Rectangle Filters and AdaBoost

CSE 6367 – Computer Vision Vassilis Athitsos University of Texas at Arlington

A Generalized View of Classifiers

- We have studied two face detection methods:
 - Normalized correlation.
 - PCA.
- Each approach exhaustively evaluates all image suwbwindows.
- Each subwindow is evaluated in three steps:
 - First step: extract features.
 - Feature: a piece of information extracted from a pattern.
 - Compute a score based on the features.
 - Make a decision based on the score.

Features and Classifiers

- Our goal, in the next slides, is to get a better understanding of:
 - What is a feature?
 - What is a classifier?

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- What is a feature here?

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 - First step: extract features.
 - Feature: a piece of information extracted from a pattern.
 - Compute a score based on the features.
 - Make a decision based on the score.
- What is a feature here?
- Two possible answers:
 - Each pixel value is a feature.
 - The feature is the result of normalized correlation with the template.

- Each subwindow is evaluated in three steps:
 - First step: extract features.
 - Feature: a piece of information extracted from a pattern.
 - Compute a score based on the features.
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- What is the score of each subwindow?

- Each subwindow is evaluated in three steps:
 - First step: extract features.
 - Feature: a piece of information extracted from a pattern.
 - Compute a score based on the features.
 - Make a decision based on the score.
- What is the score of each subwindow?
 - The result of normalized correlation with the template.
 - Arguably, the score is the feature itself.

- Each subwindow is evaluated in three steps:
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 - Feature: a piece of information extracted from a pattern.
 - Compute a score based on the features.
 - Make a decision based on the score.
- How does the decision depend on the score?
 - In find_template, faces are the top N scores.
 - N is an argument to the find_template function.
 - An alternative, is to check if score > threshold.
 - Then we must choose a threshold instead of N.

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 - First step: extract features.
 - Feature: a piece of information extracted from a pattern.
 - Compute a score based on the features.
 - Make a decision based on the score.
- What is a feature here?
 - The result of the pca_projection function.
 - In other words, the K numbers that describe the projection of the subwindow on the space defined by the top K eigenfaces.

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 - First step: extract features.
 - Feature: a piece of information extracted from a pattern.
 - Compute a score based on the features.
 - Make a decision based on the score.
- What is the score of each subwindow?
 - The result of the pca_score function.
 - The sum of differences between:
 - the original subwindow W, and
 - pca_backprojection(pca_projection(W)).

- Each subwindow is evaluated in three steps:
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Defining a Classifier

- Choose features.
- Choose a scoring function.
- Choose a decision process.
 - The last part is usually straightforward.
 - We pick the top N scores, or we apply a threshold.
- Therefore, the two crucial components are:
 - Choosing features.
 - Choosing a scoring function.

What is a Feature?

- Any information extracted from an image.
- The number of possible features we can define is enormous.
- Any function F we can define that takes in an image as an argument and produces one or more numbers as output defines a feature.
 - Correlation with a template defines a feature.
 - Projecting to PCA space defines features.
 - More examples?

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- The number of possible features we can define is enormous.
- Any function F we can define that takes in an image as an argument and produces one or more numbers as output defines a feature.
 - Correlation with a template defines a feature.
 - Projecting to PCA space defines features.
 - Average intensity.
 - Std of values in window.

Boosted Rectangle Filters

- Boosting is a machine learning method.
- Rectangle filters provide us with an easy way to define features.
- Boosted rectangle filters is an extremely popular computer vision method that answers the basic two questions in classifier design:
 - What features do we use? Rectangle filters.
 - What scoring function do we use? The result of boosting.

Boosted Rectangle Filters

- Boosted rectangle filters is an extremely popular computer vision method that answers the basic two questions in classifier design:
 - What features do we use? Rectangle filters.
 - What scoring function do we use? The result of boosting.
- The popularity of this method is due to two factors:
 - Can be applied in lots of problems.
 - Works well in lots of problems.

What is a Rectangle Filter?

```
• [1 1 1 1 -1 -1 -1 -1

1 1 1 1 -1 -1 -1 -1

1 1 1 1 -1 -1 -1 -1

1 1 1 1 -1 -1 -1]
```

• Type 1:

- Two areas, horizontal.



white: value = 1 black: value = -1

To define:

- Specify rectangle size:
 - number of rows
 - number of cols.

• Type 1:

Two areas, horizontal.



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Have we ever used anything similar?

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Have we ever used anything similar?

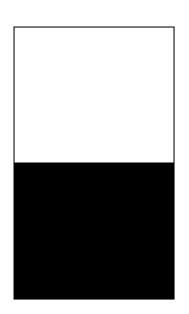
dx = [-1 0 -1] is a centered version of rectangle_filter1(1, 1).

• Type 2:

Two areas, vertical.

To define:

- Specify rectangle size:
 - number of rows
 - number of cols.

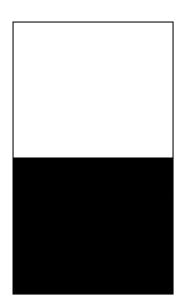


• Type 2:

Two areas, vertical.

To define:

- Specify rectangle size:
 - number of rows
 - number of cols.



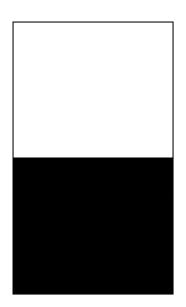
Have we ever used anything similar?

• Type 2:

Two areas, vertical.

To define:

- Specify rectangle size:
 - number of rows
 - number of cols.



Have we ever used anything similar?

Effect of Rectangle Size

Larger rectangles → ?

Effect of Rectangle Size

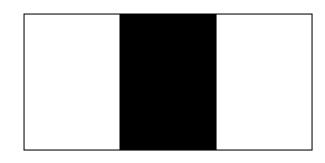
- Larger rectangles → emphasis on larger scale features.
- Smaller rectangles

 emphasis on smaller scale features.

Type 3:

Three areas, horizontal.

```
[1 1 -2 -2 1 1
1 1 -2 -2 1 1
1 1 -2 -2 1 1]
```



white: value = 1 black: value = -2

To define:

- Specify rectangle size:
 - number of rows
 - number of cols.

• Type 4:

- Three areas, vertical.

To define:

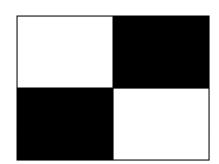
- Specify rectangle size:
 - number of rows
 - number of cols.



white: value = 1 black: value = -2

• Type 5:

Four areas, diagonal.



To define:

- Specify rectangle size:
 - number of rows
 - number of cols.

white: value = 1 black: value = -1

Advantages of Rectangle Filters

- Easy to define and implement.
- Lots of them.
 - Intuitively, for many patterns that we want to detect/recognize, we can find some rectangle filters that are useful.
- Fast to compute.
 - How?

Advantages of Rectangle Filters

- Easy to define and implement.
- Lots of them.
 - Intuitively, for many patterns that we want to detect/recognize, we can find some rectangle filters that are useful.
- Fast to compute.
 - How?
 - Using integral images (defined in the next slides).

Integral Image

- Input: grayscale image A.
 - A(i, j) is the intensity value at pixel (i, j).
- Integral image B:
 - -B(i, j) = sum(sum(A(1:i, 1:j))).
- F = rectangle_filter1(50, 40);
- How can I compute the response on subwindow A(101:150, 201:280)?

Integral Image

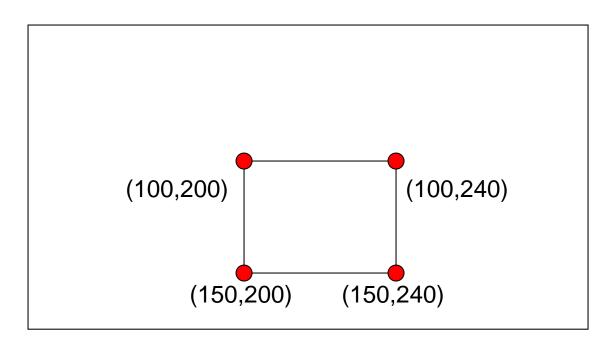
- Input: grayscale image A.
 - A(i, j) is the intensity value at pixel (i, j).
- Integral image B.
 - -B(i, j) = sum(sum(A(1:i, 1:j))).
- F = rectangle_filter1(50, 40);
- How can I compute the response on subwindow A(101:150, 201:280)?
 - First approach: sum(sum(A(101:150, 201:280) .* F))
 - How many operations does that take? O(50*80)

- Input: grayscale image A.
- Integral image: B(i, j) = sum(sum(A(1:i, 1:j))).
- F = rectangle_filter1(50, 40);
- How can I compute the response on subwindow A(101:150, 201:280)?
 - sum(sum(A(101:150, 201:240))) sum(sum(A(101:150, 241:280))).
 - where is F in the sum?

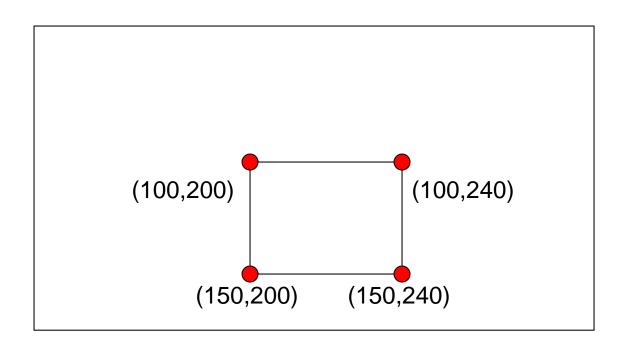
- Input: grayscale image A.
- Integral image: B(i, j) = sum(sum(A(1:i, 1:j))).
- F = rectangle_filter1(50, 40);
- How can I compute the response on subwindow A(101:150, 201:280)?
 - sum(sum(A(101:150, 201:240))) sum(sum(A(101:150, 241:280))).
 - where is F in the sum?
 - F is encoded in specifying the submatrices that we sum.

- Integral image: B(i, j) = sum(sum(A(1:i, 1:j))).
- Compute sum(sum(A(101:150, 201:240))) fast using integral image:

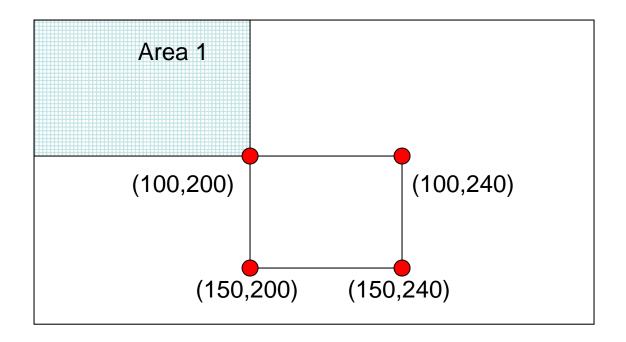
- Integral image: B(i, j) = sum(sum(A(1:i, 1:j))).
- Compute sum(sum(A(101:150, 201:240))) fast using integral image:
 - -B(150,240)+B(100,200)-B(150,200)-B(100,200)



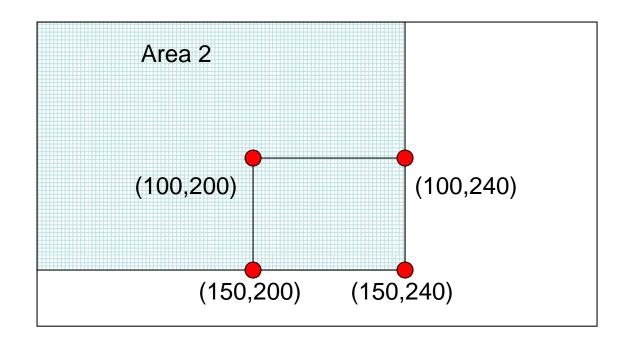
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 - -B(150,240)+B(100,200)-B(150,200)-B(100,200)



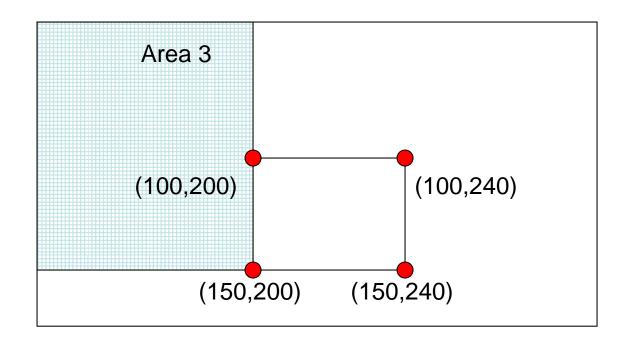
- Compute sum(sum(A(101:150, 201:240))) fast using integral image:
 - -B(150,240)+B(100,200)-B(150,200)-B(100,200)
 - sum(Area1)+sum(Area2)-sum(Area3)-sum(Area4)



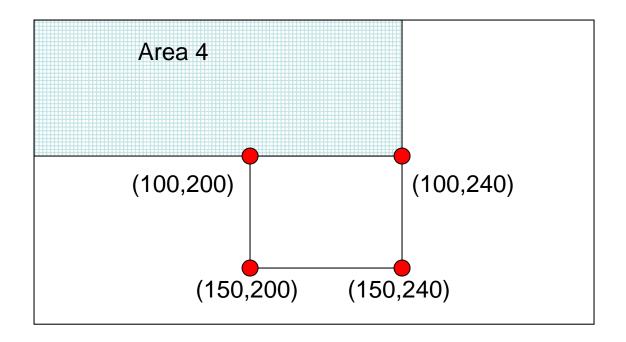
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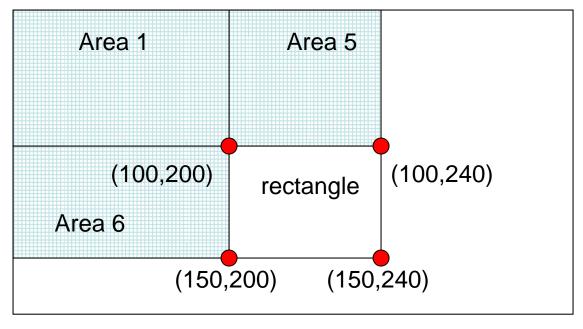
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- Area1: added twice, subtracted twice.
- Area5: added once, subtracted once.
- Area6: added once, subtracted once.
- Rectangle: added once.

Rectangle Filters for Face Detection

- Key questions in using rectangle filters for face detection:
 - Or for any other classification task.
- How do we use a rectangle filter to extract information?
- What rectangle filter-based information is the most important?
- How do we combine information from different rectangle filters?

From Rectangle Filter to Classifier

- We want to define a classifier, that "guesses" if a specific image window is a face or not.
 - Remember, all face detector operate window-bywindow.
- Convention:
 - Classifier output +1 means "face".
 - Classifier output -1 means "not a face".

- What is the input of a classifier?
- What is the output of a classifier?

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 - An image subwindow, or
 - Any type of pattern (audio, biological, ...).
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 - An entire image, or
 - An image subwindow, or
 - Any type of pattern (audio, biological, ...).
- What is the output of a classifier?
 - A class label.
 - We have a finite number of classes.

- Focusing on face detection:
- A classifier takes as input an image subwindow.
- A classifier outputs +1 (for "face") or -1 (for "non-face").
- What is a classifier?

- Focusing on face detection:
- A classifier takes as input an image subwindow.
- A classifier outputs +1 (for "face") or -1 (for "non-face").
- What is a classifier?
 - Any function that takes the specified input and produces the specified output.
- VERY IMPORTANT: "classifier" is not the same as "accurate classifier."

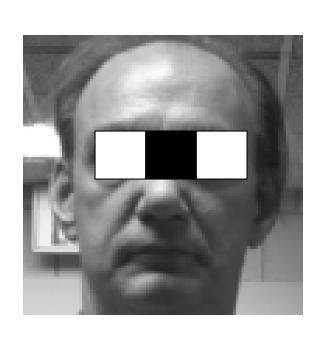
- How can we define a classifier using a single rectangle filter?
- Goal:
 - We want something very fast.
 - It does not have to always be very accurate.
 - We will try LOTS of such classifiers, we are happy as long as SOME of them are very accurate.

- How can we define a classifier using a single rectangle filter?
- Answer: choose response on a specific location.
- Classifier is specified by:
 - Type
 - Rectangle size
 - Window offset.
 - Threshold.

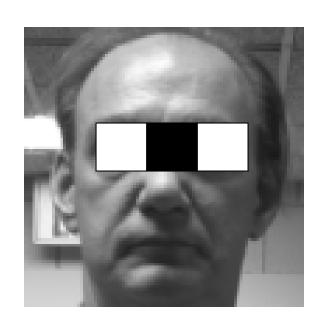
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- Classifier is specified by:
 - Type
 - Rectangle size
 - Window offset (row, col).
 - Threshold.
- How many classifiers do we get from a single rectangle filter?
 - upper bound:
 # pixels * # thresholds



Useful Functions

- generate_classifier1
- generate_classifier2
- generate_classifier3
- generate_classifier4
- generate_classifier
- eval_weak_classifier

How Many Classifiers?

- Upper bound:
 - -31x25 offsets.
 - -5 types
 - 31x25 rectangle sizes.
 - Lots of different possible thresholds.
- Too many to evaluate.
- We can sample.
 - Many classifiers are similar to each other.
 - Approach: pick some (a few thousands).
 - Function: generate_classifier

Terminology

- For the purposes of this lecture, we will introduce the term soft classifier.
- A soft classifier is defined by specifying:
 - A rectangle filter.
 - (i.e., type of filter and size of rectangle).
 - An offset.
- A weak classifier is defined by specifying:
 - A soft classifier.
 - (i.e., rectangle filter and offset).
 - A threshold.

Precomputing Responses

- Suppose we have a training set of faces and non-faces.
- Suppose we have picked 1000 soft classifiers.
- For each training example, we can precompute the 1000 responses, and save them.
- This way, we know for each soft classifier and each example what the response is.

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- For each training example, we can precompute the 1000 responses, and save them.
- This way, we know for each soft classifier and each example what the response is.
- How many classifiers does that correspond to? upper bound: 1000 * # thresholds.

How Useful is a Classifier?

- First version: how useful is a soft classifier by itself?
- Measure the error.
 - Involves finding an optimal threshold.
 - Also involves deciding if faces tend to be above or below the threshold.

```
function [error, best threshold, best alpha] = ...
      weighted error(responses, labels, weights, classifier)
classifier_responses = [responses(classifier,:)]';
minimum = min(classifier responses);
maximum = max(classifier responses);
step = (maximum - minimum) / 50;
best error = 2;
for threshold = minimum:step:maximum
     thresholded = double(classifier responses > threshold);
     thresholded(thresholded == 0) = -1;
     error1 = sum(weights .* (labels ~= thresholded));
     error = min(error1, 1 - error1);
     if (error < best error)</pre>
         best error = error;
         best threshold = threshold;
         best direction = 1;
         if (error1 > (1 - error1))
             best direction = -1;
         end
     end
end
best alpha = best direction * 0.5 * log( (1 - error) / error);
if (best error == 0)
    best alpha = 1;
end
```

```
function [index, error, threshold, alpha] = ...
    find best classifier(responses, labels, weights)
classifier number = size(responses, 1);
example number = size(responses, 2);
% find best classifier
best error = 2;
for classifier = 1:classifier number
    [error threshold alpha] = weighted error(responses, labels, ...
                                              weights, classifier);
    if (error < best error)</pre>
        best error = error;
        best threshold = threshold;
        best classifier = classifier;
        best alpha = alpha;
    end
end
index = best classifier;
error = best error;
threshold = best threshold;
alpha = best alpha;
```

How to Combine Many Classifiers

- 3% error is not great for a face detector.
- Why?

How to Combine Many Classifiers

- 3% error is not great for a face detector.
- Why?
 - Because the number of windows is huge:
 - #pixels * #scales, = hundreds of thousands or more.
 - We do not want 1000 or more false positives.
- We need to combine information from many classifiers.
 - How?

Boosting (AdaBoost)

- Weak classifier:
 - Better than a random guess.
 - What does that mean?

Boosting (AdaBoost)

- We have a binary problem.
 - Face or no face.
 - George or not George.
 - Mary or not Mary.
- Weak classifier:
 - Better than a random guess.
 - What does that mean?
 - For a binary problem, less than 0.5 error rate.
- Strong classifier:
 - A "good" classifier (definition intentionally fuzzy).

Boosted Strong Classifier

- Linear combination of weak classifiers.
- Given lots of classifiers:
 - Choose d of them.
 - Choose a weight alpha_d for each of them.
- Final result:
 - H(pattern) = alpha_1 * h1(pattern) + ...
 + alpha_d * hd(pattern).
- Goal: strong classifier H should be significantly more accurate than each weak classifier h1, h2, ...

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```

- How can we cast this as an optimization problem?
 - Identify free parameters:
 - alphas (including zero weights for classifiers that are not selected).
 - Thresholds for the soft classifiers that were selected.

```
- H(pattern) = alpha_1 * h1(pattern) + ...
+ alpha_d * h1(pattern).
```

- How can we cast this as an optimization problem?
 - Identify free parameters.
 - Define optimization criterion:

```
- H(pattern) = alpha_1 * h1(pattern) + ...
+ alpha_d * h1(pattern).
```

- How can we cast this as an optimization problem?
 - Identify free parameters.
 - Define optimization criterion:
 - F(parameters) = error rate attained on training set using those parameters.
 - We want to find optimal parameters for minimizing F.

- Optimization:
 - Can be global or local.
 - Lots of times when people say "optimal" they really mean "locally optimal".
- Given F(parameters) = error rate attained on training set using those parameters:
 - How can we do optimization?

- Optimization:
 - Can be global or local.
 - Lots of times when people say "optimal" they really mean "locally optimal".
- Given F(parameters) = error rate attained on training set using those parameters:
 - How can we do optimization?
 - Try many different combinations.
 - Gradient descent.
 - Greedy: choose weak classifiers one by one.
 - First, choose best weak classifier.
 - Then, at each iteration, choose next weak classifier and weight, to be the one giving the best results when combined with the previously picked classifiers and weights.

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 - Choose an alpha_1 for that classifier.
 - Lower error → higher weight.

```
alpha = direction * 0.5 * log((1 - error) / error);
```

- Interpreting alpha formula:
 - When error is 0:

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- Interpreting alpha formula:
 - When error is 0:
 - log(1/0) = log(inf) = inf.
 - depending on direction, alpha = +inf or -inf

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- Interpreting alpha formula:
 - When error is 0.5:
 - log(0.5/0.5) = log(1) = ?

- First task: choose alpha_1, h1.
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- Interpreting alpha formula:
 - When error is 0.5:
 - log(0.5/0.5) = log(1) = 0.
 - Capturing the fact that the weak classifier is useless.

- First task: choose alpha_1, h1.
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 - Choose an alpha_1 for that classifier.
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- Interpreting alpha formula:
 - When error is 0.9:

- First task: choose alpha_1, h1.
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alpha = direction * 0.5 * log((1 - error) / error);
```

- Interpreting alpha formula:
 - When error is 0.9:
 - log(0.1/0.9) = log(.111) = ?

- First task: choose alpha_1, h1.
 - Use function find_best_classifier.
 - Choose an alpha_1 for that classifier.
 - Lower error → higher weight.

```
alpha = direction * 0.5 * log((1 - error) / error);
```

- Interpreting alpha formula:
 - When error is 0.9:
 - log(0.1/0.9) = log(.1111) = -2.197
 - Capturing the fact that we should do the opposite of what the classifier says.

- So far we have chosen alpha_1 and h1.
- Next step: update training weights.
- Initially, training weights are uniform:
 - each weight is 1/(number of training examples).

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- Initially, training weights are uniform:
 - each weight is 1/(number of training examples).
- VERY IMPORTANT:
 - In boosting there are two different types of weights.
 - An alpha for each weak classifier that is chosen.
 - A weight for each training weight at each round.

- So far we have chosen alpha_1 and h1.
- Next step: update training weights.
- Initially, training weights are uniform:
 - each weight is 1/(number of training examples).
- After choosing h1, alpha_1, each training weight is updated:

```
weights(i) = weights(i) * exp(-alpha * h1(i) * labels(i));
```

- When sign(alpha) * h(i) == labels(i):
 - we multiply weight by a number < 1.

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 Effect: examples that got misclassified by alpha_1 * h1 become more important.

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```

- Important: weights are always normalized to sum up to 1.
 - weights = weights / sum(weights).

Choosing the Second Weak Classifier

Use function find_best_classifier.

```
find_best_classifier(responses, labels, weights)
```

- Choose an alpha_2 for that classifier.
 - Lower error → higher weight.

```
alpha = direction * 0.5 * log((1 - error) / error);
```

- This is exactly the same thing that we did for choosing the first weak classifier.
- Why would we get a different weak classifier?

Choosing the Second Weak Classifier

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- This is exactly the same thing that we did for choosing the first weak classifier.
- Why would we get a different weak classifier?
 - Because the training weights have changed.

A Training Round of AdaBoost

- Try all classifiers.
- See which one has lower error rate.
 - IMPORTANT: error rates are measured on weighted training set.
- Choose an alpha for that classifier.
 - Lower error → higher alpha.
- Update weights of training examples.

AdaBoost

 A simple for-loop, performing training rounds one at a time.

```
function result = AdaBoost(responses, labels, rounds)
result = zeros(rounds, 3);
classifier number = size(responses, 1);
example number = size(responses, 2);
weights = ones(example number, 1) / example number;
boosted responses = zeros(example number, 1);
for round = 1:rounds
    % find index, threshold, and alpha of best classifier
    [best classifier, best error, threshold, alpha] = ...
        find best classifier(responses, labels, weights);
    result(round, 1:3) = [best classifier, alpha, threshold];
    % get outputs of the weak classifier on training examples
   weak responses = double([responses(best classifier, :)]' > threshold);
   weak responses (weak responses == 0) = -1;
    % reweigh training objects;
    for i = 1:example_number
       weights(i) = weights(i) * exp(-alpha * weak responses(i) * labels(i));
    end
    weights = weights / sum(weights);
    % update boosted responses
    boosted responses = boosted responses + alpha * weak responses;
    thresholded = double(boosted responses > 0);
    thresholded(thresholded == 0) = -1;
    error = mean(thresholded ~= labels);
    disp([round error best_error best_classifier alpha threshold]);
end
```

Key Intuiton

- Objects that are misclassified by the first chosen weak classifiers become more important.
- The next weak classifiers try to correct the mistakes of the first weak classifiers.

A Note on AdaBoost formulas.

- The actual formulas for AdaBoost may seem ad hoc:
 - Formula for choosing classifier alpha.

```
alpha = direction * 0.5 * log((1 - error) / error);
```

Formula for updating training weights.

```
weights(i) = weights(i) * exp(-alpha * h1(i) * labels(i));
```

- These formulas can be justified mathematically.
 - That is beyond the scope of our class.

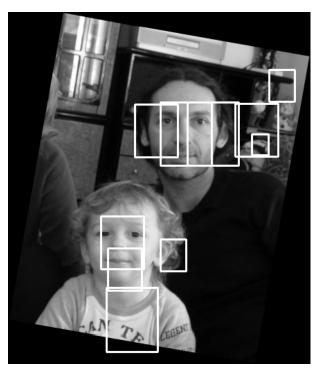
Applying Boosted Classifier

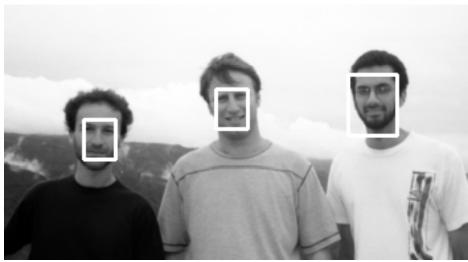
- Given an image:
- For every scale:
 - Compute integral image at that scale.
 - For every window:
 - For every weak classifier:
 - Compute response of window on that weak classifier.
 - Sum up the responses.
- For every pixel, get the best result among all windows (at all scales) centered at that pixel.
- See function boosted_detector_demo

Why Is it Useful

- We don't need to break our heads over:
 - What features to use.
 - How to combine them.

Results







How to Improve Accuracy

- More classifiers.
- More training data.
- Multiple training sessions.
 - After each session, find non-face windows that are detected as faces, and include to the training set.

How to Improve Efficiency

- Use a cascade of classifiers.
- First, try a strong classifier containing only few weak classifiers.
 - A lot of non-face windows can be rejected with a suitable threshold.
- What remains, is evaluated by a more complicated strong classifier.
- CLASS PROJECT