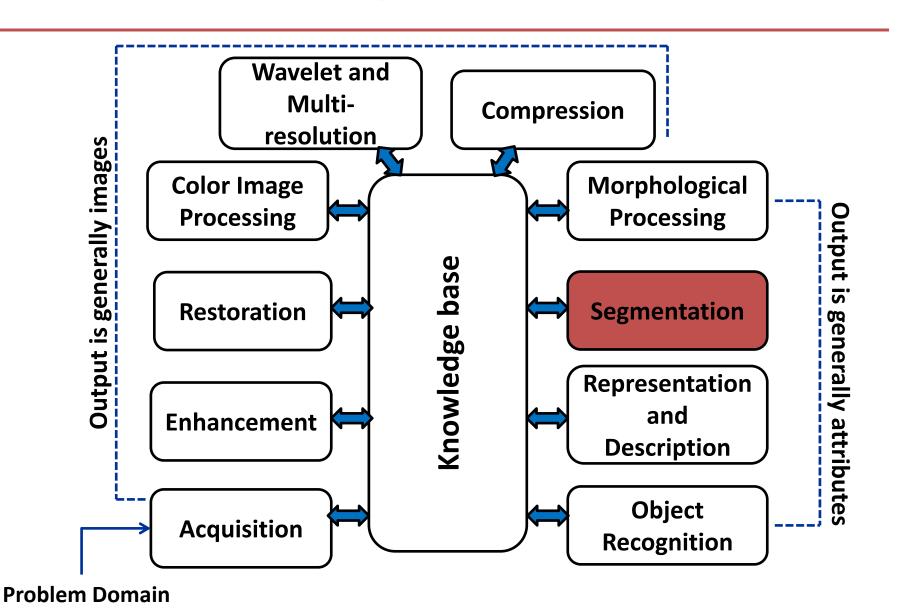


Image Segmentation I

Fundamental Steps of DIP



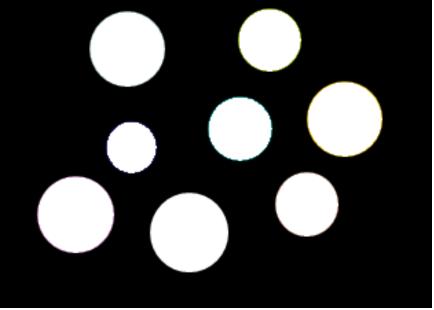
Contents

- 1. Basics of Image Segmentation
- 2. Edge-based Segmentation
- 3. Thresholding
- 4. Region-based Segmentation

Basics of Image Segmentation

- Segmentation is to subdivide an image into its constituent regions or objects.
- Typically the first step in any automated computer vision application.

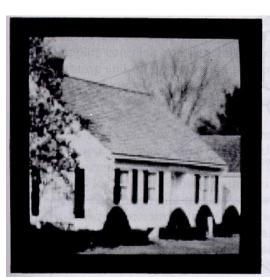




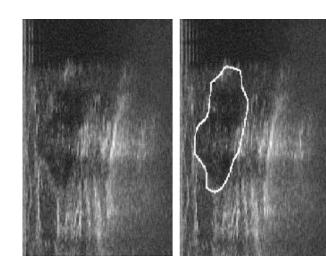
 Automated segmentation is a very difficult problem in general.

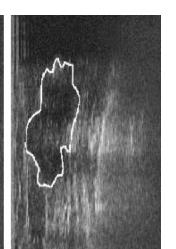
 The results of segmentation are very important in determining the eventual success or failure of image analysis.



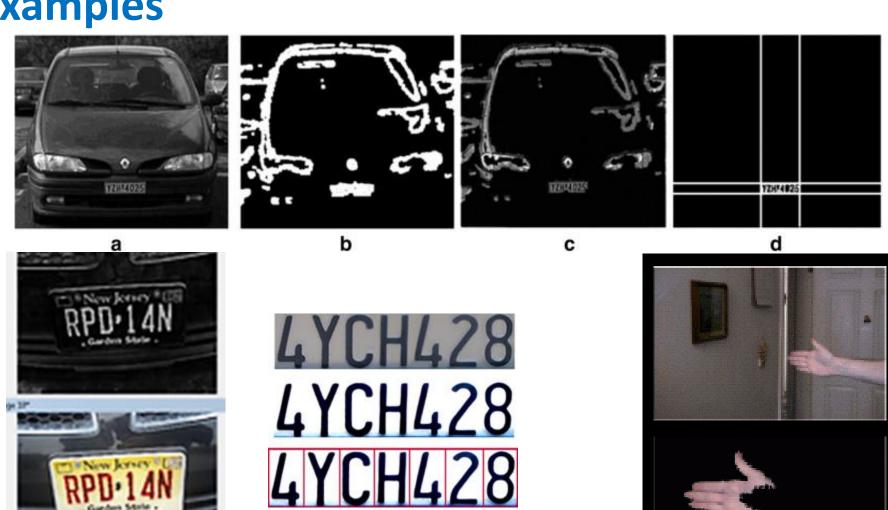




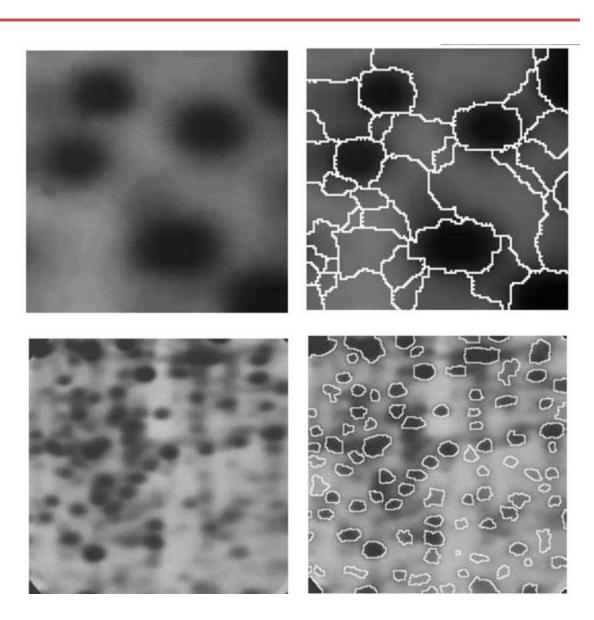




Examples



Examples



 Monochrome image segmentation algorithms are generally based on:

1- Edge-based Approaches

Use the boundaries of regions to segment the image by detecting abrupt changes in intensity (discontinuities) → edge detection

2- Region-based Approaches

- Use similarity among pixels to partition an image into regions according to a set of predefined criteria.
- > thresholding, region growing, merging, splitting...

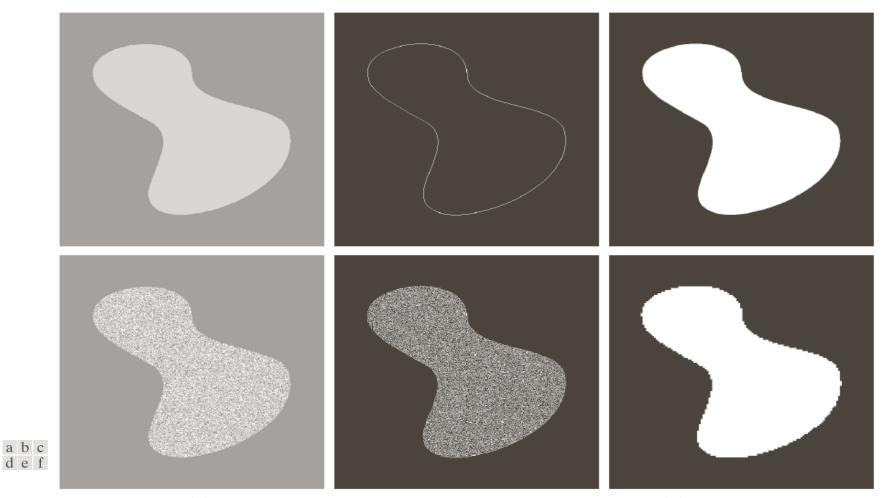


FIGURE 10.1 (a) Image containing a region of constant intensity. (b) Image showing the boundary of the inner region, obtained from intensity discontinuities. (c) Result of segmenting the image into two regions. (d) Image containing a textured region. (e) Result of edge computations. Note the large number of small edges that are connected to the original boundary, making it difficult to find a unique boundary using only edge information. (f) Result of segmentation based on region properties.

Edge-based

Edge-based Approaches

- Discontinuities

Point, line, edge

- Discontinuity Detectors

1st derivative (Gradient).

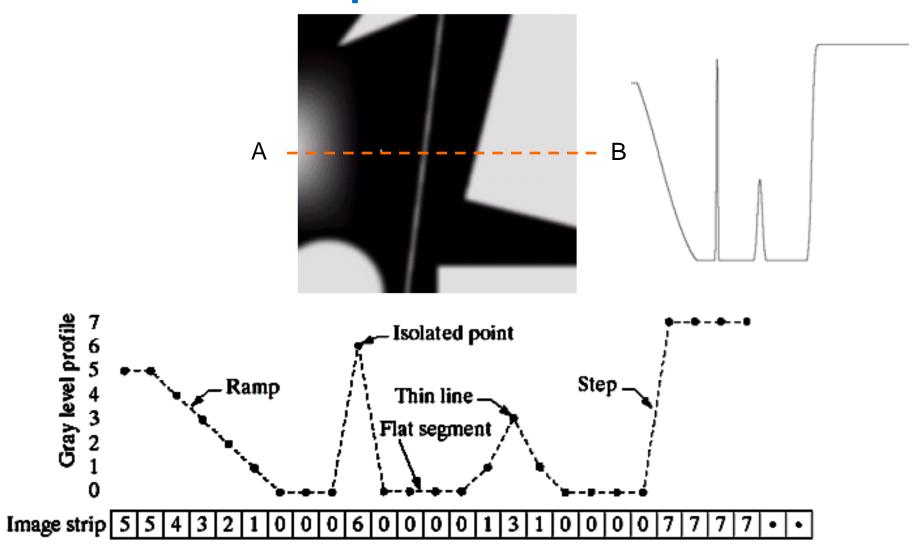
2nd derivative (Laplacian).

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

$$\nabla f = \begin{bmatrix} \frac{\partial f}{\partial x} \\ \frac{\partial f}{\partial y} \end{bmatrix}$$

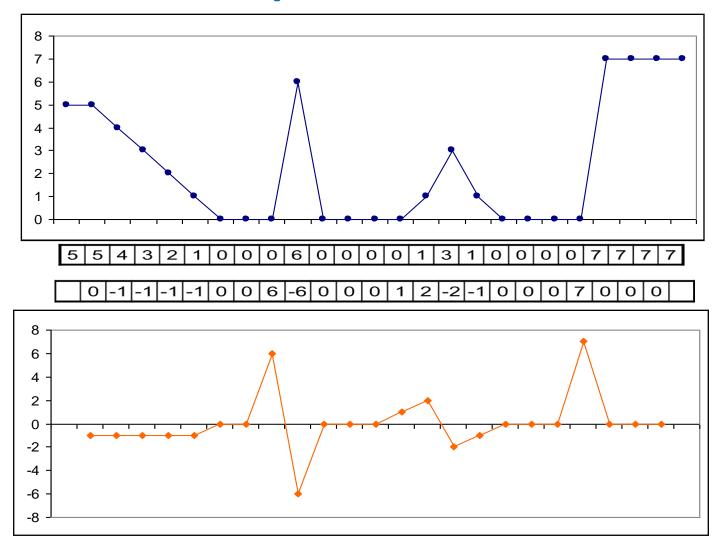
Recall - Sharpening Filters

1st Derivative Example in 1D:



Recall - Sharpening Filters

1st Derivative Example in 1D:



Recall - Sharpening Filters

2nd Derivative:

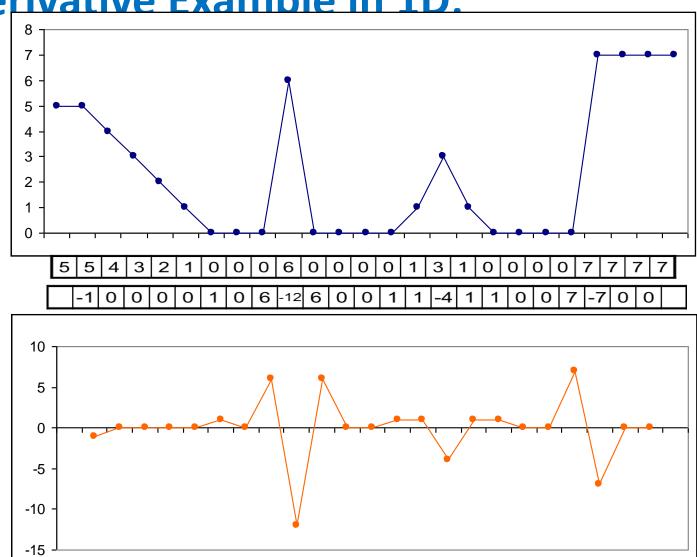
The formula for the 2nd derivative of a function is as follows:

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

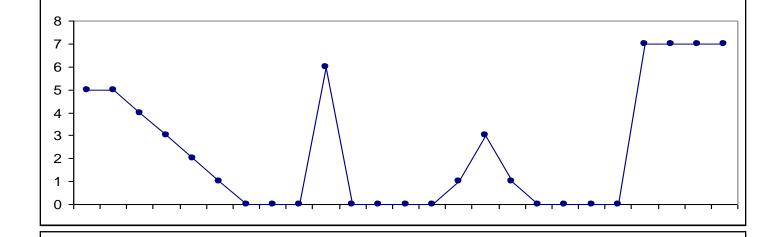
Simply takes into account the values both before and after the current value.

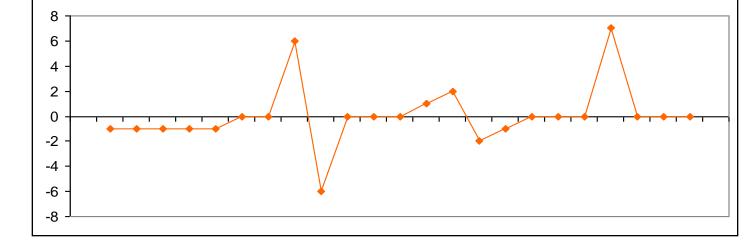
Sharpening Filters – (cont.)

2nd Derivative Example in 1D:

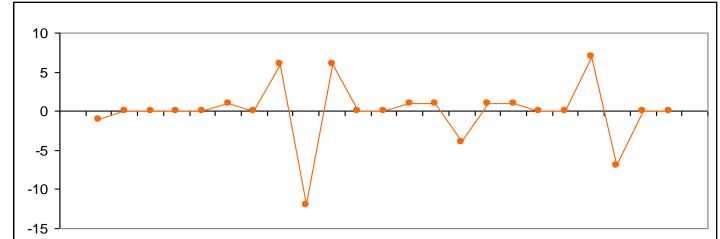








1st



2nd

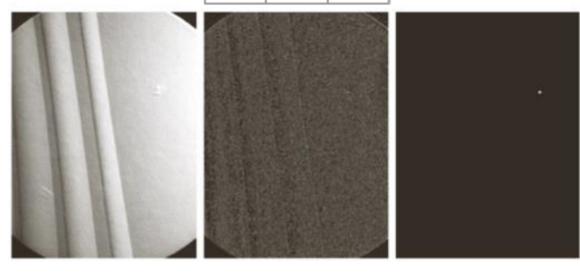
- Isolated Points

Which detector?

- Isolated Points

Laplacian + threshold

1	1	1
1	-8	1
1	1	1

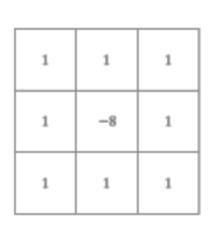


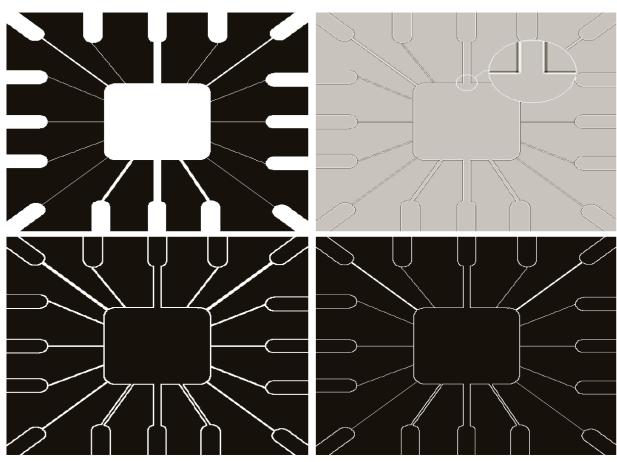
- Lines

Which detector?

- Lines

Laplacian + deal with double-line effect.





- Lines

Gradient for each direction?

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

- Lines

Gradient for each direction?

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

NO!

- Lines

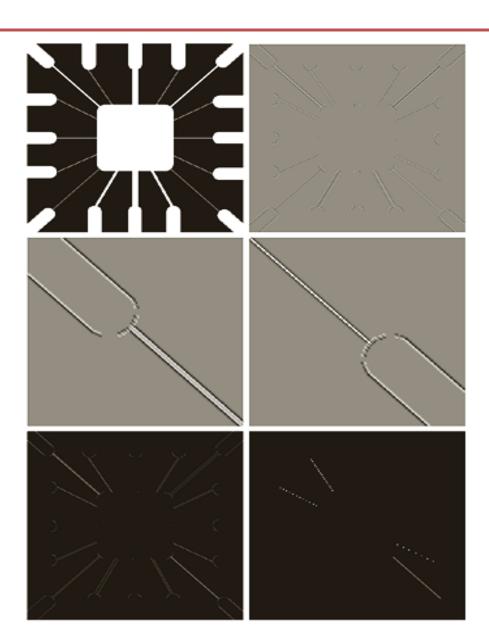
Masks for specific direction + threshold the absolute value

-1	-1	-1	2	-1	-1	-1	2	-1	-1	-1	2
2	2	2	-1	2	-1	-1	2	-1	-1	2	-1
-1	-1	-1	-1	-1	2	-1	2	-1	2	-1	-1
I	Horizontal			+45°			Vertical			-45°	

- Lines

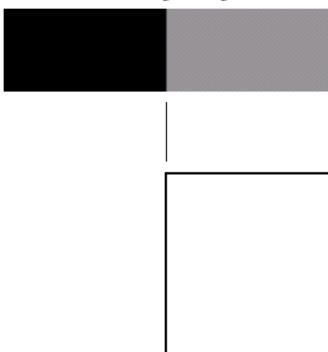
2	-1	-1
-1	2	-1
-1	-1	2

 $+45^{\circ}$



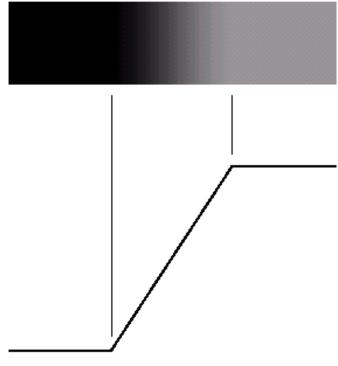
- Edge Models





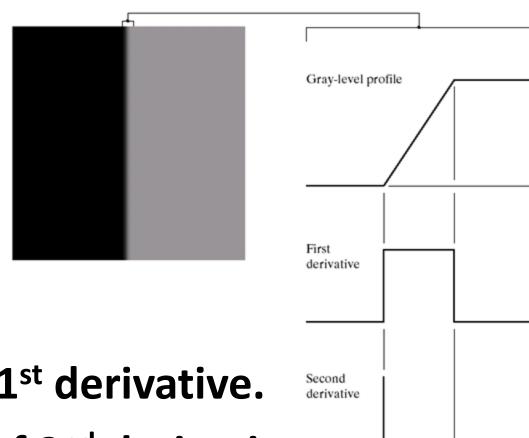
Gray-level profile of a horizontal line through the image

Model of a ramp digital edge



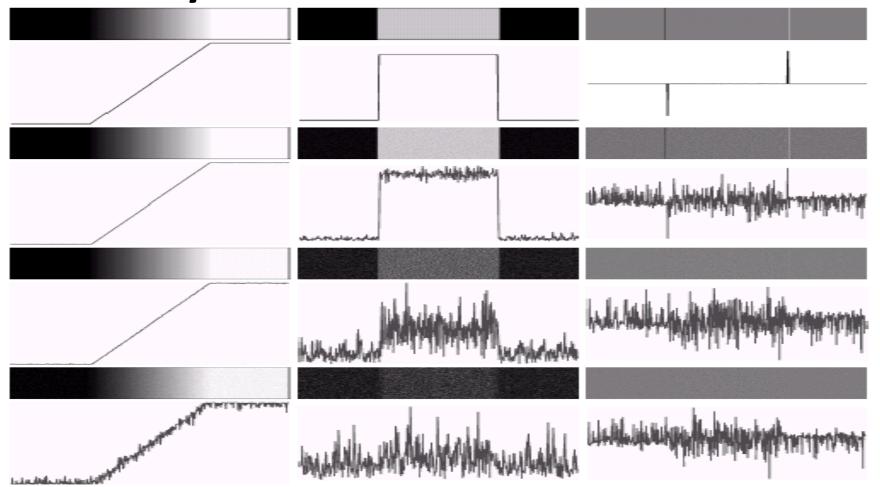
Gray-level profile of a horizontal line through the image

- Ramp Edge Model



- Magnitude of 1st derivative.
- Zero crossing of 2nd derivative.

 Derivative-based edge detectors are extremely sensitive to noise.



- Image smoothing should be a serious consideration prior to the use of derivatives in applications where noise is likely to be present.
- Another approach is to threshold the gradient image.
- Sometimes, both smoothing and thresholding of gradient are used.

Examples

Original Image

Horizontal Gradient Component









Vertical Gradient Component

Combined Edge Image

Examples

Smoothed Image Horizontal Gradient Component



Vertical Gradient Component

Combined Edge Image

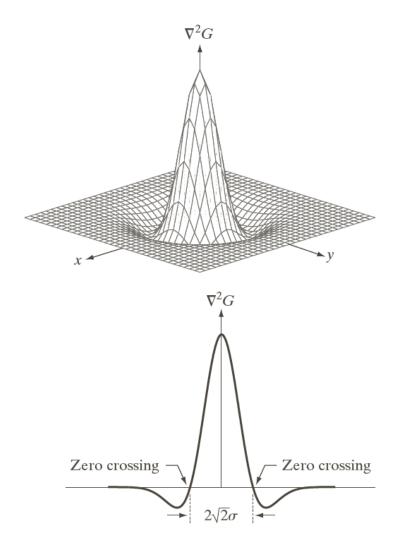
- Marr-Hildreth Edge Detector
- The Laplacian is too sensitive to noise, so usually when used for edge detection, it is combined with a smoothing Gaussian filter

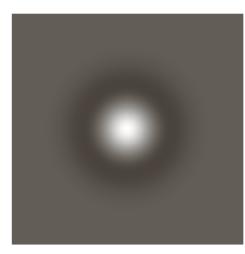
$$G(x,y) = e^{-\frac{x^2+y^2}{2\sigma^2}}.$$

The mask can be of arbitrary size and is called The Laplacian of a Gaussian (LoG):

$$\nabla^{2}G(x,y) = \left[\frac{x^{2} + y^{2} - 2\sigma^{2}}{\sigma^{4}}\right]e^{-\frac{x^{2} + y^{2}}{2\sigma^{2}}}$$

- Marr-Hildreth Edge Detector





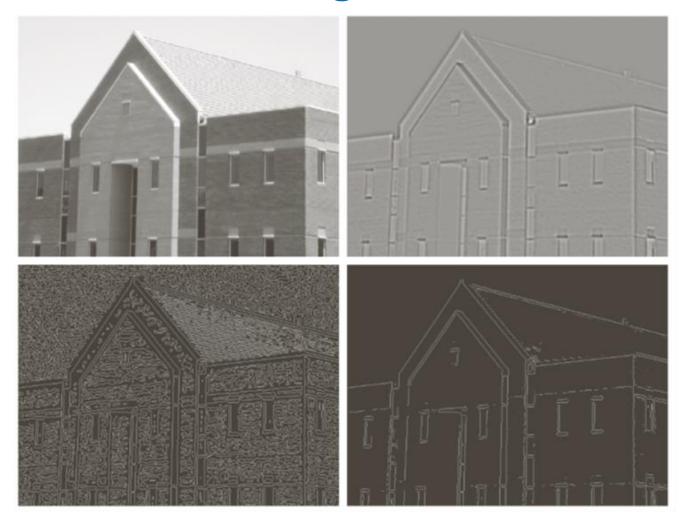
0	0	-1	0	0
0	-1	-2	-1	0
-1	-2	16	-2	-1
0	-1	-2	-1	0
0	0	-1	0	0

a b c d

FIGURE 10.21

(a) Threedimensional plot of the *negative* of the LoG. (b) Negative of the LoG displayed as an image. (c) Cross section of (a) showing zero crossings. (d) 5×5 mask approximation to the shape in (a). The negative of this mask would be used in practice.

- Marr-Hildreth Edge Detector



a b c d

FIGURE 10.22

(a) Original image of size 834×1114 pixels, with intensity values scaled to the range [0, 1]. (b) Results of Steps 1 and 2 of the Marr-Hildreth algorithm using $\sigma = 4$ and n = 25. (c) Zero crossings of (b) using a threshold of 0 (note the closedloop edges). (d) Zero crossings found using a threshold equal to 4% of the maximum value of the image in (b). Note the thin edges.

- Canny Edge Detector
- A good approximation to the optimal step edge detector and is based on the 1st derivative of a Gaussian

$$\frac{d}{dx}e^{-\frac{x^2}{2\sigma^2}} = \frac{-x}{\sigma^2}e^{-\frac{x^2}{2\sigma^2}}$$

- Involves smoothing, computing the gradient, computing edge angles, and thresholding.
- Trade-off between improved performance and speed.

- Canny Edge Detector



a b c d

FIGURE 10.25

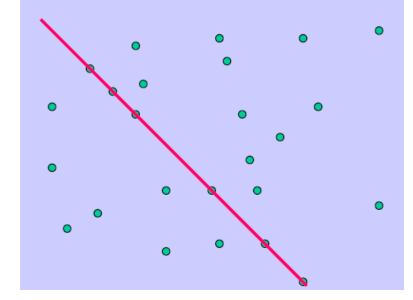
(a) Original image of size 834×1114 pixels, with intensity values scaled to the range [0, 1].(b) Thresholded gradient of smoothed image. (c) Image obtained using the Marr-Hildreth algorithm. (d) Image obtained using the Canny algorithm. Note the significant

- Fundamental steps for edge detection:
 - 1- Image smoothing
 - 2- Edge points detection
 - 3- Edge localization
 - Local Processing
 - Regional Processing
 - Global Processing (Hough Transform)

Hough Transform

- Hough Transform
- Based on whether a set of candidate pixels lie on curves of a specified shape.
- Once detected, these curves form edges or

boundaries of regions.



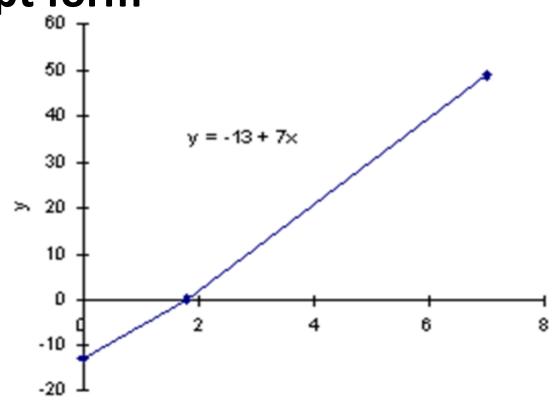
- Hough Transform Line
- A line in the xy-plane can be expressed by the slope-intercept form

$$y = ax + b$$

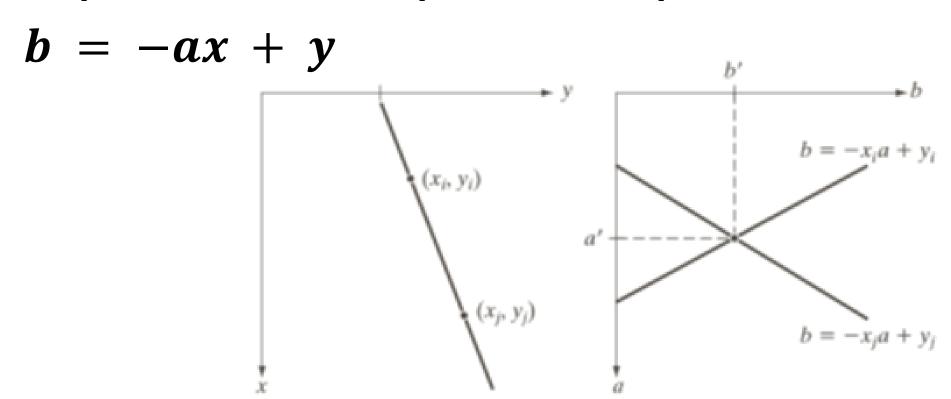
Where

$$a = slope$$

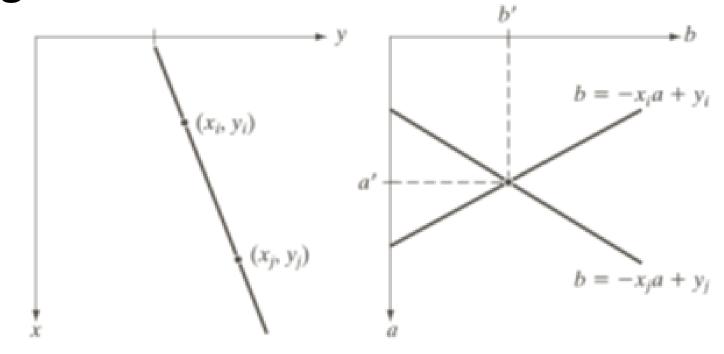
b = y-intercept



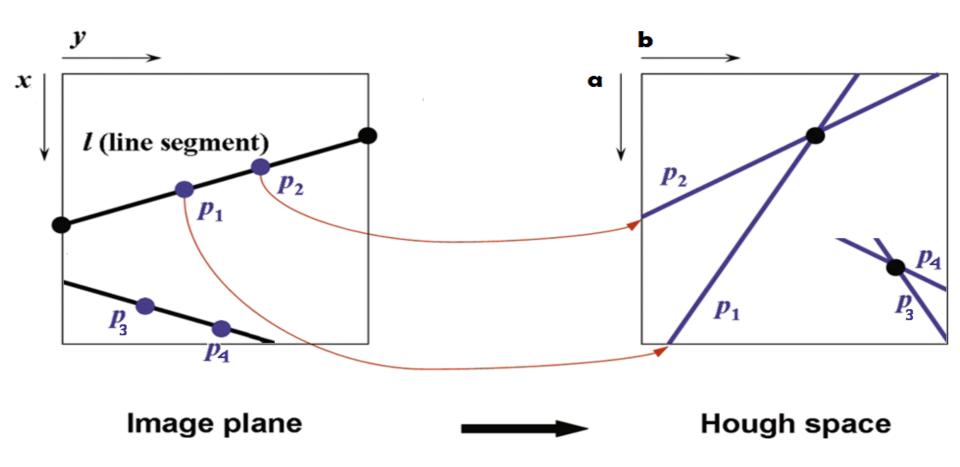
- Hough Transform Line
- On the other hand, the line can be represented in the parameter space as:



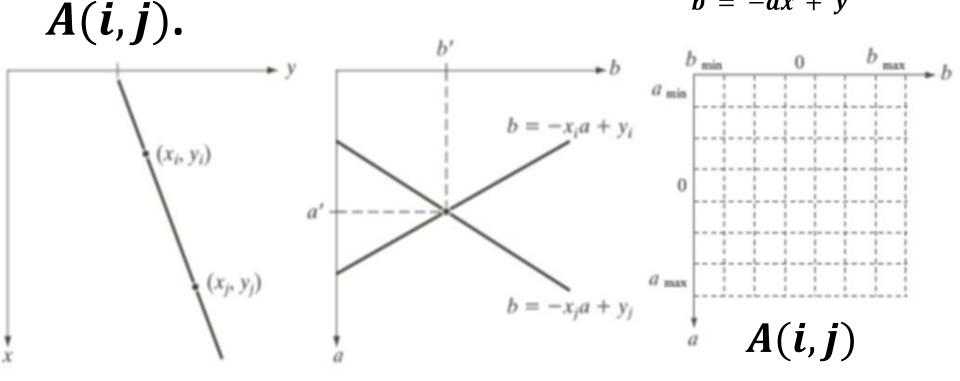
- Hough Transform Line
- Hence, principal lines in xy-plane can be found by identifying points in ab-plane where large number of lines intersect.



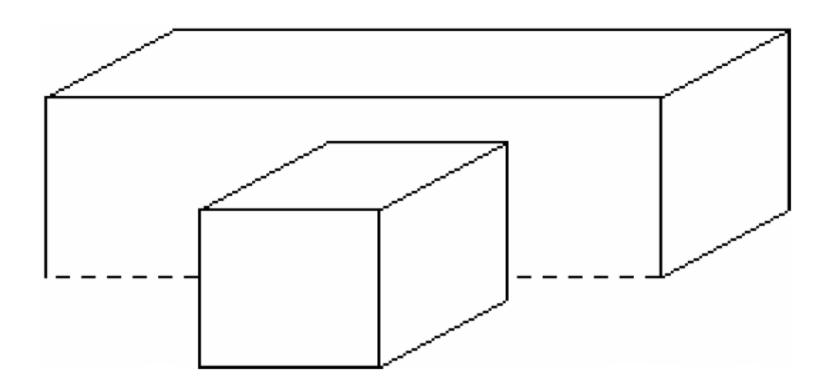
- Hough Transform - Line



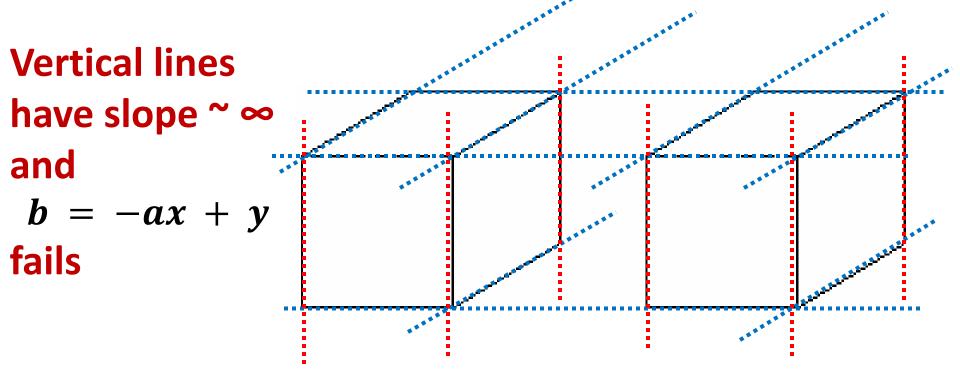
- Hough Transform Line
- For each edge point (x_k, y_k) , loop every possible a_i , solve for b_j , and accumulate b = -ax + y



- Hough Transform Line
- Pixels, which lie on the line, need not all be contiguous (HT works even with occlusions).

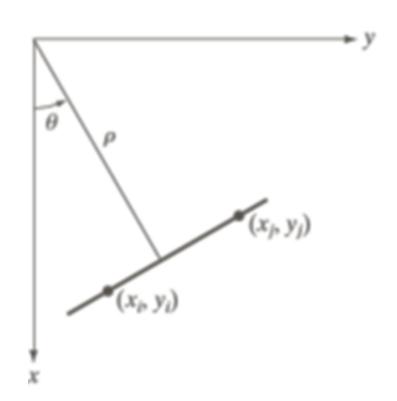


- Hough Transform Line
- Problem!

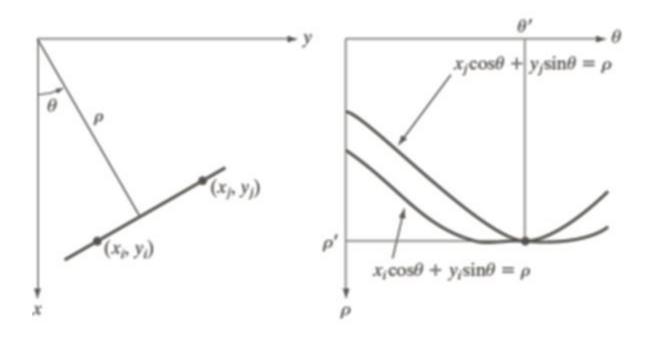


- Hough Transform Line
- Use the normal representation of a line (polar coordinates)

$$\mathbf{y} = \left(-\frac{\cos\theta}{\sin\theta}\right)\mathbf{x} + \frac{\rho}{\sin\theta}$$



- Hough Transform Line
- A line can be represented in the parameter space as: $\rho = x \cos \theta + y \sin \theta$

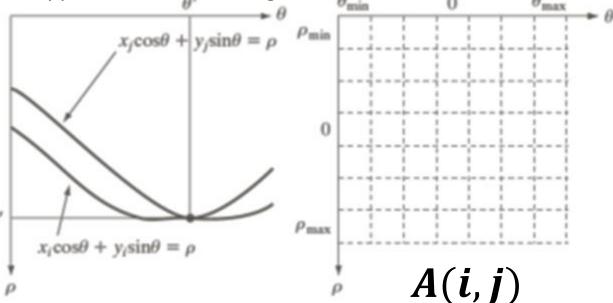


- Hough Transform Line
- Subdivide $\rho\theta$ -space into accumulative cells such that $(\theta_{min}, \theta_{max})$: $-90 \le \theta \le 90$

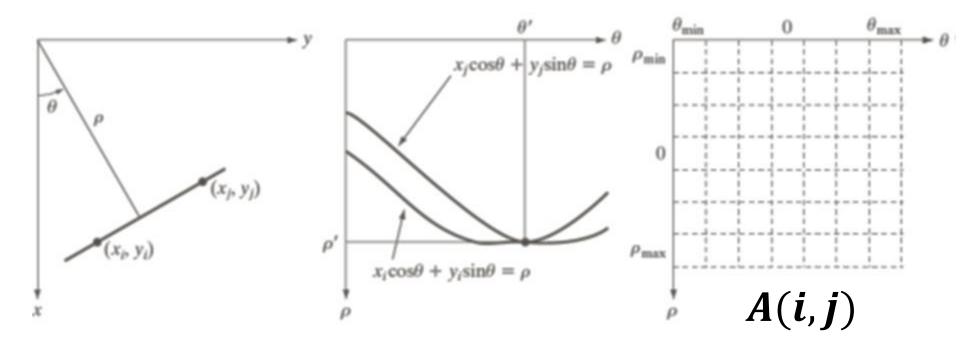
$$-D \leq \rho \leq D$$

 θ ρ (x_i, y_i)

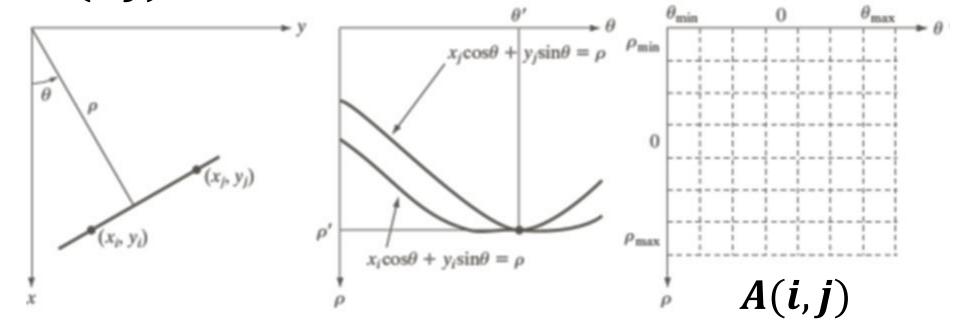
D=minimum distance between opposite corners of image



- Hough Transform Line
- Number of subdivisions (steps of θ and ρ) determines accuracy of colinearity of points.

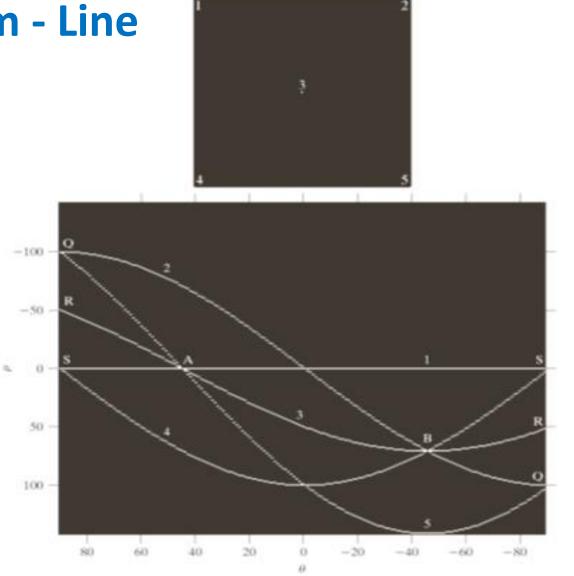


- Hough Transform Line
- For each edge point (x_k, y_k) , loop every possible θ_i , solve for ρ_j , and accumulate A(i, j).



- Hough Transform Line
- Finally, examine continuity of pixels in high count accumulator cells; usually by the distance between disconnected pixels.
- Gaps are bridged if length of gap is less than a certain value.

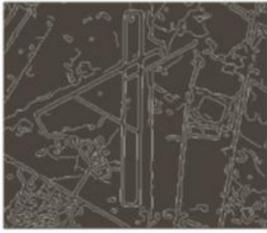
- Hough Transform - LineExample

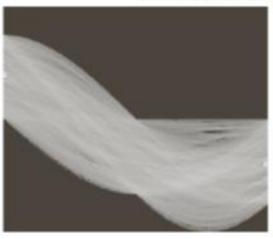


- Hough Transform - Line

Extract the two edges of the principal runway.





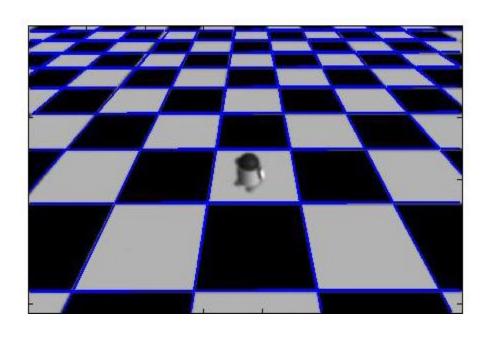




a b c d e

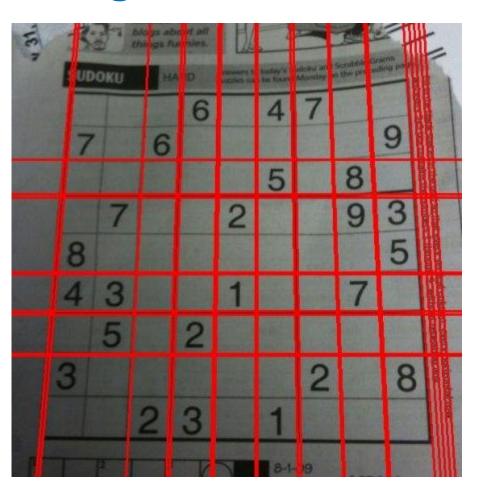
FIGURE 10.34 (a) A 502×564 aerial image of an airport. (b) Edge image obtained using Canny's algorithm. (c) Hough parameter space (the boxes highlight the points associated with long vertical lines). (d) Lines in the image plane corresponding to the points highlighted by the boxes). (e) Lines superimposed on the original image.

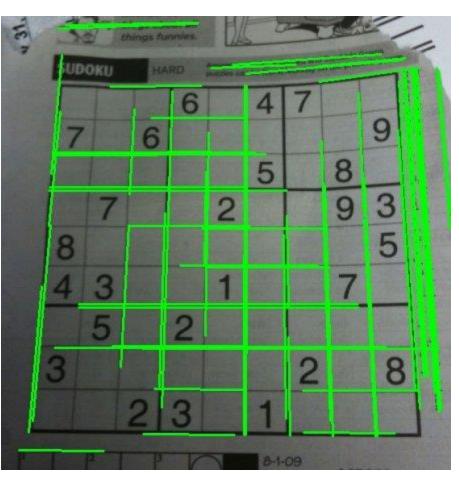
- Hough Transform - Line





- Hough Transform vs Probabilistic HT





- Hough Transform - Circular





Other Segmentations Methods

Active Contours

Snakes, Scissors, Level Sets

Split and Merge

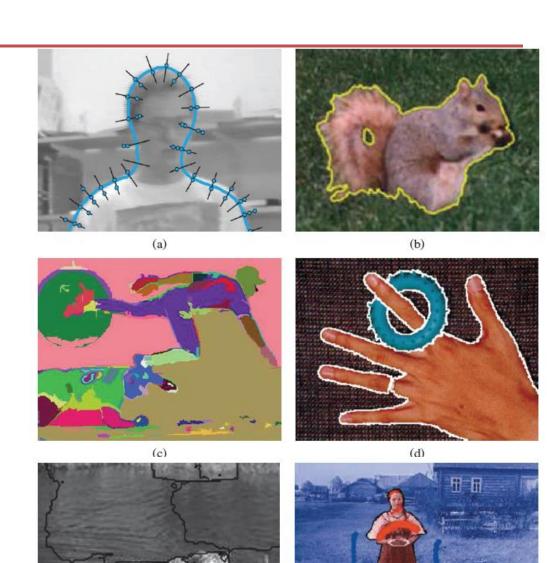
Watershed, region split/merge, graph

Mean Shift

Graph Cuts

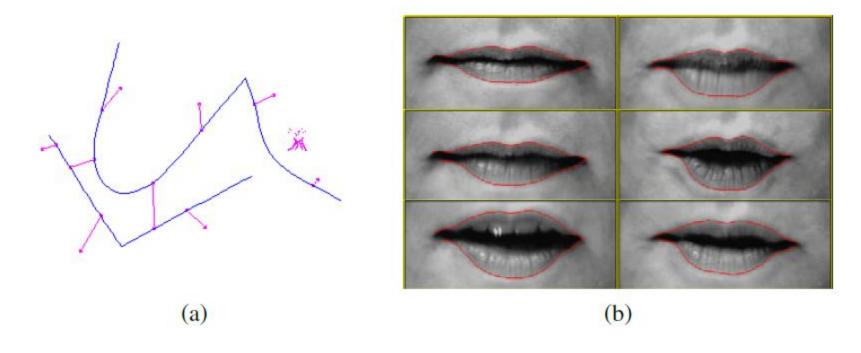
Examples

- (a) active contours
- (b) level sets
- (c) graph-based merging
- (d) mean shift (e) texture and intervening contour-based normalized cuts
- (f) binary MRF solved using graph cuts



Richard Szeliski, Computer Vision Algorithms and Applications, Springer 2010. Ch. 5

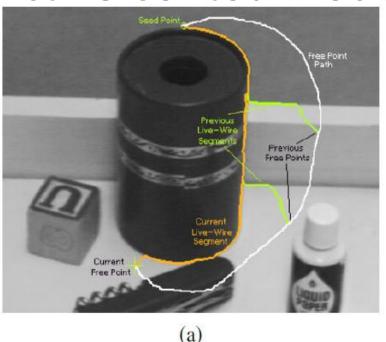
Active Contours - Snakes

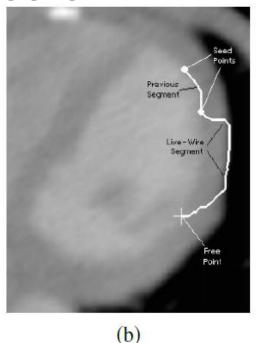


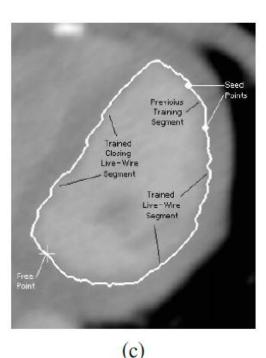
(a) the "snake pit" for interactively controlling shape; (b) lip tracking.

Richard Szeliski, Computer Vision Algorithms and Applications, Springer 2010. Ch. 5

Active Contour - Scissors



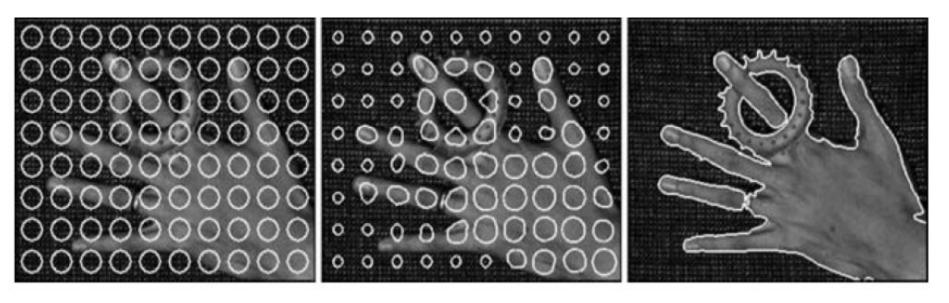




- (a) as the mouse traces the white path, the scissors follow the orange path along the object boundary (the green curves show intermediate positions).
- (b) regular scissors can sometimes jump to a stronger (incorrect) boundary.
- (c) after training to the previous segment, similar edge profiles are preferred.

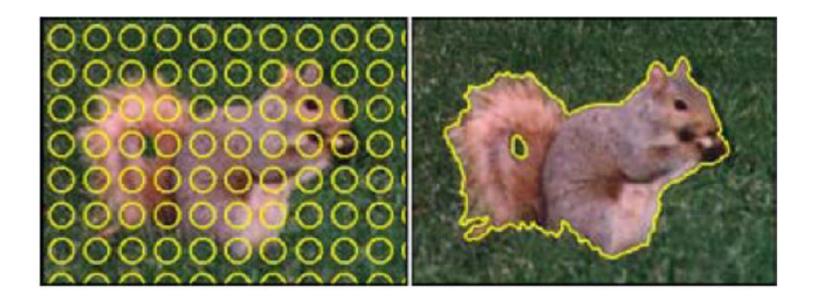
Richard Szeliski, Computer Vision Algorithms and Applications, Springer 2010. Ch. 5

Active Contours - Level Sets



The initial circles evolve towards an accurate segmentation of foreground and background, adapting their topology as they evolve. (Grayscale).

Active Contours - Level Sets



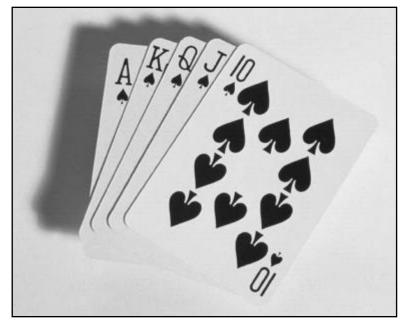
The initial circles evolve towards an accurate segmentation of foreground and background, adapting their topology as they evolve. (Color).

Thresholding

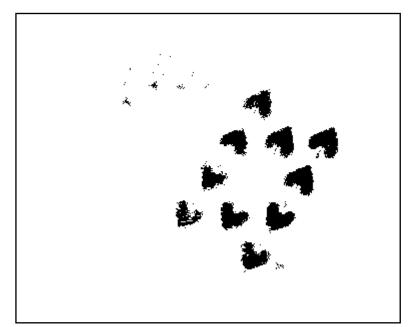
Thresholding

 Thresholding is usually a first or intermediate step in any segmentation approach.

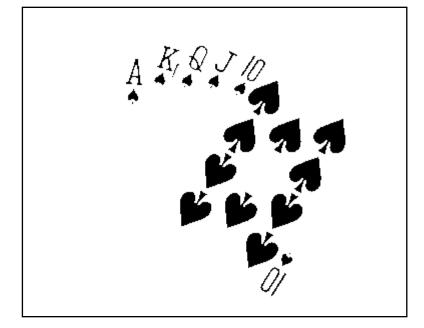
 Segmenting an image is based on direct intensity values or properties of these values.



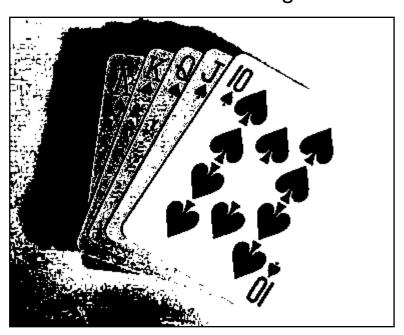
Original Image



Threshold Too Low

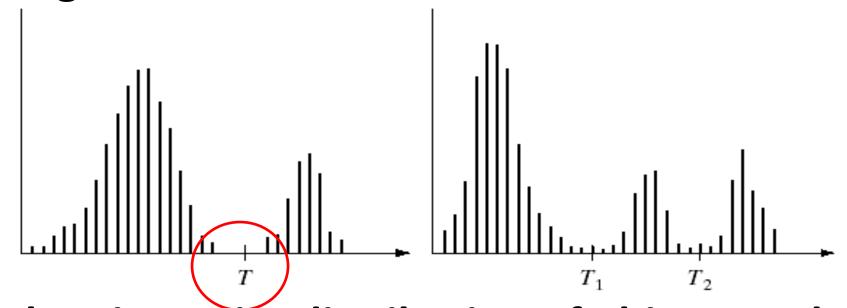


Thresholded Image



Threshold Too High

 Thresholding based on the histogram of the image differentiates between modes.



 When intensity distribution of objects and background are sufficiently distinct, a single values can be used to segment.

Thresholding can be viewed as

•
$$T = T[x, y, p(x, y), f(x, y)]$$

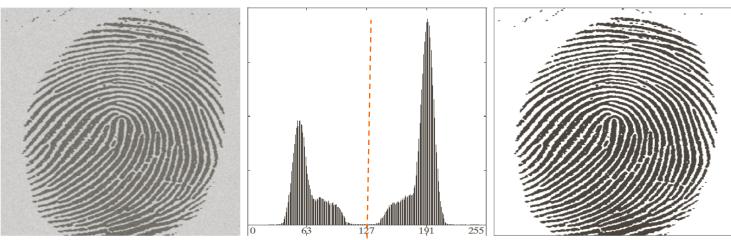
p(x, y): some neighborhood property.

T = T[f(x, y)]	T is applied to the entire image → Global thresholding	Single constant threshold
T = T[p(x, y), f(x, y)]	T depends on properties of neighborhood \rightarrow Local thresholding	Variable thresholds
T = T[x, y, p(x, y), f(x, y)]	T depends on spatial coordinates→ Dynamic/adaptive thresholding	

Basic Global Thresholding

• The success of this technique depends very strongly on how well the histogram can be partitioned. $(1if \ f(x,y) > T)$

 $g(x, y) = \begin{cases} 1 & \text{if } f(x, y) > T \\ 0 & \text{if } f(x, y) \le T \end{cases}$



Basic Global Thresholding

- Automatic procedure:
 - -Select initial T.
 - -Segment using $T \rightarrow G1$ and G2.
 - -Compute means m1 and m2.
 - -Compute new threshold $T = \frac{1}{2}(m1 + m2)$.

Not so auto

- -Repeat until the difference between successive T is $< \Delta T$.
- Choice of *T*.

Basic Global Thresholding

- Thresholding viewed as decision-theory problem aims to minimize average error incurred in assigning pixels to two or more groups (classes).
- Bayes decision rule.
- Requires
 - PDF of intensity levels of each class.
 - Probability that each class occurs in an application

Basic Global Thresholding

- Thresholding viewed as decision-theory problem aims to minimize average error incurred in assigning pixels to two or more groups (classes).
- Bayes decision rule.
- Requires

Not trivial

→ assume the form

- PDF of intensity levels of each class.of PDF, e.g. Gaussian
- Probability that each class occurs in an application

Basic Global Thresholding

- Thresholding viewed as decision-theory problem aims to minimize average error incurred in assigning pixels to two or more groups (classes).
- Bayes decision rule.
- Requires
 - PDF of intensity levels of each class. → Still not practical
 - Probability that each class occurs in an application

Not trivial

→ assume the form of PDF, e.g.Gaussian

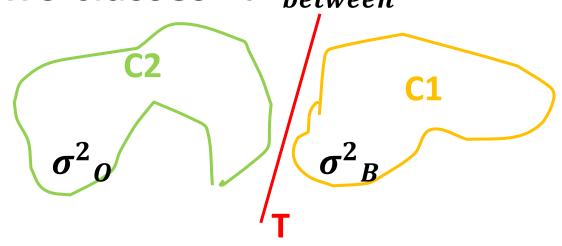
Optimum Global Thresholding (Otsu)

- A measure of region homogeneity is the variance (i.e., regions with high homogeneity will have low variance).
- Otsu's method selects the threshold by minimizing the within-class variance of the two groups of pixels separated by the thresholding operator.
- Equivalently, it maximize the between-class variance.
- Section 10.3.3 for reference and math. model.

Optimum Global Thresholding (Otsu)

•
$$\sigma^2 = \sigma^2_{within} + \sigma^2_{between}$$

• Within-class variance = weighted sum of the variances of the two classes $\sigma^2_{between}$



Optimum Global Thresholding (Otsu)

Minimize the within-class variance

$$\sigma_w^2(t) = q_1(t)\sigma_1^2(t) + q_2(t)\sigma_2^2(t)$$

$$q_1(t) = \sum_{i=1}^{t} P(i)$$

$$q_2(t) = \sum_{i=t+1}^{I} P(i)$$

a lot of computations

$$\mu_1(t) = \sum_{i=1}^{t} \frac{iP(i)}{q_1(t)}$$
 $\mu_2(t) = \sum_{i=t+1}^{I} \frac{iP(i)}{q_2(t)}$

$$\sigma_1^2(t) = \sum_{i=1}^t [i - \mu_1(t)]^2 \frac{P(i)}{q_1(t)} \qquad \sigma_2^2(t) = \sum_{i=t+1}^I [i - \mu_2(t)]^2 \frac{P(i)}{q_2(t)}$$

Optimum Global Thresholding (Otsu)

Easier to minimize the between-class variance

$$\sigma^{2} = \sigma_{w}^{2}(t) + q_{1}(t)[1 - q_{1}(t)][\mu_{1}(t) - \mu_{2}(t)]^{2}$$
Within-class
Between-class

- Usually done with a simple iterative approach.
- Other optimization methods might be used.

Check end of slides and textbook Section 10.3.3 for more details

Note

Expected Value for a Discrete Random Variable

$$E(X) = \sum x_i p_i$$

 x_i = value of the ith outcome

 p_i = probability of the ith outcome

Conceptual Formulas

Variance for a Discrete Random Variable

$$\sigma^2 = \sum [(x_i - \mu)^2 p_i]$$

Standard Deviation for a Discrete Random Variable

$$\sigma = \sqrt{\sum [(x_i - \mu)^2 p_i}]$$

 x_i = value of the ith outcome

$$\mu = E(X) = \sum x_i p_i$$

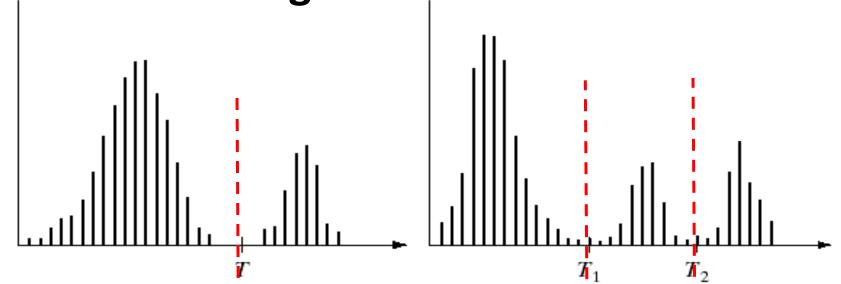
 p_i = probability of the ith outcome

Drawbacks of Otsu's Method

- Assumes the histogram is bimodal.
- Fails when the two classes are very unequal (i.e., have very different sizes).
 - In this case sigmaB may have two maxima.
 - The correct maximum is not necessary the global one.
 - The selected threshold should correspond to a valley of the histogram.
- Does not work well with variable illumination.

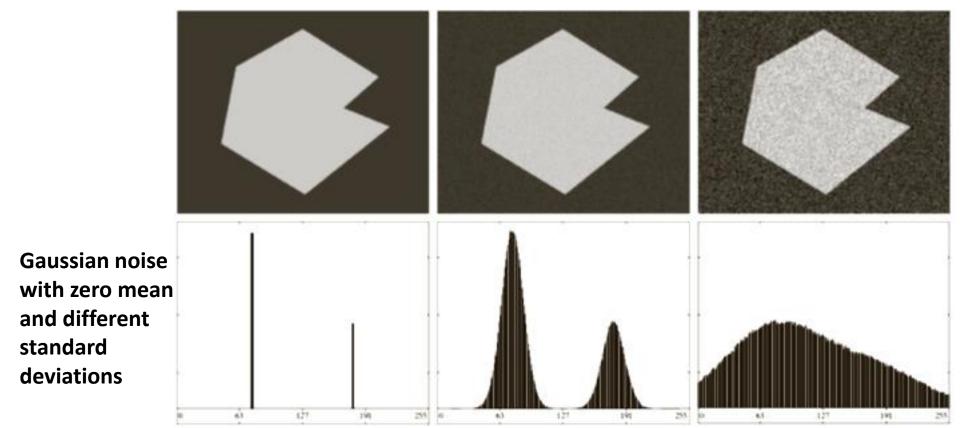
Global Thresholding Problems

- Single value thresholding only works for bimodal histograms.
- Images with other kinds of histograms need more than a single threshold.



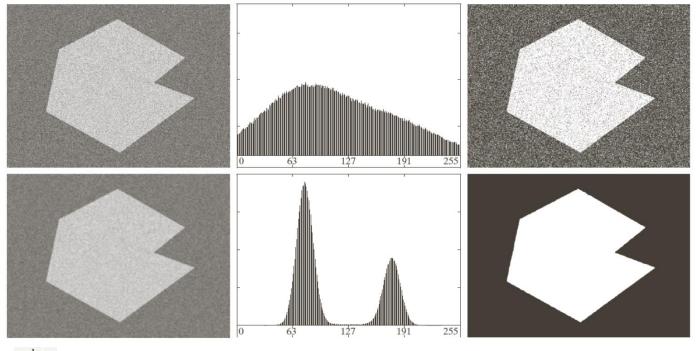
Global Thresholding Problems

Noise



Global Thresholding Problems

- Noise
- Solutions:
- Smoothing

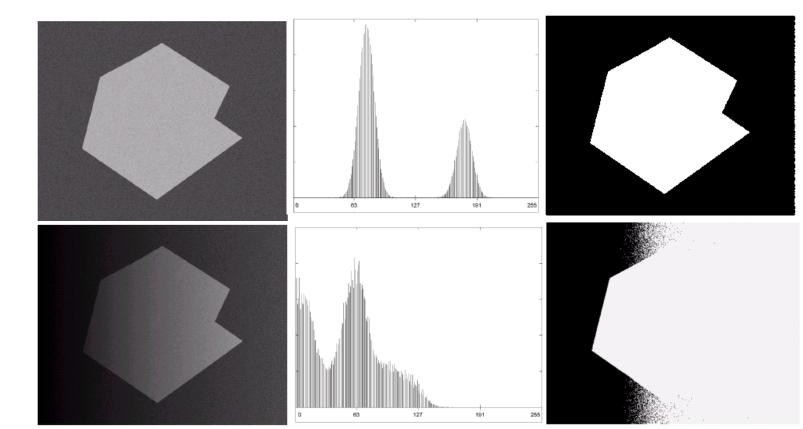


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FIGURE 10.40 (a) Noisy image from Fig. 10.36 and (b) its histogram. (c) Result obtained using Otsu's method. (d) Noisy image smoothed using a 5×5 averaging mask and (e) its histogram. (f) Result of thresholding using Otsu's method.

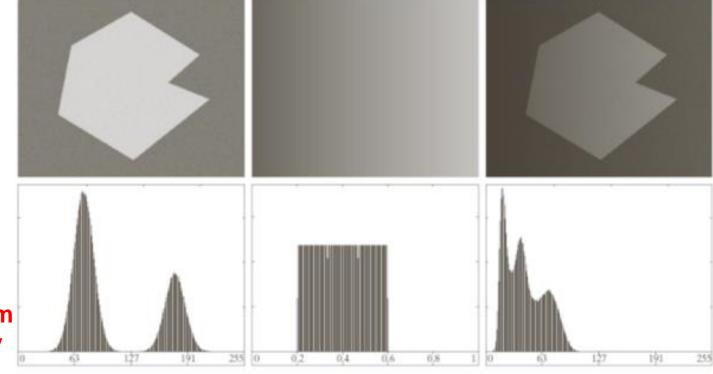
Global Thresholding Problems

Non-uniform illumination or reflectance



Global Thresholding Problems

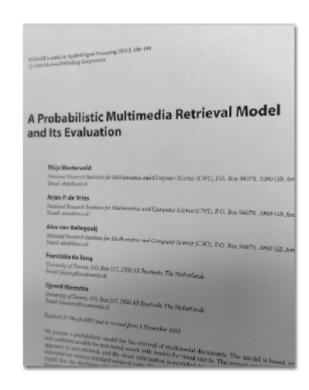
Non-uniform illumination or reflectance

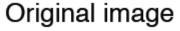


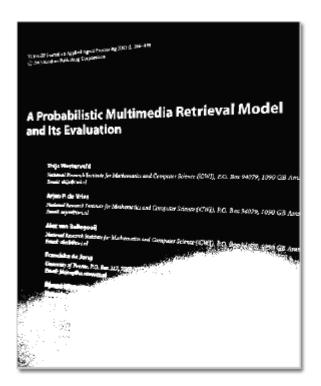
Non-uniform illumination can result from multiplying by ramp pattern.

Global Thresholding Problems

Non-uniform illumination or reflectance







Thresholded with Otsu's Method

Global Thresholding Problems

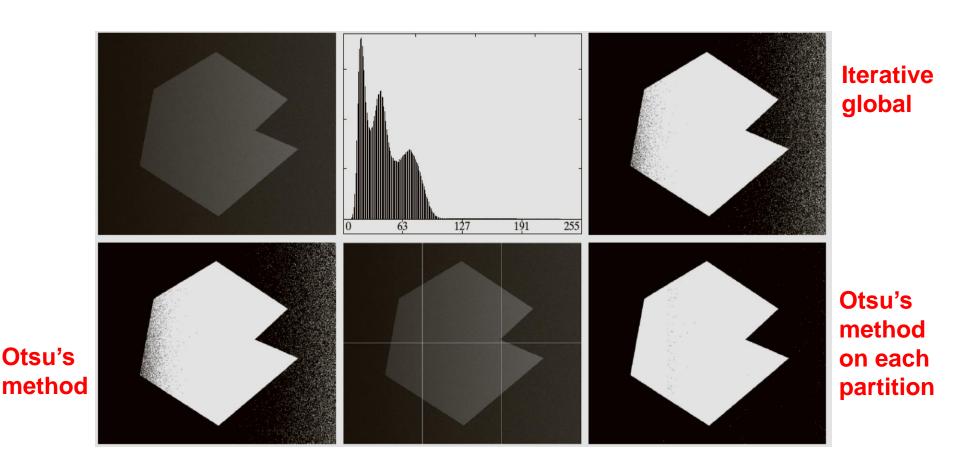
- Non-uniform illumination or reflectance
- Solutions:
- Correct the non-uniform shading pattern by its inverse (requires device).
 - Correcting non-uniform pattern: background subtraction, top-hat filtering, etc.
- Or: Variable thresholding.

Variable Thresholding

- Image Partitioning
 - Subdivide image into non-overlapping rectangles.
 - Small enough so that illumination of each is approximately uniform.
 - Estimate a different threshold to segment each subimage.

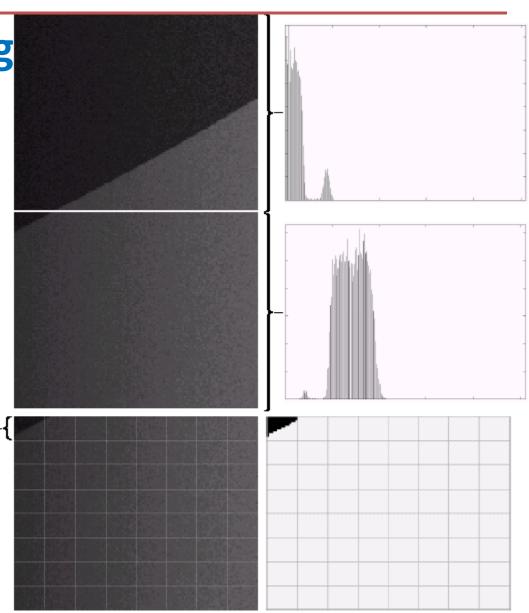
Variable Thresholding

Image Partitioning



Variable Thresholding

- Image Partitioning
- Further subdivisions may be required for better results.



Variable Thresholding

Image Partitioning

Global Thresholding



Sonnet for Lena

O dear Lena, your beauty is so vast.
It is hard sometimes to describe it fast.
I thought the entire world I would impress
If only your portrait I could compress.
Alast First when I tried to use VQ
I found that your cheeks belong to only you.
Your alky hair contains a thousand lines
Hard to match with sums of discrete cosines.
And in your lips, sensual and tactual
Thirteen Crays faund not the proper fractal.
And while these action is are all quite severe
I might have fixed them with inches here or there
Dut when filters took sparkle from your eyes
I said. 'Danis all this. I'll just digitize.'

Therman Cultivare

Local Thresholding

Sonnet for Lena

O dear Lena, your beauty is so vast
it is hard corretines to describe it fast.
I thought the entire world I would impress
If only your portrait I could compress.
Alas! First when I tried to use VQ
I found that your checks belong to only you.
Your silky hair contains a thousand lines
Hard to match with sums of discrete essines.
And for your lips, sensual and tactual
Thirteen Crays found not the proper fractal.
And while these setbacks are all quite severe
I might have fixed them with lacks here or there
Dut when filters took sparkle from your eyes
I said, 'Danm all this. I'll just digitize.'

Thornas Cultherst

Variable Thresholding

- Local Image Properties
 - Threshold according to the mean and standard deviation of a neighborhood.

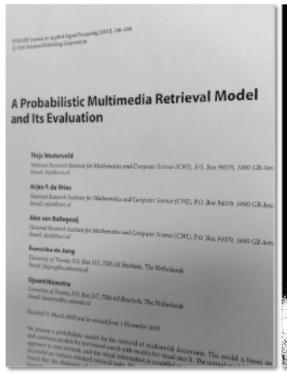
$$-T_{xy} = a\sigma_{xy} + bm_{xy}$$

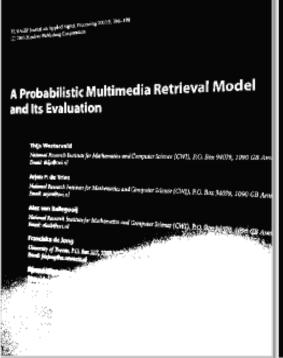
$$-T_{xy} = a\sigma_{xy} + bm_G$$

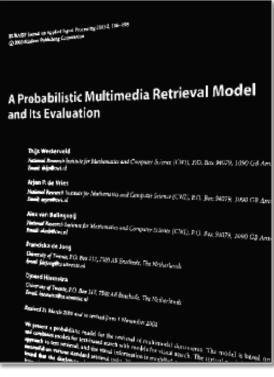
$$-g(x,y) = \begin{cases} 1 & \text{if } f(x,y) > T_{xy} \\ 0 & \text{if } f(x,y) \le T_{xy} \end{cases}$$

Variable Thresholding

Local Image Properties







Variable Thresholding

Moving Average

 Scanning is carried out line by line in zigzag pattern to reduce illumination bias.

$$-m(k+1) = \frac{1}{n} \sum_{i=k+2-n}^{k+1} z_i$$

$$-T_{xy}=bm_{xy}$$

$$- g(x,y) = \begin{cases} 1 & \text{if } f(x,y) > T_{xy} \\ 0 & \text{if } f(x,y) \le T_{xy} \end{cases}$$

 Works well when the objects of interest are small (or thin) with respect to the image size, a condition satisfied in images of handwritten text.

Variable Thresholding

Moving Average

Ludring Jackson of the Courte Late above said of the other part Late affecting Donelson for a Land paid the two thousand hard burd by their presents and alien enfeoff and Confir artain traits or parall of La sand acres on thousand are

and state of Tever for Jackson of the other portion of two thousand of the other portion for the Sum of two thousand the burd he there present a liew enforth and Confison his theirs as a paralle of thousand the one of the organism of the

Indrinty Six between Storbley of Fennessy Ludrew Jackson of the Country and Storbley Donelson for a fair hard faid the two thousand hand faid the true frusents. Full alien enfoof and for Confir Jackson his heirs and a Sandares on thousand are

a b c

FIGURE 10.49 (a) Text image corrupted by spot shading. (b) Result of global thresholding using Otsu's method. (c) Result of local thresholding using moving averages.

Next Lecture

Region-based Segmentation + Morphology

Assignment

Check book sections and associated problems

Chapter 10	1, 2, 2.1, 2.2, 2.3, 2.4, 2.5, 2.7(Hough only)
Associated problems	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 12, 23, 26, 27, 28, 29, 36, 39

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References

- Gonzalez and Woods, Digital Image Processing.
- Richard Szeliski, Computer Vision Algorithms and Applications, Springer 2010. (Chapter 5) http://szeliski.org/Book/
- Peters, Richard Alan, II, "Image Segmentation (PointLineEdge)", Lectures on Image Processing, Vanderbilt University, Nashville, TN, April 2008, Available on the web at the Internet Archive,

http://www.archive.org/details/Lectures on Image Processing.

-http://opencv-python-

tutroals.readthedocs.org/en/latest/py tutorials/py imgproc/py houghlines/py houghlines.html

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