

Quantization, Compression, and Classification: Extracting discrete information from a continuous world

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— the division of a quantity into a discrete number of small parts, often assumed to be integral multiples of a common quantity.

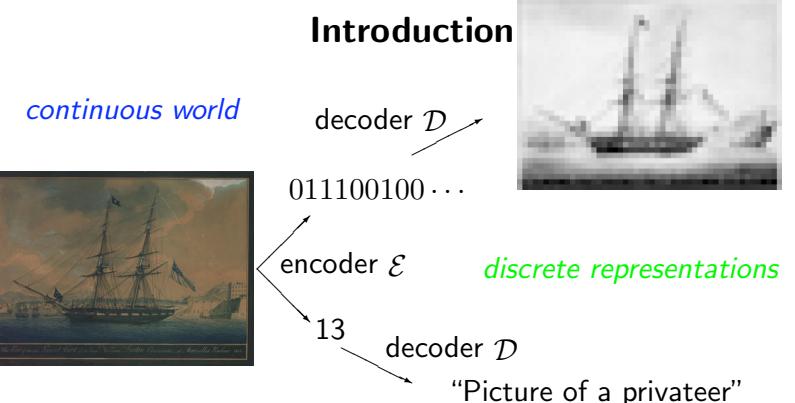
In general, The mapping of a continuous quantity into a discrete quantity.

Converting a continuous quantity into a discrete quantity causes loss of accuracy and information.

Goal: minimize the loss

but need to define “loss” first . . .

and there are other constraints.



How well can you do it?
What do you mean by “well”?
How do you do it?

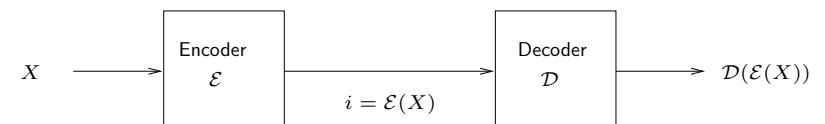
A dictionary definition of quantization:

Quantization

Old example: Round off real numbers to nearest integer:
estimate densities by histograms [Sheppard (1898)]

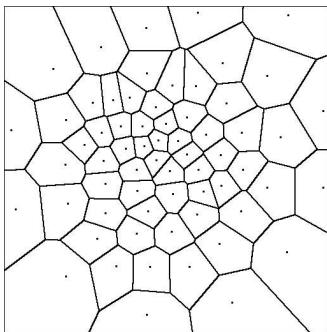
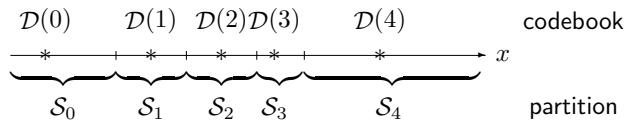
In general, quantizer q of a space A (e.g., \mathbb{R}^k , $\mathcal{L}_2([0, 1]^2)$) =

- An *encoder* $\mathcal{E} : A \rightarrow \mathcal{I}$, \mathcal{I} an index set, e.g., nonnegative integers.
 \Leftrightarrow *partition* $\mathcal{S} = \{S_i; i \in \mathcal{I}\}$: $S_i = \{x : \mathcal{E}(x) = i\}$.
- A *decoder* $\mathcal{D} : \mathcal{I} \rightarrow \mathcal{C}$ \Leftrightarrow *codebook* $\mathcal{C} = \mathcal{D}(\mathcal{E}(A))$.



$$\Rightarrow q = (\mathcal{E}, \mathcal{D}) = (\mathcal{S}, \mathcal{C}) = \{S_i, \mathcal{D}(i); i \in \mathcal{I}\}$$

Examples Scalar quantizer:

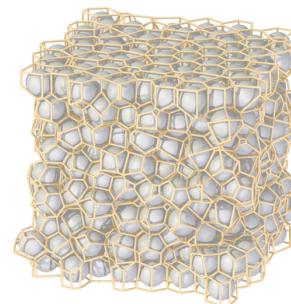


Two dimensional example:
Centroidal Voronoi diagram —
Nearest neighbor partition,
Euclidean centroids
E.g., complex numbers, nearest
mail boxes, sensors, repeaters, fish
fortresses . . .

Quantization

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territories of the male Tilapia
mossambica [G. W. Barlow,
Hexagonal Territories, Animal
Behavior, Volume 22, 1974]



Quantization

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Three dimensions: Voronoi
partition around spheres
<http://www-math.mit.edu/dryfluids/gallery/>

Performance: Distortion

Quality of a quantizer measured by the goodness of the resulting reproduction in comparison to the original.

Assume a *distortion measure* $d(x, y)$ which measures penalty/cost if an input x results in an output $y = \mathcal{D}(\mathcal{E}(x))$.

Small (large) distortion \Leftrightarrow good (bad) quality

Performance measured by *average distortion*: assume X is a random object (variable, vector, process, field) described by probability distribution P_X : pixel intensities, samples, features, fields, DCT or wavelet transform coefficients, moments, . . .

E.g., if $A = \mathbb{R}^k$, $P_X \Leftrightarrow$ pdf f , or empirical distribution $P_{\mathcal{L}}$ from training/learning set $\mathcal{L} = \{x_l; l = 1, 2, \dots, |\mathcal{L}|\}$

Quantization

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Average Distortion:

$$\begin{aligned} D(q) = D(\mathcal{E}, \mathcal{D}) &= E[d(X, \mathcal{D}(\mathcal{E}(X)))] \\ &= \int d(x, \mathcal{D}(\mathcal{E}(x))) dP_X(x) \end{aligned}$$

Examples: $x, y \in \mathbb{R}^k$

- Mean squared error (MSE) $d(x, y) = \|x - y\|^2 = \sum_{i=1}^k |x_i - y_i|^2$
- Input or output weighted quadratic, B_x positive definite matrix: $d(x, y) = (x - y)^t B_x (x - y)$ or $(x - y)^t B_y (x - y)$

Used in perceptual coding, statistical classification.

Quantization

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- Functions of norms:

$$d(x, y) = \rho(\|x - y\|_p)$$

where ℓ_p norm for $p \geq 1$ is

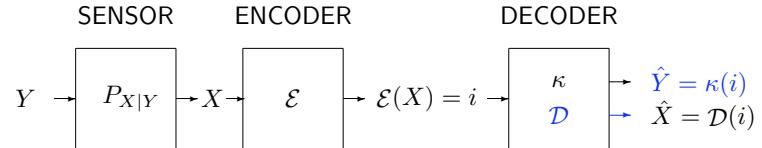
$$\|x - y\|_p = \left(\sum_{i=0}^{k-1} |x_i - y_i|^p \right)^{1/p}$$

ρ is convex.

Mostly of mathematical interest, limited demonstrated usefulness in applications.

- Vector X might be pmf, distortion could be distribution distance, relative entropy (Kullback-Leibler distance), etc.

- Bayes distortion, “task-driven” quantization.



e.g., $X = Y + \text{noise}$

“denoise” by compression

Overall distortion: Bayes risk $C(y, \hat{y})$ Define quantizer distortion

$$\begin{aligned} d(x, \kappa(i)) &= E[C(Y, \kappa(i)) | X = x] \Rightarrow \\ E[d(X, \kappa(\mathcal{E}(X)))] &= E[C(Y, \kappa(\mathcal{E}(X)))] \end{aligned}$$

Y discrete \Rightarrow classification, detection

Y continuous \Rightarrow estimation, regression

Performance: Rate

Want average distortion **small**, doable with big codebooks and small cells, **but** there is usually a **cost** (*instantaneous rate*) $r(i)$ of choosing index i , with average rate $R(q) = E[r(\mathcal{E}(X))]$, e.g.,

- $r(i) = \ln |\mathcal{C}|$ Fixed-rate, classic quantization
- $r(i) = \ell(i)$ Variable-rate quantization,
length function ℓ satisfies Kraft inequality $\sum_i e^{-\ell(i)} \leq 1$
- $r(i) = -\ln p(i)$, $p(i) = \Pr(\mathcal{E}(X) = i)$ Shannon codelengths
entropy coding
- $r(i) = (1 - \eta)\ell(i) + \eta \ln |\mathcal{C}|$, $\eta \in [0, 1]$ Combined constraints
Proposed by Zador (1982) to unify separate cases.

Quantizer Model

ℓ best thought of as part of quantizer, a design choice.

Alternative view: Codeword weighting: $w(i) = e^{-\ell(i)}$, $w \Leftrightarrow \ell$

$\ell(i) = \infty \Leftrightarrow w(i) = 0$; infinite cost, never used.

$N(w) = |\{i : w(i) > 0\}| = |\{i : \ell(i) \text{ finite }\}|$ codebook size

Kraft inequality on $\ell \Leftrightarrow w$ a sub-pmf: $w(i) \geq 0$, $\sum_i w(i) \leq 1$

$$r(i) = (1 - \eta) \ln \frac{1}{w(i)} + \eta \ln N(w),$$

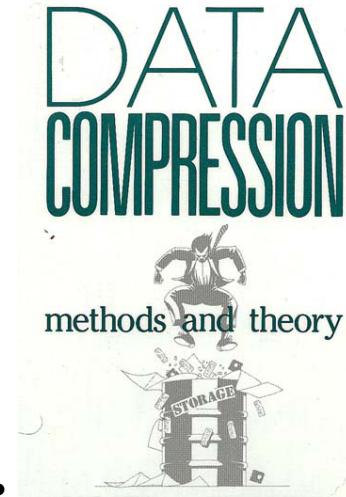
$\Rightarrow p$ must be absolutely continuous wrt w for finite rate.

quantizer model is $q = (\mathcal{E}, \mathcal{D}, \ell) = (\mathcal{S}, \mathcal{C}, w)$

Major Issues

- If *know* distributions,
 - what is *optimal* tradeoff of distortion $D(\mathcal{E}, \mathcal{D})$ vs. rate $R(\mathcal{E}, w)$?
(Want *both* to be small!)
 - How design good codes?
- If do *not* know distributions, how use training/learning data to estimate tradeoffs and design good codes?
(clustering, statistical or machine learning)

Applications



- Statistical clustering: grouping bird songs, designing Mao suits, grouping gene features, taxonomy.
- Placing points in space: mailboxes, wireless sensors
- Image and video classification/segmentation
- Speech recognition and speaker identification
- Numerical integration and optimal quadrature rules, e.g., How best chose $\{S_i, \mathcal{D}(i)\}$ for $\int g(x)f(x) dx \approx \sum_i P_X(S_i)g(\mathcal{D}(i))$?
- Approximating continuous probabilistic models by discrete models.
Simulating continuous processes.
- Fitting and choosing Gauss mixture models for observed data.

- Communications & signal processing: A/D conversion, data compression. Compression required for efficient **transmission**
 - send more data in available bandwidth
 - send the same data in less bandwidth
 - more users on same bandwidth and **storage**
- Graphic courtesy of Jim Storer.
- Distortion-rate optimization:** $q = (\mathcal{E}, \mathcal{D}, w)$
- $$D(q) = E[d(X, \mathcal{D}(\mathcal{E}(X)))] \text{ vs. } R(q) = E[r(\mathcal{E}(X))]$$
- $$\text{Minimize } D(q) \text{ for } R(q) \leq R \quad \delta(R) = \inf_{q: R(q) \leq R} D(q)$$
- $$\text{Minimize } R(q) \text{ for } D(q) \leq D \quad r(D) = \inf_{q: D(q) \leq D} R(q)$$
- Lagrangian approach:* $\rho_\lambda(x, i) = d(x, \mathcal{D}(i)) + \lambda r(i)$, $\lambda \geq 0$
- $$\begin{aligned} \text{Minimize Lagrangian distortion } \rho(f, \lambda, \eta, q) &\triangleq E\rho_\lambda(X, \mathcal{E}(X)) \\ &= D(q) + \lambda R(q) \\ &= Ed(X, \mathcal{D}(\mathcal{E}(X))) + \lambda [(1 - \eta)E\ell(\mathcal{E}(X)) + \eta \ln N(\ell)] \end{aligned}$$
- $$\rho(f, \lambda, \eta) = \inf_q \rho(f, \lambda, \eta, q)$$
- Traditional cases: fixed-rate $\eta = 1$, variable-rate $\eta = 0$

Three Theories of Quantization

Rate-Distortion Theory Shannon distortion-rate function

$D(R) \leq \delta(R)$, achievable in asymptopia of **large dimension k** and fixed rate R . [Shannon (1949, 1959), Gallager (1978)]

* **Nonasymptotic (Exact) results** Necessary conditions for optimal codes \Rightarrow iterative design algorithms

\Leftrightarrow statistical clustering [Steinhaus (1956), Lloyd (1957)]

* **High rate theory** Optimal performance in asymptopia of fixed dimension k and **large rate R** . [Bennett (1948), Lloyd (1957), Zador (1963), Gersho (1979), Bucklew, Wise (1982)]

Lloyd Optimality Properties: $q = (\mathcal{E}, \mathcal{D}, \ell)$

Any component can be optimized for the others.

Encoder $\mathcal{E}(x) = \operatorname{argmin}_i (d(x, \mathcal{D}(i)) + \lambda r(i))$	Minimum distortion
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Decoder $\mathcal{D}(i) = \operatorname{argmin}_y E(d(X, y) \mathcal{E}(X) = i)$	Lloyd centroid
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Codebook size Remove i if $\Pr(\mathcal{E}(X) = i) = 0$	Prune
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Length function $\ell(i) = -\ln P_X(\mathcal{E}(X) = i)$	Shannon codelength
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Iterate steps \Rightarrow Lloyd *clustering* algorithm, (rediscovered as *k-means*, *grouped coordinate descent*, *alternating optimization*, *principal points*)

If fixed length, squared error \Rightarrow **Centroidal Voronoi partition**

centroid = $\mathcal{D}(i) = E(X | \mathcal{E}(X) = i)$ (MMSE estimate)

Lloyd conditions \Rightarrow

- Encoder partition $\mathcal{S} \Rightarrow$ optimal decoder $\mathcal{D} = \mathcal{D}(\mathcal{S})$ and length function $\ell = \ell(\mathcal{S})$
- Decoder \mathcal{D} + length function $\ell \Rightarrow$ optimal encoder partition $\mathcal{S} = \mathcal{S}(\mathcal{D}, \ell)$

Equivalent optimization problems:

$$\begin{aligned}\rho(f, \lambda, \eta) &= \inf_{\mathcal{S}, \mathcal{D}, w} \rho(f, \lambda, \eta, \mathcal{S}, \mathcal{D}, w) \\ &= \inf_{\mathcal{S}} \rho(f, \lambda, \eta, \mathcal{S}) \\ &= \inf_{\mathcal{D}, w} \rho(f, \lambda, \eta, \mathcal{D}, w)\end{aligned}$$

Good quantizer characterized by either partition \mathcal{S} or by weighted decoder (\mathcal{D}, w) . Suggests another Lloyd-style optimality condition.

Subcodes and Supercodes, Pruning and Growing

A partition \mathcal{S}' is a subpartition of a partition \mathcal{S} if every atom of \mathcal{S}' is a union of atoms of \mathcal{S} : \mathcal{S} refines \mathcal{S}' or $\mathcal{S}' \subset \mathcal{S}$

A quantizer q' determined by \mathcal{S}' is a *partition subcode* of the quantizer q determined by \mathcal{S} if \mathcal{S}' is a subpartition of \mathcal{S} . q is a *partition supercode* of q' .

A weighted codebook (\mathcal{D}', w') is a *codebook subcode* of a weighted codebook (\mathcal{D}, w) if $\{\mathcal{D}'(i), i : w'(i) > 0\} \subset \{\mathcal{D}(i), i : w(i) > 0\}$ and $w'_i = \alpha w_i, \alpha \in (0, 1)$. Conversely, (\mathcal{D}, w) is a codebook supercode of (\mathcal{D}', w') .

Generally the smaller code has larger distortion and smaller rate.

Provides an additional Lloyd-style necessary condition:

Codebook size If a quantizer q is optimal there can be no subcode or supercode q' for which $D(q') + \lambda R(q') < D(q) + \lambda R(q)$. pruning/growing

Generalization of zero-probability cell pruning.

Can test likely subcodes/supercodes for possible improvement.

Can also use to increase/decrease λ and grow or prune code.

Combining everything \Rightarrow Lloyd clustering algorithm

A descent algorithm, so distortion converges.

Step 0: Initialization Given initial (\mathcal{D}_0, w_0) .

Compute $\rho_0 = \rho(\mathcal{S}(\mathcal{D}_0, w_0), \mathcal{D}_0, w_0)$.

Set $m = 1$

Step 1: Partition improvement Given $(\mathcal{D}_{m-1}, w_{m-1})$, form an optimum partition $\mathcal{S}_m = \mathcal{S}(\mathcal{D}_{m-1}, w_{m-1})$.

Step 2: Weighted codebook improvement Given the partition \mathcal{S}_m , form an optimum weighted codebook $(\mathcal{D}_m, w_m) = (\mathcal{D}(\mathcal{S}_m), w(\mathcal{S}_m))$. Compute $\rho_m = \rho(\mathcal{S}_m, \mathcal{D}_m, w_m)$.

Step 3: Test Test $\rho_{m-1} - \rho_m$. If small enough, go to Step 4. Else set $m = m + 1$, go to Step 1.

Step 4: Grow/Prune Test sub/super codes for possible improvement for fixed λ or for changed λ . Quit or go to step 1.

Bayes quantization

If use Bayes distortion for statistical classification or regression with a rate constraint, e.g., with Hamming Bayes cost: $E[C(Y, \kappa(\mathcal{E}(X)))] = P_e$ and

$$\begin{aligned}\kappa(i) &= \underset{\hat{y}}{\operatorname{argmax}} \Pr(Y = \hat{y} | \mathcal{E}(X) = i) \\ \mathcal{E}(x) &= \underset{i}{\operatorname{argmax}} [\Pr(Y = \kappa(i) | X = x) - \lambda r(i)]\end{aligned}$$

Need to estimate $P_{Y|X}$ via model or binning/quantization of X

Can add constraints, e.g., constrain encoder to have low-complexity tree structure. (CART/BFOS/TSVQ)

High Rate (Resolution) Theory

Traditional form (Zador, Gersho, Bucklew, Wise): f , MSE

$$\lim_{R \rightarrow \infty} e^{\frac{2}{k}R} \delta(R) = \begin{cases} a_k \|f\|_{k/(k+2)} & \text{fixed-rate } (R = \ln N) \\ b_k e^{\frac{2}{k}h(f)} & \text{variable-rate } (R = H), \text{ where} \end{cases}$$

$$h(f) = - \int f(x) \ln f(x) dx, \quad \|f\|_{k/(k+2)} = \left(\int f(x)^{\frac{k}{k+2}} dx \right)^{\frac{k+2}{k}}$$

$a_k \geq b_k$ are Zador constants (depend on k and d , not f !)

$$a_1 = b_1 = \frac{1}{12}, a_2 = \frac{5}{18\sqrt{3}}, b_2 = ?, a_k, b_k = ? \text{ for } k \geq 3$$

$$\lim_{k \rightarrow \infty} a_k = \lim_{k \rightarrow \infty} b_k = 1/2\pi e$$

Lagrangian form:

variable-rate

$$\lim_{\lambda \rightarrow 0} \left[\inf_q \left(\frac{\rho(f, \lambda, 0, q)}{\lambda} \right) + \frac{k}{2} \ln \lambda \right] = \theta_k + h(f)$$

$$\theta_k \triangleq \inf_{\lambda > 0} \left[\inf_q \left(\frac{\rho(u, \lambda, 0, q)}{\lambda} \right) + \frac{k}{2} \ln \lambda \right] = \frac{k}{2} \ln \frac{2eb_k}{k}$$

$$\lim_{\lambda \rightarrow 0} \left[\inf_q \left(\frac{\rho(f, \lambda, 1, q)}{\lambda} \right) + \frac{k}{2} \ln \lambda \right] = \psi_k + \ln \|f\|_{k/(k+2)}^{k/2}$$

$$\psi_k \triangleq \inf_{\lambda > 0} \left[\inf_q \left(\frac{\rho(u, \lambda, 1, q)}{\lambda} \right) + \frac{k}{2} \ln \lambda \right] = \frac{k}{2} \ln \frac{2ea_k}{k}$$

fixed-rate

both have form optimum for uniform u + function of f

Then hand-waving approximations of integrals relate $N(q), D_f(q), H_f(q) \Rightarrow$

$$D_f(q) \approx c_k E_f \left(\left(\frac{1}{N(q)\Lambda(X)} \right)^{2/k} \right)$$

$$H_f(q(X)) \approx h(X) - E \left(\log \left(\frac{1}{N(q)\Lambda(X)} \right) \right)$$

$$= \ln N(q) - \underbrace{\int f(x) \ln \frac{f(x)}{\Lambda(x)} dx}_{H(f||\Lambda) \text{ relative entropy}},$$

Optimizing using Holder's inequality or Jensen's inequality yields classic fixed-rate and variable-rate results.

Proofs

Rigorous proofs of traditional cases painfully tedious, but follow Zador's original approach.

Heuristic proofs developed by Gersho based on assumptions of

- existence of asymptotically optimal quantizer point density function $\Lambda(x)$
- existence of asymptotically optimal quantizer partition cell shape

Can also apply to combined-constraint case to get conjectured solution for general η

There appear to be connections with rigorous and heuristic proofs, may help insight and simplify proofs.

Gersho's conjectures and approximations have many yet unproved but commonly believed implications,

e.g., $a_k = b_k$ all k , the best fixed-rate high rate codes have maximum entropy, asymptotically optimal quantizer point density functions exist.

Henceforth focus on variable-rate case, $\eta = 0$.

Mismatch distortion

High-rate results \Rightarrow for small λ optimal quantizer satisfies

$$\frac{\rho(f, \lambda, 0, q)}{\lambda} + \frac{k}{2} \ln \lambda \approx \theta_k + h(f)$$

Worst case: Performance depends on f only through $h(f) \Rightarrow$ worst case source given constraints is max h source, e.g., given m and K , worst case is **Gaussian**

Mismatch: Design for pdf g , but apply it to f for small λ

$$\frac{\rho(f, \lambda, 0, q)}{\lambda} + \frac{k}{2} \ln \lambda \approx \underbrace{h(f) + \theta_k}_{\text{optimal for } f} + \underbrace{H(f||g)}_{\text{mismatch}}.$$

Put together: If g Gaussian with same mean, covariance as f then

$$\frac{\rho(f, \lambda, 0, q)}{\lambda} - \frac{\rho(g, \lambda, 0, q)}{\lambda} \approx 0$$

\Rightarrow the performance of the code designed for g **asymptotically equals that when the code is applied to f** , a **robust** code in information theoretic sense!

(\approx “generalization guarantees” in machine learning)

Robust and worst-case code $\Rightarrow H(f||g)$ measures **mismatch distance** from f to Gaussian g with same second-order moments, i.e., for a pdf f , how much performance is lost from optimal for f if use optimal code for g on f ?

Problem with single worst case: **too conservative**

Gaussian can be a very bad fit, very suboptimal, e.g., speech.

Divide & conquer: composite code

Alternative idea, fit a **different** Gauss source to distinct groups of inputs instead of the entire collection of inputs. Robust codes for **local** behavior.

Partition input space \Re^k into $\mathcal{S} = \{S_m; m = 1, \dots, M\}$, assign a Gaussian component $g_m = \mathcal{N}(\mu_m, K_m)$ to each S_m , & construct an optimal quantizer $q_m = (\mathcal{E}_m, \mathcal{D}_m, \ell_m)$ for each g_m :

$$\frac{\rho(f, \lambda, 0, q)}{\lambda} + \frac{k}{2} \ln \lambda \approx \underbrace{\theta_k + h(f)}_{\text{optimal for } f} + \underbrace{\sum_m p_m H(f_m||g_m)}_{\text{mismatch distortion}}$$

where $f_m(x) = f(x)/p_m$, $x \in S_m$, $p_m = \int_{S_m} dx f(x)$.

What is best (smallest) can make $\sum_m p_m H(f_m||g_m)$ over all partitions $\mathcal{S} = \{S_m; m \in \mathcal{I}\}$ and collections $\mathcal{G} = \{g_m, p_m; m \in \mathcal{I}\}$? \Leftrightarrow

Quantize \Re^k into space of Gauss models using quantizer mismatch distortion

$$d_{QM}(x, m) = -\ln p_m + \frac{1}{2} \ln |K_m| + \frac{1}{2} (x - \mu_m)^t K_m^{-1} (x - \mu_m)$$

Similar to MDI distortion, Itakura-Saito distortion, log likelihood distortion for Gaussians, Stein's spectral distortion, . . .

Codebook $\{(\mu_m, K_m, p_m)\} \leftrightarrow$ Gauss mixture model.

Can use Lloyd algorithm to optimize: **Gauss mixture vector quantization (GMVQ)**

- GMVQ converts a training sequence into a GM model
- Derivation was based on high-rate analysis of quantizing the original source using a collection of codes designed for local Gaussian models. Minimizing the overall MSE \Leftrightarrow GMVQ
- Alternative to Baum-Welch/EM algorithm for GM design.

Advantages over EM:

- Lower complexity (about 1/2).
- Faster convergence.
- Incorporates compression \Rightarrow can use low complexity search, e.g., TSVQ, useful for large dimensions, large datasets, networks.

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Examples

Aerial images: Manmade vs. natural White: man-made, gray:natural



original 8 bpp, gray-scale images, hand-labeled classified images.

GMVQ with probability of error 12.23%

Quantization

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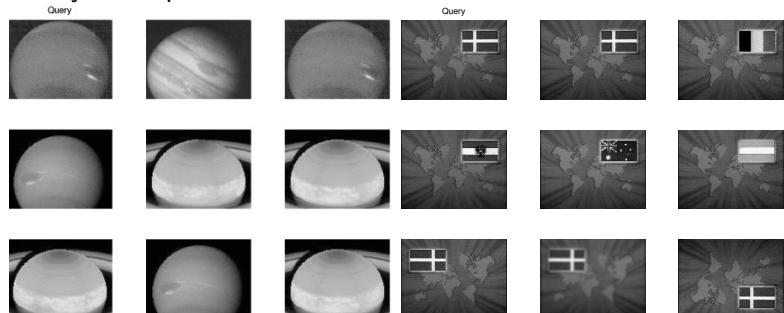
Content-Addressable Databases/Image Retrieval

8×8 blocks, 9 images train for each of 50 classes, 500 image database (cross-validated)

Precision (fraction of retrieved images that are relevant) \approx

recall (fraction of relevant images that are retrieved) $\approx .94$.

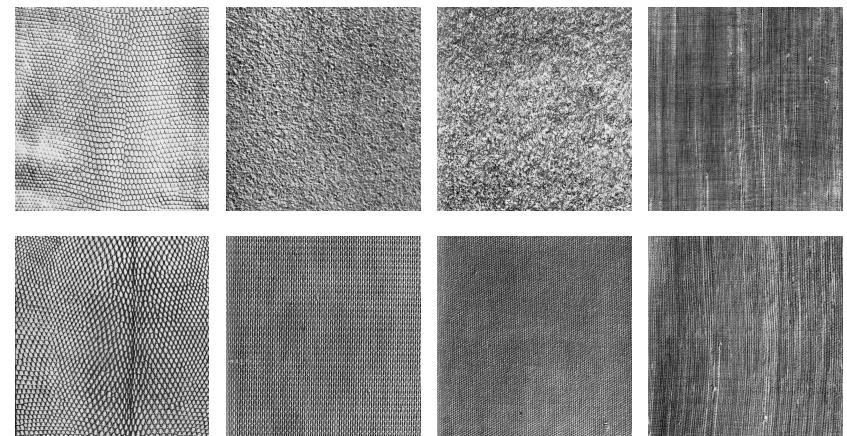
Query Examples



Quantization

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Texture Classification



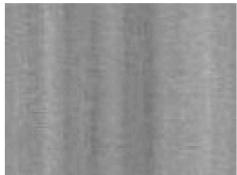
Examples from Brodatz database

Compared well with Gauss mixture random field methods.

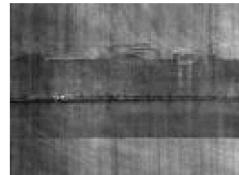
Quantization

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North Sea Gas Pipeline Data



normal pipeline image



field joint
which is which???



longitudinal weld

- GMVQ Best codebook wins
- MAP-GMVQ Plug in GMVQ produced GMM to MAP
- MAP-EM: Plug into EM produced GMM to MAP
- 1-NN
- MART (boosted classification tree)
- Regularized QDA (Gaussian class models)
- MAP-ECVQ (GM class models)

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Method	Recall			Precision			Accuracy
	S	V	W	S	V	W	
MART	0.9608	0.9000	0.8718	0.9545	0.9000	0.8947	0.9387
Reg. QDA	0.9869	1.0000	0.9487	0.9869	0.9091	1.0000	0.9811
1-NN	0.9281	0.7000	0.8462	0.9221	0.8750	1.0000	0.8915
MAP-ECVQ	0.9737	0.9000	0.9437	0.9739	0.9000	0.9487	0.9623
MAP-EM	0.9739	0.9000	0.9487	0.9739	0.9000	0.9487	0.9623
MAP-GMVQ	0.9935	0.8500	0.9487	0.9682	1.0000	0.9737	0.9717
GMVQ	0.9673	0.8000	0.9487	0.9737	0.7619	0.9487	0.9481

Class	Subclasses
S	Normal, Osmosis Blisters, Black Lines, Small Black Corrosion Dots, Grinder Marks, MFL Marks, Corrosion Blisters, Single Dots
V	Longitudinal Welds
W	Weld Cavity, Field Joint

Recall = $\Pr(\text{declare as class } i \mid \text{class } i)$
 Precision = $\Pr(\text{class } i \mid \text{declare as class } i)$

Implementation is simple, convergence is fast,
 classification performance is good.

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Closing Introductory Thoughts

- Quantization ideas useful for A/D conversion, quantizer error analysis, data compression, statistical classification, modeling, and estimation with a rate constraint.
- Lloyd-designed GMVQ alternative to EM for Gauss mixture design in statistical classification and clustering.
- Gersho's approach provides intuitive, but nonrigorous, proofs of high rate results based on conjectured geometry of optimal cell shapes.
 New tools may help develop rigorous proof reflecting simple heuristics & means of proving/disproving implications of Gersho's conjecture.
- Basic tools include information theory, signal processing, optimization.