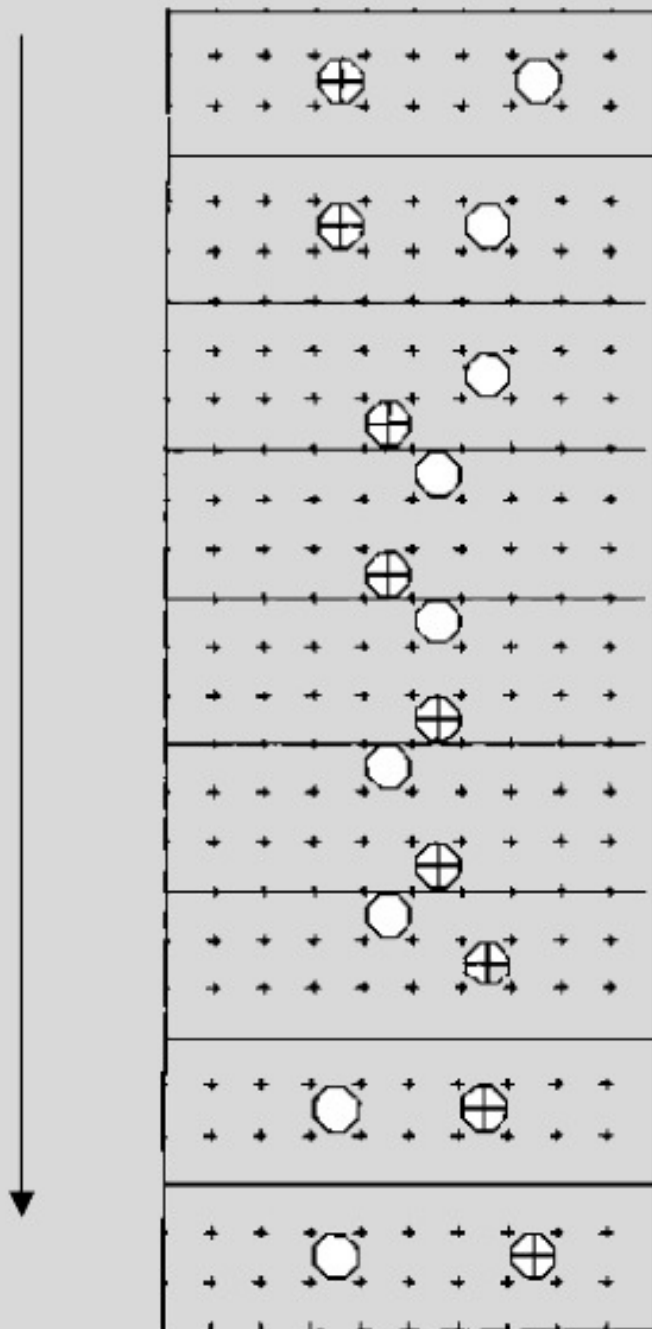
■ Times Square, 1920 (*New York Times*, public domain)

One of the often-advertised features of ABMs is their ability to dynamically map individual behaviors and characteristics to agent-actors in simulation, with incredible levels of detail

Coarse, abstract proxies of behavioral
geography



Time



Gipps & Marksjo (1985)

Spatial thinking and behavioral
geography underpin much of the
information processing we do when
moving as pedestrians

How do we catalyze a next generation of geographic information science (and geosimulation)?

BIG SCIENCE

bom-bom-
bommmm

What relationships exist between models and theory?

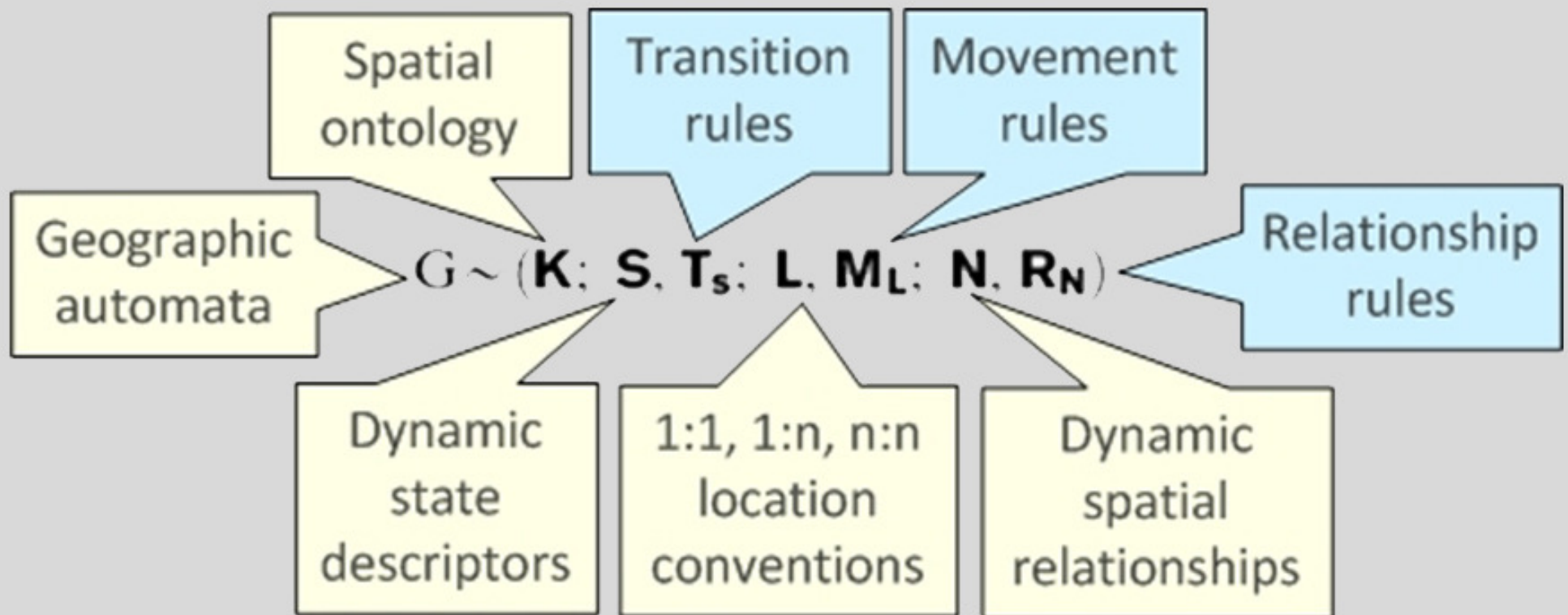
How do we translate human thinking into computable models?

How do phenomena emerge in dynamical systems?

Can we build more intricate representations of complex systems?

Can big data improve our understanding of the world?

My approach

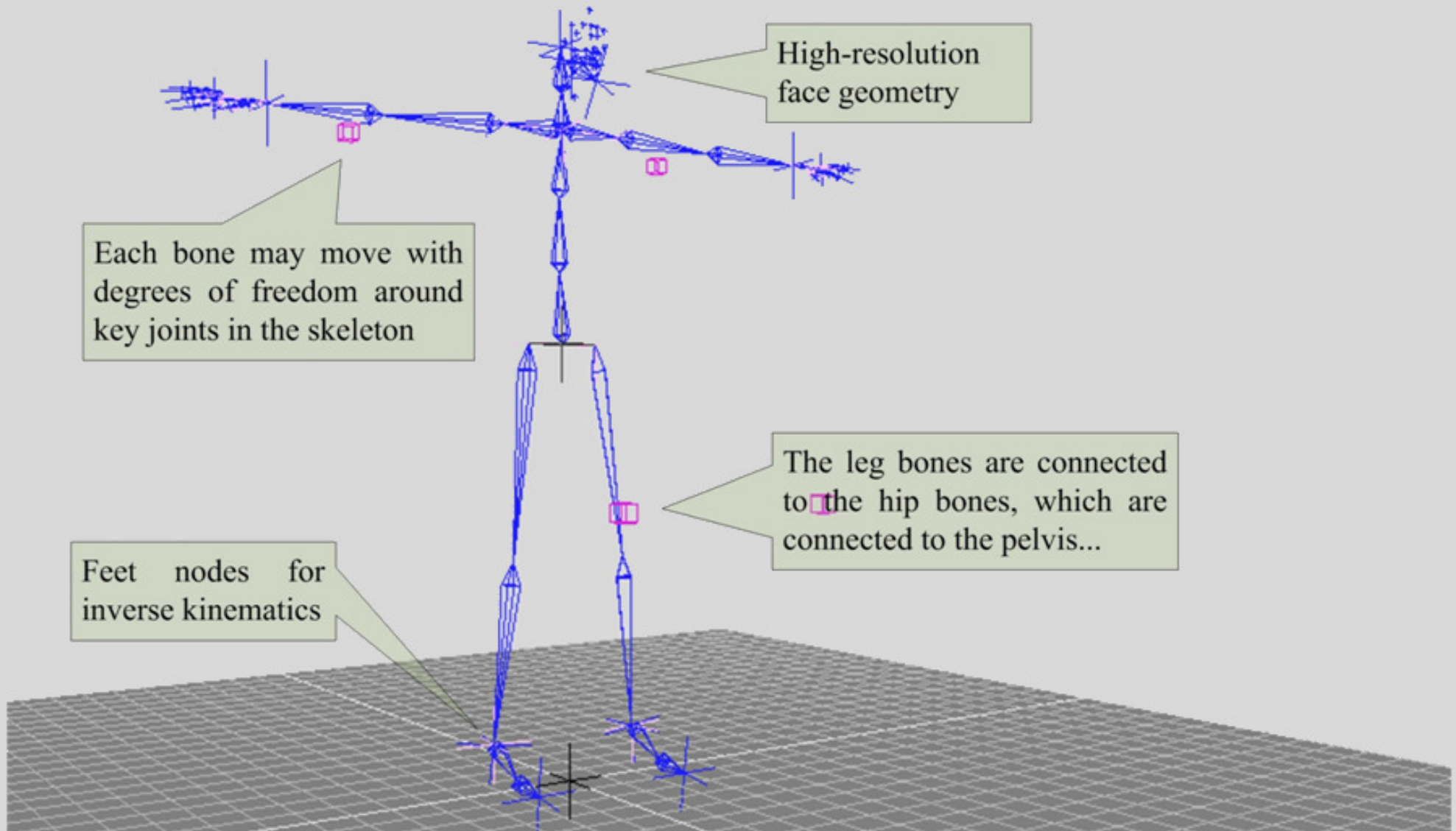


$$\mathbf{T}_s: (S_t, L_t, N_t) \rightarrow S_{t+1}$$

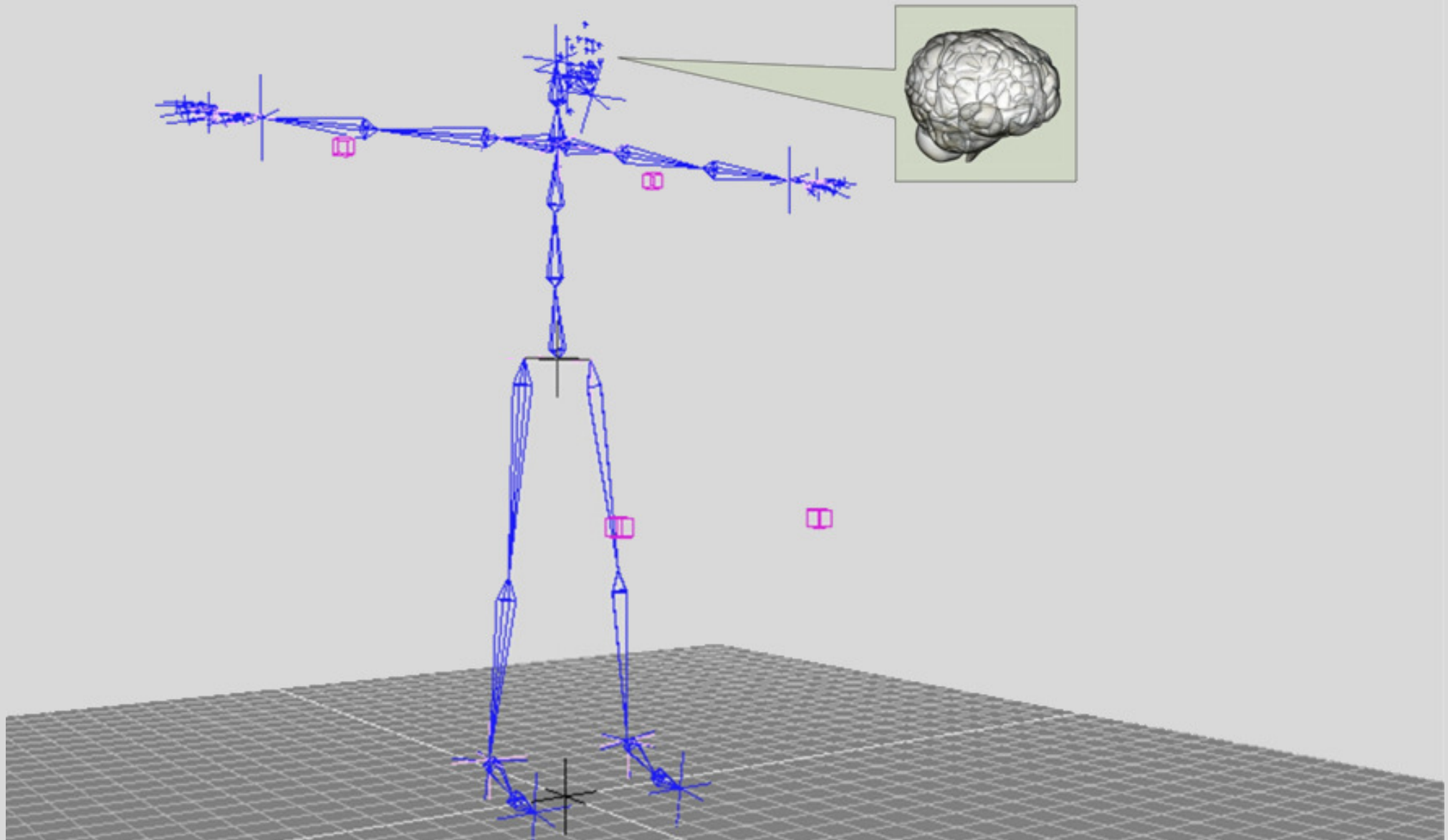
$$\mathbf{M}_L: (S_t, L_t, N_t) \rightarrow L_{t+1}$$

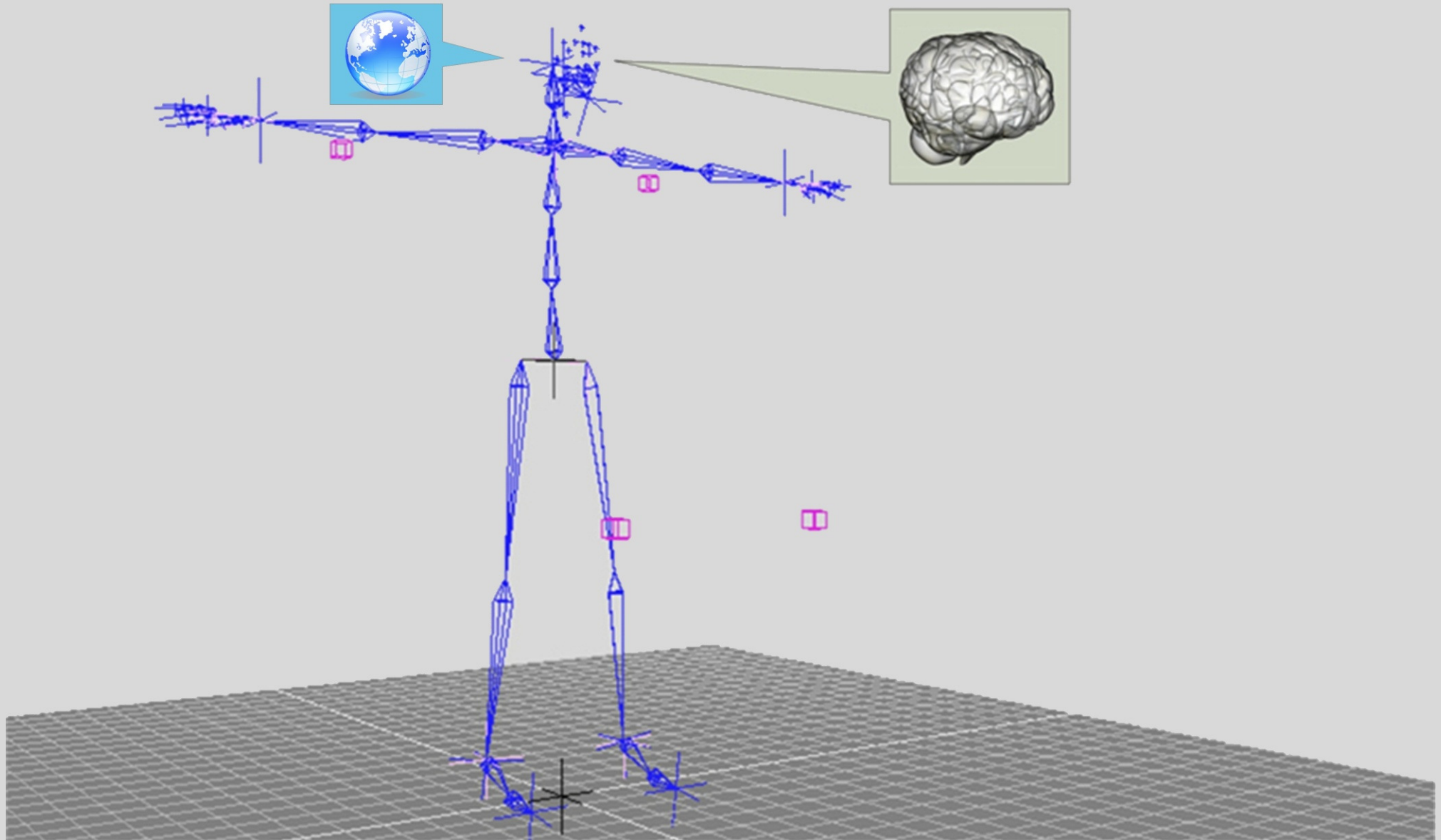
$$\mathbf{R}_N: (S_t, L_t, N_t) \rightarrow N_{t+1}$$

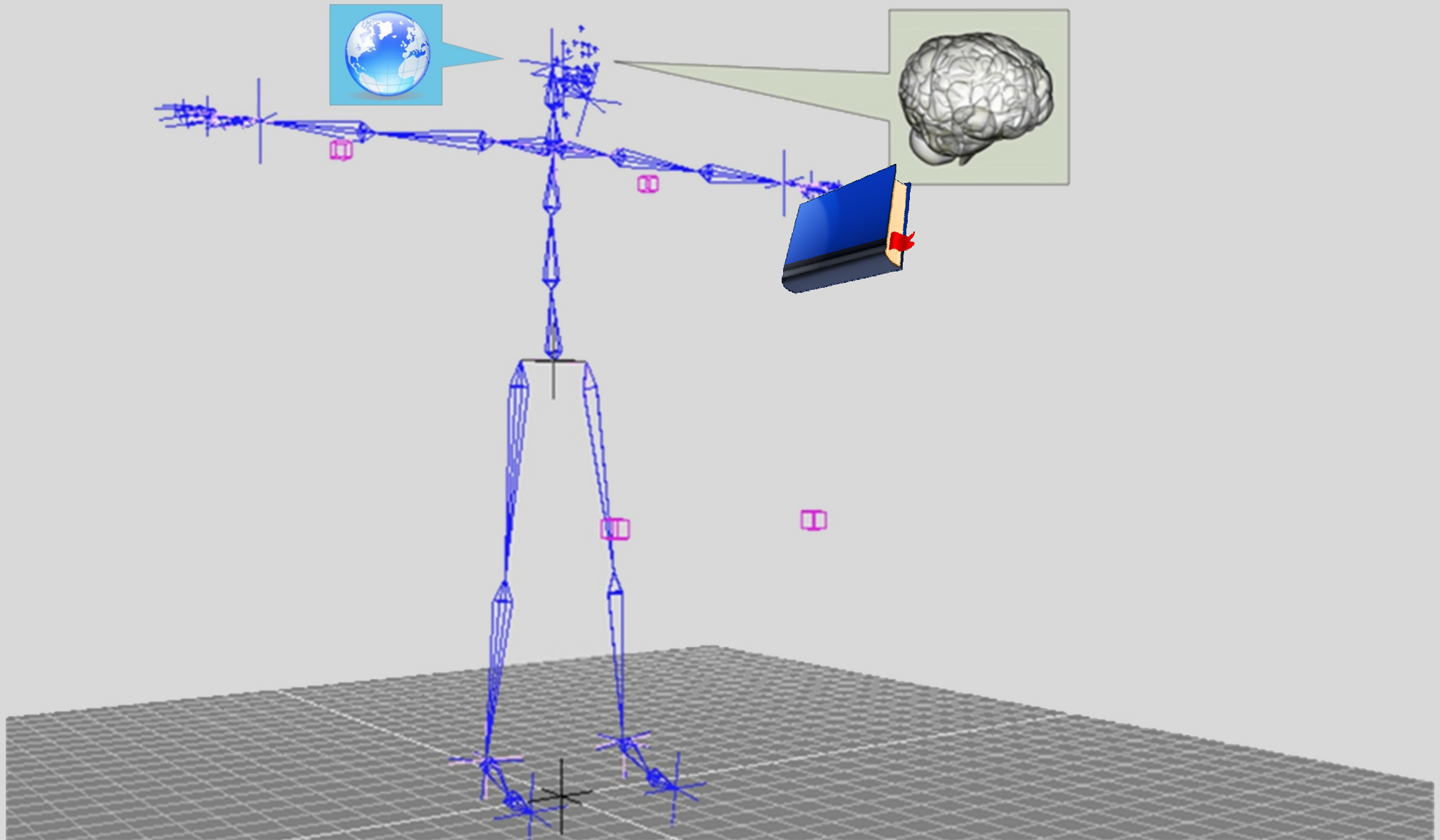
Representing people synthetically

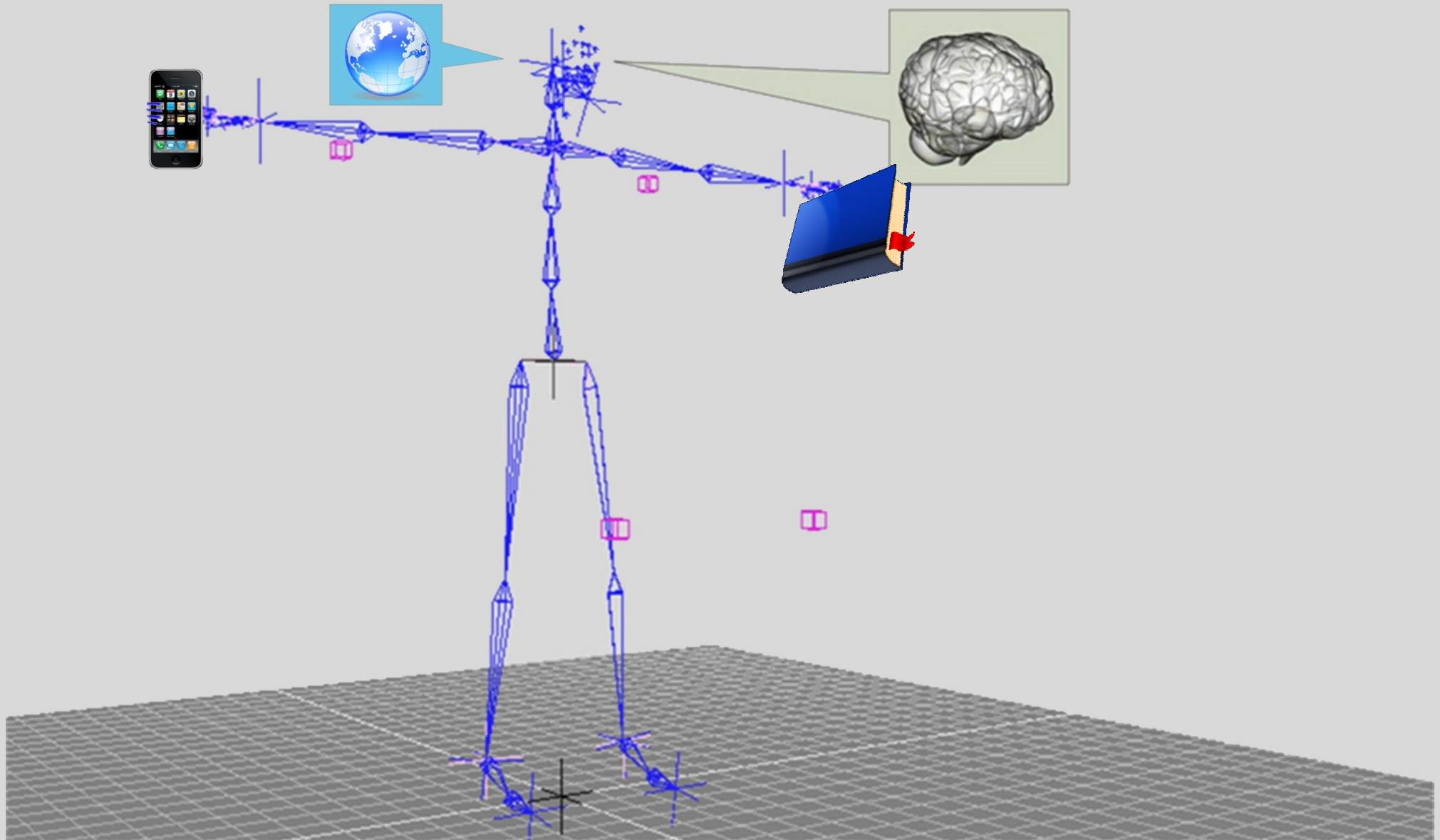


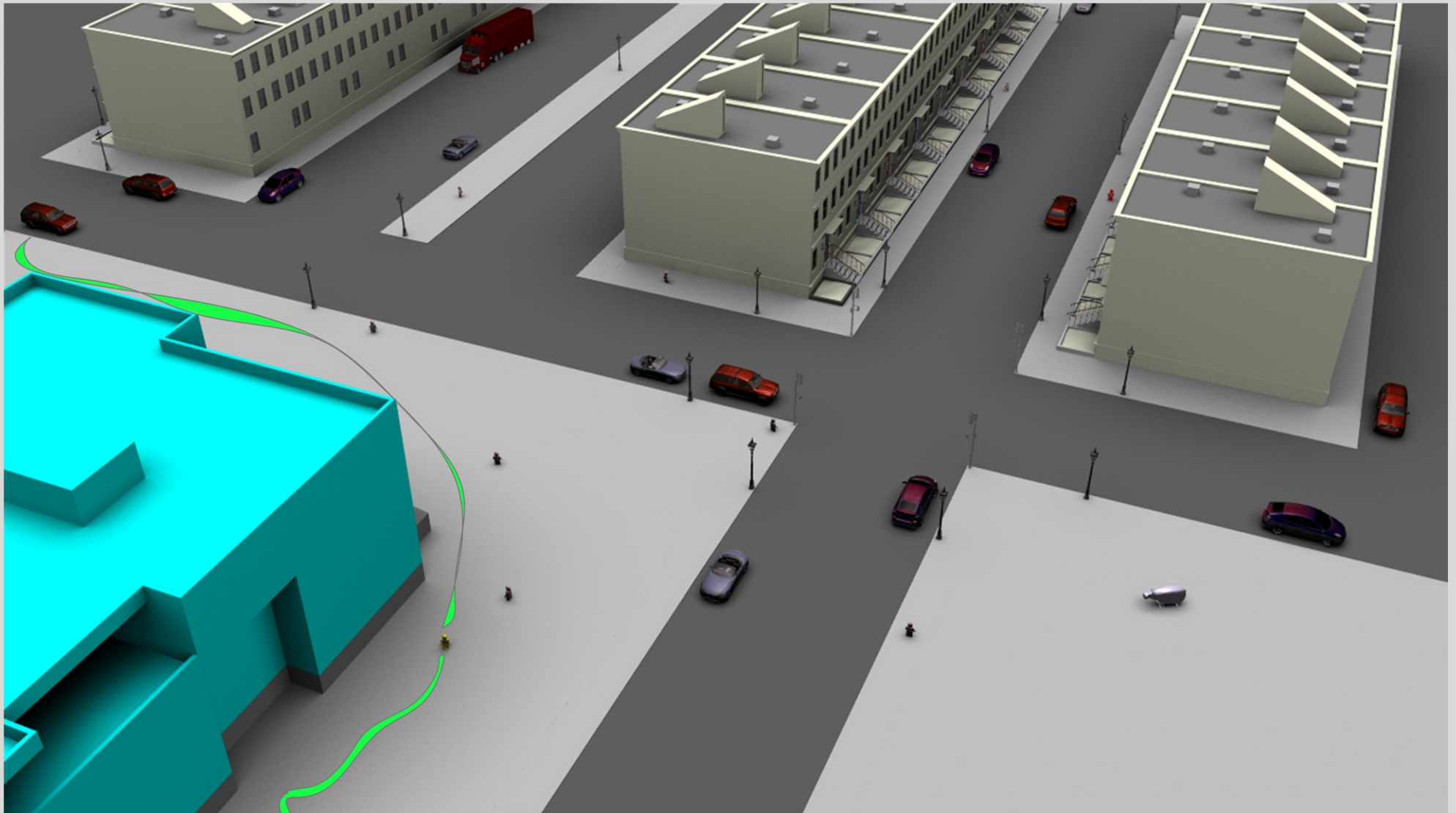
Representing people's behavior



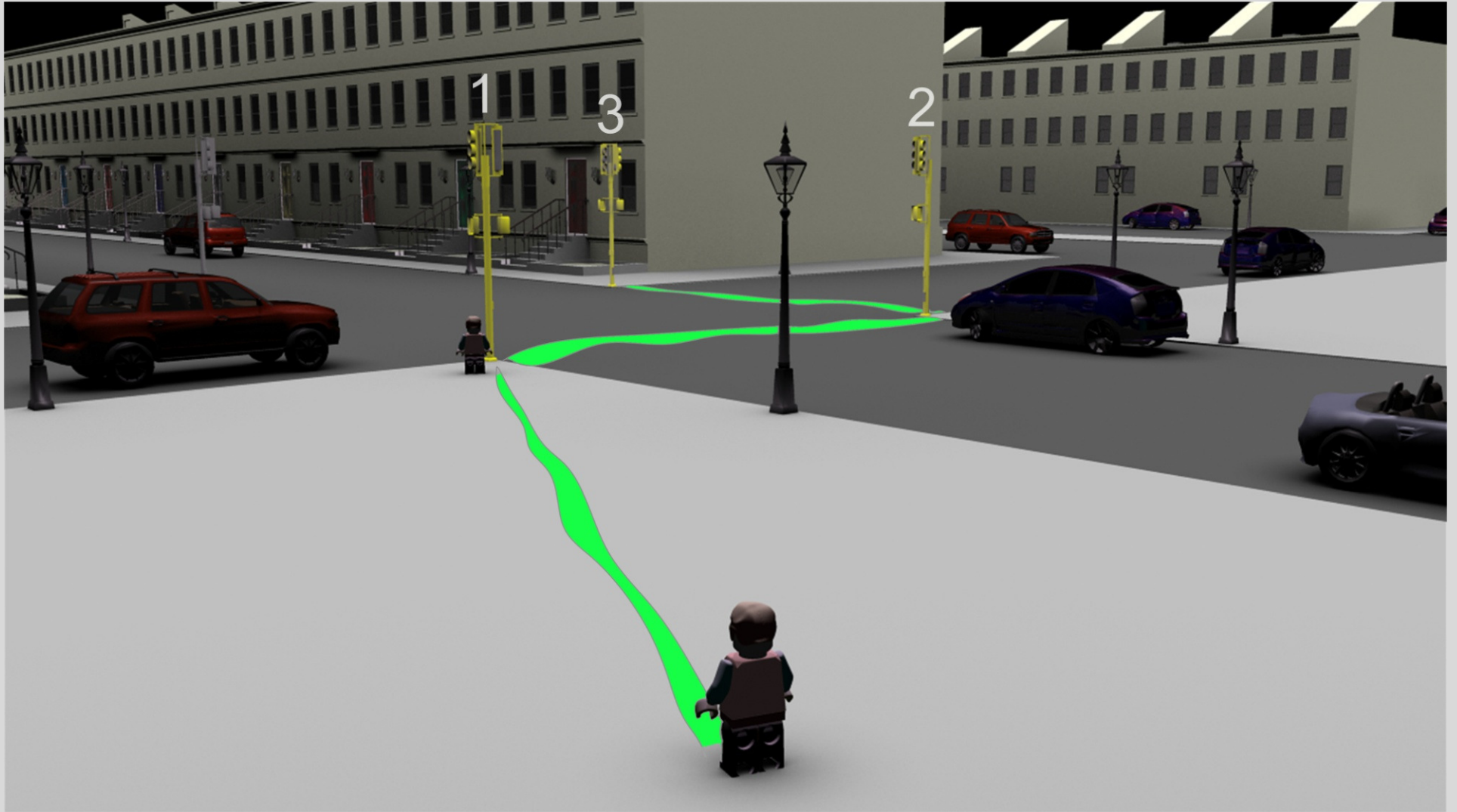




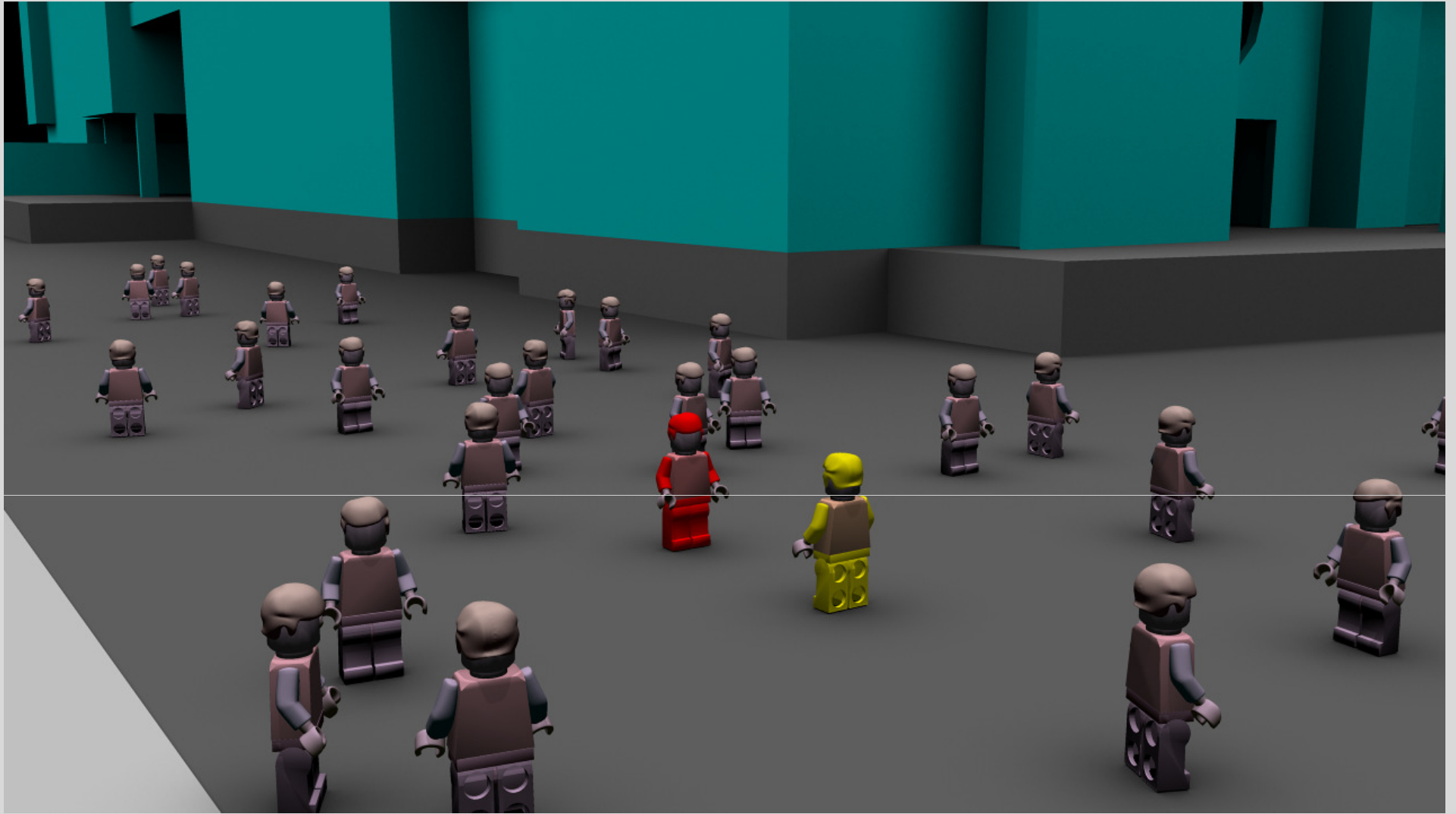




City-scale



Neighborhood-scale



Street-scale



People-scale

TV
MA



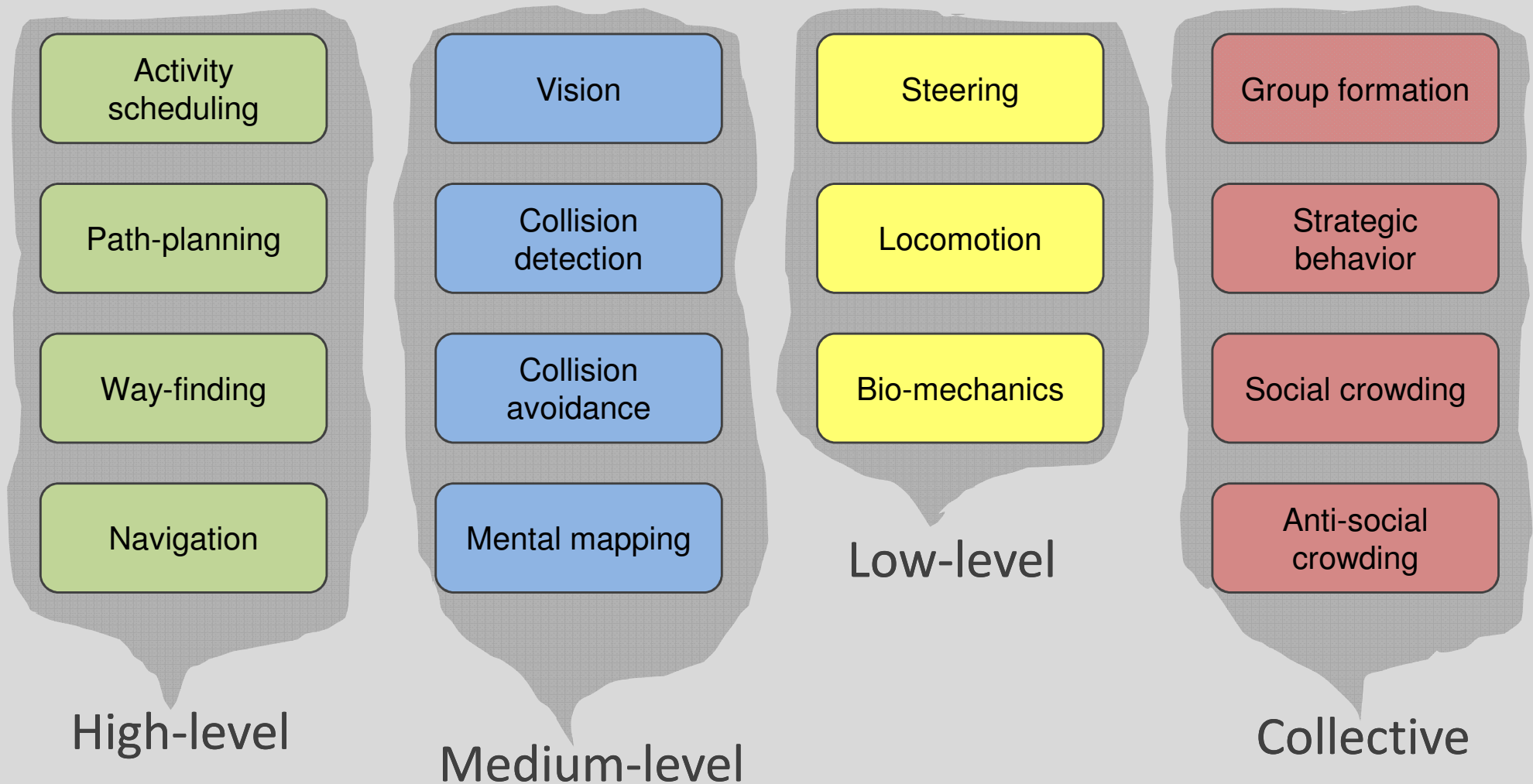
Body-scale

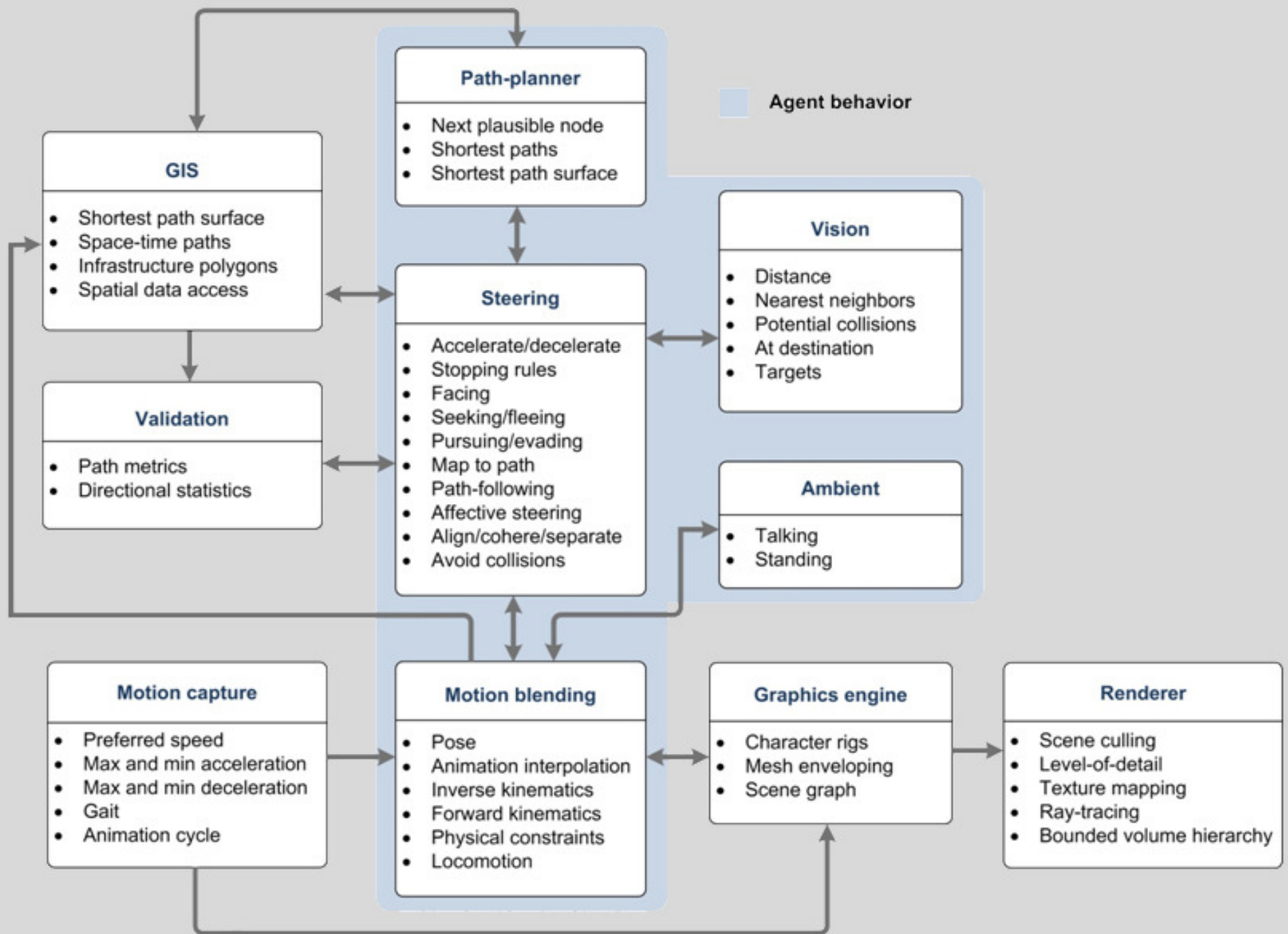
TV
MA



Body-scale

Spatial thinking and behavior in computable form





GIS

- GDAL
- ShapeLib
- ESRI

Rendering

- OpenGL
- XNA (Xbox)
- 3DS
- Mental Ray

Math

- C++
- Bullet Physics

I/O

- PostGIS
- GeosimXML
- GeosimGUI

Path-planning

- A*
- Dijkstra
- GeosimSpaceTime
- GeosimIsovist

NavGraphs

- Boost
- GeosimGraph

Collision detection

- Bullet Physics
- Endorphin
- GeosimSpaceTime
- GeosimRays

Steering

- Opensteer
- Social force model
- GeoSteer
- GeosimMachineLearning

Character rigs

- CAT
- Endorphin
- OpenGL
- GeosimCharacter

Locomotion

- Opensteer
- GeosimLoco

Motion controller

- CAT
- XNA
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Some (partial) explanation of the nitty-gritty details to demonstrate the intricacy involved in building this infrastructure

High-level behavior

Path-planning

The general form of the search algorithm.

SEARCH(G, w, s)

Initialize a search over directed or undirected graph, with vertices V and edges E , $G = (V, E)$, positive edge lengths ($l_e: e \in E$), and edge weights w . Begin the search at origin $s \in V$. Record the distance d from the origin s . For each node u that is expanded, record its predecessor π (from an adjacency list $\text{Adj}[]$). Maintain a priority list Q as a queue of nodes that remain to be searched at any stage in the algorithm. Also maintain a list S_{list} of the nodes that form the shortest path from origin s to the destination. Initially, mark all nodes as unvisited (WHITE)

Begin the search at the point of origin s and mark the node as visited (GRAY)

Record its distance from the origin $s = 0$

Record its predecessor node as NIL

Add s to the priority queue by popping stack Q

As long as more vertices remain to be explored...

Remove the previously-visited node from the priority queue by pushing stack Q

```

1  for each vertex  $u \in V[G]$ 
2      do  $\text{color}[u] \leftarrow \text{WHITE}$ 
3       $d[u] \leftarrow \infty$ 
4       $\pi[u] \leftarrow \text{NIL}$ 
5   $Q \leftarrow \emptyset$ 
6   $S_{\text{list}} \leftarrow \emptyset$ 

7   $\text{color}[s] \leftarrow \text{GRAY}$ 

8   $d[s] \leftarrow 0$ 
9   $\pi[s] \leftarrow \text{NIL}$ 
10  $\text{ENQUEUE}(Q, s)$ 

11 while  $Q \neq \emptyset$ 
12     do  $u \leftarrow \text{DEQUEUE}(Q)$ 
```


Estimated
plausibility
of node

Given node


$$f^*(n) = g^*(n) + h^*(n)$$

Estimated progress
from the origin s

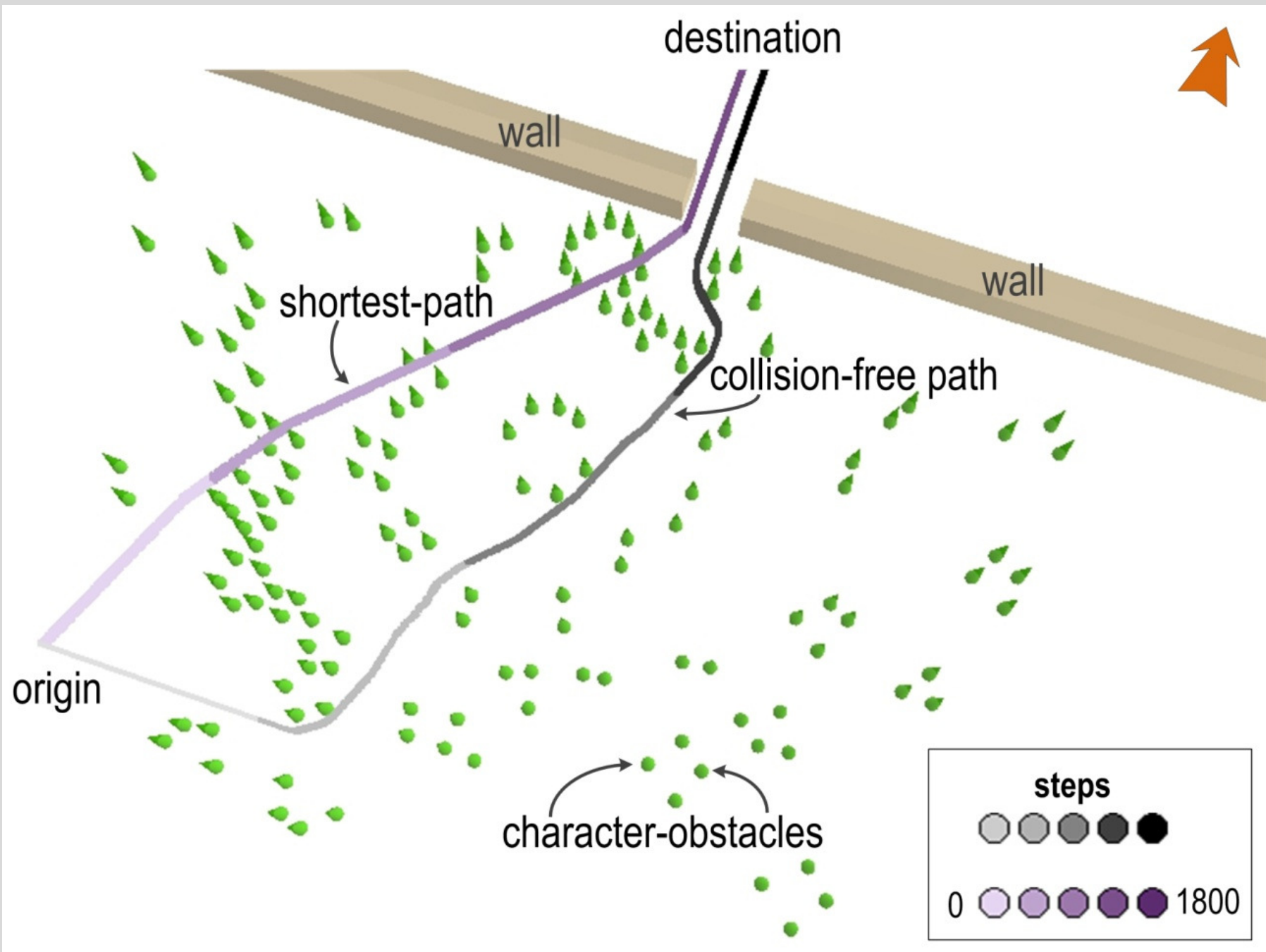
Estimated
Euclidean
distance to
the
destination



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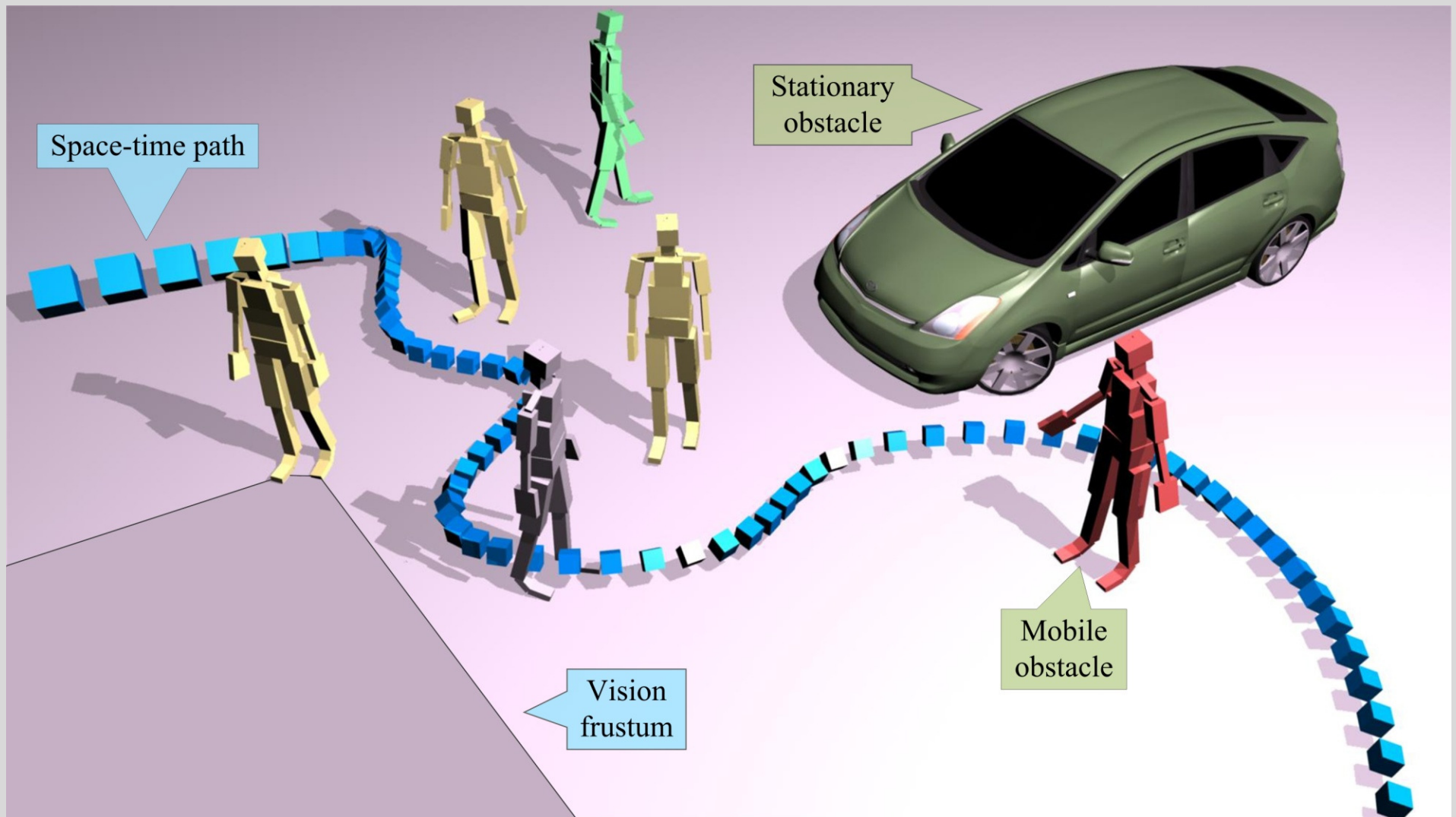


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Medium-level behavior

Collecting ambient geographic
information with vision



Proactive vision—steering—locomotion triple

- Speed
- Acceleration
- Mobility
- Radius
- Orientation
- Rotation
- Neighbor
- Distance
- Proximity
- Estimated future vector
- Collision potential
- Potential collision timing

Steering

Basic movements

Facing in the right direction

Direction of
target location

x-dimension
of vector from
agent to
target

y-dimension
of vector
from agent to
target

$$facing(O_q) = atan2(\vec{pq}_y, \vec{pq}_x)$$

$$\text{where, } atan2(y, x) \begin{cases} \text{undefined when } y = 0, x = 0 \\ \pi + arctan\left(\frac{y}{x}\right) \text{ when } y \geq 0, x < 0 \\ -\pi + arctan\left(\frac{y}{x}\right) \text{ when } y < 0, x < 0 \\ -\frac{\pi}{2} \text{ when } y < 0, x = 0 \\ \frac{\pi}{2} \text{ when } y > 0, x = 0 \\ arctan\left(\frac{y}{x}\right) \text{ when } x > 0 \end{cases}$$

Spatio-temporal reaction/interaction

Separate
Seek

Flee

Wander

Arrive

Leave

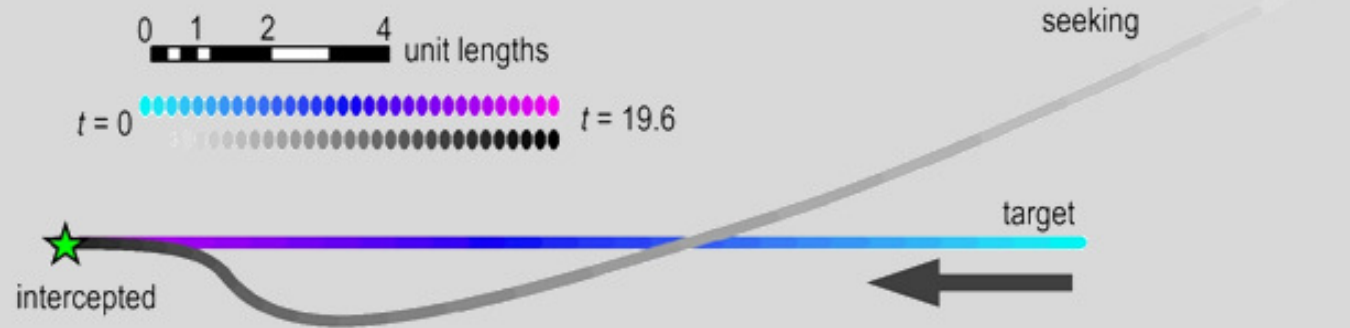
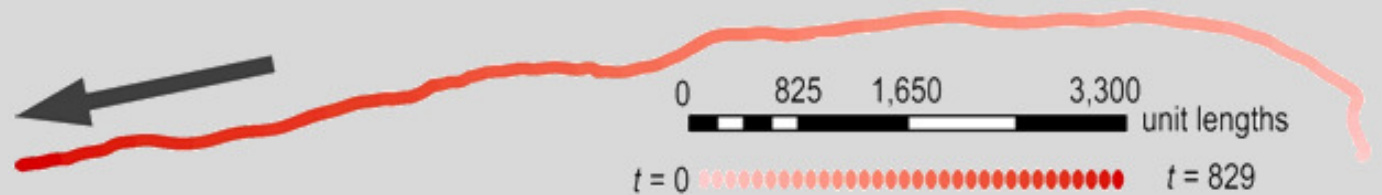
Align

Pursue

Evade

Path-follow

Match velocity



Fleeing and seeking a mobile target

Vector from
agent to
target

Maximum
(preferred)
acceleration

$$fleeing = \frac{\overrightarrow{qp}}{|\overrightarrow{qp}|} * a_{max}$$

$$seeking = \frac{\overrightarrow{pq}}{|\overrightarrow{pq}|} * a_{max}$$

Length of vector
from target to
agent

Arriving (gently) at a target

Maximum (preferred) speed

Velocity of the agent

$$arriving = \begin{cases} \left(s_{max} * \frac{|\overrightarrow{qp}|}{r_{slowdown}} \right) * \frac{\overrightarrow{qp}}{|\overrightarrow{qp}|} - v_p, & \text{if } |\overrightarrow{qp}| \leq r_{arrival} \\ s_{max} * \frac{\overrightarrow{qp}}{|\overrightarrow{qp}|} - v_p, & \text{if } |\overrightarrow{qp}| > r_{arrival} \end{cases}$$

Length of vector from target to agent

Deceleration threshold

Preemptive/proactive spatio-temporal
action, interaction, reaction

Pursuing and evading

Estimated future position of target

Position of target

Velocity of target

$$\left. \begin{array}{l} \text{pursuing} = \text{seeking}(q_{\hat{t}}) \\ \text{evading} = \text{fleeing}(q_{\hat{t}}) \end{array} \right\}, \text{ where } q_{\hat{t}} = q + v_q * \hat{t},$$

Length of vector from target to agent

Estimation cut-off time

Maximum (preferred) velocity

Short estimation time for vector-guessing

$$\text{and where } \hat{t} = \min \left(t_{max}, \frac{|\overrightarrow{qp}|}{v_{max}} \right)$$

Aligning with a target

Rotation of
target

Rotation of agent

Maximum angular acceleration

$$aligning = \begin{cases} \left(\frac{\Omega_q - \Omega_p}{t_q} / \alpha \right) * \alpha_{max}, & \text{if } \alpha > \alpha_{max} \\ \frac{\Omega_q - \Omega_p}{t_q}, & \text{otherwise} \end{cases}$$

Time to target

where $\alpha = abs(\Omega_q - \Omega_p)$,

Maximum rotation

Slowdown filter

$$\text{where } \begin{cases} \Omega_q = \Omega_{max}, & \text{if } |\Omega_q| > r_{slowdown} \\ \Omega_q = \Omega_{max} * \left(\frac{|\Omega_q|}{r_{slowdown}} * \frac{\Omega_q}{|\Omega_q|} \right), & \text{if } |\Omega_q| < r_{slowdown} \end{cases}$$

Length of rotation of
target

$$\text{and where } \begin{cases} |\Omega_q| = abs(O_q - O_p) \\ O_q = atan2(\overrightarrow{pq}_y, \overrightarrow{pq}_x) \\ O_p = atan2(\overrightarrow{qp}_y, \overrightarrow{qp}_x) \end{cases}$$

Orientation
of target

Orientation
of agent

x-dimension of vector
from target to agent



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A lazy pursuit

Group interaction

Aligning with a group

Position of i^{th} target
in neighborhood

$$\text{group cohering} = \text{seeking} \left(\sum_{i \in N} \frac{q_i}{n} \right)$$

Number of neighbors considered

Separating

Monotonic
distance-decay
damper

Maximum
(preferred)
acceleration

Vector
from
agent to
target

$$separating = \min(\lambda * |\vec{pq}|^2, a_{max}) * \frac{\vec{pq}}{|\vec{pq}|}$$

Position of i^{th} target
in neighborhood

$$group\ separating = separating \left(\sum_{i \in N} \frac{q_i}{n} \right)$$

Number of neighbors considered

Following paths

Agent's
future
position

Nudge
distance

$$\text{path-following} = \begin{cases} \text{seeking}(p' + d_{\text{snap}} + p_{\text{offset}}), & \text{if } p' \notin \text{path} \\ \text{seeking}(p' + p_{\text{offset}}), & \text{if } p' \in \text{path} \end{cases}$$

Position
of agent

Small estimate time

$$\text{where } p' = p + v_p * \hat{t},$$

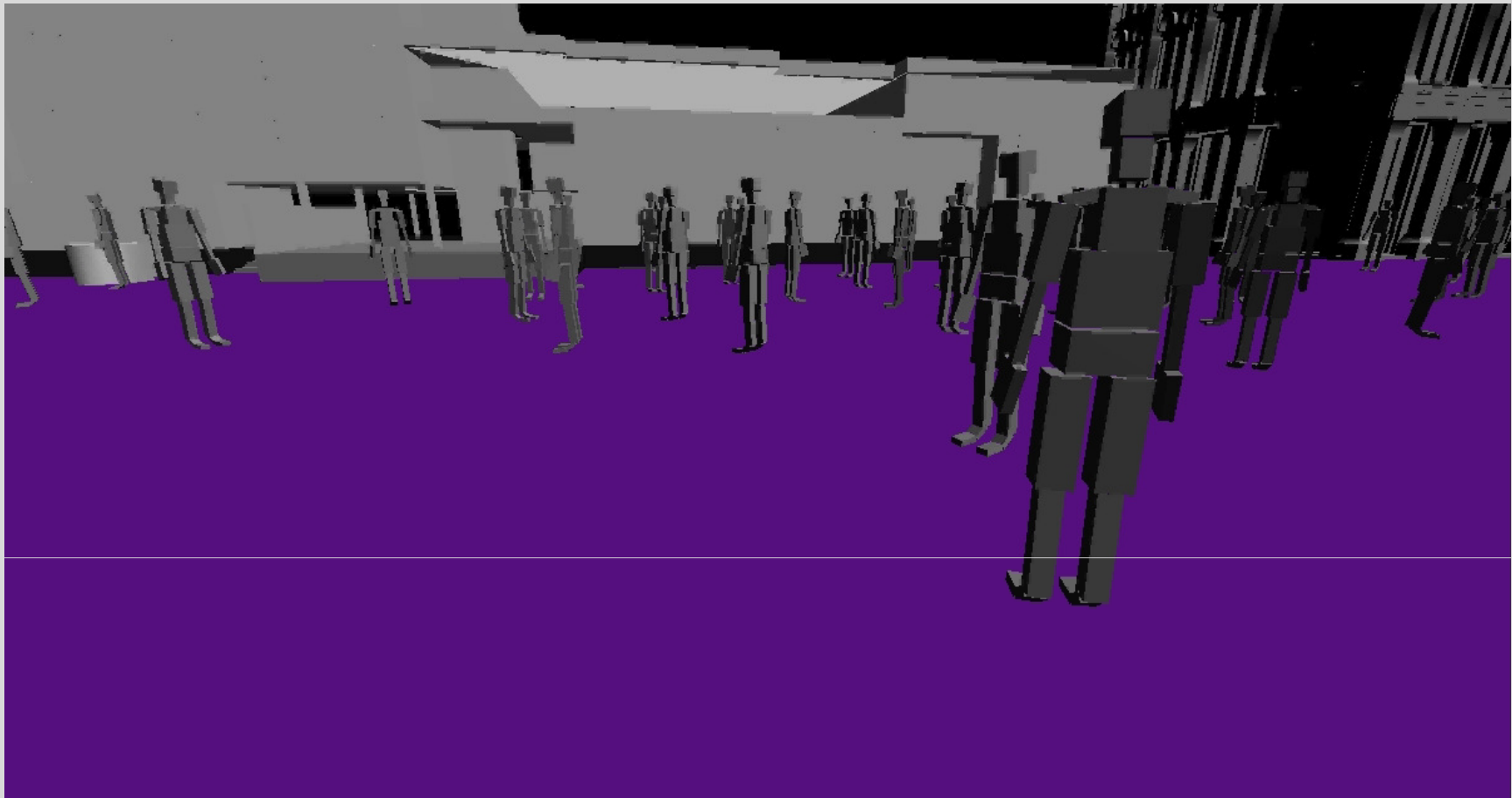
Velocity of agent

$$\text{and where } d_{\text{snap}} = \min(q_{\text{path}} - p'), q_{\text{path}} \in \text{path}$$

Snap
distance
to path

Future
position
of agent

Closest line
segment on
the path



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Collision avoidance by steering

Check to see if you are already in collision with the closest target:

Radius of agent

Radius of target

If $d_{\min separation} < (r_p + r_q)$ or $d_{\min separation} \leq 0$, there is already a collision,

where, $d_{\min separation} = |p - q| - |v_q - v_p| * t_{collision}$

Time to
potential
collision

Position
of agent

Position
of target

Velocity of
agent

Velocity of
target

Calculate the time to the nearest collision:

$\forall q \in N,$

Number of target neighbors

Position of agent

Position of target

$t_{collision} = \frac{(p - q) * (v_q - v_p)}{|v_q - v_p|^2}$

Time to potential collision

Velocity of target

Velocity of agent

The diagram illustrates the formula for calculating the time to the nearest collision. It features a central equation: $t_{collision} = \frac{(p - q) * (v_q - v_p)}{|v_q - v_p|^2}$. Annotations with arrows point to various parts of the equation: 'Position of agent' points to p ; 'Position of target' points to q ; 'Velocity of target' points to v_q ; 'Velocity of agent' points to v_p ; 'Time to potential collision' points to $t_{collision}$; and 'Number of target neighbors' points to the universal quantifier $\forall q \in N,$.

Number
of target
neighbors

Steer to avoid a collision:

Position
of agent

Maximum (preferred)
acceleration

$$\forall q \in N, \quad seeking \left(\frac{(p - q)'}{|(p - q)'|} * a_{max} \right)$$

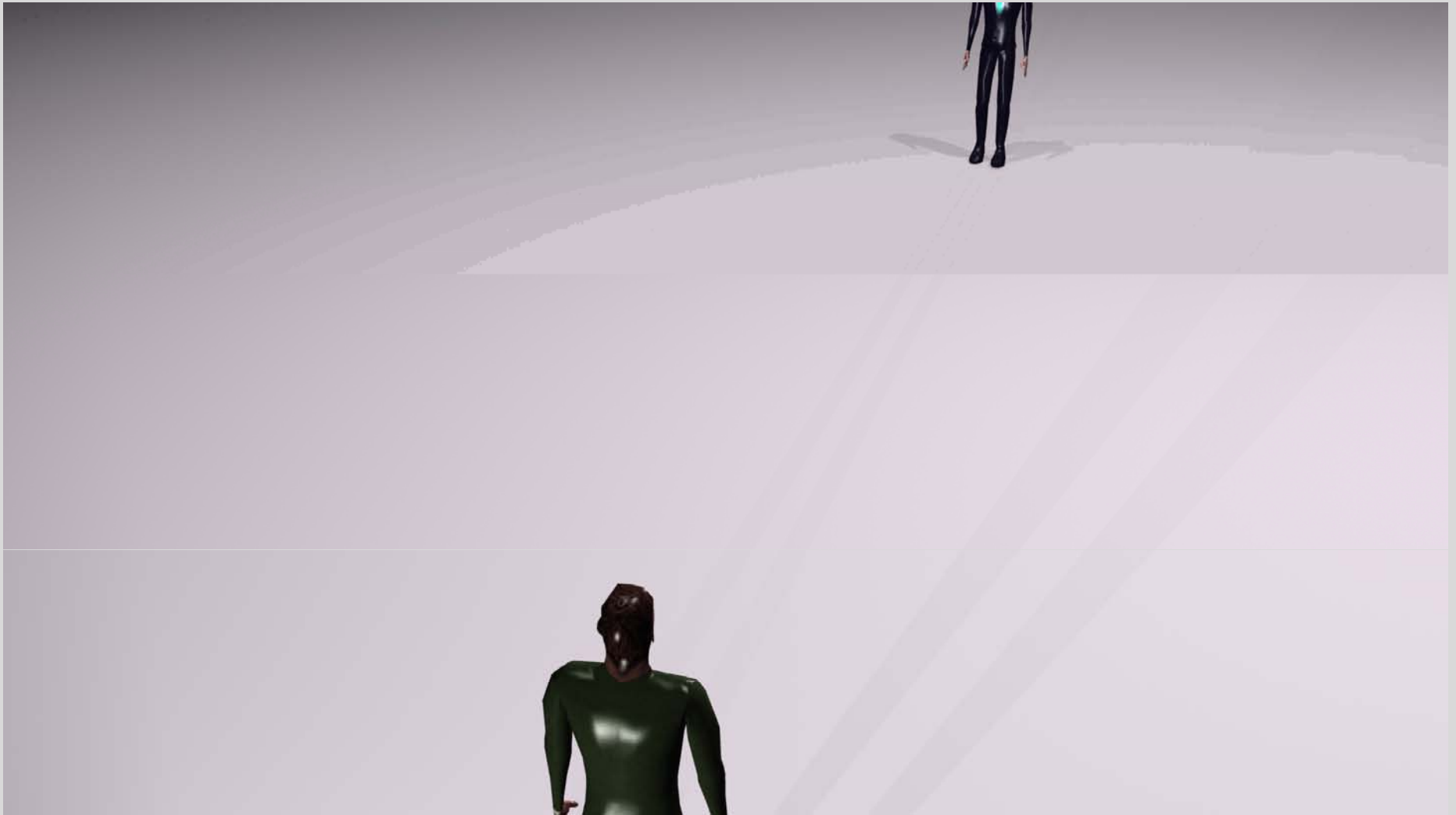
Where $\begin{cases} (p - q)' = -(p - q), & \text{if there is already a collision} \\ (p - q)' = -(p - q) - ((v_p - v_q) * t_{collision}), & \text{if a collision is imminent} \end{cases}$

Position
of target

Velocity
of agent

Velocity
of target

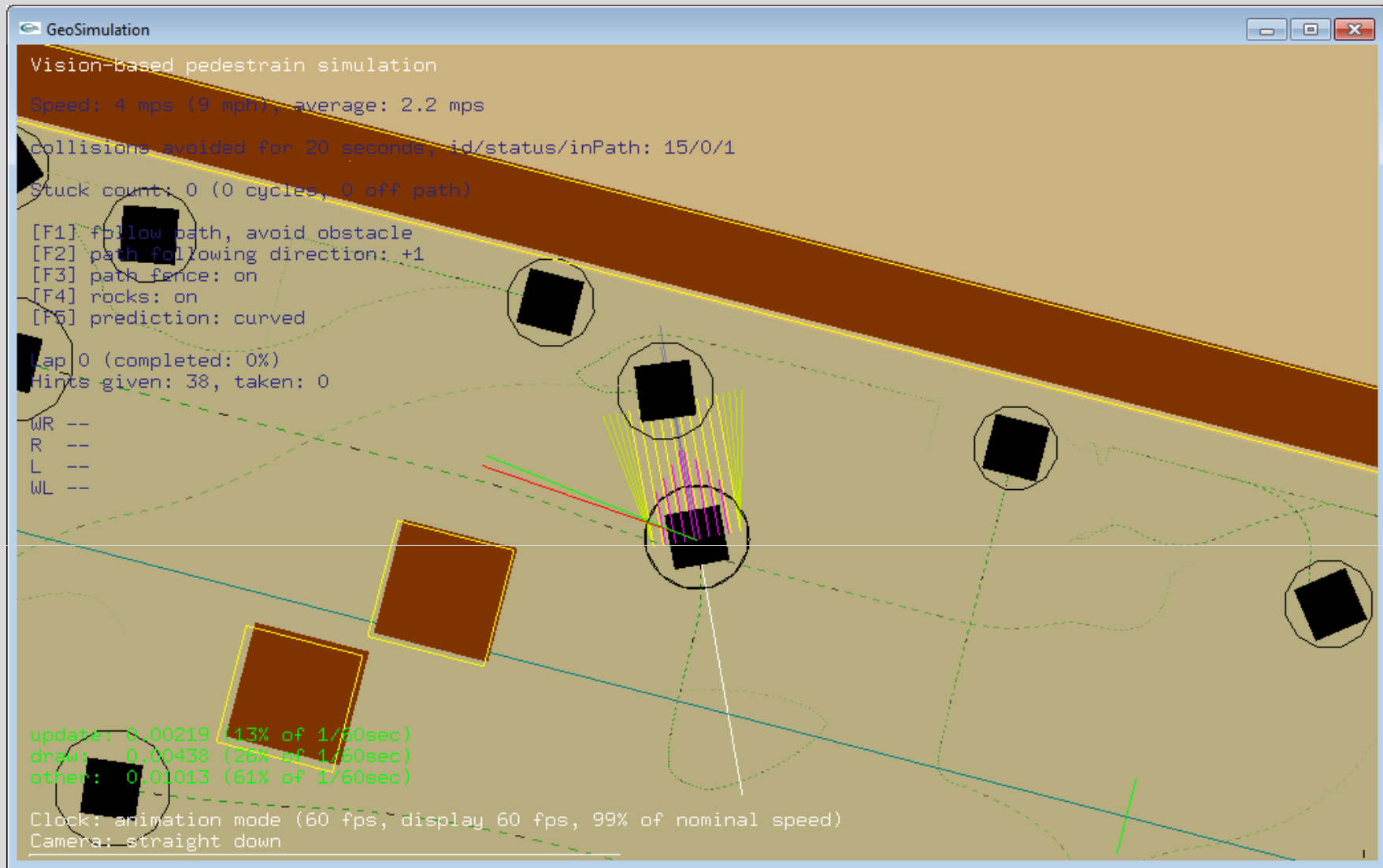
Time to potential
collision



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Using physics to improve collision avoidance

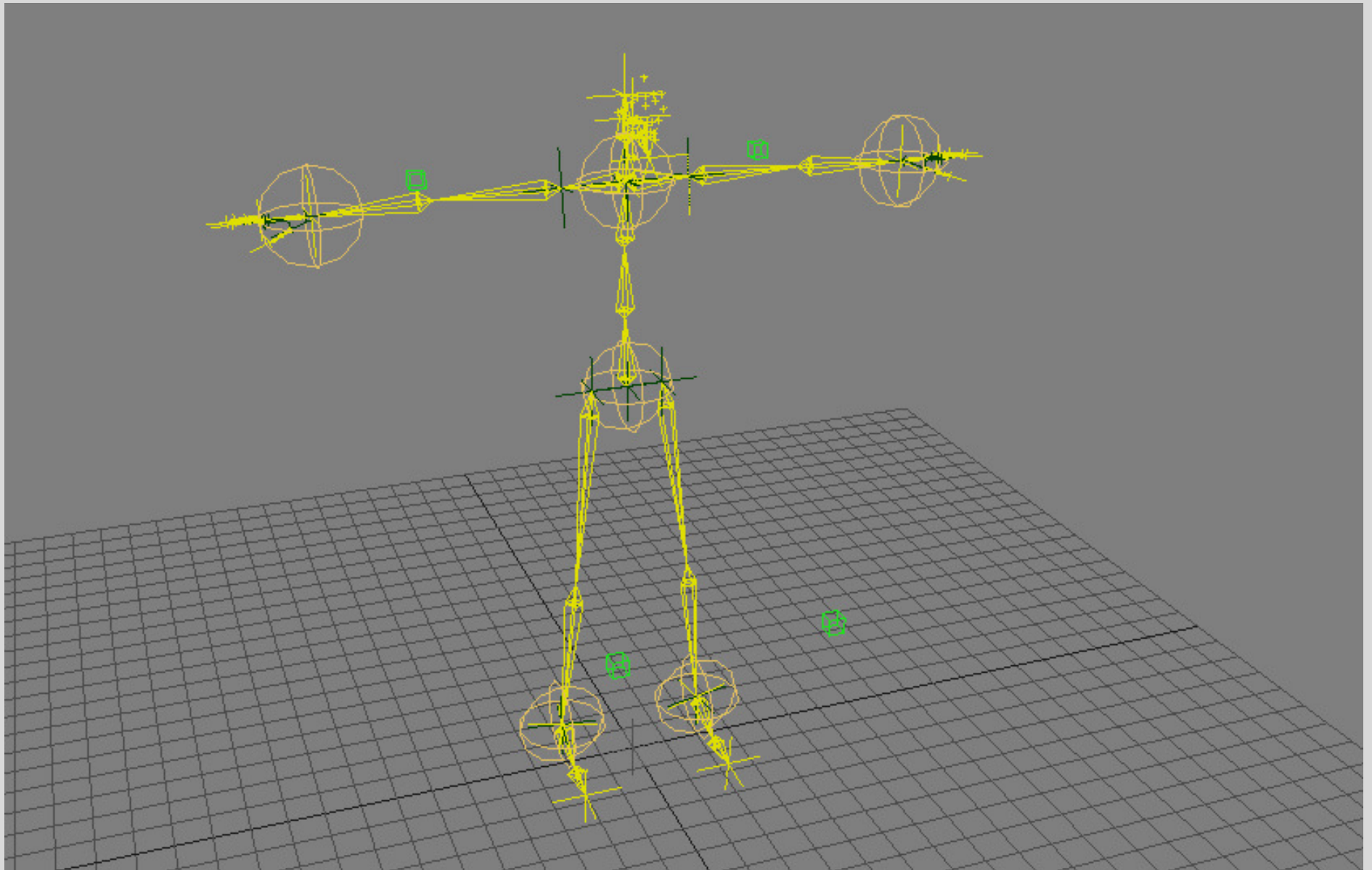
Catalog everything in your visual field,
weight it based on focus, digitize it,
calculate the potential physics of
collision, prioritize your next move



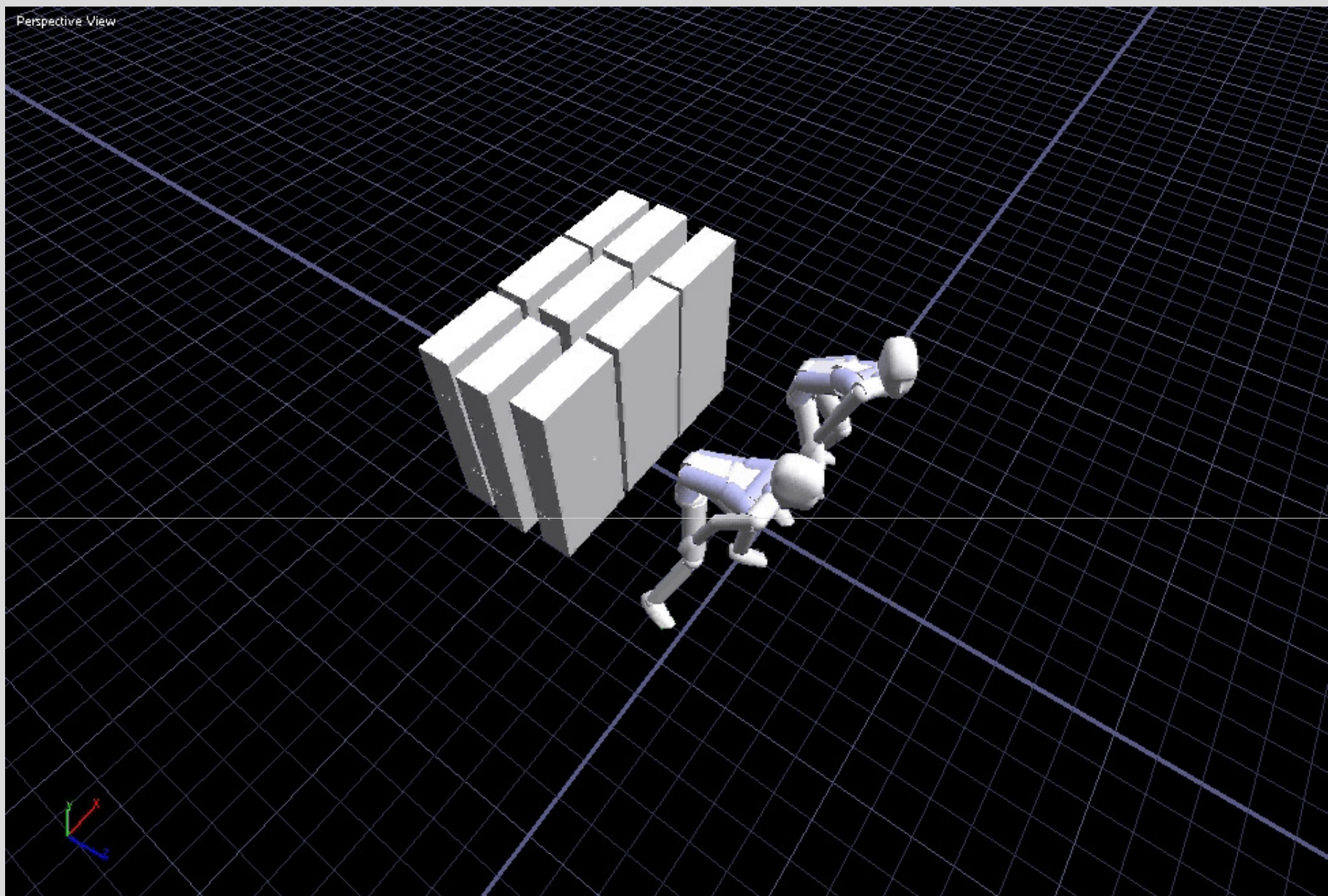
[Model](#)

Synthetic vision with adaptive space-time ray-casting
(Work with Haojie Zhu)

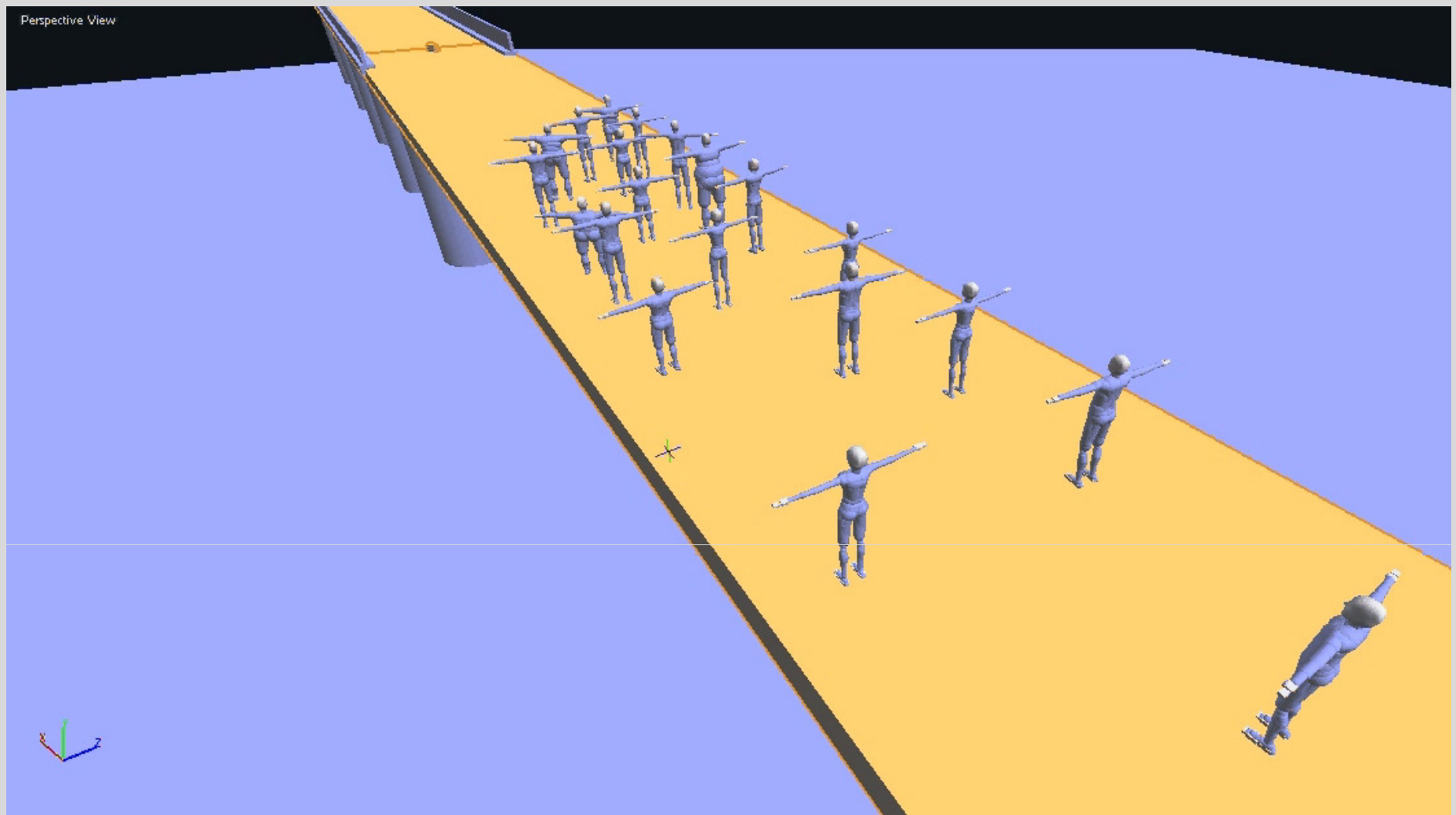
Resolving (very close) physical collisions







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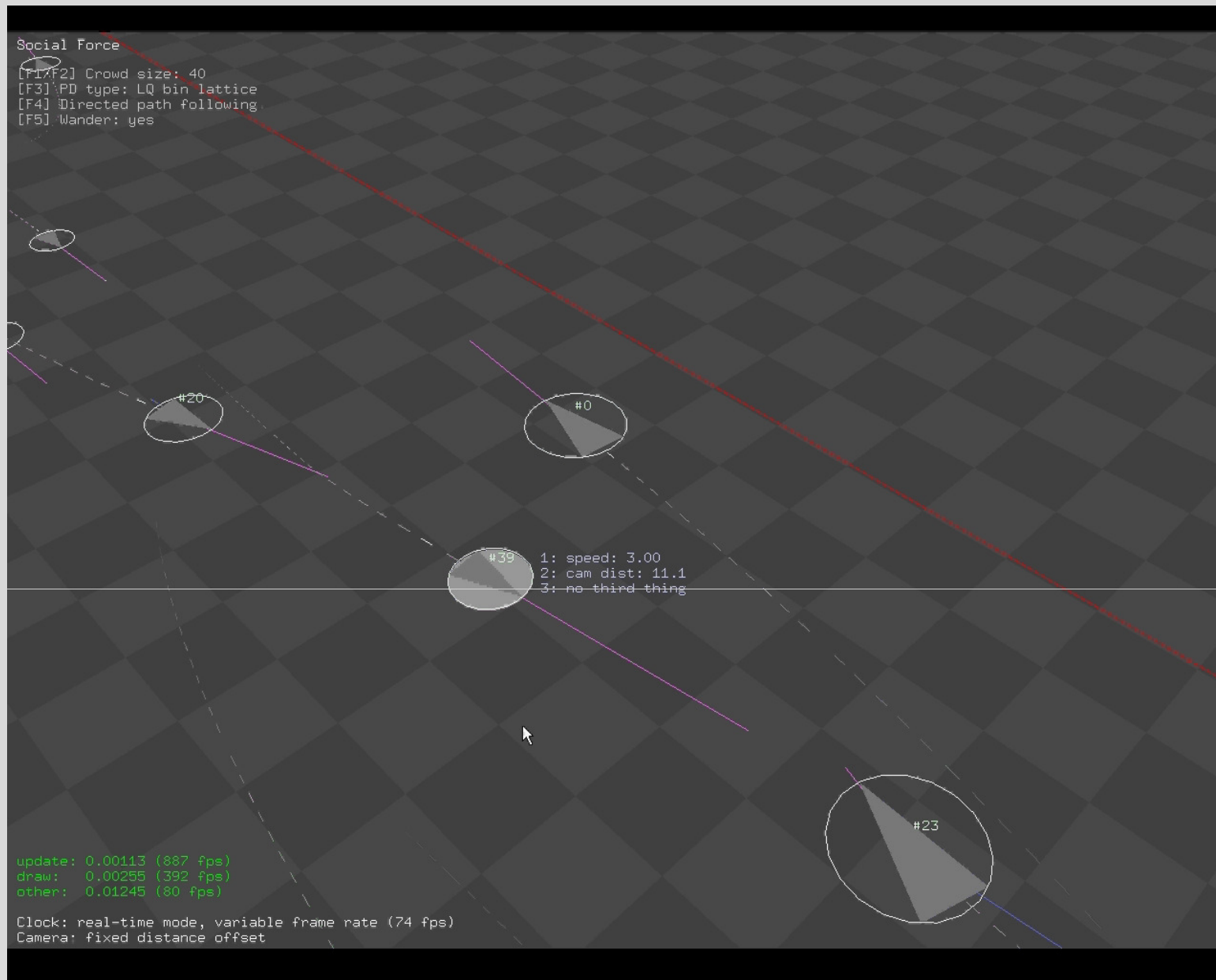


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Substituting
schemes

alternative

movement



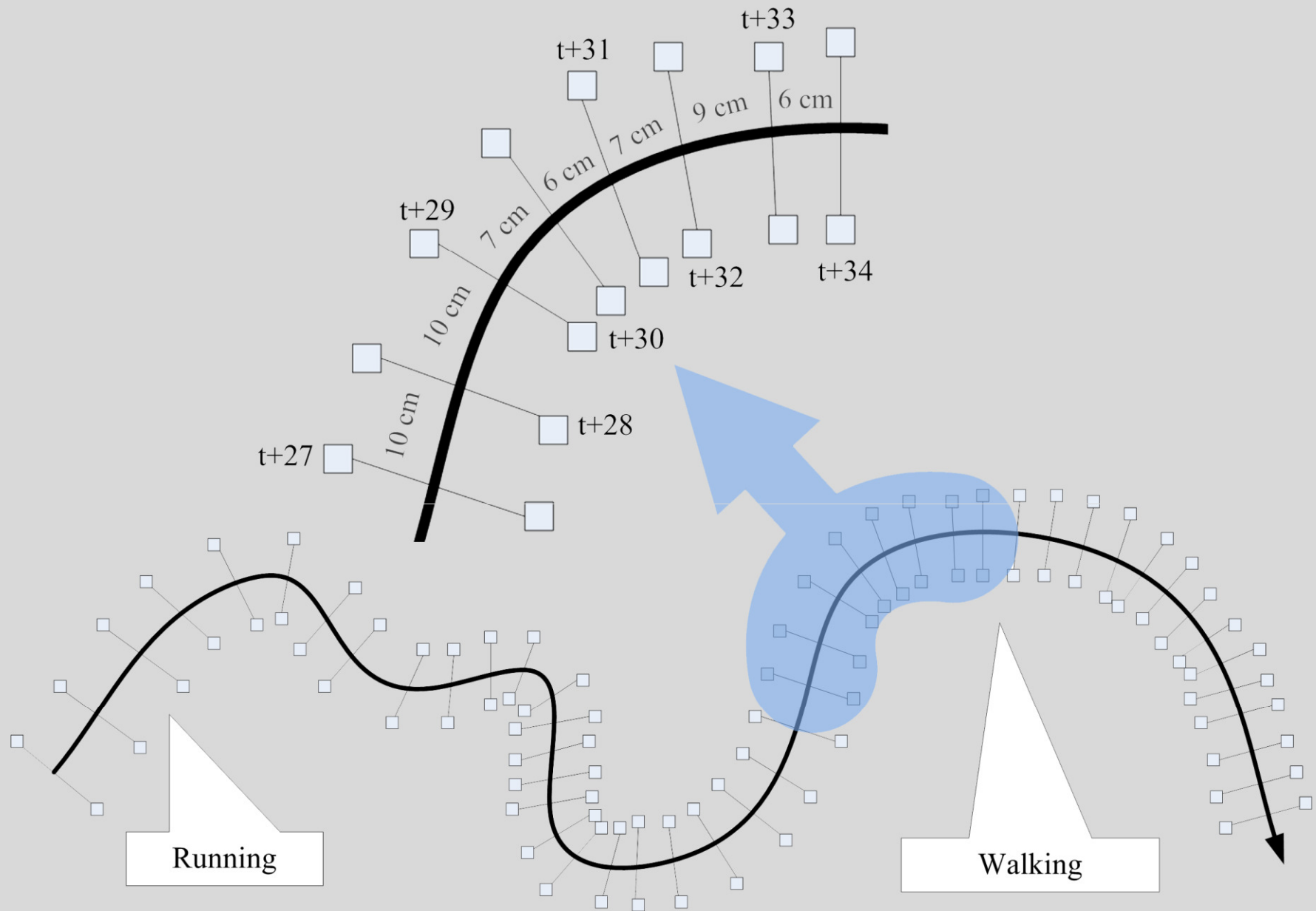
[Model](#) / [uh-oh](#)

Steering by social force

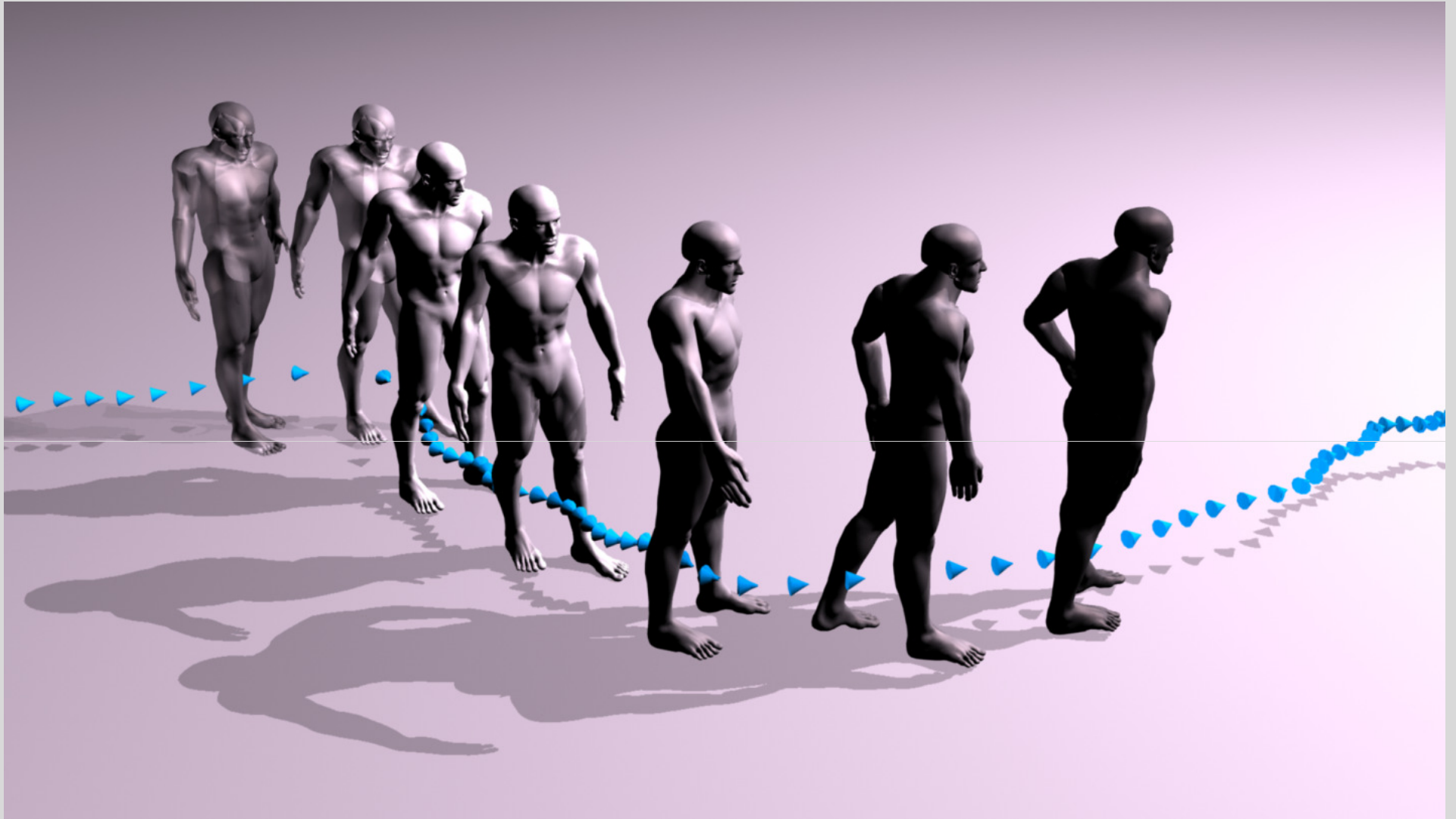
(Work with Haojie Zhu)

Low-level behavior

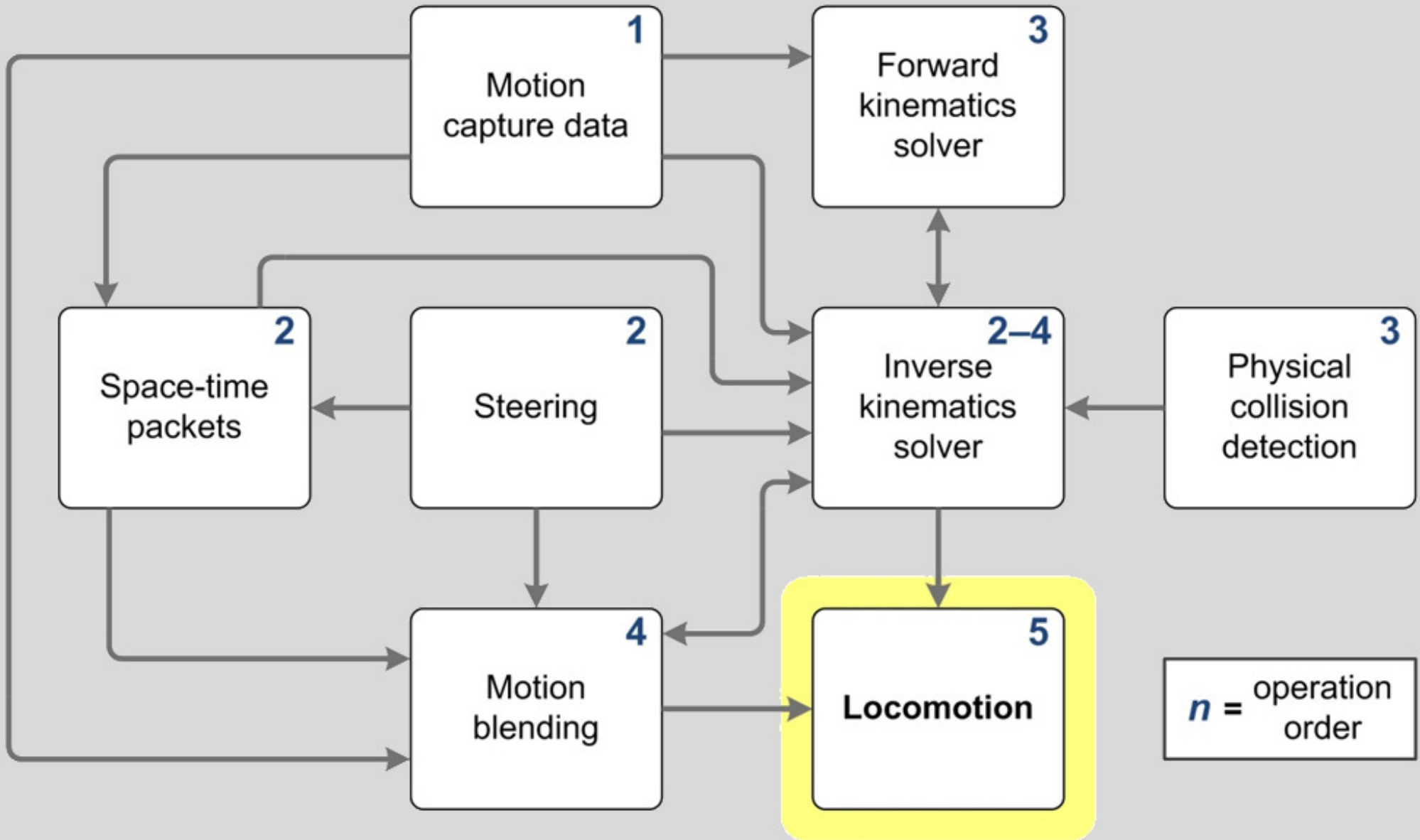
Locomotion



Discrete bundles of space and time as “footsteps”



Inverse/forward kinematics to resolve body locomotion



Forward kinematics

$$\vec{P}_n = \vec{P}_0 + \sum_{j=0}^i L_i \left(\cos \left(\sum_{j=0}^i \theta_j \right), \sin \sum_{j=0}^i \theta_j \right)$$

Diagram illustrating the forward kinematics equation for a robotic arm, with labels for the components:

- Vector for the root node**: Points to \vec{P}_0 .
- Vector for the effector**: Points to \vec{P}_n .
- i^{th} segment**: Points to the summation index i .
- Length of the i^{th} line segment**: Points to L_i .
- j^{th} segment**: Points to the summation index j in the trigonometric functions.
- Angle of the joint**: Points to θ_j .

Inverse kinematics

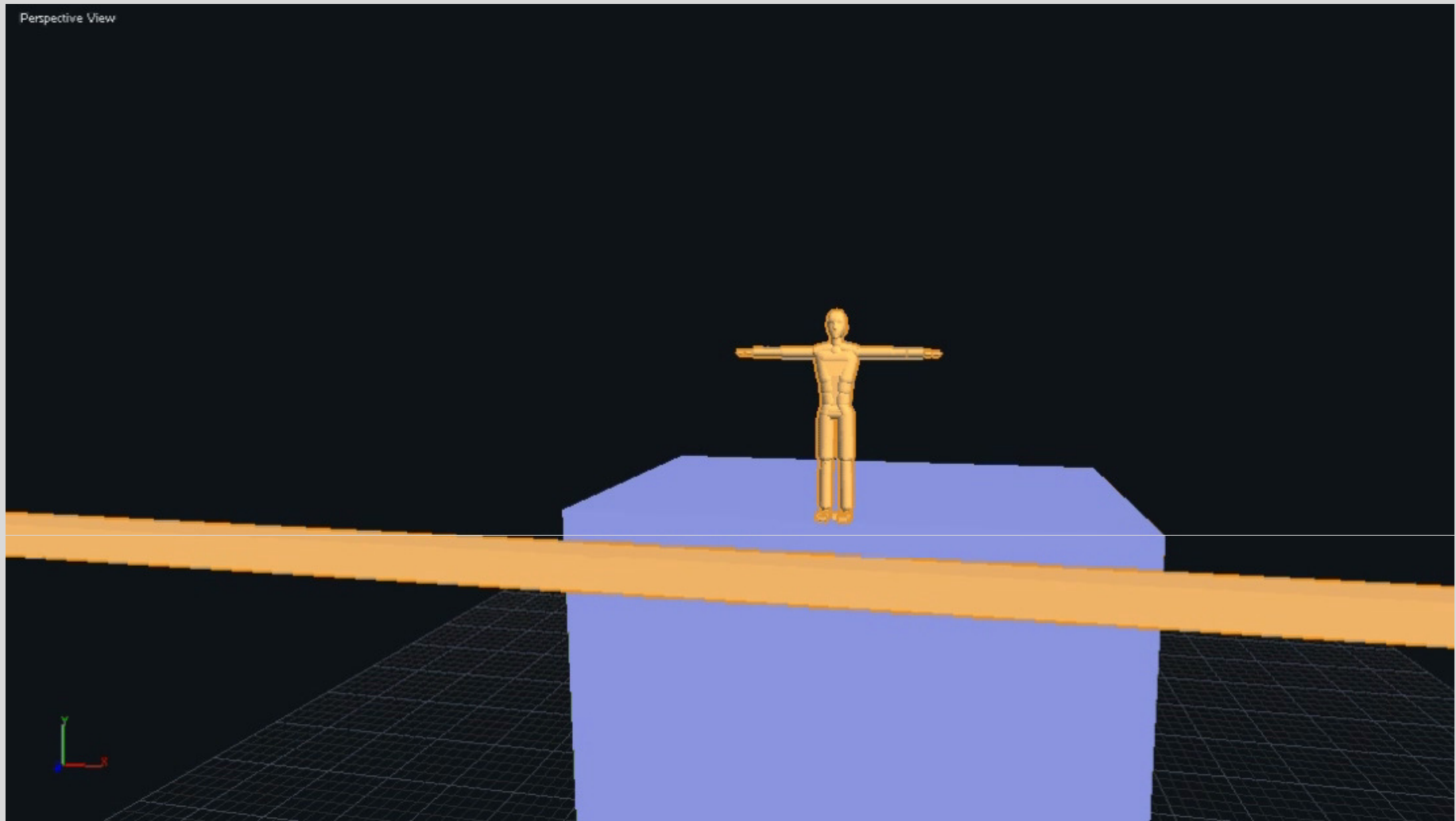
Angle of
the joint

(Space-time) goal

$$\overrightarrow{P_n}(\theta) = G$$

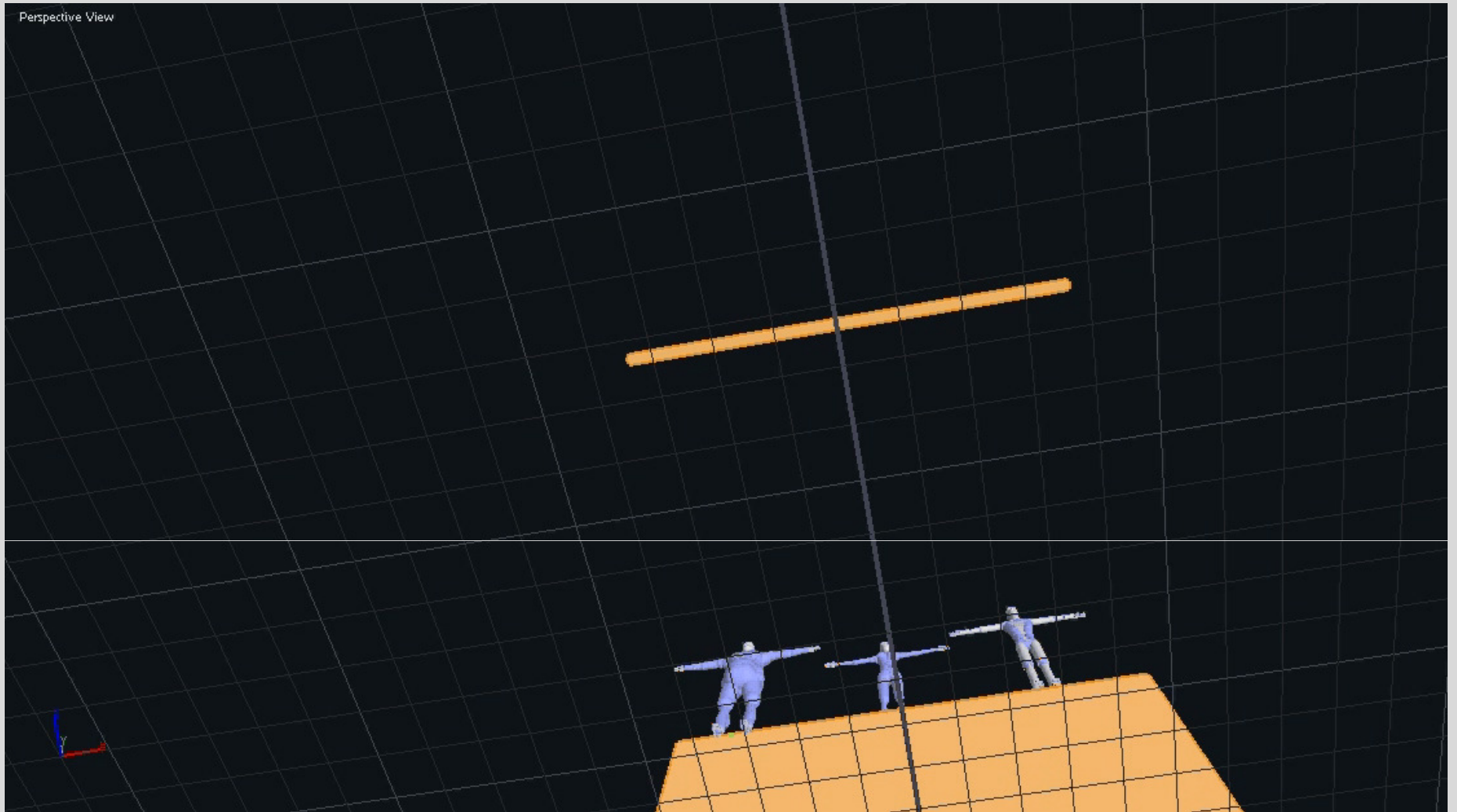
Vector for
the effector

The diagram shows the equation $\overrightarrow{P_n}(\theta) = G$ centered on a light gray background. Three blue annotations with curved arrows point to parts of the equation: 'Angle of the joint' points to θ , '(Space-time) goal' points to G , and 'Vector for the effector' points to $\overrightarrow{P_n}$. The n in P_n is colored orange.



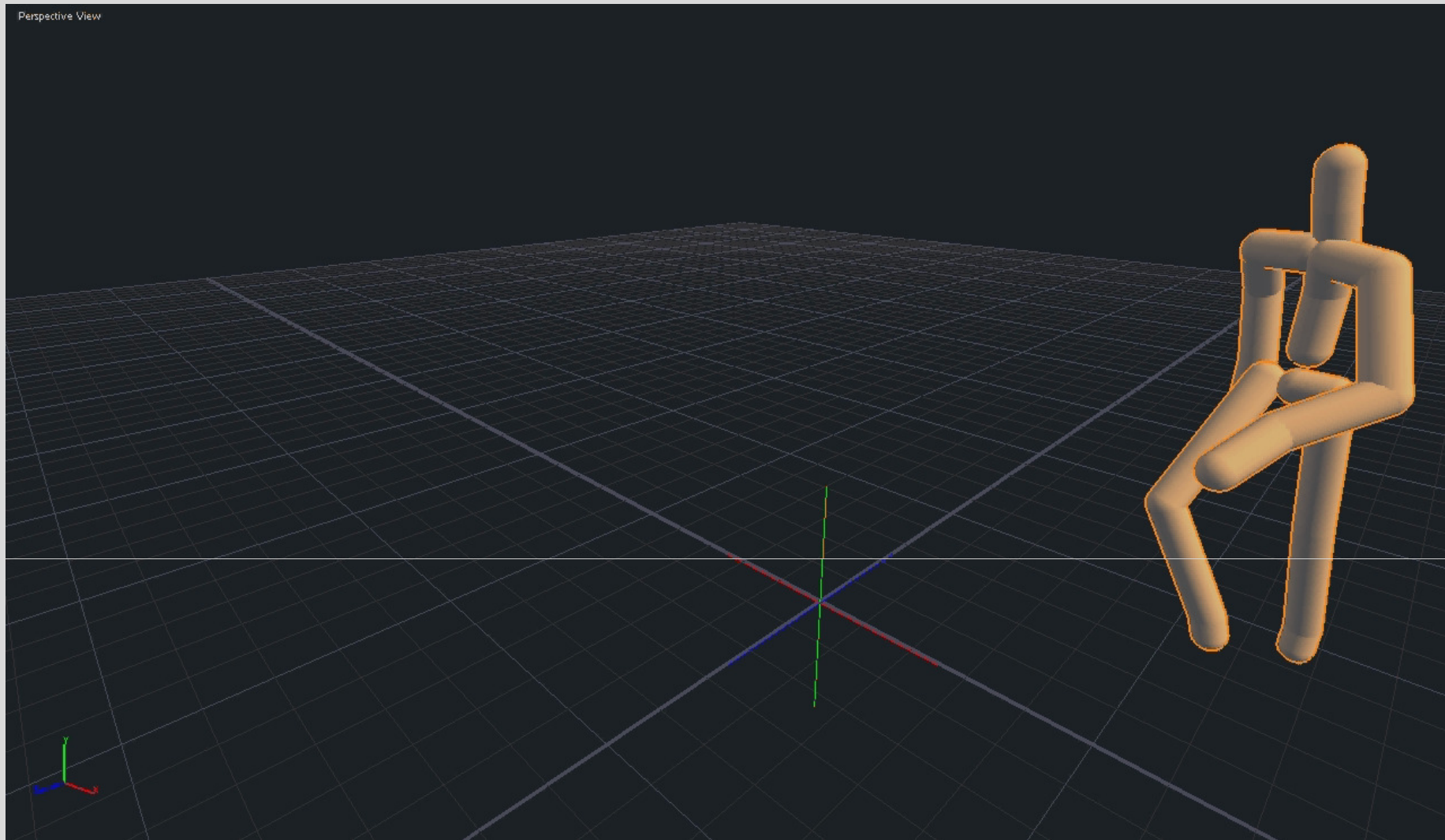
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Inverse and forward kinematics



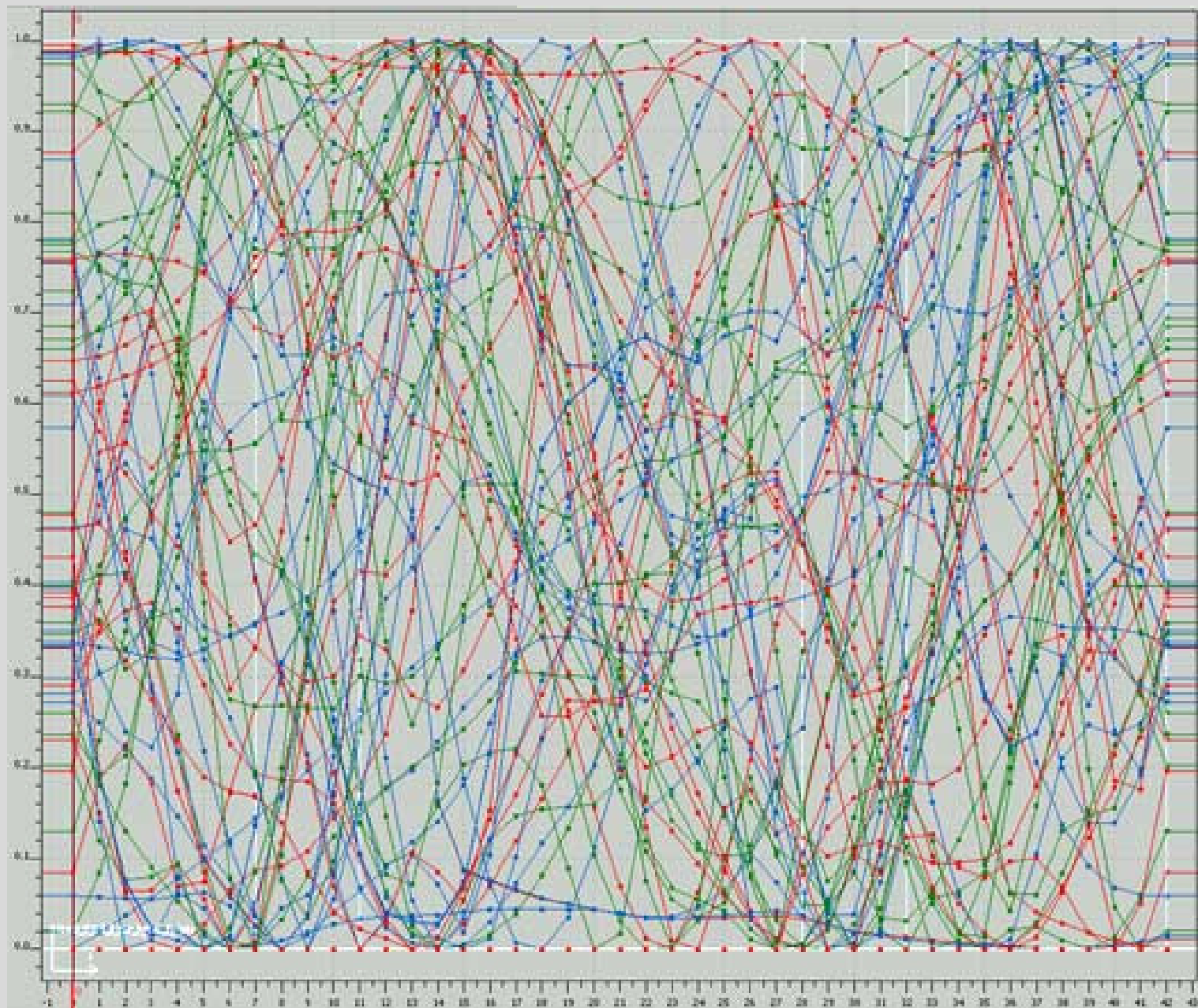
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Calibrated choreography with motion capture and editing



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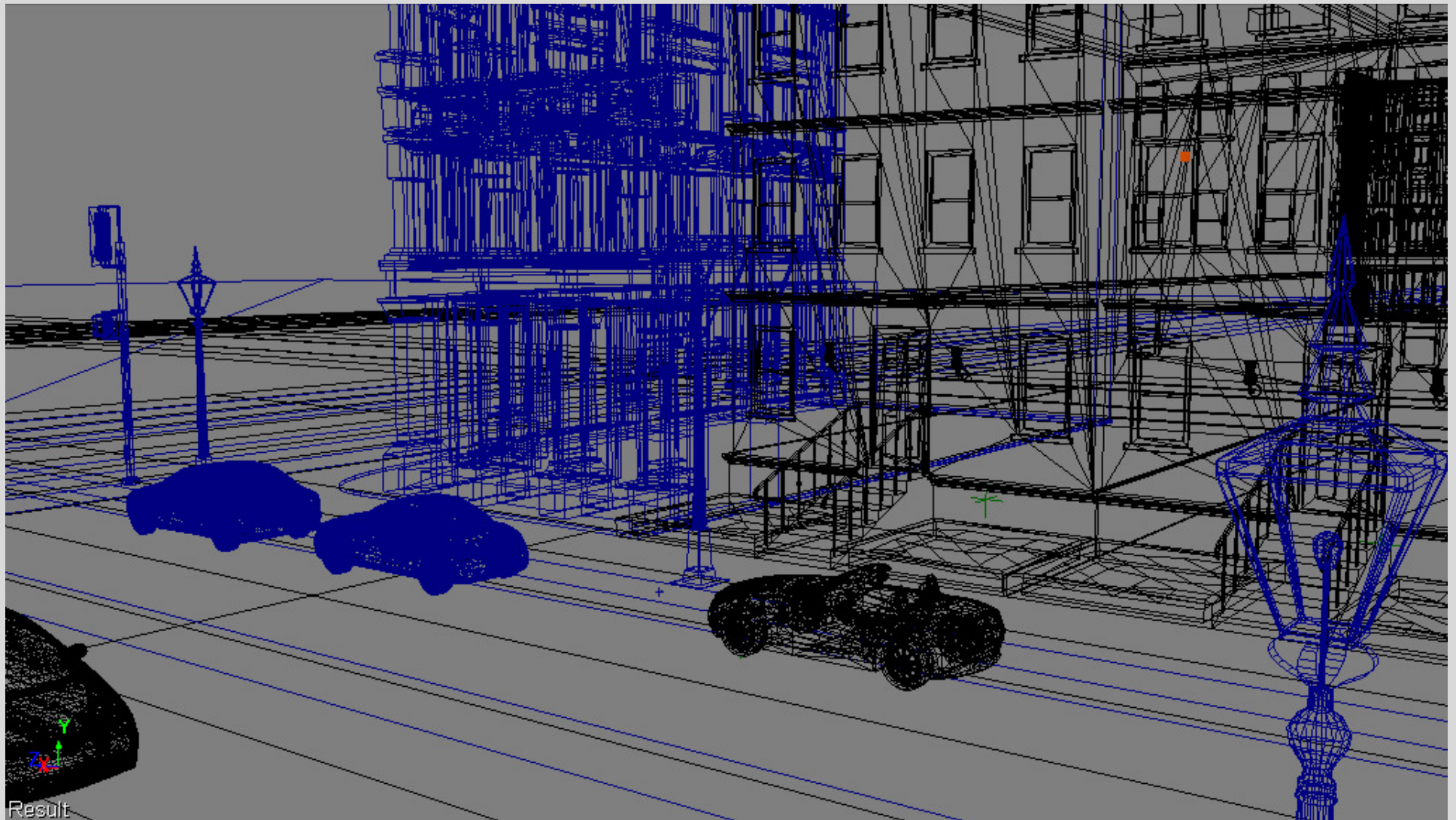
Motion-captured animation



Rendering and animation

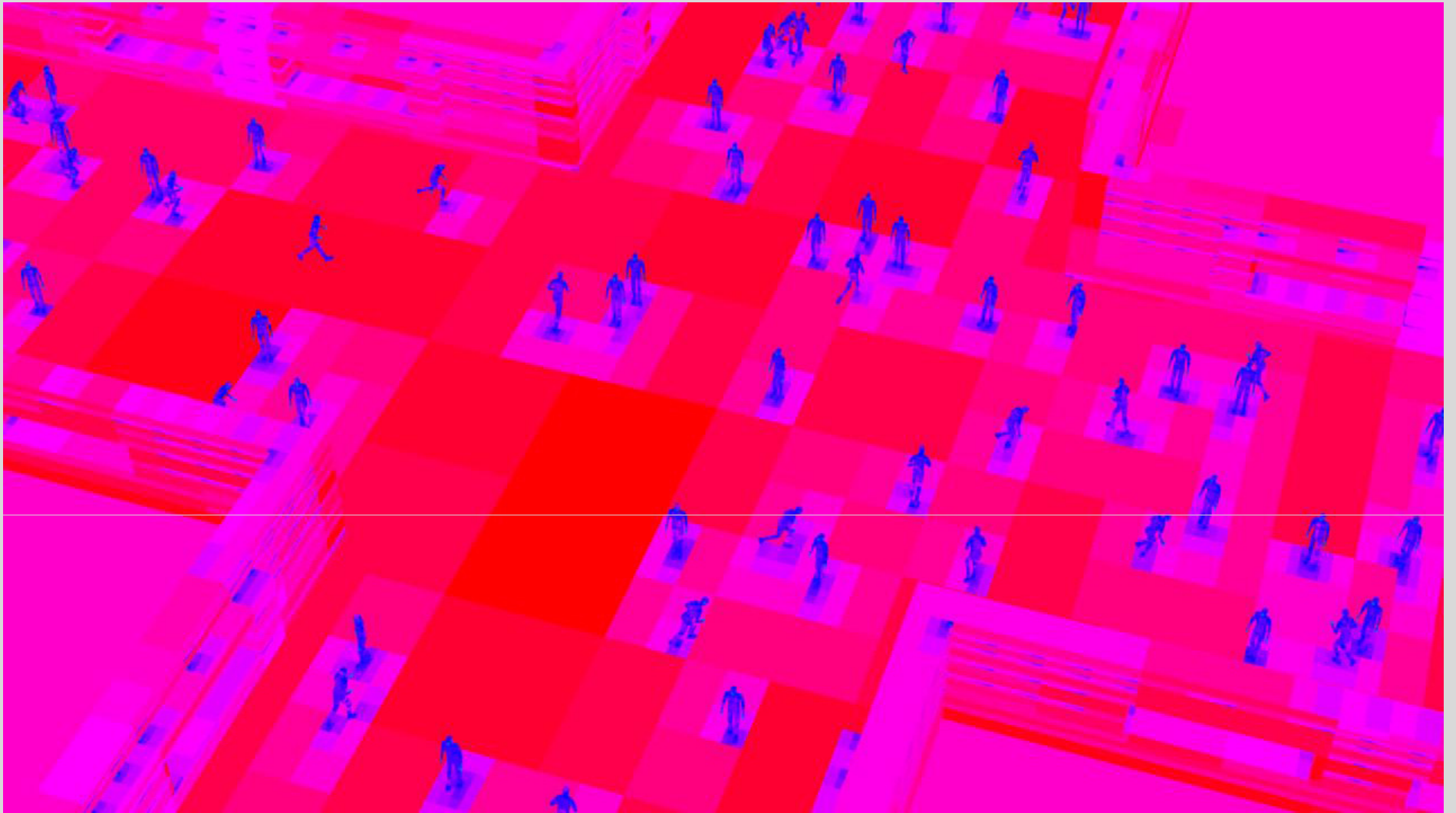




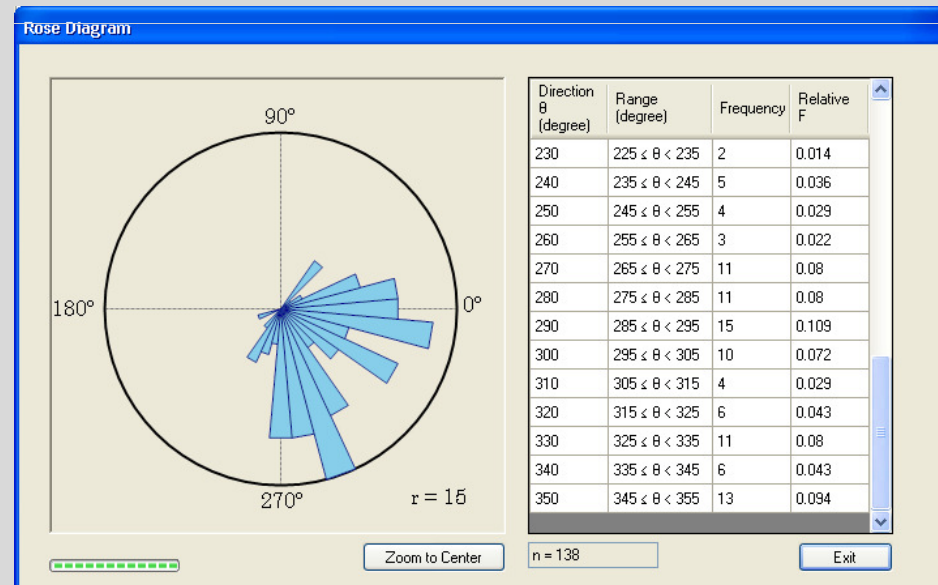
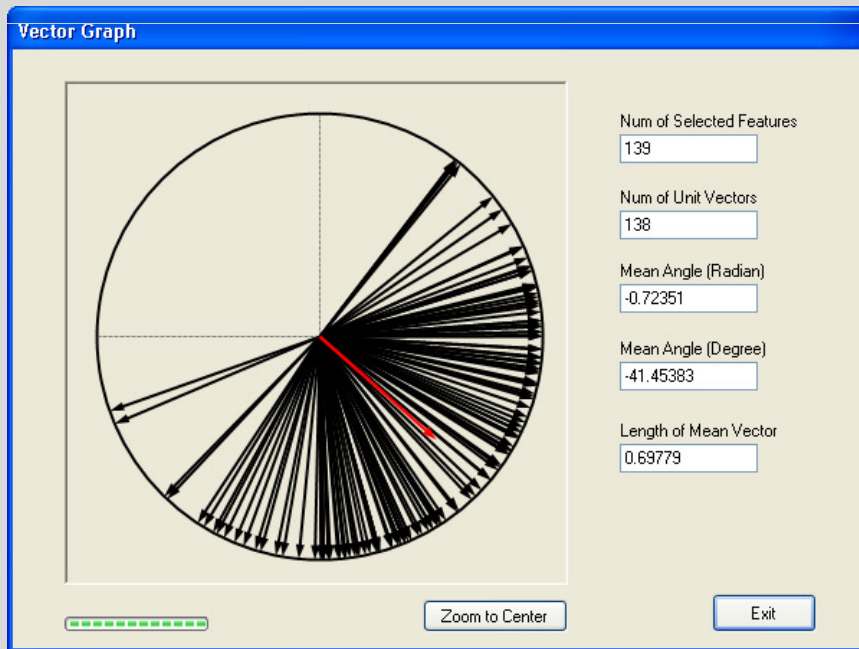
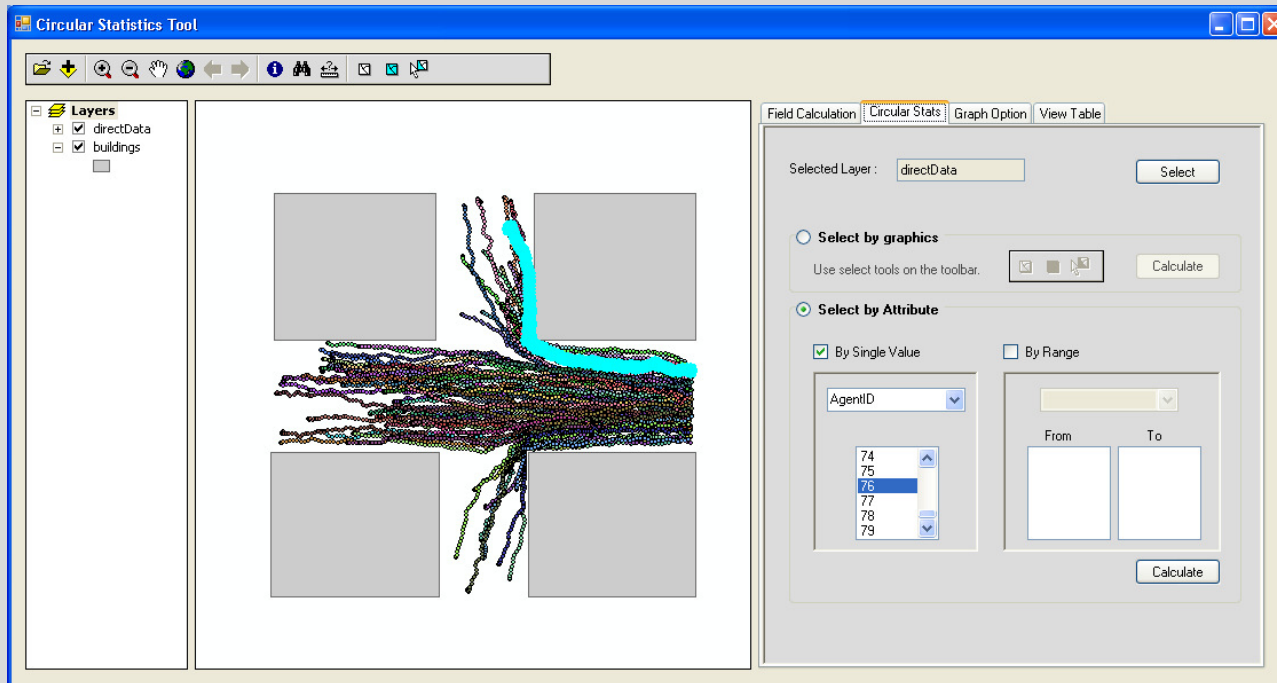


Result

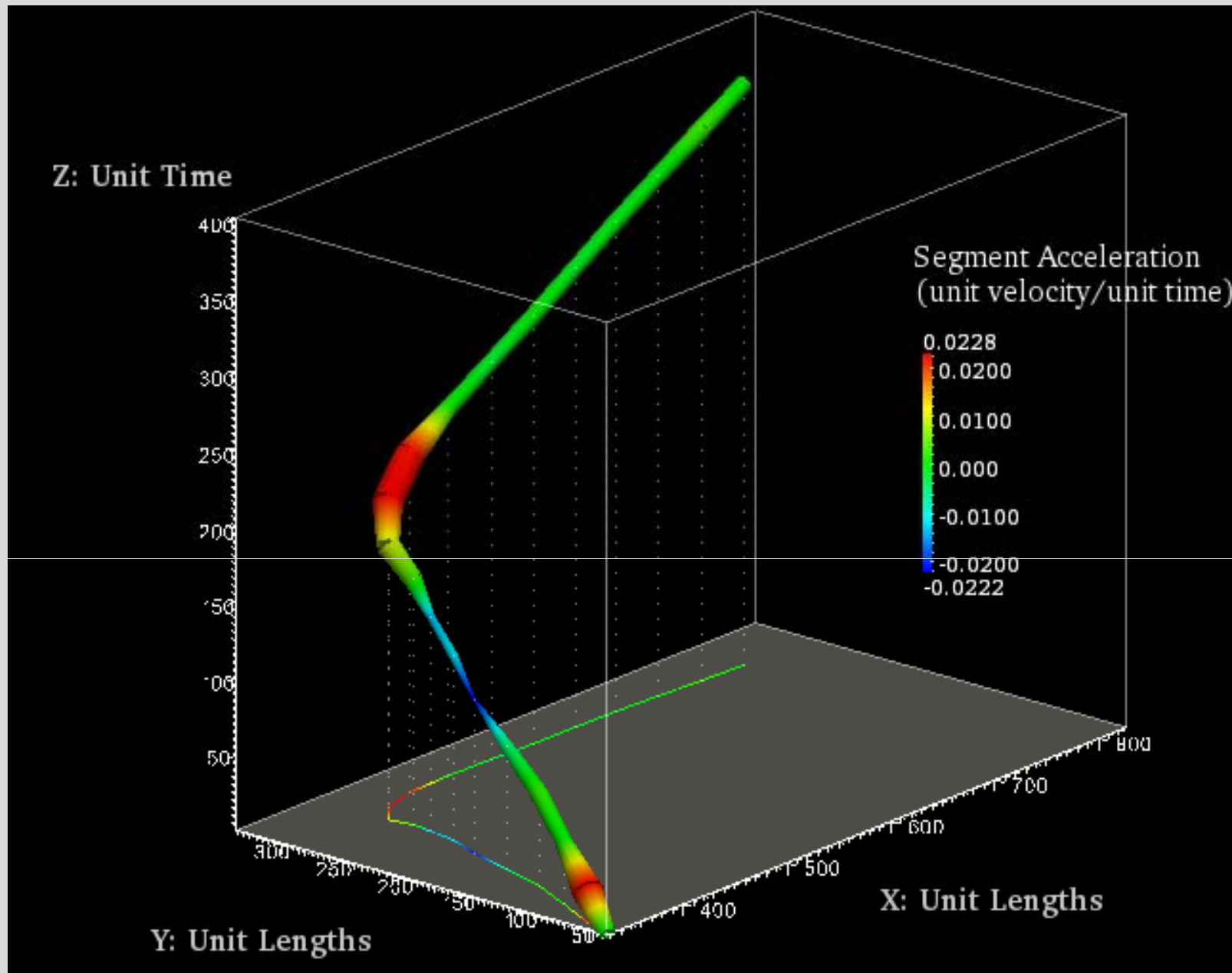




Validation and verification

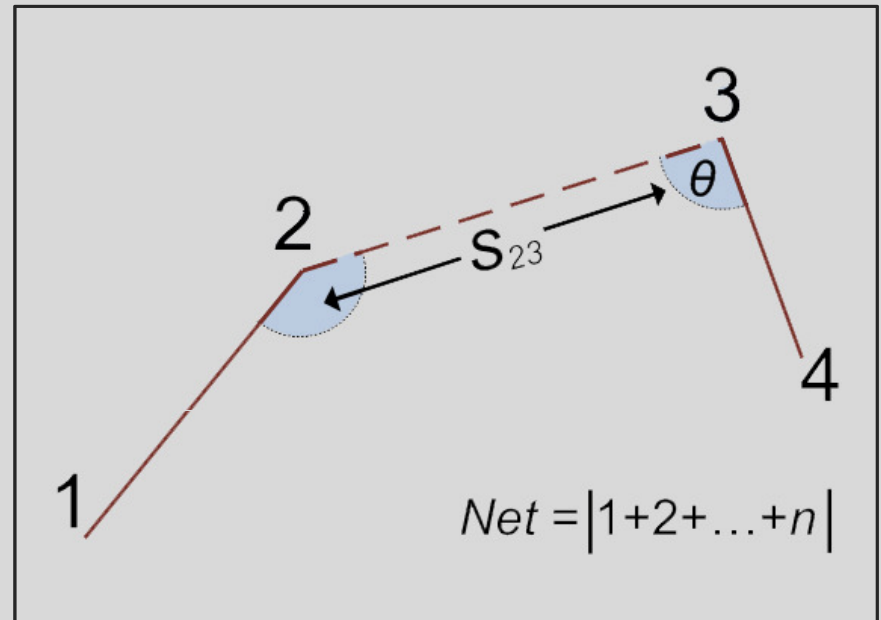
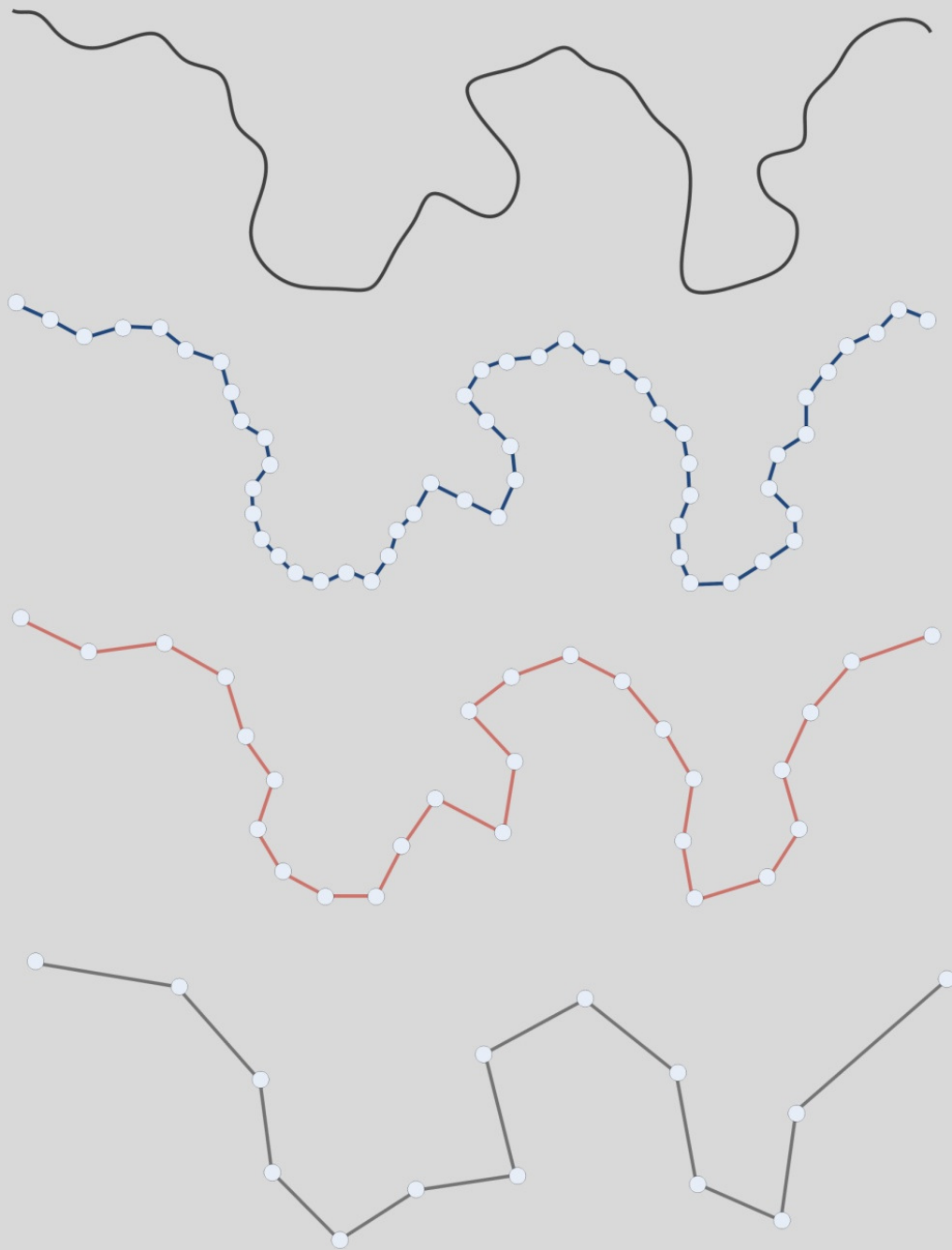


(Work with Atsushi Nara)



(Work with Atsushi Nara)

- Space-time trajectories
 - Mean cosine of turning angle
 - Probability of turning in the same direction
 - Correlation of the cosine of successive turn angles
- Complexity
 - Mean fractal dimension
 - Approximate entropy



$$d_v = \frac{\log(2)}{\log\left(\frac{Net}{step}\right)} = \frac{\theta}{1 + \log_2(\cos \theta + 1)}$$

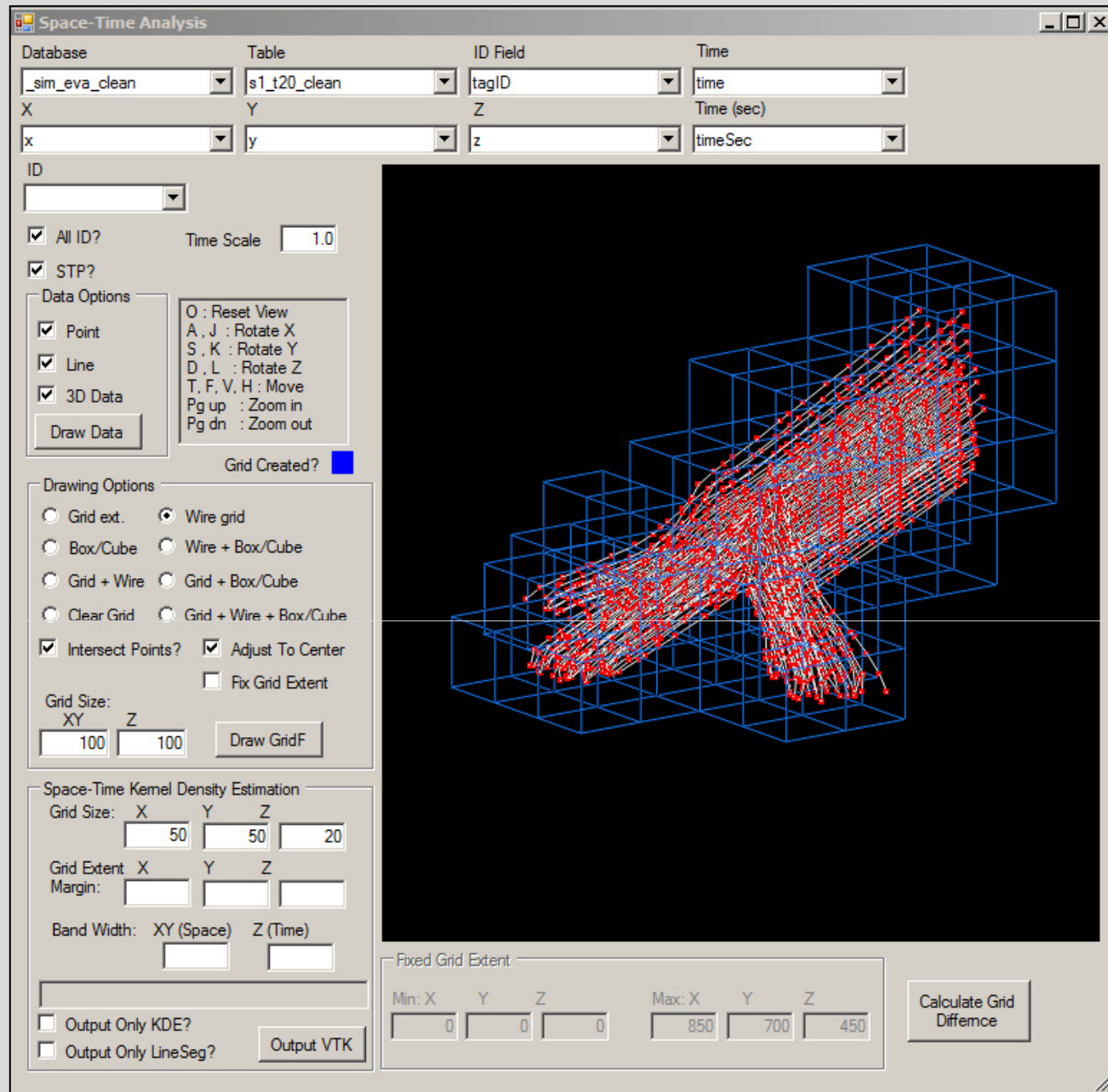
Diagram illustrating the components of the ApEn formula:

- Data-stream** points to S_N .
- Predefined criterion** points to b .
- Observations** points to m .
- Sequence** points to m .

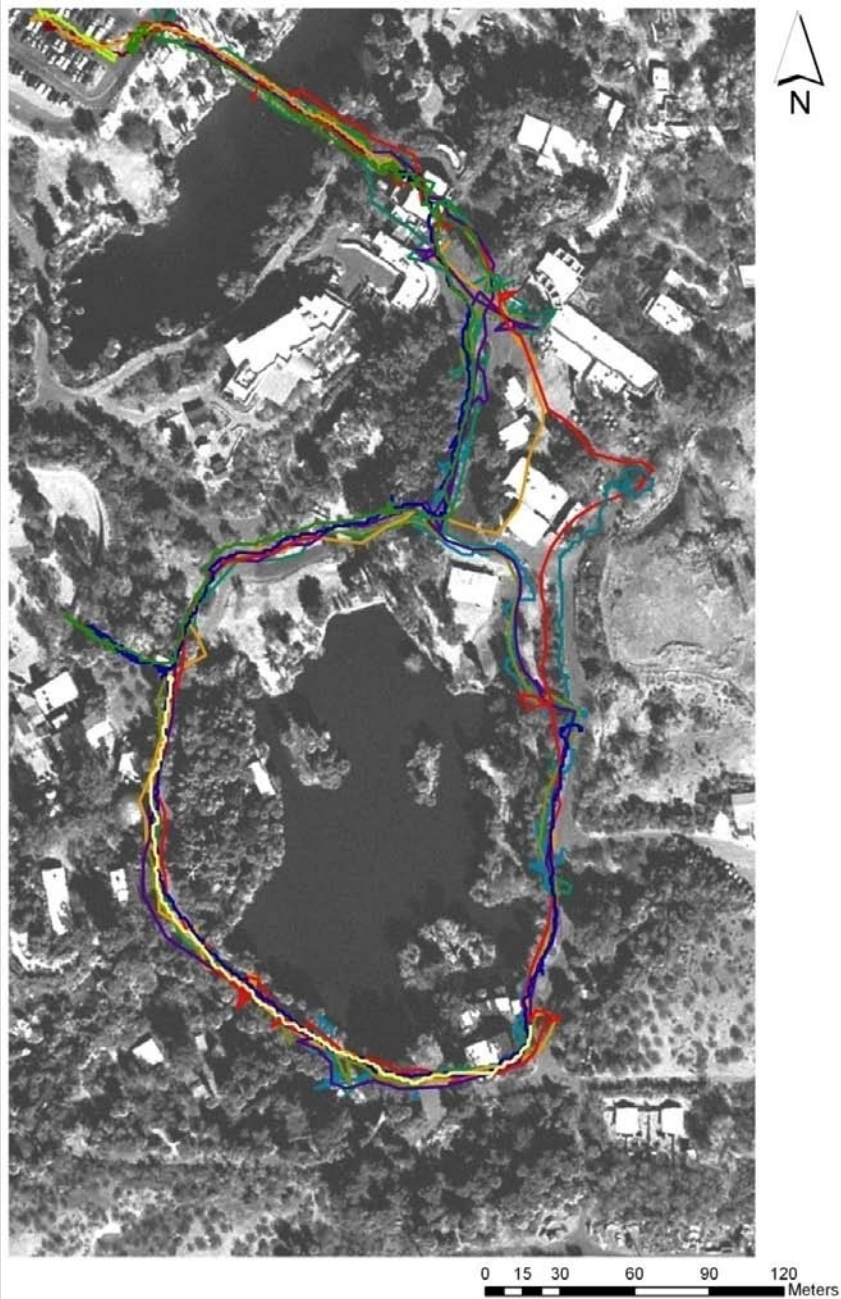
$$ApEn(S_N, m, b) = \ln \left[\frac{C_m(b)}{C_{m+1}(b)} \right]$$

$$C_m(b) = \sum_{i=1}^{N-m+1} n_{im}(b) / (N - m + 1)^2$$

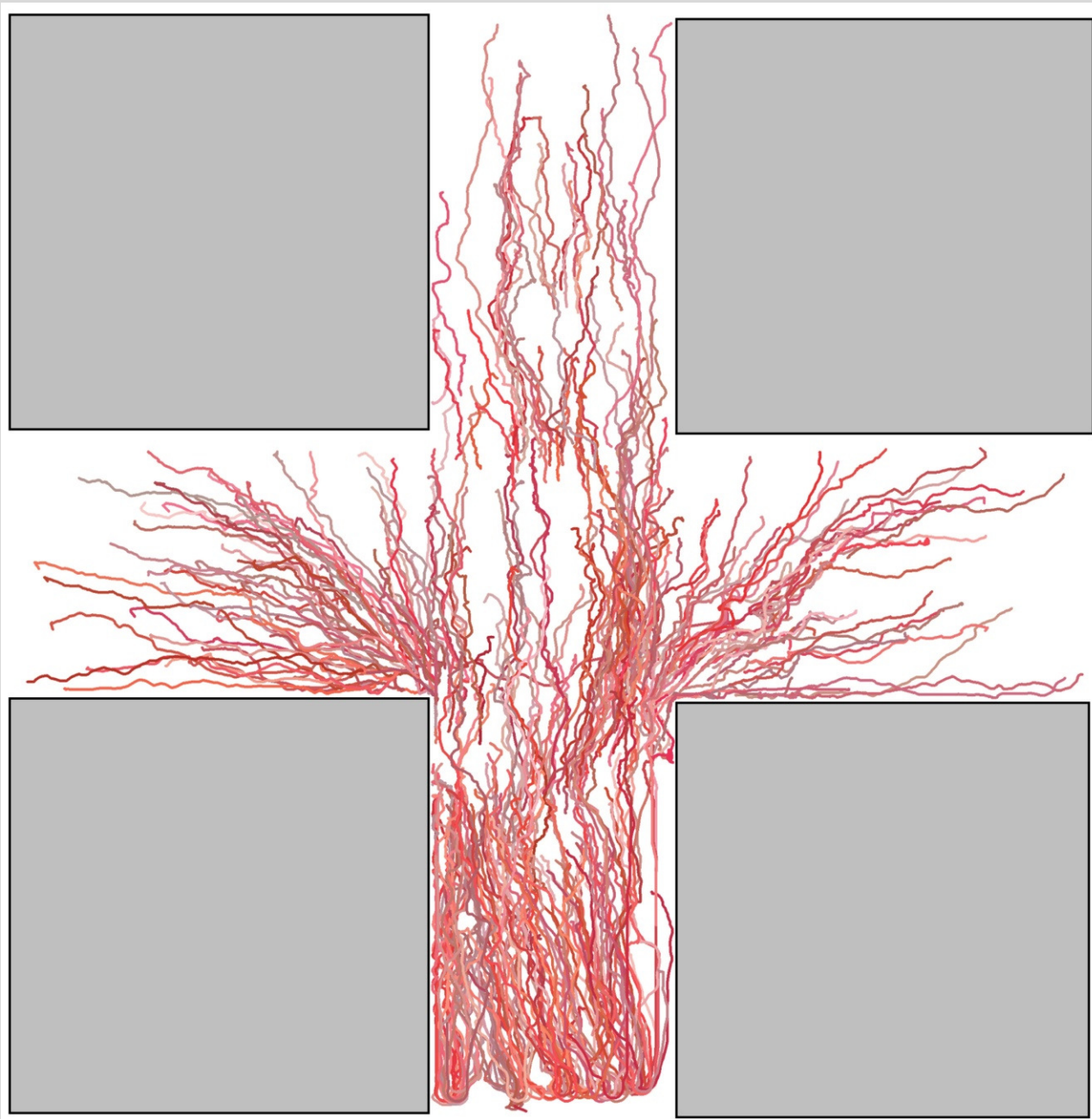
The number of patterns in P_m that are similar to $p_m(i)$



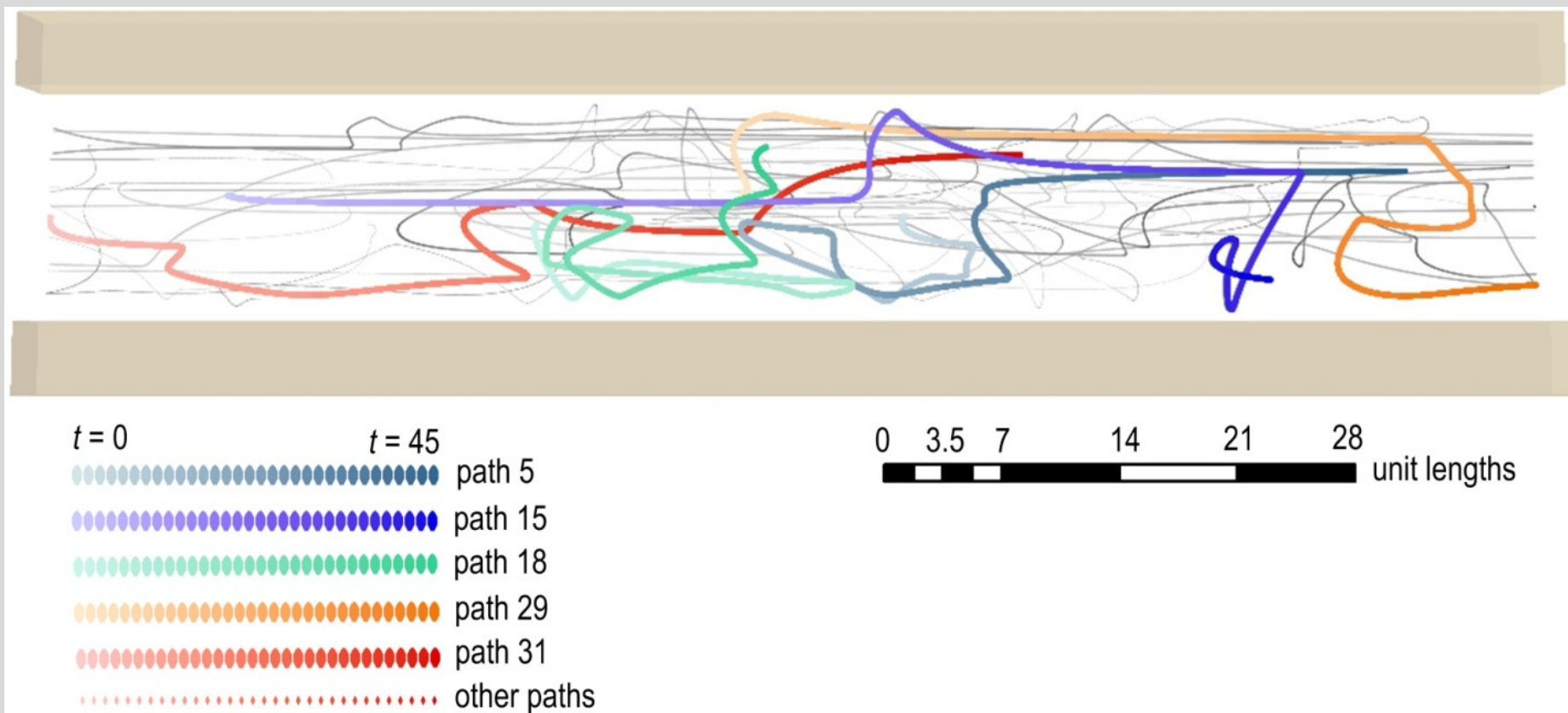
(Work with Atsushi Nara)



Phoenix Zoo Lights festival (FD =1.23; MFD =1.2)



Behavioral model (male, walking) (FD =1.1; MFD =1.08)



Social force model (FD =1.53; MFD = 1.34)

Some applications

Simulating downtown streetscapes





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Simulating street overloading



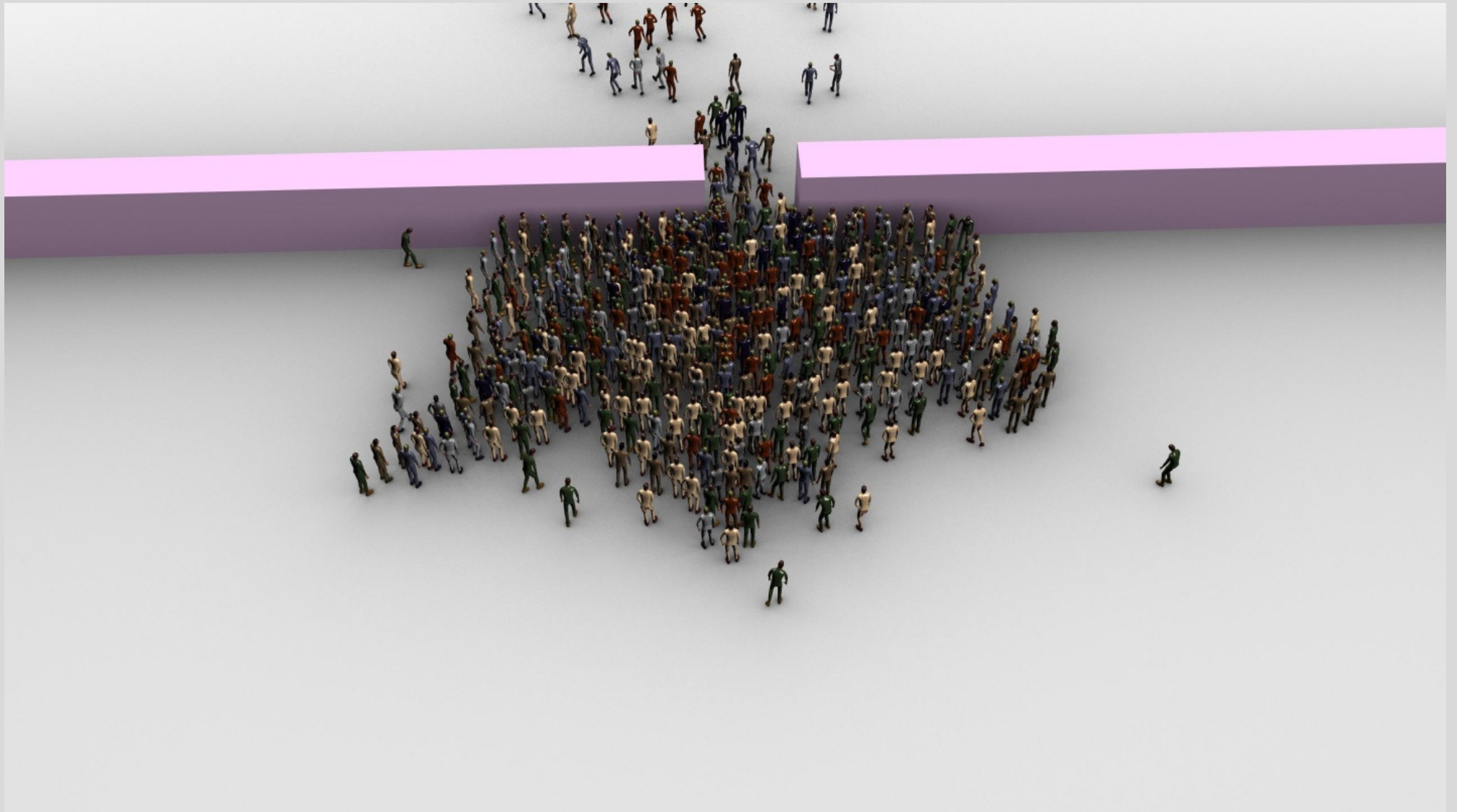
Street crowd, New York City blackout (August 15, 2003)

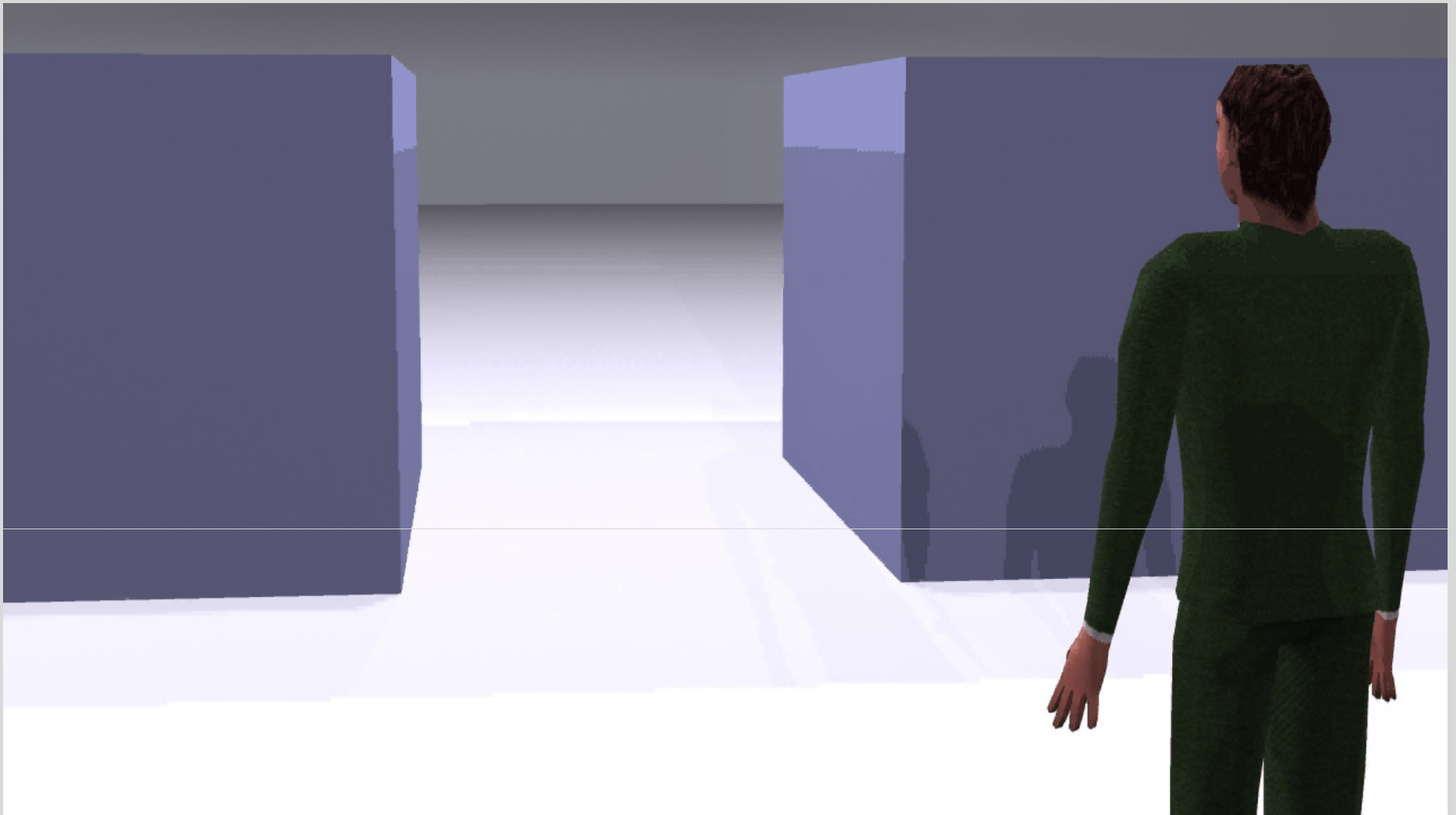
(Photo: John Wehr)



[Uh-oh](#)

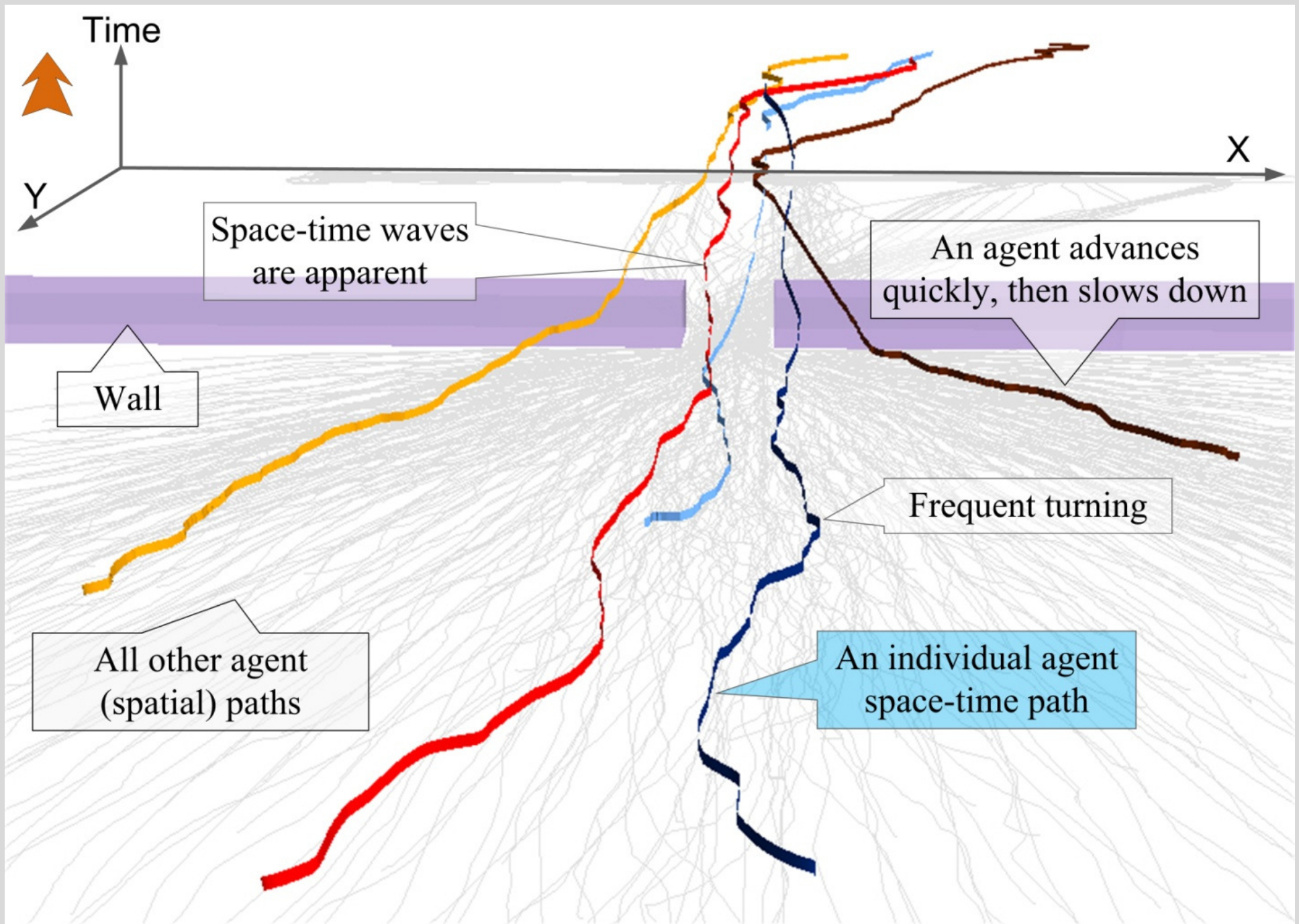
Simulating emergency egress

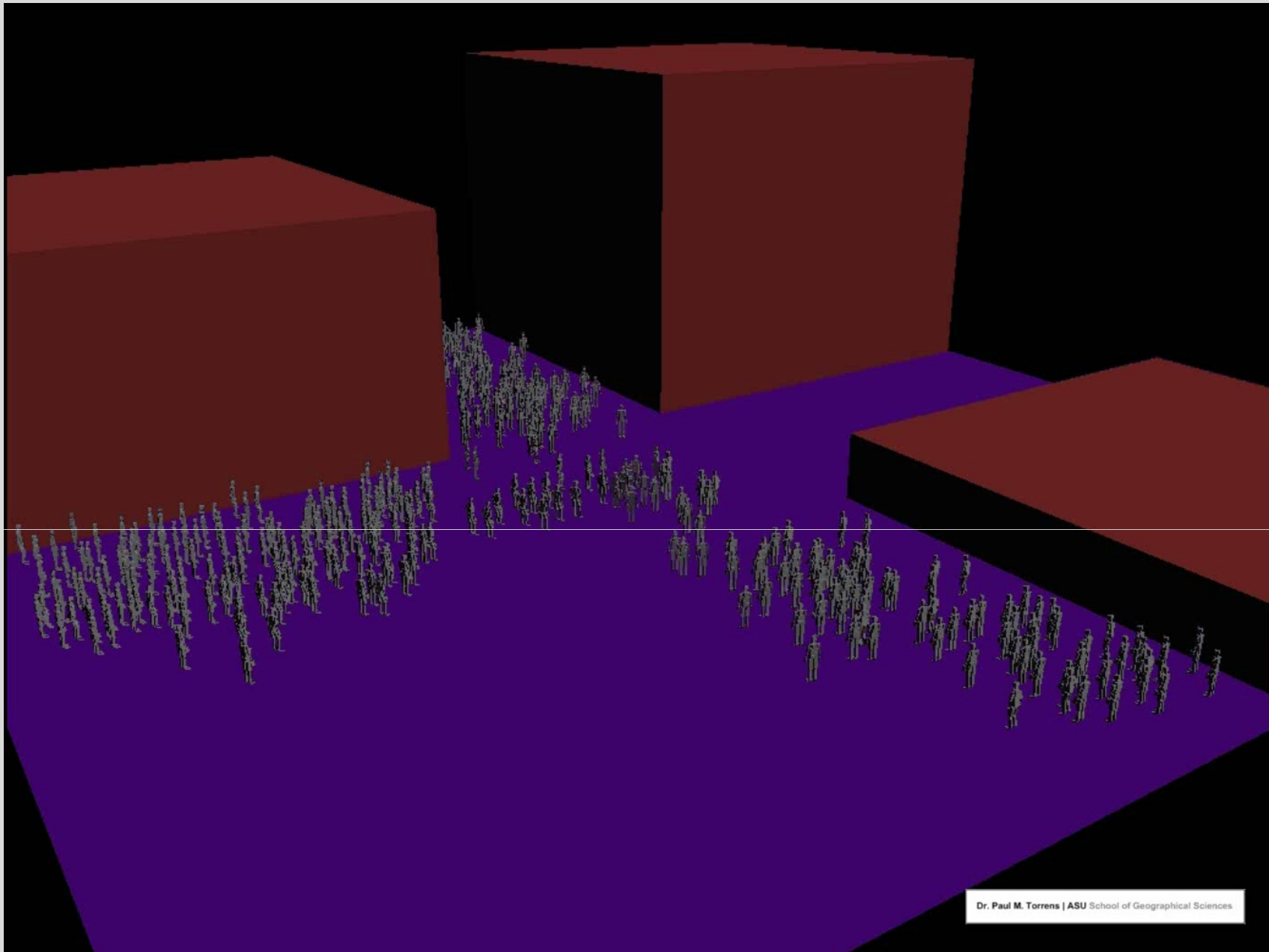




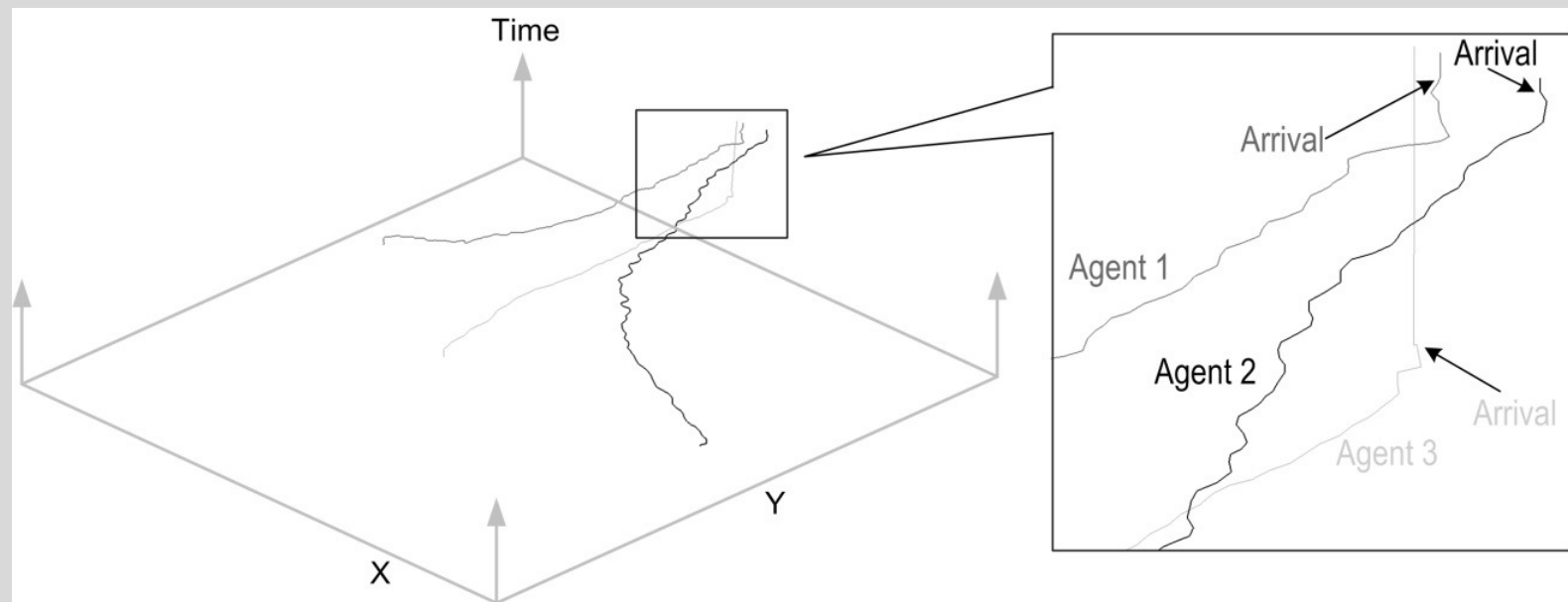
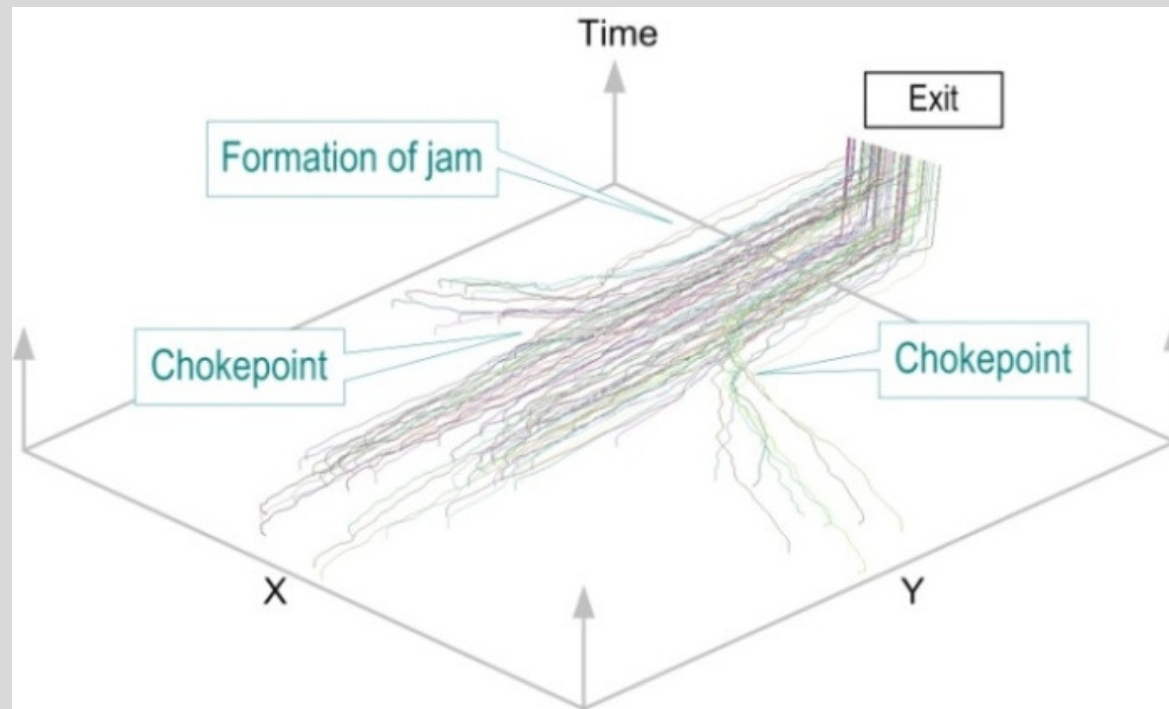
Limited degrees of freedom in mobility;

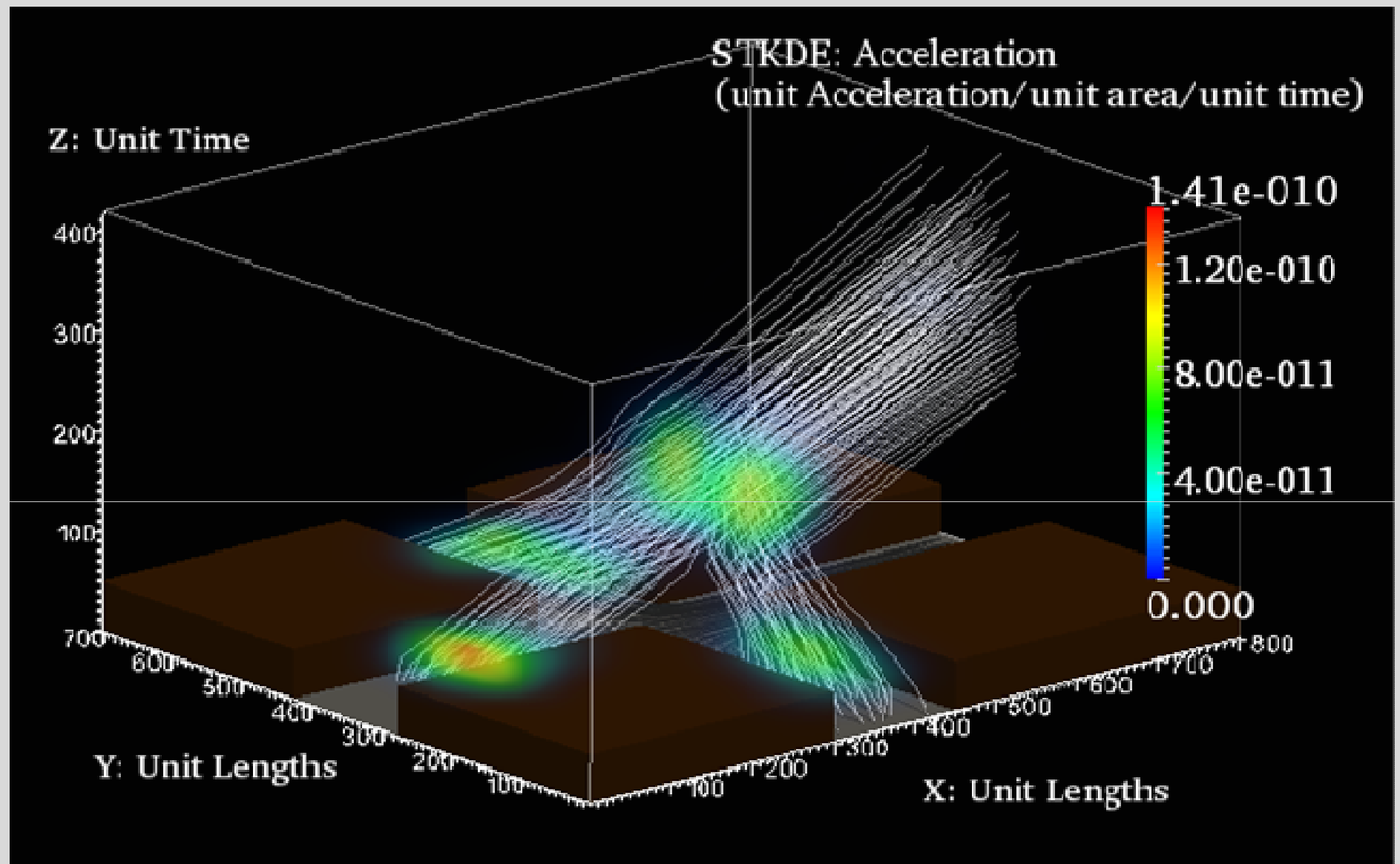
Limited geographic information due to crowding



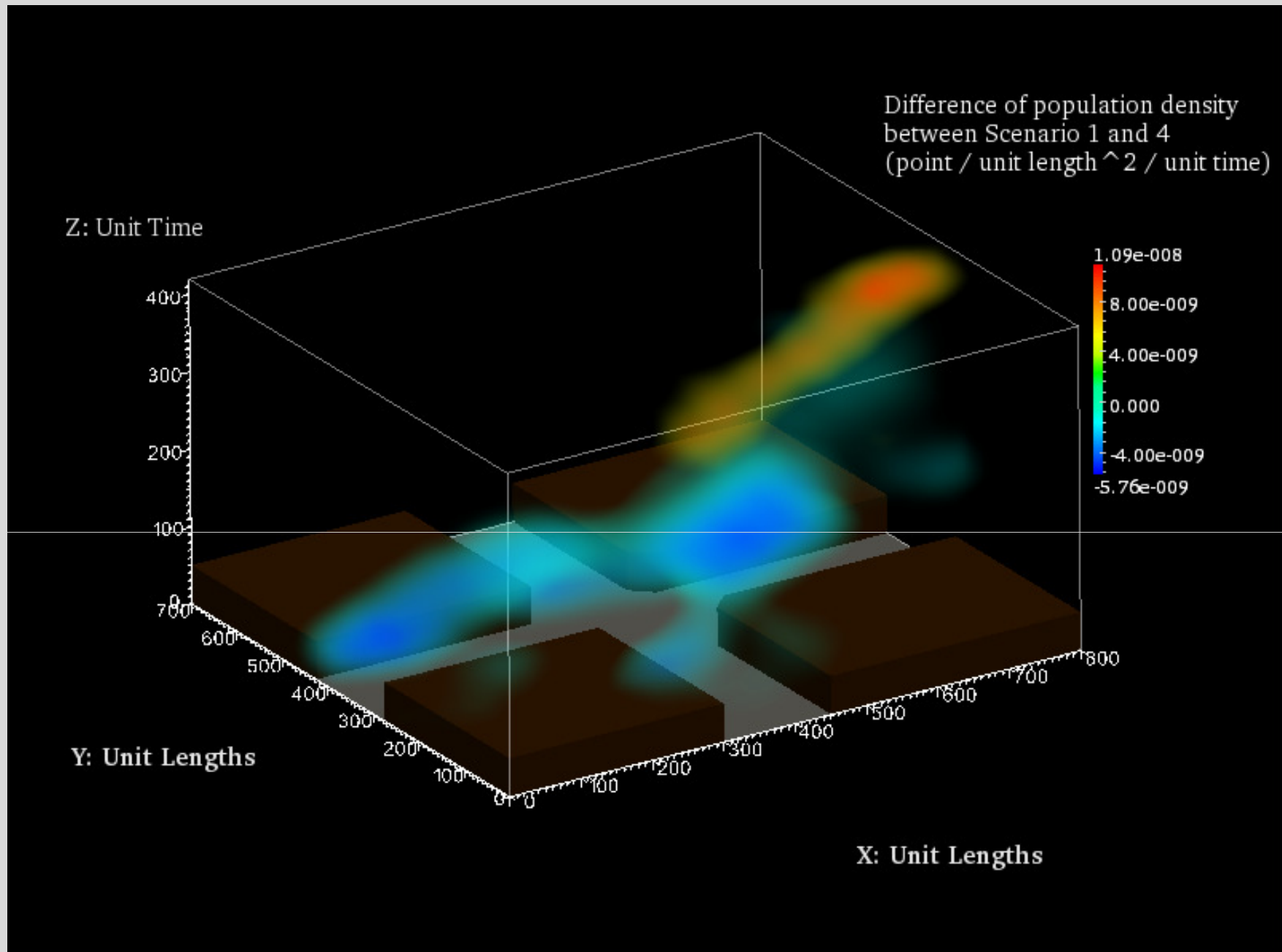


[Uh-oh](#)





(Work with Atsushi Nara)

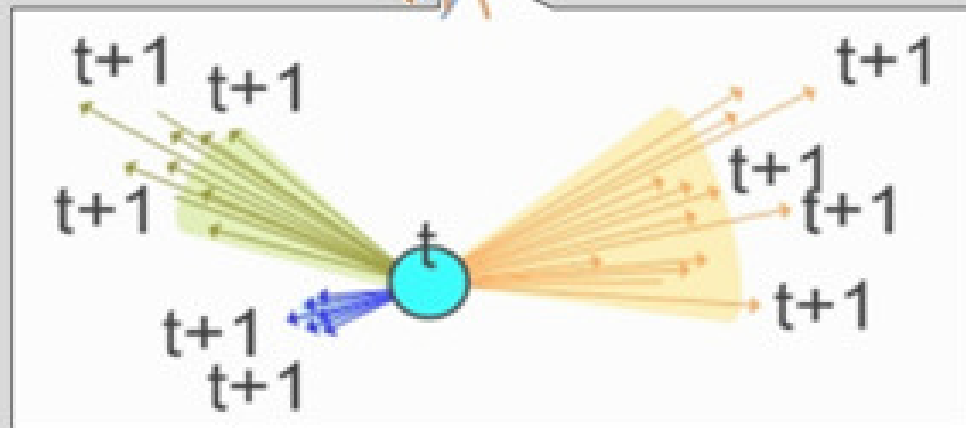
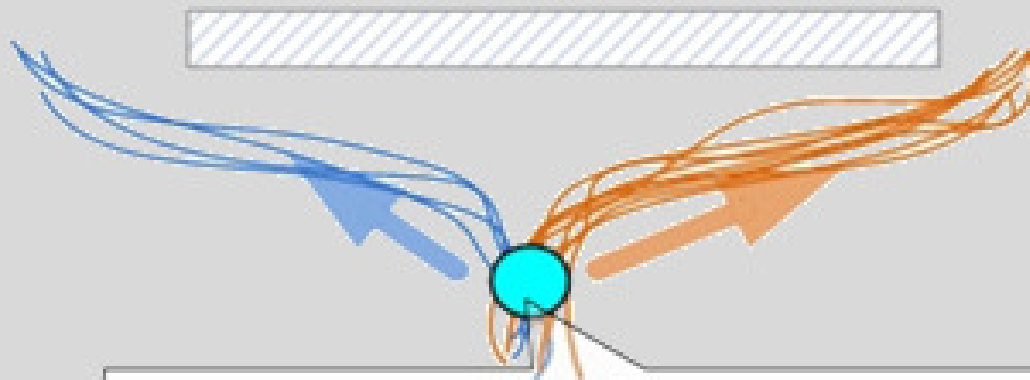


(Work with Atsushi Nara)

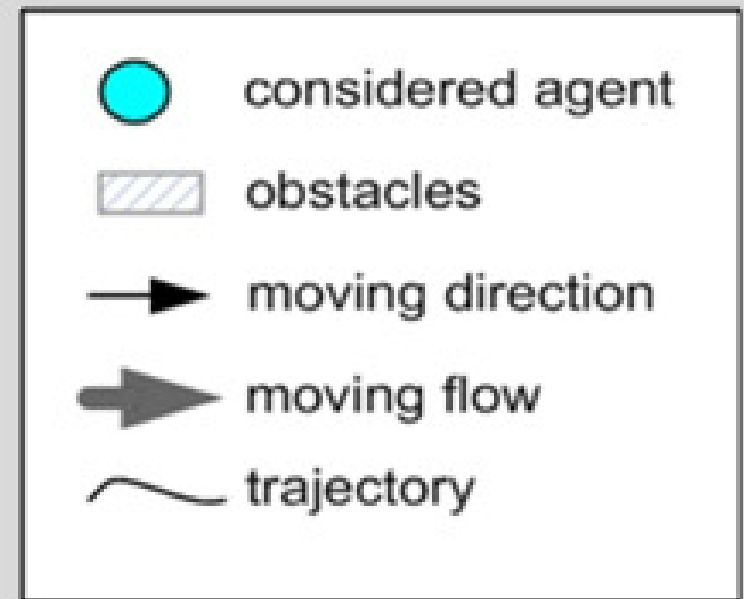
Can we automate construction of
synthetic behavioral geography in
simulation?

Machine-learning behavior

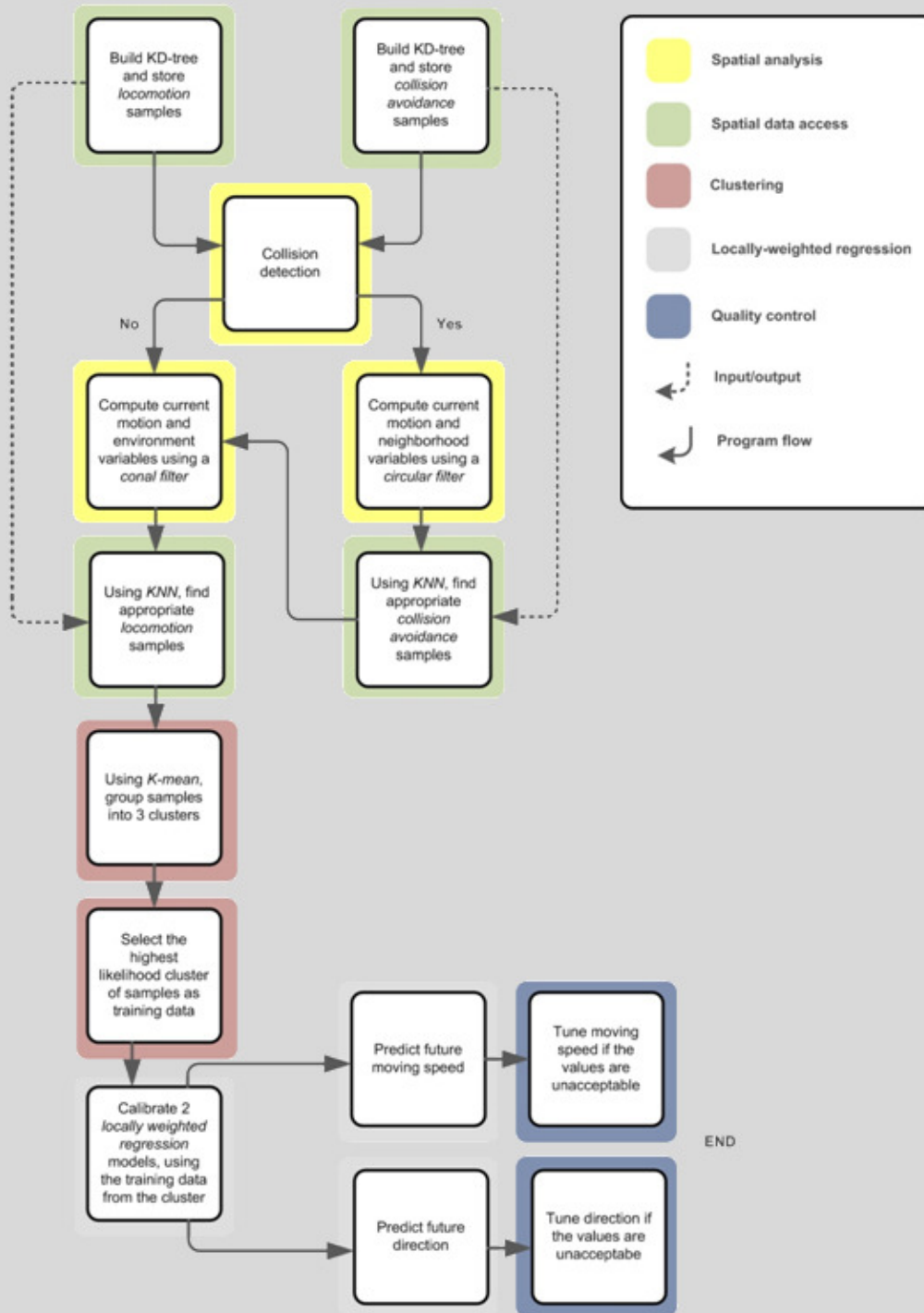
Possible paths to avoid a wall

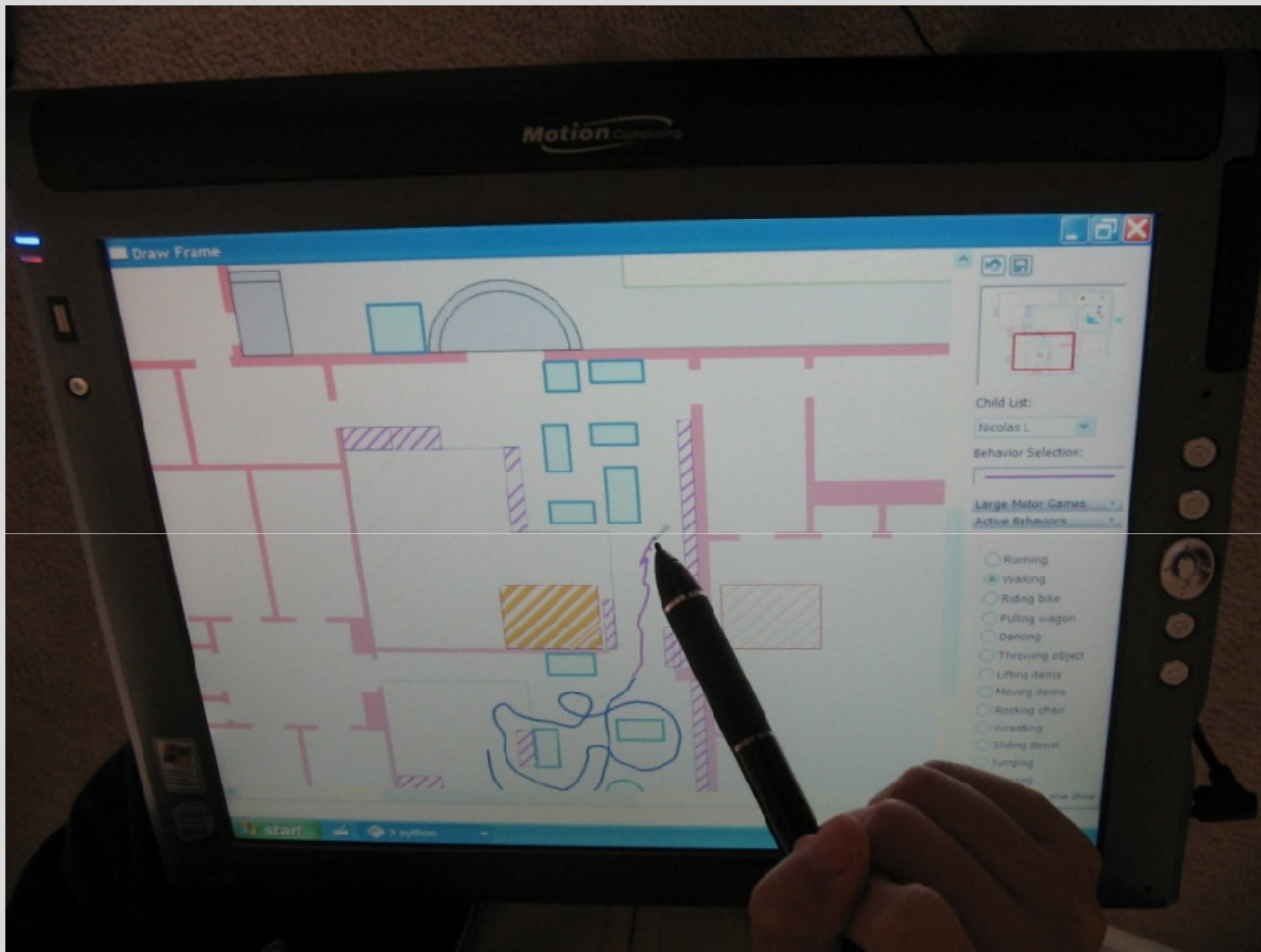


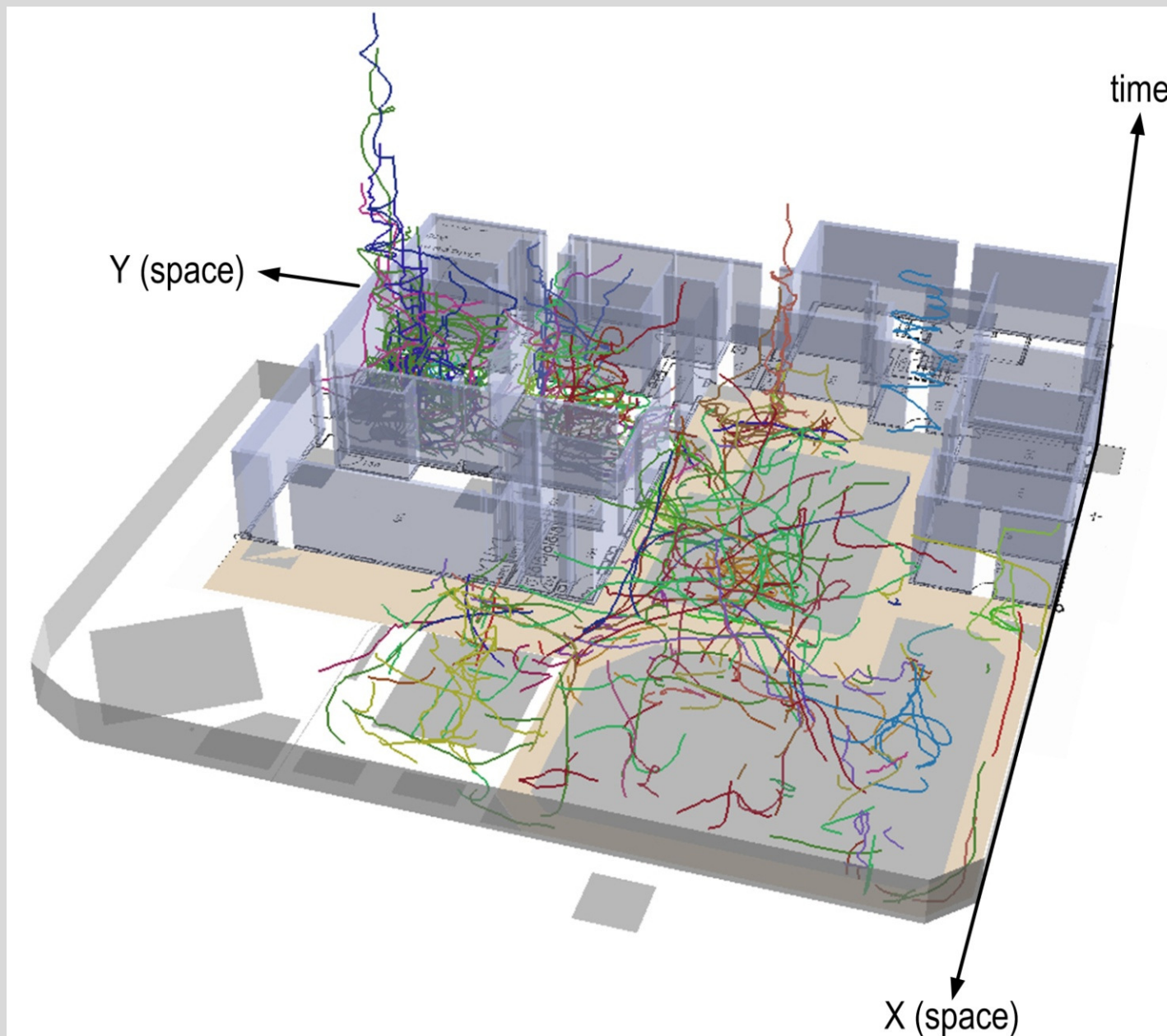
The three clusters of trajectory samples for that point in space and time



FOR EACH AGENT AT EACH TIME-STEP— START

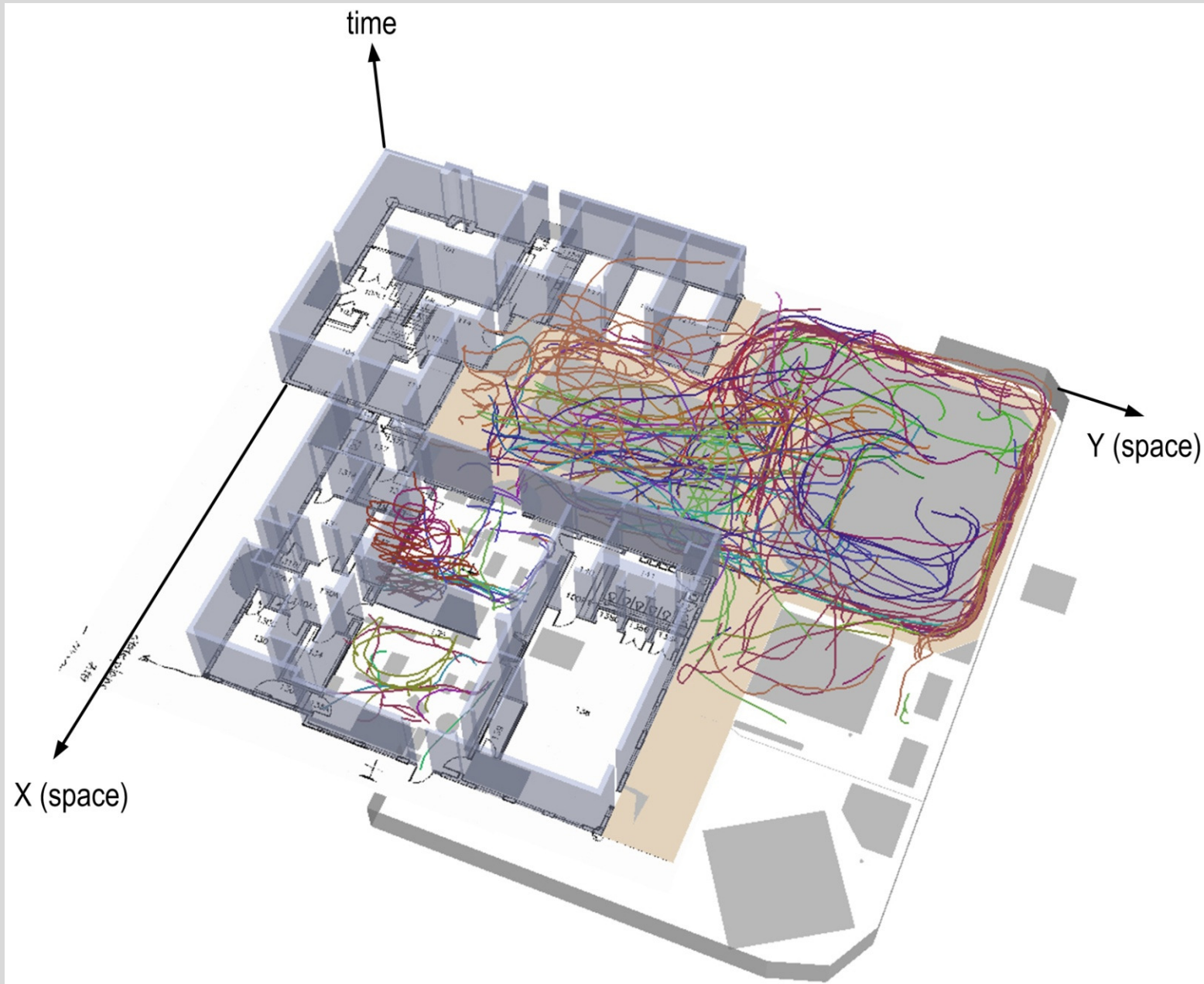






Observed behaviors

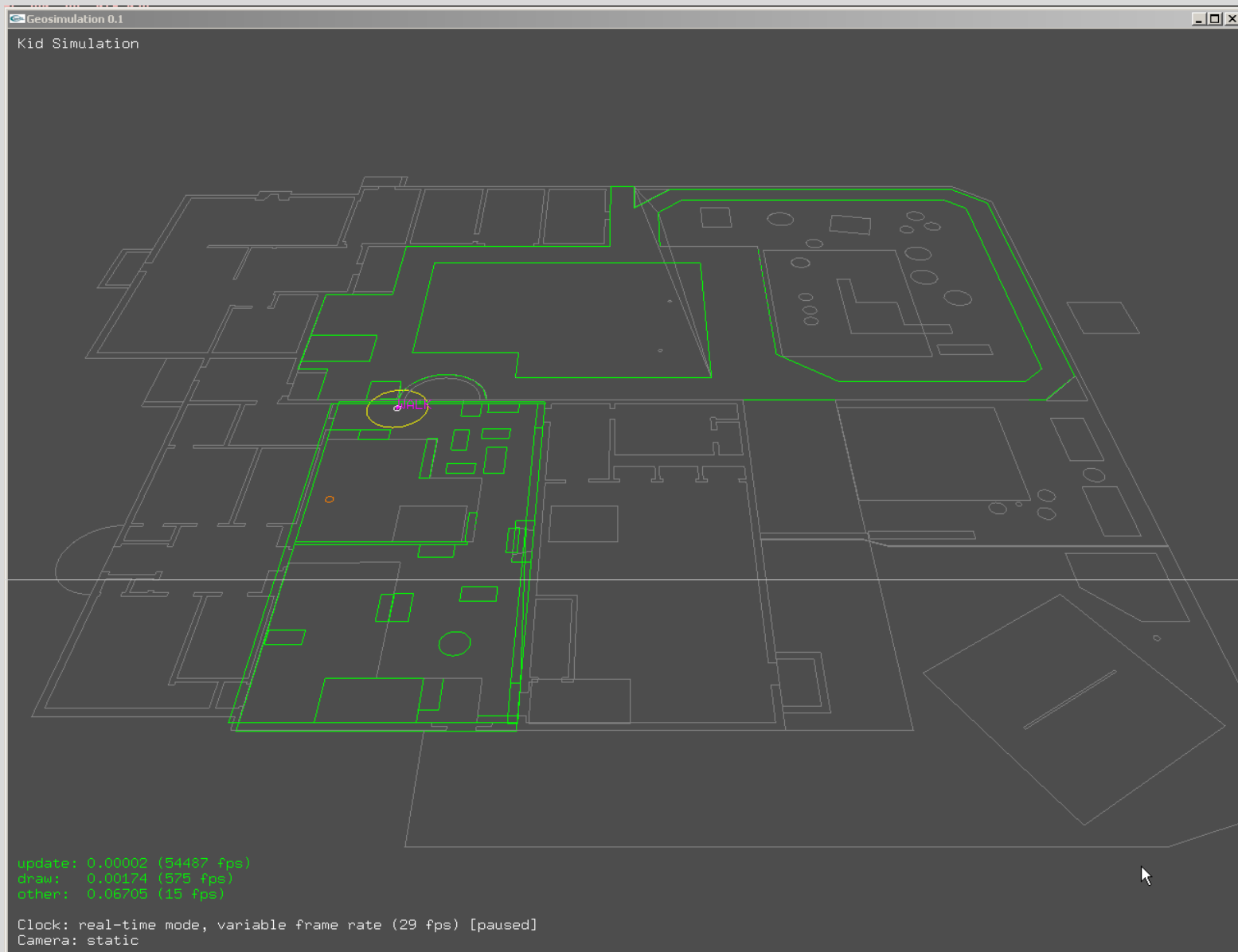
Walking



Observed behaviors

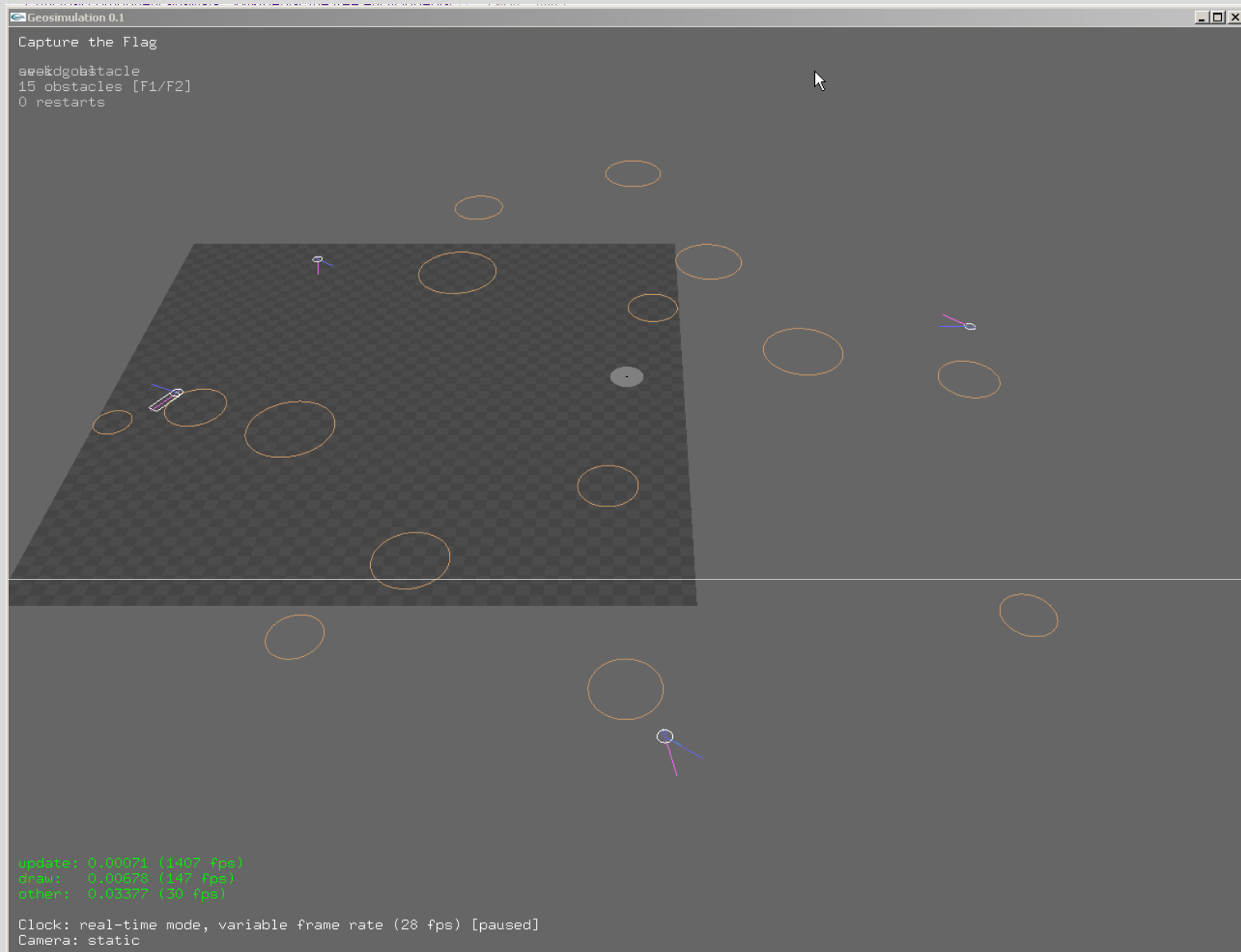
Running





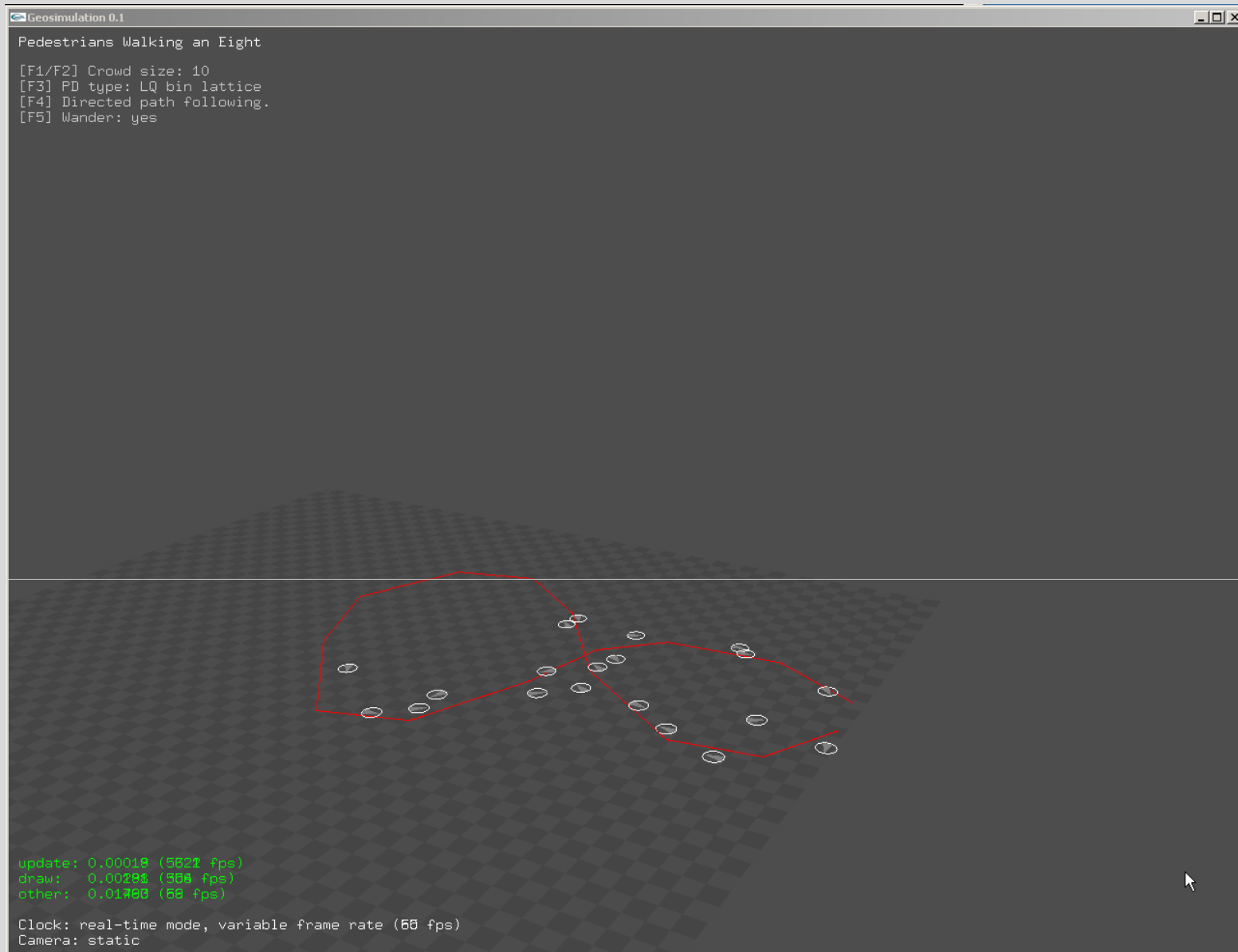
[Model](#) / [link](#)

Learning to walk with real trajectory data (Work with Xun Li)

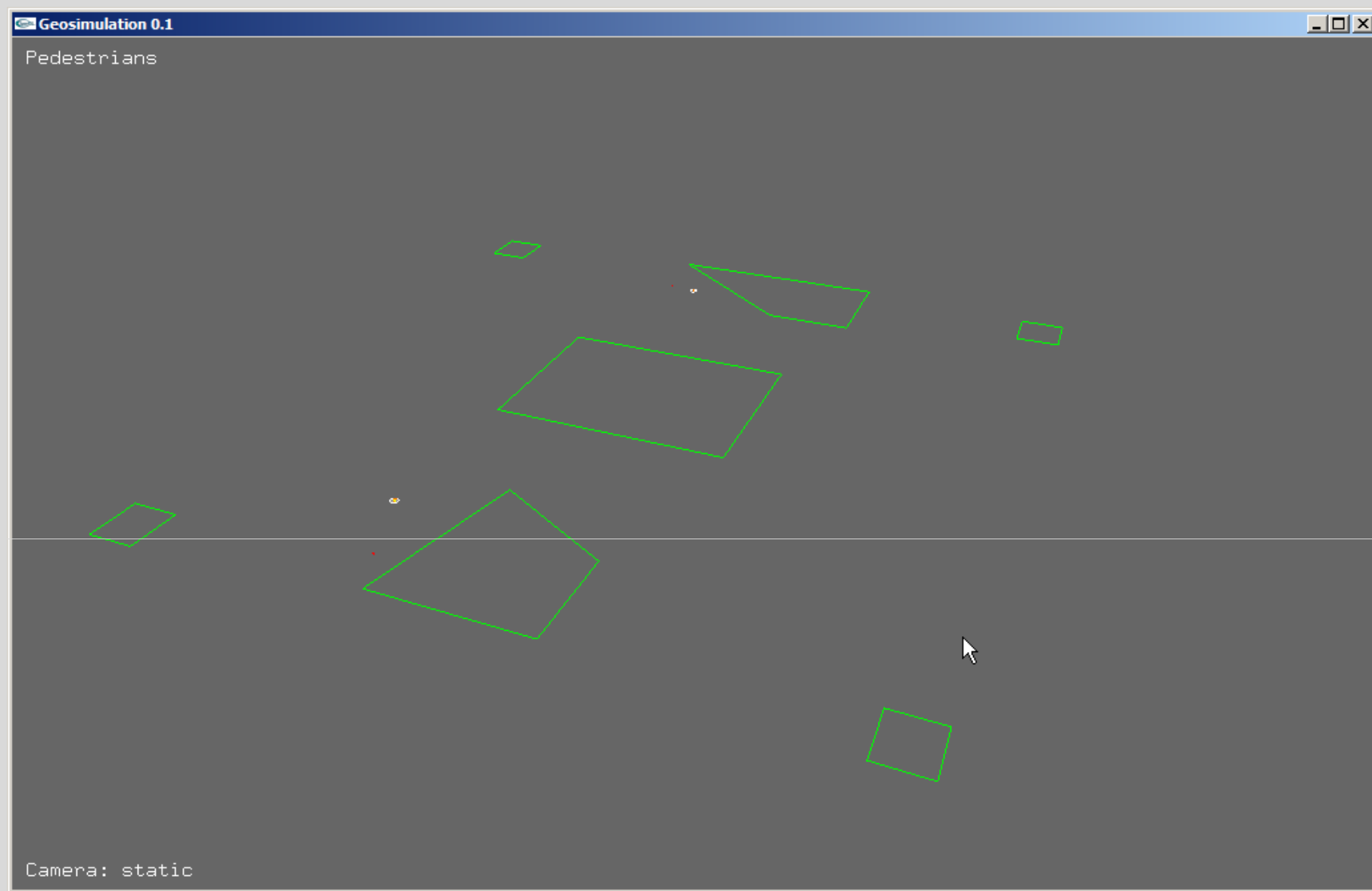


[Uh-oh](#)

Learning to walk with simulated data: obstacle avoidance (Work with Xun Li)



Learning to walk with simulated data: people avoidance (Work with Xun Li)



[Model](#)

Learning to walk with a combined data library

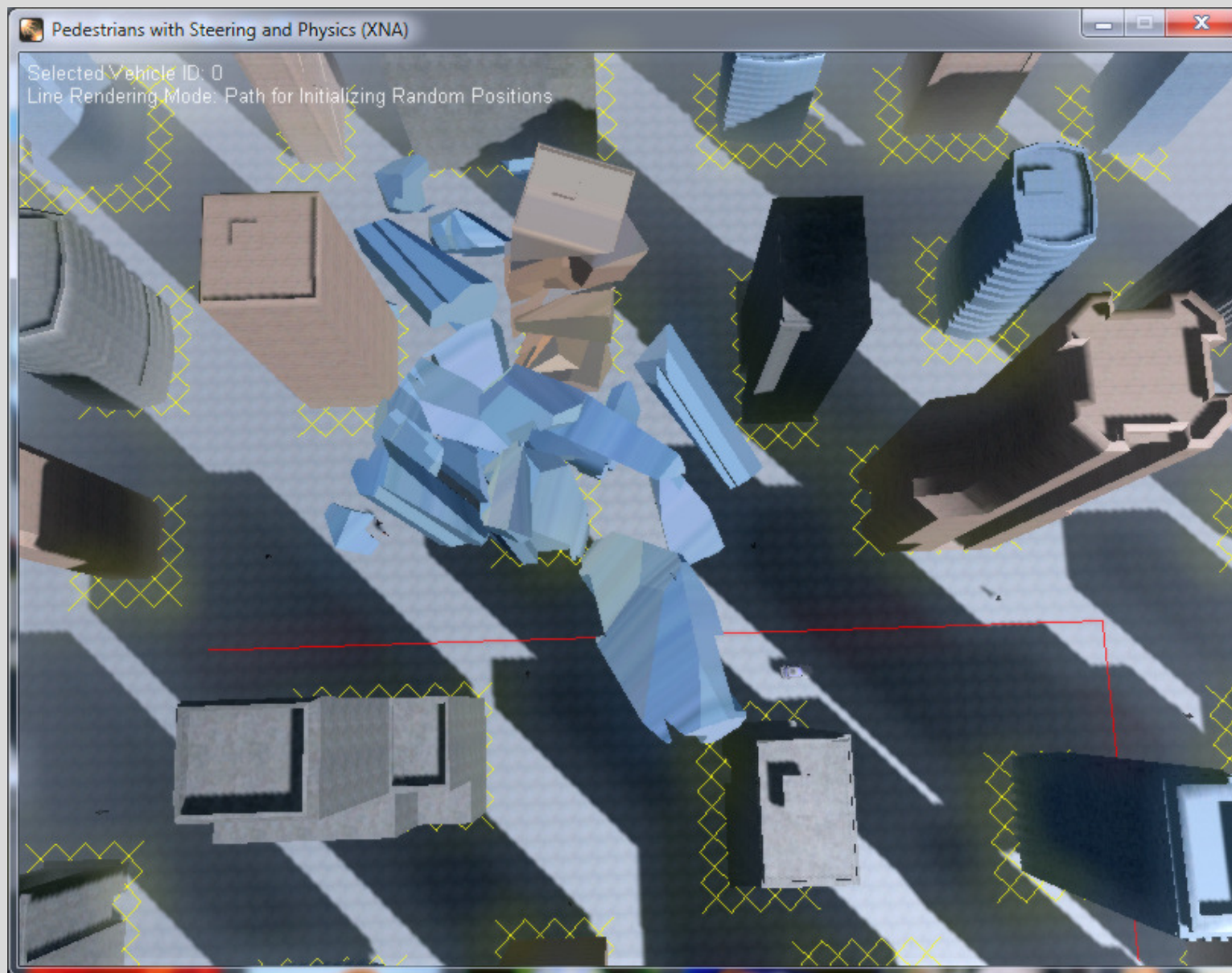
(Work with Xun Li)

Next steps

STEM learning on the Xbox



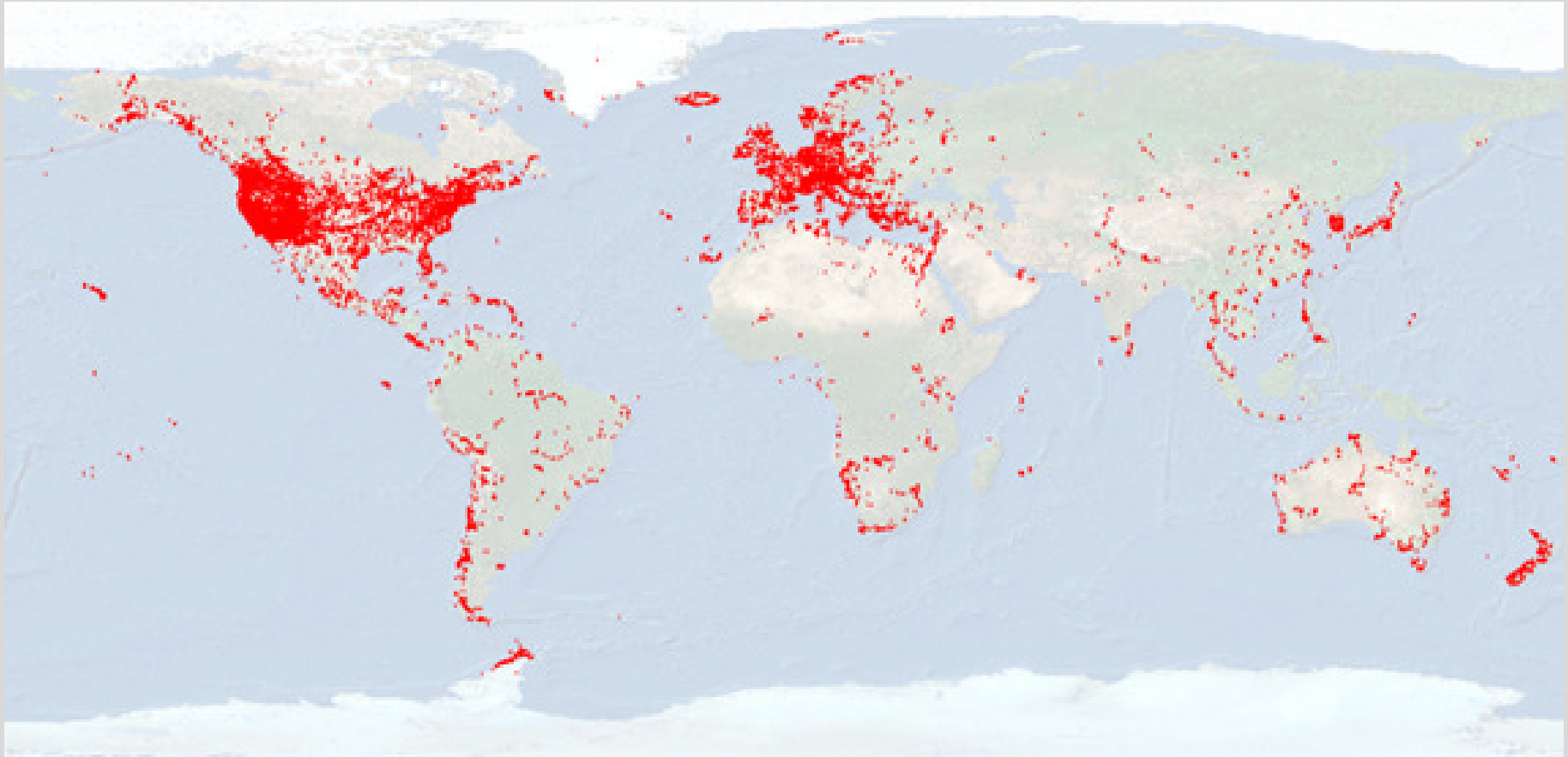
(Work with Haojie Zhu)



[model](#)

(Work with Haojie Zhu, Joshua Epstein, Tak Igusa)

Machine-learning behavioral geography from Online silos of trajectory data



Distribution of photographs on *panoramio.com* ($n=20$ million)

(Work with Xun Li)

Extract geo-data

Crawl
Website

Geotagged
photos

Quality
control

Process images

Calculate SIFT
features

Compare SIFT
features

Remove
redundancy

Build clusters

OPTICS
density

k-d tree

Calculate
reachability

Build travel routes

Chronological
connection

Build graph

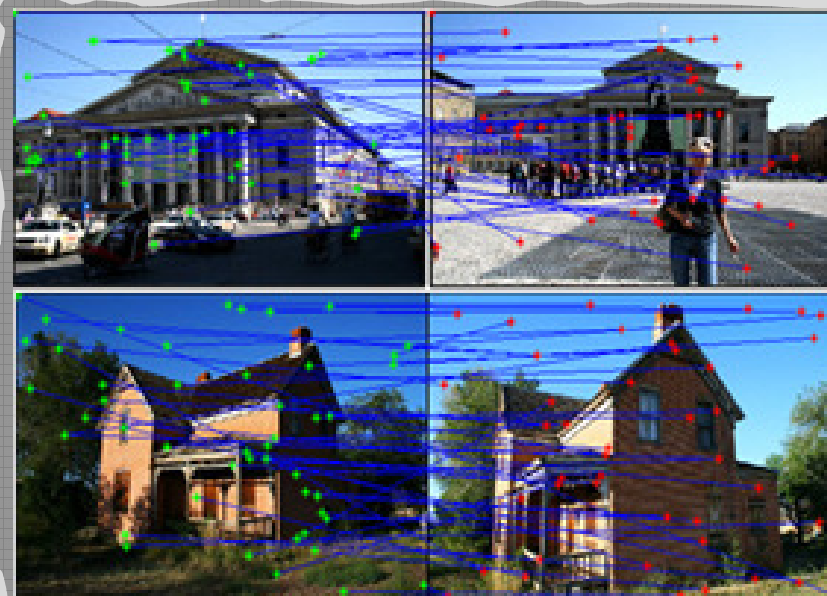
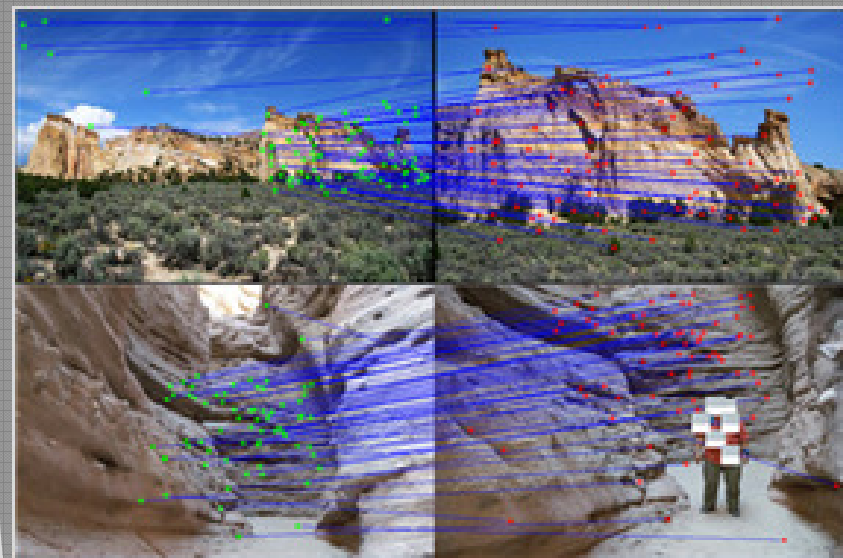
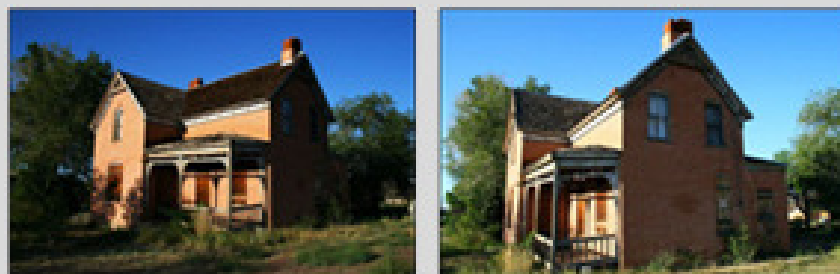
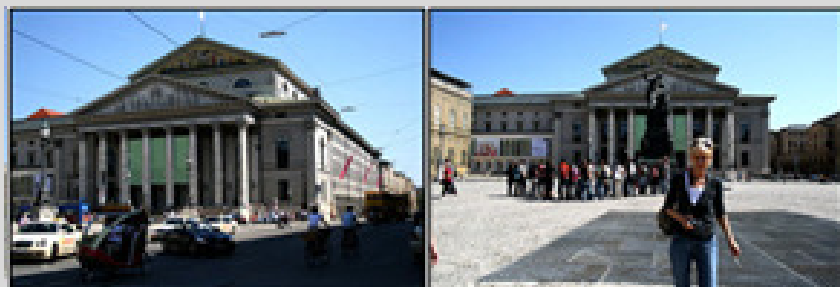
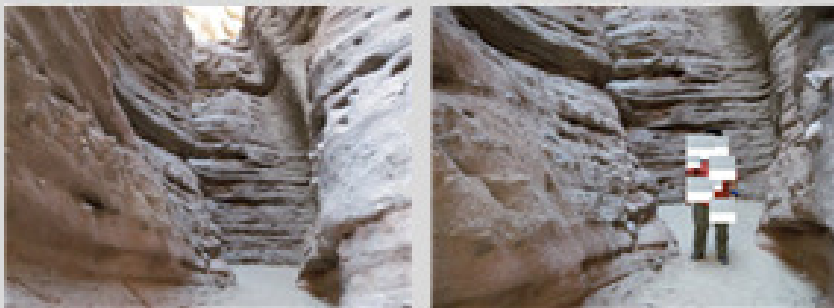
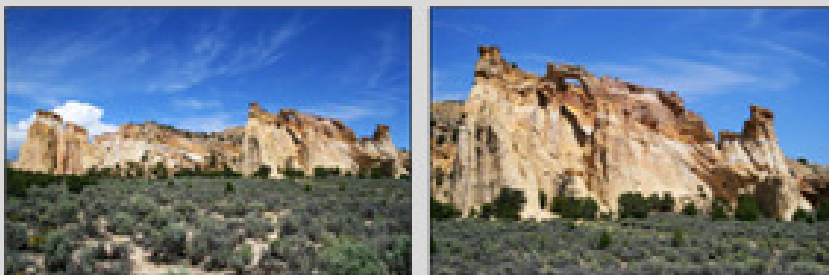
Association
analysis

Visualize results

Alpha-shape
algorithm

Convex or
concave ROIs

Flow-map
routes

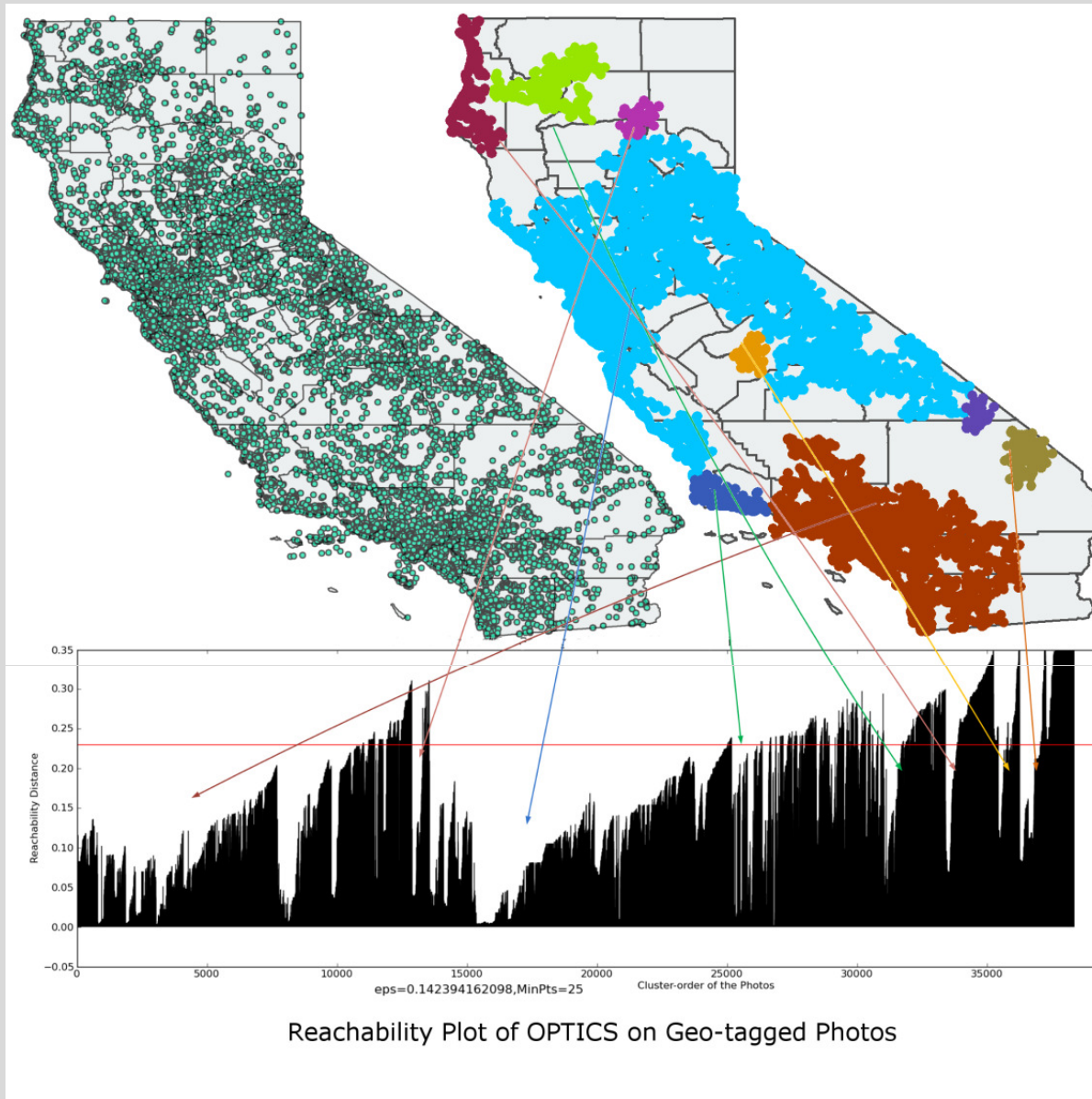


Scale-invariant feature transform (SIFT) to remove redundant images

(Work with Xun Li)

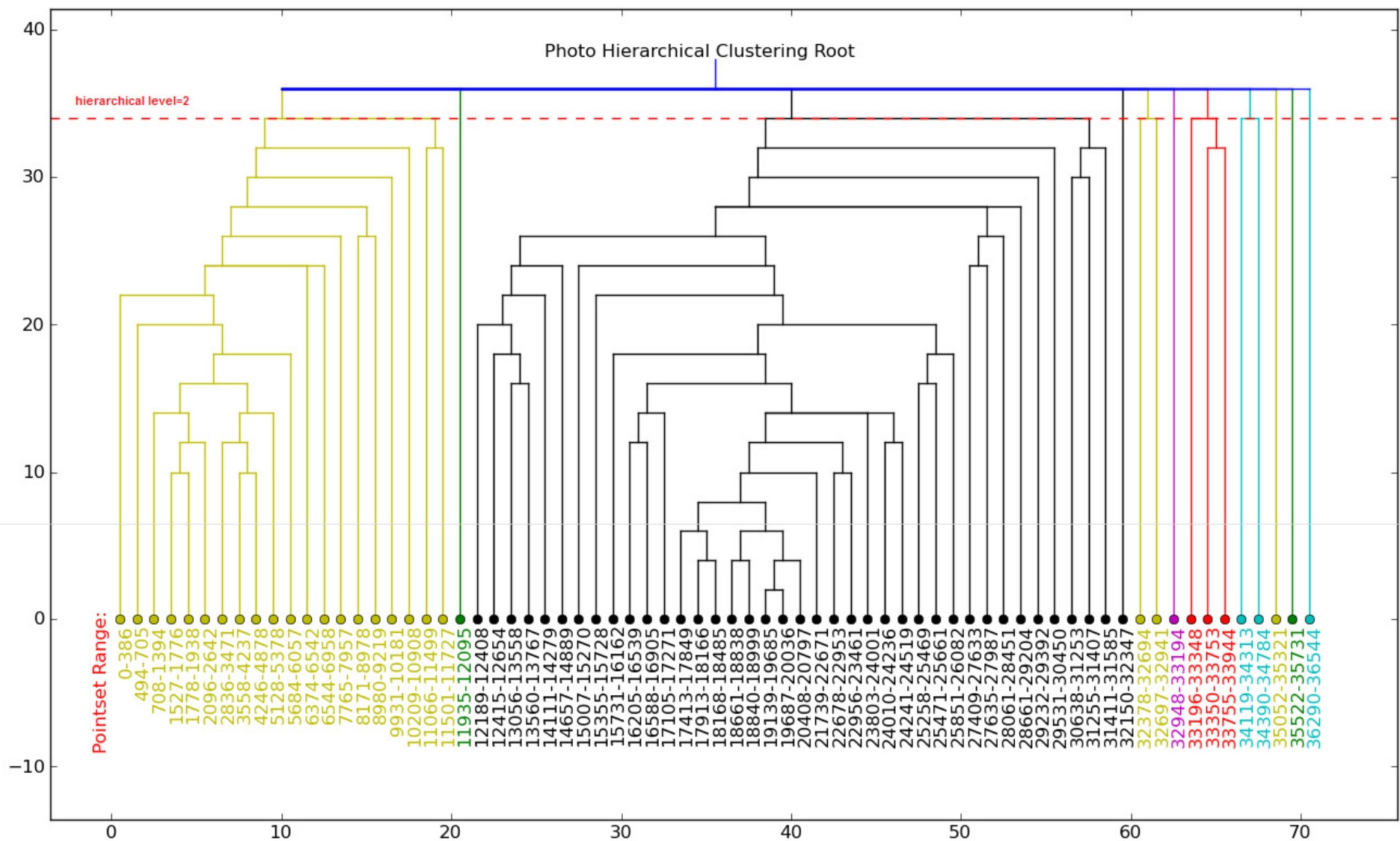
(Work with Xun Li)

158,753 users with trips to CA
44,764 photographs in CA
Removed 672 duplicates
44,092 photographs remaining



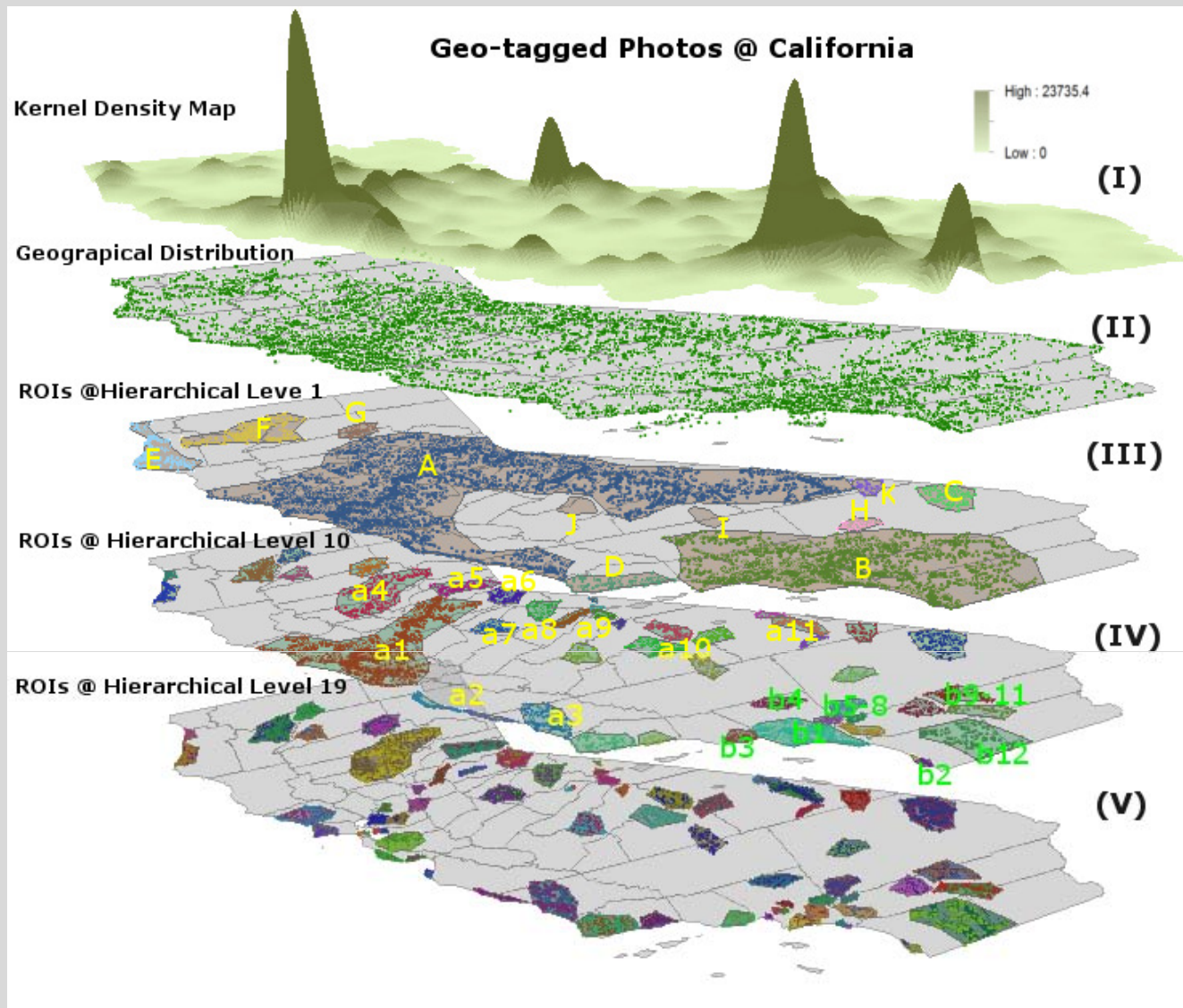
Ordering points to identify the clustering structure (OPTICS)

Upper: LHS photo locations; RHS colored by cluster; Lower: reachability plot



Hierarchical dendrogram (leaves are smallest regions of interest)

(Work with Xun Li)

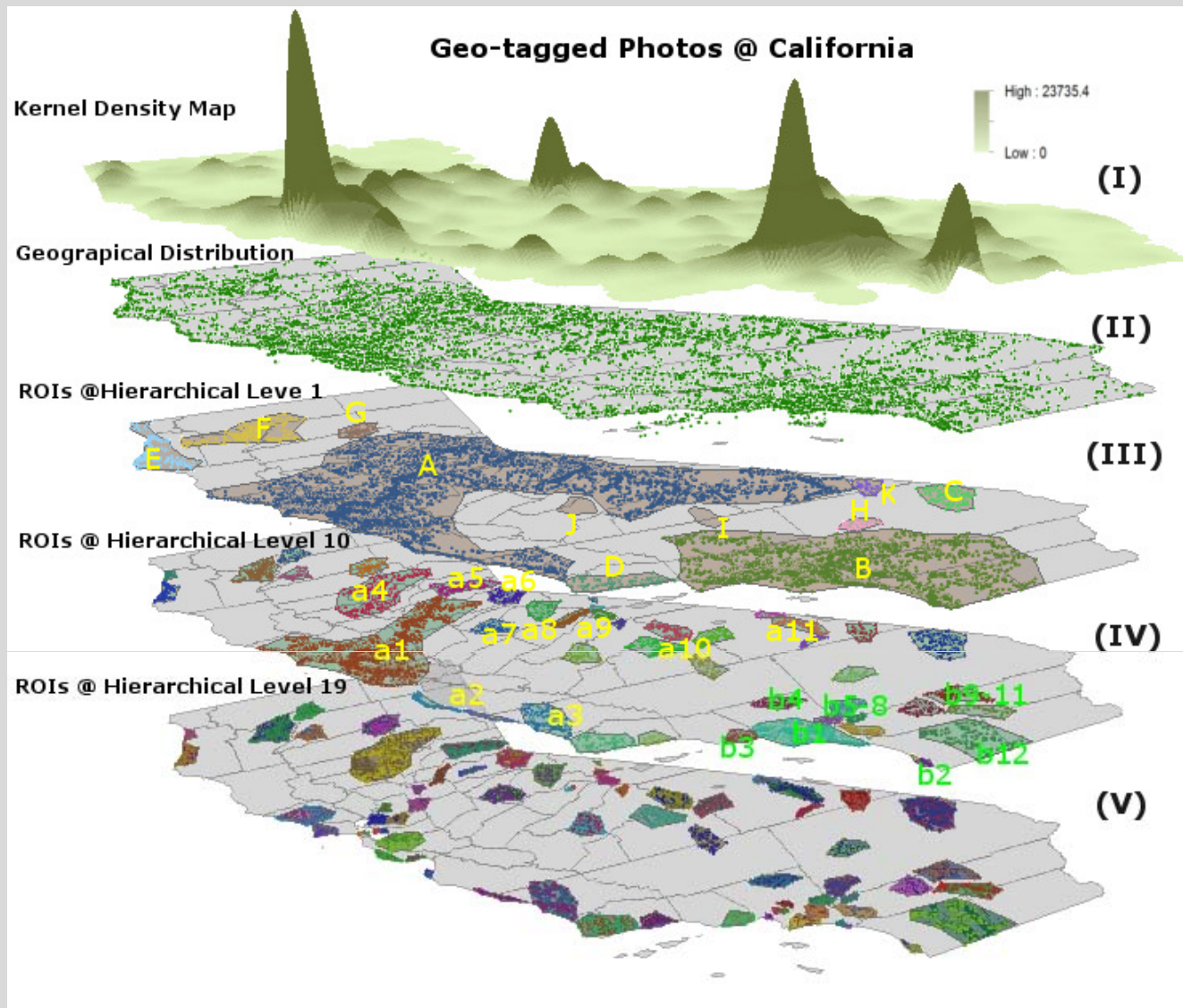


Regions of interest @ hierarchy 1

- A Northern California
- B Southern California
- C Mojave National Preserve
- D Santa Barbara
- E Redwood National Park
- F Trinity National Forest
- G Lassen National Park
- H Calico Ghost Town
- I Sequoia National Forest
- J Fresno
- K Mojave National Park

Learned regions of interest at different scales

(Work with Xun Li)



Regions of interest @ hierarchy 10

A1 San Francisco

A2 Highway 1

A3 San Luis Obispo

A4 Plumas National Forest

A5 Tahoe National Forest

A6 Lake Tahoe

A7 New Meloes Lake

A8 Stanislaus National Forest

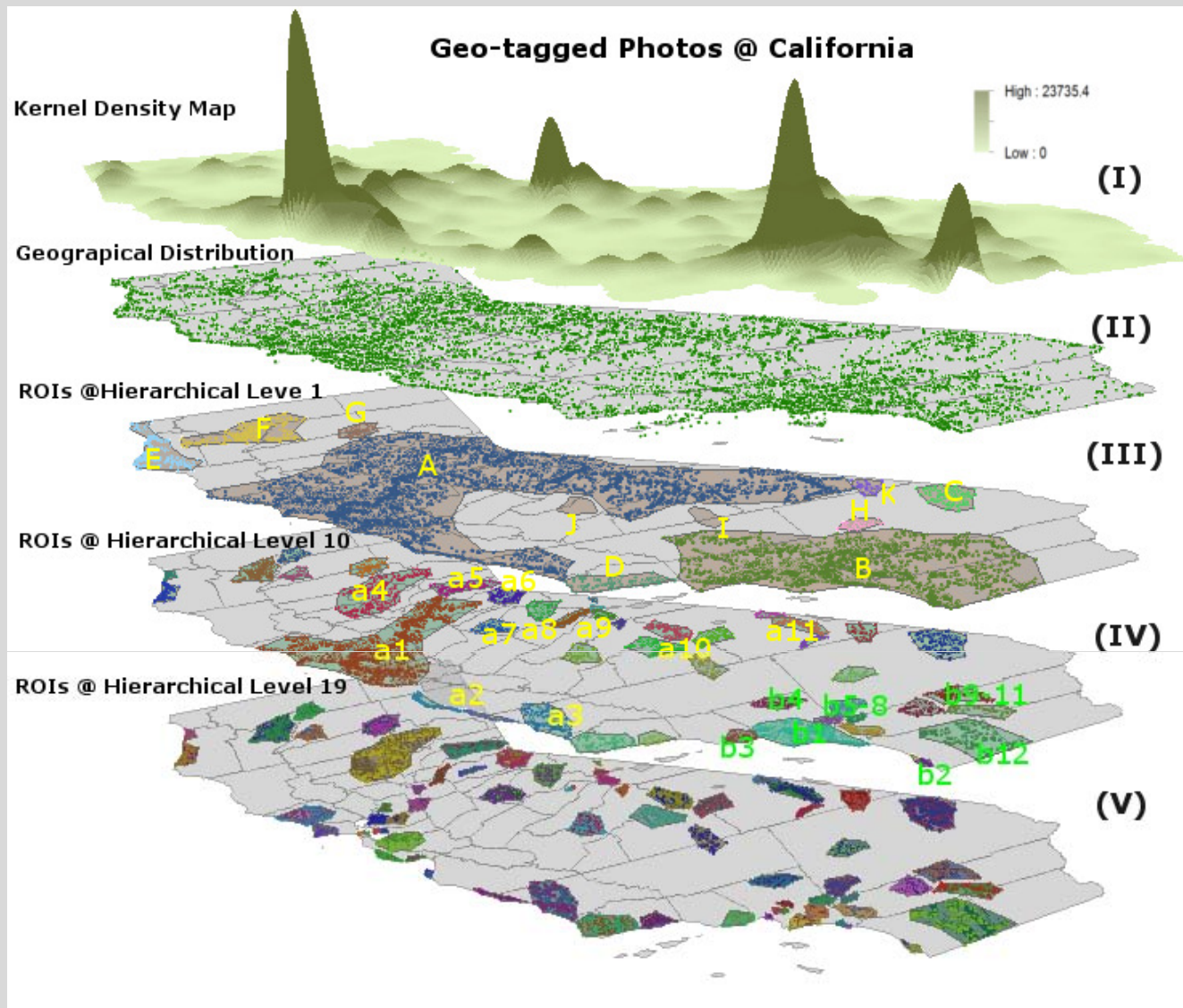
A9 Yosemite National Park

A10 Sequoia National Park

A11 Death Valley National Park

Learned regions of interest at different scales

(Work with Xun Li)

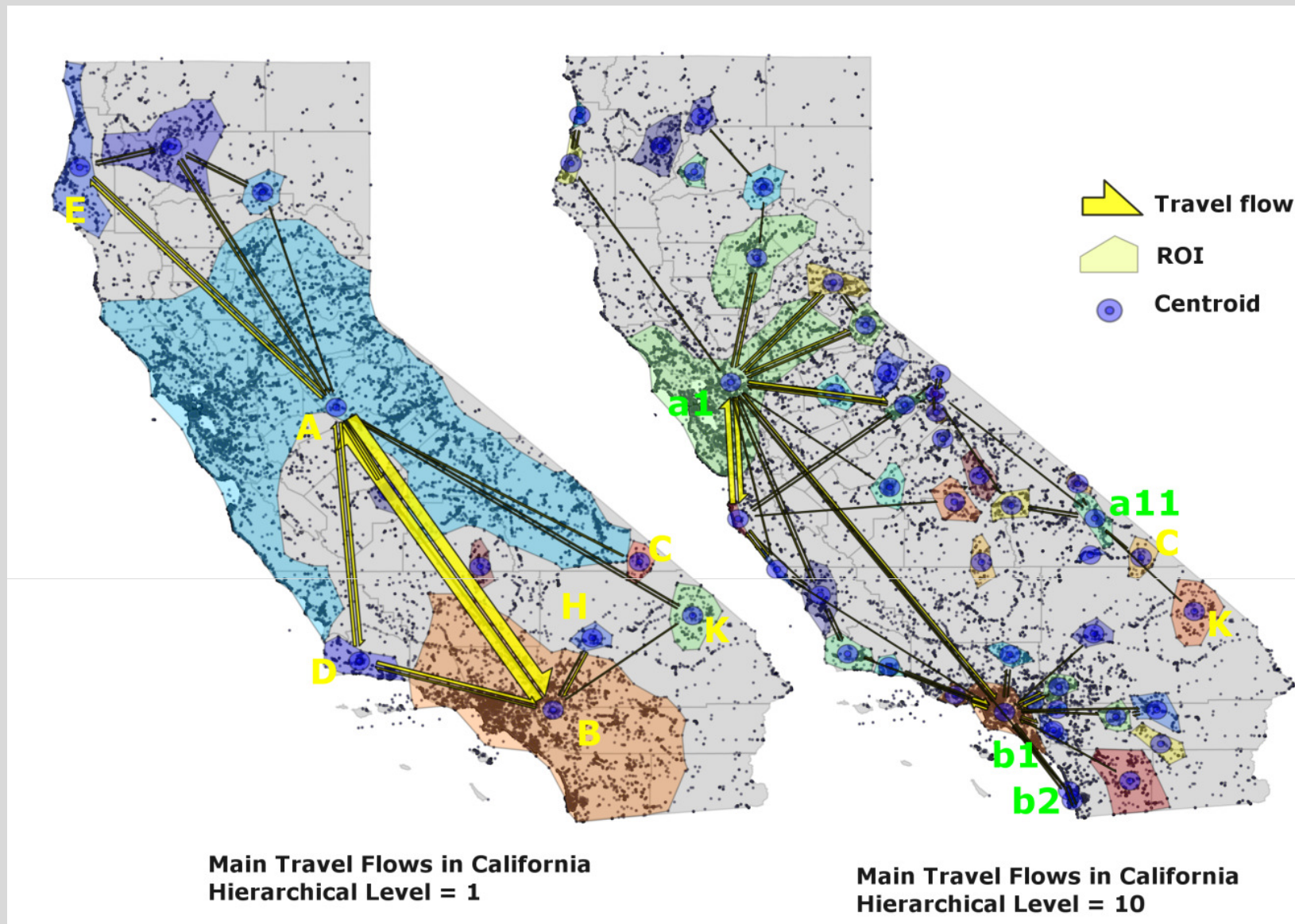


Regions of interest @ hierarchy 10

- B1 Los Angeles
- B2 San Diego
- B3 Malibu
- B4 Palmdale
- B5 Ontario
- B6 San Bernardino National Forest
- B7 Riverside
- B8 Corona
- B9 Palm Desert
- B10 Joshua Tree National Park
- B11 Salton Sea
- B12 Anza-Borrego Desert State Pk.

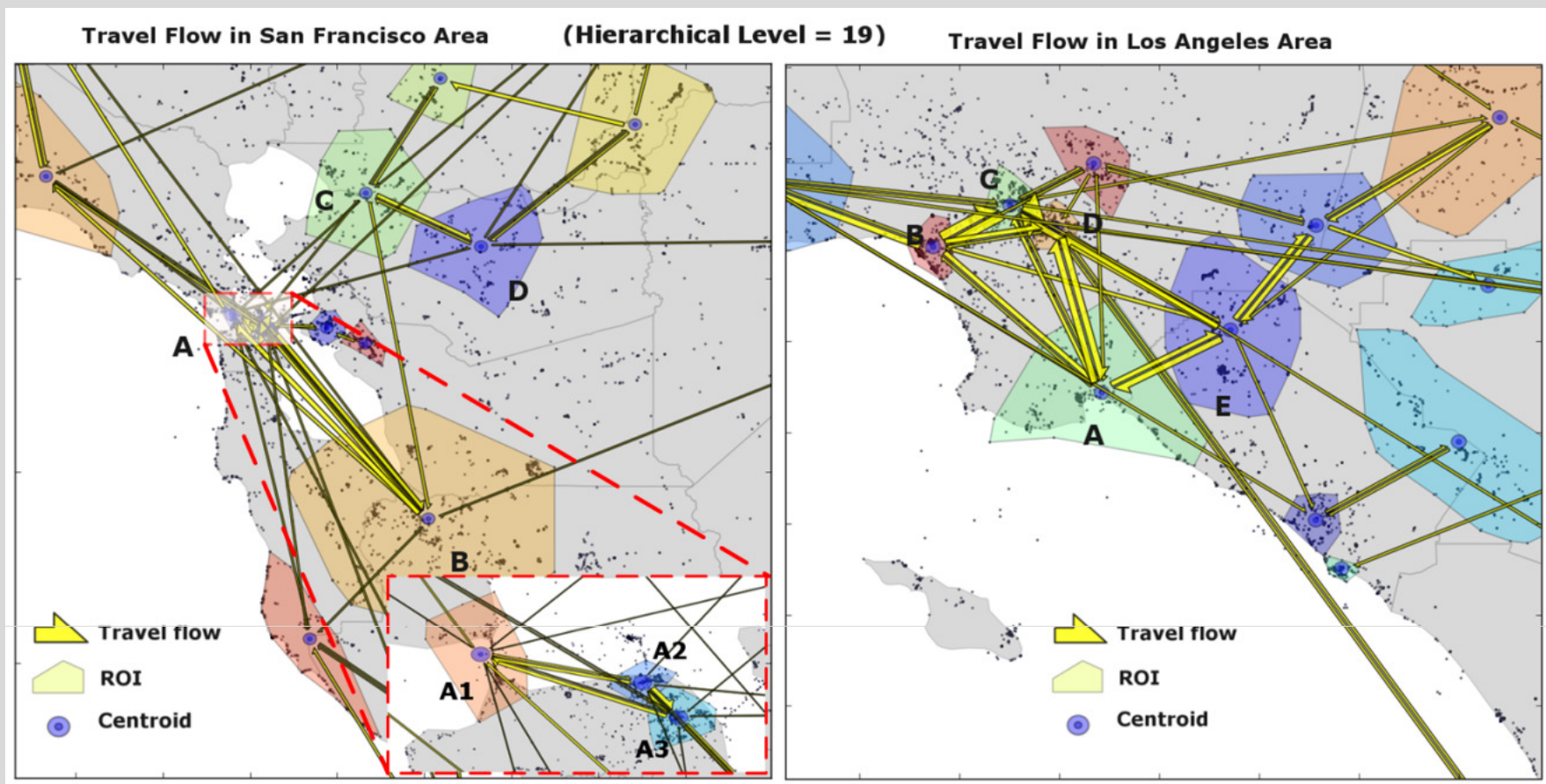
Learned regions of interest at different scales

(Work with Xun Li)



Learned travel flows for California at different scales

(Work with Xun Li; Tobler flow mapping)



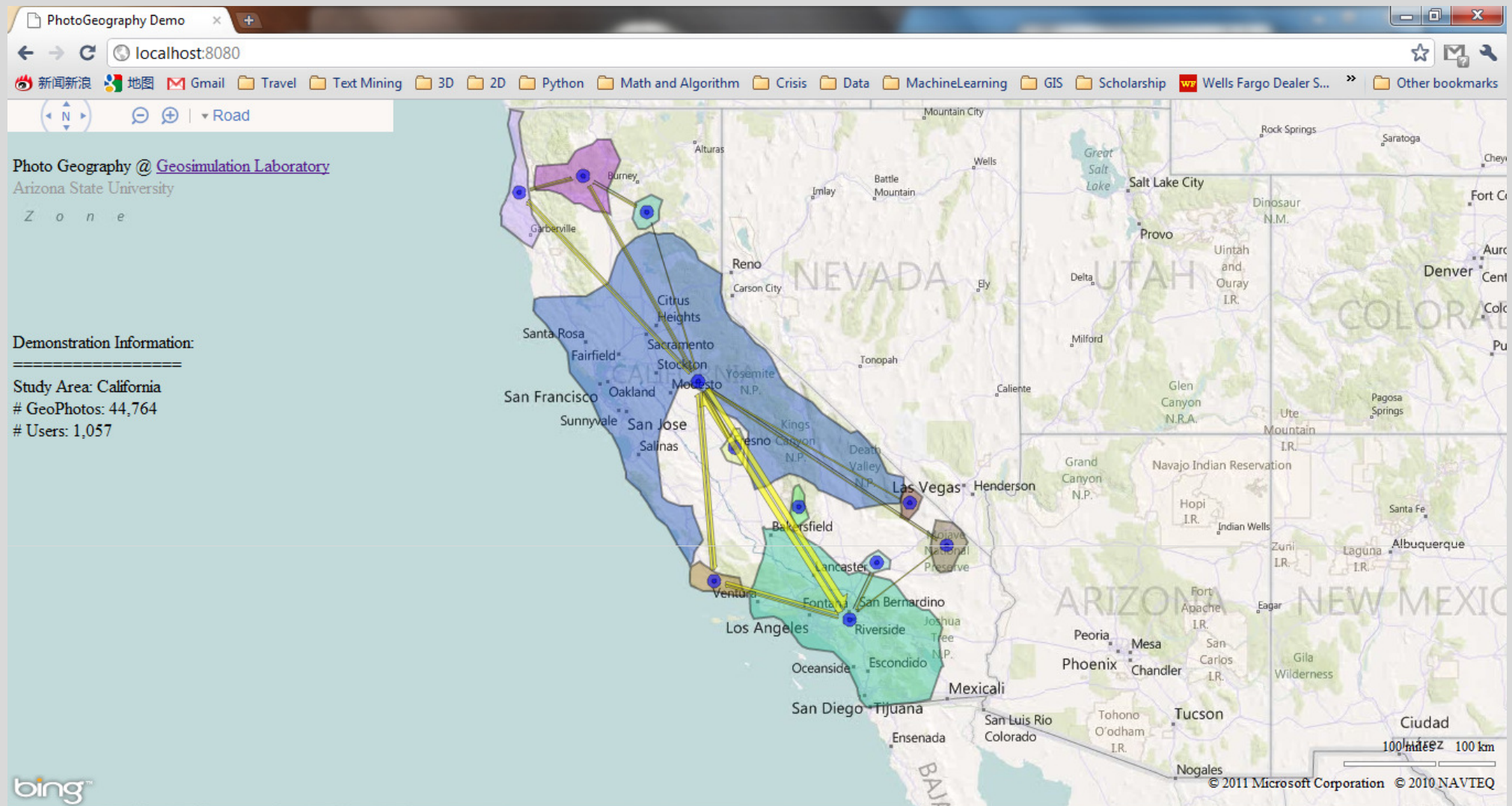
SF: **A1** Golden Gate bridge; **A2** Fisherman's Wharf; **A3** Mission; **B** Palo Alto; **C** Vallejo; **D** Mt. Diablo

LA: **A** Long Beach; **B** Santa Monica; **C** Hollywood; **D** downtown; **E** Anaheim

Learned travel flows for San Francisco and Los Angeles (2 day limit)

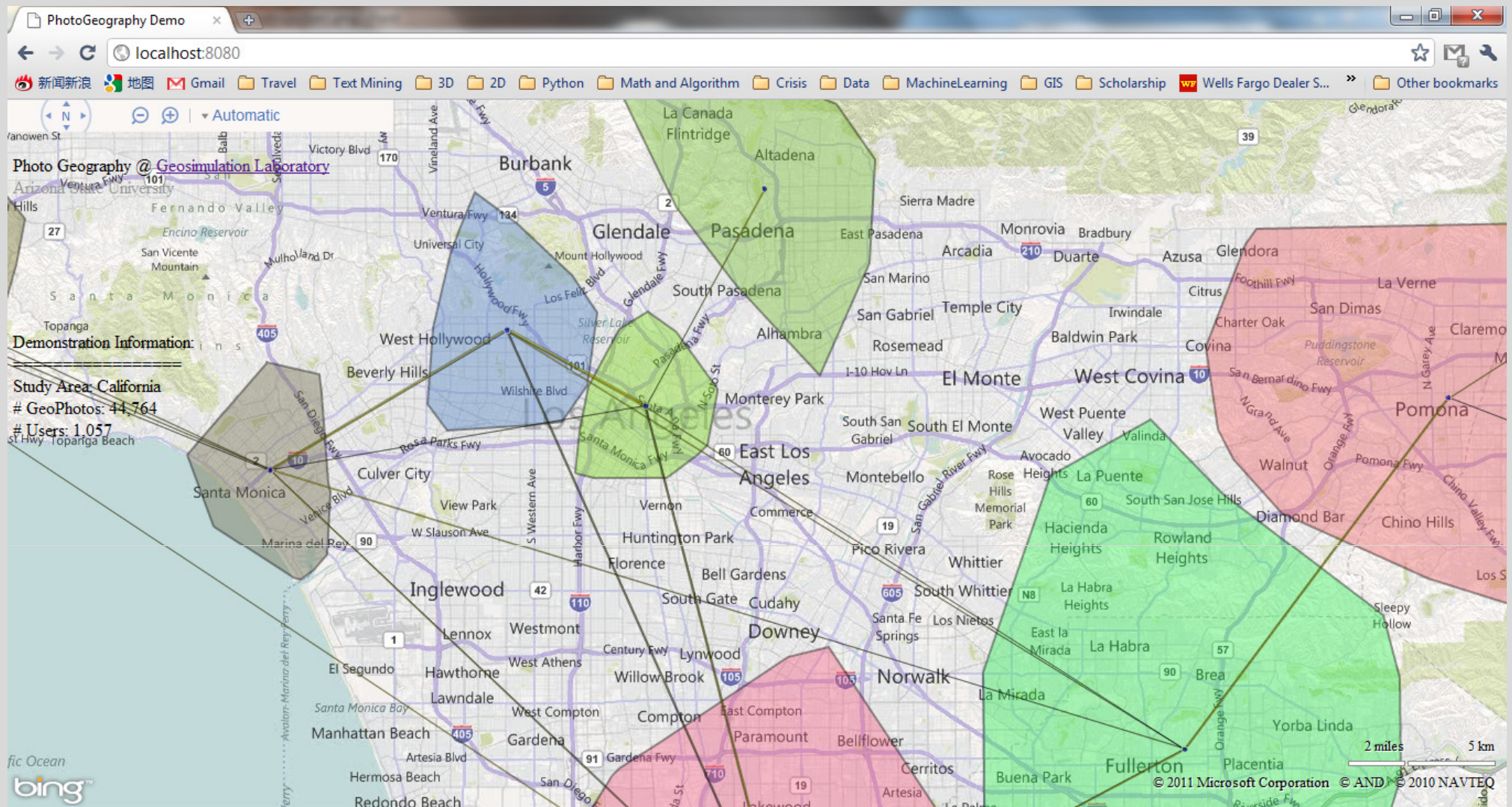
(Work with Xun Li)

Server-side mining and visualization with *Bing Maps* zoom-scaling

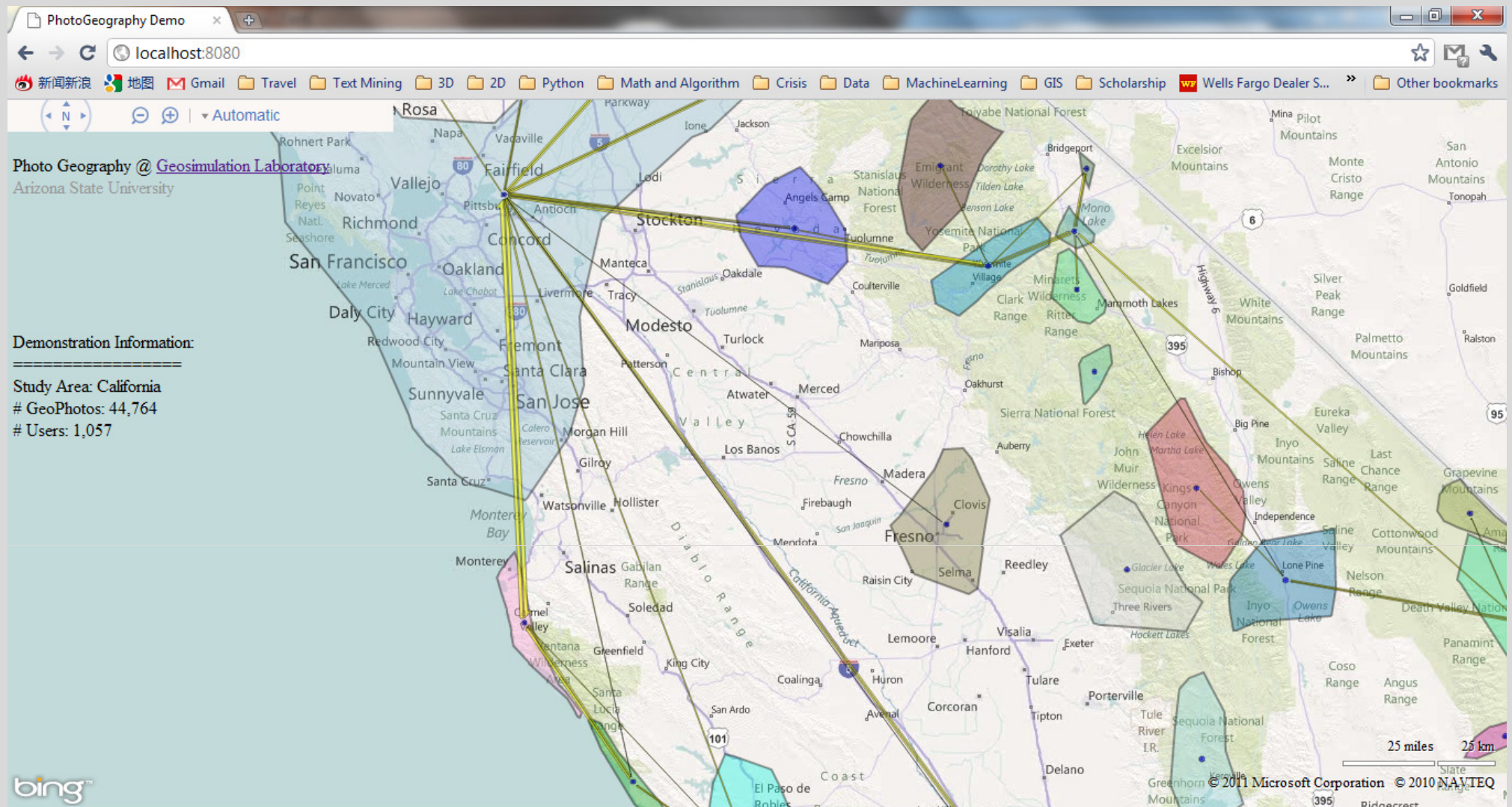


California, zoom-level 1 (state)

(Work with Xun Li)

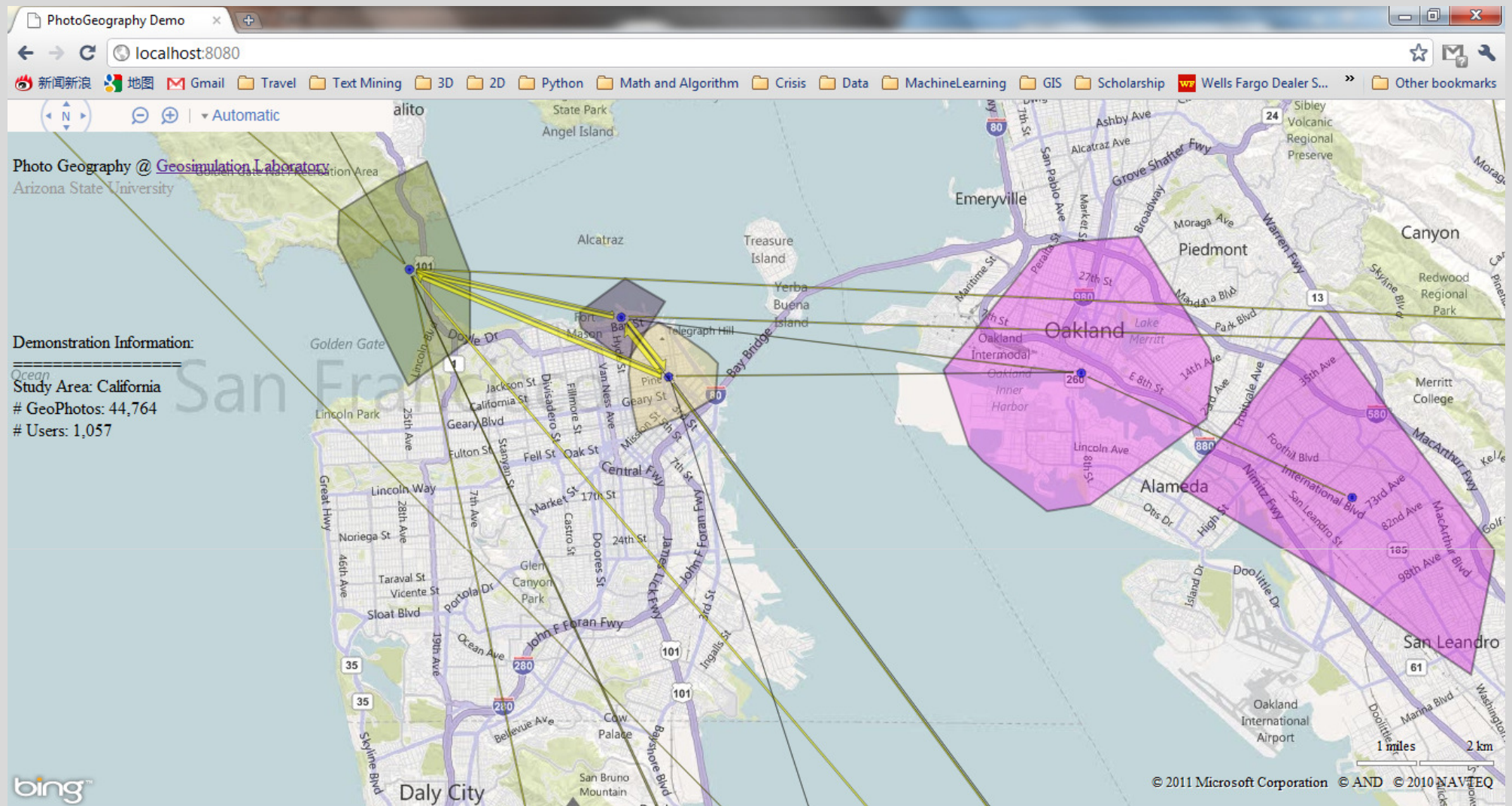


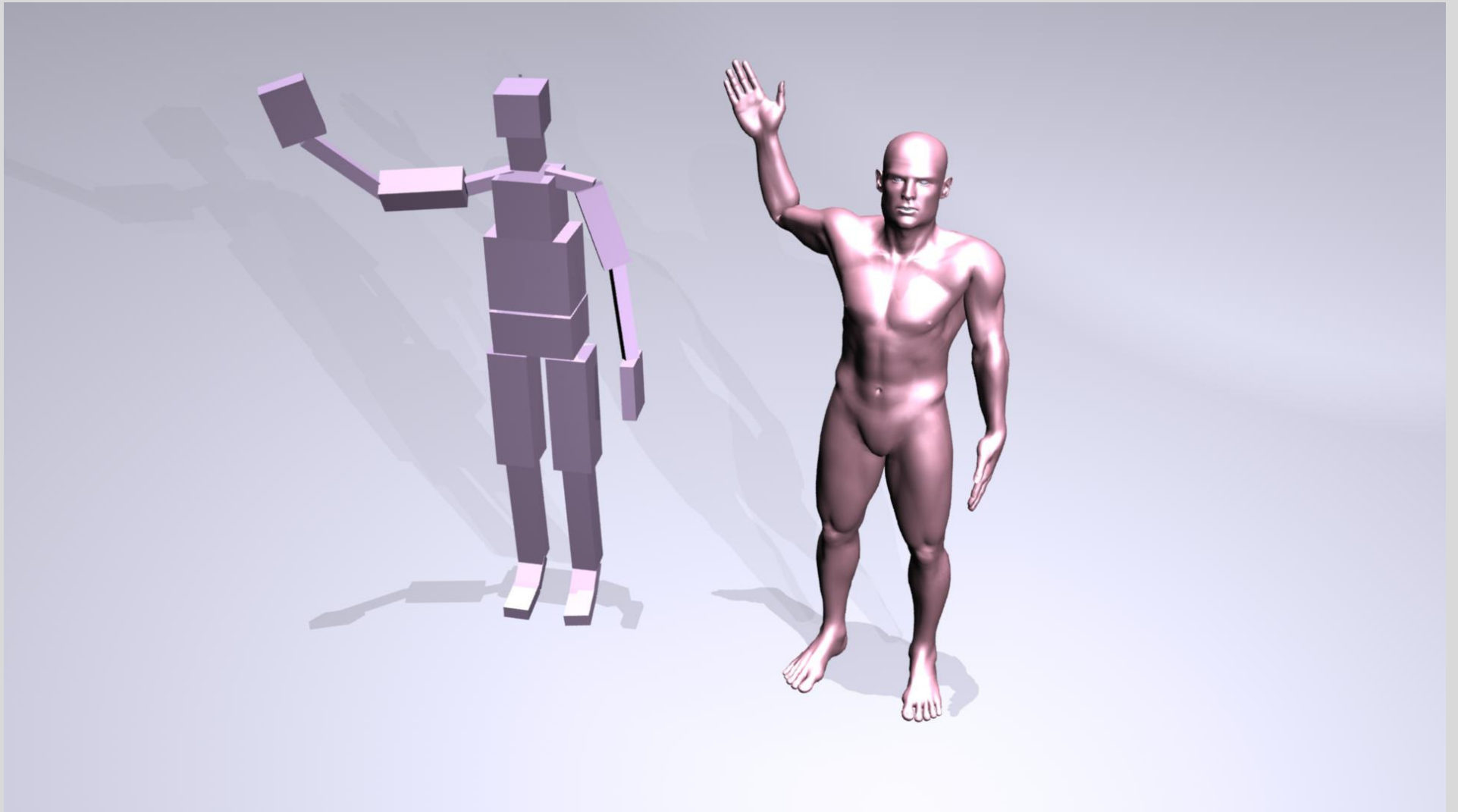
Los Angeles, zoom-level 19 (metropolitan)
(Work with Xun Li)



San Francisco, zoom-level 9 (county)

(Work with Xun Li)





Thanks!



Presidential Early Career Award for Scientists and Engineers



NSF CAREER Award

NSF Civil and Mechanical Systems

NSF Human Dynamics of Social Change

NSF Geography & Spatial Sciences

NSF Methodology, Measurement, and Statistics



Science Foundation Arizona



Autodesk, Inc.



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The Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine

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Dr. Paul M. Torrens, Department of Geography, University of Maryland, torrens@geosimulation.org

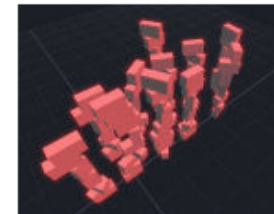
[News](#) | [New publications](#) | [New grants](#) | [Contact details](#)

Presidential Early Career Award for Scientists and Engineers >>

I was awarded the *Presidential Early Career Award for Scientists and Engineers* by President Bush in a ceremony at the White House on December 19, 2008. The award was for my work on computer models of human behavior in critical situations. **Press releases:** White House; Executive Office of the President, Office of Science and Technology Policy; National Science Foundation; Arizona State University; The Association of American Geographers; UCL Centre for Advanced Spatial Analysis (CASA); UCL Department of Geography; *Engineering News Record*; *The Irish Times*. (Photo by Chris Greenberg.)



[Projects >>](#)



Dynamic physics for built infrastructure



Moving agents through space and time



<http://geosimulation.org>

V fractal dimension

Turning angle between steps

θ

$$d_v = \frac{\log(2)}{\log\left(\frac{Net}{step}\right)} = \frac{\theta}{1 + \log_2(\cos \theta + 1)}$$

Consecutive step

Net length of step-pairs

Simulating riot geography



[Uh-oh](#)

