

Local feature: Blob detection

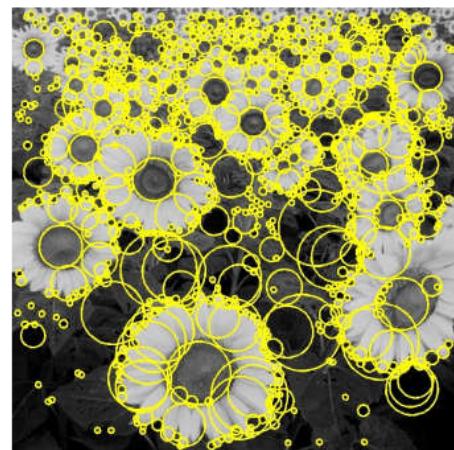
Lu Peng

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Beijing University of Posts and Telecommunications

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Machine Vision Technology							
Semantic information				Metric 3D information			
Pixels	Segments	Images	Videos	Camera		Multi-view Geometry	
Convolutions Edges & Fitting Local features Texture	Segmentation Clustering	Recognition Detection	Motion Tracking	Camera Model	Camera Calibration	Epipolar Geometry	SfM
10	4	4	2	2	2	2	2

Blob detection



Source: S. Lazebnik

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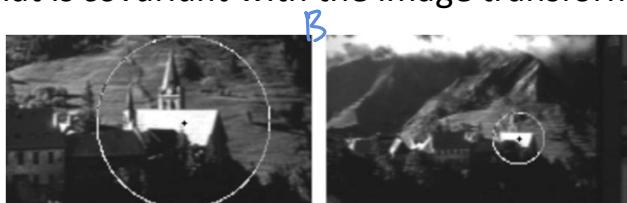
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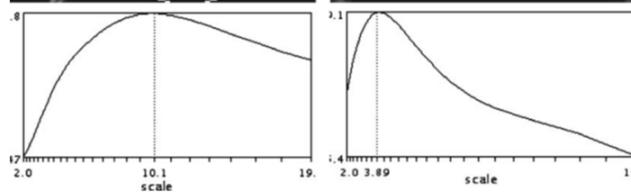
Achieving scale covariance

- Goal: independently detect corresponding regions in scaled versions of the same image
- Need *scale selection* mechanism for finding characteristic region size that is *covariant* with the image transformation

在A图中识别这个圆时 A
能否在B图中找到同样的
圆，只是大小不同



这里找的是圆，而不是
圆里的内容



Source: S. Lazebnik

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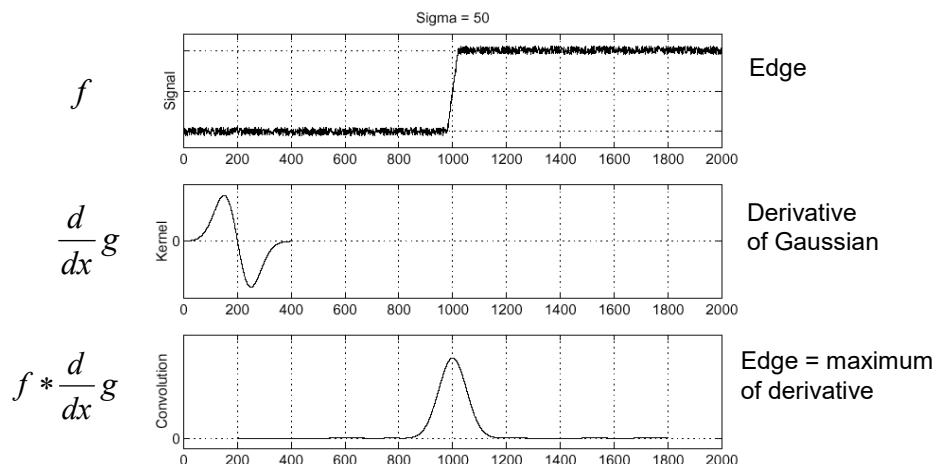
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Recall: Edge detection



Source: S. Seitz

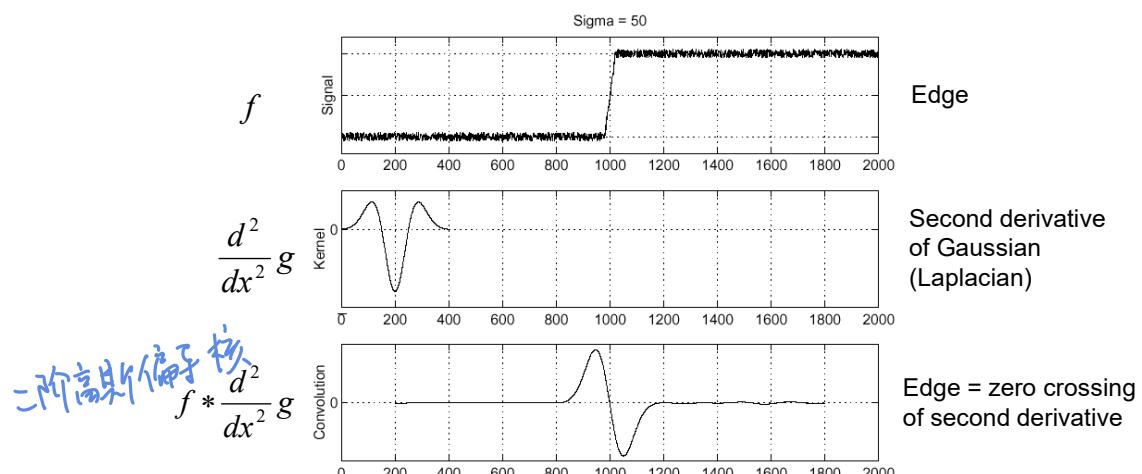
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Edge detection, Take 2



Source: S. Seitz

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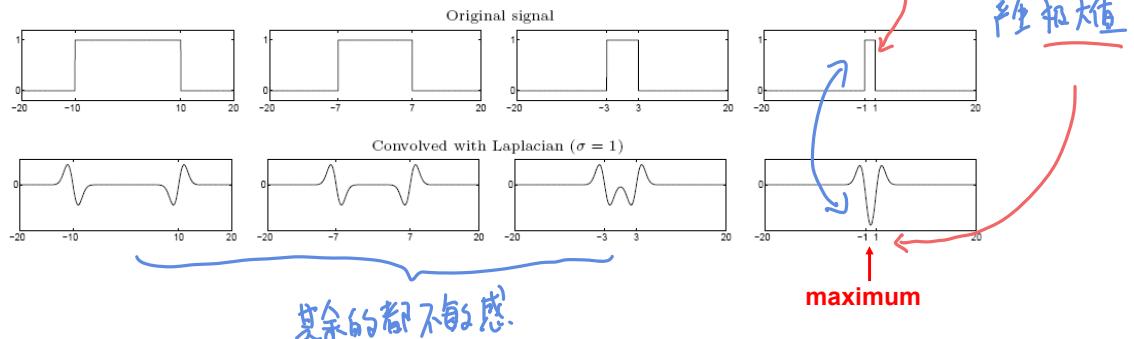
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From edges to blobs

- Edge = ripple
- Blob = superposition of two ripples



Spatial selection: the magnitude of the Laplacian response will achieve a maximum at the center of the blob, provided the scale of the Laplacian is “matched” to the scale of the blob

Source: S. Lazebnik

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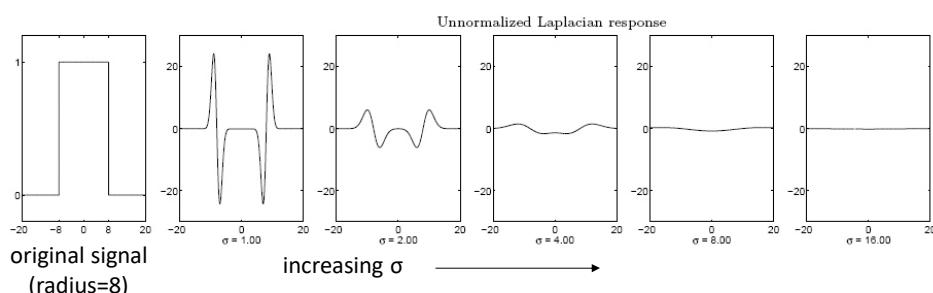
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Scale selection

- We want to find the characteristic scale of the blob by convolving it with Laplacians at several scales and looking for the maximum response
- However, Laplacian response decays as scale increases:



Why does this happen?

Source: S. Lazebnik

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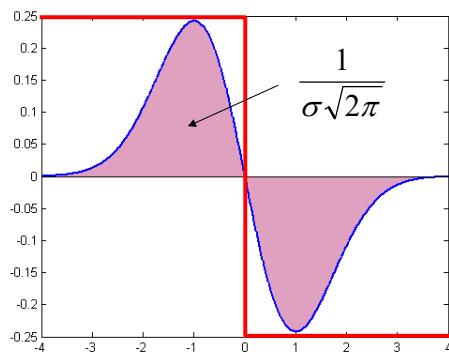
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Scale normalization

- The response of a derivative of Gaussian filter to a perfect step edge decreases as σ increases



Source: S. Lazebnik

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Scale normalization

- The response of a derivative of Gaussian filter to a perfect step edge decreases as σ increases
- To keep response the same (scale-invariant), must multiply Gaussian derivative by σ
- Laplacian is the second Gaussian derivative, so it must be multiplied by σ^2

Source: S. Lazebnik

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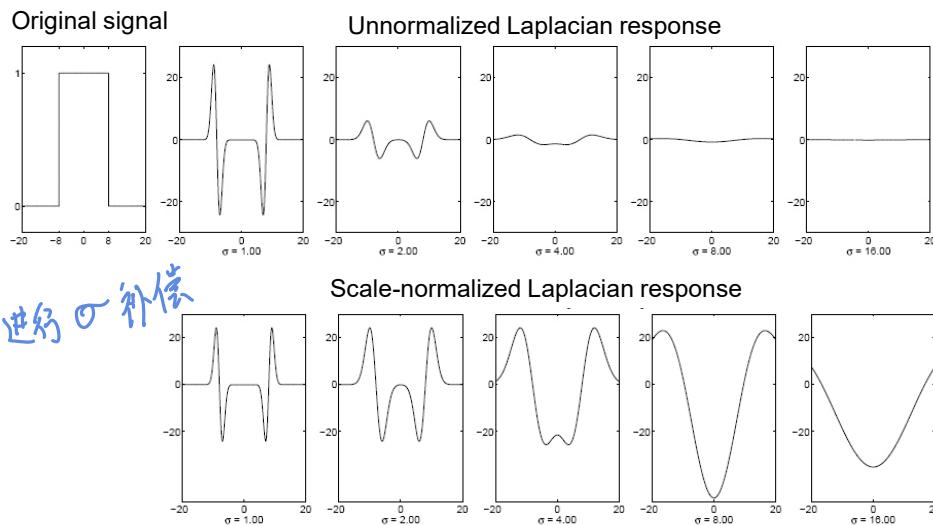
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Effect of scale normalization



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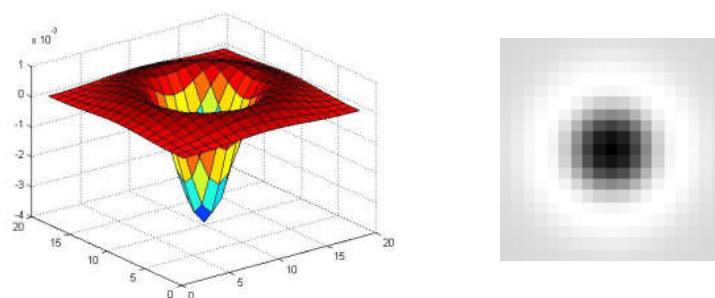
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Blob detection in 2D

Laplacian of Gaussian: Circularly symmetric operator for blob detection in 2D



$$\nabla^2 g = \frac{\partial^2 g}{\partial x^2} + \frac{\partial^2 g}{\partial y^2}$$

Source: S. Lazebnik

2020/3/22

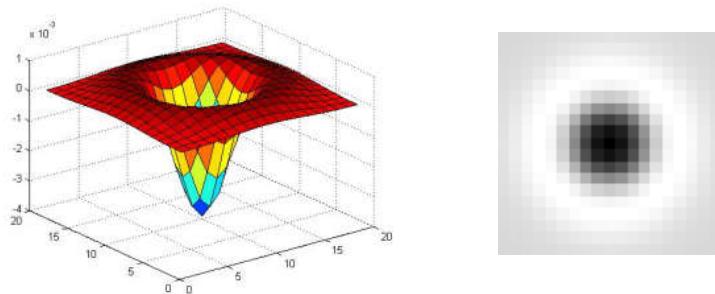
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Blob detection in 2D

Laplacian of Gaussian: Circularly symmetric operator for blob detection in 2D



Scale-normalized: $\nabla^2 \text{norm} g = \sigma^2 \left(\frac{\partial^2 g}{\partial x^2} + \frac{\partial^2 g}{\partial y^2} \right)$

Source: S. Lazebnik

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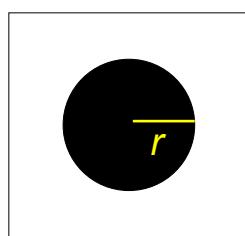
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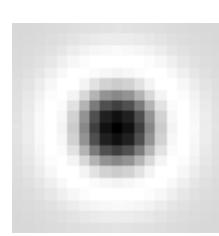
Scale selection

- At what scale does the Laplacian achieve a maximum response to a binary circle of radius r ?

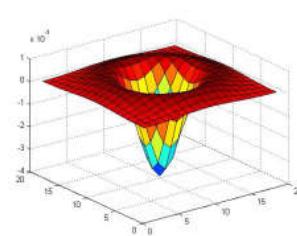
寻找 特定 r 的核与敏感信号(圆)半径的关系



image



Laplacian



Source: S. Lazebnik

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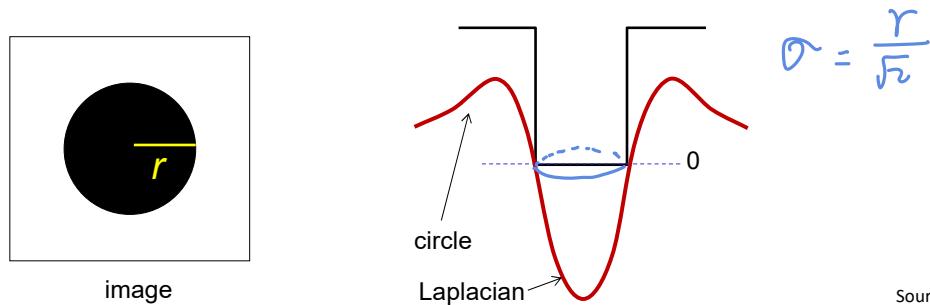
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Scale selection

- At what scale does the Laplacian achieve a maximum response to a binary circle of radius r ?
- To get maximum response, the zeros of the Laplacian have to be aligned with the circle
- The Laplacian is given by (up to scale): $(x^2 + y^2 - 2\sigma^2) e^{-(x^2+y^2)/2\sigma^2}$
- Therefore, the maximum response occurs at $\sigma = r/\sqrt{2}$.



Source: S. Lazebnik

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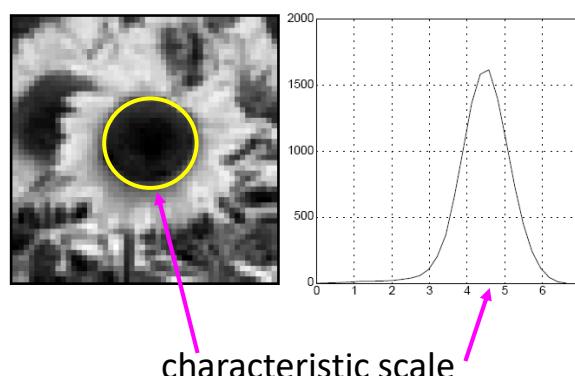
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Characteristic scale

- We define the characteristic scale of a blob as the scale that produces peak of Laplacian response in the blob center



T. Lindeberg (1998). ["Feature detection with automatic scale selection."](#)
International Journal of Computer Vision 30 (2): pp 77--116.

Source: S. Lazebnik

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Scale-space blob detector

1. Convolve image with scale-normalized Laplacian at several scales

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Scale-space blob detector: Example



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Scale-space blob detector: Example



Source: S. Lazebnik

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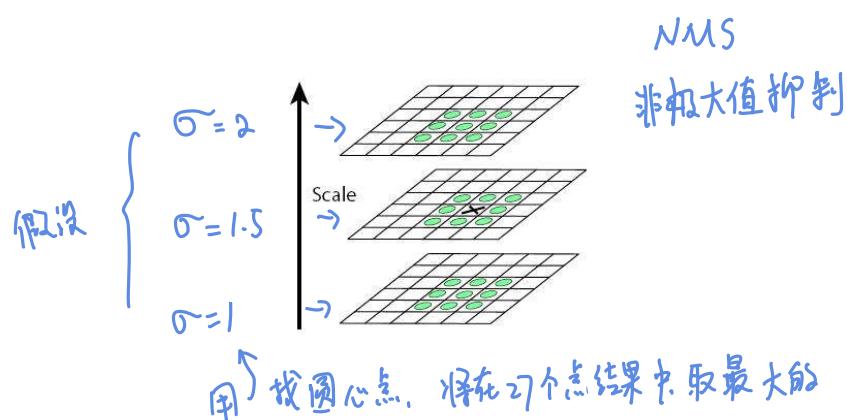
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Scale-space blob detector

1. Convolve image with scale-normalized Laplacian at several scales
2. Find maxima of squared Laplacian response in scale-space



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Scale-space blob detector: Example



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Efficient implementation

Approximating the Laplacian with a difference of Gaussians:

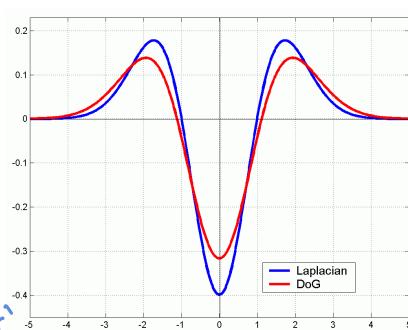
二阶高斯

$$L = \sigma^2 (G_{xx}(x, y, \sigma) + G_{yy}(x, y, \sigma)) \quad (\text{Laplacian})$$

一阶高斯

$$DoG = G(x, y, k\sigma) - G(x, y, \sigma) \quad (\text{Difference of Gaussians})$$

他们发现上面说的二阶高斯，可以用2个一阶高斯取代



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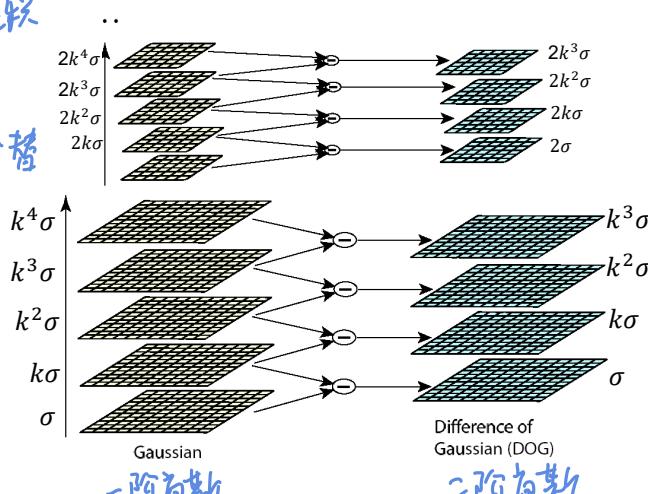
Efficient implementation

若直接每次使用 DOG 去卷积
整张图，效率太低

我们可以用一阶高斯来代替
二阶高斯

$$k = 2^{1/s}$$

而且一阶高斯卷积结果可以复合使用



David G. Lowe. ["Distinctive image features from scale-invariant keypoints."](#) IJCV 60 (2), pp. 91-110, 2004.

Source: S. Lazebnik

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→ 一张图被一阶高斯卷两次 = 2个高斯核卷成1个核，对图片卷1次

Invariance and covariance properties

- Laplacian (blob) response is *invariant* w.r.t. rotation and scaling
- Blob location and scale is *covariant* w.r.t. rotation and scaling
- What about intensity change?

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Achieving affine covariance

- Affine transformation approximates viewpoint changes for roughly planar objects and roughly orthographic cameras



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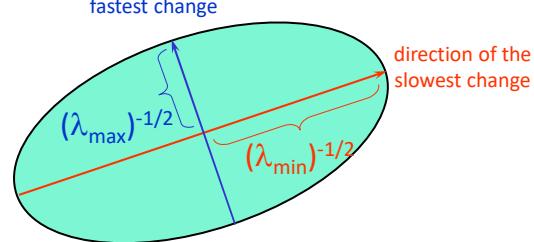
Achieving affine covariance

Consider the second moment matrix of the window containing the blob:

$$M = \sum_{x,y} w(x,y) \begin{bmatrix} I_x^2 & I_x I_y \\ I_x I_y & I_y^2 \end{bmatrix} = R^{-1} \begin{bmatrix} \lambda_1 & 0 \\ 0 & \lambda_2 \end{bmatrix} R$$

Recall:

$$[u \ v] M \begin{bmatrix} u \\ v \end{bmatrix} = \text{const}$$



This ellipse visualizes the “characteristic shape” of the window

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Affine adaptation example



Scale-invariant regions (blobs)

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Affine adaptation example



Affine-adapted blobs

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From covariant detection to invariant description

- Geometrically transformed versions of the same neighborhood will give rise to regions that are related by the same transformation
- What to do if we want to compare the appearance of these image regions?
- *Normalization*: transform these regions into same-size circles



Source: S. Lazebnik

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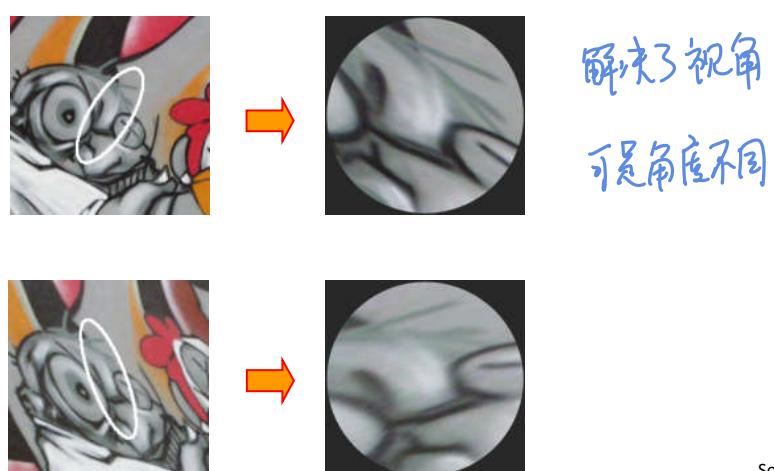
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Affine normalization

- Problem: There is no unique transformation from an ellipse to a unit circle
 - We can rotate or flip a unit circle, and it still stays a unit circle



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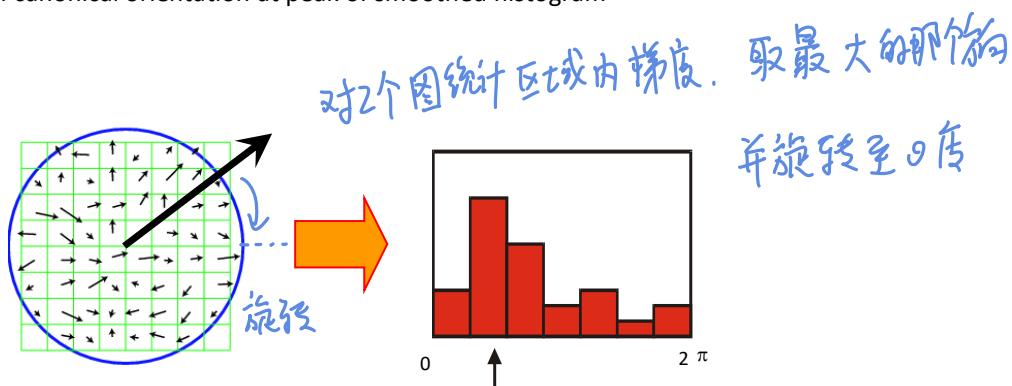
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Eliminating rotation ambiguity

- To assign a unique orientation to circular image windows:
 - Create histogram of local gradient directions in the patch
 - Assign canonical orientation at peak of smoothed histogram



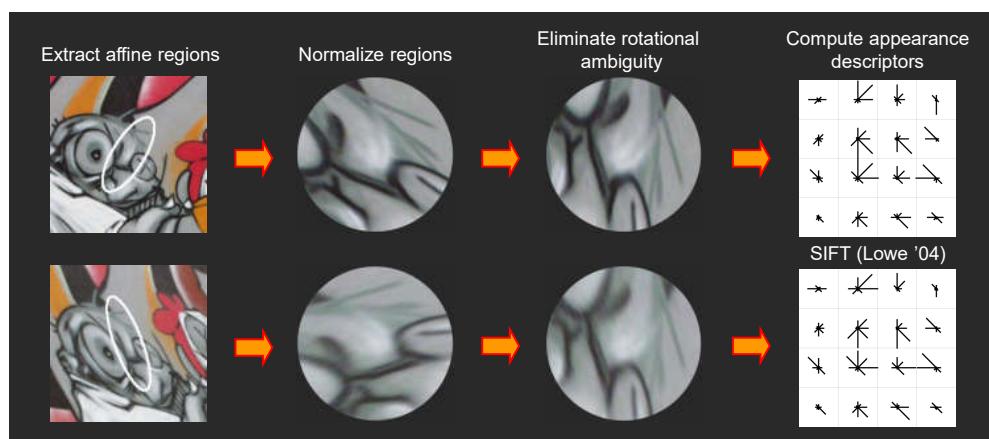
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From covariant regions to invariant features



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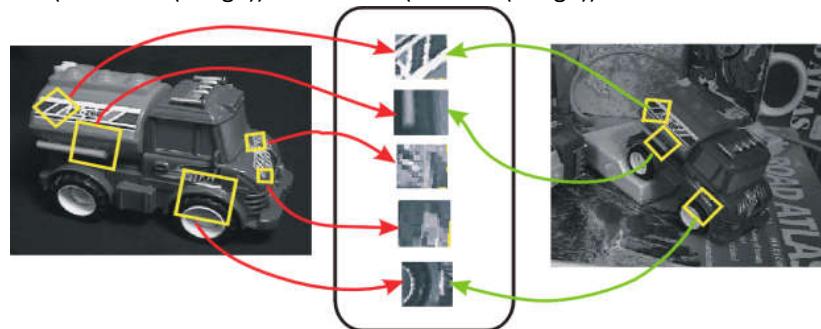
Invariance vs. covariance

Invariance:

- $\text{features}(\text{transform}(\text{image})) = \text{features}(\text{image})$

Covariance:

- $\text{features}(\text{transform}(\text{image})) = \text{transform}(\text{features}(\text{image}))$



Covariant detection => invariant description

Source: S. Lazebnik

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