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# Image Features (I)

Dr. Chang Shu

COMP 4900C

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# Image Features

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Image features – may appear in two contexts:

- Global properties of the image (average gray level, etc) – **global features**
- Parts of the image with special properties (line, circle, textured region) – **local features**

Here, assume second context for **image features**:

- Local, meaningful, detectable parts of the image

Detection of image features

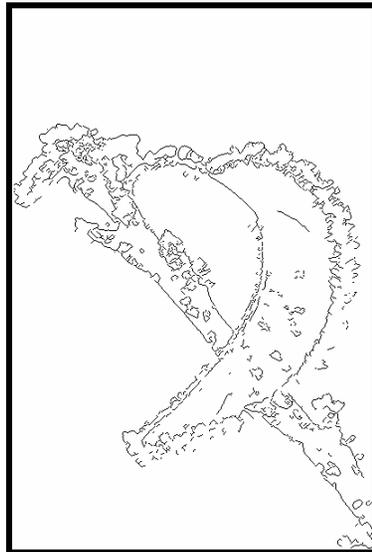
- Detection algorithms – produce **feature descriptors**
- Example – line segment descriptor: coordinates of mid-point, length, orientation

# Edges in Images

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## Definition of **edges**

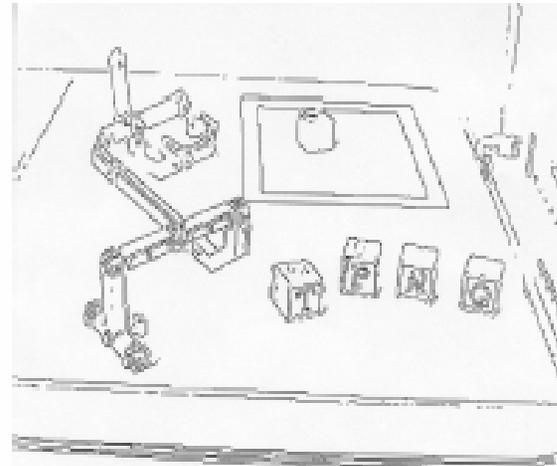
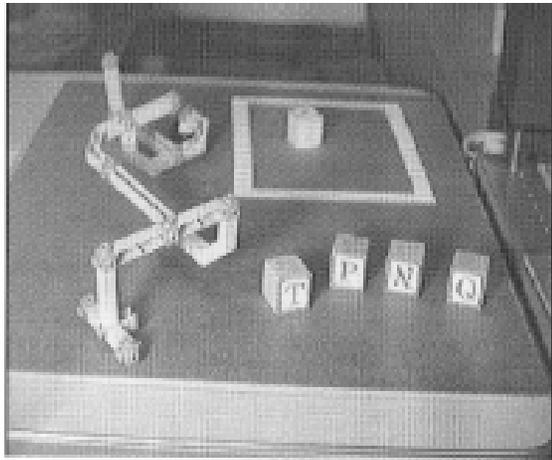
- Edges are significant local changes of intensity in an image.
- Edges typically occur on the boundary between two different regions in an image.



# Applications of Edge Detection

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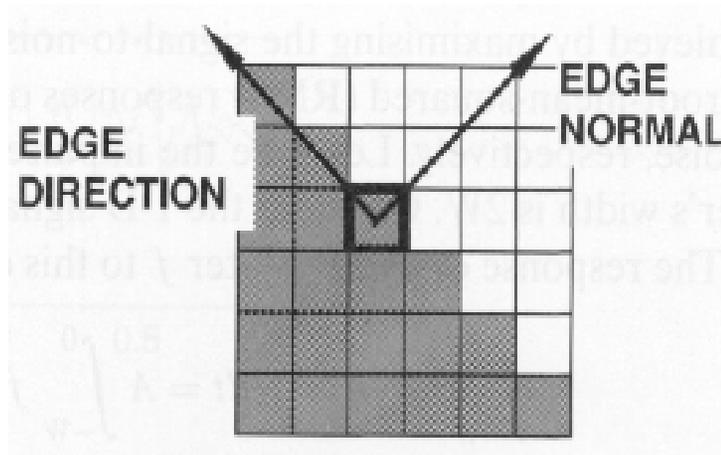
- Produce a line drawing of a scene from an image of that scene.
- Important features can be extracted from the edges of an image (e.g. corners, lines, curves).
- These features are used by higher-level computer vision algorithms (e.g., segmentation, recognition).



# Edge Descriptors

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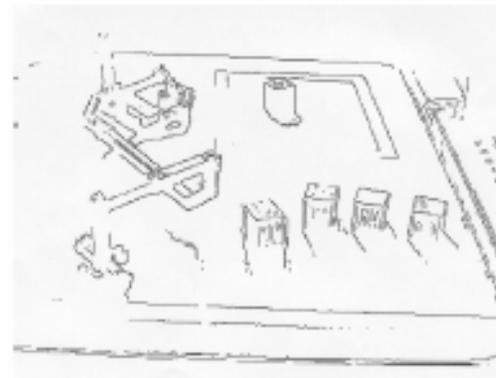
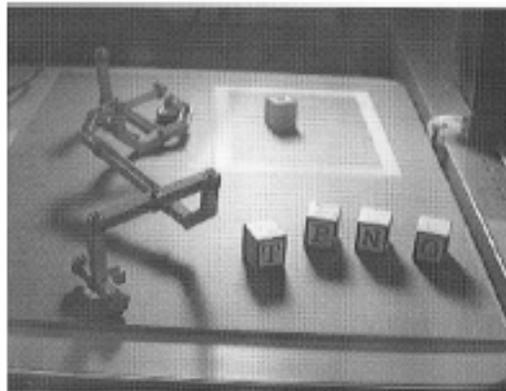
- **Edge normal**: unit vector in the direction of maximum intensity change.
- **Edge direction**: unit vector perpendicular to the edge normal.
- **Edge position or center**: the image position at which the edge is located.
- **Edge strength**: related to the local image contrast along the normal.



# What causes intensity changes?

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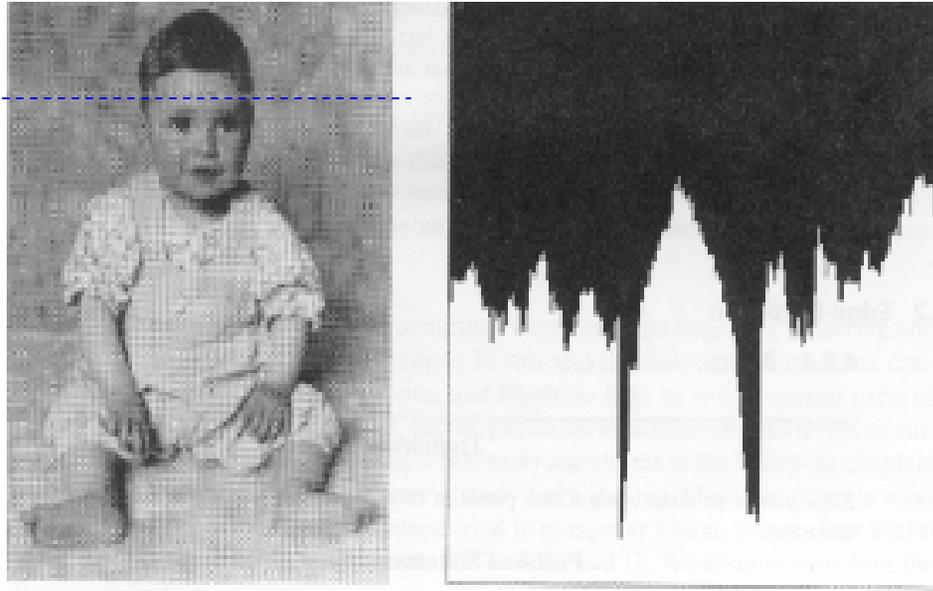
- Geometric events
  - object boundary (discontinuity in depth and/or surface color and texture)
  - surface boundary (discontinuity in surface orientation and/or surface color and texture)
- Non-geometric events
  - specularity
  - shadows (from other objects or from the same object)
  - inter-reflections



# Images as Functions

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1-D

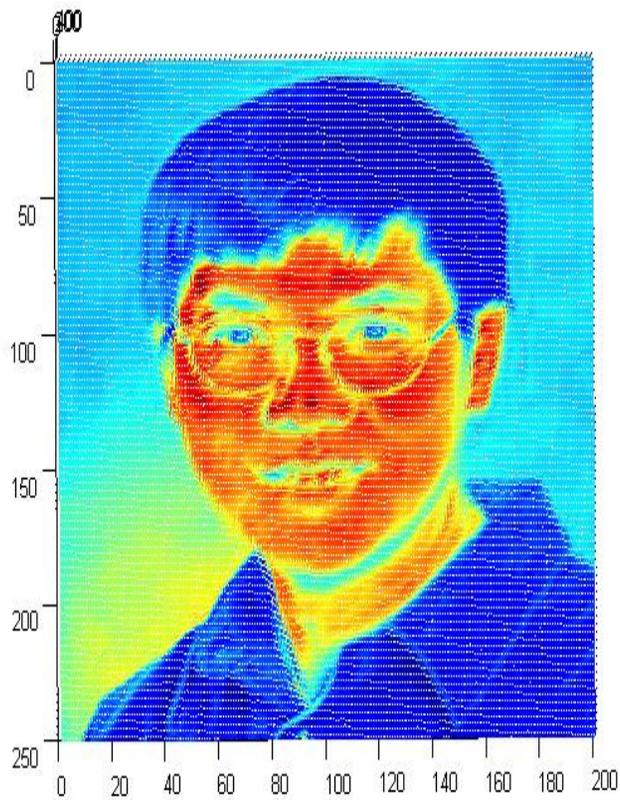


$$I = f(x)$$

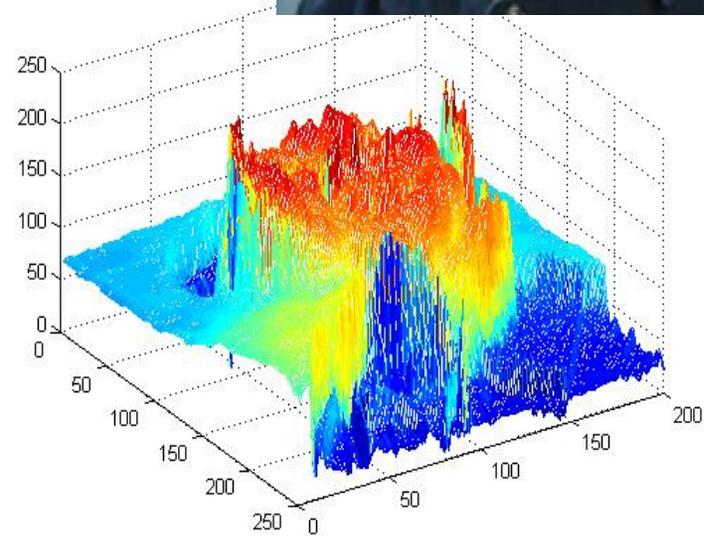
# Images as Functions



2-D



Red channel intensity



$$I = f(x, y)$$

# Edge Detection using Derivatives

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- Calculus describes changes of continuous functions using *derivatives*.
- An image is a 2D function, so operators describing edges are expressed using *partial derivatives*.
- Points which lie on an edge can be detected by either:
  - **detecting local maxima or minima of the first derivative**
  - **detecting the zero-crossing of the second derivative**

# Edge Detection Using Derivatives

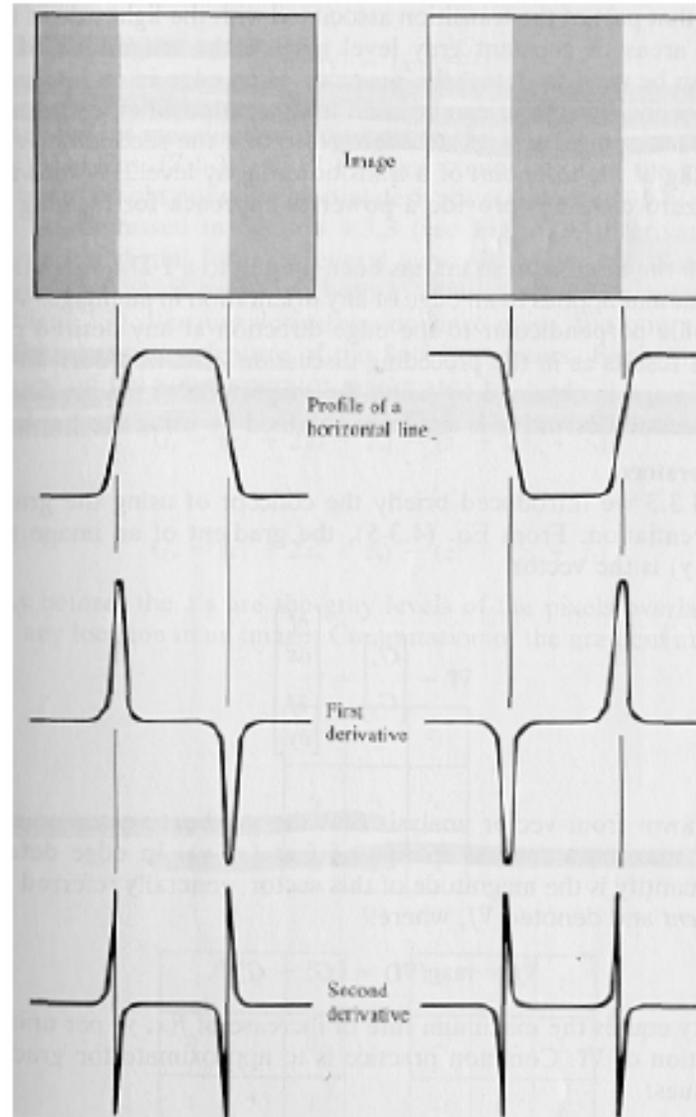
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image

profile of a  
horizontal line

first derivative

second derivative



# Finite Difference Method

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We approximate derivatives with differences.

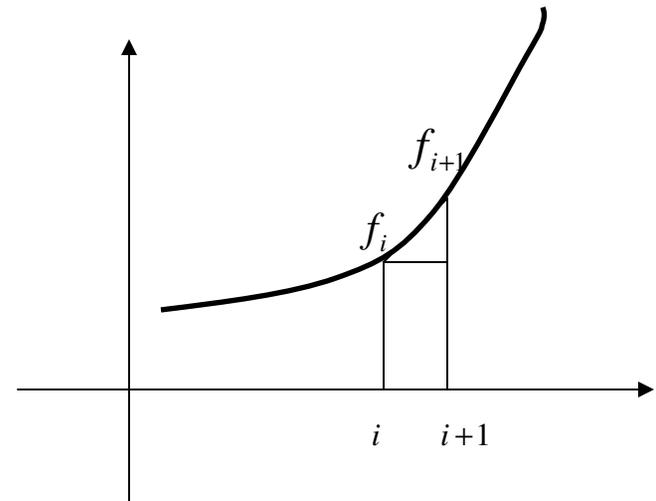
Derivative for 1-D signals:

Continuous function

$$f'(x) = \lim_{h \rightarrow 0} \frac{f(x+h) - f(x)}{h}$$

Discrete approximation

$$f'(x) \approx \frac{f_{i+1} - f_i}{i+1 - i} = f_{i+1} - f_i$$



# Finite Difference and Convolution

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Finite difference on a 1-D image

$$f'(x) \approx f(x_{i+1}) - f(x_i)$$

is equivalent to convolving with kernel:  $\begin{bmatrix} -1 & 1 \end{bmatrix}$

# Finite Difference – 2D

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Continuous function:

$$\frac{\partial f(x, y)}{\partial x} = \lim_{h \rightarrow 0} \frac{f(x+h, y) - f(x, y)}{h}$$

$$\frac{\partial f(x, y)}{\partial y} = \lim_{h \rightarrow 0} \frac{f(x, y+h) - f(x, y)}{h}$$

Discrete approximation:

$$I_x = \frac{\partial f(x, y)}{\partial x} \approx f_{i+1, j} - f_{i, j}$$

$$I_y = \frac{\partial f(x, y)}{\partial y} \approx f_{i, j+1} - f_{i, j}$$

Convolution kernels:

$$\begin{bmatrix} -1 & 1 \end{bmatrix}$$

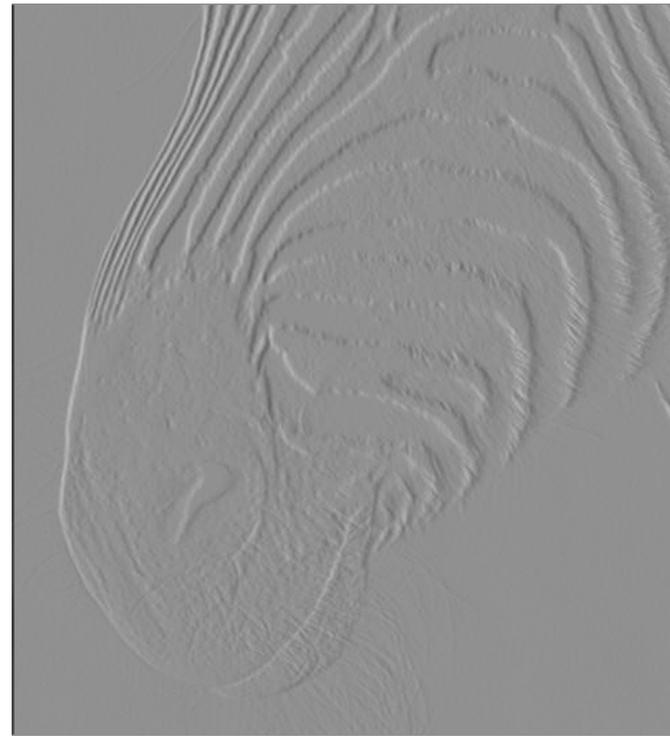
$$\begin{bmatrix} -1 \\ 1 \end{bmatrix}$$

# Image Derivatives

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Image  $I$



$$I_x = I * [-1 \ 1]$$

# Image Derivatives

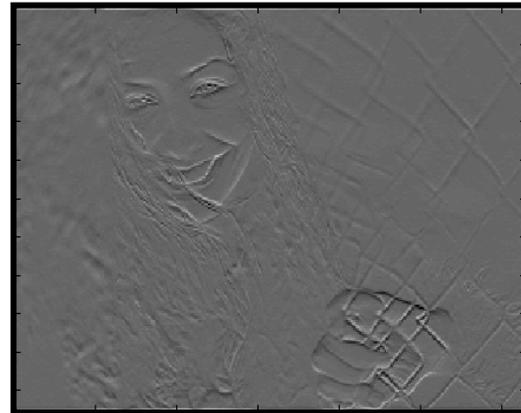
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Image  $I$



$$I_x = I * \begin{bmatrix} -1 & 1 \end{bmatrix}$$



$$I_y = I * \begin{bmatrix} -1 \\ 1 \end{bmatrix}$$