KING FAHD UNIVERSITY OF PETROLEUM & MINERALS

Electrical Engineering Department

EE663-162

Project # 1

Edge Detection

The objcetive of this projcet is to perfrom edge detection for three selected images and notice the effect of this operation.

Theory for Edge Detection:

Edge detection is a terminology in image processing and computer vision, particularly in the areas of feature detection and feature extraction, to refer to algorithms which aim at identifying points in a digital image at which the image brightness changes sharply or more formally has discontinuities. The extraction of edges or contours from a two dimensional array of pixels (a gray-scale image) is a critical step in many image processing techniques. A variety of computations are available which determine the magnitude of contrast changes and their orientation.
There are many ways to perform edge detection. However, the majority of different methods may be grouped into two categories:

- **Gradient:** The gradient method detects the edges by looking for the maximum and minimum in the first derivative of the image.

- **Laplacian:** The Laplacian method searches for zero crossings in the second derivative of the image to find edges. An edge has the one-dimensional shape of a ramp and calculating the derivative of the image can highlight its location. Suppose we have the following signal, with an edge shown by the jump in intensity below:

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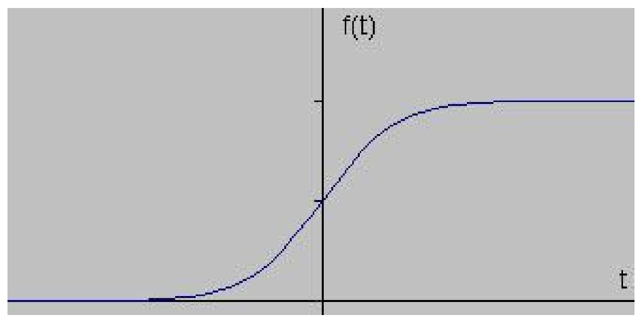
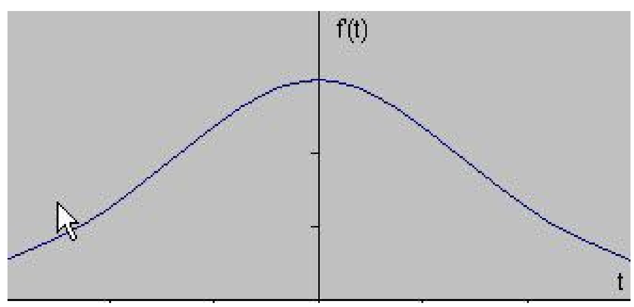
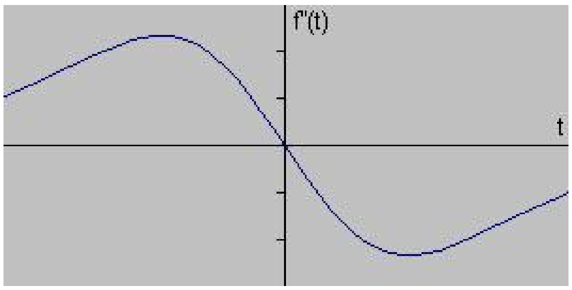


If we take the gradient of this signal (which, in one dimension, is just the first derivative with respect to t) we get the following:



Clearly, the derivative shows a maximum located at the center of the edge in the original signal. This method of locating an edge is characteristic of the “gradient filter” family of edge detection filters and includes the Sobel method. A pixel location is declared an edge location if the value of the gradient exceeds some threshold. As mentioned before, edges will have higher pixel intensity values than those surrounding it. So once a threshold is set, you can compare the gradient value to the threshold value and detect an edge whenever the threshold is exceeded. Furthermore, when the first derivative is at a maximum, the second derivative is zero. As a result, another alternative to finding the location of an edge is to locate the zeros in the second derivative. This method is known as the Laplacian and the second derivative of the signal is shown below:



Sobel Operator:

The Sobel operator performs a 2-D spatial gradient measurement on an image and so emphasizes regions of high spatial frequency that correspond to edges. Typically it is used to find the approximate absolute gradient magnitude at each point in an input grayscale image.

Mathematically, the operator uses two 3×3 kernels which are convolved with the original image to calculate approximations of the derivatives - one for horizontal changes, and one for vertical. If we define A as the source image, and Gx and Gy are two images which at each point contain the horizontal and vertical derivative approximations, the computations are as follows:

$$\mathbf{G}_y = \begin{bmatrix} +1 & +2 & +1 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 \\ -1 & -2 & -1 \end{bmatrix} * \mathbf{A} \quad \text{and} \quad \mathbf{G}_x = \begin{bmatrix} +1 & 0 & -1 \\ +2 & 0 & -2 \\ +1 & 0 & -1 \end{bmatrix} * \mathbf{A}$$

Where * here denotes the 2-dimensional convolution operation.

The x-coordinate is here defined as increasing in the "right"-direction, and the y-coordinate is defined as increasing in the "down"-direction. At each point in the image, the resulting gradient approximations can be combined to give the gradient magnitude, using:

$$\mathbf{G} = \sqrt{\mathbf{G}_x^{\,2} + \mathbf{G}_y^{\,2}}$$

Using this information, we can also calculate the gradient's direction:

$$\mathbf{\Theta} = \arctan\left(\frac{\mathbf{G}_y}{\mathbf{G}_x}\right)$$

Where, for example, Θ is 0 for a vertical edge which is darker on the left side.

The result of the Sobel operator is a 2-dimensional map of the gradient at each point. It can be processed and viewed as though it is itself an image, with the areas of high gradient (the likely edges) visible as white lines. The following images illustrate this, by showing the computation of the Sobel operator on a simple image.

Prewitt Operator:

Mathematically, the operator uses two 3×3 kernels which are convolved with the original image to calculate approximations of the derivatives - one for horizontal changes, and one for vertical. If we define $\mathbf{A}$ as the source image, and $\mathbf{G_x}$ and $\mathbf{G_y}$ are two images which at each point contain the horizontal and vertical derivative approximations, the latter are computed as:

$$\mathbf{G_x} = \begin{bmatrix} -1 & 0 & +1 \\ -1 & 0 & +1 \\ -1 & 0 & +1 \end{bmatrix} * \mathbf{A} \quad \text{and} \quad \mathbf{G_y} = \begin{bmatrix} -1 & -1 & -1 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 \\ +1 & +1 & +1 \end{bmatrix} * \mathbf{A}$$

Robel operator:

The Roberts Cross operator performs a simple, quick to compute, 2-D spatial gradient measurement on an image. It thus highlights regions of high spatial frequency which often correspond to edges. In its most common usage, the input to the operator is a grayscale image, as is the output. Pixel values at each point in the output represent the estimated absolute magnitude of the spatial gradient of the input image at that point.

In computer vision, the Roberts' Cross operator is one of the earliest edge detection algorithms, which works by computing the sum of the squares of the differences between diagonally adjacent pixels. This can be accomplished by convolving the image with two 2x2 kernels:

$$\begin{bmatrix} +1 & 0 \\ 0 & -1 \end{bmatrix} \quad \text{and} \quad \begin{bmatrix} 0 & +1 \\ -1 & 0 \end{bmatrix}$$