

Edge Detection

Finding Waldo

- Let's revisit the problem of finding Waldo
- And let's take a simple example



image

Ahmed Ashraf

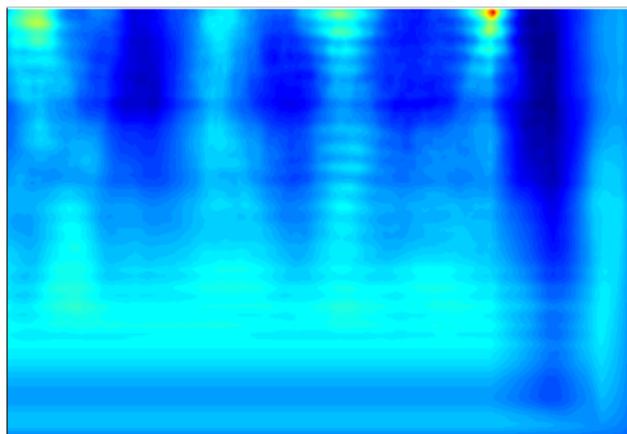
CSC420: Intro to Image Understanding



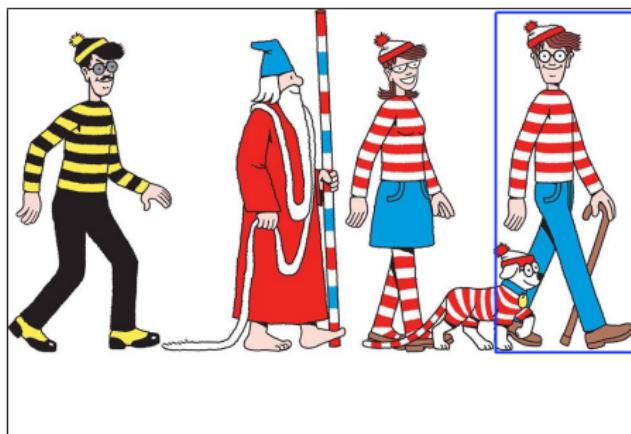
template (filter)

Finding Waldo

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normalized cross-correlation



Waldo detection
(putting box around max response)

Finding Waldo

- Now imagine Waldo goes shopping
- ... but our filter **doesn't know that**



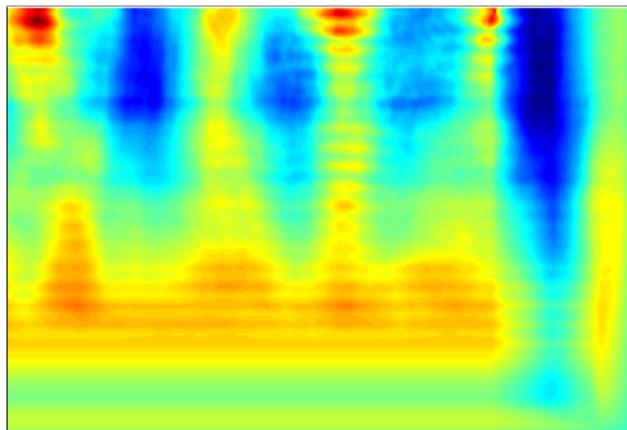
image



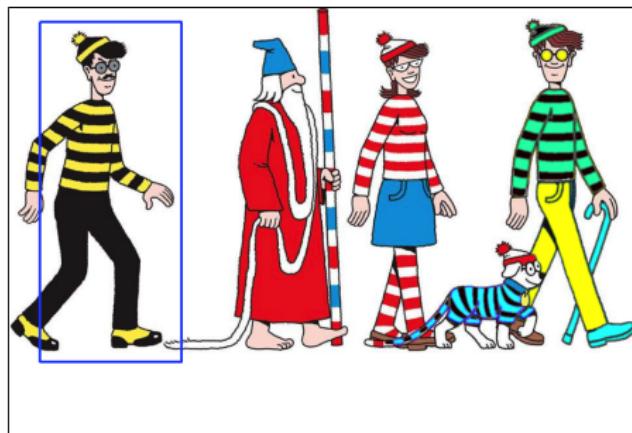
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Finding Waldo

- Now imagine Waldo goes shopping (and the dog too)
- ... but our filter **doesn't know that**



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Waldo detection
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Finding Waldo (again)

- What can we do to find Waldo again?

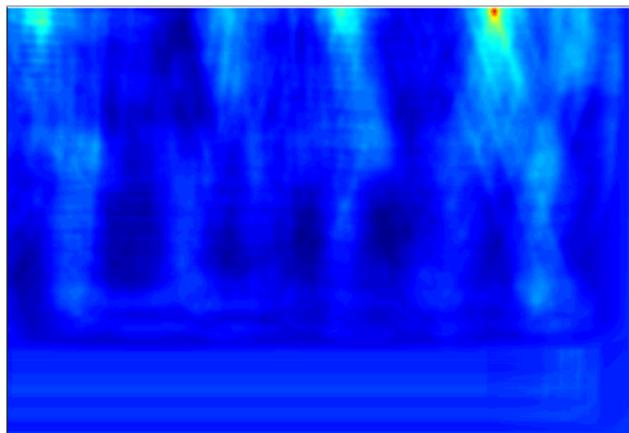
Finding Waldo (again)

- What can we do to find Waldo again?
- **Edges!!!**

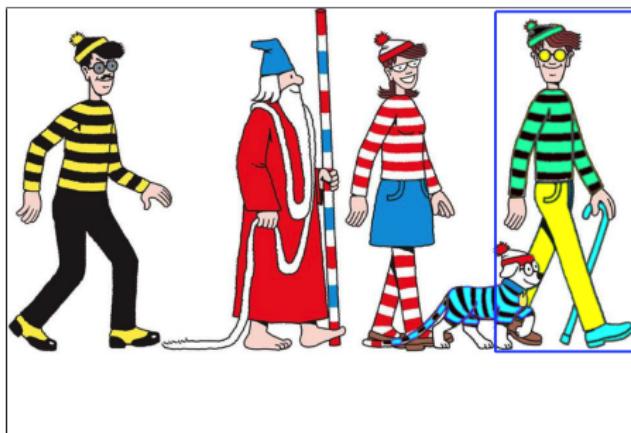


Finding Waldo (again)

- What can we do to find Waldo again?
- **Edges!!!**



normalized cross-correlation
(using the edge maps)



Waldo detection
(putting box around max response)

Waldo and Edges



Edge detection

- Map image to a set of **curves** or **line segments** or **contours**.
- More compact than pixels.
- Edges are invariant to changes in illumination
- Important for recognition

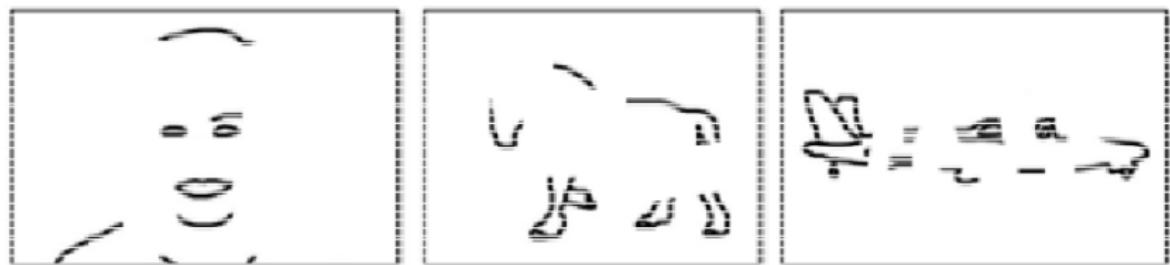


Figure: [Shotton et al. PAMI, 07]

[Source: K. Grauman]

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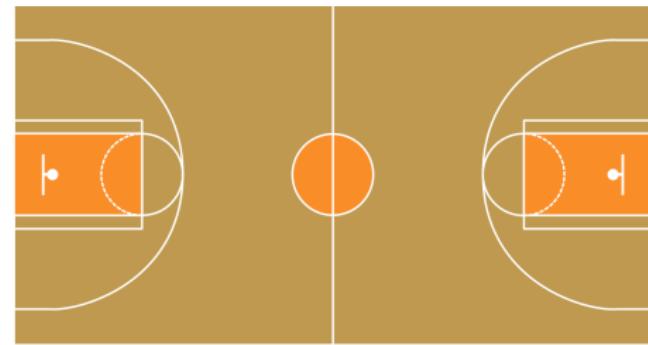


Figure: Parse basketball court (left) to figure out how far the guy is from net

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Figure: How can a robot pick up or grasp objects?

Edge detection

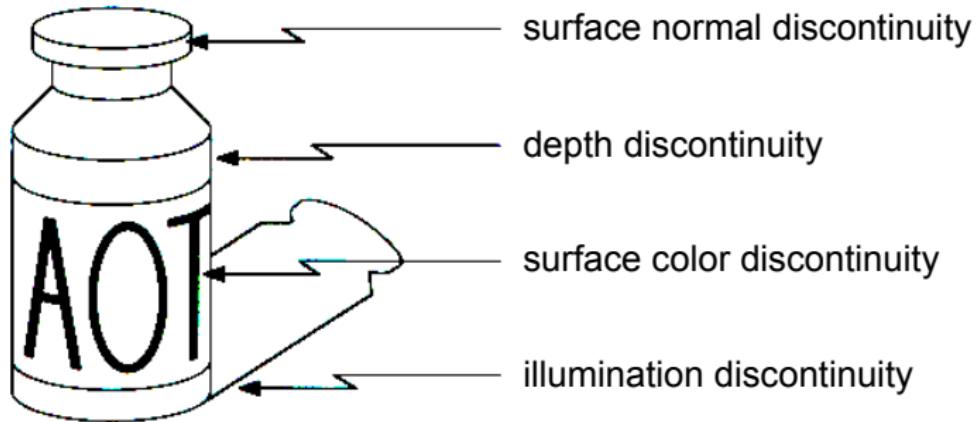
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Figure: How can a robot pick up or grasp objects?

Origin of Edges

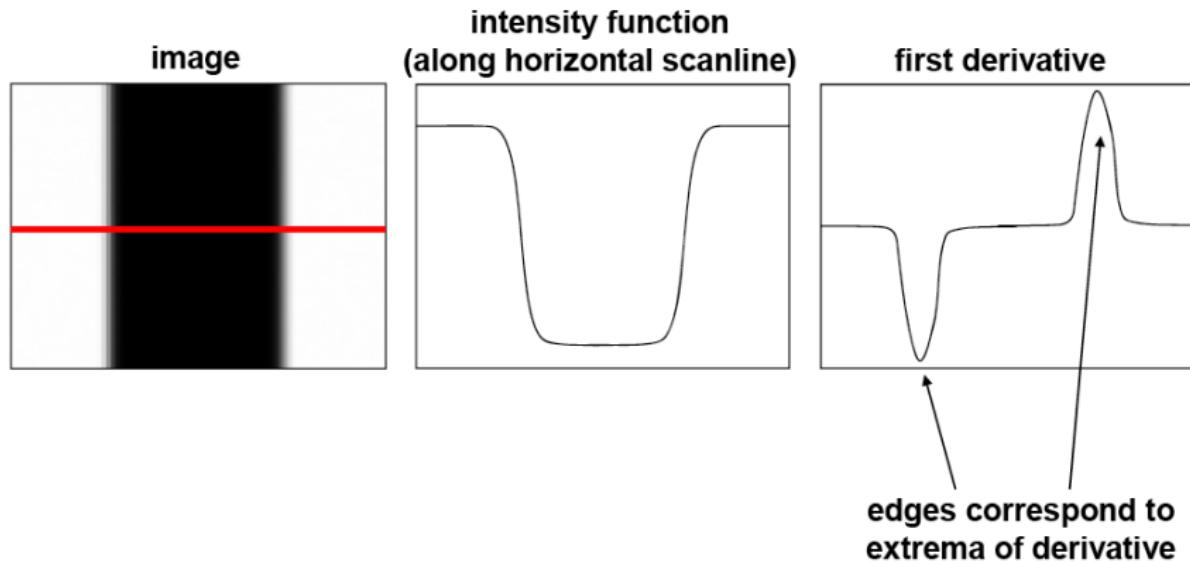
- Edges are caused by a variety of factors



[Source: N. Snavely]

Characterizing Edges

- An **edge** is a place of rapid change in the image intensity function.



[Source: S. Lazebnik]

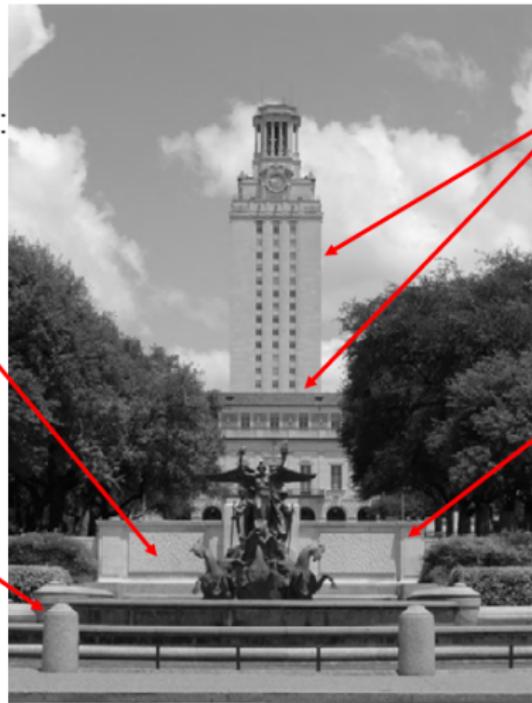
What Causes an Edge?

Reflectance change:
appearance
information, texture

Depth discontinuity:
object boundary

Change in surface
orientation: shape

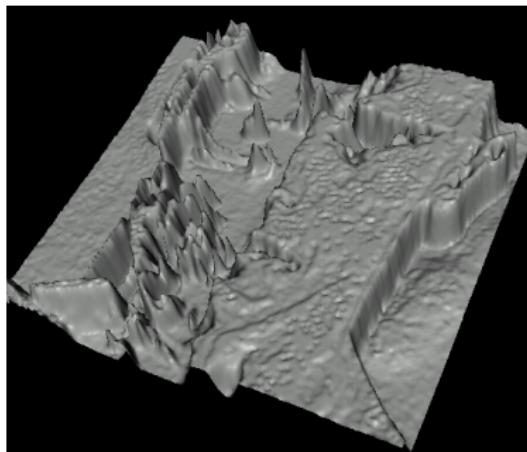
Cast shadows



[Source: K. Grauman]

Images as Functions

- Edges look like steep cliffs



[Source: N. Snavely]

How to Implement Derivatives with Convolution

How can we differentiate a digital image $f[x, y]$?

- If image f was continuous, then compute the partial derivative as

$$\frac{\partial f(x, y)}{\partial x} = \lim_{\epsilon \rightarrow 0} \frac{f(x + \epsilon, y) - f(x, y)}{\epsilon}$$

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- What would be the filter to implement this using correlation/convolution?

$$\frac{\partial f}{\partial x} : \begin{array}{|c|c|c|}\hline & & \\ \hline \end{array} H_x$$

$$\frac{\partial f}{\partial y} : \begin{array}{|c|c|c|}\hline & & \\ \hline \end{array} H_y$$

[Source: S. Seitz]

Examples: Partial Derivatives of an Image

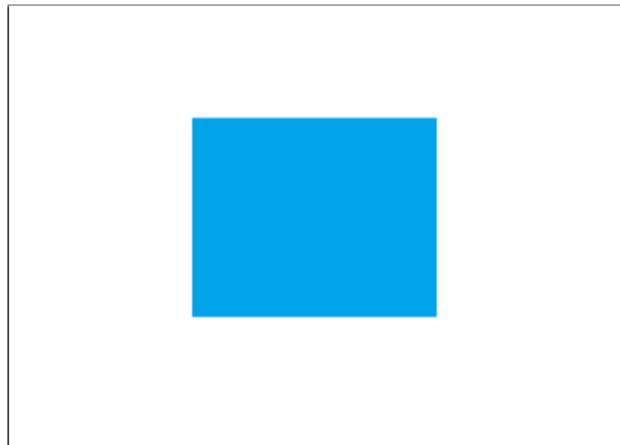
- How does the horizontal derivative using the filter $[-1, 1]$ look like?



Image

Examples: Partial Derivatives of an Image

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Image



$\frac{\partial f(x,y)}{\partial x}$ with $[-1, 1]$ and correlation

Examples: Partial Derivatives of an Image

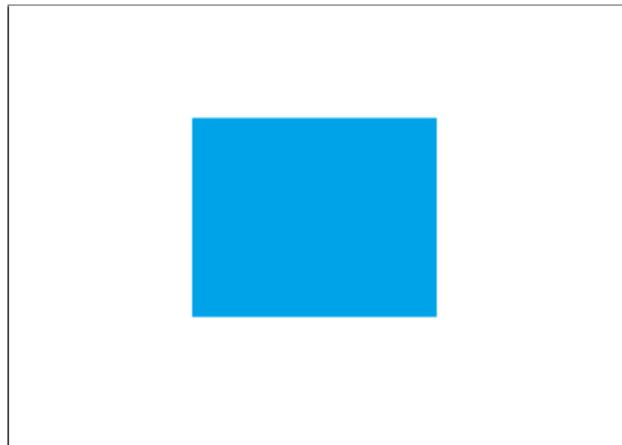
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Image

Examples: Partial Derivatives of an Image

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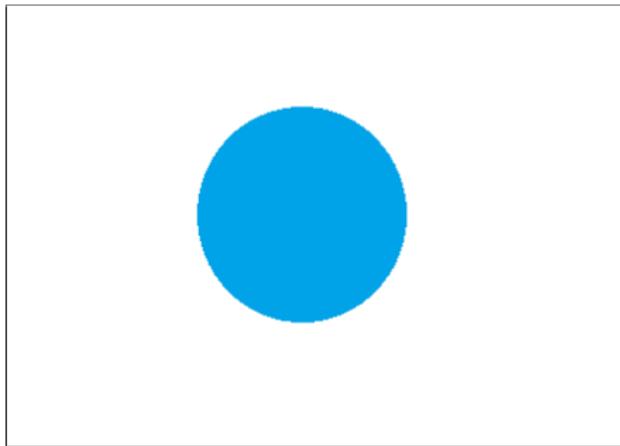
Image



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Examples: Partial Derivatives of an Image

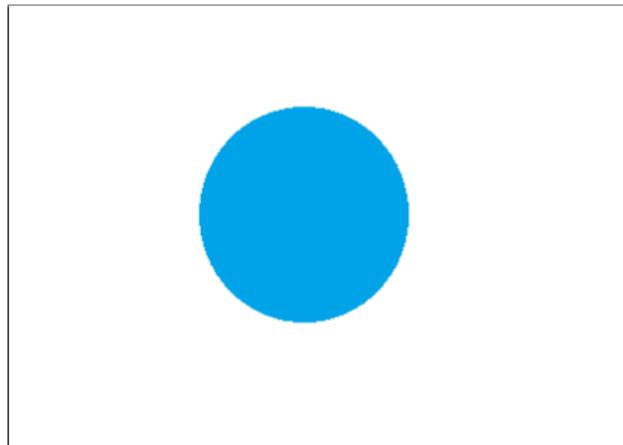
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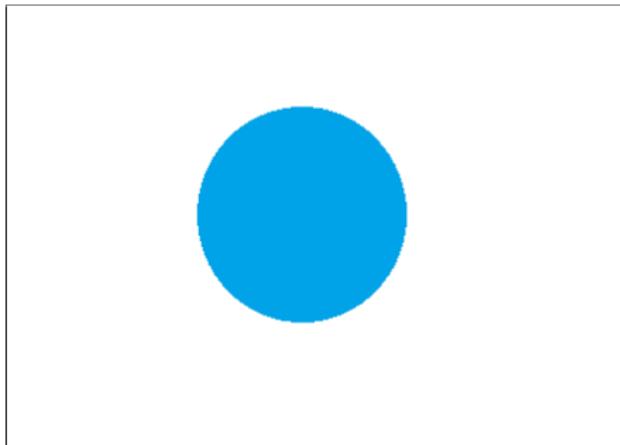
Image



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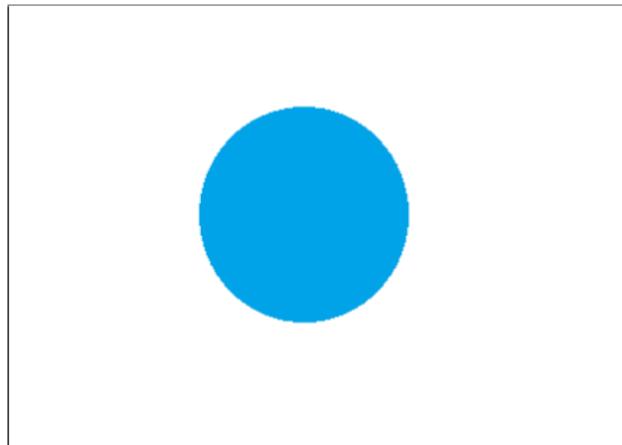
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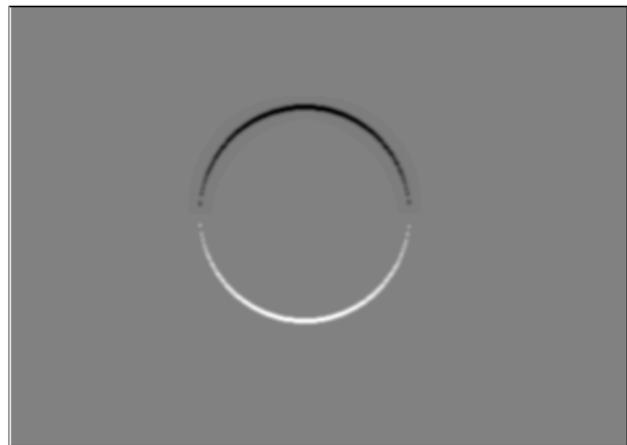
Image

Examples: Partial Derivatives of an Image

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Image

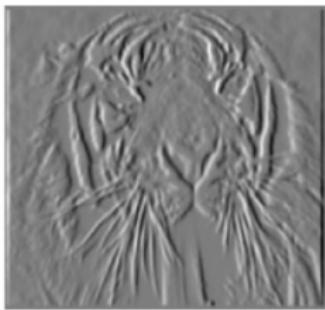


$\frac{\partial f(x,y)}{\partial y}$ with $[-1, 1]^T$ and correlation

Examples: Partial Derivatives of an Image

$$\frac{\partial f(x, y)}{\partial x}$$

| | |
|----|---|
| -1 | 1 |
|----|---|



$$\frac{\partial f(x, y)}{\partial y}$$

| | | |
|----|----|----|
| -1 | ? | 1 |
| 1 | or | -1 |

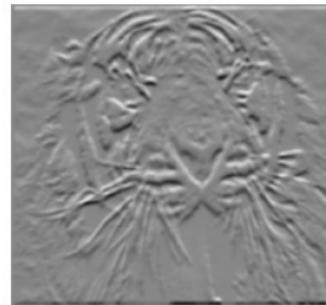


Figure: Using correlation filters

[Source: K. Grauman]

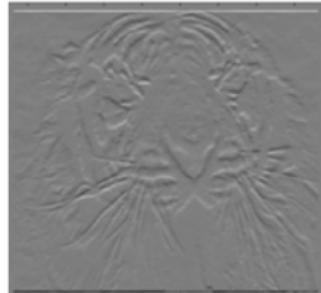
Finite Difference Filters

Prewitt: $M_x = \begin{bmatrix} -1 & 0 & 1 \\ -1 & 0 & 1 \\ -1 & 0 & 1 \end{bmatrix}$; $M_y = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 1 & 1 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 \\ -1 & -1 & -1 \end{bmatrix}$

Sobel: $M_x = \begin{bmatrix} -1 & 0 & 1 \\ -2 & 0 & 2 \\ -1 & 0 & 1 \end{bmatrix}$; $M_y = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 2 & 1 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 \\ -1 & -2 & -1 \end{bmatrix}$

Roberts: $M_x = \begin{bmatrix} 0 & 1 \\ -1 & 0 \end{bmatrix}$; $M_y = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 \\ 0 & -1 \end{bmatrix}$

```
>> My = fspecial('sobel');  
>> outim = imfilter(double(im), My);  
>> imagesc(outim);  
>> colormap gray;
```



[Source: K. Grauman]

Image Gradient

- The gradient of an image $\nabla f = \left[\frac{\partial f}{\partial x}, \frac{\partial f}{\partial y} \right]$

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- The gradient points in the direction of most rapid change in intensity

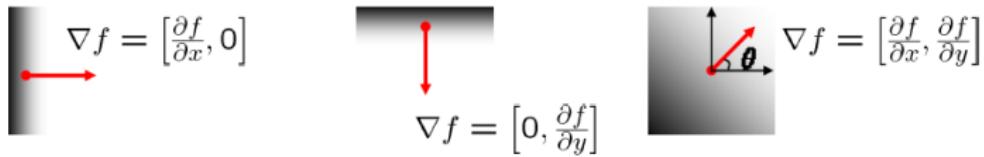

$$\nabla f = \left[\frac{\partial f}{\partial x}, 0 \right]$$


$$\nabla f = \left[0, \frac{\partial f}{\partial y} \right]$$


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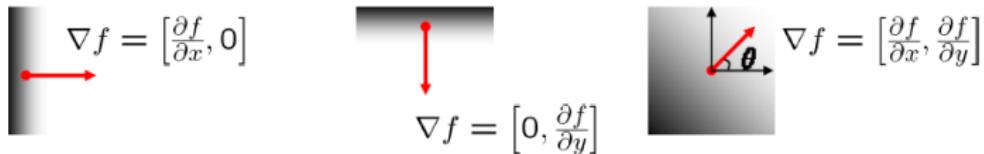


- The **gradient direction** (orientation of edge normal) is given by:

$$\theta = \tan^{-1} \left(\frac{\partial f}{\partial y} / \frac{\partial f}{\partial x} \right)$$

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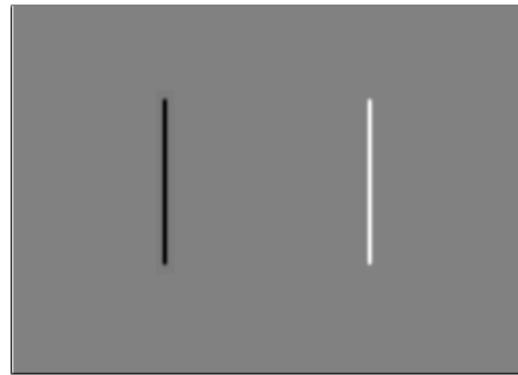
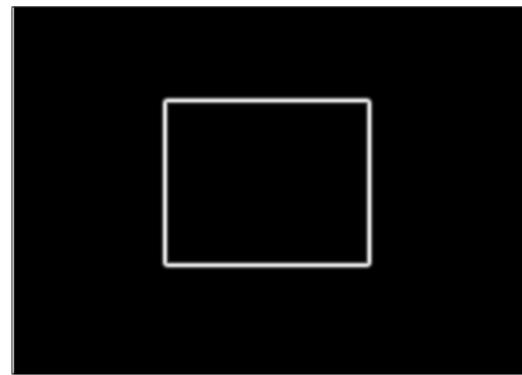
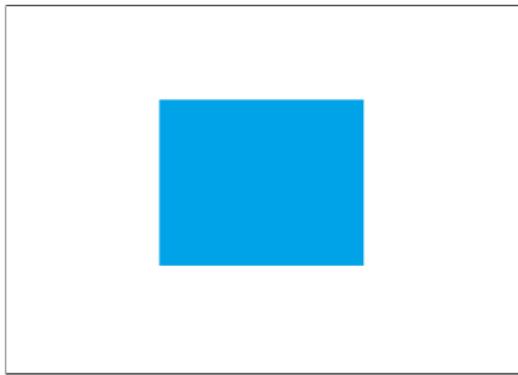
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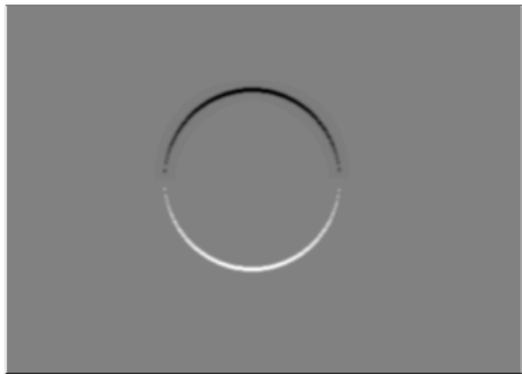
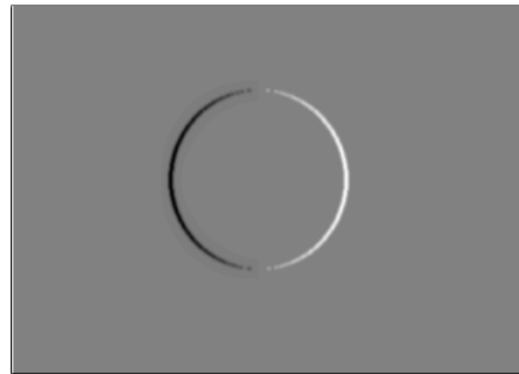
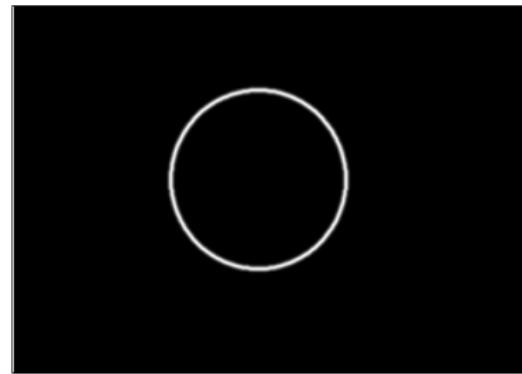
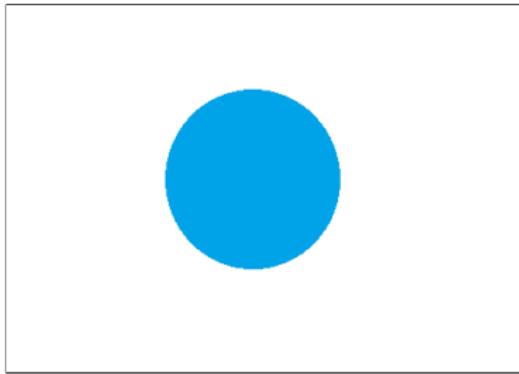
- The **edge strength** is given by the magnitude $||\nabla f|| = \sqrt{\left(\frac{\partial f}{\partial x}\right)^2 + \left(\frac{\partial f}{\partial y}\right)^2}$

[Source: S. Seitz]

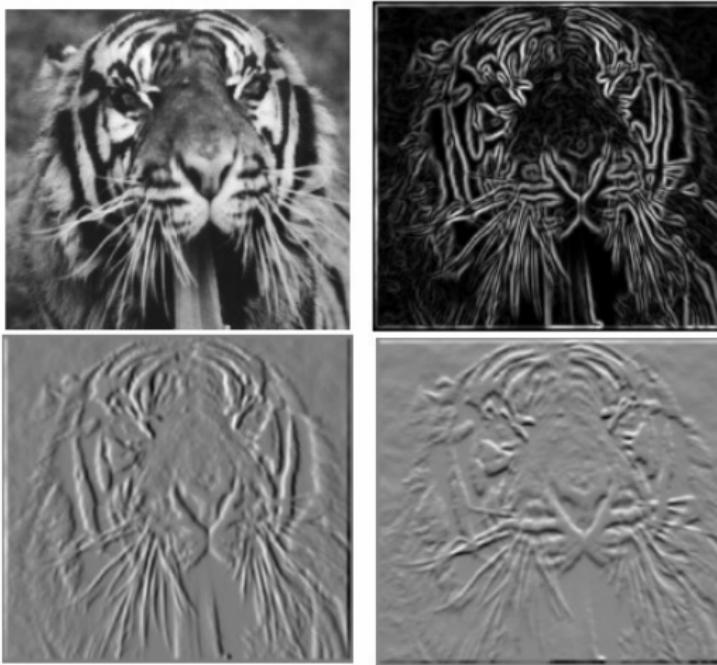
Example: Image Gradient



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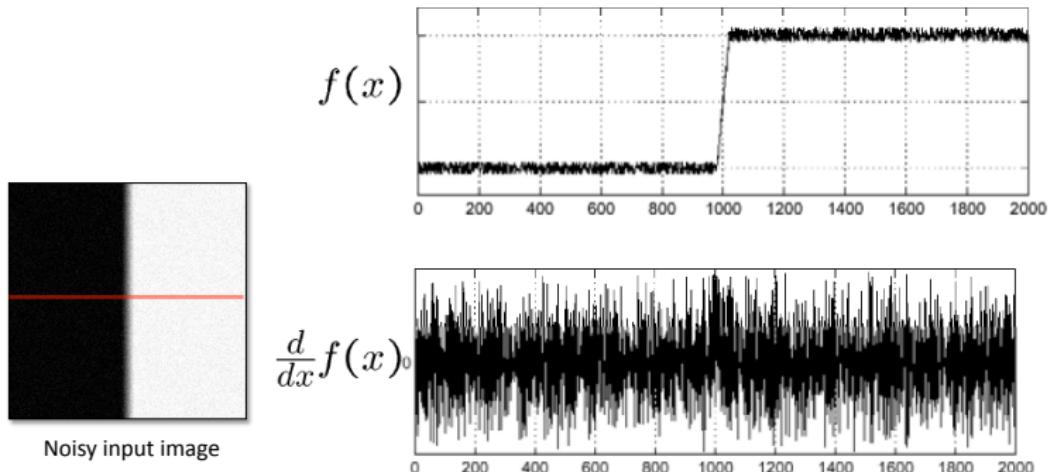
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[Source: S. Lazebnik]

Effects of noise

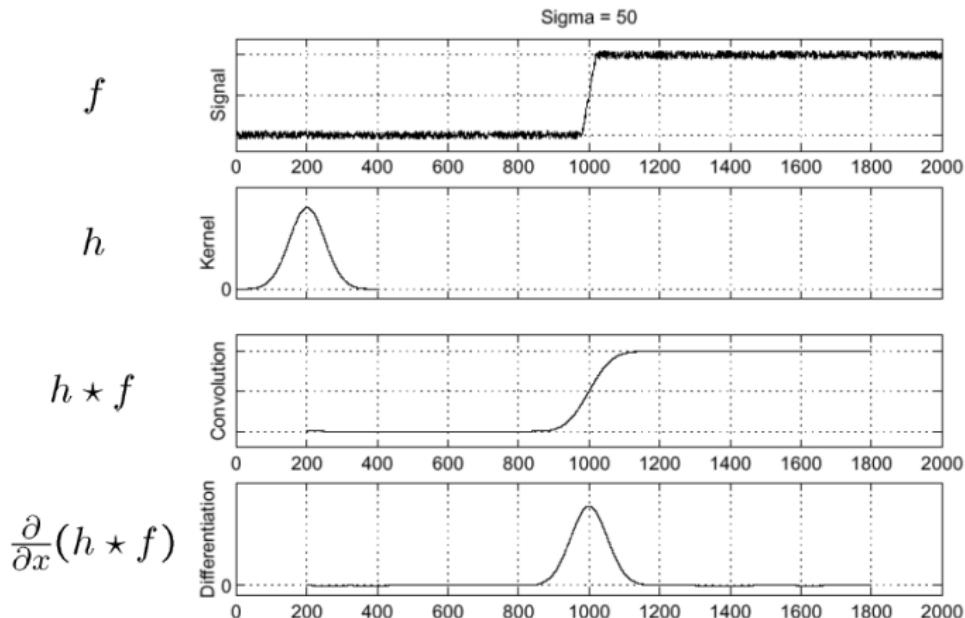
- What if our image is noisy? What can we do?
- Consider a single row or column of the image.
- Plotting intensity as a function of position gives a signal.



[Source: S. Seitz]

Effects of noise

- Smooth first with h (e.g. Gaussian), and look for peaks in $\frac{\partial}{\partial x}(h * f)$.



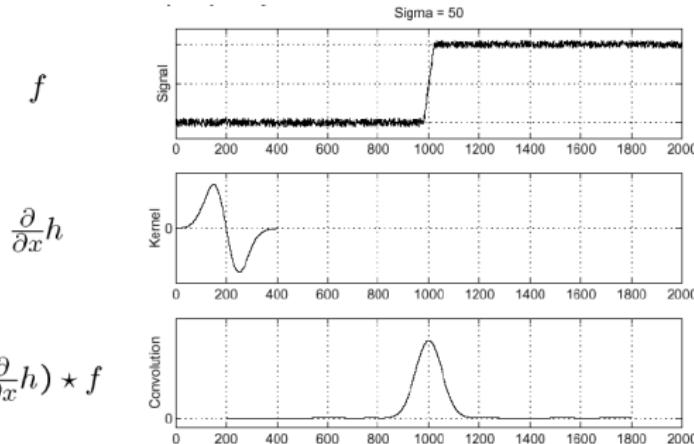
[Source: S. Seitz]

Derivative theorem of convolution

- Differentiation property of convolution

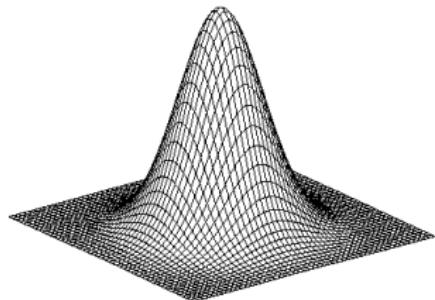
$$\frac{\partial}{\partial x}(h * f) = \left(\frac{\partial h}{\partial x}\right) * f = h * \left(\frac{\partial f}{\partial x}\right)$$

- From last time, why does this work?
- It saves one operation



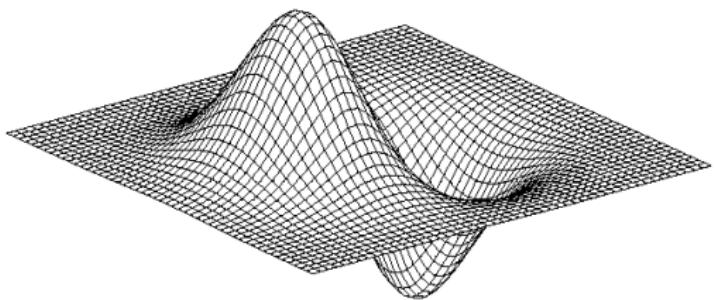
[Source: S. Seitz]

2D Edge Detection Filters



Gaussian

$$h_{\sigma}(x, y) = \frac{1}{2\pi\sigma^2} \exp^{-\frac{u^2+v^2}{2\sigma^2}}$$

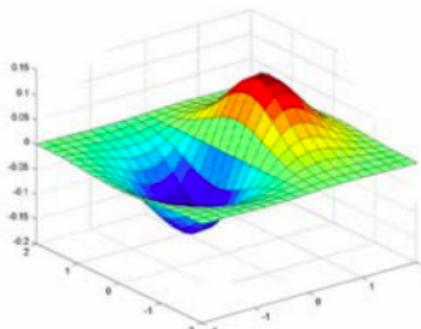


Derivative of Gaussian (x)

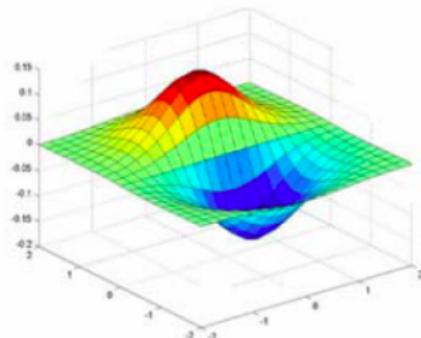
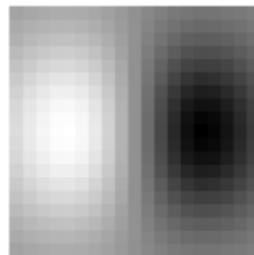
$$\frac{\partial}{\partial x} h_{\sigma}(u, v)$$

[Source: N. Snavely]

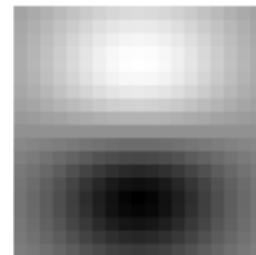
Derivative of Gaussians



x-direction



y-direction



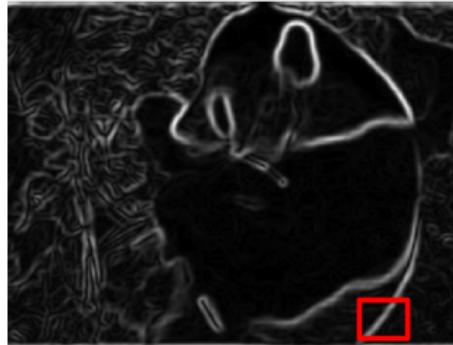
[Source: K. Grauman]

Example



- Applying the Gaussian derivatives to image

Example



- Applying the Gaussian derivatives to image

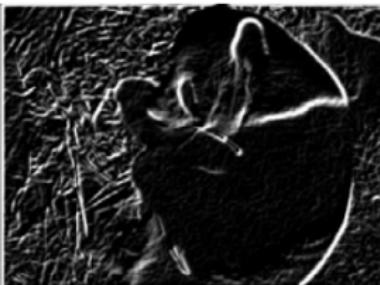
Properties:

- Zero at a long distance from the edge
- Positive on both sides of the edge
- Highest value at some point in between, on the edge itself

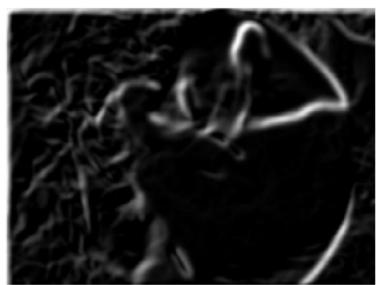
Effect of σ on derivatives

The detected structures differ depending on the **Gaussian's scale parameter**:

- Larger values: detects edges of larger scale
- Smaller values: detects finer structures



$\sigma = 1$ pixel



$\sigma = 3$ pixels

[Source: K. Grauman]

Canny Edge Detector

Matlab: `edge(image, 'canny')`

- ① Filter image with derivative of Gaussian (horizontal and vertical directions)
- ② Find magnitude and orientation of gradient
- ③ Non-maximum suppression
- ④ Linking and thresholding (hysteresis):
 - Define two thresholds: low and high
 - Use the high threshold to start edge curves and the low threshold to continue them

[Source: D. Lowe and L. Fei-Fei]

Locating Edges – Canny's Edge Detector

Let's take the most popular picture in computer vision: Lena (appeared in November 1972 issue of Playboy magazine)



[Source: N. Snavely]

Locating Edges – Canny's Edge Detector



Figure: Canny's approach takes gradient magnitude

[Source: N. Snavely]

Locating Edges – Canny's Edge Detector



Figure: Thresholding

[Source: N. Snavely]

Locating Edges – Canny's Edge Detector



Figure: Gradient magnitude

[Source: N. Snavely]

Non-Maxima Suppression

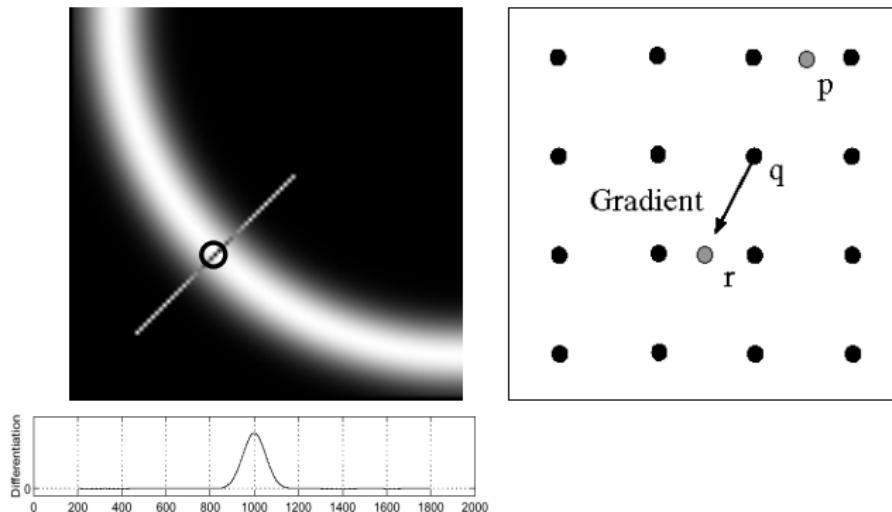


Figure: Gradient magnitude

- Check if pixel is local maximum along gradient direction
- If yes, take it

[Source: N. Snavely]

Finding Edges



Problem:
pixels along
this edge
didn't
survive the
thresholding

Figure: Problem with thresholding

[Source: K. Grauman]

Hysteresis thresholding

- Use a high threshold to start edge curves, and a low threshold to continue them



[Source: K. Grauman]

Hysteresis thresholding



original image



high threshold
(strong edges)



low threshold
(weak edges)



hysteresis threshold

[Source: L. Fei Fei]

Located Edges!



Figure: Thinning: Non-maxima suppression

[Source: N. Snavely]

Canny Edge Detector

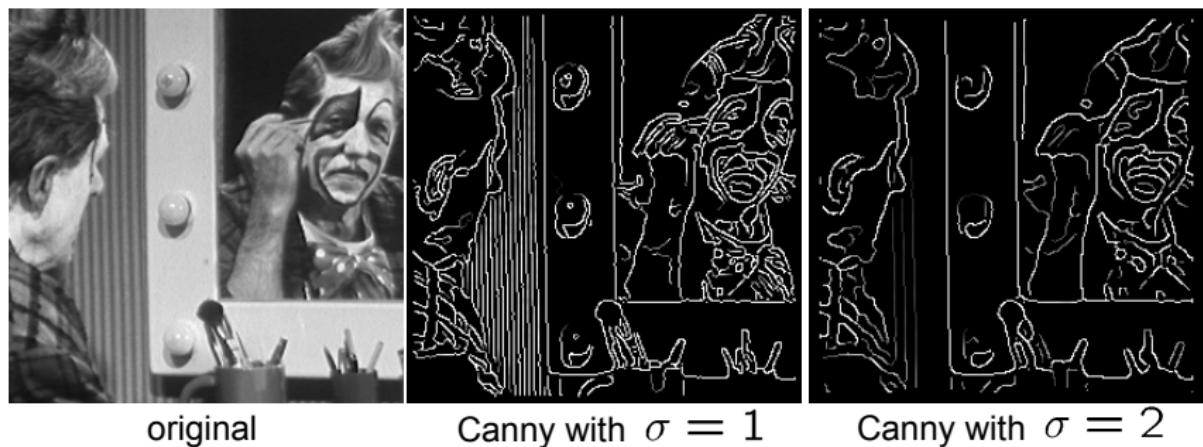
Matlab: `edge(image, 'canny')`

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 - Define two thresholds: low and high
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[Source: D. Lowe and L. Fei-Fei]

Canny Edge Detector (again)

- large σ (in step 1) detects “large-scale” edges
- small σ detects fine edges



[Source: S. Seitz]

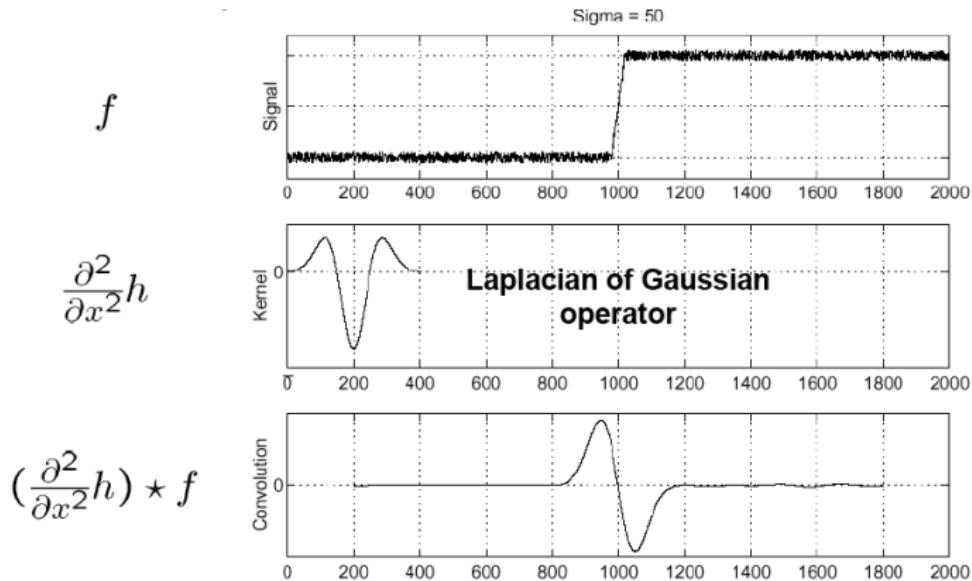
Canny edge detector

- Still one of the most widely used edge detectors in computer vision
- J. Canny, A Computational Approach To Edge Detection, IEEE Trans. Pattern Analysis and Machine Intelligence, 8:679-714, 1986.
- Depends on several parameters: σ of the **blur** and the **thresholds**

[Adopted by: R. Urtasun]

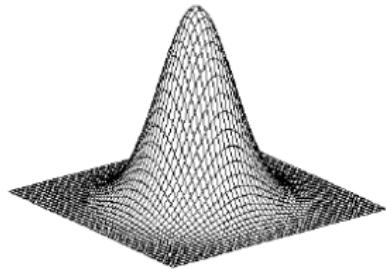
Another Way of Finding Edges: Laplacian of Gaussians

- Edge by detecting **zero-crossings** of bottom graph



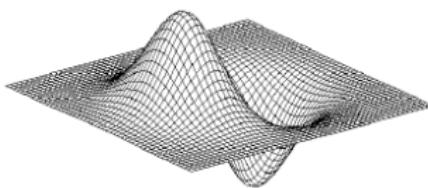
[Source: S. Seitz]

2D Edge Filtering



Gaussian

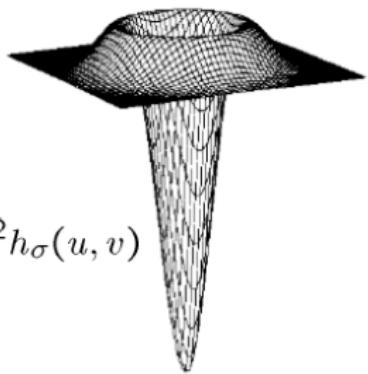
$$h_\sigma(u, v) = \frac{1}{2\pi\sigma^2} e^{-\frac{u^2+v^2}{2\sigma^2}}$$



derivative of Gaussian

$$\frac{\partial}{\partial x} h_\sigma(u, v)$$

Laplacian of Gaussian

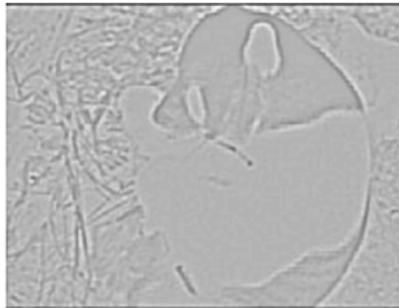


$$\nabla^2 h_\sigma(u, v)$$

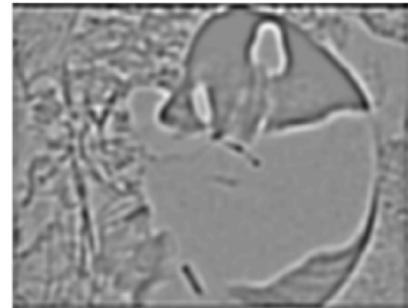
with ∇^2 the Laplacian operator $\nabla^2 f = \frac{\partial^2 f}{\partial x^2} + \frac{\partial^2 f}{\partial y^2}$

[Source: S. Seitz]

Example



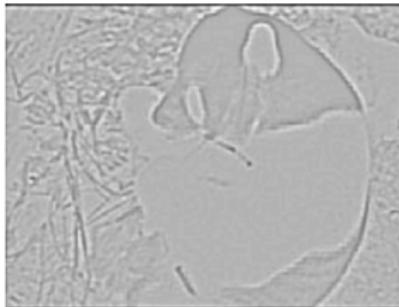
$\sigma = 1$ pixels



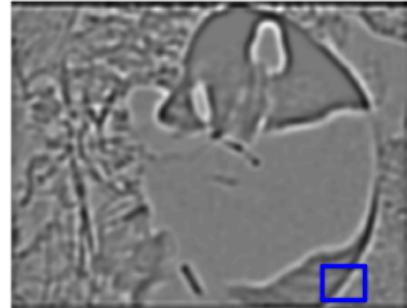
$\sigma = 3$ pixels

- Applying the Laplacian operator to image

Example



$\sigma = 1$ pixels

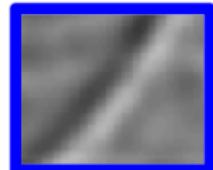


$\sigma = 3$ pixels

- Applying the Laplacian operator to image

Properties:

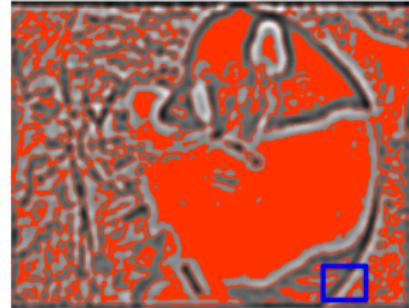
- Zero at a long distance from the edge
- Positive on the darker side of edge
- Negative on the lighter side
- Zero at some point in between, on edge itself



Example



$\sigma = 1$ pixels



$\sigma = 3$ pixels

- Applying the Laplacian operator to image

Properties:

- Zero at a long distance from the edge
- Positive on the darker side of edge
- Negative on the lighter side
- Zero at some point in between, on edge itself



A More ‘Modern’ Approach

This is “old-style” Computer Vision. We are now in the era of successful Machine Learning techniques.

Question: Can we use ML to do a better job at finding edges?

A More ‘Modern’ Approach

This is “old-style” Computer Vision. We are now in the era of successful Machine Learning techniques.

Question: Can we use ML to do a better job at finding edges?

We will see later

Summary – Stuff You Should Know

Not so good:

- **Horizontal image gradient:** Subtract intensity of left neighbor from pixel's intensity (filtering with $[-1, 1]$)
- **Vertical image gradient:** Subtract intensity of bottom neighbor from pixel's intensity (filtering with $[-1, 1]^T$)

Much better (more robust to noise):

- **Horizontal image gradient:** Apply derivative of Gaussian with respect to x to image (filtering!)
- **Vertical image gradient:** Apply derivative of Gaussian with respect to y to image
- **Magnitude of gradient:** compute the horizontal and vertical image gradients, square them, sum them, and $\sqrt{}$ the sum
- **Edges:** Locations in image where magnitude of gradient is high
- Phenomena that **causes** edges: rapid change in surface's normals, depth discontinuity, rapid changes in color, change in illumination

Summary – Stuff You Should Know

- **Properties of gradient's magnitude:**

- Zero far away from edge
- Positive on both sides of the edge
- Highest value directly on the edge
- Higher σ emphasizes larger structures

- **Canny's edge detector:**

- Compute gradient's direction and magnitude
- Non-maxima suppression
- Thresholding at two levels and linking

Matlab functions:

- FSPECIAL: gives a few gradients filters (PREWITT, SOBEL, ROBERTS)
- SMOOTHGRADIENT: function to compute gradients with derivatives of Gaussians. Find it in Lecture's 3 code (check class webpage)
- EDGE: use `EDGE(I,'CANNY')` to detect edges with Canny's method, and `EDGE(I,'LOG')` for Laplacian method