The University of Manchester

MANCHESTER 1824

Lectures 1 & 2:
Basic Image Analysis

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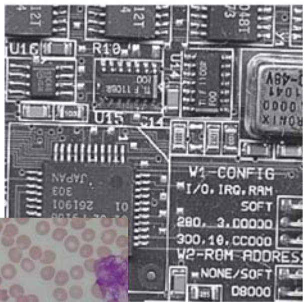
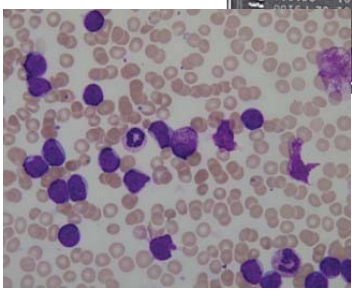
Tuesday 10th March 2020

11:15am – 13:15pm

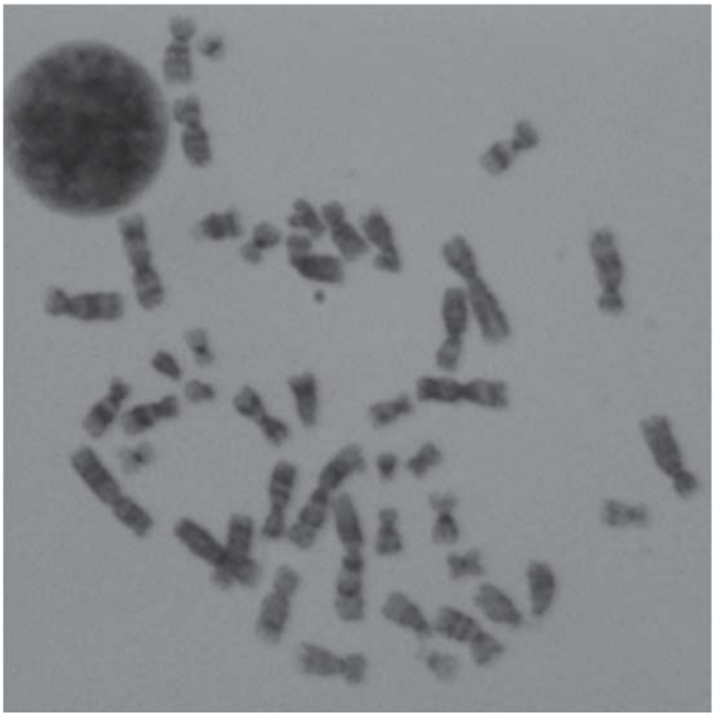
Basic Image Analysis

- Limited to simple 2D scenes
  - Adequately described as background and objects
- Good contrast between objects and background
  - staining or backlighting
- Constrained applications
  - microscopic materials analysis
  - biomedical microscopy
  - industrial inspection





Sample Problem:



- Stained preparation, light microscope
- Chromosomes, with bands
- Measure banding pattern

Solving the Problem

Plan

Distinguish between objects & background
↓
Locate each individual object
↓
Locate centerline
↓
Measure bands

Tasks

- What is an image?
- What is background?
- From not-background to distinct objects
- Shape of an object?
- Measurements on object

Overview:

- Image Representation
  - What is an image?
- Grey-Level Processing
  - Improving the starting image
- Segmentation
  - Background pixels and object pixels
- Binary Image Processing
  - Improved background/object binary image
- Measurement
  - Object as connected region

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Image Representation

Image Representation

- Isn't it totally obvious? We all know what an image is!
- Various ways of representing an image, depending on the task in hand
  - Image function
  - Landscape
  - Array of pixels
  - Image histogram
  - In another space entirely!

Image Representation

Image

Image Plane

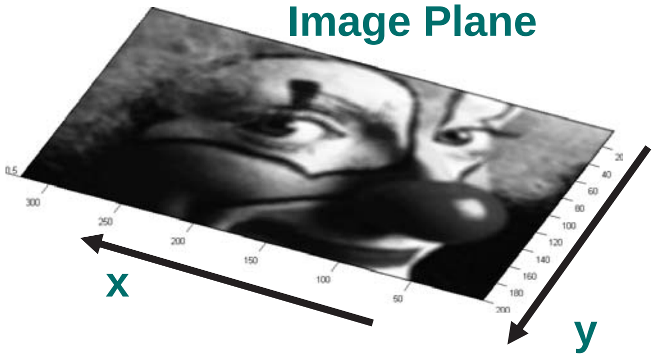


Image Function

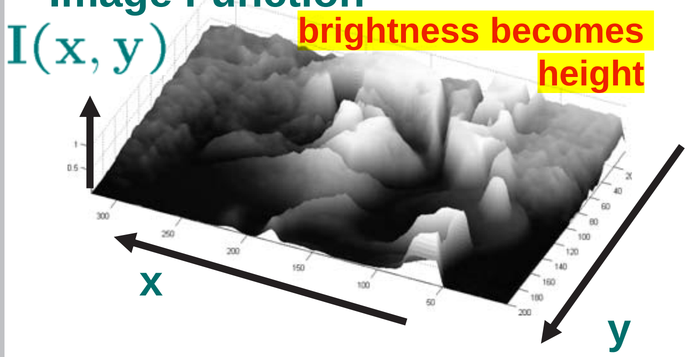


Image Landscape

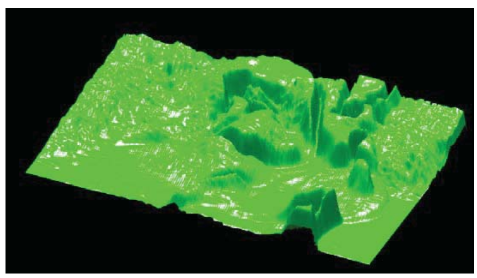
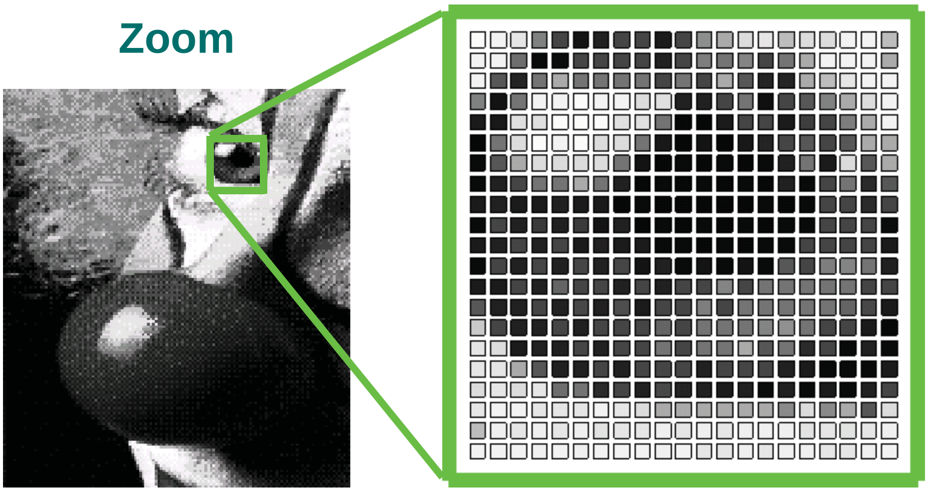


Image Representation

Zoom



Array of Pixels:

Values and spatial relationship

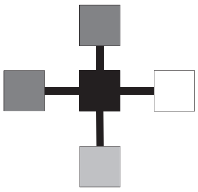
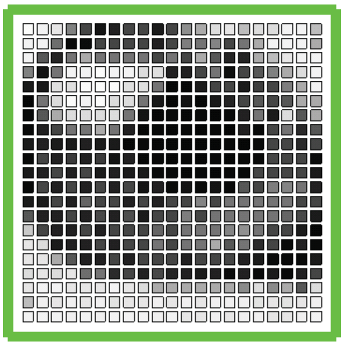


Image Representation



- Sort pixels by grayscale value/colour and stack them up

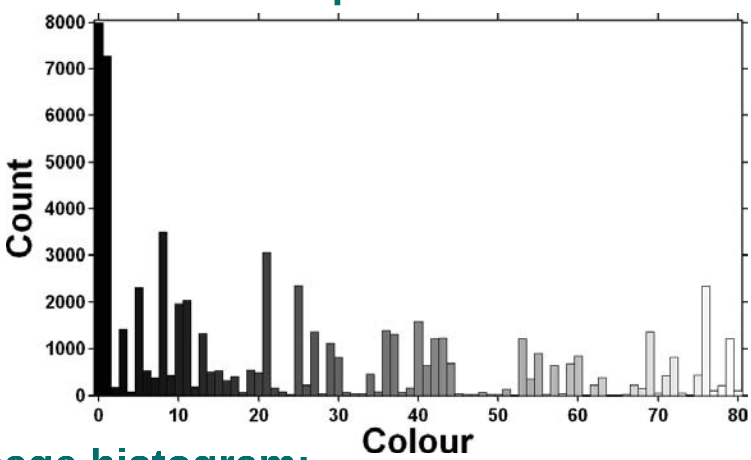
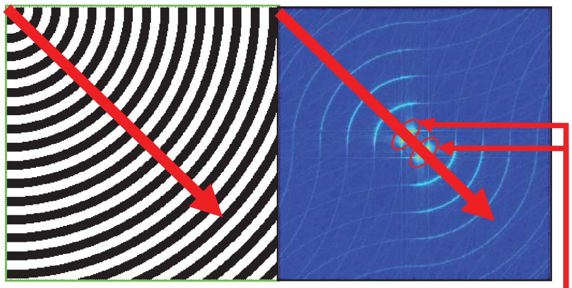


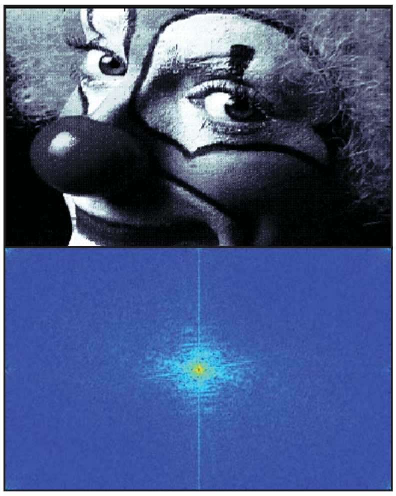
Image histogram:
Kept values but lost spatial information

Image Representation

- **Fourier Analysis:** 傅立叶分析
  - any signal can be decomposed into a sum of sinusoids (FFT)
  - low frequencies, general shape, high frequencies details



zero frequency at centre $f \propto \frac{1}{\text{spacing}}$



NOTE:
zero frequency removed by subtracting mean value across image from image before doing FFT

Image Representation

NOTE:
$e^{i\theta} \equiv \cos\theta + i\sin\theta$
$\Rightarrow \mathcal{F}_I$ complex, $I(\underline{r})$ real
so $\mathcal{F}_I(-\underline{k}) \equiv \overline{\mathcal{F}}_I(\underline{k})$

- **Frequency Space:**
  - Integrate over the image, weighted by complex exponentials

$$\mathcal{F}_I(u,v) \propto \iint I(x,y)\exp(iux + ivy)\,dx\,dy$$

  - Compact vector form:

$$\mathcal{F}_I(\underline{k}) \propto \iint I(\underline{r})\exp(i\underline{k}\cdot\underline{r})\,d\underline{r}$$

  - Inverse:

$$I(\underline{r}) \propto \iint \mathcal{F}_I(\underline{k})\exp(-i\underline{k}\cdot\underline{r})\,d\underline{k}$$

Grey-Level Processing

Grey-Level Processing

- **Restoration:**
  - **What is noise, what is signal?**
  - **Remove blurring**
- **Enhancement**
  - **Emphasize required features (e.g., linear features)**
  - **Emphasize change (e.g., surveillance)**

Grey-Level Processing: Overview

- Point processing
  - Transform global gray-level scale
- Neighbourhood Processing
  - Values and their context (local context & processing)
- Image Arithmetic
  - Using a sequence/pair of images
- Image Transforms
  - Images in a different space (frequency space)

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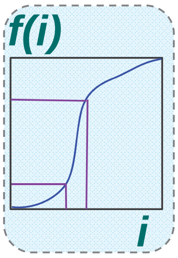
Grey-Level Processing:
Point Processing

Grey-Level Processing: Point Processing

- Point = Pixel
- Transforms image based on single pixel value alone:

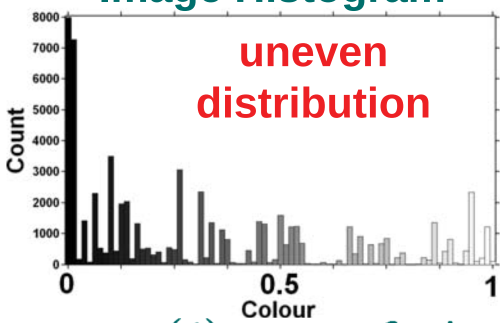
$$\underbrace{\tilde{I}(x,y)}_{\text{new pixel value}} = \underset{\uparrow \text{ function}}{f}\left(\underbrace{I(\overbrace{x,y}^{\text{position}})}_{\text{pixel value}}\right)$$



- Various choices for monotonic function f(i)
  - Increase/decrease/stretch brightness and contrast
  - Gamma correction, power law : $f(i) = i^{\gamma}$
  - Histogram matching between images
  - Histogram equalization

Point Processing: Histogram Equalisation

Image Histogram



- Re-assign colours, keep ordering (light to dark)
- Increase contrast

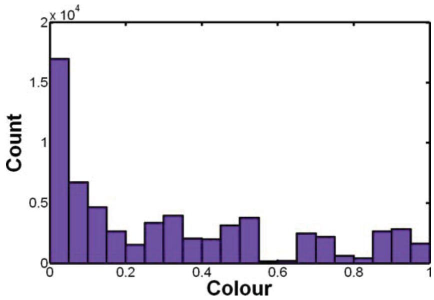
$n(i)$: no of pixels with colour i,

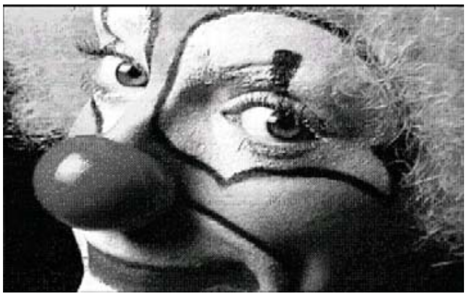
N : Total number

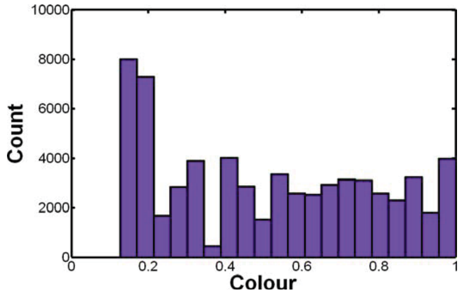
$$\boxed{\text{New Colour: } f(i) = \frac{1}{N}\sum_{j \le i} n(j)}$$

$f(i) = 0.75$, 75% darker than this

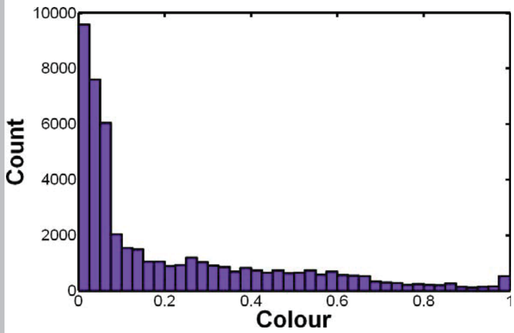
Point Processing: Histogram Equalisation

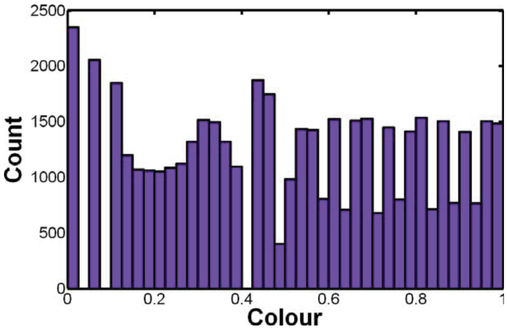






Point Processing: Histogram Equalisation

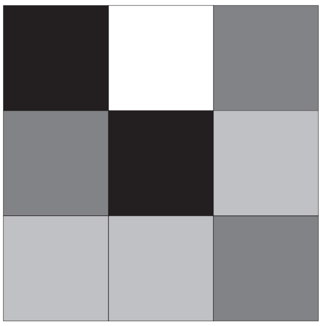




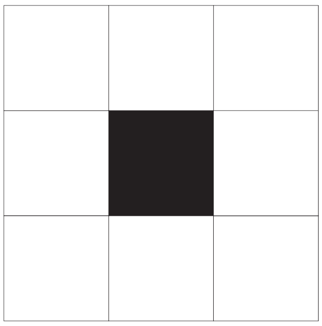
Grey-Level Processing: Neighbourhood Processing

Neighbourhood Processing

single black pixel



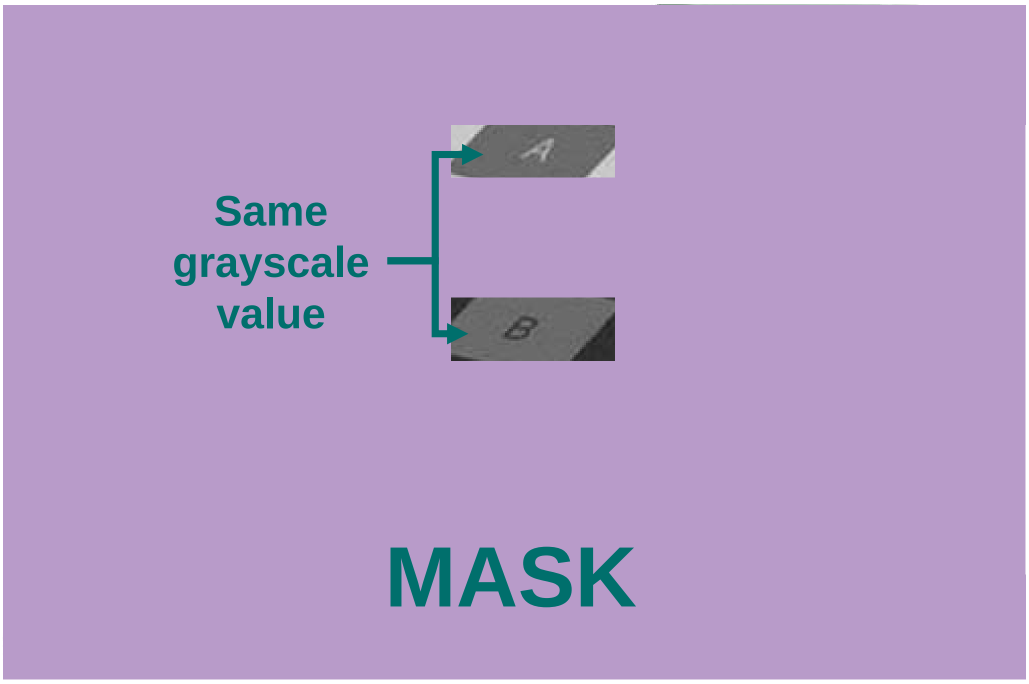
Noisy dark area



Just noise

- Consider a single pixel value in context of neighbours
- Neighbourhood (e.g. 3 x 3), structuring element (SE)
- Two methods:
  - Convolution
  - Rank Filtering

Aside: Context in Human Vision



Convolution: 1D Example

NOTE:
0 black to
1 white
0 to 255 8-bit
images

$g(a)$

1	2	1

$I(x)$

1	0	0.5	1	1	0.5	0.5	0.5	1	1

$\tilde{I}(x)$

1	0.37	0.5	0.9	0.9	0.6	0.5	0.6	0.9	1

- Weighted sum of neighbours

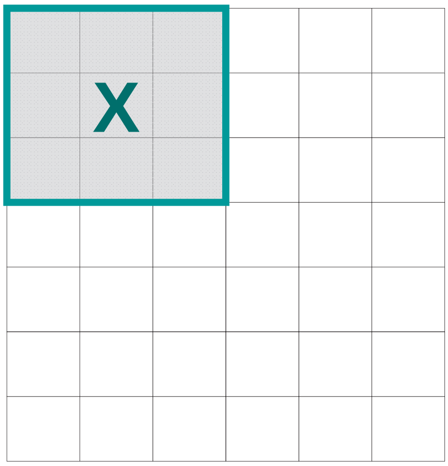
$$\tilde{I}(x) = \frac{\sum_a g(a) I(x+a)}{\sum_b g(b)}$$

Normalize the weights if averaging

Convolution: 2D

g(-1,1)	g(0,1)	g(1,1)
g(-1,0)	g(0,0)	g(1,0)
g(-1,-1)	g(0,-1)	g(1,-1)

g(a,b)

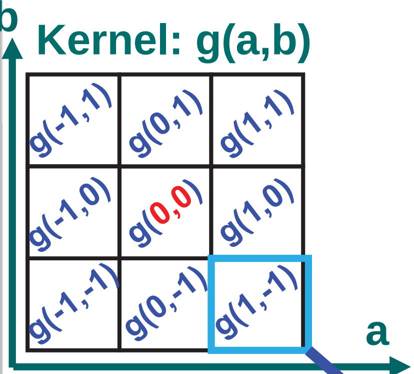


I(x, y)

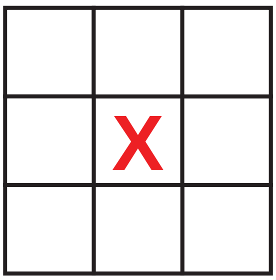
$$\tilde{I}(x,y) = \frac{\sum_a \sum_b g(a,b) I(x+a,y+b)}{\sum_c \sum_e g(c,e)}$$

Convolution: 2D

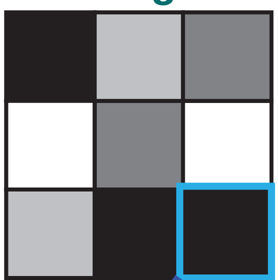
Kernel: g(a,b)



Structuring element



Sample from Image



Sum over all positions within SE

Corresponding Kernel Value

Sampled Value

$$\tilde{I}(x,y) = \frac{\boxed{\sum_a \sum_b} g(a,b) I(x+a,y+b)}{\boxed{\sum_c \sum_e g(c,e)}}$$

Output

Normalize the weights if smoothing

Convolution: 2D

- Asterisk notation: $\tilde{I} = g * I$
- (but NOT in MATLAB!)
- Discrete form:

$$\tilde{I}(x,y) = \frac{\sum_a \sum_b g(a,b) I(x+a, y+b)}{\sum_c \sum_e g(c,e)}$$

- Integral form:

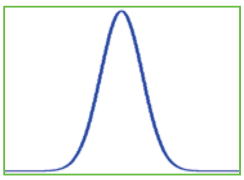
$$\tilde{I}(x,y) = \frac{\iint g(a,b) I(x+a, y+b)\, da\, db}{\iint g(c,e)\, dc\, de}$$

- Integral form (vector notation)

$$\underline{r} = (x,y), \quad \tilde{I}(\underline{r}) = \frac{\iint g(\underline{z}) I(\underline{r}+\underline{z})\, d\underline{z}}{\iint g(\underline{y})\, d\underline{y}}$$

Convolution: Common Kernels

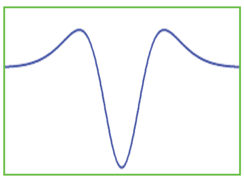
- Gaussian: $g(x,y) = A\,\exp(-(x^2+y^2)/2\sigma^2)$ σ width
  - Smoothing kernel
  - Any unimodal kernel smoothes the image



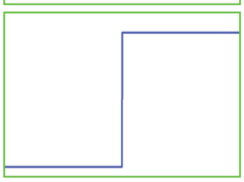
- Difference of Gaussian (DoG)

$$g(x,y) = A\,\exp(-(x^2+y^2)/2\sigma^2) - B\,\exp(-(x^2+y^2)/2\alpha^2)$$

- Laplacian (or Laplacian of Gaussian)
  - similar shape to DoG, second-derivative filter



- First-derivative edge filters
  - Give ridges/troughs at edge positions



Convolution Theorem

NOTE:
$e^{i\theta} \equiv \cos\theta + i\sin\theta$
$\Rightarrow \mathcal{F}_{\mathrm{I}}$ complex, $\mathbf{I}(\underline{r})$ real
so $\mathcal{F}_{\mathrm{I}}(-\underline{k}) \equiv \overline{\mathcal{F}}_{\mathrm{I}}(\underline{k})$

- **Frequency space** (see Image Representation) **:**

$$\mathcal{F}_I(\underline{k}) \propto \iint I(\underline{r}) \exp(i\underline{k} \cdot \underline{r}) d\underline{r}$$

- **Look at it in frequency space or real space:**
  - **convolution in real space ⇔ multiplication in frequency space**

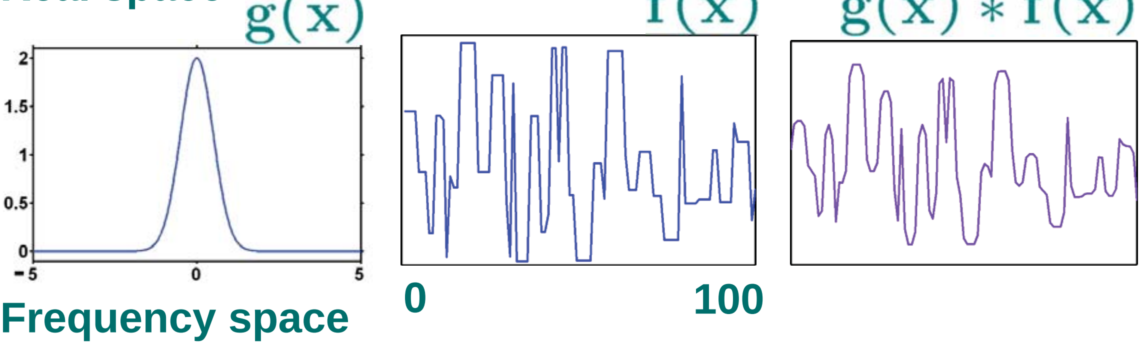
$$\mathrm{g} * \mathbf{I} \iff \mathcal{F}_{\mathrm{g}} \times \mathcal{F}_{\mathrm{I}}, \quad \mathrm{g} * \mathbf{I} \equiv \mathcal{F}^{-1}\left(\mathcal{F}_{\mathrm{g}} \times \mathcal{F}_{\mathrm{I}}\right)$$

  - **convolution in frequency space ⇔ multiplication in real space**

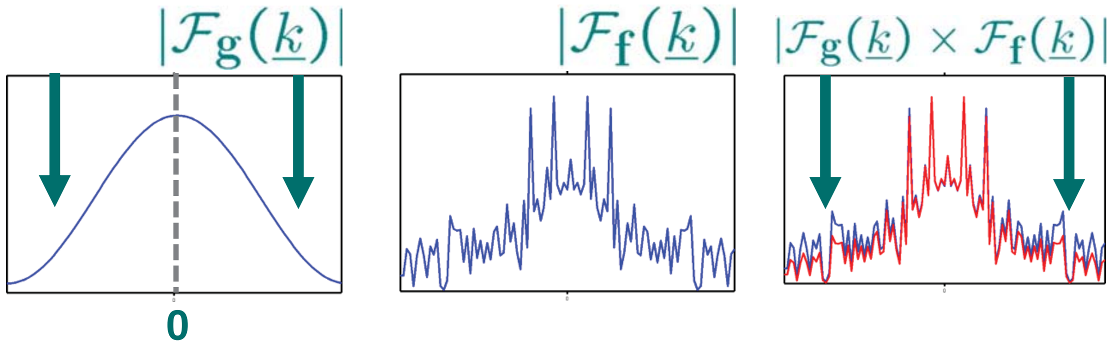
$$\mathcal{F}_{\mathrm{g}} * \mathcal{F}_{\mathrm{I}} \iff \mathrm{g} \times \mathbf{I}, \quad \mathcal{F}_{\mathrm{g}} * \mathcal{F}_{\mathrm{I}} \equiv \mathcal{F}\left(\mathrm{g} \times \mathbf{I}\right)$$

Convolution Theorem: Gaussian

Real space

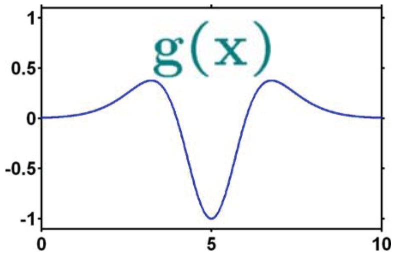


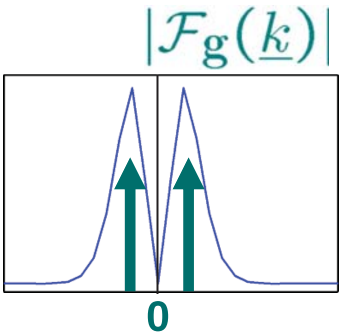
Frequency space



Convolution Theorem: Difference of Gaussians

$$g(x,y) = A\exp(-(x^2+y^2)/2\sigma^2) - B\exp(-(x^2+y^2)/2\alpha^2)$$





- band-pass filter, enhances edges
- Laplacian and LoG similar

signal at edges

Convolution Theorem: Laplacian of Gaussian & Difference of Gaussians

Gaussian and FT of Gaussian

$$\boxed{g(x) \propto e^{-\beta x^2}, \mathcal{F}_g(k) \propto e^{-\alpha k^2}}$$

Convolution Theorem

$$\boxed{g * I \equiv \mathcal{F}^{-1}\left(\mathcal{F}_g \times \mathcal{F}_I\right)}$$

Laplacian of gaussian:

$$\underbrace{\frac{\partial^2}{\partial x^2}}_{\text{Laplacian}}\left(\int \underbrace{e^{-ikx}}_{\text{Inverse FT}}\underbrace{e^{-\alpha k^2}}_{\text{Gaussian}}\underbrace{\mathcal{F}_I(k)}_{\text{FT of Image}}dk\right)$$

- Do the derivative:

$$\int \boxed{-k^2} e^{-ikx} \boxed{e^{-\alpha k^2}} \mathcal{F}_I(k)dk \rightarrow \frac{d}{d\alpha}\overbrace{\int e^{-ikx}e^{-\alpha k^2}\mathcal{F}_I(k)dk}^{\text{Convolution with Gaussian, parameter } \alpha}$$

- LoG: difference of infinitesimally-separated gaussians
- DoG: difference of finitely-separated gaussians

Neighbourhood Processing: Rank Filtering

Neighbourhood Processing: Rank Filtering

- Output is rank function of neighbourhood:
  - median (smoothes and preserves edges)
  - max and/or min (mathematical morphology)
  - rank number (seven of nine)
- Harder to analyse than convolution

Noisy Image

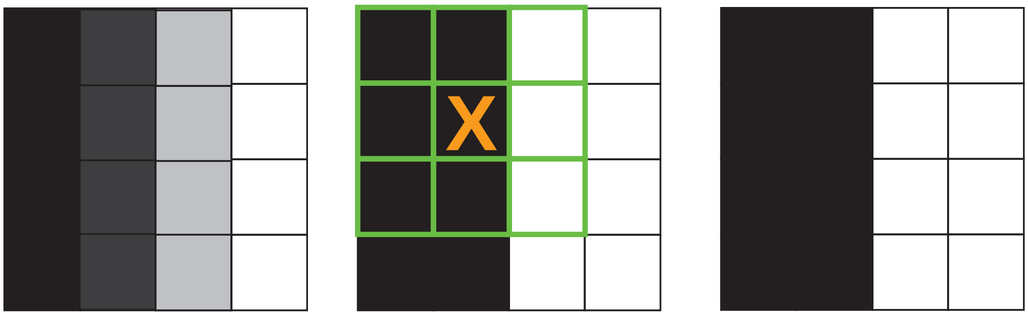
3x3 mean

3x3 median

Rank Filtering & Edges: Example

- Mean: Smooth
- 2/3 + 1/3 =
- 1/3 + 2/3 =

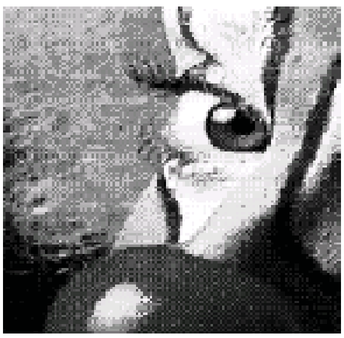
- Median: sharp
- 6 & 3 =>
- 6 & 3 =>



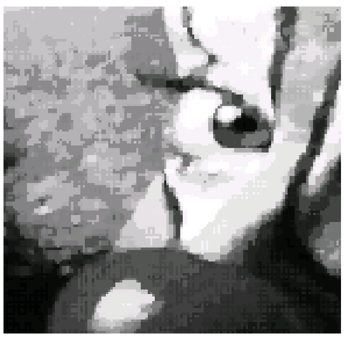
3x3 SE

Neighbourhood Processing: Rank Filtering

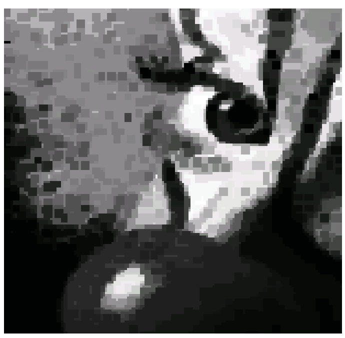
- Rank Number
  - 3 x 3 structure element



Original



maximum



7^{th} of nine

blocky, impressionistic effect

Grey-Level Processing: Image Arithmetic

Image Arithmetic: Addition

- Take average over images in sequence
- Reduces noise


Original


Addition


Noisy 1


Noisy 2

Image Arithmetic: Subtraction

- Take difference:
  - Negative values? Shift and scale to get back to [0:255]
  - Or take absolute difference
- Static background, detects change
- Object, shadows & reflections in real-world scenes

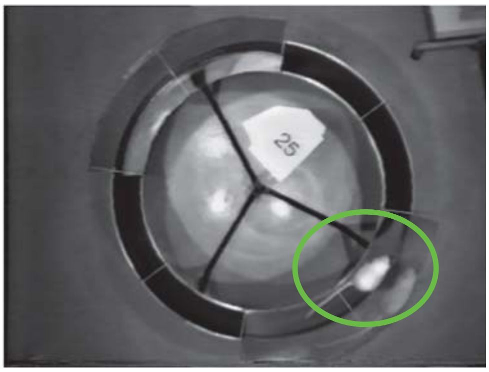
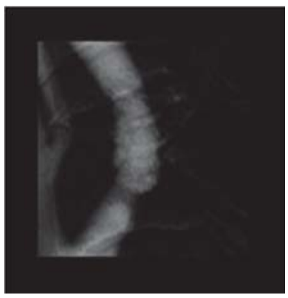


Image Arithmetic: Subtraction

- Digital subtraction angiography (DSA)
- Pre-study radiograph
- Contrast agent injection
- Post-contrast radiograph
- Difference



Introduction to Segmentation

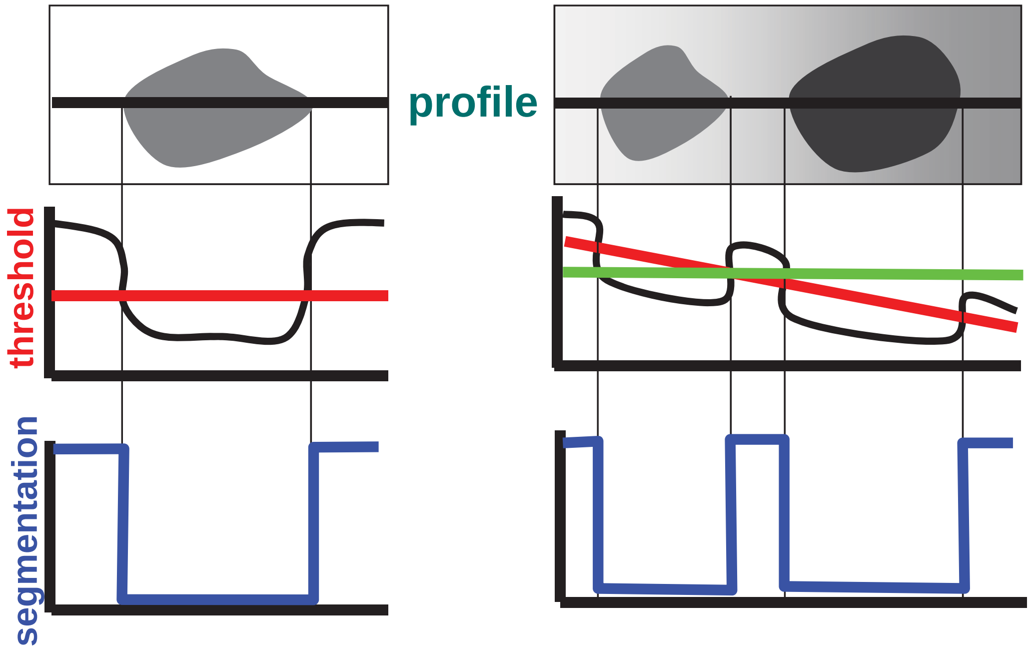
Segmentation:

Task: label each pixel as either object or background

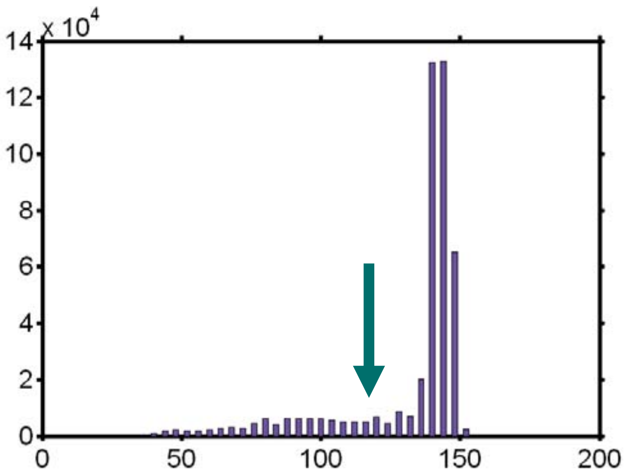
- **Grayscale image $\longrightarrow$ binary label image**
- **Thresholding**
  - simple, high-contrast images
- **Adaptive thresholding**
  - simple images with shaded background
- **Advanced Segmentation**
  - open research problem

Segmentation: Thresholding

- Thresholding
- Adaptive Thresholding

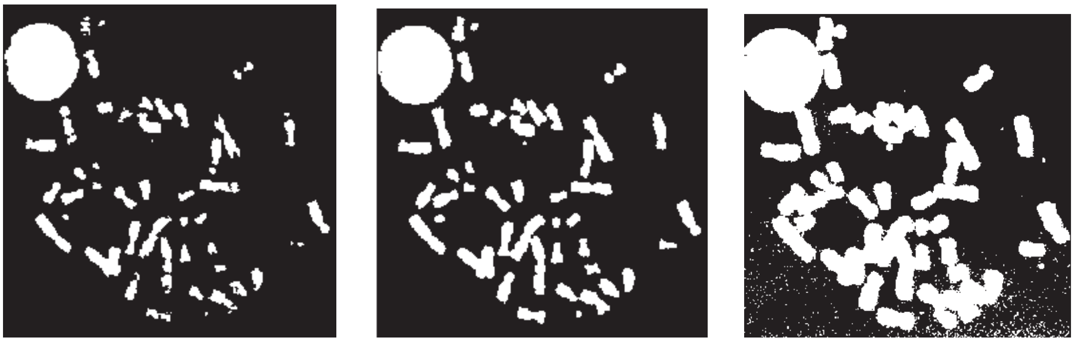


Segmentation: Thresholding, Histogram



Segmentation: Thresholding

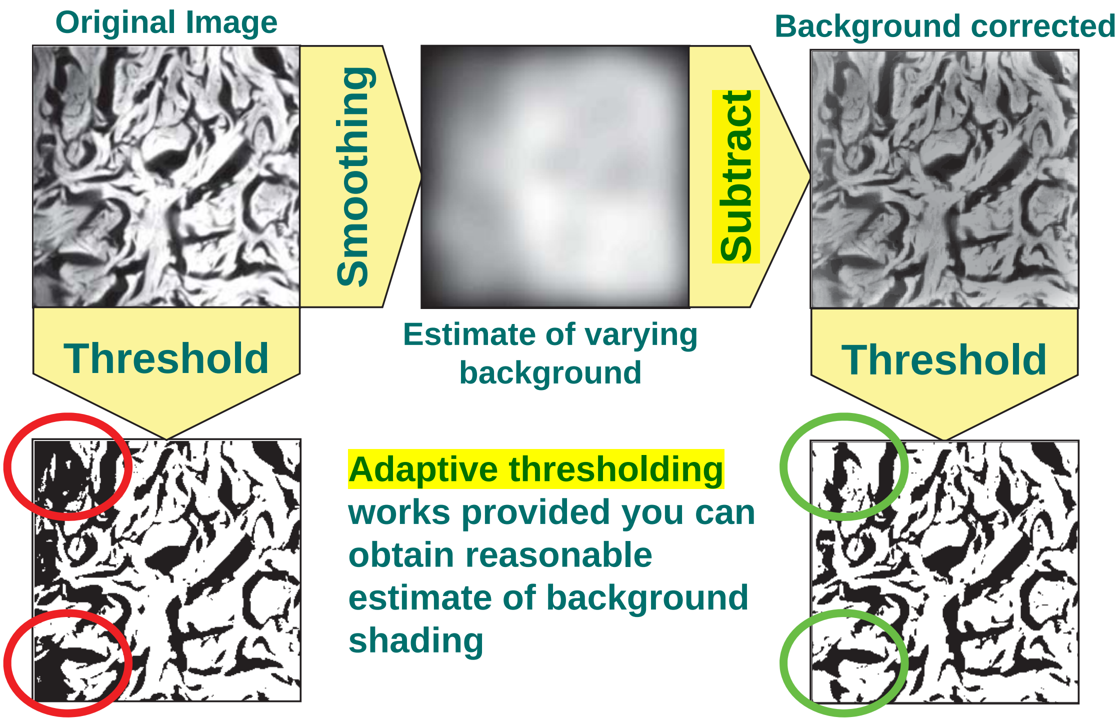
- Varying the Threshold



Threshold 100   Threshold 110   Threshold 140

- Need to choose threshold with care,
- How to improve the binary image

Segmentation: Adaptive Thresholding



Adaptive thresholding works provided you can obtain reasonable estimate of background shading

Binary Processing

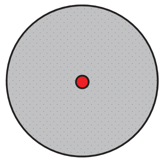
Binary Processing

Aim: Improved binary image

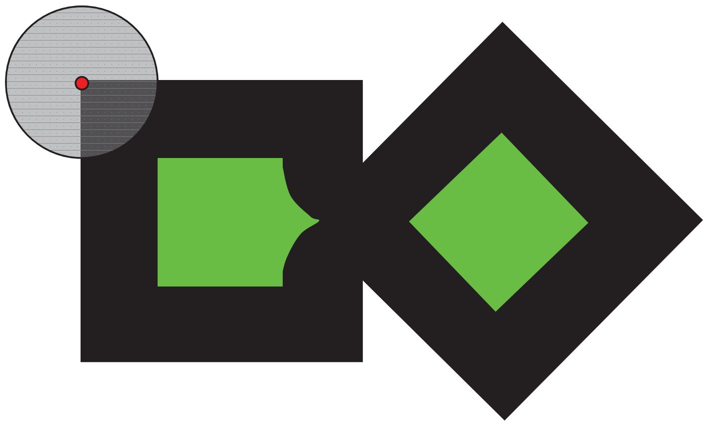
- **Restoration or enhancement**
- **Neighbourhood Processing:**
  - binary morphology (erosion & dilation)
  - skeletonization
- **Image Logic:**
  - combining binary images for more complicated processing

Binary Morphology: Erosion

- Structure element (example, centre marked):

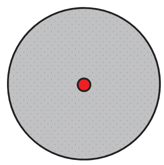


- Binary object:
- Sweep SE along boundary, and delete region covered

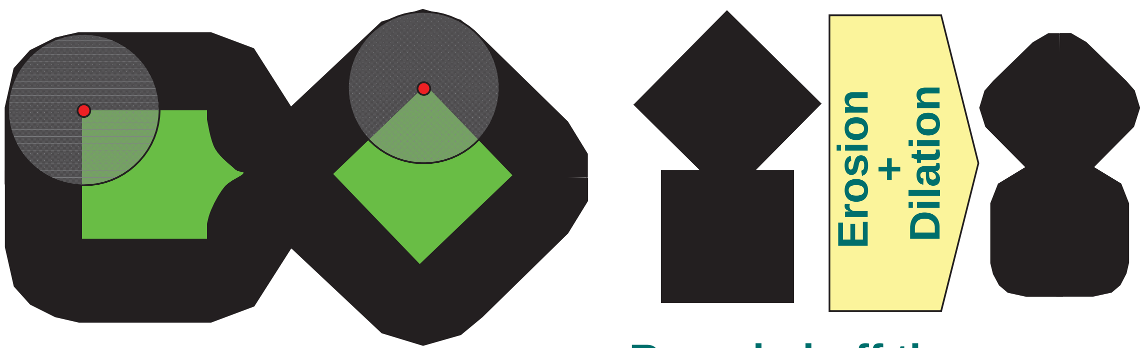


Binary Morphology: Dilation

- Structure element (centre marked):

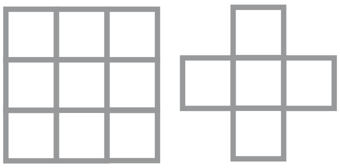


- Binary object:
- Reverse of erosion
- Sweep SE along boundary, and add region covered

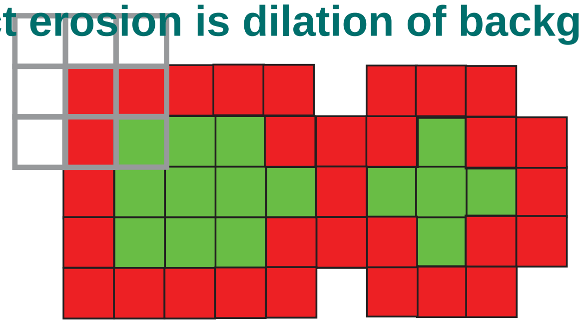


Rounded-off the corners

Binary Morphology: Dilation, Implementation via Neighbourhood Processing

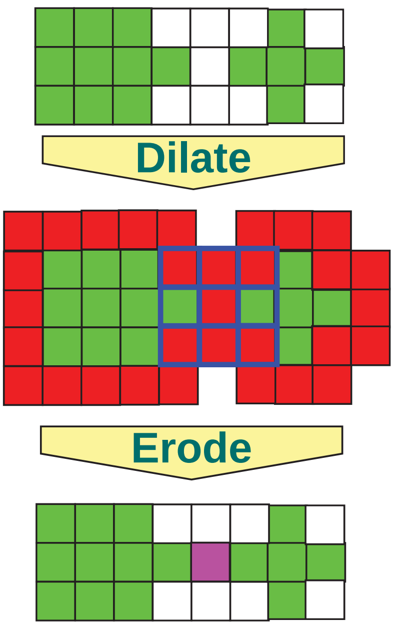


- Pixellated structuring element
- Pixellated image object
- Scan SE over image, and add pixel at defined centre if any object pixel lies within SE
- Object erosion is dilation of background, so similar



Binary Morphology: Closing & Opening

- Closing: reconnection



- Opening: disconnection

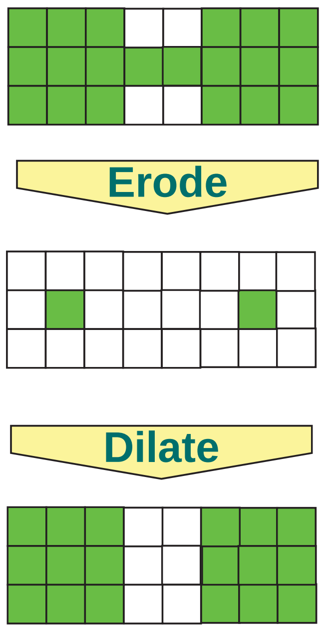
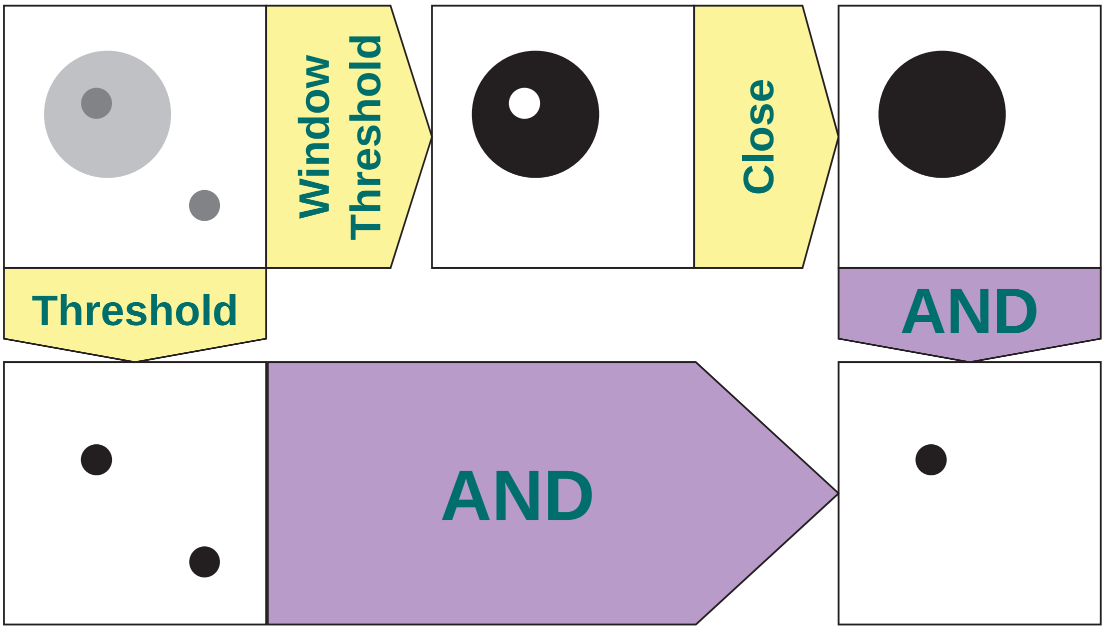


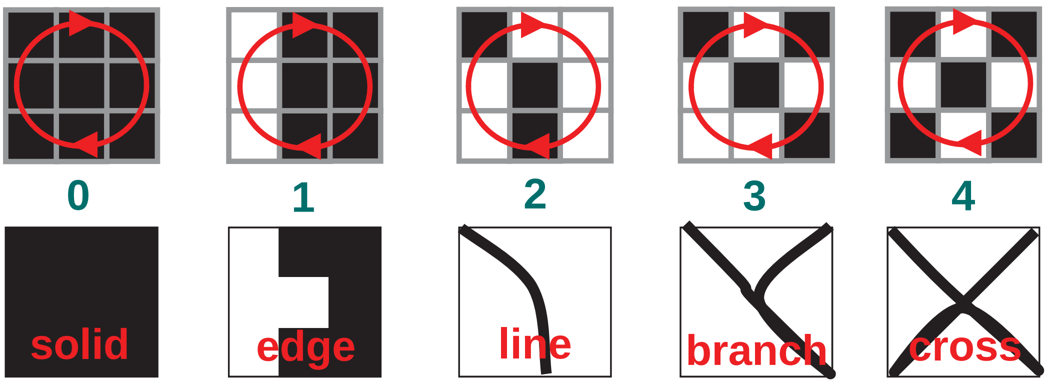
Image Logic:

Want dark object within lighter grey object



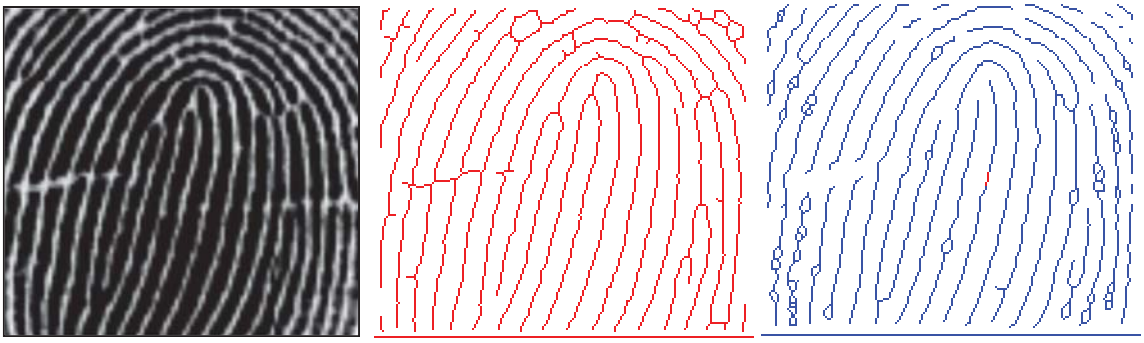
Binary Morphology: Skeletonisation

- Erosion that preserves connections
- Rutovitz Crossing Number: (3x3 SE)
  - loop and half the number of times value changes



- Remove centre pixel if 1: nibble at edge, but leave crossings
- Repeat until no further change

Binary Morphology: Skeletonisation



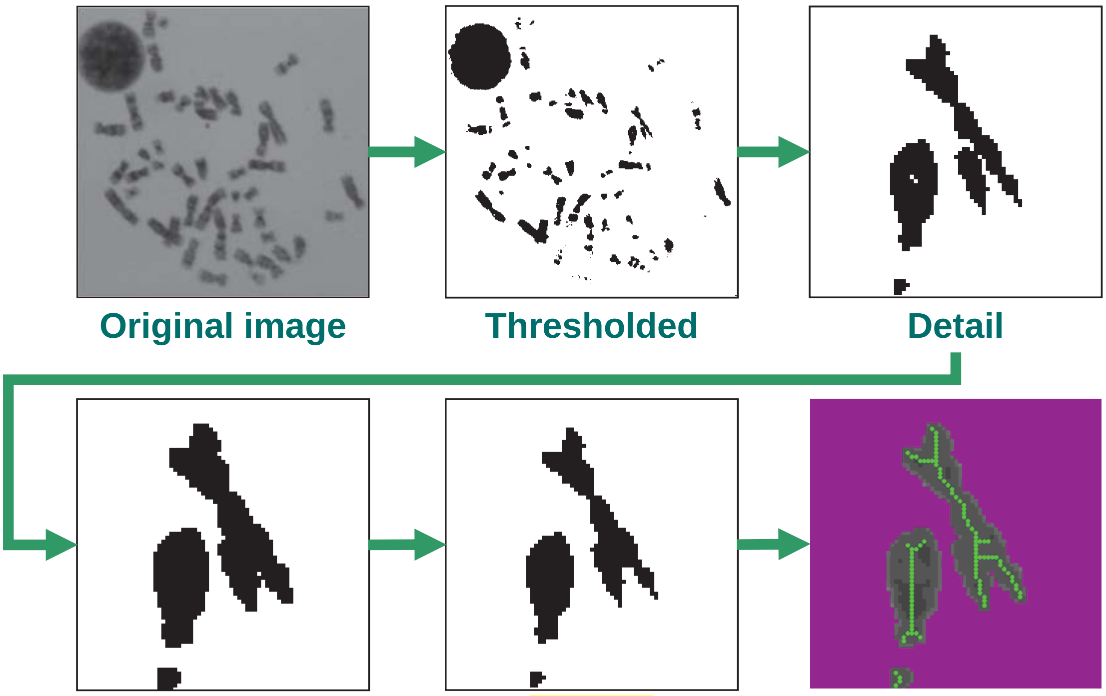
fingerprint valleys ridges

Feng Zhao and Xiaoou Tang

PREPROCESSING FOR SKELETON-BASED FINGERPRINT MINUTIAE EXTRACTION

CISST'02 International Conference

Chromosome Results:



Original image → Thresholded → Detail → Dilated → Eroded → Skeleton

MANCHESTER 1824
The University of Manchester

Measurement

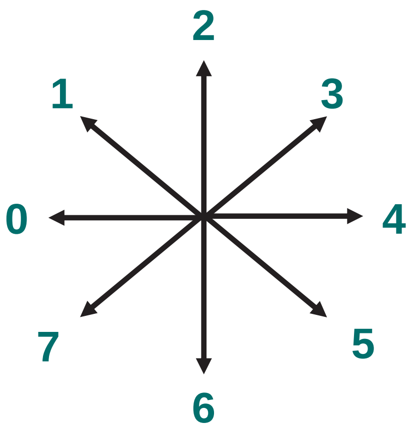
MANCHESTER 1824
The University of Manchester

Simple Measurements on Objects

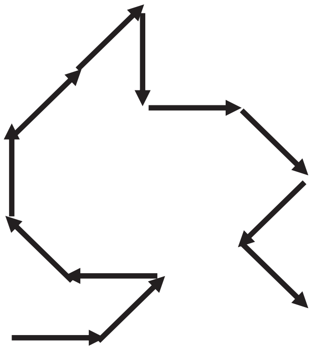
- Extracted objects as above
- Representing Objects:
  - Boundary representation
  - Area representation
- Simple geometric measurements
  - Area
  - Perimeter
  - Circularity

Representing Objects: Boundary

- Boundary Representation: chain code



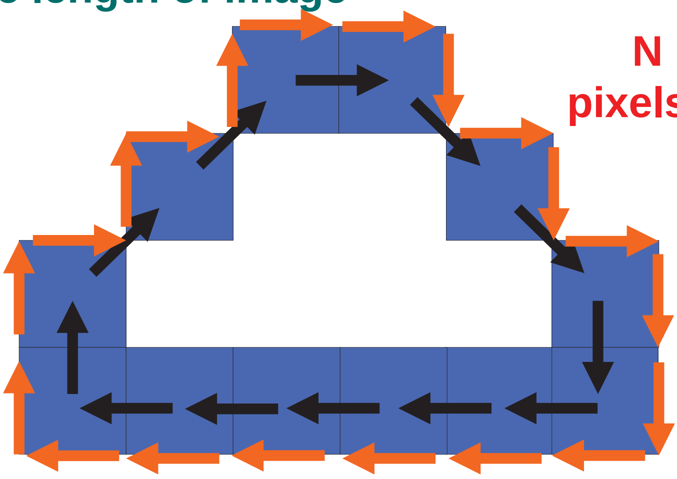
Pick a set of directions



chain code:
4 3 0 1 2 3 3 6 4 5 7 5

Representing Objects: Boundary

- Positions of boundary pixels: 2N times (one from L)
- L: side length of image

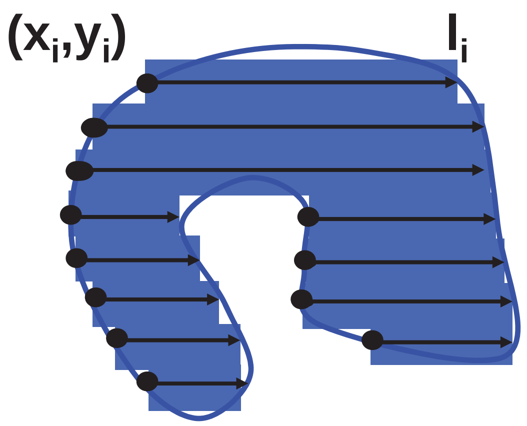


N Boundary pixels of an object

- Chain code: N times (one of eight)
- OR: ~1.5 N times (one of four)

Representing Objects: Area

- Area Representation: Chord List



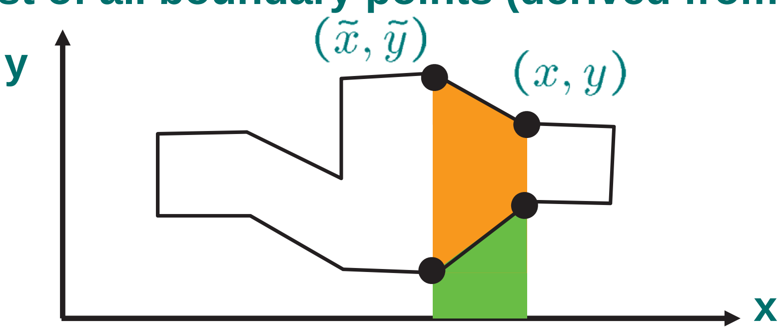
chord (x_i ,y_i ,l_i):
start position and length

Chord list represents the shape of the pixelated object

Much more efficient representation of data compared to storing position of every pixel within the region!

Measurement: Area

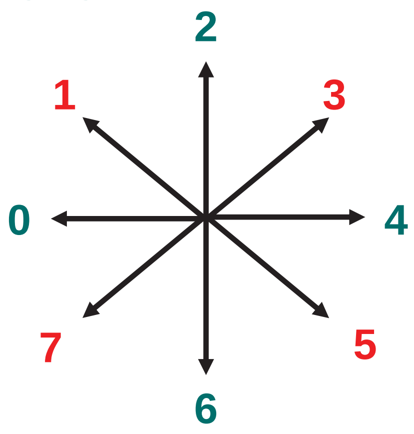
- List of all boundary points (derived from chord list)



- Trapezoidal rule $\text{Area} = \frac{(y+\tilde{y})(x-\tilde{x})}{2}$
- Take difference to find area of strip of shape

Measurement: Perimeter

- 8-piece Chain Code:
- Diagonals are longer!



$$P = N_{even} + \sqrt{2} N_{odd}$$

- 4-piece chain code: P = N, all equal length
- Circularity: $C = \frac{4\pi \text{Area}}{P^2},$
- C=1 for circle, C<1 for anything else

Summary

Basic Image Analysis:

- Mostly straightforward and fairly intuitive
- Can give good results on suitable images
- Have to grasp basics before can move on to more sophisticated methods