



Accelerating Computational Lithography: Enabling our Electronic Future

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Outline

- What is Computational Lithography?
- The Problem: Exploding Computation
- The Breakthrough!
- Enables Better Chip Technology, Faster
- Summary, and a quiz!



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Warm up with photography

- Camera shopping tip: Buy largest aperture
 - Aperture shown as ratio
 - Need low denominator
 - 2.0 is good, 1.4 excellent, and expensive
- Aperture also appears in Rayleigh Criterion in diffractive optics

$$\text{resolution} \propto \frac{\text{wavelength}}{\text{aperture}}$$



Aperture in daily life

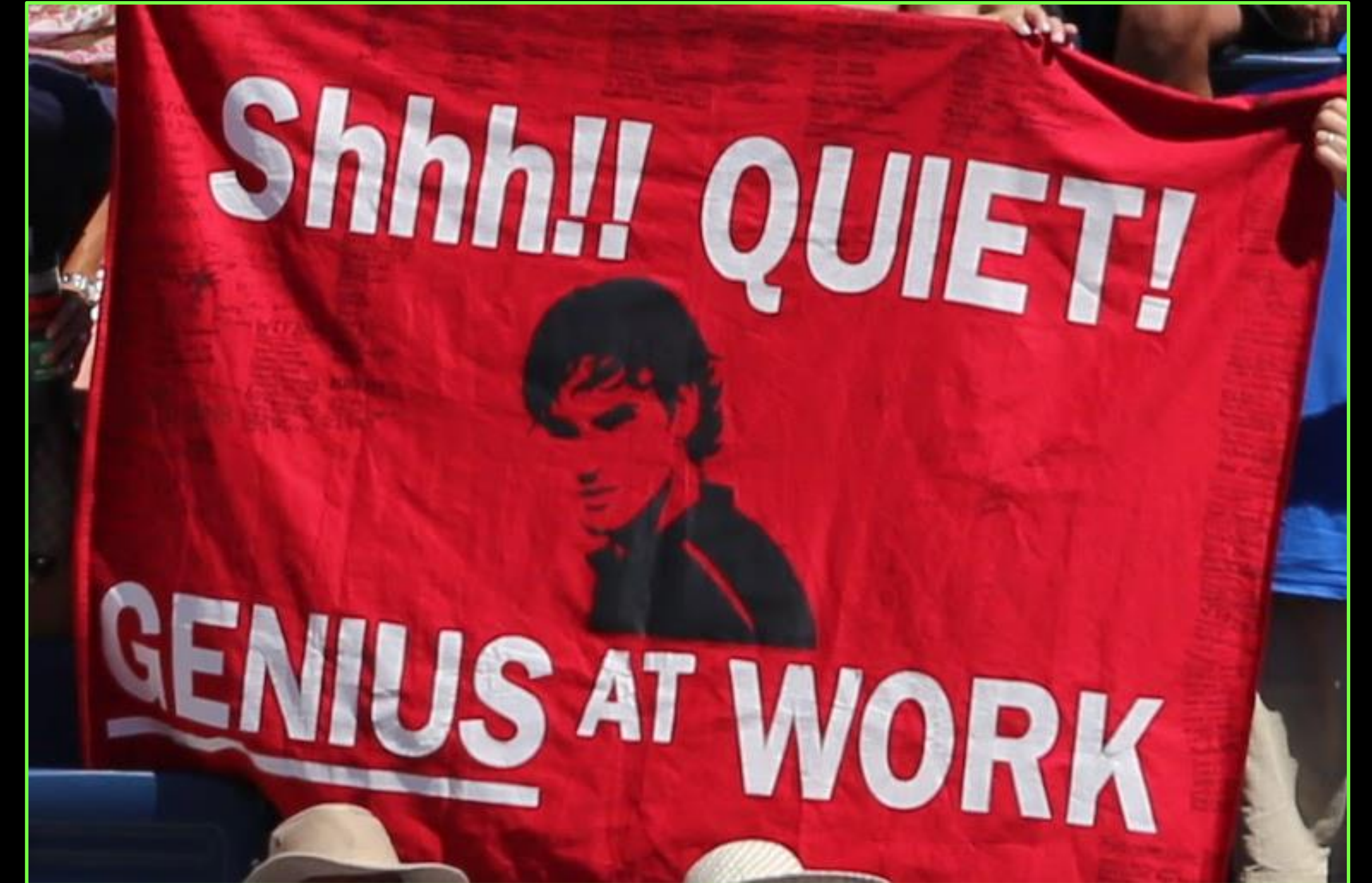


Federer, Indian Wells 2015



Large aperture (f/2.0)

Low depth of field



Small aperture (f/7.1)

High depth of field

$$\text{depth of field} \propto \frac{1}{(\text{aperture})^2}$$

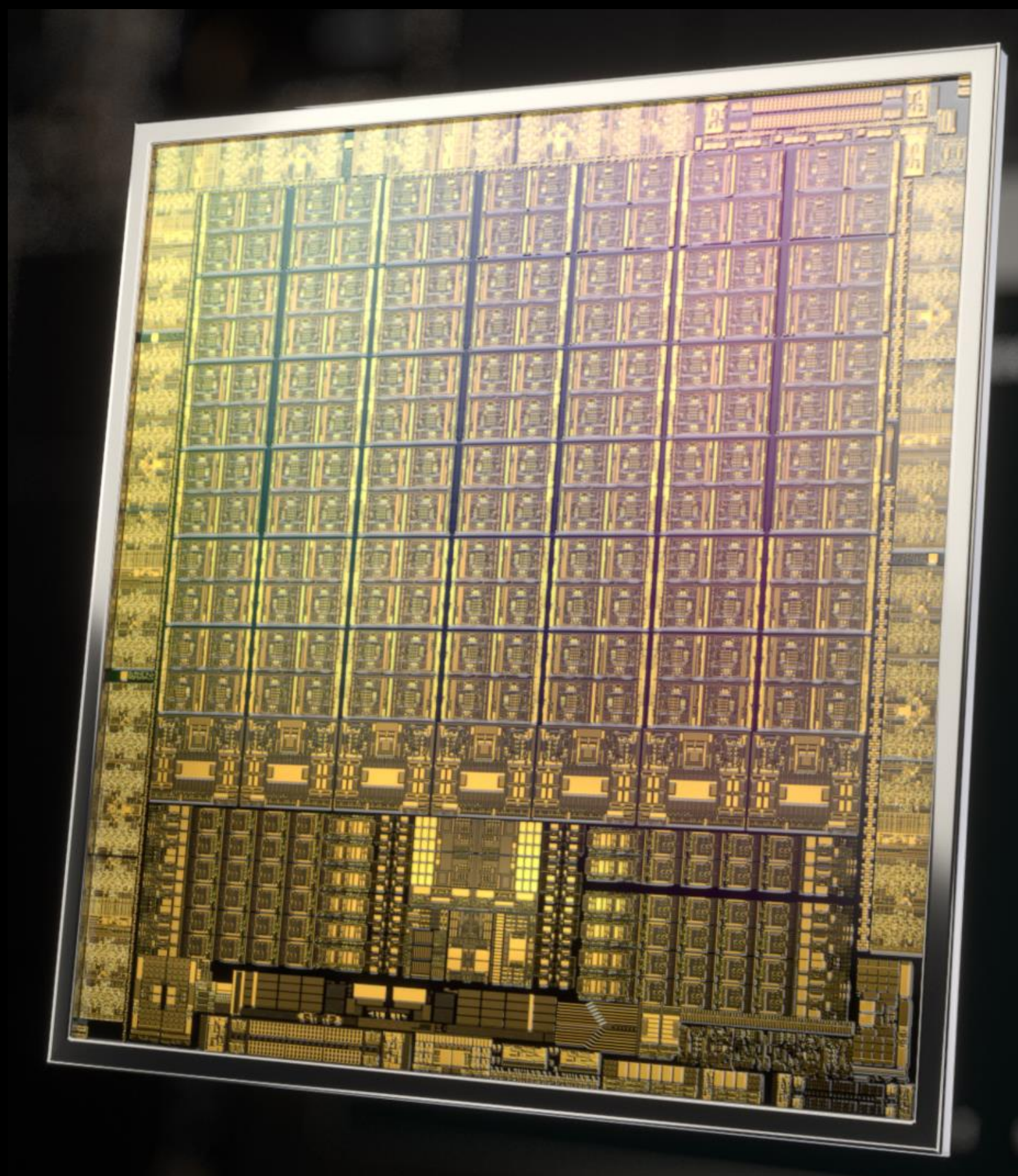
Low depth of field: good for pictures, bad for IC yield

1X



Your laptop

15X



NVIDIA Ampere

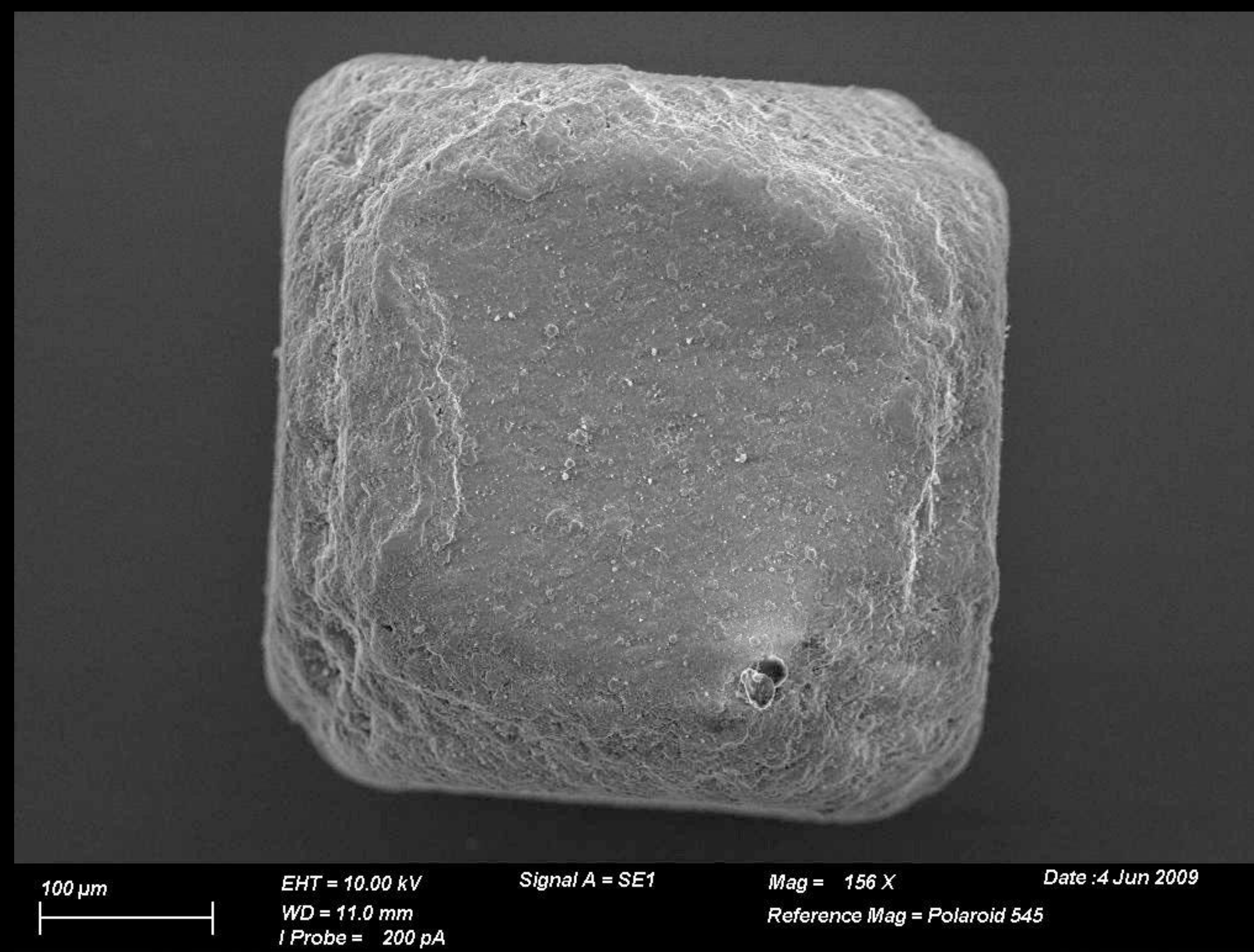
100X



Source: serious-science.org
<https://serious-science.org/fire-ants-conquer-the-world-on-the-first-global-trade-network-2570>

An Ant

1,000X

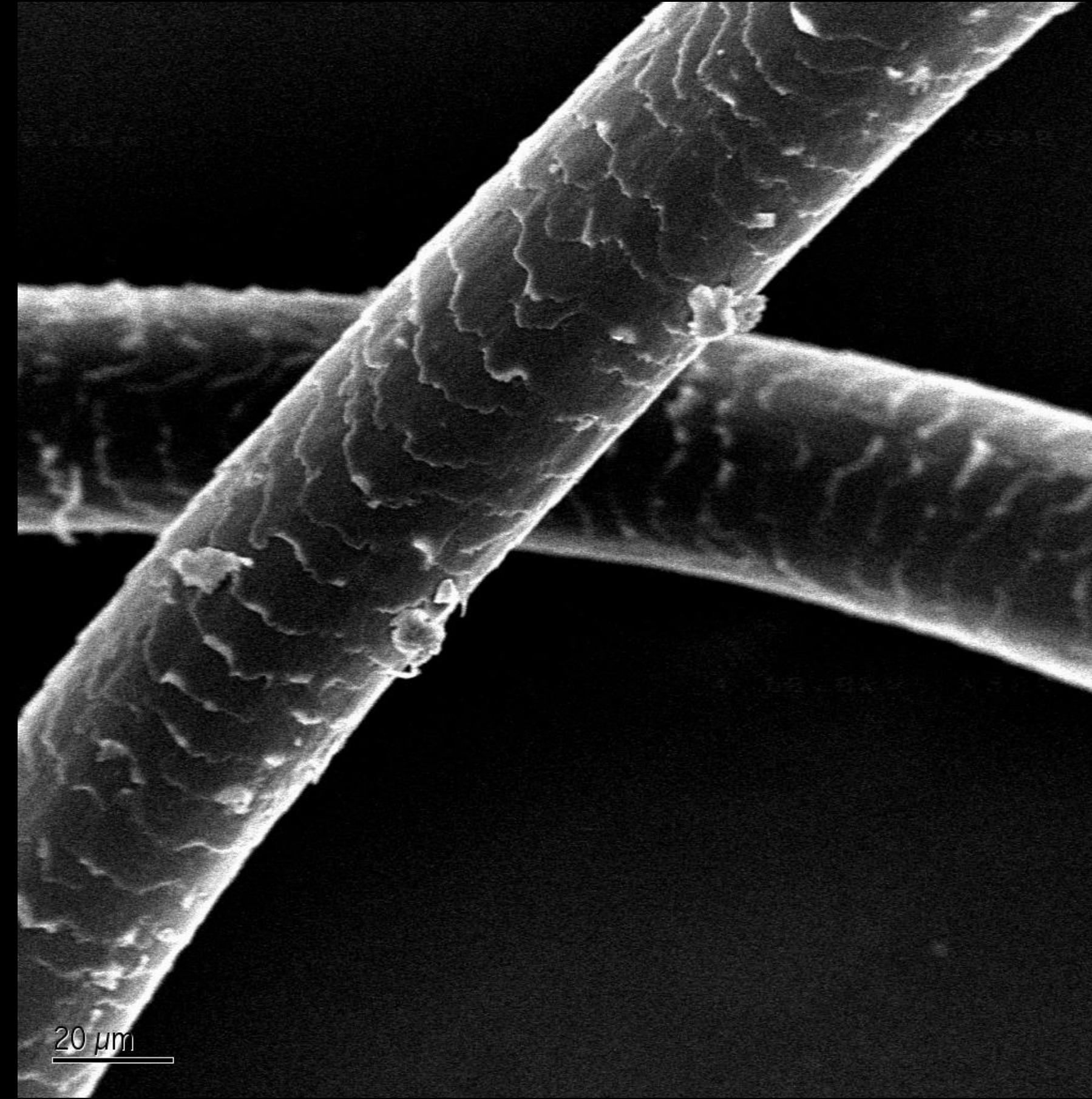


Source: [Wikipedia](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Salt#/media/File:Single_grain_of_table_salt_(electron_micrograph).jpg)

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Salt#/media/File:Single_grain_of_table_salt_\(electron_micrograph\).jpg](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Salt#/media/File:Single_grain_of_table_salt_(electron_micrograph).jpg)

Grain of salt

5,000X



Source: [nisenet.org](https://www.nisenet.org)

<https://www.nisenet.org/catalog/scientific-image-sem-image-human-hair>

Human hair

50,000X



Red Blood Cell

Source: [Guardian](https://www.theguardian.com/science/2022/nov/07/new-hope-for-sickle-cell-patients-as-uk-trial-of-lab-grown-red-blood-cells-begins)

<https://www.theguardian.com/science/2022/nov/07/new-hope-for-sickle-cell-patients-as-uk-trial-of-lab-grown-red-blood-cells-begins>

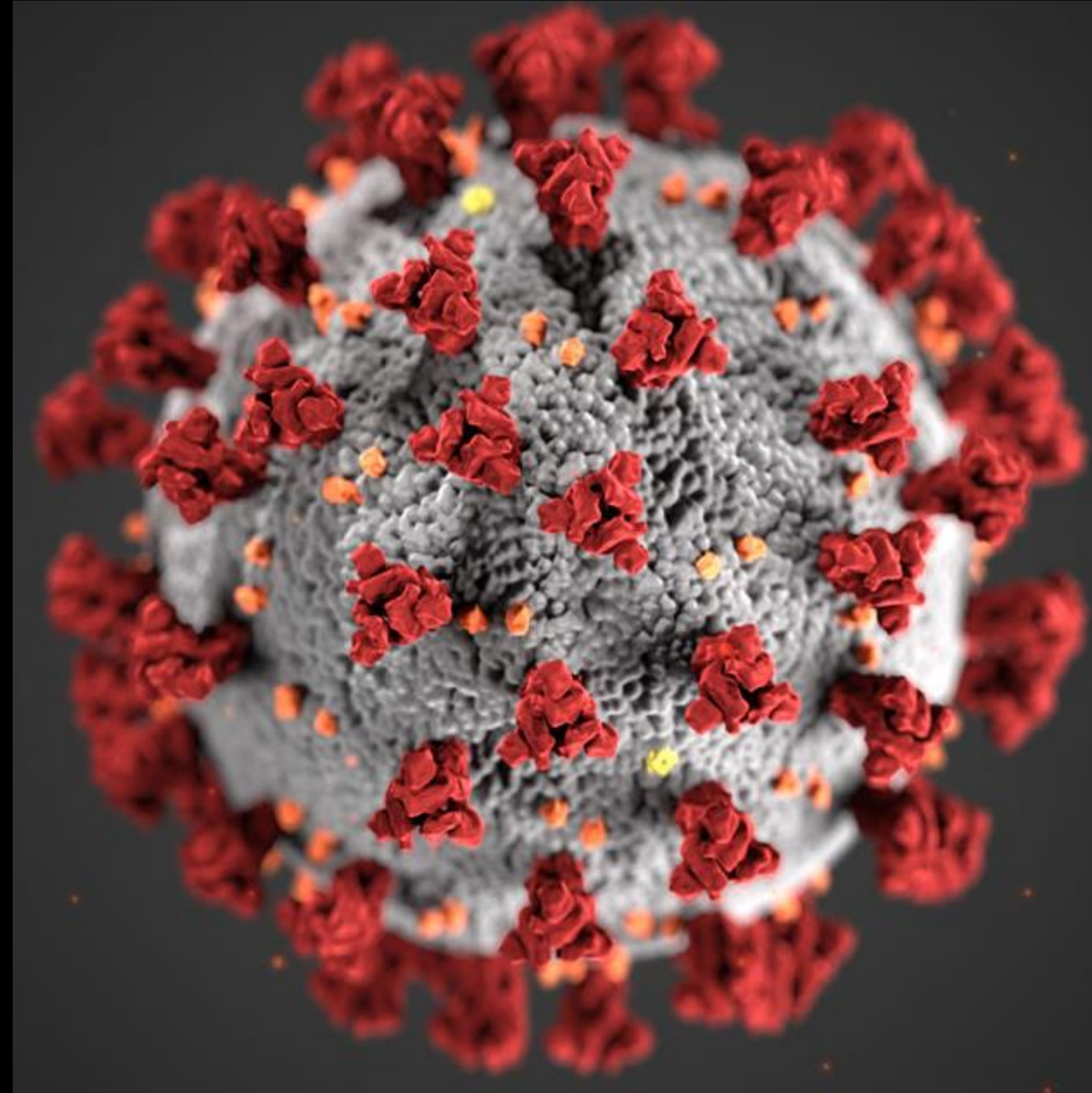
250,000X



Source: *The Universe of E. Coli*
<https://www.intechopen.com/chapters/68841>

E. Coli Bacteria

5,000,000X

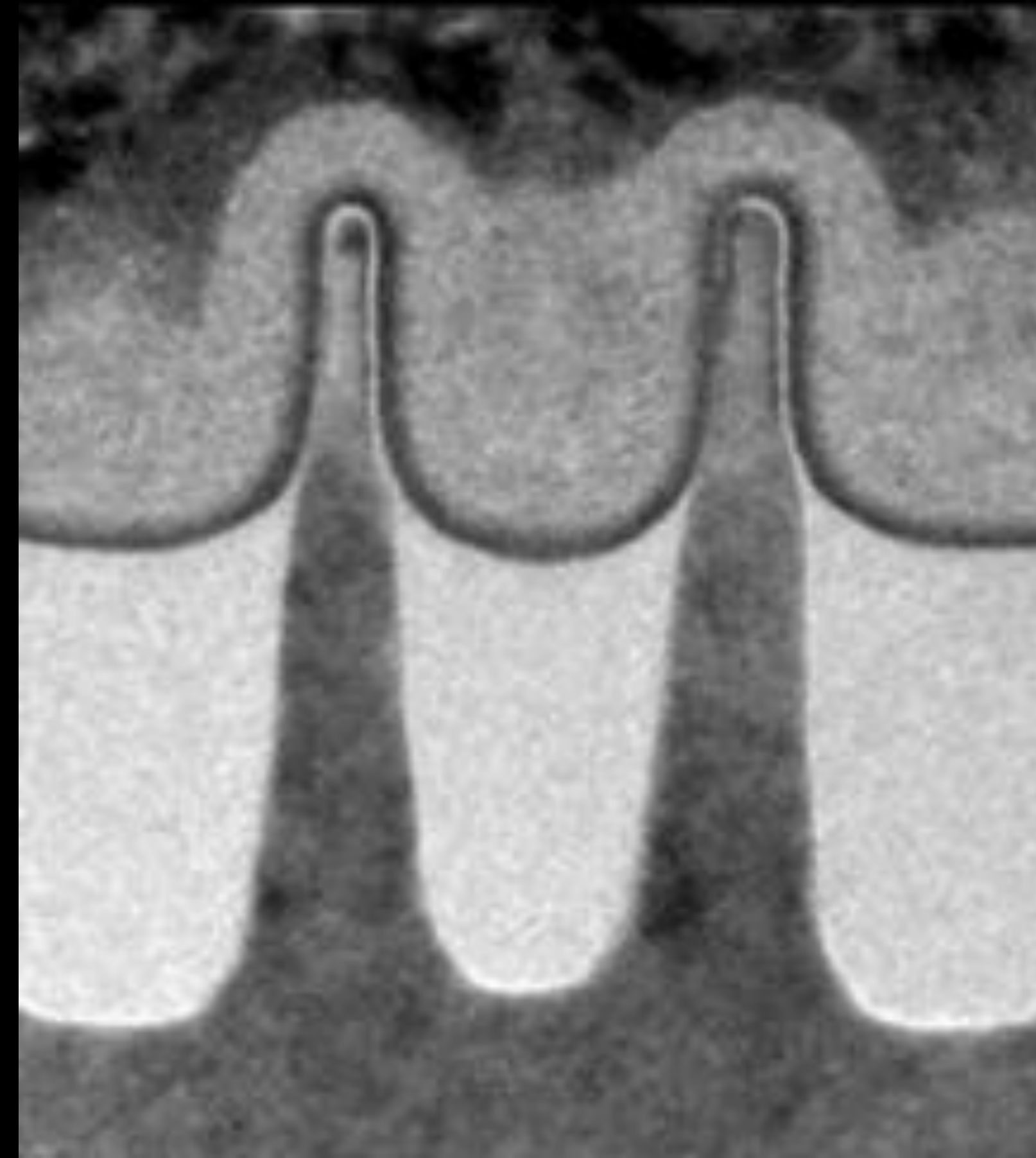


Source: [CDC](https://www.cdc.gov/dotw/covid-19/index.html)

<https://www.cdc.gov/dotw/covid-19/index.html>

Coronavirus

50,000,000X

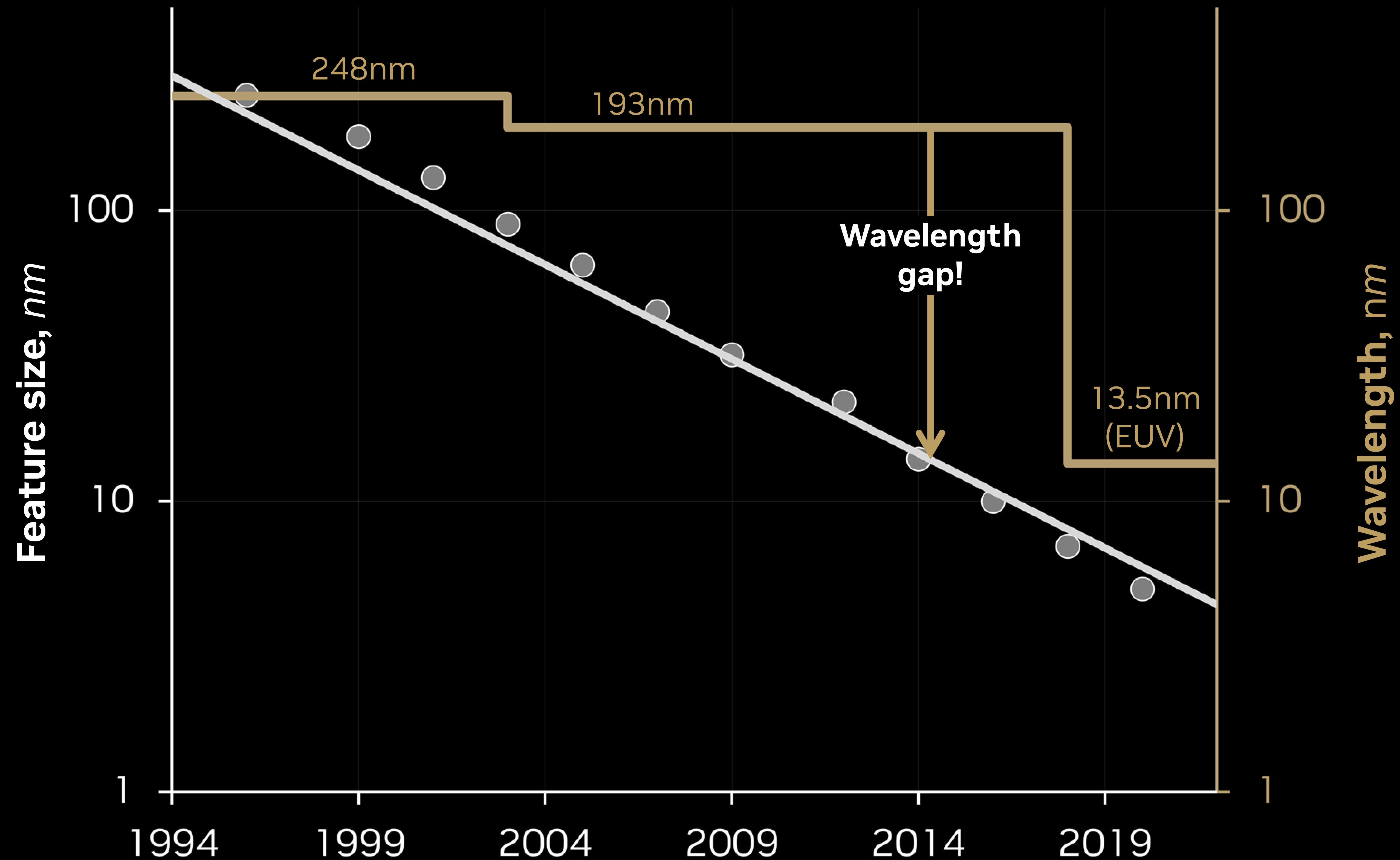


Source: Bhoir, et al (2019). IEEE J. Electron Devices Society.
<http://dx.doi.org/10.1109/JEDS.2019.2934575>

5nm Transistor

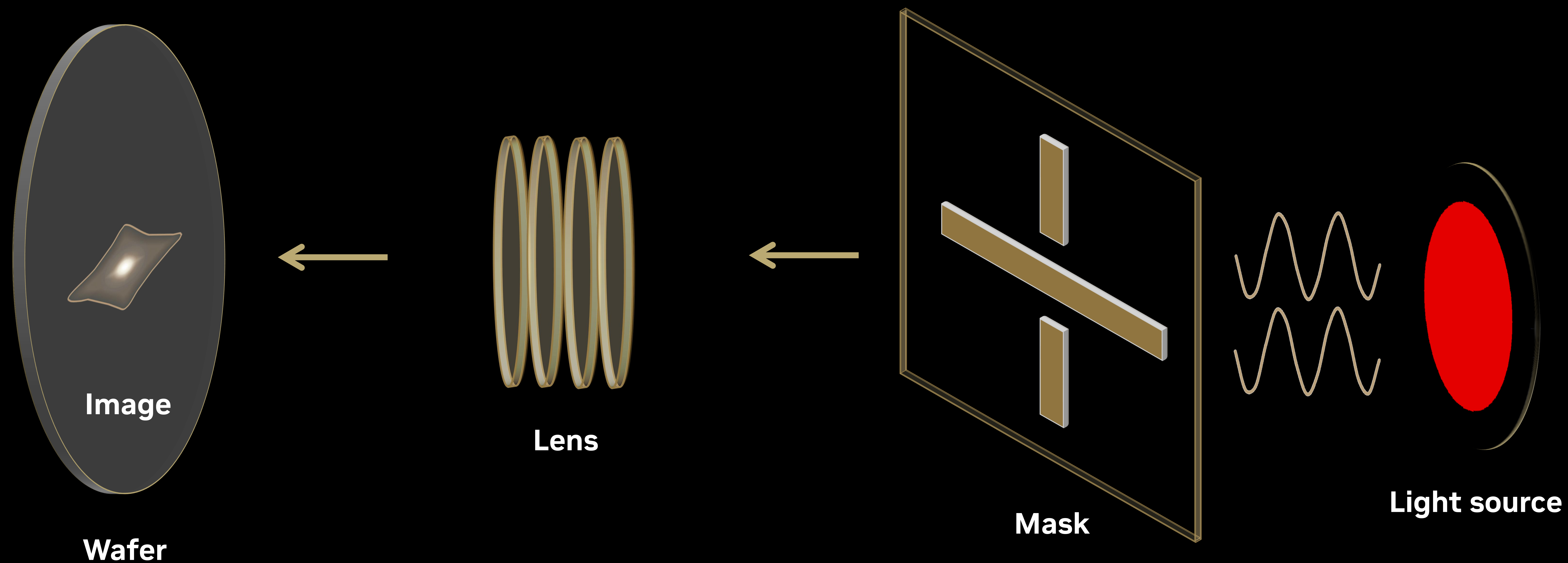
Too small for the light we use...

...have to find ways to bridge the gap



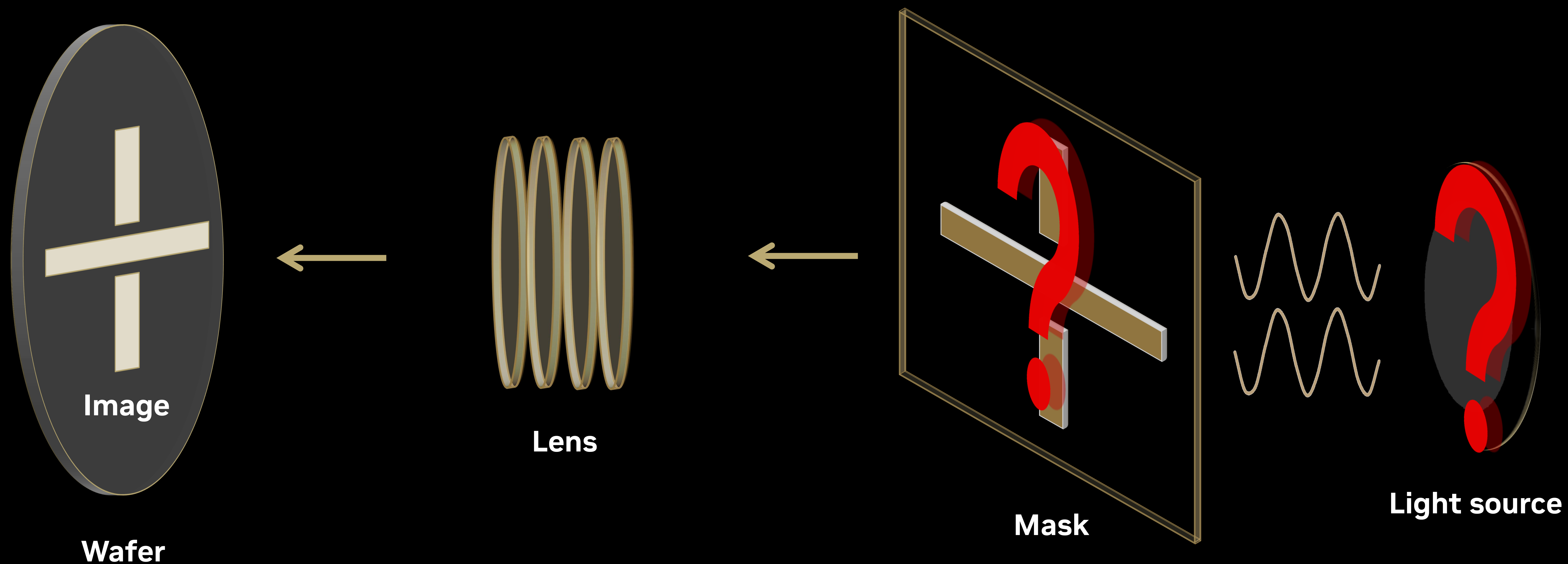
Source: [Wikipedia](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Moore%27s_law)
https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Moore%27s_law

Lithography stepper, simplified



When feature is small, image is blurred

Can we “bend” light by inverting the problem?



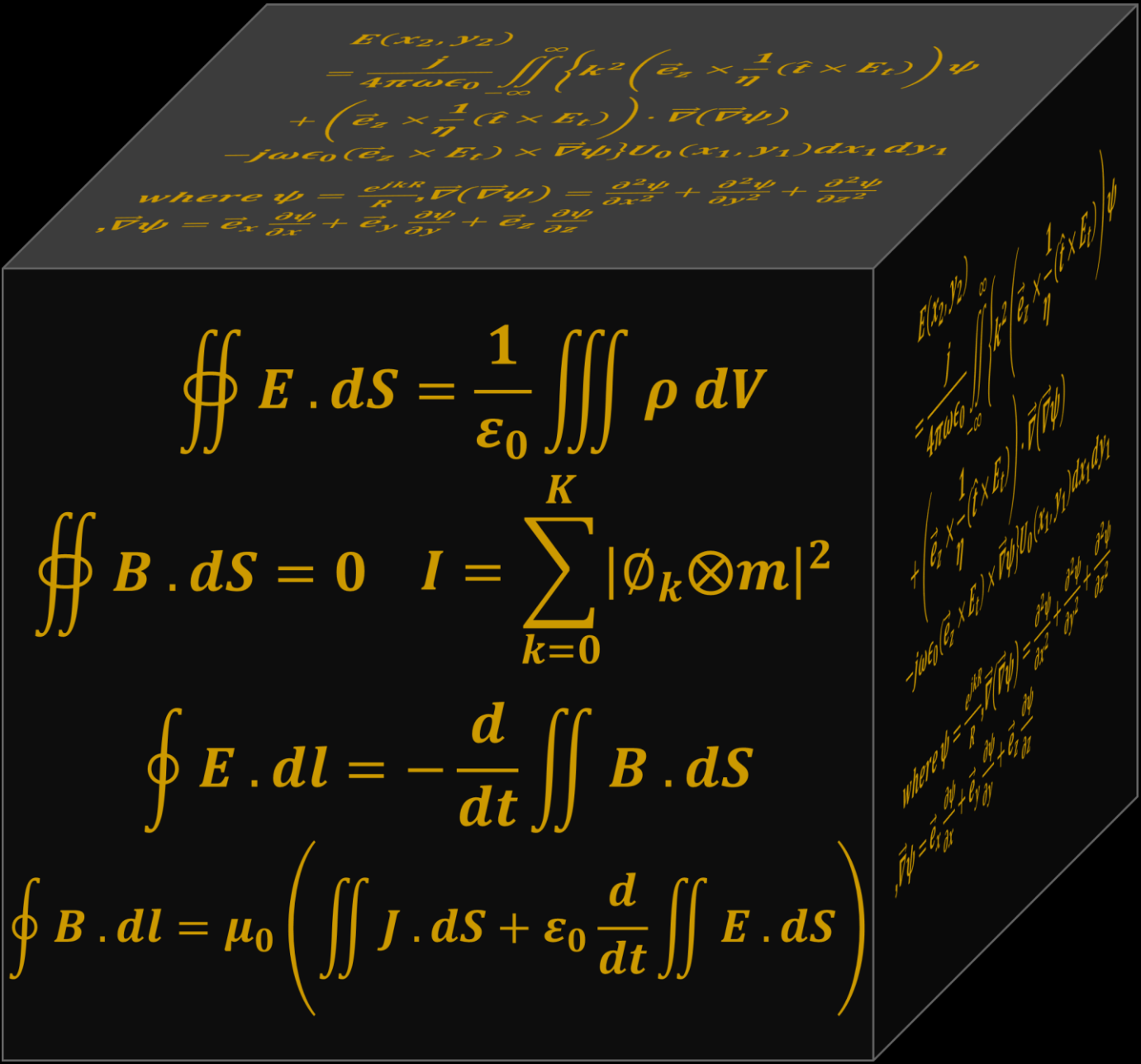
Given an image, what mask and source do I need?

Answer: Computational Lithography

Input = design, output = mask + source



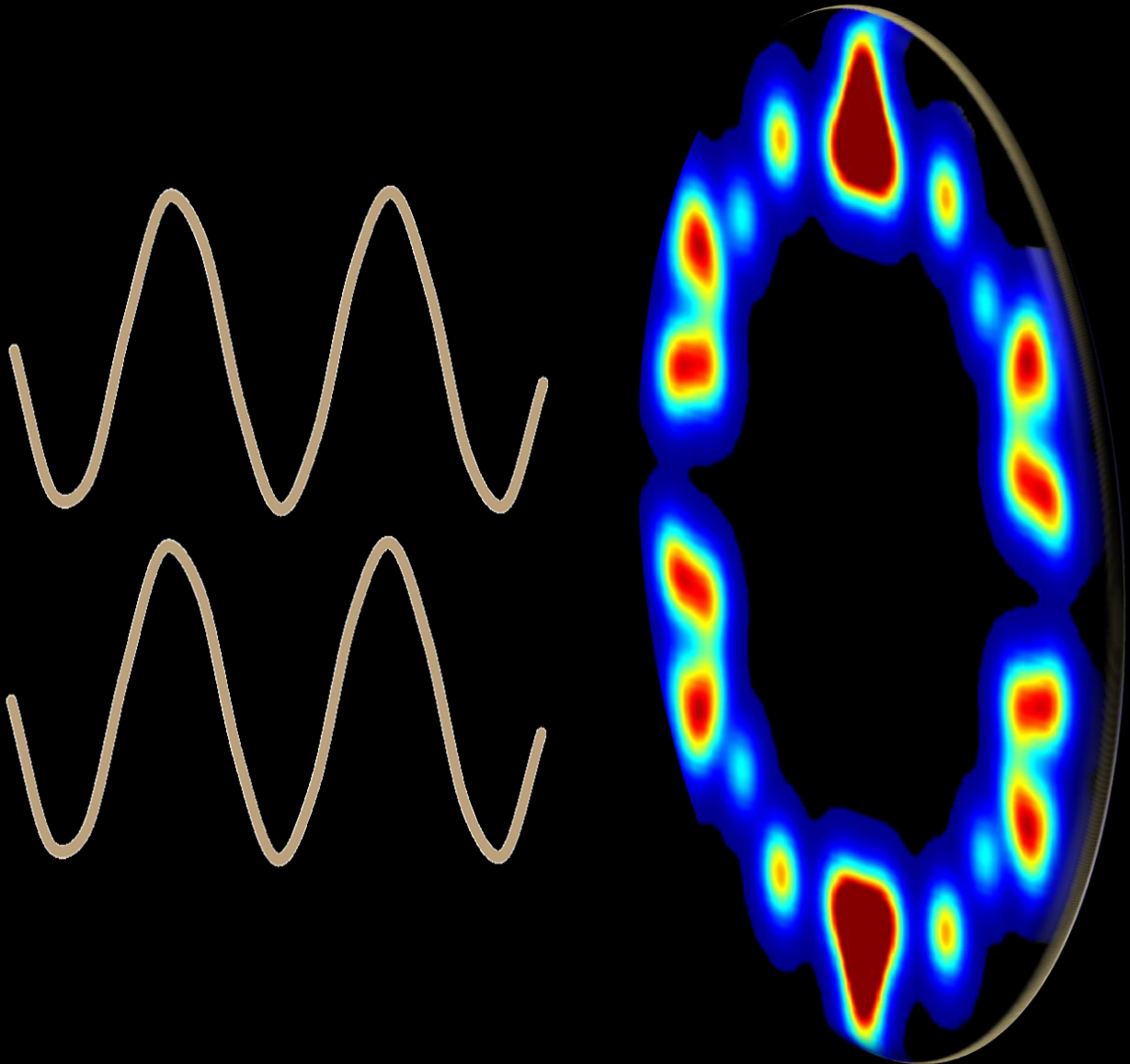
Wafer



Computational Lithography



Mask



Light source

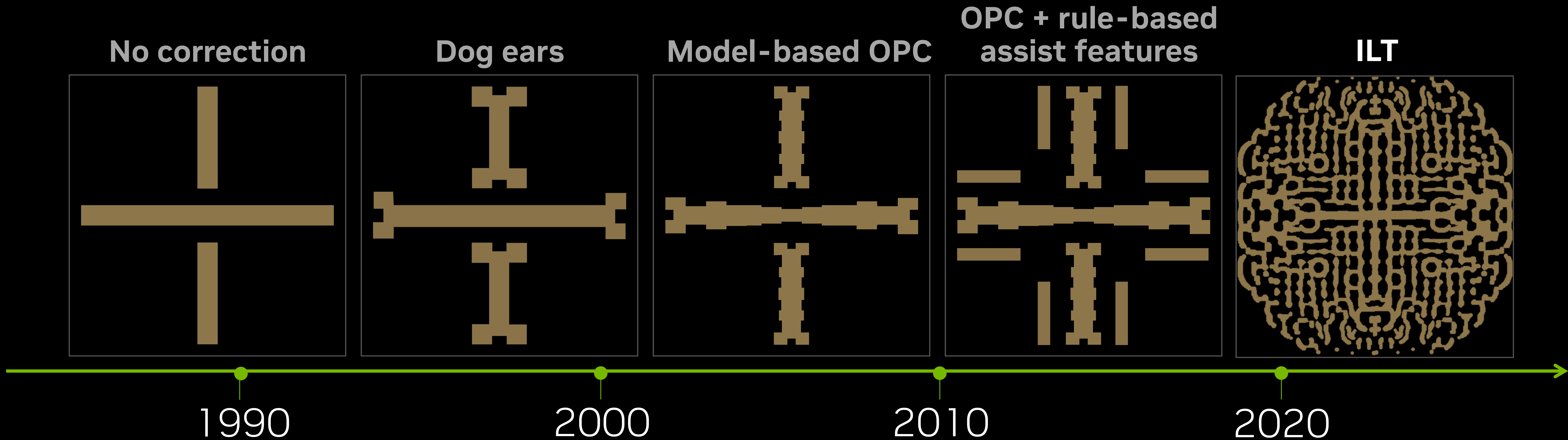




Outline

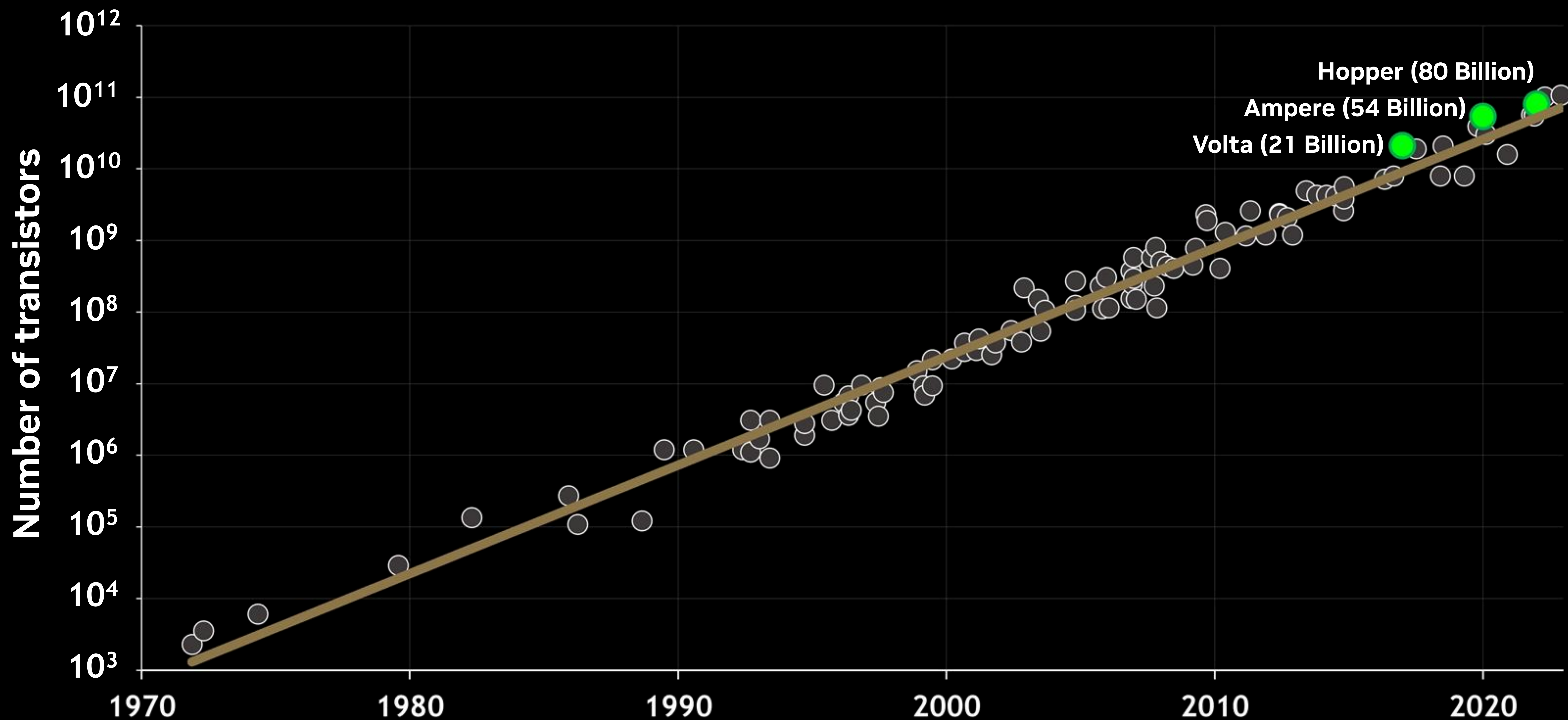
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Increasing need for mask correction



- From simple decorations to complex “distortions”
- Intuition finally breaks down

Billions of transistors on a chip

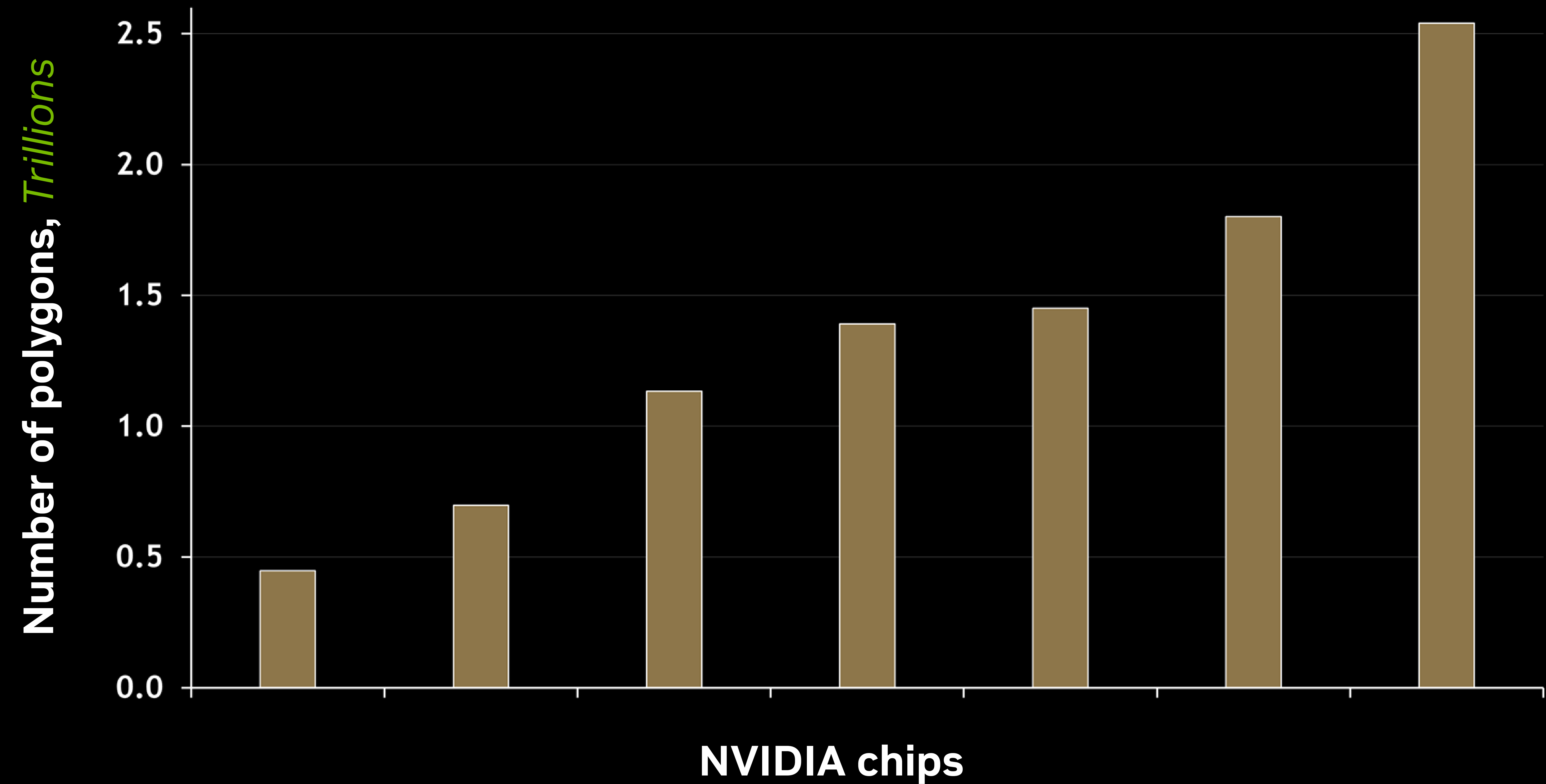


Sources:

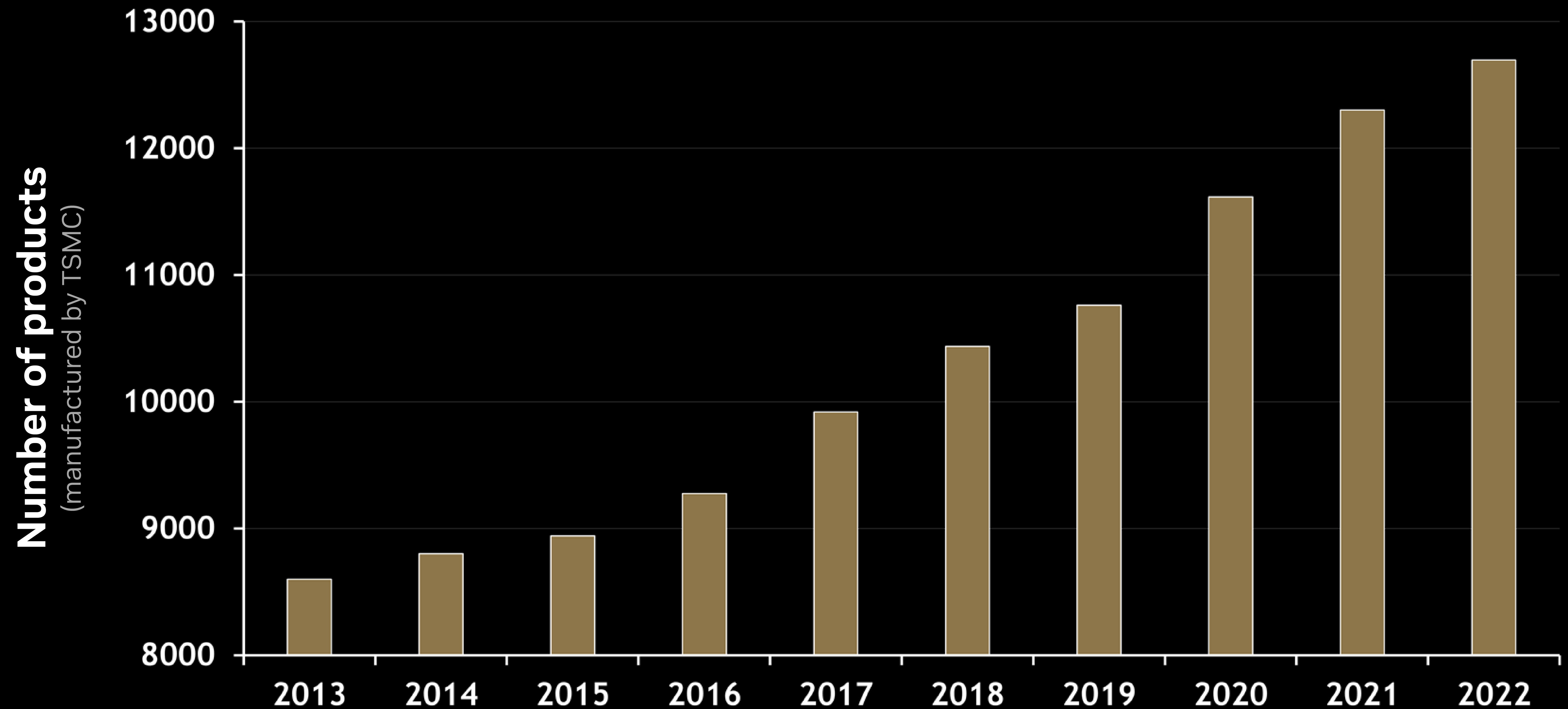
<https://github.com/karlrupp/microprocessor-trend-data>

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Transistor_count

... trillions of polygons on a chip



... and thousands of chips

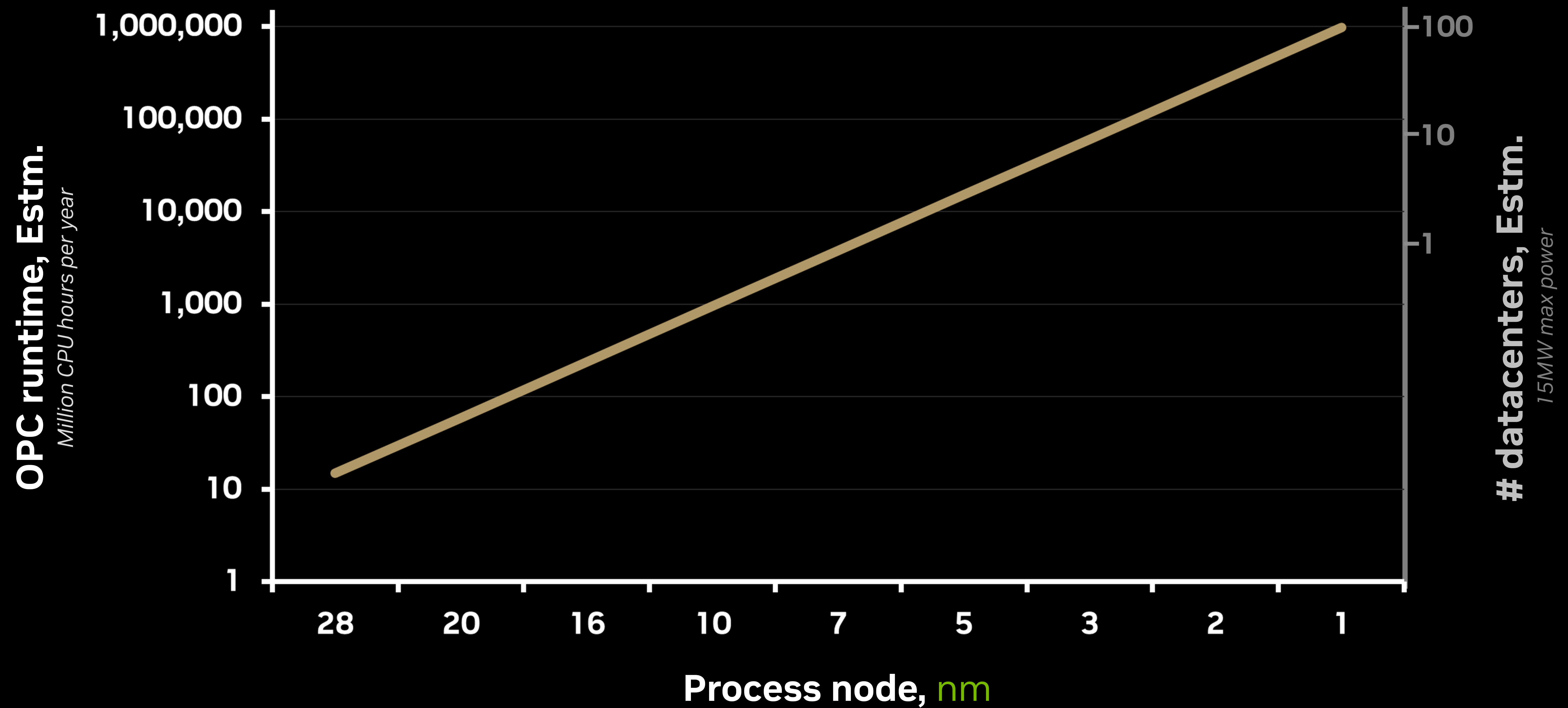


Sources:

<https://investor.tsmc.com/english/annual-reports>

<https://www.statista.com/statistics/1178174/taiwan-semiconductor-manufacturing-company-number-of-products/>

Can't just keep adding datacenters



Sources:

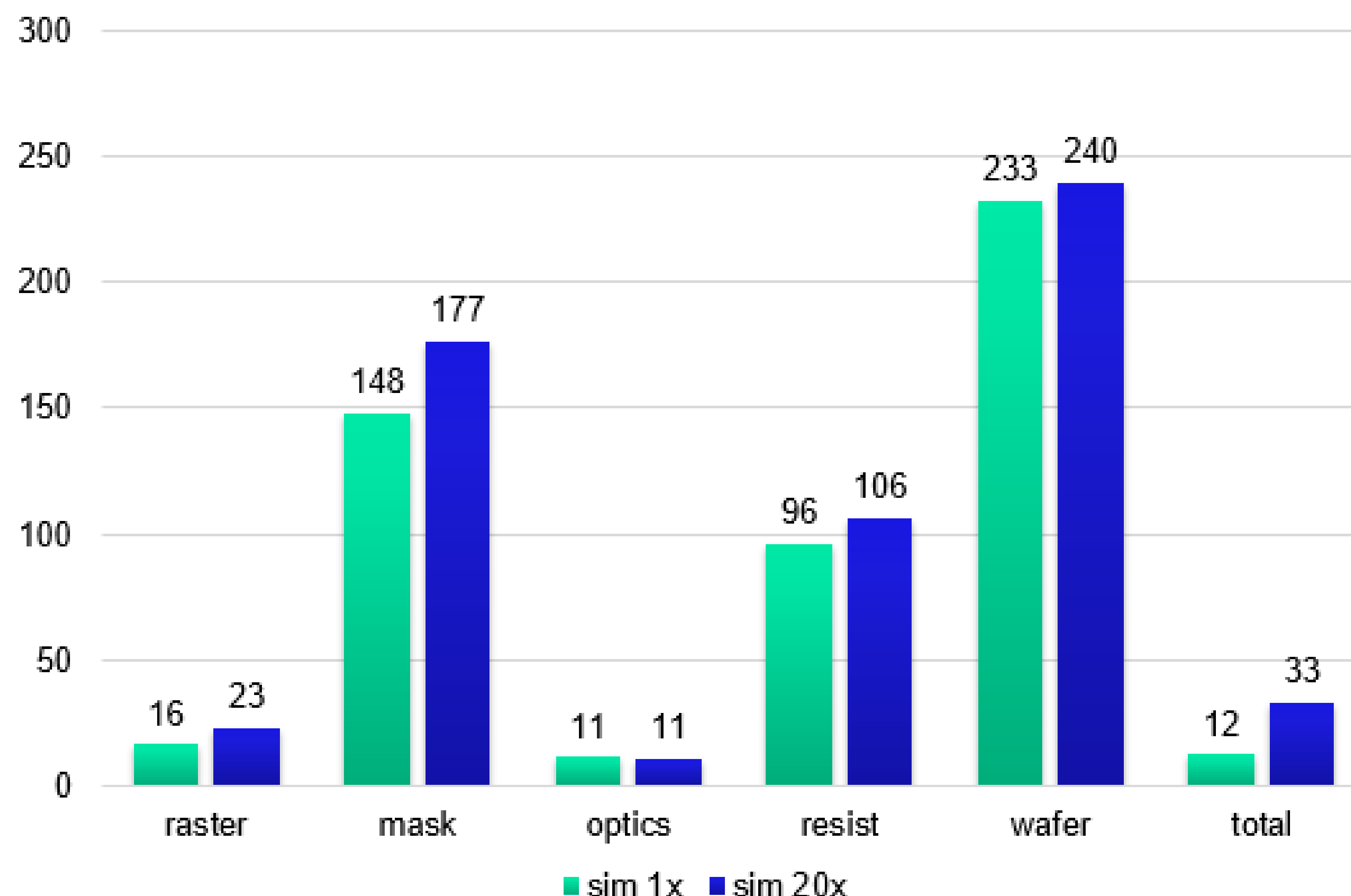
S. Jones (2020), Nikon Lithovision

V. Singh (2022). SPIE Advanced Lithography Conference Keynote

ILT Performance Is Getting Faster

GPUs are reducing ILT simulation times > 10x

CPU/GPU Speedup by Component



Test Conditions

- Run on single Tesla V100
- Forward sim 1x has one-time warmup overhead
- Forward sim 20x used to mimic OPC and amortize warmup time

Note: Real OPC also includes geometric processing beyond simulation; can itself be expensive

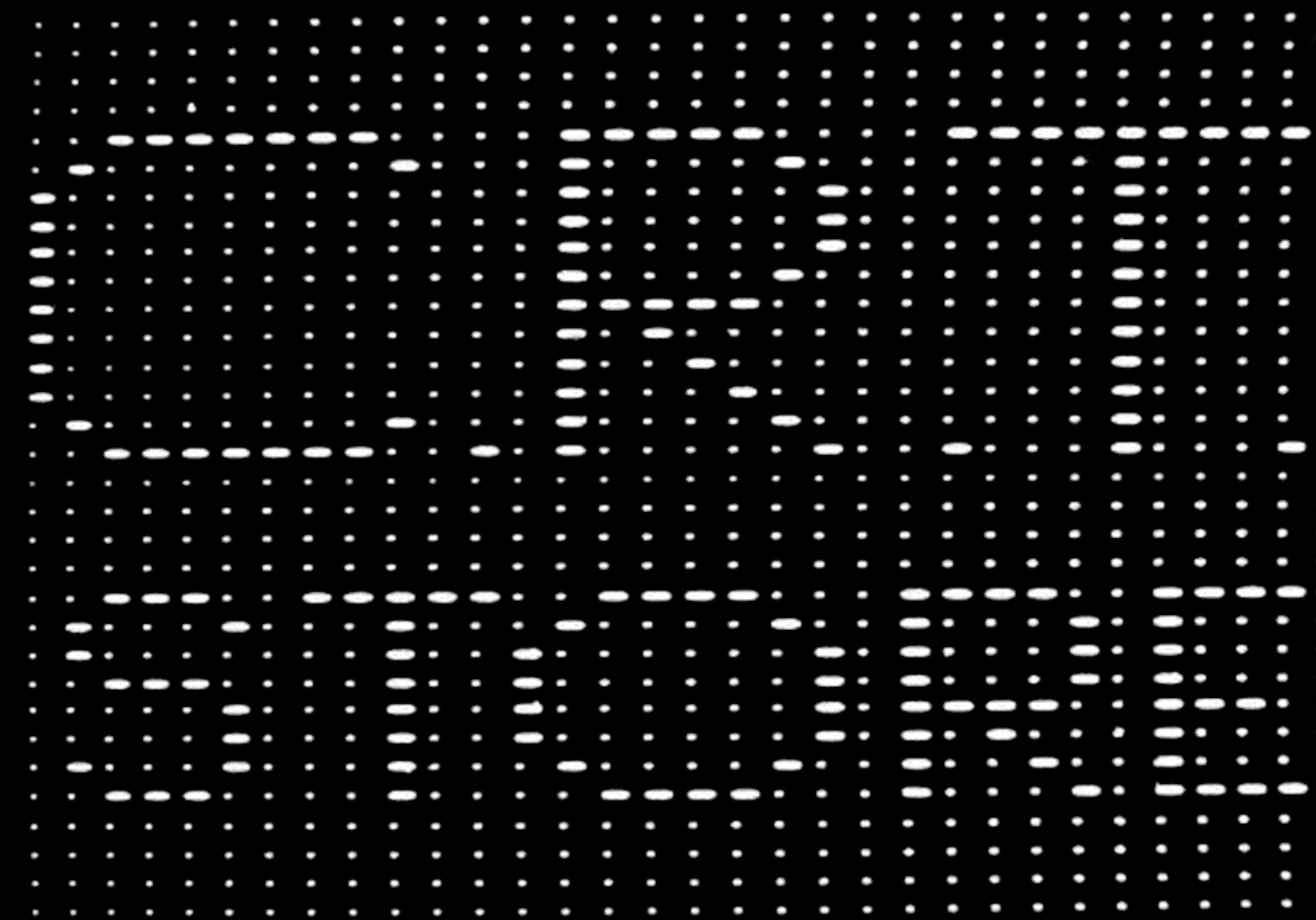
Can GPU libraries be used for polygon ops?

Source: Courtesy of K. Ho of TSMC, GTC 2020



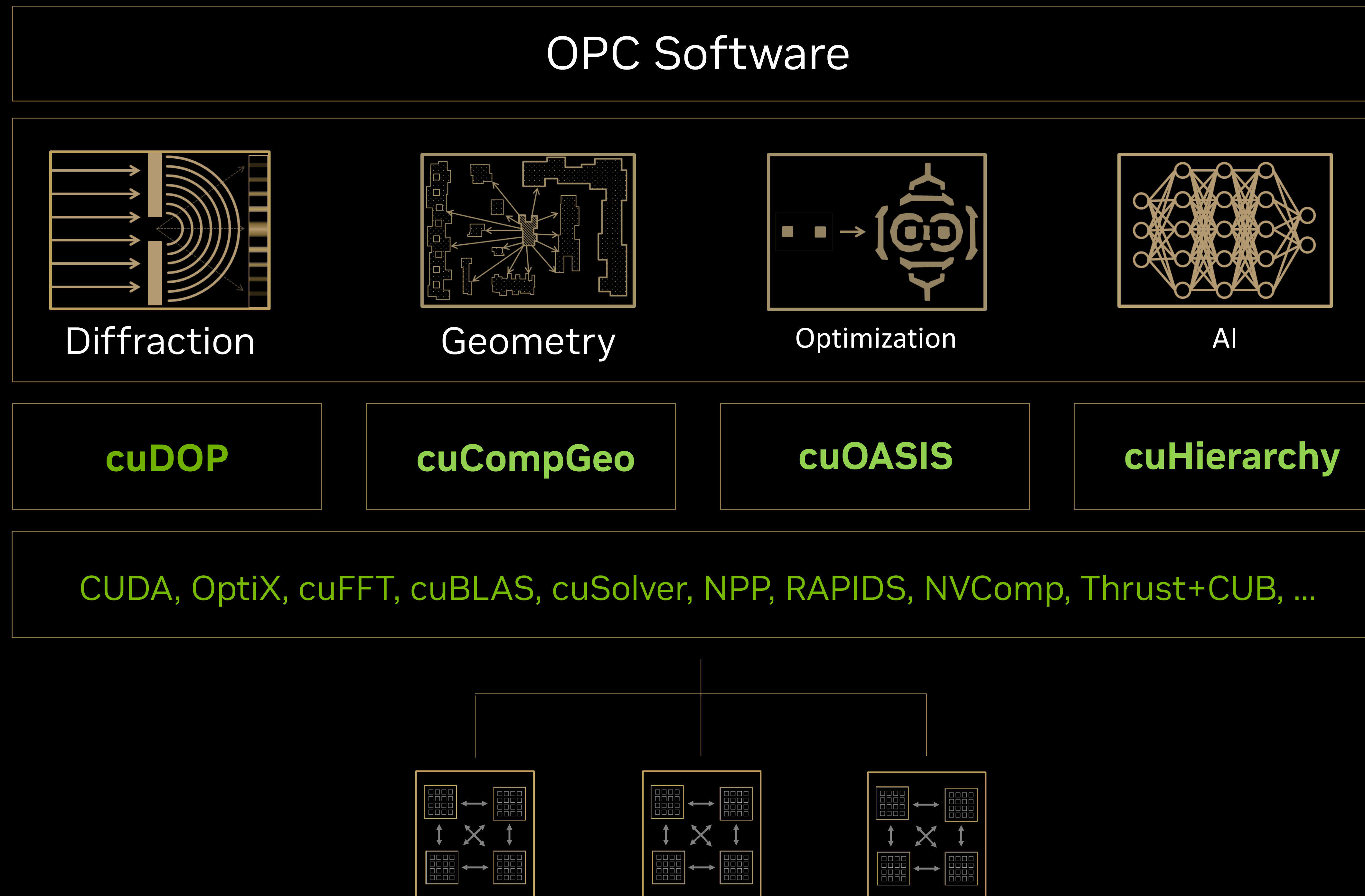
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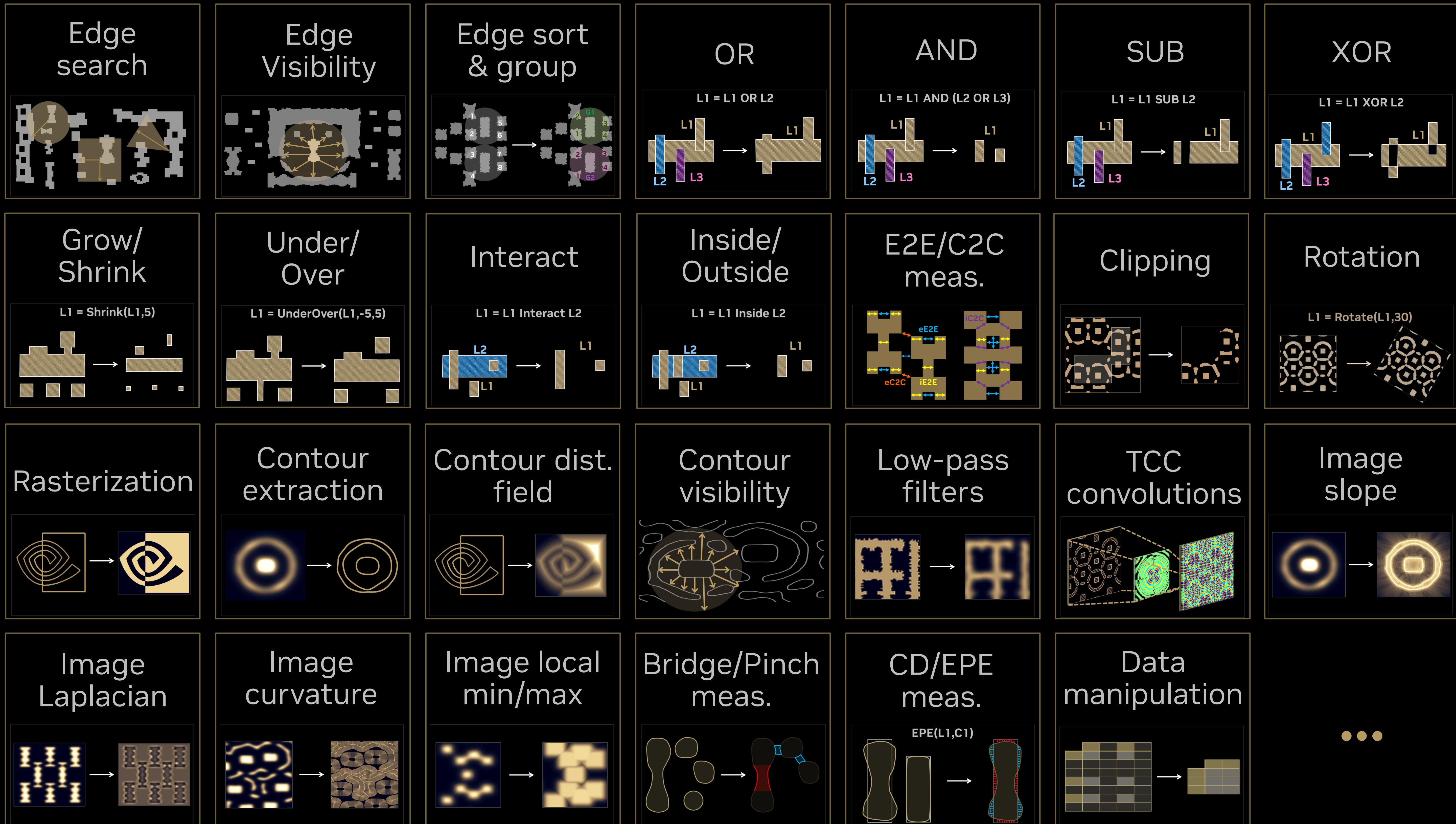


First Digital Picture
Tom Kilburn, University of Manchester, UK
1947

cuLITHO: accelerates computational lithography

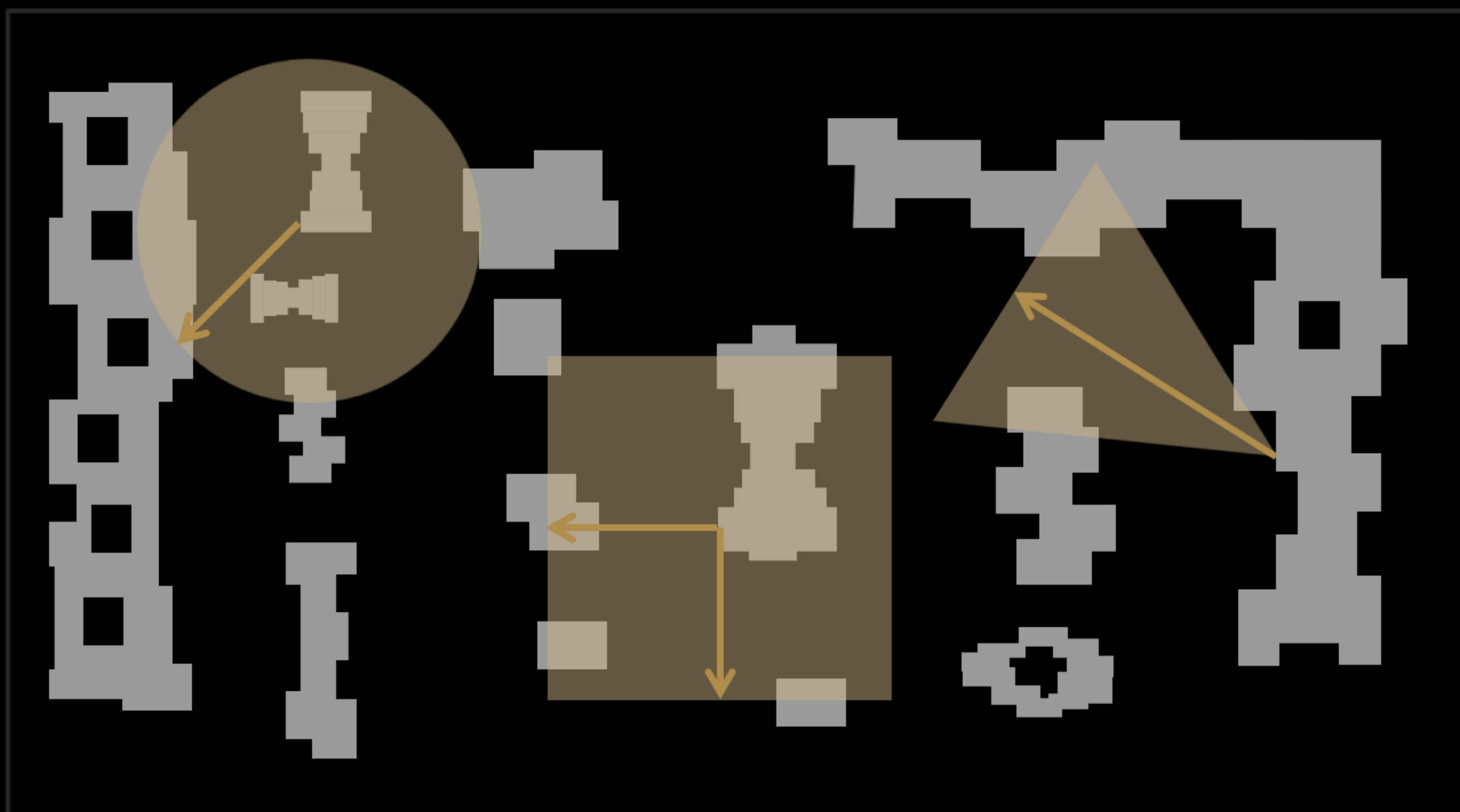


Parallel algorithms for primitive operations

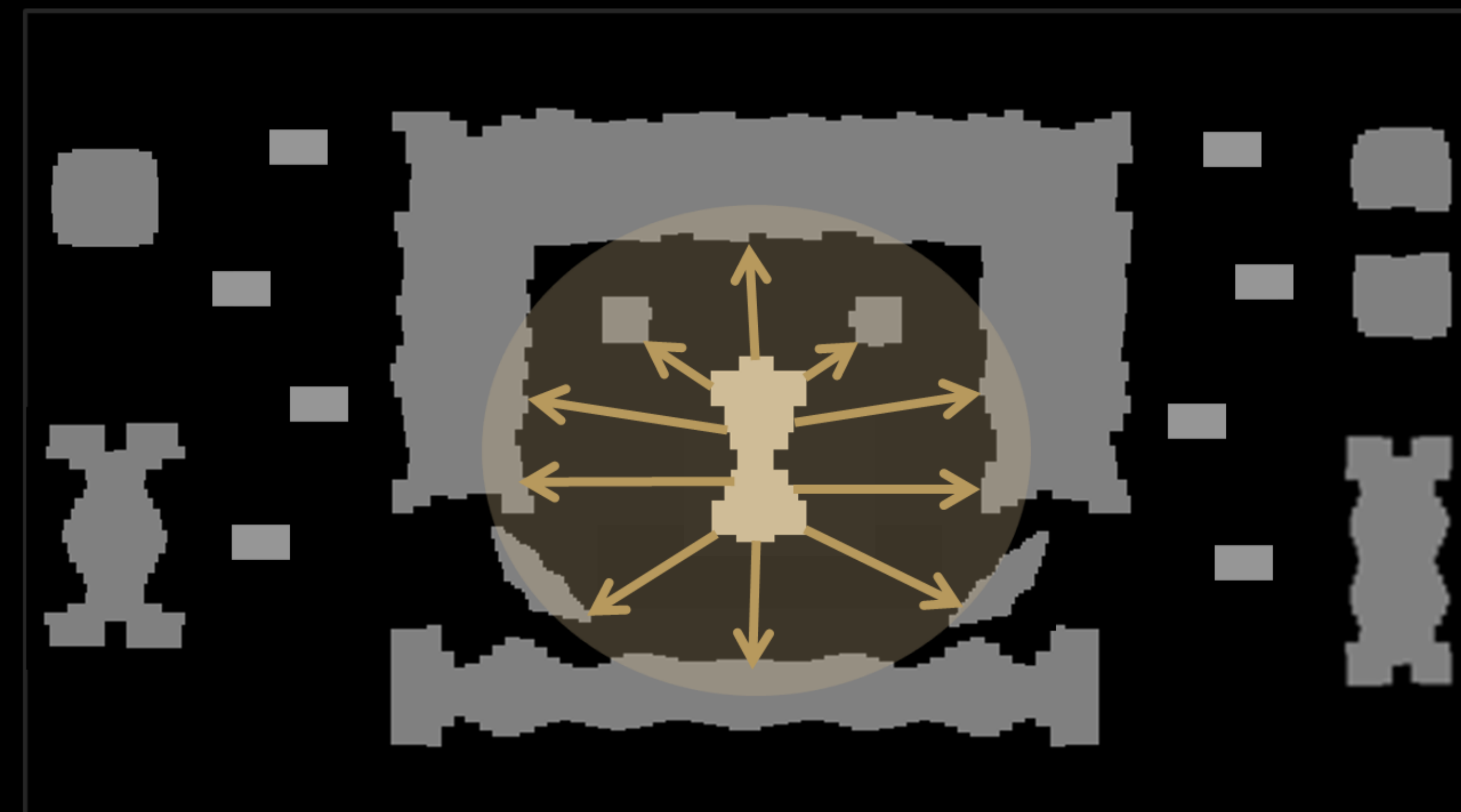


Search and visibility

Edge Search

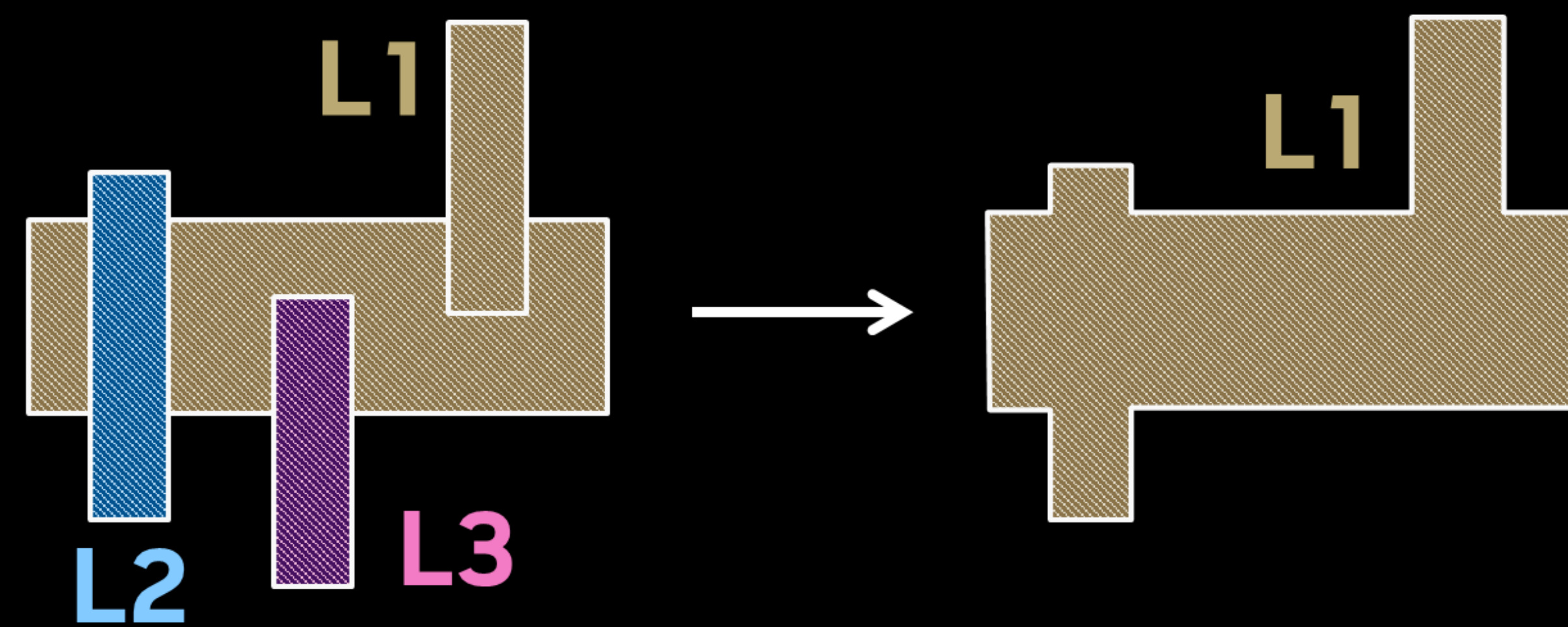


Edge visibility

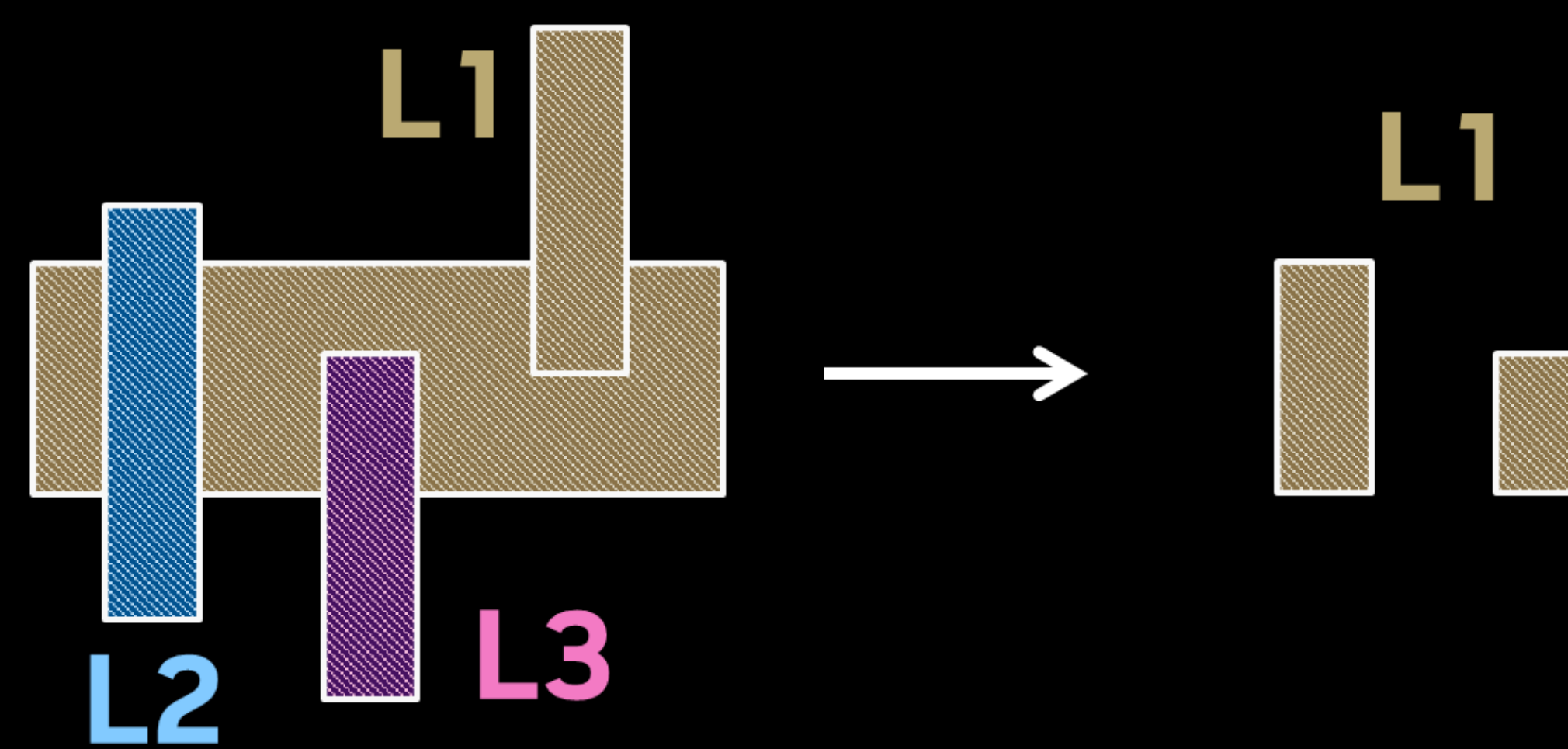


Polygon Booleans

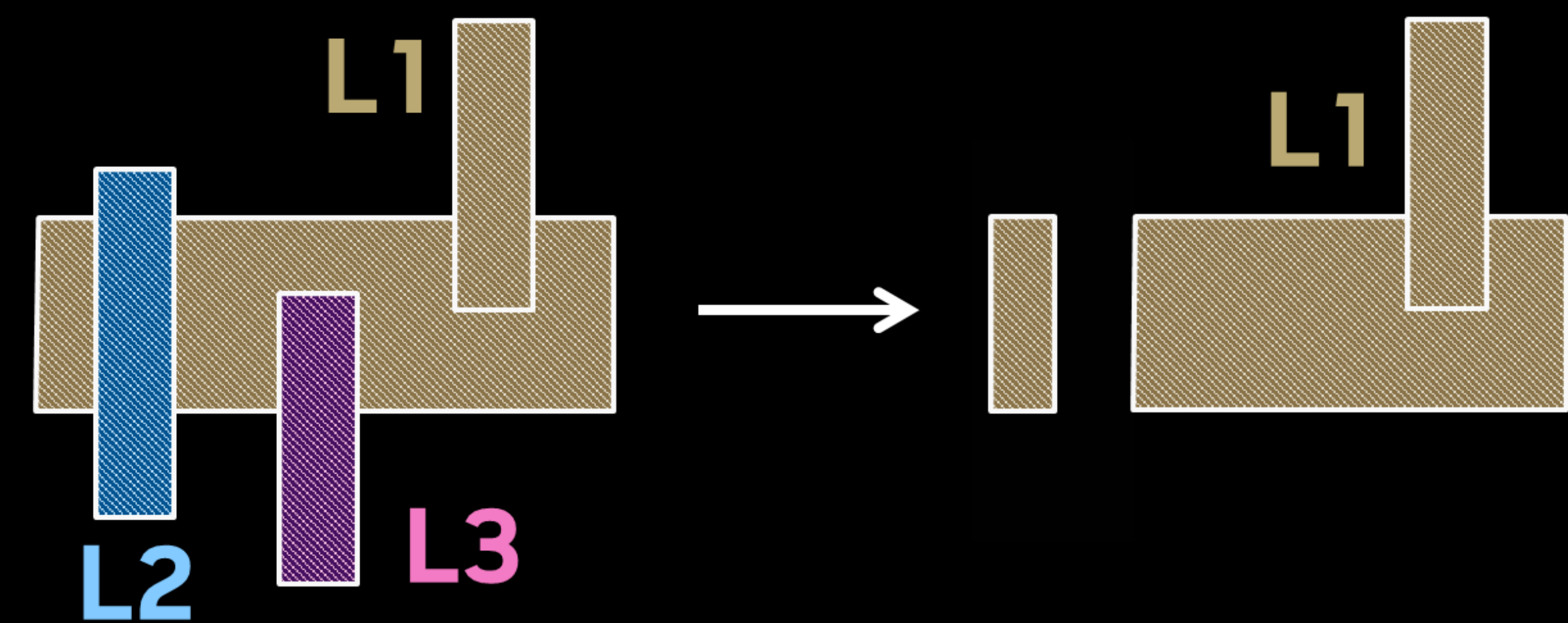
$L1 = L1 \text{ OR } L2$



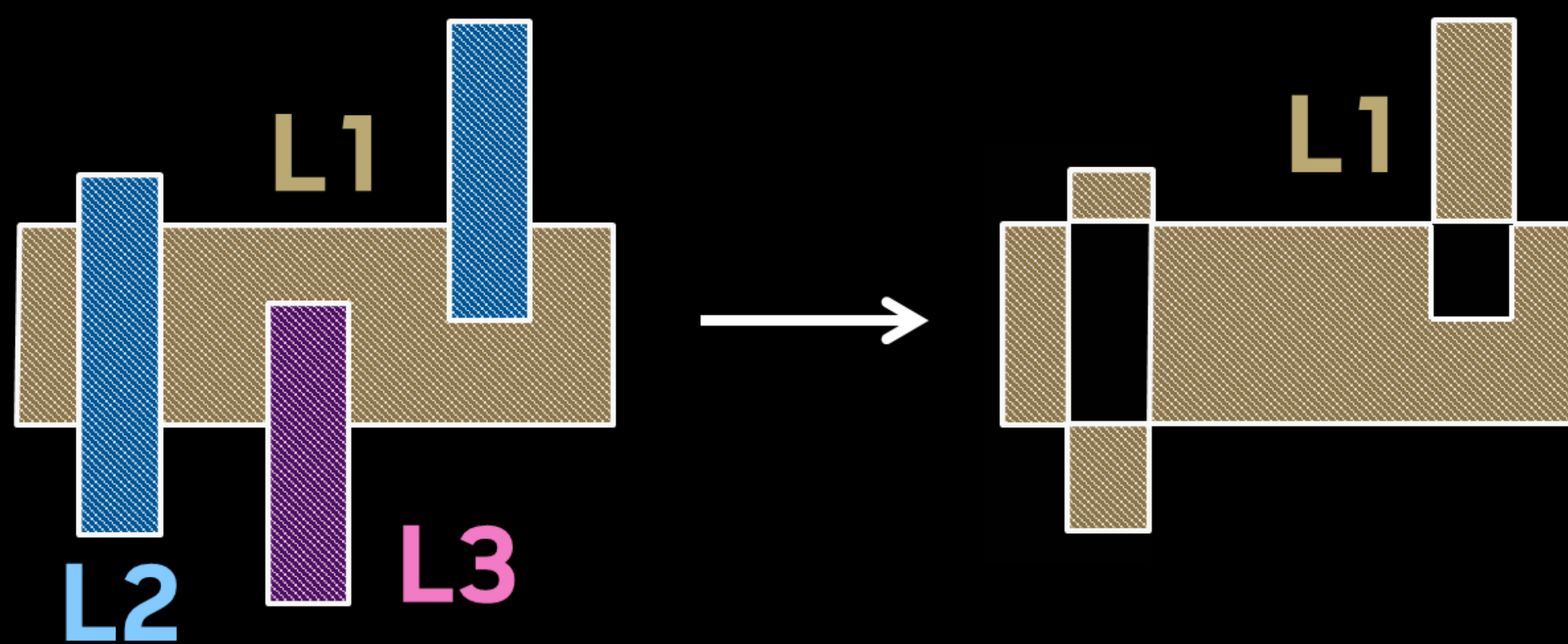
$L1 = L1 \text{ AND } (L2 \text{ OR } L3)$



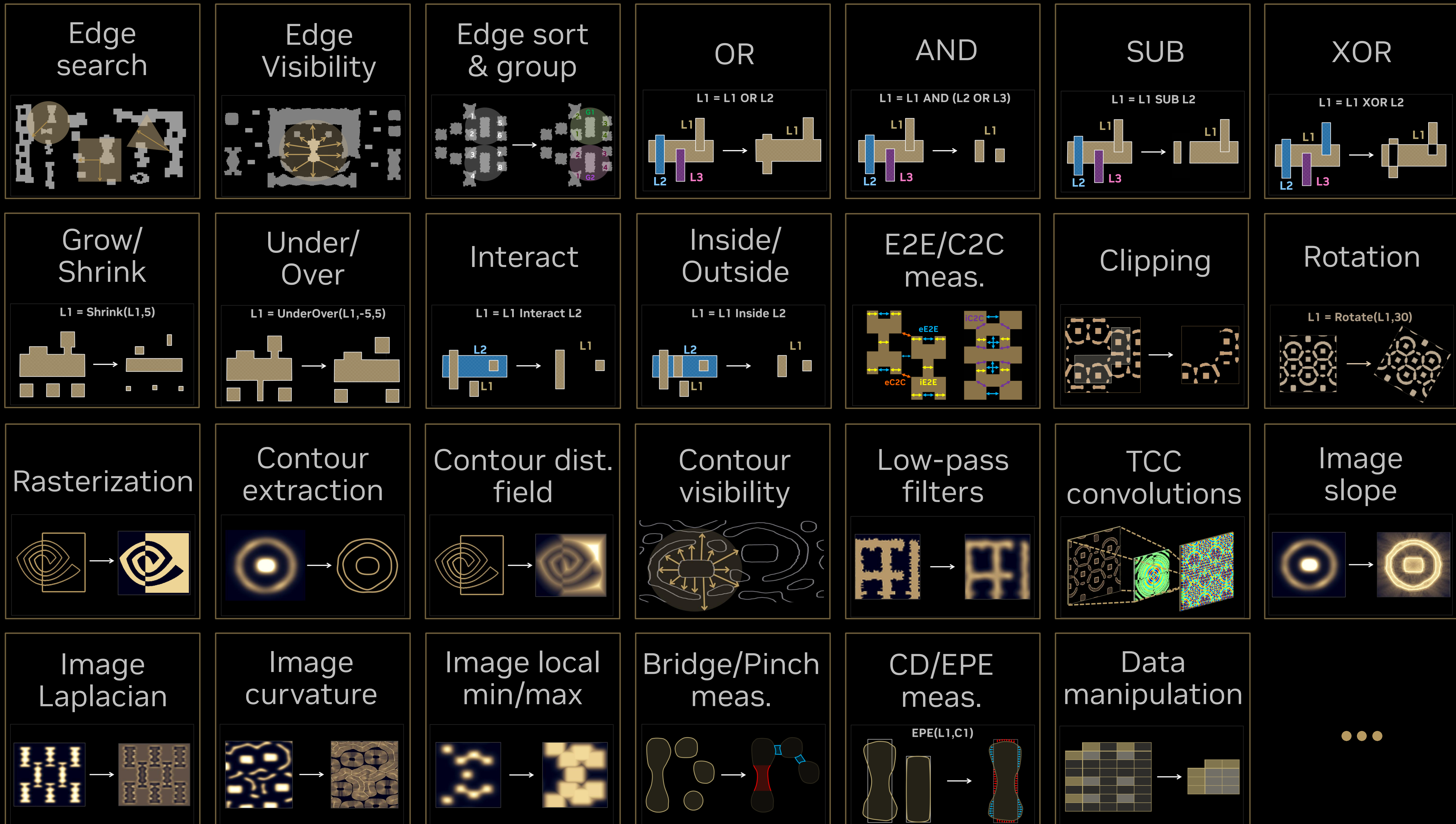
$L1 = L1 \text{ SUB } L2$



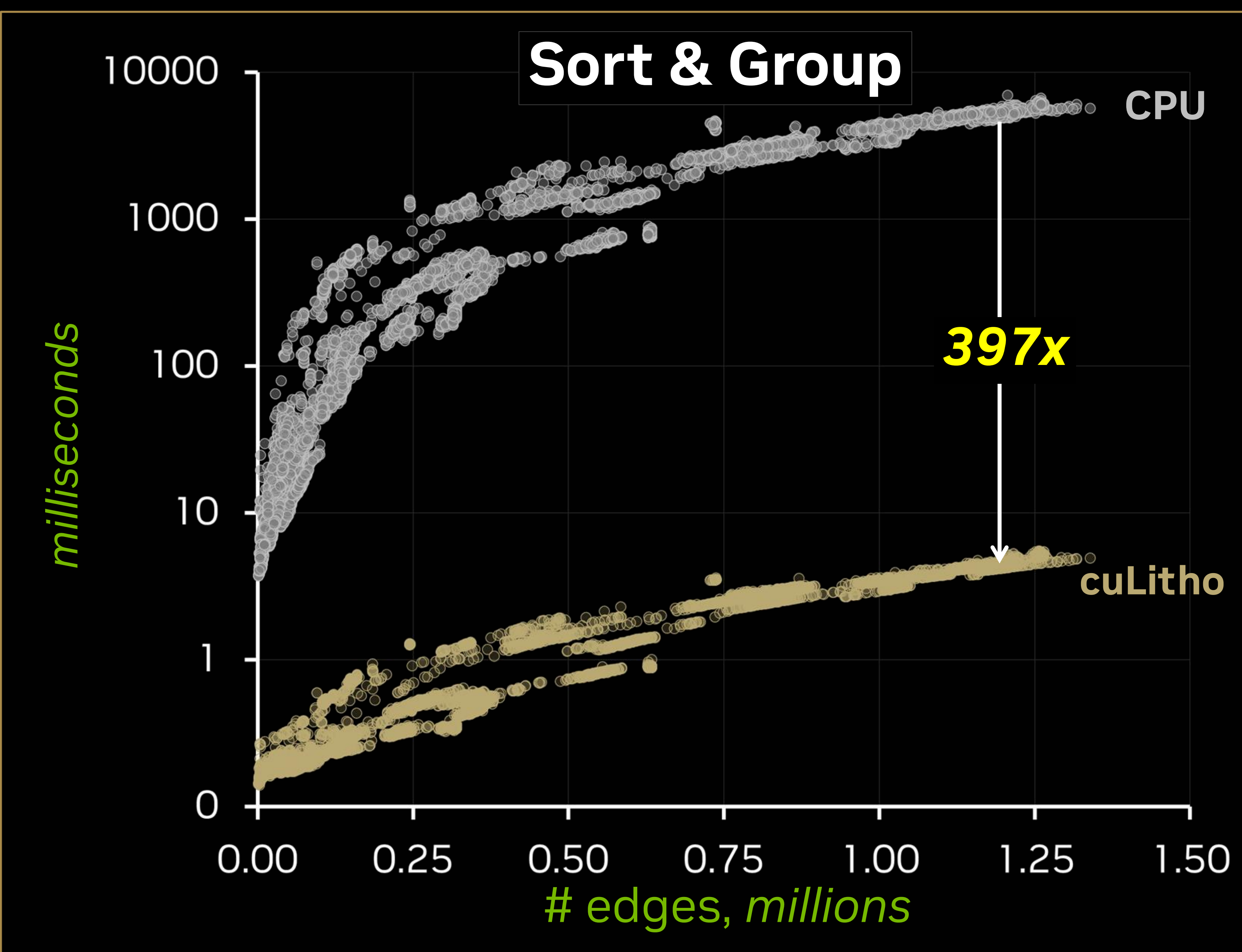
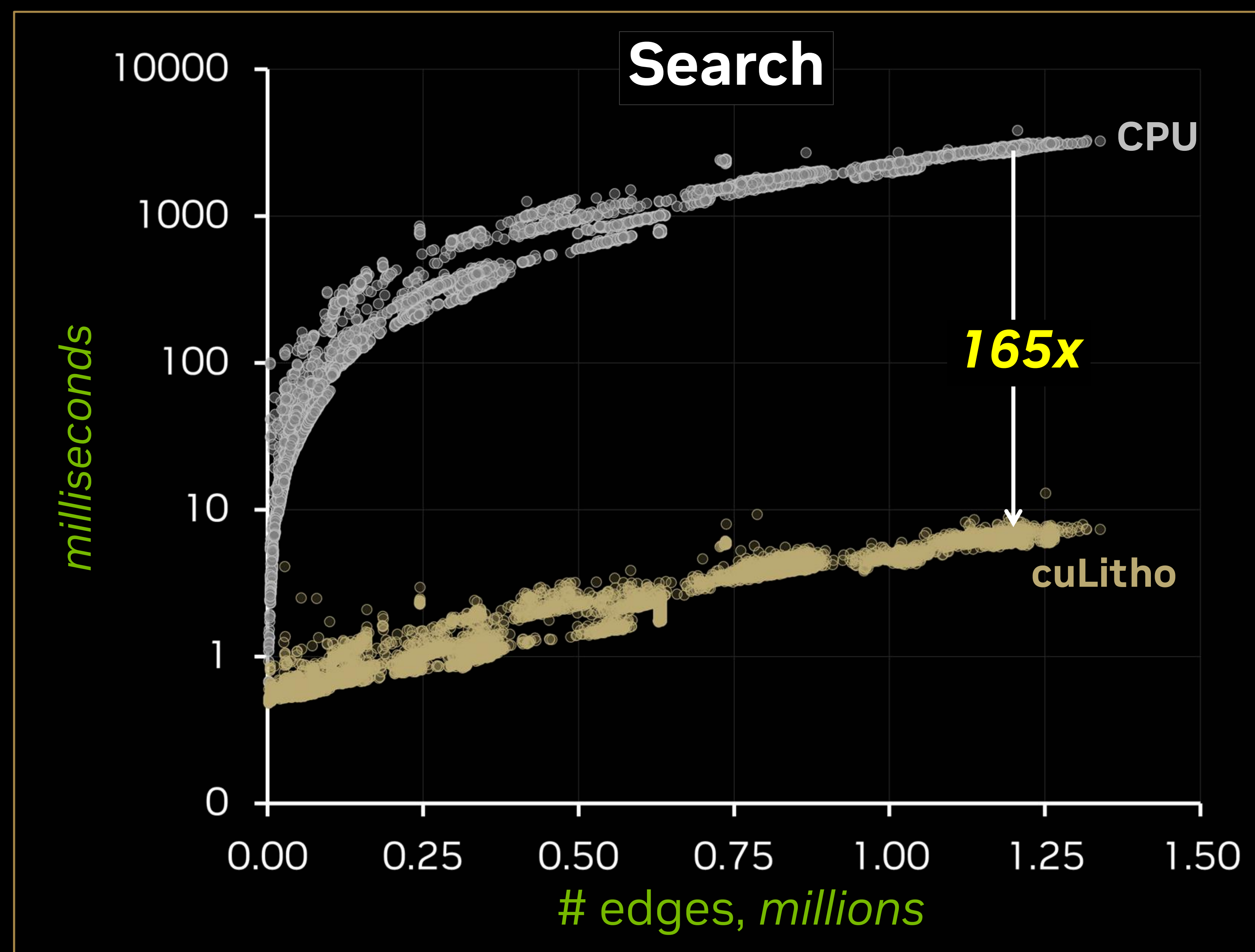
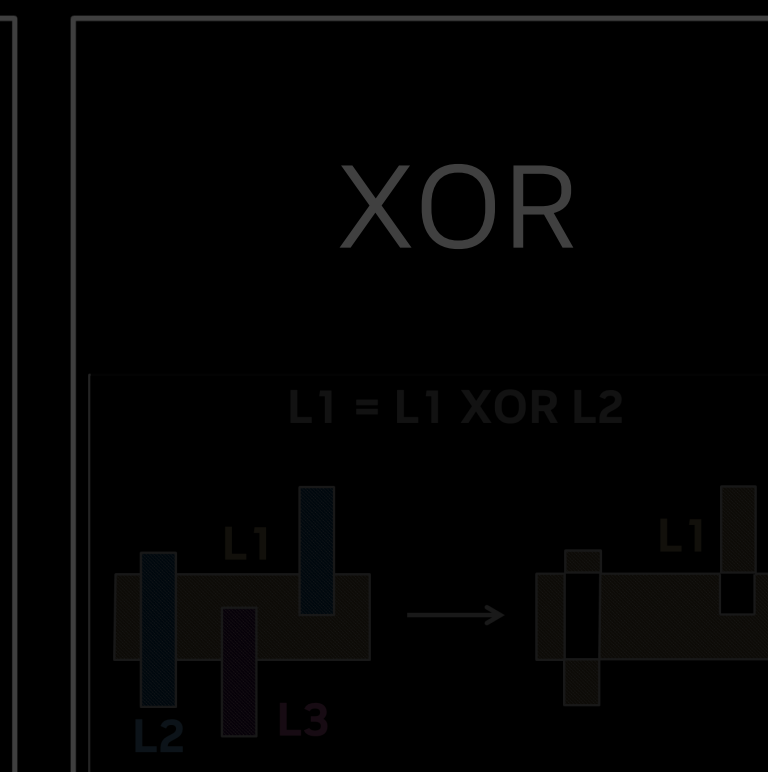
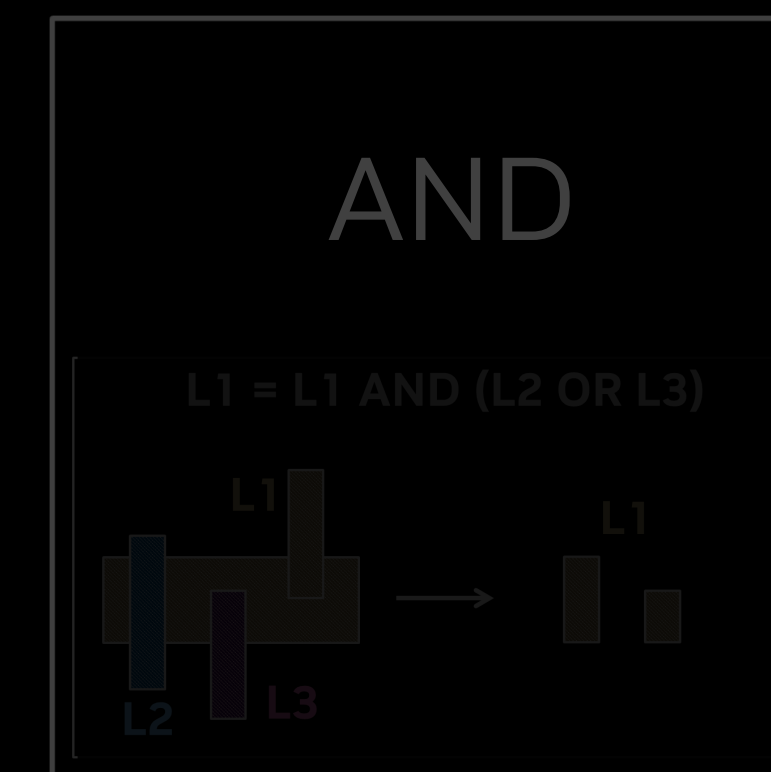
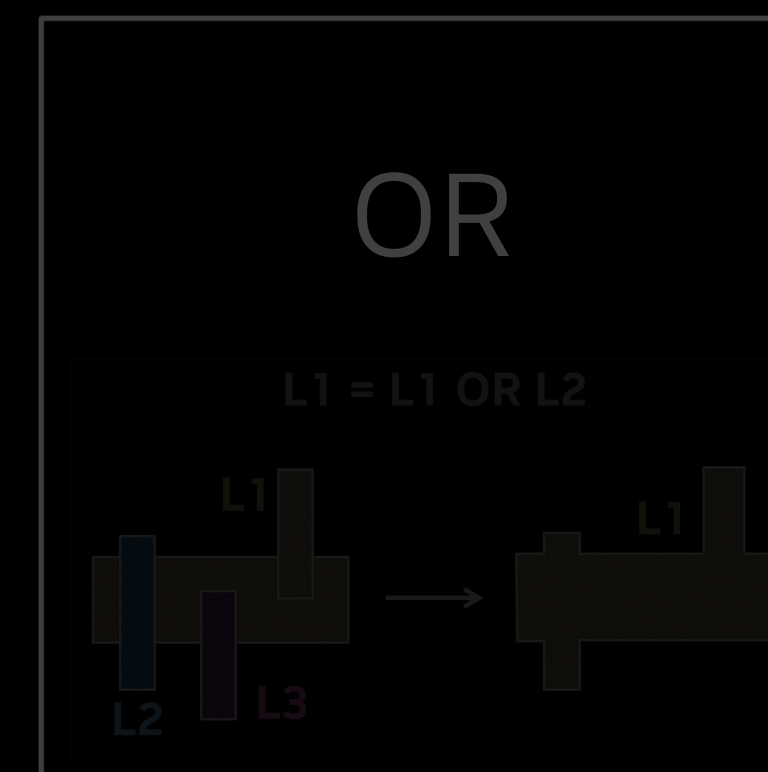
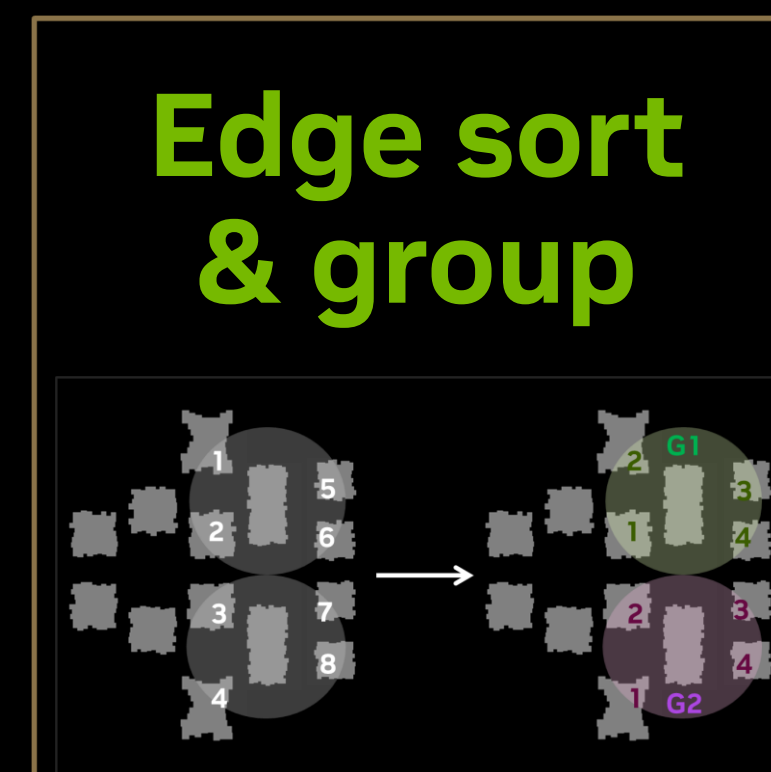
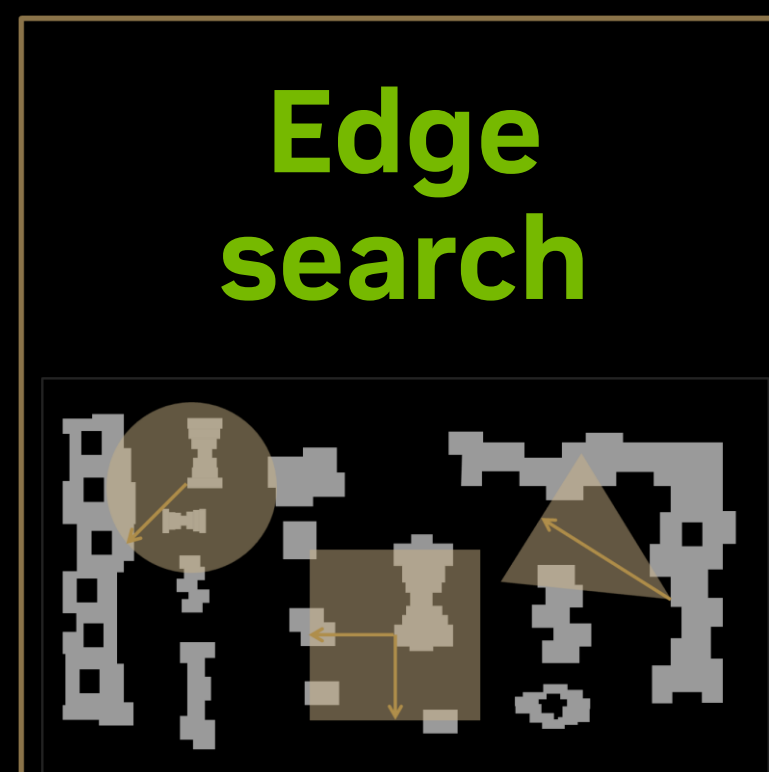
$L1 = L1 \text{ XOR } L2$



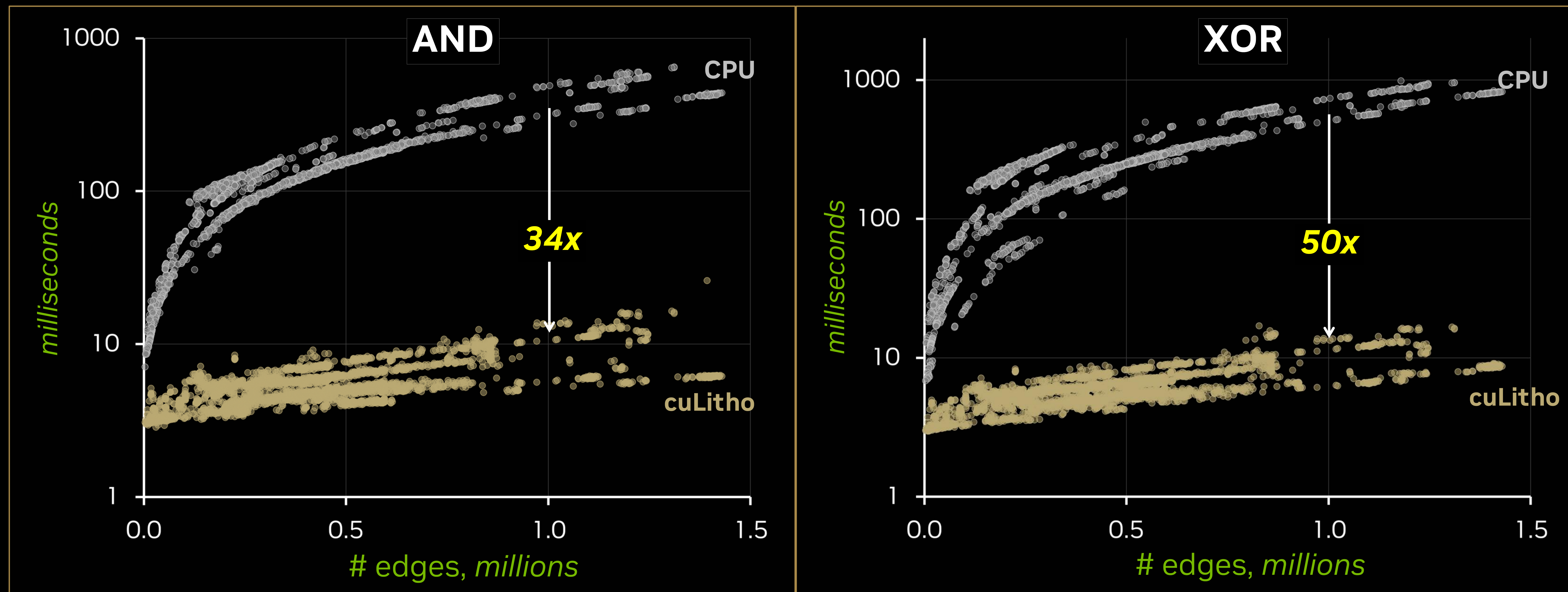
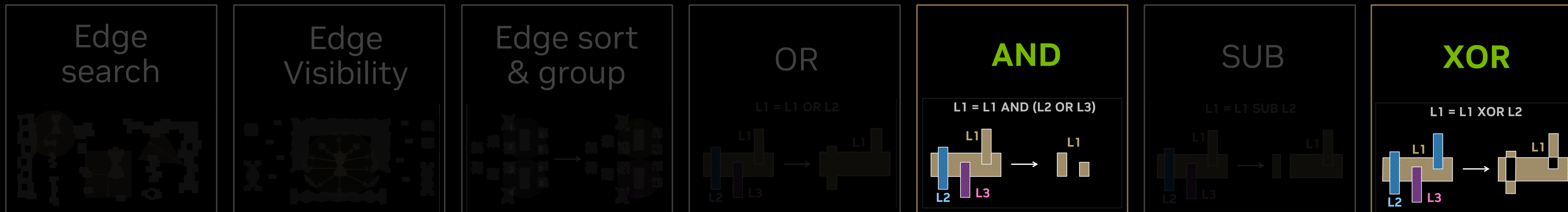
Parallel algorithms for primitive operations



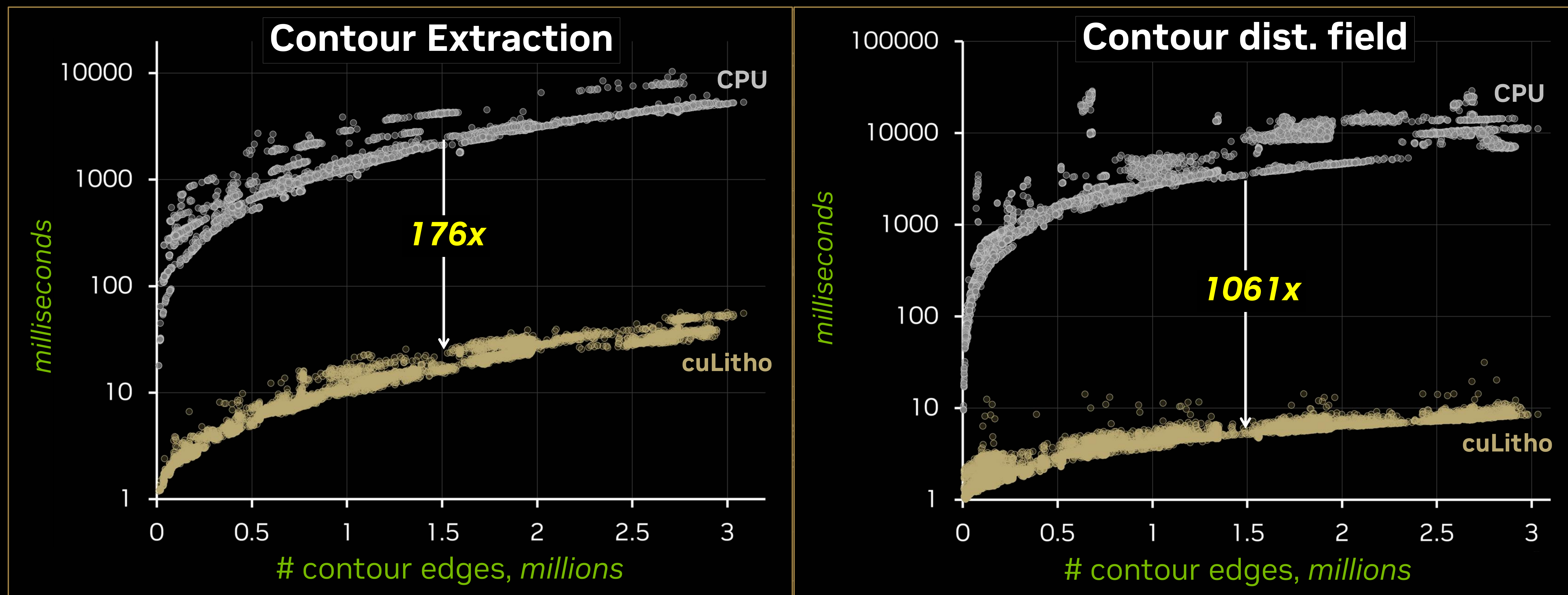
Parallel algorithms for primitive operations



Parallel algorithms for primitive operations



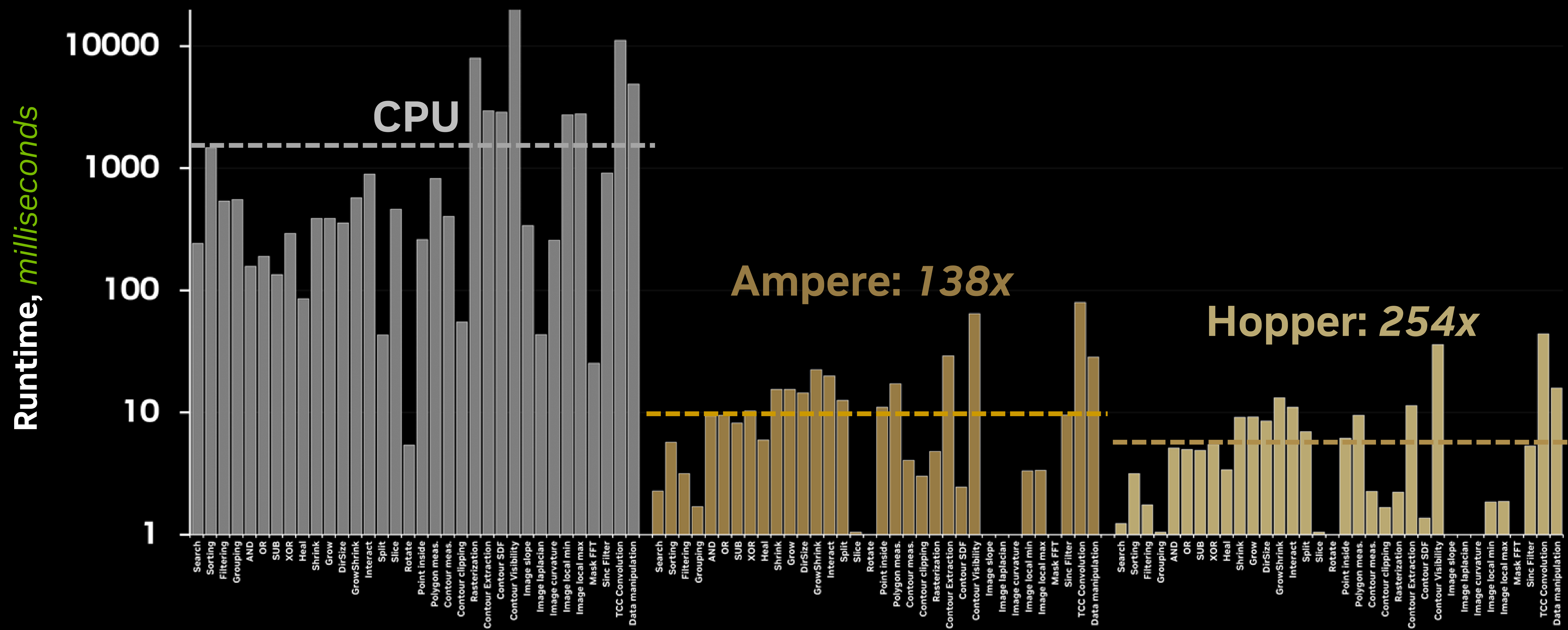
Parallel algorithms for primitive operations



Parallel algorithms for primitive operations

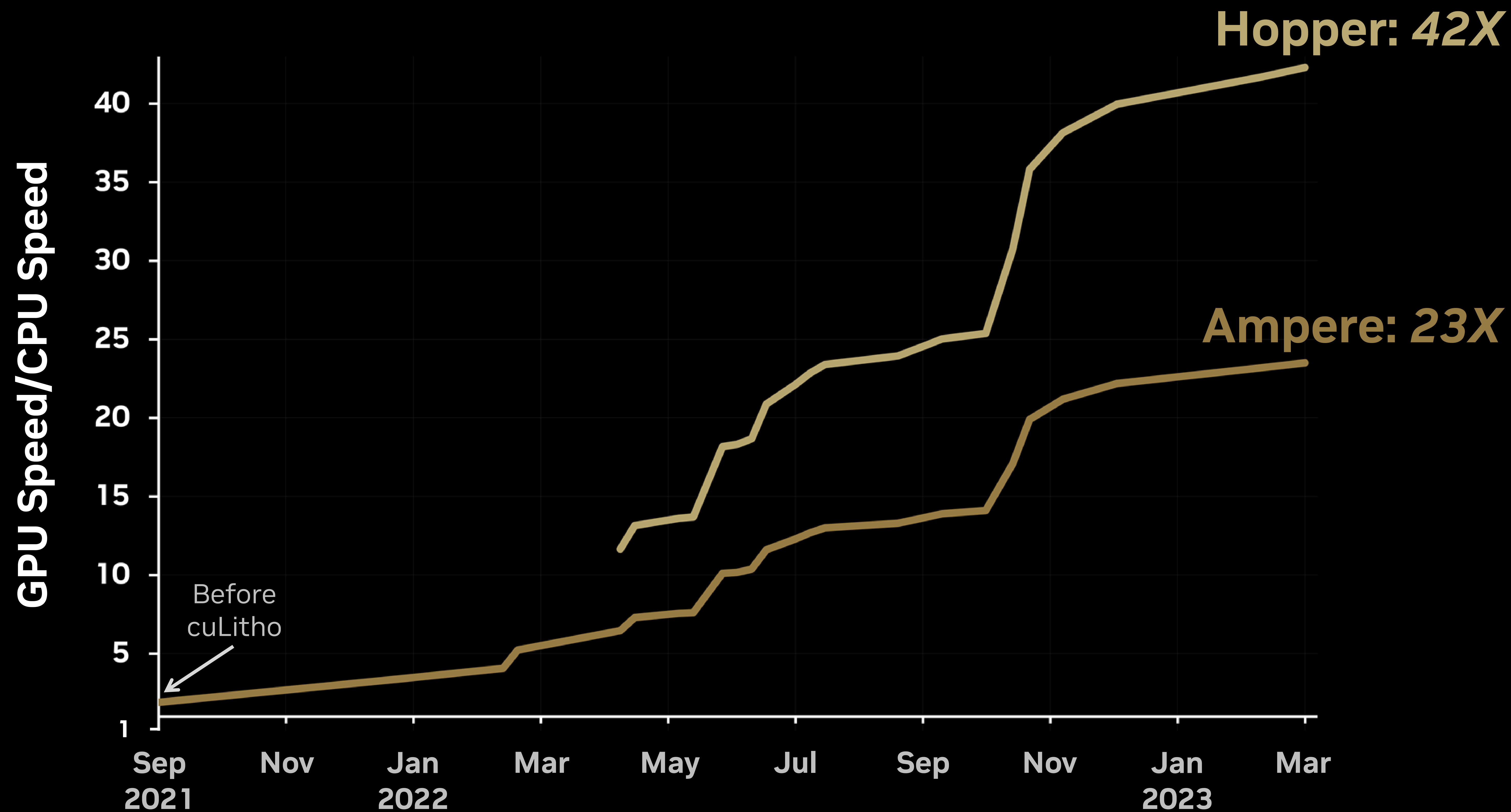
Edge search 165x	Edge Visibility 165x	Edge sort & group 397x	OR 34x	AND 34x	SUB 26x	XOR 50x
Grow/Shrink 38x	Under/Over 38x	Interact 45x	Inside/Outside 40x	E2E/C2C meas. 87x	Clipping 33x	Rotation 107x
Rasterization 1650x	Contour extraction 176x	Contour dist. field 1061x	Contour visibility 581x	Low-pass filters 171x	TCC convolutions 95x	Image slope 504x
Image Laplacian 77x	Image curvature 406x	Image local min/max 412x	Bridge/Pinch meas. 46x	CD/EPE meas. 179x	Data manipulation 308x	...

Component Speedup



End-to-End OPC Speedup

Mask processing overnight, instead of 2 weeks

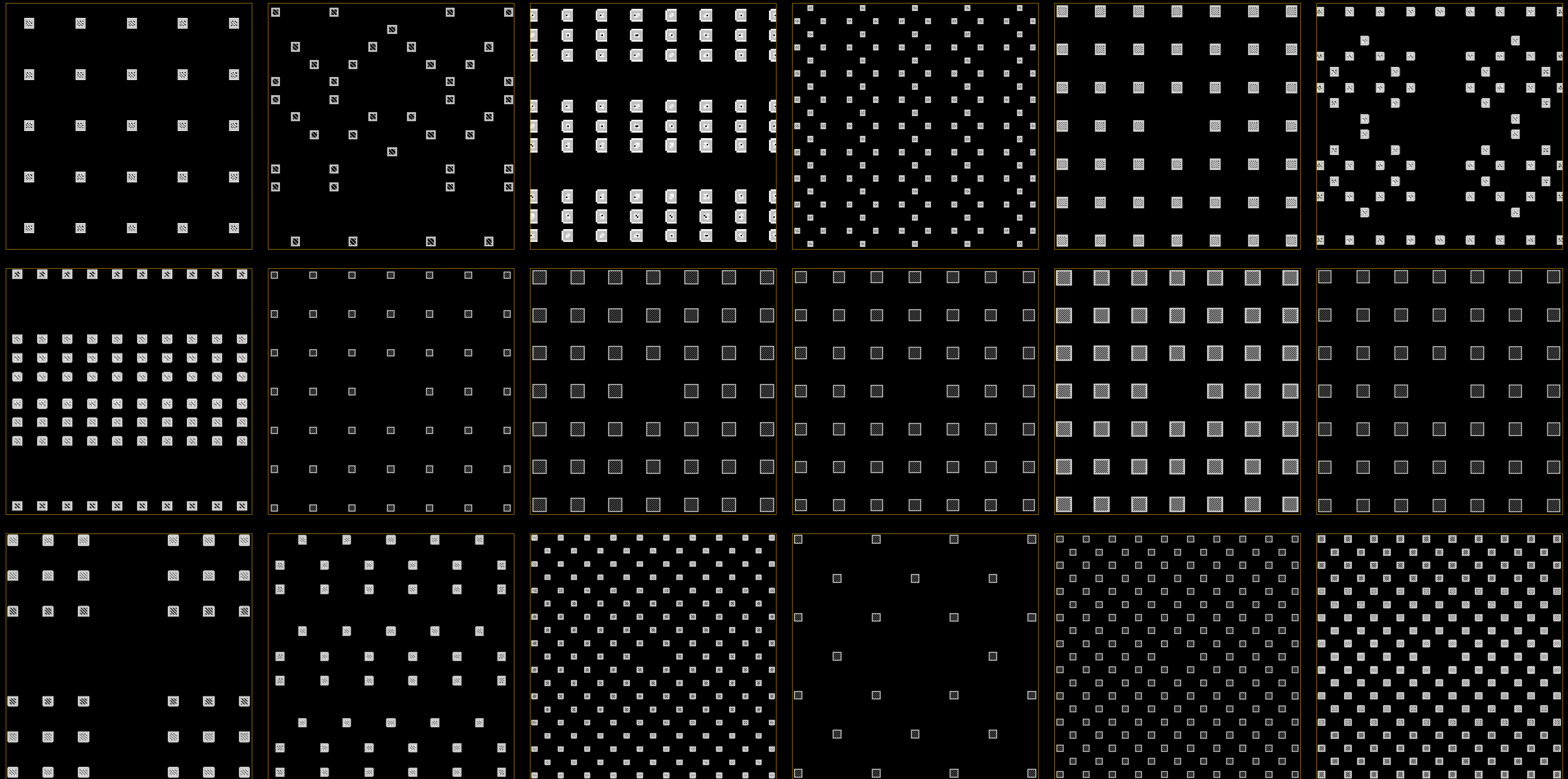




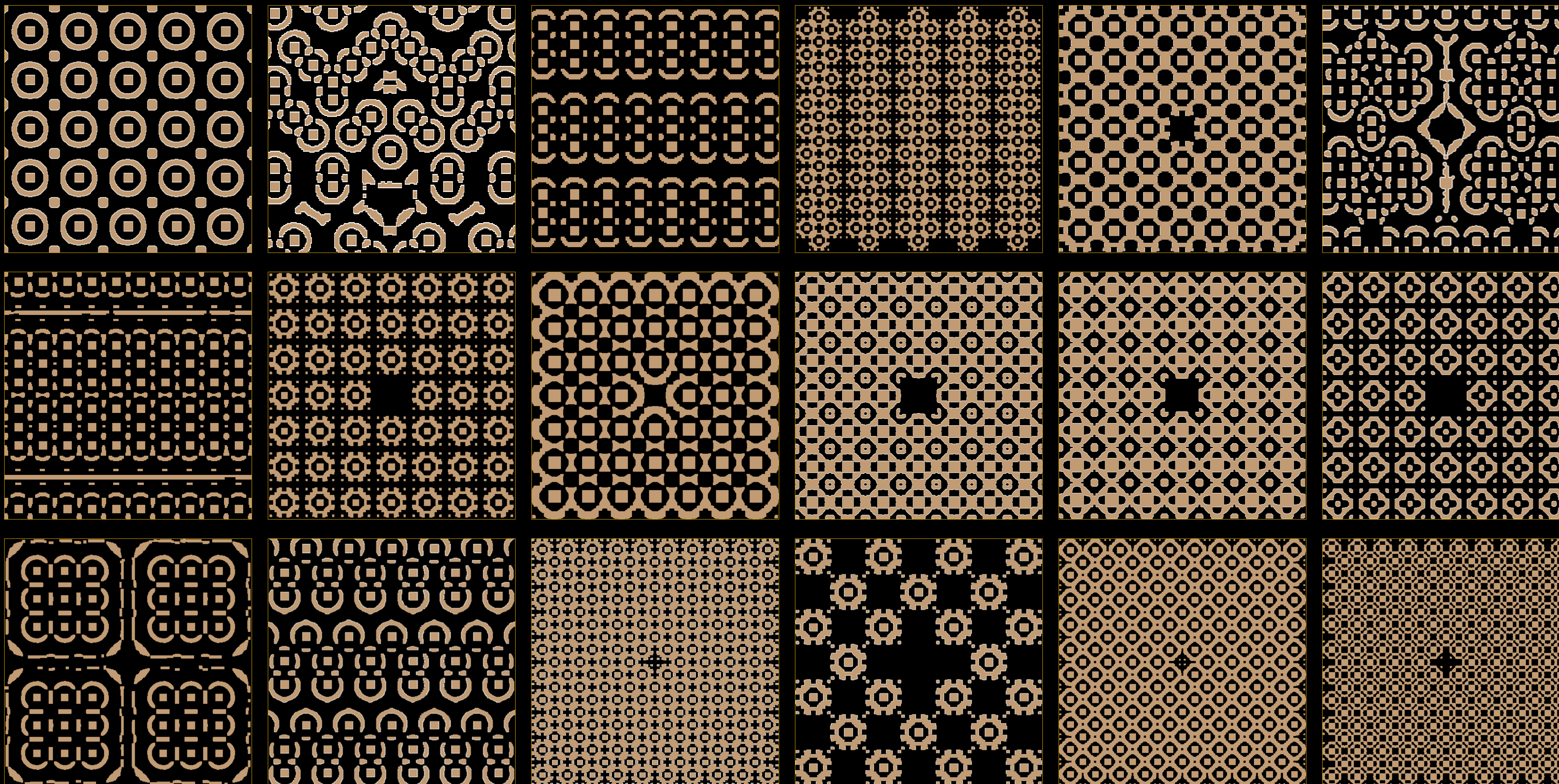
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Chip Design



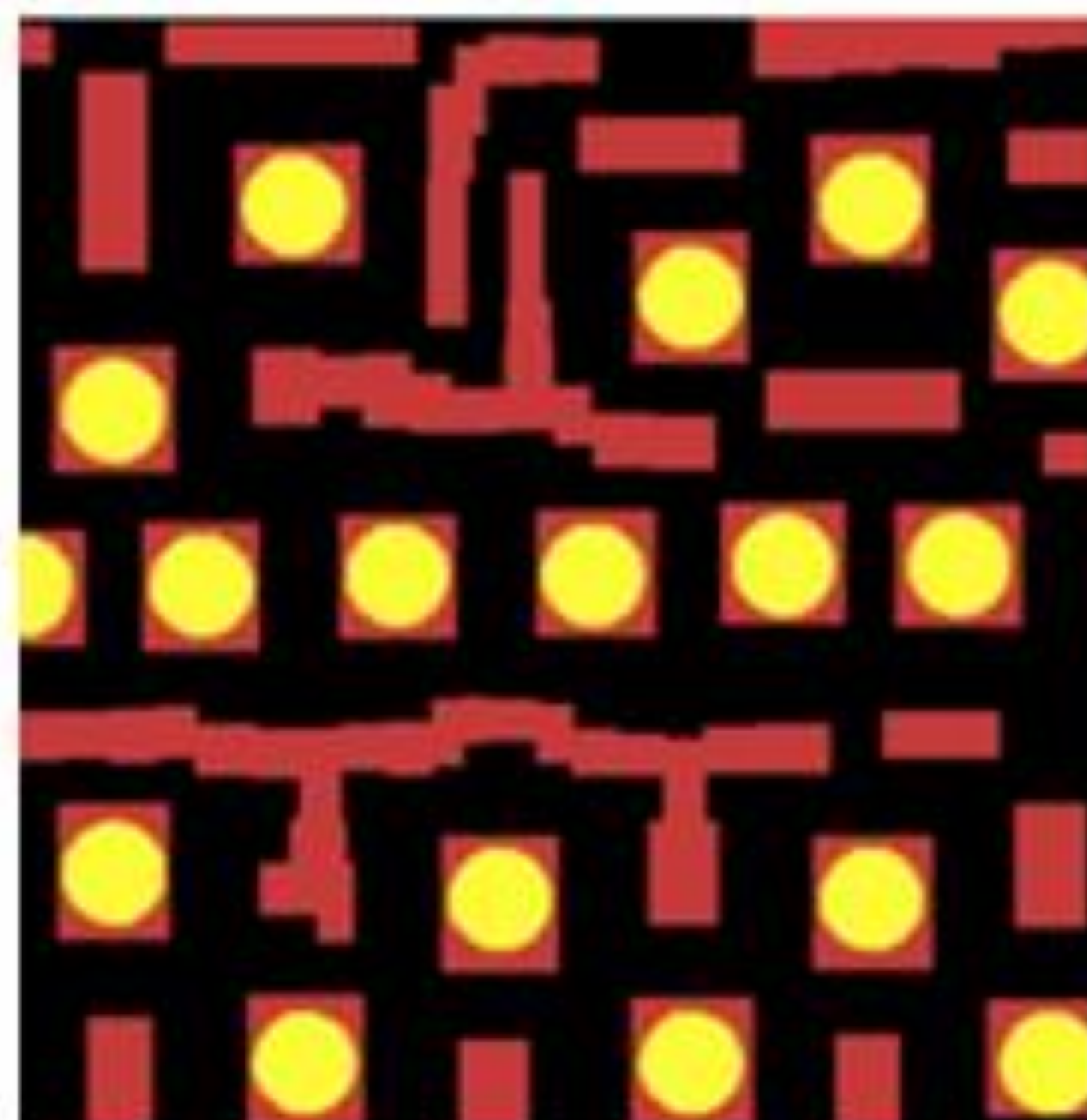
Inverse Mask



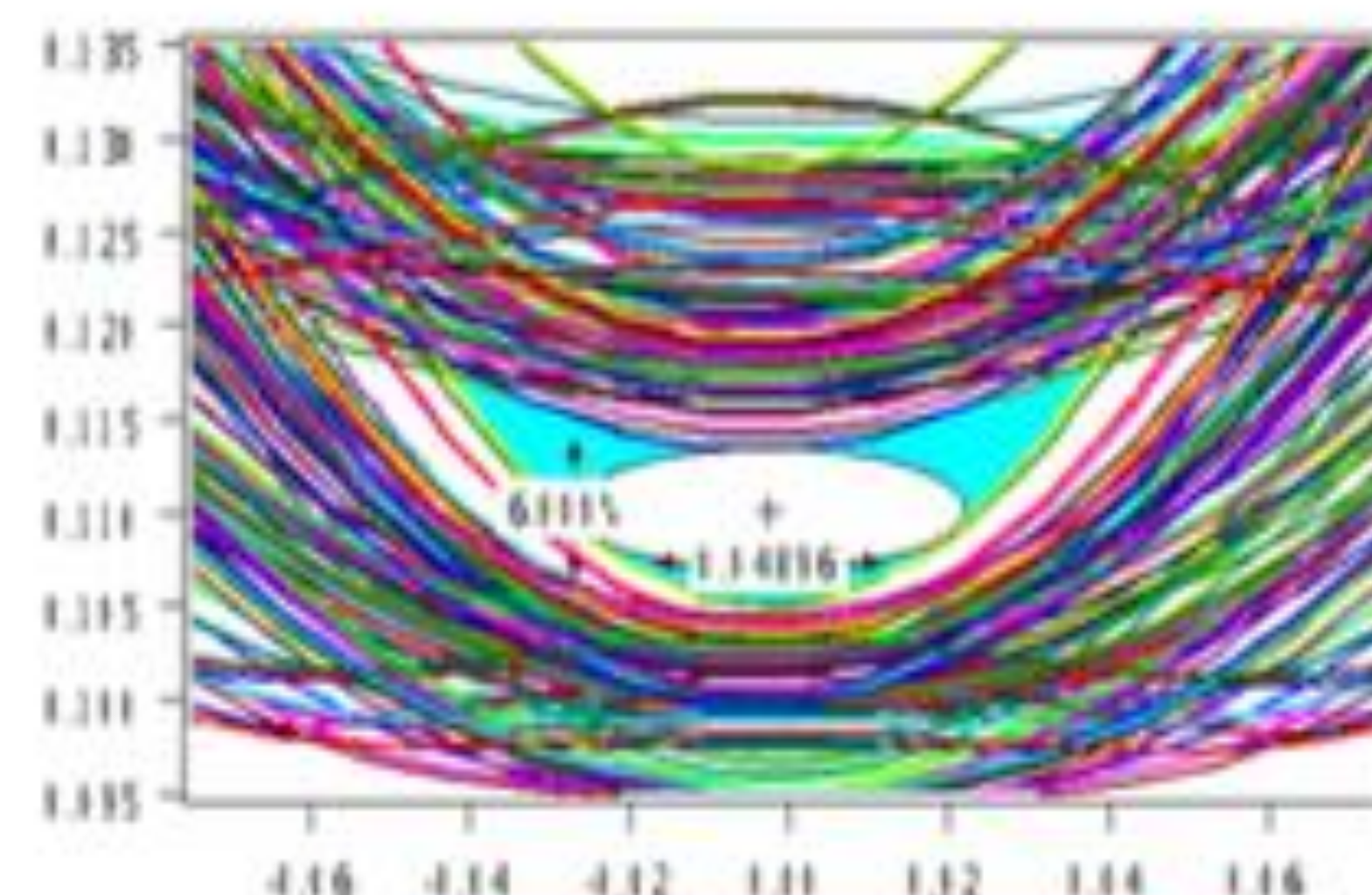
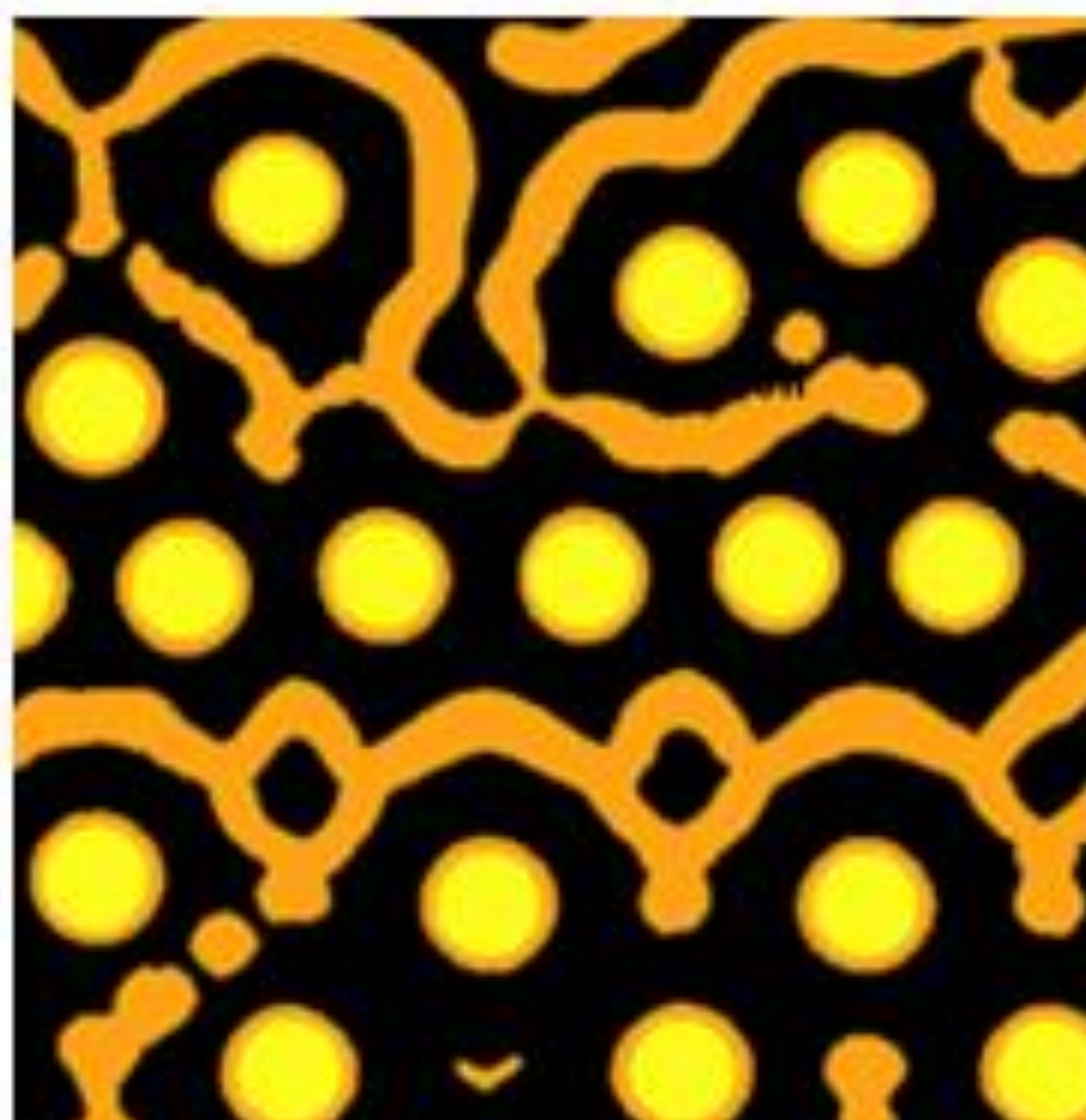
ILT Curvilinear Mask Delivers Superior Process Window

Curvilinear ILT vs. Standard OPC

Standard OPC



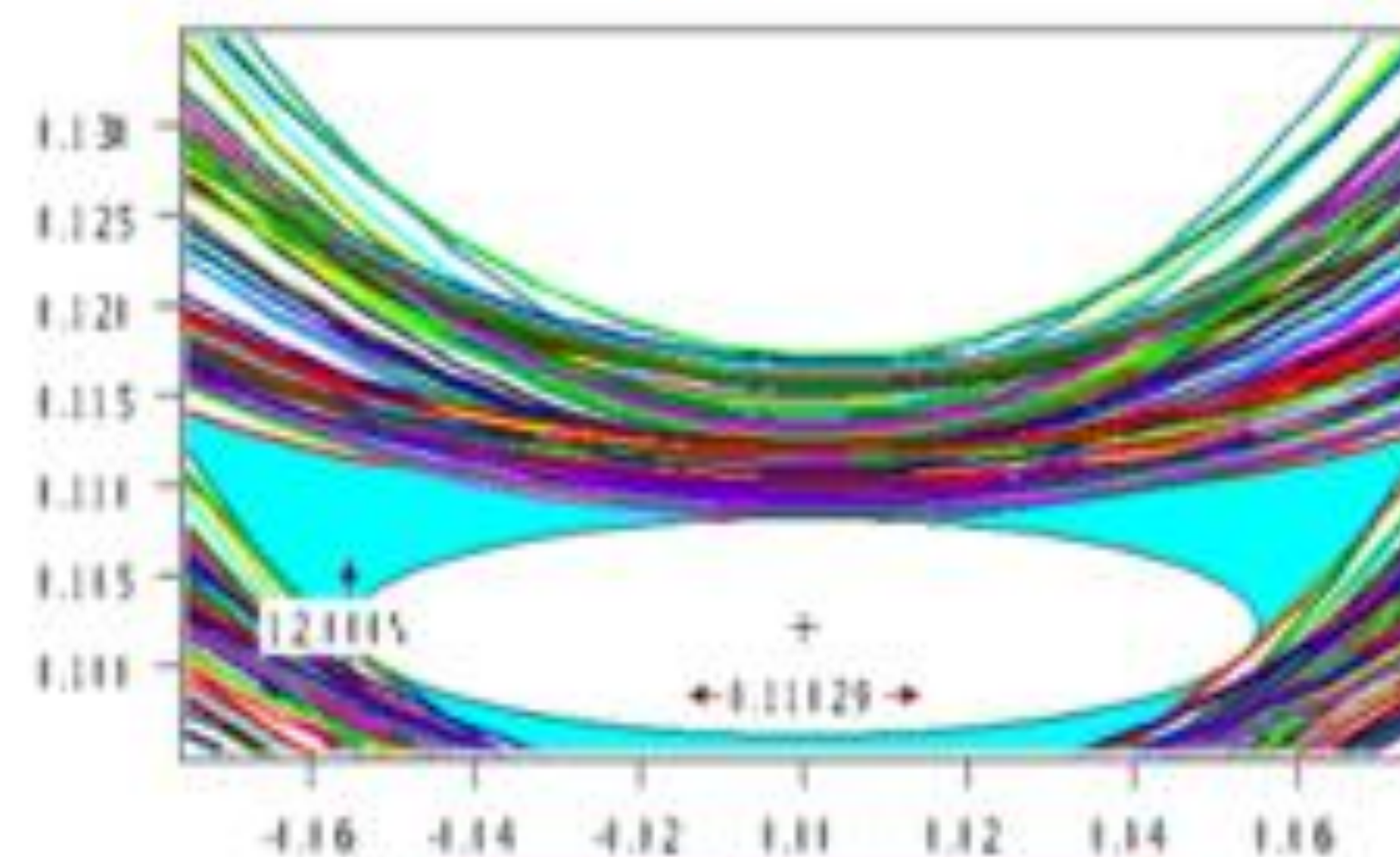
Curvilinear ILT



49nm DoF @ 12%EL

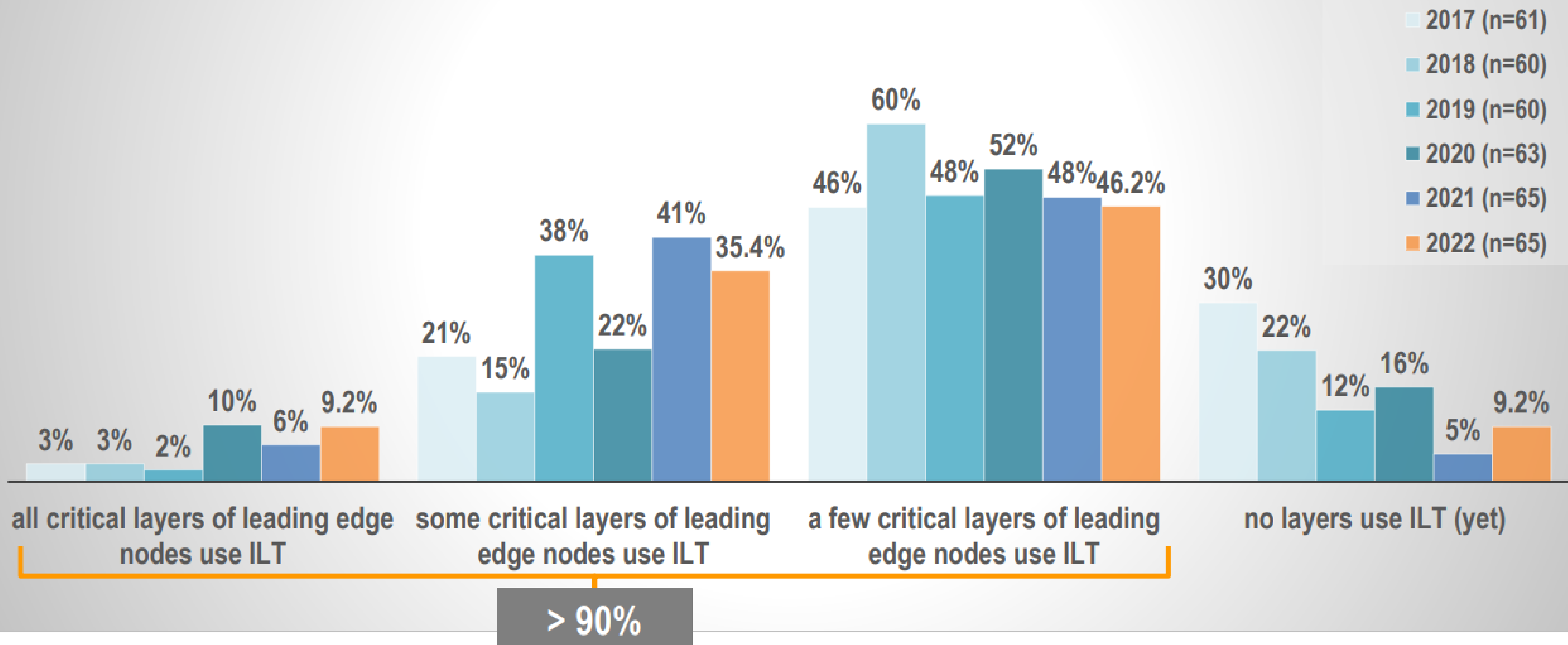


>2x increase
in DoF



110nm DoF @ 12%EL

How broadly is inverse lithography (ILT) used for production chips today (2022)? (use includes for hot spots only; ILT refers to both Manhattanized ILT & Curvilinear ILT)



If OPC, ILT are 40X faster...

How much does that speed up

- Each experiment in the Fab?
- Each product stepping?
- A technology node's time-to-yield?
- A product's time-to-market?

Partnership with TSMC

“The cuLitho team has made admirable progress on speeding up computational lithography by moving expensive operations to GPU. This development opens up new possibilities for TSMC to deploy lithography solutions like Inverse Lithography Technology (ILT) and Deep-Learning more broadly in chip manufacturing, making important contributions to the continuation of semiconductor scaling”

– Dr. C.C. Wei, CEO, TSMC

Partnership with ASML

“We are planning to integrate support for GPUs into all of our computational lithography software products. Our collaboration with NVIDIA on GPUs and cuLitho should result in tremendous benefit to computational lithography, and therefore to semiconductor scaling. This will be especially true in the era of High NA EUV Lithography.”

– Peter Wennink, CEO, ASML

Partnership with Synopsys

“Computation lithography, specifically Optical Proximity Correction (OPC) is pushing the boundaries of compute workloads for the most advanced chips. By collaborating with our partner, NVIDIA, to run Synopsys OPC software on the CULitho Platform, we massively accelerated the performance from weeks to days! The team-up of our two leading companies continues to force amazing advances in the industry.”

– Aart de Geus, Chair and CEO, Synopsys



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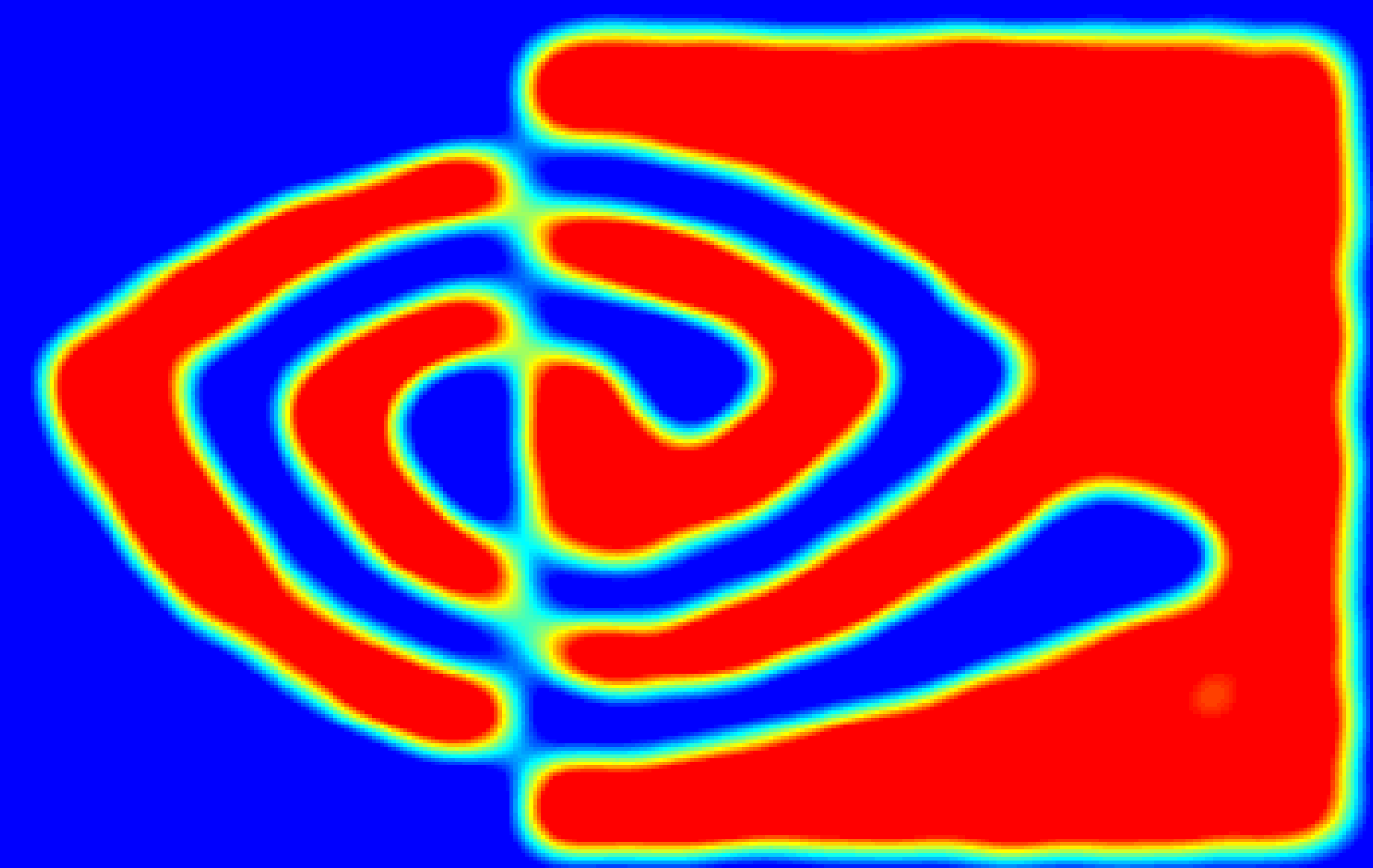
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“The semiconductor industry is essential in driving every other industry in the world and advancing its capabilities is key to the future of innovation. As current technology nears the limits of physics, NVIDIA’s introduction of cuLitho is helping to unlock this potential. Working with our partners TSMC, ASML and Synopsys, we can increase their throughput, decrease cycle time and accelerate speed to market, opening the door to innovations in a wide range of fields.”

– Jensen Huang, Founder and CEO, NVIDIA

How will this mask print?





nVIDIA

CULTHO

