The Frequency Domain



Somewhere in Cinque Terre, May 2005

15-463: Computational Photography Alexei Efros, CMU, Fall 2007

Many slides borrowed from Steve Seitz



Salvador Dali

"Gala Contemplating the Mediterranean Sea, which at 30 meters becomes the portrait of Abraham Lincoln", 1976





A nice set of basis

Teases away fast vs. slow changes in the image.



This change of basis has a special name...

Jean Baptiste Joseph Fourier (1768-1830)

had crazy idea (1807): **Any** periodic function can be rewritten as a weighted sum of sines and cosines of different frequencies.

Don't believe it?

- Neither did Lagrange, Laplace, Poisson and other big wigs
- Not translated into English until 1878!
- But it's true!
 - called Fourier Series



A sum of sines

Our building block:

 $A\sin(\omega x + \phi)$

Add enough of them to get any signal f(x) you want!

How many degrees of freedom?

What does each control?

Which one encodes the coarse vs. fine structure of the signal?



Fourier Transform

We want to understand the frequency ω of our signal. So, let's reparametrize the signal by ω instead of *x*:



For every ω from 0 to inf, $F(\omega)$ holds the amplitude A and phase ϕ of the corresponding sine $A \sin(\omega x + \phi)$

• How can *F* hold both? Complex number trick!

$$F(\omega) = R(\omega) + iI(\omega)$$
$$A = \pm \sqrt{R(\omega)^2 + I(\omega)^2} \qquad \phi = \tan^{-1} \frac{I(\omega)}{R(\omega)}$$

We can always go back:

$$\begin{array}{c} F(\omega) \longrightarrow & \text{Inverse Fourier} \\ & \text{Transform} \end{array} \longrightarrow f(x) \end{array}$$

Time and Frequency

example : g(t) = sin(2pf t) + (1/3)sin(2p(3f) t)



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Usually, frequency is more interesting than the phase

















Extension to 2D



in Matlab, check out: imagesc(log(abs(fftshift(fft2(im)))));

Man-made Scene





Can change spectrum, then reconstruct



Low and High Pass filtering





The Convolution Theorem

The greatest thing since sliced (banana) bread!

- The Fourier transform of the convolution of two functions is the product of their Fourier transforms F[g * h] = F[g]F[h]
- The inverse Fourier transform of the product of two Fourier transforms is the convolution of the two inverse Fourier transforms

$$F^{-1}[gh] = F^{-1}[g] * F^{-1}[h]$$

• **Convolution** in spatial domain is equivalent to **multiplication** in frequency domain!

Fourier Transform pairs



2D convolution theorem example





 $|F(s_x, s_y)|$

 $|H(s_x, s_y)|$

 $|G(s_x, s_y)|$

g(x,y)

Low-pass, Band-pass, High-pass filters

low-pass:



High-pass / band-pass:







Edges in images



What does blurring take away?



original

What does blurring take away?



smoothed (5x5 Gaussian)

High-Pass filter



smoothed - original

Band-pass filtering

Gaussian Pyramid (low-pass images)









Laplacian Pyramid



How can we reconstruct (collapse) this pyramid into the original image?

```
Why Laplacian?
```



Unsharp Masking



Image gradient

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

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

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

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

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

The gradient direction is given by:

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

• how does this relate to the direction of the edge?

The *edge strength* is given by the gradient magnitude

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

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



Where is the edge? Look for peaks in $\frac{\partial}{\partial x}(h \star f)$

Derivative theorem of convolution

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

This saves us one operation:



Laplacian of Gaussian



Where is the edge?

Zero-crossings of bottom graph

2D edge detection filters



 ∇^2 is the **Laplacian** operator:

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

```
g = fspecial('gaussian',15,2);
imagesc(g)
surfl(g)
gclown = conv2(clown,g,'same');
imagesc(conv2(clown, [-1 1], 'same'));
imagesc(conv2(gclown,[-1 1],'same'));
dx = conv2(g, [-1 \ 1], 'same');
imagesc(conv2(clown,dx,'same'));
lg = fspecial('log', 15, 2);
lclown = conv2(clown,lg,'same');
imagesc(lclown)
imagesc(clown + .2*lclown)
```

Campbell-Robson contrast sensitivity curve



Depends on Color



Lossy Image Compression (JPEG)



Block-based Discrete Cosine Transform (DCT)

Using DCT in JPEG

A variant of discrete Fourier transform

- Real numbers
- Fast implementation

Block size

- small block
 - faster
 - correlation exists between neighboring pixels
- large block
 - better compression in smooth regions

Using DCT in JPEG

The first coefficient B(0,0) is the DC component, the average intensity

The top-left coeffs represent low frequencies, the bottom right – high frequencies



Image compression using DCT

DCT enables image compression by concentrating most image information in the low frequencies

Loose unimportant image info (high frequencies) by cutting B(u,v) at bottom right

The decoder computes the inverse DCT – IDCT

•Quantization Table



JPEG compression comparison



89k



12k