Computer Vision and Image Processing (EC 336)

Lecture 6: Spatial Filtering

by Dr. Rashmi Panda

Dept. of Electronics and Communication Engineering

INDIAN INSTITUTE OF INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY, RANCHI

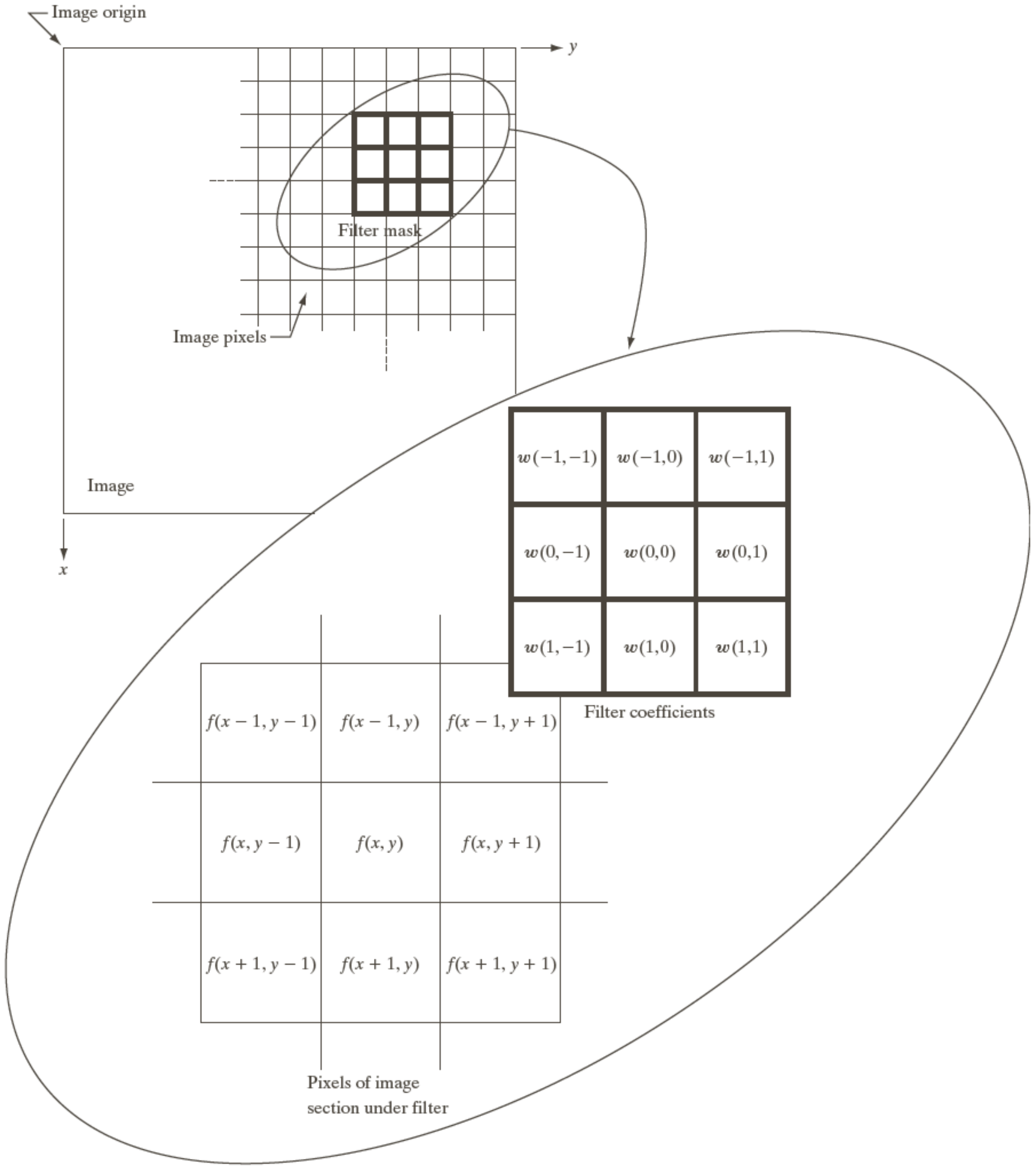
Spatial Filtering

A spatial filter consists of (a) **a neighborhood**, and

(b) **a predefined operation**

Linear spatial filtering of an image of size MxN with a filter of size mxn is given by the expression

$$g(x,y)=\sum_{s=-a}^{a}\sum_{t=-b}^{b}w(s,t)\,f(x+s,y+t)$$



Spatial Correlation and Spatial Convolution

- Spatial Correlation

The correlation of a filter $w(x, y)$ of size $m \times n$ with an image $f(x, y)$, denoted as $w(x, y) \star f(x, y)$

$$w(x, y) \star f(x, y) = \sum_{s=-a}^{a} \sum_{t=-b}^{b} w(s,t) f(x+s, y+t)$$

- Spatial Convolution

The convolution of a filter $w(x, y)$ of size $m \times n$ with an image $f(x, y)$, denoted as $w(x, y) \bigstar f(x, y)$

$$w(x, y) \bigstar f(x, y) = \sum_{s=-a}^{a} \sum_{t=-b}^{b} w(s,t) f(x-s, y-t)$$

Origin $f(x, y)$

0	0	0	0	0
0	0	0	0	0
0	0	1	0	0
0	0	0	0	0
0	0	0	0	0

$w(x, y)$

1	2	3
4	5	6
7	8	9

(a)

FIGURE 3.30 Correlation (middle row) and convolution (last row) of a 2-D filter with a 2-D discrete, unit impulse. The 0s are shown in gray to simplify visual analysis.

Smoothing Spatial Filters

- Smoothing filters are used for blurring and for noise reduction
- Blurring is used in removal of small details and bridging of small gaps in lines or curves
- Smoothing spatial filters include linear filters and nonlinear filters.
- The general implementation for filtering an $M \times N$ image with a weighted averaging filter of size $m \times n$ is given

$$g(x,y) = \frac{\sum_{s=-a}^{a}\sum_{t=-b}^{b} w(s,t)\, f(x+s, y+t)}{\sum_{s=-a}^{a}\sum_{t=-b}^{b} w(s,t)}$$

where $m = 2a+1, \quad n = 2b+1.$

$$\frac{1}{9} \times \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 1 & 1 \\ 1 & 1 & 1 \\ 1 & 1 & 1 \end{bmatrix} \qquad \frac{1}{16} \times \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 2 & 1 \\ 2 & 4 & 2 \\ 1 & 2 & 1 \end{bmatrix}$$

a b

FIGURE 3.32 Two 3×3 smoothing (averaging) filter masks. The constant multiplier in front of each mask is equal to 1 divided by the sum of the values of its coefficients, as is required to compute an average.

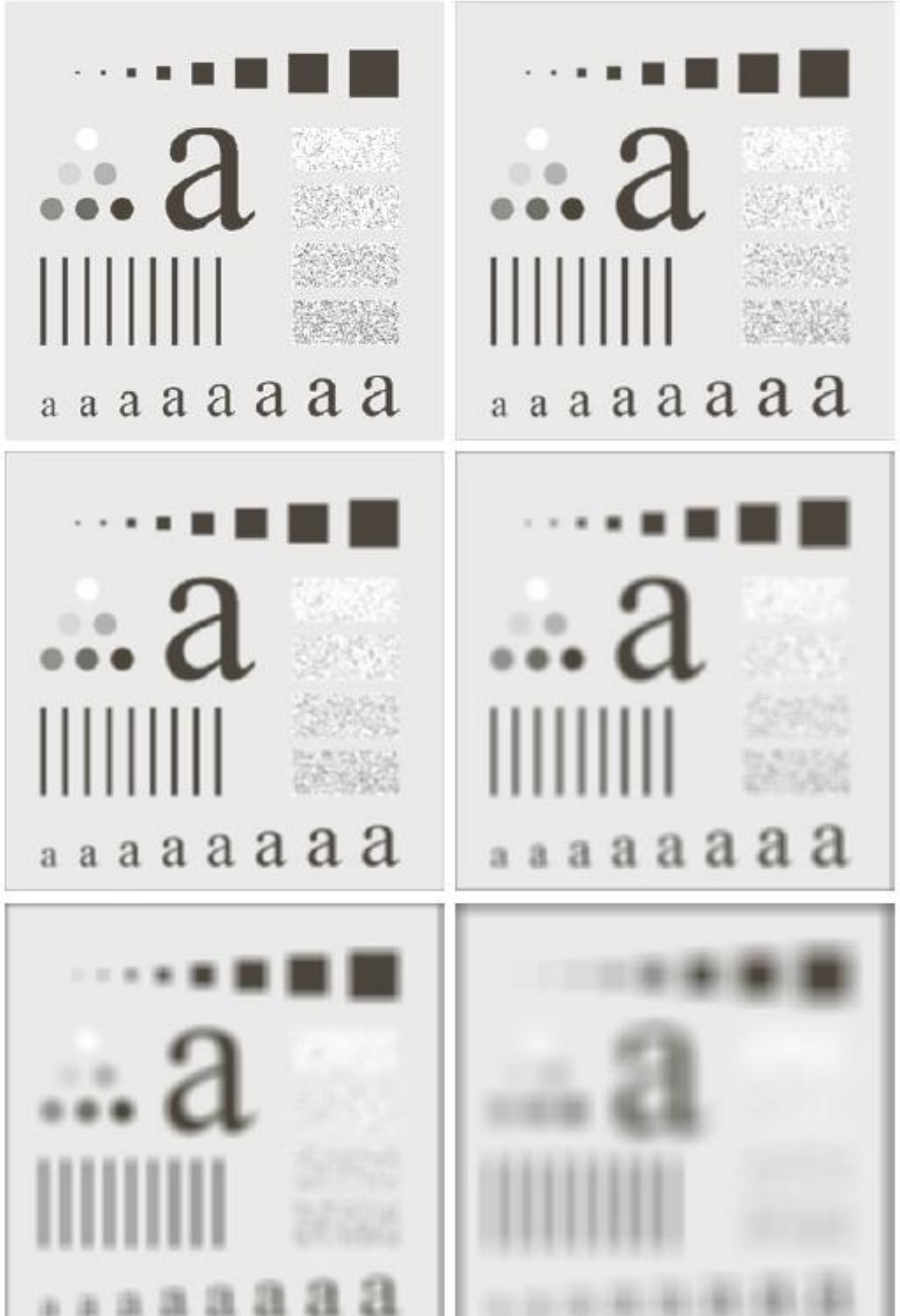


FIGURE 3.33 (a) Original image, of size 500 × 500 pixels. (b)–(f) Results of smoothing with square averaging filter masks of sizes $m = 3, 5, 9, 15$, and 35, respectively. The black squares at the top are of sizes 3, 5, 9, 15, 25, 35, 45, and 55 pixels, respectively; their borders are 25 pixels apart. The letters at the bottom range in size from 10 to 24 points, in increments of 2 points; the large letter at the top is 60 points. The vertical bars are 5 pixels wide and 100 pixels high; their separation is 20 pixels. The diameter of the circles is 25 pixels, and their borders are 15 pixels apart; their intensity levels range from 0% to 100% black in increments of 20%. The background of the image is 10% black. The noisy rectangles are of size 50 × 120 pixels.

a b
c d
e f

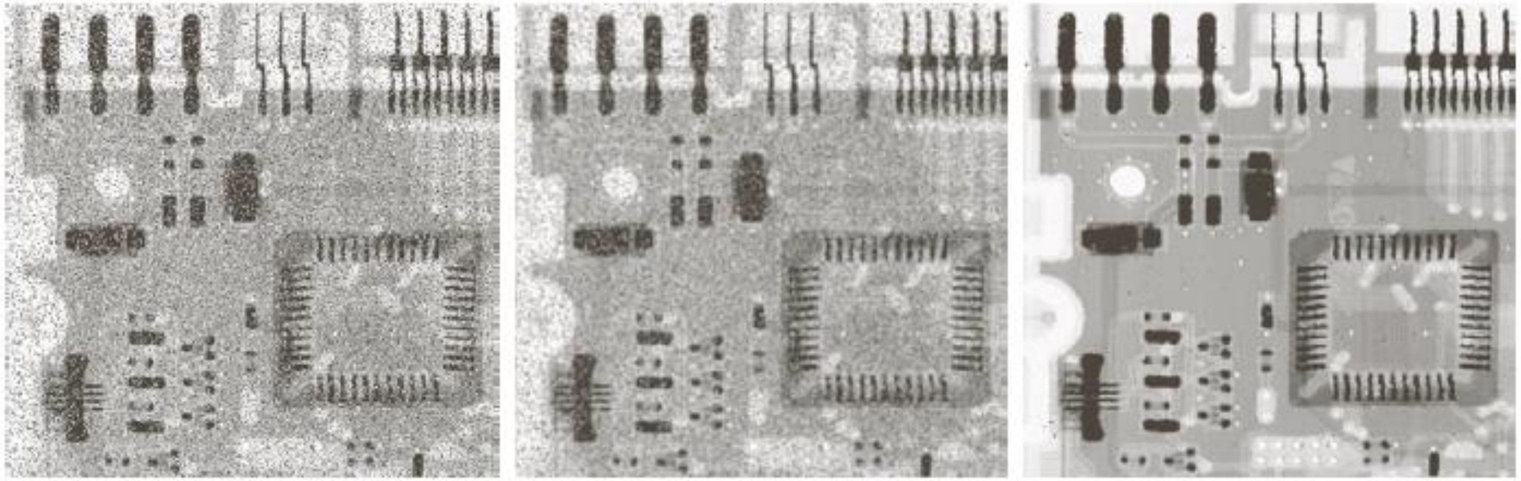
Order-statistic (Nonlinear) Filters

— Based on ordering (ranking) the pixels contained in the filter mask

— Replacing the value of the center pixel with the value determined by the ranking result

E.g., median filter,

max filter, min filter



a b c

FIGURE 3.35 (a) X-ray image of circuit board corrupted by salt-and-pepper noise. (b) Noise reduction with a 3×3 averaging mask. (c) Noise reduction with a 3×3 median filter. (Original image courtesy of Mr. Joseph E. Pascente, Lixi, Inc.)

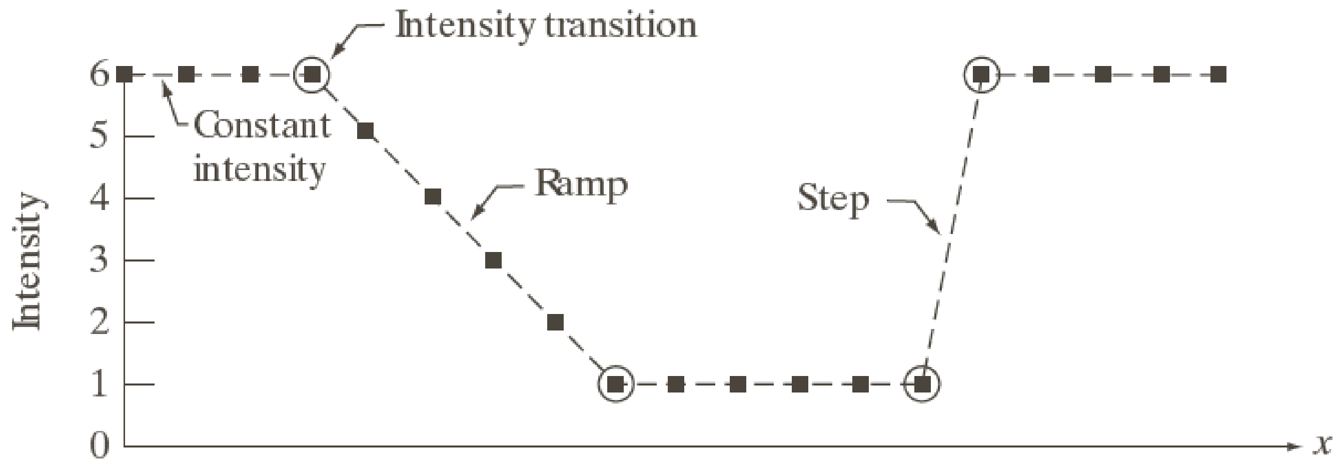
Sharpening Spatial Filters

- Laplacian Operator
- Unsharp Masking and Highboost Filtering
- Using First-Order Derivatives for Nonlinear Image Sharpening
  - The Gradient

- The first-order derivative of a one-dimensional function f(x) as the difference

$$\frac{\partial f}{\partial x} = f(x+1) - f(x)$$

- The second-order derivative of f(x) as the difference $\frac{\partial^2 f}{\partial x^2} = f(x+1) + f(x-1) - 2f(x)$



a
b
c

FIGURE 3.36 Illustration of the first and second derivatives of a 1-D digital function representing a section of a horizontal intensity profile from an image. In (a) and (c) data points are joined by dashed lines as a visualization aid.

Sharpening Spatial Filters: Laplace Operator

The second-order isotropic derivative operator is the Laplacian for a function (image) f(x,y)

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

$$\frac{\partial^2 f}{\partial x^2} = f(x+1, y) + f(x-1, y) - 2f(x, y)$$

$$\frac{\partial^2 f}{\partial y^2} = f(x, y+1) + f(x, y-1) - 2f(x, y)$$

$$\nabla^2 f = f(x+1, y) + f(x-1, y) + f(x, y+1) + f(x, y-1) - 4f(x, y)$$

(a)

0	1	0
1	−4	1
0	1	0

(b)

1	1	1
1	−8	1
1	1	1

(c)

0	−1	0
−1	4	−1
0	−1	0

(d)

−1	−1	−1
−1	8	−1
−1	−1	−1

a b
c d

FIGURE 3.37
(a) Filter mask used to implement Eq. (3.6-6). (b) Mask used to implement an extension of this equation that includes the diagonal terms. (c) and (d) Two other implementations of the Laplacian found frequently in practice.

Sharpening Spatial Filters: Laplace Operator

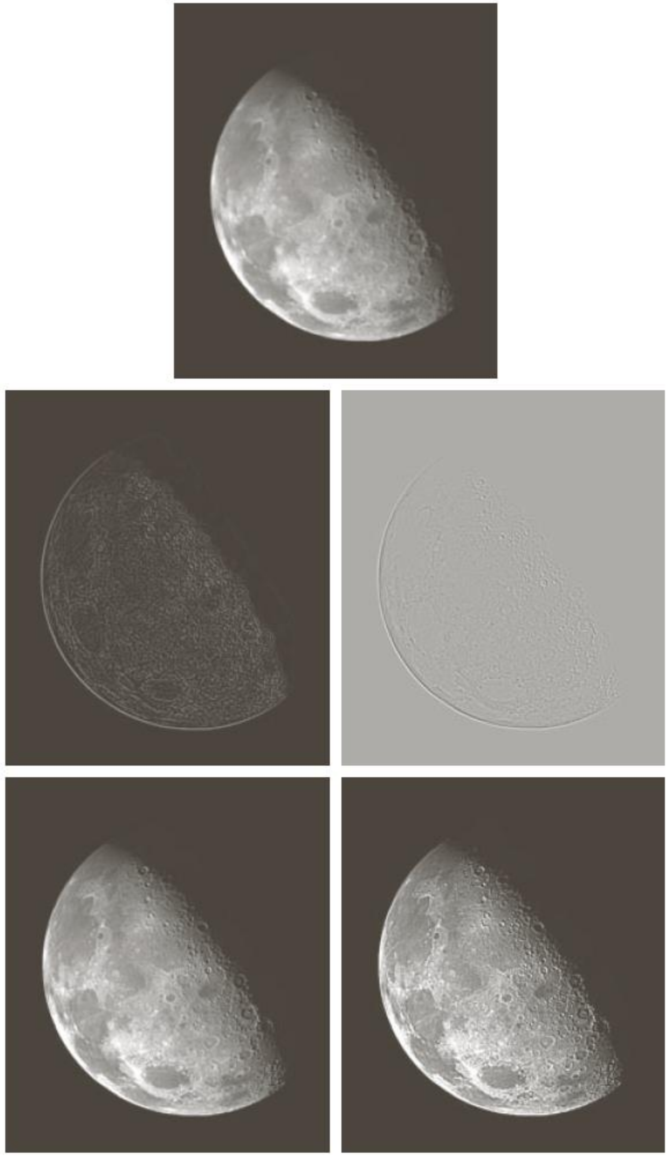
Image sharpening in the way of using the Laplacian:

$$g(x,y) = f(x,y) + c\left[\nabla^2 f(x,y)\right]$$

where,

$f(x,y)$ is input image,

$g(x,y)$ is sharpenend images,



a
b c
d e

FIGURE 3.38 (a) Blurred image of the North Pole of the moon. (b) Laplacian without scaling. (c) Laplacian with scaling. (d) Image sharpened using the mask in Fig. 3.37(a). (e) Result of using the mask in Fig. 3.37(b). (Original image courtesy of NASA.)

Unsharp Masking and Highboost Filtering

- **Unsharp masking**

  Sharpen images consists of subtracting an unsharp (smoothed) version of an image from the original image

  e.g., printing and publishing industry

- **Steps**

  1. Blur the original image. Let $\bar{f}(x, y)$ denote the blurred image
  2. Subtract the blurred image from the original

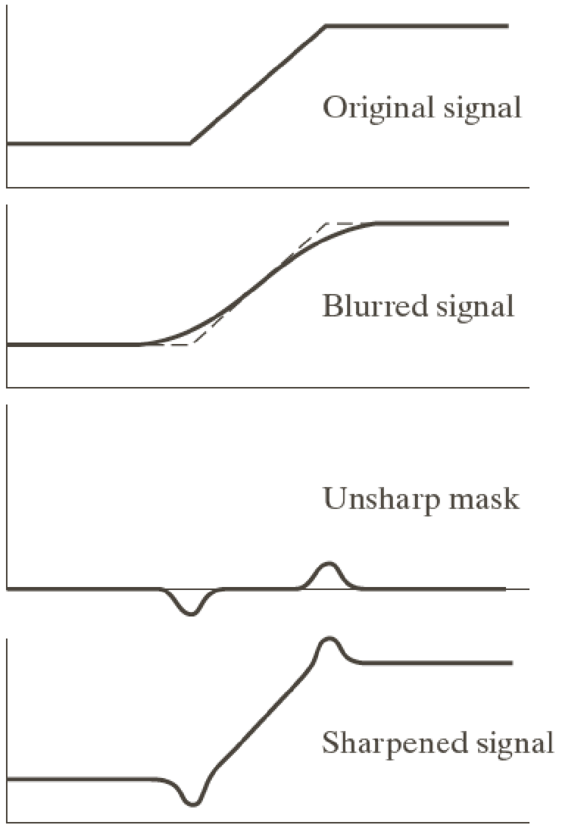
  $$g_{mask}(x, y) = f(x, y) - \bar{f}(x, y)$$

  3. Then add a weighted portion of the mask back to the original

  $$g(x, y) = f(x, y) + k * g_{mask}(x, y) \qquad k \geq 0$$

  $k = 1$, the process is referred to as unsharp masking

  $k > 1$, the process is referred to as highboost filtering.



Unsharp Masking and Highboost Filtering: Example

a
b
c
d
e

FIGURE 3.40 (a) Original image. (b) Result of blurring with a Gaussian filter. (c) Unsharp mask. (d) Result of using unsharp masking. (e) Result of using highboost filtering.

Image Sharpening based on First-Order Derivatives

For function $f(x, y)$, the gradient of f at coordinates (x, y) is defined as

$$\nabla f \equiv \text{grad}(f) \equiv \begin{bmatrix} g_x \\ g_y \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} \dfrac{\partial f}{\partial x} \\ \dfrac{\partial f}{\partial y} \end{bmatrix}$$

The *magnitude* of vector ∇f, denoted as $M(x, y)$

Gradient Image $\quad M(x, y) = \text{mag}(\nabla f) = \sqrt{g_x^2 + g_y^2}$

Image Sharpening based on First-Order Derivatives

z_1	z_2	z_3
z_4	z_5	z_6
z_7	z_8	z_9

−1	0
0	1

0	−1
1	0

−1	−2	−1
0	0	0
1	2	1

−1	0	1
−2	0	2
−1	0	1

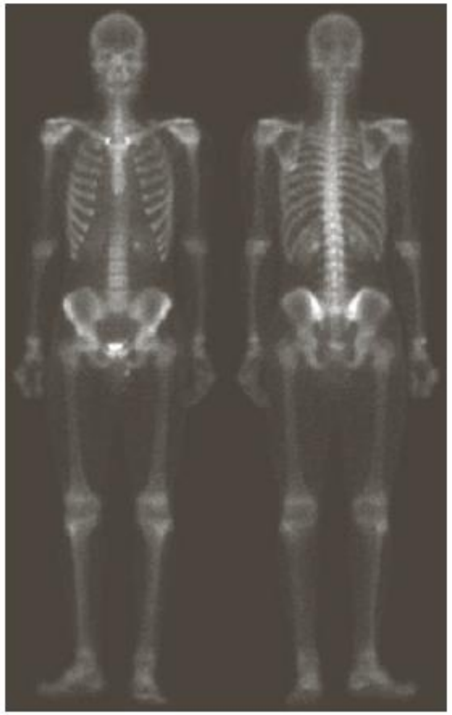
a
b c
d e

FIGURE 3.41
A 3 × 3 region of an image (the zs are intensity values). (b)–(c) Roberts cross gradient operators. (d)–(e) Sobel operators. All the mask coefficients sum to zero, as expected of a derivative operator.

Example:

Combining Spatial Enhancement Methods

Goal:
Enhance the image by sharpening it and by bringing out more of the skeletal detail



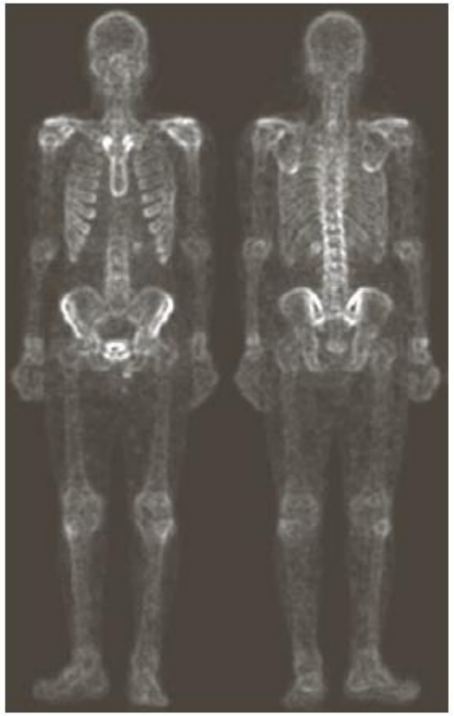
a	b
c	d

FIGURE 3.43
(a) Image of whole body bone scan.
(b) Laplacian of (a). (c) Sharpened image obtained by adding (a) and (b).
(d) Sobel gradient of (a).

Example:

Combining Spatial Enhancement Methods

Goal:
Enhance the image by sharpening it and by bringing out more of the skeletal detail



e f
g h

FIGURE 3.43 *(Continued)* (e) Sobel image smoothed with a 5×5 averaging filter. (f) Mask image formed by the product of (c) and (e). (g) Sharpened image obtained by the sum of (a) and (f). (h) Final result obtained by applying a power-law transformation to (g). Compare (g) and (h) with (a). (Original image courtesy of G.E. Medical Systems.)