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# Segmentation

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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

# Image segmentation



Source: S. Lazebnik

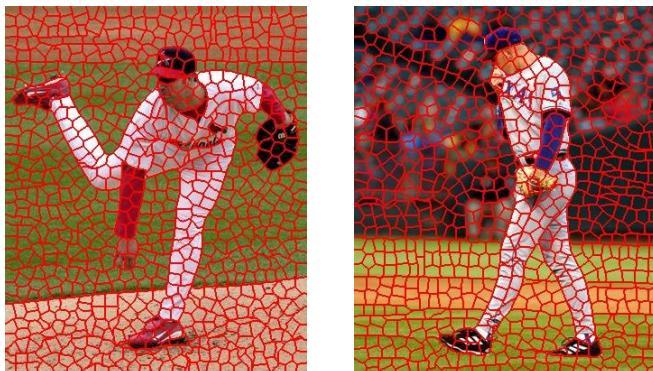
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## The goals of segmentation

- Group together similar-looking pixels for efficiency of further processing
  - “Bottom-up” process
  - Unsupervised



X. Ren and J. Malik. [Learning a classification model for segmentation](#). ICCV 2003.

Source: S. Lazebnik

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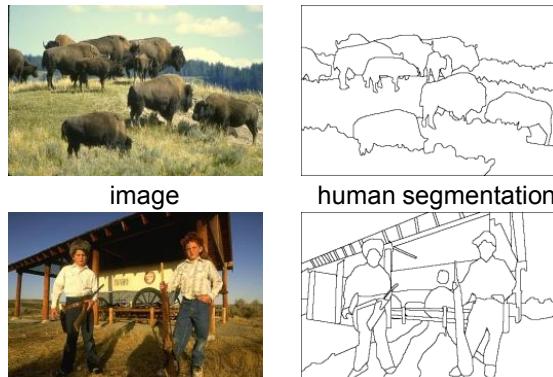
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## The goals of segmentation

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- Separate image into coherent “objects”
  - “Bottom-up” or “top-down” process?
  - Supervised or unsupervised?



Berkeley segmentation database:

<http://www.eecs.berkeley.edu/Research/Projects/CS/vision/grouping/segbench/>

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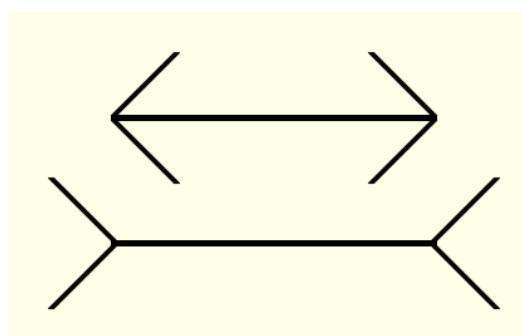
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## Inspiration from psychology

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- The Gestalt school: Grouping is key to visual perception

The Muller-Lyer illusion



[http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Gestalt\\_psychology](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Gestalt_psychology)

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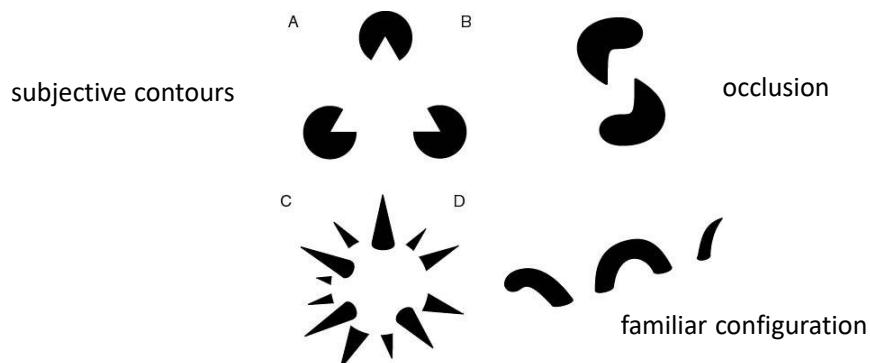
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## The Gestalt school

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- Elements in a collection can have properties that result from relationships
  - “The whole is greater than the sum of its parts”



[http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Gestalt\\_psychology](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Gestalt_psychology)

Source: S. Lazebnik

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## Emergence

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[http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Gestalt\\_psychology](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Gestalt_psychology)

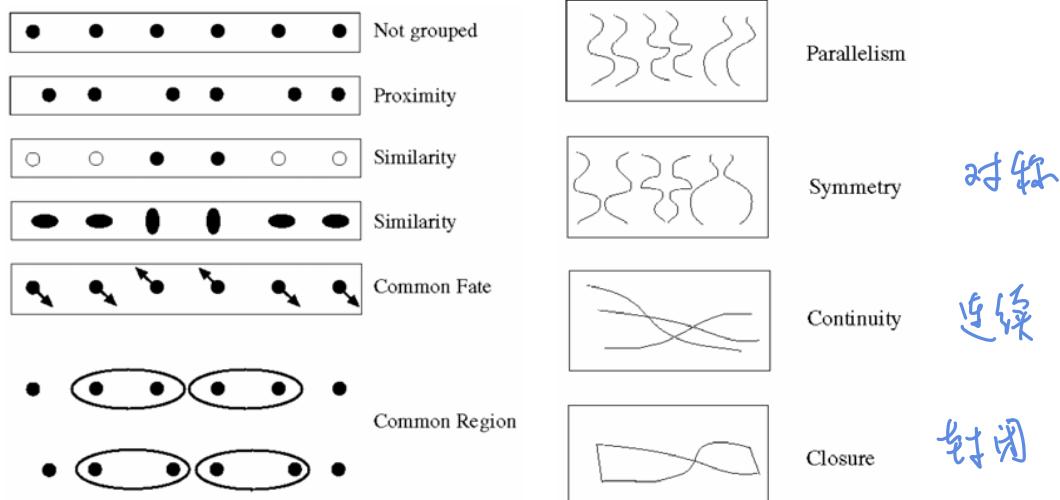
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## Gestalt factors

分割依據



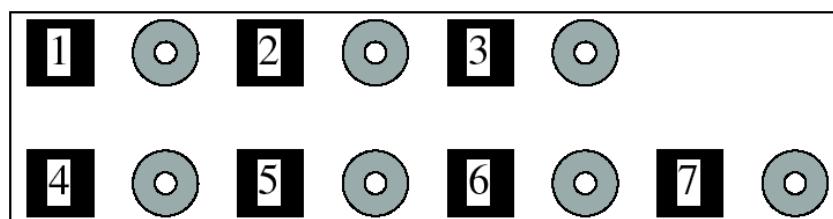
Source: S. Lazebnik

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## Grouping phenomena in real life



Forsyth & Ponce, Figure 14.7

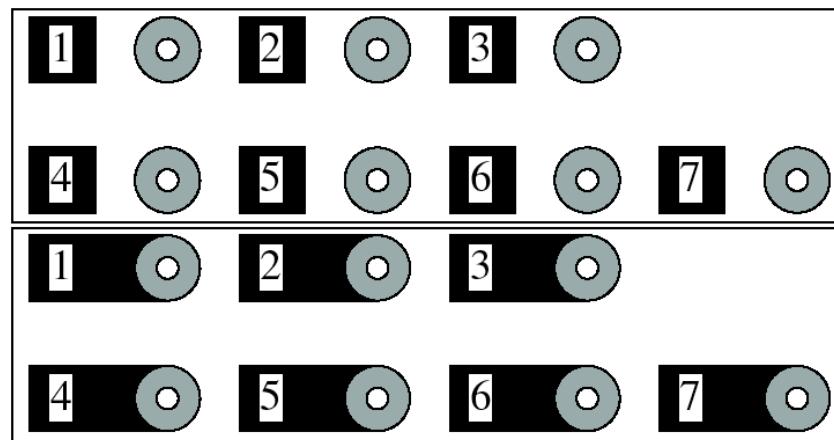
Source: S. Lazebnik

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## Grouping phenomena in real life



Forsyth & Ponce, Figure 14.7

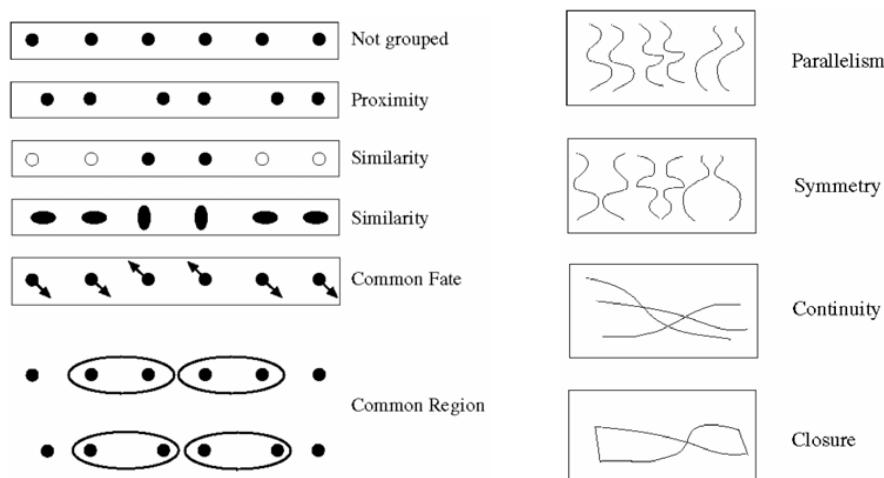
Source: S. Lazebnik

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## Gestalt factors



These factors make intuitive sense, but are very difficult to translate into algorithms

Source: S. Lazebnik

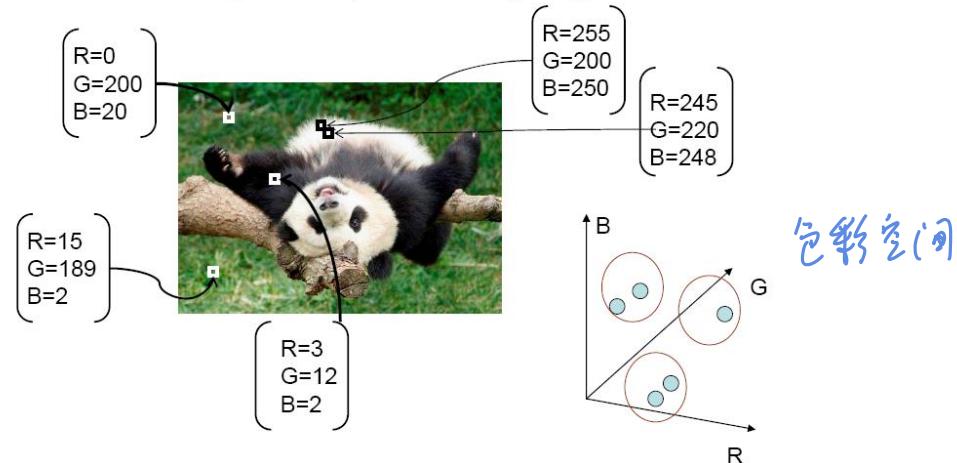
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## Segmentation as clustering

- Cluster similar pixels (features) together



Source: K. Grauman

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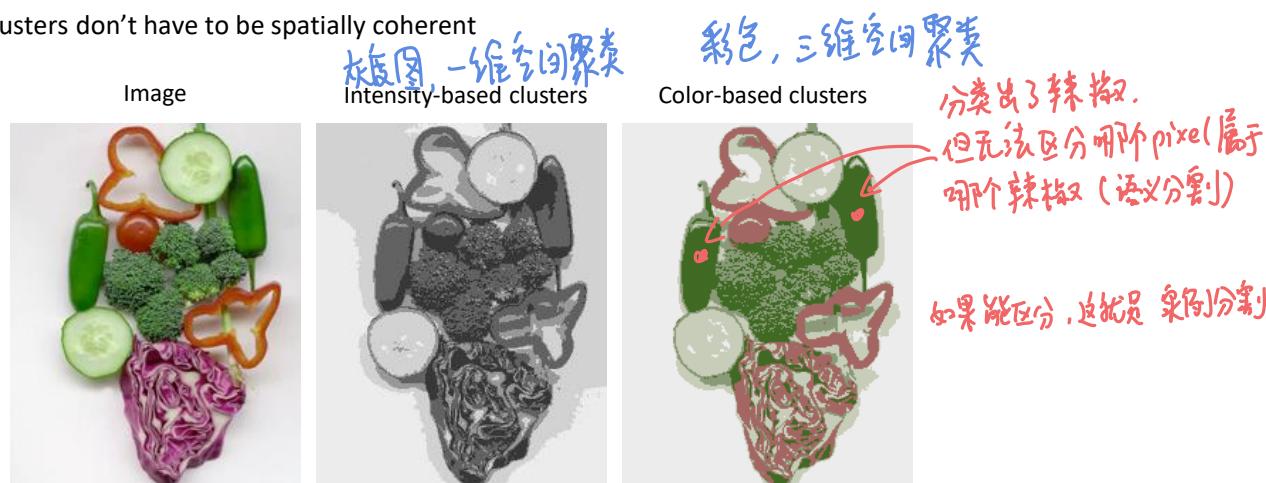
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## Segmentation as clustering

- K-means clustering based on intensity or color is essentially vector quantization of the image attributes

- Clusters don't have to be spatially coherent



Source: S. Lazebnik

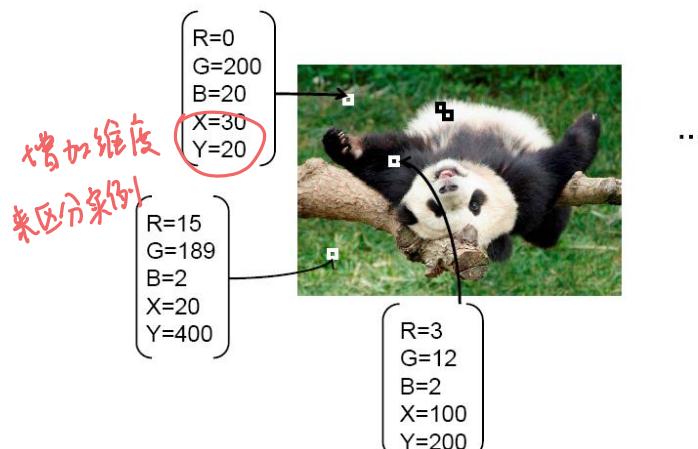
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## Segmentation as clustering

- Cluster similar pixels (features) together



Source: K. Grauman

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## Segmentation as clustering

- Clustering based on  $(r,g,b,x,y)$  values enforces more spatial coherence



Source: S. Lazebnik

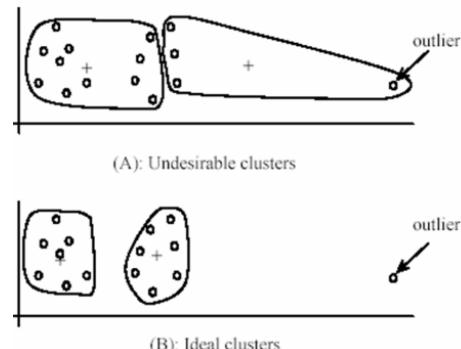
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## K-Means for segmentation

- Pros
  - Very simple method
  - Converges to a local minimum of the error function
- Cons
  - Memory-intensive
  - Need to pick K
  - Sensitive to initialization
  - Sensitive to outliers
  - Only finds “spherical” clusters



Source: S. Lazebnik

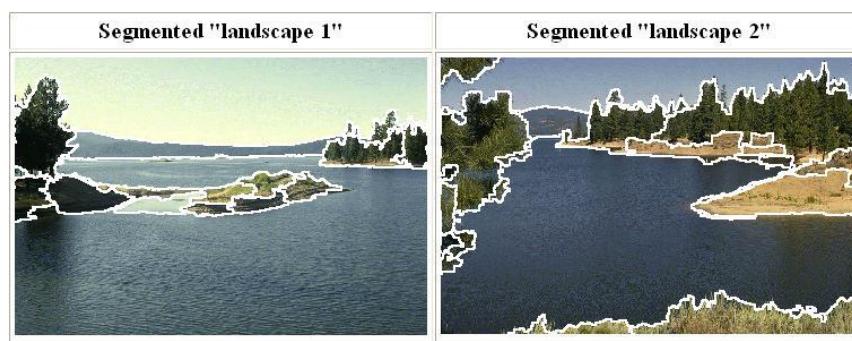
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## Mean shift clustering and segmentation

- An advanced and versatile technique for clustering-based segmentation



<http://www.caip.rutgers.edu/~comanici/MSPAMI/msPamiResults.html>

D. Comaniciu and P. Meer, Mean Shift: A Robust Approach toward Feature Space Analysis, PAMI 2002.

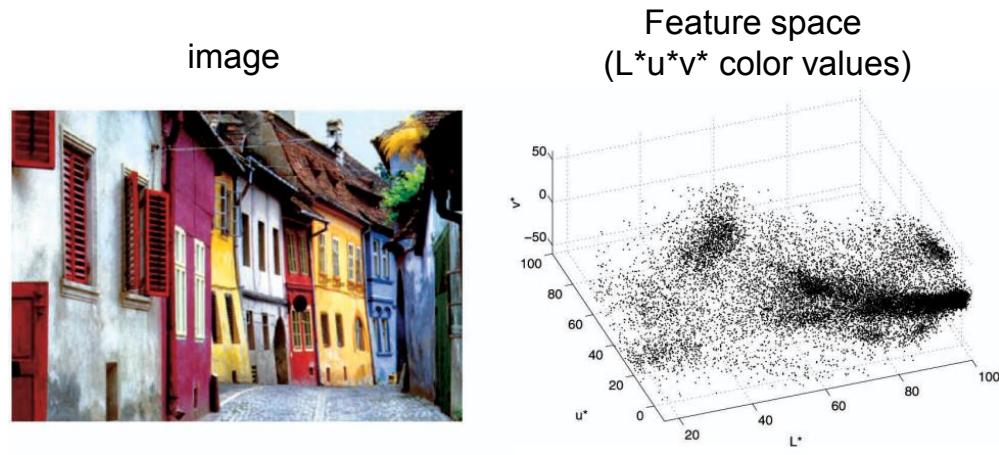
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## Mean shift algorithm

- The mean shift algorithm seeks *modes* or local maxima of density in the feature space

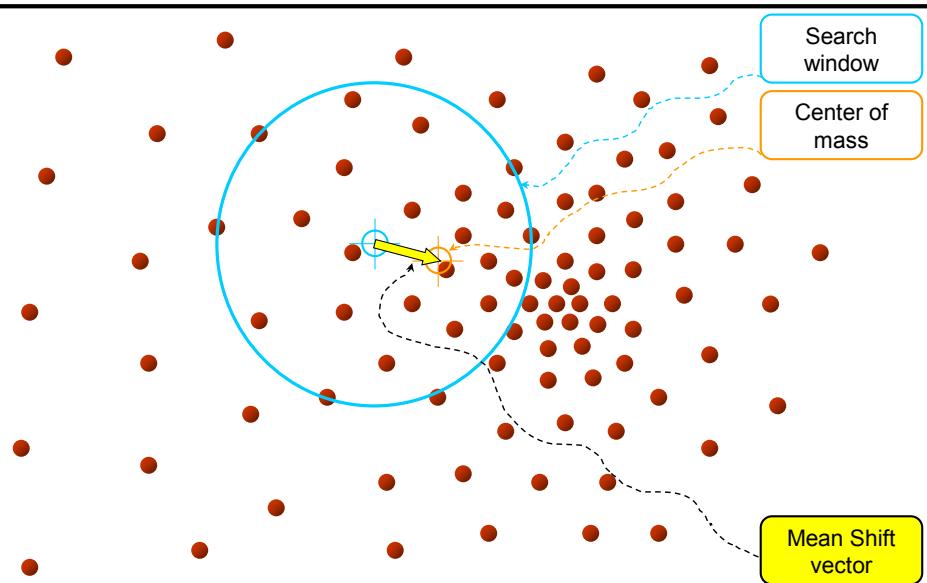


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## Mean shift



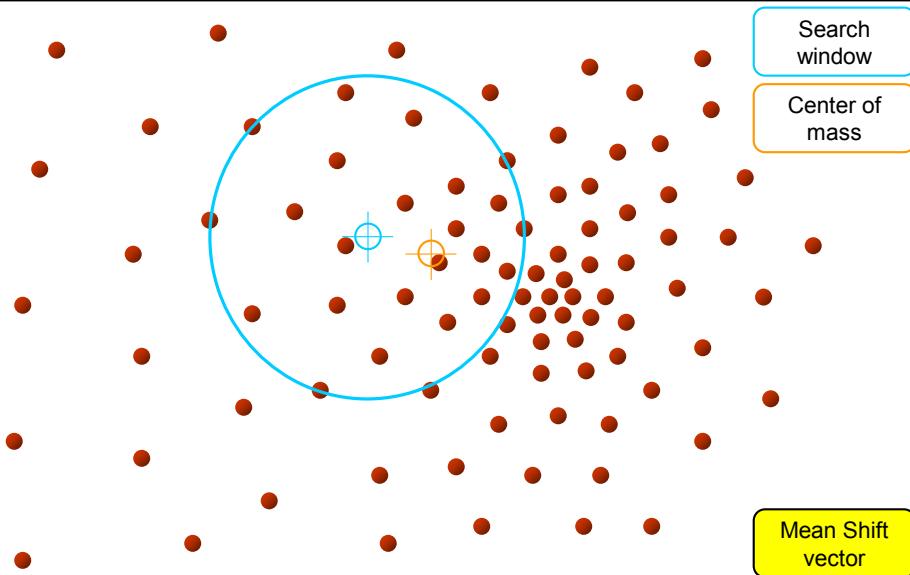
Source: Y. Ukrainitz & B. Sarel

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## Mean shift



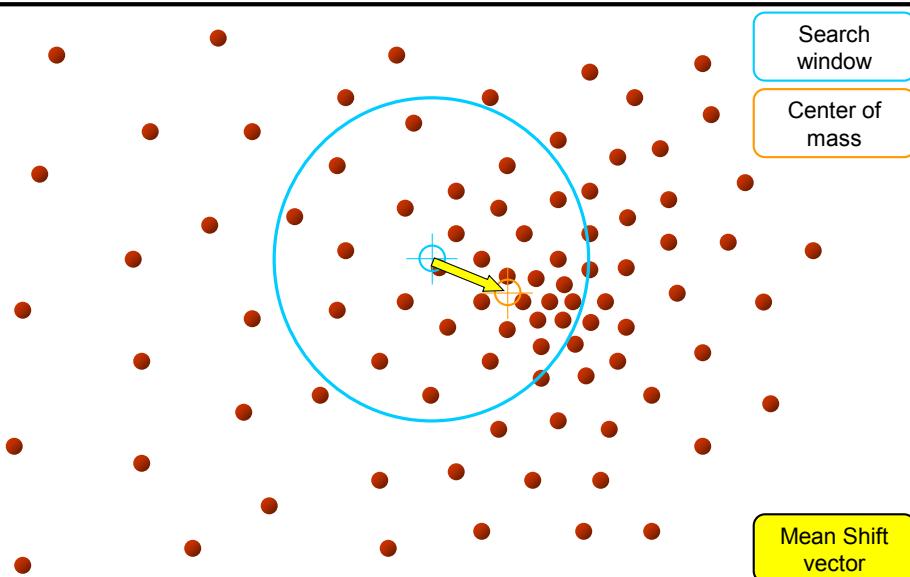
Source: Y. Ukrainitz & B. Sarel

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## Mean shift



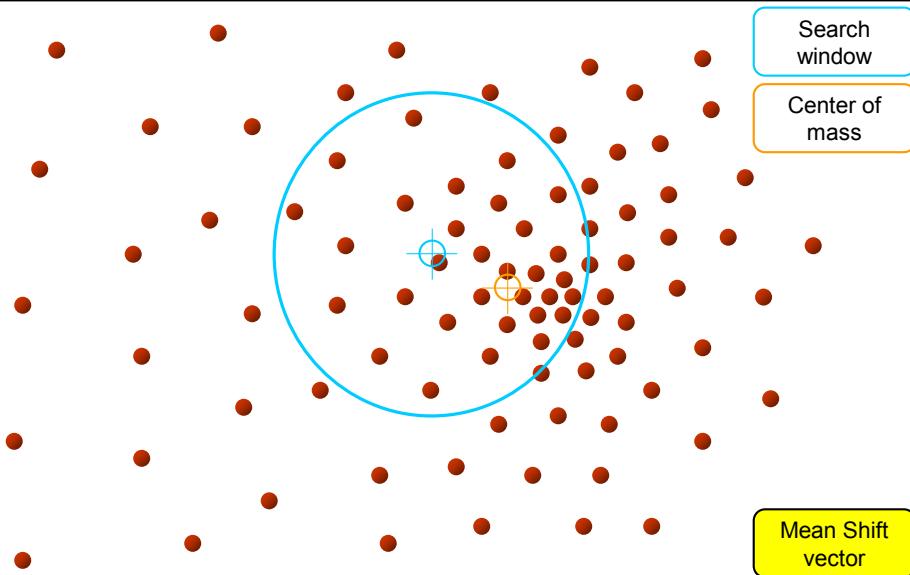
Source: Y. Ukrainitz & B. Sarel

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## Mean shift



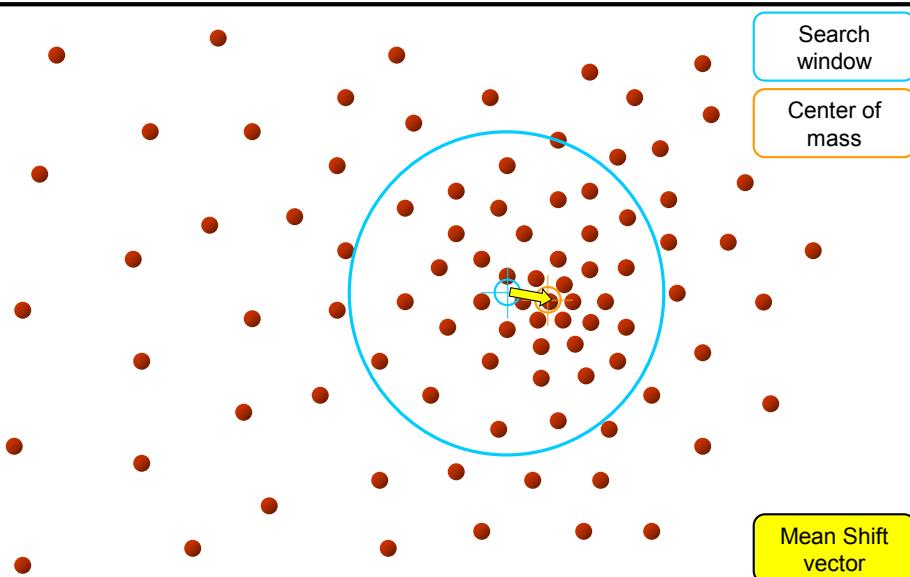
Source: Y. Ukrainitz & B. Sarel

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## Mean shift



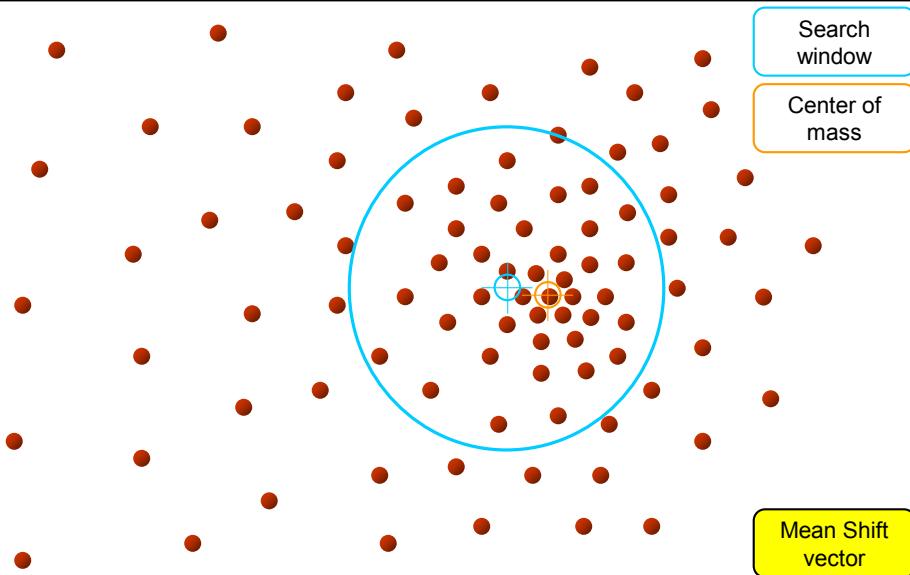
Source: Y. Ukrainitz & B. Sarel

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## Mean shift



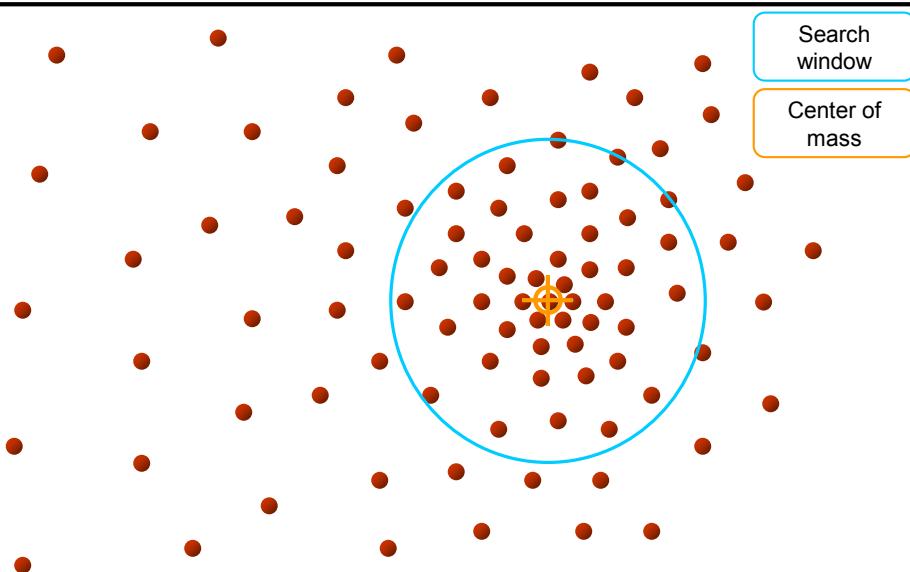
Source: Y. Ukrainitz & B. Sarel

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## Mean shift



Source: Y. Ukrainitz & B. Sarel

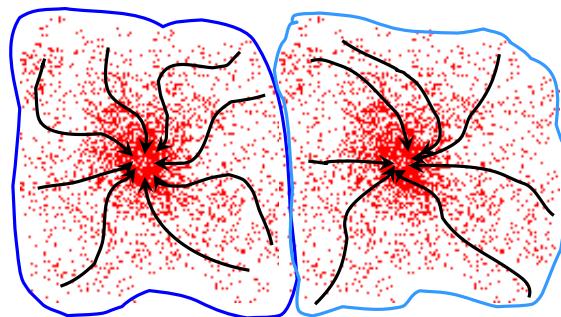
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## Mean shift clustering

- Cluster: all data points in the attraction basin of a mode
- Attraction basin: the region for which all trajectories lead to the same mode



Source: Y. Ukrainitz & B. Sarel

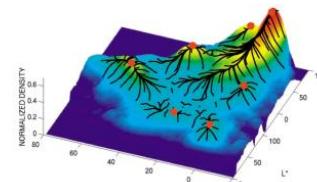
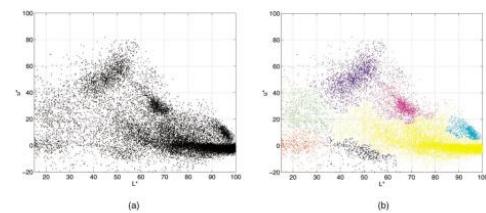
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## Mean shift clustering/segmentation

- Find features (color, gradients, texture, etc)
- Initialize windows at individual feature points
- Perform mean shift for each window until convergence
- Merge windows that end up near the same “peak” or mode



Source: S. Lazebnik

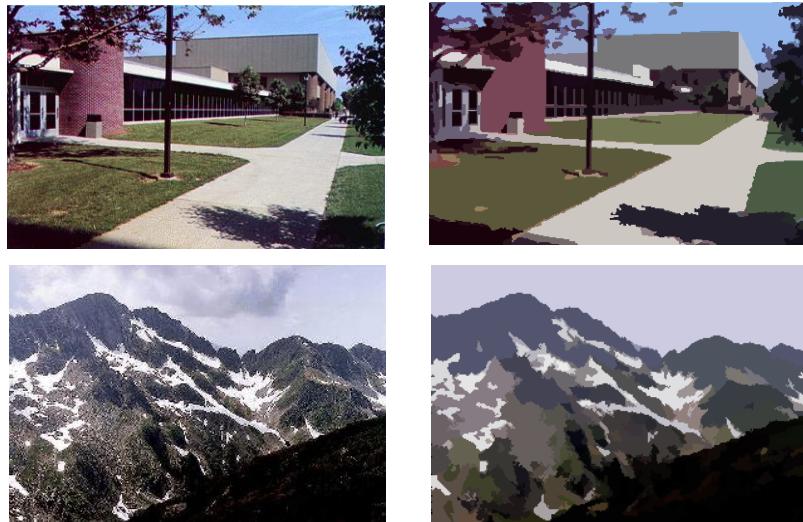
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## Mean shift segmentation results

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<http://www.caip.rutgers.edu/~comanici/MSPAMI/msPamiResults.html>

Source: S. Lazebnik

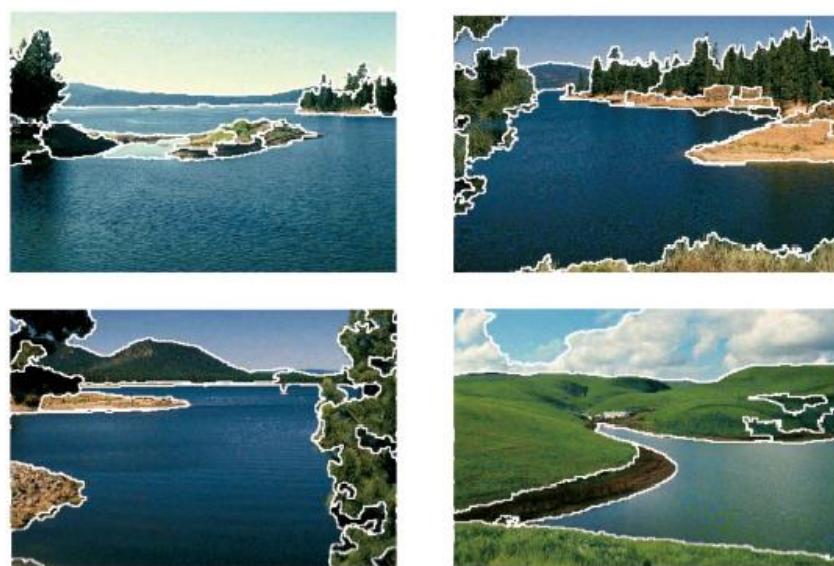
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## More results

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Source: S. Lazebnik

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## More results

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Source: S. Lazebnik

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## Mean shift pros and cons

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- Pros
  - Does not assume spherical clusters
  - Just a single parameter (window size)
  - Finds variable number of modes
  - Robust to outliers
- Cons
  - Output depends on window size
  - Computationally expensive
  - Does not scale well with dimension of feature space

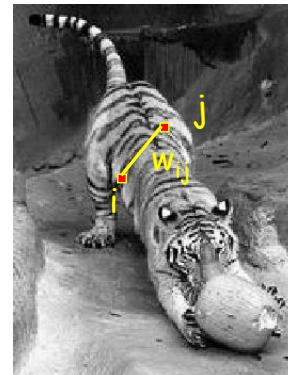
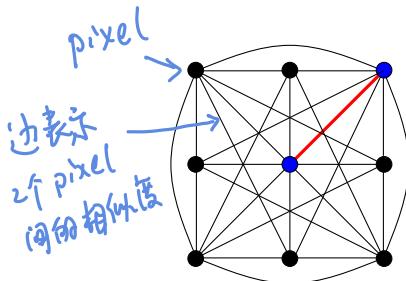
Source: S. Lazebnik

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## Images as graphs



- Node for every pixel
- Edge between every pair of pixels (or every pair of “sufficiently close” pixels)
- Each edge is weighted by the *affinity* or similarity of the two nodes

Source: S. Seitz

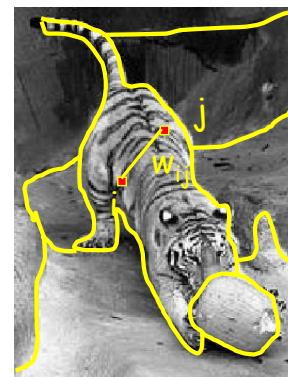
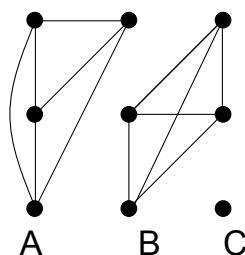
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## Segmentation by graph partitioning

删除相似性最小的边，即完成了分割



- Break Graph into Segments
  - Delete links that cross between segments
  - Easiest to break links that have low affinity
    - similar pixels should be in the same segments
    - dissimilar pixels should be in different segments

Source: S. Seitz

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## Measuring affinity

- Suppose we represent each pixel by a feature vector  $\mathbf{x}$ , and define a distance function appropriate for this feature representation
- Then we can convert the distance between two feature vectors into an affinity with the help of a generalized Gaussian kernel:

$$\text{similarity} = \exp\left(-\frac{1}{2\sigma^2} \text{dist}(\mathbf{x}_i, \mathbf{x}_j)^2\right)$$

*距离的倒数*

Source: S. Lazebnik

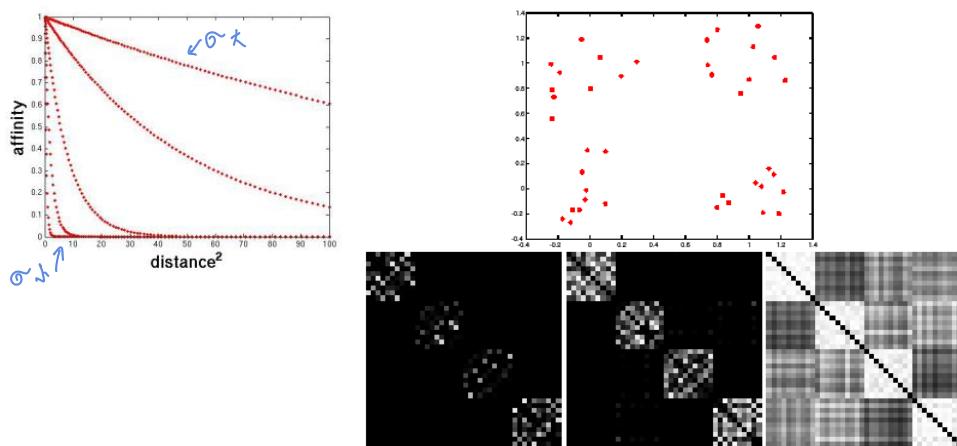
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## Scale affects affinity

- Small  $\sigma$ : group only nearby points
- Large  $\sigma$ : group far-away points



Source: S. Lazebnik

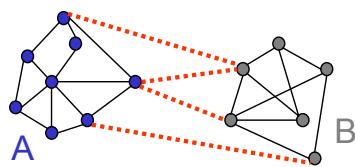
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## Graph cut

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- Set of edges whose removal makes a graph disconnected
- Cost of a cut: sum of weights of cut edges
- A graph cut gives us a segmentation
  - What is a “good” graph cut and how do we find one?

Source: S. Seitz

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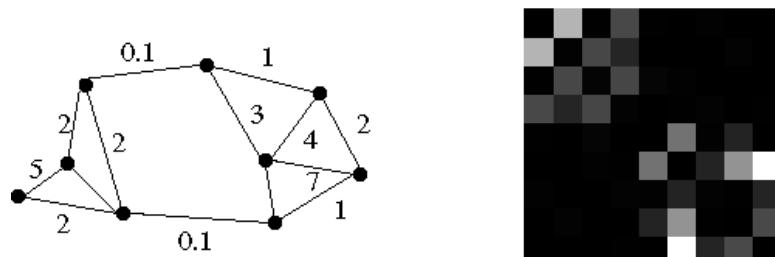
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## Minimum cut

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- We can do segmentation by finding the *minimum cut* in a graph
  - Efficient algorithms exist for doing this

Minimum cut example



Source: S. Lazebnik

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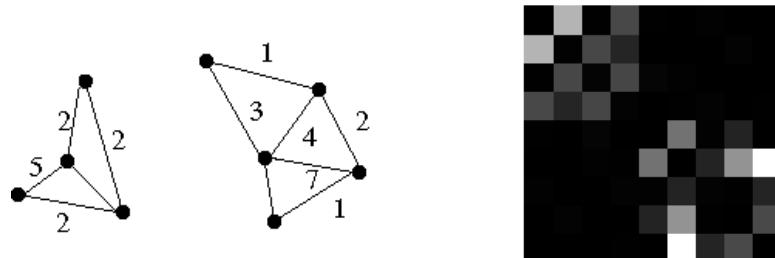
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## Minimum cut

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  - Efficient algorithms exist for doing this

Minimum cut example



Source: S. Lazebnik

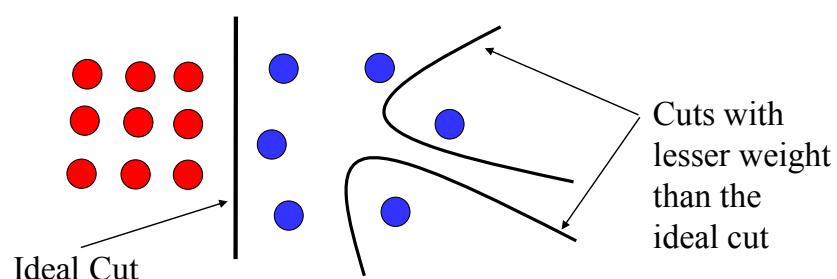
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## Normalized cut

- Drawback: minimum cut tends to cut off very small, isolated components



单个 pixel 容易被切，因为它可能只有1个边，即 weight 自然很小

Source: Khurram Hassan-Shafique

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## Normalized cut 为避免单个pixel被切

- Drawback: minimum cut tends to cut off very small, isolated components
- This can be fixed by normalizing the cut by the weight of all the edges incident to the segment
- The *normalized cut cost* is:  $\frac{w(A, B)}{w(A, V) + w(B, V)}$ , 我们在下面这个表达式最小，即实现了 Normalized Cut  
 $w(A, B)$  表示切完 A, B 后, A 与 B 的 weight 和, 且以  $w(A, B)$  越小, A 与 B 分割就越越好

若 A 是单个 pixel,  $w(A, B)$  小,  $w(A, V)$  会更小  $\frac{w(A, B)}{w(A, V)} + \frac{w(A, B)}{w(B, V)}$   
 因为  $\frac{w(A, B)}{w(A, V)}$  会变大,  $\frac{w(A, B)}{w(B, V)}$  同理  
 $w(A, B) = \text{sum of weights of all edges between } A \text{ and } B$   
 所以当整个表达式达到最小时, 不会出现切割单个 pixel 的情况, 这就是 Normalized Cut  
 J. Shi and J. Malik. [Normalized cuts and image segmentation](#). PAMI 2000

Source: S. Lazebnik

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## Normalized cut

- Let  $W$  be the adjacency matrix of the graph
- Let  $D$  be the diagonal matrix with diagonal entries  $D(i, i) = \sum_j W(i, j)$
- Then the normalized cut cost can be written as

$$\frac{y^T (D - W)y}{y^T D y}$$

where  $y$  is an indicator vector whose value should be 1 in the  $i$ th position if the  $i$ th feature point belongs to A and a negative constant otherwise

J. Shi and J. Malik. [Normalized cuts and image segmentation](#). PAMI 2000

Source: S. Lazebnik

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## Normalized cut

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- Finding the exact minimum of the normalized cut cost is NP-complete, but if we *relax*  $y$  to take on arbitrary values, then we can minimize the relaxed cost by solving the *generalized eigenvalue problem*  $(D - W)y = \lambda Dy$
- The solution  $y$  is given by the generalized eigenvector corresponding to the second smallest eigenvalue
- Intuitively, the  $i$ th entry of  $y$  can be viewed as a “soft” indication of the component membership of the  $i$ th feature
  - Can use 0 or median value of the entries as the splitting point (threshold), or find threshold that minimizes the Ncut cost

Source: S. Lazebnik

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## Normalized cut algorithm

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1. Represent the image as a weighted graph  
 $G = (V, E)$ , compute the weight of each edge, and summarize the information in  $D$  and  $W$
2. Solve  $(D - W)y = \lambda Dy$  for the eigenvector with the second smallest eigenvalue
3. Use the entries of the eigenvector to bipartition the graph

To find more than two clusters:

- Recursively bipartition the graph
- Run k-means clustering on values of several eigenvectors

Source: S. Lazebnik

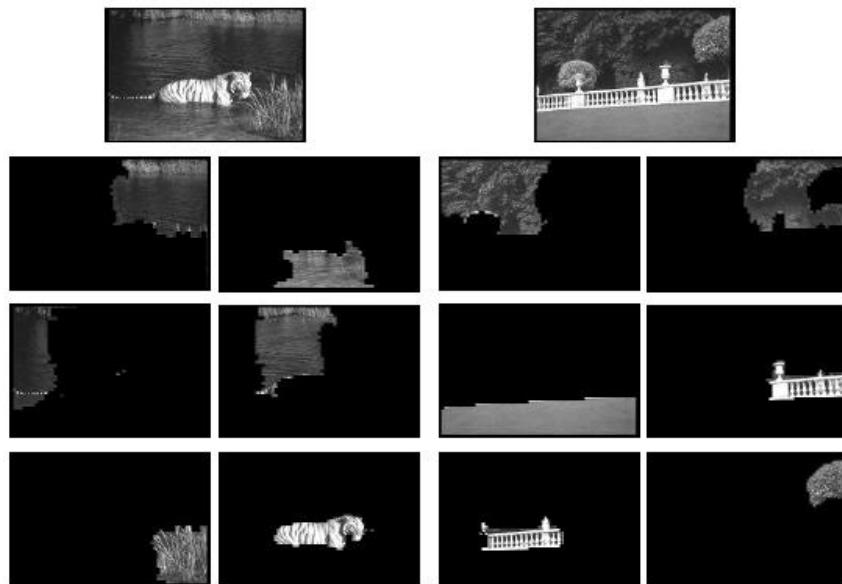
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## Example result

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Source: S. Lazebnik

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## Challenge

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- How to segment images that are a “mosaic of textures”?



Source: S. Lazebnik

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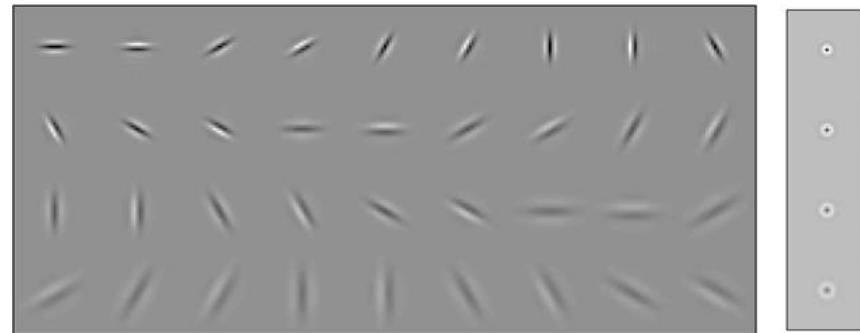
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## Using texture features for segmentation

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- Convolve image with a bank of filters



J. Malik, S. Belongie, T. Leung and J. Shi. "[Contour and Texture Analysis for Image Segmentation](#)". IJCV 43(1),7-27,2001.

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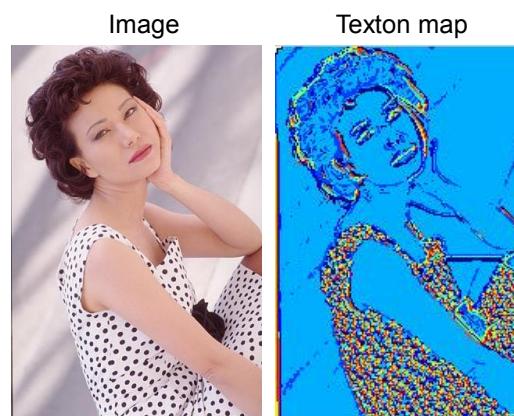
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## Using texture features for segmentation

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- Convolve image with a bank of filters
- Find *textons* by clustering vectors of filter bank outputs



J. Malik, S. Belongie, T. Leung and J. Shi. "[Contour and Texture Analysis for Image Segmentation](#)". IJCV 43(1),7-27,2001.

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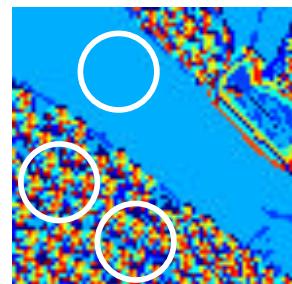
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## Using texture features for segmentation

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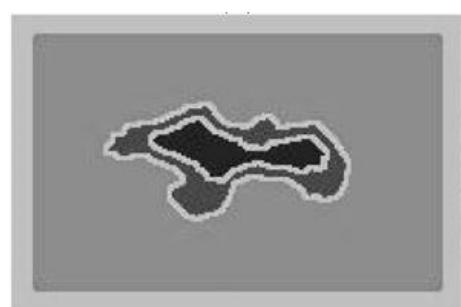
- Convolve image with a bank of filters
- Find *textons* by clustering vectors of filter bank outputs
- The final texture feature is a texton histogram computed over image windows at some “local scale”



J. Malik, S. Belongie, T. Leung and J. Shi. ["Contour and Texture Analysis for Image Segmentation"](#). IJCV 43(1),7-27,2001.

## Pitfall of texture features

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- Possible solution: check for “intervening contours” when computing connection weights

J. Malik, S. Belongie, T. Leung and J. Shi. ["Contour and Texture Analysis for Image Segmentation"](#). IJCV 43(1),7-27,2001.

## Example results

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Source: S. Lazebnik

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## Results: Berkeley Segmentation Engine

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<http://www.cs.berkeley.edu/~fowlkes/BSE/>

Source: S. Lazebnik

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## Normalized cuts: Pro and con

- Pros
  - Generic framework, can be used with many different features and affinity formulations
- Cons
  - High storage requirement and time complexity
  - Bias towards partitioning into equal segments

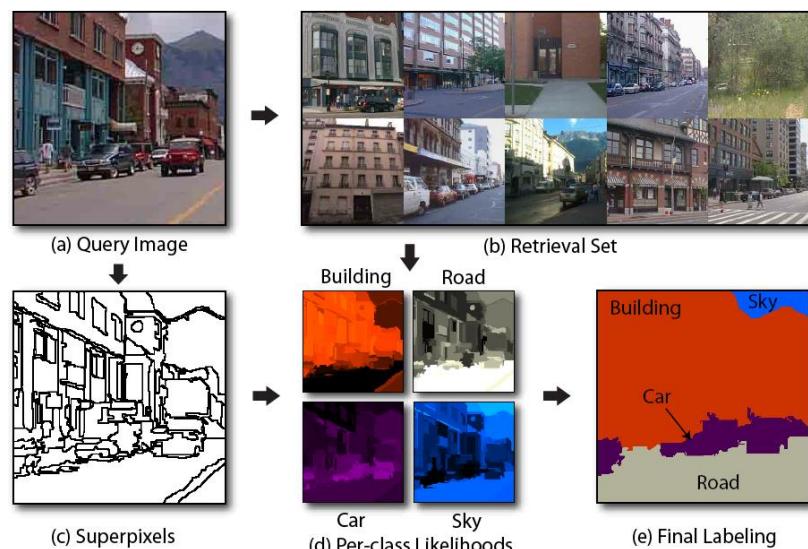
Source: S. Lazebnik

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## Segments as primitives for recognition



J. Tighe and S. Lazebnik, ECCV 2010

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