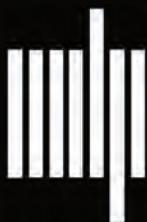
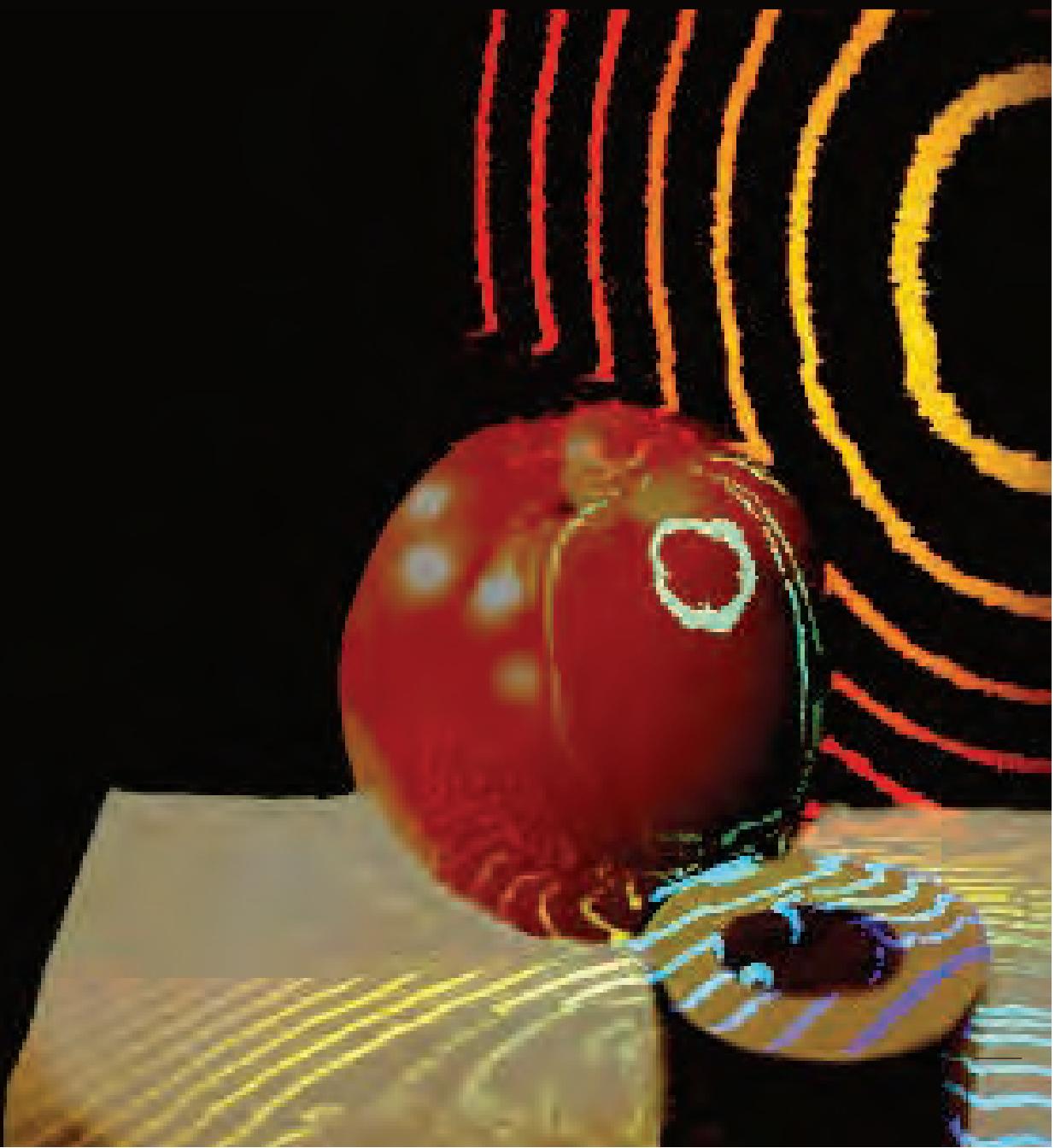


Computational Imaging

Ayush Bhandari • Achuta Kadambi • Ramesh Raskar



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Computational Imaging

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Ayush Bhandari

Imperial College
London

Achuta Kadambi

University of California
Los Angeles

Ramesh Raskar

Massachusetts Institute
of Technology

The MIT Press
Cambridge, Massachusetts
London, England

Preface

The motivation for writing this primer book on *Computational Imaging* was to have an initial reference for the field. By laying down a foundation, the instructors aim to provide students with a textbook that aligns with the title of courses they teach on “computational imaging”. For established practitioners, we hope to provide a reference text that aligns with emerging journals and societies in engineering organizations as diverse as the IEEE, ACM, OSA, and SPIE. For instance, the IEEE Transactions of Computational Imaging was formally indexed in October, 2018.

The timing of this book also coincides with an increase in the hiring of faculty who identify computational imaging as their core competency. Just a decade ago, only a few EE/CS departments had researchers who explicitly identified as computational imaging faculty (e.g. as in the case of book author R.R.). It may not have made sense to have a unified textbook for so few professors and classes. Today, nearly every top-tier university has at least one faculty member who identifies computational imaging as their core expertise. Many of these faculty are junior faculty (e.g. the case of book authors A.B and A.K.) who have been tasked by their departments to create new courses on “Computational Imaging”. We hope this textbook and associated set of homework assignments provides is not just handy for students and practitioners, but also to professors who are now teaching courses on computational imaging.

The push for increased hiring of computational imaging faculty is not a coincidence - the push parallels advances in computer vision, machine learning, and signal processing tools. These tools, now more powerful than ever, can enable imaging systems to see the invisible: cameras that operate at a trillion frames per second, microscopes that can see small viruses long thought to be optically irresolvable and, recently, telescopes that can even image black holes. Closer to home, self-driving cars and smartphone cameras are powered in part by computational imaging techniques, impacting our everyday life.

Scope for the Book

This book lays the foundations of computational imaging, a convergence of vision, graphics, signal processing, and optics. We may interest practitioners in any of these four fields; however, this is not a fundamental text for any of the four fields, nor is it intended to be as there are many excellent books that exist. Recommendations for computer vision include Forsyth and Ponce (2012); Szeliski (2011); Hartley and Zisserman (2004); for graphics it could be Gortler (2012); Marschner and Shirley (2018); Hughes et al. (2013); for signal processing, (foundations, Mallat (2009); Vetterli et al. (2014)), sparse signal processing Elad (2010)); numerical methods Björck (1996); Strang (2016); convex optimization Boyd and Vandenberghe (2004). For optics and photonics, we recommend Hecht (2012); Goodman (2005), and Saleh and Teich (1991), respectively which all offer a vastly different treatise of optics. In contrast to these foundational books, our book discusses modern ideas that have captivated the field over the past decade: imaging of black holes, at trillion FPS, light transport, seeing around corners, etc. These breakthroughs—seemingly feats of physics—were led by computer scientists in key roles.

Acknowledgments

Writing a book on an exciting and emerging topic is a massive undertaking and this would not have been possible without the help and support of our friends, collaborators, colleagues and the members of interdisciplinary communities. The authors gratefully thank these individuals for their feedback and comments on the earlier versions of the draft. In particular, we would like to thank Gordon Wetzstein for actionable comments on improving aspects of the book, particularly sections pertaining to light fields. Vishwanath Saragadam provided feedback on sections pertaining to multispectral and hyperspectral imaging. Kenichiro Tanaka and Teppei Kurita provided input on the polarization section. Bahram Jalali and Aydogan Ozcan have had numerous discussions with the authors at the seamline of AI and physics. Nick Antipa took the time to provide input on lensless imaging design. Discussions with Suren Jaysuriya date back several years and are interspersed in many aspects of the book.

On the typographical front, the authors also thank Kyle Icban (an Editorial Cartoonist at the DailyBruin) who contributed to some of the figures in the book and Amol Mahurkar for his help with L^AT_EX typesetting.

AB acknowledges Dorian Florescu for his help with review and preparation of materials, in particular, for the imaging toolkit, spatially coded imaging as well as light field imaging. Logistic support from Dorian Florescu and Humera Humeed was invaluable in maintaining tight timelines.

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hours have enriched the contents of this book. Many students who were exposed to the class ended up contributing to the book. Siddharth Somasundaram made key contributions on book sections related to polarization, multispectral imaging and programmable illumination. Alethea Sung-Miller, Chandra Suresh, Chinmay Talegaonkar, Madison Belk, Rajeshwari Jadhav, and Shreeram Athreya contributed to various aspects of light transport. Through many discussions, Siddharth and Chinmay contributed to the design and organization of the materials in the book.

RR thanks the members of the Camera Culture Group who, over the course of a decade, have not only contributed to the growing wealth of results in the area of computational imaging but also enabled this book by development of early coursework at MIT. Beyond MIT, RR acknowledges the collaboration with Jack Tumblin that resulted in the computational photography book (2007) which served as an early primer to the subject.

Many of the illustrations in this book are results developed by leading scientific groups around the world. We gratefully acknowledge our colleagues who, in the spirit of Open Science, have generously allowed us to use their original illustrations from their research—Amine Bermak, Aydogan Ozcan, Bahram Jalali, Diego Gutierrez, Dilip Krishnan, Ethan Schonbrun, Felix Heide, Fredo Durand, Georg Petschnigg, George Barbastathis, Gordon Wetzstein, Ioannis Gkioulekas, Jun Tanida, Kyros Kutulakos, Lei Tian, Marc Levoy, Masatoshi Okutomi, Matt O’Toole, Matthew Tancik, Michal Irani, Paul Debevec, Paul Haeberli, Philip Dutre, Qionghai Dai, Raanan Fattal, Rajeev Ramanath, Rajiv Laroia, Richard Baraniuk, Ross Girshick, Shree Nayar, Stanley Pau, Vasilis Ntzachristos, Vivek Goyal and Yoav Schechner.

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1

Introduction to Computational Imaging

1.1 What is Computational Imaging

Imagine if it was possible to photograph a black hole or create cameras that can image around corners. What if we can invent a camera that can freeze light in motion, or create new forms of light sensing that enable autonomous cars to “see” in fog?

These capabilities sound like fanciful superpowers—and they would be for the everyday cameras that we are used to. However, the field of computational imaging seeks to transform the camera into something more; something that can achieve superpowered feats. The solution? To jointly design optics and computation to overcome long standing limits of imaging.

Computational Imaging: Joint design of optical capture and computational algorithms to create novel systems.

In contrast to traditional imaging, computational imaging is distinguished by a heavy use of mathematical algorithms. For example, where an X-ray photograph is a conventional imaging system, the blending of multiple X-ray photographs to compute a 3D tomography model (“CAT scan”) would be a computational imaging system. Another example consists of sharpening motion-blurred images. Traditionally, this is done purely through deconvolution software. The computational imaging alternative is “coded exposure imaging” as is shown in Fig. 1.1.

A principled co-design of hardware and algorithms leads to overcoming some of the main limitations of traditional imaging. These include,

Dynamic Range All digital sensors, including imaging sensors, are limited in their dynamic range. Physical entities such as intensity or photon flux beyond a predefined threshold can cause sensor saturation, which would result in a permanent loss of information.

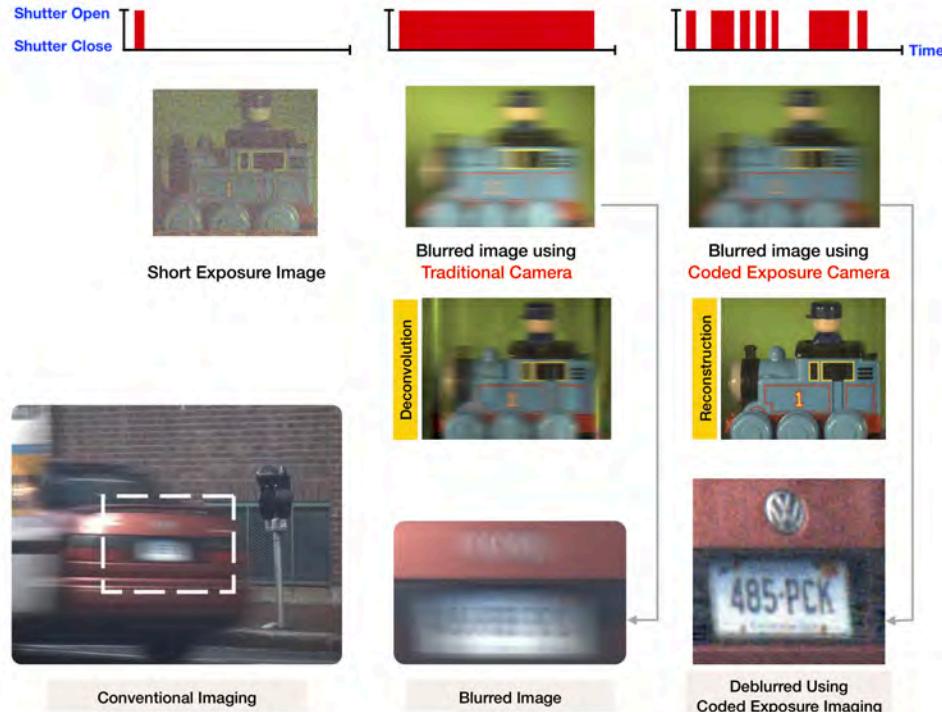


Figure 1.1: Motion deblurring. A comparison of traditional approach with computational imaging approach. Longer exposure period results in motion blurring because the object moves during the exposure. In this case, one can either resort to a hardware based solution that entails a short exposure period. The disadvantage here is that the resulting image is noisy. Alternatively, one can use a computational approach that entails “deconvolution” and is inexact. The computational imaging alternative is based on coded exposure imaging. By coding the camera’s shutter pattern, the resulting image can be recovered using an algorithm that results in superior performance.

Spatial resolution The resolution of a traditional camera is strictly determined by its sensor size. A classic example is the sensor resolution of consumer-grade three dimensional imaging sensors such as the Microsoft Kinect. Whereas consumer cameras offer spatial resolution on the order of tens of megapixels, this is not the case with three dimensional imaging sensors.

Depth of field Due to their inbuilt features, traditional imaging systems are subject to a number of trade-offs between the depth of field, field of view, and imaging parameters.

Computational imaging devices generate far more than an array of pixel values, amounting to additional scene information that may include data such as depth or spectral information of the scene. From a mathematical perspective, computational imaging systems capture a far larger class of signals or information that can be leveraged using advanced algorithms. For instance, apart from simply associating a red, green, and blue (RGB) component with every pixel, such systems are capable of measuring the 3D structure of the scene, shape boundaries, and perform decompositions such as foreground and background objects, direct and indirect illumination, and layers of transmission and reflection.

Apart from this, we may want to have more subtle contributions to the imaging process by highlighting small features that are not observable by the human eye. In order for a photograph to be photometrically accurate, meaning that it takes into account human perception, it is possible to use small pictorial elements that can be achieved with customized lighting or viewpoint adjustment.

Contributions to computational imaging have come from a diverse set of communities including signal processing, optics, computer vision, computer graphics, and applied mathematics. Computational imaging is not only a shared interest among these diverse communities, but a necessity to address scientific applications *du jour*.

1.2 Historical roots of Computational Imaging

Ideas of combining imaging with computation date back to the beginning of the computing revolution. In the 1960's astronomers were interested in measuring X-ray radiation emitted from various astronomical objects such as the sun, neutron stars, and black holes. Traditionally, astronomical objects were viewed through a telescope, which used glass lenses to bend optical radiation. Unfortunately, X-ray astroimaging introduced a unique challenge: X-rays do not bend through glass.

To overcome this problem, scientists recognized the importance of using “straight-line” imaging techniques to photograph X-ray point sources. A “straight-line” imaging technique does not require the controlled bending of light rays to form an image. An early example is the “pinhole camera”. With origins in ancient Greek and Chinese civilizations, the pinhole camera enabled image formation using a light-blocking mask with a small hole. An example would be a room with all the windows shuttered, apart from a small hole, illustrated in Fig. 1.2. This everyday example was so remarkable that the word “camera” originates from the Latin word for “room”. For the X-ray imaging problem, pinhole camera techniques could indeed be used to form an image. A mask that blocks X-ray radiation can be fashioned out of an attenuating media, and a hole can be punched through the lead mask. The pinhole camera does not need to bend light to form an image. A pinhole seems like a terrific solution to the X-ray imaging problem!

Unfortunately, the pinhole camera does not solve the X-ray imaging problem. A pinhole is small, and lets very little light through, causing very low signal to noise ratios. Attempts to enlarge the pinhole, and let more light through, are stymied by an increase in image blur. A fundamental trade-off between SNR and resolution is observed with the pinhole camera. For the X-ray astronomers, this trade-off was insufficient, so they moved away from the pinhole in a quest to break the trade-off. In 1961, Mertz and Young published a paper Mertz and Young (1961) on the use of carefully coded mask patterns. To an abstraction, these masks behaved like an array of pinholes, spread in a carefully chosen manner. Details of this approach are considered in Chapter 4.

Coded apertures in X-ray imaging were just the beginning of the computational imaging revolution. Today, we have access to a tool that lies outside the grasp of the ancient Assyrians (inventors of the first lens), ancient Greeks and Chinese (inventors of the pinhole camera), and Renaissance Europe (inventors of the telescope). This tool is the computer.

1.3 Modern uses of Computational Imaging

The timing of this inaugural textbook on “computational imaging” is aligned with the wide use of computational imaging systems in industrial and scientific practice. In what follows, we describe a few application areas of computational imaging and where they can be found in subsequent portions of the book.

- Smartphone Photography

Many of the computational imaging techniques in this book can be directly prototyped or subsequently ported to smartphone imaging systems. For instance, the problem set complementing Chapter 6 focuses on **how to convert a smart phone into a lightfield camera**. Industry practitioners may use the term computational photography to refer to cases where a computational imaging method is used for the specific problem of photography. For consistency with this text, we will stick to the term of computational imaging. The dominant industrial use of computational imaging is on consumer smartphones. Large technology companies, like Apple and Google have dedicated computational photography teams. As contemporary readers are doubtless aware, smartphones have become omnipresent, portable cameras in our pockets. According to InfoTrends via Bitkom, from 2015 onwards, the number of photographs captured worldwide has been over 1 trillion, with a 10% increase every year. A staggering 85% of those were captured with mobile phones. Computational imaging techniques are particularly well-suited for smartphone applications, which are often hardware constrained. The thin body of a cellular phone does not enable specialized lenses. Bulk production costs limit exotic design. To generate aesthetically pleasing photographs, practitioners must innovate on the algorithmic side. Chapter 4 of this book discusses how a combination of imaging

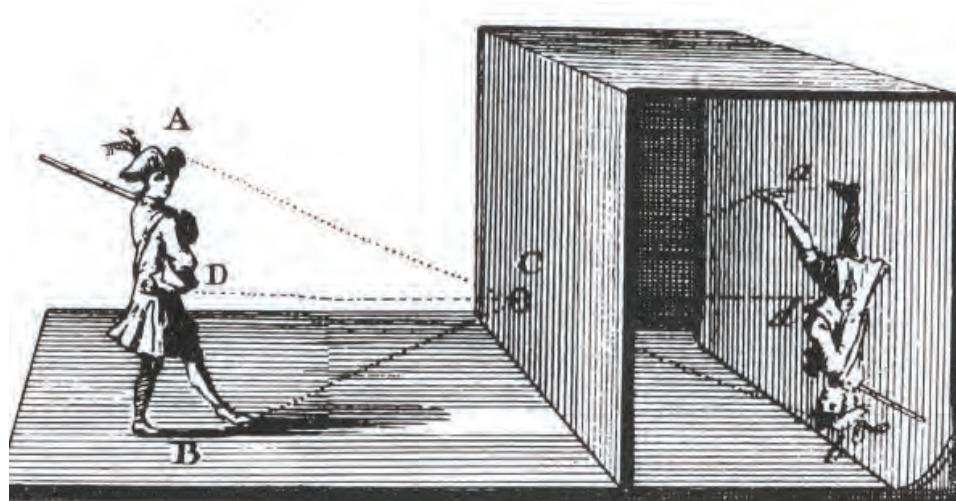


Figure 1.2: Example of a room-sized pin-hole camera.

sensors, optical aperture and illumination can be used in different ways to enhance imaging capabilities. An example of this is the high-dynamic-range imaging feature that is present in all modern smartphones and uses the computational imaging approach.

- Autonomous Driving

Computational imaging systems can be used to upgrade the visual acuity of autonomous cars to superhuman levels. An autonomous vehicle, also known as a self-driving car, is a vehicle that is capable of actively sensing the surrounding environment and driving safely in cases where the human input is minimal or absent altogether. It is not a requirement that camera sensors on these cars should mimic the human eye: they can surpass it.

The importance of vision sensors to autonomous driving is hard to overstate. An early joke about self-driving cars equipped with 3D LiDAR systems would often be along the lines of: “that LiDAR costs more than the car”. Chapter 5 of this book discusses time-resolved imaging on which LiDAR is based. Although costs of LiDAR have come down tremendously, the exorbitant price in the early years illustrates the importance of LiDAR to safe navigation—engineers would not have used such expensive LiDARs if the data wasn’t critical for downstream performance.

Beyond the fundamental exposition in Chapter 5, readers interested in autonomous driving may find Chapter 10 of interest where this topic is further discussed from the perspective of light transport. The chapter discusses cases of multipath interference (e.g. driving through fog), as well as seeing around corners. Recent papers have

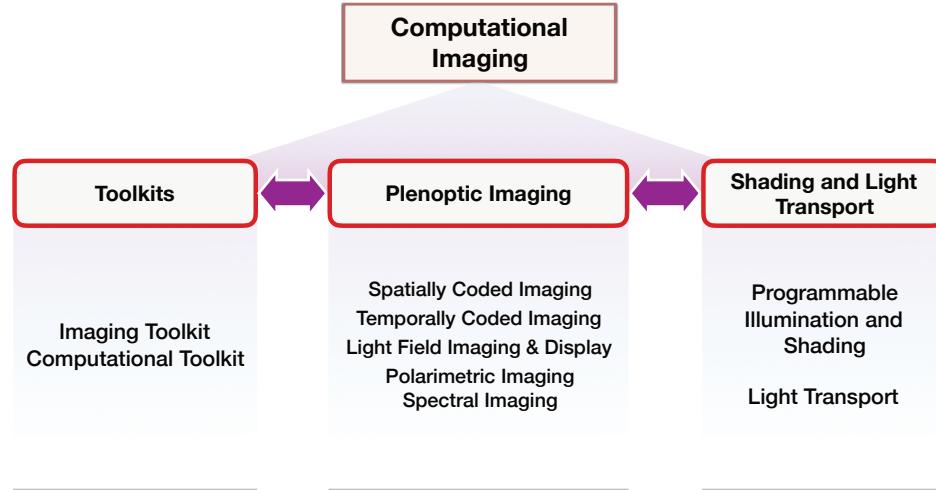


Figure 1.3: Roadmap and Organization of this Book.

integrated computational imaging systems that can see around corners with vehicular platforms.

- Medical Imaging

Earlier in this chapter we used the example of X-rays and CAT scanners to introduce the notion of imaging and computational imaging, respectively. However, this is just scratching the surface of the medical applications in computational imaging.

In Chapter 4, we discuss coded exposure imaging, an idea that has been used for imaging of flowing cells in flow cytometry. In Chapter 5, we touch upon how consumer-grade depth imaging sensors, such as the Microsoft Kinect, can be re-purposed for bio-imaging tasks such as fluorescence lifetime imaging. Finally, in Chapter 10, we discuss how global and direct separation of light transport can be used as a technique to potentially see deeper inside the body without using X-rays.

1.4 Roadmap of the Book

With the goal of turning newcomers into practitioners or sharpening the skills of experts alike, the book has three parts, illustrated in Fig. 1.3.

Part I. The first part of this book introduces the basic preliminary knowledge that is required to study and practice in computational imaging. Since the field is a co-design of optics and computation, we briefly review an optical toolkit (Chapter 2) and a computational toolkit (Chapter 3). For newcomers to the

field, it is recommended to have some familiarity with Part I before moving on to subsequent portions of the book.

- Part II. The discussion moves into the frontier of research, where the co-design of optics and computation is studied in the context of different modalities of light. What unifies part II of this book is the plenoptic function which describes the degrees of freedom of a light ray. The function describes how an image need not only be a function of space (Chapter 4), but also angle (Chapter 5), time (Chapter 6), polarization (Chapter 7), and wavelength (Chapter 8).
- Part III. The concluding part of the book ends with a description of light transport techniques. By analyzing shadows and smartly coding illumination, it is possible to design imaging systems that obtain micron-scale 3D shape or optimize for noise-free imaging (Chapter 9). We conclude the book by describing advanced techniques in computational light transport (Chapter 10), including optical computing and non-line-of-sight imaging.

■ TABLE PART

2 Imaging Toolkit

In this chapter, our goal is to develop an understanding of the digital image formation model that is central to most modern day imaging devices. Building upon the foundations of the image formation model and the various parameters associated with it allows us to understand the limitations of the conventional imaging pipeline. This will be critical in later chapters as we will see how the computational imaging philosophy helps us go beyond what is conventionally possible.

2.1 Optics

2.1.1 Animal Eyes

The human eye is a very sophisticated image capturing device. It uses a lens to focalise the light reflected by an object onto the retina, which is made up of photosensitive cells called cones and rods. The functioning principle is similar to that of a modern photo camera. However, during its evolution journey, the animal eye was not always this complex. An earlier anatomy, which can still be seen today in animals such as the marine mollusc called nautilus, is the rudimentary pinhole eye, which is simply a sphere with a tiny hole in front and a layer of photoreceptors on the opposite side.

2.1.2 Light, Waves and Particles

A light ray is modeled as a line describing the trace that a photon might leave behind. When capturing an image, conceptually each pixel captures the color of a ray of light. Therefore, the image allows us to detect the environment by mapping visible external points to points on the camera sensor.

However, light rays are not used only for measuring the environment; they can also be used to investigate optical systems, *e.g.*, the lens surface or its coating. The light is generally attenuated from source to destination. The *reversibility* property of light rays means that the overall attenuation for a ray is the same if you were to swap the source and destination.

Conceptually, light rays are infinitesimal in width, and have an infinitesimal point of emergence. Therefore measuring a single ray is challenging. To better understand light, we need to look at several models that describe it.

Firstly, light can be described as an electromagnetic wave. Therefore all light frequencies, from low-frequency radio signals to high-frequency cosmic rays, propagate through vacuum at a constant rate

$$c = 299,792,458 \text{ meters/s.}$$

The frequency ν and wavelength λ are linked via the equation

$$\nu = \frac{c}{\lambda},$$

such that a ray with high frequency, such as gamma rays, have a very small wavelength. It is important to point out that the light we typically measure propagates at speeds smaller than c since it is obstructed by the surrounding matter particles.

The wavelength has tremendous impact on the way the light wave propagates. For instance, when we drive underneath a bridge, we can always see our surroundings, however the AM radio signal is likely to flicker. This is because of the difference in wavelength between the two electromagnetic waves. The visible light has low wavelength compared to the bridge opening, and therefore passes unobstructed. The wavelength of radio signals however is too large and therefore our antenna only picks up a noisy residue.

While initially viewed as a waveform, Albert Einstein showed for the first time that light can be quantized as a stream of photon particles. Modeling light as a wave is convenient on a macroscopic scale; still, more complex processing, such as analysing light interference caused by diffraction through lenses, requires using the particle light model. This is useful if we are trying to understand, for instance, what is the maximum image resolution achieved with a given lens, and why this is dependent on the lens size. In this course, light will primarily be viewed using the wave or ray models.

In empty space, photons are well described by the *ray model*: single photon traces that don't interact with each other. Their wave-like behaviour emerges in closed environments, such as when passing through a pinhole of size comparable to the wavelength. As we will discuss later, this causes diffraction which is a wave-specific phenomenon.

The energy transported by a single photon is measured as

$$E = h \frac{c}{\lambda} = h\nu,$$

where $h = 6.62610 \times 10^{-34}$ Joules · s denotes Planck's constant, ν is the frequency and λ is the wavelength.

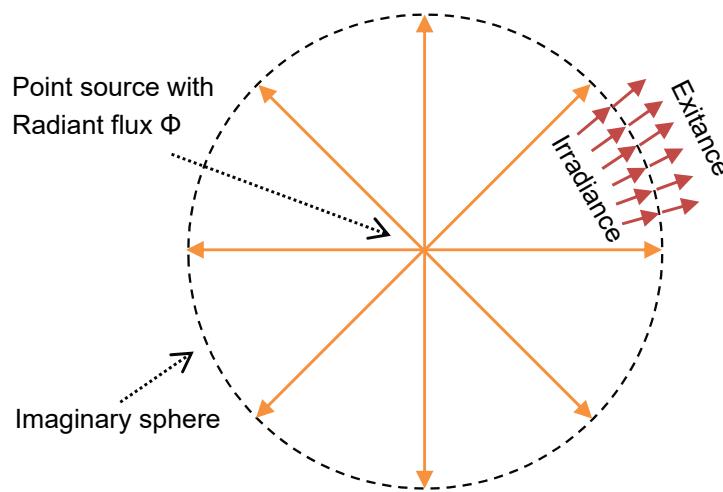


Figure 2.1: The Ideal Point Source. A point source with radiant flux Φ and the irradiance/exitance for an imaginary sphere.

This means that higher frequency photons carry significantly more energy. That is why higher frequency light (such as ultraviolet, x-ray) is more dangerous and can damage our bodies. One single photon carries an insignificant amount of energy, *e.g.*, 4×10^{-18} Joules for visible light. Interestingly, when the human eyes are fully adapted to darkness, our rod cells can detect light bursts as small as 8 – 10 photons Hecht et al. (1942).

2.1.3 Measuring Light with Rays

The light is affected by a range of factors such as

- the power transmitted
- direction of radiation
- area of real or imaginary surfaces
- wavelength
- visibility

The power transmitted is measured by the **radiant flux Φ** , which is defined as the energy emitted, reflected, transmitted, or received, per unit time, and is measured in Watts, or Joules/s.

In the following we introduce a simplified model of a light source called the ideal *point source* light, which is infinitesimal in size and radiates light outward uniformly in all directions. The point source is described by a radiant flux Φ . Let us consider an imaginary sphere centered in the point source, as in Fig. 2.1.

The point source has a number of properties listed below

- All the rays in the point source arrive perpendicularly on the imaginary sphere at the same time
- There is a one-to-one mapping between the sphere points and rays: every point on the sphere has a corresponding ray
- The rays therefore form a continuum and their number is uncountably infinite (similarly to the number of real values)
- The radiant flux is transmitted equally across the sphere's surface

Thus each ray emitted by the point source carries 0 W, and one can only measure a 2D beam containing an uncountably infinite number of rays.

The **irradiance** is subsequently introduced to define the radiant flux incident to an area on the sphere for an ideal point source as

$$R = \frac{\Phi}{4\pi r^2},$$

where Φ is the radiant flux and r is the sphere radius. The irradiance is measured in W/m², and is inversely proportional to the square of the sphere radius. For example, increasing the radius 10 times leads to an irradiance 100 times smaller for the new sphere. Given that the irradiance describes a particular spatial area on the sphere, we say that it measures the *spatial power density*.

The irradiance can be introduced in a more general context, where the surface is not necessarily a sphere. The value at a point on the surface is given by

$$R = \frac{d\Phi}{dA}.$$

For the radiance leaving the surface of interest we introduce the **exitance** M , measured in W/m².

In addition to the spatial power density, a thorough description of light requires introducing a way to measure the *angular power density*. In other words, we need to describe the radiant flux inside a beam of light. A 3D beam of light requires introducing a generalisation of the 2D angle known as the *solid angle*.

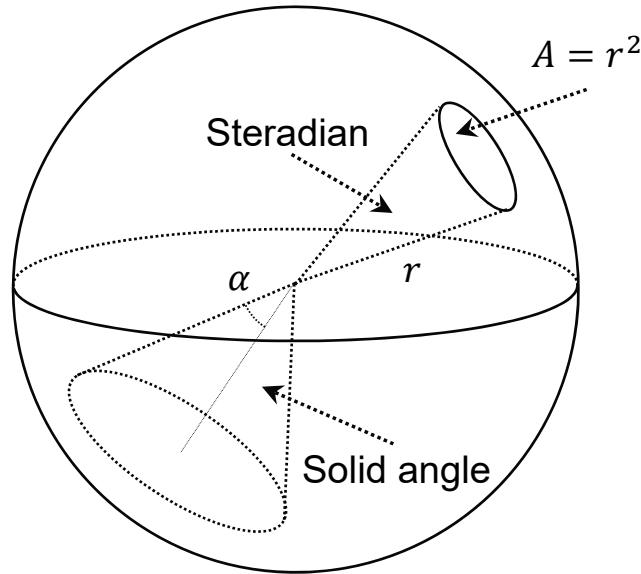


Figure 2.2: The Steradian and the Solid Angle of a Cone-Shaped Beam.

Let us assume we have a cone-shaped beam of light. The unit measure for the solid angle is the *steradian*, which is defined by a cone with the vertex in the center of a sphere of radius r whose base delimits a spherical “cap” of area r^2 . The diagram of a steradian is depicted in Fig. 2.2.

We can now introduce the general solid angle Ω as

$$\Omega = 2\pi(1 - \cos(\alpha)) \text{ sr},$$

where sr stands for steradians and α represents the half of the top planar angle of a cross-section of the solid angle, as shown in Fig. 2.2.

We point out that the solid angle corresponding to a whole sphere is $\Omega = 2\pi(1 - \cos(\pi)) = 4\pi$ sr. We can now introduce the **radiant intensity**, which is measuring the angular power density. For an ideal cone-shaped beam of light covering solid angle Ω with uniformly spread radiant flux Φ , the radiant intensity satisfies

$$I = \frac{\Phi}{\Omega}.$$

For example, a beam covering a whole sphere has a very low intensity $I = \frac{\Phi}{4\pi} = 0.08 \cdot \Phi$, meaning that one steradian contains a little proportion of the incoming light power.

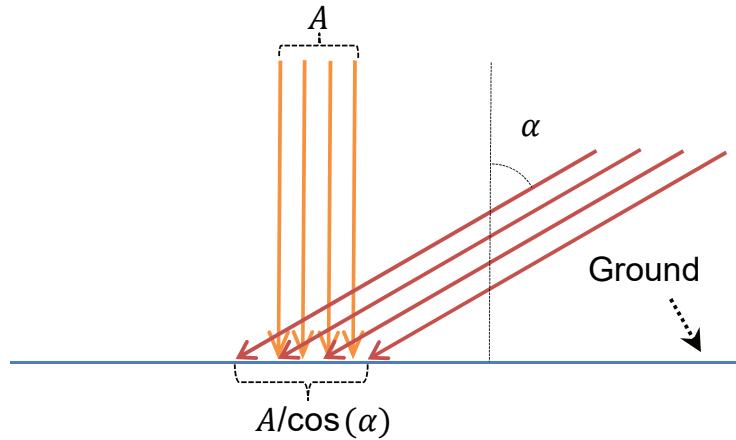


Figure 2.3: The Area Illuminated by a Parallel Beam as a Function of the Incident Angle.

However, if we focus the same power in a beam covering the 1000th part of a sphere, the intensity is significantly larger at $I = 80\Phi$.

The irradiance and radiant intensity allow us to model lighting phenomena such as the difference in heat between noon and dusk. At any time, a beam of light from the sun, approximated here as a beam of parallel rays, illuminates an area on the ground that is proportional to $1/\cos(\alpha)$, where α is the beam incidence angle, as shown in Fig. 2.3.

Therefore a given fixed area A on the ground is characterised by an irradiance that changes with the incident angle α as

$$E(\alpha) = \frac{\Phi \cdot \cos(\alpha)}{A},$$

where Φ is the uniformly spread radiant flux of the beam of light covering the corresponding area. In this case we point out that the irradiance reaches a peak value when the incidence angle is 0, and the irradiance vanishes when the sun moves behind the horizon, corresponding to an incidence angle $\alpha = \pi/2$.

In a real life application the objective is not to capture the irradiance, or the radiance intensity, but the **radiance** L , which represents the ray strength, measuring the combined angular and spatial power densities.

The radiance is described by the equation

$$L = \frac{d^2\Phi}{dA d\Omega} \cdot \frac{1}{\cos(\alpha)},$$

where Ω is the solid angle, A is the area and α is the incidence angle.

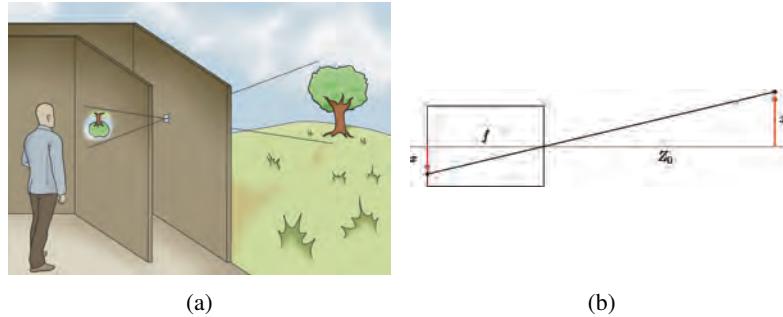


Figure 2.4: The Pinhole Camera. (a) The camera obscura, a darkened room with only a hole in a wall, is an example of the pinhole camera principle. (b) A diagram demonstrating the pinhole camera principle.

2.1.4 Pinhole Model

The principle underlying the biological eye is also the functioning principle of the first man-made cameras, called pinhole cameras Young (1989). They are based on a box with a $\frac{1}{2}$ millimeter hole, and a photosensitive layer on the opposite side.

The functioning principle of the pinhole camera, which is identical to that of a camera obscura, is depicted in Fig. 2.4a. In a camera obscura, which is a dark room with only a tiny hole in one of its walls, the light gets projected upside down on the opposite wall. This opposite wall is also called a projection plane, and the axis passing through the hole perpendicular on the projection plane is called an optical axis. Because the light travels in straight lines, and the hole is very small, each point on the projection plane is mapped uniquely to a point from the outside scene.

The diagram of the pinhole camera principle is in Fig. 2.4b. Here, the coordinate frame is placed with coordinate Z along the optical axis, coordinate Y perpendicular on the diagram plane - and therefore not displayed, and the center in the pinhole. The distance d between the pinhole and the projection plane is called a focal distance, X_0, Y_0, Z_0 denote the coordinates of a point in the scene, and $-x, -y, d$ denote the coordinates of the corresponding point in the projection plane. Then it follows that $x = -d \frac{X_0}{Z_0}$ and $y = -d \frac{Y_0}{Z_0}$. In a more compact form, the model of the *ideal pinhole camera* is

$$\begin{bmatrix} x \\ y \\ 1 \end{bmatrix} \sim \begin{bmatrix} d & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & d & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 & 0 \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} X_0 \\ Y_0 \\ Z_0 \\ 1 \end{bmatrix}.$$

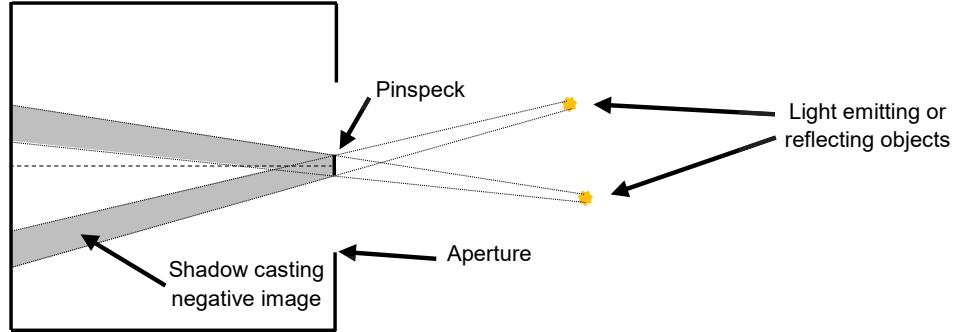


Figure 2.5: The Pinspeck Camera. This imaging device is based on the opposite functioning principle of the pinhole camera, casting shadows that form a negative image.

Here, \sim means that the two quantities are proportional. If we want to produce a digital image, then the coordinates of a pixel on the projection plane x_p, y_p satisfy $x_p = s_x x$, $y_p = s_y y$, where s_x, s_y represent the scaling constants. In a real scenario, the coordinate system in the projection plane is not centered on the optical axis. Therefore we introduce constants u_0, v_0 to account for this:

$$\begin{bmatrix} x \\ y \\ 1 \end{bmatrix} \sim \begin{bmatrix} s_x d & 0 & u_0 & 0 \\ 0 & s_y d & v_0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 & 0 \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} X_0 \\ Y_0 \\ Z_0 \\ 1 \end{bmatrix}.$$

Moreover, to generate a more realistic model, we need to take into account the skew effect caused by the fact that the optical axis may not be perfectly perpendicular on the projection plane. This effect is modeled by the skew factor α , leading to the final *internal camera model*:

$$\begin{bmatrix} x \\ y \\ 1 \end{bmatrix} \sim \begin{bmatrix} s_x d & \alpha & u_0 & 0 \\ 0 & s_y d & v_0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 & 0 \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} X_0 \\ Y_0 \\ Z_0 \\ 1 \end{bmatrix}.$$

A pinhole camera creates an image by projecting light onto a plane. However, an image can be created using the opposite principle, by casting shadow. This is the functioning principle of the pinspeck camera Cohen (1982). Instead of a tiny hole, this camera is based on a wide aperture with a small speck in the middle. When objects are illuminating the camera, the speck is casting a shadow on the projection plane, effectively creating a negative image. The diagram of the pinspeck camera is depicted in Fig. 2.5.

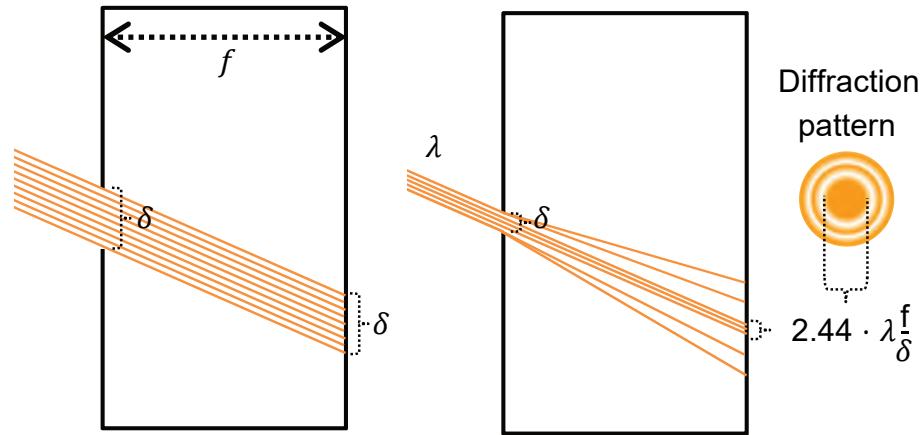


Figure 2.6: The Pinhole Camera Diffraction. When the pinhole size is comparable to the wavelength of the incoming light, a distant object is imaged as a circular disk with rings around it.

Pinhole (and pinspeck) cameras are good mechanisms to study light properties. However, from a practical perspective, they are subject to several problems, such as long exposure times, limited sharpness and limited field of view. The exposure time is long because the pinhole only permits a small number of light rays to hit the sensor plane per time unit, which means that it takes longer for an image to be created. The image sharpness for a pinhole camera is inversely proportional to the hole size. However, holes that are too small cause diffraction, or bending of light around the corners of the hole.

It is therefore important to find the right pinhole aperture size δ to capture good photographs. As we discussed before, for larger pinholes each point on the projection plane is mapped to a point of the scene along a series of lines, as depicted in Fig. 2.6. Therefore a distant object is imaged as a disk of radius δ . However, when δ is comparable with λ , the incoming light wavelength, the diffraction phenomenon causes the light rays passing close to the aperture boundaries to bend, leading to a circular disk with rings around it, as depicted in Fig. 2.6. The diameter of the disk is given by $D = 2.44 \cdot \lambda \frac{d}{\delta}$.

The optimal aperture size is when the disk of the diffraction pattern has diameter δ . A smaller aperture would cause distortion due to diffraction, and a larger one would lead to blurry images due to loss in sharpness. Let us compute the optimal aperture size for the wavelength located in the center of the visible spectrum $\lambda = 500 \text{ nm}$. Given that the focal distance d is measured in millimeters, after the appropriate conversions, the optimal

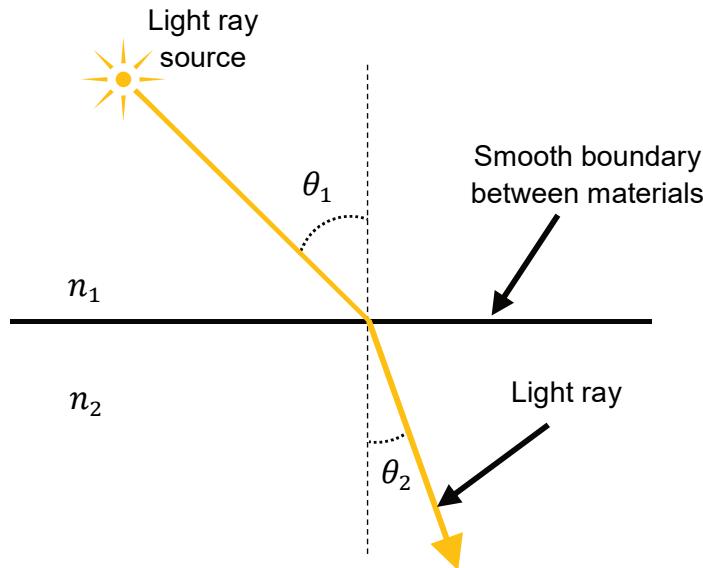


Figure 2.7: The Refraction Principle. A ray of light is bent at the boundary of two materials with an angle given by Snell's law.

aperture size is

$$\delta_{\text{opt}} = 2.44 \cdot \lambda \frac{d}{\delta_{\text{opt}}} \implies \delta_{\text{opt}} = 0.035\sqrt{d}.$$

However, the estimation above assumes that all imaged objects are far from the aperture. Close by objects would create disks larger than the aperture and thus distort the image. Moreover, the smaller the hole gets, the more it limits the field of view—at the limit, a hole of infinitesimal width only allows rays perpendicular to the projection plane to enter the camera.

2.1.5 Ray Bending and Lenses

Given all the drawbacks of pinhole cameras mentioned before, a better device is needed for successful photography. The lens, the component of choice in modern cameras, is based on the refraction principle. When a light ray passes through the smooth boundary of different materials, it is bent by an angle depending on the indices of refraction of the two materials. The index of refraction is a constant characteristic to each material, and the refraction is governed by Snell's law:

$$n_1 \sin(\theta_1) = n_2 \sin(\theta_2),$$

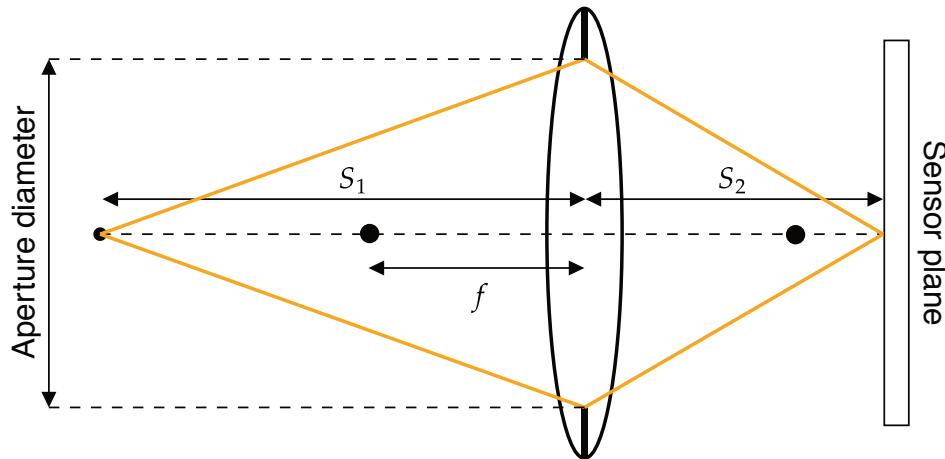


Figure 2.8: The Diagram of a Thin Lens. A point in the scene (black dot) is in focus if the light it reflects towards the lens converges on the sensor plane. When the camera refocuses on a different point, the sensor plane moves relative to the lens.

where n_1, n_2 are the indices of refraction, and θ_1, θ_2 are the angle of incidence and angle of refraction, respectively. The bending process, called refraction, is depicted in Fig. 2.7.

A lens has a relatively generic definition. Any object that bends incoming rays into outgoing rays can be considered a lens. The number of lenses that can be generated based on how they refract light according to Snell's law is very large. However, in optics it is common to use an idealised concept, called thin lens. A thin lens, also called paraxial, is a plane that bends light governed only by three parameters: the focal length, the aperture diameter and the lens speed.

The *focal length* f is defined as the distance in millimeters between a thin lens and the point of convergence of a number of parallel rays passing through the lens. The inverse of the focal length $1/f$ is known as the focusing power, and is measured in diopters. This parameter is an important characteristic of common glasses.

The *aperture diameter* D is the diameter of the base of a conical shaped ray bundle passing through the lens. In other words, it is the diameter of the largest portion of the lens that is bending light.

The *lens speed*, or f-number N is the ratio between the focal length and the aperture diameter. It describes the ability of the lens to transmit light, *i.e.*, the required exposure time for capturing an image.

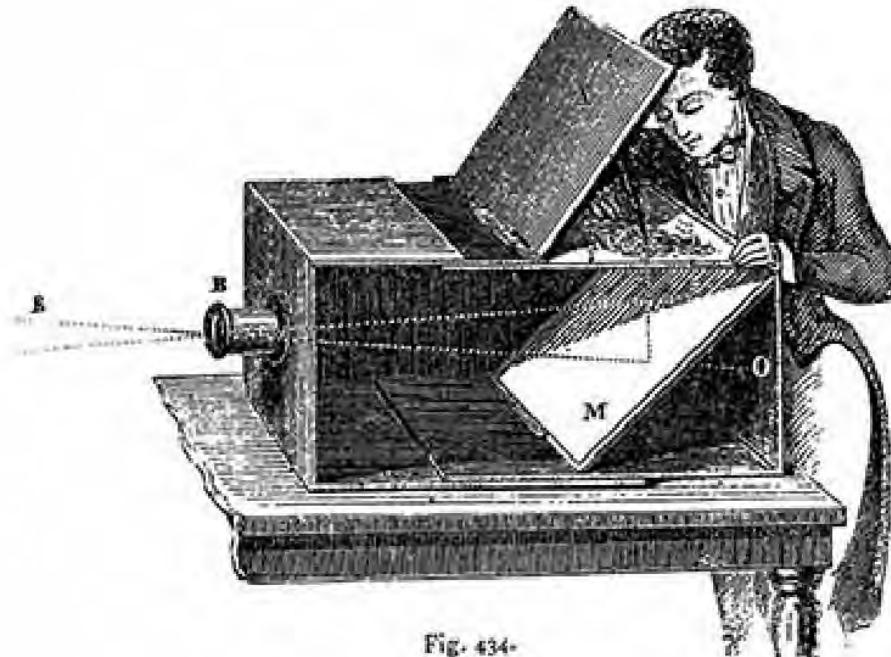


Fig. 434.

Figure 2.9: Lens-Based Camera Obscura. The first cameras required a manual adjustment of the exposure time. Reprinted from Raskar and Tumblin (2011).

The light bending principle with a thin lens is depicted in Fig. 2.8. A scene point is in focus relative to a thin lens and a sensor plane if it obeys the thin lens equation:

$$\frac{1}{S_1} + \frac{1}{S_2} = \frac{1}{f},$$

where S_1 is the distance between the lens and the object in focus, S_2 is the distance between the lens and the sensor plane, and f is the focal length.

In the early days of photography, capturing an image required focusing manually the camera using a ground-glass viewer, inserting the light-sensitive plate inside the camera, and then manually controlling the exposure time by removing the cap from the lens for a predefined amount of time, as shown in Fig. 2.9. Initially, this time was measured in hours, but it decreased to milliseconds thanks to the development of light sensors. Automatic shutters allowed for a fine control of the exposure time.

When we capture an image with a modern digital camera the device itself automatically tunes a large number of parameters to allow a crisp and detailed view of the scene. Those

parameters can relate to the camera as a whole, to the camera lens, to the shutter or to the light sensor.

The camera itself has a certain *position* and *orientation* in space, allowing it to capture a portion of the scene. For a dynamic scene, the *time of the capture* is another important parameter. The scene *lighting*, either coming from the camera flash or from an external source, can affect the colours or visibility of the scene objects.

The light reflected by the scene first meets the opening of the camera shutter. This opening is called *aperture*, controlling how many light rays enter the camera at any given moment. This parameter is tightly connected with the *exposure time*, which measures how long the shutter is kept open. Therefore, a small aperture and short exposure time lead to darker images. However, apart from image brightness, the two parameters have different effects on the image, as it will be explained later.

After passing through the aperture, the light rays are bent by the camera lens. This is determined by the lens *focal length*, describing how fast parallel light beams converge after passing through the lens. This parameter affects the width of the field of view. A lens with short focal length corresponds to a wide *field of view*, which allows it to capture a larger portion of the scene. At the same time, the short focal length lens in conjunction with a small aperture allows a much longer depth of field. Lenses with wide fields of view shrink scene features and exaggerate foreshortening (depth-dependent size). On the other hand, lenses with narrow fields of view, also known as telephoto lenses, enlarge scene features and reduce foreshortening.

Using lenses instead of pinholes vastly increases the final image brightness, as discussed previously. Therefore, clearly, fewer rays emitted by a distant object would reach the camera. This might suggest that this object could appear less bright in the image, but that is not true for the following reason.

If we double the distance between an object and the camera, the light beam detected by the camera is decreased by $1/2$ both horizontally and vertically, leading to a solid angle decreased by $1/4$, and therefore a radiant flux Φ smaller by $1/4$. However, the brightness of each point of the object projected on the sensor is given by the irradiance $R = \frac{d\Phi}{dA}$, where A denotes the area on the sensor being illuminated by the point. Given that the solid angle of the light beam is $1/4$ smaller, it follows that the area A projected on the sensor is also decreased by $1/4$, and thus the average irradiance of the object in question $\bar{R} = \frac{\Phi}{A}$ stays the same.

By comparison with the human eye, we can define a *normal lens* as a lens that replicates approximately the eye's field of view. Given that the field of view is affected by the focal length, a normal lens has its focal length approximately equal to the diagonal dimension

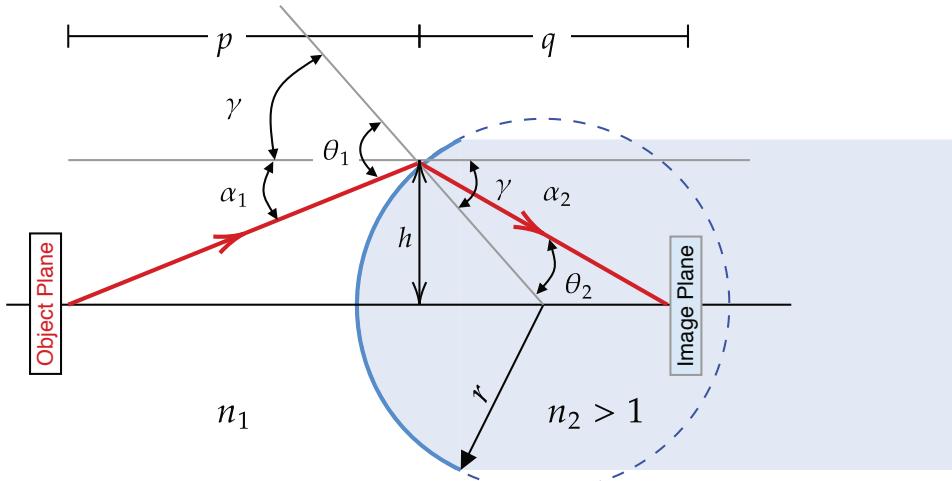


Figure 2.10: The Ray Bending Diagram for the One Surface of a Thin Lens. The ray reflected by the object (red) intersects the lens surface at distance h from the optical axis. Snell’s law governs the new direction of the ray relative to the line normal to the surface (black dotted line).

of the film or digital sensor that captures the photograph. However, in order to create a realistic perception, we need to take into account that typically we view images from a distance, which is why in practice the normal lens generates slightly larger fields of view than the biological eye. Wide angle lenses are used to capture larger areas of the scene that could not be accommodated by normal lenses. This leads to distorted looking photographs, but the effect is typically addressed with larger prints.

When one attempts to photograph a tall object in a scene such as a building, they notice the tilt effect, meaning that the object in the image seems to lean backwards. This is due to the upward tilt in the camera required to include the whole building in the image frame. Professional photographers, or architects, are interested in capturing a tall object that looks straight in the final photograph. One option is the post-processing of the image. However the problem can be solved by capturing the image with a tilt-shift lens that compensates for this effect.

In order to understand the limits of the thin lens formula, let us consider one surface of a convex lens, as in Fig. 2.10. When the ray intersects the lens surface, it is being refracted according to Snell’s law. However, because the lens surface is not flat, the incidence angle θ_1 is computed relative to the line normal to the surface. Therefore Snell’s law is

$$n_1 \sin(\theta_1) = n_2 \sin(\theta_2).$$

Furthermore, we can derive the following

$$\begin{aligned}\theta_1 &= \gamma + \alpha_1, \theta_2 = \gamma - \alpha_2, \\ \tan(\alpha_1) &= \frac{h}{p}, \tan(\alpha_2) = \frac{h}{q}, \sin(\gamma) = \frac{h}{R}.\end{aligned}$$

The trigonometric expressions above lead to rather complex calculations. Therefore it is common to use the *paraxial approximation*, which assumes that the angle between the light ray and the optical axis is very small. From trigonometry, we know that when an angle β is very small, then we can say that $\beta \approx \tan(\beta) \approx \sin(\beta)$. Using this approximation, the equations become

$$\begin{aligned}n_1\theta_1 &= n_2\theta_2, \\ \theta_1 &= \gamma + \alpha_1, \theta_2 = \gamma - \alpha_2, \\ \alpha_1 &= \frac{h}{p}, \alpha_2 = \frac{h}{q}, \gamma = \frac{h}{R}.\end{aligned}$$

If we substitute the last two lines in the first equation we have that

$$n_1 \left(\frac{1}{p} + \frac{1}{R} \right) = n_2 \left(\frac{1}{R} - \frac{1}{q} \right) \iff \frac{n_2 - n_1}{R} = \frac{n_1}{p} + \frac{n_2}{q}.$$

We now combine the equations describing light bending on both sides of the lens to yield the lens equation

$$\left(\frac{n_2}{n_1} - 1 \right) \left(\frac{1}{R_1} - \frac{1}{R_2} \right) = \frac{1}{p} + \frac{1}{q},$$

where R_1, R_2 are the radii of the two surfaces of the lens. Now let us assume that the object is located far away from the lens. In this scenario we have that

$$p \rightarrow \infty, q \rightarrow f, \alpha_{1,2} \rightarrow 0, \Theta_{1,2} \rightarrow 0, \gamma \rightarrow 0,$$

where f is the focal length of the lens, which is in line with the paraxial approximation. The lens equation then takes the following form, which is also known as the Lens Maker's Equation:

$$\left(\frac{n_2}{n_1} - 1 \right) \left(\frac{1}{R_1} - \frac{1}{R_2} \right) = \frac{1}{f}.$$

The two versions of the equation also lead to the previously introduced thin lens equation

$$\frac{1}{p} + \frac{1}{q} = \frac{1}{f}.$$

As we have seen before, this equation describes how to change the distance between the sensor and the lens in order to keep an object in focus. However, having understood its derivation, it is important to remember that it relies on the *paraxial approximation*. This means that the equation will no longer be precise for objects that are close to the lens and

not on the optical axis. Similarly, the object may not be close, but if the lens is large, then the paraxial approximation would not hold for rays intersecting the lens at its outer boundaries.

In the equations above $1/f$ is the *focusing power* of the lens. The explanation of its name is intuitive. When $1/f$ increases then q decreases, meaning that the rays converge faster and thus we say that the lens has a higher focusing power.

Let us see what happens when we place two thin lenses in a sequence. The equations are given by

$$\frac{1}{p_i} + \frac{1}{q_i} = \frac{1}{f_i}, \quad i = 1, 2.$$

In this case the rule is that the object plane of the second thin lens is located at $-q_2$, where q_2 is the focus plane of the first thin lens. Therefore $p_2 = -q_2$ and thus, by adding the equations above we get

$$\frac{1}{p_1} + \frac{1}{q_2} = \frac{1}{f_1} + \frac{1}{f_2} = \frac{1}{f_c},$$

where f_c is the focal length of the compound lens. We notice that the focusing power of the compound lens is the sum of the focusing powers of each individual lens. Conversely, we can work out the focal length of the compound lens f_c as $f_c = \frac{f_1 f_2}{f_1 + f_2}$. Intuitively, the second lens makes the rays that pass through the first lens converge even faster, therefore leading to an accumulated focusing power.

If the two lenses are separated by length d then the equation becomes Ronchi and Rosen (1991)

$$\frac{1}{p_1} + \frac{1}{q_2} = \frac{1}{f_1} + \frac{1}{f_2} - \frac{d}{f_1 f_2}.$$

A real lens does not necessarily need to be spherical. The main categories of lens shapes, defining how they bend the light, are presented in Fig. 2.11.

One may wonder why it is needed to use more than one lens. It turns out that when using a single element spherical lens the image of the object is not created on a plane, but on a sphere. This optical aberration is known as the “Petzval field curvature” or simply the field curvature. This means we cannot focus an entire object on a plane sensor, which causes the image to look blurred around the edges. Other than using complex lens designs, a hardware solution is to use a curved imaging sensor that compensates for this effect. An example of such an imaging sensor, namely, NASA’s “Kepler Focal Plane Array” is shown in Fig. 2.12.

A way to address this is to use the meniscus lens, which creates a much flatter image. However, this lens introduces chromatic aberration, meaning that it focalises different waveforms on different planes.

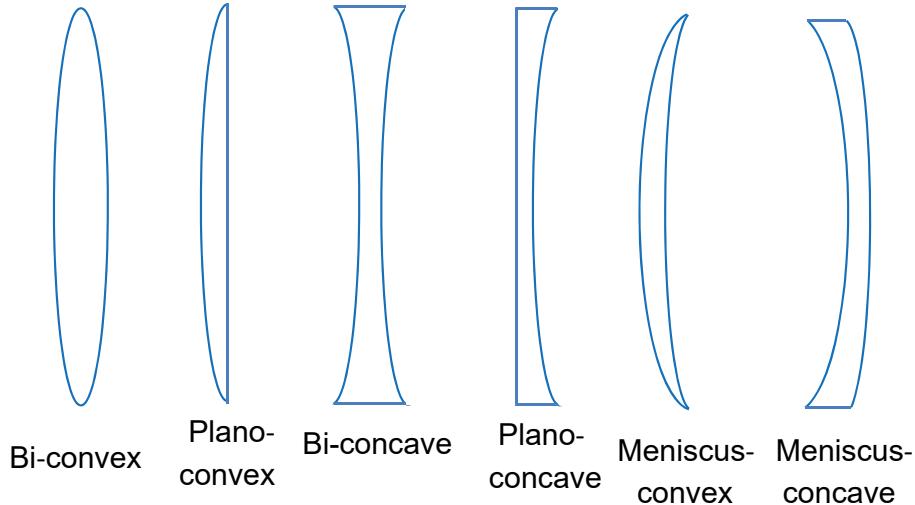


Figure 2.11: The Main Lens Types. There are several lens categories depending on the shapes of its two surfaces.

The paraxial approximation is a big constraint on the lens size and object position relative to the lens. It assumes that $\beta \approx \sin(\beta)$ for small values of β . This estimation actually comes from the Taylor series expansion of the sine which states that

$$\sin(\beta) = \beta + \frac{\beta^3}{3!} + \frac{\beta^5}{5!} + \dots$$

The estimation is more precise if we include more terms. For example, Ludwig von Seidel used the 3rd order approximation $\sin(\beta) \approx \beta + \frac{\beta^3}{3!}$ to evaluate the imperfections of lenses, and concluded that there are 5 aberrations that make real lenses bend light differently to a perfect lens. Therefore one may wonder why don't we use very high order optics in order to make better lenses? It turns out that making less regular lenses is very expensive, and it is much more affordable to use stacks of compound lenses of simple shapes.

A well known example of lens imperfection is the chromatic aberration, also called *dispersion*. The phenomenon, depicted in Fig. 2.13, causes light rays of different wavelengths to focus at variable distances from the lens. In essence, it means that the lens has a wavelength dependent focal length. One option to correct this is based on the observation that plano-concave lenses also bend different wavelengths differently, but in the opposite direction. Therefore the dispersion can be corrected by pairing up the bi-convex lens with a plano-concave lens as in Fig. 2.13. In 8.3.1, we will even see how the properties of dispersion are used in image capture setups to obtain spectral information.

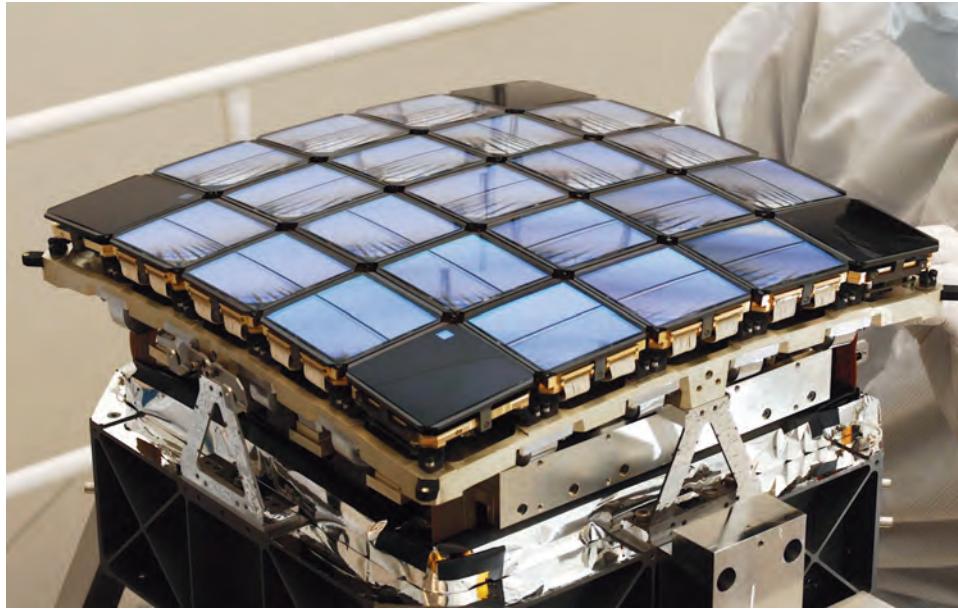


Figure 2.12: The Image Curvature Effect and the Kepler Focal Plane Array. When using a single element spherical lens it is not possible to focus a whole object on the sensor plane, and thus the edges look out of focus. Unlike conventional digital sensors, the imaging sensor array used in the Kepler space observatory is curved so that the Petzval “field curvature” can be compensated. Credit: NASA and Ball Aerospace [link].

As one might expect, using a stack of two lenses can correct the chromatic aberration for two frequencies, resulting in an *achromat* lens. The same principle can be applied by stacking up three (apochromat) and four (superchromat) lenses, which corrects three and four frequencies, respectively. However this also leads to an increase in cost.

Another lens aberration is given by the fact that a proportion of the light is reflected by each lens, bouncing back and causing flares and other undesired effects. The ratio of reflected light intensity between two materials is given by Fresnel’s equation

$$r = \sqrt{\frac{|n_2 - n_1|}{n_2 + n_1}},$$

where n_1 and n_2 are the refractive indices of the two materials, and r is the amplitude ratio of the reflected light. For the case of the air/glass reflectivity, we have that $n_1 = 1$, $n_2 = 1.5$ and this leads to $r = 0.2$. This corresponds to a ratio of reflected light intensity of $r_2 = 0.04$ or 4%. It is important to point out that this ratio of light intensity is reflected

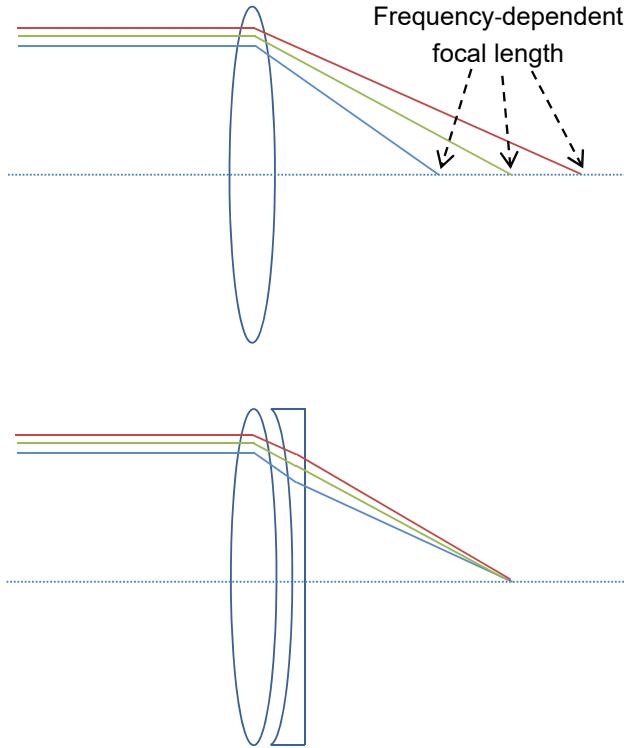


Figure 2.13: Correcting the Chromatic Aberration. Bi-convex lenses have a frequency dependent focal length. This can be corrected by pairing it with a plano-concave lens.

at the boundary of every two materials, meaning that it is specifically undesirable for large stacks of compound lenses.

The solution in this case is applying a layer of anti-reflective coating on each lens. This will not stop the reflection, but it will cancel out the reflected light to prevent the image from being distorted. The coating introduces a new boundary of reflection, and this results in two separate light reflections, one caused by the coating and the second by the glass, as depicted in Fig. 2.14. The two reflected rays are subject to the following conditions

1. The rays should have identical intensities.
2. The phases of the rays should be opposite.

These two conditions ensure that the reflections cancel each other, as shown in Fig. 2.14. Let n_1, n_2, n_3 be the refractive indices of the three regions. Assuming that $n_1 < n_2 < n_3$,

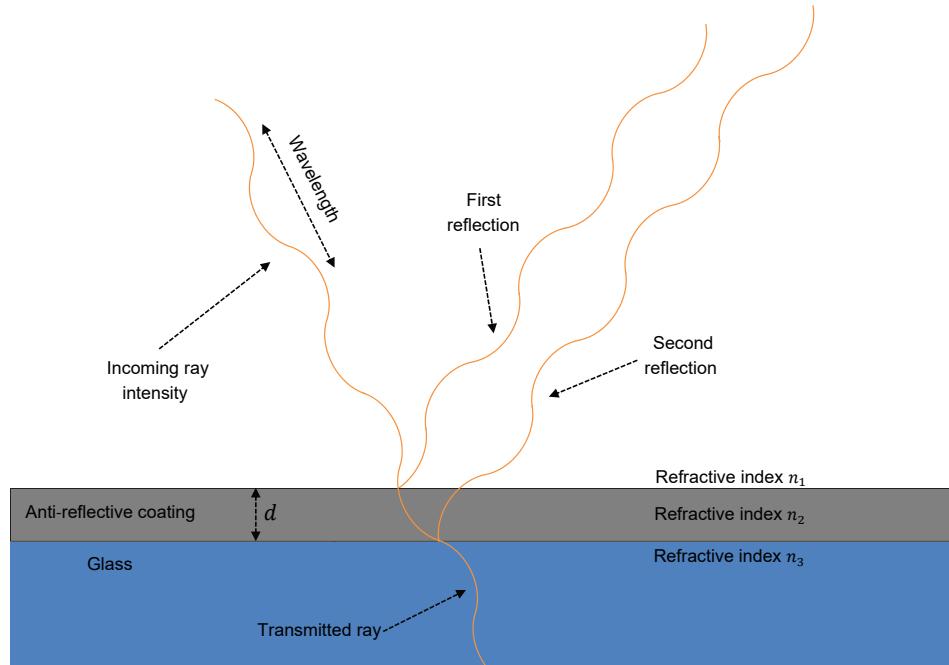


Figure 2.14: The Functioning Principle of the Anti-Reflective Coating. The incoming light ray is reflected twice by the coating layer and the glass respectively. The two reflections are in opposite phases and thus cancel each other. Here the sinusoidal curves do not represent the ray paths, but their intensities.

condition 1 can be written as

$$\frac{n_2 - n_1}{n_2 + n_1} = \frac{n_3 - n_2}{n_3 + n_2} \iff n_3 n_2 - n_3 n_1 + n_2^2 - n_2 n_1 = n_3 n_2 + n_3 n_1 - n_2^2 - n_2 n_1.$$

It is easy to see that the condition above is satisfied for $n_2 = \sqrt{n_1 n_3}$, which gives us the refractive index of the coating layer.

Condition two is satisfied by choosing the thickness of the coating layer $d = \frac{\lambda}{4}$, where λ is the wavelength of the incoming light. This ensures that by the time the second reflection travels through the coating layer twice, amounting to half of its wavelength, its phase is opposite to that of the first reflection and thus it cancels it out.

As before, this correction only works for one wavelength. Typically lenses have two or three coating layers to cover a larger portion of the spectrum.

2.1.6 Lenses and Focus

In the previous subsection we saw how Snell's law determines when a point in the scene is in focus. However, Snell's law can't be used on a regular basis to focus a camera in a real-life scenario simply because the length S_1 from the lens to the object is most of the time unknown.

In the early days of photography, focusing was done by moving the lens manually to maximise the image contrast.

One of the main methods to focus a camera is phase-based autofocus. This was used in 1977 for the first autofocus camera, called Konica C35 AF. Specifically, the autofocus system is measuring the light intensity on the sensor originating from two halves of the lens. Each of the two halves generates an intensity curve, as depicted in Fig. 2.15. The lens moves relative to the sensor plane until the two curves are in phase, which ensures that the camera is in focus.

Nowadays modern autofocus cameras embed the lens-translating motor in the lens itself. Let us look in more detail at the functioning principle of phase-based autofocus. As shown in Fig. 2.15, the system requires measurements of the intensity curves from different parts of the lens. However this is not possible using only one lens and a sensor.

The system uses a beam splitter to measure light phase coming from the opposite sides of the lens using 1D sensor arrays. The intensity curves can then be measured independently, and their phase difference is used to compute the direction and distance of the lens motion.

Alternatively, a camera can use **contrast-based autofocus**. This mechanism involves a sensor that calculates the contrast as the difference in light intensity of nearby pixels. Unlike phase-based autofocus, the direction of movement cannot be derived immediately and requires a search routine. Therefore contrast-based autofocus is slower as is used in some smaller setups such as cell-phone cameras.

A third category of focusing methods is given by **active autofocus**. This involves measuring the distance to the object independently using ultrasound waves or infrared light. This principle doesn't require a minimal contrast in the scene to work, but even so it generally leads to lower performances.

Besides choosing the right focusing mechanism, a separate problem is that the scene has several planes where the camera can focus. Some cameras automatically focus on the objects that are closest, brightest or have the highest contrast. Modern cameras perform live face detection to pick the focus plane, or allow the user to manually select the plane, typically through tapping on the desired scene point on a touchscreen.

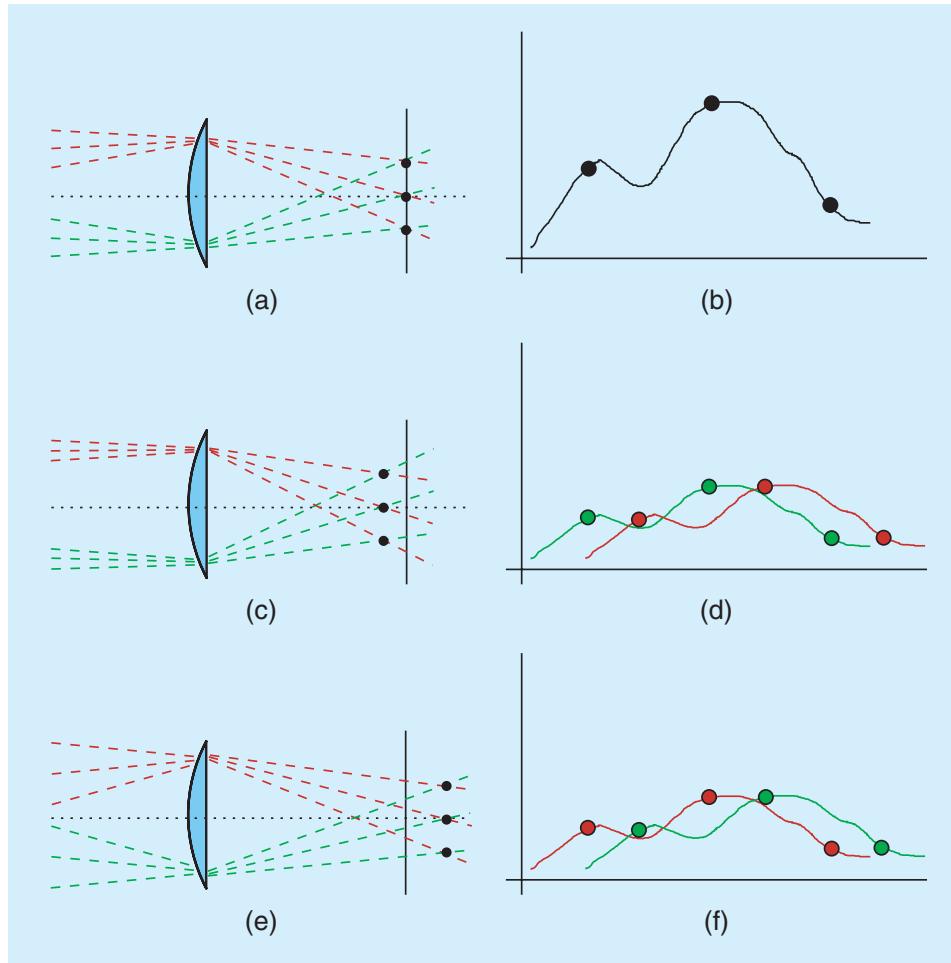


Figure 2.15: The Ray Diagrams for a Lens Bending Rays Reflected by an Object. The case when the intersection between the rays from the upper and lower half of the lens (a) falls onto the sensor plane (c) in front of the sensor plane and (e) behind the sensor plane. The corresponding intensities along the sensor plane (b), (d), (f). The green and red curves in (d), (f) show how the two lens halves generate out-of-phase intensity functions when the object is out-of-focus. The intensity curves can then be measured independently, and their phase difference is used to compute the direction and distance of the lens motion. Reprinted from Ramanath et al. (2005).

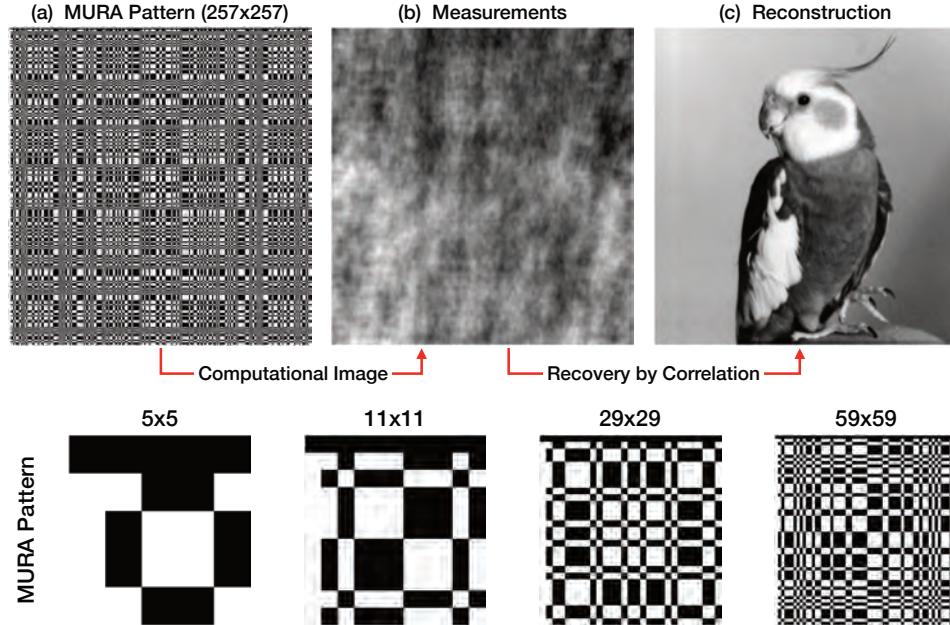


Figure 2.16: An Example of Lensless MURA Photography. (a) Mask used to capture the image. (b) Detected image. (c) Image reconstructed from the measurements. (d) MURA patterns with different matrix sizes.

2.1.7 Masks and Aperture Manipulation

In the previous subsection we saw how adding an obstacle in the light pathway, a mask with a rectangular window in its center, allowed separating the light coming from different parts of the lens and revealed information that otherwise would have been unknown: the level of focus on an object in the scene. Generally speaking, masks represent planar elements that occlude or attenuate light rays in a spatially varying fashion.

Interestingly, it is possible to fully replace the lens with a mask. Compared to lens imaging, this allows extracting new information from the image. Compared to a pinhole camera, which is using a mask with a single hole, this approach has a much higher light throughput leading to brighter images. The drawback however is that the image requires post-processing. This idea is elaborated further for different applications in 4.

One of the examples of such an application in photography is the Modified Uniformly Redundant Array (MURA) architecture, which gathers around 22,000 times more light than a pinhole camera using a mask that is almost 50% empty Gottesman and Fenimore (1989). The mask is defined by a binary matrix $A_{i,j}$ such that a value 0 represents an

occluder and a 1 denotes a gap allowing the light to pass through. The matrix $A_{i,j}$ is displayed in Fig. 2.16-(a), where white corresponds to 1 and black corresponds to 0.

The raw captured image, depicted in Fig. 2.16-(b), does not reveal a lot about the scene. However, a decoding algorithm allows recovering a high quality image Fig. 2.16-(c). Further examples of MURA patterns with different matrix sizes are shown in Fig. 2.16-(d).

The same concept was later extended by replacing the lens with a series of light-attenuating layers that can be controlled in both time and space Zomet and Nayar (2006). This setup allows extracting more information from the measurements, such as changing the viewing angle after the image was captured.

Masks have also been used together with lenses to generate images. The mask can be positioned in three places relative to the imaging system

1. On the camera aperture.
2. On the sensor.
3. On the scene.

Masks placed at the aperture level reveal many interesting properties of the scene. For example, in Farid and Simoncelli (1998) the authors compute the differentiation of the image intensity that is passing through a mask as the camera viewpoint changes. They demonstrate that two masks can be applied such that the derivatives calculated for each mask can be used to estimate the range of the scene. Later it was also shown that both conventional photographs and the corresponding depth maps can be recovered by placing a mask at the aperture of a consumer grade camera Levin et al. (2007), therefore applying a technique known as *Depth from Defocus*. Single view depth estimation can also be achieved using an end-to-end design approach, jointly designing the mask and the reconstruction algorithm Wu et al. (2019).

Rather than applying a mask, the camera aperture can be programmed to act like a mask. Taking multiple photos with various aperture sizes and shapes can be used to generate an image with much higher spatial resolution Liang et al. (2008, 2007). Sinha et al. (2017) use a lensless imaging system and model the inverse transform as a deep neural network to obtain the image phase. Further examples and several other state-of-the-art implementations are discussed in the context of spatially coded imaging in Sub-section 4.1.5.

The second option for positioning a mask is on the sensor. The most common example, existing on many consumer grade cameras, is that of the Bayer filter. A colored image is made up of three images, each capturing the intensity of one of the colors red, green or blue. Using the Bayer filter all three images can be captured at once with one single sensor

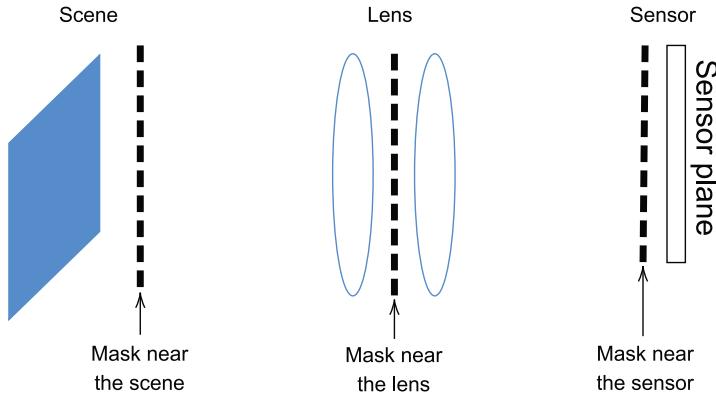


Figure 2.17: Positions for Placing a Mask in a Camera.

array, by using pixels sensitive to each of the RGB colors placed in a pattern called the Bayer pattern.

It is possible to project light only on selected regions of a sensor, an equivalent of placing a mask on a sensor, by using a Digital Micromirror Device (DMD). A DMD is essentially an array of micromirrors that have two possible orientations, reflecting the light either towards the sensor array, or away from it. A DMD was used for computing high dynamic range images, but also for performing object recognition Nayar et al. (2006). Using a DMD allowed reducing the sensor array to a single pixel Takhar et al. (2006). This is done by generating various patterns with the DMD, and directing the cumulated light towards the pixel sensor. This system was used together with compressive sensing theory to generate images of reduced size Takhar et al. (2006).

Placing a mask on the sensor or lens is easy to imagine, but placing a mask on the scene would be more difficult generally. In this case it is common to simply illuminate certain parts of a scene, while leaving others in darkness, which has a similar effect. This has been done to extract the two sources of illumination in a scene: the direct illumination by the source and the global illumination from other points in the scene Nayar et al. (2006). This separation of the sources has a practical significance because each one reveals different information about the scene. The direct component enhances the material properties of a given point, and the global component reveals the optical properties of the scene, indicating how a certain point is illuminated by other points in the scene.

2.2 Image Sensors

2.2.1 Cameras, Rays and Radiance

A point in the scene is imaged by measuring the emitted/reflected light that converges on the sensor plane. However a real sensor detects the light irradiance, which is zero if the light is absorbed by the sensor only at a point. A single-pixel detector measures the irradiance in the vicinity of the point receiving light from the scene.

Therefore the detected brightness depends on the area on the sensor that a light beam covers. In the previous section we looked at how the light falling at an angle leads to the “cosine falloff” effect, which means that the irradiance decreases with the cosine of the light incident angle. One may then wonder why when looking at a screen at an angle the image brightness does not change. The explanation of this is given by the fact that because light has an incident angle, the new perspective captures more light rays, and therefore the increased radiant intensity compensates for the larger area covered by the light beam on the sensor.

After they are processed by the camera lenses, the light rays hit the sensor, which converts them into electrical signals. The sensor affects the look of the final image with a range of parameters. First, the *light sensitivity*, or ISO, can be used to brighten up dark images. However, increasing the ISO also generates a noisier image. Moreover, the *dynamic range*, defined as the range of luminance the sensor is able to detect, has a strong impact on the clarity of the resulting image, especially if it contains both bright and dark areas. The *tonal range*, on the other hand, is given by the actual number of tones captured by the camera, and is affected by other sensor parameters such as ISO. The sensitivity of the sensor to colour is called *wavelength sensitivity*, and can be adjusted on most cameras using the colour-balance or saturation settings. The clarity of an image is, of course, strongly influenced by the sensor *spatial resolution*, or the number of pixels on the sensor.

To view an object clearly, it must be at *focusing distance* from the lens. That is because the light rays reflected by the points at focus distance converge on the sensor. When the camera focuses on a different object, it changes the distance between the sensor and the lens, which in turns changes the focusing distance. A focus measure can be used to determine the right lens position to keep an image in focus. Fig. 2.18 depicts the focus measure as a function of a lens’ position, and three captured images with different lens positions.

The depth of field is defined as the distance between the closest and farthest points in the scene that the camera can focus on. The longest depth of field is achieved by a camera with short focal length and small aperture. Even if points in the distant part of the scene may be out-of-focus, a small aperture decreases how much the light rays diverge when they arrive

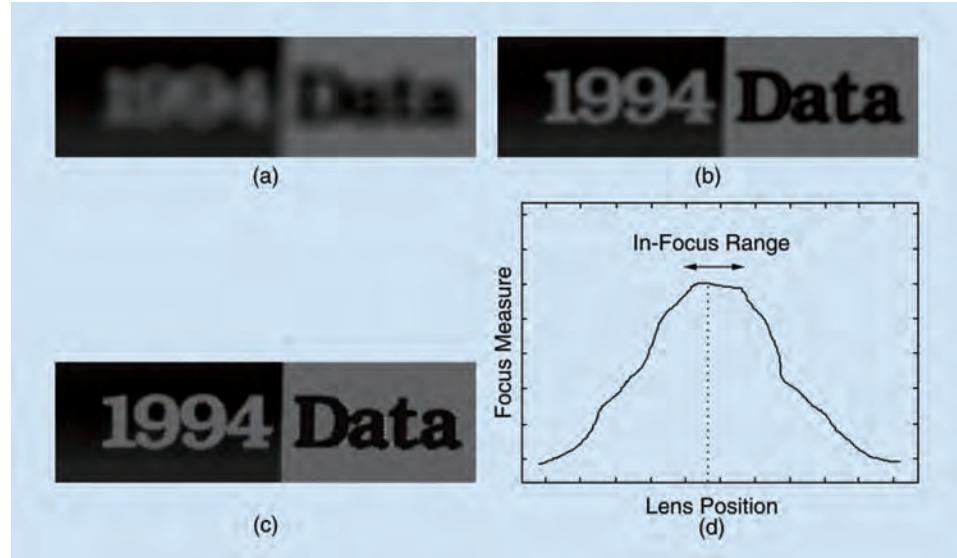


Figure 2.18: Imaging for Different Lens Positions. An image captured with a gradually improved focus (a-c). A focus measure as a function of the lens position, which is maximised when the image is in focus (d). Reprinted from Ramanath et al. (2005).

at the sensor. The human eye is subject to the same effect. That is why squinting can help focus better on objects that are far away.

It can be observed that, in a camera, achieving a long depth of field will typically lead to a darker image due to the small aperture. This can be fixed by increasing the exposure time. If this scene is dynamic, this would cause motion blur. Increasing the ISO instead addresses the brightness issue, but adds additional noise to the measurements.

The sensor is affected by several types of noise, where each type is more prevalent in certain imaging environments. The *read noise* consists of the sensor pixel noise, and also the noise generated by the analog-to-digital converter. This noise determines the contrast of the captured image, and is affecting in a different way the CMOS and the CCD sensors, since in the latter the ADC is not part of the actual sensor. The *shot noise* is due to the discrete nature of electrons captured by the potential well, and is more prevalent in brighter environments. A larger potential well is desired to address this type of noise.

Mathematically, the read noise is considered the Gaussian part of the noise, caused by stationary disturbances, and the shot noise is the Poissonian part, caused by the sensing of photons. Their names are given according to the distributions that model their values. As the screens have higher and higher resolutions, the pixel sizes decrease and the sensitivity to

photon noise increases for each pixel. Thus the shot noise is nowadays the main contributor to noise in imaging sensors.

The overall noise is thus signal-dependent, very different from the usual additive white Gaussian noise that is very common in image processing. The limited dynamic range of pixels leads in many cases to over-exposure, or capturing light close to the maximum capacity per pixel. This effect further enhances signal-dependent noise.

The measurements $z(x, y)$ from a sensor at each pixel are given by

$$z(x, y) = I(x, y) + \sigma(I(x, y))\zeta(x, y),$$

where x, y are the pixel position in 2D, $I(x, y)$ is the light signal, $\zeta(x, y)$ is the Gaussian noise of zero mean and standard deviation 1, and $\sigma(I(x, y))$ is the signal dependent standard deviation. In the equation above, we are trying to estimate $I(x, y)$ and $\sigma(I(x, y))$ from measurements $z(x, y)$.

To separate the influences of Gaussian and Poissonian noise, we write the measurements deviation as Foi et al. (2008)

$$z(x, y) = I(x, y) + \sigma(I(x, y))\zeta(x, y) = I(x, y) + \eta_p(I(x, y)) + \eta_g(x, y).$$

The noise distributions can be written as follows

$$\begin{aligned} I(x, y) + \eta_p(I(x, y)) &\sim a \cdot P(a \cdot I(x, y)), \\ \eta_g(x, y) &\sim \mathcal{N}(0, b), \end{aligned}$$

where $P(r)$ is the Poisson distribution and $\mathcal{N}(m, v)$ is the Gaussian distribution with mean m and variance v . It turns out that the standard deviation has the expression Foi et al. (2008)

$$\sigma(I(x, y)) = \sqrt{a \cdot I(x, y) + b}.$$

Denoising is a common process in signal processing. However, removing a signal dependent noise is a more challenging task. In Foi et al. (2008), the authors employ an algorithm in several steps to recover the image $I(x, y)$ and also estimate the varying standard deviation $\sigma(I(x, y))$. First, the image needs to be divided in smooth regions. To this end, they employ edge detection via segmentation. Second, they compute a *local estimation* of the standard deviation in the smooth regions. This is based on the assumption that the changing standard deviation is relatively constant in a local small region. Lastly, a *global model* of the noise is fit using local measurements.

2.2.2 Digital Image Formation

The world as we see it using our eyes is a continuous three-dimensional function of the spatial coordinates. A photograph is a two-dimensional map of the “no of photons” that map from the three-dimensional scene. In film based photography, this map is a continuous function. However, when referring to a digital image, the corresponding two-dimensional function is a discrete representation because the number of pixels used for imaging are discrete and finitely many. Hence, we can think of an image as a mathematical representation of a physical entity that describes a function over spatial coordinates. The individual pixels are the basic elements of the discrete representation of the continuous scene and in analogy to one-dimensional case, these are the samples of a function with reference to the Shannon-Nyquist sampling formula. Consequently, we must bear in mind that the image is merely a representation of the scene and not the continuous scene itself. To understand the basis of the image formation process, we must understand the physical laws that govern such a process.

From a mathematical standpoint, the image can be seen as a mapping from the spatial domain to the range of the imaging sensor. Let \mathbf{r} refer to the spatial coordinates in the cartesian plane, then the image $\mathbf{I} : S \rightarrow P$ is a mapping from the scene to the pixel domain such that each $\mathbf{r} \in S$ is mapped to $\mathbf{I}(\mathbf{r}) \in P$.

In the case of color imaging, for every point \mathbf{r} in the two-dimensional space, we obtain three values per pixel, namely the red, green and blue values (in intensity). Hence, the resulting image can be represented as the following function that maps a vector to a vector,

$$\mathbf{r} \in \mathbb{R}^2 \rightarrow \mathbf{I}(\mathbf{r}) = \begin{bmatrix} \text{Red}(\mathbf{r}) \\ \text{Green}(\mathbf{r}) \\ \text{Blue}(\mathbf{r}) \end{bmatrix} \in \mathbb{R}^3.$$

In contrast, when working with monochromatic images, we have a simpler mapping of the form $\mathbf{r} \in \mathbb{R}^2 \rightarrow \mathbf{I}(\mathbf{r}) \in \mathbb{R}$.

In order to store the data defined by $\mathbf{I}(\mathbf{r})$ on a computer, it needs to be processed in two stages: sampling and quantization. The luminance values, given by the values of $\mathbf{I}(\mathbf{r})$, are always positive and belong to a restricted interval.

In order to be stored or processed by digital devices, the luminance value is mapped to a set of finite values, typically $\{0, 1, \dots, 255\}$, which is also known as quantization. In the case of coloured images, each colour is mapped to one of the 256 possible values. In the case of monochromatic images, some sensors employ a higher resolution, with values encoded in 12 bits, *i.e.*, in the range $\{0, 1, \dots, 4095\}$. The choice of the resolution is dependent on two factors: the images captured and the processing to be performed. For example, computed tomography (CT) images use more than 10 bits, while a low grade webcam around 6 per

colour. More complex processing, such as gradient calculations, also require a higher resolution for good results.

Quantization guarantees an image luminance can only take one of a finite number of possible values. However, the image has an infinite number of points. Therefore we need to sample the values of the images along each axis and define a new sampled image $\mathbf{I}_s(i, j) = \mathbf{I}(i\Delta x, j\Delta y)$, where $r_{i,j} = (i\Delta x, j\Delta y)$ denotes the sampled spatial coordinates, and Δx and Δy denote the sampling distances along x and y , respectively. Here, $\mathbf{I}_s(i, j)$ represents a pixel, which is the picture element. It is important to point out that the pixel is a point sample taken from the image, and is not a small square of measurable dimensions as is the common misconception. When the image is 3D instead of 2D, then the pixel is called a voxel, which are point samples in a 3D space.

2.2.3 Image Interpolation

After the continuous image was sampled and quantized, it is important that we can compute the values of the original continuous image at any desired coordinates. The process of computing the value of $\mathbf{I}(x, y)$ at locations different from the sampling points is called interpolation. One may ask, can the interpolation work for any choice of the sampling distances Δx and Δy ? It turns out that the maximum sampling distances are a function of the image bandwidth, and the values represent an extension of the Shannon sampling theory, originally introduced for time samples. For now, we will assume the sampling distances Δx and Δy are small enough such that the samples are a good representation of the image. The luminance function $\mathbf{I}(x, y)$ is sampled along a two dimensional space. Let us first look at some examples for interpolating one dimensional functions $g(x)$ using the sampled function $g_S(k) = g(k)$. Notice that for simplicity we use a sampling interval of 1.

Nearest neighbour interpolation: As the name suggests, this method selects the sample value located at the nearest sampling location, without calculating a new value. This is a very computationally inexpensive interpolation method, but doesn't always generate useful results in practice. The values of the new samples are computed as $\widehat{g}(x) = g_S([x + \frac{1}{2}])$, where $[]$ denotes the round function, and $[x + \frac{1}{2}]$ denotes the integer closest to x . The function $\widehat{g}(x)$ is depicted in Fig. 2.19 for $g(x) = \sin(x)$. You can notice how the function closely resembles $g(x)$ at the sample points, and is very different from $g(x)$ in between the sampling points.

Linear interpolation: This is a slightly more complex interpolation with improved results. If for nearest neighbors we needed one sample, here we use two samples to calculate the interpolation at a new location. The expression of the interpolated function in this case is

$$\widehat{g}(x) = (1 - (x - k)) \cdot g_S(k) + (x - k) \cdot g_S(k + 1), \quad x \in [k, k + 1].$$

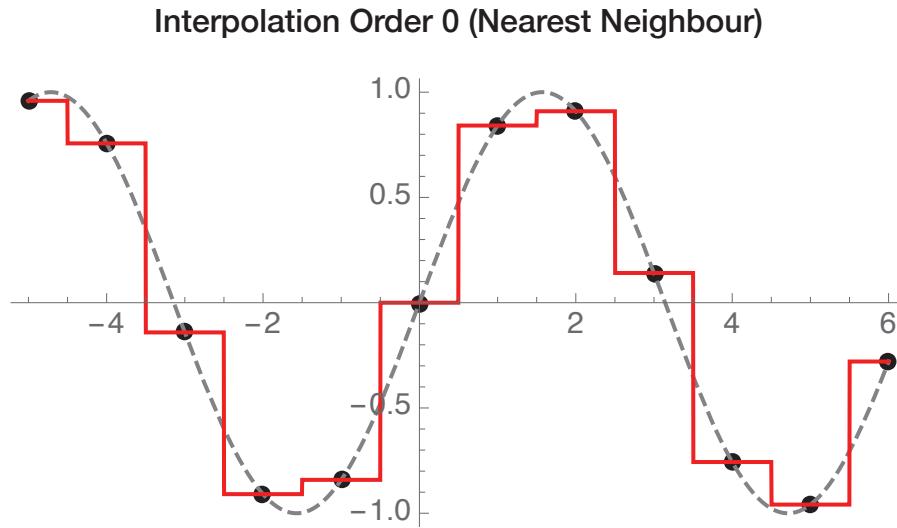


Figure 2.19: The Nearest Neighbour Interpolation. The original continuous function $g(x) = \sin(x)$ (dashed line) and the interpolation $\hat{g}(x)$ (solid line).

The interpolated function $\hat{g}(x)$ is, in this case, continuous in the mathematical sense, *i.e.*, it contains no jumps. However, it is not differentiable in the sampling points.

Higher order interpolation: The nearest neighbor and linear interpolations can be increased in complexity. Each of the two methods are essentially fitting a polynomial of degree 0 (nearest neighbor) and 1 (linear) to a number of samples, and the new sample value is computed as the fitted polynomial evaluated in the new sample location of interest. For example cubic interpolation refers to fitting polynomials of degree 3 of the form

$$\hat{g}(x) = c_1 x^3 + c_2 x^2 + c_3 x + c_4, \quad x \in [k, k+1].$$

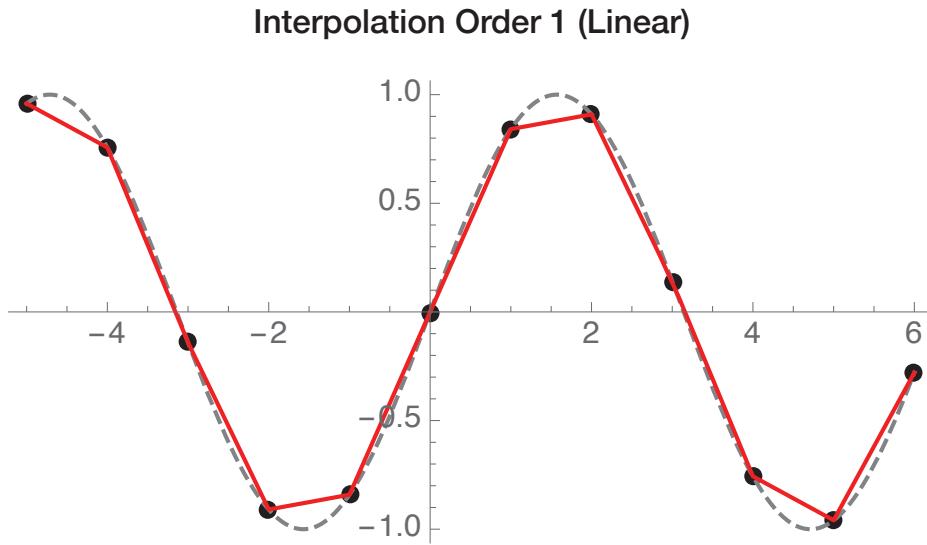


Figure 2.20: The Linear Interpolation. The original continuous function $g(x) = \sin(x)$ (dashed line) and the interpolation $\hat{g}(x)$ (solid line).

The values of the coefficients c_1, c_2, c_3, c_4 can be computed analytically from the known samples

$$\begin{aligned}c_1 &= \frac{1}{6} (-g_S(k-1) + 3g_S(k) - 3g_S(k+1) + g_S(k+2)), \\c_2 &= \frac{1}{2} (-g_S(k-1) - 2g_S(k) + g_S(k+1)), \\c_3 &= \frac{1}{6} (-2g_S(k-1) - 3g_S(k) + 6g_S(k+1) - g_S(k+2)), \\c_4 &= g_S(k).\end{aligned}$$

Clearly, this is a more complex interpolation, but it leads to very good results, depicted in Fig. 2.21.

Image 2D interpolation: Once the 1D interpolation is understood, generalising to 2D is straightforward. Specifically, it is made up of two components: interpolating in the x direction, and in the y direction. For linear interpolation, the linear interpolation of an

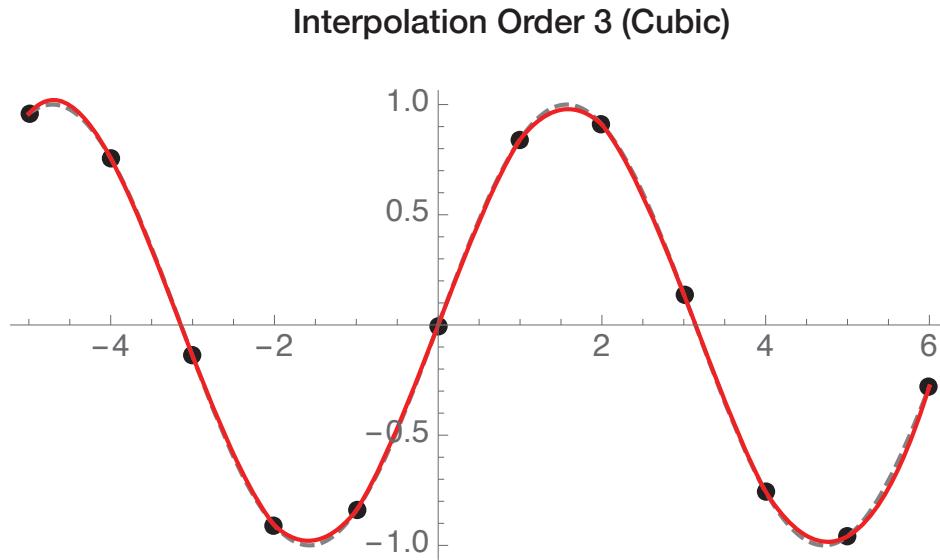


Figure 2.21: The Cubic Interpolation. The original continuous function $g(x) = \sin(x)$ (dashed line) and the interpolation $\hat{g}(x)$ (solid line).

image at points x, y , denoted as $\hat{\mathbf{I}}(x, y)$, is computed as

$$\begin{aligned}\hat{\mathbf{I}}(x, y) = & (1 - (x - i))(1 - (y - j))\mathbf{I}_S(i, j) \\ & + (1 - (x - i))(y - j)\mathbf{I}_S(i, j + 1) \\ & + (x - i)(1 - (y - j))\mathbf{I}_S(i + 1, j) \\ & + (x - i)(y - j)\mathbf{I}_S(i + 1, j + 1),\end{aligned}$$

where $x \in [i, i + 1]$ and $y \in [j, j + 1]$ are the coordinates of the interpolation point. An example of a 2D linear interpolation is depicted in Fig. 2.22.

Let us now see what happens to a real image during the process of sampling. To enhance the effect on high frequencies, we start with a checkerboard pattern with a tilted view, as shown in Fig. 2.23.

The image high spatial frequencies are mostly located at the top, where the squares are smaller and closer together. You can see that simply downsampling the image, in this case by discarding one out of two pixels on both spatial dimensions, leads to distortions in the top part with high frequencies. These distortions, called aliasing,

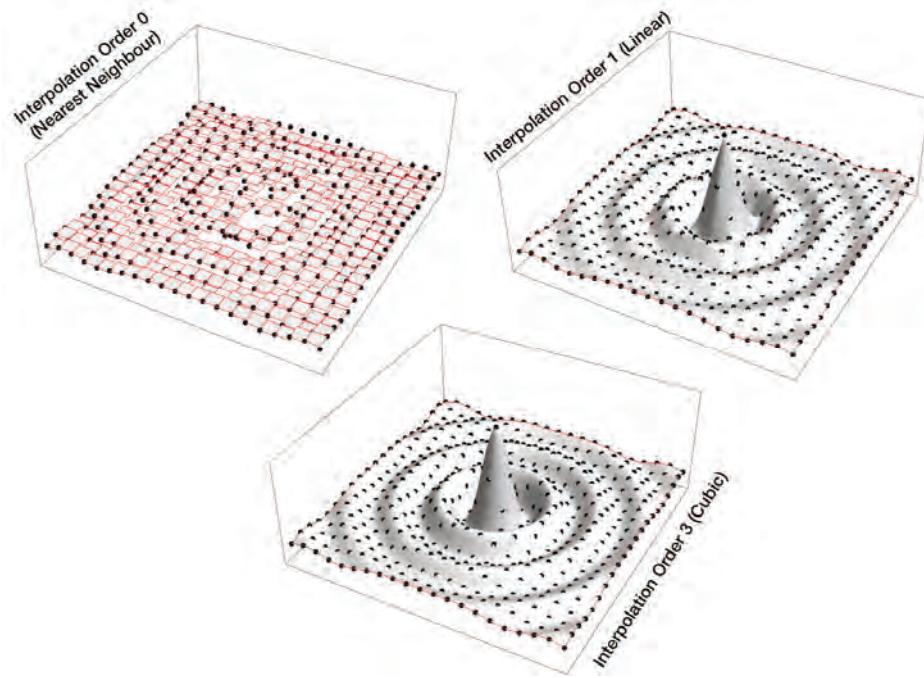


Figure 2.22: The Linear 2D Interpolation. The original samples $\mathbf{I}_S(i, j)$ (black dots) and the interpolation $\widehat{\mathbf{I}}(x, y)$ (gray mesh). Here, the samples were taken from the function $\mathbf{I}(x, y) = \frac{\sin(\sqrt{x^2+y^2})}{\sqrt{x^2+y^2}}$.

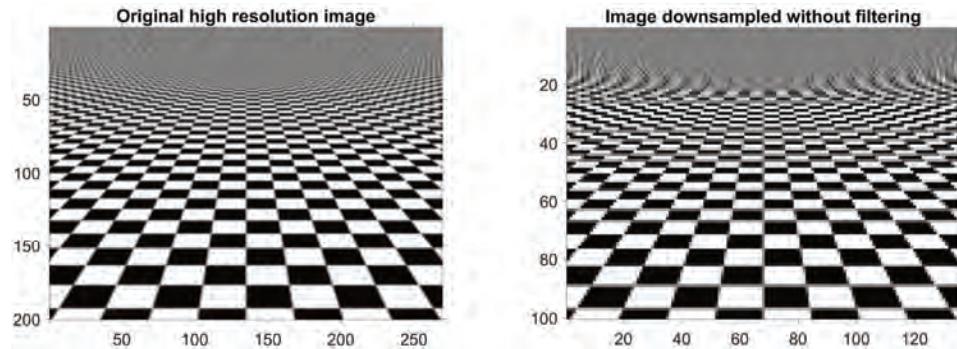


Figure 2.23: Image Downsampling without Filtering. The original image (left) is downsampled by a factor of two (right). The aliasing effect can be viewed particularly for the high spatial frequencies at the top of the image.

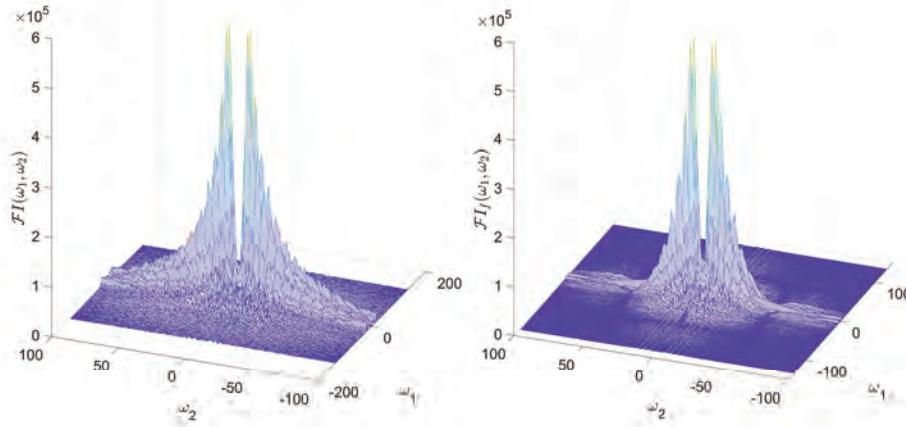


Figure 2.24: Image Filtering in the Frequency Domain. The Fourier transform of the original image and of the image filtered with a boxcar function.

are explained theoretically by Shannon's Nyquist rate formula, which states that the sampling frequency f_s should satisfy

$$f_s \geq 2f_{\text{MAX}},$$

where f_{MAX} is the maximum frequency in the signal, and $2f_{\text{MAX}}$ is known as the Nyquist rate (3.2.1). Therefore, to get good results after sampling an image, we can filter it. In Fig. 2.24 you can see the Fourier transform of the original image $\mathcal{F}[\mathbf{I}(\omega_1, \omega_2)]$ and that of the image filtered with a boxcar function $\mathcal{F}[\mathbf{I}_f(\omega_1, \omega_2)]$. The original image has frequency components near the edge of the frequency domain. A downsampled image has a reduced frequency domain, and therefore we need to remove the high frequencies up to half of the maximum frequency in the signal via filtering to satisfy Shannon's Nyquist rate condition. On the right-hand side of Fig. 2.24 we see that the filtered spectrum is still surrounded by four small lobes. This is because the boxcar function is not an ideal low-pass filter, and its Fourier transform is a cardinal sine function.

If we perform downsampling on this new filtered image, we notice the aliasing effect is barely visible, as depicted in Fig. 2.25.

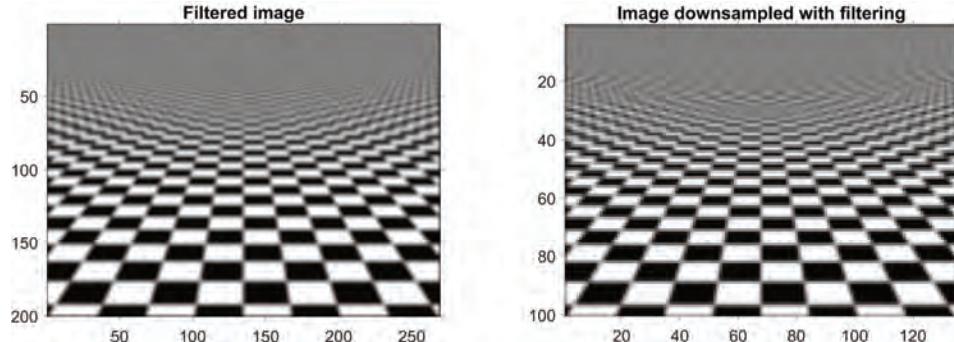


Figure 2.25: Image Downsampling with Filtering. The original image is filtered with a boxcar function (left) and subsequently downsampled by a factor of two (right).

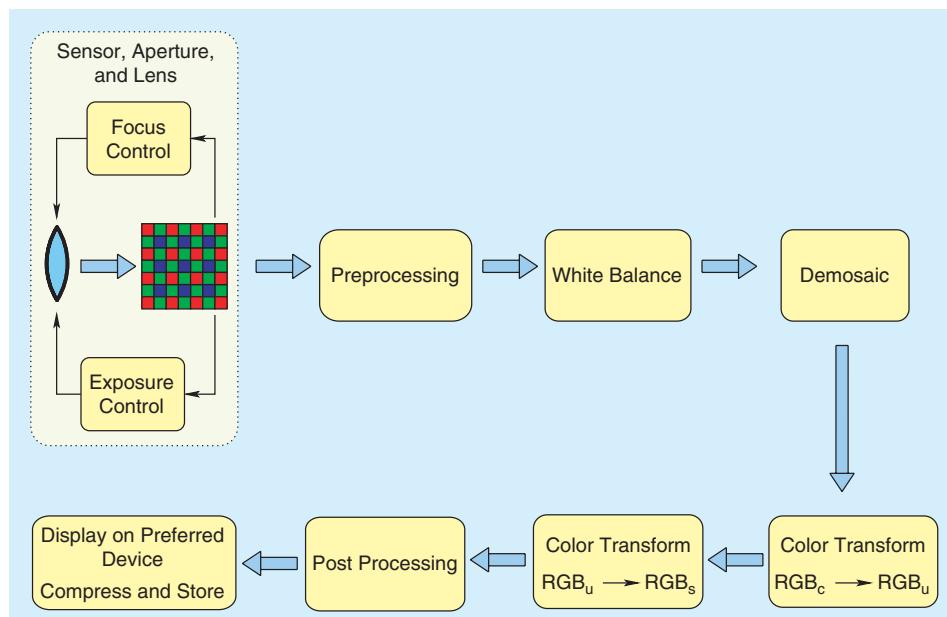


Figure 2.26: The Main Steps in the Digital Imaging Pipeline. Reprinted from Ramanath et al. (2005).

2.2.4 Digital Imaging Pipeline

The transformation stages from the light rays reflected by the scene to the final image files on our computers is called the digital imaging pipeline. It consists of a few major stages, depicted in Fig. 2.26.

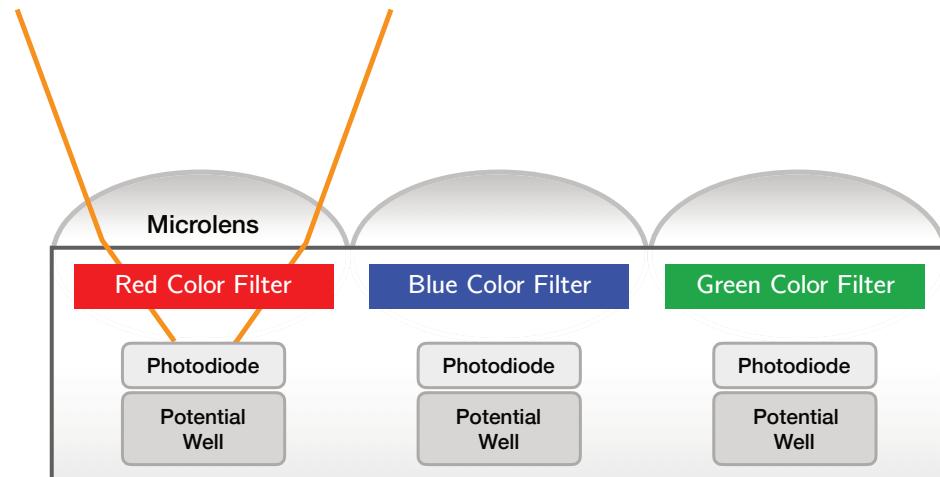


Figure 2.27: The Basic Components of a CMOS Camera Sensor.

First, the light reflected by the scene is manipulated using the optical parameters, such as aperture and exposure time, which bend the light and direct it towards the sensor. The sensors have evolved a lot during the centuries, and nowadays there are two main categories: charged coupled device (CCD) and complementary metal oxide semiconductor (CMOS). The CCD is based on a MOS capacitor, and is mainly used in high-end cameras due to its high price and power consumption. The CMOS is based on MOSFET transistors, and is a lot more consumer friendly, with a lower power consumption and a more affordable price. It is more prone to noise, but this can be partly tackled with digital denoising. Therefore we will focus on CMOS sensors for this presentation.

The CMOS sensor itself is equipped with a microlens for each pixel, which has the effect of increasing the amount of light captured by that pixel. The light then passes through a colour filter, which extracts the wavelengths relevant for each of the red, green and blue colours. Then, the filtered light hits the photodiode which generates electrons in response. Those electrons are then stored in the potential well. The diagram of a sensor is depicted in Fig. 2.27. Only 3 pixels are displayed for simplicity. The sensitivity of each colour filter to each wavelength are depicted in Fig. 2.28.

In a full commercial sensor, the colour filters are not uniformly distributed. They follow a specific pattern, called the colour filter array, which determines the final look of the image. One of the very common colour filter arrays is the Bayer filter, which contains 50% green filters, 25% blue and 25% red. This is inspired by the fact that the human retina uses cone cells during day time, which are most sensitive to green light. The image generated by the sensor is therefore called a *mosaiced* image, due to the mix of different colour pixels.

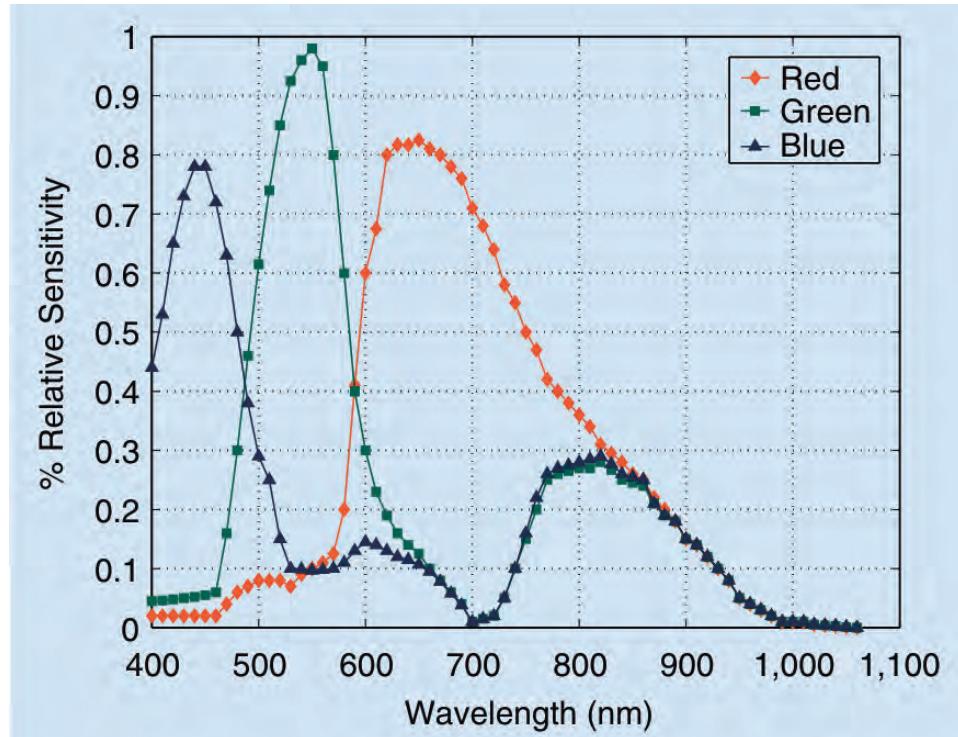


Figure 2.28: Spectral Sensitivities in Digital Colour Cameras. Reprinted from Ramanath et al. (2005).



Figure 2.29: The Analog Front End in the Digital Processing Pipeline.

The potential well of each pixel generates an analog voltage signal that enters the pre-processing pipeline, consisting of several stages. First, the voltage is processed with the analog front-end, depicted in Fig. 2.29. This converts the analog mosaiced image from the sensor outputs into the raw digital mosaiced image. First, the analog voltage is passed through an amplifier, whose gain is modulated by the ISO settings of the camera. The gain is larger for pixels farther from the image center, due to the vignetting effect, which darkens the extremities of an image. Second, the analog-to-digital (ADC) converter generates a digital signal, usually with sizes of 10-16 bits. Third, the sensor suffers from nonlinearities in the extremities of its range (very bright or very dark pixels), which is corrected using a look-up

table. A look-up table simply maps an output value to any possible input value, and is a very fast technique to process digital signals. Gruev and Etienne-Cummings (2002) implement a pseudogeneral image processor chip that enables steerable spatial and temporal filters at the focal-plane.

The output image of the analog front-end is called the raw image. Many consumer grade cameras allow access to this format, because many applications, such as physics based computer vision, work much better on raw images than processed ones. However, they do not look very appealing due to a high level of noise, and unsuitable colour balancing.

The next processing stage adjusts the white balance of the raw digital images. This is necessary because what a person sees as white has a lot to do with the perception of the scene. Therefore, the white balance is adjusted by imposing an assumption on the image colouring. One way to do it is assuming that the average colour of an image is gray, called gray world assumption. A different method, called white world assumption, assumes the brightest object in the scene to be white. However, modern cameras use histogram based algorithms, assuming specific proportions of various colours.

Next, recall that at this stage the image is still a mosaic of colours, meaning that each pixel stores colour specific information. We need to turn this mosaiced image into three images, corresponding to the colours red, green and blue. However, the red and green information is lost at the location of a blue pixel. So how can this information be recovered? This can be done by interpolation, and even simple algorithms averaging the nearest neighbors can achieve good results. The three images at this stage are still strongly affected by noise. Therefore, typically a denoising stage is applied, such as averaging or computing the median of the neighboring pixels.

The psychologically human perceived colours are mapped to light wavelengths using colour spaces. They allow a reproducible representation of colour. These mappings are denoted in the diagram as colour transformations. Examples of such colour spaces are CIEXYZ and ISO-RGB Ramanath et al. (2005).

After all these steps, the image still does not look natural. That is because light detection in the human retina is nonlinear as a function of the luminance, more sensitive to dark tones, while for a camera, this relationship is linear. To address this, a subsequent post processing step is employed. Because the nonlinear function in the case of the human eye resembles the mathematical function gamma, the process that compensates for this effect is called gamma correction. After this step, the image appearance to the human eye is significantly improved, but it still takes a lot of space. This motivates the final step, called compression, which decreases the image size by a third. The final result is an appealing image in a compressed format, such as a jpeg or png.

2.3 Illumination

The use of lighting is something that has not evolved a great deal since the beginnings of photography. It can be argued that it is the main thing that distinguishes an amateur photographer from a professional. A professional photographer measures the light intensity and then selects manually the right camera parameters such as ISO sensitivity, exposure time, aperture. In automated cameras these parameters are selected automatically, however this choice does not always lead to the most pleasing picture.

Similar to ISO or exposure time, there are a few parameters that can be adjusted for the camera lighting:

- duration and intensity
- presence or absence of auxiliary lighting
- color, wavelength, polarization
- position and orientation
- modulation in space and time

Each of the parameters above will be discussed separately below.

2.3.1 Duration and Intensity

Capturing fast moving objects is possible using high shutter speeds. Even so, these are quite limited given that they involve moving mechanical parts.

This means that we won't be able to capture certain physical phenomena in this way. An alternative is to use fast bursting flashes of light with electronic devices called strobes.

An iconic example is the “Bullet through Apple” image captured by MIT Professor, Harold Edgerton.

This is one of the examples of a technique called strobe photography, developed in the 1930s, which uses light and sound to trigger the flash burst with precise timing. A natural continuation of strobe photography was high frame rate film. By combining the short light bursts of strobes with the high sensitivity of CCD and CMOS sensors developed in the 1980s, the manufacturers developed cameras with ultra-short exposures. This technology today evolved to the point where affordable cameras reach up to 300 frames per second at a 0.2 MB resolution, and high end cameras reach 2,570 frames per second at Full HD (2 MB) resolution.

A different way to exploit the capabilities of strobe photography is to generate several bursts in one camera exposure, called *sequential multiflash stroboscopy*. Typically this is done

with a dark background, and the bursting frequency and duration is set so that the different frames of the object in motion do not overlap.

2.3.2 Auxiliary Lighting

The flash illumination is currently in built in most of today's cameras. By adjusting the illumination when capturing images, it is possible to extract various features. In Dicarlo et al. (2001) the authors recovered the object reflectivity using two snapshots with ambient lighting and flash, respectively. Taking photos with flash with various intensities makes it possible to simulate images captured with a continuous level of flash Hoppe and Toyama (2003).

The use of flash is clearly necessary when the ambient lighting is low. However, if there is relatively enough ambient light, is it recommended to use flash? Flash photographs are known to lead to images with clear high-frequency details, and also with more noise robustness. However, ambient light is part of the scene, and we may want to capture it. Moreover, flash photographs look rather unnatural due to the artificial lighting. It is possible to combine a flash photograph with one captured with ambient light to achieve the advantages of both methodologies Petschnigg et al. (2004); Raskar et al. (2004). Specifically, the methods generate a new image incorporating the details separated from the flash photo and shadows from the ambient light photo. The separation is performed using an imaging processing technique called *joint bilateral filter*.

Similarly, a bilateral filter can be used to simply denoise the image captured without flash Tomasi and Manduchi (1998). Typically when an image is filtered, the details are removed together with the noise. When using a bilateral filter, an intensity similarity measure cancels out the filter effect in areas where there are image details, quantified as high frequencies in the flash image. This technique is prone to errors and artefacts when the flash image contains shadows - which would be interpreted as details by the bilateral filter, or when it is overexposed - which means that the details would be dimmed or removed altogether. This would cause the bilateral filter to remove details from the ambient image, or to leave unfiltered areas with no detail.

As mentioned before, the bilateral filter method fails when the flash saturates portions of the image. Similarly, as sensors have predefined dynamic ranges, the flash might lead to colors too bright to be captured. In a different scenario, objects could be located at different distances from the flash, and therefore a low intensity would not illuminate the far away objects, and a high intensity would saturate or “blow out” the close-by points in the scene. The solution is, as in the case of the ambiental light image, to combine the beneficial characteristics of several images into one high quality image. In this case the authors in Raskar et al. (2008) combine images captured with various flash intensities to generate a single high dynamic range (HDR) image.

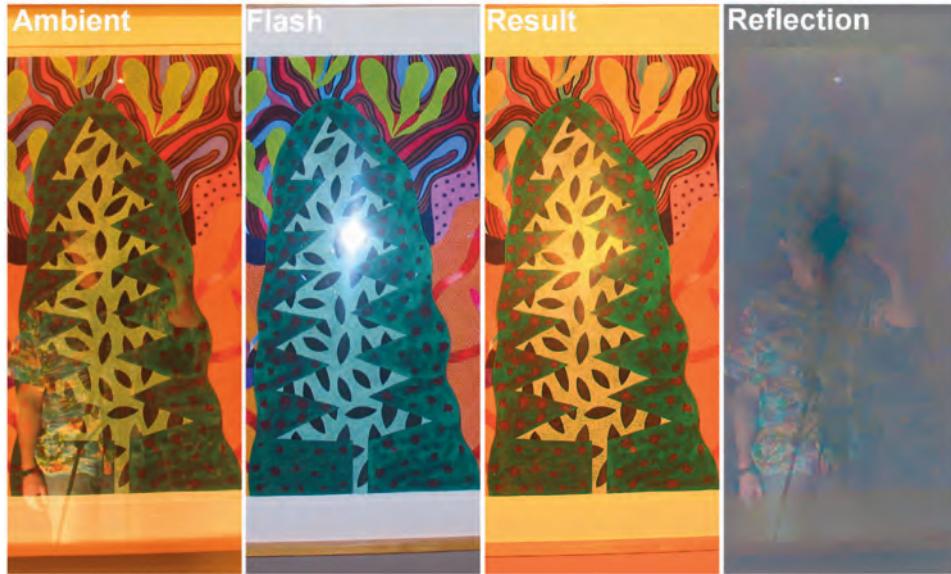


Figure 2.30: Removing Artifacts from a Flash Image. The image gradients are used to locate the image artefact and remove it. Subsequently, the isolated artefact can be integrated to generate an image of the photographer. Reprinted from Agrawal et al. (2005).

Another way to address the artefacts in flash images is to compute the *gradient vector* for the flash and ambient light image Raskar et al. (2008). The gradient vector in a pixel is the direction in which the intensity change is most abrupt. Therefore it is intuitive that the gradient at an edge is perpendicular on the edge for all pixels close to it. Using this observation, an artefact is located at pixels where there is significant difference in gradient vector orientation between the ambient light and flash image. This technique is called “gradient coherence” Raskar et al. (2008).

An interesting research question is if an image can be reconstructed from its generated gradient vectors. The gradient is typically implemented as a difference

$$\Delta\mathbf{I}(x, y) = [\mathbf{I}(x + 1, y) - \mathbf{I}(x, y), \mathbf{I}(x, y + 1) - \mathbf{I}(x, y)].$$

Therefore the problem of reconstructing \mathbf{I} seems trivial, *i.e.*, recovering through the cumulative summation of $\Delta\mathbf{I}(x, y)$. However, complications arise when the gradient is not consistent, meaning that the result is dependent on the path along which summation is done. There have been several methods addressing this issue Agrawal et al. (2006). In Agrawal et al. (2005), the authors use gradient vector projection to combine an ambient and flash image into a high quality image with ambiental features Fig. 2.30. Interestingly,



Figure 2.31: Generating Synthetic Colored Lighting using Conventional Illumination. An image is captured using ambient light, and subsequently with lighting from the left direction (left) and right (middle). By subtracting the images with artificial lighting from the ambiental image it is possible to generate synthetic colored lighting (right). Reprinted from Haeberli (1992).

the residuals from the flash image gradients can be integrated to recover an image of the photographer, not visible in the original flash image.

2.3.3 Modifying Color, Wavelength and Polarization

So far we looked at white illumination with varying intensity to achieve desired image characteristics. By choosing a flash containing specific colors allows performing programmable color manipulations on images. For example, two colors can look the same 8.2.3 or different depending on the type of lighting during capture, which could be alleviated by modulating the illumination wavelength (8.3.4).

This is also used in fluorescence photography, which exploits the fact that fluorescent surfaces emit low frequency light in response to high frequency illumination. In this case, the light source emits ultraviolet light, and the camera filters out non-visible light, thus capturing only the reflection of fluorescent surfaces.

Colored lighting can be simulated using photographs captured with conventional lighting. In Haeberli (1992), the authors use two lamps with white light on each side of the subject, and capture three photographs: one with ambient lighting, and two with lighting from each direction. By subtracting the ambient light image from the other two, it is possible to quantify the contribution of each lamp. Then, through software manipulation, they simulated an image where each light source has a different wavelength Fig. 2.31.

2.3.4 Modifying Position and Orientation

If we can alter the illumination of a scene, we can reveal different surface details otherwise hidden from view (4.3). One example is locating shape discontinuities, which are depth differences between various patches of the scene. This connects closely with edge detection, since edges in an image are largely the cause of shape discontinuities.

In Raskar et al. (2004) it was shown how to use multiple flashes to find silhouettes using depth discontinuities, which are the points where depth values change. Depth discontinuities, or edges, are identified via the shadow narrow strip, or sliver cast in the opposite direction of the lighting. Additionally, the technique can be used to generate shadow-free images.

The weak point of the method above is that it does not accommodate small objects, or backgrounds that are far away. These lead to shadows that are detached from the subject. The method can be extended, however, to video footage, by using a high-speed flash sequence Raskar et al. (2004); Taguchi (2014). This principle was also used to decode sign language input Feris et al. (2004).

Generating synthetic lighting in images post capture was also proven useful to generate a painting interface for novices in photographic lighting design Anrys and Dutré (2004); Mohan et al. (2005). This allowed them to see the results after changing locally the lighting in images, which is much more convenient than retaking the photograph with a different lighting each time.

If the image has only one lighting source, then the pixel brightness is linear with the intensity of that lighting. Assuming that the camera has a linear response, then the effect of more powerful lighting can be achieved simply by increasing the resulting pixel brightness Nimeroff et al. (1995); Haeberli (1992). If there are several light sources present, the final intensity is computed as a weighted sum of the corresponding intensities of each light source.

For maximum flexibility, ideally one should have access to photographs taken from any possible position. However this is not possible when the lighting equipment is constrained inside a predefined area, *i.e.*, inside a square. In a general framework, a scene is described by two 4D functions, known as light fields:

- the incident light field $L_i(u, v, \alpha, \beta)$ describing the irradiance of light incident on objects in space.
- the radiant light field $L_r(u, v, \alpha, \beta)$ quantifying the irradiance created by an object.

This model was extended to define the 8D reflectance field, which measures irradiance at the sensor determined by incident light rays displayed by an arbitrary projector in spaceDebevec et al. (2000). If we fix the viewpoint, the reflectance field can be reduced to 6D. Even so, capturing and storing data of this high dimensionality creates problems in practical scenarios. The projector was also mounted on a robotic arm to acquire the reflectance field of a human face Debevec et al. (2000). This can be viewed as a pixel translated over the surface of a sphere, leading to a dimensionality reduction of the incident light field, and therefore a reduced final 4D reflectance field.

By controlling the color and intensity of light from various positions around the subject, it is possible to then integrate seamlessly the image of the subject into a new scene Debevec (2002). The reduction in size of the 4D reflectance field is very desirable in practice. To this end, in Malzbender et al. (2001) the authors observed that, when changing the lighting incident angle, the color of a pixel changes with a function that can be closely approximated with a biquadratic polynomial. This allowed them to only store the coefficients of the polynomial and subsequently use *compressive sensing* to greatly reduce the size of the reflectance field. However, as one may expect, specular reflections, which only happen for certain angles of the incident illumination, cause disturbances in the biquadratic polynomial approximation, which remains an open problem in the field.

A 6D reflectance field is a better description of the scene. Even though the number of illumination setups is theoretically equal to the number of pixels in each projector multiplied by the number of projectors n , it was shown that it can be simplified significantly by illuminating the scene with a single projector moving in n positions Masselus et al. (2003).

2.3.5 Modifying Space and Time

In order to control the radiance of each ray emitted, one can use projector-like light sources, which allow controlling each individual pixel, and not just the overall brightness. It was shown that using such a light source to assist capturing images with a camera allows extracting scene information that would be impossible to access using regular flash Nayar et al. (2006). The projector-like device, which is called “CamPro”, is still rather bulky to fully replace the traditional flash, but it could be promising in the future if it could be implemented with smart lasers.

Clearly an important task is recovering the 3D shape of a scene from 2D images. It turns out that the problem of recovering the 3D location of an object is in close connection with the *correspondence problem* of pixels in images with different views. This latter problem requires finding a correspondence between sets of points in each image, captured from a different angle, that matches the points in the 3D scene. The correspondence problem can be solved by using a projector with temporal multiplexing: projecting a certain pattern at a time that can be identified by cameras recording different perspectives.

Once the correspondence problem is solved, the 3D location is recovered via triangulation between camera and projector. This can work with only a camera and a projector, as depicted in Fig. 2.32.

This problem is similar to the problem of *stereo triangulation*, where a set of 3D points in the scene are identified given the disparity map between the images captured from 2 or more viewing angles. In our case, instead of two passive cameras we have an active

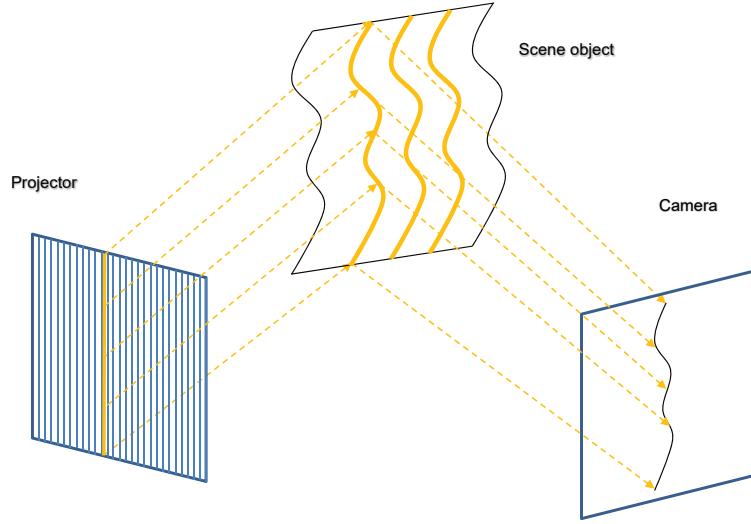


Figure 2.32: 3D Object Localization and the Correspondence Problem for a Single Camera and a Projector. Several patterns are projected onto the scene object, which are detected by a single camera. The object 3D localization is computed via triangulation.

camera and a projector encoding the space via illumination, in a process called *active stereo triangulation*. For readers piqued by stereo imaging, we discuss some examples where epipolar geometry is used in Time-of-Flight imaging for sequential acquisition of strips of the image scene in 10.5.1.

The number of patterns generated by the projector can be reduced by coding the boundaries between the projected shapes Rusinkiewicz et al. (2002). The projected light can also have a binary pattern, where the pixels can either be turned off, or have a fixed level of brightness Posdamer and Altschuler (1982).

The projector can be modulated in *space*, such that at a given time it is illuminating differently the points in the scene, or in *time*, meaning that the pattern changes in successive frames. The two modulations can also be used in conjunction.

As we briefly mentioned in Subsection 2.1.7, a programmable flash can be used to separate the light scattered by the scene in two components:

1. The *direct illumination*, caused by the light source, which enhances the material properties at a given point,

2. The *global illumination*, determined by other points in the scene, which reveals the optical properties of the objects, *i.e.*, indicating how a certain patch in the scene is illuminated by the scene itself.

One way to separate the two components was proposed in Nayar et al. (2006), where the projector was spatially encoded with a checkerboard binary pattern. This means that the scene was divided in square patches that are lit and unlit intermittently by the projector. The technique is based on the main observation that, if one uses a high-frequency checkerboard pattern, the patches left unlit contain only global illumination components (light reflected from the lit patches). On the other hand, the lit patches contain both global and direct illumination components.

This means that, theoretically, it is enough to capture two frames: one illuminated with the checkerboard pattern and one with its complement illumination pattern. This ensures covering the whole scene and is enough to recover each illumination component. However due to the common leakage effect in off-the-shelf projectors, it is necessary to capture 5 times more images to compensate for this imperfection Nayar et al. (2006). The global and direct illumination merely separates between one and several bounces of the lighting emitted by a projector. It is possible to go one step further, and model the individual bounces of an optical ray Seitz et al. (2005).

Apart from modulation in space, the projector can be modulated in *time*, by using high-frequency strobes to acquire snapshots of the scene periodically, in a predefined pattern. An interesting effect in this case is that the illumination frequency is different from the frequency of a periodic movement in the scene. In this case the captured images are characterized by a *perceived frequency*, which is the difference between the two frequencies.

Consequently, if the two frequencies are the same, the captured footage will show the scene object stagnating. This is very useful in applications such as distortion detection in vocal cords. By illuminating the cords with predefined frequencies, a physician can tell if there is a physiological distortion in the cord movement.

Chapter Appendix: Notations

| Notation | Description |
|-----------|-------------------------------|
| c | Speed of light through vacuum |
| ν | Frequency |
| λ | Wavelength |
| E | Energy |
| h | Planck's constant |

| | |
|----------------------|---|
| Φ | Radiant flux |
| R | Irradiance |
| M | Exitance |
| Ω | Solid angle |
| I | Radiant intensity |
| L | Radiance |
| d | Distance between the pinhole and the projection plane |
| α | Skew factor |
| δ | Aperture size |
| n_1, n_2 | Indices of refraction |
| θ_1, θ_2 | Angle of incidence and angle of refraction |
| f | Focal length |
| D | Aperture diameter |
| N | Lens speed, f-number |
| \bar{R} | Average irradiance |
| $1/f$ | Focusing power of the lens |
| f_c | Focal length of the compound lens |
| r | Ratio of reflected light intensity |
| $I(x, y)$ | Light signal |
| $\zeta(x, y)$ | Gaussian noise of zero mean and standard deviation 1 |
| $\sigma(I(x, y))$ | Signal dependent standard deviation |
| $z(x, y)$ | Sensor measurements at pixel (x, y) |
| $P(r)$ | Poisson distribution |
| \mathbf{I} | Image |
| \mathbf{I}_s | Sampled image |
| f_{MAX} | Maximum frequency in the signal |
| \mathcal{F} | Fourier transform operator |
| \mathbf{I}_f | Filtered image |

Exercises

1. Light Ray Bending

a) Snell's Law

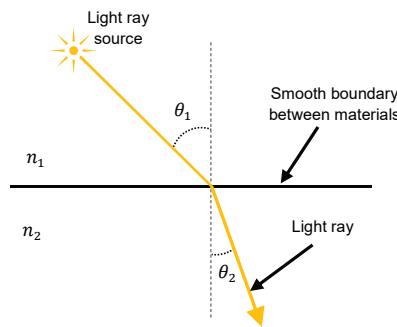


Figure 2.1: Modelling the Principle of Refraction via Snell's Law.

Assume a light ray passes the smooth boundary between air and water with an incident angle $\theta_1 = \frac{\pi}{6}$. Calculate θ_2 to two decimal places knowing that the refraction index for air is $n_1 \approx 1$ and for water $n_2 \approx 1.33$.

b) Thin Lens

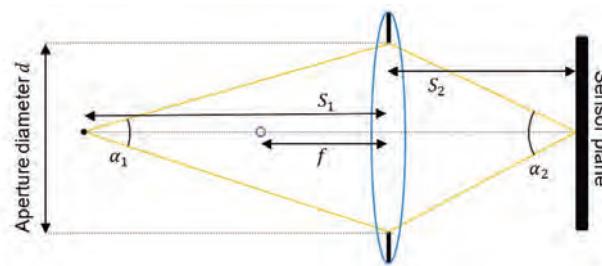


Figure 2.2: The Proposed Thin Lens Setup.

Consider the thin lens setup in Fig. 2.2. An object is located on the lens optical axis such that its reflected light rays that pass through the lens aperture cover an angle α_1 .

The object is in focus, and is projected on the sensor plane at a point where the field of view is given by angle α_2 . Assuming that the aperture diameter d is known, derive analytically the expressions of lens focal length f and the distances from the lens to the object S_1 and to the sensor plane S_2 .

2. Capturing Images via Sampling and Quantization

a) Image Sampling

When an image is captured by a digital camera, it is sampled spatially by the sensor array, and then each pixel value is coded with a number of bits in a process called quantization.

Let us simulate this process by starting with a high-resolution grayscale image, with size around 2000×2000 , as in Fig. 2.3 (a).

For demonstration purposes, let us assume we have a sensor array with size 80×80 that captures the image.

To simulate the spatial sampling process, we need to divide the original image pixels in 80×80 blocks, and then average out the pixels in each block, just as a sensor pixel would average all incident light intensities. This should lead to an image similar to the one in Fig. 2.3 (b). Please plot a result using your own image.

What is a quick procedure to sample the image in the described way? (hint: it may involve convolving with a kernel)

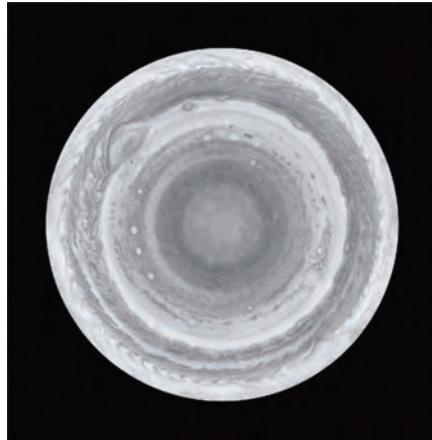
b) Image Quantization

Next, the captured pixel values need to be quantized. Of course, in your image they already are quantized (most probably in the range $0 - 255$), but here we will implement a coarse quantization that would enable a good visualization of the process. For example, a 4-bit quantization would involve mapping each pixel in an image to a value in $\{0, 1, \dots, 15\}$. Is there a quick way to implement quantization without loops?

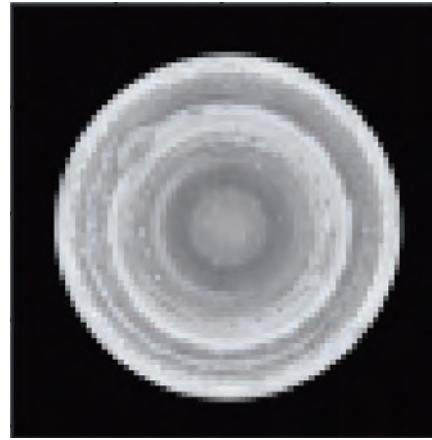
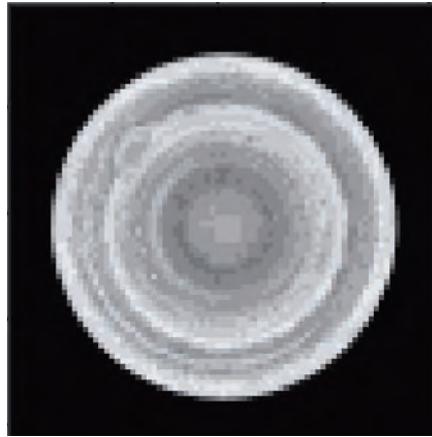
Generate your own images after 4-bit and 3-bit quantization. The results should look similar to the ones in Fig. 2.3 (c,d).

c) Image Interpolation

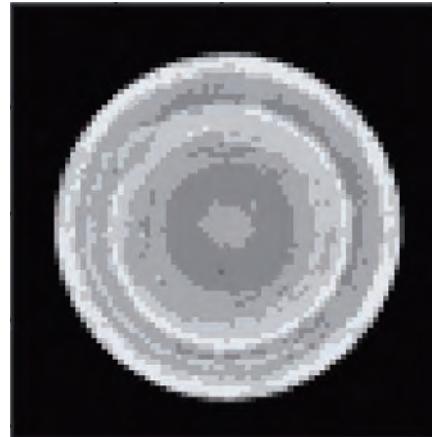
Subsequent processing tasks could require a higher resolution image. How could the new pixel values be computed? The most straightforward way is applying interpolation, as in Fig. 2.4 (a). The distortion of the image due to quantization is still present though, but it can be addressed via filtering (Fig. 2.4 (b)).



(a) Grayscale Image of Jupiter.

(b) The Image Captured by a 80×80 Sensor Array.

(c) 4-bit Quantization.

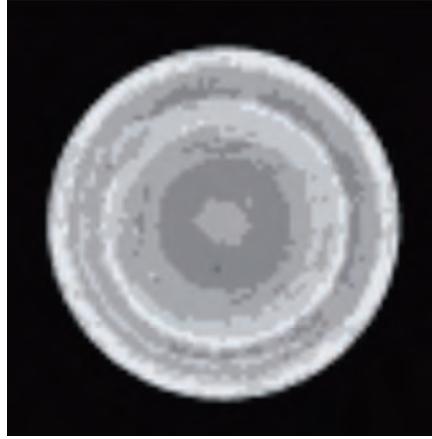


(d) 3-bit Quantization.

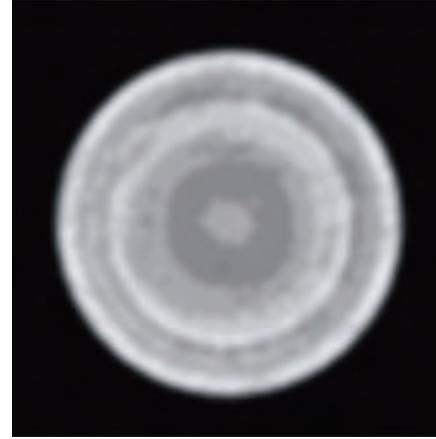
Figure 2.3: Simulating the Sampling and Quantization Done by a Sensor Array.

Now apply these steps to your quantized image too, increasing the resolution to match the original image. Then filter the high-resolution quantized image with a 2×2 matrix of ones. The results should be similar to Fig. 2.4.

What differences do you notice between the aspect of the low-resolution and high-resolution quantized image? What drawback do you see in filtering? What do you imagine that would happen if the filtering is repeated a large number of times?



(a) Interpolation of a 3-bit Quantized Image.



(b) Interpolation and Filtering of a 3-bit Quantized Image.

Figure 2.4: Increasing the Resolution of a Sampled and Quantized Image via Interpolation.

Let $I(x, y)$ denote a continuous image, and let $I_S(k, l)$ denote the samples taken with period 1. Demonstrate that the linear interpolation of $I(x, y)$ at samples $I_S(k, l)$ is given by

$$\begin{aligned}\widehat{I}(x, y) = & (1 - (x - k))(1 - (y - l)) I_S(k, l) + (1 - (x - k))(y - l) I_S(k, l + 1) \\ & + (x - k)(1 - (y - l)) I_S(k + 1, l) + (x - k)(y - l) I_S(k + 1, l + 1).\end{aligned}$$

d) Brightness and Contrast Adjustment

In this example we will understand the concepts of brightness and contrast by manually adjusting them for a chosen image. The image pixels with adjusted contrast and brightness are defined by

$$\widetilde{I}(k, l) = B \cdot I(k, l)^C,$$

where $B, C \in \mathbb{R}$ denote the brightness and contrast adjustments, respectively. Now choose a color image and change its brightness and contrast to enhance its features, as in Fig. 2.5.

What is the drawback that prevents capturing an image with arbitrary high sharpness with a pinhole camera? How is generally the brightness of pinhole camera photos, and what trade-off is involved when attempting to adjust it? Can we say that a pinspeck camera solved the brightness problem of the captured images?

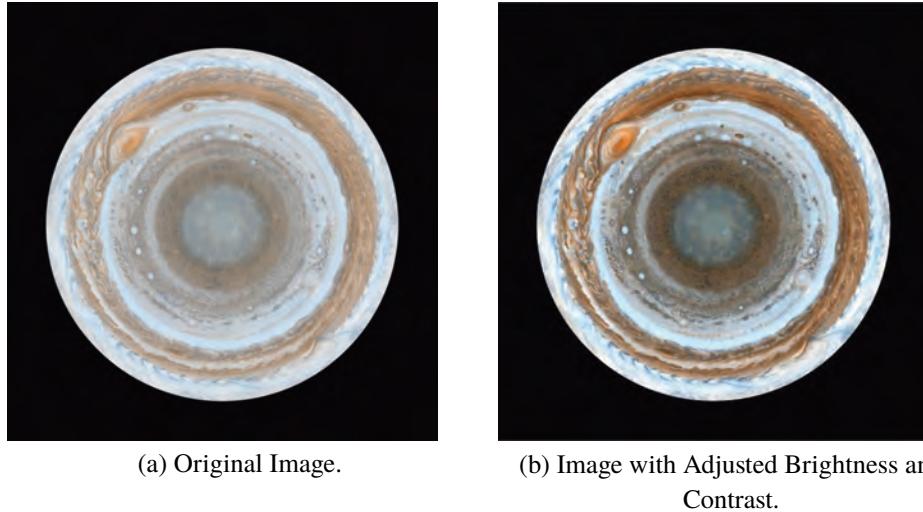


Figure 2.5: The Adjustment of Brightness and Contrast in digital images.

3. Image Deconvolution

a) Problem Setup

Under LSI conditions, deblurring can be posed as follows:

$$J(k, l) = h(k, l) * I(k, l) + e(k, l), \quad (2.1)$$

where $J(k, l)$ is the observed image, $I(k, l)$ is the original image, $h(k, l)$ is the kernel, and $e(k, l)$ is the noise.

To recover the original image, we usually apply deconvolution algorithms to the observations. In this exercise, we will implement several deconvolution algorithms and compare their performances. To evaluate the performance quantitatively, we will adopt two image similarity metrics: (1) peak signal-to-noise ratio (PSNR), and (2) structural similarity (SSIM) index.

The PSNR between two images, $I_1(k, l)$ and $I_2(k, l)$, can be calculated as follows:

$$\begin{aligned} \text{PSNR}(I_1, I_2) &= 10 \log_{10} \left(\frac{R^2}{\text{MSE}(I_1, I_2)} \right) \\ \text{MSE}(I_1, I_2) &= \frac{1}{KL} \sum_{k=0}^{K-1} \sum_{l=0}^{L-1} [I_1(k, l) - I_2(k, l)]^2, \end{aligned} \quad (2.2)$$

where R is the data range of the images, and (K, L) is the image size.

The SSIM between $I_1(k, l)$ and $I_2(k, l)$ is calculated based on three measurements, including luminance (\mathcal{L}), contrast (\mathcal{C}), and structure (\mathcal{S}):

$$\begin{aligned} \text{SSIM}(I_1, I_2) &= [l(I_1, I_2)]^\alpha \cdot [c(I_1, I_2)]^\beta \cdot [s(I_1, I_2)]^\gamma \\ \mathcal{L}(I_1, I_2) &= \frac{2\mu_{I_1}\mu_{I_2} + C_1}{\mu_{I_1}^2 + \mu_{I_2}^2 + C_1} \\ \mathcal{C}(I_1, I_2) &= \frac{2\sigma_{I_1}\sigma_{I_2} + C_2}{\sigma_{I_1}^2 + \sigma_{I_2}^2 + C_2} \\ \mathcal{S}(I_1, I_2) &= \frac{\sigma_{I_1 I_2} + C_3}{\sigma_{I_1}\sigma_{I_2} + C_3}, \end{aligned} \quad (2.3)$$

where α , β , and γ are the weights for the three measurements, μ_{I_1} , μ_{I_2} , σ_{I_1} , σ_{I_2} , and $\sigma_{I_1 I_2}$ are the local means, standard deviations, and correlation coefficient for images $I_1(k, l)$ and $I_2(k, l)$, and C_1 , C_2 , and C_3 are three variables to stabilize the division.

You can refer to PSNR and SSIM functions in the scikit-image package¹ for more details. Make sure you have changed the corresponding parameters of the SSIM function in scikit-image to match the implementation of Wang et al. (2004). Remember to normalize the images before reporting the PSNR and SSIM scores.

b) Image Preparation

To test the performance of different deconvolution algorithms, we need to generate a blurry image using a known blur kernel. Here are the procedures:

1. Pick an image from the BSDS500 dataset², and convert it to gray scale. Crop a 256×256 region from the selected image. Denote this image as $I(k, l)$.
2. Perform 2D convolution (with zero padding) on the cropped image using an identity matrix of size 21 as the kernel, $h(k, l)$. Remember to normalize the kernel to make sure that it sums up to one before convolution. Denote the obtained image as $I_{\text{noiseless}}(k, l)$.
3. Calculate the standard deviation of $I(k, l)$ and add Gaussian noise with zero mean and standard deviation of $0.01 \cdot \text{STD}(I(k, l))$ to $I_{\text{noiseless}}(k, l)$. Denote the noisy image as $I_{\text{noisy}}(k, l)$.
 - i. Blurry Image
Plot $I(k, l)$, $I_{\text{noiseless}}(k, l)$ and $I_{\text{noisy}}(k, l)$. What are the sizes of $I_{\text{noiseless}}(k, l)$ and $I_{\text{noisy}}(k, l)$?
 - ii. Metric Baseline
Briefly describe the differences between PSNR metric and SSIM metric. Report

¹<https://scikit-image.org/docs/dev/api/skimage.metrics.html>

²<https://www2.eecs.berkeley.edu/Research/Projects/CS/vision/grouping/resources.html>

$\text{PSNR}(I, I_{\text{noiseless}})$, $\text{SSIM}(I, I_{\text{noiseless}})$, $\text{PSNR}(I, I_{\text{noisy}})$, and $\text{SSIM}(I, I_{\text{noisy}})$. You can crop the center 256×256 regions from $I_{\text{noiseless}}(k, l)$ and $I_{\text{noisy}}(k, l)$ when calculating PSNR and SSIM.

c) Naive Deconvolution

Implement a function to conduct naive deconvolution, and provide your codes in the box below. The function should take the blurry observation, $J(k, l)$, and the blur kernel, $h(k, l)$, as the input parameters, and return the recovered image, $\hat{I}(k, l)$. The discrete Fourier transform functions in NumPy³ might be useful.

i. Naive Deconvolution Algorithm

Apply your naive deconvolution algorithm to both $I_{\text{noiseless}}(k, l)$ and $I_{\text{noisy}}(k, l)$. Plot the recovered images, and report their PSNR and SSIM scores with $I(k, l)$. Remember to crop the boundaries of the recovered images.

ii. Naive Deconvolution Results

Why the outputs of the above two cases are different? You need to derive the Fourier transform of the recovered images for this question.

iii. Naive Deconvolution Analysis

Express the recovered image from Wiener deconvolution in frequency domain, and implement your own Wiener filter function based on it.

d) Wiener Filter

i. Wiener Filter Algorithm

Express the recovered image from Wiener deconvolution in frequency domain, and implement your own Wiener filter function based on it.

ii. Ideal Wiener Filter Results

Apply your Wiener filter to $I_{\text{noisy}}(k, l)$. Plot your recovered image, and report its PSNR and SSIM scores. You can use the actual frequency-dependent SNR (ω_1, ω_2) in this question.

iii. Power Spectral Density

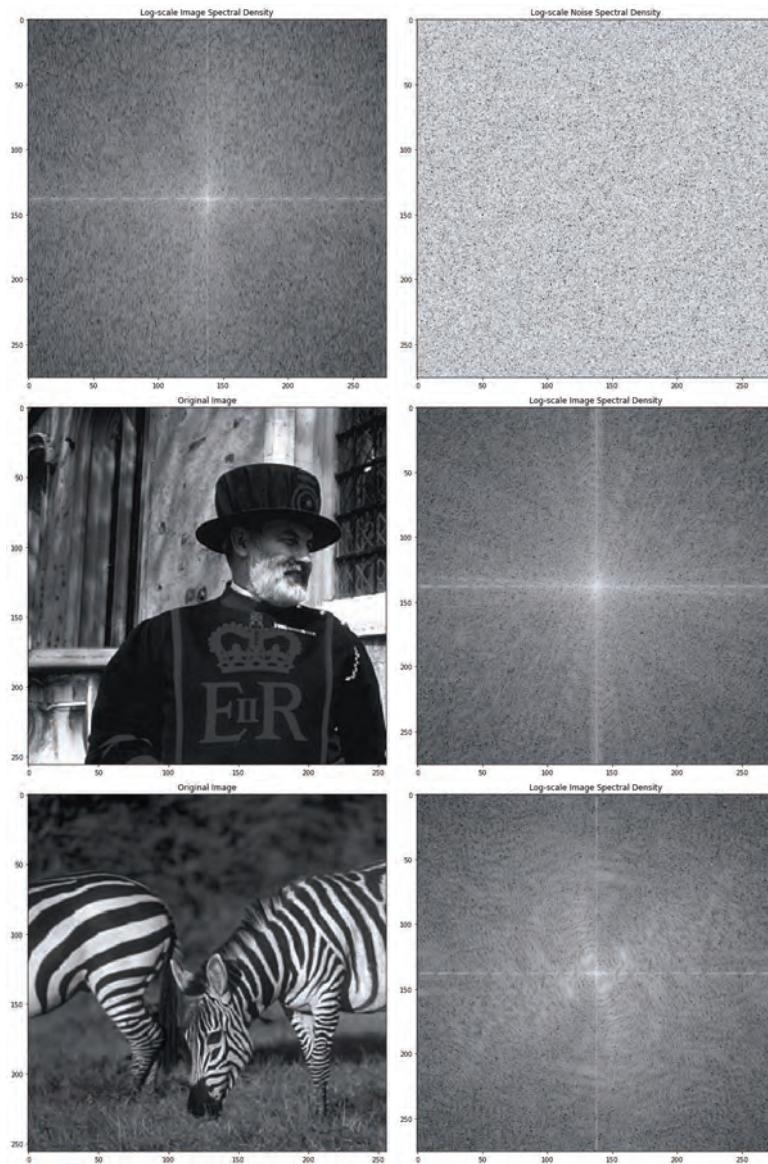
Normally, we do not have access to the frequency-dependent SNR (ω_1, ω_2) in real applications. Therefore, people usually approximate the SNR (ω_1, ω_2) from a predefined function. To explore how to estimate SNR (ω_1, ω_2), let's first analyze the power spectrum of noise and real images. Plot the power spectral density of

³<https://docs.scipy.org/doc/numpy/reference/routines.fft.html>

$I(k, l)$ and your added noise $e(k, l)$ in log scale⁴. Pick two other images with different scenes in the BSDS500 dataset, and plot these two images together with their log-scale spectral density.

iv. SNR Approximation

⁴ Remember to shift the zero-frequency component to the center of the spectrum by using “fftshift” in NumPy.

Exercises**59**

Based on the above plots, describe the features of real images and noise. Which function would you use to approximate SNR in this case?

v. Approximation Results

Plot the deconvolution result using the above SNR approximation, and report your PSNR and SSIM scores.

3 Computational Toolkit

Distinct from the conventional notion of imaging, the area of computational imaging heavily relies on mathematical tools and techniques that facilitate the required “computation” for recovery of image from measurements. In this way, computational imaging draws on available wealth of knowledge from the areas of signal processing, optimization theory and inverse problems. The purpose of this chapter is to combine known and recent tools from these areas in a holistic fashion. The contents of this chapter are organized as follows. We start with a brief introduction to inverse problems. Then, we recall basic tools and ideas from signal processing and linear algebra, that help us develop mathematical models for imaging problems. For solving inverse problems, we rely on (a) model-based computational and numerical methods and (b) data-driven methods inspired by advances in machine learning literature. As we will see in the chapters to follow, these tools will be used as mathematical algorithms in standalone configuration or as a combination of tools for image recovery.

3.1 Modeling: Forward vs. Inverse Problems

An end-to-end computational imaging system operates in two stages. The first stage that describes an image formation model. This is the stage that is concerned with the interaction of a physical entity with hardware. When this interaction is written in mathematical terms, this is known as the forward model. The forward model is a mathematical description of the hardware. Said differently, the measurements arising from a computational imaging system can be abstractly related to the output of the forward model. There on, the task of recovering the underlying physical phenomenon from the measurements is accomplished by solving the inverse problem. This solution is typically composed of a series of mathematical steps and the resulting procedure is the recovery algorithm. The block diagram in Fig. 3.1 explains the key idea.

To place things in a context, consider the problem estimating a singer’s age from audio samples of their song, taken over a course of years. For instance, given a collection of all of

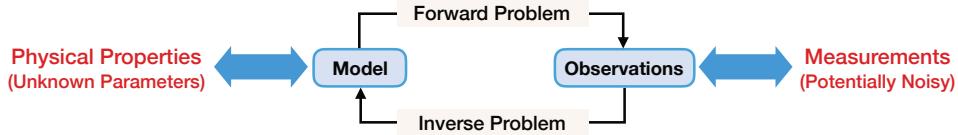


Figure 3.1: Block diagram for modeling inverse problems.

Michael Jackson's songs, can we estimate the age from a given song? To solve this problem, we first need to derive a mathematical model that mimics the physical process of generating voice in human beings. This accounts for the forward model for the case study at hand. The more accurate the forward model is, the better it relates to the audio samples of the song. Clearly, one would expect the forward model to be parameterized by the age; the vocal cords change as one ages. Given audio samples from a given era, the goal of estimating the unknown parameter, that is the age in our case, amounts to solving an inverse problem using a mathematical algorithm. The same analogy applies to a diverse set of problems spread across various applications in science and engineering. Some commonplace examples of inverse problems include,

- **Denoising** Chatterjee and Milanfar (2010): removing noise from measurements.
- **Super-resolution** Park et al. (2003): recovering high-resolution features from low-resolution measurements.
- **Deconvolution** Kundur and Hatzinakos (1996): removing the influence of a measurement device from the measurements.

We will revisit this aspect in details in 3.3.1. In what follows, we will be using foundational theory from topics such as signal processing and linear algebra to study forward models. There on, we will revisit some classical solutions to the inverse problems that will set the ground for the upcoming chapters in the rest of this book.

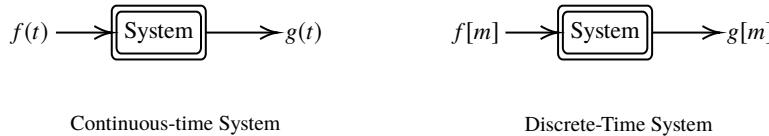
3.2 Mathematical Tools

3.2.1 Signal Processing

Representing complicated phenomena by decomposing it into simpler constituents with the goal of revealing hidden information is what describes signal processing. Signals can be functions or sequences mapping a physical phenomena into continuous and discrete valued observations. Processing refers to the appropriate mathematical operations that reveal information of interest. One of the most interesting observations in this regard dates back to the work of Joseph Fourier who in 1807 claimed that any periodic phenomena can be described as a combination of harmonic waves. Over the course of centuries, this seemingly simple observation has had significant implications across science and engineering.

Here, we will briefly visit the basics of signal processing that allow us to represent captured data (or measurements) as signals so that known tools can be applied for recovering information.

Linear Systems: A system is a conceptual object (physical, mathematical or even computational) that maps an input to the output. As shown below, a system accepts both continuous-time functions and discrete sequences as an input. The output however can be either a function or a sequence. For instance, a CD player maps a sequence of binary ‘bits’ to continuous-time sound.



Continuous-time functions are denoted by $f(t)$ where the time variable t takes real values, that is $t \in \mathbb{R}$. Its discrete counterparts are represented as a sequence,

$$\dots \quad f[-1] \quad f[0] \quad f[1] \quad \dots$$

that accepts discrete-valued argument $m \in \mathbb{Z}$. For example, a continuous-time function can be represented by discrete “samples” $f[m] = f(mT)$ where $T > 0$ is the sampling rate.

In what follows, we will restrict our discussion to **linear systems**. Beyond the practical utility of such a subclass of systems, what makes them appealing is that mathematical analysis of such systems is a understood topic. Linear systems defined by operator \mathcal{L} satisfy two properties: (1) principle of additivity or sum at the output is the sum of the inputs and (2) scaling or scaled input produces a scaled output. This leads to the definition of a linear system.

Definition 1 (Linear System) Let u and v be the input the linear system \mathcal{L} . Then, \mathcal{L} is a linear system when,

$$\mathcal{L}[au + bv] = a\mathcal{L}[u] + b\mathcal{L}[v], \quad a, b \in \mathbb{C}.$$

For stability purposes, operator \mathcal{L} is required to continuous implying that small perturbations in the input produce small perturbations at the output.

Many of the well known systems including computational imaging systems are modeled as linear time-invariant systems. Stated simply, time-invariance refers to the property that delayed input produces delayed output. Let us define $f_\tau(t) = f(t - \tau)$, that is, f delayed by τ . Linear time-invariant or LTI systems ones which satisfy the following property,

$$g(t) = \mathcal{L}[f](t) \Rightarrow g_\tau(t) = \mathcal{L}[f_\tau](t). \quad (3.1)$$

In context of discrete-time signals, this property is known as the linear shift-invariance property where “shift” is the discrete counterpart of continuous “delay.”

Impulse Response of a Linear System: An important property of an LTI system is its impulse response. This is the response of an LTI system when the Dirac impulse is fed to the system. For any function f continuous around zero, the Dirac impulse is defined as,

$$f(0) = \int f(t) \delta(t) dt. \quad (3.2)$$

The above can also be written as $f(t) = \int f(\tau) \delta_\tau(t) d\tau$. When \mathcal{L} is continuous and linear, we have,

$$\mathcal{L}[f](t) = \int f(\tau) \mathcal{L}[\delta_\tau(t)] d\tau. \quad (3.3)$$

Letting g to be the impulse response of \mathcal{L} or $g(t) = \mathcal{L}[\delta](t)$, time-invariance property (3.1) implies that $\mathcal{L}[\delta_\tau](t) = g(t - \tau)$. Therefore, by combining time-invariance property and (3.3), we obtain the definition of convolution or filtering,

$$\begin{aligned} \mathcal{L}[f](t) &= \int f(\tau) \mathcal{L}[\delta_\tau(t)] d\tau \\ &= \int f(\tau) g(t - \tau) d\tau = \int g(\tau) f(t - \tau) d\tau \\ &= (f * g)(t). \end{aligned} \quad (3.4)$$

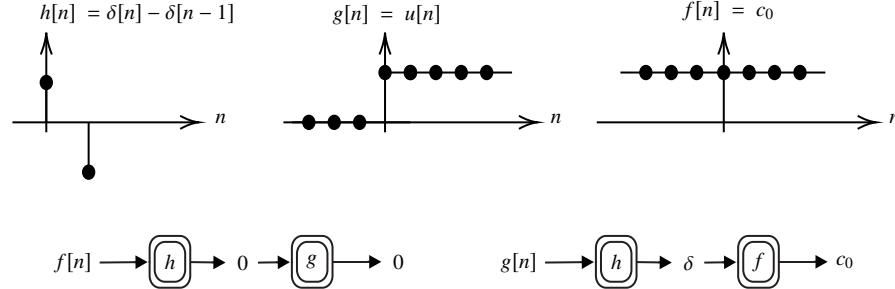
Some useful properties of the convolution operator include

- Commutativity or the convolution operator commutes, $(f * g)(t) = (g * f)(t)$.
- Associativity or the convolution order does not matter, $(f * g * h)(t) = (h * f * g)(t) = (g * h * f)(t)$.
- Differentiation property that asserts that the derivative of a convolution is equivalent to convolution with the derivative of one of the functions,

$$\frac{d}{dt} (f * g)(t) = \left(\frac{df}{dt} * g \right)(t) = \left(f * \frac{dg}{dt} \right)(t).$$

- Dirac convolution property which amounts to shifting of functions, $f * \delta(t - \tau) = f(t - \tau)$.

Same principles extend to the case of sequences. Whether working with continuous functions or sequences, care should be taken in dealing with the properties of the convolution operator in that the corresponding integrals and summations should be absolutely convergent.



In the context of the associative property, we highlight a pathological example above where $f[n] = c_0$ is a constant sequence, $g[n] = u[n]$ is the Heaviside sequence and $h[n] = \delta[n] - \delta[n - 1]$ is finite difference filter. Clearly $(f * h * g)[n] \neq (g * h * f)[n]$ because on one hand, $f * h = 0$ (difference of constant), on the other hand, $g * h = \delta$ and this leads to output c_0 .

Causality and Stability of a Linear System: A linear system is known to be causal if the output does only depends on the past and current inputs (and not the future inputs). Mathematically, this boils down to saying $\mathcal{L}[f](t)$ does not depend on $f(t'), t' > t$. Another important property of linear systems is that of stability. Practically speaking, this property asserts that bounded input produces bounded output. Suppose that \mathcal{L} is characterized by impulse response $g(t)$ or equivalently $\mathcal{L}[f](t) = (f * g)(t)$. When the input is bounded or $\max_{\tau} |f(\tau)| < \infty$, the output is bounded,

$$|\mathcal{L}[f](t)| \leq \int |f(\tau)| |g(t - \tau)| d\tau \leq \max_{\tau} |f(\tau)| \int |g(t)| dt \quad (3.5)$$

whenever $\int |g(t)| dt < \infty$ or the impulse response is absolutely integrable. This is known as BIBO stability where BIBO stands for bounded input and bounded output. There are further mathematical considerations Unser (2020) that make the BIBO stability statements precise. Stability property has profound implications when assessing the resilience of an algorithm to noise. Ideally, one would hope that presence of noise or uncertainty at the input does not blow away the output and this is where stability analysis is helpful.

Eigenfunctions of Linear Time-Invariant Systems and the Fourier Transform: One of the key features of linear time-invariant systems is that the complex exponentials defined by $e^{j\omega t}$ are eigenvectors of the convolution operator. Recall that for any linear system \mathcal{L} , when the following is true,

$$\mathcal{L}[e](t) = \lambda e(t)$$

we say that λ is the eigenvalue and $e(t)$ is the eigenfunction. As before, let \mathcal{L} be characterized by impulse response $g(t)$. In view of (3.4), we have that $\mathcal{L}[f](t) = (f * g)(t)$. Consequently, when the input to this linear time-invariant system is $f_{\omega}(t) = e^{j\omega t}$, the

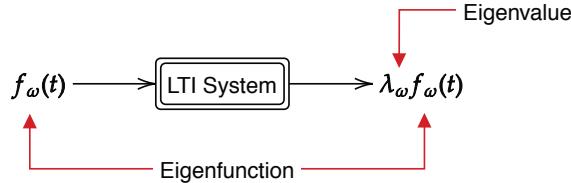


Figure 3.2: Complex exponentials are eigenfunctions of linear time-invariant systems.

output is given by,

$$\begin{aligned} \mathcal{L}[f_\omega](t) &= \int g(\tau) f_\omega(t - \tau) d\tau = \int g(\tau) e^{j\omega(t-\tau)} d\tau \\ &= \underbrace{e^{j\omega t}}_{f_\omega(t)} \underbrace{\int g(\tau) e^{-j\omega\tau} d\tau}_{\lambda_\omega} = \lambda_\omega f_\omega(t) \end{aligned} \quad (3.6)$$

implying that $f_\omega(t) = e^{j\omega t}$ is indeed the eigenfunction of linear time-invariant system because,

$$\mathcal{L}f_\omega(t) = \lambda_\omega f_\omega(t).$$

This is schematically explained in Fig. 3.2. Regardless of angular frequency ω , $|f_\omega(t)| = 1$. In view of the stability condition, provided that the impulse response is absolutely integrable, that is,

$$\int |g(\tau)| d\tau = \|g\|_{L_1} < \infty, \quad \text{in other words, } g \in L_1,$$

the output $\mathcal{L}[f_\omega](t)$ is always bounded and hence the output is well defined.

Note that the eigenvector λ_ω defines the quantity,

$$\lambda_\omega = \int g(t) e^{-j\omega t} dt,$$

what is widely known as the Fourier integral or the Fourier transform. Its formal definition is as follows.

Definition 2 (Fourier Transform) *The Fourier transform of a function $f \in L_1$ is defined by,*

$$\forall \omega \in \mathbb{R}, \quad \hat{f}(\omega) = \int f(t) e^{-j\omega t} dt. \quad (3.7)$$

Whenever \hat{f} is absolutely integrable or $\hat{f} \in L_1$, the inverse Fourier transform is defined by,

$$\forall \omega \in \mathbb{R}, \quad f(t) = \int \hat{f}(\omega) e^{j\omega t} d\omega. \quad (3.8)$$

The Fourier transform is a mathematical tool that measures the amount of oscillations ω (in radians per second) that are present in $f(t)$. For example, in case of sinusoidal waveforms,

the Fourier transform is a Dirac impulse (3.2) present at the oscillation frequency. This is because Euler's formula allows us to write

$$\cos(\omega_0 t) = \frac{e^{J\omega_0 t} + e^{-J\omega_0 t}}{2}.$$

which shows presence of two frequencies at $\omega = \pm\omega_0$. More formally, this translates to,

$$\begin{aligned} \int \cos(\omega_0 t) e^{-J\omega t} dt &= \frac{1}{2} \int e^{-J(\omega-\omega_0)t} dt + \frac{1}{2} \int e^{-J(\omega+\omega_0)t} dt \\ &= \underbrace{\frac{1}{2} (\delta(\omega - \omega_0) + \delta(\omega + \omega_0))}_{\text{Fourier Transform of } \cos(\omega_0 t)}. \end{aligned} \quad (3.9)$$

On other hand, it takes all frequencies from $-\infty$ to ∞ to constitute a Dirac impulse defined in (3.2). This is because,

$$\int \delta(t) e^{-J\omega t} dt = e^{-J\omega t} \Big|_{t=0} = 1.$$

Note that both sinusoids and Dirac impulses violate the assumption of absolute integrability or boundedness. However, with certain technical safeguards, it is possible to extend Fourier analysis to wider classes of signals. This aspect is beyond the scope of this book but we refer the interested readers to book Mallat (2009).

The Fourier transform is a unitary transform in that it preserves lengths. Let us denote the inner-product by,

$$\langle f(t), g(t) \rangle = \int f(t) g^*(t) dt$$

where $*$ is the complex conjugate. When working with Fourier transforms, we have that,

$$\langle f(t), g(t) \rangle = \int \hat{f}(\omega) \hat{g}^*(\omega) d\omega = \langle \hat{f}(\omega), \hat{g}^*(\omega) \rangle.$$

This is known as the Parseval's theorem. Substituting $g = f$, we obtain,

$$\langle f(t), f(t) \rangle = \|f(t)\|_{L_2}^2 = \left\| \hat{f}(\omega) \right\|_{L_2}^2$$

what is known as the Plancherel theorem and the quantity $\|f(t)\|_{L_2}^2$ is a measure of the energy in $f(t)$.

Fourier Transforms and Convolutions: In context of linear systems an interesting property relates to the interaction between convolution or filtering and Fourier transforms. The convolution theorem states that convolution or filtering in canonical domain amounts to multiplication of Fourier transforms in the transform domain.

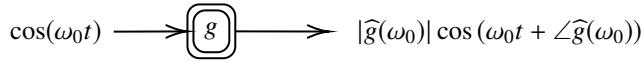
Theorem 3.1 (Convolution Theorem) *Let f and g to be two given functions and let $h(t) = (f * g)(t)$. Then, the Fourier transform of $h(t)$ is given by $\hat{h}(\omega) = \hat{f}(\omega) \hat{g}(\omega)$. On the other*

hand, let $p(t)$ be the product of functions, that is, $p(t) = f(t)g(t)$. The Fourier transform of $p(t)$ is the convolution of Fourier transforms of $f(t)$ and $g(t)$, respectively, that is, $\hat{p}(\omega) = (\hat{f} * \hat{g})(\omega)$.

The implication of the above theorem is that

$$\mathcal{L}[f](t) = (f * g)(t) = \int \hat{f}(\omega) \hat{g}(\omega) e^{+j\omega t} d\omega.$$

For instance, when working with sinusoids (which is the case in many applications including time-of-flight imaging that is discussed in Chapter 5), we directly obtain,



Specifically, in case of discrete sequences, it allows for fast convolution or filtering operations via Fourier transforms can be implemented very efficiently using the fast Fourier transform (FFT) algorithms.

Frequency Response: In signal processing jargon, *spectrum* is referred to the Fourier transform of any given function while *frequency response* defines the Fourier transform of the impulse response of a linear time-invariant system. Again, given linear time-invariant system with $\mathcal{L}\delta(t) = g(t)$, its frequency response is defined by $\hat{g}(\omega) = |\hat{g}(\omega)| e^{j\angle\hat{g}(\omega)}$. Here, $|\hat{g}(\omega)|$ is known as the magnitude response which is always non-negative and real-valued. The real-valued quantity $-\pi \leq \angle\hat{g}(\omega) \leq +\pi$ is known as the *phase response*.

Fourier Series (Representing Periodic Functions): We say a function f is periodic if it repeats itself periodically, $f(t) = f(t + T_p)$ where $T_p > 0$ is the period. For example $\sin(\omega_0 t) = \sin\left(\omega_0\left(t + \frac{2\pi}{\omega_0}\right)\right)$ and hence $T_p = 2\pi/\omega_0$. Aperiodic functions can be periodized using the periodization operation,

$$f_{T_p}(t) = \sum_{k \in \mathbb{Z}} f(t + kT_p). \quad (3.10)$$

For example, the Dirac impulse (3.2) can be converted into a picket fence or a Dirac comb using,

$$\text{III}_{T_p}(t) = \sum_{k \in \mathbb{Z}} \delta(t + kT_p).$$

The family of functions $\{e^{jk\omega_0 t}\}_{k \in \mathbb{Z}}$ with $\omega_0 = 2\pi/T_p$ forms an orthonormal basis of T_p -periodic functions,

$$f_{T_p}(t) = \frac{a_0}{2} + \sum_{k=1}^{\infty} a_k \cos(k\omega_0 t) + b_k \sin(k\omega_0 t) = \sum_{k \in \mathbb{Z}} \hat{f}_k e^{jk\omega_0 t} \quad (3.11)$$

where,

$$\hat{f}_k = \frac{1}{T_p} \int_{T_p} f_{T_p}(t) e^{-jk\omega_0 t} dt = \frac{1}{T_p} \hat{f}(k\omega_0) \quad (3.12)$$

are the Fourier series coefficients which simply amounts to observing the Fourier transform at frequencies $\omega = k\omega_0$. Since the Fourier transform of Dirac impulse is unity or $\widehat{\delta}(\omega) = 1$, we have $\widehat{\delta}(n\omega_0) = 1$ and hence,

$$\sum_{n \in \mathbb{Z}} \delta(t + nT_p) = \sum_{k \in \mathbb{Z}} e^{jk\omega_0 t}.$$

Many of the properties of the Fourier series are similar to that of Fourier transform as the former is a specific case of the latter. For example, by using the convolution theorem in Theorem 3.1, we see that

$$\begin{aligned} f_{T_p}(t) &= (f * \text{III}_{T_p})(t) = \sum_{k \in \mathbb{Z}} \widehat{f}_k e^{jk\omega_0 t} \\ &\Downarrow \\ \sum_{n \in \mathbb{Z}} f(t + nT_p) &= \sum_{k \in \mathbb{Z}} \widehat{f}_k e^{jk\omega_0 t} \end{aligned} \quad (3.13)$$

which is the well known Poisson Sum Formula that is at the heart of studying analog to digital conversion.

Analog-to-Digital Conversion and Sampling Theory

At the heart of digital data acquisition systems is the Shannon's sampling theorem which bridges the continuous and the discrete realms. The sampling theorem has had profound implications and has led to the *digital revolution* which is also known as the *Third Industrial Revolution*. At the core of this fundamental topic is the question: When can a continuous function be represented by a sequence of discrete numbers? As shown in Fig. 3.3, a continuous-time function $f(t)$ can be represented by its discrete counterpart, samples, defined by, $f[m] = f(mT), m \in \mathbb{Z}$. The key challenge being, how big can T be? If T is too small, the amount of data needed to be stored will be huge. If T is too big, we may never be able to reconstruct or recover the continuous-time function. For instance, let $f(t) = \sin(\omega_0 t)$. Setting $f[m] = f(mT)$ with $T = \pi/\omega_0$ yields $f[m] = 0$ and there is no information in the discrete samples. From this thought experiment it is clear that faster a signal fluctuates, the more quick one should record its samples. To measure the “slowness” or the “fastness” of a function, Shannon used the idea of bandlimitedness; the maximum frequency contained by a function. The tool to measure this object is the Fourier transform.

Definition 3 (Bandlimitedness) We say a function is Ω -bandlimited if the largest frequency contained by its Fourier transform is Ω , or,

$$f \in B_\Omega \Leftrightarrow \widehat{f}(\omega) = 0, |\omega| > \Omega.$$

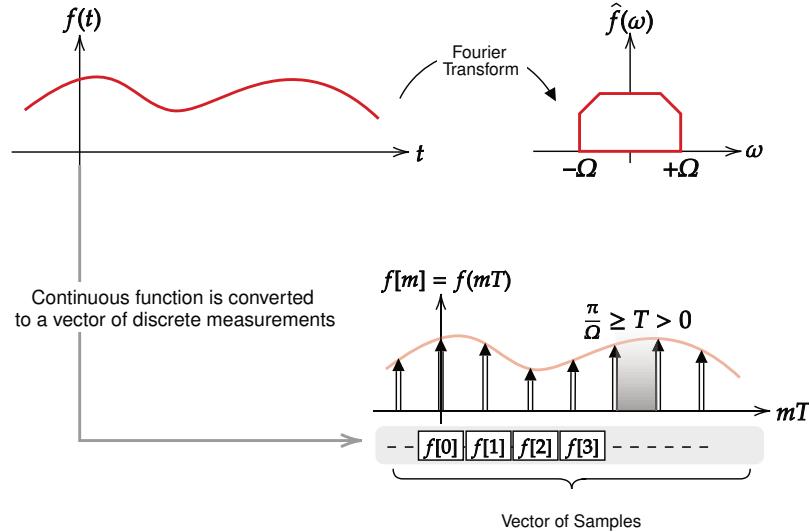


Figure 3.3: Sampling theory addresses the problem of representing a continuous-time function with discrete samples.

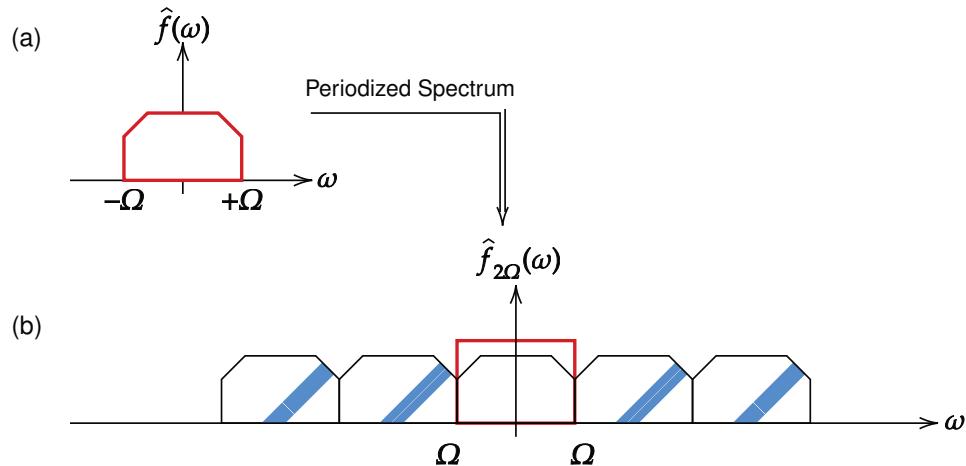


Figure 3.4: (a) Bandlimited function. (b) Effect of Fourier spectrum periodization.

In Fig. 3.4a, we show the Fourier transform of a Ω -bandlimited function. Given Ω , we can periodize the Fourier transform of f using (3.10) to obtain,

$$\hat{f}_{\Omega_0}(\omega) = \sum_{n \in \mathbb{Z}} \hat{f}(\omega + \Omega_0 n). \quad (3.14)$$

which is shown in Fig. 3.4b. Note that we must enforce $\Omega_0 \geq 2\Omega$ or else, the successive bands $\{\widehat{f}(\omega + n\Omega_0)\}_n$ will overlap leading to loss of information. This is known as *aliasing*. Due to periodic nature of $\widehat{f}_{\Omega_0}(\omega)$, we can now represent this function as a Fourier series with harmonic frequency $T_0 = 2\pi/\Omega_0$ or,

$$\widehat{f}_{\Omega_0}(\omega) = \sum_{k \in \mathbb{Z}} z_k e^{-jkT_0\omega}, \quad T_0 = \frac{2\pi}{\Omega_0} \quad (3.15)$$

where the Fourier series coefficients are given by

$$z_k = \frac{1}{\Omega_0} \int_{\Omega_0} \widehat{f}_{\Omega_0}(\omega) e^{jkT_0\omega} d\omega = \frac{1}{\Omega_0} f(kT_0).$$

Note that the (3.15) is equivalent to the result of (3.13). In order to reconstruct $f(t)$ from \widehat{f}_{Ω_0} we perform frequency domain filtering,

$$f(t) = \int \widehat{f}_{\Omega_0}(\omega) \mathbb{1}_{[-\Omega, \Omega]}(\omega) e^{j\omega t} d\omega = \int_{-\Omega}^{+\Omega} \widehat{f}_{\Omega_0}(\omega) e^{j\omega t} d\omega. \quad (3.16)$$

Using $\Omega_0 = 2\Omega$ and substituting (3.15) in (3.16), we see that,

$$\begin{aligned} f(t) &= \int_{-\Omega}^{\Omega} \widehat{f}_{\Omega_0}(\omega) e^{j\omega t} d\omega = \frac{1}{2\Omega} \sum_{k \in \mathbb{Z}} f(kT_0) \int_{-\Omega}^{\Omega} e^{j\omega(t-kT_0)} d\omega \\ &= \frac{1}{2\Omega} \sum_{k \in \mathbb{Z}} f(kT_0) \frac{2 \sin(\Omega(t - kT_0))}{(t - kT_0)} = \sum_{k \in \mathbb{Z}} f(kT_0) \text{sinc}\left(\frac{t}{T_0} - k\right) \end{aligned}$$

where $\text{sinc}(t) = \sin(\pi t)/(\pi t)$ is the *sinus cardinalis* function. In summary, we can write,

$$f \in B_\Omega, \quad f(t) = \sum_{k \in \mathbb{Z}} f[k] \text{sinc}\left(\frac{t}{T_0} - k\right)$$

which shows that continuous-time, Ω -bandlimited signal $f(t)$ can be represented by discrete samples $f[k] = f(kT_0)$. This also defines the sampling distance T_0 as,

$$\Omega_0 \geq 2\Omega \Rightarrow \frac{\pi}{T_0} \geq \Omega.$$

The upper limit π/T_0 on the maximum frequency Ω contained in f is known as the *Nyquist Frequency* that is commonly used in the context of digital communications. We are now ready to state the sampling theorem formally.

Theorem 3.2 (Shannon's Sampling Theorem) *If a function $f(t)$ is bandlimited to Ω (in radians per second), it is completely characterized by equidistant samples $f[k] = f(kT_0)$ spaced $T_0 = \pi/\Omega$ seconds apart.*

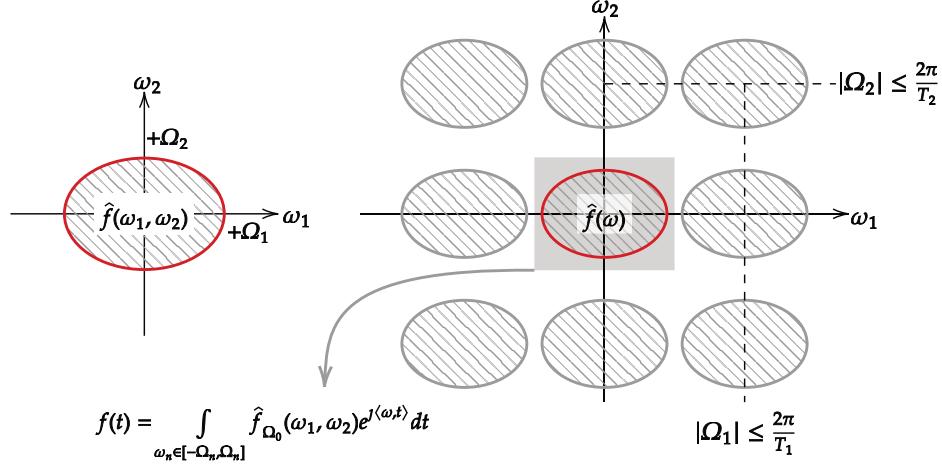


Figure 3.5: Two-dimensional bandlimited signal and periodization of its Fourier transform.

In almost all practical applications, the analog-to-digital conversion or sampling takes place at the level of the sensor and the discrete samples are obtained. However, at this stage of the data capture pipeline, the signals are discrete-time meaning that a function of continuous time variable is converted to a sequence of samples which is defined for discrete-time instances. The amplitudes $f[k]$ are still real-valued and require infinite precision and storage capacity. Depending on the budget of the analog-to-digital converter (number of bits), the amplitude is assigned a finite memory by rounding of its values. For instance $f[k] = \pi$ is converted to $f[k] = 3.142$. This process is known as **quantization**. Once the quantization has been performed, the samples have a discrete representation on both time and amplitude axis. Such a representation is known as **digital samples**.

The sampling theorem can be extended to the case of multi-dimensional signals such as images and volumes. To do this, we will briefly revisit the N -dimensional Fourier transform. To represent a point in \mathbb{R}^N as an N -tuple, let us denote $\mathbf{t} = [t_1 \ \dots \ t_N]$. The N -dimensional Fourier transform of

$$f(\mathbf{t}) \text{ or } f(t_1, t_2, \dots, t_N)$$

is then defined as,

$$\widehat{f}(\boldsymbol{\omega}) = \int_{\mathbb{R}^N} f(\mathbf{t}) e^{-j\langle \boldsymbol{\omega}, \mathbf{t} \rangle} d\mathbf{t} = \int_{\mathbb{R}^N} f(\mathbf{t}) e^{-j \sum_{n=1}^N \omega_n t_n} d\mathbf{t} \quad (3.17)$$

where $\langle \boldsymbol{\omega}, \mathbf{t} \rangle$ is the conventional inner-product or the dot-product. A useful property that allows us to extend one-dimensional Fourier transform to N -dimensional Fourier transform

is that of *separability*. A separable function f of N variables can be written as N -functions of one variable, or,

$$f(t_1, t_2, \dots, t_N) = f_1(t_1) f_2(t_2) \cdots f_N(t_N) \text{ or } f(t) = \prod_{n=1}^N f_n(t_n).$$

This also extends to the N -dimensional Fourier transform in that,

$$\widehat{f}(\omega) = \prod_{n=1}^N \widehat{f}_n(\omega_n).$$

For instance, Dirac impulses and the sinc function used in sampling theory are separable functions and hence their Fourier transforms are separable too. For simplicity, consider a two-dimensional function, bandlimited function $f(t_1, t_2)$, the one whose Fourier transform satisfies the bandlimitedness condition (cf. Fig. 3.5),

$$\widehat{f}(\omega_1, \omega_2) = 0, \quad |\omega_1| > \Omega_1 \text{ and } |\omega_2| > \Omega_2.$$

In analogy to (3.14), its two-dimensional periodic version takes form of,

$$\widehat{f}_{\Omega_0}(\omega_1, \omega_2) = \sum_{\mathbf{k} \in \mathbb{Z}^2} \widehat{f}(\omega_1 + \Omega_{0,1}k_1, \omega_2 + \Omega_{0,2}k_2)$$

and hence, the Fourier series representation of this function is given by,

$$\widehat{f}_{\Omega_0}(\omega_1, \omega_2) = \sum_{\mathbf{k} \in \mathbb{Z}^2} z_{\mathbf{k}} e^{-j(k_1 T_1 \omega_1 + k_2 T_2 \omega_2)}, \quad z_{\mathbf{k}} = \frac{1}{\Omega_{0,1} \Omega_{0,2}} f(k_1 T_1, k_2 T_2).$$

This is shown in Fig. 3.5. As before, performing frequency domain filtering (3.16) with $\Omega_{0,1} = 2\Omega_1$ and $\Omega_{0,2} = 2\Omega_2$, and using the separability of box function, we obtain the sampling formula,

$$f(t_1, t_2) = \sum_{\mathbf{n} \in \mathbb{Z}^2} f(n_1 T_1, n_2 T_2) \operatorname{sinc}\left(\frac{t_1}{T_1} - n_1\right) \operatorname{sinc}\left(\frac{t_2}{T_2} - n_2\right)$$

which is exactly satisfied as long as,

$$\frac{\pi}{T_n} \leq \Omega_n, \quad n = 1, 2,$$

which is the Nyquist criterion for two-dimensional signals.

The discussion of multi-dimensional sampling theory sets the ground for multi-dimensional discrete representation of continuous functions. In this context, the dimensionality of the data representation leads to the definition of vectors, matrices and tensors which are mathematical objects in linear algebra that will play a key role in designing mathematical algorithms for solving inverse problems.

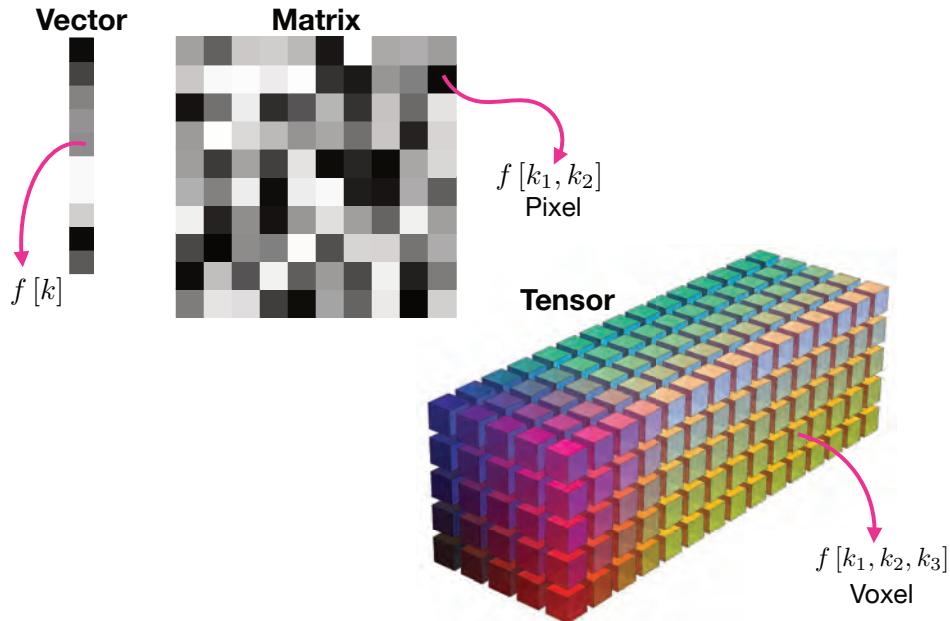


Figure 3.6: Discretization of information on one, two and three dimensions leading to mathematical objects of vector, matrix and tensor, respectively. In case of images, a pixel maps to an element in the matrix. In case of volume based data, a voxel maps to an element in the tensor.

As shown in Fig. 3.6, one-dimensional data is stored as vectors. Two-dimensional data is stored as matrices. This is the case when dealing with images. Each element of a matrix corresponds to a pixel in the image sensor. Two-dimensional data is stored as tensors (or three-dimensional matrices). Such data structures typically arise in the context of time-resolved and hyperspectral imaging applications.

3.2.2 Linear Algebra

Stated simply, when a linear system is discretized, it can be interpreted as a linear system of equations. For example, when the Fourier transform defined in (3.7) is discretized, the integral takes form of a sum. Similarly, discretization of the convolution/filtering operation in (3.4) can also be represented as operations with discrete sequences. In all such cases, one ends up with representations of the form,

$$g[m] = \sum_{n=0}^{N-1} a[m, n] f[n], \quad m = 0, \dots, M-1.$$

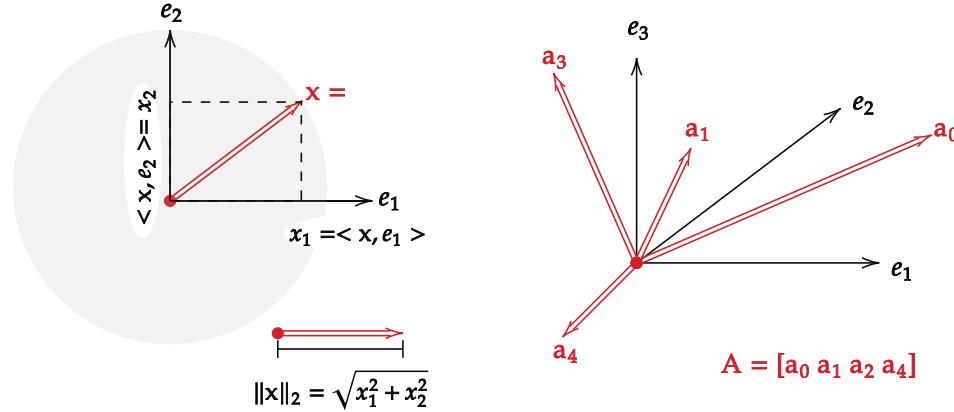


Figure 3.7: Vectors and matrices. Definitions and basic operations.

which is a linear system of M equations,

$$\begin{aligned} g[0] &= a[0,0]f[0] + a[0,1]f[1] + \cdots + a[0,N-1]f[N-1] \\ g[1] &= a[1,0]f[0] + a[1,1]f[1] + \cdots + a[1,N-1]f[N-1] \\ &\vdots \\ g[M-1] &= a[M-1,0]f[0] + a[M-1,1]f[1] + \cdots + a[M-1,N-1]f[N-1]. \end{aligned}$$

Given measurements $\{g[m]\}_{m=0}^{M-1}$ and $\{a[m,n]\}_{m \in [0,M-1], n \in [0,N-1]}$, in many problems interests, the goal is to estimate or recover $\{f[n]\}_{n=0}^{N-1}$.

With some of the first results dating back to the work of Gauss⁵, linear algebra seeks to handle the cumbersome equations above in a compact, systematic and efficient fashion. This is a mature topic and many of the results are well understood. For a first course on this topic, we refer the readers to Meyer (2000); Strang (2016). Here we will revisit basic tools and techniques that will be used in upcoming chapters.

Notation and Basic Definitions: Four mathematical objects that will appear throughout this book are scalars, vectors, matrices and tensors.

1. Scalars are single numbers which may be from a set of natural, integer, real or complex valued numbers. They are written in lowercase, italic format, for instance $m \in \mathbb{Z}$, $x_1 \in \mathbb{R}$ and $z \in \mathbb{C}$.

⁵ One of the classical approaches for solving a linear system of equations is credited to German mathematician, Johann Carl Friedrich Gauss. This approach is known as Gaussian elimination.

小写加粗是向量

大写加粗是矩阵

2. Vectors are an array of ordered and indexed numbers denoted by boldface font \mathbf{x} . The number of elements in a vector defines the dimension of the vector. For example, $\mathbf{x} \in \mathbb{C}^N$ defines a vector with N ordered elements x_1, x_2, \dots, x_N which are complex-valued. In computations involving vectors, we explicitly spell out the entries in a column form,

$$\mathbf{x} = \begin{bmatrix} x_1 \\ x_2 \\ \vdots \\ x_N \end{bmatrix} \in \mathbb{C}^N.$$

Transpose of a vector converts it into row format,

$$\mathbf{x} \in \mathbb{R}^N, \quad \mathbf{x}^\top = \begin{bmatrix} x_1 & x_2 & \cdots & x_N \end{bmatrix}$$

while the conjugate-transpose or Hermitian transpose converts a vector into row format with complex-conjugate operation on each element, 转置共轭

$$\mathbf{x} \in \mathbb{C}^N, \quad \mathbf{x}^H = \begin{bmatrix} x_1^* & x_2^* & \cdots & x_N^* \end{bmatrix}.$$

From a geometrical perspective, a vector is a point in space with each element representing its Cartesian co-ordinate. This is shown in Fig. 3.7.

The length of a vector is measured using the Euclidian norm, or,

$$\|\mathbf{x}\|_2 = \sqrt{\sum_{n=1}^N x_n^2} \equiv \sqrt{\mathbf{x}^\top \mathbf{x}}.$$

This quantity is also known as the ℓ_2 -norm. Square of this quantity defines the energy of a signal and generalizes the notation of Pythagorean theorem to N -dimensions. Normalizing a vector with its ℓ_2 -norm results in a **unit vector** or **unit-norm vector**.

The contribution of a vector along each co-ordinate is known as *orthogonal projection*. This is measured using the inner-product or the dot-product denoted by $\langle \mathbf{x}, \mathbf{y} \rangle = \mathbf{x}^H \mathbf{y}$ always results in a real-valued scalar. This operation is defined by,

$$\left\langle \begin{bmatrix} x_1 \\ \vdots \\ x_N \end{bmatrix}, \begin{bmatrix} y_1 \\ \vdots \\ y_N \end{bmatrix} \right\rangle = \mathbf{x}^H \mathbf{y} = \sum_{n=1}^N x_n y_n^*.$$

In view of Fig. 3.7, note that,

$$\langle \mathbf{x}, \mathbf{e}_1 \rangle = \left\langle \begin{bmatrix} x_1 \\ x_2 \end{bmatrix}, \begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ 0 \end{bmatrix} \right\rangle = x_1 \quad \text{and} \quad \langle \mathbf{x}, \mathbf{e}_2 \rangle = \left\langle \begin{bmatrix} x_1 \\ x_2 \end{bmatrix}, \begin{bmatrix} 0 \\ 1 \end{bmatrix} \right\rangle = x_2.$$

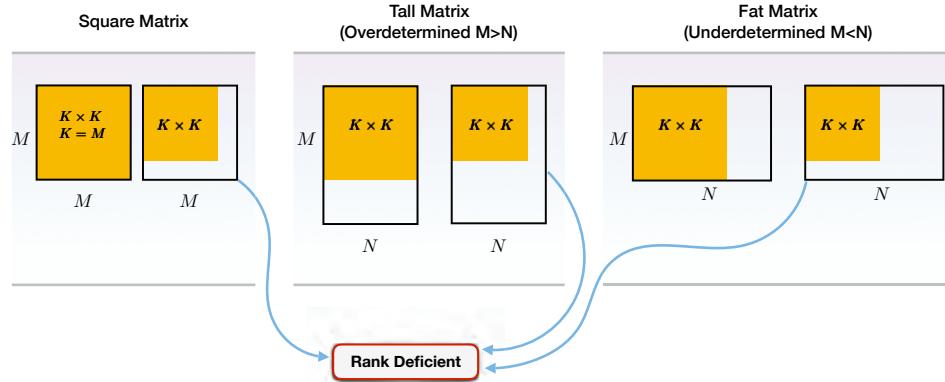


Figure 3.8: Classification of Square, Tall and Fat matrices and its link with rank deficiency.

Two vectors are orthogonal if their inner-product is zero. In view of we have, Fig. 3.7, $\langle \mathbf{e}_1, \mathbf{e}_2 \rangle = 0$.

3. Matrices are formed by two-dimensional arrays of scalars. This is obtained by stacking vectors. Let $\{\mathbf{a}_n\}_{n=1}^N \in \mathbb{C}^M$, that is, N vectors each comprising of M elements. Then, we have a matrix,

$$\mathbf{A} = \begin{bmatrix} \mathbf{a}_0 & \mathbf{a}_1 & \cdots & \mathbf{a}_N \end{bmatrix} \in \mathbb{C}^{M \times N}$$

When working with measurements in practice, there may be different scenarios in that the number of unknowns are equal, more or less than the number of measurements, respectively. These cases can be classified in terms of the dimension and the rank of the matrix used for modeling the physical phenomenon. In what follows, we will first discuss the idea of full-rank and rank-deficient matrices. Depending on the classification, we develop solutions for inversion of the matrix.

Matrix Dimension, Rank and Inversion. The size of a matrix (or matrix dimension) and its rank play a key role in solving different classes of inverse problems. Whenever a number K is smaller than the smallest dimension of the matrix, the matrix is known to be *rank deficient*. The different cases shown in Fig. 3.8 are as follows:

- **Square Matrix ($M \times M$):** This is the case when the number of unknowns is the same as the number of equations. When $K = M$, the matrix is said to be a full-rank and the matrix inverse is well-defined, that is, $\mathbf{H}^{-1}\mathbf{H} = \mathbf{I}$ (identity operation). For a simple 2×2 matrix \mathbf{H} ,

$$\mathbf{H} = \begin{bmatrix} a & b \\ c & d \end{bmatrix},$$

its inverse is defined by,

$$\mathbf{H}^{-1} = \frac{1}{ad - bc} \begin{bmatrix} d & -b \\ -c & a \end{bmatrix}$$

and it is easy to see that such a matrix is always invertible provided that $ad - bc \neq 1$. A matrix is rank deficient when $K < M$ and the number of independent equations is smaller than the number of unknowns.

方程数目多于未知数数目

- **Tall Matrix ($M > N$)**. In this case, the matrix contains more rows than columns and the system of equations is known to be *overdetermined*. In this case, there are more equations than unknowns. When $K < N$, the matrix is rank deficient.

Inversion. Suppose that we are given a system of equations $\mathbf{g} = \mathbf{H}\mathbf{f}$ such that $M > N$ with linearly independent columns. It is natural to ask what is the best strategy for estimating \mathbf{f} given measurements \mathbf{g} ? In this setting, a desirable feature of the estimated solution \mathbf{f}^* is that when plugged back, the resulting $\mathbf{H}\mathbf{f}^*$ should be close to the observed vector \mathbf{g} . Hence it makes sense to minimize the quantity, $\|\mathbf{g} - \mathbf{H}\mathbf{f}\|_2^2$ that measures the distance between $\mathbf{H}\mathbf{f}$ and \mathbf{g} . In literature, this is typically known as the cost function, or,

$$C(\mathbf{f}) = \|\mathbf{g} - \mathbf{H}\mathbf{f}\|_2^2 = (\mathbf{g} - \mathbf{H}\mathbf{f})^\top (\mathbf{g} - \mathbf{H}\mathbf{f}) = \|\mathbf{g}\|_2^2 - 2\langle \mathbf{g}, \mathbf{H}\mathbf{f} \rangle + \langle \mathbf{H}\mathbf{f}, \mathbf{H}\mathbf{f} \rangle \quad (3.18)$$

and,

$$\mathbf{f}^* = \min_{\mathbf{f}} C(\mathbf{f}). \quad \text{用最小二乘法求无约束最优}$$

Here we assume that the vectors and matrices that are involved are real-valued but the applies to complex-valued system of equations. In either case, each of the terms that appear in $C(\mathbf{f})$ are scalars and the first term $\|\mathbf{g}\|_2^2$ is independent of \mathbf{f} . To find the minimizer of $C(\mathbf{x})$, we set its derivative to zero. To this end, we have,

$$\frac{\partial}{\partial \mathbf{f}} C(\mathbf{f}) = -2\mathbf{H}^\top \mathbf{g} + 2\mathbf{H}^\top \mathbf{H}\mathbf{f} \quad \text{and hence} \quad \frac{\partial}{\partial \mathbf{f}} C(\mathbf{f}) = 0 \Rightarrow \mathbf{H}^\top \mathbf{H}\mathbf{f} = \mathbf{H}^\top \mathbf{g}.$$

Provided that $\mathbf{H}^\top \mathbf{H}$ is invertible, we have,

$$\min_{\mathbf{f}} C(\mathbf{f}) = \min_{\mathbf{f}} \|\mathbf{g} - \mathbf{H}\mathbf{f}\|_2^2 \Rightarrow \mathbf{f}^* = (\mathbf{H}^\top \mathbf{H})^{-1} \mathbf{H}^\top \mathbf{g} \quad (3.19)$$

which is the least-squares solution for an overdetermined system.

- **Fat Matrix ($M < N$)**. In this case, the matrix contains more columns than rows and the system of equations is known to be *underdetermined*. In this case, there are more unknowns than unknowns. When $K < M$, the matrix is rank deficient.

Inversion. Due to the underdetermined nature of $\mathbf{g} = \mathbf{H}\mathbf{f}$, there are many solutions that satisfy this equation. In this case, a common practice is to seek a solution with the

由多个 \mathbf{f} 满足要求，取耗能最小的那个

smallest energy (minimum norm). At the same time, we would like to ensure that the solution $\mathbf{H}\mathbf{f}^*$ fits the observed vector \mathbf{g} or $\mathbf{g} = \mathbf{H}\mathbf{f}^*$. This can be posed as the following constrained problem,

$$\min_{\mathbf{f}} \|\mathbf{f}\|_2^2 \text{ such that } \mathbf{g} = \mathbf{H}\mathbf{f}.$$

The Least-squares constrained minimization problem can be solved using the method of Lagrange multipliers. To this end, we define the ‘Lagrangian’ cost function,

$$C_{\lambda}(\mathbf{f}) = \|\mathbf{f}\|_2^2 + \lambda^T (\mathbf{g} - \mathbf{H}\mathbf{f}) \equiv \langle \mathbf{f}, \mathbf{f} \rangle + \langle \lambda, \mathbf{g} - \mathbf{H}\mathbf{f} \rangle \quad (3.20)$$

where λ is a vector of weights. In comparison to the cost function in the overdetermined case (in (3.18)), our next is to minimize $C_{\lambda}(\mathbf{f})$ with respect to both \mathbf{f} and λ . To this end, we have,

$$\frac{\partial}{\partial \mathbf{f}} C_{\lambda}(\mathbf{f}) = 2\mathbf{f} - \mathbf{H}^T \lambda \quad \text{and} \quad \frac{\partial}{\partial \lambda} C_{\lambda}(\mathbf{f}) = \mathbf{g} - \mathbf{H}\mathbf{f}.$$

By setting the above derivatives to zero (for minimization), we obtain a simultaneous system of equations yielding λ ,

$$\left. \begin{array}{l} \frac{\partial}{\partial \mathbf{f}} C_{\lambda}(\mathbf{f}) = 0 \Rightarrow \mathbf{f} = \frac{1}{2} \mathbf{H}^T \lambda \\ \frac{\partial}{\partial \lambda} C_{\lambda}(\mathbf{f}) = 0 \Rightarrow \mathbf{g} = \mathbf{H}\mathbf{f} \end{array} \right\} \Rightarrow \lambda = 2(\mathbf{H}\mathbf{H}^T)^{-1} \mathbf{g}.$$

Provided that $\mathbf{H}\mathbf{H}^T$ is invertible, we have,

$$\mathbf{f}^* = \mathbf{H}^T (\mathbf{H}\mathbf{H}^T)^{-1} \mathbf{g}. \quad (3.21)$$

3.3 Model-Based Inversion

One of the key aspects of computational imaging is “computation” which finds its way in the process involved with recovery of information from captured data. In almost all of the cases, the sensor discretizes the measurements using the sampling process leading to the discrete representation of the mathematical model which can be analyzed using the vector-matrix representation, as shown in Fig. 3.9. Given a linear operator \mathcal{L} , in many problems of interest, the goal is to recover or estimate the input $f(t)$ from the output,

$$g(t) = \mathcal{L}[f](t) = \int f(\tau) h(t, \tau) d\tau.$$

Whenever the system is characterized by translation invariance, that is, $h(t, \tau) = h_\tau(t)$ (c.f. (3.1)), the above representation leads to a convolution/filtering or $g(t) = (h * f)(t)$. In either case, the discrete representation (via sampling or analog-to-digital conversion) of the problem can be written in vector-matrix form,

$$\mathbf{g} = \mathbf{H}\mathbf{f}.$$

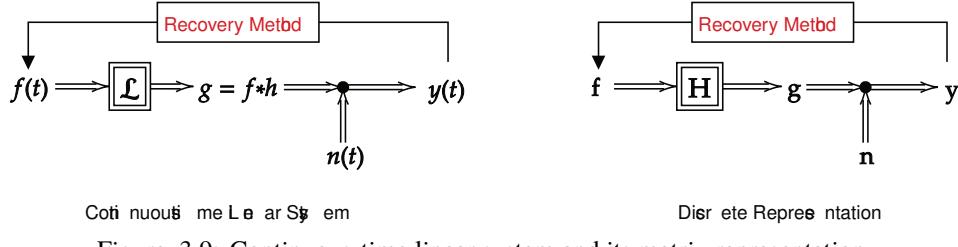


Figure 3.9: Continuous-time linear system and its matrix representation.

When solving for the input signal, we say the problem is **well-posed** if,

- a solution exists.
- the solution is unique.
- the inversion is stable (or the inverse of the operator \mathcal{L} in context of $h(t, \tau)$ or \mathbf{H} is continuous).

In literature, these basic requirements are known as the *Hadamard criteria*. In working with finite dimension data (the case with vector-matrix notion), while existence and uniqueness can be imposed, the inversion of the discrete system may turn out to be a highly *ill-posed problem*.

3.3.1 Examples of Ill-posed Inverse Problems

Next, we discuss some common place applications that lead to ill-posed problems.

1. Example of an Ill-posed Problem: Deconvolution

A classical example of a highly ill-posed problem is that of **deconvolution** which arises in the context of filtering and will be revisited a number of times in this book. Said simply, deconvolution is the problem of recovering sharp features from smooth measurements. More concretely, consider the normalized Gaussian function,

$$\varphi_{\sigma,\mu}(t) = \frac{1}{\sqrt{2\pi\sigma^2}} e^{-\frac{(t-\mu)^2}{2\sigma^2}} \xrightarrow{\text{Fourier}} \widehat{\varphi}_{\sigma,\mu}(\omega) = e^{-\frac{\omega^2\sigma^2}{2} - j\omega\mu}.$$

Suppose that the input signal $f(t) = \varphi_{\sigma_f,0}(t)$ is filtered with a $h(t) = \varphi_{\sigma_h,0}(t)$ such that $\sigma_f \ll \sigma_h$ (see Fig. 3.10a). In this case, the output is given by,

$$g(t) = (f * h)(t) = \varphi_{\sigma_g,0}(t), \quad \sigma_g = \sqrt{\sigma_f^2 + \sigma_h^2}.$$

This is shown in Fig. 3.10b. The goal of the deconvolution problem is to recover $f(t)$ given measurements $g(t)$ and filter $h(t)$. Clearly, when $\sigma_f \ll \sigma_h$, the $\sigma_g \approx \sigma_h$ and the problem is ill-posed as the measurement and the filter h are relatively similar. This aspect becomes clear when we look at the Fourier domain representation of the

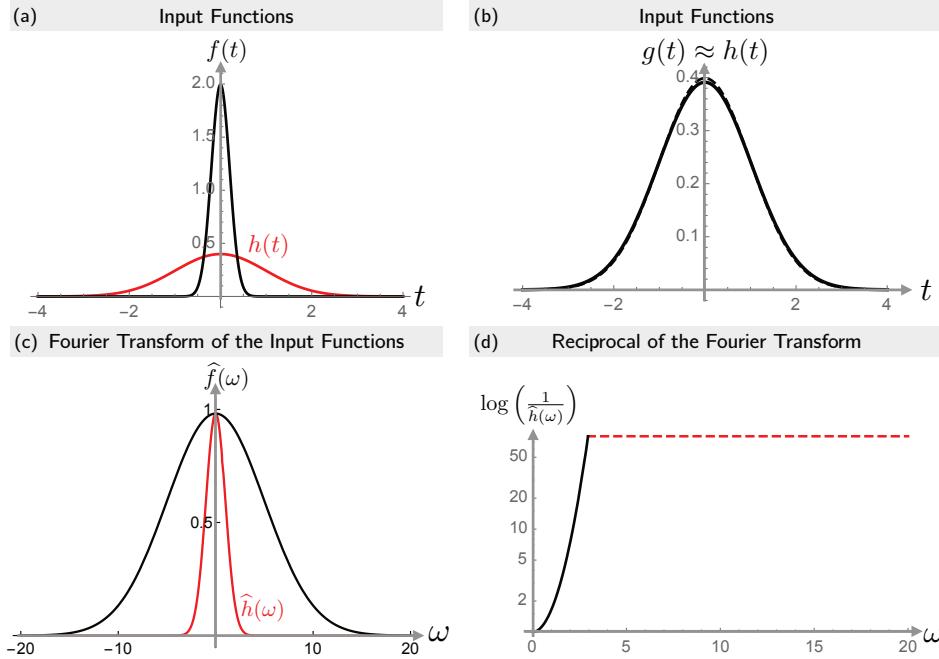


Figure 3.10: Example of an ill-posed problem. Here we consider the case of deconvolution. (a) $f(t) = \varphi_{\sigma_f,0}(t)$ is filtered with a $h(t) = \varphi_{\sigma_h,0}(t)$. (b) When $\sigma_f \ll \sigma_h$, the measurement $g(t) = (f * h)(t) = \varphi_{\sigma_g,0}(t)$ is very similar to the filter $h(t)$. (c) Fourier transforms of the $f(t)$ and $h(t)$. (d) Reciprocal of the Fourier transform “blows-up” leading to instabilities.

problem. From the convolution-multiplication theorem (cf. Theorem 3.1), we have,

$$g(t) = (f * h)(t) \xrightarrow{\text{Fourier}} \hat{g}(\omega) = \hat{f}(\omega) \hat{h}(\omega) \Rightarrow \hat{f}(\omega) = \underbrace{\frac{\hat{g}(\omega)}{\hat{h}(\omega)}}_{\text{Deconvolution}}.$$

In principle, one could estimate the Fourier transform of $f(t)$ using the above and reconstruct $f(t)$ using the inverse Fourier transform. However, as shown in Fig. 3.10c, the Fourier transform of $h(t)$ approaches near zero values quickly and hence evaluation of $1/\hat{h}(\omega)$ results in blowing-up of the spectrum. This is shown in Fig. 3.10d. This is the exact cause of instability which makes the problem ill-posed.

2. Example of an Ill-posed Problem: Motion-Deblurring

One of the most practical examples of an ill-posed problem is what is known as *motion-deblurring*. This situation arises when an object moves during the time a an image is being captured using an imaging sensor. Consider the setting that is shown in

Fig. 3.11. An imaging sensor observes two different objects; in the first case, the object is stationary (see Fig. 3.11a) and in the other case the object is in motion (see Fig. 3.11b). The imaging sensor acquires a "photograph" which is essentially the number of photons collected at given pixel during the exposure time. Exposure time is the duration for which the light enters the sensor. Higher the exposure time, more is the light collected at the sensor. Mathematically, capturing an image boils down to integration. In the context of the stationary object in Fig. 3.11, the photograph at a given pixel (around x_0) and for exposure time $t \in [t_0, t_1]$ is given by,

$$g(x_0) = \int_{t_0}^{t_1} f_s(t, x_0) p(x_0) dt = f_s(x_0) p(x_0) (t_1 - t_0)$$

where we have used $f_s(t, x_0) = f_s(x_0)$ since the object $f_s(t, x_0)$ is stationary with respect to time and $p(x)$ is the point spread function.

Moving to the case of moving object $f_m(t, x)$, from Fig. 3.11b, it is clear that,

$$g(x_0) = \int_{t_0}^{t_1} f_m(t, x_0) p(x_0) dt = f_s(x_0) p(x_0) (t_1 - t_0)$$

since the object is stationary or $f_s(t, x_0) = f_s(x_0)$ during the time of exposure, that is $t \in [t_0, t_1]$. However, in case of a longer time exposure $t_2 \gg t_1$,

$$\begin{aligned} g(x_0) &= \int_{t_0}^{t_2} f_m(t, x_0) p(x_0) dt = \int_{t_0}^{t_2} f_m(x_0 - t) p(x_0) dt \\ &= p(x_0) \int f_m(x_0 - t) \mathbb{1}_{[t_0, t_2]}(t) dt \\ &= p(x_0) (f_m * h)(x_0) \end{aligned}$$

where $h(t) = \mathbb{1}_{[t_0, t_2]}(t)$ is the indicator function defined by,

$$\mathbb{1}_{[t_a, t_b]}(t) = \begin{cases} 1 & t \in [t_a, t_b] \\ 0 & t \notin [t_a, t_b] \end{cases}.$$

Ignoring $p(x_0)$, we observe that the image is nothing but filtering with the box-function,

$$g(x_0) = (f_m * h)(x_0), \quad h(t) = \mathbb{1}_{[t_0, t_2]}(t).$$

In this setting, the inverse problem is to recover the moving object $f_m(x_0)$ given the image $g(x_0)$. To see why this problem is ill-posed, note that the Fourier transform of the box-filter is given by,

$$\mathbb{1}_{[t_a, t_b]}(t) \xrightarrow{\text{Fourier}} J \frac{e^{j\omega t_b} - e^{j\omega t_a}}{\omega} = \hat{h}(\omega)$$

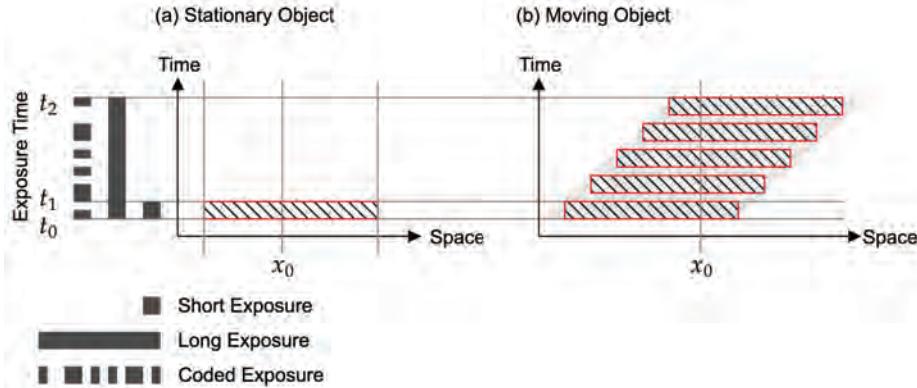


Figure 3.11: Motion deblurring is an ill-posed problem which can be made well-posed by using computational imaging methods.

which the difference between two sinusoids with frequencies proportional to the length of the box with envelope $1/\omega$. For simplicity, consider the case when the box-filter is symmetric, or $t_a = -t_b = t_0/2$. The Fourier transform simplifies to the classical sinc-function,

$$\mathbb{1}_{|t| \leq \frac{t_0}{2}}(t) \xrightarrow{\text{Fourier}} \text{sinc}\left(\frac{\omega}{2\pi}t_0\right).$$

Hence, the measurements in the Fourier domain read,

$$g(x) = (f_m * h)(x) \xrightarrow{\text{Fourier}} \widehat{g}(\omega) = \widehat{f}_m(\omega) \widehat{h}(\omega), \quad \widehat{h}(\omega) = \text{sinc}\left(\frac{\omega}{2\pi}t_0\right).$$

This implies that longer the exposure, larger is t_0 and hence more frequent are the zeros of the sinc-function that annihilate the information in $\widehat{f}_m(\omega)$. Furthermore, the nulls in the high frequencies of $\text{sinc}\left(\frac{\omega}{2\pi}t_0\right)$ zero out the information in $\widehat{f}_m(\omega)$, resulting in blurring or smearing. There is no way one can recover the lost information in $\widehat{g}(\omega)$.

Since the zeros of the sinc-function lead to loss of information, making the problem ill-posed, in Raskar et al. (2006), the authors proposed a scheme to turn this setting into a well-posed problem. This is known as **coded exposure photography**. Here, instead of simply opening and closing the camera shutter (yielding a temporal box-filter), the idea is to use a sequence of on-off patterns leading to box-filters of different widths. This is shown in Fig. 3.11. In this approach, chosen such that zeros of one box filter are compensated by non-zeros of other box-filters. When an “optimal” code is chosen, the Fourier transform is almost flat (or constant), thus preventing any loss of information. Hence, making $\widehat{h}(\omega)$ invertible.

Model-based inversion techniques provide a systematic solution to solving inverse problems. As we will show in this section, there are many applications where an unknown signal needs to be reconstructed from a set of measurements. Assuming that the image formation model is known, the inversion of the forward model depends on a set of system parameters, intrinsic to the phenomenon being analyzed, and a number of regularity conditions, which are characteristic to the inversion method. We will consider three common place examples. (i) Tomographic reconstruction in medical imaging, the tomographic reconstruction, (ii) Image deconvolution or deblurring and, finally, (iii) sub-surface imaging via seismic waveform inversion. Although the last example may seem somewhat unrelated, the main ideas are widely used in imaging examples such as sub-surface imaging of tissues or non-line-of-sight imaging.

3.3.2 Tools and Techniques

Through preceding discussions, we have seen how inverse problems (in many cases) can be modeled as a linear system of equations. Seeking solutions to an inverse problem boils down to inversion of the system that defines the relationship between the inputs and the outputs. We studied basic examples in 3.2.2 when working with overdetermined and underdetermined systems. Here, we will discuss further ideas from least-squares and sparse optimization based methods. The purpose of this chapter is develop a familiarity with basic and frequently used regularization approaches. By no means this discussion is complete. For interested readers, we refer to the reference material on numerical methods Björck (1996), optimization theory Boyd and Vandenberghe (2004) and [sparse recovery](#) Elad (2010).

Least Squares Optimization.

1. Regularized Least Squares.

In 3.2.2, we saw that in the case of overdetermined system, we aim at minimizing $\|\mathbf{g} - \mathbf{Hf}\|_2^2$ while in the case of underdetermined system, our goal is to minimize $\|\mathbf{f}\|_2^2$. Furthermore, in either case, it is required that $\mathbf{H}^\top \mathbf{H}$ is invertible⁶. Hence, in working with the general case where \mathbf{H} may be fat or tall, we can directly minimize the linear combination,

$$\mu_1 \|\mathbf{f}\|_2^2 + \mu_2 \|\mathbf{g} - \mathbf{Hf}\|_2^2 = \mu_2 \left(\frac{\mu_1}{\mu_2} \|\mathbf{f}\|_2^2 + \|\mathbf{g} - \mathbf{Hf}\|_2^2 \right)$$

⁶Although the invertibility condition that appears in the context of underdetermined system is based on \mathbf{HH}^\top , the rank of this matrix is that same as that of $\mathbf{H}^\top \mathbf{H}$.

which depends on the ratio of linear coefficients, that is $\lambda = \mu_1/\mu_2 > 0$. We can now define the cost function,

$$C_\lambda(\mathbf{f}) = \|\mathbf{g} - \mathbf{H}\mathbf{f}\|_2^2 + \lambda \|\mathbf{f}\|_2^2$$

and following the approach previously outlined, we obtain,

$$\frac{\partial}{\partial \lambda} C_\lambda(\mathbf{f}) = 2 \langle \mathbf{H}, \mathbf{H}\mathbf{f} - \mathbf{g} \rangle + 2\lambda \mathbf{f} = 0 \Rightarrow \mathbf{f}^\star = (\mathbf{H}^\top \mathbf{H} + \lambda \mathbf{I})^{-1} \mathbf{g}.$$

Here, the scalar $\lambda > 0$, also known as the regularization parameter, “regularizes” the solution. To see this in effect, we are now working with,

$$\left(\mathbf{H}^\top \mathbf{H} + \begin{bmatrix} \lambda & & \\ & \ddots & \\ & & \lambda \end{bmatrix} \right)^{-1} \quad (\text{Diagonal Loading}).$$

Even when $\mathbf{H}^\top \mathbf{H}$ (and hence $\mathbf{H}\mathbf{H}^\top$) is rank deficit, the regularization parameter ensures that $(\mathbf{H}^\top \mathbf{H} + \lambda \mathbf{I})^{-1}$ is invertible.

2. Constrained Least Squares.

A strategy that is applicable to a broad variety of least squares problems entails a solution to the system of linear equations with constraints. This is also known as the constrained least squares problem,

$$\underbrace{\min_{\mathbf{f}} \|\mathbf{g} - \mathbf{H}\mathbf{f}\|_2^2}_{\text{Least Squares}} \quad \text{such that} \quad \underbrace{\mathbf{A}\mathbf{f} = \mathbf{b}}_{\text{Constraint}}. \quad (3.22)$$

To solve this optimization problem, we use the Lagrange multiplier based strategy and define the cost function,

$$C_\lambda(\mathbf{f}) = \|\mathbf{g} - \mathbf{H}\mathbf{f}\|_2^2 + \langle \lambda, \mathbf{A}\mathbf{f} - \mathbf{b} \rangle$$

where λ is a vector. Again, minimizing the cost function with respect to \mathbf{f} and λ , we obtain,

$$\frac{\partial}{\partial \mathbf{f}} C_\lambda(\mathbf{f}) = 2\mathbf{H}^\top (\mathbf{H}\mathbf{f} - \mathbf{g}) + \mathbf{A}^\top \lambda \quad \text{and} \quad \frac{\partial}{\partial \lambda} C_\lambda(\mathbf{f}) = \mathbf{A}\mathbf{f} - \mathbf{b},$$

respectively. Setting the first derivative to zero, we obtain,

$$\begin{aligned} \frac{\partial}{\partial \mathbf{f}} C_\lambda(\mathbf{f}) = 0 \quad \Rightarrow \quad 2\mathbf{H}^\top (\mathbf{H}\mathbf{f} - \mathbf{g}) + \mathbf{A}^\top \lambda = 0 \\ \mathbf{H}^\top \mathbf{H}\mathbf{f} - \mathbf{H}^\top \mathbf{g} = -\frac{1}{2} \mathbf{A}^\top \lambda \\ \mathbf{f} = (\mathbf{H}^\top \mathbf{H})^{-1} \left(\mathbf{H}^\top \mathbf{g} - \frac{1}{2} \mathbf{A}^\top \lambda \right). \end{aligned}$$

The second derivative when set to zero, trivially yields $\frac{\partial}{\partial \lambda} C_\lambda(\mathbf{f}) = 0 \Rightarrow \mathbf{Af} = \mathbf{b}$ and we have the simultaneous equations,

$$\mathbf{f} = (\mathbf{H}^\top \mathbf{H})^{-1} \left(\mathbf{H}^\top \mathbf{g} - \frac{1}{2} \mathbf{A}^\top \lambda \right) \quad (3.23)$$

$$\mathbf{Af} = \mathbf{b}. \quad (3.24)$$

To solve for λ , we simplify (3.24) by multiplying (3.23) by \mathbf{A} on the left hand side. This yields,

$$\mathbf{A}(\mathbf{H}^\top \mathbf{H})^{-1} \left(\mathbf{H}^\top \mathbf{g} - \frac{1}{2} \mathbf{A}^\top \lambda \right) = \mathbf{b}.$$

Solving for λ , we obtain,

$$\lambda = 2 \left(\mathbf{A}(\mathbf{H}^\top \mathbf{H})^{-1} \mathbf{A}^\top \right)^{-1} \left(\mathbf{A}(\mathbf{H}^\top \mathbf{H})^{-1} \mathbf{H}^\top \mathbf{g} - \mathbf{b} \right).$$

Substituting this value of λ in (3.23), we obtain the solution we were seeking,

$$\mathbf{f} = (\mathbf{H}^\top \mathbf{H})^{-1} \left(\mathbf{H}^\top \mathbf{g} - \mathbf{A}^\top \left(\mathbf{A}(\mathbf{H}^\top \mathbf{H})^{-1} \mathbf{A}^\top \right)^{-1} \left(\mathbf{A}(\mathbf{H}^\top \mathbf{H})^{-1} \mathbf{H}^\top \mathbf{g} - \mathbf{b} \right) \right). \quad (3.25)$$

The generality of this solution is easily appreciated. For instance, let us set $\mathbf{g} = \mathbf{0}$, $\mathbf{H} = \mathbf{I}$. In this case, \mathbf{f} simplifies to $\mathbf{f} = \mathbf{A}^\top (\mathbf{A}\mathbf{A}^\top)^{-1} \mathbf{b}$. This is the minimum norm solution to the underdetermined system of equations $\mathbf{Af} = \mathbf{b}$ in (3.21).

Sparse Regularization. In the least squares regularization discussion, we have seen that the cost function is written as a sum of data fidelity term (or how close is the estimated signal to the measurements) and the term that defines the constraints or regularization. In practice, the constraints may arise from physical properties of the problem or may simply enforce an empirically desirable feature. Hence, in general, one may write the cost function as,

$$C_\lambda(\mathbf{f}) = \mathcal{D}(\mathbf{g}, \mathbf{H}\mathbf{f}) + \lambda \mathcal{R}(\mathbf{f}) \quad (3.26)$$

where \mathcal{D} measures distortion or distance between \mathbf{g} and $\mathbf{H}\mathbf{f}$ while \mathcal{R} is the regularization term which enforces a desirable/undesirable features. The extent to which \mathcal{R} affects the solution is controlled by the regularization parameter λ . As we have seen earlier, the conventional choice for \mathcal{D} is the least squares distance or the 2-norm, that is, $\mathcal{D}(\mathbf{g}, \mathbf{H}\mathbf{f}) = \|\mathbf{g} - \mathbf{H}\mathbf{f}\|_2^2$.

When it comes to the choice of the regularization term, in the last decade or so, the notion of *sparsity* has been preferred over least squares regularization. By sparsity, one simply implies that when solving for $\mathbf{H}\mathbf{f} = \mathbf{g}$, we also look for \mathbf{f} which has few non-zero entries. In particular, we say that $\mathbf{f} \in \mathbb{R}^N$ signal is a K -sparse vector when any K out N entries are non-zero. To develop an instant appreciation for the notion of sparsity, we present a toy example in Fig. 3.12 which demonstrating the advantage in the case of denoising. In Fig. 3.12a, we show a data vector (oracle) containing a sum of two sinusoids in the time

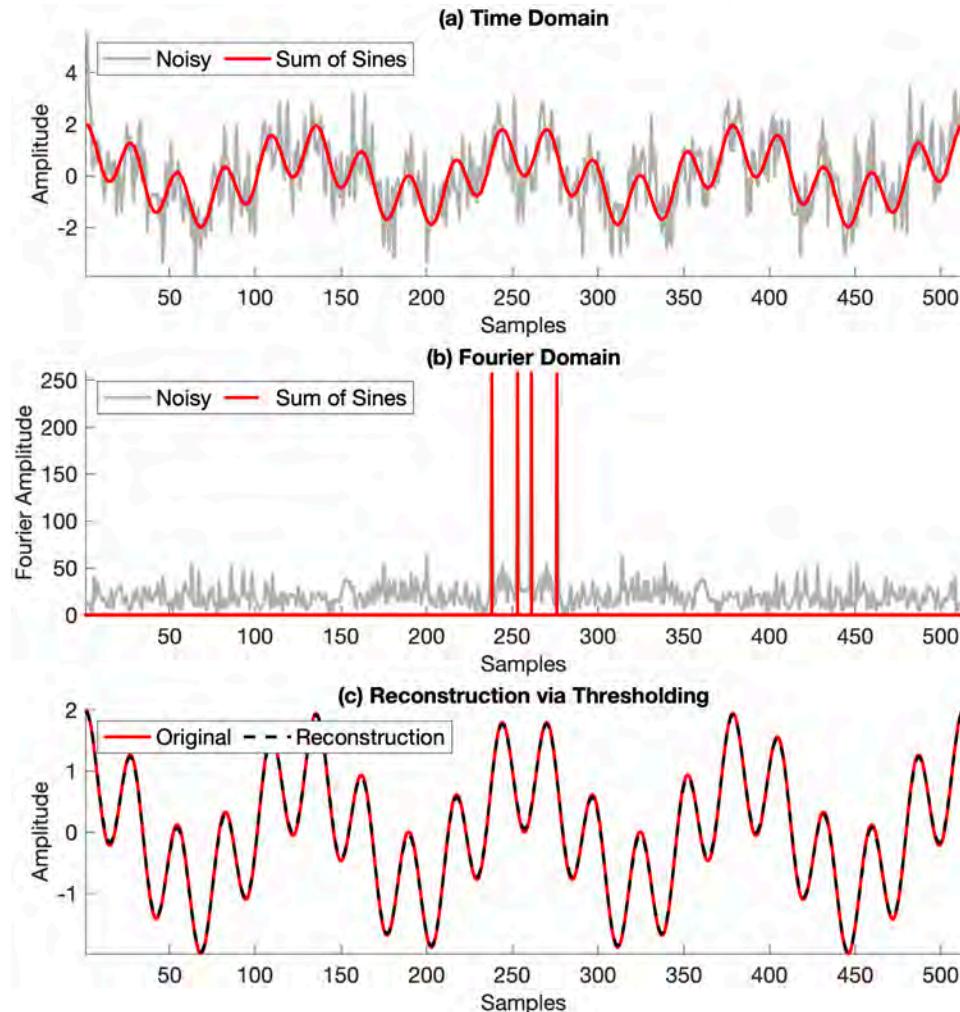


Figure 3.12: Denoising by leveraging sparsity. (a) Time-domain samples of a sum of two sinusoids and its noisy measurements with 0 dB signal-to-noise-ratio (SNR). (b) Fourier domain representation. Since the data comprises of a sum of two sinusoids, its Fourier domain representation is a 2-sparse signal comprising of two spikes. Adding noise changes this, leading to a number of spurious spikes. (c) Reconstruction via sparsity. In Fourier domain, we remove all but two largest coefficients because we know that the data comprises of a 2-sparse signal. Time domain reconstruction shows the effect of denoising and results in a near perfect reconstruction.

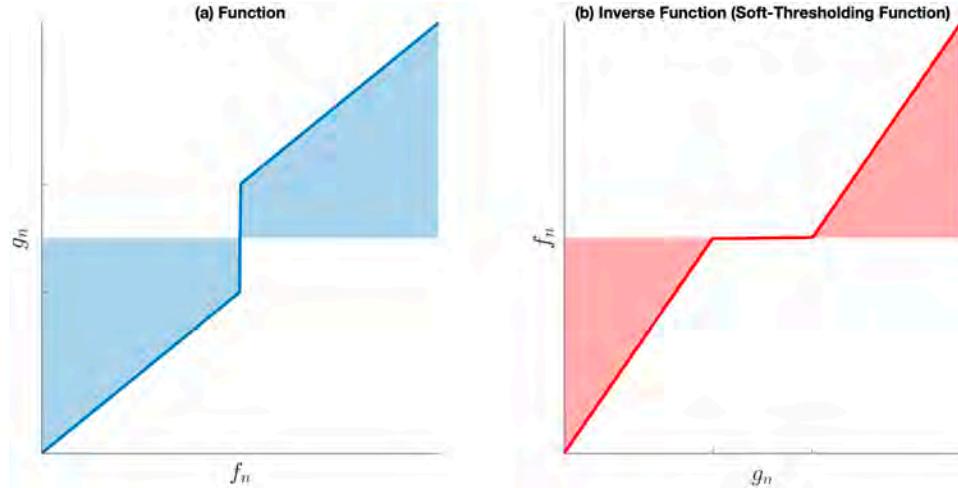


Figure 3.13: Soft-thresholding function as an inverse function. (a) Graph of the function $g_n = f_n + \frac{\lambda}{2} \operatorname{sgn}(f_n)$. (b) To evaluate f_n given g_n , we invert the graph in (a) which yields the definition of the soft-thresholding function. The grid lines in gray represent $\pm\lambda/2$.

domain. This data is corrupted by additive white Gaussian noise with 0 dB signal-to-noise-ratio (SNR). In Fig. 3.12b, we plot the Fourier domain representation of the data vector and noisy vector. As we have seen before (cf. (3.9)), the Fourier transform “sparsifies” a sinusoid. Due to the linearity of the Fourier transform, a sum of K sinusoids results in a K -sparse signal in the Fourier domain. When working with noisy measurements, we can leverage this information and remove all but $K = 2$ largest Fourier components. There on, a simple inverse Fourier transform yields a near perfect reconstruction in Fig. 3.12c. Sparsity regularized solutions are leveraged in several applications presented in this book. Examples include (a) compressive imaging 4.4.1, (b) light-in-flight imaging in 5.5.2, (c) coded spectral imaging 8.3.4 and (d) sub-surface and skin imaging 10.5.2.

To enforce sparsity as a regularization prior, a typical approach is to use the ℓ_1 -norm. This is mathematically defined by, $\mathcal{R}(\mathbf{f}) = \|\mathbf{f}\|_{\ell_1}$. For simplicity of notation, we simply write $\|\mathbf{f}\|_1$, where,

$$\|\mathbf{f}\|_1 = |f_1| + |f_2| + \cdots + |f_N|.$$

Clearly, the ℓ_1 -norm of \mathbf{f} is small when many of its entries are zero.

Sparse Recovery by Soft-Thresholding. In the example presented in Fig. 3.12, the key idea behind enforcing sparsity (in Fig. 3.12b) was a non-linear decision process; *keep K largest Fourier coefficients*. This entails removing many of the coefficients, an operation that is known as *thresholding*. The same intuition translates to the mathematical procedure when solving the sparse regularization problem. To this end, consider a special case of the

cost function in (3.26) where we set $\mathbf{H} = \mathbf{I}$ (identity operation) and $\mathcal{R}(\mathbf{f}) = \|\mathbf{f}\|_1$ is used to enforce sparsity. Our cost function takes the form of,

$$C_\lambda(\mathbf{f}) = \|\mathbf{g} - \mathbf{f}\|_2^2 + \lambda \|\mathbf{f}\|_{\ell_1} = \sum_{n=1}^N (g_n - f_n)^2 + \lambda |f_n|. \quad (3.27)$$

To minimize this cost function, we differentiate it and obtain,

$$\frac{\partial}{\partial \mathbf{f}} C_\lambda(\mathbf{f}) = (g_n - f_n) + \lambda \operatorname{sgn}(f_n)$$

where sgn is the sign or the signum function. To obtain the optimal value of \mathbf{f} , the one that minimizes (3.27), we set the derivative of the cost function to zero,

$$\frac{\partial}{\partial \mathbf{f}} C_\lambda(\mathbf{f}) = 0 \Rightarrow g_n = \left(f_n + \frac{\lambda}{2} \operatorname{sgn}(f_n) \right) \text{ (element-wise)}$$

This gives a non-linear relation between f_n and g_n . To define f_n in terms of g_n , we use the inverse function method. In Fig. 3.13a, we plot $g_n = (f_n + \frac{\lambda}{2} \operatorname{sgn}(f_n))$. Interchanging the axes in Fig. 3.13b defines f_n in terms of g_n which, for an arbitrary \mathbf{x} , is analytically written as,

$$\operatorname{soft}_\lambda(\mathbf{x}) = \operatorname{sgn}(\mathbf{x}) \left(|\mathbf{x}| - \frac{\lambda}{2} \right) \mathbb{1}_{|\mathbf{x}| > \frac{\lambda}{2}}(\mathbf{x}).$$

This is the soft-thresholding function. The minimizer of (3.27) is given by,

$$\mathbf{f}^* = \operatorname{soft}_\lambda(\mathbf{g}).$$

The basic strategy for the cost function generalizes to the case when the measurements \mathbf{g} are explained by the forward model \mathbf{H} and hence, one seeks to minimize,

$$C_\lambda(\mathbf{f}) = \|\mathbf{g} - \mathbf{H}\mathbf{f}\|_2^2 + \lambda \|\mathbf{f}\|_{\ell_1}. \quad (3.28)$$

There are standard approaches to solve this problem which are categorized into the broad themes of,

1. Pursuit algorithms Elad (2010) such as orthogonal matching pursuit (OMP), basis pursuit (BP) and basis pursuit denoise (BPDN).
2. Thresholding based algorithms such as iterated soft-thresholding algorithm (ISTA) Daubechies et al. (2004) and its accelerated version, fast iterated soft-thresholding algorithm (FISTA) Beck and Teboulle (2009).
3. Majorization-minimization Figueiredo et al. (2007) based algorithms where one seeks to break down a cost function in terms of simpler, typically, quadratic minimization problems.

Beyond this, for readers interested in more general optimization approaches around the theme of proximal splitting methods and alternating-direction method of multipliers (ADMM) based optimization, we refer to the reference materials Parikh and Boyd (2014); Combettes and Pesquet (2011); Bach et al. (2011).

3.3.3 Examples of Model-based Reconstruction

1. **Tomography.** Model-based inversion techniques are required to recover data from measurements such as computer tomography (CT) scans or positron emission tomography (PET) scans. As opposed to localized imaging, which probes single points in the target, in tomographic imaging the measurement contains contributions from larger regions, which leads to a more complex but interesting inversion problem. Those are both examples of ray tomography, which performs scans along given lines, and then sums up the distribution of the target object along those lines. Typically, the ray tomography scan results in measurements of the form

$$m = \exp\left(-\int_{\text{ray } l} \alpha(l) dl\right),$$

where $\alpha(l)$ denotes the absorption coefficient of the object along line l . The sum ray, or projection, is given by $\int_{\text{ray } l} \alpha(l) dl = -\ln(m)$. The sum ray can be expressed more rigorously using the Radon transform:

$$p(s, \phi) = \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} d(s \cos \phi - \tau \sin \phi, s \sin \phi + \tau \cos \phi) d\tau,$$

where $d(x, y)$ denotes the 2D distribution of the object, and $p(s, \phi)$ denotes the projection. The inverse problem in this case is recovering $d(x, y)$ given enough measurements of $p(s, \phi)$.

An important mathematical result, known as the **projection slice theorem**, shows an intuitive way to solve the inversion of the Radon transform. It states that each Radon projection $p(s, \phi)$ represents the 1D inverse Fourier transform of a slice of the object distribution $d(x, y)$. The corresponding equation is

$$\hat{p}_\phi(k_s) = \hat{d}(k_s \cos \phi, k_s \sin \phi).$$

This means that we can recover any slice of \hat{d} by computing the 1D Fourier transform of the Radon transform along variable s .

Let us take a very popular example of ray tomography, computer axial tomography (CAT) also known as computed tomography (CT). This system is designed to compute systematically as many projections from the 3D object as possible, which should in turn generate enough slices of function D. The CAT scanner emits a series of parallel beams

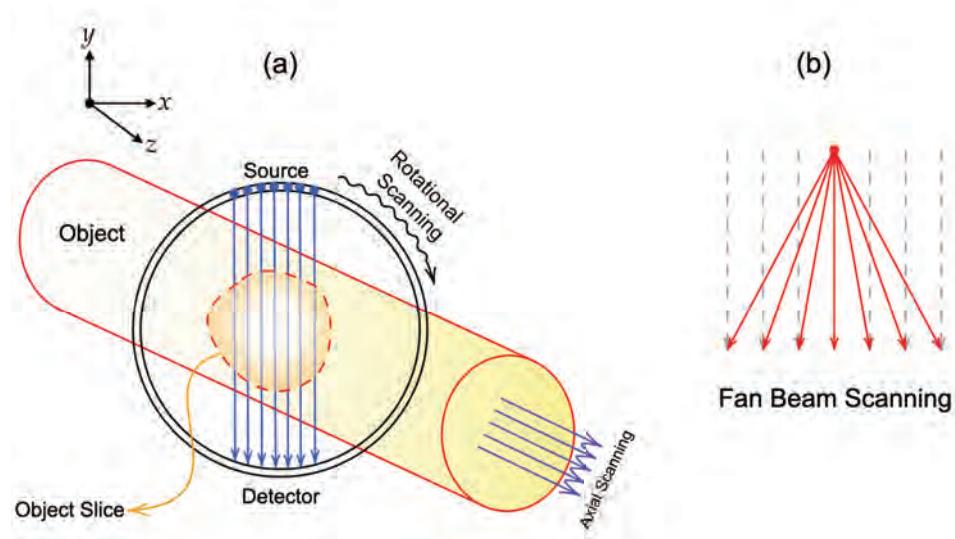


Figure 3.14: Computed Axial Tomography Scanning: (a) Scanner using parallel rays measured with sensor arrays. (b) Rays organised in a fan shape used by medical scanners.

(fan-shaped for medical scanners) which are attenuated by the target object, and then measured by a sensor array placed on the opposite side, as depicted in Fig. 3.14. The ray emitters and detectors then rotate around the object to acquire samples of the object from all orientations.

2. **Image Deconvolution.** Imaging aims to recover the intrinsic properties of a scene. However these are not directly accessible in most cases, and the cameras capture images which represent the result of filtering the image describing the scene with a kernel function depending on the capturing device used. Model-based inversion methods reverse the filtering operation to uncover the underlying scene properties.

An interesting example of model-based inversion can be found in 3D microscopy. The problem that occurs here is that typically the specimens being analysed with a microscope have several layers of depth, and only one can be in focus at one time Vonesch and Unser (2008). But can we recover the layers that are out of focus? It turns out that an out of focus blurry image is nothing but the original image filtered with a microscope specific kernel, known as the point spread function (PSF).

Generally speaking, a camera focused at different depths captures can be described by a 3D PSF which generates a 3D stack of blurry images apart from one in-focus image:

$$\mathbf{I}_f(x, y, z) = (\mathbf{I} * \text{PSF})(x, y, z),$$

where \mathbf{I} is the original 3D image stack and \mathbf{I}_f is the filtered stack. It is possible to compute the in-focus image stack \mathbf{I} with a simple and fast deblurring algorithm known as nearest neighbor. This effectively computes the out of focus contribution of a blurry image as the average of directly adjacent images in the stack. This method is very imprecise.

The convolution operation can be expressed in the simple algebraic form

$$\mathbf{I}_f = \text{PSF} \cdot \mathbf{I},$$

where \mathbf{I}_f and \mathbf{I} are the original and filtered images in matrix form, and PSF is the matrix form of the point spread function. Then if we measure an out of focus 3D stack $\tilde{\mathbf{I}}_f$, we can estimate the in-focus stack as $\min_{\mathbf{I}} \left\| \tilde{\mathbf{I}}_f - \text{PSF} \cdot \mathbf{I} \right\|_2^2$, which is the classical least squares problem, where $\|\cdot\|_2^2$ is the squared norm. This is also known as the **inverse filter** method.

However this approach is not working well when the data is corrupted by noise. There are two types of noise in an imaging system. The **shot noise**, caused by the irregularity of the photon arrival times, is mostly prevalent at low levels of lighting. The **read noise** is determined by the imperfection of the imaging sensor, affected by temperature and gain (ISO value). The issue is addressed by adding a regularization term of the form

$$\hat{\mathbf{I}} = \arg \min_{\mathbf{I}} \left\| \tilde{\mathbf{I}}_f - \text{PSF} \cdot \mathbf{I} \right\|_2^2 + \lambda \|\mathbf{I}\|_1,$$

where λ is the regularization parameter and $\|\mathbf{I}\|_1 = \sum_{i,j,k} \|I_{i,j,k}\|$ denotes the ℓ_1 norm. This essentially creates a trade-off between minimising the error (left-hand term) and generating images with a small number of components. This type of regularization assumes that the original image is sparse, in the sense that it has many zero entries. In microscopy, for example, this may be true in the case of a specimen with a dark background, but it does not apply in most cases. What if all the entries of the 3D stack are nonzero? A research direction called wavelet regularization shows that it is possible to select a right basis function of wavelets, such that the coefficients of \mathbf{I} in that basis are sparse. We can then write the optimization problem as

$$\hat{\mathbf{I}} = \arg \min_{\mathbf{I}} \left\| \tilde{\mathbf{I}}_f - \text{PSF} \cdot \mathbf{I} \right\|_2^2 + \lambda \|\mathbf{WI}\|_1,$$

where λ is the regularization parameter, and \mathbf{WI} denote the sparse set of wavelet coefficients of the in-focus image stack \mathbf{I} .

Another problem is that sometimes the PSF function is unknown, which makes it impossible to directly apply the inverse filter. This case can be addressed by implementing an iterative inversion method, which reconstructs both the PSF and the best image

solution. Iterative methods are very precise and noise robust, but these come at the cost of a high computational complexity.

- 3. Seismic Imaging.** In seismic inversion, the surface of the Earth is probed with a seismic vibrator or a dynamite explosion in order to quantify the geophysical properties of the underground layers of rock and fluid. One of the most widespread applications is determining the properties of underground petroleum reservoirs.

Seismic inversion methods are based on a **forward model** which can consist of classical wave equations, predicting particle displacement or fluid pressure variation during seismic propagation. The forward model is thus described by an equation of the form

$$s(t) = (w * r)(t),$$

where $s(t)$ is the synthetic seismic data, $r(t)$ is the reflectivity function to be estimated and $w(t)$ is the source wavelet (also called the source signature), the shape of the pressure pulse created by the source. One should not confuse the meaning of the wavelet (referring to the waveform) in seismic inversion to the one from signal processing used in the “Image Deconvolution” example above where wavelet refers to the wavelet transform.

An iterative method is proposed to derive the reflectivity function in a robust and precise way Cooke and Cant (2010). Initially, the reflectivity function is unknown, and an estimate is provided by the user, which is expected to lead to poor results. Knowing the waveform of the source wavelet, the model generates an initial estimate of the synthetic seismic data $s(t)$. By implementing partial derivatives of the forward model to each of the model parameters, the proposed algorithm is able to compute a new iteration of the reflectivity function $r(t)$. The process continues until the root mean squared error between the observed and synthetic seismic data is smaller than a predefined tolerance:

$$\text{err} = \frac{1}{N} \sqrt{\sum_{n=0}^{N-1} |s(nT) - s_{\text{true}}(nT)|^2} < \text{tol},$$

where T is the sampling time and N is the data size.

3.4 Data-driven Inversion Techniques

Take some scene property f and a set of camera measurements g . These two quantities are related by

$$g = \mathcal{H}[f] + \epsilon,$$

where $\mathcal{H}[\cdot]$ is a non-linear operator and ϵ is additive noise. Typical imaging problems require us to solve ~~the inverse problem~~, where we are given y , and need to solve for x via

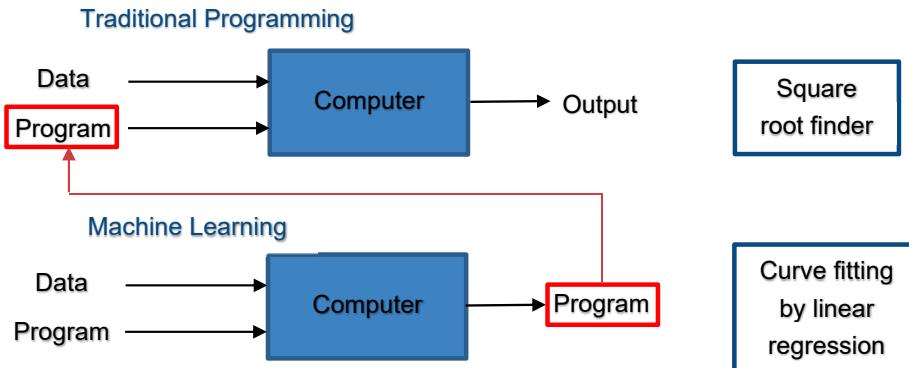


Figure 3.15: Traditional Programming vs. Machine Learning.

the inverse model $\mathcal{H}^{-1}[\cdot]$. In this section, we will study data-driven methods that help us find an inverse mapping from $y \rightarrow x$. These data-driven models search for patterns and structure in large amounts of data. The patterns learned from this data are then generalized to data that the model has never seen. In this section, we will see how neural networks, specifically, are used to model this function mapping.

3.4.1 Machine Learning

In 1959, Arthur Samuel defined **machine learning (ML)** as the “field of study that gives computers the ability to learn without being explicitly programmed.” He wrote the first self-learning program, which played checkers by learning from experience (*i.e.*, data). In just 50 years, ML has evolved and become an integral part of our lives. For example, it has been deployed in cancer diagnosis, drug discovery, face recognition, recommendation systems (*e.g.*, Netflix), linguistics, and more.

In traditional programming, we explicitly provide the computer with data and an algorithm that directly yields an output. In machine learning, we allow the computer to learn patterns and structure directly from the data itself. There are two major types of learning: **supervised** and **unsupervised learning**. A supervised learning algorithm is fed both input data (X) and output data (Y), *i.e.*, labels. From this, it is able to directly learn a function mapping $X \rightarrow Y$. Unsupervised learning algorithms, on the other hand, are only given input data. From this input data, unsupervised learning algorithms identify certain patterns and groupings within the data. These groupings are then used to classify new unseen data. In machine learning, there are three types of data: **training data**, **testing data**, and **validation data**. Training data is used to train the ML model and learn a function mapping. Testing data is used to evaluate the performance of the model, and **validation data** is used for **hyperparameter tuning**.

3.4 Data-driven Inversion Techniques

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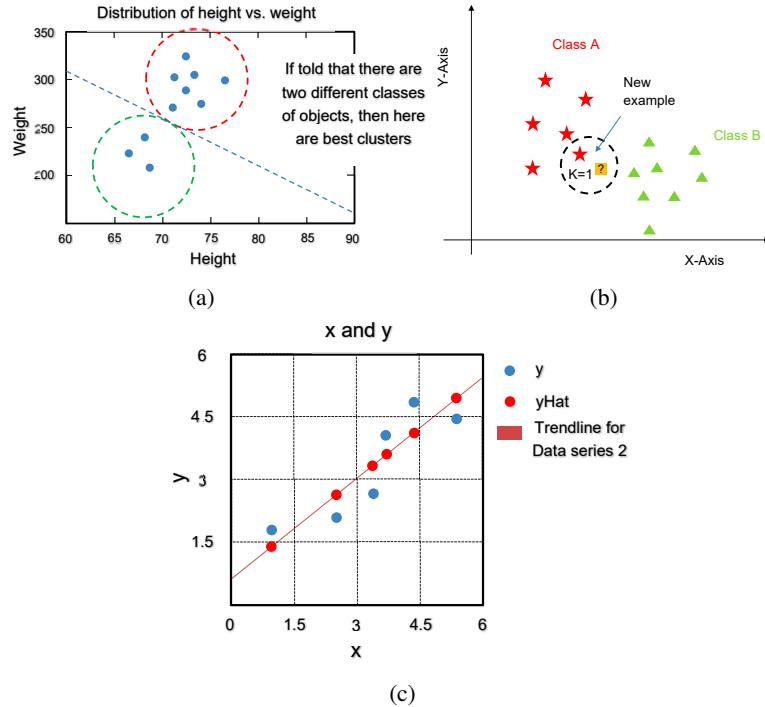


Figure 3.16: Examples for (a) Clustering, (b) Classification (KNN), and (c) Linear Regression. (a) Data is clustered into two groups. (b) A new data point can be classified either into class A or class B. (c) Dots correspond to data points and the line corresponds to the linear fit.

There are six major classes of machine learning: (1) Clustering, (2) Classification, (3) Regression, (4) Deep Learning, (5) Dimensionality Reduction, (6) Reinforcement learning. Our discussions will be restricted to (1)-(4), but the interested reader is directed to Ghodsi (2006) and Sutton and Barto (2018) for details on (5) and (6), respectively.

- **Clustering:** Clustering is an example of an unsupervised learning algorithm. Each data point can be represented as a point in some representation (or feature) space. The clustering algorithm then groups data points together based on their proximity in this representation space. A classic example is k -means clustering Likas et al. (2003).
- **Classification:** Classification aims to label some input data as one of n classes. For example, a computer vision algorithm may want to classify input image data as either a cat or dog. Classification algorithms typically work by searching for boundaries in feature space that separate different classes, as depicted in Fig. 3.16bb. One trivial example of a classification algorithm is **k -nearest neighbors** Sutton (2012).

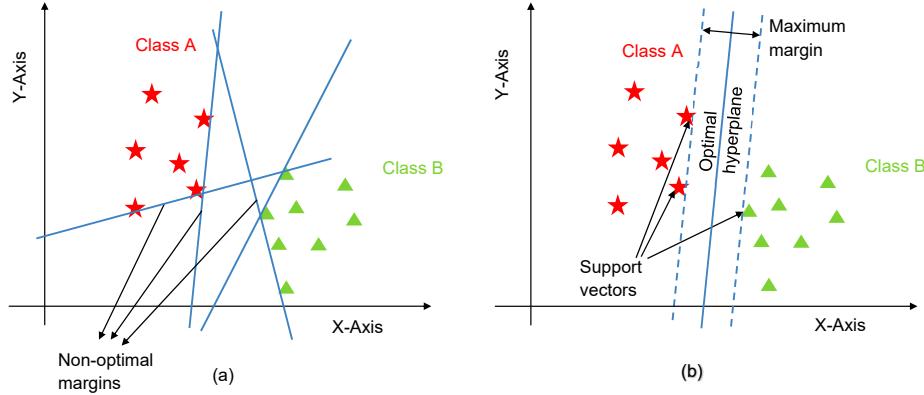


Figure 3.17: Support Vector Machine model classification. (a) Examples of non-optimal hyperplane margins. (b) Optimal hyperplane separation.

- **Regression:** Regression is one of the fundamental supervised learning algorithms. Given some unseen data, regression aims to predict some output variable given the value(s) of the input variable(s). A key distinction between classification and regression is that regression can take on continuous values, while classification allows for only discrete outputs. The most basic example of this is first order linear regression, in which we aim to relate the input and output as a linear function

$$\mathbf{y} = \mathbf{B}_0 + \mathbf{B}_1 \mathbf{x},$$

where \mathbf{B}_0 is the bias and \mathbf{B}_1 is the slope. Regression would solve for the values of \mathbf{B}_0 and \mathbf{B}_1 .

- **Support Vector Machine (SVM):** SVMs are a popular example of unsupervised learning. They can be used to solve both classification and regression problems. Given labeled training data, SVMs find decision boundaries between different classes. For example, let's say we want to classify fruits as either apples and oranges. Each data point will be represented in an n -dimensional feature space, where features could be shape and color for example.

Fig. 3.17a shows the various types of margins which can be drawn to separate the two classes, these margins may not always classify the new data point correctly. Fig. 3.17b the support vectors and optimal hyperplane are displayed. **Support vectors** are data points that are closer to the hyperplane and influence the position and orientation of the hyperplane. Using these support vectors, we maximize the margin of the classifier. Deleting the support vectors will change the position of the hyperplane.

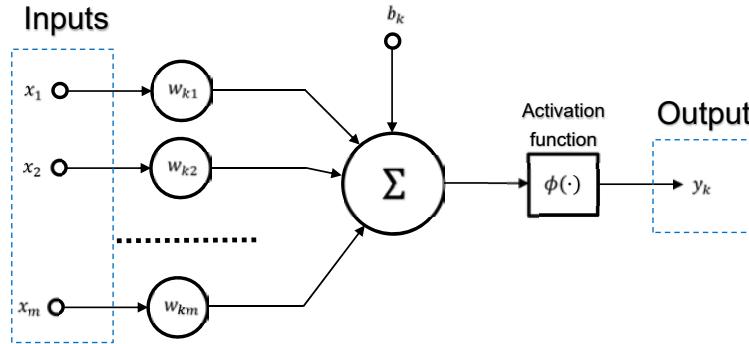


Figure 3.18: A non-linear model of a neuron.

3.4.2 Neural Networks and Deep Learning

Neural Networks are a machine learning model inspired by the pattern of neurons firing in the human brain. These networks attempt to process information and data similar to how our brains do. As a simplified model, neural networks contain several **layers** of processing. Each layer contains several **nodes**, which are information processing units meant to simulate the neurons. Nodes are densely interconnected between adjacent layers, as shown in Fig. 3.21. Typically, these artificial neural networks contain anywhere between dozens to millions of artificial neurons. This subset of machine learning is known as **deep learning**, in which deep layers of neurons are used to compute complex non-linear inverse function mappings.

Model of a Neuron: A neuron is an information processing unit that is fundamental to the operation of a neural network. Fig. 3.18 shows the model of a neuron which forms the basis for designing Neural Networks. Here we identify 3 basic elements of the neuronal model:

1. The connecting links (synapses) characterize the weights. Specifically, a signal x_j at the input of synapse of j connected to a neuron k is multiplied by the synaptic weight $w_{k,j}$.
2. An adder for summing the input signals, weighted by their respective synapses of neurons.
3. An activation function (represented by σ) for limiting the amplitude of the output of a neuron.

The model also includes an external bias b_k . The bias is used to shift the boundary line, *i.e.*, it has the effect of increasing or lowering the net input of the activation function, depending on whether it is positive or negative as shown in Fig. 3.19.

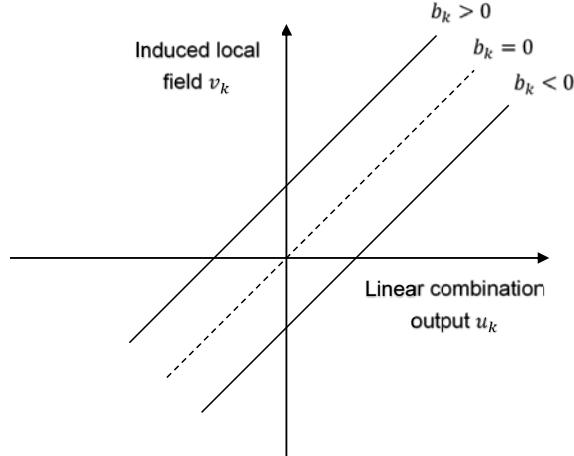


Figure 3.19: Affine transformation produced by the presence of bias.

The output of the neuron is calculated as follows:

$$v_k = x_0 b_k + x_1 w_{k1} + x_2 w_{k2} + \cdots + x_n w_{kn},$$

where v_k is the local field and $x_1 w_{k1}, \dots, x_n w_{kn}$ constitute the weighted sum of input.

$$v_k = x_0 b_k + \sum_{j=1}^n x_j w_{kj}.$$

To incorporate the bias value, the zeroth neuron is held constant ($x_0 = 1$) and the weight of the zeroth neuron is the bias ($w_{k0} = b_k$),

$$v_k = \sum_{j=0}^n x_j w_{kj}.$$

v_k is then input to a non-linear activation function. The final output is defined as below:

$$y_k = \sigma(v_k).$$

Types of activation functions: The activation function decides whether a neuron should be activated or not by calculating the weighted sum and further adding bias with it. The purpose of the activation function is to introduce non-linearity into the output of a neuron. The most commonly used activation functions are described below.

1. Sigmoid: The sigmoid function is defined by

$$\sigma(x) = \frac{1}{1 + e^{-x}}.$$

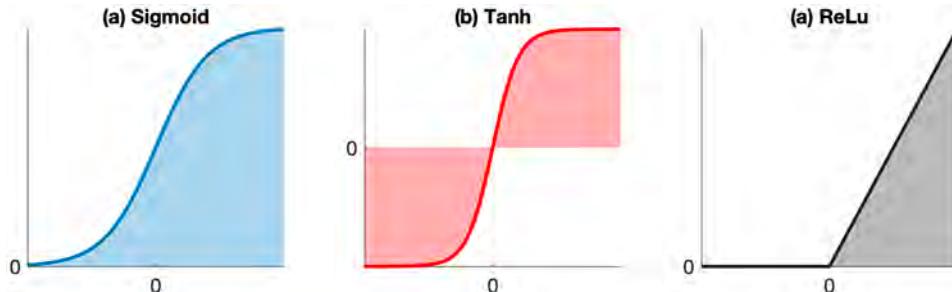


Figure 3.20: The graphical representation of various activation functions. (a) The sigmoid activation function. (b) The tanh activation function. (c) The ReLU activation function.

It squashes the numbers to range [0, 1]. Fig. 3.20a depicts the sigmoid function. As we can see the sigmoid function is not zero centric and the saturated neurons kill the gradient.

2. Tanh: The tanh function is defined by

$$\tanh(x) = 2\sigma(x) - 1.$$

This function unlike the sigmoid function is zero centric. It also squashes the numbers to range [-1, 1]. It is represented in Fig. 3.20b.

3. ReLU: ReLU function is the most used activation function as it's computationally very efficient and it converges faster than tanh and sigmoid. The ReLU function is defined by

$$\sigma(x) = \max(0, x).$$

It is represented in Fig. 3.20c.

Loss function: A loss function is the evaluation metric used to train a neural network. It is a scalar value indicating the quality of the network's output. In supervised learning, this would constitute an output consistent with the ground truth output. The choice of a loss function is directly related to the activation function used in the output layer of your neural network. A few loss functions are mentioned below.

1. Mean Squared Error Loss: It is calculated as the average of the squared differences between the predicted and actual values. The result is always positive regardless of the sign of the predicted and actual values and a perfect value is 0.0.
2. Mean Absolute Error Loss: Absolute Error for each training example is the distance between the predicted and the actual values, irrespective of the sign. Absolute Error is also known as the ℓ_1 loss.

3. Cross-Entropy or Log Loss: Each predicted probability is compared to the actual class output value (0 or 1) and a score is calculated that penalizes the probability based on the distance from the expected value. The penalty is logarithmic, offering a small score for small differences (0.1 or 0.2) and enormous score for a large difference (0.9 or 1.0).

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或惩罚项 Regularization: The goal of machine learning is to have a model learn to generalize unseen data. When dealing with small datasets, however, these models may overfit to the dataset. To prevent this overfitting, we can impose some restriction on the structure of the network. Specifically, regularization is a modification made to the learning algorithm to reduce its generalization error, even if it increases training error. One straightforward way to regularize is to constantly evaluate the training and validation loss on each training iteration, and return the model with the lowest validation error.

A simple to implement type of regularization is to modify the cost function with a parameter norm penalty. This penalty is usually denoted as $\Omega(\theta)$. A common type of parameter norm regularization is to penalize the size of weights. We describe 2 parameter regularizations below.

1. **ℓ_2 Regularization:** If w are the model parameters to be regularized, then ℓ_2 regularization penalty can be defined as:

$$\Omega(\theta) = \|w\|_2^2 = \frac{1}{2} w^T w.$$

ℓ_2 regularization causes the weights w to have a small norm. Large weights are often undesirable because then small changes in the input would cause large changes in output, resulting in numerical instability.

2. **ℓ_1 Regularization:** ℓ_1 regularization defines the parameter norm penalty as:

$$\Omega(\theta) = \|w\|_1 = \sum_i |w_i|.$$

Intuitively, this form of regularization encourages the weights to be sparse, i.e. only a few weights will be non-zero.

3. **Dropout** is a regularization method in which the output of certain nodes are randomly ignored or “dropped out” (i.e., set to zero). This helps the network from overtraining certain nodes over others. Dropout could also be thought of as a way to train different network architectures simultaneously, since the number of nodes and layers will change each iteration.

Different Types of Networks: The block diagram in Fig. 3.18 provides a functional description of the various elements that constitute the model of an artificial neuron. We may simplify the appearance of the model by using the idea of signal flow graphs. We will talk about the various architectures that are present in NNs below.

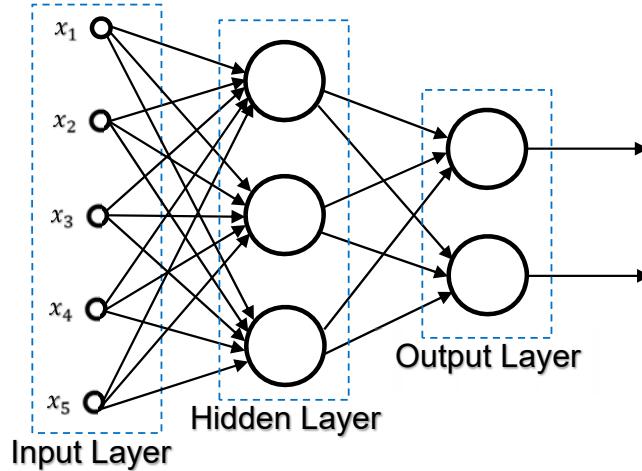


Figure 3.21: Fully connected feedforward network with one hidden layer and one output layer.

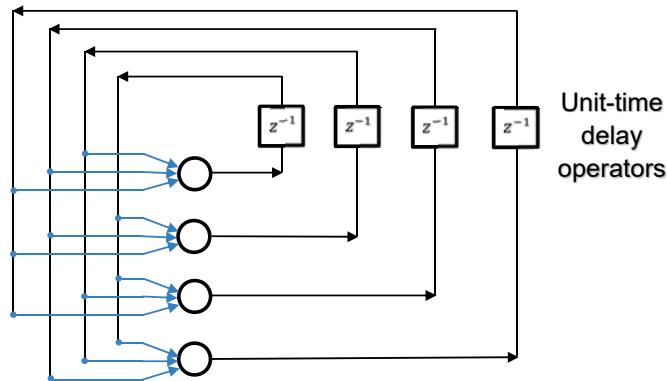


Figure 3.22: Recurrent network with no hidden neurons and no self-feedback loops.

1. Multilayer feedforward network: In a single-layer network the input layer projects the input on the output layer of neurons. The output layer of neurons is not counted as no computation is performed. The difference between a single-layer and multilayer network is the existence of hidden layers. The added depth of hidden layers enables deeper processing of the data. One interpretation of these added hidden layers is that they act as feature extractors before yielding an output. Fig. 3.21 illustrates a multilayer fully connected feedforward network with one hidden layer and one output layer.

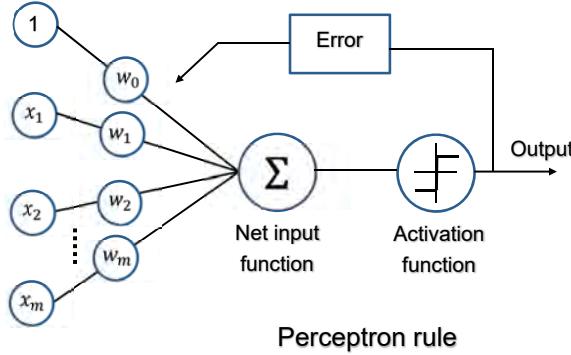


Figure 3.23: A simple model of a perceptron.

2. Recurrent networks: A recurrent network distinguishes itself from a feedforward network in that it has at least one feedback loop. The presence of a feedback loop has a profound impact on the learning capability of the network and its performance. In a traditional neural network we assume that all inputs (and outputs) are independent of each other, but sometimes this is an ill-posed assumption. For example, consecutive frames in a video are highly correlated due to their temporal relationship. RNNs are called recurrent because they perform the same task for every element of a sequence, with the output being dependent on the previous computations. Another way to think about RNNs is that they have a “memory” which captures information about what has been calculated so far. Fig. 3.22 shows a recurrent network with no hidden layers.

Perceptron: The concept of a perceptron was originally proposed by Frank Rosenblatt in 1943, and was later refined by Minsky and Papert in 1969. A perceptron is simply a binary linear classifier. The goal of a perceptron is to correctly classify the set of inputs into 2 classes. The perceptron algorithm automatically learns the optimal weight coefficients for the input signals. The input features are then multiplied with these weights to determine if a neuron fires or not. The perceptron receives multiple input signals, and if the sum of the input signals exceeds a certain threshold, it either outputs a signal or does not return an output. In the context of supervised learning and classification, this can then be used to predict the class of a sample. Fig. 3.23 illustrates the simple architecture of the perceptron.

The perceptron function is defined as follows

$$f(\mathbf{x}) = \sum_i x_i w_i,$$

where $f(\mathbf{x})$ is the output, x_i is the input and w_i is the weight for the particular instance of node i .

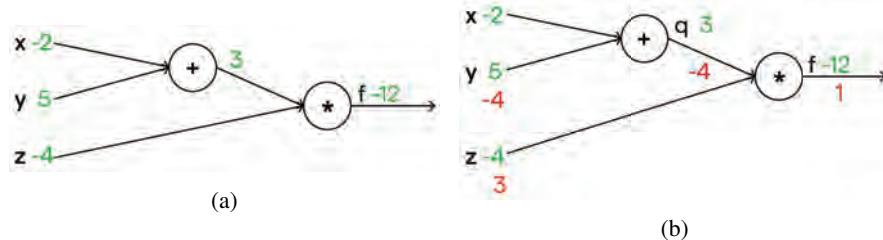


Figure 3.24: A simple example to demonstrate the working of the backpropagation algorithm. (a) The function represented using signal flow graph rules. (b) The signal flow graph with backpropagation values updated. (The values in green are the input values, the values in red are the values calculated using the backpropagation algorithm).

Backpropagation algorithm: Backpropagation is the most fundamental building block of neural network training. Backpropagation operates on the chain rule principle. The basic idea is to efficiently calculate the partial derivative of an approximating function $F(\mathbf{w}, \mathbf{x})$ realized by the network with respect to all the elements of the adjustable weight vector \mathbf{w} for a given value of input vector \mathbf{x} . In simple terms, after each forward pass through a network, backpropagation performs a backward pass while adjusting the model's parameters (weights and biases). This is best explained by example. Let's say $x = -2$, $y = 5$, and $z = -4$ for the following equation

$$f(x, y, z) = (x + y) \cdot z.$$

Fig. 3.24a shows the computational graph for this, and breaks the equation into intermediate variables.

$$\begin{aligned} q &= x + y, & \frac{\partial q}{\partial x} = 1, \quad \frac{\partial q}{\partial y} = 1, \\ f &= qz, & \frac{\partial f}{\partial q} = z, \quad \frac{\partial f}{\partial z} = q. \end{aligned}$$

We want to calculate the below partial differentials

$$\frac{\partial f}{\partial x}, \frac{\partial f}{\partial y}, \frac{\partial f}{\partial z}.$$

We can make the following deductions from Fig. 3.24a,

$$\frac{\partial f}{\partial x} = 1, \quad \frac{\partial f}{\partial y} = 3, \quad \frac{\partial f}{\partial z} = -4.$$

Using the chain rule to find the partial derivative of f with respect to y ,

$$\frac{\partial f}{\partial y} = \frac{\partial f}{\partial q} \frac{\partial q}{\partial y}, \quad \frac{\partial f}{\partial y} = -4.$$

Using the chain rule again to calculate the partial derivative of f with respect to x ,

$$\begin{aligned}\frac{\partial f}{\partial x} &= \frac{\partial f}{\partial q} \frac{\partial q}{\partial x}, \\ \frac{\partial f}{\partial x} &= -4.\end{aligned}$$

Fig. 3.24b represents the output after the first round of backpropagation. Using these calculated derivatives (gradients in practice), we can update the weights to reduce the value of the loss function. These weights are updated repeatedly over multiple iterations of training until some stopping criteria is met (usually number of iterations or performance threshold).

3.4.3 Convolutional Neural Networks and Computer Vision

Computer vision is a growing field today, with applications in autonomous vehicles, industrial automation, digital pathology, and more. Classic tasks in computer vision include object detection, segmentation, and tracking Comaniciu et al. (2001). Computer vision techniques have also been applied to tasks like monocular depth estimation Laina et al. (2016); Liu et al. (2015); Eigen and Fergus (2015), phase recovery Rivenson et al. (2018), and even optical neural networks Lin et al. (2018); Chang et al. (2018). State of the art methods in these tasks typically incorporate a **Convolutional Neural Network (CNN)**. CNNs are particularly important in computer vision since they leverage 2D spatial features of images. These networks typically contain convolution layers, which convolves images with 2D or 3D convolution filters. CNNs have also been used in Natural Language Processing (NLP) and speech recognition. We will now go through a few building blocks of a CNN.

Types of layers: There are various types of layers that are used to build CNNs.

1. CONV layer (convolution) performs a 2D convolution of the input image with a filter. All entries in the filter are learnable parameters. The filter height and width is small relative to size of the image, but extends through the full depth of the input volume. The convolution operator accounts for interdependencies between adjacent pixels.
2. POOL layer performs a downsampling operation along the spatial dimensions (width, height). It is common to periodically insert a pooling layer in-between successive CONV layers in a ConvNet architecture. Its function is to progressively reduce the spatial dimensions of the representation to reduce the number of parameters and computation in the network, and hence to also control overfitting. The pooling operator also introduces spatial invariance into the network.

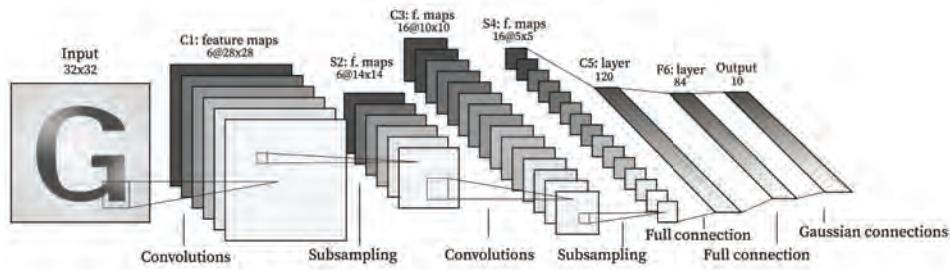


Figure 3.25: LeNet Architecture.

3. FC (fully-connected) layer is typically the last layer of a network performing classification. It has n nodes, where n is the number of classes. This serves as the output layer, and each node contains a score for each class. The class with the highest score is what the network will choose as the classified object.

CNN Architectures: There are many popular CNN architectures, many of them gained recognition by achieving good results. A few of them are mentioned below.

1. LeNet-5: This 7-layer CNN classified digits, digitized 32×32 pixel grayscale input images. It was used by several banks to recognize the hand-written numbers on checks. LeNet-5 architecture Lecun et al. (1998) consists of two sets of convolutional and average pooling layers, followed by a flattening convolutional layer, then two fully-connected layers, and finally a softmax classifier.

In the first layer, the input for LeNet-5 is a 32×32 grayscale image that passes through the first convolutional layer with 6 feature maps or filters having size 5×5 and a stride of one. The image dimensions change from $32 \times 32 \times 1$ to $28 \times 28 \times 6$. Then the LeNet-5 applies an average pooling layer or subsampling layer with a filter size 2×2 and a stride of two. The resulting image dimensions will be reduced to $14 \times 14 \times 6$. Next, there is a second convolutional layer with 16 feature maps having size 5×5 and a stride of 1. In this layer, only 10 out of 16 feature maps are connected to 6 feature maps of the previous layer. The main reason is to break the symmetry in the network and keep the number of connections within reasonable bounds. That's why the number of training parameters in these layers is 1516 instead of 2400 and similarly, the number of connections is 151600 instead of 240000. The fourth layer (S4) is again an average pooling layer with filter size 2×2 and a stride of 2. This layer is the same as the second layer (S2) except it has 16 feature maps so the output will be reduced to $5 \times 5 \times 16$. The fifth layer (C5) is a fully connected convolutional layer with 120 feature maps each of size 1×1 . Each of the 120 units in C5 is connected to all the 400 nodes ($5 \times 5 \times 16$) in the fourth layer S4. The sixth layer is a fully connected layer (F6) with 84 units. Finally,

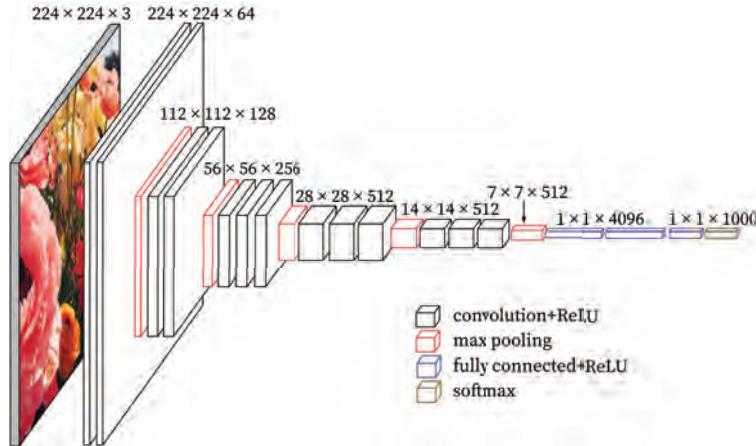


Figure 3.26: VGG16 Architecture.

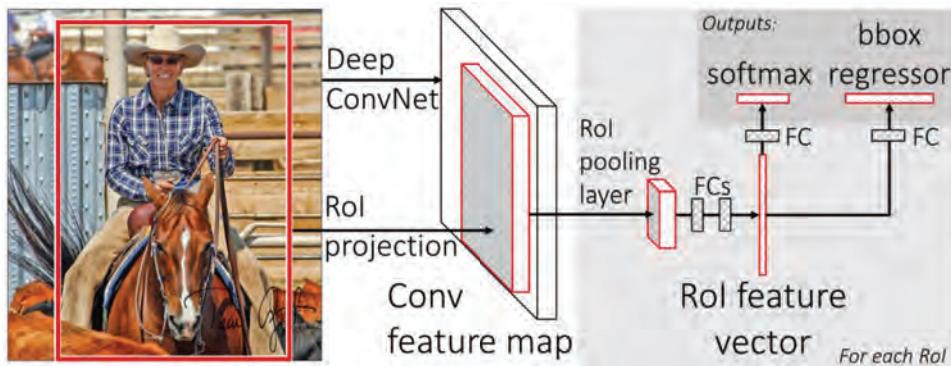


Figure 3.27: Fast R-CNN Architecture Girshick (2015).

there is a fully connected softmax output layer \hat{y} with 10 possible values corresponding to the digits from 0 to 9.

2. VGG16: As the name suggests, VGG16 has 16 layers. This architecture is from the Visual Geometry Group at Oxford Simonyan and Zisserman (2014). The VGG-16 network is characterized by 3×3 convolutional layers stacked on top of each other in increasing depth. Reducing the volume is handled by max-pooling. Two fully connected layers each with 4096 nodes, followed by another fully connected layer of 1000 nodes. Then this is followed by a soft-max classifier. In VGG-16 the blocks are of the same filter size and are applied multiple times to extract more complex and representative features. This concept of blocks became common in the networks developed after VGG.

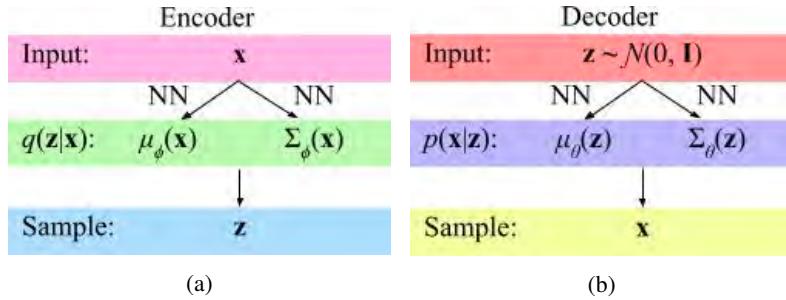


Figure 3.28: The architecture of Variational Autoencoder. (a) The encoder. (b) The decoder.

3. Fast Region-based Convolutional Network: A Fast R-CNN network Girshick (2015) takes as input an entire image and a set of object proposals. The network first processes the whole image with several convolutional and max pooling layers to produce a conv feature map. Then, for each object proposal a region of interest (RoI) pooling layer extracts a fixed-length feature vector from the feature map. Each feature vector is fed into a sequence of fully connected layers that finally branch into two sibling output layers: one that produces softmax probability estimates over K object classes plus a catch-all “background” class and another layer that outputs four real-valued numbers for each of the K object classes (per-class bounding-box regression offsets). Training all network weights with back-propagation is an important capability of Fast R-CNN. In Fast RCNN training, stochastic gradient descent mini batches are sampled hierarchically, first by sampling N images and then by sampling R/N RoIs from each image. Critically, RoIs from the same image share computation and memory in the forward and backward passes. Making N small decreases mini-batch computation.
4. Variational Autoencoders (VAE): A lot of techniques in machine learning try to compress the dimensionality of the data into a smaller space. Autoencoders work on the same principle. The high-dimensional input is passed through a neural network to obtain a compressed output. It achieves this with 2 principal components. The first component, also known as an encoder consists of a bunch of layers (can be fully connected or convolutional layers) that take the input and try to compress it to a smaller representation. The smaller representation is known as bottleneck. The second component consists of reconstructing the input from the bottleneck. The last function of training the autoencoder is to look at the reconstructed version at the end of the decoder and compute the reconstruction loss with respect to the input. This method can be used for denoising images, neural inpainting(remove a small part of the image and ask the neural network to reconstruct the complete input). In autoencoders, the input is mapped to a fixed vector, but in variational autoencoders Kingma and Welling (2019), the input

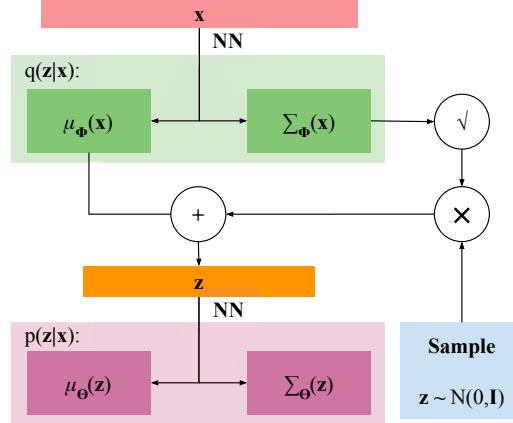


Figure 3.29: The reparameterization trick.

is mapped to a distribution. So the normal bottleneck vector C is replaced by 2 separate vectors, one representing the mean of the distribution and the other one representing the standard deviation of the distribution. Hammernik et al. (2018) use a VAE to learn the reconstruction of MRI data.

The loss function for the above architecture consists of two terms:

$$\text{Loss} = \text{Reconstruction loss} + \text{KL divergence}$$

$$\log p_\theta(x) = \mathbb{E}_z \log p(x|z) - D_{\text{KL}}(q(z|x) || p(x)).$$

We notice that there is a sampling operation between the encoder and decoder. The node has to take a sample from a distribution and feed it through the decoder. The problem in VAE is that we can't run backpropagation or we can't push gradients through the sampling node. To run the gradients through the entire network, we use a reparameterization trick. If we look at the latent vector that we are sampling, the vector can be a sum of fixed μ (learning parameter) and γ (learning parameter) multiplied by ε where $\varepsilon \sim \mathcal{N}(0, 1)$.

$$z = \mu + \gamma \odot \varepsilon.$$

With the reparameterization trick, we can now backpropagate to calculate the gradient with respect to all parameters.

5. Generative Adversarial Network: GANs don't require any probabilistic learning unlike the other methods. It has two networks: a generator network and a discriminator that compete with each other. Conceptually, the GAN Goodfellow et al. (2014) can be thought of as a game between two players, the generator and discriminator. The

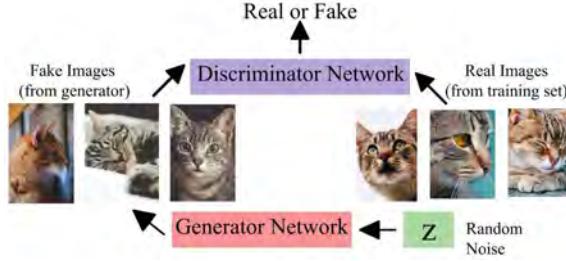


Figure 3.30: The generative adversarial network.

generator is a generative model and performs mapping $\hat{\mathbf{x}} = \mathfrak{G}(\mathbf{z})$, where \mathbf{z} is some random noise. Its goal is to produce samples, $\hat{\mathbf{x}}$ from the distribution of the training data $p(\mathbf{x})$. The discriminator is the generator's opponent, and performs a mapping $\mathfrak{D}(\mathbf{x}) \in (0, 1)$. Its goal is to look at samples and determine if they are real samples or synthetic samples from the generator. The generator is trained to fool the discriminator, and thus the two can be viewed as adversaries. Let us define the discriminator's loss function. We will let $p_{\text{data}}(\mathbf{x})$ denote the data distribution and $p_{\text{model}}(\mathbf{x})$ denote the distribution of samples from the generator. Then the discriminator loss is defined as:

$$\mathcal{L}^{(\mathfrak{D})} = -\frac{1}{2} \mathbb{E}_{\mathbf{x} \sim p_{\text{data}}} \log \mathfrak{D}(\mathbf{x}) - \frac{1}{2} \mathbb{E}_{\mathbf{z}} \log (1 - \mathfrak{D}(\mathfrak{G}(\mathbf{z}))) .$$

The goal of the discriminator is to minimize the loss. The loss will be zero $\mathfrak{D}(\mathbf{x}) = 1$ for all $\mathbf{x} \sim p_{\text{data}}$ and $\mathfrak{D}(\hat{\mathbf{x}}) = 0$ for all $\hat{\mathbf{x}} \sim p_{\text{model}}$. A remarkable example of a GAN can be seen at [this link](#), where a GAN generates a highly realistic image of a face of a person that doesn't actually exist.

Transfer learning and Fine-tuning: Researchers in this field often make pre-trained networks available open-source to the computer vision community. The availability of these pre-trained networks is particularly useful for other researchers, as training millions of parameters can be time consuming and ill-posed with insufficient data and limited computing power. In practice, one can instead use the pre-trained network weights as a starting point for their application. There are two major transfer learning scenarios:

- Feature Extraction: This is done by taking a pre-trained network, removing the last fully-connected layer, and treating the remainder of the network as a feature extractor for the new dataset. A linear classifier (*e.g.*, Linear SVM or Softmax classifier) is then trained, with the extracted features as input.
- Fine-tuning: The second strategy is to fine-tune the pre-trained network by using the network as a starting point for the training. The network can be fine-tuned by continuing training on the new dataset. It is possible to either fine-tune all the layers of the network, or keep some layers constant and fine-tune the others.

3.5 Hybrid Inversion Techniques (Data-Driven + Model-Based)

Up to this point, let's revisit the benefits and limitations of inversion using data-driven approaches versus physical model-based approaches. Model-based inversion is highly interpretable and constrains the solution to be physically plausible. However, these models are limited by human bias (introduced by a partial understanding of the physical phenomena) and are not robust to noise. On the other hand, data-driven models are able to learn arbitrary function mappings $X \rightarrow Y$. However, these models lead to uninterpretable results with an unbounded solution space encompassing physically improbable solutions. They also require large amounts of data to meaningfully extract patterns and structure from the physical phenomena. By systematically integrating these two approaches, we are able to overcome deficiencies in both methods. In Willard et al. (2020), the authors provide an excellent survey of techniques to meaningfully integrate physics with data-driven approaches, which we will summarize below.

3.5.1 Physics-Based Regularization

As we discussed earlier, the goal of regularization in iterative models is to discourage solutions that don't satisfy some physical or mathematical property. In the context of data-driven models, regularization entails two terms in the loss function: (1) a data fidelity term and (2) a physics-based regularizer. A physical regularizer here aims to mitigate reconstruction errors by incorporating even just a partial understanding of the underlying physical phenomena.

$$\hat{f} = \arg \min_f \|g - \mathcal{H}[f]\|^2 + \alpha \Phi(f),$$

where \mathcal{H} is the forward operator, f is the unknown property, Φ is some prior physical knowledge acting as a regularizer, and α is a hyperparameter balancing the tradeoff between data fidelity and physical plausibility. For example, Goy et al. (2018) solves the phase retrieval problem in low-light conditions (where shot noise is prevalent) by incorporating a regularization term on the possible values for phase, based on the condition that the object modulates only the phase, not the magnitude. Fig. 3.31 shows the performance improvement of a physics-based neural network over standard deep learning methods (end-to-end), iterative methods (Gerchberg-Saxton), and inverse model projections (approximant).

3.5.2 Physics-Guided Network Initialization

The weights of a neural network are typically randomly initialized. Since neural networks learn a nonlinear function mapping, the initialization of the weights often play a critical role in helping the network converge to an optimal loss minima, rather than a local minima. One way to improve network convergence is by training the network to initialize based on the results from a physics-based model. This would operate based on a *transfer learning* principle. To do this, first synthetic data is developed using a physics-based forward model.

3.5 Hybrid Inversion Techniques (Data-Driven + Model-Based)

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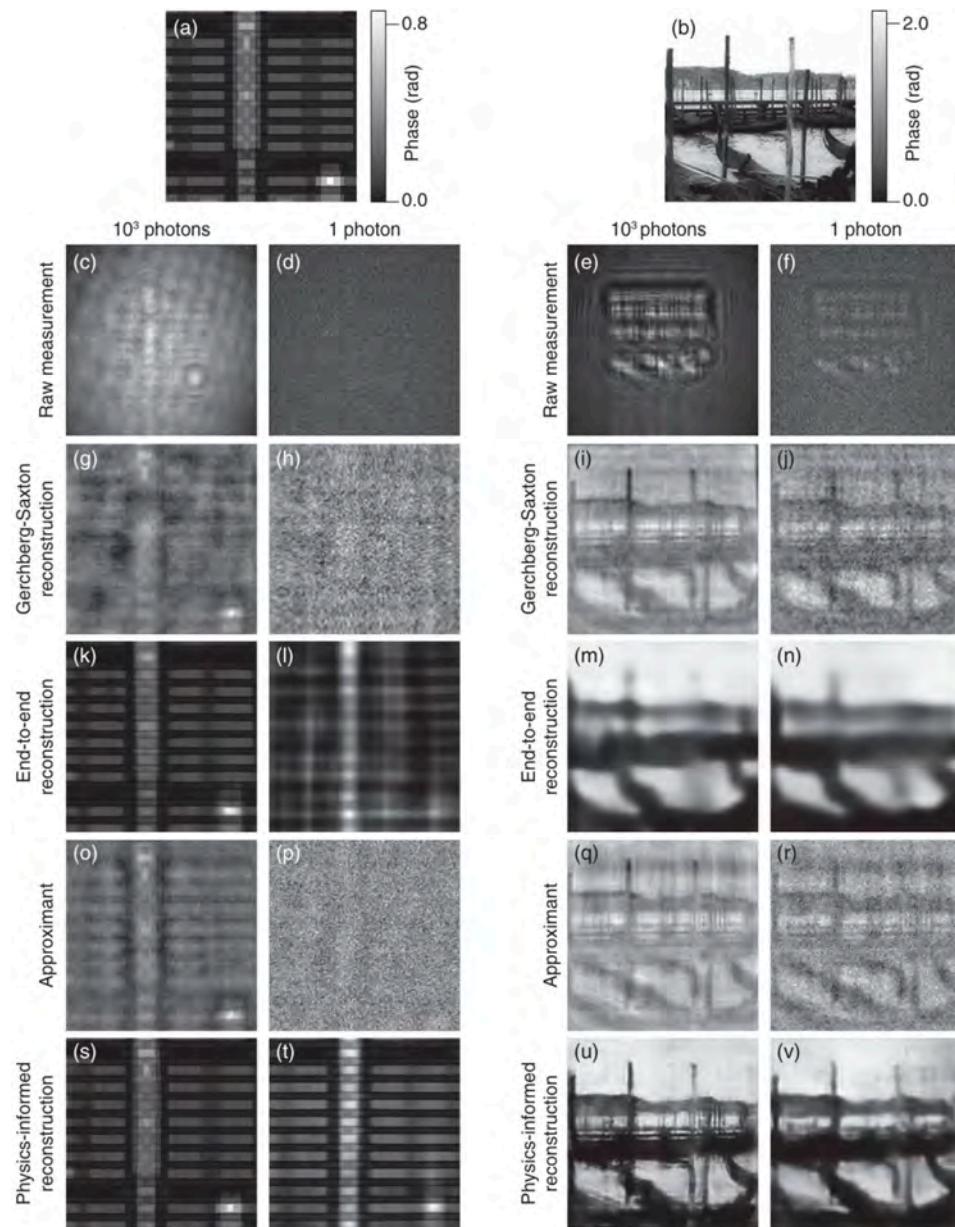


Figure 3.31: Phase retrieval under dominant effects of shot noise is shown to be more effective under a physics-based network, compared to standard deep learning, iterative, or model-based approaches Goy et al. (2018).

A neural network can then learn from this physics-based simulation data. After training, this will be used as a pre-trained model. The network trained on simulation data will then be used as an initialization point for the network to be trained on real data. Such a technique is also useful when the amount of experimental data available is limited.

3.5.3 Physics-Based Network Architectures

Neural networks often learn weights and biases in an uninterpretable manner, making it difficult to actually know if the network is learning the same physics that humans understand. One approach to circumvent this is by directly manipulating layer connections based on the variable dependencies between different parameters. For example, the use of a CNN inherently allows the assumption that objects in an image are scale, translation, and rotation invariant. Meanwhile, the use of a RNN encodes a time-invariant structure. For example, Sturmfels et al. (2018) insert a layer at the beginning of a CNN to spatially discretize different regions of the brain. This enables the network to learn different parameters for different parts of the brain. This is particularly important for predicting age from neuroimages, since different regions of the brain behave differently at different stages of life.

3.5.4 Hybrid Models

An easy way to combine information from physics and data is by feeding the output of a physics-based model as input to a deep learning model. One could think of this as feeding additional features of the data to the network. In Chapter 7, we will see how polarization cues can be leveraged to obtain the shape of an object. In the context of a hybrid model, we can see how the shape estimates from a polarization-based model can be fed as input to a CNN, where ambiguities from the physics model can be corrected. In such a situation, the model-based shape estimate and the polarization images can be fed as input to the network. Another such hybrid model is a **residual model**, where the network learns the errors, or residuals, between the physics model and the observed data. Such a model is able to learn from the deficiencies of the physical model and make corrections to it accordingly. The disadvantage of such a model lies in its inability to enforce any physical constraint, the way that a physics-based architecture or loss function would.

3.5.5 Optical Neural Networks

There have been some interesting works on optical implementations of such deep learning modalities. The layers of the neural network are physically constructed using diffractive materials, in comparison to digital layers used in traditional neural networks. Each point in the layer can be interpreted as a neuron. This follows from Huygen-Fresnel's principle, in which every point in a diffractive material can be treated as a point source. Neurons in subsequent layers interact with each other, and modulate the phase and amplitude of the light based on their complex transmission/reflectance coefficients. The phase and

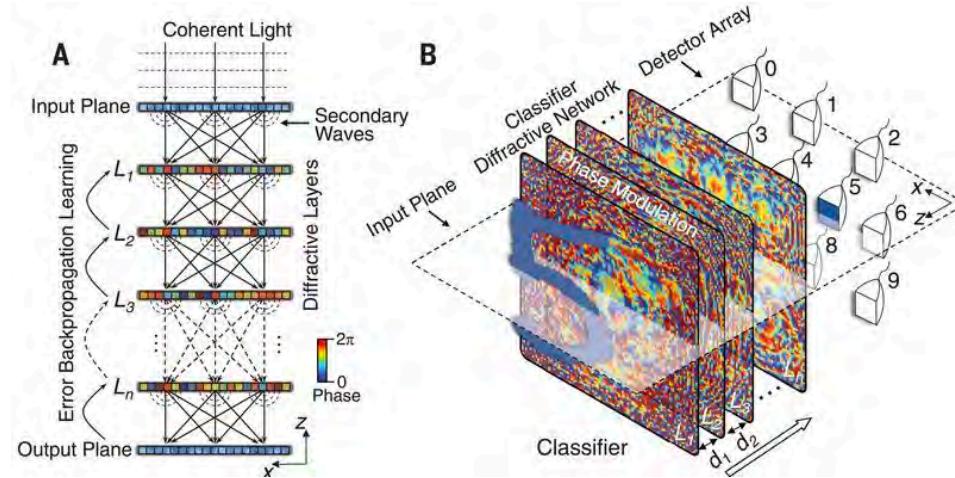


Figure 3.32: Deep Diffractive Neural Network. (a) Each point on the diffractive layers behaves as a point source, in accordance with Huygen-Fresnel's principle. (b) Light emanating from a "5" is input into the classifier diffractive network. The light is subsequently propagated through the layers, and a detector array is used to classify the digits from 0-9 Lin et al. (2018).

amplitude of each neuron within a layer can be trained digitally via backpropagation. Once these parameters are determined for a given task (e.g. MNIST digit classification), the individual layers can be fabricated. This type of network is termed a deep diffractive neural network and is illustrated in Fig. 3.32 Lin et al. (2018). Such diffractive networks are still being explored in the imaging community, with research being done into understanding the information capacity of such networks Kulce et al. (2021) as well as improving their performance via methods such as diffractive ensemble learning Rahman et al. (2021).

Optical neural networks can also be used to reduce the burden on digital computation, by performing some computations optically. For example, one can insert a phase mask in front of the camera to act as an optical correlator that performs template matching. This layer acts as an optical pre-processor, making it easier for a digital CNN to achieve high classification accuracy with reduced training time Chang et al. (2018).

Chapter Appendix: Notations

| Notation | Description |
|----------|--------------------------|
| $f(t)$ | Continuous-time function |
| $f[m]$ | Discrete-time function |

| | |
|--|---|
| \mathcal{L} | Linear system |
| $f_\tau(t)$ | Signal $f(t)$ delayed by τ |
| $\delta(t)$ | Dirac delta distribution/impulse |
| ω | Angular frequency |
| $f_\omega(t)$ | Eigenfunction of linear time-invariant (LTI) system |
| λ_ω | Eigenvalue of an LTI system |
| $\hat{f}(\omega)$ | Fourier transform of function $f(t)$ |
| $g^*(t)$ | Complex conjugate of function $g(t)$ |
| T | Sampling interval |
| T_p | Period of a function in time |
| $\text{III}_{T_p}(t)$ | Dirac comb with inter-tooth distance T_p |
| B_Ω | Set of Bandlimited functions with maximum frequency Ω |
| Ω_0 | Period of a function in frequency |
| $\ \mathbf{x}\ _2$ | ℓ_2 -norm of a vector |
| $\ f(t)\ _2$ | L_2 -norm of a function |
| $\langle \mathbf{x}, \mathbf{y} \rangle$ | Inner product of two vectors \mathbf{x} and \mathbf{y} |
| $\mathbb{1}_{[a,b]}$ | Vector of all ones between $[a, b]$ |
| $p(s, \phi)$ | Radon projection |
| $d(x, y)$ | Object distribution |
| \mathbf{I} | Image |
| \mathbf{I}_f | Filtered image |
| PSF | Point spread function |
| \mathbf{W} | Wavelet basis |
| $\ \mathbf{x}\ _1$ | ℓ_1 -norm of a vector \mathbf{x} |
| $D_{\text{KL}}(q p)$ | Kullback–Leibler divergence between probability densities p and q |
| \mathbb{E}_z | Expectation with respect to random variable z |
| \mathfrak{G} | Generator network |
| \mathfrak{D} | Discriminator network |

Exercises**1. Computing Fourier Transforms.**

Many of the imaging problems require computation of the Fourier domain representation of a function. The goal of this warm-up exercise is to compute basic Fourier transforms that will be used later in the book.

a) Sparse Signals.

Compute the Fourier transform of the continuous-time sparse signal given by,

$$s(t) = \sum_{k=0}^{K-1} \Gamma_k \delta(t - t_k).$$

As we will see in Chapter 5, here Γ_k and t_k are attributed to reflectivity and time-delays in the context of time-resolved imaging.

b) Exponential Functions.

Compute the Fourier transform of the transfer function given by, ,

$$s(t) = \rho e^{-\frac{t-\tau}{\lambda}} \mathbb{1}_{t \geq \tau}(t).$$

In the context of fluorescence lifetime imaging which is an established imaging technique in life sciences, ρ and λ take the meanings of emission coefficient and lifetime, respectively and τ refers to the delay.

c) Tensor Spline Functions.

In the areas of computer graphics and signal/image processing, splines are frequently used for interpolation related tasks. A B-spline of order zero is defined by a box-function or,

$$\beta^0(t) = \begin{cases} 1 & |t| < \frac{1}{2} \\ \frac{1}{2} & t = \frac{1}{2} \\ 0 & t > \frac{1}{2} \end{cases}.$$

Higher order splines are polynomial functions defined by recursive convolution of the basic spline,

$$\beta^N(t) = \underbrace{\beta^0 * \beta^0 * \dots * \beta^0}_{N+1 \text{ convolutions}}(t).$$

Show that in closed form, one can directly write,

$$\beta^N(t) = \frac{1}{N!} \sum_{n=0}^{N+1} \binom{N+1}{n} (-1)^n \left(t - n + \frac{N+1}{2} \right)_+^n$$

where $(t)_+^n = t^n \mathbb{1}_{t \geq 0}(t)$.

Multi-dimensional (tensor) splines in dimension M can be simply written as a separable basis function of the form,

$$\beta^N(\mathbf{t}) = \prod_{m=1}^M \beta^N(t_m).$$

Show that its Fourier transform is,

$$\widehat{\beta}^N(\boldsymbol{\omega}) = \prod_{m=1}^M \left(\frac{\sin\left(\frac{\omega_m}{2}\right)}{\left(\frac{\omega_m}{2}\right)} \right)^{N+1}.$$

2. Weighted Least Squares Inversion.

When working with tall and fat matrices, we have seen that inversion amounts to solving a least squares optimization problem. In practice, it may be of interest to minimize a weighted version of the cost function. Here, the weights refer to a diagonal matrix of the form,

$$\mathbf{W} = \begin{bmatrix} w_1 & & & \\ & w_2 & & \\ & & \ddots & \\ & & & w_N \end{bmatrix}.$$

a) Overdetermined System of Equations.

In the case of overdetermined system, we have seen that the cost function is given by (3.18), that is, $C(\mathbf{f}) = \|\mathbf{g} - \mathbf{Hf}\|_2^2$. For the weighted least squares problem, minimize the cost function,

$$C_{\mathbf{W}}(\mathbf{f}) = \left\| \sqrt{\mathbf{W}}(\mathbf{g} - \mathbf{Hf}) \right\|_2^2, \quad \text{where} \quad \sqrt{\mathbf{W}} = \begin{bmatrix} \sqrt{w_1} & & & \\ & \sqrt{w_2} & & \\ & & \ddots & \\ & & & \sqrt{w_N} \end{bmatrix}$$

and show that the optimal solution is given by,

$$\mathbf{f}^* = (\mathbf{H}^\top \mathbf{W} \mathbf{H})^{-1} \mathbf{H}^\top \mathbf{W} \mathbf{g}.$$

b) Underdetermined System of Equations.

Extending the above example for the case of an underdetermined system, minimize the weighted energy corresponding to (3.20) and show that the optimal solution to

the problem,

$$\min_{\mathbf{f}} \left\| \sqrt{\mathbf{W}} \mathbf{f} \right\|_2^2 \text{ such that } \mathbf{g} = \mathbf{H} \mathbf{f}$$

is given by,

$$\mathbf{f}^* = \mathbf{W}^{-1} \mathbf{H}^\top \left(\mathbf{H} \mathbf{W}^{-1} \mathbf{H}^\top \right)^{-1} \mathbf{g}.$$

3. Sparse Recovery Beyond Soft-Thresholding.

In the context of sparse recovery, the cost function in (3.27) can be generalized in the sense that the ℓ_1 -norm can be replaced by a point-wise non-linearity defined by function ξ leading to,

$$C_\lambda(\mathbf{f}) = \|\mathbf{g} - \mathbf{f}\|_2^2 + \lambda \xi(\mathbf{f}),$$

provided that ξ is differentiable. The core idea is to use a ξ that mimics the ℓ_1 -norm.

- a) Explain why do we need that ξ is differentiable?
- b) Suppose that we define,

$$\xi(\mathbf{f}) = \frac{1}{\alpha} \log(1 + \alpha |\mathbf{f}|), \quad \alpha > 0.$$

For one and two-dimensional \mathbf{f} , plot $\xi(\mathbf{f})$ and compare it with the ℓ_1 -norm of \mathbf{f} .

In analogy to the minimizer of (3.27) given by, $\mathbf{f}^* = \text{soft}_\lambda(\mathbf{g})$, what is the minimizer of the cost function with $\xi(\mathbf{f})$ defined above?

4. Smoothing and Trend Filtering

Data smoothing is one of the most common place tasks in signal processing and computational imaging. Smoothing related tasks work with discrete derivatives of the data and for this purpose, let us define the first-order forward difference matrix,

$$\mathbf{D}_N^1 = \begin{bmatrix} -1 & +1 & & & \\ & -1 & +1 & & \\ & & \ddots & \ddots & \\ & & & -1 & +1 \end{bmatrix} \in \mathbb{R}^{(N-1) \times N}$$

which when acting on a vector $\mathbf{f} \in \mathbb{R}^N$ produces a vector $(\mathbf{D}_N^1 \mathbf{f}) \in \mathbb{R}^{N-1}$ where $[\mathbf{D}_N^1 \mathbf{f}]_n = f[n+1] - f[n]$.

- a) Verify that the K^{th} -order finite difference is given by,

$$\mathbf{D}_N^K = \mathbf{D}_{N-K+1}^1 \mathbf{D}_N^{K-1} \in \mathbb{R}^{(N-K) \times N}, \quad K > 1.$$

b) Smoothing Filter.

For any $\mathbf{f} \in \mathbb{R}^N$, by minimizing the cost function,

$$C_\lambda(\mathbf{f}) = \|\mathbf{g} - \mathbf{H}\mathbf{f}\|_2^2 + \lambda \|\mathbf{D}_N^2 \mathbf{f}\|_2^2$$

obtain the solution for optimal \mathbf{f} . Generally, this problem is known as the Tikhonov Regularization problem when the difference matrix is replaced by a generic matrix.

Show that $\mathbf{D}_N^K \mathbf{f}$ can be written as a convolution filter. Based on this, devise a fast Fourier domain filtering algorithm.

For a vector \mathbf{f} arising from a smooth function, suppose that we replace $\mathbf{f}_{\text{noise}} = \mathbf{f} + \mathbf{z}$ where \mathbf{z} is vector drawn from a independent and identically distributed (i.i.d) Gaussian distribution with variance parameter σ . What is the effect of changing λ for a given σ ?

c) Total Variation Minimization.

For piecewise constant data, one typically minimizes the const function,

$$C_\lambda(\mathbf{f}) = \|\mathbf{g} - \mathbf{f}\|_2^2 + \lambda \|\mathbf{D}_N^1 \mathbf{f}\|_{\ell_1}.$$

Here, the term,

$$\|\mathbf{D}_N^1 \mathbf{f}\|_{\ell_1} = \sum_{n=1}^{N-1} |f[n+1] - f[n]|$$

is known as the Total Variation of \mathbf{f} . By resorting to one of the references on thresholding or majorization-minimization approaches, design an algorithm to minimize $C_\lambda(\mathbf{f})$.

|| **TABLE PART**

4 Spatially Coded Imaging

Consider the case where objects in the scene we want to capture are placed at different distances from the camera, so that it is not possible to have them all in focus. Alternatively, various applications might require estimating the depths in various points of the scene. Solving these tasks with conventional imaging setups is typically challenging.

In this chapter, our goal is to study the key ideas at the heart of spatially coded imaging (SCI). This refers to a flexible alternative to the conventional imaging setup where spatial imaging parameters such as the aperture, sensor and the illumination can be engineered to enhance the quality of the imaging system. For example, conventional imaging uses a spherical aperture of variable sizes. Allowing the aperture to have more general shapes endows the imaging device with additional capabilities, such as measuring the scene depth or extending the depth of field. The sensors can be placed in various configurations depending on their sensitivity to different parts of the light spectrum. For applications that impose restrictions on the amount of data transmitted, compressive sensing techniques can be used in conjunction with sensors of reduced size, down to even single pixel sensors.

From the computational imaging perspective, "coding" refers to applying specific tailoring of the spatial degrees-of-freedom that lead to spatially encoded measurements. From the "encoded" measurements, the image is then recovered using mathematical algorithms. In the last decade or so, several compelling applications have emerged where the co-design of engineered imaging parameters and recovery algorithms have led to new imaging capabilities, for example, depth imaging and light field capture from a single, spatially coded image.

This chapter covers three well-known spatial coding modalities: aperture, sensors, and illumination. A diagram giving a general intuition on the functioning of these modalities is in Fig. 4.1.

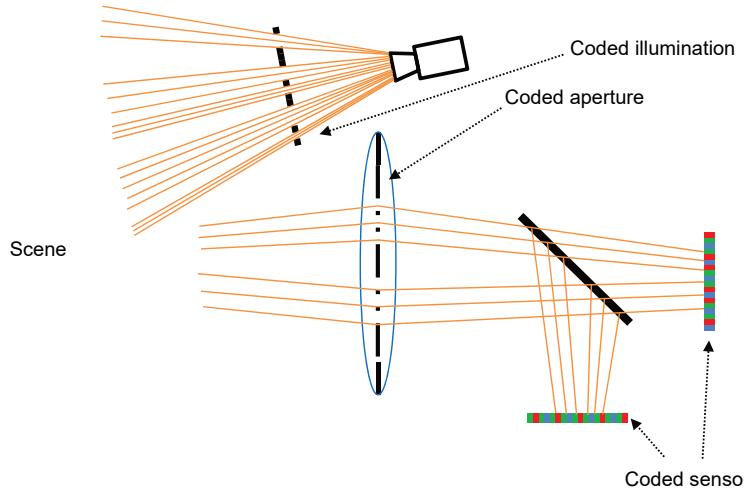


Figure 4.1: Three Main Categories of Spatially Coded Imaging Modalities. The illumination is typically coded by obstructing partially or completely the light from a projector in a predefined pattern. A traditional lens typically integrates all light from a point in the scene. A coded aperture selects light arriving from a number of angles. The sensors can be coded by arranging pixels sensitive to certain wavelengths. A beam splitter can be used to project the incoming light beam on several sensors with modified parameters.

4.1 Coding the Aperture

In Chapter 2, we have studied the foundational principles of the image formation model of a basic imaging system. In this context, each imaging system has a point spread function (PSF) that characterizes the performance of the imaging method. The simplest form of the PSF is attributed to the pin-hole camera. However, the pin-hole imaging model suffers from low-throughput of light and hence low signal-to-noise ratio as all but a pin-hole sized cavity allows for passage of light. From both physical and mathematical perspectives, we can think of the pin-hole model to be a limiting case of the finite aperture model. In this analogy, coded aperture imaging can be seen as a trade-off between the two extremes; the pin-hole model on the one hand and the finite aperture model on the other hand. Before discussing the various formats of coded aperture imaging, we start with an explanation of the intuition behind what makes the coded aperture imaging a flexible and desirable imaging alternative.

4.1.1 Physical Perspective

Let us begin by considering the physical instantiation of an aperture. An aperture is a hole that lets light pass through. A finite aperture is a hole of some finite radius, which

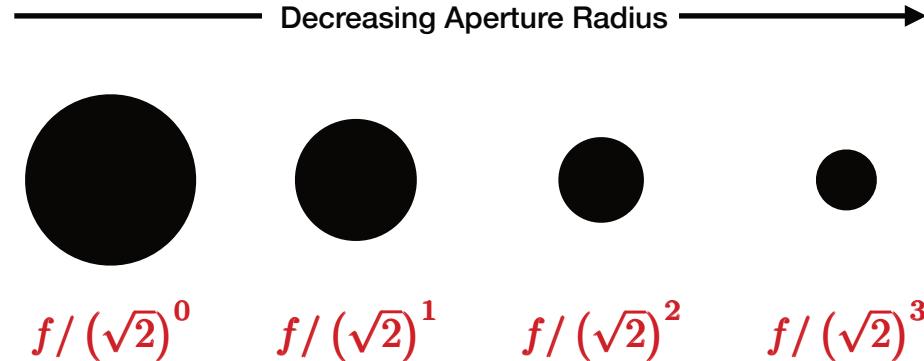


Figure 4.2: Four Aperture Sizes and Their Corresponding f-stop Values.

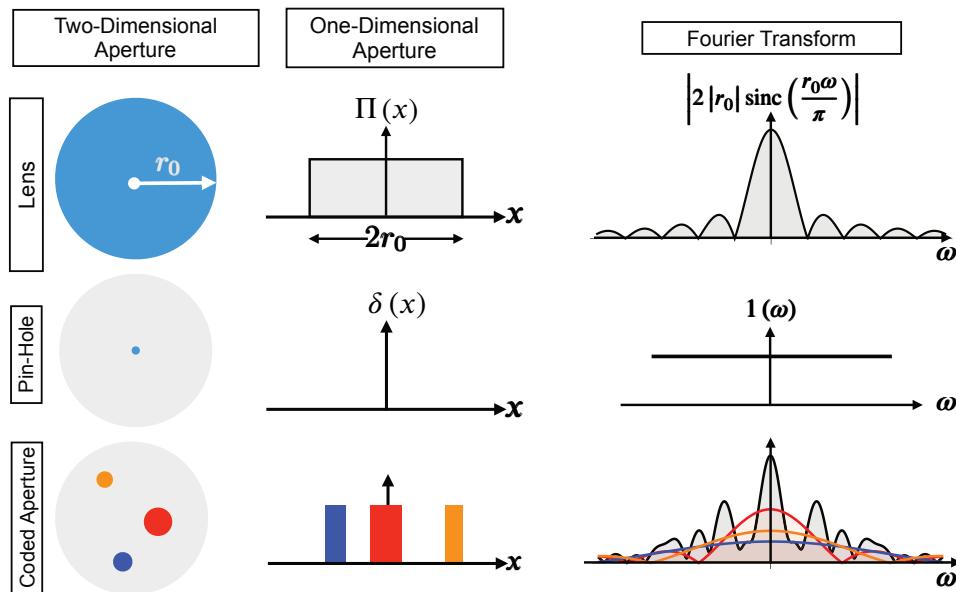


Figure 4.3: Three Main Types of Apertures and Their Fourier Domain Characteristics.

collapses to a pin-hole as the lens radius shrinks to an infinitesimally small quantity. This limiting behaviour is best explained when observing the depth-of-field effect with varying lens apertures. This is shown in Fig. 4.2 below in terms of the f-stop.

4.1.2 Mathematical Perspective

When designing computational imaging centric systems, algorithms play a key role in the process of image formation and recovery. If we consider a one-dimensional lens as an

abstraction of the optical system, then, the pin-hole PSF maps to the Dirac's Delta function while a finite aperture lens with aperture radius r_0 maps to a box function of length $2r_0$. This is shown in Fig. 4.3. A **coded aperture** is a more general setup consisting of multiple aperture openings, which map to box functions with different widths and delays in the time-domain, as shown in Fig. 4.3. As a consequence, we obtain sinc functions of different widths and modulations. Coded aperture design is neither a fully open lens, nor a pin-hole but something between the two. For example, it may consist of multiple finite apertures at different locations typically carefully chosen to optimize a certain design criterion. As shown in Fig. 4.3, the advantage of the coding scheme is best explained in the Fourier domain.

4.1.3 Non-Coded Aperture

In this case, the aperture maps to a one-dimensional box function. The Fourier transform of this one-dimensional box function is the sinc function. As can be seen from the figure, the sinc function periodically touches zeros which leads to a permanent loss of information at these frequencies resulting in blurred images.

4.1.4 Pin-Hole

As we have seen in a previous chapter, the pinhole camera is a box with a tiny hole on one side allowing light to be projected on the opposite wall, therefore creating an image on the projection plane. Despite having a measurable size in practice, the pinhole can be modeled as a Dirac Delta function due to its small radius.

The Fourier transform of this function is a constant function. Hence, there is no loss of information in the case of a pinhole camera. That said, as we have already discussed, this setting suffers from a low throughput of light. Additionally, as we discussed in the Imaging Toolkit Chapter, if the pinhole diameter is close to the light wavelength, the effect of diffraction is observed, causing distortions in the image.

To avoid diffraction and increase the amount of light passing through the aperture, one could consider simply increasing the diameter of the pinhole. As it is depicted in Fig. 4.4, this leads to several points in the scene projected onto the same point on the sensor, causing a blurry effect.

In conclusion, a pinhole camera is not able to avoid all these problems at once. A lens integrates the light rays and bends them to converge onto one point. Therefore, by keeping the object in focus, the lens produces sharp and bright images, while also not suffering from diffraction. As we will see in the next subsection, a lens allows choosing a wide range of aperture shapes with significantly less blur than pinhole cameras.

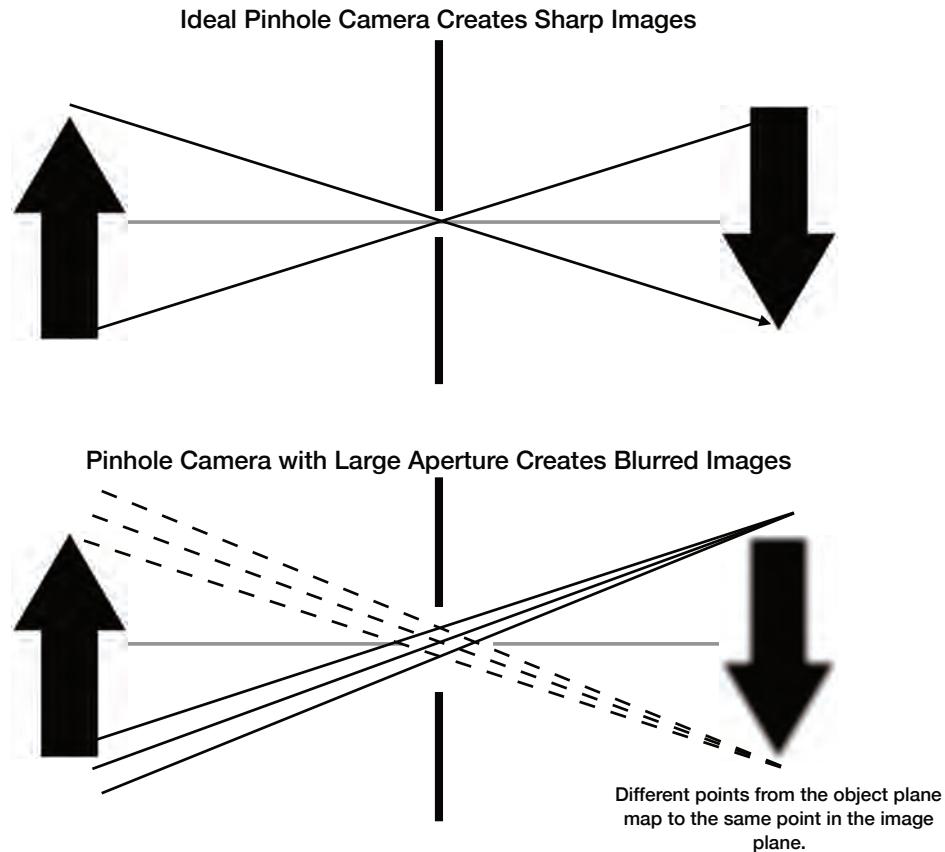


Figure 4.4: The Pinhole Camera with a Large Aperture. When the aperture size is increased, it can no longer be approximated with a Dirac Delta function. As a consequence, different points in the scene are projected onto the same point in the projection plane, leading to a blurry image.

4.1.5 Coded Aperture

The distinct advantage of a coded aperture, consisting of multiple aperture openings, is that the zeros of one sinc function are compensated by the non-zero values of a sinc function with a different width. Hence, for a large range of frequencies (compared to the case of non-coded aperture), we have no loss of information. However, in recovering information or images back from such a coded aperture, the exact form of the Fourier transform is required to be known so that its effect can be undone in the recovery phase.

Using coded apertures for image and depth capture: Although the idea of coding aperture dates back to the pioneering efforts in X-ray astronomy (circa 1965), in recent

years, Levin and co-workers in Levin et al. (2007) were the first ones to demonstrate that both conventional photograph and the corresponding **depth map** can be recovered by coding the aperture of a consumer grade camera. The depth map is an image that contains at every pixel the distance to the scene from the view point. Their approach combines the idea of *Depth from Defocus* or DFD with aperture coding. DFD based methods for estimating 3D scene geometry exploit the optical nature of the image formation process. In particular, points that lie on the focal plane map to the sensor, creating a sharp image. Points away from the focal plane create a defocused image where the amount of defocus depends on how far away a point is from the focal plane. Hence, by knowing the amount of blur produced by a scene point in the image, one can estimate the depth of the same point. Clearly, the blur introduced in the process is a function of the aperture or the PSF of the optical system. To this end, Levin and co-workers in Levin et al. (2007) introduced coded aperture imaging where the coded aperture was carefully designed in a way that it is sensitive to different depths and hence, one can discern depth information by solving the de-blurring or the do-convolution problem. Shedligeri et al. (2017) use a data-driven approach to design the coded aperture for depth recovery.

Using coded exposure – coding the aperture in time: Capturing objects in motion is a challenging task, often leading in images affected by motion blur. This effect can be addressed using deblurring algorithms, but it should be noted that deblurring in itself is an ill-posed problem for images captured with traditional architectures. As discussed in Subsection 3.2.1, this process can be described mathematically by a convolution between the original image and a boxcar function, which, in the frequency domain, is translated to a multiplication of the original image spectrum with a sinc function. The information at every frequency where the sinc crosses 0 is lost, and high frequencies are also damped as the sinc amplitude decreases.

To make the problem well-posed, a change in hardware architecture is necessary. Fig. 4.3 shows how the aperture can be coded with multiple openings at once. But what if we generate multiple openings at different moments in time? This led to the idea of coded exposure, also named “fluttered shutter” Raskar et al. (2006). As the name suggests, this concept involves “fluttering” the shutter of the camera in a predefined sequence, which is often chosen as a pseudo-random binary pattern. This preserves the high-frequency spatial details in the image and leads to an improved result, as depicted in Fig. 4.5. Mathematically, the fluttered shutter approach allows modeling the aperture as several boxcar functions, which guarantee that their zeros in the frequency domain do not coincide. This means that the frequencies where one sinc cancels are covered by other sinc functions, and no frequencies are lost.

The fluttered shutter is a very promising technique that proved to be useful in other fields such as microscopy, where fluorescence imaging of moving cells has a limited time resolution.



Figure 4.5: Coded Exposure for Objects in Motion. (a) Original blurred image, (b) Rectification applied after estimating the vanishing point of motion lines, (c) Image deblurred using a camera with a fluttered shutter.

By opening the shutter several times, it is possible to capture cells in motion with good resolution Fig. 4.6. Martel et al. (2020) built on this work to optimize the per-pixel shutter function in an end-to-end deep learning framework, in what was referred to as *neural sensors*. Coded exposure, however, has other applications. For example, using deep learning, Okawara et al. (2020) jointly optimize the coded exposure and a classification model in a convolutional neural network to classify human actions in a single coded image.

Using multiple coded apertures: Estimating the *Depth from Defocus* is an ill-posed inverse problem because for this approach to work, it is required to estimate the size of the defocus blur from a single image. A typical strategy to convert an ill-posed problem to a well-posed one requires the introduction of diversity in the measurements. The same applies to the case of DFD. In literature, a common approach that is used entails using multiple measurements with different defocus blurs. For example, this can arise from changing the focus setting by axially translating the sensor. Another method to create diversity in measurements uses different apertures, for instance, using two images, one with a large aperture introducing greater amount of defocus and another one with smaller aperture producing an image with large depth-of-field (when compared to the former setting). However, it should be noted that in either case, the defocus is intimately linked with the aperture pattern that is typically chosen to be a circular disk. To this end, the use of multiple coded apertures has been proposed in the literature. For instance, Farid and Simoncelli (1998) used two images that are obtained with two different aperture patterns, that is, the Gaussian function and its derivative. Hiura and Matsuyama (1998) used a pair of pin-hole apertures for depth measurement. When working with a pair of images, Zhou et al. (2010) proposed

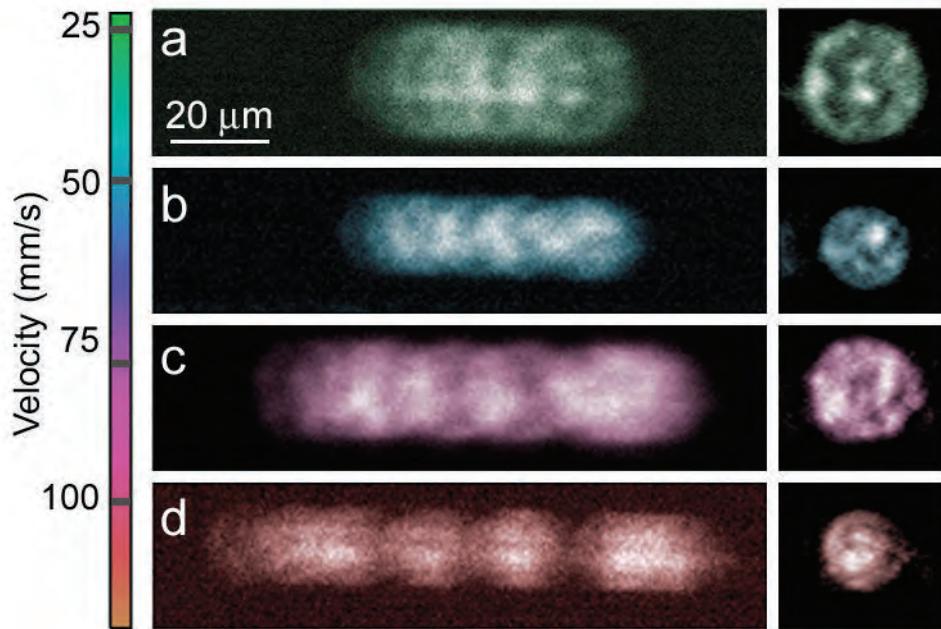


Figure 4.6: Fluorescence Imaging for the Nuclei of Leukemia Cells with Different Velocities. The motion blur of the cells, which is more pronounced with higher speeds, can be reversed with the fluttered shutter approach. Reprinted from Gorthi et al. (2013).

a method for aperture pattern optimization for high-fidelity depth map recovery together with sharp, conventional image. Other imaging methods making use of coded aperture can be found in Gottesman and Fenimore (1989); Fenimore and Cannon (1978).

Next we will discuss various techniques to extend the depth of field of an image either by capturing the full light field, or by integrating the optical setup and computation via ray-space analysis. A simple method to extend the depth of field is to decrease the aperture size. However, this leads to a significant amount of noise. An alternative uses the concept of *focal stack*, which represents a series of images captured with the camera focused at different depths. This technique then requires combining the focal stack images using something similar to photomontage Curless et al. (2004). As shown in Fig. 4.7, this leads to a much clearer image.

We call the point spread function (PSF) the image projected by a scene point on the sensor. When the point is in focus, the PSF is defined by an infinitesimal size disc. When out of focus, the disc increases in size with measurable diameter. Therefore, the depth is a function

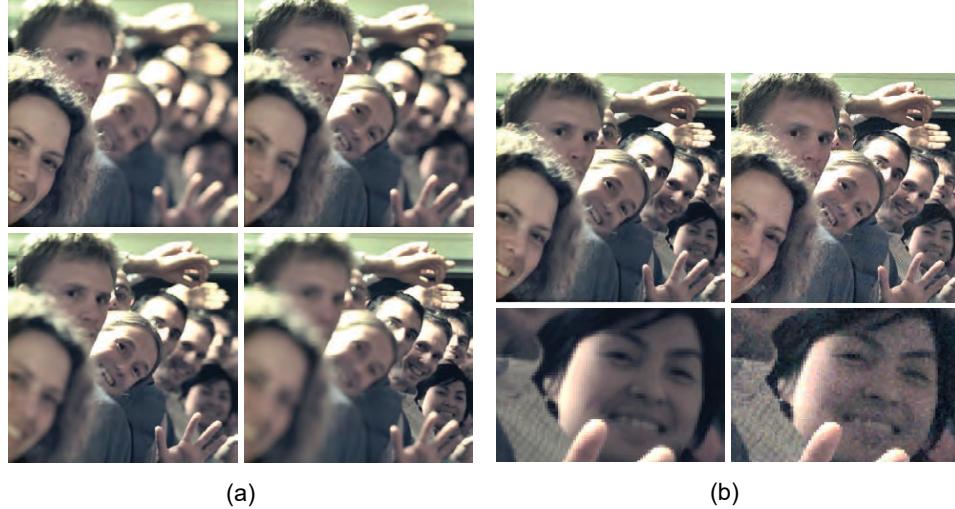


Figure 4.7: Extending the Depth of Field. (a) Focal stack measured with different focus points. (b) Extended depth of field by reducing aperture size. Reprinted from Ng et al. (2005).

of the PSF size. It acts as a convolution filter on the data to produce the measurements:

$$\mathbf{m}(x, y) = (\text{PSF} * \mathbf{I})(x, y),$$

where $\mathbf{I}(x, y)$ represents the irradiance at location (x, y) and $\mathbf{m}(x, y)$ are the sensor measurements at the same coordinates. It turns out that the PSF, which is disc-shaped in space, acts as a low-pass filter in frequency. This leads to high frequencies being cancelled out, and these cannot be recovered via deconvolution. Moreover, the PSF function is generally unknown as a function of distance. All of the reasons above make recovering $\mathbf{I}(x, y)$ challenging in practice.

To recover the scene image $\mathbf{I}(x, y)$ while allowing efficient deblurring, there have been attempts to “engineer” the optics of the camera to allow it to generate a distance-independent PSF. One way is to use an amplitude mask on the aperture of the lens Levin et al. (2007); Veeraraghavan et al. (2007), which essentially attenuates partially or fully the light rays intersecting the lens. A different option is to translate the sensor relative to the lens, which ensures that a large range of depths in the image are in focus Nagahara et al. (2008). Using an image captured with such a modified PSF, one can then apply techniques based on deconvolving to recover the image in the blurred regions. Essentially, this produces a final image with an extended depth of field.



Figure 4.8: Reduced Depth of Field via Blur Estimation. (left) The original image. (middle) The estimated blur. (right) the image processed for depth reduction. Reprinted from Bae and Durand (2007).

On the contrary, some applications require reducing the depth of field. In photography, a reduced depth of field can be considered more pleasant, enhancing certain parts of the image artistically. To this end, it is possible to use large lenses for their small depth of field characteristics. However they tend to be bulky and difficult to move around. A more convenient solution is using software to estimate and subsequently magnify the existing blur in the image, as depicted in Fig. 4.8 Bae and Durand (2007). To alleviate the potential incorrect estimates due to noise sensitivity, it is also possible to use several lenses with different apertures to achieve the desired effect Hasinoff and Kutulakos (2007). This principle is already applied in many consumer grade cameras and mobile phones.

As expected, it is more convenient to introduce the desired effects without updating the hardware, which increases the product affordability. To address this, the concept of *lens in time* translates the lens parallel to the sensor during the explosion time of a single capture, which allows using cheap hardware to achieve the same desired effect with good accuracy Mohan et al. (2009).

The glare is another important problem with many cameras. The source of glare is typically caused by light being reflected by the lens, or due to the lens diffraction effect. The reflection reduces the light reaching the sensor, but also bounces back and causes unwanted flare effects. One way to address this is by coating the lens with multiple layers to cancel out reflections at multiple frequencies, as we saw in the Imaging Toolkit Chapter.

As mentioned briefly in the Imaging Toolkit Chapter, the image captured by a camera can be separated into global (reflectance from objects in the scene) and direct components (illumination by the source). Using a high frequency mask placed in variable locations, it is possible to separate the two Talvala et al. (2007). Since glare is a global effect, it is convenient to eliminate it this way. The setup proposed in Talvala et al. (2007) is depicted in Fig. 4.9.

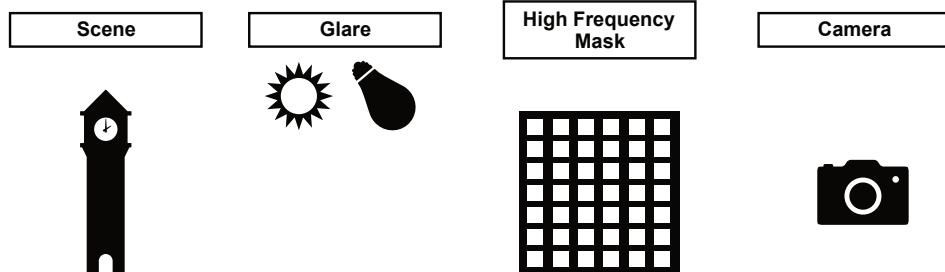


Figure 4.9: Removing Glare from the Scene with a High Frequency Mask outside the Camera.



Figure 4.10: Glare Reduction using a High Frequency Mask Near the Sensor. The glare effect can be enhanced (left) or eliminated (right) by separating the light into global and direct components in the original image (center).

However, this technique requires a long capturing process that can take up to an hour. Furthermore, the technique only works when the mask is in focus, thus limiting the technique to indoor conditions.

Another interpretation of glare is by looking at the frequency domain representation of the light field. It turns out that it is mostly situated at high frequencies, therefore formulating the glare reduction operation as a filtering method Raskar et al. (2008). This time, the setup involves a mask placed inside the camera, on the sensor. For a Lambertian surface in the scene, characterised by diffusing light evenly in all directions, the angular component in the Fourier domain contains no information. The glare component, however, is only present in certain angular directions, therefore appearing as an outlier in the Fourier domain, which means it can be eliminated via relatively simple algorithms Raskar et al. (2008). This requires measuring the light field, which is known to be demanding. However, using the fact that the glare is only present in the angular domain, the light field camera in this case is significantly simpler than a traditional one. A “dappled photography” Veeraraghavan et al. (2007) based lightfield camera is depicted in Fig. 4.11.



Figure 4.11: Prototype of a Light Field Camera for Glare Reduction.

The light field information is extracted using a mask placed right in front of the sensor. The prototype is capable of separating glare into multiple categories, without the need to capture several photographs. If the glare wavelength is known, then it can be filtered out using an appropriate mask. This has the advantage that it does not dim the light from nearby objects of different colors Mohan et al. (2008).

4.2 Coding the Sensor

An imaging sensor's capability can be enhanced by using the idea of sensor coding. That is, the concept of coded aperture imaging that was applied at the level of optics can also be brought to the imaging sensor. These ideas are being used in innovations even today. Sun et al. (2020) develop a probabilistic strategy to determine the optimal sensor sampling distribution for the optimal sensor design. Chakrabarti (2016) uses a deep learning approach to backpropagate through the network parameters as well as the sensor parameters. These works were built on the principles discussed below.

4.2.1 Coded Sensors for Color Imaging

One of the earliest examples of coded sensor imaging led to the advent of colored digital imaging. Electronic imaging sensors cannot record the color of incident light as they only record the varying attenuation of light intensity levels making them monochromatic sensors. To this end, Bryce Bayer working at Eastman Kodak used the idea of sensor coding (circa 1975) where the sensor was made light sensitive by using what is known as the Color Filter Array (CFA).

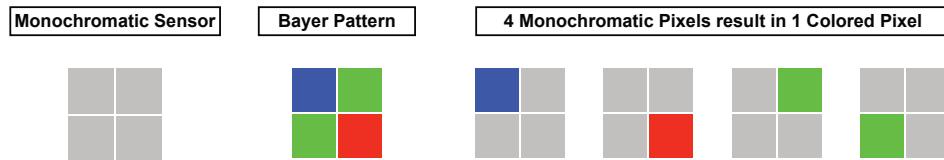


Figure 4.12: Three Sensor Architectures for Color Imaging.

As can be seen from Fig. 4.12, it takes four monochromatic pixels to produce one colored pixel. One may wonder why four pixels are needed instead of using three, each attributed to red (R), green (G) and blue (B) colors. The choice of using twice as many green pixels is based on the physiological aspects of human visual apparatus. The human retina by its design has higher sensitivity to the green light during the day time. This is intricately tied to the cone cells in the retina which lead to a weighted sensitivity of luminance perception. So far, we have described the idea of sensor coding via CFAs. What about decoding? Clearly, in achieving a colored image from a monochromatic sensor, the essential resolution is downsized by a factor of 4. Further to this, we still need to convert individual RGB pixels into colored pixels. Hence, decoding in the case of CFA entails recovering a full resolution, colored image from the sensor coded image. This is known **demosaicing**. As the name implies, when using the demosaicing approach, one demosaics the RGB tiles and combines them to produce a full resolution colored image. One of the simplest methods for demosaicing uses interpolation of color values of the pixels of the same color in their neighbourhood. For any interpolation approach to work, a smoothness prior has to be assumed on the values to be interpolated. This is akin to the Shannon-Nyquist principle. Hence, demosaicing by interpolation is well suited for images with constant color regions and smooth gradients. Any abrupt jump in color or brightness levels would result in artifacts. This is typically the case with edges and a well understood solution to this problem requires interpolation along the edge instead of interpolation across the edge.

Demosaicing represents only one of the steps in a processing pipeline that transforms the raw sensor image into the final product, such as a JPEG image. The pipeline generally introduces cumulative errors, but the work in Heide et al. (2014b) overcame this problem by proposing a flexible image signal processor (ISP) called FlexISP, which optimizes the final image based on assumptions on the final result, called image priors. For video capturing, three chip cameras are a popular device, consisting of a prism, splitting the light into the RGB wavelengths, and each wavelength is measured by a different sensor. The RGB video is subsequently synthesized by combining the three components. This mechanism is subsequently generalised to single-axis multi-parameter (SAMP) cameras, which use beam splitters to send the light rays to multiple cameras, each with different sensor parameters McGuire et al. (2007). This allows great flexibility. For example, by adding color filters to different cameras, the setup is equivalent to the three chip camera. The possibilities are a

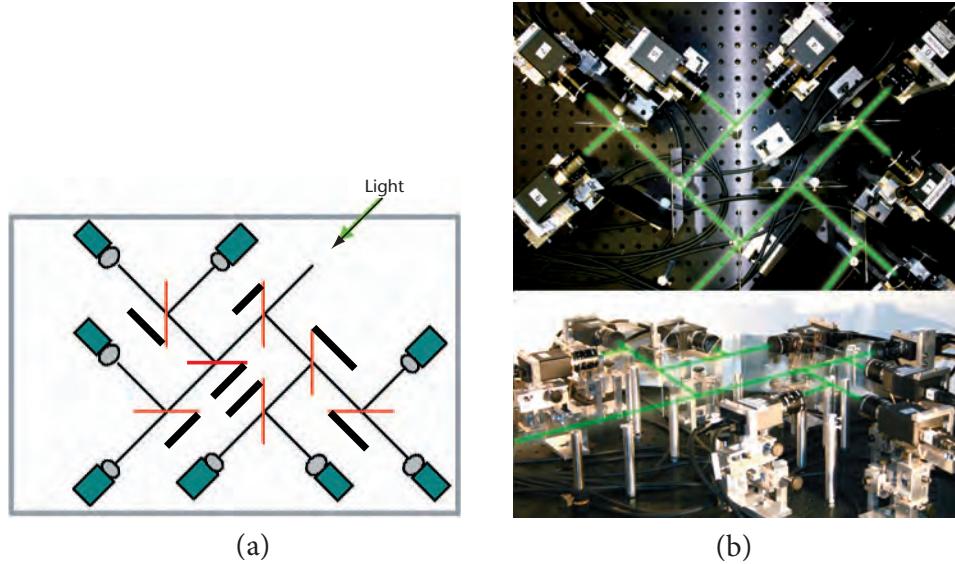


Figure 4.13: A Single-Axis Multi-Parameter (SAMP) Camera. (a) The diagram depicts the incoming light beam split sequentially into 8 beams each captured by different cameras with different settings. (b) The picture of the SAMP camera setup. Reprinted from McGuire et al. (2007).

lot more diverse. For example, each picture can be captured with a different exposure time, and the resulting images can be processed into an HDR image. The diagram and picture of this setup is depicted in Fig. 4.13.

The SAMP camera is a self-explanatory setup, and therefore simple to implement on a theoretical level. However the large amount of hardware required comes with greater cost and a bulkier size.

4.2.2 Coded Sensors for High Dynamic Range Imaging

Natural scenes are often composed of significant intensity ranges that may be far beyond what can be captured using a digital imaging sensor. As an example, consider the case of portrait photography against the Sun. When such a situation arises, that is, the amplitude or intensity to be captured is larger than the maximum recordable threshold of the digital sensor, the measurements are clipped. This results in a permanent loss of information and is known as the sensor saturation problem. With the human perception, this is not a problem as the human eyes are sensitive to subtle variations in contrast and can handle scenes with large range of intensities or dynamic range Blackwell (1946). On the other hand, a digital image capture device such as a digital camera or a video camera can only handle a finite

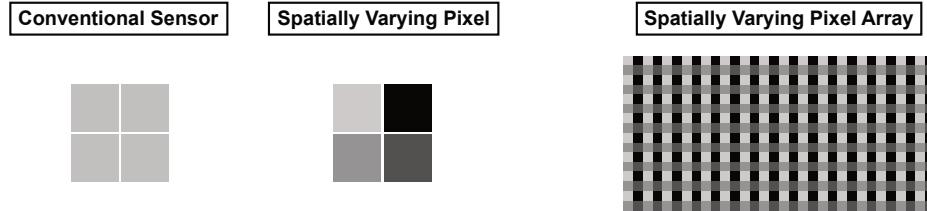


Figure 4.14: Three Sensor Architectures for High Dynamic Range Imaging.

dynamic range that is set by its bit-budget. For instance, an 8-bit digital system can handle 256 levels of illumination or brightness. The dynamic range of a system can be enhanced by simultaneously sampling across the spatial dimension and the exposure. This requires obtaining multiple exposures with varying intensities. The resultant set of images is then fused together algorithmically producing a single high dynamic range image. This method is known as high dynamic range or HDR imaging Debevec and Malik (1997). While this is a fantastic workaround as this requires no modification to the imaging setup, in several cases, obtaining multiple exposures may not be feasible, specifically in the case of scenes with fast motion between the exposures.

In order to circumvent the problem of using multiple exposures, in Nayar and Mitsunaga (2000), they proposed a coded sensor strategy. What was done with the colored filter array (CFA) in the previous case was extended to the idea of brightness. In their approach, the authors created a macro-pixel from four pixels (as before), each pixel attenuating the incoming light with different but pre-designed factors.

In Fig. 4.14, the brightness level linked with each pixel marked with a certain gray level represents its sensitivity. Consequently, light shaded pixels will saturate faster for a given irradiance of light while their dark shaded counterparts will record an attenuated exposure. As a result, even if one of the pixels is saturated, the illumination information can be recorded in one of the neighboring pixels provided that none of the four pixels saturate simultaneously. In this way, coded sensor imaging allows for simultaneous sampling of information along both the spatial and the exposure dimensions of the natural scene. Previously, in the case of Bayer's CFA, simultaneous sampling of information was performed along the spatial and the color dimensions of the scene. For the decoding step, two different approaches may be used for HDR image recovery. The first method is known as **Image Reconstruction by Aggregation**. The idea here is to average the macro-pixel consisting of 2×2 blocks. This averaging can be performed using a two-dimensional box filter. The second method is similar to the case of colored imaging and involves **Image Reconstruction by Interpolation**. In this case, the inter-pixel values are interpolated using cubic interpolation. This approach works well in practice because sensor coding results in over-sampled measurements. Hence, saturated and noisy pixels from each macro pixel can

be discarded and the unknown values can be interpolated. That said, careful normalization must be performed to achieve realistic estimates of the brightness levels.

4.2.3 Modulo Sensors for HDR Imaging

In the context of computational sensing and imaging, a general purpose strategy for HDR capture and recovery has been introduced recently. Conventional digital systems acquire pointwise measurements that may potentially saturate, thus resulting in permanent loss of information. In contrast, in the **Unlimited Sensing** framework Bhandari et al. (2017, 2020), one obtains folded measurements by injecting modulo non-linearities in the sensing pipeline. This leads to different kind of information loss where the signal is folded into the dynamic range of the sensor. To see this in action, let us define the centered modulo operation using the mapping

$$\mathcal{M}_{V_{\max}} : f \mapsto 2V_{\max} \left(\left[\frac{f}{2V_{\max}} + \frac{1}{2} \right] - \frac{1}{2} \right), \quad \llbracket f \rrbracket \stackrel{\text{def}}{=} f - \lfloor f \rfloor \quad (4.1)$$

where $\llbracket f \rrbracket$ and $\lfloor f \rfloor$ define the fractional part and floor function, respectively. Clearly, the modulo measurements defined by,

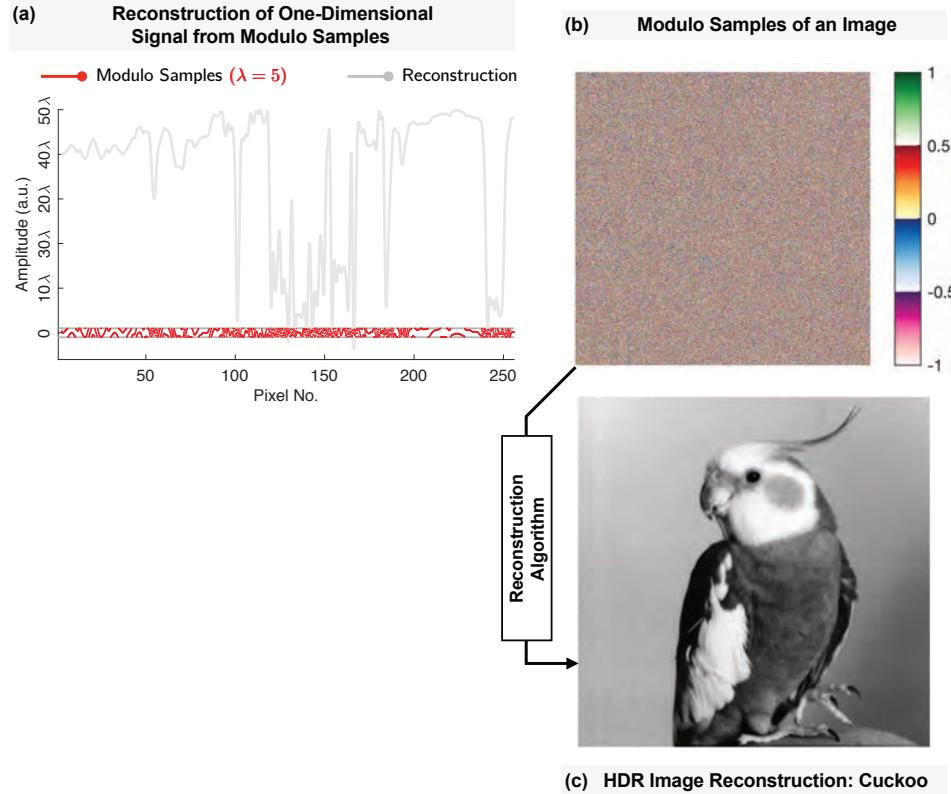
$$y[k] = \mathcal{M}_{V_{\max}}(g(kT))$$

are always smaller than the sensing threshold $V_{\max} > 0$. For a one-dimensional signal, the effect of modulo non-linearity is shown in Fig. 4.15 (a). The recorded measurements are orders of magnitude smaller than the original, HDR signal. Modulo samples for an image are shown in Fig. 4.15 (b). Conceptually, analog-to-digital converters and imaging systems that implement signal folding have been presented in circuit design literature Rhee and Joo (2003) and have also been implemented in the recent years Sasagawa et al. (2016); Zhao et al. (2010). Inversion of the modulo operator is a difficult problem in general Bhandari (2018); Bhandari et al. (2020). Akin to the Nyquist-Shannon recovery criterion (cf. Theorem 3.2), the Unlimited Sampling Theorem shows that a constant-factor oversampling suffices to recover any bandlimited signal from its low dynamic range, modulo samples.

Images are non-bandlimited objects and this is mainly due to the fact that image features such as corners and edges contain high frequency information. Mathematical guarantees for image recovery from modulo measurements has been presented in Bhandari and Krahmer (2020) where images are modelled in terms of shifts of spline functions Unser (1999). Let $\mathbf{x} \in \mathbb{R}^d$ be the spatial coordinates of a d -dimensional image $g(\mathbf{x})$. For multi-dimensional functions such as images, the following shift-invariant model

$$\mathbf{v}_{\mathbf{h}}^N = \left\{ g(\mathbf{x}) = \sum_{\mathbf{m} \in \mathbb{Z}^d} c[\mathbf{k}] \mathbf{B}_N \left(\mathbf{H}^{-1} \mathbf{x} - \mathbf{m} \right) : \mathbf{c} \in \ell_2(\mathbb{Z}^d) \right\} \quad (4.2)$$

is a flexible choice. In the above,

Figure 4.15: HDR Imaging from Modulo Samples. In the figure $\lambda = V_{\max}$.

- \mathbf{H} is a $d \times d$ diagonal matrix, with dilations h_1, h_2, \dots, h_d on the diagonal.
- $\mathbf{c} \in \ell_2(\mathbb{Z}^d)$ are the coefficients. The expansion coefficients $c[k]$'s, can be evaluated using different strategies Blu and Unser (1999) namely, *interpolation*, *orthogonal projection* and *quasi-interpolation*
- \mathbf{B}_N is a B-spline of order N and since the tensor product representation holds, one has that $\mathbf{B}_N(\mathbf{x}) = \prod_{m=1}^d \mathbf{B}_N(x_m)$.

When modulo measurements of an image $g(x) \in \mathbb{R}$ are given in the form,

$$y[k] = \mathcal{M}_{V_{\max}}(g(kT)), \quad T > 0$$

the sampling interval (cf. Bhandari and Krahmer (2020)),

$$T < \frac{h}{\pi e} \left(\frac{V_{\max}}{\max |g(x)| \tilde{C}_{n,N}} \right)^{1/n}, \quad n \leq N, \quad \tilde{C}_{n,N} = \left(\frac{\mathcal{K}_{N-n}}{\mathcal{K}_N} \right)$$

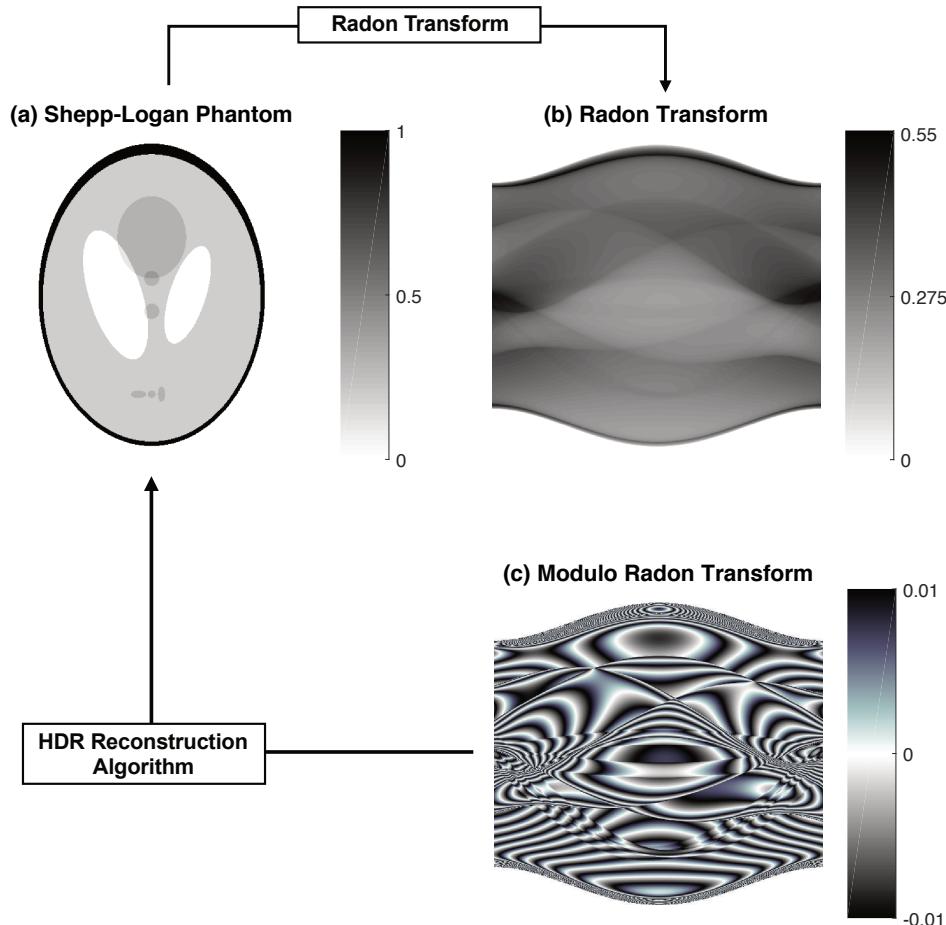


Figure 4.16: HDR Tomography Using Modulo Radon Transform.

guarantees recovery of the HDR image. In the above \mathcal{K}_N is the *Bohr–Favard* constant and e is the Euler number. Using the measurements in Fig. 4.15 (b), an exemplary reconstruction is shown in Fig. 4.15 (c).

Dynamic range constraint is a natural barrier in imaging systems that go beyond consumer photography. For instance, To overcome the dynamic range limitation of detectors used in Computed Tomography (CT), the authors in Chen et al. (2015) extended the applicability of multi-exposure fusion in consumer photography. In particular, they showed that high-dynamic-range CT reconstruction is possible by recording multiple exposures by varying the tube-voltage. The principle of dynamic range compression using modulo non-linearities can

be applied to a wider class of computational imaging problems. For instance, the **Modulo Radon Transform** (MRT) Bhandari et al. (2020a) allows for HDR reconstruction of Radon Transform projections. Fig. 4.16 shows conventional Radon Transform projections together with the *low dynamic range* Modulo Radon Transform. The reconstruction algorithm Beckmann et al. (2020) allows for recovery of the input image. The MRT has the advantage that it is a single-shot approach (avoids the drawbacks of the multi-exposure fusion method) and is backed by mathematical guarantees.

4.2.4 Tone Mapping

The applications of **tone mapping**, which is a technique to create a mapping between two sets of colors, range from producing aesthetically pleasing images, to enhancing details, leading to a higher contrast photograph. Many of today's displays are not supporting HDR content, so without tone mapping, the details in the image would be greatly reduced. Therefore, in order to enhance the applicability of HDR imagery, we need to deal with two problems:

1. Displaying HDR content on low dynamic range (LDR) displays, such as computer monitors.
2. Displaying LDR content on HDR displays.

Those two problems can be addressed via tone mapping, by converting the content from one format to the other, while taking the human perception into account as a key factor. One way is to compress the extended dynamic range of the available footage into a range that can be displayed on a LDR device. There are two ways to compress the footage

1. Global compression is acting on all pixels at once,
2. Local compression is converting selectively a region in the image.

Global compression is done by evaluating the luminance and other global variables, to compute the optimal transformation of each pixel independently from the values of the neighboring pixels. This can be done, for example by *reducing the image contrast, adjusting the brightness* or via *gamma correction*. However, it is expected that an image could have certain regions with a different dynamic range from others, which would lead to decreased contrast in the resulting processed image.

Local compression extracts features in various image regions, and computes a region specific transformation. This is why this process is heavier computationally, and sometimes leads to small artefacts. However the local compression leads to much better results, given that the mammalian visual system perceives the contrast mostly locally. Examples are using *bilateral filtering, gradient domain computation* or *constraint propagation*. We will go successively through each of those as follows.



Figure 4.17: Dynamic Range Compression with the Bilateral Filter Method. The Base and Detail layers are computed on grayscale images. Color is treated separately, by reducing the contrast on each of its components, and then recomposing into the new color.



Figure 4.18: Gradient Based Local Compression. Starting with five images taken with different exposure values (up), a radiance map is then computed with pixel gradient calculations. The gradient attenuations (left) indicate the attenuation at that pixel corresponding to the gradient value. The final result contains enough detail in both the dark and bright parts of the scene (right). Reprinted from Fattal et al. (2002).

Bilateral filtering methods split the image to be processed in two layers: the detail layer, with a filter preserving the edges, and base layer Durand and Dorsey (2002). The main idea is that, during dynamic range compression, the detail layer contains the information we want to keep unaltered, while the base layer information can be reduced. An example of an image processed with this method is depicted in Fig. 4.17. This methodology was shown to work well in real-time Chen et al. (2007), and also was used to generate creative and novel photograph processing.

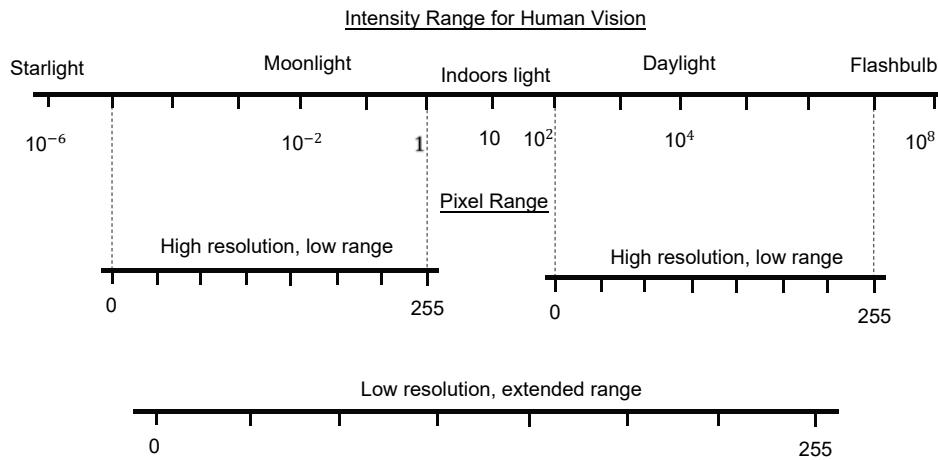


Figure 4.19: Mapping the High Dynamic Range Intensities onto Pixel Values.

Gradient based methods calculate a gradient field of the original image and reduce the values of the large gradients, while simultaneously ensuring that the local contrast is not significantly modified Fattal et al. (2002). Therefore, this method reduces the contrast in regions with no detail, and enhances contrast in dark regions. An example where this method is applied is depicted in Fig. 4.18.

Alternatively, rather than using gradients, it is possible to propagate pre defined constraints in an image. For example, the edges in the original image can remain unaltered while the dynamic range can be compressed in local regions located between the edges Lischinski et al. (2006).

After summarising some of the methods used for compressing the dynamic range, we can now look at displaying LDR content on the ever increasing range of commercially available HDR displays. This method is known as reverse tone-mapping. The problem in this case is unfortunately under-determined, meaning that the resulting processed image contains more information than the original image.

In order to store accurately images of real scenes, we need to map the high dynamic range of intensities in the outside world on a value that will be assigned to the pixel. As depicted in Fig. 4.19, one can notice that to cover the extended range of intensities with a fixed number of bits per pixel, one needs a trade-off between the range covered and the resolution. Initially, the number of bits per pixel were very large. The currently widely accepted format was devised in 2003 by Industrial Light and Magic in collaboration with independent partners, which included flexible bit depth, backwards compatibility, computing platform independence and open-source licensing (www.openexr.com). The EXR format is widely

used in cases where the accuracy has a high priority, *e.g.*, photorealistic rendering, texturing etc.

The display of HDR content was addressed by placing two screens parallel to each other: a low-resolution display behind an LCD screen Seetzen et al. (2004). The image viewed on the opposite side of the LCD screen has a high contrast, which is equal to the product of the contrasts of each individual screen. The contrast of a display is evaluated using the contrast ratio (CR) measure, which is the ratio between the luminance of the brightest color to that of the darkest color that the display can achieve. A consumer grade display may have a CR in the order of thousands to 1. The two display setting in Seetzen et al. (2004) allowed visualising HDR content achieving CRs as high as 50,000 : 1.

The classical representation of color is based on three primaries: red, green and blue (RGB). However, this simplified representation does not always encode the color faithfully. For instance, *metamerism* is the phenomenon where objects for which the spectra of their reflected light are significantly different, but the tricolor representation makes them look very similar. Interestingly, each set of RGB primaries, or mapping between colors and wavelengths defines a continuous set of human perceived colors, shaped as a convex hull. Therefore a device can only reproduce a subset of the human perceived colors. Typically this subset is defined by the RGB filters in the Bayer pattern. The use of color filters precedes the advent of color photography. Even during the times of black-and-white photography, color filters were used in order to enhance the contrast in an image. For instance, without the filters the sensor would hardly distinguish between clouds and the sky, which is an example of imaging metamers in a scene. Some modern cameras allow filtering the image in real-time at desired frequencies, which allows distinguishing between metamers in the scene.

4.2.5 Exposure Metering

In photography, there are rules of thumb on how to set the camera parameters for a good image exposure, for example the aperture setting to f/16 and shutter speed to 1/ISO when there is a lot of ambient light, also known as the “sunny-16 rule.” We would prefer that the intensity of the ambient light is measured automatically, which is done with an in-camera light meter. The light meters can be grouped in two categories:

- reflected-light meters,
- incident-light meters.

The reflected-light meters evaluate the light reflected by the scene, and include all in-camera light meters. Examples are spot meters, which measure the light reflected by a small view angle (1 degree or less), and center-weighted meters, which average out the light from a larger portion of the scene.

The reflected-light meters are not effective in the case of highly reflective scenes such as large areas covered in snow. To achieve good results in this case, incident-light meters are placed at the scene to measure the arriving light, which avoids the reflective properties of the scene.

Placing meters on the scene is difficult and often impossible. A popular system designed to produce accurate exposure values for a scene is called the Zone System. This system allows human perception to be included in the choice of exposure value Adams (1980). It relies on the fact that the photographer can recognise which objects are more reflective and which not, therefore making the appropriate choice in each case. It consists of 10 zones, each one representing an increase in expose value by a factor of 2 compared to the preceding one.

This concept was later implemented commercially by Nikon, who included multi zone metering in their Nikon FA camera. The concept is extended in the sense that the sensors are organized in a matrix and measure the brightness in several locations in the scene, ranging from 5 to several thousand. The camera then automatically computes the optimal settings for that capture.

4.2.6 Improving the Resolution

The resolution of an image is in direct connection with the ISO parameter measuring the light sensitivity. Dating back to the film-based analog cameras, decreasing the ISO would lead to a finer film granularity, and thus higher resolution, and large ISO values lead to a higher granularity and thus lower resolution. In digital cameras, the equivalent of granularity is the number/size of the discrete light-sensitive sensors called pixels. The ISO sensitivity in this case adjusts the gain of the analog-to-digital (A/D) converter, leading to brighter images.

Unfortunately, the higher gain also amplifies the noise. One may say that this does not change the resolution of the sensor, which is fixed. However, the usable resolution drops in this case: fewer distinct pixels capture useful details from the scene. This problem as well as other causes of decreased resolution can be alleviated with the methodology known as “superresolution.” In the case of noise images, several exposures with low effective resolution can be used to compute a high resolution image, by fusing the information from all the image captures. Specifically, the superresolution algorithms first estimate the relative movement between the camera and the scene, and then find a common coordinate system. This is then used to filter each individual image and fuse them together. Examples include the works of Tsai and Huang (1984); Kim et al. (1990); Irani and Peleg (1990, 1991); Kim and Su (1993); Elad and Feuer (1997).

Just as in the case of the noisy image, the superresolution can be implemented by fusing images captured with low resolution images and varying camera parameters. For example

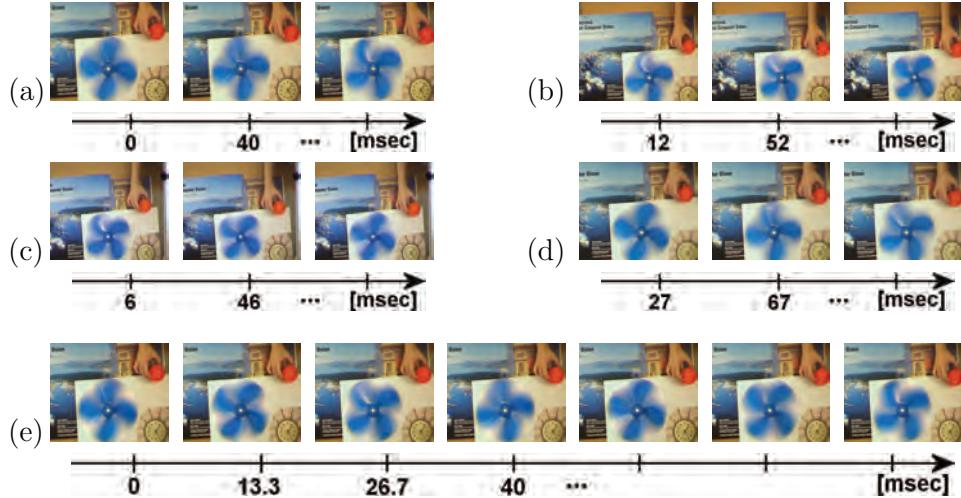


Figure 4.20: The Space-Time Superresolution Technique. Using four video recordings at low frame rate and low resolution, a new higher resolution video is generated with frames at times where there is no physical measurement. Reprinted from Shechtman et al. (2005).

the sensor position can be changed in a noisy way to introduce a variation between images Keren et al. (1988); Vandewalle et al. (2006). Alternatively, the aperture of each image capture can be altered Komatsu et al. (1993), the zoom level Joshi et al. (2004), or the level of blur, shading and defocus characteristics Rajan et al. (2003).

Interestingly, the resolution can also be increased by using a single photograph. By inducing motion blur through long exposure when capturing a moving object, the resulting image consists of an elongated capture of that object, therefore allowing more pixels to encode its details. The result is a high resolution image of the object in question Agrawal and Raskar (2007).

4.2.7 Capturing Fast Phenomena

Imaging fast motions dates back to the 1870s, when the English photographer Eadweard Muybridge designed a multi camera setup allowing to photograph a horse galloping. It consisted of a system synchronising the shutters of several cameras using electromagnets. This allowed one of the first glimpses of the details in the movement of humans or animals.

Nowadays modern cameras can reach frame rates as high as 1000 frames per second, revealing details of the scene that would be unable to notice with the human eye. However certain high speed phenomena still could not be captured in this way. The concept of superresolution, presented in the previous subsection, can be used here too in order to further enhance the frame rate. Just as it was used to recover the values of the light

intensities in between the measured pixels, here superresolution is used to recover frames located between the captured frames. In Shechtman et al. (2005), the authors captured a scene with multiple cameras of relatively small resolution and frame rate. As the pixels in the cameras are not perfectly aligned, and the frames are not perfectly synchronised in time, the authors exploit this to infer additional information about the scene. The application of this methodology is depicted in Fig. 4.20.

However, the superresolution cannot increase the performance arbitrarily high due to the reconstruction error. High speed video was also achieved by using a set of 128 digital video cameras packed together, so that they all have the same field of view. The cameras all had a frame rate of 30 fps, but they were synchronised such that in each 1/30 second interval all cameras were capturing a frame at equidistant times. This allowed their setup to produce frame rates as high as 3,000 fps.

4.2.8 Using Coded Sensors for Light Field Capture

Another interesting application of coded sensor imaging is linked with recovery of four-dimensional light fields from two-dimensional images. Conventional methods for capturing a light field rely on trading-off spatial resolution for angular differences. For example, using an array of lenses or using a large lens covering a micro-lens array. However, as demonstrated by Veeraraghavan et al. (2007), a coded sensor approach allows for a solution that does not require any use of refractive optics. In this approach, coined as **Dappled Photography**, the key idea is to place a mask on the sensor. By placing a high frequency sinusoidal mask between the sensor and the optical elements of a camera, spectral tiles of the light field in four-dimensional Fourier domain can be created. Hence, the encoding measurements multiplex a four-dimensional light field on a two-dimensional image. The light field is then decoded from the measurements in two steps. First, the Fourier transform of the two-dimensional image is computed and then reassembled in a way such that the two-dimensional tiles can be stacked into the four-dimensional plane. There on, a four-dimensional inverse Fourier transform then results in the desired light field. A method for high resolution imaging was presented in Cossairt et al. (2011). Masks have also been used in order to reduce the blur in the out of focus regions of the image, in a process called *defocus deblurring*, which consists of finding good coded apertures that allows recovering a sharp image from its blurred original version Masia et al. (2012). The authors showed that the results are significantly improved when considering the human visual perception factor for designing the masks.

4.3 Coding the Illumination

In the preceding examples, we have seen how coded aperture and coded sensor imaging can enhance the capability of an imaging system. In doing so, it was assumed that the ambient

illumination is fixed by design. However, if illumination is used as a degree-of-freedom in designing an imaging system, the idea of coding illumination can lead to substantial advantages. Coded illumination strategy can be based on something as simple as a light flash used in consumer photography or may employ more sophisticated setups such as a projector or a laser. Next we present a few examples.

4.3.1 Coded Illumination Imaging with Flash

The scene lighting has a big impact on the end result of the imaging process. If a scene is poorly lit, some of the options available preserving the ambient light include increasing the exposure, using a larger aperture or increasing the sensor ISO. However, each comes with its own drawback. Longer exposure times create motion blur, either due to moving objects or moving camera position, larger apertures lead to smaller depths of view and larger ISO values decrease the signal-to-noise ratio.

Flash photography addresses all the problems above, at the expense of images that don't reproduce the true ambient illumination. In addition, flash images lead to brighter closer objects and cause the red eye effect and harsh shadows.

However, the flash and ambient images can be combined in order to use the benefits of both modalities. In Petschnigg et al. (2004), the authors propose a method of generating flash/ambient image pairs and combining them with algorithms that perform denoising of the ambient image, transfer detail from the flash image to the ambient image, perform white balancing on the ambient image and allow a continuous adjustment between the information given by the two images.

In order to achieve this, the two images are captured with the same aperture and focal length. The quality of the ambient image is optimised by tuning the exposure time and ISO values. The flash image is captured with low ISO and exposure time, in order to minimise the noise and provide more high-frequency details.

The denoising algorithm is based on an existing technique that processes the image with an edge-preserving bilateral filter. However, the flash image contains more detail on the edges, which is used to design a joint bilateral filter that leads to more natural results with less noise.

The next step is transferring high frequency detail from the flash image to the ambient image. To this end, the detail from the flash image is computed as the variation around the denoised image. However, the computed detail is not accurate in the shadow or specular regions, and a mask is used to avoid transferring any detail from the respective image areas Petschnigg et al. (2004). An example of image denoising and detail transfer is depicted in Fig. 4.21.



Figure 4.21: The Procedure of Transferring Details from the Flash Image to the Ambient Image. (a) Flash image. (b) Ambient image. (c) Ambient image processed with denoising and detail transfer. Reprinted from Petschnigg et al. (2004).

Using two images also improves white balancing, where the known colour of the flash light provides useful information for the image colouring. The authors additionally introduce a method to allow a user to generate an intermediate image in between the flash and ambient images in real time, therefore essentially adjusting the flash intensity post capture. Inspecting the differences in between the two images allows correcting for undesirable artifacts such as the red eye.

4.3.2 Coded Illumination Imaging with Lasers

When the scene is illuminated for image capturing, the illumination has two sources: the direct illumination by the source and the global illumination from other points in the scene Nayar et al. (2006). The separation of these two sources is desirable because each one reveals different information about the scene. The **direct component** enhances the material properties of a given point, and the **global component** reveals the optical properties of the scene, indicating how a certain point is illuminated by other points in the scene.

The scene was divided in a number of patches, such that each visible patch corresponds to a pixel of the light source. The main observation that makes the separation of the two components possible is that using high frequency illumination lights up patches in the scene that have both global and direct components, and leaving unlit patches with only global components. For an uniform coverage of the scene, the illumination was performed using checkerboard patterns. However, an off-the-shelf projector suffers from imperfections such as light leakages in its optics, which causes some unwanted brightness variation between the checkers. To compensate for this, the authors capture 5 times more images, shifting the checkers pattern slightly each time.

All experiments above include artificial illumination, indicating that they can only be performed indoors. However, it is possible to separate the global and direct illumination components outdoors too, using **occluders**, which have the opposite effect of a light projector, casting shadow on various portions of the scene. Examples include the line occluder (a stick) and the mesh occluder.

The future of this line of research could see camera flashes with high frequency components, tailored to allow an in-camera separation of the two components. This would allow the users to create novel images, where the appearance of objects can be edited using their global and direct components Nayar et al. (2006). The depth of a scene can be inferred accurately in the presence of global illumination Gupta et al. (2009). A theoretical lower bound was derived on the number of images required to separate the global and direct illumination components Gu et al. (2011).

4.3.3 Coded Illumination Imaging with LEDs

Let us consider the context of microscopy. Changing the viewing angle, or moving the specimen in order to acquire an image from a different perspective can be problematic. Using illumination can help solve this problem more easily. In microscopy there is a common tradeoff between the resolution and the field of view, meaning that a specimen can only be captured in high detail in a relatively narrow region. In order to increase the field of view without affecting the accuracy, a well known computational imaging technique is called **Fourier ptychography**. This technique increases the numerical aperture of the microscope, which is essentially the range of angles it can capture, by recording images illuminated from a range of different angles. This results in increased resolution compared to a conventional microscope. The illumination is done with an array of LEDs. In the Fourier domain, changing the illumination angle corresponds to Fourier values computed in a shifted domain. The large numerical aperture image is then computed by stitching the Fourier slices. This requires a large overlap between the domains of each slice of around 60%.

The traditional methods capture one illumination angle at a time, by turning the LEDs on in a sequential manner. The work in Tian et al. (2014) improves on the traditional methods by turning a larger number of LEDs on, therefore saving a lot of acquisition time. Specifically, when K LEDs are turned on at the same time, the exposure time can be decreased K times, since there will be K times more light rays illuminating the specimen. The number of images can also be decreased by K , leading to a total reduction by a factor of K^2 in acquisition time. The K LEDs are selected randomly, but ensuring that different images do not use the same LEDs. An example for $K = 4$ is given in Fig. 4.22, for four randomly generated patterns of LEDs. The lateral resolution can be doubled by using a pair of images with asymmetric illumination patterns Tian and Waller (2015). Kellman et al.

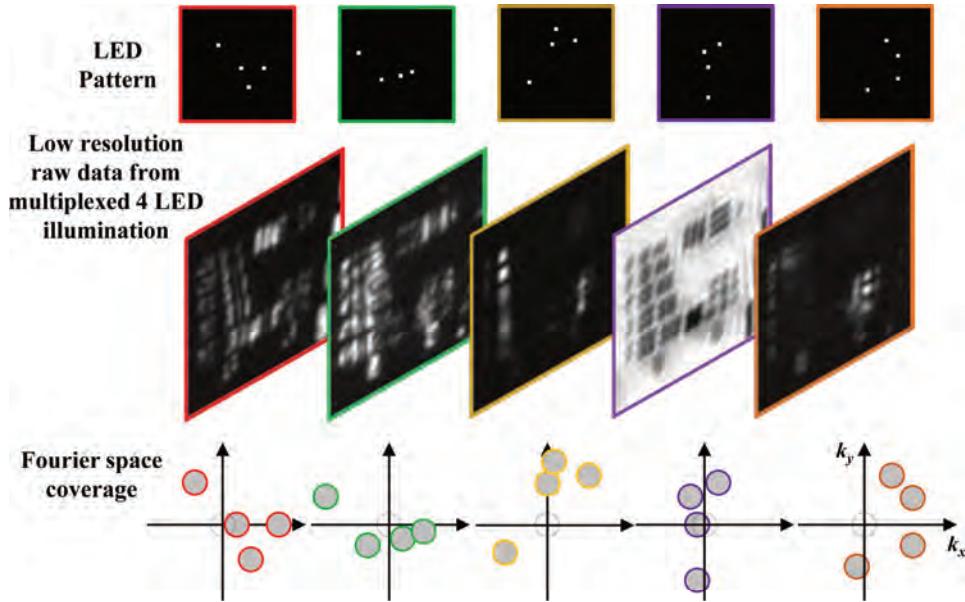


Figure 4.22: A Fourier Ptychography Technique with Multiplexed Illumination. The LED pattern (top) illuminates the target object, leading to a different image (middle). For each illumination, the resulting image has a spectrum computed in four subsets of the two-dimensional frequency domain, corresponding to the four LEDs (bottom). Reprinted from Tian et al. (2014).

(2019) present a method of optimizing the LED illumination pattern for phase retrieval in microscopy by combining the physics of the measurement scheme with the non-linearity of deep learning.

Decreasing the exposure time allows capturing videos of samples to record dynamical phenomena among populations of cells such as division and migration Tian et al. (2015).

Other works optimise illumination to increase the performance in depth estimation Nayar et al. (1996), or for differential phase imaging, which recovers the optical path length of the sample Tian et al. (2015). In conditions of poor visibility, controlling the light transport, such as using polarized light, leads to images of superior quality than using the existing illumination Gupta et al. (2008). A method generating wide field-of-view images using reflective surfaces was presented in Hicks and Bajcsy (2001).

4.4 Further Research

In this section we discuss three interesting applications of spatially coded imaging: compressive imaging, ghost imaging and spectrometry. With the ever increasing resolution of 2D cameras and with the advent of plenoptic cameras for capturing light fields, the constraint on the bandwidth of the data transmission infrastructure becomes evident. Compressive imaging offers a solution to this problem by minimising the measurements transmitted. It is possible to capture images of objects that are not in the line of sight of the camera, using a setup known as ghost imaging. Moreover, it is also possible to use it in conjunction with compressive sensing for increased efficiency. Lastly, most photographs taken capture the light intensity distributed in space. Analysing the light in the frequency domain can say a lot about the material properties, in a process called spectrometry.

4.4.1 Compressive Imaging

Compressive imaging is an image processing technique to capture efficiently an image with reduced number of samples, which allows recovering a higher resolution image of the scene, by finding solutions to underdetermined linear systems.

So far, we have seen how varying parameters of the imaging system helps achieve improved results. Here, we will discuss sampling methods, and ways to minimise the number of samples that lead to a good representation of the original data. Shannon's sampling theorem proves that a signal can be perfectly recovered if sampled at a rate twice the maximum frequency in its spectrum, also known as the Nyquist rate. What happens if we take fewer samples? In the general case, this would lead to aliasing, meaning that the high frequencies in the signal no longer can be recovered from the generated samples. However, in many practical applications, signals can be represented by samples taken at sub-Nyquist rates due to a property called **K -sparsity**, which we will define as follows.

We will discuss the one variable scenario, but this analysis can be easily generalised to two variables. Let $\mathbf{f} = [f_1, \dots, f_N]$ be a vector of N samples, which can be represented in an orthonormal basis $\{\mathbf{g}_p\}_{p=1,\dots,N}$ as $\mathbf{f} = \sum_{p=1}^N c_p \mathbf{g}_p$. In matrix form, this amounts to $\mathbf{f} = \mathbf{G}\mathbf{c}$, where the lines of \mathbf{G} are given by vectors $\{\mathbf{g}_p\}_{p=1,\dots,N}$. We say that \mathbf{f} is K -sparse in this basis, if $K < N$ and $\mathbf{f} = \sum_{i=1}^K c_{p_i} \mathbf{g}_{p_i}$, meaning that only K elements from the set $\{c_1, \dots, c_N\}$ are different from 0.

One way to encode such a signal is given by **transform coding**. This involves generating the full set \mathbf{f} of N samples, then estimating the coefficients c_p as $c_p = \langle \mathbf{f}, \mathbf{g}_p \rangle$, $p = 1, \dots, N$, and finally computing the largest K coefficients. This process is unnecessarily complex, especially if $K \ll N$.

The **compressive sensing** problem aims to decrease the number of generated samples to $M \ll N$ from the start, and then introduce methods to recover the signal from the samples. The new M samples, denoted $\{y_p\}_{p=1,\dots,M}$ are generated by projecting signal \mathbf{f} onto a new set of sampling kernels $\{\mathbf{d}_p\}_{p=1,\dots,M}$, such that $y_p = \langle \mathbf{f}, \mathbf{d}_p \rangle, p = 1, \dots, M$. In matrix form, we can define the *measurement matrix* \mathbf{D} composed of M vectors \mathbf{d}_p^\top , each with dimensions $1 \times N$, resulting in a final matrix dimension $M \times N$. The resulting measurements are given by $\mathbf{y} = \mathbf{D}\mathbf{f}$, where \mathbf{y} is a $M \times 1$ vector.

There are ways to generate sampling kernels to guarantee perfect recovery. However, in a practical setting, it is very convenient to generate matrix \mathbf{D} randomly, which is demonstrated to allow perfect recovery with a very high probability. Specifically, the elements in \mathbf{D} are taken from the Gaussian distribution with zero mean and variance $1/N$.

Clearly, for $M \ll N$ the problem of recovering \mathbf{f} from \mathbf{y} is ill-conditioned, because the system $\mathbf{y} = \mathbf{D}\mathbf{f}$ is underdetermined, *i.e.*, there are fewer equations than unknowns. However, this problem can be approached assuming \mathbf{f} is K -sparse in basis $\{\mathbf{g}_p\}_{p=1,\dots,N}$ and $M \geq K$, which means that its vector of coefficients \mathbf{c} in this basis has only K non-zero entries. In practice, K -sparsity is not always precise and the measurements are noisy, therefore a more reasonable assumption is that \mathbf{c} has only K “large” elements. This is can be quantified using vector norms, which leads to the following recovery formulations:

$$\hat{\mathbf{c}} = \arg \min_{\mathbf{c}} \|\mathbf{c}\|_2^2 \quad \text{subject to} \quad \mathbf{y} = \mathbf{D}\mathbf{G}\mathbf{c}, \quad (4.3)$$

$$\hat{\mathbf{c}} = \arg \min_{\mathbf{c}} \|\mathbf{c}\|_0 \quad \text{subject to} \quad \mathbf{y} = \mathbf{D}\mathbf{G}\mathbf{c}, \quad (4.4)$$

$$\hat{\mathbf{c}} = \arg \min_{\mathbf{c}} \|\mathbf{c}\|_1 \quad \text{subject to} \quad \mathbf{y} = \mathbf{D}\mathbf{G}\mathbf{c}. \quad (4.5)$$

The ℓ_2 norm from (4.3) is not very good at selecting the large coefficients. The number of nonzero entries, given by ℓ_0 norm, seems like the ideal choice (4.4). However, the routines implementing it are numerically unstable and complex. Moreover, they assume precise K -sparsity. The most widely used reconstruction is based on ℓ_1 norm, which recovers well signals that are precisely K -sparse, is less complex numerically, and leads to good approximations in the case of noisy measurements.

One may wonder how to generate compressive samples \mathbf{y} without generating the N uncompressed samples \mathbf{f} . A method proposed in Wakin et al. (2006b,a) uses a Digital Micromirror Device (DMD), which is essentially an array of small mirrors, each representing a pixel that can switch between two angles. An image is projected onto this device, and each pixel in the DMD can reflect the corresponding rays from the image either towards a photodiode sensor, or away from it. The light reflected towards the sensor is integrated into a one dimensional data stream. This device, depicted in Fig. 4.23, is effectively generating samples

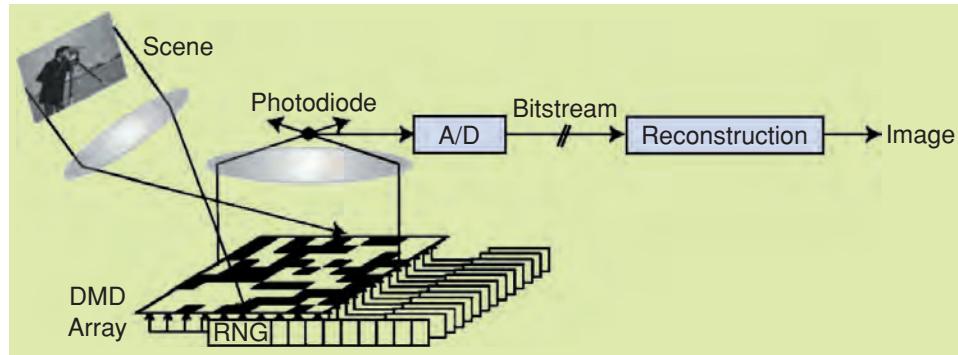


Figure 4.23: A Single Pixel Camera Performing Compressive Sensing. Reprinted from Baraniuk (2007).

$y_p = \langle \mathbf{f}, \mathbf{d}_p \rangle$, where \mathbf{d}_p is a vectorized version of binary matrix defined by the orientations of each DMD pixel, and \mathbf{f} is a vectorized version of the two dimensional image.

This design enables choosing the kernels \mathbf{d}_p and the number of samples M in a flexible and easy way. Increasing the number of samples leads to more precise reconstructions, and decreasing it boosts the compression and decreases the acquisition time. Another advantage of this device is that it avoids the use of a shutter. This is particularly significant for video encoding, where a shutter typically opens and closes for every single frame, whereas in this case samples can be captured in a continuous way Duarte et al. (2008).

The method described above is also known as single-pixel imaging, as every measurement is acquired by mapping an image onto a single pixel sensor represented by the photodiode. However, this involves a special setup with a DMD which takes up space and leads to increased power consumption. Additionally, since it acquires one pixel at a time, it needs many measurements for one image. A video captured with this setup would have a very poor temporal resolution.

An intermediate step between capturing high resolution and single pixel measurements was proposed in Marcia et al. (2009), where the assumption is that the camera has a small sensor array. The authors introduce a method called *compressive coded aperture imaging*, which recovers the high resolution data that is sparse in some basis from low resolution sensor data. Their setup includes an aperture mask that processes the incoming video stream, followed by a downsampling operation, reducing the resolution of the data to match the sensor. Their proposed aperture mask is compatible with nonlinear reconstruction. This allows them to superimpose frames originating from a wider field of view and then perform disambiguation, effectively recovering a much larger field of view than would be possible with other masks.

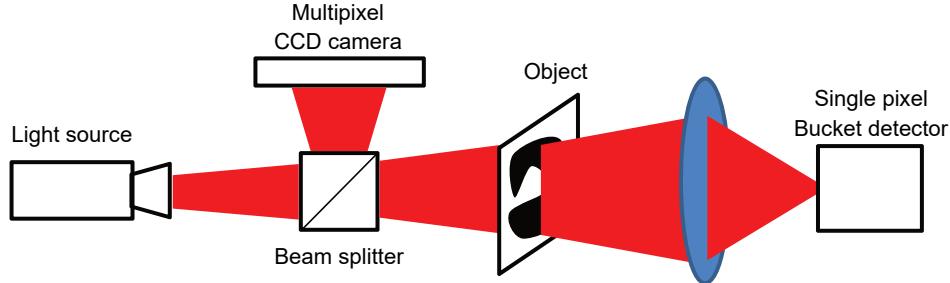


Figure 4.24: The Diagram of the Ghost Imaging Paradigm.

The trade-off between spatial and temporal video resolution was also addressed by encoding the temporal information in a high-speed video in a single frame Serrano et al. (2017); Liu et al. (2013); Hitomi et al. (2011). The work uses a technique called *sparse coding*, which identifies a representation of the data in a sparse dictionary of atoms. The benefit of sparse coding is also used to recover high quality HDR images using single coded camera exposures Serrano et al. (2016). The image can also be represented using features extracted from the data in an unsupervised manner in a process called *convolutional sparse coding*. This approach leads to faster and better solutions than the state-of-the-art Heide et al. (2015).

Other examples of compressive imaging setups are given in Wakin et al. (2006b); Pitsianis et al. (2006); Takhar et al. (2006); Romberg (2008); Watts et al. (2014); Gan et al. (2008); Som and Schniter (2012); Lohit et al. (2018); Keller and Heidrich (2001).

4.4.2 Ghost Imaging

So far, all methods presented generate images from the recorded light rays arriving from a target scene. This is not the case for ghost imaging, which is based on a quite interesting principle. A light source generates a beam that is split in two: the first outgoing beam is captured by a pixel array, often based on a charge-coupled device (CCD) camera, and the second beam intersects an object of interest, and then it converges into a single pixel sensor, also known as **bucket detector**. Even though the light reaching the CCD did not intersect the object, its intensity in each pixel can be correlated with the intensity captured by the bucket detector to acquire the shape of the object in question Shapiro (2008).

The interpretation of these correlations ranges from classical intensity correlations to quantum correlations, and is not a straightforward problem. A comparison between these correlations can be found in Gatti et al. (2004). It was also shown that in order for the ghost imaging scheme to work, it is crucial to use incoherent light beams, consisting of photons

with different phase and frequency Gatti et al. (2006). The classical setup for ghost imaging is depicted in Fig. 4.24.

There have been several variations around the ghost imaging setup. For example, instead of measuring the transmitted photons, the bucket detector can capture light reflected and scattered by the object Meyers et al. (2008). The two-detector setup can be replaced by a single detector one Bromberg et al. (2009). This is done by calculating the field propagation for the reference beam, typically captured by the CCD camera, thus leaving the bucket detector as the only sensor. The transmission function of the object, which is the main result in ghost imaging, can be computed in absolute units, therefore revealing inherent properties about the object Ferri et al. (2010).

The light source emits several intensity patterns, each corresponding to an object sample. A novel approach to ghost imaging looks at the required sample size for a good reconstruction, and uses compressive sensing to decrease the acquisition time Katz et al. (2009). The intensity captured by the bucket detector for each pattern is given by $B_r = \iint T(x, y) I_r(x, y) dx dy$, where $T(x, y)$ is the transmission function, and $I_r(x, y)$ is the field generated by the light source. Under this interpretation, I_r acts as a sampling kernel for T . Because natural images are sparse in carefully selected bases, the authors showed that it is possible to achieve good image reconstructions with as little as 15% of the Nyquist sampling rate. Ghost imaging using deep learning has also improved reconstruction accuracy while reducing the number of overall number of needed measurements Lyu et al. (2017).

4.4.3 Spectrometry

An interesting and well known application of imaging is to evaluate the light in the frequency domain, or measure its spectrum. A straightforward approach is to pass the incoming light through a collimating lens, which is a lens that generates parallel rays, and then interpose a prism in the path of the generated parallel beam. As we know, this would cause the light to separate into its frequency components. Then each wavelength interval can be measured with a separate sensor James (2007).

Spectrometry is defined as the field analysing the spectra of point sources. **Imaging spectrometry, or multispectral photography** is more recent, and it is based on analysing the spectrum of an object in each of its points (8.1.3). If we look at a 2D object, then the spectrometer generates a measurement modeled as function $m(x, y, \lambda)$ where x, y are the spatial coordinate and λ is the wavelength. A spectrometer typically scans a “2D slice” of the measurements, where at each point one of the x, y, λ coordinates is kept constant. Each measurement is affected by noise, and therefore can be evaluated using the signal-to-noise ratio (SNR). The SNR of some of the common spectrometers was calculated and reported in Harvey et al. (2000).

From a mechanical perspective, spectrometers can be grouped in the following categories:

- Pushbroom cameras do not scan the scene, but have a camera attached on a platform that moves forward.
- Whiskbroom cameras using gimbals, or pivoted supports allow the rotation of the camera in a single axis to actively scan the scene.

The spectrometers make use of *interference filters*, which consist of optical filters that reflect a number of pre-defined spectral bands and transmit others. A key characteristic is that it absorbs almost none of the light in the wavelengths of interest. A linearly variable interference filter (LVIF) uses interference films varying in thickness along one dimension. A spectrometer with an associated mounted LVIF is known as a *wedge imaging spectrometer* Demro et al. (1995). Such a device was used to capture several photos of a mosaic and then process them into a multispectral mosaic. A more systematic approach to spectrometry uses a narrow wavelength disperser, known as a monochromator, and then a moving slit that narrows it down to a single emitted wavelength. The multitude of wavelengths generated are then recombined with another monochromator Li and Ma (1991). To decrease the amount of information measured, compressive sensing techniques were used in conjunction with spectrometry Willett et al. (2007).

The reconstruction of the 3 variable function $\mathbf{m}(x, y, \lambda)$ from slice measurements is called *chromatography*. It includes a tomography step that recovers the 3D data. For example, it is possible to recover the function from five 2D slices computed with transmission gratings, and a consumer grade camera Okamoto and Yamaguchi (1991). The 2D measurements can also be achieved with a 1D spectrometer and a rotation mechanism Betremieux et al. (1993).

Another distinct line of work is focused on constructing multispectral projectors, which typically are made with lamps, diffraction devices and color filters. A notable way to implement such a device involves separating white light into its wavelength components using a diffraction grating, and then direct all the beams onto a digital micromirror device (DMD). As we saw before, the DMD is a spatial modulator consisting of micromirrors that selectively direct specific rays towards a point of interest. In this case the DMD can select the desired wavelengths and direct them towards a prism to recombine them which allows, in principle, generating light of any desired spectrum characteristic Wall et al. (2001); Mackinnon et al. (2005); Brown et al. (2006); Farup et al. (2007).

Chapter Appendix: Notations

| Notation | Description |
|-----------------------------|--|
| $\mathbf{m}(x, y)$ | Measurements at location (x, y) |
| PSF | Point spread function |
| $\mathbf{I}(x, y)$ | Irradiance at location (x, y) |
| f | Focal length |
| $\{\mathbf{g}_P\}$ | Orthonormal basis |
| \mathbf{G} | Orthonormal basis $\{\mathbf{g}_P\}$ stacked in a matrix column-wise |
| $\{\mathbf{d}_P\}$ | Sampling kernels |
| \mathbf{D} | Sampling kernels $\{\mathbf{d}_P\}$ stacked in a matrix row-wise |
| \mathbf{y} | Measurements |
| \mathbf{f} | Signal |
| \mathbf{c} | Signal coefficients |
| $g(\mathbf{x})$ | Image with spatial co-ordinates \mathbf{x} |
| $\mathcal{M}_{V_{\max}}(x)$ | Centered modulo operation |
| V_{\max} | Maximum recordable sensor voltage |
| \mathcal{K}_N | <i>Bohr–Favard</i> constant |
| B_N | B-spline of order N |
| $\mathbf{m}(x, y, \lambda)$ | Measurements at location (x, y) for wavelength λ |

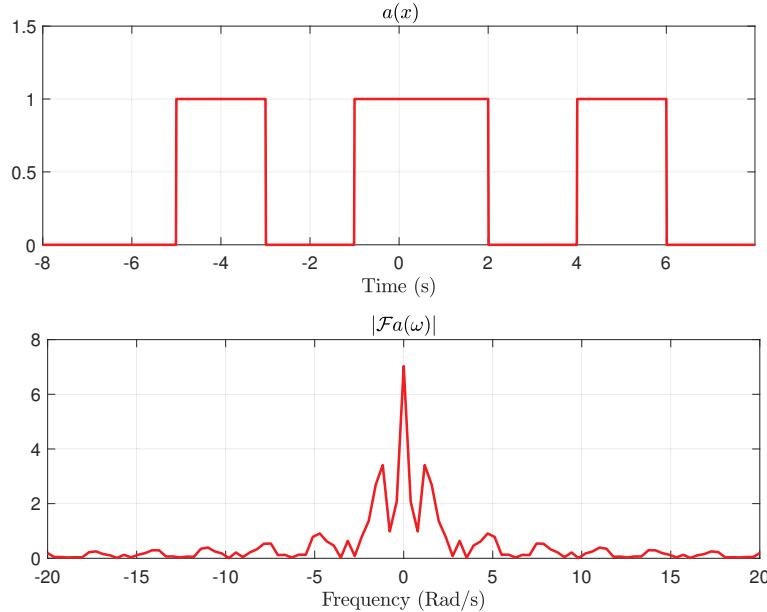


Figure 4.1: The aperture function (up) and the magnitude of its Fourier transform (down) in the case of aperture coded imaging

Exercises

1. Aperture Coding

As we saw in this chapter, by exposing selectively smaller regions within the aperture we can learn more about the light field captured. Projected in 1-D, an aperture can be described by a function such as

$$a(x) = 1_{[-5,-3]}(x) + 1_{[-1,2]}(x) + 1_{[4,6]}(x).$$

Here, we denote by $1_{[-5,-3]}(x)$ a function that is 1 inside $[-5, -3]$ and 0 otherwise. Let us define its Fourier transform as

$$\mathcal{F}a(\omega) = \int_{\mathbb{R}} a(x)e^{-j\omega x} dx.$$

The aperture function $a(x)$ and the absolute value of its Fourier transform are depicted in Fig. 4.1.

a) Fourier Transform

Using the properties of the Fourier transform, derive below the expression of $\mathcal{F}a(\omega)$ analytically.

b) The Modulation Theorem

The aperture can be coded by placing a mask between the lens and the sensor, as is the case in Dappled photography. This involves an important result called the modulation theorem.

Prove that

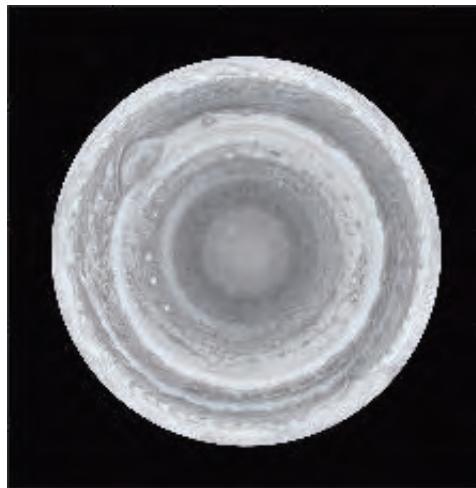
$$\mathcal{F} \{ \cos(\omega_0 x) s(x) \} (\omega) = \pi [\mathcal{F} s(\omega - \omega_0) + \mathcal{F} s(\omega + \omega_0)],$$

where $s(x)$ is an input signal.

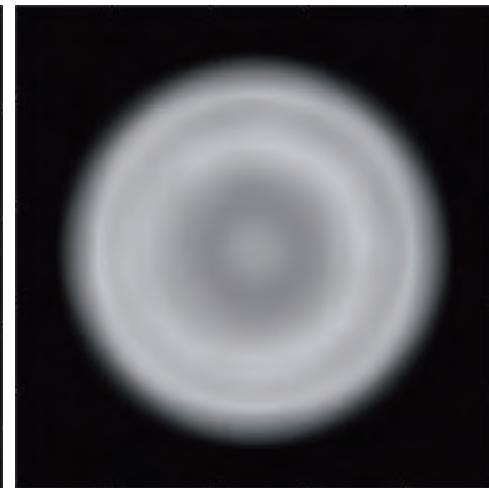
c) Image Blurring

When capturing a blurred image with coded aperture we can estimate the scene depth. Let us look at an example on how to blur and then deblur an image.

Feel free to capture your own image or use the one provided in this example. Reduce the image to a resolution of 220×220 , and then convolve it with a blur kernel - a matrix of ones with size 22×22 . The kernel must be normalised a priori, i.e., dividing it by the sum of its elements, in order to ensure that the image values are in the same range. The result should be similar to the one in Fig. 4.2. Please plot your own images.



(a) Grayscale image of Jupiter.



(b) The image blurred with a matrix of ones.

Figure 4.2: Simulating the out of focus blur effect by convolving with a kernel.

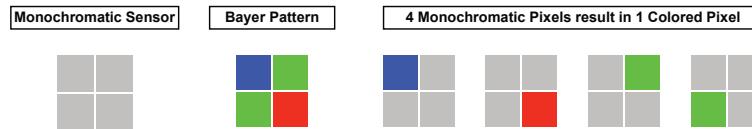


Figure 4.3: A monochromatic sensor (left) the pixels arranged in the Bayer pattern (center) and breaking down the Bayer pattern in 3 components for each RGB color (right).

d) Image Deblurring

Compute the naive deconvolution to recover back the original image. The 2-dimensional discrete Fourier transform can be used for this task.

2. Color Coding

In this chapter, we learned that a sensor can be coded by placing together pixels sensitive to different colors in a certain pattern. Let us now simulate the image captured by a sensor coded with the Bayer pattern. For this example, we need a color image. Even though all colors have already been acquired at each pixel, we will cancel out the components corresponding to the other colors, in order to generate a Bayer pattern.

Specifically, each color image is made up of three images, each containing the intensities of red, green and blue respectively. We can then split each of the three images in groups of 4 adjacent pixels, as in Fig. 4.3. For the red image, we keep only pixel 4 and cancel out the other pixels. The same is repeated for the other 2 colors, such that we end up with a Bayer pattern.

The resulting image, depicted in Fig. 4.4, is similar to an image captured by a digital camera with its sensor pixels arranged in a Bayer pattern.

a) Generating the Bayer Pattern

Now plot and display your own Bayer pattern image. In order for the pattern to be visible, keep the resolution low, around 100×100 .

b) Image Demosaicing

As we have seen in the chapter, now we need to recover the original image before mosaicing, in a process called demosaicing. Because we set a number of pixels on 0, we now lost $2/3$ of the information from the original image, as shown in Fig. 4.3.

Even so, assuming smoothness conditions for the captured image, we can still recover the original image with reasonable quality. Let us perform nearest neighbor and linear interpolation to compute the values of the missing pixels. The resulting images should be similar to the ones in Fig. 4.5. Please plot your own figures demonstrating demosaicing via interpolation.

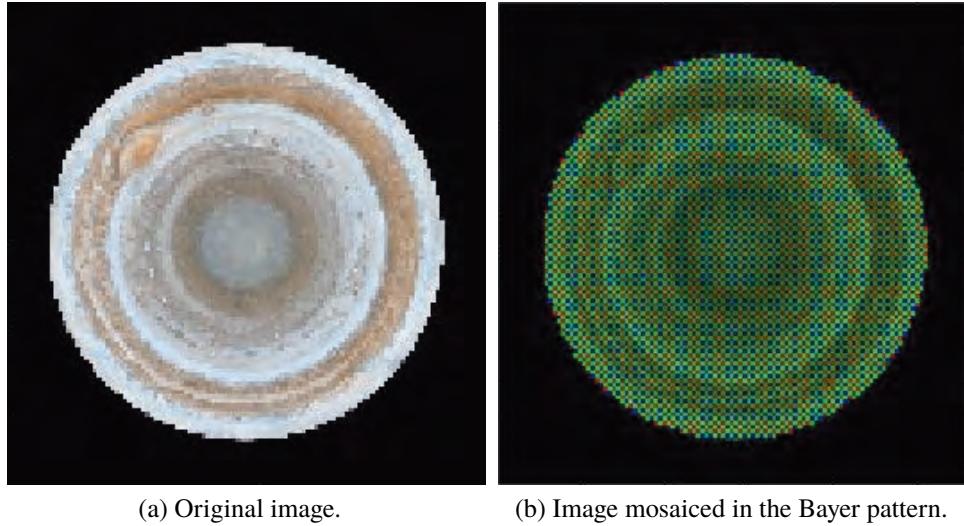


Figure 4.4: Simulating an image captured by a sensor in the Bayer pattern.

Can you explain why each image looks in this particular way? Why does the linear interpolation have a similar effect to blurring in the previous example?

3. Compressive Imaging

Here we will analyse how the theory of compressive sensing can be used to generate compressed images. We use a grayscale image in this case, from which we extract a small patch of size 40×40 located on an edge, as in Fig. 4.6. To compress the samples we first turn the image $I(k, l)$ into a vector $I_v(k)$ of size 1600. The compressed samples satisfy

$$y = D \cdot I_v, y \in \mathbb{R}^M,$$

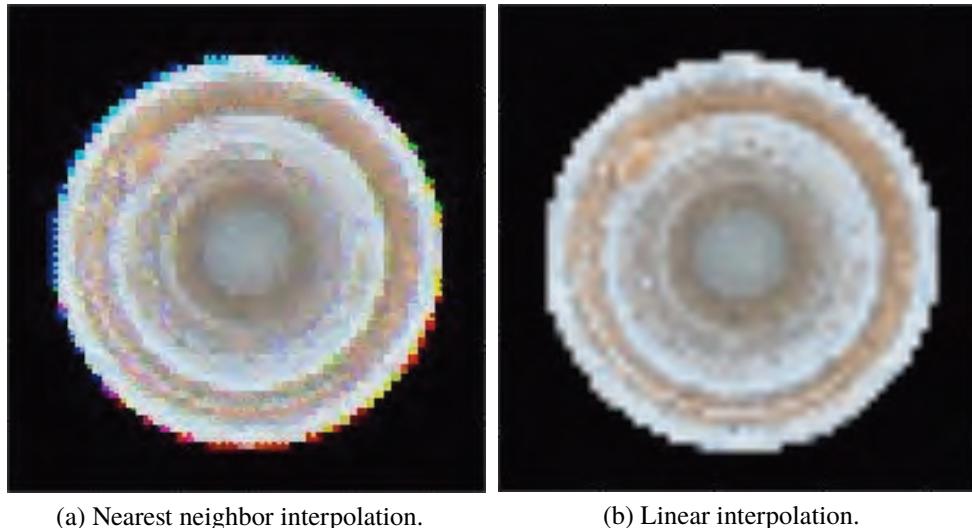
where $M \ll N = 1600$, and $D \in \mathbb{R}^{M \times N}$ is a random matrix with elements drawn from the Gaussian distribution with zero mean and standard deviation $1/N$.

The recovery of the image is performed with one of the following

$$\begin{aligned}\widehat{I}_v &= \operatorname{argmin} \|I_v\|_2, \text{ s.t. } y = D \cdot I_v \\ \widehat{I}_v &= \operatorname{argmin} \|I_v\|_1, \text{ s.t. } y = D \cdot I_v.\end{aligned}$$

a) Generating Compressive Samples

Increase M until you get a good reconstruction using norm $\|\cdot\|_1$ and display the results for $\|\cdot\|_1$ and $\|\cdot\|_2$. The reconstructions using 70% of the samples for the proposed



(a) Nearest neighbor interpolation.

(b) Linear interpolation.

Figure 4.5: Reconstructing the original full resolution image via demosaicing with nearest neighbor and linear interpolation.

image ($M = 1120$) are given in Fig. 4.6. Why does the result look so noisy when using $\|\cdot\|_2$?

b) Selecting the Number of Compressive Samples

In the following let us define the the reconstruction error as

$$\text{Error} = 100 \cdot \frac{\|\widehat{I}_v - I_v\|_2}{\|I_v\|_2} (\%) .$$

Plot the error function for reconstructing the image patch using $\|\cdot\|_1$ and $\|\cdot\|_2$ as a function of the number of compressed samples M . Then result should look similar to Fig. 4.7. In order to get consistent results, make sure you generate a large random matrix D and then pick the first M lines for each iteration.

How can it be explained that $\|\cdot\|_2$ leads to better results than $\|\cdot\|_1$ when M is small?

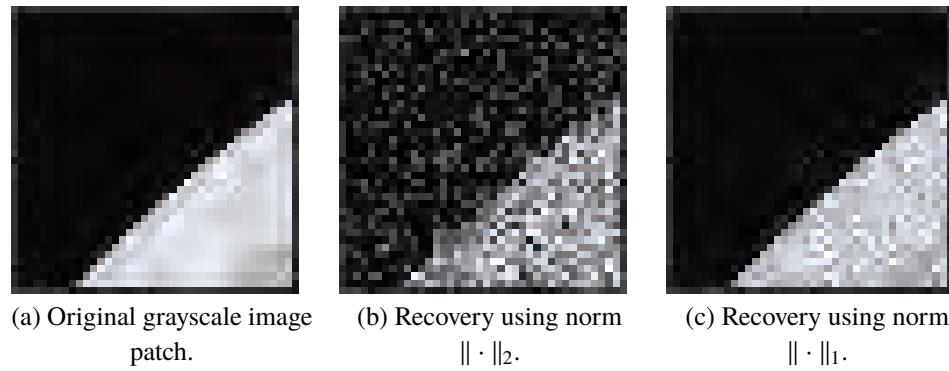


Figure 4.6: Compressed image reconstruction using 30% fewer samples than the number of pixels in the original image.

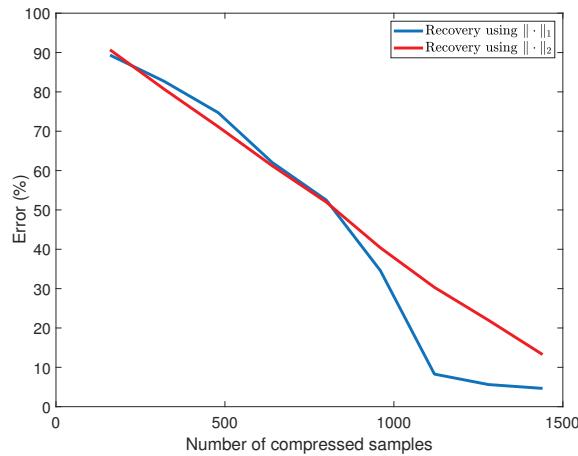


Figure 4.7: The reconstruction error as a function of the number of compressed samples M .

5 Temporally Coded Imaging

In recent years, many approaches have been proposed to capture the high dimensional plenoptic function via its low dimensional measurements. This is made possible by introducing diversity in the measurements. This idea is explained in the Fig. 5.1. For example emerging from multiple views leads to viewpoint diversity. Similarly, illuminating a scene from different positions leads to illumination diversity. The redundant information, in either case, is then used to reconstruct the plenoptic function. Redundancy in measurements may also be introduced from spatial coding. As we have seen before, in the case of dappled photography, coding the sensor leads to the recovery of the four-dimensional lightfield from a two-dimensional image.

In this chapter, we will focus on a different aspect of the plenoptic function that helps us go beyond the steady scene assumption. In particular, if we consider the speed of light to be finite, then the information in the echoes of light can be harnessed in unconventional ways. This is because when the light interacts with a scene, the information about the scene is parametrically encoded in the time-delay of light arriving at the sensor. This recently emerging field of research is known as Time Resolved Imaging (TRI) or Time-of-Flight (ToF) Imaging. TRI fundamentally combines time-stamped photos with computational methods to redefine a conventional **camera**.

This new way of reinterpreting the camera directly leads to applications such as 3-D imaging as well as fluorescence lifetime imaging. Beyond conventional applications, in 2012, Velten and colleagues in Velten et al. (2012a) demonstrated that the information in time delays can be used for non-line-of-sight imaging.

The goal of this current chapter is to develop an understanding about imaging a scene at different timescales. The technological challenge behind this idea is that capturing time information at the speed of light requires exorbitant sampling rates and very sophisticated apparatus. However, both of these restrictions can be relaxed by using computational imaging centric approaches. The key idea here is to recover the temporal information using computational approaches.

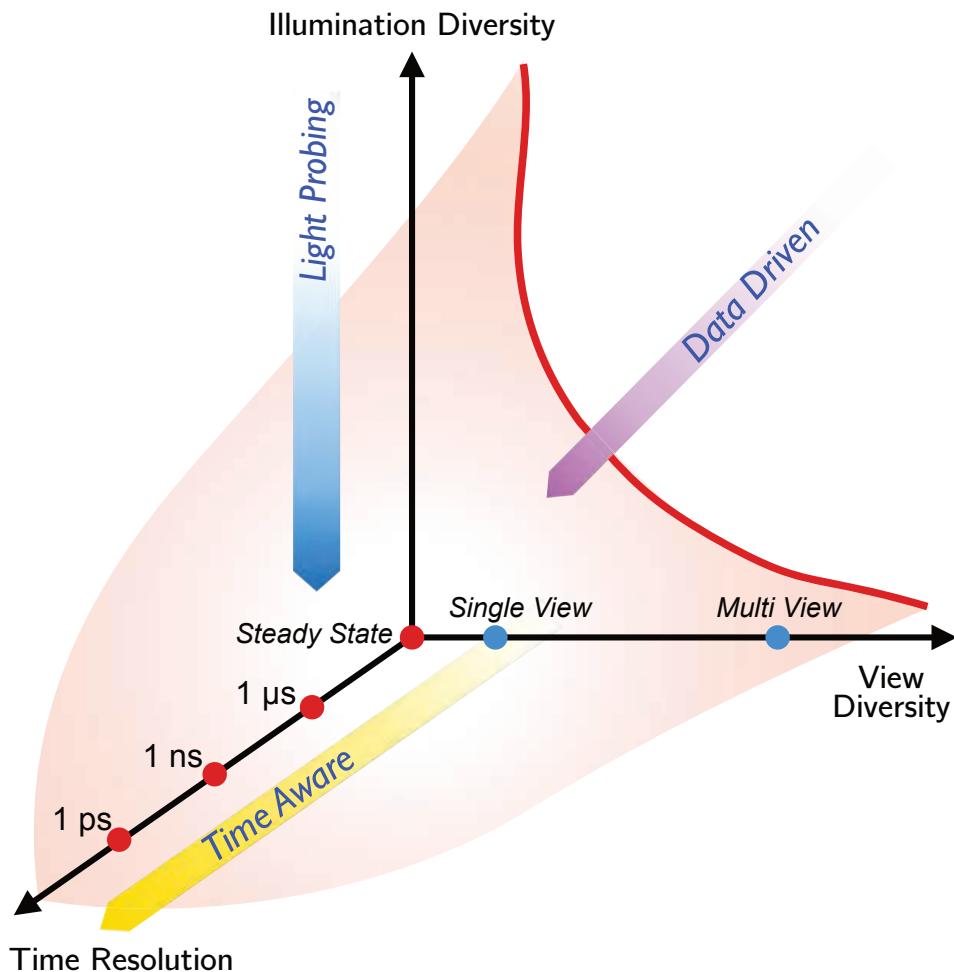


Figure 5.1: Conceptual Diagram Showing Different Mechanisms for Creating Diversity in Measurements when Capturing the High Dimensional Plenoptic Function.

5.1 A Brief History of the Time-of-Flight Revolution

The ToF principle exploits the idea that distance and time are proportional quantities. As the name suggests, ToF is the round trip time between the source and the destination taken by a particle or a wave. Hence, knowing one entity is equivalent to knowing the other. Nature is replete with examples that rely on the ToF principle. For example, bats, dolphins Au and Benoit-bird (2003) and visually impaired human beings use the ToF principle for navigational purposes.

5.1 A Brief History of the Time-of-Flight Revolution

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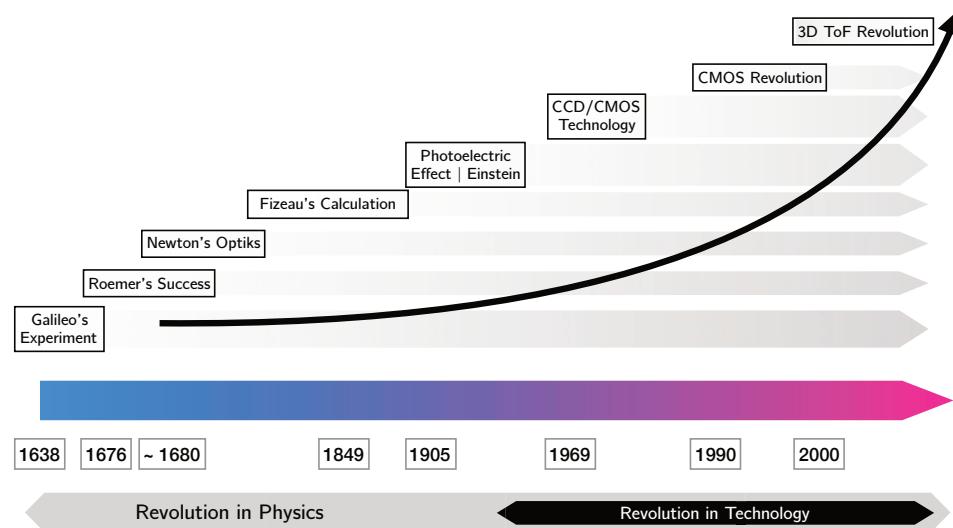


Figure 5.2: A Brief History of the Time-Resolved Imaging Revolution.

From a chronological standpoint, the use of sound waves was known to human beings way before the notion of electromagnetic waves came to be known. Human beings have known to use stones for estimating the depth of wells for millennia. One of the earliest attempts using electromagnetic waves for ToF measurements traces back to an experiment conducted by the Italian scientist Galileo, who together with his assistant, wanted to estimate the speed of light. It is well known now that the speed of light is

$$3 \times 10^8 \text{ m/s},$$

which was unknown at the time of Galileo, who used two far apart hills to time the flicker of a lantern to estimate the speed of light. Unfortunately, this choice of distance was not adequate given the speed of light and hence, his experiment was inconclusive.

Making progress on this front, the Danish astronomer Ole Römer worked with planetary distances and overcame the hurdle in Galileo's experiment. About two hundred years later (circa 1849), French physicist Hippolyte Fizeau was the first to estimate the speed of light. Thereon, Albert Abraham Michelson, improving upon the previous experiments of Hippolyte Fizeau and Foucault, used a laboratory setup to estimate the speed of light to be $2.99864 \times 10^8 \text{ m/s}$ in 1879.

Further revolutions, such as the discovery of the photoelectric effect by Albert Einstein in the 1900s followed by the development of the electronic imaging sensors (CCD/CMOS), led to the development of consumer grade, mass producible optical ToF sensors. An example of such a device is the popular Microsoft Kinect XBox One released in 2013. A brief

history of major scientific and technological revolutions culminating into the modern day ToF sensor technology is shown in Fig. 5.2.

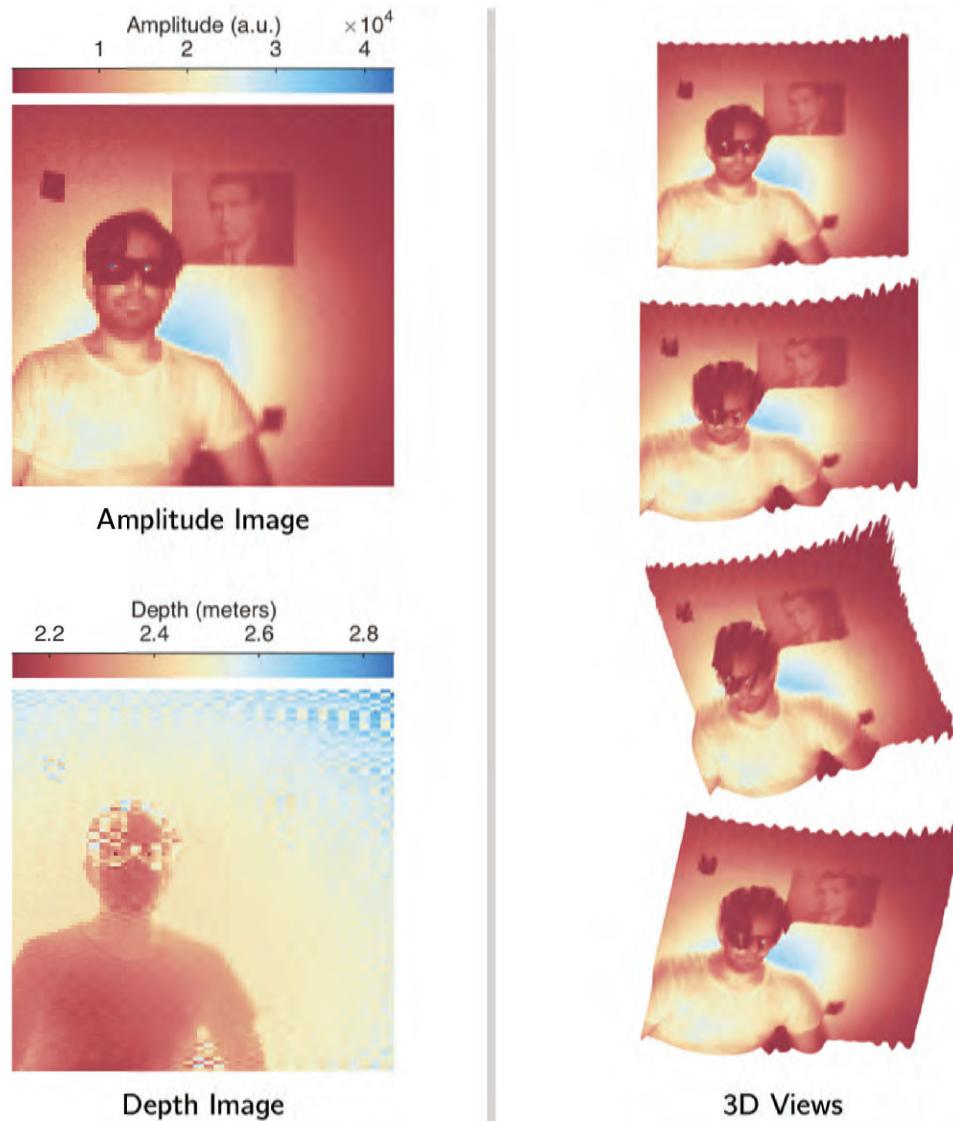


Figure 5.3: Example of a 3D Image. We show the amplitude image (or the conventional digital image), the depth image and 3D images seen from multiple viewpoints.

In contrast to the conventional image or a photograph produced by imaging sensors, the ToF sensors capture 3D images. This is made possible by recording two images per exposure: an amplitude image and a depth image. The amplitude image is the standard two-dimensional photograph. On the other hand, at each pixel, the unique depth image represents the corresponding distance in the scene. This is based on the ToF information. The combination of the amplitude and depth images produces the 3D image. We show the amplitude, depth and resulting 3D images in Fig. 5.3.

Early scientific instrumentation for computational imaging based on the ToF principle required high quality equipment that is often fragile, prohibitively expensive and constrained to controlled laboratory environments. This is because fundamental to the ToF principle is the fact that the speed of light is assumed to be finite. This, in practice, is achievable only when electro-optical elements of the imaging system are extremely precise. However, in the context of the gaming and entertainment industry, a number of consumer companies such as Mesa Imaging, Microsoft and PMDtec have developed consumer-grade ToF sensors that are not only affordable but also alleviate all the issues associated with their expensive and sensitive counterparts—custom designed scientific hardware.

While optical ToF sensors are a recent phenomenon, other ToF systems such as ultrasound, seismic and radar technologies have been around for decades. More recently, terahertz imaging systems (also based on ToF principle) have become increasingly popular. The knowledge transfer between optical and other ToF systems is far from reality. Each ToF modality has its own idiosyncratic constraints which stem from the physics of the problem. However, there are commonalities that are shared by all of these systems.

5.2 Optical Time-Resolved Imaging

In conventional imaging, each sensor pixel integrates the photo-generated carriers over a time interval, creating a low-dimensional projection of the plenoptic function. The time window of the exposure (or integration) is typically in the range of milliseconds. Hence, conventional digital sensors provide a count of photons reaching each pixel, producing a photograph. Such a photograph lacks any time-resolved information. On the other hand, during the time of exposure, the photons travel distances that are much larger than the scale of the scene and this detail can provide information about the scene that is not available with a conventional image. Said differently, at the end of the imaging process, one can only estimate the number of photons that arrive at each pixel and not the time-of-arrival of each of those photons. Such an information loss is unavoidable with a conventional imaging sensor.

To overcome this barrier, time-resolved imaging sensors bring the time dimension to imaging, eventually being able to image the light in motion, as it propagates through the scene

Velten et al. (2012a). When working time scales at the speed of light, a depth resolution on the order of millimeters translates into picosecond time resolution. It is not possible to build large arrays of conventional pixels that can control the integration windows of the order of picosecond or sub-picosecond resolution. Consequently, there is a natural trade-off,

| Spatial resolution | Time resolution |
|--------------------------------|------------------------|
| vs | |
| Number of Pixels in the Imager | Time-scale of Exposure |

Reconciling this fundamental trade-off, there is different time-resolved imaging hardware available namely,

- Gated cameras,
- SPAD arrays,
- Ultra-fast probing with a single detector,
- Ultra-fast probing with streak cameras,
- Lock-in sensors (coded and continuous-wave).

Each of these imaging modalities is an example of an active imaging system. In such systems, the scene is illuminated with a light source and reflected information is captured as a temporal signature at each pixel. Hence the measurements can be written as,

$$m(x, y, t)$$

where (x, y) denotes that spatial coordinates and t denotes the time. For a single-pixel time-resolved sensor, we plot the measurement in Fig. 5.4.

As we have mentioned, time-resolved sensors are active sensors, depending on the active mode of operation, they may be classified as **impulse based** or **continuous-wave sensors**. As the name suggests, this classification is based on the shape of the active illumination, which in turn affects the temporal resolution. For sub-nanosecond and picosecond range illumination, the pulse shape resembles a spike in time and hence, this class of sensors are referred to as impulse based systems. When working with wave-like illumination, the current sensors are able to generate temporal waveforms (typically periodic) in the range of few megahertz to few hundred megahertz. Such sensors are known as continuous-wave sensors. In Fig. 5.5, we show different time-resolved imaging sensors together with their spatio-temporal parameters.

Next, we present a general image formation model that is common to most of the time-resolved imaging systems.

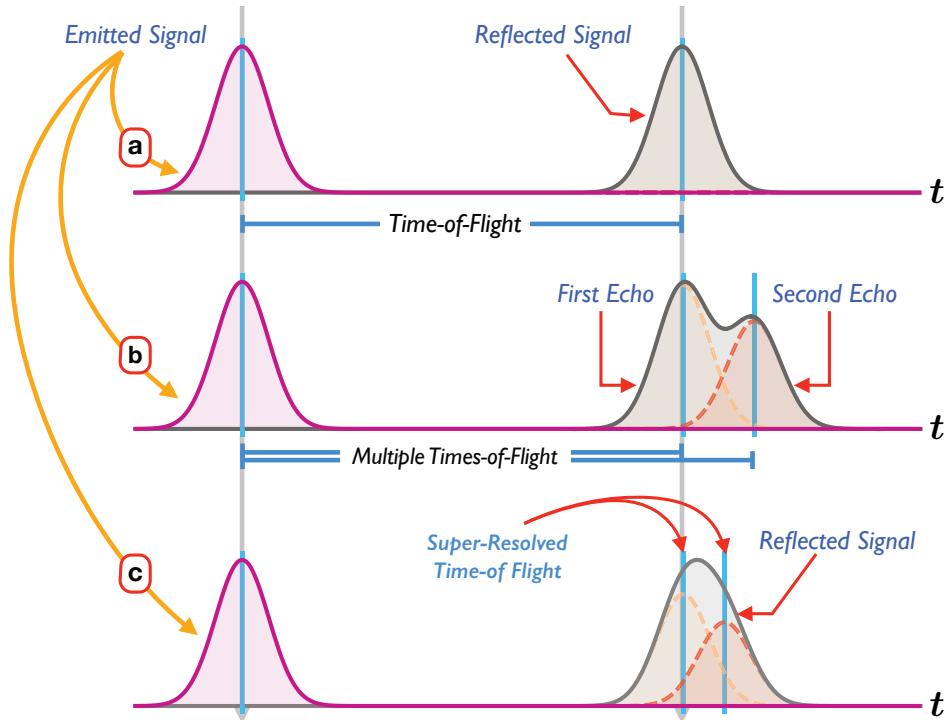


Figure 5.4: Time-resolved Information at a Single Pixel. (a) The case when a signal is backscattered from a single object. (b) The case when the signal is backscattered from two objects. For instance, when imaging through a window pane. (c) The case in (b), but a more challenging scenario when reflections take place from closely spaced objects. Recovering individual light paths in this case is known as super-resolution.

5.3 Time-Resolved Image Formation Model

The time-resolved imaging systems follow the imaging pipeline shown in Fig. 5.6. Its basic elements are as follows.

5.3.1 Probing Function $p(t)$

Probing function denoted by $p(t)$ represents the waveform emitted by the ToF sensor's illumination unit.

Classes of Probing Functions

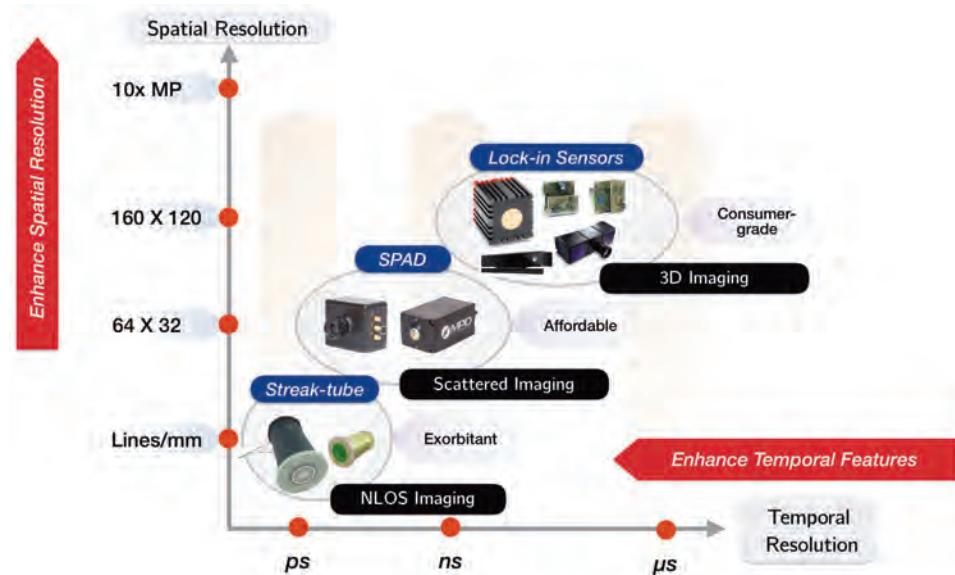


Figure 5.5: Different Time-resolved Imaging Sensors Together with their Spatio-Temporal Parameters. Sub-nanosecond and picosecond range illumination resembles a spike and hence, SPAD and Streak-tube based sensors are known as impulse imaging devices. Lock-in sensors on the other hand use a periodic waveform with frequencies in the range of few megahertz to few hundreds of megahertz. Such sensors are known as continuous-wave imaging sensors.

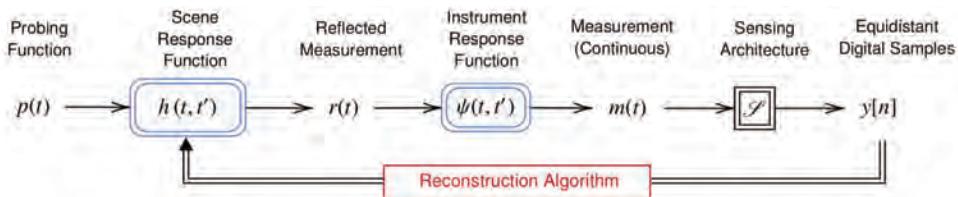


Figure 5.6: Time-resolved Imaging Pipeline.

The probing function may be a time-localized pulse, *e.g.*, a B-Spline, Gaussian, or Exponential-Gaussian mixture. Alternatively, this may be a continuous-wave. This is decided by the time-resolved imaging apparatus being used.

- **Streak-tube** Velten et al. (2012a); Wu et al. (2013) and **SPAD detectors** Hernandez-marin et al. (2007) offer pico-second range timing and hence, the illumination can be characterized as an impulse or the Dirac Delta function $\delta(t)$.

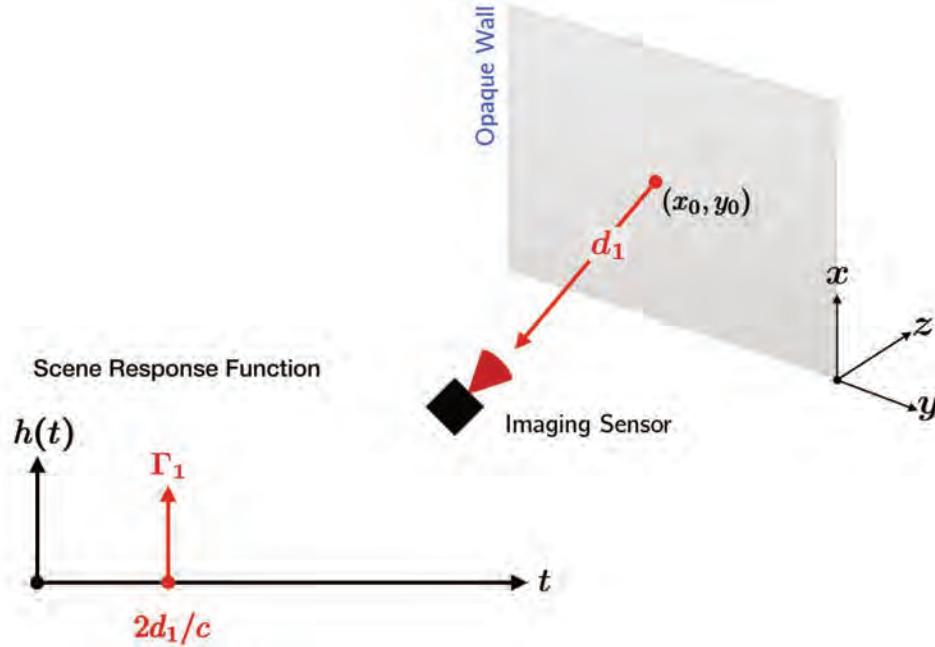


Figure 5.7: Example of a Scene with One Light Path.

- In the case of **continuous-wave imagers** that use the lock-in mechanism, one may either use sinusoidal illumination (this is the case with Microsoft Kinect XBox One Bhandari et al. (2014a) or maximum length sequences Kadambi et al. (2013) to achieve time-localization.
- Other examples include the use of first and second order derivatives of Gaussian pulses which are used in ultra wideband systems Chen and Kiaei (2002).

5.3.2 Scene Response Function $h(t, t')$

Scene Response Function or SRF denoted by $h(t, t')$ models the transfer function of the scene. This may be a filter, a shift-invariant function, e.g.,

$$h(t, t') = h_{SI}(t - t'),$$

or even a solution to a partial differential equation. This only depends on the scene that one is interested in imaging and not the modality of the time-resolved imaging system.

Classes of Scene Response Functions

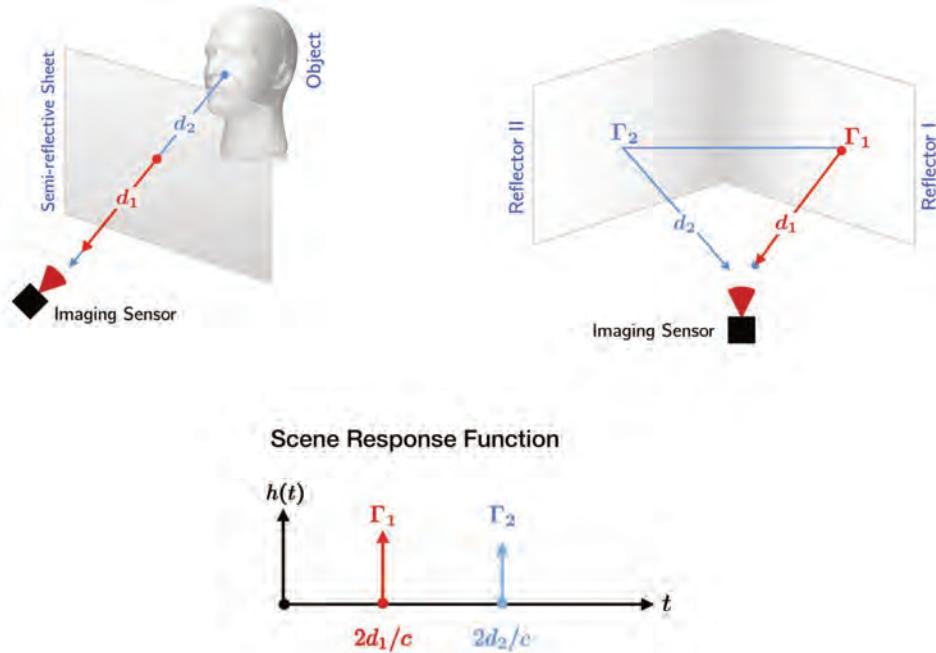


Figure 5.8: Examples of Scenes that Lead to Two Light Paths.

- **Single Depth Imaging.** This setting is described in Fig. 5.7. In this case, there is a one-to-one mapping between the scene and the sensor. At any given pixel, the SRF in this case is written as,

$$h(t, t') = \Gamma_1 \delta\left(t - t' - \frac{2d_1}{c}\right) = \Gamma_1 \delta(t - t' - t_1), \quad (5.1)$$

where Γ_1 denotes the reflectivity and $t_1 = 2d_1/c$ is the time-delay due to the object at a distance d_1 from the sensor.

- **Multiple Depth Imaging.** As described in Fig. 5.8, there may be scenes in which more than a single light path contributes to a given pixel in the sensor. In this case, multiple delays need to be accounted for at the detector. Consequently, when accounting for K light paths, the SRF is written as,

$$h_K(t, t') = \sum_{k=0}^{K-1} \Gamma_k \delta\left(t - t' - \frac{2d_k}{c}\right) = \sum_{k=0}^{K-1} \Gamma_k \delta(t - t' - t_k), \quad (5.2)$$

where Γ_k and t_k for $k = 0, \dots, K-1$ are the $2K$ unknown parameters.

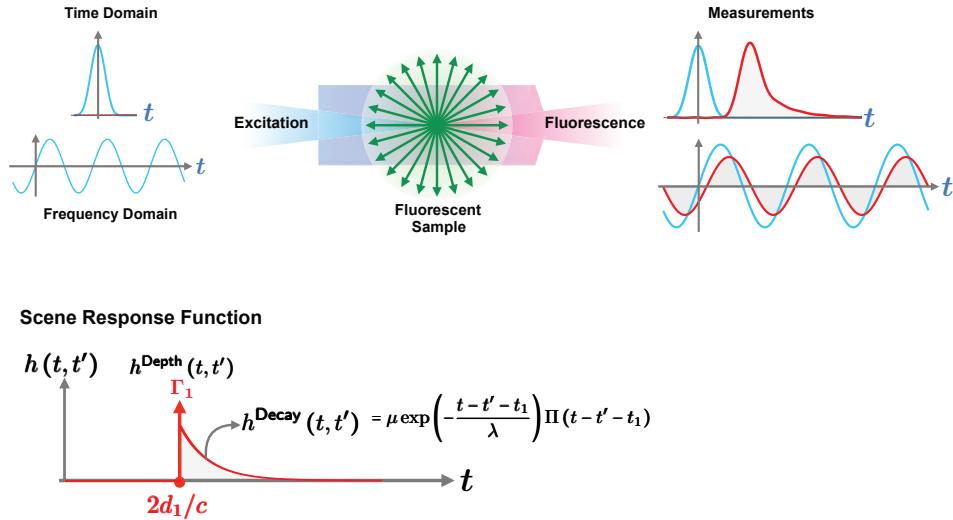


Figure 5.9: Fluorescence Lifetime Imaging.

- **Fluorescence Lifetime Imaging or FLI.** FLI is a significant research area spanning many engineering applications. Knowledge of a sample's fluorescence lifetime allows applications such as DNA sequencing, tumor detection, fluorescence tomography and high resolution microscopy. In this case, temporal excitation is modeled by a first order differential equation whose solution is the SRF is given by Bhandari et al. (2015),

$$h(t, t') = h^{\text{Depth}}(t, t') + h^{\text{Decay}}(t, t'),$$

where $h^{\text{Depth}}(t, t')$ is defined in (5.2) and represents a delay of t_1 due to the fluorescence sample's placement at depth $2d_1/c$ meters from the sensor and,

$$h^{\text{Decay}}(t, t') = \mu \exp\left(-\frac{t - t' - \tau}{\lambda}\right) \Pi(t - t' - \tau),$$

where μ and λ are emission strength and the lifetime of the fluorescent sample, respectively and $\Pi(t)$ is the Heaviside function. The SRF is plotted in Fig. 5.9.

- **Transient Imaging and Subsurface Scattering.** Decomposing global light transport in terms of its temporal response leads to the study of transient phenomena. The first steps in this direction were set in Wu et al. (2013). Using time-resolved information, a scene can be decomposed into its constituent light transport elements. In particular, a scene can be decomposed into

- **Direct Component**, corresponding to all the first bounce light that arrives at the sensor.

- **Subsurface Component**, corresponding to short range scattering.
- **Inter-reflection Component**, corresponding to longer range scattering. Based on this model, the transient SRF is written as,

$$h_{\text{Tr}}(t, t') = \underbrace{h_D(t - t')}_\text{Direct Reflection} + \underbrace{h_I(t - t')}_\text{Inter-reflections} + \underbrace{h_S(t - t')}_\text{Subsurface},$$

where the individual contributions are as follows:

- Direct Component:

$$h_D(t) = \alpha_D \delta(t - 2d_D/c).$$

- Inter-reflections:

$$h_I(t) = \sum_{k=0}^{K-1} \alpha_k \delta(t - 2d_k/c).$$

- Subsurface Scattering:

$$h_S = \delta(t - 2d_S/c) * \left(\alpha_S e^{-\beta_S t} \mathbb{1}_{t \geq 0}(t) \right).$$

5.3.3 Reflected Function $r(t)$

The reflected function is the back-scattered signal arising from the interaction between the probing signal and the SRF. The reflected function is modeled as a Volterra/Fredholm integral,

$$r(t) = \int_{\Omega_1} p(\tau) h(t, \tau) d\tau. \quad (5.3)$$

Whenever the SRF is a shift-invariant kernel, *i.e.*, $h(t, t') = h_{\text{SI}}(t - t')$, the reflected signal is simply a convolution/filtering operation between the probing function and the SRF,

$$r(t) = (p * h_{\text{SI}})(t).$$

5.3.4 Instrument Response Function $\Psi(t, t')$

The instrument response function or the IRF denoted by $\Psi(t, t')$ models the transfer function of the electro-optical elements of the ToF sensor. For example, in conventional digital cameras, the spatial IRF is the point spread function of the lens.

Classes of Instrument Response Functions

- LiDAR Systems. In the case of Single-photon Avalanche Diode (SPAD) based LiDAR systems, as shown in literature Buller and Wallace (2007); Hernandez-marin et al. (2007) the IRF due to SPAD detectors may be modeled as a parametric, shift-invariant

kernel of form,

$$\Psi_L(t) = \alpha \begin{cases} \theta\left(-\frac{(T_1-T_0)^2}{2\sigma^2}\right) \theta\left(\frac{t-T_1}{\lambda_1}\right), & t < T_1 \\ \theta\left(-\frac{(t-T_0)^2}{2\sigma^2}\right), & t \in [T_1, T_2] \\ \theta\left(-\frac{(T_2-T_0)^2}{2\sigma^2}\right) \theta\left(-\frac{t-T_2}{\lambda_2}\right), & t \in [T_2, T_3] \\ \theta\left(-\frac{(T_2-T_0)^2}{2\sigma^2}\right) \theta\left(-\frac{(T_3-T_2)^2}{\lambda_2}\right) \theta\left(-\frac{t-T_3}{\lambda_3}\right), & t \geq T_3 \end{cases}, \quad (5.4)$$

where $\theta(t) = e^{-t}$ and \mathbf{L} is an unknown parameter vector,

$$\mathbf{L} = [\alpha \ \sigma \ T_0 \ T_1 \ T_2 \ T_3 \ \lambda_1 \ \lambda_2 \ \lambda_3]^T. \quad (5.5)$$

- **Lock-in Mechanism Based ToF Sensors.** This is one of the most widely used mechanisms for consumer-grade time-resolved imaging. In this case, IRF is used as the probing function itself,

$$\Psi(t, \tau) = p(t + \tau).$$

- **Streak-tube.** In this case, as pointed out in (Wu et al. 2013), the IRF may be modeled as a Gaussian profile,

$$\Psi(t, t') = \exp\left(-\frac{(t - t')^2}{2\sigma^2}\right).$$

5.3.5 Continuous-Time Measurements $m(t)$

Measurements denoted by $m(t)$ are a result of sensing the reflected signal via the electro-optical elements of the ToF sensor. Continuous-time measurements are modeled as,

$$m(t) = \int_{\Omega_2} r(t') \Psi(t, t') dt'. \quad (5.6)$$

5.3.6 Discrete-Time Measurements $y[n]$

The sampling operator maps the continuous-time measurements into digital samples,

$$\mathcal{S} : m(t) \rightarrow y[n] = m(nT), \quad n \in \mathbb{Z}, T > 0.$$

The ToF sensor stores discrete measurements by sampling continuous-time signal $m(t)$ and this results in the discrete sequence $y[n] = m(nT), n \in \mathbb{Z}$ where $T > 0$ is the sampling interval.

The above general model applies to modalities beyond the optical time-resolved imaging systems. Whereas the probing and the instrument response functions are characterized by the imaging modality at hand, the scene response function is entirely characterized by the

scene that we are interested in imaging. The different variations of the probing functions, namely SRF and IRF, lead to different forms of computational imaging problems.

In many practical cases of interest, both the SRF and the IRF are shift-invariant. In that case, the measurements can be written as a convolution product or $m(t) = (p * h * \Psi)(t)$. Whenever the IRF is a function of the form $\Psi(t, \tau) = \Psi(t + \tau)$, the measurements amount to $m(t) = (r \otimes \Psi)(t)$ where \otimes denotes cross-correlation operation. “Lock-in” sensors operate on this principle.

5.4 Lock-in Sensor based 3D Imaging

5.4.1 Continuous Wave Imaging

ToF sensors such as the Microsoft Kinect XBox One use a continuous wave based probing function $p(t) = 1 + p_0 \cos(\omega t)$, $p_0 < 1$ where ω is the modulation frequency and p_0 is the modulation amplitude. With the SRF defined in (5.2), the reflected signal reads $r(t) = \Gamma_0 p(t - t_0)$ where $t_0 = 2d_0/c$. Again, the lock-in sensor acts as an electronic homodyne detector such that $\Psi(t, \tau) = \Psi(t + \tau)$ and the measurements result in Bhandari et al. (2014b); Gupta et al. (2015),

$$m(t) = \Gamma_0 \left(1 + \frac{p_0^2}{2} \cos(\omega t + \theta_\omega) \right), \quad \theta_\omega \in [0, 2\pi], \quad (5.7)$$

where $\theta_\omega = \omega t_0 = 2d_0\omega/c$ is the frequency dependent phase. The ToF sensor records discrete measurements of form, $m_k = m(kT)$ with $T = \pi/2\omega$ and uses a phase estimation algorithm commonly known as the “**Four Bucket Method**” Foix et al. (2011) to estimate the unknown parameters Γ_0 and d_0 . For a given modulation frequency, this method works with 4 discrete measurements,

$$m_0 \quad m_1 \quad m_2 \quad m_3$$

that are used to form a complex number $z_\omega \in \mathbb{C}$,

$$z_\omega = (m_0 - m_2) + j(m_3 - m_1),$$

where,

$$\begin{bmatrix} m_0 & m_1 \\ m_2 & m_3 \end{bmatrix} = \frac{\Gamma_0}{2} \begin{bmatrix} 2 + p_0^2 \cos(\omega t_0) & 2 - p_0^2 \sin(\omega t_0) \\ 2 - p_0^2 \cos(\omega t_0) & 2 + p_0^2 \sin(\omega t_0) \end{bmatrix}$$

The scene parameters are then estimated by,

$$\Gamma_0 = \frac{|z_\omega|}{p_0^2} \text{ and } d_0 = c \frac{\angle z_\omega}{2\omega}.$$

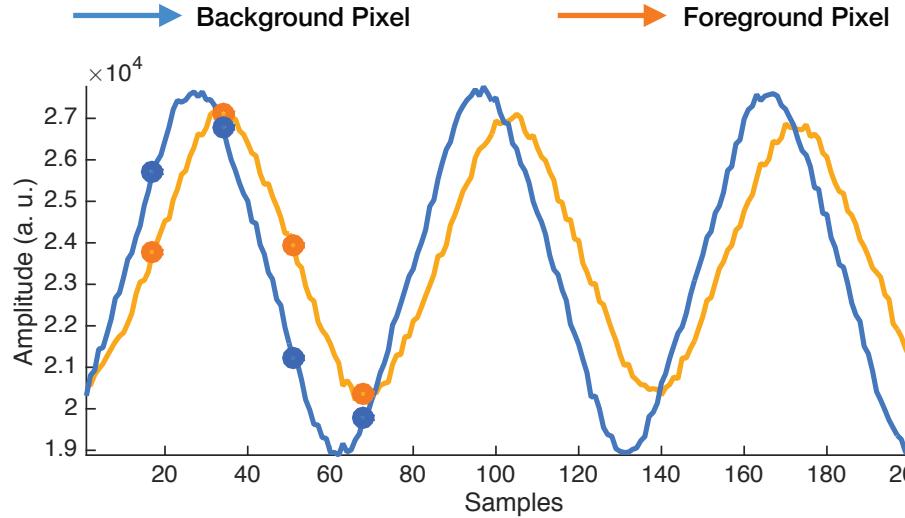


Figure 5.10: The Raw Data-Samples Based on a Continuous Wave, Time-of-Flight Imaging Sensor.

In fact, the depth images shown in Fig. 5.3 are obtained using this method with $\omega = 2\pi f$ where $f = 50$ MHz. The raw data-samples corresponding to the experiment are plotted in Fig. 5.10.

5.4.2 Coded Time-of-Flight Imaging

In the previous part, sinusoidal illumination was studied for time-resolved imaging. As an alternative mode of imaging, time-localized pulses may also be used to probe the scene. Even though the probing function is time-localized, it may be modeled as a periodic signal of form $p(t) = p(t + \Delta)$, $\Delta > 0$. While specialized scientific instruments, such as the streak tube, may be able to produce a pulse that mimics the Dirac's delta distribution δ (Velten et al. (2012a)), this form of precision is impractical for consumer-grade instruments. In practice, Pseudo-Noise (PN) sequences Buttgen and Seitz (2008) or maximum-length sequence (MLS) Kadambi et al. (2013) are an optimal choice of probing function in regards to time-localization. For further study on choice of optimal codes, we refer to Gupta et al. (2018).

In this case, given SRF defined in (5.2), the reflected signal reads,

$$r(t) = \Gamma_0 p(t - t_0),$$

with delay $t_0 = 2d_0/c$. Due to the lock-in sensor architecture Foix et al. (2011), which constraints the IRF to be of the form,

$$\Psi(t, \tau) = p(t + \tau),$$

the measurements simplify to,

$$m(t) = (r \otimes p)(t) = (\bar{r} * p)(t),$$

where \otimes denotes the cross-correlation operation and $\bar{r}(t) = r(-t)$. Due to the lock-in constraint, we can rewrite the measurements in terms of $p(t)$ as,

$$\bar{m}(t) = \Gamma_0(p * \bar{p})(t - t_0).$$

Consequently, we may write $\phi = p * \bar{p}$. The ToF is then estimated by estimating the delay using,

$$\tilde{t}_0 = \arg \max_{t_0} \bar{m}(t) = \arg \max_{t_0} \phi(t - t_0).$$

Whenever $p(t)$ is modeled to be some parametric waveform, such as a Gaussian function, B-spline or a combination of parametric pulses, parameter estimation techniques may be used to estimate the ToF t_0 , and the reflection coefficient Γ_0 . However, this may not be the case in practice because of model mismatch or the physical aspects of light propagation. In such a setting, it is effective to use the property of **bandlimited approximation**: approximate the probing function, and hence ϕ , with the first few dominant Fourier components,

$$\tilde{p}(t) = \sum_{|m| \leq M_0} \hat{p}_m e^{jm\omega_0 t} \text{ with } \hat{p}_m = \frac{1}{\Delta} \int_0^\Delta p(t) e^{-jm\omega_0 t} dt, \quad (5.8)$$

where $\omega_0 = 2\pi/\Delta$ is the fundamental frequency and Δ is the maximum operating range of the ToF sensor. The reasons behind this choice are that

- Most electronic/optical instrumentation is approximately bandlimited due to physical constraints.
- The probing function may not admit a parametric representation. Even if the probing function assumes a parametric representation, bandlimited approximation via Fourier series coefficients circumvents the estimation of parameters of the probing function.

The utility of bandlimited approximation property is demonstrated via experiments shown in Fig. 5.11. Starting with a maximum length sequence Kadambi et al. (2013), we design a probing function. We plot $\phi = p * \bar{p}$ together with its bandlimited approximation,

$$\tilde{\phi}(t) = \sum_{|m| \leq M_0} \hat{\phi}_m e^{jm\omega_0 t} \text{ with } \hat{\phi}_m = \frac{1}{\Delta} \int_0^\Delta \phi(t) e^{-jm\omega_0 t} dt, \quad (5.9)$$

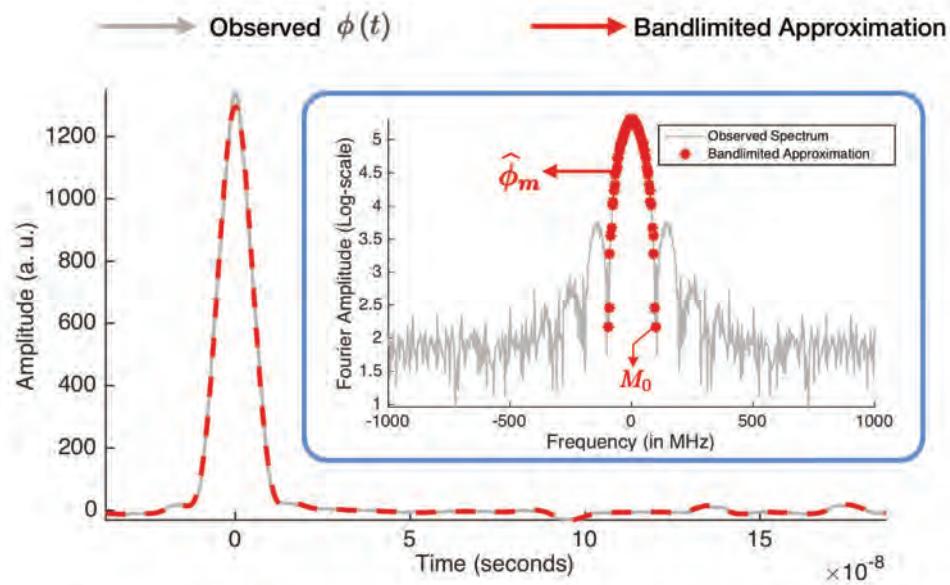


Figure 5.11: Bandlimited Approximation of Auto-correlated Probing Signal ($\phi = p * \bar{p}$) in Time-domain ToF Setup. The low-pass property is evident from its Fourier spectrum. This is a result of an experiment with $\Delta = 310$ ns and $M_0 = 30$.

obtained by retaining first M_0 Fourier series coefficients, $\hat{\phi}_m = \hat{p}_m^2$. We are thus able to rewrite measurements as,

$$\bar{m}(t) = \Gamma_0 \phi(t - t_0) \equiv C_0 \sum_{|m| \leq M_0} \hat{\phi}_m e^{j m \omega_0 t},$$

where the complex-valued constant $C_0 = \Gamma_0 e^{-j \omega_0 t_0}$ is the constant to be estimated.

5.5 Application Areas

In this section, we discuss the various applications of temporally coded imaging that have emerged in the last decade and cover the areas of scientific and bio-imaging, computer vision and computer graphics among other topics.

5.5.1 Diffuse Imaging

In diffuse imaging, we are interested in recovering scene information which is covered by a diffusive object. The scenario is shown in Fig. 5.12. In the context of our discussion,

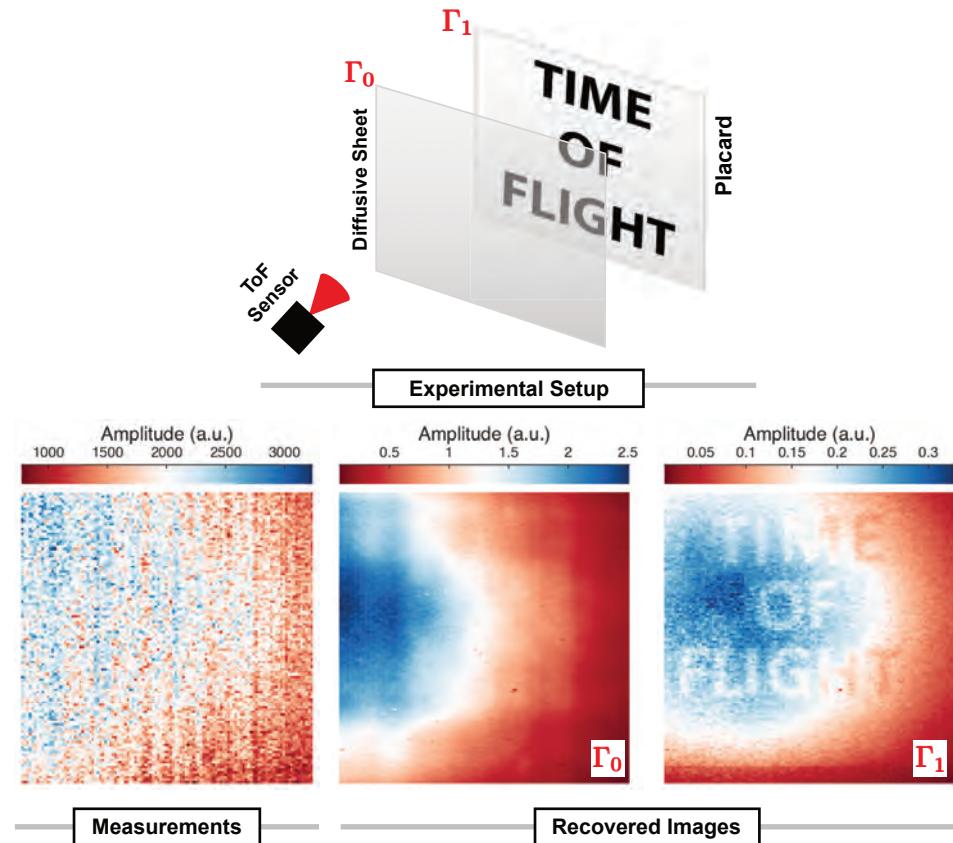


Figure 5.12: Experimental Setup for Diffuse Imaging. Here, the goal is to be able to read the placard which is covered by a diffusive surface. While conventional measurements would seem corrupted by noise (due to specular reflection), when working with time-of-flight sensors, it is possible to recover the hidden information.

the scenario leads to a scene response function in (5.2) which arises due to the schematic shown in Fig. 5.7. Following the discussion in Section 5.4.2, the reflected signal reads, $r(t) = \Gamma_0 p(t - t_0) + \Gamma_1 p(t - t_1)$ where, as usual, $\{\Gamma_0, \Gamma_1\}$ are the unknown amplitudes and $\{t_0, t_1\}$ are the unknown delays due to the depth of the respective reflections. As shown in Kadambi et al. (2013), when working with the coded time-of-flight system, the measurements are given by,

$$m(t) = \Gamma_0 \phi(t - t_0) + \Gamma_1 \phi(t - t_1) \text{ where } \phi = p * \bar{p}.$$

For a given pixel, the measurements are plotted in Fig. 5.13 and the probing function used in this experiment is shown in Fig. 5.11. There are different methods for recovering the

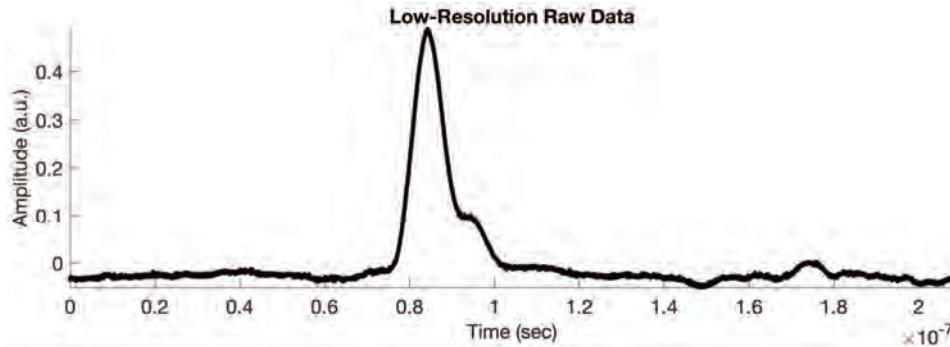


Figure 5.13: Coded Time-of-flight Measurements at a Given Pixel Corresponding to the Experimental Setup in Fig. 5.12. The probing signal used in this experiment is shown in Fig. 5.11.

unknown SRF from the measurements and one of the most common approaches leverages the idea of sparsity in that there are very few reflections in the scene when compared to the dimensionality of the measurements. This essentially arises due to the fact that the SRF defined in (5.2) is a sparse signal that consists of spikes. To this end, the sampled measurements $m(nT)$, $n = 0, \dots, N - 1$ can be stacked into a vector \mathbf{m} . According to the measurement model, the measurements can be written as,

$$\mathbf{m} = \mathbf{T}\mathbf{s},$$

where,

- \mathbf{T} is a Toeplitz/Convolution matrix comprising of shifts of the pulse ϕ , that is, each element of the matrix \mathbf{T} is of the form, $T_{n,k} = \phi((n - k)T)$ where T is the measurement sampling rate.
- \mathbf{s} is a K -sparse vector, that is, a vector of size N of which K elements are non-zero.

According to this model, we are interested in recovering a sparse vector \mathbf{s} from the measurements \mathbf{m} , that is,

$$\mathbf{s}^* = \arg \min_{\mathbf{s}} \|\mathbf{m} - \mathbf{T}\mathbf{s}\|_2^2 \text{ subject to } \|\mathbf{s}\|_0 \leq K,$$

or, said differently, find a vector $\mathbf{T}\mathbf{s}$ that is closest to the measurements \mathbf{m} in the least-squares sense such that the unknown vector \mathbf{s} has at most K non-zero values. This problem can be solved using the **Orthogonal Matching Pursuit (OMP)** algorithm Elad (2010) and this is the approach followed in Kadambi et al. (2013). In our example, $K = 2$ and the result of running the OMP algorithm is that we are able to find the vector \mathbf{s} whose elements are $\{\Gamma_0, \Gamma_1\}$. The corresponding non-zero locations in the vector provide the information about $\{t_0, t_1\}$. The result is shown in Fig. 5.14. By processing the time-resolved information at

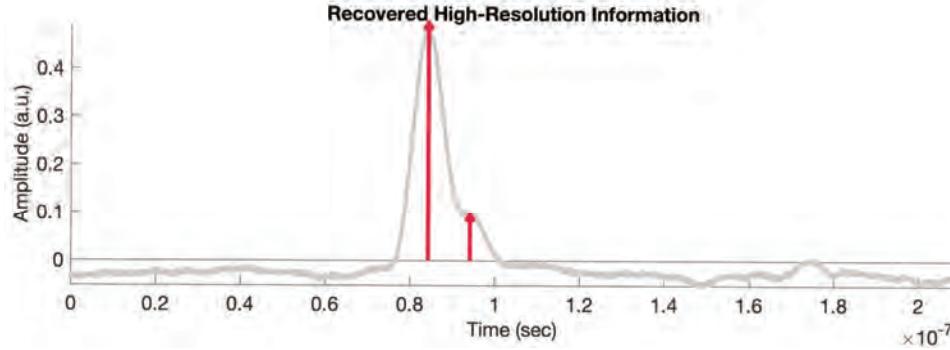


Figure 5.14: Recovering the Unknown (sparse) Scene Parameters Using the Orthogonal Matching Pursuit Algorithm.

each pixel, we are able to recover the hidden information that lies behind the diffuser. This is shown in Fig. 5.12.

5.5.2 Light-in-Flight Imaging

While ultra-fast light-in-flight imaging was proposed in Velten et al. (2012a,b, 2013), the apparatus used in this work consisted of the streak tube. Replacing this sophisticated and expensive imaging system by a simpler, consumer-grade time-of-flight sensor, in their work, Heide and co-workers Heide et al. (2013) demonstrated an alternative approach to low-budget light-in-flight imaging. Following the insights developed in (Wu et al. 2013), Heide and co-workers modeled the scene information at pixel as a measurement of the form,

$$m(t) = \sum_{k=0}^{K-1} \underbrace{\Gamma_k g_\sigma(t - t_k)}_{\text{Reflections}} + \underbrace{s_k e^{-\lambda_k(t-t_k)}}_{\text{Scattering}},$$

where $\phi(t) = g_\sigma(t)$ is modeled as a Gaussian pulse and $\{s_k, \lambda_k\}$ are the scattering coefficients. By resorting to an alternating minimization approach, the authors are able to recover the unknown scene parameters, namely,

$$\bigcup_{k=0}^{K-1} \{\Gamma_k, s_k, \lambda_k, t_k\},$$

which in turn allows for visualization of the light-in-flight phenomenon. This is shown in Fig. 5.15a. By ignoring the scattering coefficients s_k , $k = 0, \dots, K - 1$, one is left with a K -sparse signal and in that case, the theory of Section 5.5.1 applies. The corresponding light-in-flight phenomenon was presented in Kadambi et al. (2013). We show the results in Fig. 5.15b. A frequency domain analysis for recovering transient information corresponding to the light-in-flight imaging setup was considered in Lin et al. (2017). An inexpensive

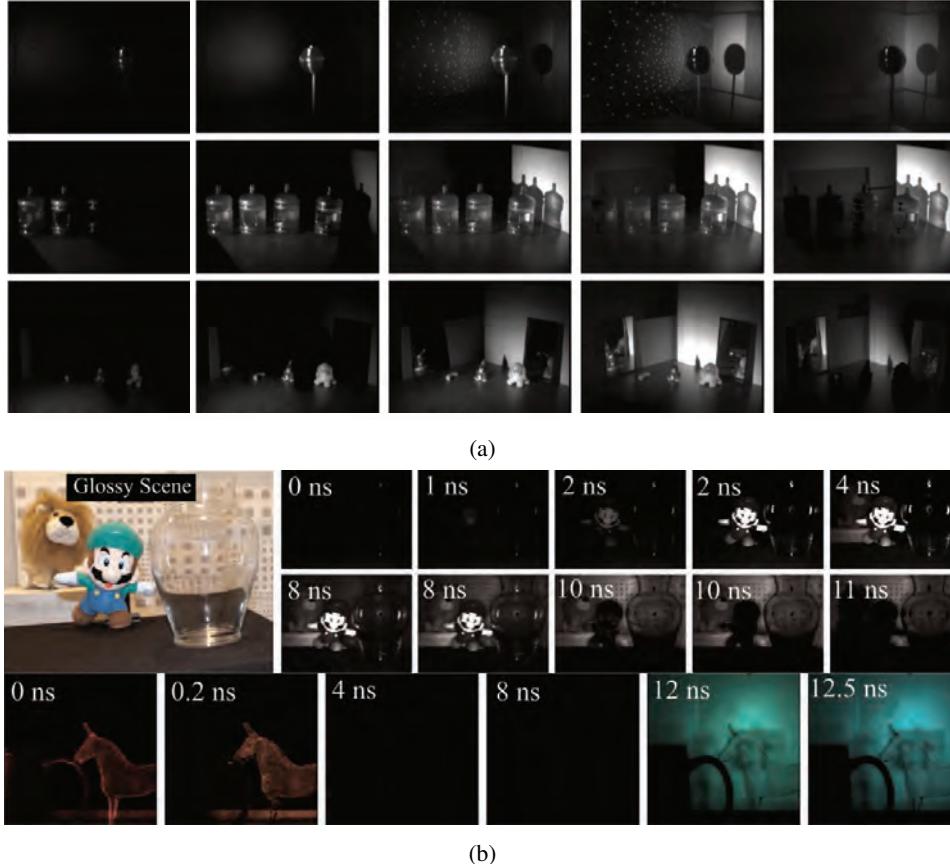


Figure 5.15: Time Slices of Different Scenes Demonstrating Light-in-flight Imaging. (a) Adapted from Heide et al. (2013). (b) Adapted from Kadambi et al. (2013).

time-of-flight camera was proposed to perform low-budget transient imaging Heide et al. (2013). Light transport analysis of the time-resolved phenomenon was discussed in O’Toole et al. (2014). A survey of the recent advances in transient imaging from a graphics and vision perspective is given in Jarabo et al. (2017).

5.5.3 Multi-Depth Imaging

As mentioned earlier, almost all consumer-grade sensors, such as the Microsoft Kinect Xbox One Bhandari et al. (2014b) and the PMD sensor Bhandari et al. (2014), are based on the continuous-wave model, that is, the probing signal is of the form $p(t) = 1 + p_0 \cos(\omega t)$, $p_0 < 1$ where ω is the modulation frequency and p_0 is the modulation amplitude (cf. Section 5.4.1). Such models are designed to work with single depth only. In practice, however,

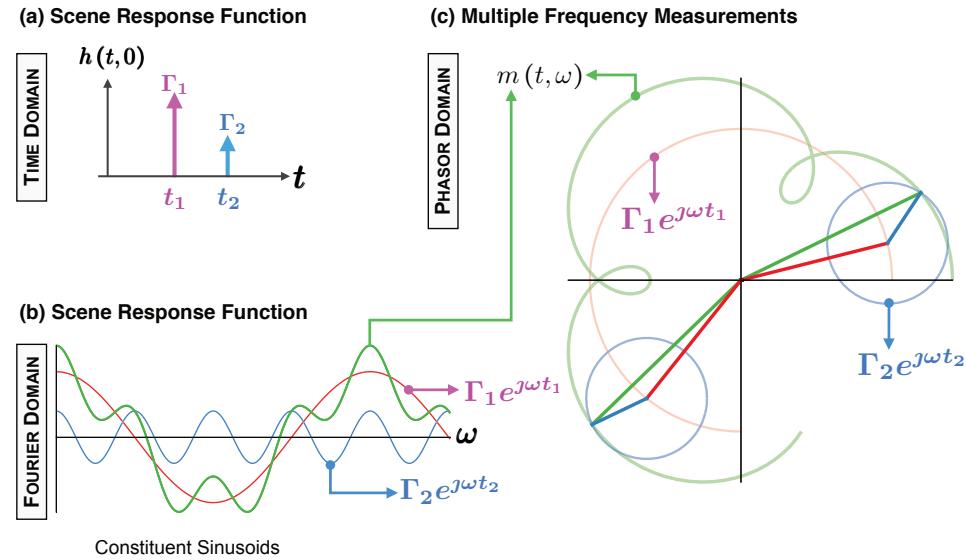


Figure 5.16: Continuous-wave Imaging with Two Depths. (a) Scene Response Function in the time-domain. (b) Scene Response Function in the Fourier Domain. (c) Multiple frequency measurements amount to a phasor addition and the identification of the scene response function is equivalent to estimation of the phasor components.

the scene may be composed of multiple depths (see for example, Fig. 5.7) and in this case, the scene response function (SRF) is given by (5.2). For the case of two depths, we show the SRF in Fig. 5.16a. Consequently, the continuous-wave measurements take the form of (assuming the $p_0 = 1$ in the definition of the probing signal)

$$m(t, \omega) = \frac{1}{2} e^{j\omega t} \sum_{k=0}^{K-1} \Gamma_k e^{j\omega t_k},$$

which is a sum of K complex exponentials or phasors. Since the probing function is a sinusoidal waveform, from basic linear systems theory, we know that sinusoidal functions are eigen-functions of a linear system and hence, the measurements amount to observing Fourier Transform of the scene response function at the modulation frequency; this is shown in Fig. 5.16b. Clearly, given measurements, $m_k = m(kT, \omega)$ with $T = \pi/2\omega$, it is impossible to discern the multiple depth information encoded in the unknowns $\{\Gamma_k, t_k\}$ where $k = 0, \dots, K - 1$ because the different phases add up for a given frequency. To overcome this problem, the idea used in literature is to use multiple frequency measurements

which trace a path parameterized by individual phasors, that is,

$$m(t, \omega) \propto \underbrace{\Gamma_0 e^{j\omega t_0}}_{\text{Phasor 1}} + \underbrace{\Gamma_1 e^{j\omega t_1}}_{\text{Phasor 2}} + \cdots + \underbrace{\Gamma_{K-1} e^{j\omega t_{K-1}}}_{\text{Phasor } K},$$

and for the case with $K = 2$, we show the resulting measurements and the phasors in Fig. 5.16c. Given multiple frequency measurements, the individual phasors can be estimated using the Orthogonal Matching Pursuit Bhandari et al. (2014) or sparse regularization Freedman et al. (2014). This specific problem is also known as spectral estimation method in signal processing literature Bhandari and Raskar (2016); Kirmani et al. (2013) and similar algorithms can be tailored for multi-depth imaging. Examples of reconstructions for different cases are shown in Fig. 5.17. When multi-depth components are undesirable, the setting is known as multipath interference. This topic has been studied in detail.

An ultra-fast imaging approach to capture space-time images that can separate out different bounces of light based on path length is proposed in Naik et al. (2011). A light transport model for mitigating multipath interference was discussed in Naik et al. (2015) and the same work compares and contrasts the various approaches related with multipath interference.

5.5.4 Fluorescence Lifetime Imaging

Fluorescence lifetime imaging or FLI is an established tool for estimating useful information that is otherwise unavailable from a conventional intensity image. Due to the high precision optics and electronics involved in the setup, the imaging system is quite expensive. This is where consumer-grade sensors such as the time-of-flight imaging system can be leveraged. When a fluorescent sample is exposed to a continuous wave illumination at a given modulation frequency, the interaction results in a phase shift parameterized by the lifetime of the sample. Unlike depth imaging where phase shift is a linear function of the unknown depth parameter, in case of lifetime imaging, the dependence of the phase on the lifetime is a nonlinear function Bhandari et al. (2015). In particular, the observed phase is a sum of a line (with slope depending on depth) and arctangent function of lifetime. The observed phase is shown in Fig. 5.18. However, since the parametric form of this relationship is known, parameter estimation allows for lifetime imaging using consumer grade depth sensors.

5.5.5 Non-line-of-Sight Imaging

Seeing an object that is not in our line-of-sight is easy to do using mirrors. However, mirrors are characterised by **specular reflection**, which allows seeing the target easily. A wall, for example, is characterised by **diffuse reflection**, making it difficult to visualise the target using traditional cameras.

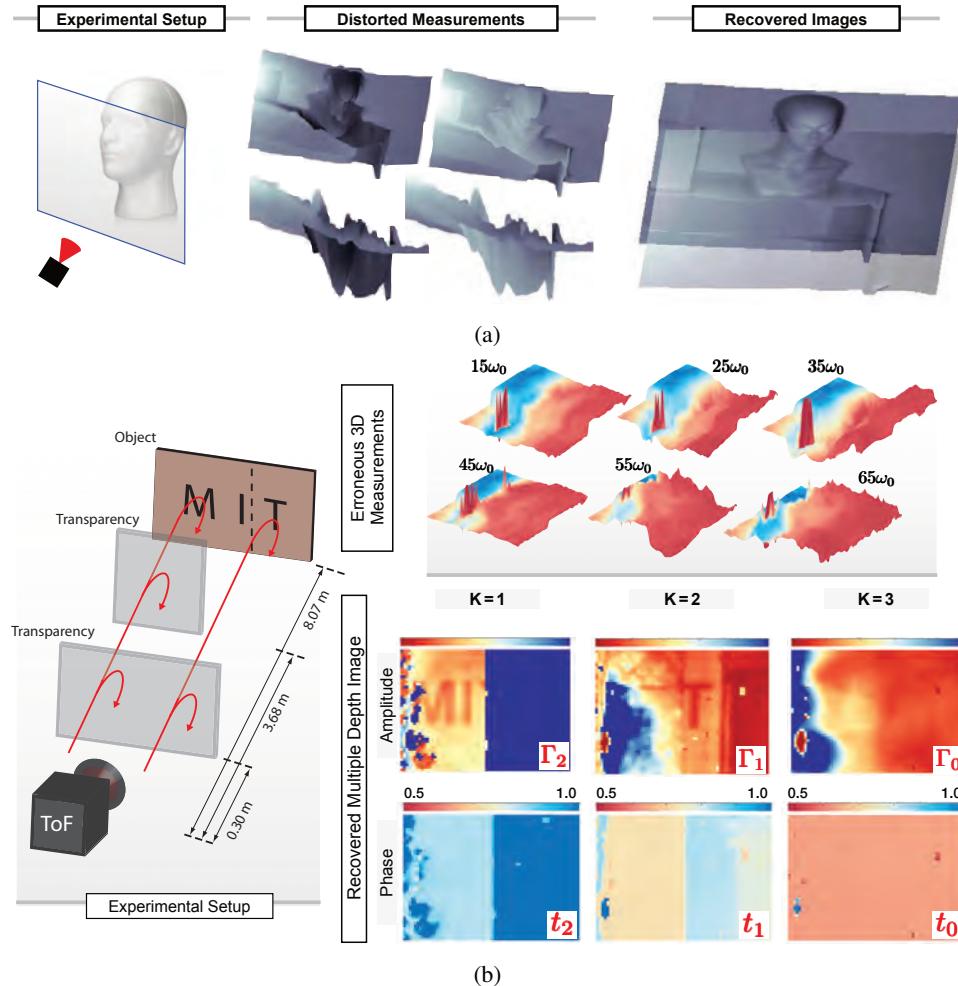


Figure 5.17: Example of Multiple Depth Imaging. (a) The case when $K = 2$. Measurements based on the Microsoft Kinect XBox One, adapted from Bhandari et al. (2014b). (b) The case when $K = 3$. Measurements based on the PMD sensor. Experiment adapted from Bhandari et al. (2014).

This problem is addressed by a research field entitled non-line-of-sight (NLOS) imaging, which is also discussed in 10.4. ToF techniques are more suitable in this case, because the temporal structure of the light is the same for specular and diffuse reflections, and allow a reconstruction of the target Velten et al. (2012a).

NLOS imaging has a multitude of applications, from sensing in hazardous environments, such as areas with radioactive or chemical leaks, to imaging inside machinery with moving parts. The authors propose using a pulse of light to illuminate the occluded object. One single point can be easily identified from its reflection. However, the reflections of multiple scene points may overlap at the detector, leading to a loss in correspondence. This means we don't know which point reflected which of the pulses received by the camera.

The imaging setup is depicted in Fig. 5.19. A camera and a laser are pointed towards a wall, and a patch is positioned behind an occluder, so that neither the camera nor the laser have a direct line to the patch. The laser emits a pulse of light that is directed towards a point on a wall using actuated mirrors. Some of this light is reflected diffusely three times: first by the wall towards the object, second by the object back to the wall, and third by the wall to the ToF camera. The laser is oriented to ensure there is no single-bounce light reaching the camera. The distances in between the laser, the three reflection points, and the camera are denoted r_1 , r_2 , r_3 and r_4 , respectively.

The problem proposed is to estimate the distances r_2 and r_3 , which are the only unknowns in this setup. The algorithm addressing this estimation problem using the camera measurements is called **backprojection** Velten et al. (2012a).

In the absence of noise, the location of an occluded patch can be derived using only measurements from 3 camera pixels. Specifically, for each pixel, all possible points in space that could have generated a set of measurements lie on an ellipse, as depicted in Fig. 5.20b. Therefore, in the absence of noise, the patch location can be identified as the unique intersection of the three ellipses. In practice, the scene is split in 3D volume units, called voxels. For each voxel, the backprojection algorithm computes the likelihood that the patch is in that voxel based on the time-of-flight $r_1 + r_2 + r_3 + r_4$. The likelihood is displayed as a heatmap in Fig. 5.20c for one laser orientation, in Fig. 5.20d for multiple laser orientations. The final reconstruction after filtering is depicted in Fig. 5.20e.

The method proposed in Heide et al. (2014c) can recover both the object shape and the albedo, which is the proportion of reflected incident light. Moreover, compared to Velten et al. (2012a), this method uses a cheaper hardware setup which has no moving parts. The capturing speed was greatly improved, and the method is more robust under ambient illumination.

However, the recovery problem is more complex in this case, and it is addressed by making assumptions about the model, in other words using sparsity priors. The reconstruction is formulated as an optimization problem, where the object volume is the unknown to be estimated from the camera measurements. The optimization problem is ill conditioned, and it cannot be solved in its raw form. The assumptions, such as single surface reflection,

and minimal object volume, are used as regularisers to generate a solvable optimization problem.

This line of work was continued in Kadambi et al. (2016), where the illumination shape was changed from a pulse to a continuous wave. This allows a custom resolution that depends on the modulation frequency and wall shininess. Moreover, this work is the first to provide bounds on the NLOS reconstruction.

The performance depends on the shininess of the wall, and the camera modulation frequency Kadambi et al. (2016). The authors characterise the relationship between the reflectivity and resolution as nonlinear. Small improvements in reflectivity lead to large improvements in resolution. Given the reflective properties of realistic scenes, commercial ToF cameras can be used in the proposed setup to achieve good results for NLOS imaging.

To decrease the power consumption, the work in Buttafava et al. (2015) proposes using a single SPAD detector, capturing light corresponding to a single pixel. This has additional advantages such as lower cost, smaller size and reduced reconstruction time.

The observation that the first reflected photons are characterising single points of the NLOS scene, enabled estimating the 3D NLOS scene using fewer measurements Tsai et al. (2017). Moreover, assuming the scene can be approximated locally with planes, the proposed algorithm allows an efficient estimation of the surface normals. Overall, the work in Tsai et al. (2017) avoids solving complex processing tasks from NLOS imaging, such as the elliptical tomography problem.

A new interpretation of the NLOS scene geometry allows to speed up the reconstruction up to 1000 times Arellano et al. (2017). Specifically, the authors interpret the hidden geometry probability map as the intersection of three space-time manifolds, defined by the generated and NLOS scene reflected light.

Instead of estimating the scene with voxels, and recovering each voxel using the reflected light, the work in Pediredla et al. (2017) uses a polygonal estimation composed of multiple planar walls. They demonstrate that estimating the planes instead of voxels leads to lower levels of noise and is compatible with larger spatial scales. Further examples and several other state-of-the-art implementations are discussed in the context of light transport in Section 10.4.

5.6 Summary of Recent Advances and Further Applications

Looking at lower level reflection properties such as subsurface light scattering enables characterising the surface material. For instance, it is possible to produce a two-dimensional image of optical scattering from internal tissue microstructures Huang et al. (1991); Hee

et al. (1993). This technique leads to capturing new low level features of the scene Su et al. (2016).

The material of an object can be identified through the way the light interacts with it via the scene response function $h(t, t')$, also called temporal point spread function (TPSF), which describes the way light is scattered and reflected.

The setup used for material classification in Su et al. (2016) is depicted in Fig. 5.21. As for classical ToF imaging, a probing function is used to describe the waveform of the illumination. Here, it is chosen as a periodic function of period ω denoted $p_\omega(t)$. The light rays are scattered through the material and some are reflected towards the camera. This process is modeled by $h(t, t')$. The measurements are then correlated with a scene independent function $f_\omega(t - \phi/\omega)$.

In order to account for the material properties, the scene response function incorporates the delays and attenuations introduced by each light ray:

$$h(t, t') = h(t - t') = \int_{s \in S} h_s \delta(|s| + (t - t')) ds,$$

where s denotes the total length of all light rays reaching the camera h_s denotes the attenuation. Then the reflected measurement $r_\omega(t)$ amounts to

$$r_\omega(t) = \int_0^T p_\omega(t') h(t - t') dt' = \int_0^T h(t') p_\omega(t - t') dt'.$$

It follows that the final measurements $b_{\omega, \phi}$ satisfy

$$\begin{aligned} b_{\omega, \phi} &= \int_0^T f_\omega(t - \phi/\omega) \int_0^T h(t') p_\omega(t - t') dt' dt, \\ &= \int_0^T h(t') \int_0^T f_\omega(t - \phi/\omega) p_\omega(t - t') dt dt', \\ \implies b_{\omega, \phi} &= \sum_{k=1}^{\infty} g_k \int_0^T h(t') \cos(k\omega(\phi/\omega + t') + \phi_k) dt', \end{aligned} \quad (5.10)$$

where g_k are the Fourier coefficients of function

$$g_{\omega, \phi}(t') = \int_0^T f_\omega\left(t - \frac{\phi}{\omega}\right) p_\omega(t - t') dt,$$

which is periodic with period ω . Then it follows that $b_{\omega,\phi}$ is computed using the Fourier coefficients of $h(t')$ the scene response function.

This result in (5.10) is extremely useful, because it means that the setup in Fig. 5.21 samples the spectrum of the scene response function, and this can be used to uniquely identify a material. Specifically, features are constructed by taking several measurements of $b_{\omega,\phi}$, which are then matched against a database of previously computed features Tanaka et al. (2017).

5.6.1 Time-Resolved Imaging through Scattering Media

The data from correlation image sensors can be further analysed to allow processing data in more complex environments such as scattering and turbid media. Imaging through scattering media has many applications such as deep-tissue imaging or artwork inspection. The work in Heide et al. (2014c) allows recovering transient, or light-in-flight images through such environments using coding with significantly improved sparsity.

This type of imaging can be performed using a setup similar to the one in Fig. 5.21. If we go back to the result in equation (5.10), we have that

$$b_{\omega,\phi} = \int_0^T h(t') g_{\omega,\phi}(t') dt'. \quad (5.11)$$

In this new context, we are trying to estimate $h(t')$, where

$$g_{\omega,\phi}(t') = \int_0^T f_\omega \left(t - \frac{\phi}{\omega} \right) p_\omega(t - t') dt,$$

is known, and scene independent. To this end, the data is sampled in time, frequency and phase, as follows. Let \mathbf{G} be a $N \times M$ matrix with elements $[\mathbf{G}]_{i,j} = g_{\omega_i,\phi_i}(t_j)$, \mathbf{b} a $N \times 1$ vector $[\mathbf{b}]_i = b_{\omega_i,\phi_i}$ and \mathbf{h} a $M \times 1$ vector $[\mathbf{h}]_j = h(t_j)$. Then (5.11) results in matrix equation $\mathbf{b} = \mathbf{G}\mathbf{h}$, which is solved to estimate \mathbf{h} .

Recall that $h(t) = \int_{s \in S} h_s \delta(|s| + t) ds$, where s stands for the light path length. The solution of $\mathbf{b} = \mathbf{G}\mathbf{h}$ solves a rather complex problem. Besides identifying image intensities, computing \mathbf{h} untangles path contributions with different path lengths, which is known as the multi-path problem.

However, solving $\mathbf{b} = \mathbf{G}\mathbf{h}$ is not trivial, and in many cases results in an ill-posed problem. One way to address this is by assuming a sparse representation for $h(t)$, in the compressive sensing framework Heide et al. (2014c). The solution of $\mathbf{b} = \mathbf{G}\mathbf{h}$ is formulated as the

optimisation problem:

$$\mathbf{h}_{\text{opt}} = \arg \min_{\mathbf{h}} \|\mathbf{h}\|_1 \text{ such that } \|\mathbf{b} - \mathbf{G}\mathbf{h}\|_2^2 < \epsilon$$

which is stable numerically and leads to sparse representations. The prototype used in Heide et al. (2014c) for imaging through scattering media is depicted in Fig. 5.22, and the results of an experiment with scattering through milk are depicted in Fig. 5.23.

We will now review some of the additional work done in imaging through scattering media. The authors in Satat et al. (2018b) proposed a LIDAR based system for scanning through fog. The system, based on SPAD sensors, uses a probabilistic model to distinguish between photons reflected by the fog and the ones reflected by the target. Experiments demonstrate imaging with good accuracy beyond the visibility range of the fog.

The calibration parameters for imaging through scattering media, such as the field of view or illumination, can cause variability in measurements. However, it is possible to design machine learning imaging techniques that are insensitive to these parameters on a given range Satat et al. (2017). The authors use a convolutional neural network that leads to results comparable to that of a time-resolved camera without the need of calibration on a given training range.

Many time-resolved imaging techniques for scattered media select a subset of the reflected photons, depending on their arrival time. A method using the whole range of reflected photons can achieve a two-fold improvement in imaging resolution Satat et al. (2016). An analytical solution has been proposed to model a highly scattering medium based on its optical absorption and fluorescence source distribution using diffusive light Schotland (1997). Polarimetric approaches for imaging through scattering (7.4) as well as a light transport decomposition (10.5.3).

5.6.2 Time-Resolved Imaging Systems

Typically ToF sensors are produced with low resolution due to practical limitations. In Li et al. (2017), the nonlinear relationship between the depth and ToF measurements is represented as a linear imaging problem. Using this representation in conjunction with compressive sensing techniques, the authors managed to boost the resolution of the reconstructed image up to 4-fold.

The problem of low temporal resolution of ToF cameras can be addressed using an array of light sources, which introduce sub nano-second time shifts in the captured waveform Tadano et al. (2016). This is exploited to increase the temporal resolution of the ToF imaging system 10-fold. In the case of out of focus low resolution ToF images, the resolution of the data can be enhanced via a technique called superresolution, while simultaneously performing deblurring Xiao et al. (2015).

Increasing the temporal resolution of imaging devices to the picosecond-scale reveals important information about the scene. This can be done using active illumination with picosecond temporal resolution, which allows solving the inverse multi-path problem with higher accuracy in the presence of noise O’Toole et al. (2017).

Most ToF imaging systems estimate the position of an object in the scene. For dynamical scenes it is then possible to approximate the velocity using several position instances. However, it was shown that the instantaneous radial velocity, which is the velocity along the observer line of sight, can be measured directly. This can be done using the Doppler effect, which creates a frequency shift in the probe signal emitted by the ToF camera Heide et al. (2015). Additionally, the authors measured the colour, depth and velocity of a pixel simultaneously. It is possible to increase the precision of ToF cameras from centimeter to micrometer by designing a form of cascaded ToF, by using a Hertz-style intermediate frequency to encode a high-frequency pathlength Kadambi and Raskar (2017).

The problem of waveform interference can also be addressed using novel hardware approaches. A new hardware system is introduced with multiple ToF cameras, which allows synchronising exposure times and waveforms from three cameras. The system is also used to capture radial velocity from interfered waveforms using the Doppler frequency shift principle Shrestha et al. (2016).

ToF cameras have applications in day-to-day activities such as web-conferencing or gaming by providing enhanced gesture recognition capabilities Kolb et al. (2010).

A novel result for ToF cameras significantly decreases the complexity of the encoded data and associated encoder implementation. Instead of using quantization on different amplitude levels, the work in Bhandari et al. (2020b) encodes the data into a sequence of ± 1 values. Although this leads to an information loss, the underlying time-resolved information can still be recovered accurately in a non-iterative fashion. The setup is compatible with both single and multiple paths of light.

5.7 Related Optical Imaging Techniques

5.7.1 Optical Coherence Tomography

In addition to widespread scanning techniques such as X-ray computed tomography, magnetic resonance imaging or ultrasound imaging, it is possible to image the internal structure of biological tissues with a noninvasive technique known as optical coherence tomography (OCT). OCT measures the optical reflections of various layers of biological tissues, and returns its 3D shape by using the ToF information at multiple locations Huang et al. (1991).

As is the case for ToF, OCT can function with time-localized pulses or continuous wave (CW) probing functions. The former approach can be achieved by time gating the detected

light to separate direct transmission light from light obtained in the turbid tissue. The CW approach utilizes low coherence interferometry. At the heart of this setup is the Michelson interferometer. An interferometric setup is used due to the extremely high speed of light, which would otherwise require detectors with time resolution on the scale of $10^{-15}s$. Along one arm of the interferometer lies the tissue sample, and the other arm is the reference arm (typically containing a movable mirror to introduce an adjustable optical path length). The reference path is used to measure ToF information from each layer of tissue and intensity of backscattered light. Since low coherence light is used, a fringe pattern will be observed only if the two path lengths along each arm are within the coherent length of the light source. Therefore, different reference arm positions correspond to measurements at different depths (i.e. different tissue layers). This ToF information gives spatial information about the tissue at each layer. By scanning laterally across the entire tissue sample, it is possible to obtain ToF information for all spatial locations in the tissue. The ToF information obtained from the fringe patterns can then be used for 3D reconstruction Popescu et al. (2011).

For objects that are opaque at optical frequencies, imaging can be performed with radiation in the terahertz frequency range in real-time Lee and Hu (2005). Moreover, imaging small scenes at very high spatial resolutions can be achieved using a method closely related to OCT, which decomposes light transport based on properties such as path length or wavelength Gkioulekas et al. (2015).

5.7.2 Digital Holography

A distinct example which uses the same concept as ToF is digital holography. In this imaging method, a coherent light source is split along two paths, namely the reference beam and object beam. The object beam is reflected by the object of interest, and the light reflected and diffracted off the object will interfere with the reference beam at an electronic sensor array Schnars et al. (2015). In this case, the depth is not directly encoded in the difference in arrival time, but rather in the difference in phase of the two beams. The phase difference is introduced by the differing optical path lengths, which therefore enable the encoding of ToF information. The sensor receives interferograms in the form of intensity measurements. Reconstructing the 3D object leads to a phase retrieval problem that can be addressed with analytical approaches Waller et al. (2010) or machine learning Rivenson et al. (2018); Peng et al. (2020).

5.7.3 Time-Stretched Optics

Thus far in the chapter, we have discussed ultrafast computational imaging methods which require specialized techniques to extract meaning from high-speed events. However, it is also possible to slow down a high speed event to a lower speed so it can be detected. For example, we often seek to obtain spectral images of ultrafast events in real-time, but are limited by the available detector speed, computing power, and specified form factor. While

the detector speed may be on the order of 10s of nanoseconds, the event of interest may be in the picosecond range. It wouldn't be possible to vary the spectral sensitivity of the detector in such a short time. Furthermore, spatially offsetting different wavelengths using diffractive elements would enhance the effects of shot noise, due to a reduced per-pixel light intensity. The key idea behind photonic time-stretch is that by optically manipulating the time-scale properties of incident light, it is possible to fully preserve the signal information without ultrafast detectors such as APDs. The reader is directed to Hau (2011) and Han and Jalali (2003) for more fundamental discussions on the concept of "slow light" and time-stretch photonics.

There are four key steps associated with time-stretching. (1) The optical signal is modulated onto a broadband chirped carrier wave. (2) The signal is stretched in time by use of a dispersive element (a medium in which the index of refraction, and thus speed of light, vary as a function of frequency). (3) The signal is measured and digitized at the photodetector using coherent spectral interferometry. (4) Using digital signal processing and/or machine learning, the original signal is reconstructed using the temporal encoding of the frequency information Mahjoubfar et al. (2017). This principle is illustrated in Fig. 5.24a. While such time-stretching has been highly potent in spectroscopy and microscopy, it is also particularly consequential for LIDAR. Time-of-flight LIDAR using spectral scanning hasn't been feasible due to the lack of available tunable pulsed lasers. However, using a broadband source, the light can be spatially dispersed by frequency into the scene, and the frequencies can be optically separated in time. This is schematically shown in Fig. 5.24b. Other methods to effectively slow down light have used heterodyne Kadambi and Raskar (2017) and superheterodyne Li et al. interferometry to convert high-frequency modulated signals to measurable low frequencies for long-range and high-resolution time-of-flight imaging.

The Phase Stretch Transform (PST) is inspired by the physics of time stretching, and is based on the idea that phase primarily captures the information content in an image, more so than magnitude does. PST takes a 2D image and simulates it as propagating along an engineered diffractive medium. As the image is propagated along the medium, the different spatial frequencies of the image will propagate at different velocities. This effectively "stretches" the phase between different frequency components over the propagation distance. This results in a phase profile that reveals edges when applied with morphological and threshold operators, since edges are characterized by a high spatial frequency Asghari and Jalali (2015).

Chapter Appendix: Notations

5.7 Related Optical Imaging Techniques

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| Notation | Description |
|---------------------------|--|
| $m(x, y, t)$ | Measurements at spatial coordinates (x, y) at time t |
| $p(t)$ | Probing function |
| $\delta(t)$ | Dirac delta distribution |
| $h(t, t')$ | Scene response function (SRF) |
| $h_{SI}(t - t')$ | Shift-invariant SRF |
| d_i | Distance from i^{th} to the sensor |
| t_i | Time-delay due to the object at distance d_i |
| Γ_i | Reflectivity of the object at distance d_i |
| $h_K(t, t')$ | SRF accounting K light paths |
| $h^{\text{Depth}}(t, t')$ | SRF due to depth in Fluorescence Lifetime Imaging (FLI) |
| $h^{\text{Decay}}(t, t')$ | SRF due to decay in FLI |
| μ | Emission strength of the FLI sample |
| λ | Lifetime of the FLI sample |
| $h_{\text{Tr}}(t, t')$ | SRF in transient imaging |
| $h_D(t - t')$ | SRF due to direct reflection |
| $h_I(t - t')$ | SRF due to inter-reflections |
| $h_S(t - t')$ | SRF due to subsurface scattering |
| $r(t)$ | Reflected function |
| $\Psi(t, t')$ | Instrument response function |
| $m(t)$ | Continuous-time measurements |
| $y[n]$ | Discrete-time measurements |
| S | Sampling operator |
| T | Sampling interval |
| \otimes | Cross-correlation operation |
| f | Frequency |
| ω | Angular frequency |
| θ_ω | Frequency dependent phase |
| \bar{p} | Time-reversed version of the probing function p |
| ϕ | Auto-correlation of the probing function p |
| \mathbf{T} | Toeplitz / Convolution matrix |
| \mathbf{m} | Measurements vector |
| \mathbf{s} | Sparse vector |
| $\{s_k, \lambda_k\}$ | Scattering coefficients |
| $b_{\omega, \phi}$ | Final measurements |

Exercises

1. Depth Estimation

Assume we have the typical time-of-flight problem: a number of light pulses $p(t)$ are projected towards a scene and we need to measure the depth from the measurements of their reflections $y[k] = m(kT)$. Let's assume that the pixel grayscale intensities of an image I represent the depth values. Feel free to capture your own photo, or use the one in Fig. 5.1.

a) Time-Domain Depth Estimation

Let's define a set of probing functions given by

$$p_{kl}(t) = e^{-t^2}, k = 1, \dots, K, l = 1, \dots, L,$$

where K, L denote the dimensions of image I . Let's assume we have a time-of-flight setting where a scene is probed with functions $p_{kl}(t)$ which leads to reflection functions

$$r_{kl}(t) = 2e^{-(t-I(k,l))^2}, k = 1, \dots, K, l = 1, \dots, L,$$

where $I(k, l)$ denotes the grayscale intensity of pixel (k, l) in the image.

We assume a lock-in sensor architecture that produces continuous measurements

$$m_{kl}(t) = (r_{kl} \otimes p_{kl})(t) = \int_{\mathbb{R}} r_{kl}(\tau) p_{kl}(t - \tau) d\tau.$$

Let $y_{kl}[n] = m_{kl}(nT)$ denote the sampled measurements. Using an appropriate sampling time T , recover the depth values in the time-domain by implementing

$$\tilde{I}(k, l) = \operatorname{Targmax}_n (y_{kl}[n]).$$

The depth recovery error is a matrix defined as

$$I_{\text{error}}(k, l) = I(k, l) - \tilde{I}(k, l).$$

Plot the error below, similar to the example in Fig. 5.2.

Now we can think of a real life situation where the samples are noisy and therefore the reflected measurements are corrupted by Gaussian white noise

$$r_{kl}(t) = 2e^{-(t-I(k,l))^2} + n(t), k = 1, \dots, K, l = 1, \dots, L,$$

where $n(t)$ is sampled from the normal distribution with mean 0 and standard deviation σ .

Plot the and $\tilde{I}(k, l)$ and $I_{\text{error}}(k, l)$ images for $\sigma = 0.4$. Given that the depth values of the image should be between 0 – 255, the result should be similar to the one in Fig. 5.3.

b) Frequency-Domain Depth Estimation

As we have seen in class, in this case, the probing function is

$$p_{kl}(t) = 1 + p_0 \cos(\omega t), p_0 < 1, k = 1, \dots, K, l = 1, \dots, L,$$

and therefore the reflected function is

$$r_{kl}(t) = \Gamma_0 p_{kl}(t - t_{kl}), k = 1, \dots, K, l = 1, \dots, L,$$

Prove analytically that, for a lock-in sensor, the measurement function satisfies

$$m_{kl}(t) = \Gamma_0 \left(1 + \frac{p_0^2}{2} \cos(\omega t + \omega t_{kl}) \right).$$

Let us now use the "Four Bucket Method" presented in class to recover the depth values for $t_{kl} = I(k, l)$, using the same image as before. Let $m_n(k, l) = m_{kl}(n \frac{\pi}{2\omega})$, $n = 0, \dots, 3$. Show that,

$$\begin{bmatrix} m_0(k, l) \\ m_1(k, l) \\ m_2(k, l) \\ m_3(k, l) \end{bmatrix} = \frac{\Gamma_0}{2} \begin{bmatrix} 2 + p_0^2 \cos(\omega I(k, l)) \\ 2 - p_0^2 \sin(\omega I(k, l)) \\ 2 - p_0^2 \cos(\omega I(k, l)) \\ 2 + p_0^2 \sin(\omega I(k, l)) \end{bmatrix}.$$

Let us now define the complex number

$$z_\omega(k, l) = (m_0 - m_2) + j(m_3 - m_1), k = 1, \dots, K, l = 1, \dots, L.$$

Prove that the depth values can be recovered as

$$\tilde{I}(k, l) = \frac{\angle z_\omega(k, l)}{\omega}.$$

Compute the depth values and plot the error function $I_{\text{error}}(k, l) = I(k, l) - \tilde{I}(k, l)$.

c) Depth Estimation using Fourier Series

Our probing function is not bandlimited, but it can be approximated arbitrarily closely with a bandlimited function

$$p_{kl}(t) \approx \tilde{p}_{kl}(t) = \sum_{m=-K}^K \hat{p}_{kl}^{(m)} e^{jm\omega_0 t}.$$

Plot the probing function together with its Fourier series approximation using $K = 2, 5, 10$.

Write an analytical derivation showing that the depth can be estimated using the Fourier series approximation as

$$I(k, l) = -\frac{1}{\omega_0} \angle \frac{\tilde{m}_{kl}(t)}{\sum_{m=-K}^K |\tilde{p}_{kl}^{(m)}|^2 e^{Jm\omega_0 t}}.$$

d) Depth Estimation for Multipath Interference

Let's assume that due to imaging through a transparent object there are several reflections, which leads to a reflected signal of the form

$$r_{kl}(t) = \sum_{m=1}^{K-1} \Gamma_m \cos(\omega t - \omega t_{kl}^{(m)}).$$

Demonstrate that the measurement function takes the form

$$m_{kl}(t) = \frac{1}{2} e^{J\omega t} \hat{h}_{kl}^*(\omega),$$

where $\hat{h}_{kl}(\omega) = \sum_{m=0}^{K-1} \Gamma_m e^{-J\omega t_{kl}^{(m)}}$, and x^* denotes the complex conjugate of x . Here, $\hat{h}_{kl}(\omega)$ is the Fourier transform of $h_{kl}(t) = \sum_{m=0}^{K-1} \Gamma_m \delta(t - t_{kl}^{(m)})$, the scene response function of the time-of-flight imaging pipeline.

2. Fluorescence Lifetime Imaging with Depth Sensors

Given a fluorescent sample with lifetime parameter λ_0 , the measurements resulting from the interaction of a continuous-wave and the samples can be modeled as,

$$m(t) = \delta(t) * \rho_0 e^{-\frac{t}{\lambda_0}} u(t),$$

where m is the measured signal, δ is the Dirac distribution and u is the usual Heaviside function. In applications such as microscopy, such a sample is placed at a distance d_0 from the imaging plane and consequently, the scene response function may be written as,

$$h_{FLI}(t) = \underbrace{\Gamma_0 \delta(t - t_0)}_{\text{Direct Reflection}} + \underbrace{\rho_0 e^{-\frac{t-t_0}{\lambda_0}} u(t - t_0)}_{\text{Fluorescent Sample}}, \quad t_0 = 2 \frac{d_0}{c}.$$

a) Fourier Transform of Scene Response Function

What is the Fourier Transform of the scene response function $h_{FLI}(t)$?

b) Continuous Wave Measurements

Consider the case of continuous wave time-of-flight imaging where the probing signal is defined by $p(t) = 1 + p_0 \cos(\omega t)$ and a lock-in sensor is employed. Show that the

measurements read

$$m(t) = |\hat{h}_{\text{FLI}}(0)| + |\hat{h}_{\text{FLI}}(\omega)| \frac{p_0^2}{2} \cos(\omega t - \angle \hat{h}_{\text{FLI}}(\omega)),$$

where $\hat{h}_{\text{FLI}}(\omega)$ is the Fourier Transform of the SRF derived in the above exercise.

c) Estimation of Lifetimes

We have seen before that for a given pixel co-ordinates (k, l) we can estimate the Fourier Transform of the scene response function by using the Four Bucket Method. Said differently, for a modulation frequency ω , let us define measurements,

$$m_k = m\left(\frac{k\pi}{2\omega}\right), \quad k = 0, \dots, 3,$$

then, we have,

$$z_\omega = (m_0 - m_2) + j(m_3 - m_1) = p_0^2 \hat{h}_{\text{FLI}}^*(\omega).$$

Suppose that we are give multiple frequency measurements, $y_n = z_{n\omega_0}/p_0^2$ and $\omega_n = n\omega_0$, then, we have,

$$y_n = \left(\frac{\Gamma_0 \lambda_0}{1 + j\omega_n \lambda_0} \right) e^{-jn\omega_0 t_0} \quad \text{and} \quad y_{n+1} = \left(\frac{\Gamma_0 \lambda_0}{1 + j\omega_{n+1} \lambda_0} \right) e^{-jn\omega_0 t_0} e^{-j\omega_0 t_0}.$$

The unknowns in this problem are lifetime λ_0 and time-delay t_0 . Starting with the ratio,

$$\frac{y_{n+1}}{y_n},$$

show that this forms a linear system of equations in λ_0 and $e^{-j\omega_0 t_0}$ and can be solved with any four contiguous values such that $\ell \leq n < \ell + 4, \ell \in \mathbb{Z}$.

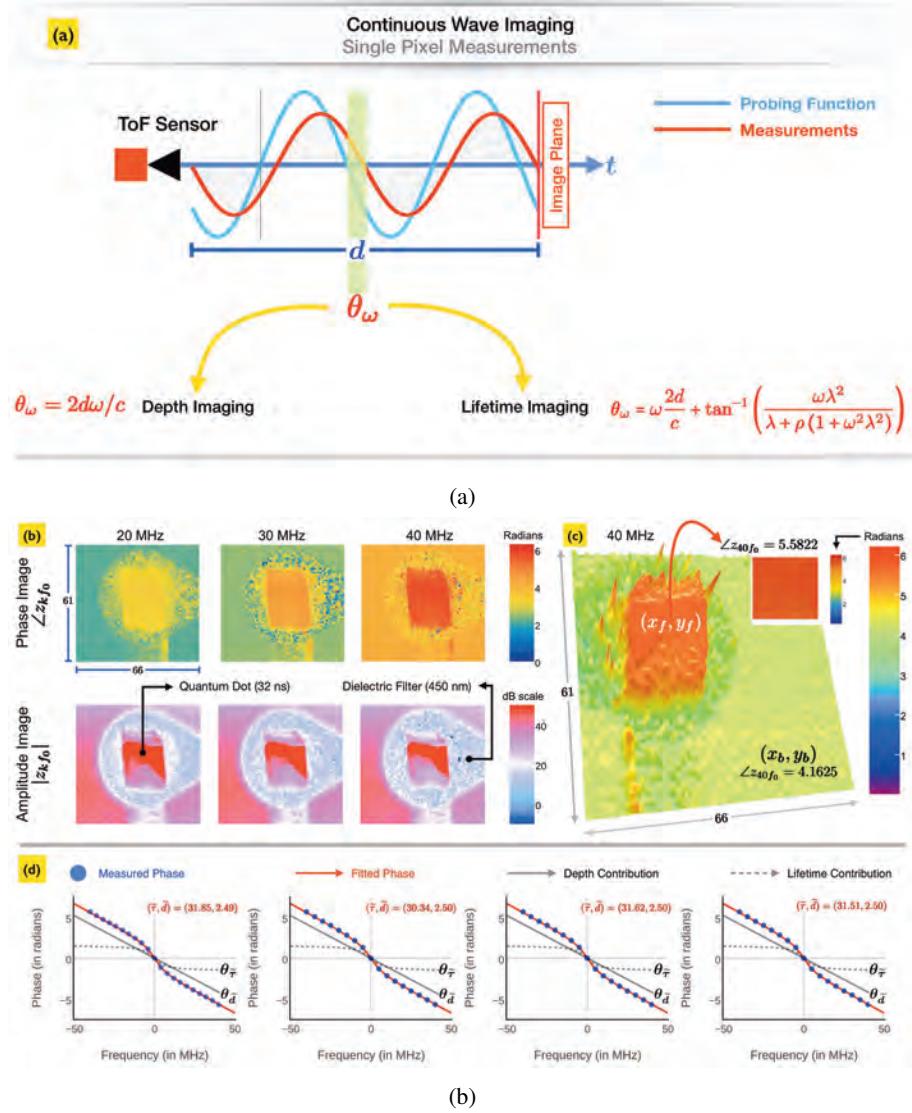


Figure 5.18: The Fundamental Difference between Depth Imaging and Lifetime Imaging. (a) In depth imaging, the phase of the measurements are linearly proportional to the modulation frequency of the probing signal while in the lifetime imaging case, the phase is non-linearly dependent on the depth (d) and the lifetime (λ) parameters which arise due to the modified scene reflection function. (b) Time-of-flight measurements at different modulation frequencies. (c) Phase image at 40 MHz. (d) Parametric curve fitting of observed phase for estimation of lifetime.

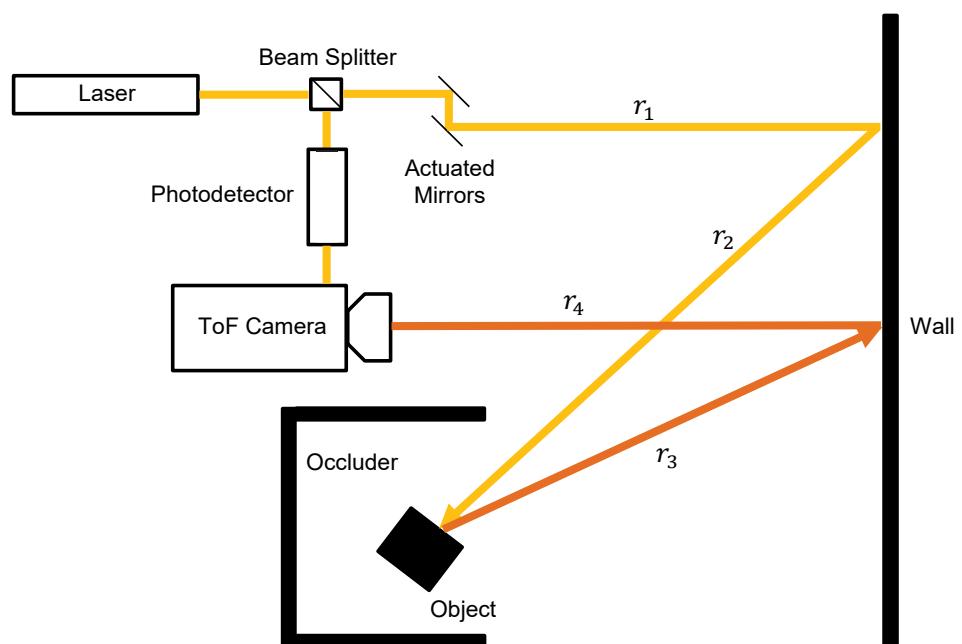


Figure 5.19: The Diagram of the NLOS Imaging Setup.

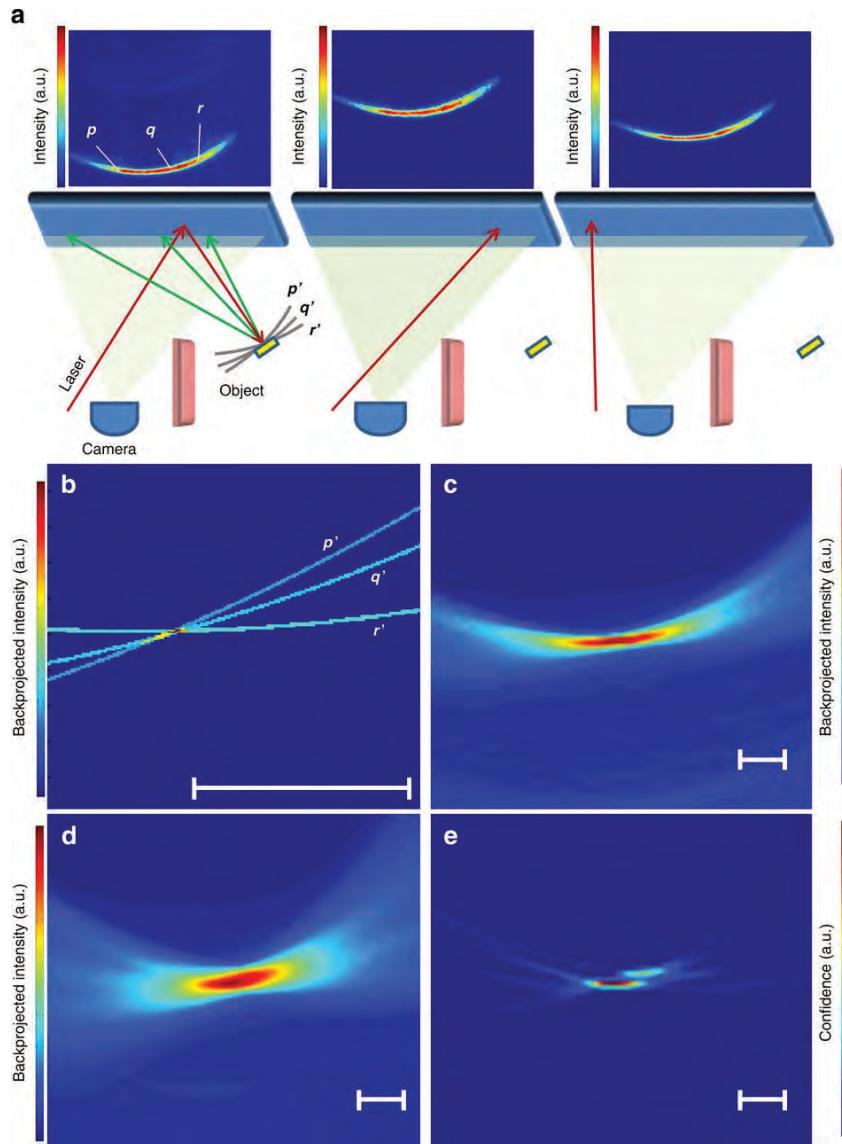


Figure 5.20: Reconstruction from NLOS Imaging Measurements. (a) Data collected for three different laser positions, where the object is a 2×2 cm white patch. Three of the pixels of the streak camera are denoted as p , q , r . (b) The voxels that could have contributed to pixels p , q and r are determined by the corresponding ellipses p' , q' , r' . (c) The heatmap resulted from the backprojection algorithm, computed by superimposing the elliptical curves corresponding to all pixels. (d) The heatmap resulted from 59 laser positions. (e) The final heatmap computed after filtering, representing the reconstruction of the patch.

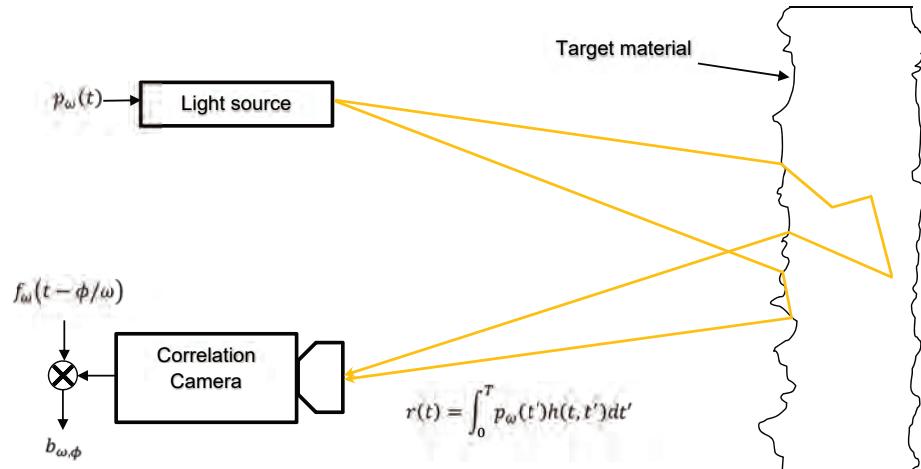


Figure 5.21: Material classification setup using time-of-flight.

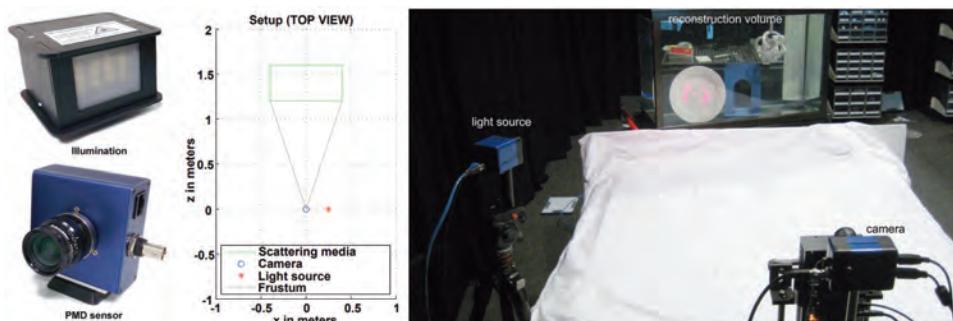


Figure 5.22: The Imaging Prototype used in Heide et al. (2014c). The cameras are imaging through a tank field with scattering medium placed frontally. An array of laser diodes and imaging sensor (left), arrangement diagram (center) and experiment setup (right). Reprinted from Heide et al. (2014c).

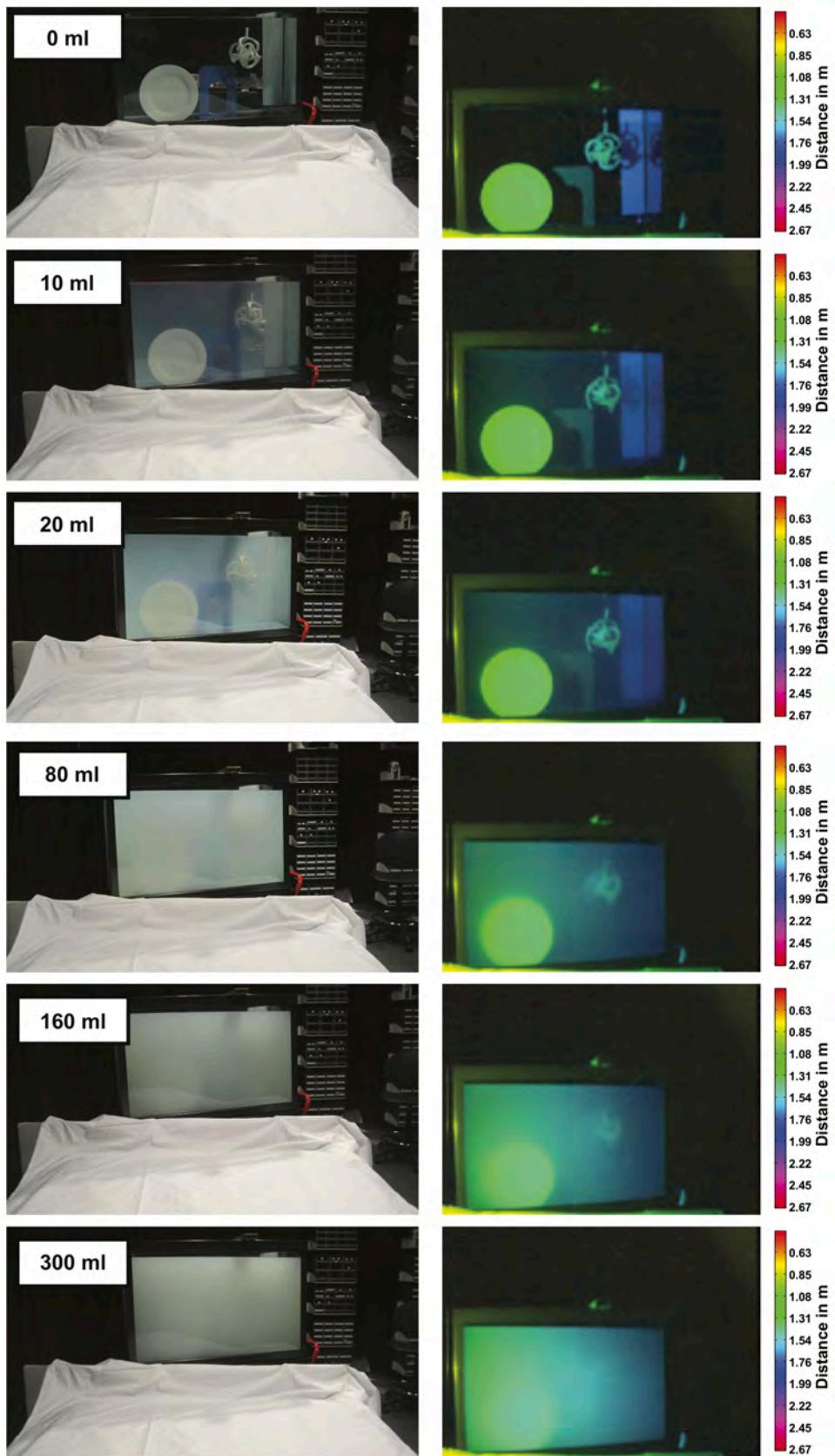


Figure 5.23: Depth Estimation in a Scattering Medium. A tank filled with water (top) and then with a tank being progressively filled up to 300 ml (bottom). Imaging with

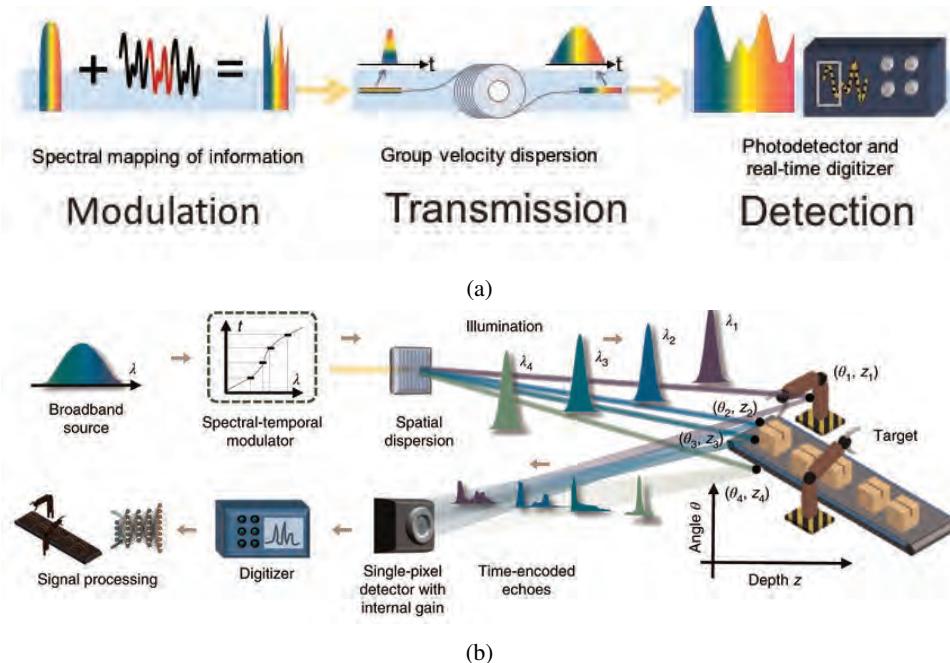


Figure 5.24: (a) Photonic Time-Stretch Principle. (b) Imaging Setup for Time-Stretch LIDAR Jiang et al. (2020)

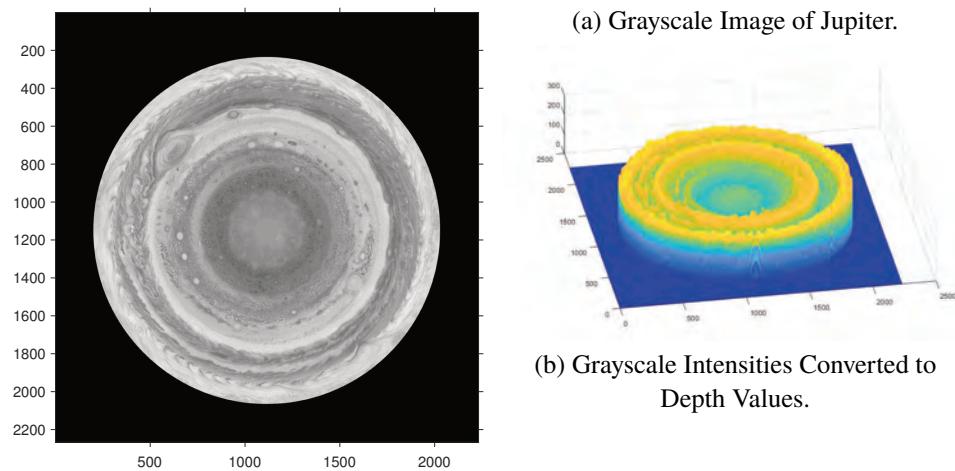
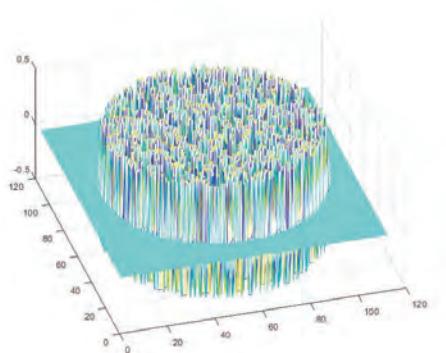
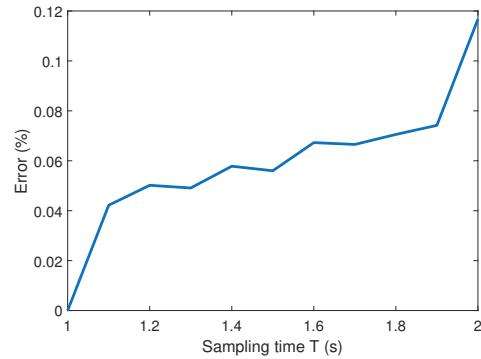


Figure 5.1: Producing Depth Values from a Grayscale Image.

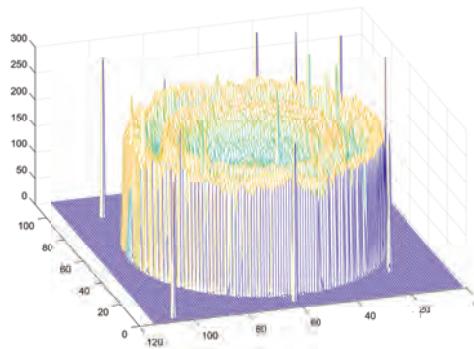


(a) Depth Recovery Error Image.

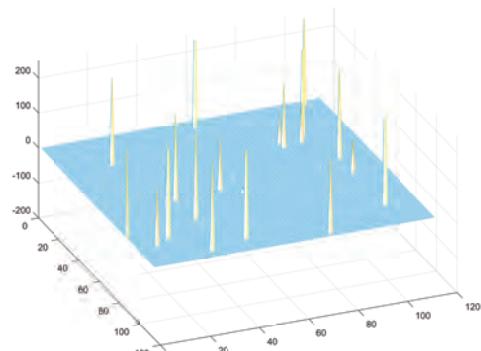


(b) Depth Recovery Error as a Function of the Sampling Time T .

Figure 5.2: Example of Depth Recovery Errors.



(a) Depth Recovery Error Image.



(b) Depth Recovery Error as a Function of the Sampling Time T .

Figure 5.3: Example of Depth Recovery Errors for Noisy Measurements.

6 Light Field Imaging and Display

Capturing 2D pictures has been the main interest since the beginnings of imaging. However, most animals, including humans, possess stereoscopic vision, which gives them a 3D-like perspective of reality. Light field imaging goes one step further, seen as a generalization of 3D stereo vision to the new realm of capturing 4D photographs. In this chapter we present the principle of light fields, their numerous applications, and some of the devices used to capture them.

To grasp the basic idea of light fields, one must note that an ordinary, in-focus photograph adds up all the light rays that emit from a spatial location, regardless of their angle. In contrast, **light fields** enable us to capture brightness representations in both space and angle. Thus, the light field is characterized by all the light rays passing through space in all directions. The 4-dimensional parametrization of light fields enables unique identification of rays - in contrast to the 2-dimensional parametrization of ordinary photographs.

To simplify the representation in 4 dimensions, we will create an analogy of the light field in 2 dimensions, also known as the **Flatland** analogy. This creates a projection of the 4D light field onto a hypothetical 2D plane, as depicted in Fig. 6.1, essentially dividing the dimensions in half. Most of the properties of the light field hold in the Flatland analogy. In Flatland, a light field camera is 2D and an ordinary photograph is 1D.

We know from geometry that a line in a plane can be characterized either by its coordinates at two points in the plane, or by one point and an angle with one of the axes. The same principle is applied to parametrize the light field in Flatland. The light rays in Flatland can be parameterized using their intersections with two parallel lines, also known as the **light slab parametrization**. Alternatively, we can use the point of intersection with one line and the angle between the ray and the line, which is called the **spatio-angular parametrization** (see Fig. 6.1).

In Section 6.1 we will discuss one of the first approaches for measuring the light field in the early 20th century, the Lippmann light field camera. Next, Section 6.2 presents the

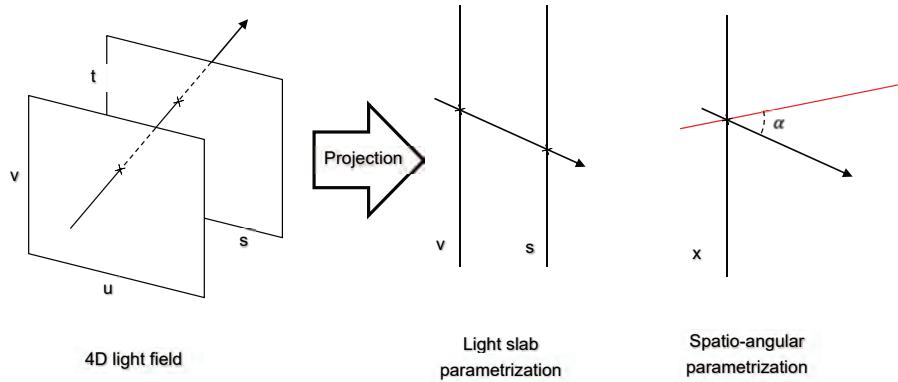


Figure 6.1: The 4D Light Field and Two Projections in Flatland. The 4D light field is quantified using the two-plane parameterization (left), and subsequently projected in Flatland to yield the light slab parametrization (center) and the spatio-angular parametrization (right).

theoretical apparatus for modeling and processing light fields, and Section 6.3 introduces some of the common setups for light field capture. Finally, Section 6.4 gives an overview of the major steps in the development of the light field displays.

6.1 Historical Highlight: The Lippmann Light Field Camera (1908)

The first attempt at capturing the light field was made by Gabriel Lippmann. In his research, Lippmann was inspired by the insect compound eye. He created an array of small cameras using a plastic sheet with spherical segments inserted. The array was placed in an opaque chamber. When exposed to light, each tiny camera captured a different perspective of the scene. The principle of capturing several perspectives at once also applies to the compound eye, which is common in the animal kingdom, in particular for insects. The diagram of the compound eye and of the camera proposed by Lippmann in his original 1908 paper is depicted in Fig. 6.2.

He designed the camera so that, when illuminated from behind, it would project back the recorded different perspectives so that a viewer would have the illusion of a 3D image. His attempts were not fully successful because he could not find materials with the right properties.

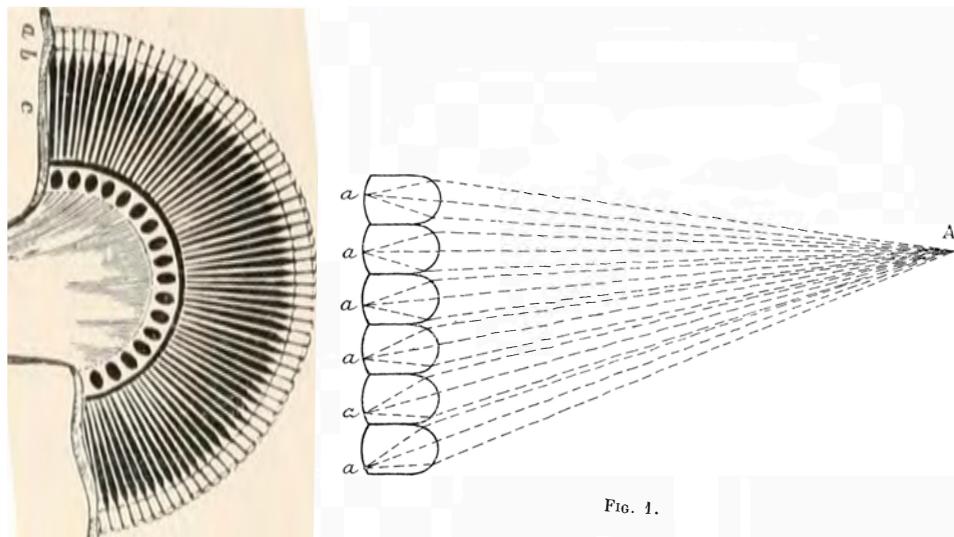


Figure 6.2: Diagram of the Composite Eye (left) and the Light Field Camera Proposed by Lippmann (right). Reprinted from Carpenter (1856) and Lippmann (1908).

6.2 Light Field Processing

The light rays surrounding us carry an abundance of information about the 3D environment, and only a fraction is captured using traditional photography. As discussed before, the pioneering work of Lipmann on lenslet arrays was experimental in nature, and stagnated due to the lack of imaging hardware and materials to achieve his desired performance. Further on, theoretical models of the propagation of light rays started to emerge in the work of Gershun (1939) and later in Adelson et al. (1991), which introduced the concept of **light field**. The light field is described by the totality of all light rays passing through every point in a scene, along every possible direction. This gives a more comprehensive description of a scene than traditional photographs, which represent only a slice of the light field. Light fields therefore allow extracting more information from a scene, either at macroscopic or microscopic scales.

Light fields allow a multitude of fascinating capabilities. Even without access to a 3D model of the scene or knowledge of its texture, a light field can be used to compute novel views, which could for example produce videos where the camera moves freely through the static scene. The scene lighting can be adjusted, photographs can be refocused post capture, and the depth of the scene points can be computed, which can be used to generate 3D models of the scene. To understand the principles behind these processing capabilities, we will first introduce the theoretical formulation of a light field.

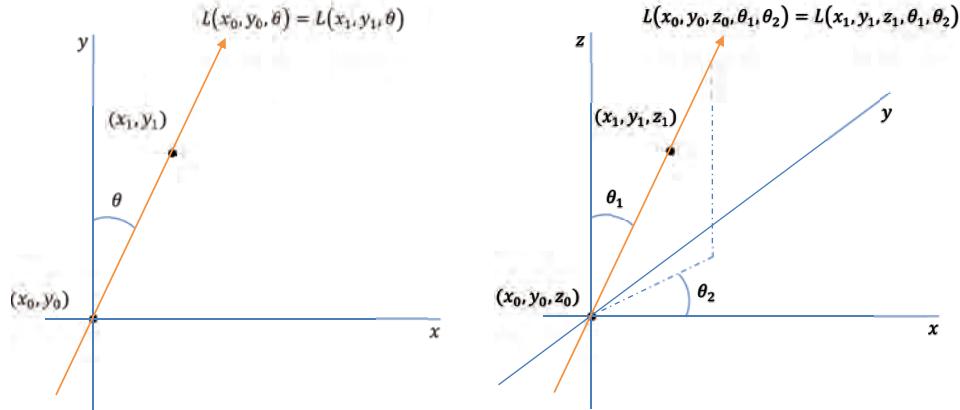


Figure 6.3: The Plenoptic Function in Flatland and 3D. The figure illustrates how the 5 variable plenoptic function (right), or equivalently the 3 variable function in Flatland (left), is constant along light rays intersecting the origin. This means that the variables are not independent, and therefore the plenoptic function can be expressed as only a function of 4 variables, or 2 variables in Flatland.

6.2.1 Light Field Formulation

A very detailed model of the light field is given by the plenoptic function, which describes the light ray as a function of position, angle, wavelength and time. The corresponding data would have 7 dimensions, which is a significant challenge to acquisition. Therefore, a commercial light field capture device captures a maximum of 5 dimensions, 3 for position and 2 for angle, thus assuming the light to be monochromatic and time-invariant. The plenoptic function in this case is $L(x, y, z, \theta_1, \theta_2)$. In a simplified Flatland scenario, the plenoptic function under the light slab parametrization is $L(x, y, \theta)$. The plenoptic functions, displayed in Fig. 6.3 for a given light ray, show how the dimension can be reduced by one in both cases to describe the light field.

This extended the applications from image-based rendering to a much larger range, including 3D reconstruction, segmentation, object recognition, etc.. Big challenges remain for light field capture devices, such as the trade-off between dimensional resolution. Even so, the data sizes involved impose limits on the processing algorithms.

Levoy and Hanrahan (1996) and Gortler et al. (1996) observed that one more dimension of the plenoptic function can be reduced, for the following reason. A given light ray is captured by the plenoptic function for any 3D position located on that ray. This principle is depicted in Fig. 6.3. Therefore, the light field can be described by a function with only 4 coordinates $L(u, v, s, t)$, where u, v and s, t denote the intersection coordinates between the measured light ray and two predefined planes Wu et al. (2017).

The plenoptic function $L(u, v, s, t)$ describes the radiance of light, and is measured in $\text{W} \cdot \text{m}^{-2} \cdot \text{sr}^{-1}$, *i.e.*, amount of Watts per square meter per steradian, where the steradian is a measure of a solid angle, defining a field of view for the incident light.

Any light ray is uniquely described by two points on the two predefined planes, by defining coordinates u, v and s, t . This light field description can be interpreted as a series of cameras located in points s, t called **angular dimensions**, capturing rays coming from all points u, v called **spatial dimensions**. The slice determined by the rays detected with one of the cameras, denoted $I_{s^*, t^*}(u, v)$ is known as a **sub-aperture image**. Conversely, the slice selecting the rays captured by each of the cameras coming from a fixed point, denoted $I_{u^*, v^*}(s, t)$ is known as a **light field subview**. The functions above are computed for two fixed spatial dimensions or angular dimensions. However, it is also possible to make an angular and spatial dimension constant, resulting in **epipolar planes** (EPIs). The two EPIs are $E_{v^*, t^*}(u, s)$ and $E_{u^*, s^*}(v, t)$. They are commonly used in fields such as multi view computer vision Bolles et al. (1987).

An image is formed on the s, t plane by integrating the radiance $L(u, v, s, t)$. The image, characterised by its irradiance $I(s, t)$ satisfies

$$I(s, t) = \int_{\Omega} \int_{\Omega} L(u, v, s, t) du dv.$$

In the equation above, Ω represents a subset of all angles u, v for which the light rays reach the point s, t , defined by the aperture of the camera. The irradiance is measured in $\text{W} \cdot \text{m}^{-2}$.

In the next subsections we will go through some of the most important applications of light field processing.

6.2.2 Refocusing

The plenoptic function formulation of the light field can be used to generate new images focused on different points in the scene. To illustrate this, consider the simplified two-dimensional scenario, where the s, t and u, v planes become the s line and v line, located one unit apart, as in Fig. 6.4. When the light is focused on the s line, the image is computed, as before, with $I(s_0) = \int_{\Omega} L(v, s_0) dv$. The light focused on a line located at distance d no longer crosses the s line at a fixed point, but at a variable point $s_0 + dv$, as shown in Fig. 6.4. Therefore, the new refocused image $I_d(s_0)$ is computed as

$$I_d(s_0) = \int_{\Omega} L(v, s_0 + dv) dv.$$

The irradiance is, mathematically speaking, a projection applied to the light field. To better understand how this transforms the light field, this can be interpreted in the Fourier domain using the *Projection Slice Theorem*. This theorem states that the one-dimensional Fourier

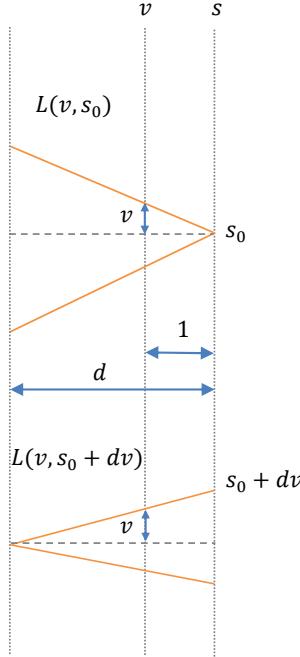


Figure 6.4: Refocusing via Light Field Processing. Image focused on the s line (up) and refocusing on a new line located at distance d (down).

transform of $I_d(s)$ is equal to a slice of the two-dimensional Fourier transform of $L(v, s)$. In mathematical terms, this can be expressed as

$$\widehat{I}_d(f_s) = \widehat{L}(f_s f_v - df_s).$$

In the equation above, \widehat{I}_d and \widehat{L} denote the Fourier transforms, and f_s, f_v are the variables in the Fourier domain. In other words, this gives us an additional way of computing a refocused image, by taking a slice of the Fourier transform of the light field. The principle behind the Projection Slice Theorem is depicted in Fig. 6.5.

6.2.3 Generating Novel Views

After refocusing, the processed image has the same viewing perspective as the input image. However, the light field can be rendered to generate new views that were never captured by any of the physical cameras. These views correspond to theoretical devices called virtual cameras, that will be introduced as follows.

The plenoptic function variable pairs u, v and s, t are typically defined as coordinates in the two-plane representation of the light field. However, they can in some applications also be

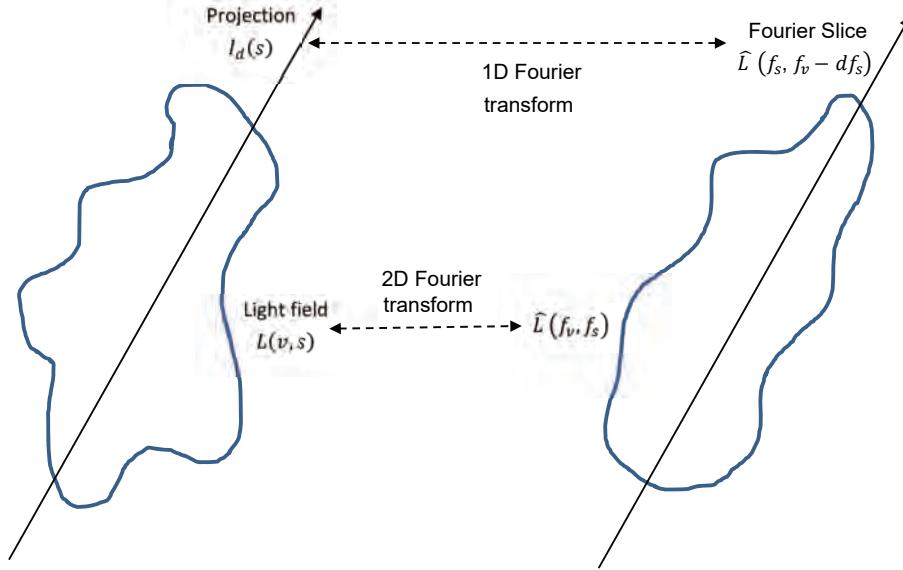


Figure 6.5: The Projection Slice Theorem Applied for Image Refocusing.

coordinates on spheres Wu et al. (2017). These virtual views are generated by selecting the light rays passing through the new point of interest. A diagram of this process is depicted in Fig. 6.6a, where the blue dot represents the view of a **virtual camera** rendered using the light rays captured by the cameras located in the red dots. However, in practice, it is impossible to capture all the rays incident to one camera, and therefore the light field needs to be sampled at discrete locations. Therefore, a new ray is approximated by interpolating the 16 closest rays, determined by any two blue dots located on different planes, as depicted in Fig. 6.6b. An example of novel views generated with a camera array in Levoy (2006) are depicted in Fig. 6.7.

An important parameter for generating novel views is the number of acquired samples. If the number of samples is low, the novel interpolated views will be subject to distortion due to the ghosting effects. Too many samples, on the other hand, can lead to bandwidth and storage problems when transmitting the data. Due to the very large data size, the rendered light field was compressed using well performing algorithms leading to compression rates of over 100 : 1 Levoy and Hanrahan (1996). It was shown that ghosting can be prevented if the neighboring views are closer than one pixel Chai et al. (2000); Lin and Shum (2004). However, when the geometry of the scene is known the number of samples can be reduced significantly.

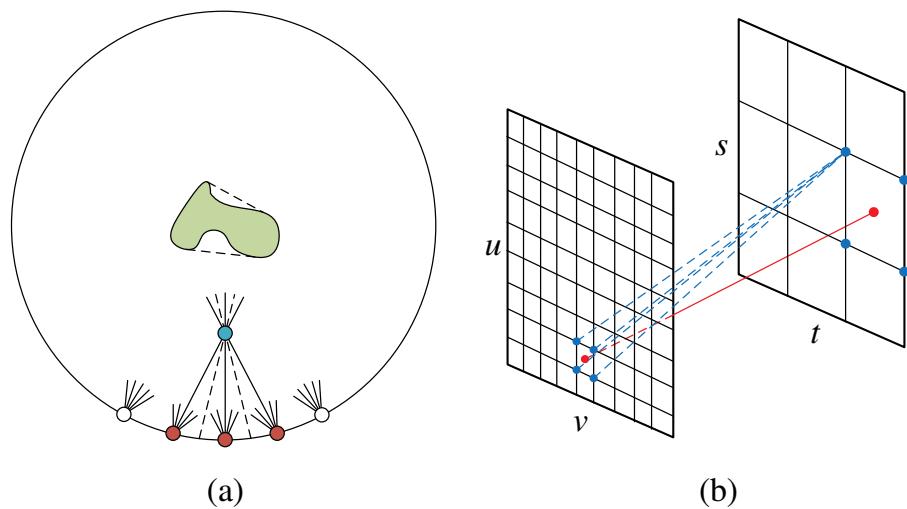


Figure 6.6: Rendering New Views from the Light Field. (a) The blue dot represents the new view, computed using rays captured by the cameras in the red dots, (b) A ray that is not captured by any camera (red ray) can be estimated by interpolation using the 16 closest rays. Reprinted from Wu et al. (2017).



Figure 6.7: Generating Novel Views with a Camera Array. The view from one camera (left) and the synthetic aperture photograph generated with the views of the whole array (right). Reprinted from Levoy (2006).

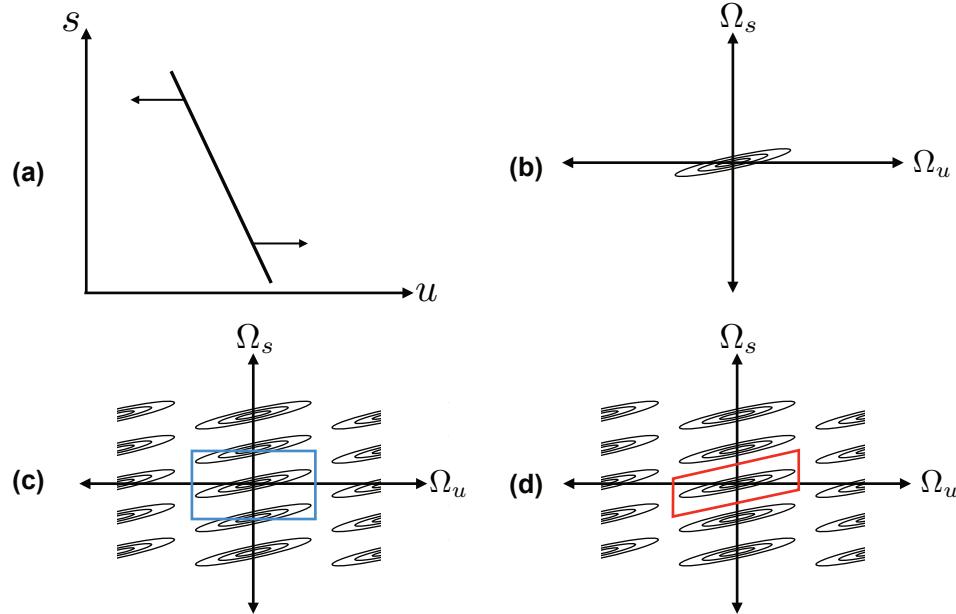


Figure 6.8: Sampling an EPI Function in the Fourier Domain. (a) EPI function consisting of a single line. (b) The Fourier spectrum of the continuous EPI function. (c) The Fourier spectrum of the sampled EPI function, processed with a rectangular filter (blue). (d) Spectrum processed with a shear filter. Reprinted from Wu et al. (2017).

Sampling the light field can be translated into several sub-problems of sampling the EPI functions describing it. Let us recall that the EPI functions $E_{v^*,t^*}(u,s)$ and $E_{u^*,s^*}(v,t)$ are derived from the plenoptic function where one spatial dimension and one angular dimension are kept constant.

To better extract insight into ghosting effects, let us transition the sampling problem to the Fourier domain. Let us take the example of the EPI function $E_{v^*,t^*}(u,s)$ consisting of a single sloped line, as in Fig. 6.8a. When this function is sampled in the spatial domain, this is equivalent to copying the spectrum of the original function, shown in Fig. 6.8b, along the two frequency coordinates. The resulting periodic spectrum is then filtered to recover the original function, just as for one dimensional signals. Using a rectangular filter, as in Fig. 6.8c, leads to aliasing, and hence ghosting effects. That is because parts of the shifted copies of the original spectrum are added up to the correct frequencies causing distortion. This is prevented in this case using shear reconstruction filters, such as in Fig. 6.8d, which do not cause any frequency interference with adjacent copies and leads to good reconstructions.

6.2.4 Depth Estimation

An important application of light field imaging is depth estimation. In order to estimate depth with an artificial camera, it is important to understand how depth is perceived by biological organisms. For example, the human visual system perceives scene depth based on the disparity between the perspective of each eye. This disparity leads to horizontal **parallax**, which represents the different appearance of objects when viewed from the two perspectives. Essentially, the human eyes sample a portion of the light field to compute the depth.

By detecting the parallax as biological organisms, one can measure depth using several cameras offering distinct viewing perspectives. Unlike the human vision, the artificial camera setups offer an extra degree of generality, by including both horizontal and vertical parallax with the cameras placed in the corresponding positions relative to each other. In this way, depth can be estimated from one single exposure Adelson and Wang (1992).

There are situations when the parallax is not enough for a good estimation, in which case different cues can be used for additional accuracy. For example, when an object is located in front of a wall or screen, the position of its shadow can be used to work out the distance between the object and the screen. Taking shadow into account leads to significantly improved depth estimations Tao et al. (2015). However, we wouldn't be able to use this method when the objects in the scene have textures that generate **specular** reflections. A specular reflection has a unique direction relative to the surface, and is common with objects having a glossy or polished texture. To use the shadows in the estimation, the scene objects need to be **Lambertian**, meaning that the light is diffused uniformly by the scene when illuminated, which is not always valid in real situations.

A possible scenario may involve occluding objects between the camera and the scene. If we try to use any of the algorithms above in this case, the results would be inaccurate. However, it is possible to identify the occluders and include them in the depth estimation process. This leads to a significant improvement in depth estimation, as shown in Wang et al. (2016).

This leaves us with the problem of identifying the occluding objects correctly. A simple approach to this maps the points of the occluding objects to the pixels in the camera sensor that they are projected on. If a pixel corresponds to a point in the scene, its color will change significantly for different views. However, if the pixel maps to an occluding point, it is likely to have a similar color when viewed from different angles, unless it is obstructed by an occluding spatial pixel.

It is possible, of course, to infer the depth by using the entire plenoptic function. This can be done using just static images, as shown in Gortler et al. (1996), which can be interpolated to compute the *Lumigraph*, another name for the plenoptic function. When specular surfaces

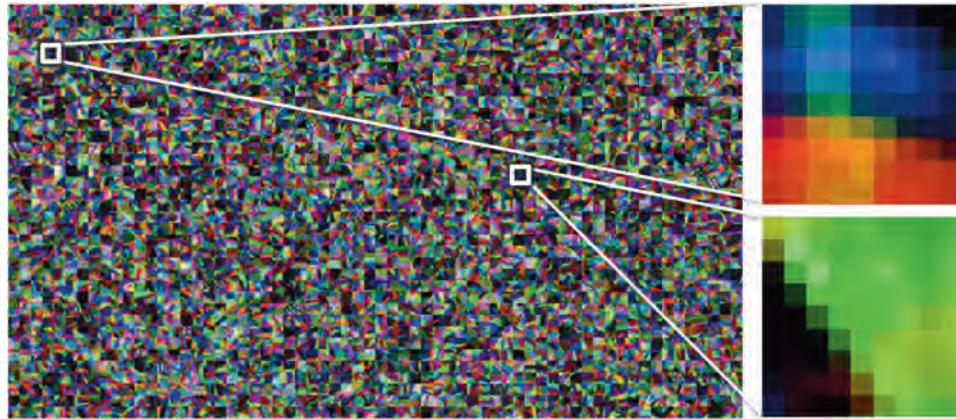


Figure 6.9: Overcomplete Dictionary of Light Field Atoms. Light fields can be recovered in a very noise robust way, mostly as the linear combination of very few light field atoms.

are present in the scene, it is possible to formulate depth estimation as a constrained labeling problem on EPI 2D images, which also ensures consistent depth maps for all views Wanner and Goldluecke (2012).

6.2.5 Further Research

A widespread problem in light field photography is that it requires large datasets in order to reconstruct a high resolution plenoptic function. This was addressed using **compressive sensing** techniques in Marwah et al. (2013), which are methods to efficiently acquire and then reconstruct a signal using a small number of measurements. In Marwah et al. (2013) a portion of the light field can be recovered from a single coded image, which is possible due to the interesting observation that a light field can be broken down into a large dictionary of atoms, called an overcomplete dictionary, which is depicted in Fig. 6.9.

This dictionary is retrieved from a large number of 4D spatio-angular light field patches of a predefined collection of light fields, also called **training light fields** Marwah et al. (2013). It is shown that using light field atoms allows recovering the light field with significantly higher resolution than other single shot methods.

The work in light field rendering has also attracted attention in the machine learning community. Rather than processing the light field based on known mathematical models, machine learning extracts the required information from the data in a process known as “training.” For instance the depth in a scene can be extracted automatically using a neural network. While traditional machine learning methods would require training on measured depth values to predict new ones, the work in Srinivasan et al. (2018) can train the network using images from a single perspective taken with variable camera aperture.

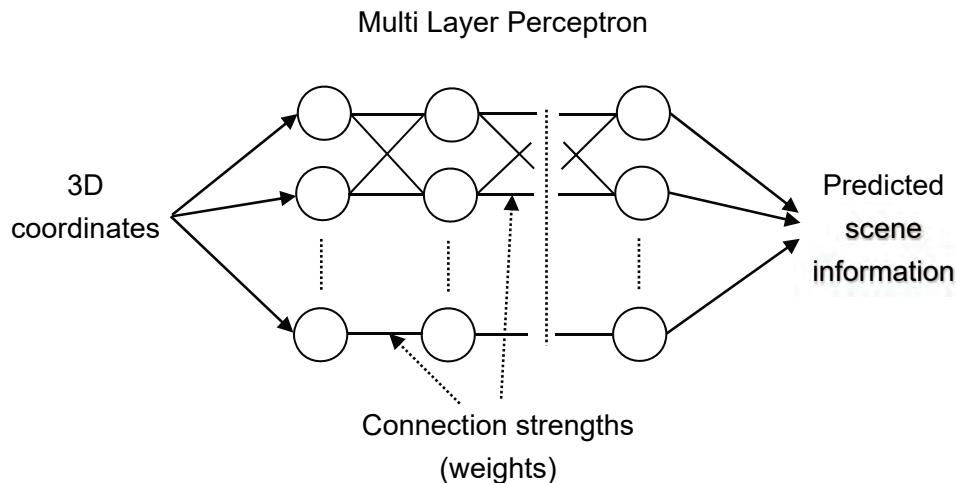


Figure 6.10: The Multi Layer Perceptron. The connection weights are adjusted on a training dataset, such that it predicts the desired information from the scene based on given 3D coordinates.

The realistic scenes with complex geometry can be represented with high fidelity using triangle meshes, or voxel grids. A distinct research direction attempts to use neural networks, also called **multi layer perceptrons** (MLPs) to directly map 3D coordinates to information about the objects in the scene Park et al. (2019); Mescheder et al. (2019). The MLPs are part of a large class of generic **machine learning** (ML) models, which perform computations on data without being explicitly programmed to do it. This is done through a process called training, in which the model parameters are adjusted to best fit the desired data. A diagram of an MLP is depicted in Fig. 6.10. We elaborate on neural networks and deep learning from a mathematical standpoint in Sub-Section 3.4.2, as they are regarded an important aspect of computational imaging.

In order to map the scene with MLPs, it is necessary to have access to 3D geometry from the scene, which limits their application. The 3D geometry can be estimated directly from 2D images using neural networks as shown in Srinivasan et al. (2017). The authors of this work also introduced a very large publicly available database with light fields. A different method called neural volume (NV) predicts a voxel grid representation of a scene inside a bounded volume, with a clear background that has been pre recorded separately Lombardi et al. (2019).

Another approach involves using mesh-based representation of scenes using gradient descent Waechter et al. (2014); Wood et al. (2000); Buehler et al. (2001); Debevec et al. (1996). In machine learning, **gradient descent** computes the derivative of the cost function, whose

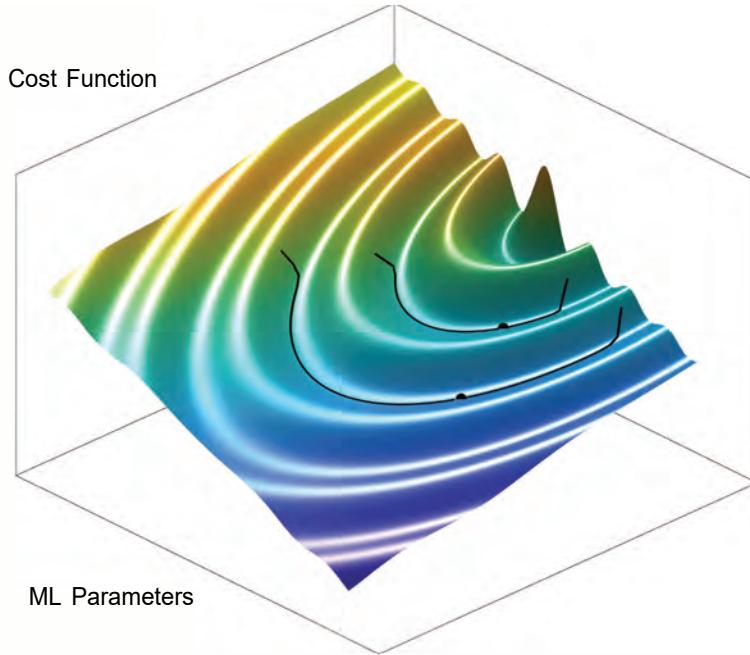


Figure 6.11: The Optimization via Gradient Descent. The aim of the algorithm is to find the minimum value of the error function, plotted in yellow. At each iteration the parameters are changed in the direction in which the gradient descends fastest. Depending on the starting point, the algorithm might identify a local minimum instead of the global minimum.

variables are the network weights. Subsequently, each weight is modified with a step along the direction in which the derivative of the cost function decreases fastest, which also gives the name of gradient descent. The functioning principle of gradient descent is depicted in Fig. 6.11.

A common problem in gradient descent is local minima. If the cost function is not convex, and has many local minima, it is very likely that the gradient descent algorithm would fall into such a minimum where the gradient is very small. To address this, the networks are typically initialised with random weights, and several training epochs are performed. However even in this case, there is no guarantee of fully avoiding local minima. An example of such a situation is in the case of mesh-based representations, where the gradient descent fails often because these representations have a lot of local minima.

The work in Mildenhall et al. (2020) trains a deep neural network (DNN) to generate novel views of a light field. Specifically, they propose a method to train the DNN to generate an

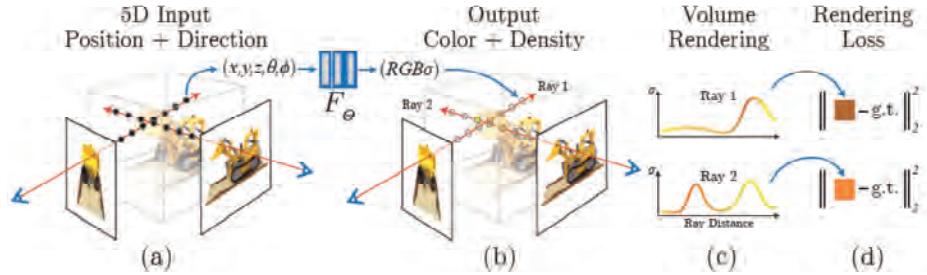


Figure 6.12: Novel View Synthesis using Neural Radiance Fields. (a) Neural network input consisting of 5D light field coordinates, (b) Predicted RGB value, (c) Rendered volume and (d) Rendering loss function between the predicted volume and ground truth. Reprinted from Mildenhall et al. (2020).

RGB colour corresponding to 5D coordinates of the light field \$(x, y, z, \theta, \gamma)\$. They call this a 5D neural radiance field representation.

The first step involves processing the light field coordinates \$(x, y, z, \theta, \gamma)\$ with 8 fully connected layers into a density map \$\sigma\$ and a feature vector with 256 dimensions. The feature vector is then processed with a second network made up of 4 layers to output an RGB colour that is view dependent. The work does not optimise only one network, but two at a time: a network to represent the coarse features of the scene, also called course network, and also a fine network for representing the details.

The cost function for training is given by

$$\mathcal{E} = \sum_r \left[\left\| \hat{C}_c(r) - C(r) \right\|_2^2 + \left\| \hat{C}_f(r) - C(r) \right\|_2^2 \right],$$

where \$C(r)\$ is the true RGB colour for a given light field sample \$r\$, and \$\hat{C}_c(r)\$ and \$\hat{C}_f(r)\$ are the predictions with the course and fine networks, respectively. The function approximated with each of the networks is naturally differentiable, so this makes it ideal for a training method such as gradient descent. The diagram of the processing pipeline proposed is depicted in Fig. 6.12.

Deep neural networks can estimate incident illumination on objects in a 3D scene, therefore revealing content outside the observed field of view Srinivasan et al. (2020).

Another interesting application of light field photography exploits the fact that the depth extracted from 2D images has typically poor depth resolution. Depth can however be estimated very precisely with an imaging paradigm entitled **Time-of-Flight**, which probes the scene with a stream of photons and measures the delay until they are reflected by the scene and captured by a camera. The method entitled Depth Field Imaging measures the

time-of-flight from different perspectives of the scene, enabling estimating the light field with improved depth accuracy Jayasuriya et al. (2015).

Another application enabled by light fields is deblurring, which addresses the undesired blur effect, such as the one caused by a 3D camera motion. In this case the deblurred light field is computed by estimating the camera motion curve Srinivasan et al. (2017).

6.3 Light Field Capture

Thanks to technological advancements and the reduced dimensionality of the plenoptic function, discussed in the last section, the research on capturing light fields progressed to the point where nowadays plenoptic cameras are commercially available, and are even produced in miniature sizes that can be integrated in cell phones. As the field emerged, the number of applications extended to areas such as microscopy and computer vision.

Even with reduced dimensionality, it is easy to see that the amount of data contained in light fields greatly exceeds the one in conventional 2D images. Therefore, capturing the light field requires carefully selected imaging equipment, and also hardware capable of transmitting and storing the large amounts of data involved.

Just like the visual systems in the animal kingdom, the imaging devices available compute 2D projections of the 4D light field. Despite this restriction, there are several techniques available to acquire a complete light field, which will be discussed in the following.

1. **Using a camera array.** In this case, the resolution in the s, t plane is determined by the number of cameras, and their distribution, and the resolution in the u, v plane is determined by the number of sensors per camera, which controls the number of angles of light rays detected by each unit.
2. **Capturing more images with one camera.** Typically such cameras are mounted on computer controlled mechanical gantry devices. In this case, the systems require high-precision control, and cannot capture dynamical scenes accurately. However, the amount of data transmitted is reduced.
3. **Multiplexed imaging.** This technique uses a single camera that introduces a trade-off between the angle and spatial resolutions. For example, in spatial multiplexing, a lenslet array takes the place of a single lens, as was shown before. This effectively reduces the angular resolution while increasing the number of perspectives of the scene. This was also the idea by Lippmann, the pioneer of light field photography.

In the following, we will go through the main techniques and challenges involved in capturing light fields.

6.3.1 Camera Arrays

In order to get a better insight into the scene properties, the images should come from different orientations and coordinates. This would be equivalent to acquiring several “slices” of the light field, which can allow its reconstruction. This, in turn, leads to generating additional “slices” that show the scene from new perspectives. It is also possible to code information received by each camera. For example, Inagaki et al. (2018) use a learning framework to capture a light field through a coded aperture.

In addition to providing more information, acquiring different images of lower resolution also proves more cost effective than using a high resolution camera. The same trend can be seen in other areas, such as computer processors, where using several average CPUs is more affordable than one single powerful CPU.

In imaging, this was achieved using a single moving camera capturing images of a static scene. Later, Dayton Taylor updated it to a linear array of still cameras, which created the illusion of a camera moving through a static scene Taylor (1996), and Manex Entertainment introduced an adjustable trigger delay to simulate a high-speed camera moving around the scene Wilburn et al. (2005). All of those applications are important steps forward, but are suffering from the limitation of being tied to a specific camera trajectory that can be produced by each setup.

A more general approach introduced later is based on an array of cameras which offer much more flexibility. The project that pioneered camera arrays in 1997 was called Virtualized Reality, and it aimed to generate new views of the scene by interpolating the captured videos. However, the downside of using camera arrays is very large datasets that increase the complexity for transmission, storage and processing. There have been two main prototypes for this project. First, a videocassette recorder (VCR) enabled very large storage capabilities at the cost of low camera resolution. Second, an array of higher resolution 49 cameras was utilised, which was generating a large amount of data and required a PC for every 3 cameras.

The projects mentioned so far required rather expensive equipment. In order to make the camera arrays more consumer friendly, Yang introduced Distributed Light Field Cameras (DLFCs), which used an 8×8 array of webcams Yang et al. (2002). A reconfigurable array was made that, due to its mobility, boosts the quality of the interpolated view and therefore generates more realistic images Zhang and Chen (2004). The more accessible price meant that these arrays could not be synced as well as the more expensive ones, which led to artifacts in the interpolated views. Moreover, the large amounts of data restricted the size of the array compatible with these methods. To allow larger arrays, the data transmitted was decreased either by sending data corresponding to fewer views, or by using JPEG compression.

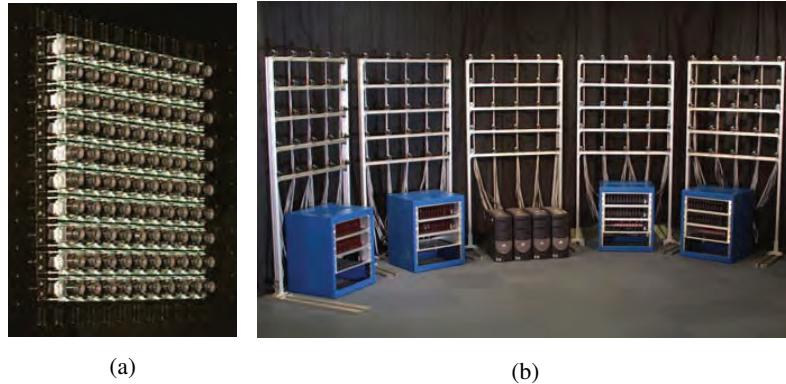


Figure 6.13: The Camera Array Recording System. (a) Tightly packed configuration. (b) Widely spaced configuration. Reprinted from Wilburn et al. (2005).

One of the greatest barriers in camera array imaging is given by the large amounts of data that require high bandwidth cables. This limits the quality of the footage being captured in terms of number of simultaneously recorded images, the image resolution, and number of frames per second. Therefore a research direction is focused on developing new and better compression algorithms that would ease the restrictions on the recorded data. It has been observed that there is a large amount of redundancy between the images recorded by each camera Zhu et al. (2003). Therefore, even after the JPEG compression, the data transmitted by each camera can be greatly reduced with minimal effect on the accuracy.

Instead of transmitting the recorded bits, their system sends shorter sequences of bits computed using error-correcting codes. A centralised decoder receives these new bit sequences from each camera and can recover the data with very good performance. In essence, this shifts the burden of high data bandwidth to a more complex centralised decoder, which is easier to manage in practice.

It has been possible to use an MPEG2 compression for the video streams to allow transferring the complete camera recordings to PCs, which led to a 17.5 : 1 compression ratio Wilburn et al. (2005). This was essential for the array utilised, which had 100 video cameras with 640×480 resolution. Uncompressed video frames were also stored to verify the system performance offline.

The precise time synchronization between the cameras in a large array is essential, and dedicated cables were chosen for the clock signal Wilburn et al. (2005). Using the system described so far, the authors were able to capture video streams of up to 2.5 minutes long, limited to 2 GB in size. Their prototype is depicted in Fig. 6.13 for two spatial configurations.



Figure 6.14: Images Captured with a Camera Array. (a) The exposure time is equal for all cameras. (b) The exposure time is adjusted for each individual camera. Reprinted from Wilburn et al. (2005).

In order to get a good representation of the light field, some camera characteristics require **calibration**, such as geometry and colour. Full metric calibration is typically employed in a generalised array. If the array is situated on a plane, then a simpler calibration technique can be performed that estimates the camera positions and achieves better results than full metric calibration Vaish et al. (2004).

The camera arrays exploit an important physical phenomenon known as the **parallax**, which represents the apparent displacement of objects when viewed from different angles. This can be adjusted with complex camera setups, or can be compensated for in software, which was also the choice in Wilburn et al. (2005).

Most camera arrays suffer from **variation in colour** across the array. Minimising colour variation is essential for the illusion of a single high-speed video camera. An automatic colour calibration technique was proposed in Joshi et al. (2005), which is based on placing a colour chart in the field of view of all cameras. This was combined with the geometrical calibration target. In the camera setting proposed, gains and offsets of the sensor response are adjusted to match the target response. Here, for each camera, the gain refers to the increase in sensor response for a given increase in light intensity, and the offset is the sensor response for each camera given the same constant light intensity.

Moreover, each sensor saturates at the high and low ends of the light intensity, meaning that the response is no longer a linear function of the incoming light intensity. This is compensated for by linearising the responses of all cameras Joshi et al. (2005). Another inconsistency is the **falloff**, which represents a variation in intensity between the center and extremities of an image. This is corrected using colour checking cards placed in the field of view of the cameras. Since the exact colors on these cards are known, they can be used to quantify the falloff. Then, a global error correction is done by computing transforms between the color patch values for each camera, and the average patch values for all cameras, and then applying the transform to the data filmed by the camera.

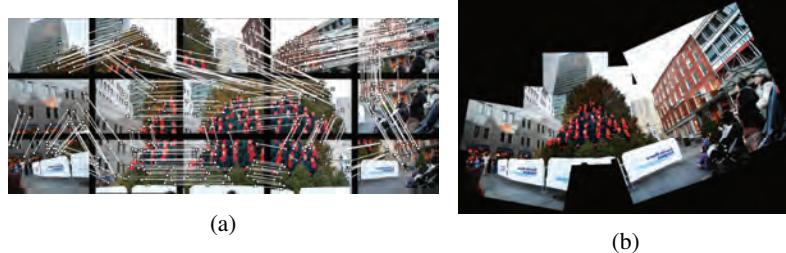


Figure 6.15: A Collage Computed from Images Generated with a Flexible Camera Array. (a) The original images and the matching features (b) The collage generated through rotations, translations and scalings. Reprinted from the presentation slides in Nomura et al. (2007).

The camera calibration can give more control over the image appearance, which produces better results than using a single high resolution camera. It has been demonstrated how an image mosaic, which refers to joining small resolution images into a single high resolution picture, can benefit greatly from exposure calibration Wilburn et al. (2005). By overlapping the fields of views of all cameras one can produce a high dynamic range image, where each camera can increase or dim the brightness in different locations. An example can be seen in Fig. 6.14, where the features in the bright and dark areas of the image are much more visible when the exposure is calibrated.

Rather than generate new views of the captured scene, there has been research into computing image collages, which give a more comprehensive view of the scene. The collages can be viewed as a form of geometric calibration, where the 2D points in the camera's image plane are matched via the features in the scene. An automatic method was created for rotating, translating and scaling images by applying the scale-invariant feature transform to match common features between images Nomura et al. (2007). An example of such a collage is given in Fig. 6.15. The authors also introduced a flexible camera array which could be assembled in new configuration in a matter of minutes to allow new scene perspectives.

6.3.2 Dappled Photography

The capturing methods above are based on **spatial multiplexing**, meaning that each image represents a spatial slice of the plenoptic function. A different approach is called **Fourier multiplexing**, which encodes slices of the plenoptic function in different frequency bands. The advantage here is that a single capture includes several dimensions of the plenoptic function, and therefore it leads to better light transmission Wetzstein et al. (2013).

A popular Fourier multiplexing method, called **Dappled Photography** is based on a mask that does not bend light like lenses do, but rather attenuates it in a shadow-like pattern Veeraraghavan et al. (2007). This allows acquiring a high resolution 2D image, by account-

ing for the shadow patterns, and also a low resolution 4D image that can be recovered by Fourier domain decoding.

The functioning principle of dappled photography is based on the modulation theorem, which is routinely used in telecommunications. Given a signal $u(t)$, the theorem states that the modulated signal $y(t) = u(t) \cos(2\pi f_0 t)$ has a Fourier transform given by

$$\begin{aligned}\mathcal{F}[y](f_t) &= \mathcal{F}[u](f_t) * \mathcal{F}[\cos(2\pi f_0 t)](f_t) \\ &= \frac{1}{2} [\mathcal{F}[u](f_t - f_0) + \mathcal{F}[u](f_t + f_0)].\end{aligned}$$

In other words, the theorem states that the spectrum of the modulated signal is made up of copies of the original spectrum shifted at the frequency of the cosine, also known as carrier function.

In the case of dappled photography, the incoming light field passes through an aperture, is filtered by a mask, and then recorded by the camera sensor Fig. 6.16. Let $L(x, \theta)$ denote the incoming light field and $M(x, \theta)$ denote the mask modulation function. According to the modulation theorem, the Fourier transform of the light field after the aperture and mask is given by

$$\widehat{L}_M(f_x, f_\theta) = (\widehat{L} * \widehat{M})(f_x, f_\theta),$$

where $\widehat{L}(f_x, f_\theta)$ and $\widehat{M}(f_x, f_\theta)$ are the Fourier transforms of the light field and mask modulation function, respectively.

Due to the chosen parametrization of the light field, the measurements at the sensor, $S(x)$ do not change with θ , and therefore

$$\widehat{S}(f_s) = \mathcal{F}[S](f_s) = \widehat{L}_M(f_x, f_\theta) \Big|_{f_x=f_s, f_\theta=0}.$$

Therefore the spectrum of the sensor measurements represents a horizontal slice from the modulated light field spectrum $\widehat{L}_M(f_x, f_\theta)$.

The position of the mask relative to the sensor is an important parameter. When the mask is on the θ plane, then the content of $\widehat{M}(f_x, f_\theta)$ is only on the f_θ axis. When the mask is placed between the planes θ and x , then $\widehat{M}(f_x, f_\theta)$ is zero apart from a line crossing the origin (Fig. 6.16). Typically, $\widehat{M}(f_x, f_\theta)$ is chosen as a train of Dirac pulses on the corresponding line, which, according to the modulation theorem, leads to copying the light field spectrum in the center of each Dirac, as depicted in Fig. 6.16.

With no modulation the sensor measurements satisfy $\widehat{S}(f_s) = \widehat{L}(f_s, 0)$, meaning that a whole dimension of the incoming light field is lost. With a carefully chosen modulation, the sensor slices from the modulated light field contain information about the slices of the

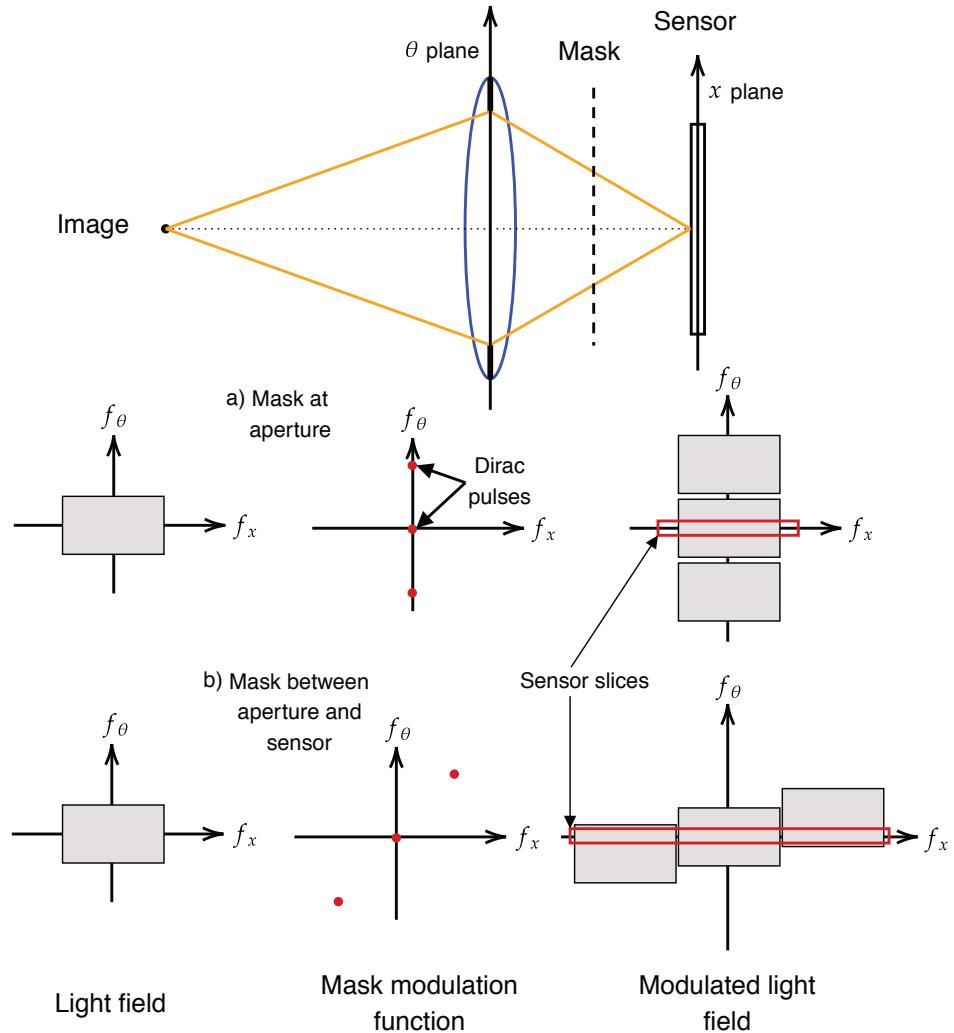


Figure 6.16: Dappled Photography in the Fourier Domain. The incoming light field is parametrized on the aperture plane and sensor plane (top). The illustration of the modulation theorem when the mask is on the aperture and between the aperture and sensor (bottom). The chosen parametrization defines the sensor measurements as a horizontal slice from the modulated light field spectrum.

light field for different f_θ , which can then be used to approximate \widehat{L} with much higher accuracy.

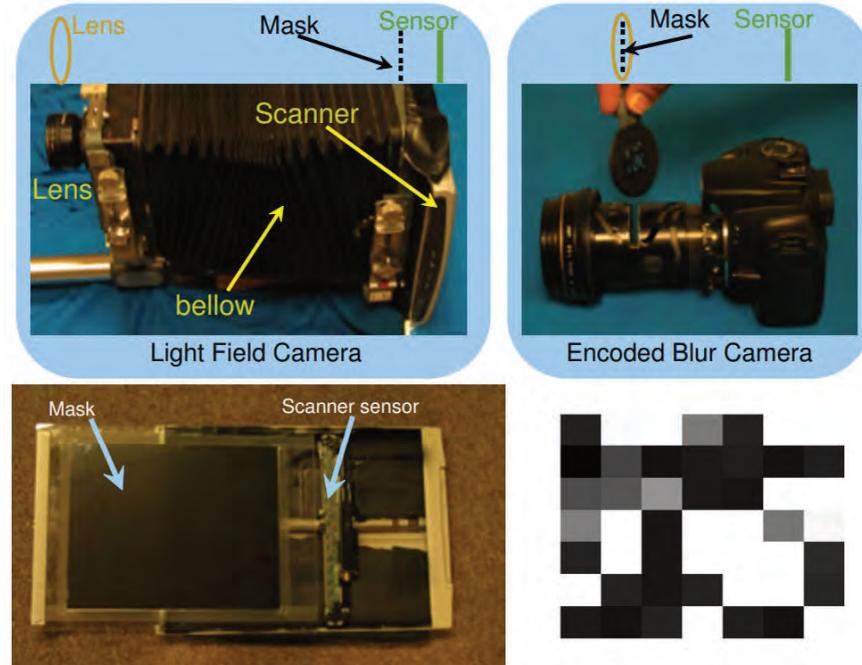


Figure 6.17: Dappled Photography Setup using Two Camera Designs. The proposed cameras (up) and the associated masks (down).

The prototypes used for Dappled Photography in Veeraraghavan et al. (2007) are depicted in Fig. 6.17.

A different way to recover the light field in a single image capture is given by interposing a phase plate between the lens and the camera sensor Antipa et al. (2016). The phase plate, also called a Light Shaping Diffuser, consists of a plate of polymer for which the input side is flat, and the output side is a random Gaussian surface, therefore refracting the light in a diffusive pattern. The output surface is modeled as random Gaussian noise filtered with a smoothing kernel.

In this way, the light field is encoded into the phase of the incoming light, which is then decoded from the sensor data using an algorithm called *phase retrieval*. The advantage of such a setup is a much higher light throughput when compared to Dappled Photography Antipa et al. (2016).

6.3.3 Microscopic Light Field Imaging

Capturing multiple perspectives attracted a lot of interest not only in the case of macroscopic objects, but also for microscopic ones Levoy (2006); Levoy et al. (2006). This can address

some of the known drawbacks of microscopic imaging. One of them is that microscopes are orthographic projection devices, meaning that they only display images from perspectives directly above the specimen. They also suffer from a limited depth of field, which allows them to view a thin section of the specimen. The section can be adjusted, but this is time consuming and assumes a static scene.

The development of light field microscopy started with the early experiments of Gabor, and was later improved with the development of lasers. However, it was only after the work of Lippmann, discussed in Section 6.1, that this technique started making use of microlens arrays. As is the case for macroscopic photography, a typical application of lens arrays in microscopy is to increase the field of view.

In light field microscopy imaging, the lens array is used to generate several perspectives, at the cost of a lower spatial resolution. This has two important implications. First, it means that the perspective of the object can be changed after the image was captured. Second, it allows generating tomographic images with one capture, as it will be explained in the following. Unlike macroscopic photography where the objects are mostly opaque, in microscopy the specimens are more translucent. This allows capturing images with changing focus, generating 3D slices of the object, also known as **focal stacks**, which can subsequently be processed into 3D tomographic images of the specimen. One can imagine that each slice in a focal stack originally contains the contribution from the out of focus parts of the specimen. This is addressed with an algorithm known as **3D deconvolution**, which subtracts these contributions using inverse filtering Agard (1984). This can be done with traditional microscopes also, but with light field microscopy the focal stack can be computed from one single capture.

The functioning principle of a conventional microscope in comparison with a light field microscope is depicted in Fig. 6.18. In a conventional microscope, the specimen is illuminated through a **condenser lens**. The light is then bent by an **objective lens**, into parallel rays, that are further bent by a **tube lens** such as the specimen is in focus on the intermediate **image plane**, located inside the microscope. The first microscopes did not have a tube lens, which was later introduced to allow a variable tube length. A viewer can see the specimen through an additional **ocular lens**, which magnifies the view created on the image plane.

The light field microscope relies on the same basic principles as the classical one. The condenser and objective lens are not changed. However, a **lenslet array** is placed in the image plane, and a **sensor array** replaces the ocular lens. This is a slightly different setup than the typical camera array. To explain this, we can use the two plane interpretation of light fields from Section 6.3.1. Cameras are located in all points with coordinates s, t from one plane, oriented towards all points with coordinates u, v , located on the second plane. Thus the variables s, t dictate the spatial resolution of the light field and u, v the angular

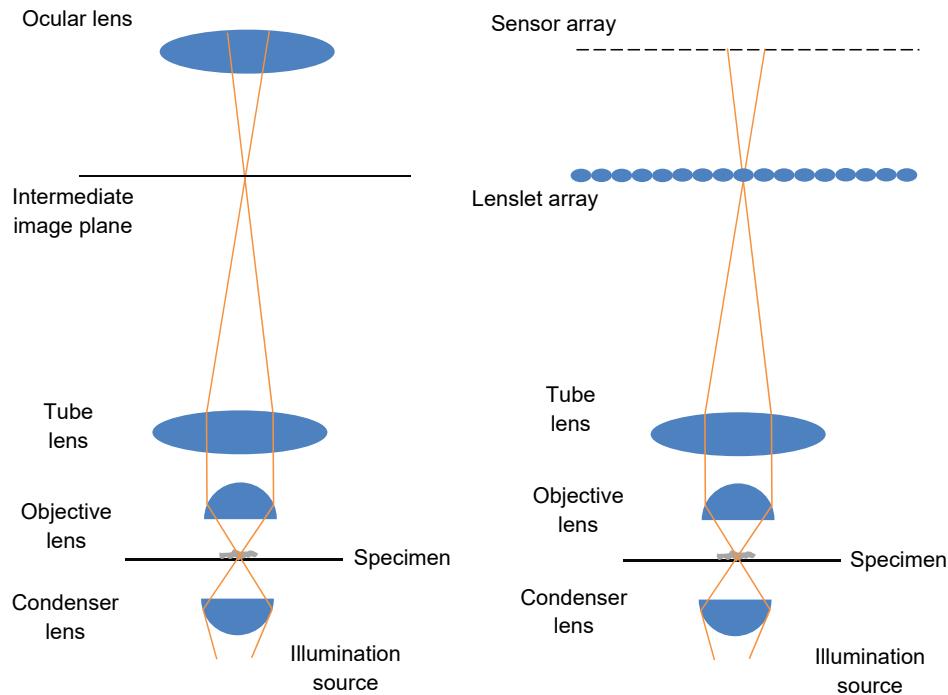


Figure 6.18: A Comparative Diagram of the Traditional and Light Field Microscopes.

resolution. Typically, in a camera array, the spatial resolution is given by the number of pixels, and the angular resolution depends on the number of lenslets. However, the setup in Fig. 6.18 has the additional objective and tube lenses positioned such that the specimen is focused on the lenslet array, rather than the sensors. This swaps the role played by each array, such that the lenslet array dictates the spatial resolution, and the sensor array controls the angular resolution. This modified setup has the disadvantage of a slightly larger size. The advantage, however, is given by the objective lens, which is already present in most microscopes. Making a lens array of similar quality would be complex and costly Levoy (2006).

As in macroscopic light field photography, in microscopy there is a trade-off between the angle (or axial) and spatial resolution. The work in Prevedel et al. (2014) accommodates this by oversampling the data and then eliminating partly the aliasing effect introduced using an algorithm called 3D deconvolution.

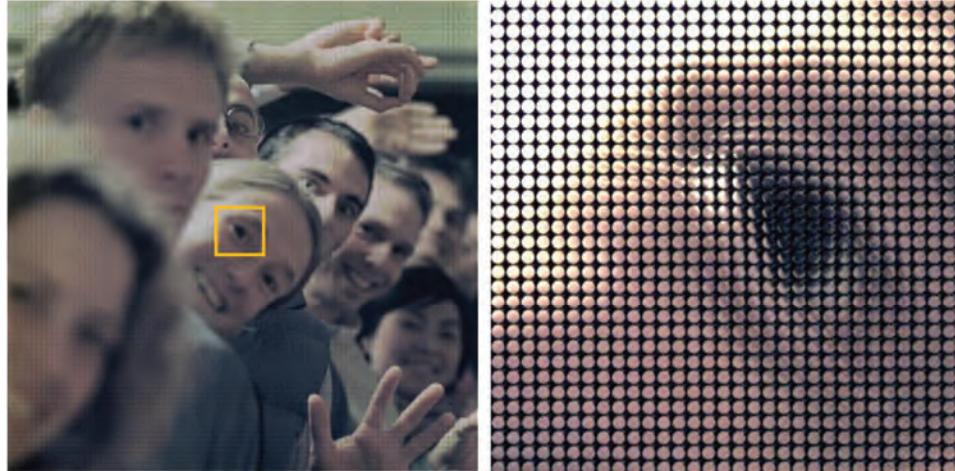


Figure 6.19: The Image Captured with a Plenoptic Camera. The image consists of small circular patches, each containing pixels with different perspectives of a point in the scene [ref].

6.3.4 Further Research and Applications

The level of flexibility given by a plenoptic camera can be observed by analysing an image generated with such a camera, such as the one in Fig. 6.19. The image contains several perspectives of each scene point captured, all grouped in small circular pixel patches.

Since each pixel location in a patch corresponds to a viewing perspective, this image can be used to access a desired view of the scene by picking the same pixel location in all patches (Fig. 6.20). Similarly, by summing up several pixels in each patch, one can simulate a larger aperture size. The depth of field can be adjusted by shifting the selected pixels relative to each other, as depicted in Fig. 6.20.

Fig. 6.21 illustrates a few examples of light field cameras (macroscopic and microscopic) that were described in this section, and a few example images. Fig. 6.21a depicts a motorised gantry with a single camera (top), and two frames from the captured light field (middle, bottom). Fig. 6.21b shows an array of 128 cameras (top), a view from the array (middle), and a synthetic aperture photograph computed from the light field, setting the virtual viewpoint behind the foliage (bottom). Fig. 6.21c displays a plenoptic camera (top), and two images computed by refocusing the light field post-capture (middle, bottom). A light field microscope is depicted in Fig. 6.21d (top), followed by an embryo mouse lung viewed from two perspectives using a single snapshot (middle, bottom).

Light field cameras are not yet as prevalent on the market as traditional 2D cameras. However, as new phones already have multiple cameras, this becomes technologically

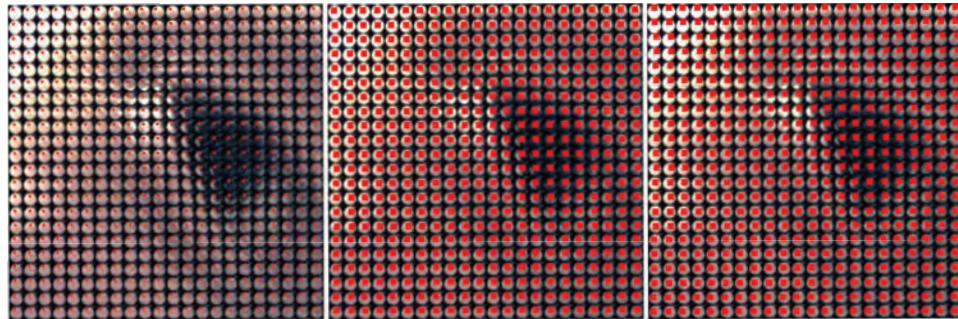


Figure 6.20: Computing 2D Images from the Plenoptic Image. By picking only the pixels marked with red in each circular patch, one can simulate a desired viewing angle (left), aperture size (center) or focus depth (right) [ref].

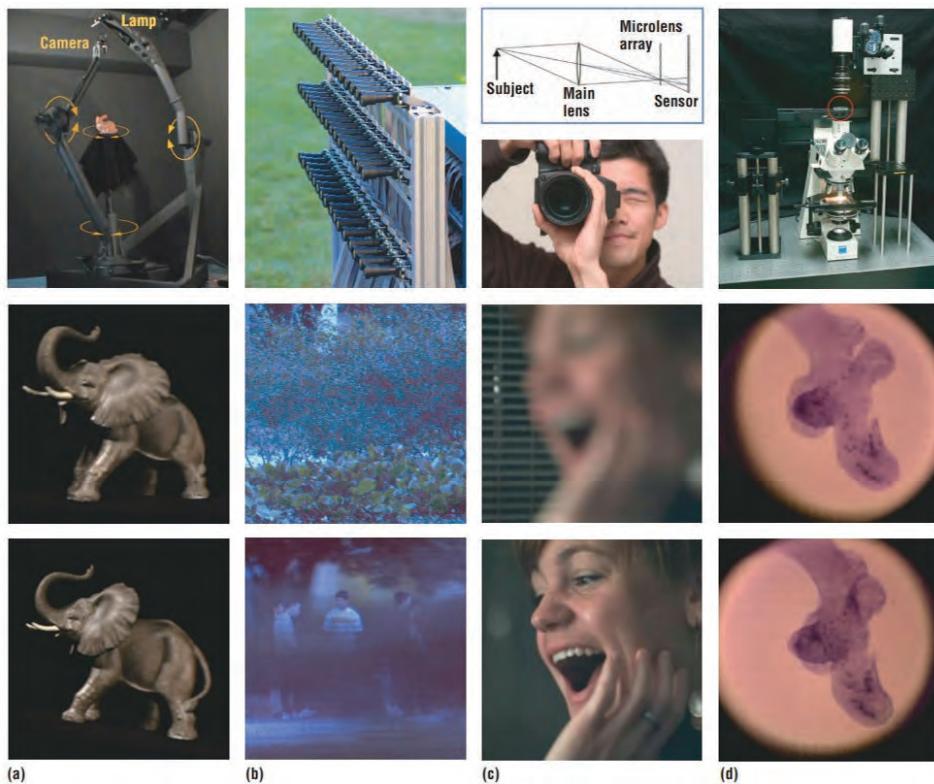


Figure 6.21: Four of the Typical Light Field Cameras and Examples of Photographs Sliced from each Light Field (a-d). Reprinted from Levoy (2006).



Figure 6.22: Light Field Sample Interpolation using the Commercially Available Light L16 Camera. The 13 megapixel images captured with its 16 camera modules (left). Final 52 megapixel image (right). Reprinted from Sahin and Laroia (2017).



Figure 6.23: Modern Commercial Lightfield Camera. (a) Front. (b) Back. [link].

possible. There are also specialised devices, such as the Light L16 camera, that are already commercially available. The device has 16 imaging modules with 13 megapixel resolution and three focal lengths of 28 mm, 70 mm, 150 mm, respectively, which allows zooming optically, by interpolating the light field, after an image was captured. The 16 cameras also have three different fields of view of 75°, 35°, and 17°. After processing, the images captured with the camera can be combined into a single 52 megapixel high dynamic range image, as depicted in Fig. 6.22.

The multiplexed light field capture principle was used to design a hand-held plenoptic camera, which can be operated as a traditional camera Ng et al. (2005). Nowadays plenoptic cameras come in rather compact forms. A modern commercial and industrial camera are depicted in Fig. 6.23.

One may wonder, since the concept of a plenoptic camera has existed since 1908, then why did it take 100 years to produce commercially viable products? An answer is that plenoptic cameras record many images from many perspectives simultaneously, therefore they require high resolution to produce good results. Such sensors have been made available in the last decades. Moreover, recent results showed that a plenoptic camera can be used for a lot more than just depth detection, which was not common knowledge at the start of the 20th century. Finally, the optical part consisting of large arrays of small lenslets, could not be manufactured easily until recently.

A method requiring a single 2D image to capture the light field was proposed in Antipa et al. (2016). However, multiple images are needed during calibration. The 3D shape of an object can also be captured via a digital holographic recording, which is based on a sensor array comparing a reference wave to a wave reflected from the object Schnars et al. (2015). It was shown that using holography can provide a better spatial resolution for refocusing than capturing the 4D light field Cossairt et al. (2014). More comprehensive reviews of light field capture can be found in Levoy (2006); Ng and Others (2006).

6.4 Light Field Displays

In order to exploit the full benefit of a captured light field, it should be displayed in a way that presents its true potential. The conventional 2D displays can only show 2D images which, as stated before, represent only one slice of the light field at a time.

The idea of a 3D display spans all the way to the 17th century, when the French painter Gaspar Antoine de Bois-Clair created a portrait that would show two different people depending on the viewing angle, using **parallax barriers**, which represent a series of occluding bars. When viewed from an angle, the bars occluded a part of the painting that is designated for the second viewing angle. This concept was further developed by Frederic Ives in 1903, who created a patent called the *parallax stereogram*, which enabled viewing several images using parallax barriers. Later on, in 1908 Gabriel Lippmann proposed the concept of 3D display using a lenslet array as part of his work called *Integral Photography* Masia et al. (2013).

Since then, the concept of parallax barriers was developed and extended to produce improved 3D displays. However, there are several challenges when designing a 3D display, such as low light throughput, reduced angular resolution, and crosstalk between distinct views. With the advent of digital computers and liquid crystal displays (LCDs), many of these problems can be alleviated, as will be discussed later in this section.

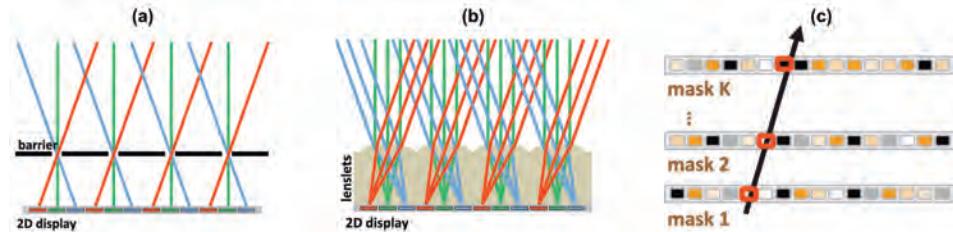


Figure 6.24: Traditional and Multilayer Light Field Displays. (a) A traditional display based on a slitted barrier, (b) A traditional display using a front layer based on lenses, and (c) A multilayer display. Reprinted from Wetzstein et al. (2012).

We will first give an introduction on traditional 3D displays and their limitations, which then motivate their replacement with more complex displays such as multilayer, multiframe and tensor displays.

6.4.1 Traditional 3D Displays

The more advanced 3D stereoscopic displays show two light field slices each time, one for each eye. The challenge for a light field display is to present many slices of the light field at the same time, without the need to wear any viewing equipment.

The traditional light field displays rely on very simple preprocessing. They are based on a two-layer system: the back layer displays a number of views, or light field slices, and the front layer acts as a barrier, allowing the viewer to see only one slice at a time, depending on their position relative to the display. The front layer can be based simply on a slitted opaque screen, or a more sophisticated layer of lenses. This architecture is called a parallax barrier display, due to the parallax effect created by the barrier when the observer changes the viewing perspective. The schematic of these displays is depicted in Fig. 6.24a and Fig. 6.24b. The barriers can consist of bars, supporting one dimensional parallax, or of a mask with pinholes placed in a lattice pattern, supporting full parallax (left-right and up-down).

There are a few drawbacks of these architectures. First, the viewer will only see a fraction of the emitted light at a time, i.e., the light throughput is very low. Second, the spatial resolution is limited, as the pixels from different views need to be adjacent. Third, the field of view is limited, with only a reduced range of visible angles. Fourth, despite using the front layer to separate light field slices, there is crosstalk happening between views decreasing the view quality.

Subsequently, the displays have a limited angular resolution. Similarly to sampling signals in time, if there are not enough angle samples of the light field, the views will be affected by aliasing. This means that the high frequencies, which are not captured by the samples, lead

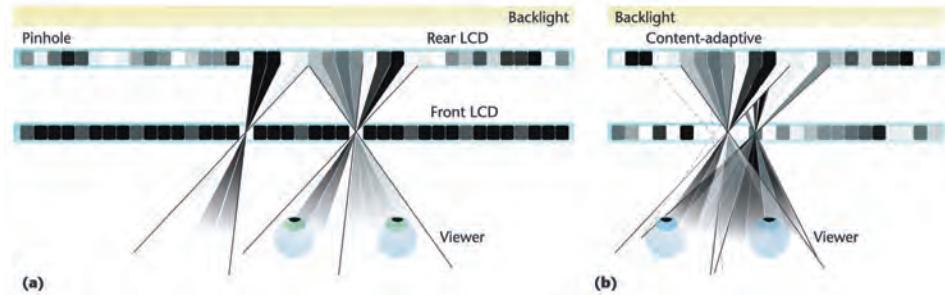


Figure 6.25: Content-Adaptive Light Field Displays. (a) A parallax barrier implemented with a dual-stacked LCD. The viewer only sees light crossing the front LCD, and (b) A content-adaptive dual-stacked LCD, displaying several time-multiplexed frames corresponding to the viewing perspective. Reprinted from Wetzstein et al. (2012).

to distortions in the displayed image. Aliasing can be addressed by prefiltering the light field before sampling. The angular resolution is in direct connection with the maximum depth of the display. Therefore, the scene depth is regularly adapted to the display depth with methods called depth retargeting techniques.

6.4.2 Multilayer and Multiframe Displays

The problems of traditional displays, such as parallax barriers and microlens arrays, were addressed by generating compressed representations of the light fields. Even though they are not identical replicas of the light field, these representations are decoded by integration in the human eye, and therefore are perceived as good estimations. The displays generating such representations are known as **compressive displays** Banks et al. (2016); Wetzstein et al. (2012).

Traditional displays suffer from low spatial resolution and low light throughput. To address these problems, pinhole masks can be replaced by LCD screens. Unlike the masks whose patterns are static, the LCDs can adapt the pattern dynamically. Therefore, the display proposed is made up of a read and front LCD, illuminated by backlight, as illustrated in Fig. 6.25a. From each viewing perspective, an observer can see the pixels from the rear LCD that are not blocked by the pixels of the front LCD, acting as a parallax barrier. So far, the setting still suffers from the problems mentioned above, as many of the pixels in the image on the rear LCD will be blocked.

This can be fixed in the case of LCDs using a well known phenomenon in the human visual system, called *flicker fusion*. This phenomenon manifests through the perception of a rapid sequence of images as their temporal average. Essentially, any sequence with a faster frequency than 60 Hz is no longer perceived by the eye as separate events but merged into a continuous one.

6.4 Light Field Displays

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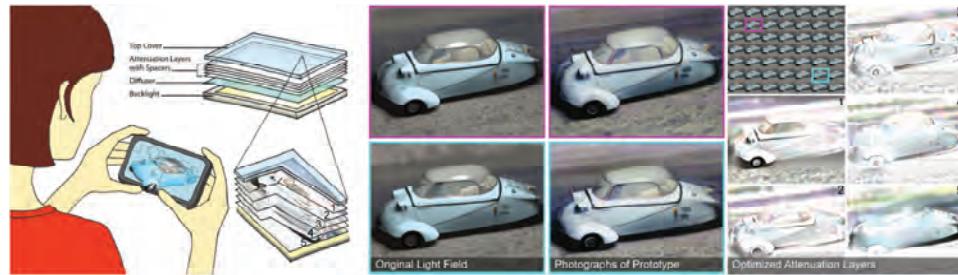


Figure 6.26: The Layered 3D Display. The display design is based on 5 attenuation layers (left), the scene (center), and the corresponding light field and 5 optimal layers (right). Reprinted from Wetzstein et al. (2011).

The front LCD uses this phenomenon by displaying high speed content-adaptive patterns, which allows the observer to see more pixels for every viewing angle, which leads to higher resolution and brightness, as depicted in Fig. 6.25b. The shifting masks displayed by the front LCD thus allow the viewer to see an increased resolution for each viewing angle. At each time, the mask covers a number of pixels displayed by the rear LCD to show only one viewing angle. However, these pixels are uncovered when the mask shifts to show additional pixels from the same angle.

The display method based on time-multiplexing presented above is called **High Rank 3D (HR3D)** Wetzstein et al. (2012). This name is derived from the mathematical interpretation of the process proposed. In the simplified scenario of a 2D light field, we can construct a matrix where the row and column indices represent the points of intersection of a light ray with each of the two LCDs. It turns out that such a matrix has rank 1, which corresponds to a poor approximation of the light field. HR3D can achieve a much more accurate reconstruction where the light field matrix has rank 3.

The next advancement consisted in a 3D display method called **Layered 3D**, which involves stacks of multiple LCDs Wetzstein et al. (2011). In this case, rather than using one layer to mask an image, a whole stack of LCDs are used to attenuate light generated by a backlight emitting layer. This approach increases the computational complexity, but alleviates some of the drawbacks of traditional displays. The functioning principle of such a display is depicted in Fig. 6.26.

In Layered 3D, the light rays that pass through the whole stack are attenuated cumulatively by the corresponding pixels in each layer. When designing such a display, the attenuation of each light ray in each direction should match the light field that is being displayed. The principle is very similar to that of Computed Tomography (CT) scanning. The body of a patient is illuminated and a detector measures the accumulated light attenuation through the patient's body. Similarly, the LCD stack is illuminated from below, and the pixels attenuate

each light ray such that, when viewed from different perspectives, the intensity of the light observed reflects the 3D structure of the object. The Layered 3D display computed for a real scene is depicted in Fig. 6.26. The display has 5 layers which were optimised to best approximate the light field. The tomographic light field synthesis in Layered 3D gives additional display capabilities such as additional depth of field and better images in terms of brightness and resolution Wetzstein et al. (2011). A new method was proposed based on adaptive sampling to decrease the computational resources required Heide et al. (2013).

Let $L(s, v)$ be the target light field. Then the Layered 3D display illuminated by backlight generates an approximation given by

$$\tilde{L}_N(s, v) = \prod_{k=1}^N f^{(k)}\left(s + \frac{d_k}{d_r}v\right),$$

where s, v denote the variables of the light field, measured as coordinates on two lines placed along the backlight emitting layer and the one near it, respectively, $f^{(k)}(s) \in [0, 1]$ is the transmittance at point s of layer k , d_k is the distance of layer k to the s -axis, and d_r is the distance between the s -axis and v -axis.

Therefore, the Layered 3D display generates an N^{th} order approximation of the light field.

For $N = 3$, the points $\{s + v \cdot d_1/d_r, s + v \cdot d_2/d_r, s + v \cdot d_3/d_r\}$ lie on a plane with equation

$$\mathbb{P} = \{(d_3 - d_2)x_1 + (d_1 - d_3)x_2 + (d_2 - d_1)x_3; x_1, x_2, x_3 \in \mathbb{R}\}.$$

Using this observation, it is convenient mathematically to parametrise the estimated light field in a 3-dimensional space as function $\tilde{L}(x_1, x_2, x_3)$, such that

$$\begin{aligned} \tilde{L}\left(s + v \cdot \frac{d_1}{d_r}, s + v \cdot \frac{d_2}{d_r}, s + v \cdot \frac{d_3}{d_r}\right) &= \tilde{L}_N(s, v), \\ \tilde{L}(x_1, x_2, x_3) &= 0, \quad \{x_1, x_2, x_3 \notin \mathbb{P}\}. \end{aligned}$$

To make the expression more compact, we can use the concept of tensor, which is the generalisation of a vector.

We define the estimated light field tensor as \mathbf{L} , such that $[\mathbf{L}]_{x_1, x_2, x_3} = \tilde{L}(x_1, x_2, x_3)$. In the tensor formulation, we assume that $x_1, x_2, x_3 \in \mathbb{Z}$ are the coordinates of the pixels on each layer. We also define the tensor $\tilde{\mathbf{T}}$ as

$$\tilde{\mathbf{T}} = \frac{1}{M} \sum_{p=1}^M \mathbf{f}_p^{(1)} \circ \dots \circ \mathbf{f}_p^{(N)},$$

where \circ denotes the vector outer product, M denotes the total number of frames and $[\mathbf{f}_p^{(k)}]_{x_k} = f_p^{(k)}(x_k)$ Wetzstein et al. (2012). Essentially tensor $\tilde{\mathbf{T}}$ represents the set of all possible combinations of N pixel values, taken from N different layers. We can then state

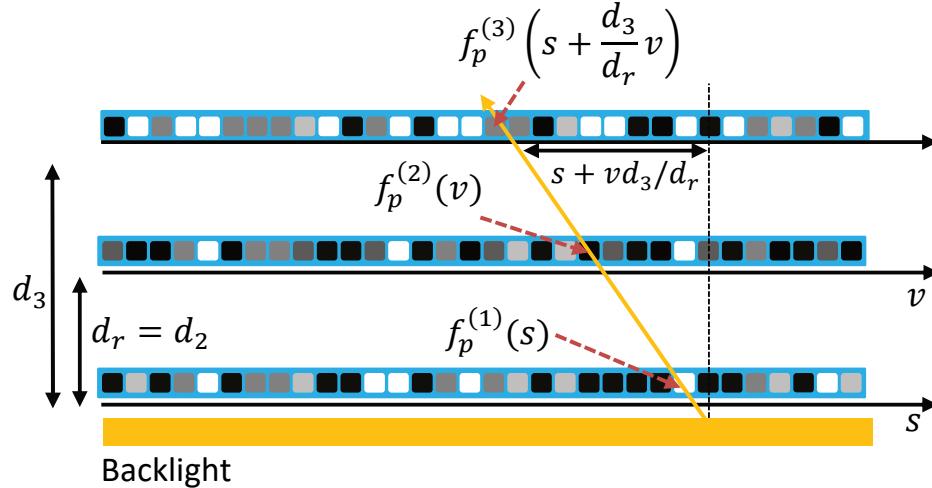


Figure 6.27: The Tensor Display with Three Layers. The light illuminating the rear LCD gets attenuated cumulatively by each layer.

that

$$\tilde{\mathbf{L}} = \mathbf{W} \odot \tilde{\mathbf{T}},$$

where \odot is the elementwise product and \mathbf{W} is a binary mask such that $[\mathbf{W}]_{x_1, x_2, x_3} = 1$ if $(x_1, x_2, x_3) \in P$ and 0 otherwise.

In other words, the estimated N -dimensional light field is modeled by the successive N attenuations of any possible N pixels from different layers, which are then limited by \mathbf{W} to only the groups of pixels that have light rays passing through them.

6.4.3 Tensor Displays

Although they are crucial steps for the advancement of 3D displays, the techniques above cannot display a light field for multiple observers located in a wide viewing zone. The coupling of time-multiplexed (HR3D) and light attenuating layers (Layered 3D) led to the introduction of the **tensor display** Wetzstein et al. (2012). The tensor display exhibits both multiframe and multilayer capabilities, which reduces artefacts significantly compared to Layered 3D and HR3D. Due to additional degrees of freedom, tensor displays achieve a wider field of view and wider depths of field Wetzstein et al. (2012).

In mathematical terms, the tensor display decomposes the light field $L(s, v)$ into a low-rank approximation

$$\tilde{L}_{N,M}(s, v) = \frac{1}{M} \sum_{p=1}^M \prod_{k=1}^N f_p^{(k)} \left(s + \frac{d_k}{d_r} v \right),$$

where $f_p^{(k)}(x) \in [0, 1]$ is the transmittance at point s of layer k during frame p , M denotes the total number of frames and N is the order of approximation for the light field. The diagram of a tensor display is depicted in Fig. 6.27. The estimated light field is computed by solving

$$\left\{ f_p^{(k)}(x) \right\}_{\substack{p=1, \dots, M \\ k=1, \dots, N}} = \arg \min_{f_p^{(k)}(x) \in [0, 1]} \int_{\mathbb{R}} \int_{\mathbb{R}} \left(L(s, v) - \tilde{L}_{N,M}(s, v) \right)^2 ds dv.$$

In other words, the estimation computes the transmittance values $f_p^{(k)}(x) \in [0, 1]$ that minimise the error between the original and estimated light fields.

As before, we can represent the light field as a tensor, assuming that the coordinates on each layer are integer values denoting the pixel coordinate. In the case of tensor displays, however, the tensor has order N and rank M therefore allowing a much better approximation of the light field

$$\tilde{\mathbf{T}} = \frac{1}{M} \sum_{p=1}^M \mathbf{f}_p^{(1)} \circ \dots \circ \mathbf{f}_p^{(N)}.$$

The estimation of the light field is then written in a more compact form as

$$\tilde{\mathbf{T}} = \arg \min_{\tilde{\mathbf{T}}} \left\| \mathbf{L} - \mathbf{W} \odot \tilde{\mathbf{T}} \right\|^2,$$

where \mathbf{L} is the tensor representation of the true light field and $\|\cdot\|^2$ is the squared tensor norm defined for a tensor \mathbf{Q} as

$$\|\mathbf{Q}\|^2 = \sum_{x_1 \in \mathbb{Z}} \sum_{x_2 \in \mathbb{Z}} \sum_{x_3 \in \mathbb{Z}} [\mathbf{T}]_{x_1, x_2, x_3}^2.$$

The search space is much larger here than for Layer 3D, because the values of the attenuations $f_p^{(k)}(x)$ depend on the frame number p in addition to layer number k . Therefore the problem is more complex, but leads to better estimations of the light field.

An additional degree of freedom is given by controlling the direction of the LCD illumination source, also known as **directional backlighting**. This allows sweeping through several light field views sequentially, adding an additional boost to the field of view and depth of field Wetzstein et al. (2012).

The estimated light field in the case of directional backlighting is given by

$$\tilde{L}_{N,M}(s, v) = \frac{1}{M} \sum_{p=1}^M b_p(s, v) \prod_{k=1}^N f_p^{(k)} \left(s + \frac{d_k}{d_r} v \right),$$

where $b_p(s, v)$ models the backlight field parameterized by s, v emitted at time frame p . The tensor formulation is given in this case by

$$\tilde{\mathbf{T}} = \frac{1}{M} \sum_{p=1}^M \mathbf{b}_p \circ \mathbf{f}_p^{(1)} \circ \dots \circ \mathbf{f}_p^{(N)},$$

where \mathbf{b}_p is the vectorized form of the backlight field. The estimation of $\tilde{\mathbf{T}}$ is done as before to estimate the desired light field. However, in this case, the additional degrees of freedom given by \mathbf{b}_p lead to a higher performance.

6.4.4 Open Problems with Light Field Displays

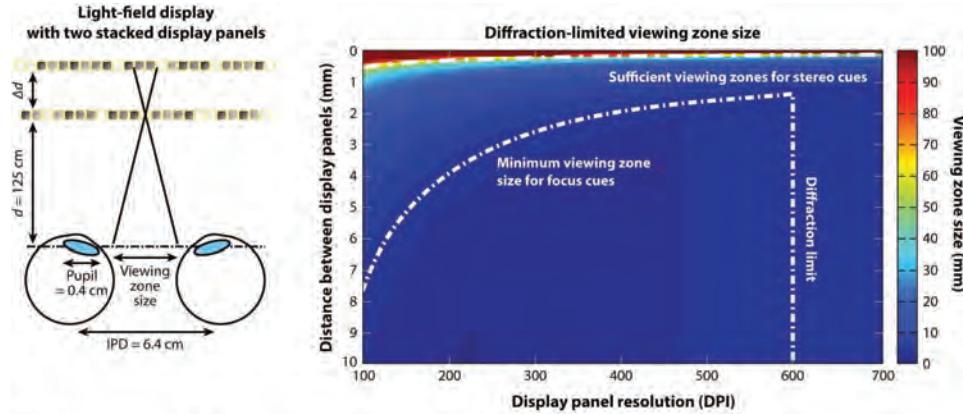
Some techniques have been put in place to address the most common problems with light field displays. The crosstalk between views, meaning that a viewing angle can be distorted by adjacent views, has been incorporated in the model to alleviate the negative effect. This is done by adjusting the luminance of the images displayed so that the final perceived image is as close to the target one as possible.

Unlike traditional displays, the compressive displays are typically based on a stack of LCDs and optical elements such as microlens arrays Banks et al. (2016); Wetzstein et al. (2012). This causes a **multiplicative effect** on the incident light, which, in general, allows displaying more viewing angles than additive displays, such as multi-plane or volumetric.

An important problem with multiplicative displays is their limited resolution. That is because a common approach in designing these displays is to use two LCD panels among which the frontal one acts as a parallax barrier. When the pixel size of the frontal LCD is close to the wavelength of the light, this causes diffraction, which leads to a significant blur.

There is evidence that focus cues, such as blur and accommodation, affect both 3D shape perception and the apparent scale of the scene. Fig. 6.28 depicts the conditions under which focus cues can be achieved by a two-layer display. Specifically, this can happen if the viewing zone is smaller than the size of the pupil, allowing two different views to enter the same pupil.

Even so, when attempting to display 3D data, such as tomography scans, there are different methods used to view the data. These methods are based on extracting continuous objects using boundary detection, performing 2D boundary detection on every slice, or using voxels to represent the data Herman and Udupa (1983). The latter is less complex since it avoids the preprocessing steps of boundary detection Frieder et al. (1985). 3D displays can also be designed as holographic displays, which exploit the diffraction phenomenon using appropriately chosen optical elements Peng et al. (2017).



A Banks MS, et al. 2016.
R Annu. Rev. Vis. Sci. 2:397–435

Figure 6.28: Viewing Zone Size for Two-Stacked Displays. The display is at a fixed distance ($d = 125$ cm) from the viewer, who has an interpupillary distance (IPD) set to 6.4 cm (left). The viewing zone can be computed as a function of the display resolution and inter-display distance (right). A resolution beyond 600 DPI leads to significant blur. For a resolution below that, the inter-display distance should be large enough such that two views entering the same pupil (which means that focus cues can be achieved). Reprinted from Banks et al. (2016).

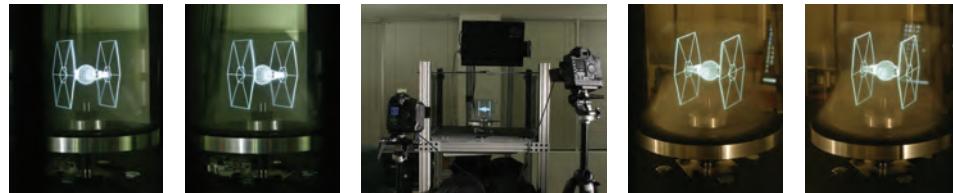


Figure 6.29: A 3D Autostereoscopic Light Field Display. Two perspectives of the display, each given as a pair for stereo vision (left and right). The object shown is photographed by a stereo camera system (center). Reprinted from Jones et al. (2007).

An example of a light field display is given in Jones et al. (2007). This is an autostereoscopic display, which means that it adds binocular perception of 3D depth. It additionally consists of an user tracking mechanism, to adjust the display to the viewer's height and distance. The system is compatible with multiple viewers placed around the display at the same time. An example of an object displayed on this device is depicted in Fig. 6.29.

Applications such as virtual reality or augmented reality have pushed the advancement of near-eye displays, which are based on a headset providing two views for each eye. Most near-eye displays are based on two separate micro displays, or a screen split optically with two lenses. In 2015, a new near-eye display was proposed based on two LCDs, allowing each eye to see freely a 4D light field Huang et al. (2015).

Chapter Appendix: Notations

| Notation | Description |
|---|---|
| (x, y, z) | Spatial position |
| (θ_1, θ_2) | Angles |
| $L(x, y, z, \theta_1, \theta_2)$ | Plenoptic function (that a Light Field device captures) |
| (s, t) | Angular dimensions |
| (u, v) | Spatial dimensions |
| $L(u, v, s, t)$ | Plenoptic function (reparameterized) |
| $I_{s^*, t^*}(u, v)$ | Sub-aperture image |
| $I_{u^*, v^*}(s, t)$ | Light field subview |
| $\{E_{v^*, t^*}(u, s), E_{u^*, s^*}(v)\}$ | Polar planes (EPIS) |
| $I(s, t)$ | Irradiance |
| Ω | Subset of all angles (u, v) for which the light rays the point (s, t) |
| I_d | Refocused image |
| $\widehat{I_d}$ | Fourier transform of refocused image I_d |
| (f_s, f_v) | Frequency variable corresponding to (s, v) |
| $\mathcal{F}[\cdot]$ | Fourier transform operator |
| $M(x, \theta)$ | Mask modulation function |
| $S(x)$ | Light field sensor measurements |
| $f^{(k)}(s)$ | Transmittance at point s of layer k |
| \circ | Vector outer product |
| \mathbf{L} | Light field tensor |
| \odot | Elementwise product |
| \mathbf{W} | Binary mask |
| \mathbf{P} | Set of points in a plane |

Exercises

1. Motivation

At the top-level, this problem set enables you to turn your cell phone into a 4D light field camera.

In class we learned how "Bokeh" and shallow depth of field is a desirable aesthetic quality in a photograph. Unfortunately, this effect requires a large aperture, i.e., the lens is going to be big and bulky! But what if it was possible to turn your cell phone into a camera with a large aperture? What if we could selectively focus on objects in post-processing?

The goal of this exercise is to synthesize images with smaller depths of field thus making it appear to have been taken from an expensive camera with a larger aperture Lumsdaine and Georgiev (2009) Levoy et al. (2004). Figure 6.1a and b show a scene image with the corresponding synthetic aperture image with lower depth of field.

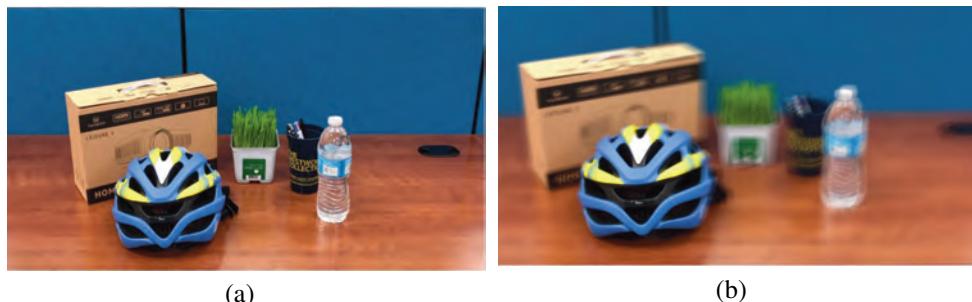


Figure 6.1: Turning a Cell Phone into a Light Field Camera. (a) An all-in focus image taken with a cell phone camera. (b) A light field stack is post-processed to blur out the background. Notice how the helmet stands out from the background.

2. Experimental Component

We will capture a video by moving the camera in a zig-zag path as shown in Figure 6.2 in front of the static scene. Unless otherwise discussed with the instruction staff, please use MATLAB for all codes.

Please note:

- The algorithm being implemented does not take camera tilt into account. Avoid tilting and rotating the camera as much as possible.

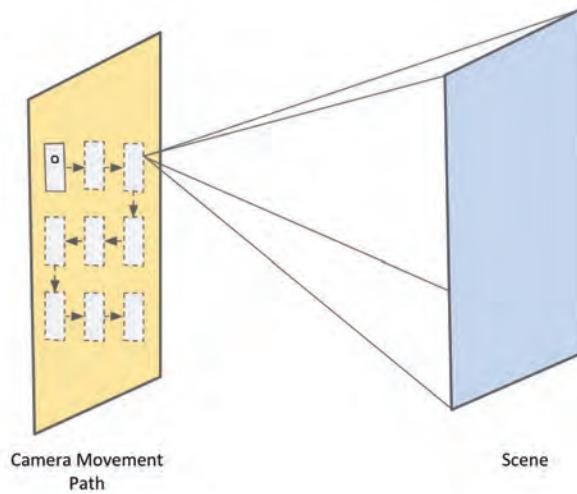


Figure 6.2: A Zig-zag Planar Motion of the Camera in Front of the Static Scene to Capture a Video.

- The instruction set use a planar zig-zag path for camera motion as in Fig. 6.2. However, you are allowed to try different paths like circular or polyline.
- The number of frames in the video captured will determine the time required to compute the output. Make sure the video is not too long.

Solve all problems below for credit.

a) Set Up a Static Scene

Set up a static scene similar to the one shown in Figure 6.1a. Try to have objects at different depths.

b) Capturing a 4D Light Field

Take a video by waving your camera in front of the scene by following a specific planar motion. The more you cover the plane, the better will be your results. Ensure that all objects are in focus in your video. For credit, generate three frames of the video. These frames differ in their *parallax*, i.e., an effect where object positions change in response to view.

c) Acquiring the Data

Write a function to read your video file and convert the video into a sequence of frames. Since this was captured from a cell phone, each frame image is in RGB color. Write a script to convert each frame to gray-scale.

d) Registering the Frames

i. Template and Window

From the first frame of your video, select an object as a template. We will be registering all other frames of the video with respect to this template. Once a template has been selected in the first frame, we search for it in the subsequent frames. The location of the template in a target frame image will give us the shift (in pixels) of the camera. Since we don't have to search for the template in the entire target frame image, we select a window to perform this operation. Note, however, that selecting a window is optional. This is done just to reduce the computation time.

ii. Normalized Cross Correlation

Perform a normalized cross correlation of the template with the extracted search window.

Let $A[i, j]$ be the normalized cross-correlation coefficient. If $t[n, m]$ is our template image and $w[n, m]$ is our window, then from Lewis (1995) we have:

$$A[i, j] = \frac{\sum_{n,m=1}^T [w(n, m) - \bar{w}_{i,j}][t(n - i, m - j) - \bar{t}]}{\{\sum_{n,m=1}^T [w(n, m) - \bar{w}_{i,j}]^2[t(n - i, m - j) - \bar{t}]^2\}^{0.5}}, \quad (6.1)$$

where, \bar{t} is the mean of the template and $\bar{w}_{i,j}$ is the mean of the window $w[n, m]$ in the region under the template. Plot the cross correlation coefficient matrix $A[i, j]$ for one of the frames.

iii. Retrieving the Pixel Shifts

The location that yields the maximum value of the coefficient $A[i, j]$ is used to compute the shift Georgeiv and Intwala (2006). The shift in pixels for each frame can be found by:

$$[s_x, s_y] = \max_{i,j} \{A[i, j]\}. \quad (6.2)$$

For credit, please generate the plot of s_x v/s s_y

e) Synthesizing an Image with Synthetic Aperture

Once you have the pixel shifts for each frame, you can synthesize refocused image by shifting each frame in the opposite direction and then summing up all the frames. (Note: in the next section, you will need to explain why this operation works. Start thinking about this now!)

Suppose the pixel shift vector for Frame Image $I_i[n, m]$ is $[s_{xi}, s_{yi}]$. Then, the image output, $P[n, m]$ with synthetic aperture is obtained as:

$$P[n, m] = \sum_i I_i[n - s_{xi}, m - s_{yi}]. \quad (6.3)$$

f) Repeating the Experiment for Different Templates

Now, we will exploit the fact that we can synthetically focus on different depths. To do this, select a new object as your template and repeat all the steps to generate an image that is focused on this new object. Here, we have selected the cup as our new object. For credit, generate a de-focused image with a different template object in focus.

3. Assessment

a) Deriving the Blur Kernel Width

The goal is to understand how much blur is synthetically added by using a model of pinhole cameras. Consider the coordinate diagram shown in Figure 6.3. Here, $[X_1, Z_1]$ is a scene point of an object in the template, $[X_2, Z_2]$ is a scene point of an object in the background and $C^{(i)}$ for $i = 1, \dots, k$ are positions of the apertures of cameras at which the scene is captured. The maximum camera translation is Δ and f is the focal length of the cameras (all are assumed to be the same).

We will use the shift-and-add method for light field imaging such that X_1 is the point in focus (i.e. as the "template" that we shift and add"). Derive a mathematical expression for the full-width half maximum (FWHM) of the blur kernel (W) applied to X_2 . Credit will be assessed both for technical correctness and the presentation of the derivation. You should not need figures, but are welcome to include them (Hint: Our solution to derive W was about a half page. To check your solution, if $Z_1 = Z_2$ the width of the blur kernel should be zero).

b) Blur Kernel Shape

Now that you have derived the FWHM of the blur kernel, please write the functional expression for the blur kernel. For example, is it a Gaussian blur?

c) Blur and Scene Depth

Plot the width of the blur kernel, W , as a function of the difference in depth planes, $|Z_2 - Z_1|$. Comment on the relationship between these variables.

d) Blur and Focal Length

Plot the width of the blur kernel, W , as a function of the focal length of the camera, f . Comment on the relationship between these variables.

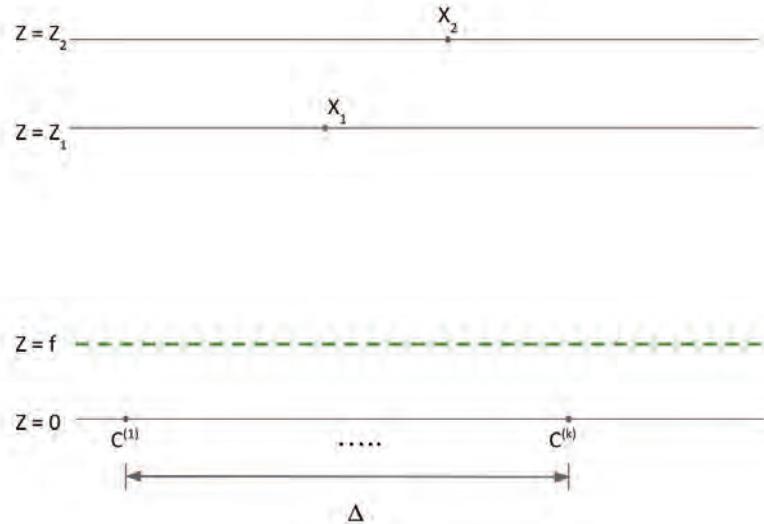


Figure 6.3: Example Coordinate System and Notation. In this figure, the dashed plane is the virtual film plane, placed one focal length *above* the apertures located at $C^{(1)}, \dots, C^{(k)}$. This is a common shorthand convention so we do not have to flip the camera images. In reality, the actual film plane would be one focal length *below* the aperture location. This coordinate system is used as a guide - you are welcome to modify as needed.

7

Polarimetric Imaging

In what follows, we will discuss coding strategies in *optical polarization* (hereafter, *polarization*). Computational coded imaging using polarization has spawned a variety of imaging systems with never-before-seen capabilities. Polarization images of synchrotron radiation around active galactic nuclei provide valuable insight into the physics of supermassive black holes Chael et al. (2016). Imaging systems have also been inspired by the vision systems of marine creatures, who use their polarization-based vision to enhance the contrast of their predators and navigate through the seas Powell et al. (2018). In this chapter we will discuss systems that can acquire 3D shape with unprecedented quality, analyze the stress and strain of a material, or enable lost travelers to navigate the seas.

7.1 Principles of Polarization

In this subsection, we define polarization 7.1.1 and then describe how it is leveraged in the context of coding 7.1.2 and information 7.1.3. The reader is also welcome to study Andreou and Kalayjian (2002); Walraven (1977); Hecht (2012) for additional introductions to polarization.

7.1.1 Formal Definition of Polarization

Recall that light is an electromagnetic wave, which means that it has an electric field and magnetic field component (Fig. 7.1a). Polarization refers to the orientation of the electric field of light. When describing polarization, by convention, we ignore the magnetic field orientation. The polarization can therefore be described by the plane in which the E-field oscillates within. Consider a light wave propagating in the $+z$ direction. The electric field will be confined in the $x - y$ plane, and have vector components E_x and E_y such that $\mathbf{E}(z) = \hat{\mathbf{x}}E_x + \hat{\mathbf{y}}E_y$. The relative phase and magnitudes of E_x and E_y as a function of time determine the polarization state.

Perhaps the simplest example of polarization is **linear polarization**, as shown in Fig. 7.1b. The electric field oscillates in a plane, and the orientation of that plane describes the

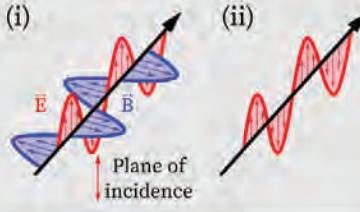
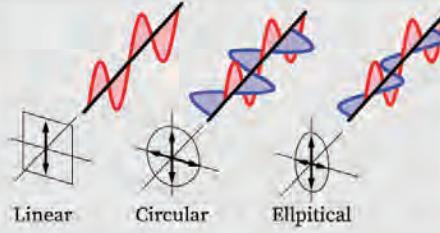
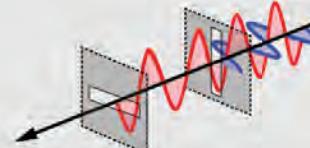
| | |
|---|---|
| <p>(a) (i) Light is an electromagnetic wave consisting of both an electric field and magnetic field vector (ii) When describing linear polarization, by convention we ignore the orientation of the Beta field and only consider the plane in which the Electric field oscillates within.</p> |  <p>(i) (ii)</p> <p>Plane of incidence</p> |
| <p>(b) Three types of optical polarization. Polarization is always described in terms of the electric field orientation, rather than the magnetic field. Note that both circular and elliptical polarization are defined in context of the addition of two electromagnetic waves of 90 degree phase offset while linear polarization can be understood in context of a single wave.</p> |  <p>Linear Circular Elliptical</p> |
| <p>(c) The plane of incidence contains the surface normal and the radiation. The p-polarized component oscillates within the plane of incidence, while s-polarized oscillates outside the plane of incidence.</p> |  <p>Plane of incidence</p> <p>incoming radiation</p> <p>polarized radiation</p> <p>reflected radiation</p> |
| <p>(d) (from right to left) Starting from an unpolarized light source, a polarizing filter is oriented in such a way that p-polarized light passes through. A second filter is oriented in a direction to block p-polarized light.</p> |  |

Figure 7.1: Electromagnetic Waves and Polarization. Polarization describes the oscillation of the electric field of an EM wave over time as it propagates through space.

linear polarization state. Another type of polarization is known as **circular polarization**. Intuitively, circular polarization occurs when the electric field vector changes its orientation as the light propagates through space. Please see Fig. 7.1b for an illustration of circular polarization. In contrast to linear polarization, this type of polarization is described when two electromagnetic plane waves add together. These two waves are identical except for a 90 degree difference in phase. The resultant electromagnetic wave has an electric field whose direction changes along the axis of propagation. We can plot the tip of the E-field as a circle when viewed axially.

The third foundational class of polarization is **elliptical polarization**. This type of polarization is merely a generalization of circular polarization where two electromagnetic plane waves have unequal amplitudes or a phase offset that is not 0 or 180 degrees. If the polarization is not circular or linear, then it is elliptical. The types of polarization states we have discussed so far are summarized in Fig. 7.1b.

The polarization can be decomposed into two orthogonal axes with respect to a **plane of incidence** (*i.e.*, when striking a material), seen in Fig. 7.1c. The **p-polarized** axis is parallel to the plane of incidence, while the **s-polarized** axis is perpendicular to the plane of incidence. This nomenclature stems from the German word for parallel, “parallel,” and the German word for perpendicular, “senkrecht.” It is common even for experts in the field to confuse the orientations of s-polarization and p-polarization. One helpful mnemonic is to remember that “p-polarization” is “in-plane.” The s- and p-polarized light can also be referred to as perpendicular and parallel polarized light, respectively.

We use this decomposition with respect to the plane of incidence to find a set of transmission and reflection coefficients known as the **Fresnel coefficients**. The s-polarized and p-polarized light behave differently at the interface of two media. In other words, the amount of light reflected and transmitted at the interface is dependent on the polarization states of the light. These coefficients are given by

$$\Gamma_{\perp} = \frac{\eta_2 \cos \theta_i - \eta_1 \cos \theta_t}{\eta_2 \cos \theta_i + \eta_1 \cos \theta_t}, \quad \tau_{\perp} = 1 + \Gamma_{\perp},$$

$$\Gamma_{\parallel} = \frac{\eta_2 \cos \theta_t - \eta_1 \cos \theta_i}{\eta_2 \cos \theta_t + \eta_1 \cos \theta_i}, \quad \tau_{\parallel} = (1 + \Gamma_{\parallel}) \frac{\cos \theta_i}{\cos \theta_t},$$

where Γ and τ are the reflection and transmission coefficients, corresponding to the proportion of incident light that is reflected and transmitted. η_1 and η_2 are impedances of the media, while θ_i and θ_t are the incident and transmitted angles of the wave, related together by Snell’s Law. The incident angle θ_i at which all parallel polarized light is transmitted (*i.e.*, $\Gamma_{\parallel} = 0, \tau_{\parallel} = 1$) is known as **Brewster’s angle**.

7.1.2 Coding with Polarization

The polarization state of light can be manipulated using polarizing filters. Suppose we have light that is initially **unpolarized**, meaning that it contains a mixture of both s-polarized and p-polarized light. Perhaps we want to filter out the s-polarization. A **polarizing filter** is a special material that can preferentially transmit light of a specific polarization state through. As shown in Fig. 7.1d, such a filter has a “vertical spacing” that allows p-polarized waves to pass. However, the s-polarized light cannot fit through the vertical spacing and is blocked. The resultant transmitted light is only p-polarized.

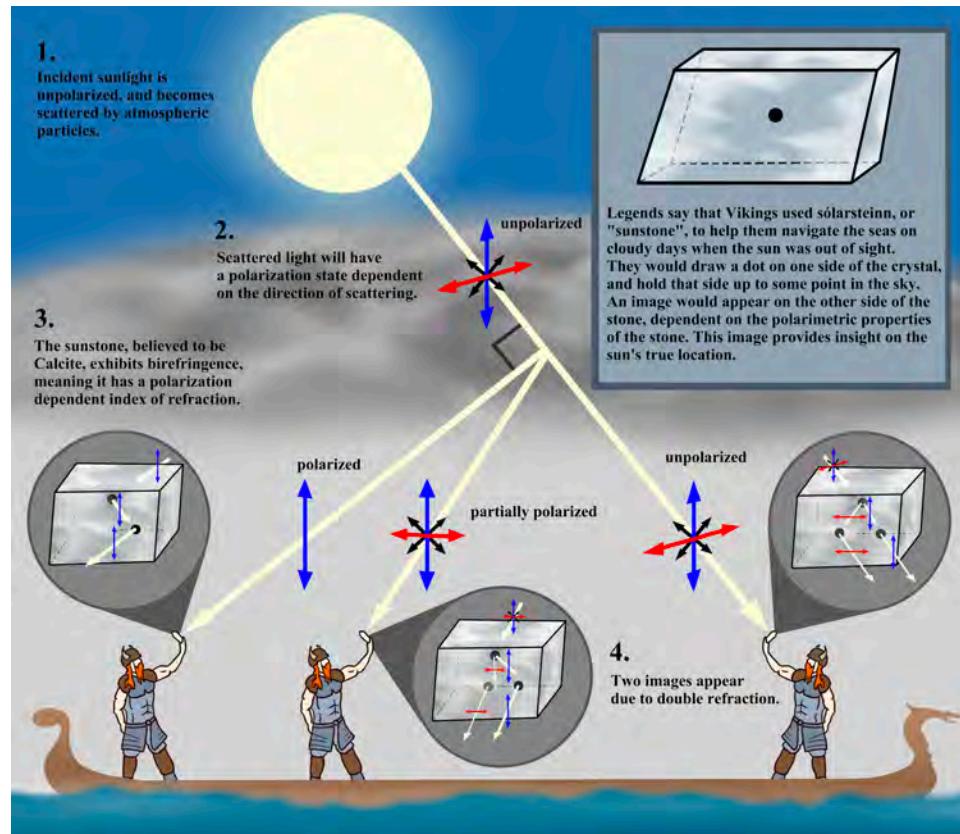


Figure 7.2: Vikings used what they referred to as the “sunstone” for navigating through the seas on cloudy days, when the sun was out of sight. Historians believe that this navigation was enabled by the polarimetric properties of the stone, believed to be Calcite.

Now, let us consider how circularly polarized light could be obtained. Recall from the previous subsection that in circularly polarized light, the s- and p-polarization states are of identical amplitude, but phase shifted by 90 degrees. A device known as a **waveplate** has a slightly different refractive index for light at s-polarization versus p-polarization. Therefore, it is possible to introduce a controllable phase shift to light at different polarization states. Circular polarization is commonly produced by first linearly polarizing an unpolarized beam (using a filter as described in Fig. 7.1d) and subsequently passing it through a quarter-wave plate. A **quarter-wave plate** introduces a phase shift of 90 degrees between the two polarization components.

Today, polarizing filters are among the simplest, most reliable, and most inexpensive way to obtain complex control of light. There are several categories of materials that have a

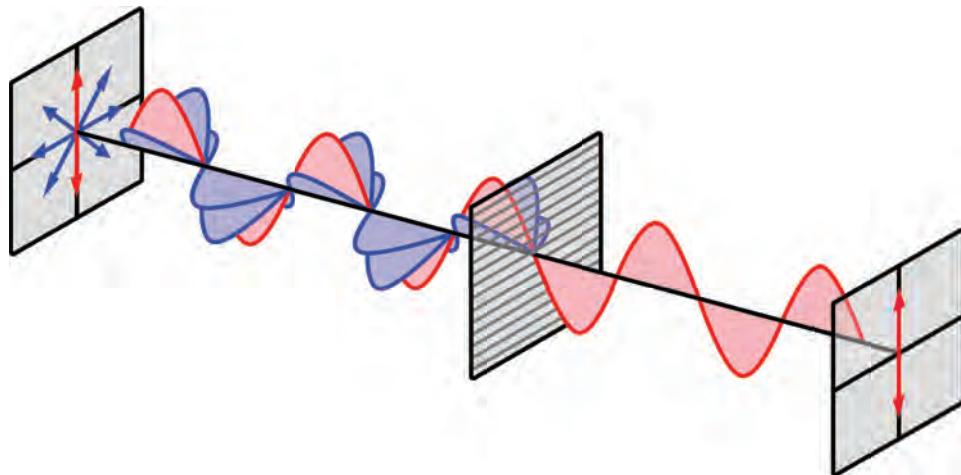


Figure 7.3: Wiregrid Polarizer. Light polarized perpendicular to the wires are transmitted. In other words, the transmission axis of the polarizer is perpendicular to the wires.

polarization-dependent behavior. The first approach is to use a **wiregrid polarizer** made of finely spaced parallel wires. Light polarized parallel to the wires will induce charge movement along the wires, causing energy dissipation. The result is the annihilation of the electric field component parallel to the wires, transmitting only polarization states perpendicular to the wires, as shown in Fig. 7.3. A second approach is to use a thin film coating applied to glass. This thin film is usually a fine layer of metal with anisotropic properties, fabricated carefully using principles from Fresnel coefficients for selective reflectance and transmittance. For a reference on polarization-based optical coatings, the reader is directed to Macleod (2005). Another type of polarizing filter is a piece of crystal with anisotropic properties. Such crystals can be found in nature and the light-material interactions fall under the field of **crystal optics**. For a more detailed reference on crystal optics, readers are directed to Yariv and Yeh (2006).

We use polarization filters in our everyday life. An ordinary liquid crystal display (LCD) uses polarization to adjust the brightness of each pixel. At the heart of the LCD is a crystal that acts as a polarization filter with controllable orientation (*e.g.*, through applied voltage or other control input). The amount of linearly polarized light that passes through the crystal is a function of the orientation of the crystal, and therefore a function of the control input (*e.g.*, applied voltage). This enables the display to have a different brightness at each pixel. It's not just 2D televisions that use polarization, but also 3D televisions at the movie theater. To obtain the sense of 3D, a display needs to transmit slightly different images to a human's left eye versus the right eye. A special television emits two different images, where one image is made up of s-polarized light and the other of p-polarized light. The use

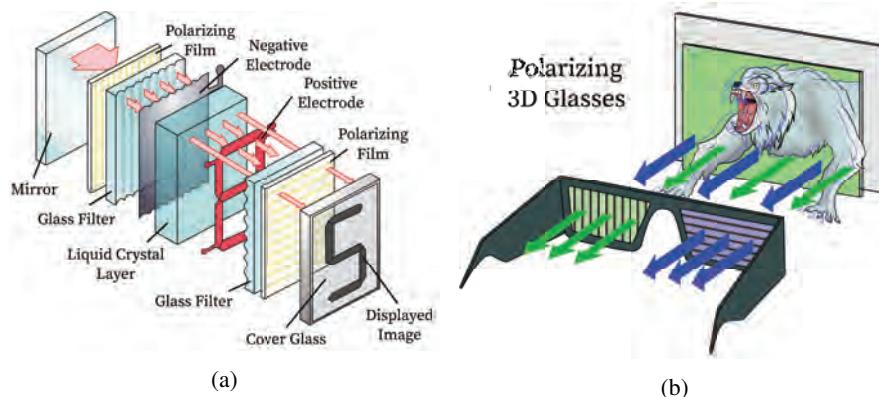


Figure 7.4: (a) Working Principles of Liquid Crystal Displays (LCD). (b) How 3D movies Are Projected.

of 3D glasses with s- and p-polarization filters enables the human visual system to receive different light. These concepts are shown in Fig. 7.4.

7.1.3 Information in Polarization

We have thus far described the elementary principles of polarization and the modulation of polarization state. Now, let us consider the information within polarization. Polarization is a rich source of information. It is perhaps helpful to separate polarimetric information into two types: “engineered information” and “natural information.”

Engineered information occurs when man-made systems forcibly transmit data across polarization channels. Fig. 7.4b demonstrates to us a simple example of such information multiplexing. At the movie theater, we see a display encoding different streams of video information at different polarization states. Such multiplexing of information across separable polarization states is routinely exploited in (fiber)-optical telecommunication systems, transmitting information by using two waves of separable polarization states. This could be s and p components, or left circular and right circular beams transmitted through an optical fiber. For further details, we direct readers to the term “polarization-division multiplexing” (PDM) and the text by Damask, “Polarization Optics in Telecommunications” Damask (2004).

Natural information represents the information that the physical world encodes into the polarization state. For example, sunlight is partially polarized and changes based on the time of day, bearing and concentration of the atmosphere. Measuring the polarization state can enable one to estimate their bearing, as the ancient Vikings did in the 7th century. See Fig. 7.2 for an example of how Vikings used a Calcite crystal for navigation in a time preceding the magnetic compass. Photographs can use a similar polarization effect

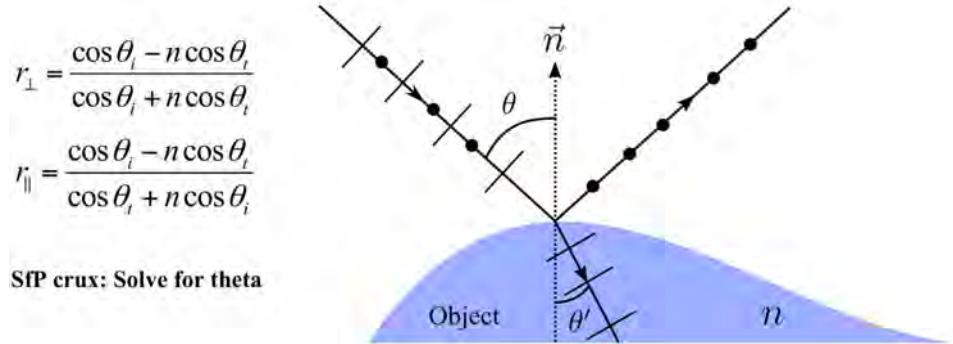


Figure 7.5: Shape from Polarization Problem. We can determine the surface normal if we have information about the reflected polarization and the materials index of refraction.

to increase the contrast of clouds in the sky. Deep sea animals like the mantis shrimp have a polarization sensitive vision system, perhaps to enhance the contrast of their prey underwater. Now, let's take a journey above water. On a sunny day, a sailor might be bothered by the glare off the surface of a placid lake. The glare is a polarized reflection that can be removed through a polarization filter, revealing the background underneath the water. The stress and strain of a material can also be imaged through polarization cues.

Although visually appealing, the interaction between polarization and the scene can be quite complex. Even the seemingly simple reflection of light involves an intricate geometry, material and polarization. An illustration of this is shown in Fig. 7.5. Here, the object is in blue and has two properties of interest. First it has a refractive index n and a local geometry, described by a surface normal \vec{N} . When light strikes the surface at an angle θ wrt. the surface normal, there is a change in the polarization state. For instance, in the figure, the incident light has both s and p-polarization, while the reflected light has s-polarization and the transmitted light has p-polarization (the dots mean that the oscillation is out of the incident plane and the hashes mean it is within the incident plane). A very famous problem known as *shape from polarization* in computer vision uses measurements of the polarization state of the incident and reflected light to estimate \vec{N} , a proxy for shape.

If polarized light is shined upon a surface, for almost any angle, a “specular” or mirror-like reflection will be linearly polarized at some angle θ . This angle can be filtered out to remove glare. A technique known as **cross-polarization** leverages this principle. As shown in Fig. 7.6, two crossed filters are used to remove glare. The first filter vertically polarizes the light and the mirror-like reflection will therefore be vertically polarized. The light that one is interested in (*e.g.*, from the diffuse reflections), will have a varied polarization state, this will be discussed in detail in Section 7.5.1. Simply filtering out the mirror-like

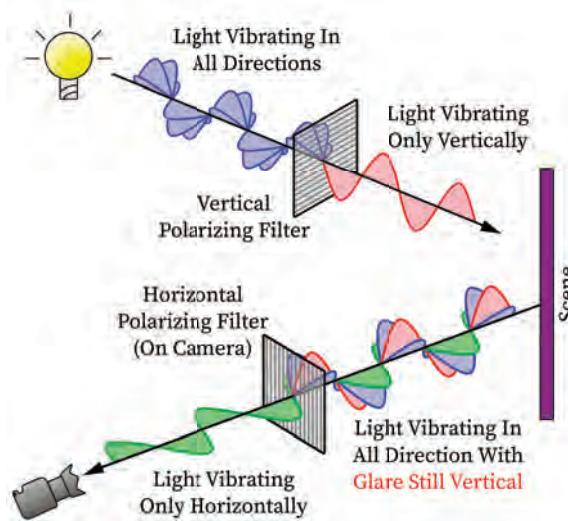


Figure 7.6: Glare removal using cross polarization.

reflection by using a horizontal polarizer will eliminate glare. Cross-polarization generates compelling results and is used commercially by art photographers.

7.2 Full Stokes Imaging

7.2.1 Parametrization of Polarization

The polarization state of any light wave (polarized or not) can be compactly expressed as a single vector quantity known as the **Stokes vector**. The Stokes vector contains 4 components (S_0, S_1, S_2, S_3). The vector (S_0, S_1, S_2) describe the linear polarization of the wave, while S_3 describes the circular polarization of the wave. Each parameter can be extracted as intensity measurements (I_0, I_1, I_2, I_3) of the light passing through one of four different polarization filters. I_0 is measured by feeding the light through a filter that indiscriminately absorbs half the energy of all polarization states. I_1 is measured by a linear polarization filter at 0° , I_2 is measured by a linear polarization filter at 45° , and I_3 is measured by a right-hand circular polarized filter. Each of the four filters attenuates approximately half of the incident intensity. Without considering the transmittance of the polarization filter for simplicity, the Stokes parameters are then given by

$$S_0 = 2I_0,$$

$$S_1 = 2I_1 - 2I_0,$$

$$S_2 = 2I_2 - 2I_0,$$

$$S_3 = 2I_3 - 2I_0.$$

These four Stokes parameters are rather informative in how light will interact with a certain medium. Suppose light is propagating in medium 1 with electric field $E_i(z, t)$. This light is then incident on medium 2, and the transmitted electric field is given by $E_t(z, t)$. $E_i(z, t)$ and $E_t(z, t)$ have corresponding Stokes vectors \mathbf{S}_i and \mathbf{S}_t . We can relate these two Stokes vectors together by what is known as a **Mueller Matrix**. Every optical media has a Mueller matrix which describes how incident light will be transformed in an optical media, with respect to its polarization states. Matrix multiplication of the Mueller matrix with \mathbf{S}_i yields \mathbf{S}_t , providing a full understanding of how the polarization state is affected between the two media. The reader is directed to Hecht (2012) for examples of Mueller matrices in different optical media.

If we know the Stokes vector for every pixel in an image, we are subsequently able to characterize the geometrical, chemical, and physical properties of scene surfaces. The first three parameters are often useful for improving visibility in scattering media, while the last parameter is often used for improving contrast of images. These parameters also enable understanding of the surface smoothness, shape, size, color, and orientation.

Another useful way to represent light waves is through the **Poincaré sphere**. If we neglect S_0 , we can plot the latter 3 terms of Stokes vector as a point contained within a 3D sphere. By dividing (S_1, S_2, S_3) by S_0 , we obtain the normalized Stokes components (S'_1, S'_2, S'_3) , which we can plot along in 3D cartesian space, centered at the origin. (S'_1, S'_2, S'_3) can be plotted as (x, y, z) , respectively. The $+z$ -axis refers to right circularly polarized light, while the $-z$ -axis refers to left circularly polarized light. All points along a circle for a given z value have the same ellipticity, but at a different orientation angle. Therefore, at $z = 0$, the polarization is linear.

7.2.2 Measuring Stokes Parameters

Imaging systems typically only capture a subset of the Stokes parameters, depending on the application. Imagers that do capture the full Stokes vector utilize a combination of sensors, controlled linear polarizers, retarders, and computing hardware. The most primitive of setups measures a scene using 4 different polarization filters, with a retarder appended to the fourth filter to measure circularly polarized light. The problem with these setups is that they typically require capture of multiple images, which becomes challenging for dynamic scenes. We will explore some alternative methods to obtain a full Stokes image.

One such way to efficiently obtain the Stokes parameters is by placing a **micropolarimeter array** in front of the focal plane. A micropolarimeter array will have a micropolarizer element at a given orientation in front of each pixel, filtering only light in that polarization state, as shown in Fig. 7.7. Thus, each pixel senses exactly one polarization state. The other polarization states for that pixel are interpolated using the intensities from neighboring pixels, which measure intensities from different polarization states. This process is

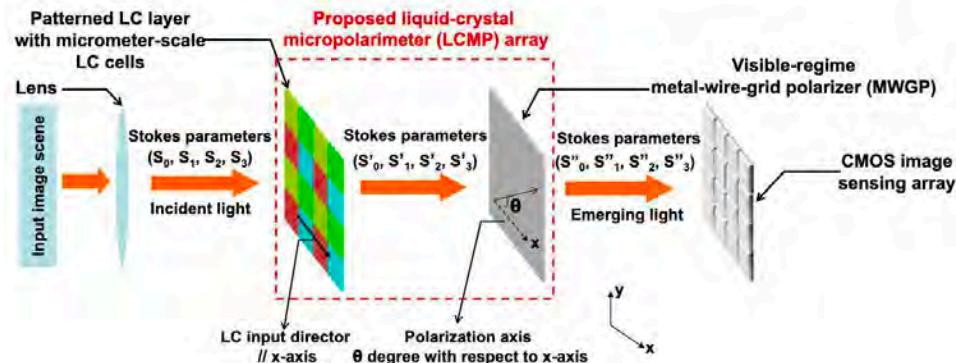


Figure 7.7: Full Stokes Imaging With a Micropolarimeter Array Zhao et al. (2010).

analogous to demosaicing the intensity output from a Bayer filter into an RGB image. Such micropolarimeter arrays are also fabricated using industry standard complementary metal-oxide semiconductor (CMOS) fabrication processes, making them easy to manufacture on a single chip.

When designing such an integrated polarization imaging system, there are three key components: optical components, polarizing elements, and photodetectors. Fig. 7.7 shows the image capture schematic for such a setup. Light is first directed from a scene into a patterned liquid crystal layer, which acts as either a polarization rotator, retarder, or neutral density filter. A metal-wire-grid polarizer then selectively allows certain polarization states to pass through to the focal plane array. As we see in Fig. 7.7, the Stokes vector changes as it passes through each optical element. We can determine the Mueller matrix for each element, and properly invert the matrices to obtain the original pixel-wise Stokes vector as it enters the micropolarimeter Zhao et al. (2010). For information on how intensity measurements with polarization filters are calibrated to yield Stokes parameters, the reader is directed to Vedel et al. (2011) and Zhang et al. (2013).

When we want to capture the full Stokes vector, we typically need a minimum of 4 measurements. Provided these 4 measurements are not coplanar in the Poincaré sphere, these measurements are sufficient to fully characterize the polarization of the light. Fig. 7.8 shows a representation of two different ways to capture the Stokes parameters. Fig. 7.8a depicts measurements consistent with the way we defined the Stokes parameters above.

When we consider the design of the micropolarimeter array above, it is important to consider the implications of the “demosaicing”, or interpolation, process in which we extract the Stokes parameters by interpolating neighboring pixel values. The space occupied by the 4 measurements only takes up a quarter of the sphere’s volume. This is problematic, since the SNR is proportional to the volume occupied by the four points on the Poincaré sphere.

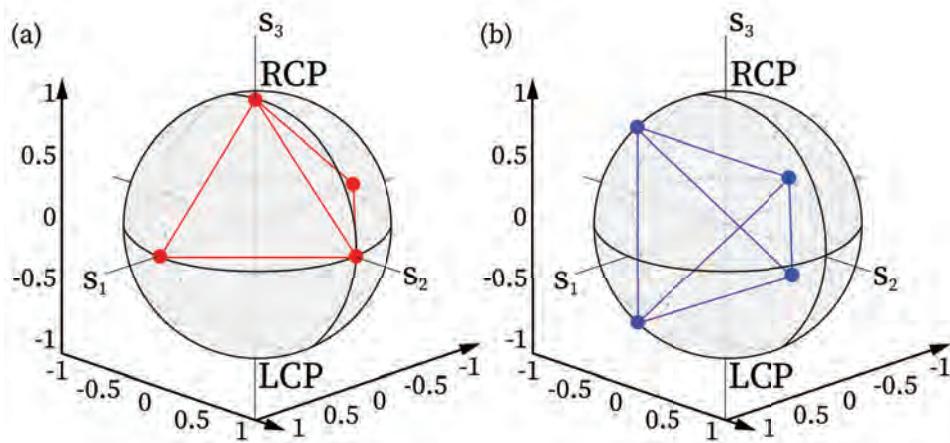


Figure 7.8: Poincaré Representation of Polarization. (a) Polarization measurements consistent with the definition of Stokes parameters vs. (b) A more robust measurement scheme for determining Stokes parameters with high SNR.

Therefore, measurements at points shown in Fig. 7.8b would yield a better SNR for the Stokes vector reconstruction. These points form a tetrahedron inside the Poincaré sphere, and correspond to four elliptical polarizers.

Points that are offset along the S_3 axis are measurements made using a combination of a microretarder and a micropolarizer. The more points inside the Poincaré sphere, the more volume occupied and the better the SNR is. However, for practical considerations, we are restricted to fewer measurements Hsu et al. (2014).

7.3 3D Shape Reconstruction

As alluded to before, the polarization state of light often changes as it reflects off of surfaces, depending on the geometry and index of refraction of the surface. The polarization state can be measured to determine the surface normal \vec{N} , which is then used as a proxy for the local shape of the object. Consumer cameras like Microsoft Kinect measure depth maps of their surroundings, but are heavily impacted by noise. To an extent, this noise can be computationally reduced, but filtering noise will also filter away detail. This is where natural information from polarization can come into play. Polarization can also be particularly useful for analyzing the shape of glossy surfaces, in which the specular reflection is significant. As we will see in Section 7.5.1, specular reflections have certain exploitable polarimetric properties Koshikawa (1979).

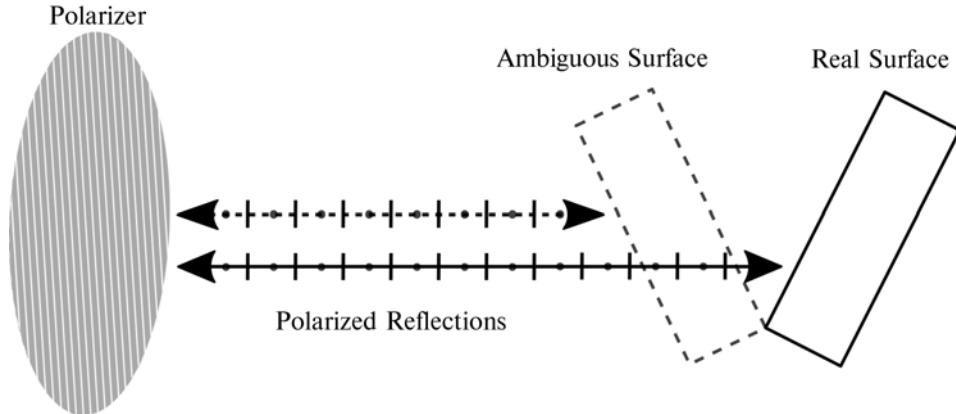


Figure 7.9: Azimuthal Model Mismatch in Shape from Polarization Ba et al. (2020).

There is, however, a key issue with relying exclusively on polarization measurements for shape information, known as **azimuthal ambiguity**. At some polarizer orientation φ_{pol} , the measured intensity, assuming unpolarized light, can be modeled as

$$I(\varphi_{\text{pol}}) = \frac{I_{\max} + I_{\min}}{2} + \frac{I_{\max} - I_{\min}}{2} \cos(2(\varphi_{\text{pol}} - \phi)),$$

where ϕ is the angle of polarization. Both ϕ and $\phi + \pi$ can satisfy the above equation, leading to ambiguity that can cause reconstruction errors. Once ϕ is recovered, the azimuth angle can be recovered. The uncertainty in measuring the azimuth angle φ is related to the surface reflectance, in what we term **azimuthal model mismatch**. A measured azimuthal component can result in two different surface normals, offset by $\pi/2$, as shown in Fig. 7.9. A common assumption is that if the intensity is dominated by diffuse reflections, then $\varphi = \phi$. If the reflection is dominated by specularity, $\varphi = \phi - \pi/2$.

Meanwhile, the zenith component θ of the reflection can be calculated from the degree of polarization ρ using Fresnel Equations, assuming the index of refraction of the material is known.

$$\rho = \frac{\left(n - \frac{1}{n}\right)^2 \sin^2 \theta}{2 + 2n^2 - \left(n + \frac{1}{n}\right)^2 \sin^2 \theta + 4 \cos \theta \sqrt{n^2 - \sin^2 \theta}}.$$

However, the refractive index is often unknown and approximations are often used, a common one being $n = 1.5$, resulting in **refractive distortion**. Up to this point, the described method of obtaining surface normals falls under the category of **shape from polarization (SfP)**. A reconstructed surface normal image using SfP cues are shown in Fig. 7.10c. While the shape does resemble the approximate shape of the cup, we can clearly

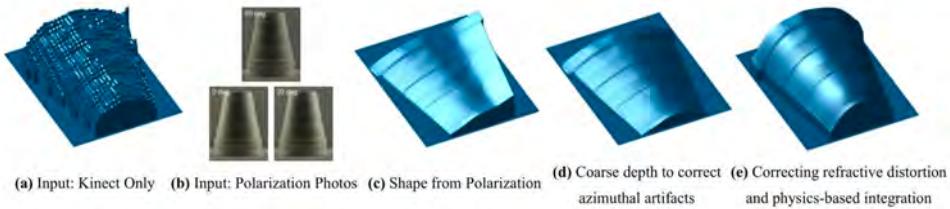


Figure 7.10: Shape Reconstruction Using Polarization Cues Kadambi et al. (2015).

see a distinction from the ground truth. This discrepancy is caused by refractive distortion and azimuthal ambiguity.

The depth maps are far too noisy, while polarization information still has some shape ambiguity. However, both these information channels can be fused strategically to yield high quality surface normals. We will now consider a depth-normal fusion, a method known as **Polarized 3D**, to deal with the azimuthal ambiguity Kadambi et al. (2015). We will denote our depth map as $\mathbf{N}^{\text{depth}} \in \mathbb{R}^{M \times N}$ and our surface normals from polarization as $\mathbf{N}^{\text{polar}} \in \mathbb{R}^{M \times N \times 3}$, assuming there are 3 measured polarization images. To deal with azimuthal ambiguities as shown in Fig. 7.10c, we search for a binary operator \mathcal{A} to solve for the optimization problem

$$\widehat{\mathcal{A}} = \arg \min_{\mathcal{A}} \|\mathbf{N}^{\text{depth}} - \mathcal{A} [\mathbf{N}^{\text{polar}}]\|_2^2.$$

The binary operation corresponds to either rotating the azimuth angle by π or not rotating. Solving such an optimization deals with the azimuthal ambiguity and yields a corrected normal image $\mathbf{N}^{\text{corr}} = \widehat{\mathcal{A}} [\mathbf{N}^{\text{polar}}]$. Since the coarse depth map consists of low-frequency information, it cannot correct higher frequency ambiguities. To deal with high-frequency azimuthal ambiguity, the shape inside the high-frequency region is often assumed to be convex. The output after dealing with azimuthal ambiguity is shown in Fig. 7.10d.

Finally, we must deal with refractive distortion, caused by the earlier $n = 1.5$ assumption. While this assumption works relatively well for dielectric surfaces, the zenith angle becomes noticeably distorted in the presence of non-dielectrics. We selectively make modifications to regions of the image using $\mathbf{N}^{\text{depth}}$ and \mathbf{N}^{corr} as criteria. For a given point, if the depth map and polarization data both have low divergence, then we can use the surface normal predicted by $\mathbf{N}^{\text{depth}}$. This suggests that there is no high frequency detail in that region. However, if one of the maps has high divergence, it suggests that there is fine detail in that region.

For a small patch P in the image, we search for a rotation operator $\widehat{\mathcal{R}}_P$ that solves the following optimization problem

$$\widehat{\mathcal{R}}_P = \arg \min_{\mathcal{R}} \sum_{i=1}^P \mathbf{M}_{x_i, y_i} \left| \theta_{x_i, y_i}^{\text{depth}} - \mathcal{R} [\theta_{x_i, y_i}^{\text{corr}}] \right|^2,$$

where \mathbf{M}_{x_i, y_i} is a binary mask corresponding to the divergence criteria described above, and $\theta_{x_i, y_i}^{\text{depth}}$ and $\theta_{x_i, y_i}^{\text{corr}}$ are the zenith angles obtained from $\mathbf{N}^{\text{depth}}$ and \mathbf{N}^{corr} , respectively. Note that we work with patches here, since the problem is spatially varying. Applying the $\widehat{\mathcal{R}}_P$ operator to every patch yields a surface normal corrected for refractive distortion, which we can use to extract the shape of the object. The 3D shape can be obtained by integrating the depth maps with the surface normals, as shown in Fig. 7.10d (Kadambi and Raskar (2017)). Ba et al. (2020) expand on these physics-based polarization models, introducing a polarization-learning fusion to solve the azimuthal ambiguity, dubbed "Deep SfP".

Structured light, made possible by active illumination, is also another successful way that has enabled 3D image reconstruction. The temporal and spatial coding of the illumination source, as discussed in a previous chapter, provide another useful dimension to approximating the plenoptic function. However, using structured light is still vulnerable to complex, difficult to model ambient noise. It is useful to consider the fact that light behaves differently at different surfaces depending on the polarization. However, an active polarization-based approach would be even more robust, since ambient polarization cues are often approximated and can be weak.

Many intensity-based structured light systems incorporate **Gray code (GC) patterns**, in which the light pattern is encoded as either 0 for dark or 1 for bright. Whether spatially or temporally coded, the forward image model is inverted, and signals that have a weak response to the GC intensity modulation are filtered out. Similarly, we can encode the horizontal polarization state as 1 and vertical polarization state as 0. The use of polarization adds another layer of information to normal intensity-based coding, by providing information about the surface of the objects. For spatial modulation, we can use a micropolarimeter, while for temporal modulation we can use liquid crystal polarizers Huang et al. (2017).

Another way to extract the shape for objects is by using the Stokes parametrization. Often, many setups discard the circularly polarized parameter to keep the imaging system cheap and/or compact. However, for many dielectric materials, there is a non-negligible circular polarization component that contains valuable surface normal information. One possible source of this circularly polarized light can be from subsurface scattering. Generally subsurface scattering is neglected, but accounting for it can improve model accuracy. The **Stokes reflectance field** is defined as the Stokes vector that results from the interaction of

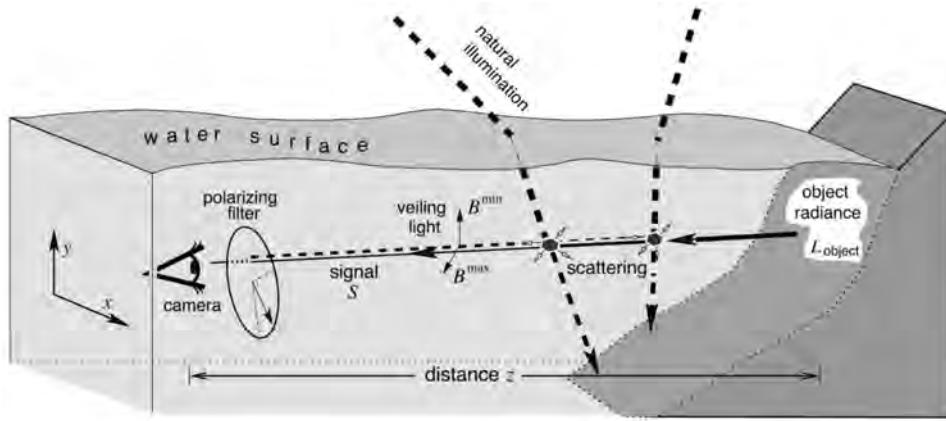


Figure 7.11: Image Formation Model for Passive Polarization Imaging. Reprinted from Schechner and Karpel (2005).

light with some medium, for every surface normal direction. The use of a Stokes reflectance field enables direct mapping from a pixelwise measured Stokes vector to a surface normal.

The complexity of scattering mechanisms at the interface between two different media can be difficult to precisely model. That is, it is difficult to find a Mueller matrix that fully captures this behavior. One way to go around this is to experimentally determine the Stokes parameters for some known surface (*e.g.*, a sphere) under unpolarized light. This data is then used as a reference for future data measurements. To account for differences in specular albedo and scattering, the maximum of $\sqrt{(S'_1)^2 + (S'_2)^2}$ and S'_3 is scaled appropriately to match the maximum of the reference measurement. Note the S' denotes the Stokes vector after interacting with the surface. Such first-order correction works well for surfaces with a wide range of surface normals. The surface normal can be calculated using the degree of polarization. The improvement occurs because other methods calculate the degree of polarization by assuming $S'_3 = 0$ (Guarnera et al. (2012)).

7.4 Imaging Through Scattering Media

Imaging through scattering media like fog, haze, and water are crucial for a number of commercial and scientific applications, including autonomous driving, marine exploration, navigation, and photography. Back-scatter quickly degrades the visibility of images located far away from the camera in such environments. It is also desirable to not have to model the scattering mechanisms causing these degradations, as they can be complex and highly dependent on factors like time of day, weather, and location. These scattering mechanisms

often have a polarization signature, which can be used to filter away these unwanted components Treibitz and Schechner (2008).

7.4.1 Underwater Imaging

One key challenge with underwater imaging is that the image degradation caused by scattering is spatially varying, since objects are different distances away from the camera. This makes image processing tools like median filtering and histogram equalization ineffective, since these algorithms assume spatially invariant noise. One way to deal with this is by using an image formation model based on polarization images. Fig. 7.11 depicts the passive imaging model.

In this passively illuminated setup, the measured signal is a composition of two components: the direct transmission and the forward scattering. As light propagates along the z -axis towards the camera, the direct transmission, given by

$$D(x, y) = L_{\text{object}}(x, y) e^{-cz},$$

is light that will reach the camera without being scattered or absorbed. L_{object} is the intensity that would be measured at the camera if the signal is unattenuated, while $c = a + b$ is the attenuation coefficient, where a is the absorption coefficient and b is the total scattering coefficient of the medium (*i.e.*, water). The scattering component is forward scattered light that deviates from the lights axis of propagation by some angle θ . This causes blur, which we can model as a convolution

$$F(x, y) = D(x, y) * g_z(x, y),$$

where $g_z(x, y)$ is the point spread function (PSF) of the blur. Note that the PSF is z -dependent, since light will scatter more the farther it has to travel. Therefore, we can model the total measured signal as

$$\mathbf{S} = \mathbf{D} + \mathbf{F} = e^{-cz} (\mathbf{L}_{\text{object}} + \mathbf{L}_{\text{object}} * \mathbf{g}_z).$$

Interestingly, however, image degradation from underwater images are more affected by **veiling light** than by image blur. Veiling light is ambient light scattered toward the camera. It is not light considered to be part of the image-forming process. We use the fact that veiling light is partially polarized to algorithmically remove this component.

Under ordinary lighting conditions, the veiling light (*i.e.*, the sun) would be unpolarized. However, as shown in Fig. 7.12, the illumination source is above water, meaning there exists an “**optical manhole**,” such that an observer can only see a small portion of the scene above water, caused by total internal reflection. This means that the angle at which the source reaches the scattering particles in the line of sight of the camera is restricted. Due

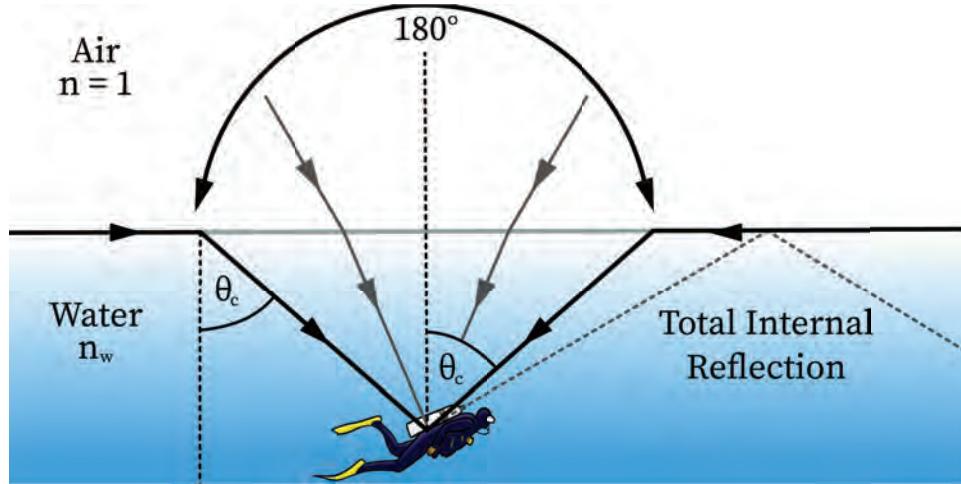


Figure 7.12: Snell's Window (Optical Manhole). Total internal reflection past the critical angle creates only a small window visible from underwater.

to this anisotropy of irradiance, the veiling is partially polarized. The deeper the image is captured in the water, the more the veiling is polarized.

Using two different polarizers, we can now measure two images at polarizer orientations corresponding to the minimum and maximum intensity. From these measurements, we can apply image processing algorithms to recover the veiling light and remove it from the image Schechner and Karpel (2005). This reconstruction process is similar to that done in dehazing problems, which we will discuss in Section 7.4.2.

We now consider the integration of stereo vision and polarization imaging for underwater imaging as shown in Fig. 7.13. Each of the two cameras captures a different polarization state. The use of stereo cues enables the computation of distance to objects, while the polarization allows filtering of backscatter. We assume that in the absence of polarizers, the cameras will capture a linear superposition of the object signal $S(\mathbf{x}_{\text{obj}})$ and the backscatter $B(\mathbf{x}_{\text{obj}})$.

$$I(\mathbf{x}_{\text{obj}}) = S(\mathbf{x}_{\text{obj}}) + B(\mathbf{x}_{\text{obj}}).$$

The measured signal at a point \mathbf{x}_{obj} in a scene is given by

$$S(\mathbf{x}_{\text{obj}}) = L_{\text{obj}}(\mathbf{x}_{\text{obj}}) F_{\text{obj}}(\mathbf{x}_{\text{obj}}),$$

where $L_{\text{obj}}(\mathbf{x}_{\text{obj}})$ is the attenuated intensity of \mathbf{x}_{obj} and $F_{\text{obj}}(\mathbf{x}_{\text{obj}})$ is the **falloff function**. The falloff function is a function of an attenuation constant c , the distance to the object R_{src} , and inhomogeneities $Q(\mathbf{x}_{\text{obj}})$ in the illumination source. It provides us with insight into the irradiation attenuation as light propagates from the source to the object, and back

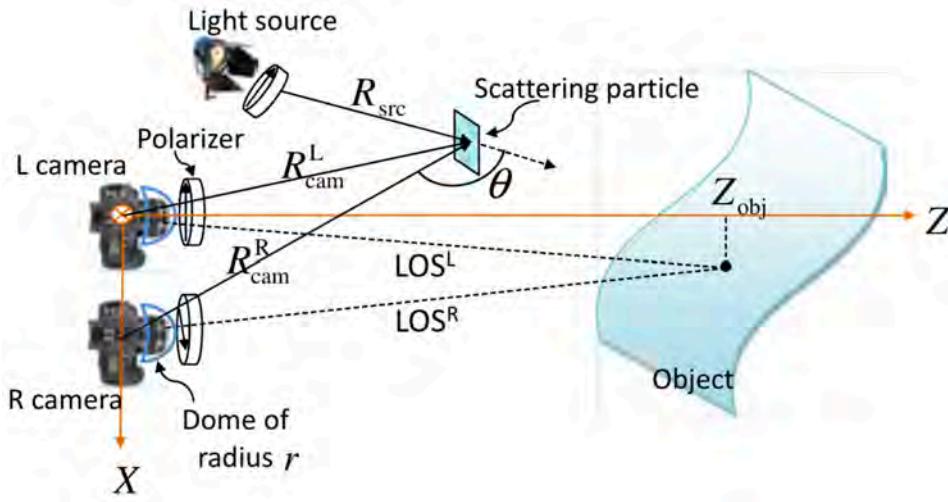


Figure 7.13: Stereovision and Polarization for Underwater Imaging. The use of stereo enables video rate capture of polarization images underwater Sarafraz et al. (2009).

to the camera. $B(\mathbf{x}_{obj})$ is similarly a function of c, θ (as shown in Fig. 7.13), and $Q(\mathbf{x}_{obj})$, but is different from $S(\mathbf{x}_{obj})$. Using expressions for $S(\mathbf{x}_{obj})$ and $B(\mathbf{x}_{obj})$, derived with the geometries of the left and right cameras, we obtain expressions for the input intensities for each of the cameras (L and R) as

$$\begin{aligned} I^L(\mathbf{x}_{obj}^L) &= S^L(\mathbf{x}_{obj}^L) + B^L(\mathbf{x}_{obj}^L), \\ I^R(\mathbf{x}_{obj}^R) &= S^R(\mathbf{x}_{obj}^R) + B^R(\mathbf{x}_{obj}^R). \end{aligned}$$

The use of polarization in this setup also enables backscatter modulation by removing **degeneracy**. Since the backscatter is partially polarized, and the object radiance is unpolarized, the polarization filters are able to modulate the backscatter, without modulating the signal Sarafraz et al. (2009). This backscatter removal can be removed by using coordinate adjustments (needed due to the stereo setup) and image models described in Section 7.4.2.

7.4.2 Imaging Through Haze and Fog

As mentioned earlier, image degradation effects caused by haze are very strongly a function of the distance to the object being imaged. The further away the object, the more light that gets scattered along the optical path between the object and the camera. In a hazy image, an image consists of **airlight** (natural illumination scattered towards the observer by aerosol particles) and **direct illumination**, which is the scene radiance that would be observed in the absence of haze. To enhance an image in haze, we seek to remove the airlight and correct for the attenuation caused by absorption and scattering. Similar to the imaging

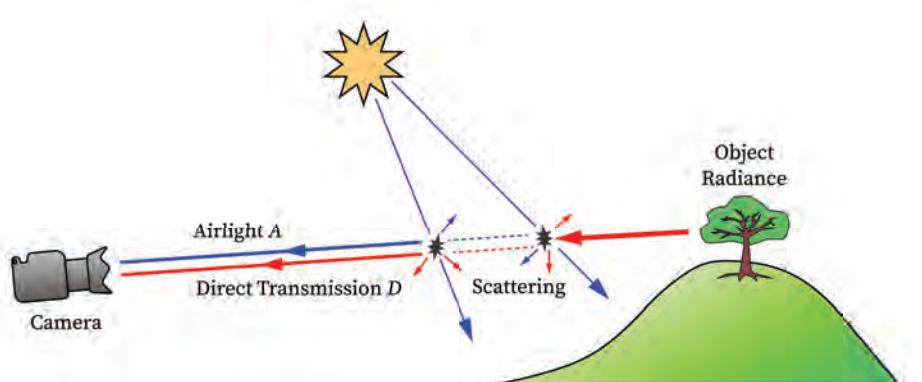


Figure 7.14: Image Formation Model For Dehazing. The airlight has certain polarimetric properties, which are leveraged to be removed from the image.

through water problem, the dehazing problem has an image formation model as shown in Fig. 7.14.

Let us start by defining the plane of incidence in this case as the plane formed by the vector from the source to the scattering particle and the vector connecting the particle and the camera. The airlight is divided into two polarization components parallel and perpendicular to this plane A_{\parallel} and A_{\perp} . In Rayleigh scattering, when the size of the particles is small with respect to the light, $A_{\perp} \geq A_{\parallel}$. When larger haze particles cause the scattering, $A_{\perp} < A_{\parallel}$. We therefore can model the airlight as

$$A = A_{\infty} [1 - t(z)] = A_{\perp} + A_{\parallel},$$

where A_{∞} is the airlight radiance for an object infinitely far away, and $t(z)$ is the transmittance of the light a distance z away, defined by Beer-Lambert Law. The degree of polarization ρ of the airlight is a strong function of the viewing and illumination direction, and given by

$$\rho = (A_{\perp} - A_{\parallel}) / A.$$

Notationally, we define A_{\parallel} to be the lowest intensity measured and A_{\perp} to be the highest measured intensity with a linear polarizer. If $\rho = 1$, then the airlight can easily be optically filtered out. However, this only occurs in the restricted situation where the scattering aerosols are small and the illumination is normal to the viewing direction. In spite of this, we can still algorithmically take advantage of the fact that the airlight is partially polarized. The degree of polarization must still be relatively high though, so such an algorithm may not be as effective in fog, where multiple scattering will cause **depolarization**. Depolarization is the reduction of the degree of polarization.

Meanwhile, the direct transmission can be modeled as

$$D = L_{\text{object}} t(z),$$

where L_{object} is the radiance that would be sensed by the camera if there was no attenuation. We also assume that D has negligible polarization (*i.e.*, unpolarized). Note that this assumption does not hold for specular surfaces, but if the object is far enough, the specular component will still contribute a negligible polarization. This means that the polarization filters will modulate the airlight more than the direct component, as mentioned earlier.

We know that the image (without polarizers) is a superposition of the direct transmission and airlight. When we add a polarizer at an orientation α that attenuates the most airlight, our measured intensity can be modeled as

$$I_{\parallel} = D/2 + A_{\parallel}.$$

Similarly, the polarizer orientation that transmits the most airlight can be modeled as

$$I_{\perp} = D/2 + A_{\perp}.$$

A depiction of this concept can be seen in Fig. 7.15. We refer to the most and least attenuation as the “best state” and “worst state” respectively. Fig. 7.15 depicts an example of two images captured at the best and worst state. Note that these images are not significantly different in quality. We can estimate A_{\perp} and A_{\parallel} to be

$$\begin{aligned} A_{\parallel} &= A(1 - p)/2, \\ A_{\perp} &= A(1 + p)/2. \end{aligned}$$

We know from Fig. 7.16 that optical filtering doesn’t suffice for such a scene due to partial polarization, so we now apply a spatially varying algorithm. Combining the above equations, we obtain an estimate for the airlight \widehat{A}

$$\widehat{A} = (\widehat{I}_{\perp} - \widehat{I}_{\parallel})/p.$$

Using this, we obtain an estimate for an image removed of airlight \widehat{D}

$$\widehat{D} = \widehat{I}_{\perp} + \widehat{I}_{\parallel} + \widehat{A}.$$

Finally, we account for the spatially varying attenuation by approximating the transmission \widehat{t} as

$$\widehat{t} = 1 - \widehat{A}/A_{\infty}.$$

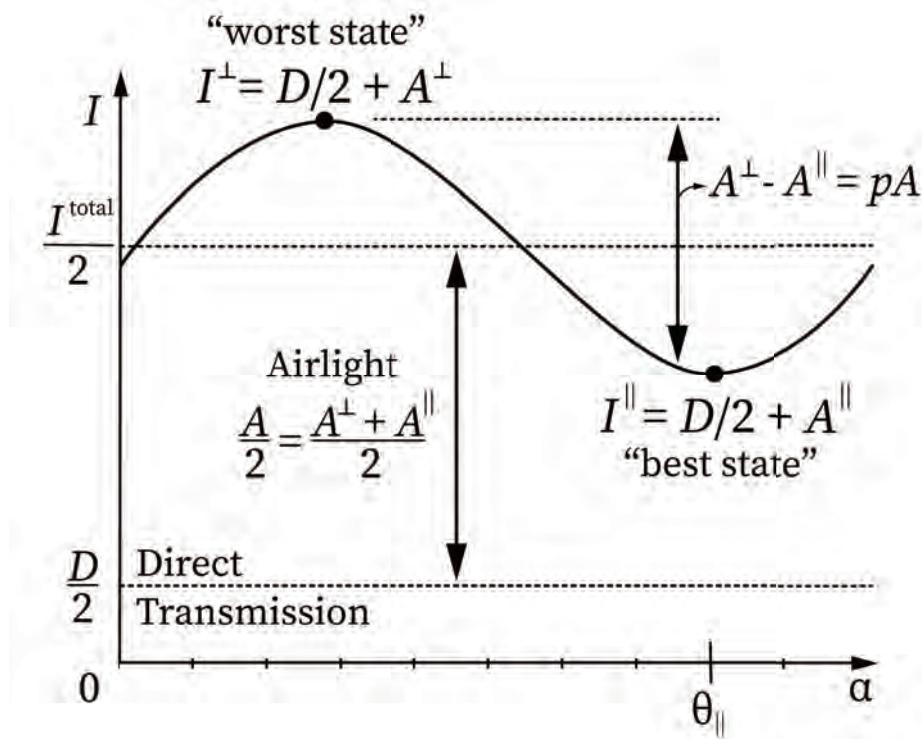


Figure 7.15: Contributions of Airlight and Direct Transmission Intensities. The polarization filter modulates the airlight and scattered light, but not the directly transmitted light. We leverage this fact to remove scatter and enhance the image.

Finally, our dehazed image \hat{L}_{object} is given by

$$\hat{L}_{\text{object}} = \frac{\hat{D}}{t} = \frac{\hat{I}_{\perp} + \hat{I}_{\parallel} - \hat{A}}{1 - \hat{A}/A_{\infty}}.$$

The dehazed image is shown in Fig. 7.16 (Schechner et al. (2003)).

So far, we have considered the case where the airlight is polarized, but not the scene radiance. This assumption does not always hold. In reality, both the polarizations of the airlight and the object radiance contribute to the overall polarization of the scene. To account for both these polarizations, we consider the full Stokes vector at each pixel. For a partially polarized beam, we can consider its Stokes vector to be a superposition of a Stokes vector of a polarized beam and a Stokes vector of an unpolarized beam.



Figure 7.16: Image Dehazing Using Polarization and Physics-Based Models Schechner et al. (2003).

For the outlined method, we neglect S_3 since circular polarization is not prominent in natural scenes. The degree ρ^λ and angle ϕ^λ of polarization can easily be determined for

each color channel in $\lambda = \{\lambda_R, \lambda_G, \lambda_B\}$ by

$$\rho^\lambda = \frac{\sqrt{(S_1^\lambda)^2 + (S_2^\lambda)^2}}{S_0^\lambda},$$

$$\phi^\lambda = \frac{1}{2} \arctan \left(\frac{S_2^\lambda}{S_1^\lambda} \right).$$

To account for both the polarizations of the airlight and the radiance, we modify the transmission function earlier to instead get

$$t(x, y) = 1 - \frac{\Delta I(x, y) - \rho_D(x, y) S_0(x, y)}{A_\infty [\rho_A(x, y) - \rho_D(x, y)]},$$

where $\Delta I(x, y) = I_{\max} - I_{\min}$ is the **polarization-differenced image** Fang et al. (2014).

7.4.3 Polarization-ToF Fusion for Depth Maps

As we saw in 5.2, we can obtain useful information from time-resolved images, particularly scene depth. Scene depth is often measured based on a time-of-flight principle, where the time between an emitted pulse and a measured spike can be used to infer distance. However, in scattered media, this becomes non-trivial because of the mixing between scattered light from particles and reflected light from surfaces. The non-uniformity of polarization orientations and degree of polarizations with respect to space and time must be accounted for. We will build off our mathematical foundation for steady-state imaging and apply it to adaptive de-scattering imaging in a time-resolved manner.

Once again, we rely on the Stokes formulation to deal with this problem, but only the linear components. We measure the Stokes components here by measuring intensities three different polarization orientations $\alpha = \{\alpha_1, \alpha_2, \alpha_3\}$. We will obtain measurements for each orientation

$$I(t, \alpha) = \frac{1}{2} [S_0(t) + S_1(t) \cos(2\alpha) + S_2(t) \sin(2\alpha)].$$

From this, we can compute the degree of polarization for each pixel by

$$\rho(t) = \frac{\sqrt{S_1^2(t) + S_2^2(t)}}{S_0(t)}.$$

Note that the measured intensities now are taken as a function of time, since polarization states can change between frames. Using a Taylor approximation of Beer-Lambert's Law, we can extract the direct component as

$$D = S_0(t) \left[1 - \frac{\rho(t)}{\rho_{S_\infty}(t)} \right],$$

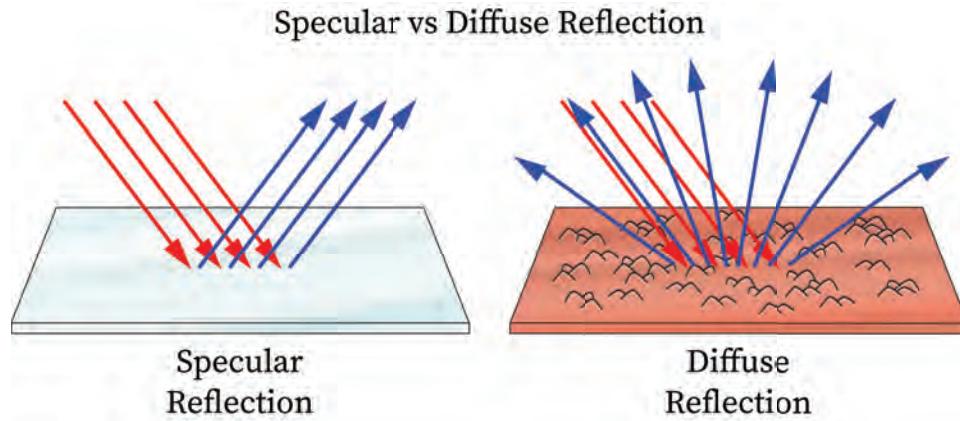


Figure 7.17: Specular versus Diffuse Reflection.

where $\rho_{S_\infty} = I_{S_\infty}^{-1} \left(I_{S_\infty}^{\max} - I_{S_\infty}^{\min} \right)$. While this term does not account for attenuation, it still leads to reasonably good depth estimates. To obtain the depth, we consider a camera at position O , a light source at position S , and a scene point at X . We know that

$$|\overline{SX}| + |\overline{OX}| = c\tau(x),$$

where c is the speed of light and $\tau(x)$ is the time it takes for the reflection to be detected at pixel x . We can extract the depth for each pixel as

$$d(x) = |\overline{OS}| = \frac{|\overline{OS}|^2 - (c\tau(x))^2}{2|\overline{OS}| \cos \theta - 2c\tau(x)},$$

where θ is the angle between \overline{OS} and \overline{OX} Wu et al. (2018). For an example on how polarization can be used to obtain depth via interferometry, the reader is directed to Maeda et al. (2018).

7.5 Reflectance Decomposition Using Polarimetric Cues

7.5.1 Specular vs. Diffuse Reflection

When light bounces off of a surface, it can either reflect in a specular or diffuse manner. **Specular reflections** occur when light bounces in a mirror-like fashion, where the reflected light is at the same angle as the incident light, as governed by Snell's Law. **Diffuse reflections**, however, go through several layers of interreflections and subsurface scattering before re-emerging at the surface of the material. The two concepts are illustrated in Fig. 7.17. The problem with specular reflections is that the reflected light is spatially concentrated, which produces a strong highlight in brightness. These cause a glaring effect, which affects both the visual aesthetic of the image and the ability for a machine to

perform vision tasks like object detection. There is great benefit in being able to separate an image into its specular and diffuse components.

Non-polarization based methods leverage aspects of the color intensity profile to separate specular and diffuse components. For dielectrics, the **dichromatic reflectance model** predicts that specular reflections have a similar spectral profile as the illumination spectrum, while the spectrum of diffuse components are affected by the surface medium. Other approaches invoke a **Lambertian constraint**, in which the observed intensity of the diffuse components is isotropic, or close to isotropic. This means that the observed diffuse reflection varies slowly (if at all) with observer position, unlike specular reflections, which vary rapidly with position. Intensities violating this Lambertian criteria are detected as specular. However, the color-dependence of these approaches do not consider the complexity of color profiles of real-world scenes.

Assuming that a scene primarily consists of dielectric materials, we can assume (1) the applicability of a dichromatic model and (2) that the specular component is polarized, while the diffuse is not. We can formulate the intensity I at every pixel as

$$I = I_d + I_s,$$

where I_d is the diffuse intensity and I_s is the specular intensity. If we place a linear polarizer in front of the sensor, we know that I_d will be approximately constant as a function of the polarizer orientation, since the diffuse component is unpolarized. However, I_s should vary as a function of the orientation angle θ . Therefore, we can now write the specular component as

$$I_s = I_{sc} + I_{sv} \cos [2(\theta - \alpha)],$$

where α is the orientation of the polarizer, I_{sc} is a constant specular offset, and I_{sv} is the amplitude of the cosine variation. In a situation where the illumination can be controlled, this creates a straightforward specular removal process by using linearly polarized incident light. In such a case, we can take advantage of the fact that smooth surfaces preserve the polarization states of specularly reflected light. This means that we can place a polarizer phase shifted by $\pi/2$ from the illumination to effectively filter out the specular components and leave you with a diffuse image.

However, we cannot always control the source illumination, so we also consider specular/diffuse separation under passive illumination, which we assume to be unpolarized. I_{sc} and I_{sv} are dependent on the complex index of refraction η and the incidence angle ψ .

$$\frac{I_{sc} + I_{sv}}{I_{sc} - I_{sv}} = \frac{F_\perp(\eta, \psi)}{F_\parallel(\eta, \psi)} = q.$$

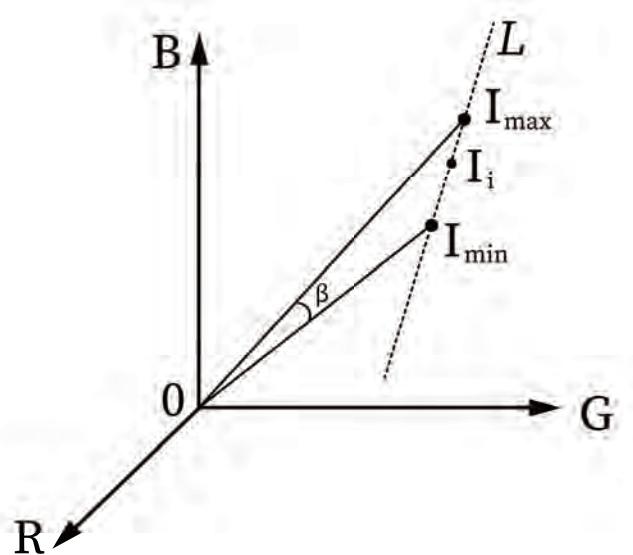


Figure 7.18: Color Constraints on Specular/Diffuse Decomposition.

We know that for a filter with orientation θ_i , the measured intensity can be written as

$$I_i = I_c + I_{sv} \cos[2(\theta_i - \alpha)],$$

where $I_c = I_d + I_{sc}$. We can reformulate this into a linear system of equations for M different filters by expressing the equation as a dot product.

$$I_i = \langle \mathbf{f}_i, \mathbf{v} \rangle,$$

where $\mathbf{f}_i = [1, \cos(2\theta_i), \sin(2\theta_i)]$ and $\mathbf{v} = [I_c, I_{sv} \cos(2\alpha), I_{sv} \sin(2\alpha)]$. For $M = 3$ independent filters, we can solve the linear equation to obtain \mathbf{v} , but there remains an ambiguity with α , since α can be either $\alpha + \pi$ or α . We need additional information to resolve this ambiguity. Note that we could solve for I_d by using q , but this is usually not known a priori.

While we cannot rely solely on color information, it provides a way to constrain our image decomposition. For a set of collected polarized images, we know that the diffuse component will not change, but the specular component will vary as a function of $\cos(\theta_i)$. This means that the measurements I_i will lie along a line L in color space, as shown in Fig. 7.18. We can easily see from the expression for I_i that $I_{\max} = I_c + I_{sv}$ and $I_{\min} = I_c - I_{sv}$. We can

then extract the **degree of polarization** via the analytical equation

$$\rho = \frac{I_{\max} - I_{\min}}{I_{\max} + I_{\min}}.$$

The degree of polarization gives us a measure of how polarized a light is, with $\rho = 0$ suggesting the light is unpolarized and $\rho = 1$ suggesting that the light is completely polarized along an axis. If ρ is below a certain threshold, we can assume that the light is unpolarized and mark the entire intensity of that pixel as diffuse. If the pixel is sufficiently polarized, and the colors of the specular and diffuse components are sufficiently different, we can take advantage of the dichromatic model. We quantify the similarity of the colors by the angle β in Fig. 7.18. Using color information from neighboring pixels, we can extract I_d from the measurements I_c Nayar et al. (1997). In this case, we saw how polarization properties of diffuse and specular components further allow us to constrain color-based decomposition.

The specular and diffuse components can also be calculated if we can capture the full Stokes vector under circularly polarized spherical illumination. Recall from earlier that the Stokes vector of an incoming wave is transformed at the interface of another medium. This change can be modeled by the linear transformation

$$\mathbf{s}' = \mathbf{C}(\phi)\mathbf{D}\left(\delta; \vec{N}\right)\mathbf{R}\left(\theta; \vec{N}\right)\mathbf{C}(-\phi)\mathbf{s},$$

where \mathbf{s} is the original Stokes vector, \mathbf{s}' is the transformed Stokes vector, \mathbf{C} is the Mueller rotation matrix, \mathbf{R} is the Mueller reflection matrix, \mathbf{D} is the retardation Mueller matrix, θ is the incidence angle, ϕ is the angle between the plane of incidence and the x-axis, \vec{N} is the surface normal, and δ is the phase shift. This formulation holds for pure specular reflections. Using such a model, we can infer the reflectance behavior of the surface. First, we compute the degree of polarization using the measured Stokes parameters as

$$p = \frac{\sqrt{s_1^2 + s_2^2 + s_3^2}}{s_0}.$$

The specular intensity can be extracted as $\rho_s = s_0 p$ and the diffuse intensity can be extracted as $\rho_p = s_0(1 - p)$, since specular light is polarized and diffuse is not. We can then couple these values with the measured Stokes parameters to determine the parallel and perpendicular reflection coefficients, by solving the following equations.

$$s_0 = \frac{1}{2} (R_{\parallel} + R_{\perp}) + \rho_d,$$

$$s_3 = \pm \sqrt{R_{\parallel} R_{\perp}}.$$

If $\theta \leq \theta_B$, then we take the positive value of s_3 , where θ_B is the Brewster angle. Otherwise, we take the negative value of s_3 . Using the reflection coefficients we can determine the

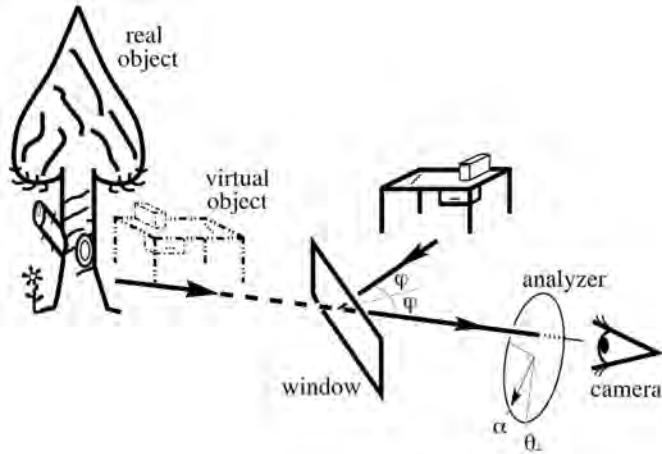


Figure 7.19: Image Affected by Semireflector Schechner et al. (1999).

per-pixel index of refractions from Fresnel equations, which would greatly improve the SfP task as discussed earlier, where refractive distortion was problematic. In practice, this only holds for dielectrics, since metals have a complex index of refraction. However, approximating them as real values still works relatively well Ghosh et al. (2010). Ghosh et al. (2011) and Ma et al. (2007) use a multiview capture system with spherical gradient illumination to capture the geometry and reflectance of a human face, which contains a diverse mixture of specular and diffuse reflection.

7.5.2 Virtual vs. Real Image Decomposition

When a transparent material is present between a camera and the scene, we visually notice that a partial reflection will be superimposed on the observed scene. Such semireflections negatively impact image aesthetic and the performance of vision tasks. We denote this transparent material as the *transparent layer*, the scene as the *real object*, and the semi-reflections as the *virtual object*, as shown in Fig. 7.19. While the presence of the semireflected image is unwanted in the image, it may still be desired to keep this image. Therefore, it is of great value to be able to decompose an image into a virtual and semireflected image.

One way we could deal with this is just by placing a polarization filter in front of the camera to block the virtual image. However, this filtering is only effective when ϕ is at the Brewster angle, in which case we orient the polarizer parallel to the plane of incidence to filter out reflected perpendicularly polarized light. Furthermore, we may want to still keep the virtual image as a source of information about the scene. We also want to be able to identify which image is the virtual image and which is the real image.

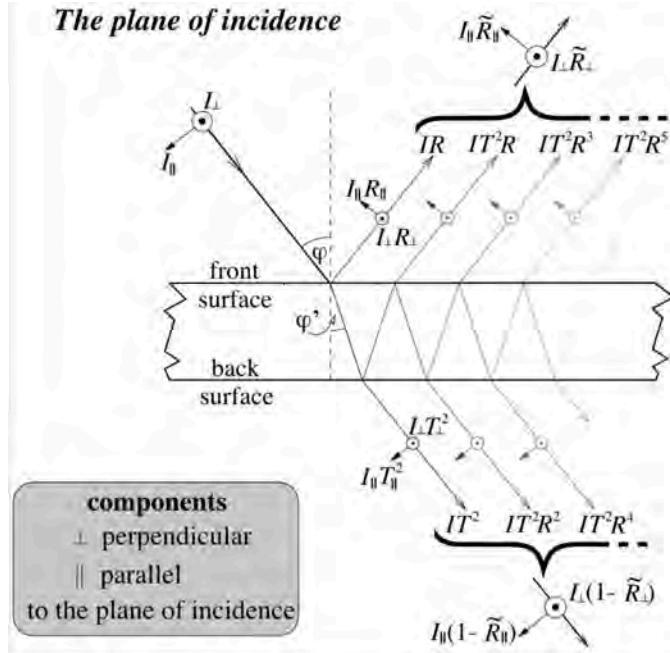


Figure 7.20: Multiple Reflections and Refractions in a Semireflector Schechner et al. (1999).

Light incident on a semireflector can be separated into parallel and perpendicular components (relative to the plane of incidence), I_{\parallel} and I_{\perp} . The reflectivities for a single surface medium are given by the Fresnel coefficients of reflection

$$R_{\parallel} = \frac{\tan^2(\phi - \phi')}{\tan^2(\phi + \phi')}, \quad R_{\perp} = \frac{\sin^2(\phi - \phi')}{\sin^2(\phi + \phi')},$$

where ϕ is the angle of incidence (from the virtual scene onto the semireflector) and ϕ' is the angle of the refracted ray (as governed by Snell's Law). Usually the semireflector, e.g., glass of a car window, has a finite thickness. As the light enters the first air-glass interface, part of it will be transmitted and part of it will be reflected. At the second interface, part of the light will again be reflected, while part of the light will be refracted into the air, and the process repeats, as shown in Fig. 7.20. The total reflectivity is thus given by

$$\tilde{R} = R + T^2 R \sum_{l=0}^{\infty} (R^2)^l,$$

assuming the absorption within the medium is negligible and spatial shift of the rays caused by refraction is negligible relative to the variations in the image. Thus, the total reflectivities

and transmittivities are given by

$$\begin{aligned}\tilde{R}_{\parallel} &= \frac{2}{1 + R_{\parallel}} R_{\parallel}, \quad \tilde{R}_{\perp} = \frac{2}{1 + R_{\perp}} R_{\perp}, \\ \tilde{T}_{\parallel} &= 1 - \tilde{R}_{\parallel}, \quad \tilde{T}_{\perp} = 1 - \tilde{R}_{\perp}.\end{aligned}$$

If unpolarized light is incident on the semireflector, and a polarizer with orientation α is placed in front of the sensor, we can determine the measured intensities for the reflected scene (virtual image) and transmitted scene (real scene) to be

$$\begin{aligned}f_R(\alpha) &= \frac{I_R}{2} \left[\tilde{R}_{\perp} \cos^2(\alpha - \theta_{\perp}) + \tilde{R}_{\parallel} \sin^2(\alpha - \theta_{\perp}) \right], \\ f_T(\alpha) &= \frac{I_T}{2} \left[\tilde{T}_{\perp} \cos^2(\alpha - \theta_{\perp}) + \tilde{T}_{\parallel} \sin^2(\alpha - \theta_{\perp}) \right],\end{aligned}$$

where I_R and I_T are the true intensities of the reflected and transmitted scene, and θ_{\perp} is the angle at which \tilde{T}_{\perp} is maximized. We can then formulate the total measured intensity as

$$f(\alpha) = f_R(\alpha) + f_T(\alpha) = \left(\frac{f_{\perp} + f_{\parallel}}{2} \right) + \left(\frac{f_{\perp} - f_{\parallel}}{2} \right) \cos[2(\alpha - \theta_{\perp})],$$

where $f_{\perp} = f(\theta_{\perp}) = (I_R \tilde{R}_{\perp}/2) + (I_T \tilde{T}_{\perp}/2)$ and $f_{\parallel} = f(\theta_{\perp} + 90^\circ) = (I_R \tilde{R}_{\parallel}/2) + (I_T \tilde{T}_{\parallel}/2)$. We should notice that $f_{\perp} - f_{\parallel} = 0.5 (\tilde{R}_{\perp} - \tilde{R}_{\parallel})(I_R - I_T)$. Therefore, if I_R and I_T are equal, the light coming out of the semireflector (toward the camera) is unpolarized. Generally, however, we assume that $I_T > I_R$, meaning that the $f(\alpha)$ is minimal at $\alpha = \theta_{\perp}$. Therefore, we conclude that the polarization of the transmitted light primarily dictates the overall polarization of the measured light.

Solving the previous set of equations, we obtain approximations for $I_T(\phi)$ and $I_R(\phi)$, assuming we know $\tilde{R}_{\perp}(\phi)$ and $\tilde{R}_{\parallel}(\phi)$.

$$\begin{aligned}\hat{I}_T(\phi) &= \left[\frac{2\tilde{R}_{\perp}(\phi)}{\tilde{R}_{\perp}(\phi) - \tilde{R}_{\parallel}(\phi)} \right] f_{\parallel} - \left[\frac{2\tilde{R}_{\parallel}(\phi)}{\tilde{R}_{\perp}(\phi) - \tilde{R}_{\parallel}(\phi)} \right] f_{\perp}, \\ \hat{I}_R(\phi) &= \left[\frac{2 - 2\tilde{R}_{\parallel}(\phi)}{\tilde{R}_{\perp}(\phi) - \tilde{R}_{\parallel}(\phi)} \right] f_{\perp} - \left[\frac{2 - 2\tilde{R}_{\perp}(\phi)}{\tilde{R}_{\perp}(\phi) - \tilde{R}_{\parallel}(\phi)} \right] f_{\parallel}.\end{aligned}$$

Again, if ϕ is at Brewster's angle, then we can easily approximate I_T by looking at f_{\parallel} . However, we don't know ϕ a priori. To find an estimate for ϕ , we assume that the reflected and transmitted intensities are uncorrelated, which is reasonable since they come from unrelated scenes. We can then solve for the angle of incidence by solving

$$\hat{\phi} = \left\{ \phi : \text{Corr} [\hat{I}_R(\phi), \hat{I}_T(\phi)] = 0 \right\}.$$

The estimated images will be based on several captured polarization orientations α , since the polarizer sinusoidally modulates the intensities of the partially polarized light. The final images will have minimal information about each other, due to the decorrelated assumption about the two scenes Schechner et al. (1999).

Chapter Appendix: Notations

| Notation | Description |
|---|--|
| (\hat{x}, \hat{y}) | Direction vectors along x - and y -axis |
| (E_x, E_y) | Electric field along x - and y -axis |
| (Γ, τ) | Reflection and transmission coefficients, respectively |
| (η_1, η_2) | Impedances of the media |
| θ_i, θ_t | Incident and transmitted angles of the wave |
| $\Gamma_{\perp}, \Gamma_{\parallel}, \tau_{\perp}, \tau_{\parallel}$ | Fresnel Coefficients |
| \vec{N} | Surface normal |
| (S_0, S_1, S_2, S_3) | Stokes vector ((S_0, S_1, S_2) describe linear polarization, while S_3 describes the circular polarization) |
| (I_0, I_1, I_2, I_3) | Light intensity measurements corresponding to Stokes vector |
| $(E_i(z, t), E_t(z, t))$ | Incident and transmitted electric fields |
| $(\mathbf{S}_i, \mathbf{S}_t)$ | Stokes vectors corresponding to incident and transmitted electric fields |
| φ_{pol} | Polarization orientation |
| ϕ | Angle of polarization |
| ρ | Degree of polarization |
| n | Refractive index |
| $\mathbf{N}^{\text{depth}}$ | Depth map |
| $\mathbf{N}^{\text{polar}}$ | Matrix containing surface normals from polarization |
| \mathcal{A} | Binary operator |
| \mathbf{N}^{corr} | Corrected normal image |
| \mathcal{R} | Rotation operator |
| \mathbf{M}_{x_i, y_i} | Binary mask |
| $\{\theta_{x_i, y_i}^{\text{depth}}, \theta_{x_i, y_i}^{\text{corr}}\}$ | Zenith angles obtained from $\mathbf{N}^{\text{depth}}$ and \mathbf{N}^{corr} , respectively |
| $D(x, y)$ | Direct transmission |
| L_{object} | Unattenuated object intensity |
| $g_z(x, y)$ | Point spread function of the blur |
| \mathbf{x}_{obj} | Coordinates of object to be scanned |
| $S(\mathbf{x}_{\text{obj}})$ | Object signal |

| | |
|---|---|
| $B(\mathbf{x}_{\text{obj}})$ | Backscatter signal |
| $L_{\text{obj}}(\mathbf{x}_{\text{obj}})$ | Attenuated intensity |
| $F_{\text{obj}}(\mathbf{x}_{\text{obj}})$ | Falloff function |
| $Q(\mathbf{x}_{\text{obj}})$ | Illumination source |
| I^L, I^R | Input intensity from left and right camera, respectively |
| $(A_{\parallel}, A_{\perp})$ | Airlight polarization components parallel and perpendicular to the plane |
| A_{∞} | Airlight radiance for an object infinitely far away |
| $t(z)$ | Transmittance of the light a distance z away |
| $(A_{\parallel}, A_{\perp})$ | Lowest and highest intensity measured with a linear polarizer, respectively |
| c | Speed of light |
| $\tau(x)$ | Time it takes for the reflection to be detected at pixel x |
| I_d | Diffuse intensity |
| I_s | Specular intensity |
| I_{sc} | Constant specular offset intensity |
| I_{sv} | Amplitude of cosine variation |
| \mathbf{C} | Mueller rotation matrix |
| \mathbf{R} | Mueller reflection matrix |
| \mathbf{D} | Mueller retardation matrix |

Exercises

Maxwell's mathematical formulation of electric and magnetic fields paved the way to our understanding of electromagnetic wave propagation. From such formulations arose the Fresnel equations, a set of coefficients that describe the reflection and transmission of light with respect to the light's polarization state. Knowledge of this polarization-dependent light-matter interaction has spawned innovations in polarimetric imaging. In this problem set, we will use our understanding of polarization to filter out artefacts in an image caused by haze particles in the air.

1. Cross-Polarization Imaging Through Haze

Art photographers often use polarizing filters to improve the aesthetic appeal of their photographs. The reflection of shiny objects creates specular highlights on an image that can negatively impact the aesthetic quality of the image. These specular reflections are typically strongly polarized. By orienting a linear polarizer orthogonal to the polarization direction of the glare, we can filter out glare and produce a clean image, as shown in Fig. 7.16. This method is known as cross-polarization. However, under certain conditions, this reflection may not have a high degree of polarization (DoP), e.g. imaging through haze. In such a case, cross-polarization on its own will be insufficient. We will instead use the theory derived in the chapter to dehaze an image.

a) Capturing Polarization Images

To capture our polarization images, all we need is a linear polarizer which can be mounted in front of the camera aperture. There are two polarization images we need to capture: I_{\parallel} and I_{\perp} . I_{\parallel} is the image captured when the linear polarizer is oriented such that the intensity passing through the polarizer is at a minimum, while I_{\perp} is the image captured when the amount of light passing through the polarizer is at a maximum. This minimum and maximum can be determined by empirically rotating the polarizer orientation.

b) Measuring and Calculating DoP and A_{∞}

The degree of polarization (DoP) is calculated as

$$\rho = \frac{\widehat{I}_{\perp, \text{sky}} - \widehat{I}_{\parallel, \text{sky}}}{\widehat{I}_{\perp, \text{sky}} + \widehat{I}_{\parallel, \text{sky}}}, \quad (7.1)$$

where \widehat{I} denotes a measurement of the true image intensity I . The subscript "sky" denotes a measurement of the sky. This should be calculated for each color channel independently. Prior work has reported $\rho = [\rho_r, \rho_g, \rho_b] = [0.28, 0.25, 0.22]$ but this could depend on environmental conditions. You should find a larger DoP for longer wavelengths. A_{∞} is the airlight radiance infinitely far away from the camera. This is

computed as

$$A_{\infty} = \widehat{I}_{\perp, \text{sky}} + \widehat{I}_{\parallel, \text{sky}} \quad (7.2)$$

c) Modeling Airlight

The linear polarizer sinusoidally modulates the measured intensity as a function of the polarizer orientation angle, as shown in Fig. 7.15. Assuming the direct transmission (D) is unpolarized, half of D will be transmitted to the sensor through the polarizer. Based on the relationships derived from this figure, we can approximate the airlight as

$$\widehat{A} = \frac{\widehat{I}_{\perp} - \widehat{I}_{\parallel}}{\rho}. \quad (7.3)$$

d) Computing De-Hazed Image

The final de-hazed image can be computed for each color channel independently as

$$\widehat{L} = \frac{\widehat{I}_{\perp} + \widehat{I}_{\parallel} - \widehat{A}}{1 - \widehat{A}/A_{\infty}}. \quad (7.4)$$

8 Spectral Imaging

As humans, we can only see a small subset of all radiation surrounding us. While we can see visible light, we cannot perceive the radio signals originating from our cell phones, or the thermal radiation emanating from blackbody sources like the human body. Each of these radiation types are characterized by differing wavelengths (or frequencies) and hold fascinating properties worthy of further investigation. In this chapter, we will continue our study of the plenoptic dimensions, focusing specifically on the spectral nature of light. In particular, we will delve into the capture and analysis of spectral images, as well as its usefulness for imaging applications such as material classification, anomaly detection, and remote sensing.

8.1 Spectral Effects on Light-Matter Interaction

8.1.1 Formal Definition of Spectrum

Light is an electromagnetic (EM) wave, propagating through a medium with spatially and temporally oscillating electric and magnetic fields. One of the important features of light is its **wavelength**. Frequency (ν) and wavelength (λ) are inversely proportional:

$$c = \nu\lambda,$$

where c is the propagation speed of light, and ν and λ have units [Hz] and [m] respectively. Wavelength and frequency are measures of spatial and temporal frequency, respectively, of the wave oscillation. The range of all frequencies of the wave is known as the electromagnetic **spectrum**. The EM spectrum consists broadly of radio waves, microwaves, infrared light, visible light, ultraviolet light, X-ray light, and gamma rays. Humans are only able to perceive the visible spectrum as a quality we refer to as **color**. While spectrum is continuous in nature, color is a discretization of the visible spectrum. These discussed concepts are illustrated in Fig. 8.1.

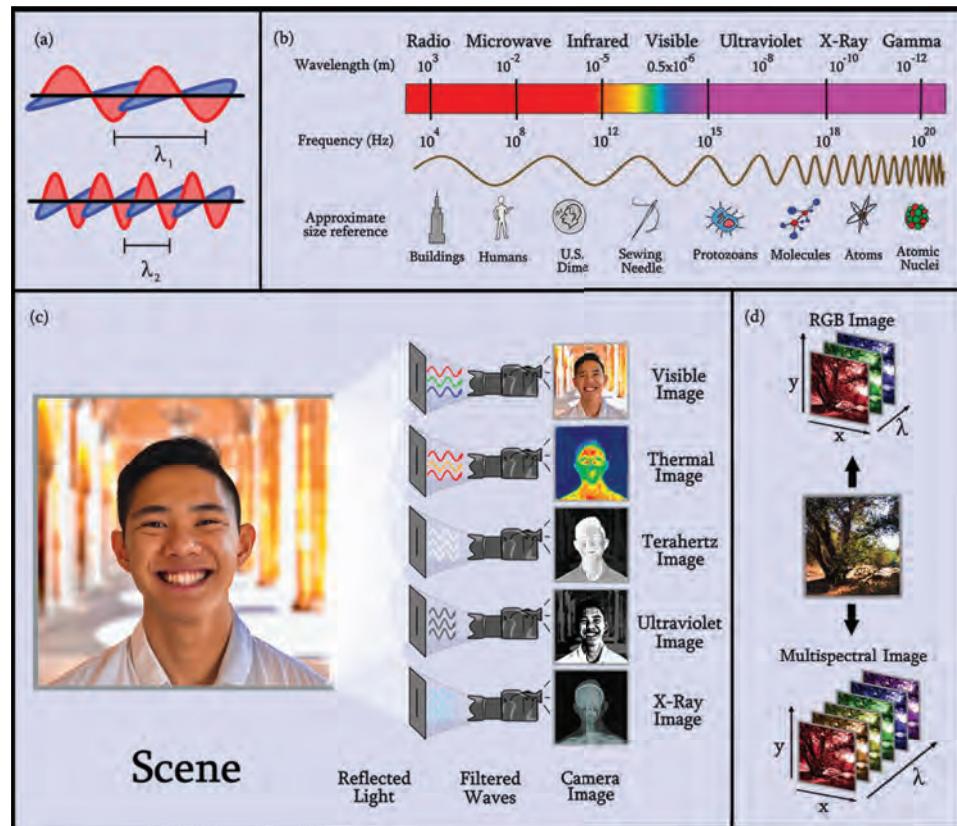


Figure 8.1: What is wavelength, and how do we use it in imaging? (a) Electromagnetic (EM) waves are characterized by a wavelength. (b) Electromagnetic spectrum. (c) A standard camera, similar to our eyes, captures visible light that reflects off a scene, from which we extract photographs. However, images at different wavelengths capture different information about a scene. For example, a thermal image would be useful for heat-seeking, while an infrared image would be useful for food analysis. (d) A spectral image samples scenes at a higher spectral frequency than normal RGB images.

8.1.2 Absorption, Reflectance, Transmittance

The interaction between light and matter is highly wavelength-dependent. Different materials have different crystalline structure. This crystalline structure can be better understood as a periodic arrangement of electrons, which can only take on a discrete set of energy states that satisfy Schrödinger's wave equation. The incident photon energy is directly proportional to frequency by **Planck's relation** Hecht (1998)

$$E = h\nu,$$

where $h = 6.62607015 \times 10^{-34} \text{ J} \cdot \text{s}$ is Planck's constant. Since electrons can only take on a certain set of energy states, only certain photon energies will interact with the crystal structure of a medium. The frequency dependent photon energy results in a frequency dependent light-matter interaction. There are hundreds of wavelength dependent interactions in imaging, but students should be familiar with four primitive types: Absorption, Reflection, Scattering, and Transmission.

Absorption Dependence: A medium will absorb a photon depending on its wavelength. Conceptually, this occurs when the energy of the incident light is near the activation energies of electrons in the material, enabling the electrons to absorb the light. This electron energy is later lost to lattice vibrations. Since the energy of light is related to its frequency, it follows that the absorption is dependent on frequency. Visually, we perceive absorption as the opacity of a material, such as cardboard or brick. Mathematically, this is expressed by a wavelength-dependent absorption coefficient in the context of the Beer-Lambert law Swinehart (1962).

Reflection Dependence: Reflections are also a wavelength dependent phenomena. Conceptually, this process happens analogous to absorption. EM radiation strikes atoms in a material, whose electrons are excited. When the electrons return to a reduced energy state, they re-emit the absorbed light. The light can either be emitted in a mirror-like fashion (what we might refer to as "reflected light.") or in a random direction (*i.e.*, scattering). This process is extremely dependent on the frequency of light.

Scattering Dependence: In everyday life, we notice that some wavelengths penetrate through fog (*e.g.*, radio waves) while others get scattered (*e.g.*, light). The scattering of light is a wavelength dependent process. Concretely, light scatters differently in a medium depending on the size of the wavelength with respect to the particles. It is illustrative for students to refer to Fig. 8.2 for an end-to-end example of how light scatters in our atmosphere, making the sky appear blue. This type of wavelength-dependent scattering, where waves are scattered by particles much smaller than the wavelength, is known as **Rayleigh scattering**.

Transmission Dependence: If a light wave does not have the frequency corresponding to the activation energy of the electron, it will not be absorbed. Instead, the light will simply be able to pass through the medium. Visually, the more transparent an object, the more light that has been transmitted. We see the usefulness of transmitted wavelengths when imaging through barriers, like walls, as shown in Fig. 8.4.

The above phenomena play an important role in the way our eyes, and cameras, perceive our surroundings. For example, the atomic structure of glass allows visible light to transmit through the medium, making it transparent to the human eye. However, the same glass material would be opaque to a camera sensitive to microwave wavelengths. From an

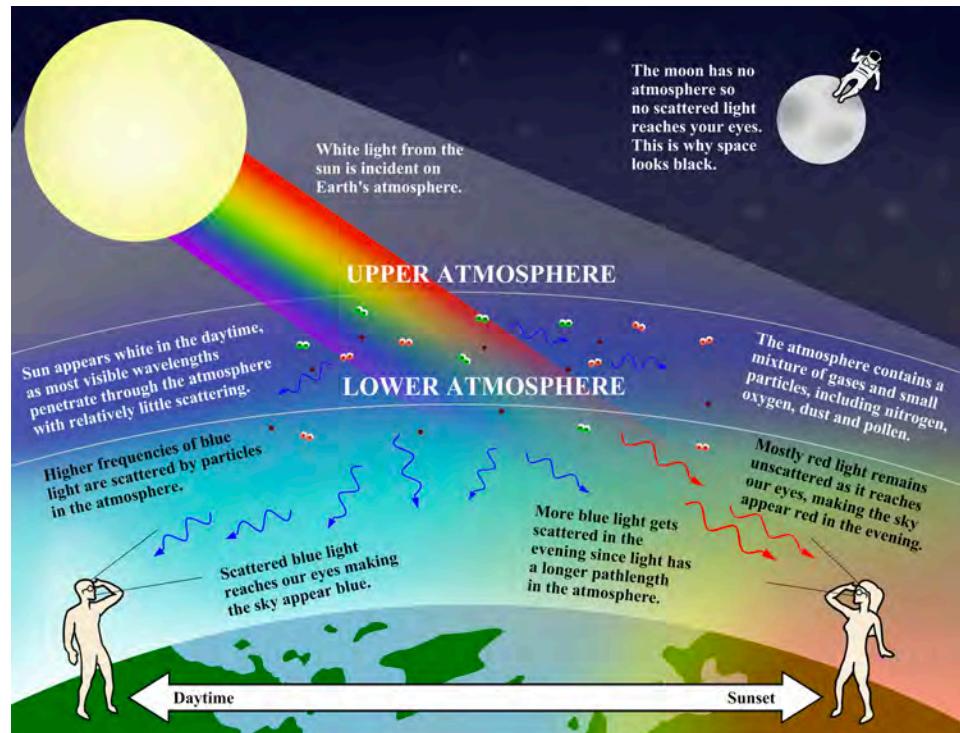


Figure 8.2: Why is the sky blue? The interaction of the broadband beam coming from the sun with particles in the atmosphere is highly wavelength dependent. Blue light's shorter wavelength causes it to undergo Rayleigh scattering in the atmosphere, which enables our perception of a blue sky.

algorithms standpoint, this wavelength-dependent behavior gives us critical insight into the material composition. A material's response (*i.e.*, reflection, absorption, etc.) to different wavelengths of light is referred to as its spectrum, and is an excellent indicator of what the material actually is. This makes spectral imaging one of the most powerful tools for material classification to date. Material classification is done by compiling a dictionary of different materials and their spectra. A material is then classified by measuring its spectrum and matching it to one of the dictionary entries.

8.1.3 Multispectral and Hyperspectral Imaging

Spectroscopy is the study of matter's interaction with different wavelengths of light. **Spectral imaging** combines the spatial resolution of ordinary imaging with the spectral resolution of spectroscopy by capturing a per-pixel spectrum. Let us consider a practical application of spectral imaging in food analysis. A common method to identify the soluble

8.1 Spectral Effects on Light-Matter Interaction

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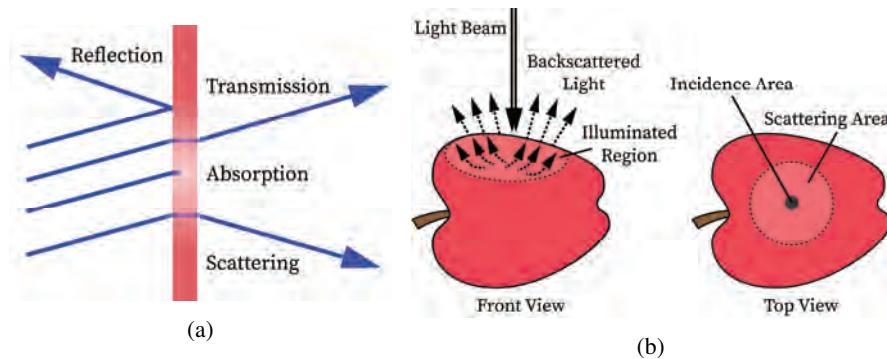


Figure 8.3: Interaction between Light and Matter. (a) When light interacts with an object, it will reflect off of it, be absorbed by it, scatter through it, transmit through it, or do a combination of these. (b) Examining the interaction of light with an apple is a powerful, non-destructive method of analyzing the fruit's freshness. These interactions tend to be wavelength-dependent, which is where spectral imaging is useful.

solids content (SSC) in fresh fruits is to use a near-infrared spectroscopy (NIRS) approach. Consider the interaction of the fruit with light in Fig. 8.3. Though the spectrum and SSC are correlated, scattering is most informative about the density, cell structures, and extra- and intra-cellular matrices of the fruit tissue. Scattering information is ordinarily extracted from imaging. NIRS does, however, still provide valuable insight into the importance of certain wavelengths in fruit analysis. For example, the 680 nm band can be used for predicting chlorophyll content, the 880 nm, 905 nm, and 1060 nm bands are useful for predicting SSC content, and the 940 nm band is useful for predicting fruit firmness. By combining information from traditional imaging (*i.e.*, scattering profiles) and spectroscopy (*i.e.*, spectral measurements), we can robustly detect fresh fruit Lu (2004).

We will now make the distinction between a **multispectral** and a **hyperspectral** image, though we will refer to both of them generally as *spectral images* in this text. A spectral image is a 3D matrix, as depicted in Fig. 8.1d, with spatial dimensions x and y along one plane, and the reflectance spectrum at each pixel along the third axis. A hyperspectral image captures the per-pixel spectrum over some spectral band, with uniform bandwidth for each spectral point. The band sensitivities must be continuous and cover the entire spectral band. Hyperspectral images also capture images with narrow band sensitivities, on the order of 1 – 10 nm. Meanwhile, a multispectral image captures only a subset of the spectrum in a spectral band, with potentially non-uniform bandwidths. The captured wavelengths in this case are typically hand-picked based on the application. Also, the sensitivity of the bands do not necessarily have to be continuous in the spectral domain. Refer to Fig. 8.4 for a comparison between the two.

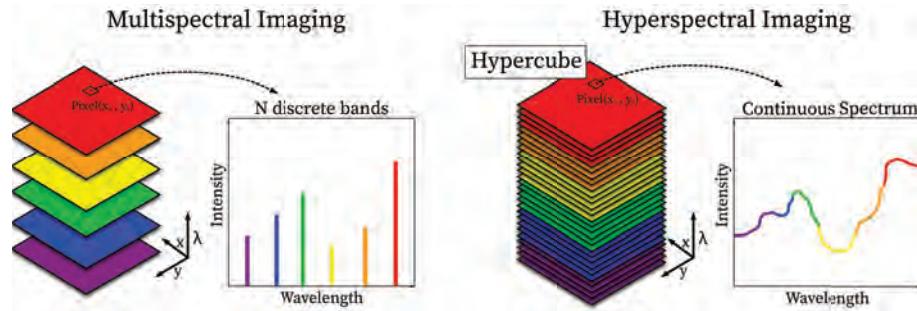


Figure 8.4: Multispectral versus Hyperspectral Imaging.

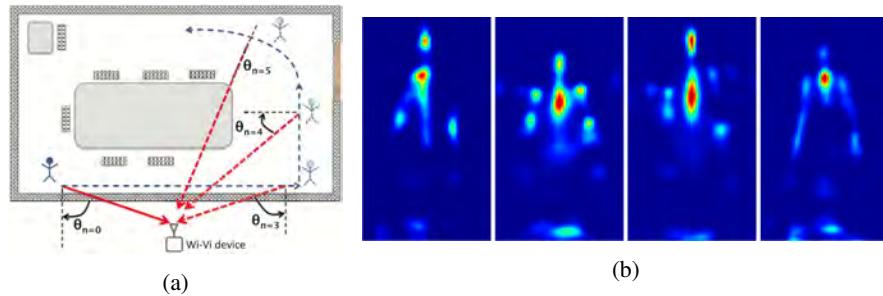


Figure 8.5: Seeing through walls with Wi-Fi. An interesting application of spectral imaging is in the use of non-traditional frequencies with Wi-Fi imaging (2.4 GHz) to image through walls. (a) Setup of Wi-Vi imaging module Adib and Katabi (2013) and (b) Wi-Vi image capturing different poses through a wall [ref].

8.1.4 Applications of Non-Visible Light

Most light is invisible to the human eye, but that doesn't make these wavelength regimes unimportant. We point to a few applications in which the utilization of non-visible light is more effective than visible light. Such physical considerations are important to keep in mind when designing imaging systems (*e.g.*, imaging through or around objects).

Wi-Fi Imaging: Wi-Fi wavelengths are on the order of several centimeters, allowing these waves to penetrate through non-metallic walls without interacting with the molecular structure, unlike visible light which is significantly attenuated through walls. These Wi-Fi signals propagate through the wall, interact with objects in a scene, and reflect back to the receiver on the other side of the wall. Fig. 8.5 shows the setup of such a system and the kinds of images we can extract with Wi-Fi imaging modules. Wi-Fi Vision has been applied to see through walls, and even monitor heart rates and detect gestures through walls Adib and Katabi (2013).

Thermal Imaging: Visible light imaging of humans fails when the reflectance of visible light to the camera is weak. This can occur when (1) the scene is weakly illuminated or (2) the light undergoes multiple reflections and scattering. In such contexts, measurement of thermal images is particularly useful. Thermal imaging solves (1) by making the person a light source, since humans can be approximated as blackbody emitters in the long-wave infrared (LWIR) regime. In doing so, (2) is also dealt with since we are no longer measuring visible light reflected off of a person. Instead, we are measuring light emitted from the human, which results in a stronger signal since no power is lost due to scattering and transmission into the skin. Thermal non-line of sight (NLOS) imaging makes use of this feature, and is discussed in Chapter 10.

X-Ray Imaging: While visible light primarily reflects and thermal radiation is overwhelmingly emitted from human skin, X-rays transmit through skin. This makes them particularly useful for computed tomography (CT), projected radiography, and positron emission tomography (PET). All of these are able to image through our skin to take images of bone structure and monitor blood flow and brain activity.

8.2 Color Theory

Color is the human perception of EM radiation in the visible spectrum, which falls in the range of 400 – 700 nm. As seen in Fig. 8.1b, this range is extremely narrow - the human eye is sensitive to less than one-trillionth of the possible frequencies of light. Most of us are familiar with colors in everyday life as being a descriptive notion, such as “blue”, “red”, “yellow”, or “green”. The field of **color science** (also known as colorimetry), seeks to formalize these descriptive notions into a mathematical and psychological structure. In what follows, we discuss two important keystones of color theory.

8.2.1 Retinal Color

The first keystone is **Retinal color**, describing the human perception of color that corresponds to the activation of photoreceptor cells in the retina known as **cones**. There are three types of cones: **L-cones**, **M-cones**, and **S-cones**, corresponding to long, medium and short. The nomenclature stems from sensitivity of each cone type to long, medium, and short wavelengths. An illustration of a cone cell and its corresponding spectral sensitivity curves is shown in Fig. 8.6a. Please note that the spectral sensitivity curves slightly vary between individuals. Cone cells are connected to neurons. The differential pattern of neurons that fires is sent to the brain as electrical signals to yield the perception of color. University courses in computational imaging often focus on retinal color, as one can mathematically express this using a vector space with 3 elements (activations of L, M, and S-cones). Although retinal color is closer to a mathematical science (in contrast to perceptual color, discussed in the next paragraph), there are several nuances which are

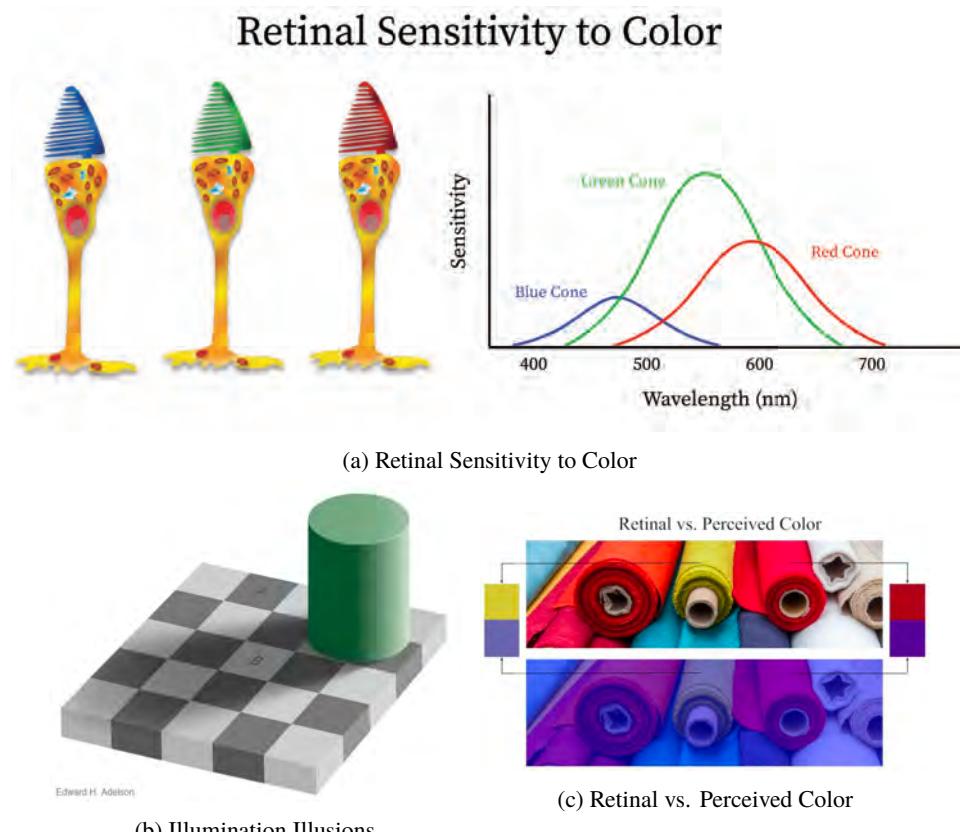


Figure 8.6: (a) Retinal Sensitivity to Color. Our eyes have three types of cone cells: L-cones, M-cones, and S-cones. Each cone is optimized to sense light at different wavelengths. The spectral absorption of each cone is shown on the right. (b) Illumination Illusions. Our brain adapts to different illumination conditions to render a scene with spatial and color consistency. (c) Retinal vs. Perceived Color. Even with a blue overlay, our visual system is still able to correctly label each color in the bottom image.

difficult to model, in general, by mathematics alone. For example, different individuals have biological variations in the structure and composition of L, M, and S-cones. For example, in canonical forms of **color blindness**, one type of cone is missing (*e.g.*, the L-cone corresponding roughly to peaks in “red” wavelengths). However, one can say that “we are all color blind” (phrase courtesy: Prof. Wojciech Matusik, MIT) as there are different spectral combinations that the majority of humans will perceive as the same color! These special colors are known as **metamers**. An example would be the use of a mixture of $N > 1$ lights that, mixed together, yield a reddish color that most humans cannot distinguish from

a single laser at 625 nm. In this case, the mixed color is metameristic to the laser. Please note that “metameristic” does not mean mathematically equal to - it means that a controlled sample of humans perceive the color as the same.

8.2.2 Perceptual Color

The second keystone of colorimetry is **Perceptual Color**, which encompasses, not just retinal color, but also a remarkable adaptation by the human visual system to illumination and context cues. Perceptual color is perhaps best illustrated by example. In Fig. 8.6c, a scene is overlaid with a blue tint. Even with the blue overlay, most humans can see the photograph and ascertain that certain colors are “red” or “orange”. However, when zooming into a subset of pixels, we see that all the colors in the tinted range are what one might ordinarily perceive as “blue”. In this example, the human brain is adapting to variations in illumination. This same principle (not shown) applies to the reason we can identify the colors of a hot air balloon in different illuminant conditions, ranging from the reds of sunset and sunrise to the blues of daylight. The human brain knows that light reflected from the same object can stimulate different retinal cones depending on the time of day. This principle, where the human visual system is able to identify colors under different illuminants, is known as **color constancy**. Another example of perceptual color is the “Checker Shadow Illusion”, published by Ed Adelson, and reproduced in the right half of Fig. 8.6b [ref]. Here, the squares A and B are exactly the same retinal color. However, the human brain is able to correctly account for illumination to render a checkerboard pattern.

Taken together, color theory is highly specific to individuals. A viral internet sensation in 2015, known as “The Dress”, underscores the diversity in how individuals perceive color. In February of 2015, a bride and her friends in Scotland could not come to an agreement on the color of the dress. The photo was posted to social media and quickly found its way to mainstream media in New York City. Just under 60% of people perceive the dress as blue/black, 30% describe it as white/gold, and 10% as other colors. What color do you perceive the dress to be? Color constancy is thought to be the cause of this difference in perception, where individuals have a different “correction factor” for ambient illumination.

8.2.3 Information Loss in Human-Inspired Vision

Color theory has wide applications to the engineering of computational imaging and display systems. For example, to obtain color images, the ubiquitous Bayer filter is conventionally placed on top of a monochrome camera sensor. As illustrated in Fig. 8.10, the Bayer filter consists of a mosaic of red, green, and blue (RGB) filters. This enables camera pixels to record luminance projections that mimic human cone cells. Within each 2×2 cell are 1

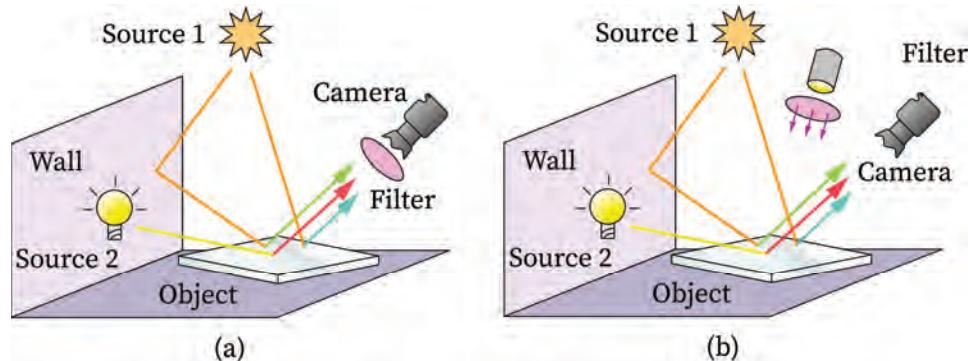


Figure 8.7: Capturing a spectral image. A multispectral image can be captured either by (a) passive illumination or (b) active illumination. With active illumination, external spectral light sources are used (either by placing several filters in front of one broadband source, or by using several narrow band sources). Passive illumination setups place several narrow band filters in front of the focal plane array.

red pixel, 2 green pixels, and 1 blue pixel. Why was green chosen as the color to duplicate? Hint: study the cone response in Fig. 8.6a⁷.

Human perception plays a critical role in standards for how color images are converted to grayscale. Concretely, if one seeks to convert a color image given in the CIE colorspace to grayscale, the following equation is used:

$$Y_{\text{linear}} = 0.2126 \cdot R_{\text{linear}} + 0.7152 \cdot G_{\text{linear}} + 0.0722 \cdot B_{\text{linear}},$$

where the coefficients are based on human perceptual sensitivity to these colors (*i.e.*, green has the highest and blue has the lowest [ref]). The *linear* coefficients indicate that the electrical signal measured by the retina is approximated to be linearly proportional to the optical power. Note, however, that the only quantity that will be measured by the retina is Y_{linear} . Therefore, $A = (R_{\text{linear}}, G_{\text{linear}}, B_{\text{linear}})$ is irretrievably lost information since infinite values of A can result in the same value of Y_{linear} , resulting in a loss of spectral information. This is a critical weakness of human-inspired imaging systems.

⁷ Answer: As the Bayer filter is a 2×2 repeating pattern, it was desirable to choose one of the filters to duplicate. Green was chosen because the eye has the highest sensitivity to green – it overlaps in response to the M and S cones.

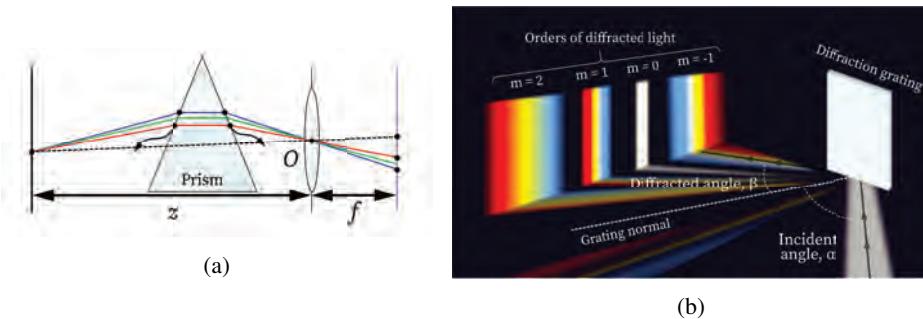


Figure 8.8: Wavelength separation by (a) prisms and (b) diffraction gratings.

8.3 Optical Setups for Spectral Imaging

In this subsection, we will restrict our scope to multi- and hyper-spectral imaging at **optical wavelengths**, defined as the wavelengths of light that conventional camera sensors can capture (300 – 1000 nm wavelengths). At the top-level, there are two motifs that are used to obtain multi- and hyper- spectral images. Concretely, it is possible to use: (1) a filter on the imager side; or (2) selective illumination with specific spectral sources. An illustration of these two basic approaches to multispectral imaging is shown in Fig. 8.7. Although the top-level idea may seem simplistic, there is richness in the design of filters. Systems that simultaneously capture both spectral and spatial features typically incorporate some form of wavelength separation through gratings or prisms. Other systems use selective filters that only allow a narrow band of light to pass through. These tools and principles are combined in different ways for different spectral applications, depending on the desired cost, acquisition time, and spectro-spatial resolution of the setup, as we will analyze next.

8.3.1 Prisms, Gratings, Scanners

Prism and **diffraction gratings** both spatially separate incoming light into their constituent wavelengths, but do so using different physical mechanisms. Prisms utilize the property of **dispersion**, a phenomena in which light of different wavelengths propagating through a certain medium will bend at different angles. The wavelength-dependent angle of bending results from a wavelength-dependent index of refraction. The result of this is a spatially separated array of wavelengths. Diffraction gratings, on the other hand, use the property of **diffraction**. A diffraction grating consists of a planar opaque material with uniformly spaced slits, with apertures much smaller than the wavelength of the incident light. The wavefront will behave like point sources at the slits, by Huygens-Fresnel principle, as they impinge on the plane. The point sources propagating through these slits will constructively and destructively interfere along the axis parallel to the gratings. This interference pattern will yield intensity peaks at different values along the z -axis for different wavelengths,

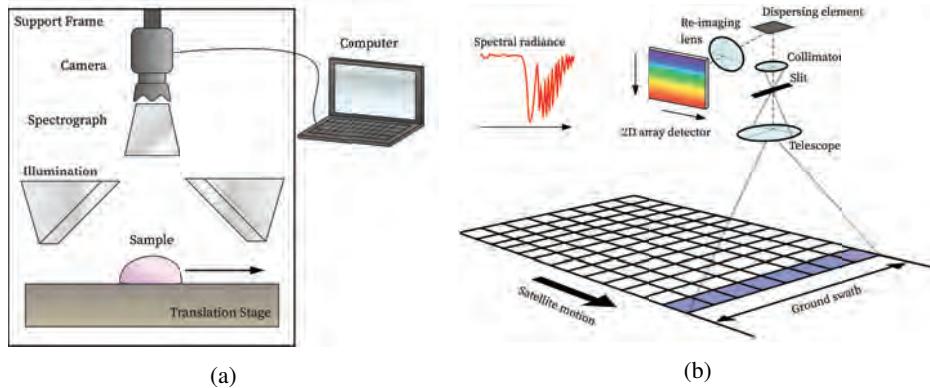


Figure 8.9: Spectro-Spatial Scanning. (a) An example of a pixel-wise scan of an image. The scanner will capture a spectrum for each pixel, then iterate to the next pixel and repeat. (b) Satellite hyperspectral imaging using a push-broom camera.

thereby separating light by wavelength. A comparison of these principles is shown in Fig. 8.8.

Consider the use of a prism in front of a DSLR camera as shown in Fig. 8.8(a). In such a setup, it is common to account for factors like spatially-variant dispersion by including collimating optics. A coded aperture mask would also provide a means of obtaining spectral cues, allowing for a constrained reconstruction Baek et al. (2017). Similarly, the wavelength separation can also be done by placing diffraction gratings in front of the sensor, as shown in Fig. 8.8(b). In such a setup, the spatial resolution will have to be sacrificed for the spectral dimension Alvarez-cortes et al. (2016). The key takeaway, however, in both setups is that the wavelengths are *spatially* separated, meaning that their reconstruction algorithms will differ from non-separation based methods.

Many standard spectral imaging setups incorporate some form of scanning to capture a spectral image. The scanning can be either spatial, where a detector scans across each pixel of an image and collects the spectrum, or spectral, where a 2D image is re-captured for each spectral point as shown in Fig. 8.1d. An example of such a scanning system is shown in Fig. 8.9a. While accurate, scanning is often too slow and requires laboratory-like settings, making them infeasible for practical applications. Another example of a scanning spectral camera is the **push-broom camera**. A push-broom camera only images one spatial line in a scene at a time. This corresponds to a measurement of a 1D array of pixels. Using either a dispersive or diffractive element, the light is separated onto a 2D plane. Along one axis lies the wavelength and along the other lies the spatial coordinate. A full hyperspectral image is obtained by “sweeping” across the scene. The measurement process of a push-broom camera imaging a point on Earth from space is illustrated in Fig. 8.9b.

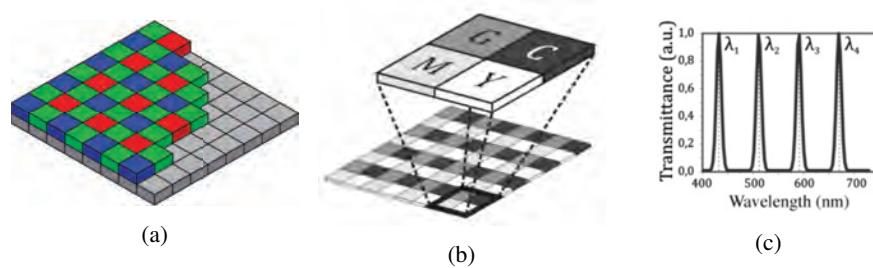


Figure 8.10: Color Filter Arrays. Side-by-side comparison of (a) Bayer filter and (b) multispectral filter array, specifically a CMYG CFA. (c) Spectral sensitivity of C, M, Y, and G channels with a QBPFF (solid line) and without a QBPFF (dashed line) Themelis et al. (2008).

8.3.2 Multispectral Filter Arrays and Compound Imaging

Most cameras today employ a color filter array (CFA) placed in front of its focal plane array (FPA), the most common being the **Bayer filter**. The Bayer filter is an arrangement of red, green, and blue (RGB) filters, as shown in Fig. 8.10a. It aims to mimic the sensitivities of the L, M, and S cones of the human eye. A 2D grid of RGB values are measured, which are then demosaiced into a 3D RGB color image. The problem with such a system is that it integrates the product of a scene's spectral reflectance with the spectral response curves of just three filters, giving just a single output for 3 broad spectral ranges. This inevitably causes spectral information loss. However, the concept of a CFA can be extended to multispectral images for higher spectral resolution.

Consider Fig. 8.10b, which shows a CMYG (Cyan, Magenta, Yellow, Green) multispectral filter array (MSFA). The C, M, Y, and G filters still have broad spectral sensitivity. However, by inserting another quadruple-bandpass filter (QBPFF) on top of the CFA, the light is filtered twice before reaching the sensor. As shown in Fig. 8.10c, this noticeably improves the spectral resolution of the camera. While there are parallels between the optical hardware in CFAs and MSFAs, the spectral reconstruction and demosaicing process are slightly different, which we will go over in detail in Section 8.4. Also common nowadays is the use of a tunable filter. Such filters can change their spectral sensitivity without drastic changes in bandwidth or transmission. One example is the liquid crystal tunable filter (LCTF), which electronically modulates liquid crystals to only transmit certain wavelengths. The use of electronically controlled filters (rather than mechanical) enables compact optical hyperspectral setups that can be captured within seconds or even milliseconds with high spectral performance.

Building on the use of CFAs, some setups use design principles of a **compound imaging system** for multispectral image capture. A compound imaging system captures several

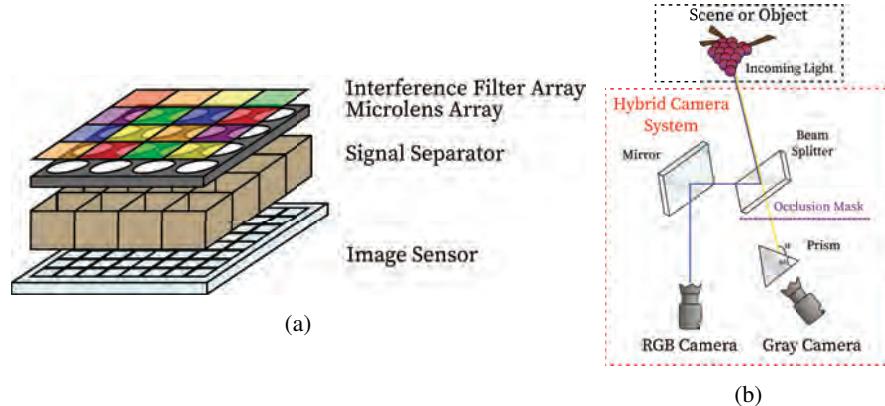


Figure 8.11: (a) Multispectral compound imaging setup. A compound imaging setup consists of several units, each one capturing an image at different wavelengths. The units capture spatially offset versions of the same scene. (b) Hybrid Capture. An optically parallelized setup to capture an RGB and hyperspectral image simultaneously.

images by using units within the optical setup. Each unit will capture a different aspect of the same scene (*i.e.*, different wavelengths) at spatial offsets, based on the physical location of each unit. The set of these unit images form a compound image. The optical setup for such a system is depicted in Fig. 8.11a.

The key idea in such a setup is that each point in the scene will be observed by all the units. This means that a spectrum can be measured for each spatial location in a scene, depending on the location of the observation plane. However, the main challenge is combining the unit images in post processing to account for spatial offsets Shogenji et al. (2004). This can be done via cross-correlation between unit images, pixel rearranging, or other methods. The advantage of such a compound system lies in its compactness, compared to other setups which need to incorporate additional bulky hardware (*e.g.*, tunable filters, spectral sources, *etc.*). However, these systems also require very precise measurement environments that may be hard to enforce in a practical environment. Multispectral image mosaicing operates on a similar principle. In such a setup, a camera with spatially varying spectral filters is panned across a scene to extract a wide field of view multispectral image by observing each point multiple times Schechner and Nayar (2002).

8.3.3 Spectrum-RGB Parallel Capture

Meanwhile, other methods attempt to tackle the inherent low spatial resolution of spectral images more robustly and directly. Low spatial resolution is a consequence of difficulty in spectrally multiplexing every point in a scene. In certain cases, the lower spatial resolution is also caused by diffraction limits when imaging at longer wavelengths. One widely explored

| Rank | Illumination 1 | | Illumination 2 | | |
|------|----------------|--|----------------|--|--|
| 1 | | | | | |
| 2 | | | | | |
| 3 | | | | | |

Figure 8.12: Multiplexed Illumination. Methodically illuminating the scene with more than one spectral source at a time can enable efficient data capture and higher reconstruction accuracies. An example of the top 3 optimal illumination patterns are shown with two allowed measurements.

optical setup to improve spatial resolution parallelizes the capture of a hyperspectral and RGB image. The incoming light beams are separated using a **beamsplitter**, which separates light into two directions equally. Along one optical path lies an high spatial resolution RGB camera, and along the other lies a broadband monochrome camera, as shown in the schematic in Fig. 8.11b. The RGB and spectral image can be fused together by leveraging the spectral, spatial, and temporal (for videos) correlation of the pixels Cao et al. (2011). We will analyze a linear algebraic approach to combine an RGB image with high spectral resolution multispectral images in Section 8.4.1.

8.3.4 Coded Spectral Illumination

So far, we've seen that a natural way to take a multi- or hyper-spectral image is to keep the scene illumination constant, and vary the camera's spectral sensitivity (via filters). We now consider the method of changing the illumination source, rather than the pixel's sensitivity. **Active illumination** is the process of using controlled light sources to illuminate a scene, in contrast to **passive illumination**, which relies exclusively on ambient light. The use of a controlled light source enables post-processing algorithms to take advantage of spectral, spatial, and/or temporal features of the illumination pattern for better image reconstruction. In certain setups, multispectral illumination, rather than multispectral detection, can also enable faster image acquisition.

Consider a scene actively illuminated by Q narrow band sources (unlike Fig. 8.7b, which depicts one broadband source occluded by spectrally discriminative filters).

Rather than turning on each source sequentially, we consider the method of **coded illumination**, in which we determine the optimal lighting pattern for image reconstruction. Fig. 8.12 gives an example of such an optimized lighting pattern Park et al. (2007). This particular lighting pattern uses **multiplexed illumination**, in which the scene is illuminated by multiple sources at a given time. By using a multiplexed illumination pattern, the number of needed measurements is also reduced. Every light source q has a mutually distinct spectrum $L_q(\lambda)$ known a priori. The illumination for frame n is given by a weighted sum of each source

$$p_n(\lambda) = \sum_{q=1}^Q d_{nq} L_q(\lambda),$$

where $0 \leq d_{nq} \leq 1$. The key idea is to find a basis \mathbf{D} that minimizes the least-squares error of the image reconstruction, for a predefined number of allowed measurements. The example in Fig. 8.12 assumes two allowed measurements per image. An ideal basis will fully utilize both light sources, have linearly independent illuminations within each frame, and keep total illumination power similar across frames.

Passive illumination setups are often negatively impacted by ambient noise, and struggle to extract reflectance properties of surfaces. A useful consequence of active illumination is that it provides a way to modulate incident light, enabling filtering of ambient light. Consider the setup in Fig. 8.7a. In a passively illuminated scene, the radiometric response (ρ_k^{xy}) of a given pixel $P = (x, y)$ can be modeled as

$$\rho_k^{xy} = t \int R_k(\lambda) S^{xy}(\lambda) E^{xy}(\lambda) d\lambda + N(\alpha t, \alpha t)$$

where t is the integration time, $R_k(\lambda)$ is the camera's response function at channel k , $S^{xy}(\lambda)$ is the reflectance spectral distribution at P , $E^{xy}(\lambda)$ is the spectrum of the incident flux at P , and $N(\alpha t, \alpha t)$ is additive Gaussian noise. Note that the mean and variance of the noise are proportional to the integration time. If we add an illumination source, the flux can be modeled as $E^{xy}(\lambda) = A^{xy}(\lambda) + L(\lambda) \Phi_i(\lambda)$, where $A^{xy}(\lambda)$ is the ambient illumination, $L(\lambda)$ is the spectrum of the light source (known a priori), and $\Phi_i(\lambda)$ is the transmission spectrum of filter i . If we take a measurement with filter i and j , each having integration time t_i and t_j , we find that their difference (after normalizing by t) is given by:

$$\begin{aligned} t_j \rho_{k,i}^{xy} - t_i \rho_{k,j}^{xy} &\approx t_j t_i \int R_k(\lambda) S^{xy}(\lambda) \Phi_i(\lambda) L(\lambda) d\lambda \\ &\quad - t_i t_j \int R_k(\lambda) S^{xy}(\lambda) \Phi_j(\lambda) L(\lambda) d\lambda + N(0, 2\alpha t_i t_j). \end{aligned}$$

Note that we have effectively filtered out the ambient illumination $A^{xy}(\lambda)$. By taking several such measurements, we can construct a basis from which we can recreate the spectrum for each pixel. Such filtering can't be done in a passive illumination setup, since the ambient

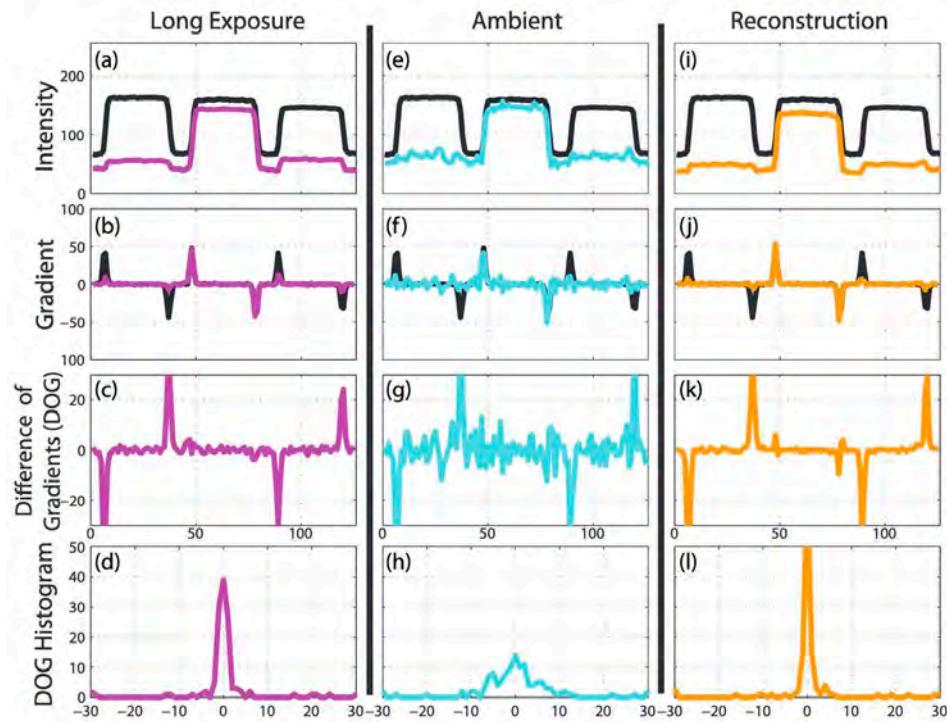


Figure 8.13: Dark Flash Photography. Capturing non-intrusive, high-quality images can be challenging in dimly lit environments. One way to get around this hurdle is by actively illuminating the scene with an infrared light source. We can then leverage the spectral proximity of red with infrared wavelengths to constrain the image reconstruction problem Krishnan and Fergus (2009).

illumination would be affected differently for each filter in the CFA in such a situation Chi et al. (2010).

An interesting and unique application of active illumination is in dark photography Krishnan and Fergus (2009), where the scene is dimly lit. Measurements made at such low light intensities are corrupted by Poisson noise in the sensor. On the other hand, bursts of light caused by a flash unit can be disruptive to the scene. The innovation here is to illuminate the scene with infrared light so that the flash will be invisible to the human eye, hence leaving the scene undisturbed. By combining a dark flash photo (*F*) with an ambient image (*A*), a color image can be woven together in post-processing. Contrary to Flash/No Flash photography Petschnigg et al. (2004), this method, by design, has non-overlapping ambient and flash illumination since the illumination sources are at different wavelengths. However, while the spectral intensities of *A* and *F* will be mostly different, the intensities will be

correlated at the red and IR wavelengths due to their spectral proximity. We examine this spectral relationship by analyzing the measurements taken for a 1D scanline across three colored squares (blue, magenta, yellow). In Fig. 8.13a, the black lines correspond to measured IR intensities (F_1) and colored lines denote intensities from the red channel of the camera in a long exposure shot (L_1). Even though these measured intensities are rather different, note how the intensity drops are spatially aligned at the edges of the squares for both F_1 and L_1 . This correlation at the edges is even more noticeable when analyzing the gradients ∇F_1 and ∇L_1 in Fig. 8.13b, and the difference of gradients (DOG) $\nabla F_1 - \nabla L_1$ in Fig. 8.13c. We see that the DOG is sparse, since the DOG histogram in Fig. 8.13d has a sharp peak centered at 0, meaning that most DOG values are 0. However, when the same measurements and calculations are made with the ambient light in Fig. 8.13e-h, we see that the DOG is no longer sparse. Using what we learned in Fig. 8.13a-d, we can now reconstruct our final image R by (1) minimizing the differences in intensity between A and R , (2) making sure $\nabla F_1 - \nabla R_1$ is sparse, and (3) making sure $\nabla F_1 - \nabla R_1$ is sparse. Sparsity can be enforced by adding an L_1 norm to the cost function Krishnan and Fergus (2009). In this context, we use spectral measurements to act as a useful constraint in recreating an RGB image.

8.4 Computational Methods for Analyzing Spectral Data

8.4.1 Spatio-Spectral Matrix Representations

Linear algebra gives us the ability to represent images as a linear function of basis vectors. The expressive capability of a linear basis is a powerful tool at our disposal when we seek to express an image in terms of its spatial and spectral features. In multi- and hyperspectral images, **mixed pixels** are often present. Mixed pixels contain more than one distinct substance, either because (1) the spatial resolution of the camera is too low, (2) the substance is a mixture of several different materials, or (3) both. **Spectral unmixing** is an inverse problem that aims to decompose each pixel into its constituent spectra (endmembers) and spectra intensities (abundances) Keshava and Mustard (2002). In other words, it aims to represent each pixel's spectrum as a linear combination of a set of basis spectra (corresponding to a set of a few fundamental basis materials). While work has been done in *learning* representations of spectral images for hyperspectral image reconstruction Choi et al. (2017), this chapter focuses on analytic methods for interpretable decomposition of spectral images.

Let us consider the hardware setup from Fig. 8.10b, where we stack a QBPF on the CMYG CFA to increase the spectral sensitivity of our imager. A given pixel in the camera will have a sensitivity of w_{X_i} , where $i = \{1, 2, 3, 4\}$ refers to the QBPF filters and $X = \{C, M, Y, G\}$ refers to the CFA filters. If I_{λ_i} is the intensity of light reaching the filter at wavelength λ_i ,

then the measured intensity (S_X) at the sensor for filter X is given by

$$S_X = w_{X1}(I_{\lambda 1}) + w_{X2}(I_{\lambda 2}) + w_{X3}(I_{\lambda 3}) + w_{X4}(I_{\lambda 4}).$$

This can be further generalized for all filters as a matrix multiplication $\mathbf{s} = \mathbf{W}\mathbf{i}$.

$$\begin{bmatrix} S_C \\ S_M \\ S_Y \\ S_G \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} w_{C1} & w_{C2} & w_{C3} & w_{C4} \\ w_{M1} & w_{M2} & w_{M3} & w_{M4} \\ w_{Y1} & w_{Y2} & w_{Y3} & w_{Y4} \\ w_{G1} & w_{G2} & w_{G3} & w_{G4} \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} I_{\lambda 1} \\ I_{\lambda 2} \\ I_{\lambda 3} \\ I_{\lambda 4} \end{bmatrix}.$$

The calibration matrix \mathbf{W} can be experimentally found by measuring m different color samples with known reflection spectra $\mathbf{i}_1, \dots, \mathbf{i}_m$, which can be concatenated into a matrix $\mathbf{I} \in \mathbb{R}^{4 \times m}$. We then obtain a series of measurements $\mathbf{s}_1, \dots, \mathbf{s}_m$, which we concatenate into a matrix $\mathbf{S} \in \mathbb{R}^{4 \times m}$. We can then solve for the calibration matrix by $\mathbf{W} = \mathbf{S}\mathbf{I}^{-1}$, where \mathbf{I}^{-1} is the pseudoinverse of \mathbf{I} and $\mathbf{W} \in \mathbb{R}^{4 \times 4}$. One condition is that $m \geq 4$. This ensures that \mathbf{I} has linearly independent rows, which ensures that \mathbf{I} has a right inverse. Once the \mathbf{W} matrix is found, we can use \mathbf{S}^{-1} as a transformation to go from sensor measurements to spectral intensities, by $\mathbf{i} = \mathbf{W}^{-1}\mathbf{s}$. This provides a conceptually straightforward way to increase the spectral resolution of a standard CMYG camera.

Now, we will consider ways to digitally stitch together a low spatial resolution hyperspectral image $\mathbf{Y}_{hs} \in \mathbb{R}^{w \times h \times S}$ and a high spatial resolution RGB image $\mathbf{Y}_{RGB} \in \mathbb{R}^{W \times H \times 3}$ ($W \gg w$ and $H \gg h$), as captured by the setup in Fig. 8.11b. Our goal is to extract a high-resolution hyperspectral image $\mathbf{Z} \in \mathbb{R}^{W \times H \times S}$. We try to extract a high-dimensional output from low-dimensional inputs, which means that the problem is underconstrained and we must make some assumptions about the scene. In this case, we assume that there is a very small number M of distinct materials in a scene. We also assume that scene radiance as a function of wavelength is a smooth function, and so can be expressed with fewer basis functions Kawakami et al. (2011). The reader should note that the mathematical assumptions made are derived from optical properties of the scene and may differ from application to application.

We first claim that \mathbf{Y}_{hs} and \mathbf{Y}_{RGB} are linear functions of \mathbf{Z} , such that $\mathbf{Y}_{hs} = \mathbf{P}_{hs}\mathbf{Z}$ and $\mathbf{Y}_{RGB} = \mathbf{P}_{RGB}\mathbf{Z}$. For a scene containing M different materials, we can express the spectrum $\mathbf{Z}(i, j)$ at point (i, j) as

$$\mathbf{Z}(i, j) \approx \sum_{m=1}^M \mathbf{a}_m \mathbf{h}(i, j) = \mathbf{A}\mathbf{h}(i, j),$$

where \mathbf{a}_m is the vector corresponding to the reflectance spectrum of material m and $\mathbf{h}(i, j) = [h_1(i, j), h_2(i, j), \dots, h_M(i, j)]$ are scaling coefficients. Now, we can express $\mathbf{Y}_{hs}(i, j, *)$ as

a sum of pixels in a spatial window W_{ij} .

$$\mathbf{Y}_{\text{hs}}(i, j, *) \propto \sum_{k, l \in W_{ij}} \mathbf{Z}(i, j, *) = \mathbf{A} \sum_{k, l \in W_{ij}} \mathbf{h}(k, l) = \mathbf{A}\mathbf{q}(i, j).$$

This formulation comes from the fact that \mathbf{Y}_{hs} is a low spatial resolution version of \mathbf{Z} , so the spectrum measured at a point in \mathbf{Y}_{hs} is actually a combination of different spectra in pixels surrounding it. Intuitively, this is analogous to colors in nearby pixels getting mixed (*i.e.*, pixelated) in a low-resolution image.

Using this information, we can now express \mathbf{Y}_{hs} as a matrix factorization, $\tilde{\mathbf{Y}}_{\text{hs}} = \mathbf{AQ}$, where $\tilde{\mathbf{Y}}_{\text{hs}} \in \mathbb{R}^{S \times wh}$, \mathbf{A} is the reflectance spectra matrix, containing the spectra of M materials in its column space, and \mathbf{Q} is the spatial matrix, containing the fractions of material found at every spatial point. A common method to solve for such a factorization is Gauss-Newton nonlinear optimization, with a constraint that the 1-norm of \mathbf{Q} be minimized. The 1-norm constraint comes from the fact that we assume that there are very few materials in the scene.

We now search for $\mathbf{h}(i, j)$. We do so by using the previous assumption that

$$\mathbf{Y}_{\text{RGB}} = \mathbf{P}_{\text{RGB}}\mathbf{Z} = \mathbf{P}_{\text{RGB}}\mathbf{A}\mathbf{h}(i, j).$$

We use the \mathbf{A} calculated in the previous step, and search for a $\mathbf{h}(i, j)$ that satisfies this equation and has the sparsest representation. Using our estimated value for $\mathbf{h}(i, j)$, we can calculate our high-resolution spectral image

$$\tilde{\mathbf{Z}}(i, j, *) = \mathbf{A}\hat{\mathbf{h}}(i, j).$$

We see that by making certain assumptions about the structure of the image data, we can decompose two images of the scene into their spatial and spectral features, then recombine these features into a single high-resolution hyperspectral image by matrix multiplication Kawakami et al. (2011). Related work has extended these principles to combine panchromatic (low spectral information) images with high spatial resolution for hyperspectral superresolution in satellite imagery Wang et al. (2010); Nguyen et al. (2011); Li et al. (2013) in a field known as panchromatic superresolution.

The assumption of few distinct materials in a natural scene is a rather common one, and of great significance considering how well it tends to model hyperspectral image spaces. It supports the idea that a hyperspectral image can be expressed accurately as a projection onto a low-dimensional subspace contained by few basis spectra. Optical hardware can also be developed in such a way that captured measurements are a projection of the spectral image onto this subspace, eliminating the need to capture a spectrum for each spatial point Saragadam and Sankaranarayanan (2019). Hyperspectral anomaly detection applications

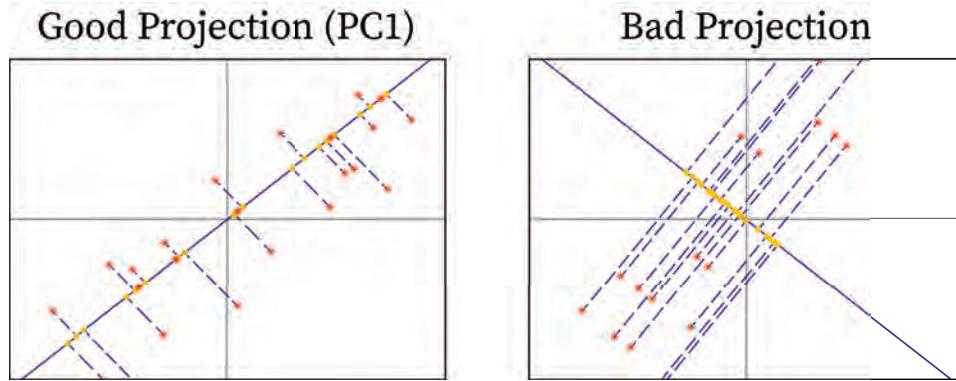


Figure 8.14: Principal Component Analysis (PCA). PCA seeks to represent data in a coordinate system as to maximize the variance of the data's projection onto each axis. Observe that by minimizing the least squares error of the projection, the axis also maximizes the variance of the projections.

build on this principle by modeling the image as a sum of a low-rank background and sparse anomalies Saragadam et al. (2017). These physical assumptions (anomalies → sparse, spectral background → low rank) can inherently inspire end-to-end design of image capture systems.

8.4.2 Dimensionality Reduction

We now consider linear algebraic principles in reducing the dimensionality of the hyperspectral data. As the amount of captured data increases, the data will likely not only contain redundant (*i.e.*, linearly dependent) information, but also become more difficult to computationally process. **Principal component analysis (PCA)** is a popular technique to reduce the dimension of hyperspectral data. In the context of spectral imaging, PCA searches for a transformed v -dimensional coordinate space, where v is the number of wavelengths and n is the number of pixels in the image Baronti et al. (1998). The transformed coordinate system consists of axes that are highly uncorrelated (*i.e.*, orthogonal) to each other. Each vector in the transformed v -dimensional basis is referred to as a **principal component (PC)**. An important result of PCA is that by projecting the hyperspectral data into its PCs, the data becomes more interpretable since it enables analysis of fewer, independent features of the data.

We now outline the steps to perform PCA on a dataset. We start off by subtracting the average spectrum from every spectral point (*i.e.*, zero-mean data). Then, we determine an axis, which we denote PC1, such that the residuals of the projections of the data points onto

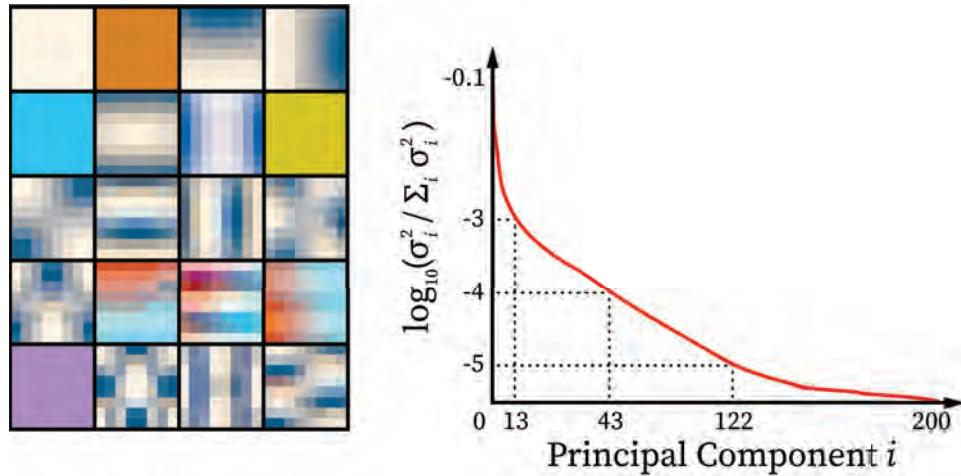


Figure 8.15: Statistical Representation of Spectral Images. (a) PCA representation of patches in a hyperspectral image. (b) Log scale of variance of first 200 PCs.

this axis will be minimized. Mathematically, we formulate this as

$$\min_{\|\mathbf{u}\|=1} \frac{1}{N} \sum_{i=1}^N \|\mathbf{x}_i - (\mathbf{u}^\top \mathbf{x}_i) \mathbf{u}\|^2.$$

We state without proof that this formulation is equivalent to finding a PC1 such that the variance of the projection is maximal. However, one can intuitively grasp this concept by contrasting two different projections as shown in Fig. 8.14, and noticing that the data projections are more spread out in the optimal projection. We repeat this process of projecting data onto an axis to maximize variance until we find PC1, PC2, ..., PCn. This idea of maximizing variance within each PC is at the heart of PCA, and perhaps the most important concept to understand. We again state without proof that all the PCs of the data can be found by extracting the eigenvalues and eigenvectors of the covariance matrix of the zero-meaned data. The magnitude of the eigenvalues indicates how great the variance is along the axis given by the corresponding eigenvector Abdi and Williams (2010).

Since we want to condense our image representation, we only choose the eigenvectors with the r largest eigenvalues to be our PCs ($r \ll v$). While dropping principal components will reduce the reconstruction accuracy, this accuracy is not significantly affected if the eigenvalues are small for that PC. A PC with low variance indicates that most (or all) of the data share this feature, meaning that the feature is uninformative. This idea that a spectral image can be represented within a few principal components is also a testament to the idea that any pixel in a scene can be represented by a mixture of a few materials, *i.e.*, a linear combination of a few spectra Jaaskelainen et al. (1990).

8.4 Computational Methods for Analyzing Spectral Data

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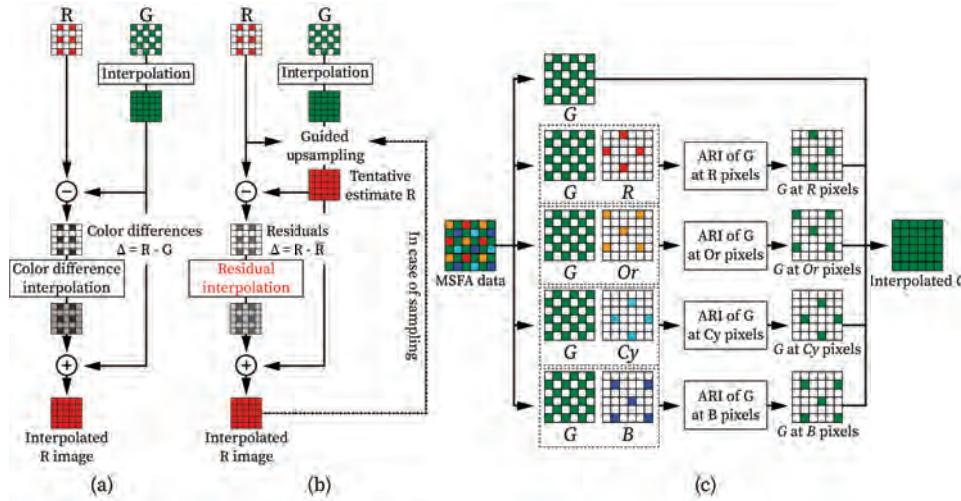


Figure 8.16: Image Demosaicing using (a) color difference interpolation, (b) residual interpolation, and (c) adaptive residual interpolation.

Our new condensed data representation \mathbf{Z} can be found by projecting measured data onto these PCs, which is done by a simple matrix multiplication $\mathbf{Z} = \mathbf{U}^T (\mathbf{Y} - \boldsymbol{\mu})$, where \mathbf{Y} is the measured data, \mathbf{U} is the matrix containing the r principal components in its column space, and $\boldsymbol{\mu}$ is a matrix containing the mean of the spectrum along every point.

We will now use principles from PCA to gain a glimpse into the statistical representation of hyperspectral images, and interdependencies between spatio-spectral features. Consider a real-world hyperspectral \mathbf{X} , separated into $P \times P$ spatial patches. Performing PCA on each patch separately yields a representation that looks something like that in Fig. 8.15. As shown on the right side, the variance of the data contained in the PC rapidly decreases. In fact, 99% of the variance in the data is contained in the first 200 basis vectors (out of ~ 2000).

Note that many patches share similar geometrical structure, suggesting similar intra-patch spatial relationships. Yet, they have different spectral features, evident through their different colors. This suggests that the data is separable into spectral and spatial components via matrix factorization. Further probabilistic analysis into the coefficients in the spectral and spatial matrices reveal that for a given spatial point, spectral components are non-independent Chakrabarti and Zickler (2011). Such analysis gives us an idea of how PCA can be leveraged in research, as well as some insight into the underlying structure of a hyperspectral image. However, much research is still being devoted to both understanding these spatio-spectral statistical representations and how to harness them effectively.

8.4.3 Multispectral Demosaicing

In 2.2.4, for CFA-based spectral setups, we alluded to the need to **demosaic** a digital RGB grid to interpolate it into a color image. In this subsection, we will make the distinction between demosaicing an RGB image and demosaicing a multispectral image using difference and residual interpolation. For an RGB image, a G image is first interpolated using only the G measurements. Then, the R and B channels are interpolated either using **difference interpolation**, as shown in Fig. 8.16a, or **residual interpolation (RI)**, as shown in Fig. 8.16b. Both are valid approaches for RGB demosaicing, but state-of-the-art tends to use RI Kiku et al. (2013) as smoother residuals often lead to higher interpolation accuracies.

For multispectral images, the CFA is replaced with a MSFA. In particular, we will examine the approach of **adaptive RI (ARI)** to demosaic outputs from the MSFA. ARI combines principles from **minimized-Laplacian RI (MLRI)** and **iterative RI (IRI)**. Unlike RI, which seeks to minimize the magnitude of the residuals, MLRI seeks to minimize the squared Laplacian energy \mathbf{E} of the residuals, given by

$$E(a_{p,q}) = \sum_{i,j \in \omega_{p,q}} \left(M_{i,j} \tilde{\nabla}^2 (R_{i,j} - \check{R}_{i,j}) \right)^2,$$

where \mathbf{M} is a 2D binary mask, having a value of one for red pixels and zero for others (assuming we are interpolating red pixels). $\omega_{p,q}$ is a window around a pixel (p, q) , while $R_{i,j}$ and $\check{R}_{i,j}$ are the ground truth and estimated value, respectively, of the pixel (i, j) . IRI is similar to traditional RI, but includes an iterative component as shown in the dashed line of Fig. 8.16b. The interpolated red image in iteration k is used to guide the upsampling in iteration $k + 1$. The iterations are stopped based on the magnitude and smoothness of the residuals. The blue image is interpolated in a similar manner.

ARI first interpolates the G band, as shown in Fig. 8.16c. The interpolation is broken down into $n - 1$ streams (excluding the G band), where n is the number of spectral bands being sampled. The G values are interpolated at the pixel locations of the other bands by adaptively choosing the iteration value for each pixel in IRI and methodically combining RI and MLRI estimates. All the other bands are similarly calculated iteratively with guided upsampling from the G image. Demosaicing a multispectral image is more challenging than demosaicing an RGB image since each spectral band is sampled at a lower spatial frequency Monno et al. (2017). This is why more sophisticated algorithms are needed, one example being ARI.

Chapter Appendix: Notations

8.4 Computational Methods for Analyzing Spectral Data

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| Notation | Description |
|--------------------|---|
| c | Speed of light |
| ν | Frequency |
| λ | Wavelength |
| h | Planck's constant |
| E | Incident photon energy |
| $L_q(\lambda)$ | Spectrum of light source q |
| $p_n(\lambda)$ | Illumination for frame n |
| ρ_k^{xy} | Radiometric response |
| $R_k(\lambda)$ | Camera's response function at channel k |
| $S^{xy}(\lambda)$ | Reflectance spectral distribution at (x, y) |
| $E^{xy}(\lambda)$ | Spectrum of the incident flux at (x, y) |
| $A^{xy}(\lambda)$ | Ambient illumination |
| $\Phi_i(\lambda)$ | Transmission spectrum of filter i |
| \mathbf{Y}_{hs} | Low spatial resolution hyperspectral image |
| \mathbf{Y}_{RGB} | High spatial resolution RGB image |
| \mathbf{Z} | High-resolution hyperspectral image |

Exercises

Color images broadly capture the reflectance of a scene at three wavelength peaks, i.e. red, green, and blue (RGB). Multispectral images go one step further, capturing a scene at several peak wavelengths with narrow-band spectral sensitivities. This increased information capacity provides us with the ability to better understand a scene's composition. In this problem set, we will learn to (a) sustainably process this increased information content and (b) render scenes using hyperspectral information.

1. Spectral Image Compression Using PCA

Hyperspectral images densely store spectral information about every pixel in an image, making them highly memory intensive, computationally different to process, and uninterpretable. Raw spectral data often contains redundant information due to interdependent spatio-spectral features. The goal of this section is to apply principal components analysis (PCA) to a multispectral image and extract meaningful features from just a few independent principal components

a) Capturing the Image

Either capture a spectral image using filters or use an online database such as the *Manchester Hyperspectral Image Database* for this section Foster et al. (2006). If you have a relatively small number of captured wavelengths, you will find better results with less nuanced scenes.

b) Extracting Covariance Matrix

Our image data is represented as matrix $\mathbf{A} \in \mathbb{R}^{w \times h \times n}$, where w and h are the width and height, respectively, of the images and n is the number of spectral points. Flatten this matrix such that all pixels are along one dimension. This should form a new matrix $\mathbf{A}' \in \mathbb{R}^{wh \times n}$. We will then subtract the mean spectrum (calculated over all pixels), and subtract this mean spectrum pixel-wise. This will give us the de-meansed matrix, \mathbf{B} . The covariance matrix \mathbf{C} is then calculated as

$$\mathbf{C} = \mathbf{B}^T \mathbf{B}, \quad (8.1)$$

where $\mathbf{C} \in \mathbb{R}^{n \times n}$.

c) Extracting Principal Components

By performing a symmetric eigen-decomposition of \mathbf{C} , we can compute a factorization for \mathbf{C}

$$\mathbf{C} = \mathbf{Q} \boldsymbol{\Lambda} \mathbf{Q}^T, \quad (8.2)$$

where $\boldsymbol{\Lambda} \in \mathbb{R}^{n \times n}$ is a matrix containing eigenvalues sorted from greatest to least, and $\mathbf{Q} \in \mathbb{R}^{n \times n}$ is the matrix containing the corresponding eigenvectors along its column

space. The eigenvectors correspond to the principal components of the image, while the eigenvalues correspond to the variance of the projected data along the principal component.

d) Data Projection

The key concept here is that certain spectral images can be reconstructed with high fidelity with just a few principal components. Select r number of principal components with the highest variance. We want to choose the principal components that account for large variances in the data, as these components account for higher-level features. We can project our image data onto a lower-dimensional subspace occupied by these principal components. To do this, construct a matrix $\mathbf{R} \in \mathbb{R}^{n \times r}$ with the r greatest principal components along its column space. We can reconstruct the original image from the low-dimensional subspace via the equation:

$$\mathbf{A}_{new} = \mathbf{R}\mathbf{R}^T\mathbf{B}^T + \mu, \quad (8.3)$$

where $\mathbf{A}_{new} \in \mathbb{R}^{w \times h \times n}$ is our reconstructed image matrix and $\mu \in \mathbb{R}^{w \times h \times n}$ is the mean spectrum (that we subtracted from earlier). Choose a value of r that causes your reconstructed image to look similar to the original image. Place your reconstructed image, and report your chosen value for r .

2. Hyperspectral Images under Variable Lighting

Scenes around us are illuminated by different types of sources (e.g. the sun, halogen, incandescent, fluorescent, etc.). Each of these sources have a different pre-known spectral illumination profile. If we know the reflectance profile at every point in a scene, then we can recreate an image of the scene under different illumination profiles by the given analytic equation

$$l(\lambda) = r(\lambda)e(\lambda) \quad (8.4)$$

where $l(\lambda)$ is the observed spectral radiance at point P in the scene, $r(\lambda)$ is the spectral reflectance at P , and $e(\lambda)$ is the spectral profile of the light incident on P . This model assumes approximately uniform spectral illumination across all pixels in the scene, which is often a reasonable assumption. This problem will give us insight into the usefulness of knowing the spectral profile of a scene, particularly for image rendering.

a) Rendering a Hyperspectral Image

Choose any hyperspectral image from the *Manchester Hyperspectral Image Database*. These images contain the reflectance spectrum of the scene at each pixel sampled at 33 wavelength bands from 400 nm to 720 nm with a step size of 10 nm Foster et al. (2006).

b) Rendering Under Illumination Source

Extract the spectral profile of at least two different illumination sources from the *colorimetric data* available at the International Commission on Illumination L'eclairage. Ensure that the spectral profile is extracted at wavelength bands matching the hyperspectral image (400 nm - 720 nm with 10 nm step size). Using Eq. 8.4, determine the spectral radiance $l(\lambda)$. You can assume that the Manchester database Foster et al. (2006) gives us information about $r(\lambda)$ and the colorimetric database gives us information about $e(\lambda)$. Plot the observed radiance at point [2, 3] in the image.

c) Producing an XYZ Image

$l(\lambda)$ tells us what the spectral radiance looks like for a given point in the scene. This contains all the information that we need to recreate a human-interpretable image of a scene. Recall that the human eye has three cones, with L, M, and S cones being sensitive to long, medium, and short wavelengths respectively. Our eyes (and cameras via Bayer filters) process this light through these three color channels (red, green, and blue). What each cone observes is given by

$$o_i = \int s_i(\lambda)l(\lambda)d\lambda \quad (8.5)$$

where o_i is the scalar value that cone i will observe at a point P in the scene, $l(\lambda)$ is the spectrum of the light reaching our retina, $s_i(\lambda)$ is the spectral sensitivity of cone i , and $i \in \{R, G, B\}$.

Extract the spectral sensitivity for each of the three cones from the *CIE database*. This database contains CIE's 1931 color space sensitivity data, which is a quantitative link between the electromagnetic wavelength of colors and their corresponding physiologically perceived color in humans Smith and Guild (1931). Using the corresponding L, M, and S cones, produce an RGB image by merging the 3 separate images.

d) Rendering into an RGB Image

The RGB color space is contained inside the XYZ space, and hence the values of o_i can be converted to RGB. You can use built-in functions in Python such as “scikit.image.xyz2rgb” for the conversion, and to produce an RGB image. Compare this image with another image under the same lighting. Do they look similar?



TABLE PART

9

Programmable Illumination and Shading

In the previous two chapters, we discussed ways to leverage certain properties of light (*i.e.*, spectrum and polarization) to obtain features of objects in a scene. In this chapter, we will specifically focus on using intensity measurements for shape information and applications in graphics and rendering.

9.1 Scene Reflectance and Photometry

9.1.1 Albedo, Radiance, Irradiance

Imaging, and our visual system, relies on information obtained from light reflected off of objects in a scene. The field of optics has derived complex relationships between light and surfaces, in the way that they interact through single or multiple absorption, reflection, and scattering. However, modeling a scene strictly using these relationships is an often impractical task, due to the complexity of a real scene (*i.e.*, unknown optics, noise) and the computational burdens it would impose, assuming we can derive a sufficiently complex model. In practice, the dependence of the scene reflectance on angle and spectrum of incident light cannot always be accounted for. Instead, some simplifying assumptions are used, which in practice have yielded quite good results.

Over some spectral window, the reflectance is assumed to be constant. Meanwhile, the angular dependence is simplified by the separation of the measured light into its **diffuse** and **specular albedo**. Albedo is the proportion of incident light that is reflected, *i.e.*, not absorbed, by a surface. Note that due to its spectral and angular dependence, albedo is not an intrinsic property of the surface. The specular component is light that directly bounces off a surface to the sensor, while the diffuse component is light that scatters randomly upon interacting with the surface. As discussed in Chapter 7, the diffuse component is approximately isotropic, while the specular component is highly anisotropic. Decomposing an image into just two components allows for a convenient representation of the albedo,

while accounting for its dependence on the angle of incidence Coakley (2003). More simplifying assumptions will be discussed in 10.1.2.

We now distinguish between two similar, but distinct, fields studying the measurement of light. **Radiometry** measures the absolute power of the light, while **photometry** attempts to mimic the radiant sensitivity of the human eye. Specifically, as discussed in Chapter 8, three different cones in the retina have different spectral sensitivities, with peaks approximately centered at red, green, and blue light. Photometry is more common in imaging, while radiometry is more common for applications in astronomy, where a faithful measurement of the spatial light intensity distribution is required. Radiometric quantities are typically converted to photometric quantities by cameras due to the spectral sensitivity of color filter arrays (*e.g.*, Bayer filter) in front of the focal plane.

The **irradiance** E of a surface is defined as the incident radiant flux density, and has units of $\text{W} \cdot \text{m}^{-2}$. Meanwhile, **radiance** L of a surface is emitted flux per unit of foreshortened area (from Lambert's Law) per unit solid angle $\text{W} \cdot \text{m}^{-2} \cdot \text{sr}^{-1}$. Radiance in this context is useful because it enables understanding of how much irradiance will be received by the observer, depending on their view angle. For some incident flux Φ_i , we can denote the irradiance as

$$E = \frac{d\Phi_i}{dA},$$

where dA is the incident area. For $d^2\Phi_r$ flux radiated within a solid angle $d\omega_r$, the surface radiance is

$$L = \frac{d^2\Phi_r}{dA \cos \theta_r d\omega_r}.$$

9.1.2 Lambert's Law

A **Lambertian surface** is a surface that reflects light approximately equally across the azimuth. It obeys **Lambert's Law**, in which the intensity is proportional to $\cos \theta$, where θ is the incident angle of illumination with respect to the surface normal. Assuming an ideal **point source**, the law can be expressed as

$$I(\theta) = I(0) \cos \theta,$$

where $I(\theta)$ is the light intensity reflected. The reflected light is maximum when the incident light is parallel to the surface normal, and is zero when the source is orthogonal to the surface normal. This reduction in intensity as the incident light deviates from the surface normal is due to **foreshortening**. Foreshortening is a phenomena in which the area of light incident on a surface decreases at oblique incident angles with respect to the normal, reducing in an overall reduction in reflection, as shown in Fig. 9.1. Note that there is no ϕ (azimuthal) dependence in Lambert's Law. Any surface (typically diffuse) that approximately behaves as such is referred to as Lambertian surface.

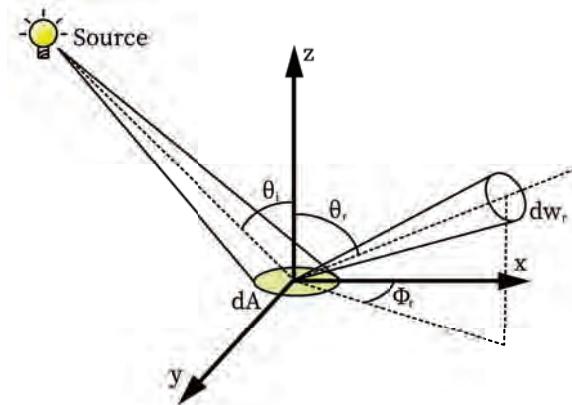


Figure 9.1: Lambert's Law and Foreshortening. When the incident light is at an angle with respect to the normal, the area of light incident on the surface is reduced, in what is known as foreshortening. This results in a reflected intensity proportional to the product of $\cos \theta_i$ and the incident intensity.

9.1.3 Bidirectional Reflectance Distribution Function

The ratio of the light incident on the surface and the irradiance measured by the observer is known as bidirectional reflectance distribution function (BRDF). The BRDF is given by

$$f = \frac{L}{E}$$

and is a function of 4 variables: $\theta_i, \theta_r, \phi_i, \phi_r$, where subscript i denotes incidence angles and r denotes reflected angles. Given the BRDF for a surface, we can determine the observed reflectance at some view angle as a function of incident angle.

The BRDF of an object can be empirically determined by densely measuring the reflectance of the object Matusik (2003). However, there is value in understanding some analytical BRDFs. Here are a few interesting, but fundamental, BRDF properties and ideas. The **Helmholtz Reciprocity** states that, by the second Law of Thermodynamics, the appearance of the object does not change when the viewing and source directions are swapped. Mathematically, for any BRDF,

$$f(\theta_i, \phi_i; \theta_r, \phi_r) = f(\theta_r, \phi_r; \theta_i, \phi_i).$$

Zickler et al. (2002) show that one can even exploit this reciprocity to constrain the solution of the surface normals of an object, by surgically choosing the positions of the light sources and camera. If an object exhibits **rotational symmetry**, then the BRDF becomes a function of just three variables

$$f(\theta_i, \theta_r, \phi_i - \phi_r).$$

If a reflection is mirror-like, or specular, then the BRDF becomes

$$f(\theta_i, \phi_i; \theta_r, \phi_r) = \rho_s \delta(\theta_i - \theta_r) \delta(\phi_i + \pi - \phi_r),$$

where ρ_s is the specular albedo, and $\delta(x)$ is the impulse function. This should make intuitive sense, since $\theta_i = \theta_r$, as dictated by Snell's Law for a specular reflection. Furthermore, the reflected light should lie along the plane of incidence, meaning that $\phi_r = \phi_i + \pi$. Since all the specularly reflected light is contained precisely along these angles, the viewer angle must be aligned at $\theta_r = \theta_i$ and $\phi_r = \phi_i + \pi$ to detect a mirror-like reflection. Otherwise, the viewer detects zero radiance. A depiction of this concept is shown in Fig. 9.2. Note, however, that the double delta function is an idealized model. In practice, real surfaces aren't perfectly smooth, so the highlights occur over some small patch, rather than at a single point. It is, however, still instructive to understand these idealized BRDF models. One example of a BRDF accounting for specular reflections off of rough surfaces is the Phong BRDF model. This model incorporates angular falloff of intensity into the idealized model, by introducing a specular lobe, rather than specular spike, shown in Fig. 9.3 (Phong (1975)).

Let's consider the BRDF in the context of images taken in heavy snow conditions. In such scenes, a "white-out" effect is dominant, in which it is nearly impossible to distinguish the texture of the snow. Here's why. The sky is the illumination source for these images, with an approximately uniform radiance of $L^{\text{source}}(\theta_i, \phi_i) = L^{\text{sky}}$. The reflected radiance is

$$\begin{aligned} L^{\text{source}}(\theta_r, \phi_r) &= \int_{\Omega} L^{\text{source}}(\theta_i, \phi_i) f(\theta_i, \phi_i; \theta_r, \phi_r) \cos \theta_i d\Omega, \\ &= \int_{-\pi}^{\pi} \int_0^{\pi/2} L^{\text{sky}} f(\theta_i, \phi_i; \theta_r, \phi_r) \cos \theta_i \sin \theta_i d\theta_i d\phi_i, \end{aligned}$$

where $f(\theta_i, \phi_i; \theta_r, \phi_r)$ is the BRDF for the snow, $\cos \theta_i$ is the term resulting from Lambert's Law, and $d\Omega = \sin \theta_i d\theta_i d\phi_i$ is the differential solid angle. For a diffuse surface, where the reflection is approximately isotropic, the BRDF will be a constant value given by ρ/π , where ρ is the albedo. Therefore, if we evaluate the above integral, we will get $L^{\text{surface}} = \rho L^{\text{sky}}$. The surface reflectance at any point in the scene is simply a uniformly scaled version of the sky reflectance, which results in the uniform appearance of snow, and the "white-out" effect.

9.2 Shape from Intensity

Shadows play an important role in human vision. Our two eyes enable binocular vision, which is particularly useful for depth perception. However, even if we cover one eye, we are able to perceive the shape of an object by observing its shading pattern. In computer vision, you can leverage local shading to obtain a concise representation of physically

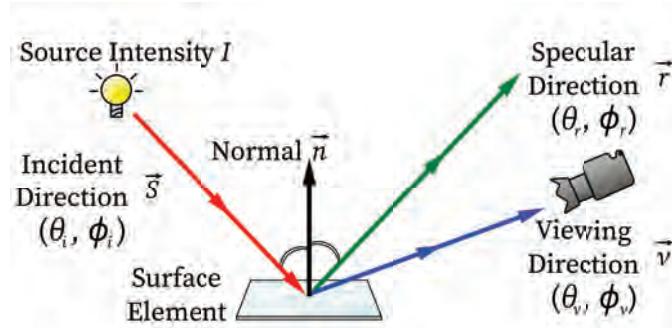


Figure 9.2: Specular or Mirror-like Reflection of Light.

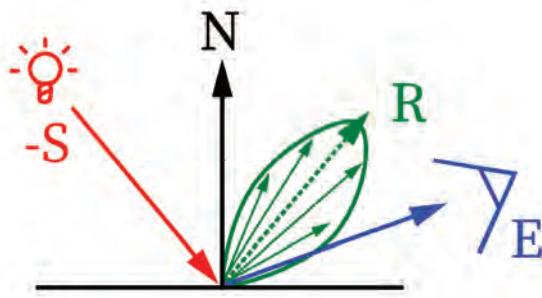


Figure 9.3: Phong BRDF Model for Specular Highlights.

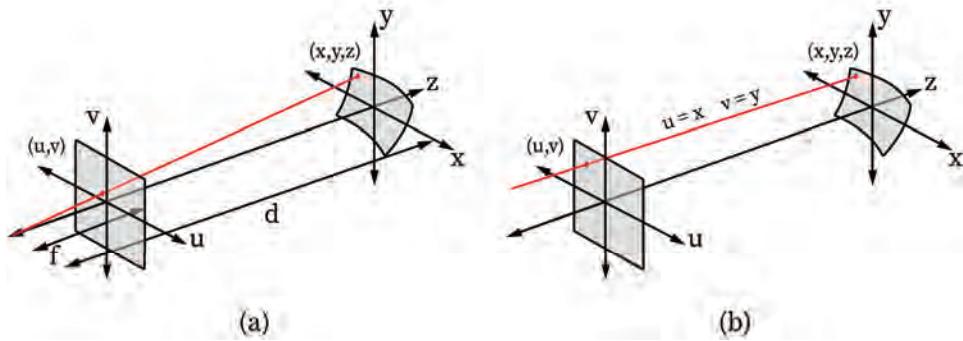


Figure 9.4: Geometry of Image Projection. (a) Perspective Projection. (b) Orthographic Projection.

plausible shapes of objects in a scene Xiong et al. (2014). In this section, we will explore

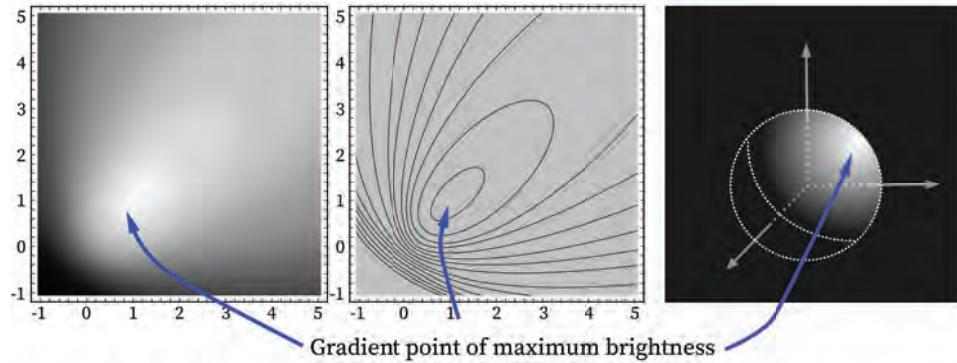


Figure 9.5: Example of a Reflectance Map.

the fundamentals of shadow formation in the context of **shape from intensity**, a class of problems dedicated to extracting shape via raw intensity measurements from an imaging sensor. Note that the following sections serve as an introductory text. For a more rigorous treatment of image illumination and shadow formation, the reader is directed to Horn (1975).

9.2.1 Reflectance Maps and Gradient Space

A **reflectance map** maps a scene's reflectance as a function of the spatial gradients of the scene depth. It is particularly useful in understanding the image formation process, since it is dependent on light source distribution and the shape of the object. Consider the object shape in Fig. 9.4. The z axis lies along the direction connecting the camera to the object, with the x and y axis parallel to the image plane. The z value gives us the depth for each pixel. We can express the surface normals by

$$\hat{\mathbf{n}} = \frac{(p, q, -1)}{\sqrt{p^2 + q^2 + 1}},$$

where $p = \partial z / \partial x$ and $q = \partial z / \partial y$. For convenience, we assume that the camera is along the $-z$ direction. The reflectance map $R(p, q)$ is therefore expressed in terms of the surface gradients, and often plotted as a contour map in the $p - q$ plane as shown in Fig. 9.5. The (p, q) plane is known as **gradient space**, and is a convenient way to represent surface orientation. A given point in gradient space refers to a specific surface orientation with respect to the viewer. It is used in image analysis to relate the geometry of image projection to the radiometry of image formation. Every point along a contour has the same reflectance. The reader is referred to Horn and Sjoberg (1979) for details on how a reflectance map is obtained.

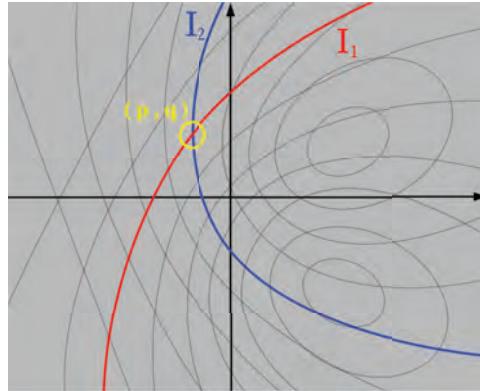


Figure 9.6: Mapping Multiple Intensities to Surface Orientations Using a Reflectance Map.

We can use a reflectance map to determine surface orientation. For this shape reconstruction task, there are two components: an offline job and an on-line job. The offline job consists of building a reflectance map and constructing a lookup table to convert reflectance measurements to surface normals, while the on-line job consists of measuring image intensities and determining surface orientations from the lookup table Ikeuchi (1981). A reflectance map provides us with a way to relate a fixed scene illumination, an object's photometry, and the imaging geometry together. However, this is insufficient for shape reconstruction since an intensity measurement provides one measurement while surface orientation has two degrees of orientation. Photometric stereo is useful because it adds another layer of information that enables shape information. The basic imaging equation, given the reflectance map, is

$$I_j(x, y) = R_j(p, q, x, y),$$

where $I(x, y)$ is the intensity output, or the image for a certain illumination j . The unknowns are p and q , while $I(x, y)$ is measured. Obtaining two images would constrain p and q , but often the solutions are nonlinear equations, yielding multiple possible values of p and q , which often makes it useful to have a third measurement. The benefit of using an **orthographic projection** is that $R_j(p, q, x, y)$ becomes only a function of p and q ($R_j(p, q)$), due to the spatial invariance of the reflectance field in far-field. While a **perspective projection** is a more accurate representation of the true geometry of image projection, an orthographic projection is a useful mathematical simplification in far field (Fig. 9.4). The orthographic projection also enables an easier measurement of the reflectance field. We can then directly match the reflectances of a given pixel to a point in gradient space, which we can then use to obtain the surface normal as given by $(p, q, -1)$. Fig. 9.6 shows how we can obtain the surface orientation by determining the intersection points of multiple reflectance maps Ikeuchi (1981).

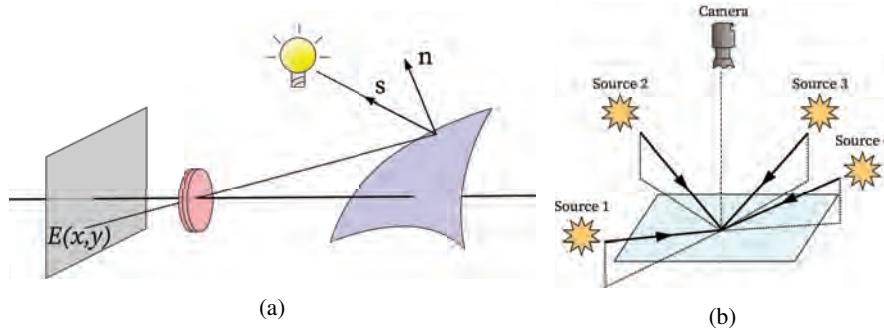


Figure 9.7: Photometric Stereo for Lambertian Surfaces. (a) Light from the illumination source is incident on the object, with the source vector s known for each pixel. The light reflected to the sensor is approximately independent of the sensor location, due to the Lambertian approximation. (b) Multiple light spatially offset light sources are used in photometric stereo, with a fixed camera position.

9.2.2 Calibrated Diffuse Photometric Stereo

Photometric Stereo is a technique that observes a scene under different illumination conditions to extract the surface normals (and shape, by extension). Multiple illumination sources are placed at different locations, while the camera is held in place. Note that this differs from traditional stereo imaging, in which the scene is captured at different camera positions. The increased information capacity provided by the location-dependent light source constrains the possible surface normal orientations, and doesn't require additional image registration. Let us first consider the basic example of how we can use photometric stereo cues to extract surface normals for Lambertian surfaces. Refer to Fig. 9.7 for the image formation model. For each illumination source, we assume that we know the vector $s \in \mathbb{R}^3$ for each pixel, containing information about the direction and intensity of the ray for each pixel.

There are three key photometric angles to understand in photometric stereo. The **incident angle** is the angle between the incident ray and the surface normal, **view angle** is the angle between the reflected (*i.e.*, observed) ray and the surface normal, and **phase angle** is the angle between the incident and the reflected ray. A depiction of these angles are shown in Fig. 9.8. Lambert's Law, as described earlier, is an example of a reflectance model in terms of the incident angle Woodham (1980).

If we have k illumination sources, for each pixel we will have a measured intensity vector $\mathbf{i} \in \mathbb{R}^k$ and a measurement matrix $\mathbf{L} \in \mathbb{R}^{3 \times k}$ containing the \mathbf{s} vector for each illumination source along its column space. Assuming the pixel has an albedo of ρ , we can then relate

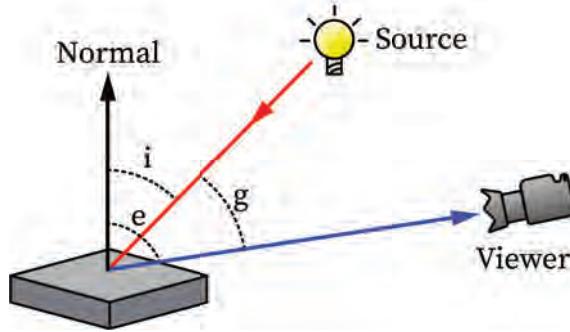


Figure 9.8: Important Photometric Angles: Incident Angle (i), View Angle (e), Phase Angle (g).

the pixel's surface normal \hat{n} to our known quantities by the matrix product

$$\mathbf{i} = \mathbf{L}^T \tilde{\mathbf{n}}',$$

where $\tilde{\mathbf{n}}' = \rho \hat{\mathbf{n}}$. For $k = 3$, we can easily invert and solve for $\hat{\mathbf{n}}$ and ρ , taking into account that $\hat{\mathbf{n}}$ has length 1. We can also have $k > 3$, in which case the linear system is overconstrained and the reconstruction will be more robust to noise. The reader is directed to Shi (2019); Zheng et al. (2020); Satkin et al. (2012) for surveys on data-driven photometric stereo methods. Choy et al. (2016) also present a network that uses shape priors coupled with multi-view image data to map images to their 3D shape.

A subset of the photometric stereo problem is known as **shape from shading (SfS)**, where $k = 1$ and shading cues are used to obtain surface normals. This method is partly based on human vision. Incident light reflected by a surface is generally only dependent on the surface orientation with respect to the light source and the observer. Therefore, different points on a nonplanar surface will reflect different intensities of light back to the observer. This enables our brain to process these shadows and help us perceive shape through vision.

SfS is an underconstrained problem, so we have to make some assumptions to solve for the normals. One possible constraint is to enforce smoothness of gradients via the optimization

$$\min \iint_{\text{image}} \left(p_x^2 + p_y^2 \right) + \left(q_x^2 + q_y^2 \right) dx dy,$$

where $p_x = \frac{\partial p}{\partial x}$, $p_y = \frac{\partial p}{\partial y}$, $q_x = \frac{\partial q}{\partial x}$ and $q_y = \frac{\partial q}{\partial y}$. Another possible constraint would be to enforce the fidelity of the image intensity to the reflectance map, by the optimization

$$\min \iint_{\text{image}} [I(x, y) - R(f, g)]^2 dx dy,$$

where $R(p, q)$ is the corresponding reflectance based on the normal at (x, y) . A weighted combination of these optimization constraints is also possible, along with others. For a dedicated text on Shape from Shading, the reader is directed to Horn and Brooks (1989). For more work on numerical SfS, the reader is encouraged to review Ikeuchi (1981), while the reader is directed to Zhang et al. (1999) for a comparison of different SfS algorithms, as well as code to implement them.

9.2.3 Uncalibrated Diffuse Photometric Stereo

The light source directions and intensities may not always be known, as we previously assumed. In such a case, we would have to resort to numerical methods to approximate our surface normal, even if we assume a Lambertian surface. Let's consider an image data matrix $\mathbf{I} \in \mathbb{R}^{p \times f}$, where p is the number of pixels and f is the number of frames captured. Based on the Lambertian constraint, we can express the image data as

$$\mathbf{I} = \mathbf{RNMT},$$

where $\mathbf{R} \in \mathbb{R}^{p \times p}$ is the surface reflectance matrix (a diagonal matrix containing the albedo of each pixel along its diagonal), $\mathbf{N} \in \mathbb{R}^{p \times 3}$ is the surface normal matrix (containing surface normal vectors of each pixel along its row space), $\mathbf{M} \in \mathbb{R}^{3 \times f}$ is the light source direction matrix (containing the light source direction along its column space), and $\mathbf{T} \in \mathbb{R}^{f \times f}$ is the light source intensity matrix (a diagonal matrix containing the light intensities along its diagonal).

Using this formulation, we can express \mathbf{I} as a matrix product $\mathbf{I} = \mathbf{SL}$, where $\mathbf{S} = \mathbf{RN}$ is the surface matrix and $\mathbf{L} = \mathbf{MT}$ is the light source matrix. If there are at least three surface normals in the image that do not lie in the same plane, then \mathbf{S} will have three linearly independent rows, and will therefore have rank 3. Similarly, if the three light source directions do not lie in the same plane, \mathbf{L} will have three linearly independent columns and also have rank 3. These are both reasonable assumptions, so we can assume that \mathbf{I} will have rank 3 as well, provided our measurements are noiseless. If $p \geq f$, we can calculate a **singular value decomposition (SVD)** for our measured intensity matrix \mathbf{I} in the non-ideal case with noise

$$\mathbf{I} = \mathbf{U}\Sigma\mathbf{V}^H,$$

where $\mathbf{U} \in \mathbb{R}^{p \times f}$, $\Sigma \in \mathbb{R}^{f \times f}$, $\mathbf{V} \in \mathbb{R}^{f \times f}$, and $\mathbf{U}^T\mathbf{U} = \mathbf{V}^T\mathbf{V} = \mathbf{VV}^T = \mathbf{E}$ (where \mathbf{E} is the identity matrix). Σ contains the singular values of the matrix $(\sigma_1, \dots, \sigma_f)$ along its diagonals, sorted from greatest to least such that $\sigma_1 \geq \dots \geq \sigma_f$. Since our measured intensities \mathbf{I} are not noiseless, we assume the first 3 singular values are above the noise

threshold, and decompose \mathbf{U} , Σ , and \mathbf{V} as shown.

$$\begin{aligned}\mathbf{U} &= \left[\underbrace{\mathbf{U}'}_{3} \quad \underbrace{\mathbf{U}''}_{f-3} \right] \} p, \\ \Sigma &= \left[\begin{array}{cc} \Sigma' & \mathbf{0} \\ \mathbf{0} & \Sigma'' \end{array} \right] \} 3 \\ &\quad \underbrace{\quad\quad\quad}_{3 \quad f-3} \} f-3, \\ \mathbf{V} &= \left[\underbrace{\mathbf{V}'}_{f} \quad \underbrace{\mathbf{V}''}_{f} \right] \} 3 \\ &\quad \underbrace{\quad\quad\quad}_{f} \} f-3.\end{aligned}$$

We then approximate a new denoised version of \mathbf{I} , given by $\widehat{\mathbf{I}}$, using the first three singular values from SVD, to get a rank 3 intensity matrix $\widehat{\mathbf{I}}$.

$$\widehat{\mathbf{I}} = \mathbf{U}' \Sigma' (\mathbf{V}')^H = \widehat{\mathbf{S}} \widehat{\mathbf{L}},$$

where $\widehat{\mathbf{S}} = \mathbf{U}' (\pm [\Sigma']^{1/2})$ and $\widehat{\mathbf{L}} = (\pm [\Sigma]^{1/2}) (\mathbf{V}')^H$. Note that this approximation only holds if the third singular value is much larger than the fourth singular value. The sign ambiguity corresponds to ambiguity of the direction of the coordinate system. Without loss of generality, we can choose the right-handed coordinate system, corresponding to $+\Sigma$. Note that $\widehat{\mathbf{I}} = \widehat{\mathbf{S}} \widehat{\mathbf{L}}$ is not a unique factorization. For some arbitrary invertible matrix \mathbf{A} ,

$$\widehat{\mathbf{I}} = (\widehat{\mathbf{S}} \mathbf{A}) (\mathbf{A}^{-1} \widehat{\mathbf{L}}) = \widehat{\mathbf{S}} \widehat{\mathbf{L}}.$$

Therefore, we must find the matrix \mathbf{A} that will yield the correct surface and light matrices, such that

$$\begin{aligned}\mathbf{S} &= \widehat{\mathbf{S}} \mathbf{A}, \\ \mathbf{L} &= \mathbf{A}^{-1} \widehat{\mathbf{L}}.\end{aligned}$$

To constrain the search for \mathbf{A} , we search for at least 6 pixels in which the relative value of the surface reflectance is constant or known a priori. We extract $p' \geq 6$ pseudo vectors $\widehat{\mathbf{s}}$ from the row space of $\widehat{\mathbf{S}}$ that satisfy this condition. If all p' pixels have the same reflectance, then the following condition must hold:

$$\widehat{\mathbf{s}}_k^\top \mathbf{A} \mathbf{A}^\top \widehat{\mathbf{s}}_k = r, \quad k = 1, \dots, p',$$

where r is the magnitude of the surface reflectance. If this value is unknown, we can simply choose $r = 1$, since we are interested in relative surface reflectance. We first solve for $\mathbf{B} = \mathbf{A} \mathbf{A}^\top$ via a straightforward system of linear equations. Using the SVD of \mathbf{B} , we know that $\mathbf{B} = \mathbf{W} \mathbf{H} \mathbf{W}^\top$, since \mathbf{B} is symmetric. We can then determine that $\mathbf{A} = \mathbf{W} [\mathbf{H}]^{1/2}$. Once

we solve for \mathbf{A} , we can extract \mathbf{S} and \mathbf{L} using the above equations in terms of $\widehat{\mathbf{S}}$ and $\widehat{\mathbf{L}}$. The surface normals can be extracted by normalizing the magnitude of each row in \mathbf{S} to be 1. The normalization factor is the albedo for that pixel. Note that the normals are represented in an arbitrary coordinate system. Once the surface normal of one pixel is determined with respect to the observer, the remaining surface normals can easily be determined via linear transformation Hayakawa (1994).

Another way to determine \mathbf{A} is by taking advantage of the integrability constraint. From introductory multivariable calculus, we know that $\frac{\partial}{\partial x} \left(\frac{\partial z}{\partial y} \right) = \frac{\partial}{\partial y} \left(\frac{\partial z}{\partial x} \right)$. Recall that $\widehat{\mathbf{S}}$ is a $p \times 3$ matrix, containing “pseudo-normals” along its row space. Using the integrability constraint, we can set up a linear system of equations based on the derivatives of the normal vectors. This linear system of equations can be solved using linear least squares, to minimize $\left(\frac{\partial z}{\partial y \partial x} - \frac{\partial z}{\partial x \partial y} \right)^2$ at each pixel. For more information on this integrability constraint, the reader is directed to Basri et al. (2007). These methods provide us with a useful numerical method to extract shape information from multi-illumination when we don’t have prior knowledge of the source direction or intensity, and the surface albedos.

9.2.4 Dichromatic Reflection Model

As we discussed in Chapter 7, the highlights present in an image caused by specular reflections can often be distracting and affect computer vision tasks, including surface normal extraction. Photometric stereo is one way to deal with the specular reflections from glossy surfaces. We will consider the case of images with purely specular reflections, since only 1 – 2% of the reflections from metals are diffuse. This means that the Lambertian assumption doesn’t work well here. For specular objects, we can also no longer illuminate the scene with point sources, as we assumed before. Due to the single bounce nature of specular reflections, only surfaces oriented in a specific direction will reach the observer’s eye. Therefore, the observer will simply see virtual images of the point sources. Instead, we must use an **extended light source**, which can be obtained by uneven illumination off of a diffusely reflecting planar surface. An extended light source can also be thought of as a series of multiple point sources.

Shadows cast by external objects can also negatively impact the performance of photometric stereo in shape analysis. While reflectance properties of the object are illumination-independent, the surface relief is highly illumination-dependent and produces shadows depending on the location of the illumination. Ultimately, we want to be able to obtain an illumination-independent 3D characterization of shapes in a scene using 2D images. Note that both highlights and shadows are simply sudden, unexpected changes in pixel intensities. The only difference is shadows are darker pixels, while highlights are brighter pixels.

We can handle challenges presented by external shadows and highlights by incorporating a **dichromatic reflection model**, in which the reflectance can be decomposed into a sum of a Lambertian and specular component. The Lambertian components can be dealt with similar to how we discussed previously. Meanwhile, we can detect specular components using spectral cues. Capturing an ordinary RGB image contains redundant information across channels, since the three color channels are linearly dependent. Instead, we can use a photometric stereo approach, where we illuminate the scene from different angles, with each angle containing a different spectral source. This is known as **shape from color**. Note, however, that the spectral sources may have different intensities and will need spectral calibration accordingly. As discussed in Chapter 8, the intensity measured by a sensor α is given by

$$I_\alpha = \cos \theta \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} \mu \epsilon(\lambda) R(\lambda) Q_\alpha(\lambda) d\lambda,$$

where θ is the angle between the source direction and the normal, μ is a constant proportional to the strength of the light intensity, $\epsilon(\lambda)$ is the spectral distribution of the illumination source, $R(\lambda)$ is the reflectance at the pixel location, and $Q_\alpha(\lambda)$ is the spectral sensitivity of α . We will first describe the process of **color photometric stereo**.

Recall that we can compactly express the intensity of a grayscale pixel in an image of a Lambertian object as

$$\mathbf{I}_0 = \rho \mathbf{L} \mathbf{n},$$

where \mathbf{I}_0 is the intensity vector for light from three different directions $\mathbf{L} = [L_1, L_2, L_3]^\top$ and \mathbf{n} is the surface normal for the pixel. In color photometric stereo, assuming a surface patch has color $\mathbf{C} = [C_r, C_g, C_b]^\top$ and we use an RGB camera capturing intensities \mathbf{I}^k , we can model the intensity for each pixel from illumination source k as

$$\mathbf{I}^k = [I_1^k, I_2^k, I_3^k]^\top = s^k \mathbf{C},$$

where $s^k = \langle \mathbf{L}^k, \mathbf{n} \rangle$ and $\mathbf{S} = (s^1, s^2, s^3)^\top$ is the **shading vector**. Note that $C_\alpha = \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} \epsilon(\lambda) R(\lambda) Q_\alpha(\lambda) d\lambda$, as alluded to earlier. If we combine the intensities for all 3 illumination sources, such that $[\mathbf{I}] = [\mathbf{I}^1, \mathbf{I}^2, \mathbf{I}^3]^\top$, we can express $[\mathbf{I}]$ as

$$[\mathbf{I}] = \begin{bmatrix} I_1^1 & I_2^1 & I_3^1 \\ I_1^2 & I_2^2 & I_3^2 \\ I_1^3 & I_2^3 & I_3^3 \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} s^1 C_r & s^1 C_g & s^1 C_b \\ s^2 C_r & s^2 C_g & s^2 C_b \\ s^3 C_r & s^3 C_g & s^3 C_b \end{bmatrix} = \mathbf{S} \mathbf{C}^\top.$$

Each row of $[\mathbf{I}]$ is a different illumination, and each column is a different color. Note that $[\mathbf{I}]$ refers to measurements at one pixel, for 3 colors and 3 illumination directions. For a diffuse

surface, the intensity vectors measured by each illumination source are linearly dependent, so they are all collinear in RGB space. In other words, these intensity measurements are scalar multiples (s^k) of each other. Noise in measurements may perturb this collinearity in RGB space. By applying principal components analysis (PCA) (discussed in detail in 8.4.2) on $[I]$, we can determine the principal direction, which gives the chromaticity of the object. The principal direction is simply the principal component with largest variance. Each measured intensity in $[I]$, which is in color space, is then projected onto this principal direction, to give us a new intensity measurement $[I']$. \mathbf{C} is simply the normalized unit vector along the direction of the principal direction, and \mathbf{S} can be extracted by the known value of \mathbf{C} and $[I']$ by solving the linear system. Once \mathbf{S} is determined, \mathbf{n} can be recovered using standard grayscale photometric stereo.

This technique of color photometric stereo, however, will also falter under the presence of specular highlights. Assuming that there are no self-shadows, we can use four illuminations, and extract the albedos for each image separately using grayscale photometric stereo. If the albedos are significantly different, then the pixel has a specular highlight. In this case, the illumination with the smallest albedo is assumed to contain only the Lambertian constraint and used for surface normal recovery. Let's now formalize this physical intuition with mathematical definitions.

We will examine a method known as **4-source color photometric stereo**. In this method, we will capture four different illuminations, instead of 3 as we normally do with Lambertian surfaces. Since we capture four images in 3D space, we will have 4 linearly dependent images. Therefore, for some vector $\mathbf{a} = [a_1, a_2, a_3, a_4]^\top$, a Lambertian surface will satisfy

$$\langle \mathbf{a}, \mathbf{I} \rangle = a_1 I^1 + a_2 I^2 + a_3 I^3 + a_4 I^4 = 0.$$

However, for specular highlights, the value will deviate from 0 by some factor ϵ . By thresholding this value for ϵ , we can identify specular regions. Then, we can interpolate specular regions based on neighboring pixels. For more details on how the normals are extracted from this point on, we direct the reader to Barsky and Petrou (2003). The reader is also welcome to study Esteban et al. (2008) for use on how traditional stereo imaging can be combined with photometric stereo to extract shape from textureless, shiny objects.

9.2.5 Shape from Interreflections

In our idealized models so far, we assume that the light intensity measured at the sensor is light that propagates from the source, bounces off the surface, and directly reaches the sensor. This assumption generally works well for convex surfaces, in which no two points on a surface are visible to each other. However, for concave surfaces, the light will go through several **interreflections** before reaching the sensor, in which the light bounces off one point on a surface to another point, and repeats for a certain number of times before

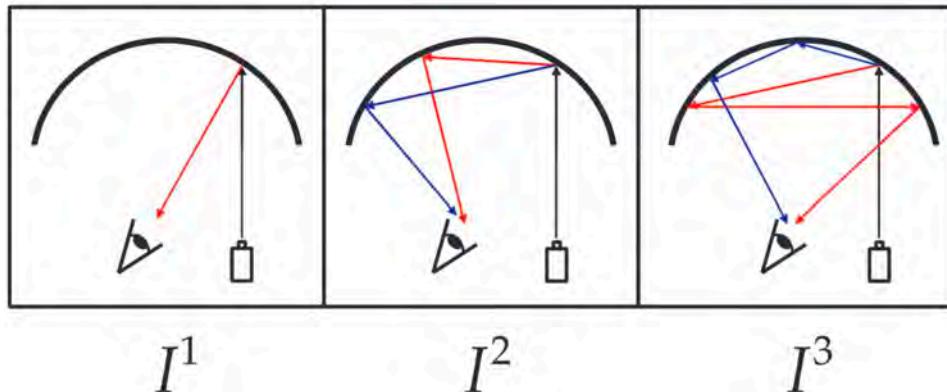


Figure 9.9: Scene Interreflections. The most idealized model is the single bounce model, in which light from the source bounces off the surface and directly reaches the sensor. However, the light can bounce off of the surface n times, as shown for two-bounce reflection and a three-bounce reflection. The total intensity measured at the sensor is the sum of the intensities for all possible number of bounces, from 1 to infinity Seitz et al. (2005).



Figure 9.10: Concave Shape Reconstruction Using Photometric Stereo. (a) Original shape. (b) Shape reconstructed with standard photometric stereo Nayar et al. (1991).

reaching the sensor. A comparison of the idealized image formation model and models containing interreflections is depicted in Fig. 9.9.

Neglecting the effects of interreflections often results in incorrect image renderings. Refer to Fig. 9.10 for an example of the poor reconstruction yielded by photometric stereo for a concave surface. In computer vision, it is desirable to remove the effects of interreflections to properly render an image with **color constancy**. Color constancy is the ability of an object to be approximately the same color under different illumination conditions. With

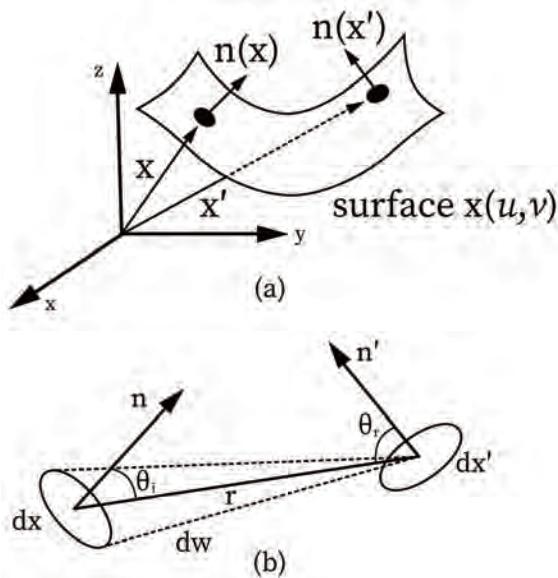


Figure 9.11: Direct and Indirect Illumination of Surface Points.

interreflections, there are two known problems: the forward and inverse problem. The forward, or graphics, problem deals with trying to determine image intensity values from shape and reflectance information. The inverse, or vision, problem seeks to extract the shape and reflectance from intensity measurements. Often, inverse problems are challenging due to the non-linearity of the forward model. Shi et al. (2013) present an example of a parametric bi-polynomial forward model for single reflections that is suitable for inverse problems.

The vision problem for interreflections is non-trivial, due to interdependency between shape and interreflections. It resembles a “chicken and egg” problem, in which modeling interreflections requires prior knowledge of shape and reflectance, but our goal is already to determine the shape. However, assuming we work with Lambertian surfaces with continuous shape, we can extract “pseudo shapes” using standard photometric stereo techniques, and use those as a prior to understand interreflections in an object. These pseudo shapes can then be corrected to yield the actual shape of the object.

The pseudo shape of the object has certain interesting properties that we can exploit. The pseudo shape is unique for a given shape, and is less concave than the actual shape. We now describe an interreflection model based on the forward problem. To be able to obtain a closed-form solution, we assume that all surfaces in the scene are Lambertian, but can have spatially varying albedos. Consider the concave surface in Fig. 9.11a. Notice how the

measured intensity from a given point on the surface is a superposition of direct illumination by the source and illumination from other points on the surface, seen in Fig. 9.11b.

We want to determine the radiance of point \mathbf{x} caused by point \mathbf{x}' , and we do so via a **visibility function**. The visibility function determines if two points are able to “see each other”, and is defined as

$$V(\mathbf{x}, \mathbf{x}') = \left\langle \frac{\langle \mathbf{n}, (-\mathbf{r}) \rangle + |\langle \mathbf{n}, (-\mathbf{r}) \rangle|}{2 |\langle \mathbf{n}, (-\mathbf{r}) \rangle|}, \frac{\langle \mathbf{n}', \mathbf{r} \rangle + |\langle \mathbf{n}', \mathbf{r} \rangle|}{2 |\langle \mathbf{n}', \mathbf{r} \rangle|} \right\rangle.$$

Note that $V(\mathbf{x}, \mathbf{x}')$ is a binary function, with 1 meaning that the two points are oriented such that they can illuminate each other, and 0 meaning that they are not. We let $dE_m(\mathbf{x}, \mathbf{x}')$ represent the irradiance of the surface element due to the radiance $L(\mathbf{x}')$ from element $d\mathbf{x}'$, as shown in Fig. 9.11b. Using the geometry in Fig. 9.11b, we can determine that

$$dE_m(\mathbf{x}, \mathbf{x}') = \left[\frac{\langle \mathbf{n}, (-\mathbf{r}) \rangle \langle \mathbf{n}', \mathbf{r} \rangle V(\mathbf{x}, \mathbf{x}')}{\langle \mathbf{r}, \mathbf{r} \rangle^2} \right] L(\mathbf{x}' d\mathbf{x}').$$

Since we assume a Lambertian surface, we can model the radiance of $d\mathbf{x}$ due to $d\mathbf{x}'$ as

$$dL_m(\mathbf{x}, \mathbf{x}') = \frac{\rho(\mathbf{x})}{\pi} dE_m(\mathbf{x}, \mathbf{x}').$$

Recall from the “white-out” idea that the BRDF of a Lambertian surface is given by ρ/π . Meanwhile, the irradiance of the point due to a point source can be modeled as

$$L_s(\mathbf{x}) = \frac{\rho(\mathbf{x})}{\pi} E_s(\mathbf{x}),$$

where $E_s(\mathbf{x}) = k \langle \mathbf{n}, \mathbf{s} \rangle$, analogous to what was mentioned in discussions of Lambert’s Law and diffuse surfaces. The total radiance at a point is then expressed as

$$L(\mathbf{x}) = L_s(\mathbf{x}) + \int dL_m(\mathbf{x}, \mathbf{x}'),$$

where the integration is done across the surface. This equation for the forward model is referred to as the **interreflection equation**. While it is rather difficult to solve the integral equation, approximating a uniform reflectance $\rho(\mathbf{x}) = \rho$ would enable an iterative solution by the Neumann series. Another possible method is by discretizing the surface into facets. Both these methods are out of scope for this text. Solutions to this integral form are somewhat analogous to ray-tracing in computer graphics. The forward interreflection model is used in an iterative manner as shown in Fig. 9.12 to obtain the correct **facets**, which are simply discretized regions on the surface. The algorithm starts by estimating facets using traditional shape from intensity measurements. Using the properties of the pseudo surfaces described above, the algorithm is able to make adjustments to the facets, based on the forward model, that eventually converge to the ground truth Nayar et al. (1991).

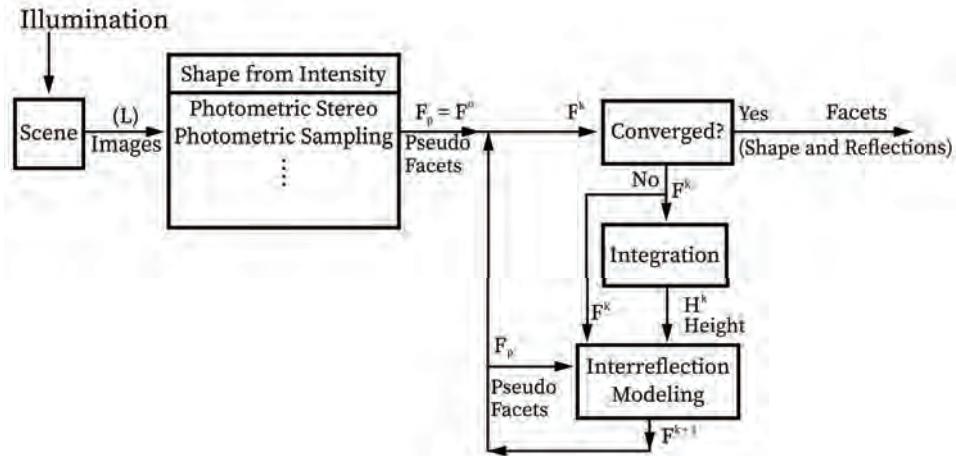


Figure 9.12: Iterative Algorithm For Extracting Shape from Objects With Interreflections Nayar et al. (1991).

9.2.6 Example-Based Photometric Stereo

Orientation consistency is a useful cue for interpreting scenes with arbitrary reflectance profiles. Orientation consistency is based on the premise that any two points with the same surface orientation must have a similar appearance in image, provided they are under the right conditions. In other words, two surfaces with the same orientation reflect the same amount of light back to the observer. This assumption holds when the BRDF of both points are the same, the light sources are directional, the camera is orthographic, and there are no shadows or interreflection effects unaccounted for by the BRDF. Orientation consistency is particularly useful because if we know the surface orientation of some parts of a scene, we can infer the orientations of other points in a scene.

We leverage orientation consistency by matching a reference object to the imaged object, in what is known as **example-based photometric stereo**. By capturing several images with different illuminations, we can enforce orientation-consistency across all images, using the fact that orientation consistency is independent of illumination direction. Per color channel, n reference images $\mathbf{V}^r = [\mathbf{I}_1^r, \dots, \mathbf{I}_n^r]^\top$ and n target images $\mathbf{V}^t = [\mathbf{I}_1^t, \dots, \mathbf{I}_n^t]^\top$ are captured. The best matching reference point can be determined by finding the pixel in the reference object that minimizes the ℓ_1 norm $\|\mathbf{V}^r - \mathbf{V}^t\|$ across all color channels and images. Note that any object shape can be used for the reference, provided that the shape is known and it has a sufficient distribution of surface orientations. The reference images contain known surface orientations. We then match the intensities of the target image to the reference and extract the surface orientation from the reference image.

We now generalize this method of example-based photometric stereo to spatially variant BRDFs. Assuming we have a homogeneous diffuse reference object, we can use a uniform albedo constant described in the Lambert's Law earlier. For a given pixel p in the target object corresponding to pixel q in the reference object, we must account for the differences in albedo. We do so by

$$\mathbf{V}_p^t = \frac{\rho_p^t}{\rho^r} \mathbf{V}_q^r.$$

This relationship arises out of Lambert's Law, as discussed earlier. Once this albedo calibration is done, the pixel correspondence for orientation can be done as described above. Now, we consider surfaces composed of multiple materials. A common technique is to assume that all materials can be approximated by a linear combination of k basis **fundamental materials**, which can be accounted for in k homogeneous reference images. The intensity of the target image can therefore be expressed as

$$\mathbf{I}_p^t = \sum_{i=1}^k \rho_{i,p}^t \mathbf{f}_i(\mathbf{n}_p, \mathbf{v}, \mathbf{L}),$$

where $\mathbf{f}_i(\mathbf{n}_p, \mathbf{v}, \mathbf{L})$ is the reflectance map, \mathbf{n}_p is the surface normal at pixel p , \mathbf{v} is the direction to the viewer, and \mathbf{L} is the incident illumination. Each material also has its own albedo $\rho_{i,p}^t$. Each of the reference images $\mathbf{V}^r = [\mathbf{I}_1^r, \dots, \mathbf{I}_n^r]^\top$ can be expressed in a similar manner. If we have k linearly independent reference observation vectors $[\mathbf{V}_q^{r_1}, \dots, \mathbf{V}_q^{r_k}]$, then they form a k -dimensional subspace. Therefore, we can express a pixel in the target image \mathbf{V}_p^t as a linear combination of a corresponding pixel in \mathbf{V}^r

$$\mathbf{V}_p^t = \sum_{j=1}^k m_{j,p} \mathbf{V}_q^{r_j},$$

where $m_{j,p}$ is the material index for point p . We can express this concisely as a matrix multiplication by stacking the reference observation vectors into a single matrix $\mathbf{W}_q = [\mathbf{V}_q^{r_1}, \dots, \mathbf{V}_q^{r_k}]$

$$\mathbf{V}_p^t = \mathbf{W}_q \mathbf{m}_p.$$

Note that \mathbf{m}_p will differ for each color channel. A point p on the target image is considered orientation-consistent with a point q in the reference images if there exists a \mathbf{m}_p that satisfies the above matrix multiplication. The candidate q is chosen by minimizing

$$\|\mathbf{W}_q \mathbf{m}_p - \mathbf{V}_p^t\|_2^2.$$

Note that this could also work well for Lambertian surfaces, at the expense of run time and potentially more captured images. Recall that Lambertian surfaces only require 3 different illuminations to constrain the reconstruction Hertzmann and Seitz (2005).

It is, however, desirable to be able to perform this generalized shape estimation without an example-based approach. If we know the BRDF of an object, photometric stereo methods would enable shape reconstruction as described previously using example-based approaches. If shape is known, then some BRDF estimation methods can be applied to estimate the material properties of the scene. However, if both the material and the shape are unknown, the problem becomes more challenging, due to the high dimensionality of the optimization space.

As mentioned earlier, we can leverage the fact that most objects, manmade or natural, can be decomposed into approximately just two materials. Using this constraint, it is possible to alternate between optimizing global parameters and optimizing per-pixel weights and normals. Then, using an isotropic Ward BRDF model, the normals and material weights for each pixel can be jointly optimized. For more details on this optimization process, we refer the reader to Goldman et al. (2009). The reader is also welcome to study Shi et al. (2016) for more work on non-Lambertian photometric stereo and Ackermann and Goesele (2015) for more information on photometric techniques and research challenges not discussed in this text.

9.3 Multiplexed Illumination

We discussed in Chapter 8 the concept of **multiplexed illumination** in the context of spectral imaging, in which we illuminated a scene with sources of different spectral profiles to efficiently capture the spectral signature of a scene. In a similar spirit, we consider scenes simultaneously, rather than sequentially, illuminated by multiple sources to improve the dynamic range of the image (by appropriately dealing with specularity and shadows). Methods related to multiplexing make note of the fact that specular highlights are often concentrated in small image regions, shadows and dark albedos typically coexist with bright albedos, and that low power illuminations may not yield good reconstructions.

Let us consider a multiplexed illumination setup with 3 sources, and denote the acquired image as $\mathbf{a} = [a_{1,2}, a_{2,3}, a_{1,3}]^\top$, where the subscripts denote which lights are on, and the image irradiance under each illumination source separately as $\mathbf{i} = [i_1, i_2, i_3]^\top$. In the trivial case depicted in Fig. 9.13a, we can approximate $\widehat{\mathbf{i}} = [i_1, i_2, i_3]^\top$. Based on the scheme shown in Fig. 9.13b, we can determine at a pixel that $\mathbf{a}(x, y) = \mathbf{W}\mathbf{i}(x, y)$ or

$$\begin{bmatrix} a_{1,2} \\ a_{2,3} \\ a_{1,3} \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 & 1 \\ 1 & 0 & 1 \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} i_1 \\ i_2 \\ i_3 \end{bmatrix},$$

where \mathbf{W} is a weighting matrix for the intensities \mathbf{i} . This can be generalized to n light sources and n measurements. The rows of \mathbf{W} correspond to a measurement and contain

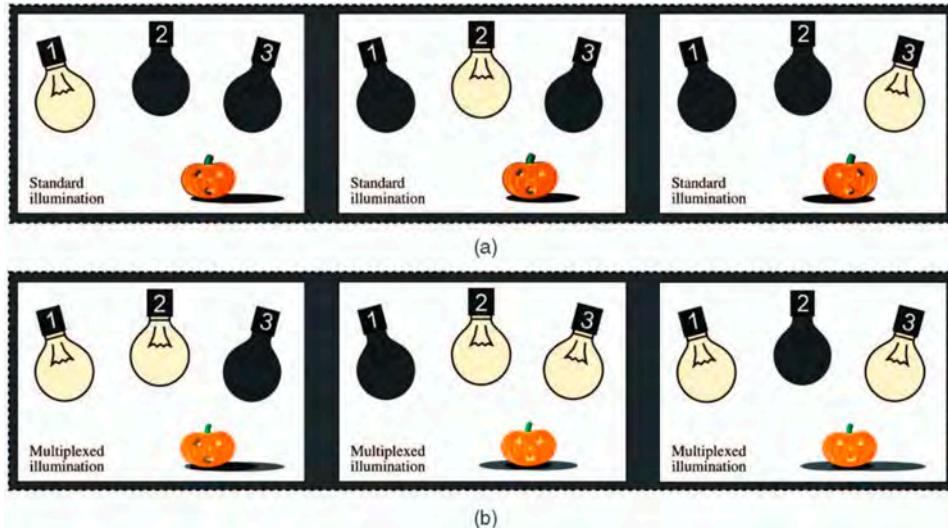


Figure 9.13: (a) Standard Photometric Stereo (b) Multiplexed Illumination Schechner et al. (2007).

binary values indicating whether a source is turned on or not. The estimate for $\hat{\mathbf{i}}$ in this case can be obtained by matrix inversion. The key benefit of the scheme in Fig. 9.13b compared to that in Fig. 9.13a is that using multiple sources of illumination raises the diffuse intensity relative to the specular intensity and illuminates shadows, which increases the dynamic range. The spatially offset illumination ensures that the specular components will not oversaturate, while increasing the brightness of the rest of the image Schechner et al. (2007). Note that this is not necessarily a method for shape estimation, but still a useful way to robustly remove noise, specularities, and shadows in dimly lit environments. Caorsi et al. (1994) also present an interesting approach for multi-illumination in microwave imaging.

9.4 Applications in Graphics

9.4.1 Light Stage

The **light stage** is a fixed mechanical stage with several light sources at angular offsets, or with a single light source that can be manually moved around at fixed angular positions. Examples are shown in Fig. 9.14. It enables capture of the reflectance field of a scene using a dense set of image measurements, captured at various illumination angles Masselus et al. (2002). Being able to capture real-world scenes and render them as 3D computer models is useful for analysis of artifacts at archaeological sites. Standard methods for doing so, such as laser scanning, while often effective, struggle under complex materials that

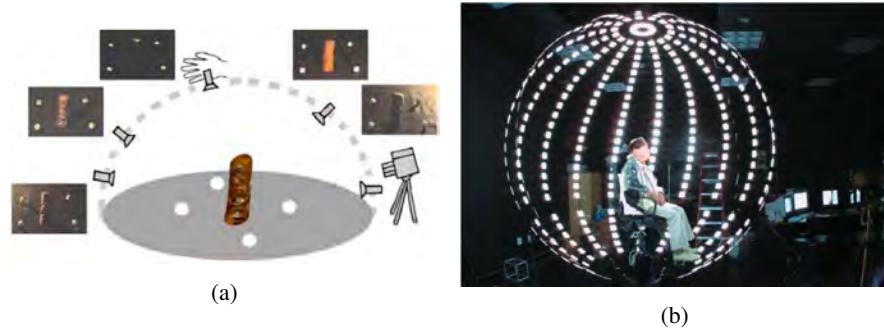


Figure 9.14: Light Stage. (a) Light Stage With a Movable Arm Masselus et al. (2002). (b) Light Stage Based on Several Spatially Offset Light Sources Hawkins et al. (2001).

exhibit anisotropic or iridescent reflectance, self-shadows, or high specularity. To capture the scene with high fidelity, we can use a light stage to capture a dense set of reflectance field measurements. Note that a light stage is especially useful here, since a 3D model requires that we obtain accurate shape information and detail at any given angle. Nam et al. (2016) uses this multi-illumination idea at a smaller scale, building a microscope imager that captures microscale reflectance and surface normal information. The capture of the reflectance field also eliminates the need for prior knowledge of the scene geometry. The disadvantage is that it requires on the order of thousands of images, making them highly data intensive Hawkins et al. (2001).

9.4.2 Image Rendering and Relighting

It is often desirable to also be able to render a scene under different lighting conditions, particularly for graphics applications. Image relighting may be possible if we can obtain the BRDF for every pixel in a scene. With this information, we can determine the reflectance profile at every pixel in the scene for some arbitrary illumination, using the per-pixel BRDF. However, this information may not always be readily available with high accuracy, and it requires prior knowledge of the geometry of the object. We will consider some multi-illumination methods to relight a scene, using multiple images with varying illumination.

One way to perform image based relighting of real objects is by using 4D incident light fields. Recall that a light field is a 4D function that describes the illumination intensity leaving some 3D volume. They are mainly used in image-based rendering for displaying objects without knowledge of the scene geometry or material properties. To relight an image using a 4D incident light, we need to be able to characterize the scene from any incident illumination. The reflectance field is obtained by capturing the object under m basis incident light fields. These are later used for relighting, since any future lighting schematic can be expressed as a linear combination of the basis light fields. The total

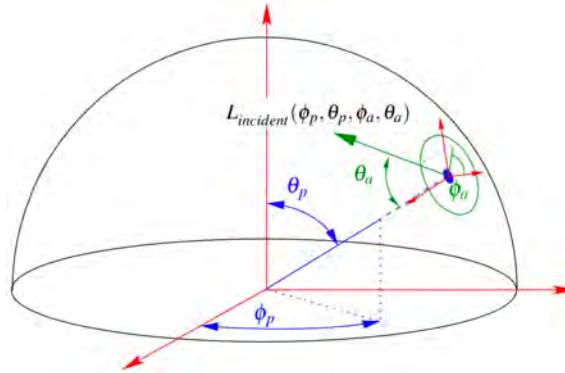


Figure 9.15: The coordinate system is defined such that a hemisphere completely contains the object of interest Masselus et al. (2003).

reflectance field is simply a linear combination of the individual basis reflectances. This is possible due to the linear nature of the illumination's interaction with objects.

For such an illumination setup, we define a coordinate system such that the object is completely contained by a hemisphere as shown in Fig. 9.15. The object is located at angle (ϕ_p, θ_p) while the illumination direction is parameterized in a local frame given by (ϕ_a, θ_a) . We denote these parameters as $\Theta = (\phi_p, \theta_p, \phi_a, \theta_a)$ an Ω as the 4D space occupied by all values of Θ . We aim to separate Ω into N partitions such that the union of these partitions completely occupies Ω . Once we do so, we can express any incident light field as

$$\mathbf{L}_{\text{incident}}(\Theta) \approx \sum_{i=1}^N l_i \mathbf{B}_i(\Theta),$$

where $\mathbf{B}_i(\Theta)$ is a binary function determining whether $\Theta \in \Omega_i$ and l_i is the light field emanating from the space occupied by Ω_i . We can illuminate an object with different light fields using a projector and occluders as shown in Fig. 9.16. The projector is mounted in place, while the object, the camera, and occluders are moved around using a turntable, enabling capture of the scene at different points with respect to the azimuth. The illumination is controlled with respect to the tilt angle by using the occluder. The object is then relit simply using a linear combination of the measured basis reflectances

$$\mathbf{L}_{\text{exitant}}(x, y) = \sum_{i=1}^N l_i \mathbf{R}_i(x, y),$$

where $\mathbf{R}_i(x, y) = \int_{\Omega_i} \mathbf{R}(\Theta, x, y) d\mu(\Theta)$ and $\mathbf{R}(\Theta, x, y)$ is the reflectance field of the scene Masselus et al. (2003).

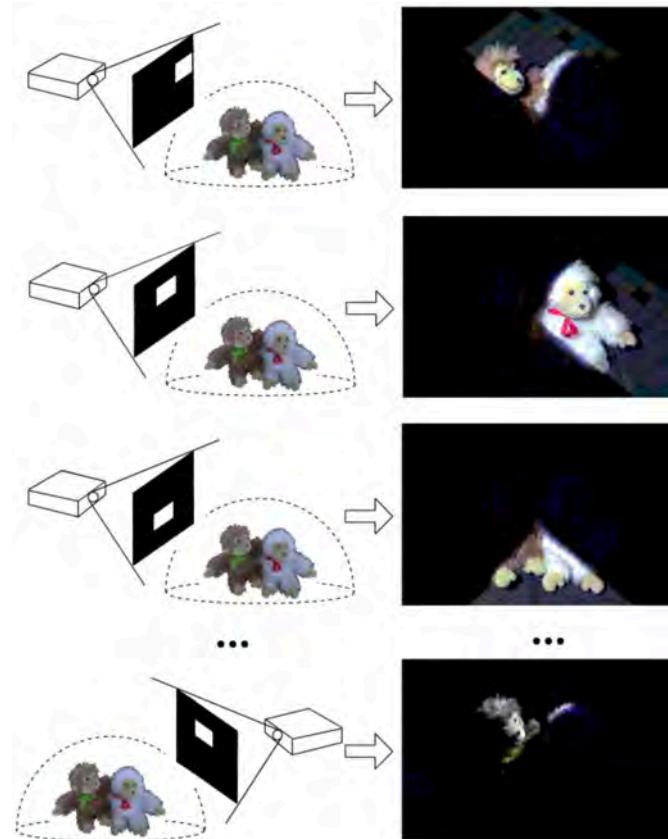


Figure 9.16: Relighting Based on discretized 4D Light Fields Masselus et al. (2003).

9.4.3 Local Shading Adaptation

If we can relight an image, we can also think about how we can increase the visual quality of an image by enhancing shape and surface details via shadows. We should understand the goal of illustrators and photographers is often not necessarily to depict physically accurate lighting, but to convey the shape and form of a scene. A real scene, as we have discussed, contains over- and under-exposed pixels, shadows, and specular highlights. The principle of **local shading adaptation** is the idea that artists can increase local contrast in images and bring out fine shape details by manipulating shading. They can do so while ensuring that there are no sudden changes in intensity, keeping the dynamic range of the image high. We can leverage this idea by using multiple images illuminated from different angles. Each image will capture some features, which can be extracted via a multiscale edge-preserving decomposition using a bilateral filter. These features can then be recombined in a way to enhance the visual quality of the image. Note, however, that this may not necessarily yield

a physically possible image. The intention is to convey features of the object, more so than the true optical nature of the scene.

The bilateral filter aims to decompose an image into a filtered image \mathbf{I}^j , preserving the edges in the image, and a detail image \mathbf{D}^j . Each filtered image can then be filtered again repeatedly m times to obtain an m -level decomposition of the image such that

$$\mathbf{I} = \sum_{j=1}^m \mathbf{D}^j + \mathbf{I}^m,$$

where $\mathbf{D}^j = \mathbf{I}^{j-1} - \mathbf{I}^j$, \mathbf{I}^j is a bilateral filtered image preserving the strongest edges in the image and \mathbf{D}^j is a detail image containing smaller changes in intensity. The final enhanced image can be generated by

$$\mathbf{I}^{\text{result}} = \mathbf{I}^{\text{detail}} + \beta \cdot \mathbf{I}^{\text{base}}.$$

$\mathbf{I}^{\text{detail}}$ is a weighted sum of the difference image $\mathbf{D}^{(i,j)}$, where i corresponds to the image and j corresponds to the scale. Simply put, $\mathbf{I}^{\text{detail}}$ maximizes the detail at each scale j by choosing the value of $\mathbf{D}^{(i,j)}$ from image i that maximizes the detail at j . \mathbf{I}^{base} is the base image, containing the coarsest level of shading information and contains high-level detail of the image. β is a scaling factor used to balance the tradeoff between the emphasis of the detail and the base image. For details on how the decomposition is performed and how individual images are extracted, the reader is directed to Fattal et al. (2007). Note that even illustrators and photographers unfamiliar with the algorithm can still take advantage of visual shading effects by straightforward manipulation of β . This is a good example of how multiple images provide us with object features that can be easily extracted using numerical, rather than physics-based, models. Akers et al. (2003) also demonstrate an interactive easy-to-use application based on a weighted sum of multiple images for improved visual appeal.

Chapter Appendix: Notations

| Notation | Description |
|---|--|
| E | Irradiance |
| L | Radiance |
| $\{\Phi_i, \Phi_r\}$ | Incident and radiated flux, respectively |
| (θ_i, θ_r) | Incident and reflected zenith angles |
| (ϕ_i, ϕ_r) | Incident and reflected azimuth angles |
| $f(\theta_i, \theta_r, \phi_i, \phi_r)$ | Bidirectional reflectance distribution function (BRDF) |
| $\delta(x)$ | Dirac delta distribution/function |
| ρ_s | Specular albedo |

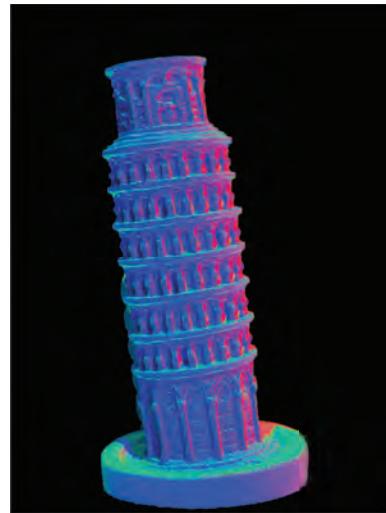
| | |
|--|--|
| p_x | Shorthand derivative notation of $\frac{\partial p}{\partial x}$ |
| $\hat{\mathbf{n}}$ | Surface normals |
| (p, q) | Gradient space |
| $R(p, q)$ | Reflectance map |
| \mathbf{i} | Measured intensity vector |
| \mathbf{L} | Measurement matrix |
| \mathbf{I} | Image data matrix |
| \mathbf{R} | Surface reflectance matrix |
| \mathbf{N} | Surface normal matrix |
| \mathbf{M} | Light source direction matrix |
| \mathbf{T} | Light source intensity matrix |
| \mathbf{S} | Surface matrix |
| I_α | Intensity measured by a sensor α |
| $\epsilon(\lambda)$ | Spectral distribution of the illumination source |
| $Q_\alpha(\lambda)$ | Spectral sensitivity of sensor α |
| $\langle \mathbf{x}, \mathbf{y} \rangle$ | Inner product between vectors \mathbf{x} and \mathbf{y} |

Exercises

The goal of this problem set is to reconstruct the shape of an object by observing it under varied lighting conditions. There are many different methods to reconstruct the shape of an object, including Shape-from-Polarization (SfP), stereo vision, and time-of-flight imaging (via depth maps). In this problem set, we will explore the fundamentals of photometric stereo, a subset of shape-from-intensity.



(a) Object of Interest.



(b) Computed Normal Map.

Figure 9.1: By observing an object under different lighting conditions, we can extract the surface normals of the object, which are used as a proxy for local shape.

1. Experimental Component

In this section, we will capture the image data needed to perform photometric stereo analysis. First, choose some object in your house that you would like to obtain the surface normals for. You will find the best results with objects that are

- approximately Lambertian (i.e. no glossy surfaces),
- convex in shape,
- homogeneous in material composition.

This is because the algorithms we work with in this problem set don't account for specular reflections, interreflections, or spatially varying BRDFs. In addition, we will need

1. a specular chrome sphere ball,
2. 4 approximately point light sources (or 1 movable point source),
3. a fixed camera.

a) Optical Setup

Place your object in front of a uniform white background. Your 4 light sources should be placed around the object such that 3 source vectors are not coplanar, as shown in Fig. 9.2. The source vector is the line connecting the origin to the light source, where the origin is defined as the center of the object. To approximate a point source, place your sources far away from the object. This also enables us to approximate a uniform incident lighting direction across all pixels. If you use 1 movable light source, be sure that you can move the source back and forth between the four locations with high precision. Eliminate all sources of light in the room, except for the lighting sources used in the imaging apparatus. Keep your camera in a fixed location such that it is directly aligned to the front of the object. The line connecting the camera and the object will be defined as the z axis, while the x-y plane is orthogonal to it. This experiment assumes an orthographic projection model.

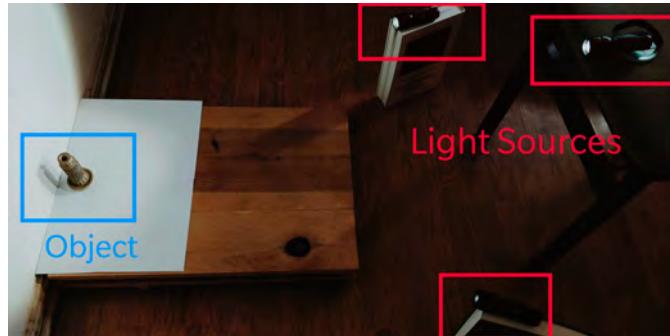


Figure 9.2: Insert an image of your optical setup (replace our example).

b) Capturing Images

Place your object in front of the camera. Keep the object and camera in place. Capture the four images, with each image corresponding to the lighting of one of the four sources. Keep track of which lighting direction corresponds to which image. Replace your object with a specular sphere, and repeat the image capture process. You should get a total of 8 images that look something similar to Fig. 9.3.

2. Photometric Stereo with Known Lighting Directions

a) Obtaining Lighting Directions

We will first use the specular sphere images to obtain vector representations of our four lighting directions (which are unknown at the moment). We do so by leveraging the known geometry of the sphere (i.e. known surface normals) and the known geometry of specular light reflection. You will use Python for the remainder of this assignment. Be sure to convert any RGB images to gray-scale images.

i. Detecting Specular Sphere

Write a function that detects the edge of the specular sphere within each image. Then, draw a circle outlining the specular sphere. Note that the outline you obtain should be the same for all four images, since the camera is held in place. Keep in mind that the quality of your specular sphere data will affect your function's efficacy. For credit, place the image of an outlined specular sphere in the box below (replace our example).

[Hint: Use the Circle Hough Transform to detect the specular sphere]

ii. Detecting Point of Specularity on the Sphere

Assuming a point light source, there should be a small region on the sphere where incident light is directly reflected back to the viewer. Your goal is to write a function that detects this point of specularity. This point should be the pixel with maximum intensity within the sphere. We first blur the image, before attempting to detect bright pixels. This is so that outlier pixels don't affect your algorithm. Then, we find the brightest and largest region within the sphere, and average the pixel locations within that region to obtain a point (x, y) in the 2D image.

iii. Calculating the Lighting Direction

The point of specularity corresponds to the point where light mostly behaves according to Snell's Reflection Law, from the viewer's perspective. The geometry of Snell's Law allows us to compute the lighting direction. The normal vector N at a point (x, y, z) on the surface of a sphere is given by

$$N = \frac{1}{\sqrt{x^2 + y^2 + z^2}}(x, y, z) \quad (9.1)$$

Recall that a point (x, y, z) on the surface of a sphere with center $(x', y', 0)$ and radius r is parametrized by

$$(x - x')^2 + (y - y')^2 + z^2 = r^2. \quad (9.2)$$

Since we have already determined the x and y coordinates, we can easily solve for the z coordinate as well. Now, using the law of reflection, we can determine the

light source direction L as

$$L = 2(N \cdot R)N - R \quad (9.3)$$

where $R = (0, 0, 1)$ is the viewing direction Debevec (2008). You should scale your L vector such that its magnitude is the power of the lighting source. If this is unknown, assume unitary power.

b) Obtaining Surface Normals

Recall that for Lambertian surfaces, we can approximate the intensity of a single pixel as

$$\mathbf{I} = \rho \mathbf{L}^T \hat{\mathbf{n}}, \quad (9.4)$$

where $\mathbf{I} \in \mathbb{R}^4$ is the intensity vector containing the measured intensities from the four sources, $\mathbf{L} \in \mathbb{R}^{3 \times 4}$ is the illumination direction matrix containing the light source directions in its column space, $\hat{\mathbf{n}} \in \mathbb{R}^3$ is the surface normal at that pixel, and ρ is the albedo.

For an entire image containing p pixels, we can generalize this expression as

$$\mathbf{I} = \mathbf{L}^T \hat{\mathbf{N}}, \quad (9.5)$$

where $\mathbf{I} \in \mathbb{R}^{4 \times p}$ and $\hat{\mathbf{N}} \in \mathbb{R}^{3 \times p}$. This equation resembles a least squares problem, so we can obtain the surface normals by using the pseudoinverse of \mathbf{L}^T Woodham (1980).

$$\hat{\mathbf{N}} = (\mathbf{L}\mathbf{L}^T)^{-1} \mathbf{L}\mathbf{I} \quad (9.6)$$

Note that the obtained normals will have to be scaled appropriately to have unit length. The scaling factor for each normal describes the albedo.

c) Plotting Normal Map

Since the normals for each pixel have unit length, the values of each x, y, and z components will lie between $[-1, 1]$. Most plotting software accept either floats between $[0, 1]$ or integers between $[0, 255]$. Thus, for plotting purposes, we will rescale them to be between $[0, 1]$ by adding one to every coordinate value and dividing by 2. In the plotted RGB image, red corresponds to the $+x$ direction, green corresponds to the $+y$ direction, and blue corresponds to the $+z$ direction.

d) Error Analysis

For data we capture ourselves, we do not have ground truth surface normals to compare to. If we did have ground truth normals, we could determine the mean

angular value (MAE) by calculating the pixel-wise average of the angles between the reconstructed normals and the ground truth normals (via dot product). Instead, we will reconstruct the shading images based on the computed surface normals. We can then compare these reconstructed shading images to the original shading images to determine the mean and median error. To reconstruct a shading image, we use the linear relationship from Lambert's Law in Fig. 9.5 to solve for the intensity matrix $\widehat{\mathbf{I}}$. Reconstruct all 4 shading images and determine the mean and median absolute difference between the pixels, across all 4 images. Be sure to scale the errors by the maximum pixel value (e.g. 1 on a [0, 1] scale or 255 on a [0, 255] scale). Note that the background pixels should be masked out. For credit, place a reconstructed shading image in the box below (replace our example). Additionally, include the mean and median errors in the box below.

3. Photometric Stereo with Unknown Lighting Directions

Now we will consider the case in which we don't have the lighting directions readily available. We will instead use a matrix factorization approach to decompose our intensity data into surface normals and lighting directions, as predicted by Lambert's Law.

Please Note:

1. The algorithm has a large time complexity which scales up with the resolution of the image.
2. The algorithm requires a prior knowledge of the surface normal of three points on the image. Specifically, each of these three points should have normals approximating (1, 0, 0), (0, 1, 0), (0, 0, 1). Ensure that you choose an object that allows you to provide these coordinates.

Provided you have taken these factors into account, you can reuse the same images from the previous section (except we won't use the specular sphere images).

a) Factorization of Intensity Matrix

Recall that we can express the intensity matrix $\mathbf{I} \in \mathbb{R}^{p \times f}$ of a scene with p pixels and f frames ($f = 4$ in our case) as

$$\mathbf{I} = \mathbf{RNMT}, \quad (9.7)$$

where $\mathbf{R} \in \mathbb{R}^{p \times p}$ is the surface reflectance matrix, $\mathbf{N} \in \mathbb{R}^{p \times 3}$ is the surface normal matrix, $\mathbf{M} \in \mathbb{R}^{3 \times f}$ is the light source direction matrix, and $\mathbf{T} \in \mathbb{R}^{f \times f}$ is the light intensity matrix. This can also be expressed as a simple factorization

$$\mathbf{I} = \mathbf{SL}, \quad (9.8)$$

where $\mathbf{S} = \mathbf{RN}$ is the surface matrix and $\mathbf{L} = \mathbf{MT}$ is the light source matrix Hayakawa (1994). Our simplified objective, therefore, is to find the correct factorization of \mathbf{I} .

i. Singular Value Decomposition

Singular value decomposition (SVD) is particularly useful because it organizes the intensity data into its singular vectors and corresponding singular values, which we will exploit shortly. First, flatten each image into vectors and create \mathbf{I} by concatenating these vectors column-wise. We will now decompose \mathbf{I} using SVD. Python should have libraries to help you extract the SVD of a matrix, such that

$$\mathbf{I} = \mathbf{U}\Sigma\mathbf{V} \quad (9.9)$$

where $\mathbf{U} \in \mathbb{R}^{p \times p}$, $\Sigma \in \mathbb{R}^{p \times f}$, and $\mathbf{V} \in \mathbb{R}^{f \times f}$. Note that calculating the SVD can be computationally expensive. You may need to downsample your images so the algorithm executes in a reasonable time.

ii. Denoising the Image

We inherently assume that there is some noise in our image data. The singular values we obtain from SVD are a measure of how much of the total variance in the data is captured by the corresponding singular vectors. We assume that the first three singular vectors are all tied to the image formation process, while all subsequent singular vectors are the result of noise introduced into the measurement process. Therefore, we keep the singular vectors having the three greatest singular values, and drop the remaining vectors. We now approximate our "true" intensities as

$$\widehat{\mathbf{I}} = \mathbf{U}'\Sigma'\mathbf{V}' = \widehat{\mathbf{S}}\widehat{\mathbf{L}}, \quad (9.10)$$

where $\widehat{\mathbf{S}} = \mathbf{U}'(\pm[\Sigma']^{1/2})$, $\widehat{\mathbf{L}} = (\pm[\Sigma']^{1/2})\mathbf{V}'$, \mathbf{U}' contains the first three left singular vectors, Σ' contains the three highest singular values along its diagonal, and \mathbf{V}' contains the first three right singular vectors. Note, however, that this approximation is only valid when the ratio between the third and fourth largest singular value is large enough Hayakawa (1994).

b) Constraining the Factorization

The factorization we obtained in the previous section, however, is not unique. We can easily see this fact if we consider any arbitrary invertible matrix \mathbf{A} .

$$\widehat{\mathbf{I}} = (\widehat{\mathbf{S}}\mathbf{A})(\mathbf{A}^{-1}\widehat{\mathbf{L}}) \quad (9.11)$$

Therefore, we must find the \mathbf{A} matrix such that

$$\mathbf{S} = \widehat{\mathbf{S}}\mathbf{A}, \quad \mathbf{L} = \mathbf{A}^{-1}\widehat{\mathbf{L}} \quad (9.12)$$

We refer to the incorrect normals obtained in $\widehat{\mathbf{S}}$ as *pseudo-normals*. To constrain the \mathbf{A} matrix, we must find at least $p' = 6$ points on the image with constant surface reflectance. Assuming the material is homogeneous, we can manually select points that have relatively different surface normal orientations. For each of the corresponding p' pixels, we obtain these pseudo-normals \widehat{s}_k from the row space of $\widehat{\mathbf{S}}$ and constrain \mathbf{A} such that

$$\widehat{s}_k^T \mathbf{A} \mathbf{A}^T \widehat{s}_k = r, \quad k = 1, \dots, p' \quad (9.13)$$

where r is the relative surface reflectance. If the exact value of the reflectance is unknown, we can assume $r = 1$. We can first solve for $\mathbf{B} = \mathbf{A}\mathbf{A}^T$ via a simple linear system of equations. Note that since \mathbf{B} is a symmetric matrix, there are only 6 unknown entries in the matrix, which is why $p' \geq 6$. Once we obtain \mathbf{B} , we can solve for \mathbf{A} by computing the SVD of \mathbf{B} . Since \mathbf{B} is symmetric, its SVD is given by $\mathbf{B} = \mathbf{W}\Pi\mathbf{W}^T$. Therefore, we can determine that

$$\mathbf{A} = \mathbf{W}[\Pi]^{1/2} \quad (9.14)$$

From \mathbf{A} , we can determine \mathbf{S} based on Fig. 9.12 Hayakawa (1994). Be sure to normalize the length of the normal vectors.

c) Transforming Normals to Viewer-Centered Coordinate System

The surface normals we obtained in the previous subsection are oriented in an arbitrary coordinate system. We want the normals to be oriented relative to the camera's position. Manually find three points in the scene whose surface normals are oriented along the positive x, y, and z directions. Construct the following change of basis matrix

$$B = \begin{bmatrix} | & | & | \\ v_1 & v_2 & v_3 \\ | & | & | \end{bmatrix}^{-1}$$

where v_1 , v_2 , and v_3 are the corresponding computed surface normal vectors at those three points. We can determine the correct orientation of all points in the scene by applying this linear transformation (i.e. change of basis) to every normal in the image.

d) Normal Map and Error Analysis

Plot the normal map and a sample reconstructed shading image. Also, calculate the error as you did in the previous section. Comment on the difference in performance between the two methods for photometric stereo (with known and unknown lighting), and potential reasons for the difference in performance.



Figure 9.3: Insert an object image and its corresponding specular sphere image (replace our example).

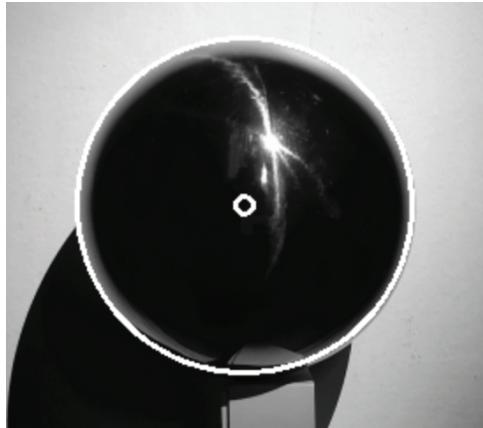


Figure 9.4: Insert your segmented specular sphere image (replace our example).

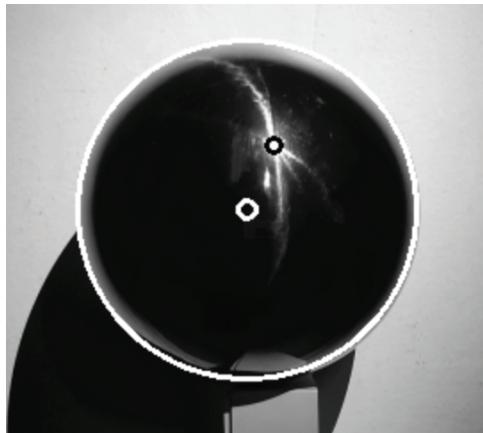


Figure 9.5: Label the point of specularity on your sphere image (replace our example).

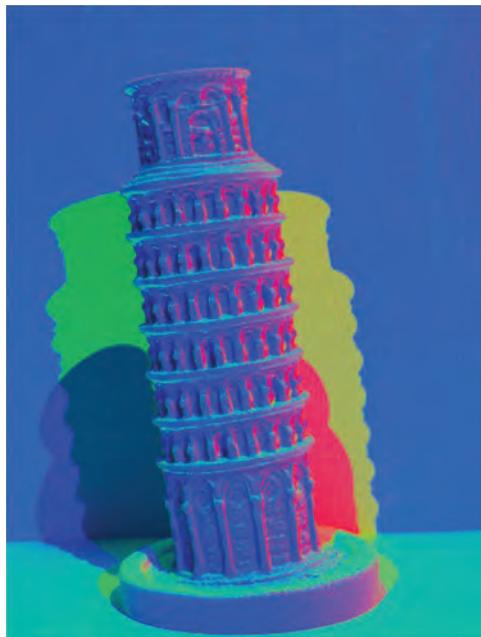
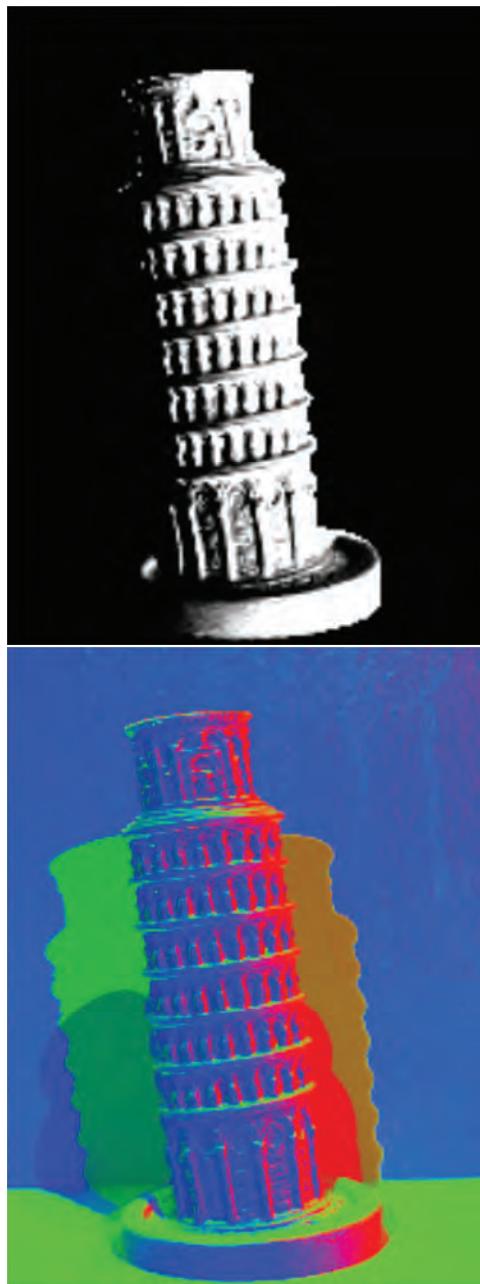


Figure 9.6: Insert the normal map of the original object (replace our example).



Mean Normalized Error = 0.01041, Median Normalized Error = 0.002481

Figure 9.7: Insert the reconstructed shading image and the error statistics (replace our example).



Mean Normalized Error = 0.1241, Median
Normalized Error = 0.07291

Figure 9.8: Insert the normal map and reconstructed shading image obtained with unknown lighting conditions (replace our example).

10

Light Transport

In this chapter, we discuss light transport – an analytical framework that aims to describe the interaction between light and matter. Although light transport may seem to have a similar scope as the field of optics, there are distinctions. In particular, light transport involves the use of simplified representations of light (e.g. ray-based when possible, instead of wave-based) for the benefit of computational tractability. For this reason, researchers in vision and graphics sometimes add the additional adjective of computational, referring to computational light transport (CLT).

10.1 Motivation

10.1.1 Curse of Dimensionality

Light transport is a simplification tool for the complexity of light. In an ordinary scene, there are trillions of light paths interacting with the scene. Imagine a scene that has been subdivided into three patches of space, each consisting of 100×100 scene points. From the lens of geometry alone, there are 1 trillion possible light paths that connect each pixel ($100^2 \times 3$). From the lens of color, polarization, and transient variation, there would be even more light paths. Unfortunately, an imaging system is tasked to sample this space with a camera that operates in megapixels (MP). This introduces a curse of dimensionality: trillions of light paths, sensed only by millions of pixels. To address this curse, light transport makes two simplifications. The **first simplification** is to reduce the optical complexity of the scene to the minimum amount of dimensionality that we feel is necessary to address an applied problem. For example, if trying to see around corners in grayscale, we might not need to consider color variations. The **second simplification** is to reduce high dimensional light paths into a representation space that maps to the millions of pixels in imaging hardware, such as projectors, cameras, or other pieces of computational imaging hardware. In this way, light transport forms a bridge between unobtainable information (trillions of light paths) to obtainable measurements (cameras or projectors).

10.1.2 Light Transport Addresses Curse of Dimensionality

To overcome the high-dimensional nature of light transport, it is possible to relax the problem. Let us now dive deeper into the two simplifying reductions (from 10.1.1), which form the core of research advances in light transport. The first simplification was to use the minimum amount of optical degrees of freedom as needed. As we have seen earlier, (in chapter 6) the 7D plenoptic function under certain assumptions and relaxations simplifies to a 4D light field, which is easier to sample and operate on. The second simplification is identifying a representation space for light paths. Section 10.2.2 lays the foundation to this idea, by decomposing light transport of a scene into a sum of different inter-reflection components, but this decomposition is not realizable in practice. In Section 10.3 we discuss approaches which relax light transport in different ways. We start with a binary approach (10.3.1) that separates light transport into either **global or direct light paths** under a smoothness assumption in the frequency domain. Section 10.3.2 discusses finer separation of light transport, by separating the global component into near and far global components. In Section 10.3.2 we also discuss how combinations of light transport and optical techniques like interferometry can be used to achieve even finer decomposition of light transport. These techniques are useful in addressing various imaging applications like de-scattering, skin imaging and time-of-flight imaging.

10.1.3 Forward vs Inverse Light Transport

Light transport involves capturing the image of scene (I) illuminated by a source (S) using a sensor (P). For simplicity P can be thought of as a camera sensor, and we do not need to factor in the lens. There are two broad forms of light transport:

- *Forward Light Transport* - Forward light transport addresses how a given scene appears under certain illumination conditions. Rendering approaches used in the field of **computer graphics** can be thought of as forward light transport. Ray tracing is a popular graphics technique for rendering scenes, which models image formation by tracing the path of light from the illumination source to the sensor pixels, and simulating the interaction of the light ray with the objects in the scene. Section 10.2.1 looks at the forward light transport approach, but instead of ray tracing we model image formation using a *light transport matrix*.
- *Inverse Light Transport* - Most of the work in **imaging** addresses the problem of inverse light transport. Given a photograph of I acquired on the sensor P , inverse light transport aims to decompose it into multiple components, where each component records the contributions from certain groups of light paths in the scene. The second simplification in Section 10.1.2 corresponds to the components we expect to recover as a solution of the inverse light transport.

10.1.4 Chapter Organization

The chapter is organized as follows. We begin with a discussion of forward light transport in Section 10.2.1 by introducing the light transport matrix, and associated concepts of superposition and Helmholtz reciprocity. Section 10.2.2 describes inverse light transport and its relaxations in Section 10.3. In Section 10.4, we have a detailed look at one of the most popular problems in computational imaging: non-line-of-sight imaging. We conclude the chapter in Section 10.5, summarizing additional real world applications of light transport.

10.2 Light Transport Matrix

The light transport matrix describes the relationship between lighting, scene, and sensing. Here, we offer two views of the light transport matrix, from a forward (10.2.1) and inverse (10.2.2) perspective.

10.2.1 Light Transport Matrix: Forward Perspective

The light transport matrix, \mathbf{T} , is a part of the light transport equation: $\mathbf{p} = \mathbf{T}\mathbf{l}$ (where \mathbf{p} is an $n \times 1$ vector of irradiance measurements, aka camera pixels, and \mathbf{l} is an $m \times 1$ vector of independent source/illumination pixels). It is an $n \times m$ matrix, with n being the irradiance measurements (*e.g.*, camera pixels) and m being the independent illumination degrees of freedom (*e.g.*, scene pixels). In modeling the propagation of light between a projector and a camera, the light transport matrix holds crucial information about the scene being illuminated. Using the light transport matrix, we can relight a scene to create novel pictures through the manipulation of various bounces of light. The transport matrix adheres to the superposition principle in that it allows for the creation of images under different lighting conditions. Mathematically, if the first and second light sources are represented by,

$$\mathbf{p}_1 = \mathbf{T}\mathbf{l}_1, \quad \mathbf{p}_2 = \mathbf{T}\mathbf{l}_2,$$

respectively, then their summation allows for new images, due to the ability to manipulate lighting conditions. It is clear that a sum of the two equations would lead to a scene in which the illumination is the superposition of the two original illuminations:

$$\mathbf{p}_1 + \mathbf{p}_2 = \mathbf{T}(\mathbf{l}_1 + \mathbf{l}_2).$$

Another important application involves using the transpose of the transport matrix to capture two different perspectives using a fixed camera and projector. Suppose we had a scene with a playing card in it as in Fig. 10.1, with the projector facing the front of the card and the camera facing the back, along with an object for light to reflect off of (in this example, a book).

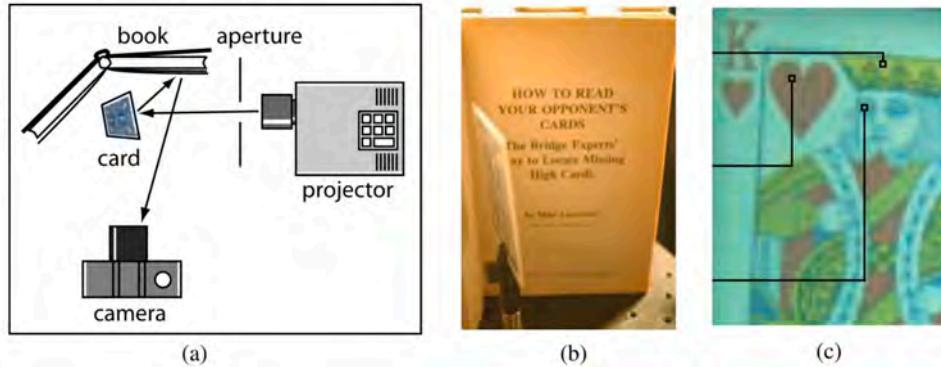


Figure 10.1: Dual Photography leverages the light transport matrix and Helmholtz reciprocity to swap camera and projector viewpoints. (a) The setup, with the projector viewing the card’s face and the camera viewing its back. (b) Live photo of the setup. (c) The produced image using dual photography Sen et al. (2005).

It is possible to image the card such that its front is visible, even though the camera is facing its back. The **Helmholtz Reciprocity Principle** enables this, stating that the light transport will be the same regardless of the flow of light. It relies foundationally on the conservation of energy. Since, by this principle, the same light is measured whether it starts at the projector or the camera, the transport matrix T can be transposed in order to produce a **dual image** as per the equation $\mathbf{p} = \mathbf{T}^T \mathbf{l}$ Sen et al. (2005).

The dual image, as seen in Fig. 10.2, is synthesized and is from the projector’s point of view, with illumination as if it were coming from the position of the camera. Through this concept, referred to as **dual photography**, the viewpoints of the camera and projector can be swapped. In summary, by the light transport equation, the picture at the camera (the primal image) is given by $\mathbf{l} = \mathbf{T}\mathbf{p}$, while the picture at the projector (dual image) is given by $\mathbf{p} = \mathbf{T}^T \mathbf{l}$ (as shown in Fig. 10.3).

Although swapping the projector and camera viewpoint to see the playing card is an incredible result, it requires that the projector be positioned in the line of sight to view the front of the playing card. Later in this chapter, we will discuss methods that can see around corners without a gadget in the line of sight.

10.2.2 Light Transport Matrix: Inverse Perspective

From this section onward, we focus our discussion on inverse light transport. While forward light transport focuses on the propagation of light through a known scene, inverse light transport aims to infer the path of light in an unknown environment. The path of light can be parametrized by bounces of light. Concretely, an ordinary image \mathbf{I} of a scene can be

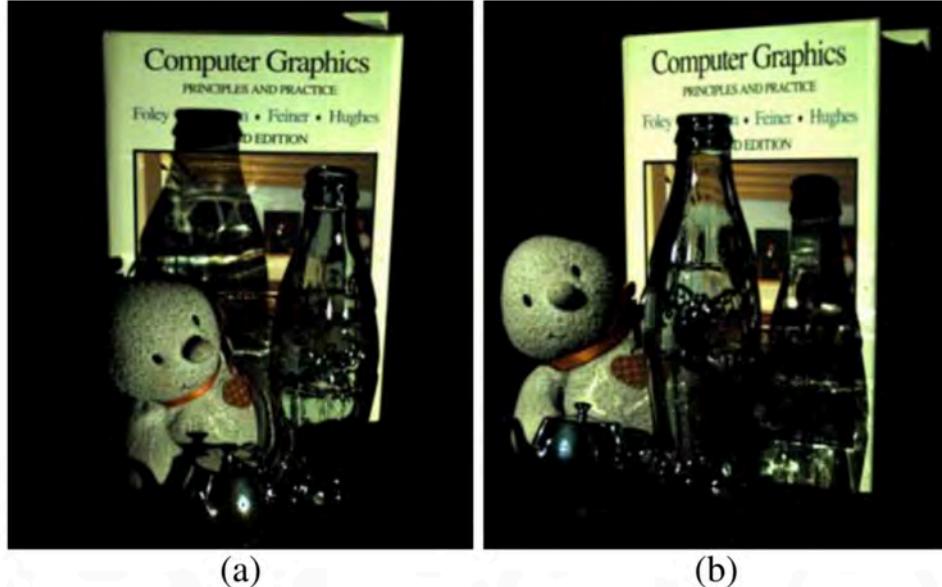


Figure 10.2: Example of Dual Photography (a) The primal image. Lighting is from the perspective of the projector, and the photo has a resolution equal to that of the camera. (b) The dual image. Lighting is from the perspective of the camera, and the photo has a resolution equal to that of the projector Sen et al. (2005).

decomposed into an infinite summation of images $\mathbf{I} = \mathbf{I}_1 + \mathbf{I}_2 + \dots$ where \mathbf{I}_i is the image containing i^{th} order inter-reflections.

Consider a setup with a scene, light source and camera. Consider any \mathbf{x}' , \mathbf{x} and \mathbf{y} to be any arbitrary set of points on the source, scene and camera sensor respectively. Let $\omega_{\mathbf{x}'}^{\mathbf{x}}$ denote rays originating from \mathbf{x}' and directed to \mathbf{x} . Let $\mathbf{L}_{\text{in}}(\omega_{\mathbf{x}'}^{\mathbf{x}})$ denote the radiance as a function of all incident light rays $\omega_{\mathbf{x}'}^{\mathbf{x}}$, where \mathbf{x}' is the collection of source points that illuminates the surface points represented by \mathbf{x} . Similarly $\mathbf{L}_{\text{out}}(\omega_{\mathbf{x}}^{\mathbf{y}})$ represents radiance as a function of all outgoing light rays $\omega_{\mathbf{x}}^{\mathbf{y}}$. Since the outgoing light field, $\mathbf{L}_{\text{out}}(\omega_{\mathbf{x}}^{\mathbf{y}})$ is partially composed of light that has been reflected by other surface points before reaching \mathbf{x} , we can decompose this light field to

$$\mathbf{L}_{\text{out}}(\omega_{\mathbf{x}}^{\mathbf{y}}) = \mathbf{L}_{\text{out}}^1(\omega_{\mathbf{x}}^{\mathbf{y}}) + \mathbf{L}_{\text{out}}^{2,3,\dots}(\omega_{\mathbf{x}}^{\mathbf{y}}),$$

where the direct component, $\mathbf{L}_{\text{out}}^1(\omega_{\mathbf{x}}^{\mathbf{y}})$, is determined by how the surface material reflects light off of the points \mathbf{x} on the surface (*e.g.*, bidirectional reflectance distribution function (BRDF)), and the indirect component, $\mathbf{L}_{\text{out}}^{2,3,\dots}(\omega_{\mathbf{x}}^{\mathbf{y}})$ is the contribution of all the interreflections that strike \mathbf{x} after hitting some number of surface points first Seitz et al. (2005). For

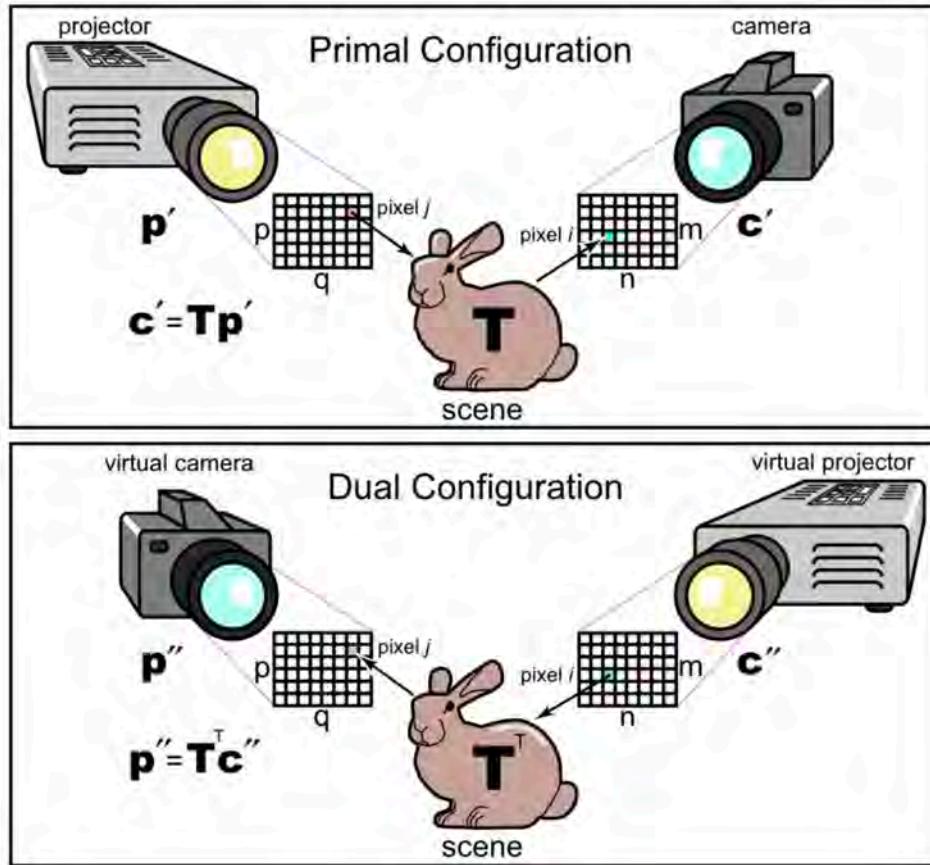


Figure 10.3: Primal and Dual Image Matrices. The left diagram illustrates the primal setup where light is emitted from the camera and captured by the projector. Helmholtz reciprocity, a consequence of conservation of energy, suggests that we can reverse this operation. For example, assume a ray from a projector pixel strikes the scene and is captured by a set of camera pixels. If those camera pixels were instead virtual projector pixels, the same amount of light would hit the scene and reach that single projector pixel (now virtual camera). As illustrated in the right diagram, we can mathematically swap the location of the projector and the camera, in order to find out what virtual camera would be capturing if it was in the projector's place Sen et al. (2005).

k discretized surface points, we can rewrite the above equation as

$$\mathbf{L}_{\text{out}} = \mathbf{L}_{\text{out}}^1 + \mathbf{A}\mathbf{L}_{\text{out}},$$

where $\mathbf{A} \in \mathbb{R}^{k \times k}$ is the matrix that characterizes the proportion of irradiance (defined in Chapter 2) from \mathbf{x}' to \mathbf{x} that is radiated towards \mathbf{y} . Rearranging this equation gives

$$\mathbf{L}_{\text{out}} = (\mathbf{C}^1)^{-1} \mathbf{L}_{\text{out}}^1,$$

which is indicative of relaxing the full light transport concept to an interreflection cancellation operator $\mathbf{C}^1 = (\mathbf{E} - \mathbf{A})$, where \mathbf{E} is an identity matrix, that just maps a direct illumination light field to a general light field (with direct and indirect components) Seitz et al. (2005). $\mathbf{C} \in \mathbb{R}^{k \times k}$ is defined in the context of shape and reflectance properties (*e.g.*, BRDF). This image formation process can be modeled by introducing the light transport matrix $\mathbf{T} \in \mathbb{R}^{k \times k}$, which can be measured as described in Section 10.3.2. As a consequence of \mathbf{T} , we can say that

$$\mathbf{L}_{\text{out}}^1 = \mathbf{T}^1 \mathbf{L}_{\text{in}},$$

where \mathbf{T}^1 contains the components of \mathbf{T} that are due to 1-bounce reflections Seitz et al. (2005). Given this context, we can now extend our analysis to n-bounce reflections. Using the principles derived earlier, we can generalize

$$\mathbf{L}_{\text{out}}^n = \mathbf{C}^n \mathbf{L}_{\text{out}}.$$

Using Lambertian approximation for the surface, the cancellation operator can be expressed using \mathbf{T} as

$$\mathbf{C} = \mathbf{T}^1 \mathbf{T}^{-1},$$

where $\mathbf{T}^1 \in \mathbb{R}^{k \times k}$ is the diagonal matrix containing the reciprocal diagonal elements of \mathbf{T}^{-1} Seitz et al. (2005). Thus, we practically decompose \mathbf{L}_{out} into its component interreflections.

Ultimately, the existence of the cancellation operator shows that it is possible to compute different n -bounce reflections of a scene. However, capturing the light transport matrix is not efficient, which in turn makes the process of calculating the cancellation operator hard to implement. In the following subsections, we shall see how to alleviate this problem by relaxing the inverse light transport problem allowing us to probe and manipulate light transport using the principles of light transport matrix, but without having to acquire the full matrix. In the process we shall also discover interesting relations between the scene constituents and the nature of the light transport matrix.

10.3 Relaxations of Inverse Light Transport

In the last section, our discussion of inverse light transport was conducted in the context of an infinite sum of n -order light bounces. When building a practical imaging system, it is nearly impossible to measure the number of bounces of a light path. In this section, we discuss two specific relaxations of light transport: global-direct separation in 10.3.1 and optical probing in 10.3.2.

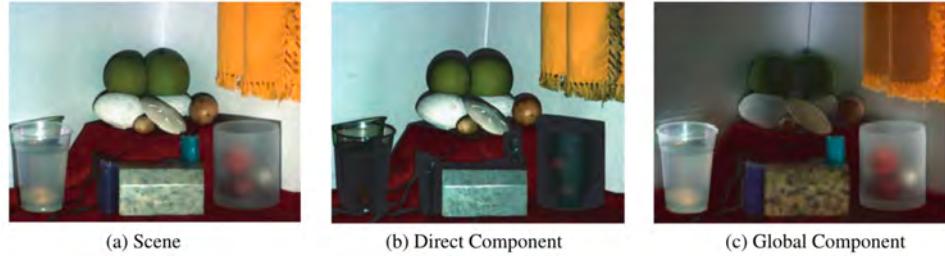


Figure 10.4: Separation of Global and Direct for a Complex Scene. (a) This is the original image of a scene with many optically complex objects. (b) This is the decomposed direct illumination image. It has been scaled up by a factor of 1.25. (c) This is the global illumination image which includes diffuse and specular interreflections (wall wedge and nut), volumetric scattering (milky water), subsurface scattering (marble), translucency (frosted glass), and shadow (fruit on board) Nayar et al. (2006).

10.3.1 Global and Direct Separation

The light in an illuminated scene consists of two components: direct and global illumination. The **direct component** provides information with regards to how the material and local geometric properties of a scene interact with the light source and camera. The **global component** reveals the complex optical interactions within a scene, specifically between different objects and media. It also models interreflections and subsurface scattering, which indirectly illuminate a scene. The direct component is the light paths that reach the camera, from an object that has been illuminated directly by the source. In the framework of 10.2.2, it can be seen as a 1-bounce light path: from light source, to object, to camera. In contrast, the global component is formed from light paths that reach the camera, from an object that has been illuminated indirectly from the source. Here, indirect means that the object is not illuminated directly by the light source, but by light that has bounced off other objects in the scene. In the framework of 10.2.2, the global component refers to the summation of all n -bounce light paths, where n is greater than 1. To illustrate the contrast between global and direct components, let us examine convex and concave shapes. Light will bounce directly off a convex object, while it may reflect within a concave object, hitting the inner walls before traveling to the camera.

Fig. 10.4 depicts the separation of direct and global components in a real scene Nayar et al. (2006). The authors have chosen this particular image for its remarkable effects of light transport. The V-groove where the two walls meet follows the logic we just described about convex and concave objects. The marble appears bright in the global image due to subsurface scattering, which has a high global component. The surface of the curtain appears dark in the global image, except for the fringes which exhibit subsurface scattering.

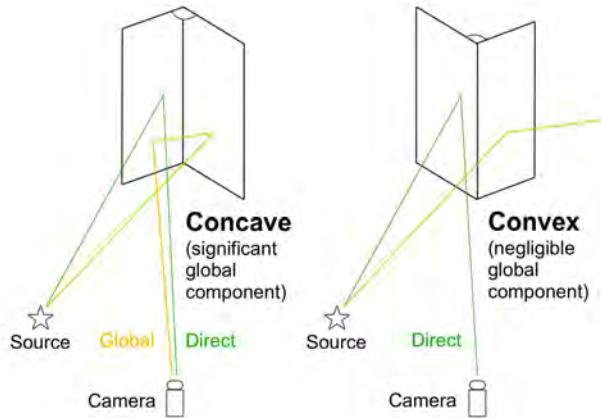


Figure 10.5: Direct-Global Decomposition of Concave and Convex Surfaces. Concave surfaces are curved inwards, while convex structures are curved outwards.

The milky water appears dark in the direct image, but bright in the global image due to the scattering of milk.

Another example that illustrates direct and global components can be seen in Fig. 10.5. Here, we examine both the concave and the convex geometry of the V-groove. For the direct component of both of these different shapes, we get the same 2D image since the direct image only takes into account the light that travels directly back from the V-groove and not the interreflections. In contrast, while the concave geometry exhibits a global component because of the scattering of light, the convex geometry has a flat global image.

In separating the original image into the direct and global components, we gain the knowledge required to perform image manipulation and reveal more information about a scene. This makes direct-global separation a useful technique, which has a lot of exciting applications like novel scene synthesis, mitigating multipath interference in time-of-flight imaging, skin imaging and many more. (Refer to Section 10.5 for more details on the applications of global-direct separation.)

One can theoretically measure global light by illuminating one point of the scene at a time and capturing an image to determine the contribution of this point to all other points Seitz et al. (2005). However, this method is too expensive to have practical applications.

However, through the use of high frequency illumination, it is theoretically possible to separate direct and global light using just two images Nayar et al. (2006). This approach requires certain assumptions. Each point in the scene must only be illuminated by at most one source element. In other words, only a single light source is used. Additionally, the global contribution of each scene point is assumed to be a smooth function with respect to

frequency of the lighting. In terms of equipment, the camera is assumed to have infinite resolution and the projector is idealized to create patterns devoid of light leakage. With a practical camera of finite resolution and a projector with leakage and defocusing, around 25 images are required to produce the desired separation.

In a high frequency binary illumination pattern (alternating lit and unlit patches along the scene's surface), the lit patches contain both direct and global light while the assumption is that patches unlit by the light source consist of only global light. This "smoothness assumption" in light transport is what makes the separation feasible, as patches may be subtracted to achieve separation (recall that $\mathbf{L} = \mathbf{L}_d + \mathbf{L}_g$). Dividing the surface into N sections, with M of the N sections directly corresponding to a pixel of the source, we can define $\mathbf{L}[c, i]$ as radiance of a patch i , measured by a camera c . Defining $\mathbf{A}[i, j]$ as the reflectance distribution over the set of patches $i, j \in P$ (where P is the set of patches in the scene), we derive Nayar et al. (2006),

$$\mathbf{L}_g[c, i] = \sum_{j \in P} \mathbf{A}[i, j] \mathbf{L}[i, j],$$

$\mathbf{L}_g[c, i]$ can be further decomposed into $\mathbf{L}_{gd}[c, i]$ and $\mathbf{L}_{gg}[c, i]$. \mathbf{L}_{gd} represents the direct component of radiation from scene patches (*i.e.*, applicable to the light travel scenario: source → other patch → patch of interest). \mathbf{L}_{gg} represents the global component of radiation from scene patches (*i.e.*, applicable to the scenario: source → occurrence(s) → other patch → patch of interest). In a pattern where only a fraction of the source's patches are lit (a checkerboard pattern), with a good distribution for high frequency, α represents this fraction. Let \mathbf{L}^+ be the image of the scene lit with high frequency illumination with a fraction of the activated source pixels α and \mathbf{L}^- be the image of the scene lit with a complementary illumination pattern, *i.e.*, with a fraction of the activated source pixels $1 - \alpha$. We define a new \mathbf{L}_{gd}^+ as,

$$\mathbf{L}_{gd}^+[c, i] = \alpha \mathbf{L}_{gd}[c, i],$$

since only the lit patches have a direct component and therefore contribute. Likewise,

$$\mathbf{L}_{gg}^+[c, i] = \alpha \mathbf{L}_{gg}[c, i],$$

The combination of \mathbf{L}_{gd}^+ and \mathbf{L}_{gg}^+ as well as \mathbf{L}_d results in the first image, which is represented by,

$$\mathbf{L}^+[c, i] = \mathbf{L}_d[c, i] + \alpha \mathbf{L}_g[c, i].$$

We represent the complementary illumination with \mathbf{L}^- . It has $(1 - \alpha)$ activated pixels. It forms the second image, and is written as,

$$\mathbf{L}^-[c, i] = (1 - \alpha) \mathbf{L}_g[c, i].$$

The above equations hold under the assumption that the deactivated source pixel does not generate any light. If this assumption is false, we can assume the brightness of the deactivated source to be a fraction of the activated element. We denote this fraction by b , where $0 \leq b \leq 1$. Taking b into account changes the above equations as follows:

$$\mathbf{L}^+ [c, i] = \mathbf{L}_d [c, i] + \alpha \mathbf{L}_g [c, i] + b(1 - \alpha) \mathbf{L}_g [c, i], \quad (10.1)$$

$$\mathbf{L}^- [c, i] = b \mathbf{L}_d [c, i] + \alpha b \mathbf{L}_g [c, i] + (1 - \alpha) \mathbf{L}_g [c, i]. \quad (10.2)$$

If α is either close to 0 or 1, the scene would be very dimly lit in one of the illumination conditions. Choosing $\alpha = 0.5$ is hence a justified choice as it maximizes the sampling frequency of illumination in both of the images. Hence if α and b are known, separation can be done using 2 images. In practice however, it's difficult to obtain ideal complimentary patterns, as the lit and unlit regions may have brightness variations. Limited depth of field of the projector also causes defocusing of certain scene regions. We now demonstrate a simple experiment to actually apply the above equations for separating global and direct components.

We now describe how one can separate it into its direct and global components by solving the above equations. First, we estimate the value of b . To do so, first we project a white pattern on the screen and capture its image. Similarly we obtain an image of the black pattern. White pattern corresponds to $\alpha = 1$, black pattern corresponds to $\alpha = 0$.

We can then estimate b for each pixel by dividing the black pattern image and the white pattern image. We call this matrix \mathbf{b}_{mat} as it stores the value of b for each pixel. For the illumination pattern, we use a checkerboard pattern with squares of size 8×8 pixels. The checkerboard pattern ($\alpha = 0.5$) is shifted 5 times (by 3 pixels each time) along the axes to obtain a total of 26 images. Using this data, the process of extraction of the global and direct components from the scene in Fig. 10.4a can be expressed as follows using a MATLAB style pseudocode

```

1  %% For a given scene:
2
3  % Estimating b
4  bmat = Black ./ White;
5
6  % Rescaling b from 0 to 1
7  bmat = bmat ./ max(bmat(:));
8
9  % Initialising Lplus to be a zero matrix
10 Lplus = zeros(size(White));
11
12 % Initialising Lminus to be Inf
13 Lminus = Inf * ones(size(White));
14
```



Figure 10.6: Failed Direct Global Decomposition. Failed separation due to the violation of the smooth global function assumption, when the checkerboard pattern is shifted. The highly specular reflections cause residual checkerboard patterns in each component Nayar et al. (2006).

```

15 for i = 1:26
16 % img = image captured with ith checkerboard pattern
17 Lplus = max(img, Lplus);
18 Lminus = min(Lminus, img);
19 end
20
21 % Direct Component
22 Ld = (Lplus - Lminus) .* (1 ./ (1 - bmat));
23
24 % Global Component
25 Lg = 2 * (bmat .* Lplus - Lminus) ./ ...
26 ((bmat - 1) .* (bmat+1));

```

The 26 images obtained by shifting the checkerboard pattern help in accurately estimating \mathbf{L}^+ and \mathbf{L}^- . Using these obtained estimates, the last 2 steps of the pseudocode obtain the direct and global components Fig. 10.4b-c by solving equations (10.1) and (10.2). The theory of direct and global separation discussed above is also applicable to other high frequency illumination patterns like sine waves, and under certain assumptions can achieve direct-global separation from a single image as well. For sources like the Sun, which cannot be made to generate high frequencies, occluders like moving shadows in a scene can be used. If the shadow is thin enough, like in case of a line occluder, global-direct separation is possible using the method discussed above by approximating $\alpha = 1$ and $b = 0$. In practise however, moving a line occluder throughout the entire scene is time consuming, hence mesh occluders are more commonly used Nayar et al. (2006).

Let's now consider a scenario in which global-direct separation fails. Although the high frequency binary illumination pattern works very well for many cases, attempting to perform separation for a scene that contains mirrors violates the assumption that the global function is smooth compared to the illumination frequency, due to the high-frequency off-diagonal

structures that mirror reflections produce. This results in failed direct and global images containing residual checker patterns, as seen in Fig. 10.6.

In the next section, we introduce a method that allows us to perform global-direct separation by optically probing the light transport matrix while capturing the scene. This approach also succeeds for cases like Fig. 10.6 which violate the smoothness assumption of the global component.

10.3.2 Optical Probing of the Light Transport Matrix

Motivations: Acquiring a Light Transport Matrix

So far in this chapter, we have focused on forming images of different bounce orders of light. Although the light transport matrix is an important tool in this discussion, we skirted around acquiring the light transport matrix. Now, we assume we do not know the light transport matrix and seek to capture it.

There are, of course, ways of naively capturing the light transport matrix; for example, Sen et al. (2005) discuss one such method in their paper on dual photography, which uses a projector and a light sensor as the setup. Here, the transport matrix is captured by using the projector to display a variety of different patterns with one element lit up at a time. Of course, this is very time-inefficient since it requires so many different measurements to acquire all components of the transport matrix. For example, it took 90 minutes to complete the brute force pixel scan for a 3×3 pixel pattern.

There are other techniques to address this shortcoming, such as *fixed pattern scanning*. Fixed pattern scanning allows multiple elements to be lit at the same time. However, it fails to capture global illumination effects, which are crucial to understanding how an image is seen. Adaptive multiplexed illumination fixes this problem by illuminating multiple pixels at once, but controlling which pixels are illuminated so that each camera pixel is not affected by more than one projector pixel simultaneously.

To find which pixels cannot be illuminated at the same time, we start with one large block that contains all projector pixels. This block is then subdivided whenever conflicts between two blocks are found. This iterative procedure continues until each block represents a pixel. Whereas the brute-force method took 90 minutes for a 3×3 pattern, adaptive multiplexed illumination enables capture of the \mathbf{T} matrix in just over 2 hours for a 578×680 pixel pattern.

However, when the scene is dominated by diffuse interreflections or subsurface scattering, adaptive multiplexed illumination may degenerate into the time-costly, brute-force pixel-by-pixel method. Also, it lends itself to incorrectly culled blocks: if a block happens to contribute a small amount of energy to a certain scene, and this amount of energy is below

the noise threshold contributed by the other blocks, it may be unfairly culled and its energy lost. This especially becomes an issue while capturing diffuse-diffuse interreflections. To fix this problem, we can use a hierarchical approach in which the energies are recorded at the last possible level where they can be measured, ensuring we do not accidentally lose a block to noise.

Even a compressive sensing approach to capturing the transport matrix, while improving on the efficiency of the actual capture, takes an inordinate amount of time to post-process the image afterwards Peers et al. (2009). For a 512×512 pixel scene, this method yields a postprocessing time of fifteen hours. The general trade off is that one must either dedicate a huge amount of effort to taking all of the images under many different illuminations as necessary or minimize the effort of capturing the images at the cost of a huge post processing time.

Clearly, we can't always easily and efficiently capture the transport matrix. However, *optical computing* implements numerical algorithms directly in optics, which allows replacing matrix products in a numerical algorithm with capturing a scene under a certain illumination. For example, let's say we want to find the eigenvector of a certain transport matrix without figuring out the matrix itself. A numerical algorithm called power iteration can be used optically in this case to find the eigenvector. The numerical domain power iteration operation $\mathbf{p}_i = \mathbf{T}\mathbf{l}_i$ can be implemented by project and capture operations in the optical domain. This is an iterative process that will converge to the principal eigenvector of the scene. Apart from this simple example, there are many other iterative algorithms, such as *Arnoldi iteration* and *generalized minimal residual*, that can be used to bypass the need for the exact knowledge of the transport matrix O'Toole and Kutulakos (2010).

Primal-Dual Coding

We have already seen how we can use the transport matrix to analyze and manipulate photos to our advantage, using the light transport equation $\mathbf{p} = \mathbf{T}\mathbf{l}$. However, we can introduce a new matrix, known as the probing matrix $\mathbf{\Pi}$: this matrix allows us to develop a generalized imaging method for active illumination, operating entirely in the optical domain. The light transport equation can then be modified using the probing matrix, yielding the *transport probing equation*:

$$\mathbf{p} = (\mathbf{\Pi} \odot \mathbf{T}) \mathbf{l},$$

where the symbol \odot denotes the element-wise multiplication of two matrices, and \mathbf{l} denotes a vector of ones. The light transport equation only contains degrees of freedom equal to the number of elements in the illumination vector, whereas the transport probing equation yields a much greater degree of freedom - equal to the number of elements in the probing matrix.

The primary use of the probing matrix is in *optical probing* - more specifically, in a process that we call *primal-dual coding*. This technique is closely related to many methods in microscopy which are used to enhance microscope performances by eliminating out-of-focus light.

Primal-dual coding allows simultaneous control over two different aspects of image formation: first, the scene's illumination, which we consider the primal domain; and second, the modulation of the light coming into the camera, which we consider the dual domain. In physical terms, we project a certain pattern onto the scene we are photographing (practically, this can be done with a projector); then we use a secondary pattern which we insert between the scene and the camera, which modulates the light as it enters the camera's sensor (which can practically be done using an LCD mask, among other things). In a sense, primal-dual coding consists of a combination of illumination coding and coded-exposure photography, but is performed completely externally, without any need to delve inside the interior of the camera.

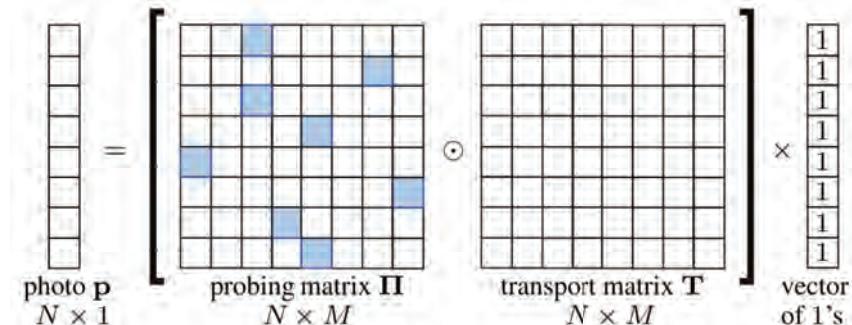
We can also study primal-dual coding through the lens of the probing matrix and the transport probing equation. In the regular light transport equation (Section 10.2.1), we acquire information of the transport matrix \mathbf{T} of size $L \times P$ through the illumination vector \mathbf{i} of size $L \times 1$. However, with the transport probing equation, we can use the probing matrix $\mathbf{\Pi}$ of size $L \times P$ to control how \mathbf{T} is mapped onto \mathbf{i} , which gives us more control over how the resulting image is formed.

Fig. 10.7 summarizes some of the possible transport probing equations that can be realized using structured probing matrices.

There are two main optical algorithms for using the probing matrix in practice. The first is known as *path isolation*, and the second is the *optical probing matrix*. We will begin by discussing path isolation. It is a little simpler conceptually, to discuss as a starting point.

The idea of path isolation is to turn on one *single projector pixel* at a time, while also unmasking only one *single camera pixel* on the camera sensor. With only one pixel active at either end, we thus have an absolute guarantee that the only light paths contributed to the photo will be the ones between those two points; since scene points are non-illuminated (on the projector's end) or photons are masked (on the camera sensor's end). To capture the full photograph, the naive path-isolation algorithm uses a time-multiplexing approach, in which we look at a certain time slice τ within the exposure period. During this time slice τ , every possible combination of the projector pixel n and sensor pixel m is accounted for, where $\mathbf{\Pi}[m, n]$ captures the intensity of the projector pixel during τ .

However, path isolation is not a particularly efficient method of capturing the photograph. Many probing matrices are sparse matrices, meaning most of the elements have a value of



(a)

| Transport Probing Equation | Expression for Element $\boldsymbol{\Pi}_{nm}$ | Expression for Photo Pixel \mathbf{p}_n |
|--|--|--|
| $\begin{array}{ c } \hline \text{grid} \\ \hline \end{array} \times \mathbf{i}$ | | $\sum_m \mathbf{T}_{nm} \mathbf{i}_m$ |
| $\left[\begin{array}{ c } \hline \mathbf{i} \\ \hline \mathbf{i} \\ \hline \mathbf{i} \\ \hline \mathbf{i} \\ \hline \end{array} \right] \odot \begin{array}{ c } \hline \text{grid} \\ \hline \end{array} \times \mathbf{1}$ | \mathbf{i}_m | $\sum_m \boldsymbol{\Pi}_{nm} \mathbf{T}_{nm} = \sum_m \mathbf{i}_m \mathbf{T}_{nm}$ |
| $\left[\begin{array}{ c } \hline \text{grid} \\ \hline \text{grid} \\ \hline \text{grid} \\ \hline \text{grid} \\ \hline \end{array} \odot \begin{array}{ c } \hline \text{grid} \\ \hline \end{array} \right] \times \mathbf{1}$ | $\delta(n - m)$ | $\sum_m \boldsymbol{\Pi}_{nm} \mathbf{T}_{nm} = \mathbf{T}_{nn}$ |
| $\left[\begin{array}{ c } \hline \text{grid} \\ \hline \text{grid} \\ \hline \text{grid} \\ \hline \text{grid} \\ \hline \end{array} \odot \begin{array}{ c } \hline \text{grid} \\ \hline \end{array} \right] \times \mathbf{1}$ | $\delta(n - m + w)$ | $\mathbf{T}_{n(n+w)}$ |
| $\left[\begin{array}{ c } \hline \text{grid} \\ \hline \text{grid} \\ \hline \text{grid} \\ \hline \text{grid} \\ \hline \end{array} \odot \begin{array}{ c } \hline \text{grid} \\ \hline \end{array} \right] \times \mathbf{1}$ | $\delta(\mathbf{a}_n - m)$ | $\mathbf{T}_{n\mathbf{a}_n}$ |

(b)

Figure 10.7: Operations using Probing Matrix. (a) The light transport matrix can be rewritten as being multiplied element-wise by the probing matrix. This offers a greater degree of freedom in the light transport matrix. (b) This table outlines some potential probing matrix operations we can do without knowing the full light transport matrix O’Toole et al. (2012).

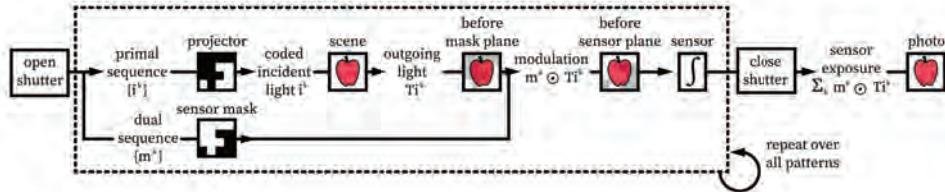


Figure 10.8: Optical Probing Pipeline. This diagram contains the full pipeline, with relation to the optical hardware, of the probing procedure O’Toole et al. (2012).

zero. Because path isolation allocates equal time to every element, most of the exposure time is spent not integrating any light at all. A larger problem with path isolation manifests when we consider that normally millions of *other* pixels would, altogether, contribute a lot of noise on top of the light from the original isolated pixel; in fact, the light of the original pixel would be completely lost underneath the additive noise from all of the other pixels combined.

The second algorithm, using optical matrix probing, involves more efficient acquisition through optical computing. We define $\{\mathbf{p}_k\}$ and $\{\mathbf{m}_k\}$ to be sequences of column vectors that correspond to the decomposition of the probing matrix into rank 1 matrices, so that

$$\mathbf{\Pi} = \sum_{k=1}^K \mathbf{m}_k (\mathbf{p}_k)^\top.$$

The probing equation can hence be expressed as

$$\begin{aligned} (\mathbf{\Pi} \odot \mathbf{T}) \mathbf{1} &= \sum_{n=1}^P \mathbf{\Pi}[n] \circ \mathbf{T}[n] \\ &= \sum_{n=1}^P \left(\sum_{k=1}^K \mathbf{m}_k \mathbf{p}_k[n] \right) \circ \mathbf{T}[n] \\ &= \sum_{k=1}^K \left(\mathbf{m}_k \circ \sum_{n=1}^P \mathbf{T}[n] \mathbf{p}_k[n] \right) \\ &= \sum_{k=1}^K \mathbf{m}_k \circ \mathbf{T} \mathbf{p}_k, \end{aligned}$$

where $\mathbf{T}[n]$ is the n^{th} column of \mathbf{T} , and $\mathbf{p}_k[n]$ is the n^{th} element of \mathbf{p}_k , and $\{\mathbf{p}_k\}$ is the rank-1 matrix of illumination patterns and $\{\mathbf{m}_k\}$ is the rank-1 matrix of masks for optical probing. We can illustrate this visually, with its correlation to the actual physical hardware, in Fig. 10.8. A detailed description of the hardware setup to implement optical probing can be found in O’Toole et al. (2012).

Path isolation:**In:** exposure time E , probing matrix Π **Out:** photo equal to $(\Pi \odot \mathbf{T}) \mathbf{1}$

- 1: $\tau = E/NM$
- 2: open camera shutter
- 3: **for** $n = 1$ to N
- 4: unmask pixel n
- 5: **for** $m = 1$ to M
- 6: turn on projector pixel m for time τ with intensity Π_{nm}
- 7: mask all pixels
- 8: close shutter
- 9: **return** captured photo

Optical matrix probing:**In:** exposure time E , probing matrix Π , K illumination vectors $\{\mathbf{i}^k\}$ **Out:** photo equal to $(\Pi \odot \mathbf{T}) \mathbf{1}$

- 1: $\tau = E/K$
- 2: open camera shutter
- 3: **for** $k = 1$ to K
- 4: apply mask $\mathbf{m}^k = \Pi \mathbf{i}^k$
- 5: project vector \mathbf{i}^k for time τ
- 6: close shutter
- 7: **return** captured photo

Figure 10.9: Optical Probing Algorithms. This table contains the two main algorithms used in the optical probing procedure: path isolation and optical matrix probing O’Toole et al. (2012).

Fig. 10.9 is a useful table for understanding our two alternate optical algorithms as we have presented them here - the naive path isolation method and the optical probing matrix:

Optical probing can be used for a variety of image manipulation and information extraction tasks like enhancing direct components using a single photo, de-scattering using only two photos, separating the direct and indirect components under high-frequency indirect transport, and separating low- and high-frequency indirect transport. Optical probing is also successful in global-direct separation for scenes that violate the assumptions of the approach in Section 10.3.1 as shown in Fig. 10.10.

The primal dual coding approach is a significant advancement, but it is confined specifically to a coaxial arrangement of the projector and camera. O’Toole et al. (2014) shows that in a general non-coaxial formation, the dominant light paths are what we call *epipolar* and *non-epipolar* paths. Epipolar paths contribute to a scene’s direct image, whereas non-epipolar paths contribute to the indirect components of a scene.

To accommodate general configurations of the projector-camera setup, O’Toole et al. (2014) introduces the *stereo transport matrix*. The stereo transport matrix - so named because the camera and projector form what we call a stereo pair - contains three categories of matrix elements: *epipolar elements*, *non-epipolar elements*, and *direct elements*, as

10.3 Relaxations of Inverse Light Transport

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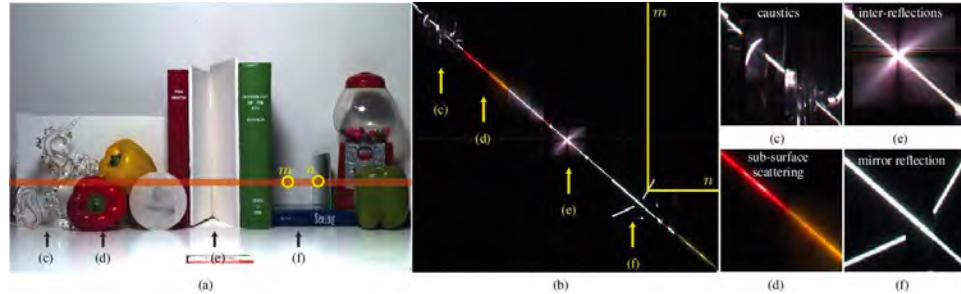


Figure 10.10: Light Transport Matrix of a Scene. (a) An image of the scene, containing various objects that have complex optical interactions. (b) This is a slice of the light transport matrix for the single highlighted row in part (a). A point (n, m) in the image, represents the light paths that were emitted by pixel m of the projected and captured by pixel n of the camera (in the highlighted row). The diagonality of the slice implies that light was transported between projector and camera pixels that were close to each other. (c-f) These are various notable aberrations in the light transport matrix slice, and their causes O’Toole et al. (2012).

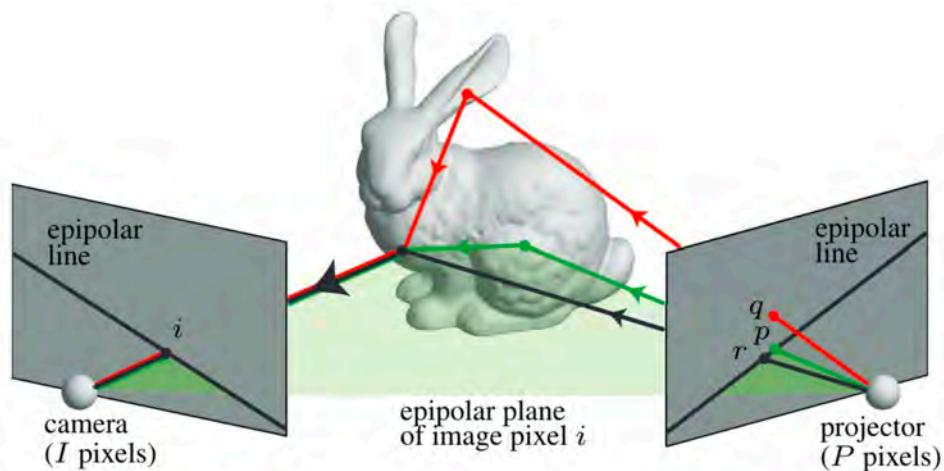


Figure 10.11: Stereo Transport Matrix using Epipolar Imaging. This is a diagram of the Stereo Light Transport setup, where the matrix is subdivided into three groups of light: epipolar (green), non-epipolar (red), and direct (black) O’Toole et al. (2014).

seen in Fig. 10.11. Epipolar elements require the camera and projector pixels to be on corresponding epipolar lines. Non-epipolar elements do not have the camera and projector on corresponding epipolar lines and are by far the most common type of element in the matrix. Direct elements are those in which the camera and projector are in stereo

Table 10.1: Overview of Light Transport. This table contains three interrelated views of light transport. First, Seitz *et al.* proposes an imaginative idea of exploiting n -bounce images. Nayar uses a smoothness relaxation to reduce the separation of 1-bounce and $2n$ -bounce transport to imaging practice. Finally, O'toole shows the ability to further discriminate global light transport based on the distance from the diagonal of the transport matrix.

| | |
|--|-----------------------|
| Direct and Global Component Separation | Nayar et al. (2006) |
| Inverse Light Transport and Interreflections | Seitz et al. (2005) |
| Stereo Light Transport Matrix | O'Toole et al. (2014) |

correspondence - in other words - equivalent to the direct light transport we have already worked with. The image of the scene (denoted by \mathbf{U}) can be expressed as combinations of these three elements,

$$\mathbf{U} = \mathbf{T}^D \mathbf{p} + \mathbf{T}^{EI} \mathbf{p} + \mathbf{T}^{NE} \mathbf{p},$$

where $\mathbf{T}^D \mathbf{p}$ is the direct image, $\mathbf{T}^{EI} \mathbf{p}$ is the epipolar indirect image, and $\mathbf{T}^{NE} \mathbf{p}$ is the non-epipolar indirect image. In comparing the different types of matrix elements, we see that non-epipolar elements outnumber both epipolar and direct elements. Due to this, *non-epipolar dominance* is assumed, allowing for simplification of the matrix.

Table 10.1 summarizes the three ways of light transport decomposition we have looked at so far.

Probing Light Transport using Interferometry

Optical probing using the primal-dual coding approach allows us to implement a generalized probing pattern, but it does not account for path length resolution. While interferometry has been widely used in other areas, such as in astronomy, and physics, it's relatively unexplored in computational imaging. Optical interferometry allows for much higher precision in path length resolution, up to an order of $10 \mu\text{m}$ - but it can only be applied to small volume regions. The interferometric approach is thus useful for analyzing light transport at a micron scale, finding applications in microscopy and tissue imaging.

The light transport matrix can be decomposed as a sum of its constituents with varying path lengths τ .

$$\mathbf{T} = \sum_{\tau} \mathbf{T}^{\tau}.$$

Following this decomposition, capturing images \mathbf{i} of a static scene under uniform illumination vector of $\mathbf{I} = \mathbf{1}$ can be described by:

$$\mathbf{i} = \sum_{\tau} \omega(\tau) (\mathbf{M} \odot \mathbf{T}^{\tau}) \mathbf{1}.$$

Here, \mathbf{M} is a binary matrix of dimension $P \times L$ where L is the number of points on the source and P is the number of pixels on the sensor. If $M_{pl} = 0$, the contribution of the path beginning at the point l on the source and reaching the pixel p on the camera is removed. Analogous to this, $\omega(\tau)$ is a binary function and can remove the contribution of paths of length τ . For a regular image, $\omega(\tau)$ and \mathbf{M} are 1 everywhere as none of the paths are ignored.

Spatial decomposition techniques vary the contributions of spatial light paths by changing \mathbf{M} but keeping $\omega(\tau)$ constant. On the contrary, interferometric approaches vary $\omega(\tau)$ to achieve path length resolution. Interferometric approaches for scene decomposition and optical probing are largely based on the classical Michelson interferometer setup.

Let d_r be the distance between reference arm and the beamsplitter, while d_s be the distance between the target mirror and the beamsplitter. The temporal coherence of the light source is the average correlation between its two instances delayed by τ , at any pair of times. If $|d_r - d_s|$ is larger than the temporal coherence, the camera's measured image will be equal to the sum of the two images of the mirrors, *i.e.*, no interference takes place. $|d_r - d_s|$ smaller than the temporal coherence results in interference, with a fringe pattern recorded by the camera.

Using temporal coherence and detecting the extent of interference allows separation of light paths with different path-lengths down to a resolution equal to the temporal coherence length. Additionally, taking spatial coherence into account allows a precise spatial separation of light paths. An interference pattern is created if two light paths originate from points within the spatial coherence length of the source, and combine at the same camera pixel.

However, the method we just discussed is somewhat constrictive, as it focuses almost solely on diagonal probing, which corresponds to the direct component of the image. Kotwal et al. (2020) introduces an interferometric approach using coded mutual intensity, which enables direct versus global decomposition and descattering (similar to primal-dual coding method discussed earlier).

The coded mutual intensity approach adds optical components to the original Michelson interferometer which enable amplitude and phase modulation Fig. 10.12b. Modulating the amplitude and phase separately between the reference arm and source arm achieves two different effects: incoherent probing of the light transport matrices yields global versus direct separation, whereas coherent probing of transmission matrices allows us to perform descattering. Longer path lengths indicate indirect or global components, whereas shorter path lengths belong to direct components.

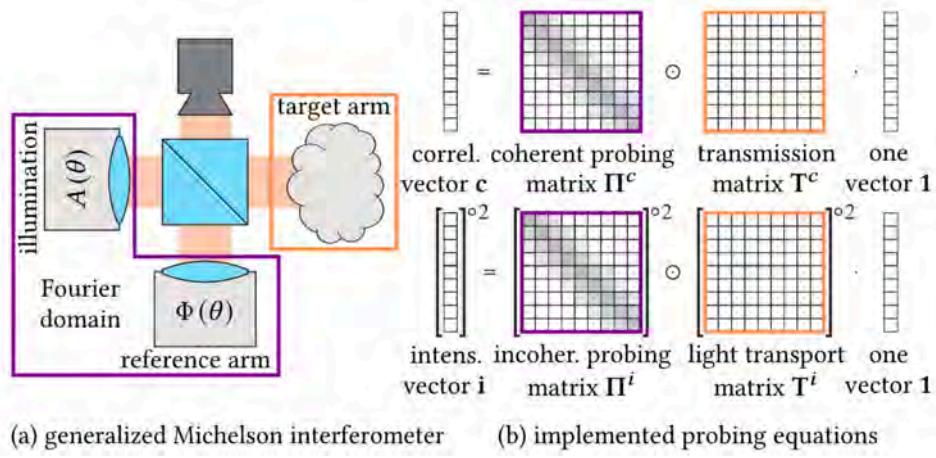


Figure 10.12: Michelson Interferometer Light Transport Probing. (a) An input beam is split by a beam splitter into two copies which reflect off the two mirrors at differing distances from the source; the two copies then recombine at the beamsplitter before being imaged by the camera. One of the mirrors is the target arm (scene) and the other is the reference arm. (b) Varying the source coherence properties, light of different lightpath decompositions can be captured Kotwal et al. (2020).

This is the first approach to perform both coherent probing of transmission matrices and incoherent probing of light transport matrices using complex probing patterns.

Coherent probing can be used for descattering by suppressing the scattering effect using a probing pattern that emphasizes the diagonal of the light transport matrix while subtracting the first few off-diagonals.

While the interferometry methods provide high resolutions, they are limited in that they are extremely sensitive to vibrations due the small path lengths they consider.

In this section we looked at a broad spectrum of approaches and relaxations to solve inverse light transport that allow separating light paths in global and direct components and are also capable of optically probing the light transport matrix. A combination of precise hardware setups and clever algorithms facilitates the use of light transport for a variety of practical applications. The remaining part of the chapter focuses on various complex imaging problems, which can be tackled using the principles of light transport we studied so far. To this end, the next section introduces the problem of non line of sight imaging.

10.4 Non Line of Sight Imaging

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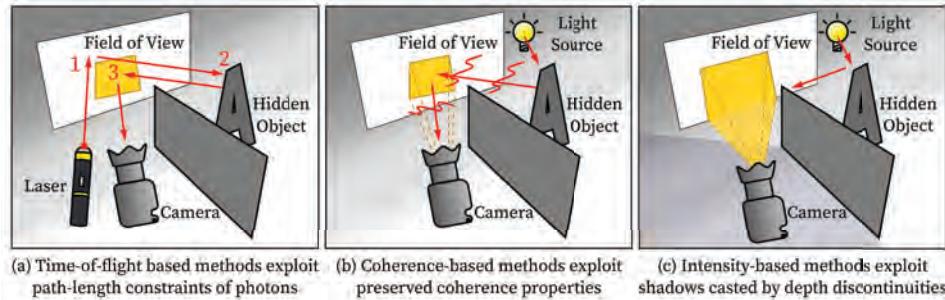


Figure 10.13: Types of NLOS detection methods. We discuss time-of-flight- (a) and intensity- (c) based methods in this chapter Maeda et al. (2019).

10.4 Non Line of Sight Imaging

In Section 10.2.1, we discussed the example of seeing the hidden playing card using Dual Photograph, where a projector was placed in the hidden scene. Here, we discuss methods to see around corners with no gadget in the line of sight.

Although the history of exploiting scattered radiation dates back to radar and seismic techniques, the concept of photography around corners may originate with a 2008 technical report from Raskar and Davis (2008). This report conceptually formulated ideas of seeing around corners or Non-Line-of-Sight (NLOS) Imaging as a set of techniques aimed at recovering objects hidden around corners, with applications in disaster management, endoscopy, self-driving cars, and many more areas. NLOS imaging (hereafter, “NLOS”) can be expressed mathematically as the forward model:

$$y = f(x) + \varepsilon,$$

where x represents the parameters of the hidden scene such as albedo or class of hidden objects and ε expresses the noise. $f(\cdot)$ is a map from the hidden scene to the measurement y . This map is determined by the illumination, geometry of the hidden scene and the sensor. The aim is then to devise algorithms that invert the mapping $f(\cdot)$ such that x can be recovered when y is given, *i.e.*, properties of the hidden scene can be uncovered by taking some imaging measurements of the visible scene.

Advances in imaging technology have made NLOS possible through a variety of different methods (Fig. 10.13). We focus on two popular classes of NLOS imaging methods:

1. *Time-of-Flight methods* (Section 10.4.1): The time it takes a photon to traverse its optical path after being reflected from the hidden scene is analyzed to detect properties of the occluded elements.

2. *Intensity based methods* (Section 10.4.2): By exploiting the surface reflectance of a relay wall or object, this method recovers hidden scenes using typical (RGB) cameras, including smartphones, thus making NLOS accessible.

Our discussion about NLOS will be mainly centered around time-of-flight and intensity based approaches. Coherence based approaches are beyond the scope of this text, but are mentioned briefly in Section 10.5.3 from an applications perspective.

10.4.1 Time-of-Flight Methods

10.4.1.1 Transient Imaging Each ray of light takes a distinct path through a scene. However, light travels extremely fast (~ 1 foot/nanosecond). As a result, in a room-sized environment, a microsecond exposure (integration) time is long enough for a light impulse to fully traverse all the possible multi-paths introduced due to interreflections between scene elements and reach steady state.

Traditional 2D cameras sample very slowly compared to the time scale at which the transient properties of light appear. Hence, they are only able to capture the final steady state sum of the rays at each camera pixel and express light intensity by $I(x, y)$. This is known as steady-state light transport. In this case, we assume that light takes no time to reach the final steady state, and hence the time parameter of light transport is ignored. This loss of multi-path information is responsible for limitations in traditional imaging imaging methods. Transient imaging overcomes these limitations by using cameras that are capable of sampling at sub-picosecond scales along with ultrafast femtosecond lasers. A transient imaging camera can capture a 3D time-image, expressing light intensity by $I(x, y, t)$. This allows us to directly observe the path of a ray traversing the scene as a function of time, and analyze this light transport to discover various properties, such as the geometry of a scene. The effects of multi-path interference (MPI) can be captured in image space. Marco et al. (2017) utilize this fact to model MPI as a 2D convolution, since each pixel's light transport can be expressed as a linear combination of that of all other pixels. Using this observation, the effects of MPI can be corrected or leveraged using a convolutional neural network.

Transient imaging is one of the early methods to achieve NLOS. In contrast to the dual photography approach that required an illumination source to be in the line-of-sight, this method enables the camera to take a picture of an element occluded from both the camera and the illumination source by analyzing the light multipath information obtained through transient imaging.

Geometry of visible and hidden elements

We first understand how to use transient imaging along with the **Space Time Impulse Response** (STIR) to estimate the geometry of a visible scene. Dividing a scene S into M

10.4 Non Line of Sight Imaging

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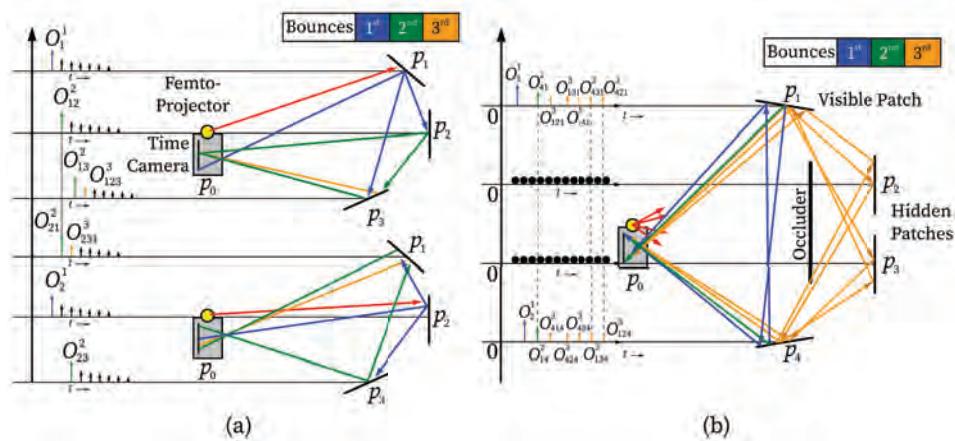


Figure 10.14: Measuring the Space Time Impulse Response (STIR). (a) A single patch is illuminated at a time (p_1 in the upper image and p_2 in the lower image), and the times at which reflected light reaches the camera (p_0) are recorded for each patch Kirmani et al. (2009). (b) Onset data collected from illuminating visible patches can be used to calculate the locations of hidden ones (assuming third-bounces arrive before fourth-bounces, no interreflections, a known number of hidden patches) Kirmani et al. (2009).

distinct patches, we assume that every patch is visible from all other patches, and that every patch has a non-zero diffuse component.

Consider a transient imaging system consisting of a pulse illumination source and a generalized sensor. Each sensor pixel (x_i, y_i) observes a unique patch p_i in the scene over time. (θ_i, Φ_i) represents the direction of a ray generated by the pulse source illuminating patch p_i . By synchronizing the sensor and illumination, the Time Difference of Arrival (TDOA) of light is measured at regular intervals. This system is then used to form STIR (\mathcal{S}) of the scene. The 5D function is given by $\text{STIR}(x_i, y_i, \theta_i, \Phi_i, t)$ and measured by Kirmani et al. (2009):

- For every patch $p_i : i = 1, \dots, M$
 - (a) Illuminate p_i with an impulse ray (θ_i, Φ_i)
 - (b) Capture a time-image of every patch p_j visible to p_i
- $$p_i : \{I(x_j, y_j, t), j = 1, \dots, M, t = 0, \dots, T = \text{STIR}(x_j, y_j, \theta_i, \Phi_i, t)\}.$$

We now define $\mathbf{O}^1 = \{O_i^1 | i = 1, \dots, M\}$ as the set of first onsets, *i.e.*, the collection of all time instants O_i^1 when the pixel observing patch p_i receives the first non-zero response while the source illuminates p_i . In Fig. 10.14, O_i^1 is the time it takes for the light impulse

ray that starts at p_0 and is directed towards p_i to go to p_i and come back, thus tracing the direct path $p_0 \rightarrow p_i \rightarrow p_0$. Analogous to this, the set \mathbf{O}^2 is the set of second onsets, and is defined by $\mathbf{O}^2 = \{O_{ij}^2 | i, j = 1, \dots, M; i \neq j\}$. It is the set of time instances when the camera first receives a non-zero response at patch p_i while the illumination is directed at patch p_j . By Euclidean geometry, we have $O_{ij}^2 = O_{ji}^2$. With this collection of first and second onsets, we can compute the direct distance of each patch from the camera, as well as the relative distances between all patches, thus inferring the geometry of the scene Kirmani et al. (2009). If $\mathbf{D} = [d_{ij}]$ is the matrix of pairwise Euclidean distances between all patches, including p_0 = camera, we define $\mathbf{d} = \text{vec}(\mathbf{D})$ and \mathbf{T}_2 to be the $[M(M + 1)/2] \times [M(M + 1)/2]$ matrix that contains the sum of possible pairings of path lengths between the M patches⁸.

We can then find the distance estimates $\hat{\mathbf{d}}$ by solving the linear system $\mathbf{T}_2 \mathbf{d} = c \mathbf{O}$ where c is the speed of light. For example, for Fig. 10.14, the system is given by:

$$\left[\begin{array}{cccccc} 2 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 1 & 1 & 0 & 1 & 0 & 0 \\ 1 & 0 & 1 & 0 & 0 & 1 \\ \hline 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 2 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 1 & 1 & 1 \\ \hline 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 2 \end{array} \right] \left[\begin{array}{c} d_{01} \\ d_{12} \\ d_{13} \\ \hline d_{02} \\ d_{23} \\ \hline d_{03} \end{array} \right] = c \left[\begin{array}{c} O_1^1 \\ O_{12}^2 \\ O_{13}^2 \\ \hline O_1^2 \\ O_{23}^2 \\ \hline O_1^3 \end{array} \right].$$

These pairwise distances $\hat{\mathbf{d}}$ are then used to make conclusions about the geometry of the scene by using an isometric embedding algorithm Kirmani et al. (2009).

The geometry of hidden scenes can also be recovered similarly if some assumptions are made. We assume that we know the number of hidden patches, and that all third bounces of light arrive before higher order bounces, which is true when there are no interreflections amongst hidden patches.

For a hidden patch p_i , since the first and second onsets cannot be observed, we find the set of third onsets \mathbf{O}^3 . Based on Euclidean geometry, $O_{ijk}^3 = O_{kji}^3$.

Assume that as shown in Fig. 10.14, patches p_2 and p_3 are hidden. We first find d_{01} , d_{04} , d_{14} as these are visible. Next, we apply a labelling algorithm to identify all third onsets. O_{141}^3 and O_{414}^3 are found from TDOA since p_1 and p_4 are visible, and hence distances are known. Additionally, $O_{124}^3 = O_{421}^3$ and $O_{134}^3 = O_{431}^3$. We use this equality relation to find these onsets. Furthermore, we make assumptions about the proximity of the hidden

⁸ $M + (M - 1) + (M - 2) + \dots + 1 = M(M - 1)/2$

patches. For example, we may assume without loss of generality that p_2 is closer to p_1 than p_3 , and hence $O_{121}^3 < O_{131}^3$, which allows us to label these onsets as well.

We can then construct an operator \mathbf{T}_3 such that $\mathbf{T}_3 \mathbf{d}_H = c \mathbf{O}_h$ where \mathbf{d}_H is the distances to the hidden patches and \mathbf{O}_h is the third bounces of arrival times corresponding to hidden patches Kirmani et al. (2009). In the given example, we can then solve the system:

$$\begin{bmatrix} 2 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 1 & 1 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 2 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 & 1 \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} d_{21} \\ d_{24} \\ d_{31} \\ d_{34} \end{bmatrix} = c \begin{bmatrix} O_{121}^3 - O_1^1 \\ O_{124}^2 - (O_1^1 + O_4^1)/2 \\ O_{131}^3 - O_3^1 \\ O_{134}^2 - (O_1^1 + O_4^1)/2 \end{bmatrix}.$$

This enables us to reconstruct the geometry of the hidden scene using the same isometric embedding algorithm that is used for visible elements.

On a similar note, Pandharkar et al. (2011) proposed an algorithm using the constrained least square model for estimating motion and absolute locations of NLOS moving objects in cluttered environments through tertiary reflections of pulsed illumination, using only relative time differences of arrival at an array of receivers. The authors also presented a method to estimate the size of NLOS moving objects by back projecting extrema of their time responses.

10.4.1.2 3D Shape Recovery From Hidden Scenes

Streak Cameras + Femtosecond Lasers However, the method proposed in the previous section assumes well separated and isolated hidden patches with known correspondence between hidden patches and recorded pulses. In addition, the images recovered are 2D.

In this section, we will discuss another method to recover the 3D structure of a hidden scene by extracting information from the multi-bounce path of light. The setup of this method consists of a diffuser wall, an ultrafast pulsed laser and a streak camera that is capable of sampling at extremely short time intervals to produce time-images. The setup is shown in Fig. 10.15a.

In this setup, a light impulse reflects off the diffuser wall and onto the hidden scene. It then reflects back onto the wall, carrying information about the 3D geometry of the hidden scene which the camera then captures. The streak camera has one spatial and one temporal dimension, and we focus it on the dashed line segment along the wall as shown in Fig. 10.15a. We capture images only of this line segment over time intervals as short as 2 picoseconds to create the space-time image. The streak image looks like the hyperbolic curve shown in Fig. 10.15b. This is because the impulse of light has a spherical wavefront propagating from the hidden scene and it arrives at different points on the diffuser wall

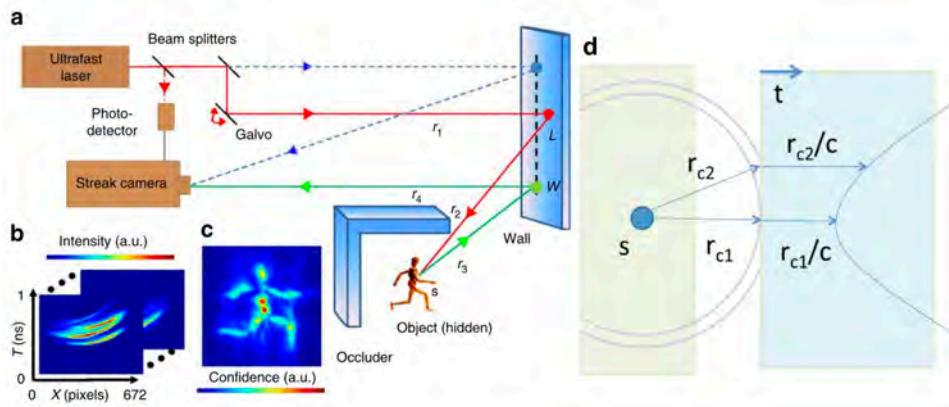


Figure 10.15: Image Capture Procedure and Geometry. The laser is aimed onto the wall via galvanometer and mirrors (a), and the camera takes a series of images in time (b). A confidence map of the hidden object (c) can be constructed from the results Velten et al. (2012a). (d) The hyperbolic curves in the individual camera images result from the varying distances (left) and thus times (right) light travels to reach the sensor Gupta et al. (2012).

with different time delays (Fig. 10.15). As different spots on the wall are illuminated, the hyperbolic curves vary according to the encoded information.

To analyze the light reflected from the hidden scene, it's important to ensure that no light is reflected directly off the wall without reaching the hidden scene. Hence, the laser only illuminates a spot above or below the dashed line. By pointing the laser to illuminate multiple spots on the wall and capturing multiple time-images, we can uncover enough information about the hidden scene to reconstruct it.

However, while the images captured by the streak camera contain information about the hidden scene, they lack correspondence information. We do not know which light pulse is caused due to which surface point in the hidden scene. As demonstrated in Fig. 10.16, this problem is solved using a backprojection algorithm Velten et al. (2012a).

Consider any pixel p in a streak image with non-zero light intensity. The possible locations which could have contributed intensity to this pixel lie on an ellipsoid in Cartesian space. The focal points (L, w) of this ellipsoid correspond to the point on the wall illuminated by the laser and the point on the dashed line where it was reflected from the hidden scene (Fig. 10.16). In 2D, the intersection of the ellipses corresponding to some pixels p, q, r of a streak image would uniquely determine the location of the hidden surface patch contributing to these pixels. However, in practice, we do not know if light detected by 2 pixels came from the same 3D surface point, and hence we create a likelihood model Velten et al. (2012a).

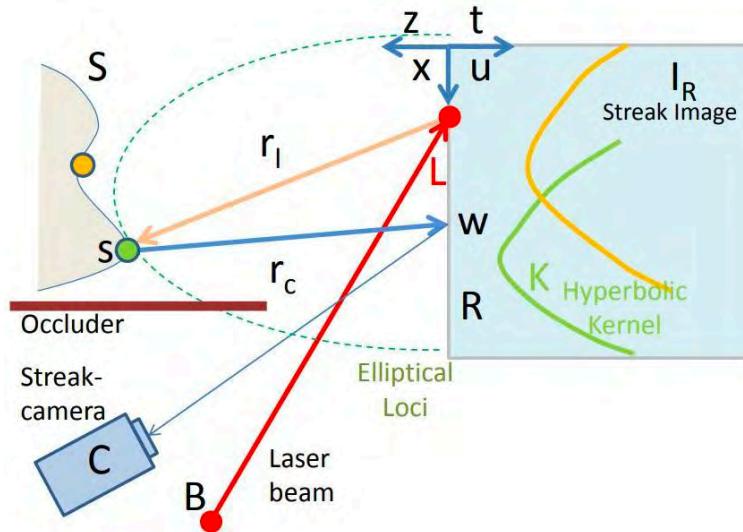


Figure 10.16: Backprojection Geometry. The set of possible hidden object locations corresponding to an image pixel form an ellipse, as each image corresponds to a set distance that light has travelled Gupta et al. (2012).

For this model, Cartesian space is discretized into voxels⁹ and we compute the likelihood of each voxel being on the hidden surface Velten et al. (2012a). Each pixel in the streak image is allowed to “vote” for every voxel that lies within its corresponding ellipsoid. Additionally, each pixel’s vote is multiplied by the distance it travels between the wall and the hidden scene to account for distance attenuation ($r_2 r_3$ in Fig. 10.15). Thus, the more votes a voxel has, the more likely it is to lie on the hidden surface. The 3D scalar function on these voxels is called a **heatmap**. By summing the weighted intensities from all pixels of a single streak image, we can estimate a heatmap of the target patch. We can repeat this process by illuminating different points on the diffuser-wall to get many streak images (Fig. 10.15b), and hence better approximations to the heat map (Fig. 10.15c).

The final step of the reconstruction algorithm is filtering. The second derivative of the heatmap along the depth (z) projected on the $x - y$ plane reveals the hidden shape contour as seen in Fig. 10.17d.

Single Photon Avalanche Diode

⁹ Voxels represent values in a regular grid in 3D space. Unlike pixels, they do not have specific coordinates, and their position is inferred from their position relative to other voxels.

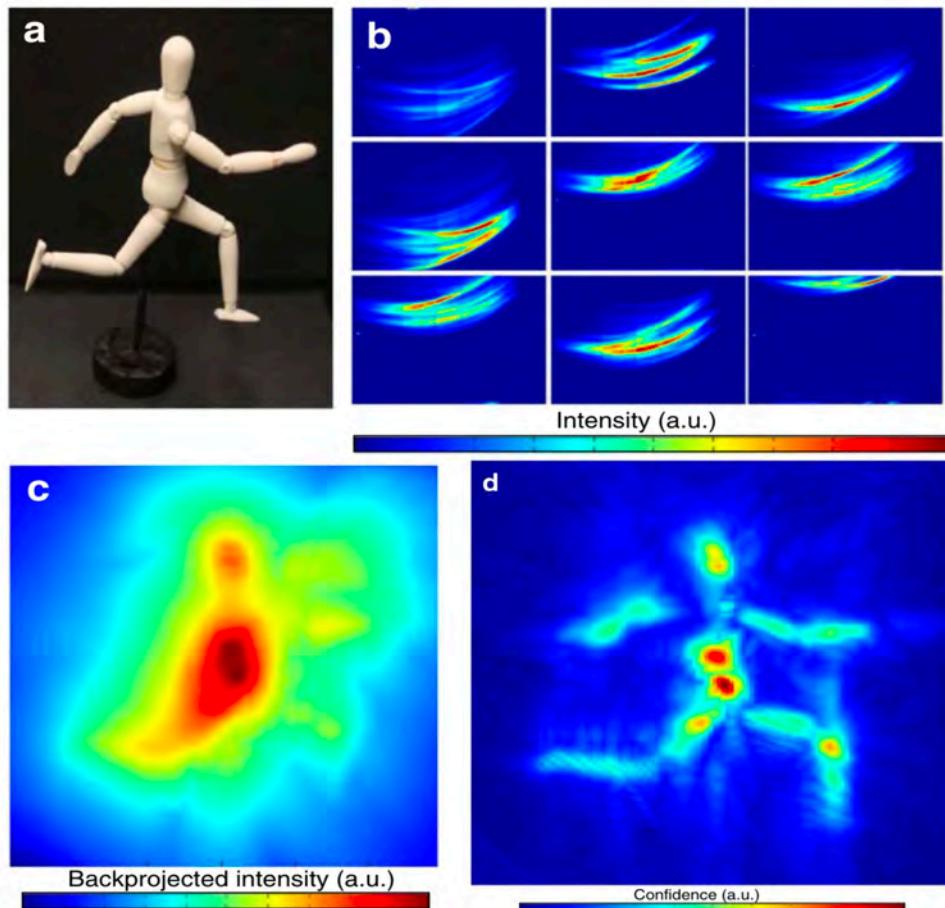


Figure 10.17: Example Streak Images. Many streak images are captured (b) for any given hidden object (a). The hidden object can be recovered via backprojection (c), then filtering (d) Velten et al. (2012a).

Compared to using femtosecond lasers and expensive streak cameras for non-line-of-sight imaging, a single photon avalanche diode (SPAD), used alongside a photon counter and laser, is a cheaper and more practical alternative. A SPAD is a type of p-n junction that responds electrically to incoming photons. It can be disabled for certain durations, thus ignoring first-bounce light.

Given a pair of positions on the wall where the SPAD and laser are focused, the photon counter generates a histogram of photon counts versus time (Fig. 10.18). By pointing the laser and detector at various locations on a grid of points on the wall, we can gather the data

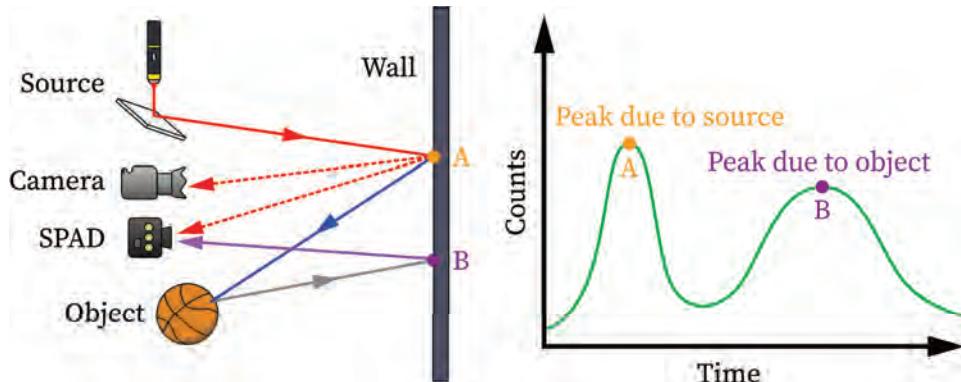


Figure 10.18: Data Collection. Laser pulses bounce off a wall and hidden object to reach a Single Photon Avalanche Diode (SPAD, left), and a photon counter produces a graph of detector hits vs time.

we need to run a backprojection algorithm similar to the one discussed in Section 10.4.1.2 (Streak Cameras + Femtosecond Lasers):

- Model the hidden scene as a 3D grid of voxels.
- Create a confidence map from the set of photon counts $N(t, x_i, y_i, x_o, y_o) - t$ for time, (x_i, y_i) for laser coordinates, (x_o, y_o) for detector coordinates – to the set of voxels $V(x, y, z)$.
- Apply a Laplacian filter and threshold the results.

To accurately model and recover occlusions within hidden scene parts in non-line-of-sight imaging, Heide et al. (2019) developed both image formation and inverse methods. The non-linear factorization method proposed was validated in simulation as well as physical measurements. The time-resolved imaging system built using an array of single photon avalanche diodes and a picosecond laser, provided superior quality reconstructions compared to other proposed methods.

10.4.1.3 ToF sensors for real world NLOS Imaging Commercial ToF Cameras

Commercial time-of-flight cameras can also be used alongside nanosecond lasers to image hidden objects Heide et al. (2014c). This approach requires considerably cheaper hardware, shortens the acquisition time of images and is more robust to ambient lighting compared to methods using femtosecond lasers and streak cameras. Here, recovery of 3D shape of the occluded object is posed as an inverse problem which is solved using an optimization procedure supplied with appropriate structural priors on the data.

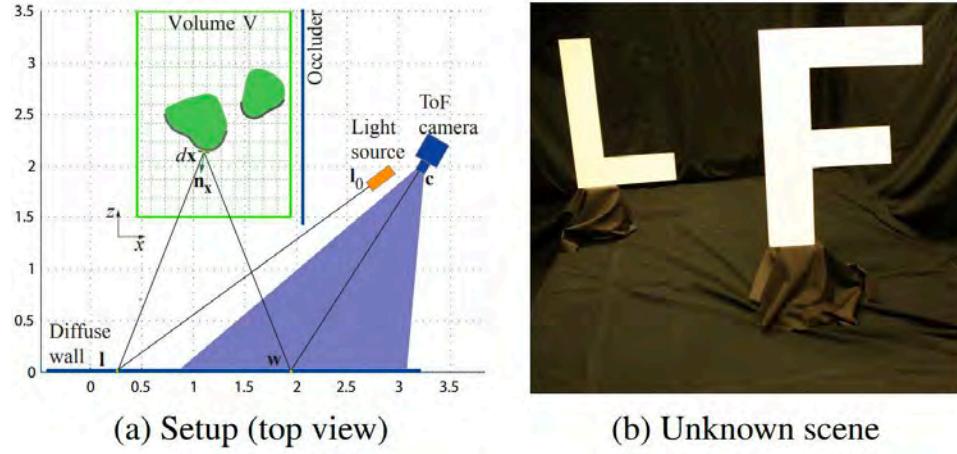


Figure 10.19: Image/Camera Setup. By now, this picture should seem familiar: a relatively cheaper laser and ToF camera (a) replace the faster lasers and expensive sensors of previous sections, with the goal of more accessibly capturing the hidden scene (b) Heide et al. (2014a).

Using commercial time-of-flight cameras, we can define the hidden scene as a set of patches with certain heights and orientations, and assume a one-to-one mapping between wall patches and camera pixels. Under these assumptions, the radiance $L(w)$ at a wall patch w given an emitted radiance $L_e(l)$ hitting a wall patch l can be derived from the rendering equation:

$$L(w) = L_e(l) \rho(w) \int_V g(x) v(x) dx,$$

where $\rho(w)$ indicates diffuse albedo, V denotes the volume of the hidden scene, and x denotes the location of the hidden patches. Lastly, g, v are geometry terms correcting for hidden patch location and albedo/orientation, which can be expressed as functions of the positions and orientations of w, l , and x .

The above equations correspond to stationary light transport. To get to the transient version, we incorporate time as a dimension, ensuring that we include only the light reflected off the hidden scene. Since said light arrives at $t = t_0 + \tau(x)$, where $\tau(x)$ is the total travel time — the light arriving at the camera pixel c (corresponding to the wall patch w) can be calculated as

$$L(c, t) = \int_0^T L_e(l, t_0) \rho(w) \int_V \delta(t_0 + \tau(x) - t) g(x) v(x) dx dt_0.$$

Representing the discrete hidden patch locations as \mathbf{v} , the transient image as \mathbf{i} , the light transport matrix as \mathbf{T} , and the correlation matrix corresponding to camera and image modulation as \mathbf{C} , the discrete version of this equation is:

$$\mathbf{h} = \mathbf{Ci} = \mathbf{CTv},$$

where \mathbf{h} is the measurement from the ToF sensor. This equation can be expressed as an optimization problem, and be solved using a modified version of the alternate direction method of multipliers method (ADMM) augmented with several regularization priors: that the spatial gradients are smooth, that the hidden patches are sparse, and that the discretization results in each coordinate having at most one hidden patch. The priors can be combined into a single regularization term (in the above order) as follows:

$$\Gamma(\mathbf{v}) = \lambda \sum_z \|\nabla_{x,y} v_z\|_1 + \theta \|\mathbf{Wv}\|_1 + \omega \sum_{x,y} \text{ind}_C(v_{x,y}).$$

Heide et al. (2014a) demonstrated that this method recovers the shapes of cardboard letters at a resolution of about 5 cm, depending on material. At the cost of a difficult optimization problem, the paper demonstrates an approach that is more practical and deployable in real world scenarios than using a streak camera to reconstruct 3D images of hidden scenes. A novel density estimation technique was presented by Jarabo et al. (2014) that allowed reusing sampled paths to reconstruct time-resolved radiance. Along with the introduction of a formal framework for transient rendering, in order to factor in the distribution of radiance along time in participating media, they also devised new sampling strategies.

Virtual Sensor Array

Much of the preceding work has been experimental in nature. Kadambi et al. (2016) proposed a theoretical framework for ToF NLOS imaging by treating the intermediary wall as a virtual sensor array (VSA) and establishing a model for the importance of wall specularity by borrowing from the field of array signal processing.

The basic model considers a single occluded point light source. The phasor L representing light transport from the light source to the diffuse wall can be written as

$$L(u, v) = \frac{\cos \theta}{\phi_L^2(u, v)} e^{j\phi_L(u, v)},$$

where (u, v) is the wall location, θ is the angle of incidence, and ϕ_L is the phase difference. Similarly, the phasor C representing transport between the wall and the camera can be written as

$$C(u, v, \psi) = \rho(u, v) \frac{\cos \psi}{\phi_C^2(u, v)} e^{j\phi_C(u, v)},$$

where ρ is albedo, ψ is the angle of reflection, and ϕ_C again represents phase difference.

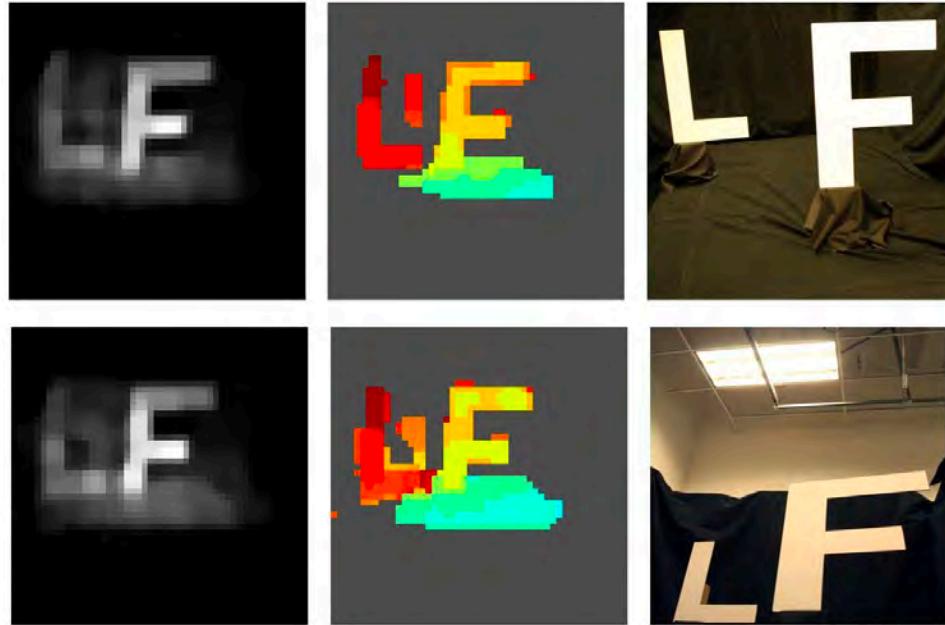


Figure 10.20: Experimental Results. The reconstructed depth (left), albedo (center), and hidden target (right) for both high (bottom) and low (top) ambient light Heide et al. (2014a).

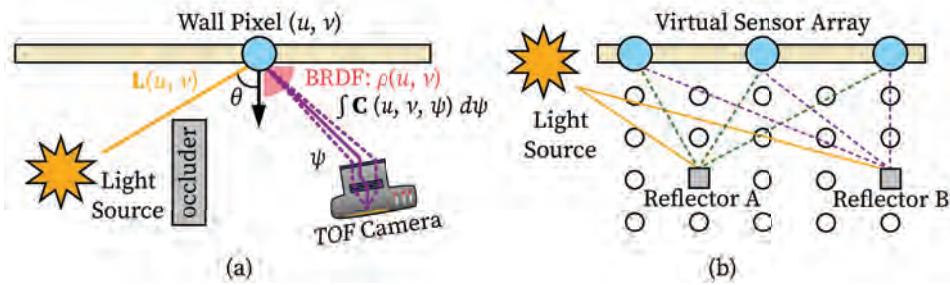


Figure 10.21: Scene Geometry. The familiar image capture diagram (left) remains the same, but here the hidden target is interpreted as a set of point sources (left) or reflectors (right) and the wall itself is modeled as a sensor array (right) Kadambi et al. (2016).

Since the camera is focused on the wall by design, we can integrate across ψ to get the total transport phasor M :

$$M(u, v) = A_0 L(u, v) \int C(u, v, \psi) d\psi,$$

where A_0 is the original amplitude. If the wall has roughly uniform albedo, the amplitude of C can be ignored and L can be approximated to L' as follows:

$$L(u, v) = \left(\frac{1}{A_0} \right) \left(\frac{M(u, v)}{C(u, v)} \right),$$

$$L'(u, v) = \left(\frac{1}{A_0} \right) \left(\frac{M(u, v)}{e^{j\phi_C(u, v)}} \right) = \frac{\cos \theta}{\phi_L^2(u, v)} e^{j\phi_L(u, v)} \int \rho(u, v) \frac{\cos \psi}{\phi_C^2(u, v)} d\psi,$$

where ϕ_C is known from scene geometry.

We now have an array of “sensors” L' , each a phasor with an amplitude and phase, and want the location of the original source. If we discretize the hidden scene as a grid of voxels, let $\mathbf{x} \in \mathbb{C}^N$ be the vector containing the confidence that the source is at each one of these N voxels and let \mathbf{y} be our vector of measurements L' , we can construct the matrix

$$\mathbf{D} = [\mathbf{s}(u_1, w_1), \mathbf{s}(u_2, w_2), \dots, \mathbf{s}(u_R, w_Q)],$$

where each column $\mathbf{s}(u, w) : (u, w) \rightarrow \mathbb{C}^M$ represents the expected sensor measurements (of which there are M in total) for each voxel. Finally, the result $\mathbf{y} = \mathbf{Dx}$ – can be solved with either sparse solvers (assuming the number of target voxels is much less than the number of total voxels) or beamforming, which approximates an answer with

$$\mathbf{x} = \mathbf{D}^H \mathbf{y}.$$

In addition to this model, we can also explore the relationship between wall specularity and reconstruction accuracy Kadambi et al. (2016): again borrowing from array signal processing, we can express the reconstruction resolution (FWHM^\angle) as

$$\text{FWHM}^\angle = \arcsin \left(\frac{f_m \gamma^\angle}{\lambda + d \gamma^\angle} \right),$$

where γ^\angle represents how diffuse the “sensor” or wall is, f_m corresponds to the modulation frequency of the camera, and d is the diameter of the virtual sensor array. This represents a nonlinear relationship between wall specularity and reconstruction accuracy, with very poor theoretical bounds (1 m) on the resolution given very diffuse walls. Experiments and data from the Mitsubishi Electric Research Labs BRDF database suggest that many real-world materials are indeed specular enough for this form of ToF imaging to be effective in practice Kadambi et al. (2016).

10.4.1.4 Recent Advances in ToF-Based NLOS Imaging Confocal NLOS

Many of the time-of-flight based NLOS imaging methods require extremely high processing power and memory. In addition, the flux of multiply scattered light is low. Hence, data needs to be acquired for long periods of time in dark environments. Confocal non-line-

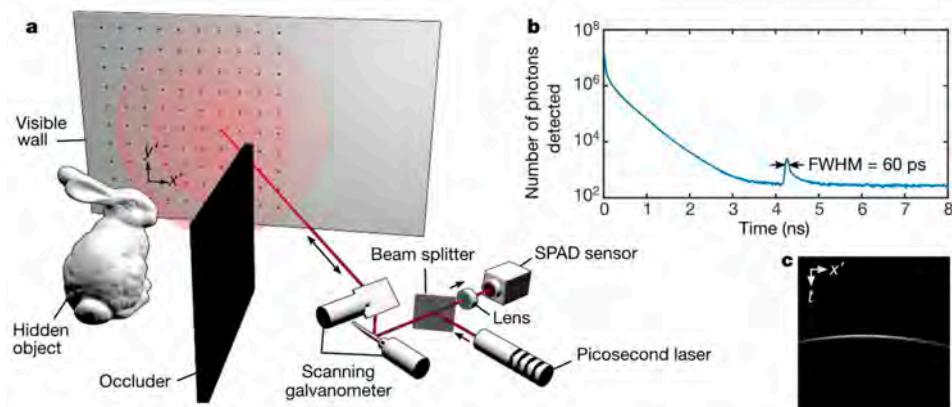


Figure 10.22: Confocal NLOS Setup. Confocal NLOS involves simultaneously imaging and sensing the same point on a wall (a). For each point, photon counts are measured versus time (b). These measurements are then combined into streak images (c) O’Toole et al. (2018).

of-sight imaging (C-NLOS) seeks to solve this problem by aiding in the derivation of the light-cone transform to reconstruct hidden scenes.

Instead of illuminating and capturing every possible pair of distinct points on a diffuser wall, C-NLOS illuminates and captures the same point at one time, and then raster-scans¹⁰ this point across the wall to obtain its transient image O’Toole et al. (2018). Points (x', y') on the diffuser wall are confocally scanned at $z' = 0$. A 2D histogram of spatial and temporal dimensions is measured at this point, as seen in Fig. 10.22b. The second spike corresponds to $2 * \text{distance}$ from the hidden object. Many such images are put together across the row to form the streak image in Fig. 10.22c. τ , the final 3D volume of measurements is expressed as:

$$\tau(x', y', t) = \iiint_{\Omega} \frac{1}{r^4} \rho(x, y, z) \delta\left(2\sqrt{(x - x')^2 + (y - y')^2 + z^2} - tc\right) dx dy dz,$$

where c is the speed of light, ρ is the albedo of the hidden scene at the given point (x, y, z) , the Dirac delta function δ represents a 4D spatio-temporal cone that models the propagation of light from the wall to the object and back to the wall. Using change of variables and substitution, the above integral can be transformed into a 3D convolution expression

$$R_t\{\tau\}(x', y', v) = R_z\{\rho\}(x, y, u) h(x' - x, y' - y, v - u),$$

¹⁰ Raster scanning is a technique where the laser is pointed sequentially at every point in the row, for each successive row, thus effectively traversing every point on the wall.

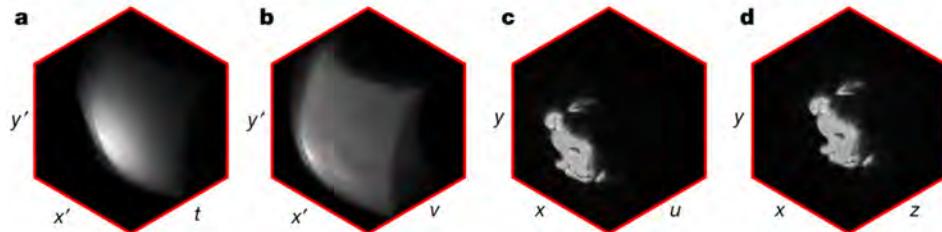


Figure 10.23: Object reconstruction. The steps of the reconstruction algorithm match the components of the convolution: attenuation in time ((a) - (b)), Wiener filtering ((b) - (c)), and attenuation in space ((c) - (d)) O'Toole et al. (2018).

where $R_t\{\tau\}$ is τ multiplied with a constant, $R_z\{\rho\}$ is a function of ρ , and h is a shift-invariant transformation of the 3D solution kernel. The inverses of R_z , R_t both have closed form solutions.

The discrete version of image formation can be represented by $\mathbf{R}_t\boldsymbol{\tau} = \mathbf{H}\mathbf{R}_z\boldsymbol{\rho}$ where $\boldsymbol{\tau}$ is the vector form of the measurements, $\boldsymbol{\rho}$ is the vector form of the albedos, and \mathbf{H} represents the 3D shift invariant convolution operation. \mathbf{R}_z is the transformation on the spatial domain and \mathbf{R}_t is the transformation on the temporal domain. Since both these matrices operate independently, C-NLOS is both memory and power efficient.

We have now translated NLOS to a 3D deconvolution problem, and we can derive the closed form solution. Based on the Wiener filtering method, the final geometry of the hidden scene is recovered as seen in Fig. 10.23.

Because C-NLOS involves lesser data collection, and simpler processing due to independent spatial and temporal dimensions, it is computationally simpler. It can hence be applied in real-time NLOS tracking of a hidden scene.

Non-visual NLOS

Most of the optical time-of-flight methods seen so far require specialized ToF cameras and fast lasers. In addition, visible light signals for diffuse hidden elements fall off quickly, resulting in higher data acquisition time, and often failure to uncover objects that are farther away. One of the ways to overcome these issues is using higher wavelength signals like radio and sound waves for NLOS. Walls have specular (mirror-like) properties for **sound** and **RADAR** waves, and hence hidden scenes are revealed more easily than in the optical case. NLOS using sound employs off-the-shelf hardware like microphones and speakers, and is therefore more accessible. The acoustic NLOS setup is demonstrated in Fig. 10.24.

A virtual hidden object is formed behind the wall in acoustic NLOS due to the specular reflection of acoustic waves. The received signal is a delayed version of the transmitted

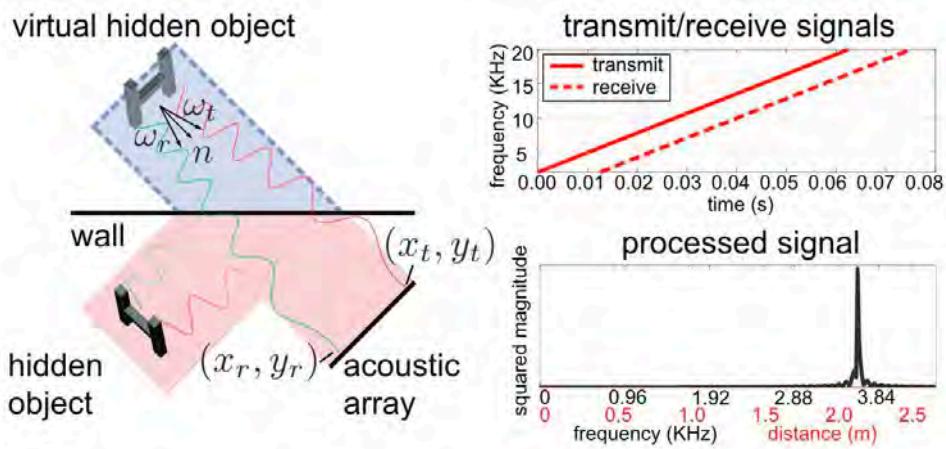


Figure 10.24: Acoustic NLOS. With sound, walls act in a much more specular manner than they do with light, which results in a clearer virtual object (left). This can be quantified by measuring the time delay of the return signal (upper right), then conducting a Fourier analysis (lower right) Lindell et al. (2019).

signal, and after undergoing Fourier transformation, these signals produce a sharp peak at a frequency proportional to the distance of the reflecting object. The wavefield for this model is given by a 5D function:

$$\tau(x_t, y_t, x_r, y_r, t)$$

where x_t, y_t are the spatial positions of the transmitter (speaker) and x_r, y_r are the spatial positions of the receiver (microphone), and t is the time. For the signal transmitted from $(x_t, y_t, z = 0)$, a response is recorded at $(x_r, y_r, z = 0)$. After reductions in the Fourier domain, the pre-processed measurements can be approximated as functions of the spatially varying albedo of the hidden object and the acoustic BRDF.

There are two methods to capture such images. In the Confocal method that is analogous to O'toole's optical confocal imaging method, $x_t = x_r$, $y_t = y_r$. In this case, a closed form solution can be developed for the reconstruction of the hidden scene. However, in the case of non-confocal measurements, there is a significantly larger amount of data in comparison, which also leads to better image resolution. This requires separate processing due to the additional potential specular reflections returning outside of the confocal receiver positions. The non-confocal measurements are adjusted to emulate confocal measurements. This computational adjustment employs methods such as NMO (normal moveout) and DMO (dip moveout) corrections inspired by seismic imaging. The image is then reconstructed through deconvolution: the results (compared to O'Toole's optical confocal reconstruction) can be seen in Fig. 10.25.

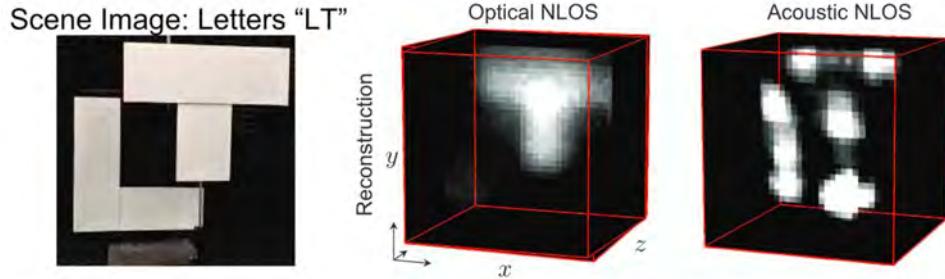


Figure 10.25: Comparing Acoustic and Visual NLOS Imaging. The acoustic method (right) reproduces the L in the hidden scene (left), whereas the visual method does not (center) Lindell et al. (2019).

Scheiner et al. (2020) provides a method for the NLOS using radio waves using a Doppler RADAR. The setup uses a colocated emitter and receiver array (analogous to laser and camera for the optical case) to identify moving targets in the hidden scene, taking advantage of the increased specularity of many real-world surfaces.

The end result is a set of feature points in (distance, radial velocity, angle, amplitude) space that are then fed into a neural network to detect and track features. The approach successfully identifies bicycles and pedestrians outside of line-of-sight. We refer the reader to Scheiner et al. (2020) for details of how one can recover distance, radial velocity, and angular position of the hidden object by analyzing the received signal.

Fermat Paths for ToF Imaging

In order to extend the scope of transient NLOS imaging beyond Lambertian approximations and intensity constraints, we can approach the problem with a geometric intuition.

This is done by exclusively analyzing Fermat light paths (in the context of Fermat's principle), which are light paths that are locally longest or locally shortest. Additionally, Fermat light paths can be classified as light paths that are reflected by the object of interest in either a specular fashion or at boundary locations (Fig. 10.27). Using a colocated emitter and detector, Fermat paths can be detected by locating points of discontinuity along the transient curve.

Fermat paths have a number of useful properties that can be applied to NLOS object reconstruction. First, we note that these paths are invariant with respect to the BRDF of the surfaces involved. Assuming our Fermat path, reflected from a wall at v , specularly strikes the hidden object of interest at some point $x_{F,1}$ and the boundary at some point $x_{F,2}$. We can construct a sphere S around the point v , with radius $r = \frac{\tau_F(v)}{2}$ where $\tau_F(v)$ is the length of the Fermat path, relative to v .

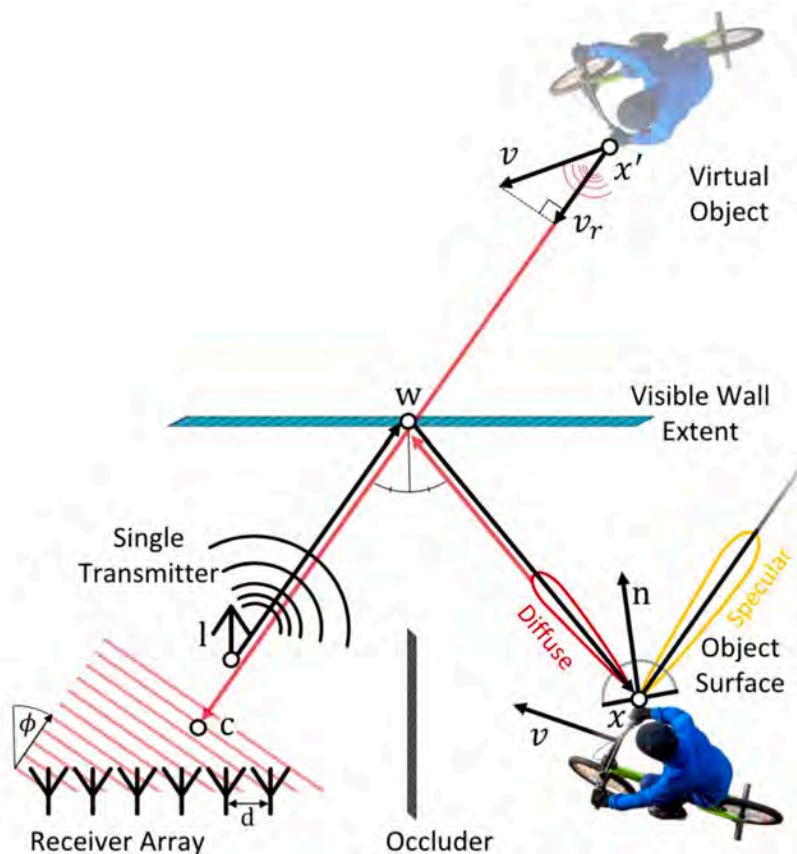


Figure 10.26: Doppler RADAR NLOS. Using radar, like using sound, means that various real-world surfaces become more specular. Like in the previous section on acoustic NLOS, radar reflections are captured by an array of receivers positioned at the same location as the transmitter and the outgoing and incoming signals are mixed. We can recover information about distance, velocity, and angle from the received signal Scheiner et al. (2020).

Furthermore, Fermat's Flow Constraint, dictates that the direction of the light path between x_F and v is parallel to $\nabla_v \tau_F(v)$, where ∇_v is the spatial gradient operator. This operator can be measured by perturbing the incident light emitter slightly, and measuring the degree to which the length of the Fermat path changes. According to the Fermat Flow Constraint, if we know the length of the Fermat path, and its gradient, we can reconstruct the point on the NLOS surface by intersecting the sphere S , with a line that is parallel to the gradient and passes through v . Using this geometric technique, we can generate a point cloud of the hidden surface . This point cloud can then be supplied to common surface reconstruction algorithms to create a uniform surface. This method can also be extended to surface

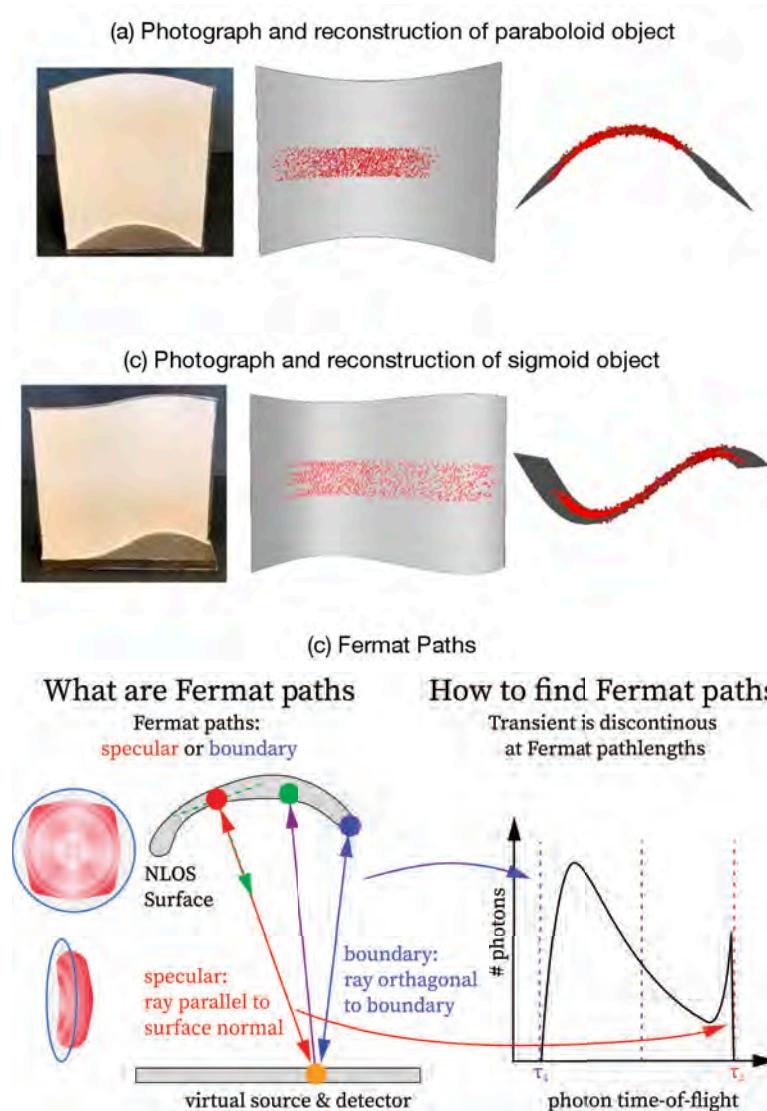


Figure 10.27: Fermat Paths. (a) Experimental results for the reconstruction (right) of hidden topologies (left). The objects on the left were 3D-printed from ground truth meshes (center), on top of which various reconstruction points (red) are overlaid. This is the reconstruction of a paraboloid object. (b) This is the reconstruction of the sigmoid object. (c) Transient light (as measured with a photon counter) exhibits discontinuities at Fermat pathlengths, which correspond to significant features on the hidden surface Xin et al. (2019).

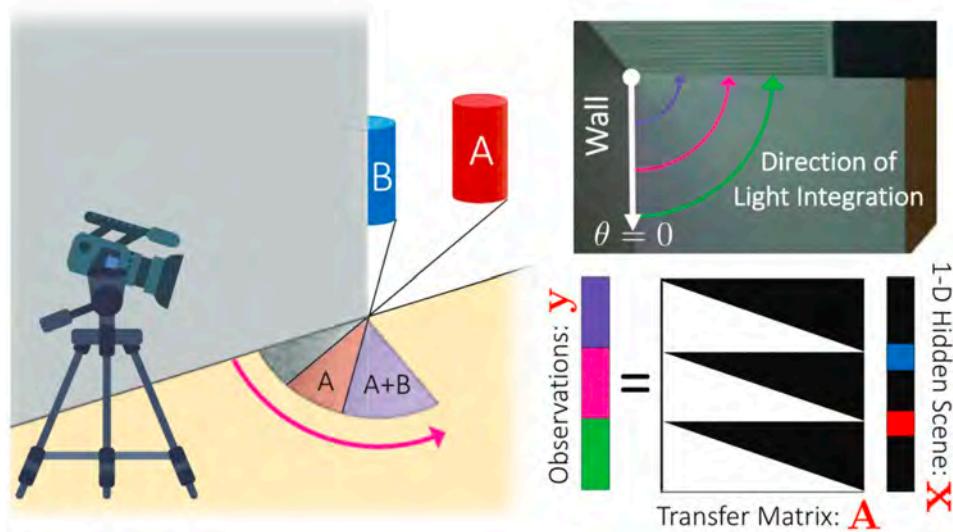


Figure 10.28: Hidden Objects and Shadows. In the presence of an occluding wall, objects hidden from the camera still influence the colors in the shadows cast by the wall (left). Observations at a given angle from the wall (upper right) include light from only a portion of the background, resulting in a transfer matrix something like (bottom right) Bouman et al. (2017).

reconstruction for an object that is in the line of sight, but is between a heavy diffuser (such as a sheet of paper).

The reconstruction (as displayed in Fig. 10.27a-b) is accurate to about 2 millimeters when compared with the ground truth. This geometric approach offers a novel perspective with which to tackle the NLOS problem, and can potentially be complemented with intensity/BRDF data to create an even more optimal solution Xin et al. (2019).

10.4.2 Intensity based methods

Turning Corners Into Cameras

The previous sections described a variety of approaches to NLOS that largely rely on the time-of-flight principle, making use of fast lasers and ToF cameras to obtain accurate temporal measurements of photon arrival times. However, we can instead use intensity and color of the observed scene for NLOS Bouman et al. (2017). The approach leverages the fact that objects moving behind a corner (*e.g.*, the edge of an occluding wall) will result in reflection patterns on the ground in front of the corner which depend on the angular position of the objects.

While most NLOS approaches have traditionally used a vertical surface to reflect light off the hidden scene, this approach makes use of the ground (a horizontal surface). The camera is placed on one side of the occluding wall looking at the ground parallel to the wall, so light on the same side of the wall as the camera comprises the visible scene while light on the opposing side comprises the hidden scene. The light from a hidden object cannot reach the camera directly, but does hit the region on the ground not blocked by the wall.

The size of this region depends on the angular coordinates of said object within the hidden scene. Under the assumption that 1) the ground is Lambertian and 2) incoming light can be assumed to originate from a distant celestial sphere, the reflected light L'_o from point (r, θ) on the ground can be expressed as

$$L'_o(r, \theta) = a(r, \theta) \int_{\alpha=0}^{2\pi} \int_{\delta=0}^{\pi/2} \gamma L'_i(\alpha, \delta) d\alpha d\delta,$$

where $L'_i(\alpha, \delta)$ denotes incoming light at the ascension and declination (α, δ) , $a(r, \theta)$ denotes albedo, and γ is the dot product of the incident ray and the surface normal.

Note that $\alpha \in (0, \pi)$ is the visible scene, $\alpha \in (\pi, 2\pi)$ is the hidden scene, and light from $\alpha \in (\pi + \theta, 2\pi)$ will be blocked by the occluding wall from reaching the ground. Therefore

$$L'_o(r, \theta) = a(r, \theta) \left[L_v + \int_{\phi=0}^{\theta} L_h(\phi) d\phi \right], \quad (10.3)$$

where L_v corresponds to the visible scene and is constant in (r, θ) and

$$L_h(\phi) = \int_{\delta=0}^{\pi/2} \gamma L'_i(\pi + \phi, \delta) d\delta.$$

Under the assumption that $a(r, \theta)$ is largely constant (or if one subtracts out the background), (10.3) can be differentiated to establish a relationship between observed light and the angular change in lighting from a hidden object. We can then use spatial smoothness and a *maximum a posteriori* (MAP) optimization to obtain the angular projection from observed image intensities.

Using only commercial video cameras, Bouman et al. (2017) demonstrated recovery of the angular motion of two people wearing red and blue shirts walking around within the hidden scene. Note that while this method only provides 1D angular information, *two* corners (or wall edges) — such as a doorway — effectively produces a stereo imaging system. The angles from each corner can then be used to triangulate a 2D position.

Polarization Cues to Supplement NLOS Imaging

As with many other imaging techniques discussed in previous chapters, polarization can be instrumental in optimizing NLOS imaging as well. In passive NLOS imaging, if a camera is aimed at a wall patch that is reflecting the hidden object, the fundamental least squares

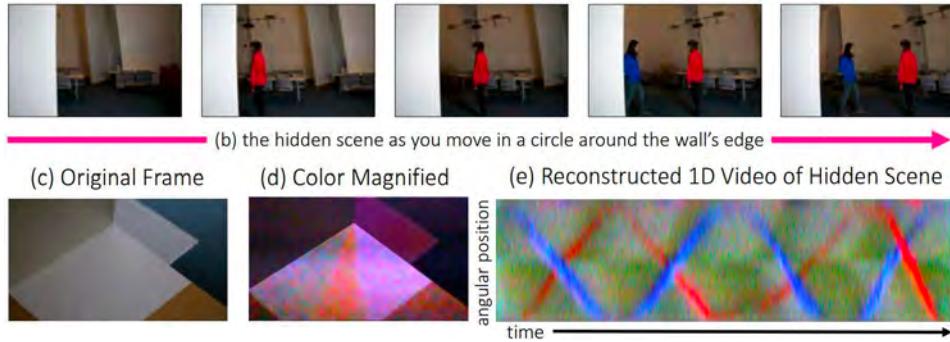


Figure 10.29: Motion from Shadows. The color-augmented (d) version of the shadow (c) demonstrates the concept in Fig. 10.28. This enables a reconstruction (e) of the motion of colored objects – or, in this case, people (b) Bouman et al. (2017).

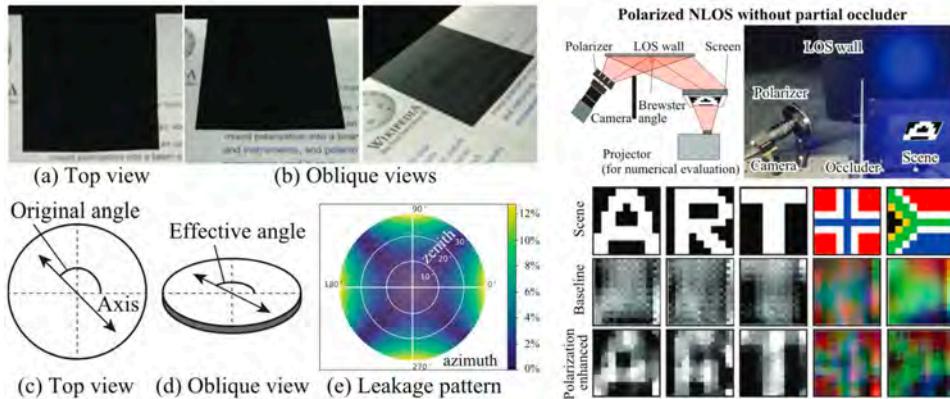


Figure 10.30: Polarized NLOS. The effective polarization axis of a polarizer changes based on viewing angle ((c) - (d)), as demonstrated by the polarizer placed on top of a monitor ((a) - (b)). This occurs even when two polarizers are placed at 90° angles (e). (f) Light from a projector (top row) is captured by a camera placed at the Brewster angle with respect to the screen (top). Placing a polarizer in front of the camera leads to better results (bottom row) than without (center row) Tanaka et al. (2020).

equation to be solved is

$$\hat{\mathbf{I}} = \mathbf{T}^+ \mathbf{i},$$

where $\hat{\mathbf{I}}$ is the array of estimated reflected scene intensities, \mathbf{T}^+ is the pseudo-inverse of the light transport matrix, and \mathbf{i} is the array of incoming intensities, recorded by the camera.

10.4 Non Line of Sight Imaging

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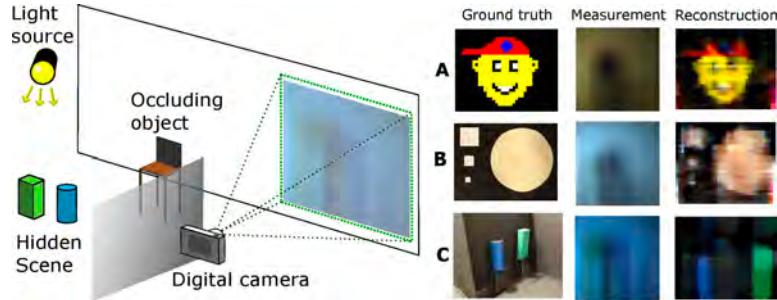


Figure 10.31: Periscopy NLOS. (a) The classic NLOS setup, replete with occluder, hidden object, light source, and sensor. (b) The results of the reconstruction algorithm (right) on various scenes (left), with the raw camera image in the center Murray-bruce et al. (2019).

Polarization cues can be used to “condition” the light transport matrix, in order to get a better estimate of the scene intensities. Polarizers have a property called the “effective angle”, where if a light ray strikes even a crossed polarizer obliquely, light is leaked (Fig. 10.30).

When the camera is placed so that the incoming light has been reflected near Brewster’s angle, the light becomes almost linearly polarized. This causes a light leakage pattern that can be incorporated into the light transport matrix, in order to further condition it. Consequently, this method becomes a viable supplement to alternate methods of NLOS imaging that have already been discussed Tanaka et al. (2020).

Computational Periscopy

Inspiration can also be taken from the workings of a periscope and applied to the NLOS problem, by treating the reflecting wall as a mirror in a periscope system. To achieve this end, an ordinary digital camera and passive imaging is sufficient.

The primary equation that encapsulates this situation is

$$\mathbf{y} = \mathbf{T}(\theta_{\text{occ}})\mathbf{f} + \mathbf{b},$$

where \mathbf{y} is the vectorized array of camera pixels, $\mathbf{T}(\theta_{\text{occ}})$ is the light transport matrix given a parametrization θ_{occ} of the occluded object, \mathbf{f} is the vectorized array of scene pixels, and \mathbf{b} is the array of background contributions. Assuming that there is an opaque occluder of a known shape – but arbitrary position – in front of the hidden scene, the created penumbra can provide us with unique columns of \mathbf{T} and thus a well conditioned recovery of \mathbf{f} .

An important aspect of this procedure is the computational field of view – a set of points on the hidden scene where the shadows cast by the occluder provide enough variability, and do not completely obscure the field of view of the camera. \mathbf{f} and θ_{occ} can be solved by using computational inversion with a two step algorithm. First, solve for θ_{occ} by using

an estimated (poorly conditioned) light transport matrix, $\mathbf{T}(\boldsymbol{\theta}_{\text{occ}})$ built by assuming an unknown $\boldsymbol{\theta}_{\text{occ}}$. This nonlinear optimization can be expressed as

$$\widehat{\boldsymbol{\theta}}_{\text{occ}} = \arg \max_{\boldsymbol{\theta}_{\text{occ}}} \left\| \mathbf{T}(\boldsymbol{\theta}_{\text{occ}}) (\mathbf{T}(\boldsymbol{\theta}_{\text{occ}})^T \mathbf{T}(\boldsymbol{\theta}_{\text{occ}}))^{-1} \mathbf{T}(\boldsymbol{\theta}_{\text{occ}})^T \mathbf{y} \right\|_2^2$$

Second, use the estimated occluder parameterization to compute the well conditioned light transport matrix $\mathbf{T}(\widehat{\boldsymbol{\theta}}_{\text{occ}})$. With this information the hidden scene's RGB content can finally be computed as

$$\mathbf{f} = \left(\mathbf{T}(\widehat{\boldsymbol{\theta}}_{\text{occ}})^T \mathbf{T}(\widehat{\boldsymbol{\theta}}_{\text{occ}}) \right)^{-1} \mathbf{T}(\widehat{\boldsymbol{\theta}}_{\text{occ}})^T \mathbf{y}.$$

Note that in the case of excessive unknown background \mathbf{b} , its contributions to the captured image \mathbf{y} need to be cancelled out. This can be done by realizing that light originating from outside the computational field of view has minimal variation across space, and thus the neighboring background values are approximately equal.

After performing the post-processing as needed, a successful reconstruction image of the object has been accomplished Saunders et al. (2019). To tackle the task of tracking an object placed around a corner, without using the time-of-flight technology, Klein et al. (2016) proposed the usage of 2D intensity images. This was accomplished by devising an optimization framework based on an unsophisticated imaging model using a laser pointer as the light source. The next section looks at some more challenging imaging problems that can be solved using light transport.

10.5 Applications

10.5.1 Applications in ToF Imaging

Multi-path interference correction for Time-of-Flight Imaging

Time-of-flight systems, as discussed in 5.4.2 are increasingly being incorporated into everyday products. However, the noise in real world environments creates many sources of errors for a ToF camera which need to be corrected for. One such source of error is multipath interference.

This occurs when multiple light rays converge onto the same pixel in the camera sensor, as shown in Fig. 10.32. This causes errors in ToF imaging systems which assume single optical reflection. This is because the estimated depth that is calculated through continuous ToF imaging hinges on the computed phase delay, in the relationship

$$z = \frac{c\phi}{4\pi f_m}$$

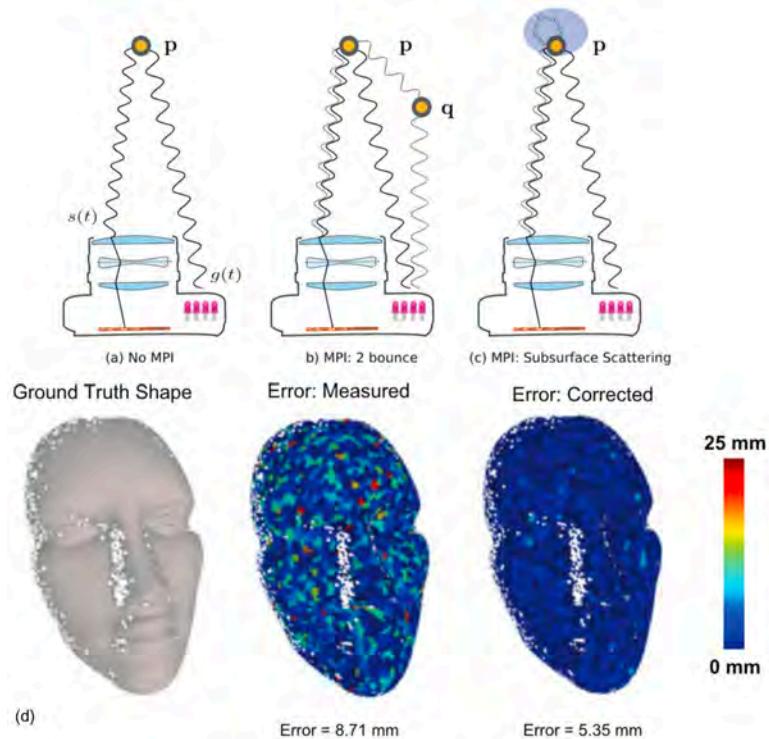


Figure 10.32: Multipath Interference in ToF Imaging. (a) An example of ToF where a single light ray is emitted and captured after striking the scene surface at point *p*. (b) Here, a different light ray strikes the scene at point *p* after being reflected from *q* and also reaches the same sensor as the first light ray. This introduces interference in the ToF sensor computations. (c) Partial subsurface scattering of a light ray results in multiple light races reaching the ToF sensor. (d) The first shape is the measured ground truth. The second shape is the error for the generated depth map using classical ToF imaging. Finally, we have the error of the depth map constructed using light transport optimization to lower noise. The corrected error is markedly lower than the original error Naik et al. (2015).

where z is the depth, ϕ is the phase delay, c is the speed of light, and f_m is the modulation frequency of the camera. This phase delay is calculated by cross correlating the emitted and detected signal Naik et al. (2015). Light transport techniques discussed in the previous sections can serve to alleviate the problem of inaccurate phase delay computations, by separating the detected signal into its direct and global components.

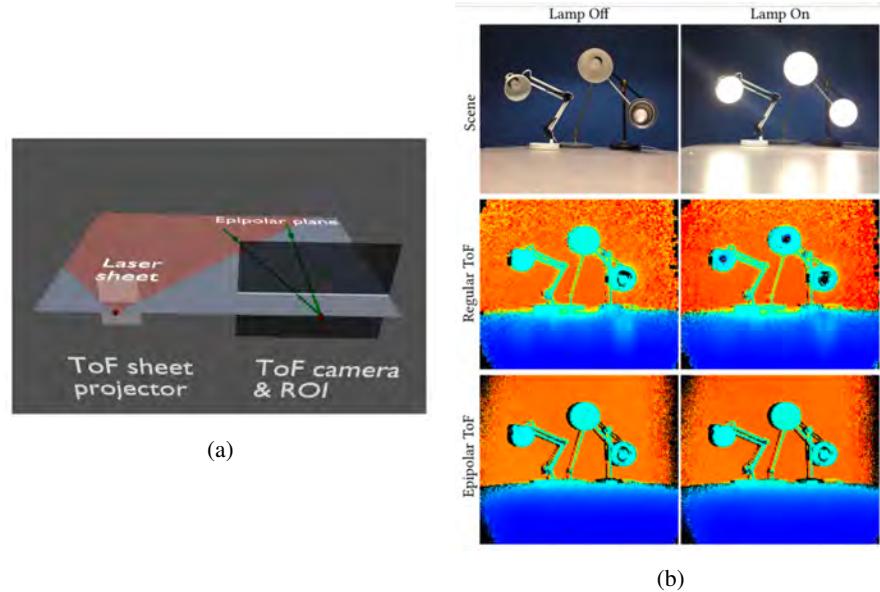


Figure 10.33: Epipolar ToF Imaging. (a) In epipolar imaging, one row is imaged at a time, using a laser sheet. (b) Epipolar ToF imaging improves the depth measurements for even bright light bulbs. The errors caused by the surface reflectance of the light is suppressed in epipolar imaging Achar et al. (2017).

Using this separation, we can generate a closed form solution for a more accurate phase angle. In this manner, light transport complements ToF imaging by offering more control over its environmental influences.

Epipolar Time-of-flight for MPI Correction

As discussed in the previous sections, continuous wave time-of-flight imaging methods provide accurate depth reconstructions but are often constrained by various assumptions. Incorporating epipolar geometry can help alleviate these disadvantages. Classic CW-ToF is very energy intensive especially in outdoor settings, with bright ambient light. Comparatively, epipolar imaging converges the emitted light onto a single sheet, which increases its range threshold. Epipolar imaging also circumvents the problem of excessive global illumination interference, by blocking most global illumination prior to image capture. Epipolar ToF framework is also more effective at handling motion in a scene compared to regular CW-ToF, which suffers from corruption of depth reconstruction since its multiple input frames vary in time.

In the context of ToF, epipolar geometry is used to acquire strips of the image scene, sequentially. At a time, a sheet of laser light is projected onto the scene and is eventually

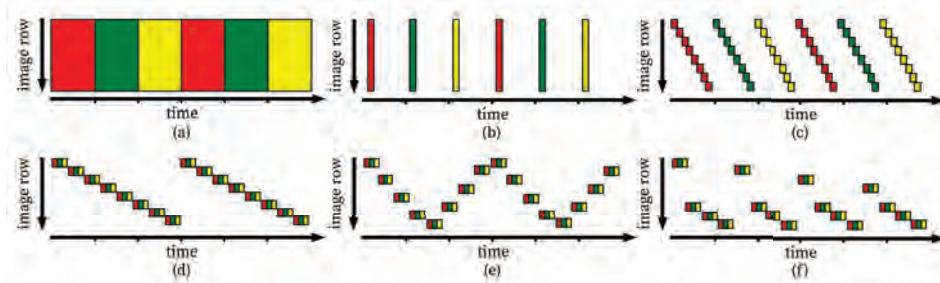


Figure 10.34: Epipolar Scene Sampling. (a) Capturing epipolar planes over time, like a rolling shutter camera. This reduces the effect of time varying motion blur, global illumination, and ambient on the image. (b) We can trade vertical resolution for higher temporal sampling by capturing every other epipolar plane. (c) Further optimization can be done for specific situations, by selectively increasing temporal resolution in different parts of the image Achar et al. (2017).

captured by a camera with only the corresponding epipolar row of pixels active (Fig. 10.33a). Note that the row of camera pixels and the laser sheet are focused on the same scene location. Since CW-ToF requires two images to recover depth, there is some freedom to choose the order in which the epipolar planes are sampled.

The optimal method for image acquisition is to capture the set of modulations for a single row together, so that blur artifacts due to external motion are minimized (Fig. 10.34a). We can further optimize this by capturing the planes in a sawtooth manner to decrease misalignment of rows across an image, at the expense of vertical resolution (Fig. 10.34b). In certain applications such as ToF on a car, it may be better to have higher temporal resolution lower in the image, since lower portions of the field of view are moving faster (like the road) (Fig. 10.34c).

There's marked improvement in epipolar ToF with regards to global illumination and interreflections, as shown in (Fig. 10.33b). This method of ToF bridges the gap between improving the various situational performance deficiencies of CW-ToF, while requiring less data collection than the point-by-point depth recovery of LIDAR.

10.5.2 Skin Imaging

Modeling the light transport in human skin has always been a problem of relevance for the imaging and graphics community. Human skin is composed of multiple layers with different optical behaviour, making it challenging to see through the skin or even render its appearance. A first step towards understanding light transport in human skin is to familiarize ourselves with skin anatomy. The three skin layers - epidermis, dermis, and

subcutis are important from a graphics and imaging perspective. The optical behaviour of the skin is governed by the unique optical behaviour of each of these layers.

The epidermis, which is the outermost layer of the skin, is a transparent medium. It is followed by dermis, which is a semi-opaque or turbid medium. The subcutis, which is beneath the dermal layer consists of fat cells. Non-invasive imaging of the dermal and subdermal layers of human skin is an important challenge for the medical community. Light undergoes a variety of optical phenomena such as interreflections, scattering and selective absorption while passing through these layers.

To understand the optical behavior of skin, the community focuses largely on two pigments – melanin, the pigment responsible for skin color and hemoglobin, the pigment that binds with oxygen in blood. Melanin is found in the epidermis and is responsible for the skin tone of a person. Higher concentrations of melanin result in darker skin tones. Hemoglobin is found in the dermal tissues. These two pigments are of importance since the absorption of light in the skin is largely dominated by melanin and hemoglobin compared to all other pigments combined. Deoxyhemoglobin, oxyhemoglobin, and melanin each have a different wavelength or frequency of light which they absorb maximally; both of them preferentially absorb light at shorter wavelengths. Melanin also has a markedly high refractive index compared to all other cellular level elements. As a result, when light hits the skin it is absorbed by melanin in the epidermis, with minimal scattering; within the dermis, the light is scattered by collagen fibers and eventually absorbed by hemoglobin. As a result, the volume of melanin in a person's skin changes drastically the optical behavior observed, and the level of absorption. This results in a dependence of skin color on the performance of skin imaging systems, thus creating a melanin dependent bias that should be accounted for. The spectral reflectance of different skin colors heavily depends on the absorption characteristics of melanin and hemoglobin (as well as carotene, which we will not discuss here). By extracting information about the melanin and hemoglobin contents of skin, it is possible to create photos where a person has been aged downwards by several decades, among other things.

Using quantitative scattering and absorption parameters, we can develop models for light transport within the skin. There have been many different proposed models, ranging from the Lambert-Beer law, where we are assuming almost no scattering and an exponential attenuation due to absorption; a modified Lambert-Beer model assuming light transport within a highly scattering medium; the Monte Carlo simulation for skin with a complex multi-layered structure, particularly useful for modeling light transport in tissues, as well as the Kubelka-Munk theory for modeling light transport in tissues. Looking at the bidirectional reflectance distribution function (BRDF) and bidirectional surface scattering reflectance distribution function (BSSRDF) can also be useful in modeling the appearance of skin under different illuminations and in different viewing conditions.

Researchers have been looking at not only understanding light transport within skin, but to also develop subsurface imaging systems for human skin. Using high frequency coded illumination patterns, as mentioned earlier in this chapter, it is possible to separate direct and global components of light; combining this with a multispectral sparsity-based approach enables us to look past the skin and see the veins and tissues beneath as depicted in Fig. 10.35c. The key idea here is that spectral decomposition can be used to enhance certain components - for example, veins. The next step is to then separate the global and direct components of the enhanced skin parts. For example, the scattering (global) component can yield an image of the tissues beneath the skin.

Some other skin imaging techniques include using a layered heterogeneous reflectance model to render a realistic human hand Donner et al. (2008). This method pays special attention to inter-scattering between different skin layers. By taking into account the absorption presented by the melanin in the epidermis and hemoglobin in the dermis, it is possible to not only create a realistic rendering of human skin, but also to render what that skin would look like if, for example, a person clenches their fist, resulting in temporary loss of blood flow to parts of the hand and a resultant lack of hemoglobin in those areas.

The complexity of human skin and handling multiple optical phenomena like scattering, absorption, interreflections make skin imaging a challenging problem. However, light transport in human skin is governed by the same principles we studied earlier in this chapter. We have seen that there are many promising models, as well as promising results - whether it is in rendering photorealistic images of skin or in actively performing subsurface imaging using the methods described above. Skin imaging is a field of great importance now, owing to the increasing focus on virtual reality and telehealth.

10.5.3 Imaging through Scattering Media

The focus of this chapter was to introduce the light transport formulation. The formulation can also be used for imaging through scattering media. Imaging through scattering media finds applications in a variety of critical tasks like biomedical imaging, underwater exploration, and improved transportation systems in challenging weather. Scattering of light from particles contributes to the global light paths emerging from the scenes. Early works in this area focused on using spatial light modulators (SLMs) for wavefront shaping for de-scattering Katz et al. (2011). The techniques we studied throughout this chapter are also shown effective for this approach.

Katz et al. (2012) introduced wavefront-shaping and established its ability to facilitate wide-field imaging across turbid layers with incoherent illumination, and imaging of occluded objects using light scattered from diffuse walls. Interestingly, this approach did not require raster-scanning, coherent sources, off-line reconstruction, or interferometric detection. Katz et al. (2014a) showed that, a single high-resolution image of the scattered light, taken with a

standard camera, encodes sufficient data due to the memory-effect for speckle correlations. This information was shown to be adequate enough to image around visually obscure layers and around corners with diffraction-constrained resolution. Chaigne et al. (2014), paved the path towards deep-tissue imaging and light delivery utilizing endogenous optical contrast by combining transmission-matrix approach with the advantages of photoacoustic imaging. Their approach allowed the non-invasive measurement of an optical transmission matrix over a large volume, inside complex samples, using a standard photoacoustic imaging set-up. Optical nonlinearities were exploited to form a diffraction-limited focus inside or through a complex sample, even when the feedback signal is not localized by Katz et al. (2014b). This system enabled imaging through strongly scattering turbid and visually opaque layers.

The idea of global and direct separation in combination with confocal imaging has also been applied to this problem, as shown in Fig. 10.36, and the skin imaging section we saw earlier. Hebden et al. (1991), Satat et al. (2016) have demonstrated the use of transient imaging and SPAD sensors for seeing through scattering media. Satat et al. (2018a) showed a technique for imaging through highly scattering media with a SPAD camera in optical reflection mode. One of the advantages of this method was the recovery of multiple targets at different scattering levels. Due to their superior noise performance in low lighting conditions, SPAD could be a good choice for imaging through volumetric scattering. These approaches are promising and achieved success on small scale experimental settings, but are still miles away from developing systems that can be deployed on a self driving car to perfectly see through fog.

Chapter Appendix: Notations

| Notation | Description |
|------------------------------|--|
| I | Scene |
| S | Source |
| P | Sensor (e.g., Camera) |
| T | Light transport matrix |
| \mathbf{p} | Irradiance measurements / Camera pixels |
| \mathbf{l} | Independent source / Illumination Pixels |
| \mathbf{I} | Captured image |
| \mathbf{I}_i | Image containing i^{th} order inter-reflections |
| ω_x^y | Rays originating from x and directed to y |
| $L_{\text{in}}(\omega_x^y)$ | Radiance as a function of all incident light rays ω_x^y |
| $L_{\text{out}}(\omega_x^y)$ | Radiance as a function of all outgoing light rays ω_x^y |

| | |
|---|---|
| $\mathbf{L}_{\text{in}}^i, \mathbf{L}_{\text{out}}^i$ | Component due to i^{th} inter-reflection ($i = 1$ constitutes direct, and $i > 1$ constitutes indirect component) |
| \mathbf{E} | Identity matrix |
| \mathbf{A} | Matrix characterizing proportion of irradiance |
| \mathbf{C}^1 | Cancellation matrix |
| \mathbf{T}^1 | Components of \mathbf{T} due to 1-bounce reflections |
| \mathbf{L}_d | Direct component |
| \mathbf{L}_g | Global component |
| $\mathbf{L}[c, i]$ | Radiance of a patch i measured by a camera c |
| \mathbf{P} | Set of patches in the scene |
| $\mathbf{A}[i, j]$ | Reflectance distribution over the patch $[i, j]$ |
| \mathbf{L}_{gd} | Direct component of radiation from scene patches |
| \mathbf{L}_{gg} | Global component of radiation from scene patches |
| \mathbf{L}^+ | Image of the scene lit with high frequency illumination |
| \mathbf{L}^- | Image of the scene lit with a complementary illumination |
| b | Brightness of the deactivated source as a fraction of the activated element |
| \mathbf{b}_{mat} | Matrix that stores the value of b for each pixel |
| $\mathbf{\Pi}$ | Probing matrix |
| $\mathbf{1}$ | Vector of all ones |
| \odot | Element-wise product |
| $\{\mathbf{p}_k\}$ | Set of rank-1 matrix of illumination patterns |
| $\{\mathbf{m}_k\}$ | Set of rank-1 matrix of masks for optical probing |
| \mathbf{T}^D | Transport matrix of direct image |
| \mathbf{T}^{El} | Transport matrix of epipolar indirect image |
| \mathbf{T}^{NE} | Transport matrix of non-epipolar indirect |
| \mathbf{T}^τ | Light transport matrix with path length τ |
| \mathbf{M} | Binary matrix |
| $\omega(\tau)$ | Binary function of path length τ |
| d_r | Distance between reference arm and the beamsplitter |
| d_s | Distance between the target mirror and the beamsplitter |
| ε | Measurement noise |
| $I(x, y)$ | Light intensity at pixel location (x, y) |
| $I(x, y, t)$ | Light intensity at pixel location (x, y) and time t |
| $\text{STIR}(x_i, y_i, \theta_i, \Phi_i, t)$ | Space Time Impulse Response (STIR) for sensor pixel (x_i, y_i) , direction of ray (θ_i, Φ_i) , and time t |
| \mathbf{O}^i | Set of i^{th} onsets (<i>i.e.</i> , collection of time instants) |

| | |
|---|---|
| D | Matrix of pairwise Euclidean distances between all patches |
| d | Vectorized vec version of D |
| <i>c</i> | Speed of light |
| d_H | Distances to the hidden patches |
| O_h | Arrival times corresponding to hidden patches |
| <i>L</i> (<i>w</i>) | Radiance at wall patch <i>w</i> |
| <i>L_e</i> (<i>l</i>) | Emitted radiance hitting a wall patch <i>l</i> |
| ρ | Diffuse albedo/orientation |
| <i>V</i> | Volume of the hidden scene |
| <i>g</i> (<i>x</i>) | Geometry term correcting for hidden patch location and albedo/orientation |
| <i>v</i> (<i>x</i>) | Geometry term correcting for hidden patch location and albedo/orientation |
| τ (<i>x</i>) | Total travel time |
| v | Discrete hidden patch locations |
| i | Transient image |
| C | Correlation matrix corresponding to camera and image modulation |
| h | Measurement from the ToF sensor |
| $\Gamma(\mathbf{v})$ | Regularization term |
| ϕ_L, ϕ_C | Phase difference |
| ψ | Angle of reflection |
| <i>C</i> (<i>u</i> , <i>v</i> , ψ) | Phasor representing transport between the wall and the camera |
| <i>M</i> (<i>u</i> , <i>v</i>) | Total transport phasor |
| FWHM $^\angle$ | Reconstruction resolution |
| γ_\angle | Diffusivity of sensor/wall |
| <i>f_m</i> | Modulation frequency of the camera |
| τ (<i>x'</i> , <i>y'</i> , <i>t</i>) | Final 3D volume of measurements |
| R_t | Transformation on the temporal domain |
| R_z | Transformation on the spatial domain |
| H | 3D shift invariant convolution operation |
| τ_F (<i>v</i>) | Length of the Fermat path relative to <i>v</i> |
| ∇_v | Spatial gradient operator |
| <i>a</i> (<i>r</i> , θ) | Albedo at point (<i>r</i> , θ) |
| θ_{occ} | Occluded object |

Exercises

For the computations in this exercise, you may find these vector derivatives helpful.

$$\begin{aligned}\nabla_{\mathbf{x}} [\mathbf{x}^T \mathbf{A}] &= \mathbf{A} \\ \nabla_{\mathbf{x}} [\mathbf{x}^T \mathbf{c}] &= \mathbf{c} \\ \nabla_{\mathbf{x}} [\mathbf{x}^T \mathbf{x}] &= 2\mathbf{x} \\ \nabla_{\mathbf{x}} [\mathbf{x}^T \mathbf{A} \mathbf{x}] &= 2\mathbf{A}\mathbf{x}\end{aligned}$$

1. Review of Core Concepts.

- a) Consider the pinhole camera. When the camera aperture decreases in size, what happens to the image? (Full credit will mention one effect in the context of ray optics and one effect in the context of wave optics).
- b) Describe the plenoptic equation. You do not need to write the full equation, but please offer a qualitative interpretation.
- c) Provide the name of an algorithm to rigidly register 3D point clouds
- d) Write a regularized optimization program that deblurs an image, such that the deblurred result is piecewise smooth. In other words, the program should aim to smooth out noise, while retaining sharp edges. (Hint, look at Question 3 for an example of how the instructors formatted a regularized optimization program).

2. Deblurring without Regularization.

You are designing a deblurring algorithm for an imaging system. Let $\mathbf{x} \in \mathbb{R}^N$ be a vectorized ground truth image and $\mathbf{y} \in \mathbb{R}^M$ be a vectorized measured image. The process can be modeled as an LSI system:

$$\mathbf{x} \longrightarrow \mathbf{H} \longrightarrow \mathbf{y},$$

which in matrix-vector form is $\mathbf{y} = \mathbf{Hx}$. Our goal is to recover an estimate of the ground truth image, $\hat{\mathbf{x}}$. Since \mathbf{H} is not necessarily square, we will appeal to the notion of a pseudoinverse. In this two-part question, we will first pose this as an optimization program to minimize the least squares error, for which we will find a closed-form solution to $\hat{\mathbf{x}}$. If done correctly, this closed-form solution should converge to the pseudoinverse.

- a) Formulate a least squares optimization program for finding $\hat{\mathbf{x}}$. It is not necessary to solve the program in this part.

- b) Solve the optimization program by finding the closed form solution to $\hat{\mathbf{x}}$. Please show your work for the closed-form derivation (use the back of this page if you need space). For a cheatsheet of vector derivatives, see the last page.
3. Tikhonov Regularization.

Many inverse problems in imaging are ill-posed and cannot be solved with a simple pseudoinverse. Hence, one appeals to the notion of *regularization*, where additional information is used to prevent overfitting. In computer vision and imaging, this additional information manifests as a regularized constraint in the optimization program.

One regularization approach is known as *Tikhonov regularization*. Alternate names for this formulation are *ridge regression* (statistics community) or *shrinkage* (machine learning community). Consider the deblurring example from Question 2. As compared to the least squares solution, the idea is to solve an optimization program of the form:

$$(P1): \hat{\mathbf{x}} = \arg \min_{\mathbf{x}} \|\mathbf{y} - \mathbf{Hx}\|_2^2 + \|\Gamma\mathbf{x}\|_2^2, \quad (10.1)$$

where Γ is a matrix that controls the type of regularization. For example, if Γ is the identity matrix, then we are directly shrinking the values of \mathbf{x} . However, if Γ is an operator that computes the gradients of \mathbf{x} , then we are looking for a smooth solution.

- a) Find the closed form solution to $\hat{\mathbf{x}}$ for program (P1). Write only the solution in the box below, using the back of the page to show your work.
- b) Consider the ℓ_1 norm, where $\|\mathbf{a}\|_1 = \sum_i |a_i|$. We can replace the ℓ_2 norm in the regularization term with an ℓ_1 norm, yielding:

$$(P2): \hat{\mathbf{x}} = \arg \min_{\mathbf{x}} \|\mathbf{y} - \mathbf{Hx}\|_2^2 + \|\Gamma\mathbf{x}\|_1, \quad (10.2)$$

Suppose Γ is assumed to be \mathbf{I} . Compare and contrast the estimate $\hat{\mathbf{x}}$ from program (P1), (P2), and the unregularized solution (i.e. ordinary least squares). Hint: a full credit answer will distinguish the nuances in the solution from programs P1 and P2.

4. Separating Light Transport.

This question will draw from the SIGGRAPH paper "Fast separation of direct and global components of a scene using high frequency illumination" by S Nayar, G Krishnan, M Grossberg, and R Raskar.

- a) Draw an experimental configuration to separate components of light transport using Nayar's method. Prepare a list of parts, and write psuedocode to compute the separation. (Hint: the basic idea of Nayar et al's work is to interpret global light transport as a low spatial frequency phenomena, and direct light transport as a high spatial frequency phenomena.)

- b) Imagine you are working at a self-driving car company where your engineering team is encountering a problem. Shiny objects in the scene (like oil slicks or shop windows) act as secondary reflectors for car headlamps. Your computer vision algorithms are misidentifying these confounding reflections as cars. Meanwhile, the company sends you to SIGGRAPH - as they do every year - where you see the Nayar et al. paper on global/direct separation. On the flight back, you are considering tech transfer to your company to solve the problem noted above.

Assuming that the prototype in Nayar's paper can be streamlined (e.g. real-time performance, size, weight, etc), should you engage in tech transfer to solve this problem? Provide justification as per why or why not.

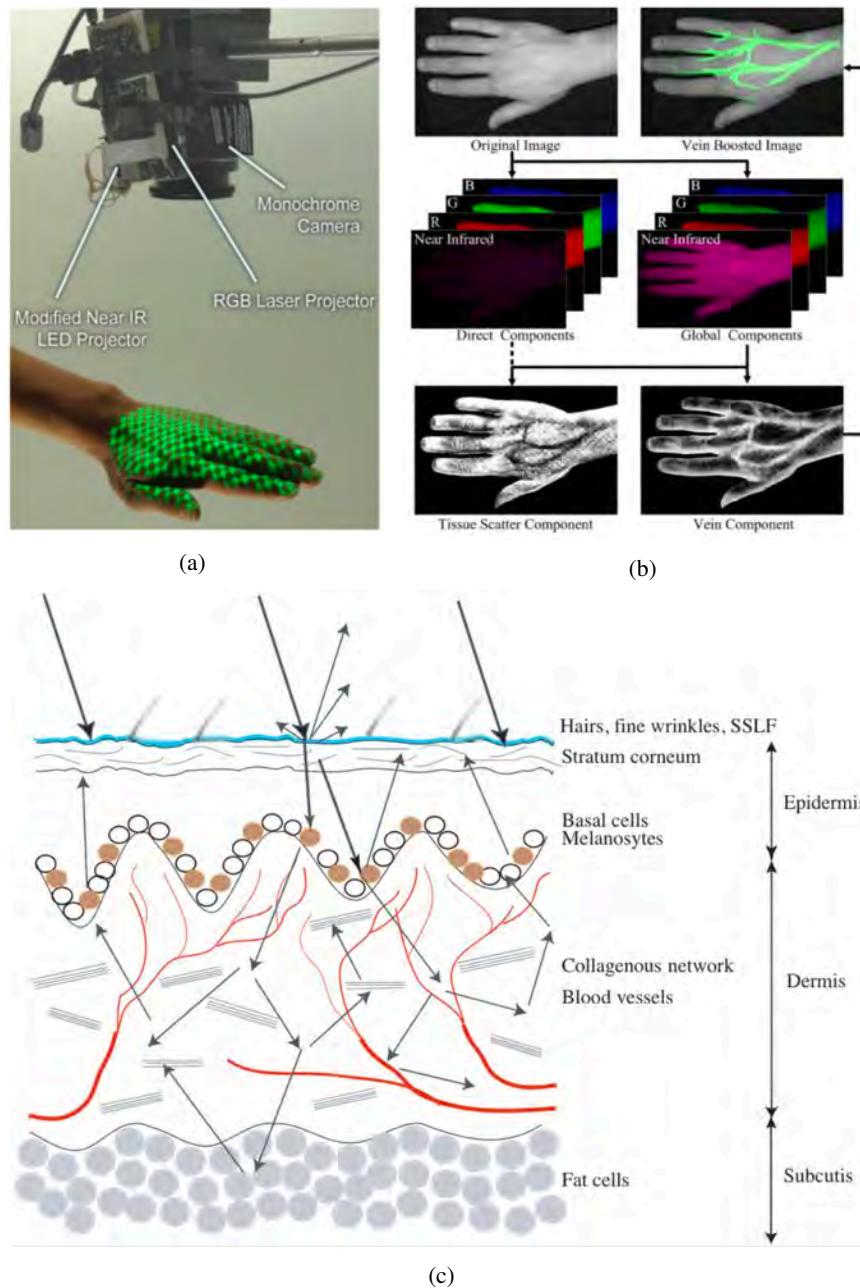


Figure 10.35: Optical Behavior of Skin. In (a), an RGB projector displays a green pattern on a hand, which is captured by a monochrome camera. In (b), we see the isolation of the veins and separation of global and direct components using the RGB and infrared spectra Kadambi et al. (2013). (c) The epidermis, dermis, and subcutis skin layers each have their own unique optical behavior based on their specific structure Igarashi et al. (2007).



Figure 10.36: Confocal Imaging and Descattering. (a) Scene with objects in a 3D fish tank. (b) Original image of fish tank filled with diluted milk.(c) Partially descattered using confocal imaging. (d) Additional optimization removes more global scattering. (e) The recovered 3D structure is visualized for a different view Fuchs et al. (2008).

Glossary

| | |
|--|---|
| Aberration | It is a property of lenses that makes light spread out over some region of space instead of being focused to a point. An example is the chromatic aberration, also called dispersion, which causes light rays of different wavelengths to focus at variable distances from the lens. Using a 3rd order approximation of the sine function, up to 5 different types of aberration can be identified. |
| Active Illumination | Active illumination is an engineered source of light in a scene. This type of illumination is either used to artificially brighten a dark room, or to encode spatial, temporal, or frequency information into the image measurement process. It differs from passive illumination, which is the ambient illumination already present in a scene. |
| Aliasing | It represents an image distortion caused by a low sampling rate acquisition. According to Shannon's sampling theory, the acquisition rate should be twice the highest frequency in the image. Aliasing can be prevented by low pass filtering the image before sampling. |
| Arnoldi Iteration | Arnoldi iteration is an iterative eigenvalue algorithm. Arnoldi finds an approximation to the eigenvalues and eigenvectors of general matrices by constructing an orthonormal basis of the Krylov subspace, which makes it particularly useful when dealing with large sparse matrices. The Arnoldi method gives a partial result after a small number of iterations, in contrast to direct methods which must complete all iterations to give useful results. |
| Augmented Reality | Augmented reality (AR) is an interactive experience of a real-world environment where the objects that reside in the real world are enhanced by computer-generated perceptual information, sometimes across multiple sensory modalities. The AR system fulfills three basic features: a combination of real and virtual worlds, real-time interaction, and accurate 3D registration of both virtual and real objects. |
| Bidirectional Reflectance Distribution Function | Bidirectional Reflectance Distribution Function (BRDF) is a general reflectance model used to describe the proportion of light reflecting in a certain direction, given the direction of the incoming light. It is a function of four angles (two for incident light, two for reflected light) and can take on values from 0 to 1. The BRDF is typically dependent on the illumination conditions of a scene, as well as the material properties of the object of interest. |
| Color Filter Array | A color filter array is placed in front of a sensor to obtain color/spectral information from a scene. Each filter has a specific (and known) spectral sensitivity, selectively allowing only certain wavelengths to pass freely. The most well known such filter is the ubiquitous Bayer filter. |
| Colorimetry | Colorimetry is the mathematical and psychological study of color. Retinal color discusses the manner in which humans perceive color, specifically RGB vision due to the L-, M-, and S-cones. Perceptual color is related to human adaptations to illumination and context cues, e.g. color constancy. |

Compressive Imaging

Compressive imaging is an image processing technique to efficiently capture an image with a reduced number of samples. This allows recovering a higher resolution image of the scene, by solving an ill-conditioned linear system. The method achieves good results assuming that the initial image is sparse, *i.e.*, it can be expressed using a low number of samples in a different base.

Cross-Polarization

Cross-polarization is defined as the angle of polarization orthogonal to the polarization state of interest. In cross-polarization imaging, a polarizer is placed in front of the camera aperture at an angle orthogonal to the glare polarization, enabling the removal of glare from photographs.

Dappled Photography

Dappled photography is a new imaging method that uses an attenuation mask to capture the light field in the scene. For example, by placing a high frequency sinusoidal mask between the sensor and the optical elements of a camera, a wider region of the light field in the scene can be captured with one single shot of the camera.

Deblurring

It is the process of eliminating the artifacts caused by blurring in an image. Blurring can have various causes. For example, motion blur is likely to appear when capturing fast objects in motion. This can be solved by a technique called "fluttered shutter", which opens/closes the camera shutter very quickly in a predefined pattern.

Demosaicing

Typically the sensors in modern cameras are coded such that each pixel is only sensitive to one of the RGB colors, thus creating a mosaic-like color pattern. The full resolution image is computed with an algorithm called demosaicing, which recovers the image for each color, via interpolation at the missing pixels.

Dichromatic Reflection Model

The dichromatic reflectance model predicts that scene reflectance can be modeled as a sum of two terms: a specular and diffuse term. It also suggests that specular reflection is related to the incident spectral illumination, while the spectrum of diffuse reflection is related to the medium itself.

Diffraction

Diffraction is a light bending phenomenon occurring when a light wave encounters an obstacle or a slit. For example, when a light beam encounters a slit of dimensions comparable to the light wavelength, the light bends around the slit edges creating a pattern given by a circular disk with rings around it.

Diffuse Interreflection

Diffuse interreflection is a process whereby light reflected from an object strikes other objects in the surrounding area, illuminating them. Diffuse interreflection specifically describes light reflected from objects which are not shiny or specular to reach areas not directly in view of a light source. Based on the coloration of the surface, the reflected light incident on the surrounding objects is also colored.

Direct Illumination

It represents the illumination caused directly by a light source, and it is one of two components of the scene illumination. The direct light component enhances the material properties of a given point, and is in contrast to the global component, revealing the optical properties of the scene.

Dual Photography

Dual photography is a photographic technique that uses Helmholtz reciprocity to capture the light field of all light paths from a structured illumination source to a camera. Image processing software is then generally used to reconstruct the scene as it would have been seen from the viewpoint of the projector.

Epipolar Plane

In terms of stereo vision, the plane formed by the three-dimensional object (which is being imaged) and the optical centers of the two cameras (that are imaging the object) is referred to as the epipolar plane. The plane intersects each of the two camera's image planes such that at the intersection, epipolar lines are formed. It is important to know that all the epipolar lines and epipolar planes intersect the epipole (the object) irrespective of where it is located with respect to the two cameras.

Focal Stack

A focal stack denotes a set of images captured with the camera focused at different depths. This gives a more comprehensive description of the light field, and allows computing extended depth of field photographs, which allow focusing on multiple points in the image.

Fourier Ptychography

Fourier ptychography is a method that increases the range of light field angles that can be captured with a microscope by recording images illuminated from a range of different angles. This leads to an increased image resolution and is much faster and simpler than moving the specimen for each capture.

Fluorescence Lifetime Imaging

Fluorescence lifetime imaging is an imaging technique capturing the differences in the exponential decay rate of fluorescent chemicals in a sample. Knowledge of the sample's fluorescence lifetime allows applications such as DNA sequencing, tumor detection and high-resolution microscopy.

Fresnel Coefficients

Fresnel coefficients describe the proportion of light reflected and transmitted at the interface between two different media. These coefficients are defined separately for two polarization states: one orthogonal to the plane of incidence, and the other parallel. The total amount of light reflected at the interface can be determined by decomposing the light into its constituent polarization states and calculating the reflectance for each polarization state separately.

Global Illumination

It represents the illumination caused by points in the scene different from the light source, and it represents one of two components of the scene illumination. The global illumination reveals the optical properties of the scene, indicating how a certain point is illuminated by other points in the scene.

Gradient Descent

It is defined as a first-order iterative optimization algorithm for finding a local minimum of a differentiable function. Steps are taken which are proportional to the negative of the gradient of the function at the current point in order to find a local minimum of a function using gradient descent approach.

High Dynamic Range Imaging

This represents a method used to reproduce luminosity ranges much wider than possible with standard imaging techniques. It involves algorithms that combine images captured with different exposure values which contain details of the brighter or darker portions of the image.

Ideal Point Source Light

It represents a source of light that is infinitesimal in size and radiates light outward uniformly in all directions. The light rays therefore form a continuum and they are mapped one-to-one to an imaginary sphere centered in the point source. This ensures that quantities such as the radiant flux are transmitted equally across the sphere's surface.

Irradiance

The irradiance represents the radiant flux incident to an area on the imaginary sphere centered in an ideal point source. The irradiance is directly proportional to the radiant flux, and inversely proportional to the square of sphere.

Lambert's Law

Lambert's cosine law describes the attenuation of light reflected off of a diffuse object. It states that the reflected light is (approximately) isotropic, and the intensity reflecting off of the surface is proportional to the product of the incoming light intensity and the cosine of the angle between the surface normal and the incident light.

Lambertian Surface

The Lambertian surface is a surface which diffuses the light uniformly when illuminated. It represents an ideal "matte" surface, which means that the brightness is perceived the same irrespective of the observer's position.

Light Field

Light field is a mathematical function of one or more variables whose range is a set of multidimensional vectors that describes the amount of light flowing in every direction through every point in space. The magnitude of each ray is given by the radiance and the space of all possible light rays is given by the five-dimensional plenoptic function.

Light Ray

A line describing the trace that a photon might leave behind, which is considered infinitesimal in width and has an infinitesimal point of emergence. They are attenuated when passing through objects, and the overall attenuation is the same if the direction of the light ray is reversed, known as the reversibility property of light rays.

| | |
|----------------------------------|---|
| Light Stage | A light stage is a mechanical component used to illuminate an object from many directions. It has important applications in graphics, as it can fully capture the reflectance field of an object. It can be used to digitally relight an image and obtain the shape of an object with high accuracy. |
| Lock-in Sensor Imaging | A lock-in sensor is one of the most widely used sensor mechanisms in time-resolved imaging which measure phase differences between emitted and received signals. This makes it particularly useful for time-of-flight, which measures the round trip time of an artificially generated light signal. |
| Monochromatic | Light (electromagnetic radiation) can be said to be monochromatic when the optical spectrum contains only a single optical frequency. The associated electric field strength at a certain point in space, generally exhibits a purely sinusoidal oscillation, having a constant instantaneous frequency and a zero bandwidth. Light sources can also be called monochromatic if they emit monochromatic light. |
| Non-line-of-sight imaging | A set of imaging techniques, usually active, aimed at recovering objects beyond the direct line-of-sight. |
| Parallax | Parallax which could be described as visual alternation is a displacement or difference in the apparent position of an object viewed along two different lines of sight and is measured by the angle or semi-angle of inclination between those two lines. Due to foreshortening, nearby objects show a larger parallax than farther objects when observed from different positions, so parallax can be used to determine distances of those objects from the viewer. |
| Parallax Barriers | Parallax barriers denote a technology used in traditional 3D displays based on series of occluding bars. This allows the spectator to see only one perspective of the object from each viewing angle. This technology creates a trade-off between angular and spatial resolution, and was replaced in newer 3D displays. |
| Pinhole Camera | It is a camera without lenses containing only a tiny hole in one of its walls, the light gets projected upside down on the opposite wall. It generally suffers from low light throughput, since a good image contrast requires a small hole. |
| Plenoptic Function | The plenoptic function is a high dimensional function which represents a detailed mathematical model of the light field. In a general setting it has 7 variables for position, angle, wavelength and time. However, it is common to use a 5 variable simplification that considers light to be monochromatic and time-invariant. |
| Multilayer Display | A multilayer display is a 3D display technique comprising of multiple levels of LCD screens stacked in parallel and separated by predefined distances. Unlike parallax barriers, these displays have a better light throughput, and a higher spatial resolution. |
| Radiance | The radiance represents the ray strength, measuring the combined angular and spatial power densities. Radiance can be used to indicate how much of the power emitted by the light source that is reflected, transmitted or absorbed by a surface will be captured by a camera facing that surface from a specified angle of view. |
| Radiant Flux | The energy emitted, reflected, transmitted, or received, per unit time, and is measured in watts, or joules/s. It characterises an ideal point source, and is transmitted equally across the surface of an imaginary sphere centered in the point source. |
| Radiant Intensity | The radiant intensity measures the angular power density, and is the radiant flux emitted per unit solid angle. Therefore, a light beam has a higher radiant intensity if the power of the emitting source is focused on a narrower solid angle. |
| Ray Model | It represents a model of light that consists of single photon traces that don't interact with each other. This is in contrast to the wave model of light, which typically emerges in closed environments such as a pinhole camera. |

Reflectance Map

A reflectance map is a contour map in gradient space used to express the reflectance of a surface under certain illumination. The reflectance is expressed with respect to the partial spatial derivatives of the object. The shape of the object can be determined by mapping the reflectance from multiple different maps to the respective point in gradient space.

Spatially Coded Imaging

Spatially coded imaging is a flexible alternative to the conventional imaging setup where spatial imaging parameters such as the aperture, sensor and the illumination can be engineered to enhance the quality of the imaging system.

Spectral Unmixing

Spectral unmixing is an inverse problem that aims to express each pixel as a sum of certain materials. The idea is that each pixel contains a small number of materials, and each material has a distinct spectrum. If more than one material is in a pixel, the spectrum of each material present will linearly superimpose when measured by the camera. The goal of spectral unmixing is to recover these constituent spectra and their respective intensity in each pixel.

Spectrometry

Spectrometry is defined as the field analysing the spectra of point sources. Most photographs taken capture the light intensity distributed in space. Analysing the light in the frequency domain can say a lot about the material properties.

Specular Surface

A specular surface reflects the incoming light in a unique direction relative to the surface, and is common with objects having a glossy or polished texture. This is in contrast to Lambertian surfaces, which reflect light uniformly in all directions.

Stokes Vector

The Stokes parametrization of electromagnetic radiation is a compact notation used to denote its polarization state. It is a vector with four entries: (S_0, S_1, S_2, S_3) . The first entry of Stokes vector describes the intensity of the light, while the last three entries are used to indicate the level of linear and circular polarization. A linear combination of linear and circular polarization can be expressed as an elliptical polarization.

Strobe Photography

It represents an imaging technique that uses light and sound to trigger the flash burst with precise timing. This allows capturing fast phenomena, and can lead to stunning photographs such as the famous "bullet through apple".

Subsurface Scattering

Subsurface scattering is a mechanism of light transport in which light that penetrates the surface of a translucent object is scattered by interacting with the material (reflected a number of times at irregular angles inside the material) and exits the surface at a different point.

Superresolution Imaging

Superresolution imaging is an approach to boost the resolution of a camera by transcending the diffraction limit, or exceed the native resolution of the imaging sensors used.

Temporal Coherence

Temporal coherence is the measure of the average correlation between the value of a wave and itself delayed by some time, at any pair of times. Temporal coherence tells us how monochromatic a source is. It basically characterizes how well a wave can interfere with itself at different time instances.

Thin Lens

The thin lens is an ideal model of a lens with a thickness that is negligible compared to the radii of curvature of the lens surfaces. It is characterised by three parameters: the focal length, aperture diameter and lens speed, and bends the light according to a simplified equation known as the thin lens equation.

Time-of-Flight Camera

A time-of-flight (ToF) camera is a range imaging camera system that employs time-of-flight techniques to resolve distance between the camera and the subject for each point of the image, by measuring the round trip time of an artificial light signal provided, generally by a laser.

Tone Mapping

Tone mapping is a technique to create a mapping between two sets of colors, in order to produce aesthetically pleasing images, enhance details, or generate a higher contrast photograph.

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