

Assignment 2

22 February 2020

Seam Carving (5 points)

The goal of this assignment is to implement from *scratch* the **Seam Carving** method.

Resources:

- Paper on seam carving [Seam Carving](#) paper.
- Tutorial [Brown university](#)
- Tutorial 2 [Andrew blog](#)

1. Compute the magnitude of image gradients.

We will not only compute the gradients but also the energy function in each pixel of the image.

```
def energy_function(image):  
    """Computes energy of the input image.  
  
    Args:  
        image: numpy array of shape (H, W, 3)  
  
    Returns:  
        out: numpy array of shape (H, W)  
    """  
    H, W, _ = image.shape  
    out = np.zeros((H, W))  
  
    # convert the image to grayscale  
    image = color.rgb2gray(image)  
  
    #computing the gradient  
    Gx, Gy = np.gradient(image)  
  
    #taking the L1 norme  
    out = np.abs(Gx) + np.abs(Gy)  
  
    return out
```

2. Find the path with the smallest energy

- **Compute the cost on each point:** Once we computed the energy, We will compute the cost for each pixel. The procedure starts from the first line and uses *dynamic programming* to compute the minimal cost from the parents. the code is in the function `compute_costs(I, energy)` in the `seamcarving.py` file. The function also returns a `Path` which indicate the parent for each pixel in order to compute the seam.

In the [Figure 3](#), we show the vertical and horizontal seams. The figure clearly show that costs are higher near the tower.

- **Finding Optimal Seams:** Using the cost we computed in previous item, We could compute the seam with the lowest energy in the Image. Then, we could remove seam by seam until we attain the desired **width** or **height**
 - First, the function `backtrack_seam(paths, end)` where `end` is the pixel with the lowest cost. Either in the last row or



Figure 1: Initial Image



Figure 2: Energy

column depending the reducing mode. The function simply track the parents to find the seam.

- Second, we apply the function `remove_seam(Img, seam)` to remove the seam from the Image.
- This function `remove_seam` is repeated until get get the desired Size.

In the **Figure 5**, we show the resized Image after seam remove in both directions.

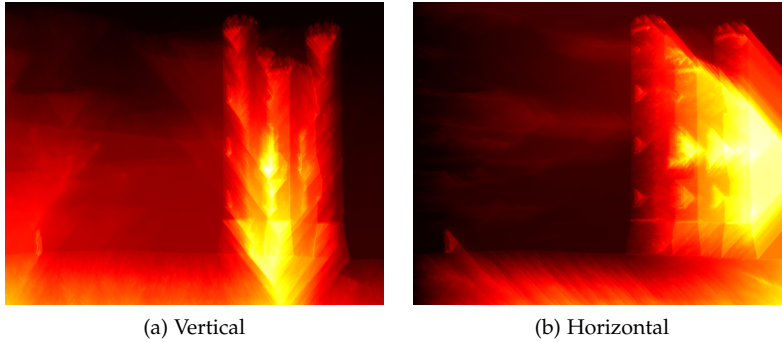


Figure 3: Vertical and Horizontal cost functions

Here is the figure showing the backtracked seam. The seam is traced with the red color.



Figure 4: Vertical Minimal Seam



Figure 5: Reduced Image