

# Edge Detection

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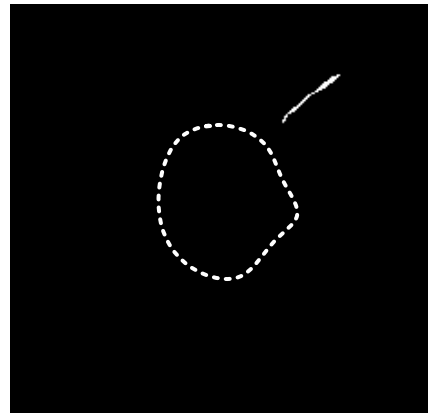
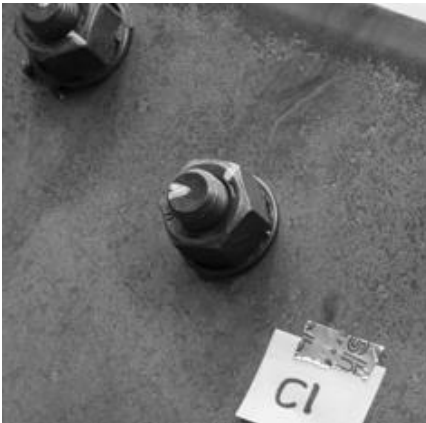
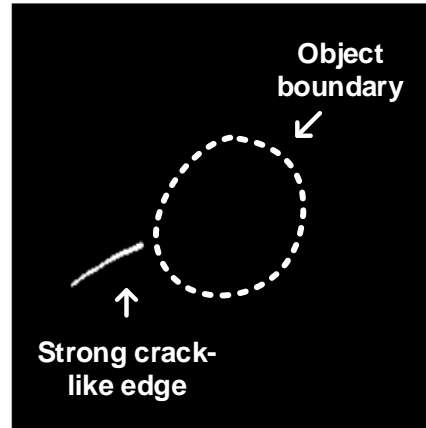


**UNIVERSITY OF WATERLOO**  
FACULTY OF ENGINEERING

CIVE 497 – CIVE 700: Smart Structure Technology

Last updated: 2020-02-12

# Edge Detection Applications

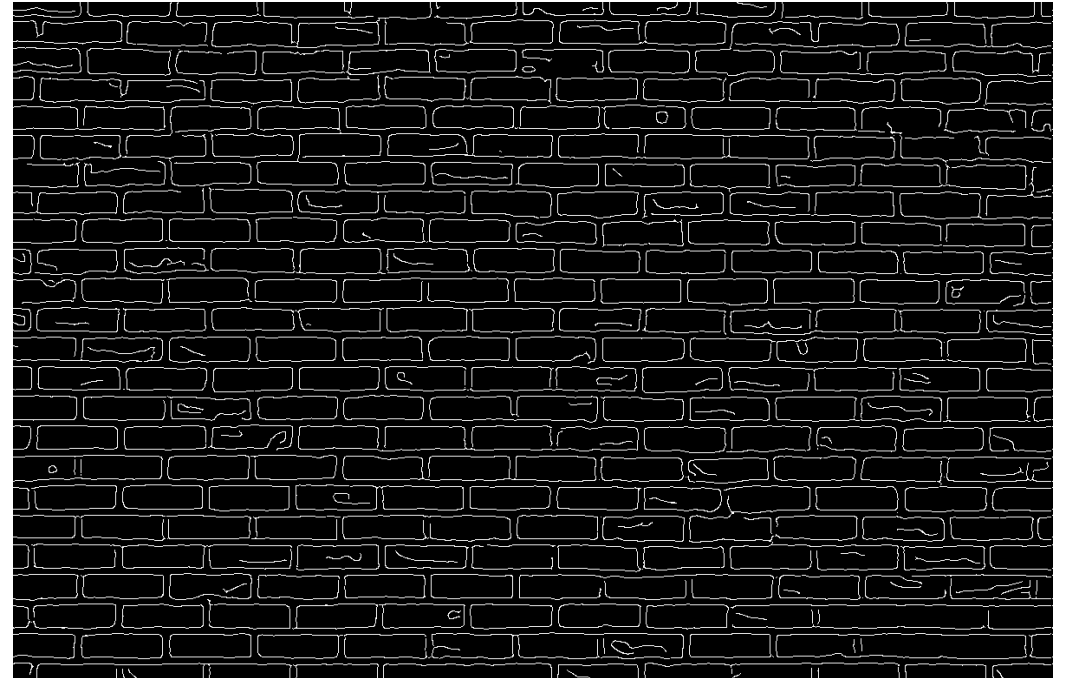
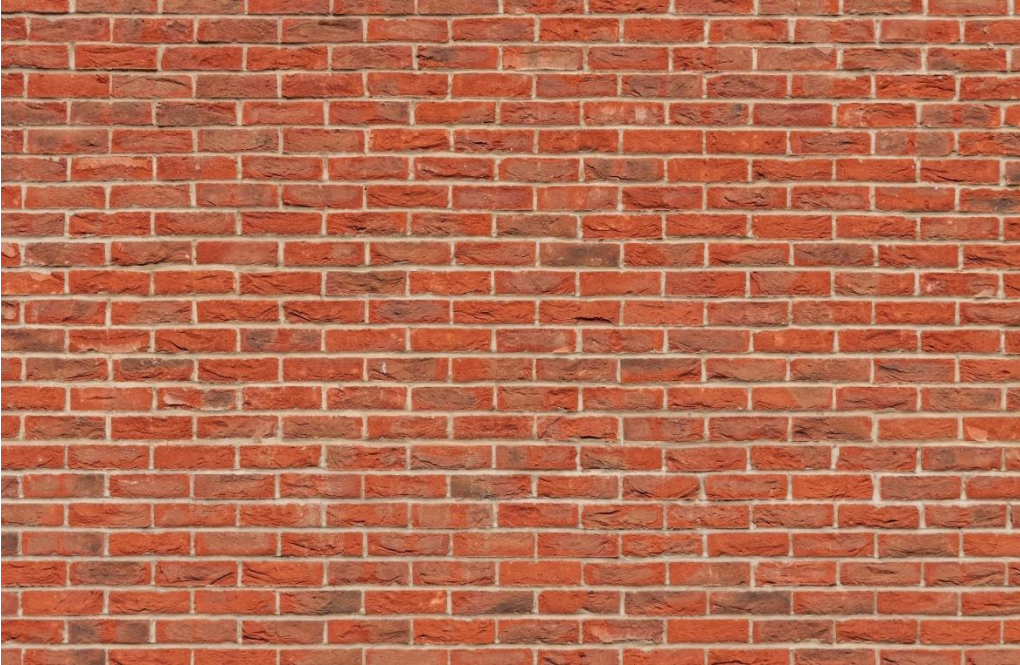


Crack detection



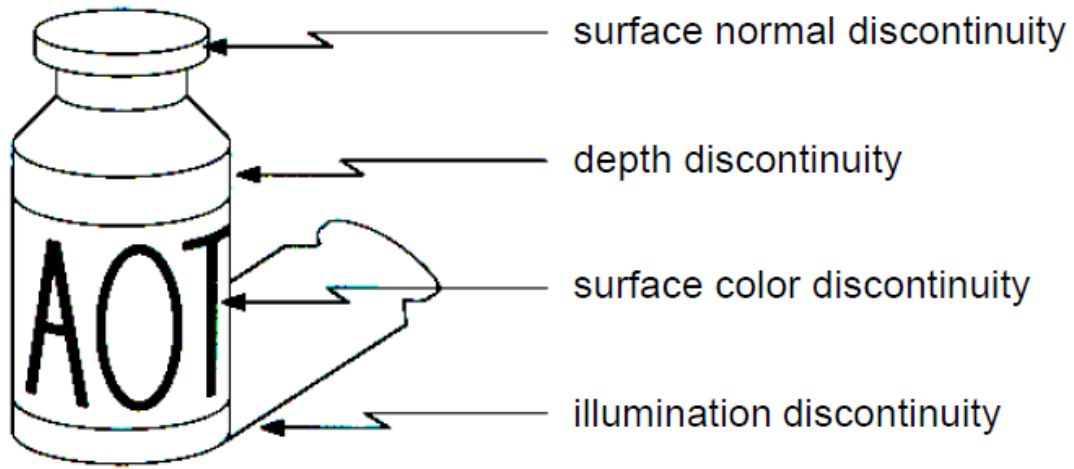
Augmented reality

# Edge Detection

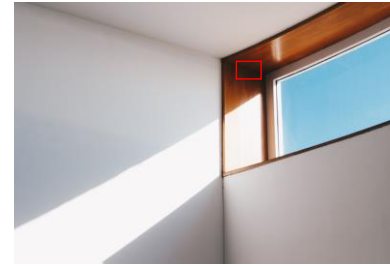


- Convert a 2D image into a set of curves
  - Semantic and shape information
  - More compact than pixels

# Origin of Edges



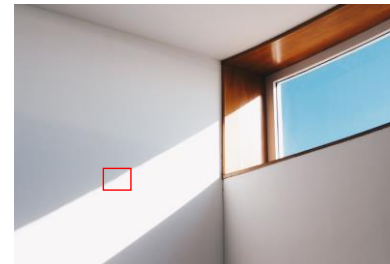
## Surface normal discontinuity



## Material discontinuity

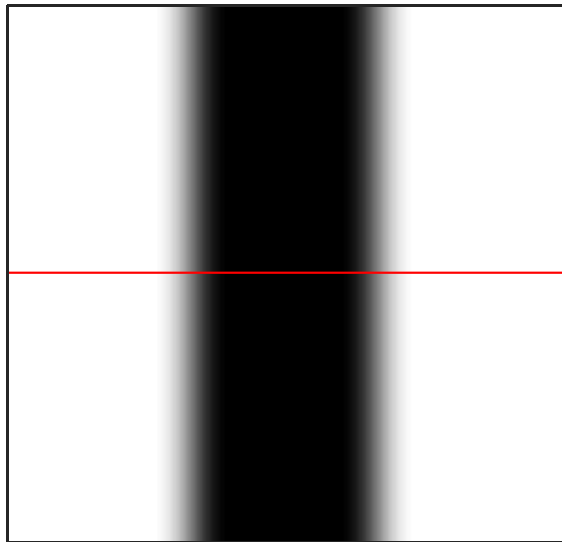


## Lighting discontinuity

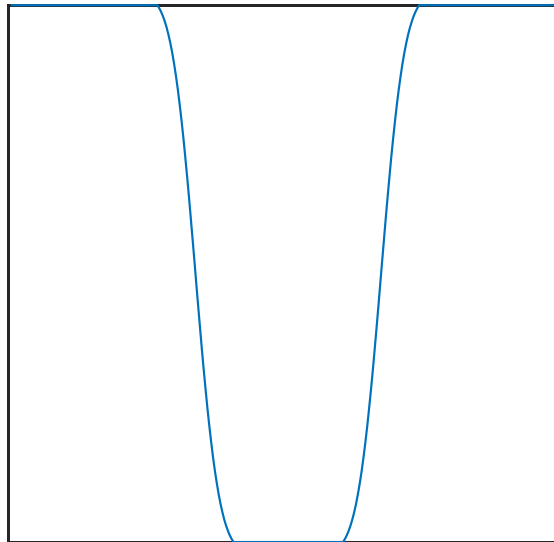


# Characterizing Edge by Differentiation

- An edge is a place of rapid change in the image intensity function in a single direction.

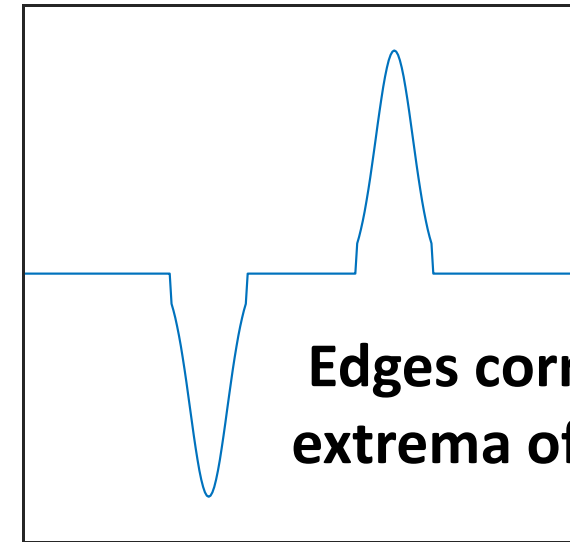


Image



Intensity function  
along a red line

**→**  
 $\frac{d}{dx}$



**Edges correspond to  
extrema of derivative**

First derivative

# Image Derivatives

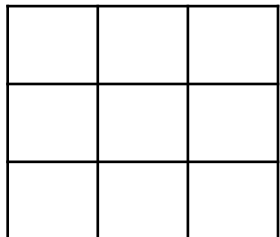
How can we differentiate a digital image  $F[x, y]$ ?

Option 1: Reconstruct a continuous image,  $f$ , then compute the derivative

Option 2: Take discrete derivative (finite difference)

$$\frac{\partial}{\partial x} f[x, y] \approx F[x + 1, y] - F[x, y]$$

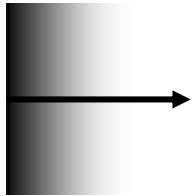
$$\Delta x = 1 \text{ pixel}$$



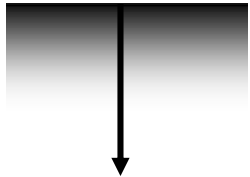
How would you implement this as a kernel?

# Image Gradient

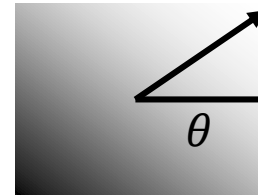
The gradient of an image:  $\nabla f = \left[ \frac{\partial f}{\partial x}, \frac{\partial f}{\partial y} \right]$



$$\nabla f = \left[ \frac{\partial f}{\partial x}, 0 \right]$$



$$\nabla f = \left[ 0, \frac{\partial f}{\partial y} \right]$$



$$\nabla f = \left[ \frac{\partial f}{\partial x}, \frac{\partial f}{\partial y} \right]$$

The gradient points in the direction of most rapid increase in intensity

The gradient direction is given by

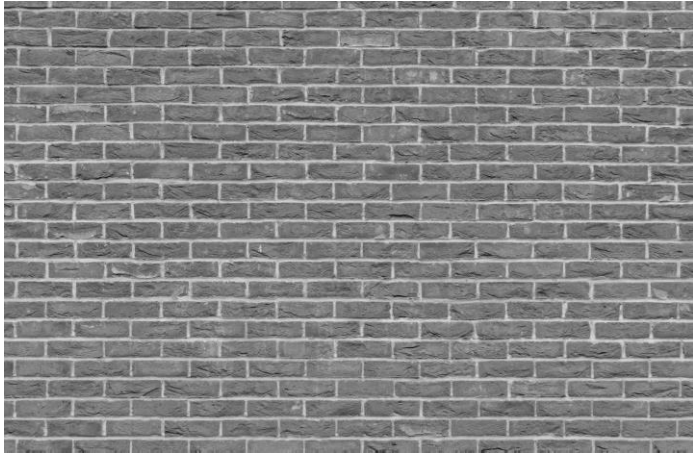
$$\theta = \tan^{-1} \left( \frac{\frac{\partial f}{\partial y}}{\frac{\partial f}{\partial x}} \right)$$

The edge strength is given by the gradient magnitude

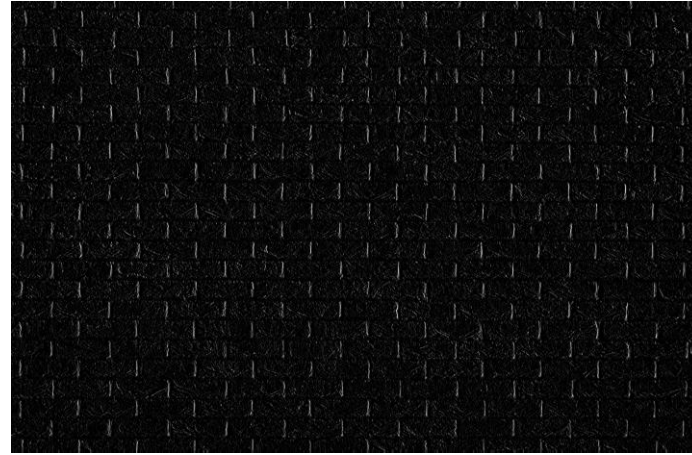
$$\|\nabla f\| = \sqrt{\left( \frac{\partial f}{\partial x} \right)^2 + \left( \frac{\partial f}{\partial y} \right)^2}$$



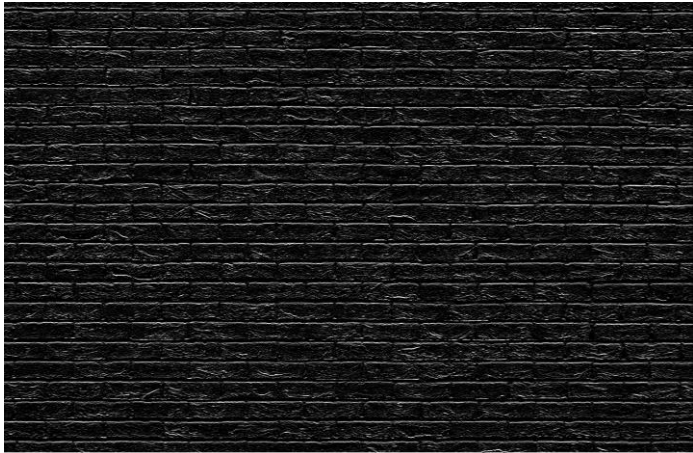
# Example: Image Gradient



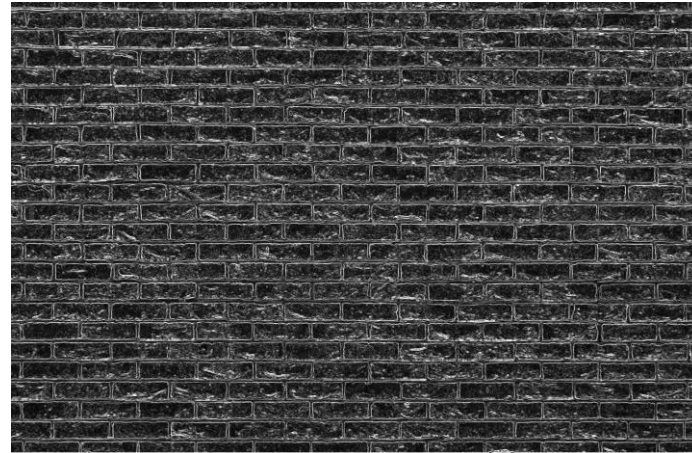
$f$



$\partial f / \partial x$



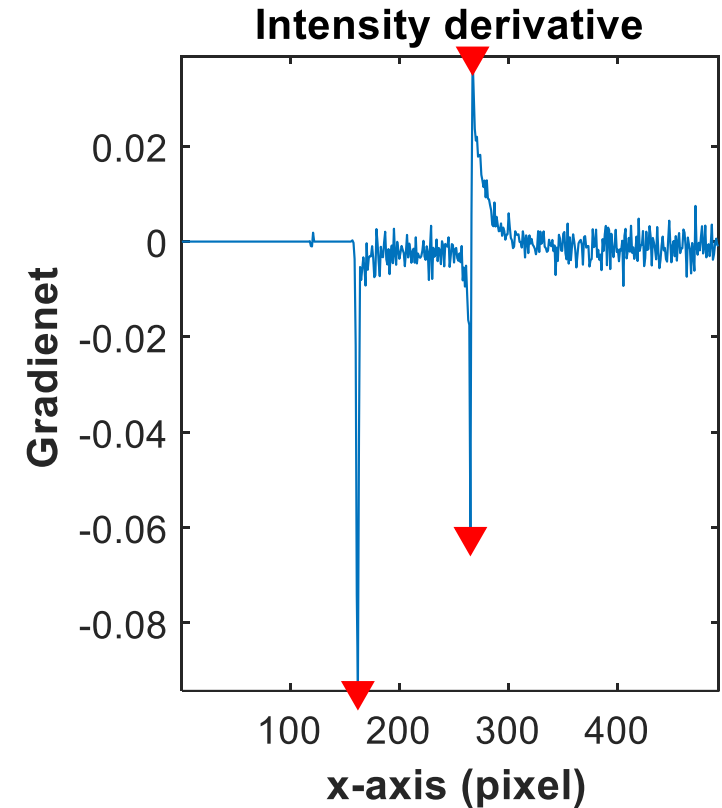
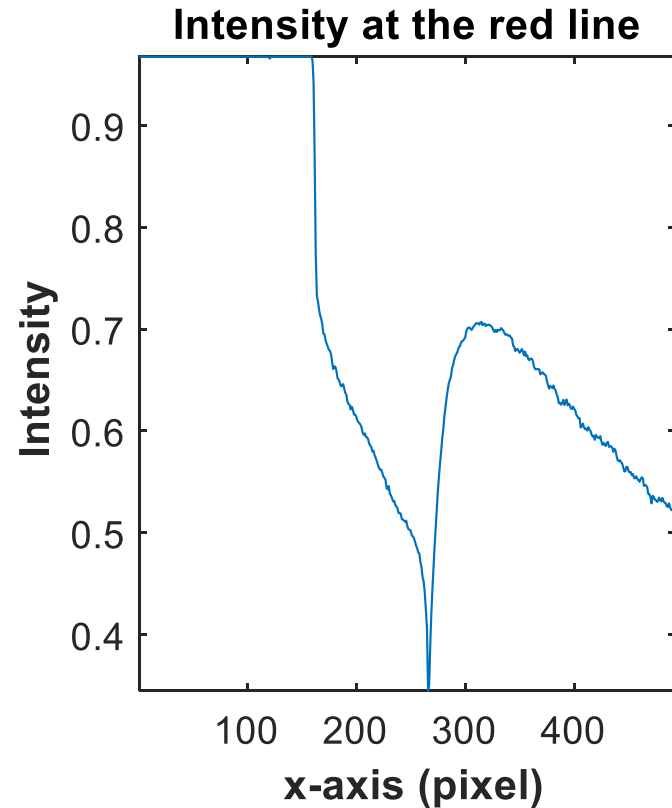
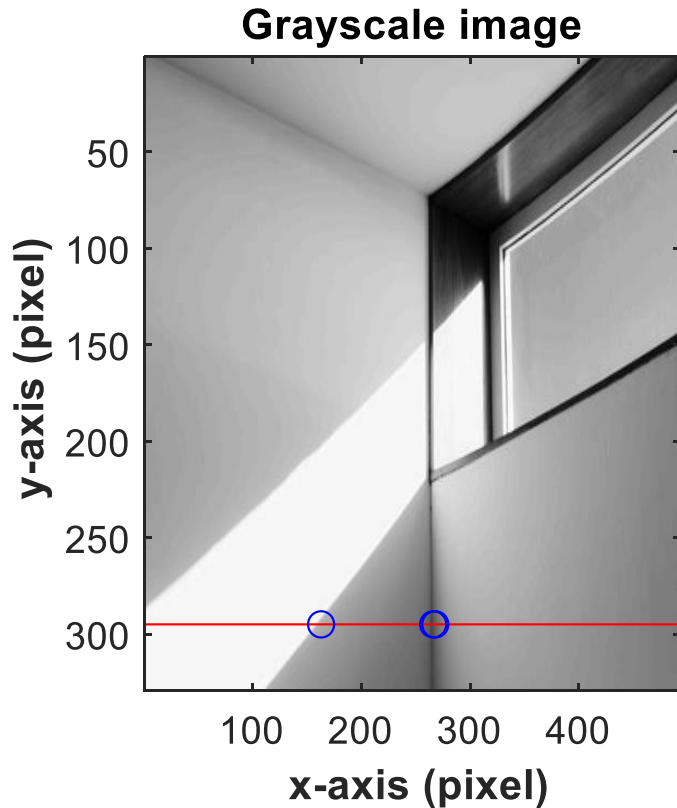
$\partial f / \partial y$



$$\|\nabla f\| = \sqrt{\left(\frac{\partial f}{\partial x}\right)^2 + \left(\frac{\partial f}{\partial y}\right)^2}$$

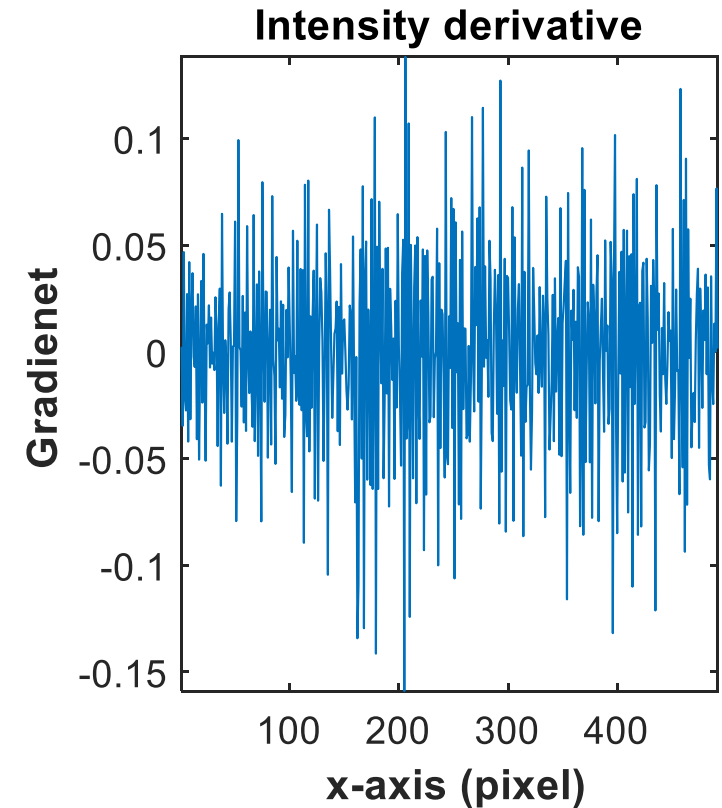
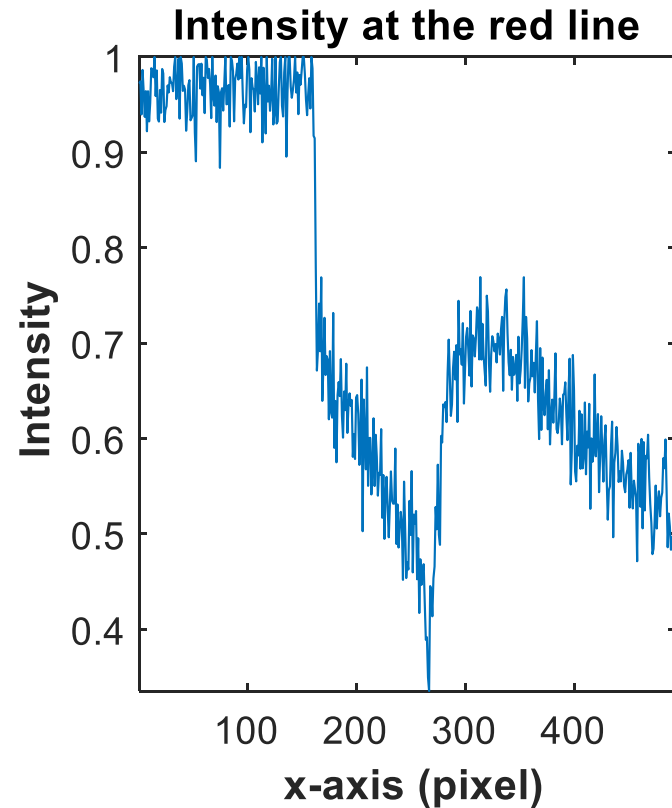
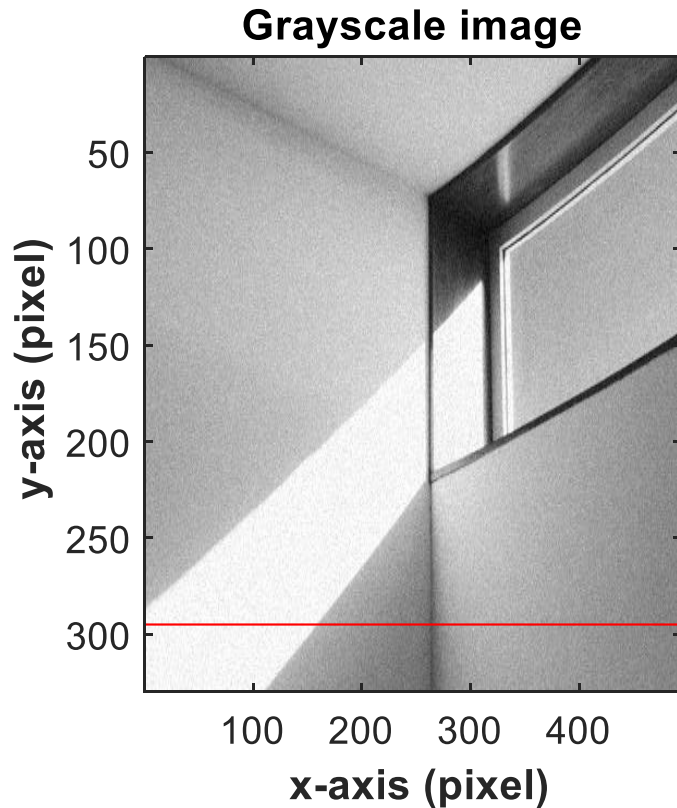


# Intensity Changes on an Image

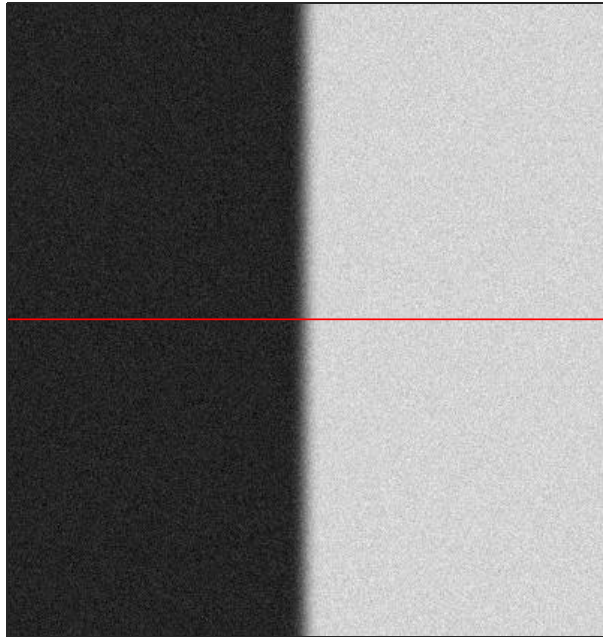


**See Tutorial !**

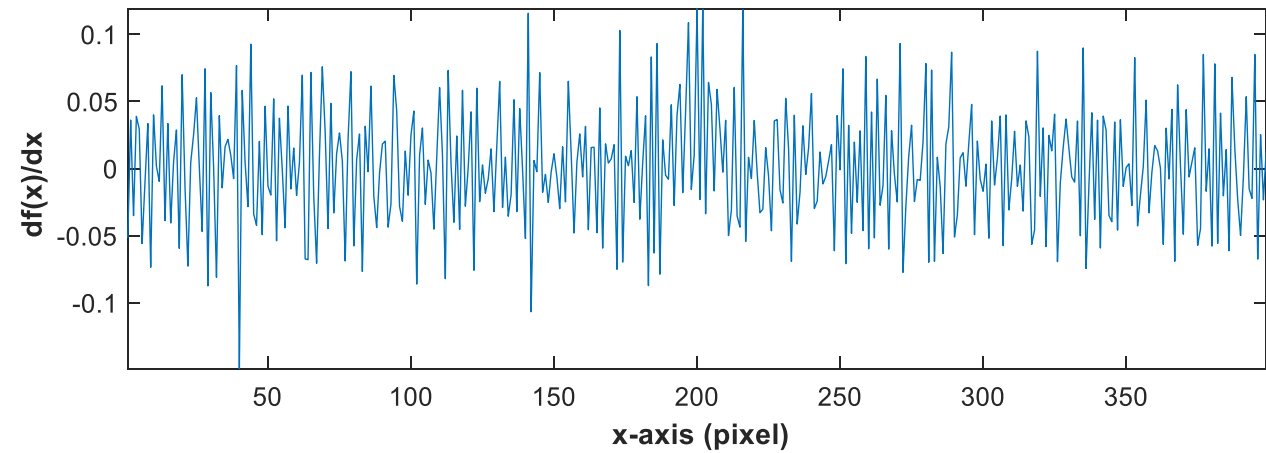
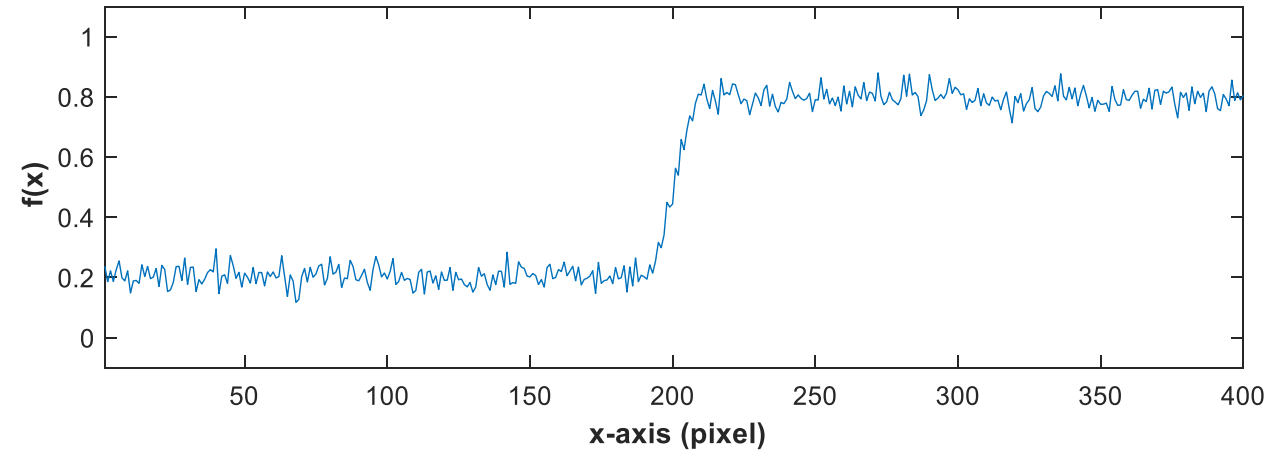
# Intensity Changes on an Image (with Noise)



# Effects of Noise



Noisy input image



Where is the edge?

# (Review) Properties of Fourier Transforms

## 1. Time scaling

$$F(x(at)) = \frac{1}{|a|} X\left(\frac{f}{a}\right)$$

*Inverse spreading relationship*

## 2. Time reversal

$$F(x(-t)) = X(-f)$$

## 3. Differentiation

$$F(\dot{x}(t)) = i2\pi f X(f)$$

## 5. Modulation

$$F(x(t)e^{i2\pi f_0 t}) = X(f - f_0)$$

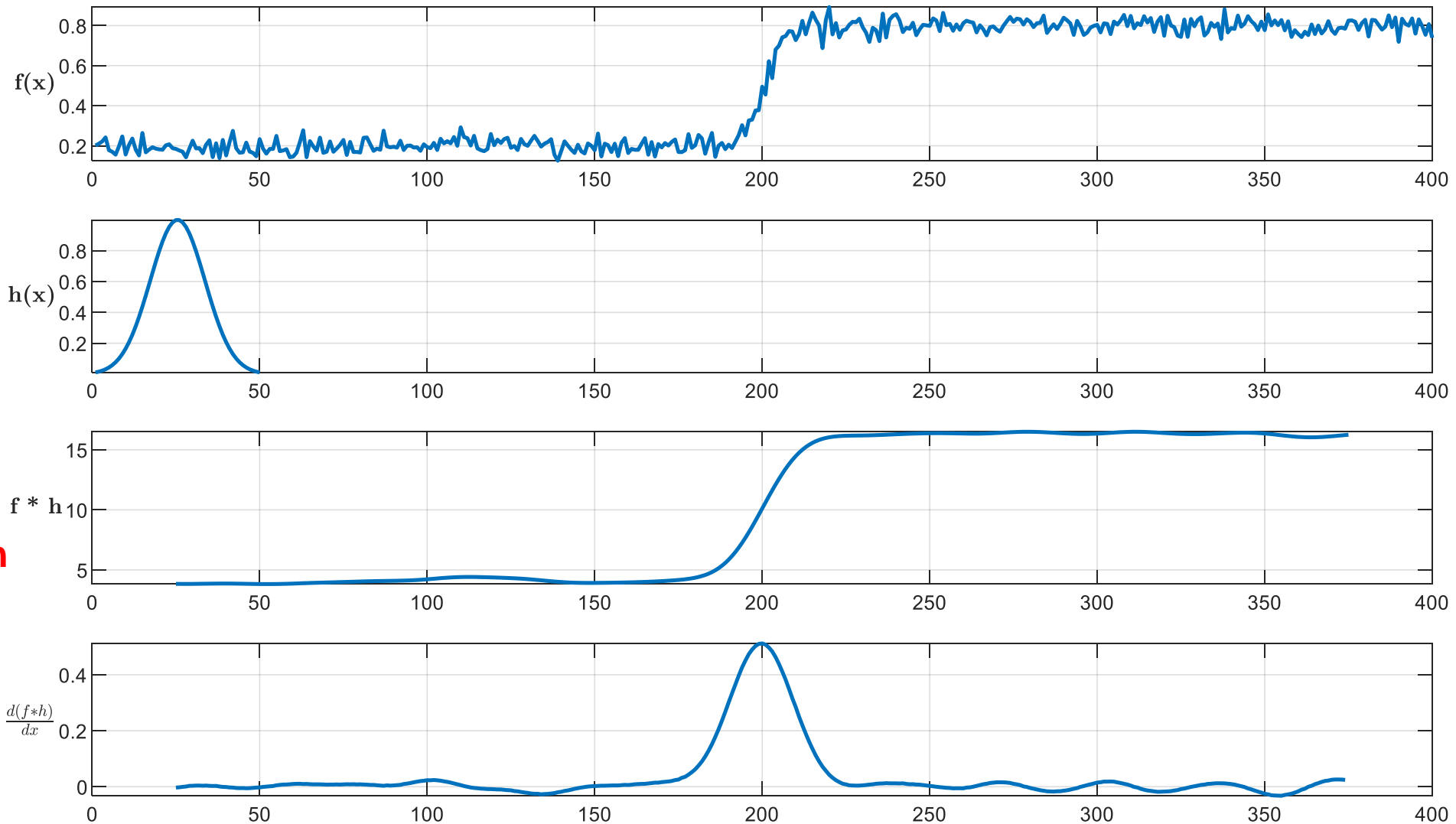
$$\begin{aligned} & F(x(t)\cos(2\pi f_0 t)) \\ &= \frac{1}{2} [X(f - f_0) + X(f + f_0)] \end{aligned}$$

## 4. Time shifting

$$F(x(t - t_0)) = e^{-i2\pi f t_0} X(f)$$

*Only phase shift !*     **Sine wave**

# Smoothing First and Applying a Derivative Operator



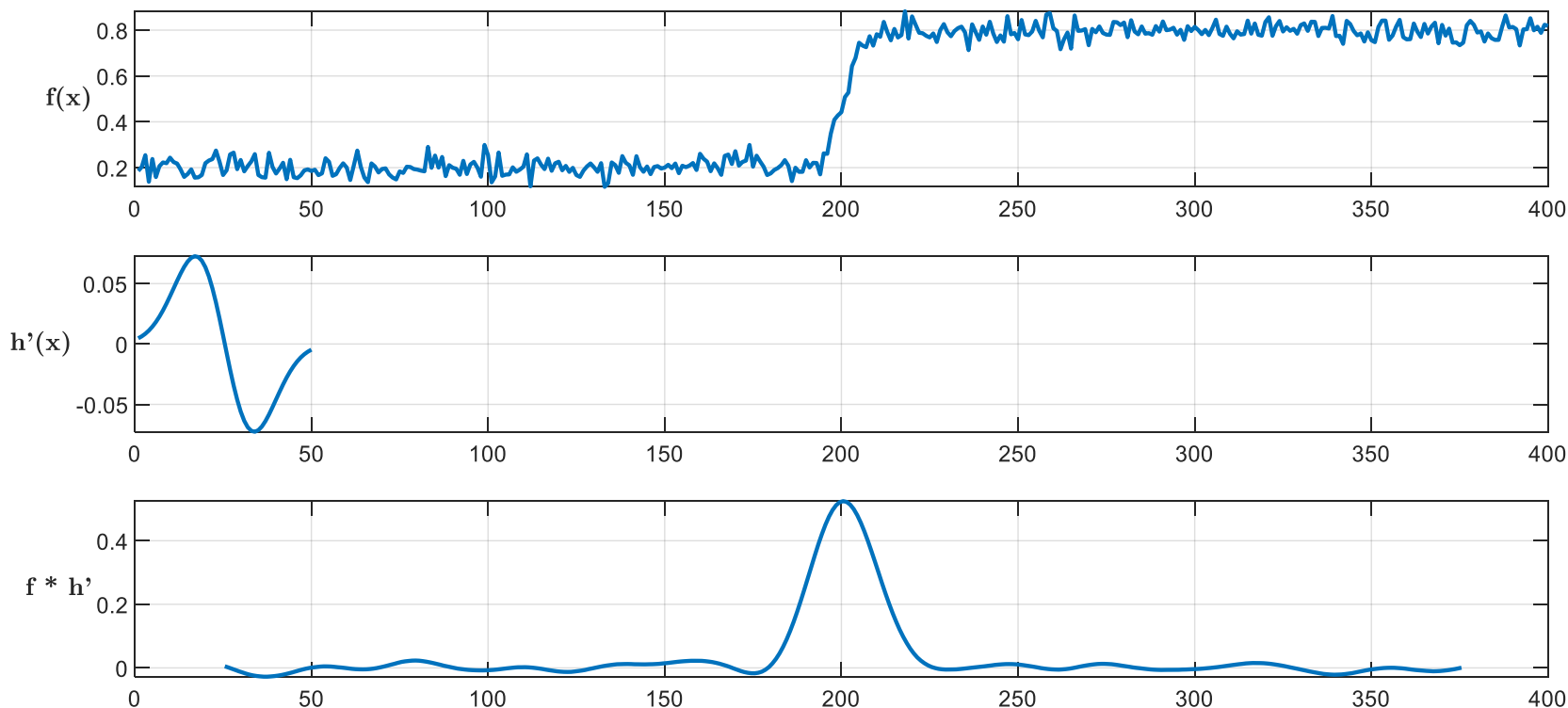
convolution



# Smoothing First and Applying a Derivative Operator (Continue)

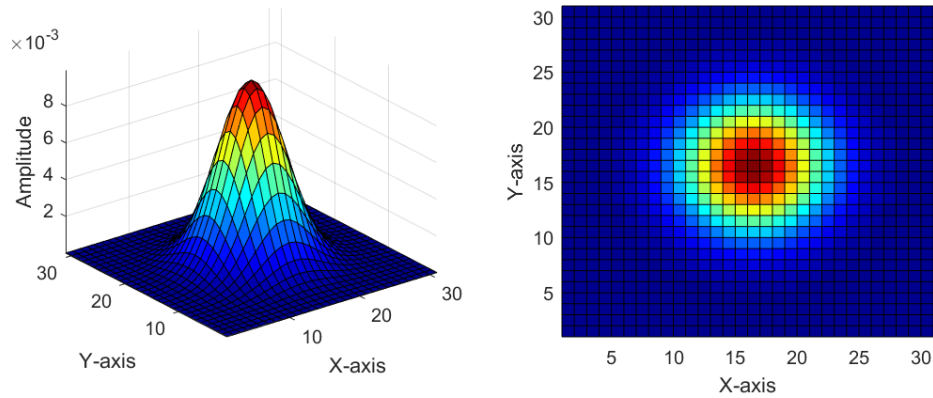
Relationship with differentiation:  $(F * H)' = F' * H = F * H'$

$$(f * h)' = f * h'$$



What is the advantage? 14

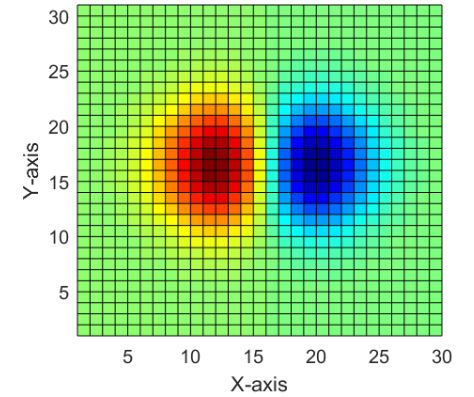
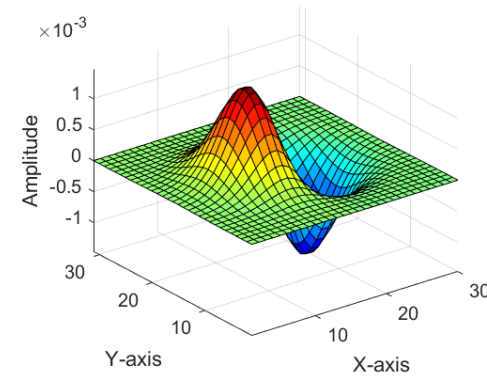
# 2D Edge Detection Filter



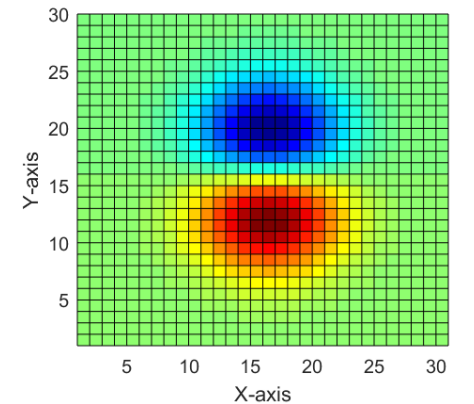
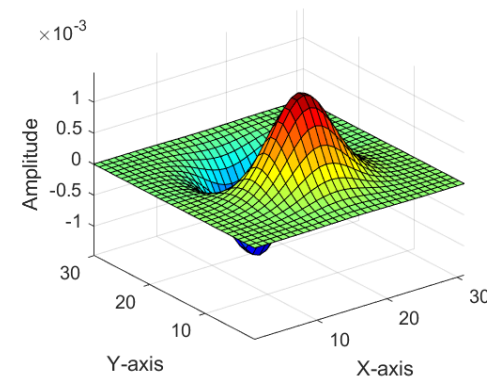
$$h_{\sigma}(x, y) = \frac{1}{2\pi\sigma^2} e^{-\frac{x^2+y^2}{2\sigma^2}}$$

**Gaussian kernel**

$$\frac{\partial h_{\sigma}(x, y)}{\partial x}$$

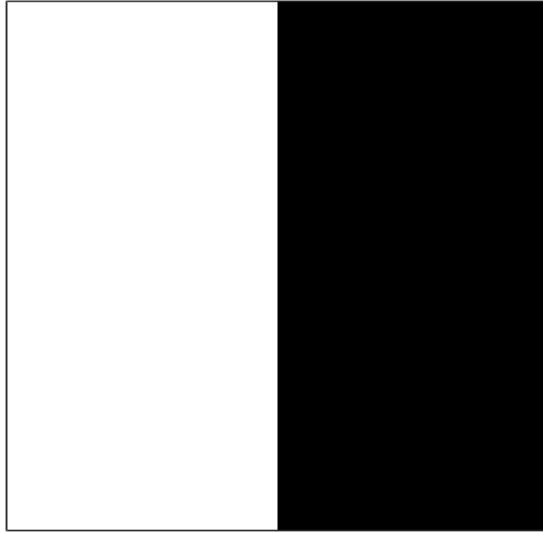


$$\frac{\partial h_{\sigma}(x, y)}{\partial y}$$



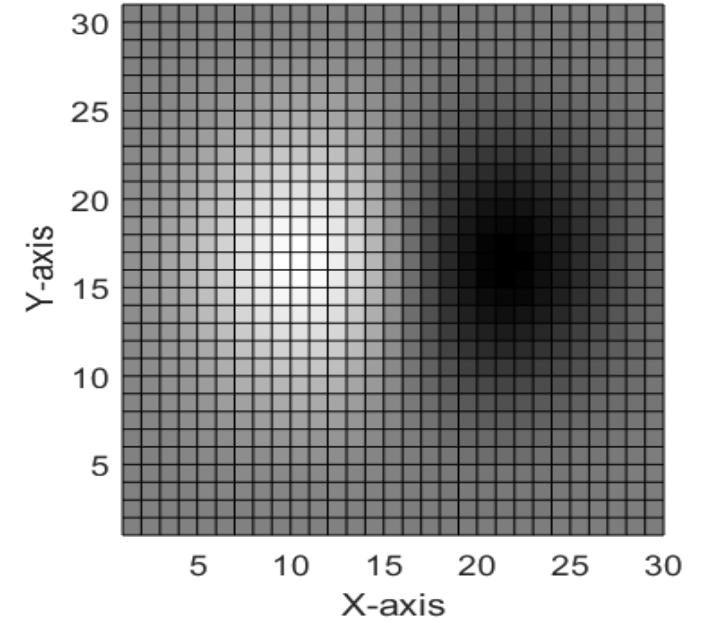
**Derivative of Gaussian filter**

# 2D Edge Detection Filter (Continue)



-1	0	1
-1	0	1
-1	0	1

Prewitt operator



?

# Sobel Operator

Common approximation of derivative of Gaussian

$$\frac{1}{8}$$

-1	0	1
-2	0	2
-1	0	1

$S_x$

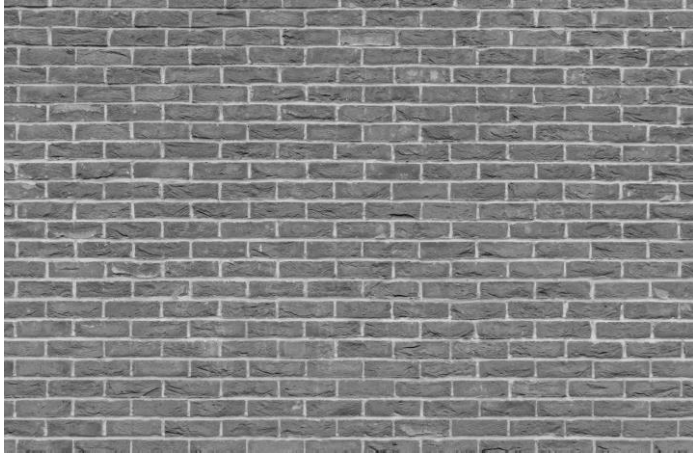
$$\frac{1}{8}$$

1	2	1
0	0	0
-1	-2	-1

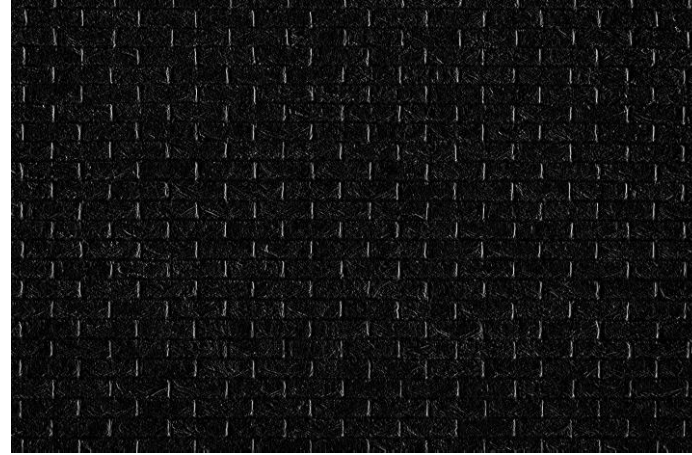
$S_y$

The Sobel operator omits the  $1/8$  term because it does not make a difference for edge detection

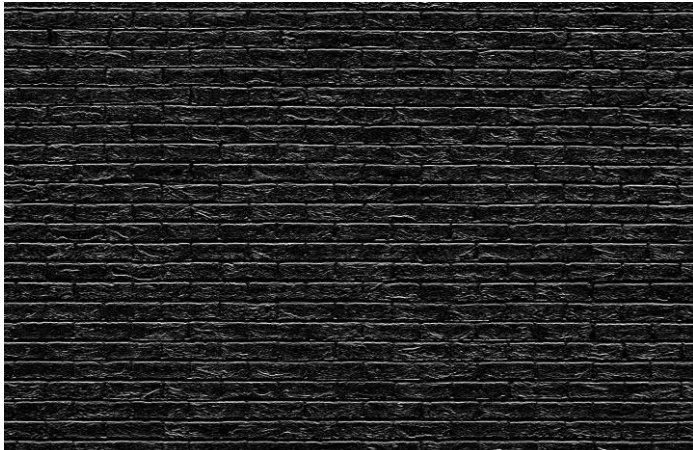
# Sobel Operator (Example)



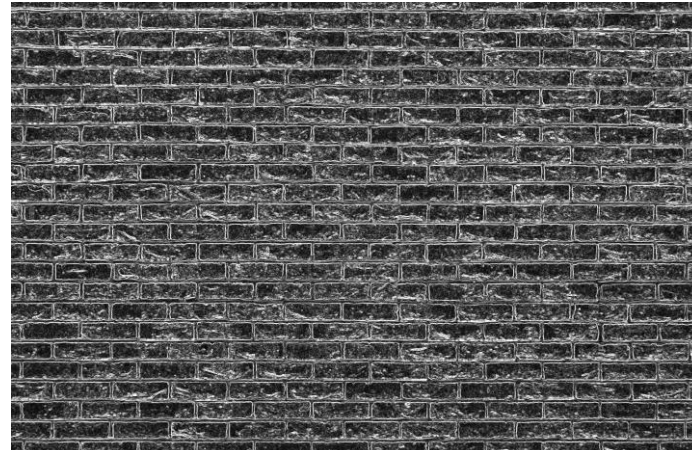
$f$



$S_x$



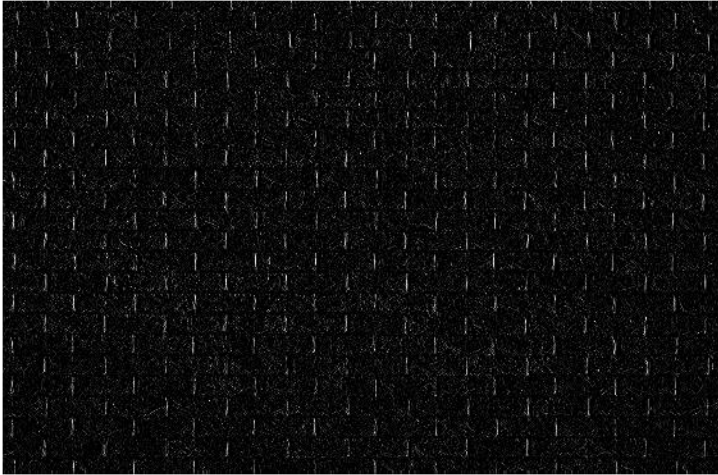
$S_y$



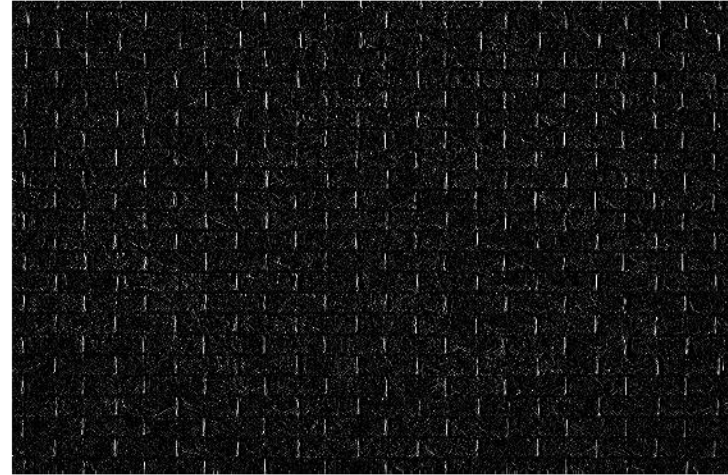
$$\|\nabla f\| = \sqrt{(s_x)^2 + (s_y)^2}$$



# Comparison of Derivative Operators (Prewitt and Sobel)



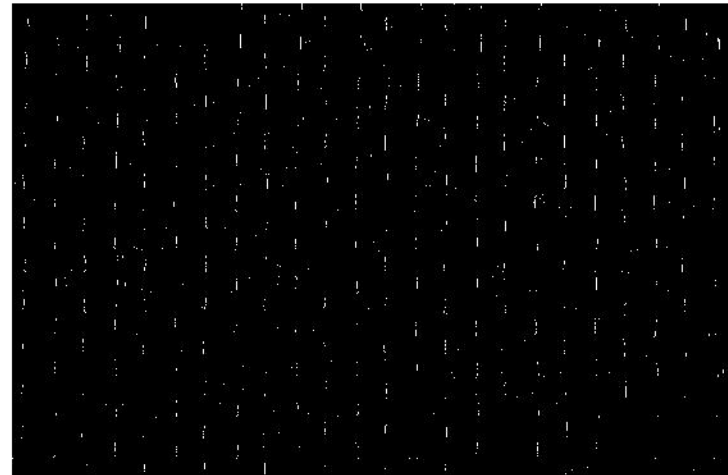
$f_x$



$s_x$

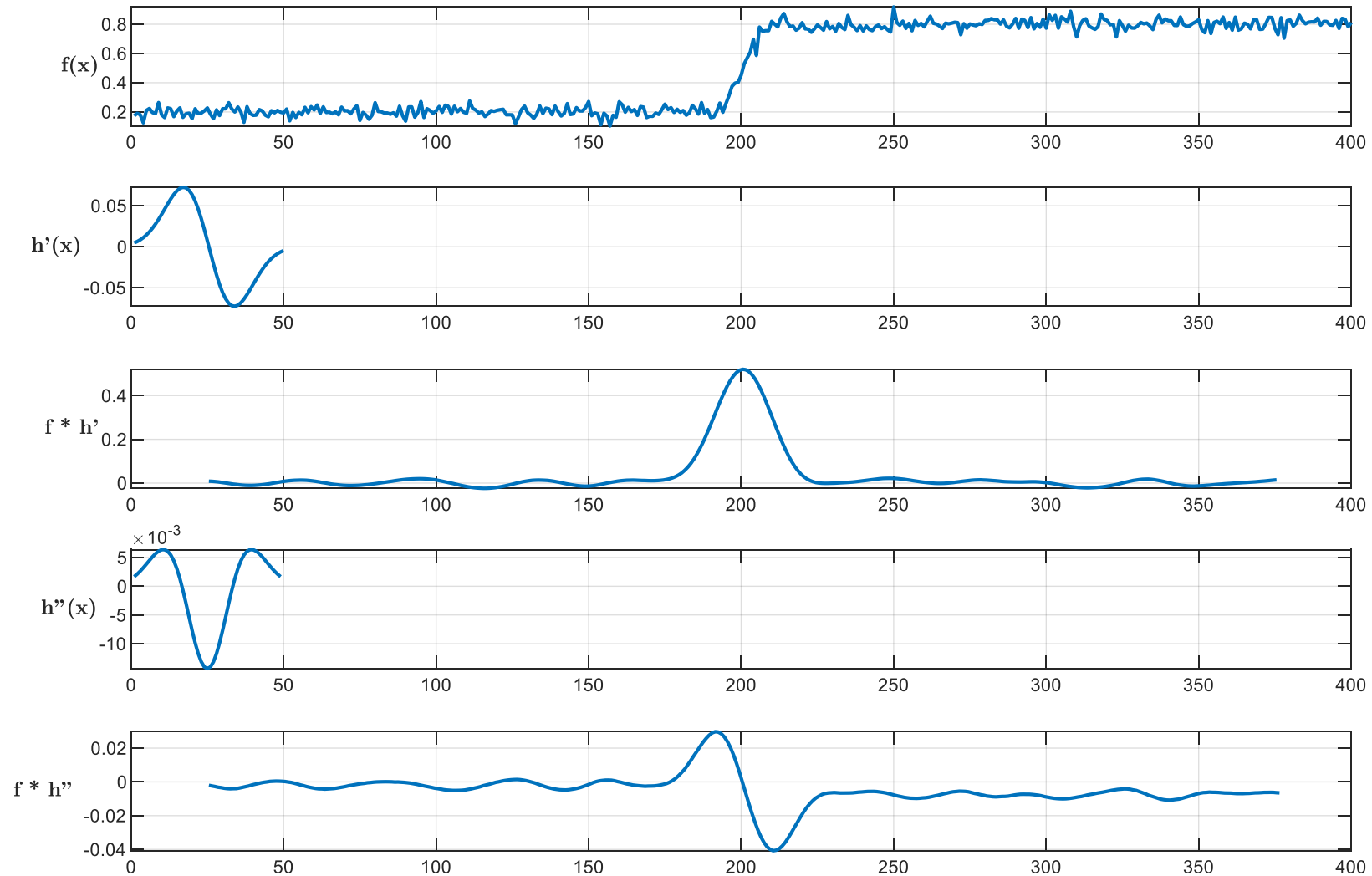


$f_x > 0.75$



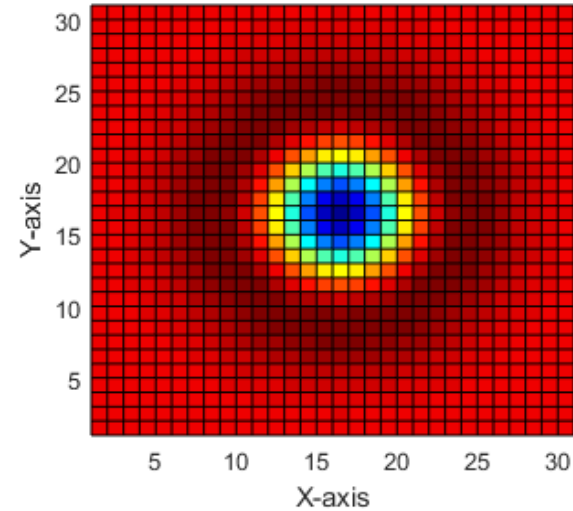
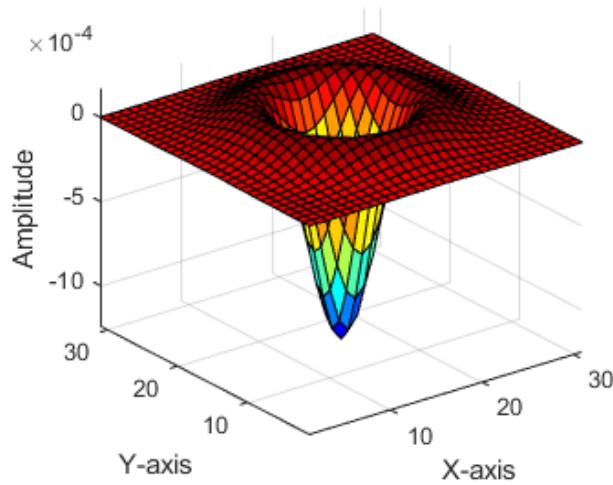
$s_x > 0.75$

# Laplacian of Gaussian (1D Example)



# Laplacian of Gaussian

$$\nabla^2 h_\sigma(x, y)$$



0	-1	0
-1	4	-1
0	-1	0

$$\nabla^2 h_\sigma(x, y) = \frac{\partial^2 h_\sigma}{\partial x^2} + \frac{\partial^2 h_\sigma}{\partial y^2}$$

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

# Implementation Issues for Gradient-based Edge Detection

- The gradient magnitude is large along a thick “trail” or “ridge,” so how do we identify the actual edge points?
- How do we link the edge points to form curves?



# Canny Edge Detector

- This is probably the most widely used edge detector in computer vision
- Theoretical model: step-edges corrupted by additive Gaussian noise
- J. Canny, [\*A Computational Approach To Edge Detection\*](#), IEEE Trans. Pattern Analysis and Machine Intelligence, 8:679-714, 1986.

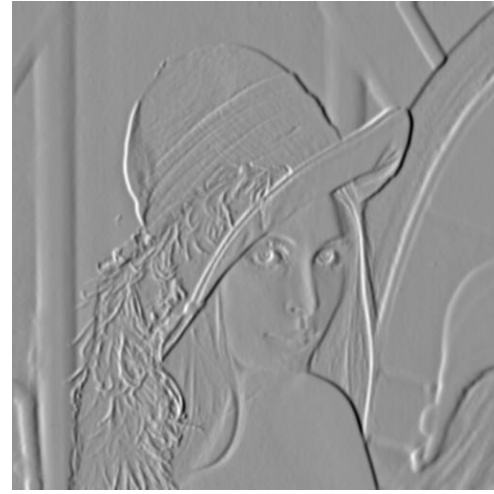
## Steps

- Filter image with x, y derivatives of Gaussian
- Find magnitude and orientation of gradient
- Non-maximum suppression: Thin multi-pixel wide “ridges” down to single pixel width
- Thresholding and linking (hysteresis): Define two thresholds: **low and high** and use the high threshold to start edge curves and the low threshold to continue them
- MATLAB: `edge(image, 'canny')`



# Original Image and Its Gradient

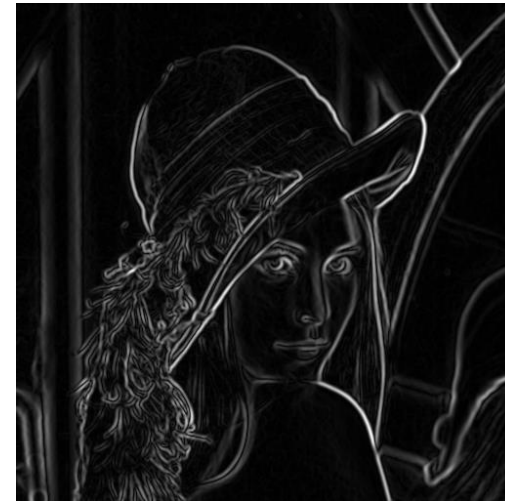
original image (Lena)



X-Derivative of Gaussian

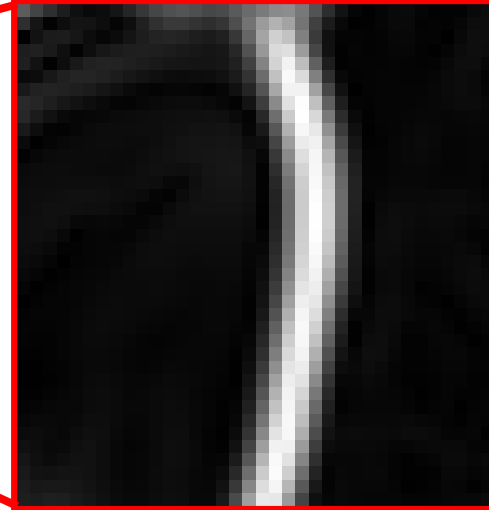


Y-Derivative of Gaussian

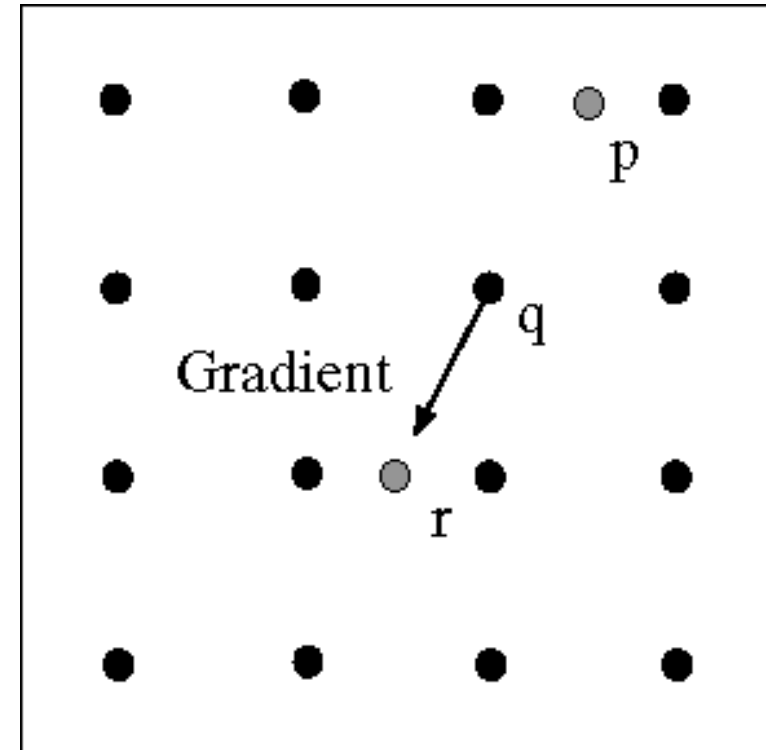
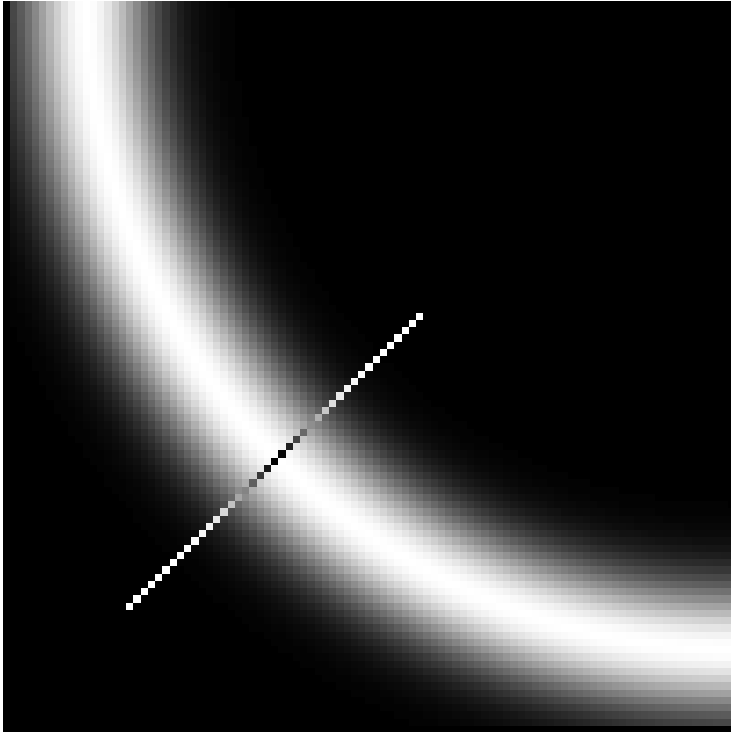


Gradient Magnitude

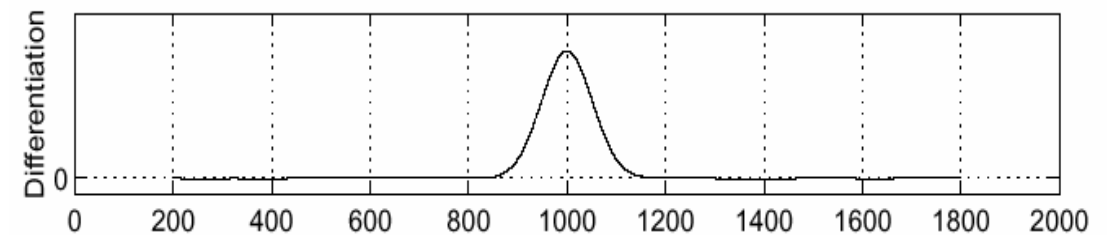
# Finding Edges



# Non-maximum Suppression



- Check if pixel is local maximum along gradient direction
  - Requires interpolating pixels p and r



# After Non-maximum Suppression



# Hysteresis Thresholding

- Threshold at low/high levels to get weak/strong edge pixels
- Do connected components, starting from strong edge pixels

*Finalize the detection of edges by suppressing all the other edges that are weak and not connected to strong edges.*





# Final Canny Edges

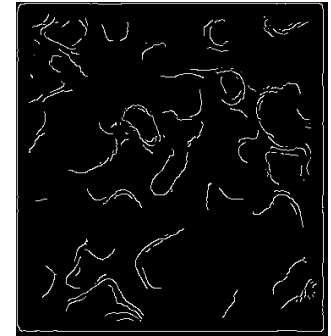
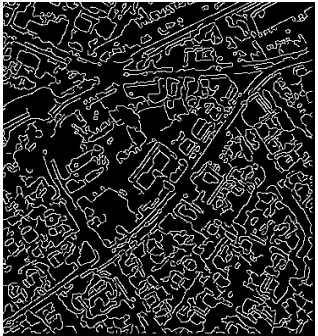
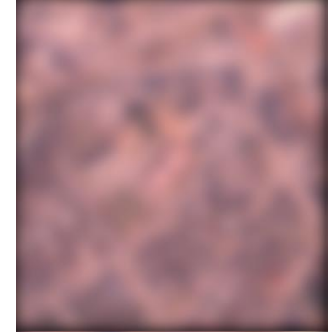


# (Revisit) Effect of Gaussian Window Sizes



```
f1 = fspecial('gaussian', 101,1);  
f2 = fspecial('gaussian', 101,5);  
f3 = fspecial('gaussian', 101,10);  
f4 = fspecial('gaussian', 101,30);
```

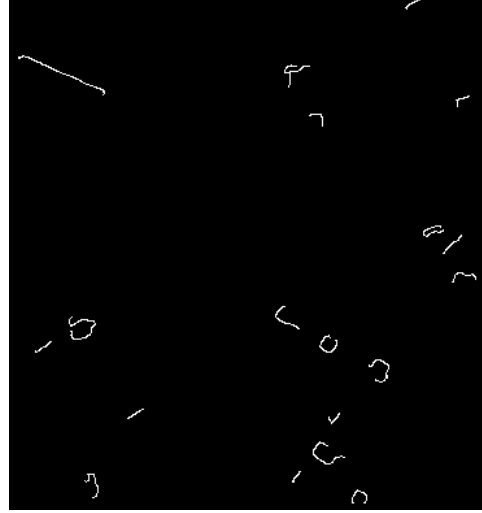
# Effect of $\sigma$ (Gaussian Kernel Size)



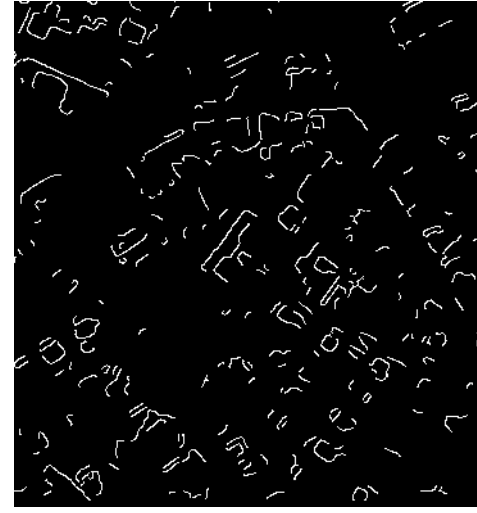
The choice of  $\sigma$  depends on desired behavior

- large  $\sigma$  detects large scale edges
- small  $\sigma$  detects fine features

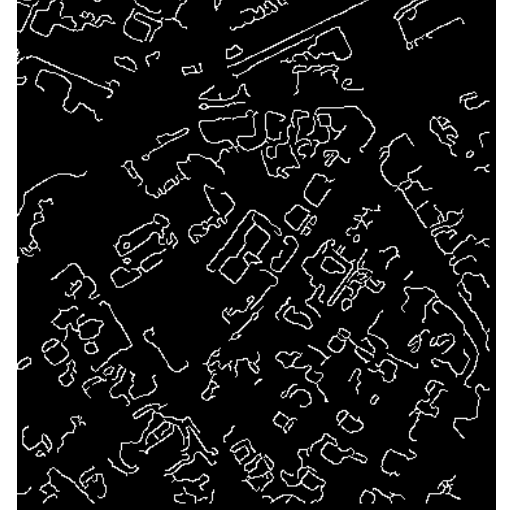
# Effect of High and Low Thresholds



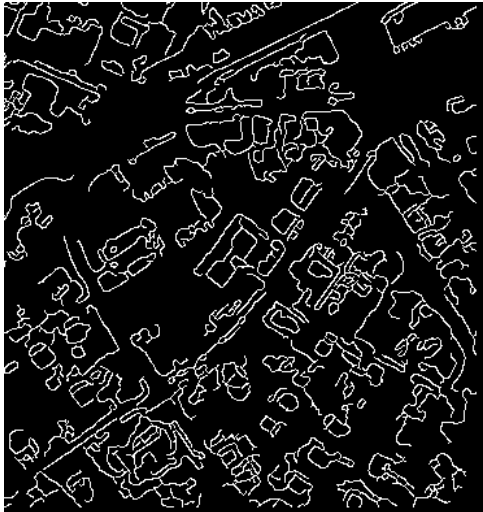
**[0.4 0.8]**



**[0.4 0.5]**



**[0.2 0.5]**



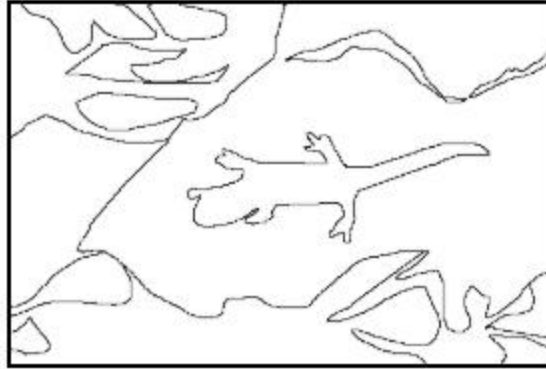
**[0.1 0.5]**



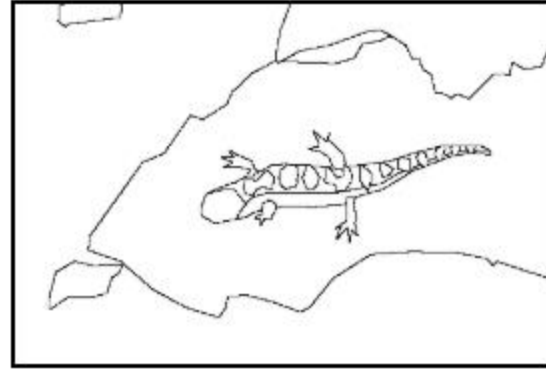
# Contour Detection and Image Segmentation Resources (Computer Vision Group in Berkeley)



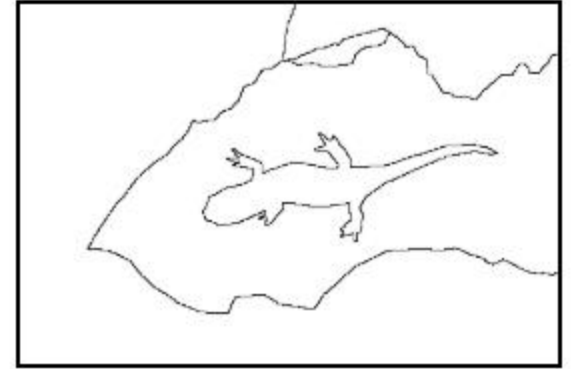
Original Image



Subject 1

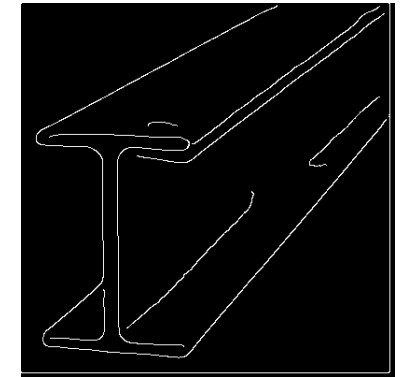
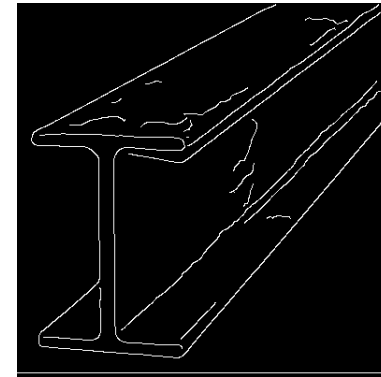
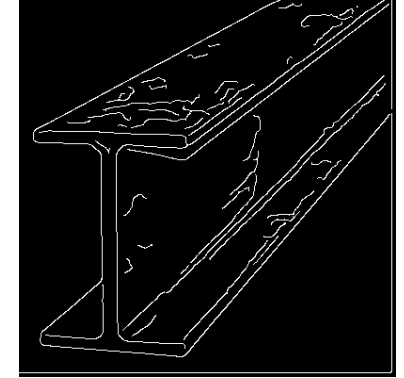
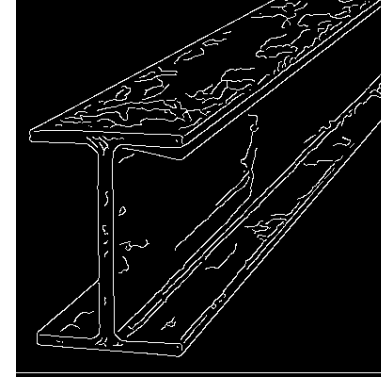


Subject 2



Subject 3

# Hough Transform



The basic idea is to examine the parameter space for lines, rather than the image spaces.

# Image and Parameter Spaces

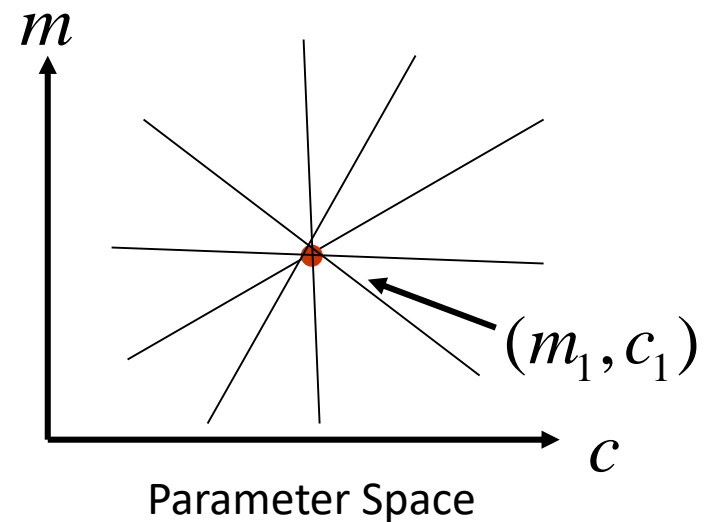
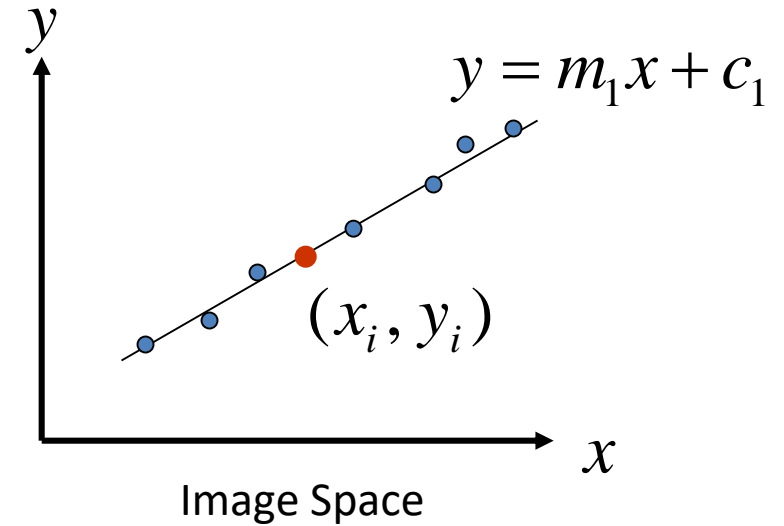
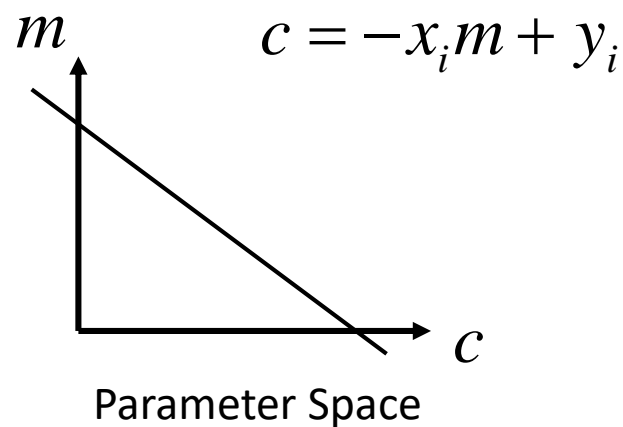
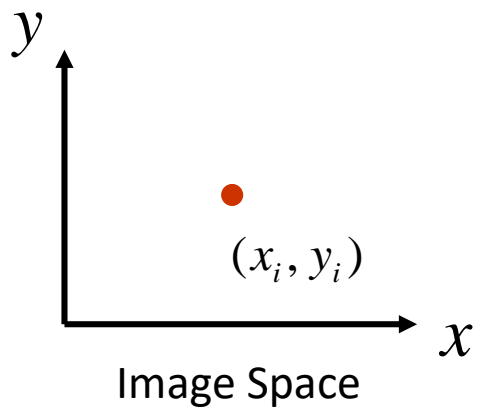
Equation of Line:  $y = mx + c$

Find:  $(m, c)$

Consider point:  $(x_i, y_i)$

$$y_i = mx_i + c \quad \text{or} \quad c = -x_i m + y_i$$

Parameter space also called Hough Space





# Line Detection by Hough Transform

## Algorithm:

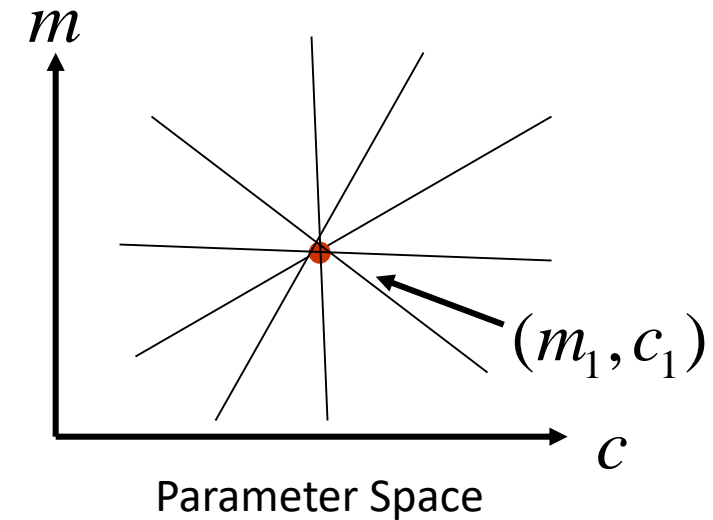
- Quantize Parameter Space  $(m, c)$
- Create Accumulator Array  $A(m, c)$
- Set  $A(m, c) = 0 \quad \forall m, c$
- For each image edge  $(x_i, y_i)$  increment:

$$A(m, c) = A(m, c) + 1$$

- If  $(m, c)$  lies on the line:

$$c = -x_i m + y_i$$

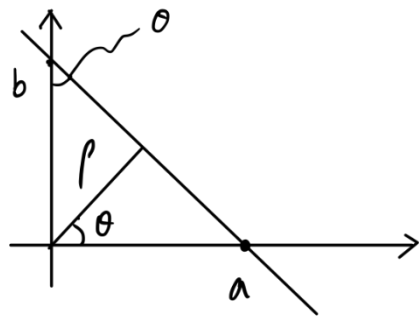
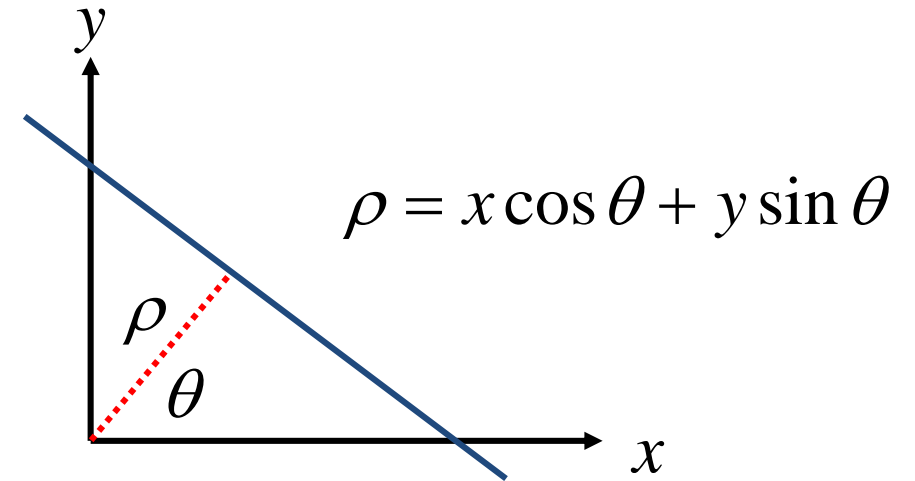
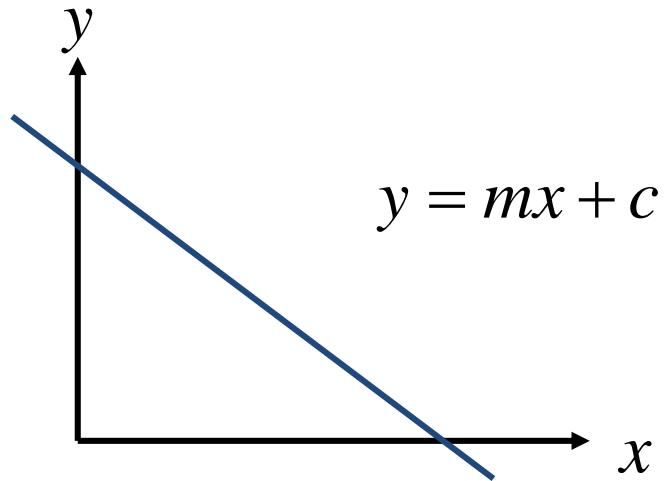
- Find local maxima in  $A(m, c)$



	1						1		
		1				1			
			1		1				
				2					
			1		1				
		1				1			
	1						1		

$A(m, c)$

# Another Representation of a Line Equation



$$a = \frac{\rho}{\cos \theta}, \quad b = \frac{\rho}{\sin \theta}$$

$$m = -\frac{b}{a} = -\frac{\cos \theta}{\sin \theta}, \quad c = \frac{\rho}{\sin \theta}$$

$$\therefore y = -\frac{\cos \theta}{\sin \theta} x + \frac{\rho}{\sin \theta}$$

$$\rho = x \cos \theta + y \sin \theta$$

# Better Parameterization

NOTE:  $-\infty \leq m \leq \infty$

Large Accumulator

More memory and computations

Improvement: (Finite Accumulator Array Size)

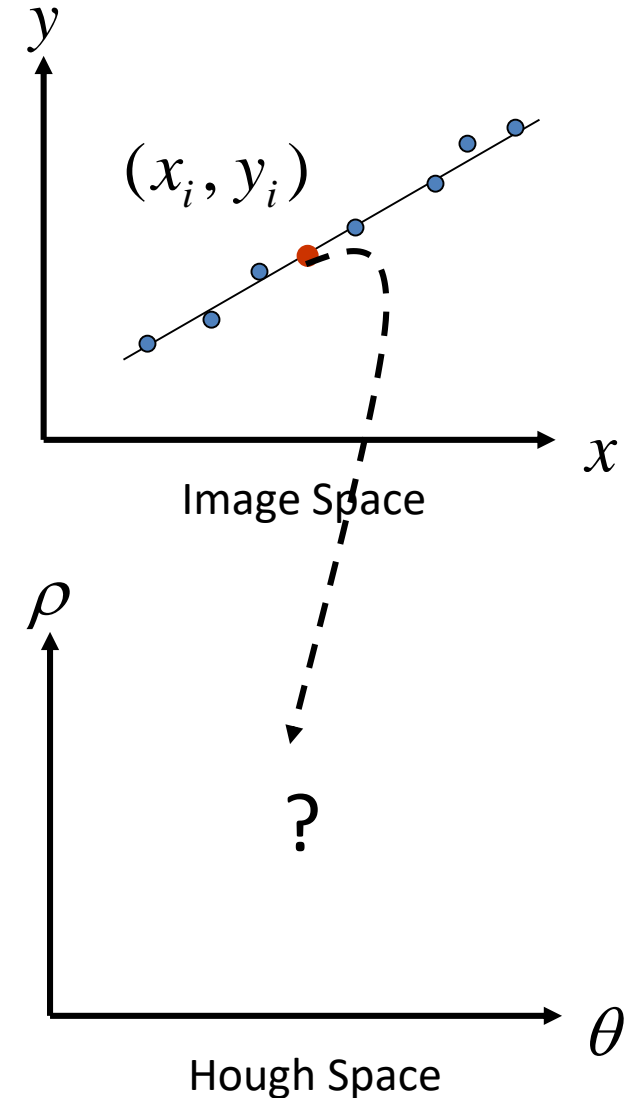
Line equation:  $\rho = x \cos \theta + y \sin \theta$

Here  $0 \leq \theta \leq 2\pi$

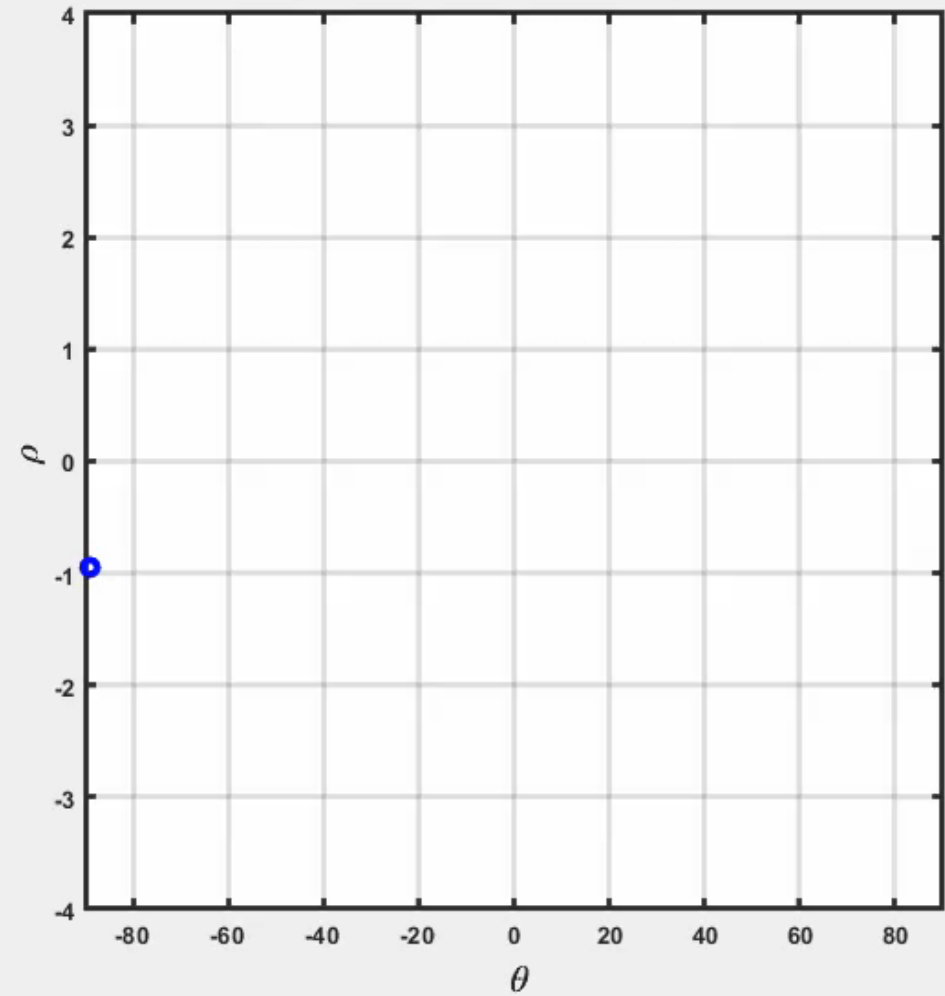
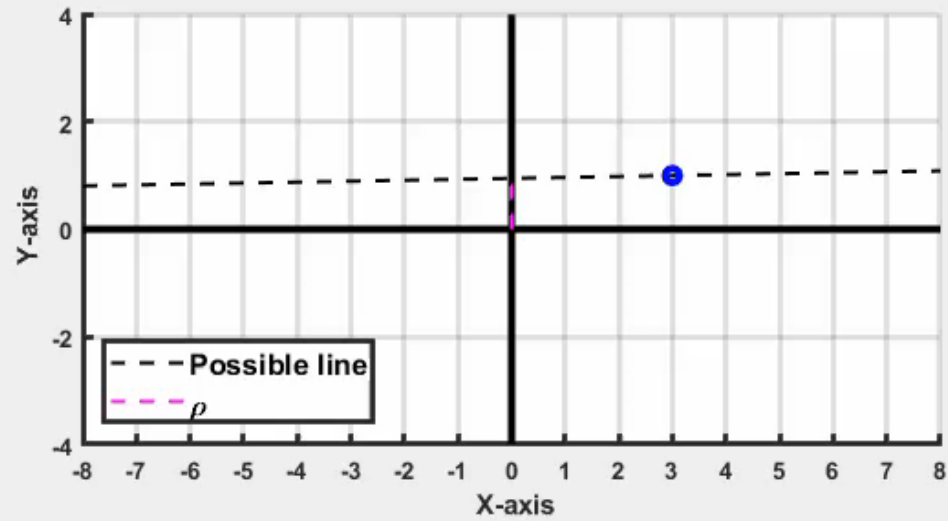
$$0 \leq \rho \leq \rho_{\max}$$

Given points  $(x_i, y_i)$  find  $(\rho, \theta)$

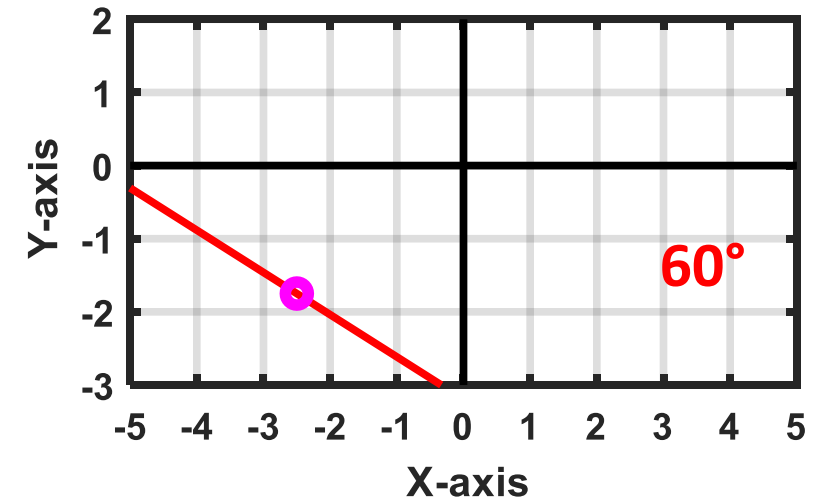
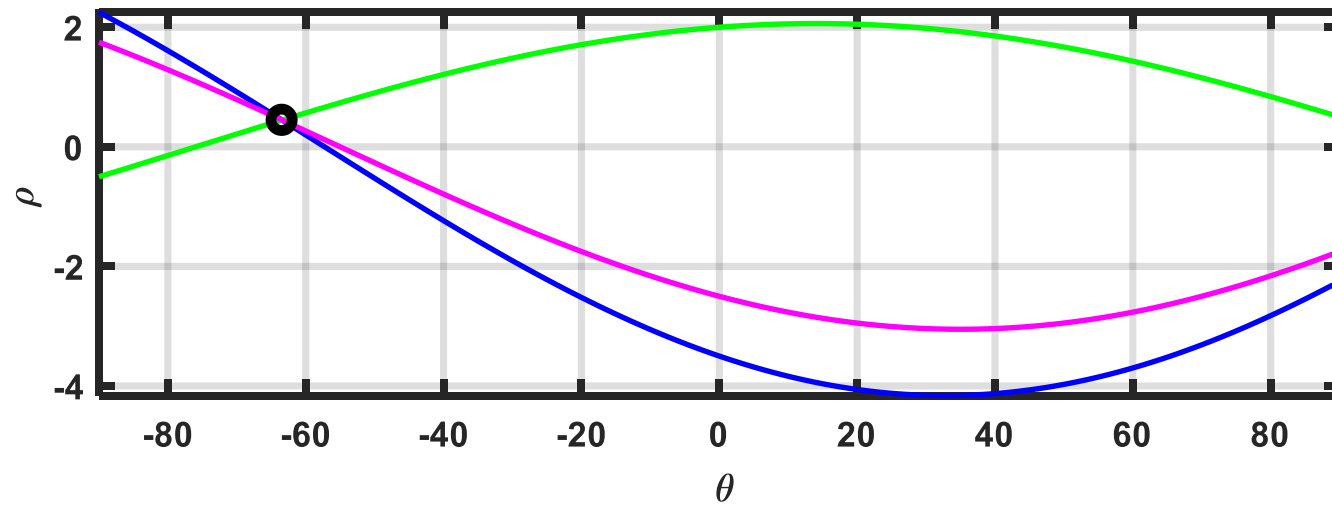
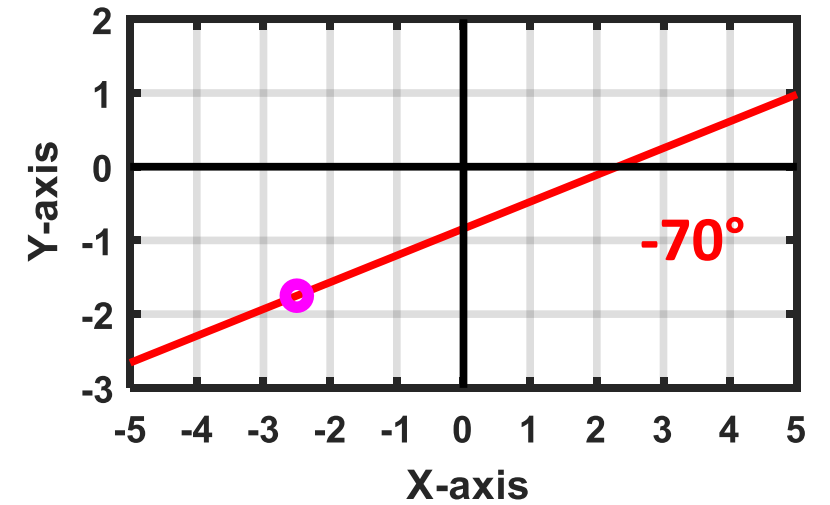
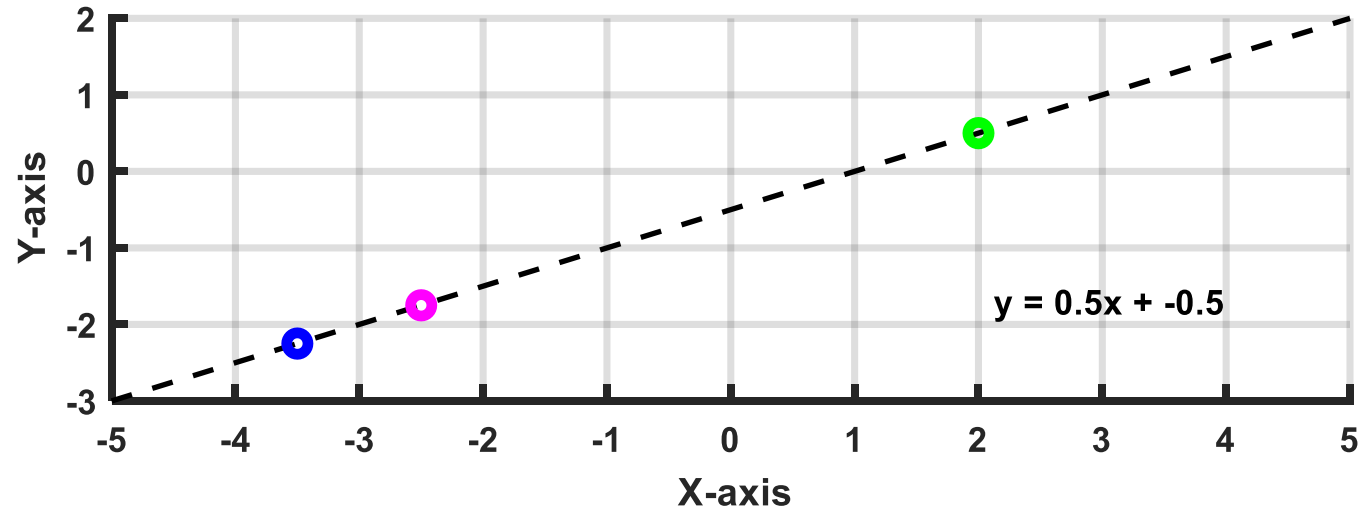
Hough Space Sinusoid



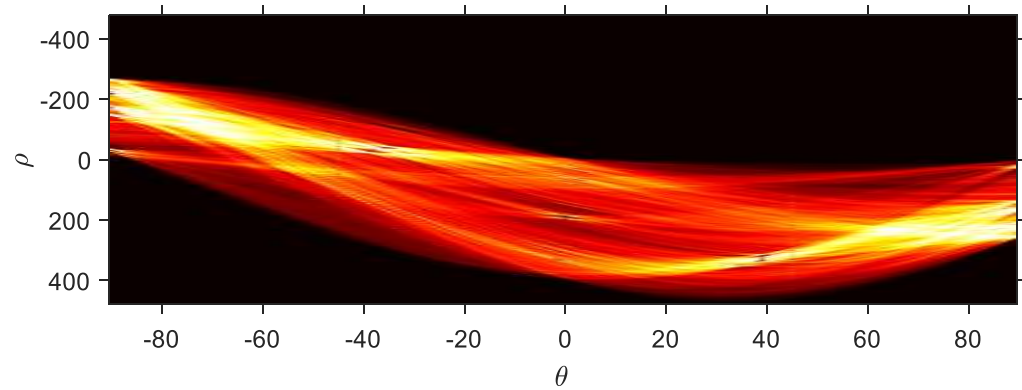
# Hough Transform Demo



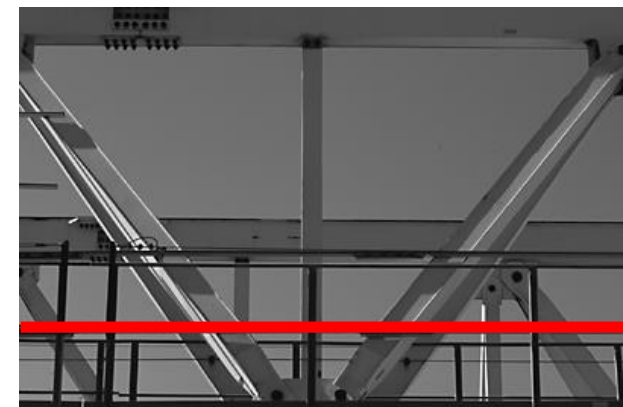
# Example: Line Passing Through Three Dots



# Example: Line Detection



1<sup>st</sup> Peak



# Principles of the Hough Transform

- Difficulties
  - how big should the cells be? (too big, and we merge quite different lines; too small, and noise causes lines to be missed)
- How many lines?
  - Count the peaks in the Hough array
  - Treat adjacent peaks as a single peak
- Which points belong to each line?
  - Search for points close to the line
  - Solve again for line and iterate



# Slide Credits and References

- Lecture notes: S. Narasimhan
- Lecture notes: Gordon Wetzstein
- Lecture notes: Noah Snavely
- Lecture notes: L. Fei-Fei
- Lecture notes: D. Forsyth
- Lecture notes: James Hayes
- Lecture notes: Yacov Hel-Or