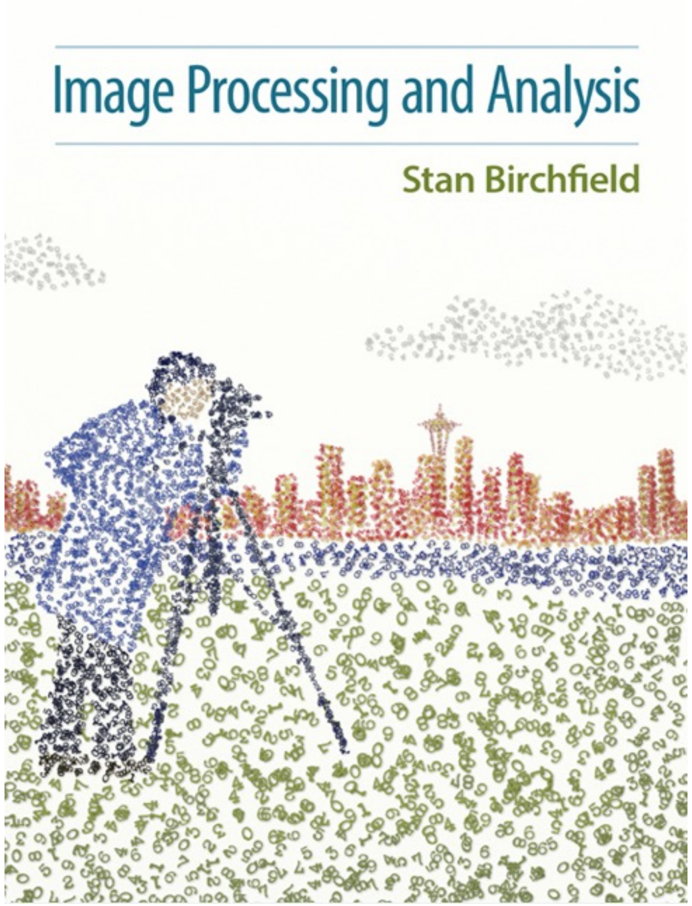
Prof. Kjersti Engan

ELE510 Image processing and computer vision

Binary Image Processing

University of Stavanger



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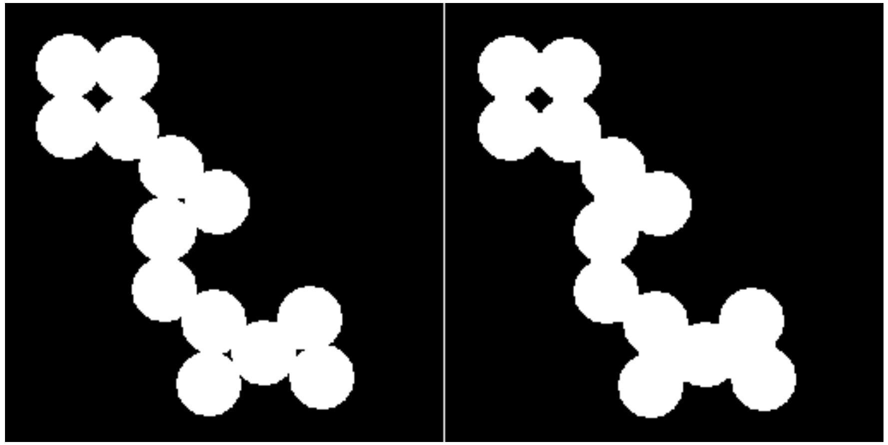
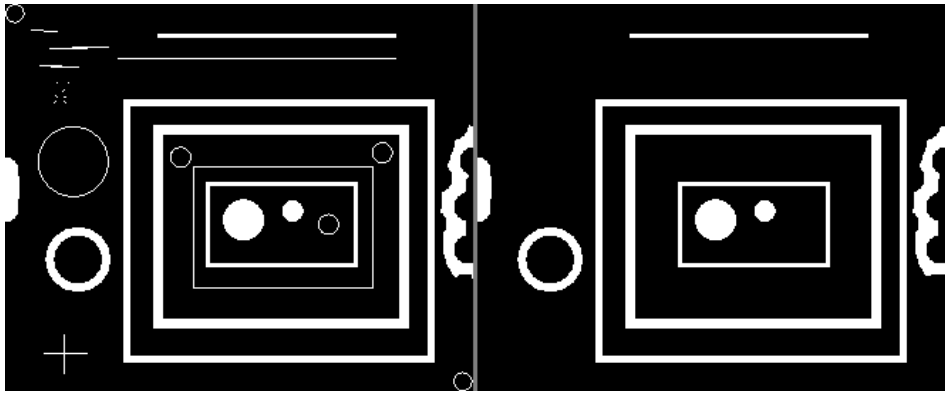
Binary image processing – morphological operations (3.1)

Three points from the topic:

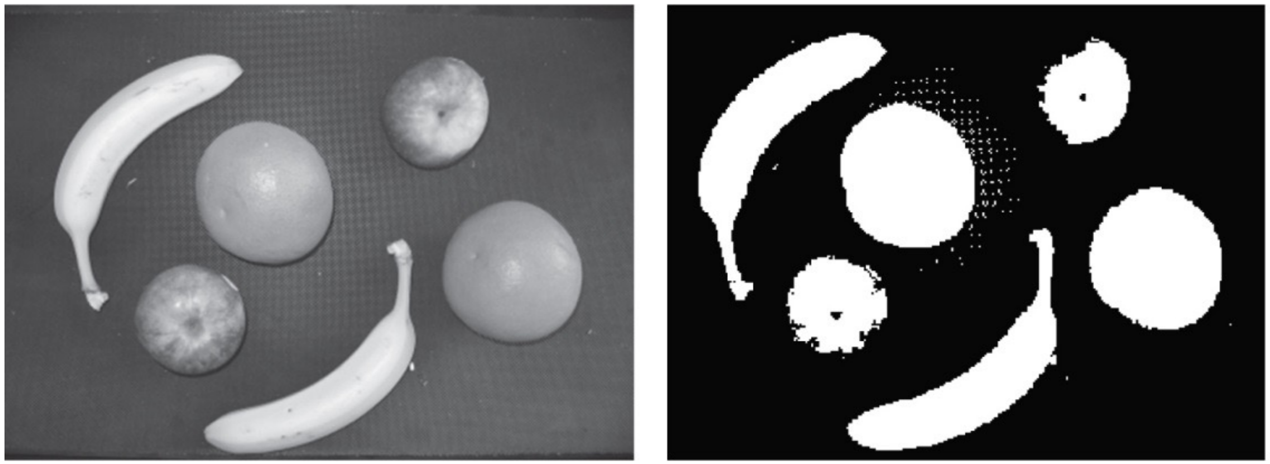
1. Binary images as a set
2. Opening and closing of a binary image
3. Hit and miss operator





Mathematical morphology

- **Mathematical morphology:** a branch of mathematics developed to process images by considering the shape of the pixel regions.
- A **binary image** is an array of values such that *I*(*x, y*) has 1 or 0 for each pixel location (*x, y*).



Stan Birchfield

Binary images as a set

- fundamental set operators:

Z is a point in the plane, i.e. (x,y) coordinates
A and B are sets of points in the plane

$$\mathcal{A} \bigcup \mathcal{B} \equiv \{\mathbf{z} : \mathbf{z} \in \mathcal{A} \text{ or } \mathbf{z} \in \mathcal{B}\} \qquad \text{(union)}$$

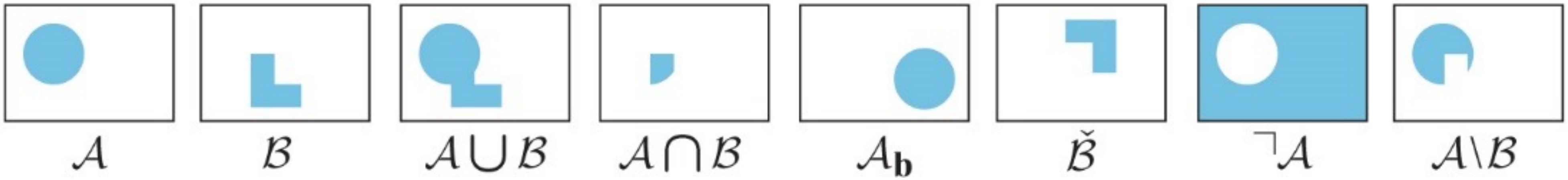
$$\mathcal{A} \bigcap \mathcal{B} \equiv \{\mathbf{z} : \mathbf{z} \in \mathcal{A} \text{ and } \mathbf{z} \in \mathcal{B}\} \qquad \text{(intersection)}$$

$$\mathcal{A}_{\mathbf{b}} \equiv \{\mathbf{z} : \mathbf{z} = \mathbf{a} + \mathbf{b}, \mathbf{a} \in \mathcal{A}\} \qquad \text{(translation)}$$

$$\check{\mathcal{B}} \equiv \{\mathbf{z} : \mathbf{z} = -\mathbf{b}, \mathbf{b} \in \mathcal{B}\} \qquad \text{(reflection)}$$

$$\neg\mathcal{A} \equiv \{\mathbf{z} : \mathbf{z} \notin \mathcal{A}\} \qquad \text{(complement)}$$

$$\mathcal{A} \setminus \mathcal{B} \equiv \{\mathbf{z} : \mathbf{z} \in \mathcal{A}, \mathbf{z} \notin \mathcal{B}\} = \mathbf{A} \bigcap \neg\mathcal{B} \qquad \text{(difference)}$$

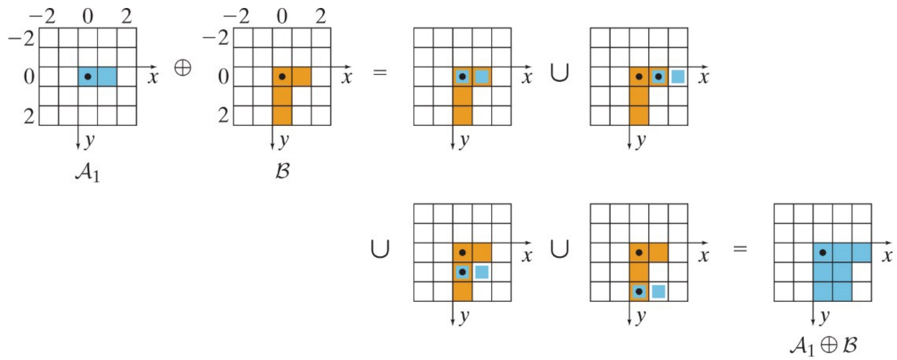


Minkowski addition and subtraction

- The **Minkowski addition** of two sets *A* and *B* is defined as the set of points resulting from all possible vector additions of elements of the two sets:

$$\mathcal{A} \oplus \mathcal{B} \equiv \{\mathbf{z} : \mathbf{z} = \mathbf{a} + \mathbf{b}, \mathbf{a} \in \mathcal{A}, \mathbf{b} \in \mathcal{B}\}$$

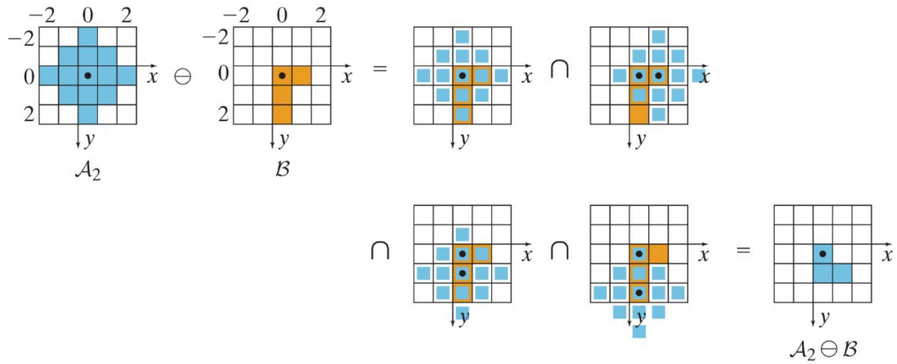
$$= \bigcup_{\mathbf{b} \in \mathcal{B}} \{\mathbf{a} + \mathbf{b} : \mathbf{a} \in \mathcal{A}\} = \bigcup_{\mathbf{b} \in \mathcal{B}} \mathcal{A}_{\mathbf{b}}$$



- **Minkowski subtraction** of two sets:

$$\mathcal{A} \ominus \mathcal{B} \equiv \{\mathbf{z} : \mathbf{z} - \mathbf{b} \in \mathcal{A}, \forall \mathbf{b} \in \mathcal{B}\}$$

$$= \bigcap_{\mathbf{b} \in \mathcal{B}} \{\mathbf{a} + \mathbf{b} : \mathbf{a} \in \mathcal{A}\} = \bigcap_{\mathbf{b} \in \mathcal{B}} \mathcal{A}_{\mathbf{b}}$$



Dilation and Erosion

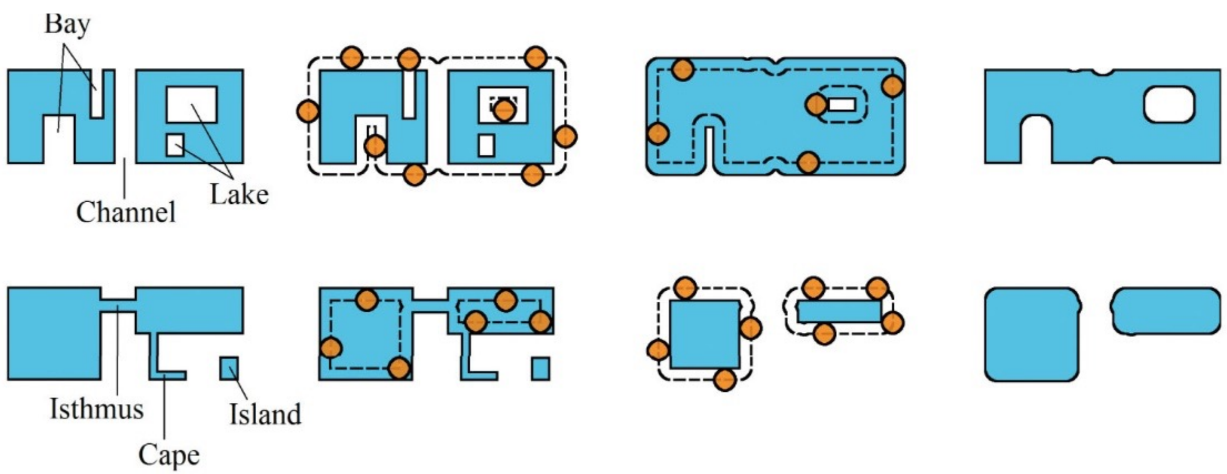
- Based on Minkowski addition and subtraction, we define 2 fundamnetal morphological operators:
- Dilation: identical to Minkowski addition
- Erosion: the Minkowski subtraction after reflecting the second operand -> keep a set of locations where the original set fits inside the other set.

$$\mathcal{A} \oplus \mathcal{B} \equiv A \oplus \mathcal{B} = \{\mathbf{z} : \mathbf{z} = \mathbf{a} + \mathbf{b}, \mathbf{a} \in \mathcal{A}, \mathbf{b} \in \mathcal{B}\} \quad \text{(dilation)}$$

$$\mathcal{A} \check{\ominus} \mathcal{B} \equiv A \ominus \check{\mathcal{B}} = \{\mathbf{z} : \mathbf{z} + \mathbf{b} \in \mathcal{A}, \forall \mathbf{b} \in \mathcal{B}\} \quad \text{(erosion)}$$

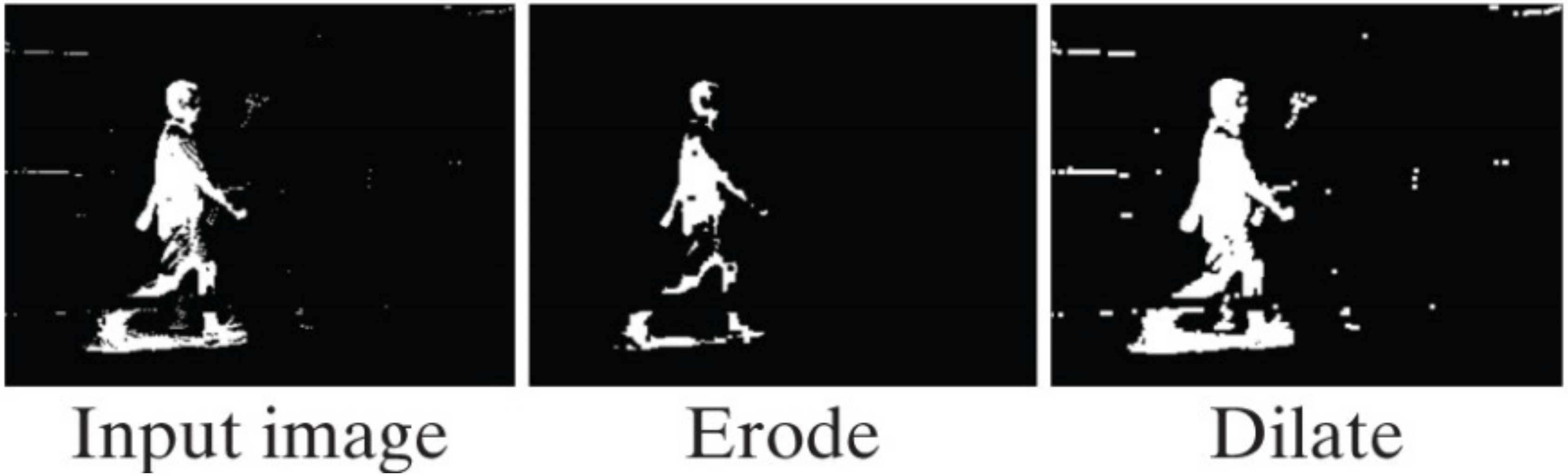
Opening and Closing

- Usually the set B is a structuring element (SE), much smaller than the image A. Can formulate dilation and erosion as translating B across the image performing test (center out).
- Closing is defined as dilation folowed by erosion $A \bullet B$
- Opening is defined as erosion followed by dilation $A \circ B$



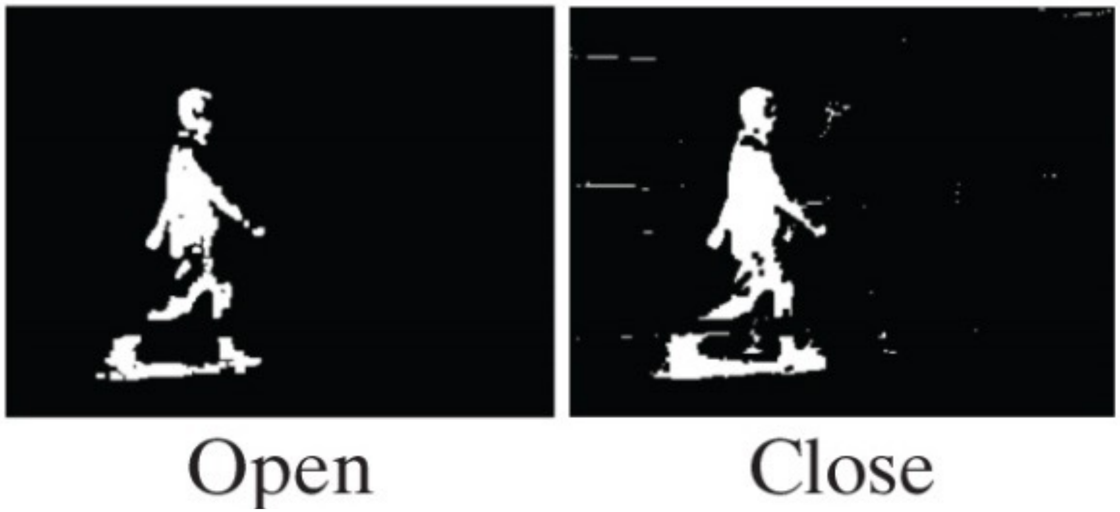
$A \bullet B$

$A \circ B$

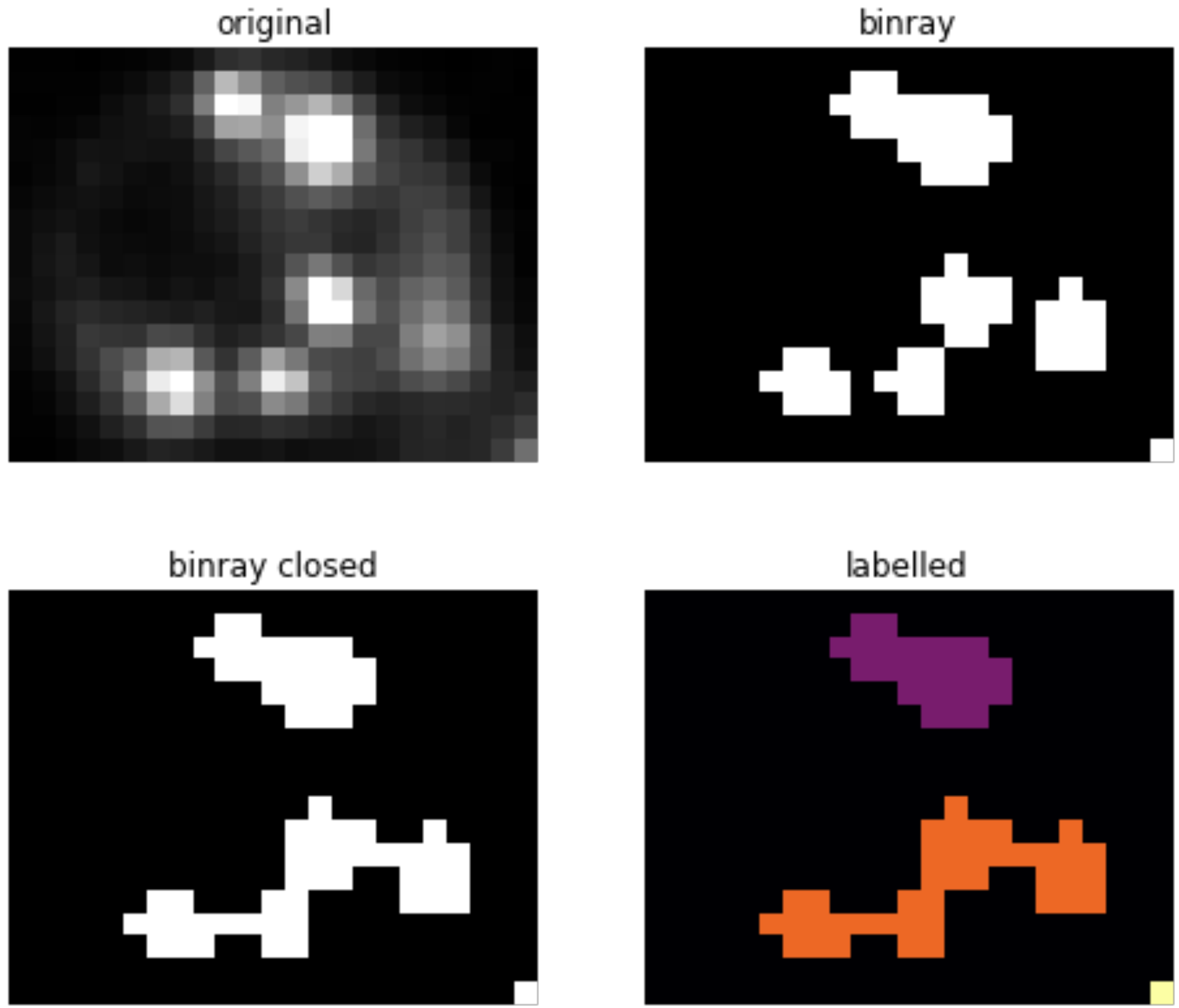


Erosion removes salt noise,
but shrinks foreground.

Dilate fills pepper noise but
expands foreground.



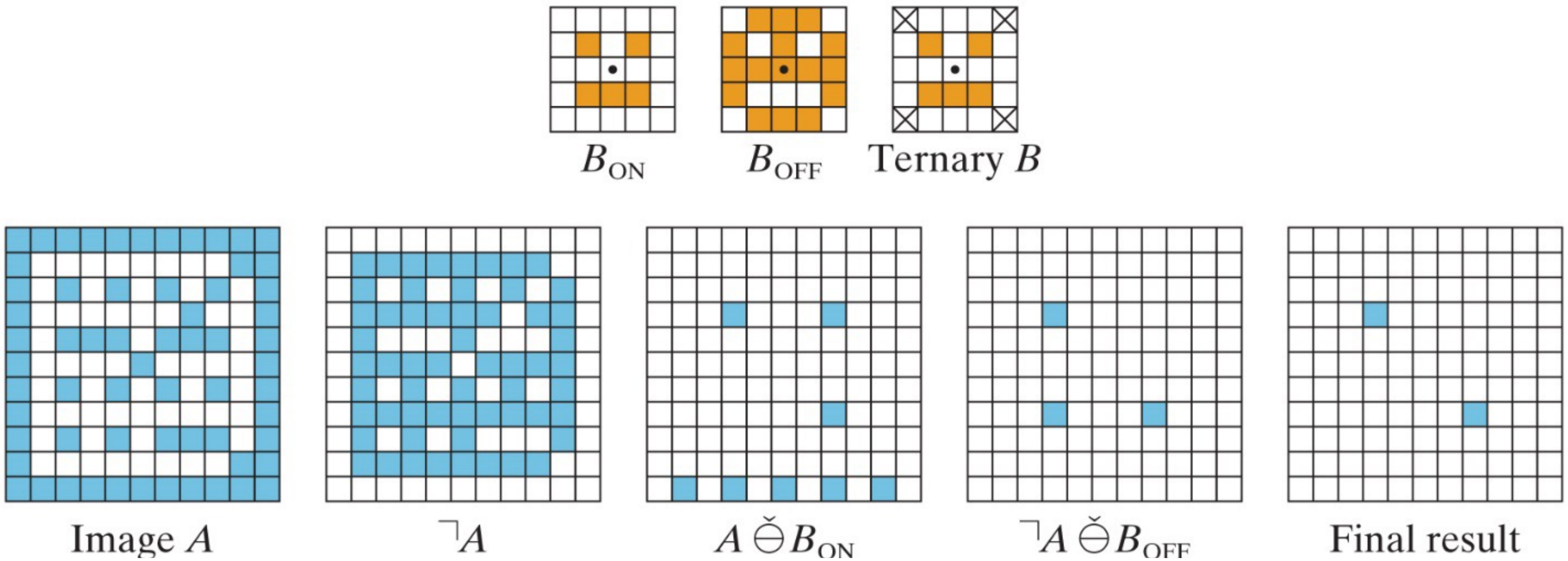
Stan Birchfield


original
binray
binray closed
labelled

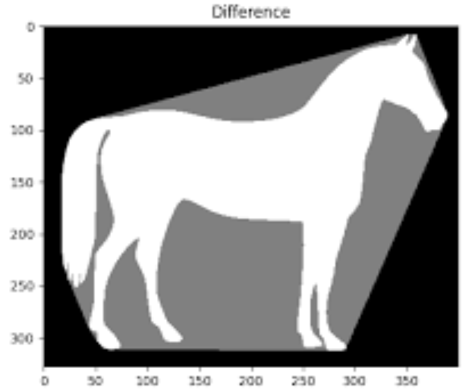
Hit and miss operator

- To detect the shape in the image, the **hit-miss operator** uses erosion to find all the places in the image where B_{ON} matches the foreground and B_{OFF} matches the background:

$$A \circledast (B_{\mathrm{ON}}, B_{\mathrm{OFF}}) \equiv (A \check{\ominus} B_{\mathrm{ON}}) \cap (\neg A \check{\ominus} B_{\mathrm{OFF}}) \qquad \text{(hit-miss operator)}$$



Morphological image processing



- Removing noise (salt and pepper noise)
- Thinning
- Thickening
- Labeling regions
- Region properties – area, perimeter, convex hull, eccentricity
- Boundary tracing – boundary Representations - signatures
- Hole filling
- Computing distances
- Skeletonization

Many intersting examples in book

Distance transform

Distance between two points: $(x_1, y_1), (x_2, y_2)$

Euclidean distance: $D_e = \sqrt{(x_1 - x_2)^2 + (y_1 - y_2)^2}$

Cityblock distance: $D_{cb} = |x_1 - x_2| + |y_1 - y_2|$

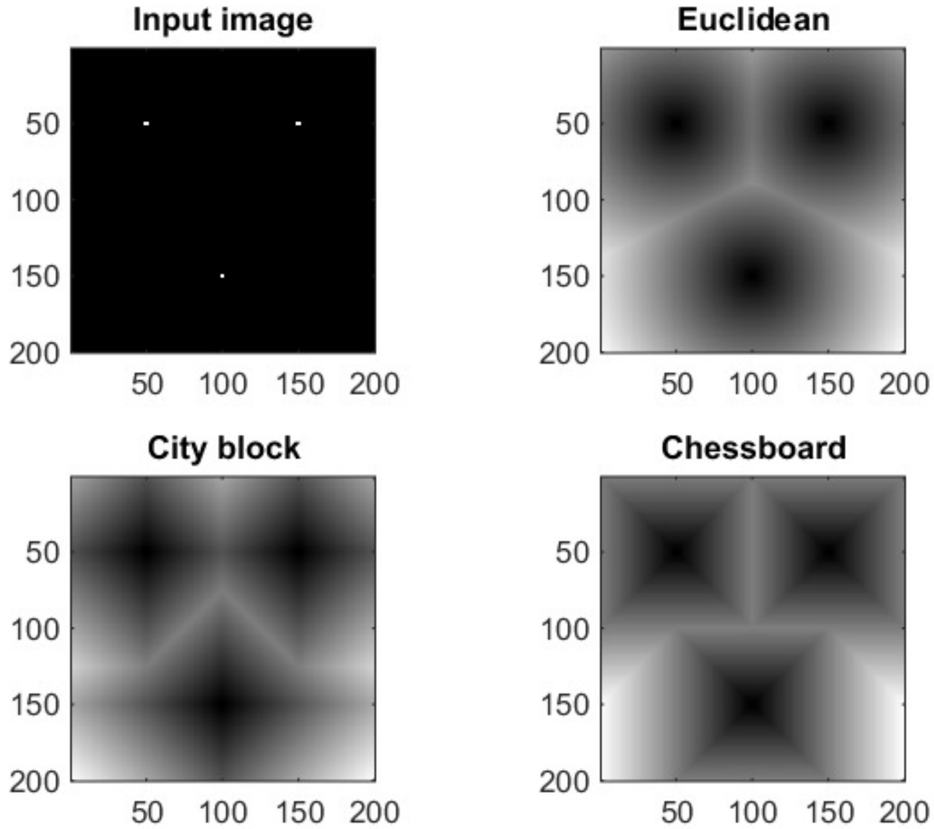
Chessboard distance: $D_{chess} = \max(|x_1 - x_2|, |y_1 - y_2|)$

The distance transform can be found as the distance from each pixel to any given feature.

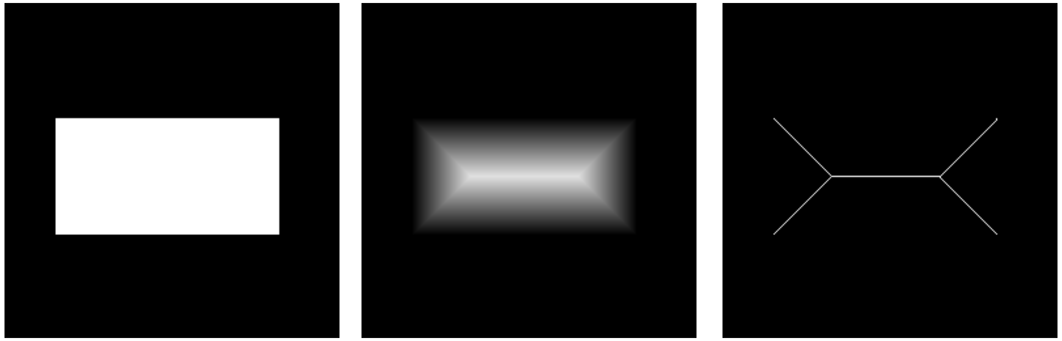
Distance transform

The distance transform on a binary image. For each pixel in the binary image it finds the distance to the nearest non-zero pixel.

Distance can be defined in different ways. Eucledian distance is often used.

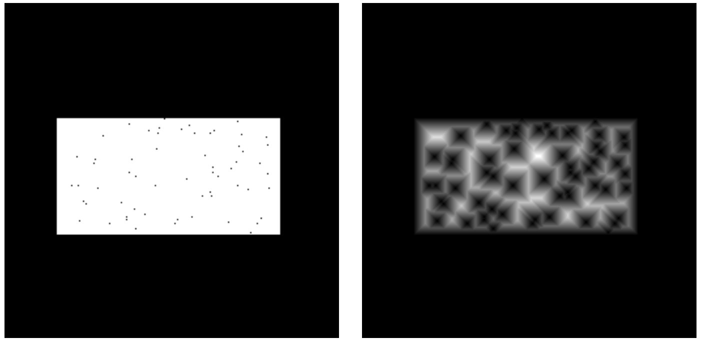


Skeletonization – by distance transform



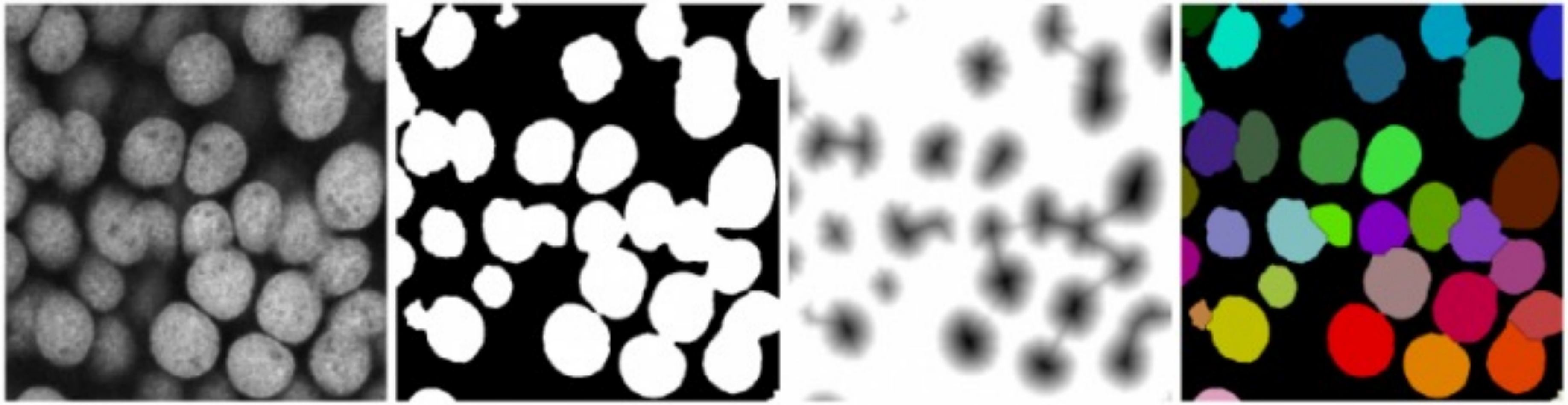
For skeletonization, find distance from each foreground pixel to the nearest background pixel.

Alternatively – skeletonization by *morphological thinning* which is based on a series of hit and miss transforms

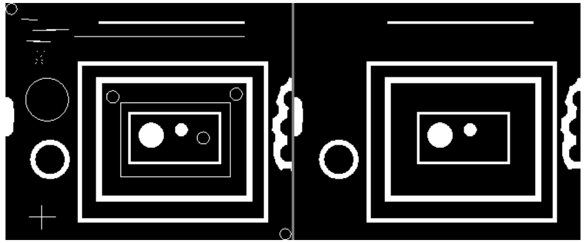


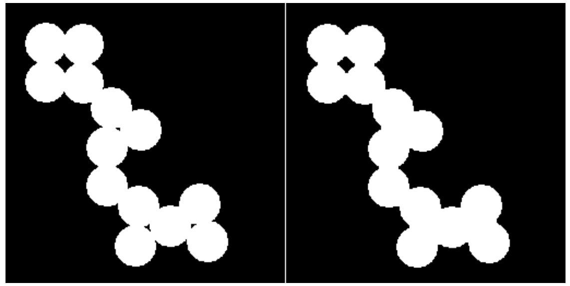
Distance transform is noise sensitive

Distance transform used as part of a segmentation algorithm



Binary image processing – morphological operations (3.1)





Three points from the topic:

1. Binary images as a set
   - ✓ Can use set operators to define operations
2. Opening and closing of a binary image
   - ✓ Open: remove smaller objects etc. Closing: close smaller holes etc.
3. Hit and miss operator
   - ✓ When we want to find an exact pixel structure/object.