

ECE 172A: Introduction to Image Processing

Discrete Images and Filtering: Part I

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Winter 2025

Outline

- Characterization of Discrete Images
 - Discrete Image Representation
 - Discrete-Space Fourier Transform
 - Two-Dimensional z -transform ($= (z_1, z_2)$ -transform)
- Discrete (Digital?) Filtering
 - Filtering With 2D Masks
 - Equivalent Filter Characterizations
 - Separability
- Filtering Images: Practical Considerations

Characterization of Discrete Images

- Discrete Image Representation
- Space of Square-Summable Sequences
- Discrete-Space Fourier Transform
- Parseval/Plancherel Relation
- Two-Dimensional z -Transform
- z -Transform Properties

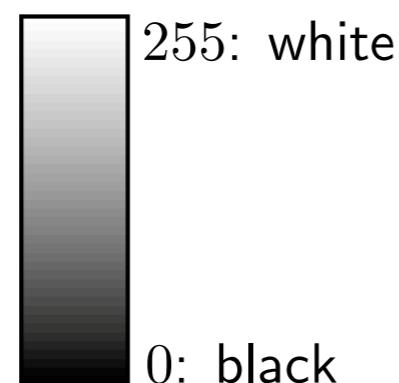
Discrete Image Representation

- Set of **pixels** → **picture elements**

$\{a[k, l]\}$ with $k = 0, \dots, K - 1$ and $l = 0, \dots, L - 1$

K : number of columns

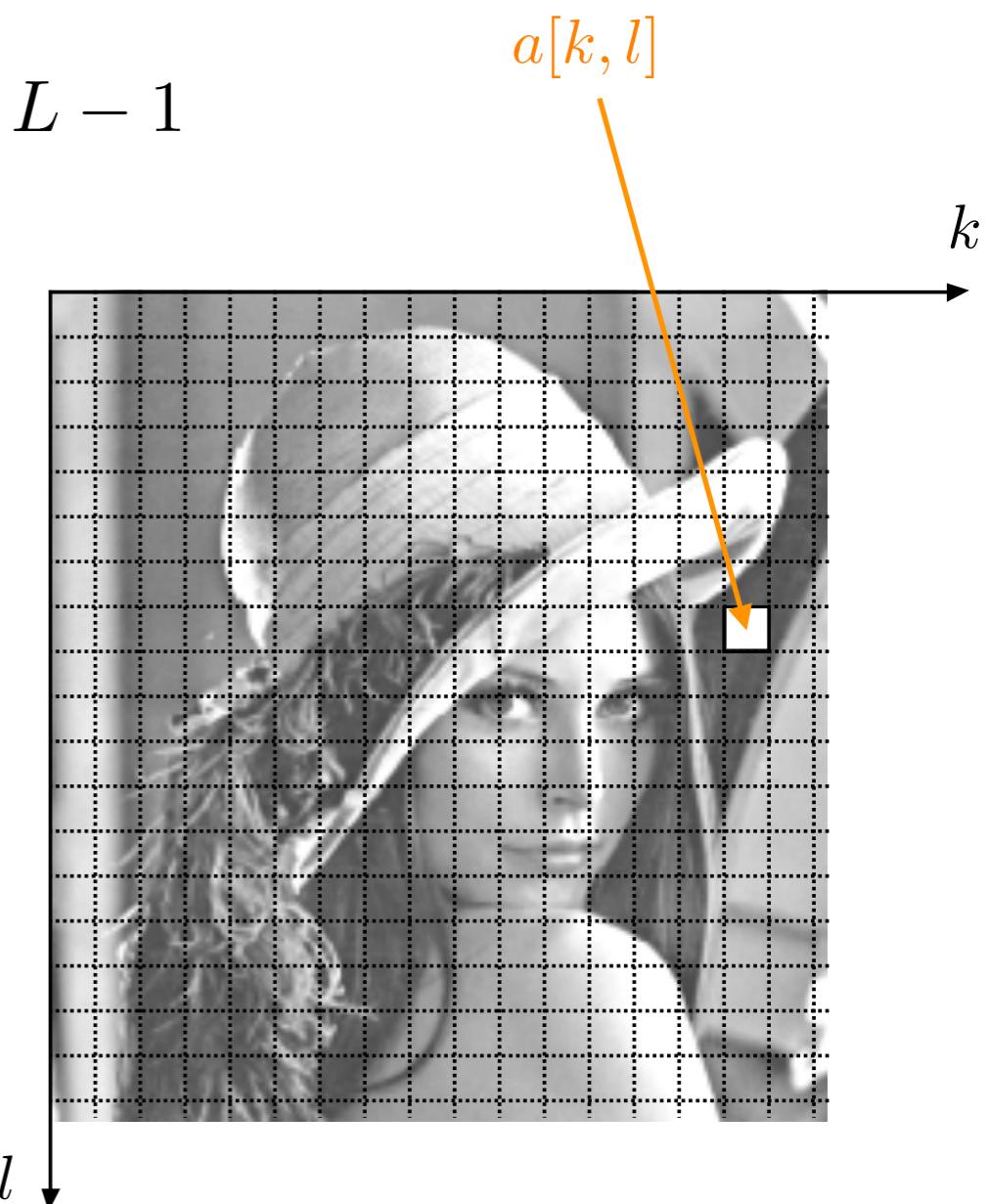
L : number of rows



- Array of pixels of size $K \times L$

Storage as an $L \times K$ Python array: $\mathbf{A} = [a_{i,j}]$ with $a_{i,j} = a[j, i]$

Lab 0



Vector Space of Square-Summable Images

- View images as 2D sequences of the space variables

$$a[k_1, k_2] \in \ell^2(\mathbb{Z}^2) \text{ or simply } a \in \ell^2(\mathbb{Z}^2)$$

$a[\mathbf{k}]$ with $\mathbf{k} = (k_1, k_2) \in \mathbb{Z}^2$ (compact vector notation)

- 2D ℓ^2 -inner product

$$\langle a, b \rangle = \sum_{k_1 \in \mathbb{Z}} \sum_{k_2 \in \mathbb{Z}} a[k_1, k_2] b^*[k_1, k_2]$$

induced ℓ^2 -norm:

$$\|a\|_{\ell^2} = \sqrt{\sum_{(k_1, k_2) \in \mathbb{Z}^2} |a[k_1, k_2]|^2} = \sqrt{\langle a, a \rangle}$$

- Vector space of square-summable (discrete) images

$$\ell^2(\mathbb{Z}^2) = \{a[\mathbf{k}] : \mathbf{k} \in \mathbb{Z}^2 \text{ and } \|a\|_{\ell^2}^2 < \infty\}$$

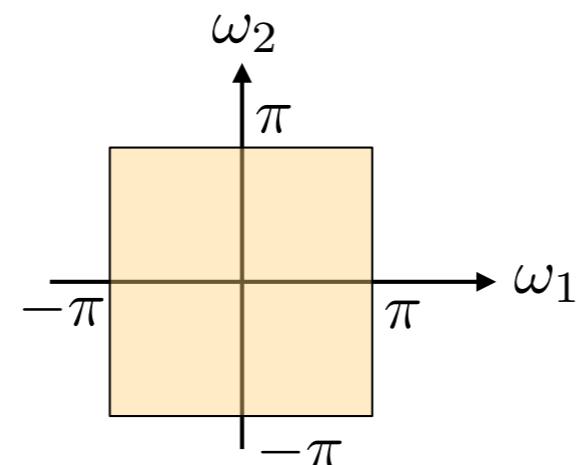
Discrete-Space Fourier Transform

- 2D discrete-space Fourier transform: Definition

$$\hat{a}(\omega_1, \omega_2) = \sum_{k_1 \in \mathbb{Z}} \sum_{k_2 \in \mathbb{Z}} a[k_1, k_2] e^{-j(\omega_1 k_1 + \omega_2 k_2)} \quad \text{with } (\omega_1, \omega_2) \in \mathbb{R}^2$$

- $(2\pi \times 2\pi)$ -periodicity

$$\hat{a}(\omega_1, \omega_2) = \hat{a}(\omega_1 + m2\pi, \omega_2 + n2\pi), \quad (m, n) \in \mathbb{Z}^2$$



Support of the **main** Fourier period:
 $[-\pi, \pi]^2 = [-\pi, \pi] \times [-\pi, \pi]$

- Inverse transform

$$a[k_1, k_2] = \frac{1}{(2\pi)^2} \int_{-\pi}^{\pi} \int_{-\pi}^{\pi} \hat{a}(\omega_1, \omega_2) e^{j(\omega_1 k_1 + \omega_2 k_2)} d\omega_1 d\omega_2$$

Parseval-Plancherel Relations

- Discrete-Space Fourier transform and finite energy:

$$a \in \ell^2(\mathbb{Z}^2) \quad \text{if and only if} \quad \hat{a} \in L^2([-\pi, \pi]^2)$$

Theorem: The complex exponentials $\{e^{j\omega^\top k}\}_{k \in \mathbb{Z}^2}$ form an **orthonormal basis** of $L^2([-\pi, \pi]^2)$ with respect to the inner product $\langle \hat{a}, \hat{b} \rangle = \frac{1}{(2\pi)^2} \int_{[-\pi, \pi]^2} \hat{a}(\omega) \hat{b}^*(\omega) d\omega$.

Dual interpretation via Fourier series:

- $\hat{a}(\omega) = \sum_{k \in \mathbb{Z}^2} a[k] e^{-j\omega^\top k}$ is the **Fourier series** of $\hat{a}(\omega)$
- $a[k] = \langle \hat{a}(\omega), e^{-j\omega^\top k} \rangle$ are the **Fourier coefficients**

Parseval-Plancherel Relations

- Discrete-Space Fourier transform and finite energy:

$$a \in \ell^2(\mathbb{Z}^2) \quad \text{if and only if} \quad \hat{a} \in L^2([-\pi, \pi]^2)$$

- Parseval's formula: $\langle a, b \rangle = \langle \hat{a}, \hat{b} \rangle$

$$\sum_{\mathbf{k} \in \mathbb{Z}^2} a[\mathbf{k}] b^*[\mathbf{k}] = \frac{1}{(2\pi)^2} \int_{[-\pi, \pi]^2} \hat{a}(\omega) \hat{b}^*(\omega) d\omega$$

- Energy-preservation property:

$$\|a\|_{\ell^2}^2 = \|\hat{a}\|_{L^2([-\pi, \pi]^2)}^2 = \frac{1}{(2\pi)^2} \int_{[-\pi, \pi]^2} |\hat{a}(\omega)|^2 d\omega$$

Relationship With Continuous Fourier Transform

- Representation of bandlimited functions:

$$f_{\text{int}}(\boldsymbol{x}) = \sum_{\boldsymbol{k} \in \mathbb{Z}^2} f[\boldsymbol{k}] \operatorname{sinc}(\boldsymbol{x} - \boldsymbol{k})$$

Exercise: What is the maximum frequency content of f for this to hold?

$$\begin{aligned}\hat{f}_{\text{int}}(\boldsymbol{\omega}) &= \sum_{\boldsymbol{k} \in \mathbb{Z}^2} f[\boldsymbol{k}] \mathcal{F}\{\operatorname{sinc}(\boldsymbol{x} - \boldsymbol{k})\}(\boldsymbol{\omega}) \\ &= \sum_{\boldsymbol{k} \in \mathbb{Z}^2} f[\boldsymbol{k}] e^{-j\boldsymbol{\omega}^\top \boldsymbol{k}} \mathcal{F}\{\operatorname{sinc}(\boldsymbol{x})\}(\boldsymbol{\omega}) \\ &= \hat{f}_d(\boldsymbol{\omega}) \operatorname{rect}\left(\frac{\boldsymbol{\omega}}{2\pi}\right) = \begin{cases} \hat{f}_d(\boldsymbol{\omega}), & \text{for } \boldsymbol{\omega} \in [-\pi, \pi]^2 \\ 0, & \text{else} \end{cases}\end{aligned}$$

The representation holds when f_{int} is bandlimited to $[-\pi, \pi]^2$

Two-Dimensional z -Transform

Complex variable: $z = (z_1, z_2) \in \mathbb{C}^2$ Space index: $k = (k_1, k_2) \in \mathbb{Z}^2$

- Definitions:

- Multi-index notation: $z^k = z_1^{k_1} z_2^{k_2}$
- z -transform (or (z_1, z_2) -transform): $A(z) = \sum_{k \in \mathbb{Z}^2} a[k] z^{-k}$
(for z in the ROC)

- Relationship with discrete-space Fourier transform:

$$z_1 = e^{j\omega_1} \quad \text{and} \quad z_2 = e^{j\omega_2} \quad (\text{restriction to unit circle})$$

Define: $e^{j\omega} = (e^{j\omega_1}, e^{j\omega_2})$

$$A(z)|_{z=e^{j\omega}} = \hat{a}(\omega)$$

Region of Convergence

Definition: The ROC is the subset of \mathbb{C}^2 for which

$$A(z) = \sum_{k \in \mathbb{Z}^2} a[k]z^{-k}$$
 converges.

- Practical constraint: Discrete-space Fourier transform converges
 \implies ROC must include the unit circle: $z_1 = e^{j\omega_1}$ and $z_2 = e^{j\omega_2}$

- Most cases fall into two categories where this holds:

- $a[k]$ is bounded with finite support (FIR)

$$\text{ROC} = \mathbb{C}^2 \setminus \{\mathbf{0}\}$$

- $a[k]$ is **absolutely summable**

ROC contains the unit circle

z -Transform Properties

- Separability: $f[\mathbf{k}] = f_1[k_1]f_2[k_2] \xleftrightarrow{z} F(\mathbf{z}) = F_1(z_1)F_2(z_2)$
- Delay/Shift: $f[\mathbf{k} - \mathbf{k}_0] \xleftrightarrow{z} z^{-\mathbf{k}_0} F(\mathbf{z})$
- Reflection: $f^\vee[\mathbf{k}] = f[-\mathbf{k}] \xleftrightarrow{z} F(z_1^{-1}, z_2^{-1})$
- Convolution: $g[\mathbf{k}] = (h * f)[\mathbf{k}] = \sum_{\mathbf{n} \in \mathbb{Z}^2} h[\mathbf{n}]f[\mathbf{k} - \mathbf{n}] \xleftrightarrow{z} G(\mathbf{z}) = H(\mathbf{z})F(\mathbf{z})$

Proof of the Convolution Theorem: $G(\mathbf{z}) = \sum_{\mathbf{k} \in \mathbb{Z}^2} \sum_{\mathbf{n} \in \mathbb{Z}^2} h[\mathbf{n}]f[\mathbf{k} - \mathbf{n}]z^{-\mathbf{k}}$

change of variables: $\mathbf{m} = \mathbf{k} - \mathbf{n}$

$$\begin{aligned} &= \sum_{\mathbf{m} \in \mathbb{Z}^2} \sum_{\mathbf{n} \in \mathbb{Z}^2} h[\mathbf{n}]f[\mathbf{m}]z^{-(\mathbf{n}+\mathbf{m})} \\ &= \left(\sum_{\mathbf{n} \in \mathbb{Z}^2} h[\mathbf{n}]z^{-\mathbf{n}} \right) \left(\sum_{\mathbf{m} \in \mathbb{Z}^2} f[\mathbf{m}]z^{-\mathbf{m}} \right) \\ &= H(\mathbf{z})F(\mathbf{z}) \end{aligned}$$

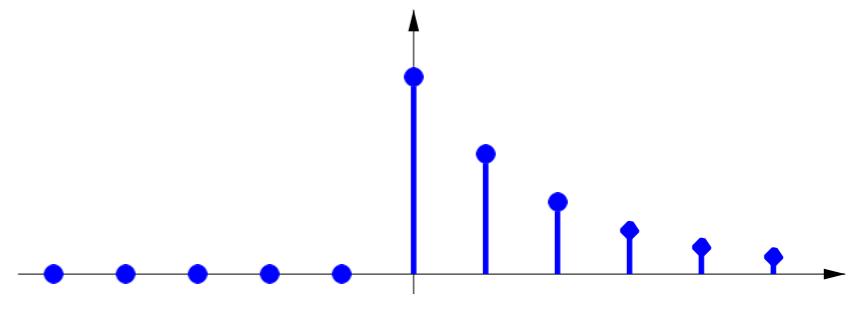
1D z -Transform Examples

- Definition: $H(z) = \sum_{k \in \mathbb{Z}} h[k]z^{-k}$

- Causal exponential

$$h_+[k] = \begin{cases} a^k, & k \geq 0 \\ 0, & \text{else} \end{cases} \quad \text{with } 0 < |a| < 1$$

Exercise: Determine $H_+(z) = \frac{1}{1 - az^{-1}}$

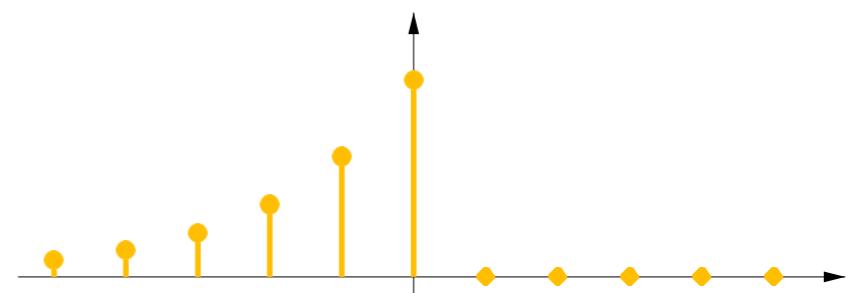


(pole inside the unit circle)

- Anti-causal exponential

$$h_-[k] = \begin{cases} a^{|k|}, & k \leq 0 \\ 0, & \text{else} \end{cases} \quad \text{with } 0 < |a| < 1$$

$$H_-(z) = H_+(z^{-1}) = \frac{1}{1 - az}$$



(pole outside the unit circle)

2D z -Transform Examples

- Definition: $H(z) = \sum_{\mathbf{k} \in \mathbb{Z}^2} h[\mathbf{k}] z^{-\mathbf{k}} = \sum_{k_1 \in \mathbb{Z}} \sum_{k_2 \in \mathbb{Z}} h[k_1, k_2] z_1^{-k_1} z_2^{-k_2}$

$$h[k_1, k_2] =$$

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

$\xrightarrow{k_1}$
 \downarrow
 k_2

Exercise: Compute $H(z_1, z_2)$

$$\begin{array}{ccccccc}
 & -1 & & 0 & & +1 & k_1 \\
 \hline
 (1) \cdot z_1 z_2 & + & (0) \cdot 1 \cdot z_2 & + & (-1) \cdot z_1^{-1} z_2 & + & -1 \\
 (2) \cdot z_1 \cdot 1 & + & (0) \cdot 1 \cdot 1 & + & (-2) \cdot z_1^{-1} \cdot 1 & + & 0 \\
 (1) \cdot z_1 z_2^{-1} & + & (0) \cdot 1 \cdot z_2^{-1} & + & (-1) \cdot z_1^{-1} z_2^{-1} & + & 1
 \end{array}$$

$$= (z_1 - z_1^{-1})(z_2 + 2 + z_2^{-1})$$

Separable filter!

Inverse z -Transform

- Identify coefficients of the polynomial: $H(z) = \sum_{k \in \mathbb{Z}^2} h[k]z^{-k}$
- Take advantage of separability: $H(z) = H_1(z_1)H_2(z_2)$
- Reminder of 1D methods:
 - Cauchy integral theorem: $h[k] = \frac{1}{j2\pi} \oint_{\Gamma} H(z)z^{k-1} dz$
 Γ is any contour that encloses the origin
- More often than not, we will just use tables and/or partial fractions

$$\text{E.g., } \frac{-3}{2z^{-1} - 5 + 2z} = \frac{3/4}{(1 - \frac{1}{2}z^{-1})(1 - \frac{1}{2}z)} = \frac{1}{1 - \frac{1}{2}z^{-1}} + \frac{1}{1 - \frac{1}{2}z} - 1$$

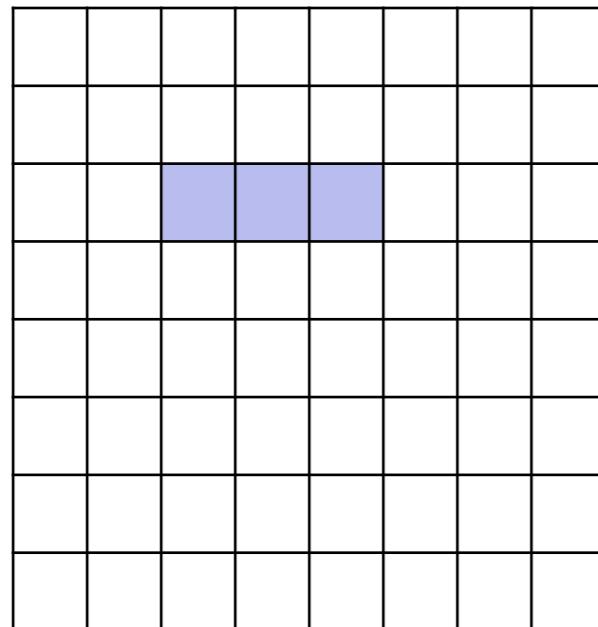
$$\implies h[k] = u[k] \left(\frac{1}{2}\right)^k + u[-k] \left(\frac{1}{2}\right)^{-k} - \delta[k]$$

Discrete/Digital Filtering

- Filtering With 2D Masks
- Linearity and Shift-Invariance
- Impulse Response and Discrete Convolution
- Equivalent Filter Characterizations
- Examples of Transfer Functions
- Separability
- z -transform and Recursive Filtering

Filtering With 2D Masks

- Mask (or local operator) formulation



- Filtering mask (weights): $(2M + 1) \times (2N + 1)$

$$\mathbf{w} = \begin{bmatrix} w[-M, -N] & \cdots & w[M, -N] \\ \vdots & w[0, 0] & \vdots \\ w[-M, N] & \cdots & w[M, N] \end{bmatrix}$$

- Local neighborhood: $(2M + 1) \times (2N + 1)$

$$\mathbf{f}_k = \begin{bmatrix} f[k_1 - M, k_2 - N] & \cdots & f[k_1 + M, k_2 - N] \\ \vdots & f[k_1, k_2] & \vdots \\ f[k_1 - M, k_2 + N] & \cdots & f[k_1 + M, k_2 + N] \end{bmatrix}$$

- Filtering: matrix formulation

$$g[\mathbf{k}] = \mathbf{f}_k \odot \mathbf{w} = \sum_i \sum_j [\mathbf{f}_k]_{i,j} [\mathbf{w}]_{i,j} \quad (\text{term-by-term product})$$

This is called a **correlation** (not a **convolution**)

Filtering Examples

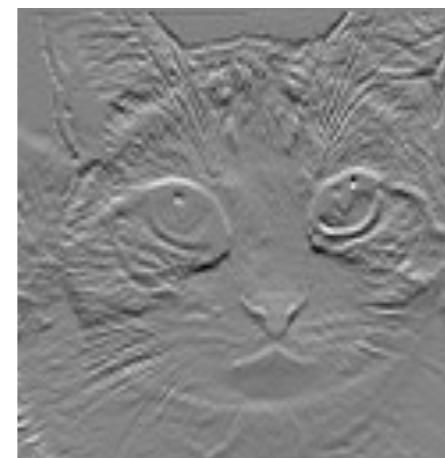


Mask: w



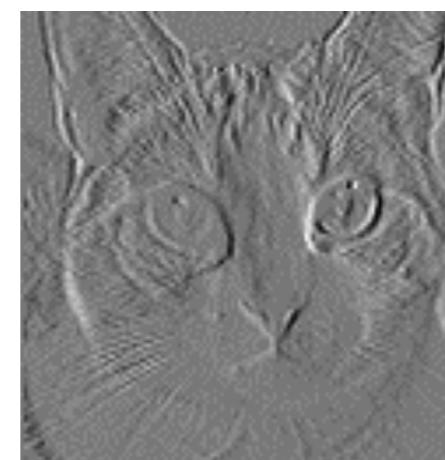
- Local (3×3)-average

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



- Horizontal-edge enhancement

$$w_{\text{hor}} = \begin{bmatrix} -1 & -2 & -1 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 1 & 2 & 1 \end{bmatrix}$$



- Vertical-edge enhancement

$$w_{\text{vert}} = \begin{bmatrix} -1 & 0 & 1 \\ -2 & 0 & 2 \\ -1 & 0 & 1 \end{bmatrix}$$

Linearity and Shift Invariance

- Most filters are linear:

$$\alpha f_1[\mathbf{k}] + \beta f_2[\mathbf{k}] \longrightarrow \boxed{H(z)} \longrightarrow \alpha(h * f_1)[\mathbf{k}] + \beta(h * f_2)[\mathbf{k}] \quad \forall \alpha, \beta \in \mathbb{R}$$

- Shift by \mathbf{k}_0 operator:

$$f[\mathbf{k}] \longrightarrow \boxed{z^{-\mathbf{k}_0}} \longrightarrow f[\mathbf{k} - \mathbf{k}_0]$$

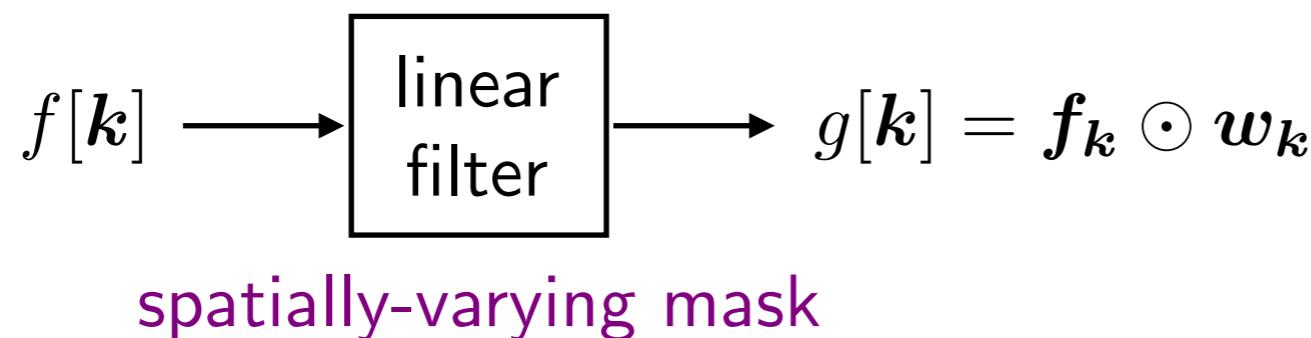
- Most filters are shift-invariant:

$$\longrightarrow \boxed{H(z)} \longrightarrow \boxed{z^{-\mathbf{k}_0}} \longrightarrow \equiv \longrightarrow \boxed{z^{-\mathbf{k}_0}} \longrightarrow \boxed{H(z)} \longrightarrow$$

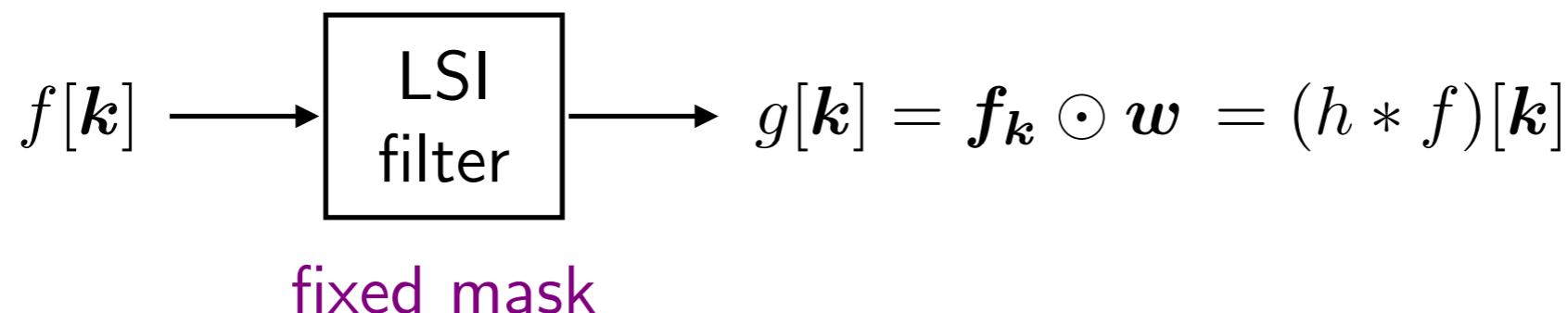
Characterization of Filters

Can we have linear filters that are not shift-invariant?

- Linear but not shift-invariant filters:



- Linear and shift-invariant filters:

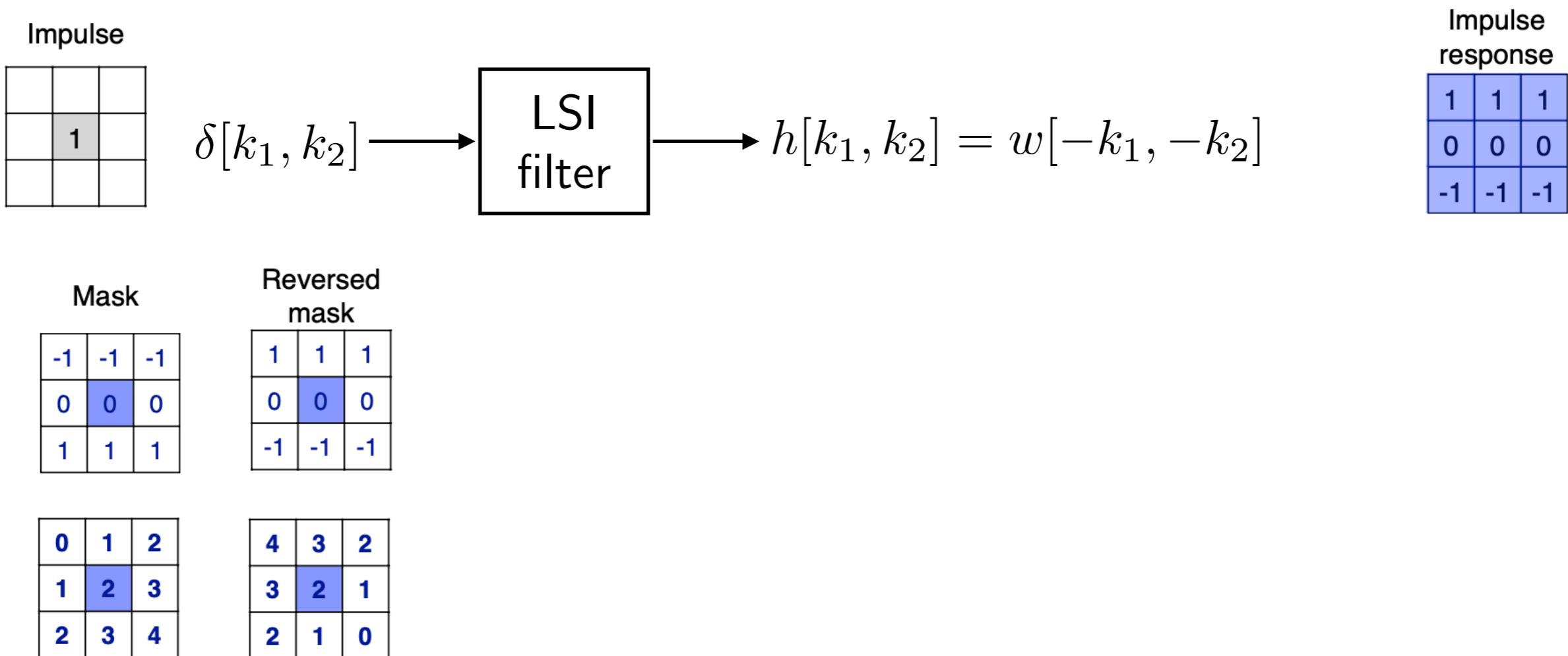


How do we determine the mask from the impulse response?

Masks and Impulse Responses

- Filter implementation using a mask: Correlation

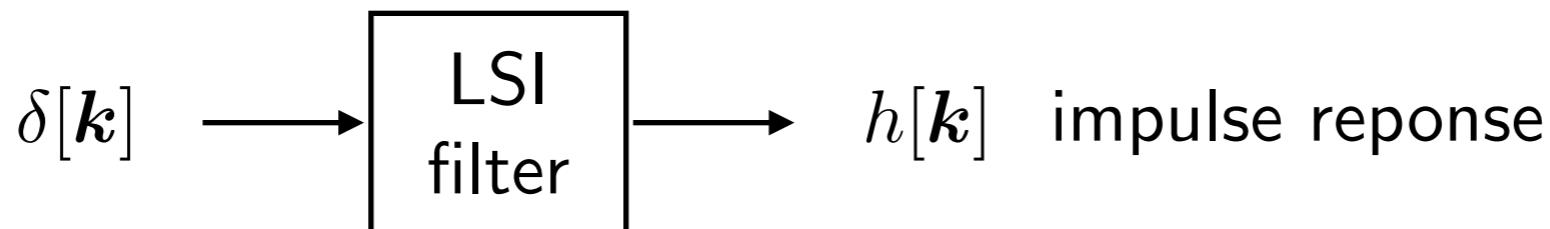
$$g[k_1, k_2] = \sum_i \sum_j w[i, j] f[k_1 + i, k_2 + j]$$



Mask = space-reversed impulse response (and vice-versa)

Impulse Responses and Discrete Convolutions

- Impulse response (point-spread function)
unit impulse (or Kronecker impulse or Kronecker delta)



A discrete LSI filter is uniquely characterized by its impulse response, which is the **space-reversed** version of its mask: $h[\mathbf{k}] = w[-\mathbf{k}]$

- Implementation by convolution

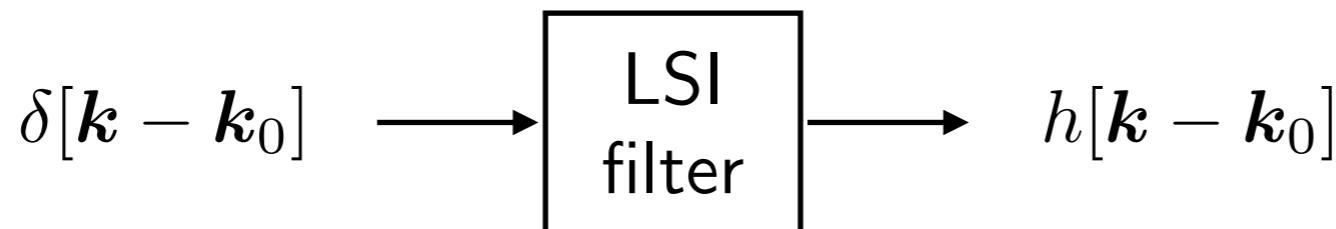
A block diagram showing the input $f[k_1, k_2]$ entering a rectangular box labeled "LSI filter". An arrow points from the output of the box to the equation $g[k_1, k_2] = (h * f)[k_1, k_2]$. Below this, the convolution sum is expanded as $= \sum_{m \in \mathbb{Z}} \sum_{n \in \mathbb{Z}} f[m, n] h[k_1 - m, k_2 - n]$.

Pixel-Wise Interpretation

- Unit impulse (pixel) at the origin



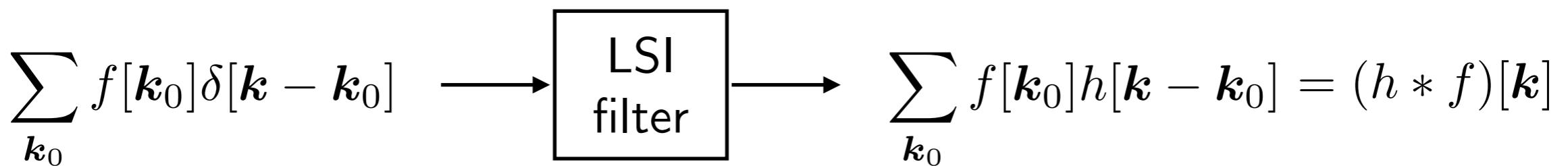
- Pixel at location \mathbf{k}_0



- Pixel at location \mathbf{k}_0 with value $f[\mathbf{k}_0]$



- Input image = sum of pixels



Equivalent LSI Filter Characterizations

LSI filter = discrete convolution operator

$$g[\mathbf{k}] = (h * f)[\mathbf{k}] = \sum_{\mathbf{n} \in \mathbb{Z}^2} h[\mathbf{n}] f[\mathbf{k} - \mathbf{n}] \xleftrightarrow{z} G(z) = H(z)F(z)$$

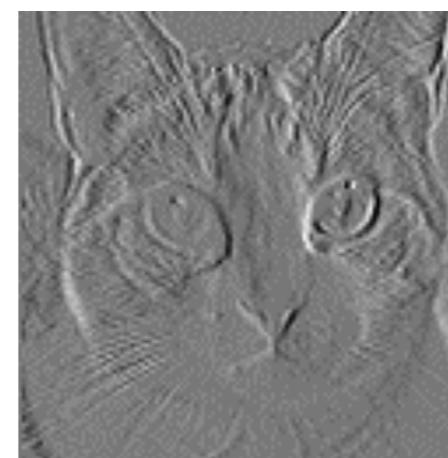
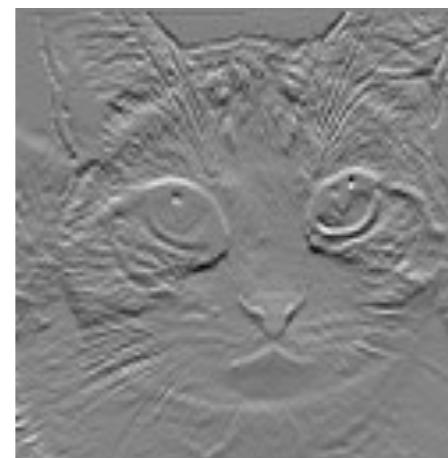
- Impulse response $h[\mathbf{k}]$
- Transfer function $H(z_1, z_2) = \sum_{k_1 \in \mathbb{Z}} \sum_{k_2 \in \mathbb{Z}} h[k_1, k_2] z_1^{-k_1} z_2^{-k_2}$
- Frequency response $H(e^{j\omega_1}, e^{j\omega_2}) = \sum_{k_1 \in \mathbb{Z}} \sum_{k_2 \in \mathbb{Z}} h[k_1, k_2] e^{-j\omega_1 k_1} e^{-j\omega_2 k_2}$

Eigenfunction property: $(h[\mathbf{k}] * e^{j\boldsymbol{\omega}^\top \mathbf{k}}) = H(e^{j\boldsymbol{\omega}})e^{j\boldsymbol{\omega}^\top \mathbf{k}}$

Filtering Examples: Revisited



Mask: w



- Local (3×3) -average

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

- Horizontal-edge enhancement

$$w_{\text{hor}} = \begin{bmatrix} -1 & -2 & -1 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 1 & 2 & 1 \end{bmatrix}$$

- Vertical-edge enhancement

$$w_{\text{vert}} = \begin{bmatrix} -1 & 0 & 1 \\ -2 & 0 & 2 \\ -1 & 0 & 1 \end{bmatrix}$$

Local Average

- Mask:

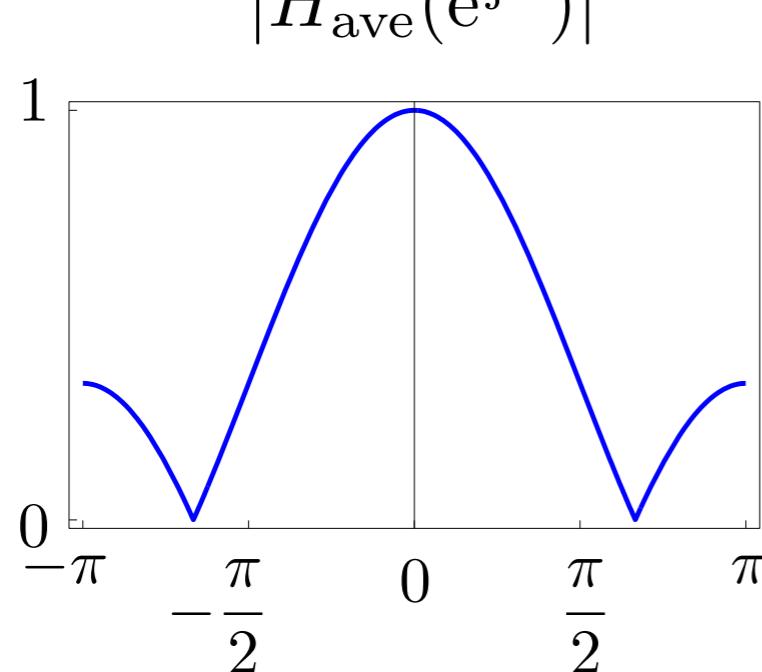
$$w_{\text{ave}} = \frac{1}{9} \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 1 & 1 \\ 1 & \boxed{1} & 1 \\ 1 & 1 & 1 \end{bmatrix} \implies h_{\text{ave}} = \frac{1}{9} \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 1 & 1 \\ 1 & \boxed{1} & 1 \\ 1 & 1 & 1 \end{bmatrix}$$

- Transfer function:

$$H(z_1, z_2) = \frac{1}{3}(z_1 + 1 + z_1^{-1}) \cdot \frac{1}{3}(z_2 + 1 + z_2^{-1})$$

- Frequency response:

$$\begin{aligned} H(\text{e}^{\text{j}\omega_1}, \text{e}^{\text{j}\omega_2}) &= \left(\frac{1 + 2 \cos \omega_1}{3} \right) \left(\frac{1 + 2 \cos \omega_2}{3} \right) \\ &= H_{\text{ave}}(\text{e}^{\text{j}\omega_1}) H_{\text{ave}}(\text{e}^{\text{j}\omega_2}) \end{aligned}$$



low-pass behavior

Vertical-Edge Enhancement

- Mask:

$$w_{\text{vert}} = \begin{bmatrix} -1 & 0 & 1 \\ -2 & \boxed{0} & 2 \\ -1 & 0 & 1 \end{bmatrix} \quad \Rightarrow \quad h_{\text{vert}} = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 & -1 \\ 2 & \boxed{0} & -2 \\ 1 & 0 & -1 \end{bmatrix}$$

“correlation”

“convolution”

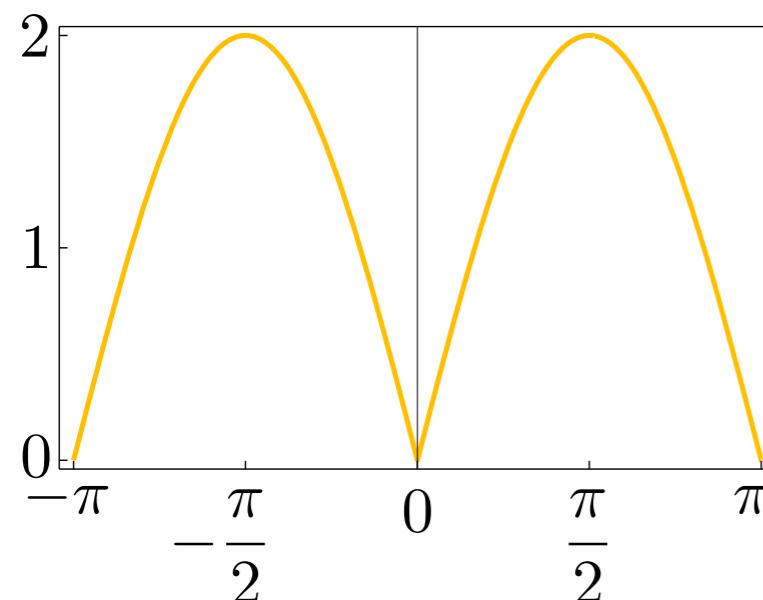
- Transfer function:

$$H(z_1, z_2) = (z_1 - z_1^{-1})(z_2 + 2 + z_2^{-1})$$

- Frequency response:

$$H(e^{j\omega_1}, e^{j\omega_2}) = (j2 \sin \omega_1)(2 + 2 \cos \omega_2)$$

$$= H_1(e^{j\omega_1})H_{\text{low}}(e^{j\omega_2})$$



band-pass behavior

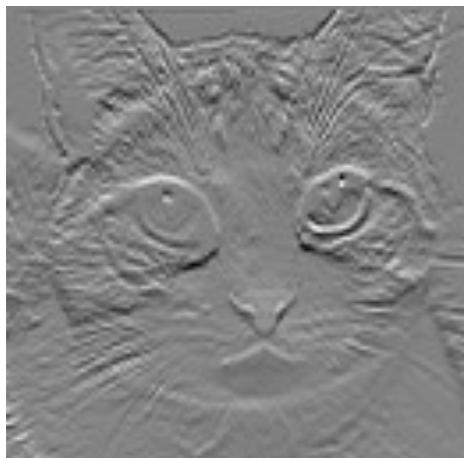
Horizontal-edge enhancement is just the “transpose”

Filtering Examples: Separability



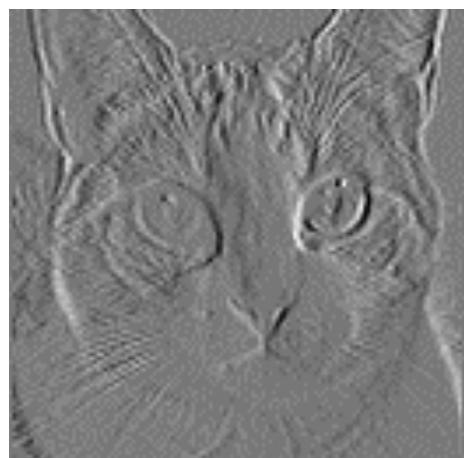
- Local (3×3) -average

$$h_{\text{ave}} = \frac{1}{9} \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 1 & 1 \\ 1 & \boxed{1} & 1 \\ 1 & 1 & 1 \end{bmatrix} = \frac{1}{3} \begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ 1 \\ 1 \end{bmatrix} \cdot \frac{1}{3} [1 \quad 1 \quad 1]$$



- Horizontal-edge enhancement

$$h_{\text{hor}} = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 2 & 1 \\ 0 & \boxed{0} & 0 \\ -1 & -2 & -1 \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ 0 \\ -1 \end{bmatrix} \cdot [1 \quad 2 \quad 1]$$



- Vertical-edge enhancement

$$h_{\text{vert}} = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 & -1 \\ 2 & \boxed{0} & -2 \\ 1 & 0 & -1 \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ 2 \\ 1 \end{bmatrix} \cdot [1 \quad 0 \quad -1]$$