Computer Vision

18AI742

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Segmentation by clustering

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Segmentation by clustering

Contents

- 1) Human vision: grouping and gestalt
- 2) Important applications
- 3) Image segmentation by clustering pixels
- 4) Segmentation, clustering, and graphs
- 5) Conclusion
- 6) Q&A

$$\nabla \cdot \mathbf{E} = \rho/\epsilon_0$$

$$\nabla \cdot \mathbf{B} = 0$$

$$\nabla \times \mathbf{E} = -\frac{\partial \mathbf{B}}{\partial t}$$

$$\nabla \times \mathbf{B} = \mu_0 \epsilon_0 \frac{\partial \mathbf{E}}{\partial t} + \mu_0 \mathbf{j}_c$$
where
$$\nabla = \hat{\mathbf{i}} \frac{\partial}{\partial x} + \hat{\mathbf{j}} \frac{\partial}{\partial y} + \hat{\mathbf{k}} \frac{\partial}{\partial z}$$



Human vision: grouping and gestalt

constructing groups of pixels that all have the same color or texture

collecting together pixels or pattern elements into summary representations

early vision produces vast quantities of information

That emphasize important, interesting, or distinctive properties.

Obtaining such representation is known variously as segmentation



How sharp is your eye?



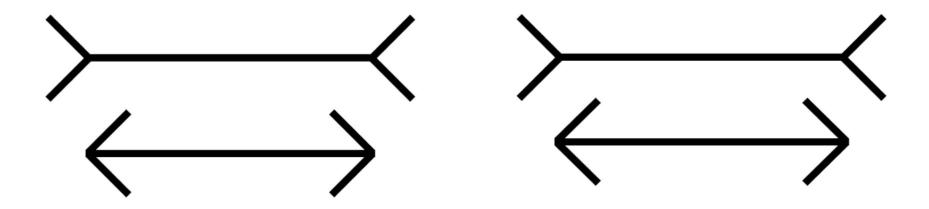




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Mueller-Lyer illusion





Two important threads in segmentation

clustering methods that focus on local relations between items

assembling together clumps (regions) of pixels that look similar

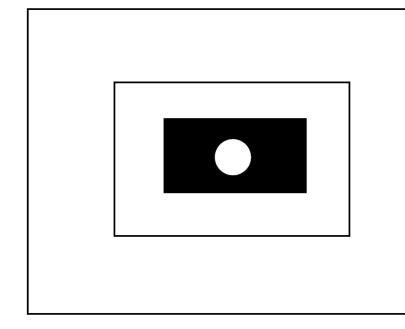
assembling together items based on global relations

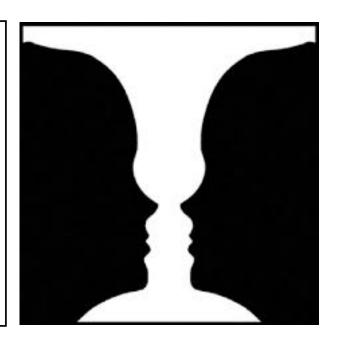
Eg - all items that lie on a straight line

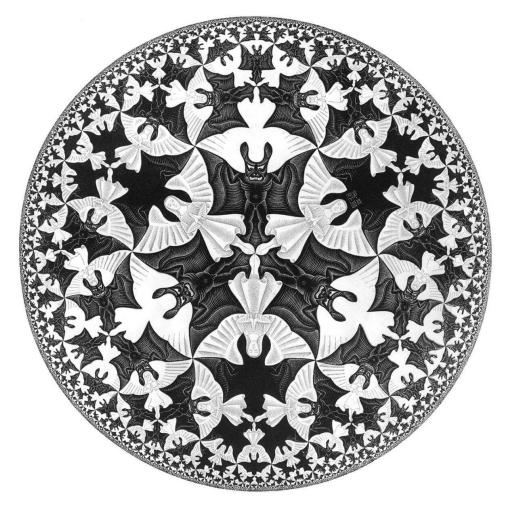
emphasizing methods that can identify parametric models in pools of data



Figure and ground - ambiguity









Gestalt/group set of internal relationships

Proximity: Tokens that are nearby tend to be grouped.

Similarity: Similar tokens tend to be grouped together.

Common fate: Tokens that have coherent motion tend to be grouped

Common region: Tokens that lie inside the same closed region tend

Parallelism: Parallel curves or tokens tend to be grouped together



Gestalt/group set of internal relationships

Closure: Tokens or curves that tend to lead to closed curves tend

Symmetry: Curves that lead to symmetric groups are grouped together

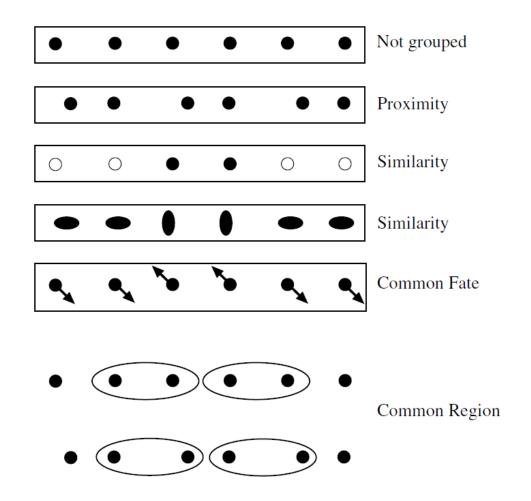
Continuity: Tokens that lead to continuous—as in joining up nicely

Familiar configuration: Tokens that, when grouped, lead to a familiar object tend

Parallelism: Parallel curves or tokens tend to be grouped together

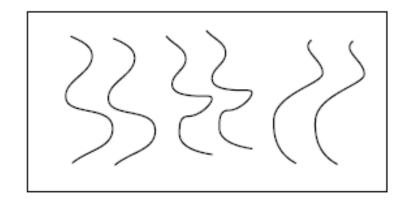


Examples of Gestalt factors that lead to grouping

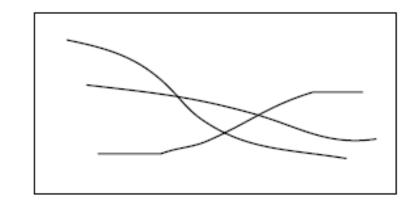




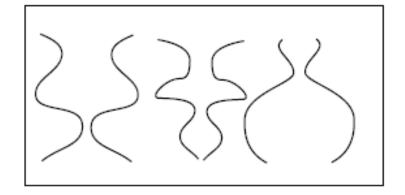
Examples of Gestalt factors that lead to grouping



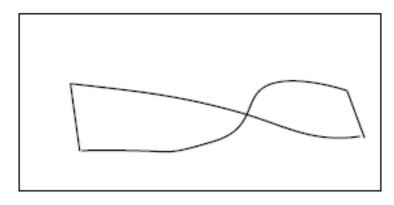
Parallelism



Continuity



Symmetry



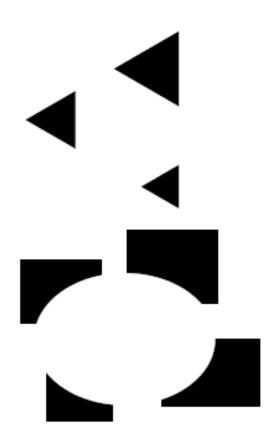
Closure



Occlusion appears to be an important cue in grouping

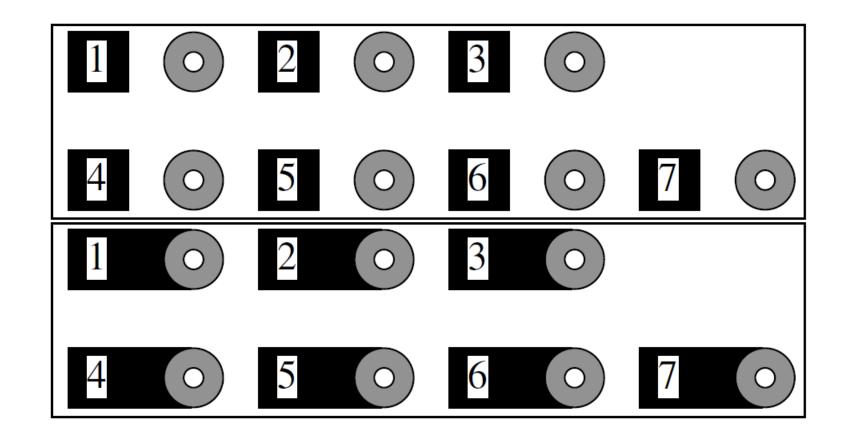








An example of grouping phenomena in real life





Gestalt rules

rules help solve problems posed by visual effects that arise commonly in real world

ecologically valid

continuity may represent a solution to problems posed by occlusion

tendency to prefer interpretations explained by occlusion leads to interesting effects.

illusory contour (one could fill in the no-contrast regions of contour)



Gestalt rules

Common fate can be seen as a consequence of the fact

that components of objects tend to move together

symmetry is a useful grouping cue because

lot of real objects that have symmetric or close to symmetric contours.

should be seen as the consequences of a larger grouping process



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Simple segmentation algorithms

work best when it is easy to tell what a useful decomposition is.

background subtraction

where anything that doesn't look like a known background is interesting

shot boundary detection

Where substantial changes in a video are interesting



Background subtraction

objects appear on a largely stable background

Counting vehicles on road

Cine green screen

estimate of the appearance of the background from the image

works rather poorly because the background typically changes slowly over time



Every fifth frame from a sequence of 120 frames of a child playing on a patterned sofa.





Background subtraction results for the sequence



The average of all 120 frames.



Pixels whose difference from the average exceeds a small threshold



Those whose difference from the average exceeds a somewhat larger threshold.



Estimate the value of background pixels using a moving average

Form a background estimate $\mathcal{B}^{(0)}$. At each frame \mathcal{F} Update the background estimate, typically by forming $\mathcal{B}^{(n+1)} = \frac{w_a \mathcal{F} + \sum_i w_i \mathcal{B}^{(n-i)}}{w_c}$ for a choice of weights w_a , w_i and w_c . Subtract the background estimate from the frame, and report the value of each pixel where the magnitude of the difference is greater than some threshold.

end

Algorithm 9.1: Background Subtraction.



Estimate the value of background pixels using a moving average









Estimate the value of background pixels using a moving average

Estimate particular background pixel as a weighted average of the previous values

pixels in the distant past should be weighted at zero

weights increase smoothly

moving average should track the changes in the background

suppress frequencies that are larger than the typical frequency of change in the background



Shot boundary detection

```
For each frame in an image sequence

Compute a distance between this frame and the previous frame

If the distance is larger than some threshold, classify the frame as a shot boundary.

end
```

Algorithm 9.2: Shot Boundary Detection Using Interframe Differences.



Standard techniques for computing a distance

Frame differencing algorithms take pixel-by-pixel differences

Histogram-based algorithms compute color histograms for each frame

Block comparison algorithms compare frames by cutting them into a grid

Edge differencing algorithms compute edge maps for each frame

few potentially corresponding edges, there is a shot boundary



Interactive segmentation

two segments, foreground (coherent) and background,

intelligent scissors interface

user sketches a curve fairly close to the boundary of the object

curve is then moved to the boundary using local information, image gradient cues

need good ways to select the object we want to cut out



Interactive segmentation

painting interface

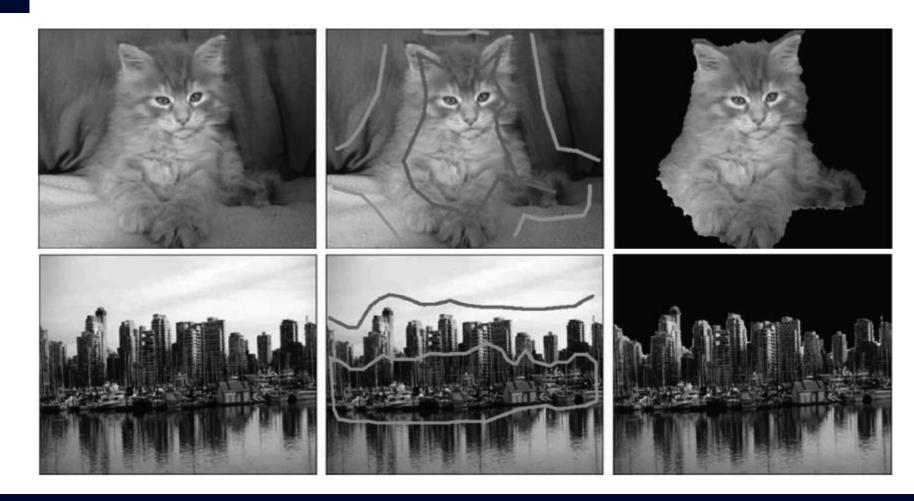
user paints some pixels with a foreground or background brush

to produce an appearance model of the foreground and of the background.

models are fed into a fast graph-based segmenter



Interactive Segmentation (painting interface)





Interactive segmentation (grabcut interface)

grabcut interface

user draws a box around the object

box yield an initial estimate of foreground and background pixels,.

If this segmentation isn't satisfactory

user has the option of painting foreground and background strokes on pixels



Interactive segmentation (grabcut interface)



FIGURE 9.12: In a grabcut interface for interactive segmentation, a user marks a box around the object of interest; foreground and background models are then inferred by a clustering method, and the object is segmented. If this segmentation isn't satisfactory, the user has the option of painting foreground and background strokes on pixels to help



pixels are neither pure background or pure foreground

prepare a matte, a mask of values in the range [0-1].

ith pixel value is that it is $\alpha f + (1 - \alpha)b$,

Rotoscoping is a process like matting, but applied to video;

recovers a set of segments, one per frame, corresponding to a moving object.

segments could then becomposited onto a new background



Matting methods produce a real-valued mask

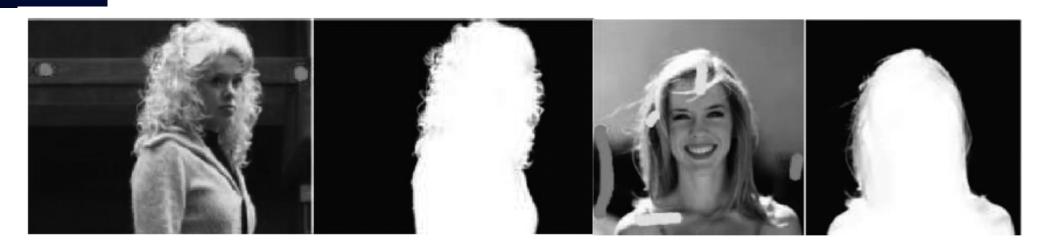


FIGURE 9.13: Matting methods produce a real-valued mask (rather than a foreground-background mask) to try and compensate for effects in hair, at occluding boundaries, and so on, where some pixels consist of an average of foreground and background values. The matte is bright for foreground pixels and dark for background pixels; for some pixels in the hair, it is gray, meaning that when the foreground is transferred to a new image, these pixels should become a weighted sum of foreground and background. The gray value indicates the weight. This figure was originally published as Figure 6 of "Spectral"



Forming Image Regions

decompose an image into regions that have roughly coherent color and texture

Because each region has coherent appearance, able to compress the image

describing the shape and appearance of regions separately (asopposed to describing each pixel)

correspondences between two images—to compute optic flow or to register parts of the images

windows on the facade of a building—not quite a texture, but still repetitious.



Forming Image Regions (superpixels)

more useful to have small, compact regions – Superpixels

Need representation that is small compared to the pixel grid, but still very rich

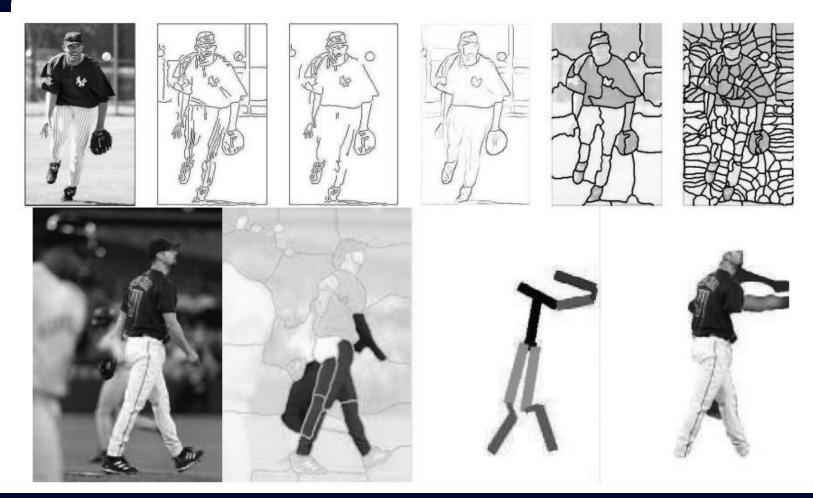
representation is sometimes called an oversegmentation

one shading value per superpixel, and smooth the result.

human arms and legs tend to be long and straight;



Forming Image Regions (superpixels)





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General recipe for image segmentation by clustering

represent each image pixel with a feature vector (FV)

FV contains all measurements that may be relevant in describing a pixel

Intensity, colour, texture, filter output

Cluster these FVs. Every FV belongs to exactly one cluster

each cluster represents an image segment



General recipe for image segmentation by clustering

replace the FV at each pixel with the number of that feature vector's cluster center

No guarantee that segments are connected,

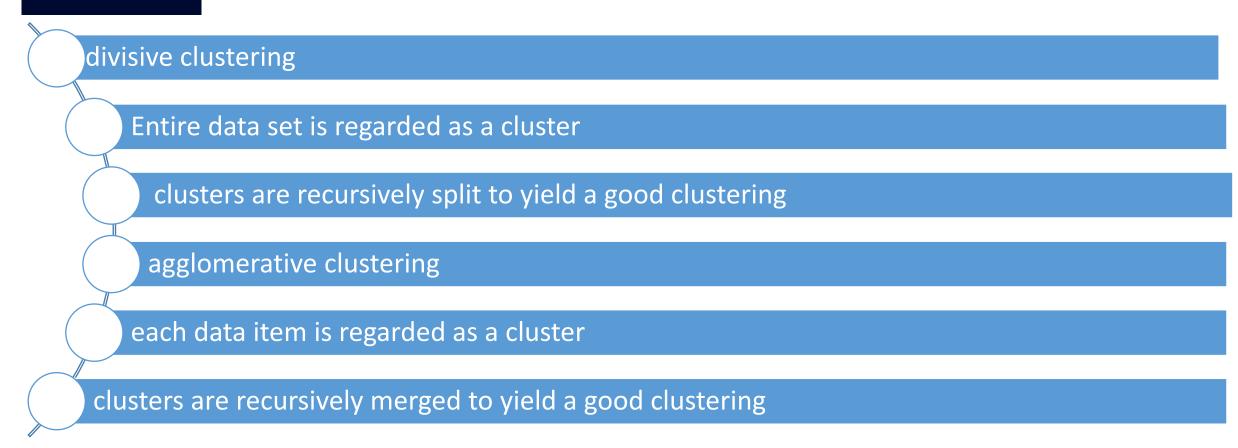
If the feature vector contains a representation of the position of the pixel,

segments that result tend to be "blobby,"

pixels very far from the center of a segment wil tend to belong to other clusters



Two natural algorithms for clustering





Divisive Clustering, or Clustering by Splitting.

Construct a single cluster containing all points

Until the clustering is satisfactory

Split the cluster that yields the two

components with the largest inter-cluster distance
end

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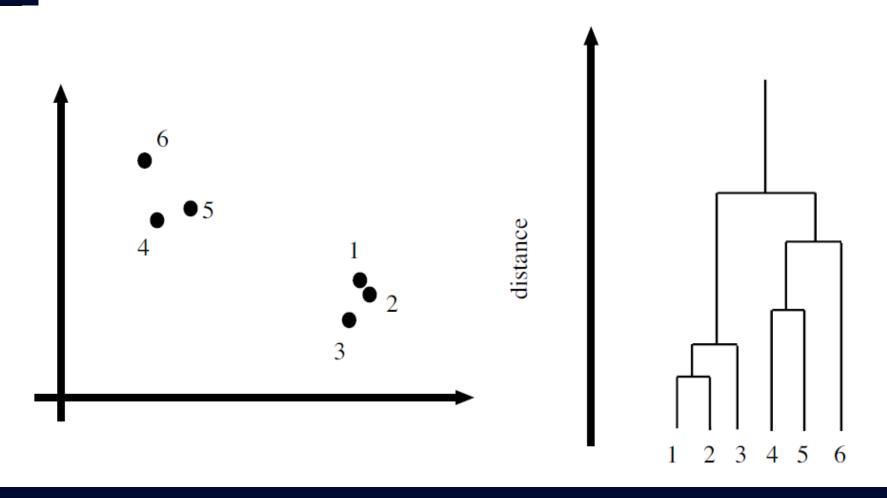
Agglomerative Clustering or Clustering by Merging.

Make each point a separate cluster
Until the clustering is satisfactory
Merge the two clusters with the
smallest inter-cluster distance
end

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Dendrogram obtained by agglomerative clustering using single-link clustering.





Good inter-cluster distance

single-link clustering

Distance between the closest elements as the inter-cluster distance

complete-link clustering

maximum distance between an element of the first cluster and one of the second

group average clustering

average of distances between elements in the cluster, "rounded" clusters



Main difficulty in using either agglomerative or divisive clustering

an awful lot of pixels in an image

segmenters decide when to stop splitting or merging by using a set of threshold

agglomerative segmenter might stop merging when the distance between

Clusters is sufficiently low or when the number of clusters reaches some value.

stop splitting when the resulting clusters meet some similarity test



Watershed Algorithm

to segment image I. compute a map of the image gradient magnitude, $||\nabla I||$

Zeros of this map are locally extreme intensity values

take each as a seed for a segment and give each seed a unique label

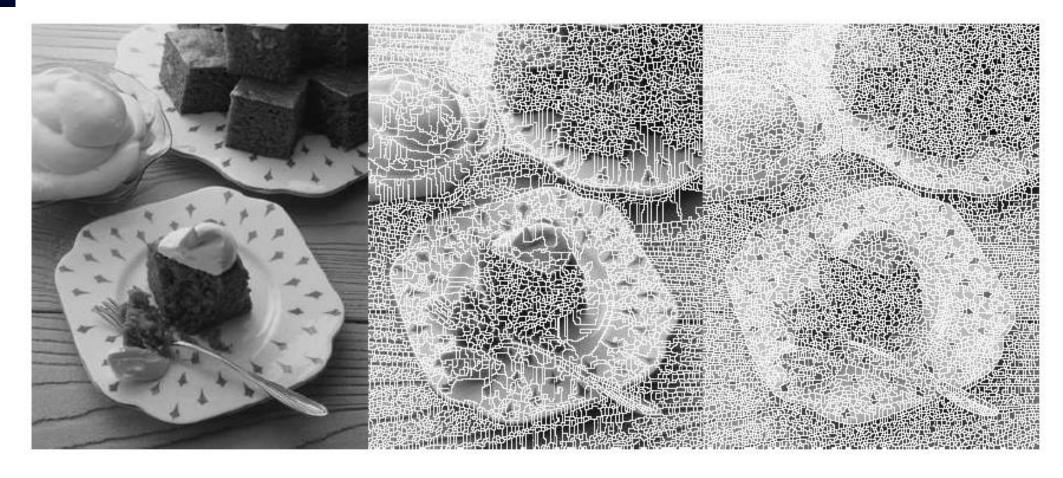
filling a height map with water

starting at pixel (i, j); travel backward down the gradient of $|\nabla V|$

Each pixel gets the label of the seed that is hit



Segmentation results from the watershed algorithm





Segmentation Using K-means

compute a feature vector representing each pixel

each pixel goes to the segment represented by the cluster center

that claims its feature vector.

we know how many segments there will be

stop splitting when the resulting clusters meet some similarity test



segmented using k-means









compute a feature vector representing each pixel

each pixel goes to the segment represented by the cluster center

that claims its feature vector.

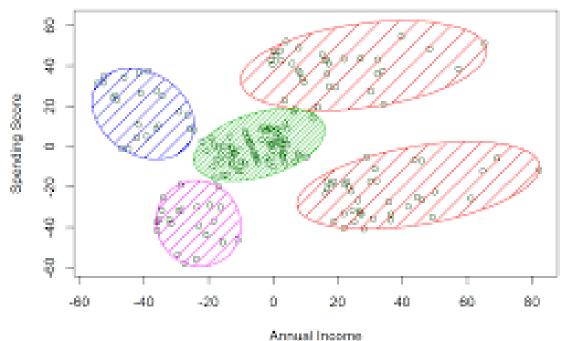
we know how many segments there will be

stop splitting when the resulting clusters meet some similarity test



segmented using k-means

clusters of clients via K-Mean

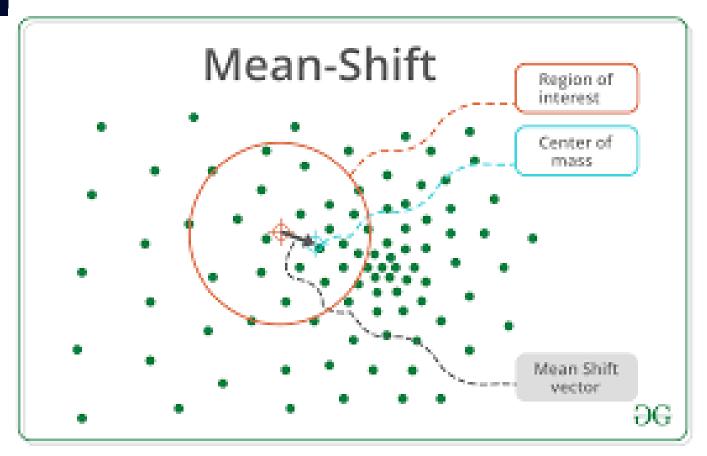


These two components explain 100 % of the point variability.

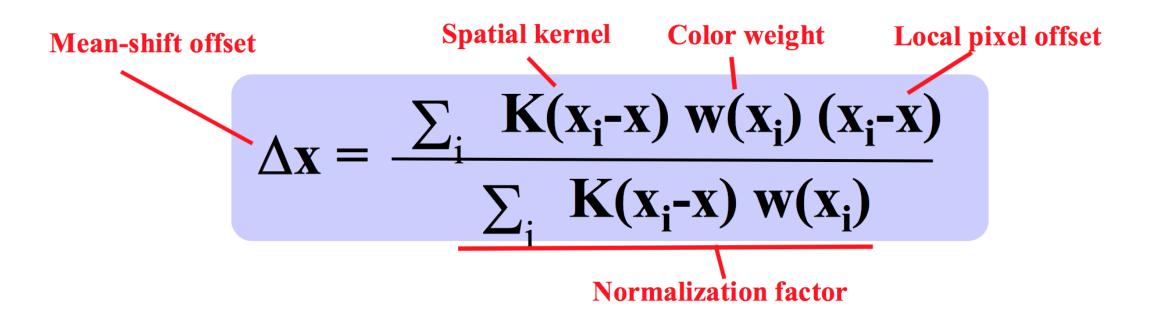


















set of sample points in some feature space, with underlying probability density

clusters as local maxima (local modes) in this density

need an approximate representation of the density

build an approximation is to use kernel smoothing

What is needed exactly?



take a set of functions that look like "blobs" or "bumps,"

place one over each datapoint, and so produce a smooth function

is large when there are many data points close together

small when the data points are widely separated

specific kernel smoother



$$K(x;h) = \frac{(2\pi)^{(-d/2)}}{h^d} \exp\left(-\frac{1}{2} \frac{\|x\|^2}{h}\right)$$

$$f(x) = \left(\frac{1}{n}\right) \sum_{i=1}^{n} K(x_i - x; h)$$

$$f(x) = C \sum_{i=1}^{n} k \left(\left\| \frac{x - x_i}{h} \right\|^2 \right)$$

$$k(u) = \exp\left(-\frac{1}{2}u\right)$$

$$C = \frac{(2\pi)^{(-d/2)}}{nh^d}$$



$$\nabla f(x) \mid x = y = 0$$

$$= C \sum_{i} \nabla k \left(\left\| \frac{x_{i} - y}{h} \right\|^{2} \right)$$

$$= C \frac{2}{h} \sum_{i} \left[x_{i} - y \right] \left[g \left(\left\| \frac{x_{i} - y}{h} \right\|^{2} \right) \right]$$

$$= C \frac{2}{h} \left[\frac{\sum_{i} x_{i} g \left(\left\| \frac{x_{i} - y}{h} \right\|^{2} \right)}{\sum_{i} g \left(\left\| \frac{x_{i} - y}{h} \right\|^{2} \right)} - y \right] \times \left[\sum_{i} g \left(\left\| \frac{x_{i} - y}{h} \right\|^{2} \right) \right].$$

We expect that $\sum_{i} g(\|\frac{x_i - y}{h}\|^2)$ is nonzero, so that the maximum occurs when

$$\left[\frac{\sum_{i} x_{i} g(\left\|\frac{x_{i} - y}{h}\right\|^{2})}{\sum_{i} g(\left\|\frac{x_{i} - y}{h}\right\|^{2})} - y\right] = 0,$$

$$g = \frac{d}{du}k(u).$$



or equivalently, when

$$y = \frac{\sum_{i} x_{i} g(\left\|\frac{x_{i} - y}{h}\right\|^{2})}{\sum_{i} g(\left\|\frac{x_{i} - y}{h}\right\|^{2})}.$$

The mean shift procedure involves producing a series of estimates $y^{(j)}$ where

$$y^{(j+1)} = \frac{\sum_{i} x_{i} g(\|\frac{x_{i} - y^{(j)}}{h}\|^{2})}{\sum_{i} g(\|\frac{x_{i} - y^{(j)}}{h}\|^{2})}.$$

The procedure gets its name from the fact that we are shifting to a point which has the form of a weighted mean (see Algorithm 9.5).



Finding a Mode with Mean Shift.

Start with an estimate of the mode $y^{(0)}$ and a set of n data vectors x_i of dimension d, a scaling constant h, and g the derivative of the kernel profile

Until the update is tiny

Form the new estimate

$$y^{(j+1)} = \frac{\sum_{i} x_{i} g(\|\frac{\boldsymbol{x}_{i} - \boldsymbol{y}^{(j)}}{h}\|^{2})}{\sum_{i} g(\|\frac{\boldsymbol{x}_{i} - \boldsymbol{y}^{(j)}}{h}\|^{2})}$$



Mean Shift Clustering.

For each data point x_i

Apply the mean shift procedure (Algorithm 9.5), starting with $y^{(0)} = x_i$ Record the resulting mode as y_i

Cluster the y_i , which should form small tight clusters.

A good choice is an agglomerative clusterer with group average distance, stopping clustering when the group average distance exceeds a small threshold

The data point x_i belongs to the cluster that its mode y_i belongs to.



Mean Shift Segmentation.

For each pixel, p_i , compute a feature vector $\mathbf{x}_i = (\mathbf{x}_i^s, \mathbf{x}_i^r)$ representing spatial and appearance components, respectively.

Choose h_s , h_r the spatial (resp. appearance) scale of the smoothing kernel.

Cluster the x_i using this data and mean shift clustering (Algorithm 9.6).

(Optional) Merge clusters with fewer than t_{min} pixels with a neighbor; the choice of neighbor is not significant, because the cluster is tiny.

The *i*'th pixel belongs to the segment corresponding to its cluster center (for example, one could label the cluster centers $1 \dots r$, and then identify segments by computing a map of the labels corresponding to pixels).

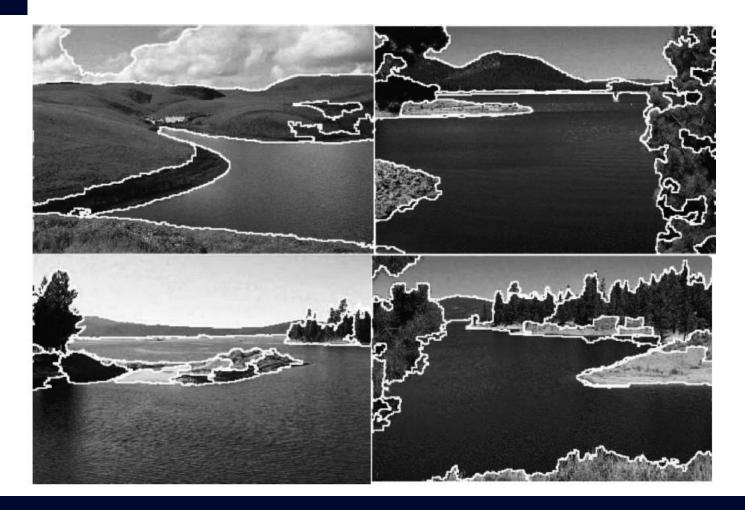


$$K(x;h) = \frac{(2\pi)^{(-d/2)}}{h^d} \exp\left(-\frac{1}{2} \frac{\|x\|^2}{h}\right)$$

$$K(x; h_s, h_r) = \left[\frac{(2\pi)^{(-d_s/2)}}{h_s^{d_s}} k\left(\frac{x^s}{h_s}\right)\right] \left[\frac{(2\pi)^{(-d_r/2)}}{h_r^{d_r}} k\left(\frac{x^r}{h_r}\right)\right].$$



Mean Shift Clustering.





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summarize data items (the cluster centers in the k-means algorithm) - vertices

similarity between data items – weighted edges

not be useful to compare all pairs of data items

process of clustering the data then becomes

one of segmenting the graph into connected components



 $G = \{V,E\}, E \subset V \times V.$

The degree of a vertex is the number of edges incident on that vertex

A directed graph is one in which edges (a, b) and (b, a) are distinct

An undirected graph no distinction is drawn between edges (a, b) and (b, a).

A weighted graph is one in which a weight is associated with each edge.



Two edges are consecutive if they have a vertex in common

A path is a sequence of consecutive edges.

A circuit is a path which ends at the vertex at which it begins.

Two vertices are said to be connected when there is a sequence of edges

Starting at the one and ending at the other;



A connected graph is one where every pair of vertices is connected

A tree is a connected graph with no circuits

spanning tree is a tree with vertices V and edges a subset of E

Every graph consists of a disjoint set of connected components

G ={V1 U V2 . . . Vn,E1 UE2 . . . En}, where {Vi,Ei} are all connected graphs

no edge in E that connects an element of Vi with one of Vj for i != j.

A forest is a graph whose connected components are trees



in a directed graph identify one vertex as a source s and another as a target t

Associate with each directed edge e a capacity,c(e), non-negative number.

A flow is a non-negative value f(e) associated with each edge with the following properties.

First, $0 \le f(e) \le c(e)$. Second, at any vertex $v \in \{V - s - t\}$,

$$\sum_{e \text{ arriving at } v} f(e) - \sum_{e \text{ leaving from } v} f(e) = 0$$



Decompose the vertices into two disjoint sets S and T, such that $s \in S$ and $t \in T$.

This represents a cut. Consider $W \in E$, the set of directed edges from S to T.

The value of the cut is

$$\sum_{e \in \mathcal{W}} c(e).$$

value of the cut can again be minimized efficiently

efficient algorithms to maximize the flow in



Agglomerative Clustering with a Graph

```
Start with a set of clusters C_i, one cluster per pixel.

Sort the edges in order of non-decreasing edge weight, so that w(e_1) \geq w(e_2) \geq \ldots \geq w(e_r).

For i = 1 to r

If the edge e_i lies inside a cluster do nothing

Else

One end is in cluster C_l and the other is in cluster C_m

If diff(C_l, C_m) \leq MInt(C_l, C_m)

Merge C_l and C_m to produce a new set of clusters.
```

Report the remaining set of clusters.

Algorithm 9.8: Agglomerative Clustering with Graphs.



Agglomerative Clustering with a Graph

stop clustering. We define the internal difference of a component to be the largest weight in the minimum spanning tree of the component. Write $M(\mathcal{C}) = \{V_{\mathcal{C}}, E_M\}$ for the minimum spanning tree of \mathcal{C} . Then, we have

$$\operatorname{int}(\mathcal{C}) = \max_{e \in M(\mathcal{C})} w(e).$$

cluster. Then the difference between two components is the minimum weight edge connecting two components. Write C_1 , C_2 for the two components, \mathcal{E} for the edges, and $w(v_1, v_2)$ for the weight of the edge joining v_1 and v_2 . Then, we have

$$diff(C_1, C_2) = \min_{v_1 \in C_1, v_2 \in C_2, (v_1, v_2) \in \mathcal{E}} w(v_1, v_2).$$



Agglomerative Clustering with a Graph

Huttenlocher (2004) define a function of two clusters, MInt, as

$$MInt(\mathcal{C}_1, \mathcal{C}_2) = \min(int(\mathcal{C}_1) + \tau(\mathcal{C}_1), int(\mathcal{C}_2) + \tau(\mathcal{C}_2))$$

where $\tau(\mathcal{C})$ is a term that biases the internal difference upward for small clusters; Felzenszwalb and Huttenlocher (2004) use $\tau(\mathcal{C}) = k/|\mathcal{C}|$, for k some constant parameter. This algorithm is notably fast and relatively accurate (Figure 9.22).



Agglomerative Clustering with a Graph





each pixel in the map carries one of three labels

foreground, background or unknown (these maps are sometimes known as trimaps)

pixel that looks like the foreground examples should get a foreground label

Pixel should tend to have labels that are the same as their neighbors

Boykov and Jolly (2001) phrase this problem as energy minimization.



F/B/U for the set of pixels with foreground/background/unknown labels

associate a binary variable δi with the ith unknown pixel

 $\delta i = -1$ if the ith pixel is background, and $\delta i = 1$ if the ith pixel is foreground

Write pi for a vector representing the ith pixel.

could contain intensity; intensity and color; intensity, color and texture;



Write df (p) for a function that compares the pixel vector p with the FG model;

write db(p) for a function that compares the pixel vector with the background.

pixel that looks like the foreground examples should get a foreground label

Write N(i) for the neighbors of pixel i.

Boykov and Jolly (2001) phrase this problem as energy minimization.



B(pi, pj) for a non-negative, symmetric function that compares two pixels

use as a cost for assigning neighboring pixels to different models

B should be large for two pixels that are similar, and small for different pixels;

(1/2)(1 – $\delta i\delta j$) has the value 1 when δi and δj are different, and 0 otherwise.

minimize subject to $\delta k = 1$ for $k \in F$ and $\delta k = 0$ for $k \in B$.

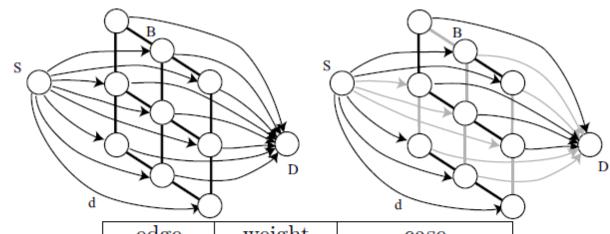


An energy function

$$E^{*}(\delta) = \sum_{i \in \mathcal{I}} d_{f}(p_{i}) \frac{1}{2} (1 + \delta_{i}) + d_{b}(p_{i}) \frac{1}{2} (1 - \delta_{i}) + \sum_{i \in \mathcal{I}} \sum_{j \in \mathcal{N}(i)} B(p_{i}, p_{j}) (\frac{1}{2}) (1 - \delta_{i} \delta_{j})$$



Graph derived from an image to set up foreground / background segmentation as a graph cut problem



edge	weight	case
(i,j)	$B(p_i, p_j)$	i, j, neighbors
	K	$p \in \mathcal{F}$
$(S \to i)$	0	$p \in \mathcal{B}$
	$d_f(i)$	otherwise
	K	$p \in \mathcal{B}$
$(i \to D)$	0	$p \in \mathcal{F}$
	$d_b(i)$	otherwise

$$K = 1 + \max_{p \in \mathcal{I}} \sum_{q : \{p,q\} \in \mathcal{N}} B(p,q).$$



Normalized Cuts

min-cut does not work well without good foreground and background models

cut does not balance difference between segments with coherence within segments

normalized cut

cut the graph into two connected components such that

Cost of the cut is a small fraction of the total affinity within each group



Normalized Cuts

a weight on each edge - affinity between the pixels

weight of an arc connecting similar nodes should be large

normalized cut must cut the graph into two connected components

such that cost of cut is a small fraction of the total affinity within each group

decomposing a weighted graph V into two components A and B



Different affinity functions comparing pixels for a graph based segmenter

Property	Affinity function	Notes
Distance	$\exp\left\{-\left((x-y)^t(x-y)/2\sigma_d^2\right)\right\}$	
Intensity	$\exp \left\{ -\left((I(x) - I(y))^t (I(x) - I(y)) / 2\sigma_I^2 \right) \right\}$	I(x) is the intensity
		of the pixel at x .
Color	$\exp\left\{-\left(\operatorname{dist}(\boldsymbol{c}(\boldsymbol{x}),\boldsymbol{c}(\boldsymbol{y}))^2/2\sigma_c^2\right)\right\}$	c(x) is the color
		of the pixel at x .
Texture	$\exp\left\{-\left((f(x)-f(y))^t(f(x)-f(y))/2\sigma_I^2\right)\right\}$	f(x) is a vector
		of filter outputs
		describing the
		pixel at x
		computed as
		in Section 6.1.



Normalized Cuts

$$\frac{cut(A,B)}{assoc(A,V)} + \frac{cut(A,B)}{assoc(B,V)}$$

(where cut(A,B) is the sum of weights of all edges in V that have one end in A and the other in B,

assoc(A, V) is the sum of weights of all edges that have one end in A).

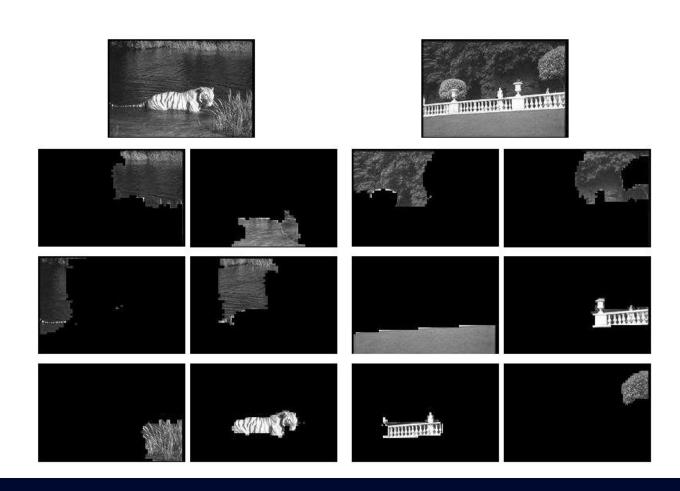
score is small if the cut separates two components

find the cut with the minimum value of this criterion, called a normalized cut.

NP-complete problem

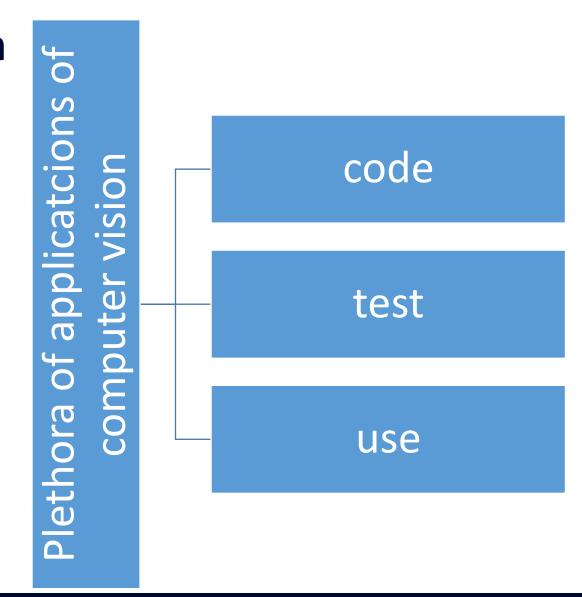


Images segmented using the normalized cuts framework





Conclusion







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