Gaussian Models for Images

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PART I : Gaussian texture images

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Framework

- ► We work with discrete digital images $u \in \mathbb{R}^{M \times N}$ indexed on the set $\Omega = \{0, ..., M 1\} \times \{0, ..., N 1\}.$
- Each image is extended by periodicity :

 $u(k, l) = u(k \mod M, l \mod N)$ for all $(k, l) \in \mathbb{Z}^2$.

Consequence : Translation of an image :





Discrete Fourier transform of digital images

- Image domain : $\Omega = \{0, \dots, M-1\} \times \{0, \dots, N-1\}$
- Fourier domain $\hat{\Omega}$: the frequency 0 is placed at the center :

$$\hat{\Omega} = \left\{-\frac{M}{2}, \dots, \frac{M}{2} - 1\right\} \times \left\{-\frac{N}{2}, \dots, \frac{N}{2} - 1\right\}.$$

Definition :

The discrete Fourier transform (DFT) of u is the complex-valued image û defined by :

$$\forall (s,t) \in \hat{\Omega}, \quad \hat{u}(s,t) = \frac{1}{MN} \sum_{k=0}^{M-1} \sum_{l=0}^{N-1} u(k,l) e^{-\frac{2iks\pi}{M}} e^{-\frac{2ilt\pi}{N}}$$

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- $|\hat{u}|$: Fourier modulus (amplitude) of u.
- $\arg(\hat{u})$: Fourier phase of u.

Discrete Fourier transform of digital images

Symmetry property :

- $|\hat{u}|$: the **Fourier modulus** is even.
- $\arg(\hat{u})$: the **Fourier phase** is odd.

Visualization of the DFT :



Image u



Modulus $|\hat{u}|$



Phase $\arg(\hat{u})$

Exchanging the modulus and the phase of two images : (ref : Oppenheim and Lim « the importance of phase in signals », 1981)

Practical exercise 1 :

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Take two grey-level images of the same size. Compute their Fourier Transform, switch their phases, and take the inverse Fourier transforms. Visualize the two new images : what do you observe ?

Exchanging the modulus and the phase of two images : (ref : Oppenheim and Lim « the importance of phase in signals », 1981)



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Geometric contours are mostly contained in the phase.

Exchanging the modulus and the phase of two images :



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Textures are mostly contained in the modulus.

Exchanging the modulus and the phase of two images :



- Geometric contours are mostly contained in the phase.
- Textures are mostly contained in the modulus.

Random phase textures

- We call random phase texture any image that is perceptually invariant to phase randomization.
- Phase randomization = replace the Fourier phase by a random phase.
- Definition : A random field $\theta : \hat{\Omega} \to \mathbb{R}$ is a *random phase* if
 - 1. Symmetry : θ is odd :

$$\forall (s,t) \in \hat{\Omega}, \theta(-s,-t) = -\theta(s,t).$$

- 2. Distribution : Each component $\theta(s, t)$ is
 - uniform over the interval $] \pi, \pi]$ if $(s, t) \notin \{(0, 0), (\frac{M}{2}, 0), (0, \frac{N}{2}), (\frac{M}{2}, \frac{N}{2})\}, (\frac{M}{2}, \frac{N}{2})\}$

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- uniform over the set $\{0, \pi\}$ otherwise.
- Independence : For each subset S ⊂ Ω̂ that does not contain distinct symmetric points, the r.v. {θ(s, t)|(s, t) ∈ S} are independent.

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- Theoretical exercise 2 : Prove that the Fourier phase of a Gaussian white noise W is a random phase, and that the Fourier amplitudes follow a Rayleigh distribution.
- ► (Lazy) simulation : In Matlab, theta = angle (fft2 (randn (M, N))).
- Random phase textures constitute a "limited" subclass of the set of textures.

Random Phase Noise (RPN)

- Texture synthesis algorithm : random phase noise (RPN) : (Van Wijk, 1991)
- 1. Compute the DFT \hat{h} of the input *h*.
- 2. Compute a random phase θ .
- 3. Set $\hat{Z} = |\hat{h}|e^{i\theta}$ (or $\hat{Z} = \hat{h}e^{i\theta}$).
- 4. Return Z the inverse DFT of \hat{Z} .



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Discrete spot noise (Van Wijk, 1991)

- Let *h* be a discrete image called *spot*.
- Let (X_k) be a sequence of random translation vectors which are i.d.d. and uniformly distributed over Ω.
- The discrete spot noise of order n associated with h is the random image

$$f_n(x) = \sum_{k=1}^n h(x - X_k).$$

(translations with periodic boundary conditions)



Limit of the DSN model?



- For texture synthesis we are more particularly interested in the limit of the DSN : the asymptotic discrete spot noise (ADSN).
- ▶ The *DSN* of order n, $f_n(x) = \sum_k h(x X_k)$, is the sum of the n i.i.d. random images $h(\cdot X_k)$.
- Central limit theorem for random vectors :

The sequence of random images $\left(\frac{f_n - n\mathbb{E}(h(\cdot - X_1))}{\sqrt{n}}\right)_{n \in \mathbb{N}^*}$ converges in distribution towards the **Gaussian random vector** $Y = (Y(x))_{x \in \Omega}$ with zero mean and covariance $Cov(h(\cdot - X_1))$.

Asymptotic discrete spot noise (ADSN)

Expectation of the random translations :

$$\mathbb{E}(h(x - X_1)) = \sum_{y \in \Omega} h(x - y) \mathbb{P}(X_1 = y)$$
$$= \sum_{y \in \Omega} h(x - y) \frac{1}{MN}$$
$$= \frac{1}{MN} \sum_{z \in \Omega} h(z)$$
$$= \text{mean of } h.$$

• $\mathbb{E}(h(x - X_1)) = m$, where *m* is the mean of *h*.

Asymptotic discrete spot noise (ADSN)

Covariance of the random translations : Let $x, y \in \Omega$,

$$Cov(h(x - X_1), h(y - X_1)) = \mathbb{E}((h(x - X_1) - m)(h(y - X_1) - m))$$

= $\sum_{z \in \Omega} (h(x - z) - m)(h(y - z) - m)\mathbb{P}(X_1 = z)$
= $\frac{1}{MN} \sum_{z \in \Omega} (h(x - z) - m)(h(y - z) - m)$
= $C_h(x, y).$

• $Cov(h(x - X_1), h(y - X_1)) = C_h(x, y)$ where C_h is the **autocorrelation** of h:

$$C_h(x,y) = \frac{1}{MN} \sum_{z \in \Omega} \left(h(x-z) - m \right) \left(h(y-z) - m \right), \quad (x,y) \in \Omega.$$

Asymptotic discrete spot noise (ADSN)

For texture synthesis we are more particularly interested in the limit of the DSN : the asymptotic discrete spot noise (ADSN).

Expectation and covariance of the random translations :

- $\mathbb{E}(h(x X_1)) = m$, where *m* is the mean of *h*.
- $Cov(h(x X_1), h(y X_1)) = C_h(x, y)$ where C_h is the autocorrelation of h:

$$C_h(x,y) = \frac{1}{MN} \sum_{z \in \Omega} (h(x-z) - m) (h(y-z) - m) = C_h(0, y-x).$$

Definition of ADSN :

• The ADSN associated with h is the Gaussian vector $\mathcal{N}(0, C_h)$.

Simulation of the ADSN

Definition of *ADSN* : the *ADSN* associated with *h* is the Gaussian vector $\mathcal{N}(0, C_h)$.

Convolution product :
$$(f * g)(x) = \sum_{y \in \Omega} f(x - y)g(y), x \in \Omega.$$

Simulation of the ADSN :

▶ Let $h \in \mathbb{R}^{M \times N}$ be a an image, *m* be the mean of *h* and *W* be a Gaussian white noise image.

• The random image $\frac{1}{\sqrt{MN}} (h - m) * W$ is the *ADSN* associated with *h*.



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Theoretical exercise 3 : prove that $Y = \frac{1}{\sqrt{MN}} (h - m) * W$ is $\mathcal{N}(0, C_h)$ distributed.

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- ► *Y* is obtained from *W* by applying a linear mapping. Since *W* is a Gaussian vector, *Y* is also a Gaussian vector.
- One just needs to show that $\mathbb{E}(Y(x)) = 0$ and $Cov(Y(x), Y(y)) = C_h(x, y)$.

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► By linearity,
$$\mathbb{E}(Y(x)) = \frac{1}{\sqrt{MN}} (h - m) * \mathbb{E}(W)(x) = 0.$$

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$$\mathbb{E}(Y(x)) = \frac{1}{\sqrt{MN}} (h - m) * \mathbb{E}(W)(x) = 0.$$

• Let $x, y \in \Omega$,

$$\begin{aligned} \operatorname{Cov}(Y(x), Y(y)) &= \mathbb{E}(Y(x)Y(y)) \\ &= \frac{1}{MN} \mathbb{E}\left(\sum_{s \in \Omega} (h(s-x) - m)W(s) \sum_{t \in \Omega} (h(t-y) - m)W(t)\right) \\ &= \frac{1}{MN} \sum_{s,t \in \Omega} (h(s-x) - m)(h(t-y) - m) \underbrace{\mathbb{E}(W(s)W(t))}_{s=1 \text{ if } s = t \text{ and } 0 \text{ otherwise}} \\ &= \frac{1}{MN} \sum_{s \in \Omega} (h(s-x) - m)(h(s-y) - m) = C_h(x, y). \end{aligned}$$

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Differences between RPN and ADSN

(ref : Galerne, Gousseau, Morel, 2011)

- ▶ *RPN* and *ADSN* both have a random phase.
- The Fourier modulus of *RPN* is equal to $|\hat{h}|$.
- The Fourier modulus of *ADSN* is the pointwise multiplication between $|\hat{h}|$ and a Rayleigh noise.



Spot h



RPN Modulus



ADSN Modulus

▶ RPN and ADSN are two different processes.



Spot h



RPN



An ADSN realization



Another ADSN realization

RPN and ADSN associated to texture images

- ▶ We add the original mean to *RPN* and *ADSN* realizations.
- Some textures are relatively well reproduced by RPN and ADSN.



Original image RPN ADSN

 ... But several developments are necessary to derive texture synthesis algorithms from sample.

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Extension to color images

- We use the RGB color representation for color images.
- ► Color ADSN : The definition of Discrete Spot Noise extends to color images h = (h_r, h_g, h_b).
- ► The color ADSN Y is the limit Gaussian process obtained in letting the number of spots tend to +∞. It is simulated by :

$$Y = \frac{1}{\sqrt{MN}} \begin{pmatrix} (h_r - m_r \mathbf{1}) * W \\ (h_g - m_g \mathbf{1}) * W \\ (h_b - m_b \mathbf{1}) * W \end{pmatrix}, \quad W \text{ a Gaussian white noise.}$$

 One convolves each color channel with the same Gaussian white noise W.



Phase of color ADSN: The same random phase is added to the Fourier transform of each color channel.

Extension to color images

Color RPN : By analogy, the RPN associated with a color image h = (h_r, h_g, h_b) is the color image obtained by adding the same random phase to the Fourier transform of each color channel.



Extension to color images

Another example with a real-world texture.



Original image h

Color RPN

"Wrong RPN"

- Preserving the original phase displacement between the color channels is essential for color consistency.
- ...however for most monochromatic textures, there is no huge difference.



Original image h

Color RPN

"Wrong RPN"

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Avoiding artifacts due to non periodicity

- Both ADSN and RPN algorithms are based on the fast Fourier transform (FFT).
 - \implies implicit hypothesis of periodicity
- Using non periodic samples yields important artifacts.



Spot h

ADSN

Avoiding artifacts due to non periodicity

- A good solution : Force the periodicity of the input sample.
- The original image h is replaced by its periodic component p = per(h), see L. Moisan's course.
- Definition of the periodic component p of h : p unique solution of

$$\begin{cases} \Delta p = \Delta_i h\\ \operatorname{mean}(p) = \operatorname{mean}(h) \end{cases}$$

where, noting N_x the neighborhood of $x \in \Omega$ for 4-connexity :

$$\Delta f(x) = 4f(x) - \sum_{y \in N_x} f(y)$$
 and $\Delta_i f(x) = |N_x \cap \Omega| f(x) - \sum_{y \in N_x \cap \Omega} f(y).$

These two Laplacians only differ at the border :

- Δ : discrete Laplacian with periodic conditions
- Δ_i: discrete Laplacian without periodic conditions (index i for interior)

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- *p* is "visually close" to *h* (same Laplacian).
- p is fastly computed using the FFT...

FFT-based Poisson Solver

Periodic Poisson problem : Find the image p such that

$$\begin{cases} \Delta p = \Delta_i h\\ \mathrm{mean}(p) = \mathrm{mean}(h) \end{cases}$$

In the Fourier domain, this system becomes :

$$\begin{cases} \left(4 - 2\cos\left(\frac{2s\pi}{M}\right) - 2\cos\left(\frac{2t\pi}{N}\right)\right)\hat{p}(s,t) = \widehat{\Delta_i h}(s,t), \ (s,t) \in \Omega \setminus \{(0,0)\},\\ \hat{p}(0,0) = \operatorname{mean}(h). \end{cases}$$

Algorithm to compute the periodic component :

- 1. Compute $\Delta_i h$ the discrete Laplacian of *h*.
- 2. Compute m = mean(h).
- 3. Compute $\widehat{\Delta_i h}$ the DFT of $\Delta_i h$ using the forward FFT.
- 4. Compute the DFT \hat{p} of p defined by

$$\begin{cases} \hat{p}(s,t) = \frac{\widehat{\Delta_i h}((s,t))}{-4+2\cos\left(\frac{2s\pi}{M}\right)+2\cos\left(\frac{2t\pi}{N}\right)} & \text{for } (s,t) \neq (0,0)\\ \hat{p}(0,0) = m \end{cases}$$

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5. Compute p using the backward FFT (if necessary).

Periodic component : effects on the Fourier modulus

p is "visually close" to *h* (same Laplacian).



• The application per : $h \mapsto p$ filters out the "cross structure" of the spectrum.

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Avoiding artifacts due to non periodicity

Spot h ADSN(h)ADSN(p)

Synthesizing textures having arbitrary large size

Ad hoc solution : To synthesize a texture larger than the original spot *h*, one computes an "equivalent spot" \tilde{h} :

- Copy p = per(h) in the center of a constant image equal to the mean of h.
- Normalize the variance.
- Attenuate the transition at the inner border.



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- Not really rigorous... The envelope changes the covariance.
Properties of the resulting algorithms

- Algorithms *RPN* and *ADSN* are both fast, with the complexity of the FFT $[\mathcal{O}(MN \log (MN))].$
- Visual stability : All the realizations obtained from the same input image are visually similar.



Spot h

RPN 1

RPN 2



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Practical exercise 4 :

Try the *RPN* algorithm online at http://http://www.ipol.im/pub/art/2011/ggm_rpn/. What do you observe ? Does it always « work well » ?

Numerical results : similarity of the textures

In order to compare both algorithms, the same random phase is used for ADSN and RPN.



► Both algorithms produce visually similar textures.

Numerical results : non random phase textures Image h ADSN



RPN

Texton associated with a Gaussian texture

Theoretical and practical exercise 5 :

- 1. Let g and h be two zero-mean spot functions. Show that they define the same ADSN model if and only if their Fourier amplitudes are equal.
- 2. Let h be a zero-mean spot function. We define the *texton* of h as the image $T(h): \Omega \to \mathbb{R}$ that satisfies $T(h) = |\hat{h}|$. Prove that T(h) is solution of the two following optimization problems : find

 $v: \Omega \to \mathbb{R}$ that maximizes v(0) under the constraint $|\hat{v}| = |\hat{h}|$.

 $v: \Omega \to \mathbb{R}$ that minimizes $\| \nabla \hat{v} \|_{p}^{p}$ under the constraint $|\hat{v}| = |\hat{h}|$.

- 3. Show that the texton has also the following properties :
 - **3.1** T(h) is a real and symmetric image.
 - **3.2** T(T(h)) = T(h).
 - 3.3 The operator T is 1-Lipschitz for the L^2 norm : if u and v are two images defined on Ω , then $||T(u) - T(v)||_2 \le ||u - v||_2$. 3.4 The texton is translation invariant : $T(\tau_v(u)) = T(u)$ for all $y \in \Omega$.
- 4. Practice : take a grey-level texture image, compute its texton, and try to visualize it.

Texton associated with a Gaussian texture



FIGURE: First line : texture images. Second line : texton images.

PART II : detections

Detecting geometric structures in images



What do you see?

Helmholtz Principle (Non-accidentalness principle)

Two ways to state the non-accidentalness principle :

- 1. First way is common sense : "we don't see anything in a noise image" (Attneave 1954)
- Stronger statement : "we perceive what has a low probability of arriving by accident", in other words "if a large deviation from randomness occurs, then a structure is perceived" (Witkin and Tenenbaum 1983, Lowe 1985)

F. Attneave, Some informational aspects of visual perception. *Psych. Rev.*, 1954. A.P. Witkin and J. Tenenbaum. On the role of structure in vision, In *Human and Machine Vision*, 1983.

D. Lowe. Perceptual Organization and Visual Recognition, Kluwer Academic Publishers, 1985.

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A contrario framework

General framework : just need an *a contrario* model of what the image is not (pure noise)

Observe E a geometric event in an image

A. Desolneux, L. Moisan, and J.-M. Morel. From Gestalt Theory to Image Analysis : A Probabilistic Approach, Springer-Verlag, 2008.

A contrario framework

General framework : just need an *a contrario* model of what the image is not (pure noise)

- Observe E a geometric event in an image
- ► Compute NFA(*E*) that is the expected number of occurrences of *E* in an image following the a contrario model.

A. Desolneux, L. Moisan, and J.-M. Morel. From Gestalt Theory to Image Analysis : A Probabilistic Approach, Springer-Verlag, 2008.

A contrario framework

General framework : just need an *a contrario* model of what the image is not (pure noise)

- Observe E a geometric event in an image
- Compute NFA(E) that is the expected number of occurrences of E in an image following the a contrario model.
- ▶ **Definition :** Let $\epsilon > 0$. If NFA(*E*) < ϵ then *E* is called an ϵ -meaningful event.

A. Desolneux, L. Moisan, and J.-M. Morel. From Gestalt Theory to Image Analysis : A Probabilistic Approach, Springer-Verlag, 2008.

Detection of straight segments in an image

LSD (Line Segment Detector) algorithm of Grompone et. al. (2010) :

Let $\Omega = \{1, \ldots, M\} \times \{1, \ldots, N\}$ be a discrete domain and let $u_0 : \Omega \to \mathbb{R}$ be an image. It orientation field is $\theta_0 : \Omega \to S^1 = [0, 2\pi)$ given by

$$\forall x \in \Omega, \quad \theta_0(x) = \frac{\pi}{2} + \operatorname{Arg} \frac{\nabla u_0(x)}{\|\nabla u_0(x)\|},$$

where

X 1	X2	$\nabla u_0 = \frac{1}{2} \left(\begin{array}{c} X_2 - X_1 + X_4 - X_3 \\ X_3 - X_1 + X_4 - X_2 \end{array} \right).$
X3	X4	

R. Grompone von Gioi, J. Jakubowicz, J.-M. Morel, G. Randall, A Fast Line Segment Detector with a False Detection Control, *IEEE Transactions on Pattern Analysis and Machine Intelligence*, 2010.

Let $r \subset \Omega$ be a rectangle with principal orientation $\varphi(r)$. Define the number of aligned pixels it contains by :

$$k(r; heta_0):=\sum_{x\in r} \mathrm{II}_{| heta_0(x)-arphi(r)|\leq p\pi}.$$



R. Grompone von Gioi, J. Jakubowicz, J.-M. Morel, and G. Randall, LSD : a Line Segment Detector, *Image Processing On Line (IPOL)*, 2012.

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- Define a « pure noise model », that is a law *P* on orientation fields Θ , given here by : the $\Theta(x)$ are independent identically distributed uniformly on $[0, 2\pi)$.

- Define a « pure noise model », that is a law *P* on orientation fields Θ , given here by : the $\Theta(x)$ are independent identically distributed uniformly on $[0, 2\pi)$.

- Define the number of false alarms of the rectangle r in θ_0 , under the a contrario model P by

$$NFA_P(r; \theta_0) = N_{tests} \times \mathbb{P}_P[k(r; \Theta) \ge k(r; \theta_0)],$$

where N_{tests} is the number of tests, that is the number of rectangles in a $M \times N$ image ($\simeq (MN)^{5/2}$).

- In this definition, Θ is a random orientation field following the law *P* and $k(r; \Theta) = \sum_{x \in r} II_{|\Theta(x) - \varphi(r)| \le p\pi}$ is then a random variable following a binomial distribution of parameters n(r) = #r and *p*.

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- In this definition, Θ is a random orientation field following the law *P* and $k(r; \Theta) = \sum_{x \in r} I\!\!I_{|\Theta(x) - \varphi(r)| \le p\pi}$ is then a random variable following a binomial distribution of parameters n(r) = #r and *p*.

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- When NFA_P($r; \theta_0$) < ϵ , we say that the rectangle r is ϵ -meaningful.

Main property of the NFA

Theoretical exercise 6 : prove the following proposition :

Proposition

When Θ is a random orientation field following the law *P*, then the NFA_P($r_i; \Theta$), $1 \le i \le N_{tests}$, become random variables and

$$\mathbb{E}_P\left(\sum_{i=1}^{N_{test}} \mathrm{I}_{\mathrm{NFA}_P(r_i;\Theta)<\epsilon}\right)<\epsilon.$$

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In other words, the expected number (under law *P*) of ϵ -meaningful rectangles is less than ϵ .



Original image u0

Orientation field θ_0



Original image *u*₀

LSD result

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Original image u0

Orientation field θ_0

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Original image *u*₀

LSD result



Original image *u*₀

Orientation field θ_0



Original image *u*₀

LSD result

White noise image : the a contrario background noise model in the LSD algorithm



Power-law Gaussian noise images, given by

$$\mathbb{E}(\left|\widehat{U}(\xi)\right|^2) = \left|\xi\right|^{-2\beta},$$



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Power-law Gaussian noise images, given by

$$\mathbb{E}(|\widehat{U}(\xi)|^2) = |\xi|^{-2\beta},$$



Visual perception

What do you see in a white noise image?



Visual perception

What do you see in a white noise image?










And in a power-law Gaussian image?



And in a power-law Gaussian image?



And in a power-law Gaussian image?



And in a power-law Gaussian image?



And in a power-law Gaussian image?



And in a power-law Gaussian image?



Application : medical imaging

Questions of detectability of lesions (masses) in mammogram images.





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Refs : Burgess / Grosjean-Moisan

Practical exercise 7 :

Sample power-law Gaussian images, and check by yourself the perceptual phenomenon of the previous slides. Try different values of β .

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Conclusion of Part II

- A contrario approach : a computational approach to detect geometric structures in images.
- Many other applications : shape recognition, image matching, clustering, stereovision, denoising (grain filter), etc.

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Can we turn it into a generative approach ? -> Yes, see exponential distributions.