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# VC 12/13 – T7

## Spatial Filters

Mestrado em Ciência de Computadores  
Mestrado Integrado em Engenharia de Redes e  
Sistemas Informáticos

***Miguel Tavares Coimbra***

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# Outline

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- Spatial filters
- Frequency domain filtering
- Edge detection

**Acknowledgements: Most of this course is based on the excellent courses offered by Prof. Shree Nayar at Columbia University, USA and by Prof. Srinivasa Narasimhan at CMU, USA. Please acknowledge the original source when reusing these slides for academic purposes.**

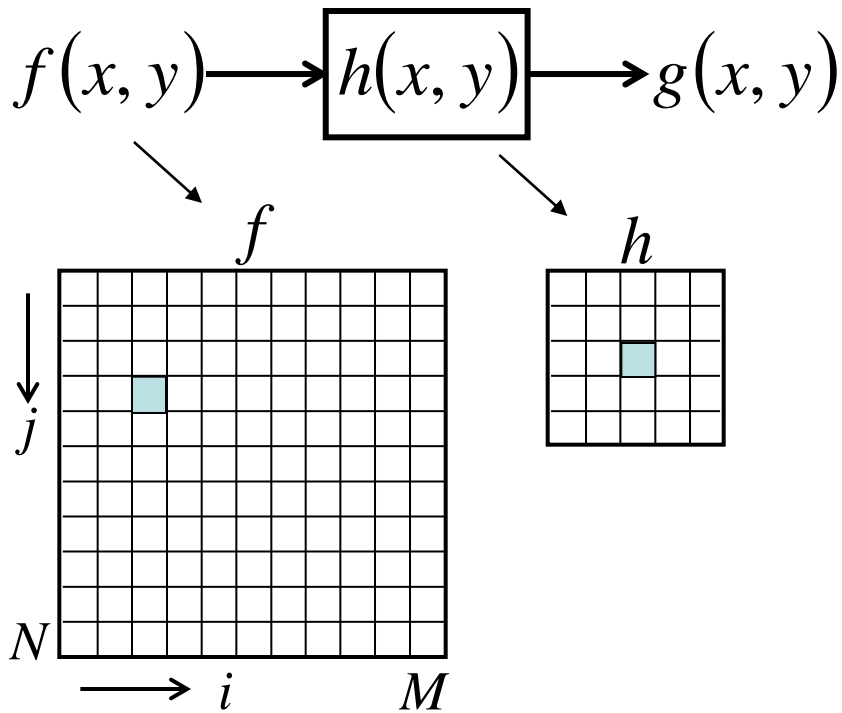
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# Topic: Spatial filters

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- Spatial filters
- Frequency domain filtering
- Edge detection

# Images are Discrete and Finite



## Convolution

$$g(i, j) = \sum_{m=1}^M \sum_{n=1}^N f(m, n) h(i-m, j-n)$$

## Fourier Transform

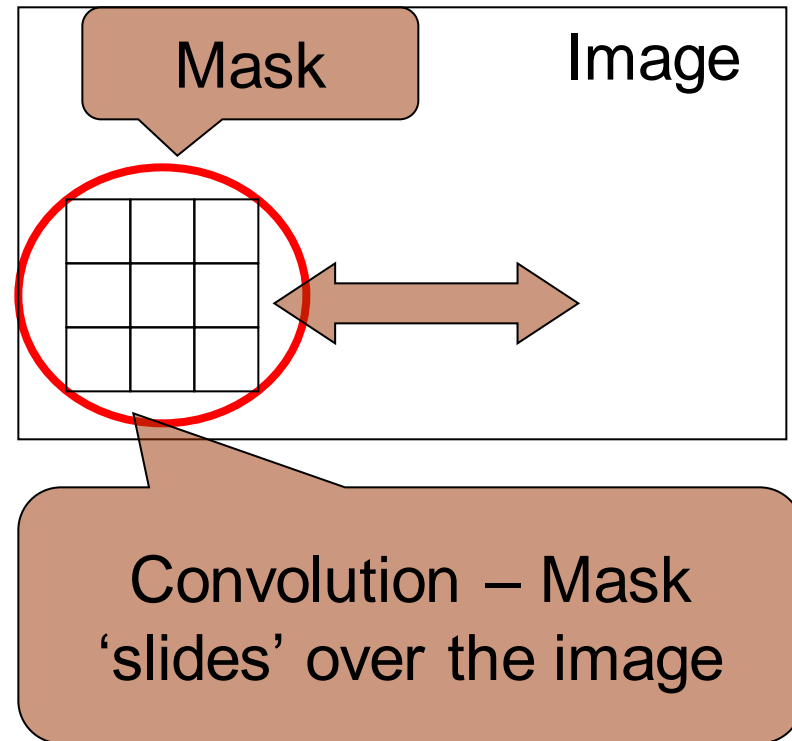
$$F(u, v) = \sum_{m=1}^M \sum_{n=1}^N f(m, n) e^{-i2\pi \left( \frac{mu}{M} + \frac{nv}{N} \right)}$$

## Inverse Fourier Transform

$$f(k, l) = \frac{1}{MN} \sum_{u=1}^M \sum_{v=1}^N F(u, v) e^{i2\pi \left( \frac{ku}{M} + \frac{lv}{N} \right)}$$

# Spatial Mask

- Simple way to process an image.
- Mask defines the processing function.
- Corresponds to a multiplication in frequency domain.



# Example

- Each mask position has weight  $w$ .
- The result of the operation for each pixel is given by:

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

Mask

2	2	2
4	4	4
4	5	6

Image

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

$$\begin{aligned} &= 1*2 + 2*2 + 1*2 + \dots \\ &= 8 + 0 - 20 \\ &= -12 \end{aligned}$$

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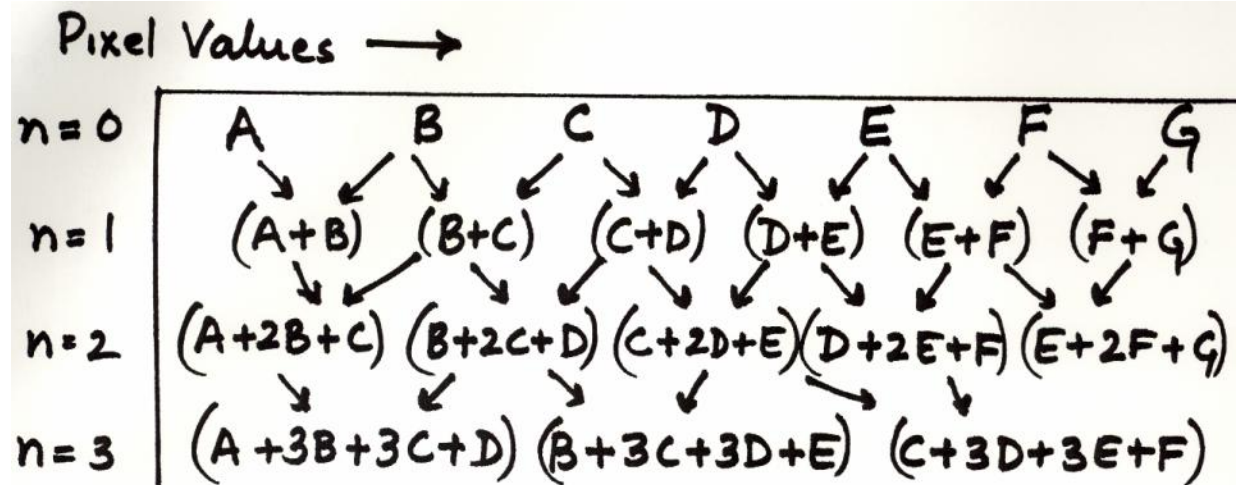
# Definitions

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- **Spatial filters**
  - Use a **mask (kernel)** over an image region.
  - Work directly with pixels.
  - As opposed to: **Frequency filters.**
- **Advantages**
  - Simple implementation: **convolution** with the kernel function.
  - Different masks offer a **large variety of functionalities.**

# Averaging

Let's think about averaging pixel values



For  $n=2$ , convolve pixel values with 

1	2	1
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Which is faster?  
 (a)  $O(2(n+1))$     (b)  $O((n+1)^2)$

2D images:

(a) use 

1	2	1
---	---	---

 then 

1
2
1

 or (b) use 

1	2	1
---	---	---

 \* 

1
2
1

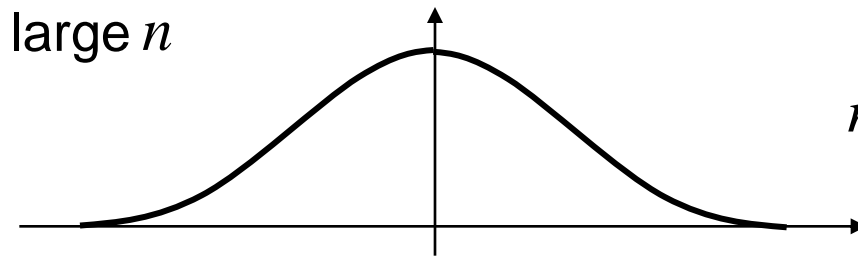
 = 

1	2	1
2	4	2
1	2	1

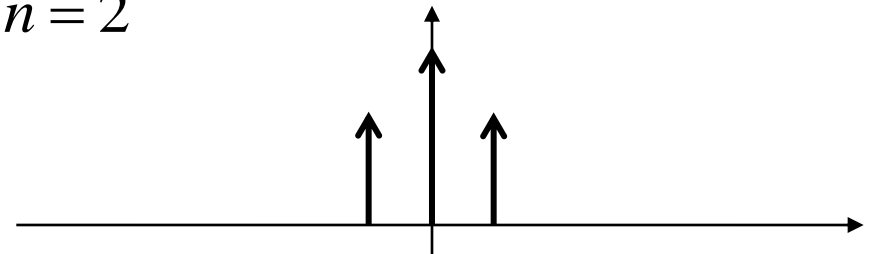


# Averaging

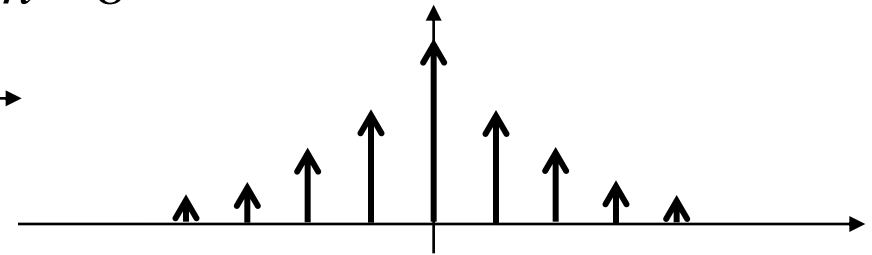
The convolution kernel



$n = 2$



$n = 8$



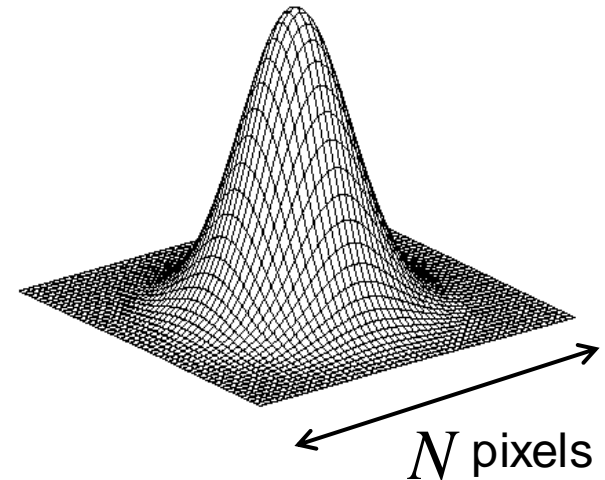
Repeated averaging  $\approx$  Gaussian smoothing

# Gaussian Smoothing

Gaussian kernel

$$h(i, j) = \frac{1}{2\pi\sigma^2} e^{-\frac{1}{2}\left(\frac{i^2+j^2}{\sigma^2}\right)}$$

Filter size  $N \propto \sigma$  ...can be very large  
(truncate, if necessary)



$$g(i, j) = \frac{1}{2\pi\sigma^2} \sum_{m=1} \sum_{n=1} e^{-\frac{1}{2}\left(\frac{m^2+n^2}{\sigma^2}\right)} f(i-m, j-n)$$

2D Gaussian is separable!

$$g(i, j) = \frac{1}{2\pi\sigma^2} \sum_{m=1} e^{-\frac{1}{2}\frac{m^2}{\sigma^2}} \sum_{n=1} e^{-\frac{1}{2}\frac{n^2}{\sigma^2}} f(i-m, j-n)$$

Use two 1D  
Gaussian  
Filters!

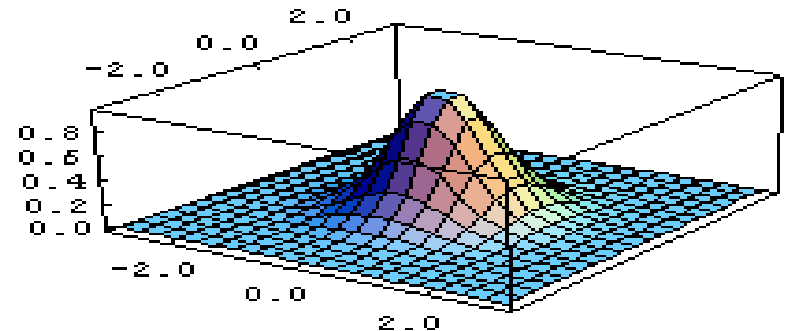
# Gaussian Smoothing

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

$$H[u, v] = \frac{1}{16} \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 2 & 1 \\ 2 & 4 & 2 \\ 1 & 2 & 1 \end{bmatrix}$$

- This kernel is an approximation of a Gaussian function:

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



original



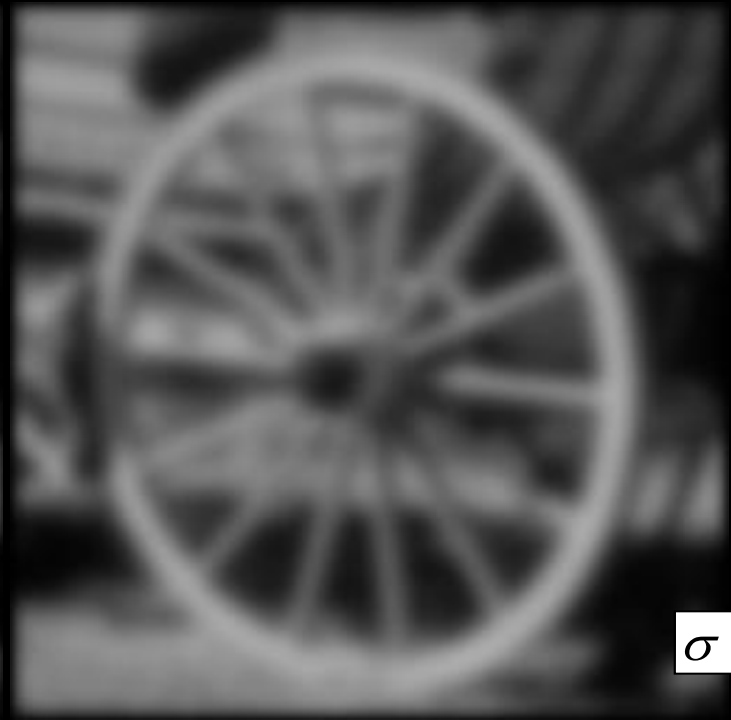
$\sigma = 2$



$\sigma = 2.8$



$\sigma = 4$



# Mean Filtering

- We are degrading the energy of the high spatial frequencies of an image (**low-pass filtering**).
  - Makes the image ‘smoother’.
  - Used in noise reduction.
- Can be implemented with spatial masks or in the frequency domain.

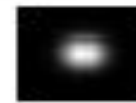
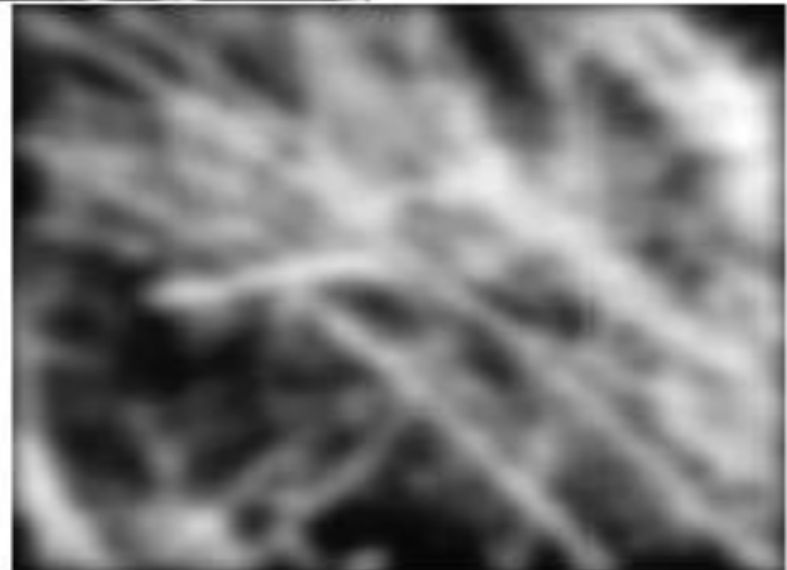


1	1	1
1	1	1
1	1	1

1/9	1/9	1/9
1/9	1/9	1/9
1/9	1/9	1/9



Mean filter



Gaussian filter





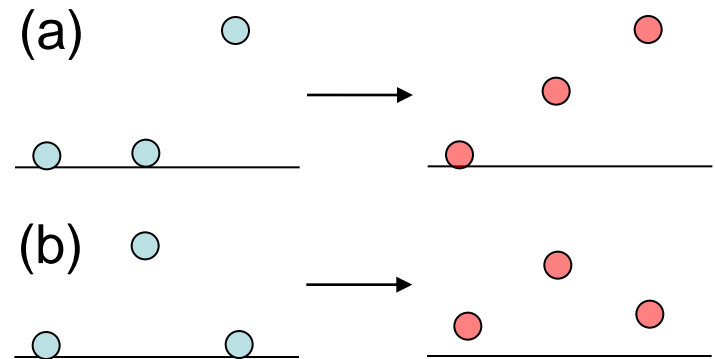


# Median Filter

- **Smoothing is averaging**

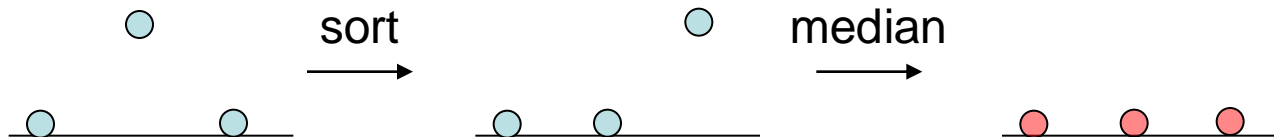
- (a) Blurs edges

- (b) Sensitive to outliers



- Median filtering

- Sort  $N^2 - 1$  values around the pixel
  - Select middle value (median)



- Non-linear (Cannot be implemented with convolution)

## Salt and pepper noise

Gaussian

Median

3x3



5x5



7x7



## Gaussian noise

Gaussian

Median



# Border Problem

$$\frac{1}{16}$$

1	2	1
2	4	2
1	2	1

0	3	2	5	4	7	6	9	8
3	0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
2	1	0	3	2	5	4	7	6
5	2	3	0	1	2	3	4	5
4	3	2	1	0	3	2	5	4
7	4	5	2	3	0	1	2	3
6	5	4	3	2	1	0	3	2
9	6	7	4	5	2	3	0	1
8	7	6	5	4	3	2	1	0

How do we apply our mask to this pixel?

What a computer sees

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# Border Problem

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- Ignore
  - Output image will be smaller than original
- Pad with constant values
  - Can introduce substantial 1<sup>st</sup> order derivative values
- Pad with reflection
  - Can introduce substantial 2<sup>nd</sup> order derivative values

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# Topic: Frequency domain filtering

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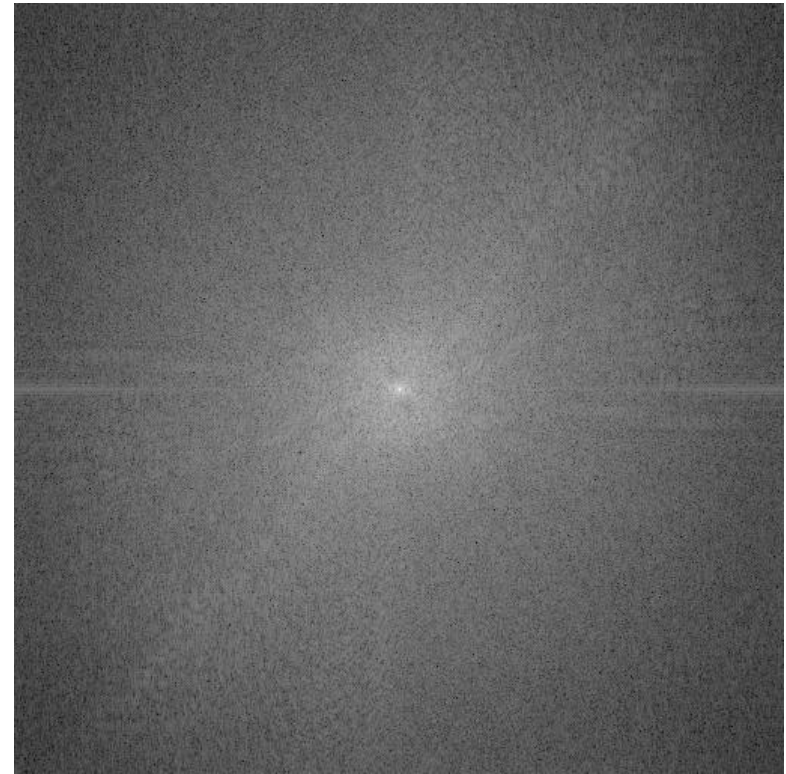
- Spatial filters
- **Frequency domain filtering**
- Edge detection

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# Image Processing in the Fourier Domain

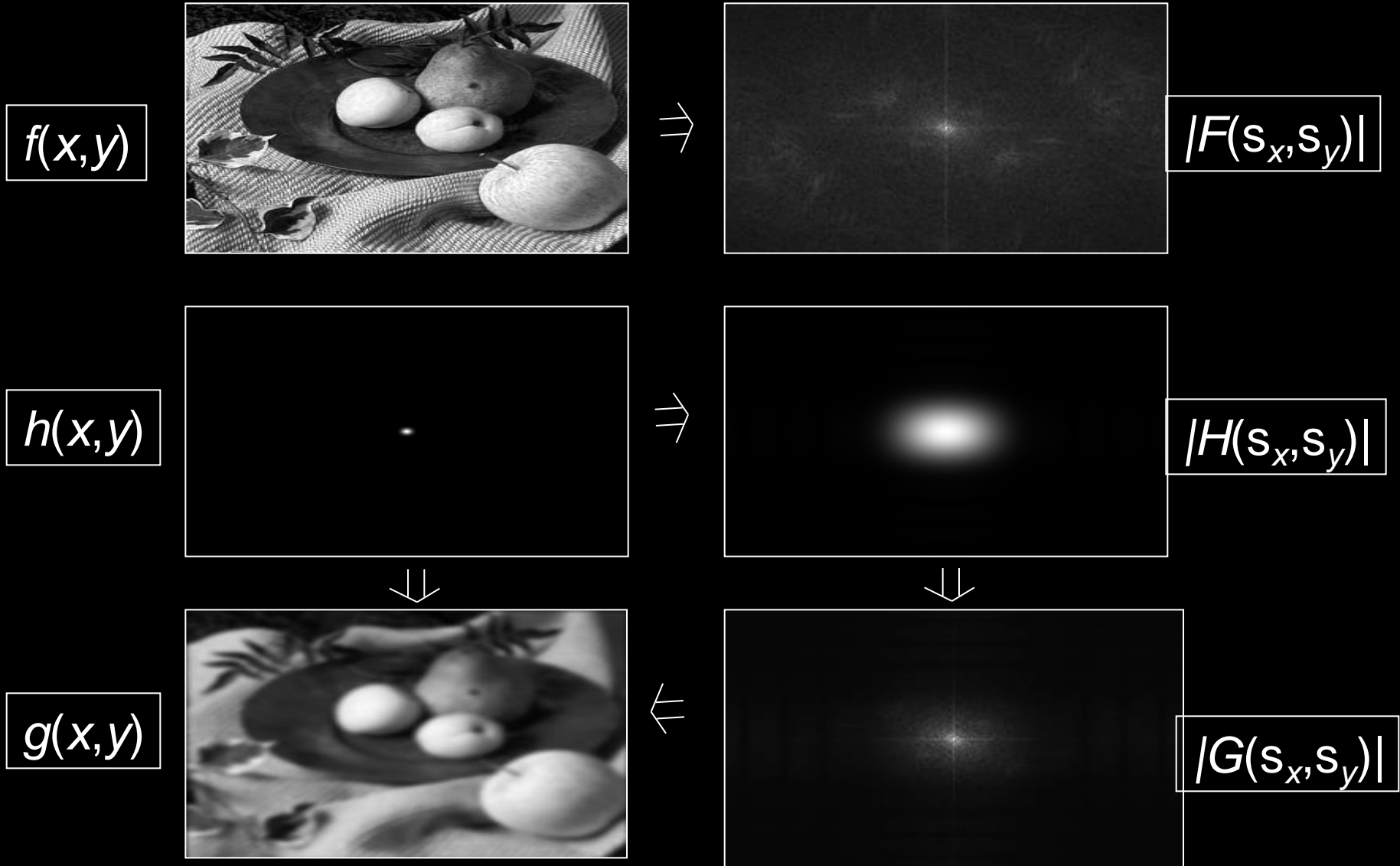
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Magnitude of the FT



Does not look anything like what we have seen

# Convolution in the Frequency Domain

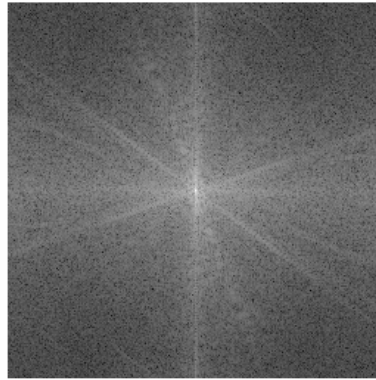


# Low-pass Filtering

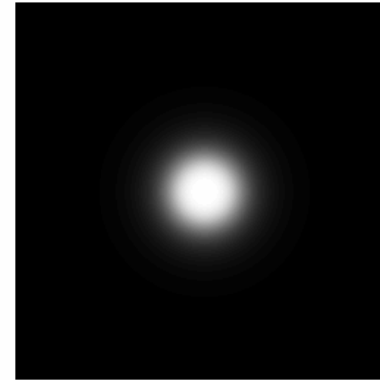
Original image



FFT of original image



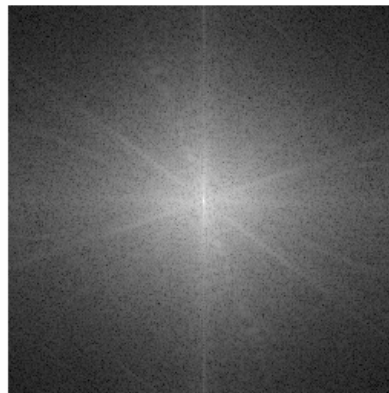
Low-pass filter



Low-pass image



FFT of low-pass image



Lets the low frequencies pass and eliminates the high frequencies.

Generates image with overall shading, but not much detail

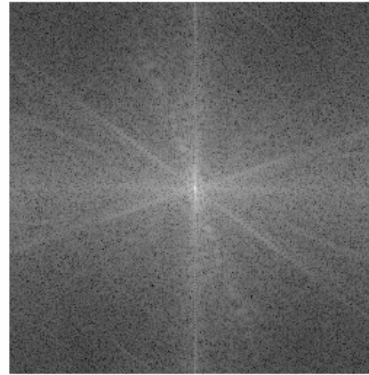


# High-pass Filtering

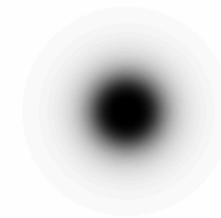
Original image



FFT of original image



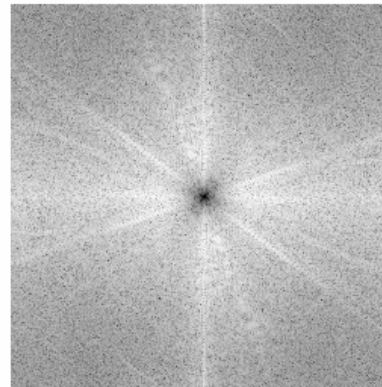
High-pass filter



High-pass image



FFT of high-pass image



Lets through the high frequencies (the detail), but eliminates the low frequencies (the overall shape). It acts like an edge enhancer.

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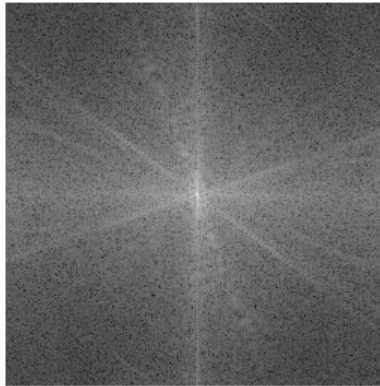
# Boosting High Frequencies

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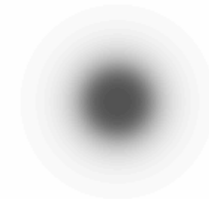
Original image



FFT of original image



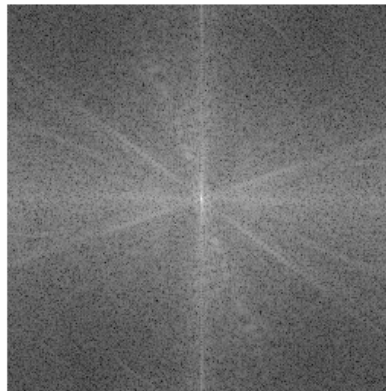
High-boost filter

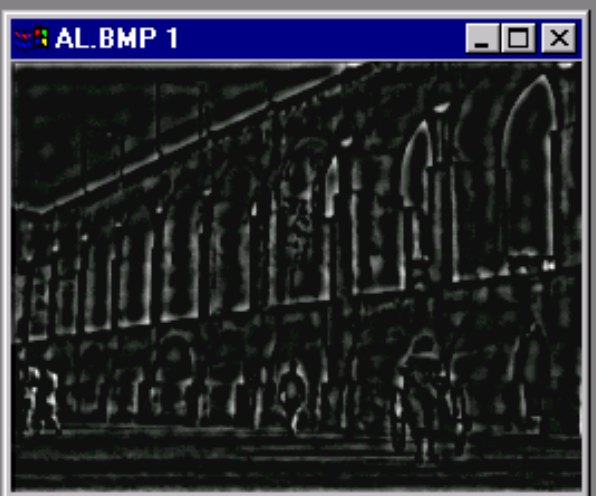
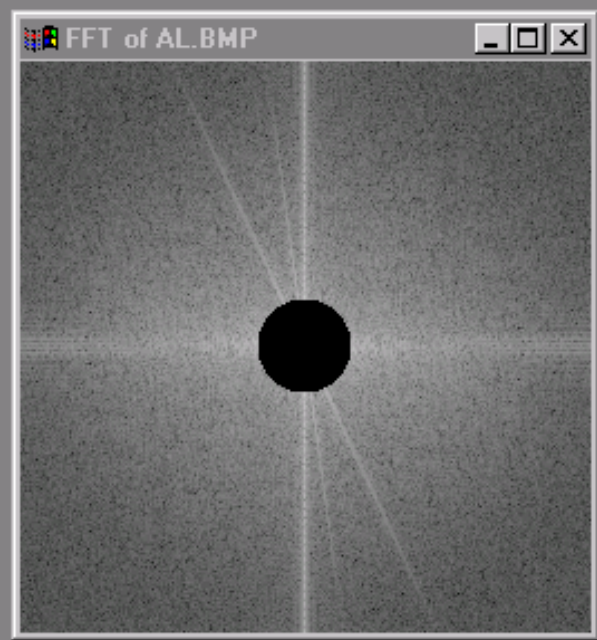
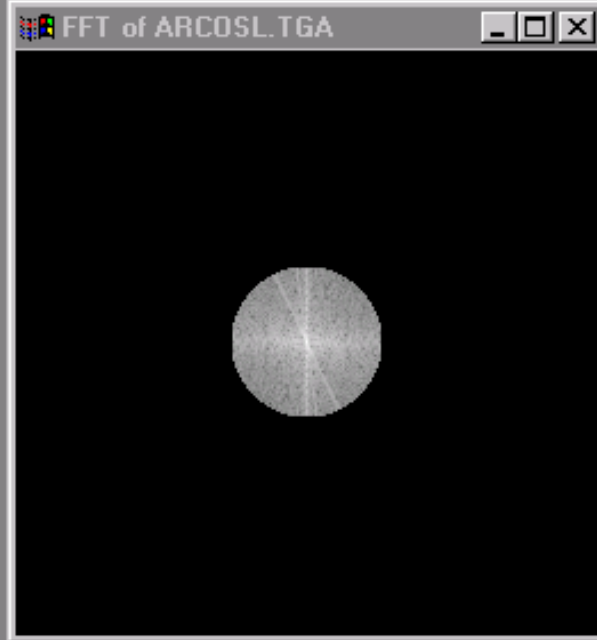


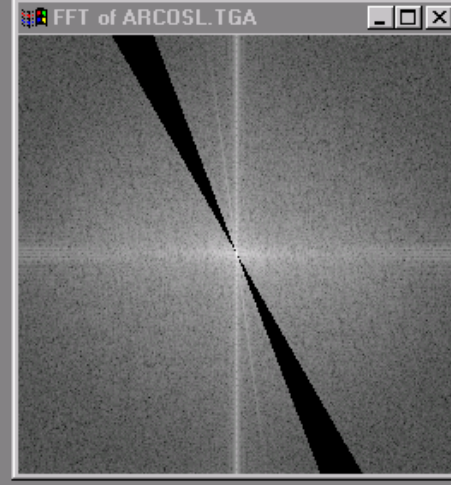
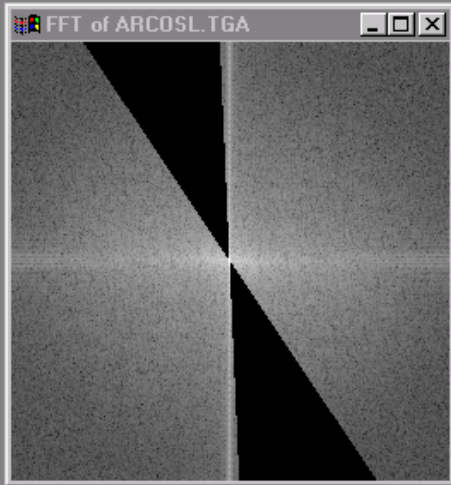
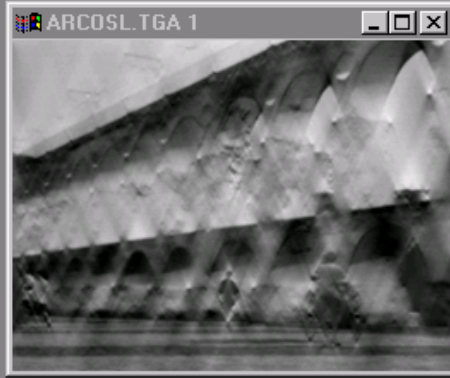
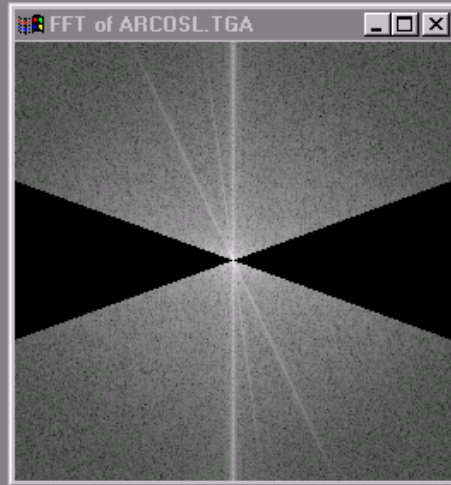
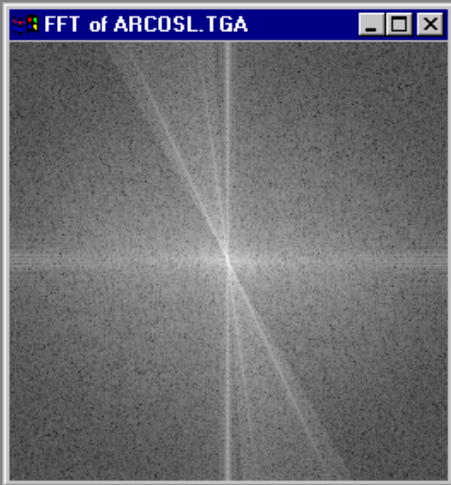
High boosted image



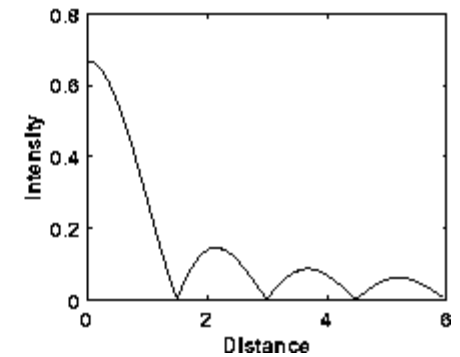
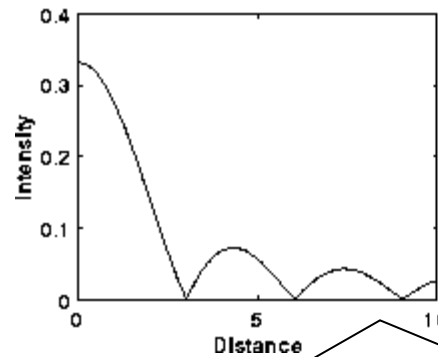
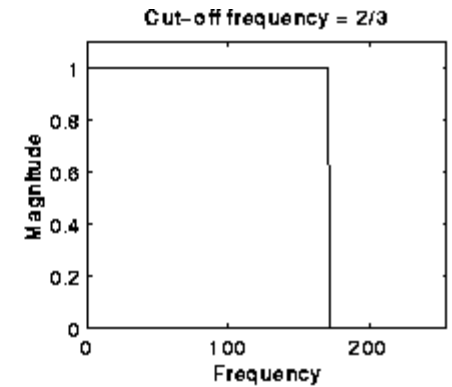
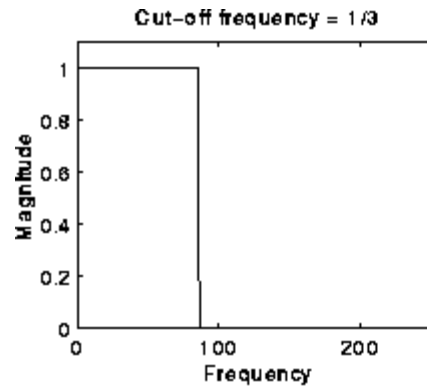
FFT of high boosted image







# The Ringing Effect



An ideal low-pass filter causes 'rings' in the spatial domain!

<http://homepages.inf.ed.ac.uk/rbf/HIPR2/freqfilt.htm>

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# Topic: Edge detection

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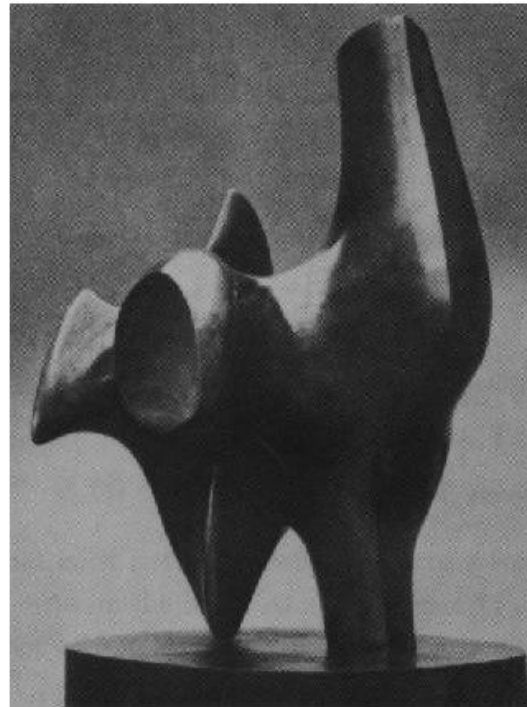
- Spatial filters
- Frequency domain filtering
- **Edge detection**

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# Edge Detection

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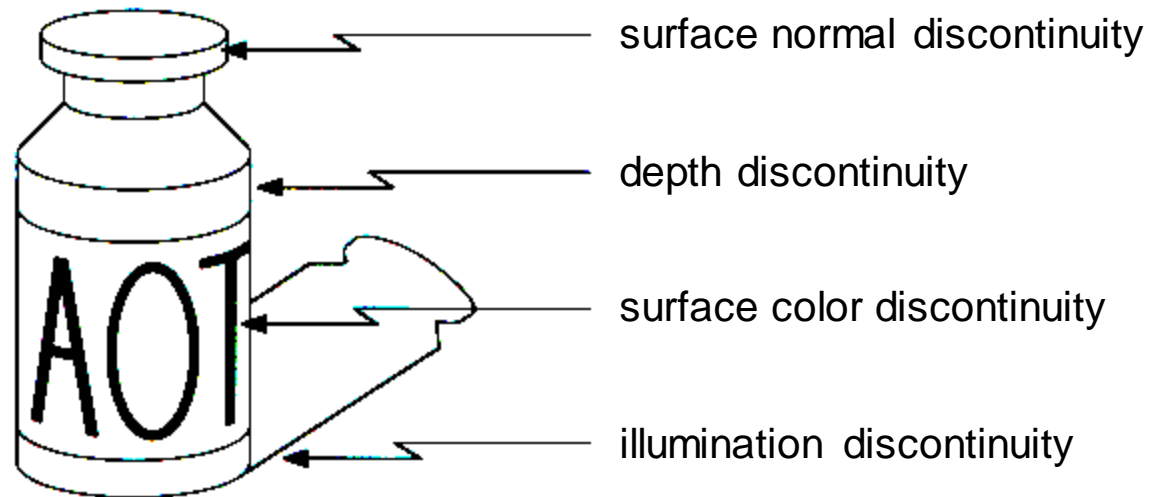
- Convert a 2D image into a set of curves
  - Extracts salient features of the scene
  - More compact than pixels



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# Origin of Edges

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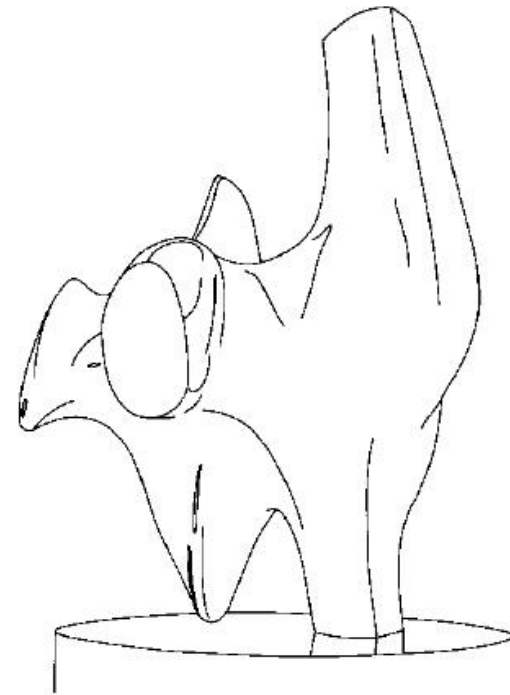
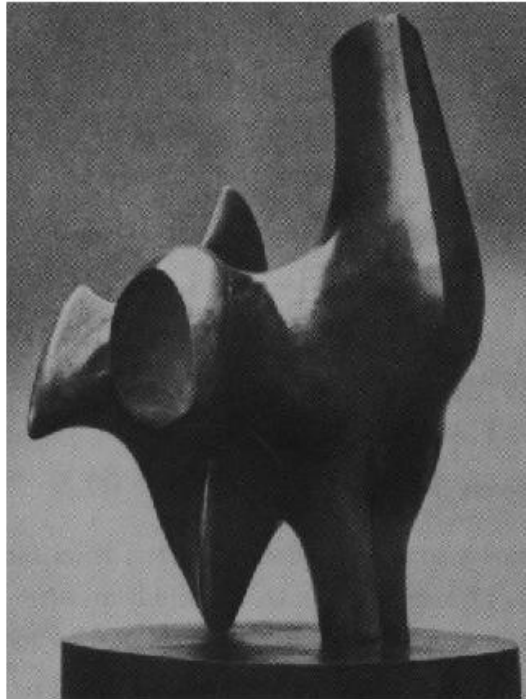
- Edges are caused by a variety of factors



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# How can you tell that a pixel is on an edge?

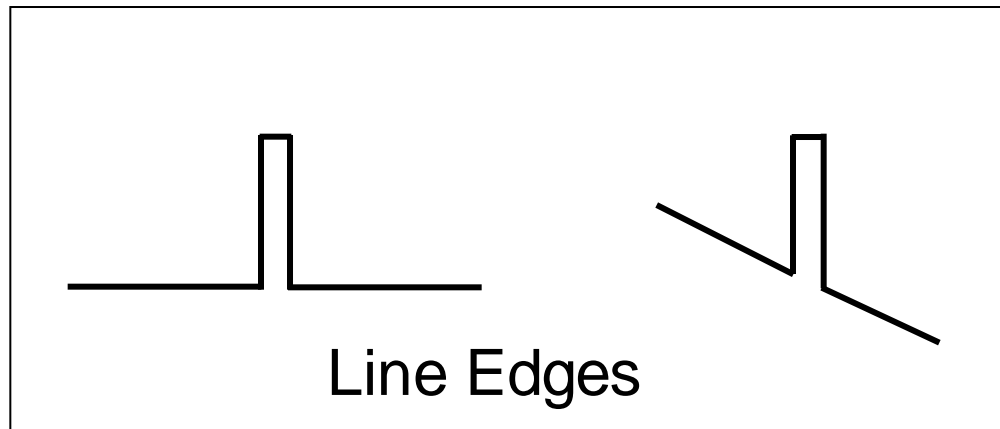
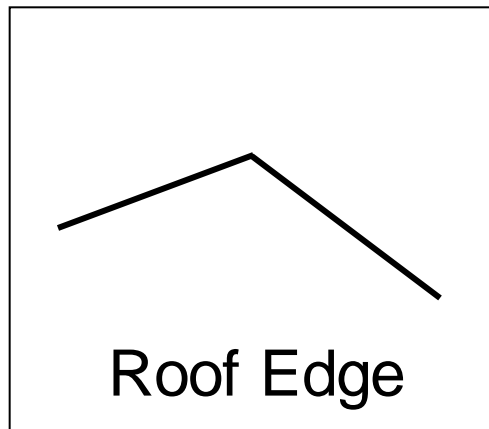
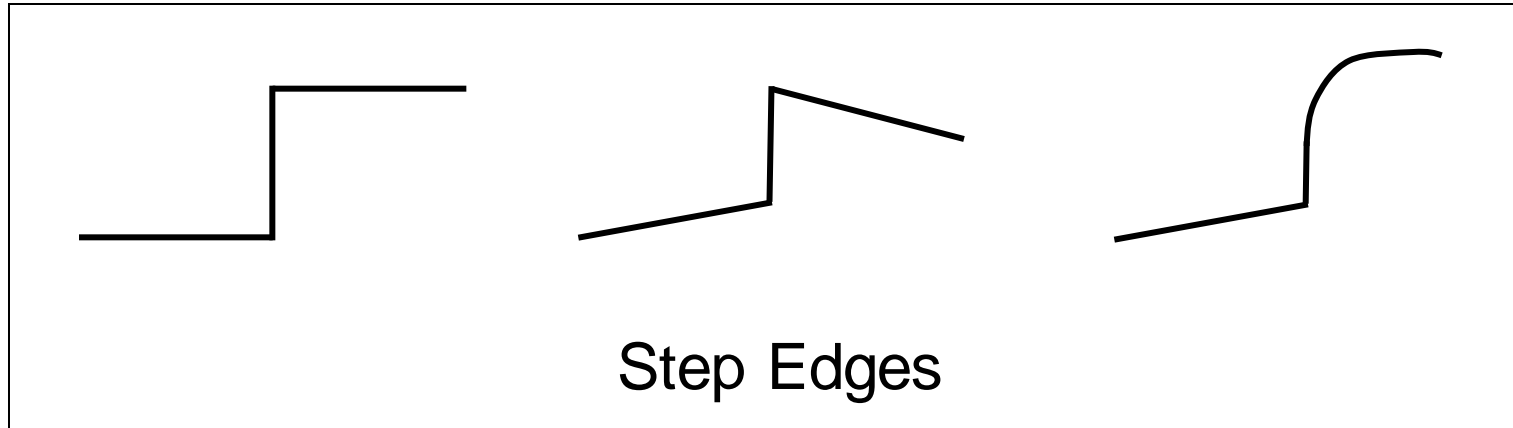
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# Edge Types

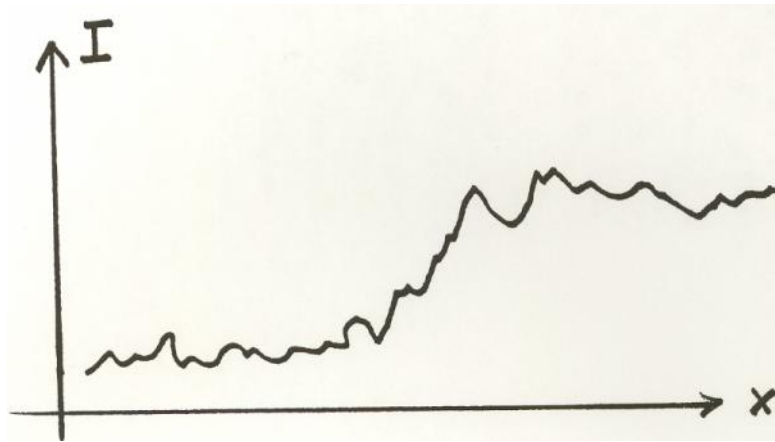
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# Real Edges

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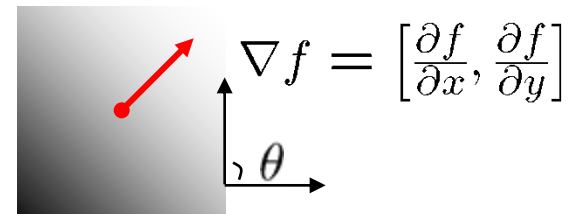
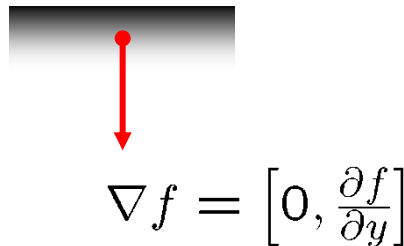
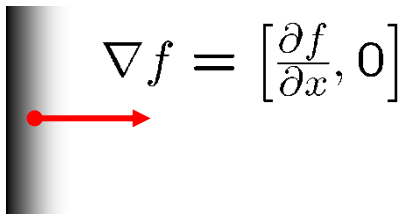
Noisy and Discrete!

We want an **Edge Operator** that produces:

- Edge **Magnitude**
- Edge **Orientation**
- High **Detection Rate** and Good **Localization**

# Gradient

- Gradient equation:  $\nabla f = \left[ \frac{\partial f}{\partial x}, \frac{\partial f}{\partial y} \right]$
- Represents direction of most rapid change in intensity

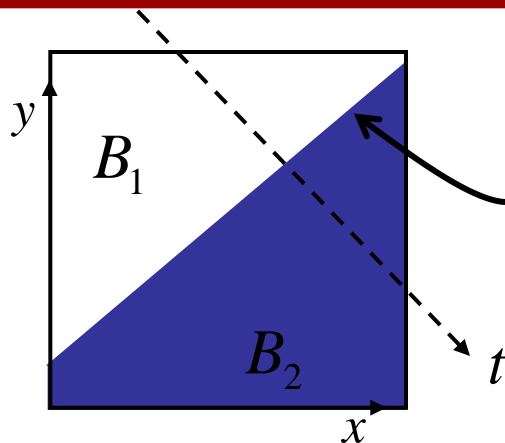


- Gradient direction:  $\theta = \tan^{-1} \left( \frac{\partial f}{\partial y} / \frac{\partial f}{\partial x} \right)$

- The *edge strength* is given by the gradient magnitude

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

# Theory of Edge Detection



Unit step function:

Ideal edge

$$L(x, y) = x \sin \theta - y \cos \theta + \rho = 0$$

$$B_1 : L(x, y) < 0$$

$$B_2 : L(x, y) > 0$$

$$u(t) = \begin{cases} 1 & \text{for } t > 0 \\ 1/2 & \text{for } t = 0 \\ 0 & \text{for } t < 0 \end{cases} \quad u(t) = \int_{-\infty}^t \delta(s) ds$$

Image intensity (brightness):

$$I(x, y) = B_1 + (B_2 - B_1)u(x \sin \theta - y \cos \theta + \rho)$$

# Theory of Edge Detection

- Partial derivatives (gradients):

$$\frac{\partial I}{\partial x} = +\sin \theta (B_2 - B_1) \delta(x \sin \theta - y \cos \theta + \rho)$$

$$\frac{\partial I}{\partial y} = -\cos \theta (B_2 - B_1) \delta(x \sin \theta - y \cos \theta + \rho)$$

- Squared gradient:

$$s(x, y) = \left( \frac{\partial I}{\partial x} \right)^2 + \left( \frac{\partial I}{\partial y} \right)^2 = [(B_2 - B_1) \delta(x \sin \theta - y \cos \theta + \rho)]^2$$

Edge Magnitude:  $\sqrt{s(x, y)}$

Edge Orientation:  $\arctan\left(\frac{\partial I}{\partial y} / \frac{\partial I}{\partial x}\right)$  (normal of the edge)

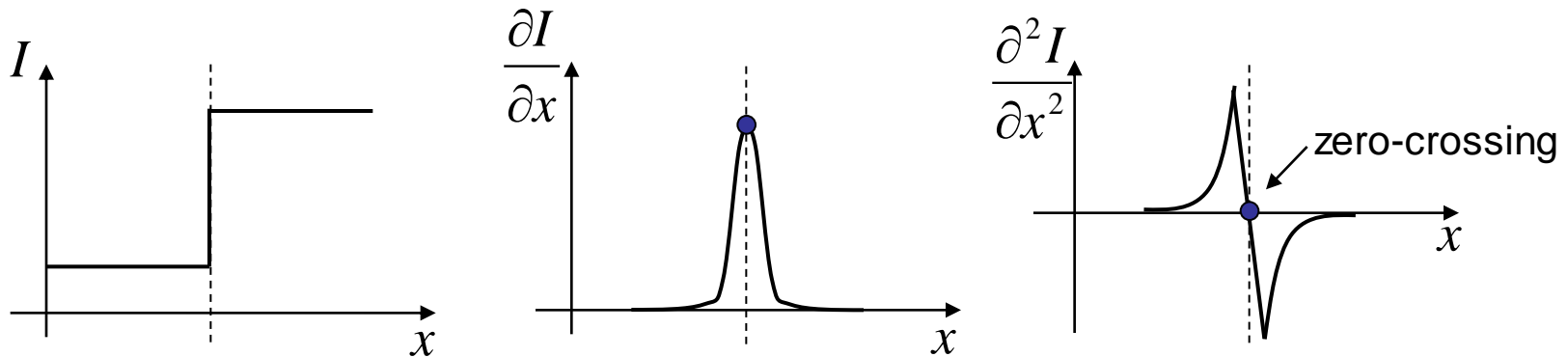
Rotationally symmetric, non-linear operator

# Theory of Edge Detection

- Laplacian:

$$\nabla^2 I = \frac{\partial^2 I}{\partial x^2} + \frac{\partial^2 I}{\partial y^2} = (B_2 - B_1)\delta'(x \sin \theta - y \cos \theta + \rho)$$

Rotationally symmetric, linear operator



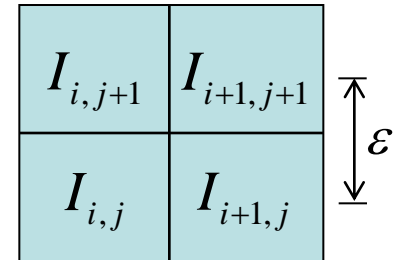
# Discrete Edge Operators

- How can we differentiate a *discrete* image?

Finite difference approximations:

$$\frac{\partial I}{\partial x} \approx \frac{1}{2\varepsilon} \left( (I_{i+1,j+1} - I_{i,j+1}) + (I_{i+1,j} - I_{i,j}) \right)$$

$$\frac{\partial I}{\partial y} \approx \frac{1}{2\varepsilon} \left( (I_{i+1,j+1} - I_{i+1,j}) + (I_{i,j+1} - I_{i,j}) \right)$$



Convolution masks :

$$\frac{\partial I}{\partial x} \approx \frac{1}{2\varepsilon} \begin{bmatrix} -1 & 1 \\ -1 & 1 \end{bmatrix}$$

$$\frac{\partial I}{\partial y} \approx \frac{1}{2\varepsilon} \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 1 \\ -1 & -1 \end{bmatrix}$$



# Discrete Edge Operators

- Second order partial derivatives:

$$\frac{\partial^2 I}{\partial x^2} \approx \frac{1}{\varepsilon^2} (I_{i-1,j} - 2I_{i,j} + I_{i+1,j})$$

$$\frac{\partial^2 I}{\partial y^2} \approx \frac{1}{\varepsilon^2} (I_{i,j-1} - 2I_{i,j} + I_{i,j+1})$$

$I_{i-1,j+1}$	$I_{i,j+1}$	$I_{i+1,j+1}$
$I_{i-1,j}$	$I_{i,j}$	$I_{i+1,j}$
$I_{i-1,j-1}$	$I_{i,j-1}$	$I_{i+1,j-1}$

- **Laplacian :**

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

Convolution masks :

$$\nabla^2 I \approx \frac{1}{\varepsilon^2} \begin{bmatrix} 0 & 1 & 0 \\ 1 & -4 & 1 \\ 0 & 1 & 0 \end{bmatrix}$$

$$\text{or } \frac{1}{6\varepsilon^2} \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 4 & 1 \\ 4 & -20 & 4 \\ 1 & 4 & 1 \end{bmatrix}$$

(more accurate)

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# The Sobel Operators

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- Better approximations of the gradients exist
  - The *Sobel* operators below are commonly used

$$\frac{1}{8} \begin{bmatrix} -1 & 0 & 1 \\ -2 & 0 & 2 \\ -1 & 0 & 1 \end{bmatrix}$$

$S_x$

$$\frac{1}{8} \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 2 & 1 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 \\ -1 & -2 & -1 \end{bmatrix}$$

$S_y$

# Comparing Edge Operators

Gradient:  $\nabla f = \left[ \frac{\partial f}{\partial x}, \frac{\partial f}{\partial y} \right]$

Good Localization  
Noise Sensitive  
Poor Detection

Roberts (2 x 2):

0	1
-1	0

1	0
0	-1

Sobel (3 x 3):

-1	0	1
-1	0	1
-1	0	1

1	1	1
0	0	0
-1	-1	1

Sobel (5 x 5):

-1	-2	0	2	1
-2	-3	0	3	2
-3	-5	0	5	3
-2	-3	0	3	2
-1	-2	0	2	1

1	2	3	2	1
2	3	5	3	2
0	0	0	0	0
-2	-3	-5	-3	-2
-1	-2	-3	-2	-1

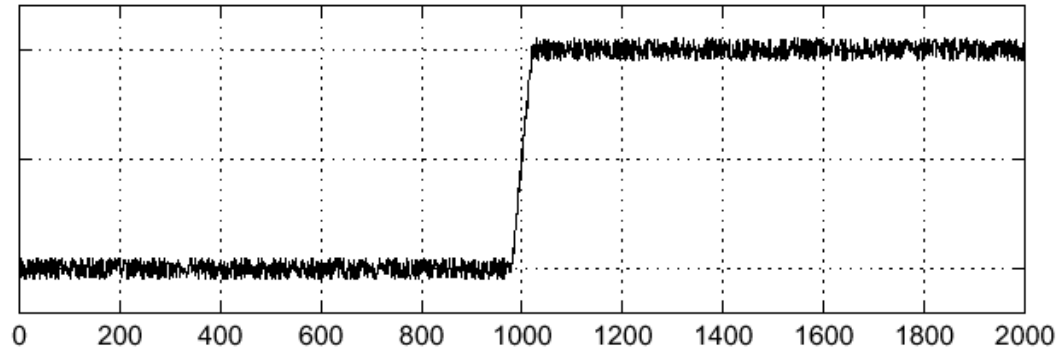


Poor Localization  
Less Noise Sensitive  
Good Detection

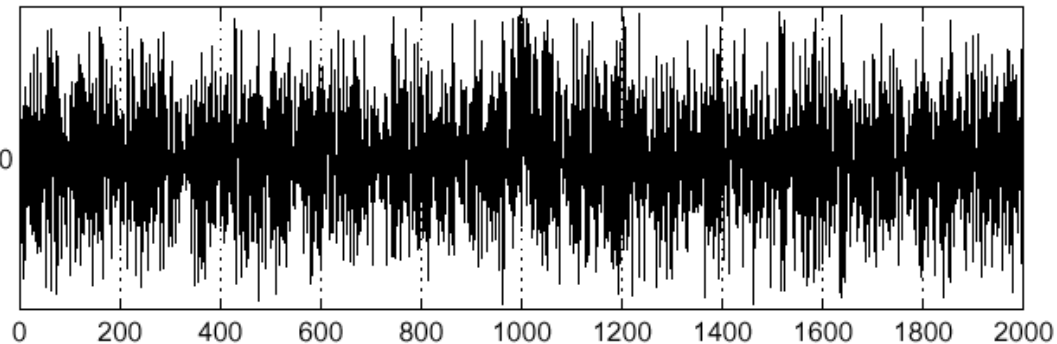
# Effects of Noise

- Consider a single row or column of the image
  - Plotting intensity as a function of position gives a signal

$$f(x)$$

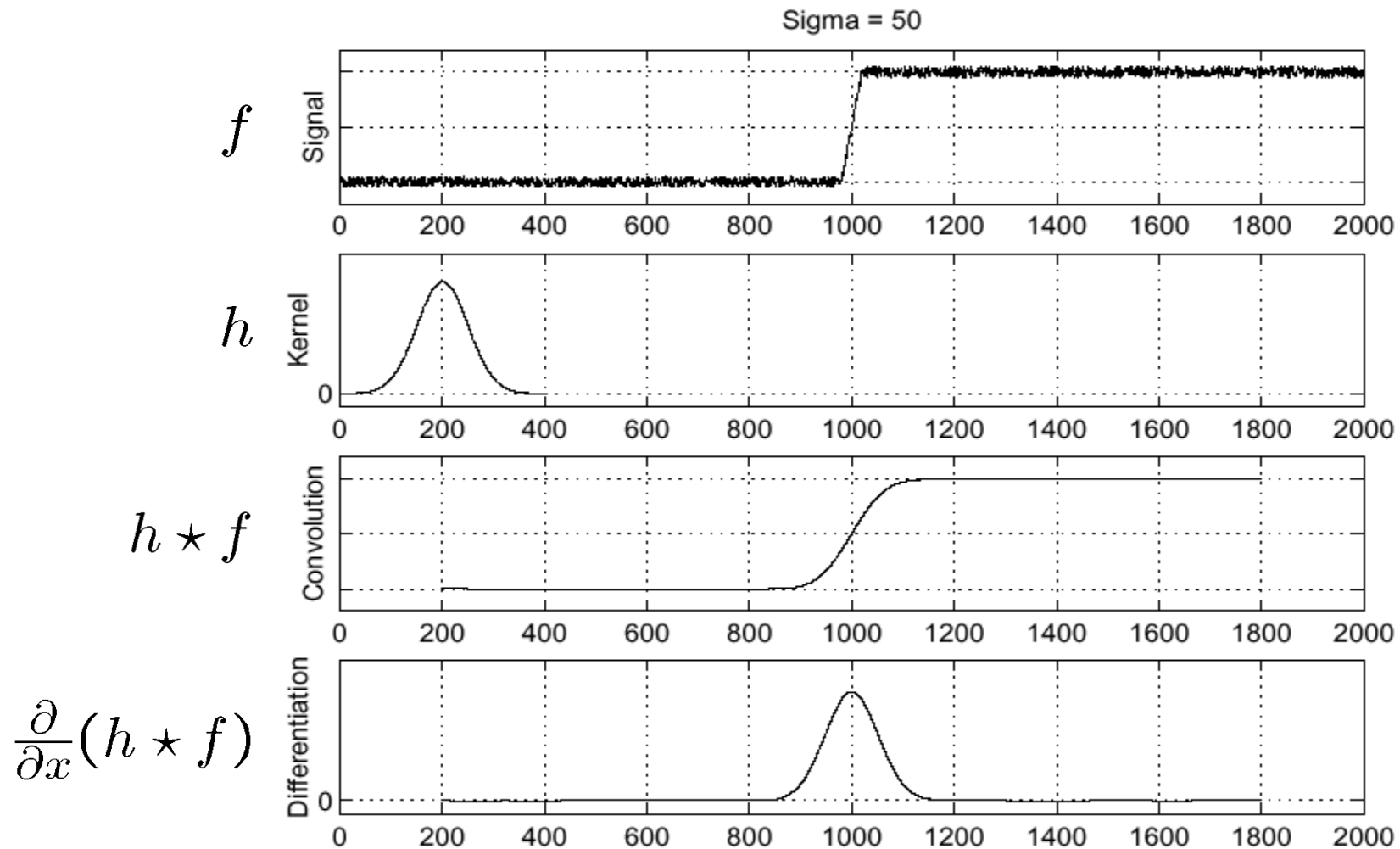


$$\frac{d}{dx}f(x)$$



Where is the edge??

# Solution: Smooth First



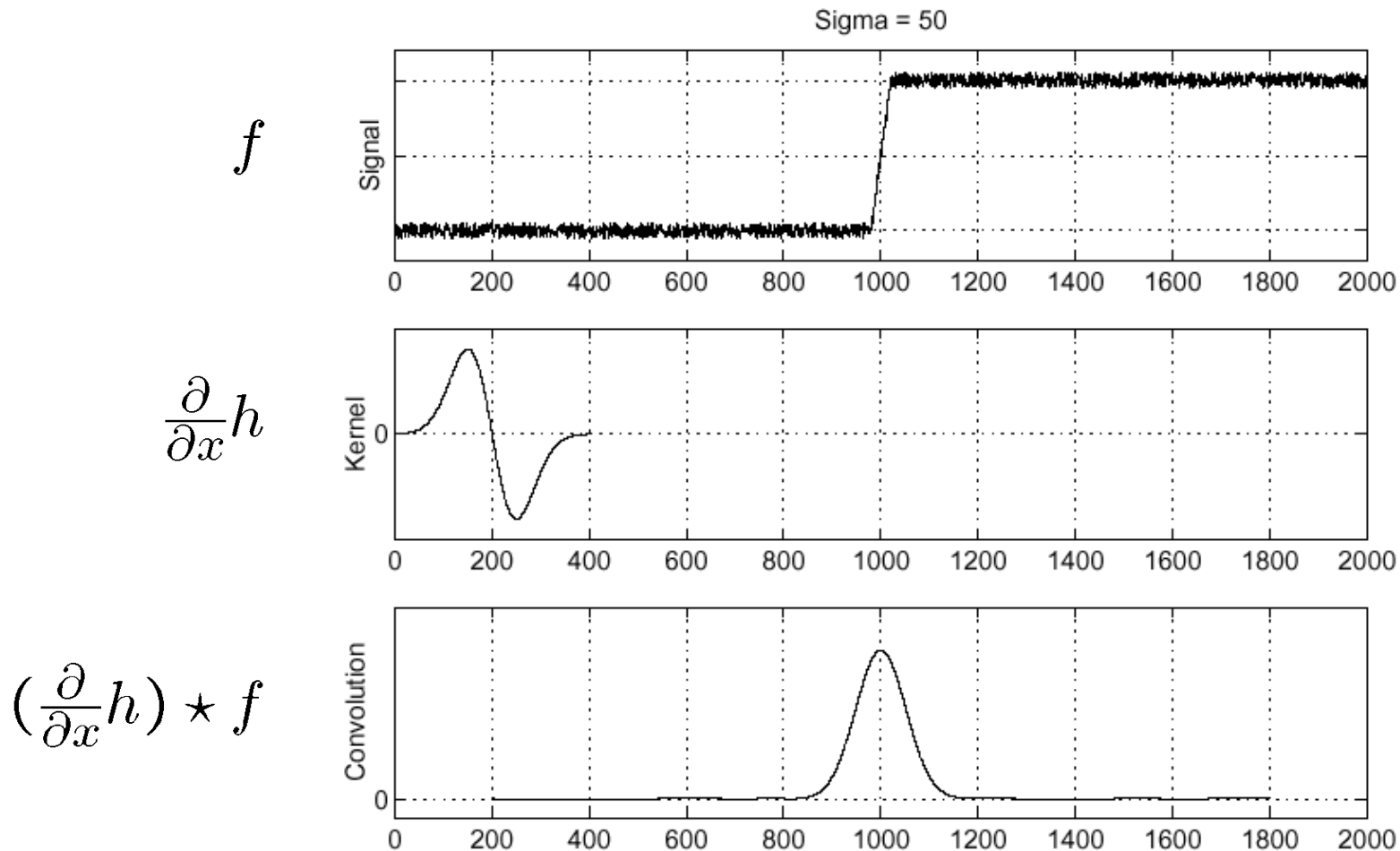
Where is the edge?

Look for peaks in  $\frac{\partial}{\partial x}(h \star f)$

# Derivative Theorem of Convolution

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

...saves us one operation.

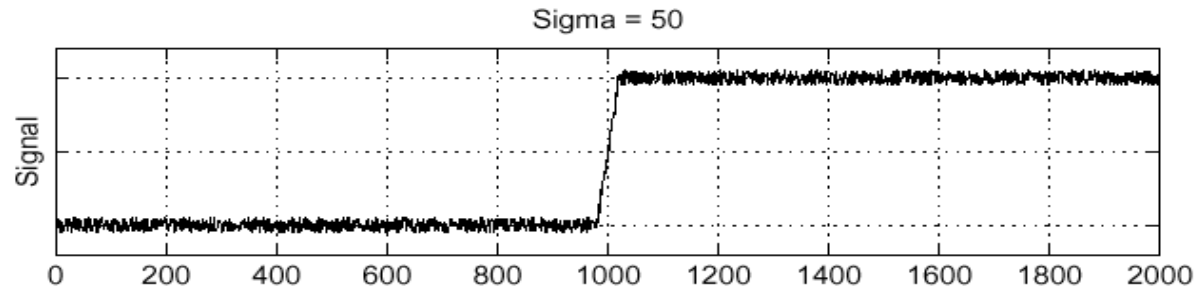


# Laplacian of Gaussian (LoG)

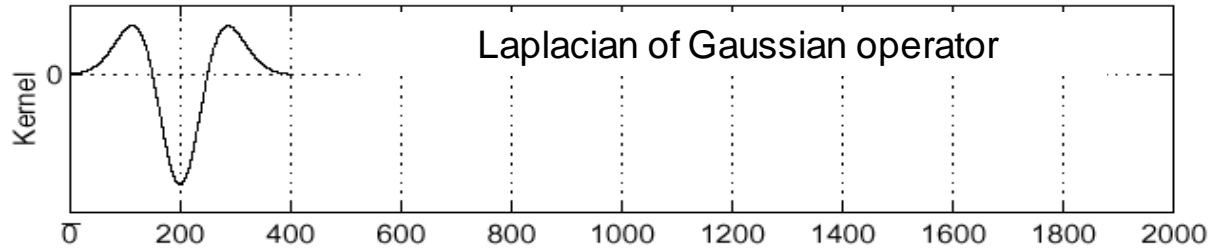
$$\frac{\partial^2}{\partial x^2} (h * f) = \left( \frac{\partial^2}{\partial x^2} h \right) * f$$

Laplacian of Gaussian

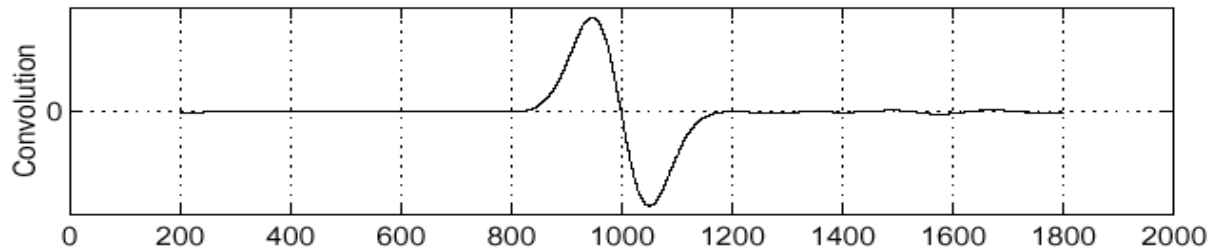
$f$



$\frac{\partial^2}{\partial x^2} h$



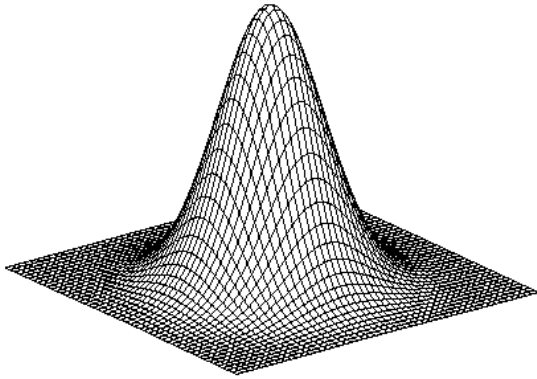
$\left( \frac{\partial^2}{\partial x^2} h \right) * f$



Where is the edge?

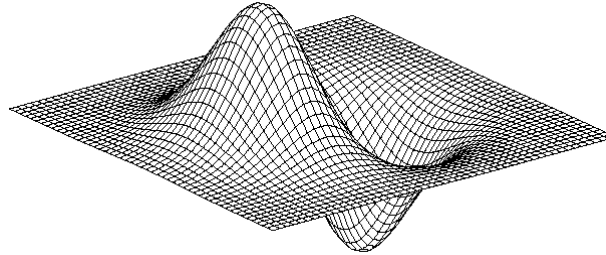
Zero-crossings of bottom graph !

# 2D Gaussian Edge Operators



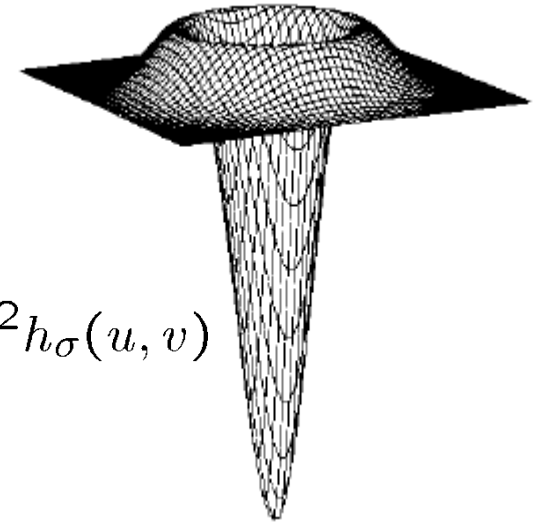
$$h_{\sigma}(u, v) = \frac{1}{2\pi\sigma^2} e^{-\frac{u^2+v^2}{2\sigma^2}}$$

Gaussian



$$\frac{\partial}{\partial x} h_{\sigma}(u, v)$$

Derivative of Gaussian (DoG)



$$\nabla^2 h_{\sigma}(u, v)$$

Laplacian of Gaussian  
Mexican Hat (Sombrero)

- $\nabla^2$  is the **Laplacian** operator:  $\nabla^2 f = \frac{\partial^2 f}{\partial x^2} + \frac{\partial^2 f}{\partial y^2}$



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# Canny Edge Operator

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- Smooth image  $I$  with 2D Gaussian:  $G * I$
- Find local edge normal directions for each pixel

$$\bar{\mathbf{n}} = \frac{\nabla(G * I)}{|\nabla(G * I)|}$$

- Compute edge magnitudes  $|\nabla(G * I)|$
- Locate edges by finding zero-crossings along the edge normal directions (**non-maximum suppression**)

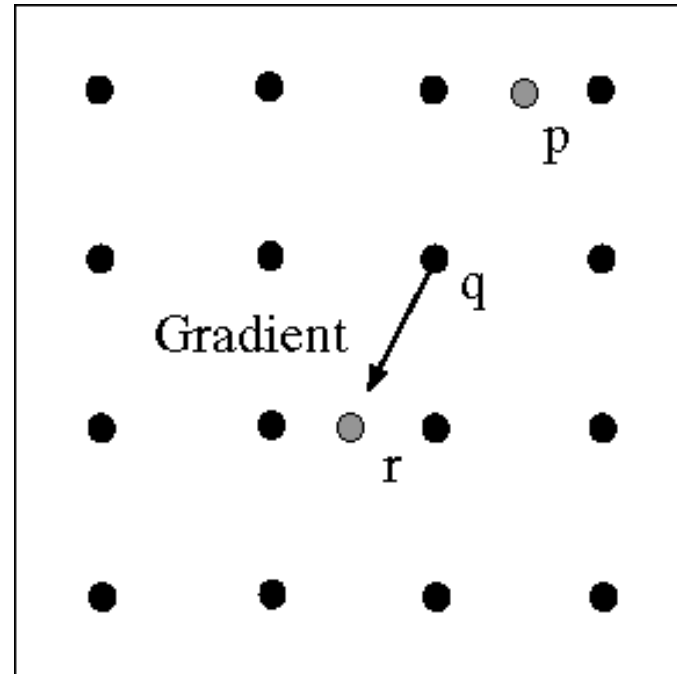
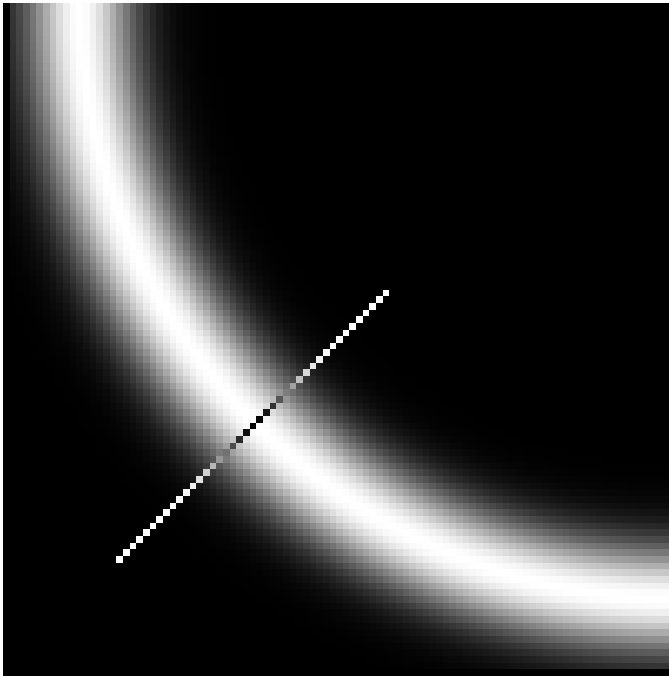
$$\frac{\partial^2(G * I)}{\partial \bar{\mathbf{n}}^2} = 0$$

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# Non-maximum Suppression

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- Check if pixel is local maximum along gradient direction
  - requires checking interpolated pixels  $p$  and  $r$





original image



magnitude of the gradient



After non-maximum suppression

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# Canny Edge Operator

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original

Canny with  $\sigma = 1$

Canny with  $\sigma = 2$

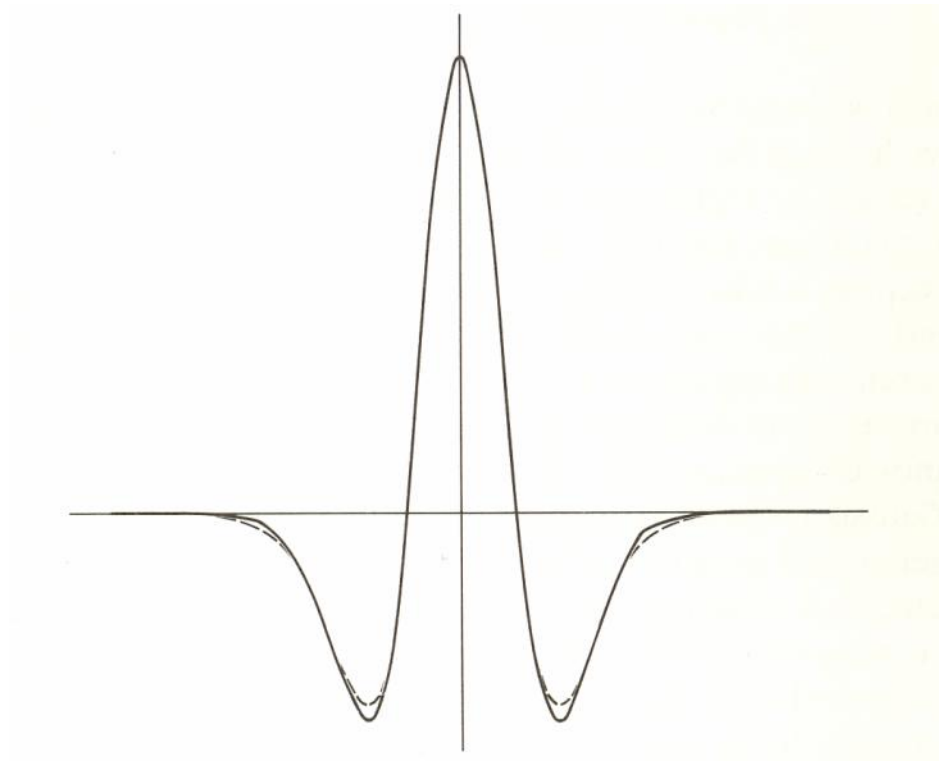
- The choice of  $\sigma$  depends on desired behavior
  - large  $\sigma$  detects large scale edges
  - small  $\sigma$  detects fine features

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# Difference of Gaussians (DoG)

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- Laplacian of Gaussian can be approximated by the difference between two different Gaussians



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# DoG Edge Detection

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(a)  $\sigma = 1$

(b)  $\sigma = 2$

(b)-(a)



# Unsharp Masking

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+ a



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# Resources

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- Gonzalez & Woods – Chapter 4