



# Feature Extraction in Python

PoL Bio-Image Analysis Training School & Symposium

29 August 2023

Allyson Quinn Ryan, PhD  
BiA-PoL & Modes Group

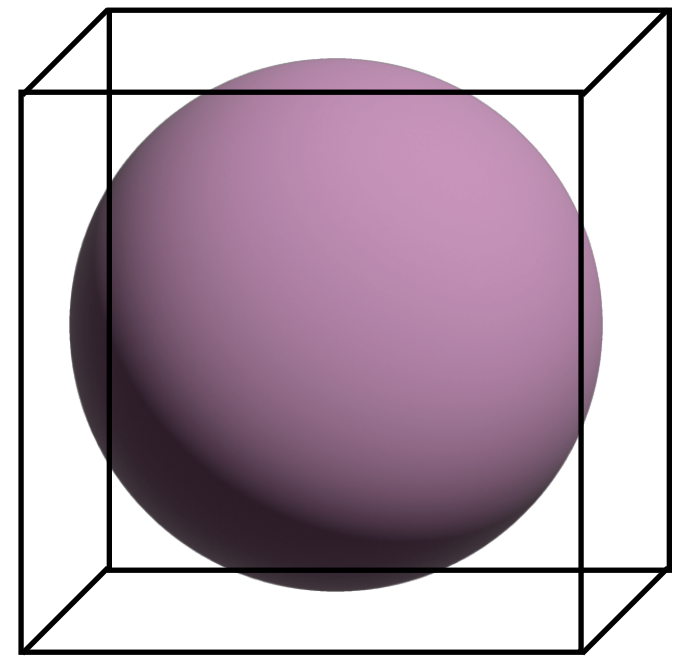
# What defines a feature?

a quantification or relationship that describes your system

# What do we need to consider first?

object type, neighbourhoods, structuring elements... → feature categories

# Feature Classes: Size

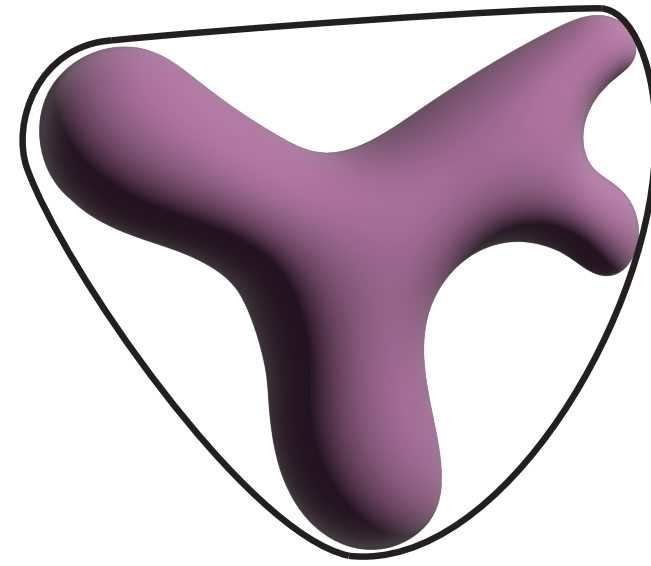


bounding box

pixel/voxel count

area; volume  
(scaling info req)

perimeter;  
surface area



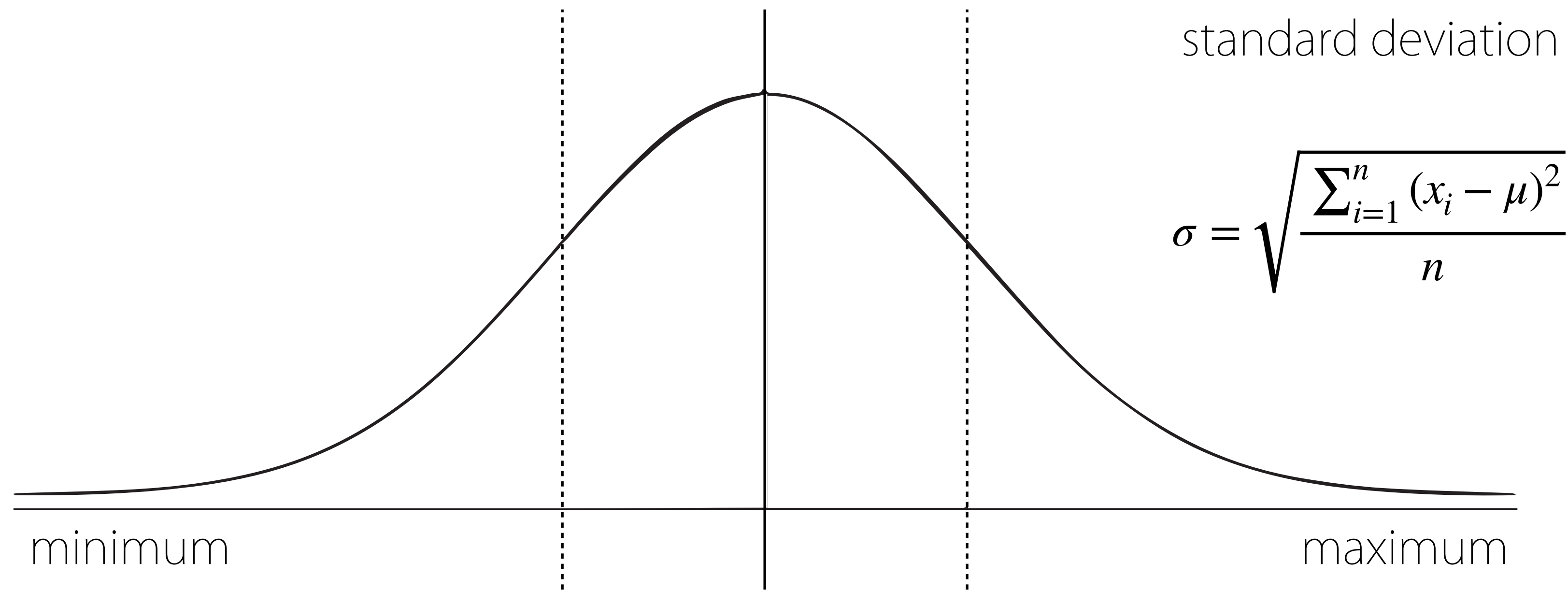
convex hull



convex  
area/volume

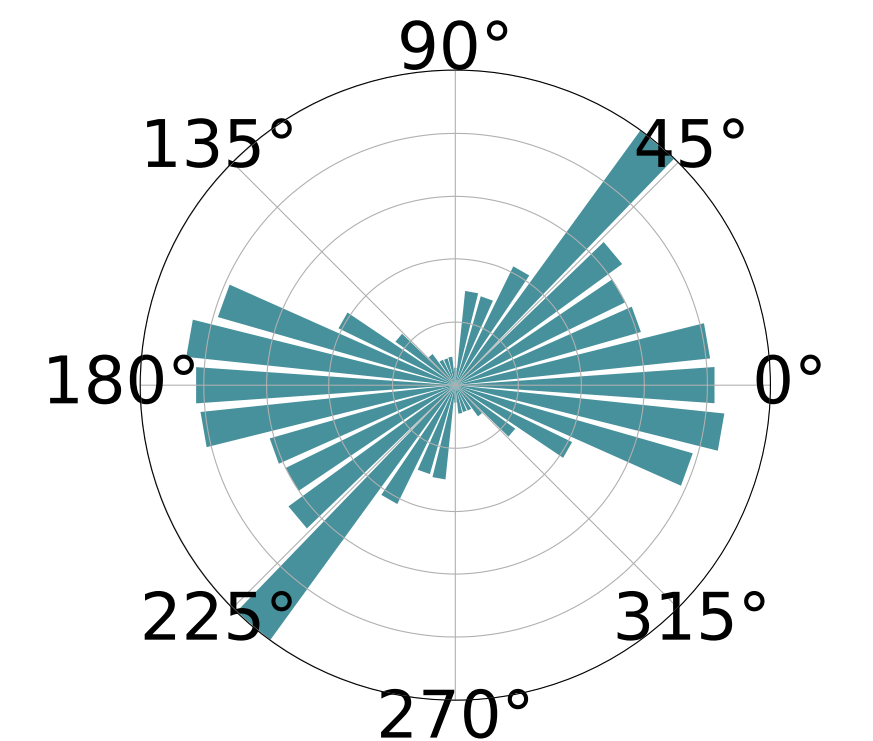
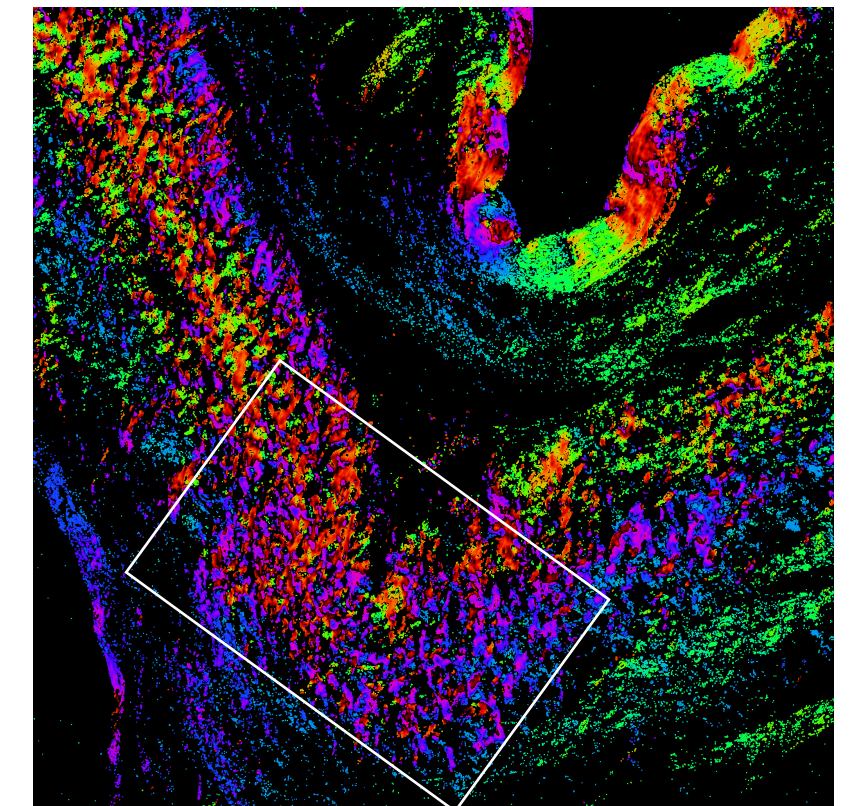


# Feature Classes: Intensity



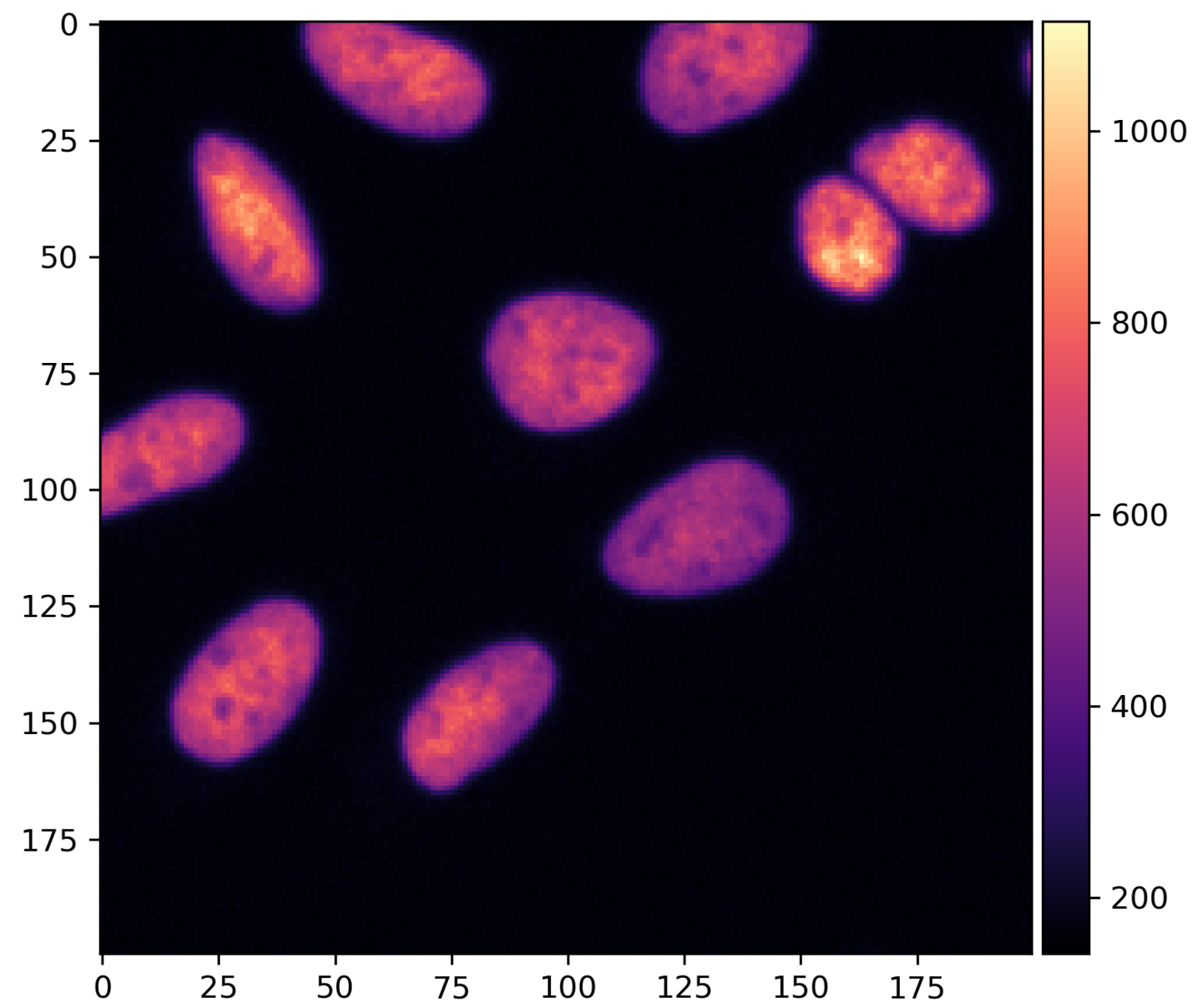
$$\mu = \frac{1}{n} \sum_{i=1}^n x_i$$

sum, median, variance, etc.

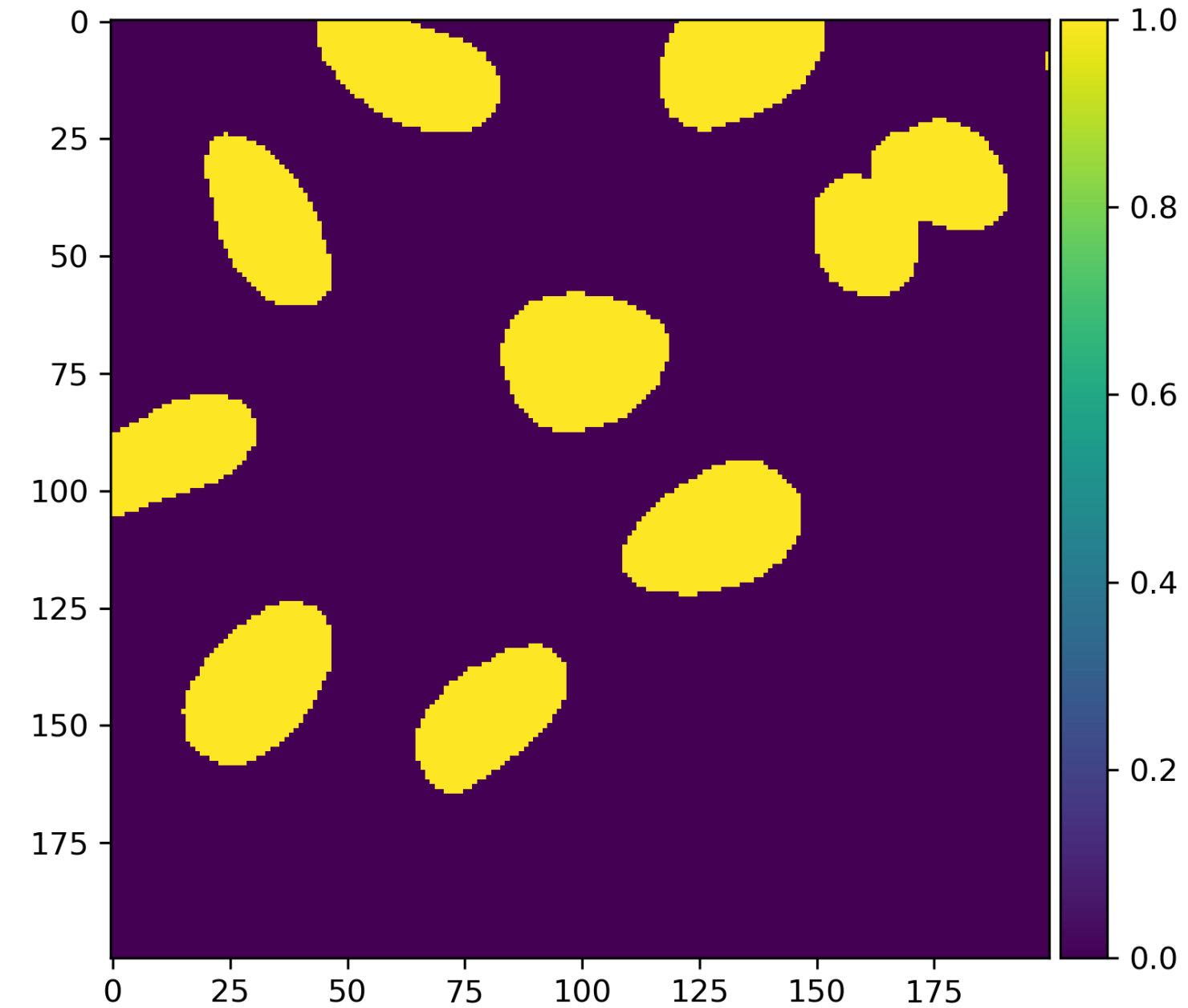


(subclass: texture)

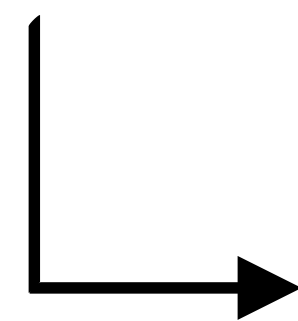
# Intensity: all foreground objects



retrieve binary image

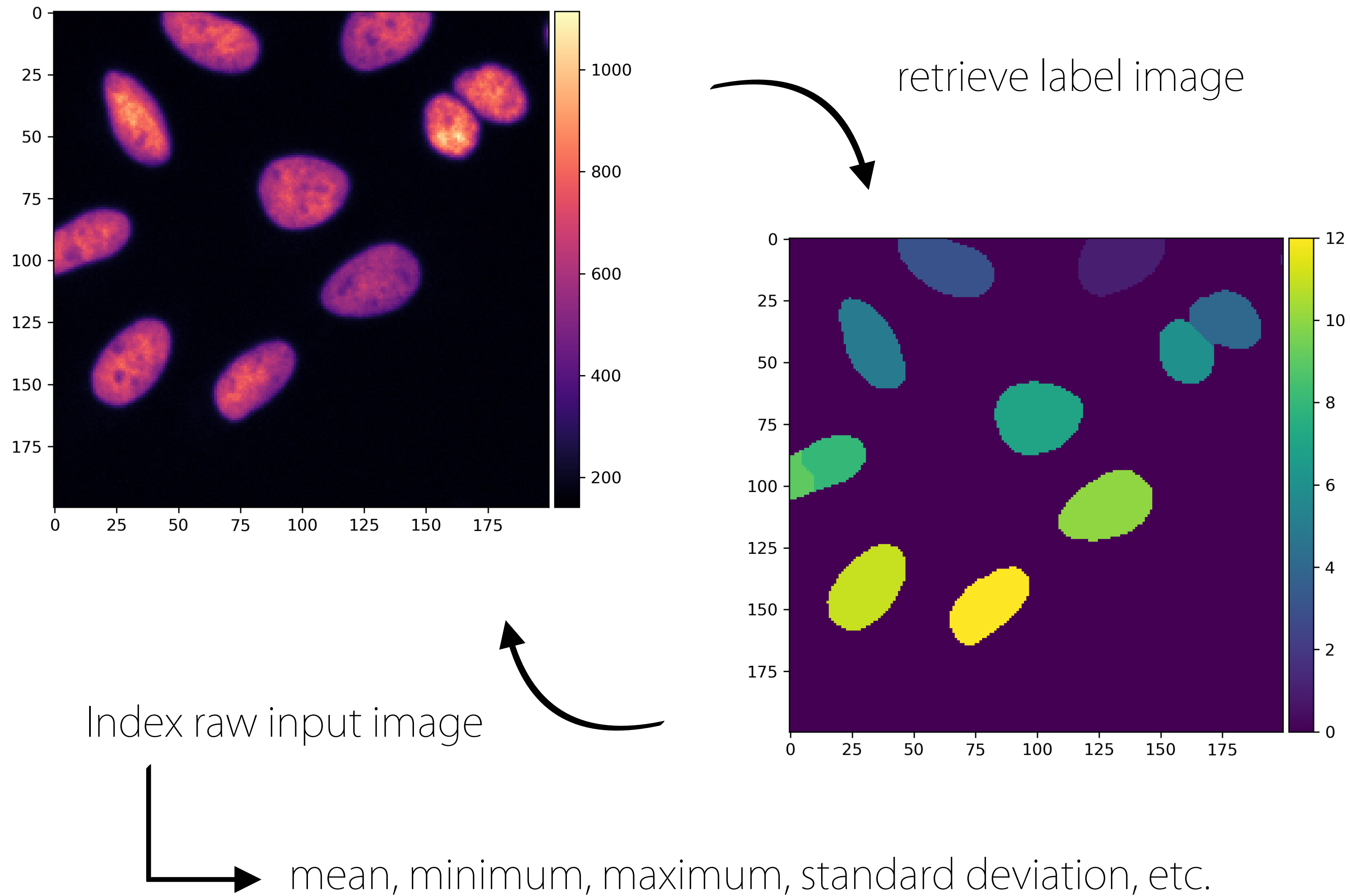


index raw input image

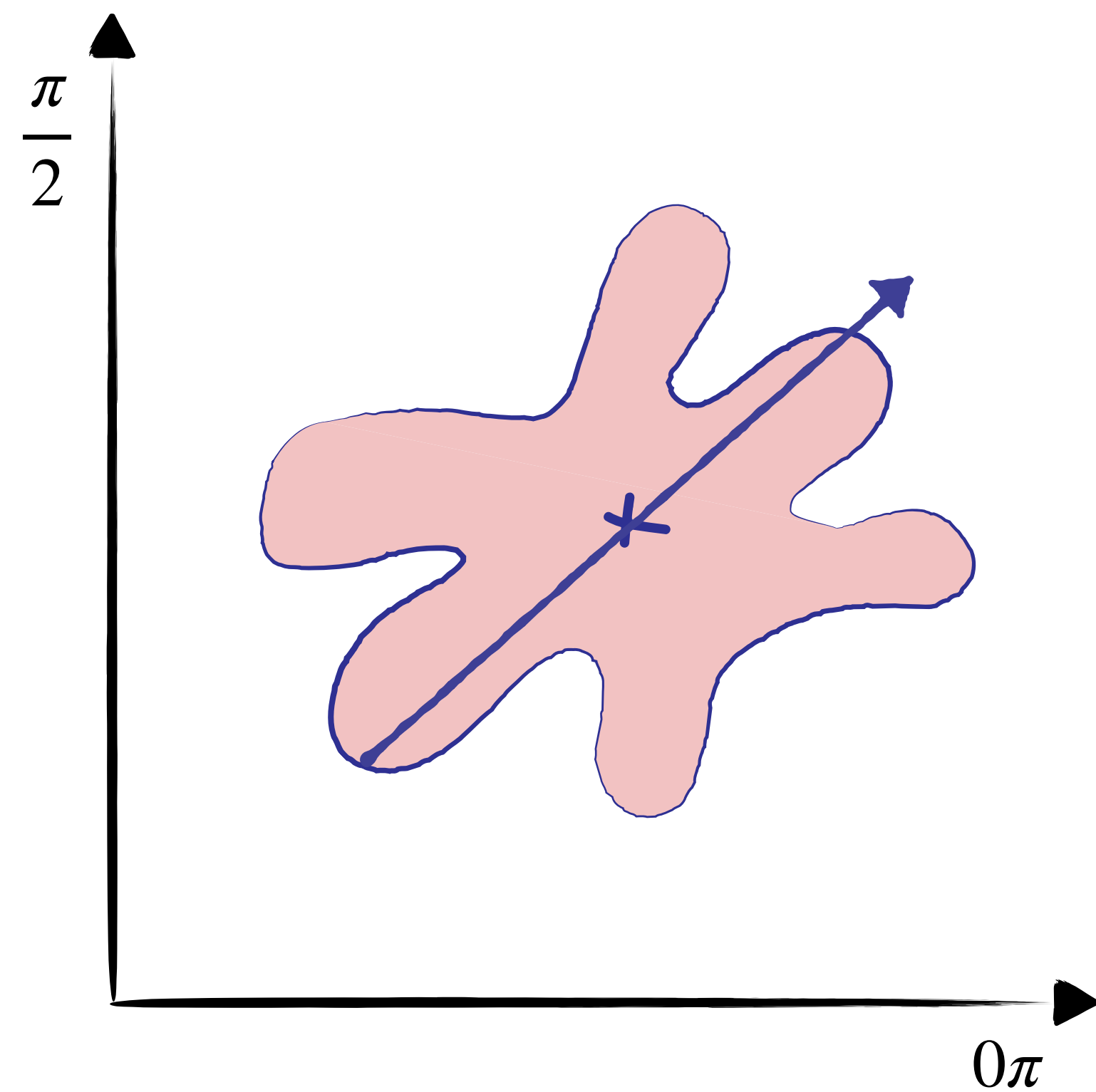


mean, minimum, maximum, standard deviation, etc.

# Intensity: individual objects



# Feature Classes: Position & Moments



x centroid/centre of mass/  
weighted center

$$\mathbf{R} = \frac{1}{M} \iiint_Q \rho(\mathbf{r}) \mathbf{r} dV$$

orientation

$$\mathbf{v} = \langle x, y \rangle$$

1st moment

centre of mass

2nd moment

inertial; variance

3rd moment

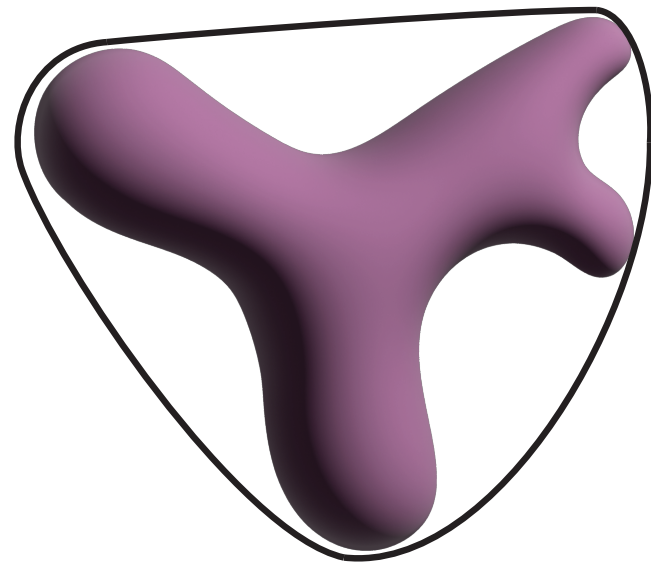
shape asymmetry ;  
skewness



# Feature Classes: Shape

solidity

$$S = \frac{V_{obj}}{V_{ch}}$$

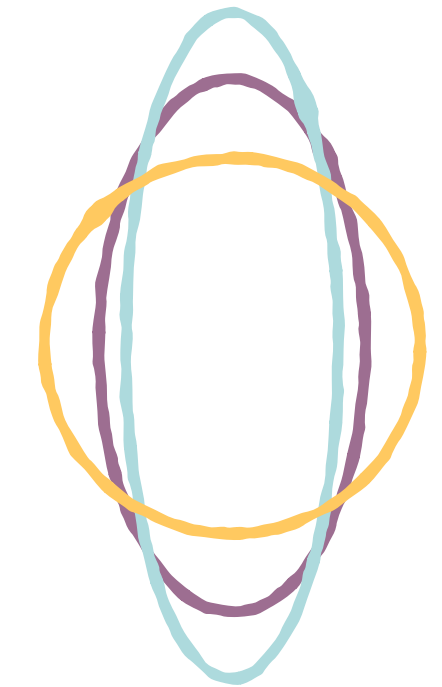


roundness

$$R = \frac{4\pi A_{obj}}{P_{ch}^2}$$

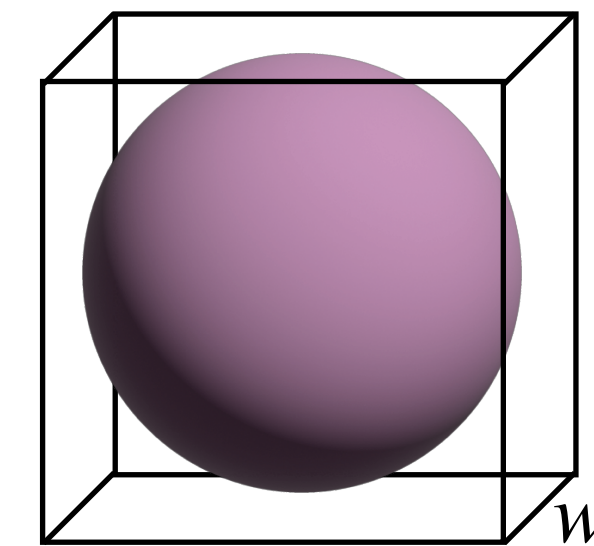
aspect ratio (**eccentricity**)

$$ar = \frac{l_{major}}{l_{minor}} \quad \text{OR} \quad ar = \frac{l_{minor}}{l_{major}}$$



elongation

$$f = \frac{w_{bbox}}{l_{bbox}}$$



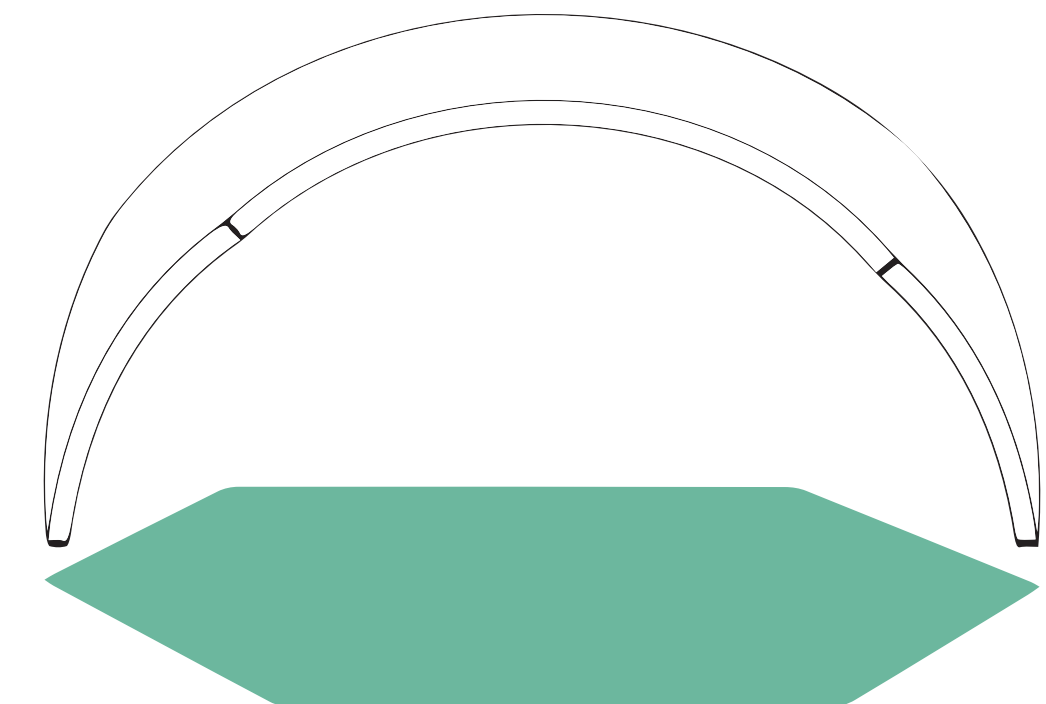
sphericity

$$\psi = \frac{\pi^{1/3}(6V)^{2/3}}{SA}$$

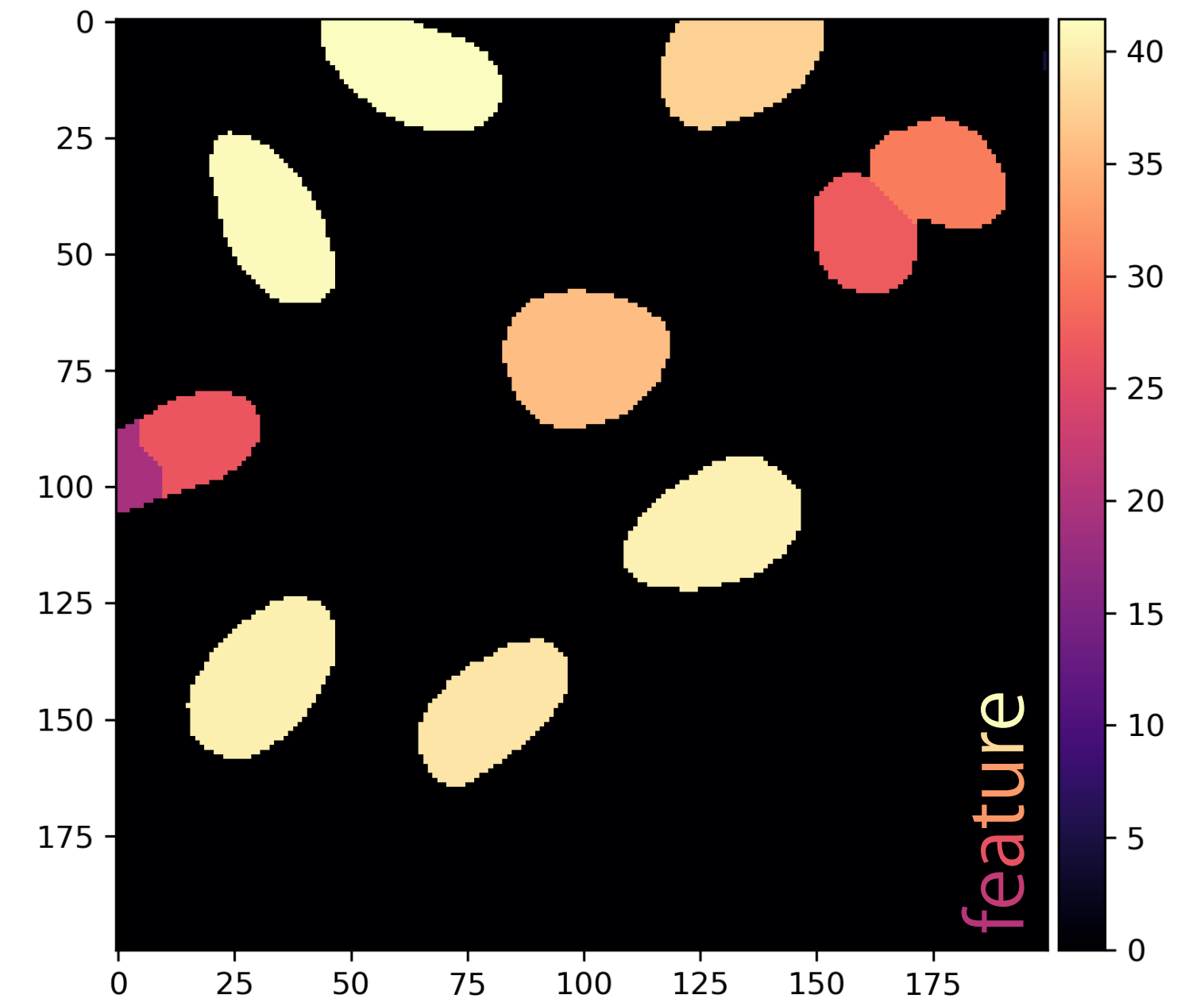
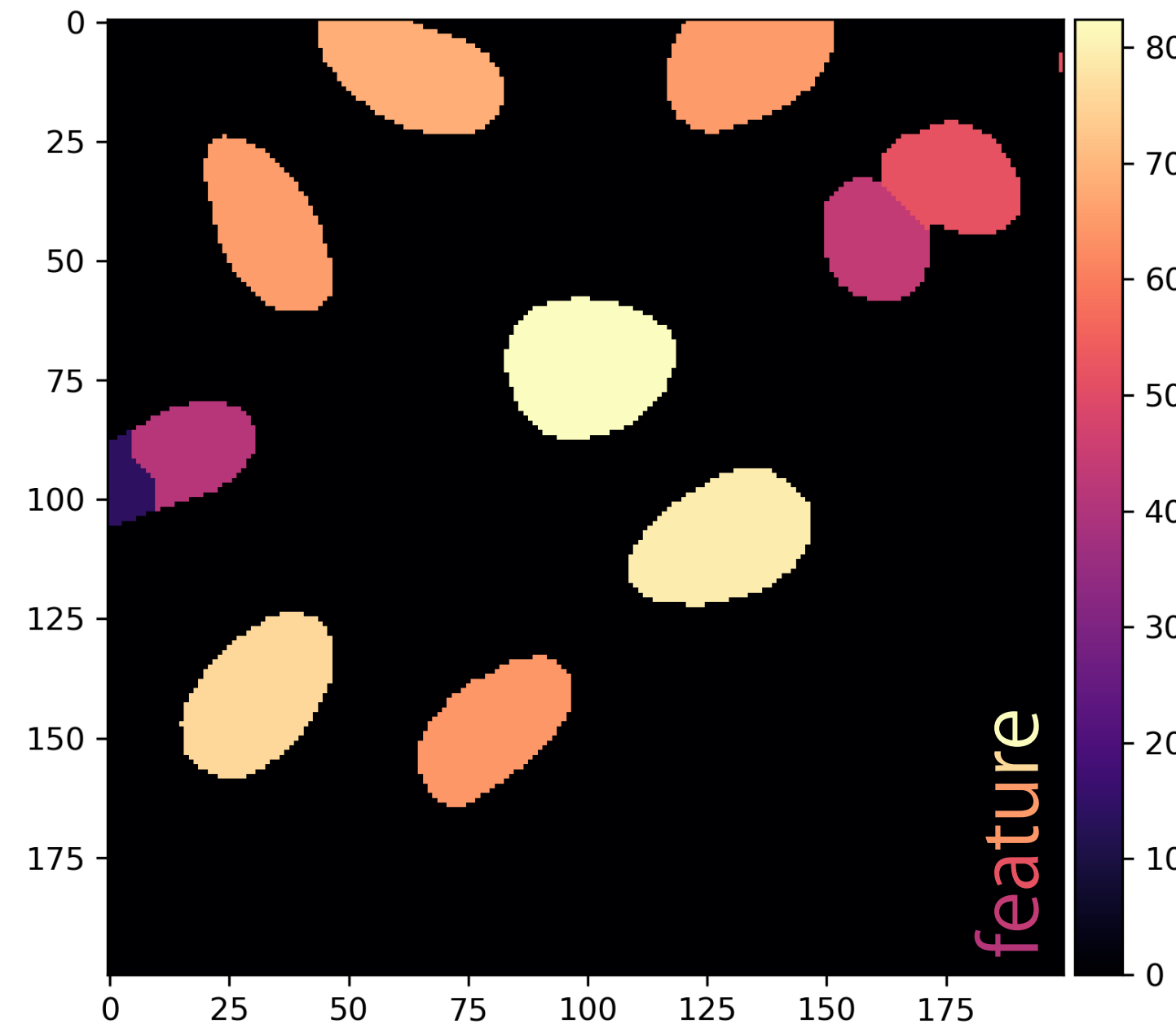
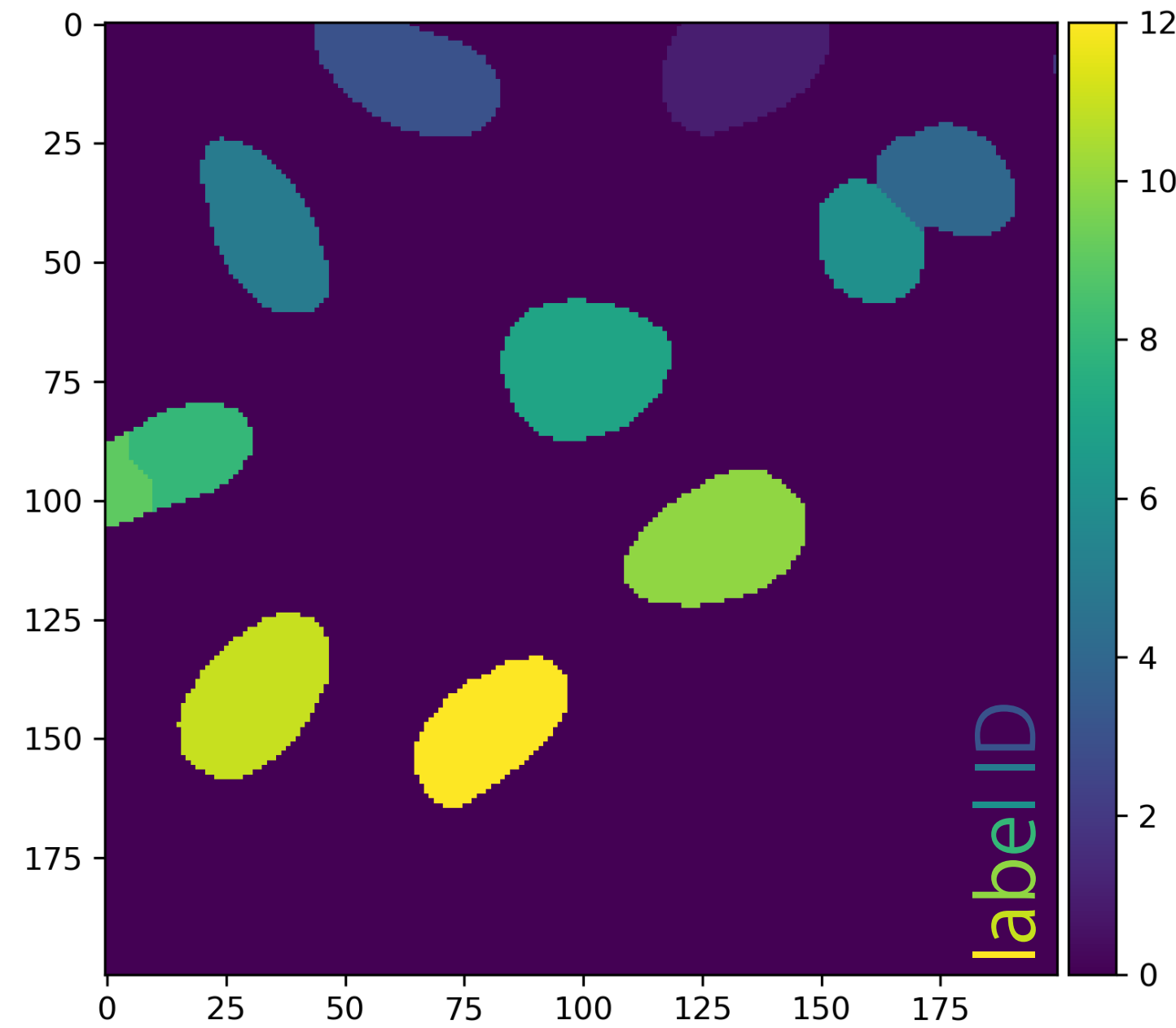
circularity

$$C = \frac{4\pi A}{P^2}$$

flatness  
(projection)



# Pitfalls in measurement robustness.



Discretisation  
impacts  
measurements!

size

2D: **area** & perimeter  
3D: volume & surface area

shape

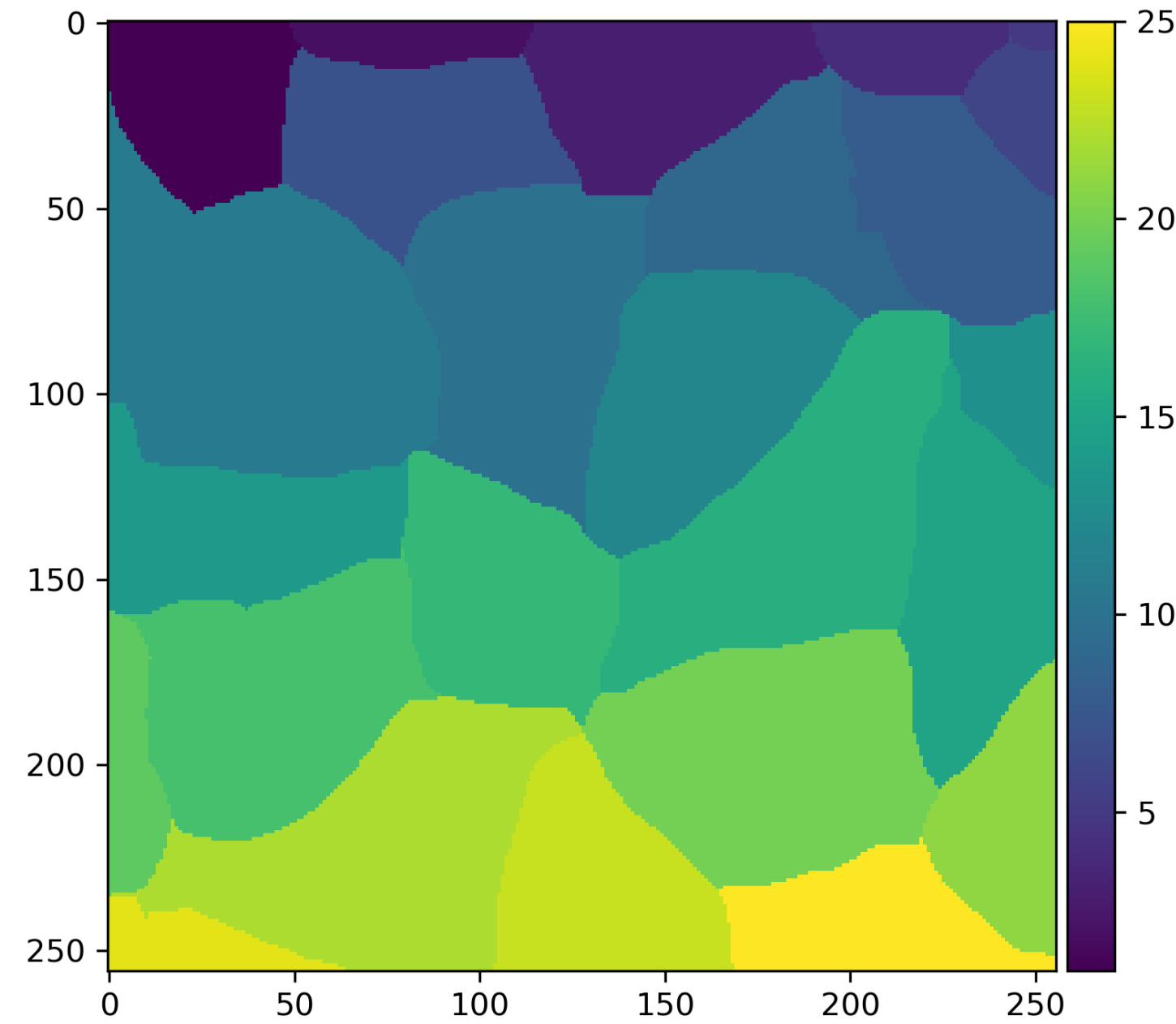
**axis length**, circularity,  
aspect ratio, eccentricity, etc.

# Pitfall example: perimeter calculation

circularity

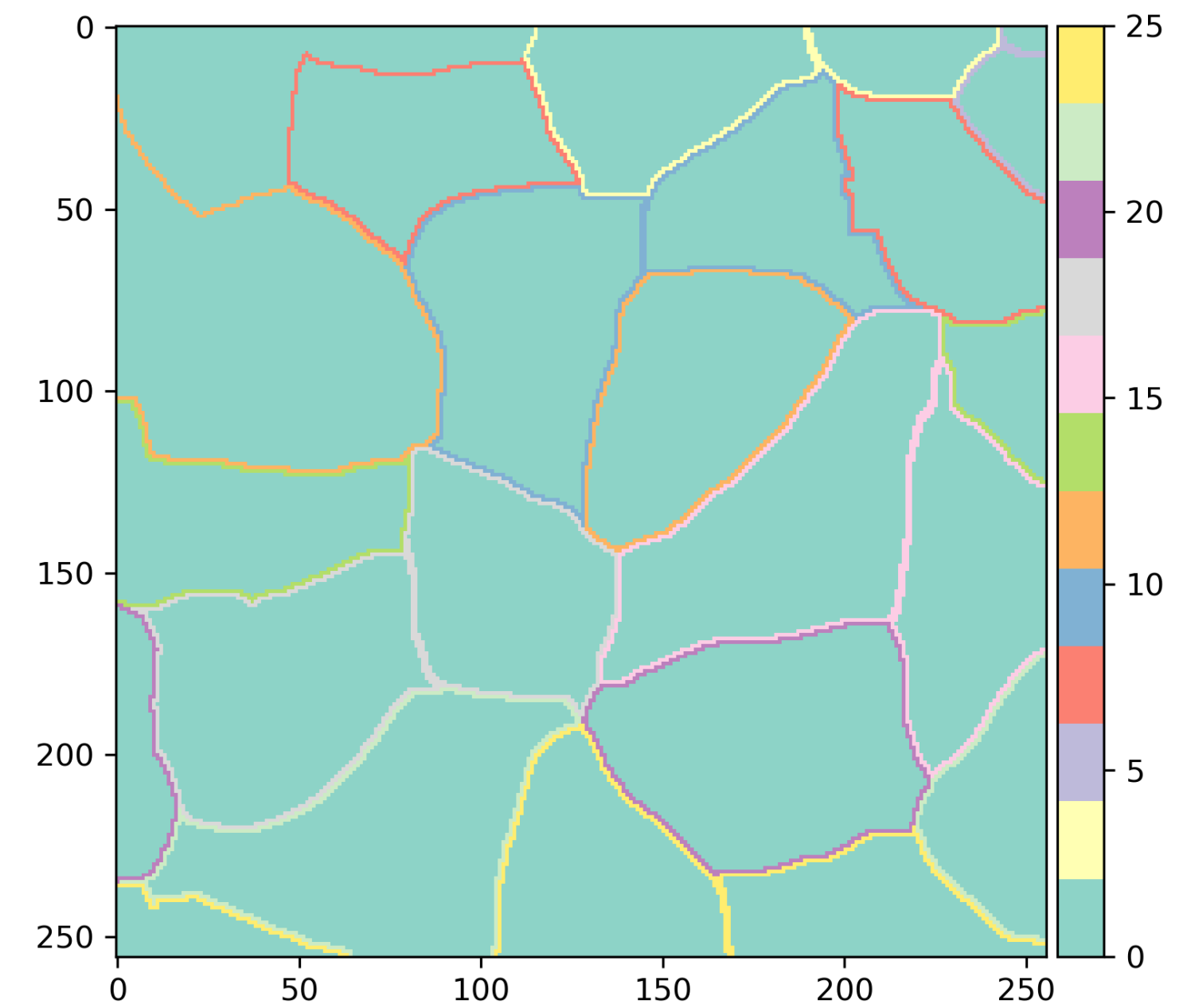
$$R = \frac{4\pi A}{P^2}$$

$\sqrt{2}$	1	$\sqrt{2}$
1	1	1
$\sqrt{2}$	1	$\sqrt{2}$

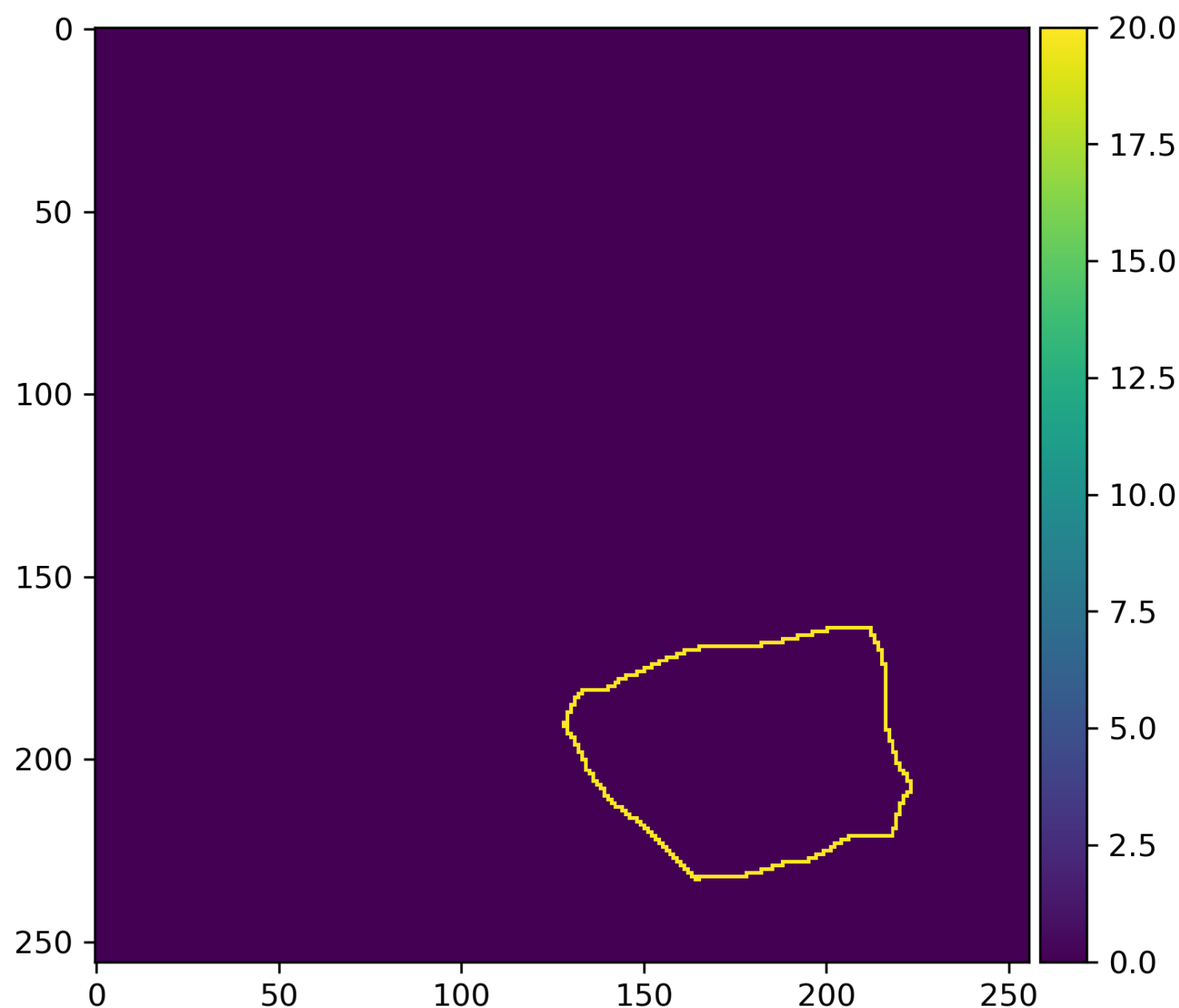


index segmentation

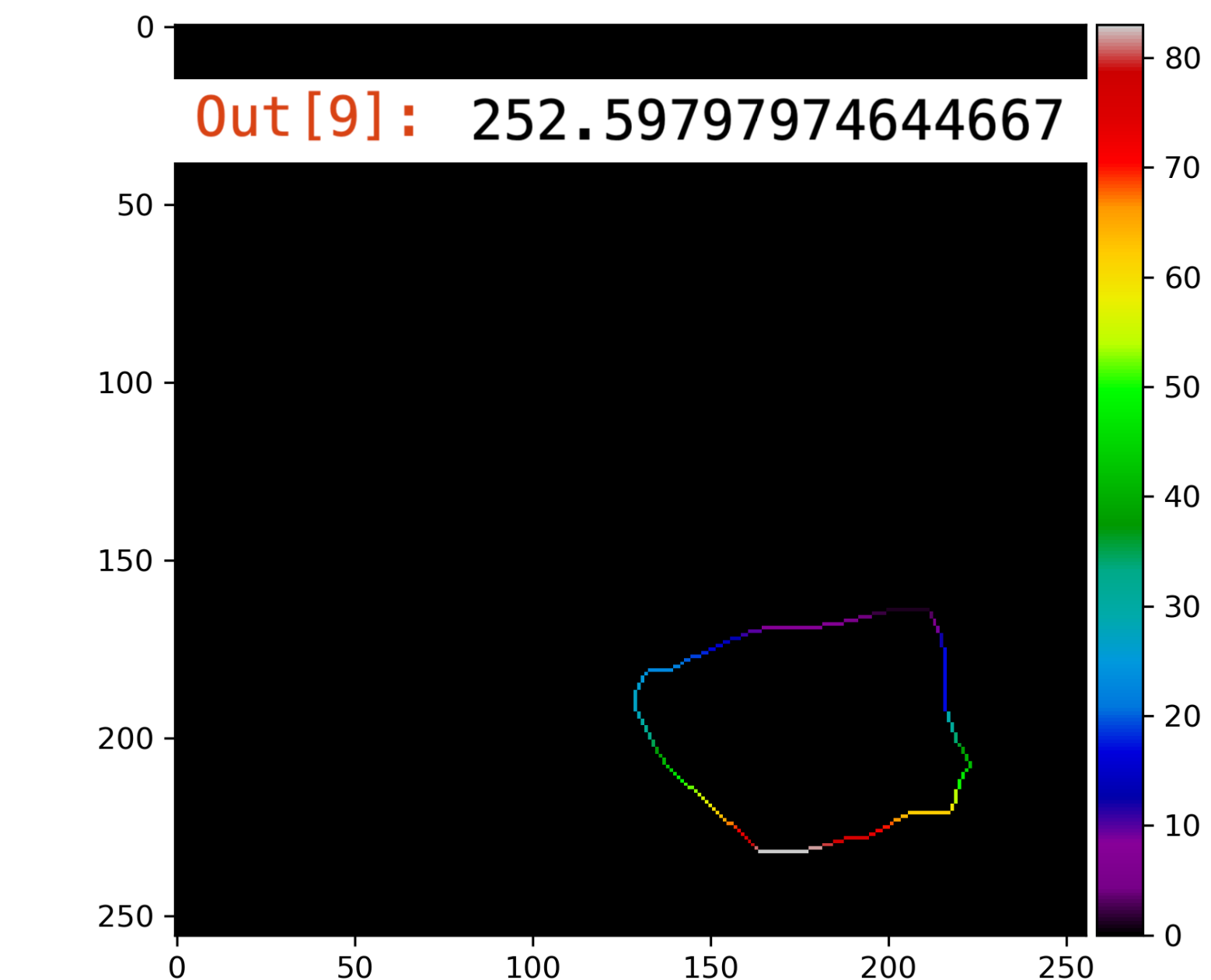
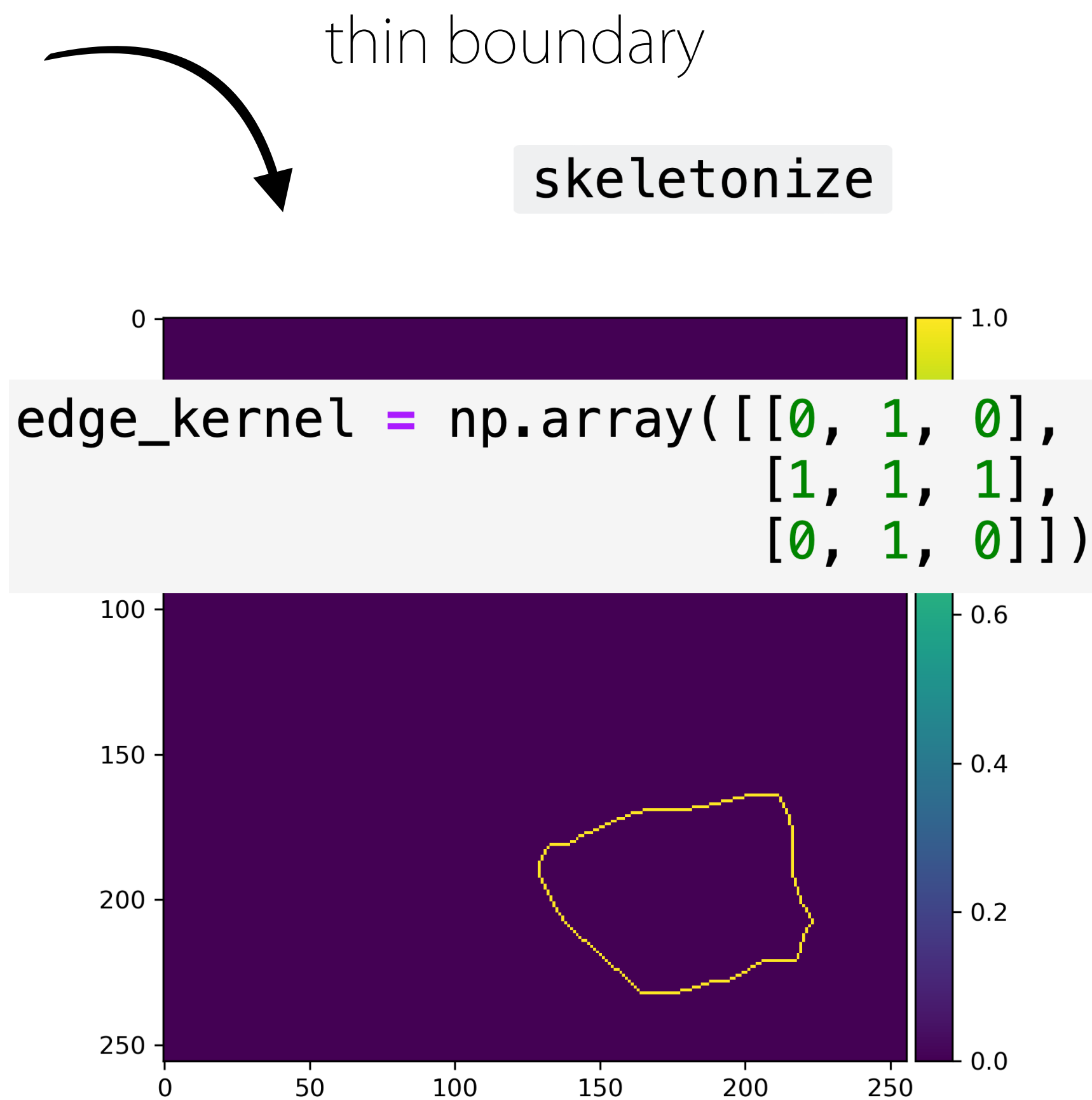
extract boundaries



# Pitfall example: perimeter calculation



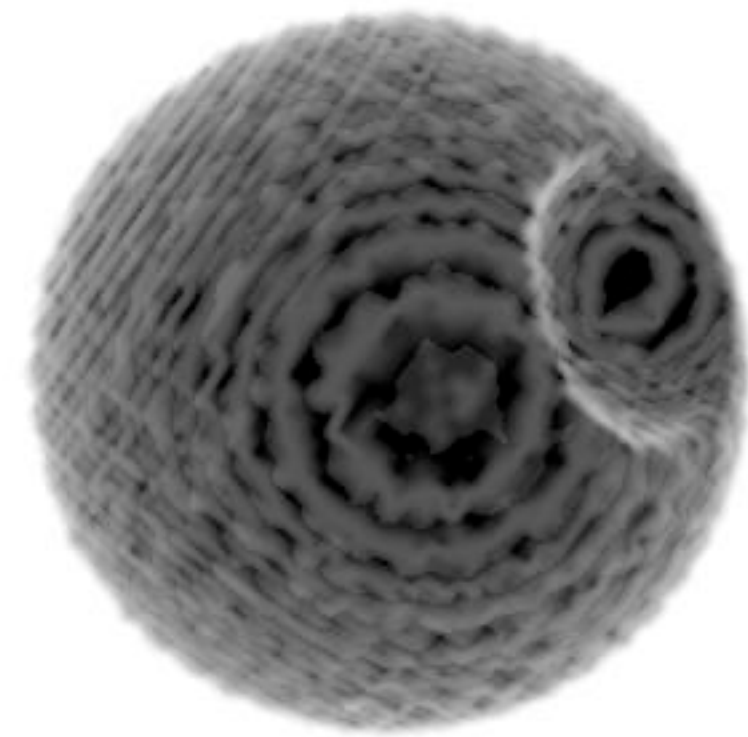
$\sqrt{2}$	1	$\sqrt{2}$
1	1	1
$\sqrt{2}$	1	$\sqrt{2}$



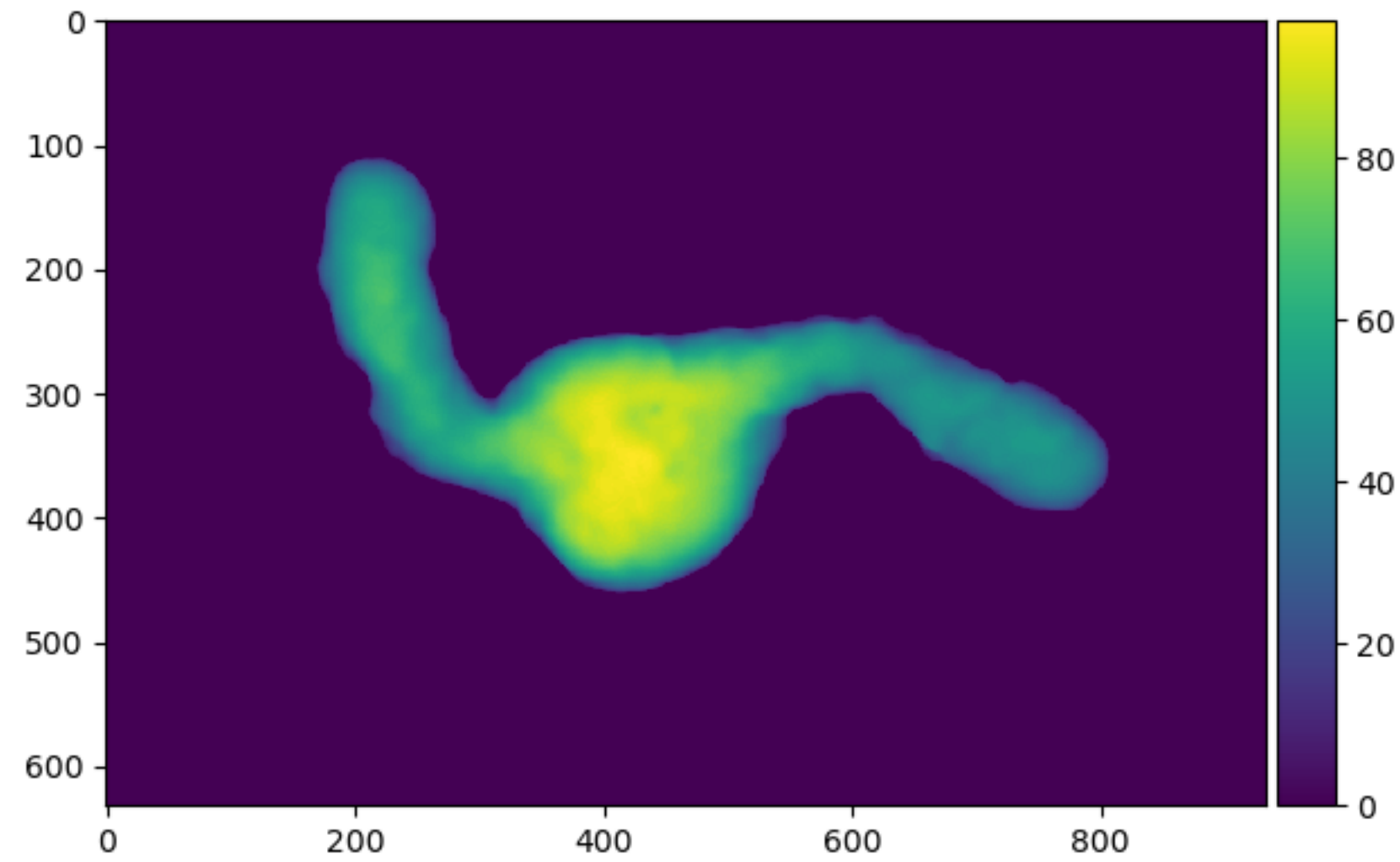
separate  $N_4$  and  $N_8$  boundary components

Dealing with complex shapes in 3D...

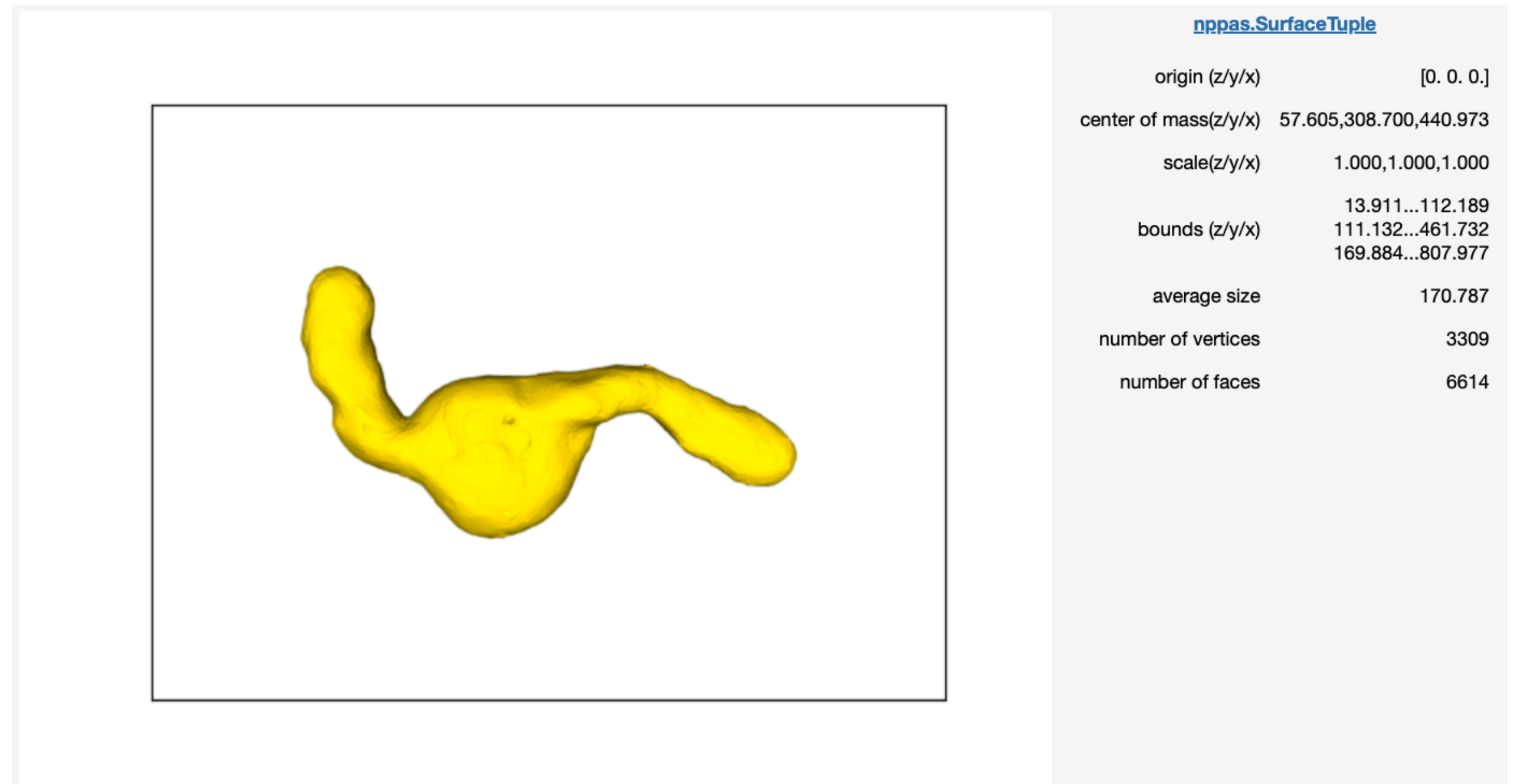
Dealing with complex shapes in 3D...



# Meshes can reduce discretisation errors.



marching cubes mesh creation



# Important Documentation & Reading

**skimage.measure** offers many functions for feature extraction from images (particularly **regionprops**):

<https://scikit-image.org/docs/dev/api/skimage.measure.html#skimage.measure.regionprops>

**vedo.mesh** is useful for shape, size and positional feature extraction:

<https://vedo.embl.es/docs/vedo/mesh.html>

**pyclesperanto\_prototype** offers many example workflows for intensity, size and positional features:

[https://github.com/clEsperanto/pyclesperanto\\_prototype](https://github.com/clEsperanto/pyclesperanto_prototype)

**FocalPlane** feature extraction blogpost by Mara Lampert

<https://focalplane.biologists.com/2023/05/03/feature-extraction-in-napari/>