

# AI (B) - Computer Vision Part

## Pixel Operations, Histogram, Thresholding

version-watch&understand

### Learning Outcomes

*Be able to understand the basics of point operators*

*Be able to compute histograms, optimal threshold for a given image by programming*

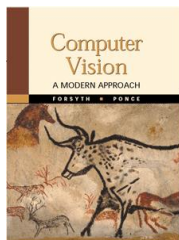
*Be able to design and apply simple background extraction algorithms.*

# Contents

---

- ❑ Pixel Processing**
- ❑ Histogram and Normalization**
- ❑ Intensity Thresholding**
- ❑ Background Extraction**

# Reading



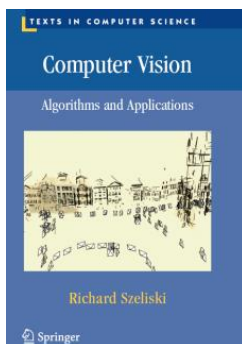
## FP: Parts of 7 & 8:

Books from library



## Relevant *HIPR2* worksheets

<http://homepages.inf.ed.ac.uk/rbf/HIPR2/wksheets.htm>



## RS: Parts of 3

[http://szeliski.org/Book/drafts/SzeliskiBook\\_20100903\\_draft.pdf](http://szeliski.org/Book/drafts/SzeliskiBook_20100903_draft.pdf)

---

# Pixel Processing: Basics

试用水印

# Negate (Invert)

**Formula:**

$$O(i, j) = Max - I(i, j)$$
$$Max = 255$$

**Pseudo Code:** for (p=0; p<nPixels; p++)  
    image[p] = MAXVAL - image[p];

试用水印

# Examples

---



**Original Image**



**Inverted Image**

# Contrast Scaling

Scale a selected grey-scale range [low, high] to fill the available range [0,MAXVAL]

$$O(i, j) = \begin{cases} MAXVAL, & I(i, j) \geq H \\ \frac{I(i, j) - L}{H - L} * MAXVAL, & L < I(i, j) < H \\ 0, & I(i, j) \leq L \end{cases}$$

**Pseudo code:**

```
for (p=0; p<nPixels; p++)  
    if (image[p] >= low && image[p] <= high)  
        image[p] =  
            (image[p] - low) * MAXVAL / (high-low);  
    else if (image[p] < low) image[p] = 0;  
    else image[p] = MAXVAL;
```

# Image Arithmetic

**addition, subtraction, multiplication, division**

*Example: averaging two images*

```
for (p=0; p<nPixels; p++)  
{  
    imageout[p] = image1[p] + image2[p];  
    imageout[p] = imageout[p] / 2;  
}
```

如何解决overflow的问题????????

when the new value after adding is beyond the 255

**Potential for overflow !**



# Hazard of Overflow/Underflow

**If pixels are bytes,  $200 + 100 = ???$**

**Wraparound ?**

**Stay at maximum ?**

**Control it:**

**Step1: make pixel storage larger (double int)**

**Step2: add images**

**Step3: scale to original range (single int)**

**Step4: convert image back to original storage type**

***or use float or double!***

# D-I-Y

---

All these functions (and many more) are explained in more detail in HIPR and examples are given with images.

Almost all these functions can be implemented in Paint Shop Pro & most other image packages

**Try some DIY in labs!**

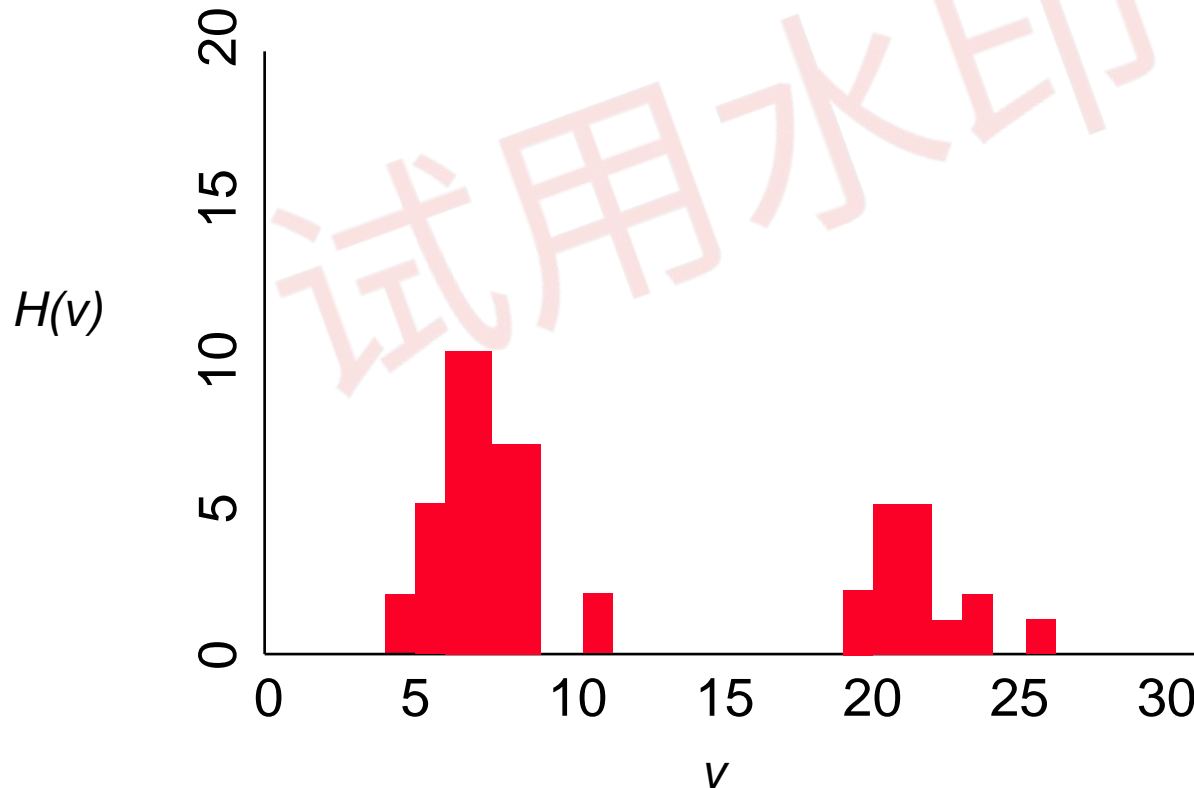
---

# Intensity Histograms

试用水印

# Grey-level Histogram

Count number of times each grey-level,  $v$ , occurs in image. Shows *distribution* of values. (like a bar chart!)



# Statistics from Histogram

❖ Mean:

$$u = \sum_{i=1}^N i * h(i)$$

❖ Variance:

$$v = \sum_{i=1}^N (i - u)^2 * h(i)$$

❖ Entropy: The information of the histogram. (flatness) entropy= expected information

$$en(h) = - \sum_{i=1}^N h(i) \log(h(i))$$

❖ Modes: the most frequently happened items, i.e., the intensities

**! Histogram needs to be normalised first, .i.e.,**

$$\sum_{i=1}^N h(i) = 1$$

# Thresholding

---

**Image intensity thresholding separate pixels into two categories:**

- ❖ Larger than or equal a threshold
- ❖ Smaller than a threshold

Thresholding creates a binary image, often called binarization, e.g: counting the number of cells in a histological images, number of rice in a visual image.

# Binary Threshold

**Formula**

$$B(i, j) = \begin{cases} 0, & I(i, j) \geq T \\ 1, & \textit{otherwise} \end{cases}$$

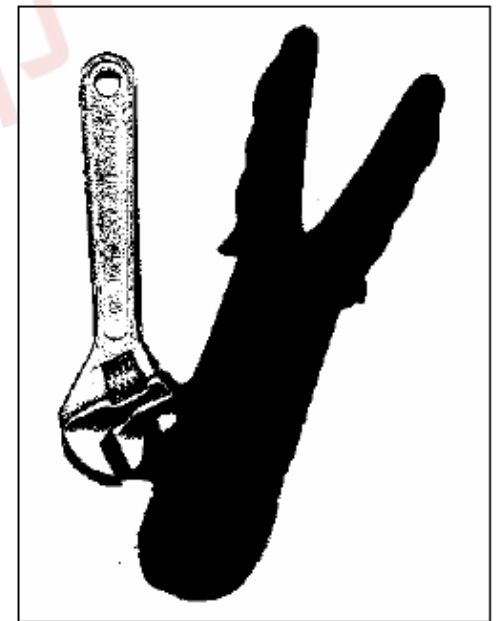
**Pseudo Code:** for (p=0; p<nPixels; p++)  
    if (image[p] < threshold)  
        image[p] = 0;  
    else image[p]= MAXVAL;

# Thresholding Examples

Original



Threshold = 50



Threshold = 75



# Thresholding

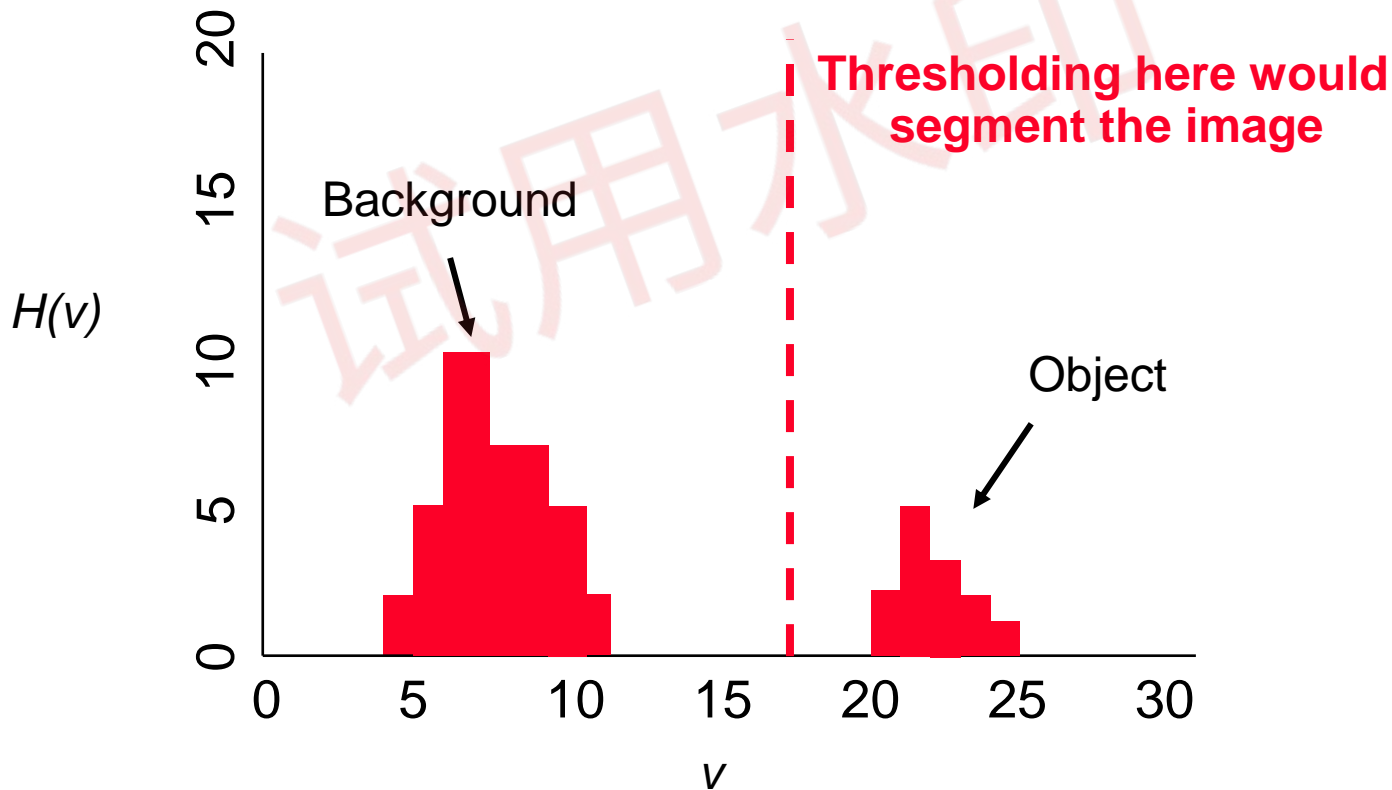
---

Intensity thresholding usually needs to *analyzing the distribution of the intensity – the histogram*

试用水印

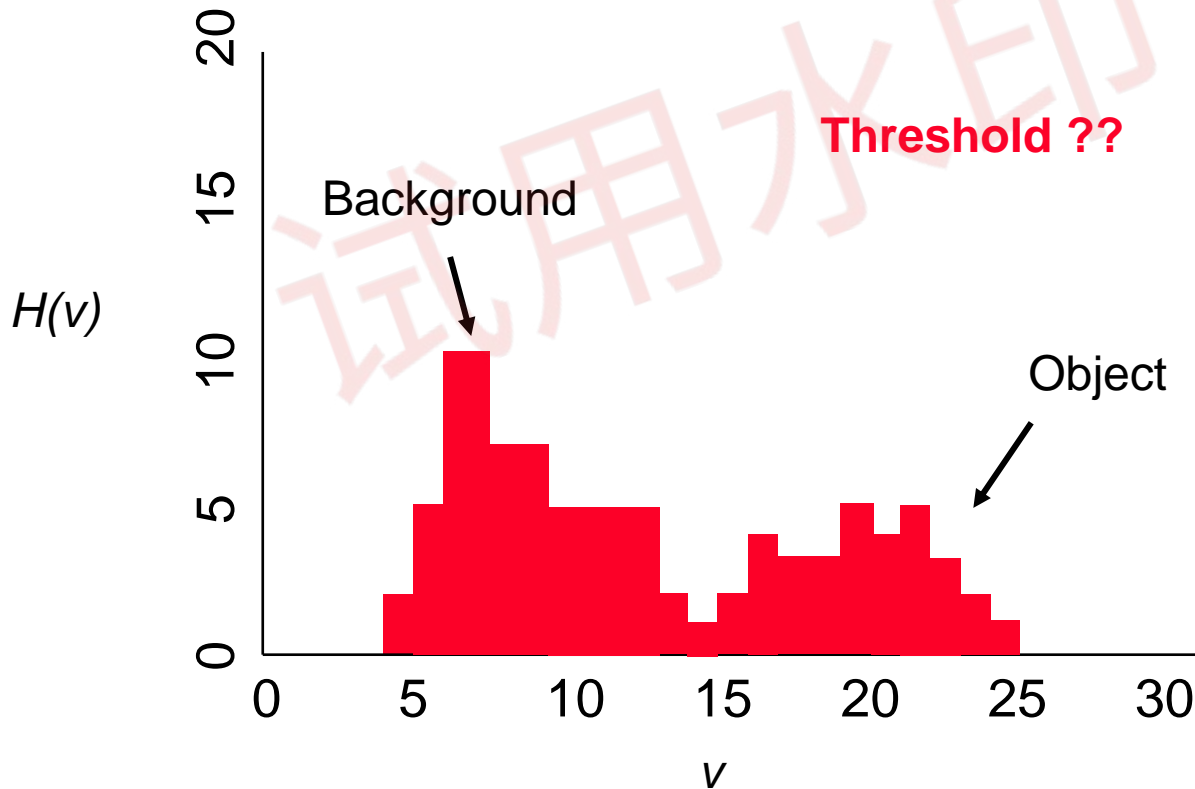
# Thresholding: A Bimodal Histogram

e.g. A bright object on a dark background



... but more commonly...

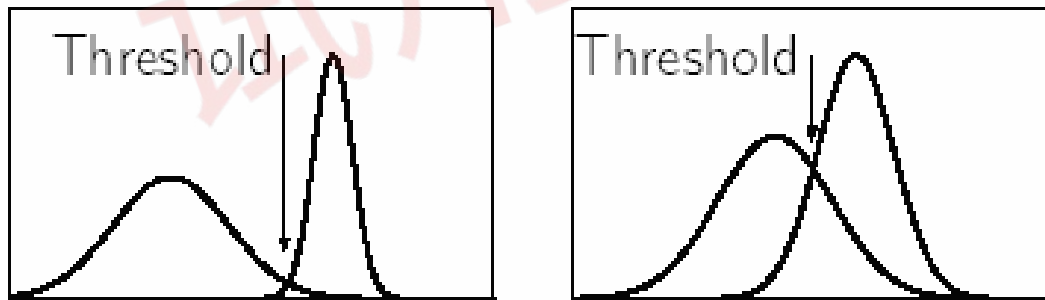
Object and background distributions overlap:



# Optimal Thresholding

Histogram shape can be useful in locating the threshold

- However it is not reliable for threshold selection when peaks are not clearly resolved.
- A “flat” object with small intensity variations will give rise to a relatively narrow histogram peak.



**Normally works well for Bimodal Histogram**

# Optimal Thresholding

- Usually need to specify a criterion function to measure separation between groups
  - 1) Otsu's method: choose the threshold to minimize the **intra-class variance** while maximize the **inter-class distance** (such a criteria is often called Fisher criterion in statistics).
  - 2) Approximate Otsu's method: Auto Thresholding

**Paper:** Nobuyuki Otsu (1979). "A threshold selection method from gray-level histograms".

*IEEE Trans. Sys., Man., Cyber.* **9** (1): 62–66.

Normally works well for **Bimodal Histogram**

# Otsu's Method

Otsu's thresholding method is based on selecting the lowest point *between* two *classes* (peaks).

## Weight and Mean value

:

Weight:  $\omega = \sum_{i=0}^T P(i)$   $P(i) = n_i / N$  N: total pixel number

Mean:  $\mu = \sum_{i=0}^T iP(i) / \omega$   $n_i$ : number of pixels in level I

## Analysis of variance (variance=standard deviation<sup>2</sup>)

Total variance:

$$\sigma^2 = \sum_{i=0}^T (i - \mu)^2 P(i)$$

# Otsu's Method

*Inter-classes/between-classes* variance ( $\delta_b^2$ ):

The variation of the mean values for each class from the overall intensity mean of all pixels:

$$\delta_b^2 = \omega_0 (\mu_0 - \mu_t)^2 + \omega_1 (\mu_1 - \mu_t)^2,$$

Substituting  $\mu_t = \omega_0 \mu_0 + \omega_1 \mu_1$ , we get:

$$\delta_b^2 = \omega_0 \omega_1 (\mu_1 - \mu_0)^2$$

$\omega_0, \omega_1, \mu_0, \mu_1$  stands for the weights and mean values of two classes, respectively.

# Otsu's Method

Pseudo Code:

1. Initialize a threshold, normally the starting value (e.g.,0)

Loop -- Repeat:

2. Separate the pixels into two clusters based the threshold

3. Computer the mean value of each cluster

4. Square the difference between the means

5. Multiply the number of pixels on one cluster times the number in the other (the between-class variance ) for that threshold

6. Until the every possible threshold being tested (e.g., till 254).

7. Select the threshold that having the largest between class variance



# Otsu's Method- Matlab

```
I = imread('coins.png');  
level = graythresh(I);  
BW = im2bw(I,level);  
figure, imshow(BW)
```

**Reading:** Nobuyuki Otsu (1979). "A threshold selection method from gray-level histograms". *IEEE Trans. Sys., Man., Cyber.* **9** (1): 62–66.

**The pdf is available from the VLE!**

# Auto Thresholding – Approximate to Otsu's Method

**Objective:** Minimizing the intra-class/within-class variance ( = max inter-class variance).

Otsu's method: exhaustive search

**Alternatives – approximate search:**

1. Select an initial estimate of the threshold  $T$ . A good initial value is the average intensity of the image.
3. Calculate the mean grey values  $\mu_1$  and  $\mu_2$  of the partitions,  $R1$ ,  $R2$ .
2. Partition the image into two groups,  $R1$ ,  $R2$ , using the threshold  $T$ .
4. Select a new threshold:

$$T = \frac{1}{2}(\mu_1 + \mu_2)$$

5. Repeat steps 2-4 until the mean values  $\mu_1$  and  $\mu_2$  in successive iterations do not change.

**Note:** this is essentially a *1-D k-means* algorithm. You will learn the general *k-means* in later lectures

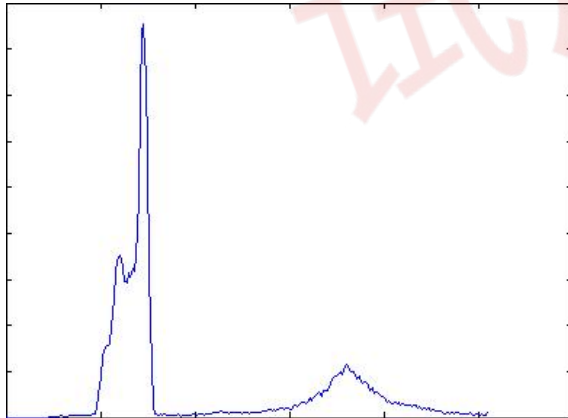
# Examples



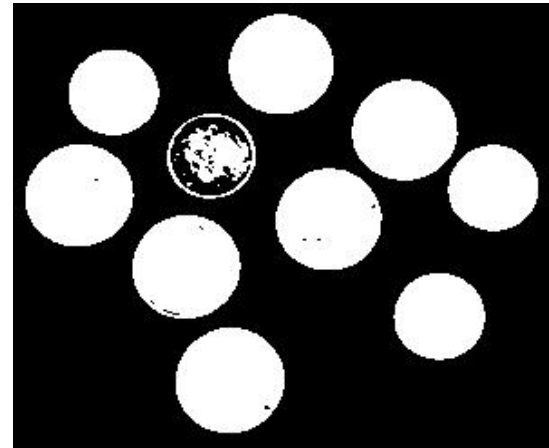
**Coins Image**



**Threshold at 50**



**Histogram**



**Optimal Threshold**

---

# Change Detection and Background Extraction

试用水印

# Motivation: Situational Awareness

---

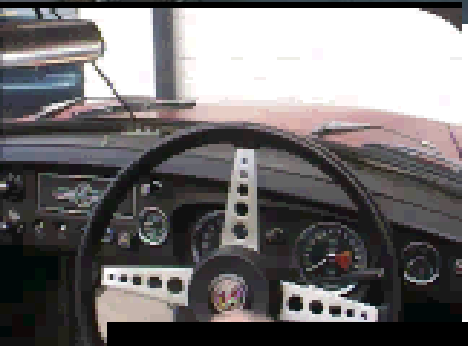
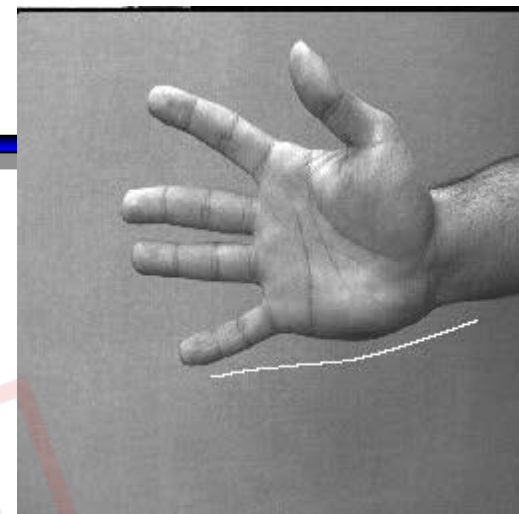
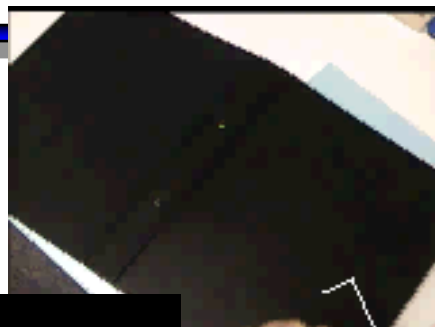
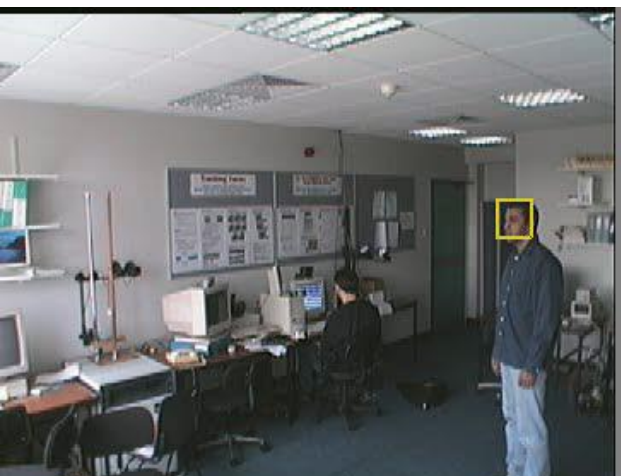
- ❖ **Having a complete understanding of an environment**
- ❖ **Acquiring knowledge of what events happened when:**
  - Is the event a common event?
  - Did a daily event not happened today?
  - Is something abnormal happening?
  - Is the event dangerous?
- ❖ **Events that likely can include people and vehicles, happening anytime day or night**

# Image Sequences

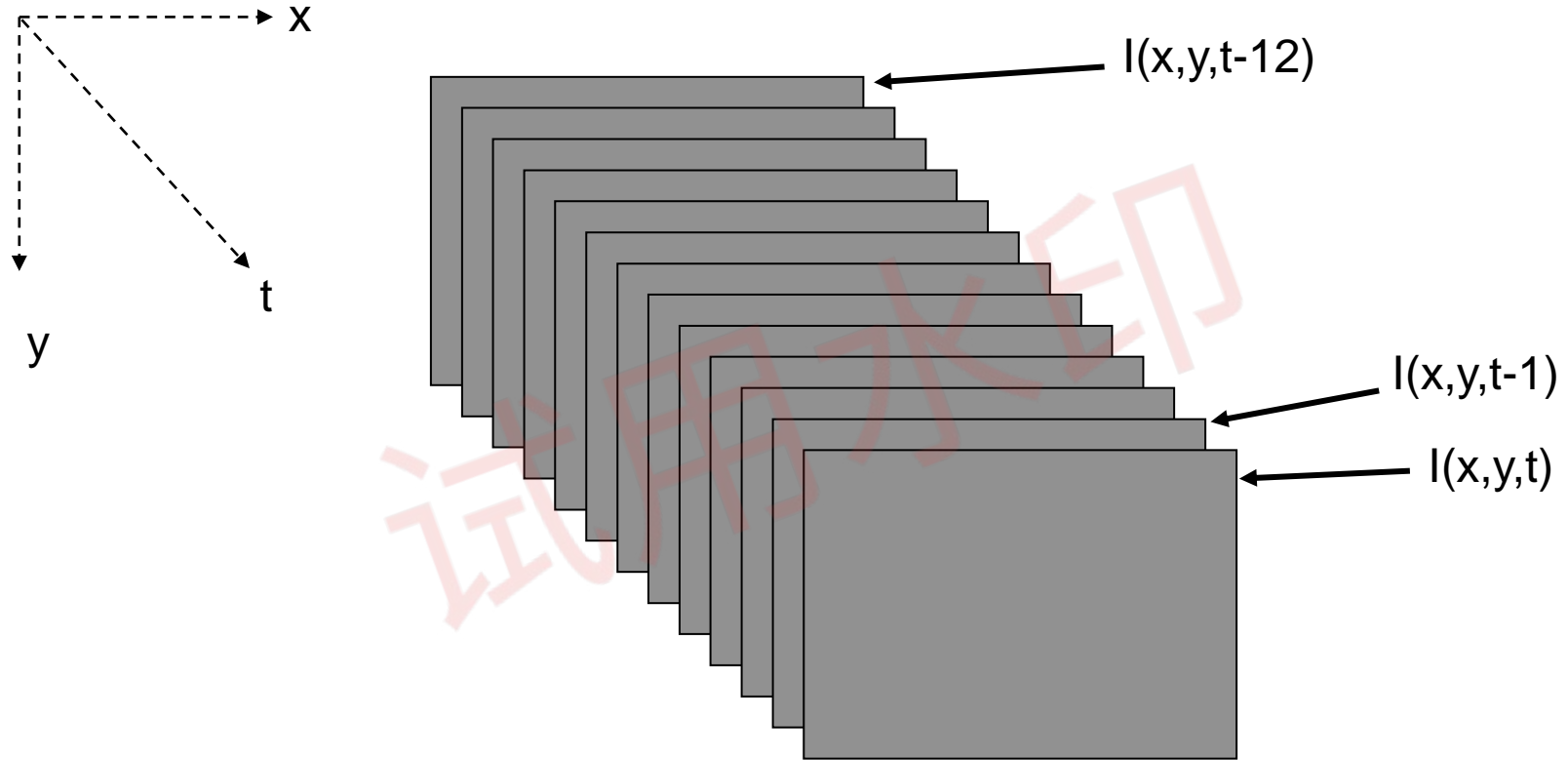
❖ A typical frame-rate: 25Hz

❖ Notation:

- An intensity image:  $I(x,y)$
- An image acquired at time  $t$ :  $I(x,y,t)$
- An image sequence:  
 $I(x,y,0), I(x,y,1) \dots I(x,y,t-1), I(x,y,t)$



# Space-time



- ❖ Think of sequence as occupying a block of ‘space-time’
- ❖ Time is divided into frames like space is divided into pixels



# Change Detection: Temporal Difference

- ❖ Absolute difference between subsequent images:

$$D(x, y, t) = |I(x, y, t) - I(x, y, t - 1)|$$

Could threshold to give binary change detection image:

$$\begin{aligned} B(x, y, t) &= 1 & \text{if } D(x, y, t) &\geq \tau \\ B(x, y, t) &= 0 & \text{if } D(x, y, t) < \tau \end{aligned}$$

$I(t-1)$



$I(t)$



$D(t)$



$B(t)$



Poor choice  
of threshold  $\tau$

# Frame Differencing

$I(0)$



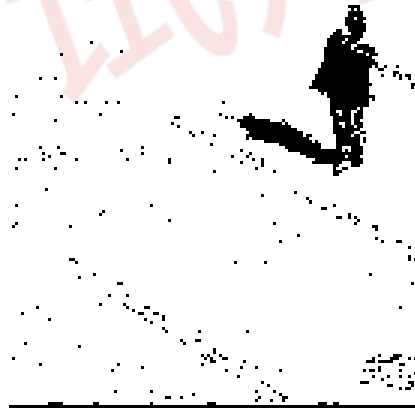
$I(t)$



$|I(0) - I(t)|$



Thresholded:



A better  
threshold:



From: P.L. Rosin, "Thresholding for Change Detection"  
[http://www.dai.ed.ac.uk/CVonline/LOCAL\\_COPIES/ROSIN2/thresh.html](http://www.dai.ed.ac.uk/CVonline/LOCAL_COPIES/ROSIN2/thresh.html)

# Background Subtraction

---

- ❖ Detects change in homogenous regions provided different from background
- ❖ But background image needs updating

试用水印

# Image differencing: pros & cons

## ❖ Pros:

- Fast and simple
- Useful for focusing visual attention

## ❖ Cons:

- How to set thresholds ? (see Rosin's article)
- Detects any change
  - ⇒ moving objects
  - ⇒ illumination change
  - ⇒ moving shadows
  - ⇒ camera motion
  - ⇒ camera noise (filtering can overcome this)

# Background Modelling

---

- ❖ Simple Frame Difference against a background – non adaptive
- ❖ Moving Average – lower-level adaptation
- ❖ Online Gaussian – (not covered, requires further reading)

试用水印

# Background Subtraction-Not Adaptive

- ❖ Simple Frame Difference against a known background
  - Simple, and easy to implement
  - Not robust
  - Applicable when a camera is fixed, background fixed
  - Can not handle illumination changes well, especially in outdoor scenarios, e.g, sunlight, cloudy, day/night, slight movement of tree leaves.
  - the need for manual initialization. Without re-initialization, errors in the background accumulate over time, making this method useful only in highly-supervised, short-term tracking applications without significant changes in the scene.
- ❖ Math Model for foreground extraction
  - $B(x,y) = \text{mean}_t(v(x,y,t))$
  - $f(x,y,t) = \text{abs}(v(x,y,t)-B(x,y))$ , and then setting threshold for  $f$

# Moving Average- Adaptive

## ❖ Moving average filtering

- Current background equals to the mean of previous  $n$  frames.
- Algorithms (**pseudo code**)

❖ *Initialise the value of a background estimate  $B$ , for each frame  $F$*

❖ *Update the background estimate by computing*

$$B(n+1) = (w_a F + \sum_i w(i) B(n-i)) / w_c$$

*for a choice of  $w_a$ ,  $w(i)$  and  $w_c = w_a + \sum w(i)$*

**Or:**  $B(n+1) = \sum_i w(i) F(n-i)$

❖ *Subtract the background estimate from the frame, and report the value of each pixel where the magnitude of the difference is greater than some threshold*

❖ *end*

- Could handle a certain level of background changes and Illumination changes (ref: Chapter 14, Computer Vision: a Modern Approach, Forsyth and Ponce)



# Background Extraction Demo

---

## ❖ Using GMM method

- Gaussian Mixture
- ***Landmark Paper:*** *Adaptive background mixture models* for real-time tracking. Chris Stauffer. W.E.L Grimson, CVPR 2008
- Watch Video Now

试用水印

# Further Reading

## ❖ Further Reading

- Chris Stauffer and W.E.L Grimson, *Adaptive background mixture models for real-time tracking*, CVPR08 (landmark paper)
- Zoran Zivkovic and van der Heijden, *Efficient adaptive density estimation per image pixel for the task of background subtraction*, Pattern Recognition Letter 2005 (Good technique paper)

试用水印

# Computer Vision

## Pixel Operations, Histogram, Thresholding

### Learning Outcomes

*Be able to understand the basics of point operators*

*Be able to compute histograms, optimal threshold for a given image by programming*

*Be able to design and apply simple background extraction algorithms.*