

Generative Models of Images



CS180: Intro to Comp. Vision and Comp. Photo
Alexei Efros, UC Berkeley, Fall 2025

Slides from Steve Seitz,
Bill Freeman, Andrew Owens, etc.

The Space of All Images

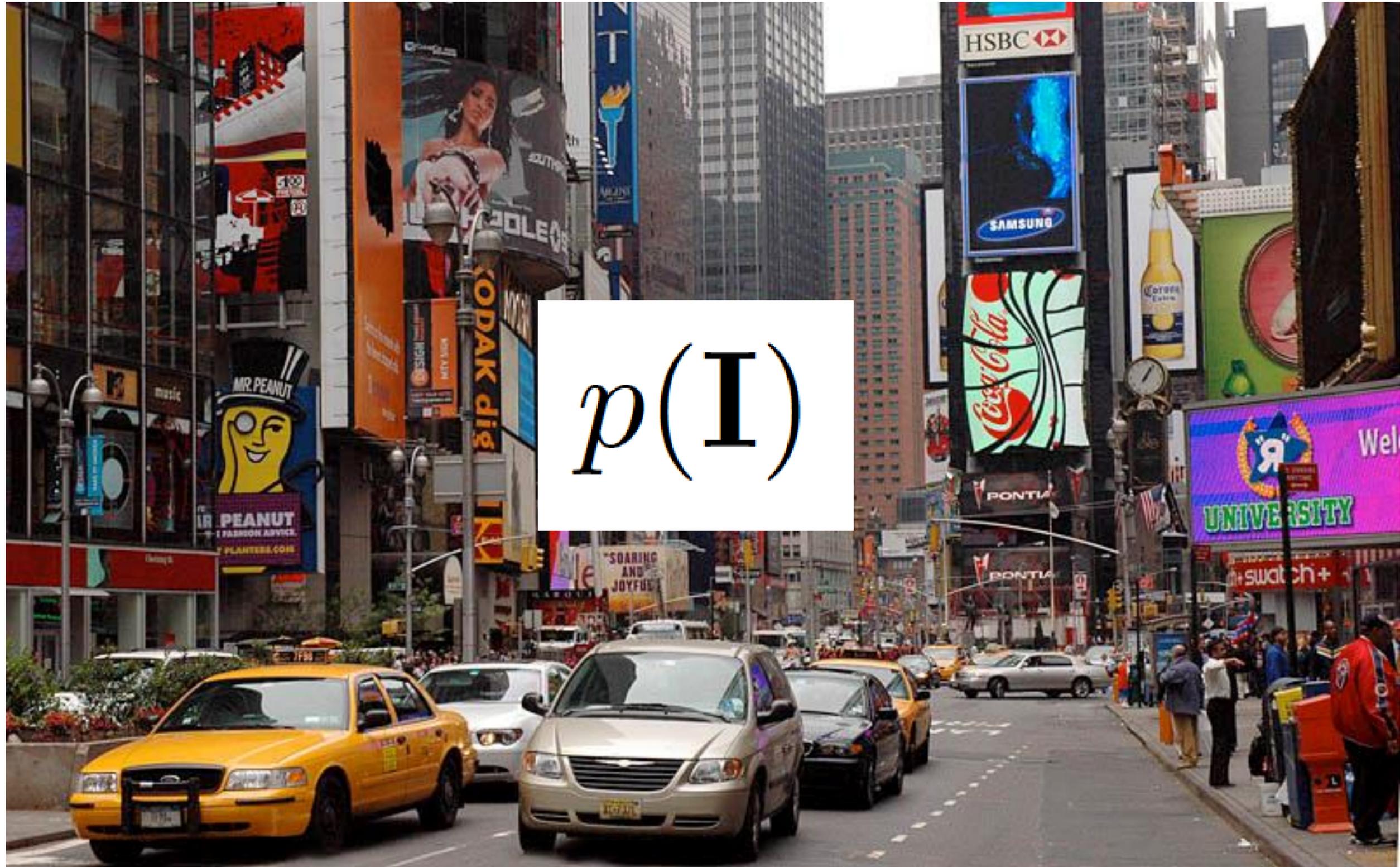
- Lets consider the space of all 100x100 images
- Now lets randomly sample that space...
- Conclusion: Most images are noise



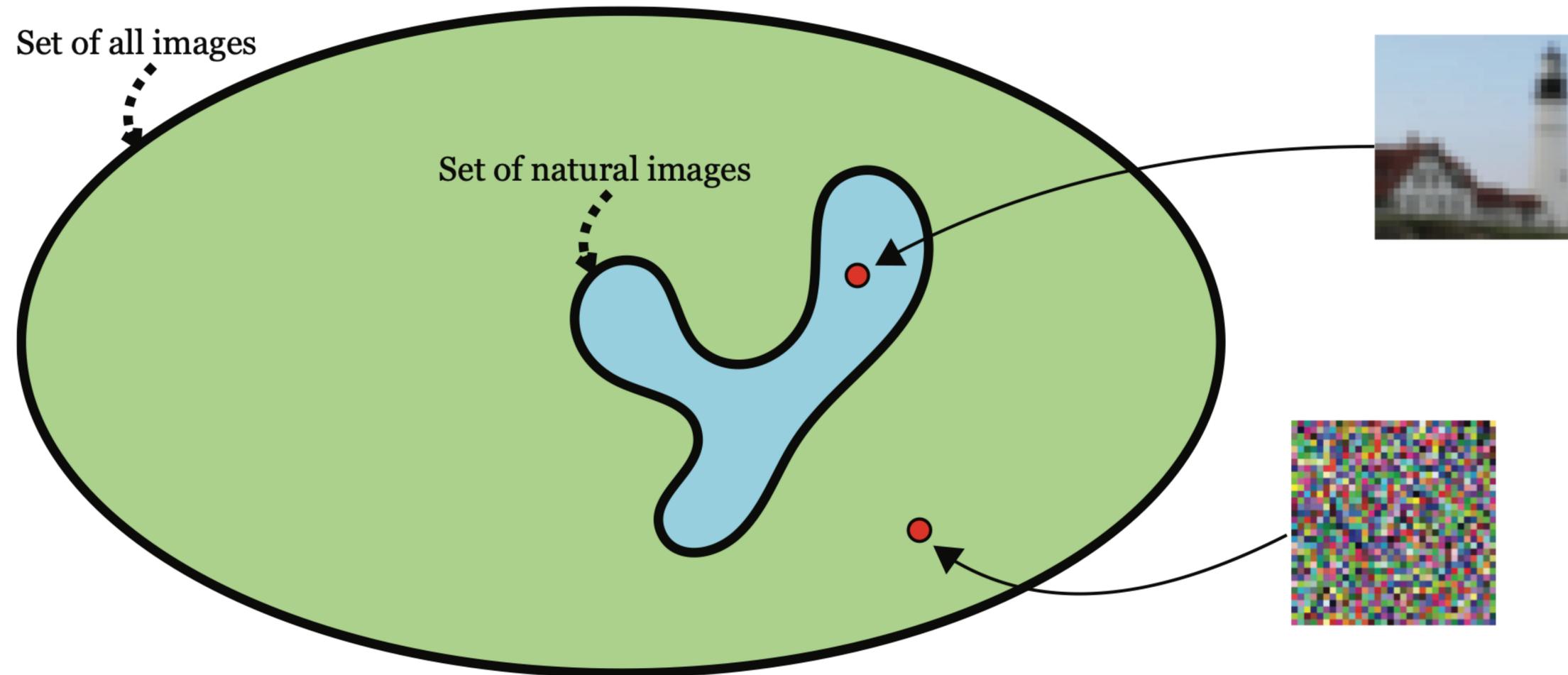
Question:
What do we expect a random uniform sample of all images to look like?

```
pixels = np.random.rand(100, 100, 3)
```

Statistical modeling of images

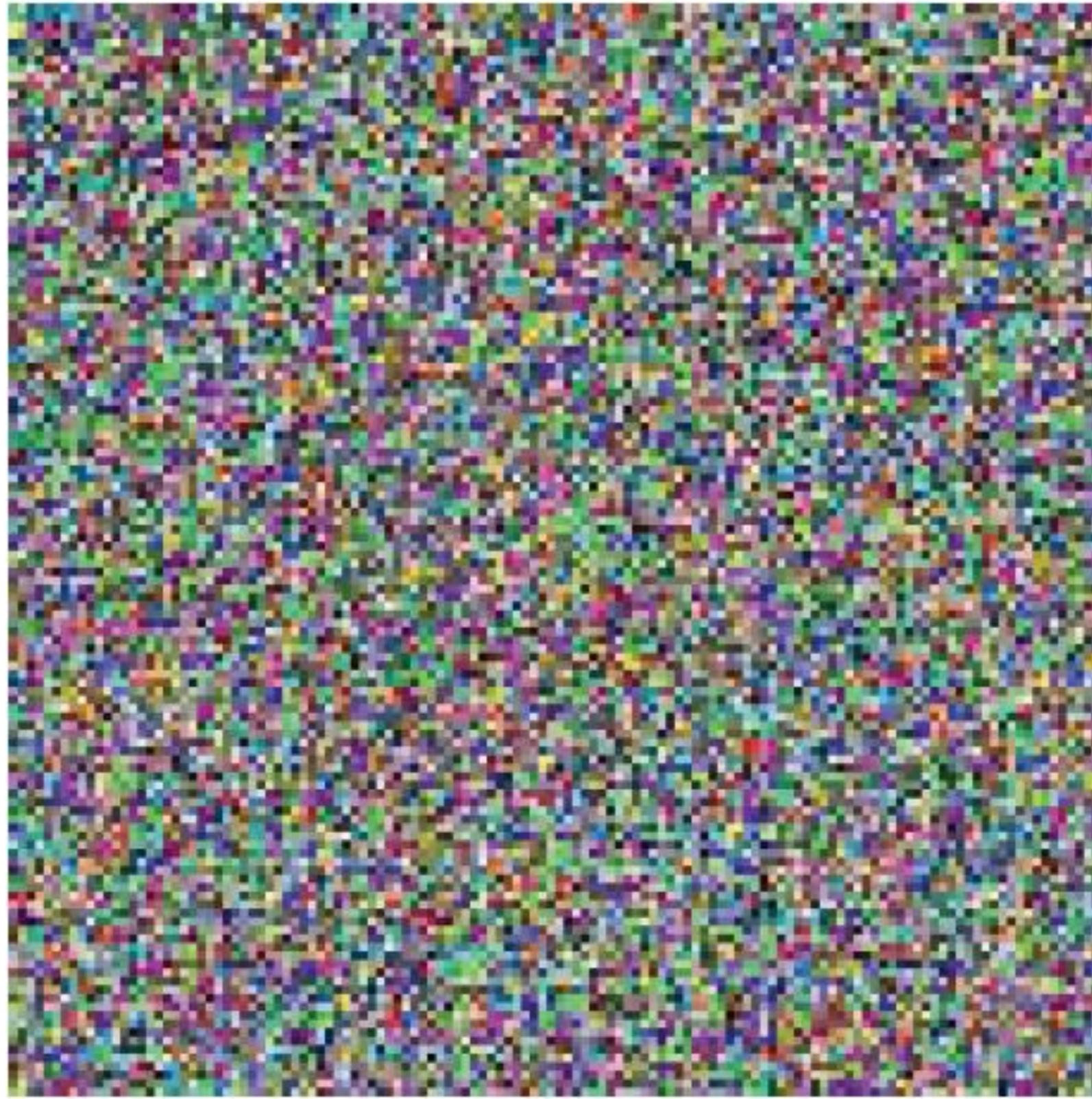


Statistical modeling of images



Visual Worlds

Visual Worlds



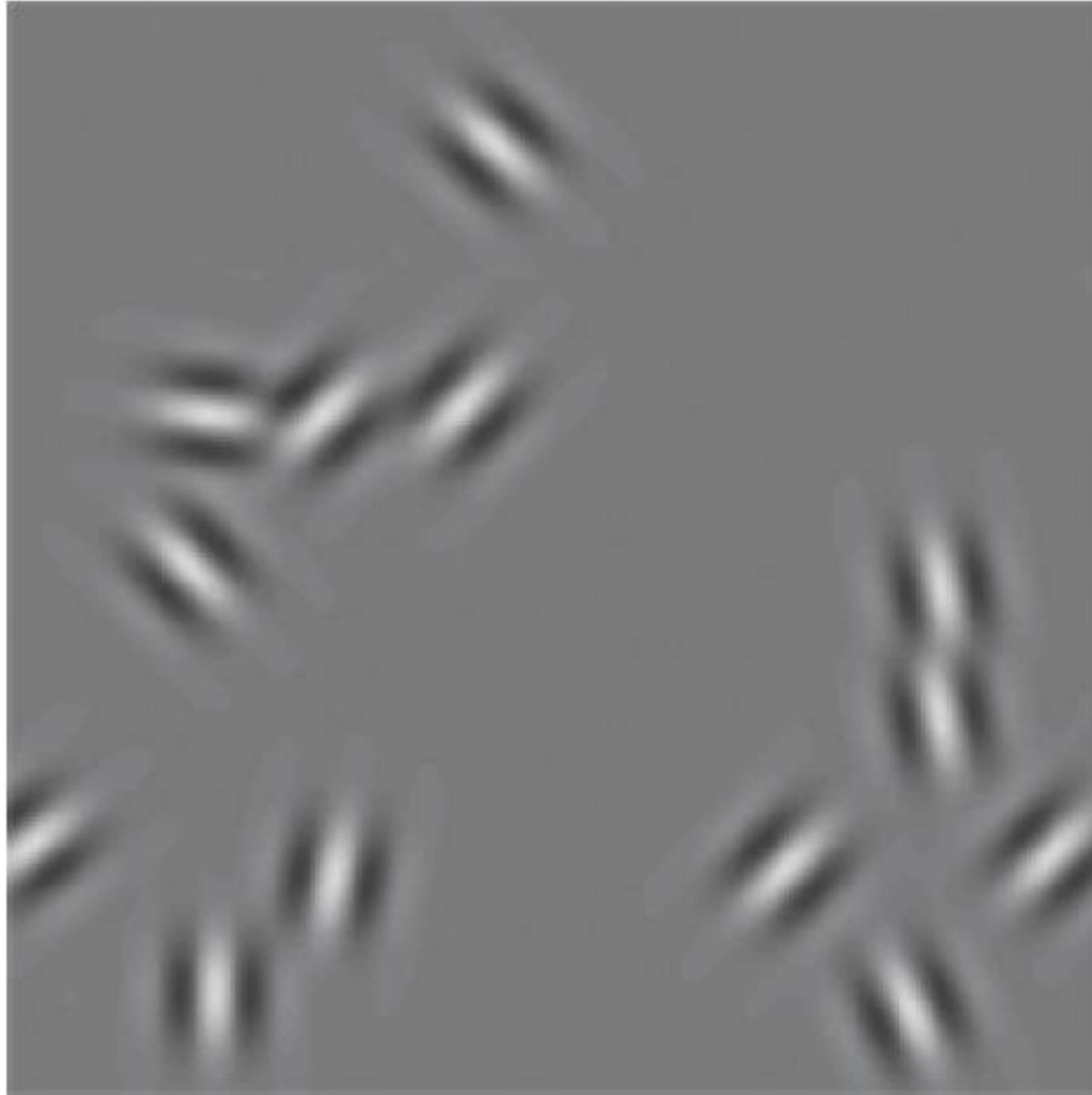
Visual Worlds



Visual Worlds



Visual Worlds



Visual Worlds



Visual Worlds



Visual Worlds

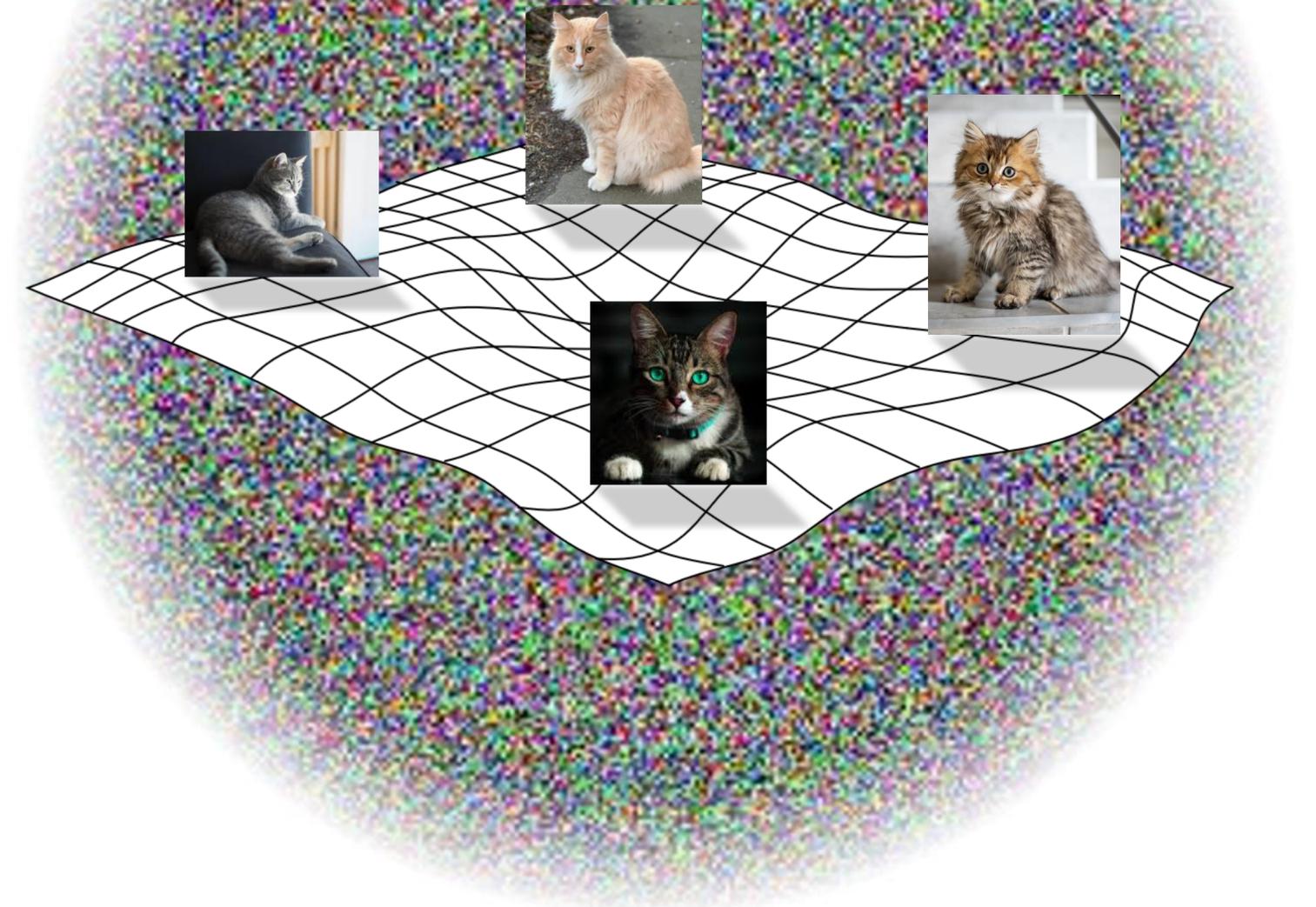


Visual Worlds



Natural Image Manifolds

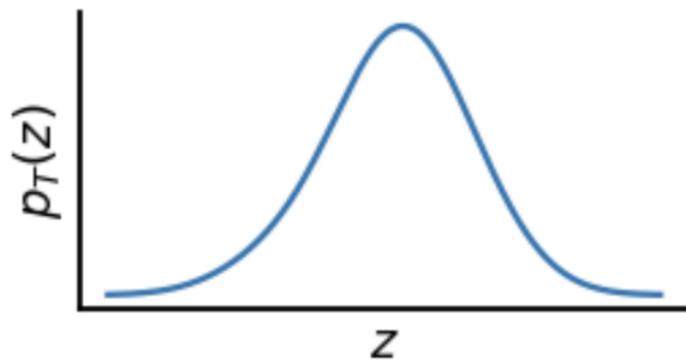
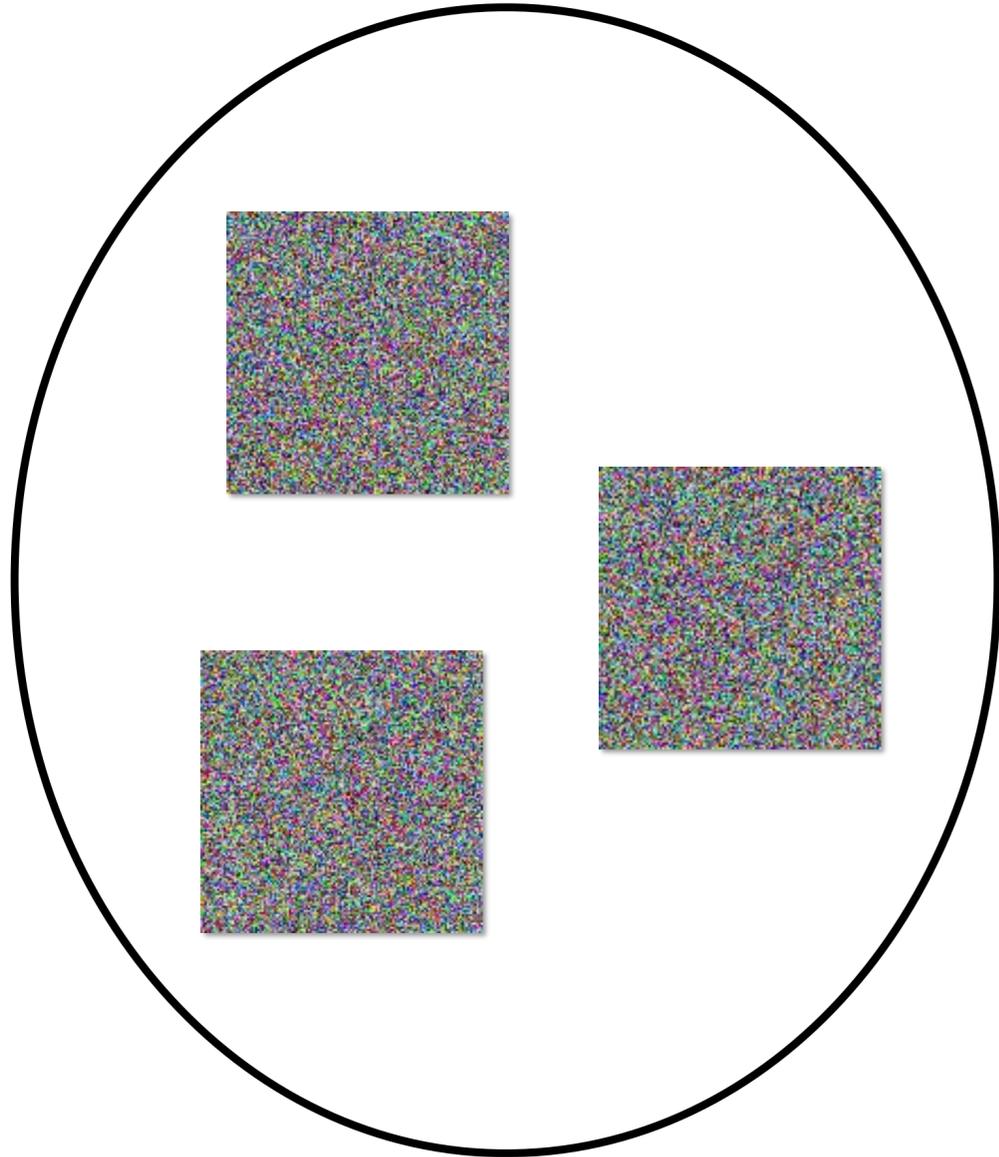
- Most images are “noise”
- “Meaningful” images tend to form some manifold within the space of all images



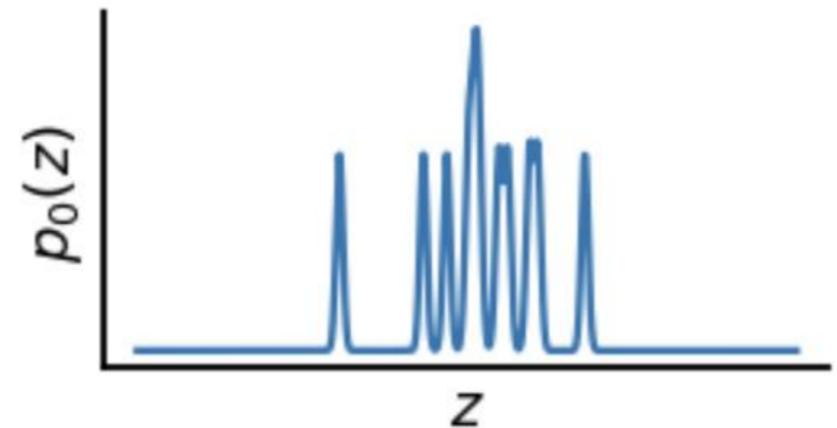
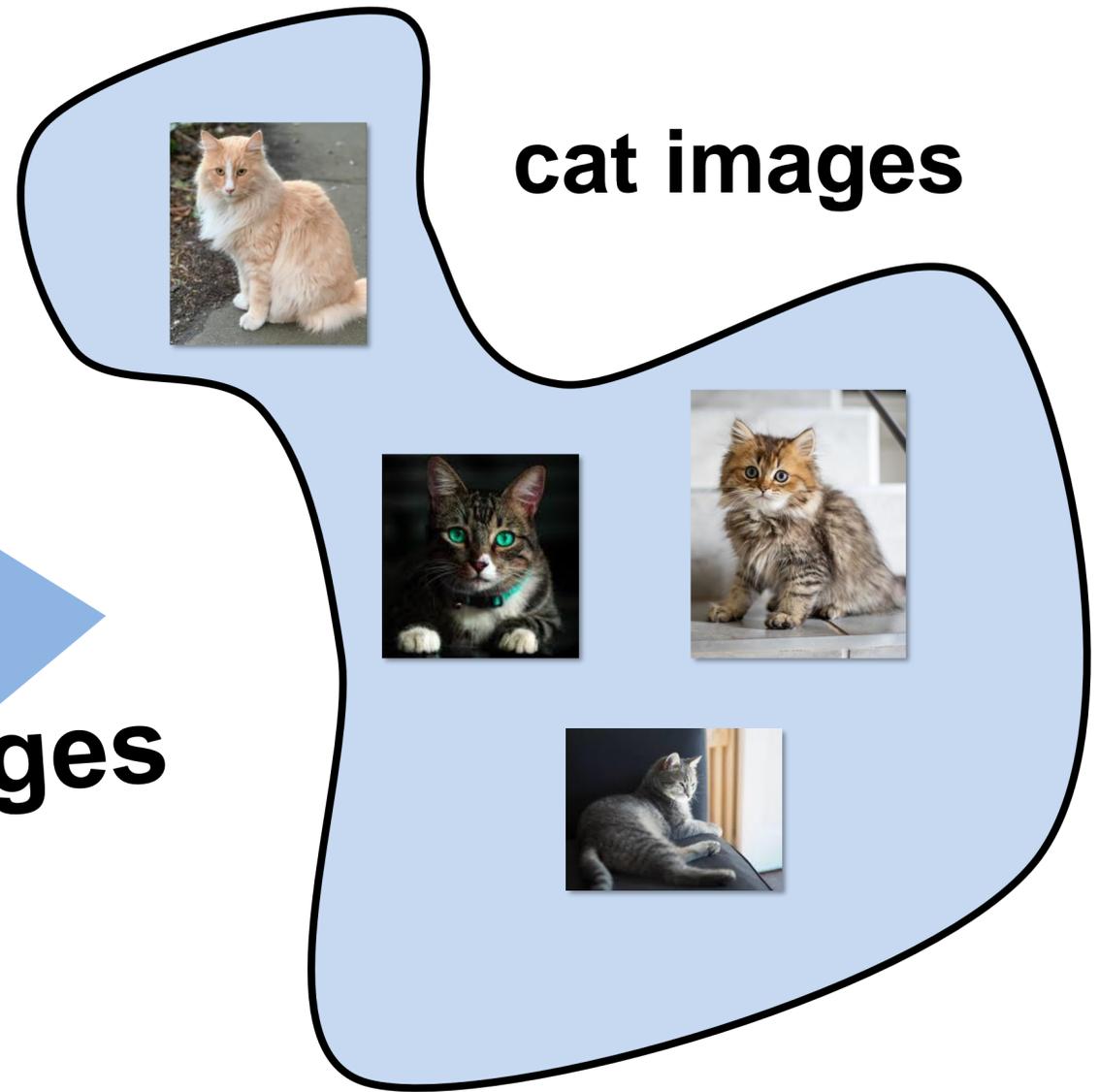
The Space of All Images

Generating Images from Noise

Random images



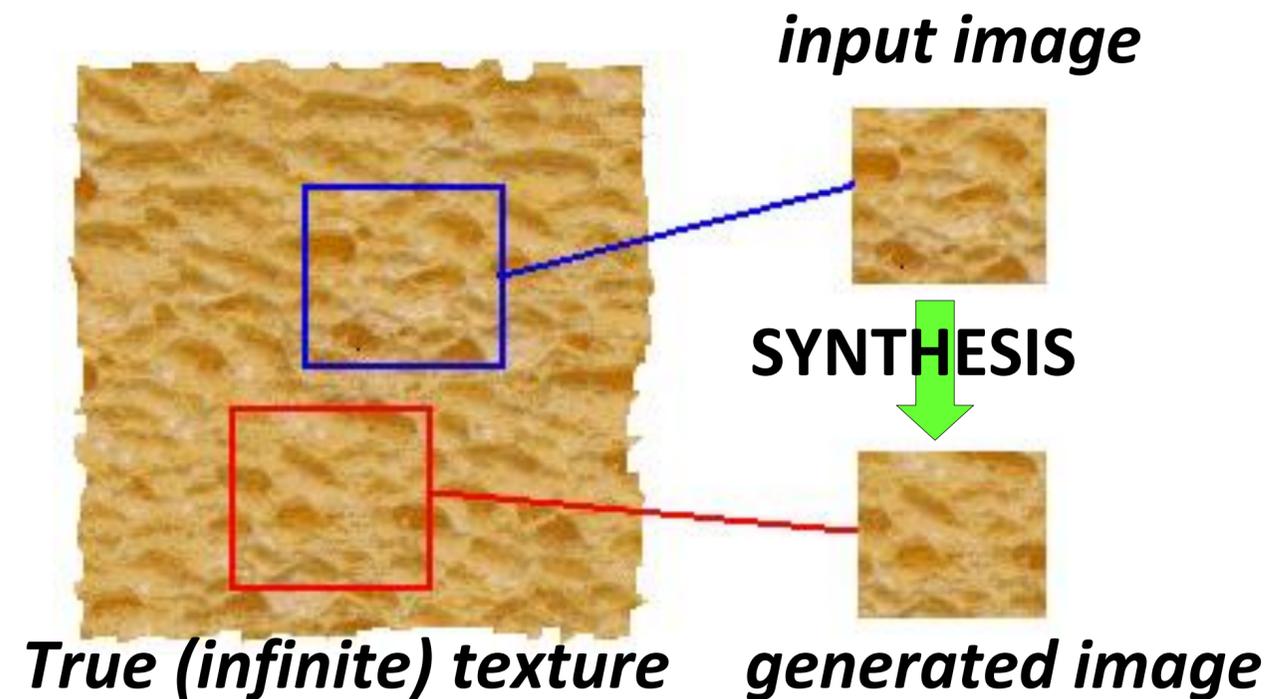
Noise to Images



Let's start with manifold of textures



Parametric Texture Synthesis



Goal: parametric **generative model** of the
“infinite texture”

Texture-motivated Parametric Generative Image Models!

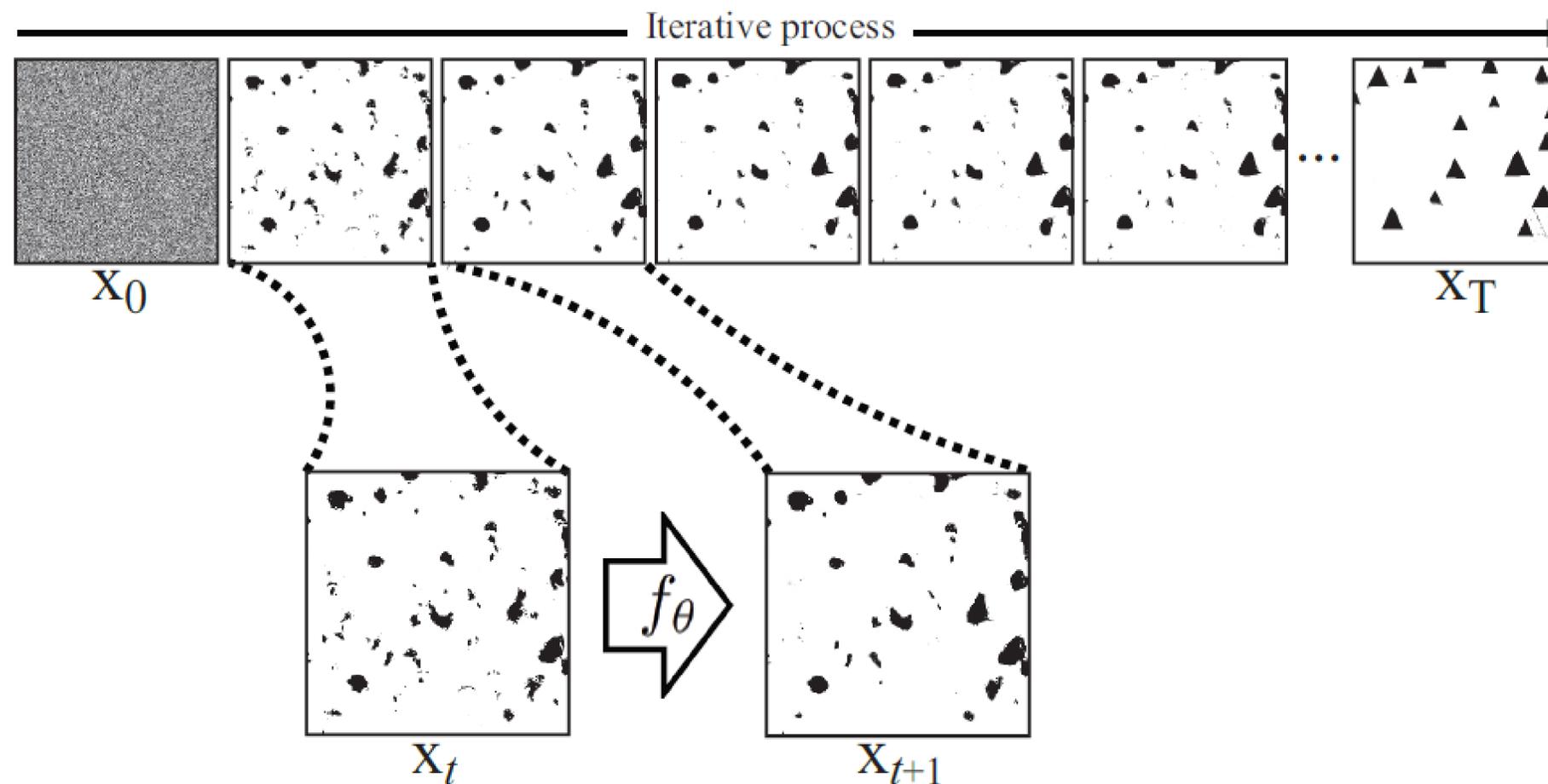
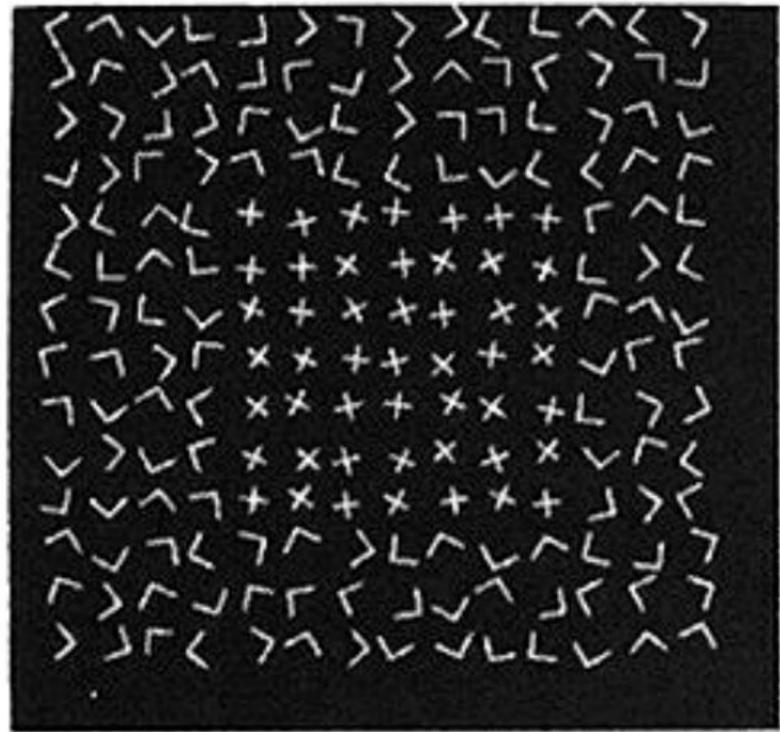
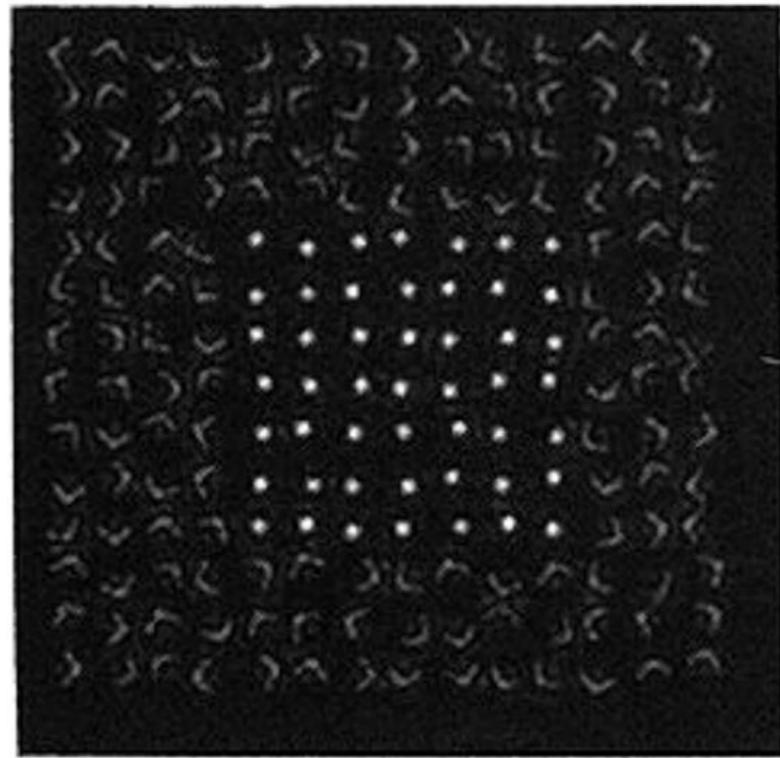


Figure 28.6: The steps of the Heeger-Bergen texture synthesis algorithm. The process starts with white noise input image. Each step takes as input the previous output, and it is modified by a function f_θ , where θ are the parameters describing a texture. At each step the output image x_t gets closer to the appearance of the reference texture (figure 28.5). The result of 500 iterations is shown in the right.

Fig. 1 *Top row*, Textures consisting of Xs within a texture composed of Ls. The micropatterns are placed at random orientations on a randomly perturbed lattice. *a*, The bars of the Xs have the same length as the bars of the Ls. *b*, The bars of the Ls have been lengthened by 25%, and the intensity adjusted for the same mean luminance. Discriminability is enhanced. *c*, The bars of the Ls have been shortened by 25%, and the intensity adjusted for the same mean luminance. Discriminability is impaired. *Bottom row*: the responses of a size-tuned mechanism *d*, response to image *a*; *e*, response to image *b*; *f*, response to image *c*.



a



d

Early vision and texture perception
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Pyramid-Based Texture Analysis/Synthesis

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James R. Bergen†
SRI David Sarnoff Research Center

Abstract

This paper describes a method for synthesizing images that match the texture appearance of a given digitized sample. This synthesis is completely automatic and requires only the “target” texture as input. It allows generation of as much texture as desired so that any object can be covered. It can be used to produce solid textures for creating textured 3-d objects without the distortions inherent in texture mapping. It can also be used to synthesize texture mixtures, images that look a bit like each of several digitized samples. The approach is based on a model of human texture perception, and has potential to be a practically useful tool for graphics applications.

1 Introduction

Computer renderings of objects with surface texture are more interesting and realistic than those without texture. Texture mapping [15] is a technique for adding the appearance of surface detail by wrapping or projecting a digitized texture image onto a surface. Digitized textures can be obtained from a variety of sources, e.g., cropped from a photoCD image, but the resulting texture chip may not have the desired size or shape. To cover a large object you may need to repeat the texture; this can lead to unacceptable artifacts either in the form of visible seams, visible repetition, or both.

Texture mapping suffers from an additional fundamental problem: often there is no natural map from the (planar) texture image to the geometry/topology of the surface, so the texture may be distorted unnaturally when mapped. There are some partial solutions to this distortion problem [15] but there is no universal solution for mapping an image onto an arbitrarily shaped surface.

An alternative to texture mapping is to create (paint) textures by hand directly onto the 3-d surface model [14], but this process is both very labor intensive and requires considerable artistic skill.

Another alternative is to use computer-synthesized textures so that as much texture can be generated as needed. Furthermore, some of the synthesis techniques produce textures that tile seamlessly.

Using synthetic textures, the distortion problem has been solved in two different ways. First, some techniques work by synthesizing texture directly on the object surface (e.g., [31]). The second solution is to use *solid textures* [19, 23, 24]. A solid texture is a 3-d array of color values. A point on the surface of an object is colored by the value of the solid texture at the corresponding 3-d point. Solid texturing can be a very natural solution to the distortion problem:

there is no distortion because there is no mapping. However, existing techniques for synthesizing solid textures can be quite cumbersome. One must learn how to tweak the parameters or procedures of the texture synthesizer to get a desired effect.

This paper presents a technique for synthesizing an image (or solid texture) that matches the appearance of a given texture sample. The key advantage of this technique is that it works entirely from the example texture, requiring no additional information or adjustment. The technique starts with a digitized image and analyzes it to compute a number of texture parameter values. Those parameter values are then used to synthesize a new image (of any size) that looks (in its color and texture properties) like the original. The analysis phase is inherently two-dimensional since the input digitized images are 2-d. The synthesis phase, however, may be either two- or three-dimensional. For the 3-d case, the output is a solid texture such that planar slices through the solid look like the original scanned image. In either case, the (2-d or 3-d) texture is synthesized so that it tiles seamlessly.

2 Texture Models

Textures have often been classified into two categories, deterministic textures and stochastic textures. A deterministic texture is characterized by a set of primitives and a placement rule (e.g., a tile floor). A stochastic texture, on the other hand, does not have easily identifiable primitives (e.g., granite, bark, sand). Many real-world textures have some mixture of these two characteristics (e.g. woven fabric, woodgrain, plowed fields).

Much of the previous work on texture analysis and synthesis can be classified according to what type of texture model was used. Some of the successful texture models include reaction-diffusion [31, 34], frequency domain [17], fractal [9, 18], and statistical/random field [1, 6, 8, 10, 12, 13, 21, 26] models. Some (e.g., [10]) have used hybrid models that include a deterministic (or periodic) component and a stochastic component. In spite of all this work, scanned images and hand-drawn textures are still the principle source of texture maps in computer graphics.

This paper focuses on the synthesis of stochastic textures. Our approach is motivated by research on human texture perception. Current theories of texture discrimination are based on the fact that two textures are often difficult to discriminate when they produce a similar distribution of responses in a bank of (orientation and spatial-frequency selective) linear filters [2, 3, 7, 16, 20, 32]. The method described here, therefore, synthesizes textures by matching distributions (or histograms) of filter outputs. This approach depends on the principle (not entirely correct as we shall see) that all of the spatial information characterizing a texture image can be captured in the first order statistics of an appropriately chosen set of linear filter outputs. Nevertheless, this model (though incomplete) captures an interesting set of texture properties.

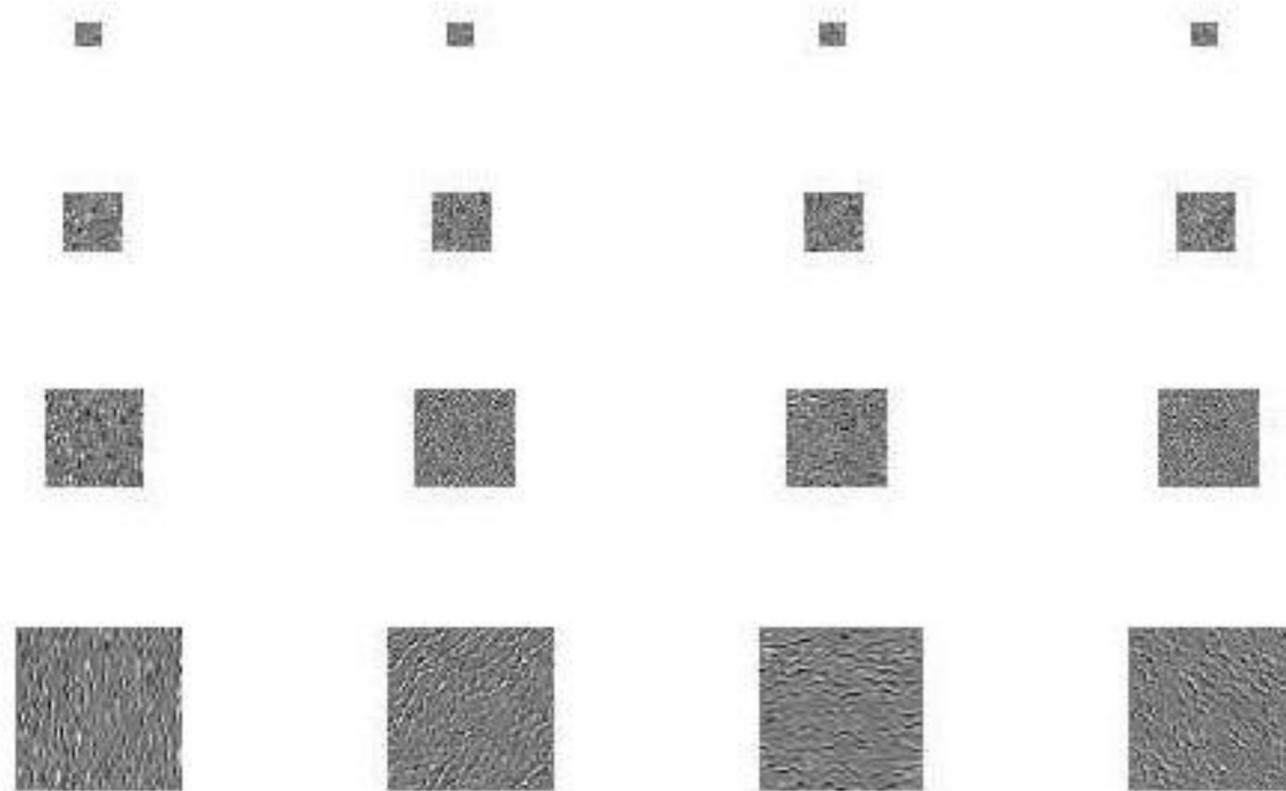
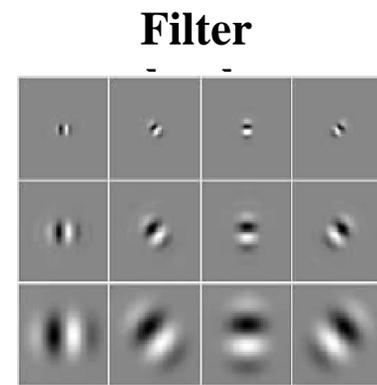


Figure 5: (Top Row) Original digitized sample textures: red granite, berry bush, figured maple, yellow coral. (Bottom Rows) Synthetic solid textured teapots.

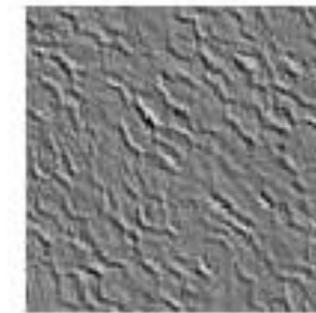
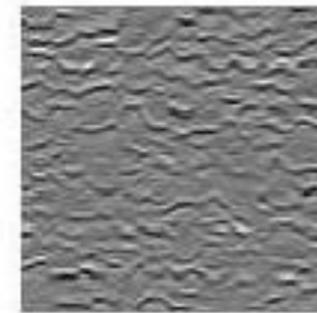
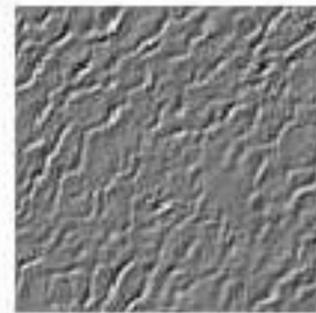
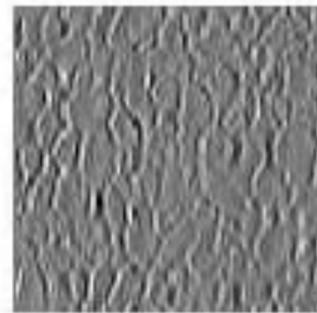
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jrb@sarnoff.com

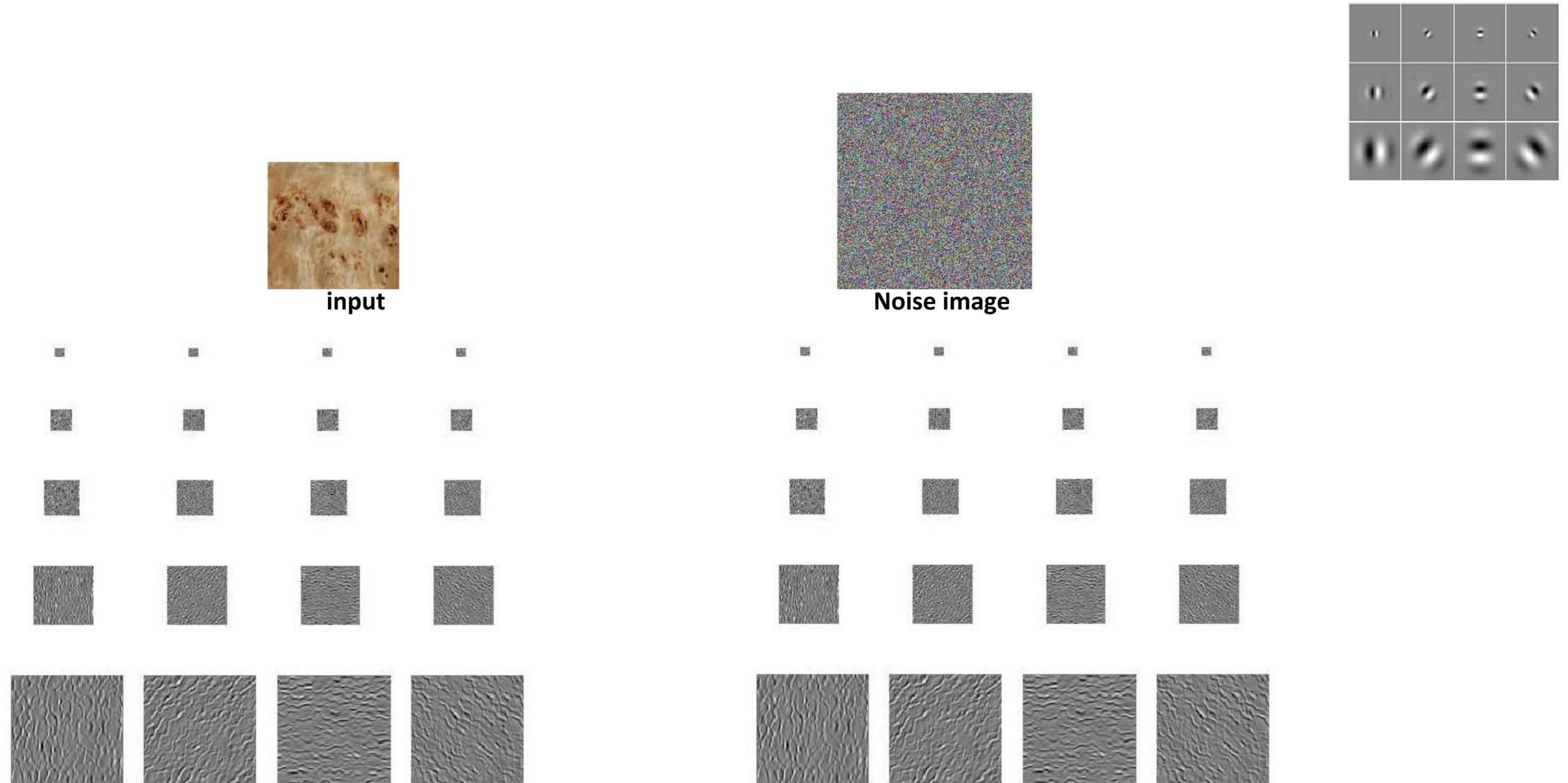
Multi-scale filter decomposition (steerable pyramid)



Input image



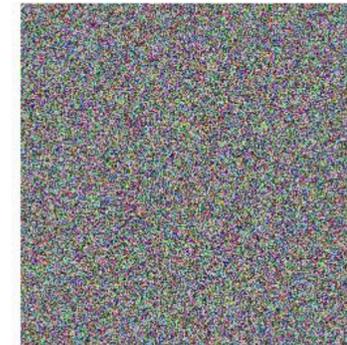
Step 1: Convolve with filterbank



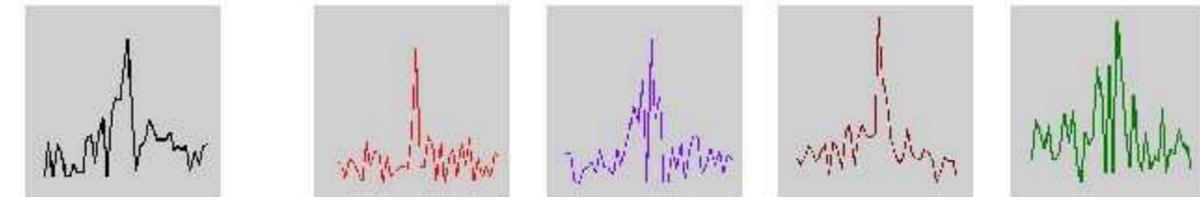
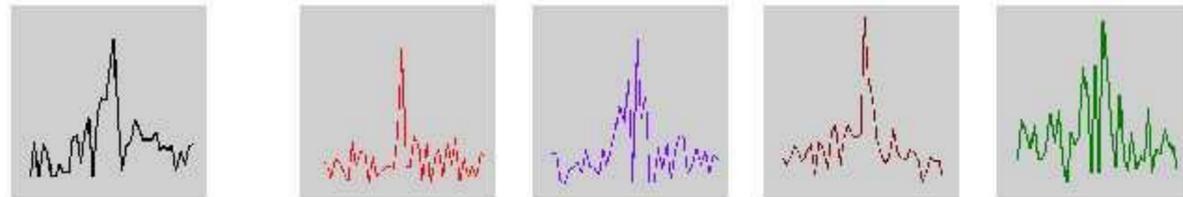
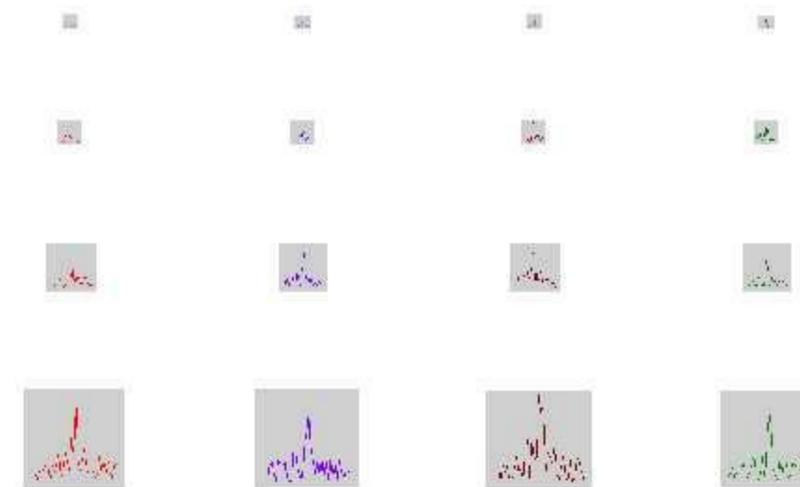
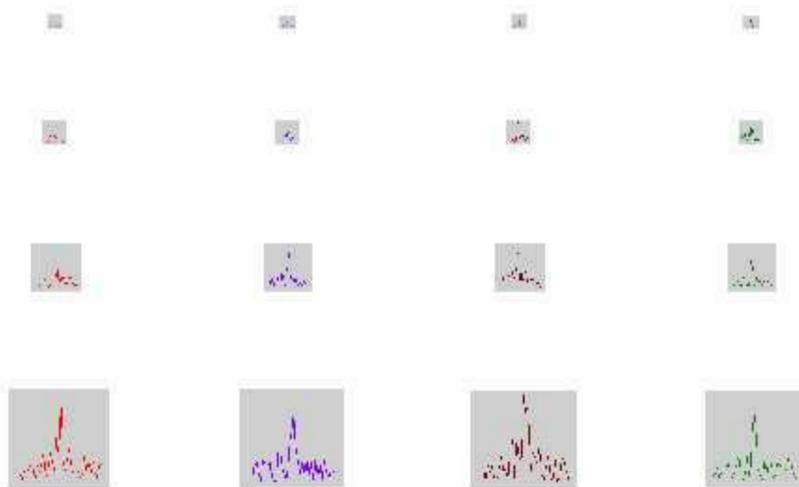
Step 2: match per-channel histograms



input



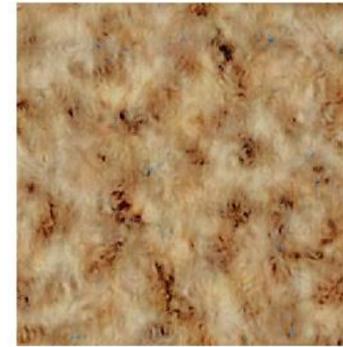
Noise image



Step 3: collapse pyramid and repeat!



input

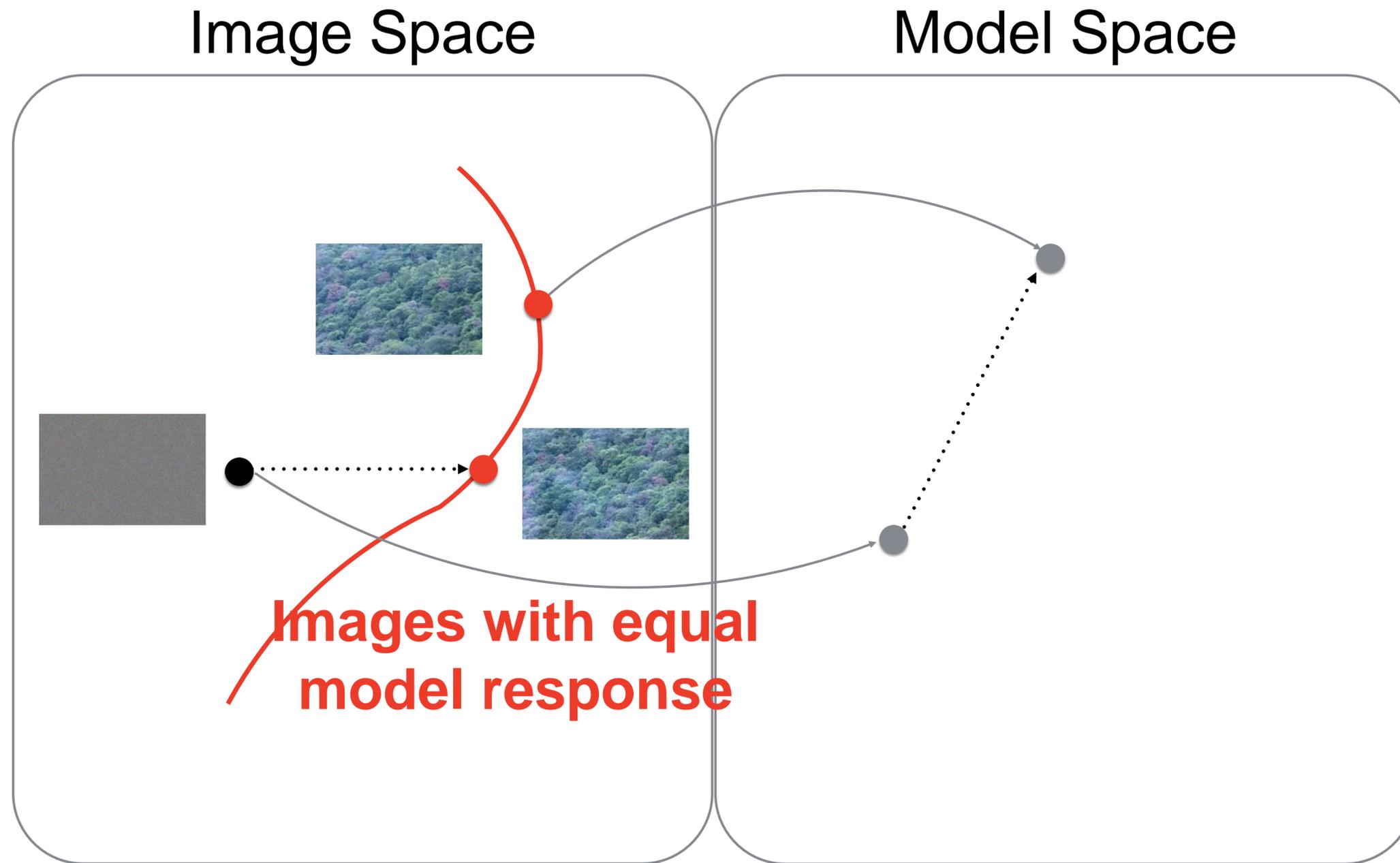


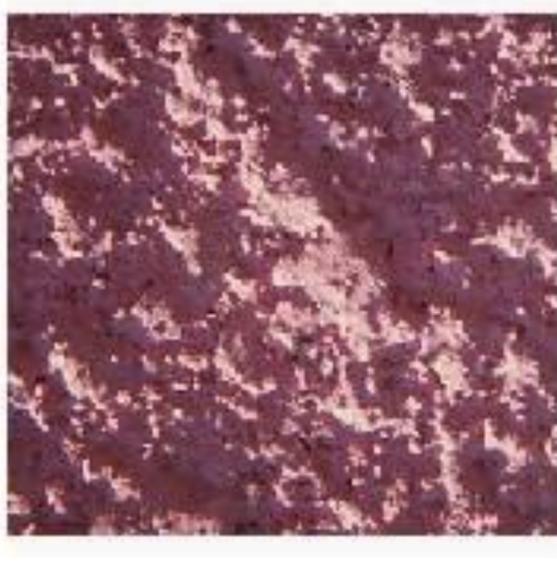
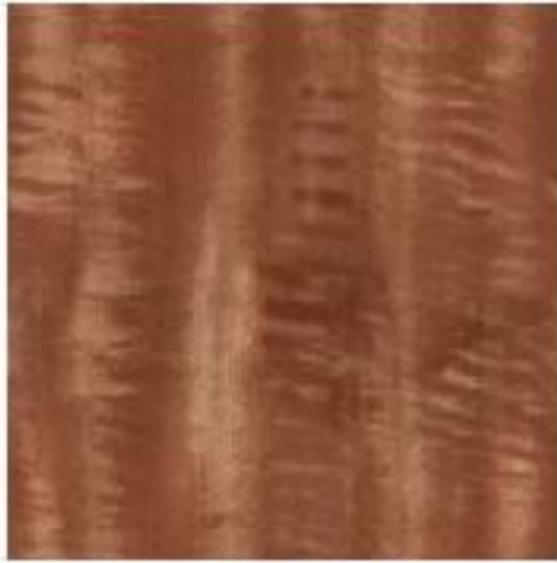
Noise image

Heeger & Bergen, SIGGRAPH'95



Texture Synthesis





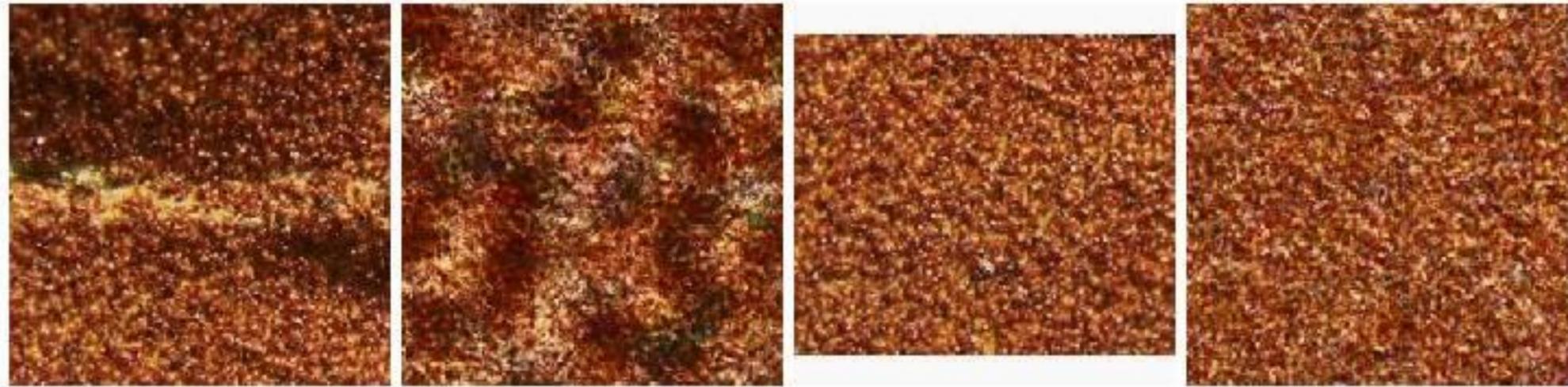


Figure 7: (Left pair) Inhomogeneous input texture produces blotchy synthetic texture. (Right pair) Homogeneous input.

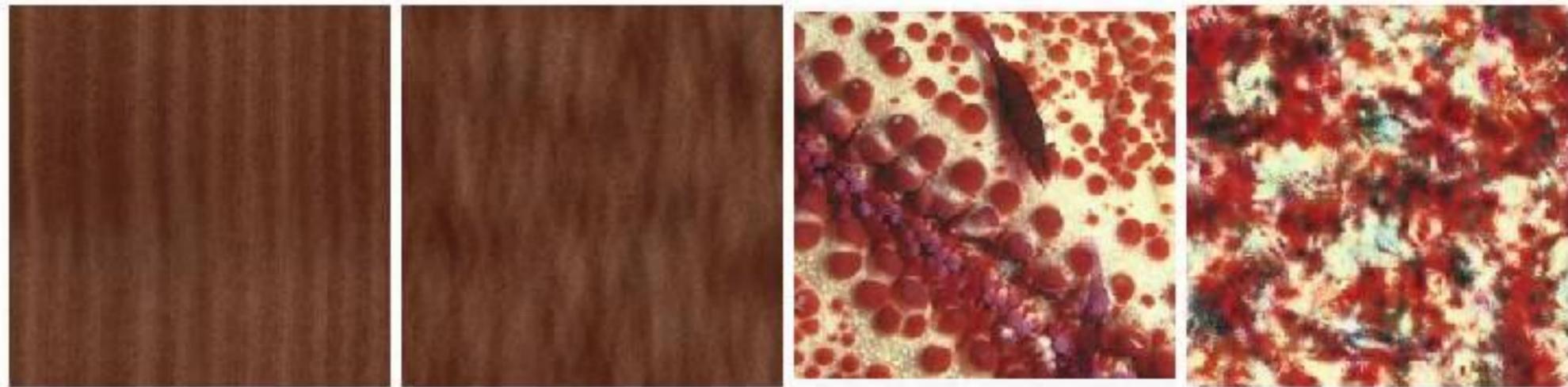


Figure 8: Examples of failures: wood grain and red coral.



Figure 9: More failures: hay and marble.

Simoncelli & Portilla '98+

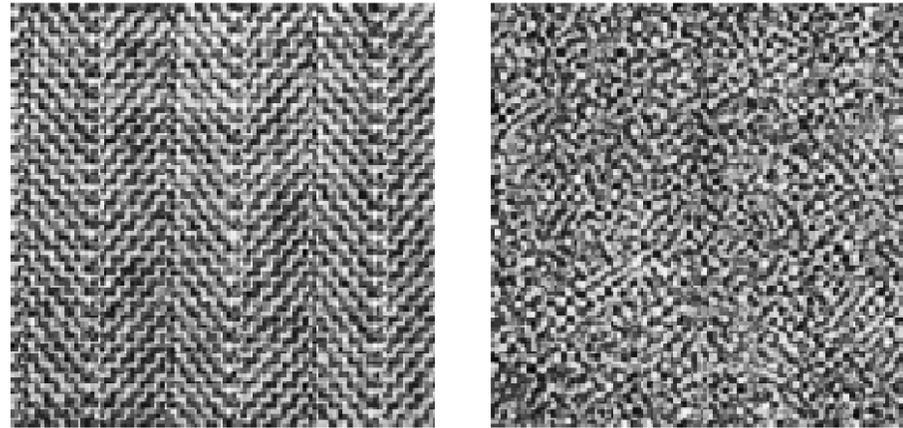
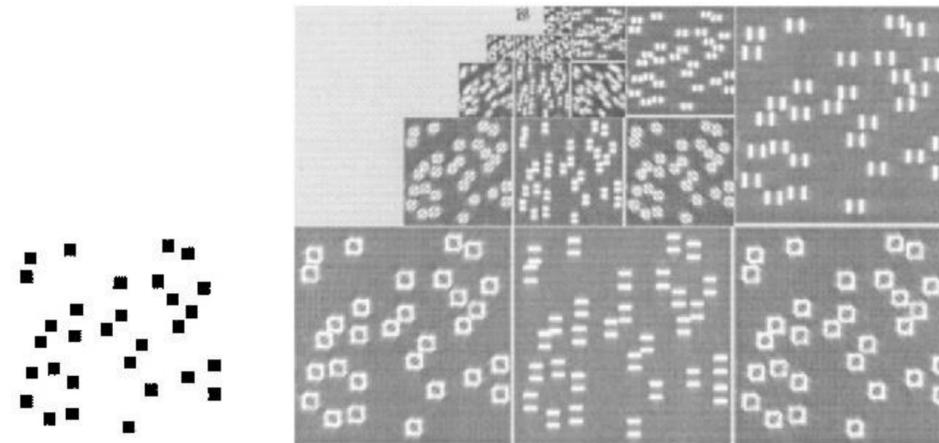


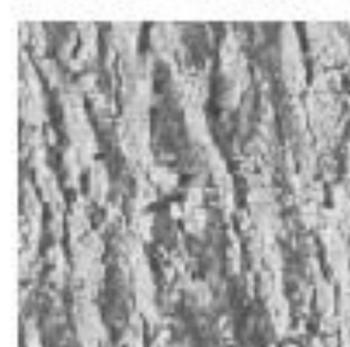
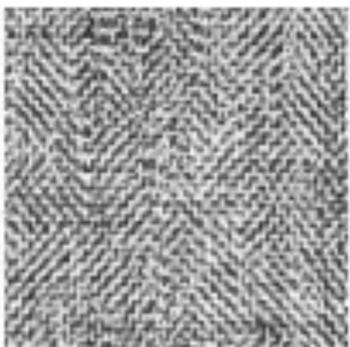
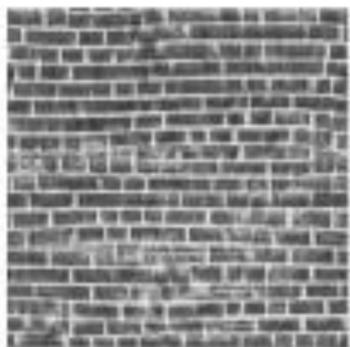
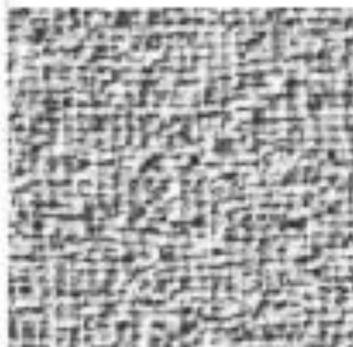
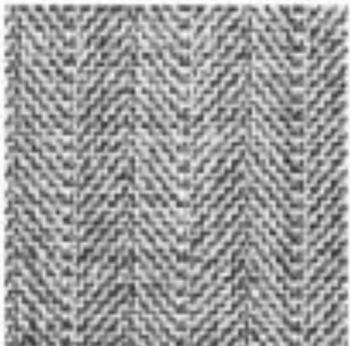
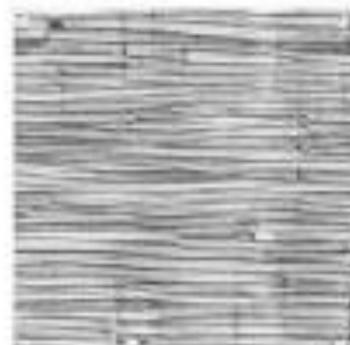
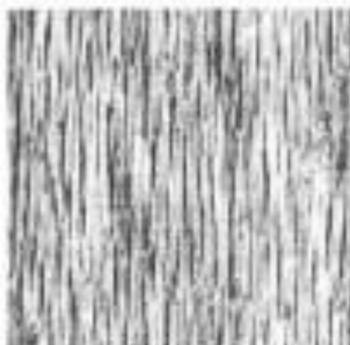
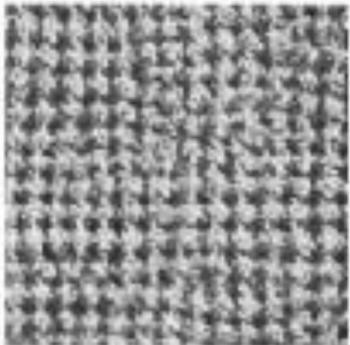
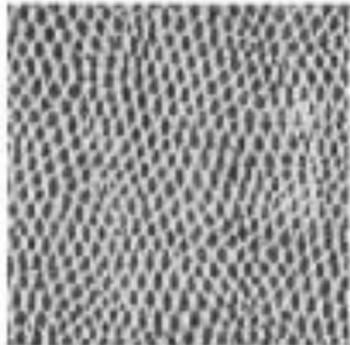
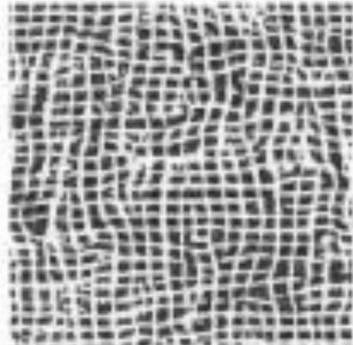
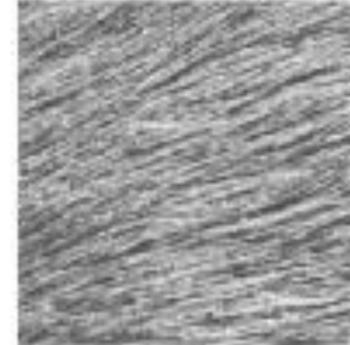
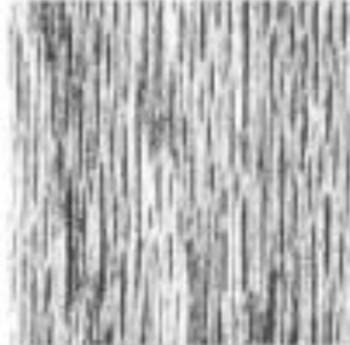
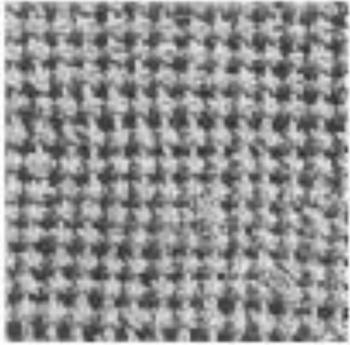
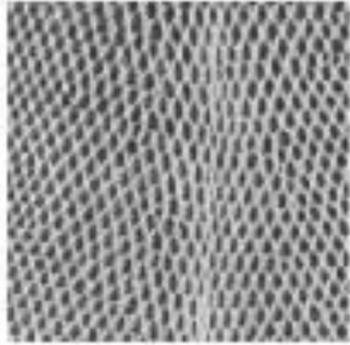
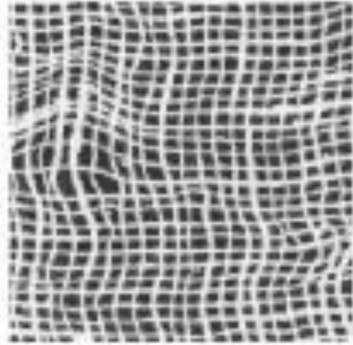
Figure 1. Textures with matching marginal statistics.

- Marginal statistics are not enough
- Neighboring filter responses are highly correlated
 - an edge at low-res will cause an edge at high-res
- Let's match 2nd order statistics too!
- J Portilla and E P Simoncelli. *A Parametric Texture Model based on Joint Statistics of Complex Wavelet Coefficients*. Int'l Journal of Computer Vision. 40(1):49-71, October, 2000.

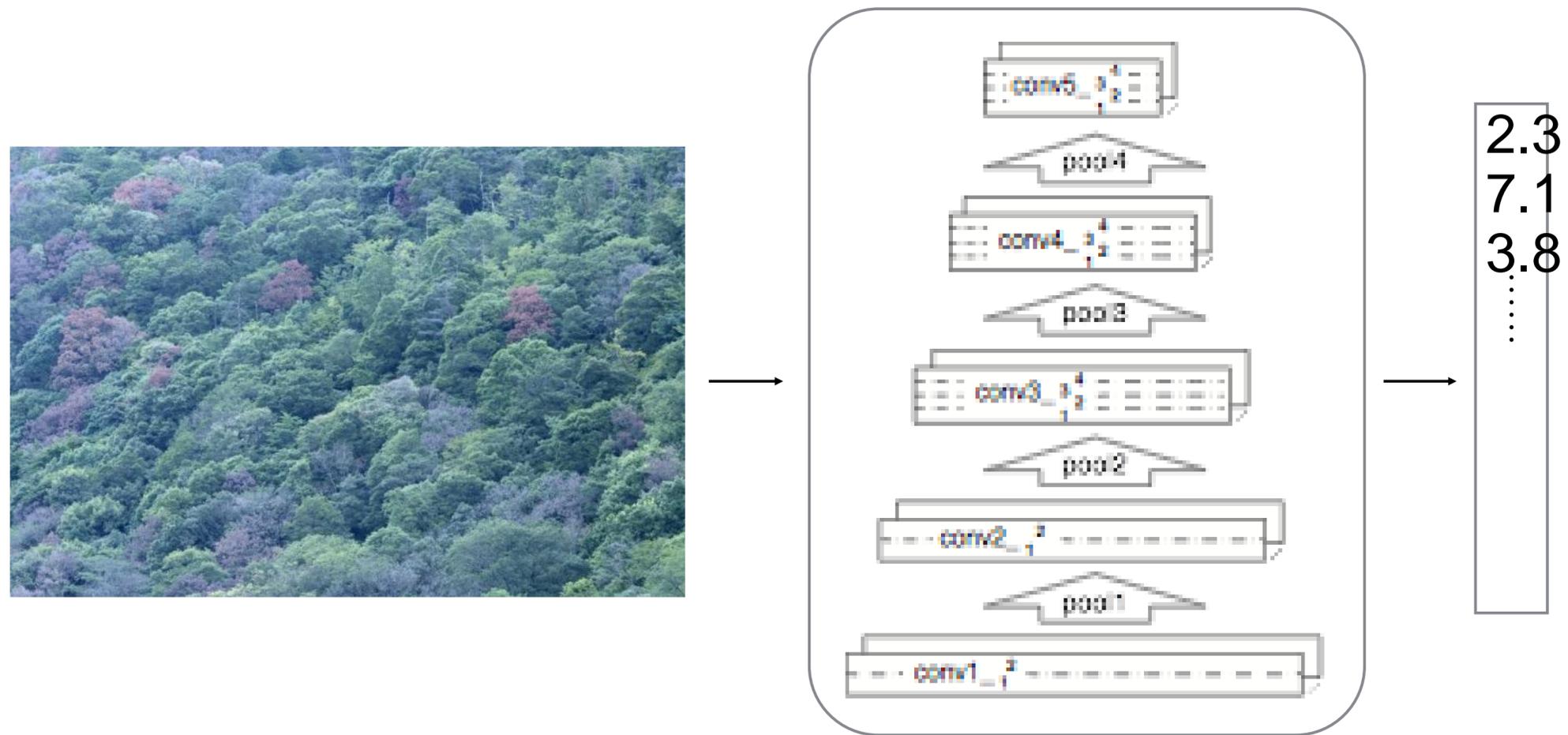
Simoncelli & Portilla '98+



- Match joint histograms of pairs of filter responses at adjacent spatial locations, orientations, and scales.
- Optimize using repeated projections onto statistical constraint surfaces



Convolutional Neural Network Texture Model

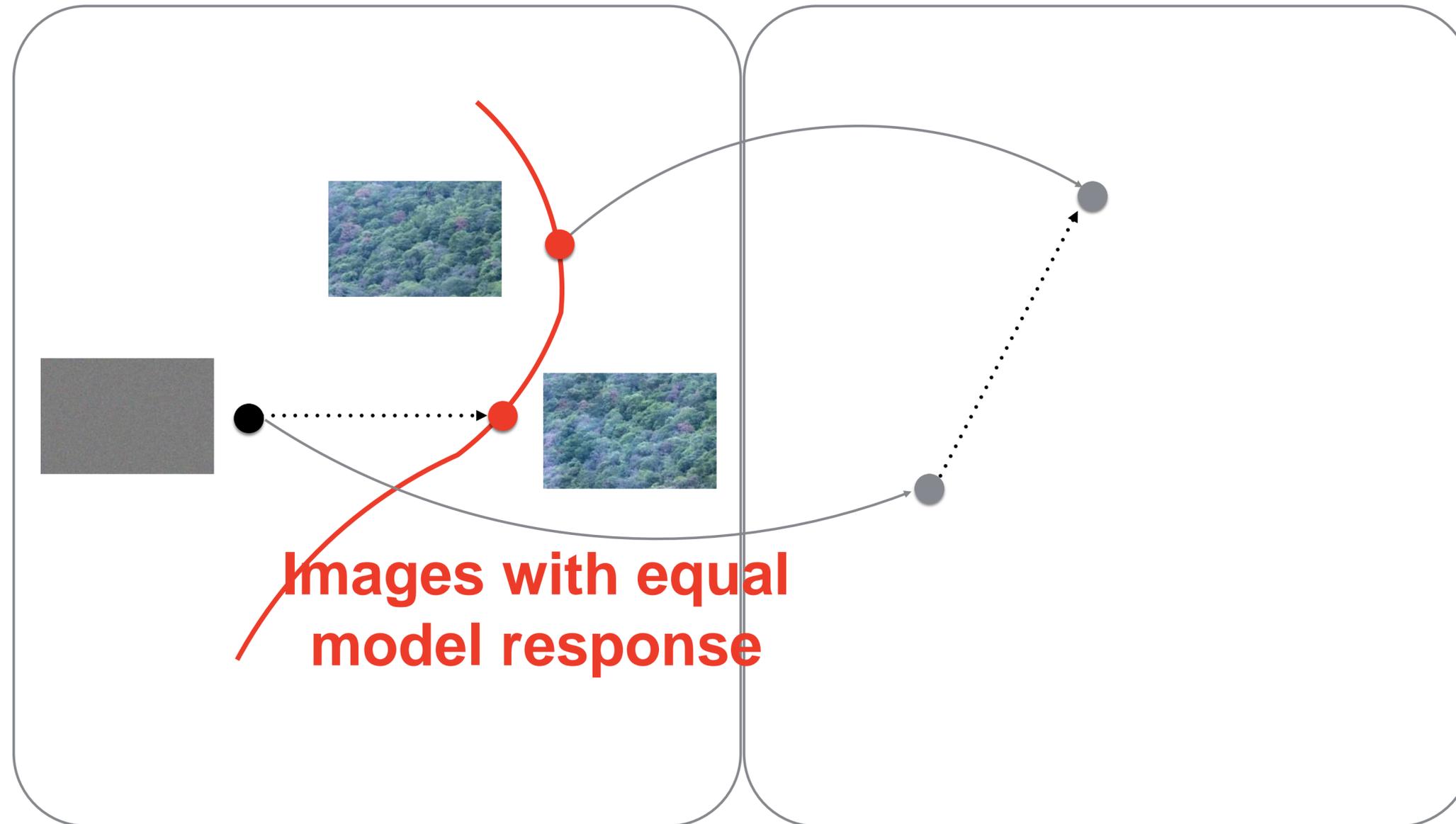


Convolutional Neural Network

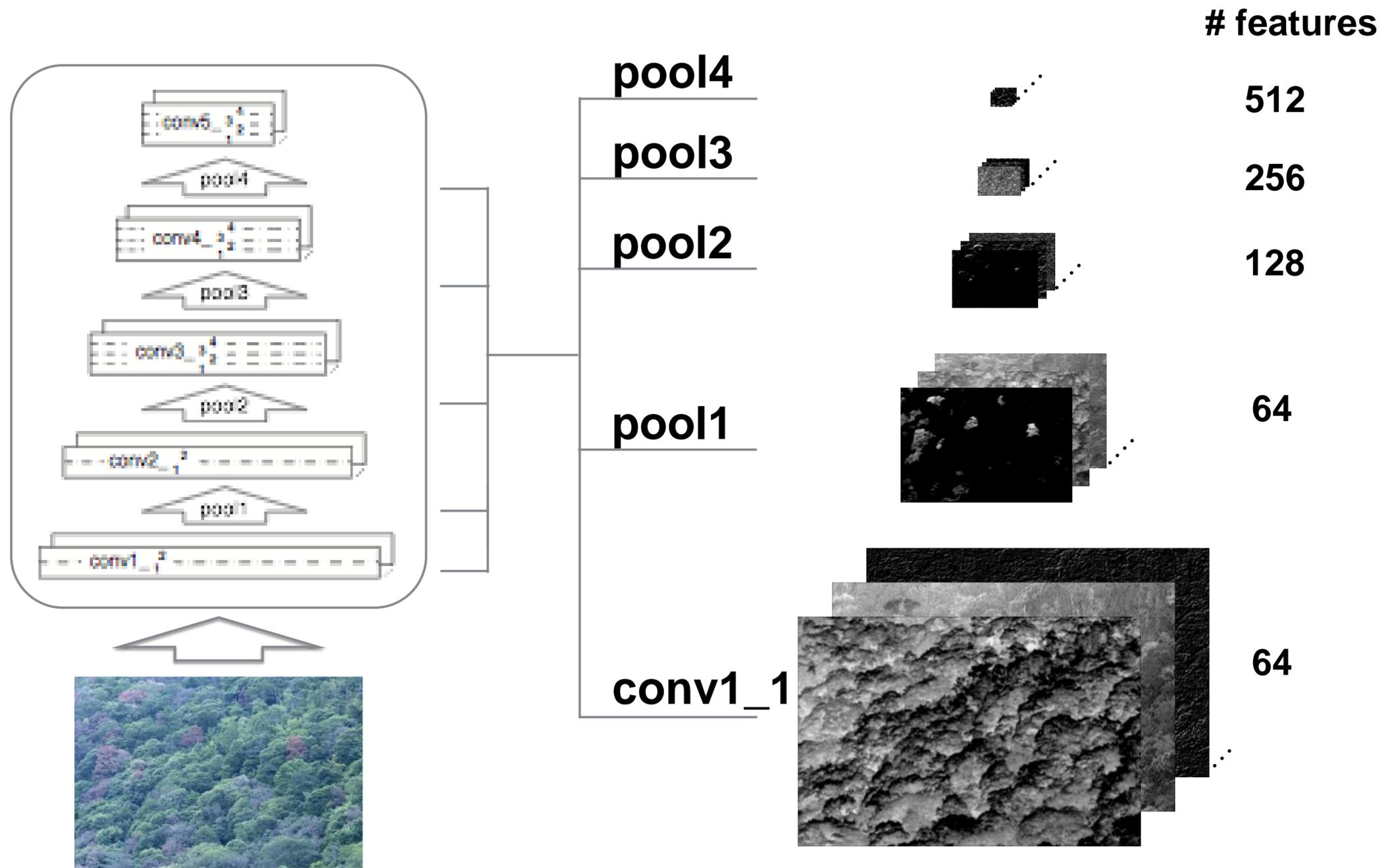
Texture Synthesis

Image Space

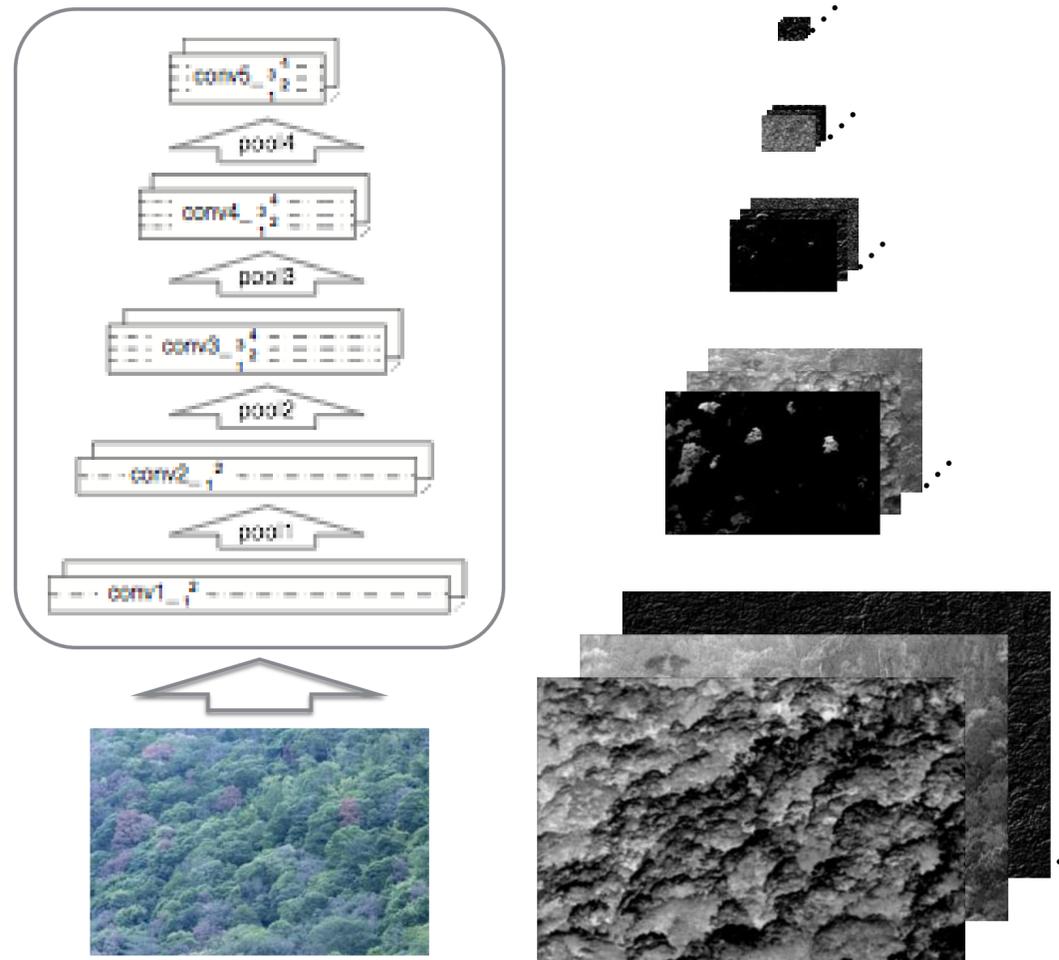
Model Space



CNN - Multiscale Filter Bank



CNN - Texture Features



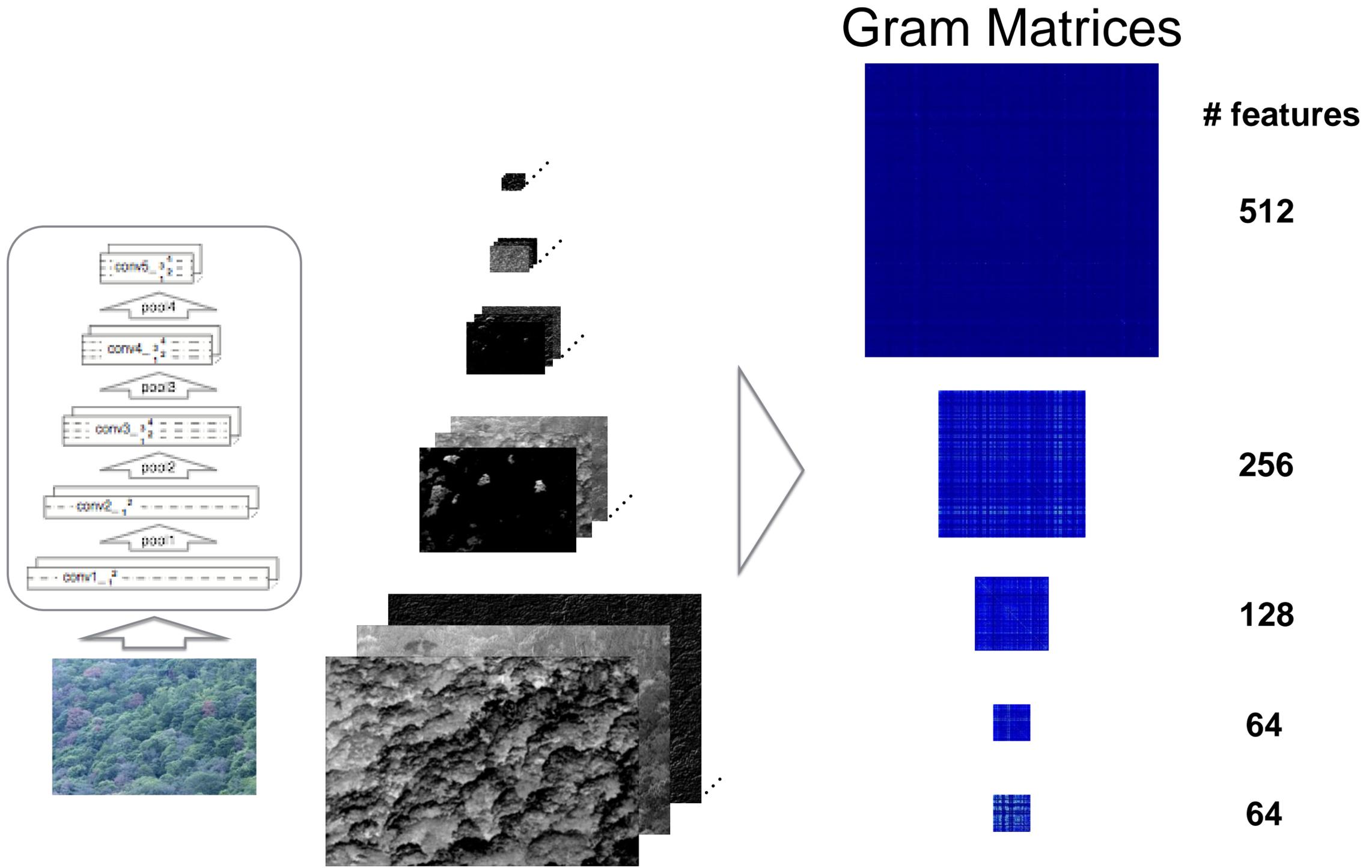
$$F = [\bar{f}_1, \bar{f}_2, \bar{f}_3, \dots, \bar{f}_N]^T$$

$$G = FF^T$$

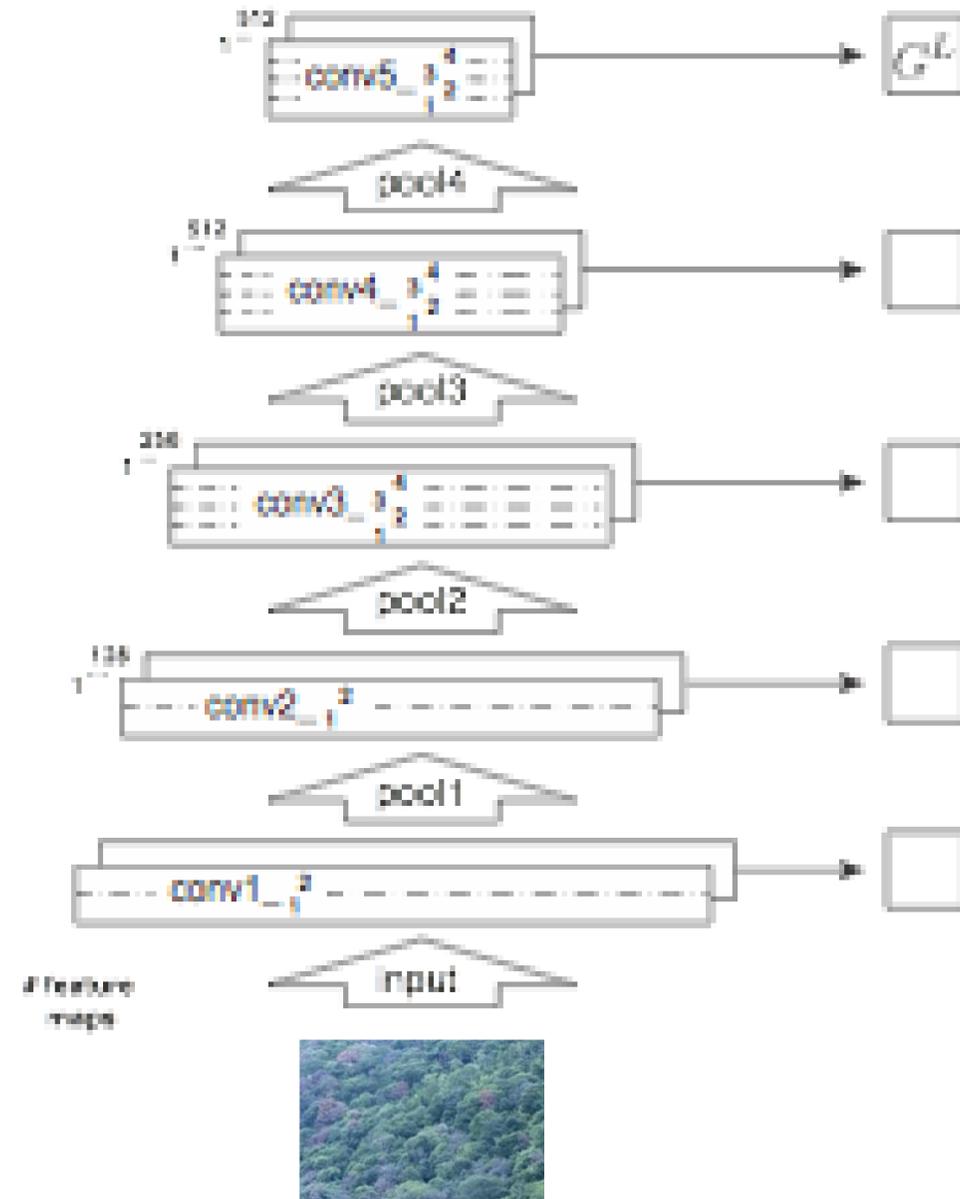
$$= \begin{pmatrix} \langle \bar{f}_1, \bar{f}_1 \rangle & \cdots & \langle \bar{f}_1, \bar{f}_N \rangle \\ \langle \bar{f}_2, \bar{f}_1 \rangle & & \vdots \\ \vdots & \ddots & \vdots \\ \langle \bar{f}_N, \bar{f}_1 \rangle & \cdots & \langle \bar{f}_N, \bar{f}_N \rangle \end{pmatrix}$$

$$\langle \bar{f}_i, \bar{f}_j \rangle = \sum_k F_{ik} F_{jk}$$

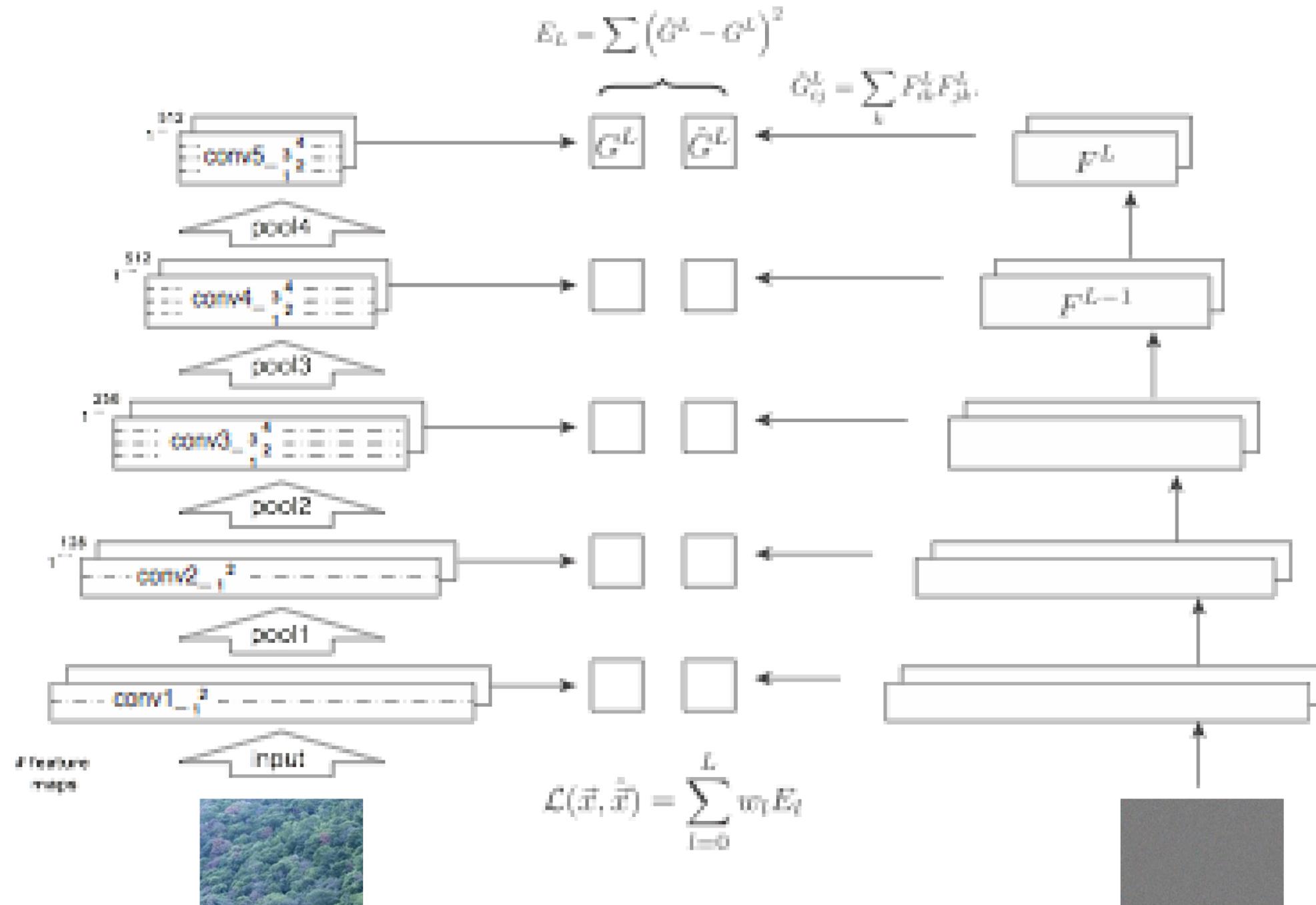
CNN-Texture Features



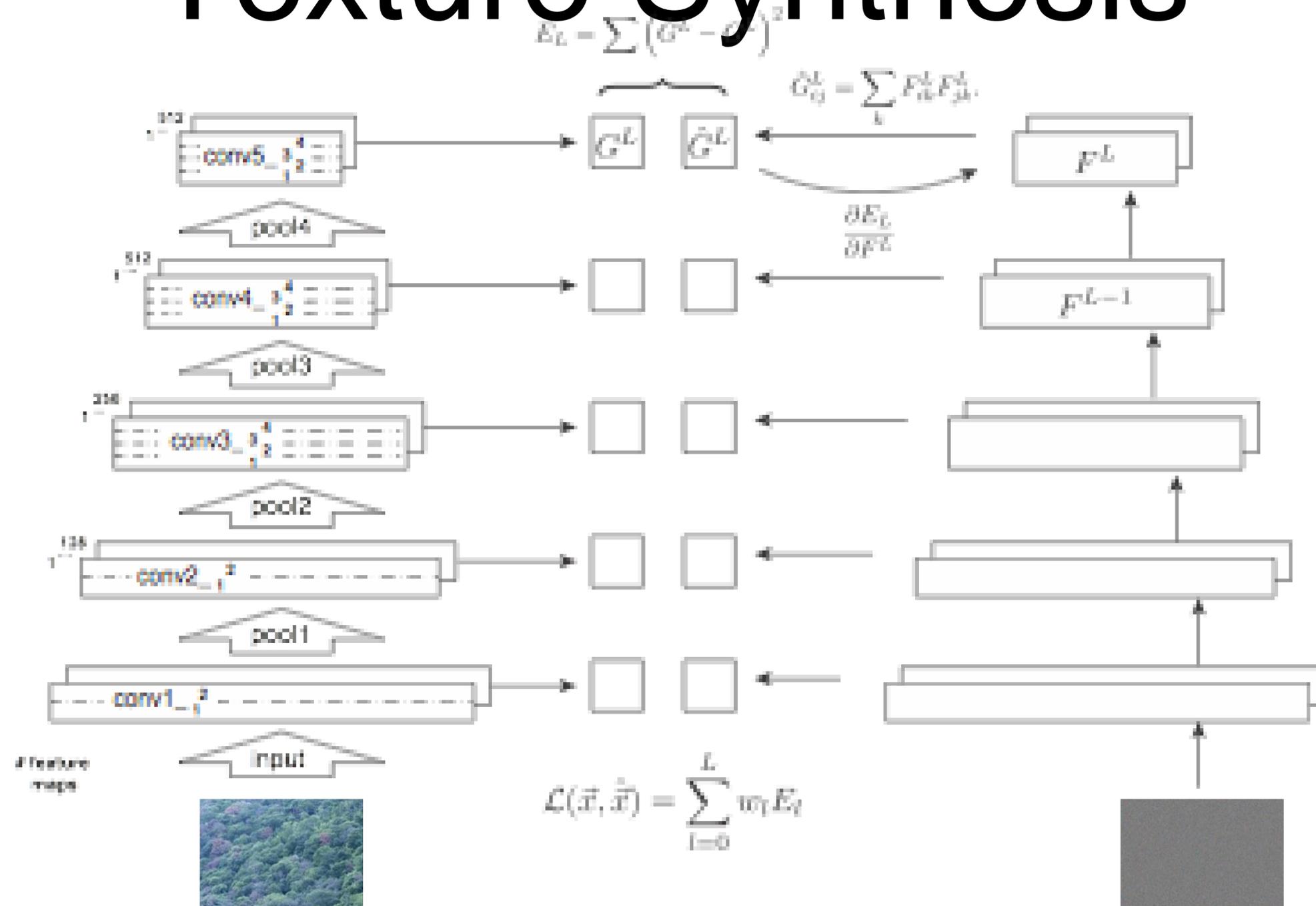
Texture Synthesis



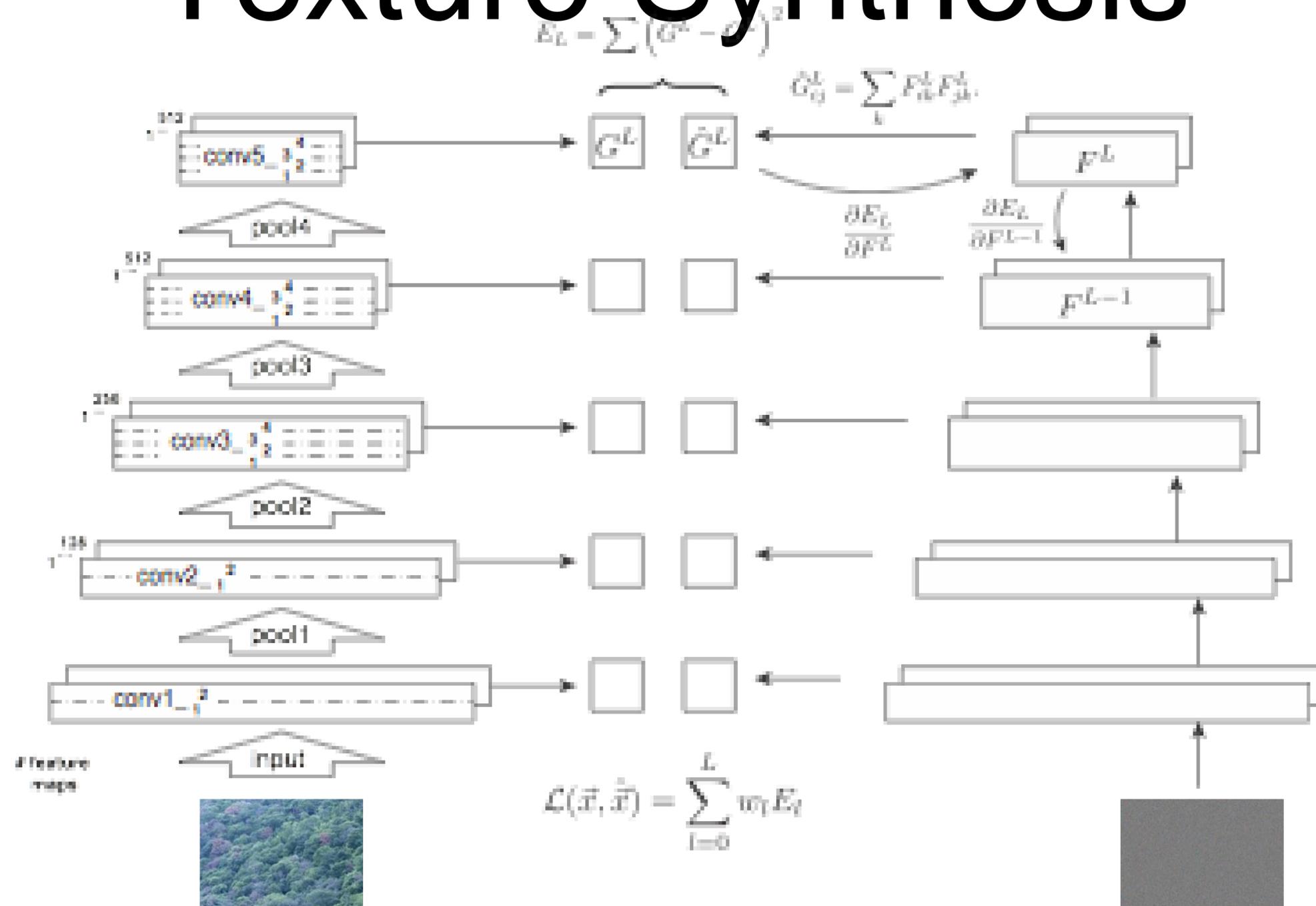
Texture Synthesis



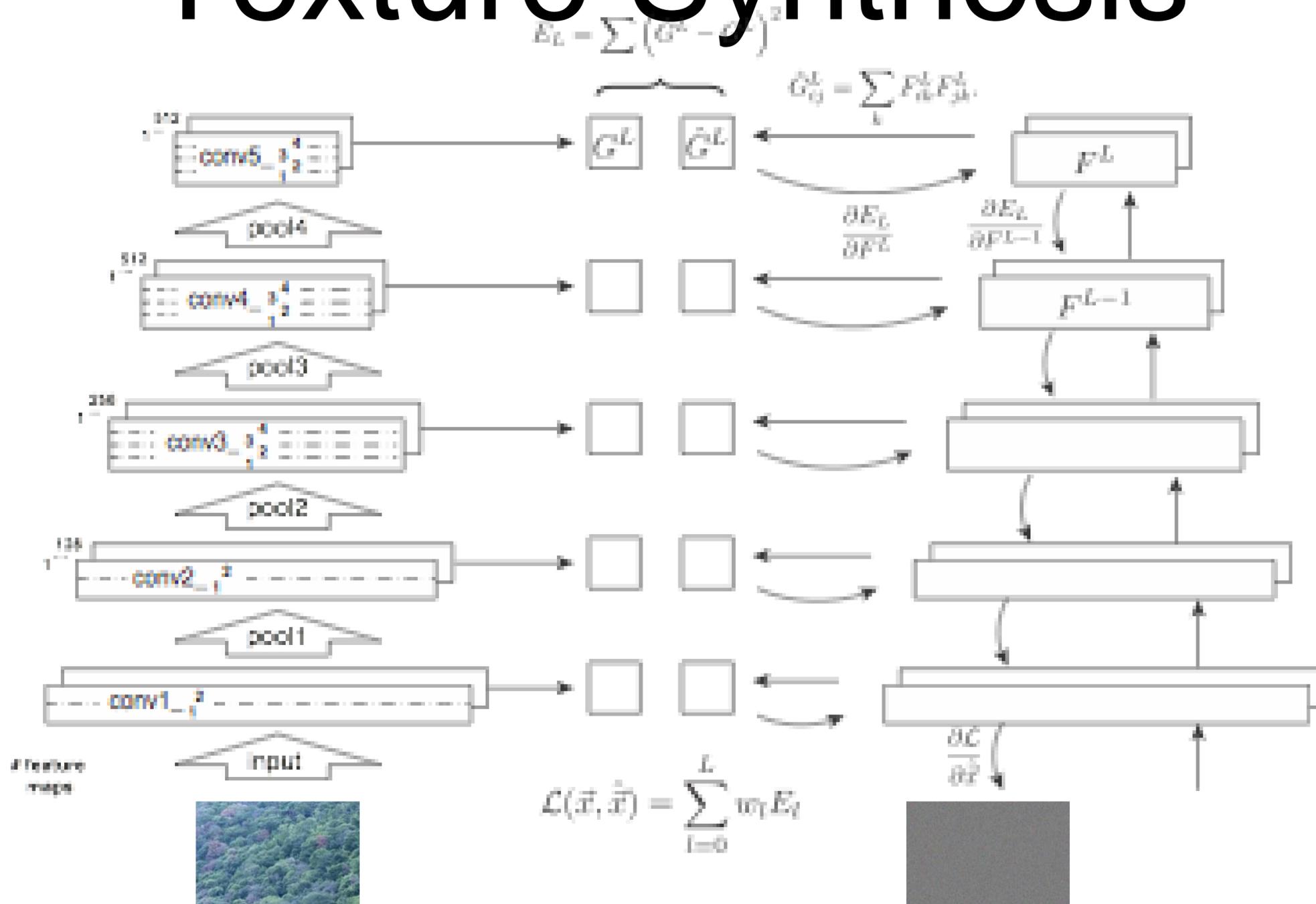
Texture Synthesis



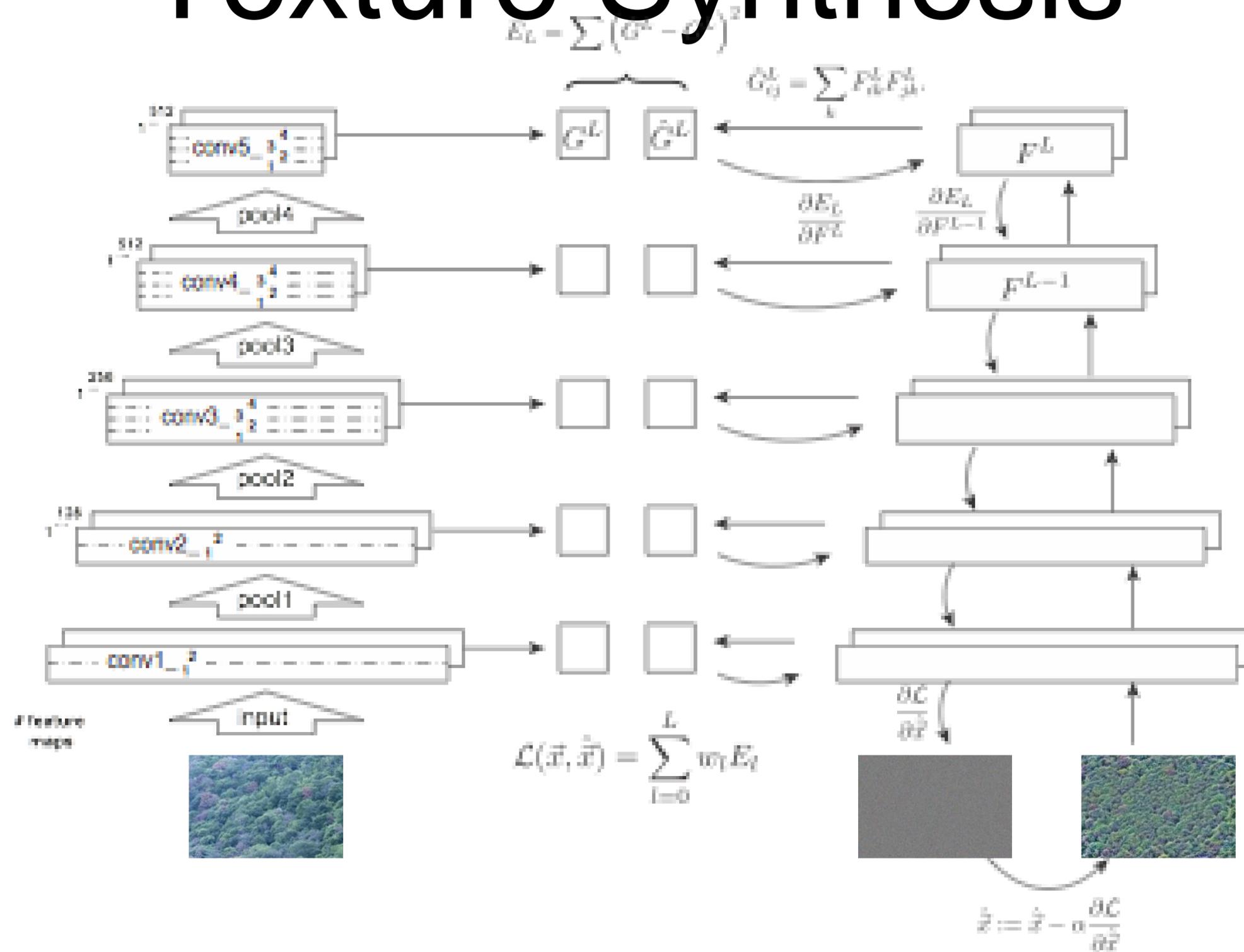
Texture Synthesis



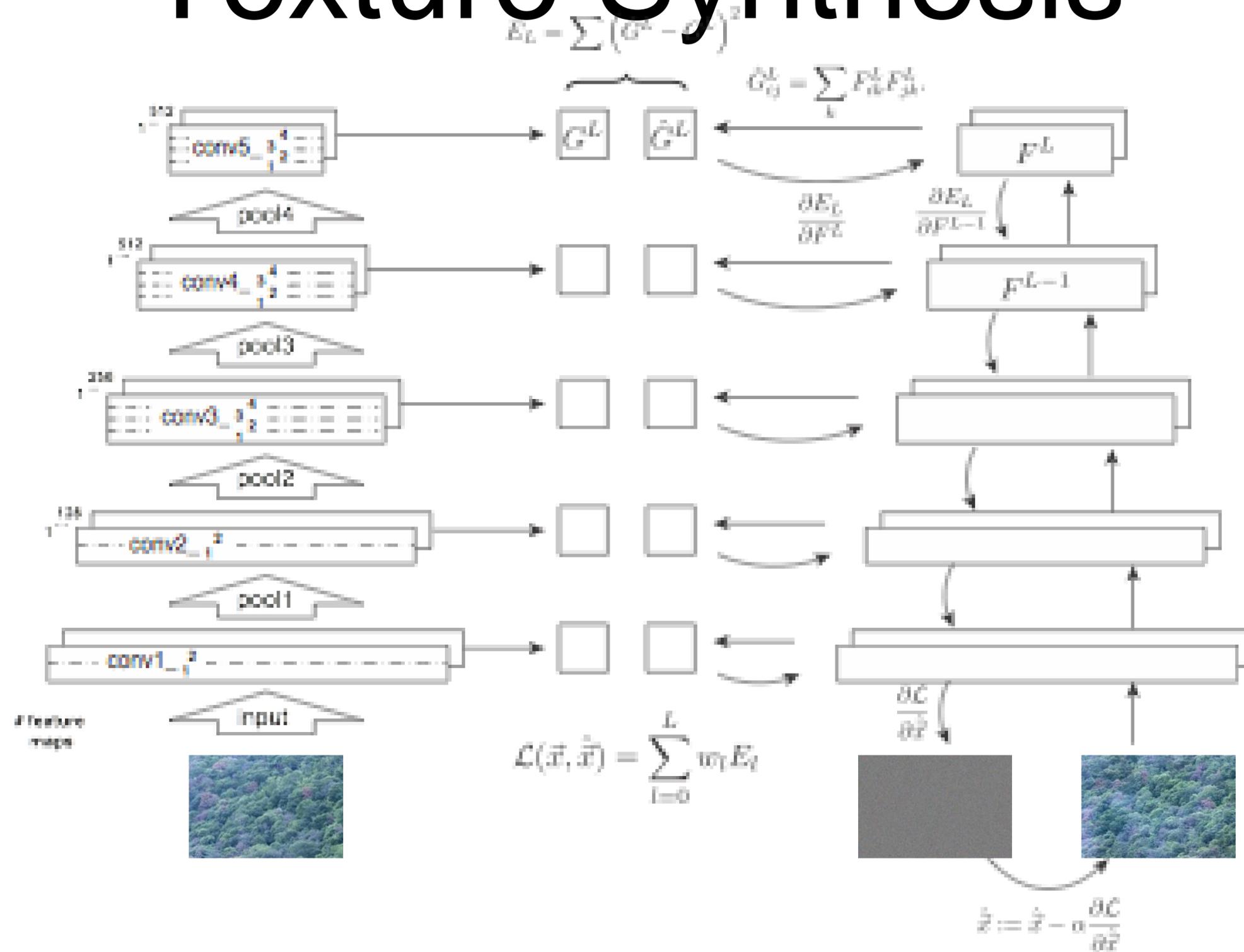
Texture Synthesis



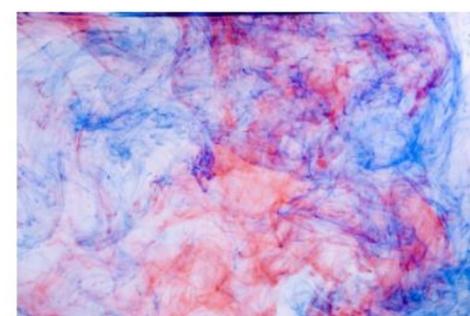
Texture Synthesis



Texture Synthesis



Test Julesz' Conjecture



Test Julesz' Conjecture

Synthesised



Source



Synthesised



Source



Synthesised



Source



Synthesised



Source



Synthesised



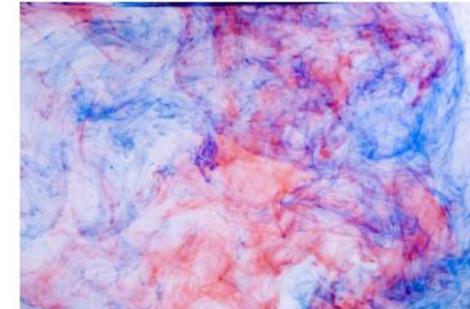
Source



Synthesised



Source



Synthesised



Source



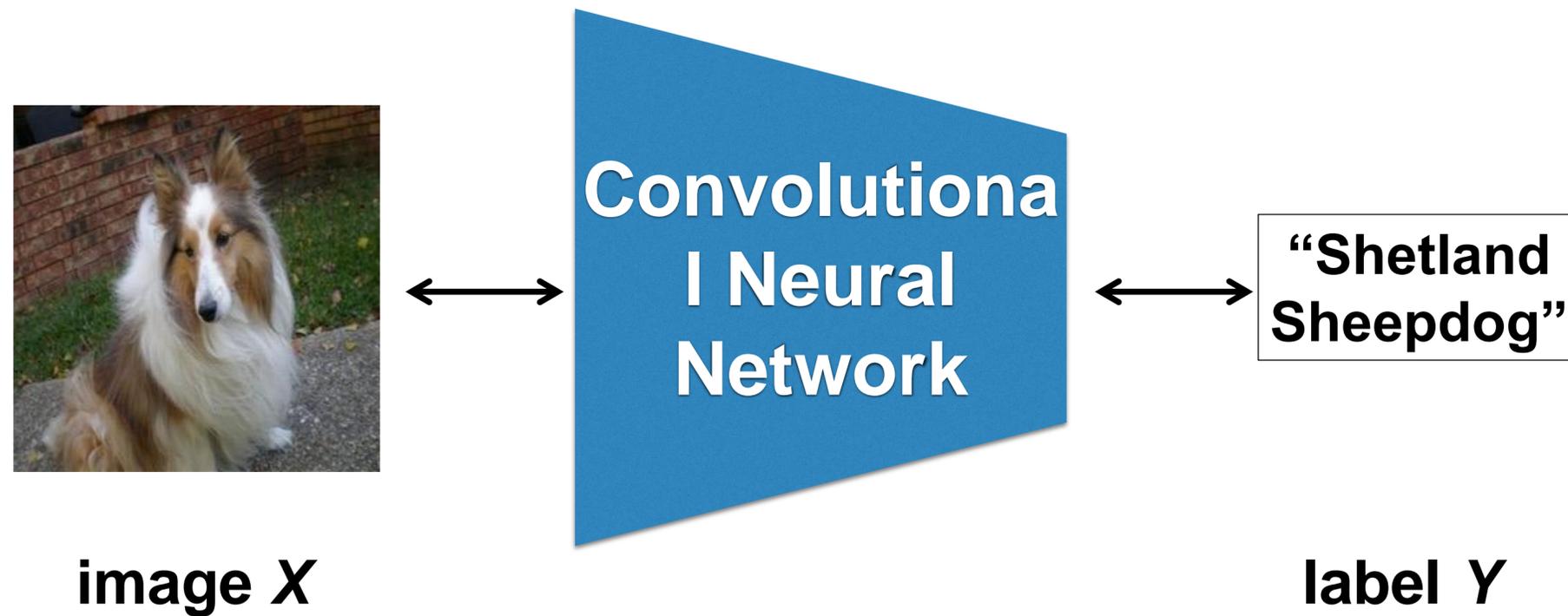
Synthesised



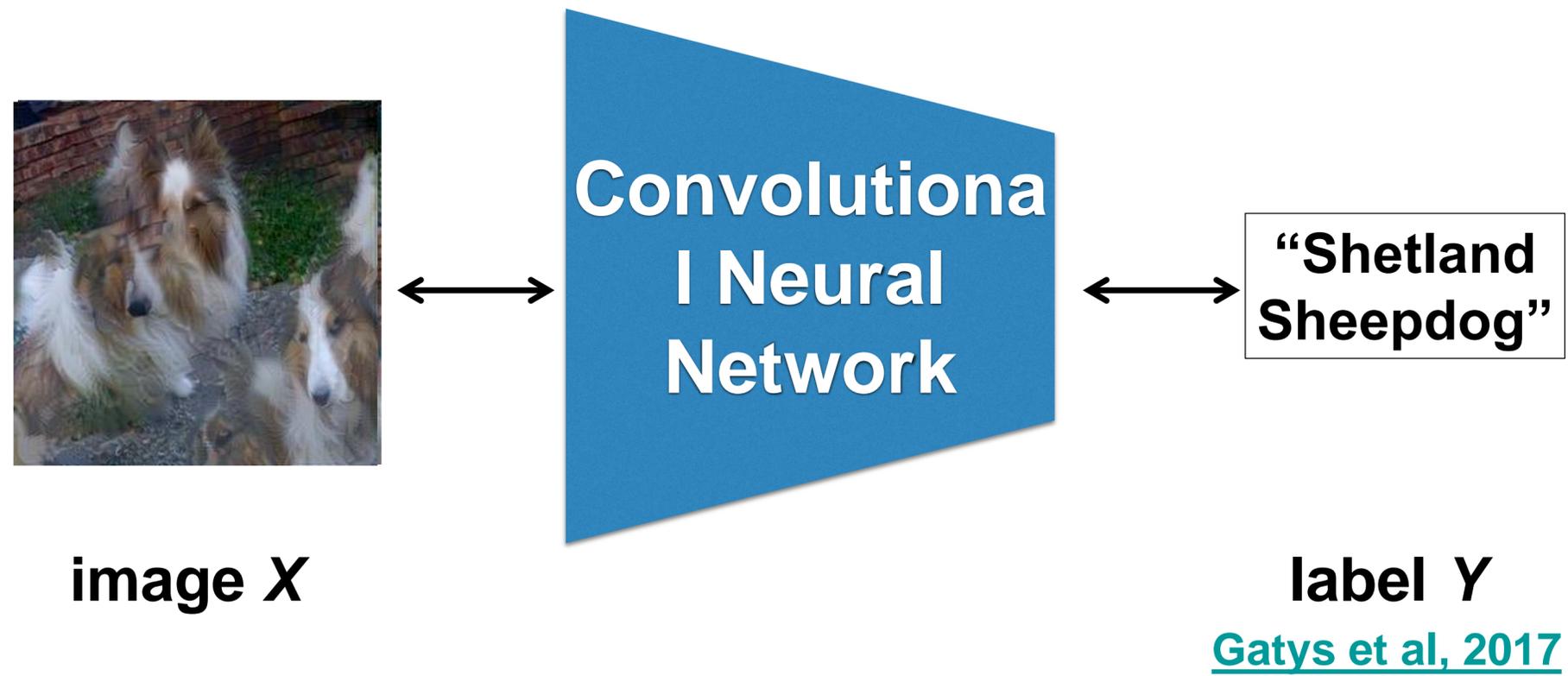
Source



ImageNet Recognition is just Texture Recognition



ImageNet Recognition is just Texture Recognition



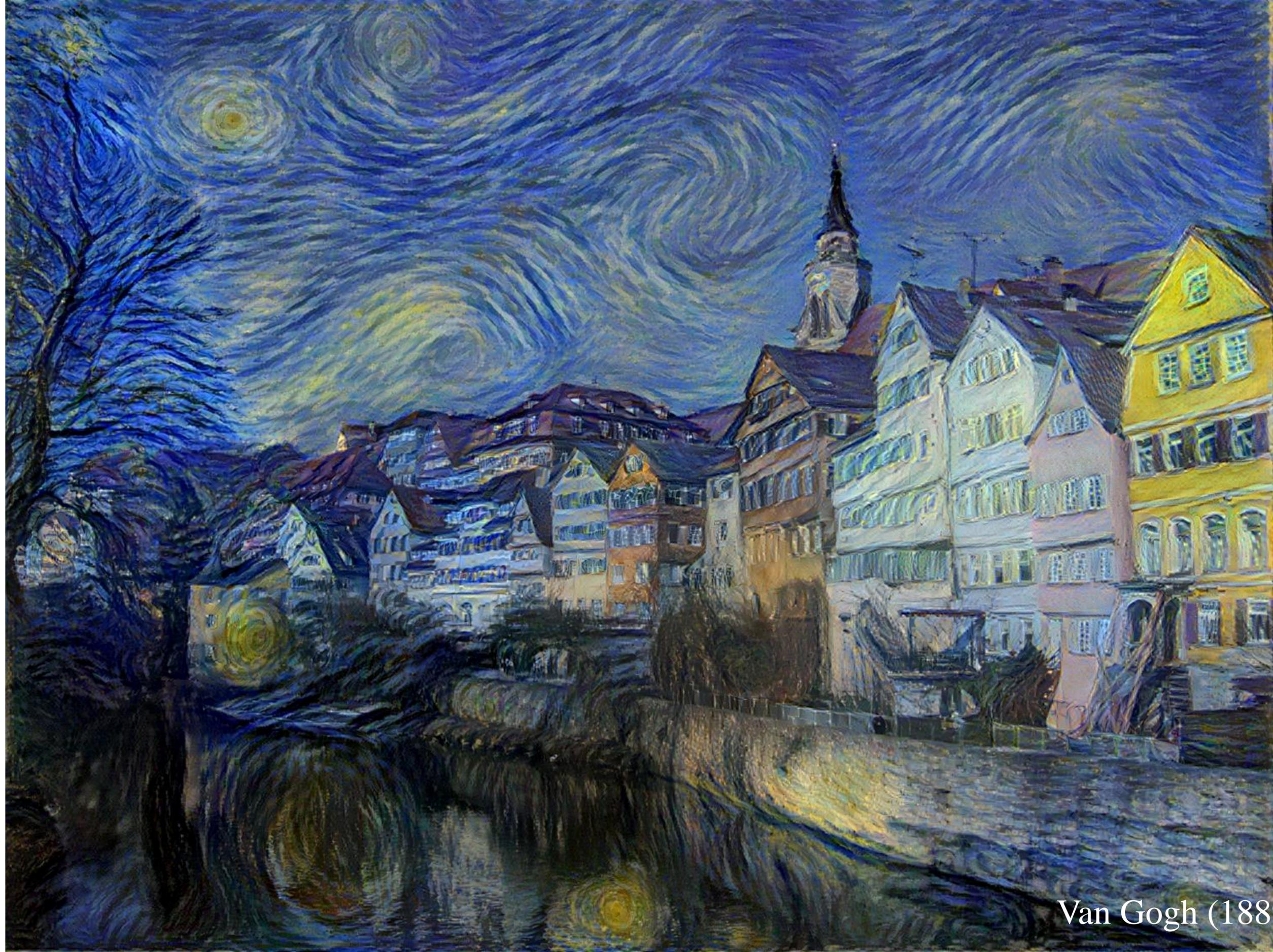
A Neural Algorithm of Artistic Style



Gatys, Ecker, Bethge (arXiv 2015)







Van Gogh (188



Picasso (1910)



Munch (1893)

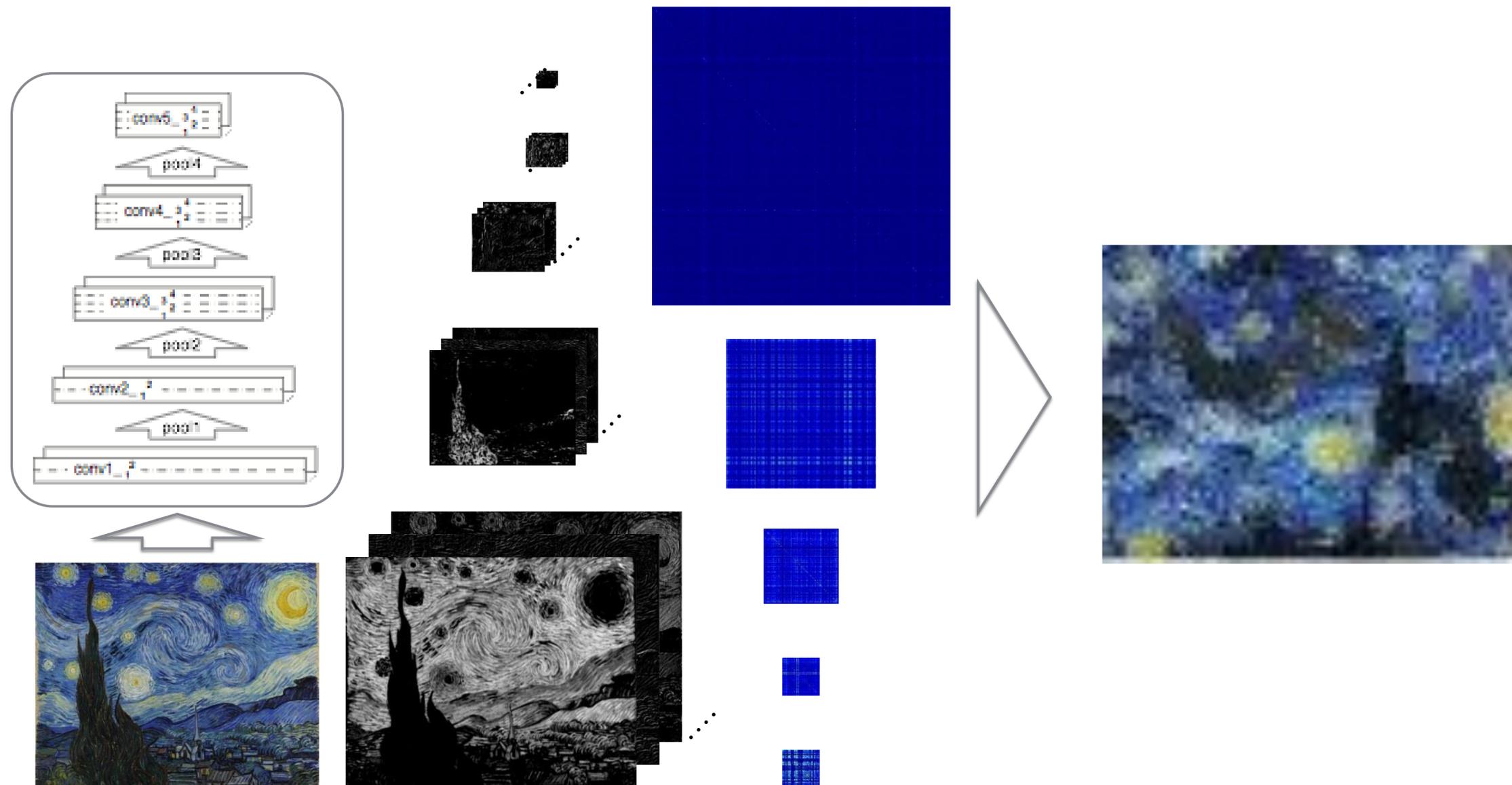


Turner (1805)



Kandinsky (1911)

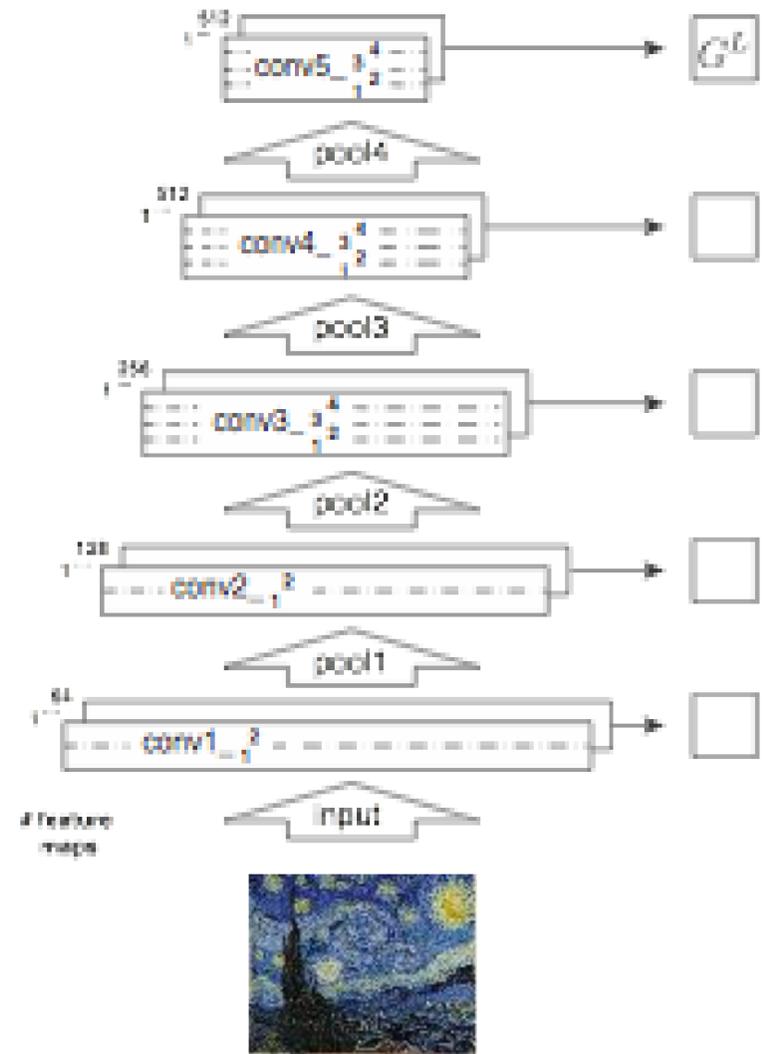
CNN - Texture Synthesis



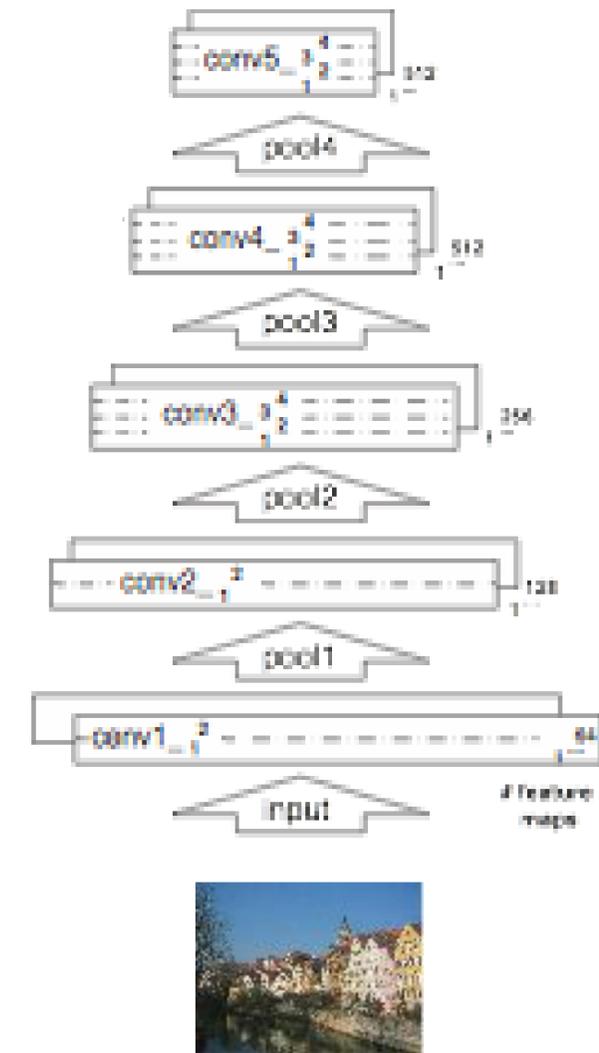
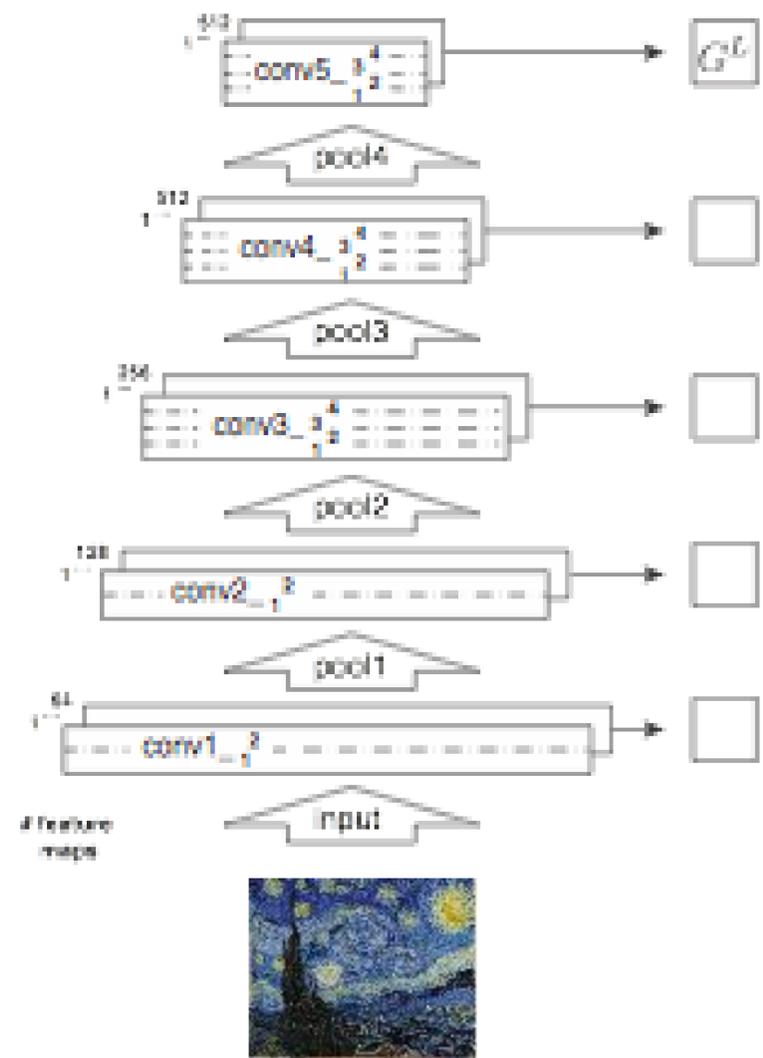
Artistic Style Transfer



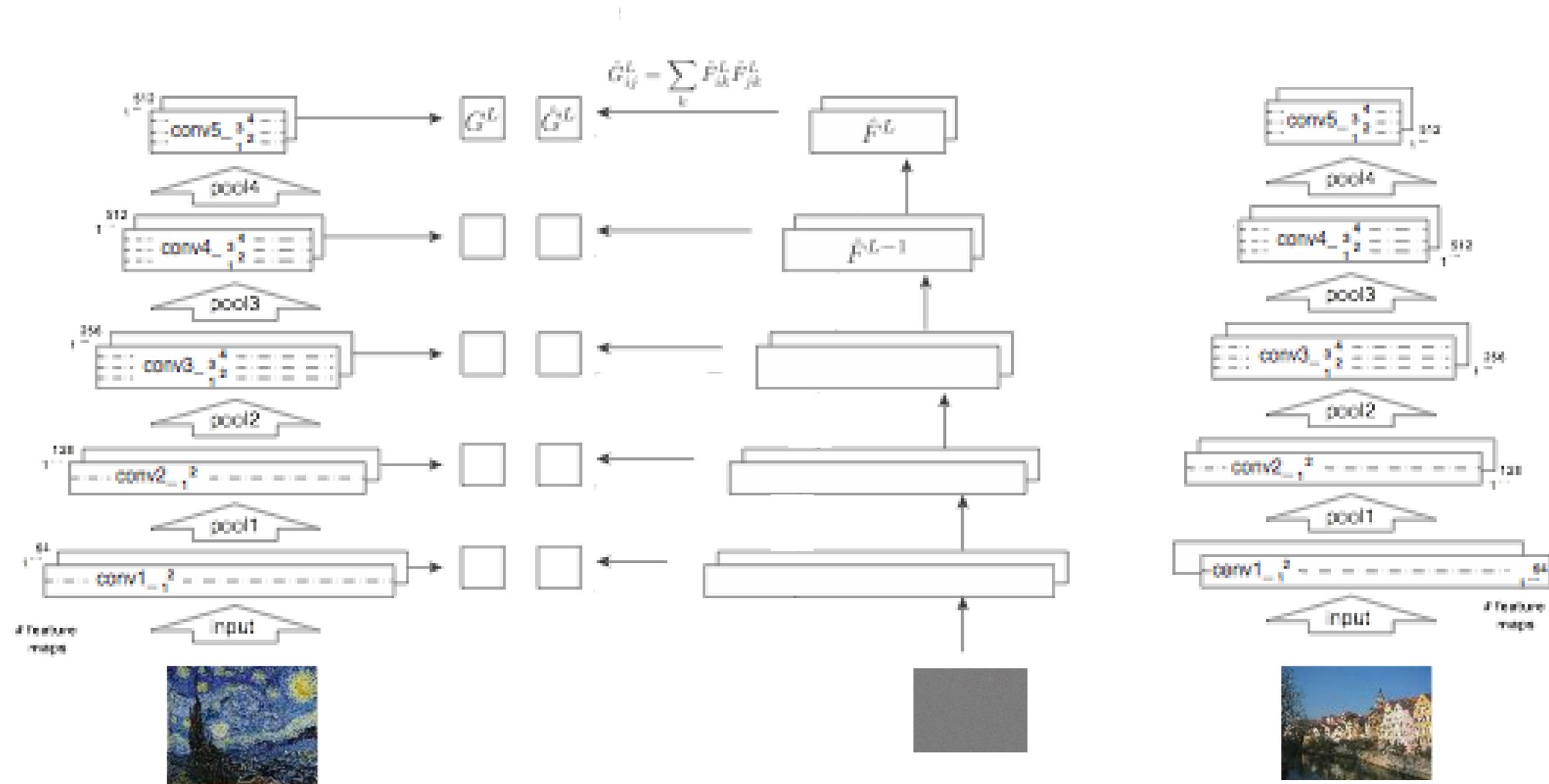
Artistic Style Transfer



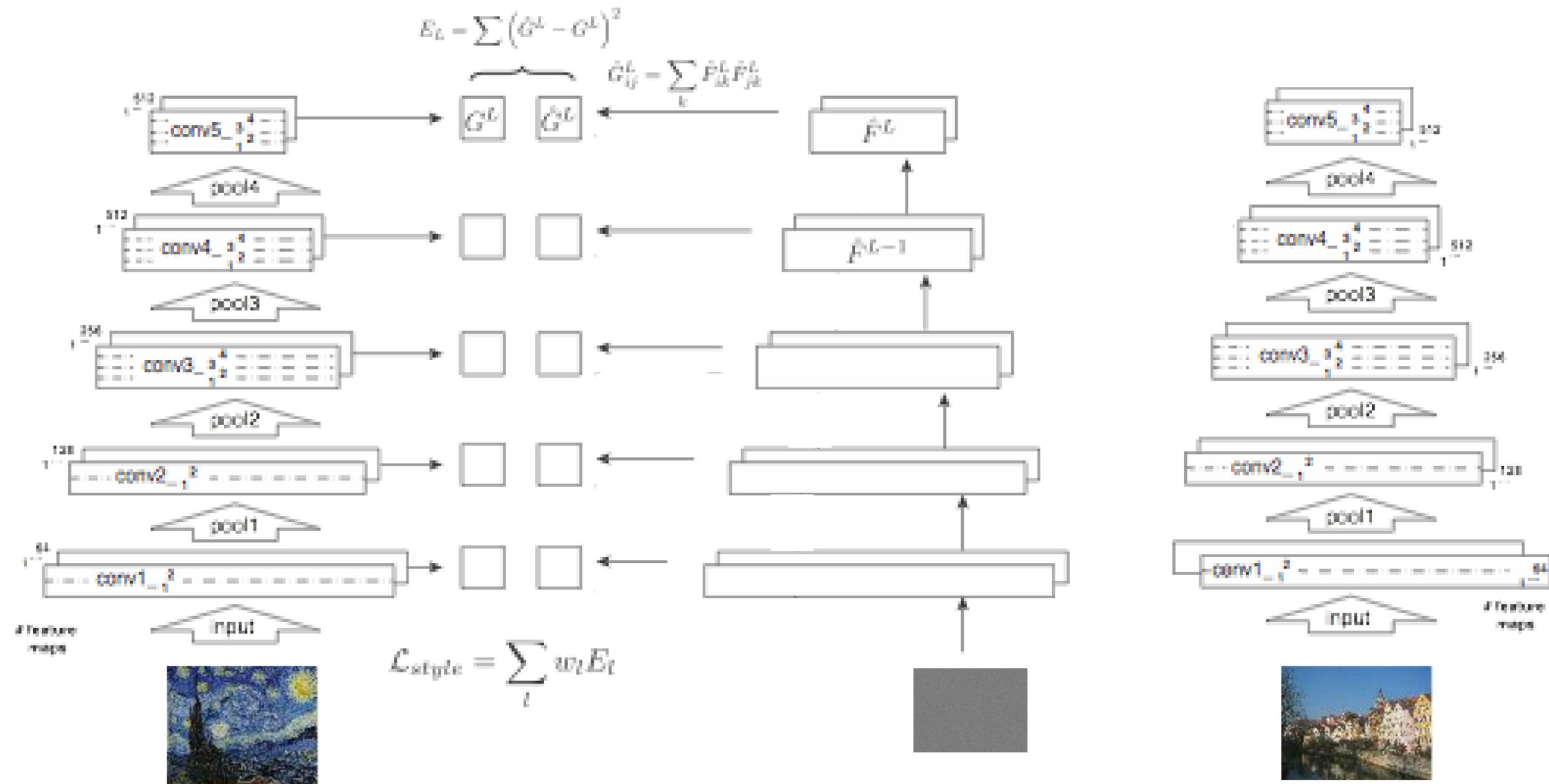
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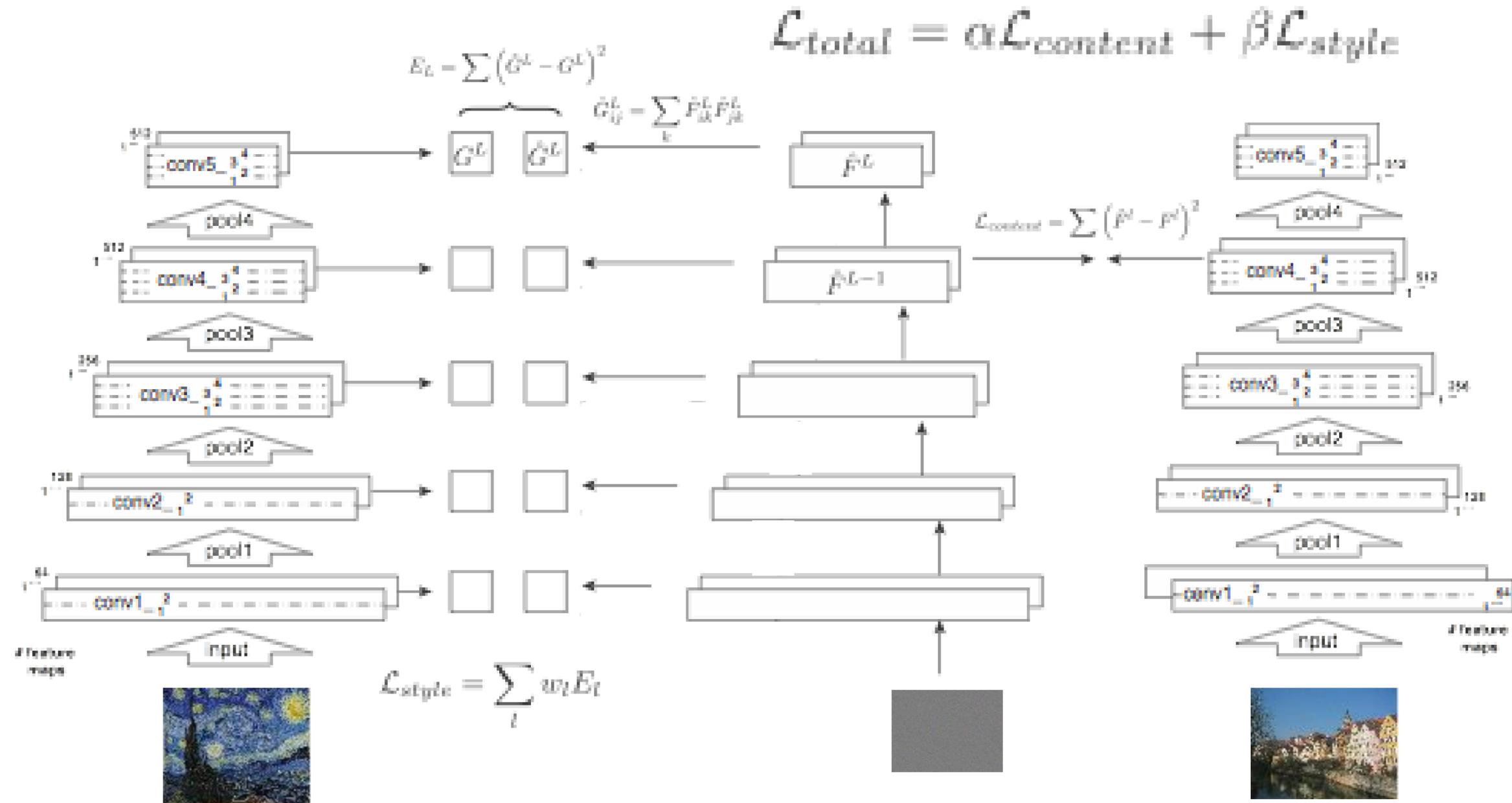
Artistic Style Transfer



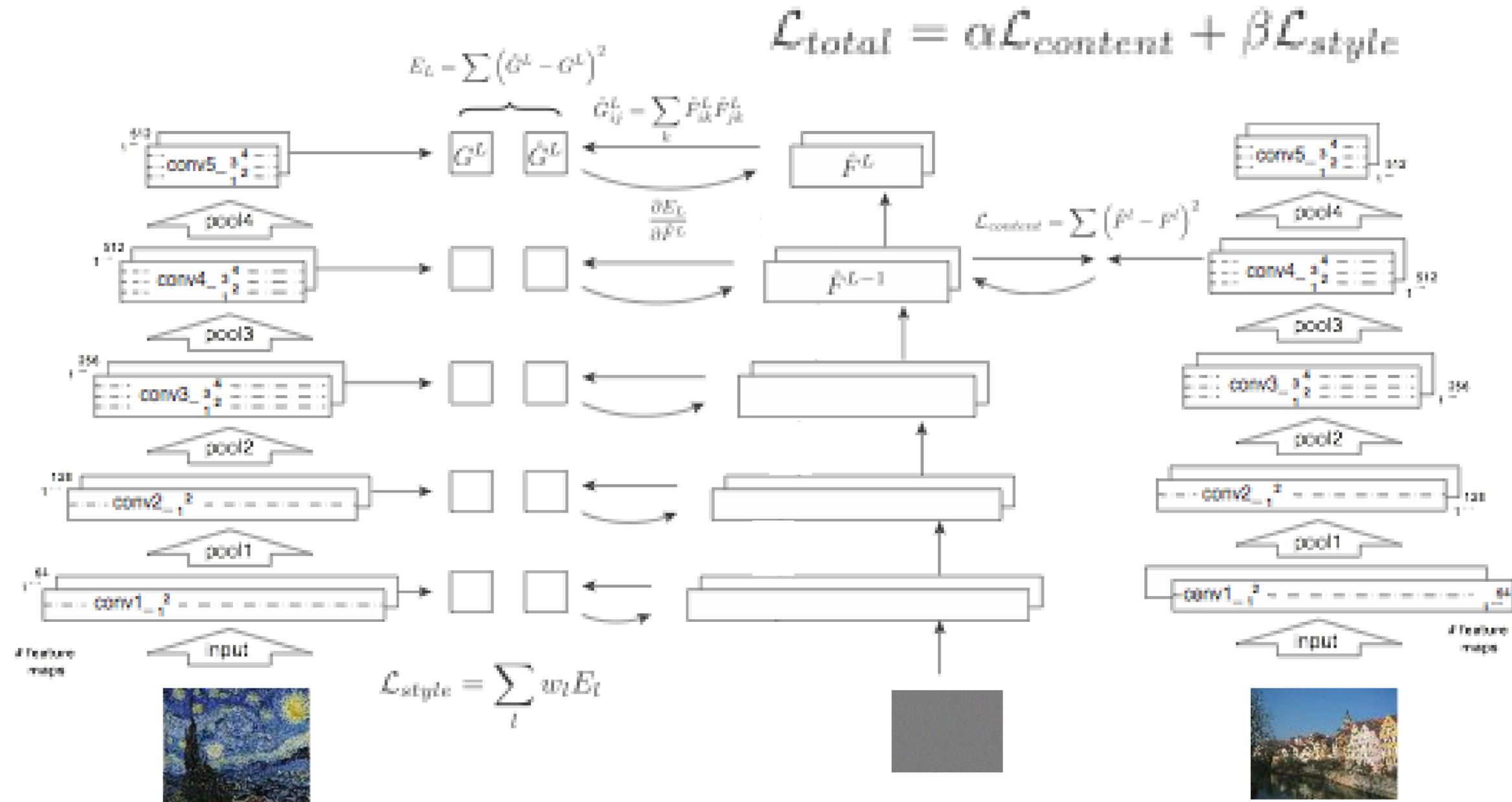
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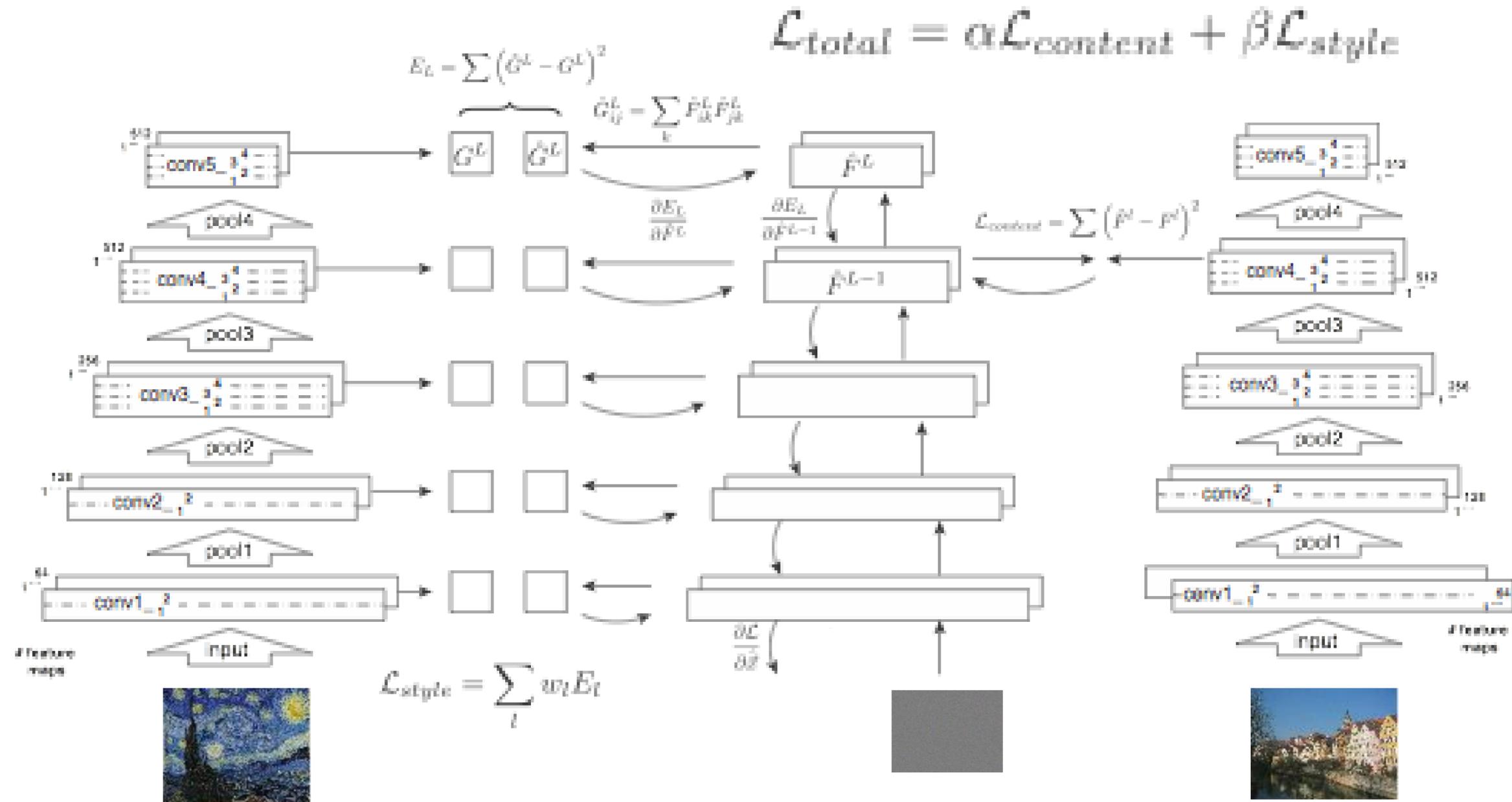
Artistic Style Transfer



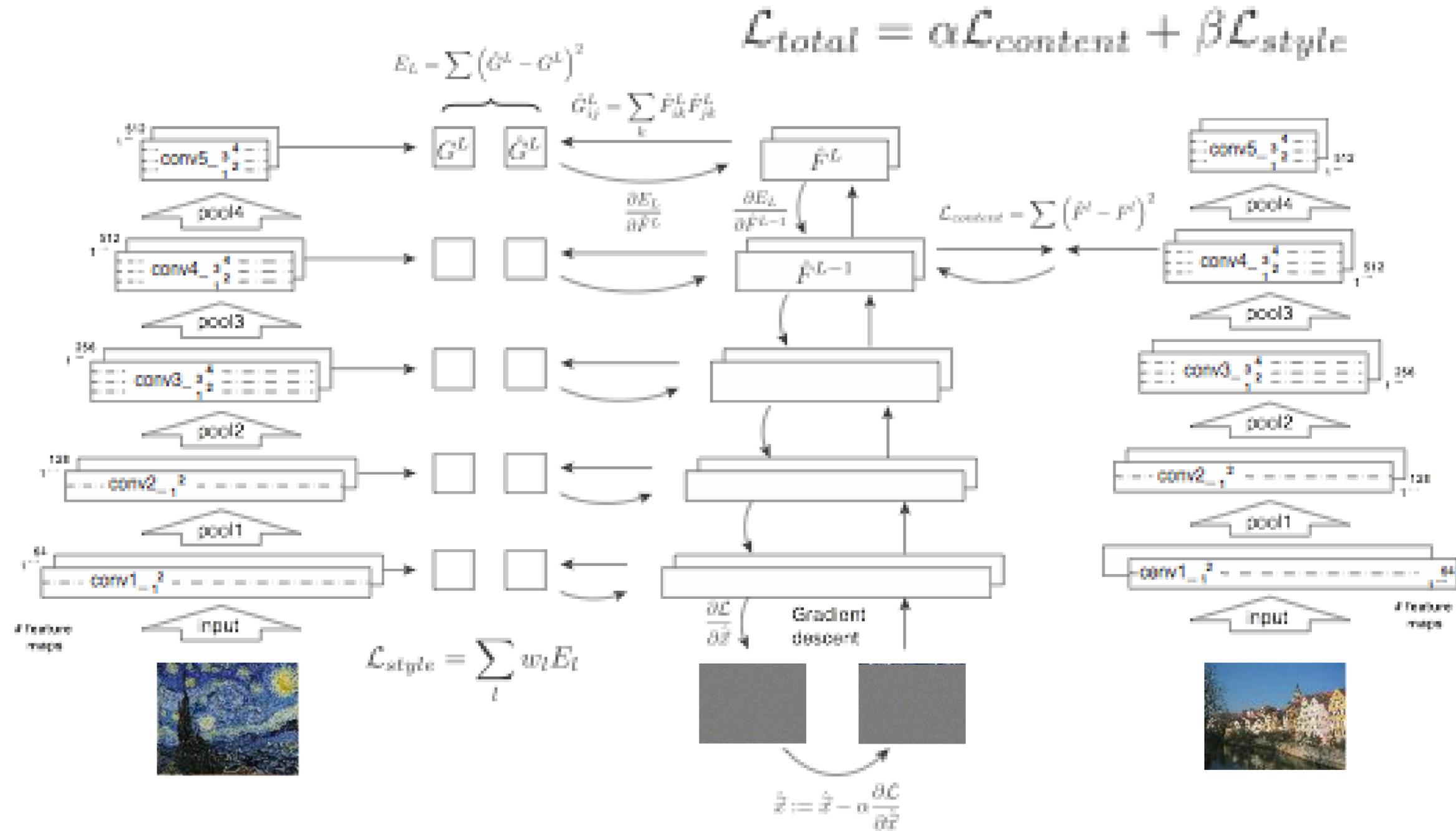
Artistic Style Transfer



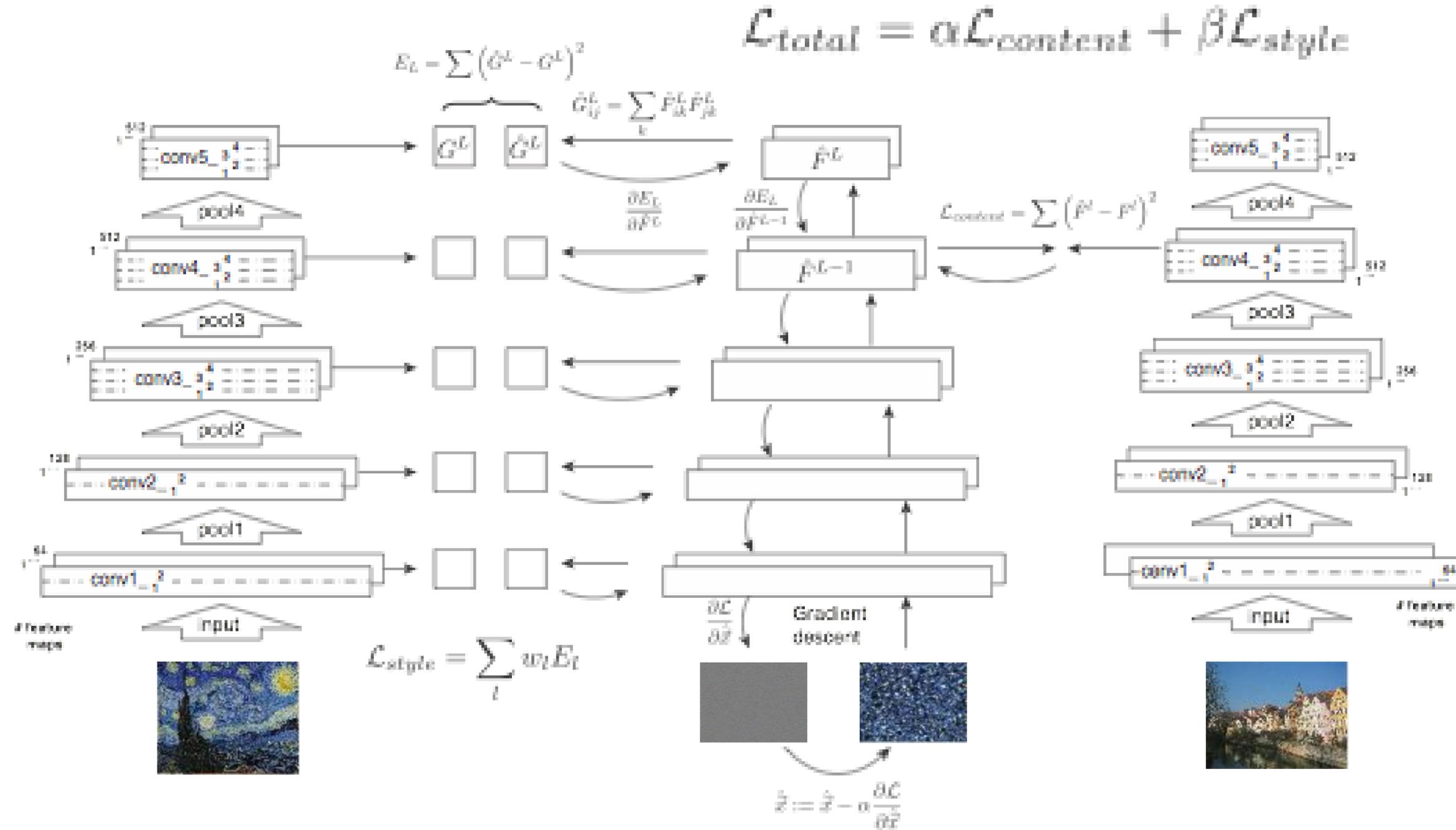
Artistic Style Transfer



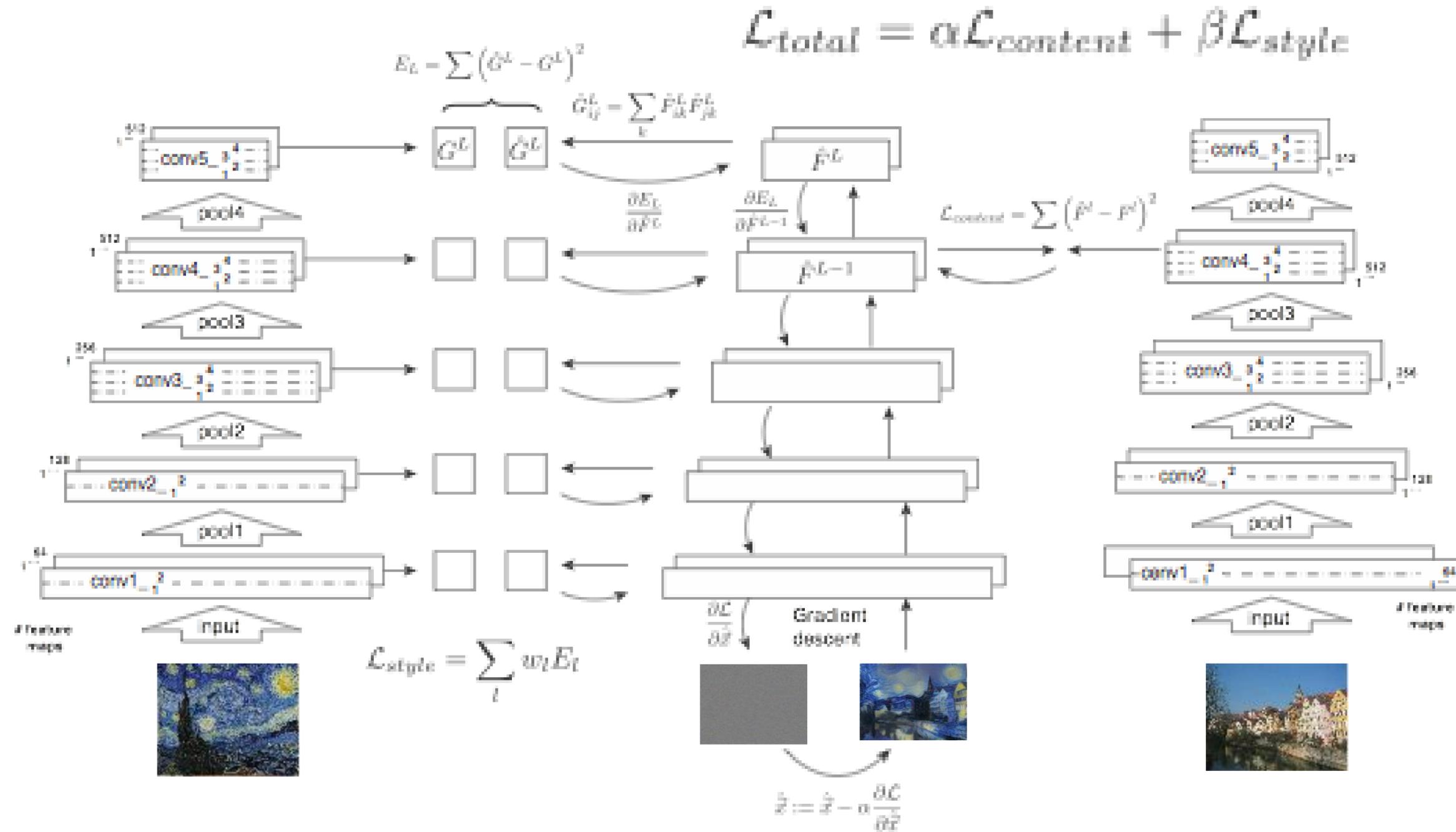
Artistic Style Transfer



Artistic Style Transfer



Artistic Style Transfer



General Style Transfer

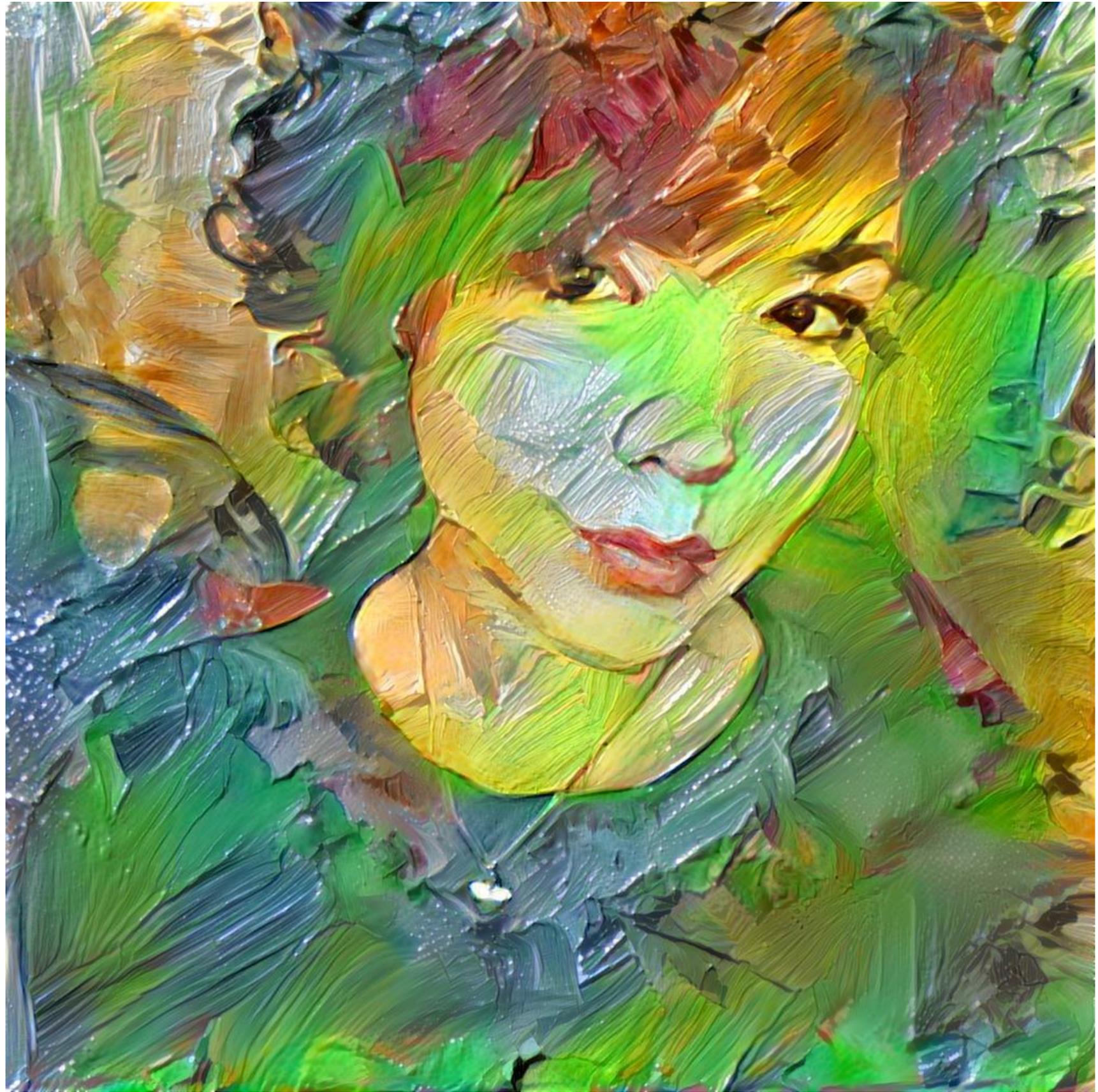


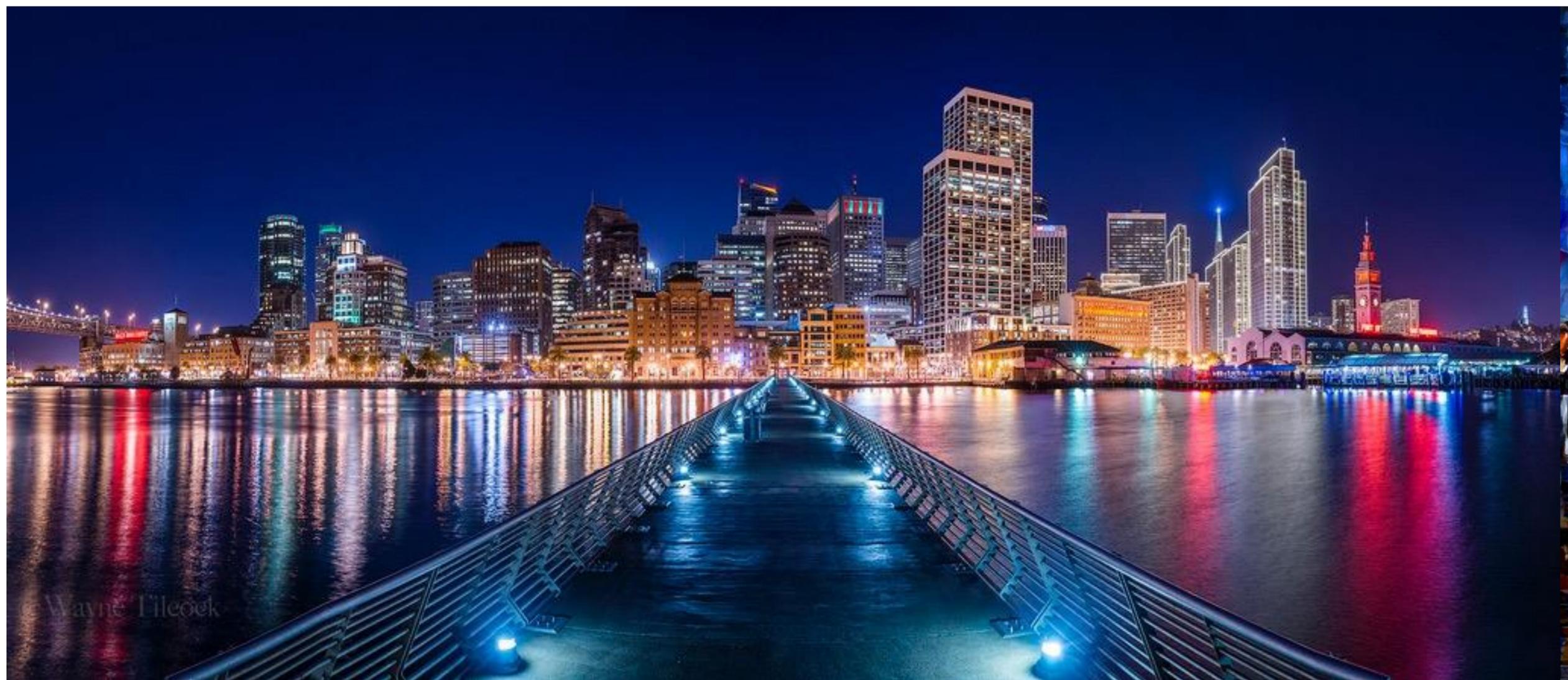
General Style Transfer

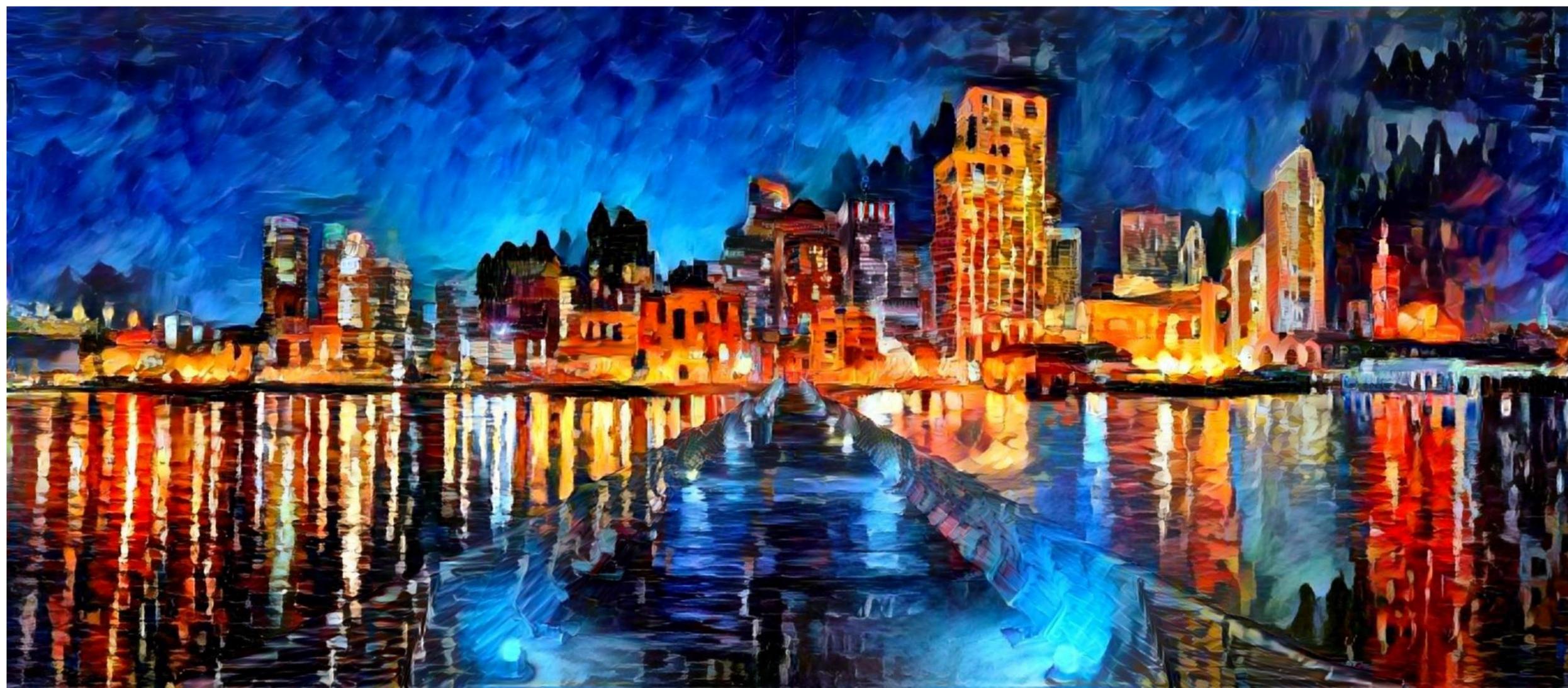






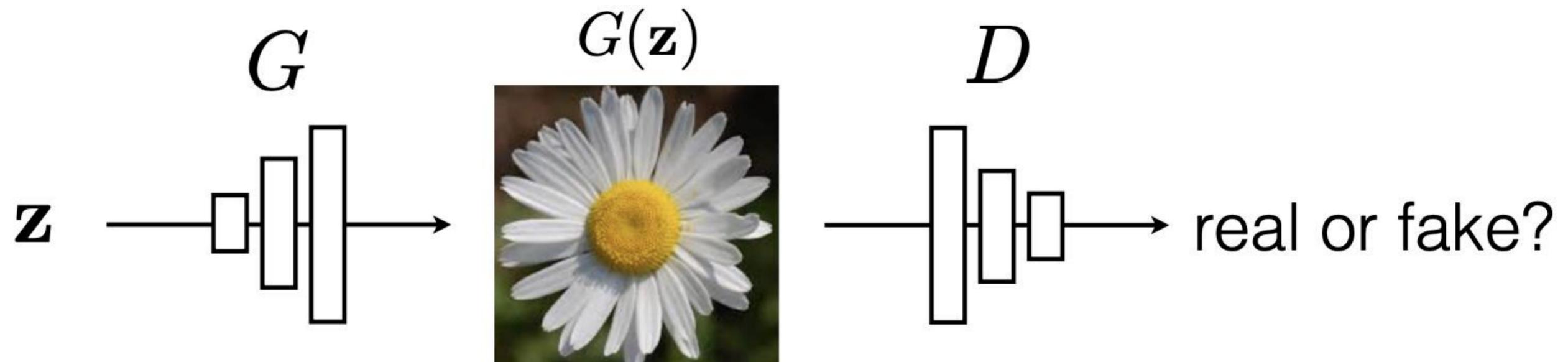






GANs as generative models

- **G** tries to synthesize fake images that *fool* the *best* **D**
- **D** tries to identify the fakes

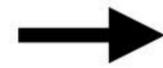
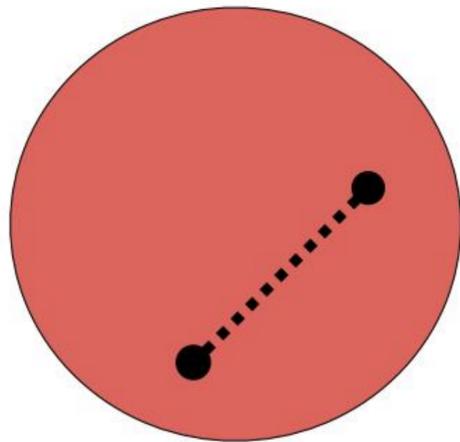


$$\arg \min_G \max_D \mathbb{E}_{\mathbf{z}, \mathbf{x}} [\log D(G(\mathbf{z})) + \log (1 - D(\mathbf{x}))]$$

GANs can “walk” on the manifold

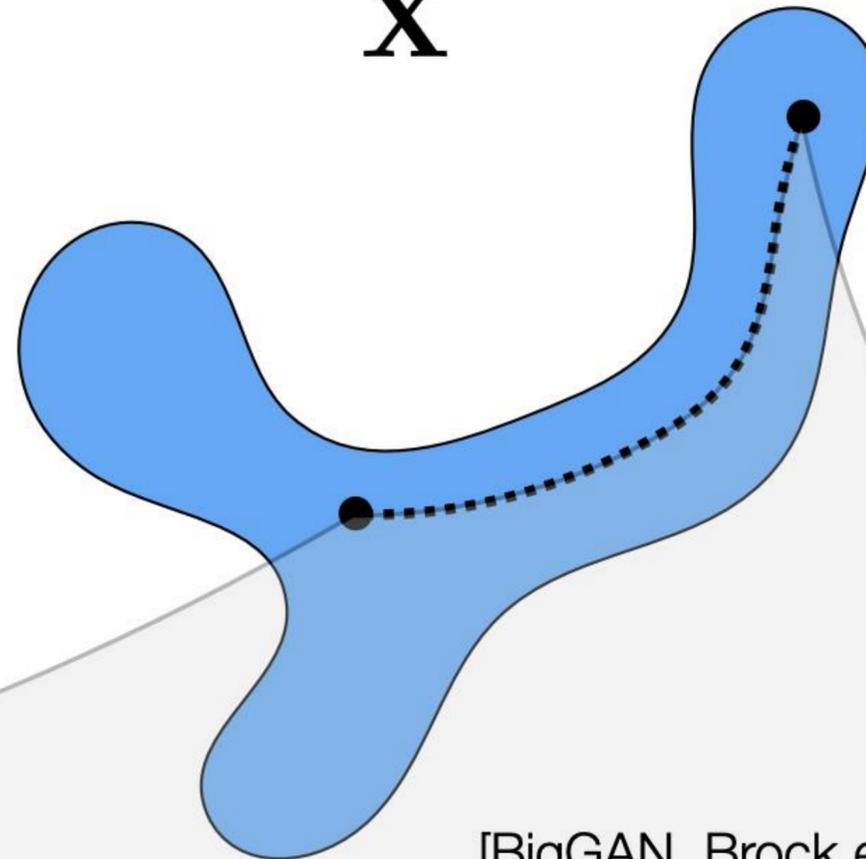
Latent space
(Gaussian)

Z



Data space
(Natural image manifold)

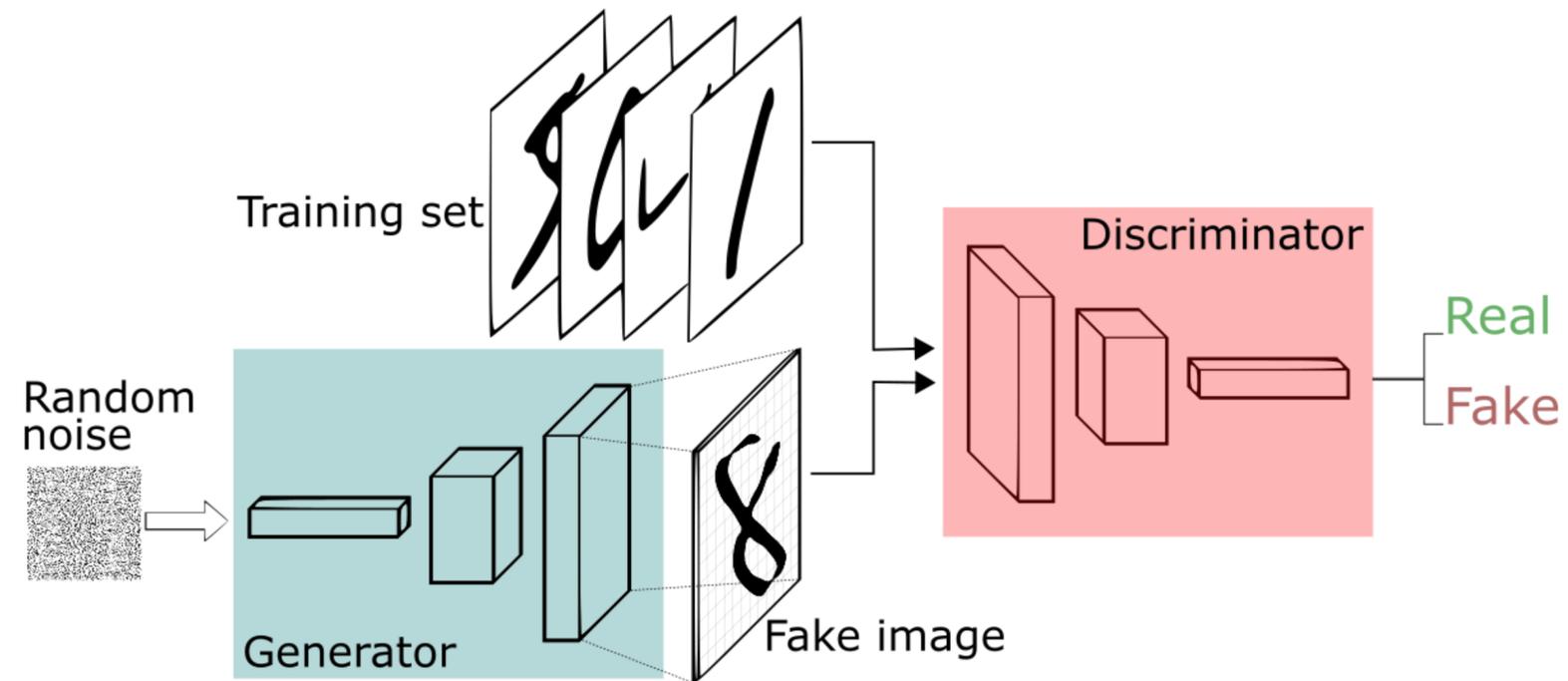
X



[BigGAN, Brock et al. 2018]



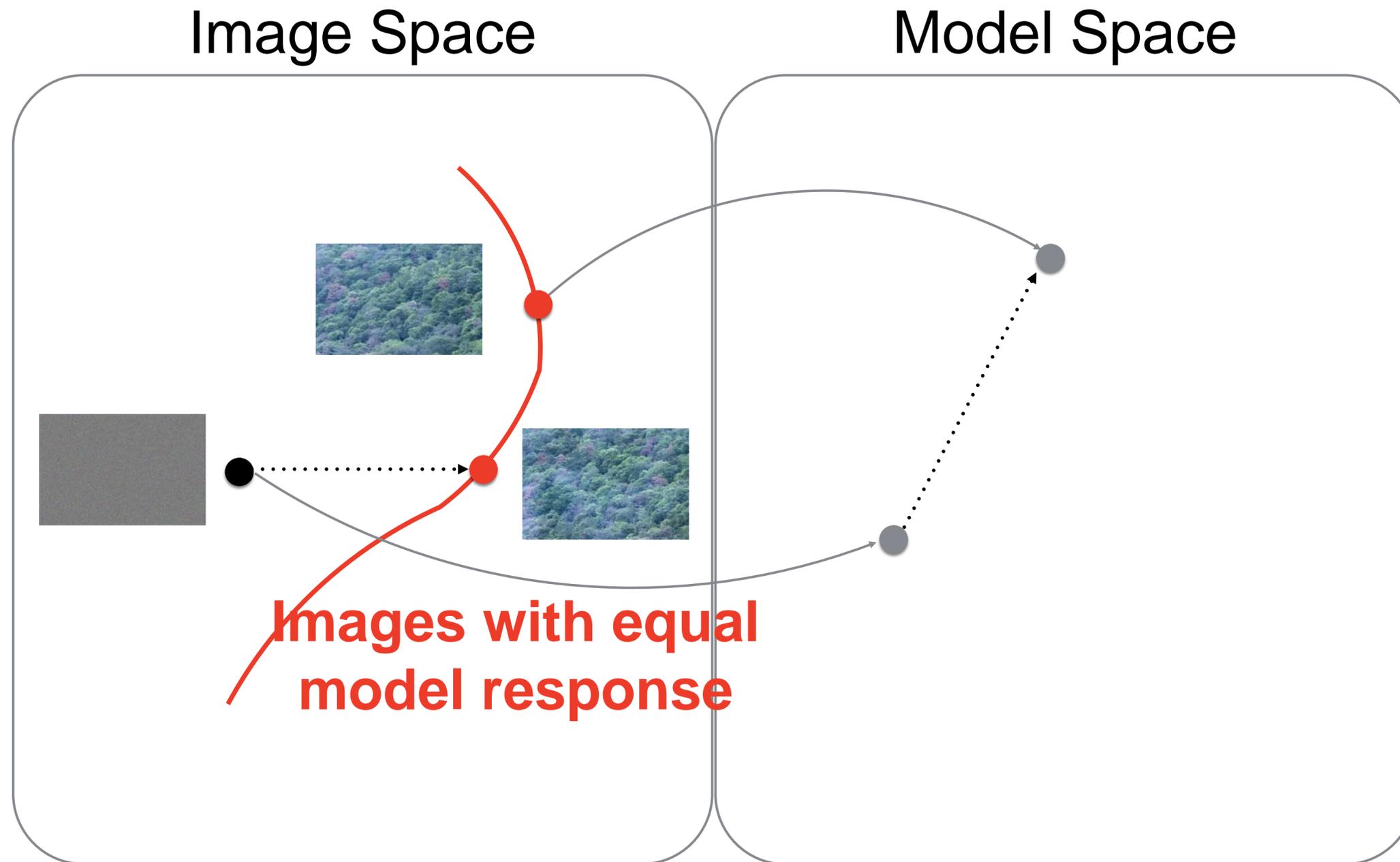
GANs as Texture Synthesis?



- **Conjecture:** GANs might be learning the “right” features to match for natural images



Projecting onto the “Image Manifold”





diffusion

Generate 100 images



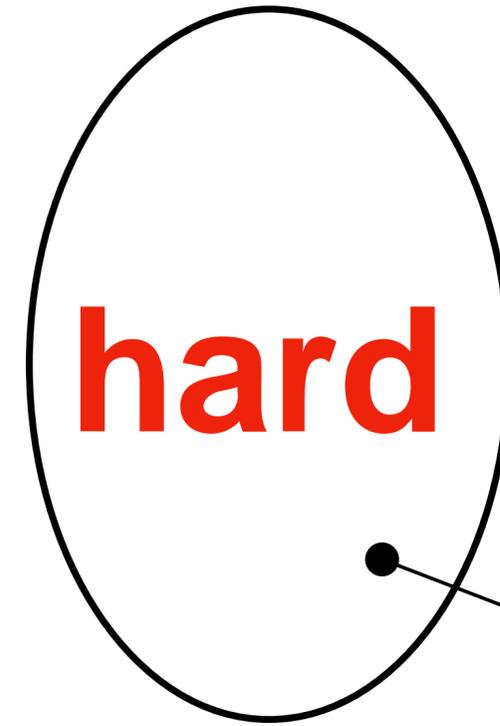
Generate 100 images

Generate 100 images of raspberries



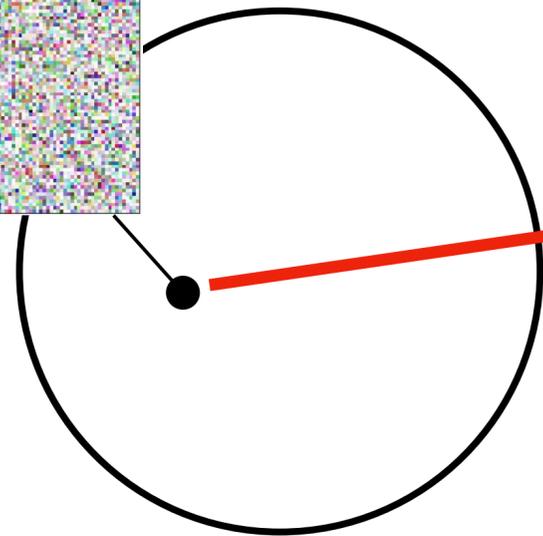
easy

random
images



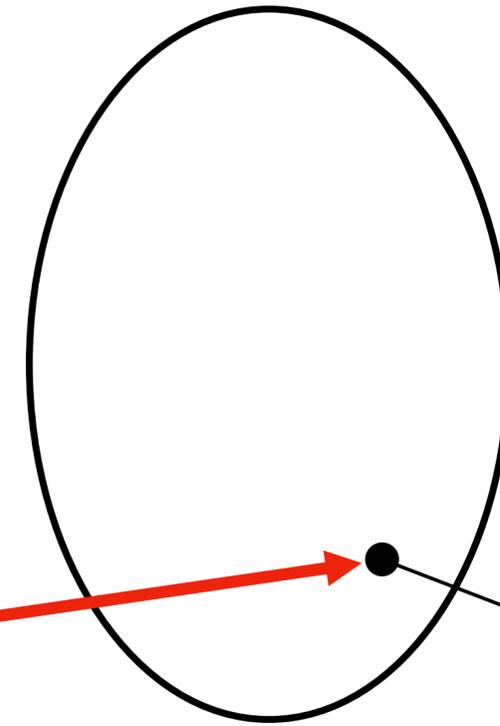
raspberry
images





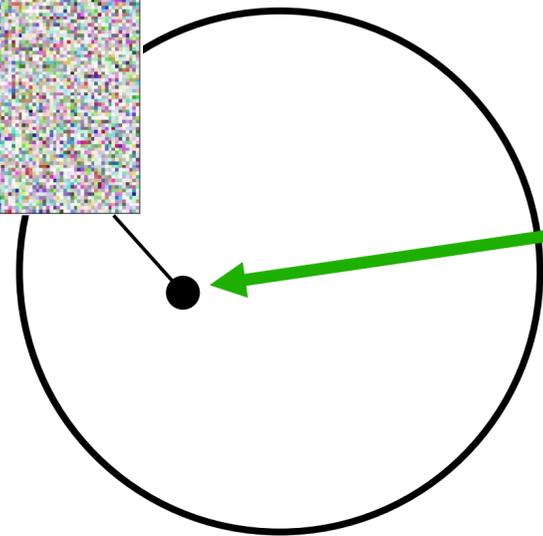
random
images

hard



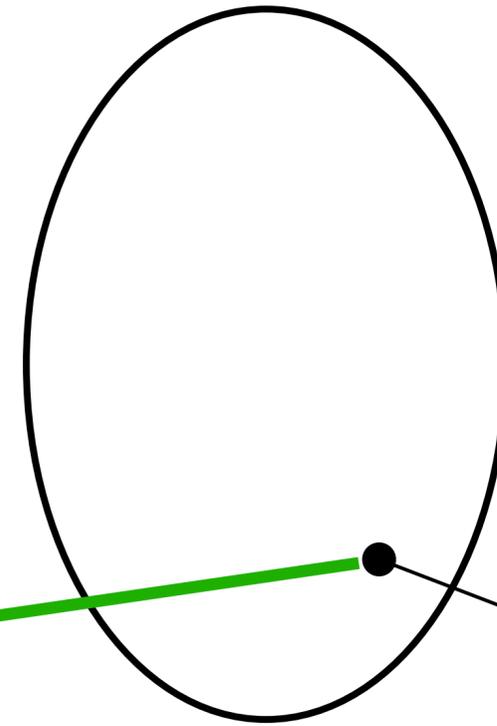
raspberry
images





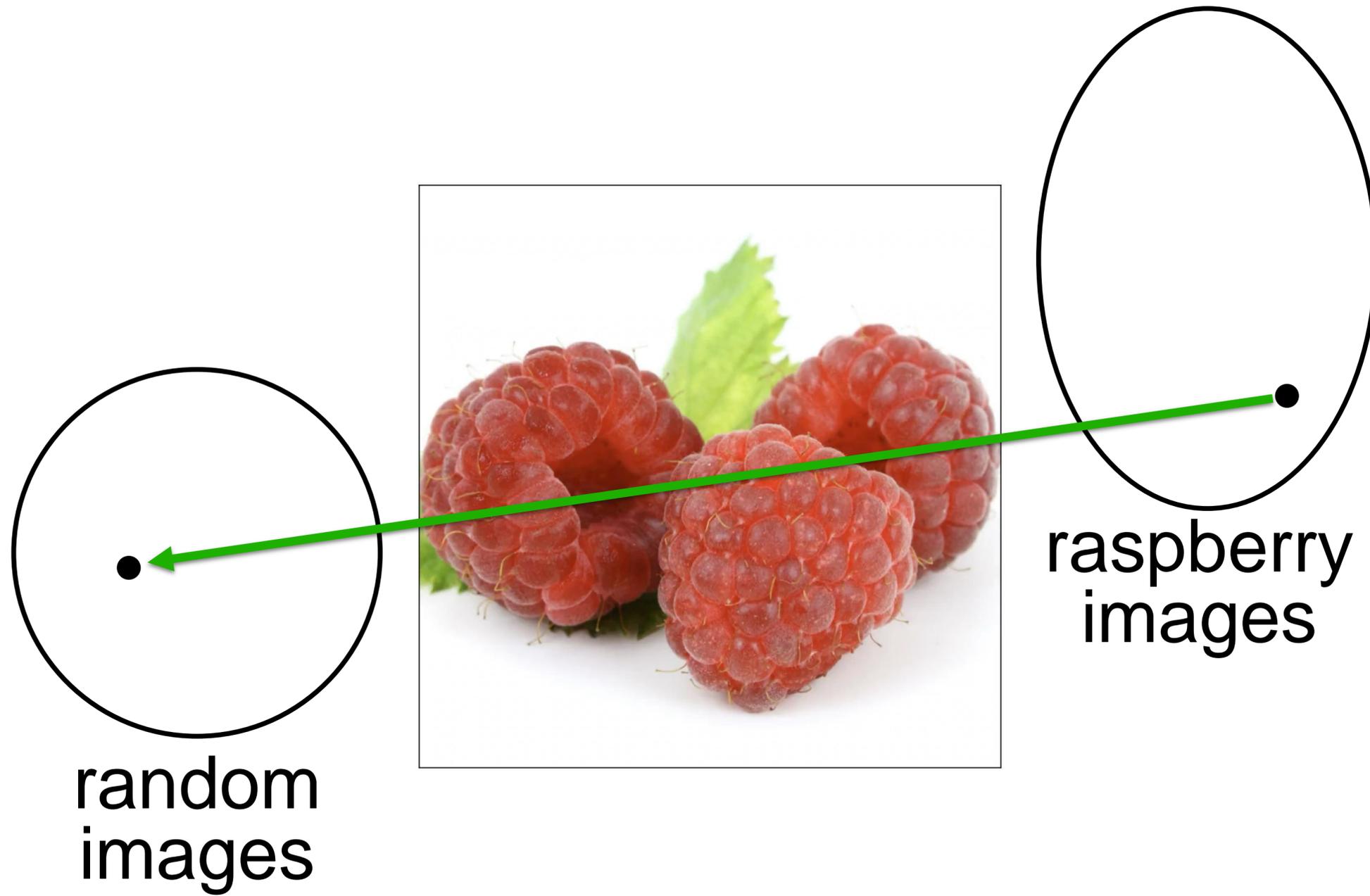
random
images

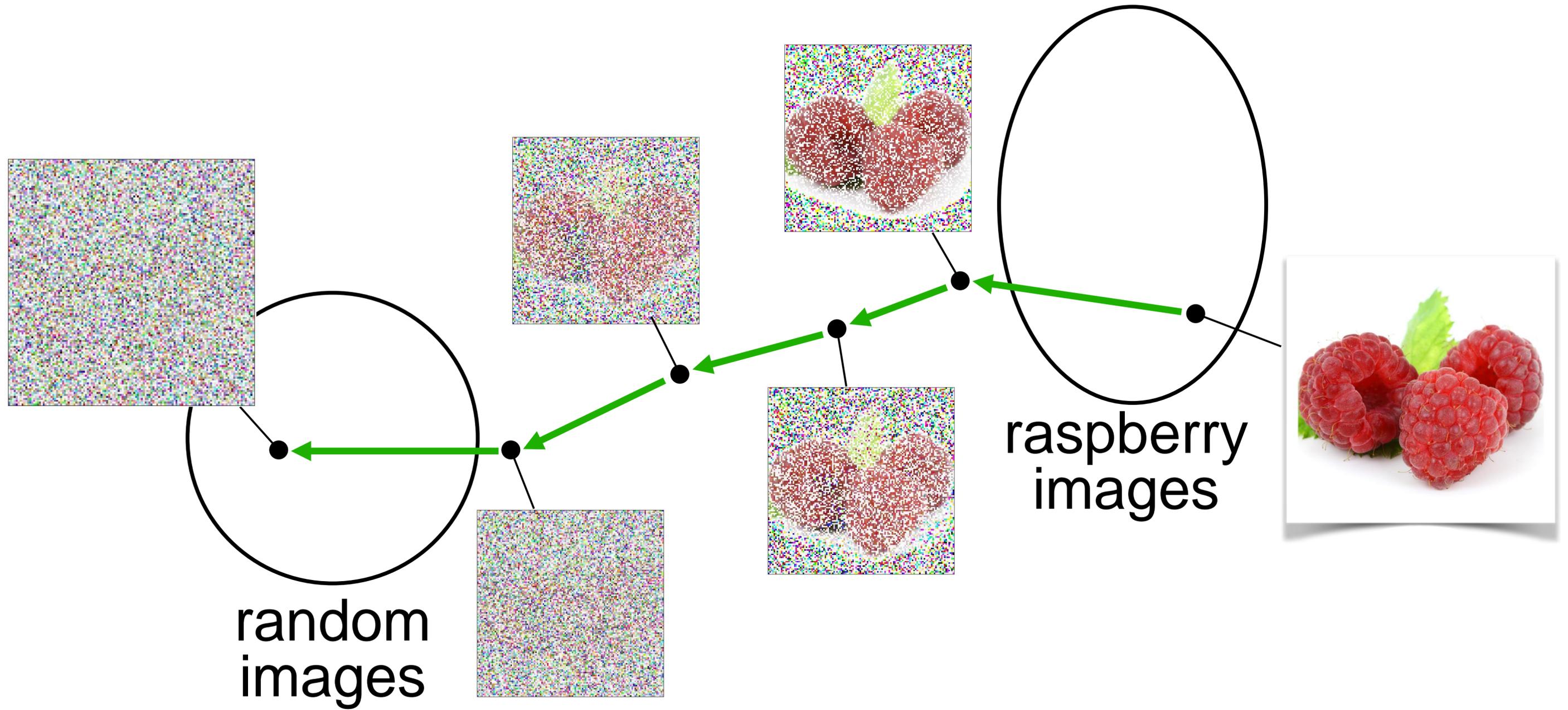
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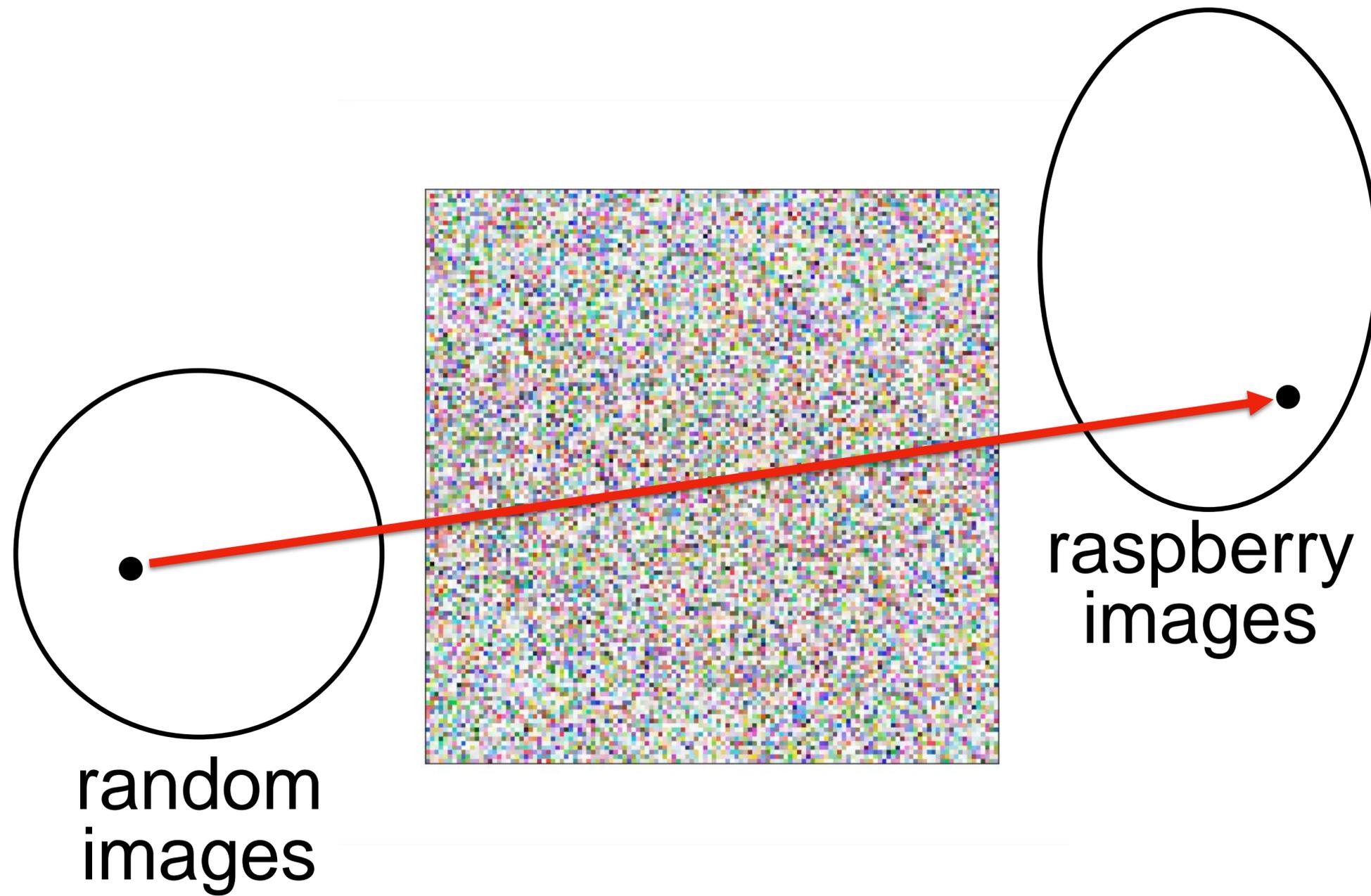


raspberry
images



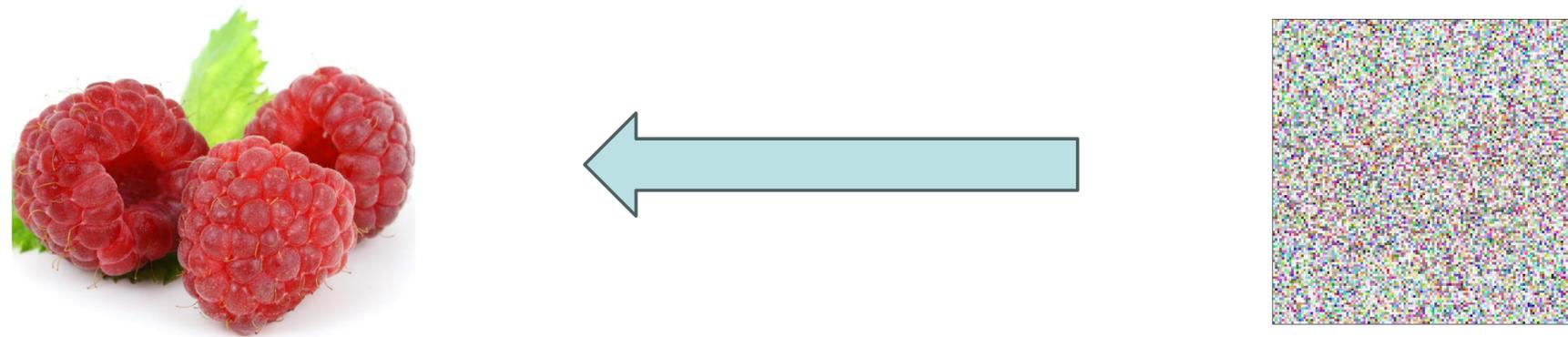




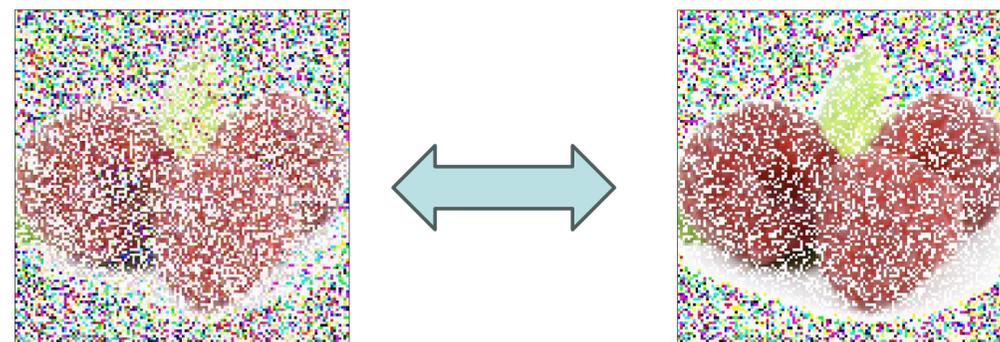


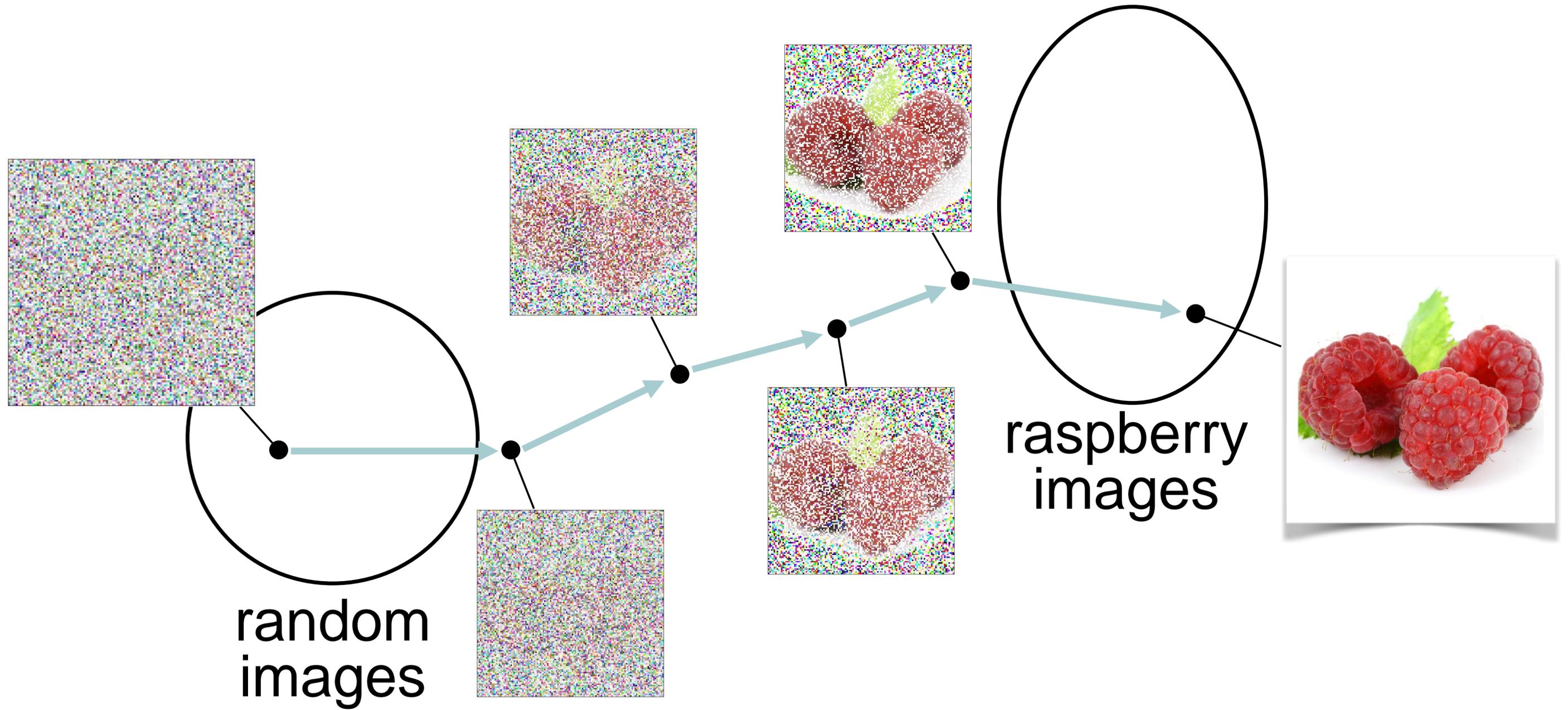
Key insight

- Globally, creation is much harder than destruction

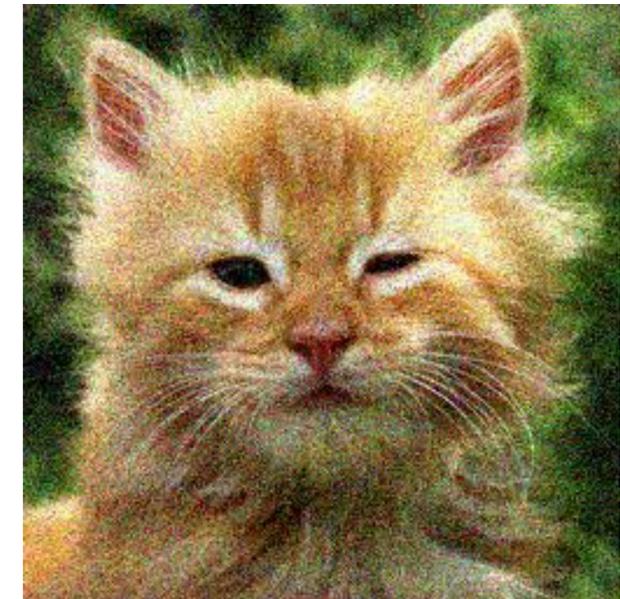
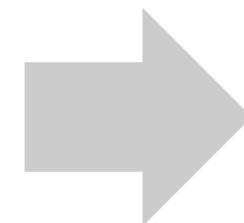
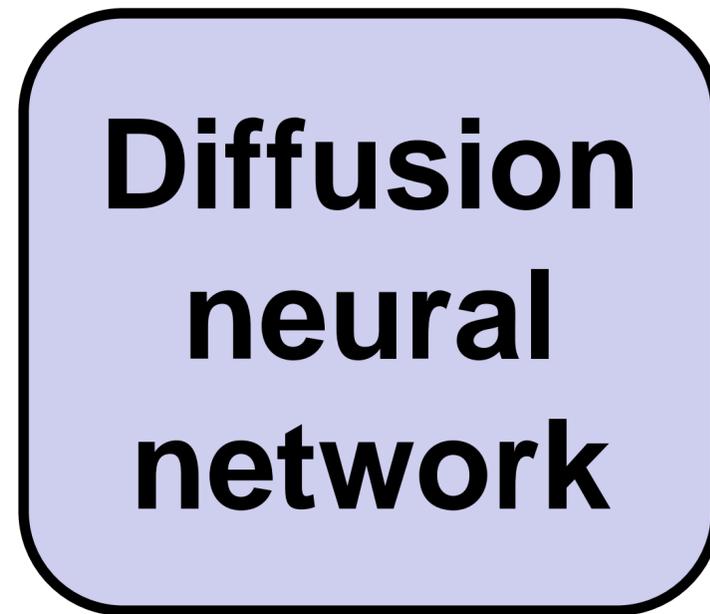
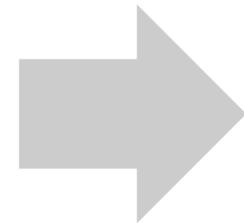


- But locally, they are almost reversible!



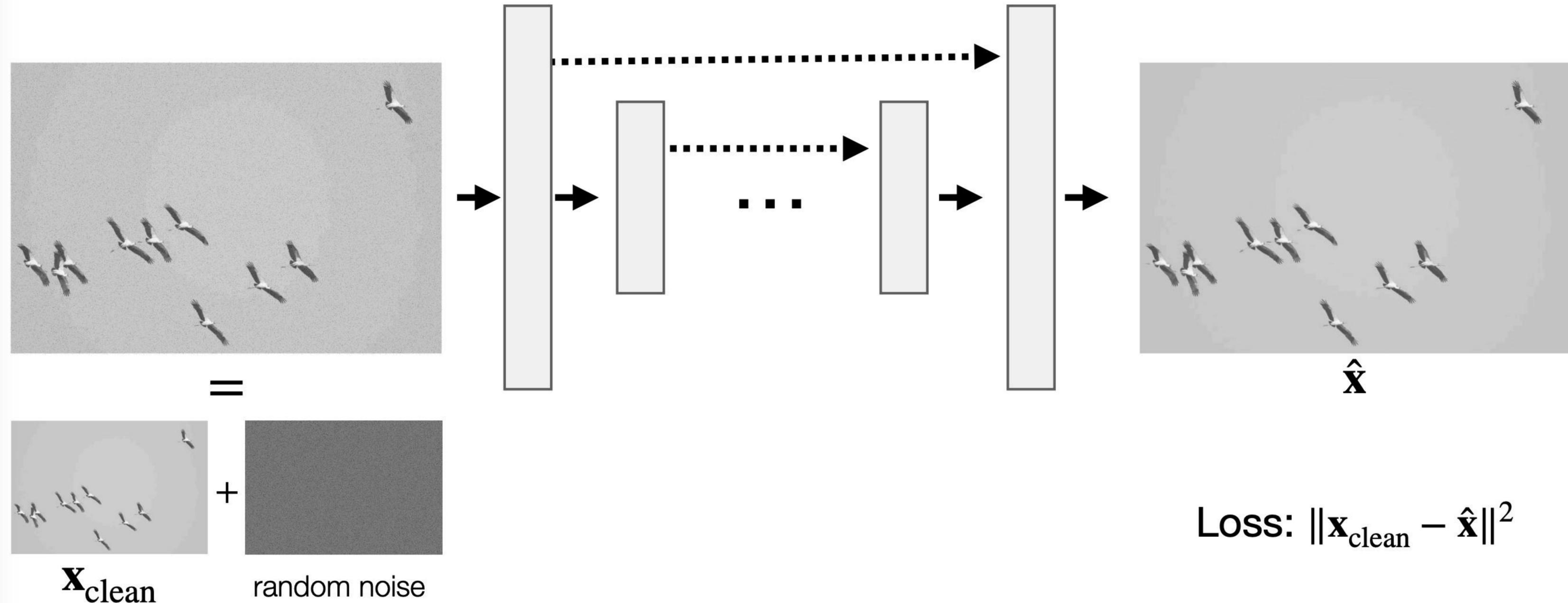


Denoising diffusion neural network

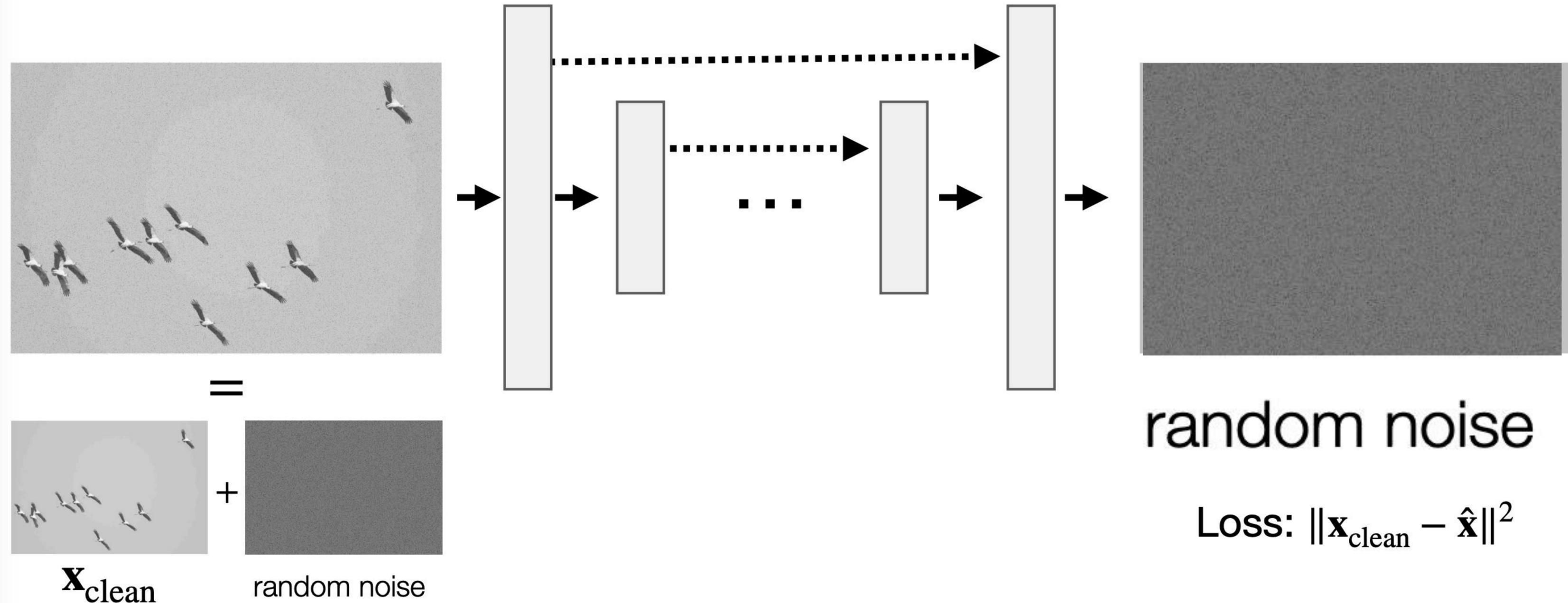


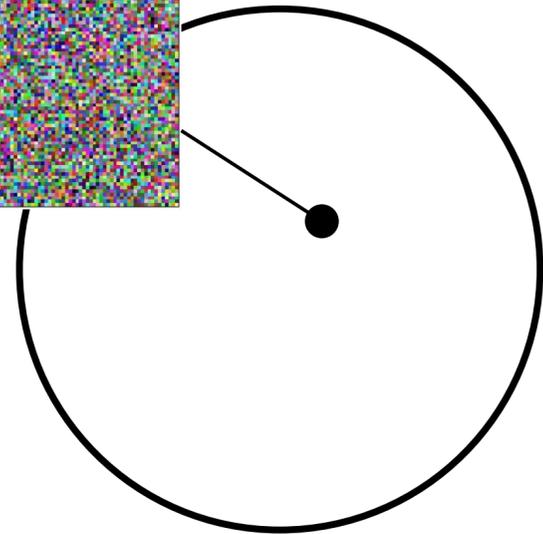
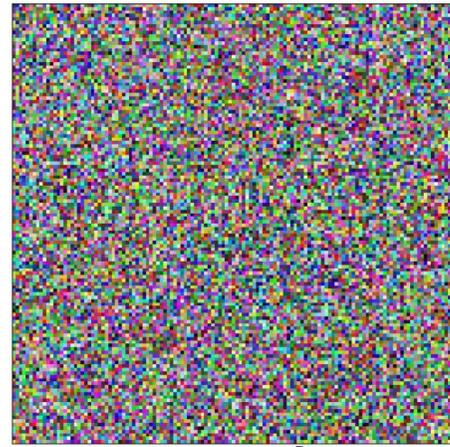
This network can be a U-Net or other
suitable image-to-image network

Recall: U-Net for image denoising

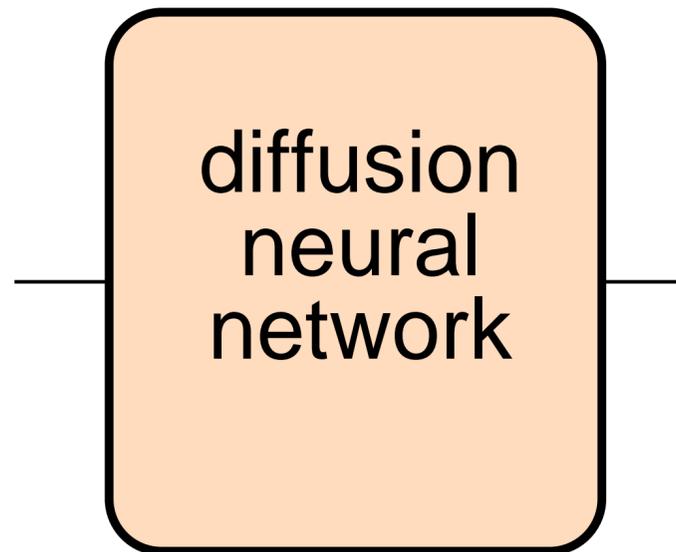


U-Net for diffusion

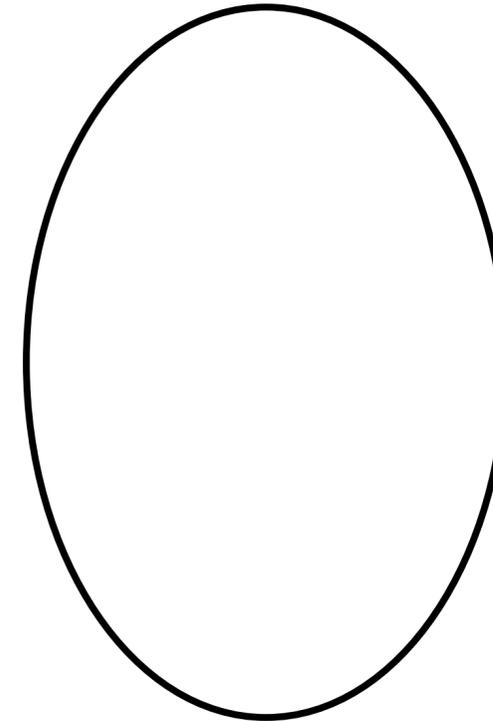




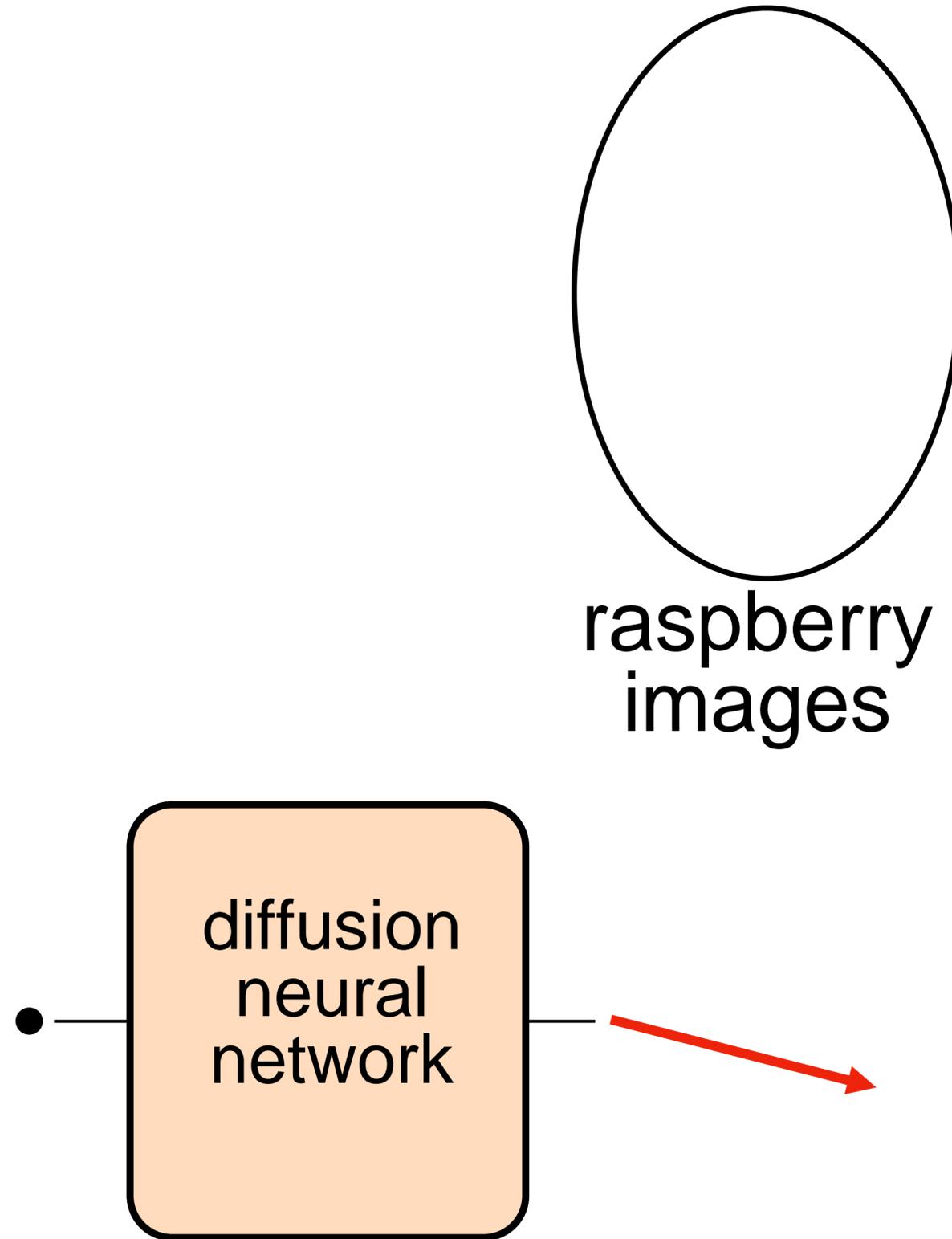
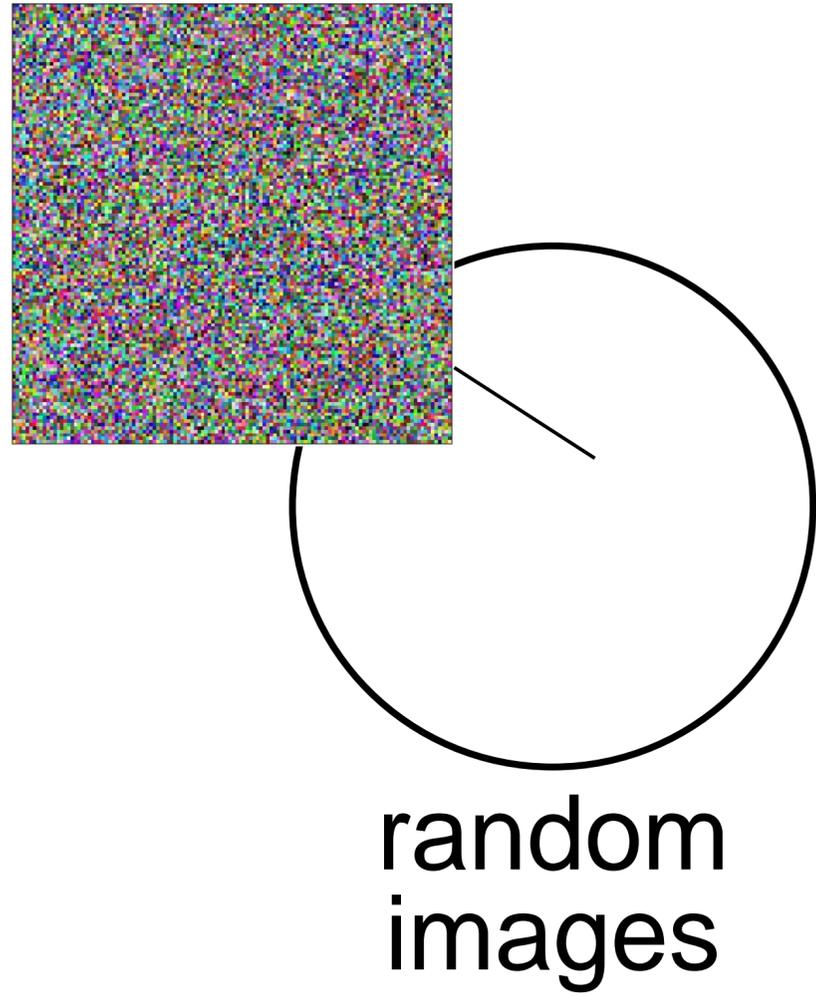
random
images

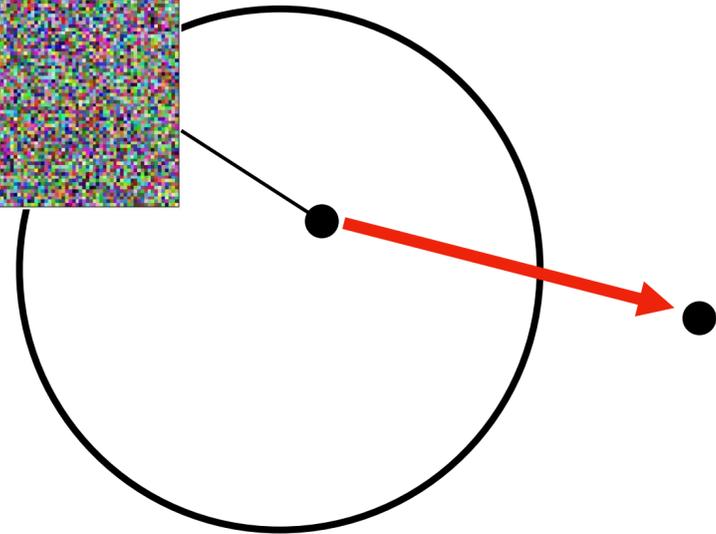
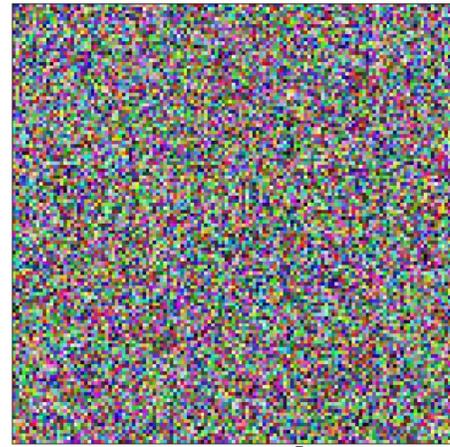


diffusion
neural
network

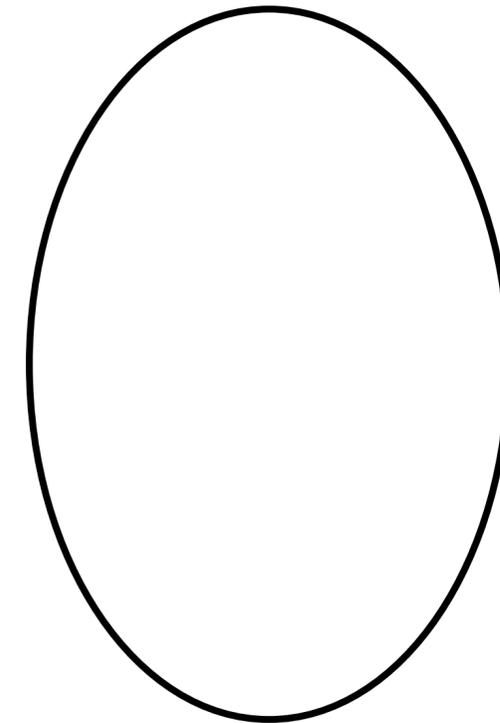
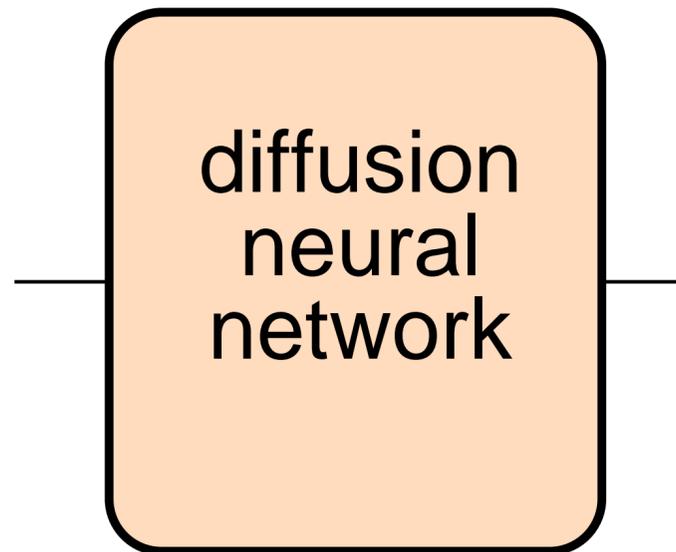


raspberry
images

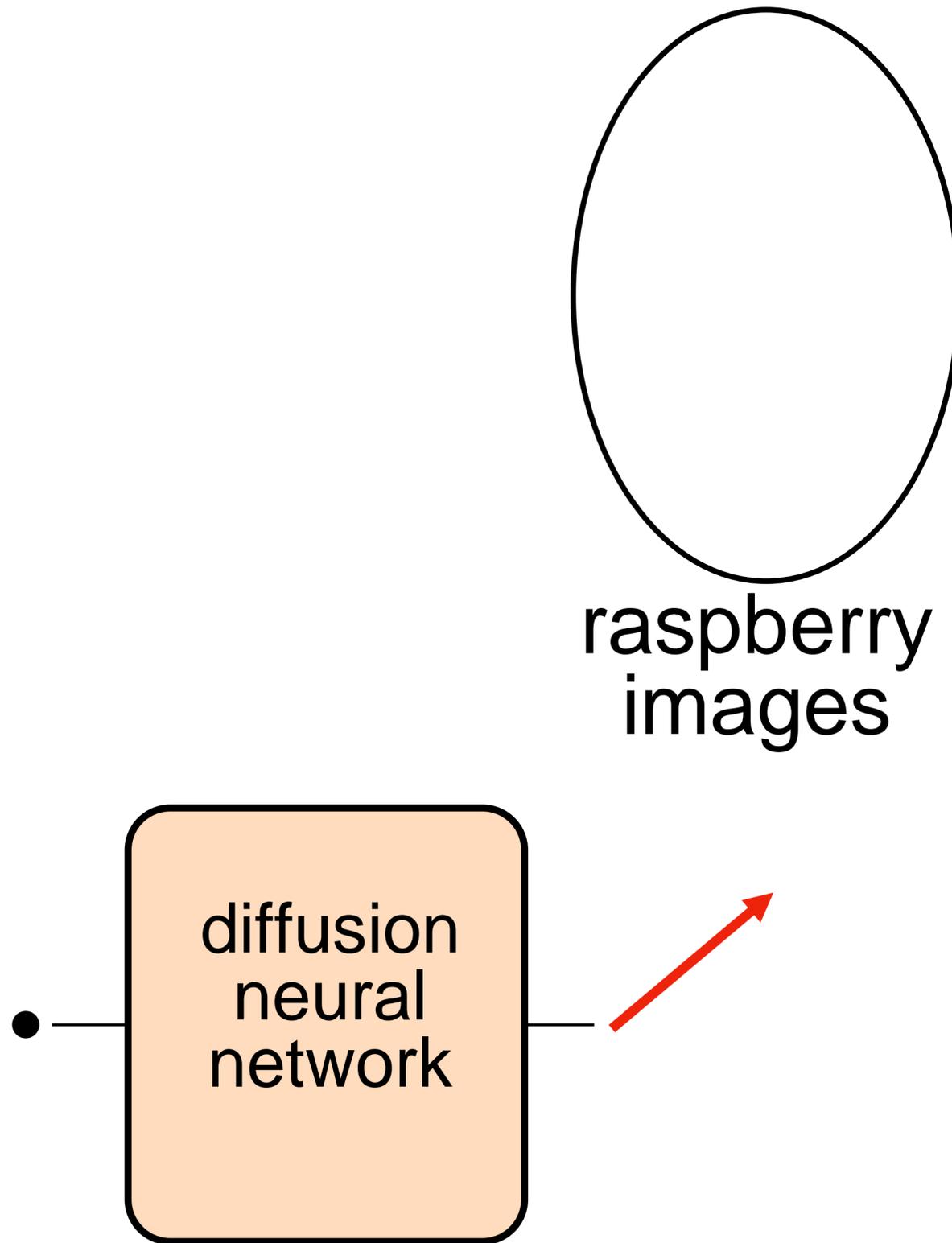
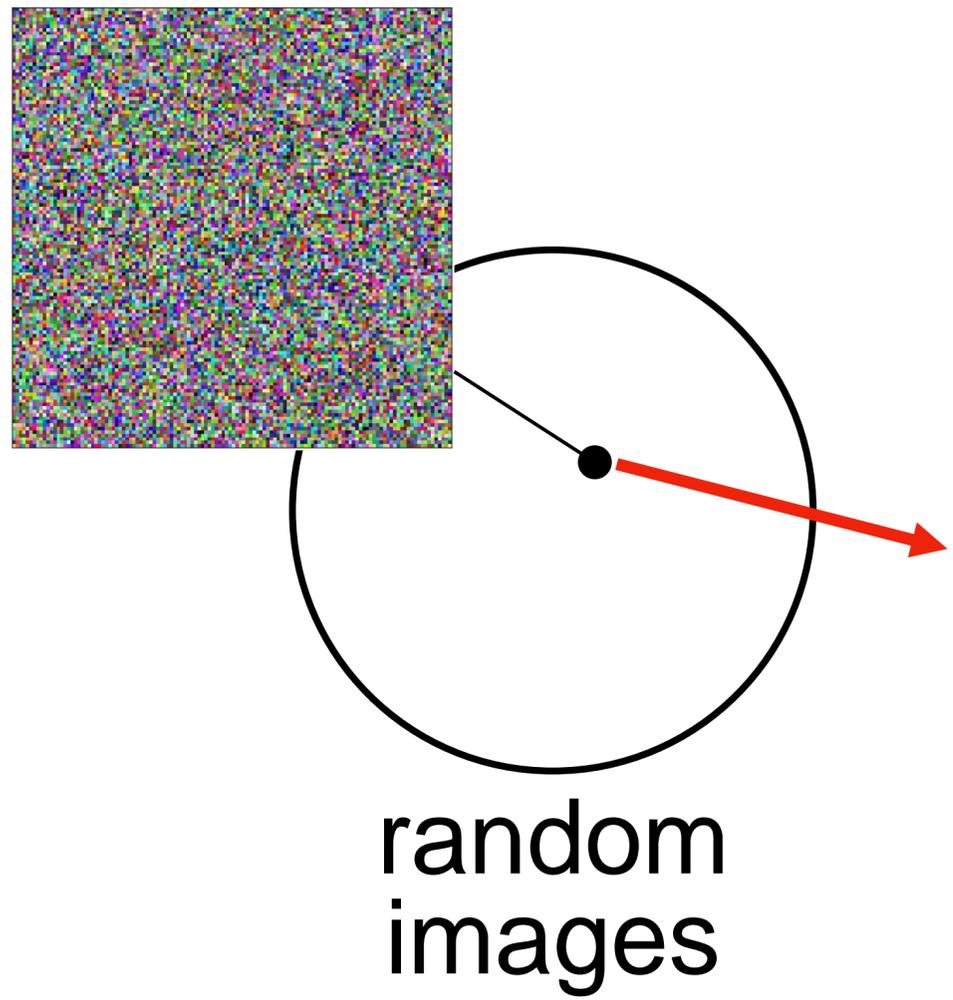


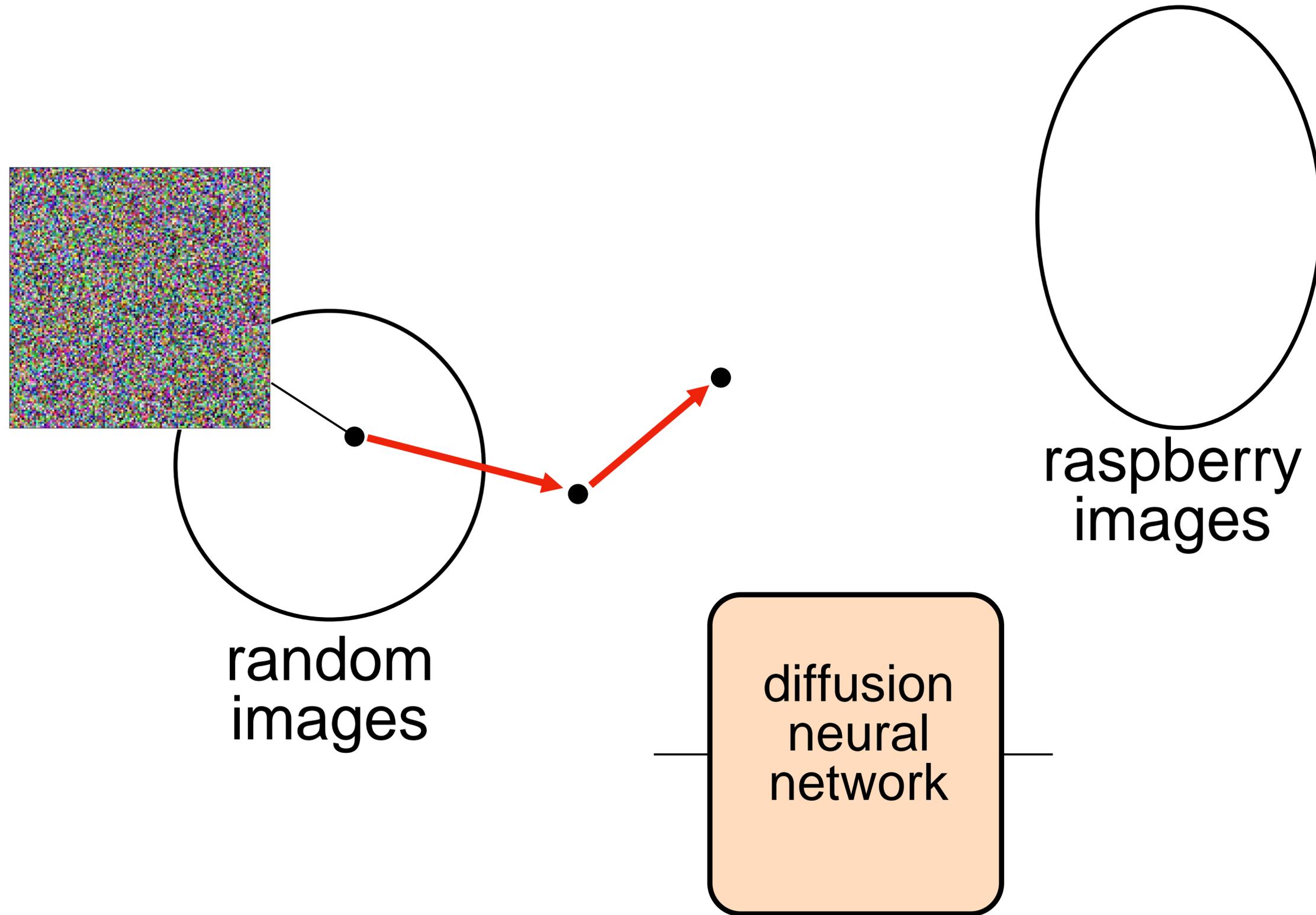


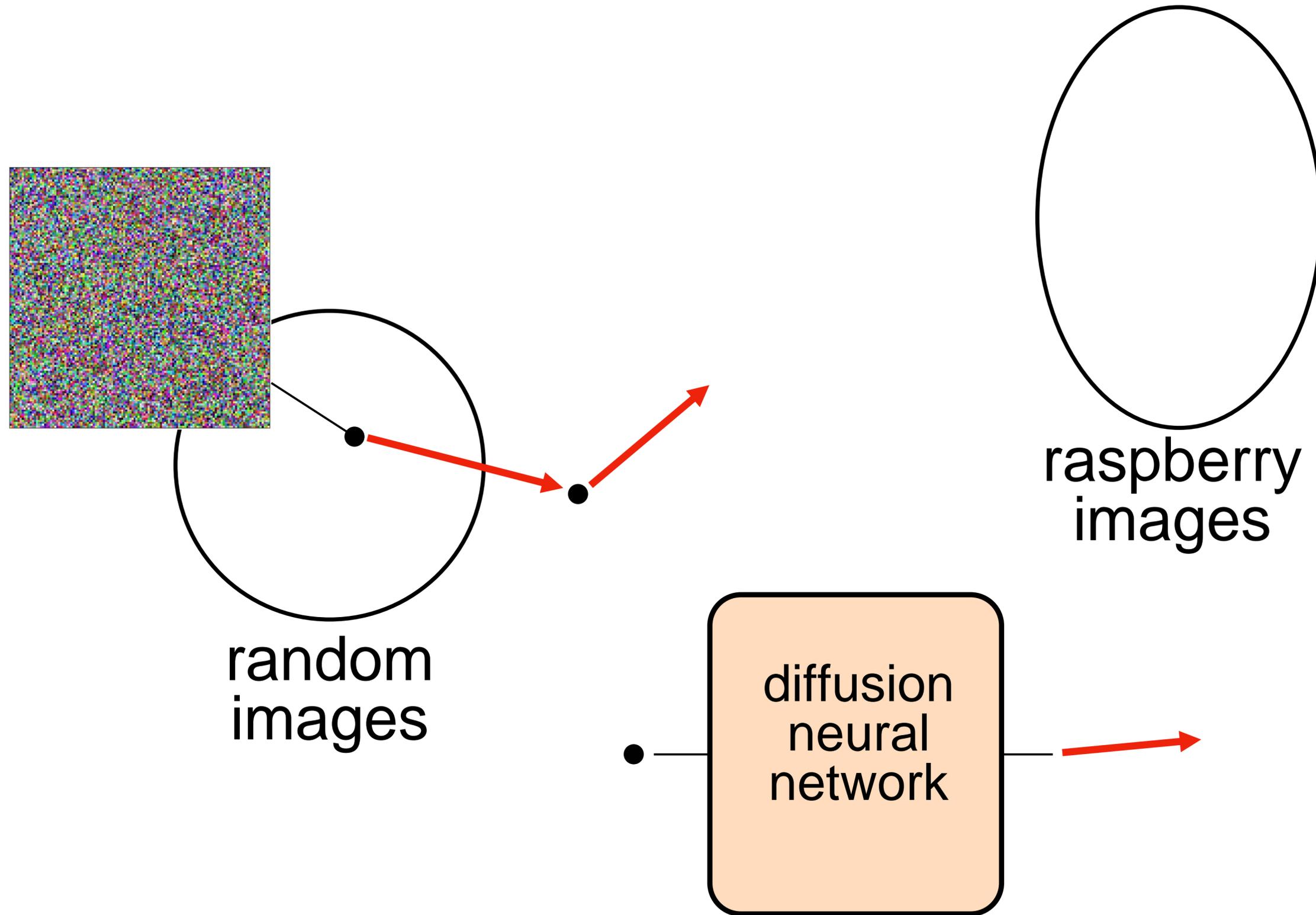
random
images

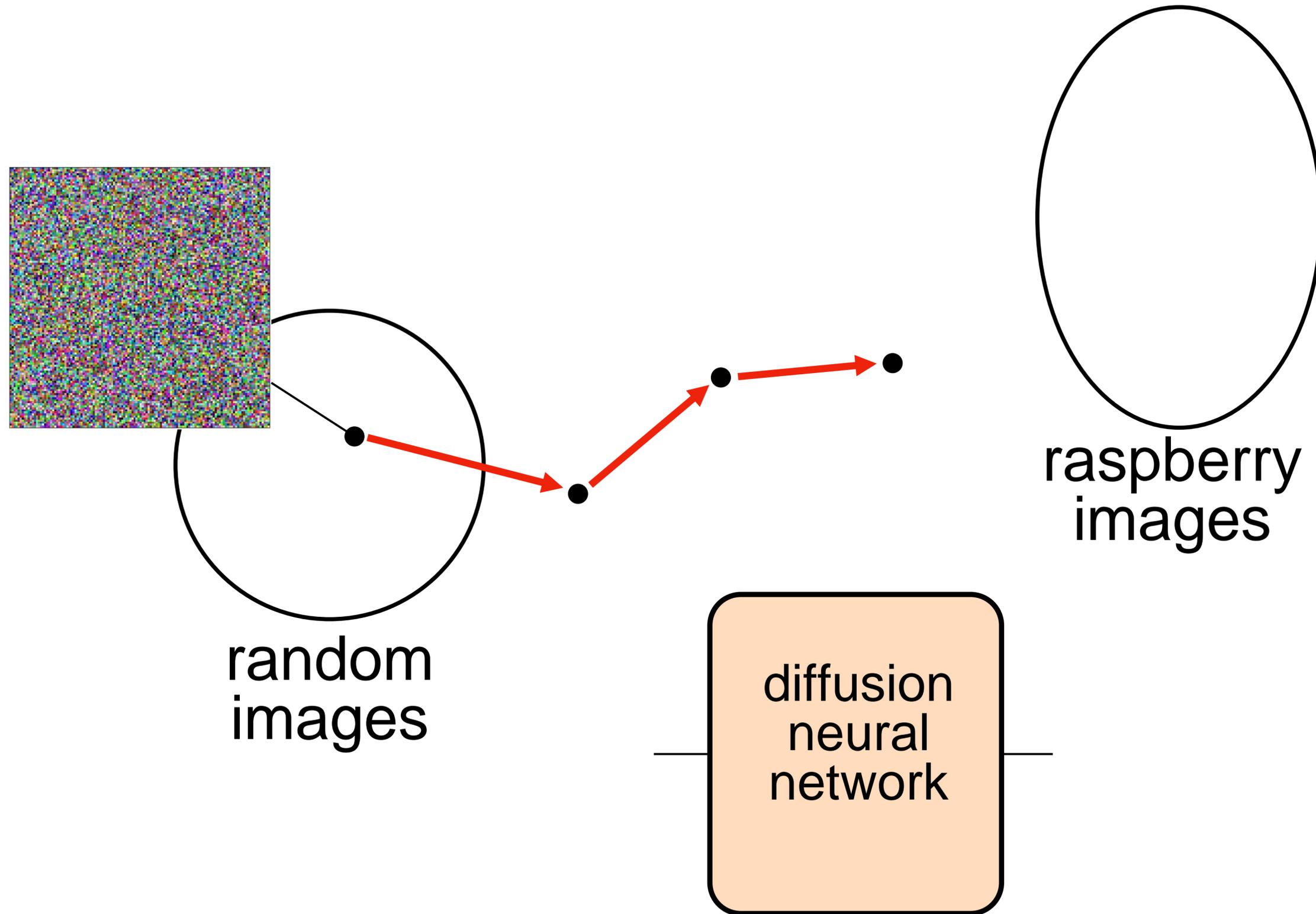


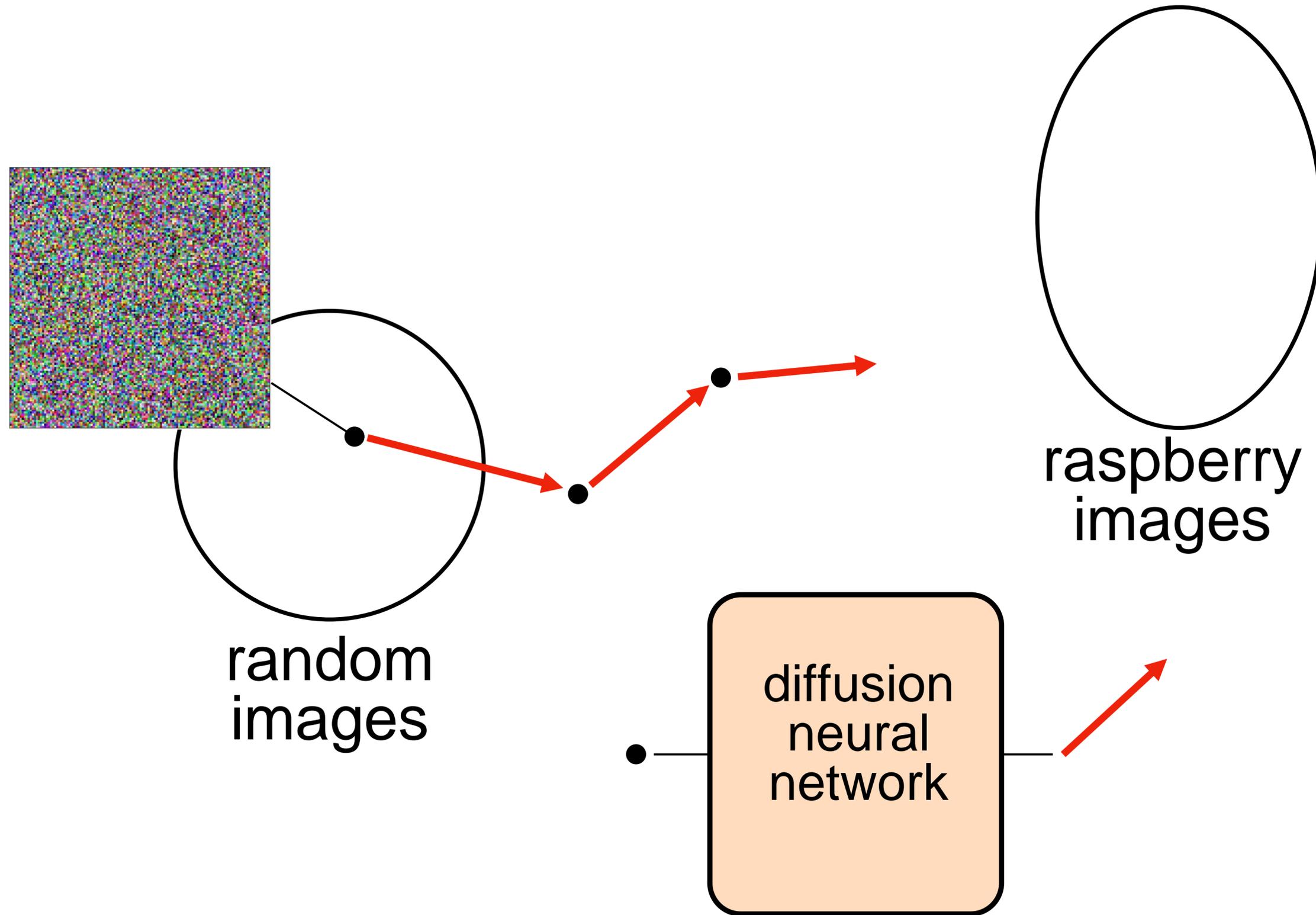
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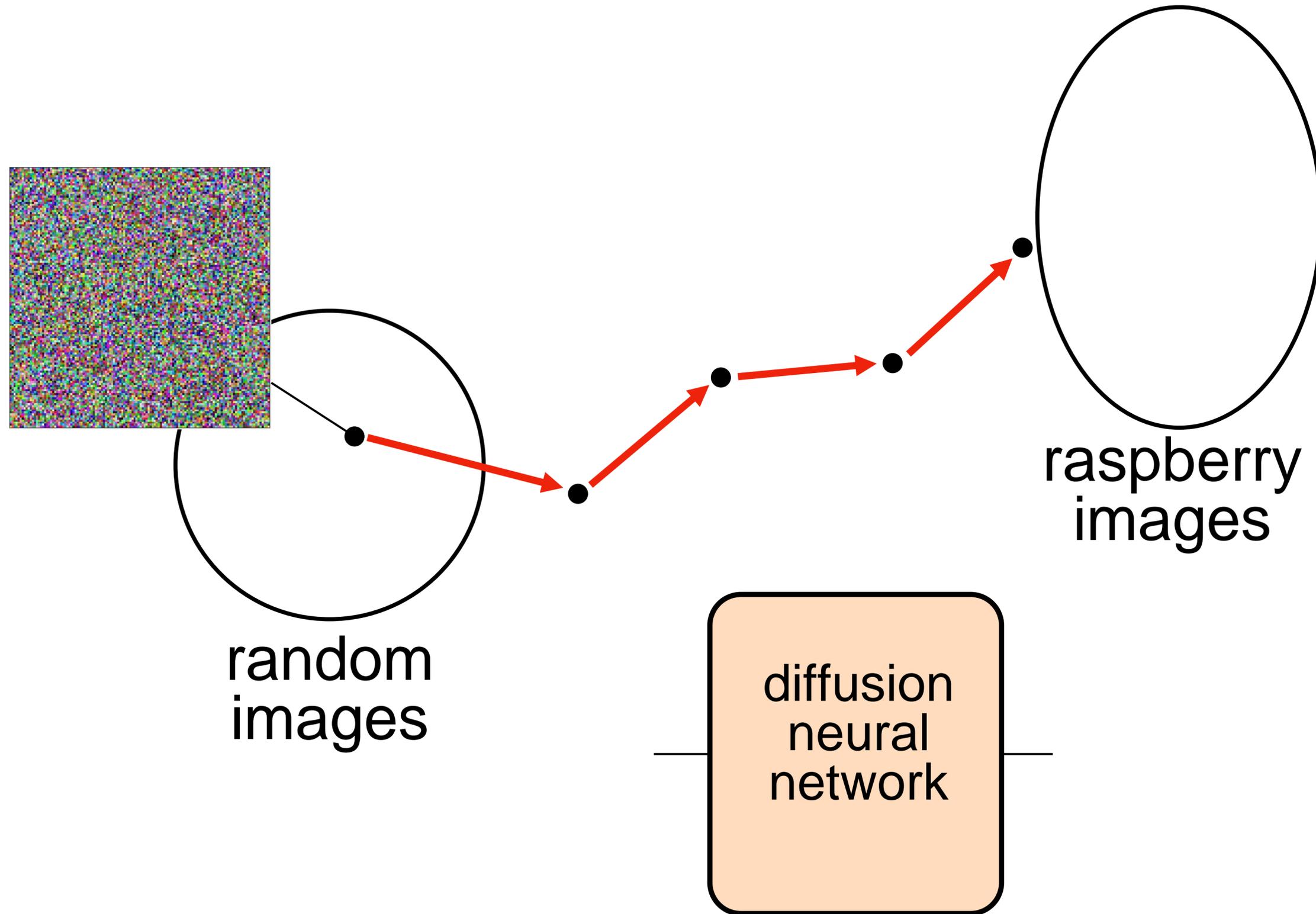


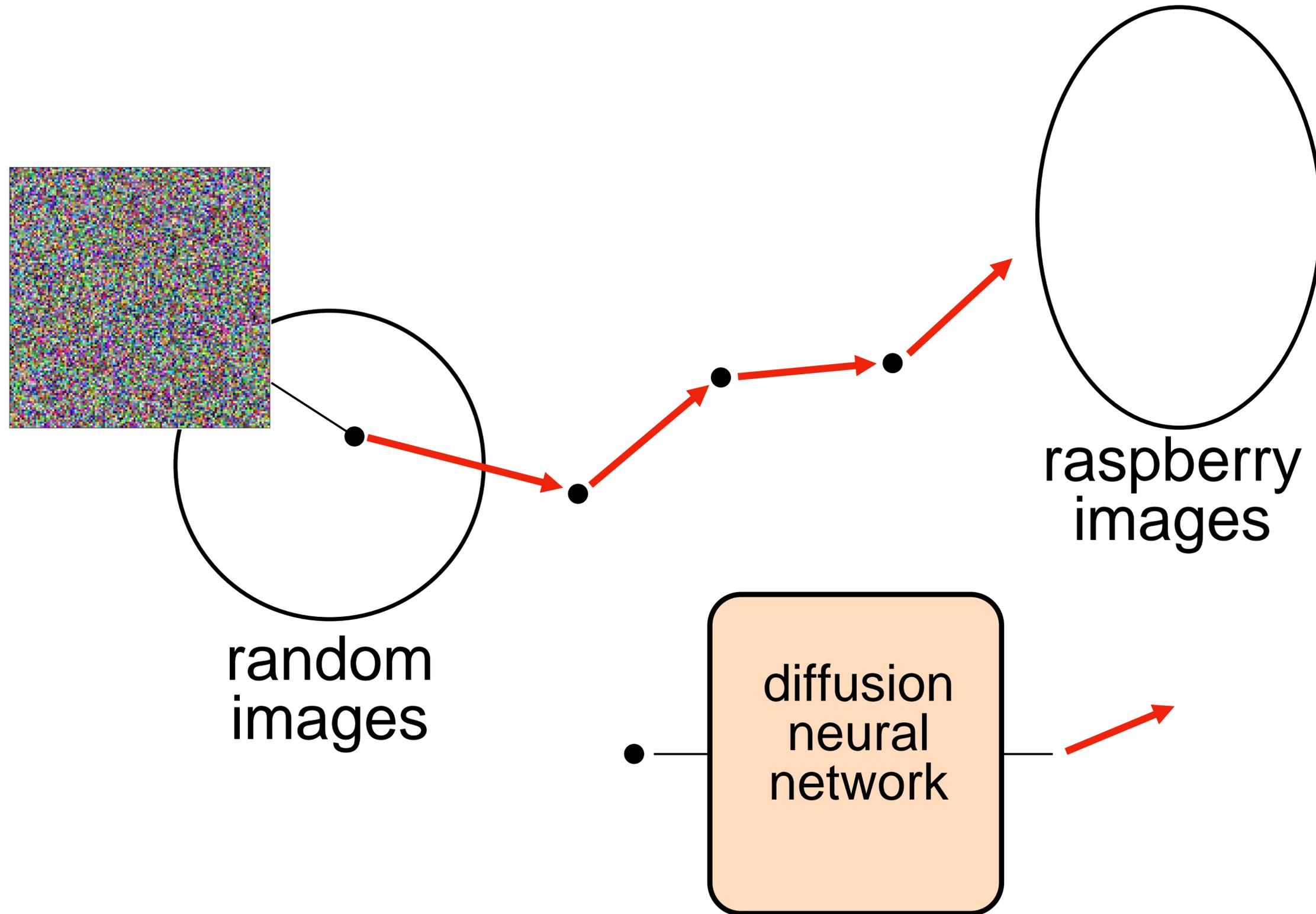


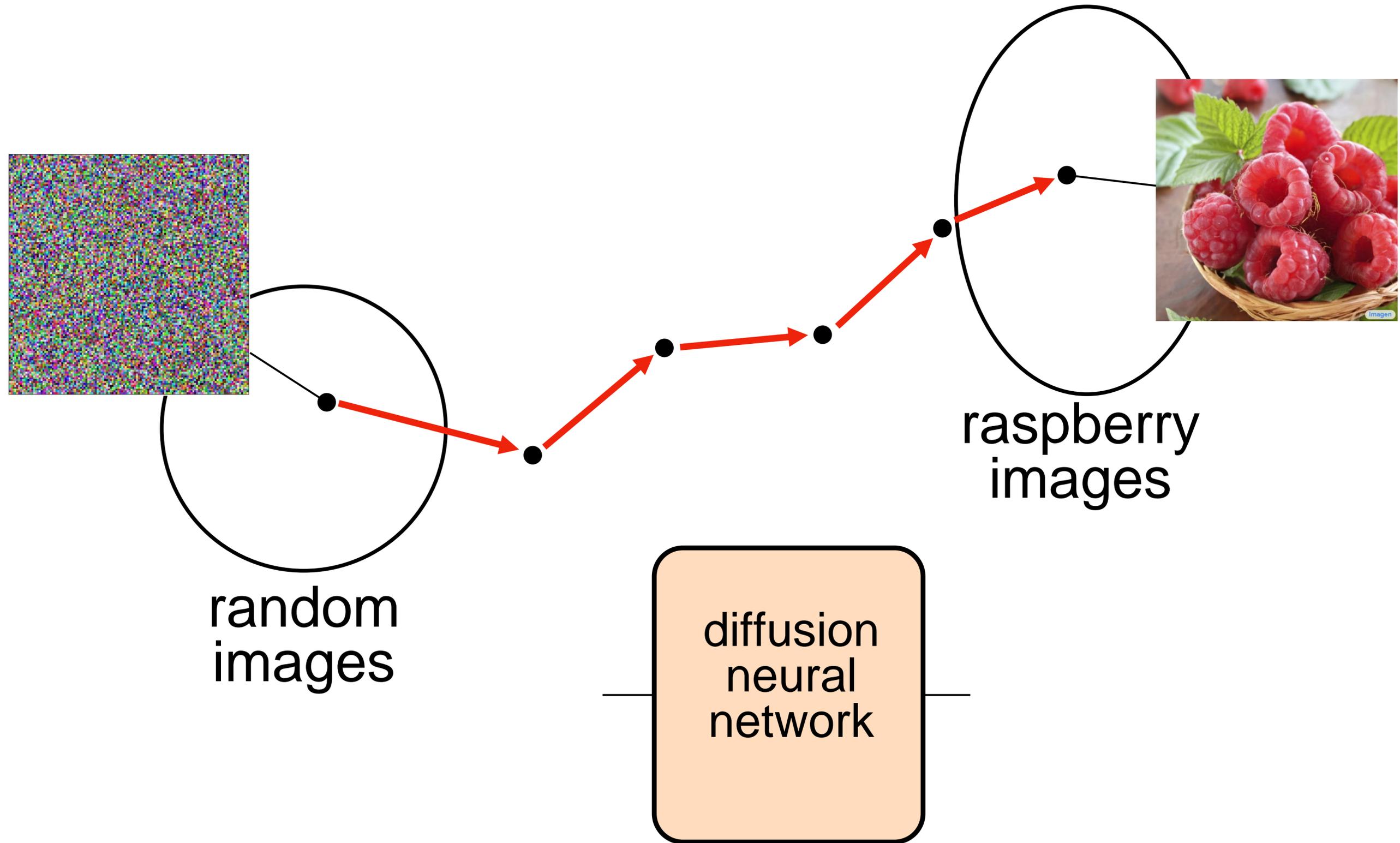




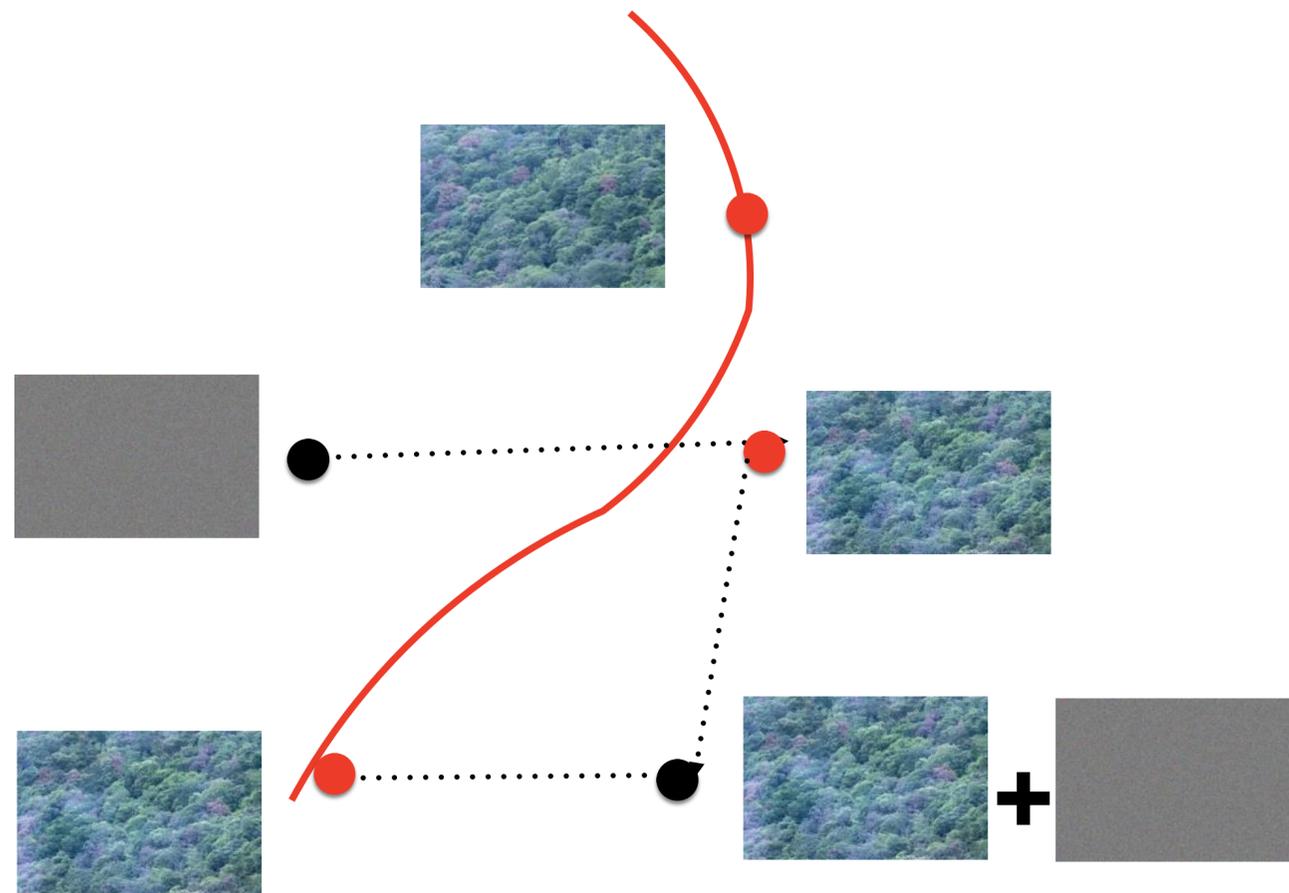




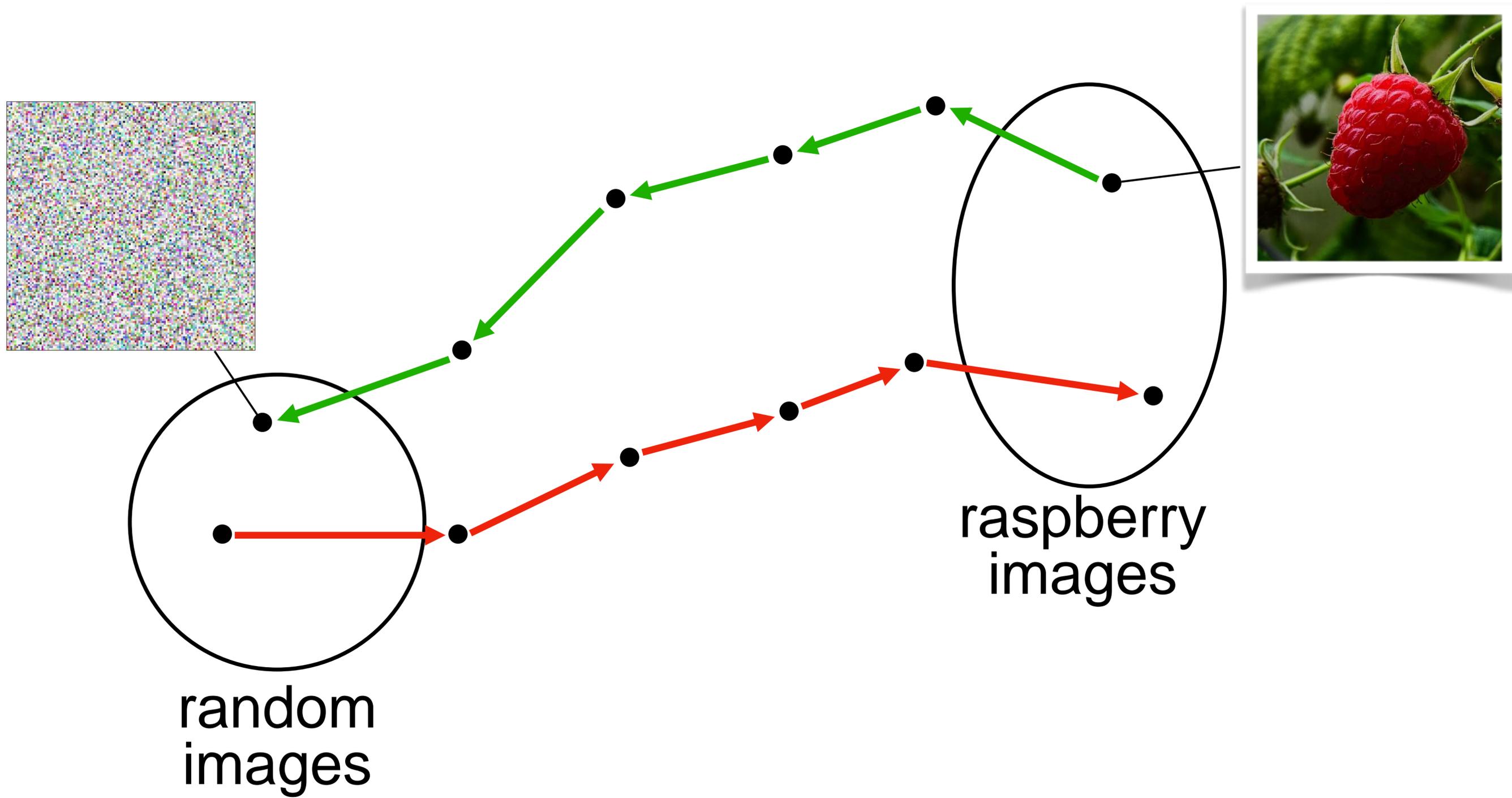


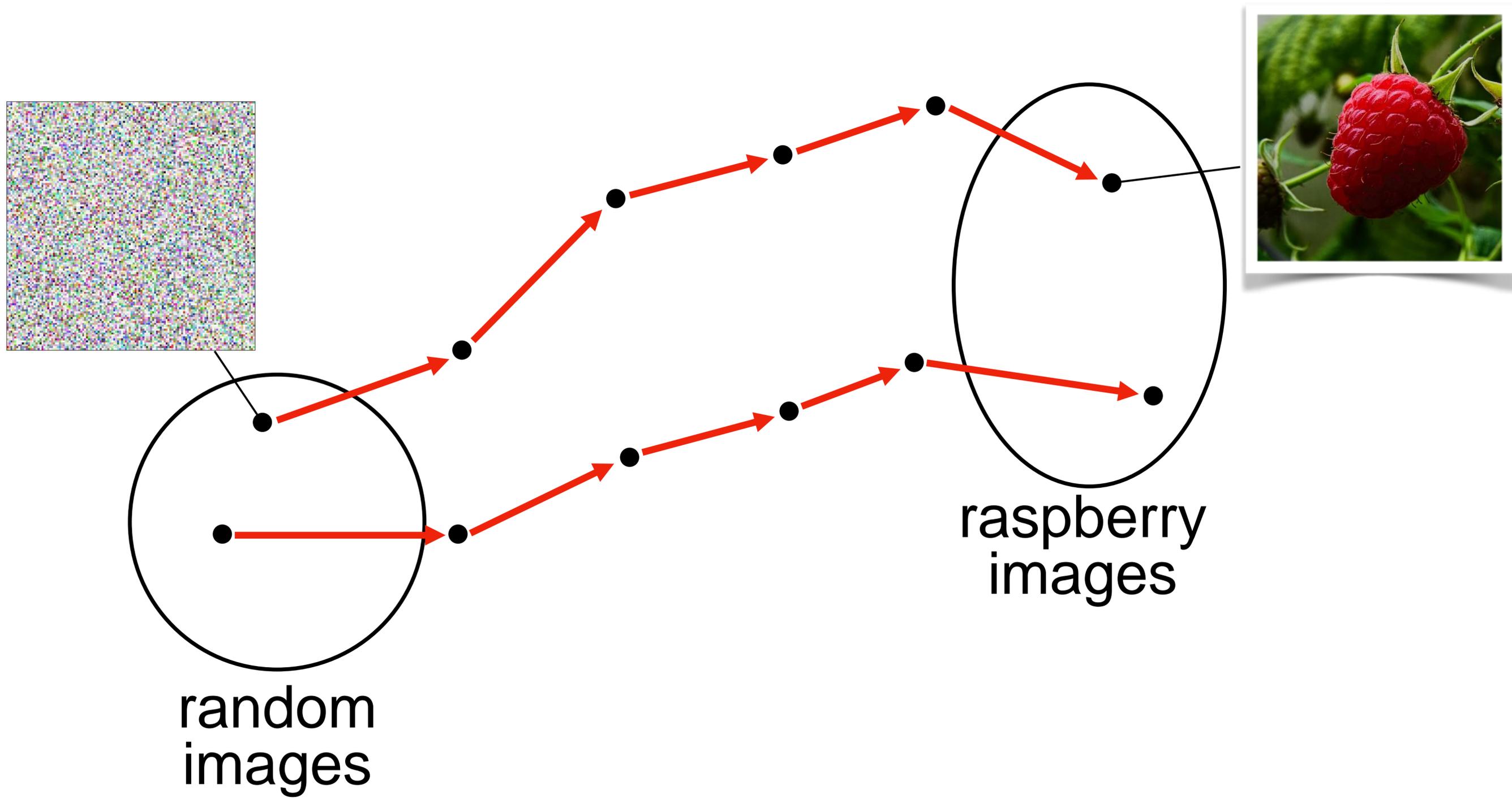


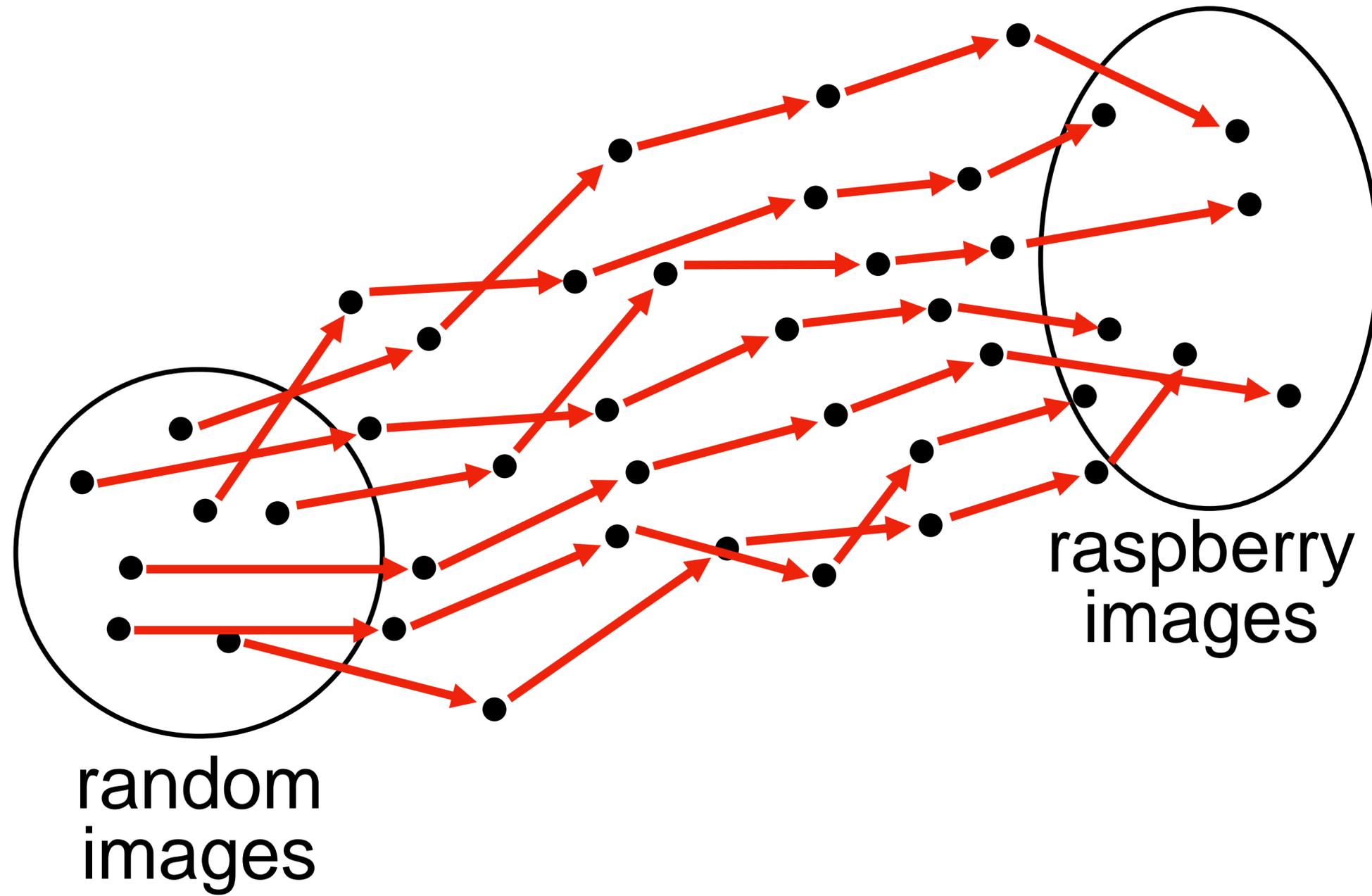
Projecting onto the “Image Manifold”

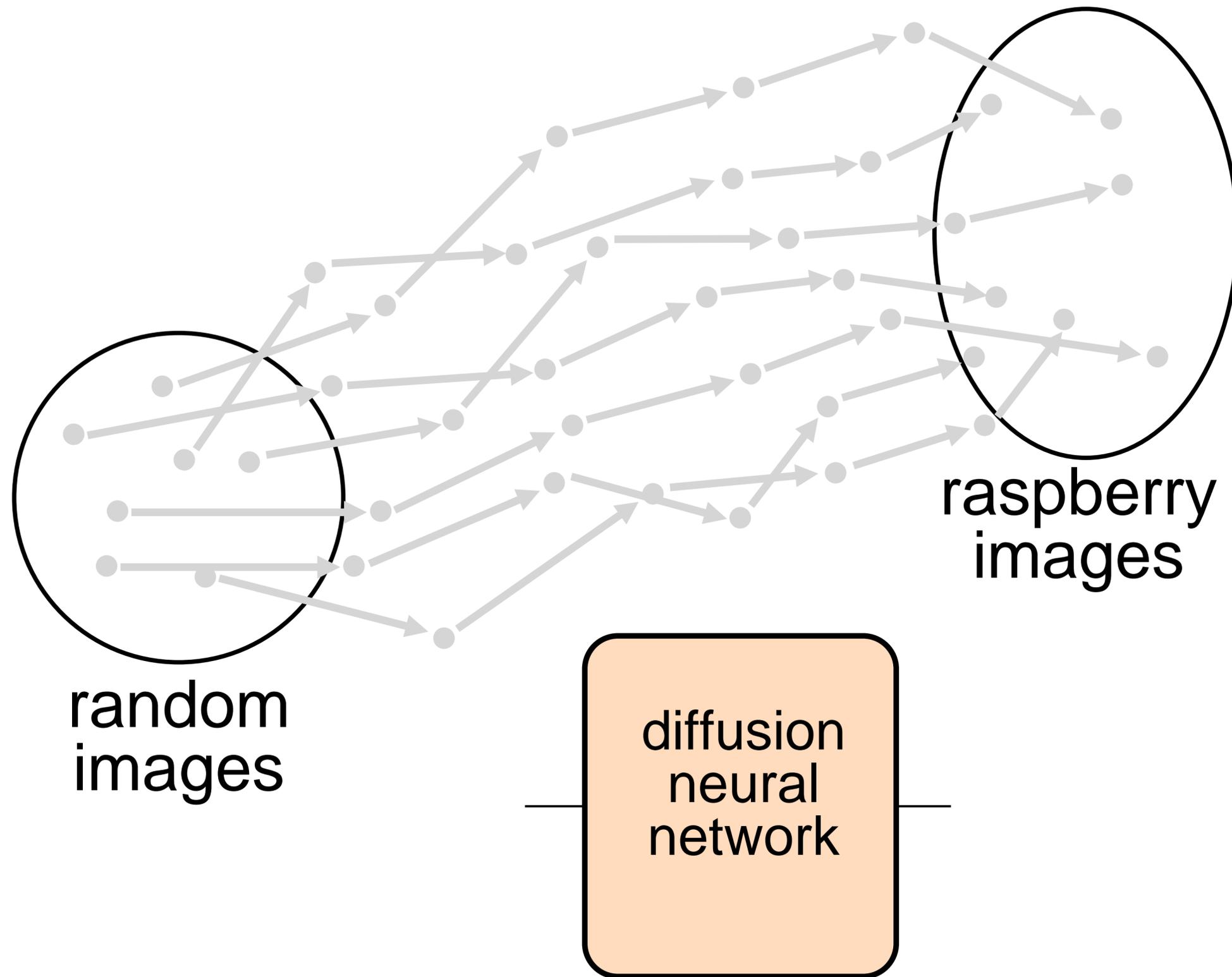


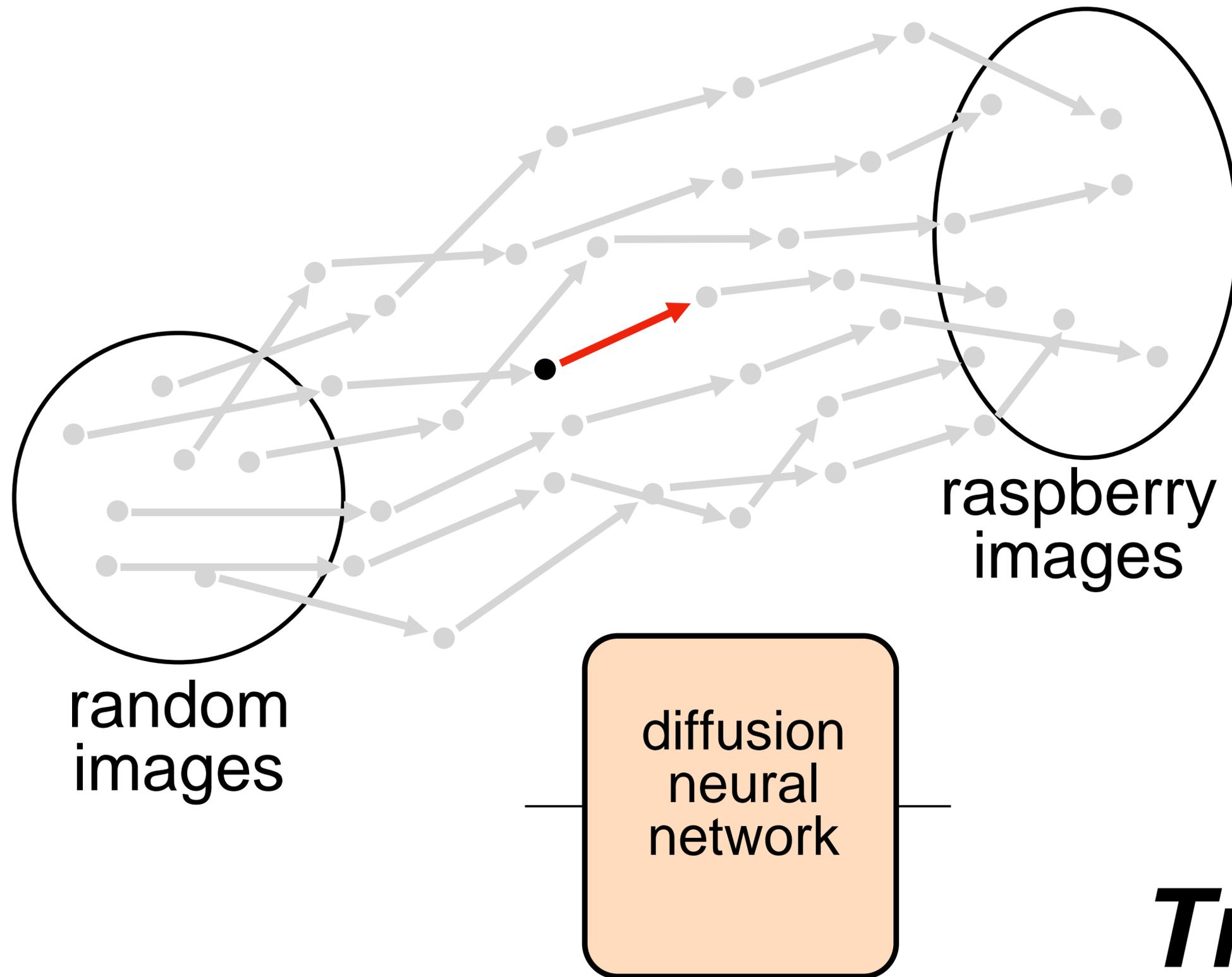
Images with equal
model response





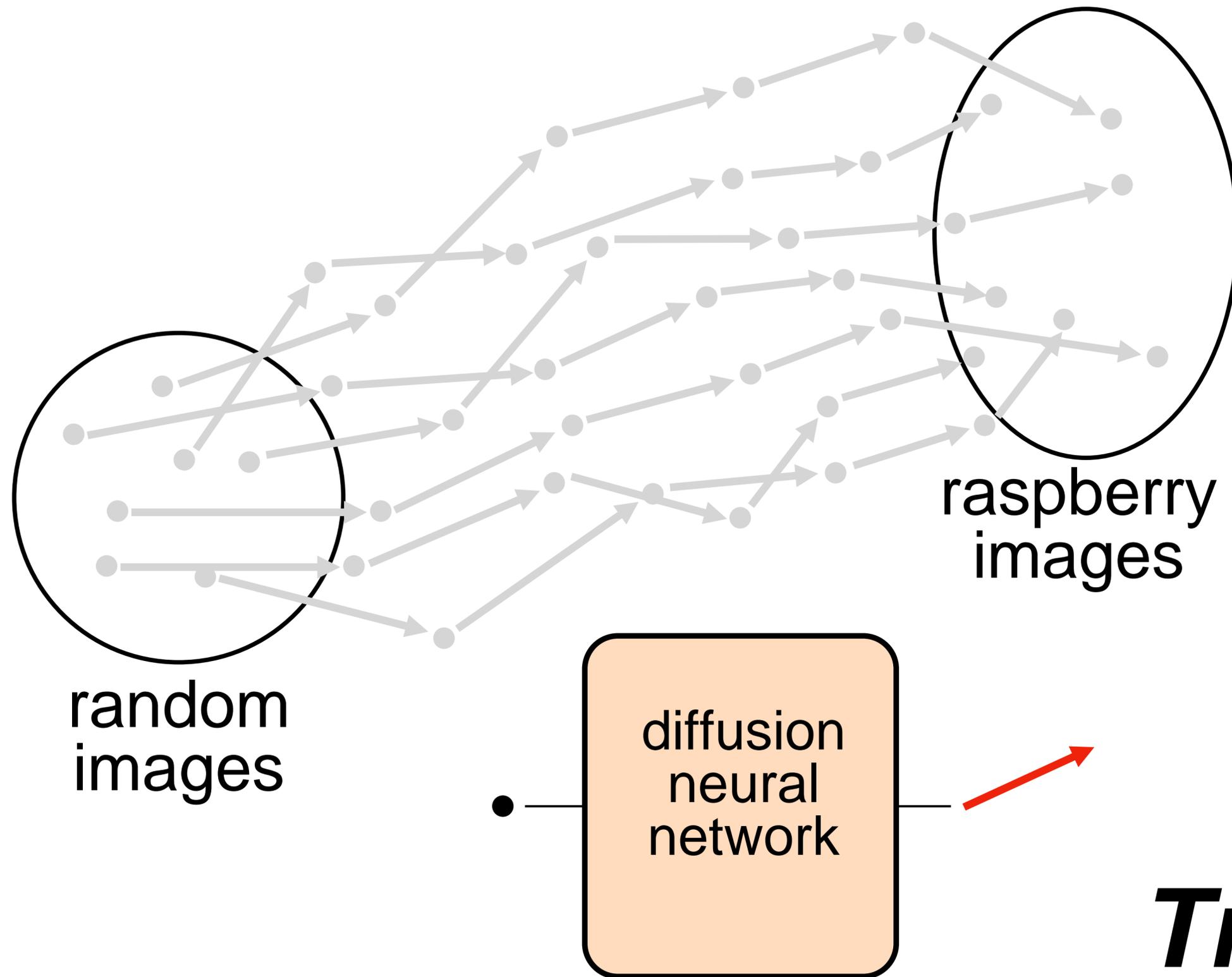






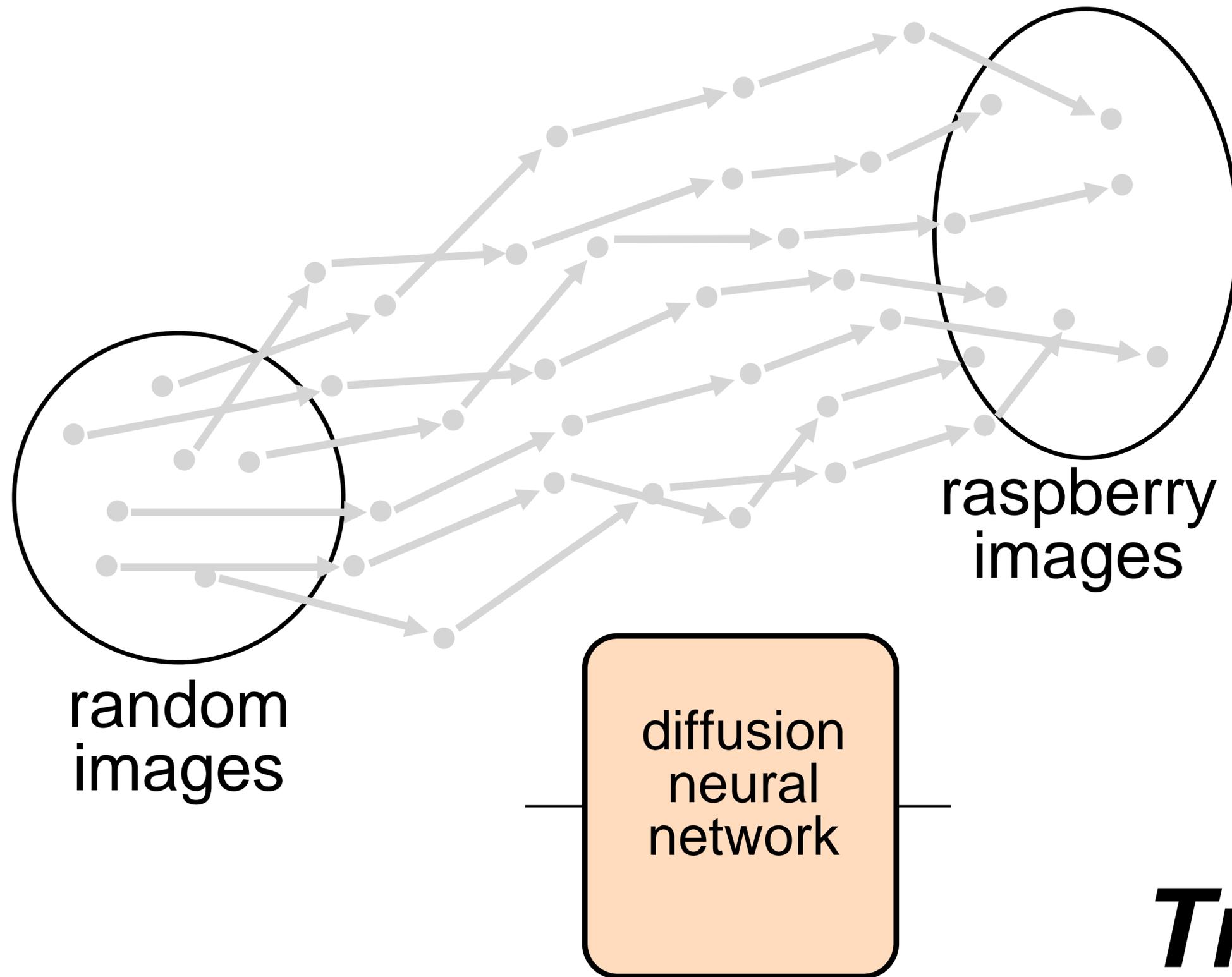
Training

slide from Steve Seitz's [video](#)



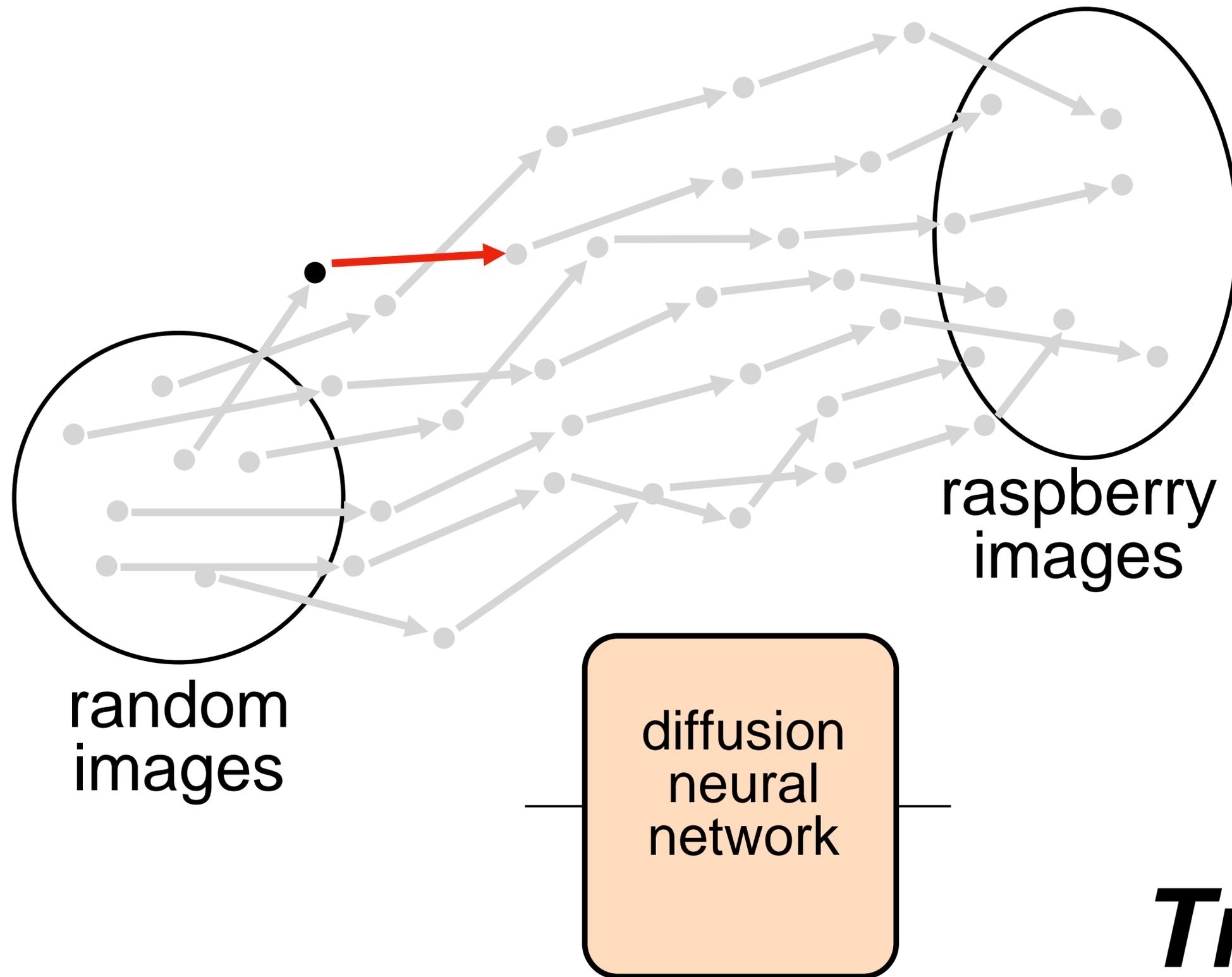
Training

slide from Steve Seitz's [video](#)



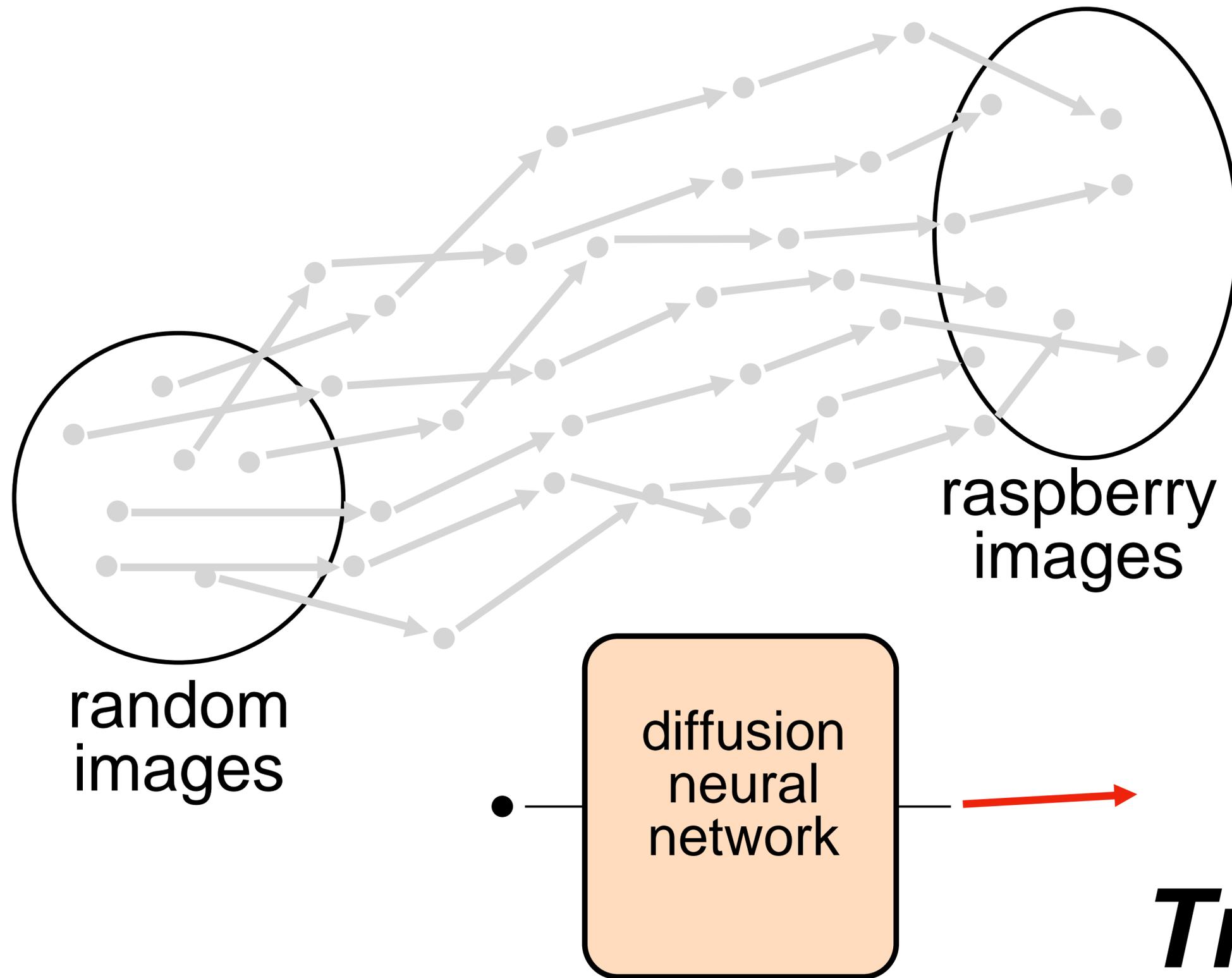
Training

slide from Steve Seitz's [video](#)



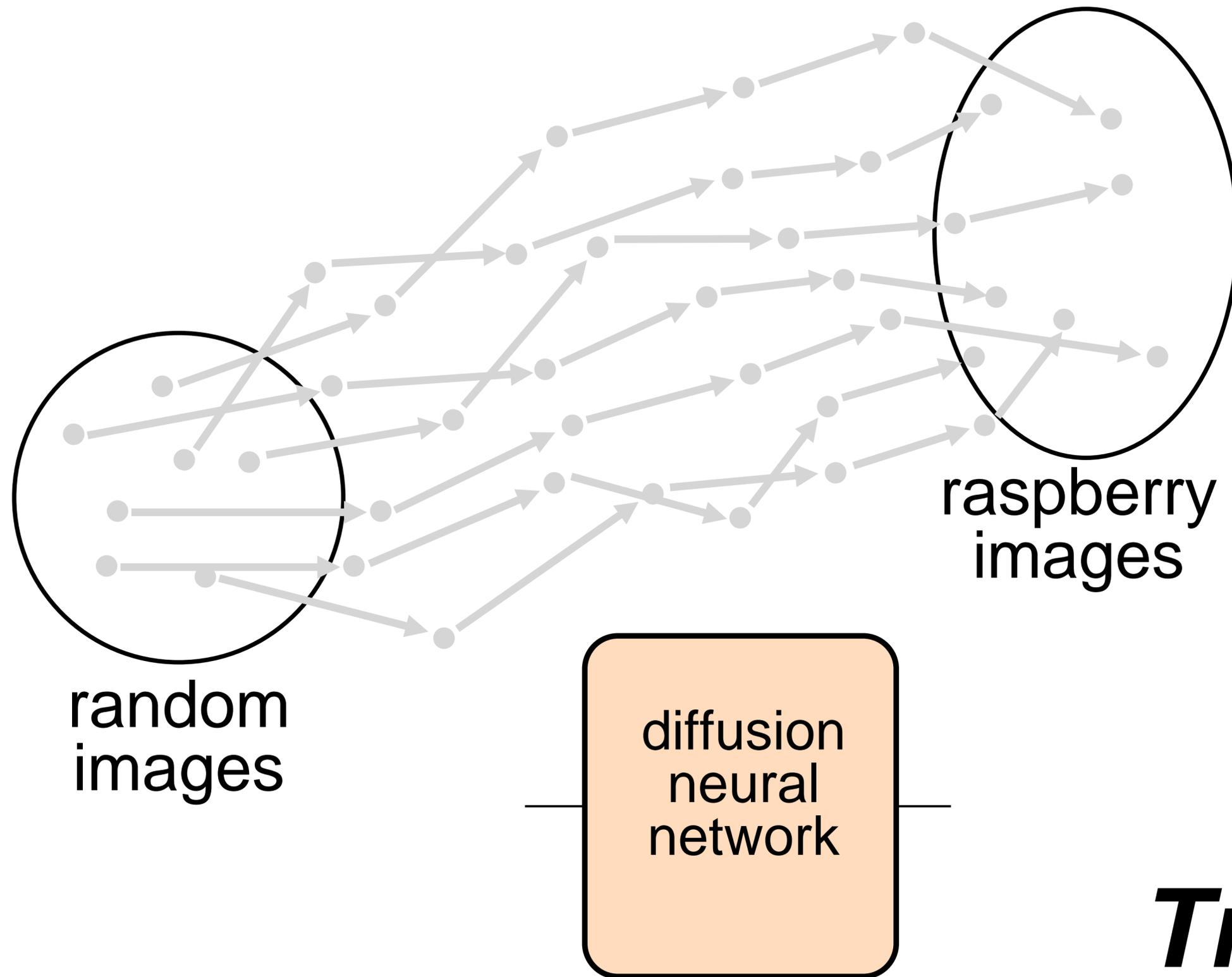
Training

slide from Steve Seitz's [video](#)



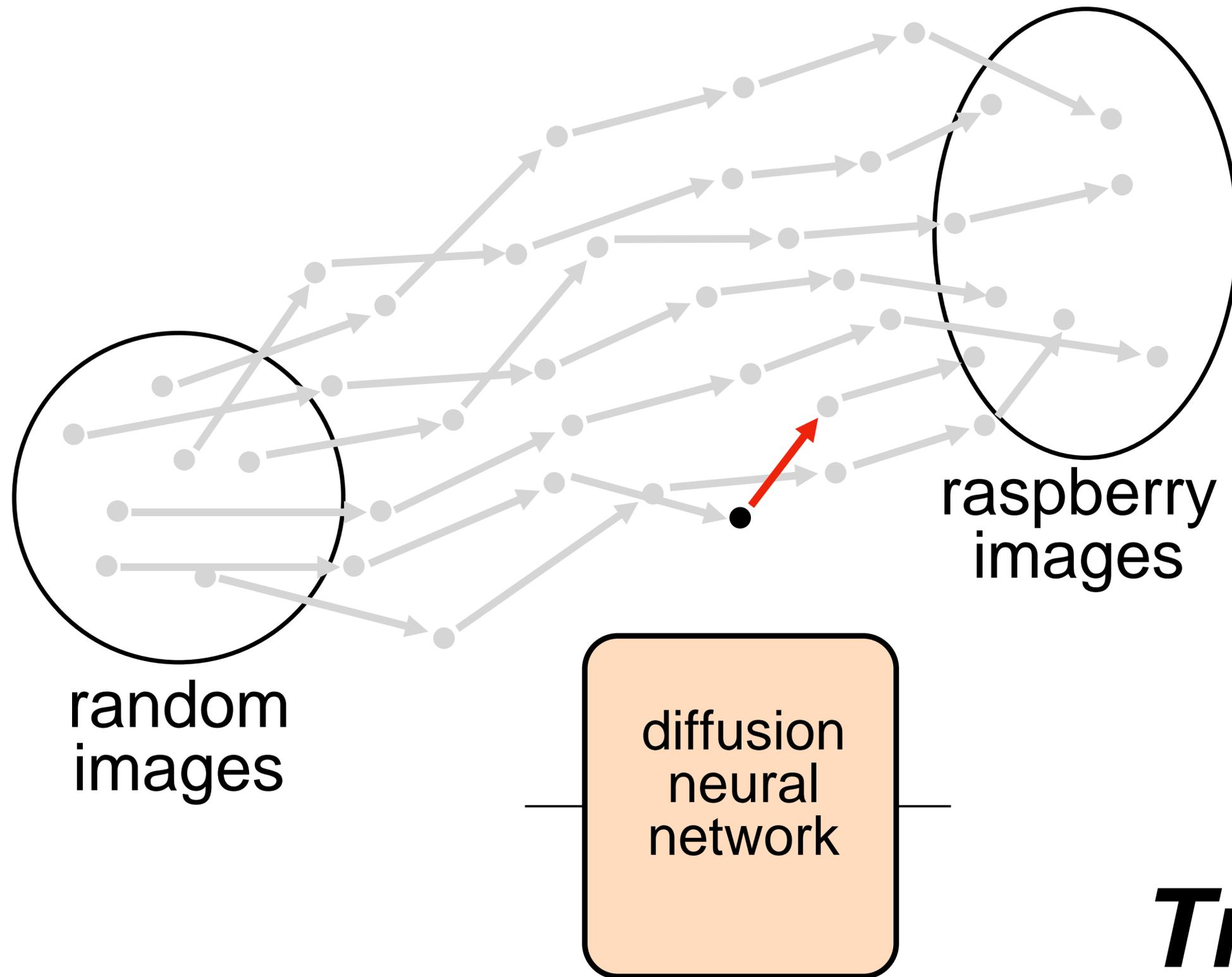
Training

slide from Steve Seitz's [video](#)



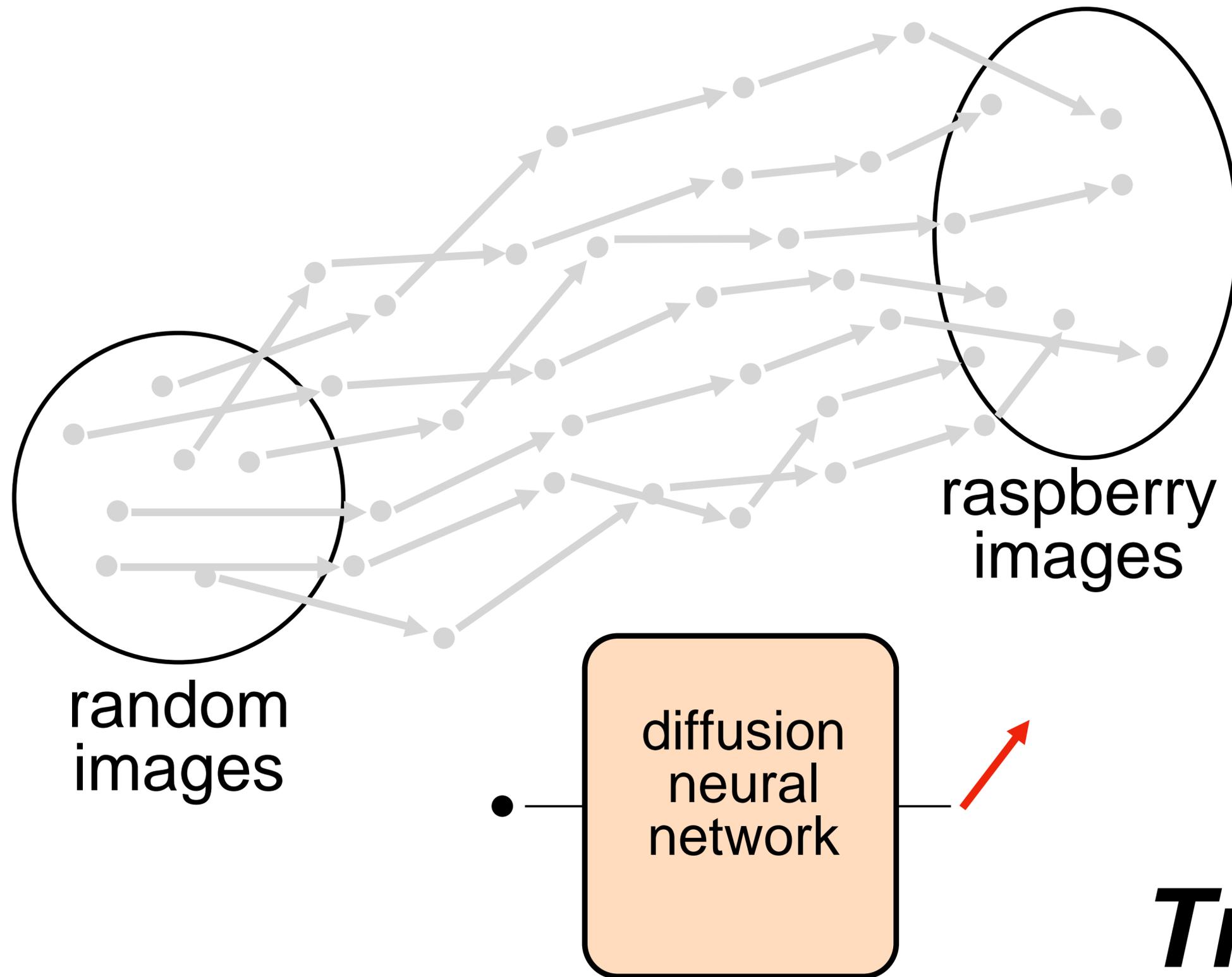
Training

slide from Steve Seitz's [video](#)



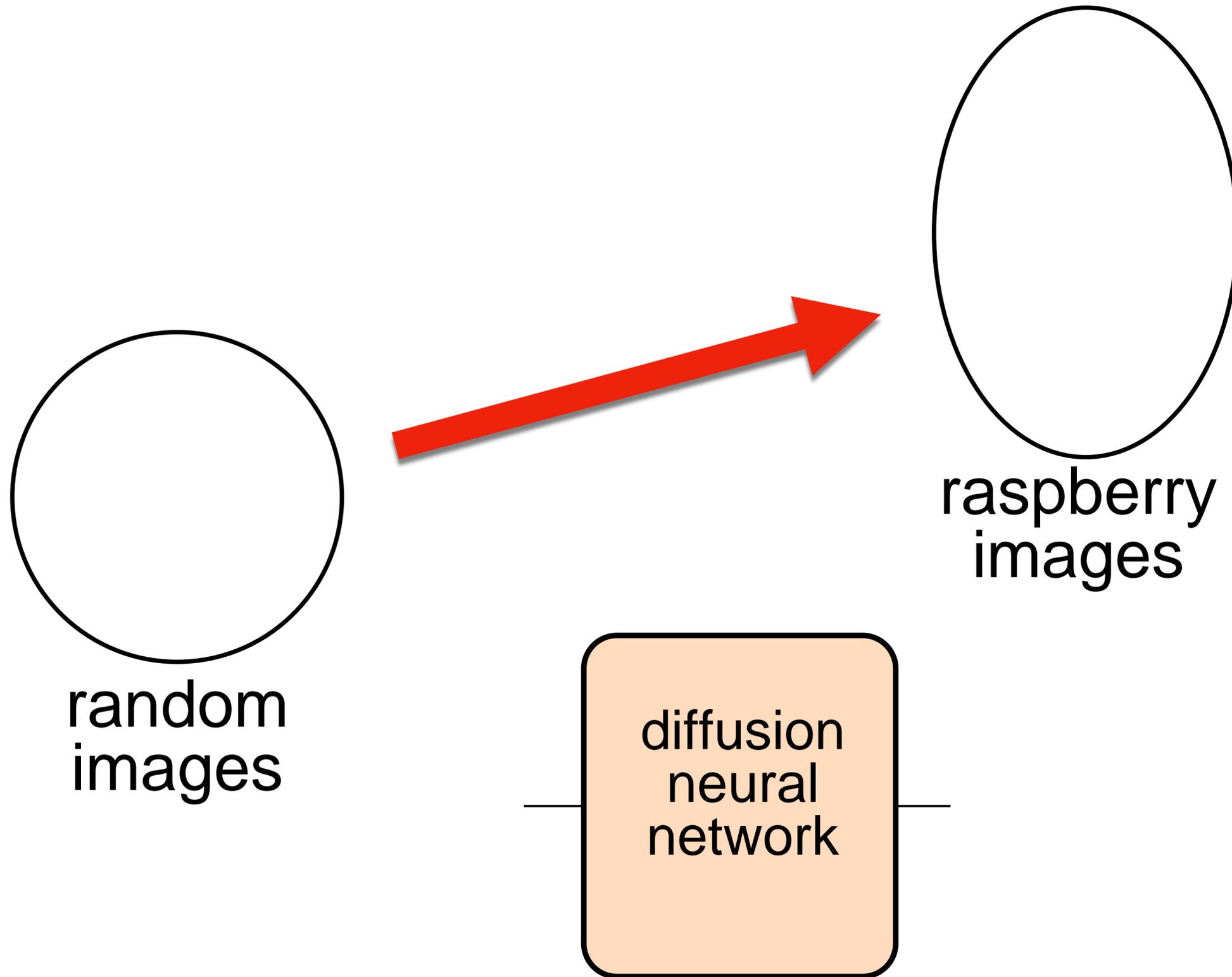
Training

slide from Steve Seitz's [video](#)



Training

slide from Steve Seitz's [video](#)



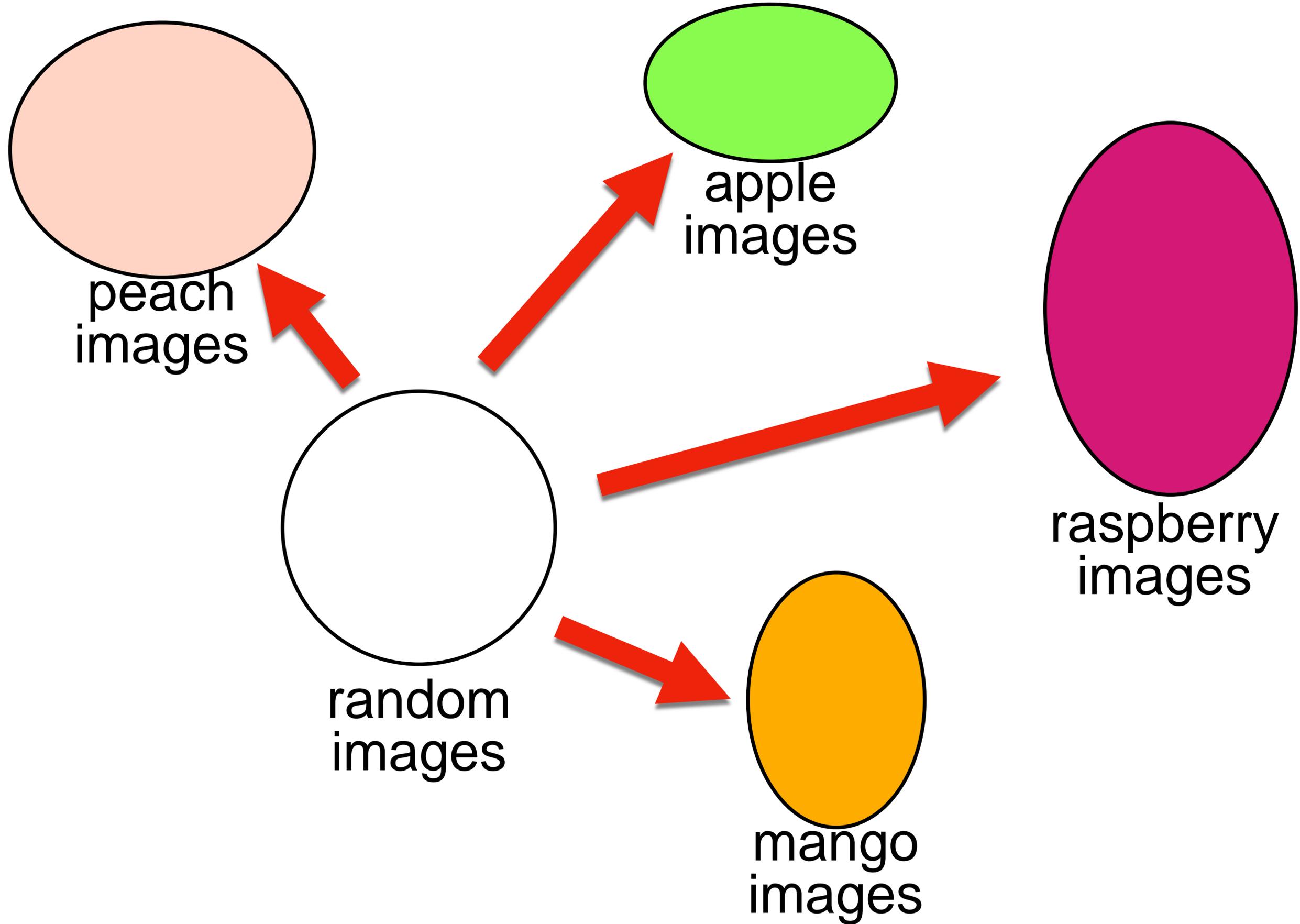
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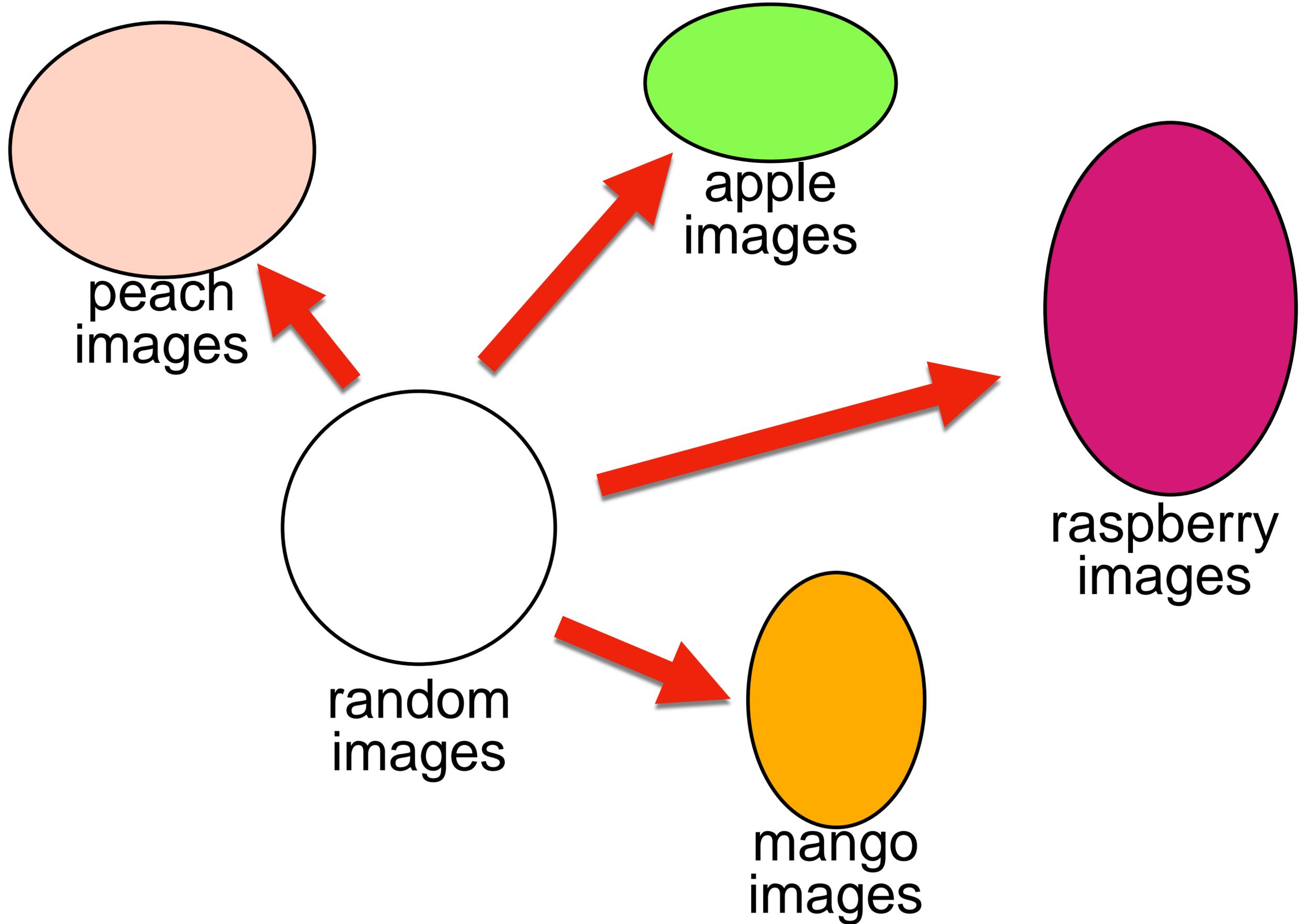
raspberry
images

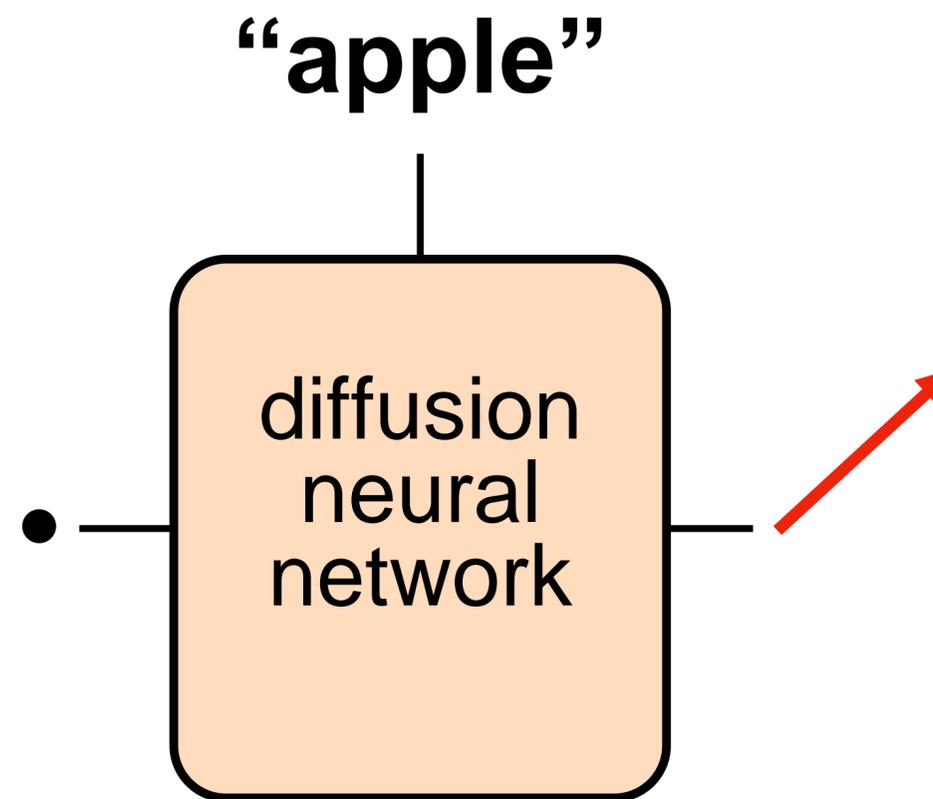
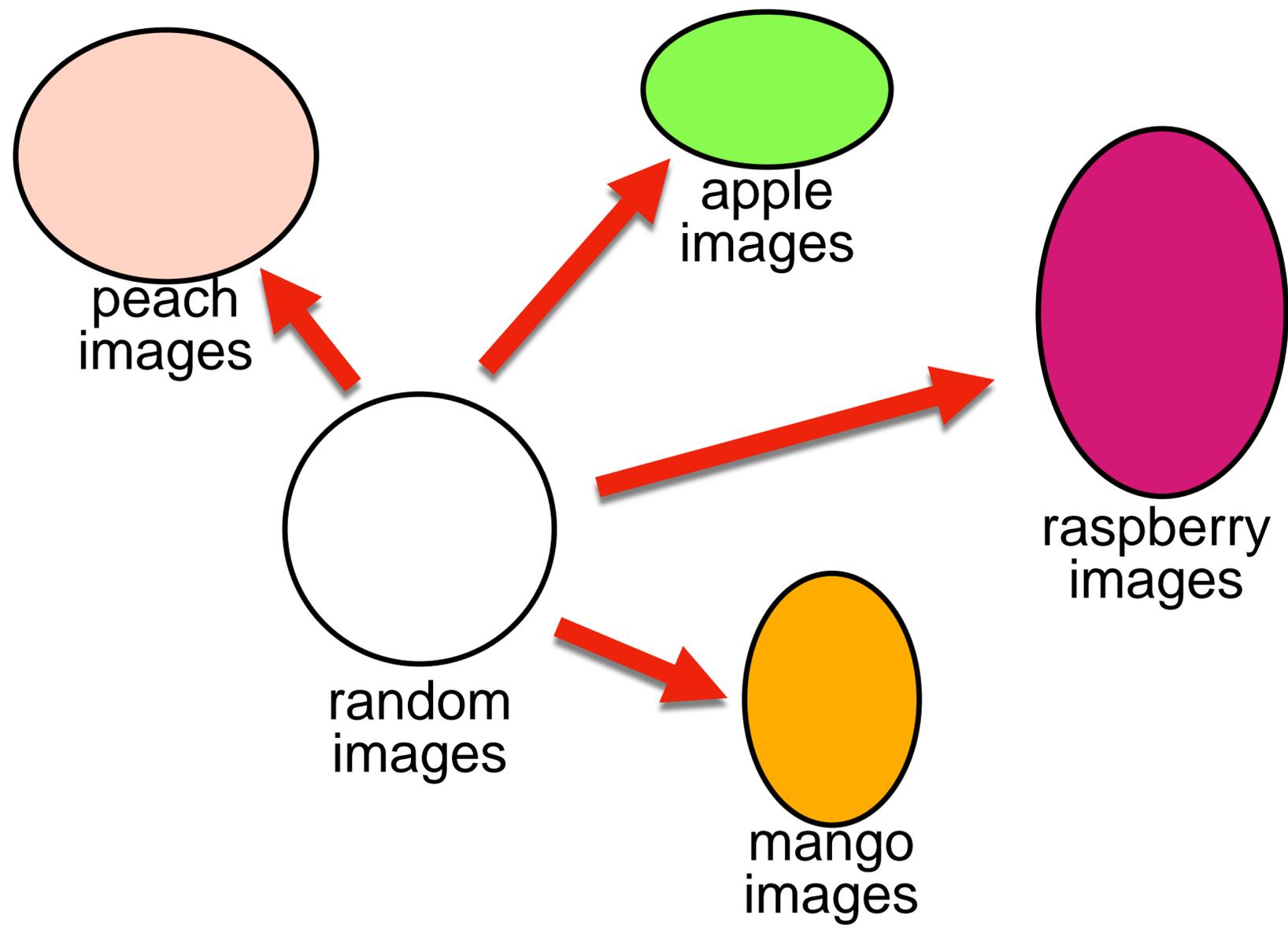
diffusion
neural
network

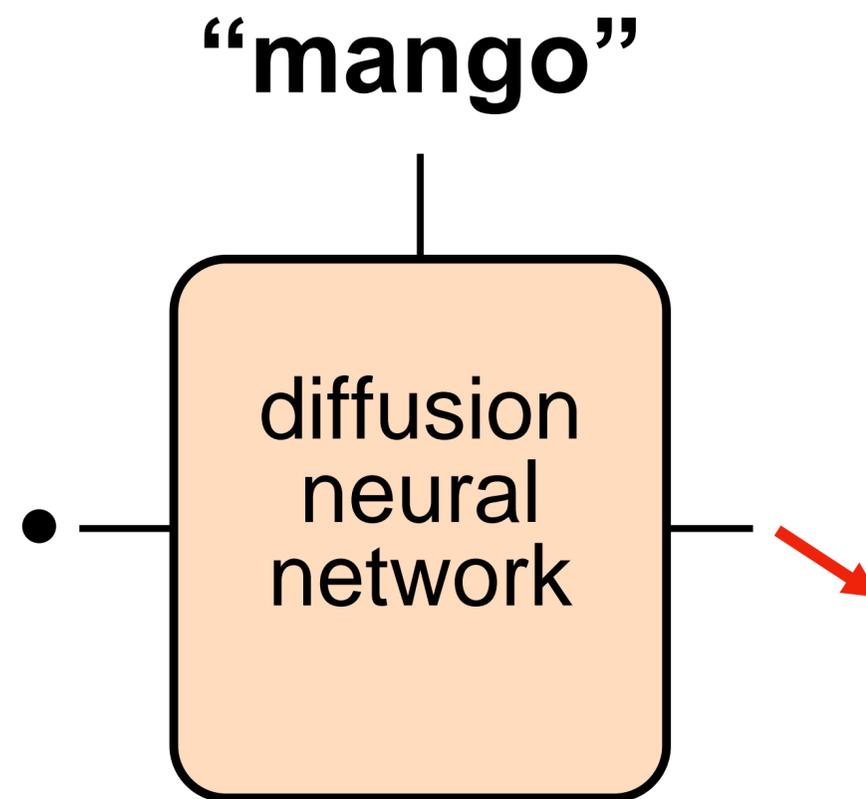
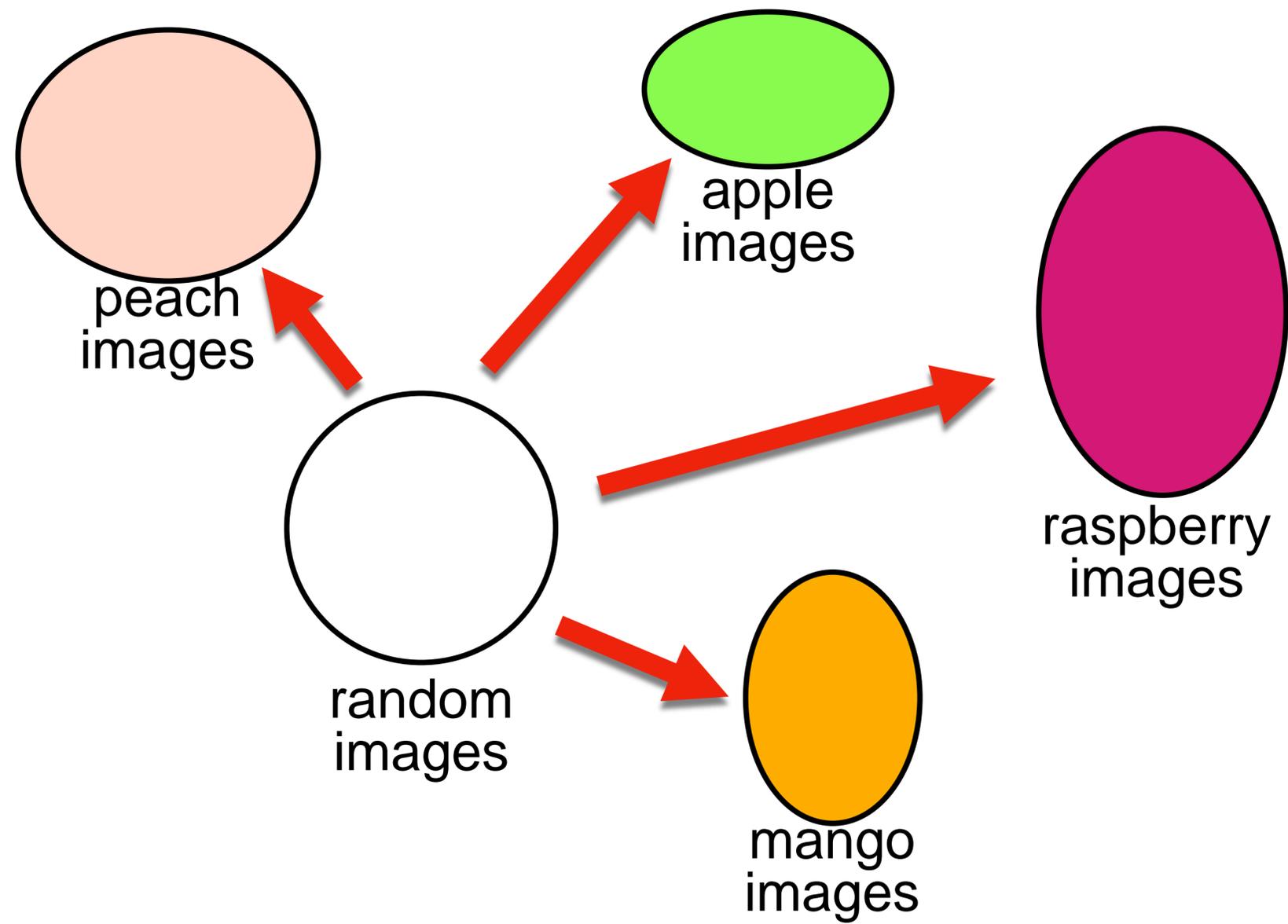
Curious property of Diffusion

- + We are training the model to reconstruct the training set
 - + But it fails!
 - + Instead, it generate novel images
 - + Which is what makes it great
- + Perhaps it models images as textures
 - + Keeping important correlations and throwing away the rest
 - + But we don't know the "model space" of these textures

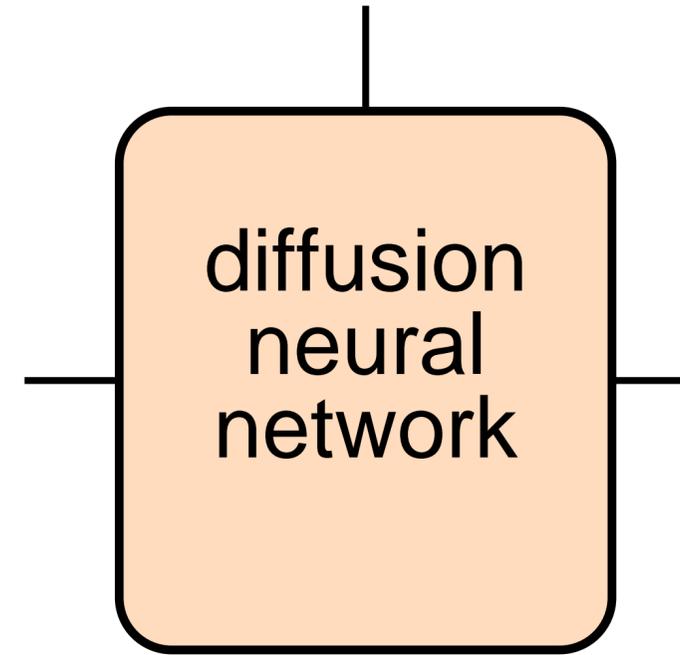


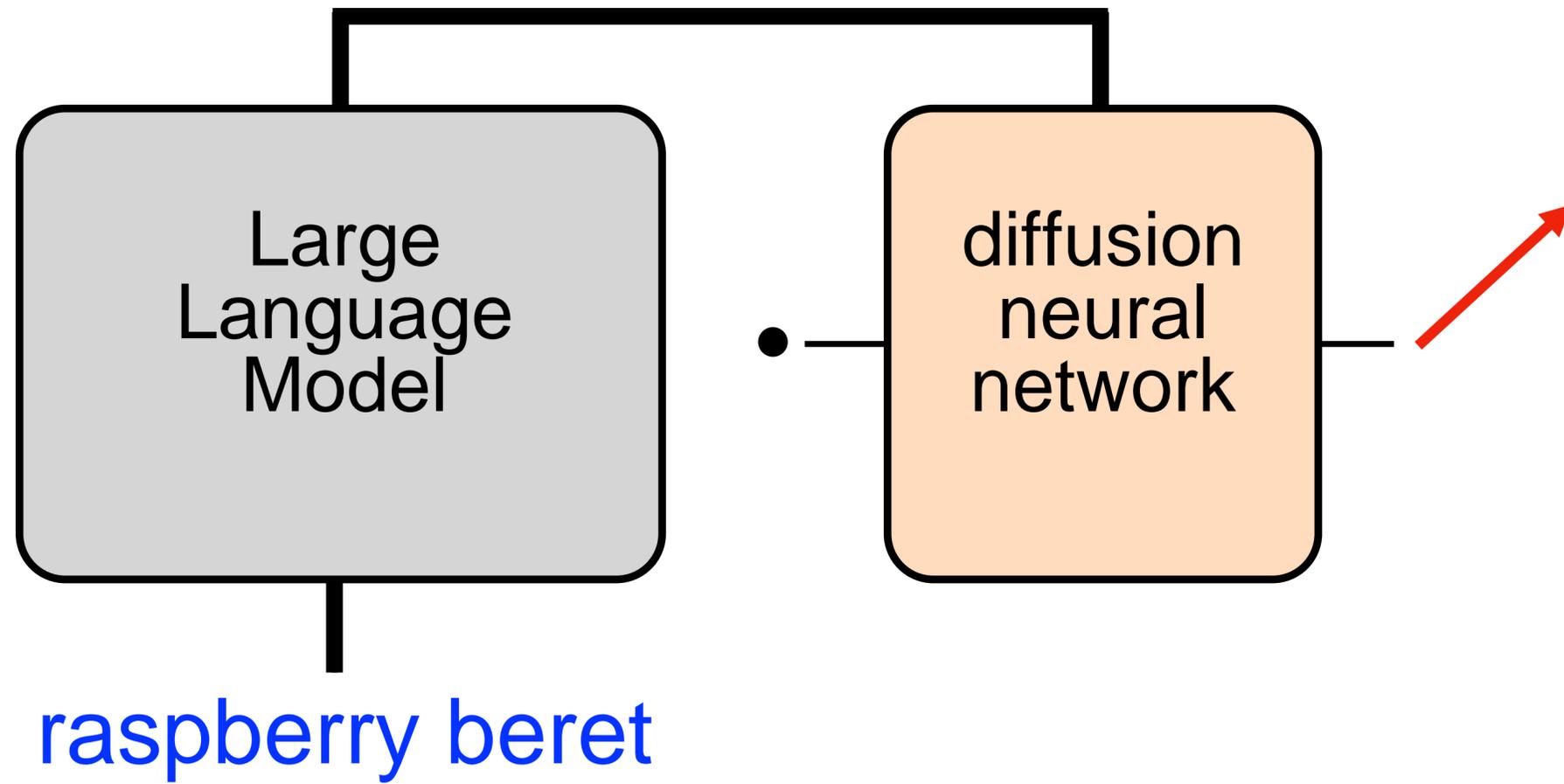






raspberry beret







raspberry beret



raspberry beret

slide from Steve Seitz's [video](#)

beret of raspberries



beret of raspberries

slide from Steve Seitz's [video](#)



beret of raspberries

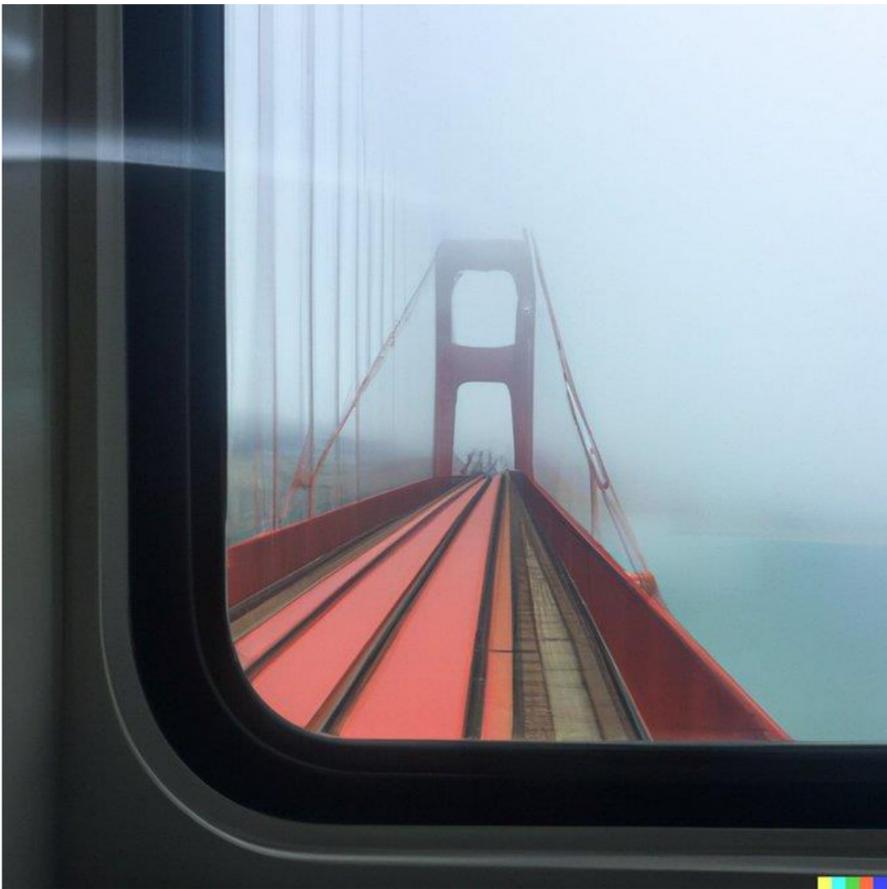
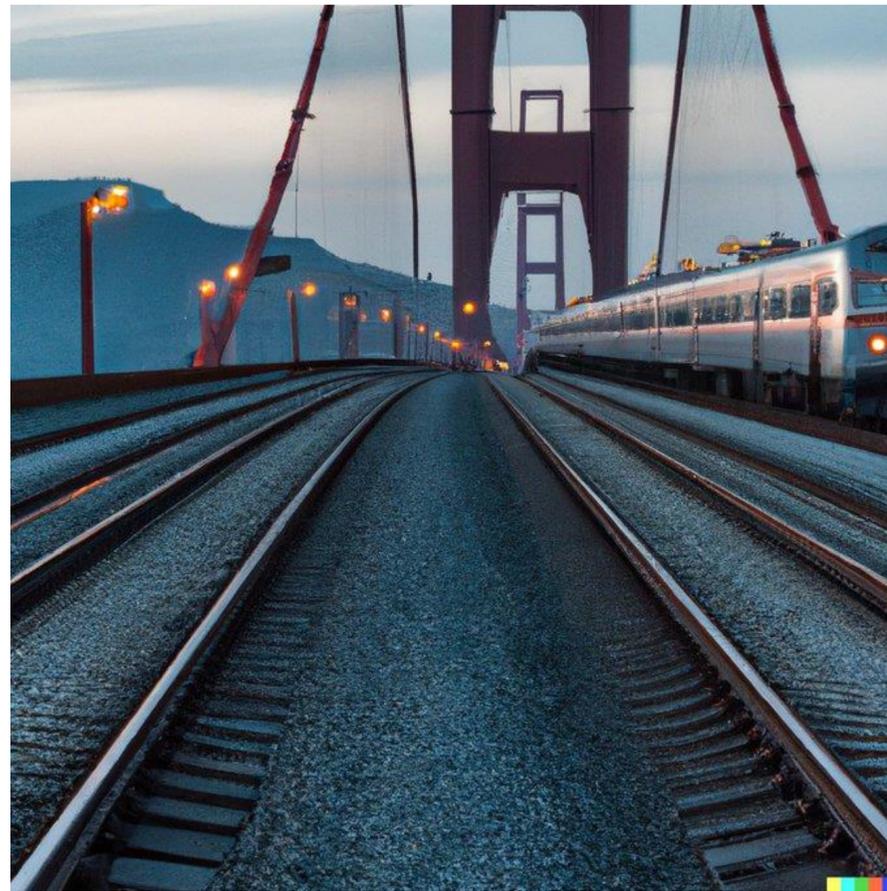
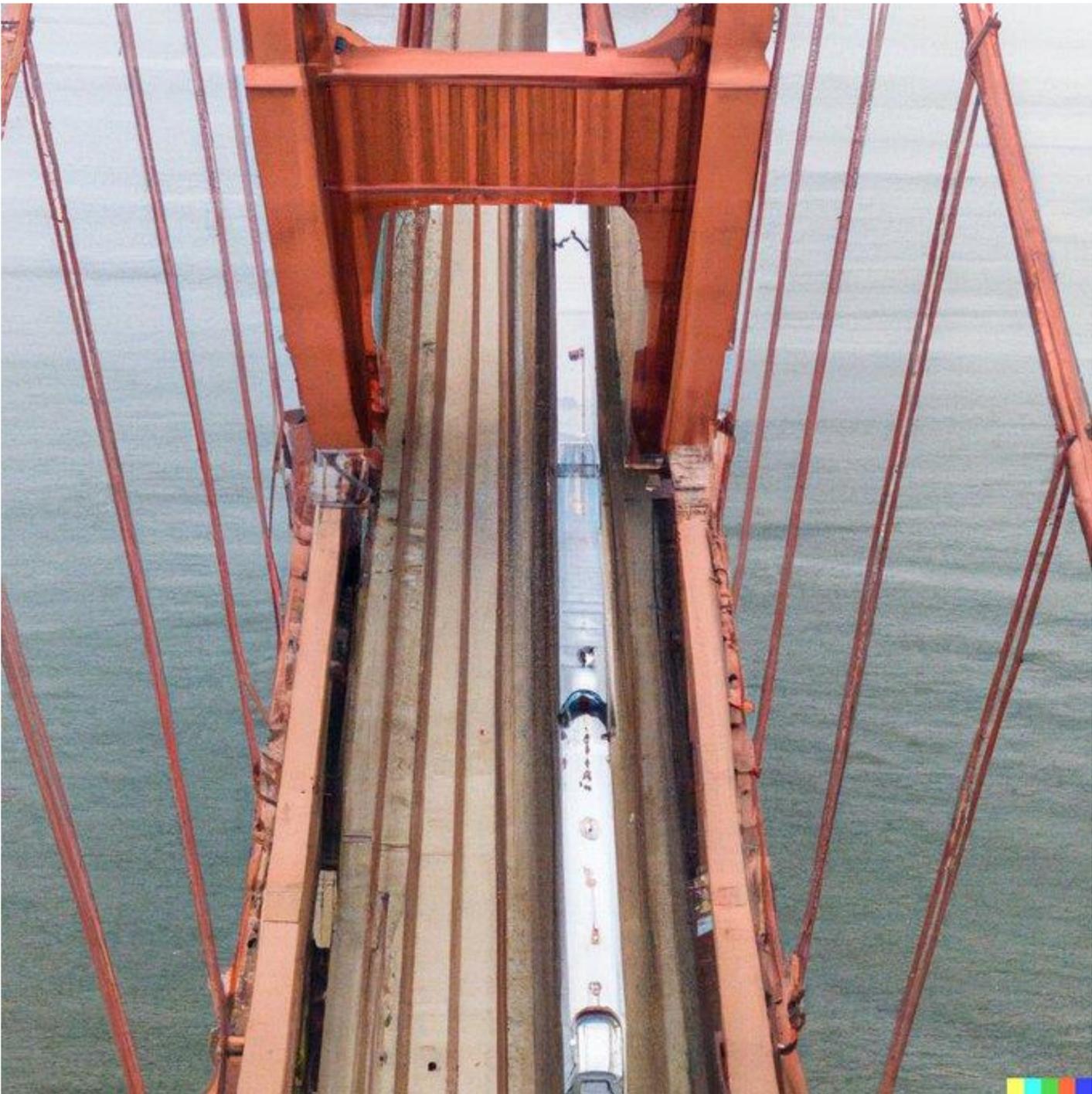
slide from Steve Seitz's [video](#)



An astronaut riding a horse in a photorealistic style (Dall-E 2)

slide from Steve Seitz's [video](#)

Impressive compositionality:



Project 5!



Can generative models make **Multi-View** **Optical Illusions?**

Salvador Dalí,
Paranoiac Face. 1937.



Visual Anagrams: Generating Multi-View Optical Illusions with Diffusion Models



Daniel Geng



Aaron Park
University of Michigan



Andrew Owens

CVPR 2024

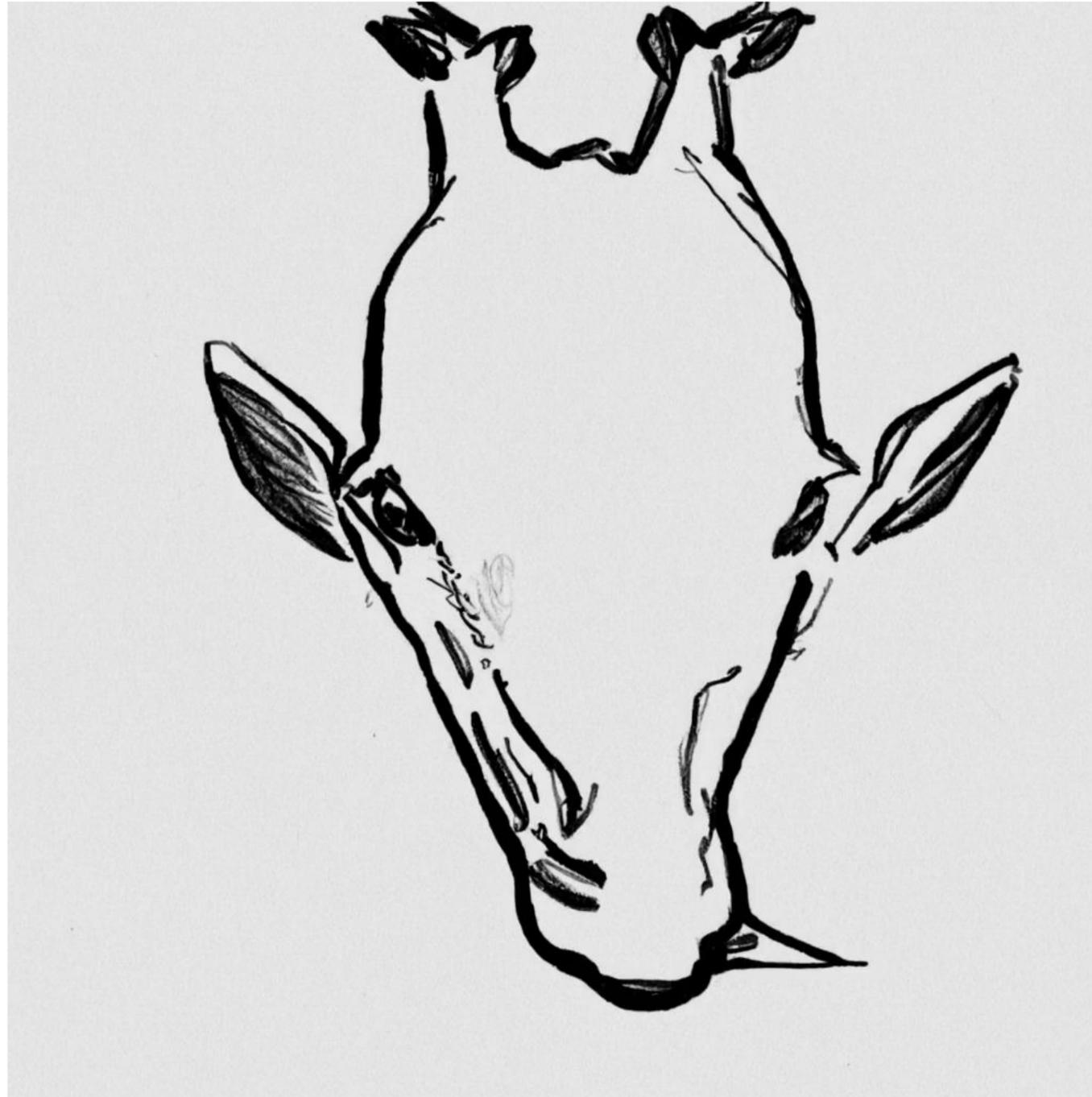
https://dangeng.github.io/visual_anagrams/



a watercolor
of mount rainier



an oil painting of people
around a campfire



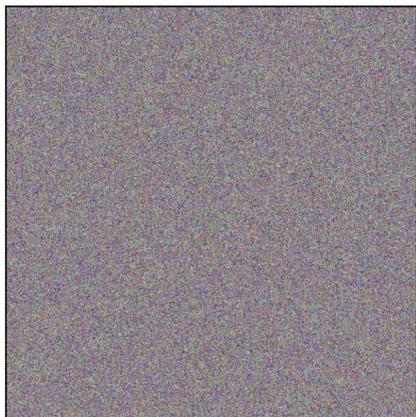
a drawing of a giraffe



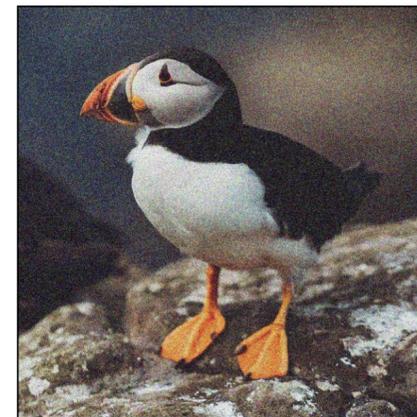
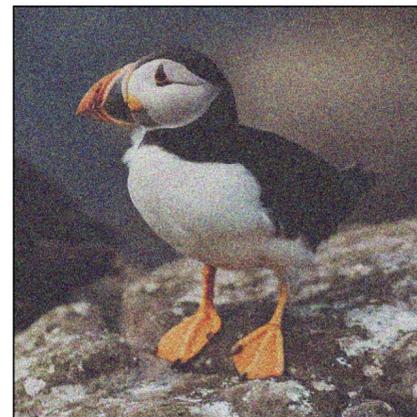
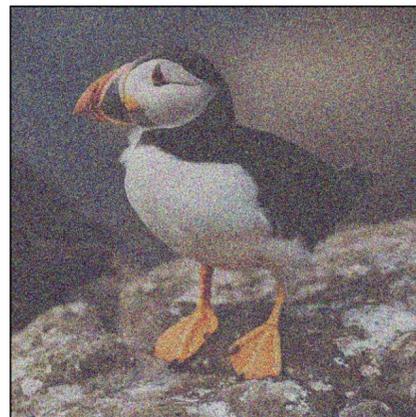
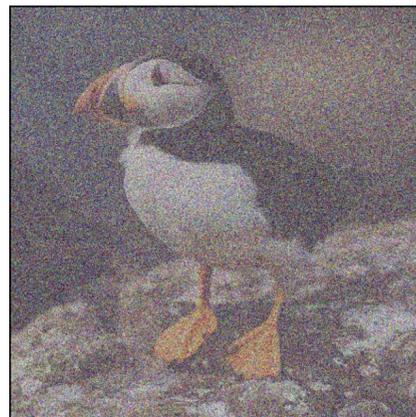
an oil painting of a
snowy mountain village

Diffusion Models

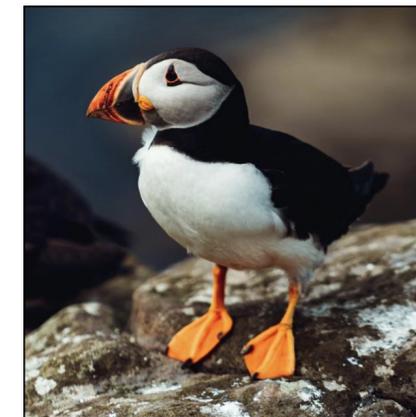
$$\mathbf{x}_T \sim \mathcal{N}(\mathbf{0}, \mathbf{I})$$



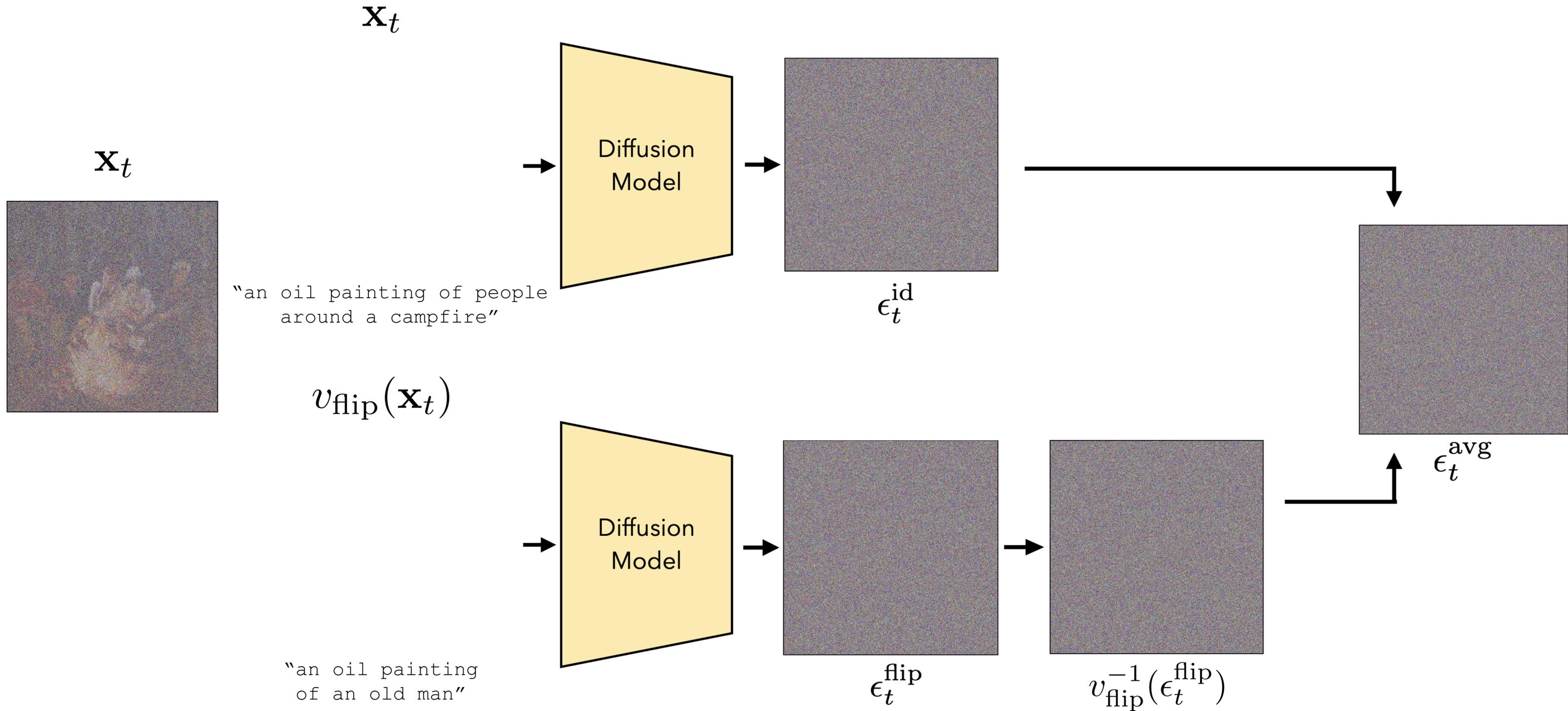
"a photo of
a puffin"



$$\mathbf{x}_0$$

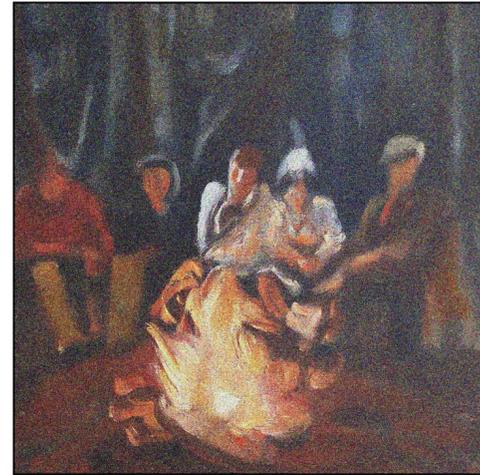
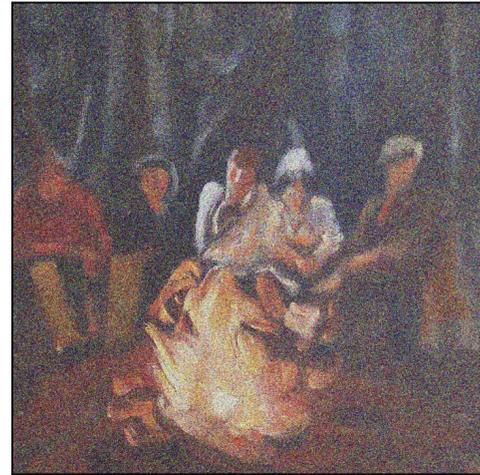
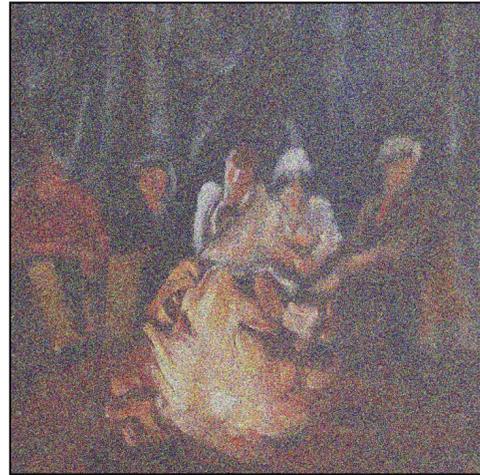
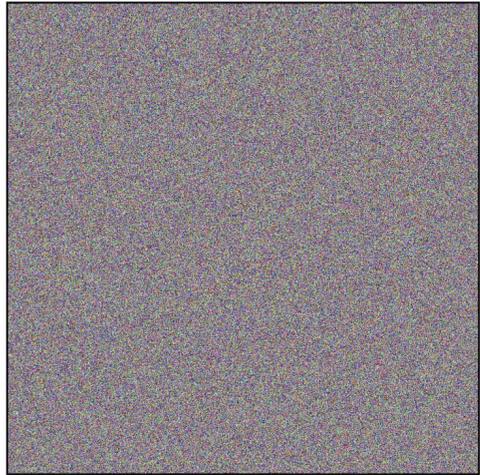


Method



Method

$$\mathbf{x}_T \sim \mathcal{N}(\mathbf{0}, \mathbf{I})$$



$$\mathbf{x}_0$$