



Scale Invariance and Automatic Scale Selection

EECS 504
Foundations of Computer Vision

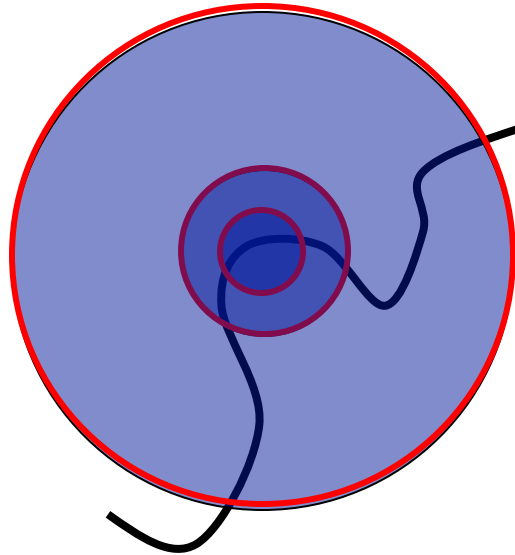
Instructor: Jason Corso (jjcorso)
web.eecs.umich.edu/~jjcorso/t/

Readings: SZ 4.2, 4.3; FP 5



Scale invariant detection

Suppose you are looking for corners



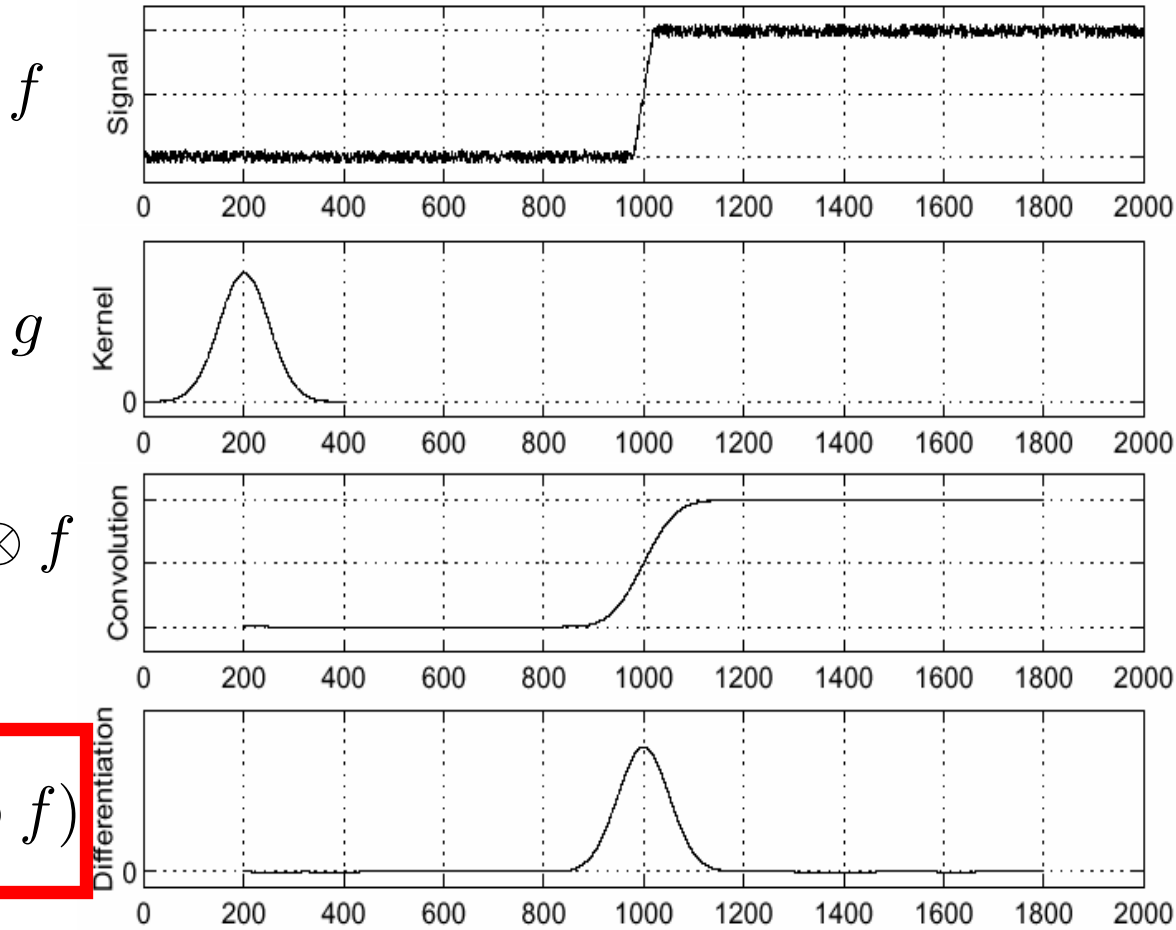
Key idea: find scale that gives local max/min of f

- f is a local maximum/minimum in both position and scale
- Common definition of f : Laplacian
(or difference between two Gaussian filtered images with different sigmas)

Scale-Invariant Feature Detection Example

- Recall: Edges...

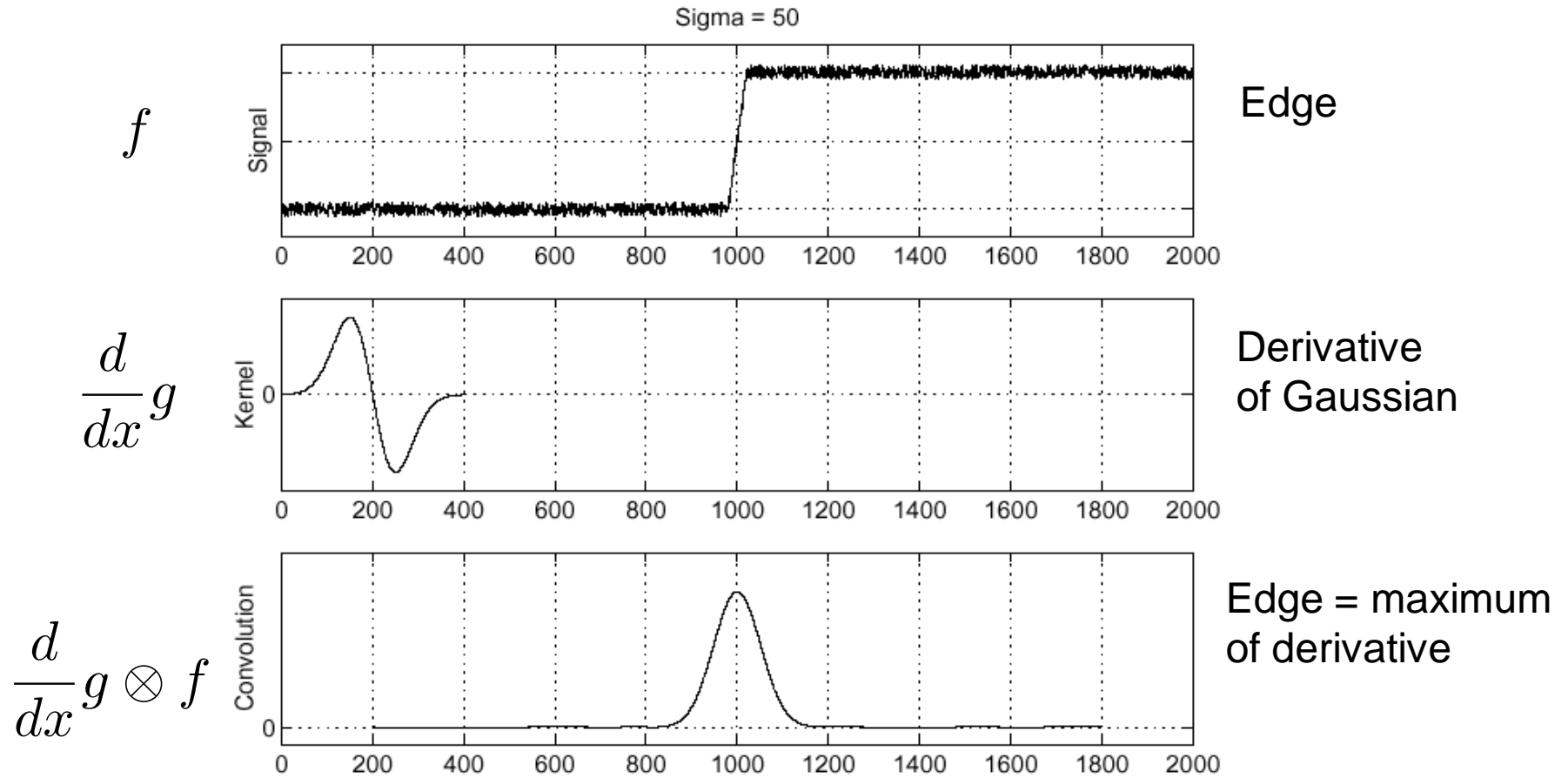
Sigma = 50



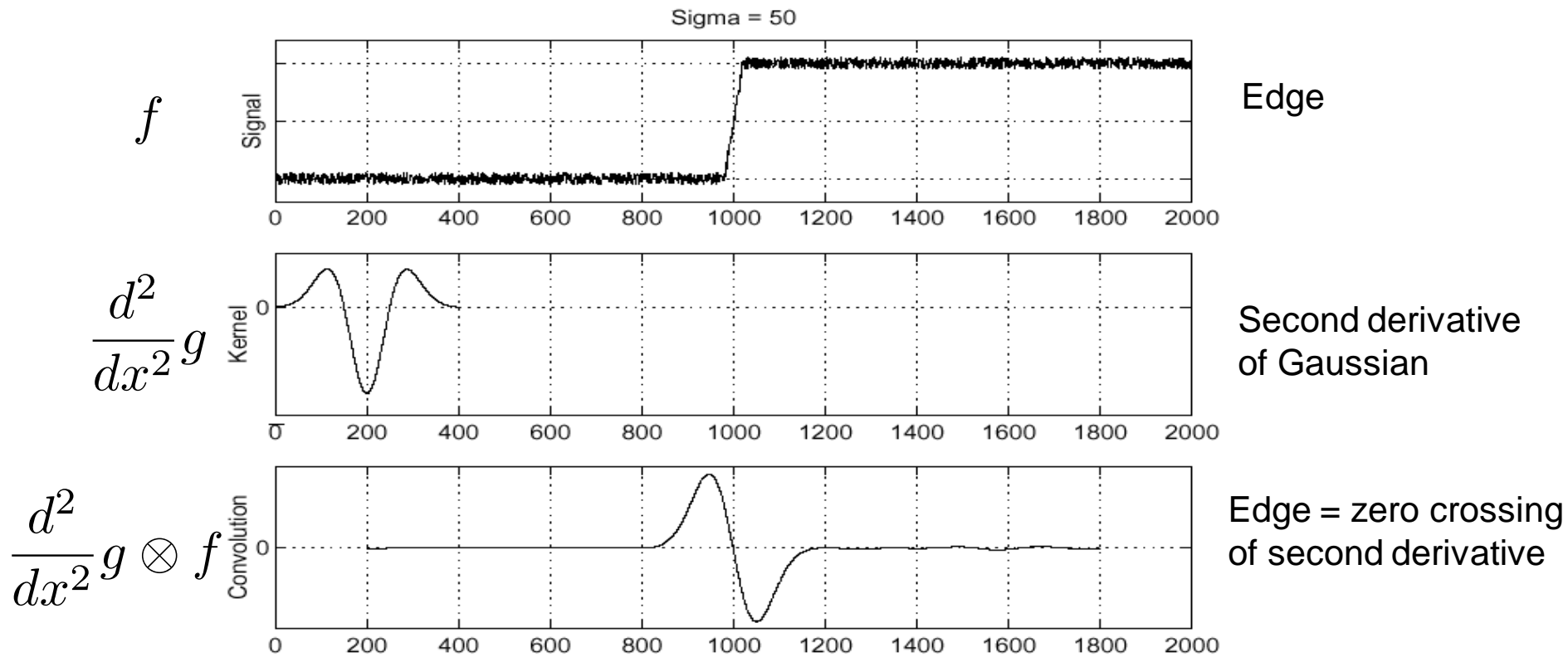
$$\frac{d}{dx} (g \otimes f)$$

$$= \frac{dg}{dx} \otimes f \quad \text{Derivative of a Gaussian filter}$$

Edge detection

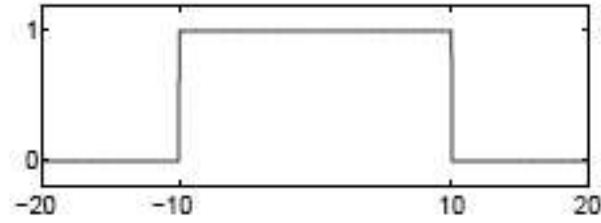


Edge detection as zero crossing

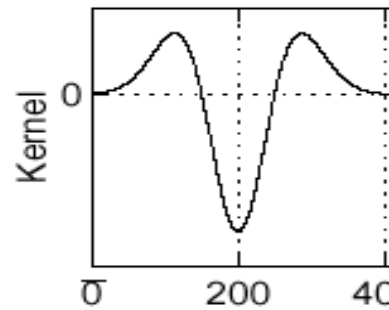


Edge detection as zero crossing

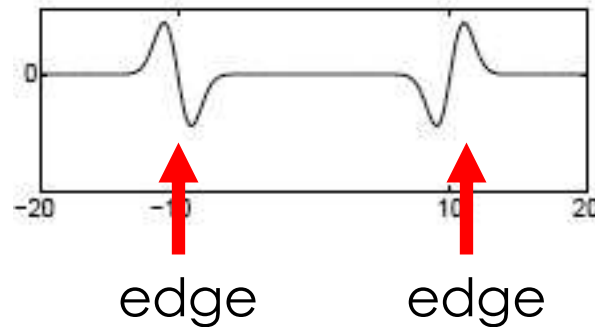
Ridge? Blob? Two Step Edges?



*



=

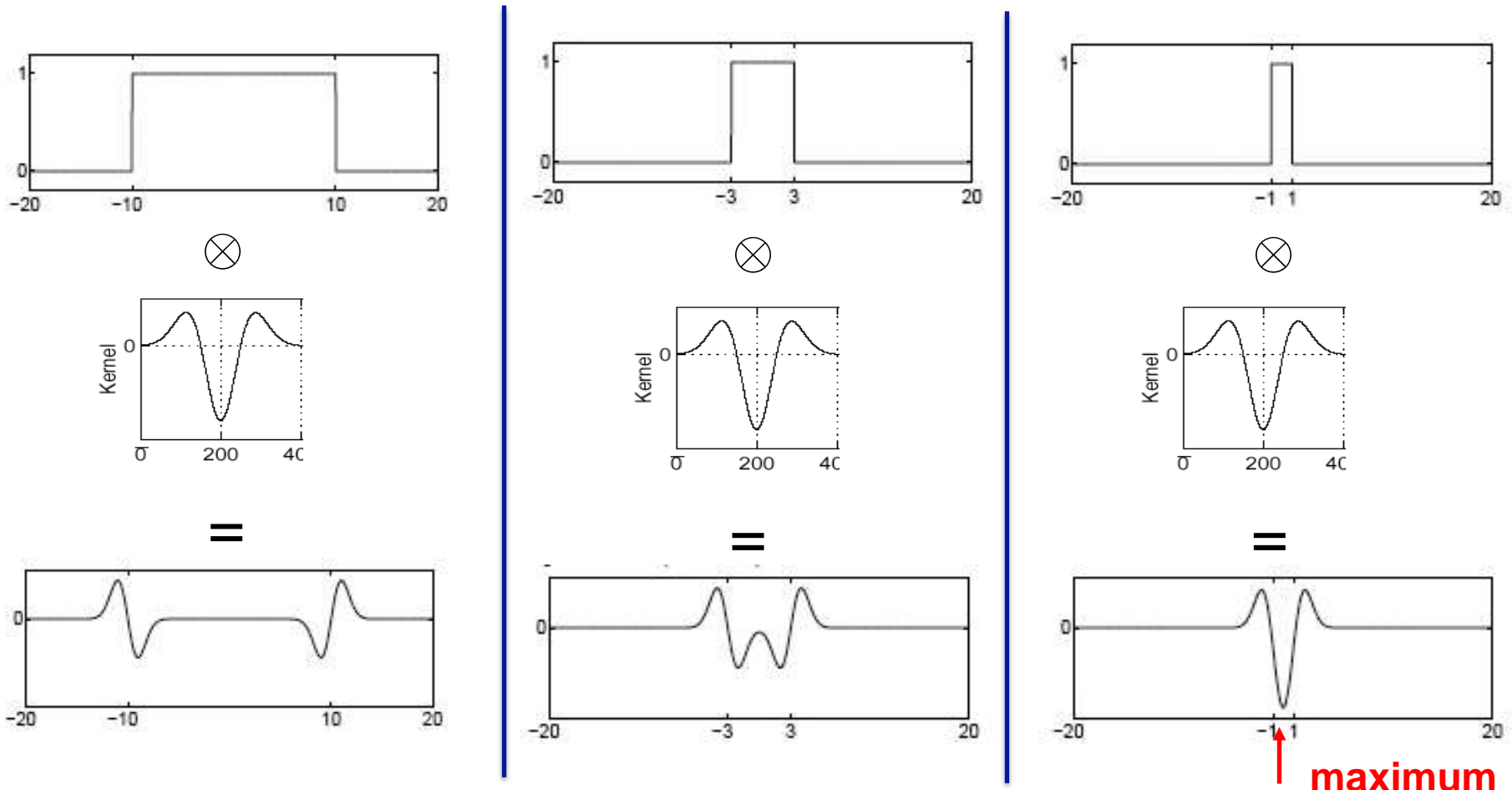


edge

edge

From edges to blobs

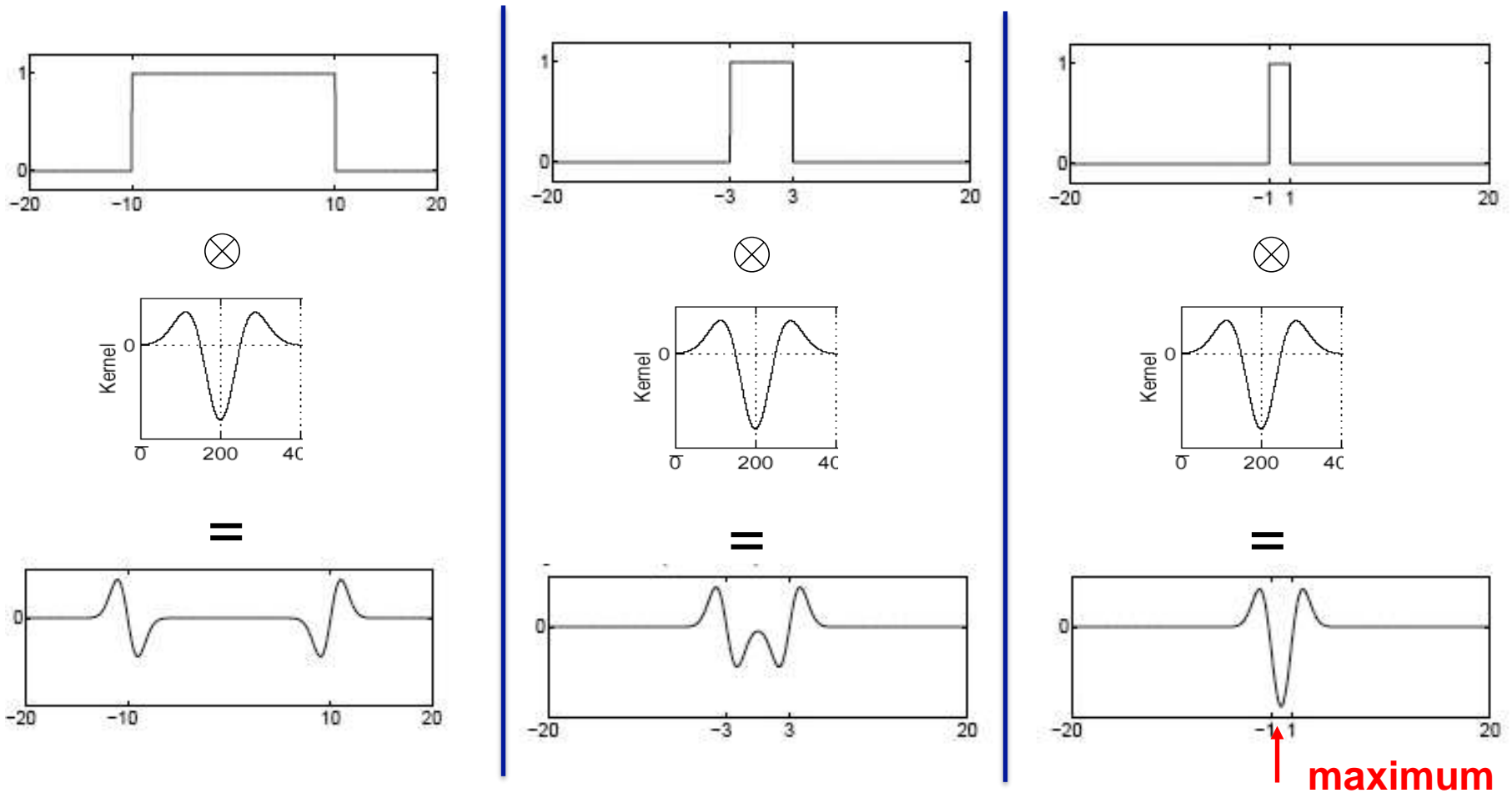
- Blob = superposition of nearby edges



Magnitude of the Laplacian response achieves a maximum at the center of the blob, provided **the scale of the Laplacian is "matched" to the scale of the blob**

From edges to blobs

- Blob = superposition of nearby edges



What if the blob is slightly thicker or slimmer?

Stop Slides

Filter Pyramids

- Recall we can always filter with $\mathcal{G}(\sigma)$ for any σ
- As a result, we can think of a continuum of filtered images as σ grows.
 - This is referred to as the “scale space” of the images. We will see this show up several times.
- As a related note, suppose I want to subsample images
 - Subsampling reduces the highest frequencies
 - Averaging reduces noise
 - Pyramids are a way of doing both

Gaussian Pyramid

- Algorithm:
 - 1. Filter with $\mathcal{G}(\sigma = 1)$
 - 2. Resample at every other pixel
 - 3. Repeat

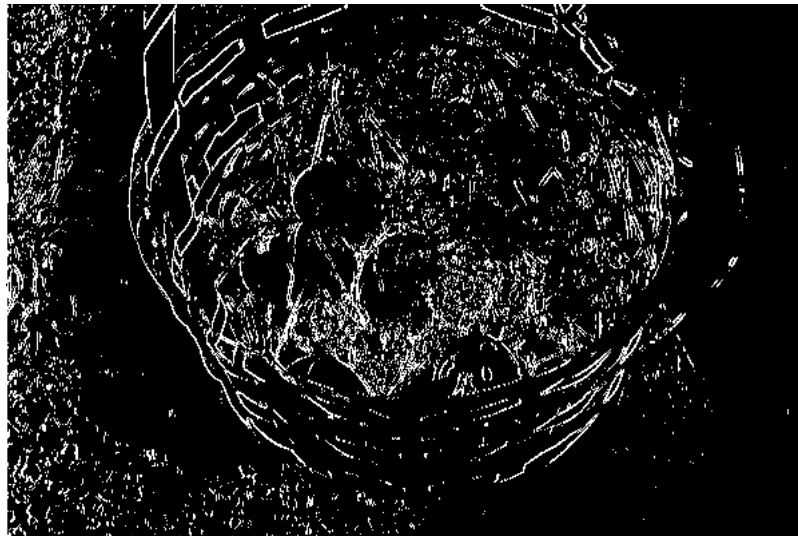


Laplacian Pyramid Algorithm

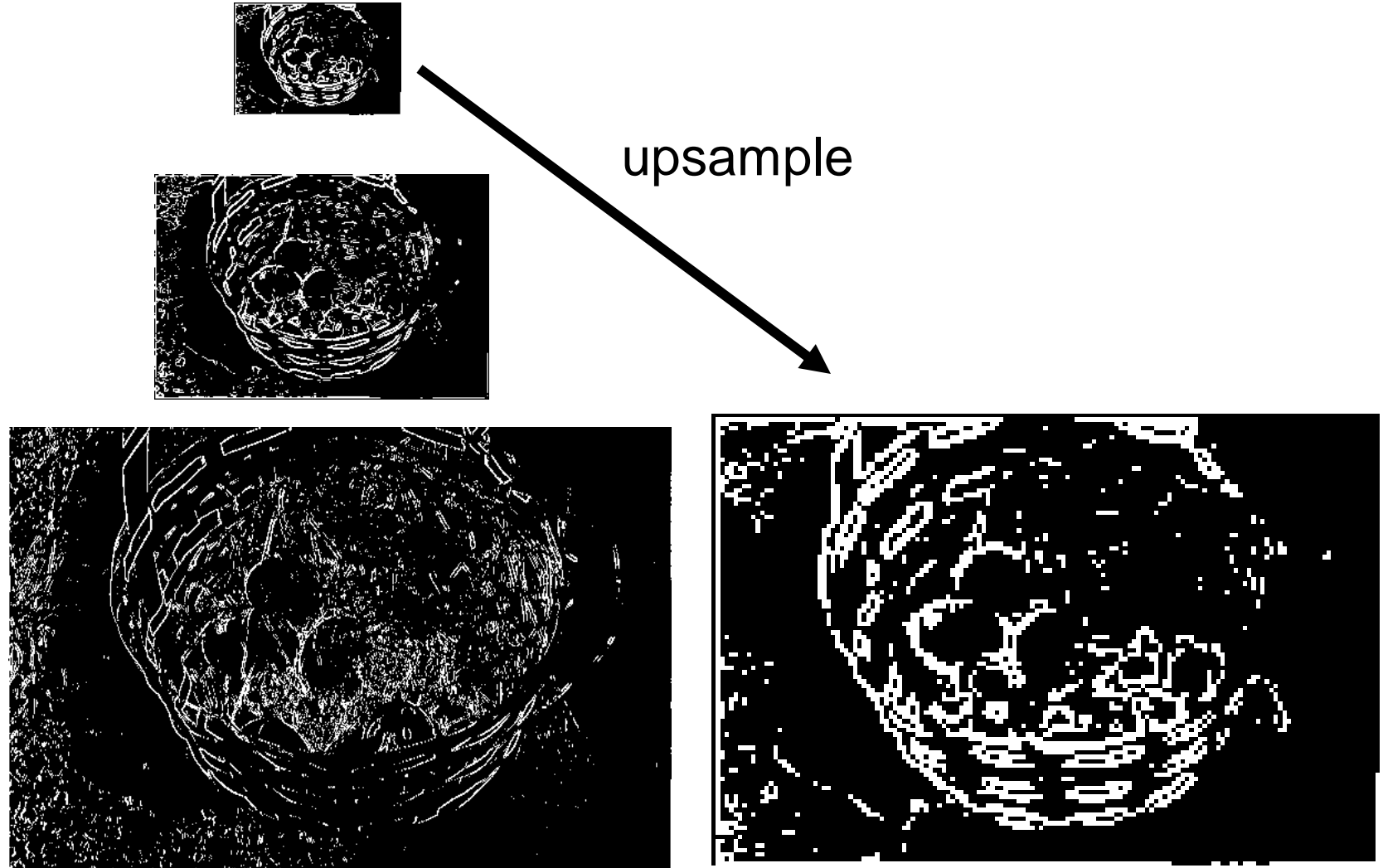
- Create a Gaussian pyramid by successive smoothing with a Gaussian and down sampling
- Set the coarsest layer of the Laplacian pyramid to be the coarsest layer of the Gaussian pyramid
- For each subsequent layer $n+1$, compute

$$L(n + 1) = G(n + 1) = \text{Upsample}(G(n))$$

Laplacian of Gaussian Pyramid



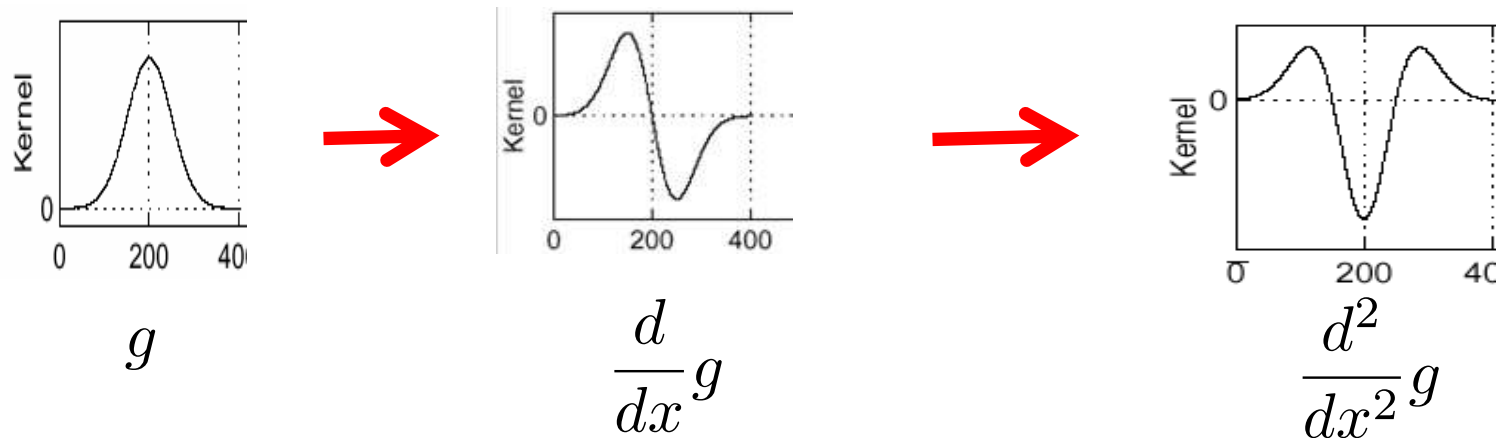
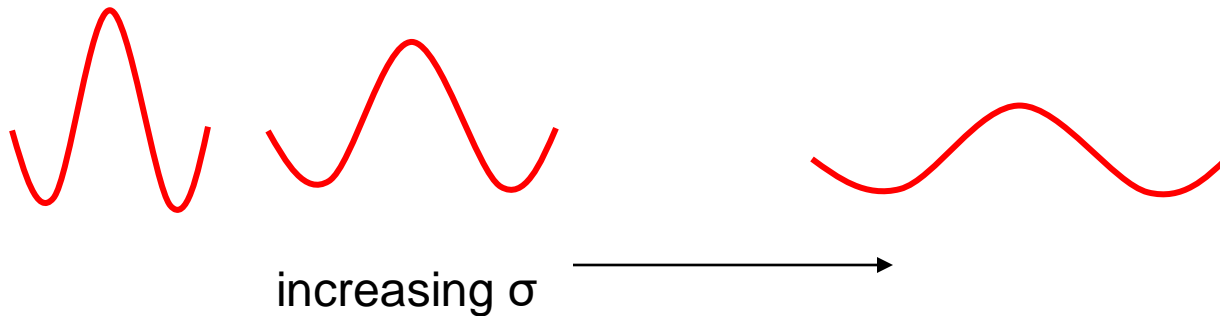
Laplacian of Gaussian Pyramid



Stop Slides

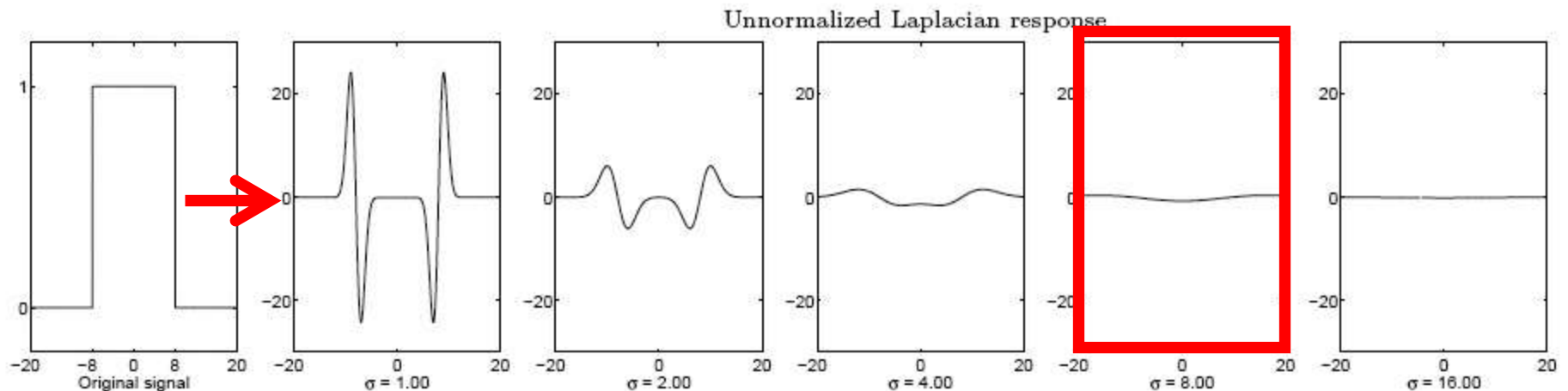
Scale selection

- We want to find the **characteristic scale** of the blob by convolving it with Laplacians at several scales and looking for the maximum response



Scale selection

- We want to find the **characteristic scale** of the blob by convolving it with Laplacians at several scales and looking for the maximum response
- However, Laplacian response decays as scale increases:



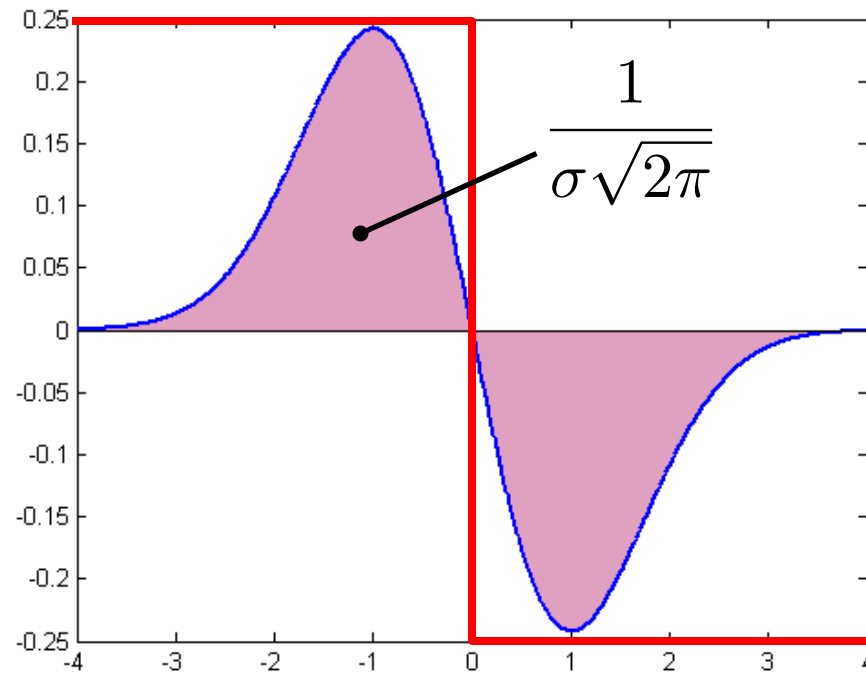
original signal
(radius=8)

This should
give the
max
response ☹



Scale normalization

- The response of a derivative of Gaussian filter to a perfect step edge decreases as σ increases

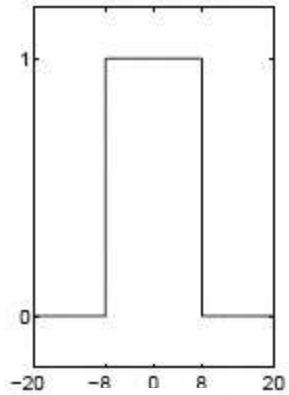


Scale normalization

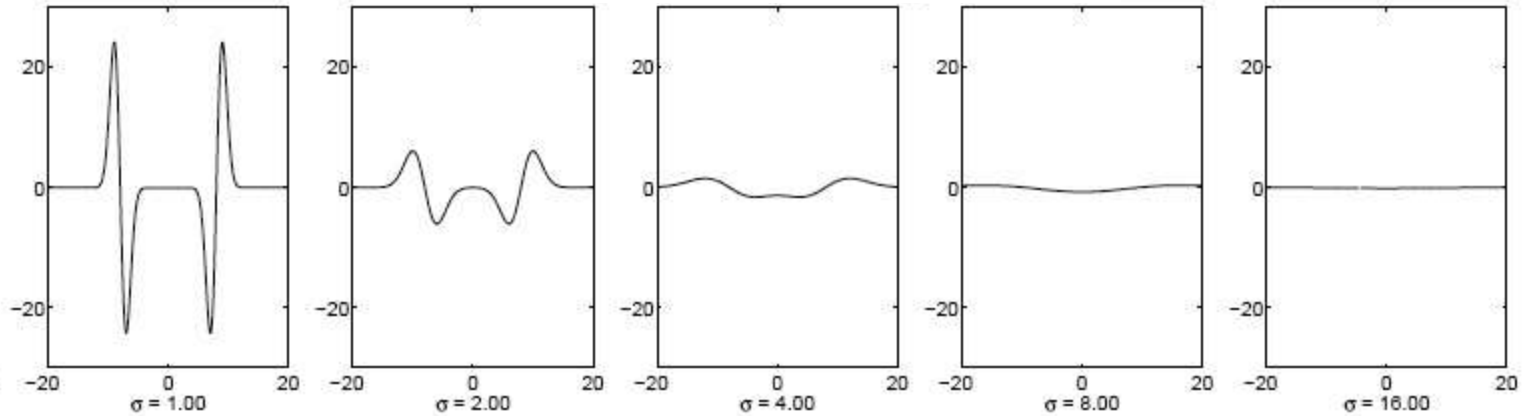
- To keep response the same (scale-invariant), must multiply Gaussian derivative by σ
- Laplacian is the second Gaussian derivative, so it must be multiplied by σ^2

Effect of scale normalization

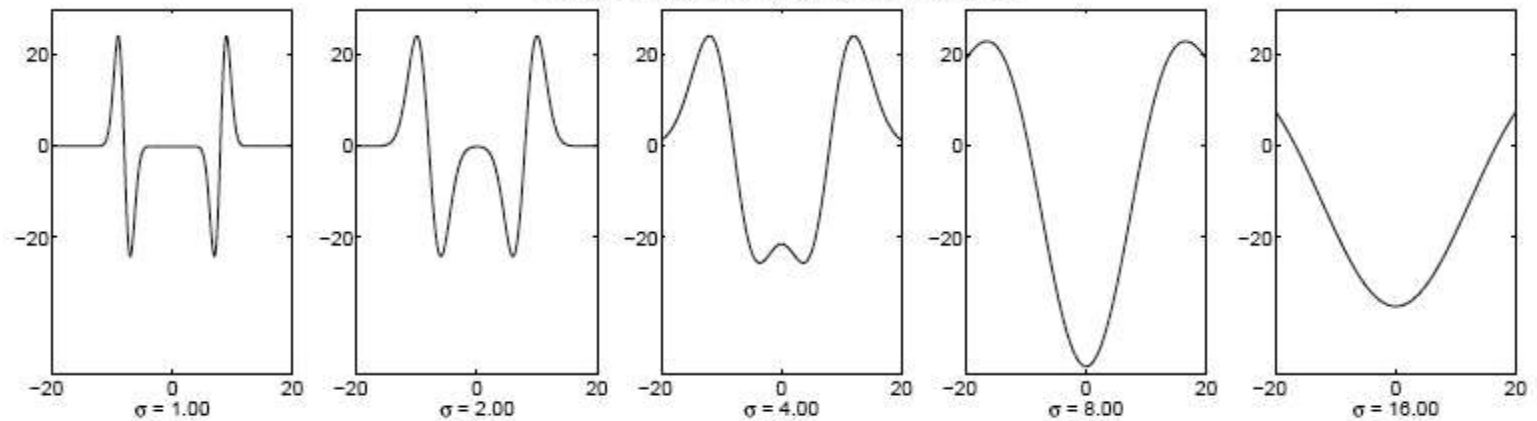
Original signal



Unnormalized Laplacian response



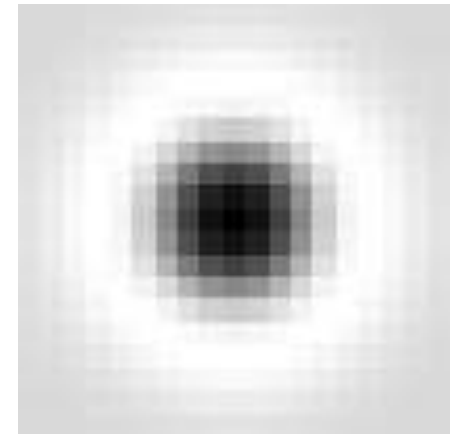
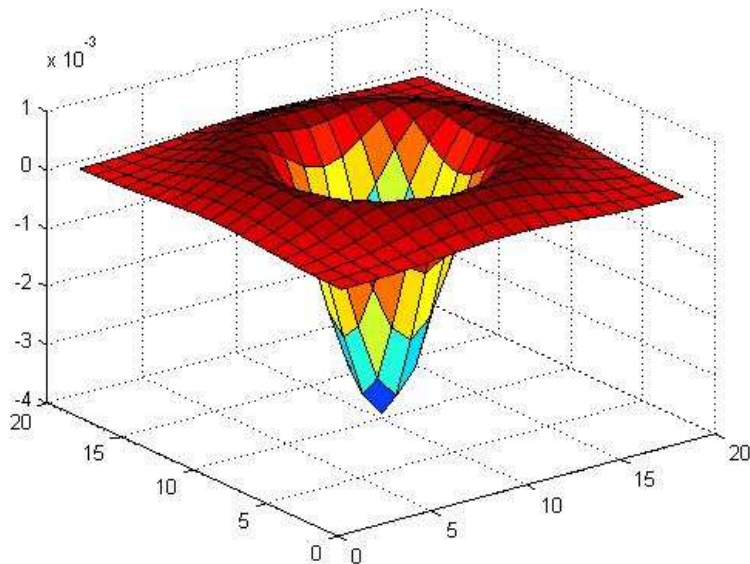
Scale-normalized Laplacian response



↑
Maximum 😊

Example: Blob detection in 2D

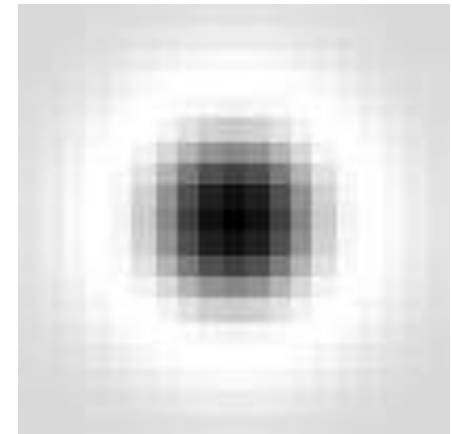
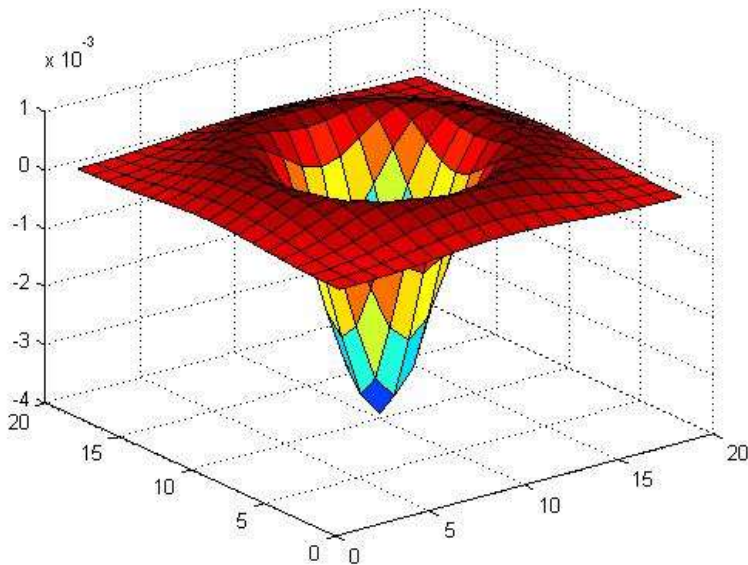
- Laplacian of Gaussian: Circularly symmetric operator for blob detection in 2D



$$\nabla^2 g = \frac{\partial^2 g}{\partial x^2} + \frac{\partial^2 g}{\partial y^2}$$

Example: Blob detection in 2D

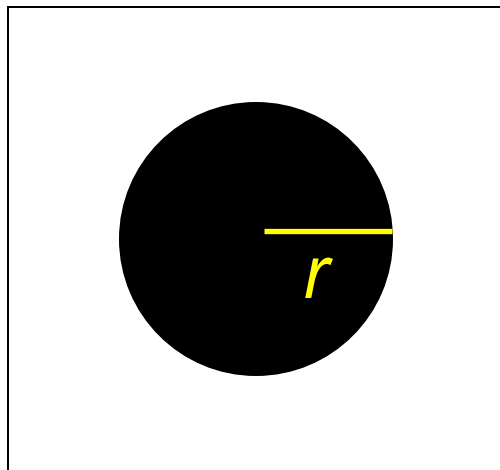
- Laplacian of Gaussian: Circularly symmetric operator for blob detection in 2D



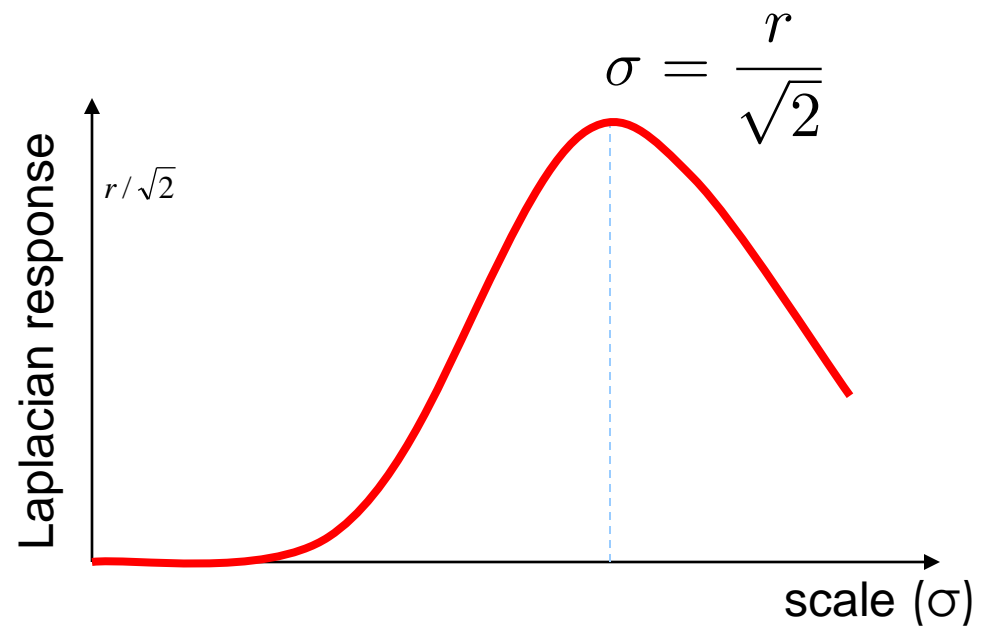
$$\text{Scale-normalized: } \nabla_{\text{norm}}^2 g = \sigma^2 \left(\frac{\partial^2 g}{\partial x^2} + \frac{\partial^2 g}{\partial y^2} \right)$$

Scale selection

- For a binary circle of radius r , the Laplacian achieves a maximum at

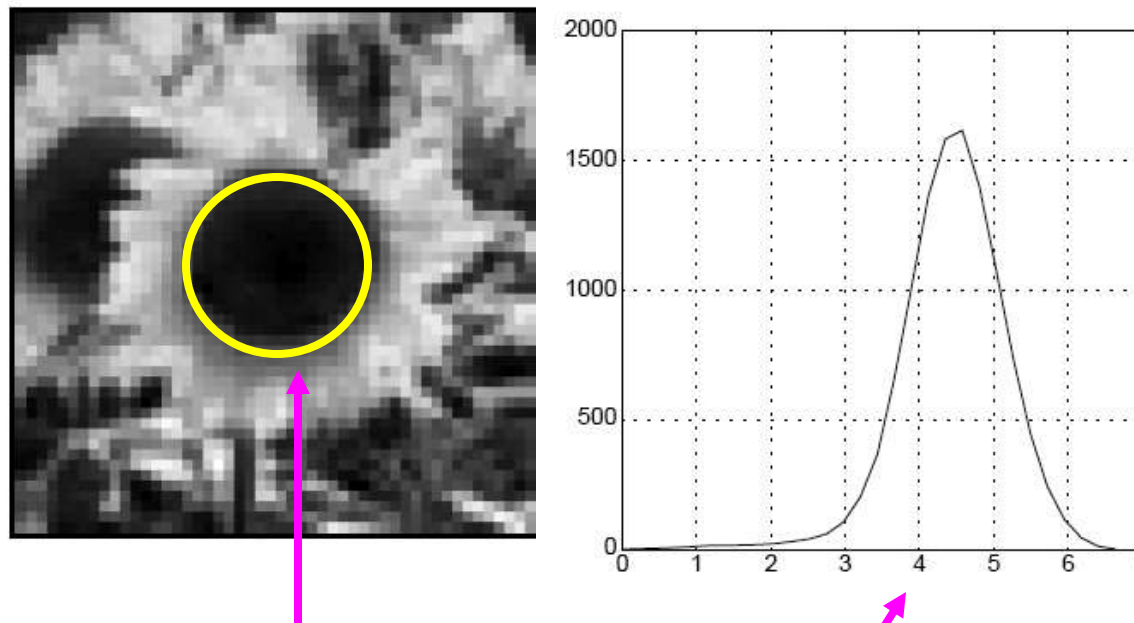


image



Characteristic scale

- We define the **characteristic scale** as the scale that produces peak of Laplacian response

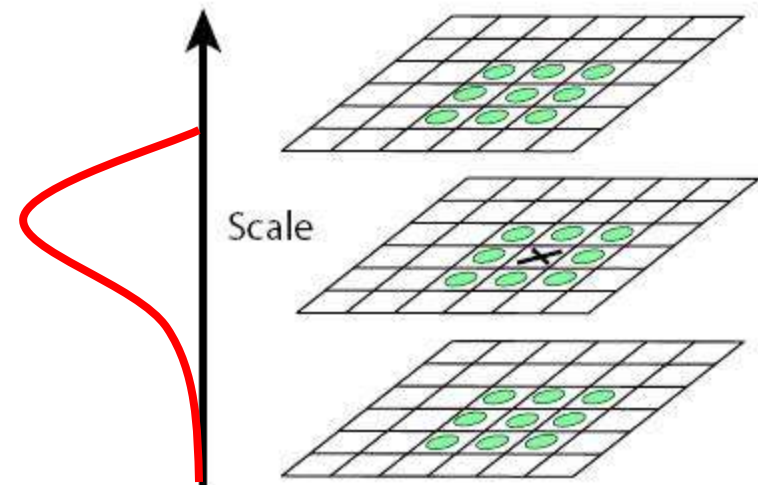


characteristic scale

T. Lindeberg (1998). ["Feature detection with automatic scale selection."](#) *International Journal of Computer Vision* **30** (2): pp 77--116.

Scale-space blob detector

1. Convolve image with scale-normalized Laplacian at several scales
2. Find maxima of squared Laplacian response in scale-space
3. This indicates if a blob has been detected
4. And what is its intrinsic scale



Scale-space blob detector: example

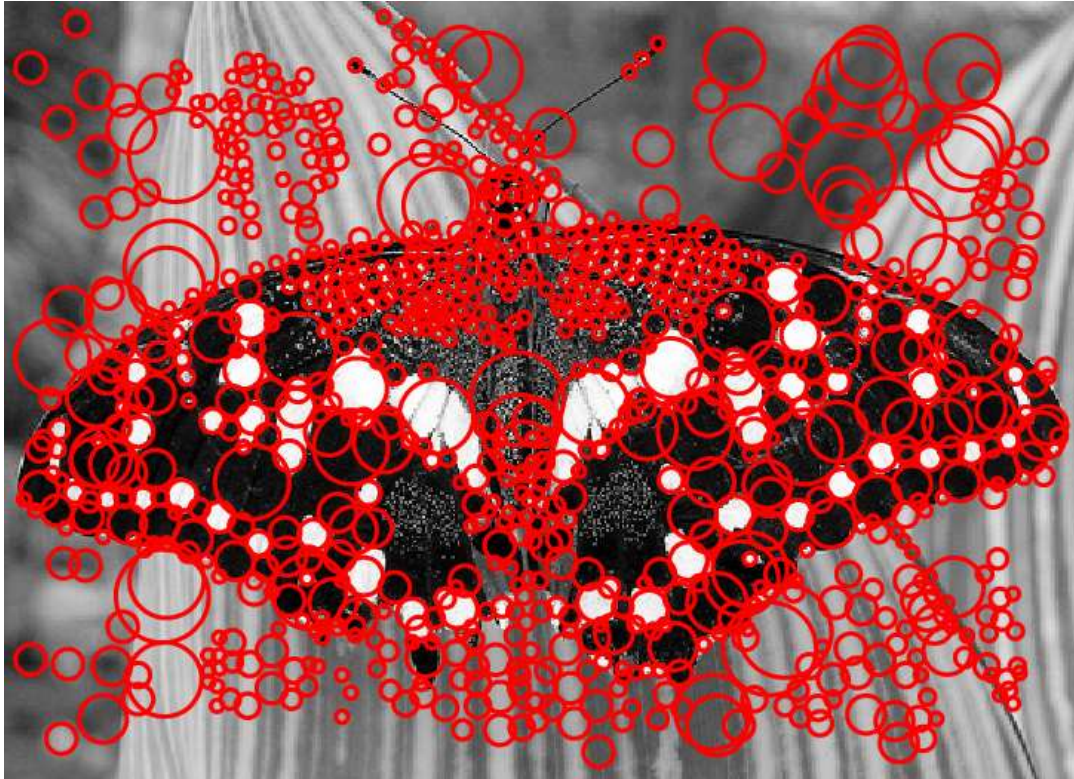


Scale-space blob detector: example



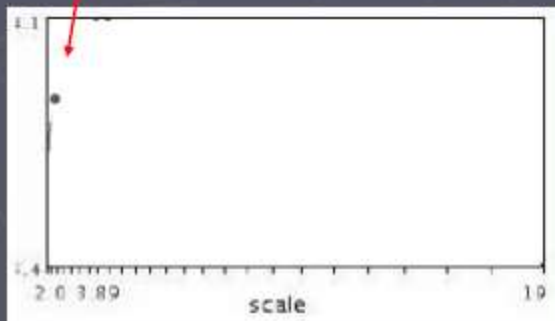
sigma = 11.9912

Scale-space blob detector: example



Automatic scale selection

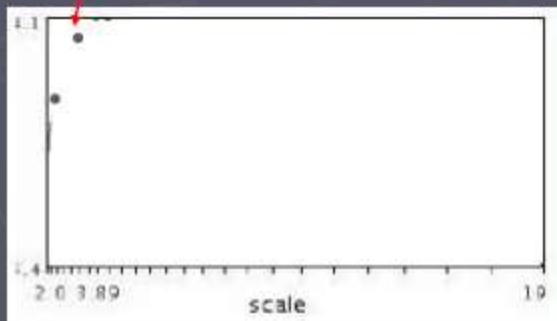
Lindeberg et al., 1996



$$f(I_{l_1-l_m}(x, \sigma))$$

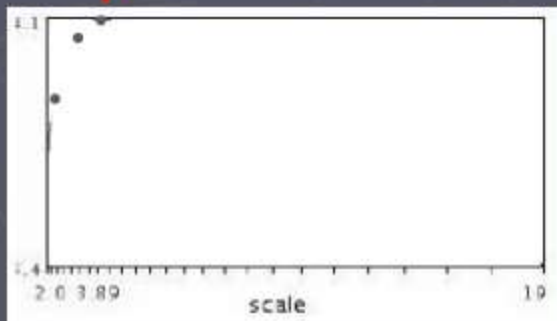
Slide from Tinne Tuytelaars

Automatic scale selection



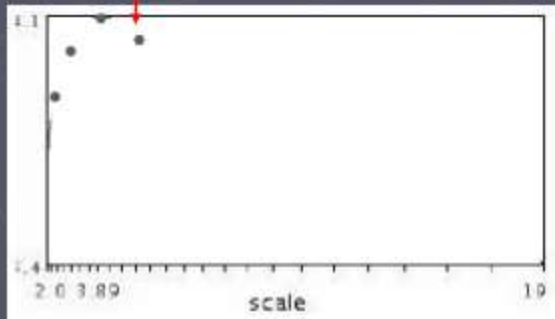
$$f(I_{l_1-l_m}(x, \sigma))$$

Automatic scale selection



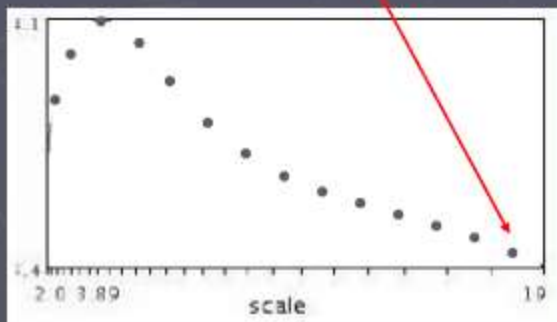
$$f(I_{l_1-l_m}(x, \sigma))$$

Automatic scale selection



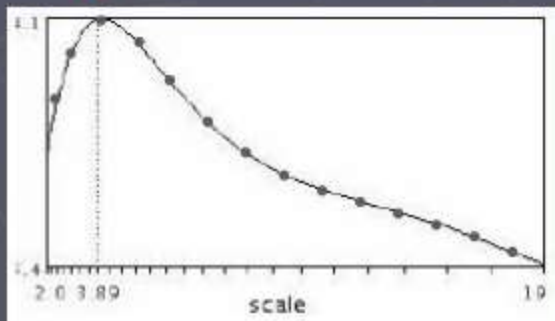
$$f(I_{l_1-l_m}(x, \sigma))$$

Automatic scale selection



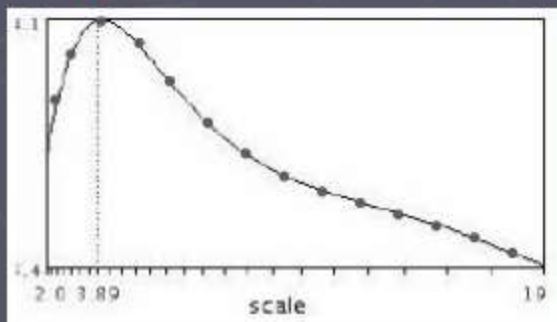
$$f(I_{I_1-I_m}(x, \sigma))$$

Automatic scale selection

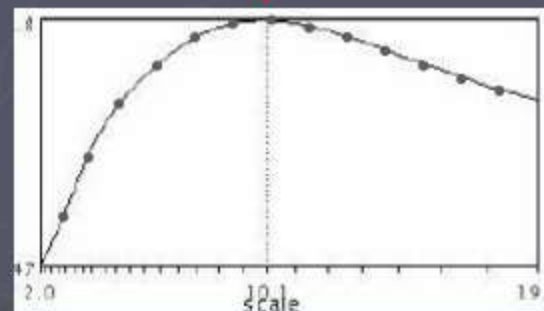


$$f(I_{l_1-l_m}(x, \sigma))$$

Automatic scale selection



$$f(I_{i_1 \dots i_m}(x, \sigma))$$



$$f(I_{i_1 \dots i_m}(x', \sigma'))$$

Automatic scale selection

Normalize: rescale to fixed size



Difference of Gaussians Approximations to Laplacian

David G. Lowe. "[Distinctive image features from scale-invariant keypoints.](#)" *IJCV* 60 (2), 04

- Approximating the Laplacian with a difference of Gaussians:

$$L = \sigma^2 \left(G_{xx}(x, y, \sigma) + G_{yy}(x, y, \sigma) \right)$$

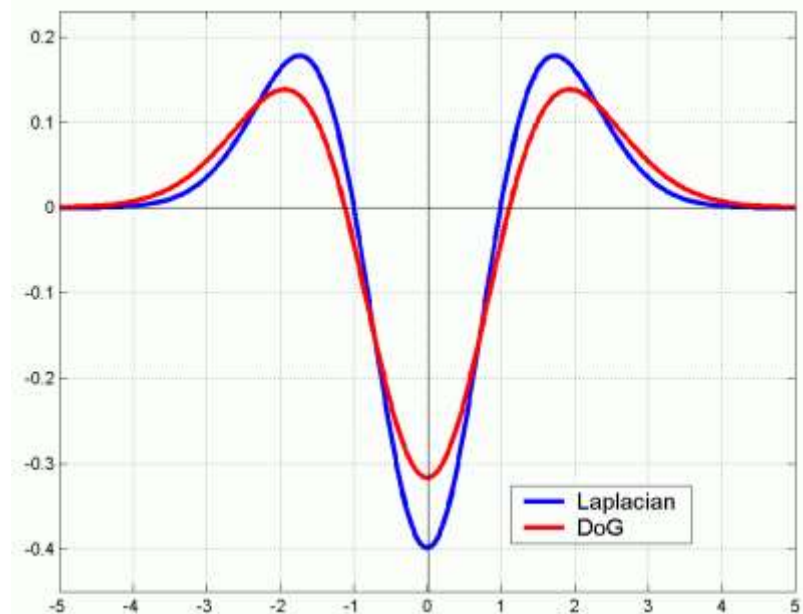
Laplacian

$$DoG = G(x, y, k\sigma) - G(x, y, \sigma)$$

Difference of Gaussians

or

Difference of gaussian blurred images at scales $k\sigma$ and σ

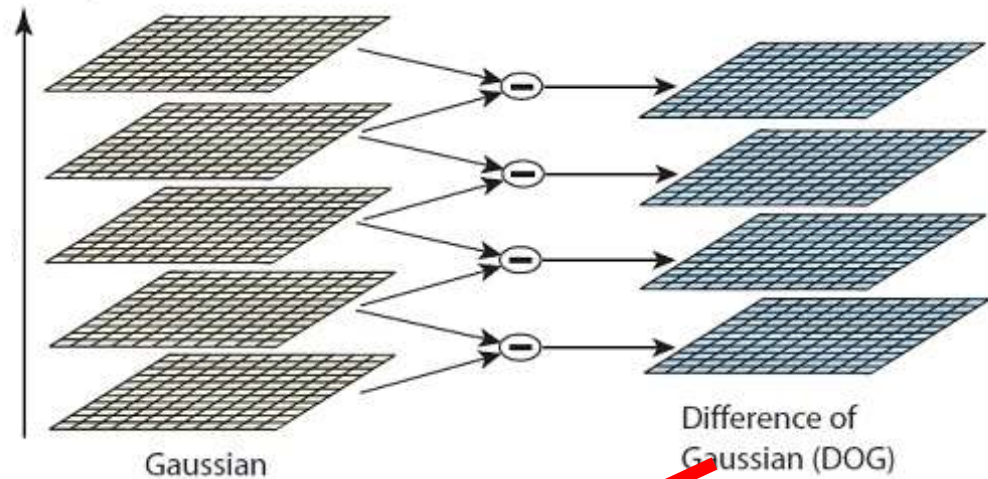


$$G(x, y, k\sigma) - G(x, y, \sigma) \approx (k - 1)\sigma^2 L$$

Difference of Gaussians (DoG)



k



Output: location, scale, orientation

End

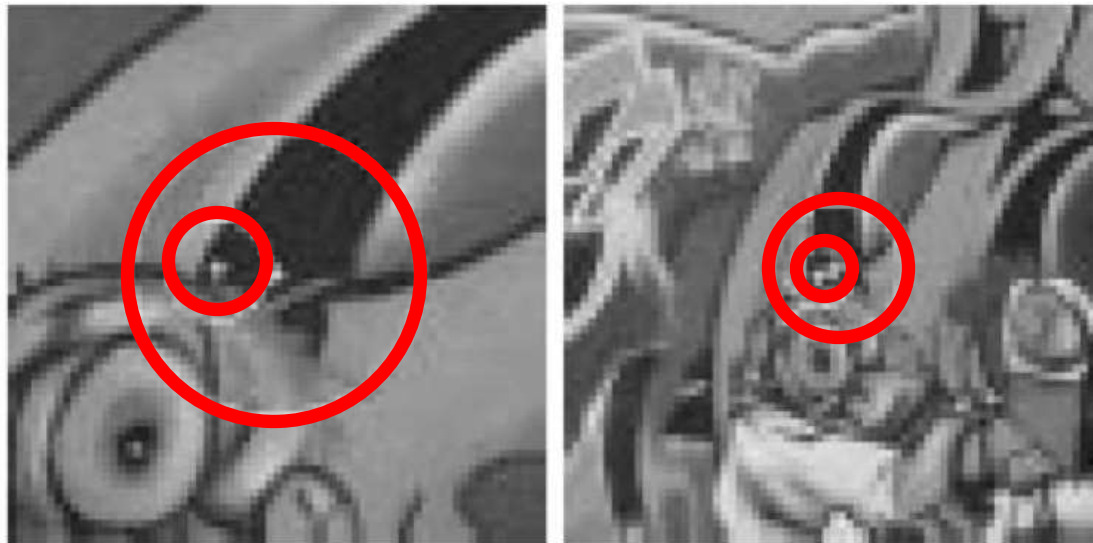
Invariance

Detector	Illumination	Rotation	Scale	View point
Harris corner	Yes	Yes	No	No
Lowe '99 (DoG)	Yes	Yes	Yes	No

Harris-Laplace

[Mikolajczyk & Schmid '01]

- Collect locations (x,y) of detected Harris features for $\sigma = \sigma_1 \dots \sigma_2$ (the sigma is here comes from g_x, g_y)
- For each detected location (x,y) and for each σ , reject detection if $\text{Laplacian}(x,y, \sigma)$ is not a local maximum



Output: location, scale

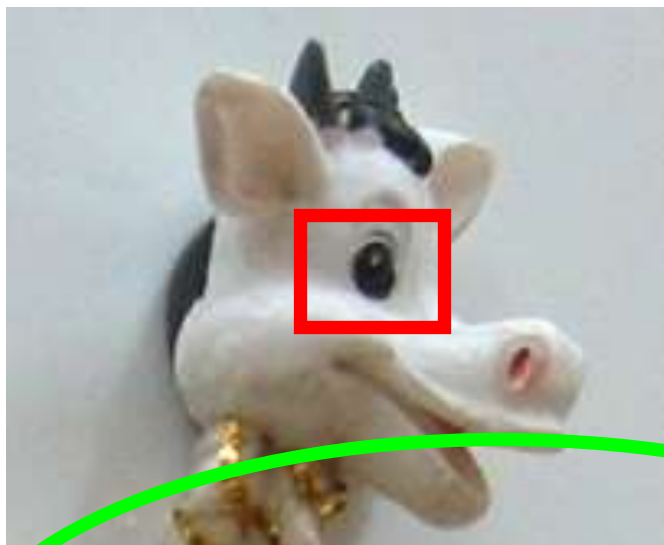
Invariance

Detector	Illumination	Rotation	Scale	View point
Harris corner	Yes	Yes	No	No
Lowe '99 (DoG)	Yes	Yes	Yes	No
Mikolajczyk & Schmid '01	Yes	Yes	Yes	No

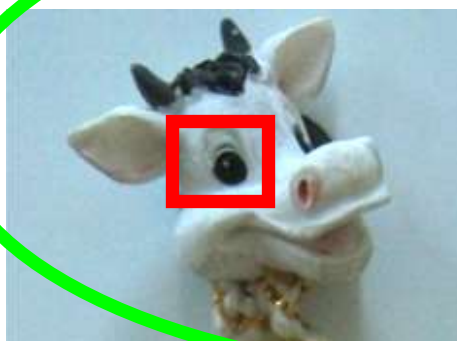
Repeatability



Illumination invariance



Scale invariance



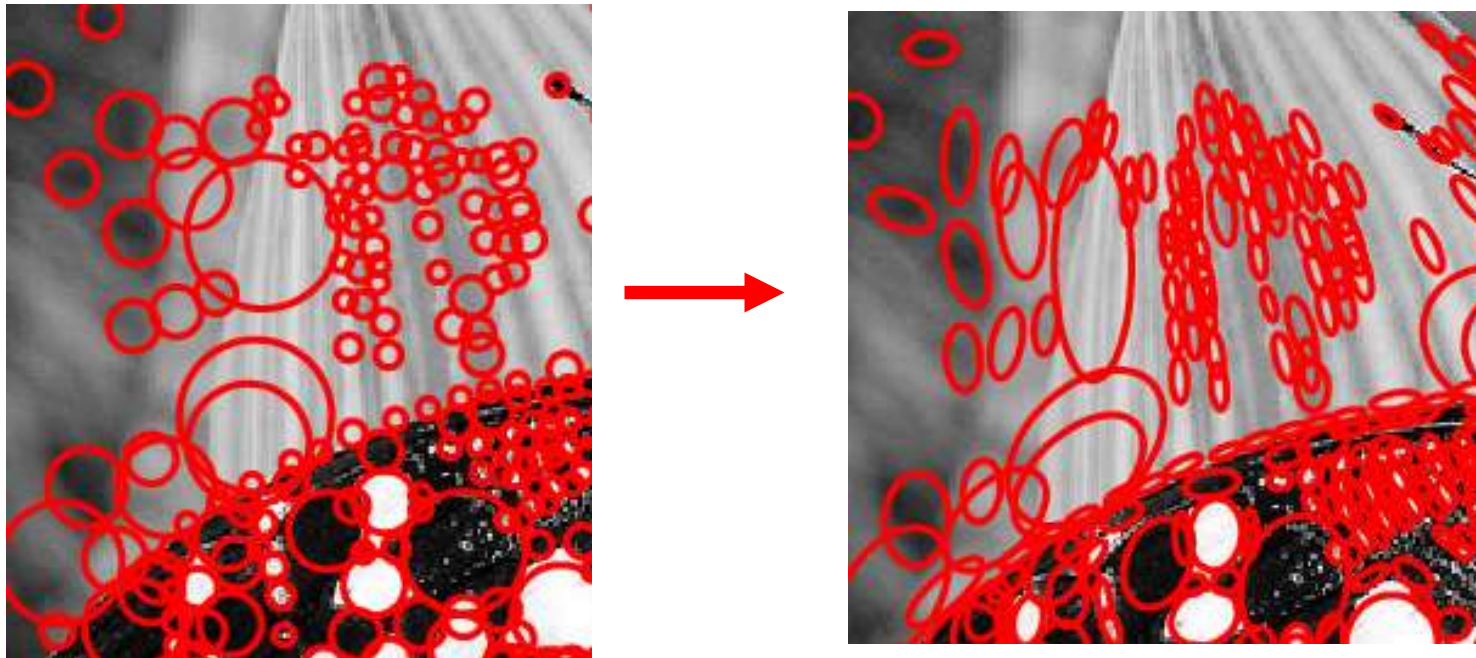
Pose invariance

- Rotation
- Affine

Affine invariance

K. Mikolajczyk and C. Schmid, [Scale and Affine invariant interest point detectors](#), IJCV 60(1):63-86, 2004.

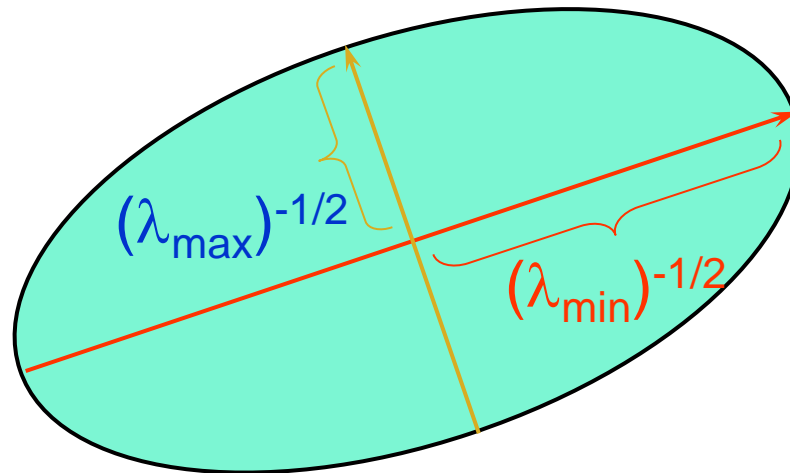
Similarly to characteristic scale selection, detect the **characteristic shape** of the local feature



Affine invariance

$$M = \sum_{x,y} w(x,y) \begin{bmatrix} I_x^2 & I_x I_y \\ I_x I_y & I_y^2 \end{bmatrix} = R^{-1} \begin{bmatrix} \lambda_1 & 0 \\ 0 & \lambda_2 \end{bmatrix} R$$

We can visualize M as an ellipse with axis lengths determined by the eigenvalues and orientation determined by R



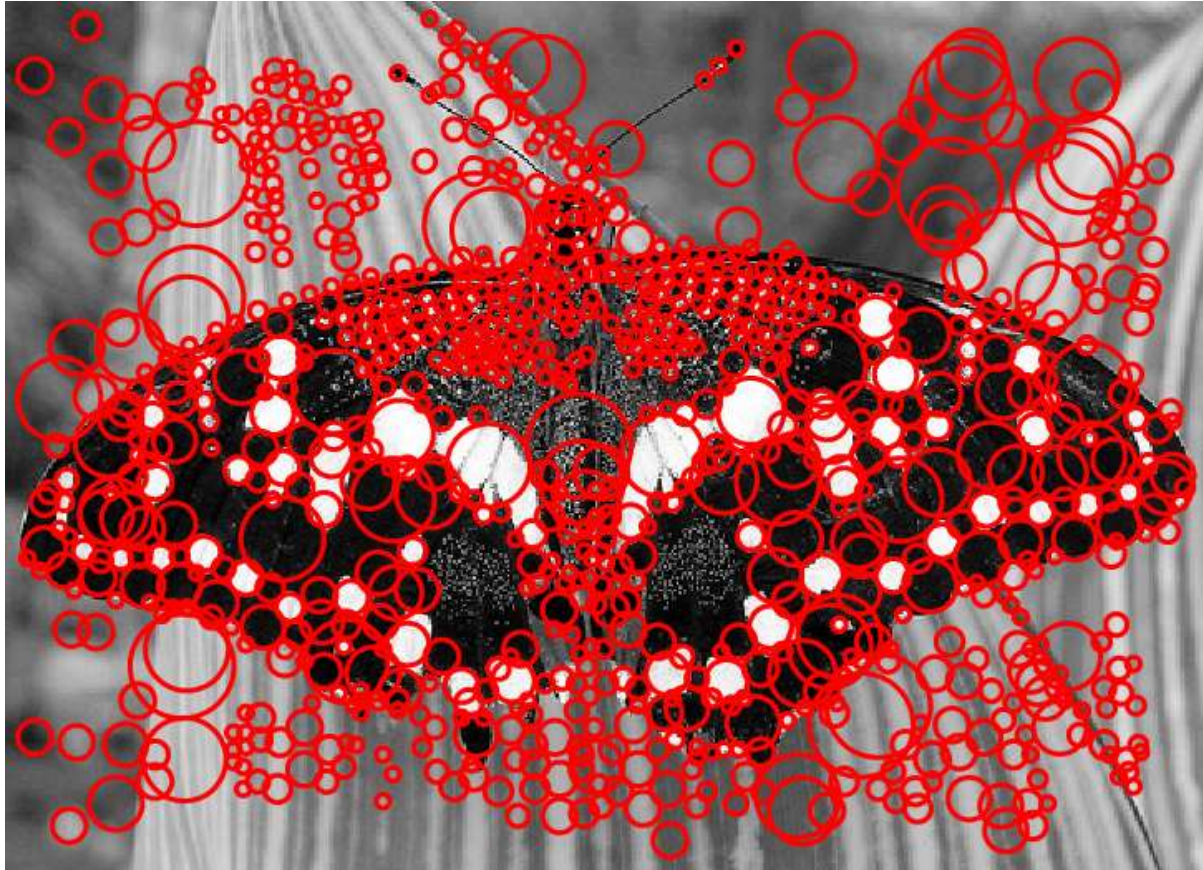
The second moment ellipse can be viewed as the “characteristic shape” of a region

Affine adaptation

1. Detect initial region with Harris Laplace
2. Estimate affine shape with M
3. Normalize the affine region to a circular one
4. Re-detect the new location and scale in the normalized image
5. Go to step 2 if the eigenvalues of the M for the new point are not equal [detector not yet adapted to the characteristic shape]



Without affine invariance



Scale-invariant regions (blobs)

With affine invariance



Affine-adapted blobs

Invariance

Detector	Illumination	Rotation	Scale	View point
Harris corner	Yes	Yes	No	No
Lowe '99 (DoG)	Yes	Yes	Yes	No
Mikolajczyk & Schmid '01	Yes	Yes	Yes	No
Mikolajczyk & Schmid '02	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes

Detector	Illumination	Rotation	Scale	View point
Harris corner	Yes	Yes	No	No
Lowe '99 (DoG)	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Mikolajczyk & Schmid '01, '02	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Tuytelaars, '00	Yes	Yes	No (Yes '04)	Yes
Kadir & Brady, 01	Yes	Yes	Yes	no
Matas, '02	Yes	Yes	Yes	no