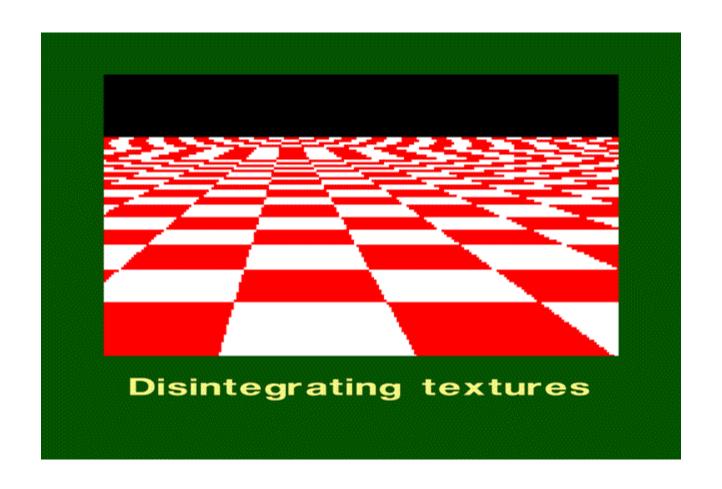
Convolution and Image Derivatives



CS180: Intro to Comp. Vision and Comp. Photo Efros & Kanazawa, UC Berkeley, Fall 2025

Aliasing in images

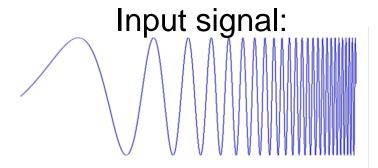


Aliasing in real images

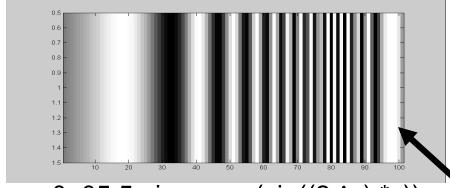




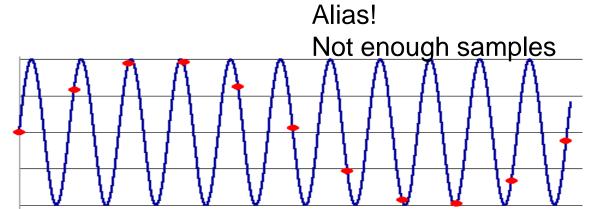
What's happening?



Plot as image:



x = 0:.05:5; imagesc(sin((2.^x).*x))



Antialiasing

What can we do about aliasing?

Sample more often

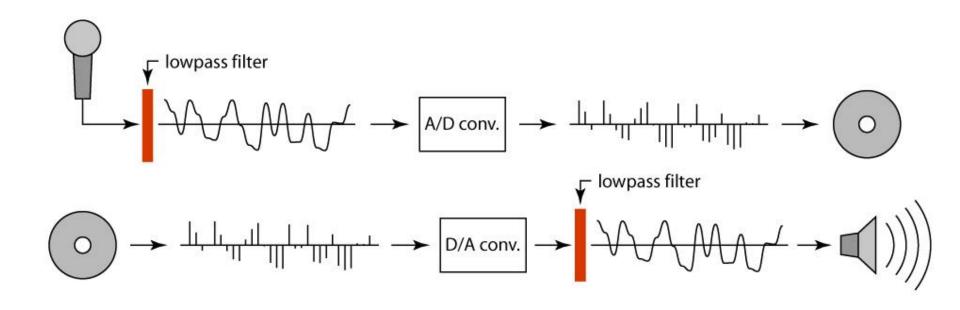
- Join the Mega-Pixel craze of the photo industry
- But this can't go on forever

Make the signal less "wiggly"

- Get rid of some high frequencies
- Will loose information
- But it's better than aliasing

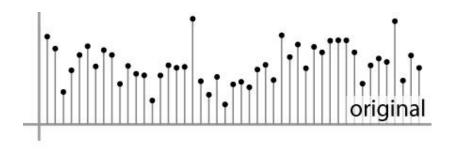
Preventing aliasing

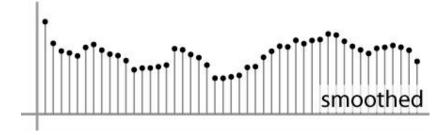
- Introduce lowpass filters:
 - remove high frequencies leaving only safe, low frequencies
 - choose lowest frequency in reconstruction (disambiguate)



Moving Average

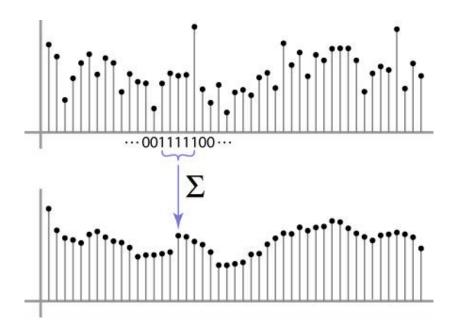
- basic idea: define a new function by averaging over a sliding window
- a simple example to start off: smoothing





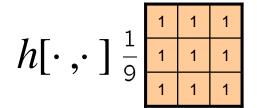
Moving Average

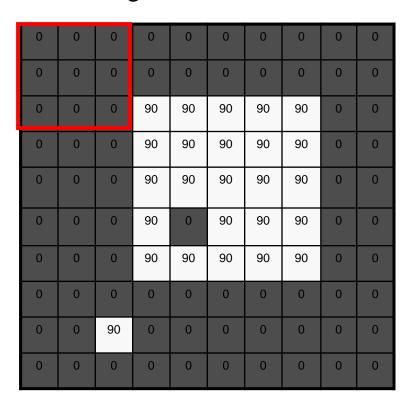
- Can add weights to our moving average
- Weights [..., 0, 1, 1, 1, 1, 1, 0, ...] / 5

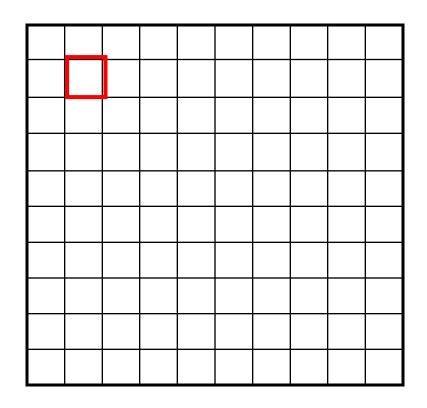


In 2D: box filter

	$h[\cdot ,\cdot]$										
1	1	1	1								
) -	1	1	1								
9	1	1	1								

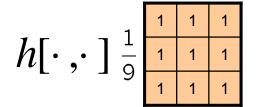


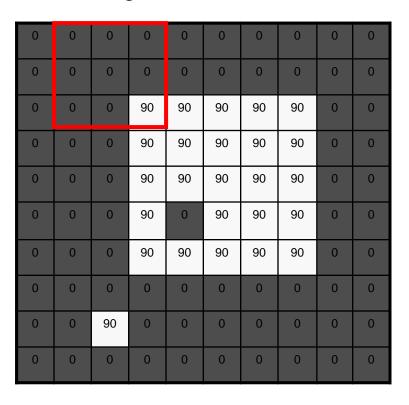


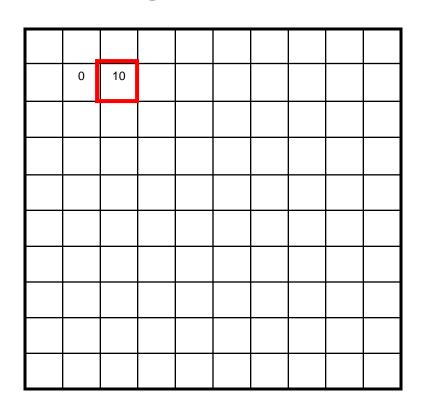


$$g[m,n] = \sum_{k,l} h[k,l] f[m+k,n+l]$$

Credit: S. Seitz







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

Credit: S. Seitz

1	1	1	1
$h[\cdot,\cdot]^{\frac{1}{2}}$	1	1	1
L , J 9	1	1	1

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

0	10	20			

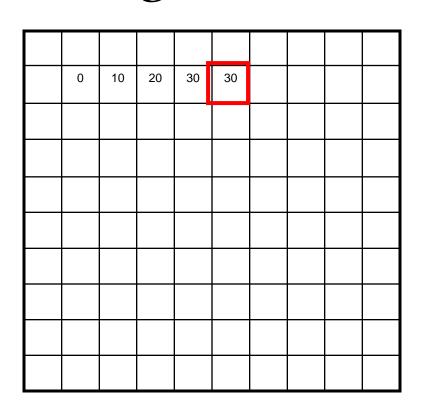
1	1	1	1
$h[\cdot,\cdot]^{\frac{1}{2}}$	1	1	1
1	1	1	1

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

0	10	20	30			

1	1	1	1
$h[\cdot,\cdot]^{\frac{1}{2}}$	1	1	1
1	1	1	1

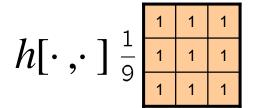
0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
0	0	0	90	90	90	90	90	0	0
0	0	0	90	90	90	90	90	0	0
0	0	0	90	90	90	90	90	0	0
0	0	0	90	0	90	90	90	0	0
0	0	0	90	90	90	90	90	0	0
0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
0	0	90	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0



1	1	1	1
$h[\cdot,\cdot]^{\frac{1}{0}}$	1	1	1
L , J 9	1	1	1

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

0	10	20	30	30		
			?			



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

0	10	20	30	30			
					?		
			50				

$$h[\cdot\,,\cdot\,]$$

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

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	

Cross-correlation

Let F be the image, H be the kernel (of size $2k+1 \times 2k+1$), and G be the output image

$$G[i,j] = \sum_{u=-k}^{k} \sum_{v=-k}^{k} H[u,v]F[i+u,j+v]$$

This is called a **cross-correlation** operation:

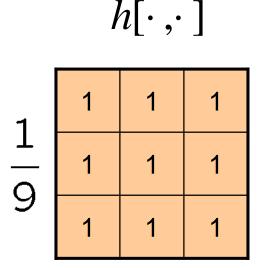
$$G = H \otimes F$$

 Can think of as a "dot product" between local neighborhood and kernel for each pixel

Box Filter

What does it do?

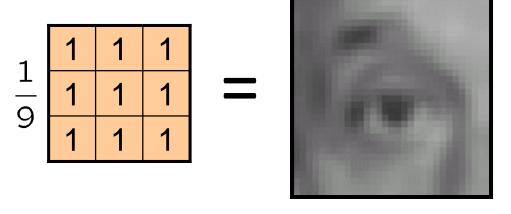
- Replaces each pixel with an average of its neighborhood
- Achieve smoothing effect (remove sharp features)



Linear filters: examples



Original



Blur (with a mean filter)



Original

0	0	0
0	1	0
0	0	0

?



Original

0	0	0
0	~	0
0	0	0



Filtered (no change)



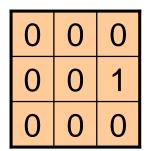
Original

0	0	0
0	0	1
0	0	0

?



Original





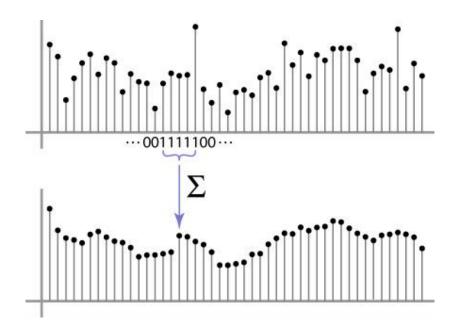
Shifted left By 1 pixel

Back to the box filter



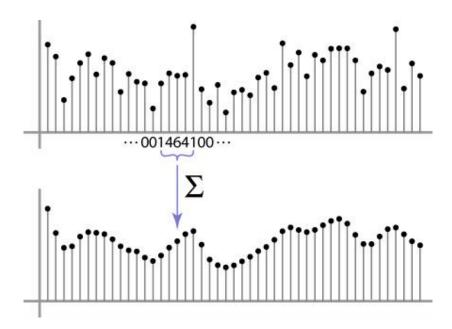
Moving Average

- Can add weights to our moving average
- Weights [..., 0, 1, 1, 1, 1, 1, 0, ...] / 5



Weighted Moving Average

bell curve (gaussian-like) weights [..., 1, 4, 6, 4, 1, ...]



Moving Average In 2D

What are the weights H?

				<u>. 9</u>					
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



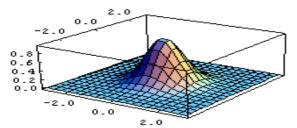
Gaussian filtering

A Gaussian kernel gives less weight to pixels further from the center of the window

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

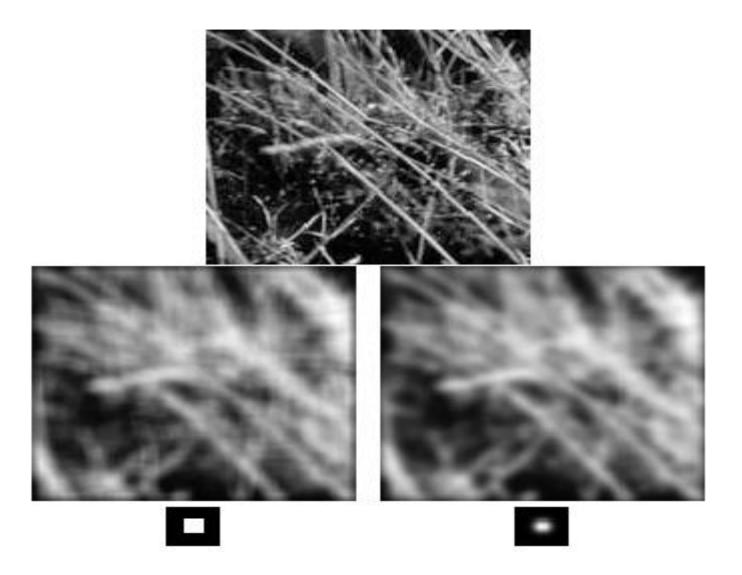
$$\overline{F[x,y]}$$

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



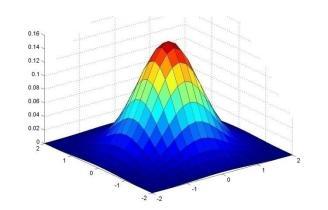
This kernel is an approximation of a Gaussian function:

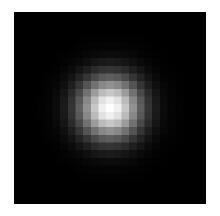
Mean vs. Gaussian filtering



Important filter: Gaussian

Weight contributions of neighboring pixels by nearness





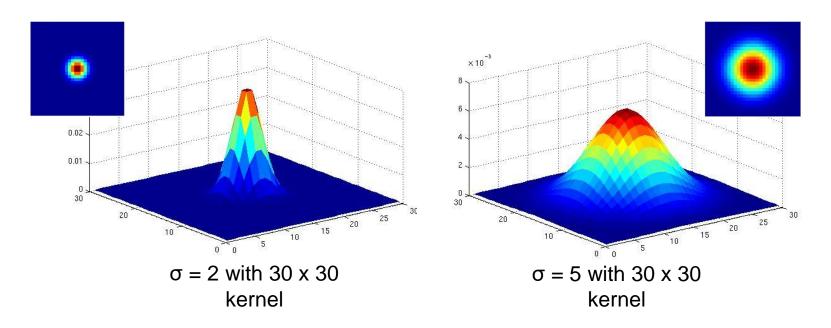
0.003	0.013	0.022	0.013	0.003
0.013	0.059	0.097	0.059	0.013
0.022	0.097	0.159	0.097	0.022
0.013	0.059	0.097	0.059	0.013
0.003	0.013	0.022	0.013	0.003

$$5 \times 5$$
, $\sigma = 1$

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

Gaussian Kernel

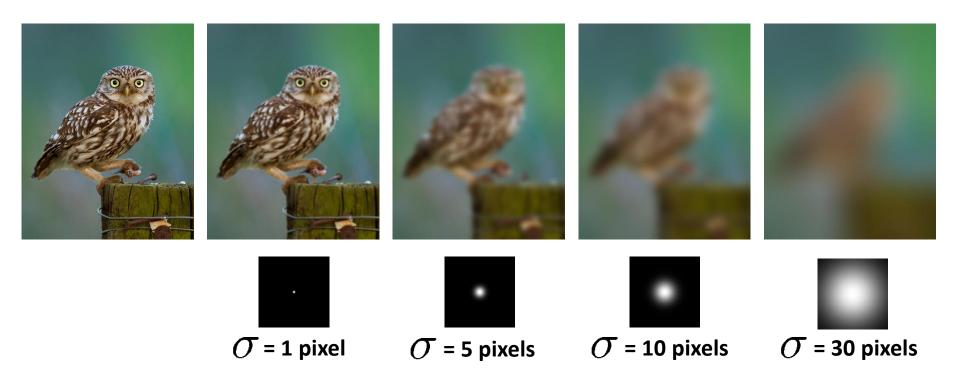
$$G_{\sigma} = \frac{1}{2\pi\sigma^2} e^{-\frac{(x^2+y^2)}{2\sigma^2}}$$



• Standard deviation σ : determines extent of smoothing

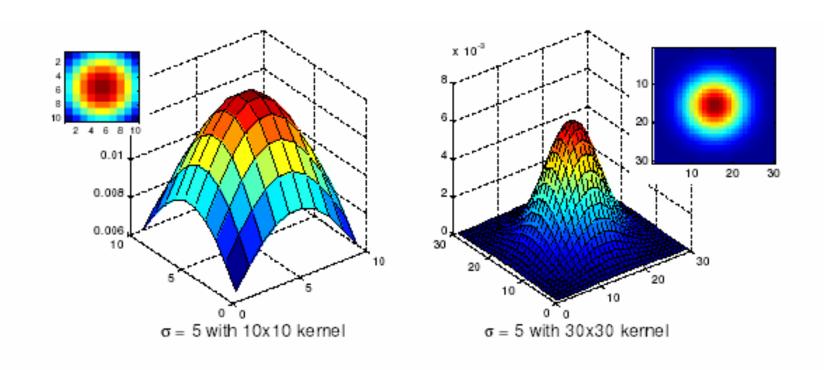
Source: K. Grauman

Gaussian filters



Choosing kernel width

 The Gaussian function has infinite support, but discrete filters use finite kernels

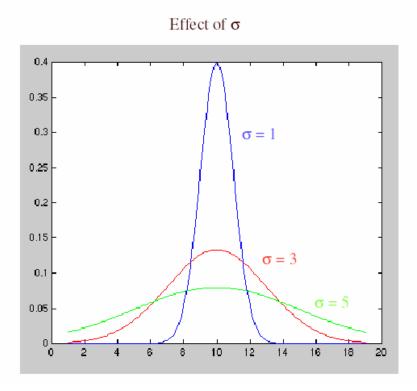


Practical matters

How big should the filter be?

Values at edges should be near zero

Rule of thumb for Gaussian: set filter half-width to about 3 σ



Cross-correlation vs. Convolution

cross-correlation: $G = H \otimes F$

$$G = H \otimes F$$

$$G[i,j] = \sum_{u=-k}^{k} \sum_{v=-k}^{k} H[u,v]F[i+u,j+v]$$

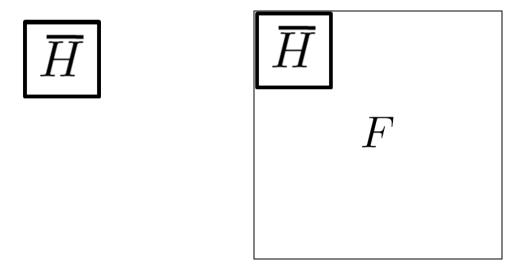
A **convolution** operation is a cross-correlation where the filter is flipped both horizontally and vertically before being applied to the image:

$$G[i,j] = \sum_{u=-k}^{k} \sum_{v=-k}^{k} H[u,v]F[i-u,j-v]$$

It is written:

$$G = H \star F$$

Convolution



Cross-correlation vs. Convolution

cross-correlation: $G = H \otimes F$

$$G[i,j] = \sum_{u=-k}^{k} \sum_{v=-k}^{k} H[u,v]F[i+u,j+v]$$

A **convolution** operation is a cross-correlation where the filter is flipped both horizontally and vertically before being applied to the image:

$$G[i,j] = \sum_{u=-k}^{k} \sum_{v=-k}^{k} H[u,v]F[i-u,j-v]$$

It is written:

$$G = H \star F$$

Convolution is commutative and associative

Convolution is nice!

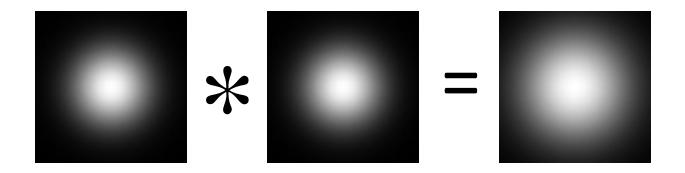
- Notation: $b = c \star a$
- Convolution is a multiplication-like operation
 - commutative $a \star b = b \star a$
 - associative $a \star (b \star c) = (a \star b) \star c$
 - distributes over addition $a \star (b+c) = a \star b + a \star c$
 - scalars factor out $\alpha a \star b = a \star \alpha b = \alpha (a \star b)$
 - identity: unit impulse e = [..., 0, 0, 1, 0, 0, ...]

$$a \star e = a$$

- Conceptually no distinction between filter and signal
- Usefulness of associativity
 - often apply several filters one after another: $(((a * b_1) * b_2) * b_3)$
 - this is equivalent to applying one filter: a * $(b_1 * b_2 * b_3)$

Gaussian and convolution

- Removes "high-frequency" components from the image (low-pass filter)
- Convolution with self is another Gaussian



– Convolving twice with Gaussian kernel of width σ = convolving once with kernel of width $\sigma\sqrt{2}$

Image half-sizing

This image is too big to fit on the screen. How can we reduce it?

How to generate a halfsized version?

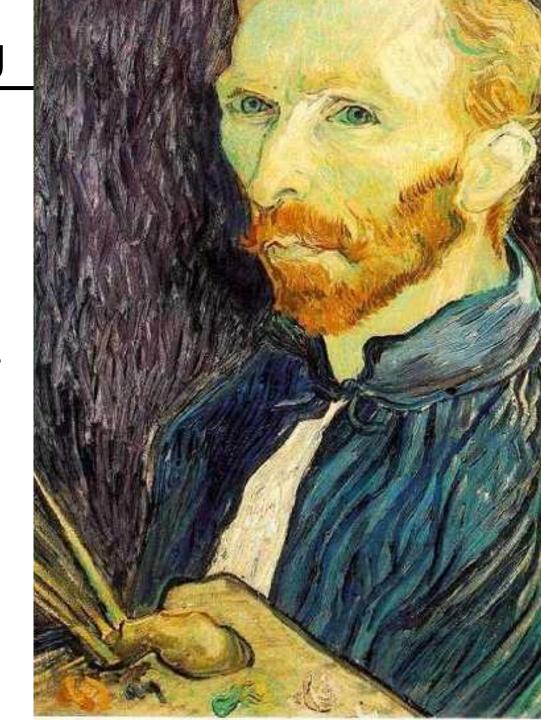
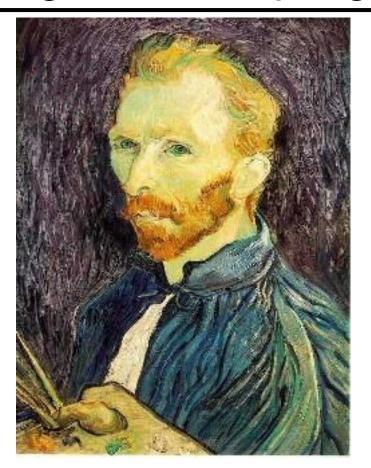


Image sub-sampling





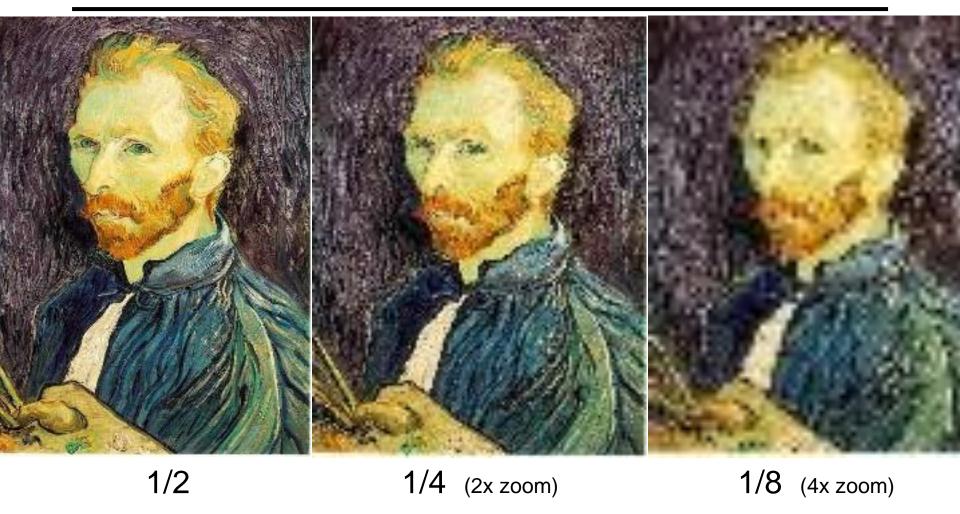


1/8

1/4

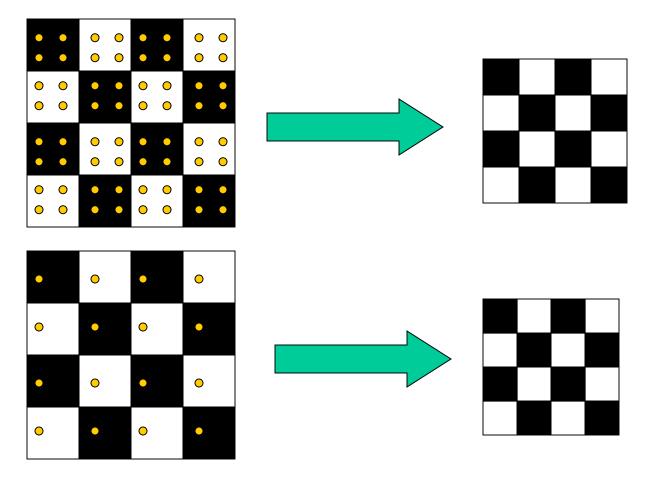
Throw away every other row and column to create a 1/2 size image - called *image sub-sampling*

Image sub-sampling



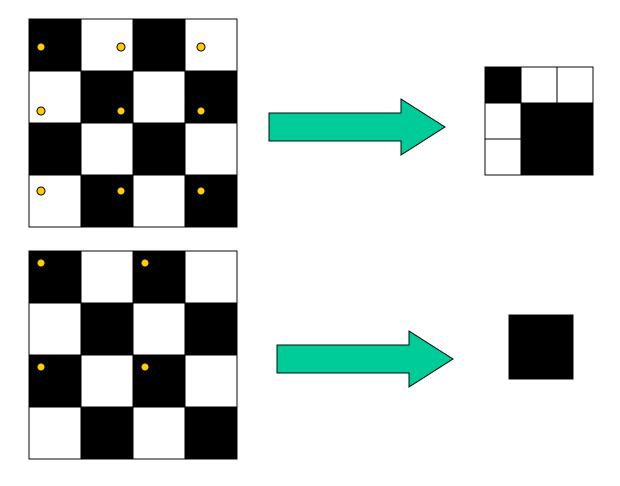
Aliasing! What do we do?

Sampling an image



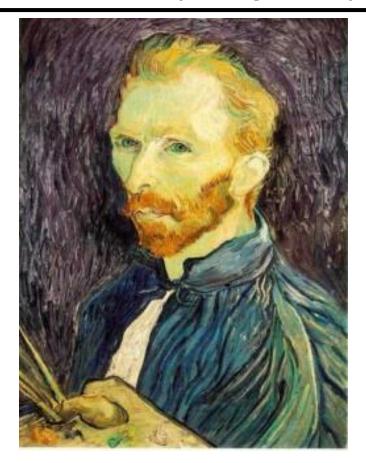
Examples of GOOD sampling

Undersampling



Examples of BAD sampling -> Aliasing

Gaussian (lowpass) pre-filtering







G 1/4

Gaussian 1/2

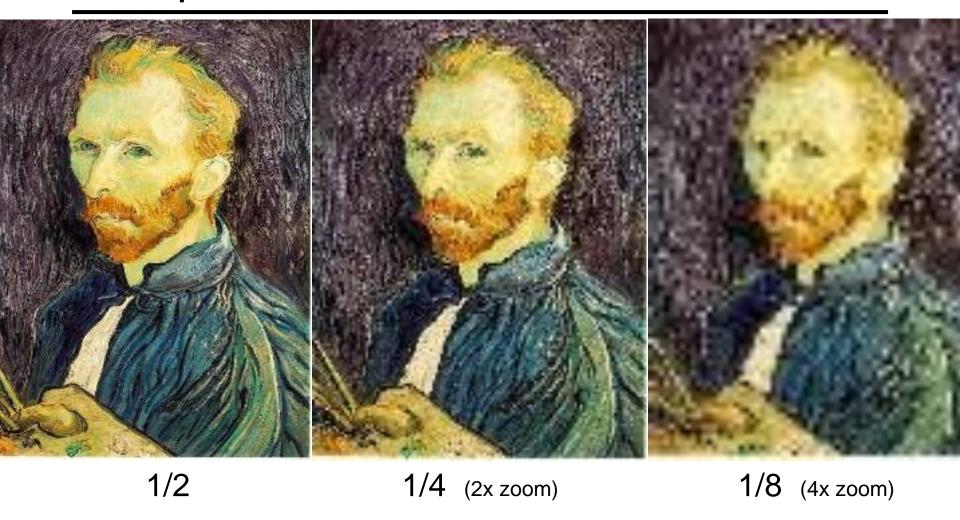
Solution: filter the image, then subsample

Filter size should double for each ½ size reduction. Why?

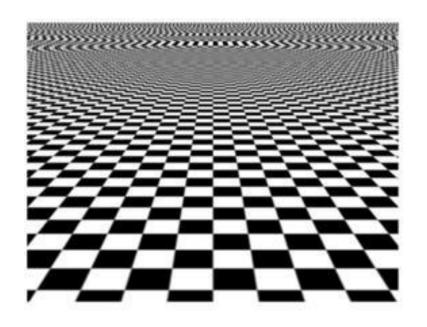
Subsampling with Gaussian pre-filtering

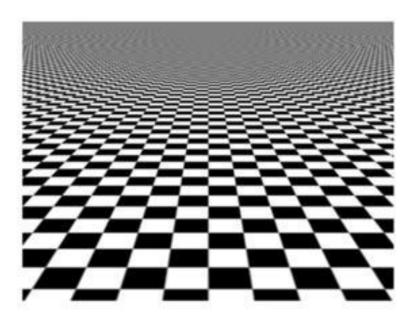


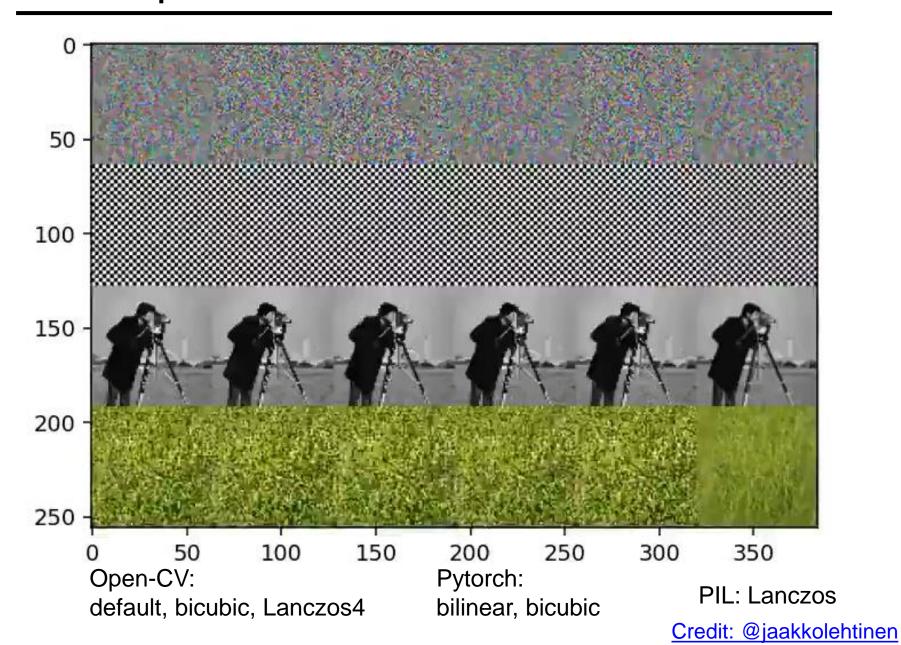
Compare with...



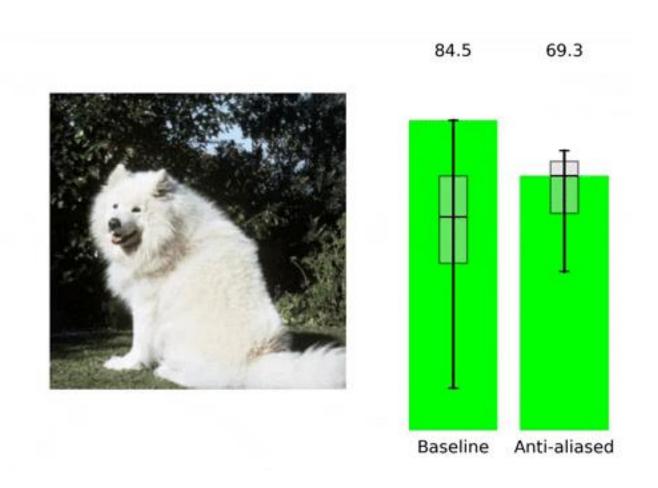
More Gaussian pre-filtering







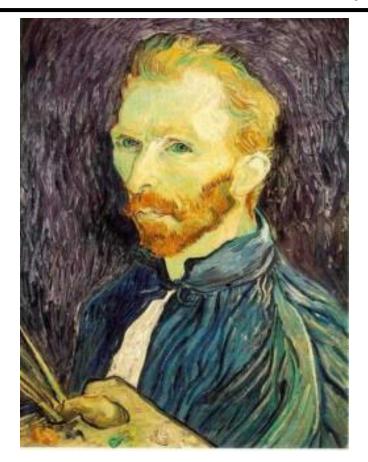
problems in ConvNets too



pip install antialiased-cnns

Making Convolutional Networks Shift-Invariant Again, Richard Zhang ICML 2019

Iterative Gaussian (lowpass) pre-filtering







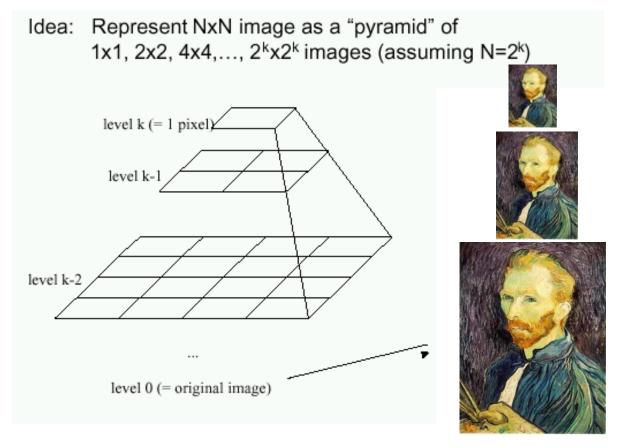
G 1/4

Gaussian 1/2

filter the image, then subsample

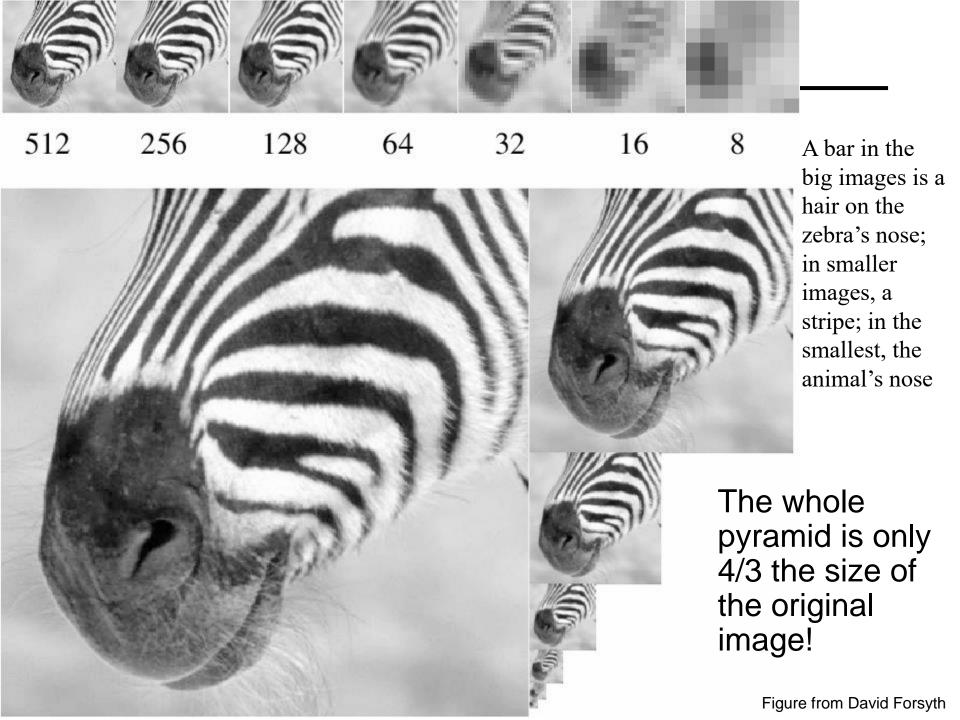
- Filter size should double for each ½ size reduction. Why?
- How can we speed this up?

Image Pyramids

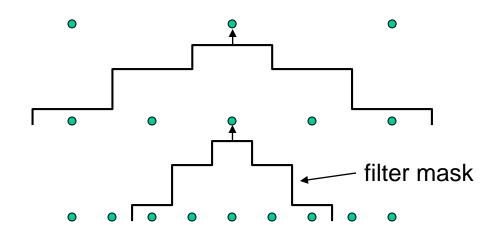


Known as a Gaussian Pyramid [Burt and Adelson, 1983]

- In computer graphics, a *mip map* [Williams, 1983]
- A precursor to wavelet transform



Gaussian pyramid construction



Repeat

- Filter
- Subsample

Until minimum resolution reached

can specify desired number of levels (e.g., 3-level pyramid)

What are they good for?

Improve Search

- Search over translations
 - Classic coarse-to-fine strategy
 - Project 1!
- Search over scale
 - Template matching
 - E.g. find a face at different scales

What else are convolutions good for?

Taking derivative by convolution (on board)

Partial derivatives with convolution

Image is function f(x,y)

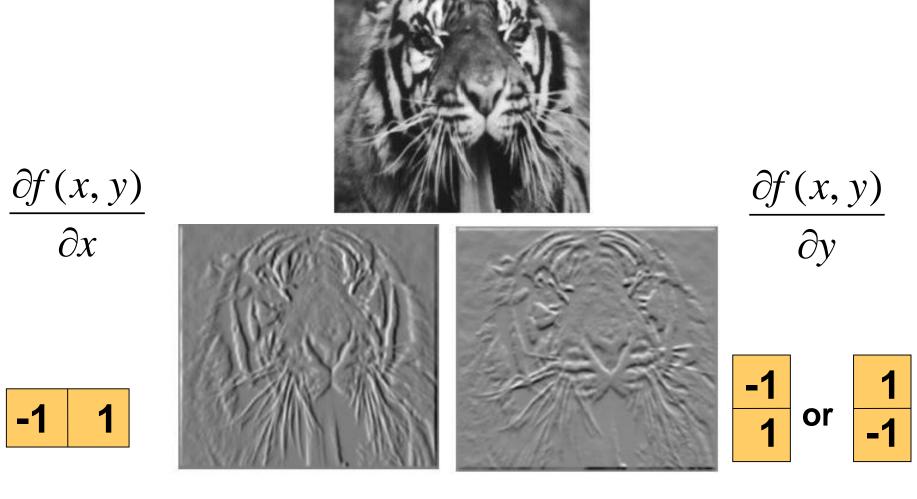
$$\frac{\partial f(x,y)}{\partial x} = \lim_{\epsilon \to 0} \frac{f(x+\epsilon,y) - f(x,y)}{\epsilon}$$

$$\frac{\partial f(x,y)}{\partial x} \approx \frac{f(x+1,y) - f(x,y)}{1}$$

Another one:

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

Partial derivatives of an image



Which shows changes with respect to x?

Image gradient

The gradient of an image: $\nabla f = \left| \frac{\partial f}{\partial x}, \frac{\partial f}{\partial y} \right|$

$$\nabla f = \begin{bmatrix} \frac{\partial f}{\partial x}, \mathbf{0} \end{bmatrix}$$

$$\nabla f = \begin{bmatrix} \frac{\partial f}{\partial x}, \frac{\partial f}{\partial y} \end{bmatrix}$$

$$\nabla f = \begin{bmatrix} 0, \frac{\partial f}{\partial y} \end{bmatrix}$$

The gradient points in the direction of most rapid increase in intensity

How does this direction relate to the direction of the edge?

The edge strength is given by the gradient magnitude

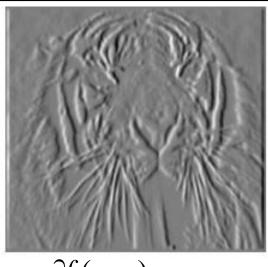
$$\|\nabla f\| = \sqrt{\left(\frac{\partial f}{\partial x}\right)^2 + \left(\frac{\partial f}{\partial y}\right)^2}$$

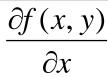
The gradient direction is given by $\theta = \tan^{-1}\left(\frac{\partial f}{\partial y}/\frac{\partial f}{\partial x}\right)$

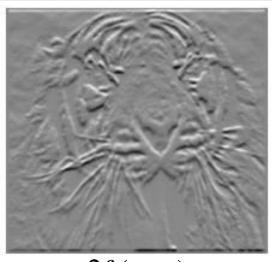
Source: Steve Seitz

Image Gradient







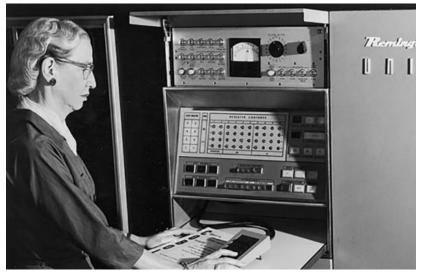


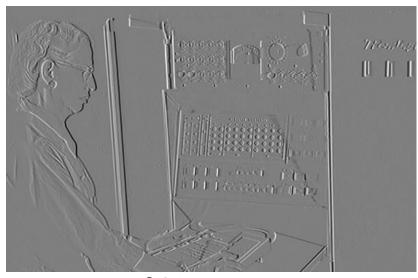
$$\frac{\partial f(x,y)}{\partial y}$$

$$\|\nabla f\| = \sqrt{\left(\frac{\partial f}{\partial x}\right)^2 + \left(\frac{\partial f}{\partial y}\right)^2}$$

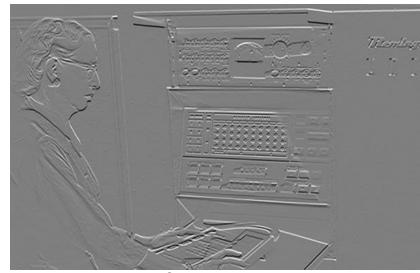


Partial Derivatives





 $\frac{\partial f(x,y)}{\partial x}$



 $\frac{\partial f(x,y)}{\partial y}$

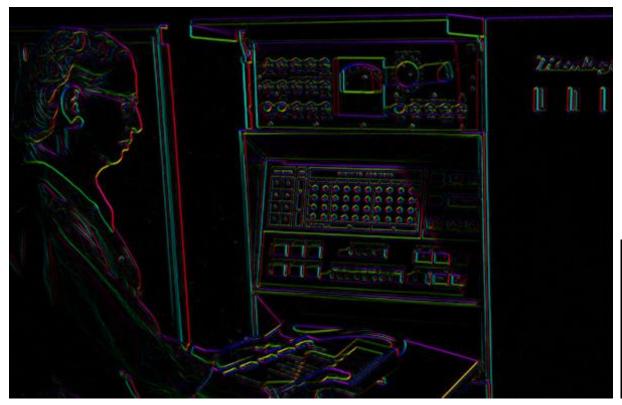
Gradient magnitude

$$\|\nabla f\| = \sqrt{\left(\frac{\partial f}{\partial x}\right)^2 + \left(\frac{\partial f}{\partial y}\right)^2}$$



Gradient Orientation

$$\theta = \tan^{-1}\left(\frac{\partial f}{\partial y}/\frac{\partial f}{\partial x}\right) \text{ atan2 (dy, dx)}$$

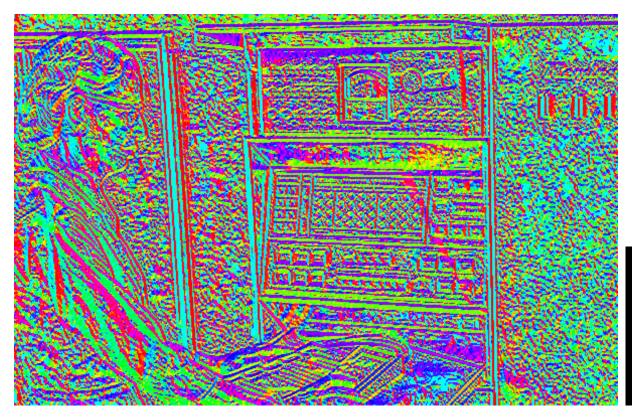




Source: D. Fouhey

Image Gradient

$$\theta = \tan^{-1}\left(\frac{\partial f}{\partial y}/\frac{\partial f}{\partial x}\right)$$

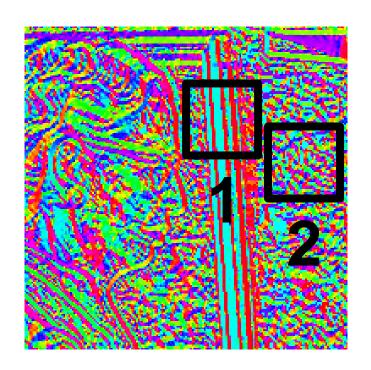




Source: D. Fouhey

Image Gradient

Why is there structure at 1 and not at 2?



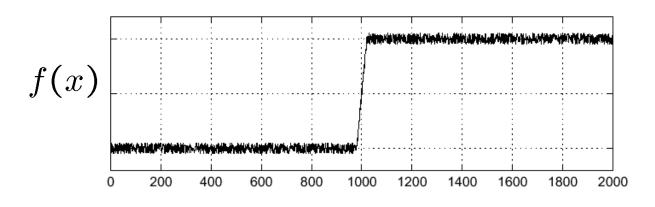


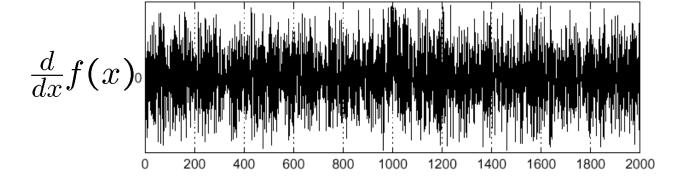
Source: D. Fouhey

Effects of noise

Consider a single row or column of the image

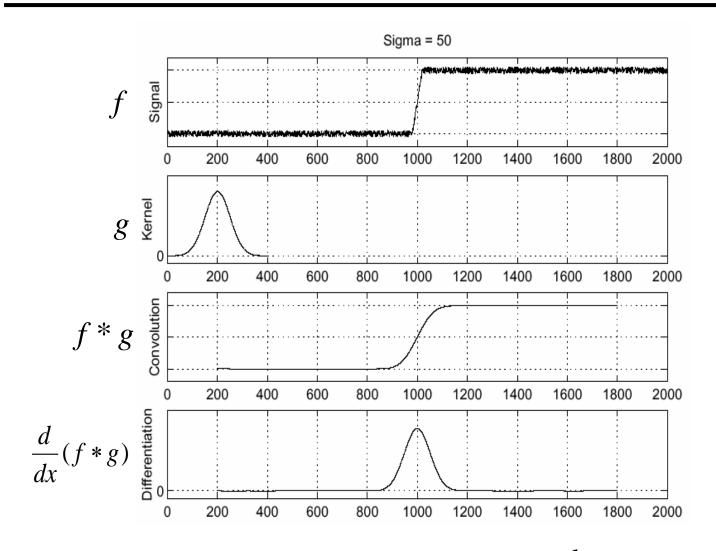
Plotting intensity as a function of position gives a signal





Where is the edge?

Solution: smooth first

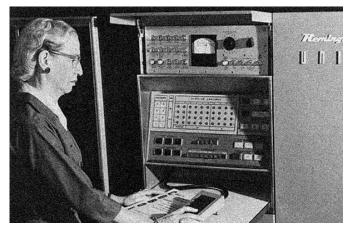


• To find edges, look for peaks in $\frac{d}{dx}(f*g)$

Source: S. Seitz

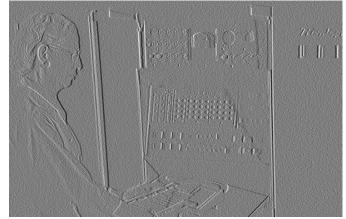
Noise in 2D

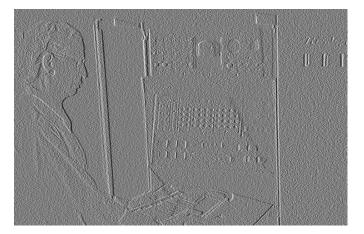
Noisy Input



Children Control of the Control of t

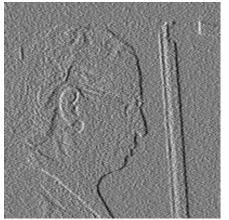
dx via [-1,01]





Zoom

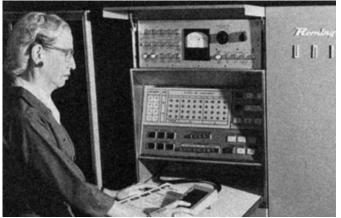




Source: D. Fouhey

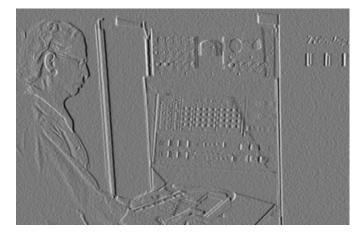
Noise + Smoothing

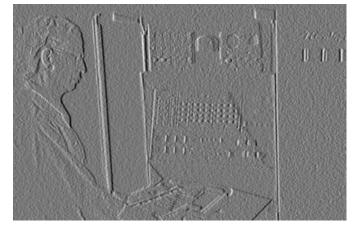
Smoothed Input



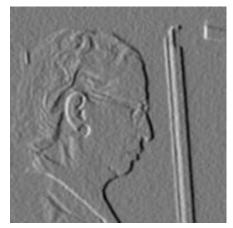
ADDRESS OF THE STATE OF THE STA

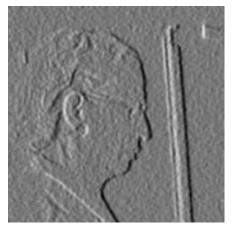
dx via [-1,01]





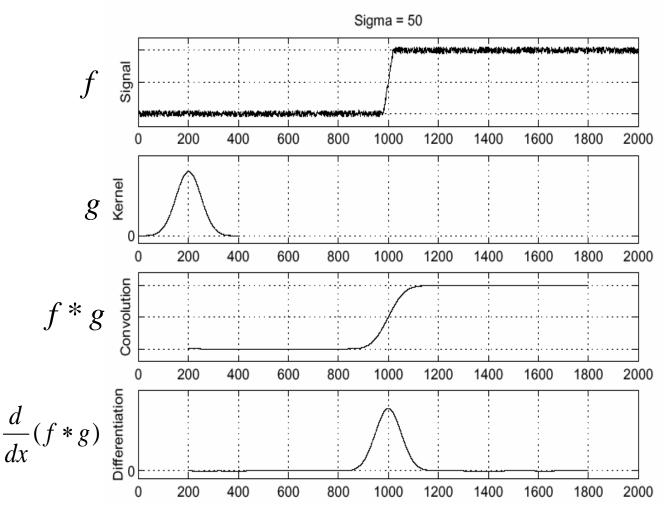
Zoom





Source: D. Fouhey

How many convolutions here?



can we reduce this?

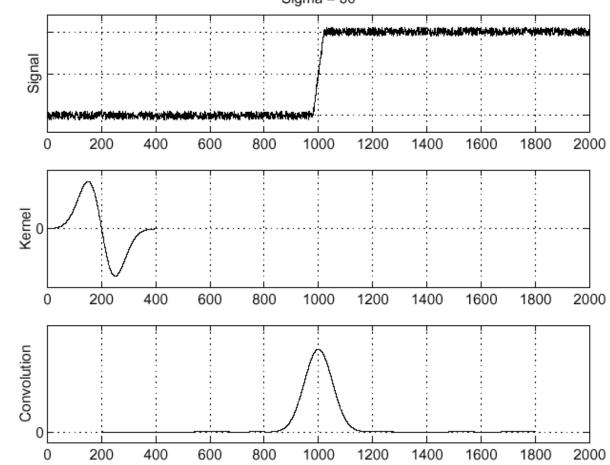
Derivative theorem of convolution

$$\frac{\partial}{\partial x}(h \star f) = (\frac{\partial}{\partial x}h) \star f$$

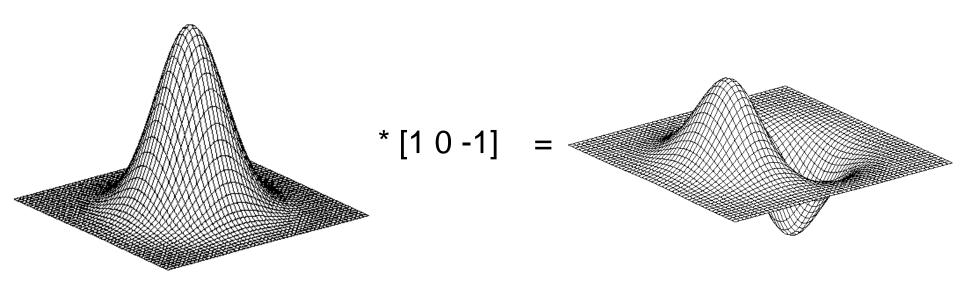
This saves us one operation:

 $\frac{\partial}{\partial x}h$

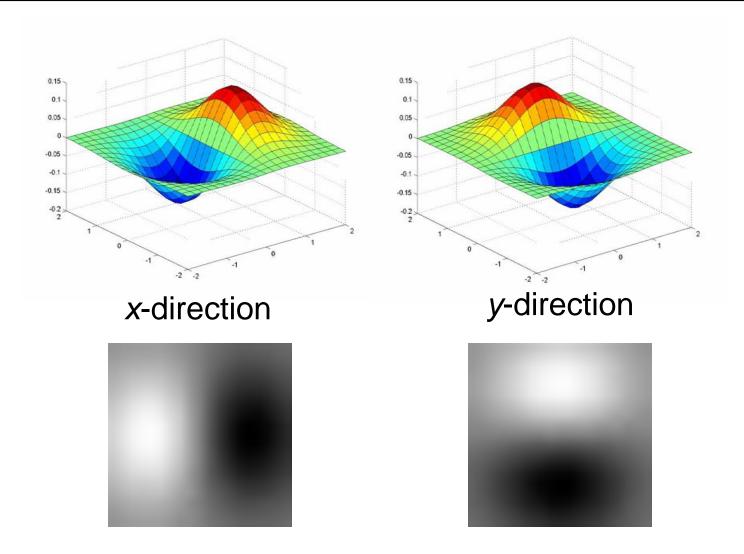
 $\left(\frac{\partial}{\partial x}h\right)\star f$



Derivative of Gaussian filter



Derivative of Gaussian filter



Which one finds horizontal/vertical edges?

Compare to classic derivative filters

Prewitt:
$$M_x = \begin{bmatrix} -1 & 0 & 1 \\ -1 & 0 & 1 \\ -1 & 0 & 1 \end{bmatrix}$$
; $M_y = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 1 & 1 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 \\ -1 & -1 & -1 \end{bmatrix}$

Sobel:
$$M_x = \begin{bmatrix} -1 & 0 & 1 \\ -2 & 0 & 2 \\ -1 & 0 & 1 \end{bmatrix}$$
; $M_y = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 2 & 1 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 \\ -1 & -2 & -1 \end{bmatrix}$

Roberts:
$$M_x = \begin{bmatrix} 0 & 1 \\ -1 & 0 \end{bmatrix}$$
 ; $M_y = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 \\ 0 & -1 \end{bmatrix}$

Low Pass vs. High Pass filtering

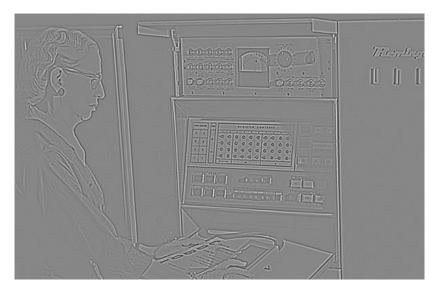
Image



Smoothed



Details

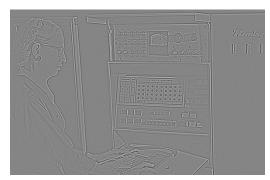


Image

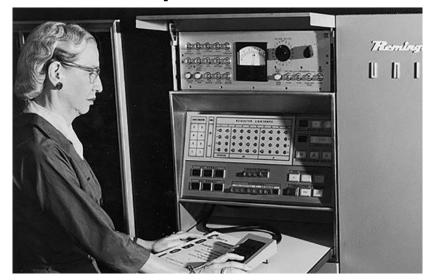


 $+\alpha$

Details



"Sharpened" $\alpha=1$

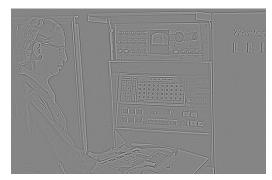


Image



 $+\alpha$

Details



"Sharpened" $\alpha = 0$

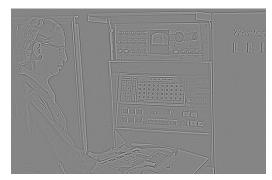


Image



 $+\alpha$

Details



"Sharpened" $\alpha=2$

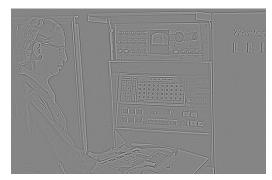


Image



 $+\alpha$

Details



"Sharpened" $\alpha = 0$



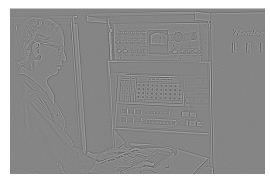
Filtering – Extreme Sharpening

Image



 $+\alpha$

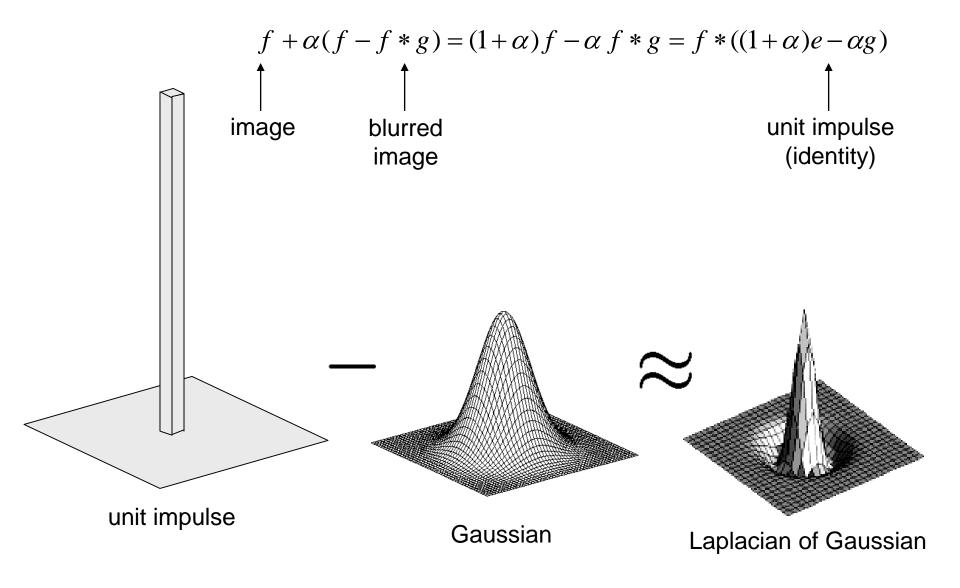
Details



"Sharpened" α=10



Unsharp mask filter (= sharpening filter)



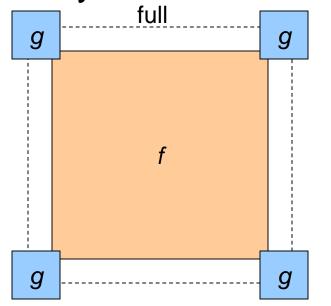
Filtering: practical matters

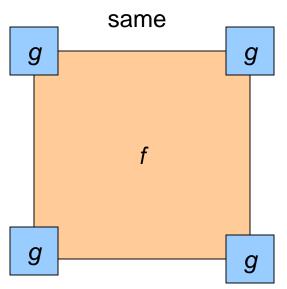
What is the size of the output?

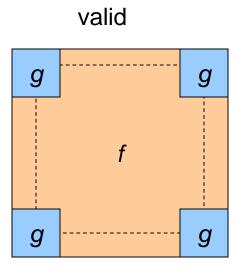
(MATLAB) filter2(g, f, shape) or conv2(g,f,shape)

- shape = 'full': output size is sum of sizes of f and g
- shape = 'same': output size is same as f
- shape = 'valid': output size is difference of sizes of f and g

Pytorch conv2d 'valid' or 'same'







Practical matters

What about near the edge?

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

