

**BBM 413**

**Fundamentals of  
Image Processing**

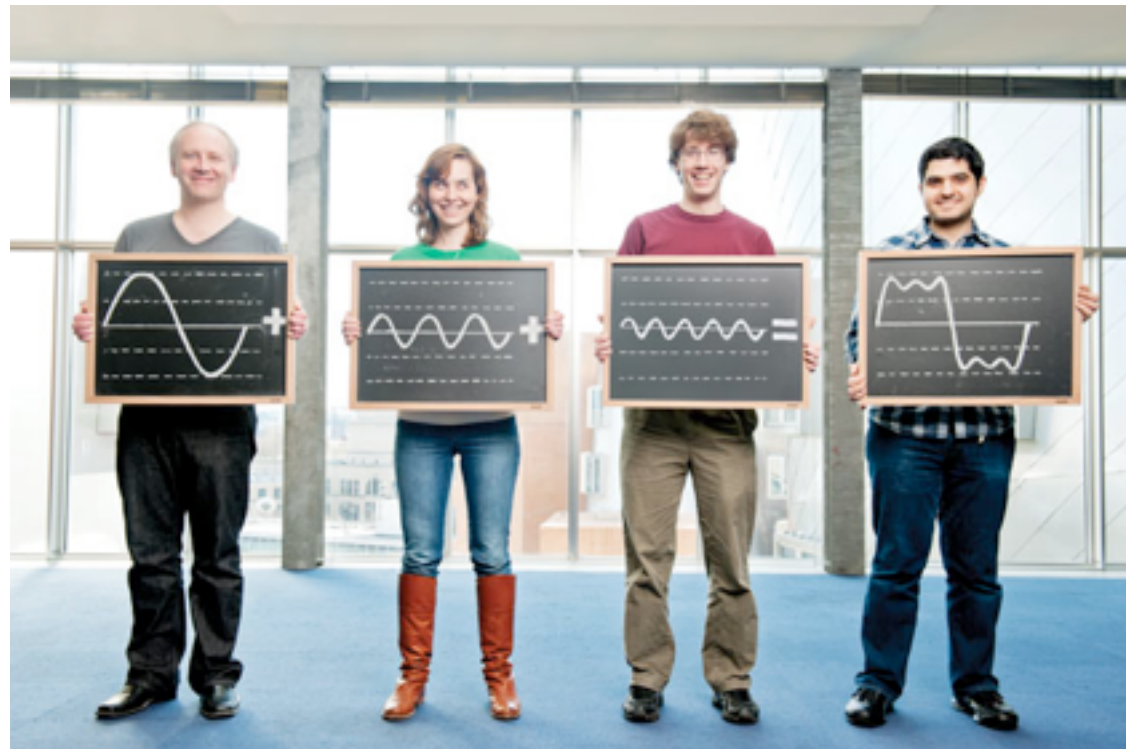
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**Spatial Filtering**

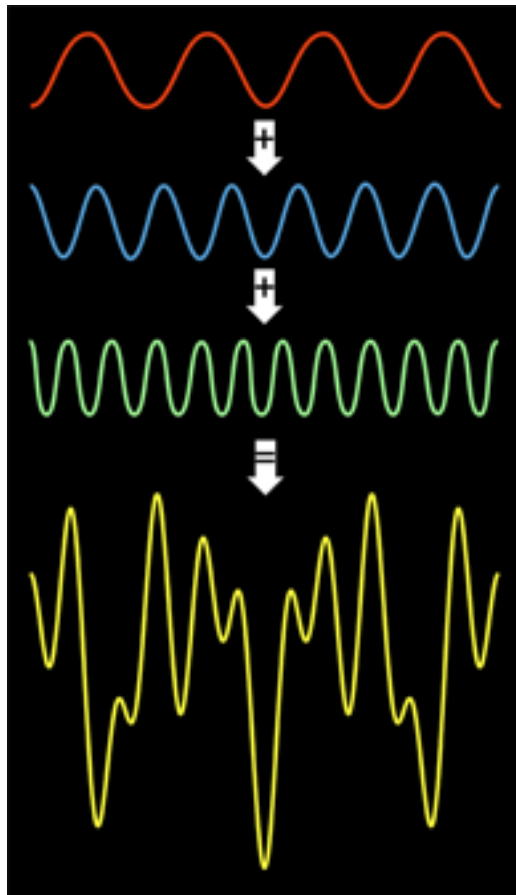
# Filtering

- The name “filter” is borrowed from frequency domain processing (next week’s topic)
- Accept or reject certain frequency components
- Fourier (1807):  
Periodic functions could be represented as a weighted sum of sines and cosines



# Signals

- A signal is composed of low and high frequency components



low frequency components: smooth /  
piecewise smooth

Neighboring pixels have similar brightness values

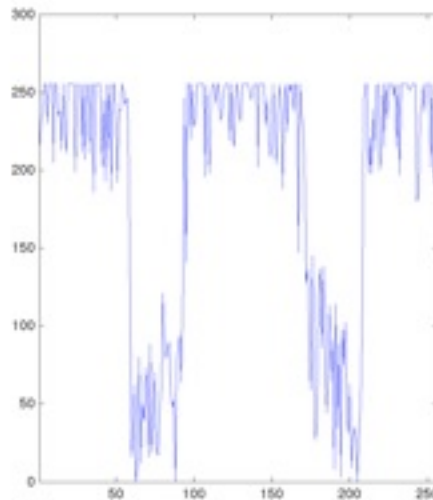
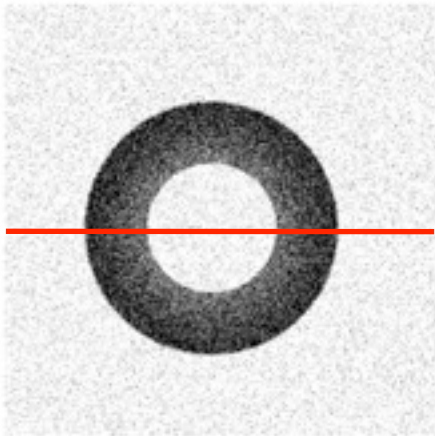
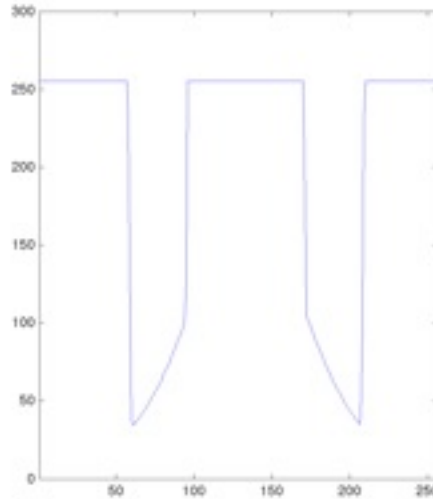
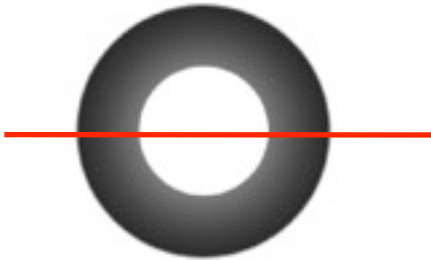
You're within a region

high frequency components: oscillatory

Neighboring pixels have different brightness values

You're either at the edges or noise points

# Signals – Examples



# Motivation: noise reduction

- Assume image is degraded with an additive model.
- Then,

Observation = True signal + noise

Observed image = Actual image + noise

low-pass  
filters

high-pass  
filters



smooth the image

# Common types of noise

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



Original



Salt and pepper noise

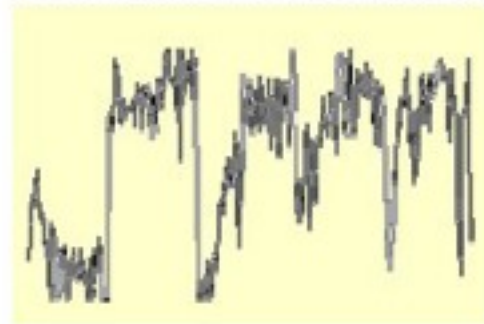
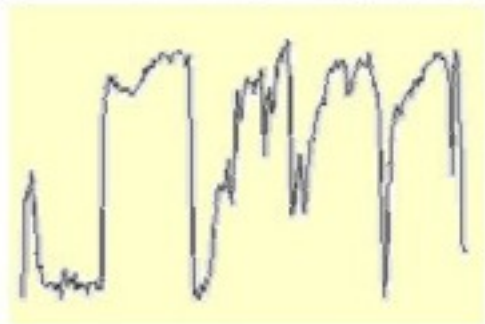


Impulse noise



Gaussian noise

# Gaussian noise



$$f(x, y) = \overbrace{\hat{f}(x, y)}^{\text{Ideal Image}} + \overbrace{\eta(x, y)}^{\text{Noise process}}$$

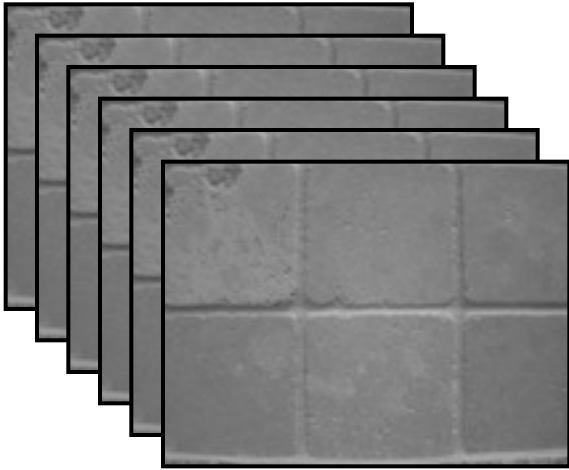
Gaussian i.i.d. ("white") noise:  
 $\eta(x, y) \sim \mathcal{N}(\mu, \sigma)$

```
>> noise = randn(size(im)).*sigma;  
>> output = im + noise;
```

What is the impact of the sigma?

Slide credit: M. Hebert

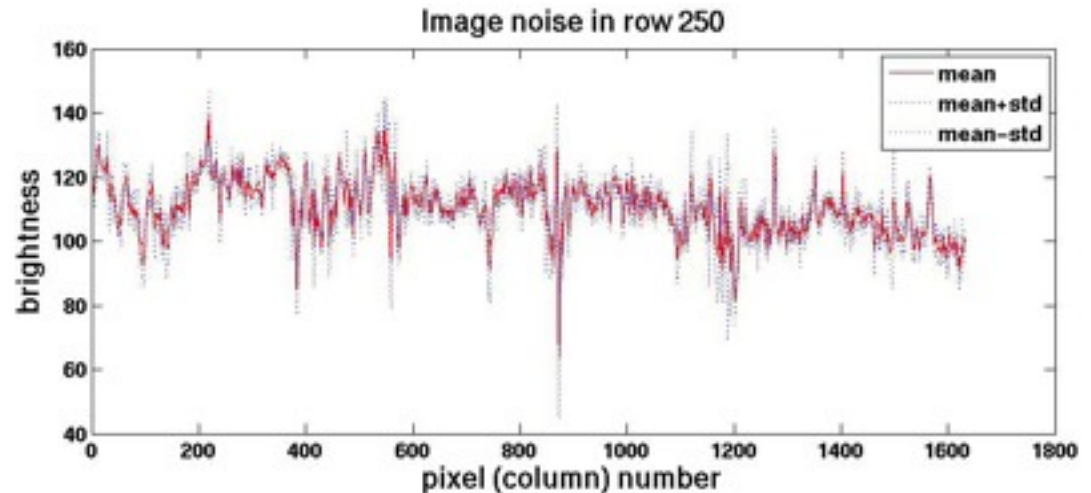
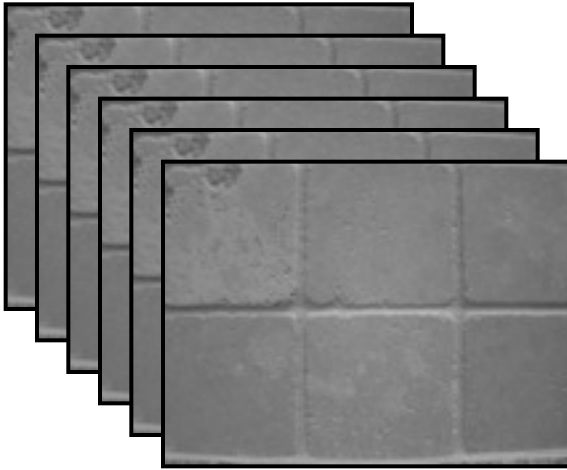
# Motivation: noise reduction



- Make multiple observations of the same static scene
- Take the average
- Even multiple images of the same static scene will not be identical.

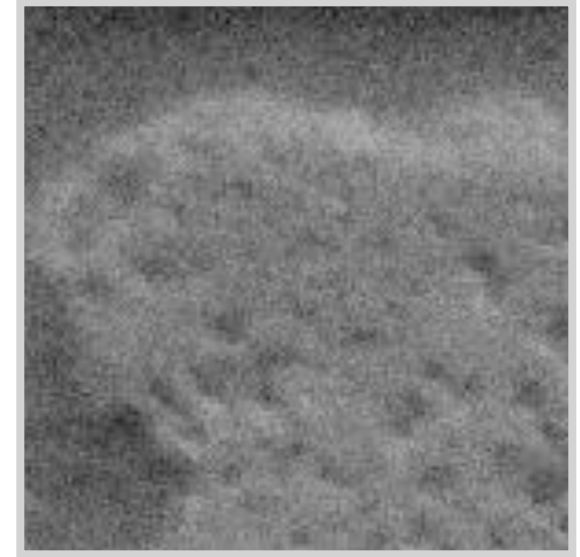
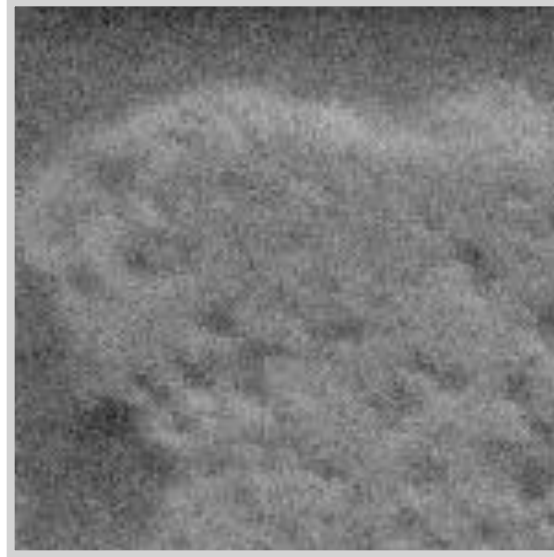
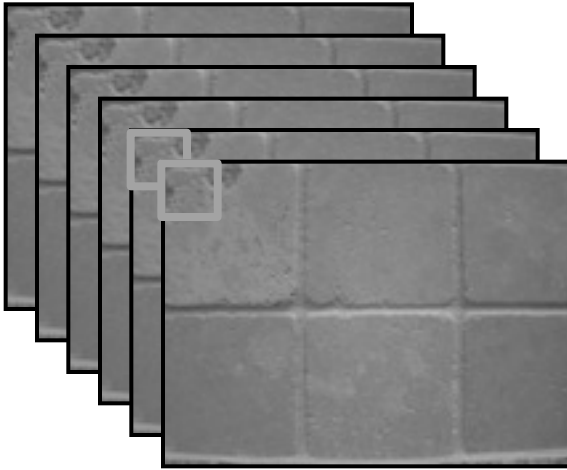


# Motivation: noise reduction



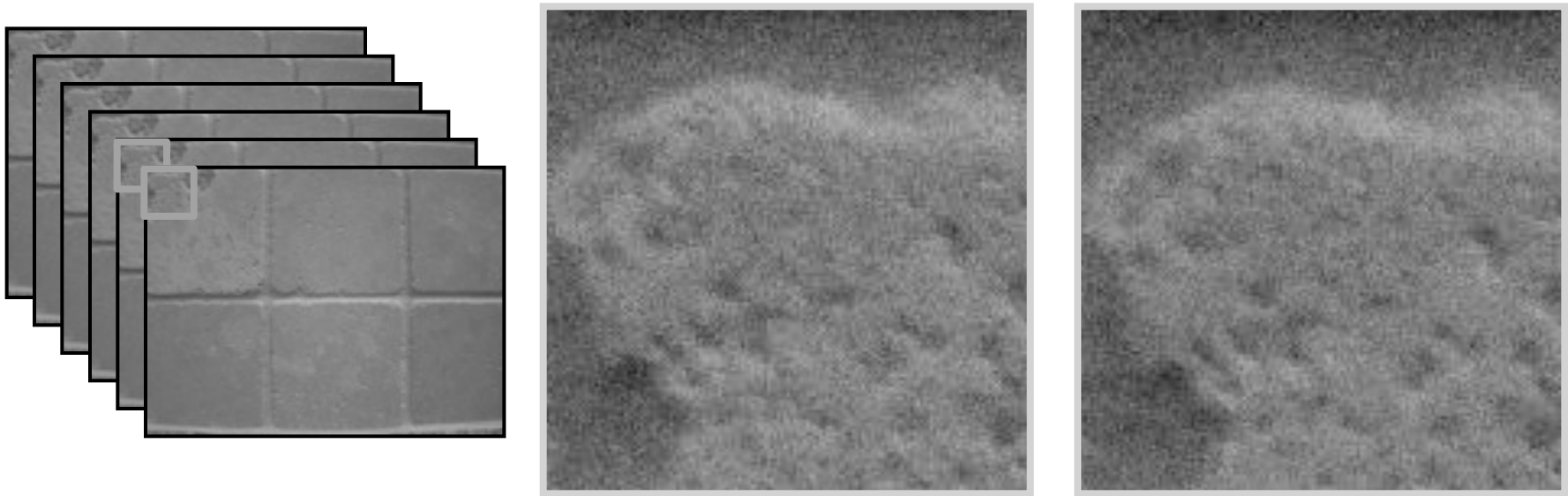
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# Motivation: noise reduction



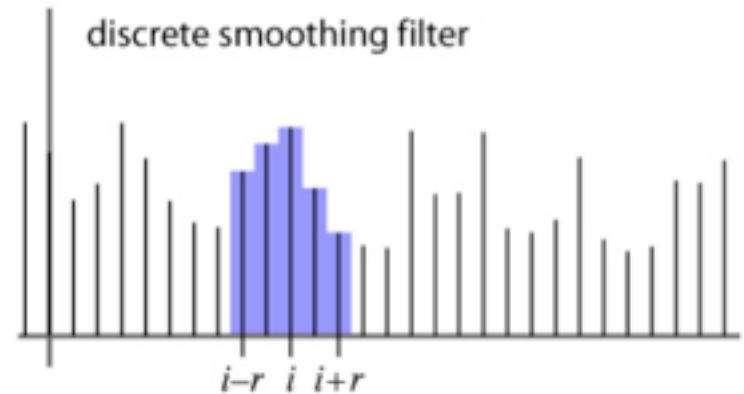
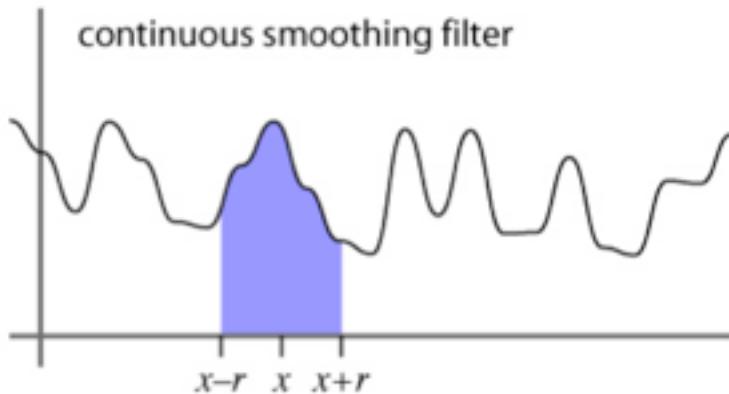
- Make multiple observations of the same static scene
- Take the average
- Even multiple images of the same static scene will not be identical.
- What if we can't make multiple observations?  
**What if there's only one image?**

# Image Filtering

- Idea: Use the information coming from the neighboring pixels for processing
- Design a transformation function of the local neighborhood at each pixel in the image
  - Function specified by a “filter” or mask saying how to combine values from neighbors.
- Various uses of filtering:
  - Enhance an image (denoise, resize, etc)
  - Extract information (texture, edges, etc)
  - Detect patterns (template matching)

# Filtering

- Processing done on a function
  - can be executed in continuous form (e.g. analog circuit)
  - but can also be executed using sampled representation
- Simple example: smoothing by averaging



# Linear filtering

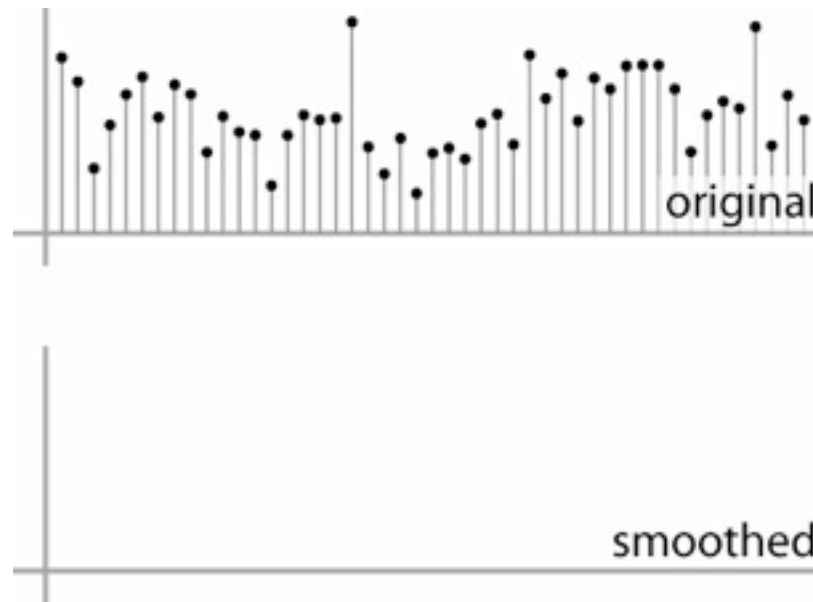
- Filtered value is the linear combination of neighboring pixel values.
- Key properties
  - linearity:  $\text{filter}(f + g) = \text{filter}(f) + \text{filter}(g)$
  - shift invariance: behavior invariant to shifting the input
    - delaying an audio signal
    - sliding an image around
- Can be modeled mathematically by *convolution*

# First attempt at a solution

- Let's replace each pixel with an average of all the values in its neighborhood
- Assumptions:
  - Expect pixels to be like their neighbors (spatial regularity in images)
  - Expect noise processes to be independent from pixel to pixel

# First attempt at a solution

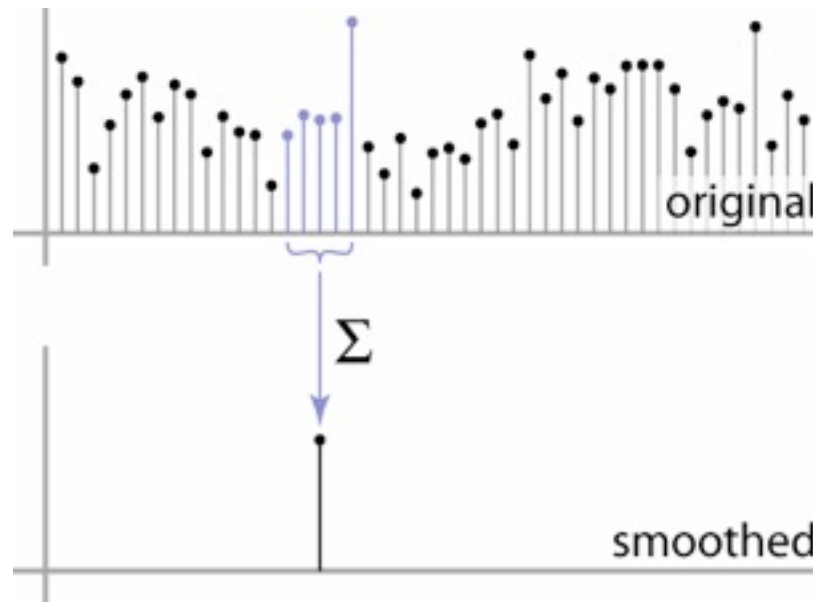
- Let's replace each pixel with an average of all the values in its neighborhood
- Moving average in 1D:





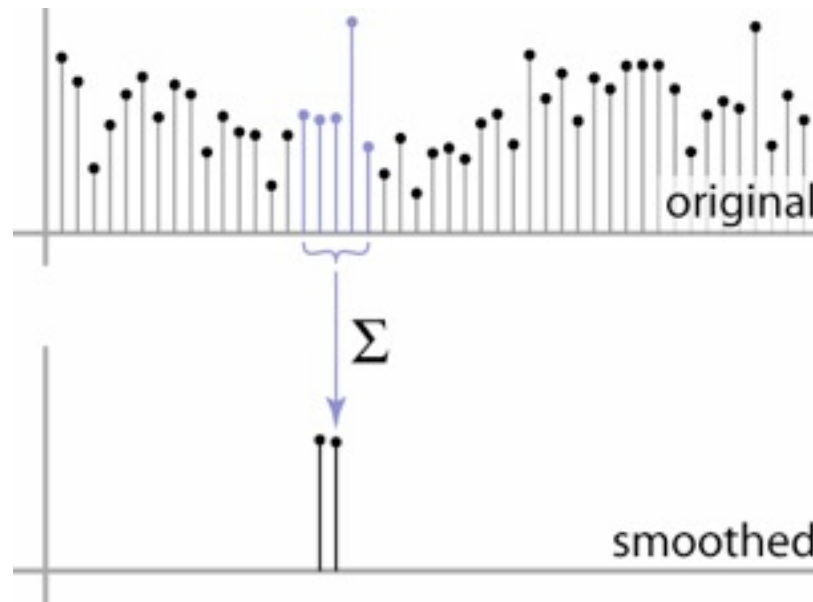
# First attempt at a solution

- Let's replace each pixel with an average of all the values in its neighborhood
- Moving average in 1D:



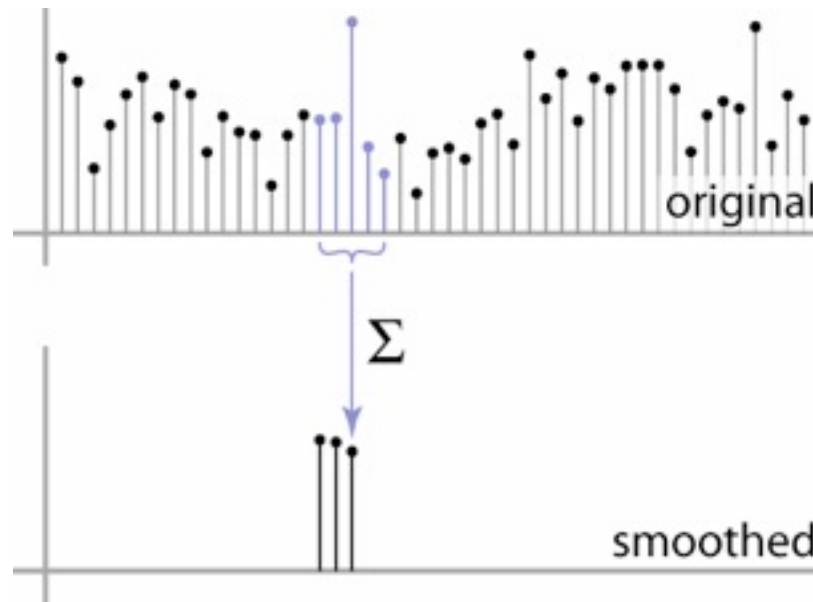
# First attempt at a solution

- Let's replace each pixel with an average of all the values in its neighborhood
- Moving average in 1D:



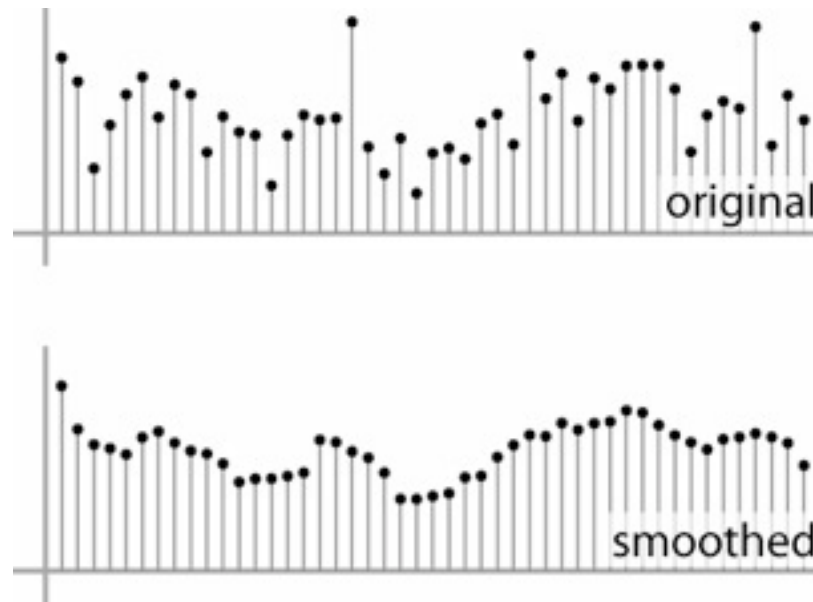
# First attempt at a solution

- Let's replace each pixel with an average of all the values in its neighborhood
- Moving average in 1D:



# First attempt at a solution

- Let's replace each pixel with an average of all the values in its neighborhood
- Moving average in 1D:



# Convolution warm-up

- Same moving average operation, expressed mathematically:

$$b_{\text{smooth}}[i] = \frac{1}{2r + 1} \sum_{j=i-r}^{i+r} b[j]$$

# Discrete convolution

- Simple averaging:

$$b_{\text{smooth}}[i] = \frac{1}{2r + 1} \sum_{j=i-r}^{i+r} b[j]$$

– every sample gets the same weight

- Convolution: same idea but with *weighted* average

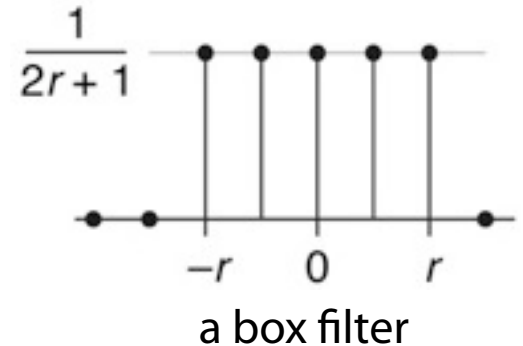
$$(a \star b)[i] = \sum_j a[j]b[i - j]$$

– each sample gets its own weight (normally zero far away)

- This is all convolution is: it is a **moving weighted average**

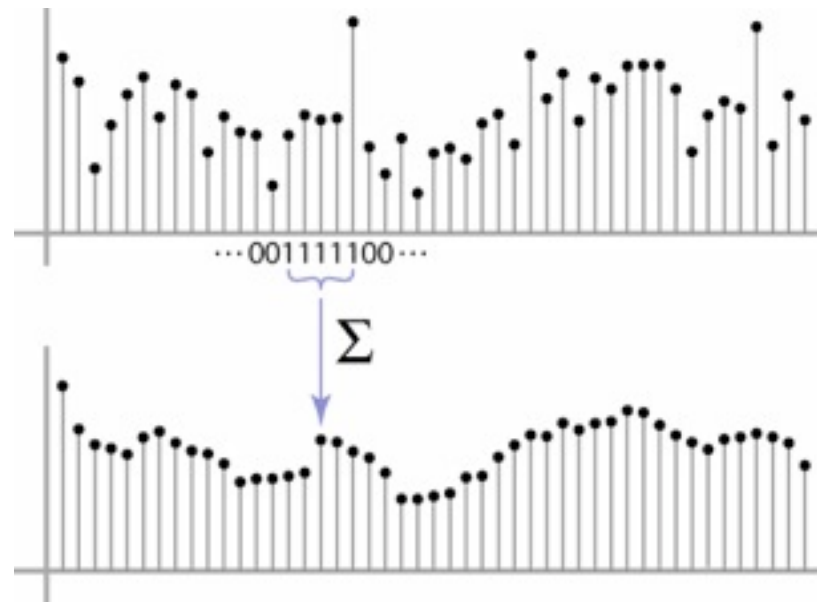
# Filters

- Sequence of weights  $a[j]$  is called a *filter*
- Filter is nonzero over its *region of support*
  - usually centered on zero: support radius  $r$
- Filter is *normalized* so that it sums to 1.0
  - this makes for a weighted average, not just any old weighted sum
- Most filters are symmetric about 0
  - since for images we usually want to treat left and right the same



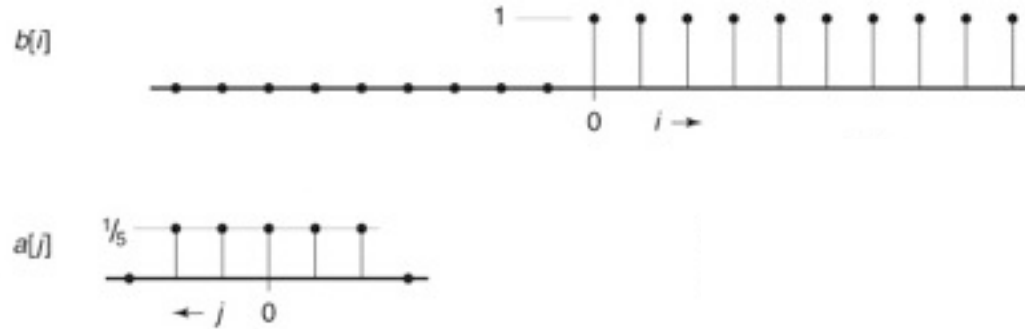
# Convolution and filtering

- Can express sliding average as convolution with a *box filter*
- $a_{\text{box}} = [\dots, 0, 1, 1, 1, 1, 1, 0, \dots]$

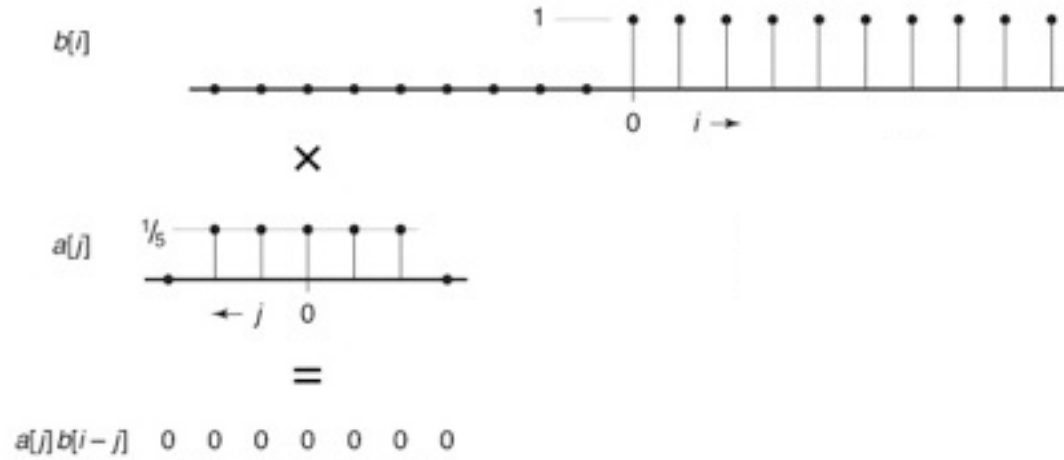




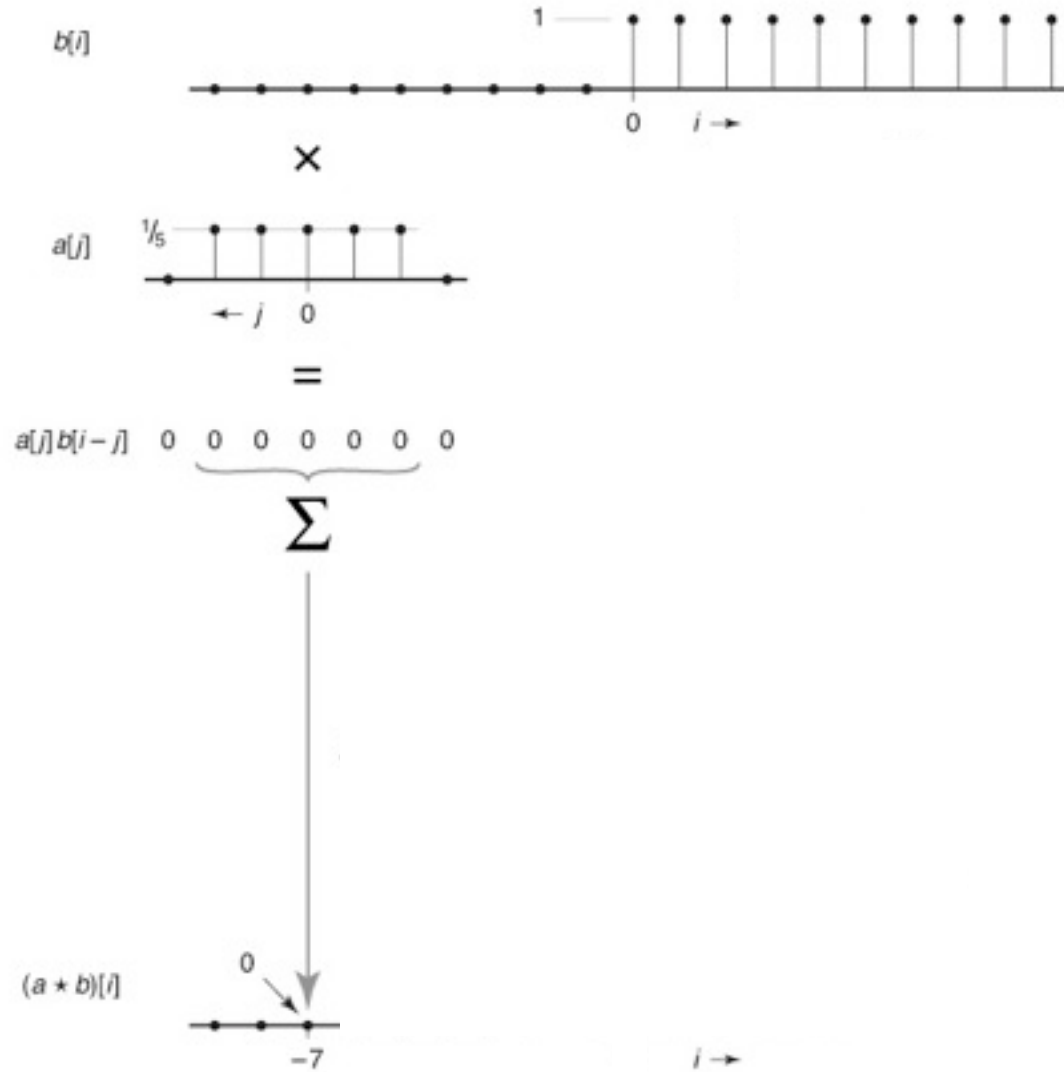
# Example: box and step



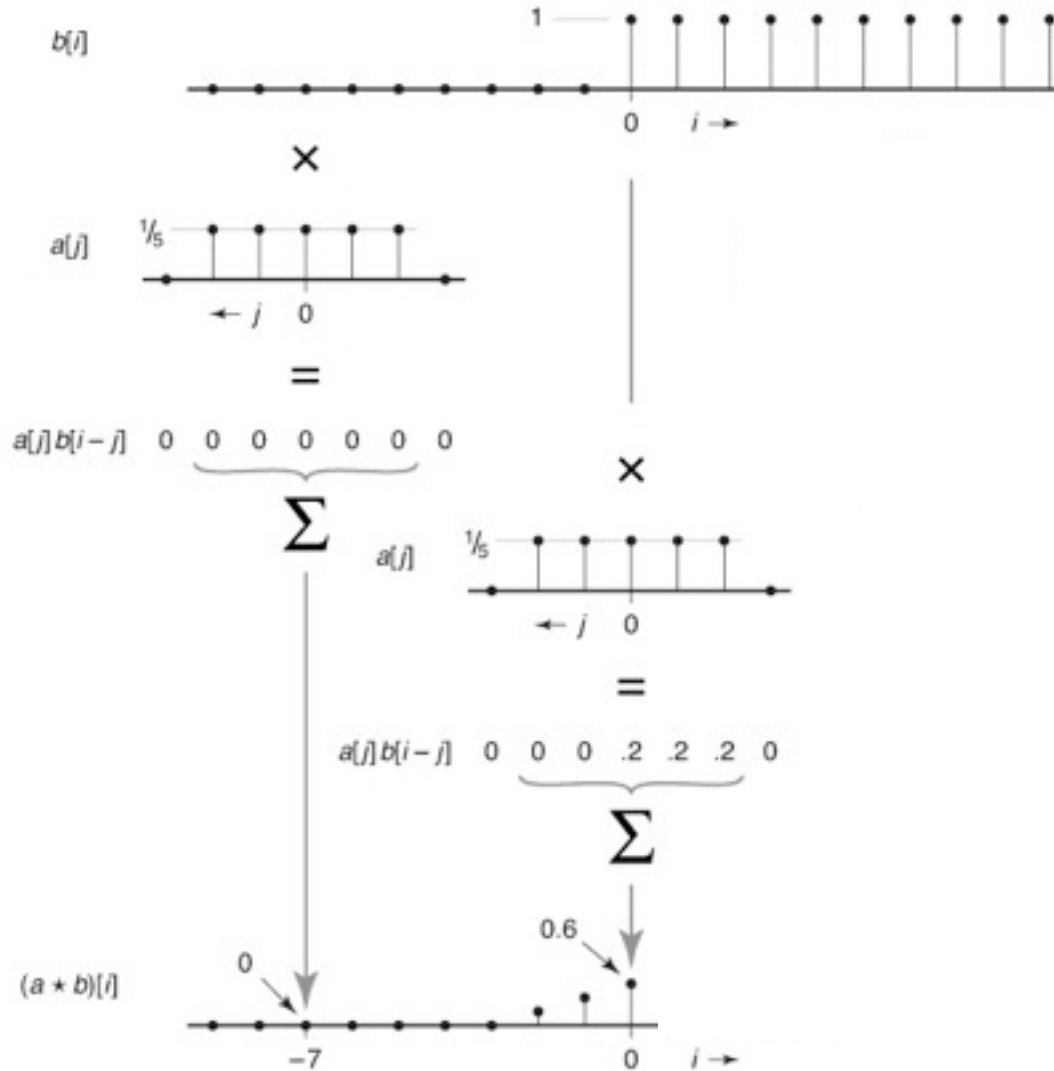
# Example: box and step



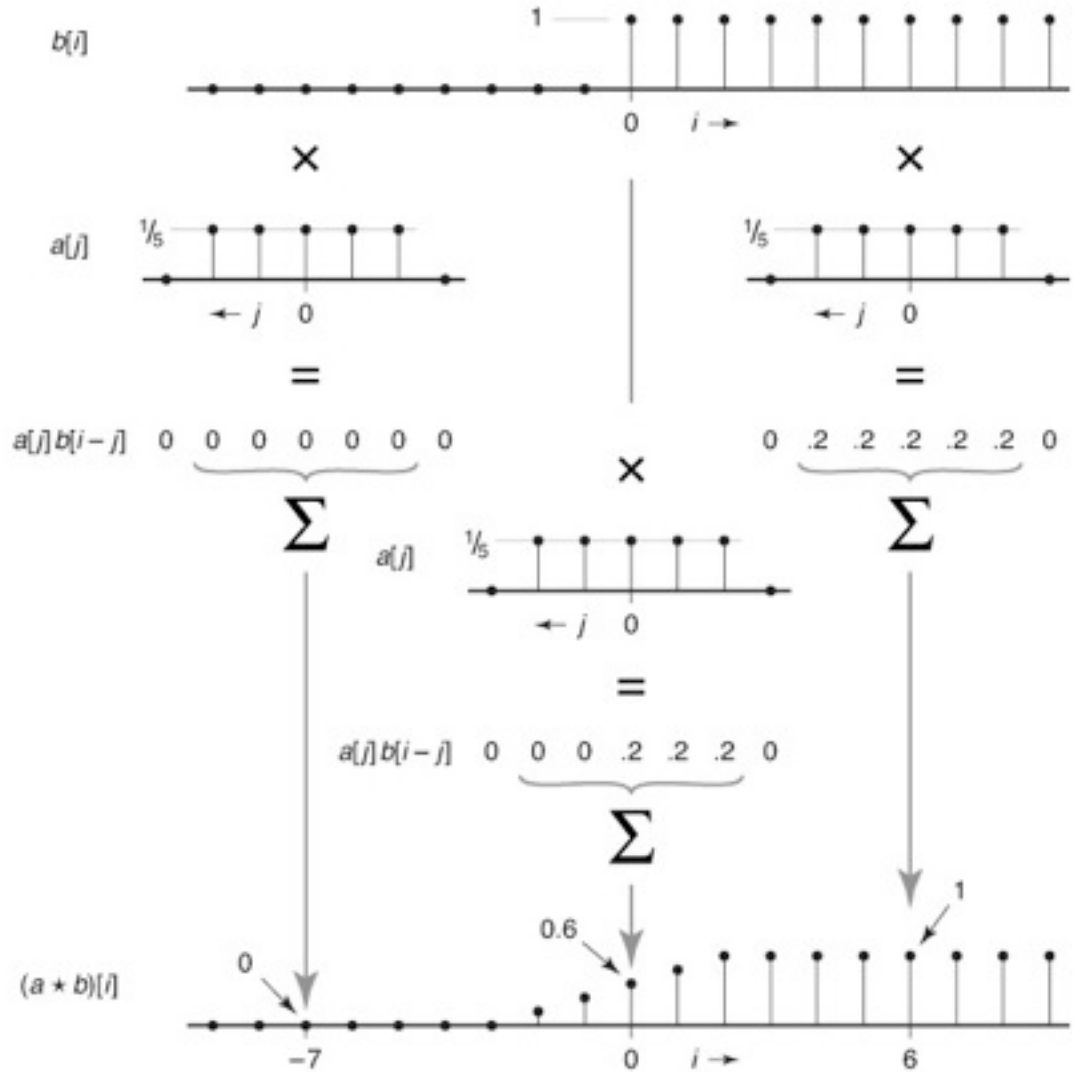
# Example: box and step



# Example: box and step

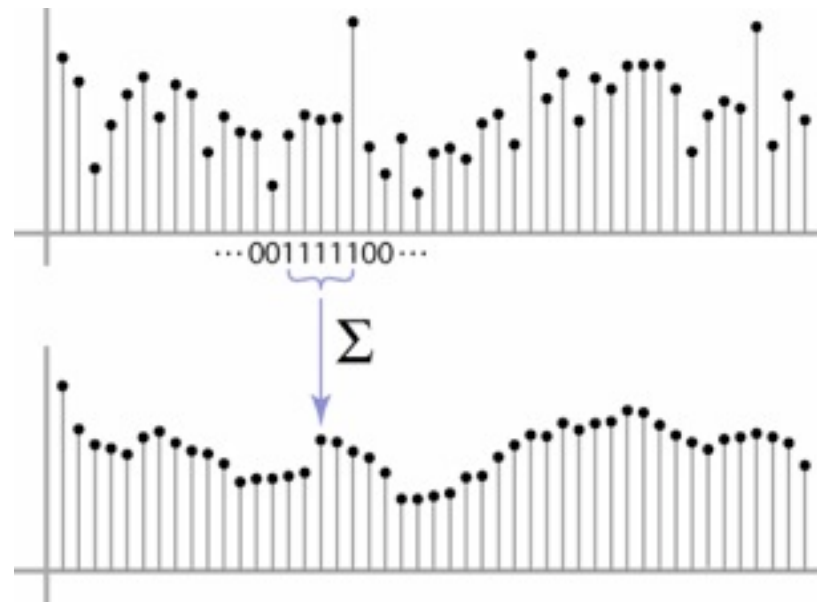


# Example: box and step



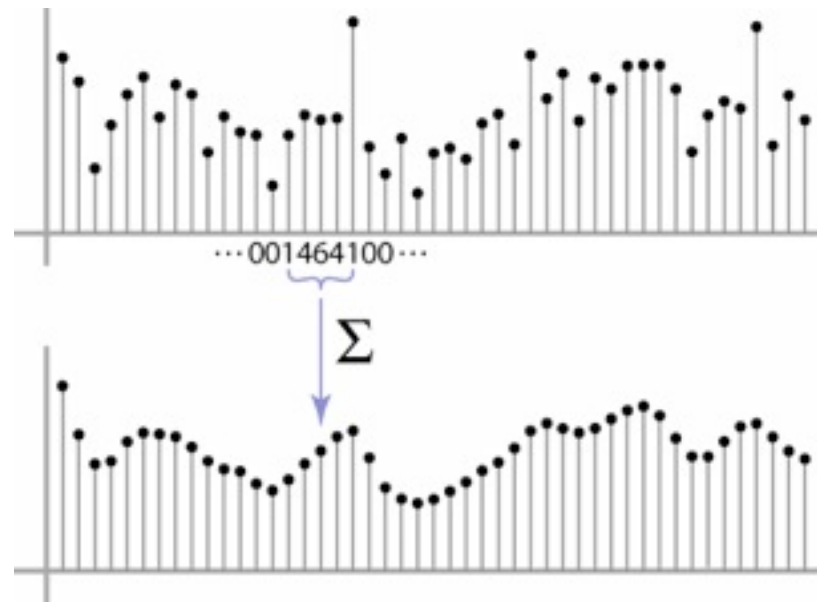
# Convolution and filtering

- Convolution applies with any sequence of weights
- Example: bell curve (gaussian-like) [..., 1, 4, 6, 4, 1, ...]/16



# Convolution and filtering

- Convolution applies with any sequence of weights
- Example: bell curve (gaussian-like) [..., 1, 4, 6, 4, 1, ...]/16



# And in pseudocode...

```
function convolve(sequence  $a$ , sequence  $b$ , int  $r$ , int  $i$  )  
     $s = 0$   
    for  $j = -r$  to  $r$   
         $s = s + a[j]b[i - j]$   
    return  $s$ 
```



# Key properties

- **Linearity:**  $\text{filter}(f_1 + f_2) = \text{filter}(f_1) + \text{filter}(f_2)$
- **Shift invariance:**  $\text{filter}(\text{shift}(f)) = \text{shift}(\text{filter}(f))$ 
  - same behavior regardless of pixel location, i.e. the value of the output depends on the pattern in the image neighborhood, not the position of the neighborhood.
- Theoretical result: any linear shift-invariant operator can be represented as a convolution

# Properties in more detail

- Commutative:  $a * b = b * a$ 
  - Conceptually no difference between filter and signal
- Associative:  $a * (b * c) = (a * b) * c$ 
  - Often apply several filters one after another:  $((a * b_1) * b_2) * b_3$
  - This is equivalent to applying one filter:  $a * (b_1 * b_2 * b_3)$
- Distributes over addition:  $a * (b + c) = (a * b) + (a * c)$
- Scalars factor out:  $ka * b = a * kb = k(a * b)$
- Identity: unit impulse  $e = [\dots, 0, 0, 1, 0, 0, \dots]$ ,  
 $a * e = a$

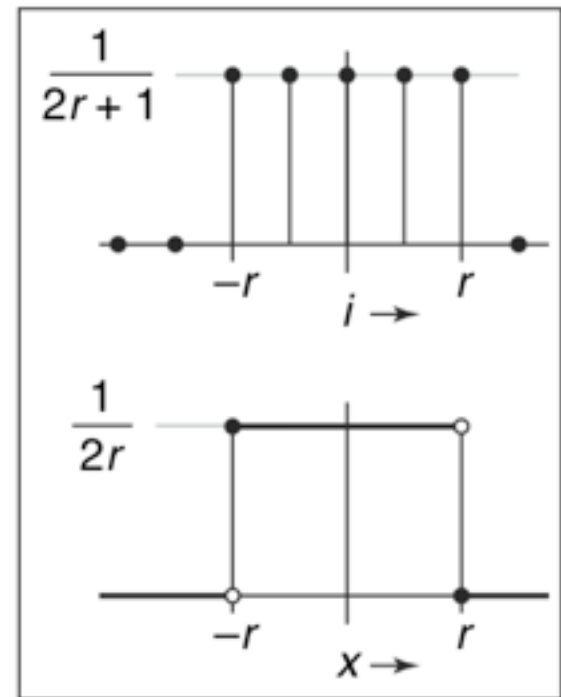
# A gallery of filters

- **Box filter**
  - Simple and cheap
- **Tent filter**
  - Linear interpolation
- **Gaussian filter**
  - Very smooth antialiasing filter

# Box filter

$$a_{\text{box},r}[i] = \begin{cases} 1/(2r+1) & |i| \leq r, \\ 0 & \text{otherwise.} \end{cases}$$

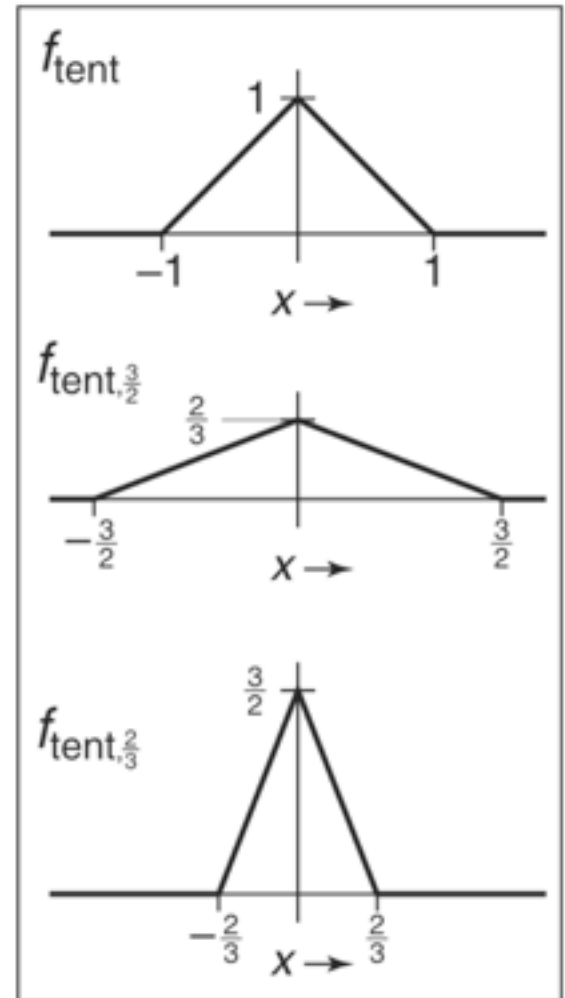
$$f_{\text{box},r}(x) = \begin{cases} 1/(2r) & -r \leq x < r, \\ 0 & \text{otherwise.} \end{cases}$$



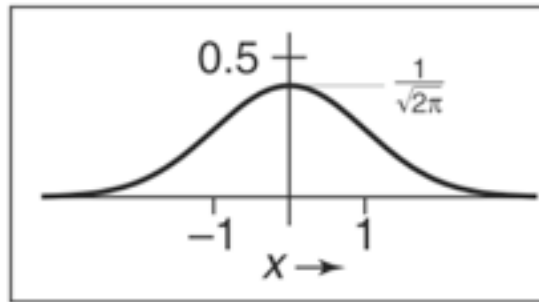
# Tent filter

$$f_{\text{tent}}(x) = \begin{cases} 1 - |x| & |x| < 1, \\ 0 & \text{otherwise;} \end{cases}$$

$$f_{\text{tent},r}(x) = \frac{f_{\text{tent}}(x/r)}{r}.$$



# Gaussian filter



$$f_g(x) = \frac{1}{\sqrt{2\pi}} e^{-x^2/2}.$$

# Discrete filtering in 2D

- Same equation, one more index

$$(a \star b)[i, j] = \sum_{i', j'} a[i', j'] b[i - i', j - j']$$

– now the filter is a rectangle you slide around over a grid of numbers

- Usefulness of associativity

– often apply several filters one after another:  $((a \star b_1) \star b_2) \star b_3$

– this is equivalent to applying one filter:  $a \star (b_1 \star b_2 \star b_3)$

# And in pseudocode...

```
function convolve2d(filter2d a, filter2d b, int i, int j)  
s = 0  
r = a.radius  
for i' = -r to r do  
    for j' = -r to r do  
        s = s + a[i'][j']b[i - i'][j - j']  
return s
```



# Moving Average In 2D

$F[x, y]$

|   |   |    |    |    |    |    |    |   |   |   |
|---|---|----|----|----|----|----|----|---|---|---|
| 0 | 0 | 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 | 0  | 90 | 90 | 90 | 90 | 90 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 0 | 0 | 0  | 90 | 90 | 90 | 90 | 90 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 0 | 0 | 0  | 90 | 0  | 90 | 90 | 90 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 0 | 0 | 0  | 90 | 90 | 90 | 90 | 90 | 0 | 0 | 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 | 0 |

$G[x, y]$

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|--|---|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|
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# Moving Average In 2D

$F[x, y]$

|   |   |    |    |    |    |    |    |   |   |
|---|---|----|----|----|----|----|----|---|---|
| 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 |

$G[x, y]$

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# Moving Average In 2D

$F[x, y]$

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|---|---|----|----|----|----|----|----|---|---|
| 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 |

$G[x, y]$

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# Moving Average In 2D

$F[x, y]$

|   |   |    |    |    |    |    |    |   |   |
|---|---|----|----|----|----|----|----|---|---|
| 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 |

$G[x, y]$

|  |   |    |    |    |  |  |  |  |  |
|--|---|----|----|----|--|--|--|--|--|
|  |   |    |    |    |  |  |  |  |  |
|  | 0 | 10 | 20 | 30 |  |  |  |  |  |
|  |   |    |    |    |  |  |  |  |  |
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|  |   |    |    |    |  |  |  |  |  |

# Moving Average In 2D

$$F[x, y]$$

|   |   |    |    |    |    |    |    |   |   |
|---|---|----|----|----|----|----|----|---|---|
| 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 |

$$G[x, y]$$

|  |   |    |    |    |    |  |  |  |  |
|--|---|----|----|----|----|--|--|--|--|
|  |   |    |    |    |    |  |  |  |  |
|  | 0 | 10 | 20 | 30 | 30 |  |  |  |  |
|  |   |    |    |    |    |  |  |  |  |
|  |   |    |    |    |    |  |  |  |  |
|  |   |    |    |    |    |  |  |  |  |
|  |   |    |    |    |    |  |  |  |  |
|  |   |    |    |    |    |  |  |  |  |
|  |   |    |    |    |    |  |  |  |  |
|  |   |    |    |    |    |  |  |  |  |
|  |   |    |    |    |    |  |  |  |  |

# Moving Average In 2D

$$F[x, y]$$

|   |   |    |    |    |    |    |    |   |   |
|---|---|----|----|----|----|----|----|---|---|
| 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 |

$$G[x, y]$$

|  |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |  |
|--|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|--|
|  |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |  |
|  | 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  |  |
|  |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |  |

# Correlation filtering

Say the averaging window size is  $2k+1 \times 2k+1$ :

$$G[i, j] = \underbrace{\frac{1}{(2k+1)^2}}_{\substack{\text{Attribute uniform} \\ \text{weight to each pixel}}} \underbrace{\sum_{u=-k}^k \sum_{v=-k}^k F[i+u, j+v]}_{\substack{\text{Loop over all pixels in neighborhood} \\ \text{around image pixel } F[i,j]}}$$

Now generalize to allow different weights depending on neighboring pixel's relative position:

$$G[i, j] = \sum_{u=-k}^k \sum_{v=-k}^k \underbrace{H[u, v]}_{\text{Non-uniform weights}} F[i+u, j+v]$$

# Correlation filtering

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

This is called cross-correlation, denoted

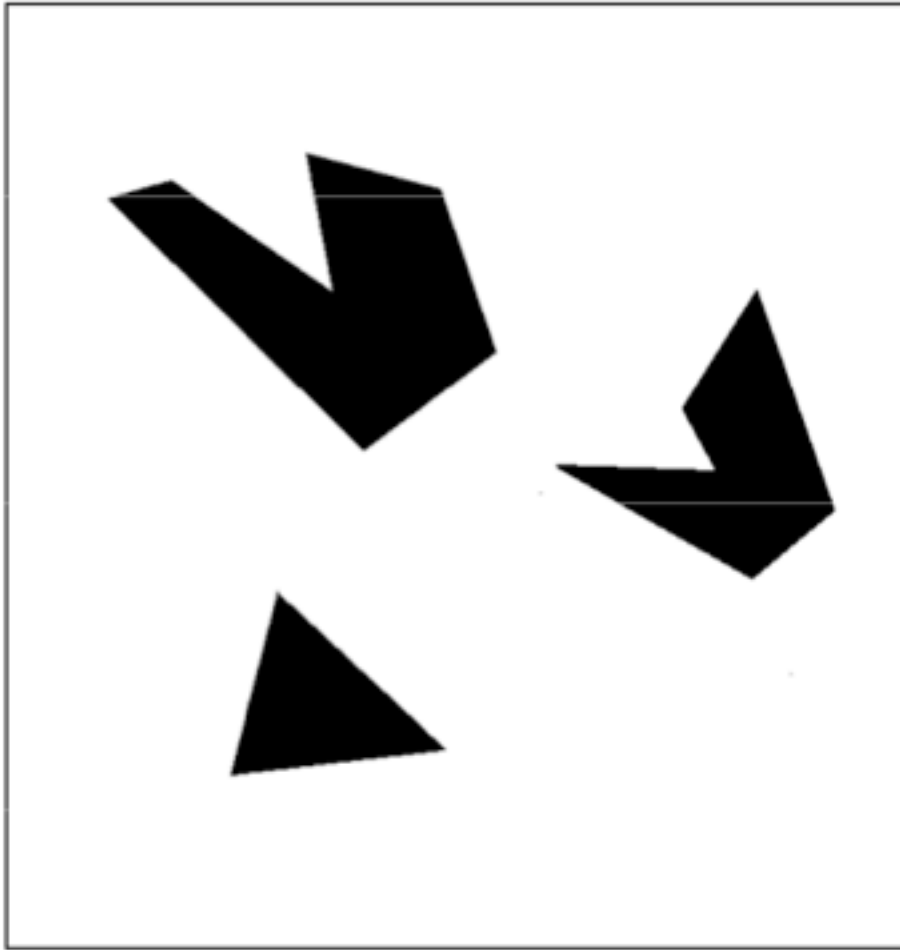
$$G = H \otimes F$$

Filtering an image: replace each pixel with a linear combination of its neighbors.

The filter “kernel” or “mask”  $H[u, v]$  is the prescription for the weights in the linear combination.



# Correlation filtering

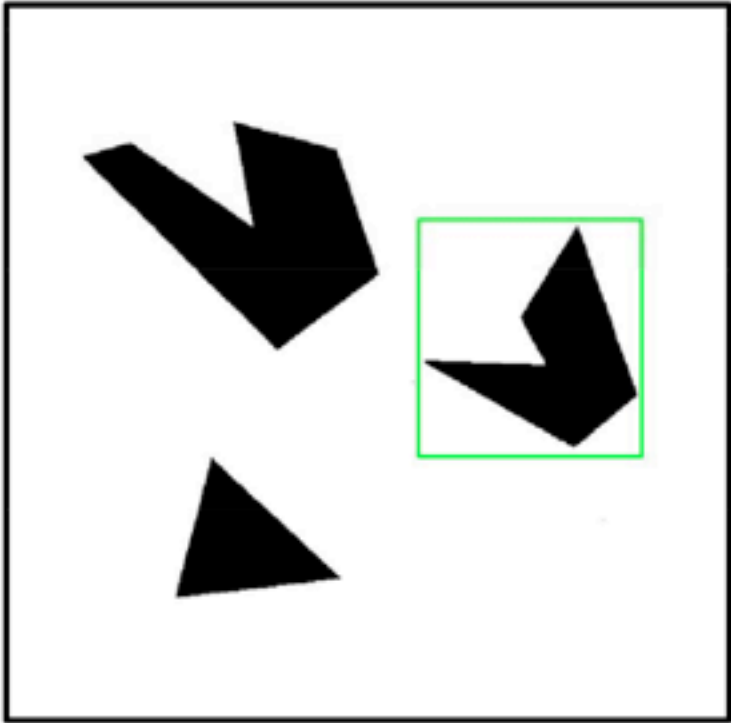


Scene

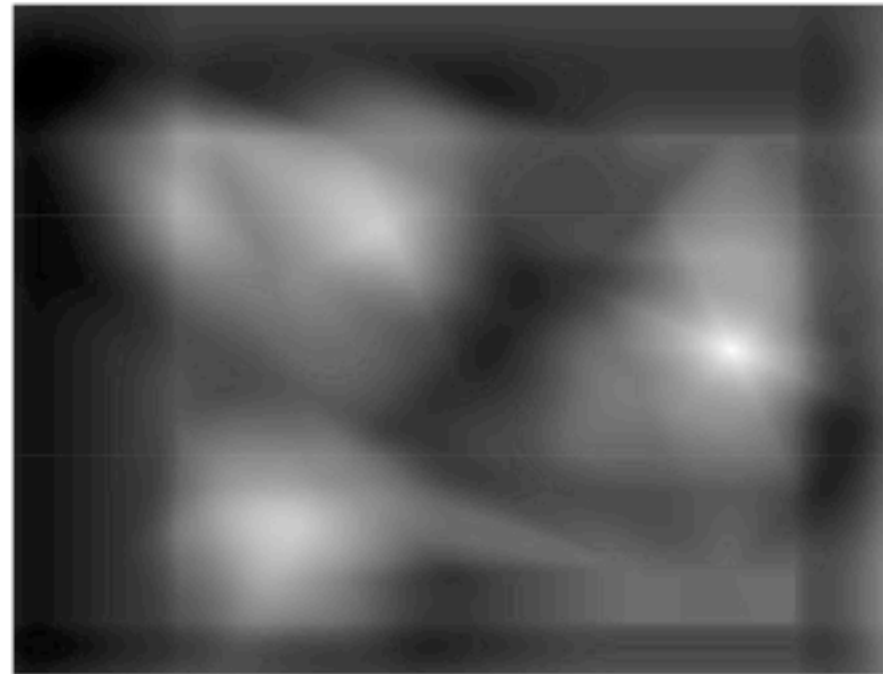


Template (mask)

# Correlation filtering

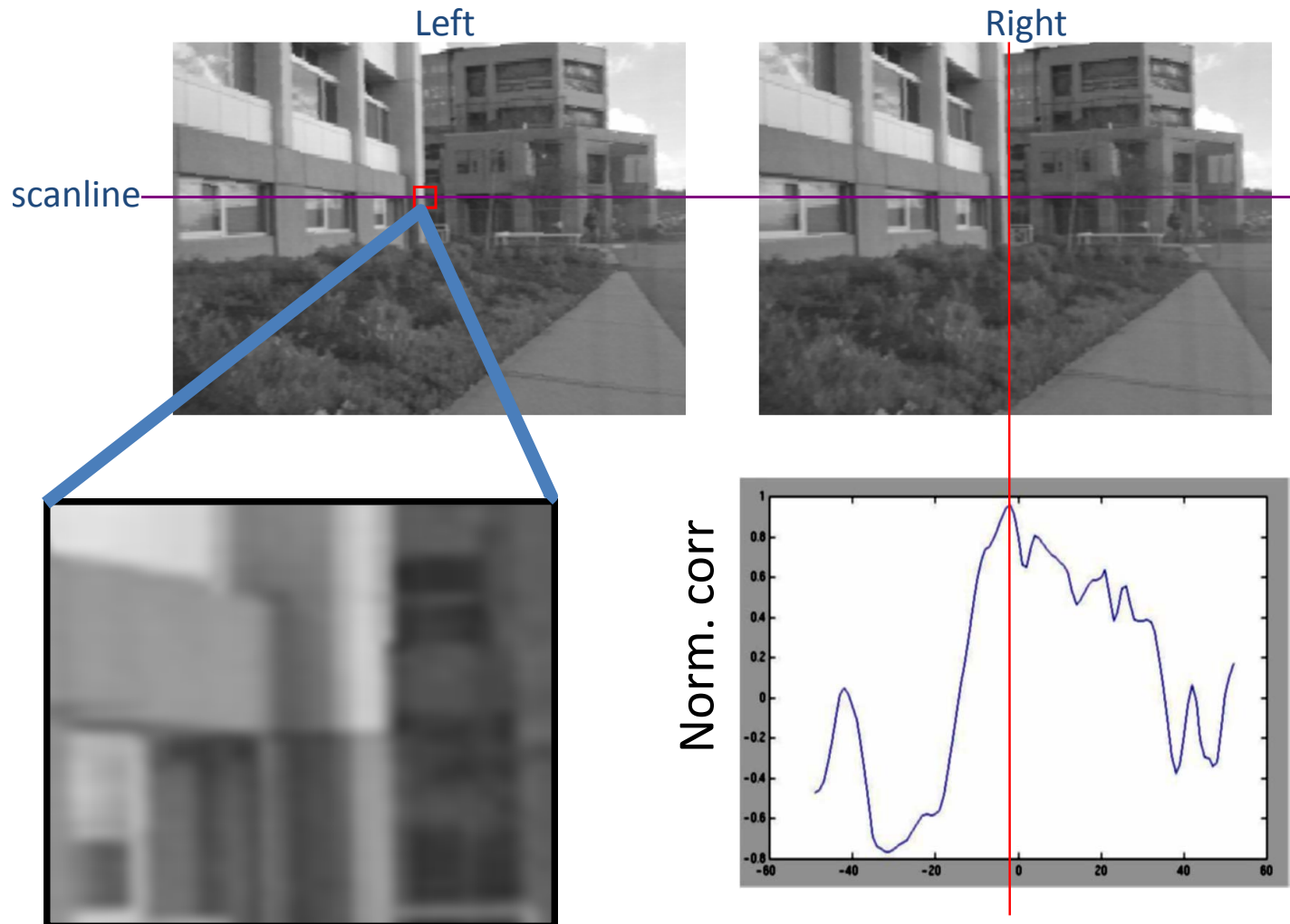


Detected template



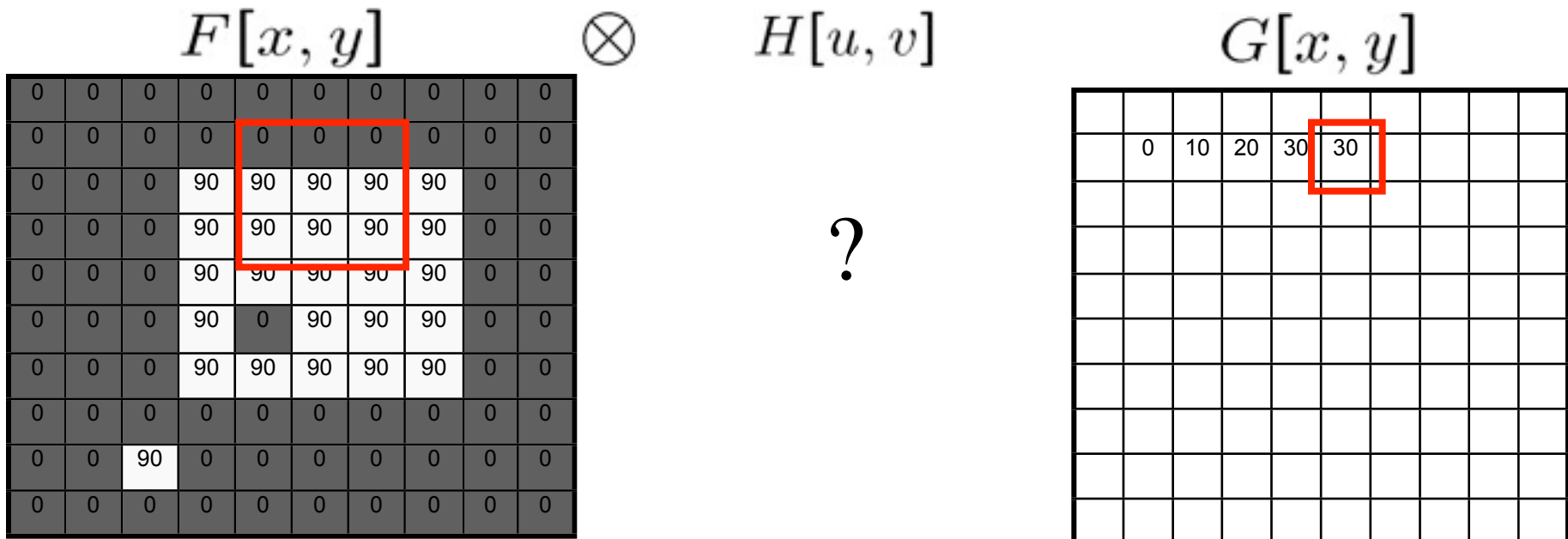
Correlation map

# Cross correlation example



# Averaging filter

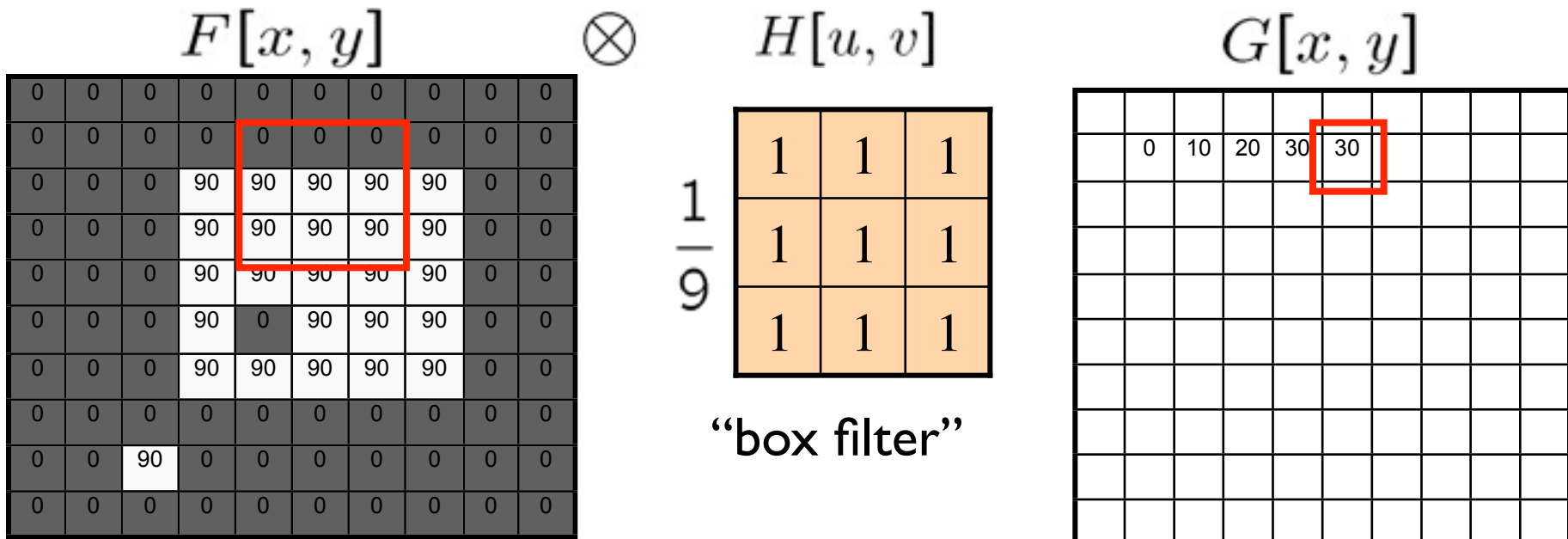
- What values belong in the kernel  $H$  for the moving average example?



$$G = H \otimes F$$

# Averaging filter

- What values belong in the kernel  $H$  for the moving average example?



$$G = H \otimes F$$

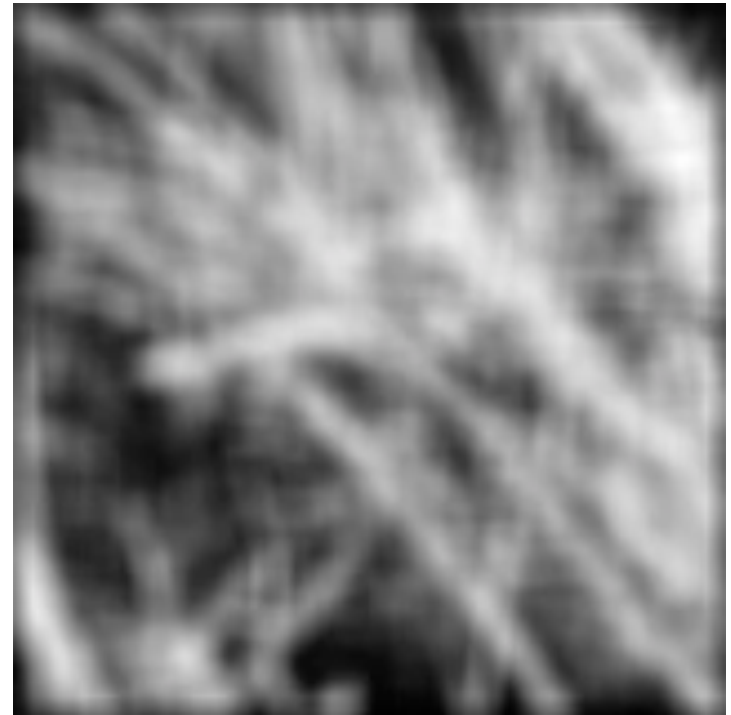
# Smoothing by averaging



depicts box filter:  
white = high value, black = low value



original



filtered

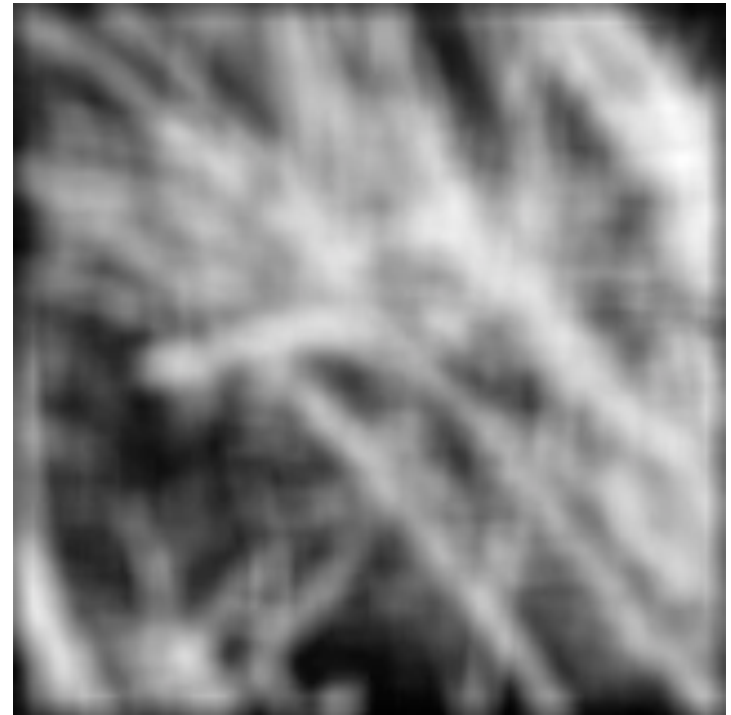
# Smoothing by averaging



depicts box filter:  
white = high value, black = low value



original

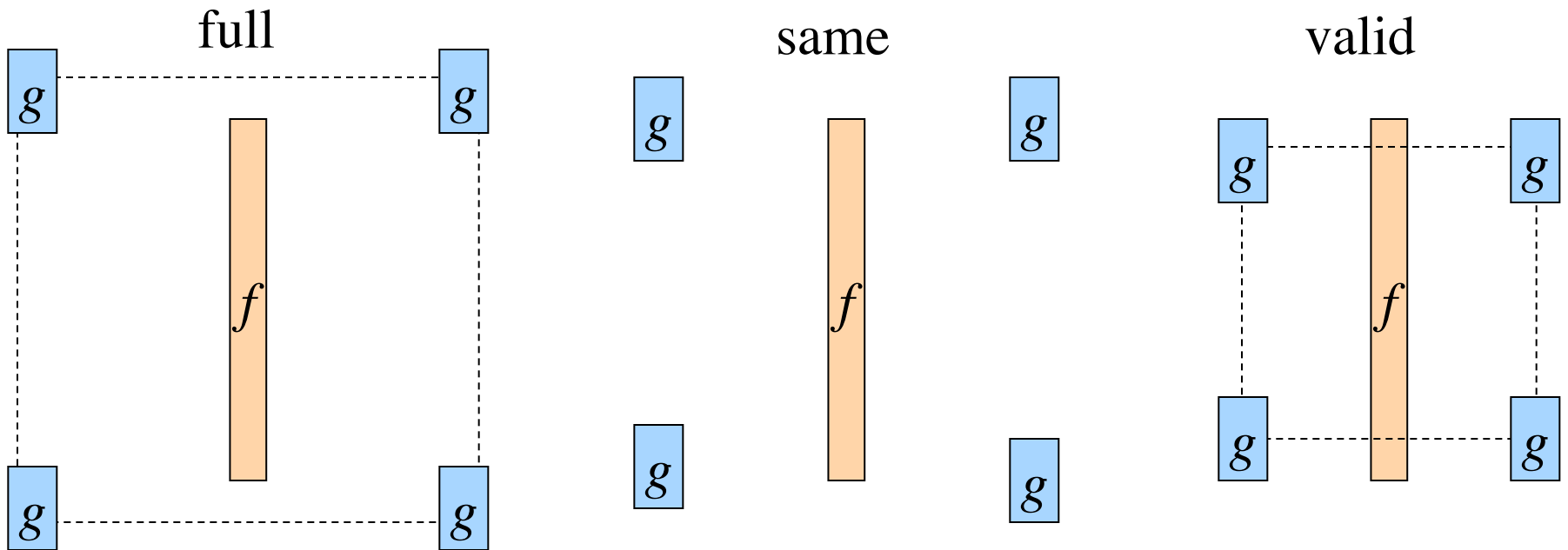


filtered

What if the filter size was  $5 \times 5$  instead of  $3 \times 3$ ?

# Boundary issues

- What is the size of the output?
- MATLAB: output size / “shape” options
  - *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  $g$





# Boundary issues

- 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



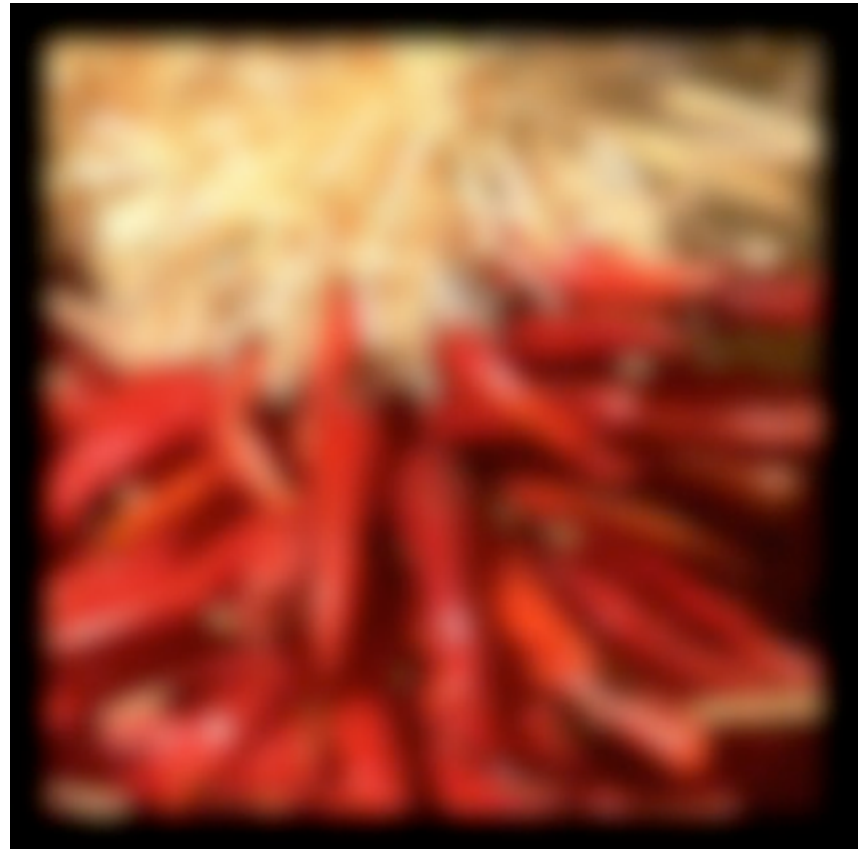
# Boundary issues

- 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



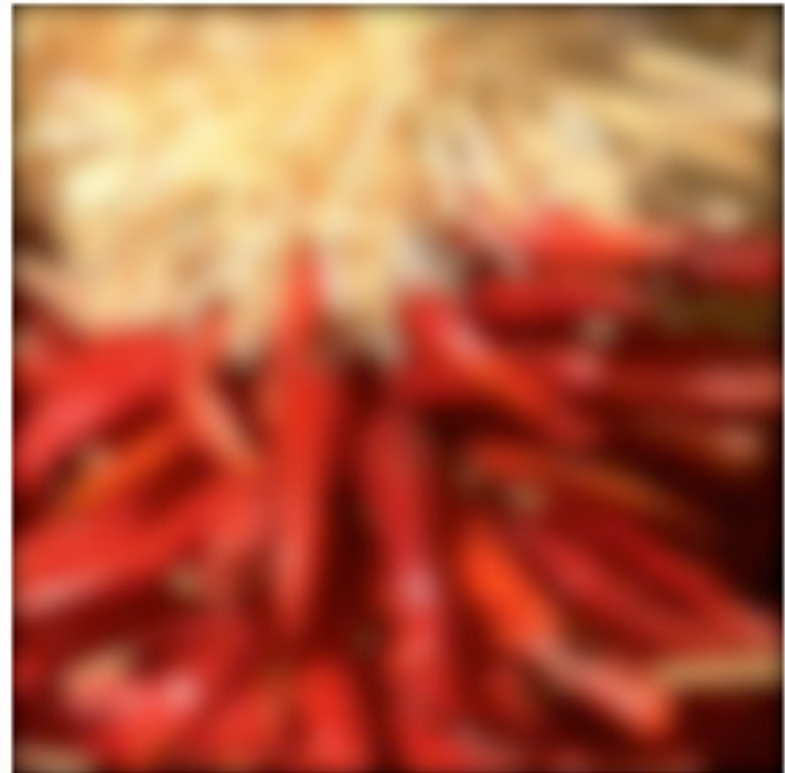
# Boundary issues

- 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



# Boundary issues

- 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



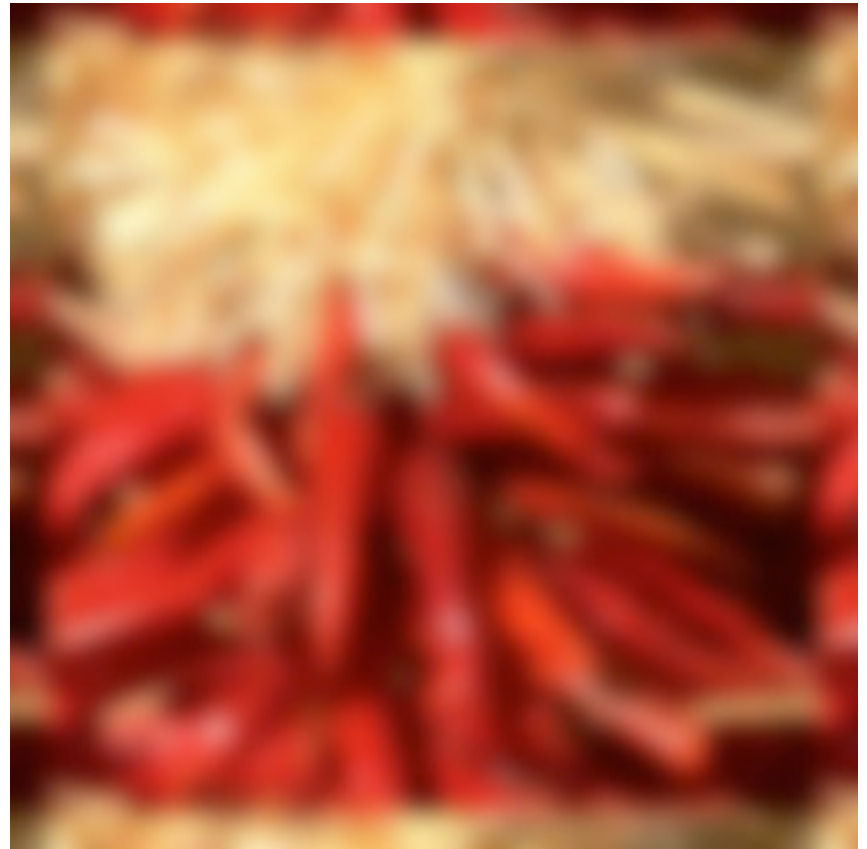
# Boundary issues

- 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



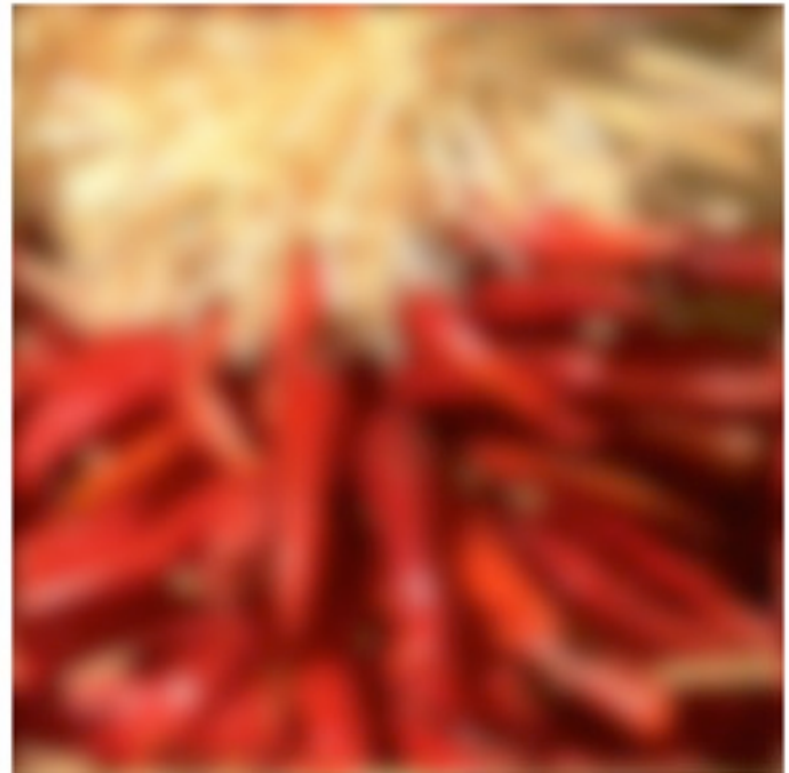
# Boundary issues

- 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



# Boundary issues

- 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



# Boundary issues

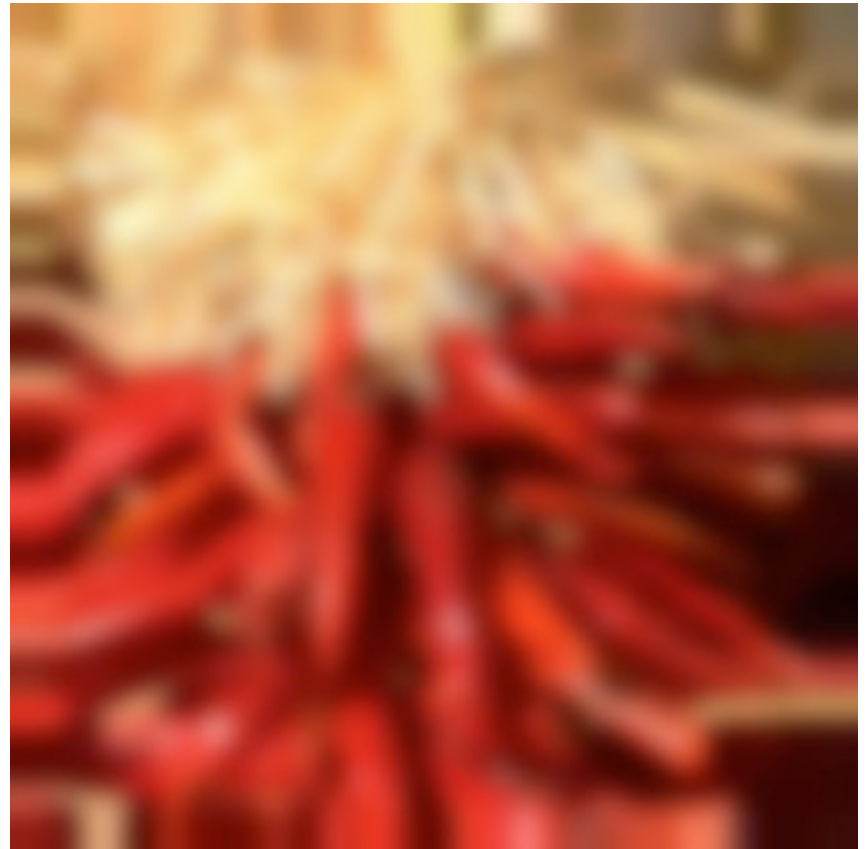
- What about near the edge?
  - the filter window falls off the edge of the image
  - need to extrapolate
  - methods:
    - clip filter (black)
    - wrap around
    - copy edge
    - reflect across edge





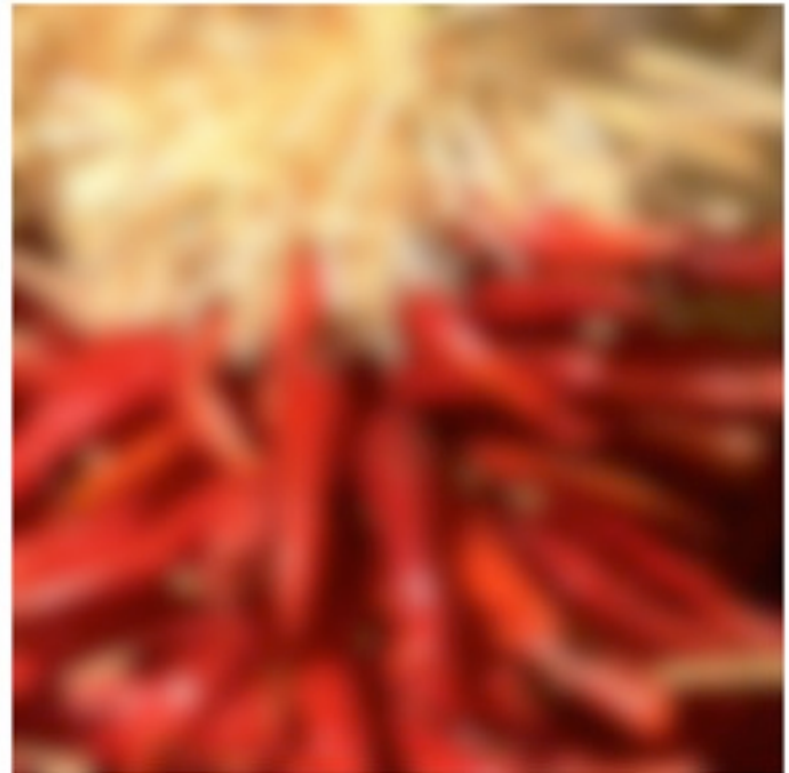
# Boundary issues

- 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



# Boundary issues

- 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



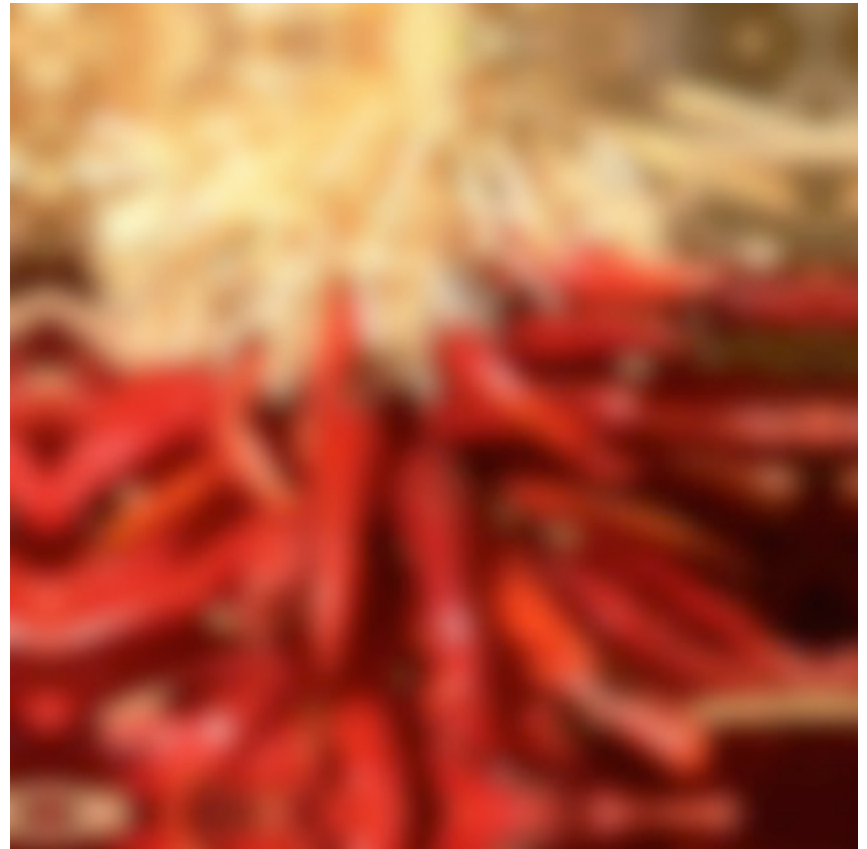
# Boundary issues

- 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



# Boundary issues

- 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



# Boundary issues

- 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



# Boundary issues

- What about near the edge?
  - the filter window falls off the edge of the image
  - need to extrapolate
  - methods (MATLAB):
    - clip filter (black): `imfilter(f, g, 0)`
    - wrap around: `imfilter(f, g, 'circular')`
    - copy edge: `imfilter(f, g, 'replicate')`
    - reflect across edge: `imfilter(f, g, 'symmetric')`

# Gaussian filter

- What if we want nearest neighboring pixels to have the most influence on the output?

|   |   |    |    |    |    |    |    |   |   |
|---|---|----|----|----|----|----|----|---|---|
| 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 |

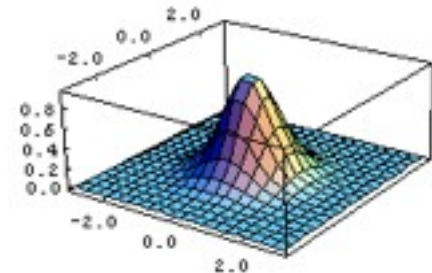
$F[x, y]$

|   |   |   |
|---|---|---|
| 1 | 2 | 1 |
| 2 | 4 | 2 |
| 1 | 2 | 1 |

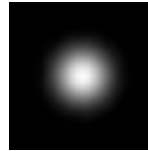
$H[u, v]$

This kernel is an approximation of a 2d Gaussian function:

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



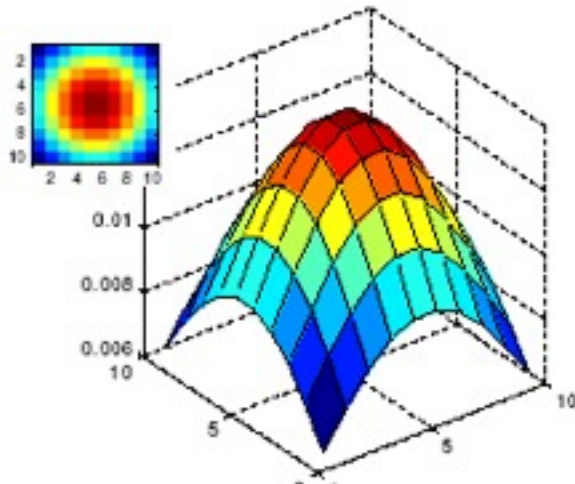
# Smoothing with a Gaussian



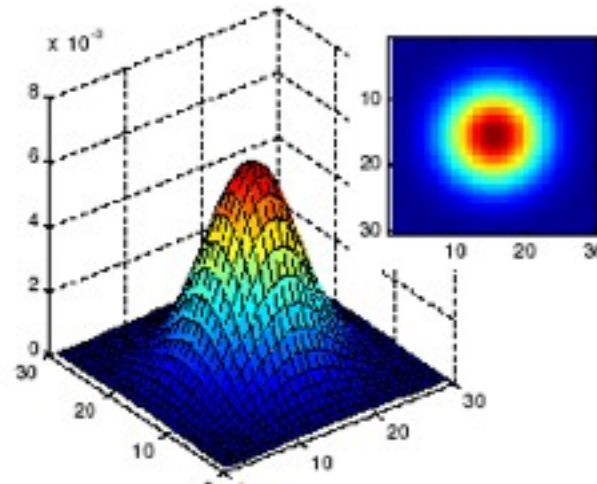


# Gaussian filters

- What parameters matter here?
- **Size** of kernel or mask
  - Note, Gaussian function has infinite support, but discrete filters use finite kernels



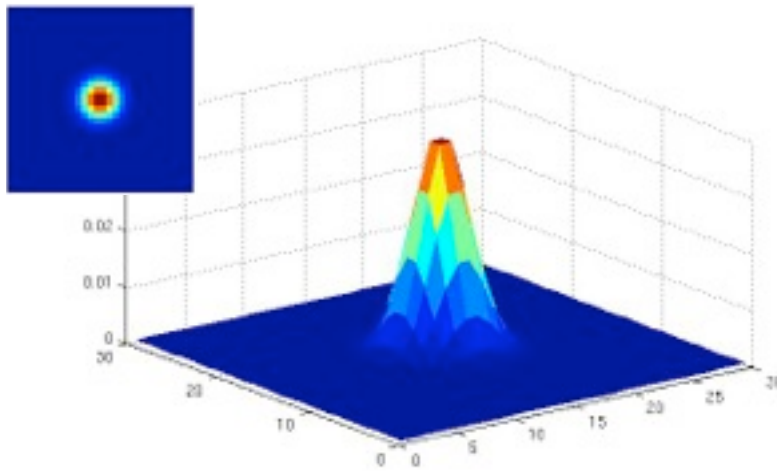
$\sigma = 5$  with  
10 x 10 kernel



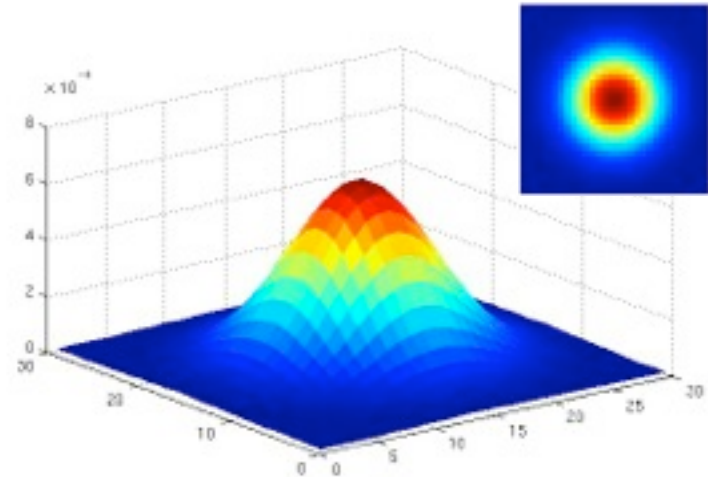
$\sigma = 5$  with  
30 x 30 kernel

# Gaussian filters

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



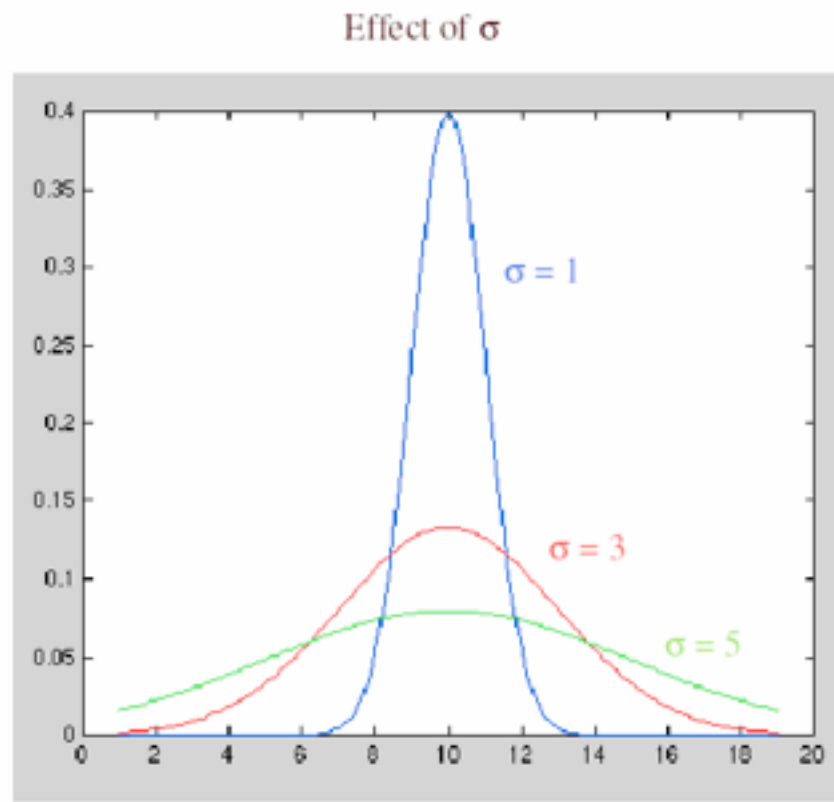
$\sigma = 2$  with  
 $30 \times 30$  kernel



$\sigma = 5$  with  
 $30 \times 30$  kernel

# Choosing kernel width

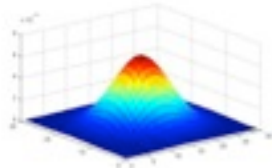
- Rule of thumb: set filter half-width to about  $3\sigma$



# Matlab

```
>> hsize = 10;  
>> sigma = 5;  
>> h = fspecial('gaussian' hsize, sigma);
```

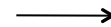
```
>> mesh(h);
```



```
>> imagesc(h);
```



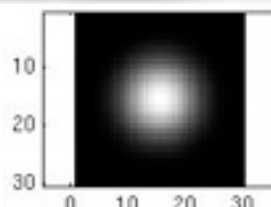
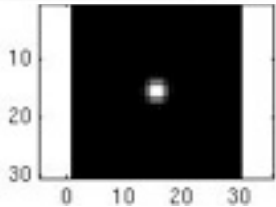
```
>> outim = imfilter(im, h); % correlation  
>> imshow(outim);
```



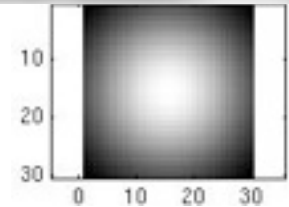
**outim**

# Smoothing with a Gaussian

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



...



```
for sigma=1:3:10
    h = fspecial('gaussian', fsize, sigma);
    out = imfilter(im, h);
    imshow(out);
    pause;
end
```

# Separability

- In some cases, filter is separable, and we can factor into two steps:
  - Convolve all rows
  - Convolve all columns

# Separability of the Gaussian filter

$$\begin{aligned} G_{\sigma}(x, y) &= \frac{1}{2\pi\sigma^2} \exp\left(-\frac{x^2 + y^2}{2\sigma^2}\right) \\ &= \left( \frac{1}{\sqrt{2\pi}\sigma} \exp\left(-\frac{x^2}{2\sigma^2}\right) \right) \left( \frac{1}{\sqrt{2\pi}\sigma} \exp\left(-\frac{y^2}{2\sigma^2}\right) \right) \end{aligned}$$

The 2D Gaussian can be expressed as the product of two functions, one a function of  $x$  and the other a function of  $y$

In this case, the two functions are the (identical) 1D Gaussian

# Separability example

2D convolution  
(center location only)

$$\begin{bmatrix} 1 & 2 & 1 \\ 2 & 4 & 2 \\ 1 & 2 & 1 \end{bmatrix} * \begin{bmatrix} 2 & 3 & 3 \\ 3 & 5 & 5 \\ 4 & 4 & 6 \end{bmatrix}$$

The filter factors  
into a product of 1D  
filters:

$$\begin{bmatrix} 1 & 2 & 1 \\ 2 & 4 & 2 \\ 1 & 2 & 1 \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ 2 \\ 1 \end{bmatrix} \times \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 2 & 1 \end{bmatrix}$$

Perform convolution  
along rows:

$$\begin{bmatrix} 1 & 2 & 1 \end{bmatrix} * \begin{bmatrix} 2 & 3 & 3 \\ 3 & 5 & 5 \\ 4 & 4 & 6 \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} & 11 & \\ & 18 & \\ & 18 & \end{bmatrix}$$

Followed by convolution  
along the remaining column:



# Why is separability useful?

- What is the complexity of filtering an  $n \times n$  image with an  $m \times m$  kernel?
  - $O(n^2 m^2)$
- What if the kernel is separable?
  - $O(n^2 m)$

# Properties of smoothing filters

- Smoothing
  - Values positive
  - Sum to 1  $\rightarrow$  constant regions same as input
  - Amount of smoothing proportional to mask size
  - Remove “high-frequency” components; “low-pass” filter

# Filtering an impulse signal

What is the result of filtering the impulse signal (image)  $F$  with the arbitrary kernel  $H$ ?

|   |   |   |   |   |   |   |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 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 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |

$F[x, y]$



|   |   |   |
|---|---|---|
| a | b | c |
| d | e | f |
| g | h | i |

$H[u, v]$

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |

$G[x, y]$

# Convolution

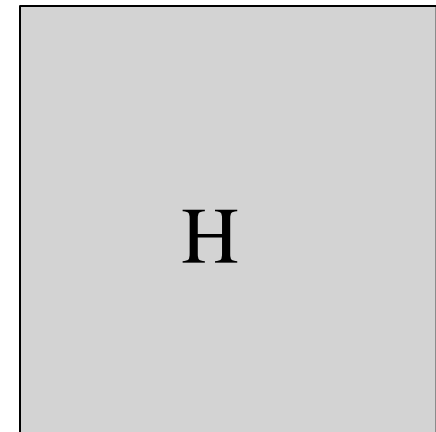
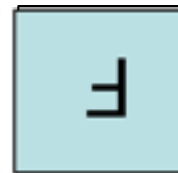
- Convolution:
  - Flip the filter in both dimensions (bottom to top, right to left)
  - Then apply cross-correlation

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

$$G = H \star F$$



*Notation for  
convolution  
operator*



# Convolution vs. Correlation

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

## Convolution

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

$$G = H \star F$$

## Cross-correlation


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


$$G = H \otimes F$$


For a Gaussian or box filter, how will the outputs differ?

If the input is an impulse signal, how will the outputs differ?

# Predict the outputs using correlation filtering


$$* \begin{bmatrix} 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 \end{bmatrix} = ?$$


$$* \begin{bmatrix} 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 \end{bmatrix} = ?$$


$$* \begin{bmatrix} 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 2 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 \end{bmatrix} - \frac{1}{9} \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 1 & 1 \\ 1 & 1 & 1 \\ 1 & 1 & 1 \end{bmatrix} = ?$$

# Practice with linear filters



Original

|   |   |   |
|---|---|---|
| 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 0 | 1 | 0 |
| 0 | 0 | 0 |

?



# Practice with linear filters



Original

|   |   |   |
|---|---|---|
| 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 0 | 1 | 0 |
| 0 | 0 | 0 |



Filtered  
(no change)

# Practice with linear filters



Original

|   |   |   |
|---|---|---|
| 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 0 | 0 | 1 |
| 0 | 0 | 0 |

?

# Practice with linear filters



Original

|   |   |   |
|---|---|---|
| 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 0 | 0 | 1 |
| 0 | 0 | 0 |



Shifted left  
by 1 pixel with  
correlation

# Practice with linear filters



Original

 $\frac{1}{9}$ 

|   |   |   |
|---|---|---|
| 1 | 1 | 1 |
| 1 | 1 | 1 |
| 1 | 1 | 1 |

?

# Practice with linear filters



Original

$$\frac{1}{9}$$

|   |   |   |
|---|---|---|
| 1 | 1 | 1 |
| 1 | 1 | 1 |
| 1 | 1 | 1 |



Blur (with a  
box filter)

# Practice with linear filters



Original

|   |   |   |
|---|---|---|
| 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 0 | 2 | 0 |
| 0 | 0 | 0 |

-

$\frac{1}{9}$

|   |   |   |
|---|---|---|
| 1 | 1 | 1 |
| 1 | 1 | 1 |
| 1 | 1 | 1 |

?

# Practice with linear filters



Original

|   |   |   |
|---|---|---|
| 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 0 | 2 | 0 |
| 0 | 0 | 0 |

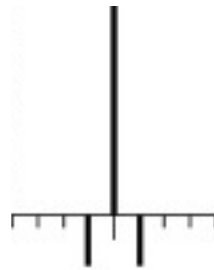
-

$$\frac{1}{9}$$

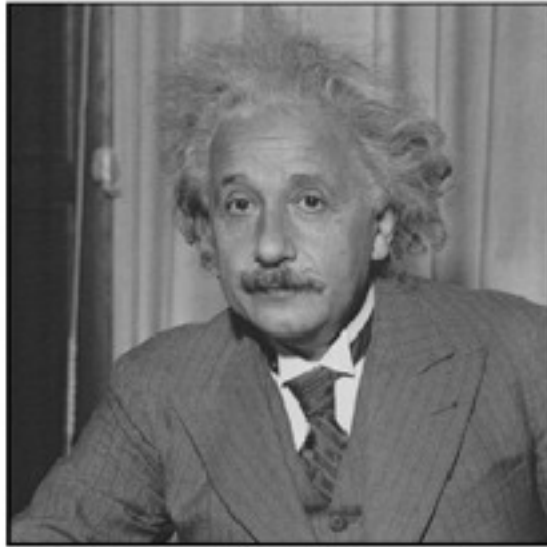
|   |   |   |
|---|---|---|
| 1 | 1 | 1 |
| 1 | 1 | 1 |
| 1 | 1 | 1 |



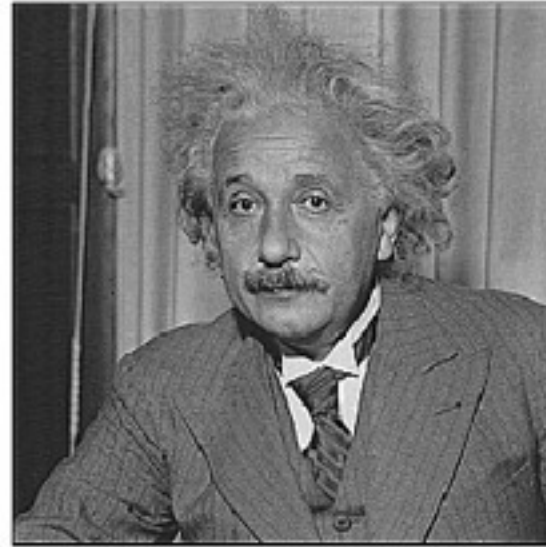
Sharpening filter:  
accentuates differences with  
local average



# Filtering examples: sharpening



before



after



# Sharpening

- What does blurring take away?



Let's add it back:



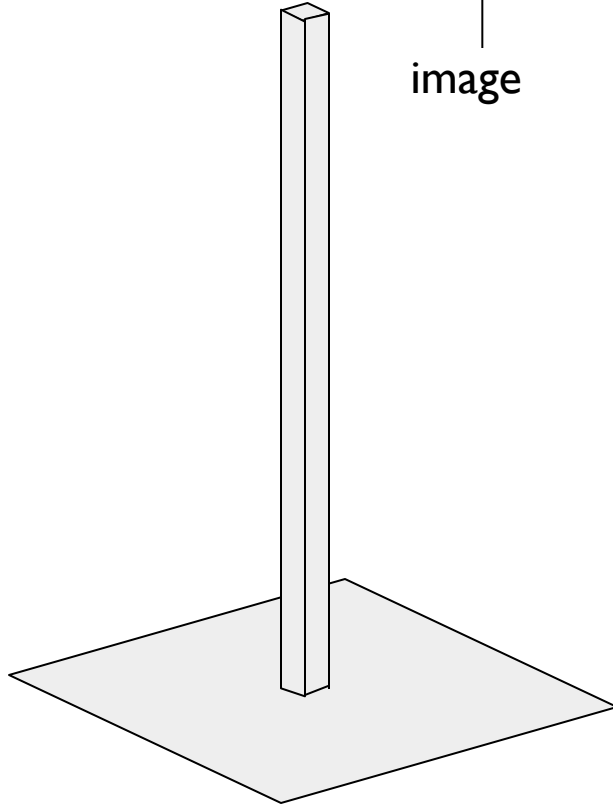
# Unsharp mask filter

$$f + \alpha(f - f * g) = (1 + \alpha)f - \alpha f * g = f * ((1 + \alpha)e - g)$$

image

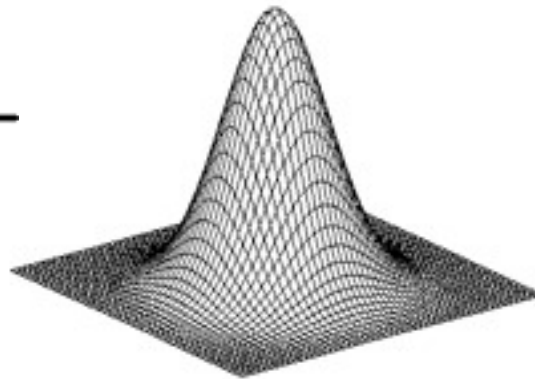
blurred  
image

unit impulse  
(identity)



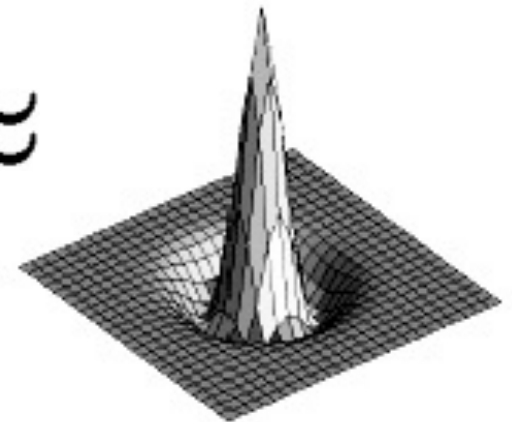
unit impulse

—



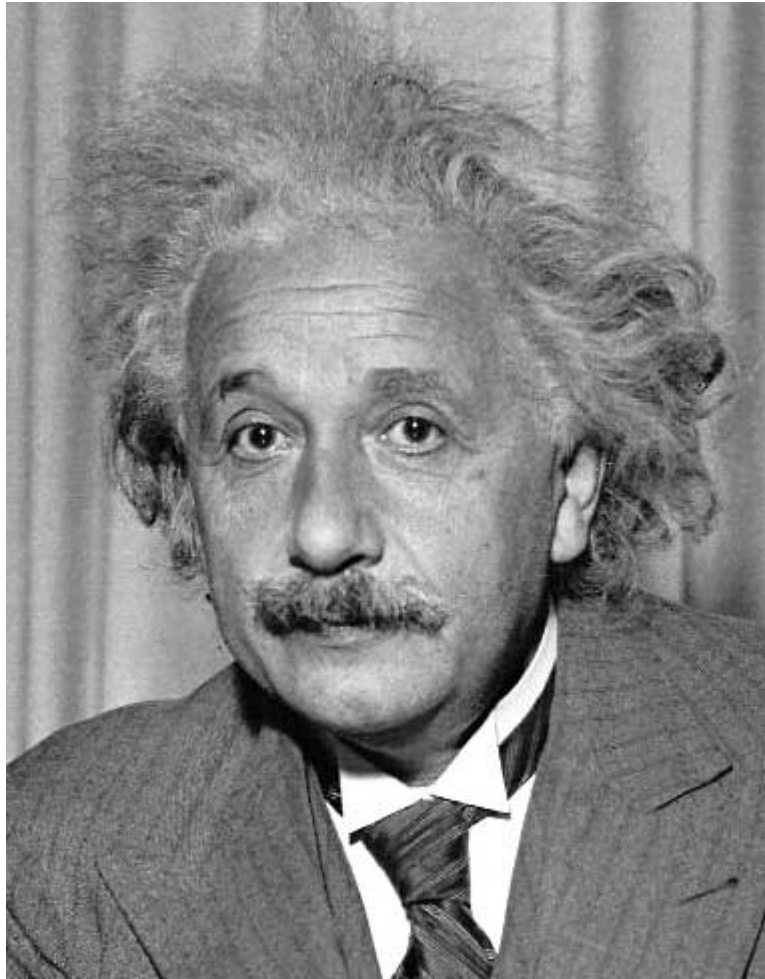
Gaussian

≈



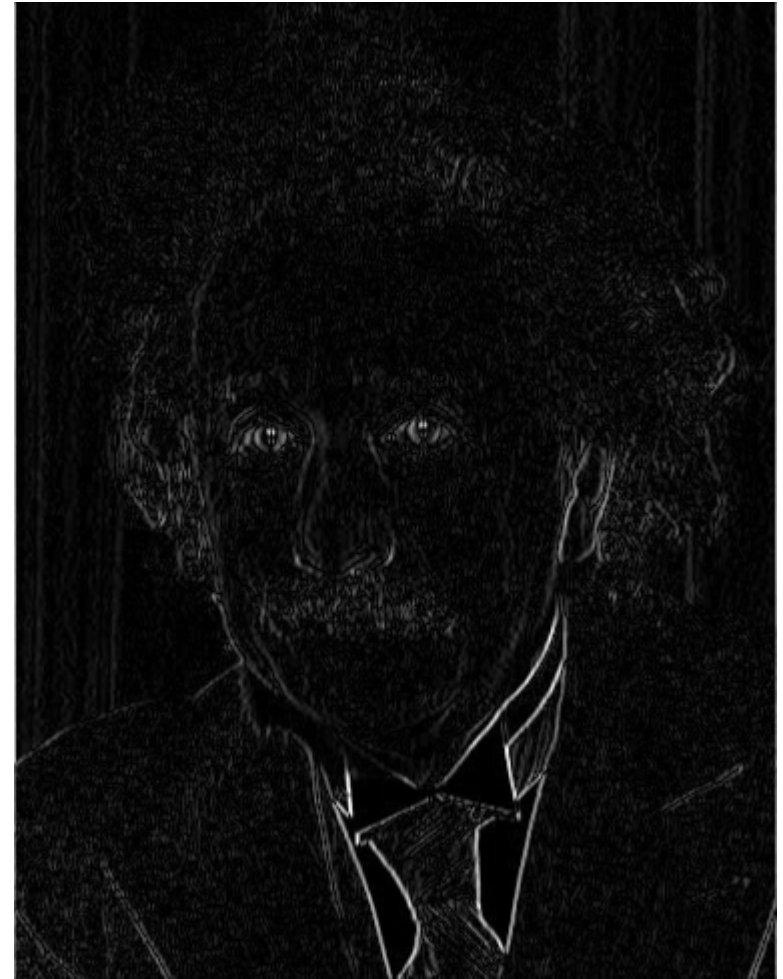
Laplacian of Gaussian

# Other filters



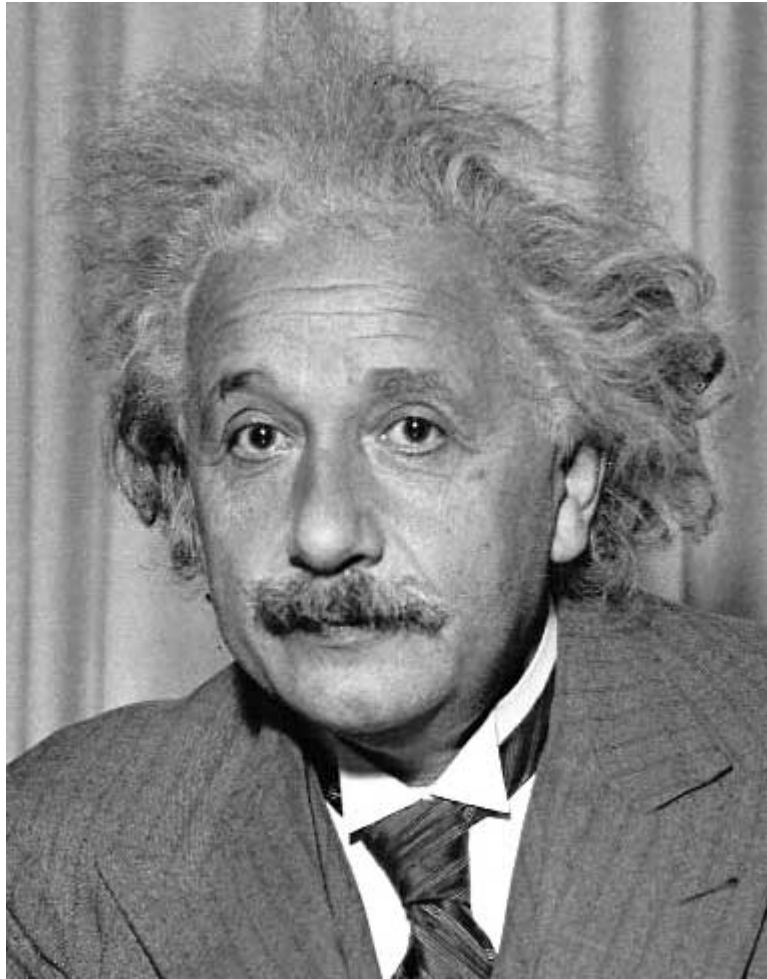
|   |   |    |
|---|---|----|
| 1 | 0 | -1 |
| 2 | 0 | -2 |
| 1 | 0 | -1 |

Sobel



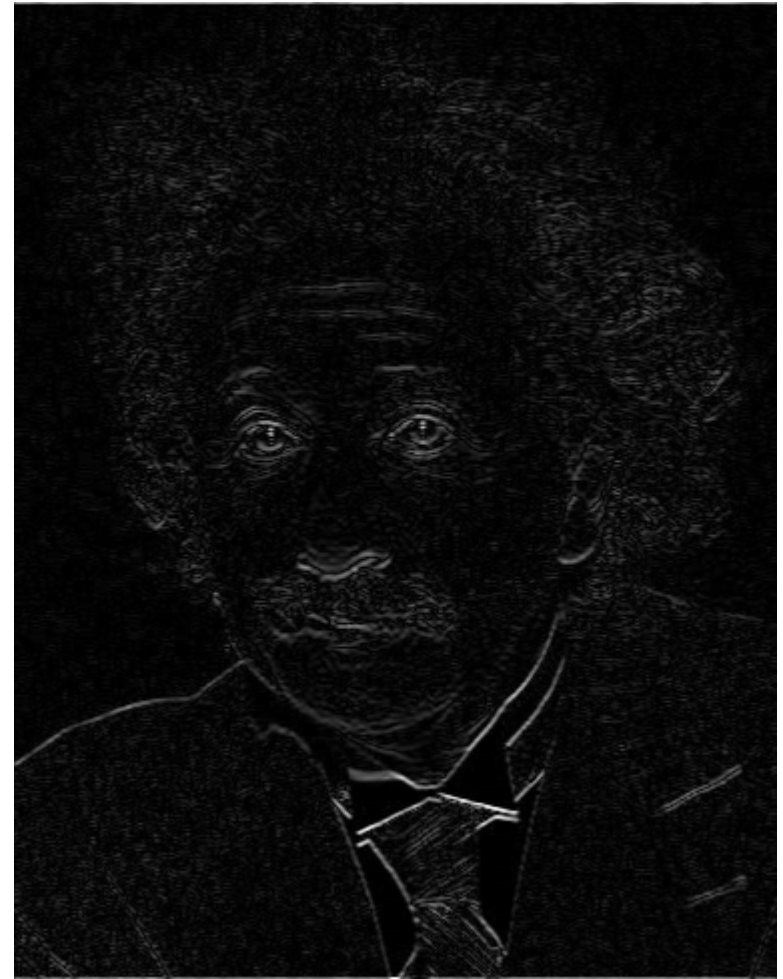
Vertical Edge  
(absolute value)

# Other filters



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

Sobel

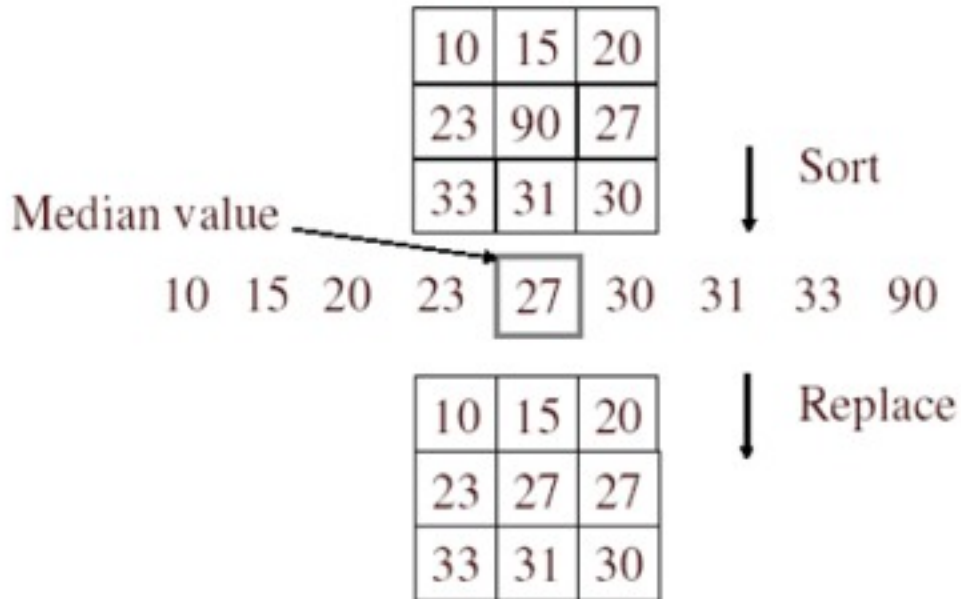


Horizontal Edge  
(absolute value)

# Median filters

- A **Median Filter** operates over a window by selecting the median intensity in the window.
- What advantage does a median filter have over a mean filter?
- Is a median filter a kind of convolution?

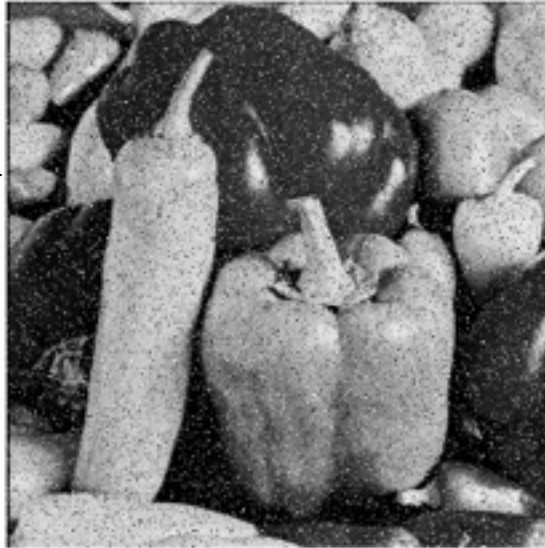
# Median filter



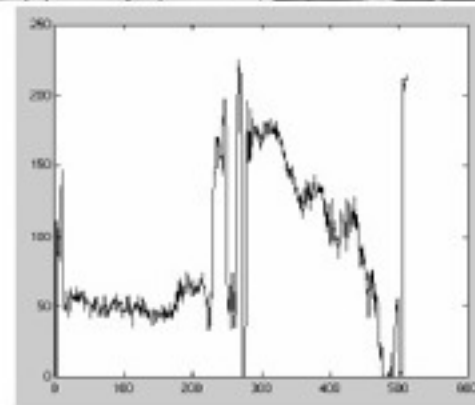
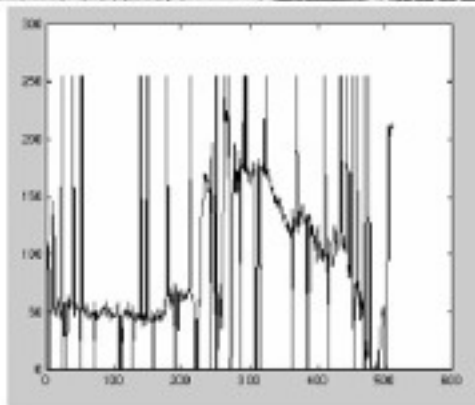
- No new pixel values introduced
- Removes spikes: good for impulse, salt & pepper noise
- Non-linear filter

# Median filter

Salt and  
pepper  
noise



Median  
filtered



Plots of a row of the image

**Matlab:** `output im = medfilt2(im, [h w]);`

# Median filter

- What advantage does median filtering have over Gaussian filtering?
  - Robustness to outliers
  - Median filter is edge preserving

filters have width 5 :

