



Digital Image Processing

# **Morphological Image Processing**

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**Lecture 04**

# Morphological Processing

- **Morphology**
  - Morpho-: shape/form/structure
  - -ology: study
- **Morphological image processing**
  - Post-processing
  - Binary images → gray-level image



# Morphological Processing

- For some applications
  - Structures of objects composed by lines or arcs
  - Care about the pattern connectivity
  - Independent of width



Hand-written characters



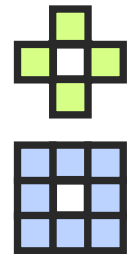
Fingerprint patterns

# Morphological Processing

- **Binary image connectivity**

- **Pixel bond**

- Specify the connectivity of a pixel with its neighbors
- Four-connected neighbor  $\rightarrow$  bond = 2
- Eight-connected neighbor  $\rightarrow$  bond = 1



- **Minimally connected**

- Elimination of any black (object) pixel (except boundary pixels) results in disconnection of the remaining black (object) pixels

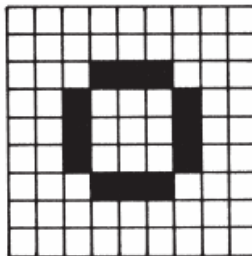
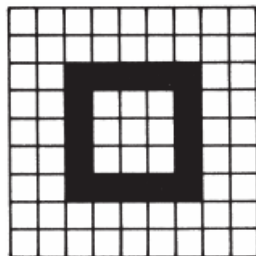
# Morphological Processing

## Binary image connectivity

### Example

<pre> 0 0 0 0 1 1 0 1 0 </pre>	<pre> 0 0 0 0 1 1 0 0 1 </pre>	<pre> 0 0 0 0 1 0 0 0 0 </pre>	<pre> 0 0 0 0 1 1 0 1 1 </pre>	<pre> 0 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 </pre>
Four-connected	Eight-connected	Isolated	Corner	Interior
$B = 4$	$B = 3$	$B = 0$	$B = 5$	$B = 11$
<pre> 0 0 0 0 1 0 0 0 1 </pre>	<pre> 1 0 0 1 1 1 1 0 1 </pre>	<pre> 1 1 1 0 1 0 1 1 1 </pre>	<pre> 0 1 1 0 1 1 0 1 1 </pre>	
Spur	Bridge	$H$ -connected	Exterior	
$B = 1$	$B = 7$	$B = 8$	$B = 8$	

### Another example



Four-connectivity  
v.s.  
Eight-connectivity

# Morphological Processing

- Binary hit or miss transformations
  - Select a  $n \times n$  hit pattern (odd-sized mask)
  - Compare with a  $n \times n$  image window
    - Match  $\rightarrow$  hit  $\rightarrow$  change the central pixel value
    - Otherwise  $\rightarrow$  miss  $\rightarrow$  do nothing

- Example

- To clean the isolated binary noise

0 0 0

0 1 0

0 0 0

Hit or miss?

# Morphological Processing

## ■ Binary hit or miss transformations

- $0 \rightarrow$  background
- $1 \rightarrow$  object (black)

### ○ Logical expression

$$\begin{bmatrix} X_3 & X_2 & X_1 \\ X_4 & X & X_0 \\ X_5 & X_6 & X_7 \end{bmatrix}$$

$$G(j, k) = X \cap (X_0 \cup X_1 \cup \dots \cup X_7)$$

### ■ Example

0 0 0  
0 1 0  
0 0 0

Hit or miss?

○ If  $G(j, k) = X \cap 1 \rightarrow$  do nothing

○ If  $G(j, k) = X \cap 0$

■ If  $X = 0 \Rightarrow G(j, k) = 0 \rightarrow$  do nothing

■ If  $X = 1 \rightarrow$  hit  $\rightarrow G(j, k) = 0$

# Morphological Processing

## Binary hit or miss transformations

$$G(j, k) = X \cap (X_0 \cup X_1 \cup \dots \cup X_7)$$

$\Rightarrow 2^9$  possible mask patterns

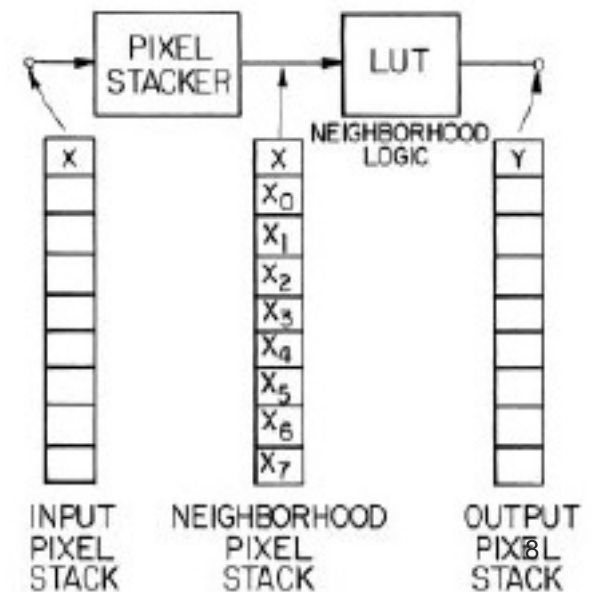
## Implementation

### Pixel stack

- Treat the 8 neighboring pixels as a “byte”

$$\begin{bmatrix} X_3 & X_2 & X_1 \\ X_4 & X & X_0 \\ X_5 & X_6 & X_7 \end{bmatrix} \otimes \begin{bmatrix} 2^{-4} & 2^{-3} & 2^{-2} \\ 2^{-5} & 2^0 & 2^{-1} \\ 2^{-6} & 2^{-7} & 2^{-8} \end{bmatrix}$$

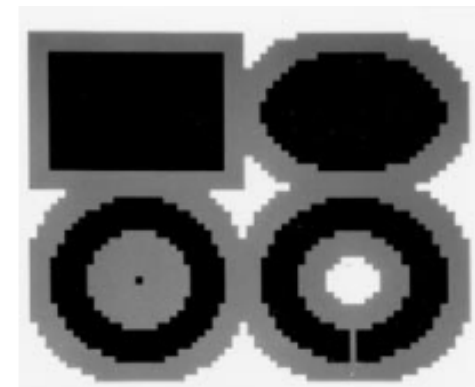
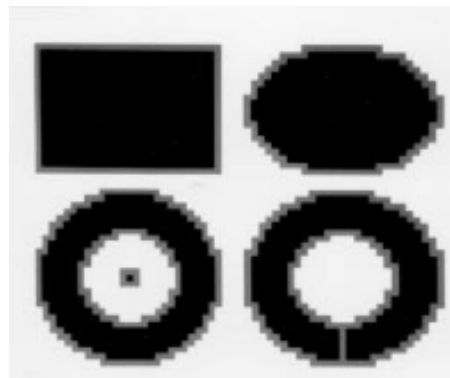
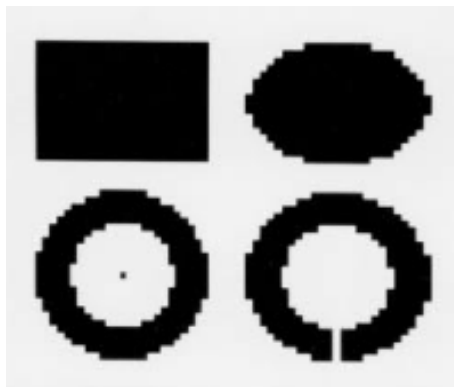
### Look-Up-Table (LUT)





# Morphological Processing

- Simple morphological processing based on binary hit or miss rules
  - Additive operators ( $0 \rightarrow 1$ )
    - Interior fill
    - Diagonal fill
    - Bridge
    - 8-neighbor dilate



# Morphological Processing

## ○ Interior fill

- Create a black pixel if all four-connected neighbor pixels are black

	1	
1	0	1
	1	



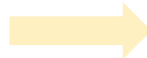
	1	
1	1	1
	1	

0 → background  
1 → object (black)

## ○ Diagonal fill

- Create a black pixel if creation eliminates the eight-connectivity of the background

	1	0
	0	1



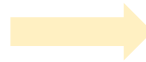
	1	0
	1	1

# Morphological Processing

## ○ Bridge

- Create a black pixel if creation results in connectivity of previously unconnected neighboring black pixels

1	0	0
0	0	1
0	0	0



1	0	0
0	1	1
0	0	0

0 → background  
1 → object (black)

## ○ 8-neighbor dilate

- Create a black pixel if at least one eight-connected neighbor pixel is black

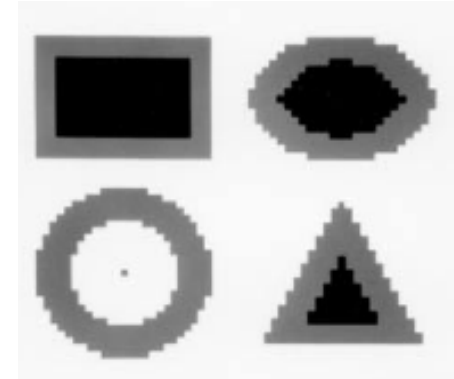
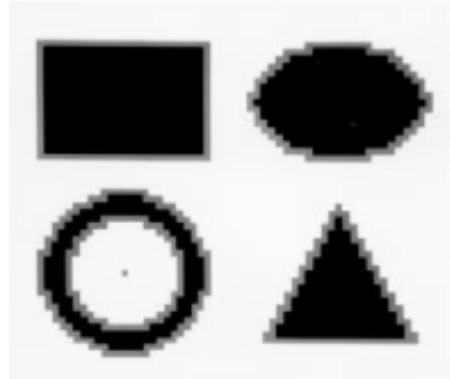
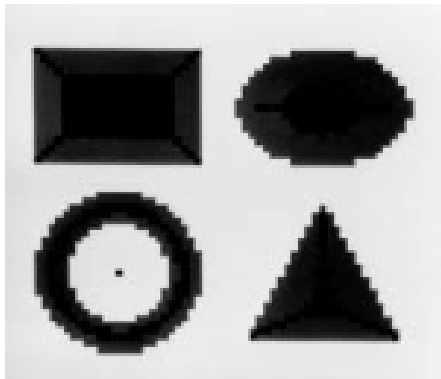
0	0	0
0	0	0
1	0	0



0	0	0
0	1	0
1	0	0

# Morphological Processing

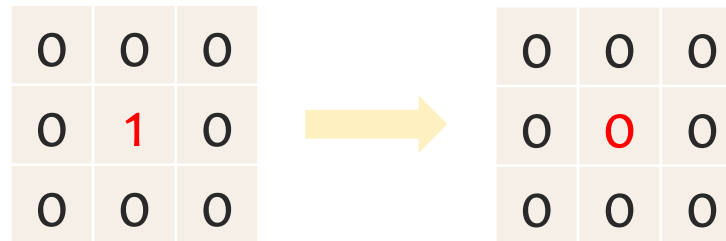
- Simple morphological processing based on binary hit or miss rules
  - Subtractive operators ( $1 \rightarrow 0$ )
    - Isolated pixel removal
    - Spur removal
    - Interior pixel removal
    - H-break / Eight-neighbor erode



# Morphological Processing

## ○ Isolated pixel removal

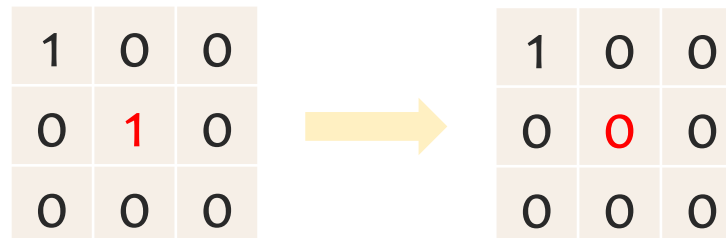
- Erase a black pixel with eight white neighbors



0 → background  
1 → object (black)

## ○ Spur removal

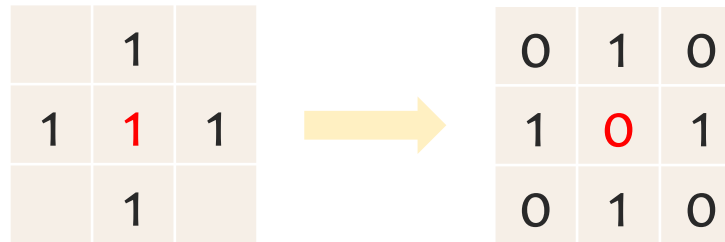
- Erase a black pixel with a single eight-connected neighbor



# Morphological Processing

## ○ Interior pixel removal

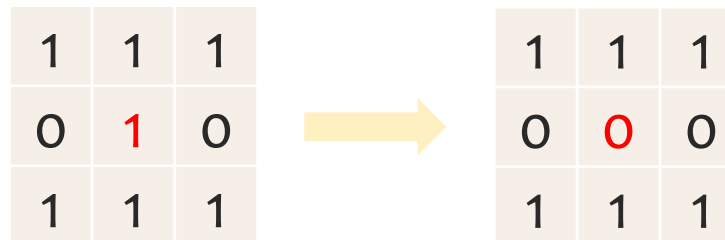
- Erase a black pixel if all four-connected neighbors are black



0 → background  
1 → object (black)

## ○ H-break

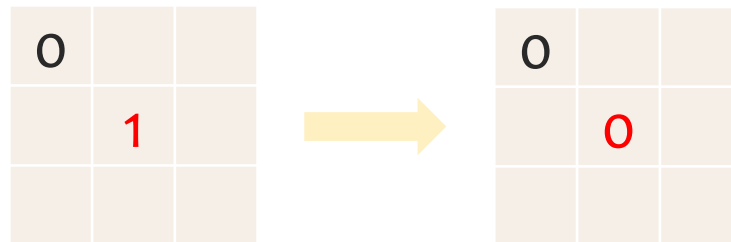
- Erase a black pixel that is H-connected



# Morphological Processing

## ○ Eight-neighbor erode

- Erase a black pixel if at least one eight-connected neighbor pixel is white

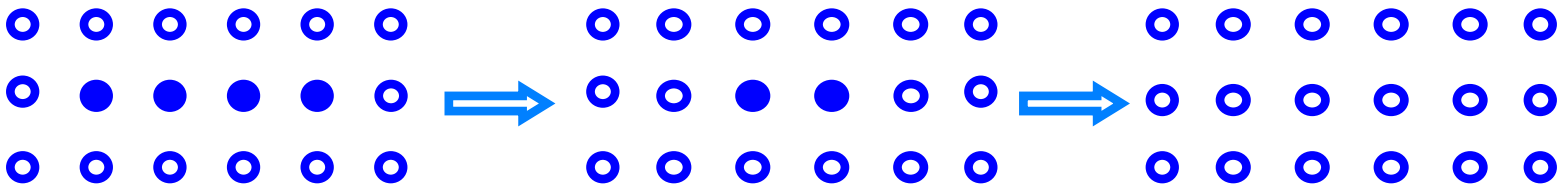
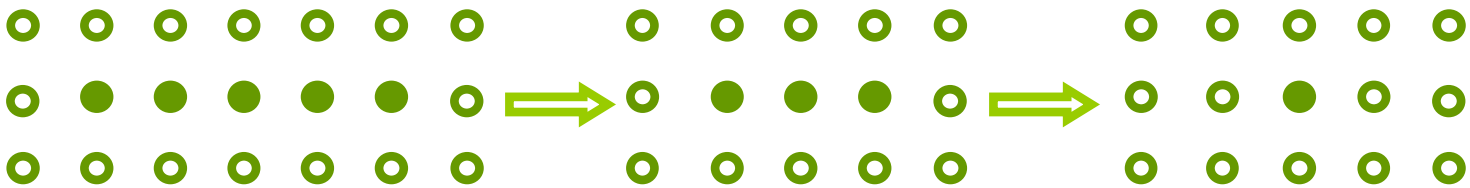


0 → background  
1 → object (black)

# Morphological Processing

## ■ Example

### ○ Subtractive operator



- doesn't prevent total erasure and ensure connectivity
- In this case, only a 3x3 window does not sufficient to tell whether the final stage of iteration is reached or not



# Morphological Processing

## ■ Solutions

### ○ Approach I

#### ■ Apply a filter with larger size

- “fairly complicated patterns”, “many combinations”

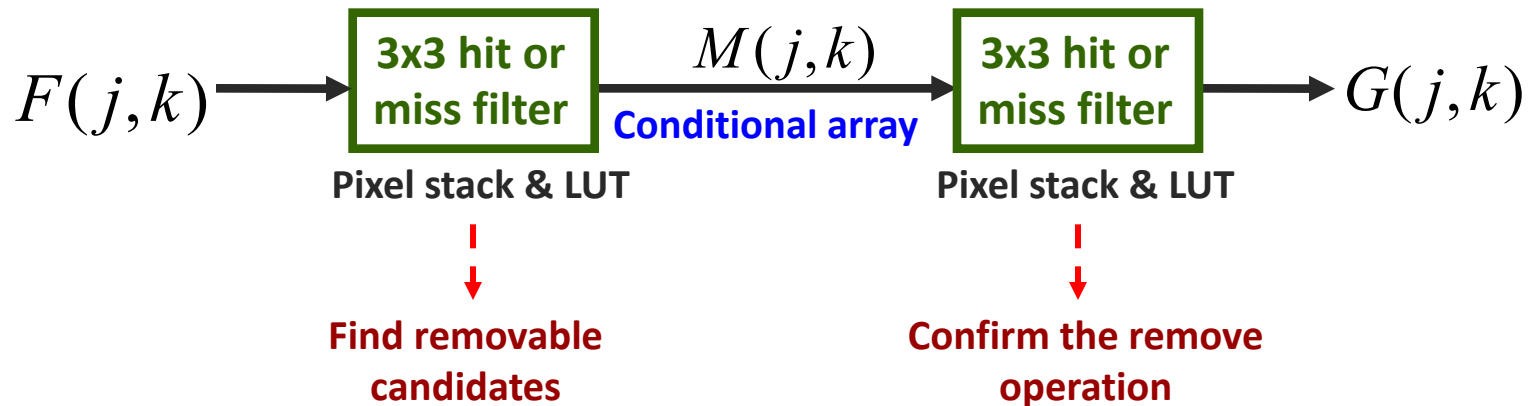
### ○ Approach II

#### ■ Consider a structural (composite) design with 3x3 filters: two-stage approach

- Application dependent
- **Thinning, shrinking, skeletonizing**
- Share the same structure but vary in some modular details

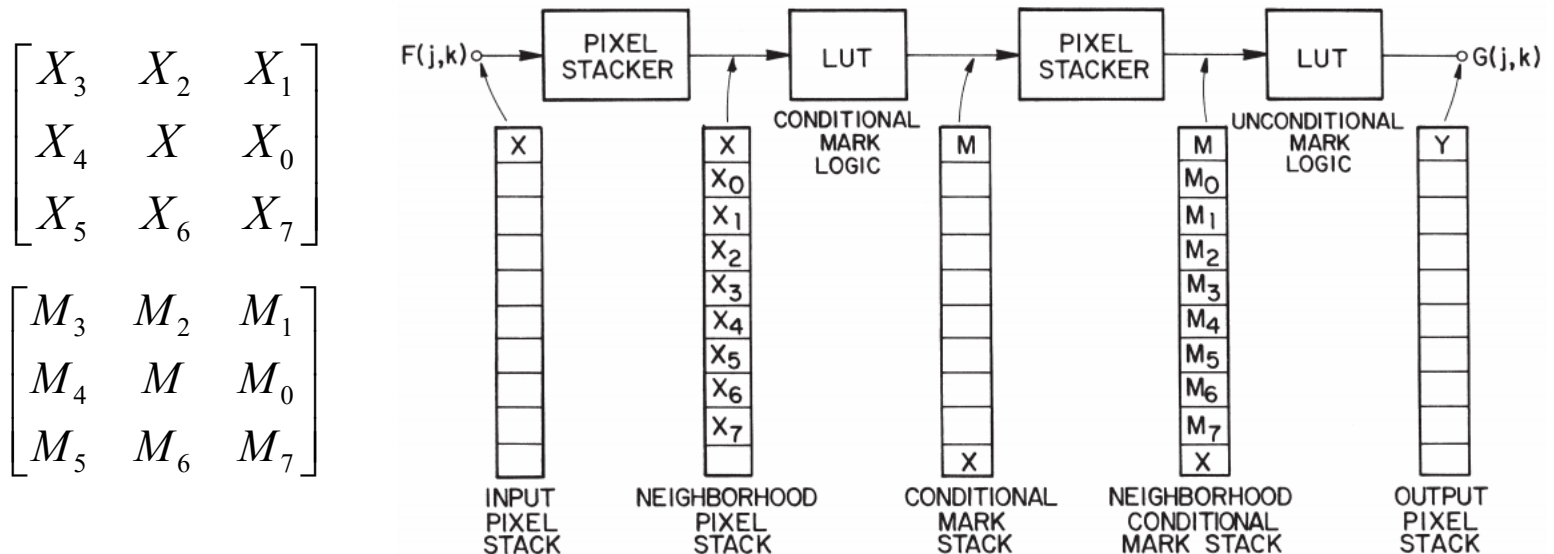
# Morphological Processing

- Advanced morphological processing
  - Shrinking/Thinning/Skeletonizing
    - Conditional erosion
    - Prevent total erasure & Ensure connectivity



# Morphological Processing

- Advanced morphological processing
  - Shrinking/Thinning/Skeletonizing
    - Conditional erosion
    - Prevent total erasure & Ensure connectivity



# Morphological Processing

## ■ Shrinking/Thinning/Skeletonizing

### ○ Stage I

- Generate a binary image  $M(j,k)$  called the **conditional array** (or mask)
  - If  $M(j,k)=1$ , it means  $(j,k)$  is a candidate for erasure
  - If  $M(j,k)=0$ , it means no further operation is needed on  $(j,k)$

### ○ Stage II

- Based on the center pixel,  $X$ , and  $M(j,k)$  pattern, we decide whether to erase  $X$  or not in the output  $G(j,k)$ 
  - If there's a hit  $\rightarrow$  do nothing
  - If there's a miss  $\rightarrow$  erase the center pixel

# Morphological Processing

## ■ Stage I → Part of Table 14.3-1

TABLE 14.3-1. Shrink, Thin and Skeletonize Conditional Mark Patterns [ $M = 1$  if hit]

Table	Bond	Pattern			
<i>S</i>	1	0 0 1	1 0 0	0 0 0	0 0 0
		0 1 0	0 1 0	0 1 0	0 1 0
		0 0 0	0 0 0	1 0 0	0 0 1
<i>S</i>	2	0 0 0	0 1 0	0 0 0	0 0 0
		0 1 1	0 1 0	1 1 0	0 1 0
		0 0 0	0 0 0	0 0 0	0 1 0
<i>S</i>	3	0 0 1	0 1 1	1 1 0	1 0 0
		0 1 1	0 1 0	0 1 0	1 1 0
		0 0 0	0 0 0	0 0 0	0 0 0
<i>TK</i>	4	0 1 0	0 1 0	0 0 0	0 0 0
		0 1 1	1 1 0	1 1 0	0 1 1
		0 0 0	0 0 0	0 1 0	0 1 0
<i>STK</i>	4	0 0 1	1 1 1	1 0 0	0 0 0
		0 1 1	0 1 0	1 1 0	0 1 0
		0 0 1	0 0 0	1 0 0	1 1 1

**Table:** Shrink (S), Thin (T), Skeletonize (K)

**Bond:** classification, narrow down the search space

**Pattern:** coded as an 8-bit symbol for a filter

$$\begin{bmatrix} X_3 & X_2 & X_1 \\ X_4 & X & X_0 \\ X_5 & X_6 & X_7 \end{bmatrix} \otimes \begin{bmatrix} 2^{-4} & 2^{-3} & 2^{-2} \\ 2^{-5} & 2^0 & 2^{-1} \\ 2^{-6} & 2^{-7} & 2^{-8} \end{bmatrix}$$

# Morphological Processing

## ■ Stage II → Part of Table 14.3-2

TABLE 14.3-2. Shrink and Thin Unconditional Mark Patterns

$[P(M, M_0, M_1, M_2, M_3, M_4, M_5, M_6, M_7) = 1 \text{ if hit}]^a$

Pattern									
Spur		Single 4-connection							
0 0 M	M 0 0	0 0 0	0 0 0	0 0 0	0 0 0	0 0 0	0 0 0	0 0 0	0 0 0
0 M 0	0 M 0	0 M 0	0 M 0	0 M 0	0 M 0	0 M 0	0 M 0	0 M 0	0 M 0
0 0 0	0 0 0	0 0 0	0 0 0	0 0 0	0 0 0	0 0 0	0 0 0	0 0 0	0 0 0
L Cluster									
0 0 M	0 M M	M M 0	M 0 0	0 0 0	0 0 0	0 0 0	0 0 0	0 0 0	0 0 0
0 M M	0 M 0	0 M 0	M M 0	M M 0	0 M 0	0 M 0	0 M 0	0 M M	0 M M
0 0 0	0 0 0	0 0 0	0 0 0	M 0 0	M M 0	0 M M	0 0 M	0 0 M	0 0 M
4-Connected offset									
0 M M	M M 0	0 M 0	0 0 M	0 0 M	0 0 M	0 0 M	0 0 M	0 0 M	0 0 M
M M 0	0 M M	0 M M	0 M M	0 M M	0 M M	0 M M	0 M M	0 M M	0 M M
0 0 0	0 0 0	0 0 M	0 M 0	0 M 0	0 M 0	0 M 0	0 M 0	0 M 0	0 M 0

$$G(j, k) = X \cap [\overline{M} \cup P(M, M_1, \dots, M_7)]$$

where  $P(M, M_1, \dots, M_7)$  is an erasure inhibiting logical variable

$$\begin{bmatrix} M_3 & M_2 & M_1 \\ M_4 & M & M_0 \\ M_5 & M_6 & M_7 \end{bmatrix} \otimes \begin{bmatrix} 2^{-4} & 2^{-3} & 2^{-2} \\ 2^{-5} & 2^0 & 2^{-1} \\ 2^{-6} & 2^{-7} & 2^{-8} \end{bmatrix}$$

# Morphological Processing

## ■ Stage II → Part of Table 14.3-2 (cont'd)

Spur corner cluster

0 A M	M B 0	0 0 M	M 0 0
0 M B	A M 0	A M 0	0 M B
M 0 0	0 0 M	M B 0	0 A M

Corner cluster

*MMD*

*MMD*

*DDD*

Tee branch

<i>DM0</i>	<i>0 MD</i>	<i>0 0 D</i>	<i>D 0 0</i>	<i>DMD</i>	<i>0 M0</i>	<i>0 M0</i>	<i>DMD</i>
<i>MMM</i>	<i>MMM</i>	<i>MMM</i>	<i>MMM</i>	<i>MM0</i>	<i>MM0</i>	<i>0 MM</i>	<i>0 MM</i>
<i>D 0 0</i>	<i>0 0 D</i>	<i>0 MD</i>	<i>DM0</i>	<i>0 M0</i>	<i>DMD</i>	<i>DMD</i>	<i>0 M0</i>

$$A \cup B \cup C = 1, \quad D = 0 \cup 1, \quad A \cup B = 1$$

# Morphological Processing

## ■ Stage II → Part of Table 14.3-3

TABLE 14.3-3. Skeletonize Unconditional Mark Patterns

$[P(M, M_0, M_1, M_2, M_3, M_4, M_5, M_6, M_7) = 1 \text{ if hit}]^a$        $A \cup B \cup C = 1, \quad D = 0 \cup 1$

Pattern											
Spur											
0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	$M$	$M$	0	0
0	$M$	0	0	$M$	0	0	$M$	0	0	$M$	0
0	0	$M$	$M$	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Single 4-connection											
0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	$M$	0
0	$M$	0	0	$M$	$M$	$M$	$M$	0	0	$M$	0
0	$M$	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
L corner											
0	$M$	0	0	$M$	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
0	$M$	$M$	$M$	$M$	0	0	$M$	$M$	$M$	$M$	0
0	0	0	0	0	0	0	$M$	0	0	$M$	0



# Morphological Processing

## ■ Example - shrinking

0	0	0	0	0	0
0	0	1	1	0	0
0	0	0	0	0	0

$F(j,k)$

0	0	0	0	0	0
0	0	M	M	0	0
0	0	0	0	0	0

$M(j,k)$

0	0	0	0	0	0
0	0	P	0	0	0
0	0	0	0	0	0

$P(j,k)$

0	0	0	0	0	0
0	0	1	0	0	0
0	0	0	0	0	0

$G(j,k)$

# Morphological Processing

## ■ Example - shrinking

0	0	0	0
0	1	1	0
0	1	1	0
0	0	0	0

$F(j,k)$

$M(j,k)$

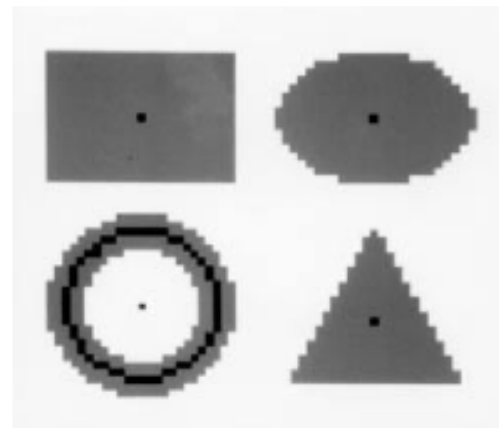
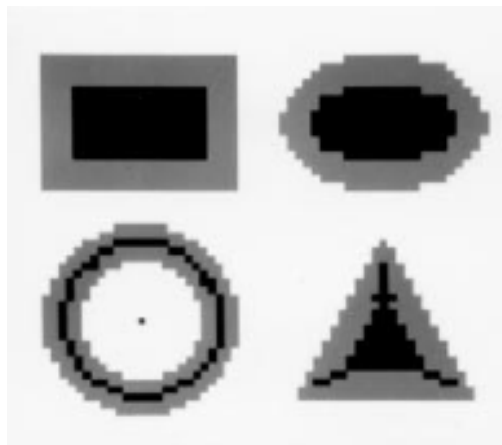
$P(j,k)$

$G(j,k)$

# Morphological Processing

## ■ Shrinking

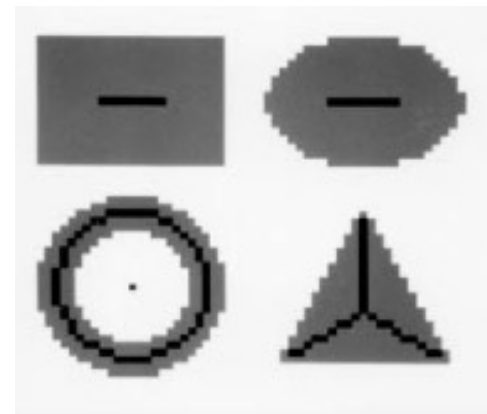
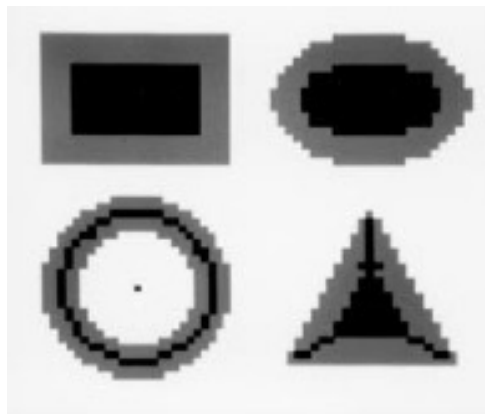
- Erase black pixels such that an object without holes erodes to **a single pixel** at or near its center of mass, and an object with holes erodes to a connected ring lying midway between each hole and its nearest outer boundary



# Morphological Processing

## ■ Thinning

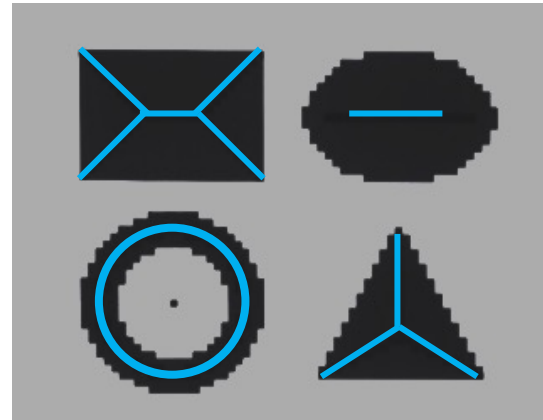
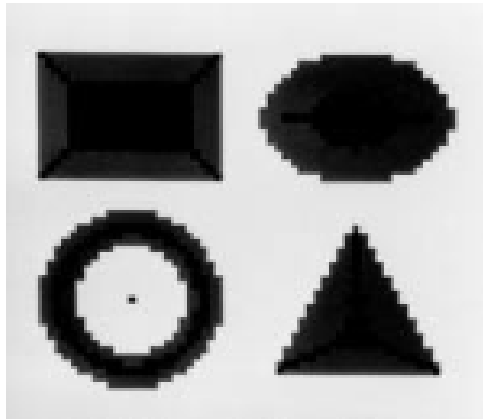
- Erase black pixels such that an object without holes erodes to a **minimally connected stroke** located **equidistant from its nearest outer boundaries**, and an object with holes erodes to a minimally connected ring midway between each hole and its nearest outer boundary



# Morphological Processing

## ■ Skeletonizing

- The medial axis skeleton consists of the set of points that are **equally distant** from **two closest** points of an object boundary



# Morphological Processing

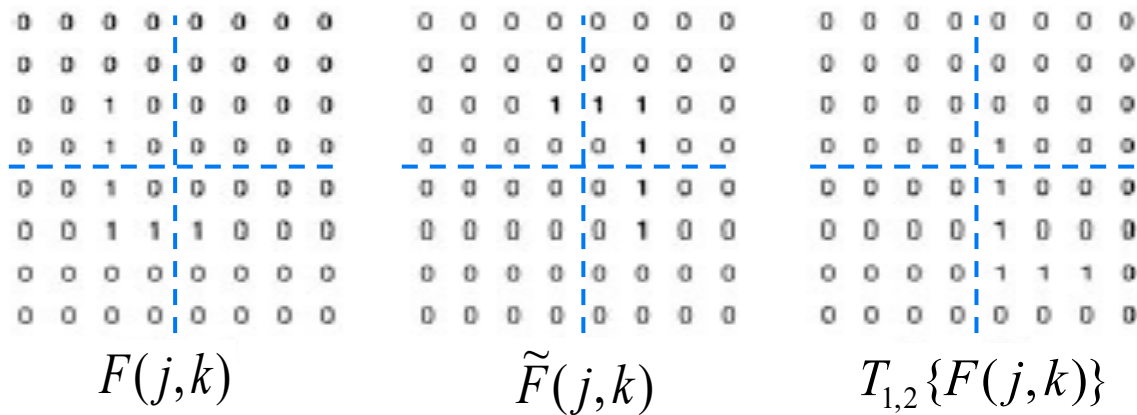
## Algebraic operations on binary arrays

0 0 0 0 0 0	0 0 0 0 0 0	1 1 1 1 1 1
0 0 1 1 0 0	0 0 0 0 0 0	1 1 0 0 1 1
0 0 1 1 0 0	0 1 1 1 1 0	1 1 0 0 1 1
0 0 1 1 0 0	0 1 1 1 1 0	1 1 0 0 1 1
0 0 1 1 0 0	0 0 0 0 0 0	1 1 0 0 1 1
0 0 0 0 0 0	0 0 0 0 0 0	1 1 1 1 1 1
<i>A</i>	<i>B</i>	$\bar{A}$
		complement
0 0 0 0 0 0	0 0 0 0 0 0	0 0 0 0 0 0
0 0 1 1 0 0	0 0 0 0 0 0	0 0 1 1 0 0
0 1 1 1 1 0	0 0 1 1 0 0	0 1 0 0 1 0
0 1 1 1 1 0	0 0 1 1 0 0	0 1 0 0 1 0
0 0 1 1 0 0	0 0 0 0 0 0	0 0 1 1 0 0
0 0 0 0 0 0	0 0 0 0 0 0	0 0 0 0 0 0
$A \cup B$	$A \cap B$	$A \oplus B$
union	intersection	exclusive-OR
OR	AND	XOR

# Morphological Processing

## ■ Generalized dilation and erosion

### ○ Reflection and translation of a binary image



### ○ Dilation

$$G(j,k) = F(j,k) \oplus \underbrace{H(j,k)}_{\text{Structuring element}}$$

### ○ Erosion

$$G(j,k) = F(j,k) \ominus H(j,k)$$

# Morphological Processing

## ■ Dilation $G(j,k) = F(j,k) \oplus H(j,k)$

- Can be implemented in several ways
- Minkowski addition definition

0	0	0	0	0
0	0	1	0	0
0	1	1	0	0
0	0	1	1	0
0	0	0	0	0
$F(j,k)$				
1	1	0		
1	1	0		
1	0	0		
$H(j,k)$				

$$G(j,k) = \bigcup_{(r,c) \in H} T_{r,c} \{F(j,k)\}$$

$$G(j,k) = T_{0,0} \{F(j,k)\} \cup T_{0,1} \{F(j,k)\} \cup T_{1,0} \{F(j,k)\} \\ \cup T_{1,1} \{F(j,k)\} \cup T_{2,0} \{F(j,k)\}$$

0	0	0	0	0	•	0	0	0	0	0	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0								
0	0	1	0	0	•	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	•	0	0	0	0	0	•	•	•	•	•	0	0	1	1	0	0	0	0		
0	1	1	0	0	•	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	•	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	1	0	0	0	0	
0	0	1	1	0	•	0	0	1	1	0	0	1	1	0	0	•	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	1	1	1	1	0	0	0	
0	0	0	0	0	•	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	0	•	0	0	1	1	0	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	1	1	1	1	0	0	0	
											0	0	0	0	0	•	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	0	0	0	0
											0	0	0	0	0	•	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
$T_{0,0} \{F(j,k)\}$					$T_{0,1} \{F(j,k)\}$					$T_{1,0} \{F(j,k)\}$					$T_{1,1} \{F(j,k)\}$					$T_{2,0} \{F(j,k)\}$					$G(j,k)$											



# Morphological Processing

## ■ Erosion $G(j,k) = F(j,k) \ominus H(j,k)$

- Can be implemented in several ways
- Dual relationship of Minkowski addition

$$G(j,k) = \bigcap_{(r,c) \in H} T_{r,c} \{F(j,k)\}$$

//Sternberg definition//

$$G(j,k) = \bigcap \bigcap_{(r,c) \in H} T_{r,c} \{F(j,k)\}$$

1	1	1	1	1					
1	1	1	1	1		1	1	1	0 0 0
1	1	0	0	0	$\ominus$	1	0	0	$=$ 1 1 0
1	1	1	1	1		1	1	1	0 0 0
1	1	1	1	1					
$F(j,k)$						$H(j,k)$			$G(j,k)$

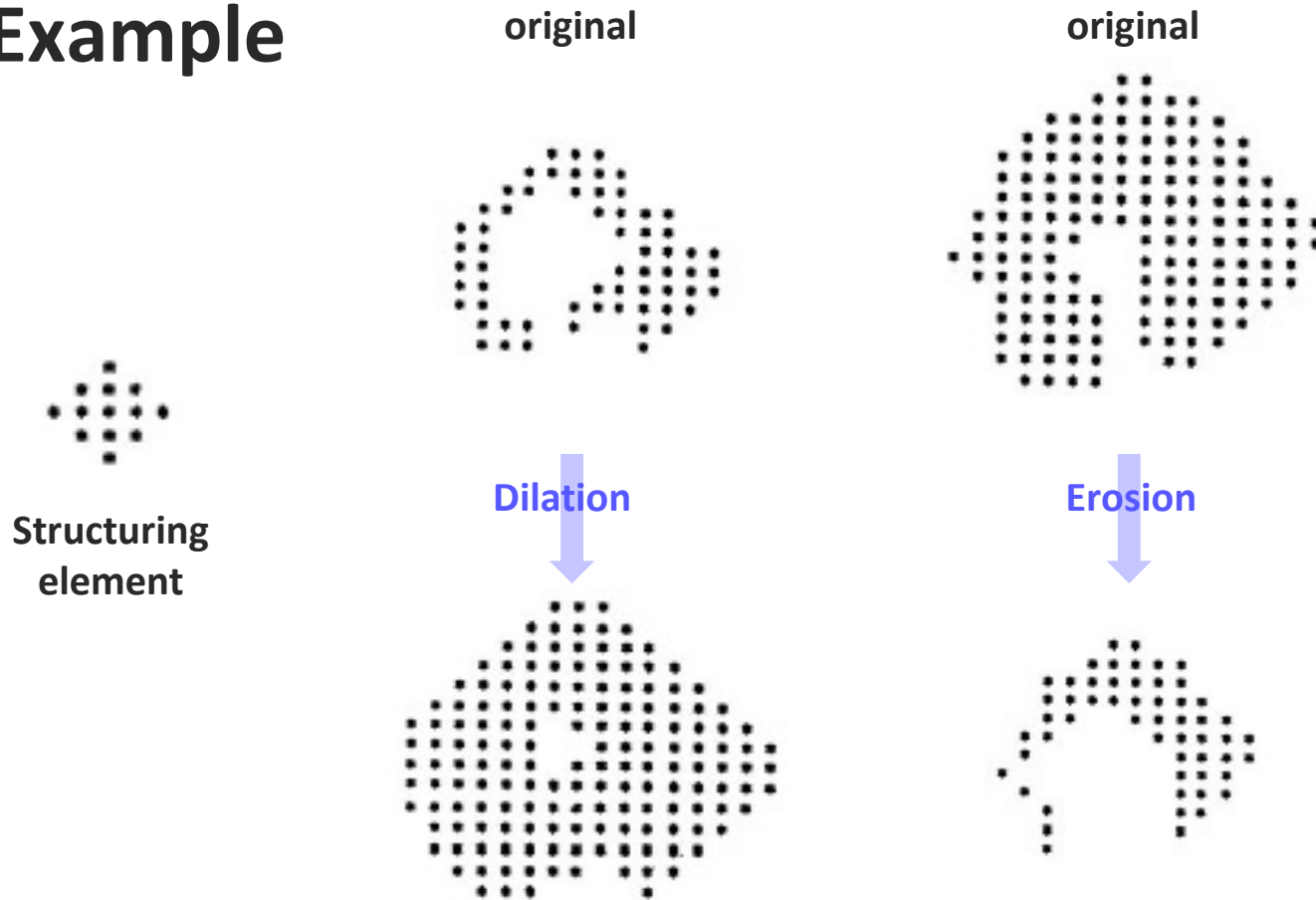
//Serra definition//

$$G(j,k) = \bigcap \bigcap_{(r,c) \in \tilde{H}} T_{r,c} \{F(j,k)\}$$

1	1	1	1	1					
1	1	1	1	1		1	1	1	0 0 0
1	1	0	0	0	$\ominus$	1	0	0	$=$ 0 0 0
1	1	1	1	1		1	1	1	0 0 0
1	1	1	1	1					
$F(j,k)$						$H(j,k)$			$G(j,k)$

# Morphological Processing

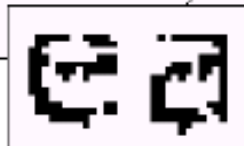
## ■ Example



# Morphological Processing

## ■ Example

Historically, certain computer programs were written using only two digits rather than four to define the applicable year. Accordingly, the company's software may recognize a date using "00" as 1900 rather than the year 2000.



Structuring  
element

0	1	0
1	1	1
0	1	0

Historically, certain computer programs were written using only two digits rather than four to define the applicable year. Accordingly, the company's software may recognize a date using "00" as 1900 rather than the year 2000.



# Morphological Processing

## ■ Example

Original fingerprint



Skeletonized fingerprint



The original fingerprint contains ridges with width of several pixels.  
The skeletonized fingerprint contains ridges only a single pixel wide.

# Morphological Processing

## ■ Applications

### ○ Boundary Extraction

- Extract the boundary (or outline) of an object

### ○ Hole Filling

- Given a pixel inside a boundary, hole filling attempts to fill that boundary with object pixels

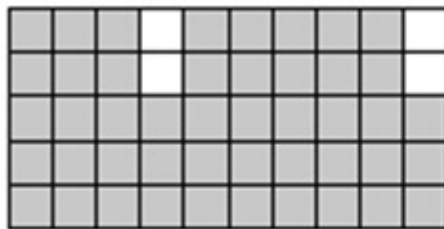
### ○ Connected Component Labeling

- Scan an image and groups its pixels into components based on pixel connectivity

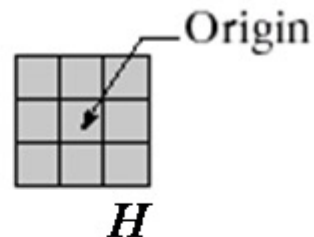
# Morphological Processing

## ■ Boundary Extraction

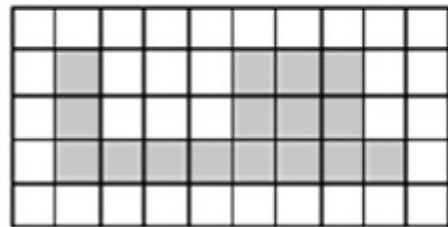
$$\beta(F(j,k)) = F(j,k) - (F(j,k) \ominus H(j,k))$$



$F$



$H$



$F \ominus H$



$\beta(F)$

# Morphological Processing

## ■ Example



Original Image



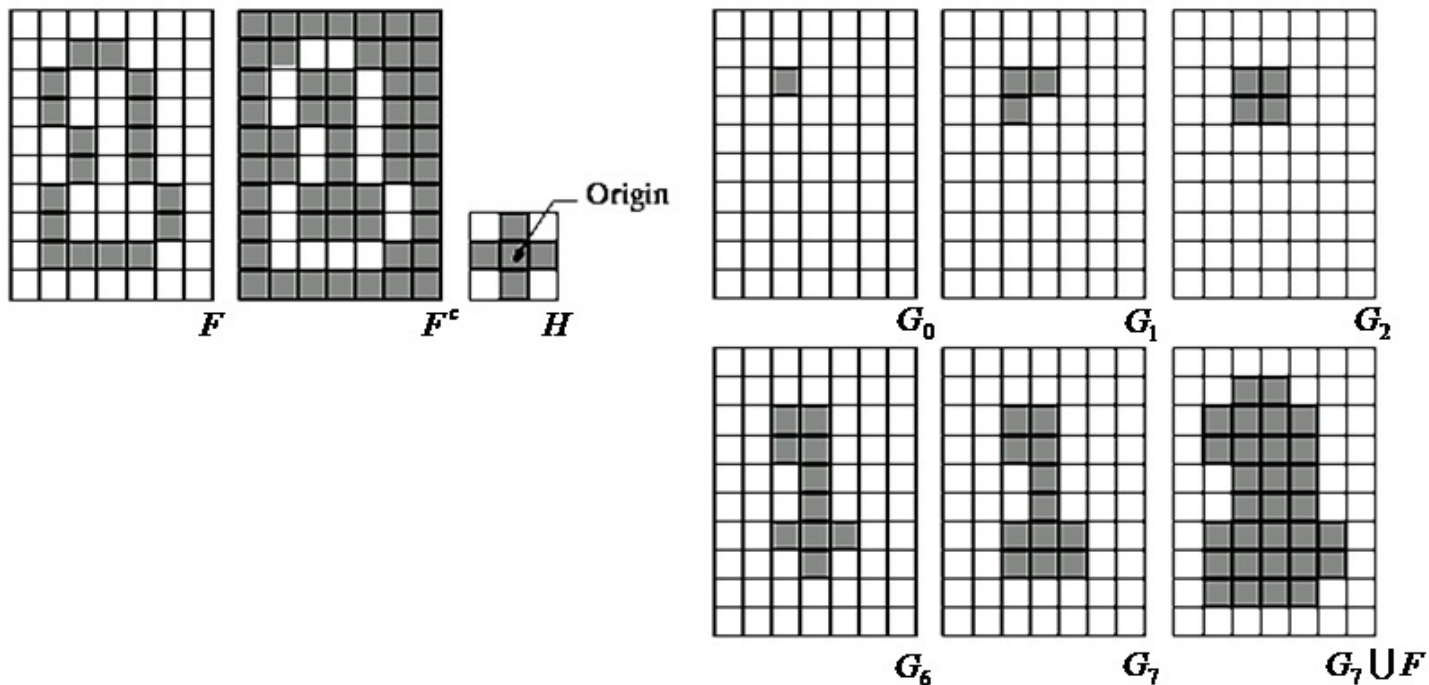
Extracted Boundary

# Morphological Processing

## ■ Hole Filling

$$G_i(j, k) = (G_{i-1}(j, k) \oplus H(j, k)) \cap F^c(j, k) \quad i = 1, 2, 3, \dots$$

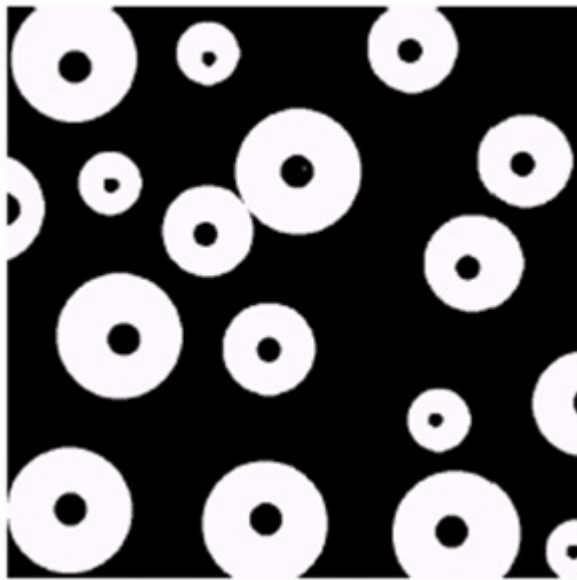
$$G(j, k) = G_i(j, k) \cup F(j, k)$$



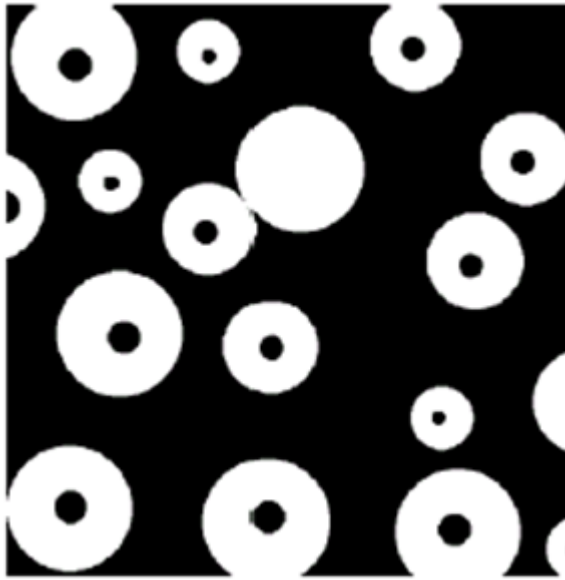


# Morphological Processing

## ■ Example



Original Image



One Hole Filled

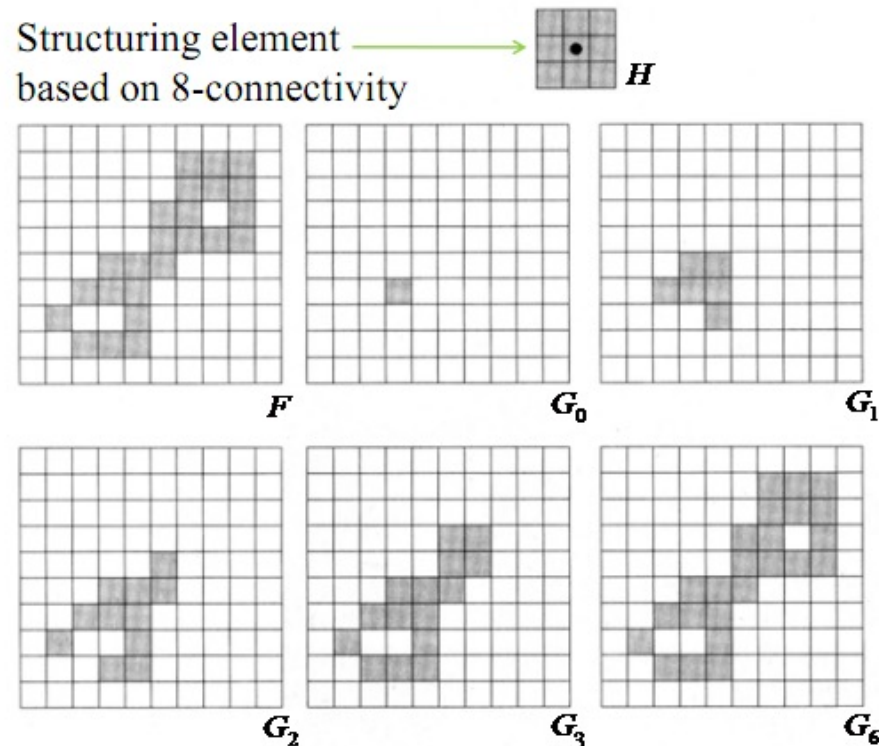


All Holes Filled

# Morphological Processing

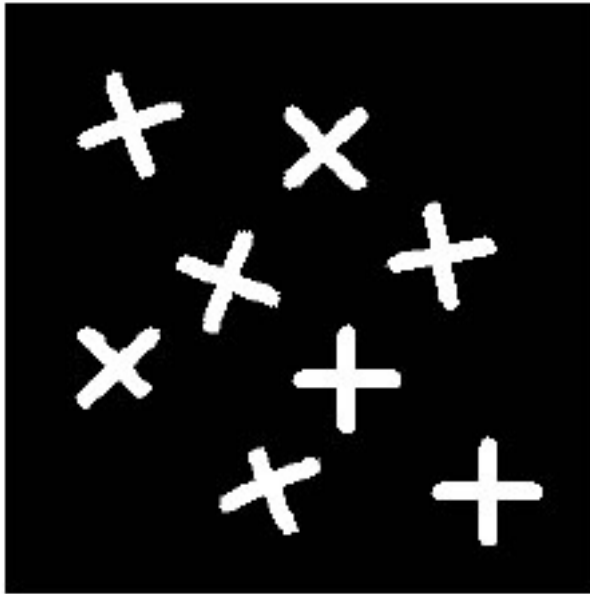
## ■ Connected Component Labeling

$$G_i(j,k) = (G_{i-1}(j,k) \oplus H(j,k)) \cap F(j,k) \quad i = 1, 2, 3, \dots$$

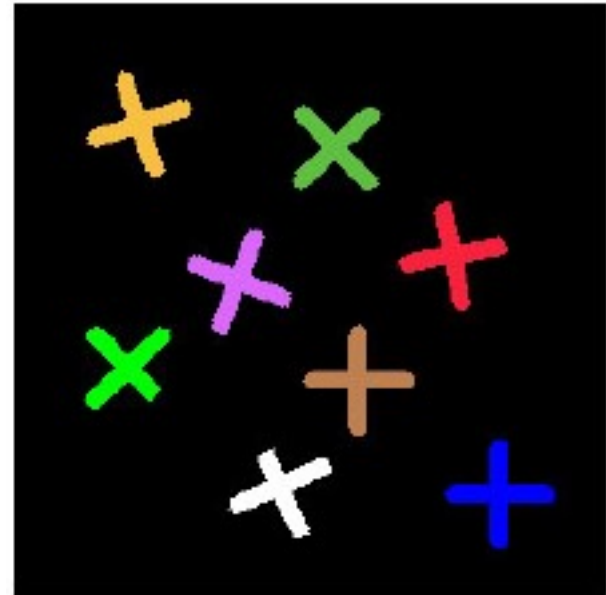


# Morphological Processing

## ■ Example



Original Image



Labelled Components

# Morphological Processing

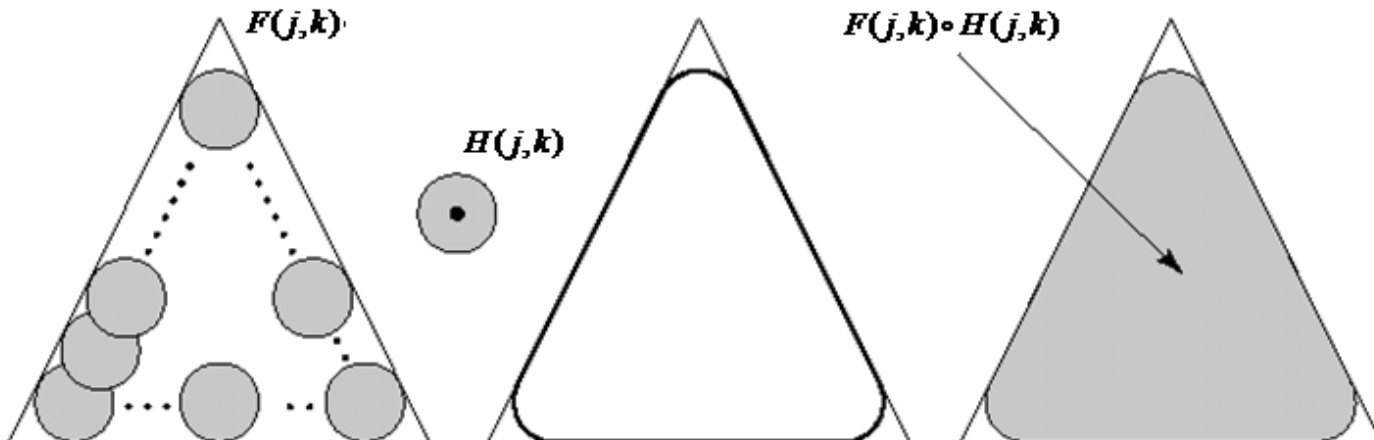
## ■ Applications

### ○ Open operator

$$G(j,k) = F(j,k) \circ H(j,k) = [F(j,k) \ominus \tilde{H}(j,k)] \oplus H(j,k)$$

#### ■ With a compact structuring element

- Smooths contours of objects
- Eliminates small objects
- Breaks narrow strokes



# Morphological Processing

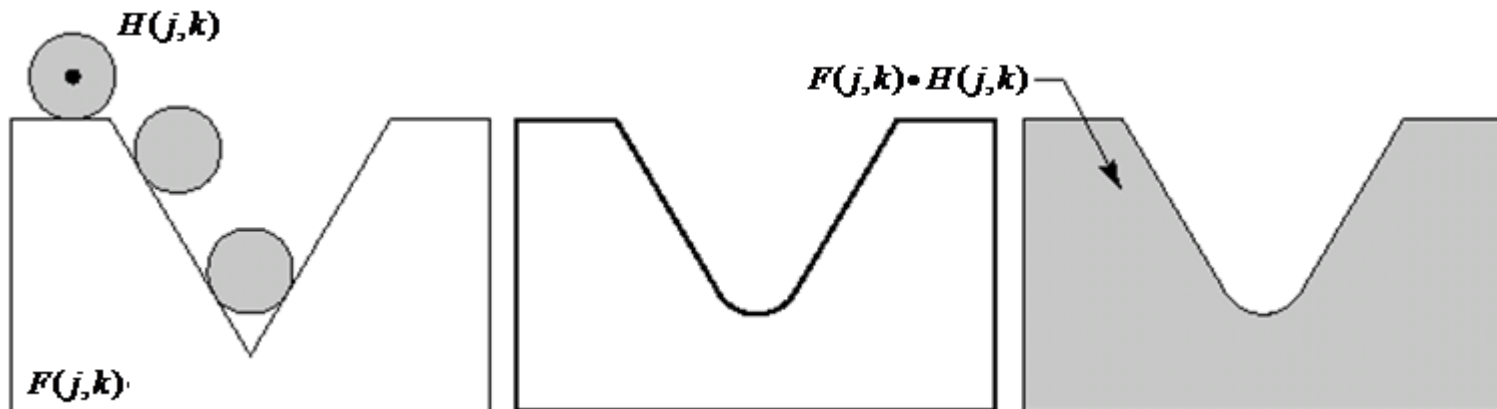
## ■ Applications

### ○ Close operator

$$G(j,k) = F(j,k) \bullet H(j,k) = [F(j,k) \oplus H(j,k)] \ominus \tilde{H}(j,k)$$

#### ■ With a compact structuring element

- Smooths contours of objects
- Eliminate small holes
- Fuses short gaps between objects



# Morphological Processing

## ■ Example



original



(a) close



(b) open

Q: repeated openings/closings?



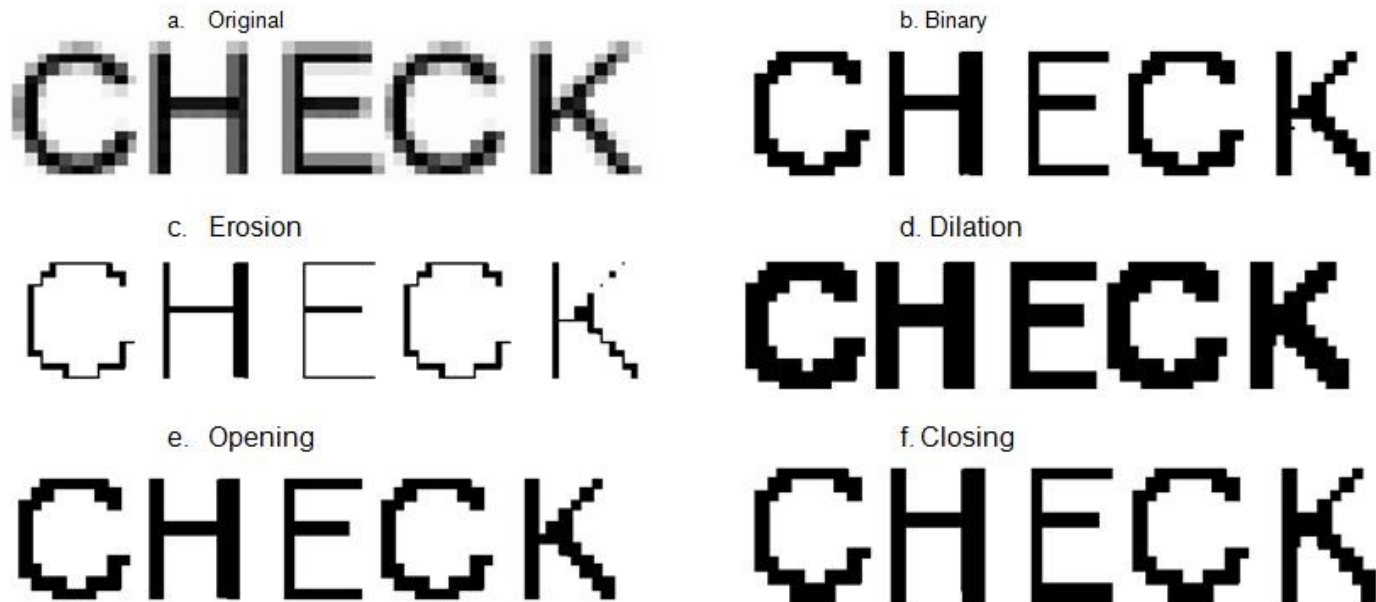
Compare (a) with the original image



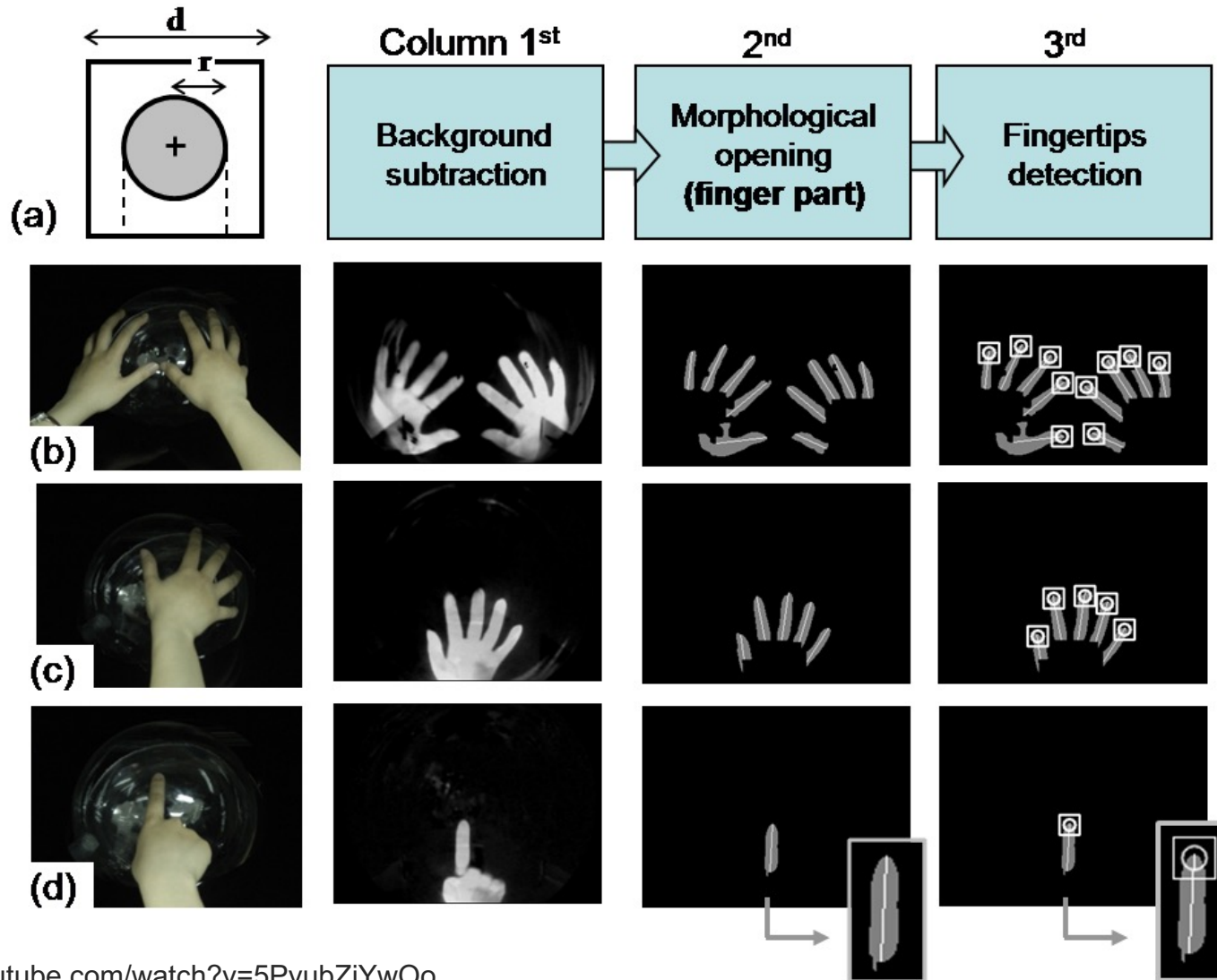
Compare (b) with the original image

# Morphological Processing

## ■ Example



# MCBall





# [ Some videos ]

## ■ Morphing

- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-rnVUzA8yMY>

## ■ SIGGRAPH

- **2013** <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=JAFhkdGtHck>
- **2015** <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=XrYkEhs2FdA>
- **2017** <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5YvIHREdVX4>
- **2018** <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=t952yS8tcg8>
- **2019** <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=EhDr3Rs5fTU>
- **2020** [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jYdMKdRUq\\_8](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jYdMKdRUq_8)
- **2021** <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Ros7ZXqLbFg>