

Intensity Transformations and Spatial Filtering

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What will We Learn today?

- Spatial filtering fundamentals
- Smoothing filter
- Nonlinear (order-statistic) filters

Spatial Filtering

- A spatial filter consists of
 - (a) **a neighborhood**, and
 - (b) **a predefined operation**
- Linear spatial filtering of an image of size $M \times N$ with a filter of size $m \times n$ is given by the expression

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

Spatial Filtering

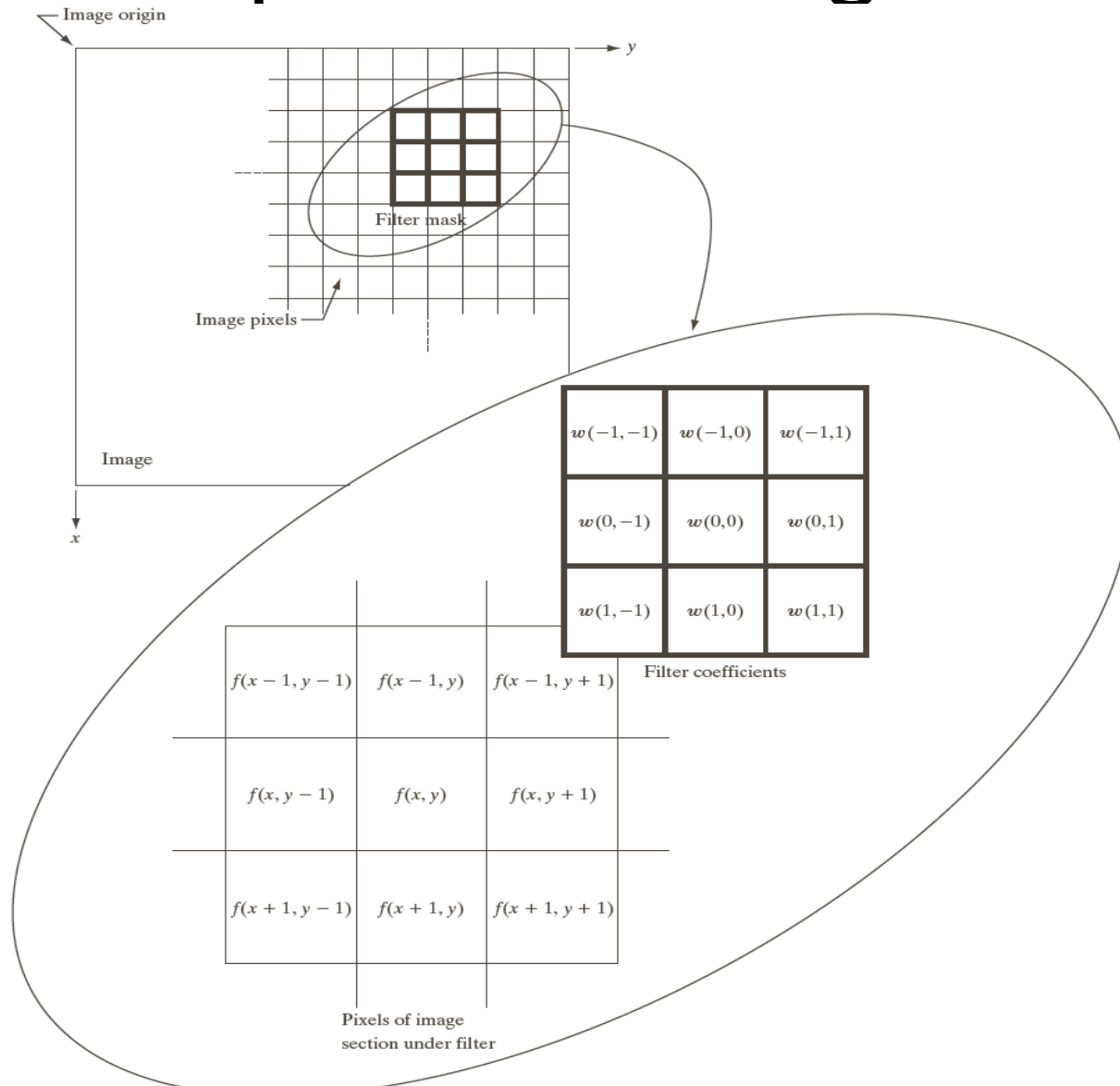


FIGURE 3.28 The mechanics of linear spatial filtering using a 3×3 filter mask. The form chosen to denote the coordinates of the filter mask coefficients simplifies writing expressions for linear filtering.

Spatial Correlation

The correlation of a filter $w(x, y)$ of size $m \times n$ with an image $f(x, y)$, denoted as $w(x, y) \star f(x, y)$

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



Spatial Convolution

The convolution of a filter $w(x, y)$ of size $m \times n$ with an image $f(x, y)$, denoted as $w(x, y) \star f(x, y)$

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



Smoothing Spatial Filters

- Smoothing filters are used for blurring and for noise reduction
- Blurring is used in removal of small details and bridging of small gaps in lines or curves
- Smoothing spatial filters include linear filters and nonlinear filters.



Spatial Smoothing Linear Filters

The general implementation for filtering an $M \times N$ image with a weighted averaging filter of size $m \times n$ is given

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

where $m = 2a + 1$, $n = 2b + 1$.

Two Smoothing Filter Masks

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

1	1	1
1	1	1
1	1	1

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

1	2	1
2	4	2
1	2	1

a b

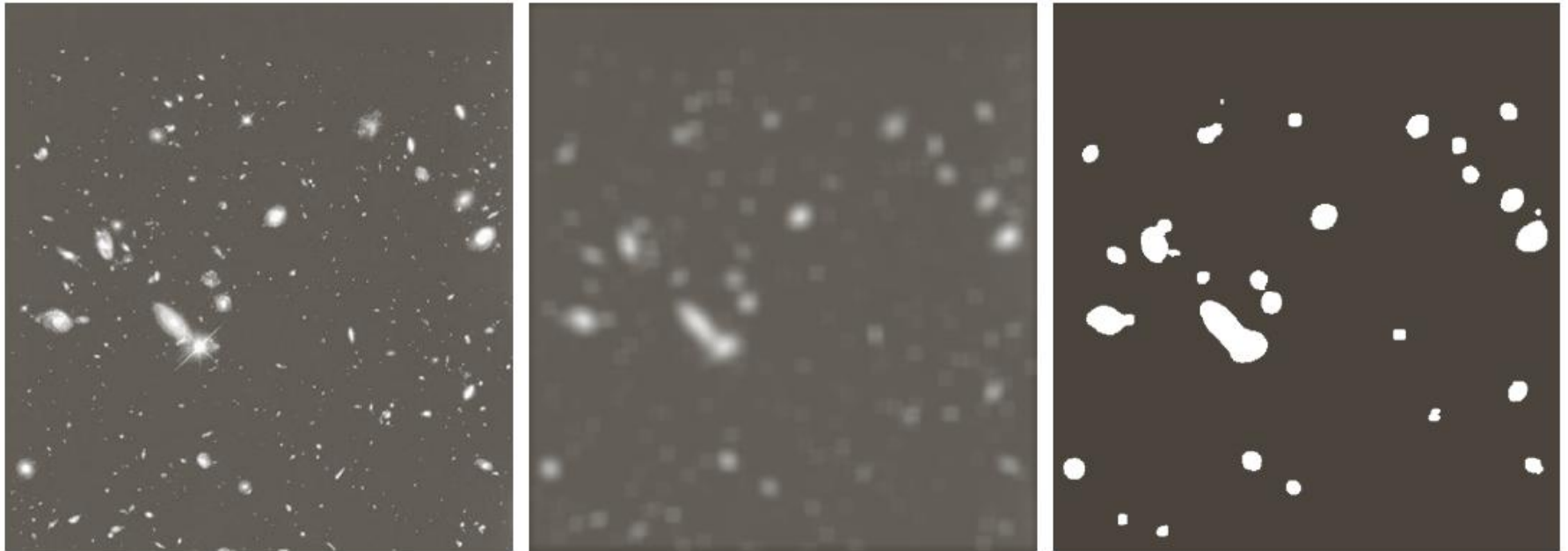
FIGURE 3.32 Two 3×3 smoothing (averaging) filter masks. The constant multiplier in front of each mask is equal to 1 divided by the sum of the values of its coefficients, as is required to compute an average.



FIGURE 3.33 (a) Original image, of size 500×500 pixels. (b)–(f) Results of smoothing with square averaging filter masks of sizes $m = 3, 5, 9, 15$, and 35 , respectively. The black squares at the top are of sizes $3, 5, 9, 15, 25, 35, 45$, and 55 pixels, respectively; their borders are 25 pixels apart. The letters at the bottom range in size from 10 to 24 points, in increments of 2 points; the large letter at the top is 60 points. The vertical bars are 5 pixels wide and 100 pixels high; their separation is 20 pixels. The diameter of the circles is 25 pixels, and their borders are 15 pixels apart; their intensity levels range from 0% to 100% black in increments of 20% . The background of the image is 10% black. The noisy rectangles are of size 50×120 pixels.

a b
c d
e f

Example: Gross Representation of Objects



a b c

FIGURE 3.34 (a) Image of size 528×485 pixels from the Hubble Space Telescope. (b) Image filtered with a 15×15 averaging mask. (c) Result of thresholding (b). (Original image courtesy of NASA.)

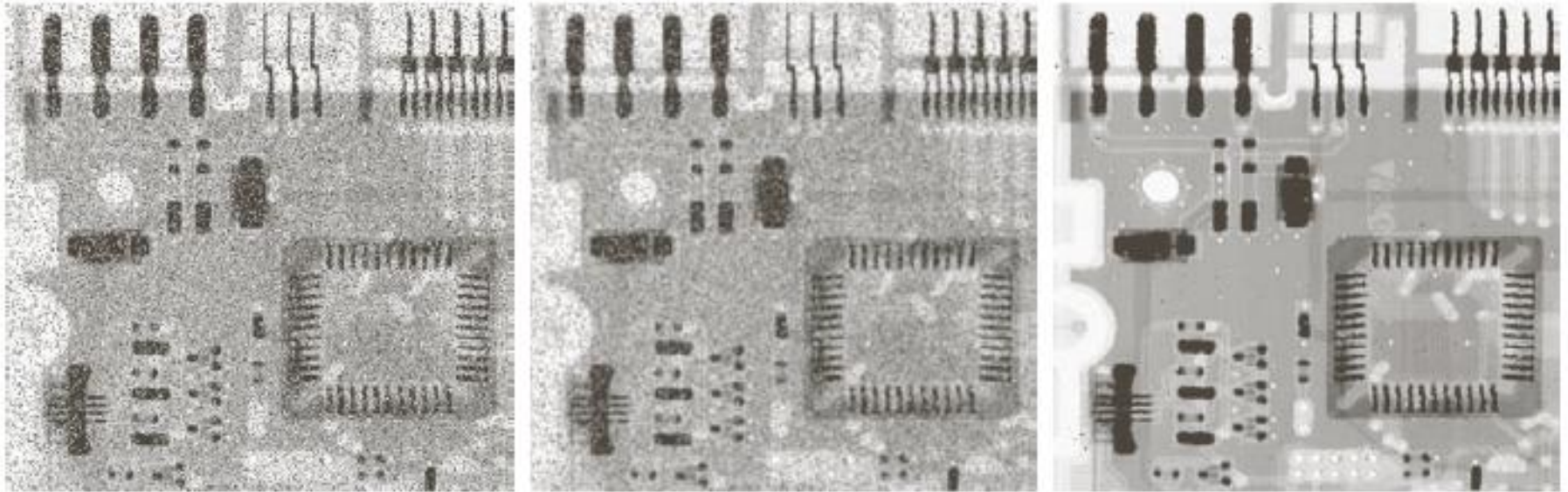
Order-statistic (Nonlinear) Filters

- Nonlinear
- Based on ordering (ranking) the pixels contained in the filter mask
- Replacing the value of the center pixel with the value determined by the ranking result

E.g., median filter, max filter, min filter



Example: Median Filter for Noise Reduction



a b c

FIGURE 3.35 (a) X-ray image of circuit board corrupted by salt-and-pepper noise. (b) Noise reduction with a 3×3 averaging mask. (c) Noise reduction with a 3×3 median filter. (Original image courtesy of Mr. Joseph E. Pascente, Lixi, Inc.)