The University of Texas at Austin
Electrical and Computer Engineering
Cockrell School of Engineering

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INTRODUCTION TO COMPUTER VISION

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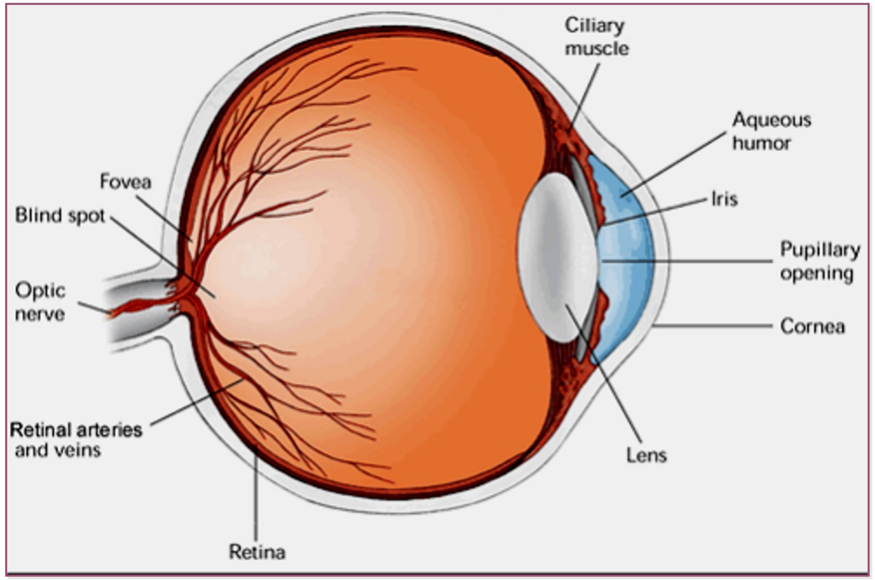
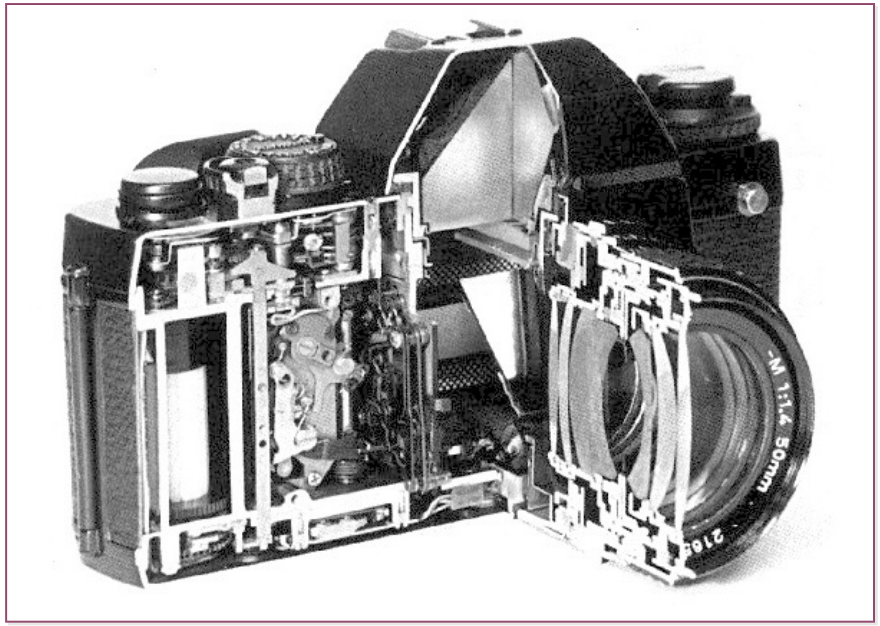
Image Formulation

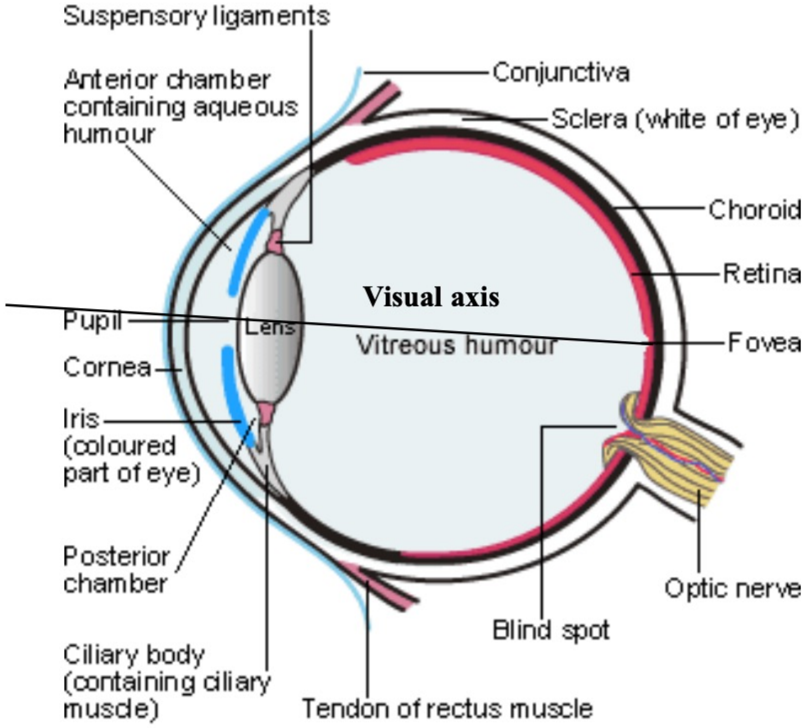
- Human: lens forms image on retina, sensors (rods and cones) respond to light
- Computer: lens system forms image, sensors (CCD, CMOS) respond to light





Overview of Human Vision: “Low-Level”

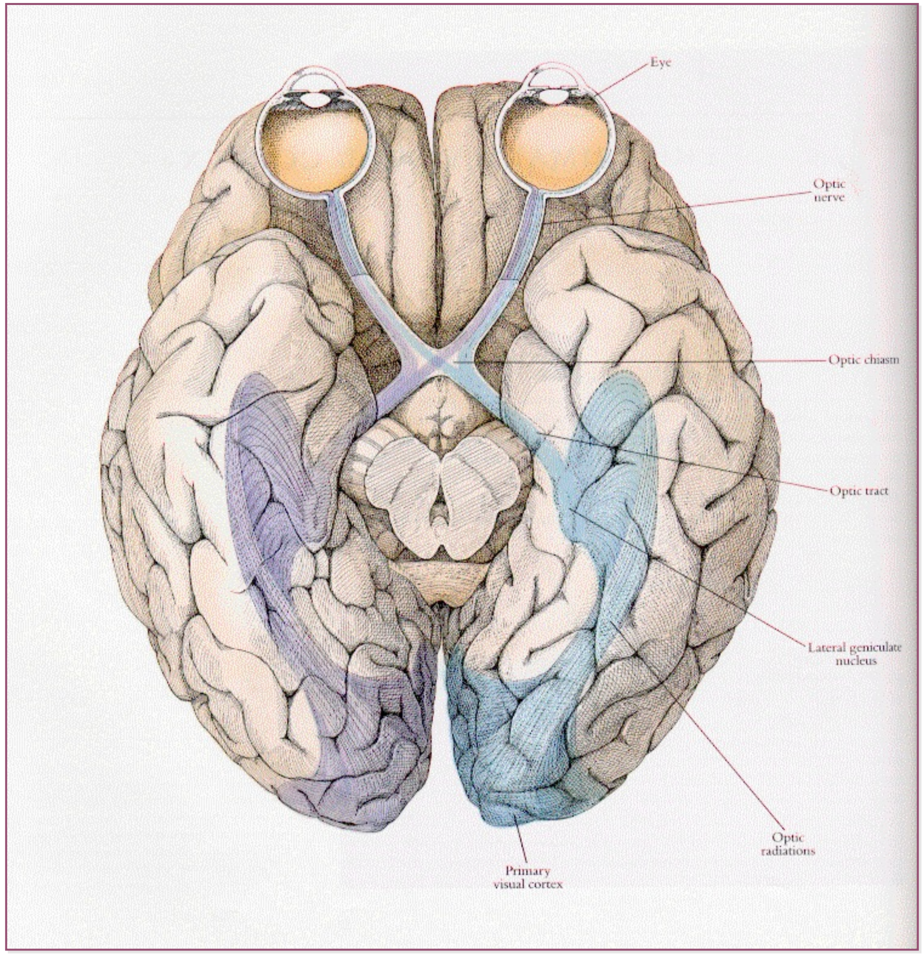
- Human visual perception plays a key role in composing our ”computer vision” toolkits!
- **Lens** and **Cornea**: focusing on the objects
- Two receptors in the retina: **Cones** and **Rods**
  - Cones located in fovea and are sensitive to **color**
  - Rods give a general overall picture of view, are insensitive to color but sensitive to the **level of illumination**



http://www.mydr.com.au/eye-health/eye-anatomy

Overview of Human Vision: “Mid & High-Level”

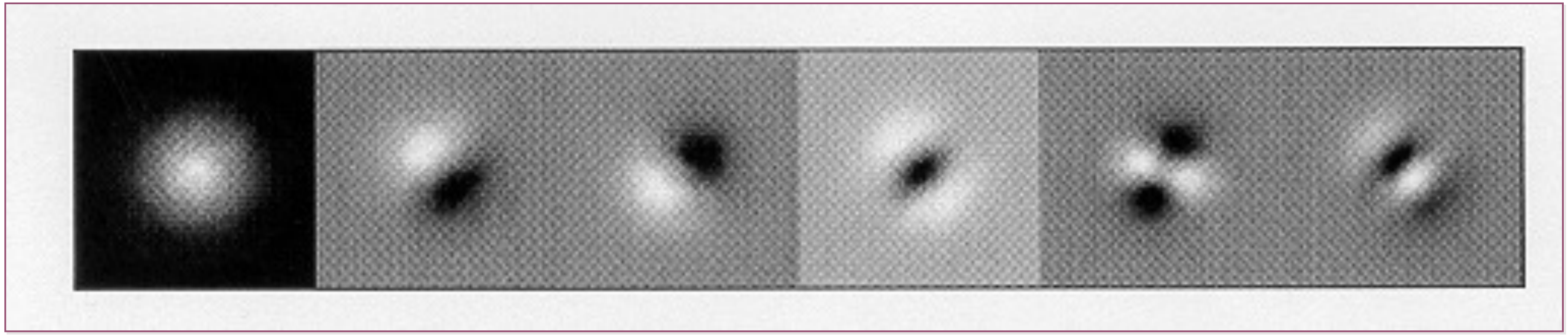
- Lateral Geniculate Nucleus (LGN)
    - “Compute” temporal and spatial correlations
- Primary Visual Cortex (V1)
    - Very well-defined mapping of the spatial information
    - “Saliency hypothesis” and gaze shifts
- Further processing starting from V1:“**What-Where Pathway**”
    - Temporal cortex (ventral): what is the object?
    - Parietal cortex (dorsal): where is the object? How do I get it?
- Recognition-by-components (**RBC**) theory



Frequency & Distance

Your Brain Secretly Thinks in the Frequency Domain

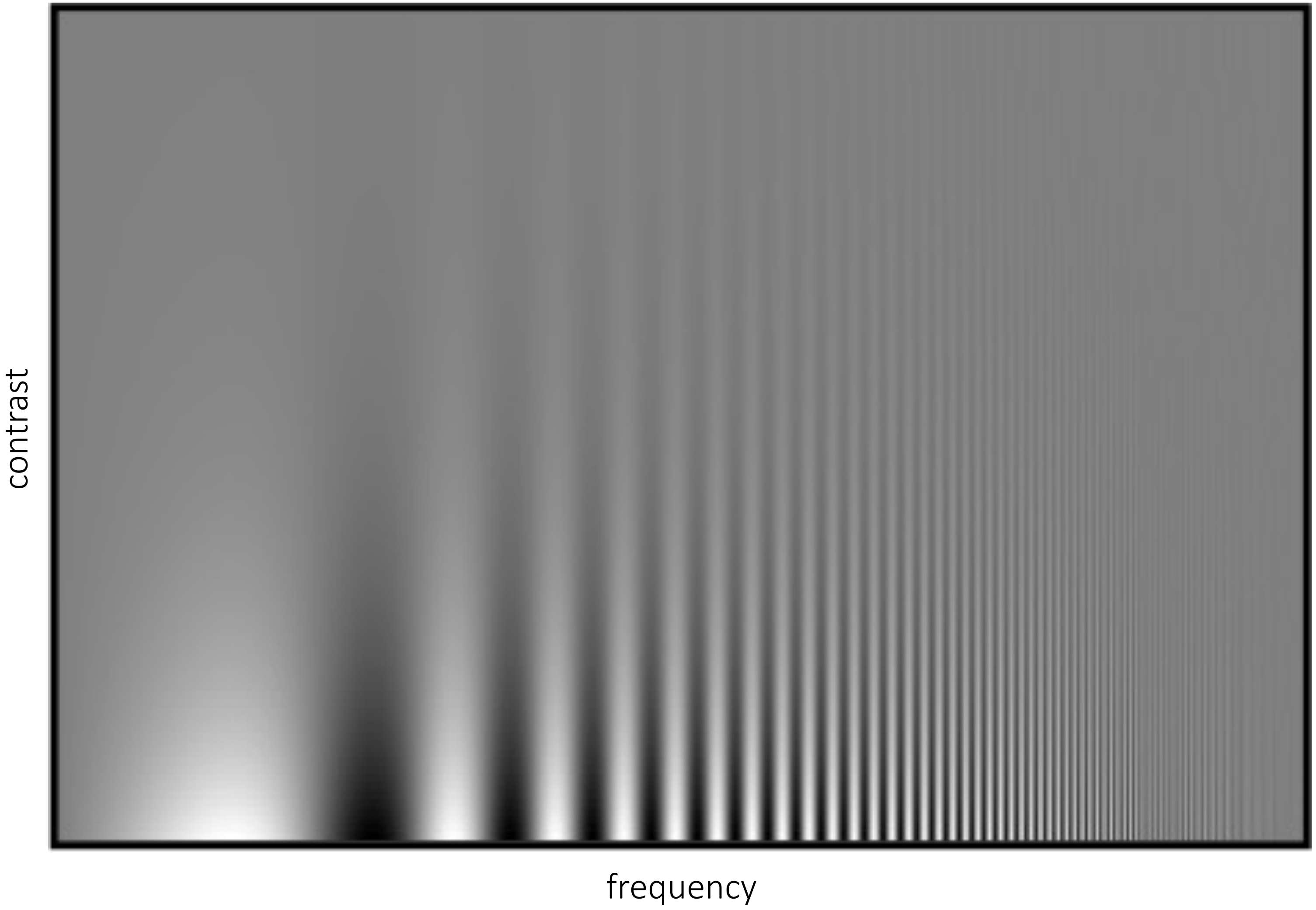
- Low-level human vision can be (partially) modeled as a set of *multi-resolution, and multi-orientation* filters



- Human perception cues are dominated by mid- to high-frequency bands
  - The spatial-frequency theory refers to the theory that the visual cortex operates on a code of spatial frequency, not on the code of straight edges and lines *Your brain knows "how to do" Fourier transform, before you know it…*
  - When we see something from a distance, we are effectively subsampling it. *Did this remind you of sampling theorem?*

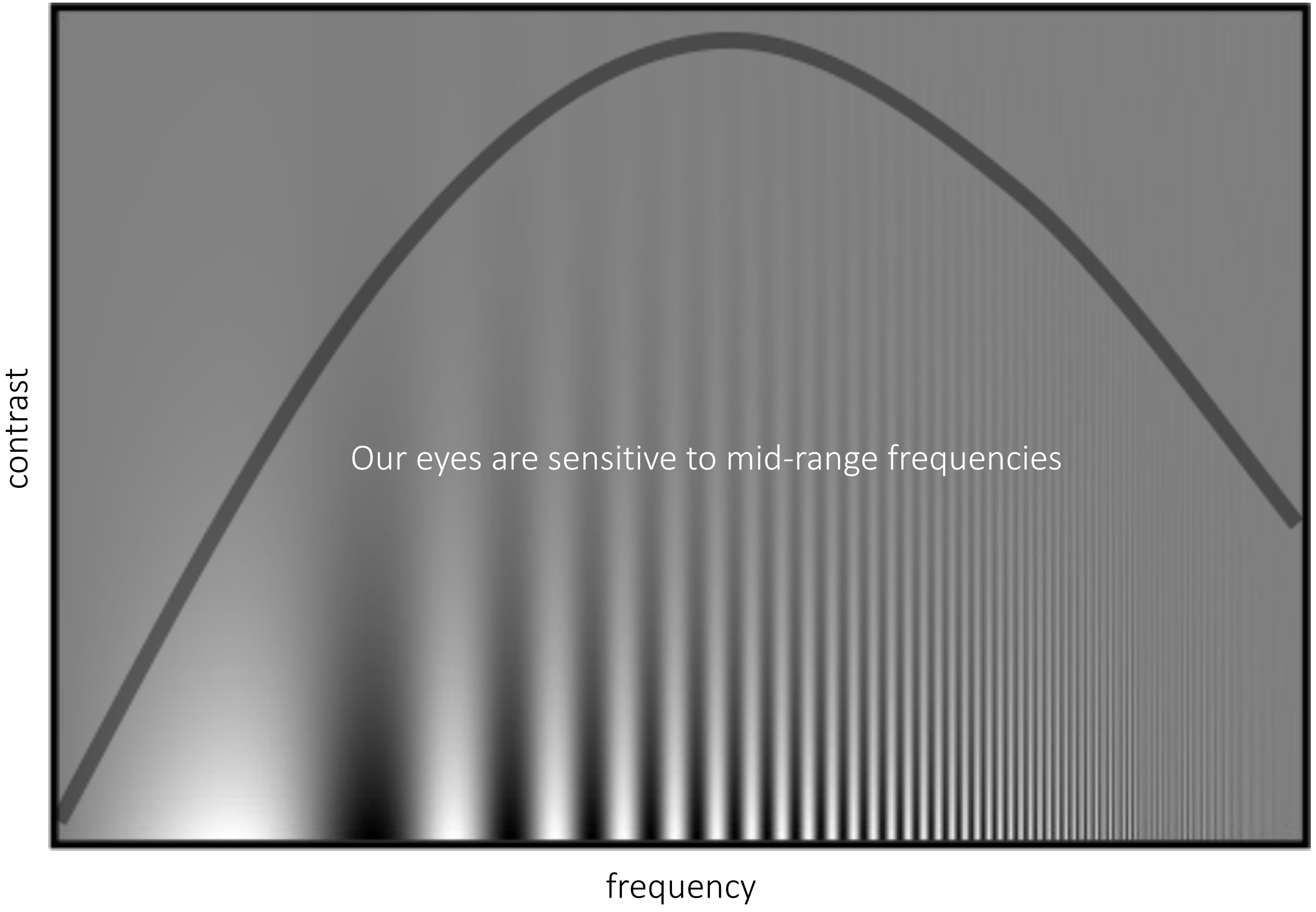
Variable frequency sensitivity

Experiment: Where do you see the stripes?



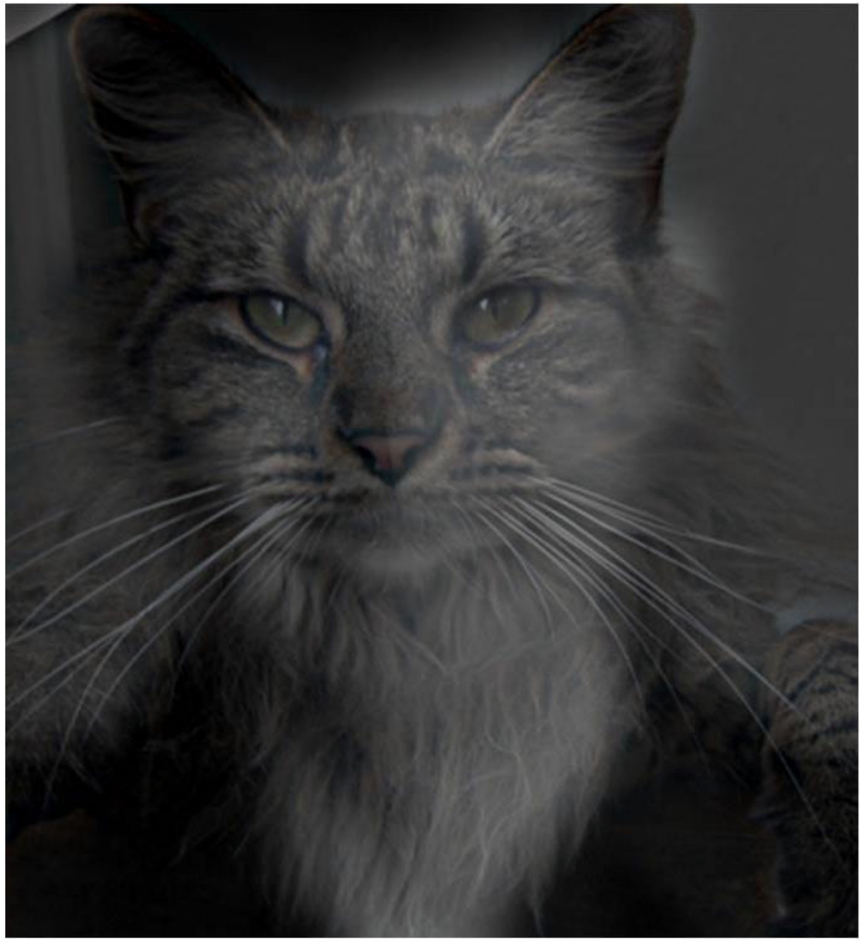
Variable frequency sensitivity

Campbell-Robson contrast sensitivity curve



- Early processing in humans filters for various orientations and scales of frequency
- Perceptual cues in the mid frequencies dominate perception

Hybrid Images: Distance Sensitivity



?

Distance-dependent perception of hybrid images by human

Are you still complaining deep networks are easily fooled? ☺

Light & Color

Our perceived brightness is often “relative”

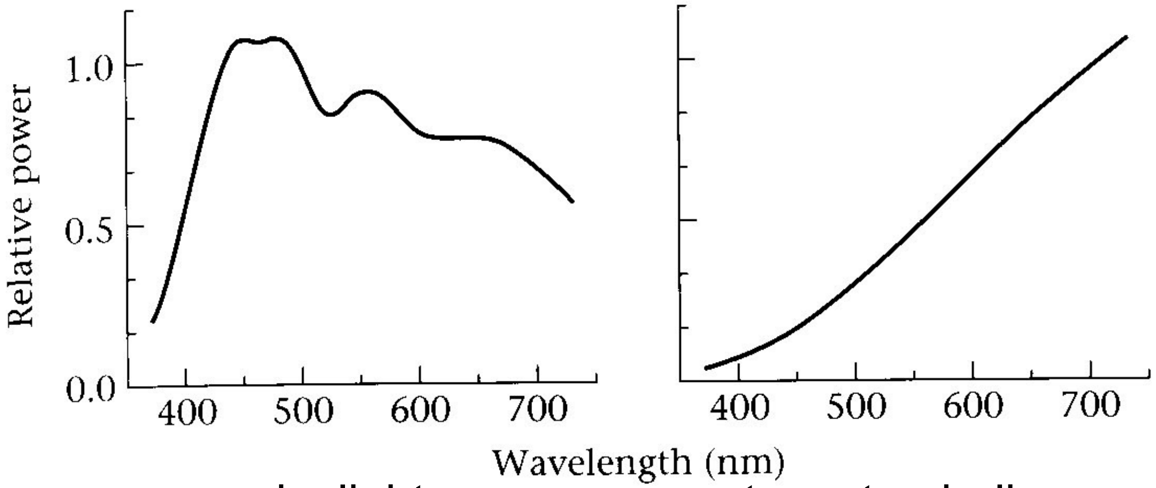
- The term *brightness* refers to the perceived amount of light coming from light sources.
- However, *human perceived brightness* depends on the surrounding region
  - **Brightness contrast**: a constant-colored region seem lighter or darker depending on the surround:

    - http://www.sandlotscience.com/Contrast/Checker_Board_2.htm

  - **Brightness constancy**: a surface looks the same under widely varying lighting conditions
    - For example, something white will appear to be the same shade of white no matter how much light it is being exposed to - noontime sunlight or a soft lamplight at night.
    - A type of psychological “perceptual constancy” (other constancy forms: color, shape …)

Light spectrum

- The appearance of light depends on its power **spectrum**
  - How much power (or energy) at each wavelength



daylight tungsten bulb

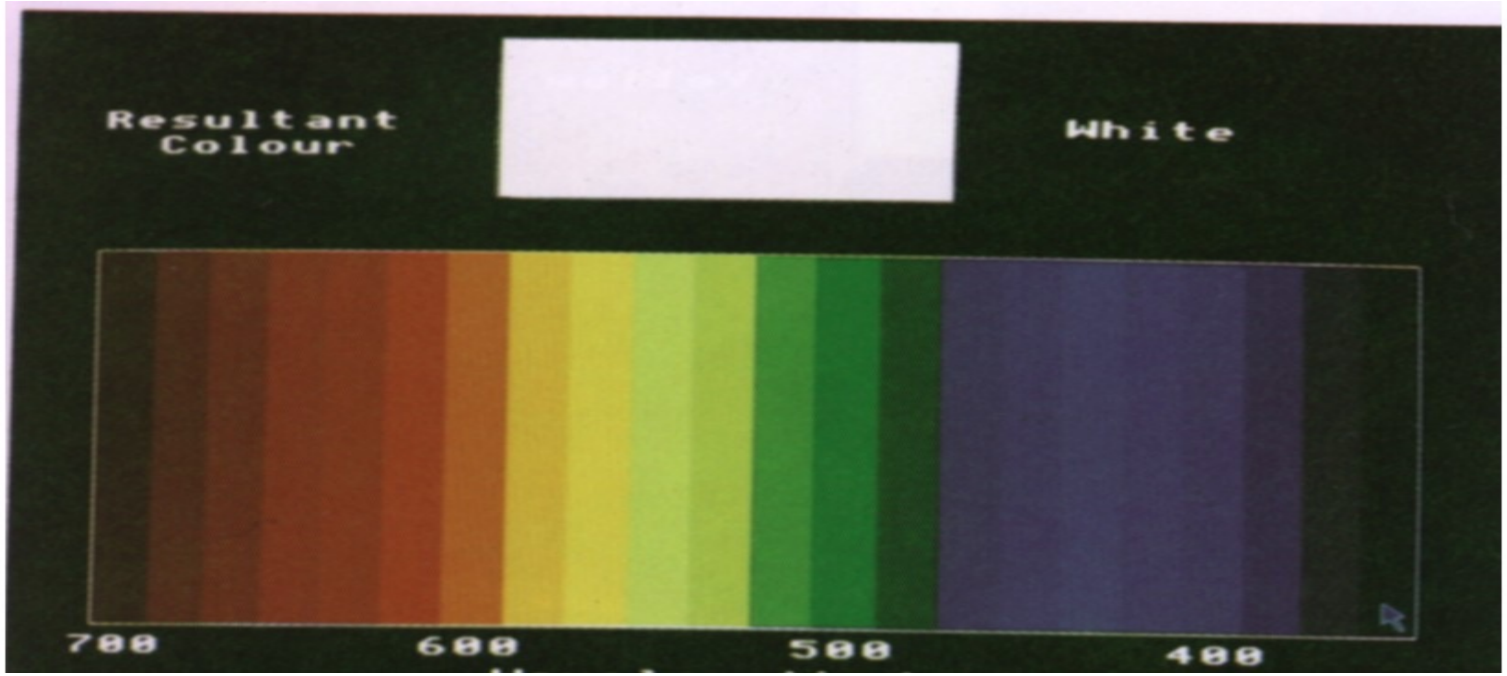
Our visual system converts a light spectrum into “color”

- This is a rather complex transformation
- **Color is an extended concept of “brightness”**

Colors are almost always “mixtures”

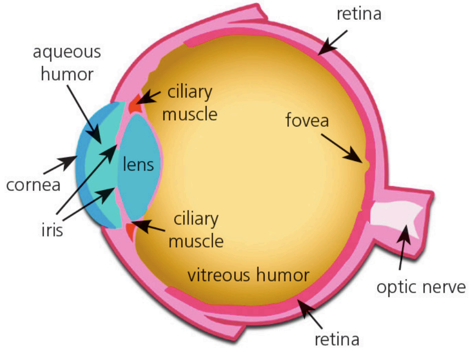
- We almost never see a “pure” wavelength of light; rather a mixture of wavelengths, each with a different “power”

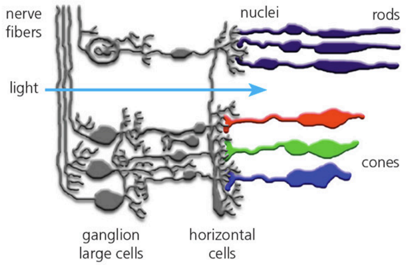
- Only some colors occur as pure wavelengths; most are mixtures of pure colors (e.g. white)

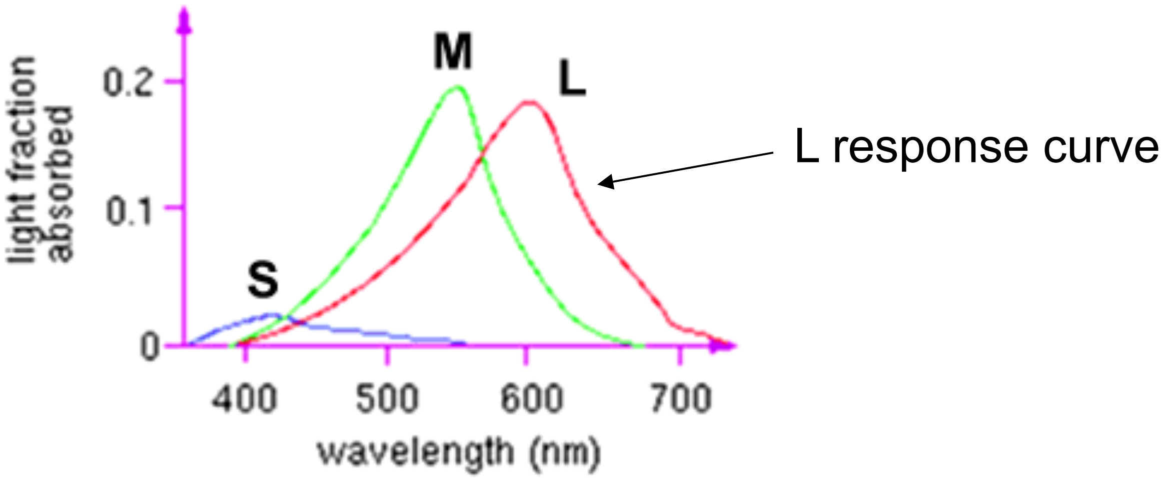


Source: G Hager Slides

Color perception

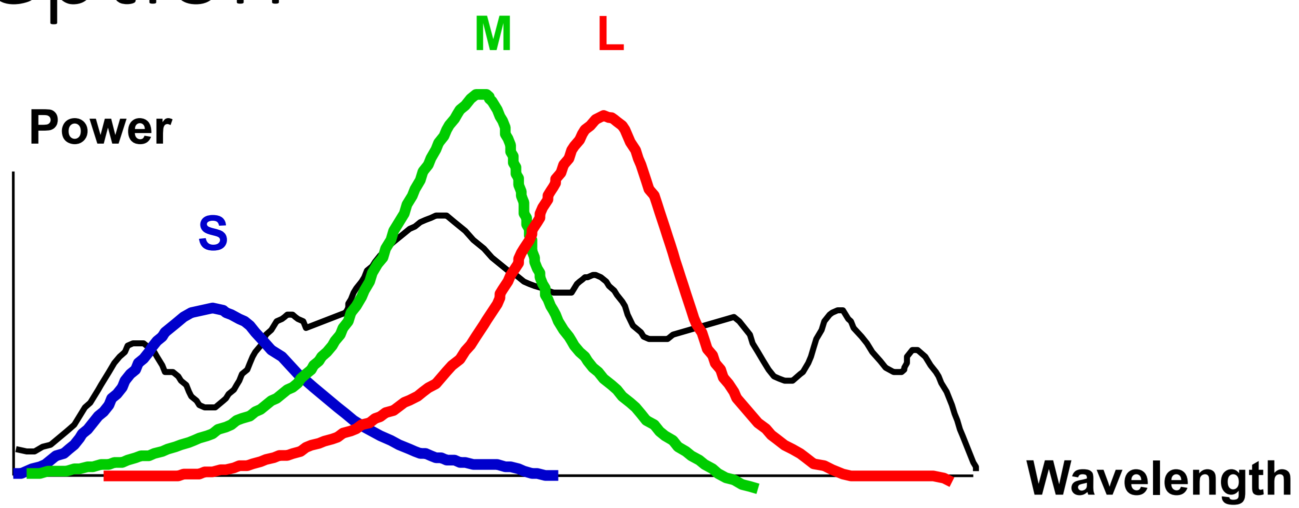






- Three types of cones
  - Each is sensitive in a different region of the spectrum, but regions overlap
    - Short (S) corresponds to blue
    - Medium (M) corresponds to green
    - Long (L) corresponds to red
  - Different sensitivities: we are more sensitive to green than red
    - varies from person to person (and with age)
  - Colorblindness—deficiency in at least one type of cone

Color perception

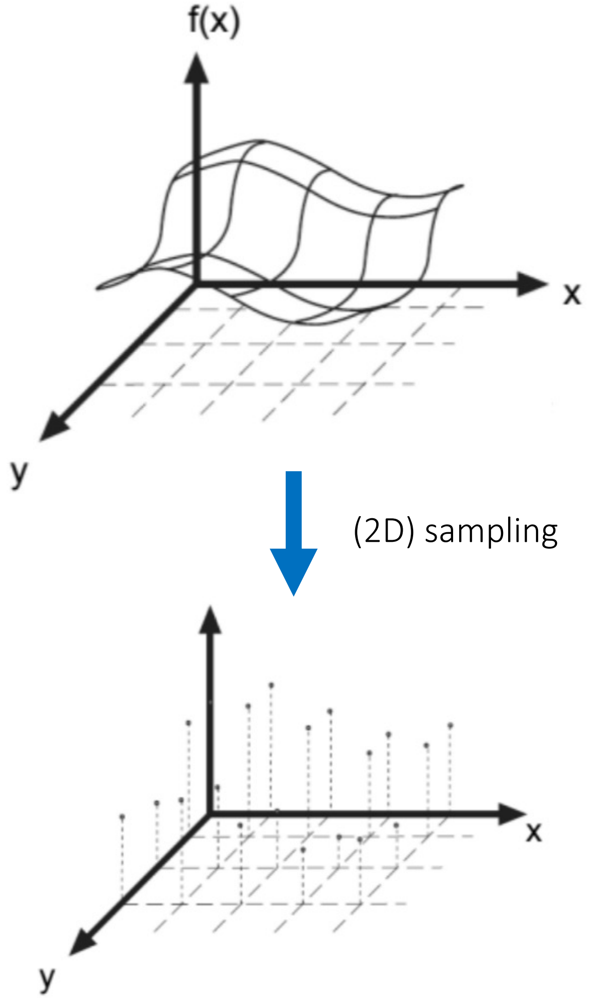


- Rods and cones act as filters on the spectrum
  - To get the output of a filter, multiply its response curve by the spectrum, integrate over all wavelengths
    - Each cone yields one number
  - Q: How can we represent an entire spectrum with 3 numbers?
  - A: We can't! Most of the information is lost.
    – As a result, two different spectra may appear indistinguishable by human eyes
    – Just like spatial "resolution", human eyes also have limited <u>"color resolution"</u>

Now, Digital Images!

Digital Image: Sampling of Continuous Visual World

- **Signal:** function depending on some variable with physical meaning
  - Our real visual world is always a continuous signal, do you agree?
- **Digital Image:** sampling of that function, dependent on **variables** of:
  - Two-axis: x-y coordinates
  - Three-axis: x-y-time (**video**)
- "Brightness/Color" is the **value** of the function for visible light, a.k.a. ***pixel***
  - Other possible function values in various "images": depth, heat…



Digital Image Representation

Binary

Gray scale

Color

Digital Images are Sampled and Quantized

- An image contains **discrete number of pixels**, and each pixel has **discrete number of values**
- **Remember:** you discretize both the spatial (2D or 3D) and spectral(pixel value) dimensions, either at certain “resolution”

[90, 0, 53]

[249, 215, 203]

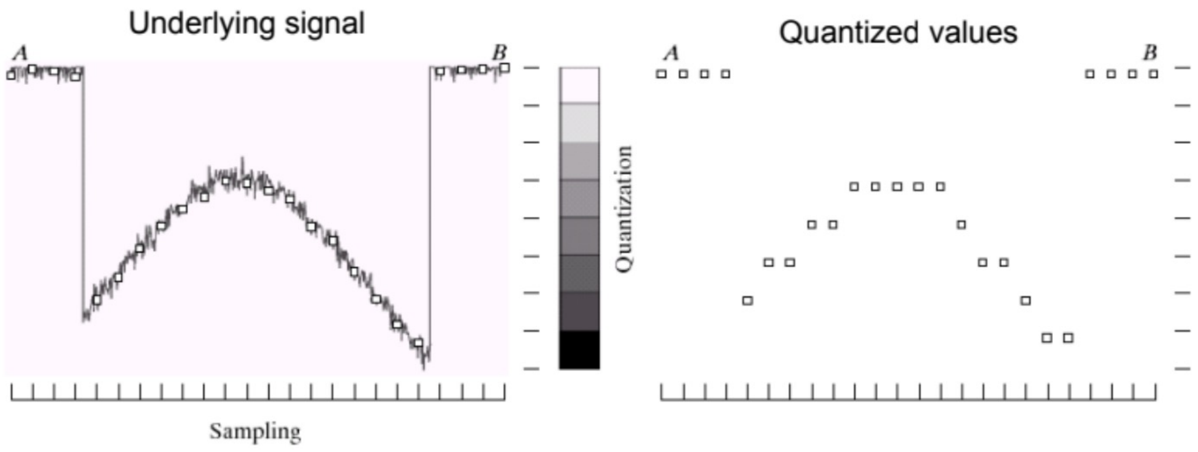
[213, 60, 67]

Samples = pixels

Quantization = number of bits per pixel

- ”binary”: 0 or 1
- “grayscale” (or “intensity”): [0,255]
- “color”: RGB: [R, G, B]

Digital Values can be Quantized Further



8 bit – 256 levels　4 bit – 16 levels　2 bit – 4 levels　1 bit – 2 levels

- We often call this *bit depth*
- For photography, this is also related to *dynamic range*

Is An Image Just A Matrix?

```
>>> from matplotlib import pyplot as p
>>> I = r.rand(256,256);
>>> p.imshow(I);
>>> p.show();
```

Is it an image?

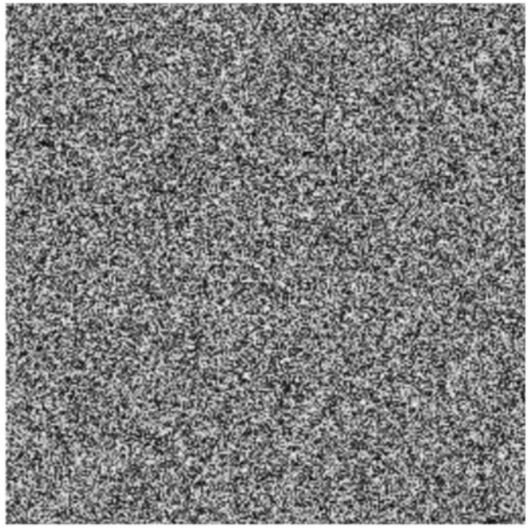


Image is a high-structured 2D signal!!

- *(piece-wise) smoothness, self-similar patterns (fractal), "reducible" to the composition of basic units (subspace)…*
  - *A wealth of "image priors", although not always explicit*
- It takes great luck for a 2D matrix to be an image!

8bit = 256 values ^ 65,536

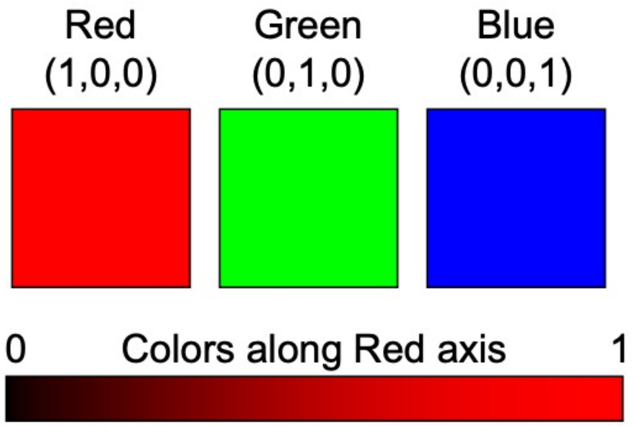
Computer vision makes sense of an extremely high-dimensional space

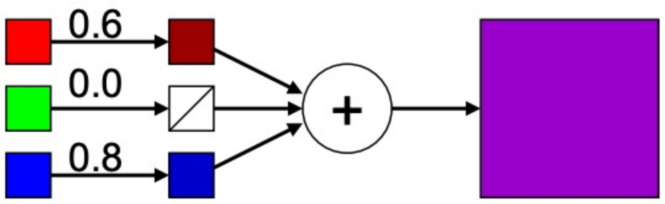
- *Using **low-dimensional**, explainable models*

"Natural Image Manifold"

- The distribution of natural images (or patches) is similar to the mass distribution in the universe, where there are high-density and low-density areas
- This "manifold" has to be highly nonlinear, inherently **low-dimensional**, and **locally smooth** … (do you understand why?)

Color Image: Three-Channel RGB Model





Universal, yet non-perceptual…

- *The three channels are strongly correlated!*

Color Space Representations

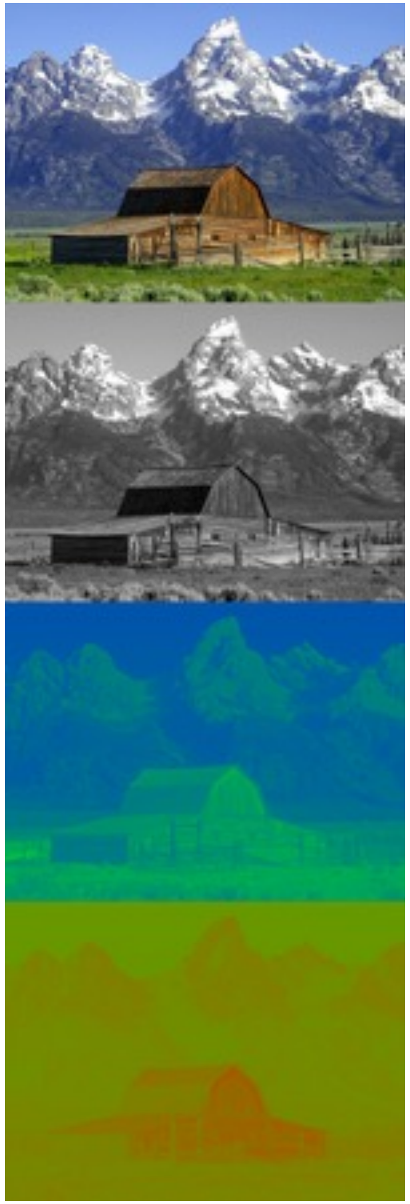
RGB system (most common):
linear additive color mixing

$$\begin{bmatrix} Y' \\ U \\ V \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} 0.299 & 0.587 & 0.114 \\ -0.14713 & -0.28886 & 0.436 \\ 0.615 & -0.51499 & -0.10001 \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} R' \\ G' \\ B' \end{bmatrix},$$

$$\begin{bmatrix} R' \\ G' \\ B' \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 & 1.13983 \\ 1 & -0.39465 & -0.58060 \\ 1 & 2.03211 & 0 \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} Y' \\ U \\ V \end{bmatrix}.$$

YUV system (popular in color TV):

- Y stands for the luma component (brightness)
- U and V are the chrominance (color) components



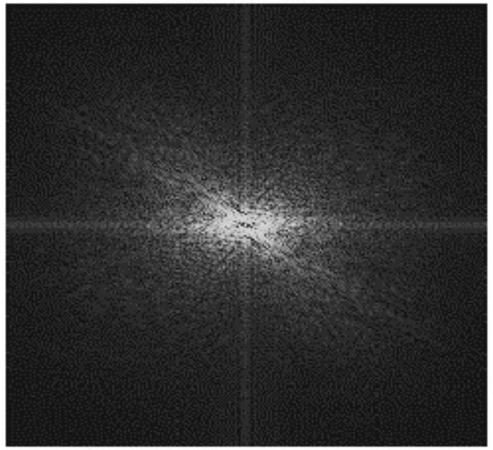
Video: Frame-by-Frame Image Sequence

30 frames/second

Spatial and Frequency Domains

- Spatial domain
  - refers to planar region of intensity values at time *t*

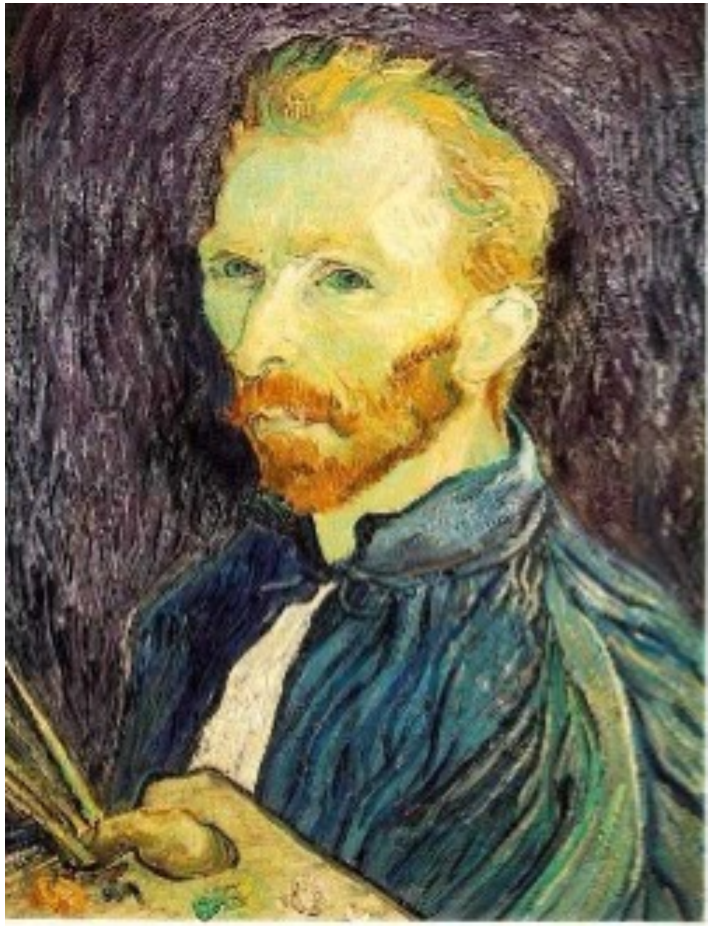
- **Frequency domain**
  - think of each color plane as a sinusoidal function of changing intensity values
  - refers to organizing pixels according to their changing intensity (frequency)




This image is too big to fit on the screen.
How would you reduce it to half its size?

Naïve image downsampling

Throw away half the rows and columns



1/2

delete even rows
delete even columns

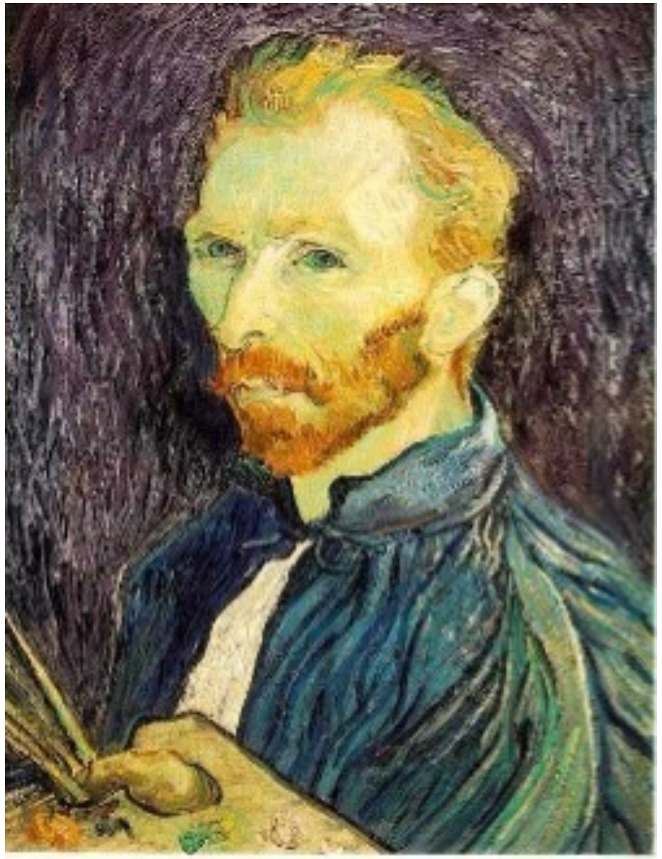
1/4

delete even rows
delete even columns

1/8

What is the problem with this approach?

Naïve image downsampling



1/2

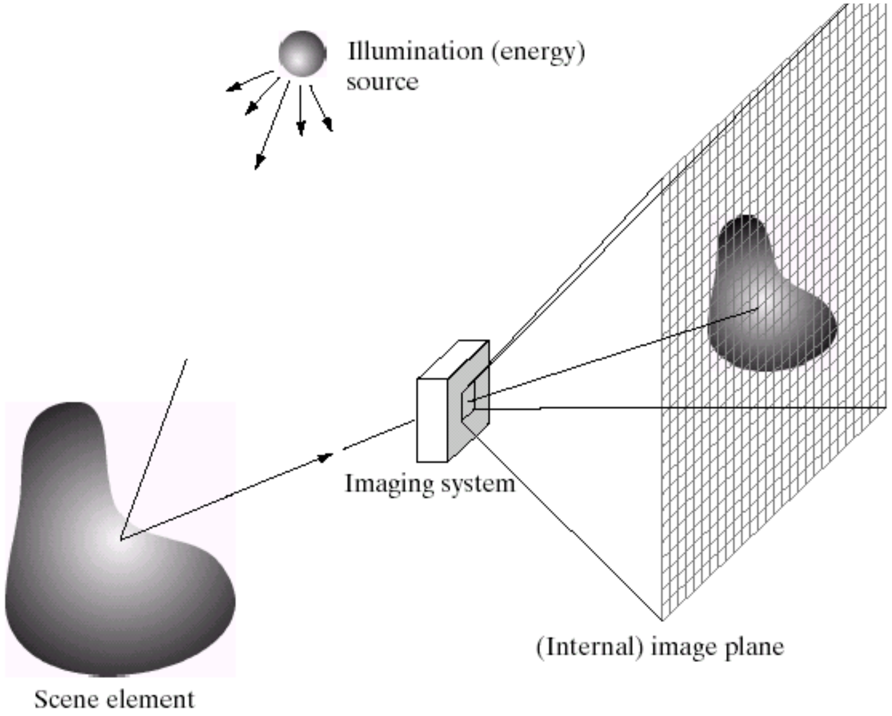
1/4 (2x zoom)

1/8 (4x zoom)

What is the 1/8 image so pixelated (and do you know what this effect is called)?

The Devil of Digital Sampling:
Aliasing

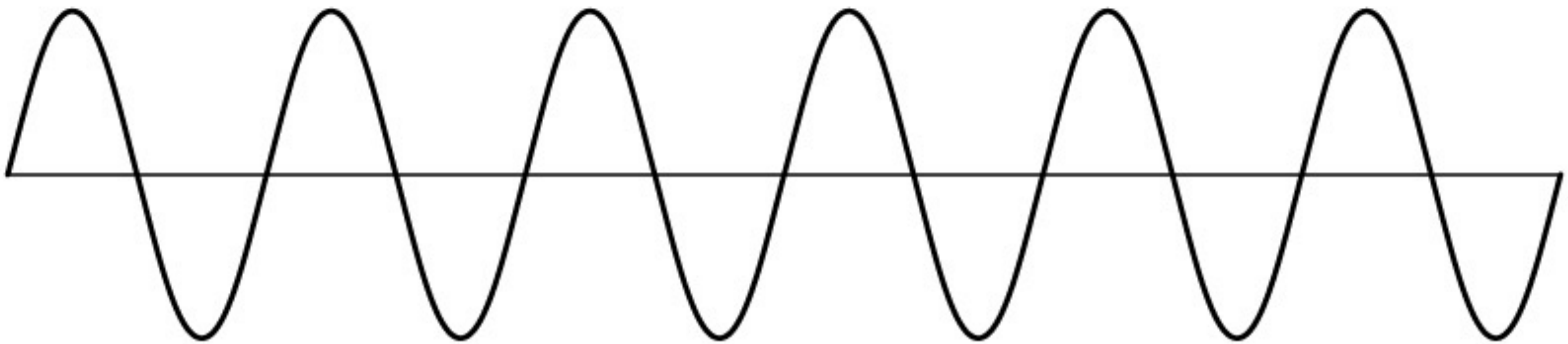
Reminder



Images are a *discrete*, or *sampled*, representation of a *continuous* world

Sampling

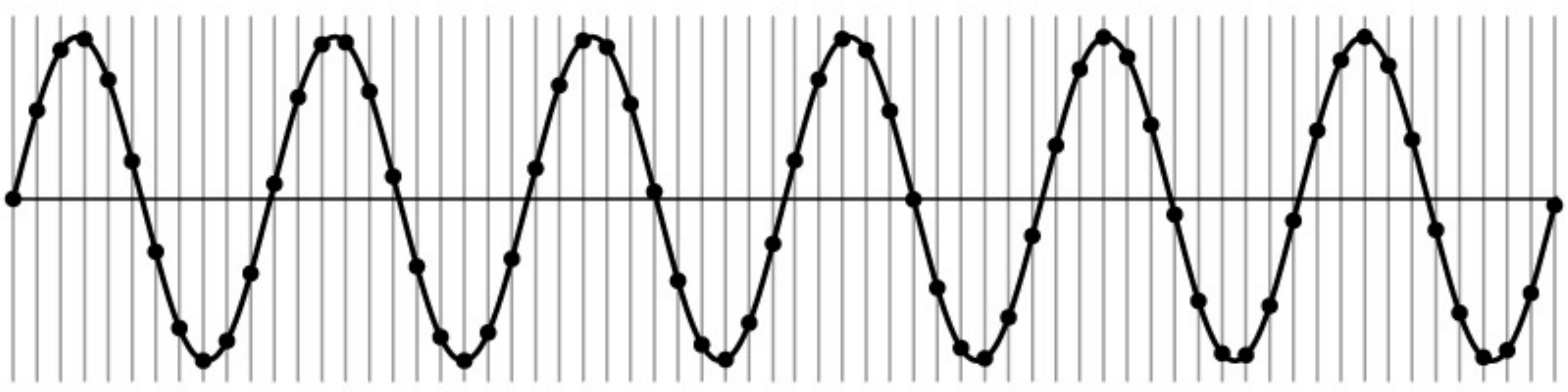
Very simple example: a sine wave



How would you discretize this signal?

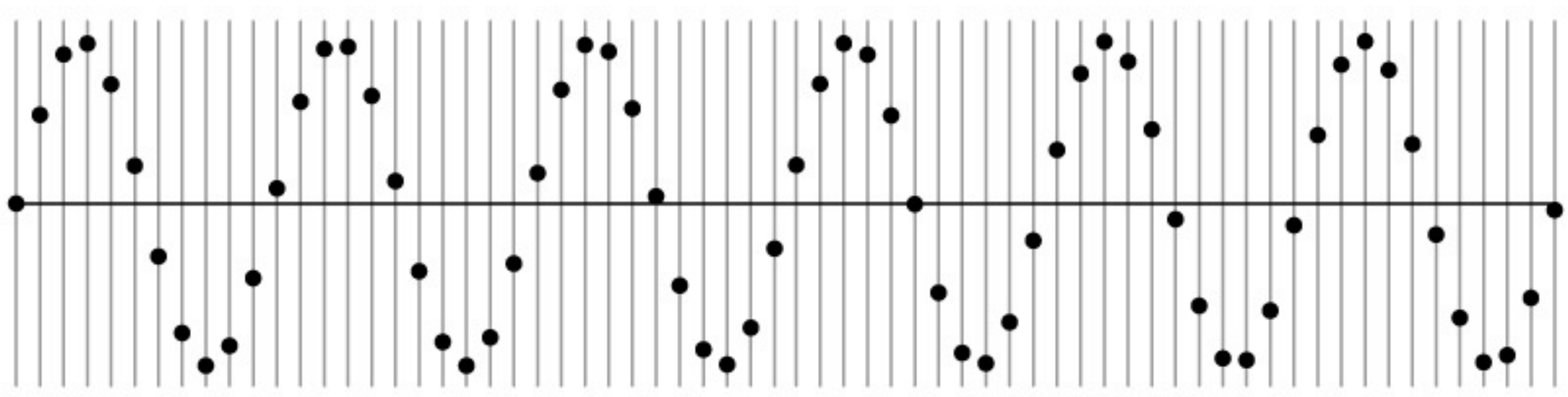
Sampling

Very simple example: a sine wave



Sampling

Very simple example: a sine wave

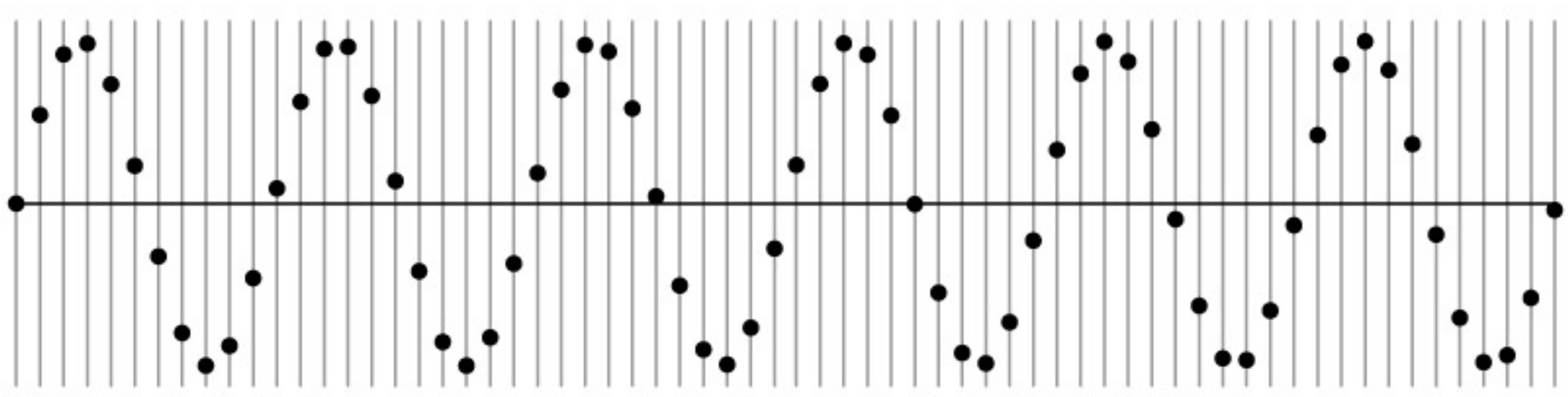


How many samples should I take?

Can I take as *many* samples as I want?

Sampling

Very simple example: a sine wave

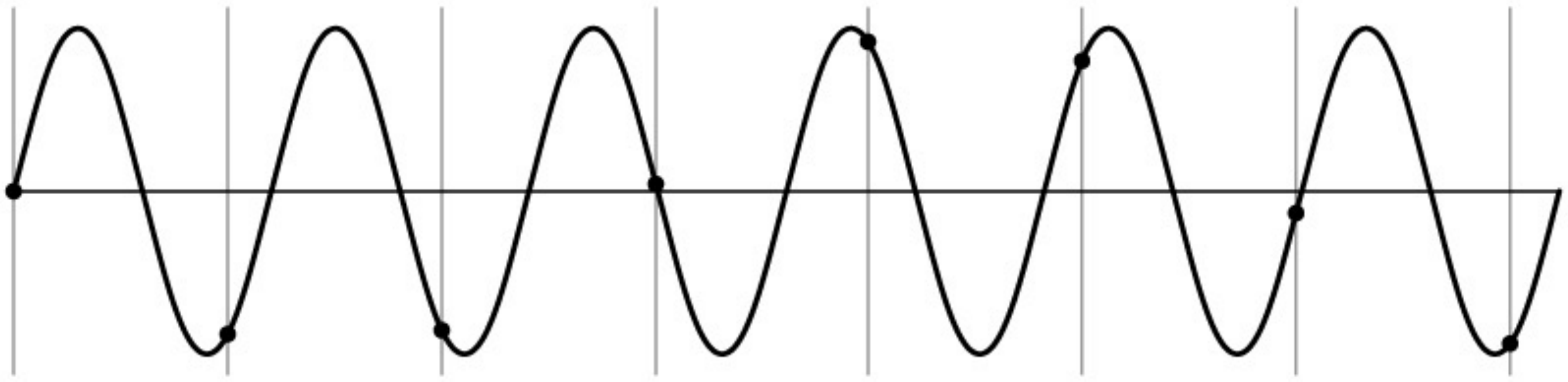


How many samples should I take?

Can I take as *few* samples as I want?

Undersampling

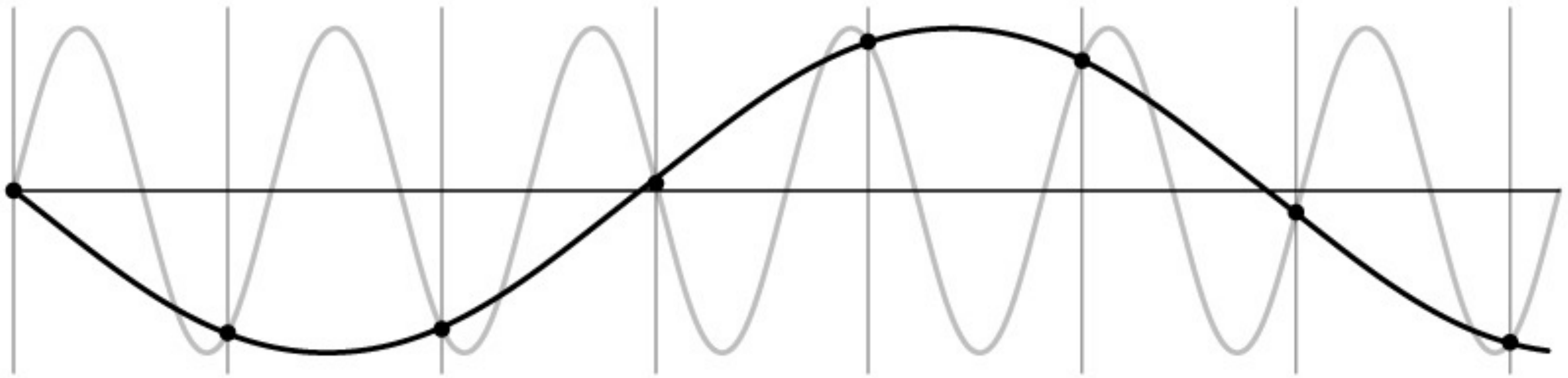
Very simple example: a sine wave



Unsurprising effect: information is lost.

Undersampling

Very simple example: a sine wave

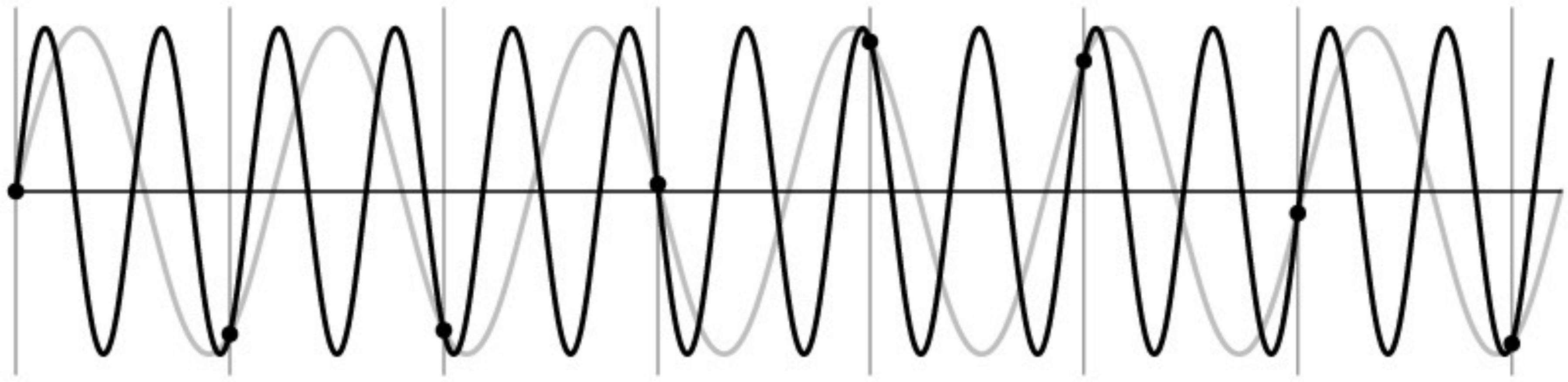


Unsurprising effect: information is lost.

Surprising effect: can confuse the signal with one of *lower* frequency.

Undersampling

Very simple example: a sine wave



Unsurprising effect: information is lost.

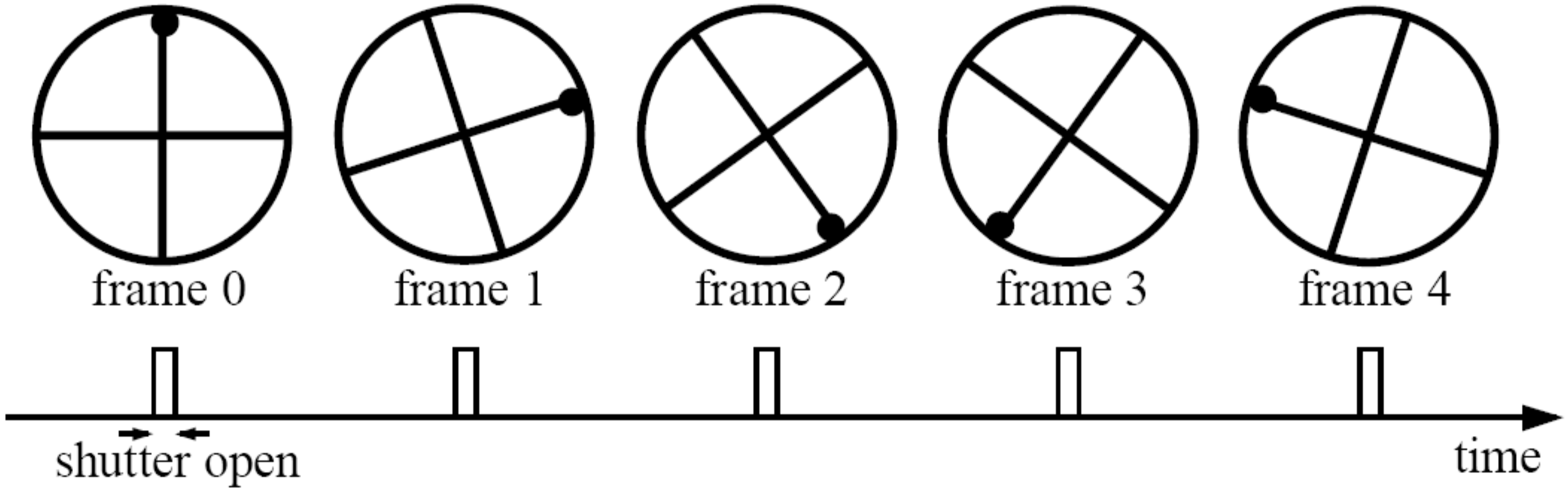
Surprising effect: can confuse the signal with one of *lower* frequency.

Note: we could always confuse the signal with one of *higher* frequency.

Temporal aliasing

Imagine a spoked wheel moving to the right (rotating clockwise). Mark wheel with dot so we can see what's happening.

If camera shutter is only open for a fraction of a frame time (frame time = 1/30 sec. for video, 1/24 sec. for film):



Without dot, wheel appears to be rotating slowly backwards! (counterclockwise)

Anti-aliasing

How would you deal with aliasing?

Anti-aliasing

How would you deal with aliasing?

Approach 1: Oversample the signal

Anti-aliasing

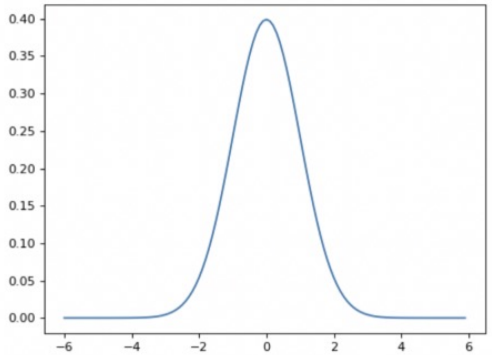
How would you deal with aliasing?

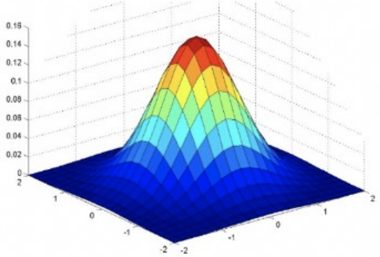
Approach 1: Oversample the signal

Approach 2: Smooth the signal

- Remove some of the detail effects that cause aliasing.
- Lose information, but better than aliasing artifacts.

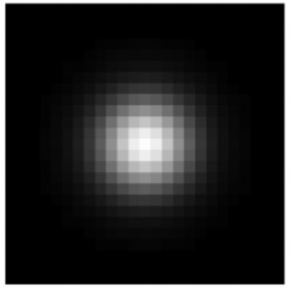
How would you smooth a signal?





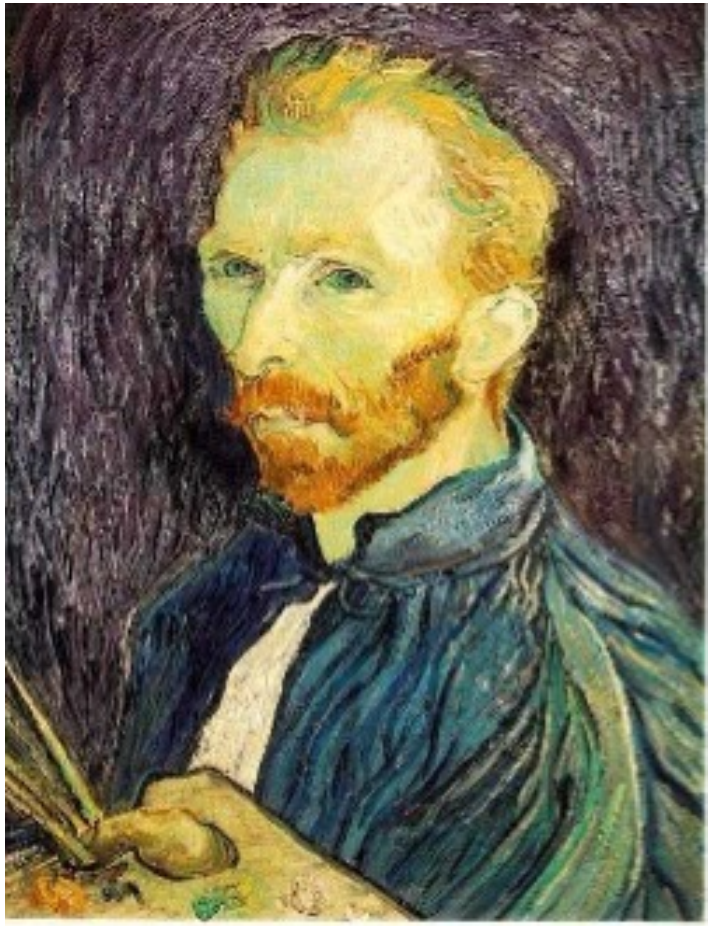
Gaussian kernel

$$G_\sigma = \frac{1}{2\pi\sigma^2} e^{-\frac{(x^2+y^2)}{2\sigma^2}}$$



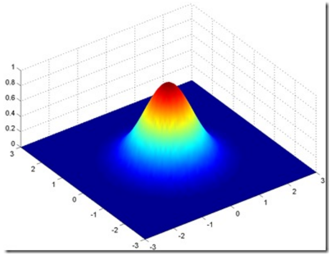
Better image downsampling

Apply a smoothing filter first, then throw away half the rows and columns



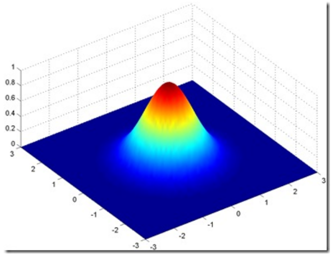
1/2

Gaussian filter
delete even rows
delete even columns



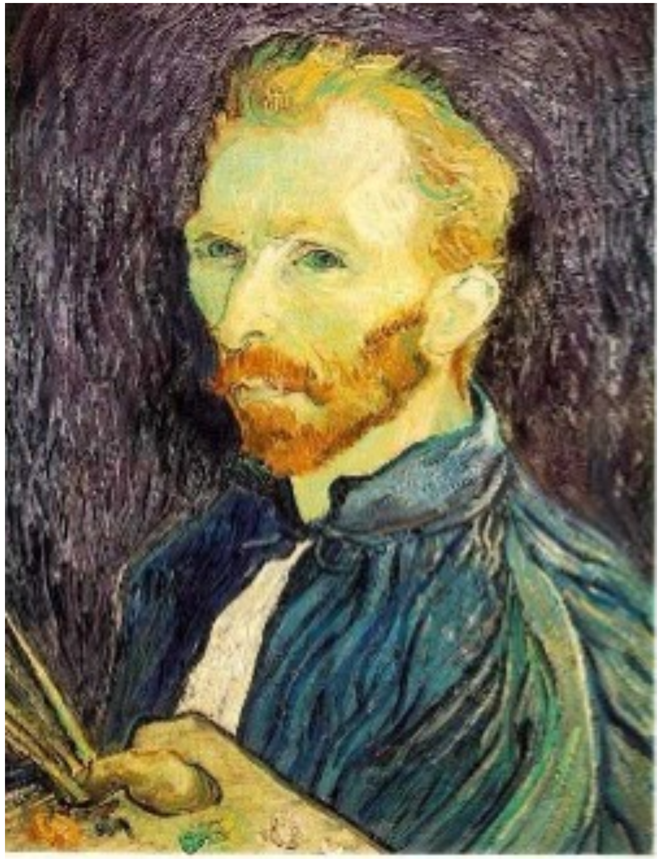
1/4

Gaussian filter
delete even rows
delete even columns

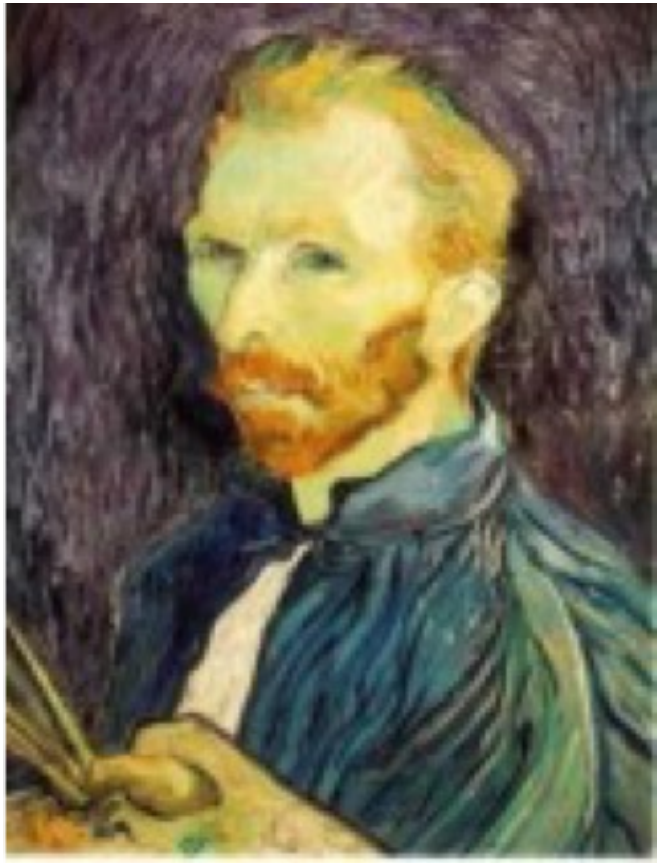


1/8

Better image downsampling



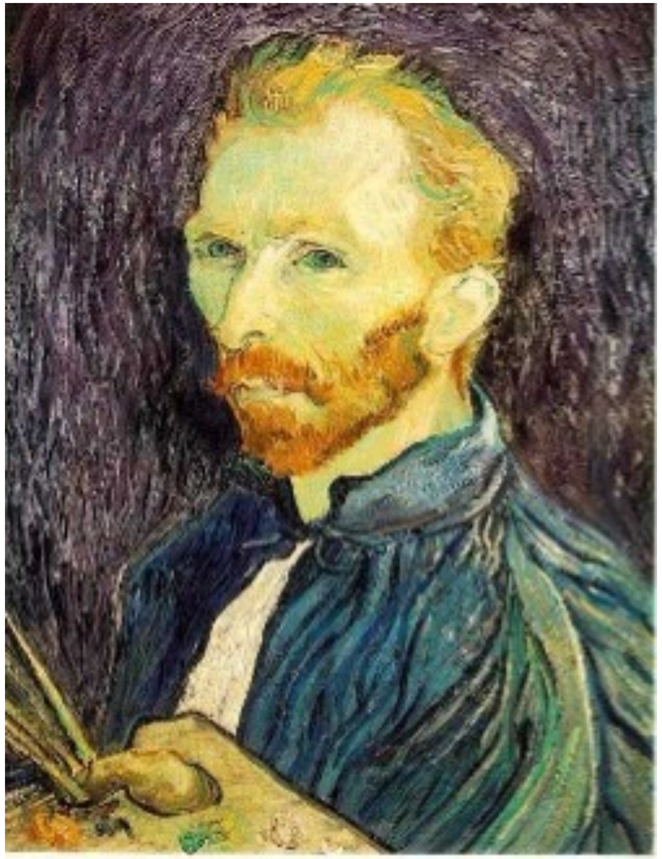
1/2



1/4 (2x zoom)

1/8 (4x zoom)

Naïve image downsampling



1/2

1/4 (2x zoom)

1/8 (4x zoom)

Image pyramid: Gaussian and Laplacian

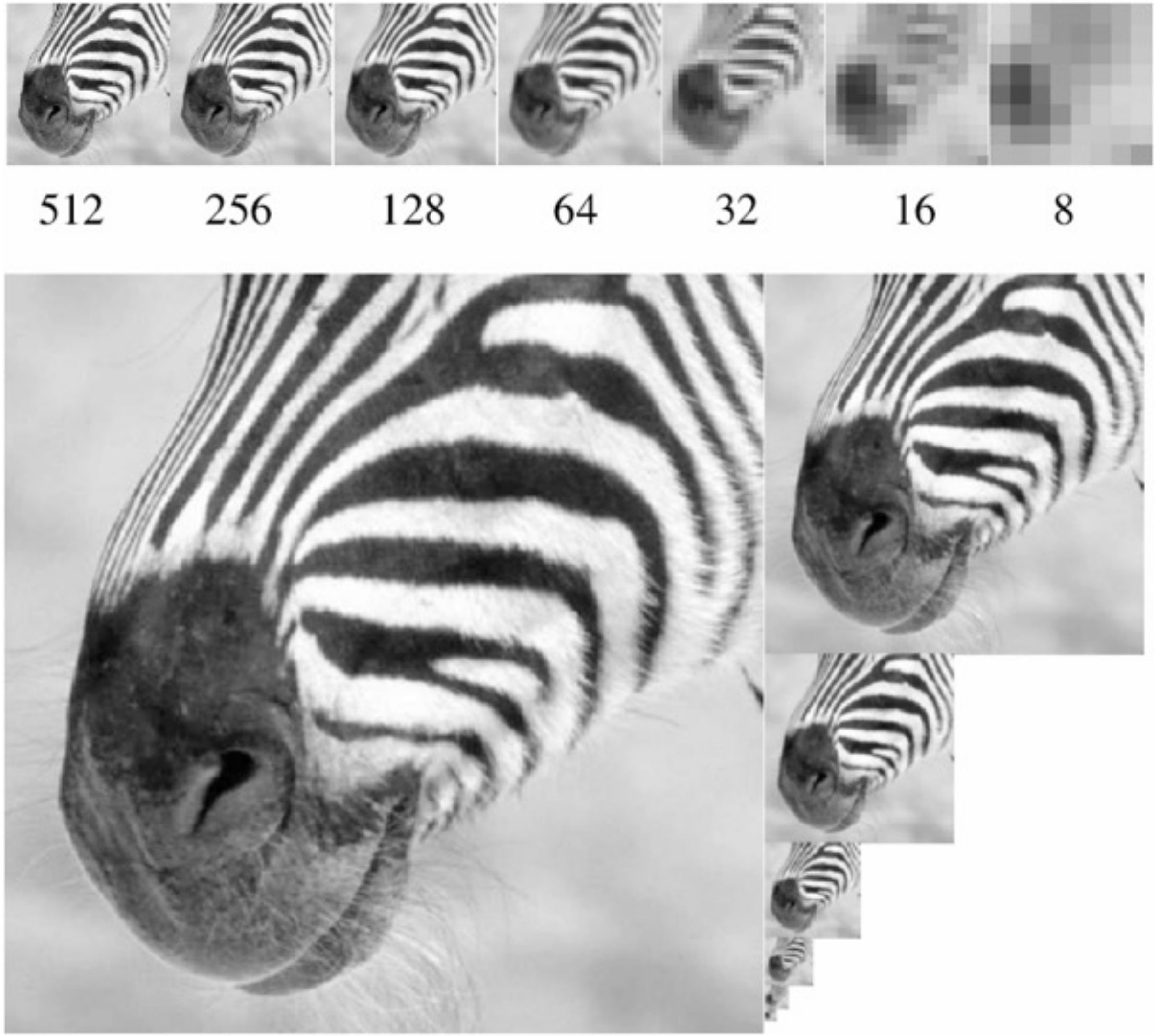
Gaussian image pyramid

The name of this sequence of subsampled images

Algorithm

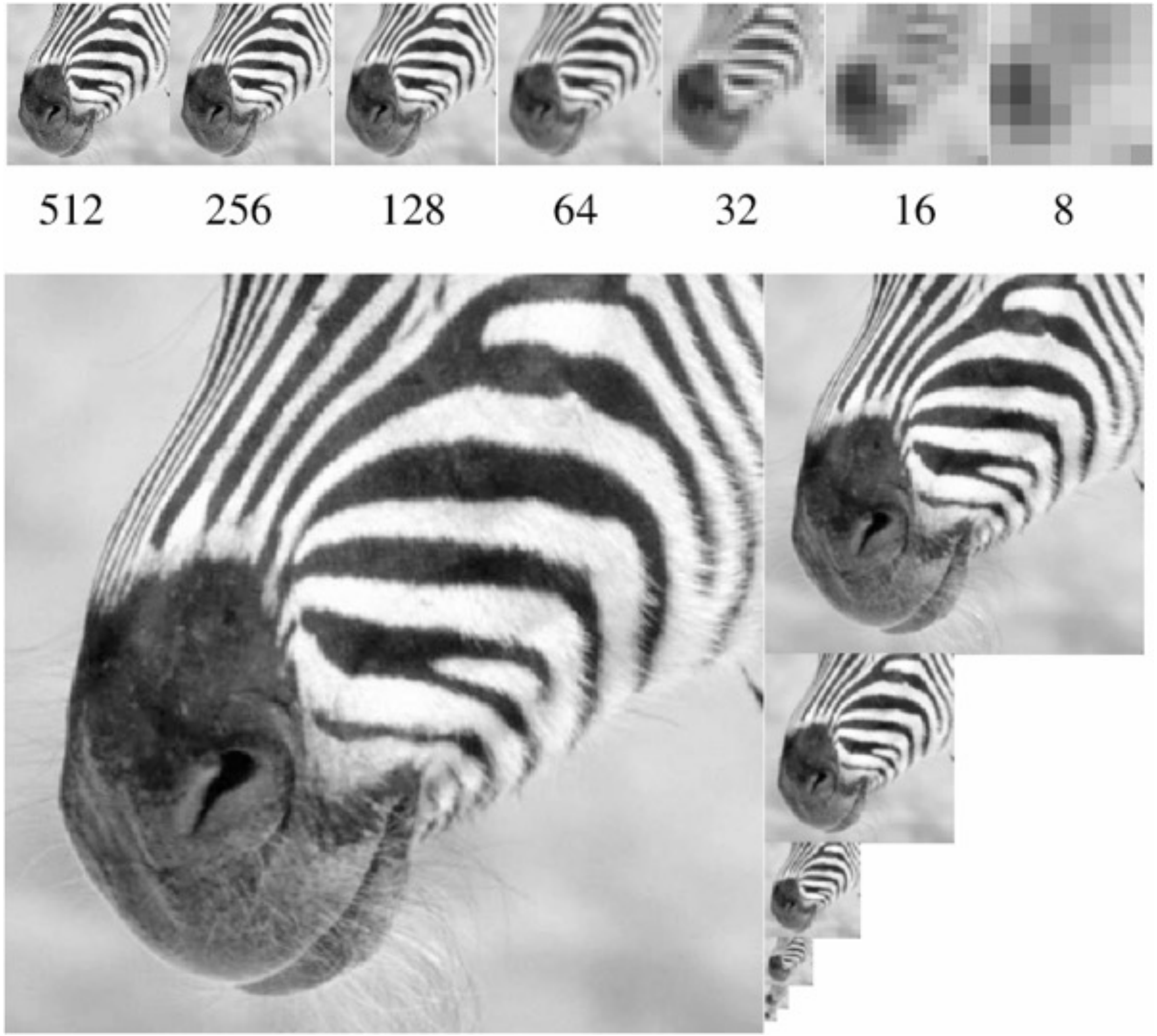
```
repeat:
        filter
        subsample
until min resolution reached
```

Some properties of the Gaussian pyramid



What happens to the details of the image?

Some properties of the Gaussian pyramid

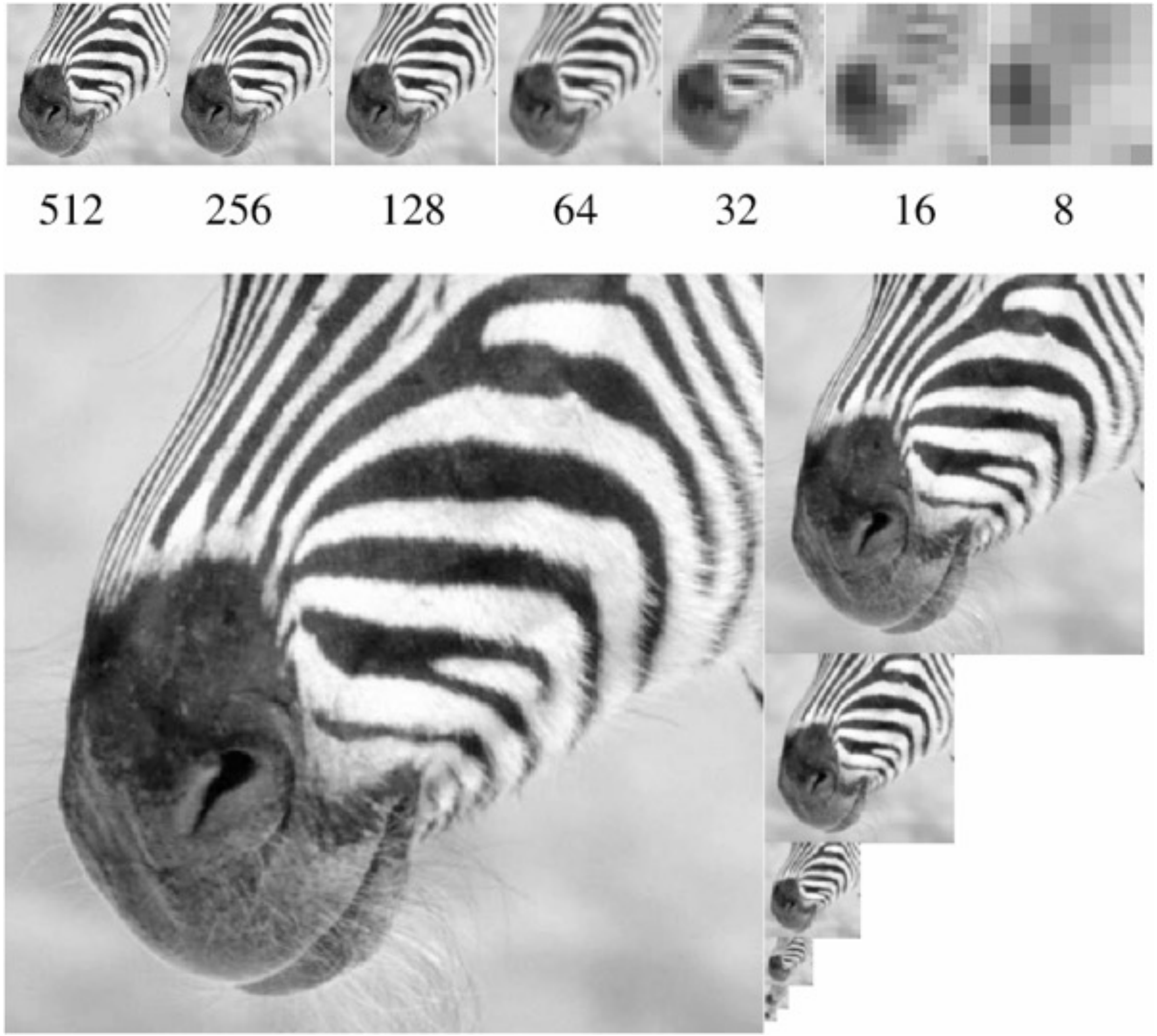


What happens to the details of the image?

- They get smoothed out as we move to higher levels.

What is preserved at the higher levels?

Some properties of the Gaussian pyramid



What happens to the details of the image?

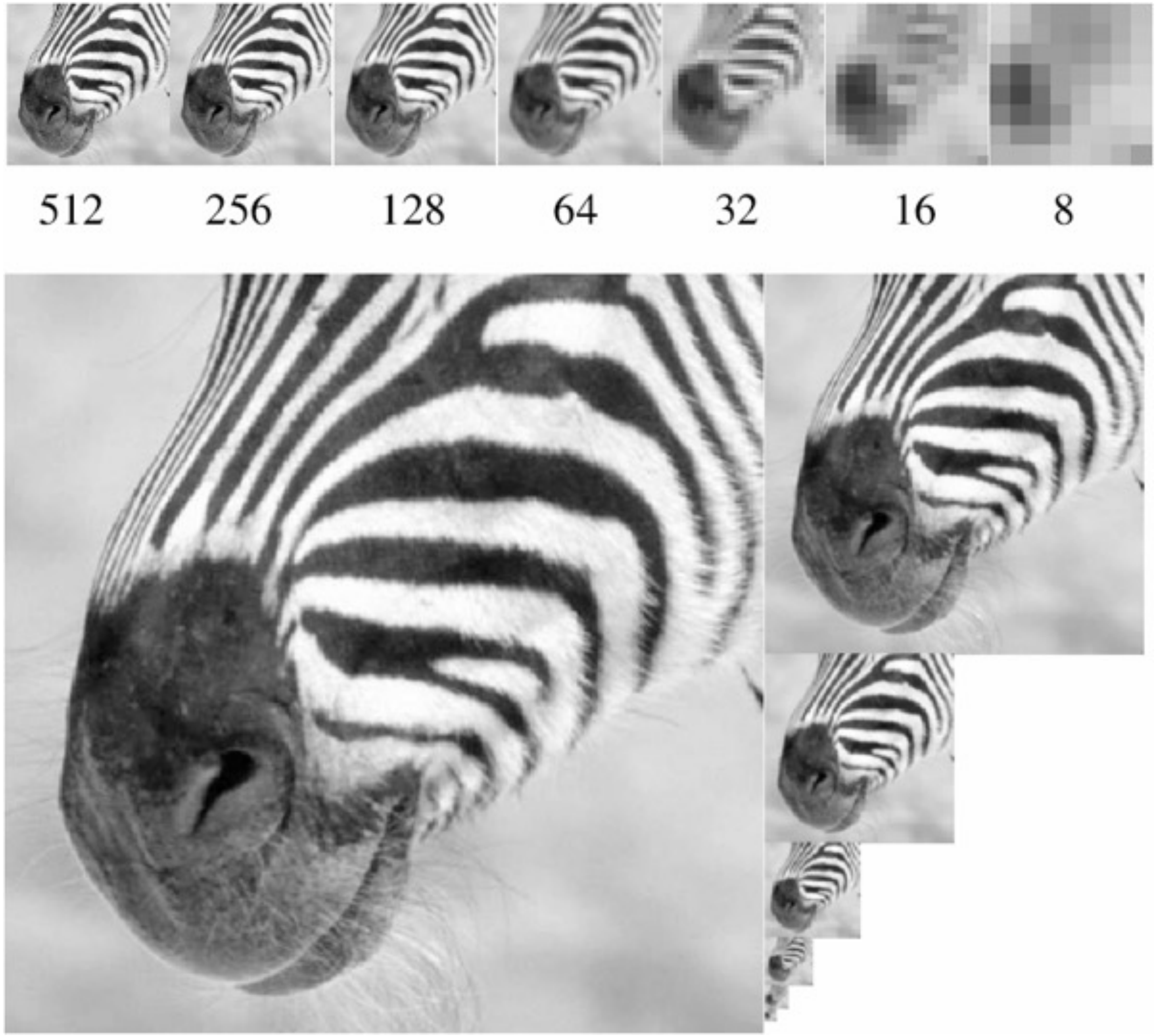
- They get smoothed out as we move to higher levels.

What is preserved at the higher levels?

- Mostly large uniform regions in the original image.

How would you reconstruct the original image from the image at the upper level?

Some properties of the Gaussian pyramid



What happens to the details of the image?

- They get smoothed out as we move to higher levels.

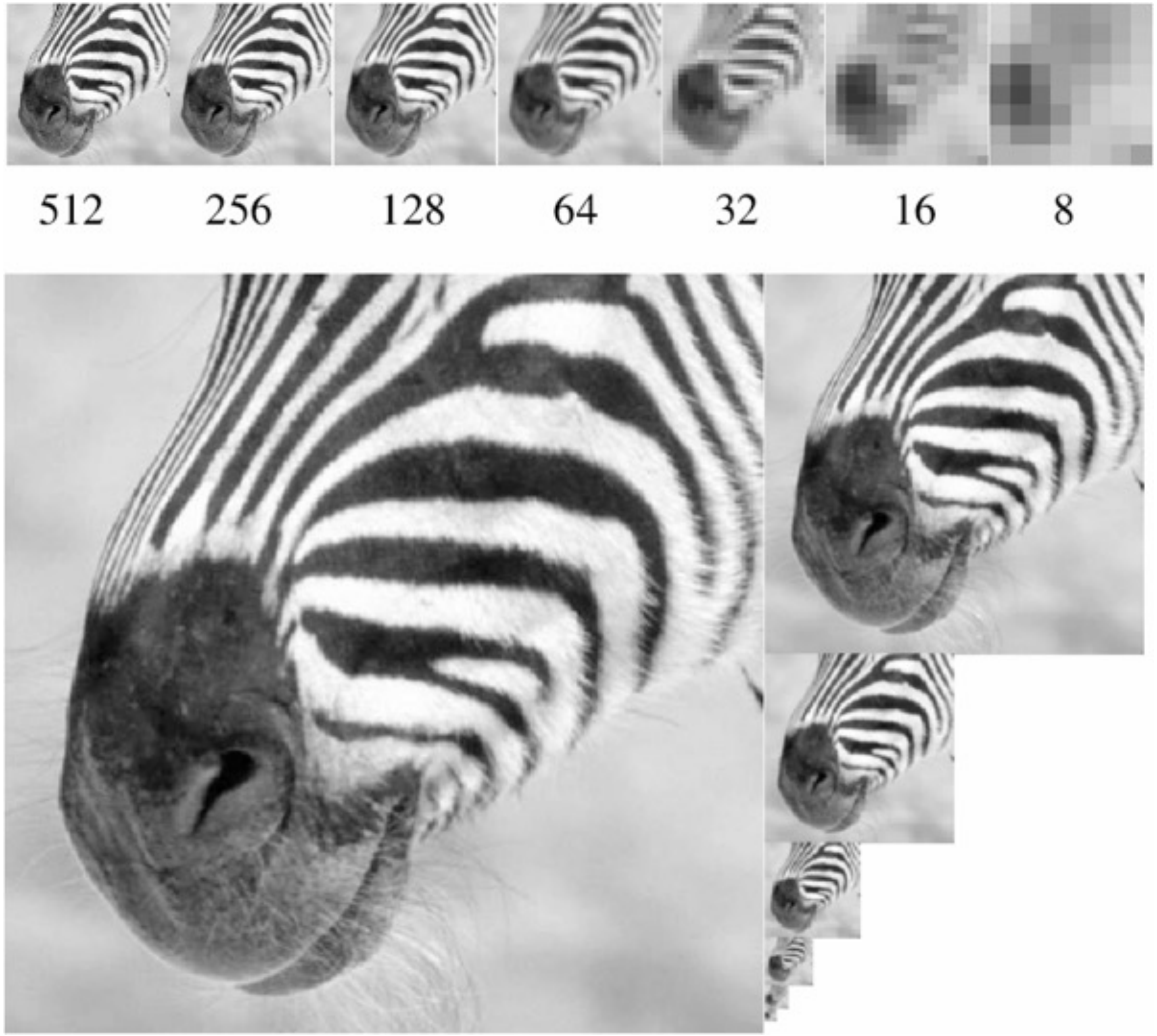
What is preserved at the higher levels?

- Mostly large uniform regions in the original image.

How would you reconstruct the original image from the image at the upper level?

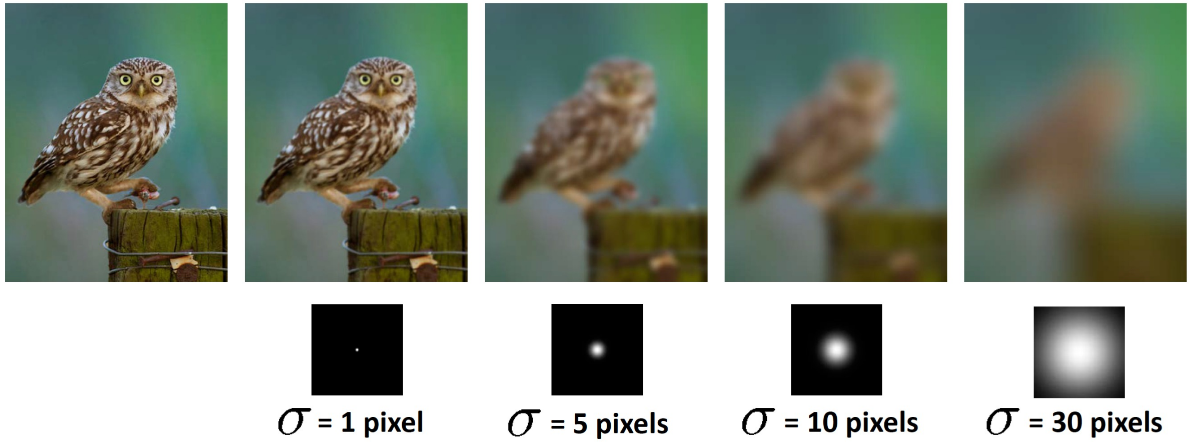
- That’s not possible.

Relating Nyquist-Shannon theorem to Gaussian pyramid



- Gaussian blurring is low-pass filtering.
- By blurring we try to sufficiently decrease the Nyquist frequency to avoid aliasing.

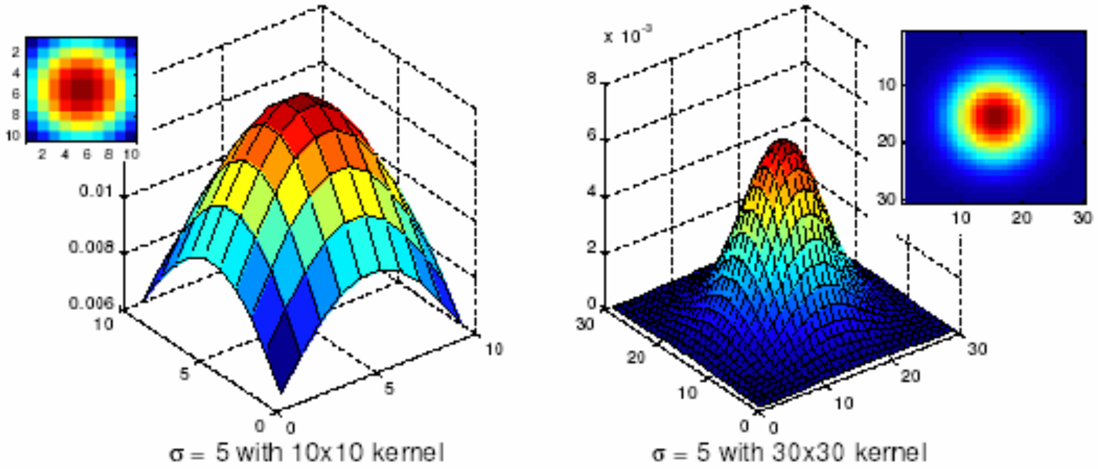
How large should the Gauss blur we use be?



Choosing blur level & kernel width

Practically, you have two parameters to choose: blur level σ, and the (discrete) filter size

- Q1: How to choose appropriate σ, knowing the down-sampling rate s?
- One plausible empirical rule: $\sigma = \sqrt{s/2}$



- Q2: The Gaussian function has infinite support, but discrete filters use finite kernels!
- Values at edges should be near zero. Practically, we set filter half-width to about 3σ

Blurring is lossy

level 0

-

level 1 (before downsampling)

=

residual

What does the residual look like?

Blurring is lossy

level 0

-

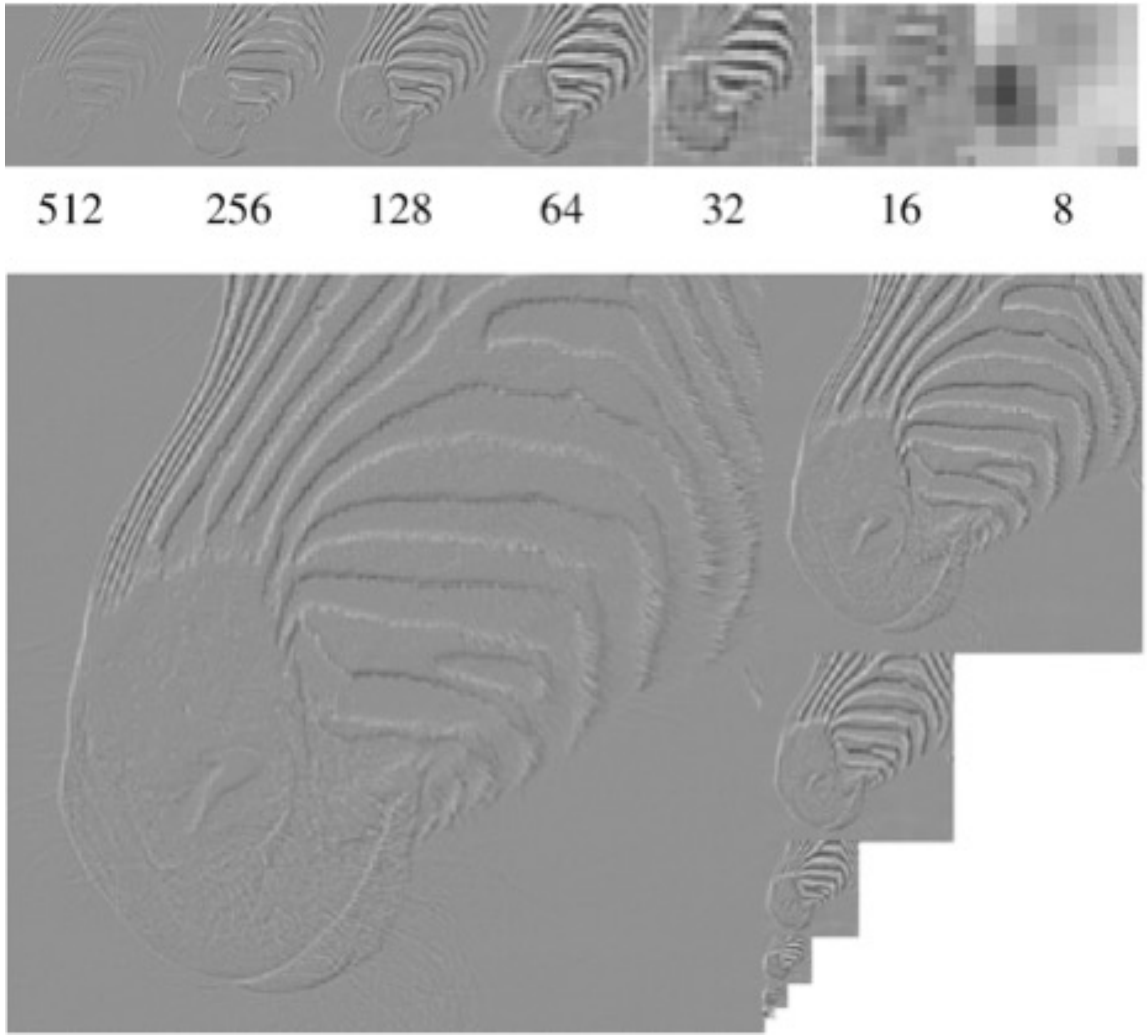
level 1 (before downsampling)

=

residual

Can we make a pyramid that is lossless?

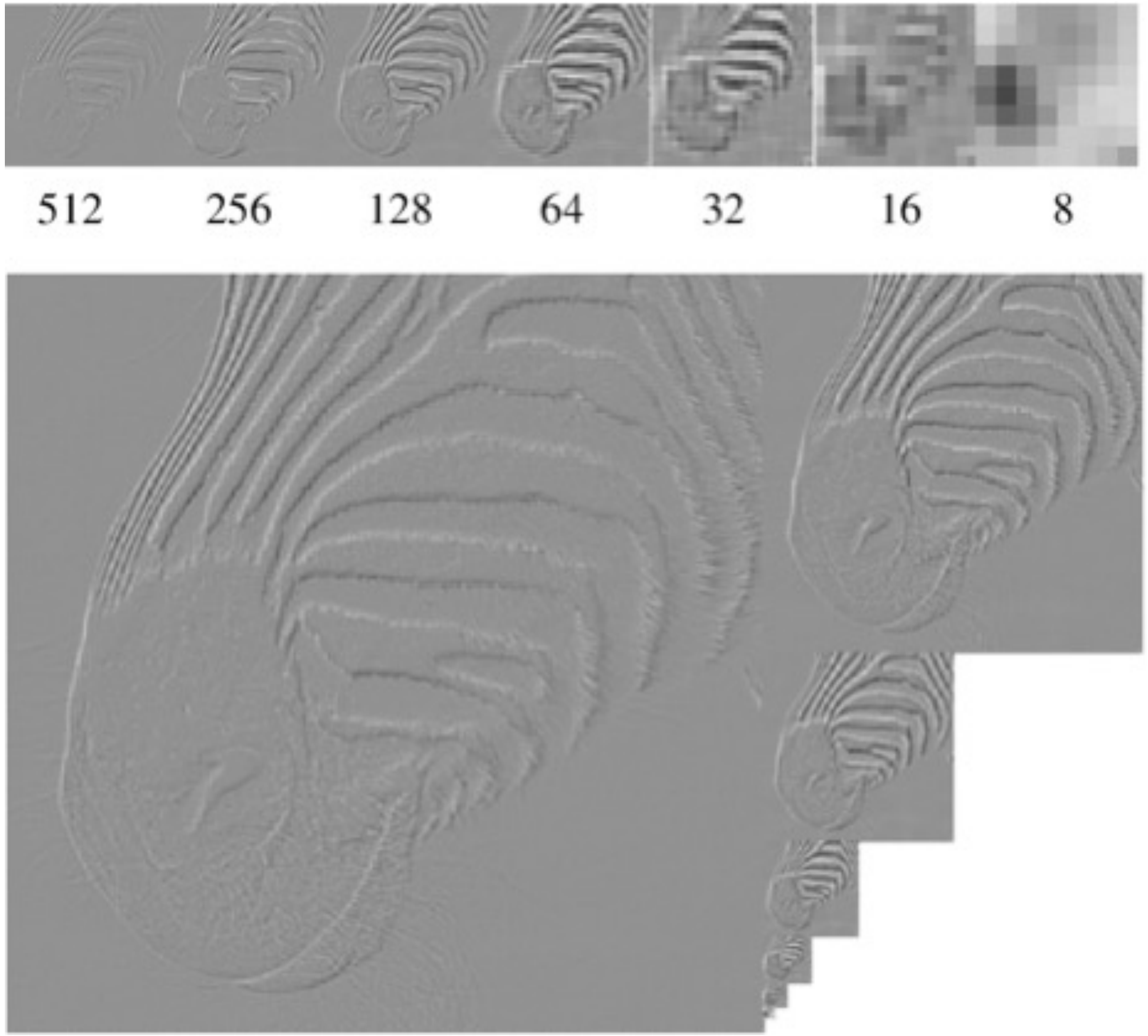
Laplacian image pyramid



At each level, retain the residuals instead of the blurred images themselves.

Can we reconstruct the original image using the pyramid?

Laplacian image pyramid



At each level, retain the residuals instead of the blurred images themselves.

Can we reconstruct the original image using the pyramid?

- Yes we can!

What do we need to store to be able to reconstruct the original image?

Let’s start by looking at just one level

level 0

=

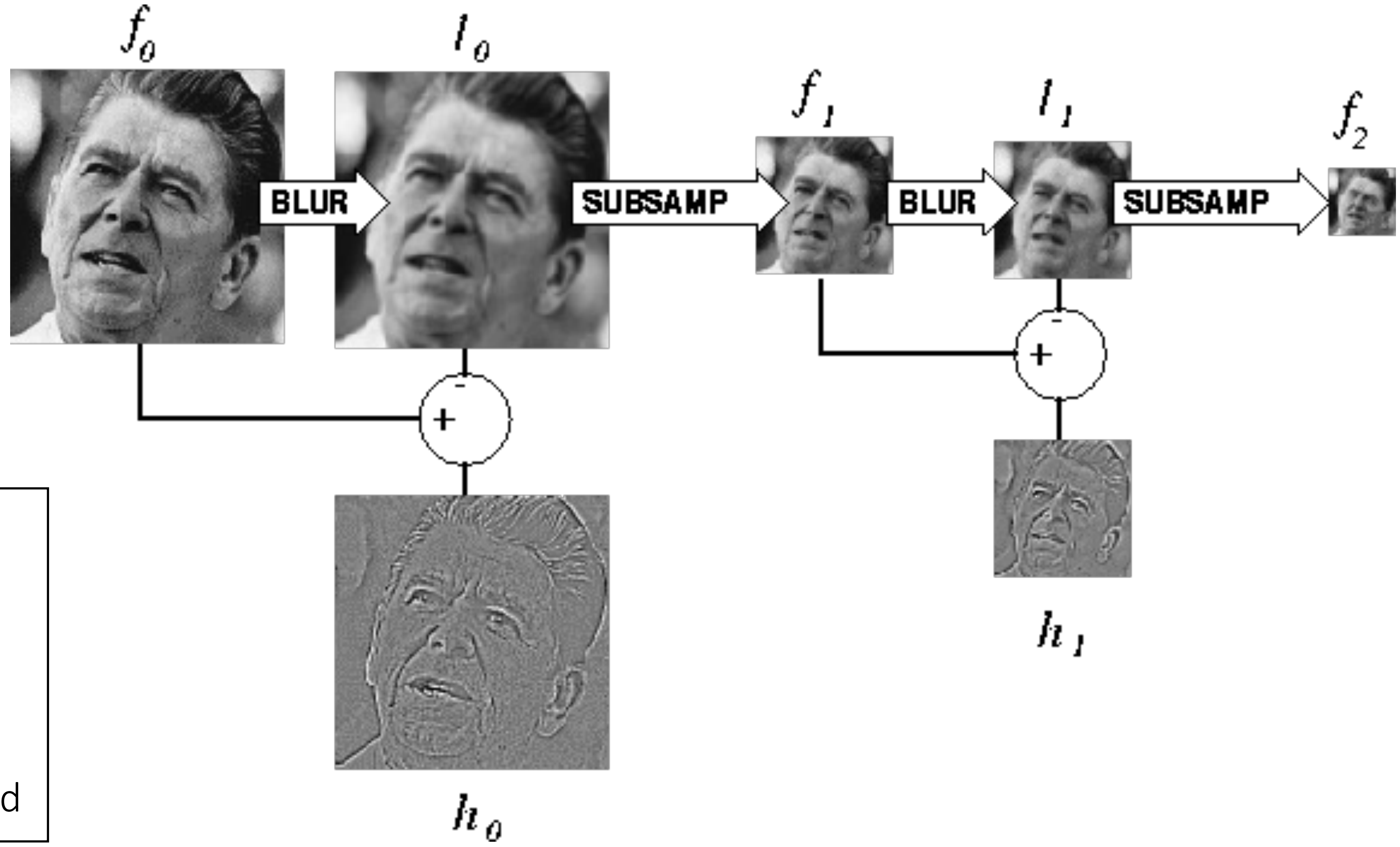
level 1 (upsampled)

+

residual

Does this mean we need to store both residuals and the blurred copies of the original?

Constructing a Laplacian pyramid



Algorithm

repeat:

filter

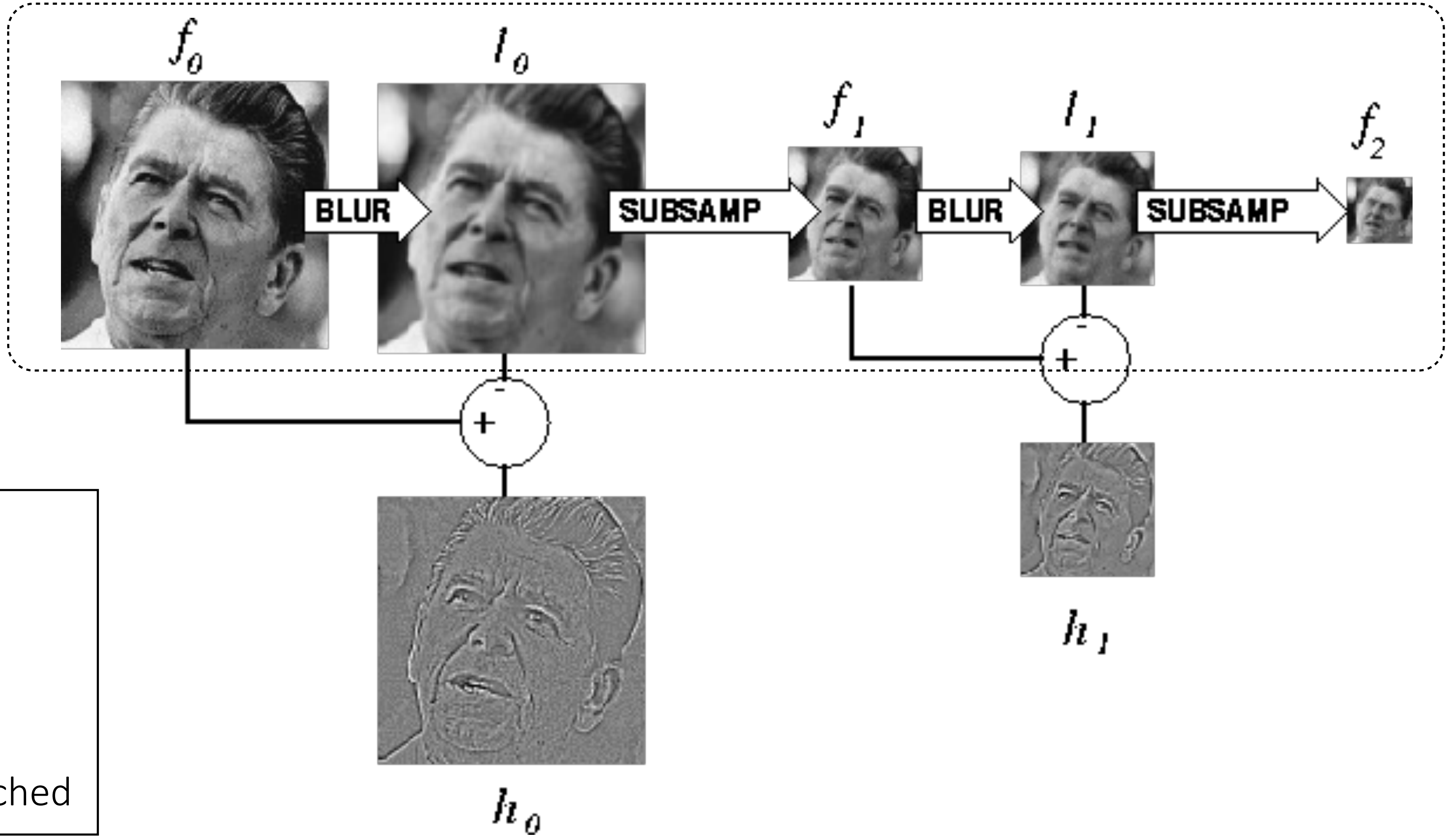
compute residual

subsample

until min resolution reached

Constructing a Laplacian pyramid

What is this part?



Algorithm

repeat:

filter

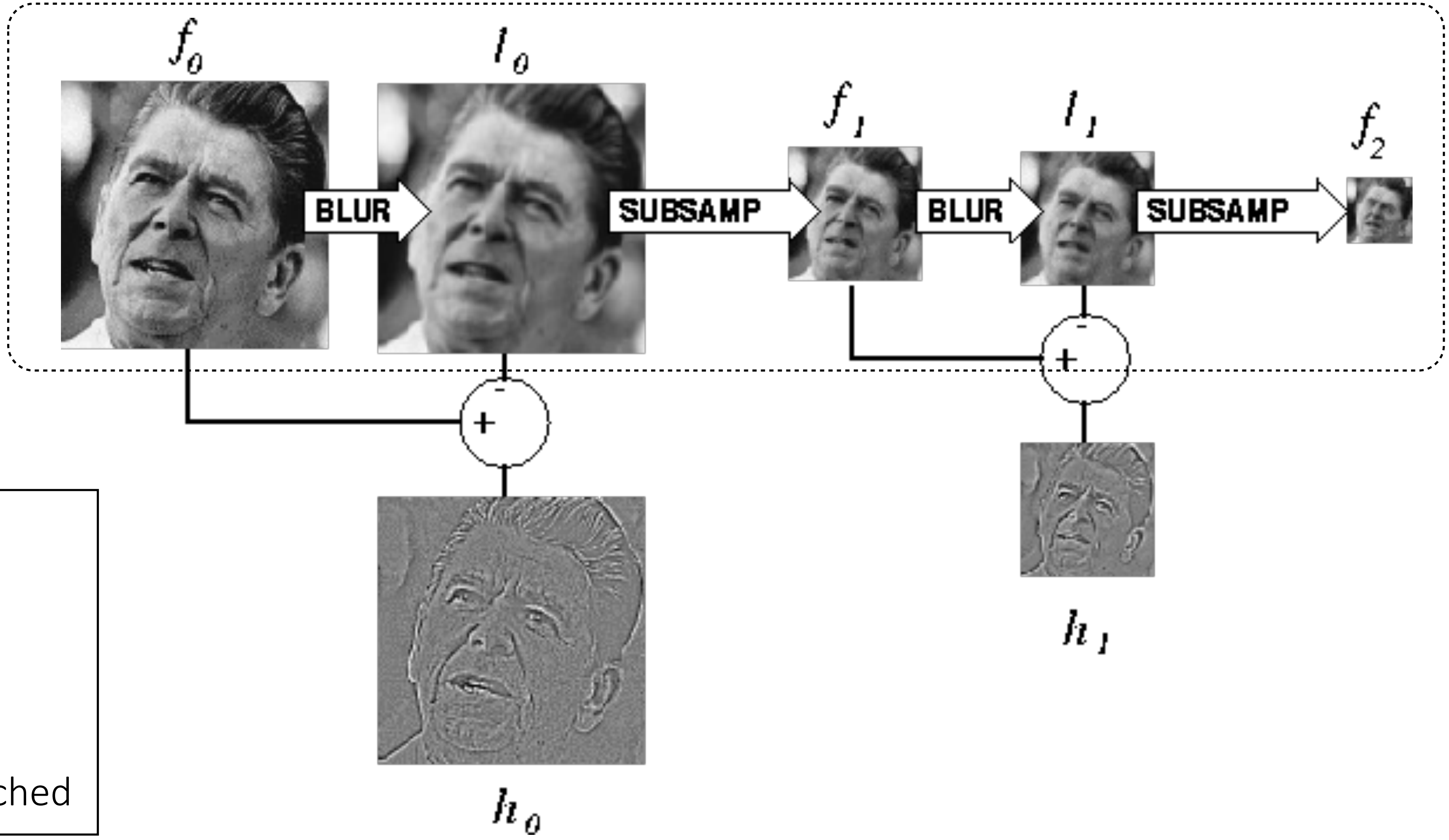
compute residual

subsample

until min resolution reached

Constructing a Laplacian pyramid

It's a Gaussian pyramid.



Algorithm

repeat:

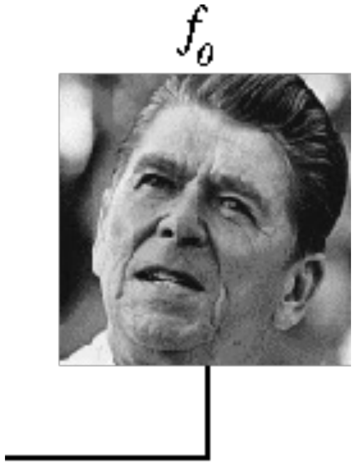
filter

compute residual

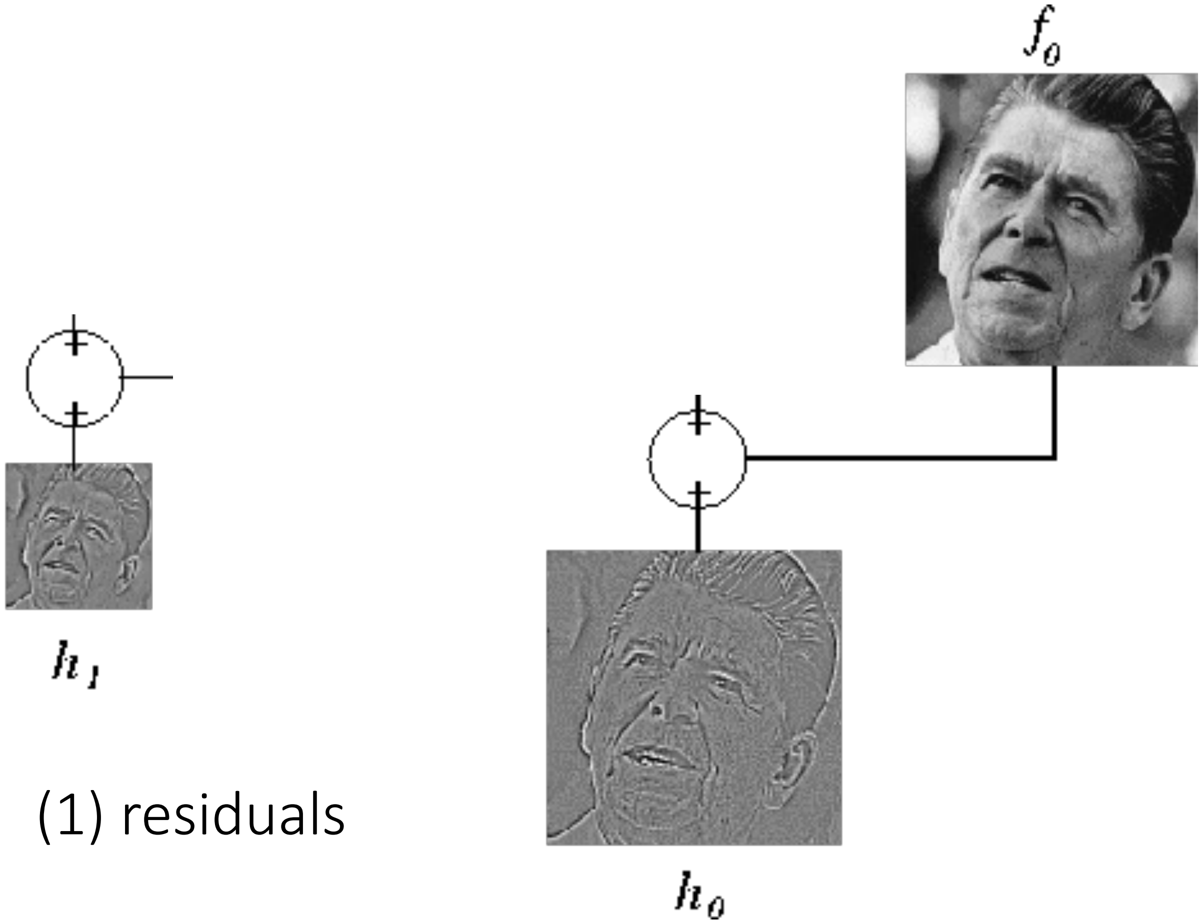
subsample

until min resolution reached

What do we need to construct the original image?



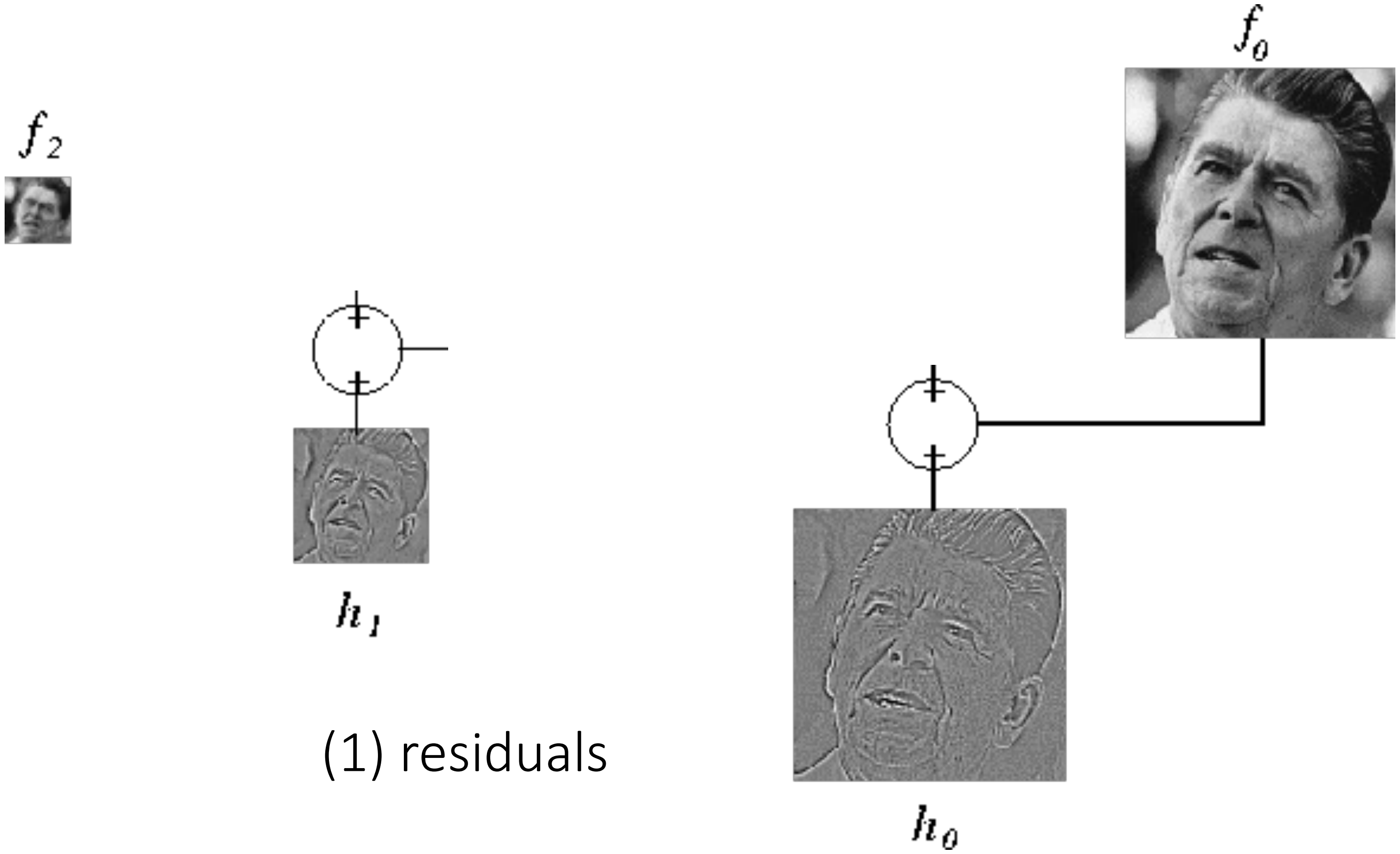
What do we need to construct the original image?



(1) residuals

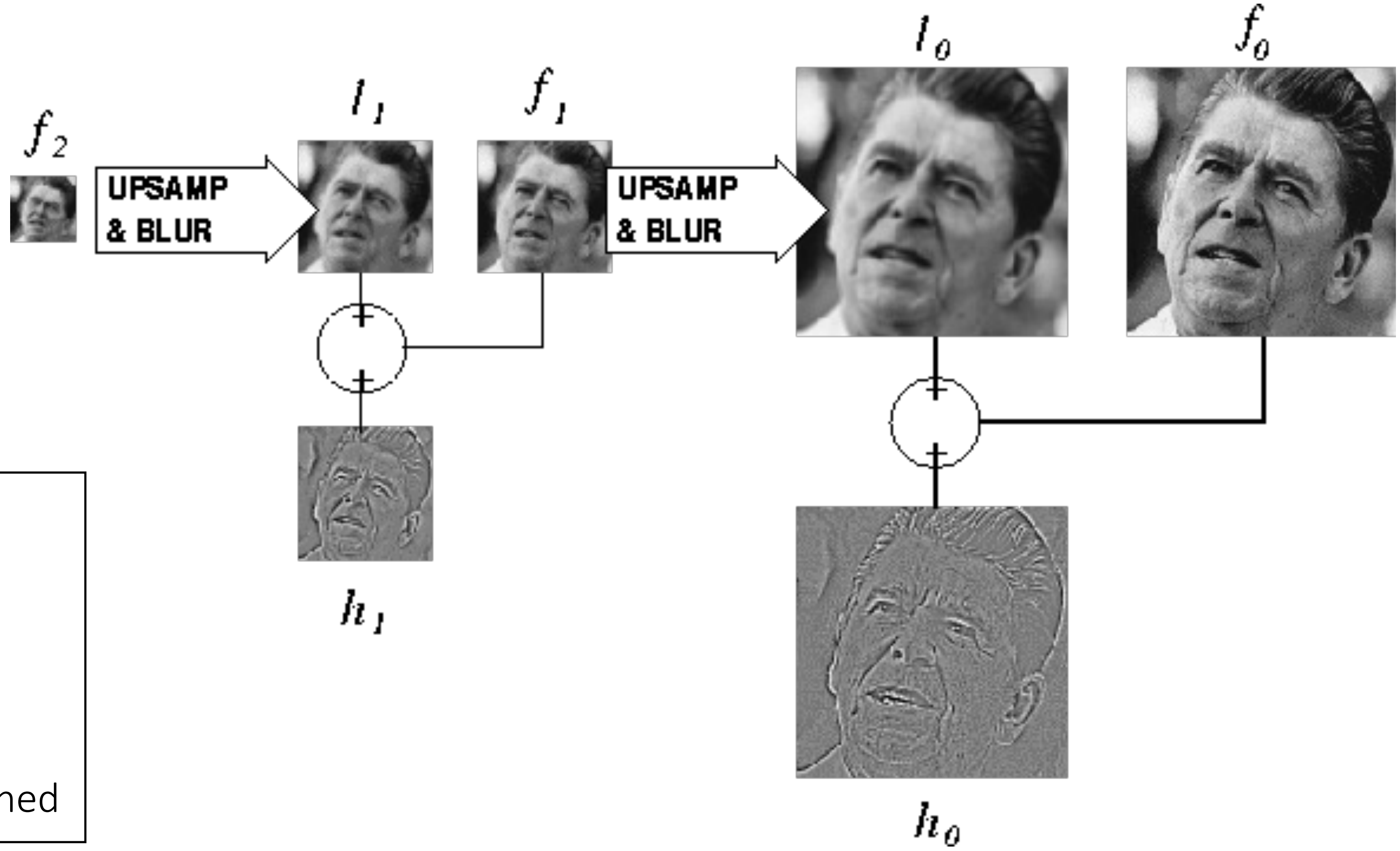
What do we need to construct the original image?

(2) smallest image



(1) residuals

Reconstructing the original image



Algorithm

repeat:

upsample

sum with residual

until orig resolution reached

Gaussian vs Laplacian Pyramid

Shown in opposite order for space.

Which one takes more space to store?

Still used extensively

foreground details enhanced, background details reduced

input image

user-provided mask

Other types of pyramids

Steerable pyramid: At each level keep multiple versions, one for each direction.

Wavelets: Huge area in image processing

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