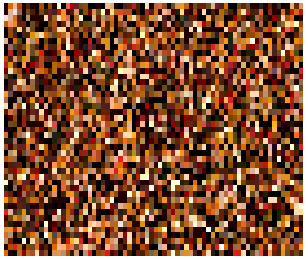
Image Filtering and Gaussian Pyramids

CS194: Image Manipulation & Computational Photography

Alexei Efros, UC Berkeley, Fall 2017

Limitations of Point Processing

Q: What happens if I reshuffle all pixels within the image?



A: It's histogram won't change. No point processing will be affected…

What is an image?

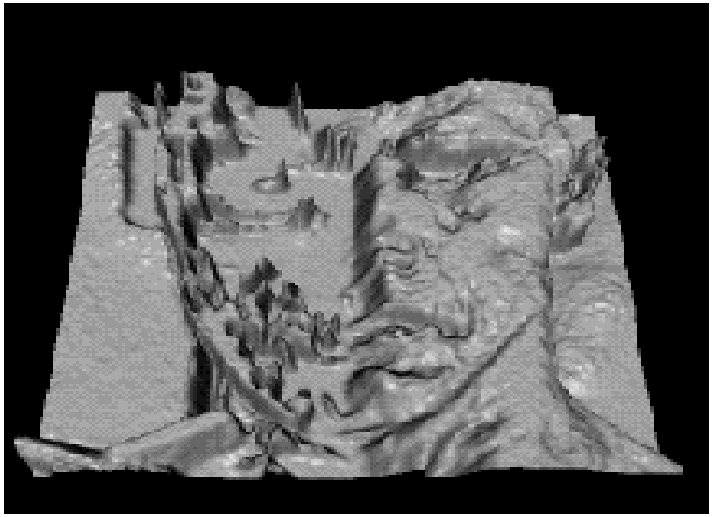
We can think of an **image** as a function, *f*, from $\mathbb{R}^2$ to $\mathbb{R}$:

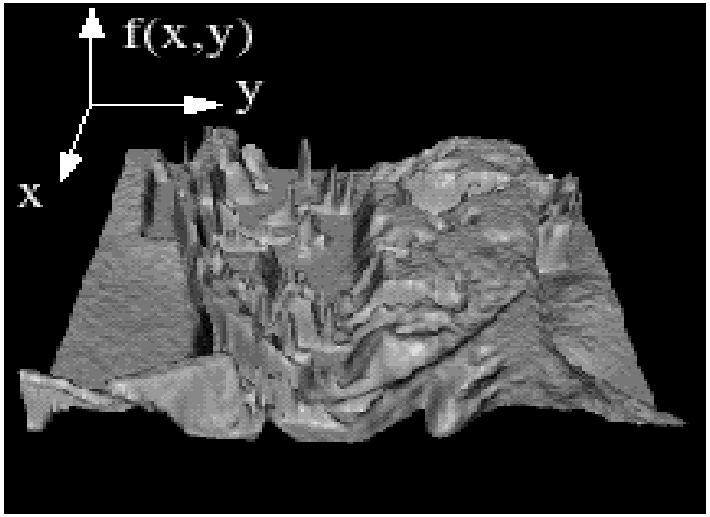
- $f(x, y)$ gives the **intensity** at position (x, y)
- Realistically, we expect the image only to be defined over a rectangle, with a finite range:
  - $f: [a,b] \times [c,d] \rightarrow [0,1]$

A color image is just three functions pasted together. We can write this as a "vector-valued" function:

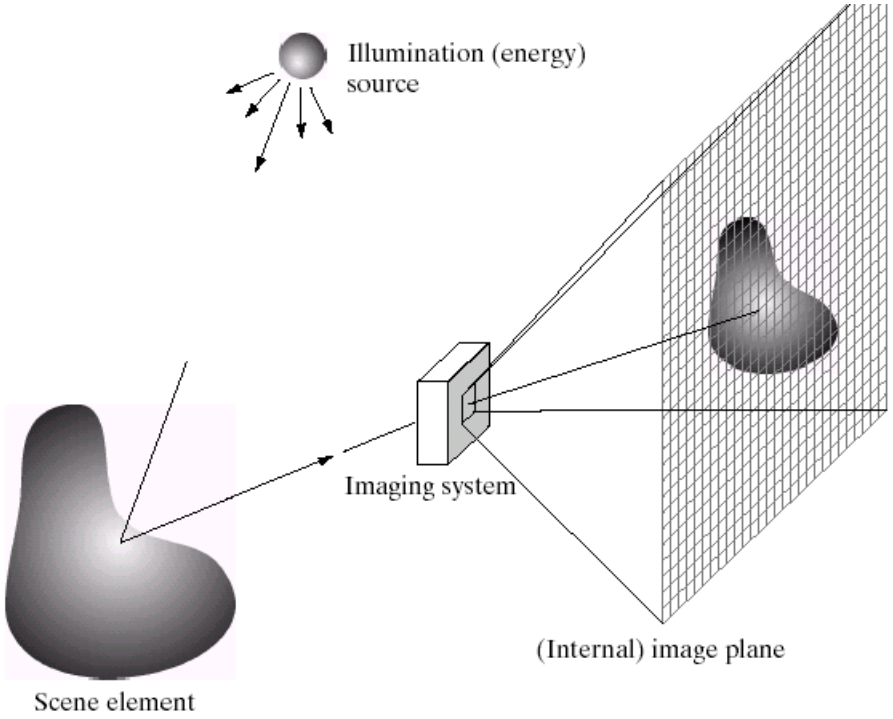
$$f(x,y) = \begin{bmatrix} r(x,y) \\ g(x,y) \\ b(x,y) \end{bmatrix}$$

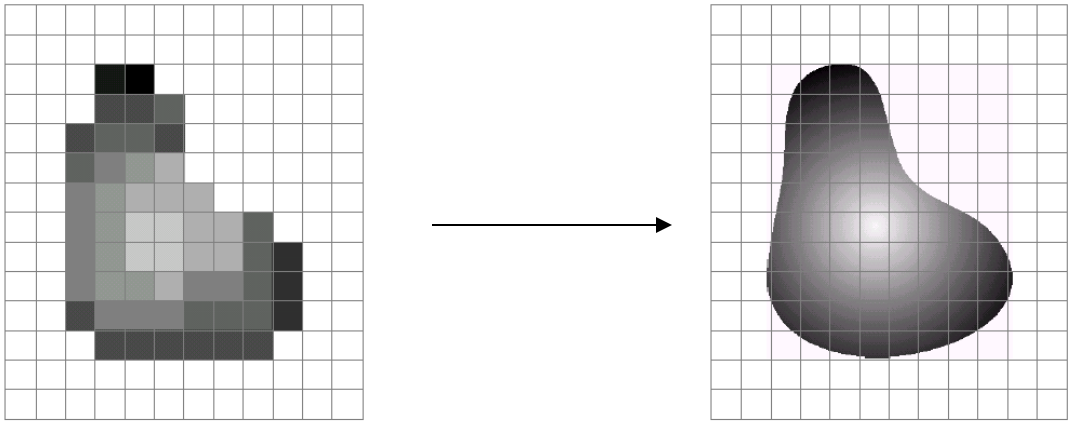
Images as functions





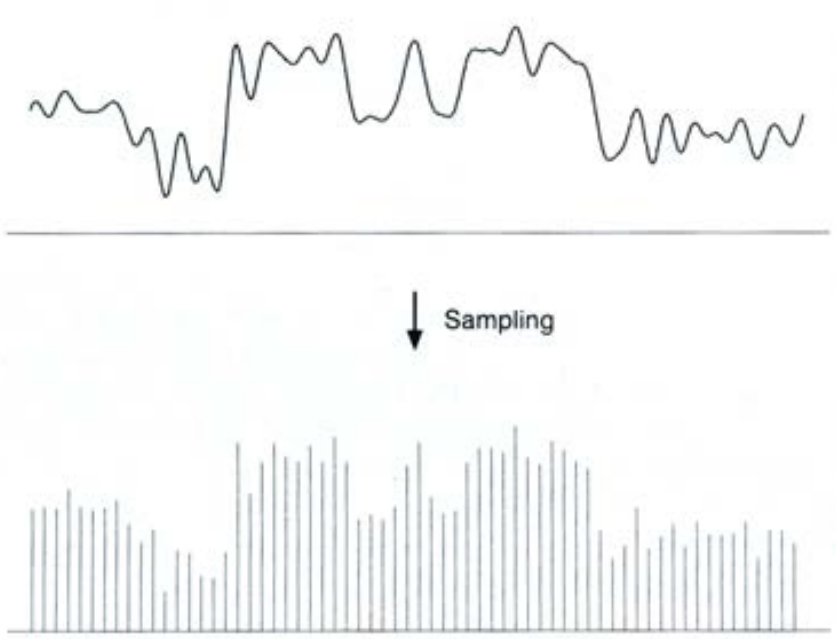
Sampling and Reconstruction





Sampled representations

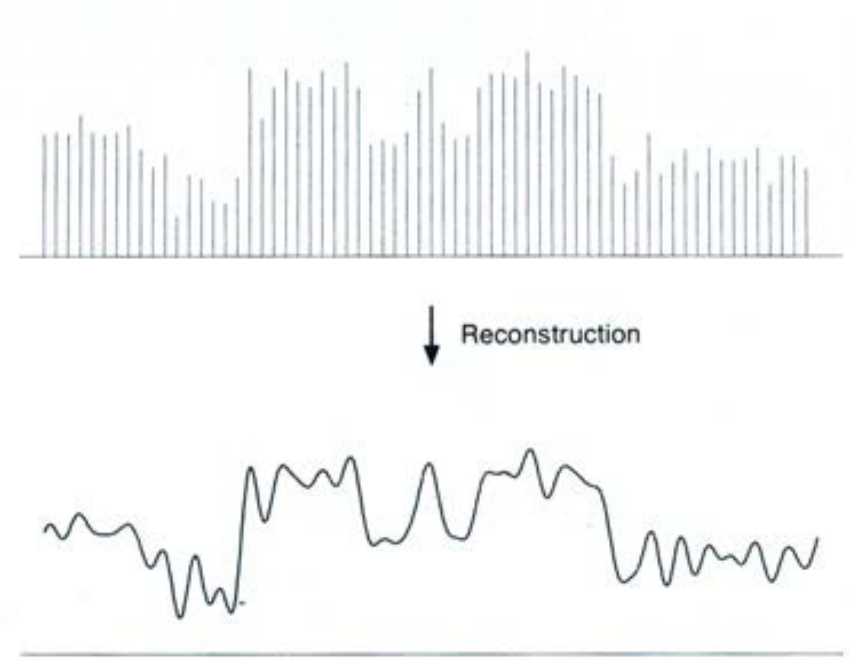
- How to store and compute with continuous functions?
- Common scheme for representation: samples
  - write down the function's values at many points



[FvDFH fig.14.14b / Wolberg]

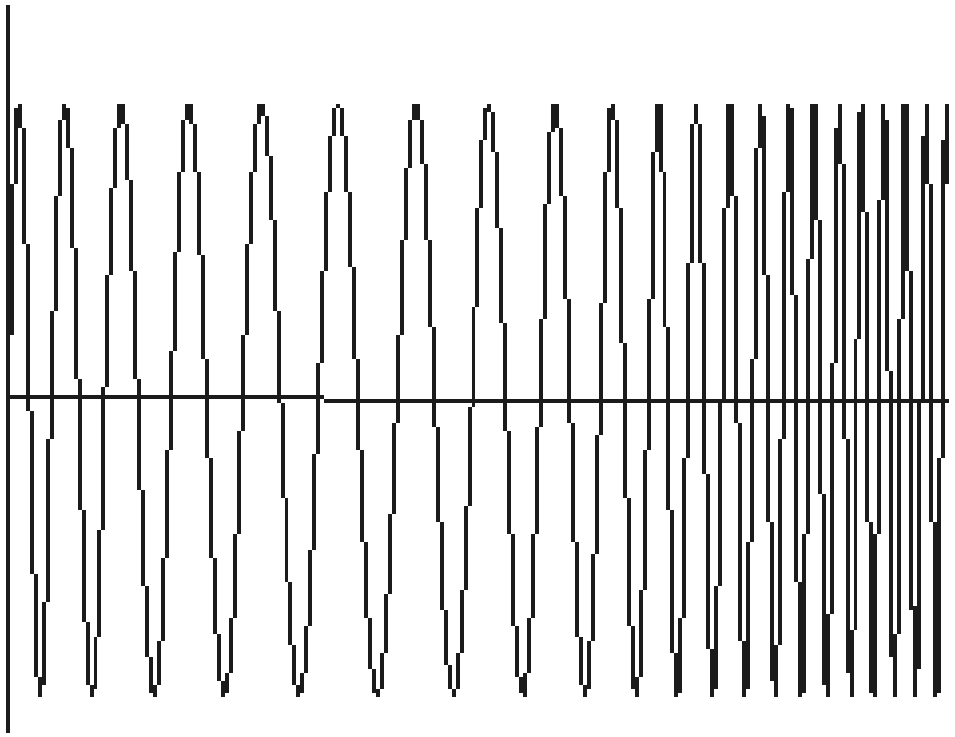
Reconstruction

- Making samples back into a continuous function
  - for output (need realizable method)
  - for analysis or processing (need mathematical method)
  - amounts to “guessing” what the function did in between



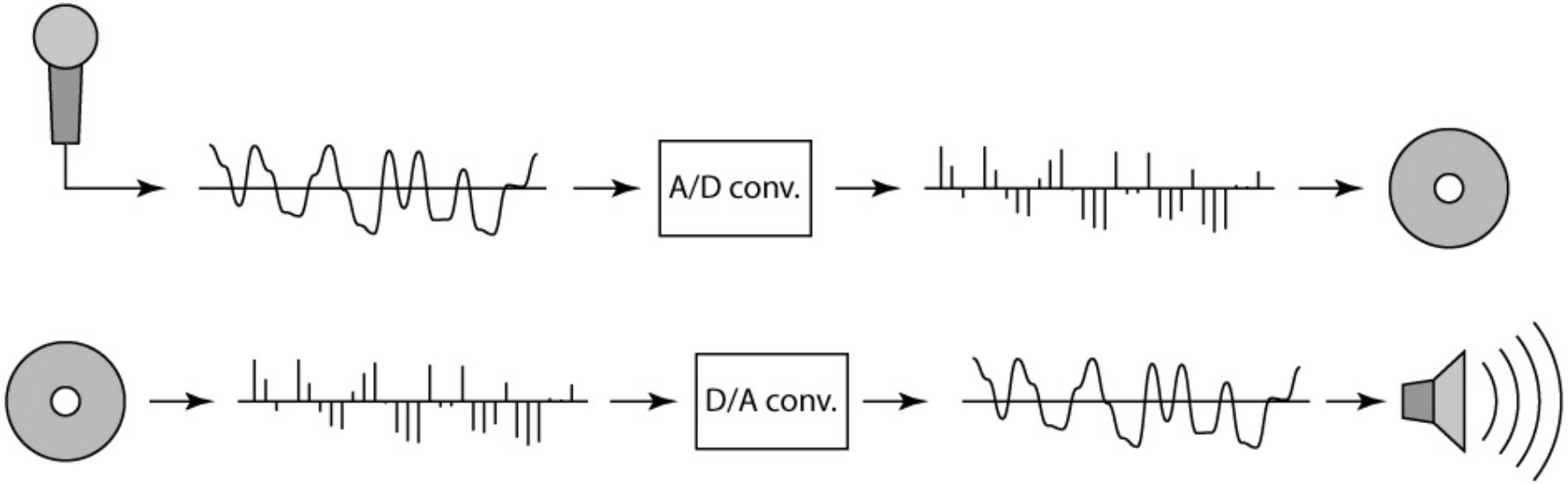
[FvDFH fig.14.14b / Wolberg]

1D Example: Audio



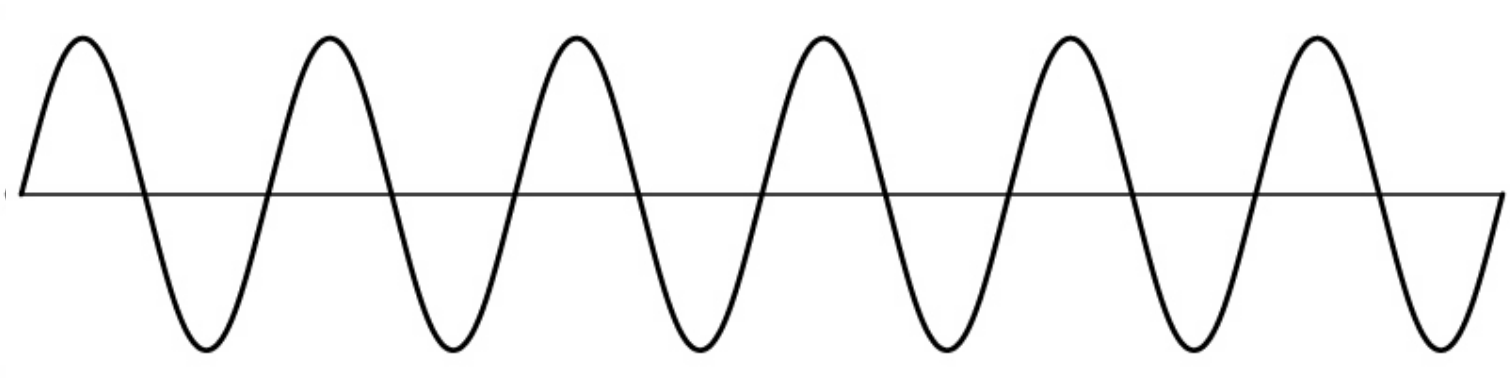
Sampling in digital audio

- Recording: sound to analog to samples to disc
- Playback: disc to samples to analog to sound again
  - how can we be sure we are filling in the gaps correctly?



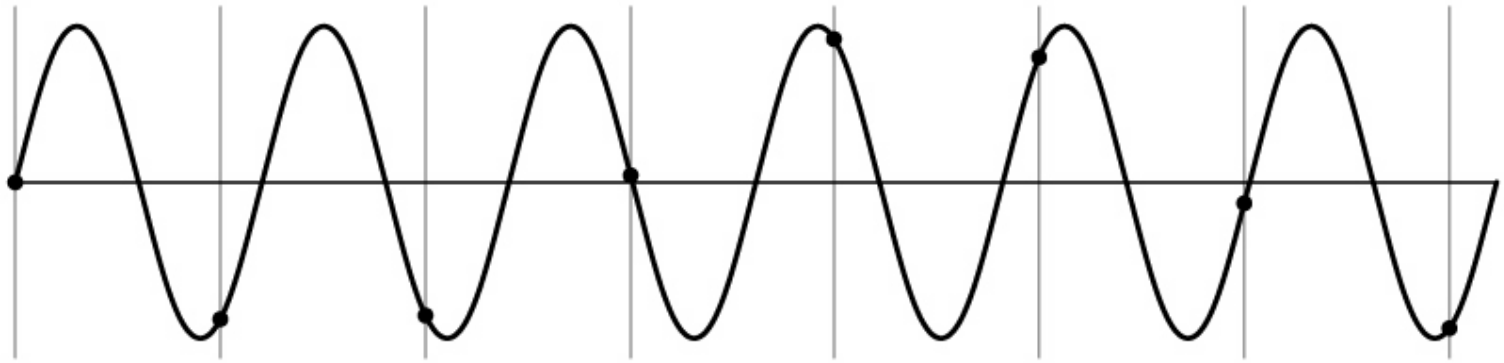
Sampling and Reconstruction

- Simple example: a sign wave



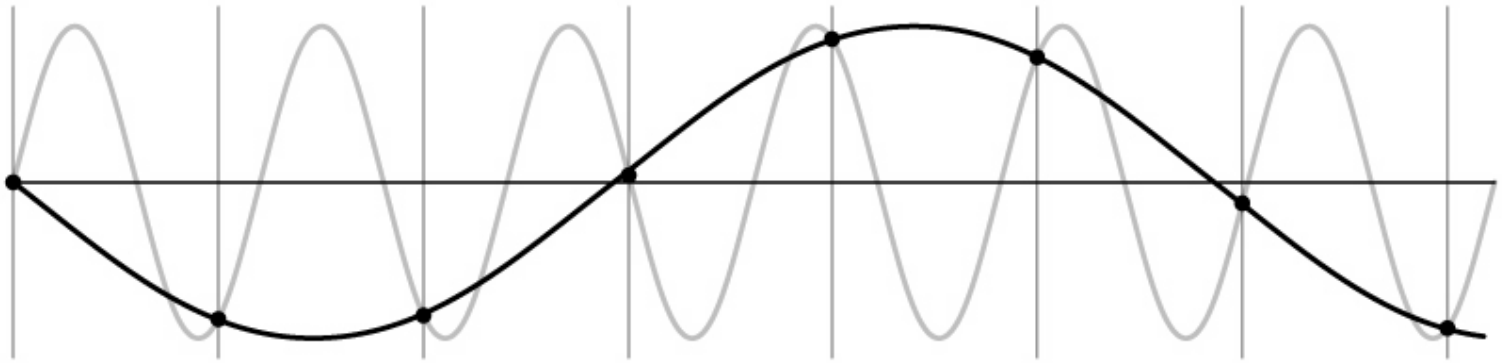
Undersampling

- What if we “missed” things between the samples?
- Simple example: undersampling a sine wave
  - unsurprising result: information is lost



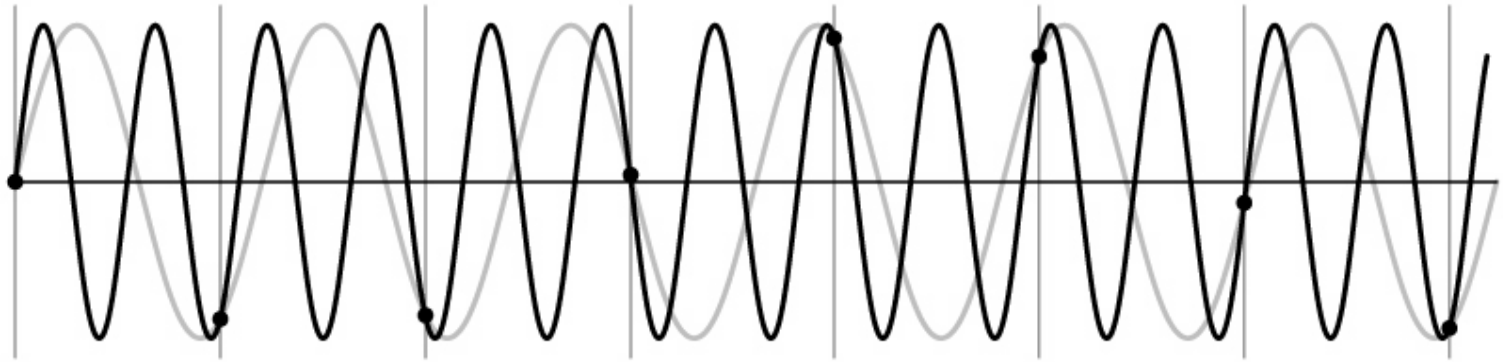
Undersampling

- What if we “missed” things between the samples?
- Simple example: undersampling a sine wave
  - unsurprising result: information is lost
  - surprising result: indistinguishable from lower frequency



Undersampling

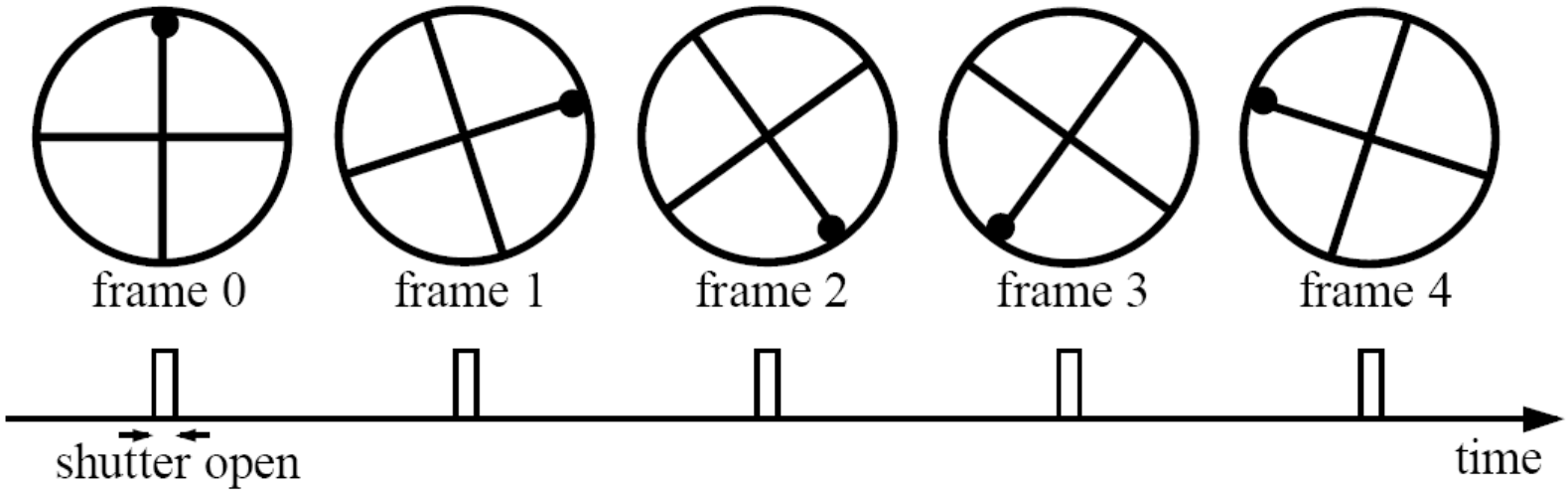
- What if we “missed” things between the samples?
- Simple example: undersampling a sine wave
  - unsurprising result: information is lost
  - surprising result: indistinguishable from lower frequency
  - also, was always indistinguishable from higher frequencies
  - *aliasing*: signals “traveling in disguise” as other frequencies



Aliasing in video

Imagine a spoked wheel moving to the right (rotating clockwise). Mark wheel with dot so we can see what's happening.

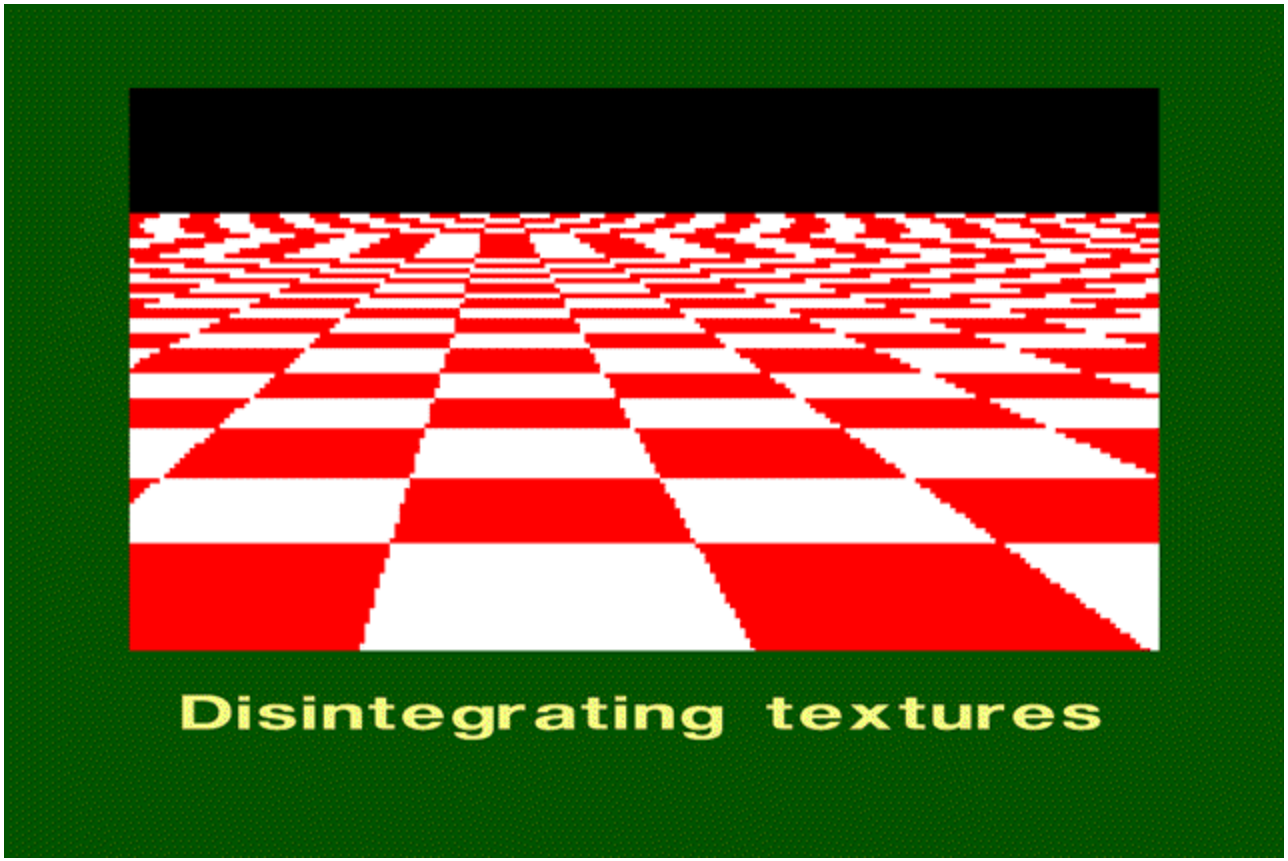
If camera shutter is only open for a fraction of a frame time (frame time = 1/30 sec. for video, 1/24 sec. for film):



Without dot, wheel appears to be rotating slowly backwards! (counterclockwise)

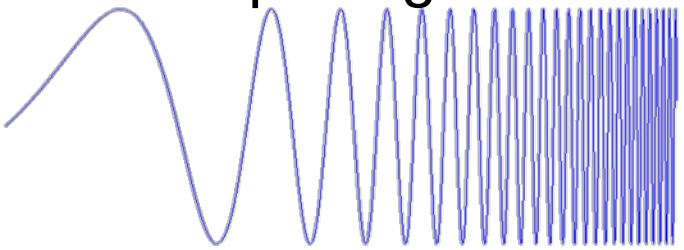
Slide by Steve Seitz

Aliasing in images

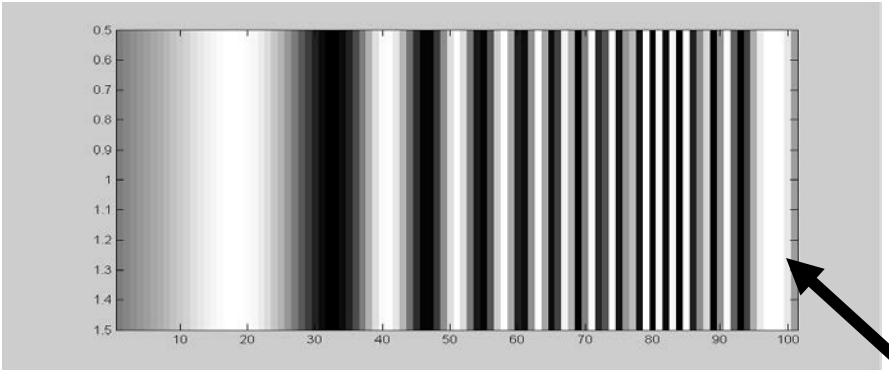


What's happening?

Input signal:



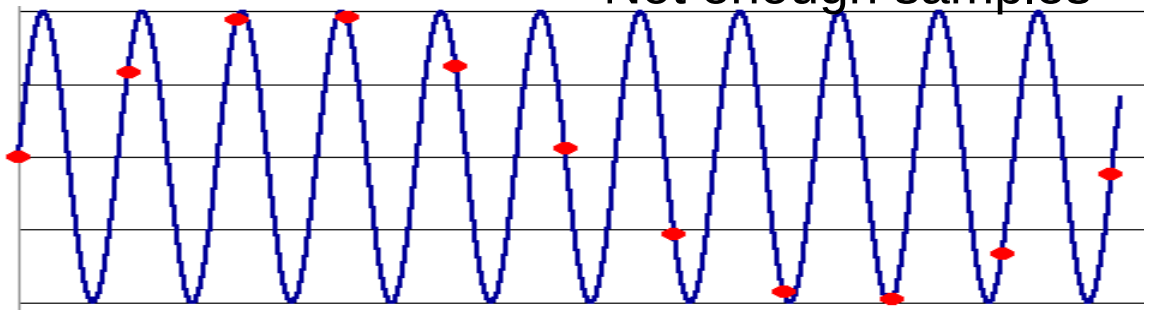
Plot as image:



x = 0:.05:5; imagesc(sin((2.^x).*x))

Alias!

Not enough samples



Antialiasing

What can we do about aliasing?

Sample more often

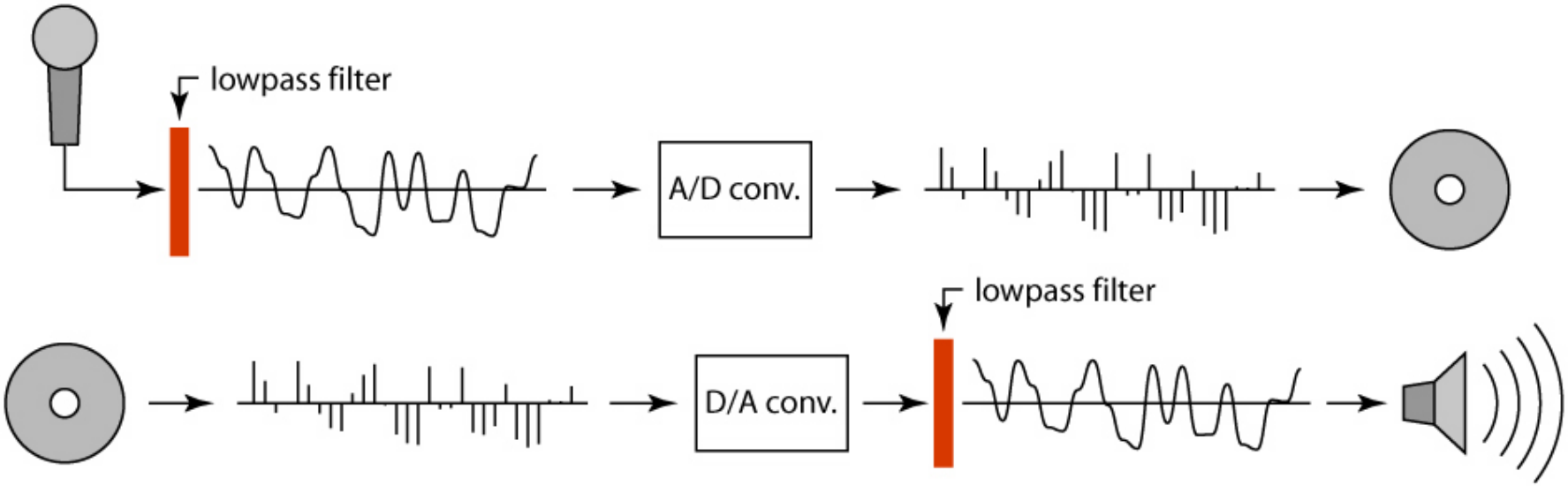
- Join the Mega-Pixel craze of the photo industry
- But this can’t go on forever

Make the signal less “wiggly”

- Get rid of some high frequencies
- Will loose information
- But it’s better than aliasing

Preventing aliasing

- Introduce lowpass filters:
  - remove high frequencies leaving only safe, low frequencies
  - choose lowest frequency in reconstruction (disambiguate)

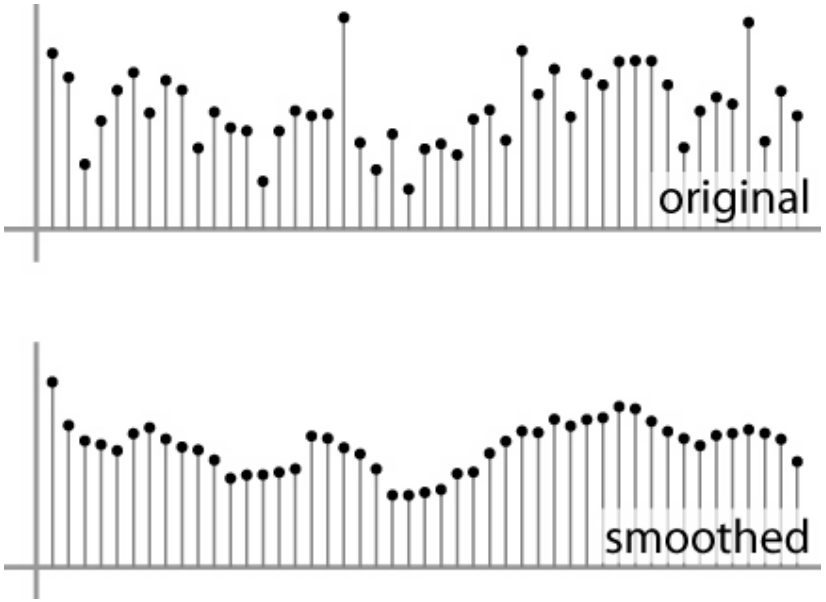


Linear filtering: a key idea

- Transformations on signals; e.g.:
  - bass/treble controls on stereo
  - blurring/sharpening operations in image editing
  - smoothing/noise reduction in tracking
- Key properties
  - linearity: filter($f + g$) = filter(f) + filter(g)
  - shift invariance: behavior invariant to shifting the input
    - delaying an audio signal
    - sliding an image around
- Can be modeled mathematically by *convolution*

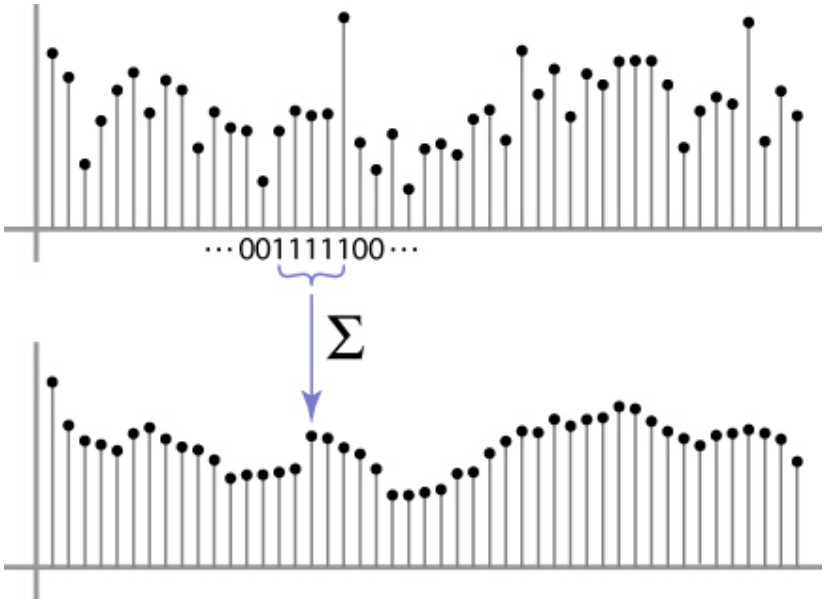
Moving Average

- basic idea: define a new function by averaging over a sliding window
- a simple example to start off: smoothing



Moving Average

- Can add weights to our moving average
- *Weights* […, 0, 1, 1, 1, 1, 1, 0, …] / 5



Cross-correlation

Let F be the image, H be the kernel (of size 2*k*+1 x 2*k*+1), and G be the output image

$$G[i,j] = \sum_{u=-k}^{k} \sum_{v=-k}^{k} H[u,v]F[i+u,j+v]$$

This is called a **cross-correlation** operation:

$$G = H \otimes F$$

- Can think of as a "dot product" between local neighborhood and kernel for each pixel

In 2D: box filter

$h[\cdot,\cdot]$

$$\frac{1}{9}\begin{bmatrix} 1 & 1 & 1 \\ 1 & 1 & 1 \\ 1 & 1 & 1 \end{bmatrix}$$

Slide credit: David Lowe (UBC)

Image filtering

$h[\cdot,\cdot]$ $\frac{1}{9}$

1	1	1
1	1	1
1	1	1

$f[.,.]$

0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
0	0	0	90	90	90	90	90	0	0
0	0	0	90	90	90	90	90	0	0
0	0	0	90	90	90	90	90	0	0
0	0	0	90	0	90	90	90	0	0
0	0	0	90	90	90	90	90	0	0
0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
0	0	90	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

$g[.,.]$

$$g[m,n] = \sum_{k,l} h[k,l]\ f[m+k, n+l]$$

Credit: S. Seitz

Image filtering

$h[\cdot,\cdot]$ $\frac{1}{9}$

1	1	1
1	1	1
1	1	1

$f[.,.]$

0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
0	0	0	90	90	90	90	90	0	0
0	0	0	90	90	90	90	90	0	0
0	0	0	90	90	90	90	90	0	0
0	0	0	90	0	90	90	90	0	0
0	0	0	90	90	90	90	90	0	0
0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
0	0	90	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

$g[.,.]$

	0	10							

$$g[m,n] = \sum_{k,l} h[k,l]\ f[m+k,n+l]$$

Credit: S. Seitz

Image filtering

$h[\cdot,\cdot]$ $\frac{1}{9}$

1	1	1
1	1	1
1	1	1

$f[.,.]$

0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
0	0	0	90	90	90	90	90	0	0
0	0	0	90	90	90	90	90	0	0
0	0	0	90	90	90	90	90	0	0
0	0	0	90	0	90	90	90	0	0
0	0	0	90	90	90	90	90	0	0
0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
0	0	90	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

$g[.,.]$

	0	10	20						

Credit: S. Seitz

Image filtering

$h[\cdot,\cdot]$ $\frac{1}{9}$

1	1	1
1	1	1
1	1	1

$f[.,.]$

0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
0	0	0	90	90	90	90	90	0	0
0	0	0	90	90	90	90	90	0	0
0	0	0	90	90	90	90	90	0	0
0	0	0	90	0	90	90	90	0	0
0	0	0	90	90	90	90	90	0	0
0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
0	0	90	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

$g[.,.]$

	0	10	20	30					

Credit: S. Seitz

Image filtering

$h[\cdot,\cdot]$ $\frac{1}{9}$

1	1	1
1	1	1
1	1	1

$f[.,.]$

0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
0	0	0	90	90	90	90	90	0	0
0	0	0	90	90	90	90	90	0	0
0	0	0	90	90	90	90	90	0	0
0	0	0	90	0	90	90	90	0	0
0	0	0	90	90	90	90	90	0	0
0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
0	0	90	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

$g[.,.]$

	0	10	20	30	30				

Credit: S. Seitz

Image filtering

$h[\cdot,\cdot]$ $\frac{1}{9}$

1	1	1
1	1	1
1	1	1

$f[.,.]$

0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
0	0	0	90	90	90	90	90	0	0
0	0	0	90	90	90	90	90	0	0
0	0	0	90	90	90	90	90	0	0
0	0	0	90	0	90	90	90	0	0
0	0	0	90	90	90	90	90	0	0
0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
0	0	90	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

$g[.,.]$

	0	10	20	30	30				
				?					

Credit: S. Seitz

Image filtering

$h[\cdot,\cdot]$ $\frac{1}{9}$

1	1	1
1	1	1
1	1	1

$f[.,.]$

0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
0	0	0	90	90	90	90	90	0	0
0	0	0	90	90	90	90	90	0	0
0	0	0	90	90	90	90	90	0	0
0	0	0	90	0	90	90	90	0	0
0	0	0	90	90	90	90	90	0	0
0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
0	0	90	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

$g[.,.]$

	0	10	20	30	30				
						?			
				50					

Credit: S. Seitz

Image filtering

$h[\cdot,\cdot]$ $\frac{1}{9}$

1	1	1
1	1	1
1	1	1

$f[.,.]$

0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
0	0	0	90	90	90	90	90	0	0
0	0	0	90	90	90	90	90	0	0
0	0	0	90	90	90	90	90	0	0
0	0	0	90	0	90	90	90	0	0
0	0	0	90	90	90	90	90	0	0
0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
0	0	90	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

$g[.,.]$

	0	10	20	30	30	30	20	10	
	0	20	40	60	60	60	40	20	
	0	30	60	90	90	90	60	30	
	0	30	50	80	80	90	60	30	
	0	30	50	80	80	90	60	30	
	0	20	30	50	50	60	40	20	
	10	20	30	30	30	30	20	10	
	10	10	10	0	0	0	0	0	

$$g[m,n] = \sum_{k,l} h[k,l]\ f[m+k, n+l]$$

Credit: S. Seitz

Box Filter

What does it do?

- Replaces each pixel with an average of its neighborhood

- Achieve smoothing effect (remove sharp features)

$$h[\cdot,\cdot]$$

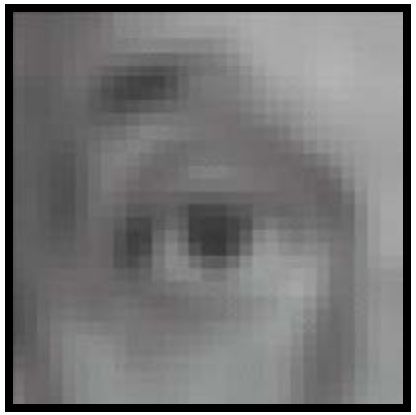
$$\frac{1}{9}\begin{bmatrix} 1 & 1 & 1 \\ 1 & 1 & 1 \\ 1 & 1 & 1 \end{bmatrix}$$

Slide credit: David Lowe (UBC)

Linear filters: examples

Original

$$\frac{1}{9}\begin{bmatrix} 1 & 1 & 1 \\ 1 & 1 & 1 \\ 1 & 1 & 1 \end{bmatrix} =$$



Blur (with a mean filter)

Source: D. Lowe

Practice with linear filters

Original

0	0	0
0	1	0
0	0	0

?

Source: D. Lowe

Practice with linear filters

Original

0	0	0
0	1	0
0	0	0

Filtered
(no change)

Source: D. Lowe

Practice with linear filters

Original

0	0	0
1	0	0
0	0	0

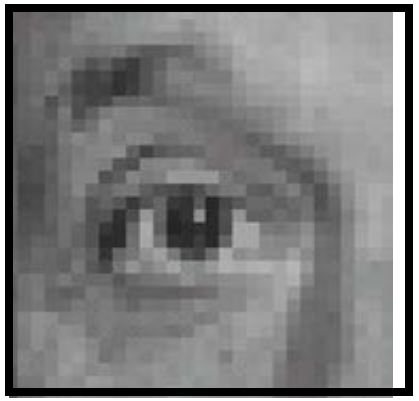
?

Source: D. Lowe

Practice with linear filters

Original

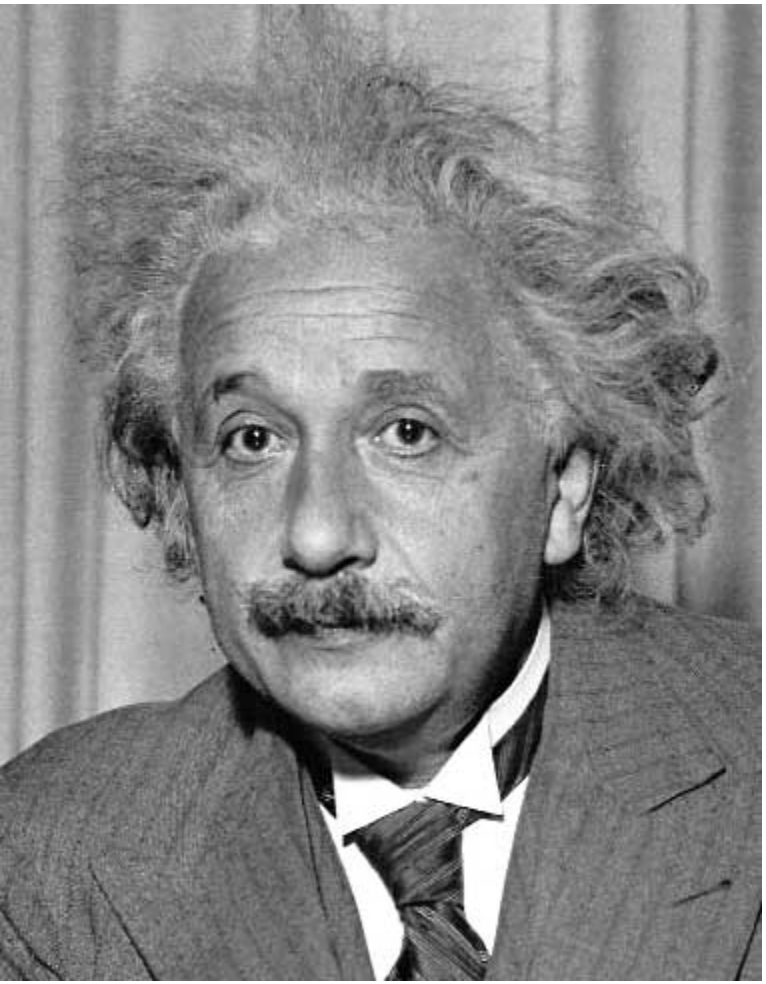
0	0	0
0	0	1
0	0	0



Shifted left
By 1 pixel

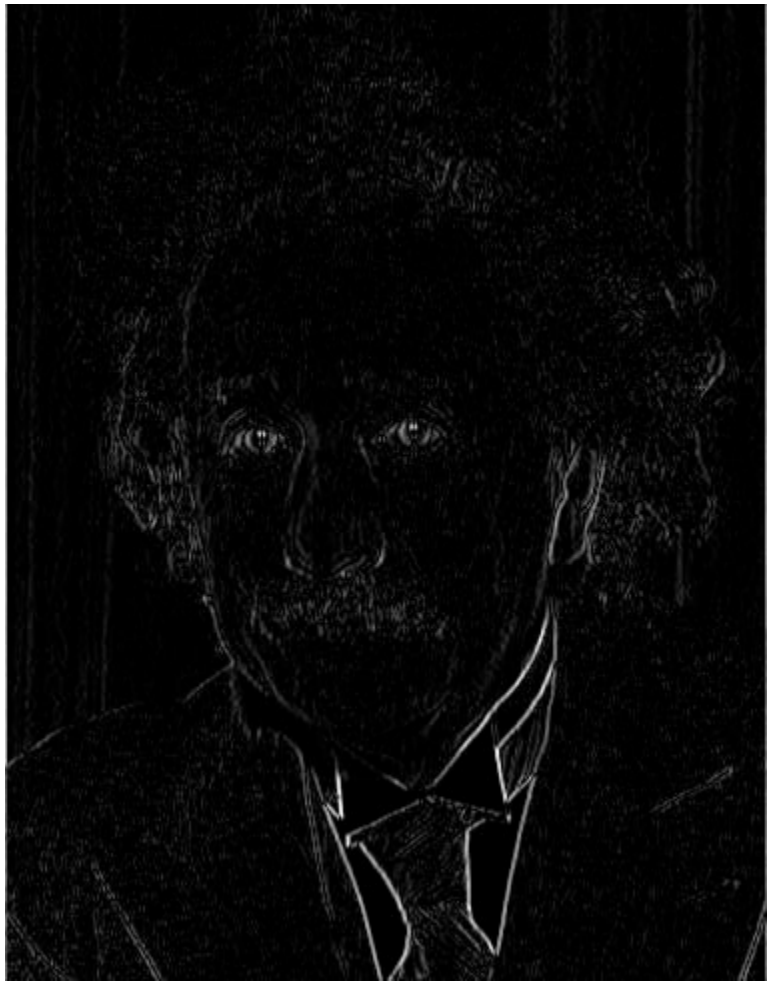
Source: D. Lowe

Other filters



1	0	-1
2	0	-2
1	0	-1

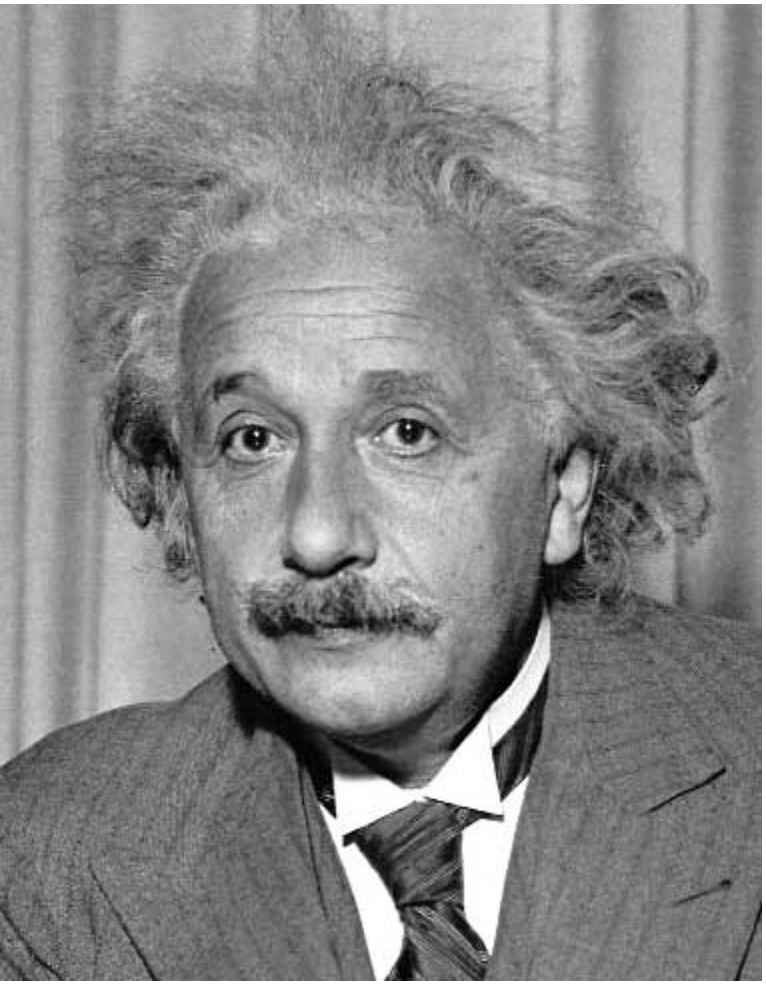
Sobel



Vertical Edge
(absolute value)

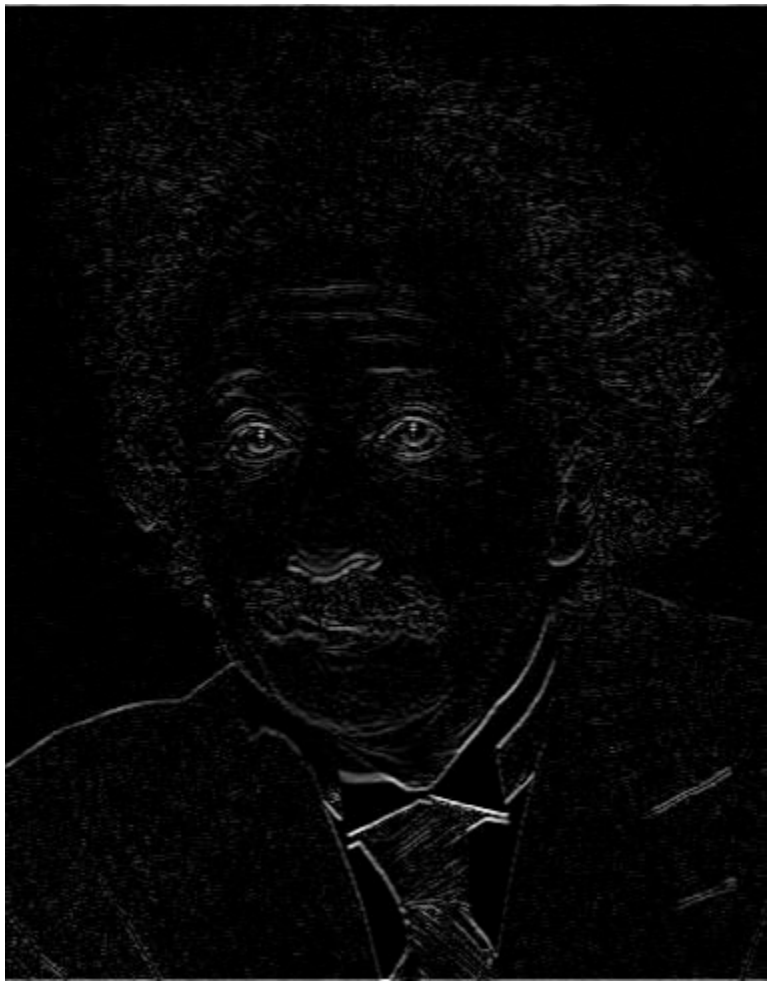
Q?

Other filters



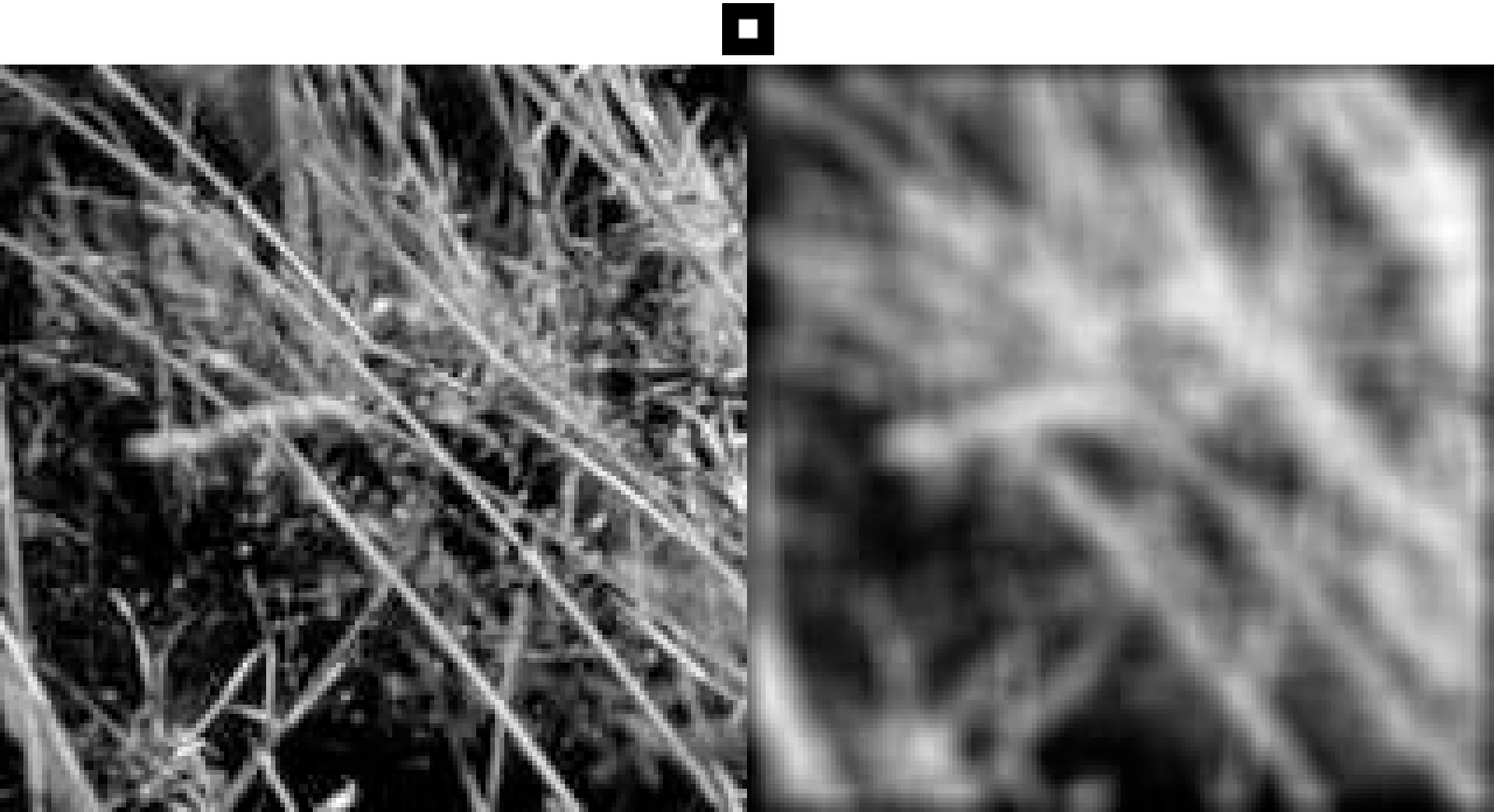
1	2	1
0	0	0
-1	-2	-1

Sobel



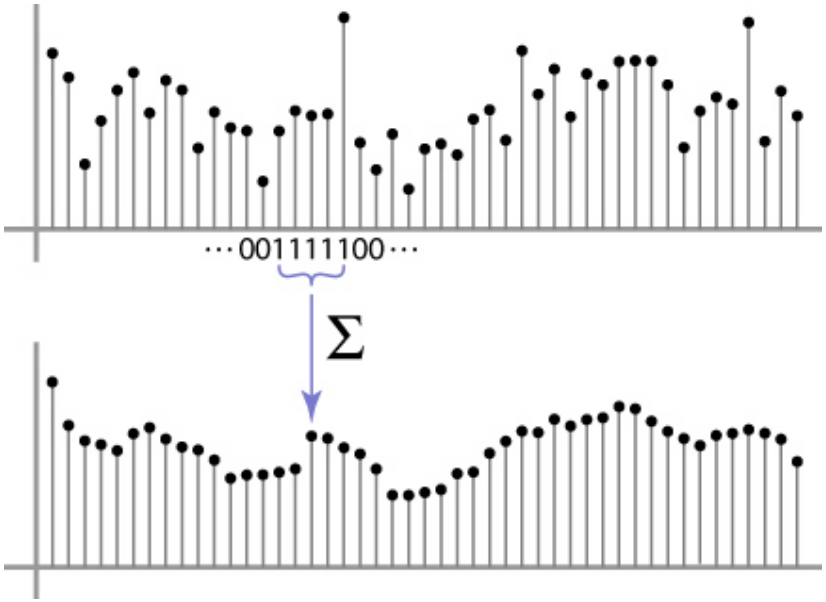
Horizontal Edge
(absolute value)

Back to the box filter



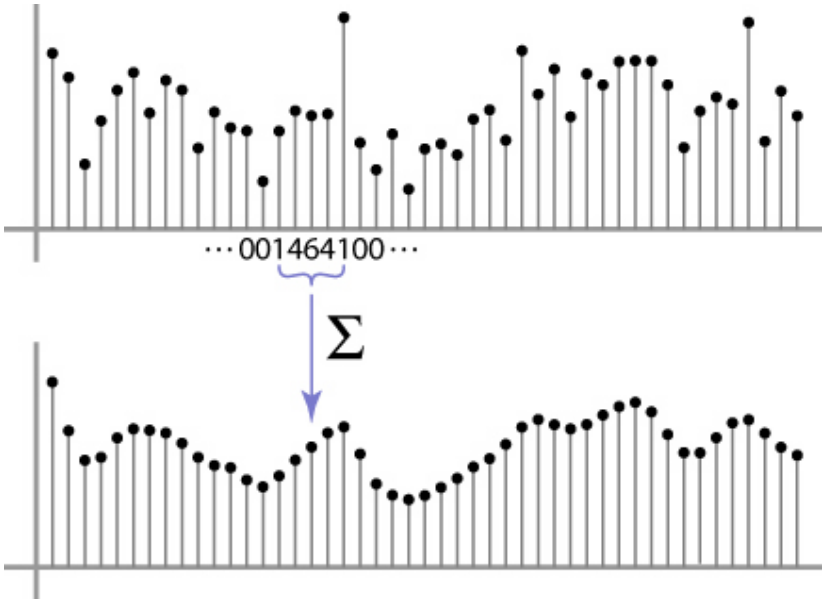
Moving Average

- Can add weights to our moving average
- *Weights* […, 0, 1, 1, 1, 1, 1, 0, …] / 5



Weighted Moving Average

- bell curve (gaussian-like) weights […, 1, 4, 6, 4, 1, …]



Moving Average In 2D

What are the weights H?

0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
0	0	0	90	90	90	90	90	0	0
0	0	0	90	90	90	90	90	0	0
0	0	0	90	90	90	90	90	0	0
0	0	0	90	0	90	90	90	0	0
0	0	0	90	90	90	90	90	0	0
0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
0	0	90	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

$F[x, y]$

$H[u, v]$

 Slide by Steve Seitz

Gaussian filtering

A Gaussian kernel gives less weight to pixels further from the center of the window

0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
0	0	0	90	90	90	90	90	0	0
0	0	0	90	90	90	90	90	0	0
0	0	0	90	90	90	90	90	0	0
0	0	0	90	0	90	90	90	0	0
0	0	0	90	90	90	90	90	0	0
0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
0	0	90	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

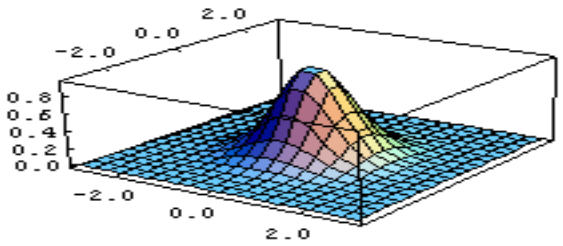
$F[x, y]$

$$\frac{1}{16}$$

1	2	1
2	4	2
1	2	1

$H[u, v]$

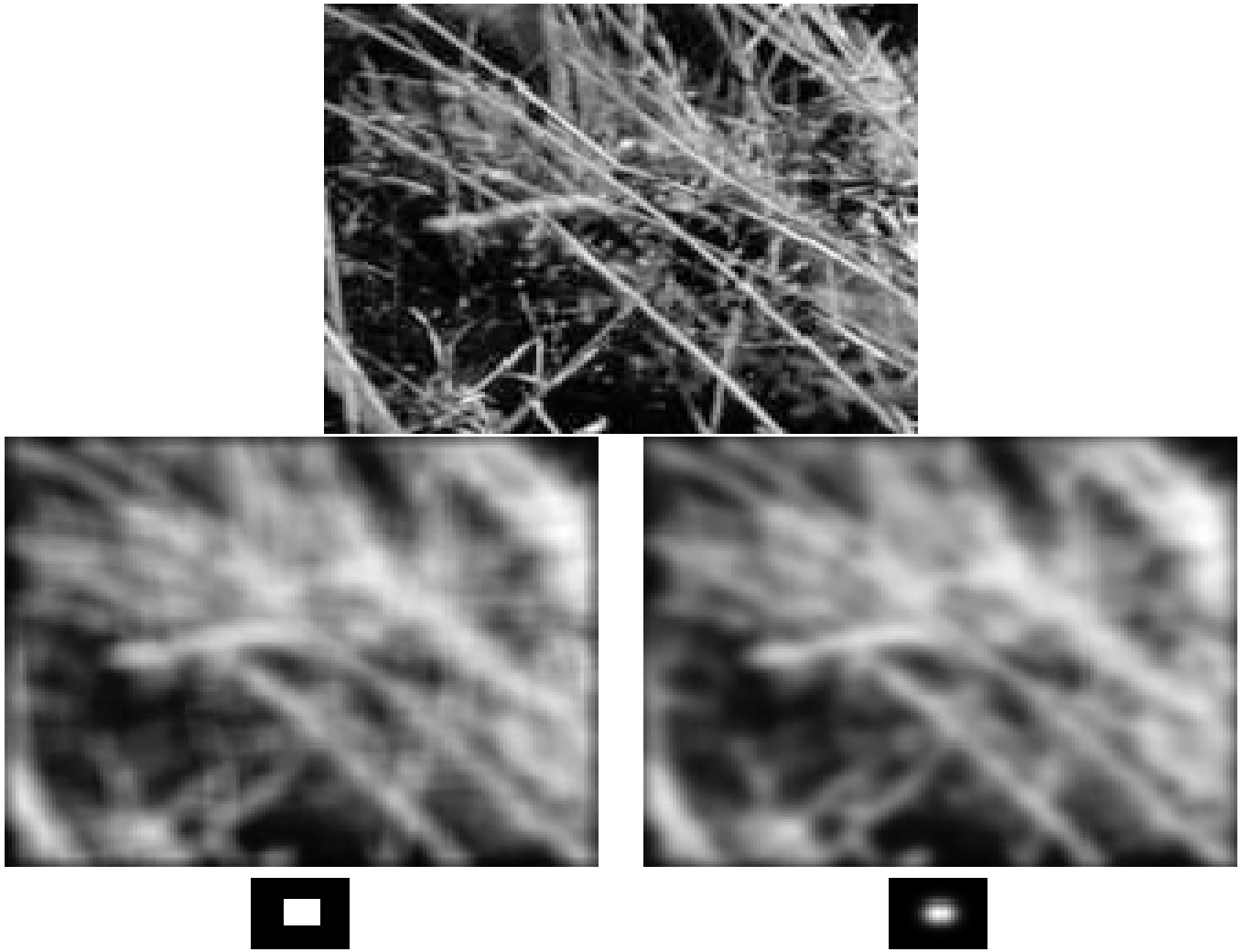
$$h(u, v) = \frac{1}{2\pi\sigma^2} e^{-\frac{u^2+v^2}{\sigma^2}}$$



This kernel is an approximation of a Gaussian function:

Slide by Steve Seitz

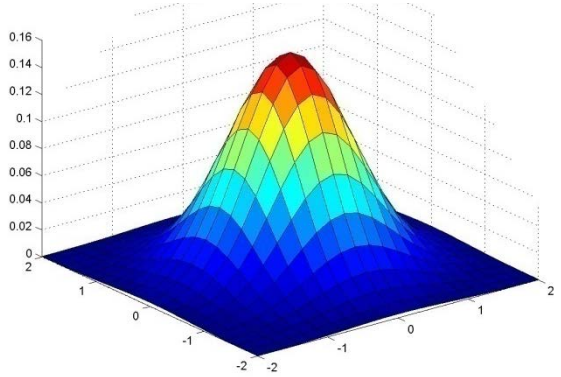
Mean vs. Gaussian filtering

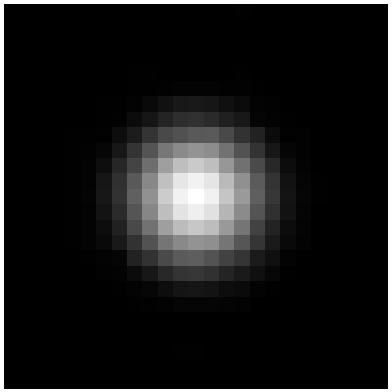


Slide by Steve Seitz

Important filter: Gaussian

Weight contributions of neighboring pixels by nearness





0.003	0.013	0.022	0.013	0.003
0.013	0.059	0.097	0.059	0.013
0.022	0.097	0.159	0.097	0.022
0.013	0.059	0.097	0.059	0.013
0.003	0.013	0.022	0.013	0.003

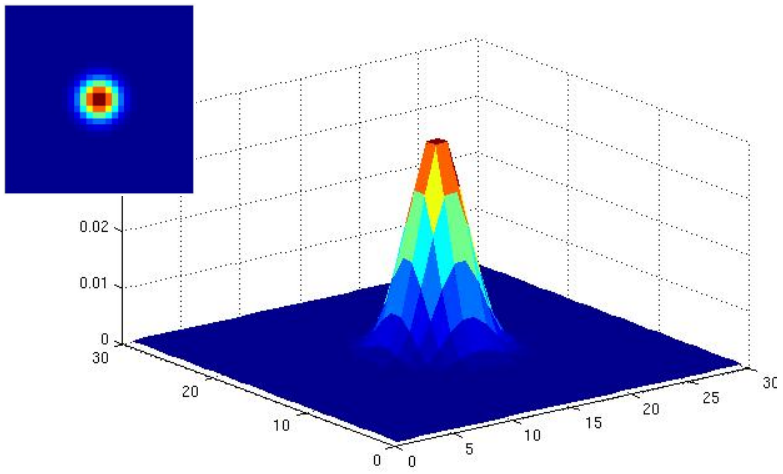
5 x 5, $\sigma = 1$

$$G_\sigma = \frac{1}{2\pi\sigma^2} e^{-\frac{(x^2+y^2)}{2\sigma^2}}$$

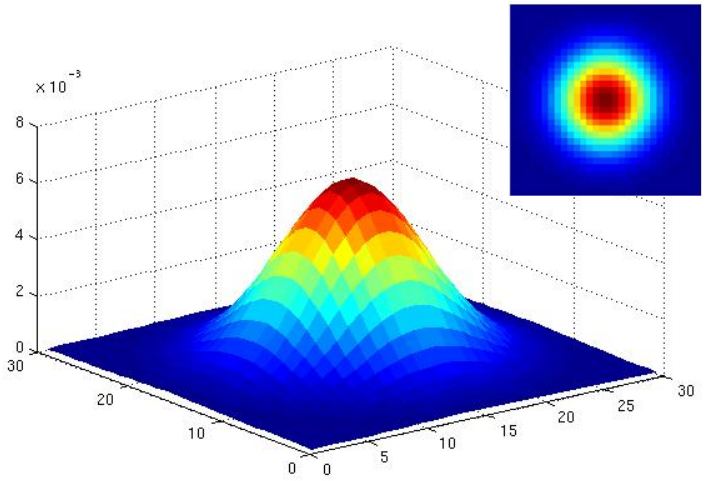
Slide credit: Christopher Rasmussen

Gaussian Kernel

$$G_\sigma = \frac{1}{2\pi\sigma^2} e^{-\frac{(x^2+y^2)}{2\sigma^2}}$$



σ = 2 with 30 x 30 kernel



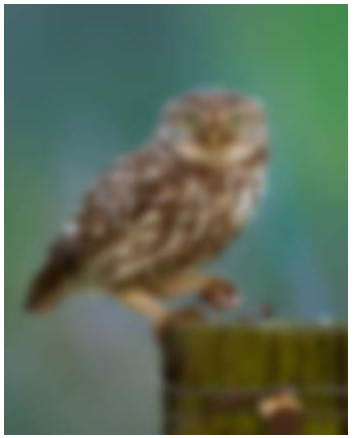
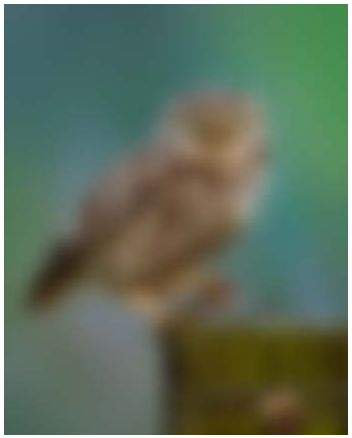
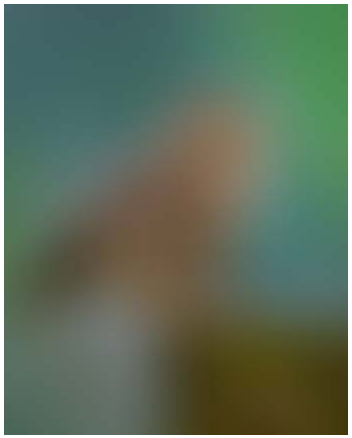
σ = 5 with 30 x 30 kernel

- Standard deviation σ: determines extent of smoothing

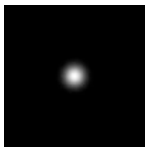
Source: K. Grauman

Gaussian filters

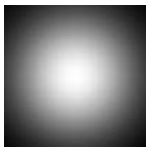



σ = 1 pixel

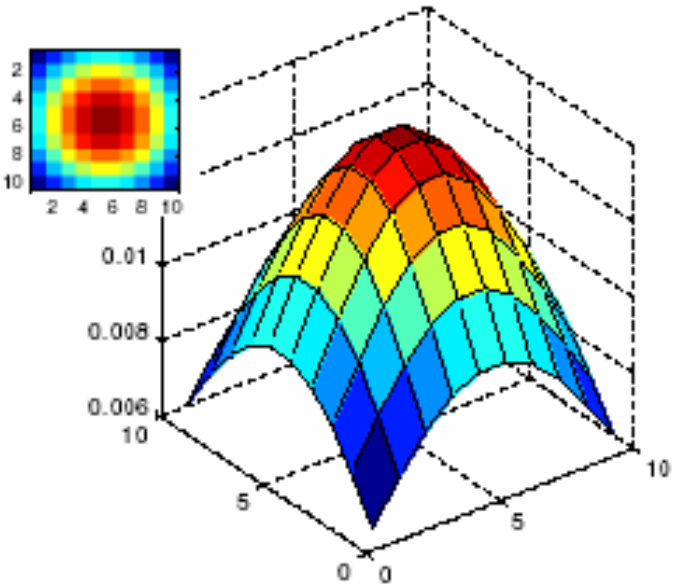

σ = 5 pixels


σ = 10 pixels

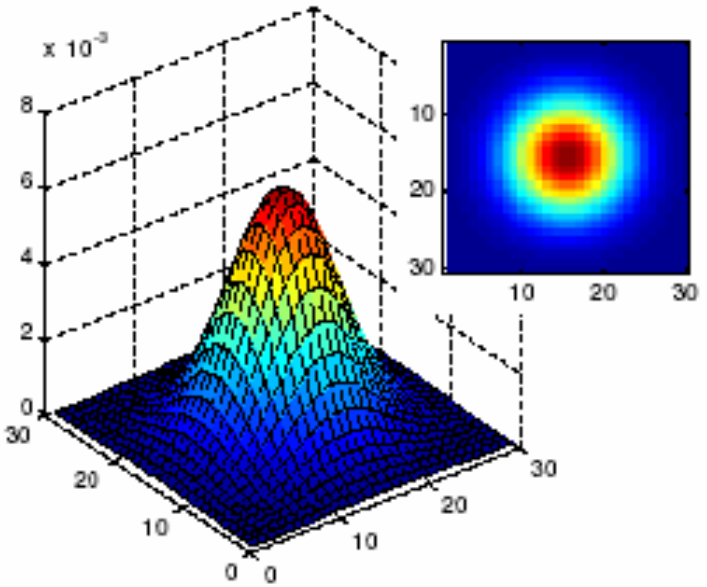

σ = 30 pixels

Choosing kernel width

- The Gaussian function has infinite support, but discrete filters use finite kernels



σ = 5 with 10x10 kernel



σ = 5 with 30x30 kernel

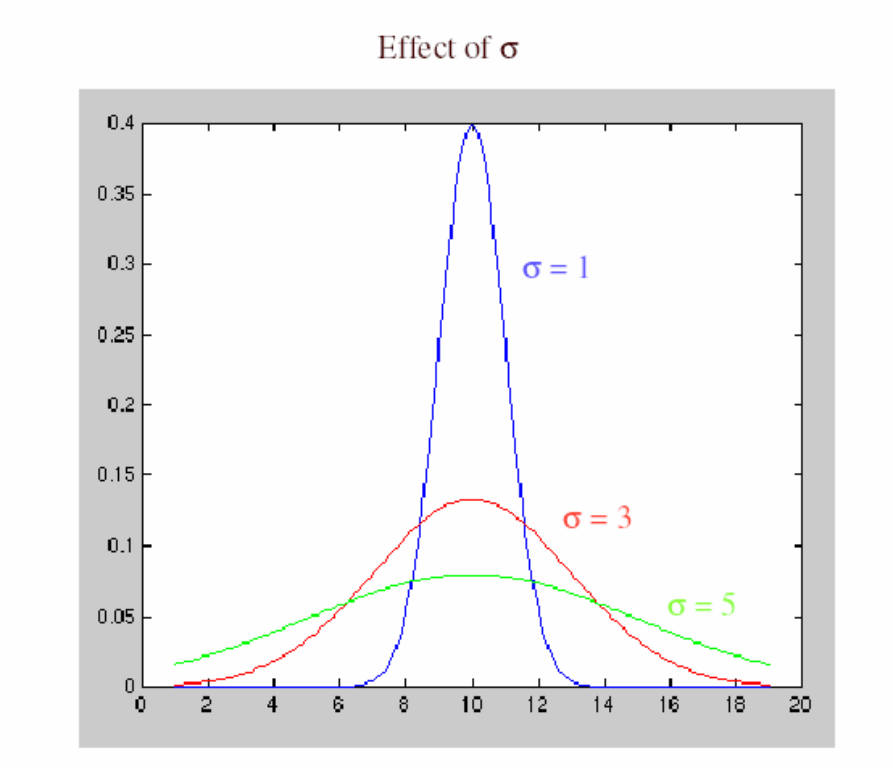
Source: K. Grauman

Practical matters

How big should the filter be?

Values at edges should be near zero

Rule of thumb for Gaussian: set filter half-width to about 3 σ



Side by Derek Hoiem

Cross-correlation vs. Convolution

cross-correlation: $G = H \otimes F$

$$G[i,j] = \sum_{u=-k}^{k} \sum_{v=-k}^{k} H[u,v]F[i+u, j+v]$$

A **convolution** operation is a cross-correlation where the filter is flipped both horizontally and vertically before being applied to the image:

$$G[i,j] = \sum_{u=-k}^{k} \sum_{v=-k}^{k} H[u,v]F[i-u, j-v]$$

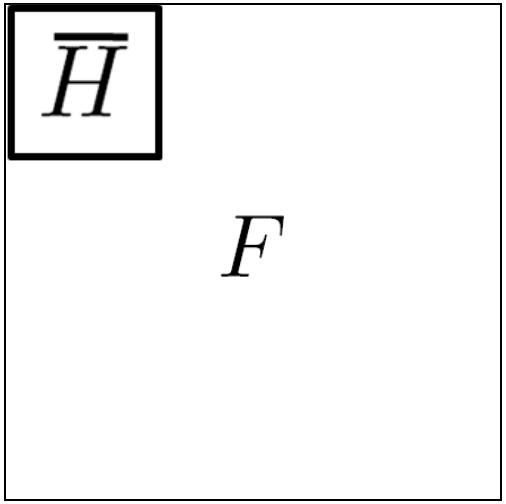
It is written:

$$G = H \star F$$

Convolution is **commutative** and **associative**

Slide by Steve Seitz

Convolution



Adapted from F. Durand

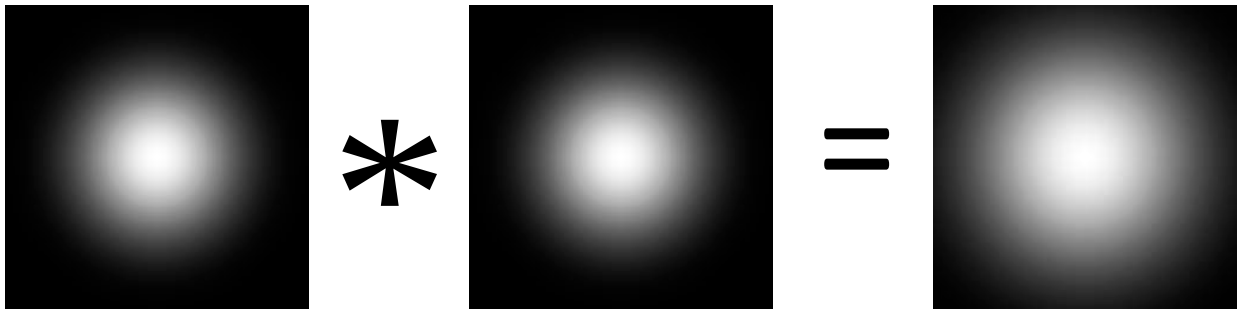
Convolution is nice!

- Notation: $b = c \star a$
- Convolution is a multiplication-like operation
  - commutative $a \star b = b \star a$
  - associative $a \star (b \star c) = (a \star b) \star c$
  - distributes over addition $a \star (b + c) = a \star b + a \star c$
  - scalars factor out $\alpha a \star b = a \star \alpha b = \alpha(a \star b)$
  - identity: unit impulse *e* = […, 0, 0, 1, 0, 0, …]

    $$a \star e = a$$
- Conceptually no distinction between filter and signal
- Usefulness of associativity
  - often apply several filters one after another: (((*a* * b_1) * b_2) * b_3)
  - this is equivalent to applying one filter: a * (b_1 * b_2 * b_3)

Gaussian and convolution

- Removes “high-frequency” components from the image (low-pass filter)
- Convolution with self is another Gaussian



  - Convolving twice with Gaussian kernel of width σ = convolving once with kernel of width $\sigma\sqrt{2}$

Source: K. Grauman

Image half-sizing

This image is too big to fit on the screen. How can we reduce it?

How to generate a half-sized version?

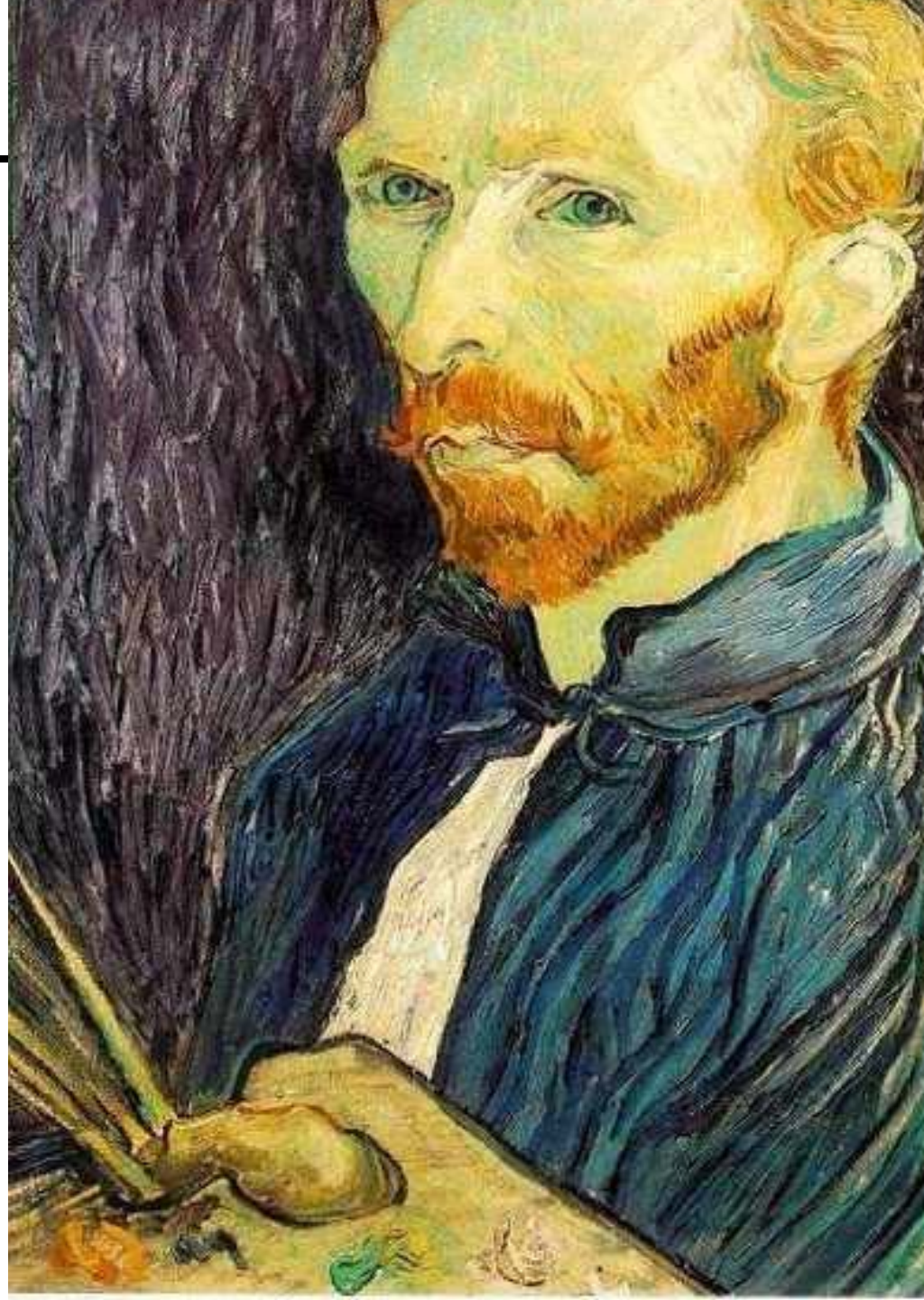
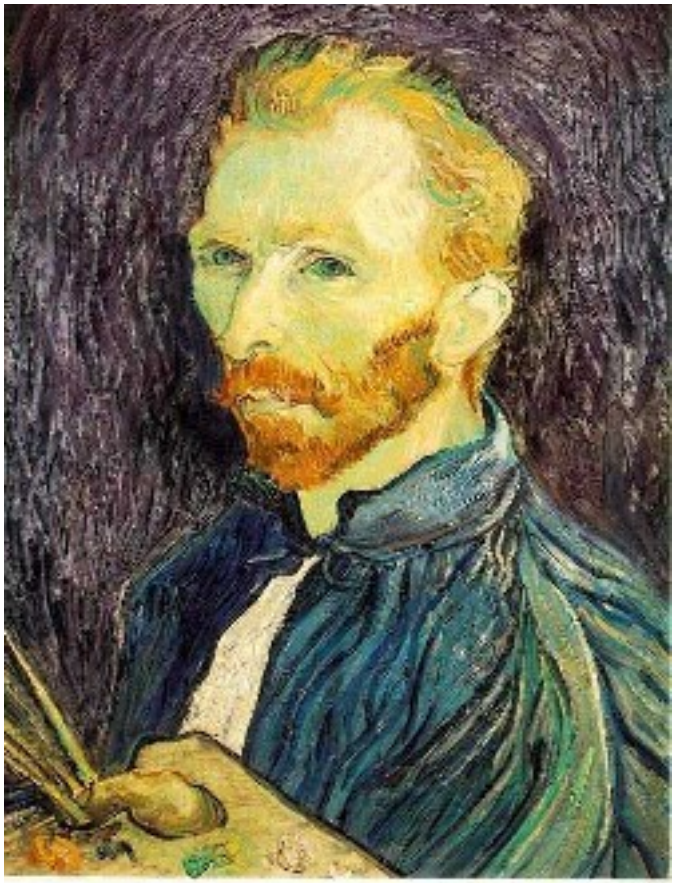


Image sub-sampling



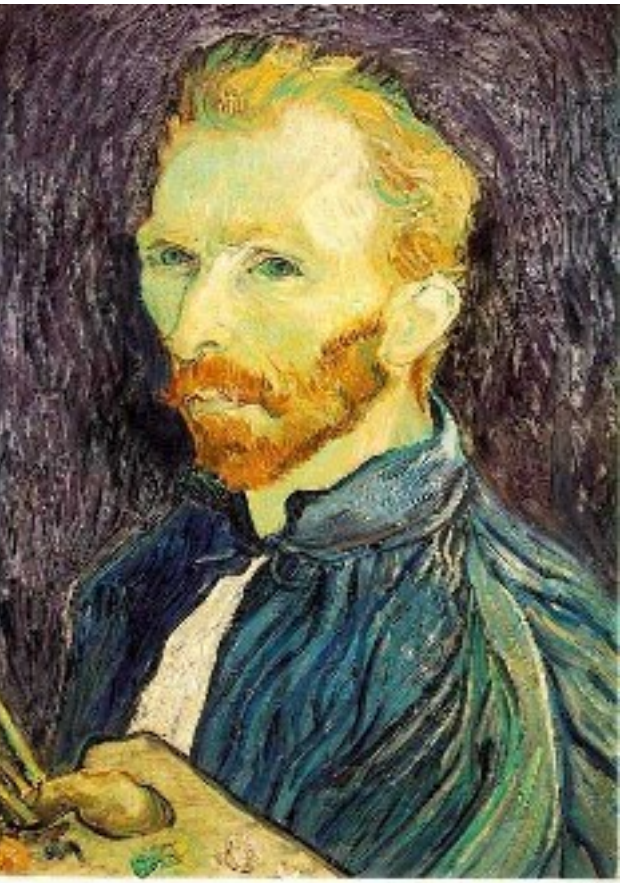
1/4

1/8

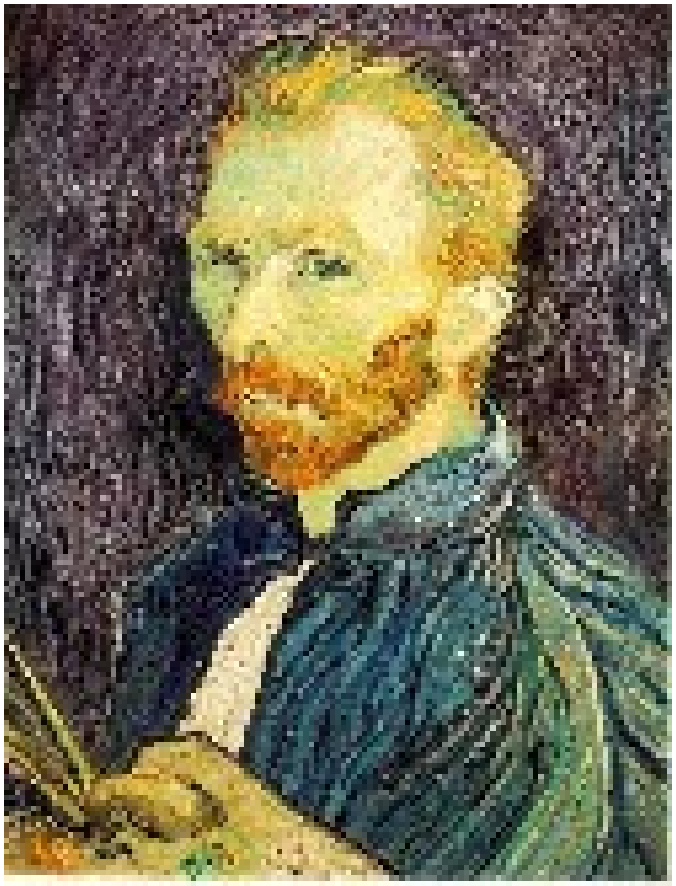
Throw away every other row and column to create a 1/2 size image
- called *image sub-sampling*

Slide by Steve Seitz

Image sub-sampling



1/2



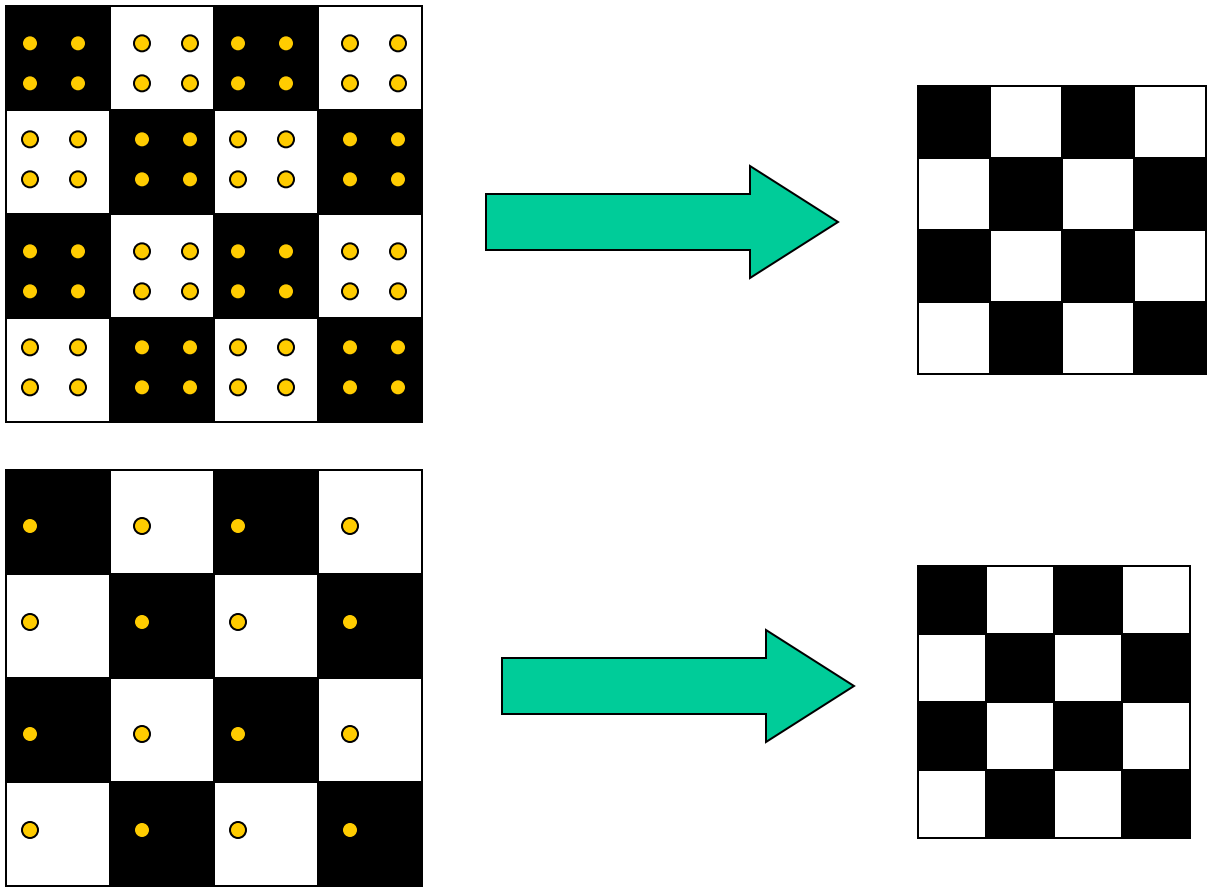
1/4 (2x zoom)

1/8 (4x zoom)

Aliasing! What do we do?

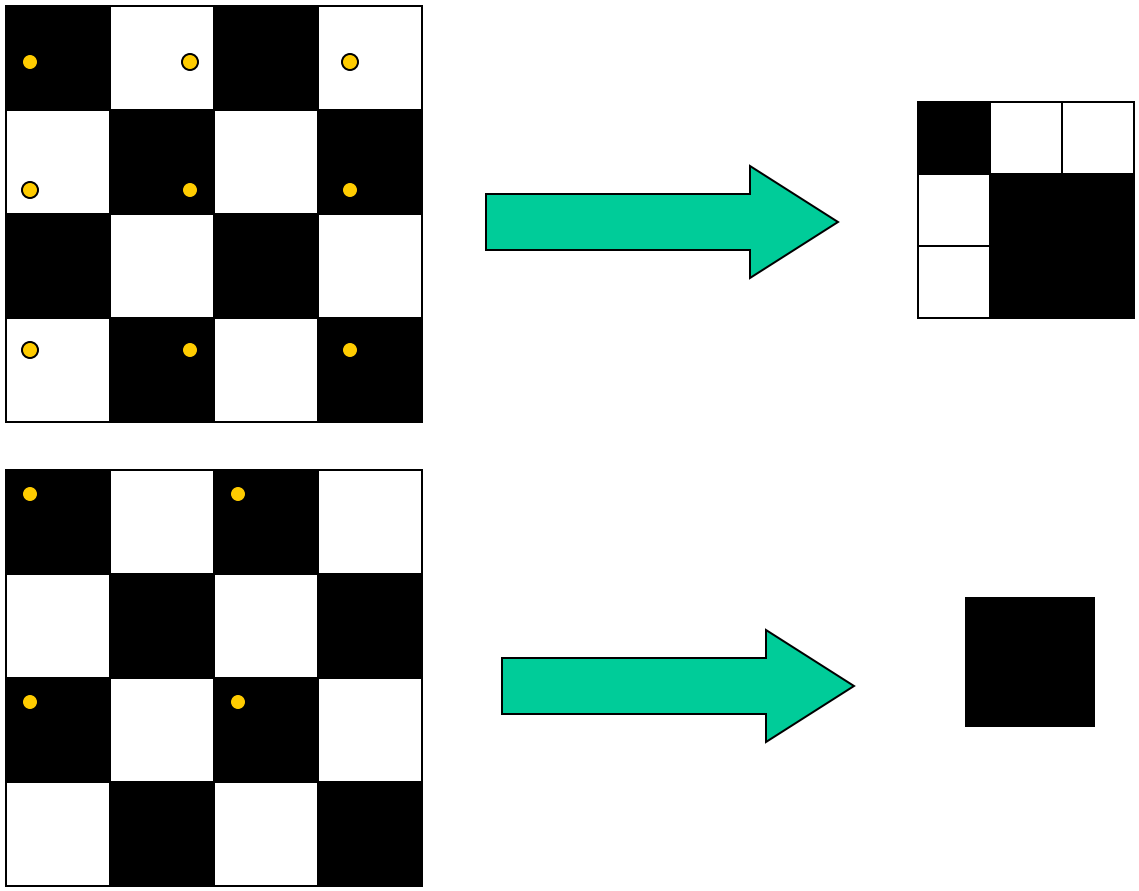
Slide by Steve Seitz

Sampling an image



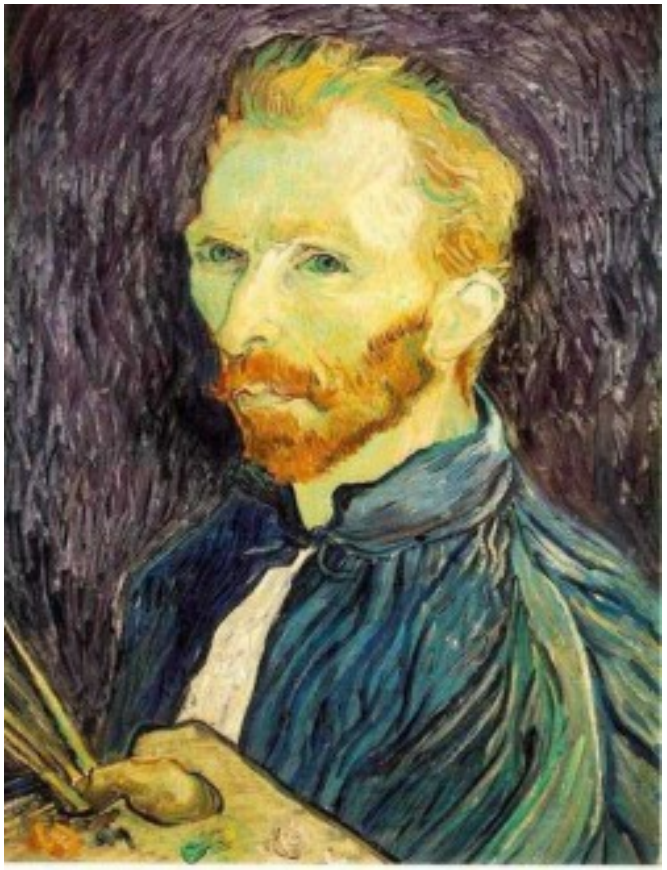
Examples of GOOD sampling

Undersampling



Examples of BAD sampling -> Aliasing

Gaussian (lowpass) pre-filtering



Gaussian 1/2

G 1/4

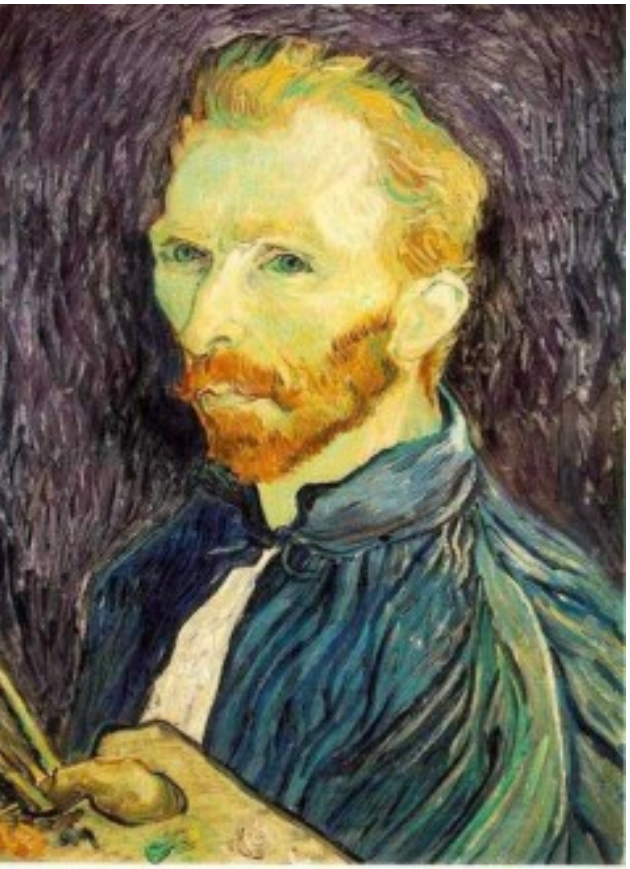
G 1/8

Solution: filter the image, *then* subsample

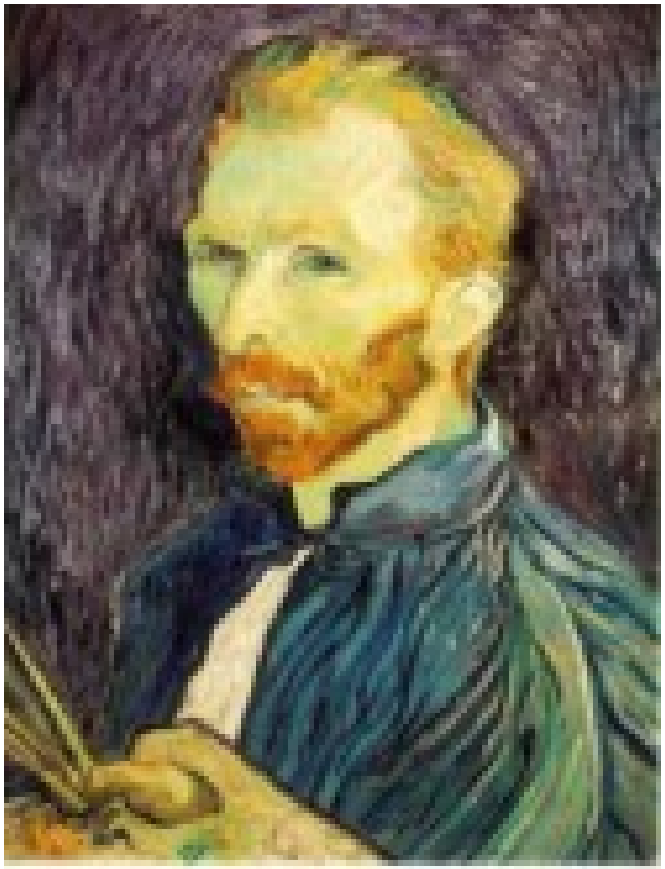
- Filter size should double for each ½ size reduction. Why?

Slide by Steve Seitz

Subsampling with Gaussian pre-filtering



Gaussian 1/2

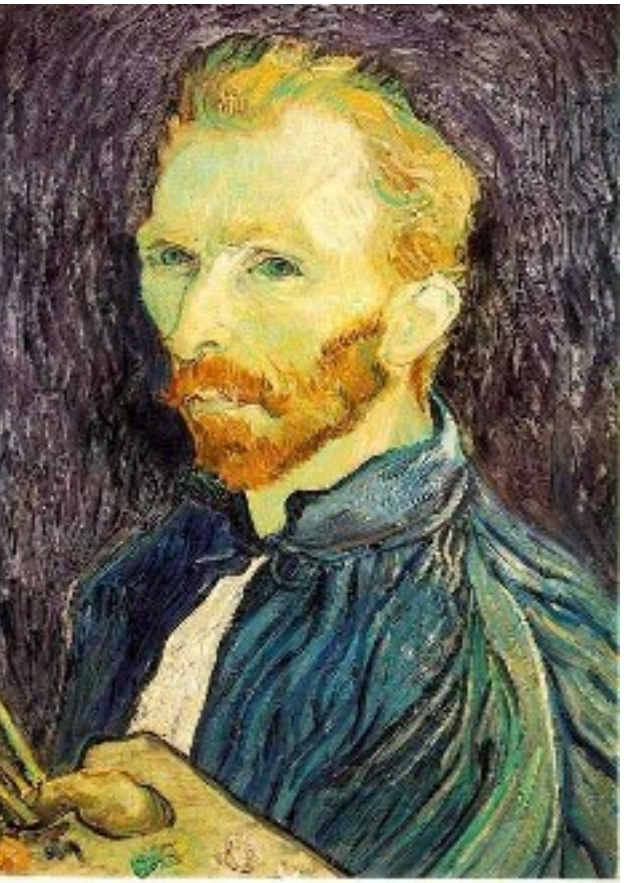


G 1/4

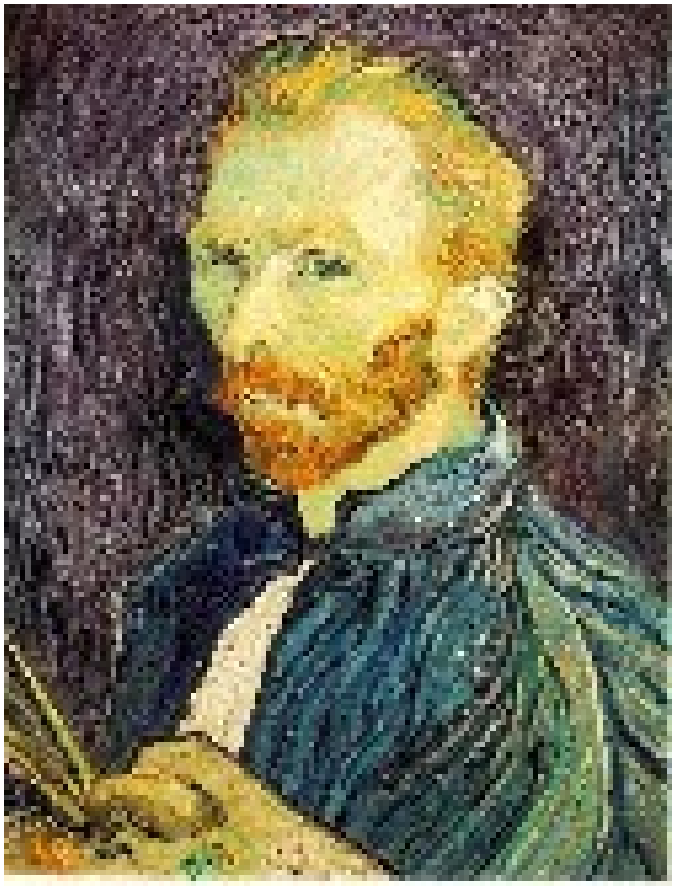
G 1/8

Slide by Steve Seitz

Compare with...



1/2

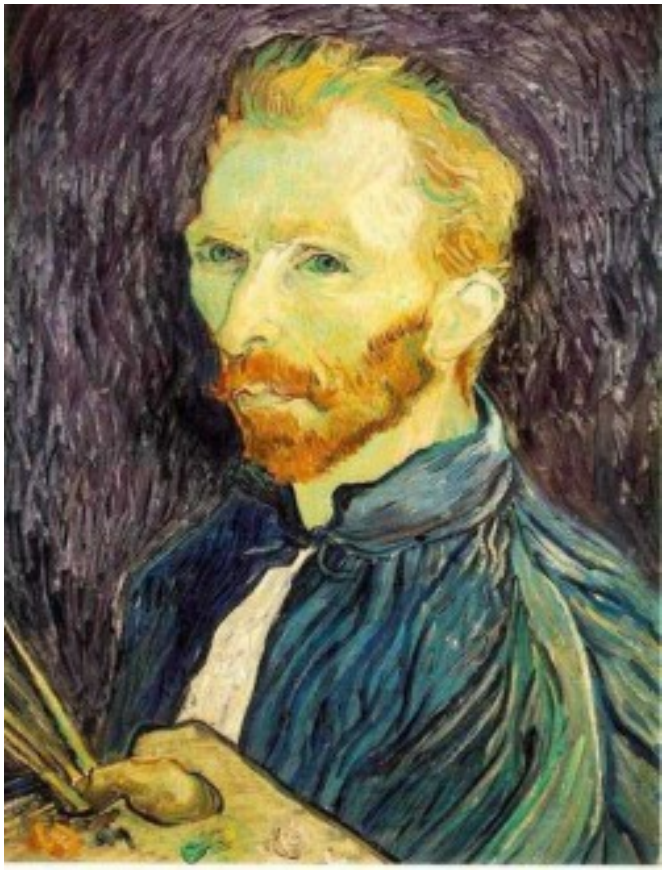


1/4 (2x zoom)

1/8 (4x zoom)

Slide by Steve Seitz

Gaussian (lowpass) pre-filtering



Gaussian 1/2

G 1/4

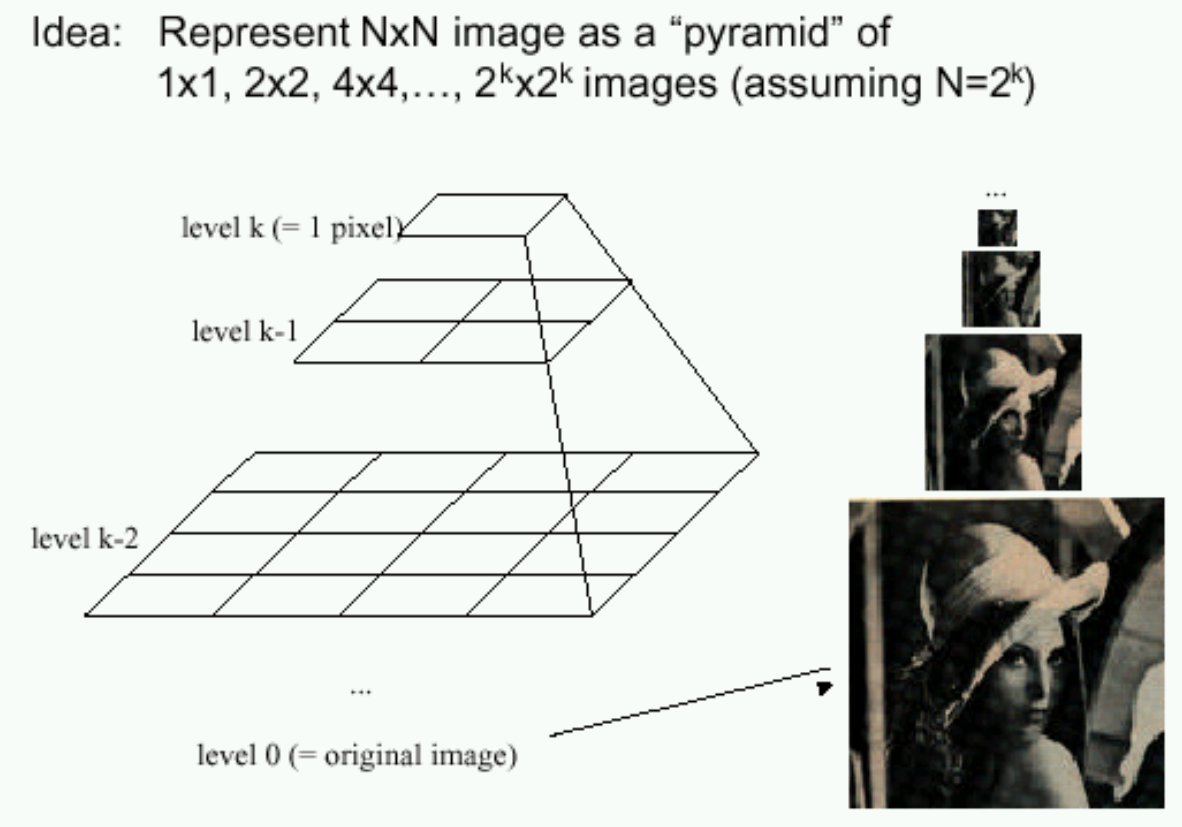
G 1/8

Solution: filter the image, *then* subsample

- Filter size should double for each ½ size reduction. Why?
- How can we speed this up?

Slide by Steve Seitz

Image Pyramids



Known as a **Gaussian Pyramid** [Burt and Adelson, 1983]

- In computer graphics, a *mip map* [Williams, 1983]
- A precursor to *wavelet transform*

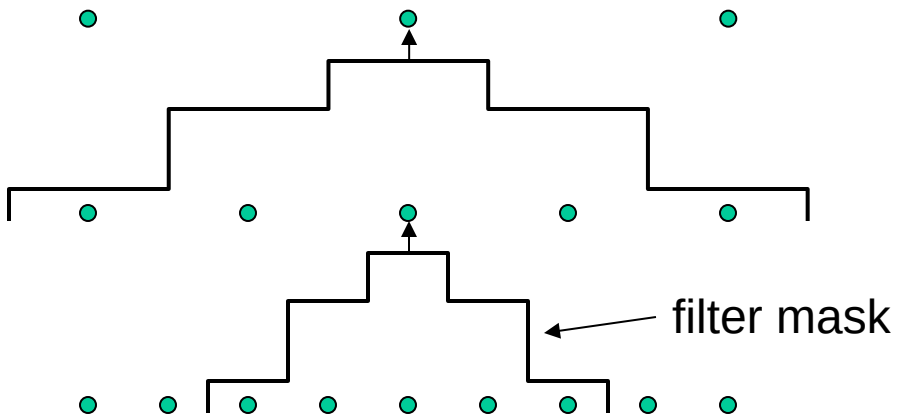
Slide by Steve Seitz

512 256 128 64 32 16 8

A bar in the big images is a hair on the zebra's nose; in smaller images, a stripe; in the smallest, the animal's nose

Figure from David Forsyth

Gaussian pyramid construction



Repeat

- Filter
- Subsample

Until minimum resolution reached

- can specify desired number of levels (e.g., 3-level pyramid)

The whole pyramid is only 4/3 the size of the original image!

Slide by Steve Seitz

What are they good for?

Improve Search

- Search over translations
  - Classic coarse-to-fine strategy
- Search over scale
  - Template matching
  - E.g. find a face at different scales