

# Multiscale Methods in Visual Computing

JORGE STOLFI

Instituto de Computação

Universidade Estadual de Campinas (UNICAMP)  
Caixa Postal 6176 – 13084-971 Campinas, SP, Brasil  
`stolfi@ic.unicamp.br`

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# Multiscale Methods in Visual Computing

Jorge Stolfi

Computer Science Institute (IC)  
State University of Campinas (UNICAMP)

Campinas, SP, Brasil  
`stolfi@ic.unicamp.br`

Multiscale method to solve a problem with many variables:

1. Scale down the number of variables by a constant factor;
2. Solve (recursively) the reduced problem;
3. Expand the solution to the original scale;
4. Adjust the solution iteratively.

Typically reduces the asymptotic exponent and the actual time.

## Example: the one-dimensional heat equilibrium problem

A metal bar is heated or cooled along its length.

Constant-temperature heat sinks at the ends.

Constant heat power added (+) or removed (−) at position  $x$  is  $P(x)$ .

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What is the limiting temperature distribution  $T(x)$ ?

Poisson equation:

$$\partial_{xx}T(x) = -\kappa P(x)$$

Exact solution known: double integral of  $-\kappa P$ .

## Discretized version of problem

$T_0, T_1, \dots, T_n$ : temperatures at equally-spaced points.

$P_1, P_2, \dots, P_{n-1}$ : input-output heat power at those points.

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Poisson system:

$$\begin{cases} T_0 & = 0 \\ T_i - \frac{1}{2}(T_{i-1} + T_{i+1}) & = \frac{\kappa}{2}P_i \\ T_n & = 0 \end{cases}$$

## Example problem

Input-output power:

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True solution:

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## Gauss-Seidel with random guess

Initial guess and error:

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## Gauss-Seidel with random guess

After 1 iteration

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## Gauss-Seidel with random guess

After 2 iterations

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## Gauss-Seidel with random guess

After 3 iterations

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## Gauss-Seidel with random guess

After 4 iterations

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## Gauss-Seidel with random guess

After 5 iterations

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## Gauss-Seidel with random guess

After 6 iterations

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## Gauss-Seidel with random guess

After 7 iterations

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## Gauss-Seidel with random guess

After 8 iterations

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## Gauss-Seidel with random guess

After 9 iterations

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## Gauss-Seidel with random guess

After 10 iterations

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## Gauss-Seidel with random guess

After 20 iterations

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## Gauss-Seidel with random guess

After 30 iterations

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## Gauss-Seidel with random guess

After 40 iterations

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## Gauss-Seidel with random guess

After 50 iterations

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## Gauss-Seidel with random guess

After 100 iterations

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## Gauss-Seidel with random guess

After 200 iterations

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## Gauss-Seidel with random guess

After 400 iterations

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## Gauss-Seidel with random guess

After 800 iterations

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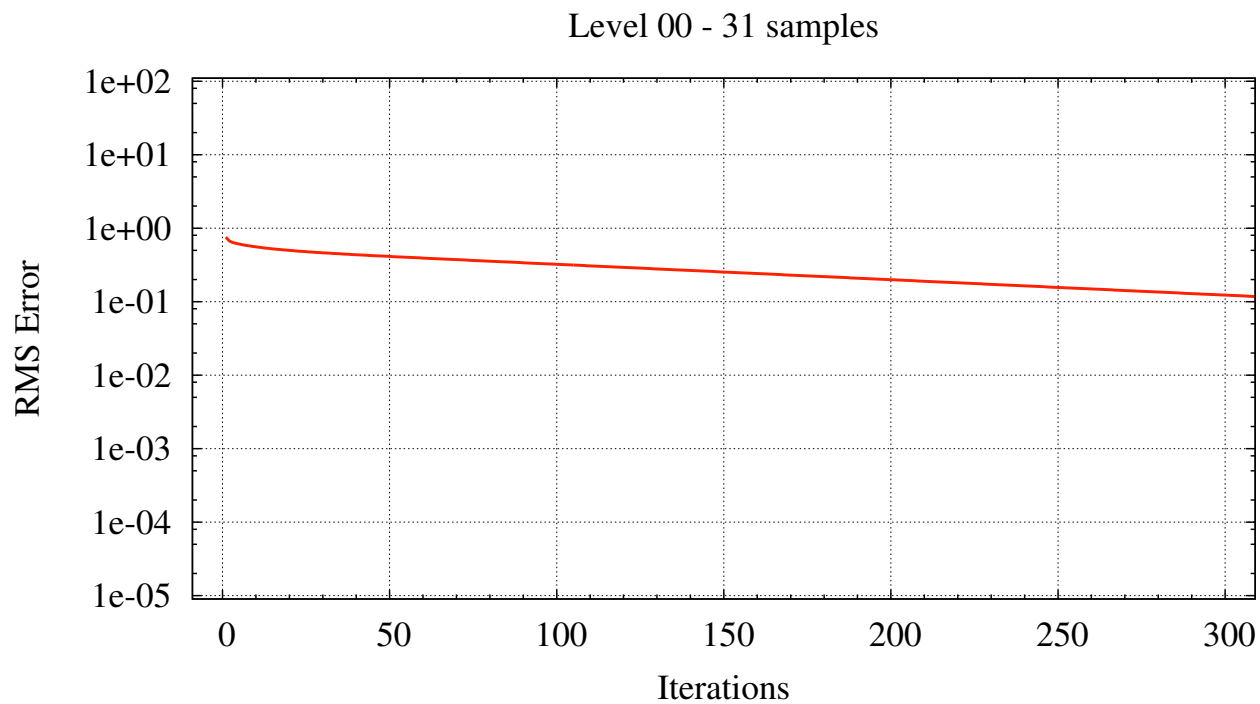
## Gauss-Seidel with random guess

After 1600 iterations

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Very low convergence rate!



Convergence rate depends on smoothness of error

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## Guess with low-frequency error

Initial guess and error:

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Guess with low-frequency error

After 1 iteration

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Guess with low-frequency error

After 2 iterations

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Guess with low-frequency error

After 3 iterations

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Guess with low-frequency error

After 4 iterations

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Guess with low-frequency error

After 5 iterations

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Guess with low-frequency error

After 6 iterations

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Guess with low-frequency error

After 7 iterations

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Guess with low-frequency error

After 8 iterations

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## Guess with low-frequency error

After 9 iterations

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## Guess with low-frequency error

After 10 iterations

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## Guess with low-frequency error

After 20 iterations

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Guess with low-frequency error

After 30 iterations

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## Guess with low-frequency error

After 40 iterations

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## Guess with low-frequency error

After 50 iterations

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## Guess with low-frequency error

After 100 iterations

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## Guess with low-frequency error

After 200 iterations

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## Guess with low-frequency error

After 400 iterations

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## Guess with low-frequency error

After 800 iterations

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## Guess with low-frequency error

After 1600 iterations

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## Guess with medium-frequency error

Initial guess and error:

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Guess with medium-frequency error

After 1 iteration

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Guess with medium-frequency error

After 2 iterations

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Guess with medium-frequency error

After 3 iterations

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Guess with medium-frequency error

After 4 iterations

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Guess with medium-frequency error

After 5 iterations

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Guess with medium-frequency error

After 6 iterations

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Guess with medium-frequency error

After 7 iterations

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Guess with medium-frequency error

After 8 iterations

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Guess with medium-frequency error

After 9 iterations

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Guess with medium-frequency error

After 10 iterations

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Guess with medium-frequency error

After 20 iterations

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Guess with medium-frequency error

After 30 iterations

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Guess with medium-frequency error

After 40 iterations

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Guess with medium-frequency error

After 50 iterations

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Guess with medium-frequency error

After 100 iterations

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Guess with medium-frequency error

After 200 iterations

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## Guess with high-frequency error

Initial guess and error:

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Guess with high-frequency error

After 1 iteration

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Guess with high-frequency error

After 2 iterations

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Guess with high-frequency error

After 3 iterations

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Guess with high-frequency error

After 4 iterations

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Guess with high-frequency error

After 5 iterations

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Guess with high-frequency error

After 6 iterations

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Guess with high-frequency error

After 7 iterations

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Guess with high-frequency error

After 8 iterations

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Guess with high-frequency error

After 9 iterations

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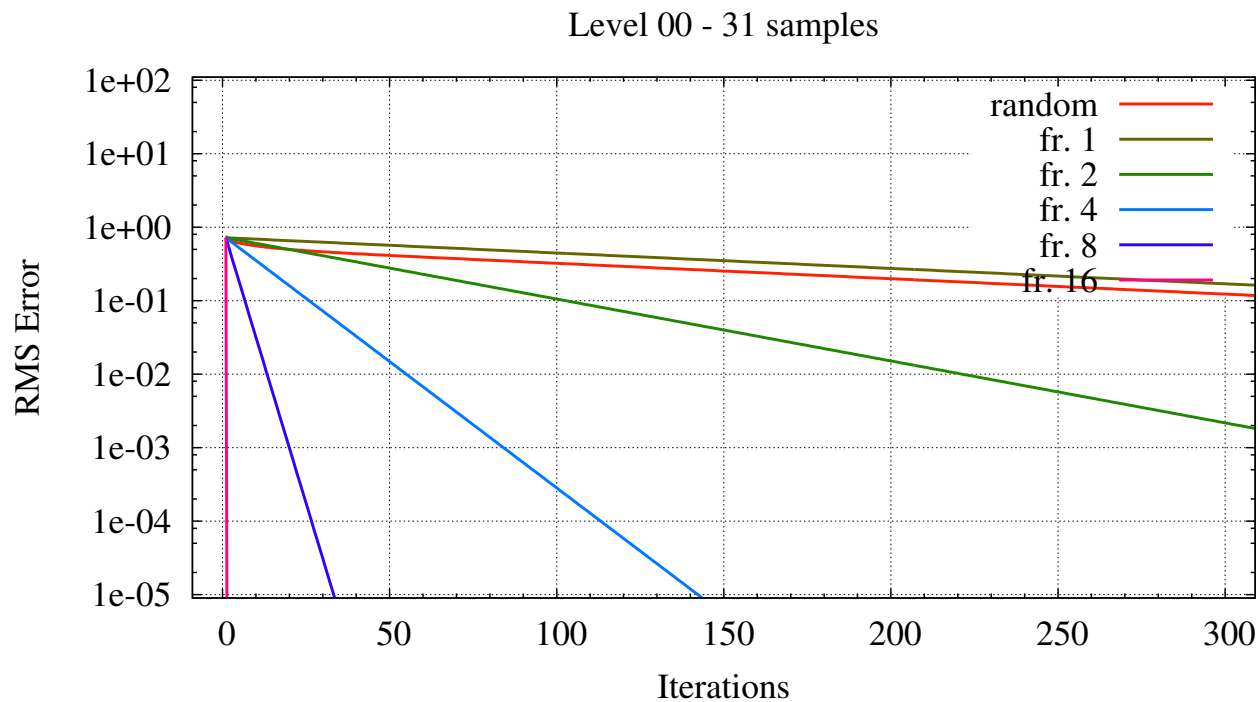
Guess with high-frequency error

After 10 iterations

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Convergence rate is inversely proportional to  $\lambda^2 = (n/f)^2$



How do we get a guess with only high-frequency error?

Reduce the number of samples in half

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## Solve the smaller version

Initial guess and error:

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Solve the smaller version

After 1 iteration

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Solve the smaller version

After 2 iterations

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Solve the smaller version

After 3 iterations

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Solve the smaller version

After 4 iterations

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Solve the smaller version

After 5 iterations

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Solve the smaller version

After 6 iterations

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Solve the smaller version

After 7 iterations

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Solve the smaller version

After 8 iterations

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Solve the smaller version

After 9 iterations

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## Solve the smaller version

After 10 iterations

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## Solve the smaller version

After 20 iterations

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## Solve the smaller version

After 30 iterations

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## Solve the smaller version

After 40 iterations

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## Solve the smaller version

After 50 iterations

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## Solve the smaller version

After 100 iterations

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## Solve the smaller version

After 200 iterations

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Now expand the solution

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Iterate from expanded solution

Initial guess and error:

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Iterate from expanded solution

After 1 iteration

Missing figure diags/ms-cur-v00-f999-i000001.eps

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Iterate from expanded solution

After 2 iterations

Missing figure diags/ms-cur-v00-f999-i000002.eps

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Iterate from expanded solution

After 3 iterations

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Iterate from expanded solution

After 4 iterations

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Iterate from expanded solution

After 5 iterations

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Iterate from expanded solution

After 6 iterations

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Iterate from expanded solution

After 7 iterations

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Iterate from expanded solution

After 8 iterations

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Missing figure diags/ms-err-v00-f999-i000008.eps

Iterate from expanded solution

After 9 iterations

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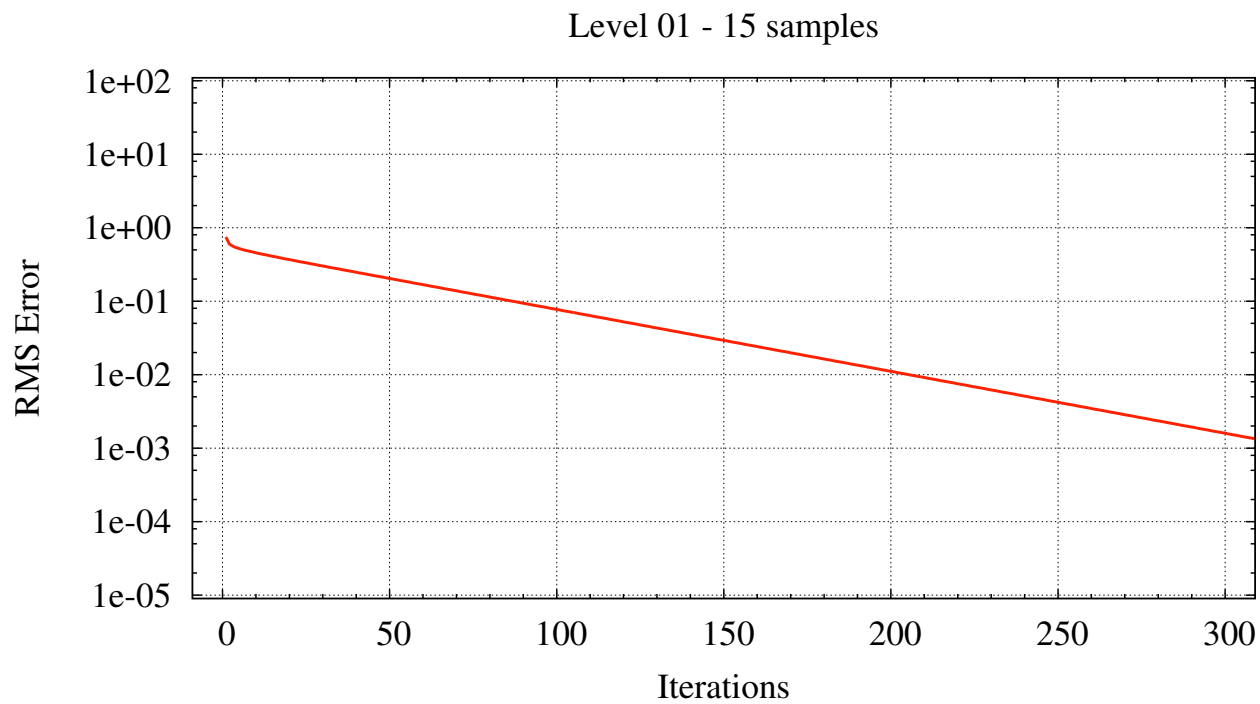
Iterate from expanded solution

After 10 iterations

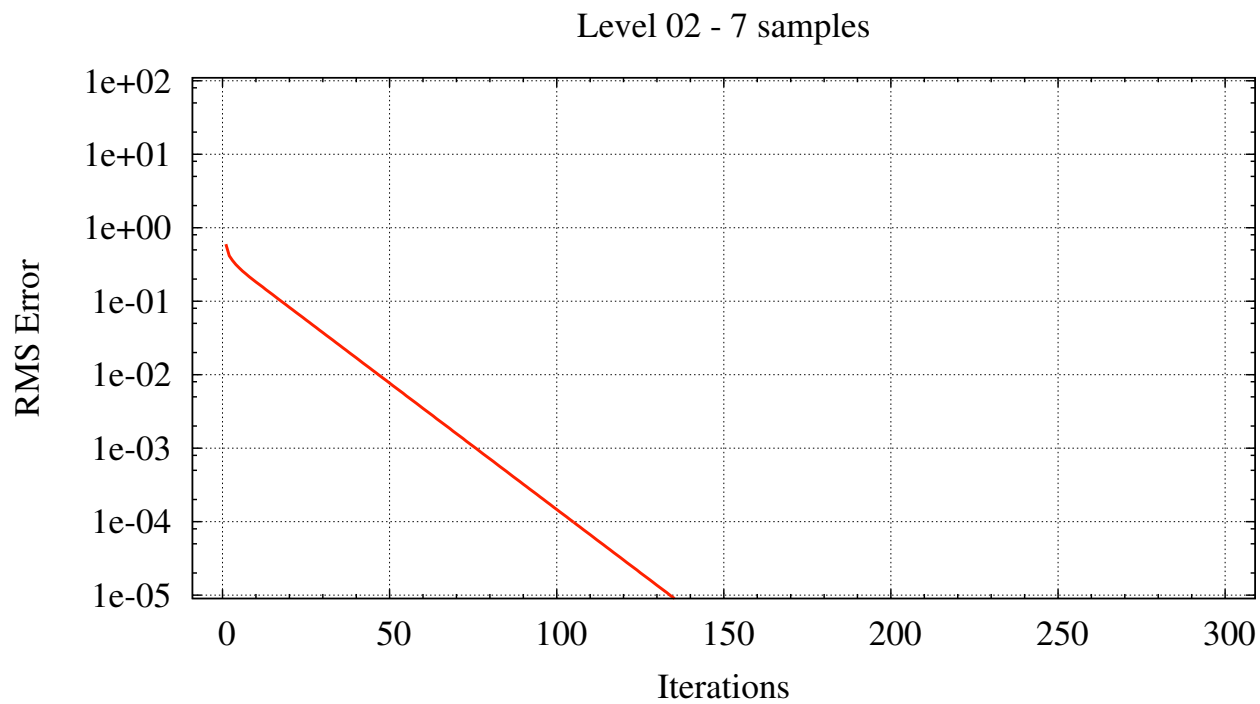
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The  $1/2$ -size problem converges 4 times faster



The 1/4-size problem converges 16 times faster



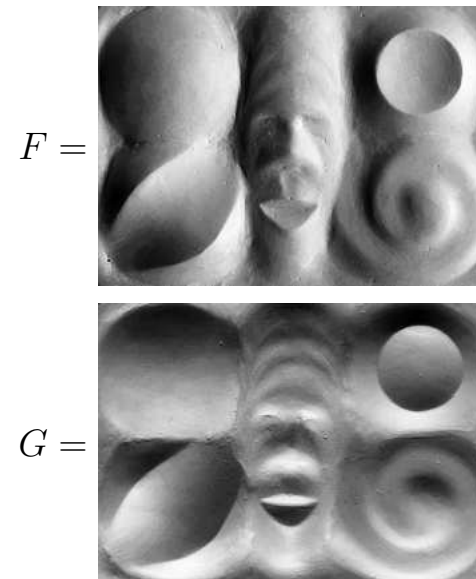
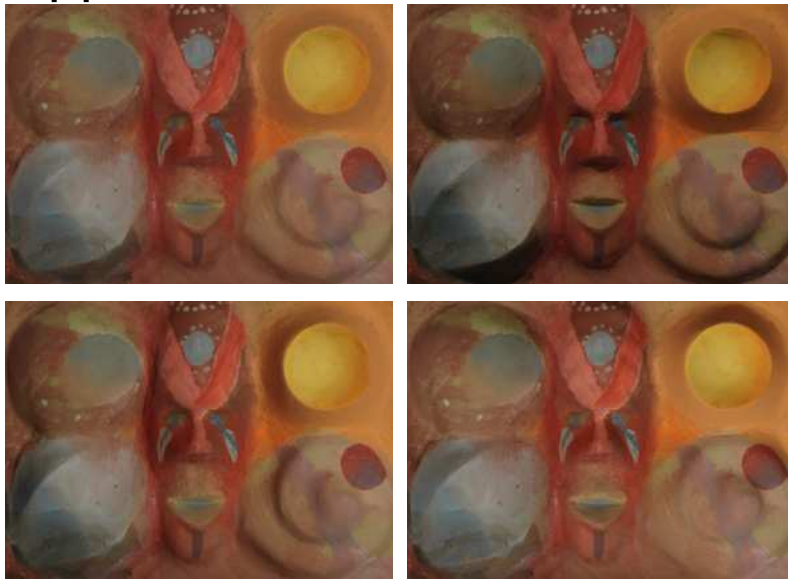
The mathematical Gradient Integration Problem (GIP):

*Input:* A gradient map  $(F, G) : \mathbb{R}^2 \mapsto \mathbb{R}^2$

*Output:* A height map  $Z : \mathbb{R}^2 \mapsto \mathbb{R}$  such that

$$\partial_x Z = F \quad \partial_y Z = G$$

## Application: Photometric Stereo





## The *discrete* Gradient Integration Problem:

*Input:* A discrete, gradient map  $f, g \in \mathbb{R}^{m \times n}$   
and a weight map  $w \in \mathbb{R}^{m \times n}$

*Output:* A discrete height map  $z \in \mathbb{R}^{(m+1) \times (n+1)}$  such that

$$(\Delta_x z)[x, y] \approx f[x, y] \quad (\Delta_y z)[x, y] \approx g[x, y]$$

with confidence proportional to  $w[x, y]$ . Data  $F, G$  is discretely sampled

Data contains noise, errors, and holes (where  $w[x, y] = 0$ )

Cliffs (step discontinuities) in the height  $Z$

### *Direct Poisson*

Convert the mathematical GIP to a Poisson differential equation

$$(\partial_{xx}Z + \partial_{yy}Z)(x, y) = \partial_x F(x, y) + \partial_y G(x, y)$$

Discrete version is a system of  $N$  linear equations

Can take weights  $w[x, y]$  into account

System's matrix is sparse,  $\Theta(N)$  entries

Solve the system by Gauss  $LU$  or similar

Robust but expensive:  $\Theta(N^{1.15})$  space,  $\Theta(N^{1.5})$  time

### *Iterative Poisson*

Convert GIP to a system of  $N$  linear equations as in Direct Poisson

Solve the system by Gauss-Seidel iteration

Only  $\Theta(N)$  space,  $\Theta(N)$  time per iteration

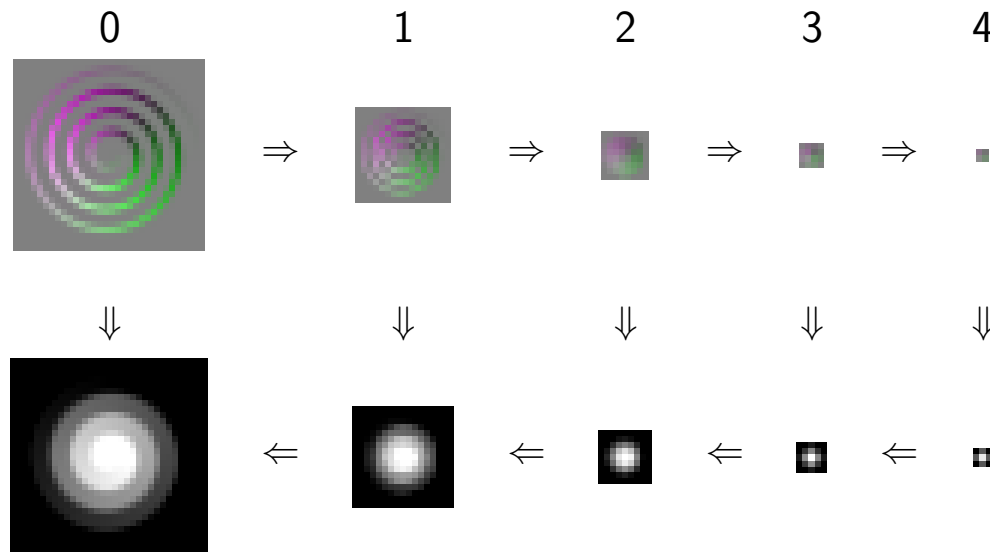
BUT requires  $\Omega(N)$  iterations to converge

Total time is  $\Omega(N^2)$

### *Multiscale Iterative Poisson*

[Saracchini, Stolfi et al. 2009]

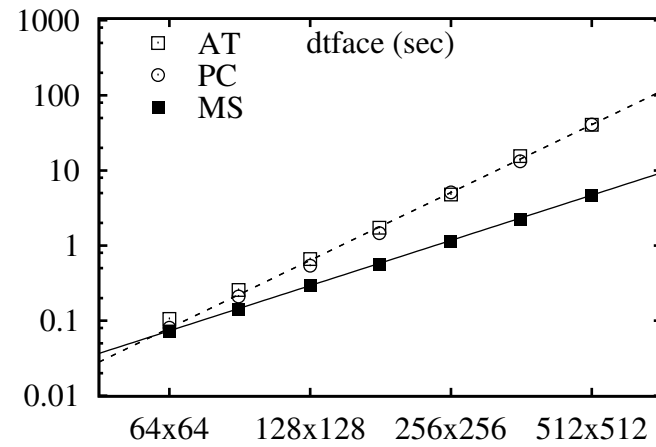
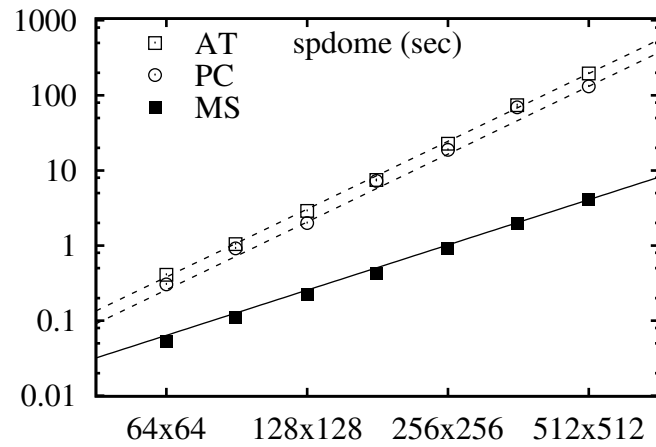
- Convert GIP to a system of  $N$  linear equations as in Direct Poisson
- Reduce the input maps  $f, g, w$  by  $1/2$  to  $f', g', w'$
- Recursively integrate  $f', g', w'$  obtaining  $z'$
- Expand the solution  $z'$  to a full size solution  $z$
- Improve the solution  $z$  by Gauss-Seidel iteration.



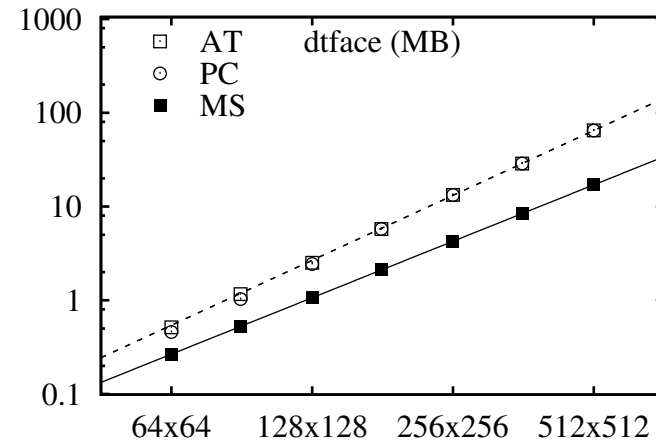
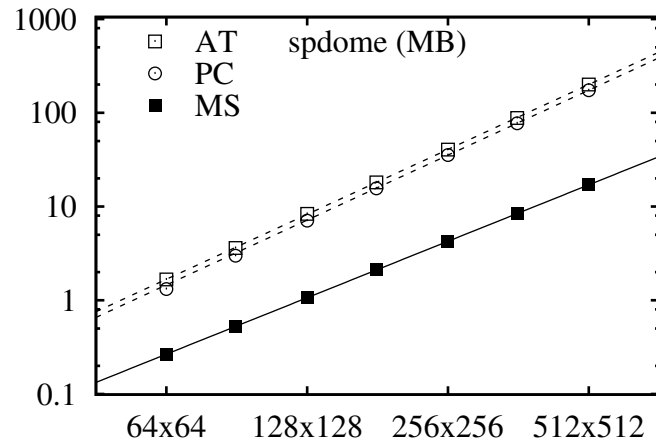
Only  $\Theta(N)$  space,  $\Theta(N)$  time per iteration  
Converges in  $O(1)$  iterations at each scale  
Total time and space are  $\Theta(N)$ .



Time

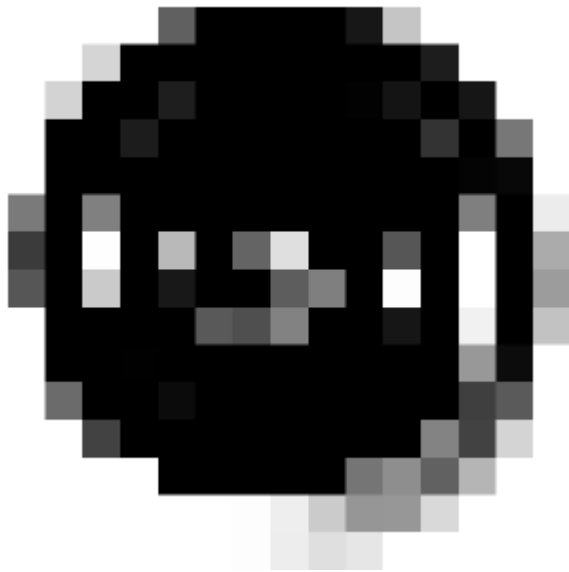


Space

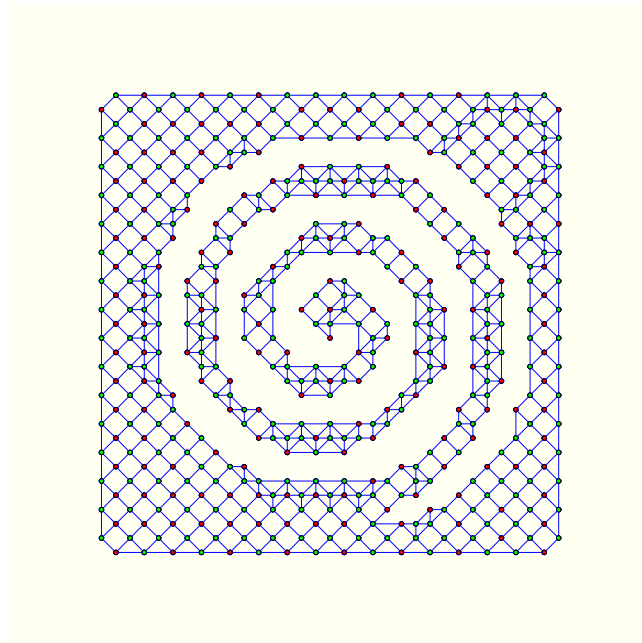
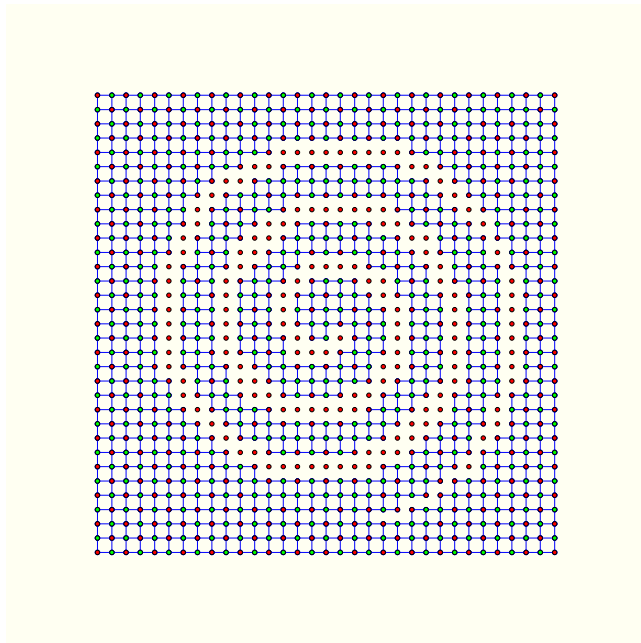




Main limitation:  
loss of connectivity at coarser scales

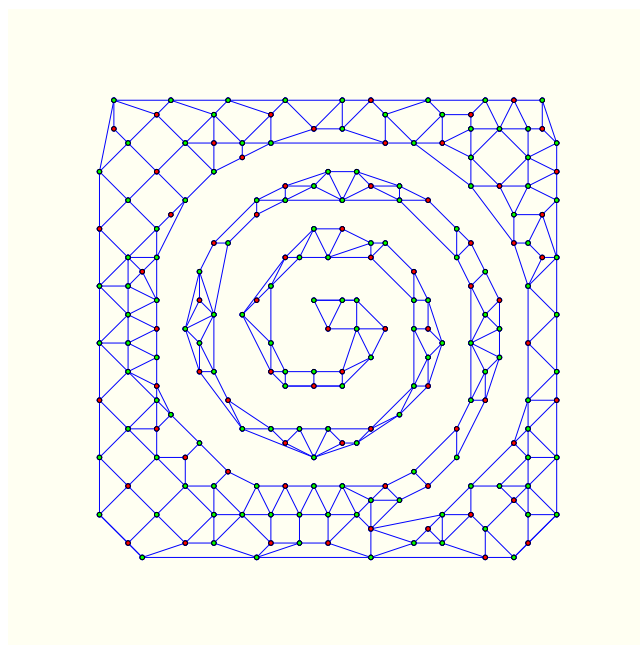
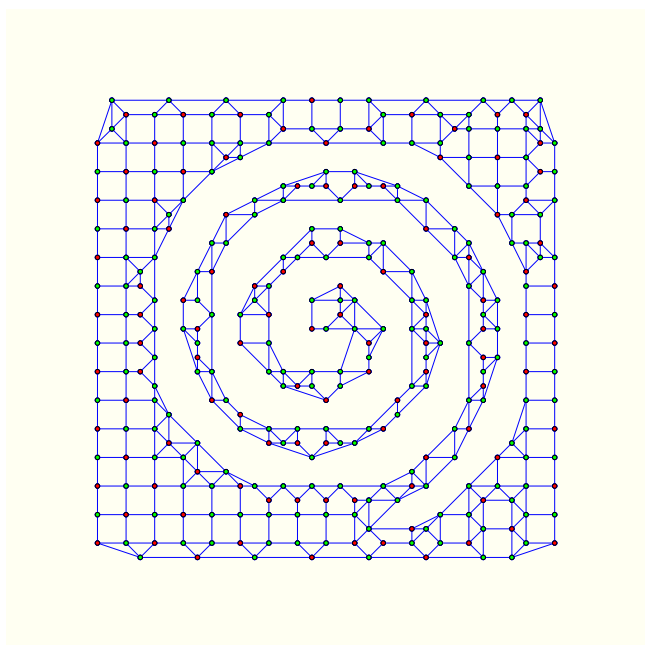


Graph-based multiscale:



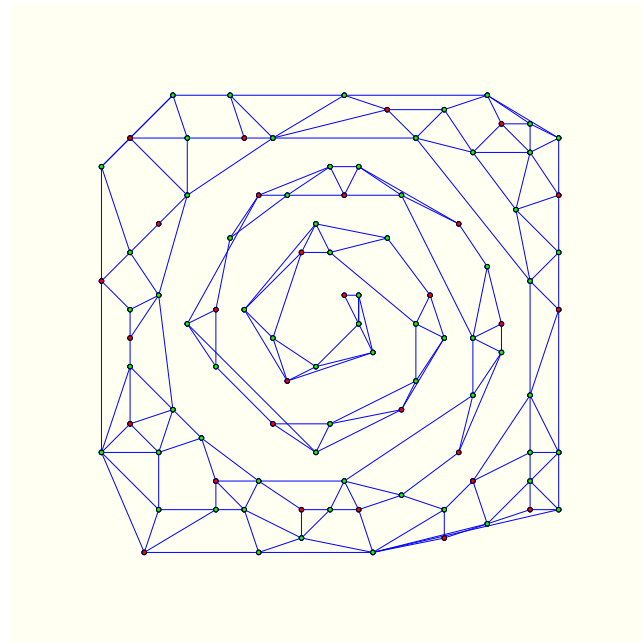
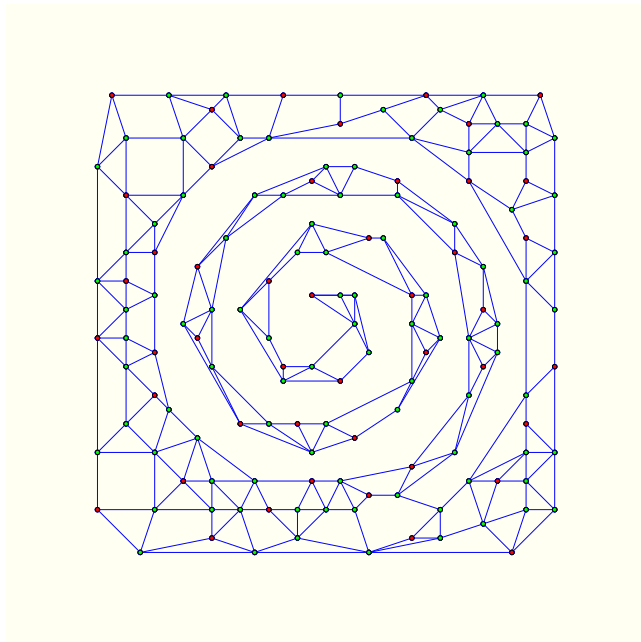
Is

Graph-based multiscale:



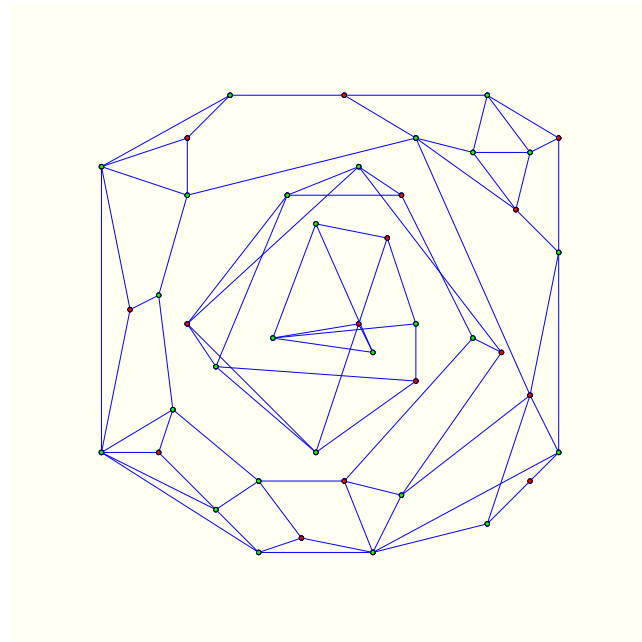
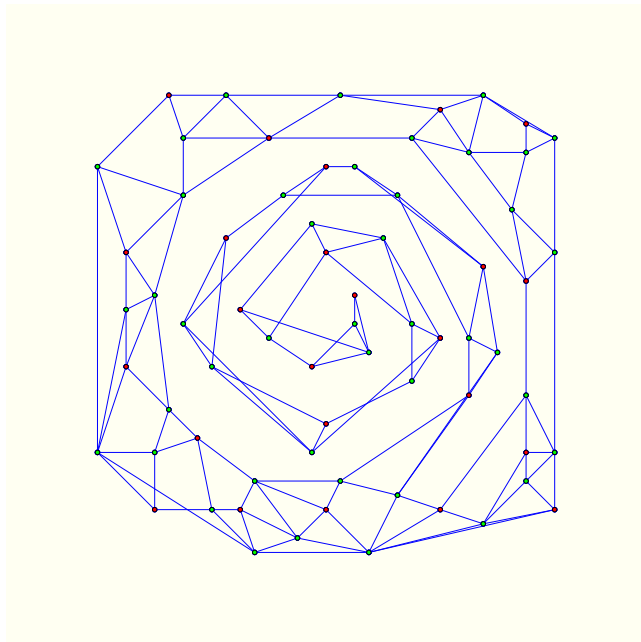
Is

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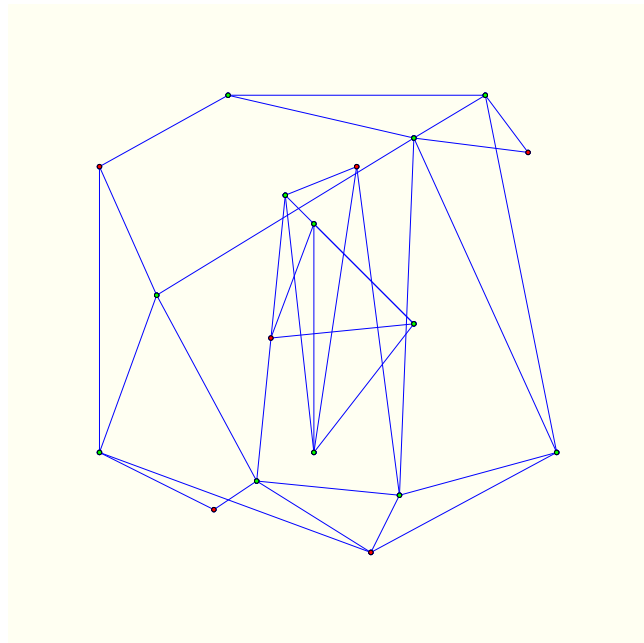
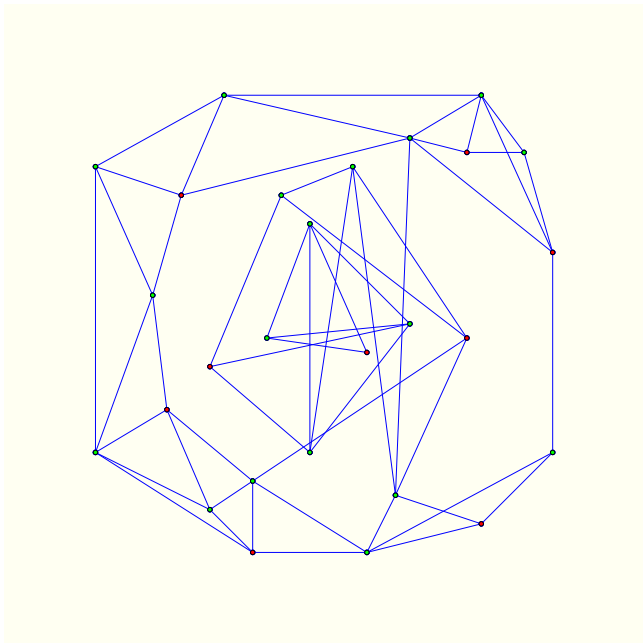
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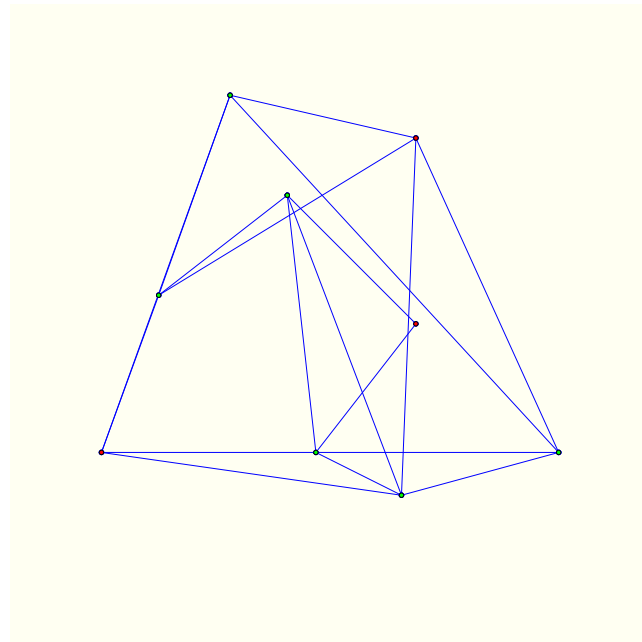
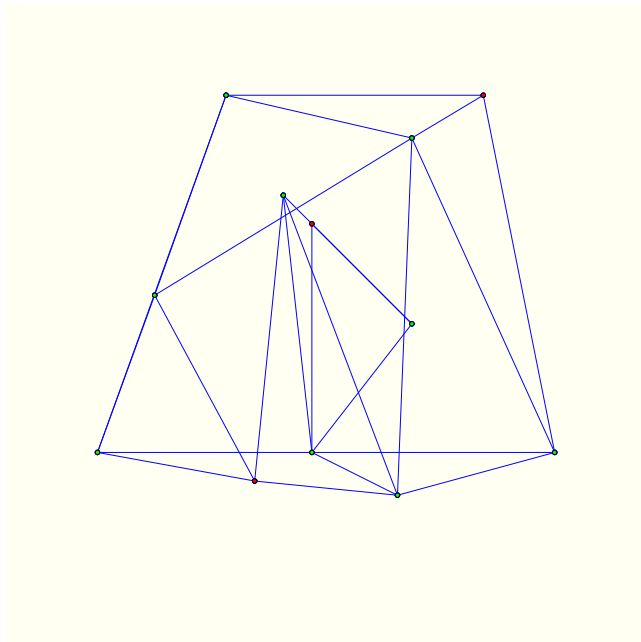
Is

Graph-based multiscale:



Is

Graph-based multiscale:



Is