

Let I denote the image and M denote the mean filter. Applying the mean is equivalent to a convolution between image I and filter M .

$$f_1 = I * M \quad (1)$$

Now, we apply the filter again, leading to another convolution

$$f_2 = (I * M) * M \quad (2)$$

$$= I * (M * M) \quad (3)$$

$$(4)$$

Hence f_k is given by

$$f_k = I * (M * M * \dots k - \text{times}) \quad (5)$$

If k is large enough, we can apply the Central Limit Theorem which states that if you have a bunch of distributions f_i and you convolve them all together into a distribution $F := f_1 * f_2 * \dots f_k$, then the larger k is, the more F will resemble a Gaussian distribution. Hence the above equation is equivalent to convolving the the initial distribution with a Gaussian.

$$f_k = I * \mathcal{G} \quad (6)$$

Also, it can be noted that if the above process is repeated multiple times, it would be equivalent to taking a convolution of the image with a Gaussian multiple times. Which is equivalent to taking a convolution with a Gaussian of a larger σ . Hence the resultant image will ultimately lead to having the same average intensity at each pixel.