

BIOS 7718 Homework 3

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Problem 1, Part 1

For this problem, we were given two images and asked to segment both via the mean shift algorithm. We were asked to segment both images using 1.) only color information for each pixel (three features total) and 2.) color and pixel coordinate information (five features total). For this particular problem, the **MeanShift** function in the **sklearn.cluster** module in Python was implemented. There are five key steps in mean shift clustering/segmentation algorithm. First, the features are defined. Second, windows are initialized at individual feature points. Third, mean shift for each window is run until they converge. Fourth, windows that end up near the same mode are merged together. Finally, the merged windows form the clusters/segments. It should be noted that the **MeanShift** function utilizes a flat kernel. The segmentation results for each image and for each feature space are shown below (Fig. 1 and 2).

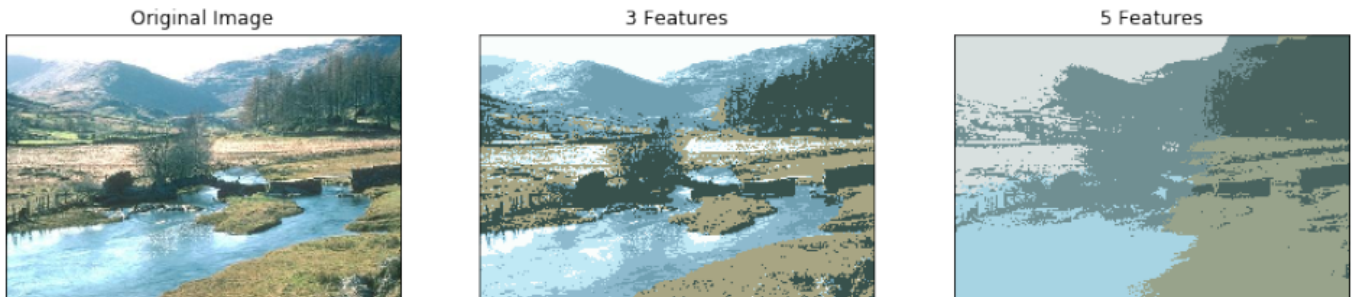


Fig. 1: Image segmentation using the mean shift algorithm. The images shown are the original image, the segmented image using color information only, and the segmented image using color and coordinate information.

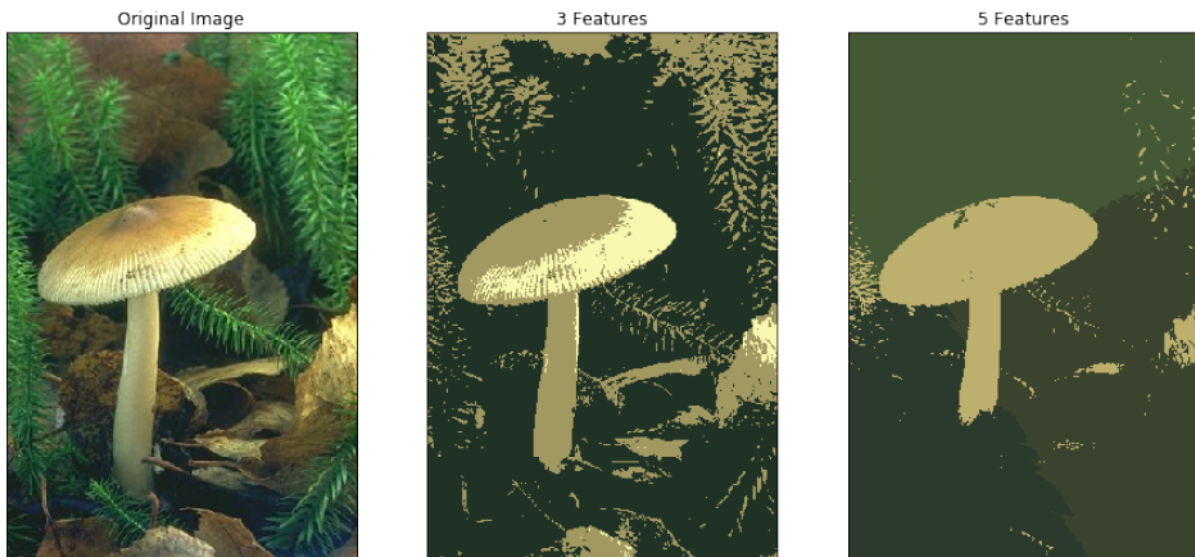


Fig. 2: Image segmentation using the mean shift algorithm. The images shown are the original image, the segmented image using RGB color information only, and the segmented image using color and coordinate information.

It is worth noting that the segmented images using pixel color and coordinate information were *not* standardized. Because the images had relatively small dimensions, leaving the images as is did not seem to cause an issue in terms of image segmentation. However, it is worth noting that for larger images, it is generally recommended that the color and coordinate data are both standardized prior to implementing the mean shift algorithm.

Problem 1, Part 2

Using the same images as before, we were then asked to compare the segmentation of images using varying bandwidth sizes. The bandwidth sizes calculated for the landscape image were approximately 1.) 91 (referred to as the small bandwidth), 2.) 125 (referred to as the medium bandwidth), and 3.) 171 (referred to as the large bandwidth). The bandwidth sizes calculated for the mushroom image were approximately 1.) 78 (referred to as the small bandwidth), 2.) 109 (referred to as the medium bandwidth), and 3.) 151 (referred to as the large bandwidth). Each of these bandwidths were calculated using the `estimate_bandwidth` function in the `sklearn.cluster` module. Each of these calculated bandwidths corresponded to the 0.05, 0.1, and 0.2 quantiles of all pairwise distances for each image, respectively (Fig. 3 and 4).

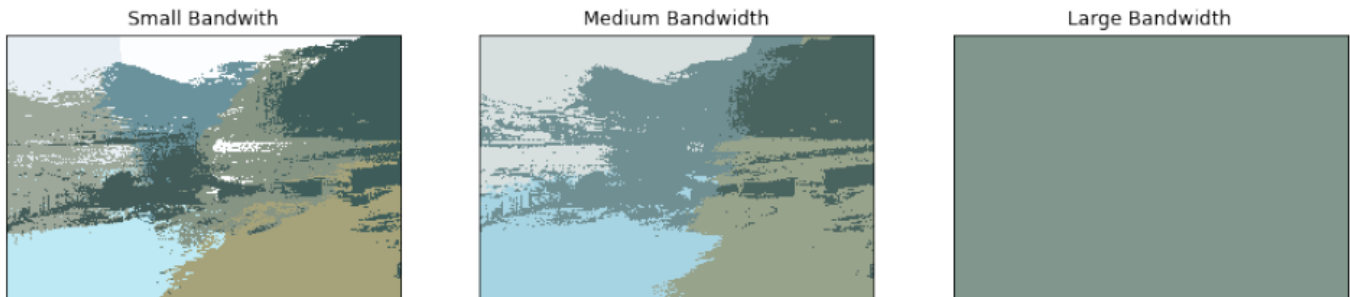


Fig. 3: Image segmentation using the mean shift algorithm and varying bandwidth values.

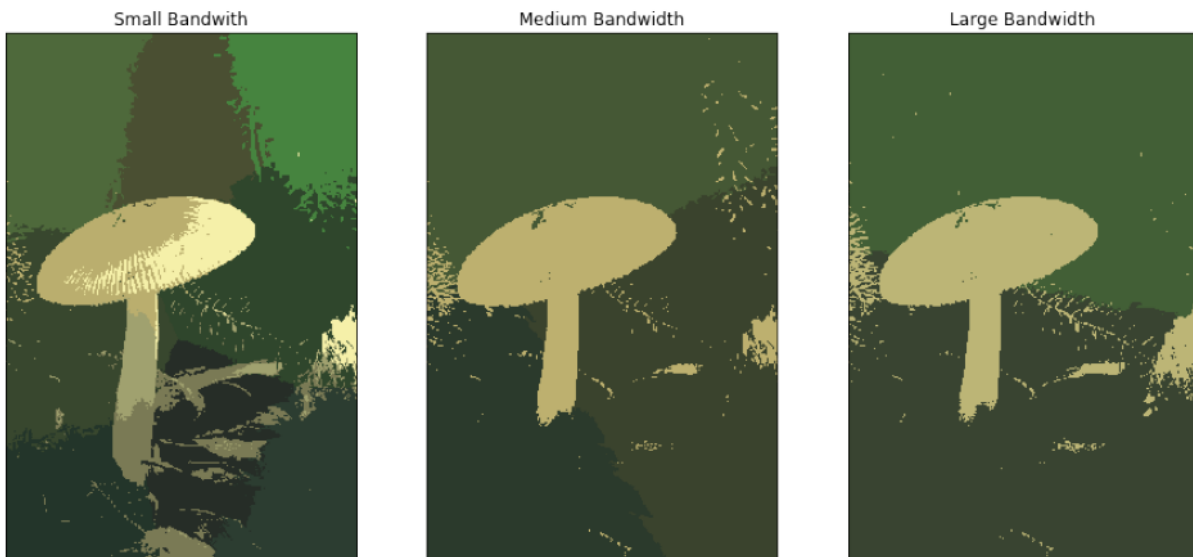


Fig. 4: Image segmentation using the mean shift algorithm and varying bandwidth values.

Here, we can see that as the bandwidth increases, the number of clusters/segments detected decreases. In fact, the third segmented image in Figure 3 indicates that the bandwidth was too large, as there was only one cluster/segment detected.

Problem 2

Here, we were asked to segment the same previous images from Problem 1 using the normalized cut method. While there was source code provided for this question, I decided to use a different approach for this image segmentation method, and the code used for this problem can be found in the appendix at the end of the document. The normalized cut algorithm mainly consists of representing an image as a weighted graph, solving equations to find the eigenvector with the smallest eigenvalue,

bipartitioning the graph using the eigenvector, and then doing this recursively if necessary. In working with the normalized cut algorithm, I found that the image segmentation was superior if I Gaussian-smoothed the image prior. Thus, the images that were segmented were first Gaussian-smoothed with a 15×15 kernel and $\sigma = 5$ (Fig. 5 and 6).



Fig. 5: Image segmentation using normalized cut algorithm.



Fig. 6: Image segmentation using the normalized cut algorithm.

In comparison with the segmented images in Problem 1 that were segmented via the mean shift algorithm, I would argue that the normalized cut algorithm did a better job in segmenting the images. To me, it seems that the normalized cut method segmented the image more appropriately than the mean shift method. One particular difference I notice is that there seems to be less arbitrary segments in the background area for both images when using the normalized cut algorithm compared to the mean shift algorithm. This is especially obvious when comparing the normalized-cut segmentation images with the mean-shift segmentation images that utilized both color and coordinate information. However, in the mushroom image, I noticed that the normalized cut algorithm may have slightly over-segmented the mushroom in the picture.

Problem 3

Finally, we were asked to perform blob detection using the scaled-normalized Laplacian of Gaussian (LoG) filter for a histology image consisting of multiple nuclei. In particular, we were asked to observe the effect of increasing σ on the size of the nuclei

detected (Fig 7).

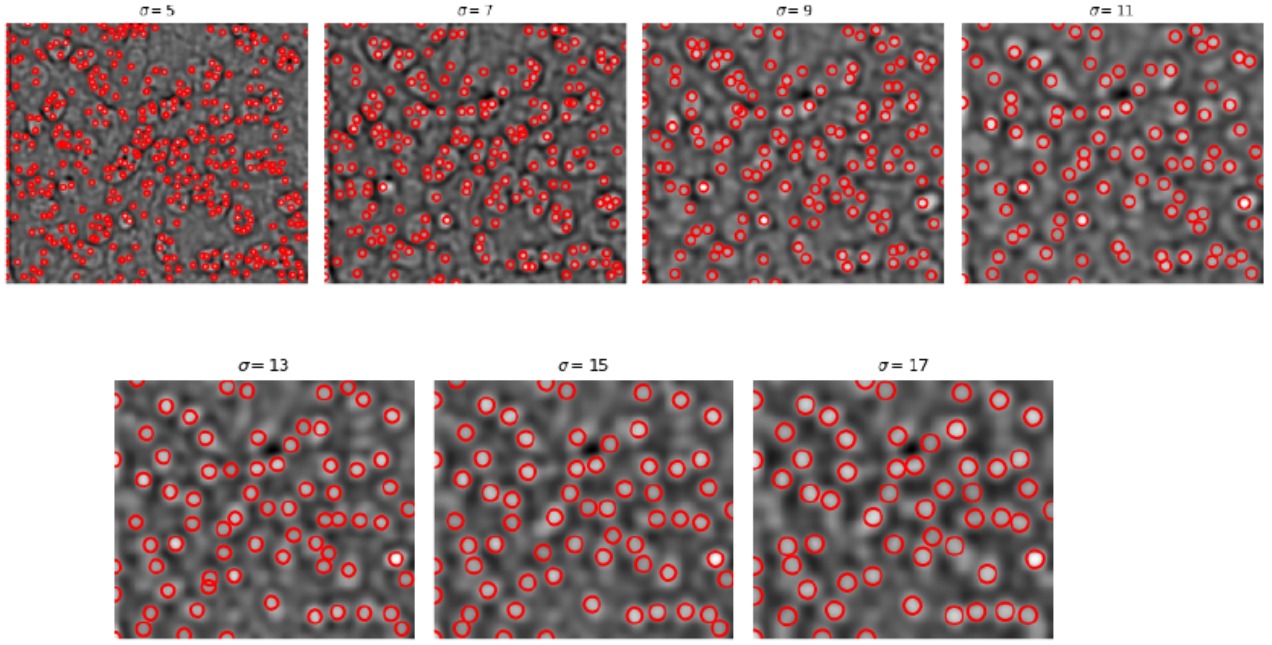


Fig. 7: Blob detection using the scaled-normalized LoG filter at varying σ values. The images shown are the scale-normalized LoG-filtered images, while the red circles indicate the local maxima detected. From left to right, the *sigma* are set to 5, 7, 9, 11, 13, 15, and 17.

It can be seen that, as σ increase, the size of the nuclei detected increases as well. I would argue that at $\sigma = 17$, the blob detection is optimal compared to the other σ values. Most of the nuclei were accurately detected, and the size of the nuclei detected appear to be similar in size to the actual size of the nuclei in the image.