

# Computer Vision - Lecture 2

## Binary Image Analysis

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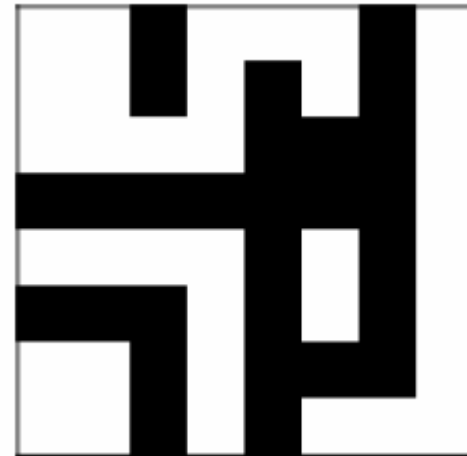
# Announcements

- **Course webpage**
  - <http://www.vision.rwth-aachen.de/courses/>
  - Slides will be made available on the webpage
- **L2P electronic repository**
  - Exercises and supplementary materials will be posted on the L2P
- **Please subscribe to the lecture on the Campus system!**
  - Important to get email announcements and L2P access!
  - Bachelor students please also subscribe

# Binary Images

- Just two pixel values
- Foreground and background
- Regions of interest

1	1	0	1	1	1	0	1
1	1	0	1	0	1	0	1
1	1	1	1	0	0	0	1
0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
1	1	1	1	0	1	0	1
0	0	0	1	0	1	0	1
1	1	0	1	0	0	0	1
1	1	0	1	0	1	1	1



# Uses: Industrial Inspection

Fig. 3 Schematic diagram of marking inspection setup at Texas Instruments

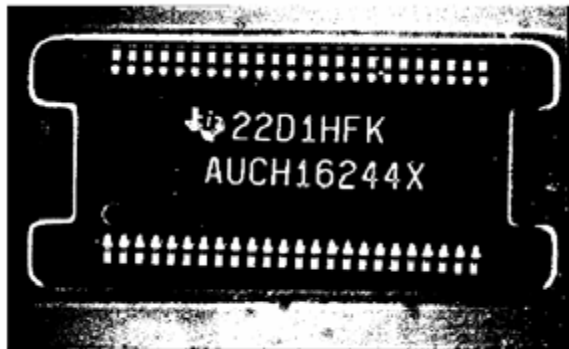
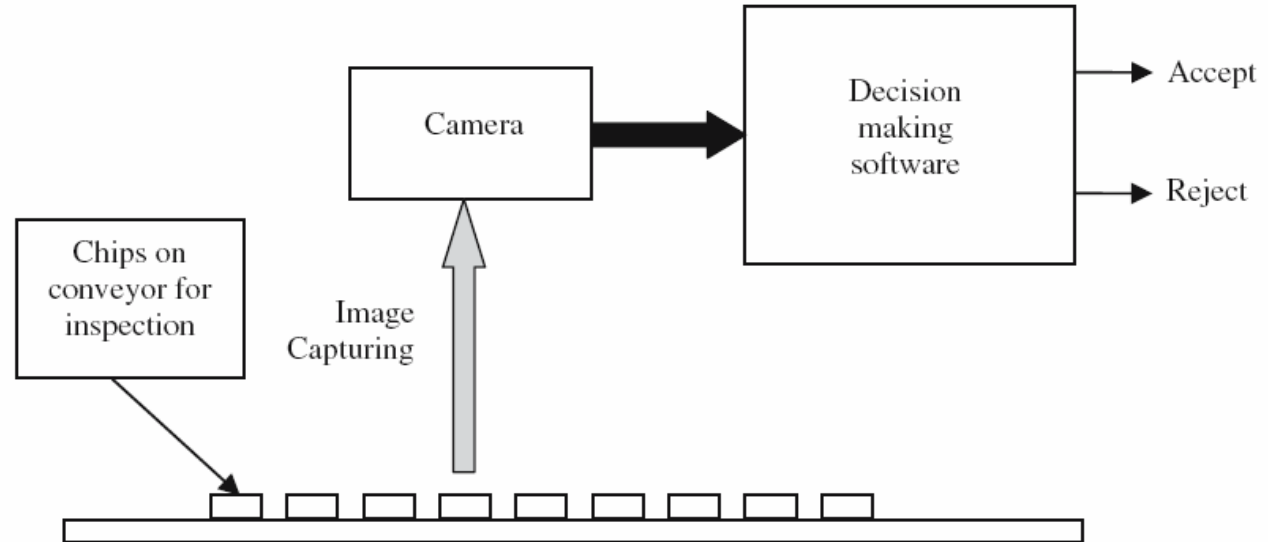
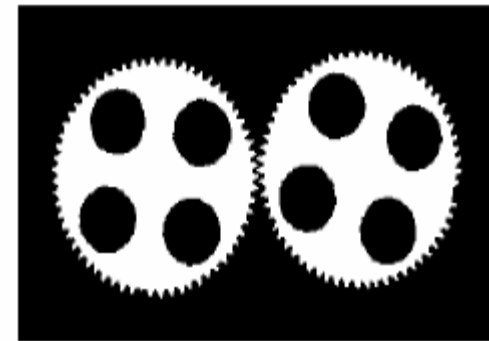


Fig. 7 Binarized image



Fig. 9 Row sum for separating a row



# Uses: Document Analysis, Text Recognition

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

Handwritten digits

Natural text (after detection)



Scanned documents

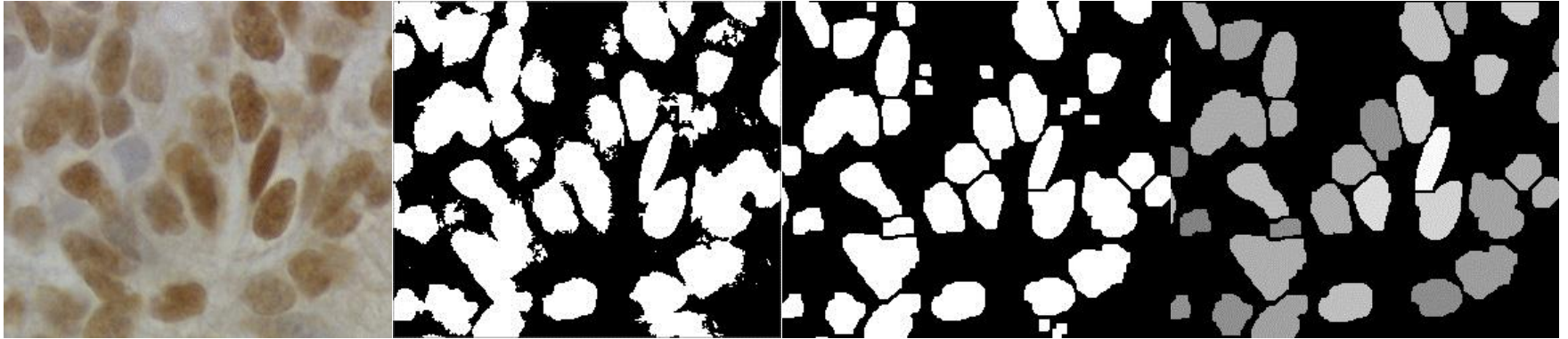


B. Leibe

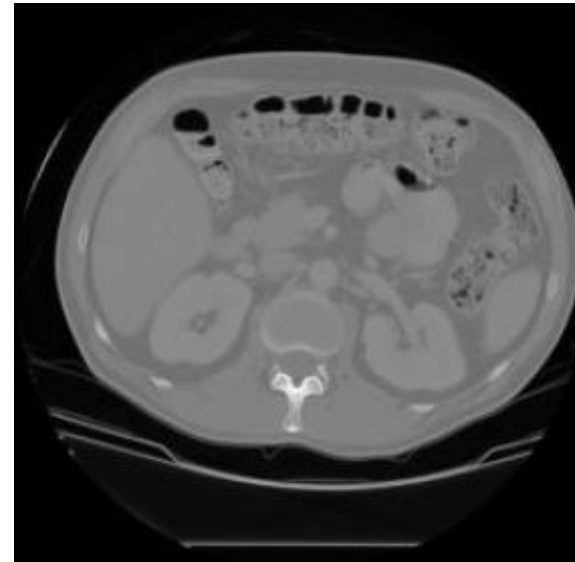
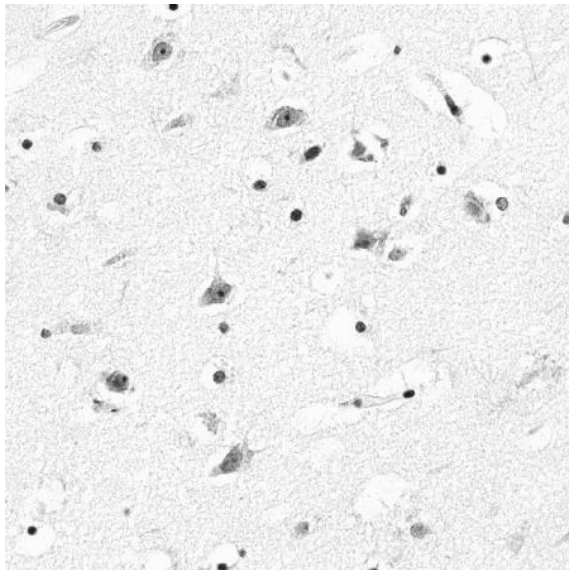


Source: Till Quack, Martin Renold

# Uses: Medical/Bio Data

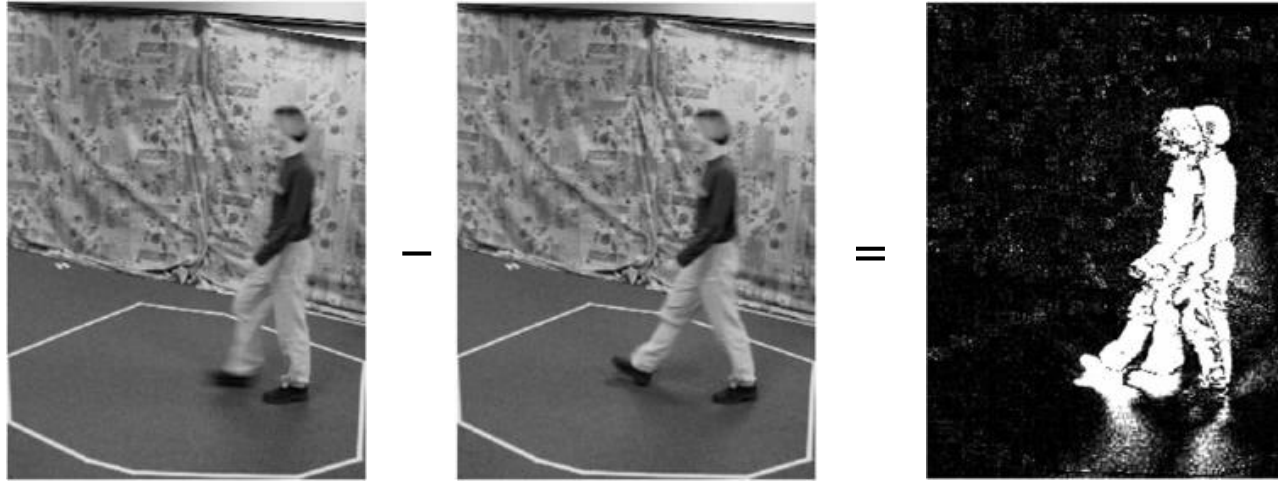


Source: D. Kim et al., Cytometry 35(1), 1999



# Uses: Blob Tracking & Motion Analysis

## Frame Differencing



Source: Kristen Grauman

## Background Subtraction



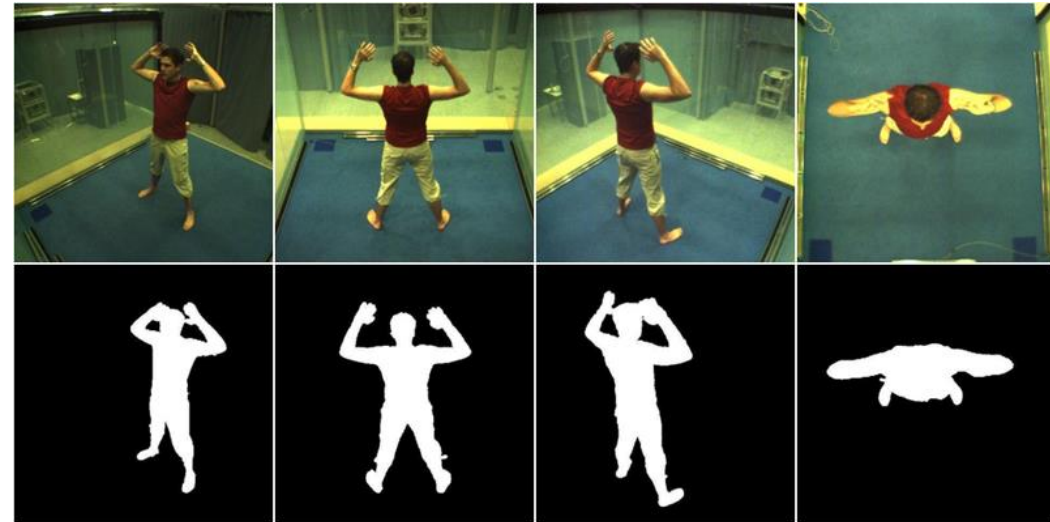
Source: Tobias Jäggli

# Uses: Shape Analysis, Free-Viewpoint Video

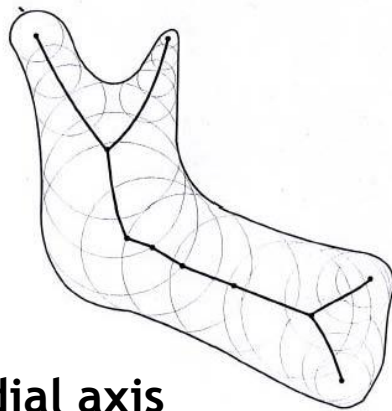
## Visual Hull Reconstruction



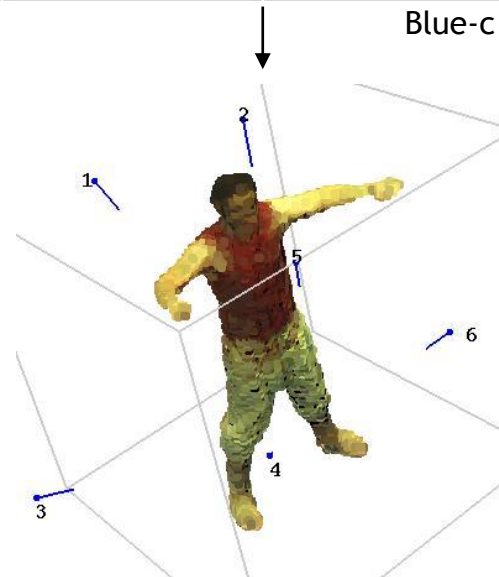
Silhouette



Blue-c project, ETH Zurich



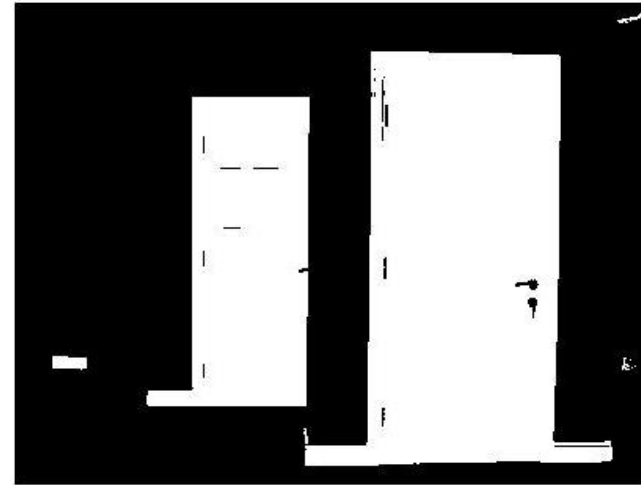
Medial axis





# Uses: Intensity Based Detection

- Looking for dark pixels...



```
fg_pix = find(im < 65);
```

# Uses: Color Based Detection

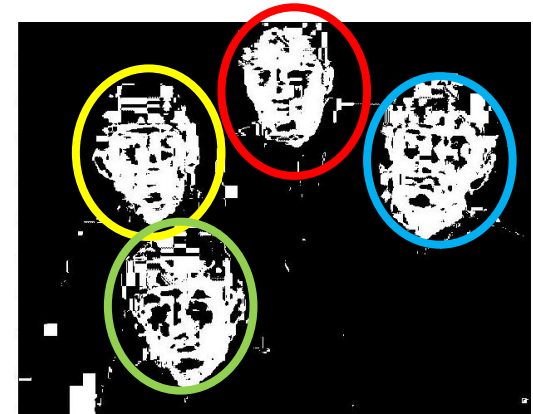
- Looking for pixels within a certain color range...



```
fg_pix = find(hue > t1 & hue < t2);
```

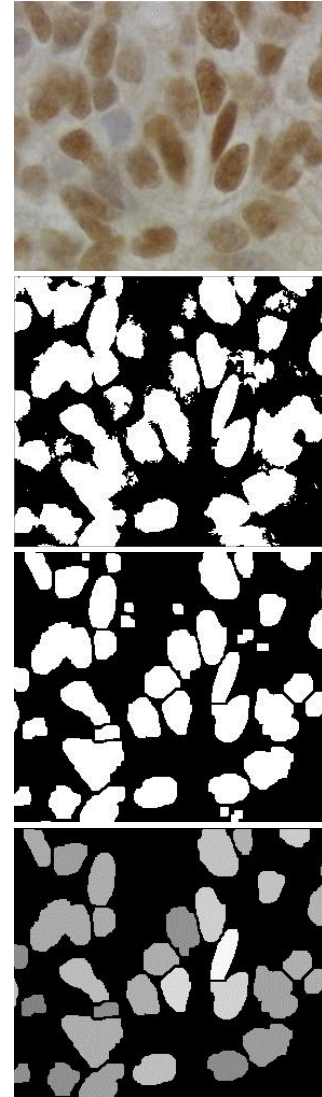
# Issues

- How to demarcate multiple regions of interest?
  - Count objects
  - Compute further features per object
- What to do with “noisy” binary outputs?
  - Holes
  - Extra small fragments



# Outline of Today's Lecture

- Convert the image into binary form
  - Thresholding
- Clean up the thresholded image
  - Morphological operators
- Extract individual objects
  - Connected Components Labeling
- Describe the objects
  - Region properties



# Thresholding

- Grayscale image  $\Rightarrow$  Binary mask
- Different variants
  - One-sided

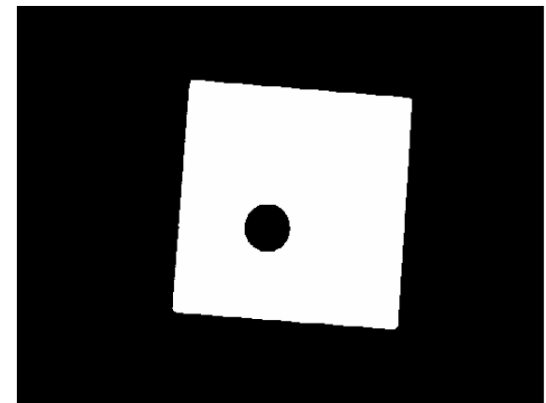
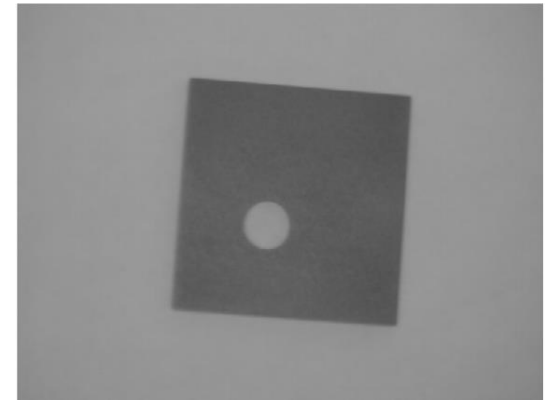
$$F_T[i, j] = \begin{cases} 1, & \text{if } F[i, j] \geq T \\ 0, & \text{otherwise} \end{cases}$$

- Two-sided

$$F_T[i, j] = \begin{cases} 1, & \text{if } T_1 \leq F[i, j] \leq T_2 \\ 0, & \text{otherwise} \end{cases}$$

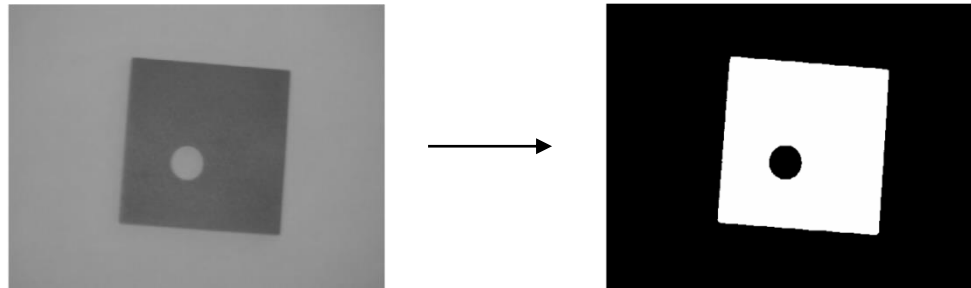
- Set membership

$$F_T[i, j] = \begin{cases} 1, & \text{if } F[i, j] \in Z \\ 0, & \text{otherwise} \end{cases}$$



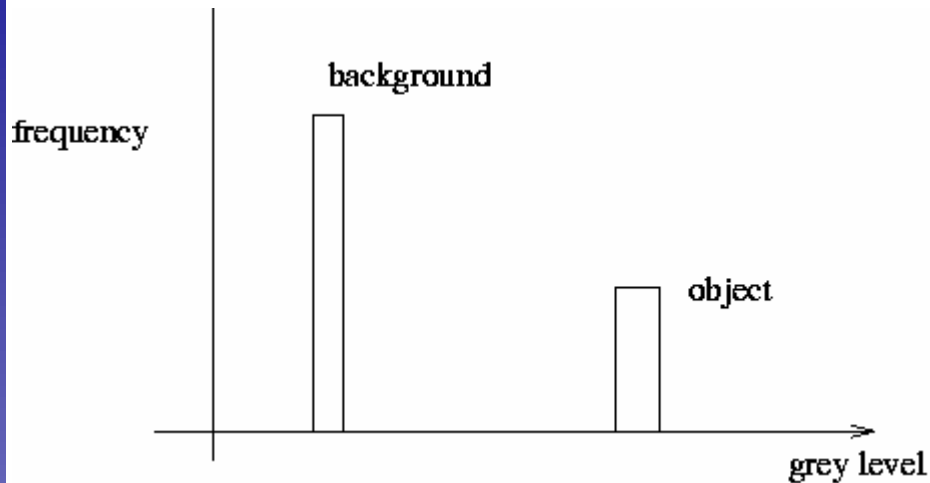
# Selecting Thresholds

- Typical scenario
  - Separate an object from a distinct background

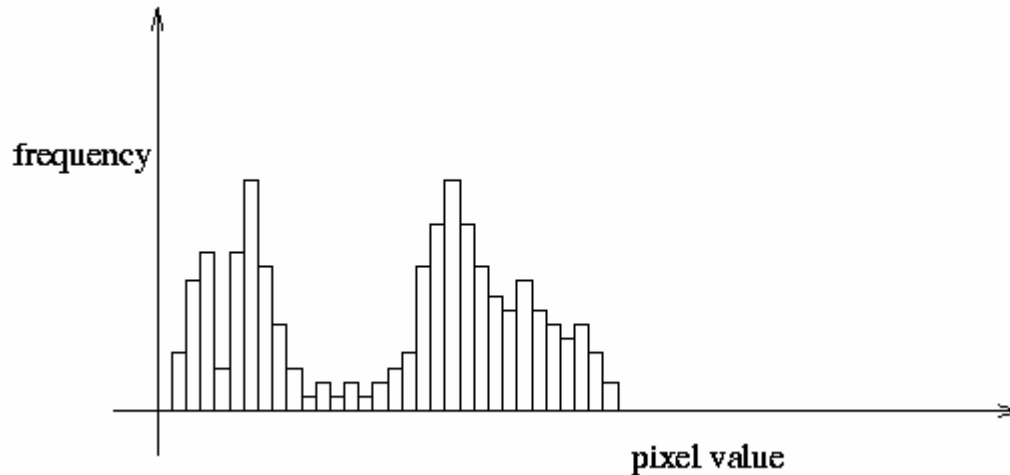


- Try to separate the different grayvalue distributions
  - Partition a bimodal histogram
  - Fit a parametric distribution (e.g. Mixture of Gaussians)
  - Dynamic or local thresholds
- In the following, I will present some simple methods.
  - We will then see some more general methods in Lecture 6...

# A Nice Case: Bimodal Intensity Histograms



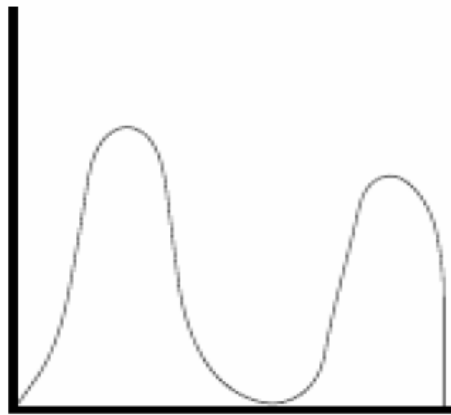
Ideal histogram,  
light object on  
dark background



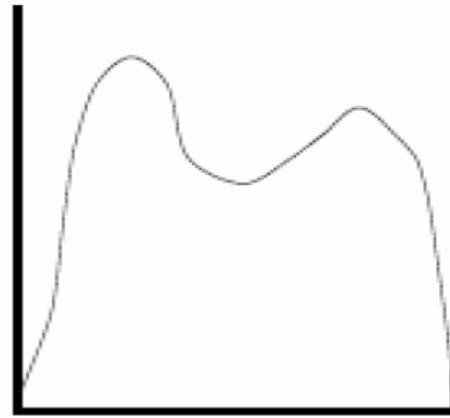
Actual observed  
histogram with  
noise

# Not so Nice Cases...

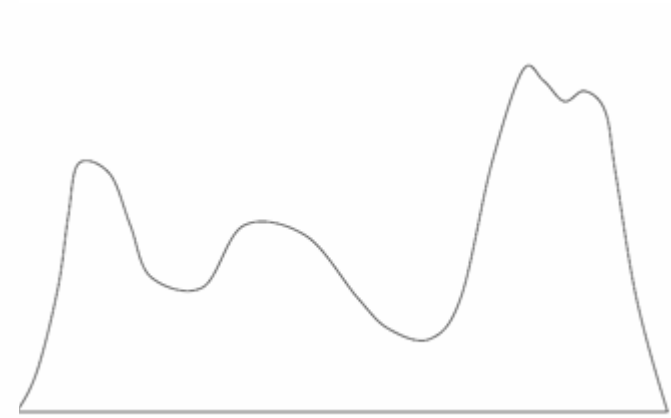
- How to separate those?



Two distinct modes



Overlapping modes



Multiple modes

- Threshold selection is difficult in the general case
  - Domain knowledge often helps
  - E.g. Fraction of text on a document page ( $\Rightarrow$  histogram quantile)
  - E.g. Size of objects/structure elements



# Global Binarization [Otsu'79]

- Search for the threshold  $T$  that minimizes the within-class variance  $\sigma_{within}$  of the two classes separated by  $T$

$$\sigma_{within}^2(T) = n_1(T)\sigma_1^2 + n_2(T)\sigma_2^2(T)$$

where

$$n_1(T) = |\{I_{(x,y)} < T\}|, \quad n_2(T) = |\{I_{(x,y)} \geq T\}|$$

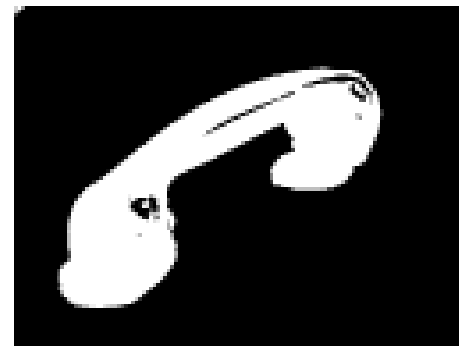
- This is the same as maximizing the between-class variance  $\sigma_{between}$

$$\begin{aligned}\sigma_{between}^2(T) &= \sigma^2 - \sigma_{within}^2(T) \\ &= n_1(T)n_2(T) [\mu_1(T) - \mu_2(T)]^2\end{aligned}$$

# Algorithm

1. Precompute a cumulative grayvalue histogram  $h$ .
2. For each potential threshold  $T$ 
  - a) Separate the pixels into two clusters according to  $T$
  - b) Look up  $n_1, n_2$  in  $h$  and compute both cluster means
  - c) Compute  $\sigma_{between}^2(T) = n_1(T)n_2(T) [\mu_1(T) - \mu_2(T)]^2$
3. Choose

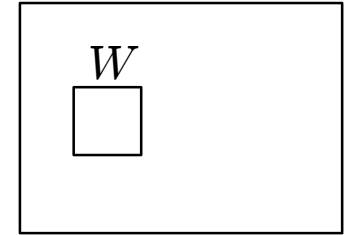
$$T^* = \arg \max_T [\sigma_{between}^2(T)]$$



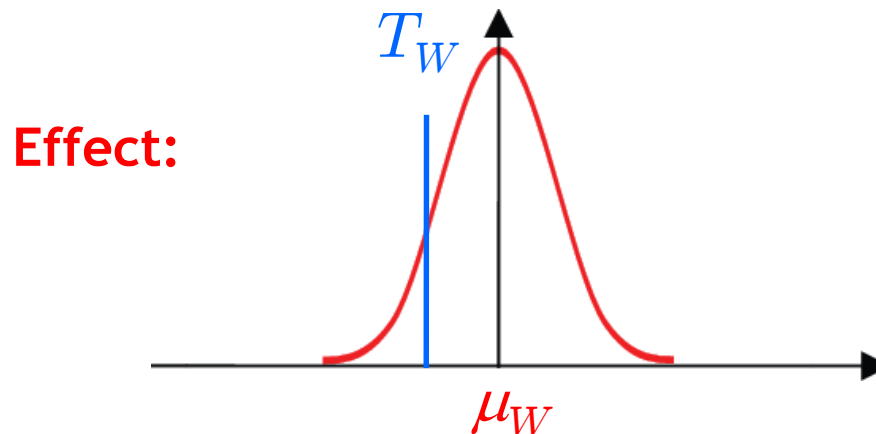
# Local Binarization [Niblack'86]

- Estimate a local threshold within a small neighborhood window  $W$

$$T_W = \mu_W + k \cdot \sigma_W$$

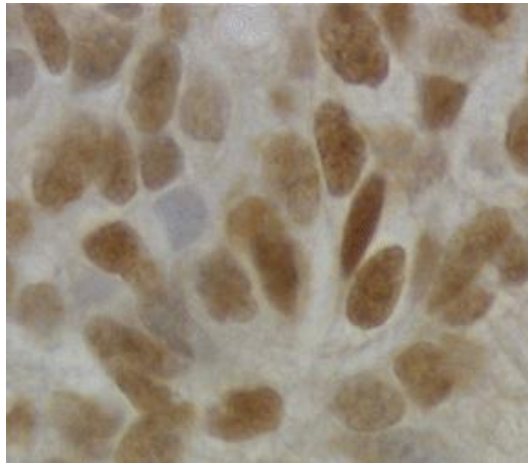


where  $k \in [-1,0]$  is a user-defined parameter.

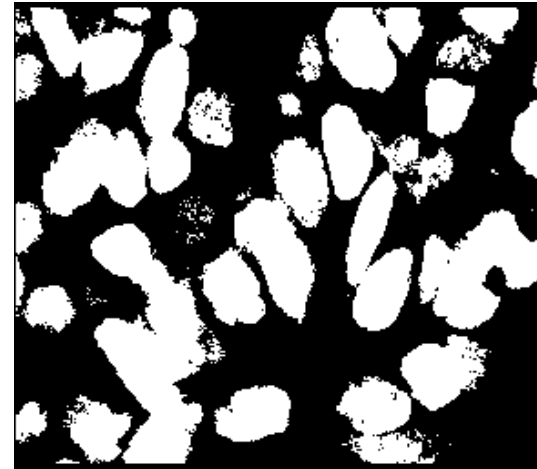
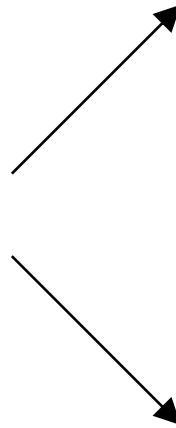


What is the hidden assumption here?

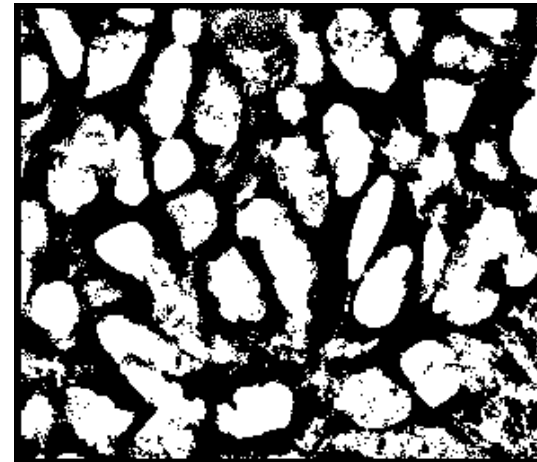
# Effects



Original image



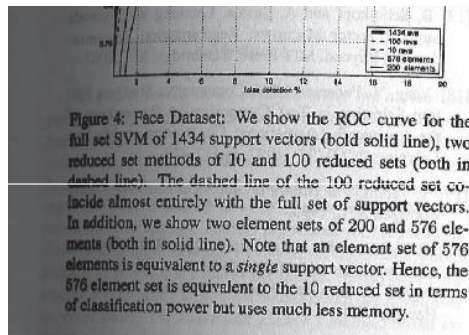
Global threshold selection  
(Otsu)



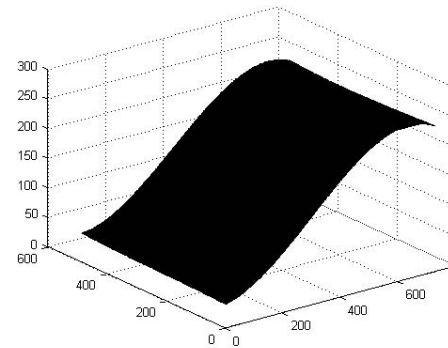
Local threshold selection  
(Niblack)

# Additional Improvements

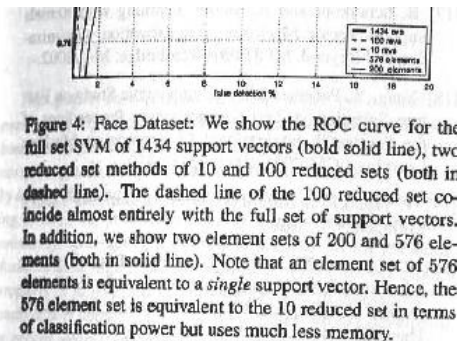
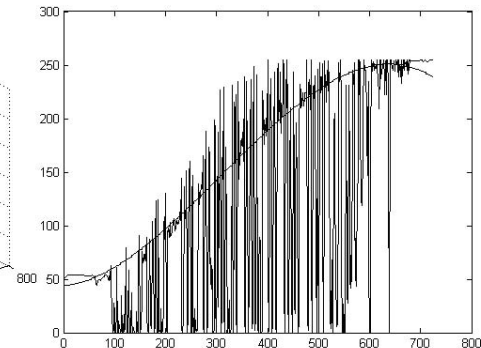
- Document images often contain a smooth gradient  
 ⇒ *Try to fit that gradient with a polynomial function*



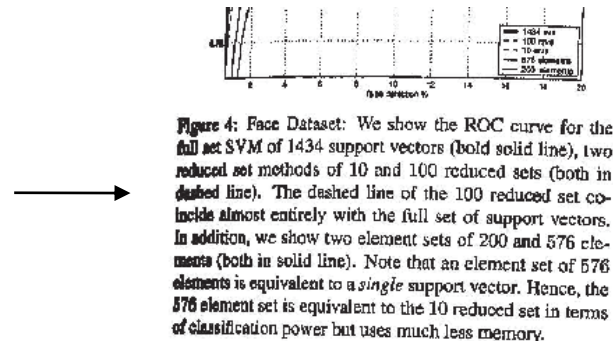
Original image



Fitted surface



Shading compensation



Binarized result



# Surface Fitting

- **Iterative Algorithm**

- 1.) Fit parametric surface to all points in region.

- 2.) Subtract estimated surface.

- 3.) Apply global threshold (e.g. with Otsu method)

} *Initial  
guess*

- 4.) Fit surface to all *background* pixels in original region.

- 5.) Subtract estimated surface.

- 6.) Apply global threshold (Otsu)

} *Refined  
guess*

- 7.) *Iterate further if needed...*

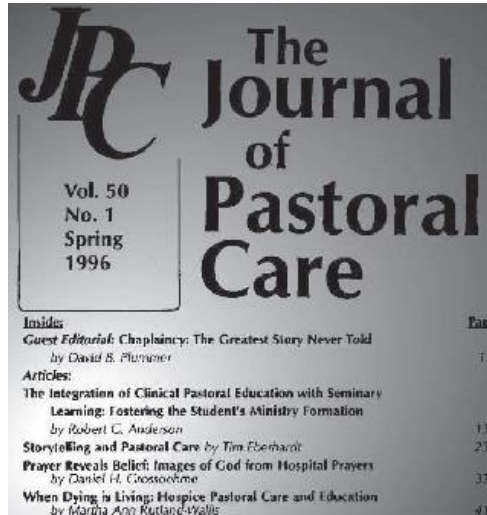
- **The first pass also takes foreground pixels into account.**

- This is corrected in the following passes.

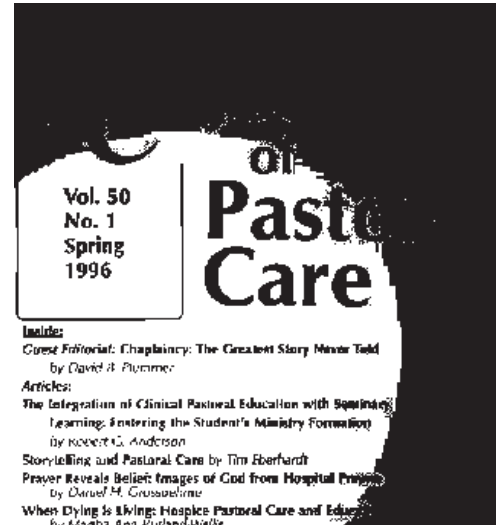
- Basic assumption here: most pixels belong to the background.

# Result Comparison

Original image



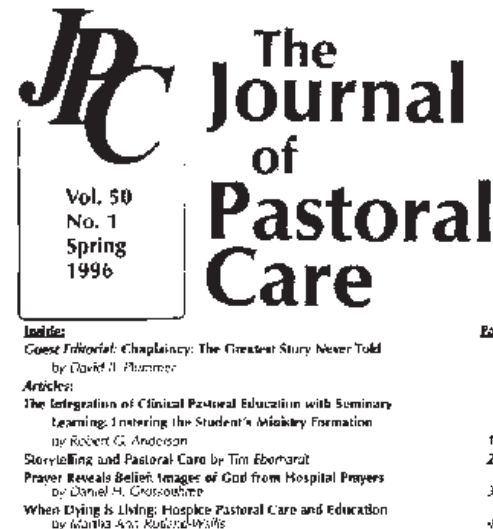
Global (Otsu)



Local (Niblack)



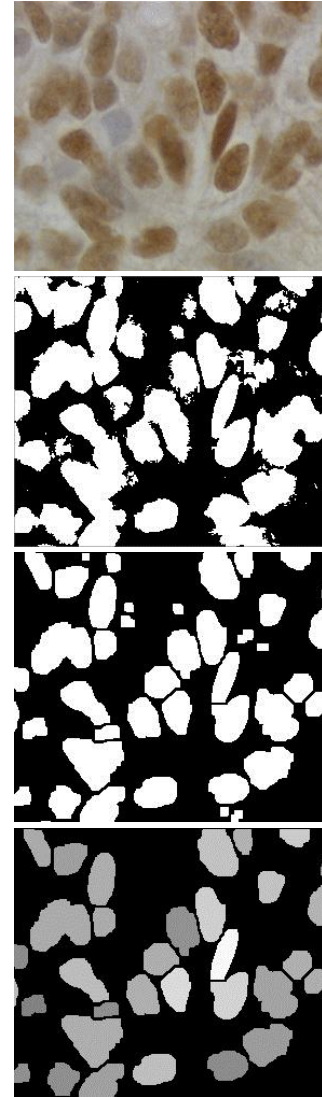
Polynomial + Global





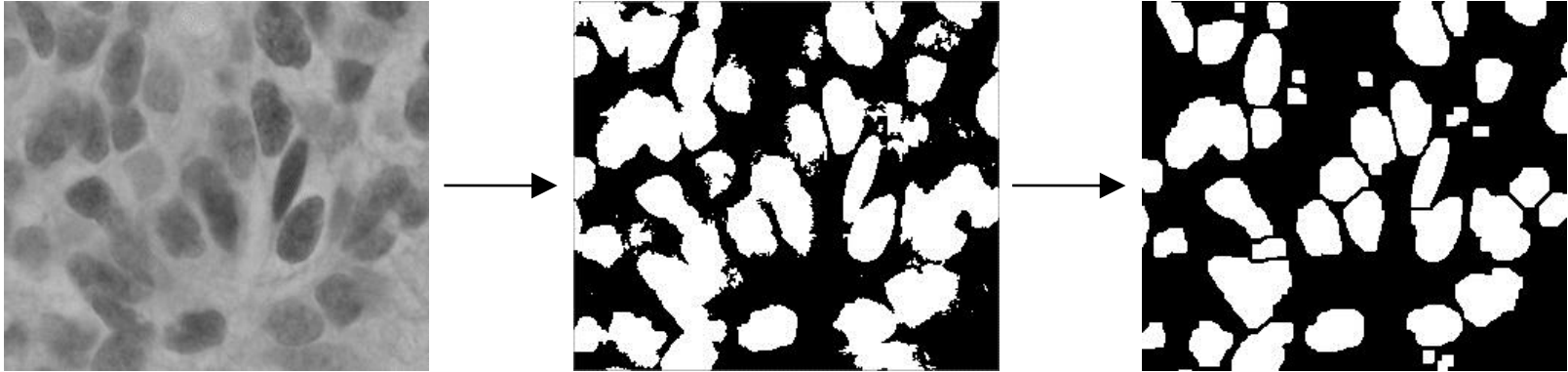
# Outline of Today's Lecture

- Convert the image into binary form
  - Thresholding
- Clean up the thresholded image
  - Morphological operators
- Extract individual objects
  - Connected Components Labeling
- Describe the objects
  - Region properties



# Cleaning the Binarized Results

- Results of thresholding often still contain noise



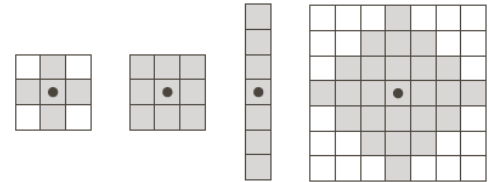
- Necessary cleaning operations
  - Remove isolated points and small structures
  - Fill holes

⇒ Morphological Operators

# Morphological Operators

- **Basic idea**

- Scan the image with a structuring element
- Perform set operations (intersection, union) of image content with structuring element



Matlab:

```
>> help strel
```

- **Two basic operations**

- **Dilation** (Matlab: `imdilate`)
- **Erosion** (Matlab: `imerode`)

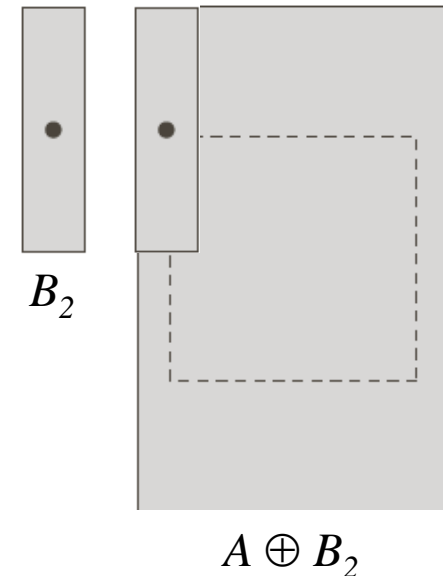
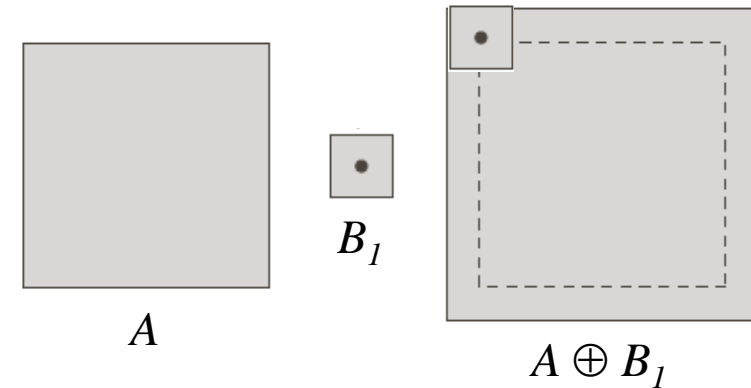
- **Several important combinations**

- **Opening** (Matlab: `imopen`)
- **Closing** (Matlab: `imclose`)
- **Boundary extraction**

# Dilation

- **Definition**

- “The dilation of  $A$  by  $B$  is the set of all displacements  $z$ , such that  $(\hat{B})_z$  and  $A$  overlap by at least one element”.
  - $(\hat{B})_z$  is the mirrored version of  $B$ , shifted by  $z$



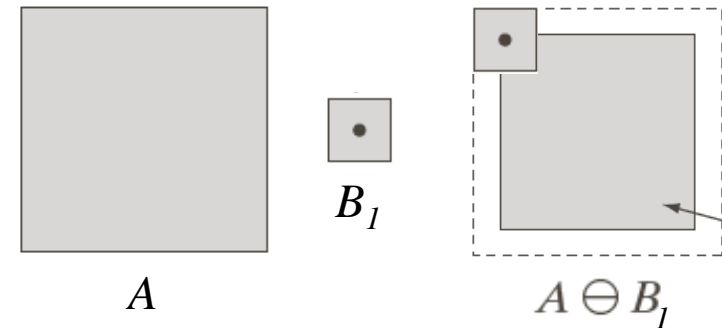
- **Effects**

- If current pixel  $z$  is foreground, set all pixels under  $(B)_z$  to foreground.
  - ⇒ Expand connected components
  - ⇒ Grow features
  - ⇒ Fill holes

# Erosion

- Definition

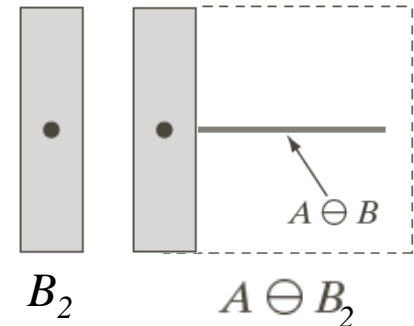
- “The erosion of  $A$  by  $B$  is the set of all displacements  $z$ , such that  $(B)_z$  is entirely contained in  $A$ ”.



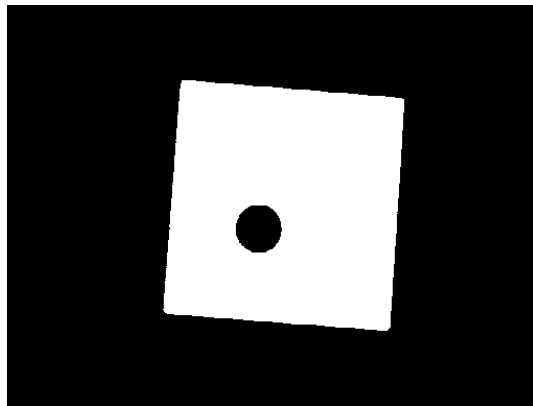
- Effects

- If not every pixel under  $(B)_z$  is foreground, set the current pixel  $z$  to background.

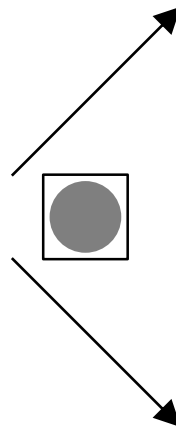
- ⇒ Erode connected components
- ⇒ Shrink features
- ⇒ Remove bridges, branches, noise



# Effects



Original image

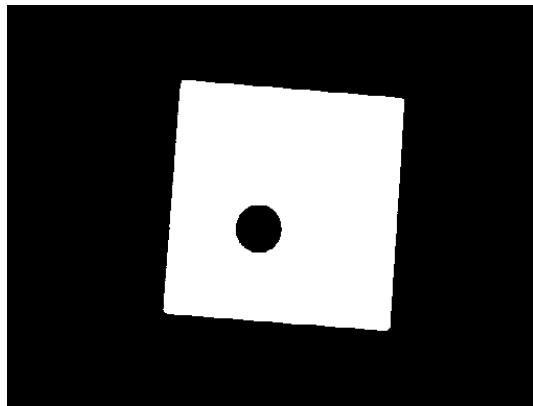


Dilation with circular structuring element

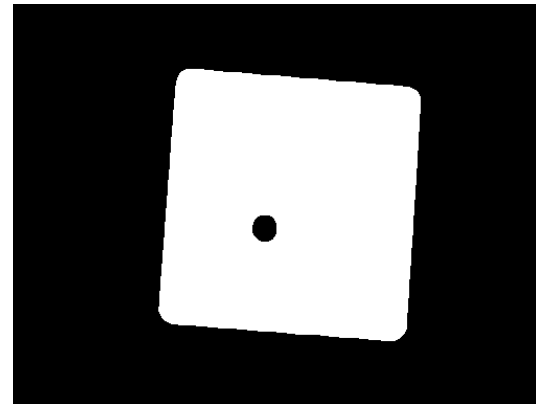
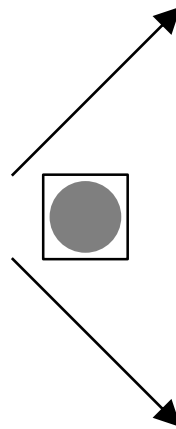


Erosion with circular structuring element

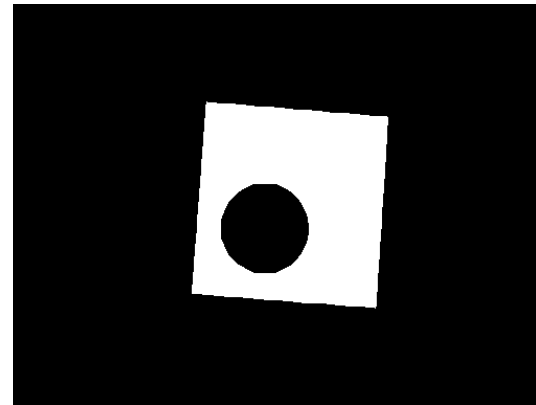
# Effects



Original image



Dilation with circular structuring element



Erosion with circular structuring element

# Opening

- Definition

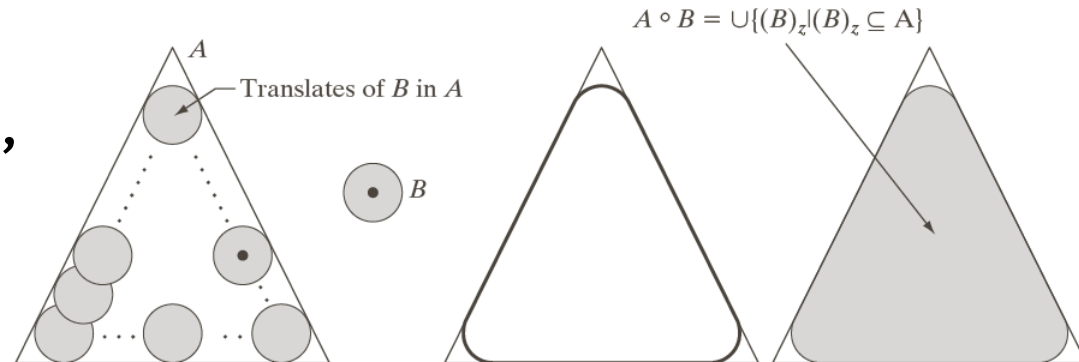
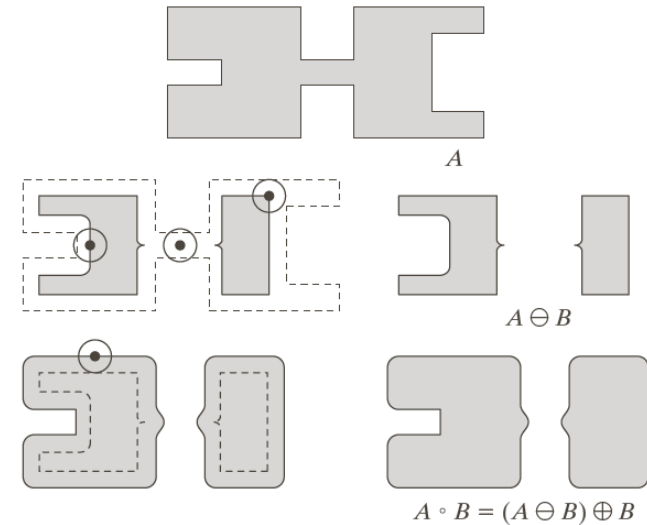
- Sequence of Erosion and Dilation

$$A \circ B = (A \ominus B) \oplus B$$

- Effect

- $A \circ B$  is defined by the points that are reached if  $B$  is rolled around inside  $A$ .

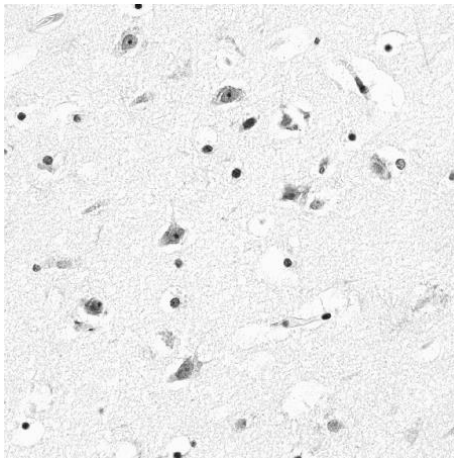
⇒ Remove small objects, keep original shape.



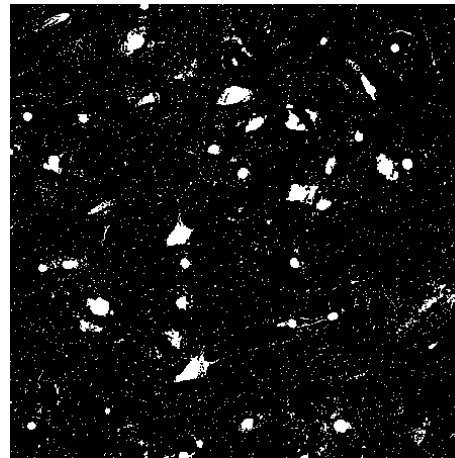


# Effect of Opening

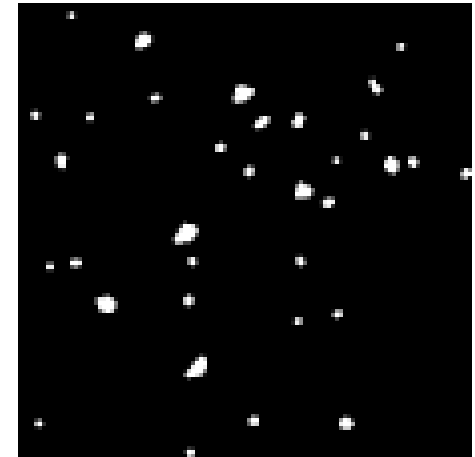
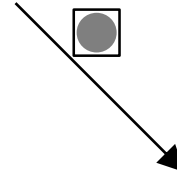
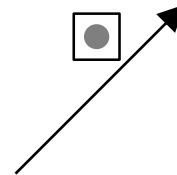
- Feature selection through *size* of structuring element



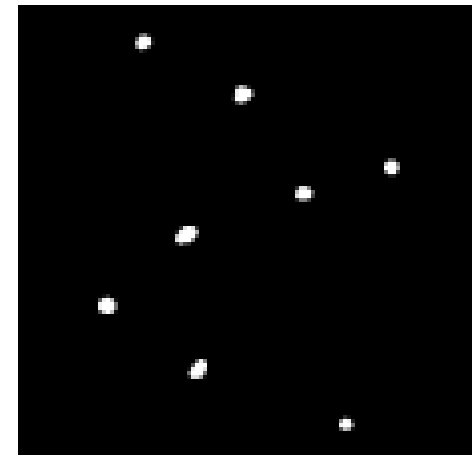
Original image



Thresholded



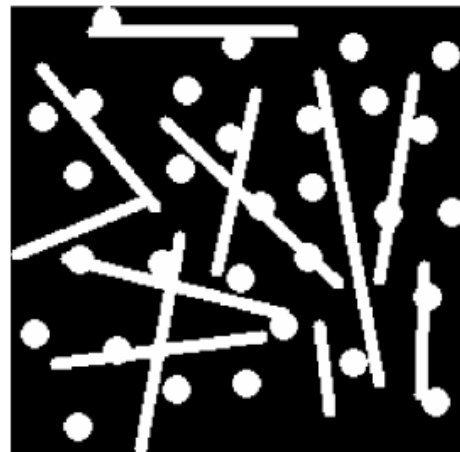
Opening with small structuring element



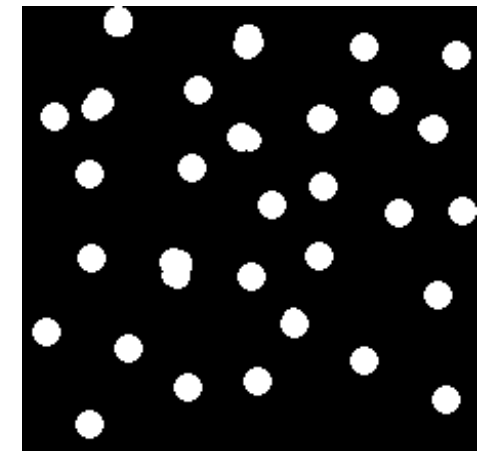
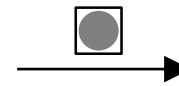
Opening with larger structuring element

# Effect of Opening

- Feature selection through *shape* of structuring element



Input Image



Opening with circular structuring element

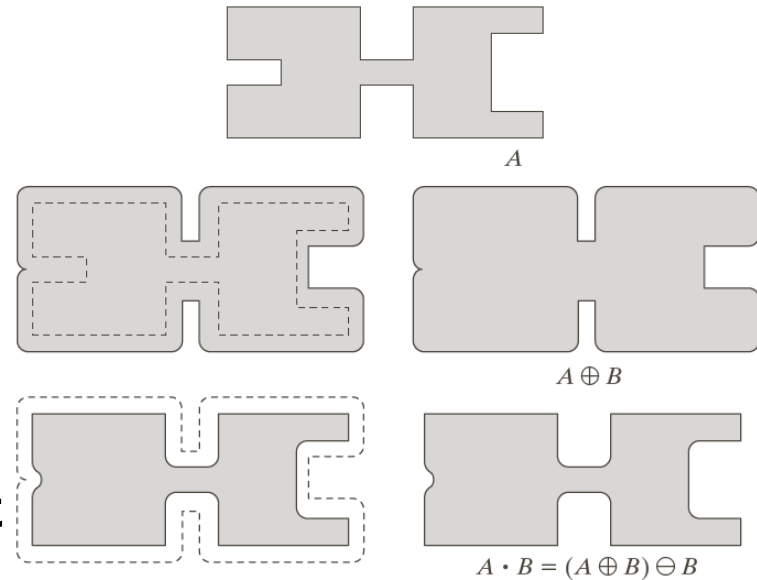
- *How could we have extracted the lines?*

# Closing

- Definition

- Sequence of **Dilation** and **Erosion**

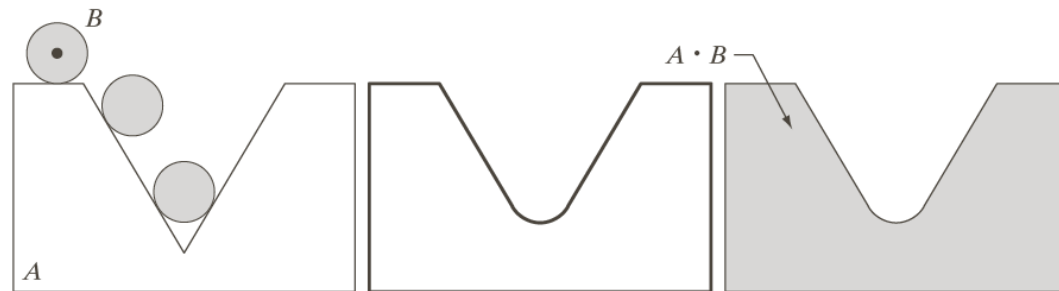
$$A \cdot B = (A \oplus B) \ominus B$$



- Effect

- $A \cdot B$  is defined by the points that are reached if  $B$  is rolled around on the outside of  $A$ .

⇒ Fill holes,  
keep original shape.

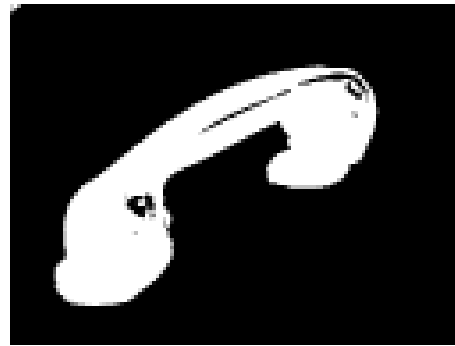


# Effect of Closing

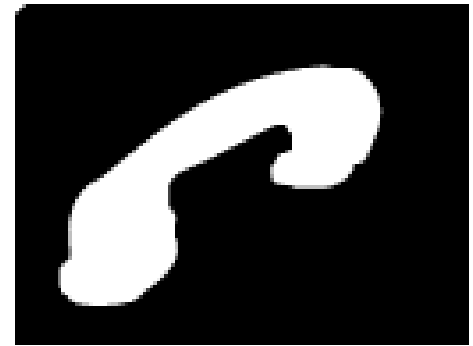
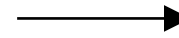
- Fill holes in thresholded image (e.g. due to specularities)



Original image

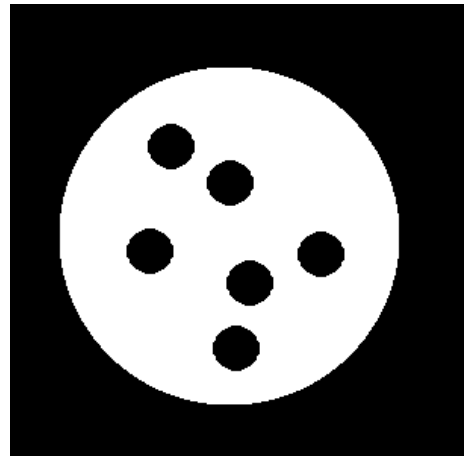
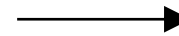
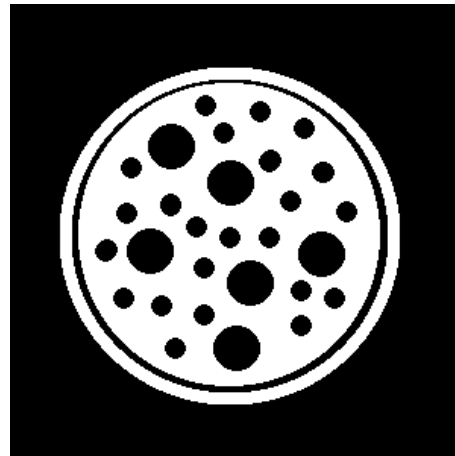


Thresholded

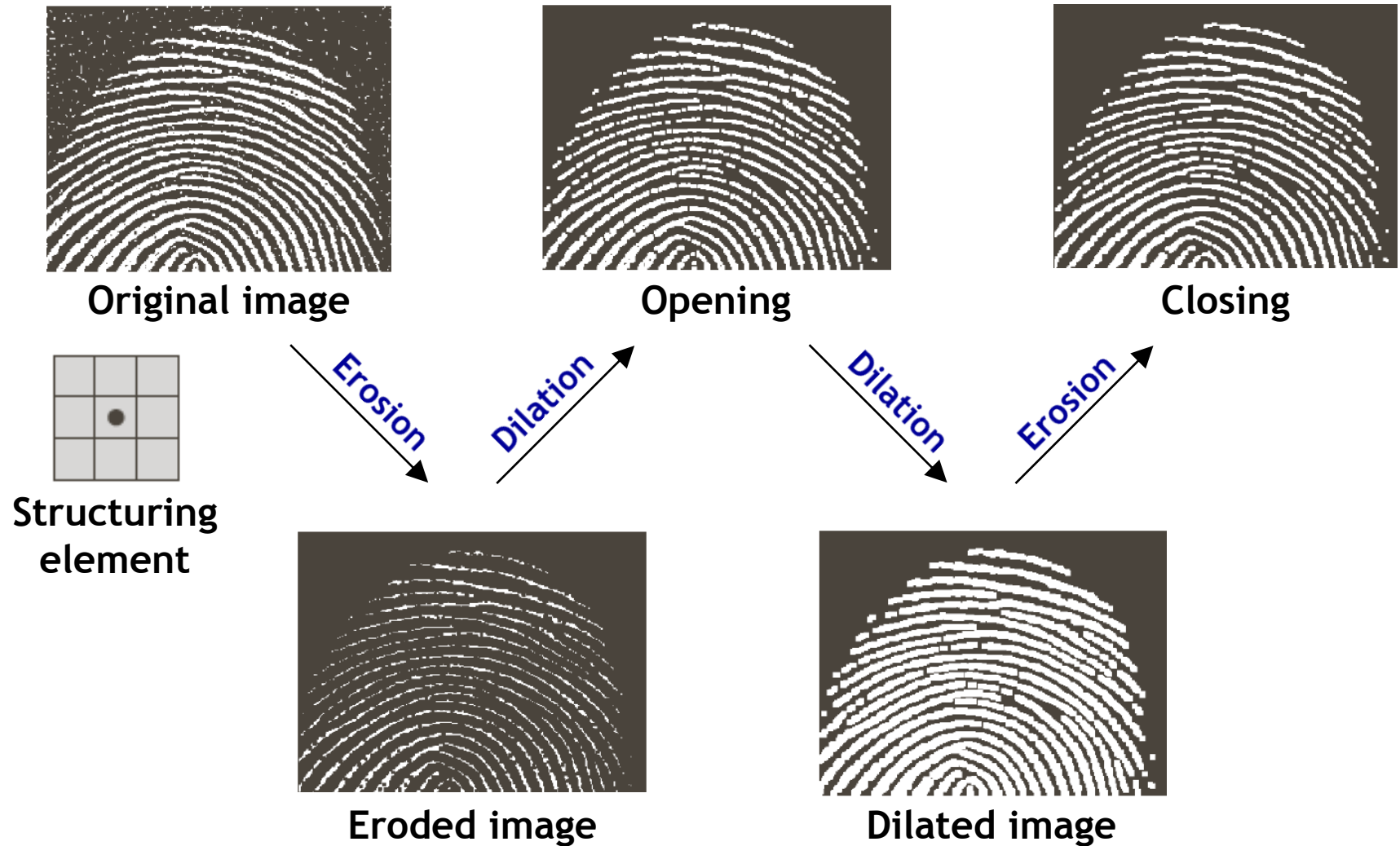


Closing with circular structuring element

Size of structuring element determines which structures are selectively filled.



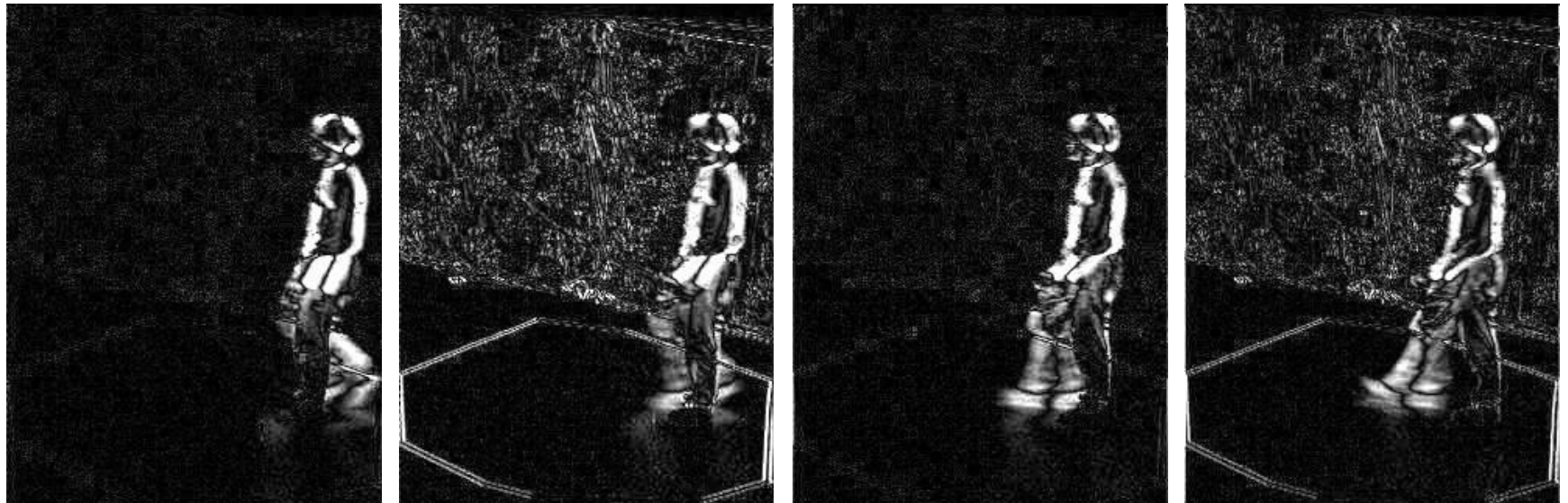
# Example Application: Opening + Closing

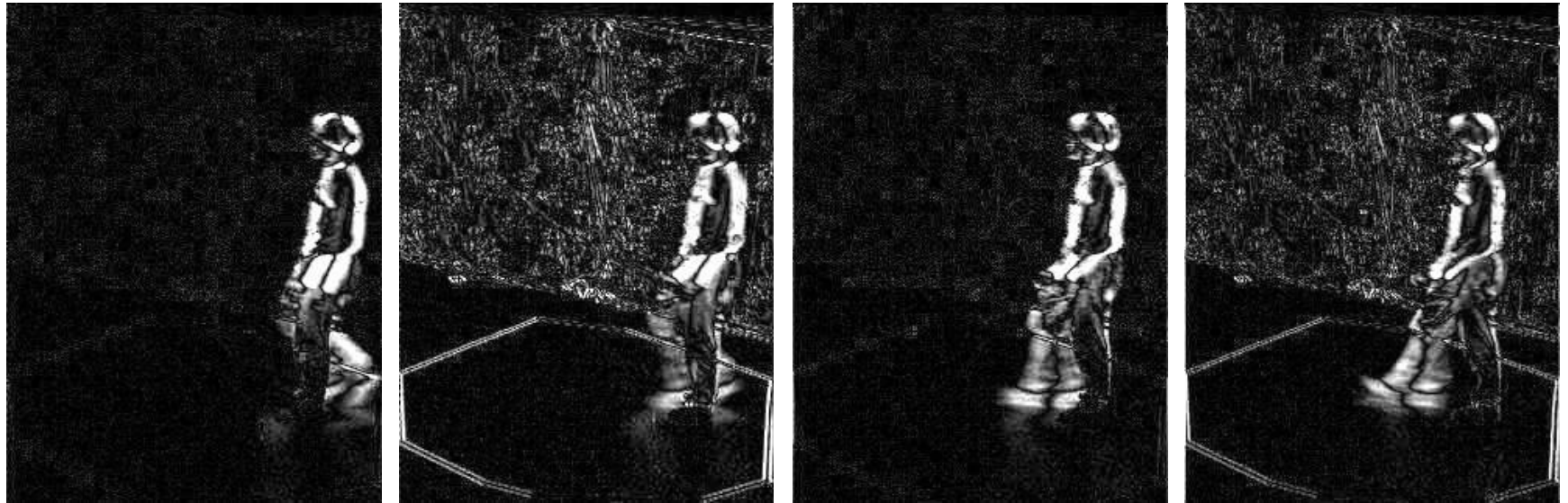


# Application: Blob Tracking

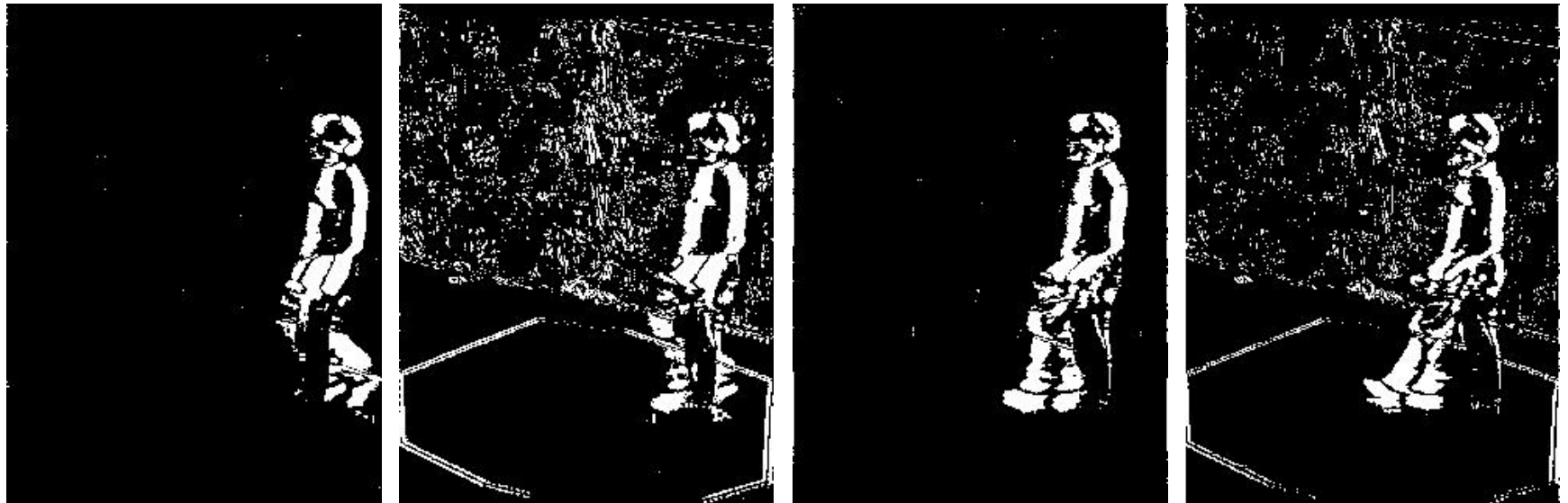


↓ Absolute differences from frame to frame ↓





↓ Thresholding ↓





Eroding





# Morphological Boundary Extraction

- **Definition**

- First erode  $A$  by  $B$ , then subtract the result from the original  $A$ .

$$\beta(A) = A - (A \ominus B)$$

- **Effects**

- If a  $3 \times 3$  structuring element is used, this results in a boundary that is exactly 1 pixel thick.



# Morphology Operators on Grayscale Images

- **Sidenote**

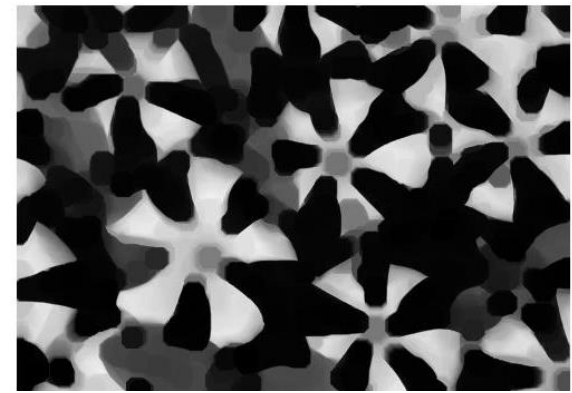
- Dilation and erosion are typically performed on binary images.
- If image is grayscale: for dilation take the neighborhood max, for erosion take the min.



Original



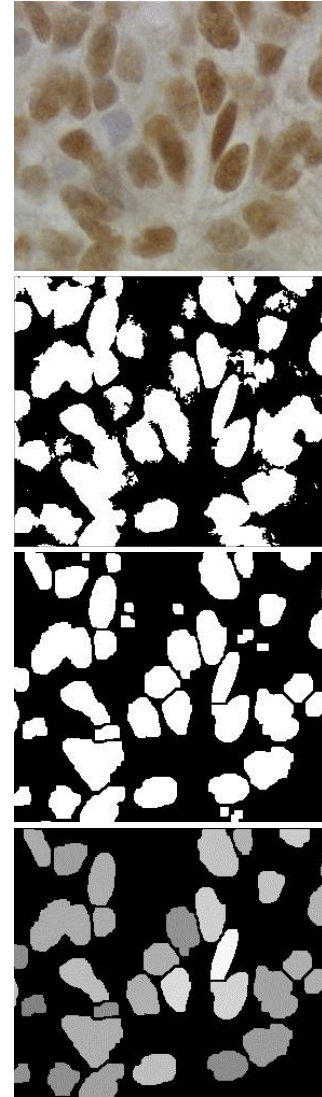
Dilated



Eroded

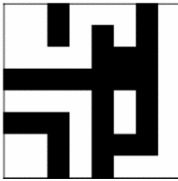
# Outline of Today's Lecture

- Convert the image into binary form
  - Thresholding
- Clean up the thresholded image
  - Morphological operators
- **Extract individual objects**
  - **Connected Components Labeling**
- Describe the objects
  - Region properties



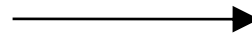

# Connected Components Labeling

- Goal: Identify distinct regions



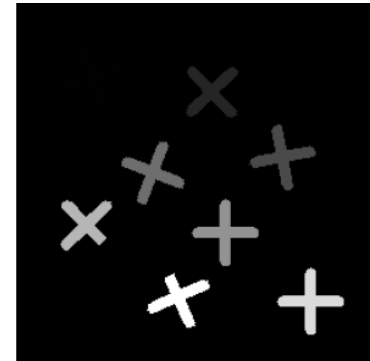
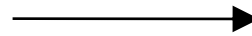
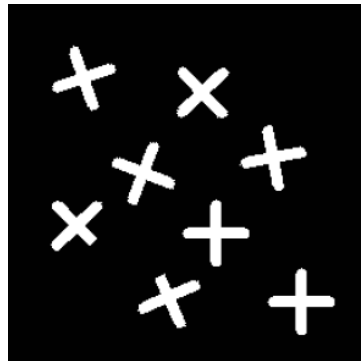
1	1	0	1	1	1	0	1
1	1	0	1	0	1	0	1
1	1	1	1	0	0	0	1
0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
1	1	1	1	0	1	0	1
0	0	0	1	0	1	0	1
1	1	0	1	0	0	0	1
1	1	0	1	0	1	1	1

Binary image

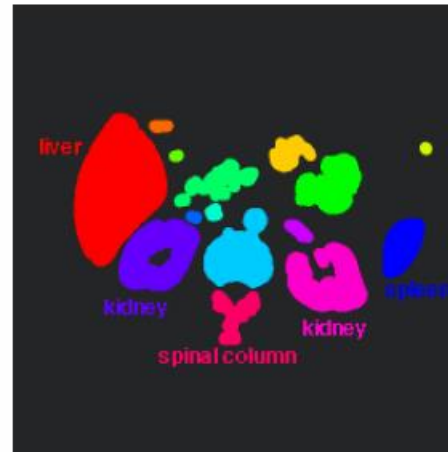
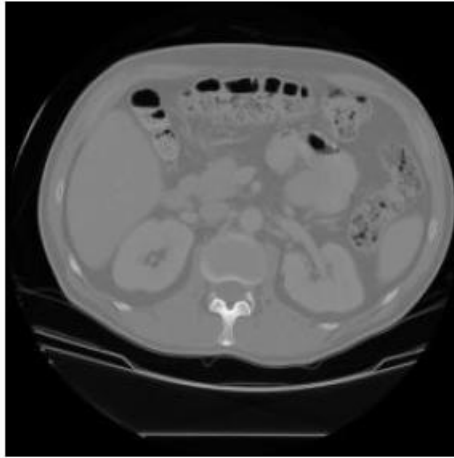



1	1	0	1	1	1	0	2
1	1	0	1	0	1	0	2
1	1	1	1	0	0	0	2
0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2
3	3	3	3	0	4	0	2
0	0	0	3	0	4	0	2
5	5	0	3	0	0	0	2
5	5	0	3	0	2	2	2

Connected components labeling



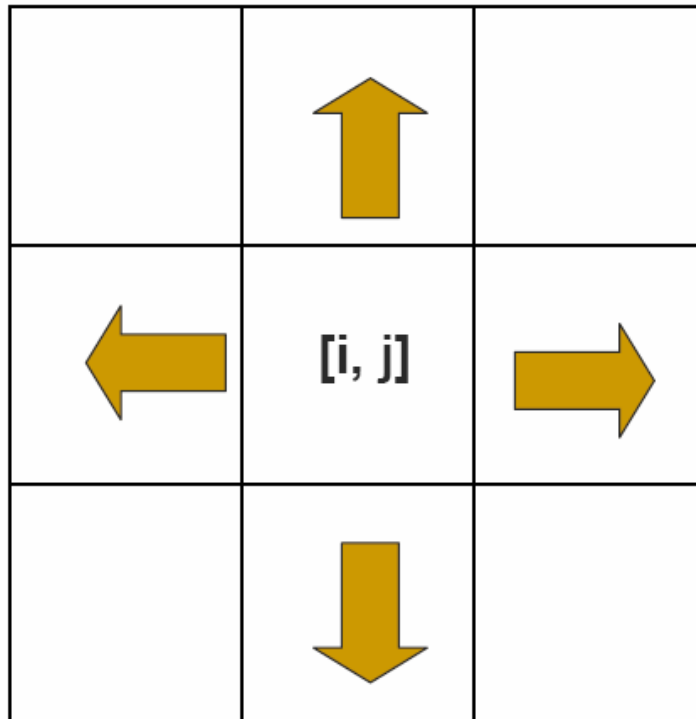
# Connected Components Example



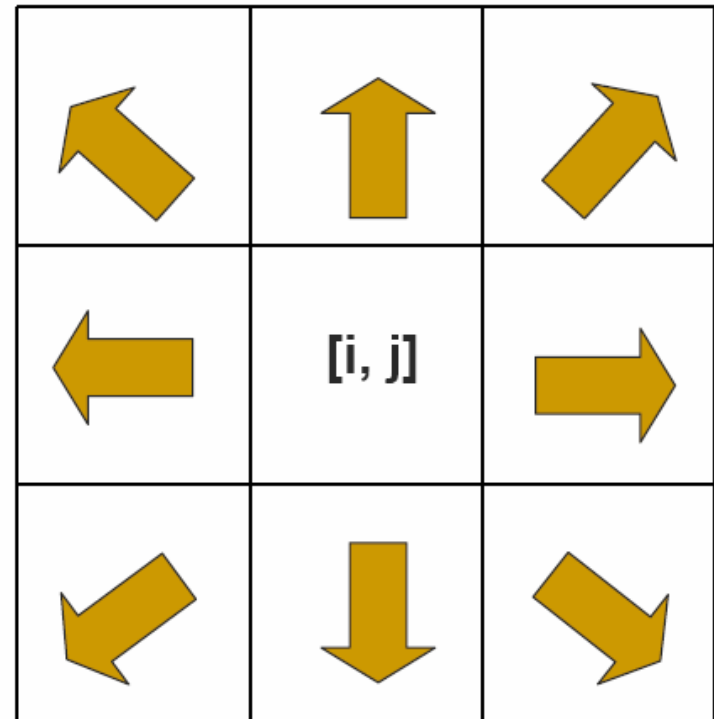
connected components of 1's from thresholded image

# Connectedness

- Which pixels are considered neighbors?



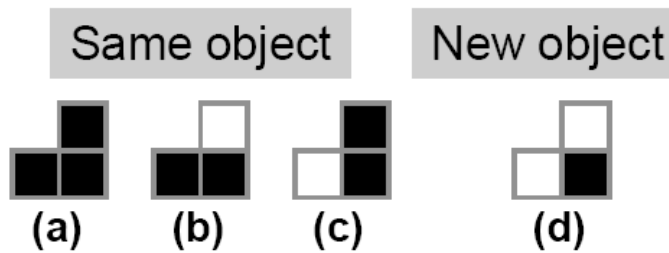
4-connected



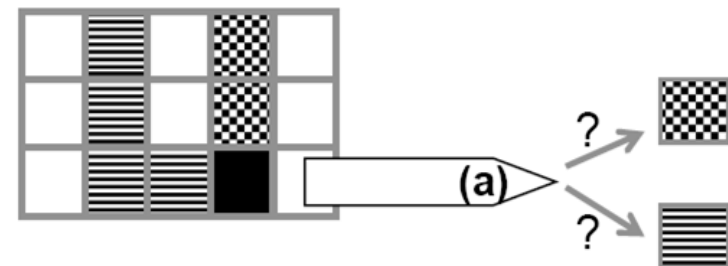
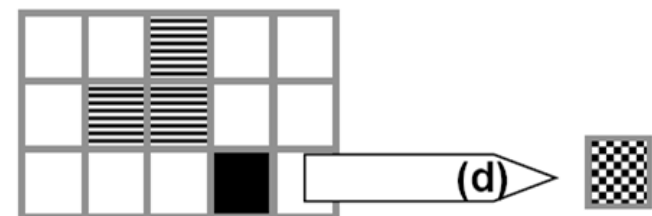
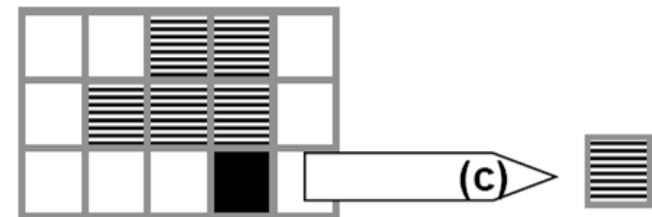
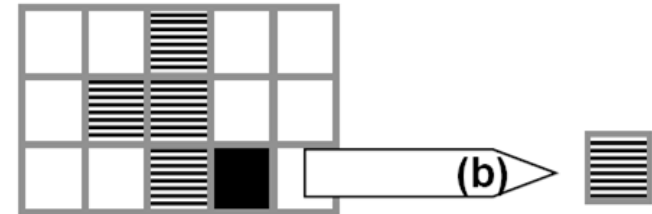
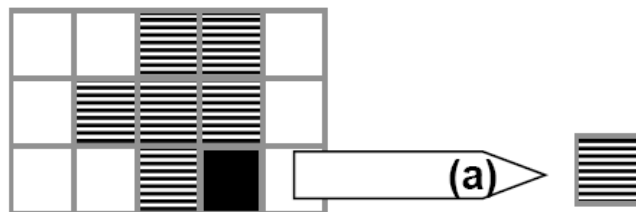
8-connected

# Sequential Connected Components

- Labeling a pixel only requires to consider its prior and superior neighbors.
- It depends on the type of connectivity used for foreground (4-connectivity here).



What happens in these cases?



Equivalence table

# Sequential Connected Components (2)

- Process the image from left to right, top to bottom:

1.) If the next pixel to process is 1



- i.) If only one of its neighbors (top or left) is 1, copy its label.



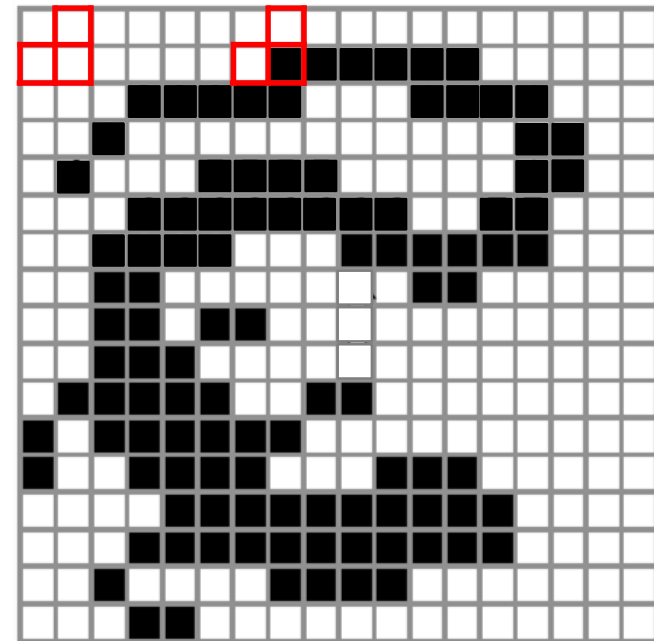
- ii.) If both are 1 and have the same label, copy it.



- iii.) If they have different labels  
 – Copy the label from the left.  
 – Update the equivalence table.

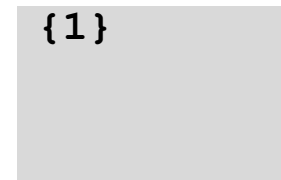


- iv.) Otherwise, assign a new label.



Equivalence table

{1}







# Sequential Connected Components (2)


- Process the image from left to right, top to bottom:

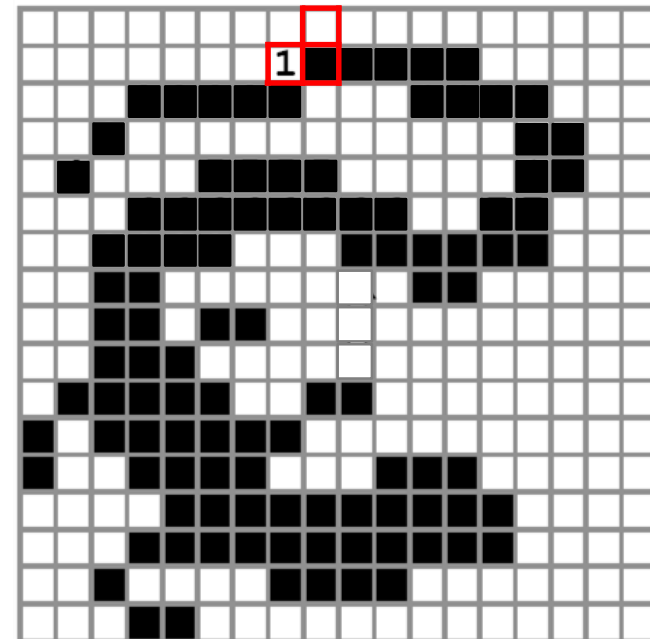
1.) If the next pixel to process is 1

 i.) If only one of its neighbors (top or left) is 1, copy its label.

 ii.) If both are 1 and have the same label, copy it.

 iii.) If they have different labels  
 – Copy the label from the left.  
 – Update the equivalence table.

 iv.) Otherwise, assign a new label.



Equivalence table

{1}
-----

# Sequential Connected Components (2)

- Process the image from left to right, top to bottom:

1.) If the next pixel to process is 1



i.) If only one of its neighbors (top or left) is 1, copy its label.



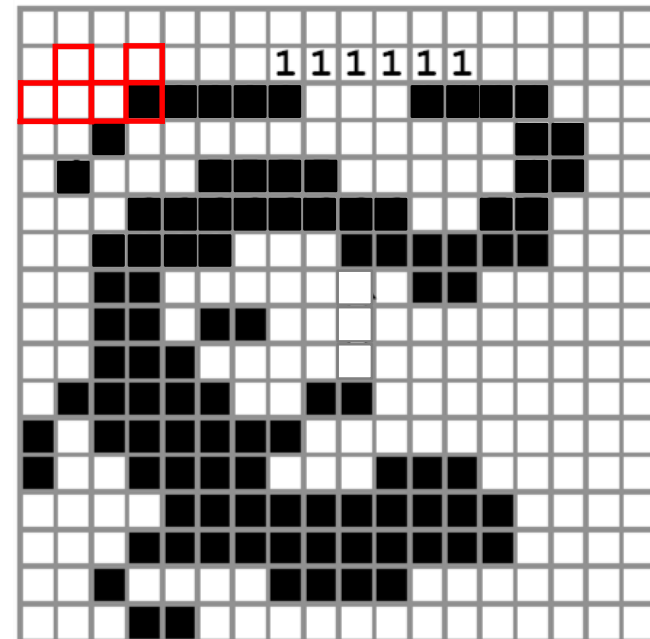
ii.) If both are 1 and have the same label, copy it.



iii.) If they have different labels  
 – Copy the label from the left.  
 – Update the equivalence table.



iv.) Otherwise, assign a new label.



Equivalence table

{1}  
{2}

# Sequential Connected Components (2)

- Process the image from left to right, top to bottom:

1.) If the next pixel to process is 1



i.) If only one of its neighbors (top or left) is 1, copy its label.



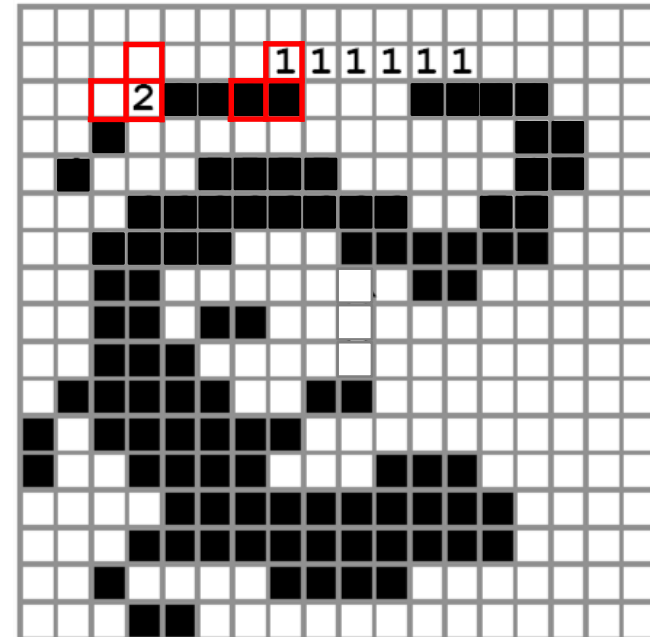
ii.) If both are 1 and have the same label, copy it.



iii.) If they have different labels  
 – Copy the label from the left.  
 – Update the equivalence table.



iv.) Otherwise, assign a new label.



Equivalence table

{1}	2
{2}	

# Sequential Connected Components (2)

- Process the image from left to right, top to bottom:

1.) If the next pixel to process is 1



i.) If only one of its neighbors (top or left) is 1, copy its label.



ii.) If both are 1 and have the same label, copy it.

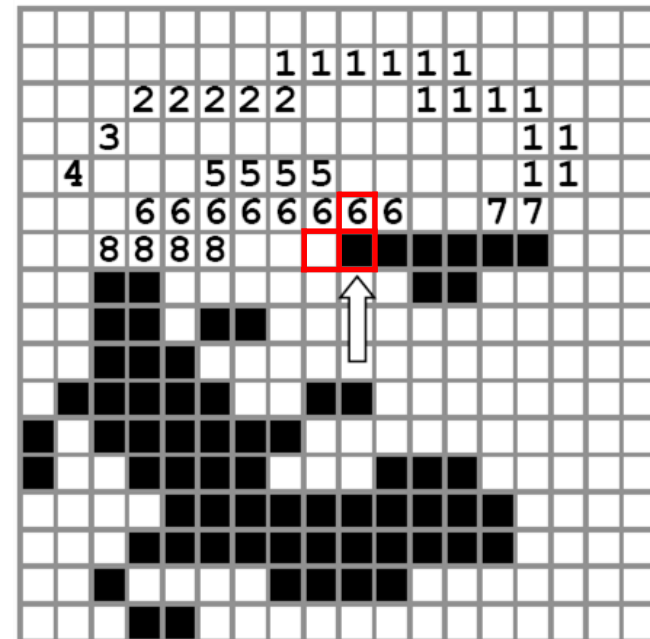


iii.) If they have different labels  
 – Copy the label from the left.  
 – Update the equivalence table.



iv.) Otherwise, assign a new label.

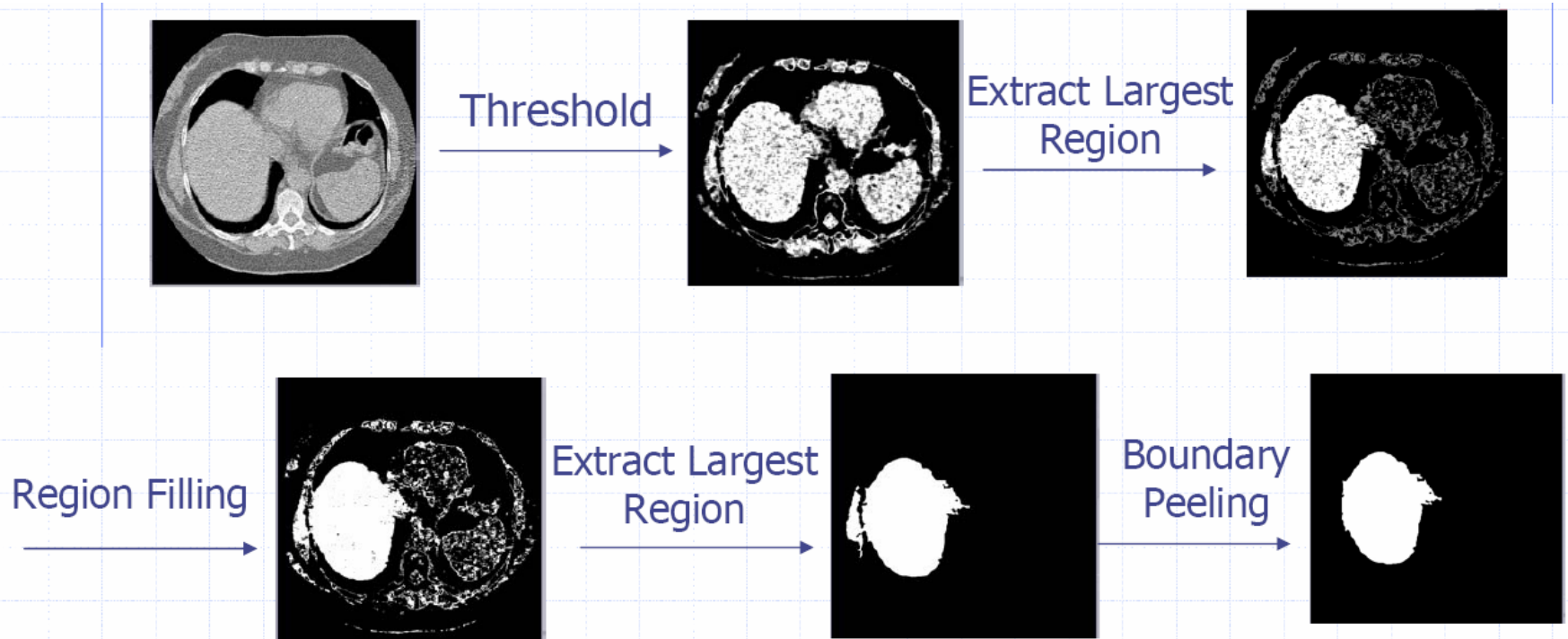
- Re-label with the smallest of equivalent labels



Equivalence table

{ 1	2, 7 }
{ 3	
{ 4	
{ 5,	6, 8 }
}	

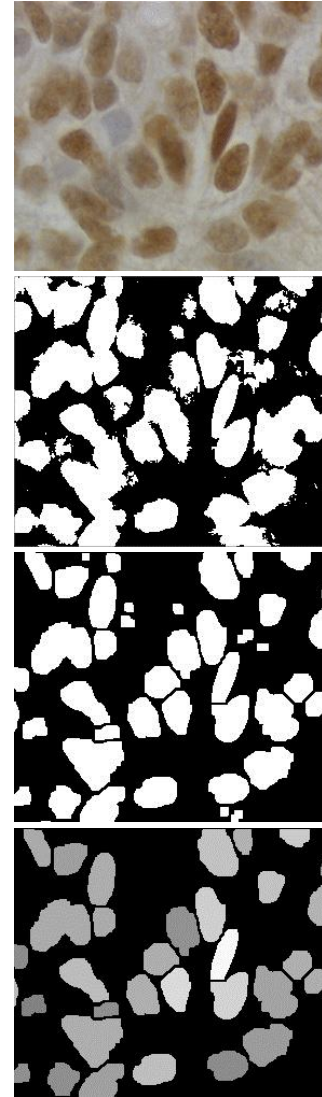
# Application: Segmentation of a Liver



*Application by Jie Zhu, Cornell University*

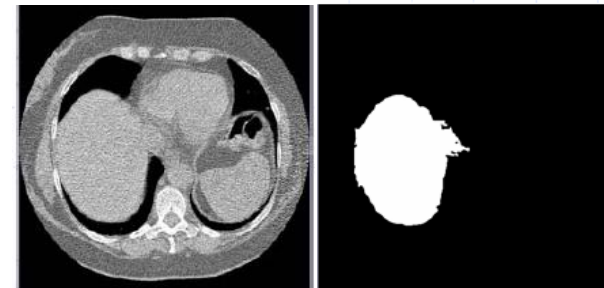
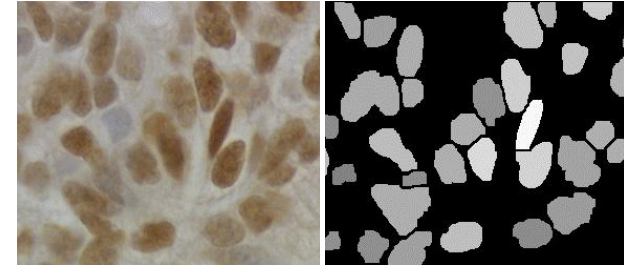
# Outline of Today's Lecture

- Convert the image into binary form
  - Thresholding
- Clean up the thresholded image
  - Morphological operators
- Extract individual objects
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- Describe the objects
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# Region Properties

- From the previous steps, we can obtain separated objects.
- Some useful features can be extracted once we have connected components, including
  - Area
  - Centroid
  - Extremal points, bounding box
  - Circularity
  - Spatial moments



# Area and Centroid

- We denote the set of pixels in a region by  $R$
- Assuming square pixels, we obtain

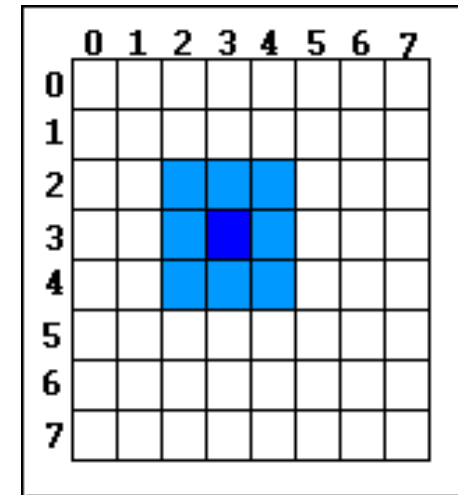
➤ *Area:*

$$A = \sum_{(x,y) \in R} 1$$

➤ *Centroid:*

$$\bar{x} = \frac{1}{A} \sum_{(x,y) \in R} x$$

$$\bar{y} = \frac{1}{A} \sum_{(x,y) \in R} y$$





# Circularity

- Measure the deviation from a perfect circle

➤ **Circularity:** 
$$C = \frac{\mu_R}{\sigma_R}$$

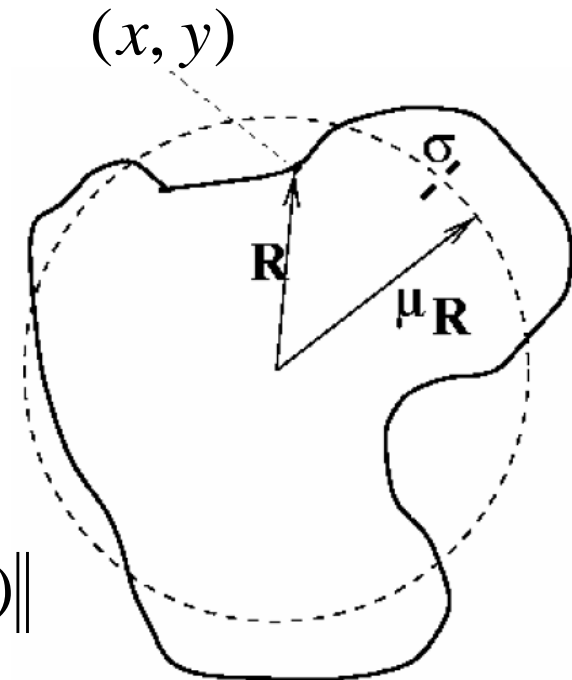
where  $\mu_R$  and  $\sigma_R^2$  are the mean and variance of the distance from the centroid of the shape to the boundary pixels  $(x_k, y_k)$ .

- **Mean radial distance:**

$$\mu_R = \frac{1}{K} \sum_{k=0}^{K-1} \left\| (x_k, y_k) - (\bar{x}, \bar{y}) \right\|$$

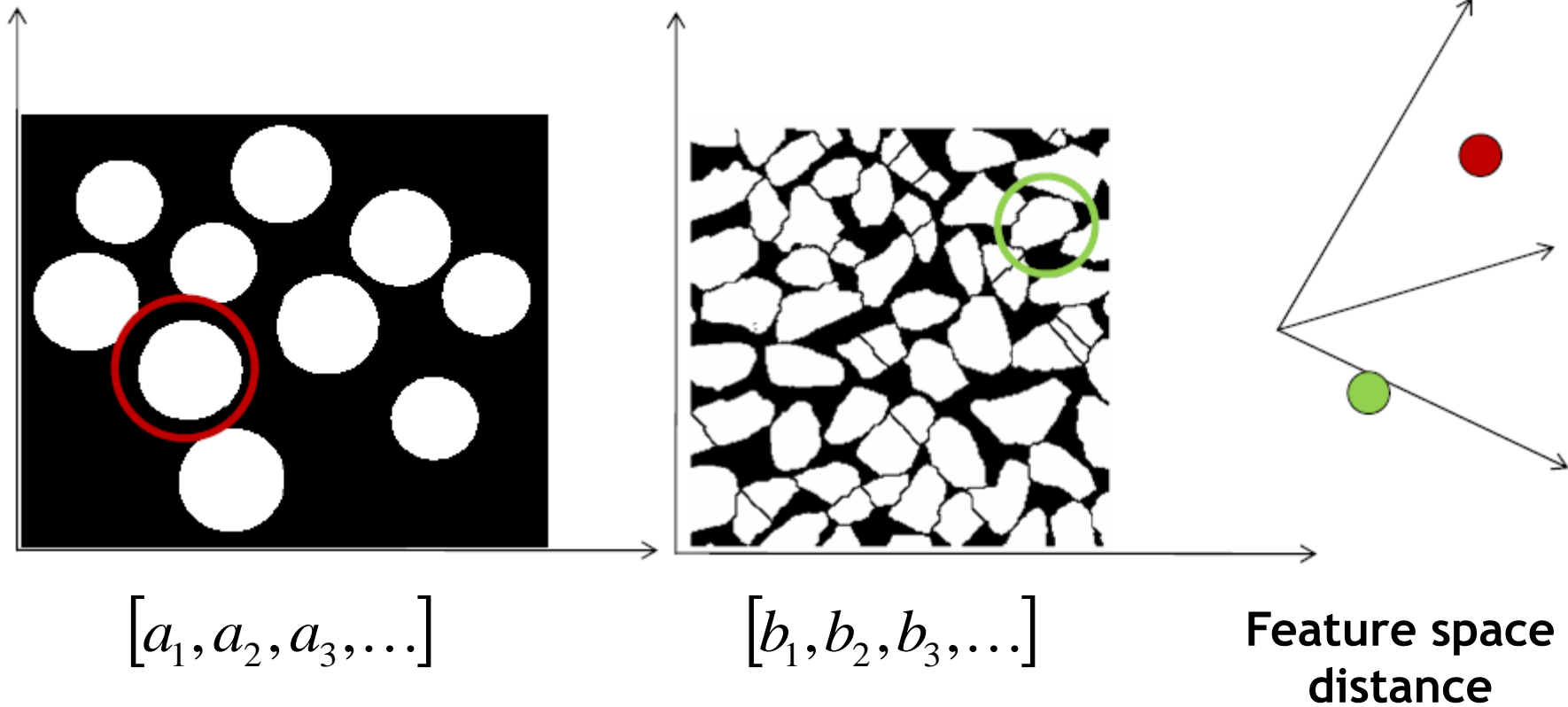
- **Variance of radial distance:**

$$\sigma_R^2 = \frac{1}{K} \sum_{k=0}^{K-1} \left[ \left\| (x_k, y_k) - (\bar{x}, \bar{y}) \right\| - \mu_R \right]^2$$



# Invariant Descriptors

- Often, we want features independent of location, orientation, scale.



# Central Moments

- $S$  is a subset of pixels (region).
- Central  $(j,k)^{\text{th}}$  moment defined as:

$$\mu_{jk} = \sum_{(x,y) \in S} (x - \bar{x})^j (y - \bar{y})^k$$

- Invariant to translation of  $S$ .
- Interpretation:
  - 0<sup>th</sup> central moment: *area*
  - 2<sup>nd</sup> central moment: *variance*
  - 3<sup>rd</sup> central moment: *skewness*
  - 4<sup>th</sup> central moment: *kurtosis*

# Moment Invariants (“Hu Moments”)

- Normalized central moments

$$\eta_{pq} = \frac{\mu_{pq}}{\mu_{00}^\gamma}, \quad \gamma = \frac{p+q}{2} + 1$$

- From those, a set of *invariant moments* can be defined for object description.

$$\phi_1 = \eta_{20} + \eta_{02}$$

$$\phi_2 = (\eta_{20} - \eta_{02})^2 + 4\eta_{11}^2$$

$$\phi_3 = (\eta_{30} - 3\eta_{12})^2 + (3\eta_{21} - \eta_{03})^2$$

$$\phi_4 = (\eta_{30} + \eta_{12})^2 + (\eta_{21} + \eta_{03})^2$$

- Robust to translation, rotation & scaling, but don't expect wonders (still summary statistics).

# Moment Invariants

$$\begin{aligned}\phi_5 &= (\eta_{30} - 3\eta_{12})(\eta_{30} + \eta_{12}) \left[ (\eta_{30} + \eta_{12})^2 - 3(\eta_{21} + \eta_{03})^2 \right] \\ &\quad + (3\eta_{21} - \eta_{03})(\eta_{21} + \eta_{03}) \left[ 3(\eta_{30} + \eta_{12})^2 - (\eta_{21} + \eta_{03})^2 \right]\end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned}\phi_6 &= (\eta_{20} - \eta_{02}) \left[ (\eta_{30} + \eta_{12})^2 - (\eta_{21} + \eta_{03})^2 \right] \\ &\quad + 4\eta_{11}(\eta_{30} + \eta_{12})(\eta_{21} + \eta_{03})\end{aligned}$$

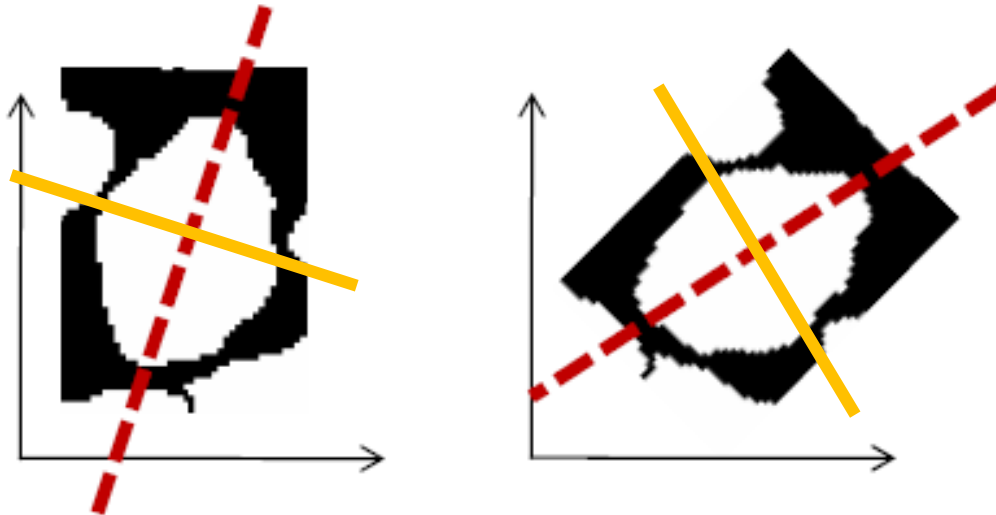
$$\begin{aligned}\phi_7 &= (3\eta_{21} - \eta_{03})(\eta_{30} + \eta_{12}) \left[ (\eta_{30} + \eta_{12})^2 - 3(\eta_{21} + \eta_{03})^2 \right] \\ &\quad + (3\eta_{12} - \eta_{30})(\eta_{21} + \eta_{03}) \left[ 3(\eta_{30} + \eta_{12})^2 - (\eta_{21} + \eta_{03})^2 \right]\end{aligned}$$

**Often better to use  $\log_{10}(\phi_i)$  instead of  $\phi_i$  directly...**

# Axis of Least Second Moment

- Invariance to orientation?

- Need a common alignment



Axis for which the squared distance to 2D object points is **minimized** (**maximized**).

- Compute Eigenvectors of 2<sup>nd</sup> moment matrix (Matlab: eig(A))

$$\begin{bmatrix} \mu_{20} & \mu_{11} \\ \mu_{11} & \mu_{02} \end{bmatrix} = VDV^T = \begin{bmatrix} v_{11} & v_{12} \\ v_{21} & v_{22} \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} \lambda_1 & 0 \\ 0 & \lambda_2 \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} v_{11} & v_{12} \\ v_{21} & v_{22} \end{bmatrix}^T$$

# Summary: Binary Image Processing

- **Pros**

- Fast to compute, easy to store
- Simple processing techniques
- Can be very useful for constrained scenarios

- **Cons**

- Hard to get “clean” silhouettes
- Noise is common in realistic scenarios
- Can be too coarse a representation
- Cannot deal with 3D changes

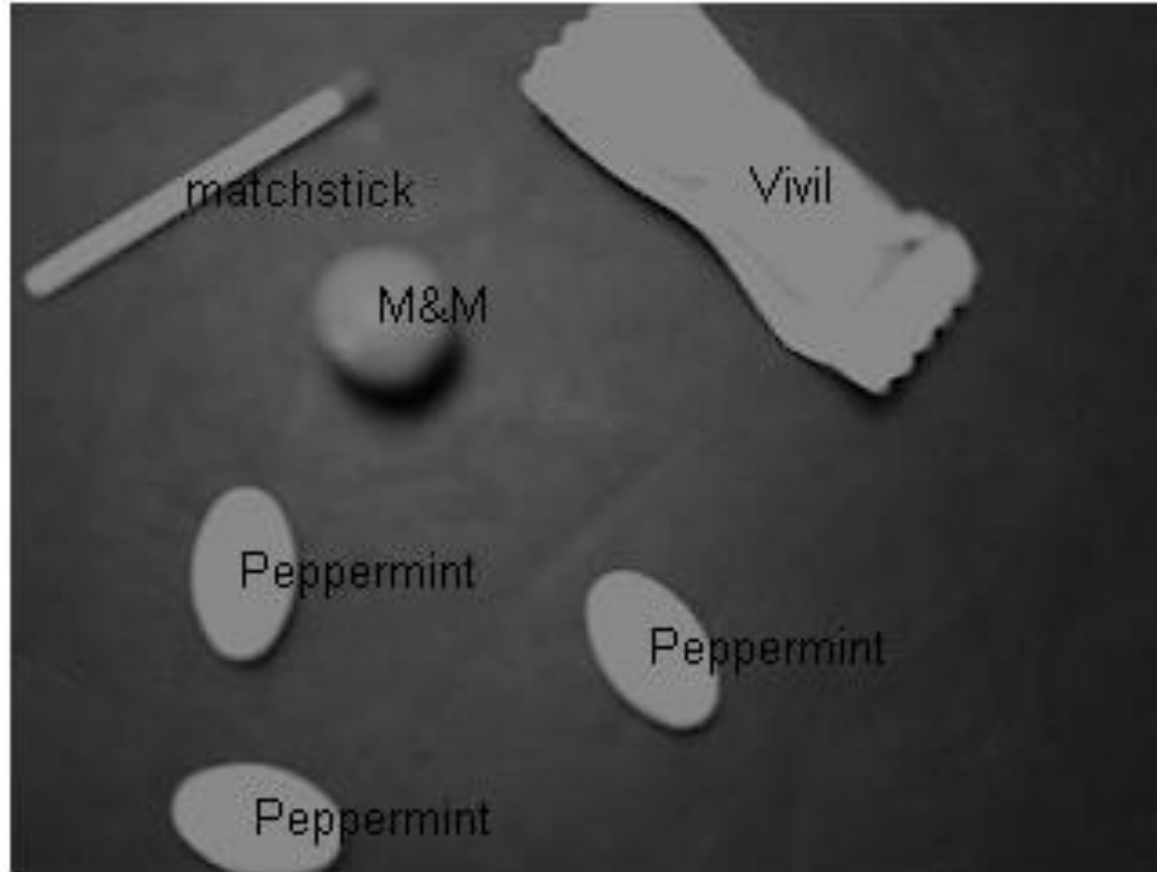
# References and Further Reading

- More on morphological operators can be found in
  - R.C. Gonzales, R.E. Woods,  
*Digital Image Processing*.  
Prentice Hall, 2001
- Online tutorial and Java demos available on
  - <http://homepages.inf.ed.ac.uk/rbf/HIPR2/>



*Questions ?*

# Demo “Haribo Classification”



# You Can Do It At Home...

## Accessing a webcam in Matlab:

```
function out = webcam
% uses "Image Acquisition Toolbox"
adaptorName = 'winvideo';
vidFormat = 'I420_320x240';
vidObj1= videoinput(adaptorName, 1, vidFormat);
set(vidObj1, 'ReturnedColorSpace', 'rgb');
set(vidObj1, 'FramesPerTrigger', 1);
out = vidObj1 ;

cam = webcam();
img=getsnapshot(cam);
```



*Questions ?*