COMPUTER VISION

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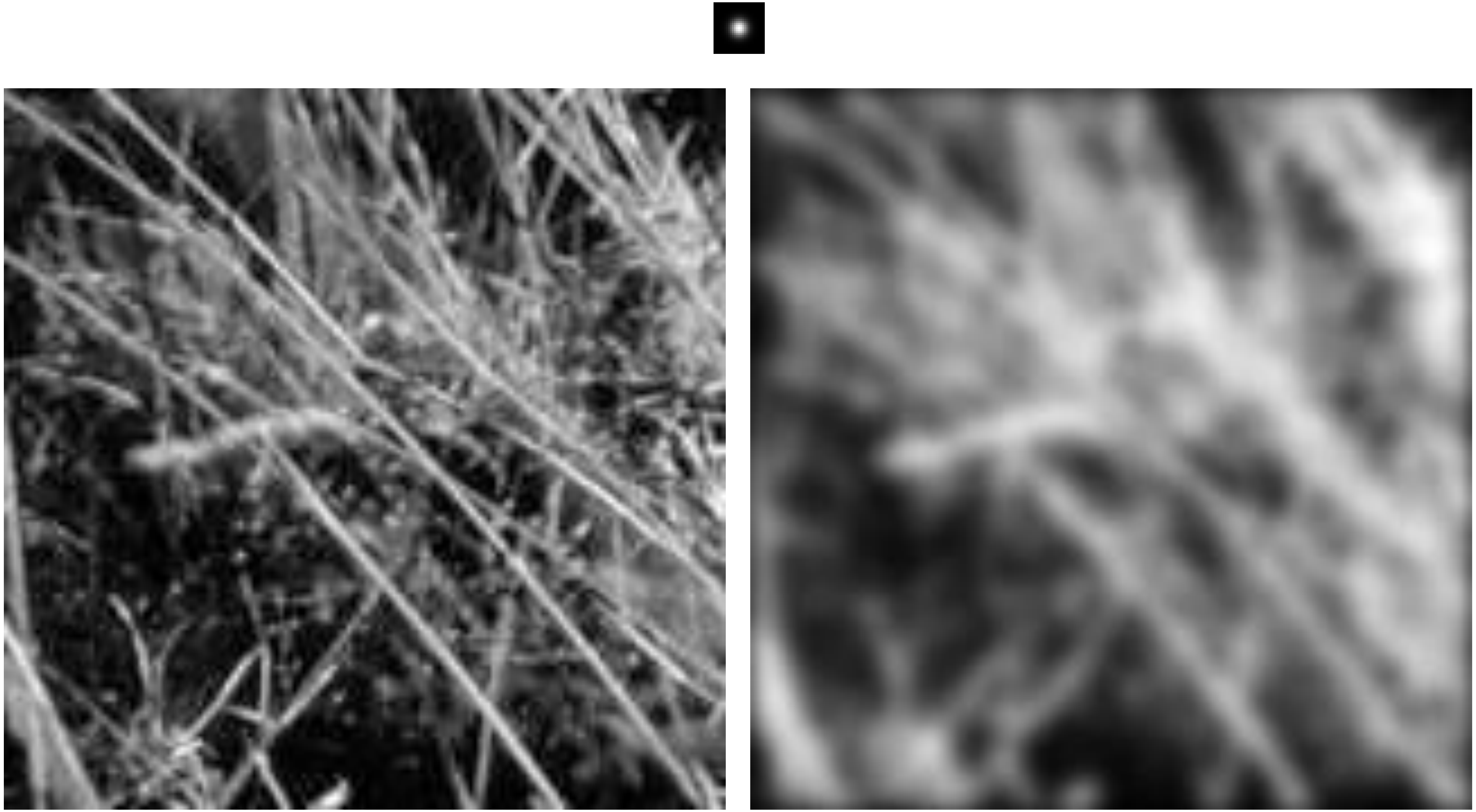
Linear filtering



Motivation: Noise reduction

- Given a camera and a still scene, how can you reduce noise?

Take lots of images and average them!

What's the next best thing?

Source: S. Seitz

Moving average

- Let’s replace each pixel with a *weighted* average of its neighborhood
- The weights are called the *filter kernel*
- What are the weights for a 3x3 moving average?

$$\frac{1}{9}\begin{bmatrix} 1 & 1 & 1 \\ 1 & 1 & 1 \\ 1 & 1 & 1 \end{bmatrix}$$

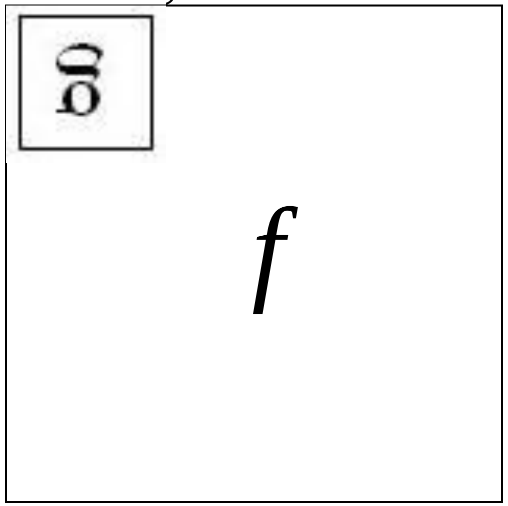
“box filter”

Source: D. Lowe

Defining convolution

- Let *f* be the image and *g* be the kernel. The output of convolving *f* with *g* is denoted *f* * *g*.

$$(f * g)[m,n] = \sum_{k,l} f[m-k, n-l]\, g[k,l]$$



- Convention: kernel is “flipped”
- MATLAB: conv2 vs. filter2 (also imfilter)

Source: F. Durand

Key properties

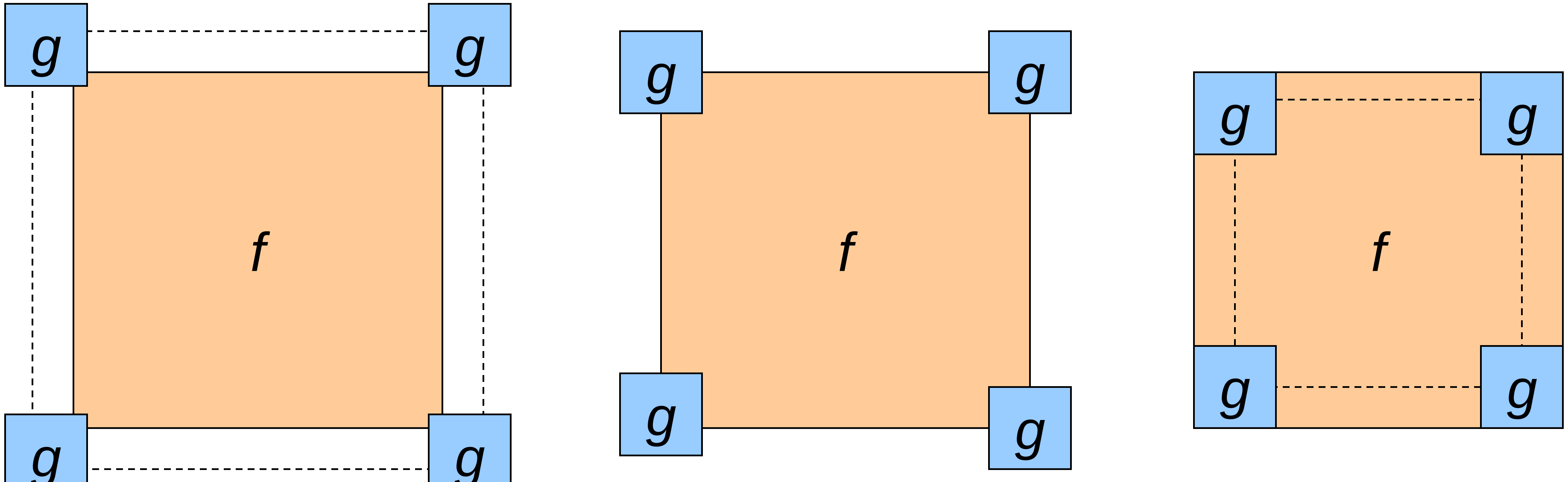
- **Linearity:** $filter(f_1 + f_2) = filter(f_1) + filter(f_2)$
- **Shift invariance:** same behavior regardless of pixel location: $filter(shift(f)) = shift(filter(f))$
- **Theoretical result:** any linear shift-invariant operator can be represented as a convolution

Properties in more detail

- Commutative: $a * b = b * a$
  - Conceptually no difference between filter and signal
- Associative: $a * (b * c) = (a * b) * c$
  - Often apply several filters one after another: $(((a * b_1) * b_2) * b_3)$
  - This is equivalent to applying one filter: $a * (b_1 * b_2 * b_3)$
- Distributes over addition: $a * (b + c) = (a * b) + (a * c)$
- Scalars factor out: $ka * b = a * kb = k(a * b)$
- Identity: unit impulse $e = [\ldots, 0, 0, 1, 0, 0, \ldots], a * e = a$

Annoying details

- What is the size of the output?
- MATLAB: filter2(g, f, *shape*)
  - *shape* = ‘full’: output size is sum of sizes of f and g
  - *shape* = ‘same’: output size is same as f
  - *shape* = ‘valid’: output size is difference of sizes of f and g



Annoying details

- What about near the edge?
  - the filter window falls off the edge of the image
  - need to extrapolate
  - methods:
    - clip filter (black)
    - wrap around
    - copy edge
    - reflect across edge

Source: S. Marschner

Annoying details

- What about near the edge?
  - the filter window falls off the edge of the image
  - need to extrapolate
  - methods (MATLAB):
    - clip filter (black): imfilter(f, g, 0)
    - wrap around: imfilter(f, g, ‘circular’)
    - copy edge: imfilter(f, g, ‘replicate’)
    - reflect across edge: imfilter(f, g, ‘symmetric’)

Source: S. Marschner

Practice with linear filters

Original

0	0	0
0	1	0
0	0	0

?

Source: D. Lowe

Practice with linear filters

Original

0	0	0
0	1	0
0	0	0

Filtered
(no change)

Source: D. Lowe

Practice with linear filters

Original

0	0	0
0	0	1
0	0	0

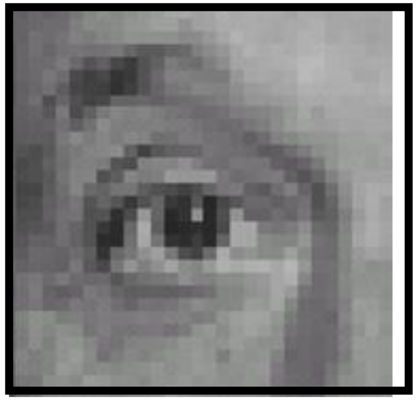
?

Source: D. Lowe

Practice with linear filters

Original

0	0	0
0	0	1
0	0	0



Shifted left
By 1 pixel

Source: D. Lowe

Practice with linear filters

Original

$$\frac{1}{9}\begin{bmatrix}1 & 1 & 1\\ 1 & 1 & 1\\ 1 & 1 & 1\end{bmatrix}$$

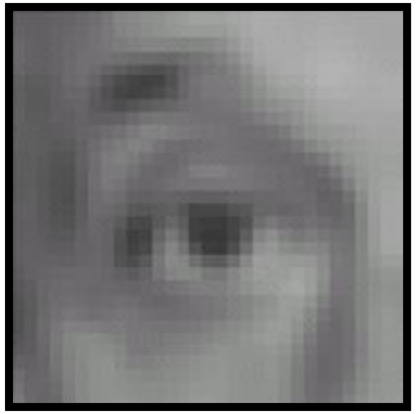
?

Source: D. Lowe

Practice with linear filters

Original

$$\frac{1}{9}\begin{bmatrix}1 & 1 & 1\\ 1 & 1 & 1\\ 1 & 1 & 1\end{bmatrix}$$



Blur (with a box filter)

Source: D. Lowe

Practice with linear filters

Original

$$\begin{bmatrix} 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 2 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 \end{bmatrix} - \frac{1}{9}\begin{bmatrix} 1 & 1 & 1 \\ 1 & 1 & 1 \\ 1 & 1 & 1 \end{bmatrix}$$

?

(Note that filter sums to 1)

Source: D. Lowe

Practice with linear filters

Original

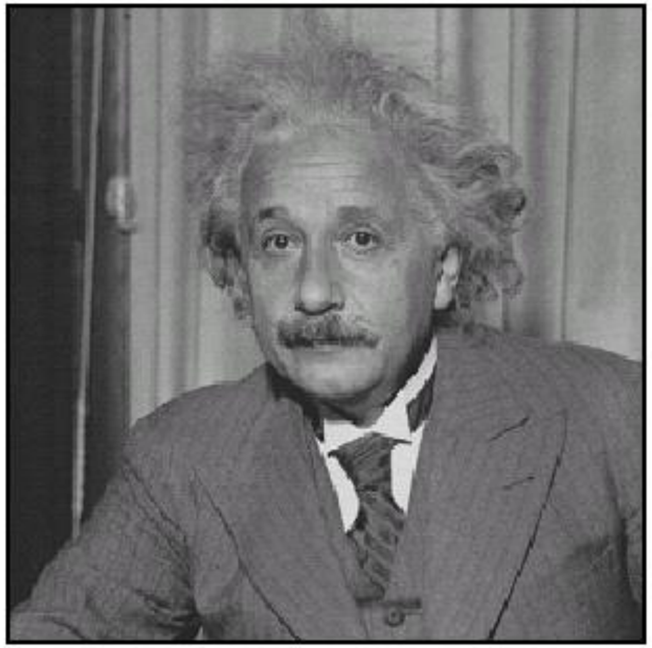
$$\begin{bmatrix} 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 2 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 \end{bmatrix} - \frac{1}{9}\begin{bmatrix} 1 & 1 & 1 \\ 1 & 1 & 1 \\ 1 & 1 & 1 \end{bmatrix}$$

Sharpening filter

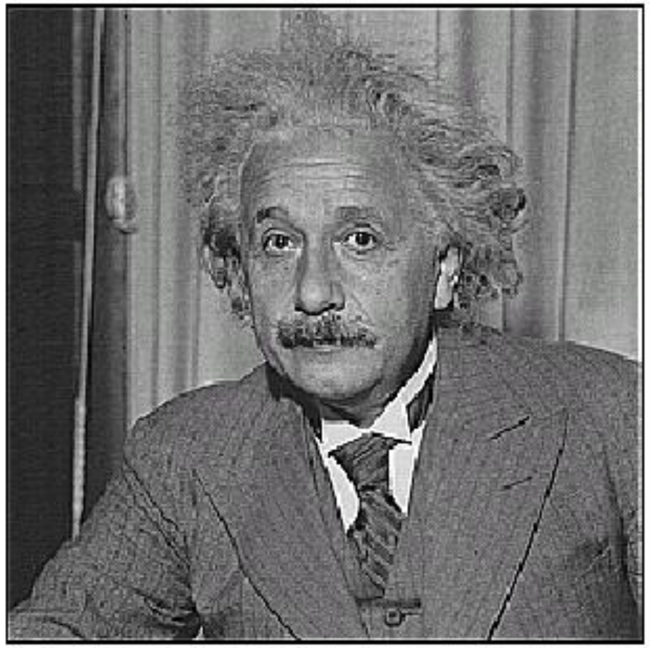
- Accentuates differences with local average

Source: D. Lowe

Sharpening



before

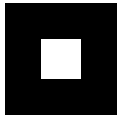


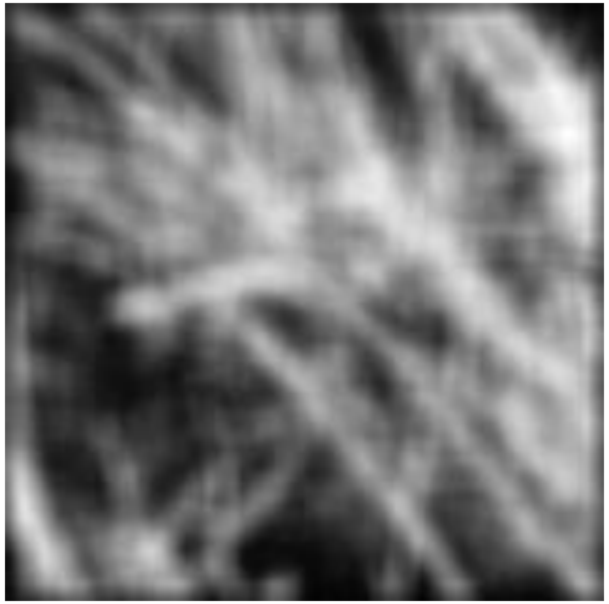
after

Source: D. Lowe

Smoothing with box filter revisited

- Smoothing with an average actually doesn't compare at all well with a defocused lens
- Most obvious difference is that a single point of light viewed in a defocused lens looks like a fuzzy blob; but the averaging process would give a little square

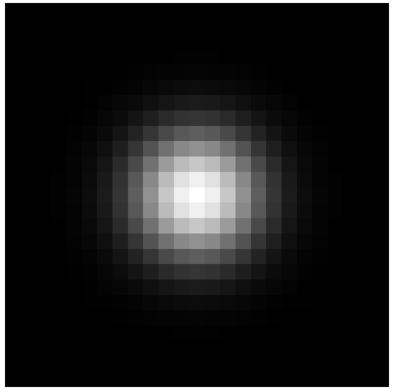




Source: D. Forsyth

Smoothing with box filter revisited

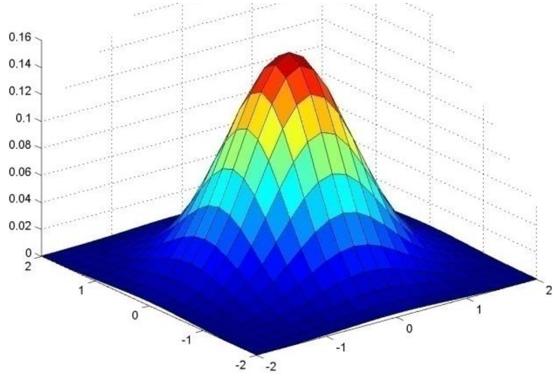
- Smoothing with an average actually doesn't compare at all well with a defocused lens
- Most obvious difference is that a single point of light viewed in a defocused lens looks like a fuzzy blob; but the averaging process would give a little square
- Better idea: to eliminate edge effects, weight contribution of neighborhood pixels according to their closeness to the center, like so:

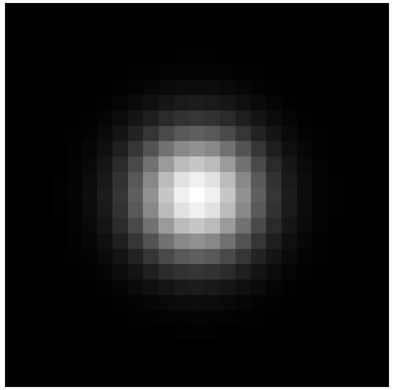


"fuzzy blob"

Gaussian Kernel

$$G_\sigma = \frac{1}{2\pi\sigma^2} e^{-\frac{(x^2+y^2)}{2\sigma^2}}$$





0.003	0.013	0.022	0.013	0.003
0.013	0.059	0.097	0.059	0.013
0.022	0.097	0.159	0.097	0.022
0.013	0.059	0.097	0.059	0.013
0.003	0.013	0.022	0.013	0.003

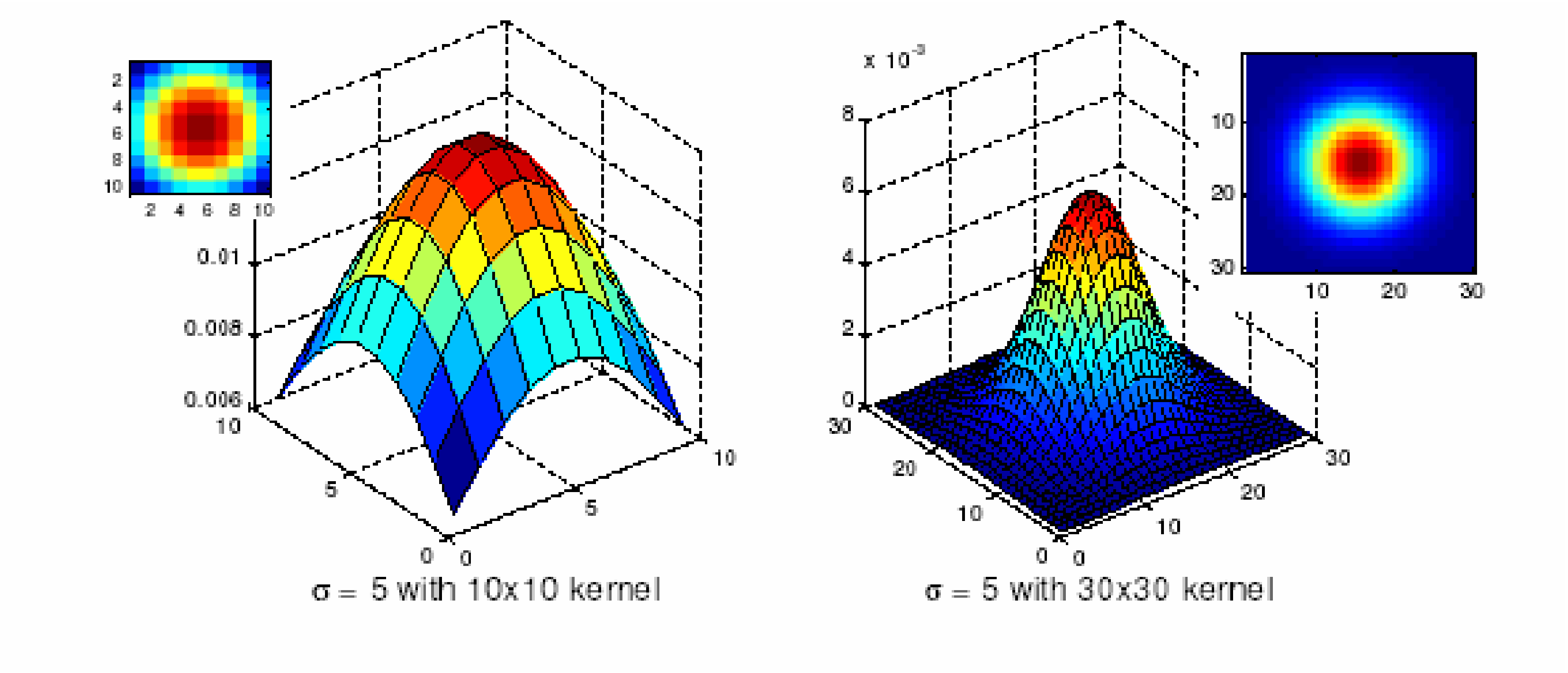
5 x 5, σ = 1

- Constant factor at front makes volume sum to 1 (can be ignored, as we should re-normalize weights to sum to 1 in any case)

Source: C. Rasmussen

Choosing kernel width

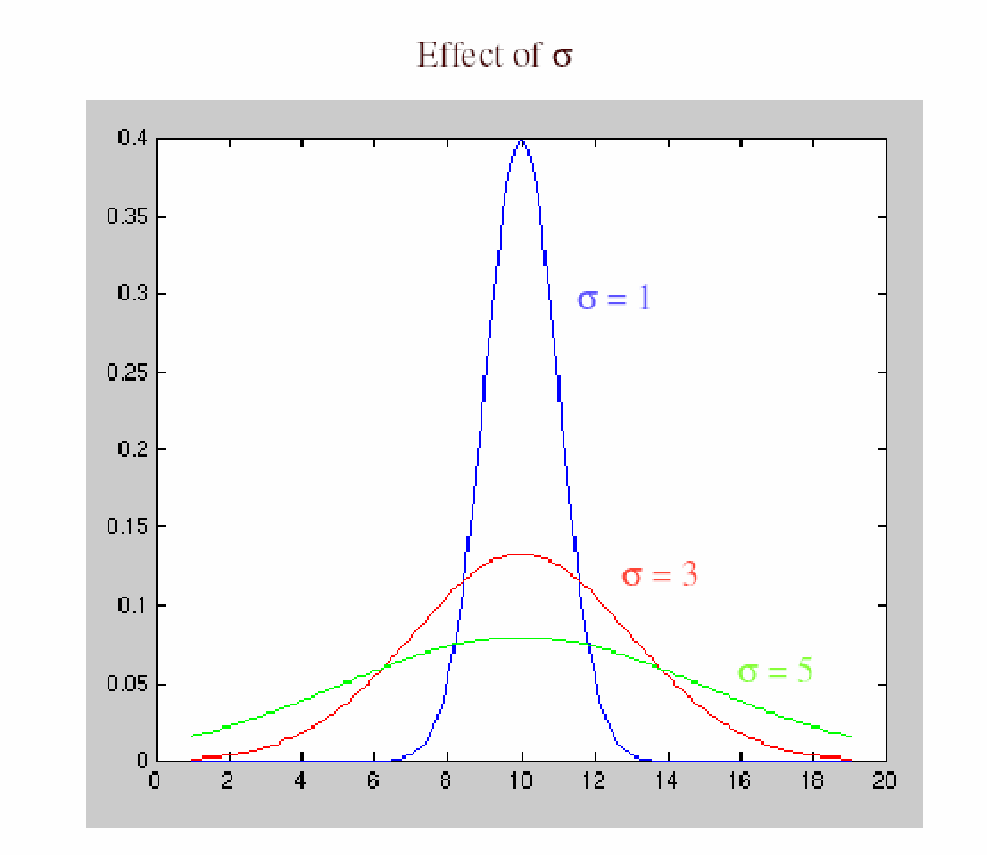
- Gaussian filters have infinite support, but discrete filters use finite kernels



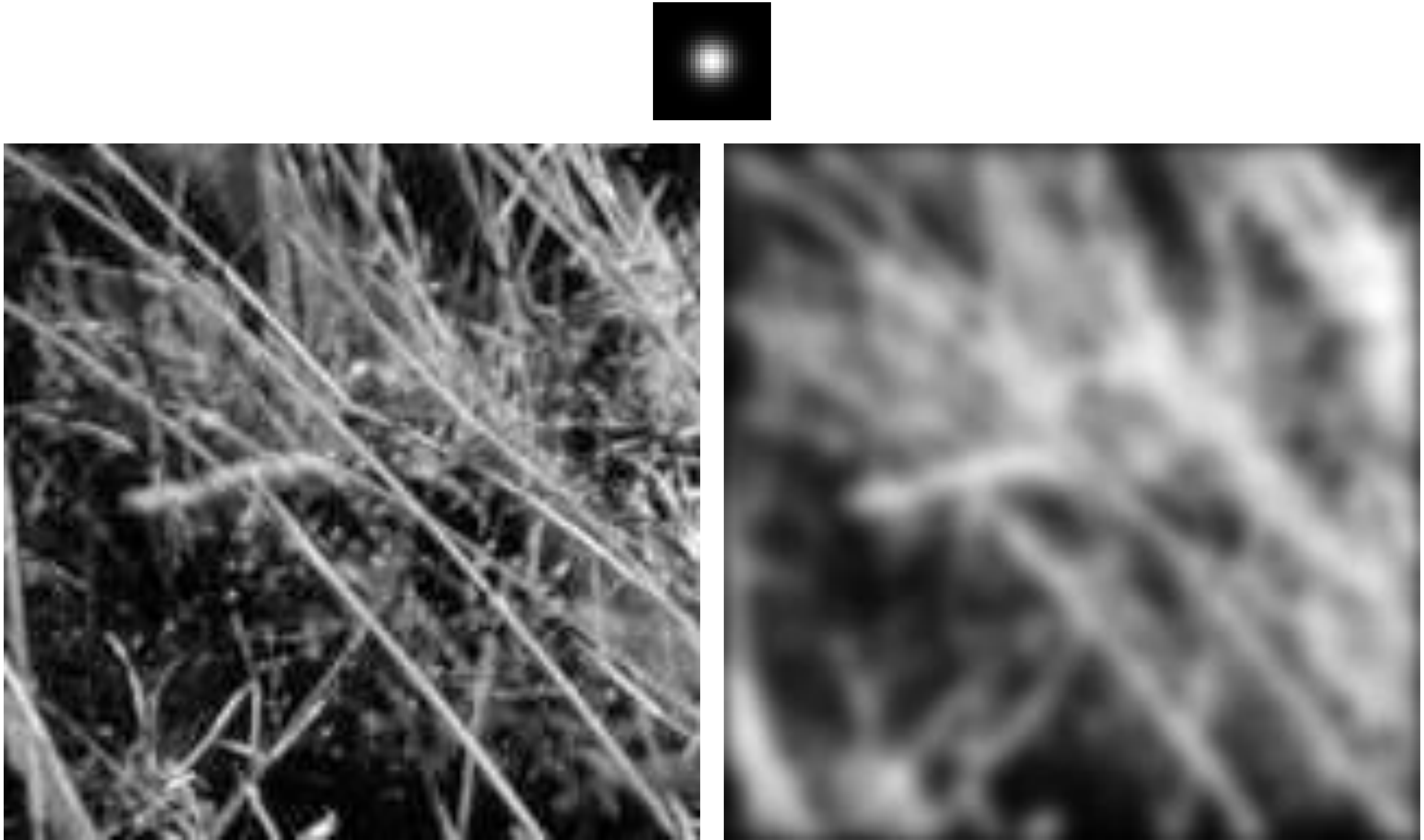
Source: K. Grauman

Choosing kernel width

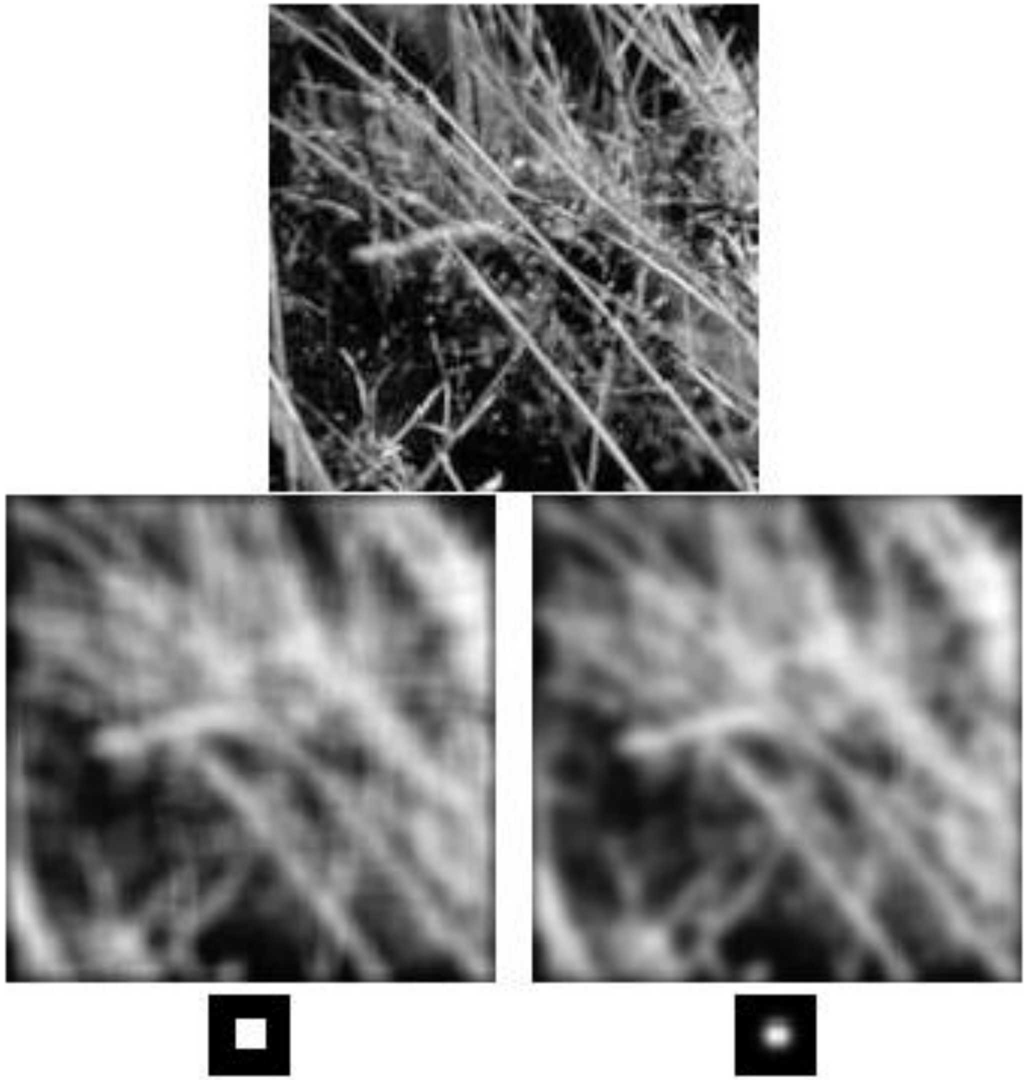
- Rule of thumb: set filter half-width to about 3 σ



Example: Smoothing with a Gaussian



Mean vs. Gaussian filtering



Gaussian filters

- Remove “high-frequency” components from the image (low-pass filter)
- Convolution with self is another Gaussian
  - So can smooth with small-width kernel, repeat, and get same result as larger-width kernel would have
  - Convolving two times with Gaussian kernel of width σ is same as convolving once with kernel of width $\sigma\sqrt{2}$
- *Separable* kernel
  - Factors into product of two 1D Gaussians

Source: K. Grauman

Separability of the Gaussian filter

$$G_\sigma(x,y) = \frac{1}{2\pi\sigma^2} \exp^{-\frac{x^2+y^2}{2\sigma^2}}$$

$$= \left(\frac{1}{\sqrt{2\pi}\sigma} \exp^{-\frac{x^2}{2\sigma^2}}\right) \left(\frac{1}{\sqrt{2\pi}\sigma} \exp^{-\frac{y^2}{2\sigma^2}}\right)$$

The 2D Gaussian can be expressed as the product of two functions, one a function of *x* and the other a function of *y*

In this case, the two functions are the (identical) 1D Gaussian

Source: D. Lowe

Separability example

2D convolution
(center location only)

$$\begin{bmatrix}1&2&1\\2&4&2\\1&2&1\end{bmatrix} * \begin{bmatrix}2&3&3\\3&5&5\\4&4&6\end{bmatrix} \quad \begin{array}{r} =2+6+3=11\\ =6+20+10=36\\ =4+8+6=18\\ \hline 65 \end{array}$$

The filter factors
into a product of 1D
filters:

$$\begin{bmatrix}1&2&1\\2&4&2\\1&2&1\end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix}1\\2\\1\end{bmatrix} \times \begin{bmatrix}1&2&1\end{bmatrix}$$

Perform convolution
along rows:

$$\begin{bmatrix}1&2&1\end{bmatrix} * \begin{bmatrix}2&3&3\\3&5&5\\4&4&6\end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix}&11&\\&18&\\&18&\end{bmatrix}$$

Followed by convolution
along the remaining column:

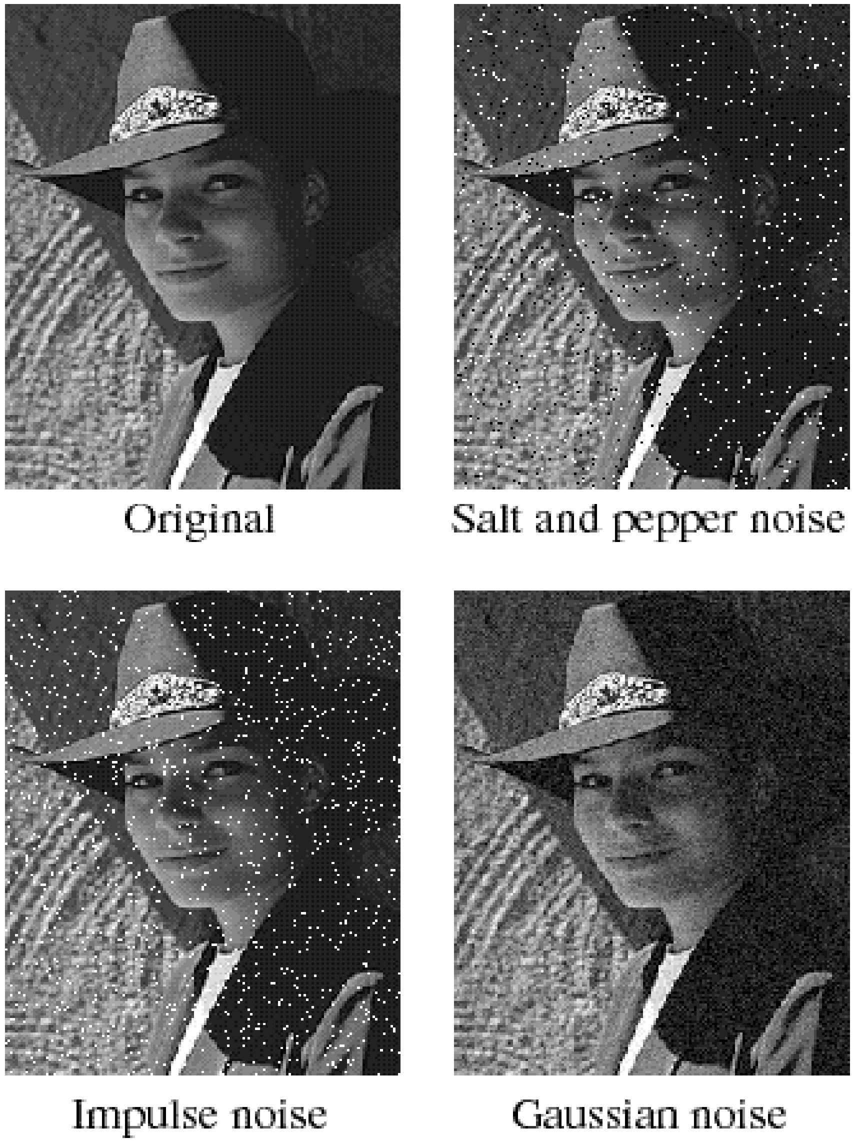
$$\begin{bmatrix}1\\2\\1\end{bmatrix} * \begin{bmatrix}&11&\\&18&\\&18&\end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix}&&\\&65&\\&&\end{bmatrix}$$

Source: K. Grauman

Separability

- Why is separability useful in practice?

Noise

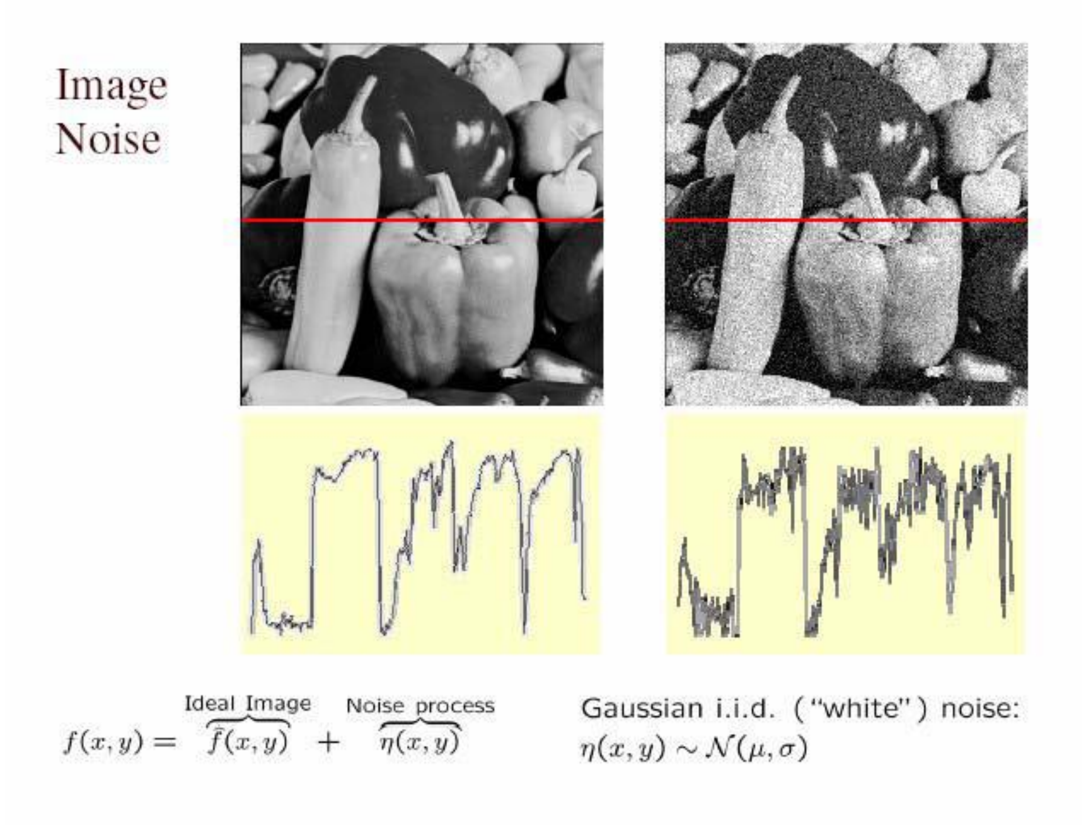


- **Salt and pepper noise**: contains random occurrences of black and white pixels
- **Impulse noise:** contains random occurrences of white pixels
- **Gaussian noise**: variations in intensity drawn from a Gaussian normal distribution

Source: S. Seitz

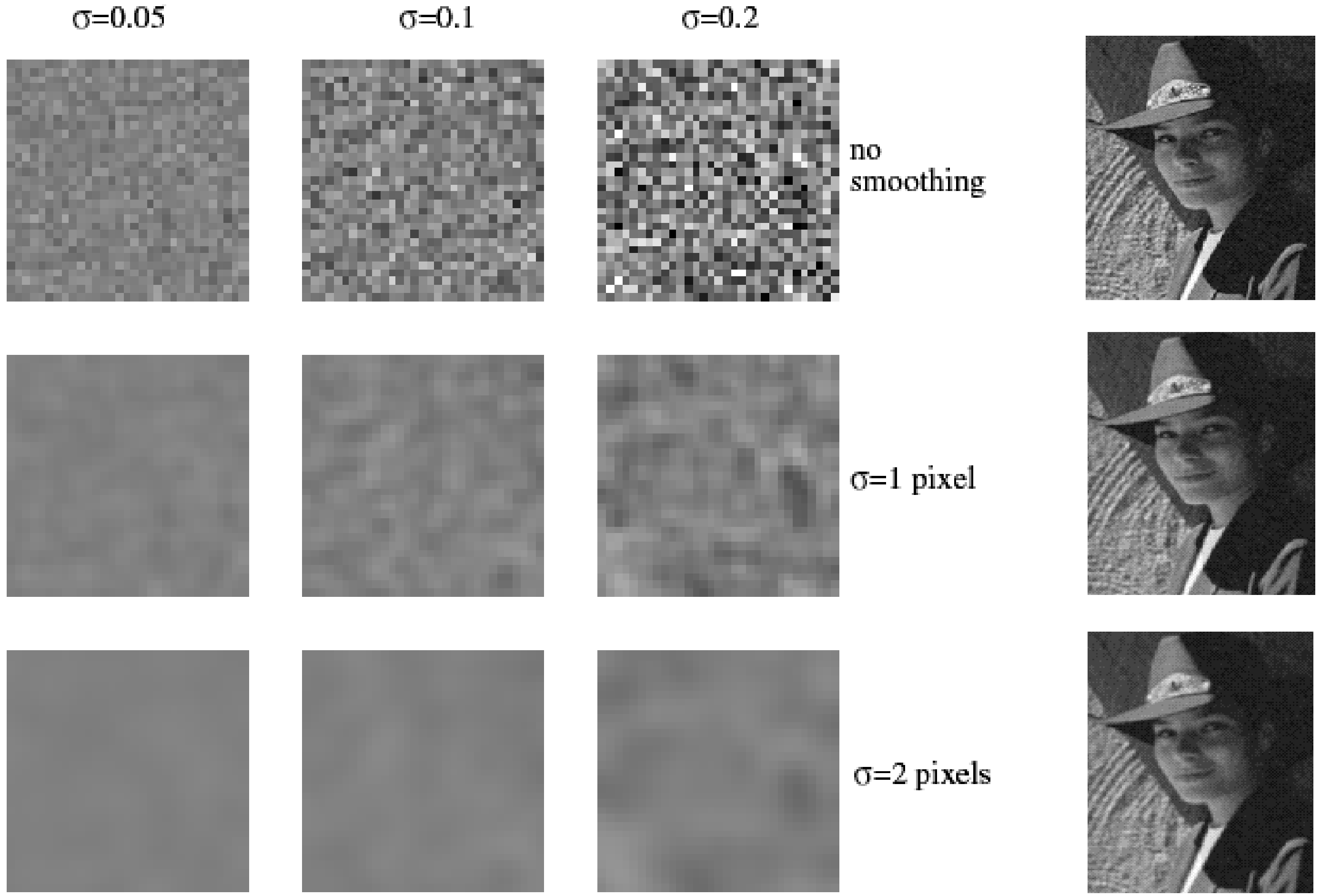
Gaussian noise

- Mathematical model: sum of many independent factors
- Good for small standard deviations
- Assumption: independent, zero-mean noise



Source: M. Hebert

Reducing Gaussian noise



Smoothing with larger standard deviations suppresses noise, but also blurs the image

Reducing salt-and-pepper noise

3x3

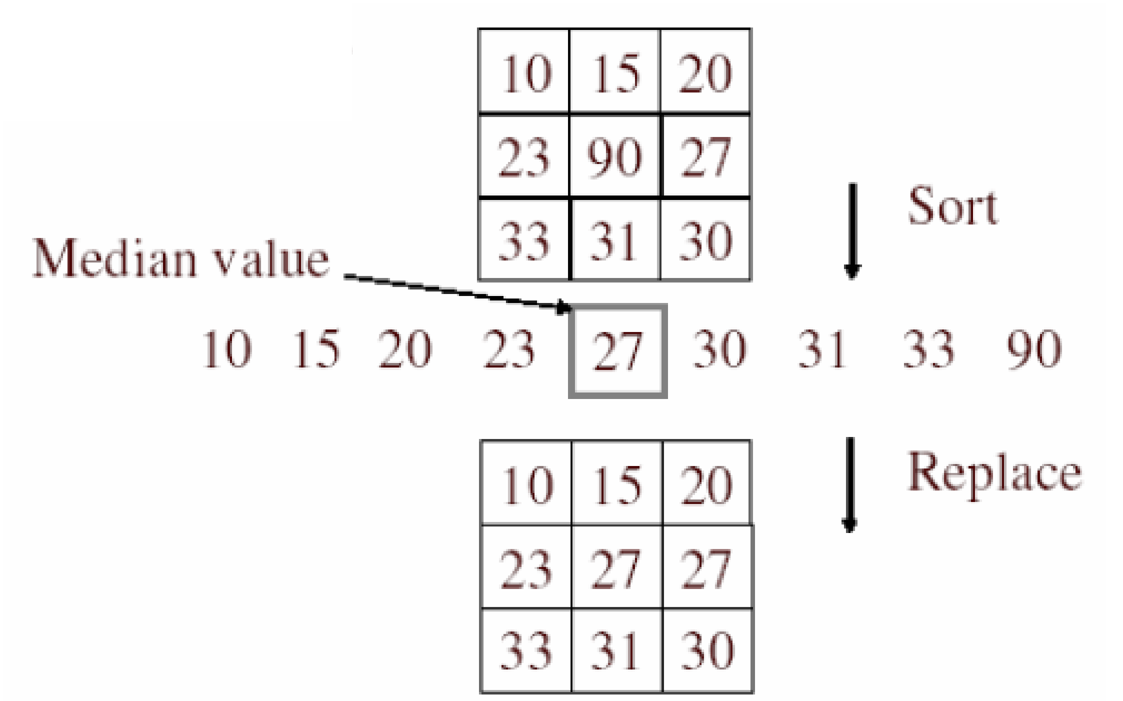
5x5

7x7

- What’s wrong with the results?

Alternative idea: Median filtering

- A **median filter** operates over a window by selecting the median intensity in the window



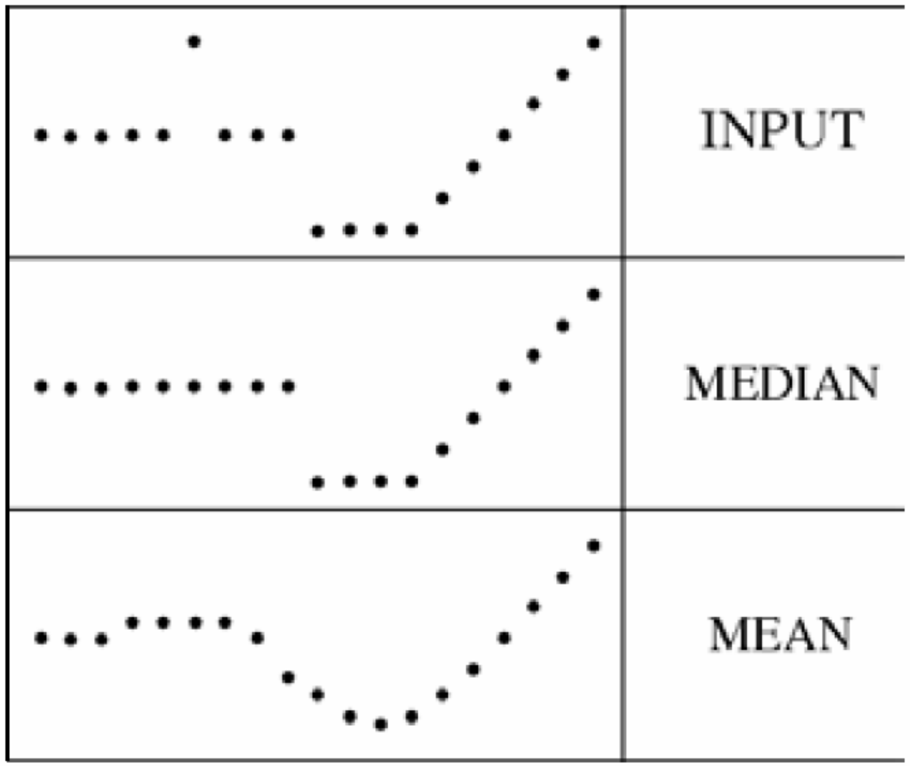
- Is median filtering linear?

Source: K. Grauman

Median filter

- What advantage does median filtering have over Gaussian filtering?
  - Robustness to outliers

filters have width 5 :

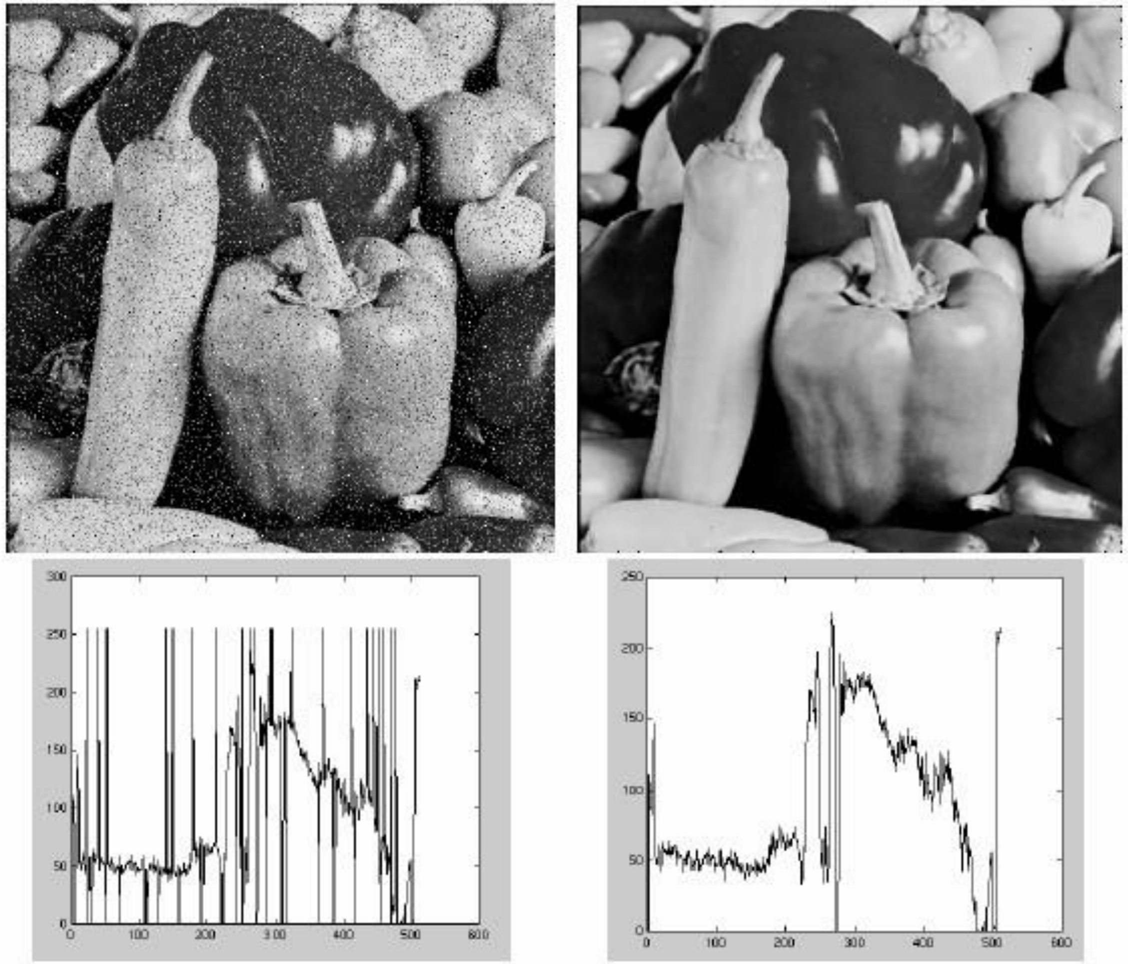


Source: K. Grauman

Median filter

Salt-and-pepper noise

Median filtered



Source: M. Hebert

Median vs. Gaussian filtering

3x3 5x5 7x7

Gaussian

Median

Sharpening revisited

- What does blurring take away?

–

=

Let’s add it back:

+ α

=

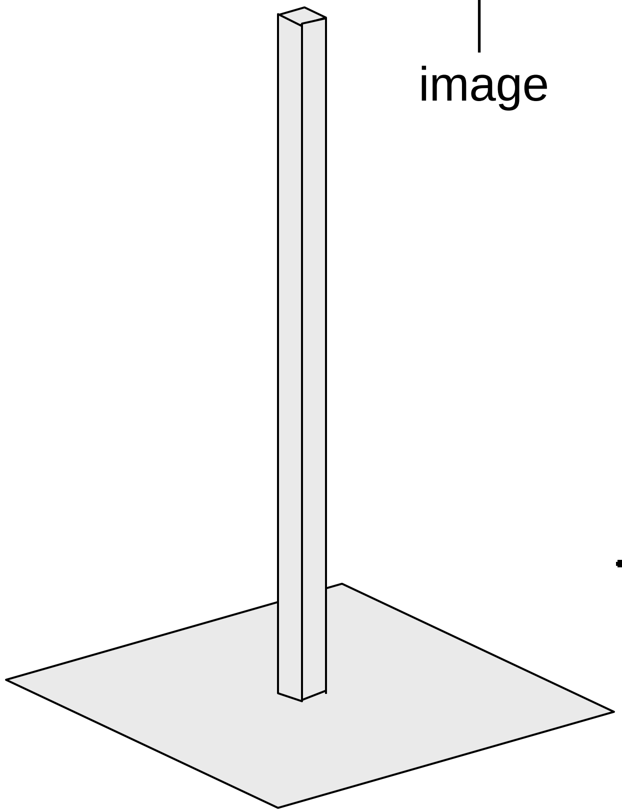
Unsharp mask filter

$$f+\alpha(f-f*g)=(1+\alpha)f-\alpha f*g=f*((1+\alpha)e-g)$$

image

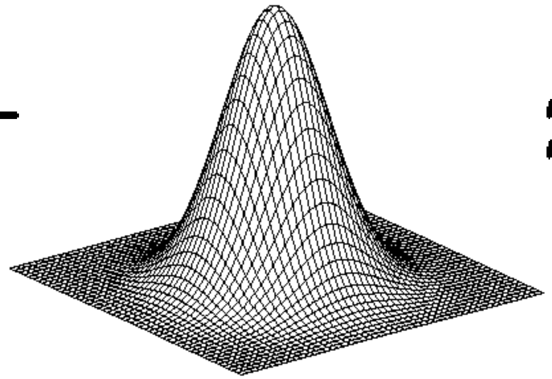
blurred image

unit impulse (identity)



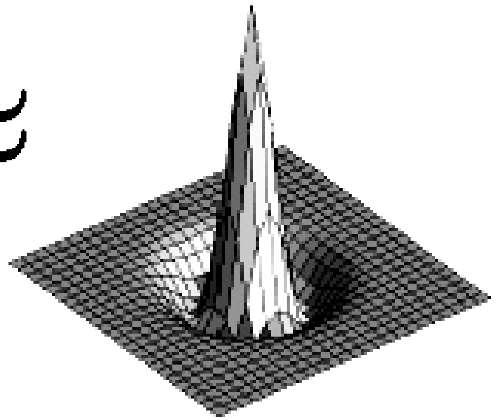
unit impulse

$-$



Gaussian

$\approx$



Laplacian of Gaussian