

# Self-Similar Vector Fields



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ÉCOLE POLYTECHNIQUE  
FÉDÉRALE DE LAUSANNE

# SELF-SIMILAR VECTOR FIELDS

## Self-similarity:

What?

– Geometric

– Stochastic ( $\Sigma\tau\omicron\chi\alpha\sigma\mu\omicron\varsigma$ )


Why?

What's a vector field?

Our work:

Theory: Mathematical Models  
for self-similar flow

Practice: Reconstruction of  
flow from measurements



SELF-SIMILARITY

WHAT IS SELF-SIMILARITY?

WHAT IS SELF-SIMILARITY?

SIMILARITY TO SELF :)

WHAT IS SELF-SIMILARITY?

SIMILARITY TO SELF :)



"FRACTAL"  
SNOWFLAKE



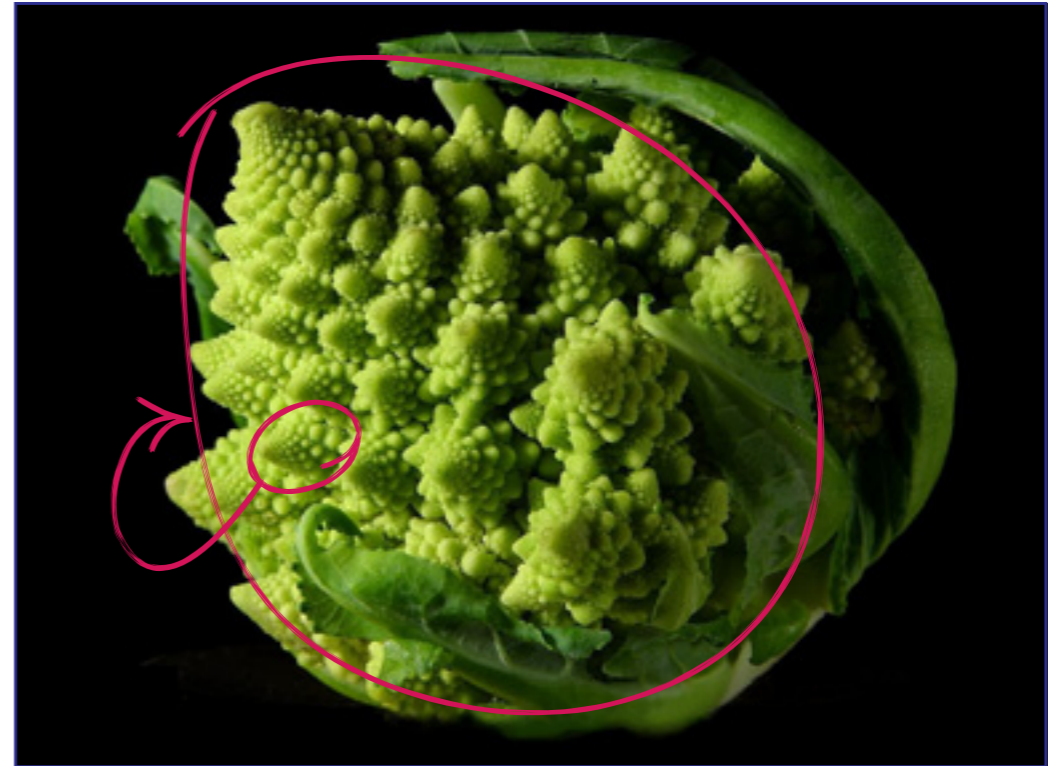
"FRACTAL"  
BROCCOLI

WHAT IS SELF-SIMILARITY?

SIMILARITY TO SELF :)



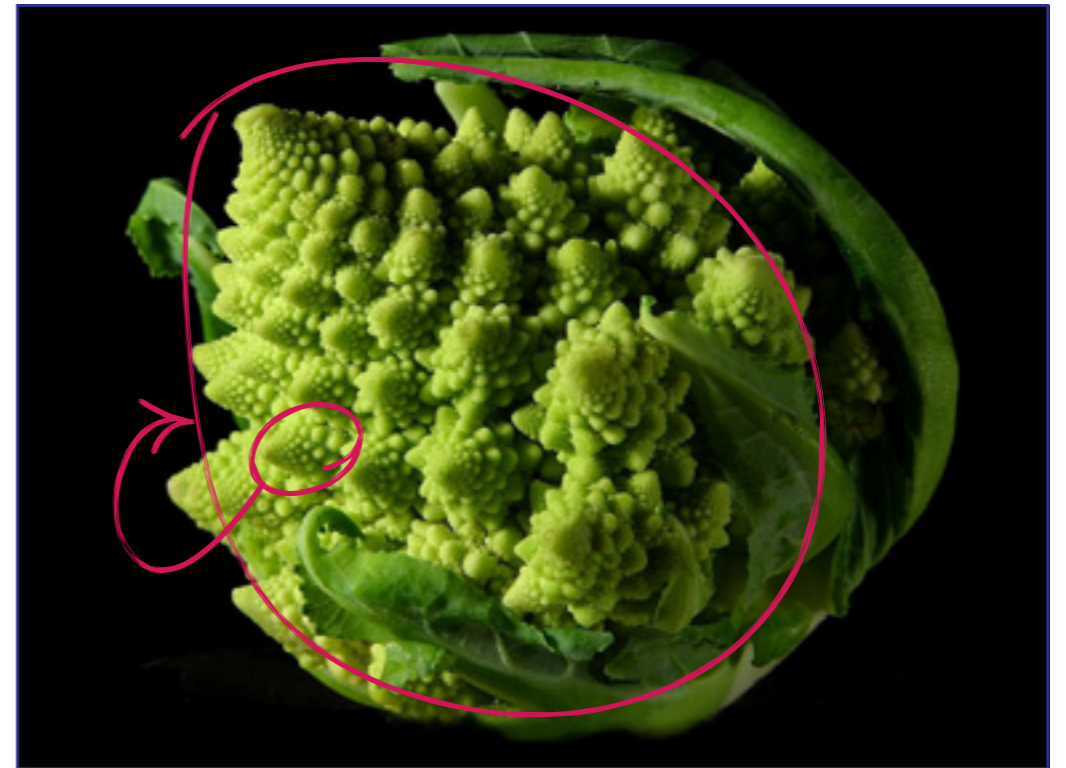
"FRACTAL" SNOWFLAKE



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WHAT IS SELF-SIMILARITY?

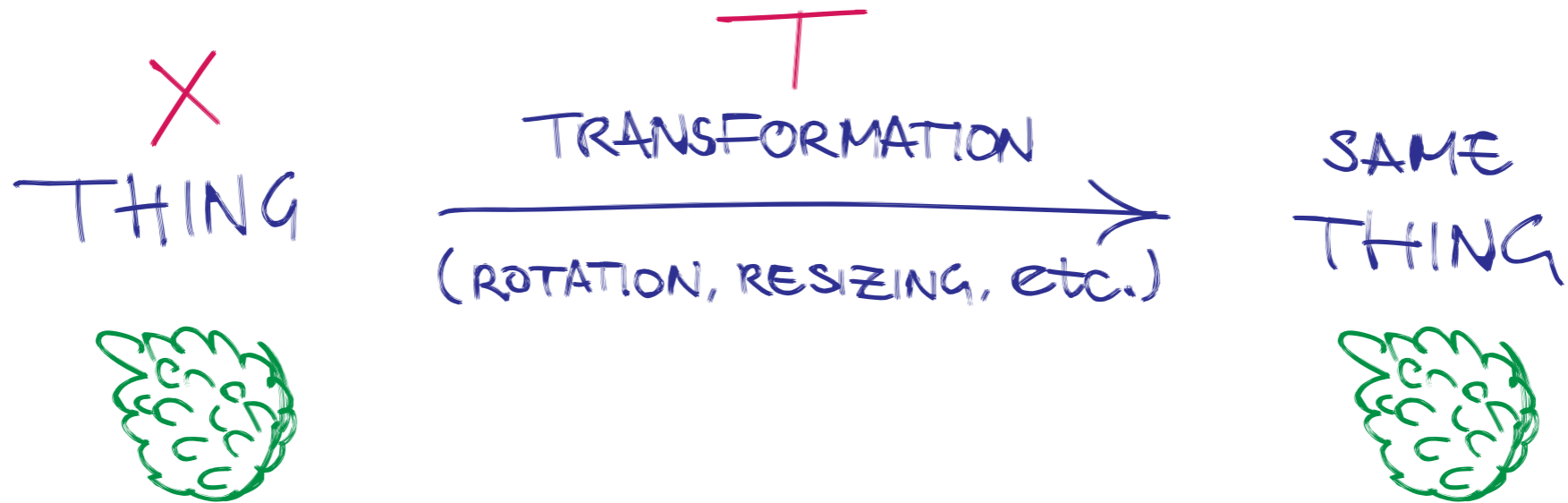
SIMILARITY TO SELF :)



GEOMETRIC: SHAPE IS INVARIANT  
UNDER TRANSFORMATIONS



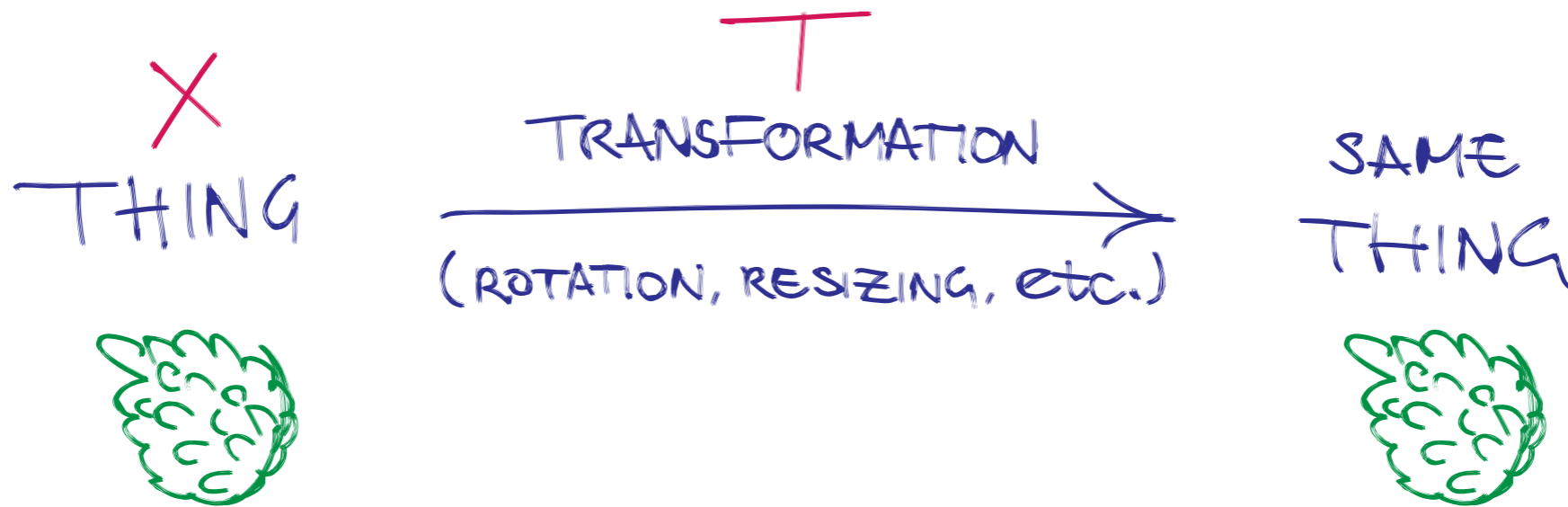
WHAT IS SELF-SIMILARITY?



**GEOMETRIC:** SHAPE IS INVARIANT UNDER TRANSFORMATIONS

WHAT IS SELF-SIMILARITY?

$$X = TX$$



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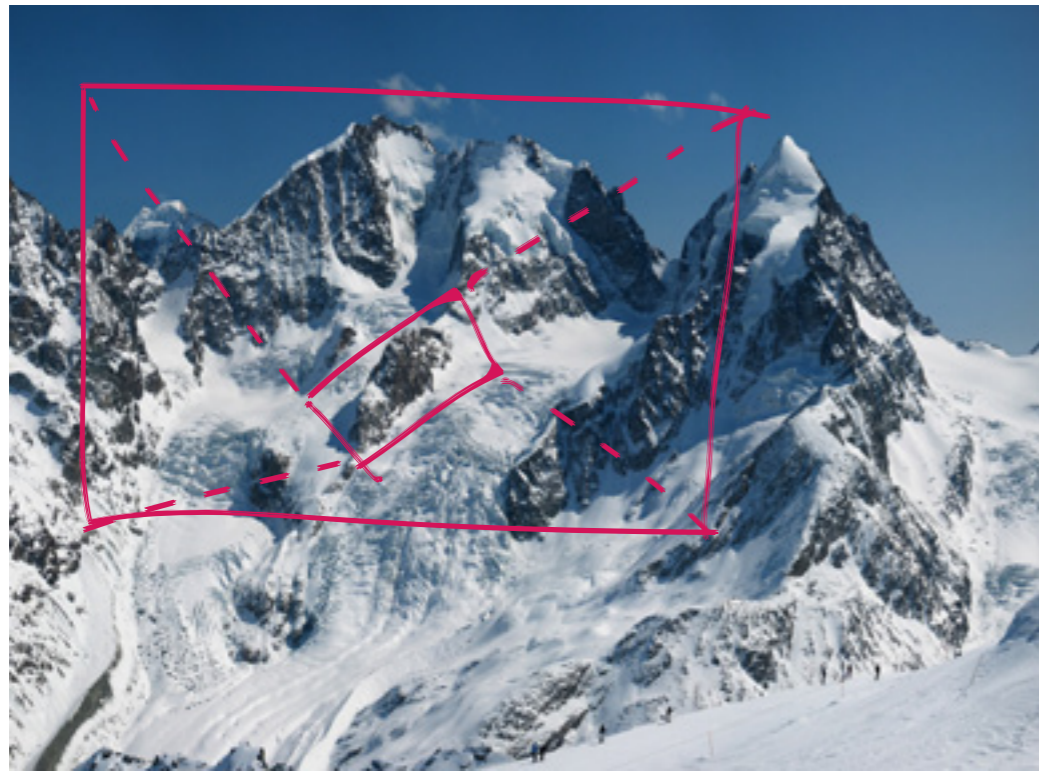
WHAT IS SELF-SIMILARITY?

ANOTHER KIND OF  
SELF-SIMILARITY



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ANOTHER KIND OF  
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WHAT IS SELF-SIMILARITY?

THING

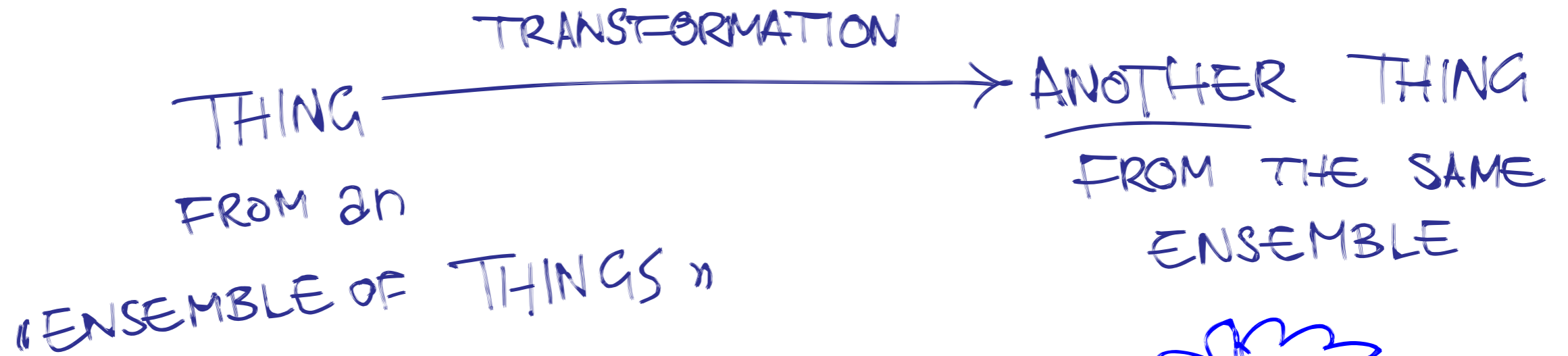


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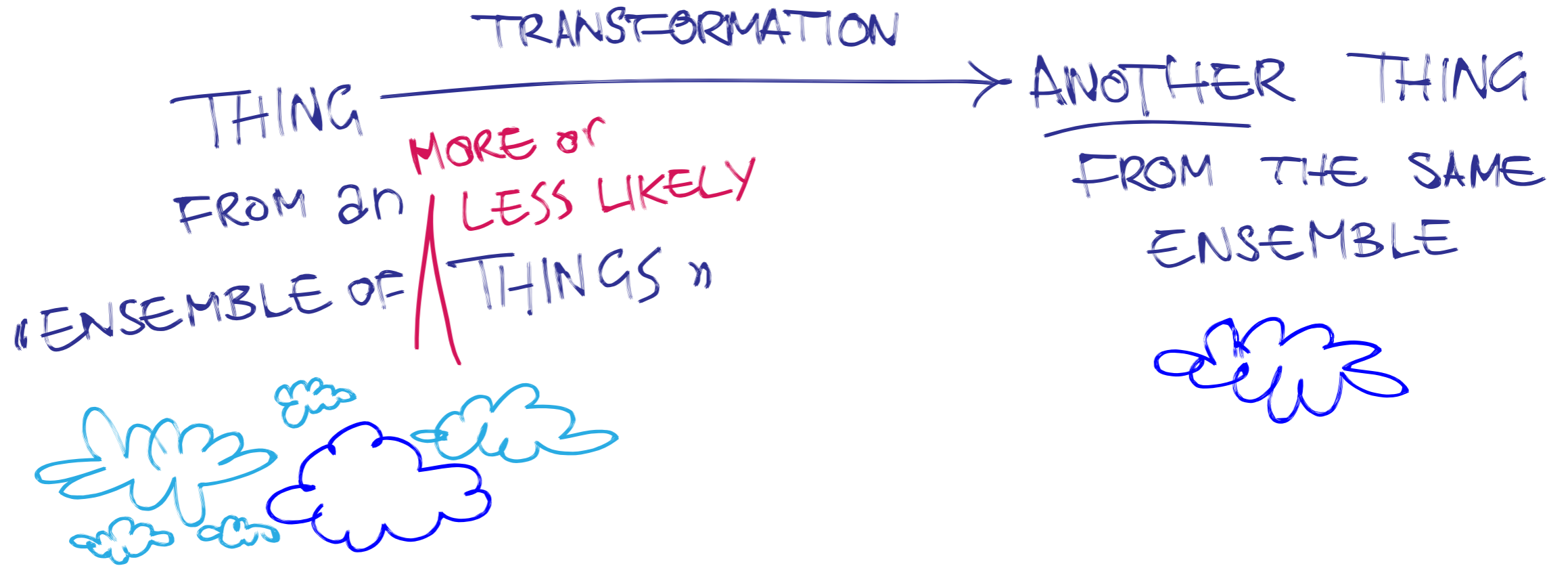
THING  
FROM AN  
"ENSEMBLE OF THINGS"



WHAT IS SELF-SIMILARITY?

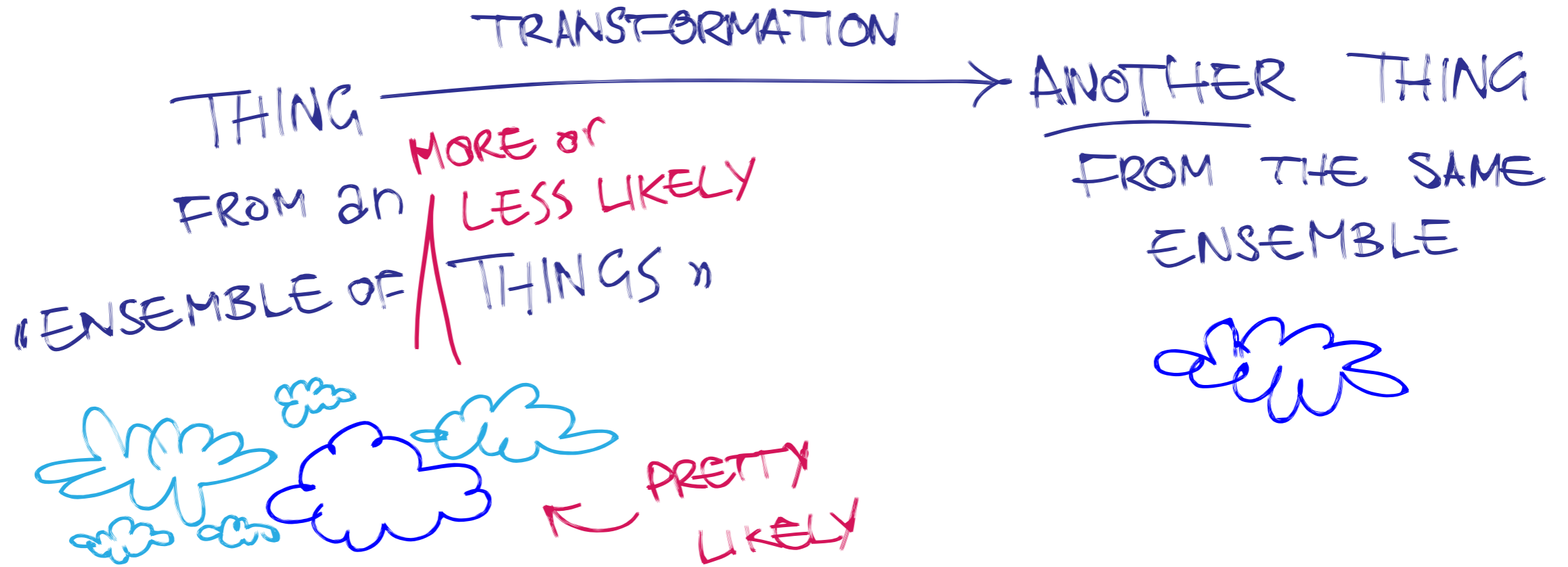


WHAT IS SELF-SIMILARITY?

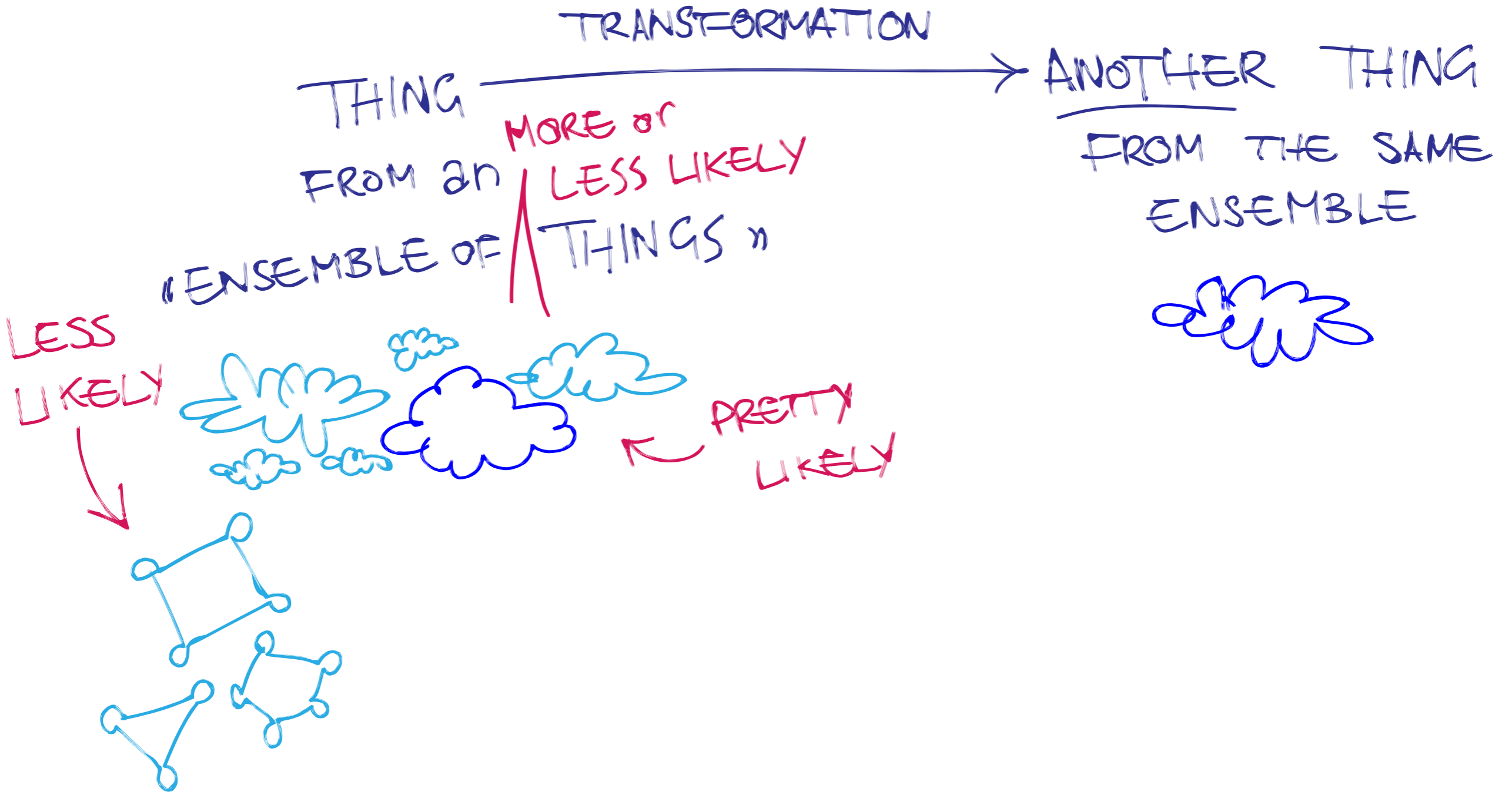




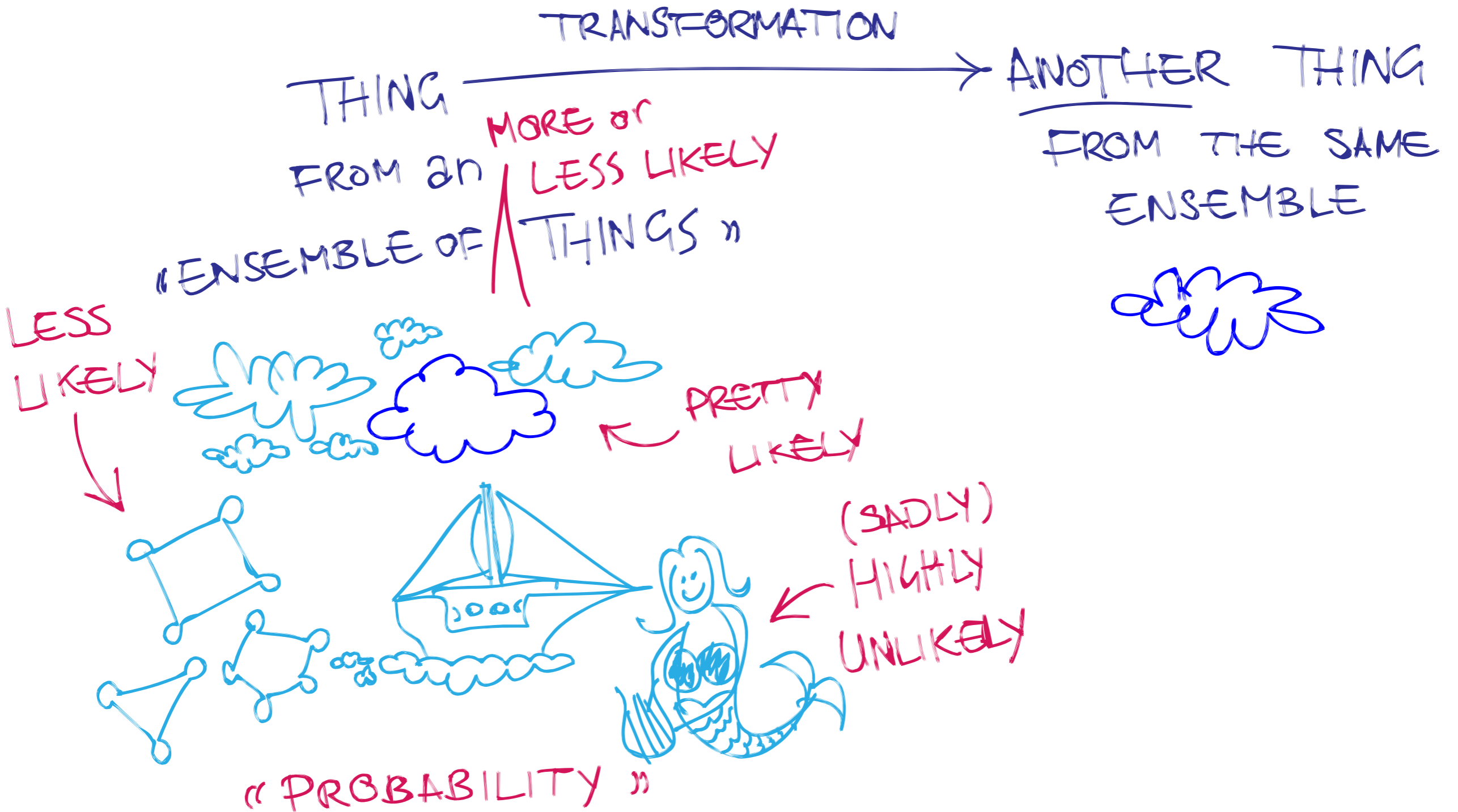
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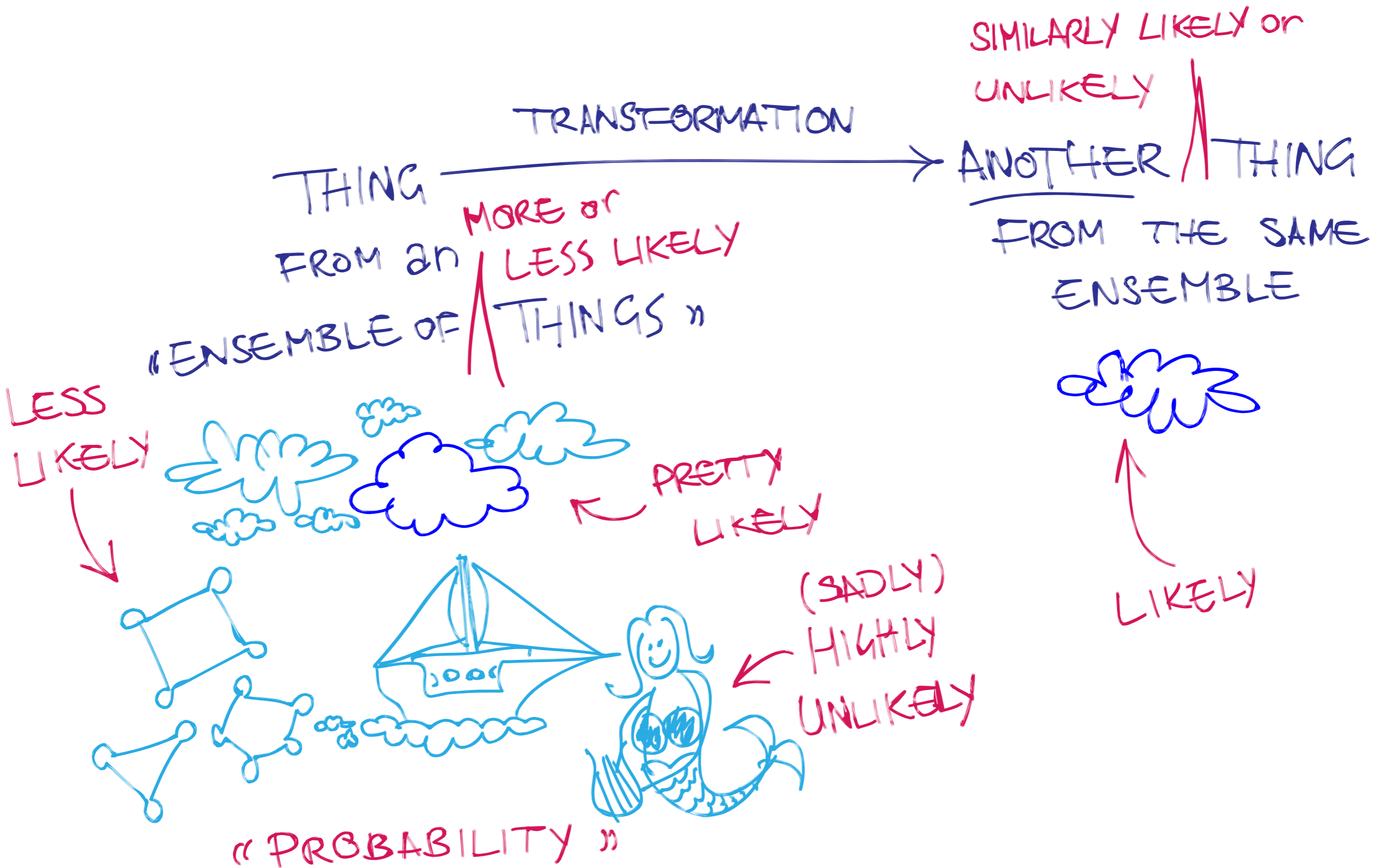
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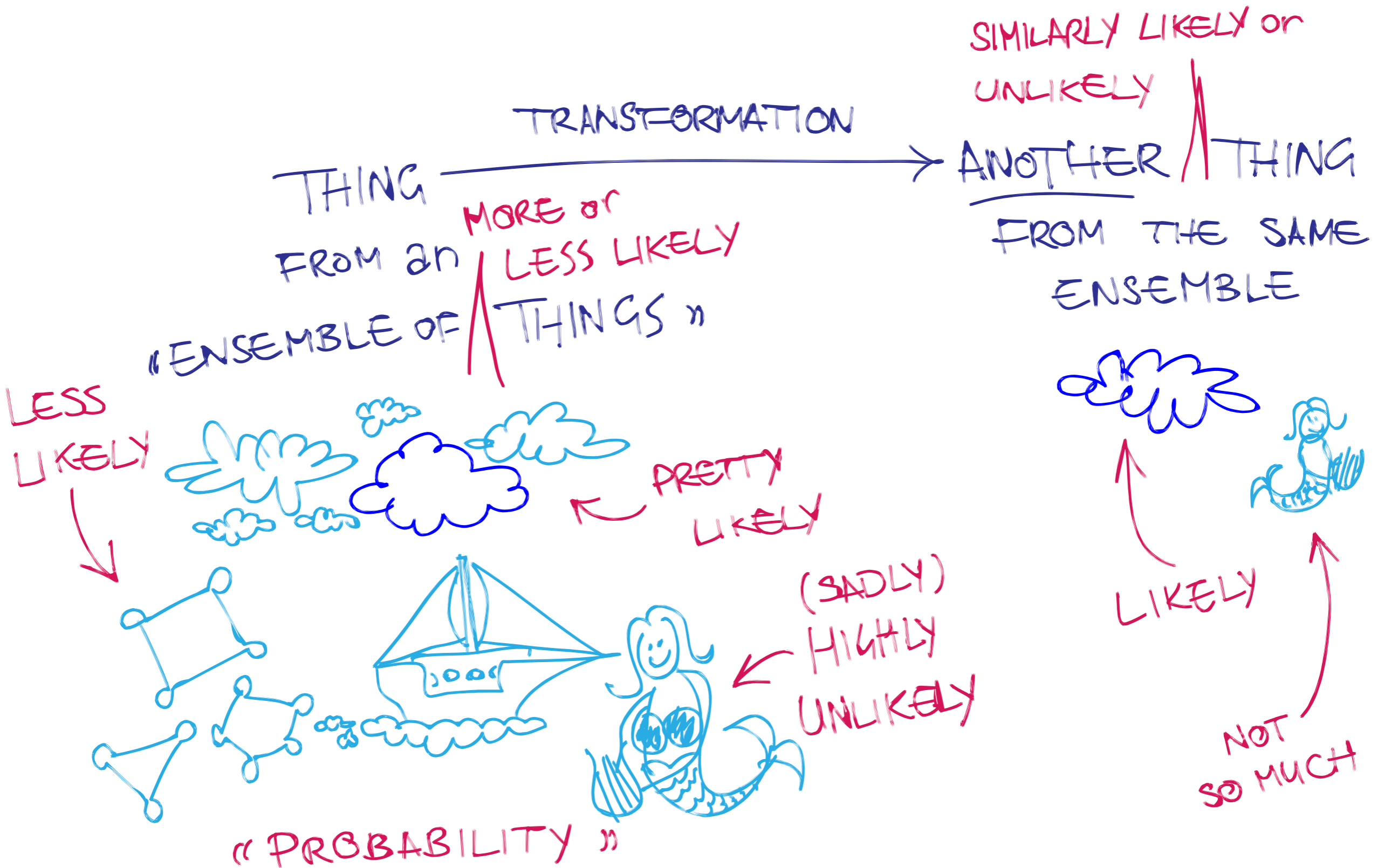
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WHAT IS SELF-SIMILARITY?

$$X = TX$$



WHAT IS SELF-SIMILARITY?

$$X = TX \text{ in probability law}$$



**STOCHASTIC:** ENSEMBLE PROBABILITIES ARE INVARIANT UNDER TRANSFORMATIONS

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ΣΤΟΧΑΣΤΟΣ

**STOCHASTIC:** ENSEMBLE PROBABILITIES ARE INVARIANT UNDER TRANSFORMATIONS

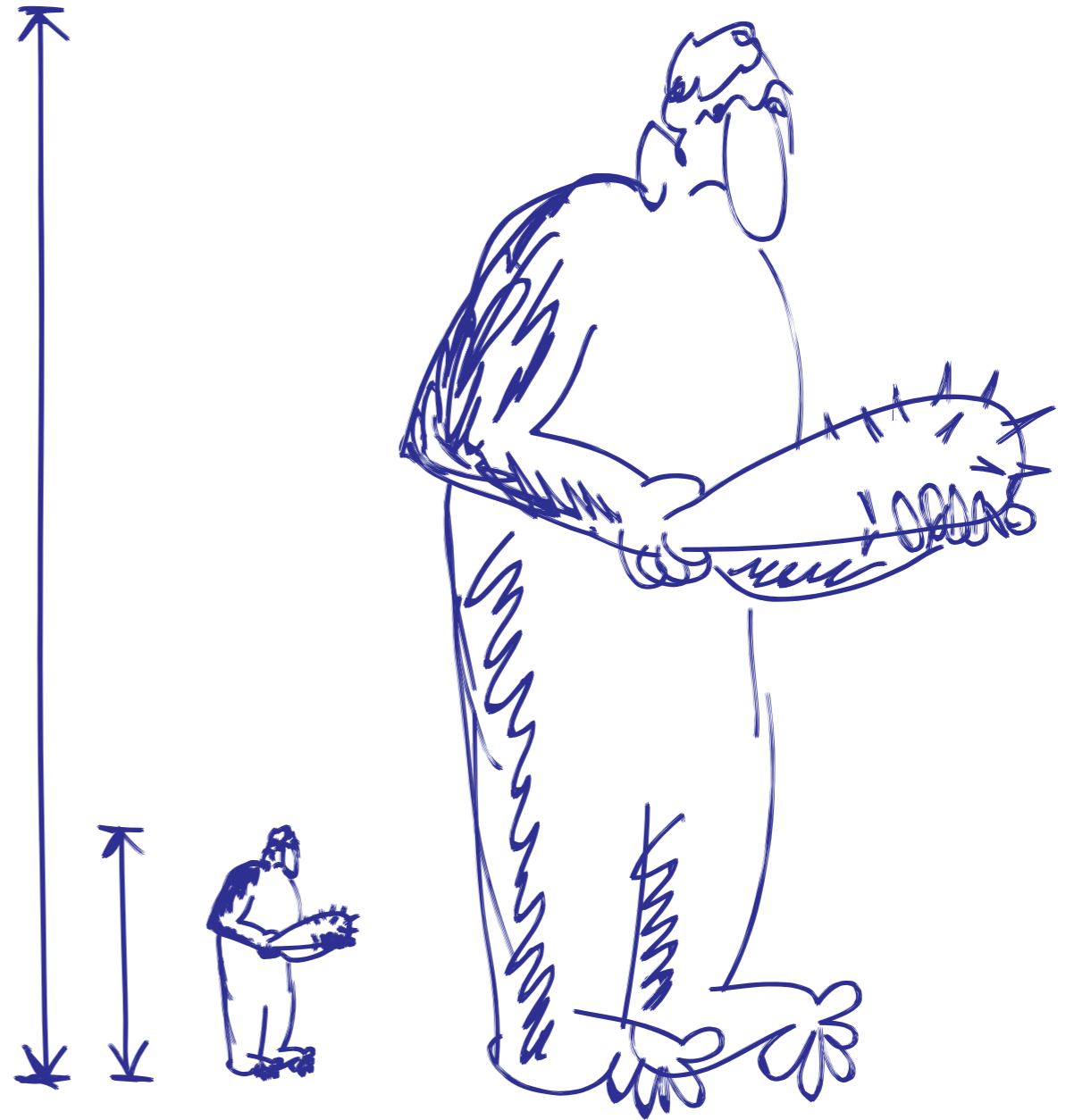


WHAT TRANSFORMATIONS ?

# WHAT TRANSFORMATIONS ?



- ROTATION -



- SCALING -

WHY SELF-SIMILARITY/INVARIANCE ?

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(PSEUDO-) PRINCIPLE of INSUFFICIENT REASON :

« If you don't have a reason to prefer one answer to another, give equal consideration to both »

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all { directions  
sizes } are equal

# WHY SELF-SIMILARITY/INVARIANCE?

(PSEUDO-) PRINCIPLE of INSUFFICIENT REASON:

« If you don't have a reason to prefer one answer to another, give equal consideration to both »

all { directions  
sizes } are equal (although in practice some are more equal than others ...)

LISTEN TO SELF-SIMILAR "MUSIC"



<http://bigwww.epfl.ch/tafti/gal/>

(GO TO THE BOTTOM OF THE PAGE)


BACK TO THE TITLE...

SELF-SIMILAR VECTOR FIELDS  
?

✓

ROTATION - INVARIANT  
SCALE - INVARIANT



  
VECTOR FIELDS

WHAT'S A FIELD?

WHAT'S A FIELD?

A REGION IN  
SPACE and/or TIME ...



VALUES ATTACHED  
TO POINTS IN THIS REGION

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SPACE and/or TIME ...

Examples: This room,  
an ice-skating rink



VALUES ATTACHED

TO POINTS IN THIS REGION

Examples: Temperature  
Wind speed

# WHAT'S A FIELD?

A REGION IN  
SPACE and/or TIME ...

Examples: This room,  
an ice-skating rink



VALUES ATTACHED

TO POINTS IN THIS REGION

Examples: Temperature  
Wind speed

SCALAR: No direction, just values

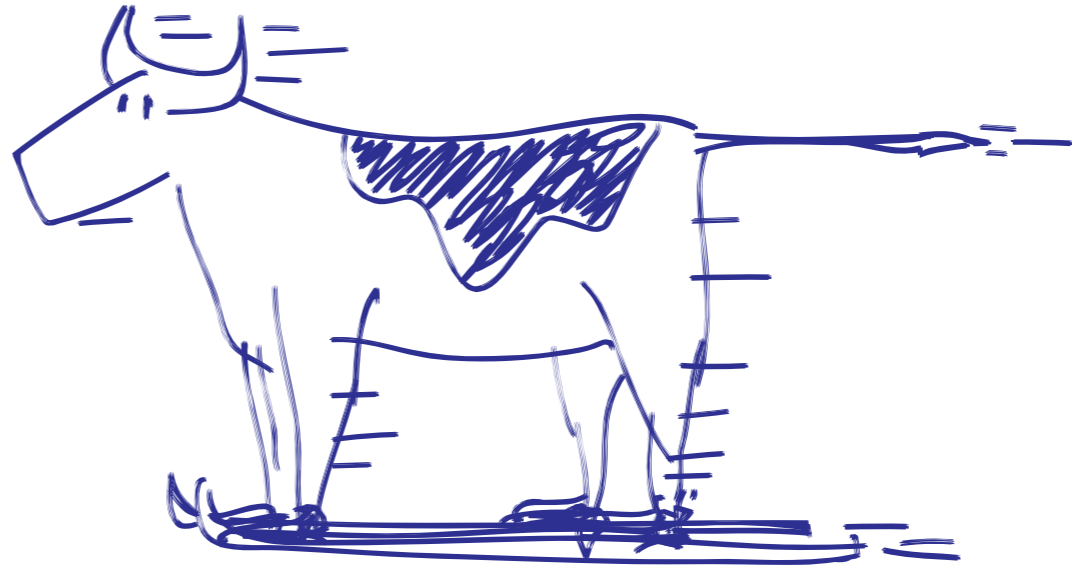
VECTOR: Values and directions

# ROTATION OF VECTOR FIELDS

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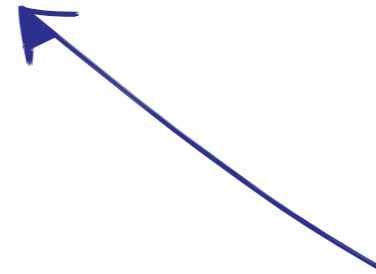




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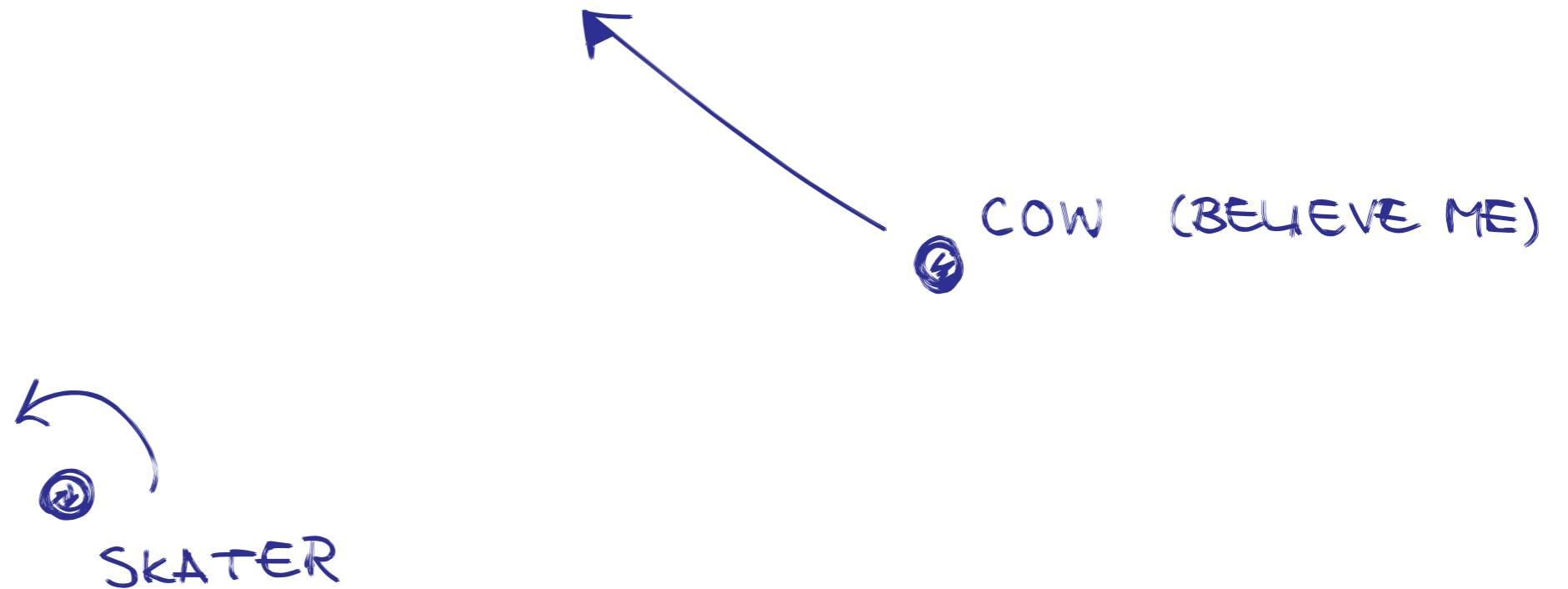
④ COW (BELIEVE ME)

# ROTATION OF VECTOR FIELDS

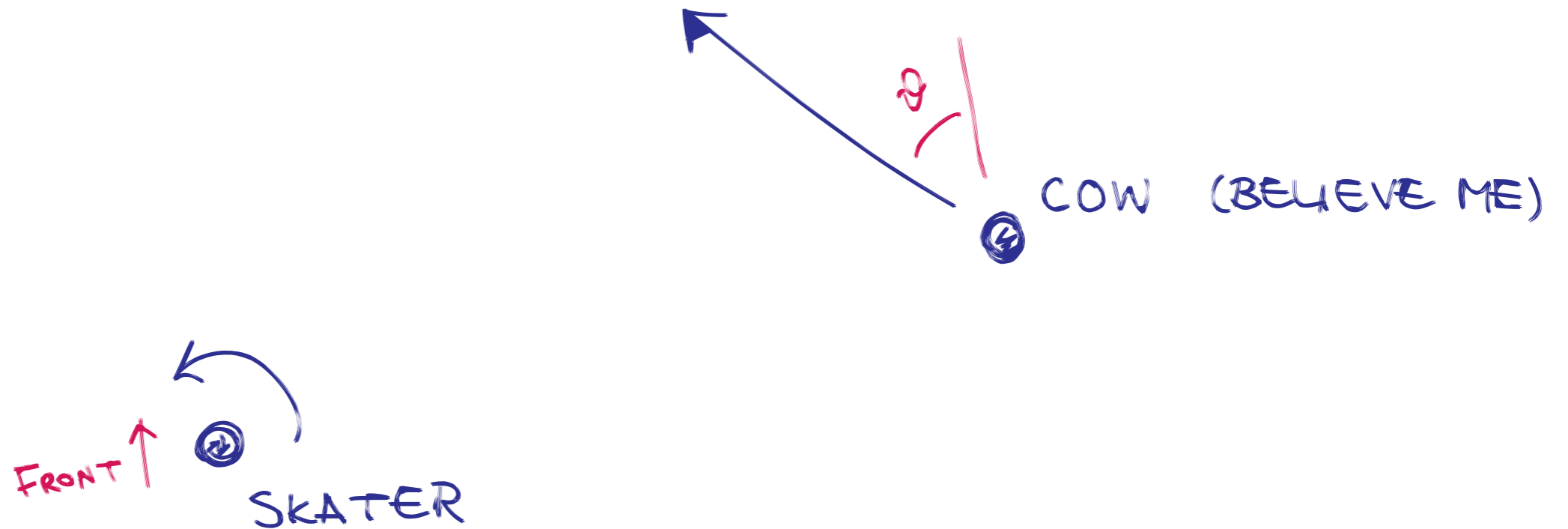


COW (BELIEVE ME)

# ROTATION OF VECTOR FIELDS



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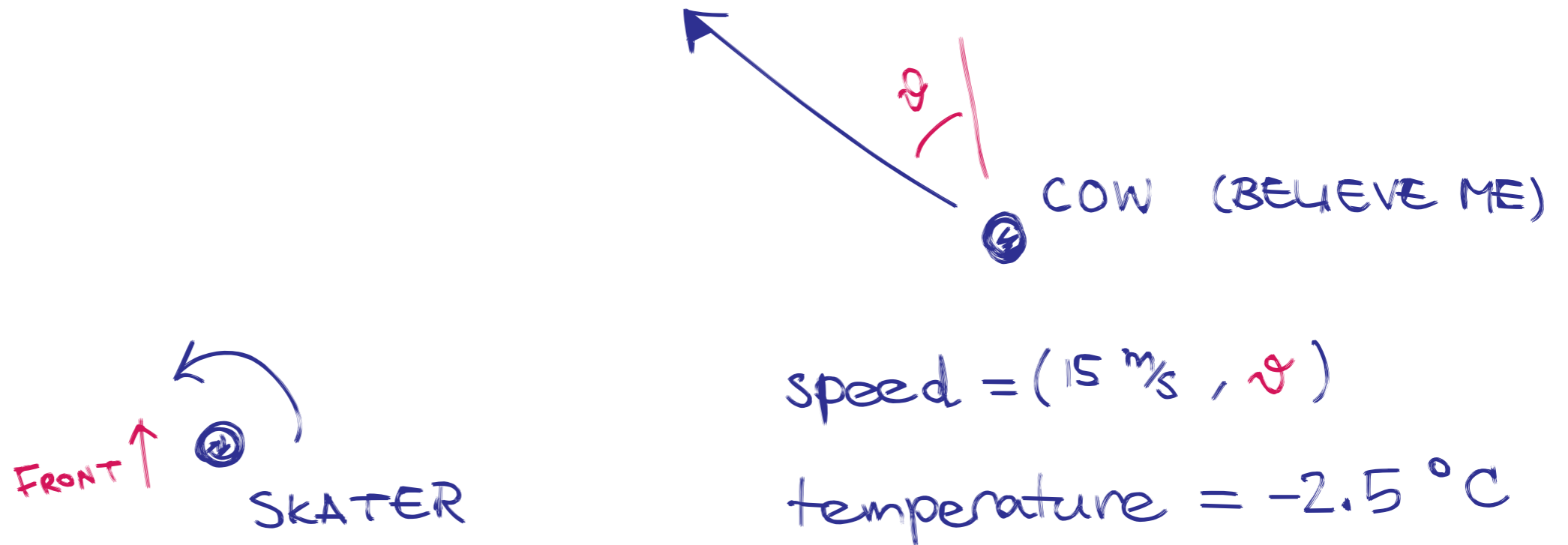
# ROTATION OF VECTOR FIELDS



$$\text{speed} = (15 \text{ m/s}, \theta)$$

$$\text{temperature} = -2.5^\circ\text{C}$$

# ROTATION OF VECTOR FIELDS



VECTOR: Numerical representation  
CHANGES with rotation

SCALAR: " " " "  
DOESN'T CHANGE " "

OUR WORK

THEORY & PRACTICE

# OUR WORK

## 1 THEORY

DEVELOP STOCHASTIC SELF-SIMILAR VECTOR FIELD MODELS

## 2 PRACTICE

|| SELF-SIMILAR ALGORITHMS TO RECONSTRUCT VECTOR FIELDS FROM DISTORTED MEASUREMENTS

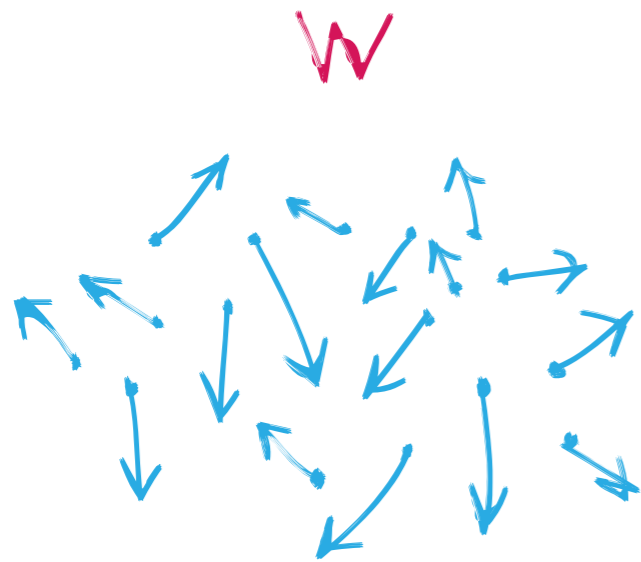


# THEORY

## MATHEMATICAL SELF-SIMILAR MODELS

« In theory, there is no difference between theory and practice ...

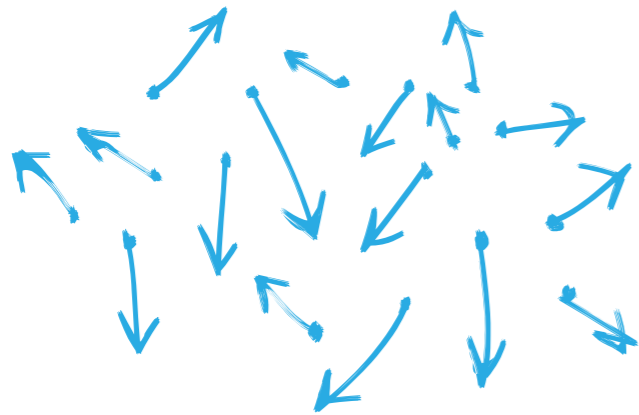
# MODELS



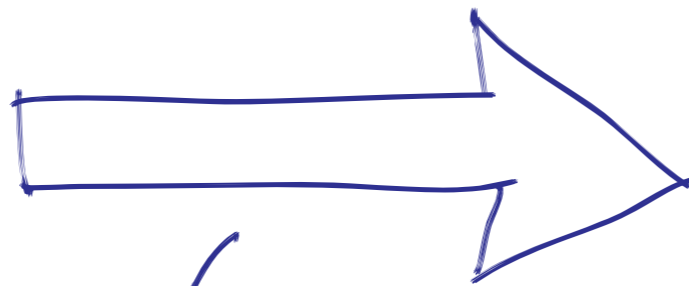
TAKE INDEPENDENT  
RANDOM VECTORS at  
EVERY POINT

# MODELS

W

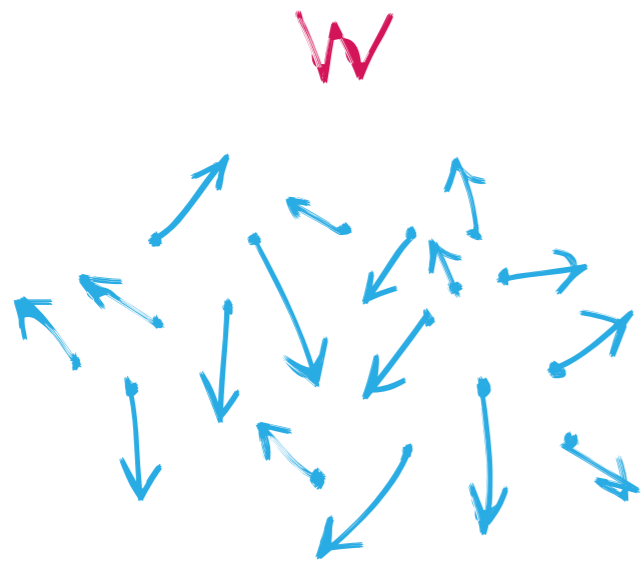


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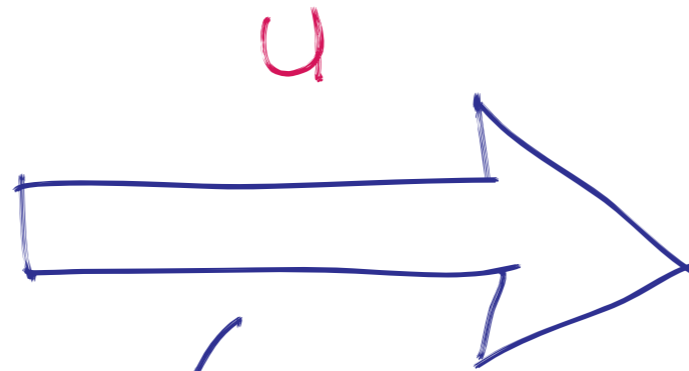


MIX THEM USING a  
"SIMILARITY-PRESERVING" OPERATOR

# MODELS



TAKE INDEPENDENT  
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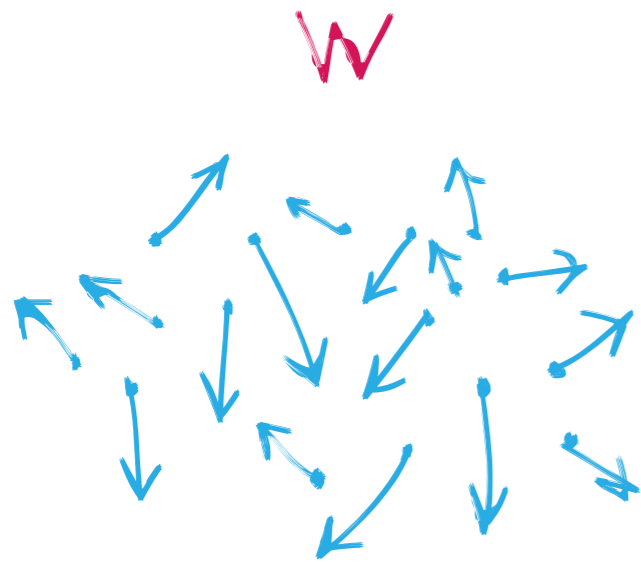


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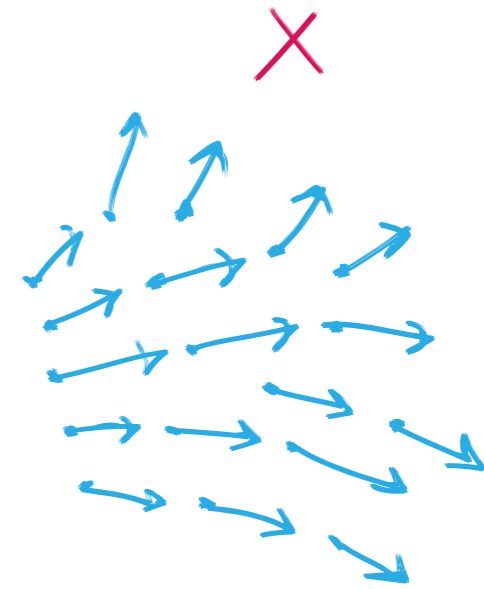
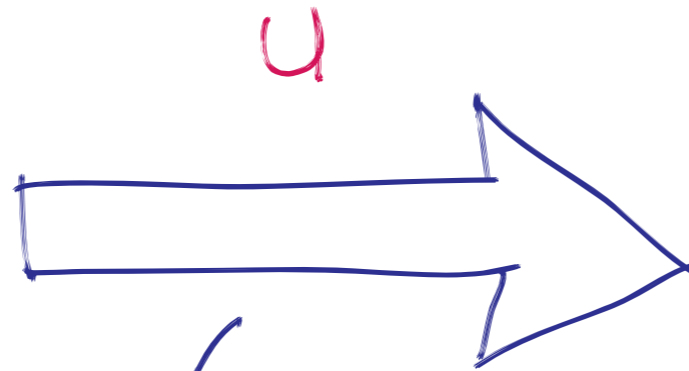
- ADDS REGULARITY

- KEEPS { ROTATION -  
SCALE - INVARIANCE

# MODELS



TAKE INDEPENDENT  
RANDOM VECTORS at  
EVERY POINT



MIX THEM USING a  
"SIMILARITY-PRESERVING" OPERATOR

- ADDS REGULARITY

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SCALE - INVARIANCE

# MODELS

THEOREM :

« We have them all »

MOREOVER, WE CAN CONTROL

ROTATIONAL BEHAVIOUR  
(WHIRLPOOLS)

and

COMPRESSIVE BEHAVIOUR  
(DENSITY)

PROOF :

$$c = a + b + d$$

$$c = (T \cdot S \cdot (\Omega \cdot 10^3) + 3\alpha + 2 \cdot 3 \ln 11)^2$$

$$c = (T \cdot S \cdot \log \frac{1}{x} \cdot P + 3\alpha + 6 \ln 11)^2$$

$$c = \left[ \int_{x_1}^{x_2} \sum_{i=1}^n \alpha dx + \frac{3[(3+7x)^2 + 6 + 3T]}{(5+y)(8+z)+1} + 6 \ln 11 \right]^2$$


$$c = \left[ \int_{x_1}^{x_2} \sum_{i=1}^n \frac{(3+7x)^2 + 6 + 3T}{(5+y)(8+z)+1} dx + \frac{3[(3+7x)^2 + 6 + 3T]}{(5+y)(8+z)+1} + 6 \ln 11 \right]^2$$

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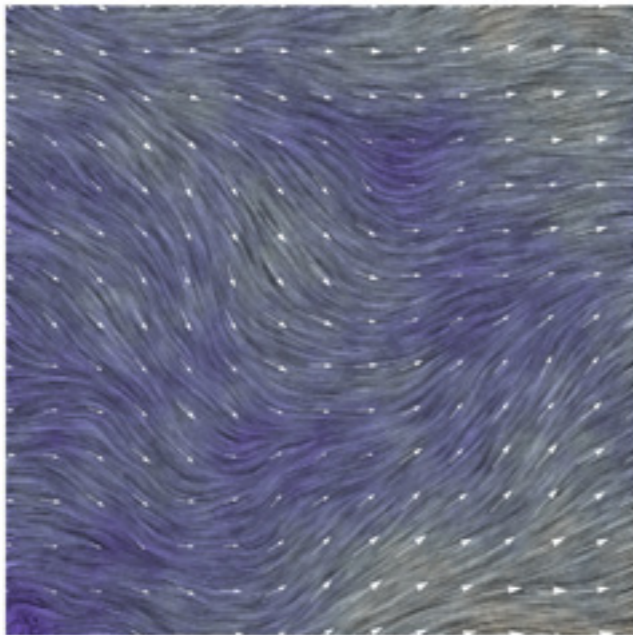
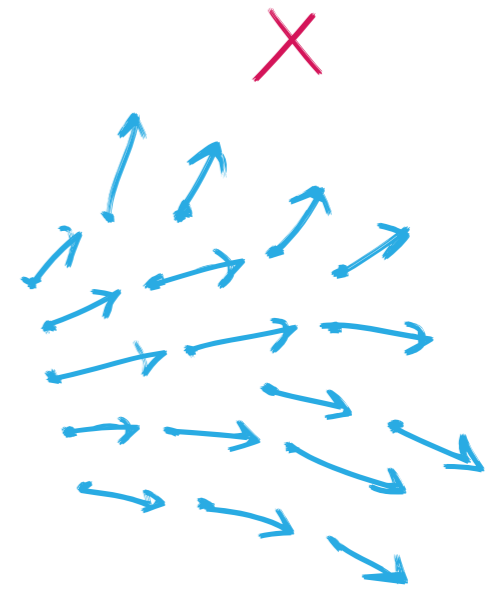
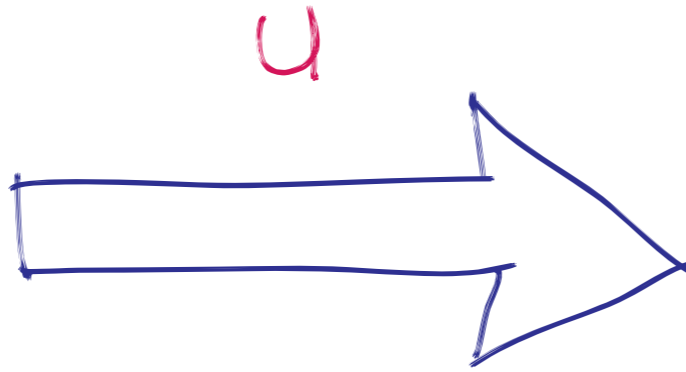
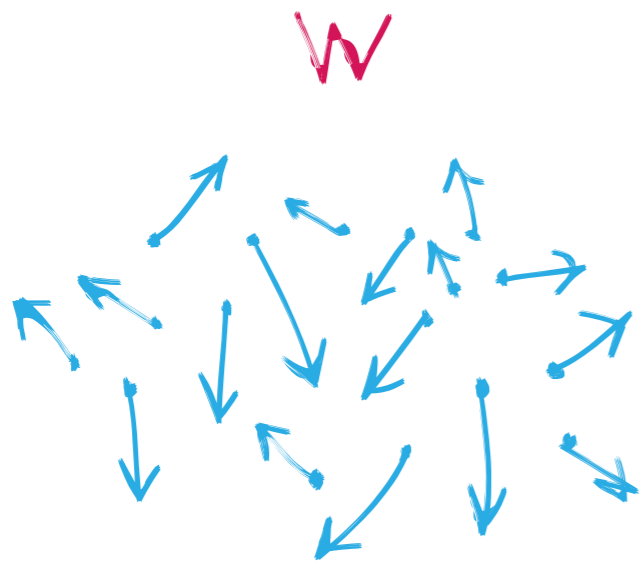
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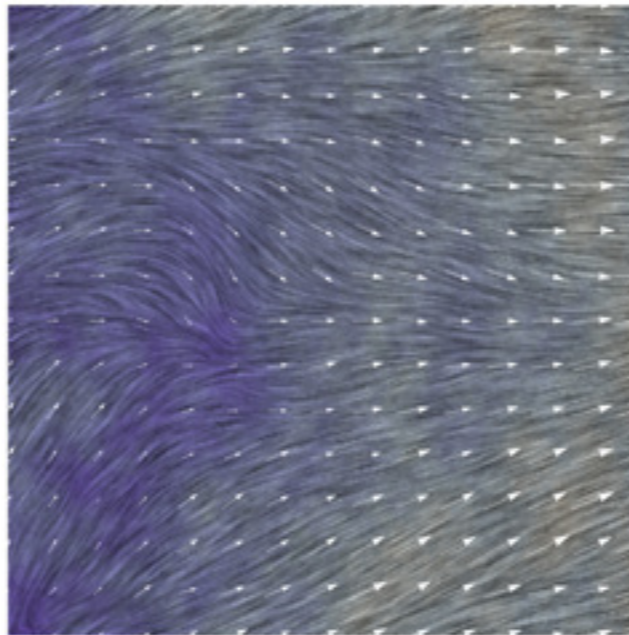
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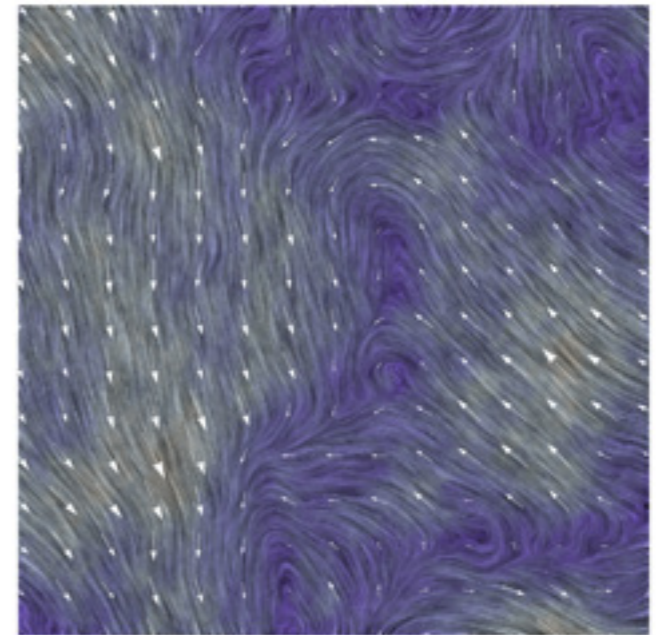
Artist/author unknown



NORMAL



NO WHIRLPOOLS  
(IRROTATIONAL)



NO COMPRESSION  
(SOLENOIDAL)



# PRACTICE

ENHANCING FLOW MEASUREMENTS  
WITHOUT ORIENTATION/SCALE PREFERENCE

« In theory, there is no difference between  
theory and practice ...

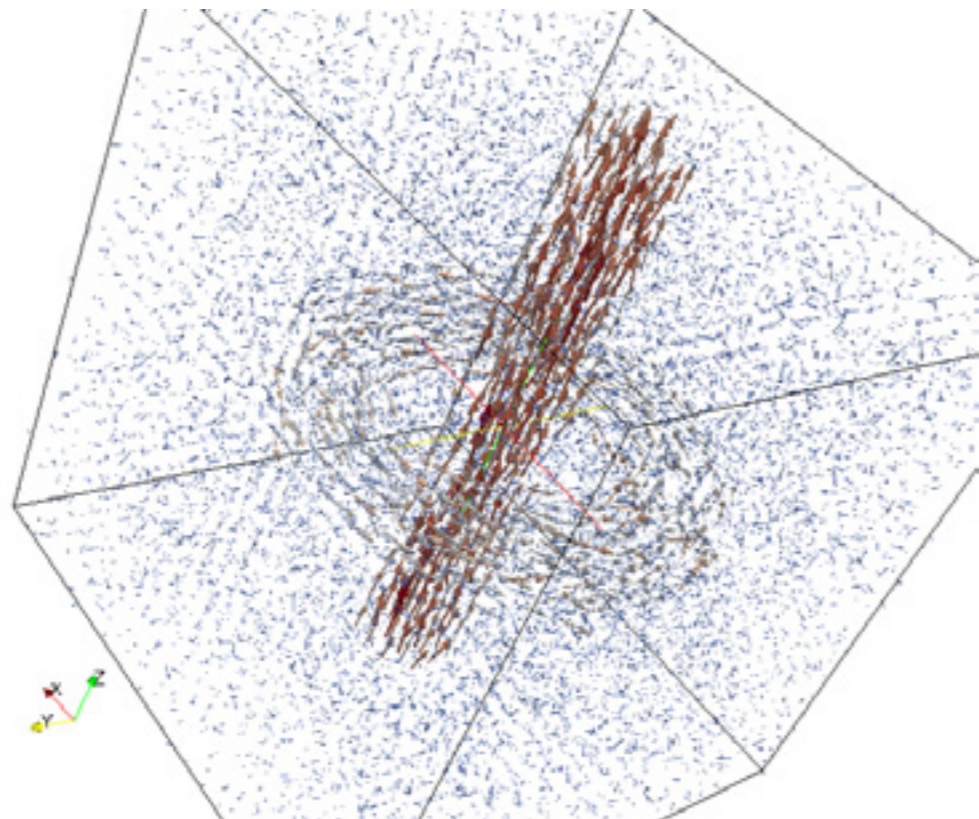
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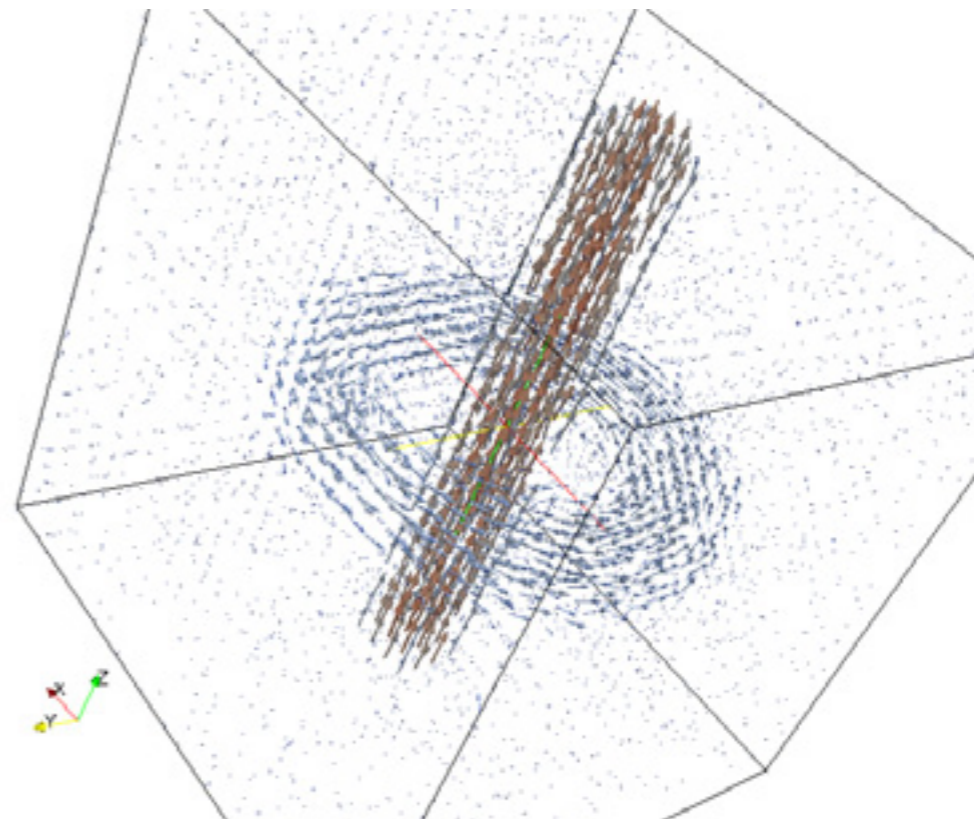
« In theory, there is no difference between  
theory and practice ...

... but in practice, there is. »

# RESULTS

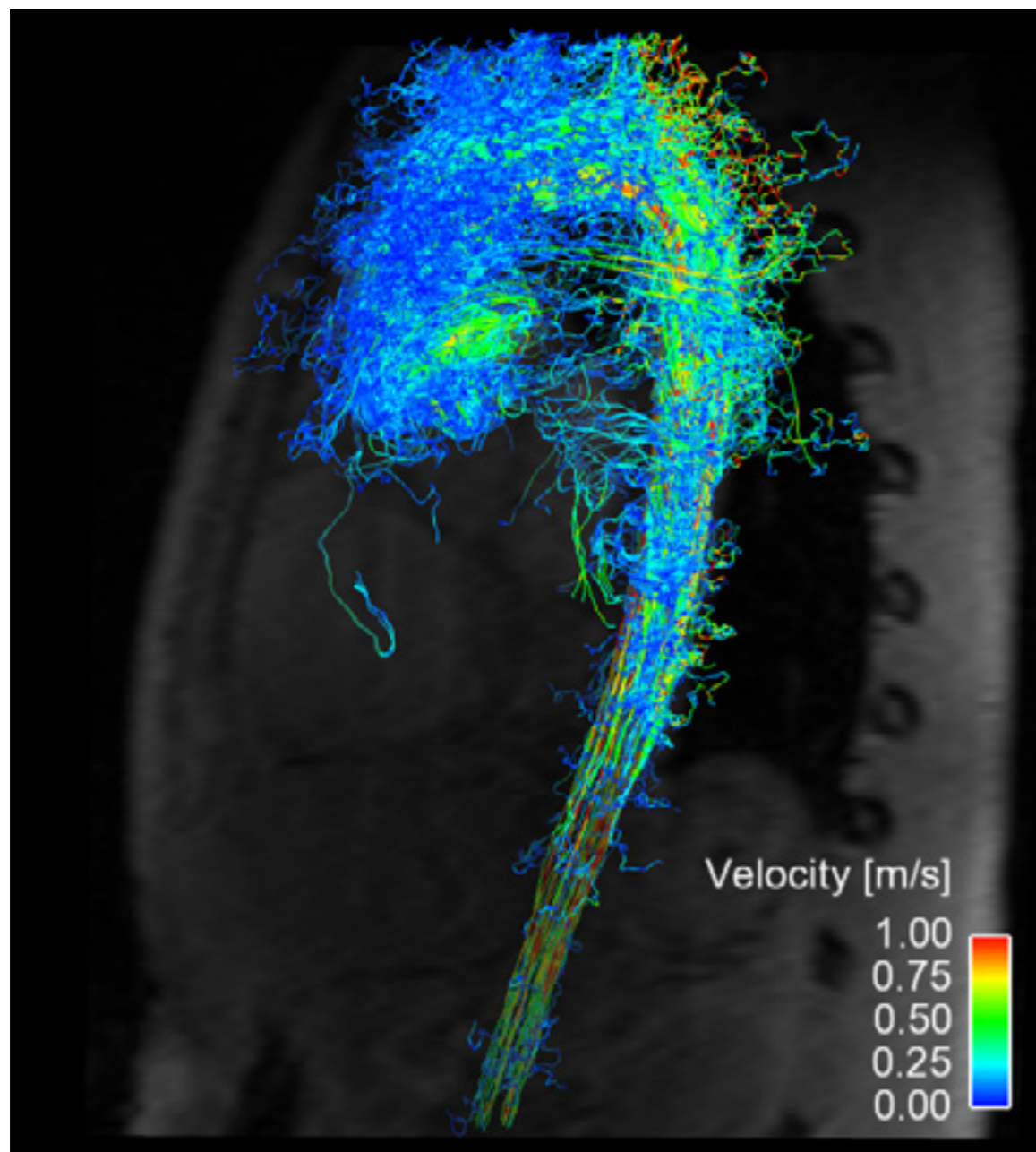


ORIGINAL

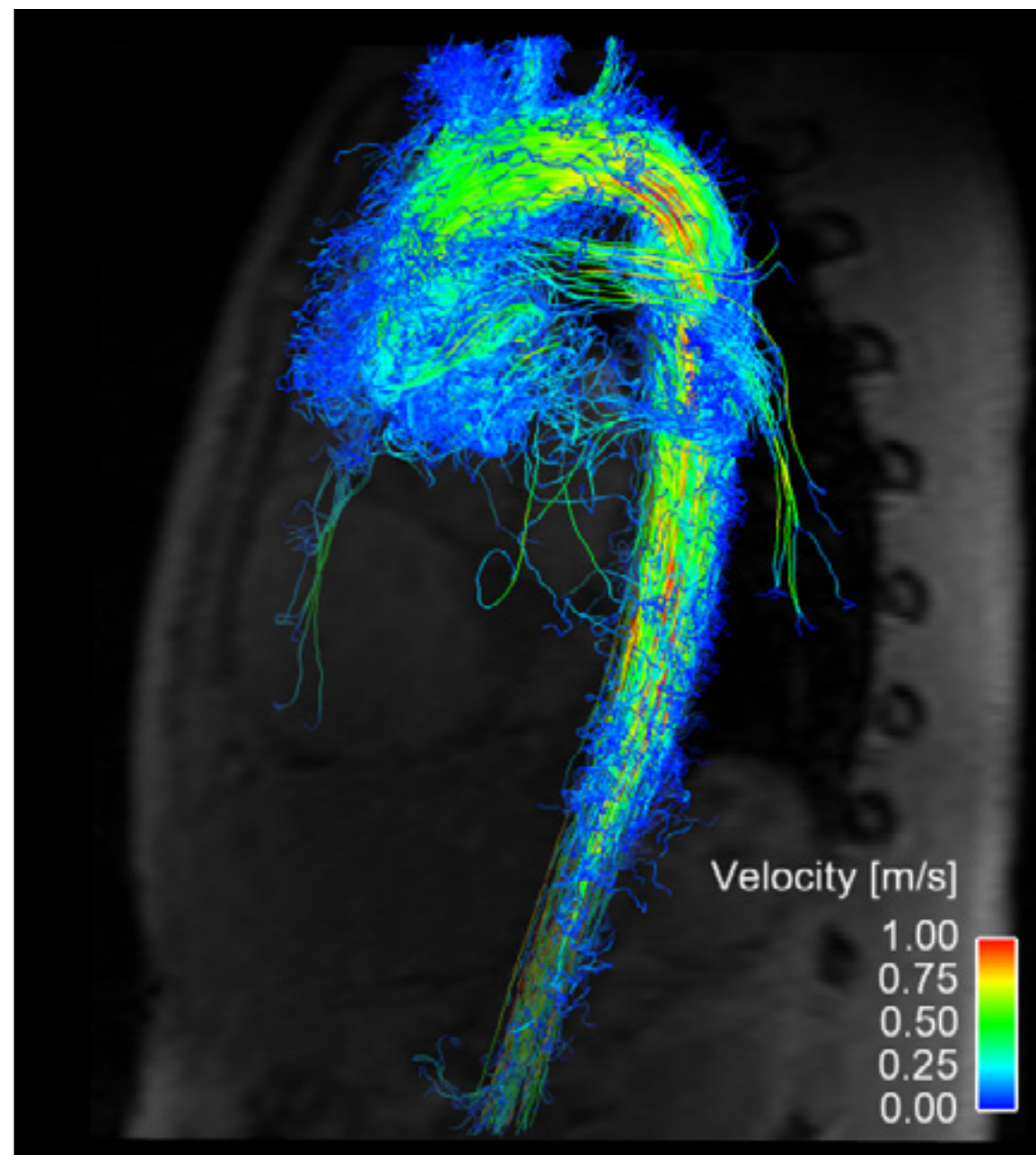


ENHANCED

# RESULTS



ORIGINAL



ENHANCED

# PHOTO CREDITS



Pen Waggener (cc BY 2)



Jon Sullivan (Pub. Dom.)



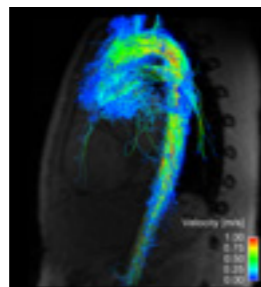
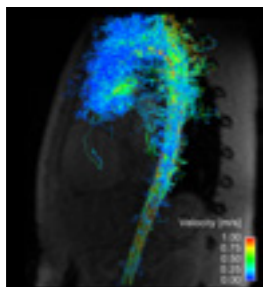
Daniel Schwen (cc BY-SA 2.5)



Chevy III, WP (GNU)



UNKNOWN



Dr A.F. Stalder (data & vis.)

THANK YOU!

