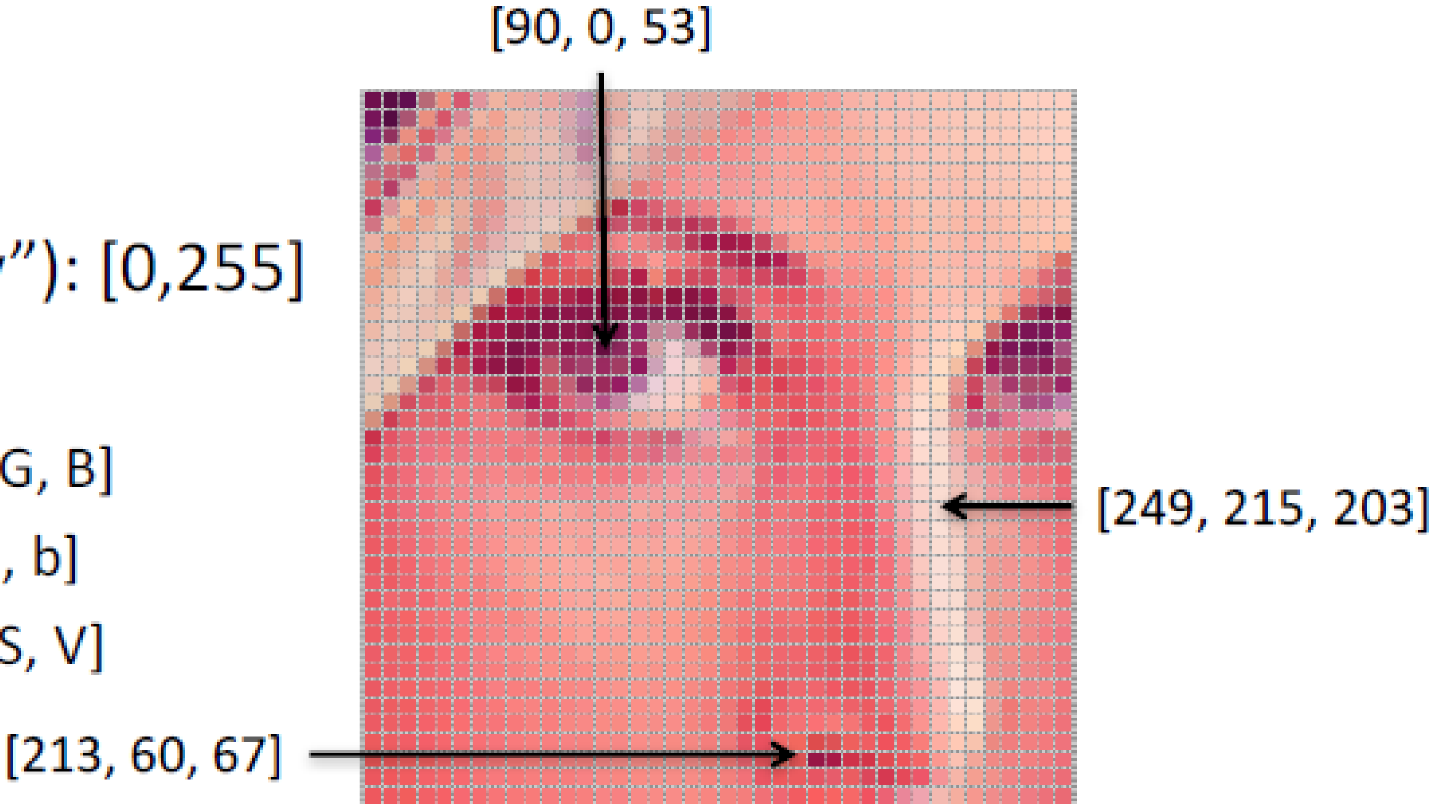
Digital Image Filtering

Computer Vision (CSE 3172)

- An image contains discrete number of pixels
  - A simple example
  - Pixel value:
    - "grayscale"

      (or "intensity"): [0,255]
    - "color"
      - RGB: [R, G, B]
      - Lab: [L, a, b]
      - HSV: [H, S, V]



RGB Channels

Filters

- **Filtering:**
  – Form a new image whose pixels are a combination original pixel values

Goals:

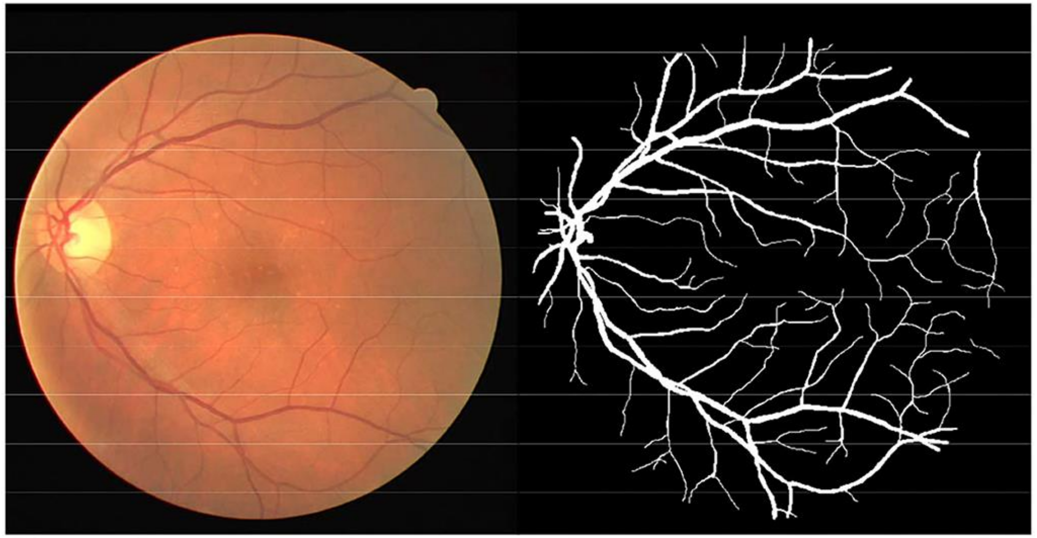
-Extract useful information from the images

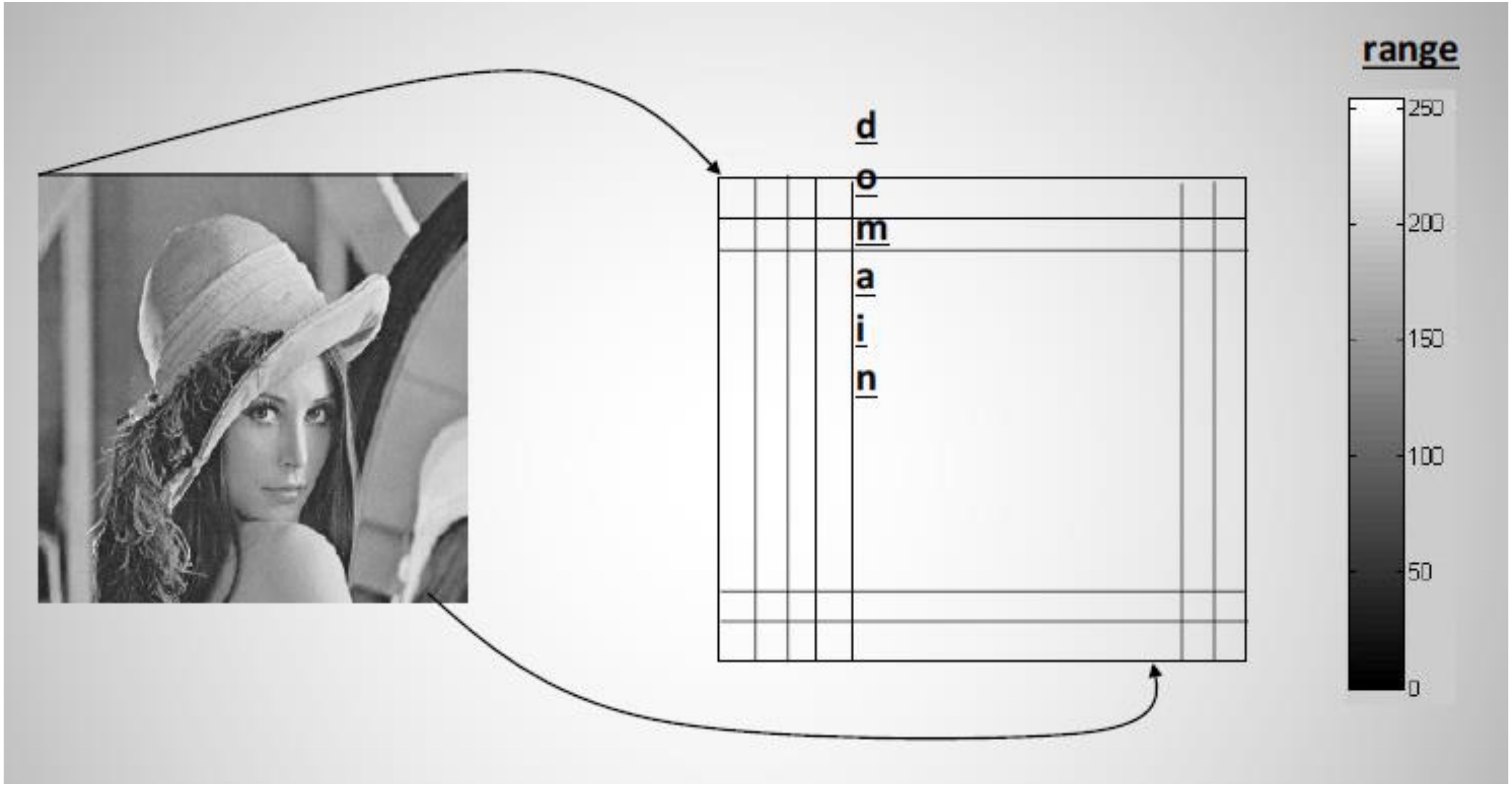
- Features (edges, corners, blobs…)

- Modify or enhance image properties:

- super-resolution; in-painting; de-noising

A B





range
domain
250
200
150
100
50
0

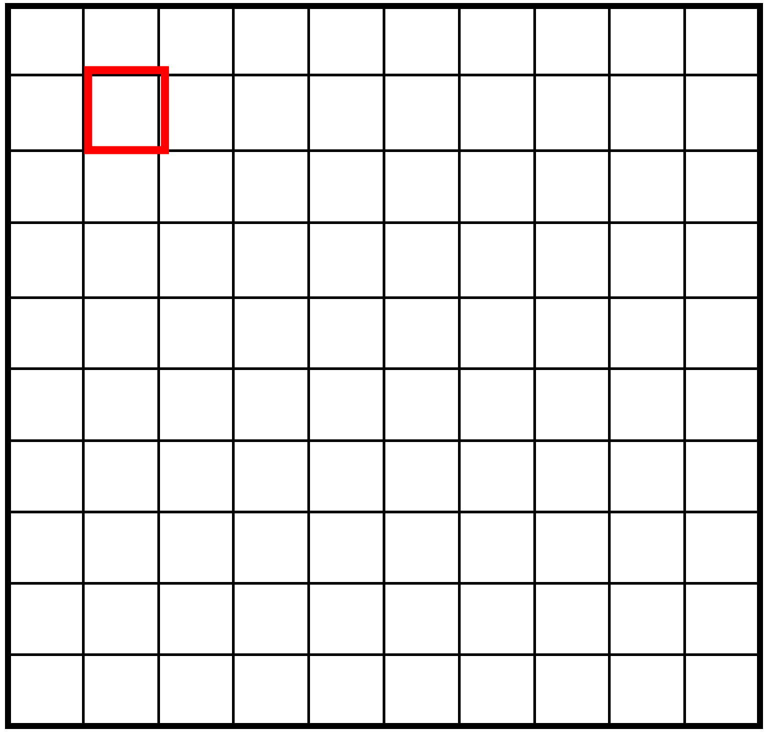
Image filtering : Moving average

$$g[\cdot\,,\cdot\,]\ \frac{1}{9}\begin{bmatrix}1&1&1\\1&1&1\\1&1&1\end{bmatrix}$$

$f[.,.]$

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

$h[.,.]$



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

Image filtering

$$g[\cdot,\cdot]\ \frac{1}{9}\begin{bmatrix}1&1&1\\1&1&1\\1&1&1\end{bmatrix}$$

$f[.,.]$

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

$h[.,.]$

	0	10							

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

Image filtering

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

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

$h[.,.]$

	0	10	20						

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

Credit: S. Seitz

Image filtering

$$g[\cdot\,,\cdot\,]\ \frac{1}{9}\begin{bmatrix}1 & 1 & 1\\ 1 & 1 & 1\\ 1 & 1 & 1\end{bmatrix}$$

$f[.,.]$

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

$h[.,.]$

	0	10	20	30					

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

Credit: S. Seitz

Image filtering

$$g[\cdot,\cdot]\ \frac{1}{9}\begin{bmatrix}1&1&1\\1&1&1\\1&1&1\end{bmatrix}$$

$f[.,.]$

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

$h[.,.]$

	0	10	20	30	30				

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

Credit: S. Seitz

Image filtering

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

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

$h[.,.]$

	0	10	20	30	30				
				?					

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

Credit: S. Seitz

Image filtering

$$g[\cdot,\cdot]\ \frac{1}{9}\begin{bmatrix}1&1&1\\1&1&1\\1&1&1\end{bmatrix}$$

$f[.,.]$

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

$h[.,.]$

	0	10	20	30	30				
						?			
				50					

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

Credit: S. Seitz

Image filtering

$$g[\cdot\,,\cdot\,] \quad \frac{1}{9}\begin{bmatrix}1 & 1 & 1\\ 1 & 1 & 1\\ 1 & 1 & 1\end{bmatrix}$$

$$f[.,.]$$

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

$$h[.,.]$$

	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	

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

Credit: S. Seitz

Filter example #1: Moving Average

In summary:

- Replaces each pixel with an average of its neighborhood.

- Achieve smoothing effect (remove sharp features)

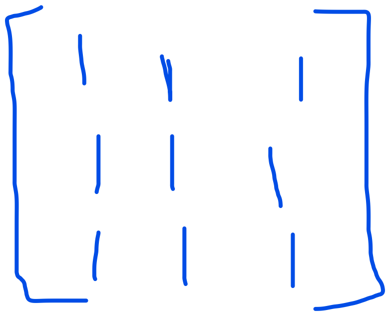
$$h[\cdot\,,\cdot\,] = \frac{1}{9}\begin{bmatrix} 1 & 1 & 1 \\ 1 & 1 & 1 \\ 1 & 1 & 1 \end{bmatrix}$$

Filter example #1: Moving Average

Linear Systems (filters)

$$f(x,y) \rightarrow \boxed{\mathcal{S}} \rightarrow g(x,y)$$

- Linear filtering:
  - Form a new image whose pixels are a weighted sum of original pixel values
  - Use the same set of weights at each point



- **S** is a linear system (function) iff it *S satisfies*

$$\mathcal{S}[\alpha f_1 + \beta f_2] = \alpha\mathcal{S}[f_1] + \beta\mathcal{S}[f_2]$$

superposition property

Correlation (linear relationship)

$$f \otimes h = \sum_{k} \sum_{l} f(k,l)h(k,l)$$

$$f = \text{Image}$$

$$h = \text{Kernel}$$

f

f_1	f_2	f_3
f_4	f_5	f_6
f_7	f_8	f_9

$\otimes$

h

h_1	h_2	h_3
h_4	h_5	h_6
h_7	h_8	h_9

$$\begin{aligned} f \otimes h = & f_1h_1 + f_2h_2 + f_3h_3 \\ & + f_4h_4 + f_5h_5 + f_6h_6 \\ & + f_7h_7 + f_8h_8 + f_9h_9 \end{aligned}$$

Convolution

$$f * h = \sum_k \sum_l f(k,l)\,h(-k,-l)$$

$f = \text{Image}$

$h = \text{Kernel}$

$$h = \begin{bmatrix} h_1 & h_2 & h_3 \\ h_4 & h_5 & h_6 \\ h_7 & h_8 & h_9 \end{bmatrix} \xrightarrow{X-flip} \begin{bmatrix} h_7 & h_8 & h_9 \\ h_4 & h_5 & h_6 \\ h_1 & h_2 & h_3 \end{bmatrix} \xrightarrow{Y-flip} \begin{bmatrix} h_9 & h_8 & h_7 \\ h_6 & h_5 & h_4 \\ h_3 & h_2 & h_1 \end{bmatrix}$$

$$f = \begin{bmatrix} f_1 & f_2 & f_3 \\ f_4 & f_5 & f_6 \\ f_7 & f_8 & f_9 \end{bmatrix} * \begin{bmatrix} h_9 & h_8 & h_7 \\ h_6 & h_5 & h_4 \\ h_3 & h_2 & h_1 \end{bmatrix} \rightarrow$$

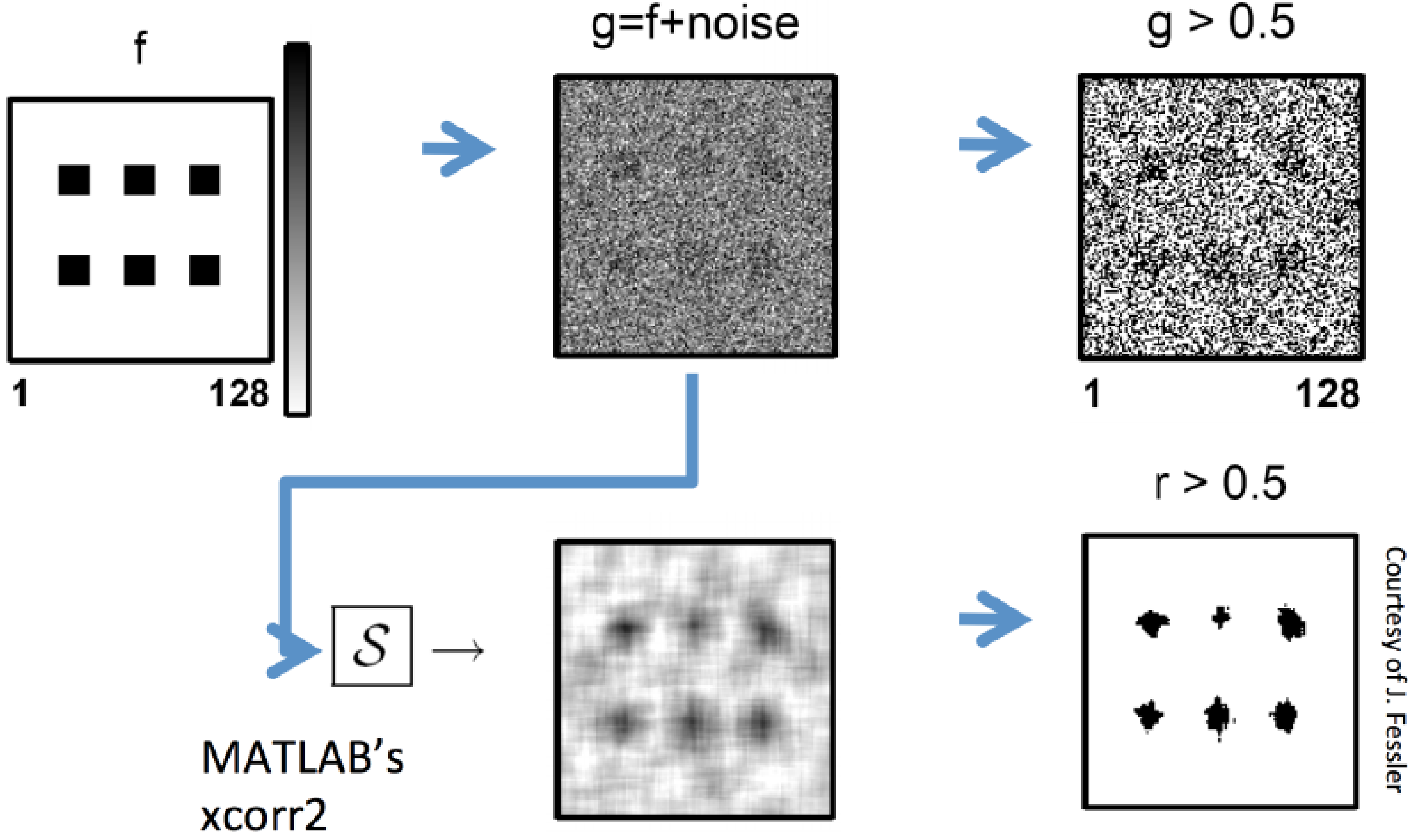
$$\begin{aligned} f * h = {} & f_1 h_9 + f_2 h_8 + f_3 h_7 \\ & + f_4 h_6 + f_5 h_5 + f_6 h_4 \\ & + f_7 h_3 + f_8 h_2 + f_9 h_1 \end{aligned}$$

Origin $f(x, y)$

$$
\begin{array}{ccccc}
0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\
0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\
0 & 0 & 1 & 0 & 0 \\
0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\
0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0
\end{array}
\qquad
\begin{array}{ccc}
\multicolumn{3}{c}{w(x, y)} \\
1 & 2 & 3 \\
4 & 5 & 6 \\
7 & 8 & 9
\end{array}
$$

(a)

(Cross) correlation – example

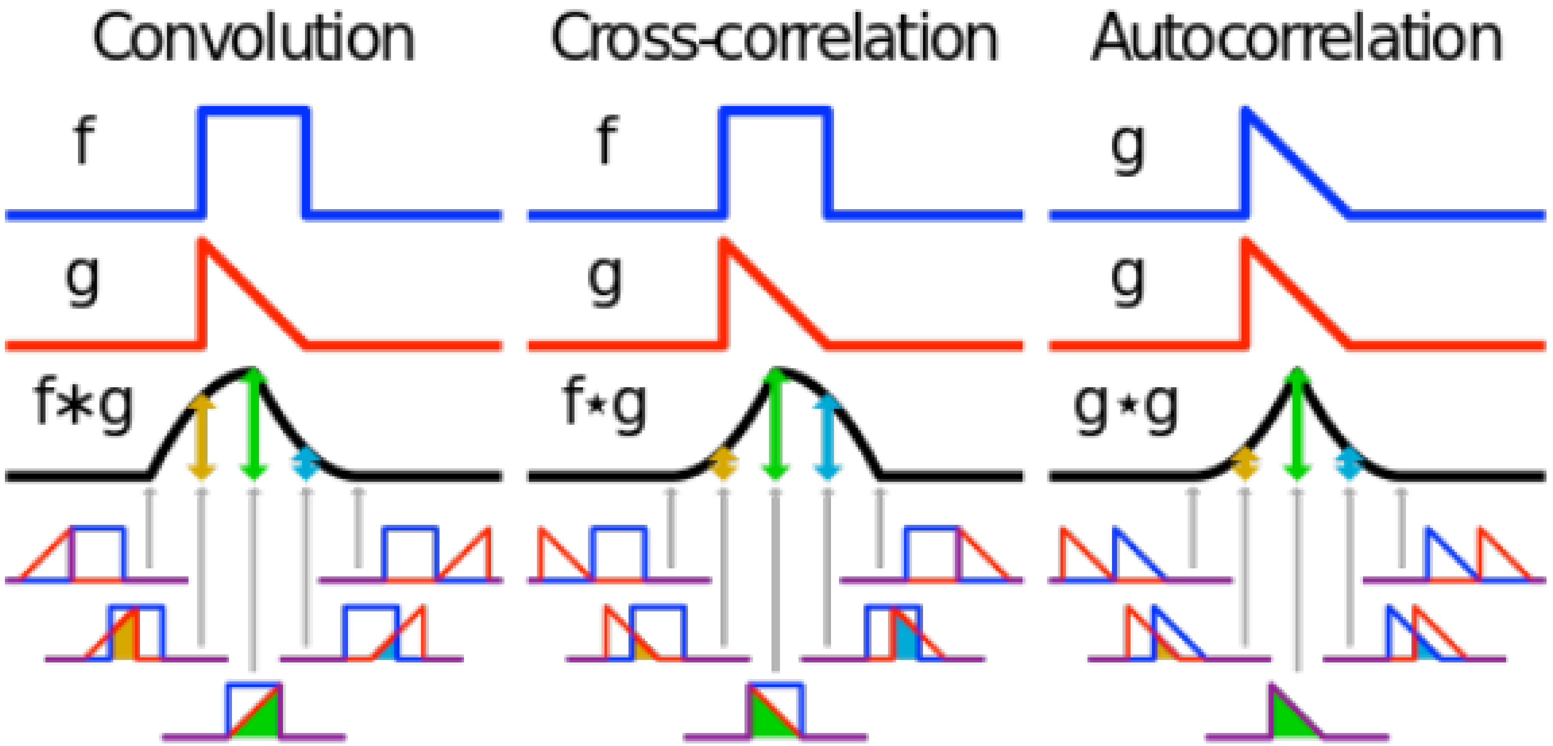


Convolution vs. (Cross) Correlation

- A **<u>convolution</u>** is an integral that expresses the amount of overlap of one function as it is shifted over another function.
  - convolution is a filtering operation

- **<u>Correlation</u>** compares the ***similarity** of **two** sets of **data.*** Correlation computes a measure of similarity of two input signals as they are shifted by one another. The correlation result reaches a maximum at the time when the two signals match best .
  - correlation is a measure of relatedness of two signals

Convolution vs. (Cross) Correlation



Convolution in 2D - examples

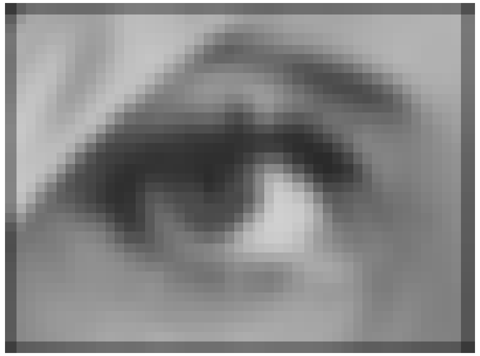
Original

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

Convolution in 2D - examples

Original

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



Blur (with a box filter)

Courtesy of D Lowe

General implementation

The general implementation for filtering an $M \times N$ image with a weighted averaging filter of size $m \times n$ is given

$$g(x,y) = \frac{\sum_{s=-a}^{a}\sum_{t=-b}^{b} w(s,t)\, f(x+s, y+t)}{\sum_{s=-a}^{a}\sum_{t=-b}^{b} w(s,t)}$$

where $m = 2a+1, \quad n = 2b+1.$

Two Smoothing Averaging Filter Masks

$$\frac{1}{9} \times \begin{array}{|c|c|c|} \hline 1 & 1 & 1 \\ \hline 1 & 1 & 1 \\ \hline 1 & 1 & 1 \\ \hline \end{array} \qquad \frac{1}{16} \times \begin{array}{|c|c|c|} \hline 1 & 2 & 1 \\ \hline 2 & 4 & 2 \\ \hline 1 & 2 & 1 \\ \hline \end{array}$$

a b

FIGURE 3.32 Two 3×3 smoothing (averaging) filter masks. The constant multiplier in front of each mask is equal to 1 divided by the sum of the values of its coefficients, as is required to compute an average.

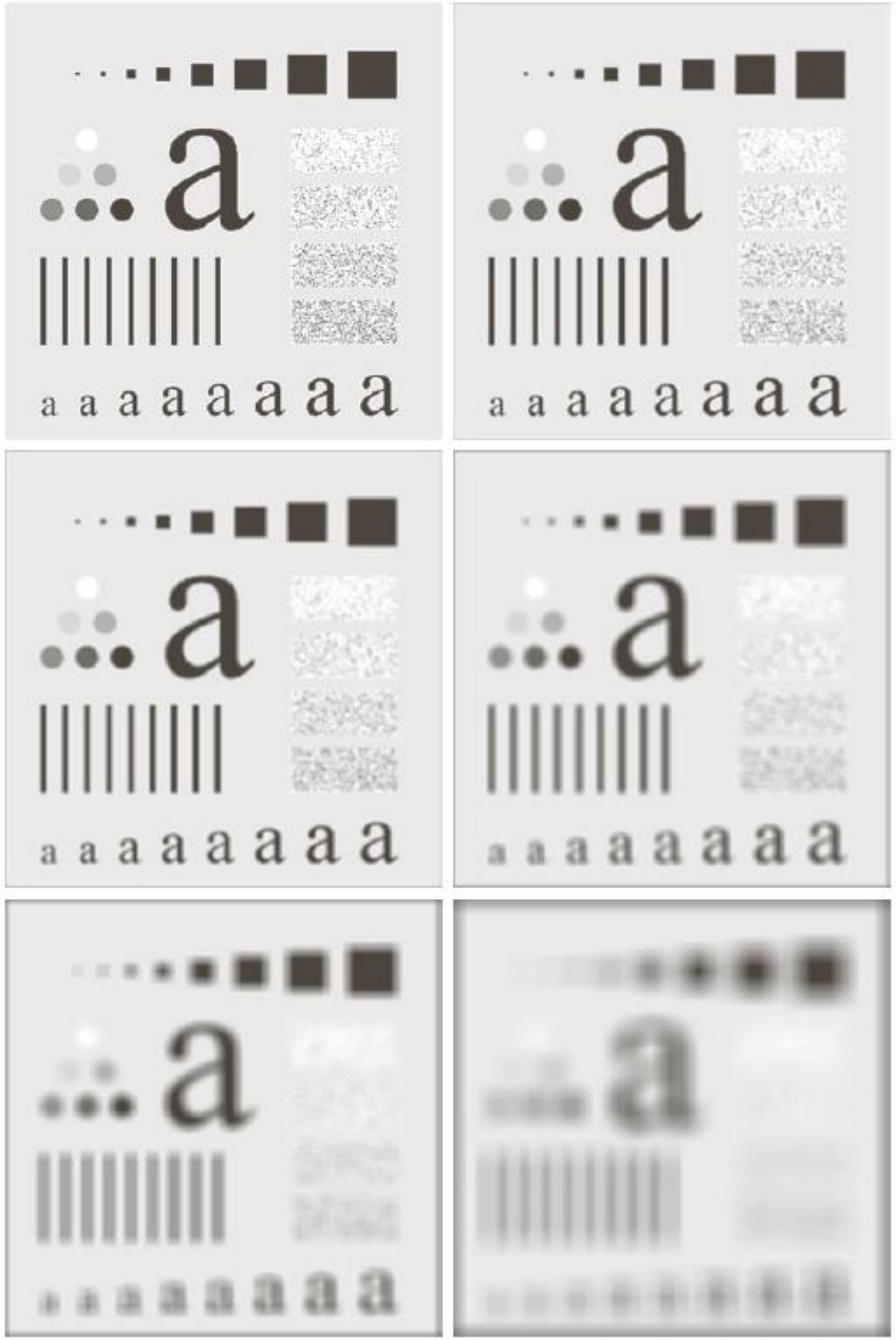
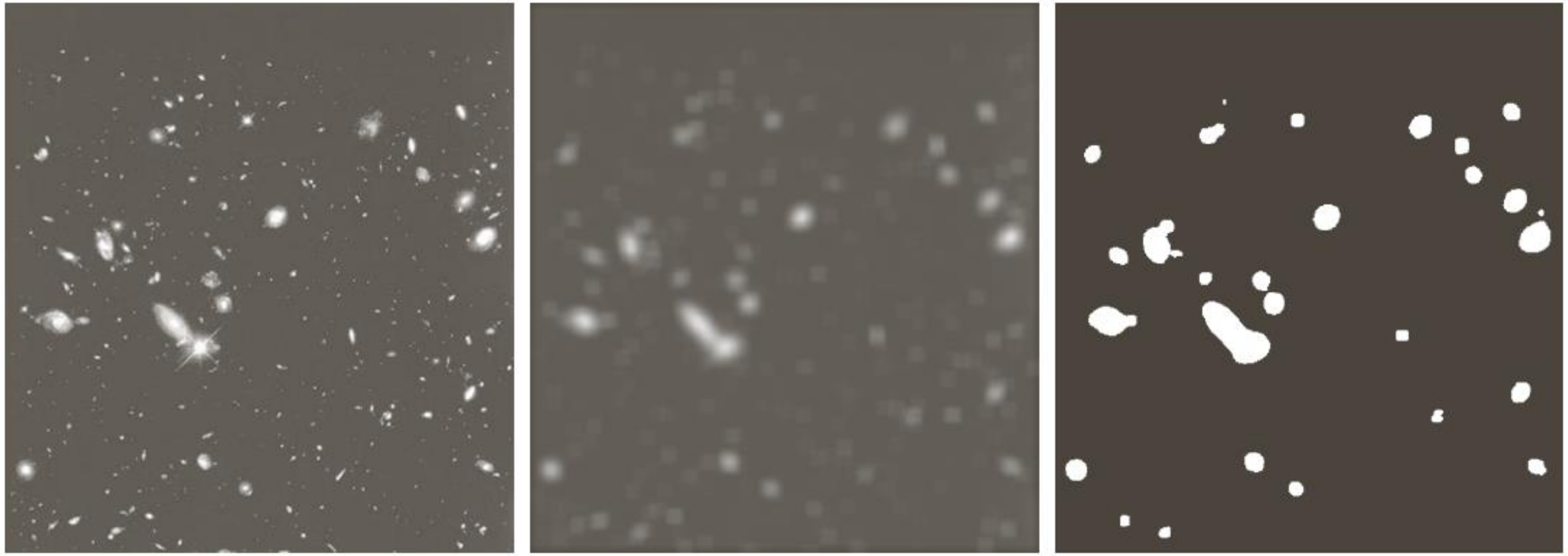


FIGURE 3.33 (a) Original image, of size 500×500 pixels. (b)–(f) Results of smoothing with square averaging filter masks of sizes $m = 3, 5, 9, 15$, and 35, respectively. The black squares at the top are of sizes 3, 5, 9, 15, 25, 35, 45, and 55 pixels, respectively; their borders are 25 pixels apart. The letters at the bottom range in size from 10 to 24 points, in increments of 2 points; the large letter at the top is 60 points. The vertical bars are 5 pixels wide and 100 pixels high; their separation is 20 pixels. The diameter of the circles is 25 pixels, and their borders are 15 pixels apart; their intensity levels range from 0% to 100% black in increments of 20%. The background of the image is 10% black. The noisy rectangles are of size 50×120 pixels.

a	b
c	d
e	f

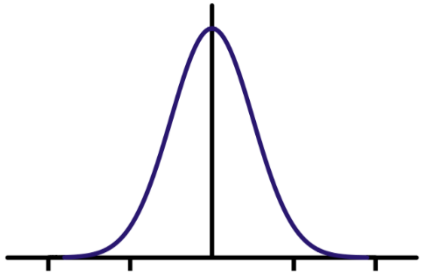
Example: Gross Representation of Objects



a b c

FIGURE 3.34 (a) Image of size 528 × 485 pixels from the Hubble Space Telescope. (b) Image filtered with a 15 × 15 averaging mask. (c) Result of thresholding (b). (Original image courtesy of NASA.)

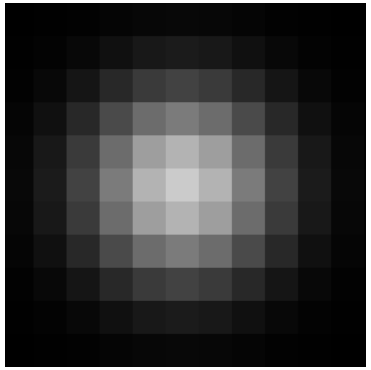
Gaussian filter



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

Input image f

*



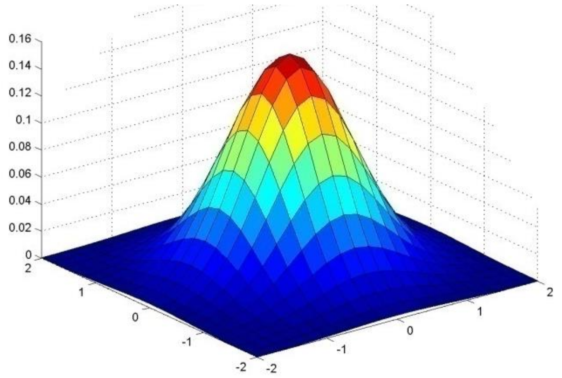
Filter h

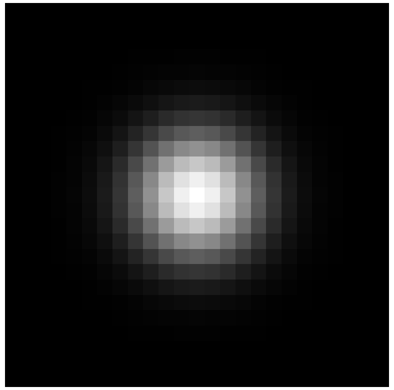
=

Output image g

Important filter: Gaussian

- Spatially-weighted average





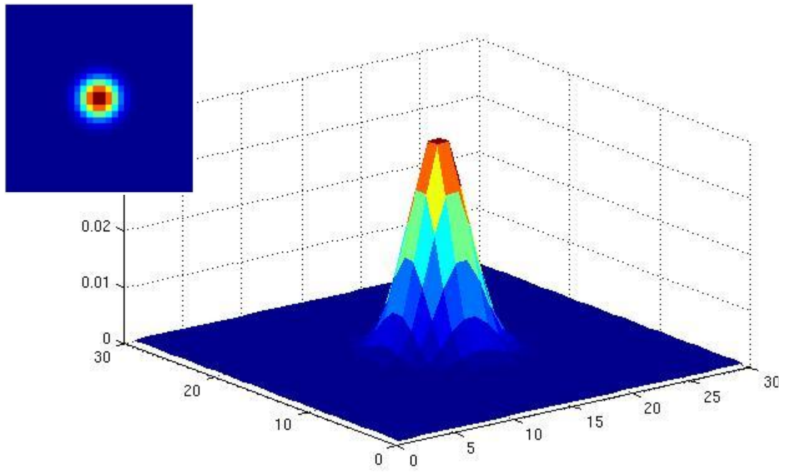
0.003	0.013	0.022	0.013	0.003
0.013	0.059	0.097	0.059	0.013
0.022	0.097	0.159	0.097	0.022
0.013	0.059	0.097	0.059	0.013
0.003	0.013	0.022	0.013	0.003

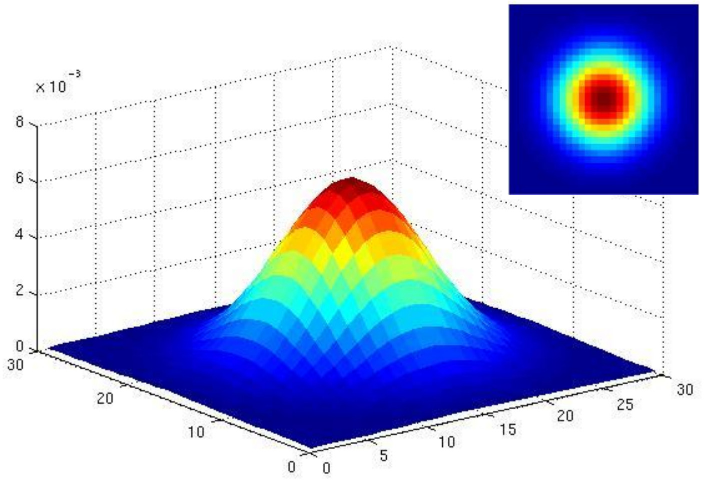
5 x 5, σ = 1

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

Gaussian filters

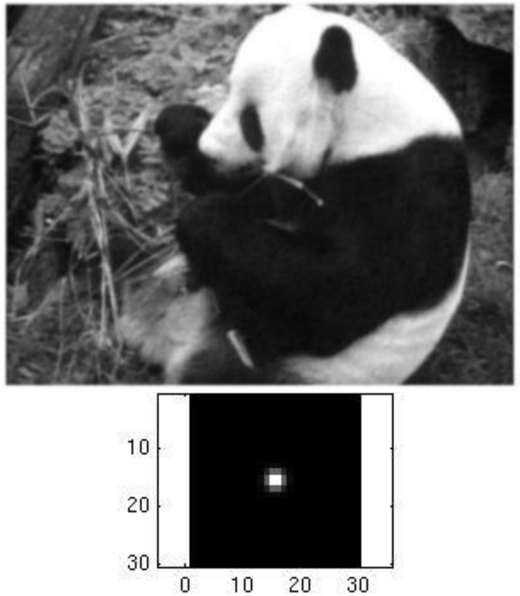
- What parameters matter here?
- **Variance** of Gaussian: determines extent of smoothing

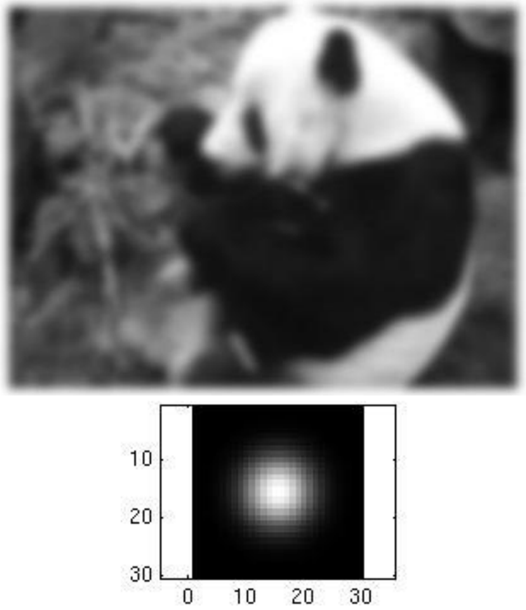




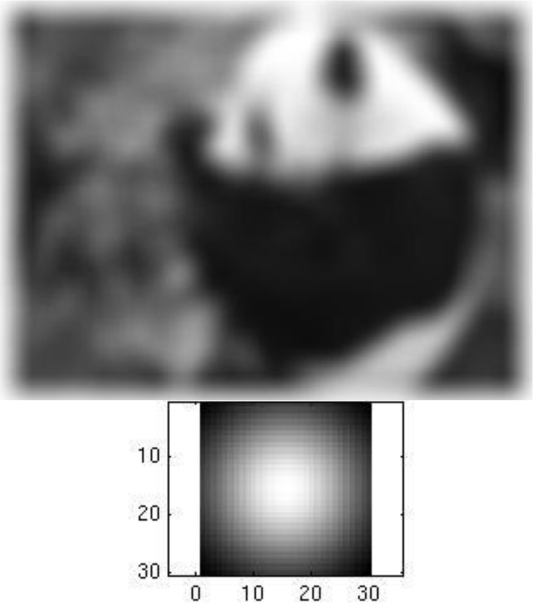
Smoothing with a Gaussian

Parameter σ is the “scale” / “width” / “spread” of the Gaussian kernel, and controls the amount of smoothing.

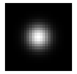


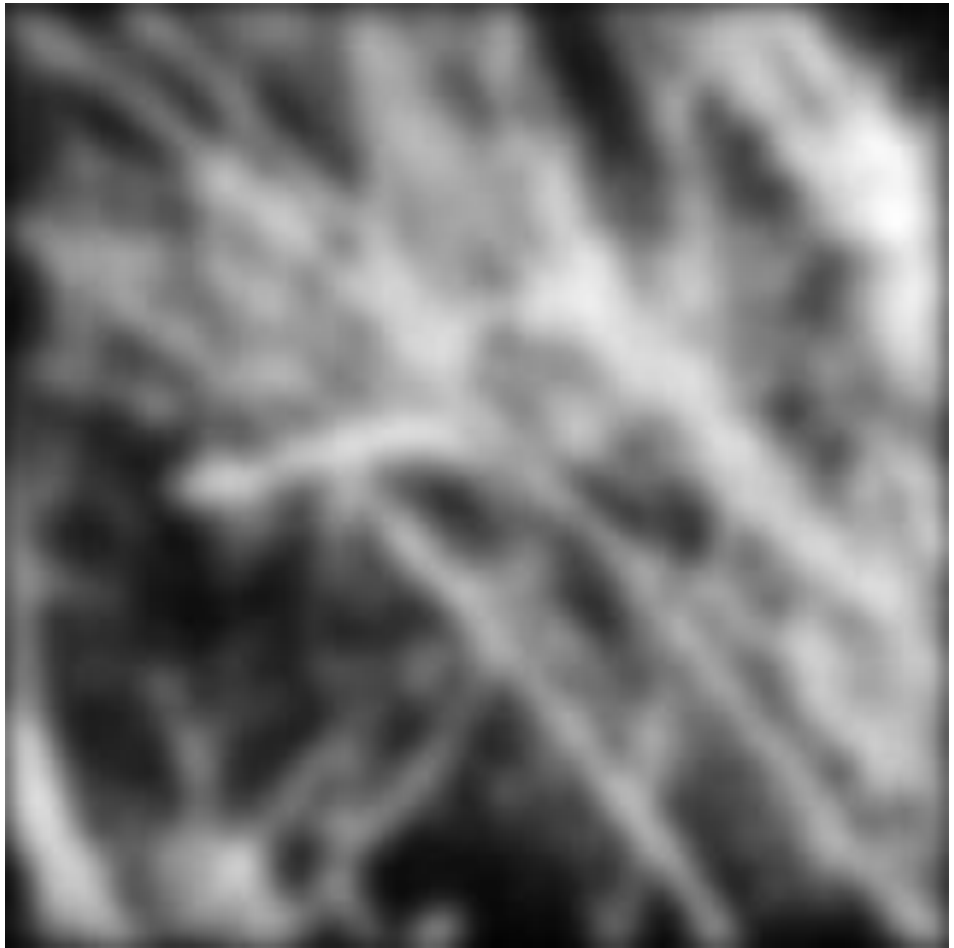


…

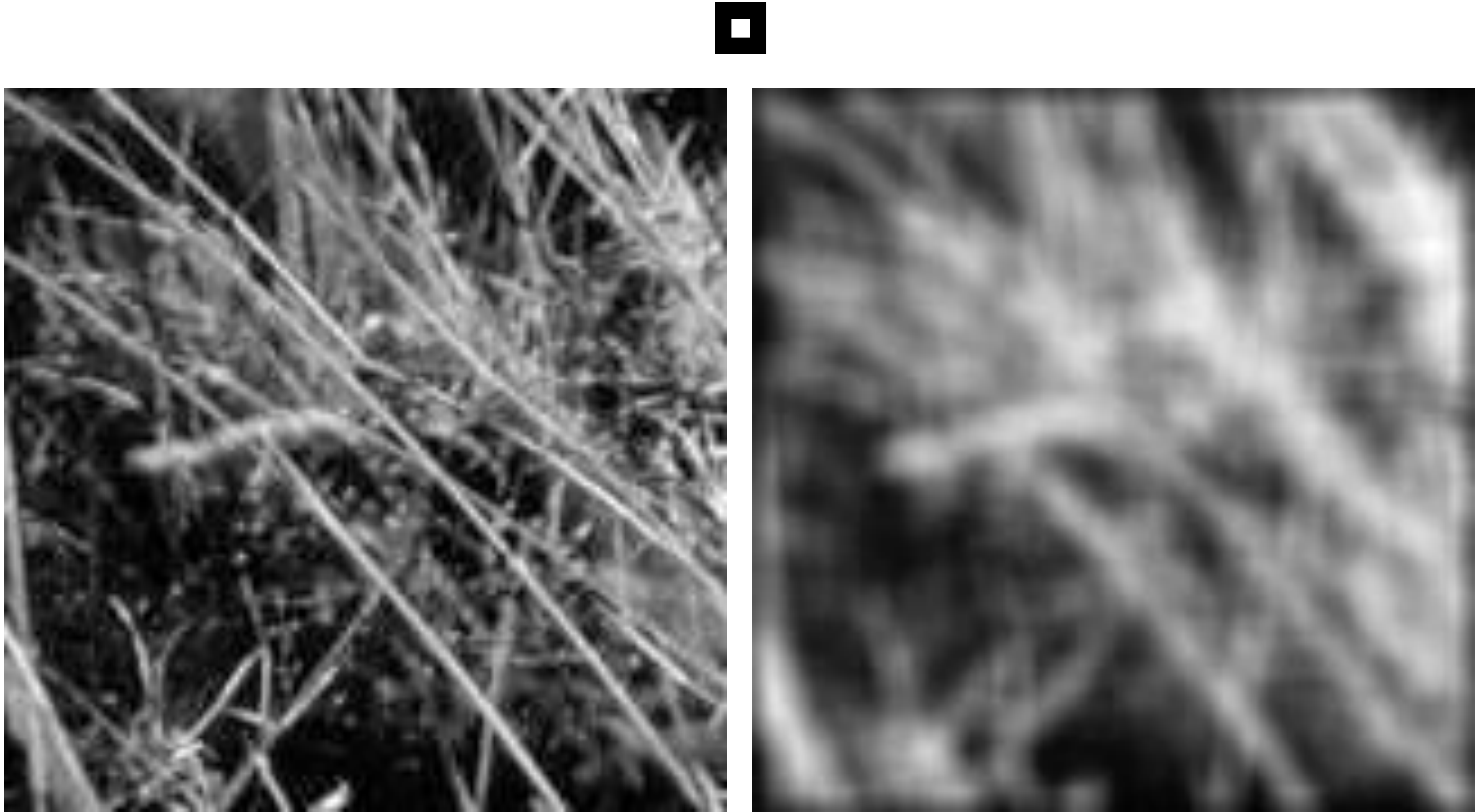


Smoothing with Gaussian filter





Smoothing with box filter



Noise

Original

Salt and pepper noise

Impulse noise

Gaussian noise

- **Salt and pepper noise**: contains random occurrences of black and white pixels
- **Impulse noise:** contains random occurrences of white pixels
- **Gaussian noise**: variations in intensity drawn from a Gaussian normal distribution

Source: S. Seitz

Reducing salt-and-pepper noise

3x3

5x5

7x7

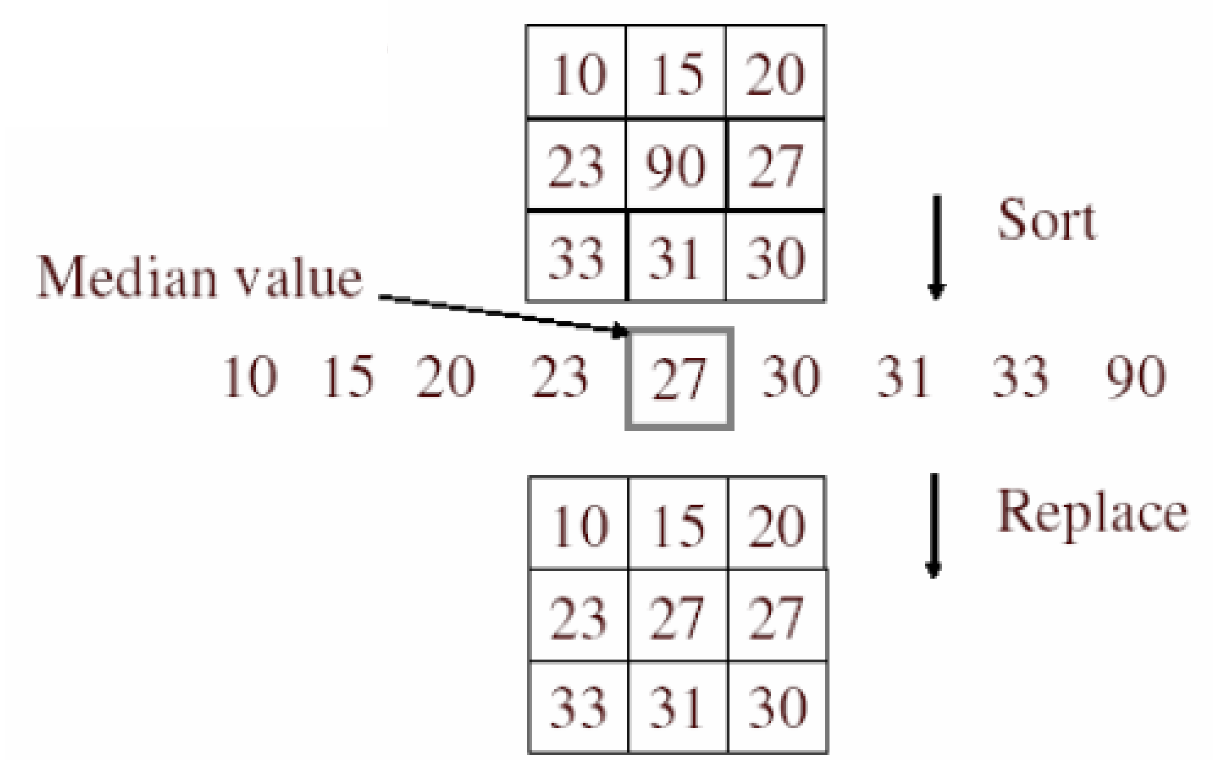
- What’s wrong with the results?

Order-statistic Filters

- Nonlinear
- Based on ordering (ranking) the pixels contained in the filter mask
- Replacing the value of the center pixel with the value determined by the ranking result
- E.g., median filter, max filter, min filter

Median filtering

- A **median filter** operates over a window by selecting the median intensity in the window



- Is median filtering linear?

Source: K. Grauman

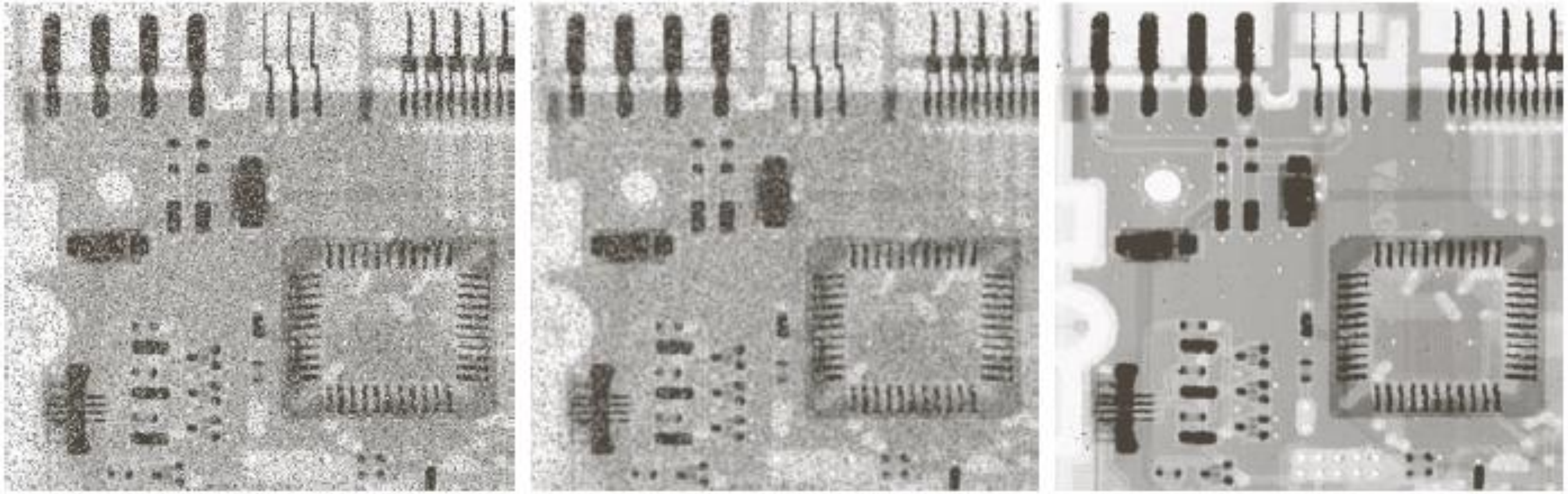
Gaussian vs. median filtering

3x3 5x5 7x7

Gaussian

Median

Example: Use of Median Filtering for Noise Reduction



a b c

FIGURE 3.35 (a) X-ray image of circuit board corrupted by salt-and-pepper noise. (b) Noise reduction with a 3×3 averaging mask. (c) Noise reduction with a 3×3 median filter. (Original image courtesy of Mr. Joseph E. Pascente, Lixi, Inc.)

Sharpening Spatial Filters

- Foundation
- Laplacian Operator
- Unsharp Masking and Highboost Filtering
- Using First-Order Derivatives for Nonlinear Image Sharpening — The Gradient

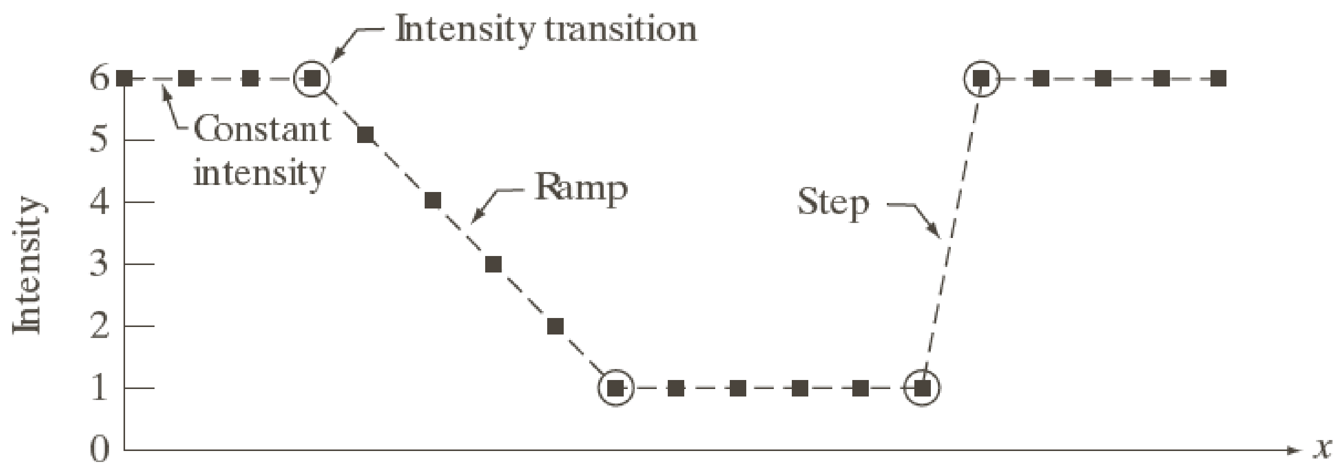
Sharpening Spatial Filters: Foundation

- The first-order derivative of a one-dimensional function f(x) is the difference

$$\frac{\partial f}{\partial x} = f(x+1) - f(x)$$

- The second-order derivative of f(x) as the difference

$$\frac{\partial^2 f}{\partial x^2} = f(x+1) + f(x-1) - 2f(x)$$



a
b
c

FIGURE 3.36 Illustration of the first and second derivatives of a 1-D digital function representing a section of a horizontal intensity profile from an image. In (a) and (c) data points are joined by dashed lines as a visualization aid.

Sharpening Spatial Filters: Laplace Operator

The second-order isotropic derivative operator is the Laplacian for a function (image) f(x,y)

$$\nabla^2 f = \frac{\partial^2 f}{\partial x^2} + \frac{\partial^2 f}{\partial y^2}$$

$$\frac{\partial^2 f}{\partial x^2} = f(x+1, y) + f(x-1, y) - 2f(x, y)$$

$$\frac{\partial^2 f}{\partial y^2} = f(x, y+1) + f(x, y-1) - 2f(x, y)$$

$$\nabla^2 f = f(x+1, y) + f(x-1, y) + f(x, y+1) + f(x, y-1)$$
$$- 4f(x, y)$$

Sharpening Spatial Filters: Laplace Operator

0	1	0
1	−4	1
0	1	0

1	1	1
1	−8	1
1	1	1

0	−1	0
−1	4	−1
0	−1	0

−1	−1	−1
−1	8	−1
−1	−1	−1

a b
c d

FIGURE 3.37 (a) Filter mask used to implement Eq. (3.6-6). (b) Mask used to implement an extension of this equation that includes the diagonal terms. (c) and (d) Two other implementations of the Laplacian found frequently in practice.

Sharpening Spatial Filters: Laplace Operator

Image sharpening in the way of using the Laplacian:

$$g(x,y) = f(x,y) + c\left[\nabla^2 f(x,y)\right]$$

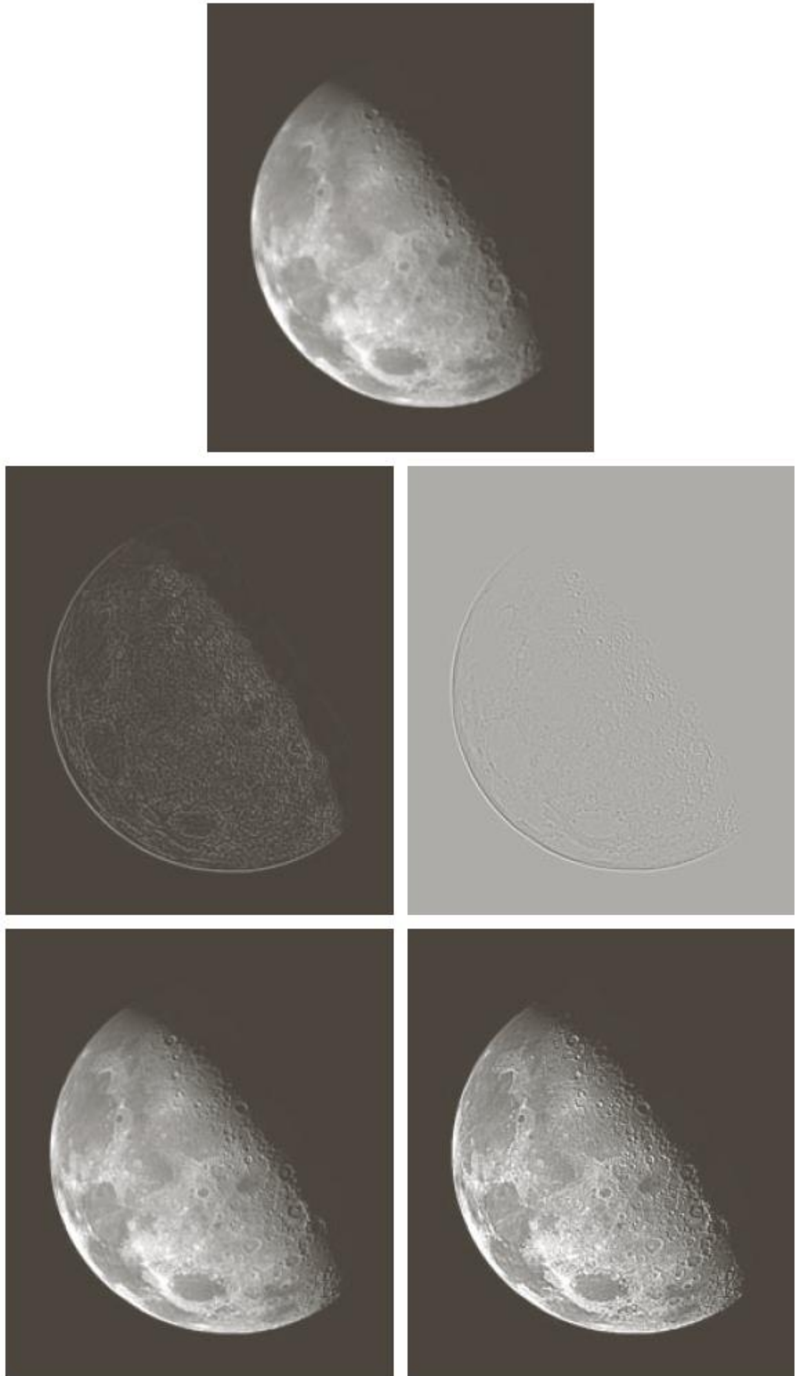
where,

$f(x,y)$ is input image,

$g(x,y)$ is sharpenend images,

$c =$ -1 if $\nabla^2 f(x,y)$ corresponding to Fig. 3.37(a) or (b)

and $c = 1$ if either of the other two filters is used.



a
b c
d e

FIGURE 3.38
(a) Blurred image of the North Pole of the moon. (b) Laplacian without scaling. (c) Laplacian with scaling. (d) Image sharpened using the mask in Fig. 3.37(a). (e) Result of using the mask in Fig. 3.37(b). (Original image courtesy of NASA.)

Unsharp Masking and Highboost Filtering

- Unsharp masking

  Sharpen images consists of subtracting an unsharp (smoothed) version of an image from the original image

  e.g., printing and publishing industry

- Steps

  1. Blur the original image

  2. Subtract the blurred image from the original

  3. Add the mask to the original

Unsharp Masking and Highboost Filtering

Let $\overline{f}(x, y)$ denote the blurred image, unsharp masking is

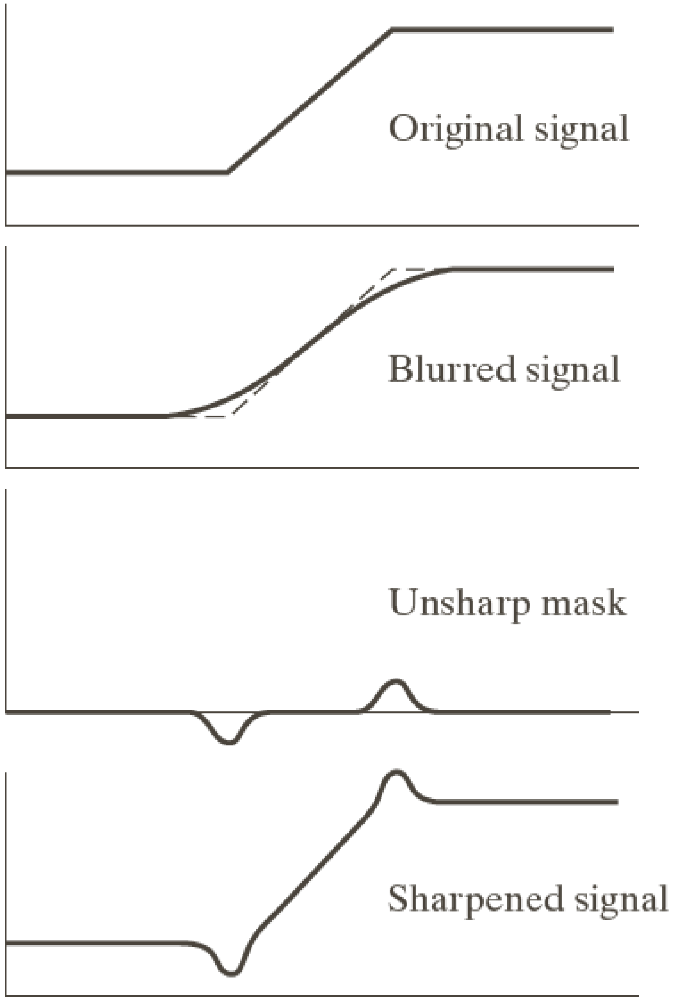
$$g_{mask}(x, y) = f(x, y) - \overline{f}(x, y)$$

Then add a weighted portion of the mask back to the original

$$g(x, y) = f(x, y) + k * g_{mask}(x, y) \qquad k \geq 0$$

when $k > 1$, the process is referred to as highboost filtering.

Unsharp Masking



a
b
c
d

FIGURE 3.39 1-D illustration of the mechanics of unsharp masking. (a) Original signal. (b) Blurred signal with original shown dashed for refere-nce. (c) Unsharp mask. (d) Sharp-ened signal, obtained by adding (c) to (a).

Unsharp Masking and Highboost Filtering: Example

a
b
c
d
e

FIGURE 3.40
(a) Original image.
(b) Result of blurring with a Gaussian filter.
(c) Unsharp mask. (d) Result of using unsharp masking.
(e) Result of using highboost filtering.

Image Sharpening based on First-Order Derivatives

For function $f(x, y)$, the gradient of f at coordinates (x, y) is defined as

$$\nabla f \equiv \operatorname{grad}(f) \equiv \begin{bmatrix} g_x \\ g_y \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} \dfrac{\partial f}{\partial x} \\ \dfrac{\partial f}{\partial y} \end{bmatrix}$$

The *magnitude* of vector ∇f, denoted as $M(x, y)$

Gradient Image $$M(x, y) = \operatorname{mag}(\nabla f) = \sqrt{g_x^{\,2} + g_y^{\,2}}$$

Image Sharpening based on First-Order Derivatives

The *magnitude* of vector ∇f, denoted as $M(x, y)$

$$M(x,y) = \text{mag}(\nabla f) = \sqrt{g_x{}^2 + g_y{}^2}$$

$$M(x,y) \approx |g_x| + |g_y|$$

z_1	z_2	z_3
z_4	z_5	z_6
z_7	z_8	z_9

$$M(x,y) = |z_8 - z_5| + |z_6 - z_5|$$

Image Sharpening based on First-Order Derivatives

Roberts Cross-gradient Operators

$$M(x,y) \approx |z_9 - z_5| + |z_8 - z_6|$$

Sobel Operators

$$M(x,y) \approx |(z_7 + 2z_8 + z_9) - (z_1 + 2z_2 + z_3)| + |(z_3 + 2z_6 + z_9) - (z_1 + 2z_4 + z_7)|$$

z_1	z_2	z_3
z_4	z_5	z_6
z_7	z_8	z_9

Image Sharpening based on First-Order Derivatives

z_1	z_2	z_3
z_4	z_5	z_6
z_7	z_8	z_9

−1	0
0	1

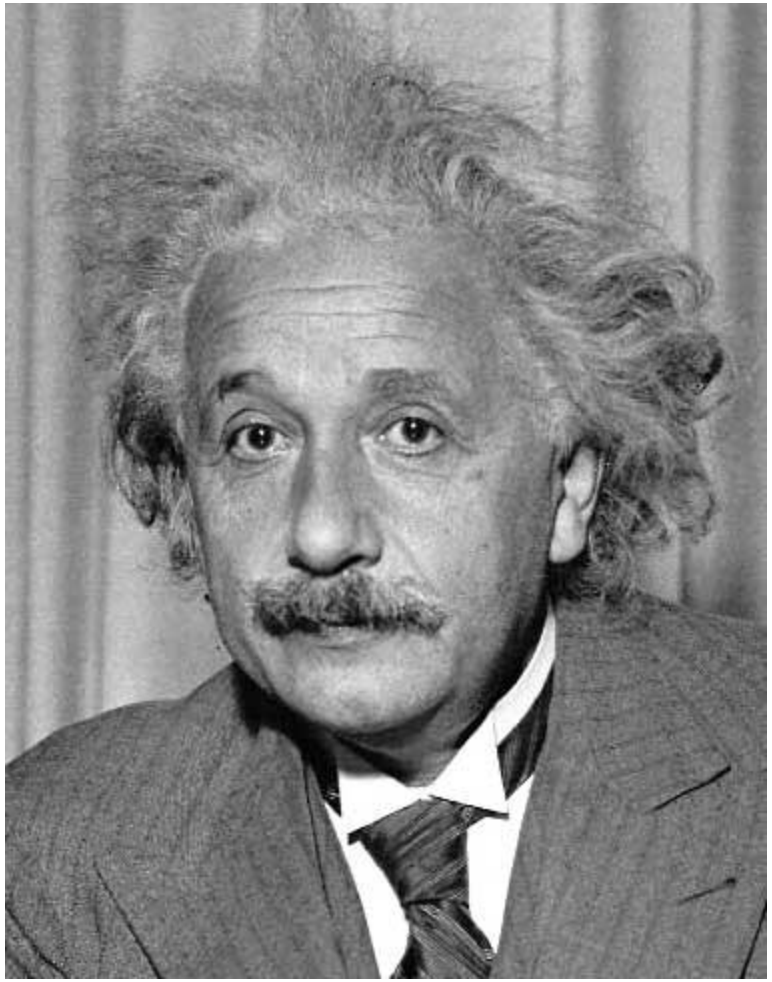
0	−1
1	0

−1	−2	−1
0	0	0
1	2	1

−1	0	1
−2	0	2
−1	0	1

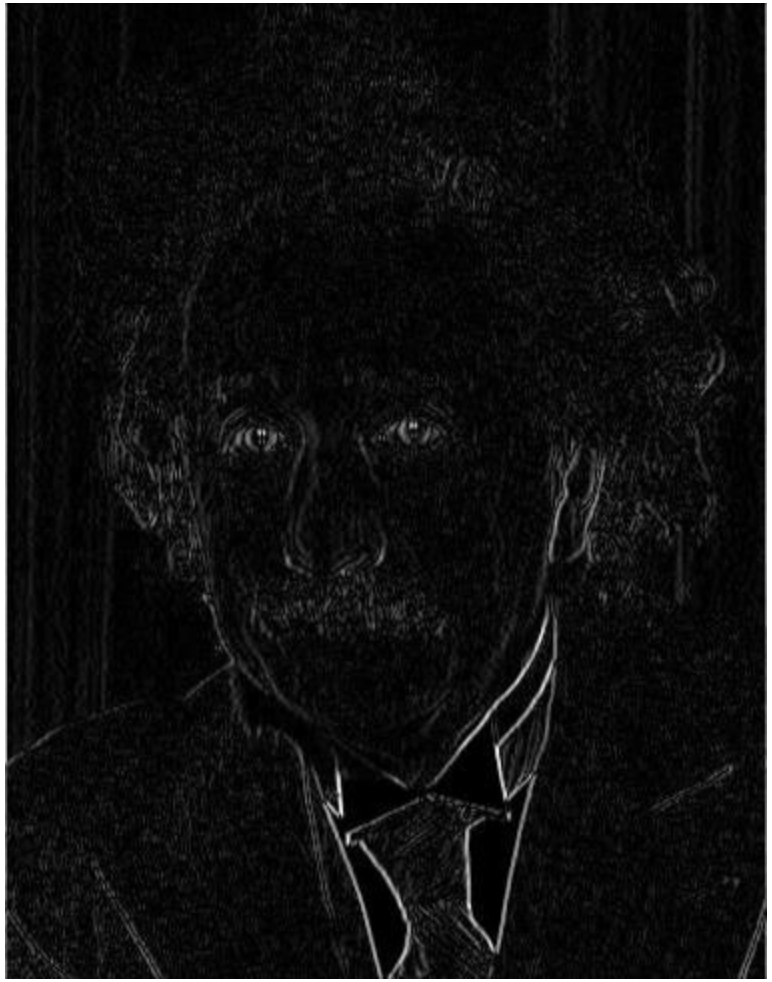
a
b c
d e

FIGURE 3.41 A 3 × 3 region of an image (the zs are intensity values). (b)–(c) Roberts cross gradient operators. (d)–(e) Sobel operators. All the mask coefficients sum to zero, as expected of a derivative operator.

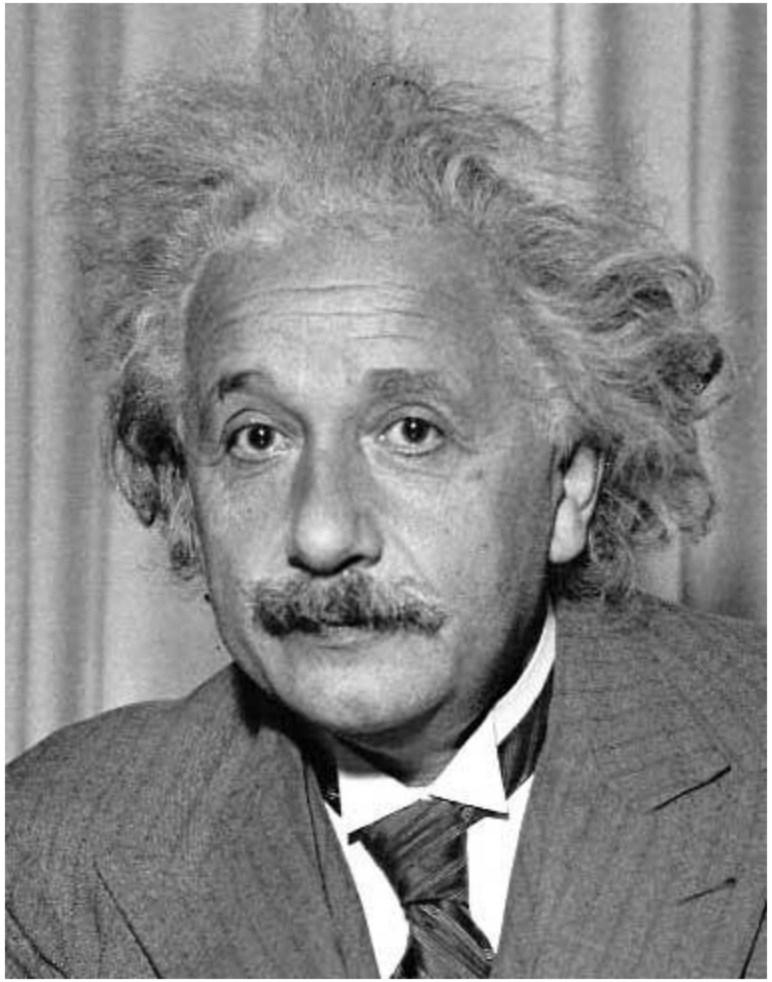


1	0	-1
2	0	-2
1	0	-1

Sobel

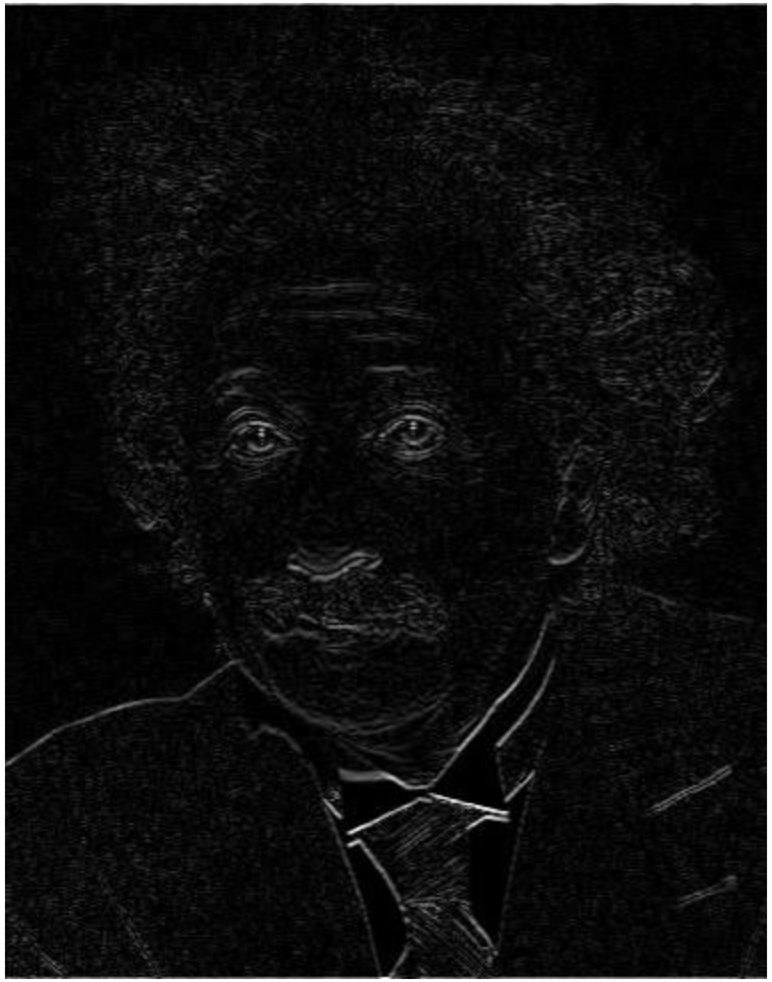


Vertical Edge
(absolute value)



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

Sobel



Horizontal Edge
(absolute value)

Annoying details

- What about near the edge?
  - the filter window falls off the edge of the image
  - need to extrapolate
  - methods:
    - clip filter (black)
    - wrap around
    - copy edge
    - reflect across edge

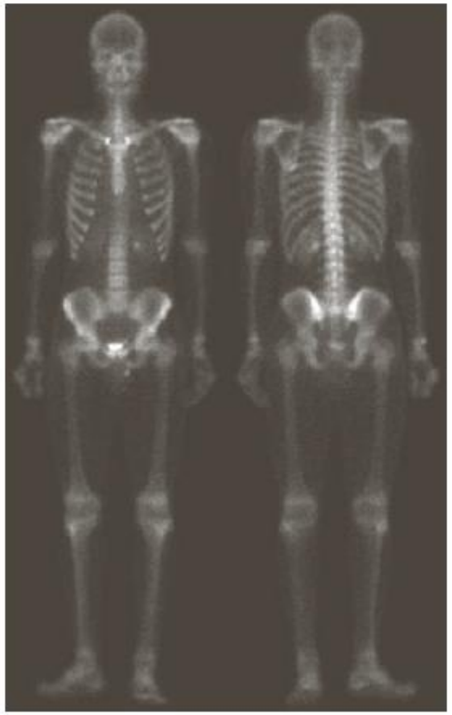
Source: S. Marschner

Example:

Combining Spatial Enhancement Methods

Goal:

Enhance the image by sharpening it and by bringing out more of the skeletal detail



a b
c d

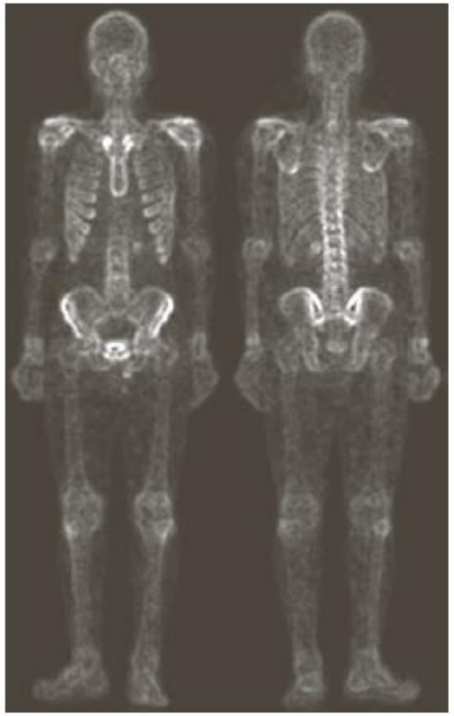
FIGURE 3.43
(a) Image of whole body bone scan.
(b) Laplacian of (a). (c) Sharpened image obtained by adding (a) and (b).
(d) Sobel gradient of (a).

Example:

Combining Spatial Enhancement Methods

Goal:

Enhance the image by sharpening it and by bringing out more of the skeletal detail



e f
g h

FIGURE 3.43 *(Continued)* (e) Sobel image smoothed with a 5×5 averaging filter. (f) Mask image formed by the product of (c) and (e). (g) Sharpened image obtained by the sum of (a) and (f). (h) Final result obtained by applying a power-law transformation to (g). Compare (g) and (h) with (a). (Original image courtesy of G.E. Medical Systems.)

Summary

- Filtering is just applying a mask to an image.
- Computer vision people call the linear form of these operations "convolutions".
- There are many nonlinear filters, too, such as median filters and morphological filters.
- Filtering is the lowest level of image analysis and is taught heavily in image processing courses.