

Associativity of Convolution

Proof: Let a, b, c functions which are measurable on the reals,
& let us assume ~~$a * (b * c)$~~ ,
 $a * (b * c)$ & $(a * b) * c$ exist.

To Show: $(a * b) * c = a * (b * c)$

By the definition of convolution,

$$\begin{aligned} ((a * b) * c)(u) &= \int_{\mathbb{R}} (a * b)(x) c(u-x) dx \\ &= \int_{\mathbb{R}} \left[\int_{\mathbb{R}} a(y) b(x-y) dy \right] c(u-x) dx \\ &= \int_{\mathbb{R}} \int_{\mathbb{R}} a(y) b(x-y) c(u-x) dy dx \end{aligned}$$

By Fubini's Theorem we can switch the order of integration
Thus we get

$$((a * b) * c)(u) = \int_{\mathbb{R}} \int_{\mathbb{R}} a(y) b(x-y) c(u-x) dx dy$$

$$= \int_{\mathbb{R}} a(y) \left[\int_{\mathbb{R}} b(x-y) c(u-x) dx \right] dy$$

By translation invariance,

$$\int_{\mathbb{R}} b(x-y) c(u-x) dx$$

$$= \int_{\mathbb{R}} b((x+y)-y) c(u-(x+y)) dx$$

$$= \int_{\mathbb{R}} b(x) c((u-y)-x) dx$$

$$= \int_{\mathbb{R}} b(x) c(u-y-x) dx$$

$$= (b * c)(u-y)$$

$$\Rightarrow \int_{\mathbb{R}} a(y) (b * c)(u-y) dy = \int_{\mathbb{R}} a(y) (b * c)(u-y) dy$$

which by definition is $(a * (b * c))(u)$

Hence Convolution is associative.

Task 6

We know that convolving twice with 2 filters is convenient as convolving the two filters first to get a new filter then convolve signal with new filter. Hence we need to prove that convolution of gaussian kernel with another kernel with another gaussian kernel is also a gaussian kernel.

Suppose 2 1D gaussian kernels $g_1(x)$, $g_2(x)$ are with standard deviation σ_1 , σ_2 then their convolution is

$$\begin{aligned} & \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} g_1(u) g_2(x-u) du \\ &= \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} \frac{1}{\sqrt{2\pi}\sigma_1} \exp\left(-\frac{u^2}{2\sigma_1^2}\right) \times \frac{1}{\sqrt{2\pi}\sigma_2} \exp\left(-\frac{(x-u)^2}{2\sigma_2^2}\right) du \\ &= \frac{1}{2\pi\sigma_1\sigma_2} \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} \exp\left\{ -\frac{(\sigma_1^2 + \sigma_2^2)u^2}{2\sigma_1^2\sigma_2^2} + \frac{\sigma_1^2 x^2 - 2\sigma_1^2 x u}{2\sigma_1^2\sigma_2^2} \right\} du \\ &= \frac{1}{2\pi\sigma_1\sigma_2} \left(\int_{-\infty}^{\infty} \exp\left\{ -\frac{(\sigma_1^2 + \sigma_2^2)u^2 - 2\sigma_1^2 x u}{2\sigma_1^2\sigma_2^2} \right\} du \right) \\ & \quad \neq \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} \exp\left\{ -\frac{\sigma_1^2 x^2}{2\sigma_1\sigma_2} \right\} dx \end{aligned}$$

$$\text{Let } A = (\sigma_1^2 + \sigma_2^2) / (\sigma_1^2 \sigma_2^2) > 0 \text{ \& } \\ Z = x / \sigma_2^2$$

$$\text{The } = \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} g_1(u) g_2(x-u) du.$$

$$= \frac{1}{2\pi \sigma_1 \sigma_2} \exp \left\{ \frac{-x^2}{2\sigma_2^2} \right\} \sqrt{\frac{2\pi}{A}} \exp \left\{ \frac{Z^2}{2A} \right\}$$

$$= \frac{1}{\sqrt{2\pi} \sqrt{\sigma_1^2 + \sigma_2^2}} \exp \frac{x^2}{2(\sigma_1^2 + \sigma_2^2) \sigma_2^2 / \sigma_1^2 \sigma_2^2}$$

$$= \frac{1}{\sqrt{2\pi} \sqrt{\sigma_1^2 + \sigma_2^2}} \exp \left(\frac{-x^2}{2(\sigma_1^2 + \sigma_2^2)} \right)$$

So result is Gaussian function with standard deviation $\sqrt{\sigma_1^2 + \sigma_2^2}$ which is larger than both of 2 deviations of 2 Gaussian filters.

Further g_1 & g_2 are same Gaussian kernels so we have.

$$\int_{-\infty}^{\infty} g_1(u) g_2(x-u) du = \frac{1}{\sqrt{2\pi} \sigma} \exp \left\{ \frac{-x^2}{2(\sigma^2)} \right\}$$